



# Big Rock Pool Challenge

## Pilot event guide



## **Want to collect data for the Big Rock Pool Challenge at your local beach?**

This handy guide will tell you everything you need to know about getting started with in-house pilot events in your location.

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# An introduction to the Big Rock Pool Challenge

The Rock Pool Project is a not-for-profit community interest company founded in Cornwall in 2018, passionate about connecting people of all ages and backgrounds to the incredible wildlife found around our coastline.

Through our [Big Rock Pool Challenge](#) we host free monthly BioBlitz Battles to engage people of all ages in a fun and friendly competitive way to explore rock pools and document marine life. The data collected aids wildlife management and conservation efforts locally and globally. As of January 2026, we [have 10 Big Rock Pool Challenge hubs](#) across the UK.

**We are always interested in expanding the reach of the Big Rock Pool Challenge to new locations.**



## What are pilot events?

Pilot events are UK-based, privately organised BioBlitz Battles designed for rocky intertidal shore locations. They can be run by anyone and take place with your own invited group (for example friends, volunteers, or colleagues), rather than being open to the general public.

Although pilot events are run independently and at the organiser's own risk, all wildlife records collected will still contribute to the Big Rock Pool Challenge and support wider biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts.

# How do I register a pilot event?

By providing a few key details about your event via our [Google Form](#), we can set up a game for you within our BioBlitz Battle App. Check out the flow chart below to see how it works.

## Running pilot events- overview



# Filling out the Google Form

To register a Big Rock Pool Challenge pilot event, first fill out our Google Form, accessible [here](#).

You will need to provide some information about the event, including the location, date and time.



**Location:** You may already have a location in mind, or be looking to test out several different sites. Try to find somewhere that is accessible, with good rock pool habitat. Ensure you secure any required landowner permissions.



**Timing:** BioBlitz Battles run for 1½ hours. You should schedule the battle to start one hour before the low tide (though this may depend on the specific conditions at your site).



# Using The BioBlitz Battle App and iNaturalist

Our [BioBlitz Battle web app](#) can be used to register for BioBlitz Battle games, create teams and view scores. Once joined, it will connect to iNaturalist. This is how we record observations during our BioBlitz Battles.



During the Battle, participants join teams and use iNaturalist to make observations. Scores are automatically assigned and can be viewed at any time in the BioBlitz Battle app. See our user guide [here](#). Final scores for the game will be released four days after your event.

Once uploaded to iNaturalist, records are verified by other users before they are classed as "Research Grade" and can be used by scientists. Only Research Grade records achieve points in the final scores!

There are a few things you can do to make your records easier to verify. Check out our guide to using iNaturalist [here](#).

## Before the event all participants should:

- 1) Register for the event using the **BioBlitz Battle App**
- 2) Create or log into an **iNaturalist** account.



# Running the BioBlitz Battle

**Health and safety:** Please note that pilot events are **privately run and attended events**, undertaken at the risk of each individual participating. All **participants must take responsibility for their own personal safety** and the safety of any children/ dependents accompanying them. The organiser should read, complete and comply with a **risk assessment**, which will be sent on completion of the event registration google form.

## 1. Welcome and briefing (10 minutes)

Before you start, bring everyone together for a short introduction covering:

- The purpose of the Big Rock Pool Challenge
- How the BioBlitz Battle works
- Basic rock pooling etiquette (replace rocks, avoid trampling)
- Safety guidance, including tide awareness and slippery surfaces

Once everyone is in a team you're ready to start the BioBlitz!

## 2. The BioBlitz (90 minutes)

Participants explore the rock pools and record clear photographs of each species they find using iNaturalist. Each species recorded will automatically earn points. You can check scores at any time in the BioBlitz Battle app.

## 3. Wrap-up (10 minutes)

At the end of the session:

- Call participants together
- Celebrate key finds and present running scores (final scores will be available 4 days after your event).
- Encourage everyone to verify records after the event.

# Results

All records must be verified before they can be considered “research grade” and score points in BioBlitz Battles. After the event, encourage participants to verify each other’s records (you will find other enthusiasts on iNaturalist will likely help with this too!).

Four days after the event, we will send out a report by email. This will show all of your finds, top scoring species, and most importantly, the winner!

**THE  
ROCK POOL  
PROJECT**

**Rock Pool Project BioBlitz Battle Report**

**BRPC Castle Beach January 2026**



You can view all the wildlife we recorded at this event on iNaturalist [here](#).

## Overall Results

Records	1016
Species	216
Verified species	126
Observers	33
Verified score	262
Unverified score	305
Top species	Lithothamnion coralliooides
Top Species score	6

# Feedback

We'd love to hear how your event went. Please do **share photos** and tag us on [Instagram](#), and share your experience in our [Facebook group](#).

**Perhaps you enjoyed it so much you'd like to set up a full Big Rock Pool Challenge Hub in your area?**

Our BRPC Hubs run monthly public events. Applications to become full BRPC Hubs are subject to **funding**. Please head to [our new hub webpage](#) for up-to-date information about current funding opportunities, or get in contact to discuss options for raising funds in your area.

**Contact us:** [info@therockpoolproject.co.uk](mailto:info@therockpoolproject.co.uk)



**Thank you for being a part of The Big Rock Pool Challenge!**

# FAQs

## **Who attends pilot events?**

Pilot events are intended to be private events only. You may invite friends, family, or a group of colleagues, but these events will not be advertised as Big Rock Pool Challenge events to the general public.

**If you are a member or organiser of a community group or organisation** and wish to run pilot events as part of your existing activities that are open to the public, you may do so. In these cases, all attendees must be covered by your organisation's own policies, insurance, and health and safety procedures. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss further, please get in touch.

## **Do I have to upload all records during the event?**

No! If you have no signal on the beach, or would rather take photos on your camera, you can upload records to iNaturalist after the event- just try to do it as soon as possible so that others have time to verify your records before the results are released. You may need to manually add the location to your records if uploading after the event.

## **What if I need to cancel/ change the event?**

Don't worry! We will be happy to edit the date/time of your event if you need to cancel or change it. Just contact us on [info@therockpoolproject.co.uk](mailto:info@therockpoolproject.co.uk)

## **Can I download the BioBlitz Battle app?**

The BioBlitz Battle app is currently a web app and is not downloadable. You can access it at the following url: [www.therockpoolproject.co.uk/bioblitz](http://www.therockpoolproject.co.uk/bioblitz)

## **How will I receive the results?**

We will email the results report to everyone who has registered through the BioBlitz Battle app four days after your event. Make sure to verify as many of your records as possible by then!