

The Big Rock Pool Challenge

Getting started in a new location

First step towards launching a Big Rock Pool Challenge Hub in your area

Thank you for your interest in the Big Rock Pool Challenge! This guide will help you to test the waters as a 'Pilot hub' before launching a Big Rock Pool Challenge Hub in your area.



What is a pilot hub?

As a Pilot Hub:

- You can run small, in-house, BioBlitz Battles with friends, colleagues, or local community members.
- You can join our Big Rock Pool Challenge volunteer community.

Unlike full Big Rock Pool Challenge hubs, you do **NOT**:

- Run monthly public BioBlitz events
- Need run all your events at the same location
- Receive equipment or training

Pilot hubs are perfect way to build confidence, trial different roles, and discover what works best for your team and site.

This short guide will walk you through setting up your Pilot Hub and running your first events. Got questions? Reach out any time: info@therockpoolproject.co.uk

To get started, gather a small group- ideally around 8 people- who are excited to explore rock pools and learn as they go. Check out and share our [New Hub Starter guide](#) with your team, so everyone knows what the project is all about.

Plan your first pilot event

As a Pilot Hub, you can trial different rock pool sites to find the location that works best for you in your area. Choose a spot that you think might work well and a date that works for you - then drop us a line with the details. We'll set the event up on our system and get back to you to check the details.



Running your pilot events

Before the event:

- Complete a risk assessment (we'll provide a template for you to work from)

During the event:

- Split into at least two teams and add them to your event in the BioBlitz Battle App
- Give your participants a short welcome and safety briefing
- Carry out a 90-minute BioBlitz battle
- End with a team debrief- what worked well? What could be improved?

After the event:

- Review and verify all iNaturalist records as a team. Declare a winner!
- Share your best photos and highlights on social media
- Send your photos and updates to us—we'll help promote your Pilot Hub to others in your area who may wish to join your team

What happens next?

After your first pilot event, you'll have access to the Rock Pool Project WhatsApp group where you can connect with team members at other hubs and benefit from their advice, encouragement and support.

Once you feel ready to become an official **Big Rock Pool Challenge Hub**, get in touch with us and we'll guide you through the process and make sure you're set up for success.

Remember, further details on becoming a full hub are available in the **New Hub Info Pack**.

We're here to help you every step of the way- just get in touch. Good luck and happy rock pooling!

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