

MARINE LITTER REPORT 2025



The Clean
Earth Trust



Written by **Paul Bugden** | Data and design by **Olivia Bennett** | Published by **The Clean Earth Trust**

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Thistle Cottage
Valnord Hill
St Peter Port
Guernsey
GY1 1HZ

www.cleanearthtrust.org
hello@cleanearthtrust.org



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Acknowledgements

Welcome to our fifth annual Marine Litter Report. This publication is only possible thanks to all our supporters — from the Beach Clean Project Team and the corporate organisations who conduct beach cleans, to the volunteers who show up rain or shine to clean our local beaches.

The Beach Clean Project is a citizen science initiative, meaning anyone can take part in the simple data-logging process. This allows us to widen participation and strengthen our data collection. Every piece of litter collected and logged in our survey contributes to this report and provides valuable insight into the types of waste found on our shores. Thanks also go to Duke of Edinburgh participants and individuals who submit their data through our online form.

Thank you to every beach cleaner in our community. Every piece of litter collected makes a difference to the state of our natural environment.



Olivia Bennett
Project Co-ordinator



Amélie Le Prevost
Beach Clean Leader



Paul Bugden
Policy Officer



Paul Gabb
Beach Clean Leader



Emily Gabb
Repair Cafe Manager



Simon Fairclough
Operations Manager

The Clean Earth Trust
Beach Clean Team



The Clean
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Trustee Foreword

2025 was a successful year for us. We secured new premises and acquired a replacement van, which we have branded with our name and logo to help raise our profile. We have run a full programme of public beach cleans, delivered several corporate beach cleans, and run monthly wellbeing beach cleans for the Healthcare Group, supported by Guernsey Mind. Our Repair Café events and sewing socials have been well supported, and we achieved record attendances at our clothes swaps. We were invited to speak at several public events, attracted good media coverage, and improved our social media presence.

During the course of the year, we continued to manage the Fill a Fish project in Guernsey for Suntera Global. The project involves a competition in primary schools to design a marine animal to be turned into a sculpture to receive discarded plastic bottles. The competition culminated in four pupils being chosen as winners. We were pleased to share their excitement at a public event to display their winning designs and celebrate their success. By the end of the year, we had completed the site selection process, all the necessary consultations, and gathered all the information required to enable us to submit four planning applications just before Christmas. We now look forward to concluding the project and enjoying the presence of four sculptures around our coast to receive plastic bottles.

We are pleased to be able to publish the data on the waste collected on our shores during 2025 in this Marine Litter Report, which is our fifth consecutive year of publication. The results show that the quantities of waste on our beaches continue to be a cause for concern. More can be done to address the issue, especially in respect of waste left by individuals. We hope that by continuing to highlight this issue, we will encourage people to change their behaviour, either by ensuring they dispose of their litter responsibly or by joining the army of locals who regularly pick up litter from our beaches.

Our work on raising awareness in this area complements our efforts, through the Repair Café initiatives, to encourage a recycle, repair, and reuse mindset to reduce the environmental impact resulting from avoidable consumption, particularly in respect of fashion products. This is all part of our ambition to encourage movement towards a circular economy.

Andrew Munro & Jessica Regnard

Trustees



The Clean
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Sponsor Foreword

Suntera Global is proud to enter its second year of sponsorship of the Clean Earth Trust, supporting its mission to protect and preserve Guernsey's natural environment. As our Guernsey office's chosen Charity of the Year for 2026, and through continued collaboration on the Fill a Fish Guernsey initiative, we remain committed to encouraging community-led environmental action and helping to reduce the impact of human-generated litter on the Island's diverse ecosystems.

With the anticipated launch of Fill a Fish Guernsey this year, we look forward to seeing the creativity and dedication of local students reflected in each sculpture. These pieces will serve as visually engaging public artworks and effective educational tools, prompting reflection on consumption habits and the long-term consequences of plastic waste. By placing these sculptures in prominent community spaces, we hope to inspire greater awareness of the role each individual plays in protecting our marine environment.



The findings presented in the Clean Earth Trust's Marine Litter Report continue to highlight the scale and complexity of the challenges facing Guernsey's coastline. The data underscores the importance of sustained, collective responsibility and reinforces the need for initiatives that translate environmental insight into meaningful action. Through the combination of research, education, and public engagement, the Clean Earth Trust provides a vital platform for informed decision-making and long-term environmental stewardship.

Looking ahead, Suntera Global remains committed to strengthening this partnership and supporting initiatives that empower the community to take practical steps toward environmental protection. We value the Trust's leadership in addressing marine pollution and are dedicated to contributing to efforts that safeguard Guernsey's natural environment for future generations.

Suntera Global

Sponsor



SUNTERA
GLOBAL



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Corporate Thank You

Our Corporate Beach Cleans provide a CSR and ESG opportunity for organisations across the island. By taking part in a beach clean, corporate organisations can better understand an environmental issue both globally and locally, contribute data to our Marine Litter Report, and enjoy a simple outdoor team-building activity.

Thank you to all the corporate organisations who beach cleaned with us in 2025. Your support allows the Beach Clean Project to continue.

If your organisation is interested in hosting a corporate beach clean, please visit our website for more information or get in touch at hello@cleanearthtrust.org



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KEY TAKEOUTS

84

surveys
submitted

30,156

total items collected

L'Eree

most surveyed beach

49.73kg

highest weight
recorded at Chouet

7,126

cigarette butts were collected,
which could have resulted in
£498,820.00 of littering fines

45.8%

of items were from
a public source

77.6%

of the marine litter
found was plastic

969

volunteers resulting in
1381 volunteer hours

Top 5 items:

- Cigarette butts
- Plastic pieces
- Plastic food wrappers
- Scrap paper / tissue
- Polystyrene pieces

1,005

items found per
mile of coastline

359

average number of items
found per beach clean



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Guernsey's Location Shapes its Marine Litter Profile

Guernsey lies in the Bay of St Malo, with some of the highest tides in the world and just 12 nautical miles away from one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. These factors combined influence the type and quantity of marine litter that we find on our shores.

Marine litter is defined as 'any long-lasting, human-made solid material that ends up in the ocean or along coastlines'. In 2021, it was estimated that the oceans contained between 75 and 199 million tonnes of plastic.

Although it is unknown exactly how much marine litter is in our oceans and the wider environment, acquiring beach clean data allows us to get a good idea of what kind of items are being found and in what quantities.

<https://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/hottopics/pages/marinelitter-default.aspx>

<https://www.unep.org/resources/pollution-solution-global-assessment-marine-litter-and-plastic-pollution>

Those who beach clean regularly in Guernsey will notice trends in litter depending on weather, tides, sea conditions, and location on the island. We find that many of the items found during our beach cleans are a result of shipping and fishing vessel activity. Foreign-labelled plastic bottles in relatively good condition are found frequently; it is almost impossible that they would still have labels intact if they had travelled thousands of miles from their place of production. We can therefore assume that these products are being either deliberately tossed or accidentally lost from shipping vessels transiting the English Channel.

That's not to say that we – the inhabitants of Guernsey – aren't to blame. Food wrappers that are clearly from Guernsey and cigarette butts are almost 100% local. This is a problem that we can address to mitigate the impact of waste on our shorelines.

Our 2025 Marine Litter Report shows that waste continues to be a plague on our local coastlines and that beach cleaning is just as important now as it was when we started the project in 2021.



The Clean Earth Trust

The Beach Clean Project

The Beach Clean Project has been running for five years now, and as we enter our sixth year of public beach cleans, it is great to see both new and familiar faces returning to clean our beaches. Even when the wind is howling and the rain is lashing, we still have committed volunteers dedicating their time to the project.

As a citizen science project, the aim isn't to collect perfect data; it's to get the public involved in simple but meaningful data collection that contributes to this report.

Over the past year, we have supported U3A (University of the Third Age) beach cleans, as well as Wellbeing Beach Cleans in collaboration with the Healthcare Group and Guernsey Mind.

Our public beach cleans now run bi-weekly, thanks to funding from the Strategy for Nature and the Nature Commission.

How do our beach cleans work?

1. Pick up items off the beach



2. Sort and survey what we find



3. Weigh everything we find



4. Fill in the survey and upload online



The Clean Earth Trust

Wellbeing Beach Cleans

Guest Contributor

Dr. Laura Bell, Healthcare Group

Healthcare Group are proud to hold the RCGP Green Impact for Health Silver Award which recognises our commitment to environmentally and socially sustainable practice.

Since November 2024 Healthcare Group have teamed up with Guernsey Mind and The Clean Earth Trust to run monthly Wellbeing Beach Cleans as an option for social prescribing. Green and Blue social prescribing connects people to nature-based and water-based activities to improve their health, wellbeing and resilience.

Evidence shows that spending time in nature and engaging with your natural environment improves health and wellbeing and lowers levels of anxiety.

You can ask your GP about this, but you do not need a prescription to take part. Mental Health First Aiders are present for support and advice if needed. We will post times and venues on our social media pages for 2026.

Mental wellbeing doesn't have one set meaning. We might use it to talk about how we feel, how well we are coping with daily life or what feels possible at the moment. Good mental wellbeing doesn't mean you're always happy or unaffected by your experiences. But poor mental wellbeing can make it more difficult to cope with daily life.

Having a purpose, spending time outside and working alongside others are all proven to improve mental wellbeing.

I can vouch for myself that I always come away from these events feeling calmer, healthier and refreshed.



Good for you, good for the planet!

The 5 Ways to Wellbeing (in a Beach Clean)

Connect – with people around you. There is no pressure to talk if you don't want to. Beach cleaning in a group provides a sense of belonging and can be as social as you want it to be.

Get Active - 1 in 4 of us are classed as sedentary, i.e. not moving enough. Going from nothing to just 15 minutes of daily movement reduces all cause mortality by 11%. The beach cleans aren't physically demanding and you can work at your own pace.

Take Notice - Human wellbeing is intrinsically linked to nature. Multiple studies have confirmed the benefits of just being in a natural environment on mental health. Where better than on one of our beautiful local beaches!

Keep Learning – Try something new, or visit a new beach. You never know what treasures will be found.

Give – Do good, feel good. Know that every piece of litter you collect will improve the experience of other beach users and protect our marine environment

References/sources of useful information: [Healthcare Group](#) | [Guernsey Mind](#) | [Bailiwick Social Prescribing](#) | [Health Improvement Social Prescribing Academy](#) | [Publication on the natural environment and mental health](#)



Guernsey's Strategy for Nature

Guest Contributor

Adrian Gabriel, President, Committee for the Environment and Infrastructure

The Island of Guernsey is defined by its coastline. From dramatic granite cliffs to biodiverse rocky shores and sheltered bays, the marine environment is central to the island's identity, economy, and wellbeing. The States of Guernsey's Strategy for Nature recognises that protecting and restoring biodiversity requires collective responsibility, informed decision-making, and meaningful community engagement.

The work of Clean Earth Trust (CET) directly supports this vision. Through marine litter prevention, community action, and citizen science, CET contributes to the Strategy's core ambitions by:

- Connecting people with nature
- Caring for nature
- Sharing knowledge of nature



Connecting people with nature

CET's beach cleans and coastal engagement events provide accessible, practical opportunities for islanders to engage directly with their natural environment. This supports Guernsey's Strategy for Nature by fostering environmental awareness and empowering residents to become active custodians of their coastline.

Caring for nature

CET's systematic litter removal and prevention initiatives help:

- Reduce risks to seabirds and marine life
- Protect sensitive intertidal and dune habitats
- Improve the visual and ecological quality of public beaches
- Prevent plastics from fragmenting into microplastics

Sharing knowledge of nature

Guernsey's Strategy for Nature emphasises evidence-based action. CET strengthens this principle through structured litter surveys and citizen science. The volunteers do more than remove debris, they record, categorise, and quantify what they collect.

CET's marine litter work embodies the spirit of Guernsey's Strategy for Nature by translating environmental ambition into practical, visible outcomes.



Protecting Guernsey's Coastline and Wildlife

Guest Contributor

Steve Byrne, Manager, GSPCA

Guernsey's coastline is one of our island's greatest treasures, but it is also one of the environments most vulnerable to pollution. Every year, the GSPCA respond to countless incidents involving marine litter, hazardous substances and pollution that threaten our wildlife and pets.

Recently, a young grey seal pup found with netting deeply embedded around his neck near the Fairy Ring reminded us of the devastating consequences of waste.

Discarded fishing gear, ropes, plastics and netting are among the most dangerous forms of marine litter. Once in our waters, these materials can drift for years, entangling and injuring seals, seabirds, dolphins and fish.

Pollution also poses serious risks to pets. The States of Guernsey and the GSPCA have issued warnings about palm oil washing ashore. Ingesting these waxy lumps often leads to vomiting, diarrhoea and severe dehydration. Even common-looking waste items can conceal life-threatening dangers. Alongside palm oil, litter such as plastics, fishing line, and discarded food can cause harm to pets through ingestion or entanglement.

Responsible beach use, such as disposing of litter properly, preventing dogs from disturbing wildlife and reporting pollution plays a vital role. At the GSPCA, we see every day how small actions can make a big difference. Clean-ups, responsible waste disposal, and mindful dog walking help us respond faster and prevent suffering. Guernsey's coastline belongs to all of us; by working together, we can ensure it remains a safe environment for generations to come.



2025 SURVEY RESULTS

Surveys

84 surveys were submitted to our online form in 2025, which is more than in 2024 (73). This is partly due to an increase in public weekend beach cleans thanks to funding from the Nature Commission, and the Wellbeing Beach Cleans, which occur once a month.

Our Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) participants continue to be one of our highest sources of submissions, with participants completing DofE required to beach clean once a week and fill out our survey with a photo to prove they've completed the clean. Our Corporate beach clean numbers remain steady, with 11 being conducted in 2025. This is slightly lower than previous years (13 in 2024, 12 in 2023).

U3A conducted 9 beach cleans in 2025. We are happy to support them and in return they log their data through our form. Independent surveys have dropped significantly compared to previous years, with just 7 surveys being submitted by individuals.

In 2024, we had 40 individual submissions, which were our highest contribution to our surveys.

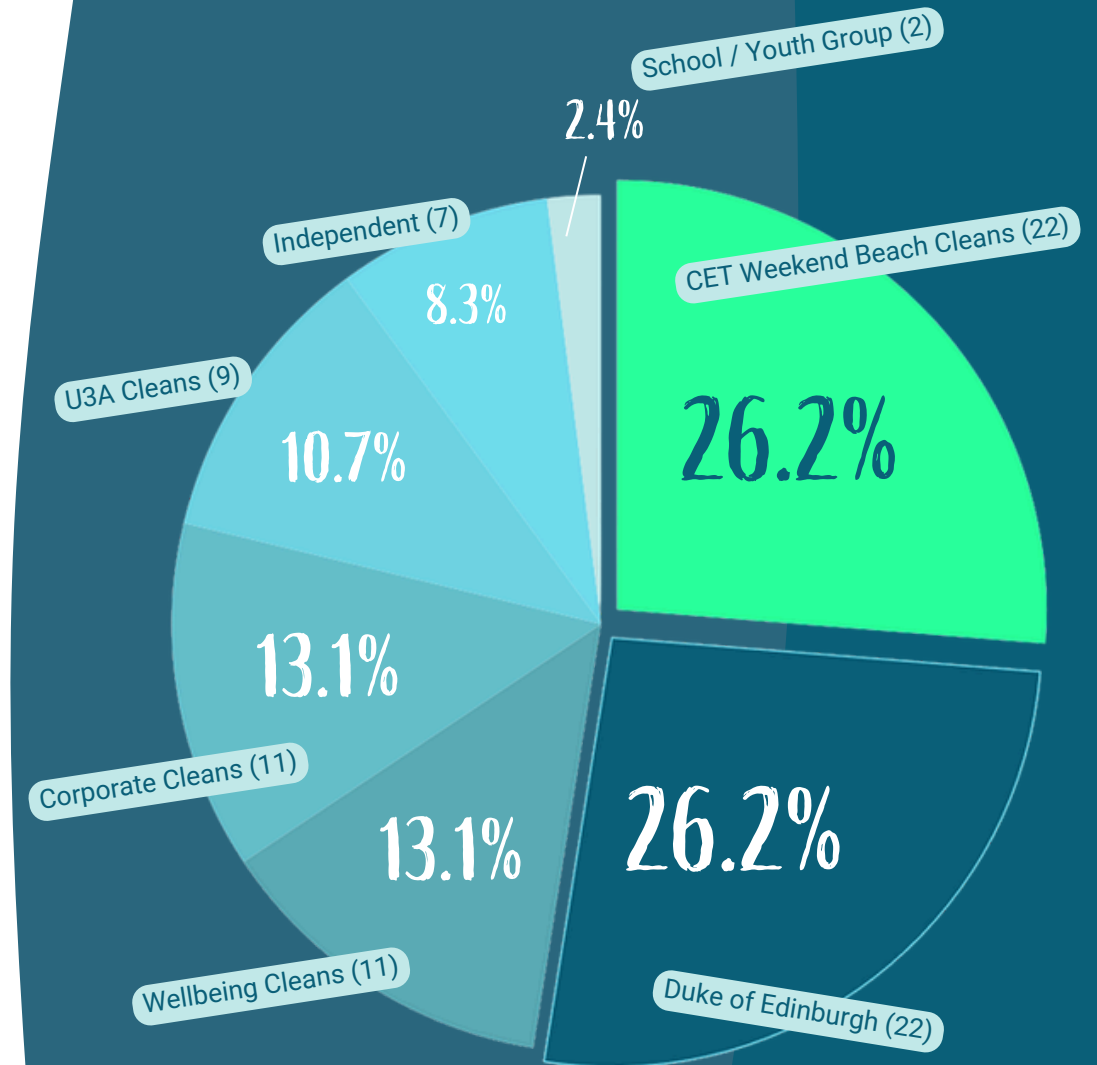


FIGURE 1: THE NUMBER OF MARINE LITTER SURVEYS SUBMITTED BY GROUP



The Distribution of Beach Surveys Around the Island

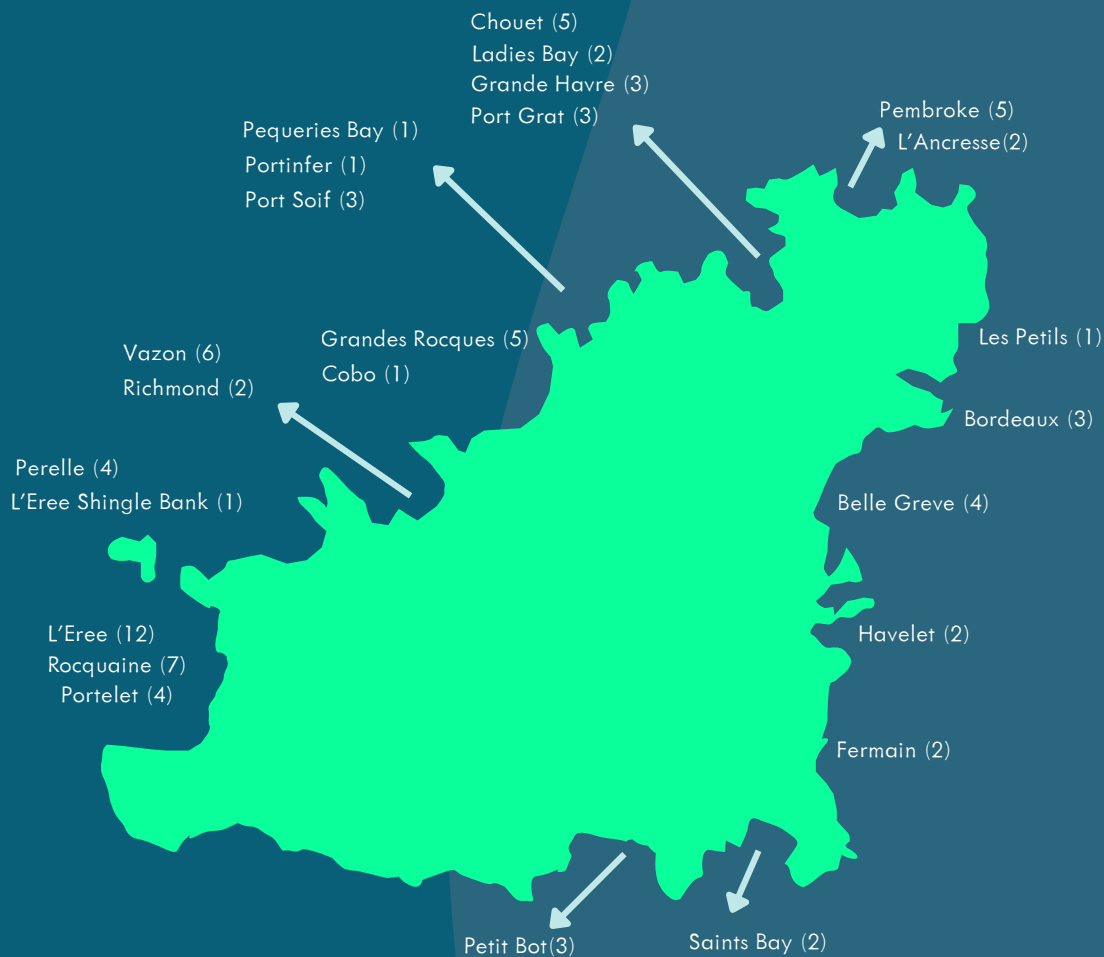


FIGURE 2: THE DISTRIBUTION OF BEACH SURVEYS AROUND THE ISLAND

Our 84 surveys submitted were conducted at 25 different beaches around the island, with L'Eree being surveyed most frequently (12 submissions). Cobo, which had the highest number of surveys in 2024 (8), only had one survey submitted at that location in 2025.

Our west coast beaches continue to be the most popular with beach cleaners, with **Rocquaine, Vazon, Grand Rocques, and Pembroke** being some of the most frequently visited beaches. These beaches are the most accessible and are often chosen for both public and corporate beach cleans, as there is a vast area for people to explore and survey.

The map in Figure 2 shows the distribution of surveys around the island.



30,156 Pieces of Litter Were Collected in 2025

FIGURE 3: THE NUMBER OF ITEMS FOUND
AROUND THE ISLAND

Volunteers found a total of 30,156 pieces of litter on our coastlines in 2025. This equates to **1,005 pieces of litter per mile.**

Not all surveys show a recorded weight. Out of 84 surveys in 2025, 54 showed a weight, totalling 562kg. We believe these 54 surveys constitute a sufficient database to enable the calculation of a realistic grossed up figure for the total weight of litter found in the year, which is 825kg. This is roughly the weight of a classic mini.

Total Number of Items	30,156
Pieces per mile	1,005
Pieces per km	628
Pieces per metre	0.63

Top 5 Items Found in 2025:



Cigarette butts



Plastic pieces



Plastic food wrappers



Scrap paper / tissue



Polystyrene pieces



Year-on-Year Comparisons

FIGURE 3: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Surveys	122	159	166	73	84
Volunteers	1,147	1,117	736	387	969
Total number of items found	48,924	39,944	27,969	15,373	30,156
Number of items found per volunteer hour	23	13	28	33	22
Total weight	2,217	1,842	625	320	562
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	broken plastic pieces, cigarette butts, plastic food wrappers, nurdles, string/cord/rope	broken plastic pieces, cigarette butts, nurdles, plastic food wrappers, string/cord/rope	cigarette butts, plastic pieces, food wrappers, scrap paper and tissue, polystyrene pieces
Plastic items	37,202	26,511	22,276	12,648	23,405
Metal items	2,102	1,352	814	426	1030
Rubber items	884	455	434	188	464
Fabric items	1,147	763	841	314	606
Wood items	1,085	1,245	543	372	766
Paper items	2,364	3,745	1,634	886	2837
Glass items	2,435	822	650	291	607
Ceramic items	1,556	256	529	180	264
Pollutants	71	58	63	46	116
Unknown	78	700	103	20	61

Year-on-Year Comparisons

Looking at our findings over the last five years, our conclusion is that there is no consistent trend in respect of the quantities of litter being found.

Over the four years from 2021 to 2024 there was a steady decrease in the total number of pieces of litter found, but 2025 showed a dramatic doubling in this figure compared with 2024.

However, we don't think a true yearly comparison is possible by looking just at total pieces found. It is necessary to take into account the numbers of volunteers involved each year and how many hours they spent searching. A more useful yearly comparator is the number of items found per volunteer hour each year. This figure has fluctuated up and down between 13 and 33 over the five years. The figure for 2025 is 22, which is only slightly below the average of 23.8 over the five years.



These figures show that, despite our efforts and those of many individuals who pick up litter, the quantity of waste found is not materially decreasing year on year and there is no room for complacency in tackling our marine litter problem.



Beach Litter Per Volunteer Hour

In 2025, a total of **969 volunteers** took part in beach cleans, totalling over **1,381 volunteer hours**. If these hours were to be paid at the minimum adult wage, the cost would total £17,403.75.

It is surprising, at first glance, that although the total number of items of waste found in 2025 were double the figures for 2024, the items found per volunteer hour in 2025 (22) were lower than 2024 (33) by a third.

One explanation for this may be that the average number of volunteers per survey in 2024 was 5.3 whereas in 2025 it was more than double at 11.5. The effect of this may be that greater numbers of volunteers can't spread out and search as efficiently as smaller groups and may end up searching the same areas as others and be less productive.

FIGURE 4: BEACH LITTER FOUND PER VOLUNTEER HOUR

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of items found	48,924	39,944	27,969	15,373	30,156
Volunteer hours	2,042	3,081	1,250	462	1,381
Items per volunteer hour	23	13	28	33	22



The Difference Between Summer and Winter Beach Surveys

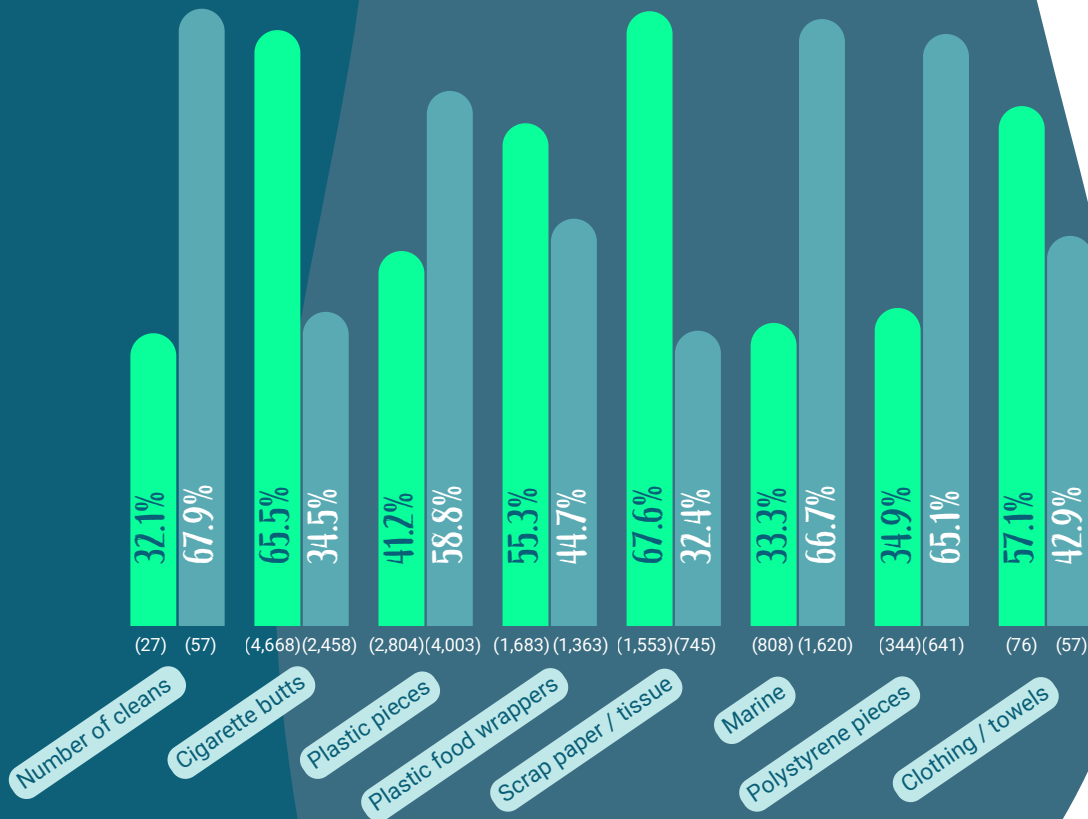


FIGURE 5: THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUMMER AND WINTER BEACH SURVEYS

During 2025, there were considerably more surveys submitted in the winter months, at 57 compared to just 27 in the summer. What makes this more interesting is that in just these 27 surveys conducted in the summer, cigarette butts, food wrappers, scrap paper, and clothing/towels were found in much higher numbers. 4,668 cigarette butts were found in summer, compared to 2,458 in winter. We presume this is due to people using the beach and car parks more frequently during the summer months.

This also runs true for scrap paper, food wrappers, and clothing/towels. These are all items that are likely from a public source – people spending time on our coastlines – and have either blown away, been left by accident, or possibly left on purpose.

The items that were found more frequently in winter include plastic pieces, polystyrene pieces, and fishing rope, which includes fishing line, dolly rope, net and net pieces, and general pieces of string, cord, and rope. We often find that, due to the violent weather in winter, these items are strewn throughout the seaweed line, especially the small fragments of plastic and polystyrene. There were also more surveys conducted in winter, so this could be another reason why these items were found in higher quantities.



MATERIALS

This chart shows the items surveyed and the material they are predominantly made from.

Plastic continued to be the most common material found, with 23,405 of the items being plastic, which reflects the results from the previous four years.

Paper was the second highest, with 2,873 items found; this has also been consistent over the last few years.

The proportions of items found per material category closely mirror the results of 2024. The only difference is that we found nearly double the number of items in each category in 2025.

The 'unknown' category includes items where we are unsure of the material composition. This category includes: other sanitary, other fishing, other pollutant, and other medical.

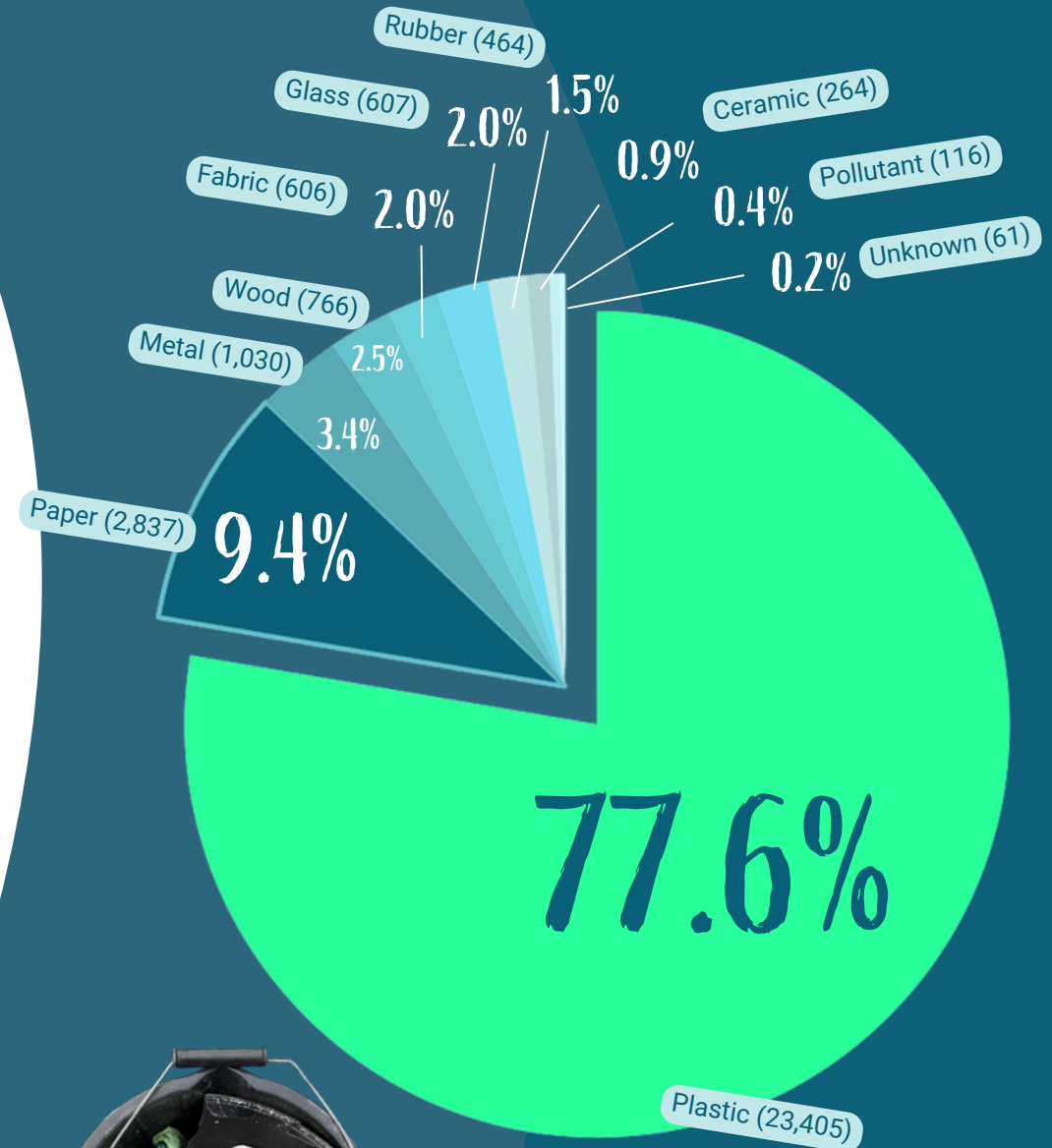


FIGURE 6: THE SPLIT OF TOTAL ITEMS FOUND BY MATERIAL



Plastic



77.6% of items found on Guernsey's shore were plastic



FIGURE 7: THE SPLIT OF PLASTIC ITEMS



1,063 plastic pieces were found in 2 hours at Richmond

Plastic pieces were the second most frequently found item in 2025, closely following cigarette butts, and their presence continues to cause issues on our shorelines. A spring high tide and strong winds are the perfect conditions for tiny plastic fragments to become stuck in the seaweed that lines our shores. The west coast beaches are hotspots for this, as you can see in figure 8.

Many of these plastic pieces have been broken down into such small pieces that we will never know the true origin of the item.

In 2024, nurdles were among our top five items; in 2025, just one nurdle was found. This suggests that many of the nurdles from the 2023 cargo spill had already been collected by beach cleaners during 2023 and 2024.



Beach	Total Plastic Pieces Surveyed
L'Eree	1,140
Richmond	1,063
Vazon	726
Grandes Rocques	575
Rocquaine	379

FIGURE 8: NUMBER OF PLASTIC PIECES SURVEYED AT DIFFERENT BEACHES

Plastic pieces make up **23%** of items found on our coastlines.

10,955 of the items found in 2025 were single-use plastics, which is 47% of all the plastic items. The single-use plastic items are **highlighted in green** in Figure 7.

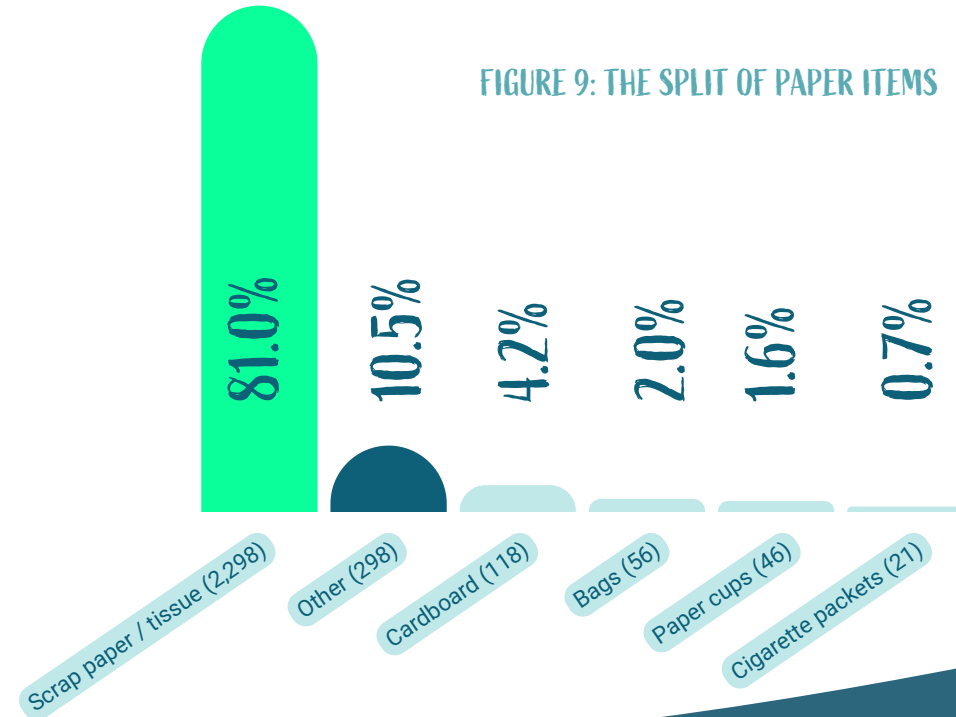


Paper (9.4%)

2,837 paper items were found in 2025, which is 9.4% of all items found. Items in this category include cardboard, paper bags, cigarette packets, and scrap paper/tissue. Scrap paper / tissue was the fourth most frequently found item in 2025.

Scrap paper/tissue includes napkins, tissues, and any other items made of paper material. This is an item we find frequently on our cleans, often in the car parks adjacent to the beach or along the coastal paths that border the beach. 270 scrap paper/tissue items were found in one hour at Bordeaux.

FIGURE 9: THE SPLIT OF PAPER ITEMS



Metal (3.4%)

3.4% of all items found were metal in 2025, with the highest category being other or scrap, which includes anything that is metal but can't be placed in any other category. This could be anything from nails to scaffolding, and anything in between.

320 drinks and food cans were found in 2025, with 29 of these being found in one hour at Havelet and around The Bathing Pools. These are often soft or alcoholic drink cans and are almost always from a public source.

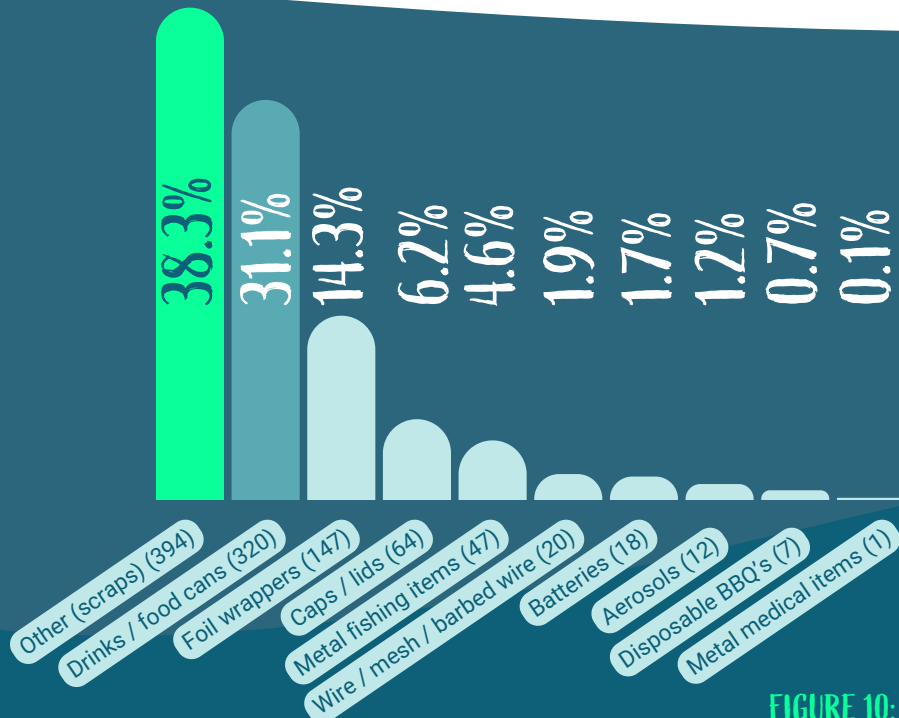
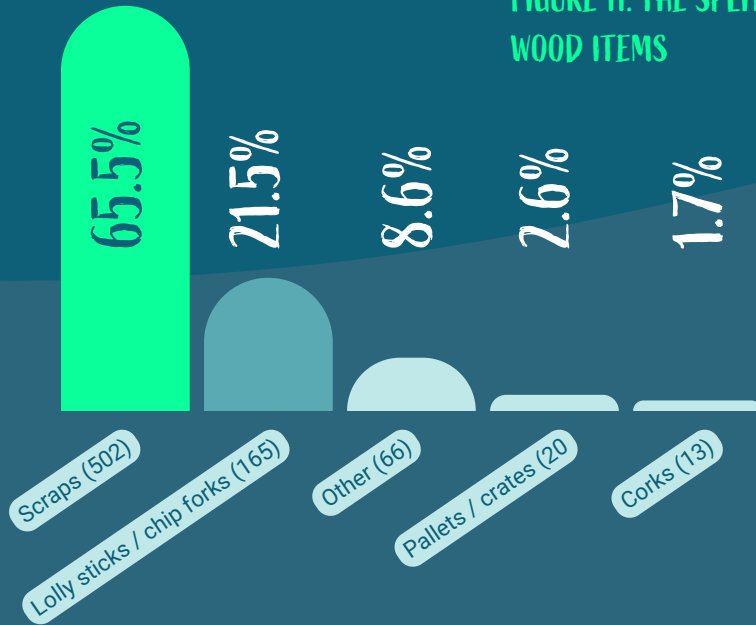


FIGURE 10: THE SPLIT OF METAL ITEMS



FIGURE 11: THE SPLIT OF WOOD ITEMS



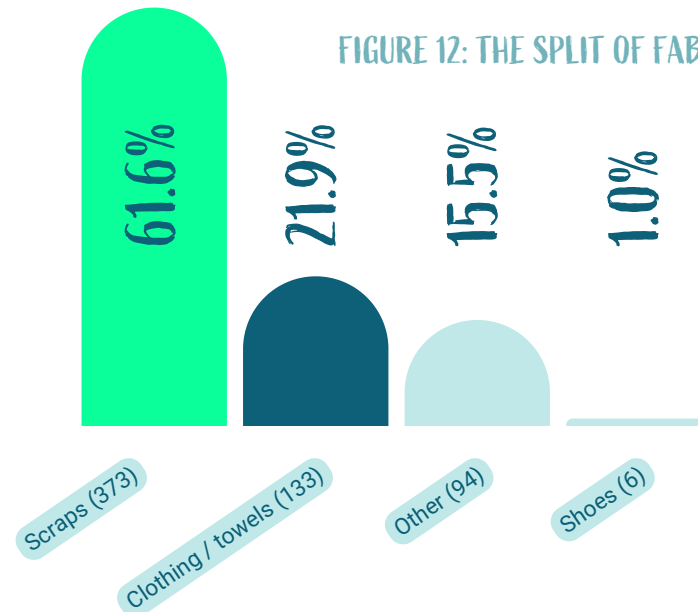
Wood (2.5%)

Scrap wood continues to be the most common type of wood product found, which is primarily driftwood with paint or rusty nails present. During our beach cleans, we advise people to leave any natural wood and only pick up pieces that could be dangerous to the public or the environment, such as those with paint, glue or chemical applications such as preservative, or nails. 165 chip forks and lolly sticks were found in 2025, and 20 of these were found in one hour at Bordeaux, again these items are from a public source.

Fabric (2.0%)

606 fabric items were found in 2025, with 61.6% of these items being scrap. 11 clothing and towel items were found in an hour at Grandes Rocques one summer evening, again showing the public source of many of the items we find on the beaches.

FIGURE 12: THE SPLIT OF FABRIC ITEMS



Glass (2.0%)

607 glass items were found in 2025, with 80 glass pieces being found in the height of summer in one hour at L'Ancrese. These glass pieces could cause injury to beach users. Similarly to wood, we advise people to leave smooth sea glass and to carefully pick up the more dangerous shards of glass. These are often smashed bottles.

FIGURE 13: THE SPLIT OF GLASS ITEMS

Glass items	607	
Pieces	513	84.5%
Other	50	8.2%
Bottles	44	7.2%

Rubber (1.5%)

Rubber contributed a small percentage, but 464 items were still found, with the highest rubber item being scraps, which is a common theme within our surveys. Rubber is also used on our local crab and lobster pots in the form of rubber belts, looking a bit like fan belts, strapping the pots together.

79 rubber scraps were found in one hour at L'Eree during one of our Wellbeing Cleans.

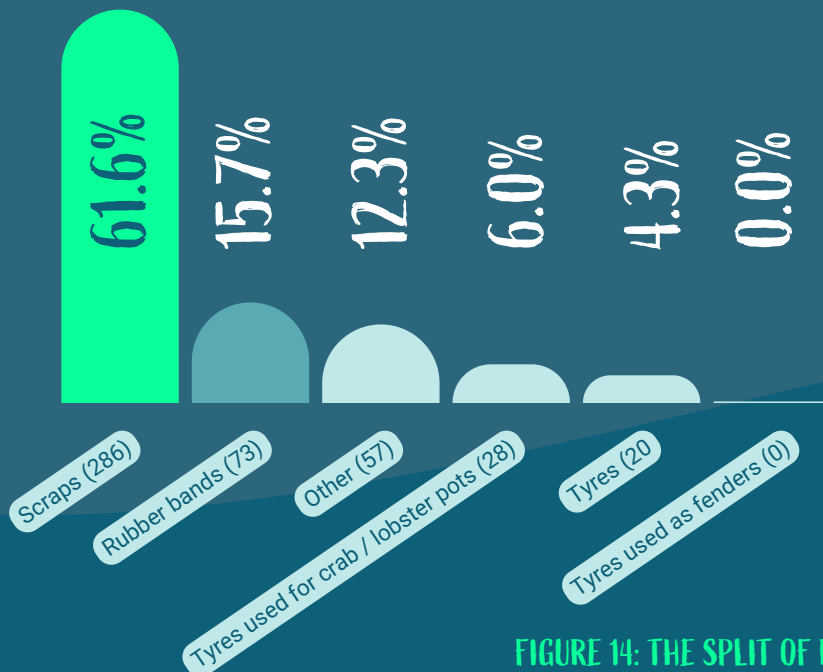


FIGURE 14: THE SPLIT OF RUBBER ITEMS



Ceramic (0.9%)

Ceramic items	264	
Pieces	192	72.7%
Other	51	19.3%
Construction material	21	8.0%

264 ceramic items were found in 2025, with the highest proportion being pieces. 40 ceramic pieces were found in one hour at Vazon during the summer. The 'other' category includes anything that is of ceramic nature that doesn't fit into ceramic pieces or construction material. Just 21 items that constitute construction material were found in 2025.

FIGURE 15: THE SPLIT OF CERAMIC ITEMS

Pollutant (0.4%)

116 items identified as pollutants were found in 2025, with 94% of these being bagged dog faeces. This is over double the number of bagged dog faeces found in 2024 (43). 109 bagged dog faeces were found in 2025. If these offences were fined, this would result in penalties totalling £10,900.

Unknown (0.2%)

This category includes items where we are unsure of the material. In 2025, this accounted for just 0.2% of items, which is 61.



INDUSTRY Smoking

7,126 cigarette butts were found in 2025, which constitutes 24% of everything found on our coastlines in 2025. If these littering acts were fined, the penalties would total £498,820.00.

Pembroke was the worst beach for butts in 2025, and the highest number collected in one hour was 689 at Grandes Rocques. The number of e-cigarettes and vapes found has more than doubled compared to 2024.

An average of **86** cigarette butts were found per beach clean in 2025.

5 Worst Beaches for Butts	4,198
Pembroke	1,103
Grandes Rocques	974
L'Eree	780
L'Ancrese	688
Vazon	653

FIGURE 17: THE TOP 5 WORST BEACHES FOR BUTTS

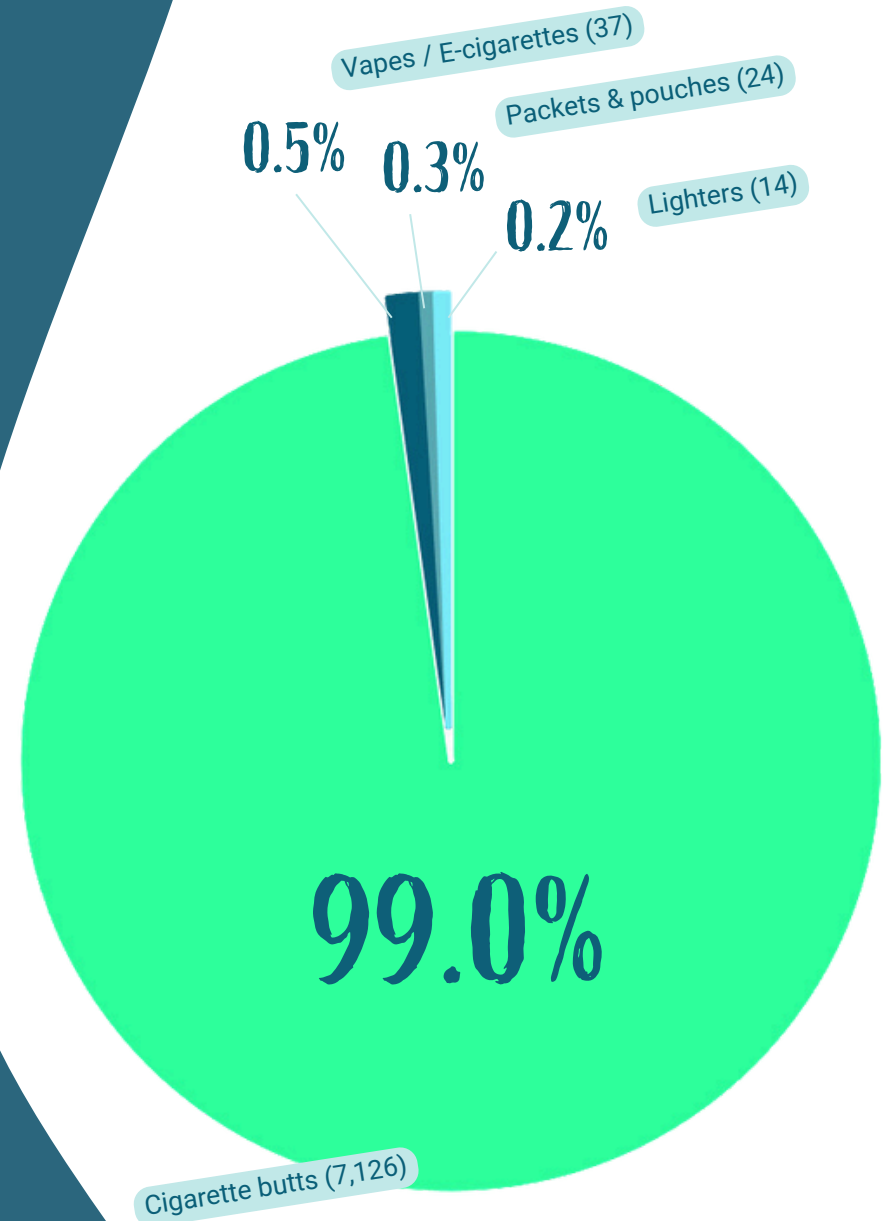


FIGURE 16: THE SPLIT OF SMOKING RELATED ITEMS



Food & Beverage

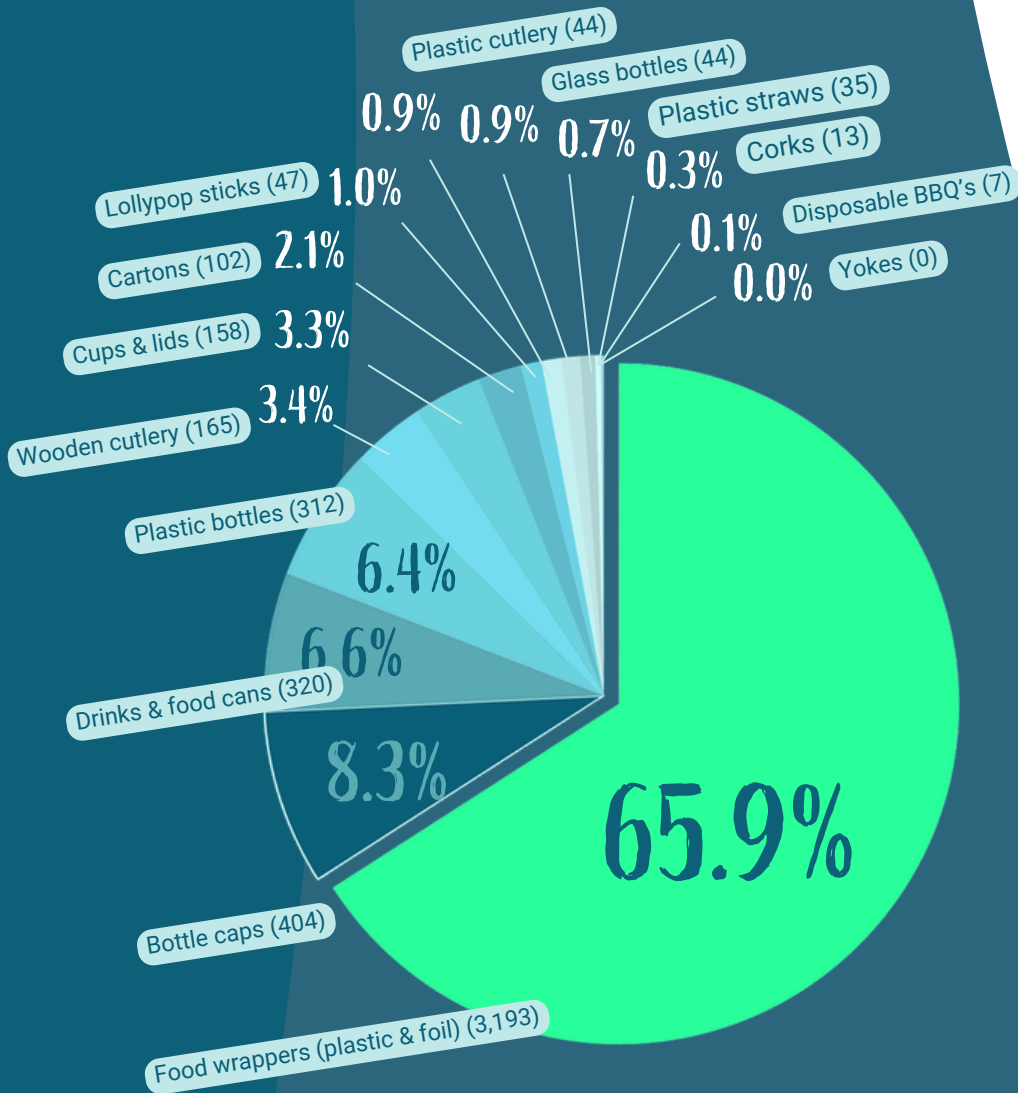


FIGURE 18: THE SPLIT OF FOOD AND DRINK RELATED ITEMS

4,844 items were attributed to the food and beverage category in 2025, which is 16% of all items found.

Just over 65% of the food and beverage items were food wrappers and containers, which includes both plastic and foil wrappers. **273 food wrappers were found in two hours at Belle Greve during the summer period.**

An interesting comparison to draw in this category is the difference between wooden cutlery and plastic cutlery. A common theme throughout the last five years has been that wooden cutlery is found much more frequently than plastic cutlery. This is highly likely due to a cultural shift in local establishments choosing more eco-friendly alternatives when providing disposable cutlery to clients. There was over triple the amount of wooden cutlery (including wooden lollipop sticks) found than plastic cutlery in 2025.

Unfortunately, it is probable that the majority of these food wrappers are from a public source, either having blown from the land into our coastal spaces or being left accidentally or purposefully on our beaches.

Many plastic bottles or food wrappers/containers can be identified as shipping litter through their labels and the condition in which they are found. If an item has a foreign label and is in good condition, it is highly likely that it has been deposited by a ship, either deliberately or by accident.



Marine

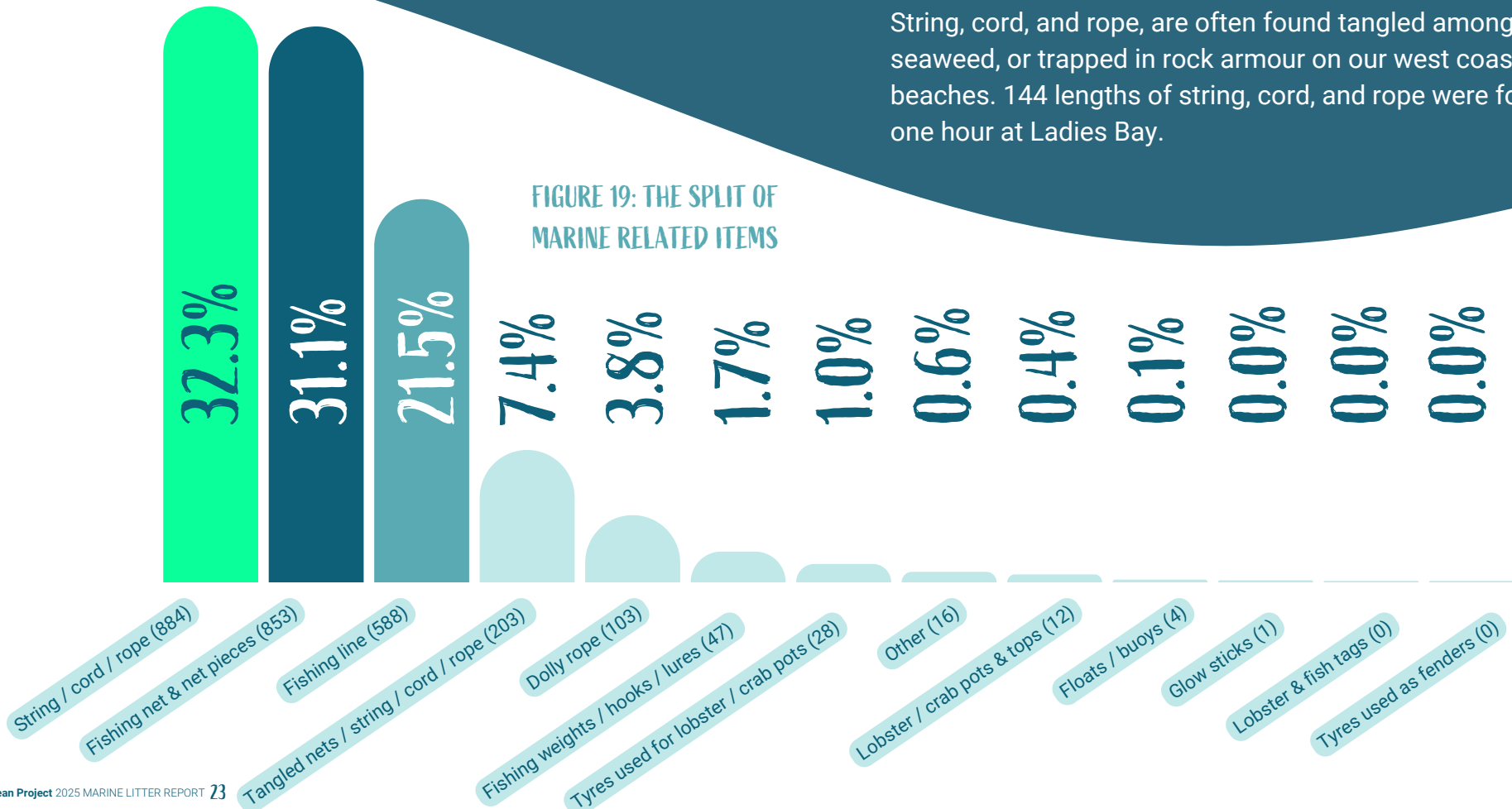
884 lengths of string / cord / rope were found in 2025.

The marine and fishing industry contributed 9.1% to all items found in 2025, which is half of the contribution compared to 2024.

164 fishing net and net pieces were found in one hour at L'Eree. This category refers to the ends of fishing nets that have been cut off; they are obvious by their colour and material. The effects of rope on our local wildlife can be seen in **Steve Byrne's Guest Contribution**.

String, cord, and rope, are often found tangled amongst seaweed, or trapped in rock armour on our west coast beaches. 144 lengths of string, cord, and rope were found in one hour at Ladies Bay.

FIGURE 19: THE SPLIT OF MARINE RELATED ITEMS



Sanitary

90 sanitary items were found in 2025, which is more than in 2024 but less than in prior years. Wet wipes continue to be the top contributor to the sanitary category; this has been the most numerous item found in the sanitary category since 2021.

It is to be hoped that the announcement of legislation in England to ban the sale of single-use plastic wet wipes from 2027 will have a ripple effect in Guernsey and we will see a reduction in wet wipes containing plastic on our shores.

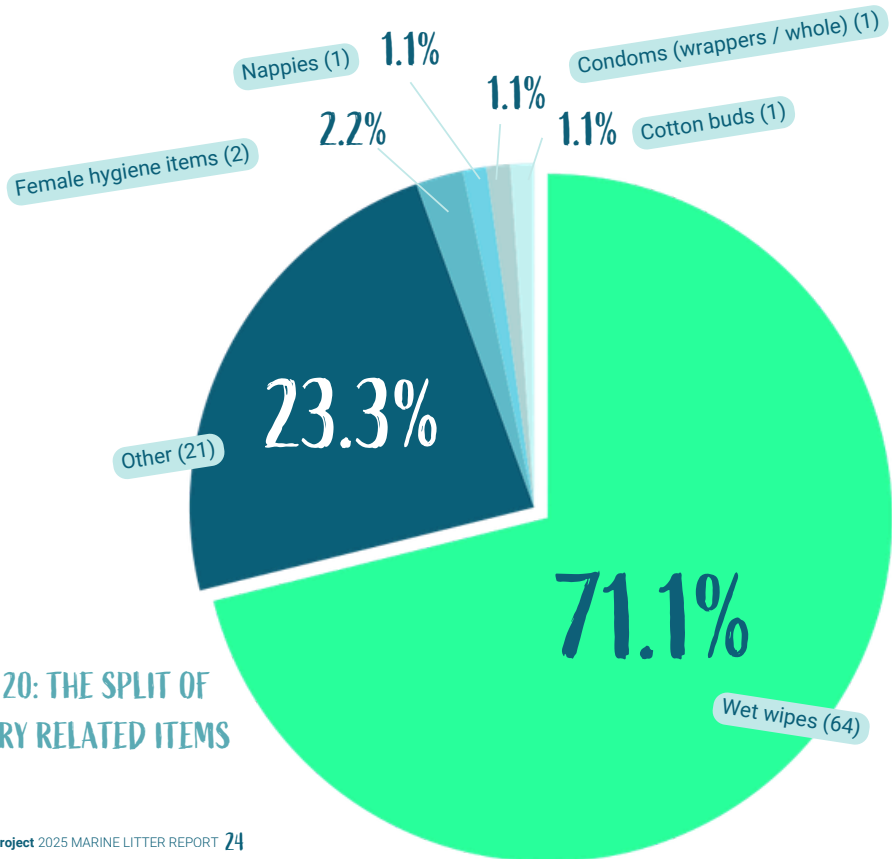


FIGURE 20: THE SPLIT OF SANITARY RELATED ITEMS

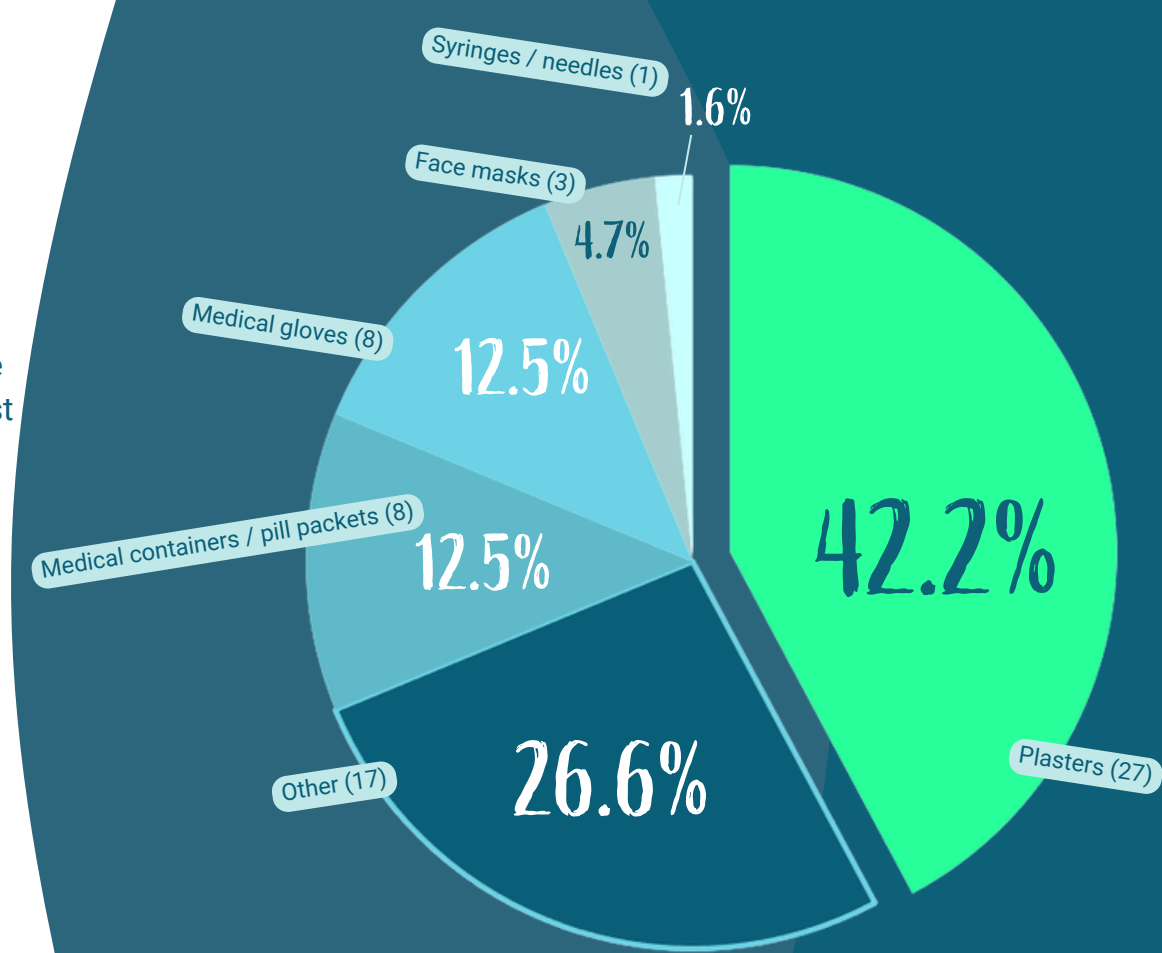


FIGURE 21: THE SPLIT OF MEDICAL RELATED ITEMS

Medical

Just 64 items related to the medical industry were found in 2025. This is nearly double 2024 but less than in the years prior. Plasters were the highest item found in 2025, which mirrors the result from 2024.



Sources of Litter

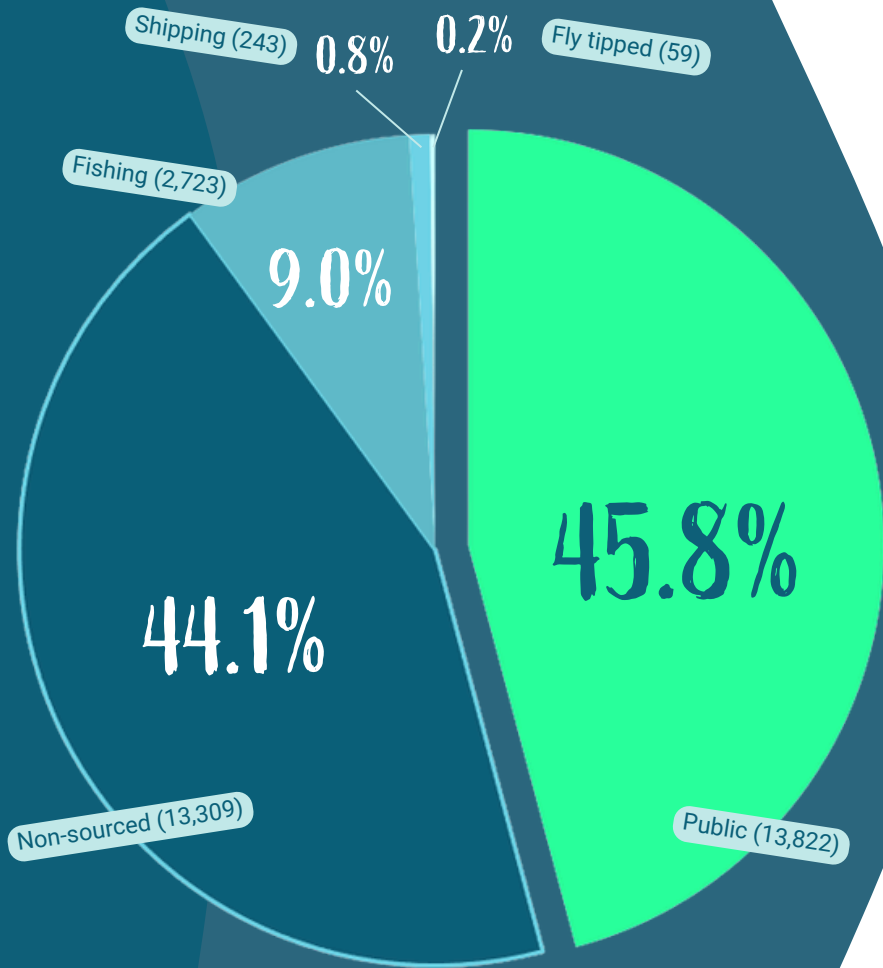


FIGURE 22: ESTIMATED SOURCES OF LOCAL MARINE LITTER

We will never truly know where each of the items we find on our shores comes from, but we can make assumptions about certain items and their origin.

In 2025, just over 45% of items were from an assumed public source, and 44% of items were 'non-sourced', meaning we can't attribute them to another category. These two sources have been the top sources year on year.

Fishing, shipping, and fly-tipping have remained in the same order since 2021.



What Else do we Find on the Beach?

We often find other items on the beach that don't quite fit into any category or are interesting to be noted. Below are all of the items listed in this category from 2025. We find a surprising number of hubcaps and L plates!

Wheel with tyre Rat trap

Phone cover QR code dog tag

Scaffold pole Hubcap Laptop

L plate False teeth Jerry can

Paint brush Toy bear Scaffold joint

Lump of tar Battery Fishing rod handle

Inside of cassette tape



SOME GOOD NEWS!

Whilst our focus is largely on the problems facing our marine environment it is important not to forget that progress is being made. So, here are a few developments that offer hope:

Guernsey achieved a 59% recycling rate, significantly outperforming the UK (45%) and Jersey (35%)

EU coastline macro-litter dropped by 29% between 2015 and 2021, thanks to coordinated regional and citizen efforts.

England will ban single-use plastic wet wipes from 2027, preventing a major source of microplastics from entering our seas.

Japanese scientists developed a new "supramolecular" plastic that is strong and recyclable but dissolves into harmless compounds in seawater.

The UN High Seas Treaty became international law in early 2026, establishing a global framework to protect shared ocean resources.

French Polynesia established the world's largest Marine Protected Area, spanning nearly five million square kilometres.

New research suggests reuse and deposit return schemes could cut overall plastic packaging pollution by up to 97%.

Global conservation efforts, including habitat protection and safer fishing practices, have led to a rebound in green turtle populations.



The Clean Earth Trust

CURRENT CET OBJECTIVES

In 2026, our main policy objective will be to progress the Fill a Fish Project, which is expected to be very time consuming.

We would also like to pursue our objective of achieving smoke free beaches in Guernsey. In this respect we are greatly encouraged by the outcome of a public consultation undertaken by the Health Improvement Commission into public attitudes to banning smoking in public places. The full report was published in March 2025 and is available [here](#).

In relation to banning smoking on beaches there was a high level of support. 45% and 16% respectively strongly support or support such a ban, whilst only 14% and 10% respectively strongly oppose or oppose such a ban. So, 61% are for and 24% against. Similar levels of support for banning smoking were found by the YouGov survey carried out in Yorkshire on behalf of ASH.

Our understanding is that the States of Guernsey may not prioritise bans on smoking in public places in Guernsey and is more likely to follow the UK's approach of controlling smoking by raising the age at which cigarettes may be legally purchased by one year each year. Unfortunately, this approach is unlikely to have a material impact on the environmental harm cigarette butts cause. So, we will be engaging with SOG to establish whether controls on smoking on our shores can also be implemented.



The Clean
Earth Trust

How Can You Get Involved?

Corporate Clean



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](#).

We run **corporate beach cleans** for organisations to promote CSR/ESG and team building. More information can be found on our site. If you're interested, drop us an email: hello@cleanearthtrust.org

Join a Beach Clean



Submit Your Finds



We run public beach cleans at the weekend and our Wellbeing beach cleans are held monthly on a Thursday. Everyone is welcome and all of the equipment is provided. The details of these public cleans can be found on our website and on our [Facebook page](#).

Do you wobble regularly on our beaches? If so, please complete our **online survey form** available on our website. The data you submit will be reflected in our annual 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 form, take a look at our [Marine Litter Guide](#).

[Website](#)

[Get in touch](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[Marine Litter Guide](#)

[Beach Clean Survey Form](#)

[Duke of Edinburgh](#)



The Clean Earth Trust

About Us

The Clean Earth Trust is a local Guernsey based charity. Our mission is to limit human impact on the environment.

We deliver practical, community-led and data-driven projects that tackle environmental challenges locally while contributing to wider change.

Our flagship initiatives include The Repair Café and The Beach Clean Project. Through weekly repair cafés and monthly clothes swaps, we encourage a culture of reuse, reduce, repurpose, repair, and recycle.

In addition, we run campaigns that highlight environmental issues affecting Guernsey and inspire positive action.

“We believe ants can move mountains. By planting seeds of individual responsibility, we hope that micro changes can have a macro impact.”



The Clean
Earth Trust





The Clean
Earth Trust

Limiting human impact on the environment

www.cleanearthtrust.org

Guernsey registered charity CH592

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Written by Paul Bugden

Data and design by Olivia Bennett

