



Crustacean Biodiversity Survey instructions



[How to conduct our new Rock Pool Project survey](#)

&

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

The Crustacean Biodiversity Survey project was developed in June and July 2020 with participants trialing out different version of a biodiversity survey. From those initial findings, [which you can find here](#), we have built a survey method that aims to be engaging and provide useful and meaningful scientific data.

We are focusing on Crustaceans so have named it the Crustacean Biodiversity Survey.

Any questions or suggestions then please contact us at
info@therockpoolproject.co.uk

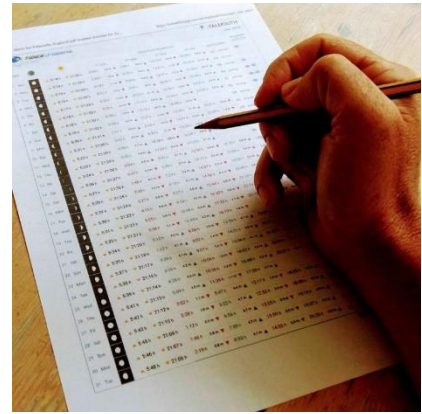
Equipment needed:

- A camera or smartphone – ideally waterproof.
- Some kind of timer - e.g. watch, phone etc.
- Relevant identification material –for the Crustacean Biodiversity survey you will need a rockpool field guide - such as the British Coastal Wildlife (Collins Complete Guides).
- Small notepad & pen
- 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:

- For safety and to keep search effort equal across all records, surveys must be conducted in pairs.
- If you do not know your rockpool ID, then contact us to get a Username 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.
- Check our social media for the next tide window! We will be organising monthly events where we will be encouraging participants conduct crustacean biodiversity surveys. You are not restricted to these tide windows and can go out whenever you like (tide and weather permitting). But we hope going out collectively will keep people returning to the project regularly and foster a feeling of collective engagement.
- *If you do not have a local survey site, please contact us at least 72 hours before you plan to go, and we will try to add a new survey site near you! We are keen to encourage people from outside the South West to join in.*
- Check the weather forecast and ensure you have suitable clothing and footwear.
- Check the time tide times and aim to arrive within 60 minutes of low tide. (This website is a useful resource for doing so www.tides4fishing.com)



➤ At the beach:

- You should aim to arrive within 60 minutes of low tide
- Check your individual site map and familiarise yourself the boundaries of our survey site. Make sure you stay within them when doing the survey.
- Start at the high tide mark. If you have difficulty identifying where this is check your survey site's map. Please be aware of the sea conditions and stay a safe distance away from the sea. Note that starting at the high tide mark is different from our other surveys which start at the low tide mark.
- Take a selfie! This will be added to your survey report as a 'cover'



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- When you are ready to start, note the time, start your timer for 45 minutes, 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 species will be only found within certain micro-habitats, so make sure you look in a diverse range of places. Most of the species you are likely to find are included on the "[Crustacean survey sheet](#)", but this is not a full list and there are many more crustaceans to be found.
- Always ensure that all rocks are carefully replaced as they were found.
- If you find a species of crustacean, 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.
 - If you cannot identify a species in the field take a photograph and try again back at home. We will be running multiple drop-in zoom meetings to help with identification.
 - Please try not to photograph or identify other species during this time.
- Once your allocated time is up, your survey is complete. Thank you! 😊 You can either continue rock pooling and conduct a mini bio-blitz, grab an ice-cream or head home to input your photos and discoveries via this [link](#) (follow the instructions below).

➤ Back home – inputting your data



Here is the full link for uploading the data:

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 the buttons and menus can be a lot smaller and more difficult to use.

Before you start, get the images from your survey on your computer and remember where you saved 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

The date on which you completed the survey.

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? For this project you should select:

BiodivCrustaceans45.

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 a few do only have the scientific names). We are gradually updating these.
- If the species you selected is a crustacean, then the “Crustacean Biodiversity Survey?” button will pop up. Click this if the species was found during your timed survey.
- Once you have finished with the first species image, click “Next” and move on to the following image. Continue until all images are done.
- Make sure that you select one of your images (probably your selfie, from the beach) as the “Cover” image for your report!
- 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 all looks good, click “Confirm submission”. If not, go back and make any alterations, then click “Submit Survey” again.
- It may well take a while for the submission to be confirmed. Once it has, you will 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 as pdf’.

➤ Extra Help

- We will be running multiple drop in session via zoom to help with species identification and uploading of data to the Digital Rock Pooling System
- Our upload system is still in development. If you experience any problems, please don’t keep trying with the system but instead contact us at info@therockpoolproject.co.uk. We will give you instructions on how to send us your images and upload them for you.