



## Survey Instructions



[How to do a Rock Pool Project survey](#)

[&](#)

[upload your data using our Digital Rock Pooling System:](#)

A Rock Pool Project [biodiversity survey](#) is a 20-minute search within one of our survey sites. You will aim to find and photograph several different species within a certain group. You can also record other interesting species that you find.

A Rock Pool Project [Mini-bioblitz](#) is just looking for whatever you can find. You can take photos of any interesting living you choose!

Biodiversity surveys provide data that allow us to compare these ecosystems from place to place and over time. Mini-bioblitzes are more for fun but can highlight important new species records.

### Equipment needed:

A camera or smartphone – ideally waterproof

Some kind of timer, e.g. watch, phone, etc

Relevant identification material.  
Guidebook or Rock Pool Project ID sheet.

Small notepad

Footwear:

Coastal rocks can be sharp and/or slippery. So thick soles with good grips are recommended; wellies or old hiking boots are perfect. Old trainers are good too but rinse the salt off them afterwards.

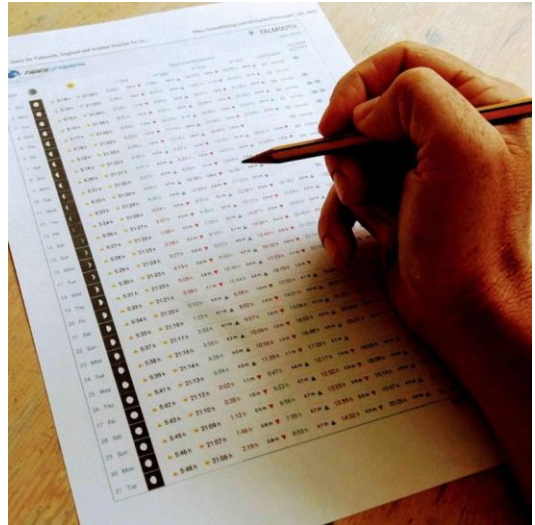
Clothing:

Prepare for the Great British weather, i.e. anything can happen. It's also a good idea to keep a change of clothes handy, in case you get even closer to the rock pool life than you intended.



## ➤ Before you go:

- contact us to get a User ID and Password.
- choose a Rock Pool Project survey site from the map on the resources section of our [projects page](#) and download the individual site map. (Or, contact us at least 72 hours before you plan to go, and we will try to add a new survey site near you!)
- check the weather forecast and ensure you have suitable clothing and footwear. Wellies are best!
- check low tide time and aim to arrive at least 30 minutes beforehand if possible ([www.tides4fishing.com](http://www.tides4fishing.com))



- familiarise yourself with your survey species groups using one of our [ID cards](#).
  - True crabs
  - False crabs
  - Anemones
  - Periwinkles

This is the order of priority they must be done in, in pairs ideally.

If only one survey is undertaken then do True crabs, if there are two groups of people (or one group would like to do two surveys, one after each other), do True crabs and False crabs. And so on...

## ➤ At the beach:

- Check your individual site map and familiarise yourself the boundaries of our survey site. Make sure you stay within them when doing the survey.
- Carefully walk to the water's edge to begin your survey. Please be aware of the sea conditions and stay a safe distance away from the sea.



- Take a selfie! This will be added to your survey report as a 'cover'

### *Biodiversity surveys*

- When you are ready to start, note the time and begin searching, attempting to cover as much of the survey area as possible. Generally, this includes looking beneath overhangs, turning over rocks, searching rock pools etc., from low shore up to the high shore. Some of our species groups may have specific instructions, so check the details on the information sheet for your chosen species group. Always ensure that all rocks are carefully replaced as they were found.
- If you find a species in your species group, then take a photo of it. It is then recorded. You do not need to record this species again, but you can if you wish, e.g. you might like to get a better picture for this species.
  - Remember: at any point before, after or even during your biodiversity survey, you can record any interesting species you find by photographing them (e.g. If you are doing a True Crab survey, but find a great anemone – take a photo!). These records will not be included in your biodiversity survey but will be added to your personal discovery record and added to The Rock Pool Project's overall list.
- Once your 20 minutes are up, your biodiversity survey is complete. Thank you! 😊 You can either continue with your mini biolitz, grab an ice-cream or head home to input your photos and discoveries via this [link](#) (follow the instructions below).

### *Mini-bioblitzes*

- Simply search within the survey site for wildlife and record what you find. You can record as much or as little as you want. You can spend as much or as little time as you want.

## ➤ Back home – inputting your data



Here is the full link for uploading the data:

[http://therockpoolproject.shinyapps.io/public\\_upload\\_app](http://therockpoolproject.shinyapps.io/public_upload_app)

It is best to use a computer to upload your data. The system should work on other devices, but we haven't tested this yet.

Before you start, get the images from your survey on your computer and remember where you save them. You only need one image for each species that you found. You will also need a 'cover' image for your report, this might be a selfie but you can also use one of the species images.

*Even though two (or more) people took part in the survey, only one person needs to upload the data for each survey.*

When you are ready start filling in the details of your survey, use these tips if you get stuck:

### Date of survey

Self-explanatory really.

### Survey site

Your survey site should be listed. If not, stop now and send a moderately abusive email to the Rock Pool Project immediately.

### Type of survey

What kind of survey did you do? If you did a biodiversity survey then

### Weather

Choose whichever of the four categories comes closest

### Data recording device

Unless you used one of the Rock Pool Project's devices, select "Personal device".

### Verified by?

Unless a Rock Pool Project staff member or volunteer verified your survey with you at the site, select "Not verified".

### Survey start time

Hopefully, you remembered to note this down. If not look at the times on your survey images, they might help you work it out.

### Low tide height & height

Go back to <http://www.tides4fishing.com/> to get this information.

## Surveyor ID code

Enter the codes for yourself and your survey partner.

## Upload images

You can select them all and upload in one go. Remember, you only need one per species.

## Once the images are uploaded

- For each species image, search for the species name in the “Species?” search box. Once you have found it, click submit. Most of the common species have common names as well as scientific names but some only have the scientific names. We are gradually updating these.
- If the species you selected is in the group that you surveyed, then the “Biodiv Survey?” button will pop up. Click this if the species was found during your 20-minute survey.
- Once you have finished with the first species image, click “Next” and move on to the next one. Continue until they are all done.
- Make sure that you select one of the images as the “Cover” image.
- Click “Submit Survey” and wait for the data to be processed
- When the system has finished processing your data, your survey details and records will be displayed. If they all look tickety boo then go ahead and click “Confirm submission”. If not, go back and make the alterations, then click “Submit Survey” again.
- Take make a while for the submission to be confirmed. Once it has you we see links to your survey reports, one for you and one for your survey partner. Click on the links to open them, you should be able to download them. They will open in any web browser and most browsers should allow you to ‘print’ them as pdfs.