



The anchor is an iconic symbol of our maritime past, present and future. For over 4,000 years the anchor has been every mariner's vital item of safety equipment. Sometimes the anchor is the last remaining visible symbol of an incident at sea – whether cut loose in emergency or marking the last resting place of a shipwreck. But we know very little about their distribution, age, origin and abundance.

The Big Anchor Project is going to change all that!

Old anchors can be found all over the world, in every port or coastal town; rusting away in forgotten corners, set up on plinths as memorials and even decorating roundabouts and gardens.

Why record anchors?

Ever since man first took to the sea he has made anchors. They are a vital piece of ship's equipment. Made first of stone then metal, the changes in design demonstrate technological progress through the centuries. The distribution of particular types may show old trade routes or mark the progress of exploration and all this evidence is lying around us everyday.

Now thanks to the *Big Anchor Project* there is a simple way to record these heritage assets and an opportunity to learn more about their place in our maritime history.

Big Anchor Project

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Anyone can get involved

If you see an anchor anywhere, in the UK or abroad, record it, photograph it and send us the picture along with its precise location. The project is being supported by volunteers from all over the world, so information on anchors from any country would be welcome.

It's easy to contribute

- 1 Visit the project website at **www.biganchorproject.com** where you will be able to download a form and guidance on how to record stone anchors, traditional metal stocked anchors and even modern stockless anchors.
- 2 Upload your anchor to the project database as well as see what other anchors have been found and recorded by project volunteers.
- 3 Use the anchor inventory to help research the type, the age and possibly discover the origin of your anchor.
- 4 Engage with other project volunteers recording anchors around the world.

Project Supporters

The Big Anchor Project is an initiative managed by the Nautical Archaeology Society **www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org** and has only been made possible through the efforts of many project partners and supporters. The project has been funded by The National Lottery through Awards for All.



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