

The Beach Clean Project

2022 Marine Litter Report



The Clean
Earth Trust

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Acknowledgements

The creation of the Marine Litter Report 2022 would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of **The Beach Clean Project Team**. They voluntarily organise and conduct our community beach cleans every week, rain or shine, and the project would not run without them.

Another special thank you goes to all the volunteers who joined us this year and contributed to the data in this report. Whether as an individual, at our community clean-ups, or as a corporate beach clean, school or youth group, every beach clean made a difference to the data for 2022.



The Clean Earth Trust

Trustee Foreward

The Clean Earth Trust's Beach Clean Project is going from strength to strength, and we're delighted to be able to launch our second marine litter report for Guernsey. At CET our focus remains on the local community; empowering individuals, groups, and businesses to play their part in tackling some of the biggest issues facing the planet. Despite a small reduction on 2021's figures, the amount of litter collected on Guernsey's beaches remains staggering.

The 2022 marine litter report does, however, offer some positives. Over the last year, we have doubled the number of DofE volunteers taking part in the Beach Clean Project, and conducted twice as many corporate cleans. We are excited to build on these figures and extend our reach even further over the course of 2023 and beyond.

Another development to highlight is the launch in late 2022 of our campaign to ban Single-Use Plastics. The findings of the 2021 marine litter report have been key in getting this project off the ground, showing the direct relevance of every single piece of data collected. As ever, thanks must go to our dedicated team, volunteers, and donors, without whom this project would not be possible.

Laura Bampton & Andrew Munro

Trustees



Introduction

Marine litter, and particularly plastic pollution, continues to be a problem that is plaguing our planet, both on land and in our seas. The report for 2022 highlights that plastic pollution is still littering our local shores and that we are not exempt from the plastic pollution crisis.

Our 2022 Marine Litter Survey reports less waste being found on our beaches, but that does not mean that plastic pollution is decreasing in our oceans. The Clean Earth Trust is just one of the many entities on Guernsey cleaning our beaches, and we only survey a small amount of the marine litter that ends up on our beaches. If every single item that washed up on our coastline was logged within the survey, I think the numbers would be staggering.

We often talk about plastic pollution, as this is the material that is most commonly found in our environment, but all marine litter can be dangerous to wildlife and humans. It is fascinating to see what washes up on our beaches - all beachcombers have found bizarre items on our shores.

Living on such a small island and surrounded by sea, **we can see the effects of plastic pollution first hand.** We are lucky that we have such dedicated beachcombers who go out regularly cleaning our beaches and protecting our natural environment for all to enjoy, not just today but for future generations.

I would like to thank everyone who cleans our beautiful beaches and I hope this report inspires everyone to get out and beach clean. Whether you pick up three or a hundred items, it all makes a difference.

Olivia Bennett

Charity Co-ordinator



The Clean
Earth Trust

Key Takeouts



- **160** surveys submitted to CET in 2022
- **39,944** pieces of marine litter collected, weighing just under two tonnes
- **1,331** pieces of litter were found per mile of coastline
- **66%** of the marine litter found was **plastic**
- **10,864 cigarette butts** found which would have cost up to **£760,480** in littering fines
- Top 5 items:
 - cigarette butts: 10,864
 - broken plastic pieces: 5,120
 - plastic food wrappers: 3,893
 - paper scrap and tissue: 2,945
 - polystyrene pieces: 1,366
- **1,081 plastic bags** and bag pieces
- **90kg** was the highest weight recorded in one survey, during 1 hour at Les Petils
- **Saints Bay** was the most visited beach from our surveys
- **55.1%** of items were from a public source
- **832** pieces of litter were found per kilometre
- **69%** of the plastic items found were single-use plastic items



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The Clean Earth Trust

Marine Litter



What is Marine Litter?

“Marine litter consists of **items that have been made or used by people** and deliberately discarded into the sea or rivers or on beaches; brought indirectly to the sea with rivers, sewage, storm water or winds; or accidentally lost, including material lost at sea in bad weather”. - UNEP ¹

Plastic is the type of marine litter that is talked about most frequently due to the volumes of it that wash up on shores and the devastating effects that it has on the environment, wildlife and humans.

In 2019, 459 million tonnes of plastic was produced,² this contributes to the 9.5 billion tonnes that has been produced globally since 1950. Plastic production doesn't look to be slowing down, rather it is continuing to grow.

In 2020, it was estimated that there were **over 199 million tonnes of plastic in our oceans,**³ and this doesn't include other materials stated within this report. The amount of plastic entering both our aquatic and terrestrial environment isn't looking to slow down anytime soon.

When plastic enters our oceans, it will break down into smaller and smaller pieces, producing micro plastics and then nano plastics. It is estimated that there are **5.25 trillion pieces**⁴ of plastic in our oceans.

It is estimated that **710 million tonnes of plastic** will have entered our natural environment between 2016 and 2040,⁵ showing showing that plastic pollution is going to continue to be a problem not just worldwide but locally.



How does litter end up in our environment?

Litter can end up in our ocean ecosystem through both land and marine sources. **80% of marine plastic enters the oceans via rivers and coastlines** whilst the other **20% comes from marine sources**, such as fishing rope and nets.⁶



Land-based sources:

Landfill – exposed plastic can be transported by the wind, plastic particles can also leach into surrounding groundwater

Cities – Clothes, building materials, food wrappers and any kind of plastic used by inhabitants

Roads and traffic – Particles from the wear on tyres, paint and road surfaces

Sewage and wastewater – source of micro plastics

Agriculture/ soil – use of plastic in farming practises, can runoff land into waterways and into the ocean

Marine-based sources:

Fishing activities – waste thrown overboard, abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear

Recreational boats – litter thrown overboard or lost accidentally

Aquaculture - fish and shellfish farming

Shipping - waste thrown overboard, loss of containers⁷



The Beach Clean Project

The Beach Clean Project is a **citizen science project** that continues to run nearly every weekend throughout the year. The project conducts regular community clean ups at different beaches, along with BIG clean ups happening a few times a year. In 2022 we had the BIG Channel Islands beach clean which spanned a whole weekend and covered three big beaches, along with our annual BIG Herm Beach clean in October. These events often have over 50 people attending, and large amounts of rubbish collected.

This year the project also doubled in Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, allowing young people to beach clean as part of their bronze, silver and gold volunteering. It is amazing to see young people getting involved with their **local environment** and **community**.

Corporate beach cleans also doubled in participation this year. More and more organisations are getting outside and helping to clean up our environment. If you are interested, you can find out more about our corporate programme [here](#).



The project is changing and growing for 2023, the survey has been updated to combine certain categories and make it more user friendly – especially for larger beach cleans.

Find out more about The Beach Clean Project [here](#).



Local Marine Litter

Report by Richard Lord

This past winter, Guernsey has experienced fewer named storms and the wind direction has been more variable than last winter.

The Facebook group "Found on the Beach in Guernsey", created and moderated by Sam Reoch, has been immensely helpful in recording the arrival of beach litter, and particularly the arrival of lost cargo, which gained considerable attention from the media. The lost cargo increased the participation of Guernsey beach cleaners with the Facebook group, which has enabled Sam Reoch to compile data on the cargo litter collected.

This past year **every Guernsey beach clean produced shipping litter**. As Guernsey's beach cleaning community gains knowledge, and beach cleaners begin to recognise unlabelled plastic bottles by their design, many unlabelled plastic bottles can be attributed to shipping litter - i.e. 'Crystal Geyser' from the USA, and 'Emirates' and 'Iceberg' brands from the United Arab Emirates.

This year has produced more recognition of the types of shipping litter too. For example, metal spray cans for air fresheners, insecticides, machine lubricants, and polyurethane foam appear to be mostly from ships. The Guernsey shore also receives a **great variety of milk and juice cartons that can only come from shipping waste**. Milk cartons from the following countries have washed up on the Guernsey shore: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Iran, Ireland, The Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the UK.

FOREIGN MILK CARTONS
FOUND ON GUERNSEY
SHORES



The list of countries supplying **plastic water bottles** is considerably longer. With the indispensable help of Wendy Le Prevost, Sam Reoch, Lisa Smart and her family, and other members of the Facebook group "Found on the Beach in Guernsey", a **photographic database of Guernsey beach litter is developing**, concentrating on branded products and groups of products that repeatedly wash up.

This past year has seen **greater communication between beach cleaning groups around the world**. We know now that the same brands, i.e. Nongfu Spring from China, wash-up on the coast of Australia, South Africa, Brazil, the USA, and European shores. The evidence points to some merchant ships dumping rubbish along their entire route in contravention of the International Maritime Organisation's Marine Pollution Convention Annex V regulations. Loukas Kontogiannis is Technical Officer for MARPOL Annex V regulations. He has not replied to my emails.



NONGFU SPRING
PLASTIC WATER
BOTTLES FROM
CHINA

Mobile phones can capture GPS coordinates of litter on the shore. A littering event can be identified when the same product washes up in numerous locations over a short period of time. It is unlikely that one beach clean or one beach cleaner will collect all the items of one particular littering event, which is why sharing information between beach cleaners is so important. Items with the same origin (particularly an unusual origin) such as Iran or Latin America may indicate a common litter source.

The beach cleaning community should inquire about the use of artificial intelligence to identify plastic bottles by their design, and use A.I. to identify company logos, which often cannot be searched easily using the Internet.

To see more of Richard's images, please visit sealordphotography.net

FOREIGN WATER
BOTTLES THAT HAVE
BEEN FOUND ON
GUERNSEY'S SHORES



Found on the Beach in Guernsey

Report by Sam Reoch

I originally made my Facebook group 'Found on the beach in Guernsey (beachcombers)' in 2016, after feeling frustrated with the amount of litter that I came across each time I went to clean the beaches.

I made the group to raise awareness of the different items that we find and to encourage others to help clean them.

I also make photo albums on the group of the items that we find regularly, the vintage items that may have been buried in the sand or floating around/on the seabed for many years and other interesting items that we find including the ones that wash up regularly. I also wanted to raise awareness of environmental issues and the litter that was arriving from other countries/shipping waste/cargo spills.



"I've been cleaning our beaches for many years now and I've noticed that, collectively, we are making a real difference to how clean they are"

The group has been successful with some 4,600 members. We learn constantly by researching our finds and trying to work out what an item is/was and where it could have come from. This builds up an interesting database for future reference. We have many young beach cleaners helping too, which is a very positive thing.



The group has been an **ongoing pressure for change**, we have been nominated twice for a Pride of Guernsey award, being in the final three both times. Some of the group's achievements are:-

- writing to various businesses (sometimes being successful) in seeing them change from plastic to eco-friendly straws
- **encouraging new beach cleaners** to help to keep our beaches clean in the Bailiwick
- collecting washed up beach toys and donating them to schools/child-minders
- helping to achieve the successful **States Womble Scheme** and advising of the correct bins to use
- **removing and reporting many dangerous/nasty items** we come across including medicines, needles, knives, flares, corrosive liquids etc
- **obtaining additional infrastructure** to stop waste reaching the sea from the Cobo Balcony Gigs;

- helping to **stop single use foam fingers and plastic promotional items** being given away by JT at the Cobo Balcony Gigs (as sadly they were found left on the beaches/washing up long after the gigs)
- giving **health and safety guidance** on beach cleaning
- being **first responders and raising awareness** of cargo spills. We made a big difference in the clear-up of the Avant & LIDL cargo spills and kept photographic evidence and numbers of this spill from the very start to date
- sharing **hazardous waste alerts** e.g. wax lumps washing up that are hazardous to dogs
- raising awareness of beach/sea litter via a Geekfest table, television interviews and newspaper articles

Of course, the group wouldn't be the big success it is without the wonderful regular contributors who take photographs of what they find and upload them to the group. I would like to especially thank Wendy, Richard, the Smart family, Janet and Sarah for their contributions to the group.



Why get involved with beach cleaning locally?

Report by Wendy Le Prevost

Living in Guernsey, as with most locals, I was brought up on the beach, in rock pools, swimming, walking and rock-climbing. A visit to the beach is an all-year-round activity watching wildlife on our coastline.

Unfortunately, our beaches have been suffering from plastic pollution for years, but **seeing is believing** and a few years ago, swimming with floating plastic pieces, and finding a dead sea bird that had swallowed a hook and fishing line made me more determined to make a difference.

On Facebook, I came across the Found on the Beach Beachcombers Page. Somewhere to post my finds and to share my photos, **I've learnt so much and met lots of like-minded people**, and feel I'm just one of many who pick up and help keep our beaches clean.

Over the years you learn to watch wind, direction, swells, and tide lines, and learn that a beach can be clean one day and full of rubbish on the next high tide. Lots of areas with rocks and pebbles on the coast catch more rubbish than flat sandy areas which is a work out for a beach womble, collecting and carrying stuff off the beach.

The Guernsey Womble scheme has been very useful in clearing all the items we find on the beach and also ACLMS who pick up or arrange for some of the larger items like wood poles, mattresses and dead dolphins to be listed and removed. Shipping litter has become more noticeable with plastic bottles being a regular item during litter pick-ups. Identifying the items that we pick up is always important to try and understand why it's in the sea in the first place, like pollution detectives.

"Can we make a difference? Yes, every single item removed could save the life of a bird, a fish, or even a person."

Thank you to everyone who picks up. Individuals and groups, we all make a difference.



2022 SURVEY RESULTS

Clean-Ups

A total of 160 surveys were submitted via our online form for 2022. This compares to 122 in 2021. The weekly beach clean-ups only differed by three with 38 in 2021 and 35 in 2022. Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) increased from 24 in 2021 to 72 in 2022. Corporate beach cleans more than doubled from 6 in 2021 to 14 in 2022. Independent beach cleans remained at a similar number with 23 in 2021 and 28 in 2022. There was a decrease in BIG beach cleans with 29 in 2021 and 5 in 2022. This could be due to the BIG Channel Island Beach Clean being held during lockdown of 2021, so people had more time to be out and about beach cleaning during February.

In 2022 we had a total of **1117 volunteers** amounting to over 3000 volunteer hours. If these hours were paid that is over **£29,430.71 in salaries** (according to minimum wage).⁸

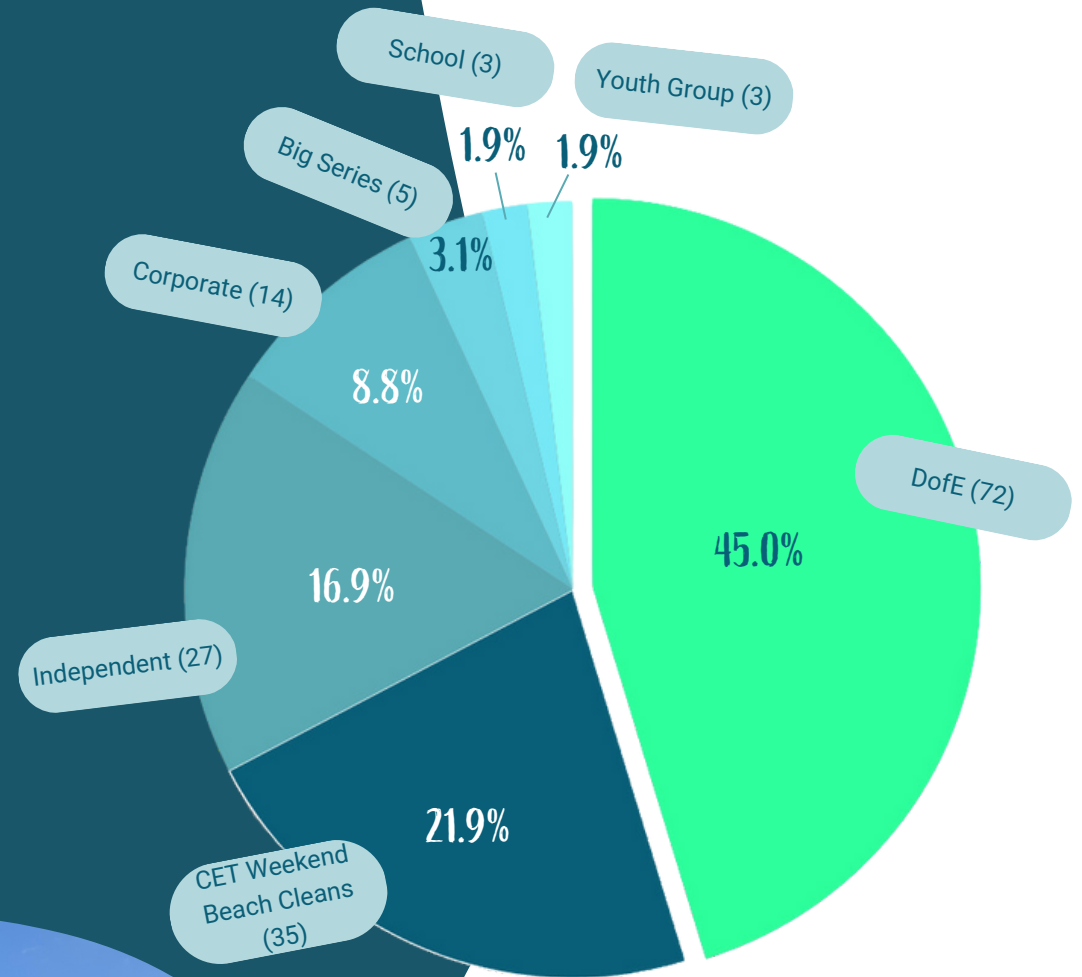


FIGURE 1: THE NUMBER OF MARINE LITTER SURVEYS SUBMITTED BY GROUP



The distribution of beach cleans around the island

Out of the 160 clean ups conducted over the course of 2022, it is interesting to see where on the island these cleans took place. This map illustrates where on the island beach cleans took place and how many took place.

Saints Bay had the highest number of cleans this year, with a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer dedicating their time to clean up this specific bay. Beaches on the west coast proved popular with Port Grat, Rousse, and Grandes Rocques being cleaned frequently.

38 different beaches were cleaned along our coastline, showing how many areas of our island were covered.



FIGURE 2: THE DISTRIBUTION OF BEACH CLEANS AROUND THE ISLAND



39,944 pieces of marine litter were collected in 2022

The 3000 volunteer hours in 2022 resulted in 39,944 pieces of marine litter being collected and surveyed, **weighing just under 2 tonnes.**

39,944 pieces of marine litter is a considerable amount of rubbish to find on our shores and this equates to around **250 items per clean-up.**



Top 5 items in 2022	
Cigarette butts	10,864
Plastic pieces	5,120
Food wrappers	3,893
Scrap paper and tissue	2,945
Polystyrene pieces	1,366

FIGURE 3: THE TOP FIVE ITEMS COLLECTED IN 2022



What are the figures for 2022 compared to 2021

In 2022 39,944 pieces of marine litter were found weighing just under 2 tonnes. This number differs by under 10,000 in comparison to 2021. In 2021 48,924 pieces of marine litter were found. It is important to note that this is not a reflection of what is on our beaches or how many people are out cleaning, but is just what was surveyed.

The top 5 items differ ever so slightly from 2021 where broken plastic pieces were at the top and cigarette butts were second. Glass was also in the top 5 in 2021 but scrap paper and tissue trumped glass in 2022.



	2021	2022
Clean-Ups	122	159
Volunteers	1147	1117
Total weight	2217	1842
Top 5 items	broken plastic pieces, cigarette butts, plastic food wrappers, polystyrene pieces, glass pieces	cigarette butts, broken plastic pieces, plastic food wrappers, paper scrap and tissue, polystyrene pieces
Plastic items	37202	26511
Metal items	2102	1352
Rubber items	884	455
Fabric items	1147	763
Wood items	1085	1245
Paper items	2364	3745
Glass items	2435	822
Ceramic items	1556	256
Pollutants	71	58
Unknown	78	700

FIGURE 4: THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 2021 AND 2022



The difference between summer and winter beach cleans

It is interesting to discover the different kind of items that are found on the shore at different times of year. In 2022 73 cleans were conducted in the Summer and 87 in the Winter. Summer included May through to the end of September and Winter from the start of October through to the end of April. The number of beach cleans conducted in the different seasons are very similar, only differing by 14 cleans.

Some items are clearly found more frequently in the summer, such as cigarette butts, food and beverage items, scrap tissue and clothing. Other items such as rope and polystyrene are much more common in the winter. Plastic pieces (all sizes) are found all year round in similar quantities, only differing by around 100 pieces from summer to winter.



FIGURE 5: THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUMMER AND WINTER BEACH CLEANS



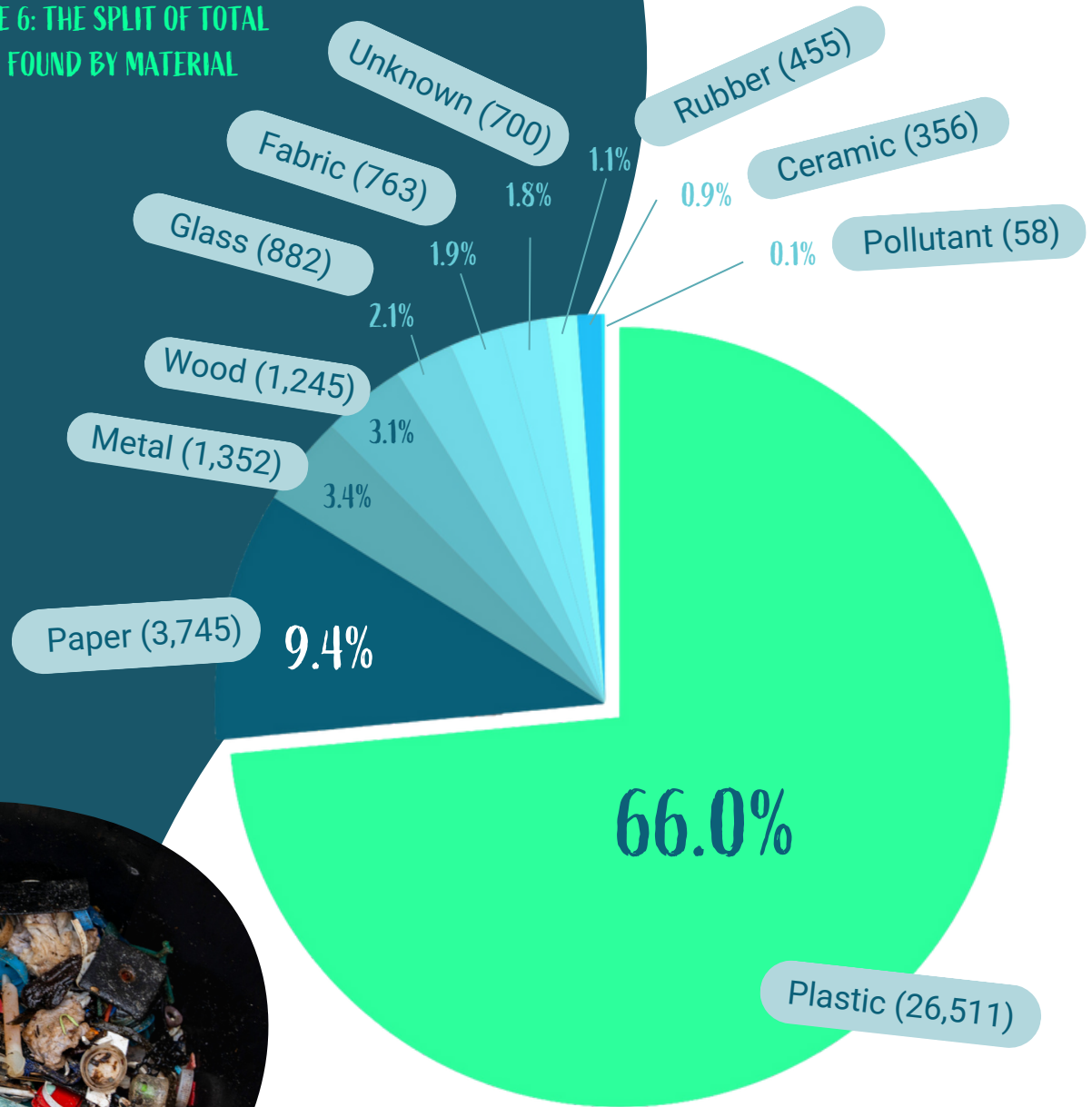
MATERIALS

When looking at all the items found on the beach in 2022 the split of materials can be seen in the chart.

With Guernsey's circumference being around 48km, approximately **832 pieces of litter were found per km.**

66% of everything found on the beach in 2022 was plastic, showing the extent of plastic pollution on our coastlines.

FIGURE 6: THE SPLIT OF TOTAL ITEMS FOUND BY MATERIAL



Plastic (66.0%)



66% of items found on Guernsey's shores were plastic



FIGURE 7: THE SPLIT OF PLASTIC ITEMS



69% of the plastic items found were single-use

Plastic pieces continue to be found on our coastlines. 6,484 plastic pieces were found on the beach in 2022, and of these, **822 plastic pieces were found in 2 hours at Richmond.**

Single-use plastic products (SUPs) are used once, or for a short period of time, before being thrown away. **The items highlighted in green in figure 7 are all single-use plastic items.**

18,193 SUP items were collected in 2022.

This means of all plastic items collected 69% of them were single-use plastic items. Of all the items collected 46% were SUP's. The number of SUP's found on our beaches increased by around 2,000 since 2021 illustrating the problem SUPs are causing on our coastlines. 36% of all plastic items produced worldwide are used in packaging, including single-use plastics, and around 85% of this plastic will end up in landfills or as unregulated waste, resulting in the plastic entering the marine environment.¹⁰



Many of the small pieces of plastic are unidentifiable and there is no way of telling what they are - these are categorised as plastic pieces. They are often colourful and can be found in the seaweed line. Grandes Rocques and Richmond are known to have hundreds of little pieces of plastic strewn throughout the seaweed.



Paper (9.4%)

Paper was the second most frequent material found on our beaches in 2022, with the top item in this category being scrap paper and tissue. This essentially is any paper that doesn't fit into any of the categories and looks to be scrap. Tissues are also included in this category, including napkins and items of that sort. Cardboard is the next most popular item found, followed by miscellaneous. 100 paper cups were found - coffee cups that may at first appear to be paper may be plastic on further inspection.

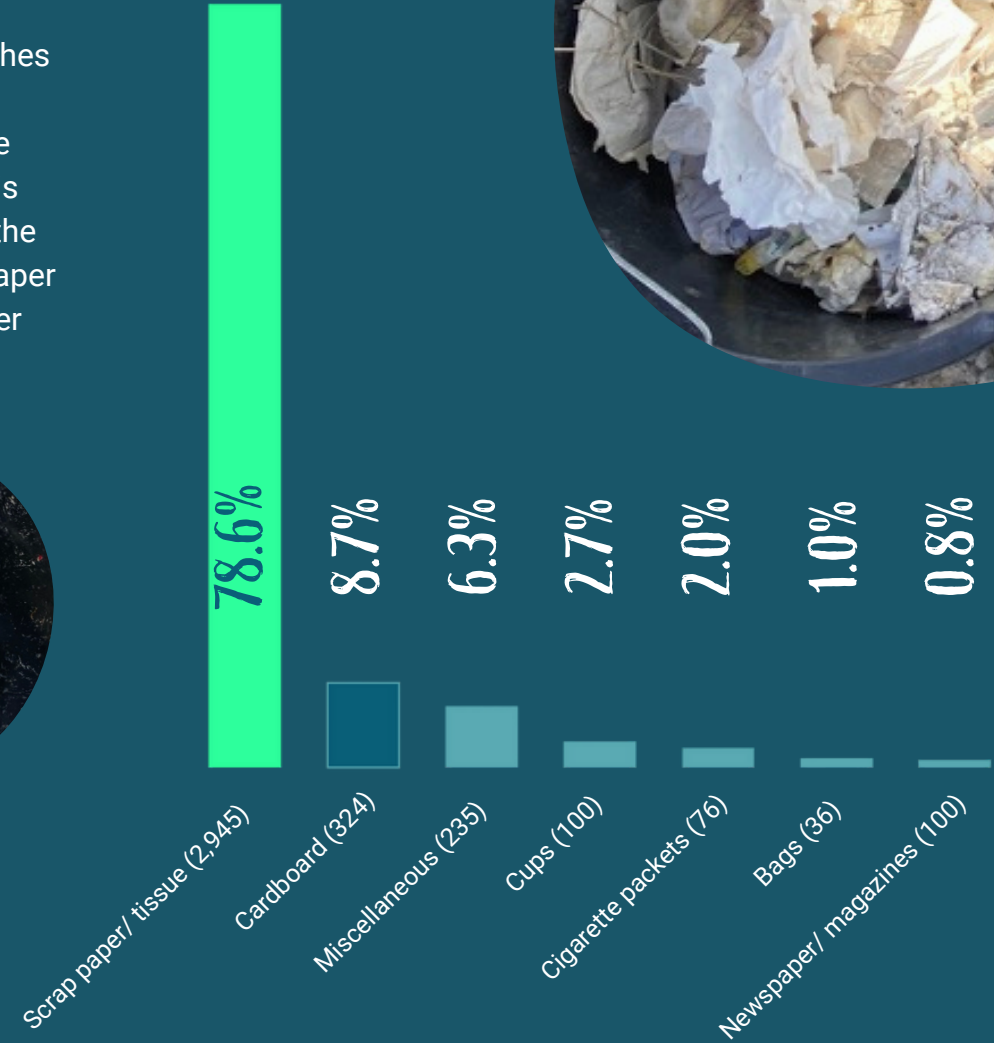


FIGURE 8: THE SPLIT OF PAPER ITEMS



Metal (3.4%)

Metal was the third most frequent material found on our beaches. **392 metal drinks cans** were found and small metal scraps and foil wrappers were commonly found as well. 58 of the 71 aerosol cans were found in one clean at Les Petils. The metal items can often be hazardous to beach-goers if they are rusty or sharp.



54.8% of items are related to the food and beverage industry, these items are highlighted in green.

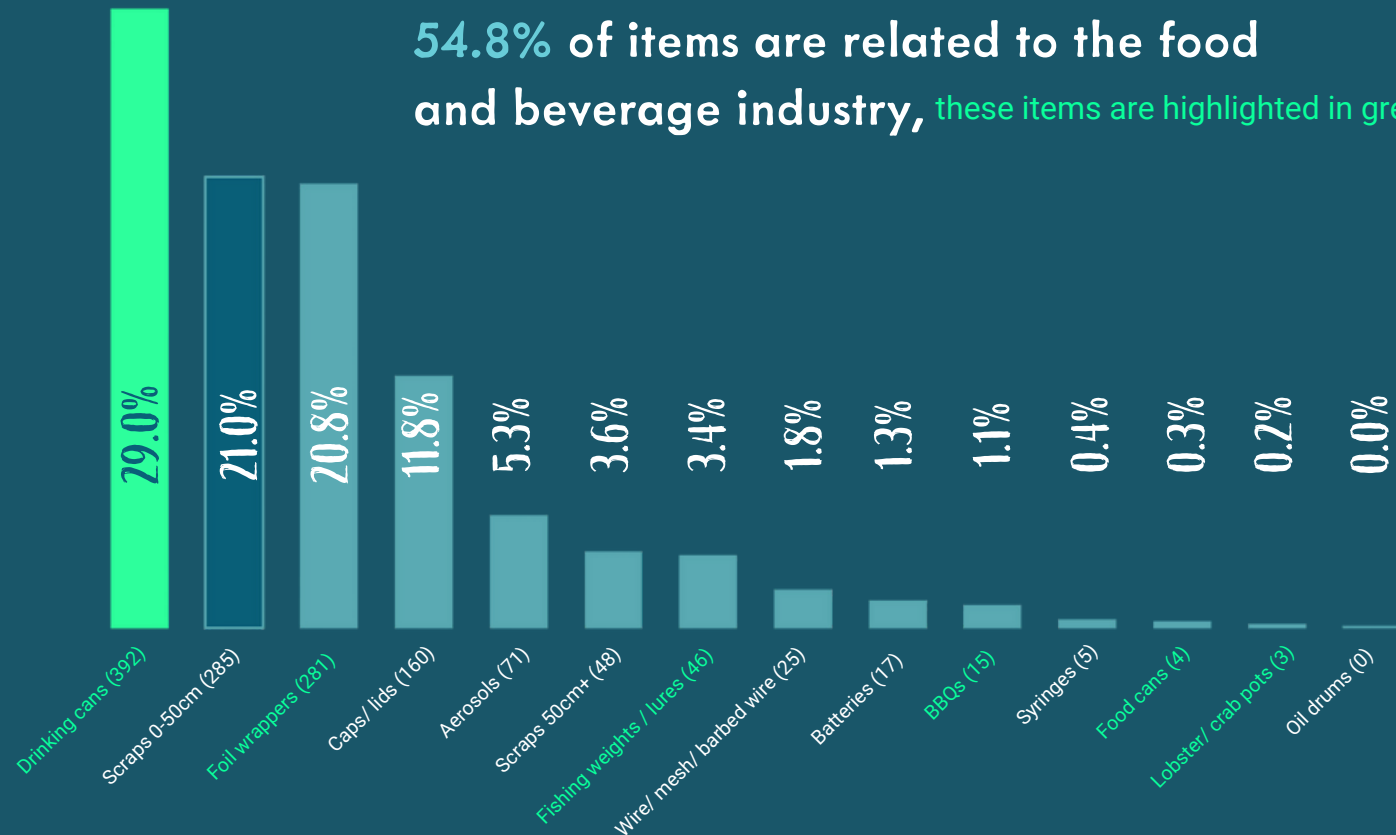


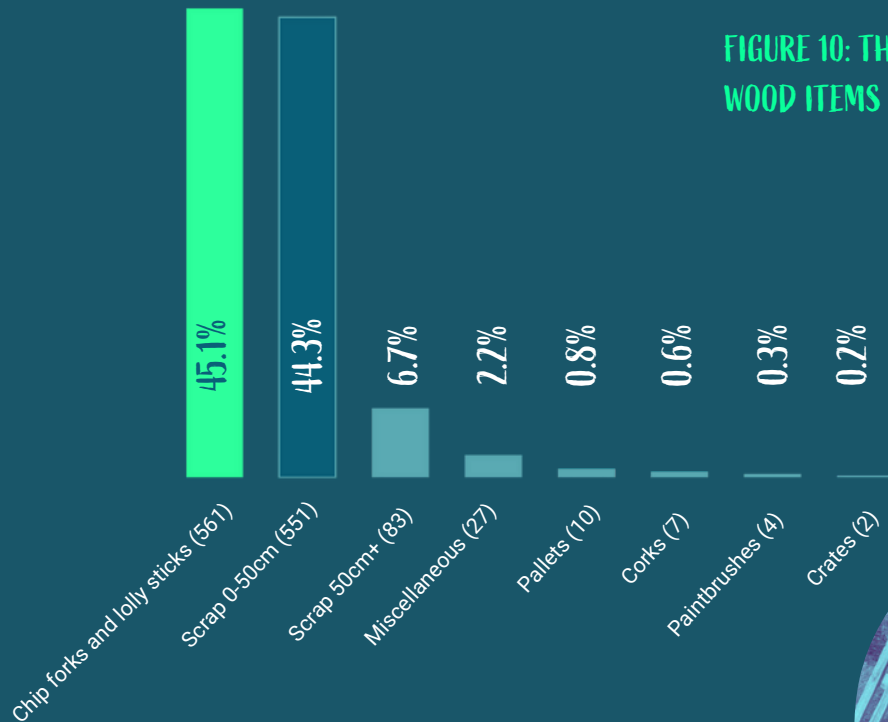
FIGURE 9: THE SPLIT OF METAL ITEMS



Wood (3.1%)

Chip forks and lolly sticks were the most common wood item found on our beaches in 2022, and it is most likely that these have either been discarded or left accidentally by members of the public. **112 of the chip forks and lolly sticks were found in two hours at Vazon in July.** Much of the wood found is natural but there are some pieces of wood that have nails or toxic paint coating which can be dangerous to wildlife and people.

FIGURE 10: THE SPLIT OF WOOD ITEMS



Glass (2.1%)

Glass pieces topped the glass category in 2022 with 763. This is significantly less than in 2021 but again is not a representation of the amount of glass on our beaches. **150 glass pieces were found in one clean at Frying Pan Bay.**



Glass items	882	
Pieces	763	92.80%
Bottles	50	6.10%
Miscellaneous	9	1.10%
Light bulbs	0	0.00%

FIGURE 11: THE SPLIT OF GLASS ITEMS



Fabric (1.9%)

Fabric can often be hard to identify when out on a clean as often the pieces are very small and could be plastic, this is reflected in the fact that over half (417) of the fabric items found were scraps. **273 items of clothing were found, 206 of these were found in the summer**, showing that these items are often left or forgotten by beach goers.

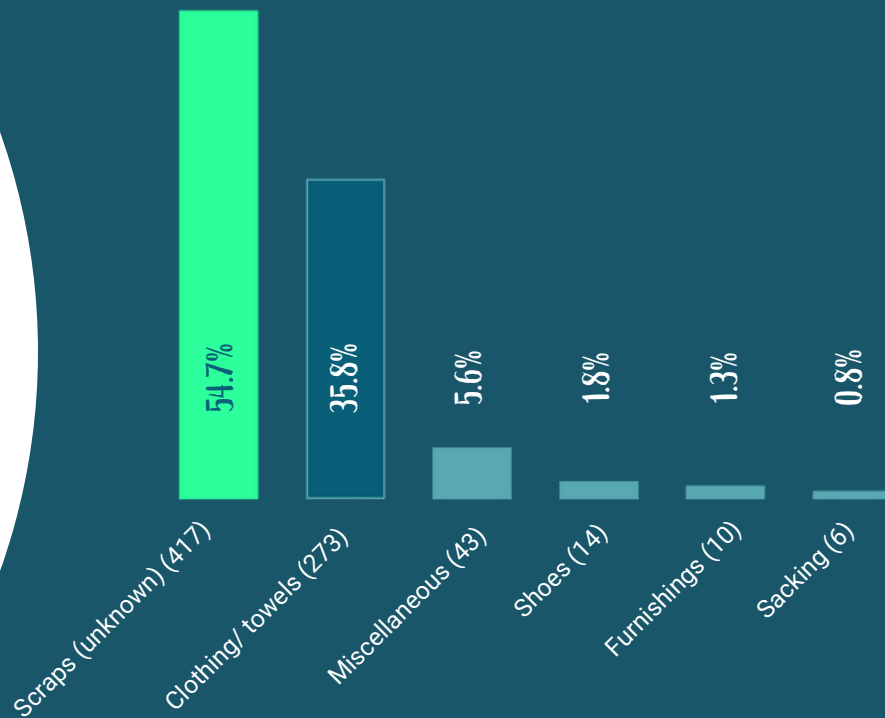


FIGURE 12: THE SPLIT OF FABRIC ITEMS

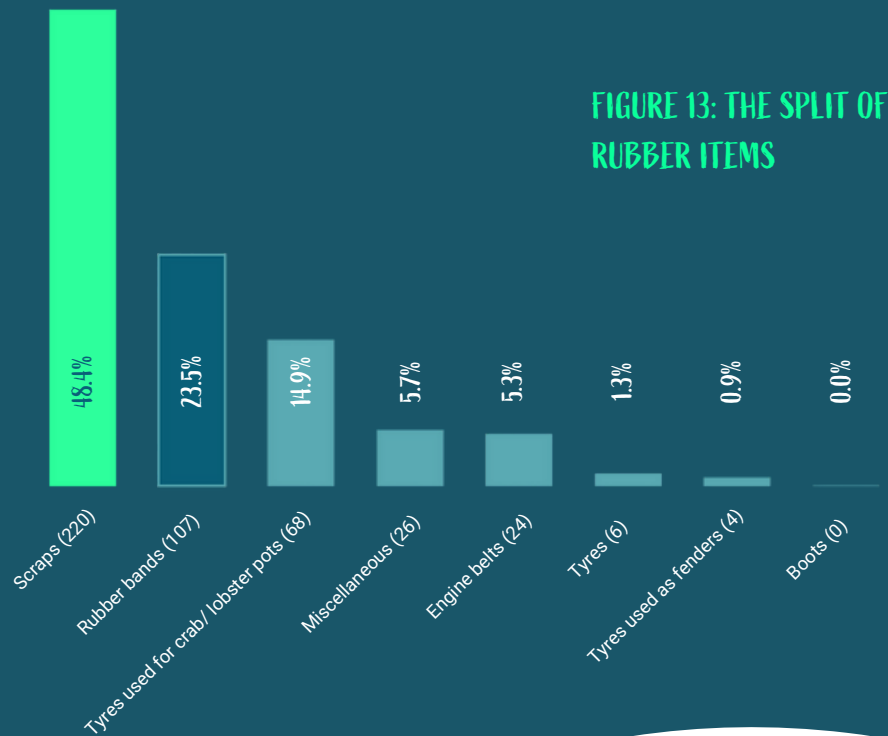
Unknown (1.8%)

Unknown items refer to all the 'other' columns in our survey. In 2022, 700 items were listed as unknown, which was 1.8% of the overall findings.



Rubber (1.1%)

Rubber items were a small percentage of what was found last year. Similarly to fabrics, scraps were the highest occurring item, again as rubber items can often be hard to identify. Rubber bands are also frequently found - these can be hair bands, elastic bands, or bands used in fishing. Fishing is the predominant industry for rubber items, specifically tyres used for pots and fenders, and engine belts.



Ceramic (0.9%)

Ceramic pieces are often small pieces of pottery that can be found on the beach - these were the largest quantity of ceramic items in 2022. 118 pieces of miscellaneous ceramics were found, which again could be anything that isn't recognisable but is ceramic in material. Construction materials refers to anything that could be used in construction, for example bricks and tiles. This made up a small percentage of ceramic.

Ceramic items	Count	Percentage
Pieces	214	60.1%
Miscellaneous	118	33.1%
Construction material	24	6.7%

FIGURE 14: THE SPLIT OF CERAMIC ITEMS

Pollutants (0.1%)

Bagged dog faeces were counted 55 times. This could have resulted in £5,500-£55,000 worth of fines. 3 small paraffin wax pieces were found, and there were no large pieces found.



INDUSTRY

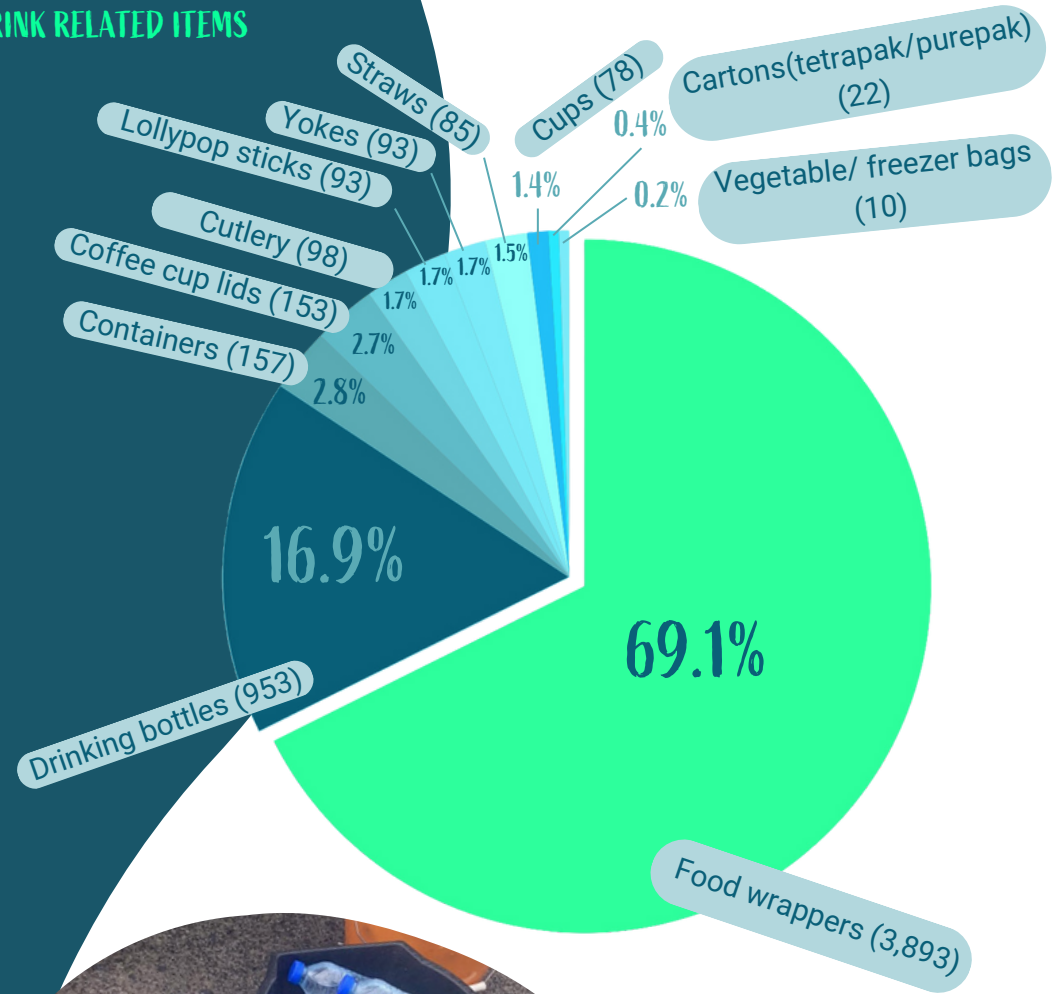
Food and Beverage

34.7% of all items were related to food and drink. Food wrappers topped the list, mirroring the results from 2021. 251 of these food wrappers were found in one afternoon at Vazon in the summer, illustrating that items found on the beach can often be from public sources, people using the beach, and litter blowing from the land.

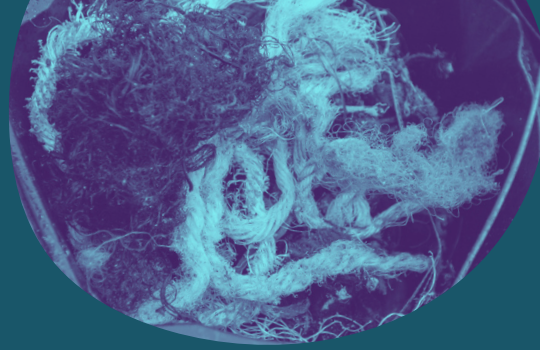
Coffee cup lids and straws are items that are single-use and banned in the UK and EU. 85 straws were found and 153 coffee cup lids.

Many of these items are single-use plastics. 953 plastic bottles were found on our shore, and this doesn't reflect the huge number washed up in the Avant water bottle cargo spill. Sam Reoch has been keeping a record of the number of Avant water bottles washing up on Found on the Beach in Guernsey. The total is well over 8,000 and they are continuing to wash up today, 132 of these were found in an hour at Richmond during our weekly beach cleans. This reflects that our survey is only one source recording marine litter for the island and there are hundreds of items found daily.

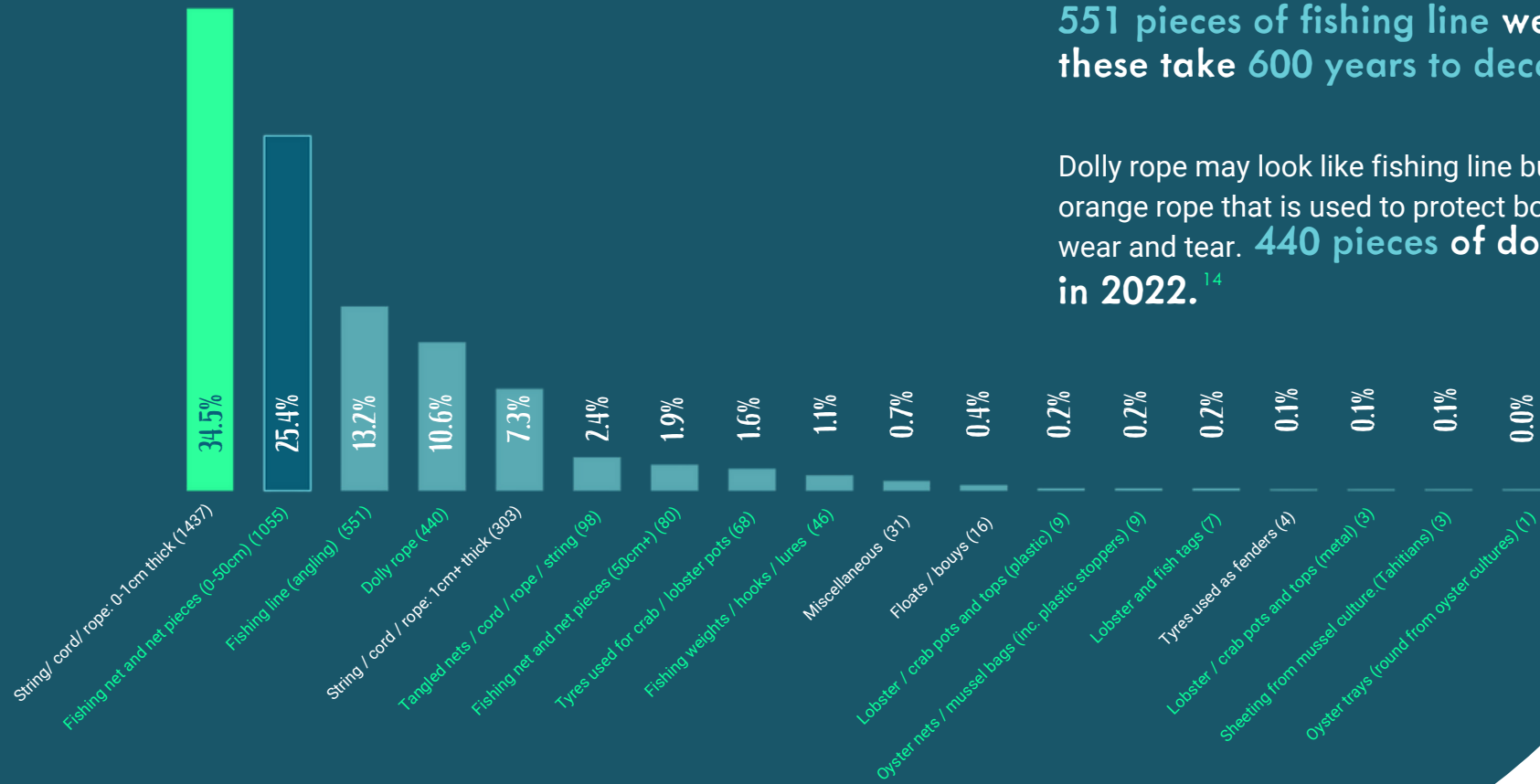
FIGURE 15: THE SPLIT OF FOOD AND DRINK RELATED ITEMS



Marine



1437 pieces of string, cord, and rope were found in 2022



Fishing items contributed just **5.9%** to **all items** found but can have devastating impacts on our wildlife including entanglement, stress and can ultimately lead to death.¹¹

Net and net pieces refer to the small green pieces of rope and are often called '**fisherman's kisses**' due to their cross shape. They are the fragments of rope that are cut off the edges of large nets.¹²

551 pieces of fishing line were found, and these take **600** years to decompose.¹³

Dolly rope may look like fishing line but is actually the blue and orange rope that is used to protect bottom trawling nets against wear and tear. **440** pieces of dolly rope were found in 2022.¹⁴



FIGURE 15: THE SPLIT OF MARINE RELATED ITEMS



Smoking

10,864 cigarette butts were found on our beaches in 2022

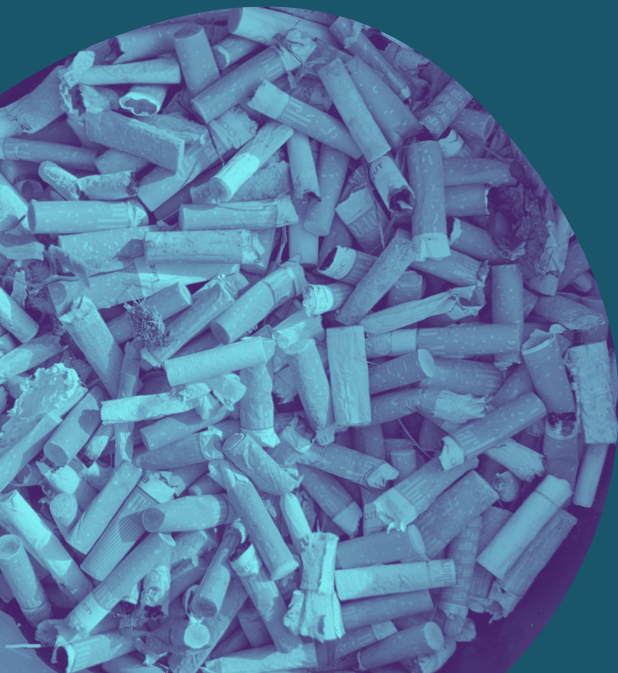
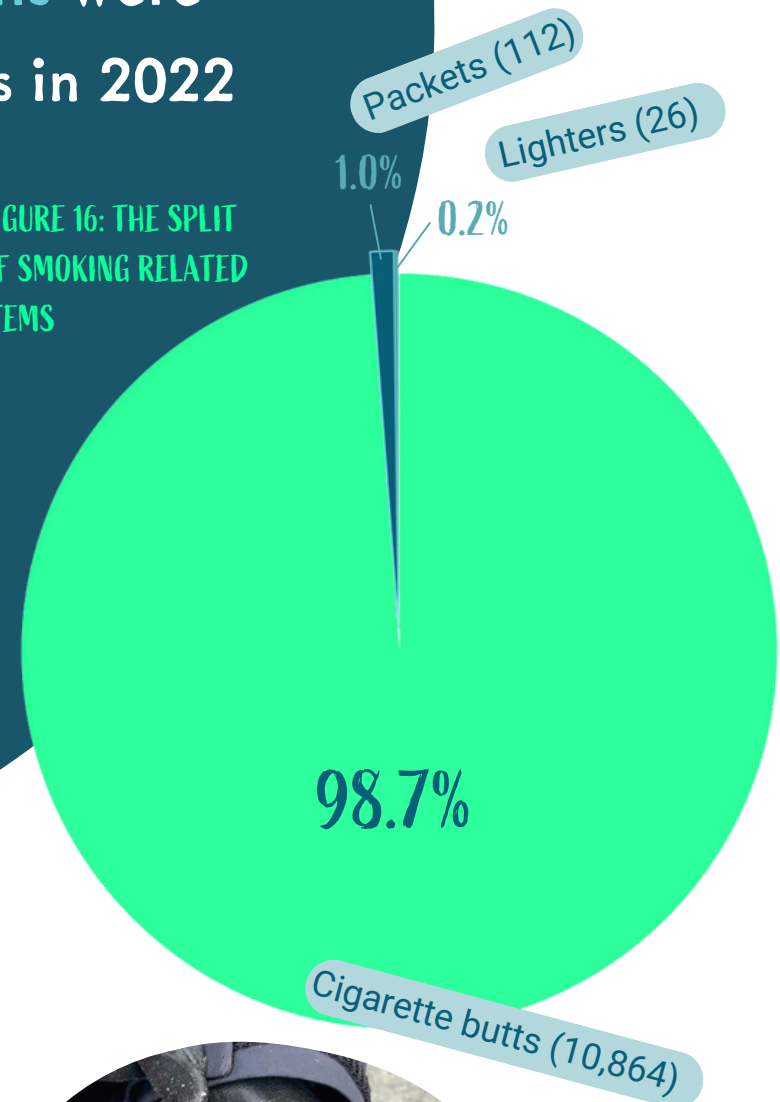
Cigarette butts accounted for our highest found item in 2022 at 10,864 butts. This is a staggering number of butts found on our beaches. This would have resulted in **£760,480 in littering fines**. The worst beach for butts is Pembroke/L'Ancrese with 1,763 butts, and the top 5 beaches had 5,956 butts in total. E-cigarettes and vapes are starting to be found more and more frequently, we have now added this as a category for 2023.

976 butts were found in one hour at L'Eree over the summer

FIGURE 17: THE TOP 5 WORST BEACHES FOR BUTTS

Worst beaches for butts	5,956
Pembroke/L'ancrese	1,763
L'Eree	1,298
Vazon	1,008
Grandes Rocques	1,001
Chouet	886

FIGURE 16: THE SPLIT OF SMOKING RELATED ITEMS



Sanitary

Wet wipes continue to be the most common sanitary items found on our beaches. 196 were found in 2021 and 200 were found in 2022. Wet wipes cannot be flushed as they can get caught in sewers and add to the growing number of microplastics in our oceans.¹⁵

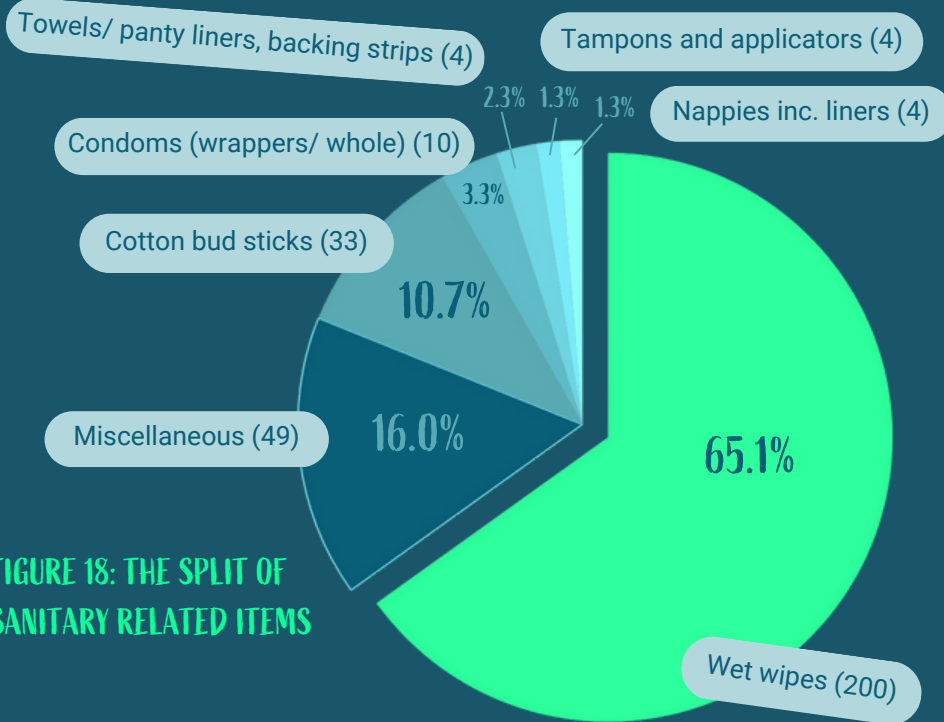


FIGURE 18: THE SPLIT OF SANITARY RELATED ITEMS

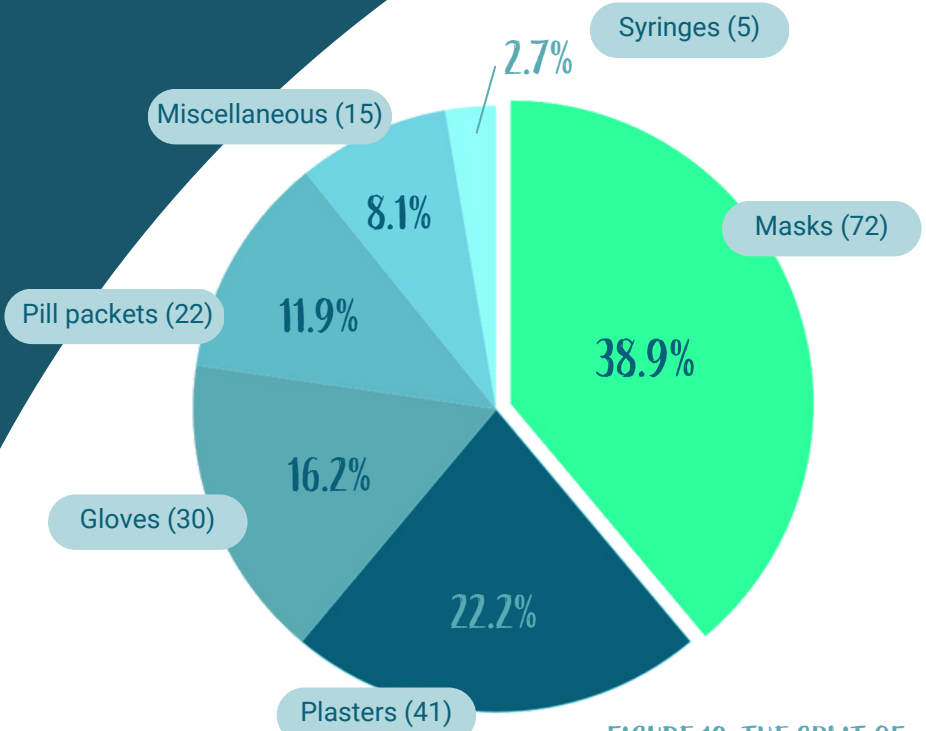


FIGURE 19: THE SPLIT OF MEDICAL RELATED ITEMS

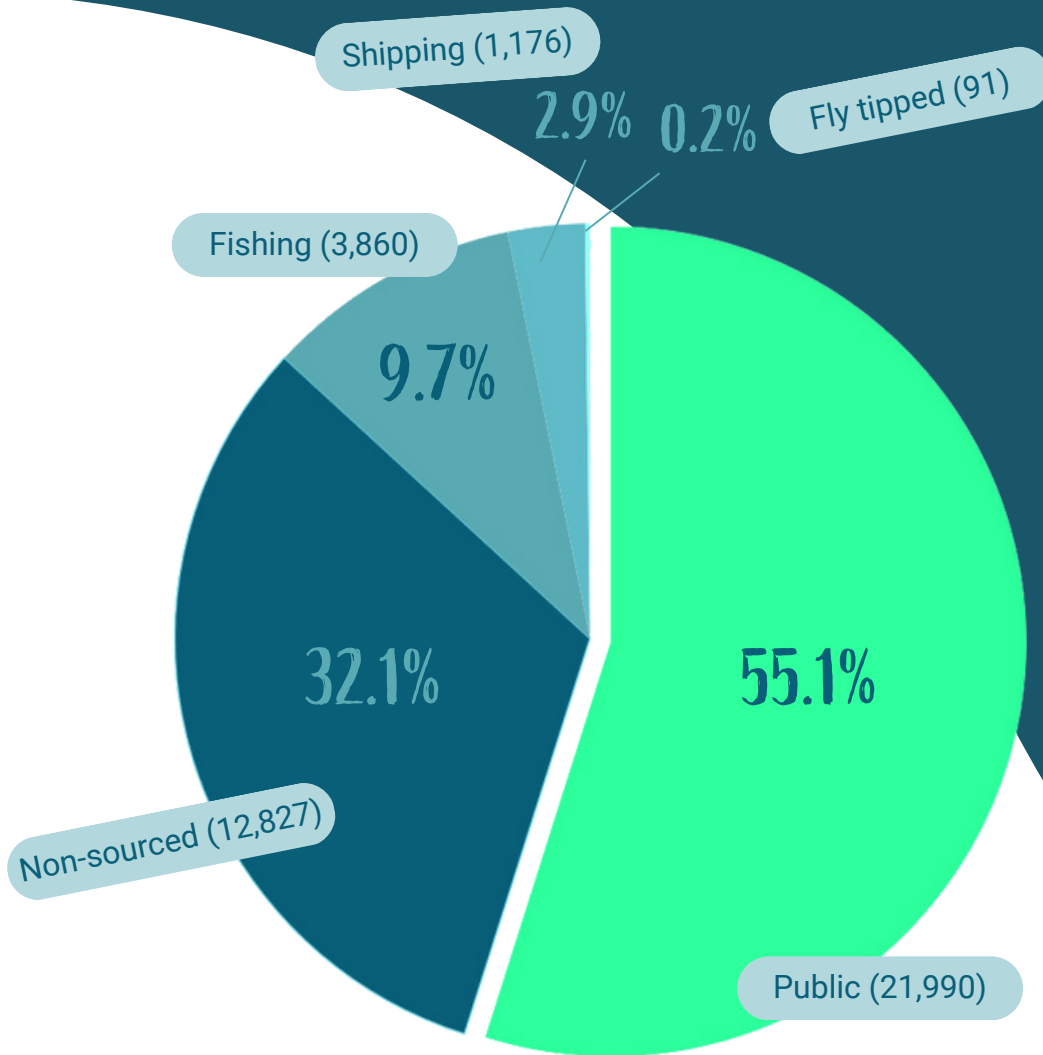
Medical

72 masks were found in 2022, this compared to only 26 in 2021. This included both medical masks and cloth face masks, evidence of the COVID-19 pandemic and people using PPE.

Medical items only made up 0.5% of items found but can still have a nasty impact. Needles and syringes are often found which can be harmful to both wildlife and the public. Only 5 syringes were found in 2022.



Sources of Marine Litter



55.1% of litter found could be from a public source

It is hard to know exactly where the items washing up on our shores have come from, but educated guesses can be made such as cigarette butts being a public source, rope being a fishing source, car parts from fly tipping and it is likely that plastic industrial sheeting comes from shipping.

Shipping litter is often evident through foreign plastic water bottles. Richard Lord is currently compiling a photo database recording foreign shipping litter. Food wrappers, cutlery and other takeaway items can often be identified as public as they look like they have been left or forgotten about on the beach recently.



FIGURE 20: ESTIMATED SOURCES OF LOCAL MARINE LITTER



SOLUTIONS

Where are we since 2021?

Paul Bugden – Policy Officer

Apart from changing human behaviour by **raising individual awareness** through participation in beach cleans, educational initiatives, and media output, **there needs to be action at government level.**

Guernsey can learn from and follow the initiatives taken elsewhere. In particular, steps can be taken to prohibit the supply of single use plastics. We have analysed what has been done in other jurisdictions and set out the current position in several jurisdictions in the table on the page below (figure 21).



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To date the States of Guernsey have taken no action to implement legislation banning the supply of single use plastics and, as can be seen from the below table, have fallen behind neighbouring jurisdictions in this respect.

We have now launched a petition calling upon the States of Guernsey to enact legislation and to implement a plastic reduction policy within government.

The petition can be viewed at change.org/bansingleusegsy. It has so far been signed by over 2,100 supporters. Further details of the campaign are available on the CET website.

In support of the single use plastics campaign, we have drafted the legislation we propose should be enacted in Guernsey. This is modelled on the legislation in the Isle of Man. A copy of the draft legislation can be viewed on the CET website.



Jurisdiction	Action	Legislation	Plastic Items Affected
UN	A Resolution on Plastic was passed on 22.3.2022 by leaders from 173 countries which aims to achieve global agreement on sustainable production and consumption of plastics.	A draft legally binding international treaty on plastics, is due to be completed in 2024	Probably wide ranging.
EU	Single-Use Plastics Directive requires banning of certain single-use plastic items and promotes policies to transition to a circular economy.	Each EU country was required to have passed legislation giving effect to the Single-Use Directive by 3 July 2021.	Cutlery, plates, straws, cotton bud sticks, beverage stirrers, expanded polystyrene cups and food containers including lids, balloon sticks, products made of oxo-degradable plastic.
England	The UK agreed the Single-Use Plastics Directive whilst in the EU. England has not directly enacted its provisions, but has now introduced equivalent measures, which exceed the provisions of the Directive in some respects.	Enabling legislation in the form of the Environment Act 2021 was passed, inter alia, to enable subsidiary legislation to give effect to provisions similar to the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive.	Plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds are already banned. A further ban to be introduced from October 2023 will include single-use plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers.
Scotland	Has given effect to the Single-Use Plastics Directive with the exception of cotton bud sticks and oxo-degradable plastic.	The Environmental Protection (Single-Use Plastic Products) (Scotland) Regulations 2021, came into force on 1 June 2022.	cutlery, plates, straws, beverage stirrers, expanded polystyrene food containers, expanded polystyrene cups and their lids, balloon sticks.
Wales	Bill passed on 6 December 2022 to ban the supply of listed plastic products.	The Environmental Protection (Single-Use Plastics Products) (Wales) Law 2022 is to come into effect during the autumn of 2023.	Cutlery, plates, stirrers, drinking straws, plastic stemmed cotton buds, balloon sticks, expanded and foamed extruded polystyrene fast food containers and cups, polystyrene lids for food containers and cups, thin plastic carrier bags and all products made from oxo-degradable plastic.
Isle of Man	The Single-Use Plastic Reduction Plan for the Isle of Man Community was approved in July 2019.	Climate Change (Single-Use Plastics) Regulations 2022. (A lead in period has been provided for so the regulations become legally enforceable from 19 October 2023).	cutlery, plates, straws, cotton bud sticks, beverage stirrers, expanded polystyrene food containers and cups, balloon sticks, products made of oxo-degradable plastic, plastic carrier bags.
Jersey	Consultation on banning single-use plastic bags concluded.	The Single Use Plastics etc (Restrictions) (Jersey) Law 2021 came into force on 21 July 2022 but allowed a six-month grace period for traders to use existing stocks.	Plastic bags.
Alderney	Press release in September 2020 announced that a draft Projet de Loi had been approved banning sale of single-use plastic bags which was due to come into force 2021.	Legislation yet to be given effect.	Plastic bags.

FIGURE 21: A SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

SOLUTIONS

Aside from banning single-use plastics, we put forward a number of potential solutions to the problem of marine plastic pollution in our previous Marine Litter Report. The following illustrates some of the recent developments in the UK and around the world.

Deposit Return Scheme

In January 2023, the UK government announced that a Deposit Return Scheme covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland, is set to be introduced in 2025. The move has been welcomed by at least some large producers of plastic drink bottles. The scheme aims to reduce the number of drinks containers discarded as litter by 85% three years after its launch.¹⁶

Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme is set to launch in August 2023.¹⁷



Extended Producer Responsibility

Reporting requirements for the UK's Extended Producer Responsibility came into force on 28th February 2023. This is just the first step towards a fully operational EPR scheme which will eventually see the cost of collecting and managing household waste shift from local authorities to producers. The EPR scheme is set to come into force in 2024 and will see a total shift in cost of an estimated £1.2 billion per year across all local authorities.¹⁸



SOLUTIONS

Smoke free beaches

The smoke-free beaches movement is growing around the world. We would particularly like to highlight **developments in Spain, where nearly 1/5 of beaches have now been declared smoke-free.** Whilst these bans were initially voluntary, as of July 2022, local authorities have legal power to enforce bans using fines.¹⁹ A petition to make all beaches in the country smoke-free currently stands over 360,000 signatures.²⁰

Progress towards smoke-free beaches has been slower closer to home. As of April 2022, there were **4 smoke-free beaches in Wales**, but none in the rest of the UK. A UK government-commissioned report, The Khan review: making smoking obsolete, published in June 2022, recommends that outdoor public spaces, including beaches, should be made smoke-free. It remains to be seen if/how the recommendations of this report will be implemented.²¹

Balloon Releases

Internationally, Australia²² and the USA²³ appear to be leading the way in banning balloon releases, with a number of individual states in both countries bringing bans into force.

In the UK, numerous local authorities have also banned intentional releases of balloons and/or sky lanterns.²⁴



How can you get involved?

Join a beach clean

We host beach cleans and surveys every weekend, these last a couple of hours and are at a different location every week. Everyone is welcome and all the kit is provided. To find out more and where we will be each week, follow our [Facebook page](#).



Submit your finds

Do you wamble regularly, or are you a regular beach goer? Fill in our online survey. Every submission to the survey goes into our yearly Marine Litter Report. Individual contributions are important as they may cover beaches and bays that we haven't. If you are having trouble understanding the survey, take a look at our [Marine Litter Guide](#).

Corporate beach cleans

If your organisation is interested in doing a bespoke beach clean, we offer a corporate programme. Find out more [here](#) or get in contact: hello@cleanearthtrust.org



How can you get involved?

Duke of Edinburgh

If you're doing bronze, silver, or gold DofE you can beach clean as part of your volunteering. Do a beach clean once a week for the allocated time for your DofE and record your finds on our survey. Find out more and sign up [here](#).



Litter Picker Lending Scheme

We have litter pickers located around the island for the public to use. We are currently expanding this list and looking for more outlets to have some pickers. If you are a kiosk, café, or community centre and would like to host some litter pickers, please get in touch.



Adopt a Patch

Our land-based litter survey can be found [here](#). If you are a land-based wombler, fill in our survey with what you find whilst out and about.



About Us

The Clean Earth Trust is a local Guernsey based charity helping limit human impact on the environment. Established in 2018 by Andrew Munro, the Trust was formed following the success of its #pickitupguernsey campaign through which it won, and was nominated for, several community awards.

Since its inception the team have launched a number of initiatives to raise awareness of the growing challenges that face our natural world. We focus on community led and data driven projects that create meaningful and measurable impact, alongside campaigns that highlight important local environmental issues.

In addition to our projects and campaigns, we run outreach programmes with schools, youth organisations and corporate groups.



The Clean Earth Trust



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The Clean
Earth Trust

Limiting human impact on the environment

www.cleanearthtrust.org

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