

Seventh Report on the Great Angus Beach Clean

September 2022

The Great Angus Beach Clean 16-18 September 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)

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



PROTECTING AND CONSERVING THE ANGUS COAST

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The seventh Great Angus Beach Clean was planned to coincide with the MCS Great British Beach Clean during third weekend in September 2022. This report provides a summary of key outcomes.

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 Greta Angus Beach Cleans held since April 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 rest of 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	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
Great Angus Beach Clean September 2022	360.5kgs
TOTAL	10580.5

2. WHO TOOK PART AND WHERE?

More than 94 people took part over the course of the week.

Ferryden

A huge effort was made by Montrose South and Ferryden Church when around 20 people met to embark on their second beach clean of 2022. On first glance the beach appeared fairly clean but the group were able to collect two full bags of waste. This included drinks bottles, cans, sweet wrappings, fishing and cigarette butts. The most unusual item they found was a t-shirt, with a clothes peg still attached. After about one and a half hours, they all went back to the church hall for bacon rolls, burgers, tea and coffee. The group are currently considering, whether to extend their next beach clean to include the Glaxo beach.



Victoria Park - Arbroath

Led by Arbroath Litter Pickers and Poo Fighters a beach clean took place at Victoria Park. Arbroath. Two bags were collected weighing 4kgs.

West Sands - Arbroath

One volunteer undertook a beach clean at West Links in Arbroath and picked up 13kgs of litter which was a huge amount for one individual. This included a significant amount of fast food items, bottles, caps and tops, and unusually for this area, sewage related debris. Also, broken toys, masks, fishing rope and monofilament fishing line. One plastic fish box was also uplifted along with a fishing lure and lots of hooks.

Inchcape Park - Arbroath

Marine Litter Champions, Ladyloan Primary school cleaned their beach at Inchcape Park and collected 19.75 kgs of waste. Amongst other things they picked up plastic bottles, cups, wet wipes and industrial blue gloves. They also found clothing items and 1m of bubble wrap. Interestingly the children also found a large piece of geotextile membrane. This material is used to form a surface layer beneath gabion boulders (riprap). This was an old piece smelling of tar which matched the type previously laid at the Dowrie Works nearby.



All items were taken back to base to be surveyed and counted. Certain items were washed and taken back into school on Monday for the children to look at in more detail. The children had to guess how long each of these items would take to biodegrade. Later the children selected items for a major exhibition in the V&A museum called "Plastics, Remaking Our World". The children also selected the litter item which they thought most closely represented their beach.

Ladyloan Primary School is sometimes described as the school next to the sea. Arbroath harbour can be seen from the windows of the school. The children love the beach and they want it to be clean and free from litter to protect both wildlife and humans. They are concerned about fish and birds eating small plastics. Over the last four years the children have removed over 200kgs of marine litter from the beach. The children have selected this blue glove to represent the huge amount of fishing related litter found in the sea off the Angus coast. It also symbolises the human hands which drop waste both onshore and at sea.



Elliot - Arbroath



MP Dave Doogan and Councillor Serena Crowdy (Cllr Marine Species and Litter Champion) also took part. Over the course of a few hours they collected a staggering 82.5kgs of waste.

This included, 3 large Creels, 5 pieces of metal, 1 fish box and approx 20 metres of rope. Two large tyres and two full bags of small waste including 2 shotgun cartridges, 33 plastic bottles, 9 Fast Food containers 7 wet wipes, 1 Disposable BBQ, 9 drinks cans and 20 tangled collections of mixed rope etc.

East Haven

East Haven Together hosted a litter station and 18 Volunteers took part including Volunteers from Tesco. A total of 16 bags were collected weighing 26.7 kgs.. A detailed survey took place and the data was uploaded to the Marine Conservation Society. As there was a significant amount of sewage related debris collected this data was also uploaded to Scottish Water and SEPA. Work was subsequently undertaken to recycle some items and also to collaborate on a project with the V&A who were hosting a large exhibition about



Plastics.

Carnoustie

In Carnoustie 9 volunteers went to on the main beach and collected 5 bags of mixed waste weighing 5.5kgs. They also removed three dead sea birds. A further 80kgs of waste



including creels, rope and canisters of oil were also collected between East Haven and Carnoustie in the ATV.

Friockheim Park

Friockheim Park volunteer James supported the Great Angus Beach Clean in a number of different ways. Firstly by helping to clean various beaches but also by obtaining support from Morrisons and Asda. We were very grateful for the supply of bottled water and crisps which we were able to hand out to volunteers.



ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE

Ten Volunteers took the All-Terrain Vehicle back and forth along the beach between



Carnoustie and Arbroath over the weekend. They brought back a total of 277kgs of heavy marine litter.

3. UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS GREAT ANGUS BEACH CLEANS

3.1 Confetti Balloons

In the Sixth Great Angus Beach Clean report ACE raised awareness about confetti filled balloons which had been found in Arbroath and East Haven. This was the first time we had come across these balloons which are filled with metallic confetti pieces. We asked beach clean volunteers to monitor the situation and let us know if they find any more. Since September 2022 ACE has received six reports of these balloons being found. Not a huge increase but nevertheless something which requires ongoing monitoring.

3.2 Sewage Related Debris

The Great British Beach Clean report by the Marine Conservation Society in September 2022 found Sewage Related Debris comprised 17.9% of all litter found on Scottish Beaches. In Angus there are hot spots found in East Haven, Hatton, Buddon and Monifieth. We upload as much survey data as possible to Scottish Water and to SEPA to put pressure on them to upgrade the Combined Sewage Overflows in Fife and Dundee.

3.3 Contaminated Land and Marine Area

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. ACE has since had the opportunity to make a presentation to Angus Council and SEPA raising several issues of environmental concern.

4. ISSUES ARISING FROM SEPT 22 GREAT ABC

4.1 Incident on Coastal Path

During the September 2022 Great Angus Beach Clean Volunteers highlighted concerns about an environmental incident on an Angus coastal path. The Local Authority and SEPA were immediately informed and given the opportunity to investigate and take steps to reduce the environmental impact. Due to concerns about the way in which the investigation was carried out ACE felt it was necessary to pursue the matter further. The outcome was such that Environment Standards Scotland are now carrying out an investigation into the incident. We will provide an update and more details in the next Great Angus Beach Clean report.

4.2 Marker Bouys

Legislation which was implemented in 2020 means that creels deployed must have one or more marker buoys attached with the vessels' PLN clearly displayed. Marker buoys must be specifically designed for the marking of equipment in the water. During the beach clean 14 illegal marker bouys were picked up. They were created out of canisters containing old cooking oil and had helium balloons tied round the top.

Not only were they not marked but they presented a high risk of pollution in the marine environment. Of particular interest is that fact that all of these canisters except for one which contained old diesel oil were removed from the store within 10 days. Local Fishermen are clear that they did not originate from Arbroath Harbour. We will therefore monitor the recovery of any similar bouys and consider an alternative storage area for them.



