

# Sixth Report on the Great Angus Beach Clean

Including an update on issues arising out of the Great Angus Beach Cleans of May and September 2021

## The Great Angus Beach Clean 1-3 April 2022

Wherever you are you can help remove litter from our rivers and beaches to protect and clean our seas. Take responsibility for your own safety. Use local bins. Leave bags above the high tide mark between Carnoustie and Arbroath for the ATV. ([angusisace@gmail.com](mailto:angusisace@gmail.com))

**Make a Difference - Every Action Counts - Just do it.**



Arbroath Litter Pickers and PooFighters

Frickheim Park

## PROTECTING AND CONSERVING THE ANGUS COAST

# CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND</b>	Page 3
<b>1.1 Volume of Marine Litter</b>	
<b>2. WHO TOOK PART and WHERE?</b>	Page 3 - 10
○ Ferryden	
○ Scurdie Ness	
○ Lunan Bay	
○ Victoria Park	
○ West Links	
○ Inchcape Park	
○ East Haven	
○ Friockheim	
○ Carnoustie	
○ Monifieth	
<b>3. DISCUSSION AND UPDATES</b>	Page 11 - 13
3.1 Confetti Balloons	
3.2 Sewage Related Debris	
3.3 Dumping of Food Waste in Territorial Waters	
3.4 Contaminated Land at the Dowrie Works	
<b>7. APPENDIX 1</b>	Page 13

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The sixth Great Angus Beach Clean took place from the 01 April to 03 April 2022. This report provides a summary of key outcomes. The report also provides an update on key issues arising from the Great Angus Beach Cleans of May and September 2021.

The Great Angus Beach Clean is held twice a year and aims to bring together all sections of the community in a collaborative effort to remove as much litter as possible along the Angus Coast. The event also aims to prevent litter from reaching the sea by cleaning rivers, streams and inland areas as 80% - 90% of marine litter originates from landward locations. In addition, the event raises awareness about both the sources and types of litter and seeks to prevent and reduce litter escaping into the marine environment. The coastline of Angus is important not just to the people who live and visit but also for biodiversity, tourism and the economy. Therefore the Great Angus Beach Clean is an opportunity for everybody regardless of age, ability or background to play their part and make a difference. People are asked to take personal responsibility for their own safety and either borrow a litter picker from one of the organised share stations or simply go out and 'take 4 for the shore'. For those litter picking between Carnoustie and Arbroath, heavy bags can be left above the high tide mark for East Haven's All-Terrain-Vehicle to collect. The approach taken is one of 'make it safe and make it fun' and safety guidance can be accessed from the Angus Clean Environments (ACE) web-site and those of other organisations such as Turning the Plastic Tide and Keep Scotland Beautiful.

### 1.1 Volume of Marine Litter

Table 1 highlights the volume of litter which has been removed during the six Great Angus Beach Cleans which have been held since 2019. It does not include the vast amount of marine litter which has been picked up by individuals and groups who undertake beach cleans on a regular basis throughout the year.

**Table 1.**

Great Angus Beach Clean May 2019	3000 kgs
Great Angus Beach Clean Sept 2019	1225 kgs
Great Angus Beach Clean Sept 2020	714 kgs
Big Beach Clean February 2020 and mechanical removal of ghost fishing gear at Westhaven in April 2021	2100 kgs
Great Angus Beach Clean 28th May - June 12 2021	1303 kgs
Great Angus Beach Clean Sept 2021	1166kgs
Great Angus Beach Clean April 2022	712kgs
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,220kgs</b>

## 2. WHO TOOK PART AND WHERE?

Marine Habitat and Litter Champions from Ladyloan Primary School (P7) launched the event in which more than 178 people took part over the course of the weekend. This was an increase of 32 from the last Great ABC in September 2021. Over 712kgs of marine litter was uplifted between Monifieth and Ferryden near Montrose. A summary of what was collected in each area can be seen in Appendix 1. Grateful thanks went to Morrisons and Asda for a supply of refreshments.

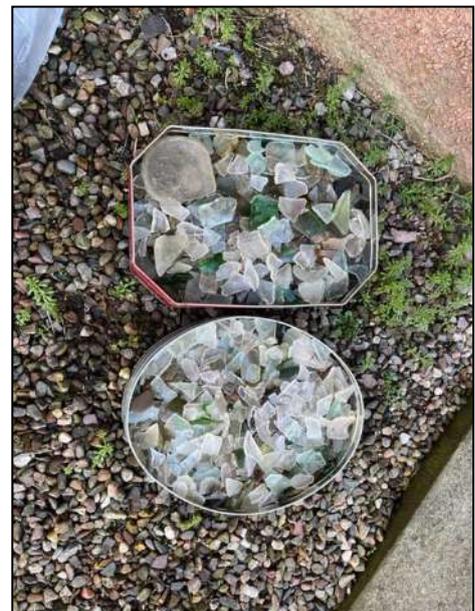
Participants willingly took personal responsibility for their own safety. Some left heavy bags for the ATV to collect along the shore between Carnoustie and Arbroath and others brought their waste back to the share stations where it was weighed. The 178 people who we know were involved are those who took part in the various organised cleans. It is likely many others simply went out and took '4 for the shore'.

### Ferryden

We were delighted to welcome a new group to the event from Montrose South and Ferryden Church. Twenty people met at the pier including seven youngsters from Montrose South and Ferryden Church youth group, along with their parents. After a short briefing the party split into two groups. One stayed near the pier area where it had been reported there was lots of broken glass. The other group drove along to the beach car park and started working there.

Despite a general feeling that the beach was quite clean the group still managed to lift 4 bags of litter. The debris included a wide range of items. Most common was cigarette butts [60]. Plastic bottles and drinks cans were the next most common find along with a few polystyrene food containers. More unusual items included a broken plastic window box and a ball launcher toy for dogs. The group which stayed near the pier filled two biscuit tins with broken glass.

After approximately an hour and a half they all went back to the church hall for coffee and bacon rolls enjoyed in the sunshine.



### Scurdie Ness

Marine Life Angus led on a walk to the remote beach at Scurdie Ness and collected 4.5kgs of litter.



### Lunan Bay

Rangers Owen Barron and Michelle Spink spent the whole of Saturday supporting 15 volunteers to clean up the extensive area of beach and dunes. In addition to picking up 16kgs of litter they were also chatting to visitors about what they were doing and why they were doing it. There was a display at the Rangers base to highlight the impact of certain litter types.



## Victoria Park

Led by Arbroath Litter Pickers and Poo Fighters a beach clean took place at Victoria Park, Arbroath. This clean had to be delayed until 09 April due to the "All Under One Banner March" which took place on Saturday 2nd. Twelve volunteers took part and a total of 38kgs was uplifted. Of interest whilst we were there two people threw empty bottles over the side of the promenade almost hitting volunteers working below. These incidents highlighted the level of work which still requires to be done to educate and change public behaviours. On a more positive note, Owen and his grandmother were welcomed from Monifieth. Owen used to attend Ladyloan Primary school and was involved in previous Great ABCs. As he couldn't make the Monifieth clean he arranged to come to Arbroath instead to play his part and be involved. This was very encouraging and provides hope that young children can be influenced by their early experiences in school.



## West Sands Arbroath

One volunteer undertook a beach clean at West Links and picked up 2kgs of litter. This largely comprised food containers, cans and bottles, and cigarette butts (72).

## Inchcape Park Arbroath

Primary Seven children from Ladyloan Primary school launched the event with a big clean up of the beach at Inchcape Park. Led by Lauren Smith the new Project Manager for East Grampian Coastal Partnership 'Turning the Plastic Tide' they enjoyed a marine species workout prior beach cleaning. It was lovely to see the Primary Seven pupils again before they move on to secondary school later this year.



Ladyloan photographs courtesy of Paul Reid the Courier.

The children collected a staggering 70kgs of litter at this location. This included a huge amount of litter which was lodged between the gabion rocks. Some of this was washed in with the tide but a large volume had also been discarded from land. In addition, they picked up one creel, fishing rope and one oil canister.

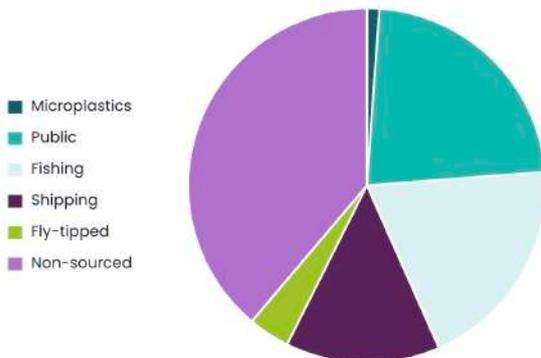
Also in attendance was the Councillor Marine Habitat and Litter Champion, Cllr Bell. Councillors across Angus have assumed responsibility for championing species and habitats which require conservation and protection. This involves working across normal Ward boundaries and demonstrates a commitment from all concerned to improve the environment and increase biodiversity. Councillors were out playing their part in other areas of Angus too. Working alongside the public to share their support.



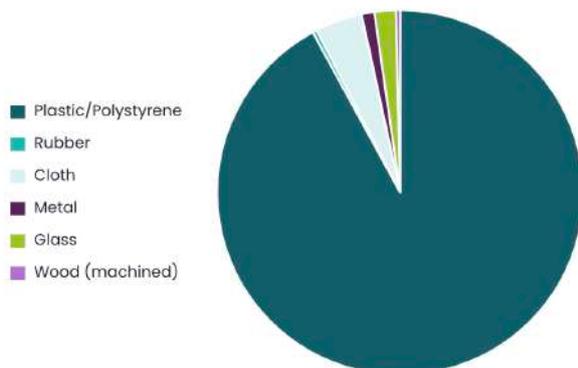
### East Haven

East Haven Together hosted a litter station on Saturday morning and 12 Volunteers took part. A total of 53.5kgs was collected over a 400m stretch of beach. A detailed survey took place on a designated 100m stretch of beach and the data uploaded to the Marine Conservation Society.

### Sources



### Materials collected



## Carnoustie

There was a great response in Carnoustie where 30 people took up a call from the Community Council to play their part and make a difference. A total of 38kgs of mixed waste was collected. Amongst the waste was a broken lobster pot, fishing ropes, several vodka bottles, a tyre and a carpet!



## Monifieth

In Monifieth a committed group of 15 volunteers worked across a long stretch of beach and collected 40kgs of mixed waste. This included ghost fishing gear, plastics and a traffic bollard. The beach clean also coincided with a Sewage Related Incident (SRD). More than 200 sanitary towels 450 cotton buds, wet wipes and 2 lateral flow test tubes were picked up from a 100m stretch of beach to the north east of the Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO). More about SRD is discussed in section 3.



## Friockheim

Friockheim Park. hosted a litter share station on the Saturday when 35 Volunteers picked up a huge amount of litter inland. Roadside, recreational areas and streets were cleaned and 76kgs of waste collected. Friockheim Park do a really good job of reminding people that 80-90% of marine litter originates from land. It is hugely important to prevent this litter from entering drains and water courses.



## All-Terrain Vehicle

Volunteers took the All-Terrain Vehicle back and forth along the beach between Carnoustie and Arbroath over the weekend. There was little change in the amount of ghost fishing gear uplifted along with heavy items such as traffic bollards, tyres and boat parts. A total of 370.5kgs was collected with the ATV. The ghost fishing gear included; fish boxes, rope, oil canisters, bouys, creels, fishing nets and rope.



### 3. DISCUSSION and UPDATES

#### 3.1 Confetti Balloons

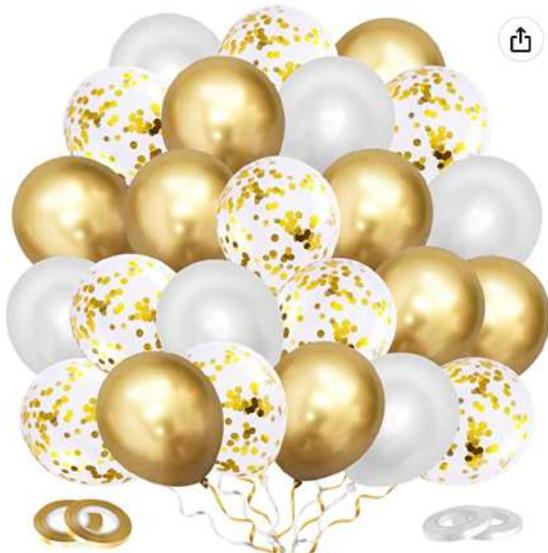
In both Arbroath and East Haven a confetti filled balloon was found. This is the first time we have come across these balloons which are filled with metallic confetti pieces. They are promoted for all kinds of celebratory events. This is quite alarming as it took a lot of time to pick up all the confetti pieces in addition to the balloon and ribbon. An online review of confetti filled balloons reveals that the metallic confetti is actually metallized PVC. The balloons themselves are also



made of a much thicker latex than normal. They can be pre-filled with the confetti or funnels can be purchased to fill them at home. It is worrying that these balloons have crept onto the market at a time when so much work has been done to reduce balloon releases. ACE will discuss the emergence of confetti balloons with both the Marine Conservation Society and Keep Scotland Beautiful. Interestingly, one of the adverts below describes the balloons as 'environmentally non toxic'. We do not believe this to be an accurate description of a thick latex balloon filled with metallized PVC pieces. The advert at the bottom of the page promotes popping the balloon out of doors and scattering the confetti to the wind.

#### About this item

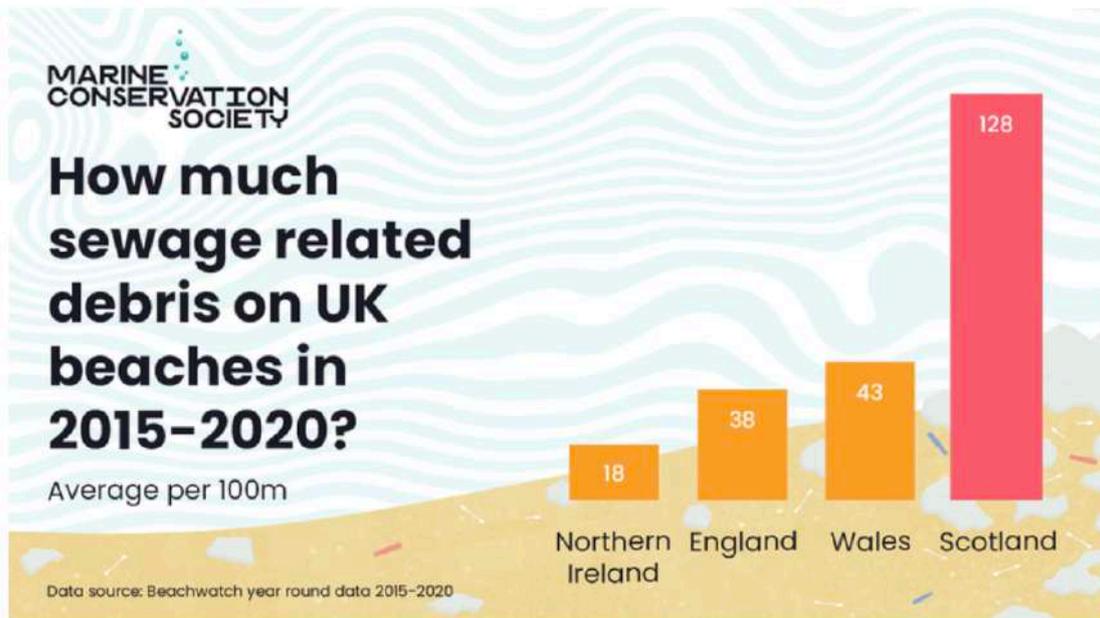
- **WIDE APPLICATIONS-** These Gold Confetti Balloons perfect for Wedding, Bridal Shower, Baby Shower, Birthday Party and Room Design Gold or other holidays
- **GOLD CONFETTI-** Confetti in the set of balloons are in gold and bright colour, can give you and your friends the feeling of happy and romantic
- **SET INCLUDED-** 12pcs clear latex balloons pre-filled with pure gold circle Sequins and 1 ribbon.
- **BALLOON MEASUREMENT-** Latex balloons measure 12" (30cm) when fully inflated
- **SAFE TO USE-** 100% Natural latex material, environmental non-toxic, thick and durable



- Surprise confetti balloons are functional. The fact that they contain confetti—or, at the very least, the color of the confetti—should be a secret until the balloon is popped and the confetti is scattered to the wind. This makes them ideal for surprise reveals; you can use pink or blue confetti to announce whether a mommy-to-be is expecting a girl or a boy, or you can get confetti in specific college colors to divulge which university a high school graduate has decided to attend!

### 3.2 Sewage Related Debris

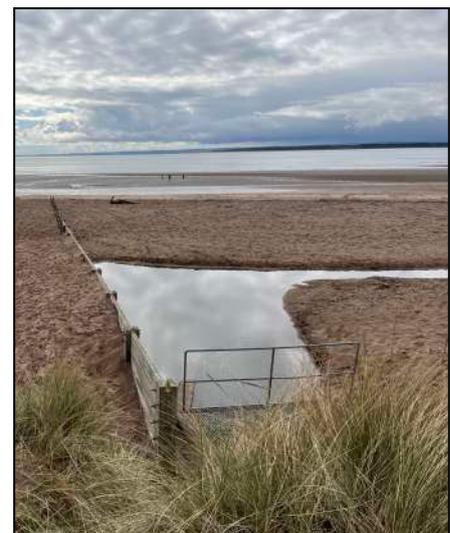
Astonishingly, Scotland's beaches are the worst in the UK for Sewage Related Debris (SRD). Analysis of data uploaded by volunteers to the Marine Conservation Society highlights that on average 128 items of SRD were found per 100 metres of beach surveyed. This is almost triple the amount of the next highest figure, which was found in Wales.



Credit: Marine Conservation Society

The Marine Conservation Society have asked all beach clean volunteers to report any incidents of SRD to SEPA and Scottish Water. There is a need to put pressure on the industry and regulator to reduce the amount of SRD escaping into the marine environment. This usually happens when there is either heavy rainfall or a lack of capacity in the sewer system. Combined Sewage Overflow's (CSO's) are used to relieve pressure on the system and release sewage and other pollutants into the environment.

East Haven experienced two SRD incidents in early 2022. Both were reported to SEPA and Scottish Water but the source of the escape was not identified. The SRD incident in Monifieth on Saturday 2nd April was also immediately reported. Volunteers revealed that SRD is a common problem on the specific section of beach and have nicknamed it 'Cottonbud Alley'. Scottish Water responded quickly and undertook an inspection of the CSO but did not find any problem. During a subsequent phone call with SEPA they expressed the view that SRD might be coming from either North East Fife or from one of the CSOs in Dundee and along the Tay. It was considered that this may also be the source of SWD which affects East Haven periodically too.



East Haven Together have written a report on SRD for Scottish Water and SEPA which can be downloaded from; <https://www.easthavenangus.com/about-us-1>

### 3.3 Dumping of Food Waste at Sea

ACE carried out an investigation following the discovery of large amounts of food waste dumped at sea in May 2021. The waste was traced back to US Naval ships which were participating in Exercise Ragnar Viking off the Angus Coast. A report detailing the investigation includes recommendations to prevent military ships dumping waste at sea during peace time operations. The Scottish Minister for Land Reform and Environment has raised the issue with her counterpart in the UK Government. We will be informed of the response in due course.

A full copy of the final report can be downloaded from <https://www.aceangus.co.uk/reports-publications>

### 3.4 Contaminated Land at the Dowrie Works

During the September 2021 Great Angus Beach Clean large amounts of waste materials were found on the beach and in the sea at Elliot. An ACE investigation discovered that the waste had escaped from a huge area of contaminated land the size of seven football pitches on the site of an old Bitumen works. It was known in 2006 that these contaminants posed a significant serious risk to human health and that of the environment if they were to escape. Consequently there are a number of concerns and Angus Council, the Landowner have now opened up discussions with ACE. They have also covered the waste again with more gabion boulders which will help to mitigate against immediate risks. ACE remains concerned that the pathway between the contaminants and receptors has not been fully closed. We hope to have the opportunity to discuss this with Angus Council in the near future.

A report on the Dowrie Works can be downloaded from <https://www.aceangus.co.uk/reports-publications>

## Appendix 1

### Summary of weights and volunteers

Area	Total kgs	Volunteers
Ferryden	4	20
Scurdie Ness	4.5	2
Lunan Bay	16	15
Victoria Park	38	12
West Links	2	1
Inchcape Park	70	30
East Haven	53.5	12
Carnoustie	38	30
Monifieth	40	15
Friockheim	76	35
ATV	370	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>178</b>