

Mini-Biodiversity Survey Instructions

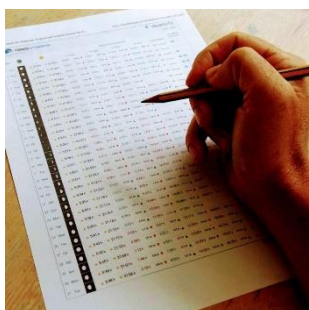
A Rock Pool Project biodiversity survey is a 20-minute search within one of our survey sites, completed by two people. You will aim to find and photograph several different species within a certain group. You can also record any other interesting species that you find.

Biodiversity surveys provide data that allow us to compare the diversity of these ecosystems from place to place and over time.



Equipment needed:

- A camera or smartphone – ideally waterproof.
- Some kind of timer - e.g. watch, phone etc.
- Relevant identification material – a rock pool species guidebook, check out some of our suggestions [here](#).
- 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.



Before you go:

- Get a User ID and password by signing up [here](#).
- Choose a Rock Pool Project survey site from our [survey sites page](#) and download the individual site map. (Or contact us at least 72 hours before you plan to go. We will try to add a new survey site near you!)
- Check the weather forecast.
- Check the low tide time and aim to arrive at least 30 minutes beforehand if possible (we suggest www.tides4fishing.com.)
- Determine which species group you are going to survey using the

following priority order:

1. True crabs
2. False crabs
3. Anemones
4. Periwinkles

So if only one survey is to be completed: do True crabs. If you want to do two surveys, or if there will be two pairs of people surveying, do one True crabs survey and one False crabs survey, etc.

- Familiarise yourself with your survey species groups using one of our [Identification Sheets](#).

At the beach:

- Check your site map and familiarise yourself the boundaries of our survey site. Make sure you stay within them when doing your mini-bioblitz.
- 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'



Start your Mini-Biodiversity survey!

- Note the time and begin searching, attempting to cover as much of the survey area as possible. 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, i.e. you might like to get a better picture for this species.
- At any point before, after or 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.
- Try to submit your results within 24 hours. Submit via our [online system](#). Guidance for using our data submission is available [here](#). You will need at least one image for each species your group found.