THE ROCK POOL PROJECT

Big Rock Pool Challenge

BioBlitz Report

Funded by:

Made possible with Heritage Fund

ScottishPower Foundation

In partnership with:

Marine Biological Association

Executive Summary

A brief overview of the National BioBlitz 2025: aims, reach, and key achievements. Include highlights and a general snapshot of participation.

About the National BioBlitz

The National BioBlitz 2025 was a UK-wide citizen science initiative coordinated by The Rock Pool Project, aimed at engaging people across the country in discovering and recording the biodiversity of our rocky shores.

Held between 17th and 25th May 2025, the event empowered individuals, families, and wildlife groups to take part in a shared national effort to explore intertidal habitats and contribute meaningful data to marine research and conservation.

Participants of all ages and backgrounds visited their local coastlines to record the species they found in rock pools and along the shore. Whether seasoned naturalists or first-time explorers, everyone played a role in helping to build a clearer picture of the UK's marine life.

Data collection

All observations were recorded using iNaturalist, a free, community-powered biodiversity recording platform. Participants submitted photographs of their finds, along with the date and location of each observation. These were automatically grouped into a dedicated project: the National BioBlitz 2025 iNaturalist page, which captured all qualifying submissions made during the event period.

Species identifications were suggested by participants and verified through the iNaturalist community and The Rock Pool Project's team of marine biologists. This process helped ensure data quality while also offering an accessible learning experience for participants.

The resulting data set represents a unique, community-generated snapshot of intertidal biodiversity across the UK — supporting long-term research and helping to track changes in species distributions, including the spread of marine non-natives.

Results

The 2025 National BioBlitz brought together an inspiring community of nature enthusiasts, families, schools, and volunteers to explore the UK's rocky shores.

THE ROCK POOL PROJECT

80 observers

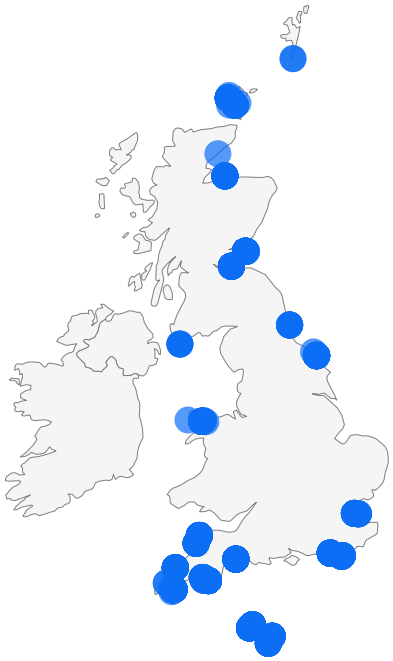
2,333 records

375 Species

These headline figures highlight both the breadth of public engagement and the diversity of marine life encountered across the country's intertidal zones. Each record contributes to a growing national dataset that supports long-term marine monitoring, biodiversity research, and the detection of non-native species.

Geographical Coverage

Locations of National BioBlitz Observations (2025)

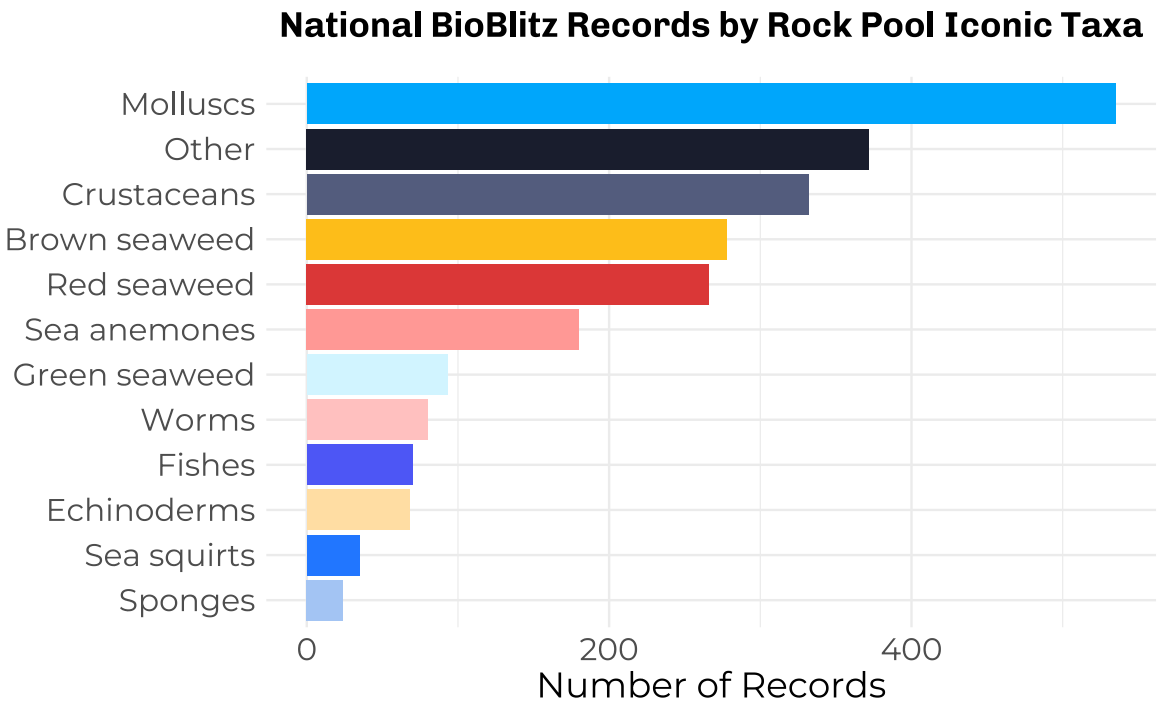


The map above shows the wide distribution of observations submitted during the 2025 National BioBlitz. From the remote shores of Shetland to the rocky coasts of Cornwall, participants across the UK came together to record marine life from their local intertidal habitats.

This nationwide coverage reflects the strength of our community-led approach — with contributions from both established hubs and brand-new participants, including schools, wildlife groups, and families exploring their nearby coastline.

The broad spread of data not only captures regional variation in species distributions, but also enhances the national value of the dataset — helping us build a clearer picture of the UK's marine biodiversity in a time of environmental change.

Taxonomic Coverage



Best finds

Native species

We found some amazing species. These were the highest ranked according to our rarity points:

Little Piddock *(Barnea parva)*
Rarity points: 20
Location: Brighton and Hove, England, GB
Observer: R Avery
View on iNaturalist
Photo licensed under CC-(c) R Avery, some rights reserved (CC BY)

Dendrodoris limbata
Rarity points: 20
Location: Le Hocq, St Clement
Observer: Nicolas Jouault
View on iNaturalist
Photo licensed under CC-(c) Nicolas Jouault, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

Grateloupia subpectinata
Rarity points: 20
Location: Ecrehous, Jersey
Observer: Nicolas Jouault
View on iNaturalist

Rybaxis longicornis
Rarity points: 20
Location: Agoriad, Bangor, Wales, GB
Observer: Nathan Jackson
View on iNaturalist

Raitt's Sand Lance *(Ammodytes marinus)*
Rarity points: 20
Location: Falmouth, UK
Observer: amybioblitzer
View on iNaturalist

Bornetia secundiflora
Rarity points: 20
Location: Cliff Road, Falmouth, England, GB
Observer: Leo Muid
View on iNaturalist

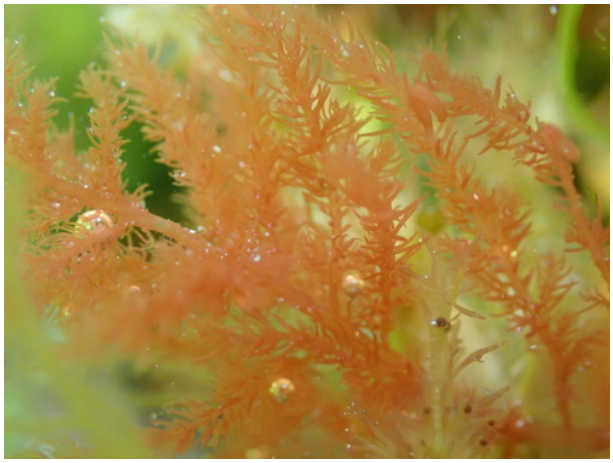
Cystoseira foeniculacea
Rarity points: 20
Location: Falmouth, UK
Observer: Isobel F
View on iNaturalist

All of these records received a maximum rarity score of 20, which is awarded to records that were not on the UK species list as of November 2024 when we last updated our scoring system. All of these records have all been verified to Research Grade status on iNaturalist. N.B. some of the records here are based in the Channel Islands, which was included in the National Bioblitz but records from this region were not included when we created the rarity scoring system. It is possible these species are not as rare in the Channel Islands as they are in the UK.

Non-native species

During National BioBlitz 2025 we had a specific focus on non-native species and encouraged people to record these species by doubling their rarity scores during the event. As a result, some of these records were also big scorers:

Asian Shore Crab *(Hemigrapsus sanguineus)*
Rarity points: 40
Location: Ecrehous, Jersey
Observer: Nicolas Jouault
View on iNaturalist

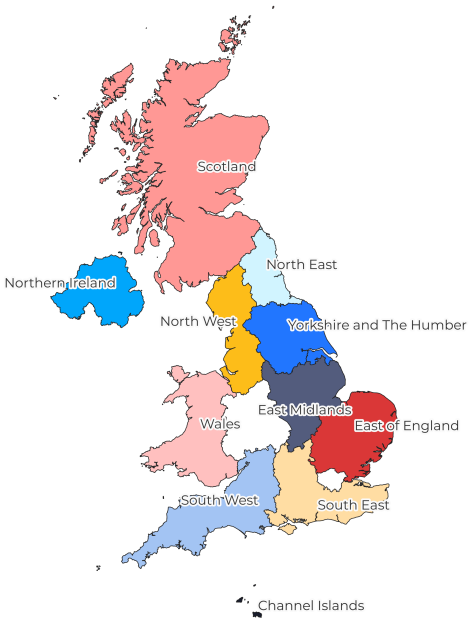


Bonnemaison's Hook Weed *(Bonnemaisonia hamifera)*
Rarity points: 14
Location: Cornwall, England, United Kingdom
Observer: Alexander Lydon
View on iNaturalist
Photo licensed under CC-no rights reserved

Bonnemaison's Hook Weed *(Bonnemaisonia hamifera)*
Rarity points: 14
Location: Cornwall, England, United Kingdom
Observer: Alexander Lydon
View on iNaturalist
Photo licensed under CC-no rights reserved

San Diego Sea Squirt *(Botrylloides diegensis)*
Rarity points: 10
Location: Le Hocq, St Clement
Observer: Nicolas Jouault
View on iNaturalist

Regional Summary



Region	Records	Research Grade	Observers
Channel Islands	61	43	2
East of England	18	7	1
North East	9	4	1
Scotland	262	120	12
South East	122	52	4
South West	1,684	895	55
Wales	98	52	5

Yorkshire and The Humber	53	17	2

Twenty six records could not be assigned to a region.

Individual Feedback (optional)

Tailor info for a specific individual

Example User Summary

- Total records: *X*
- Species recorded: *Y*
- Non-native species: *Z*

top species

Non-native Species Results

Summary from the National BioBlitz

Overview of the non-native species found

Comparison with NBN Atlas Baseline

- Which species were found in unusual places?
- Which species weren't found in places they would be expected to be found?

Species Highlights

- Rarest record
- Best photo submission
- Noteworthy range extension

Project Partners and Support

Thank you to all our partners, volunteers, and funders.

ADD PARTNER LOGOS HERE

Next Steps: How to Stay Involved

1. Join or Start a Rock Pool Hub

- Get involved locally or start your own hub with our support.

2. Keep Recording on iNaturalist

- Every observation adds to the UK marine picture.

3. Seasonal Challenges

- Look out for themed events and mini-BioBlitzes.

4. Follow & Tag Us

- Stay connected via social media: @therockpoolproject

5. Volunteer or Collaborate

- Run events, support schools, or partner with us.

6. Sign Up for Updates

- Visit www.therockpoolproject.co.uk

Appendices

Species List

Methodology Notes

Details on data collection, validation, and tools used.

Data Use Statement

Explanation of how participant and observation data are used, stored, and shared.