



Beach Cleaning Report 2022

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This report concentrates on local marine debris issues from industry sources (such as fisheries). A breakdown of general public litter (food packaging, baby wipes etc) is not handled here. There are national campaigns that concentrate on general public litter, for example the [MCS](#) and [SOS](#).

The litter reported here does include general public rubbish found on Norfolk beaches, but the breakdowns only highlight industry litter (with the exception of balloons for the [Norfolk County Council's Balloon and Sky Lantern Release Charter](#)).

Who cleans Norfolk's beaches?

HOLKHAM



Individuals



Sheringham Beach Cleans



Winterton Community Litter Pick

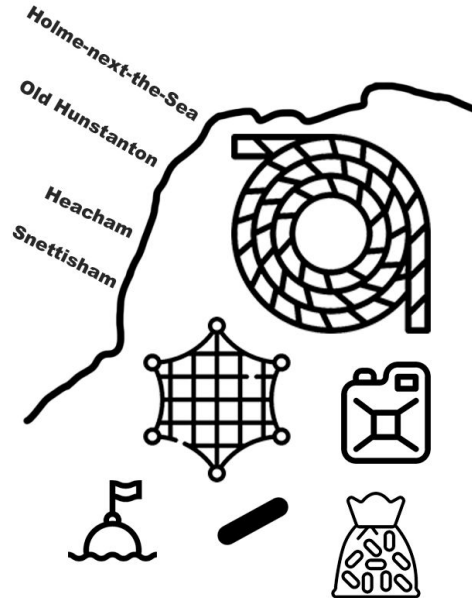
Where is the data from?

- Data has been collected from:
 - The [MCNAG](#) beach clean data form
 - [MCS Beachwatch](#)
 - [Norfolk Beach Cleans](#)
 - [Seasearch East](#)

What are the limitations of the data?

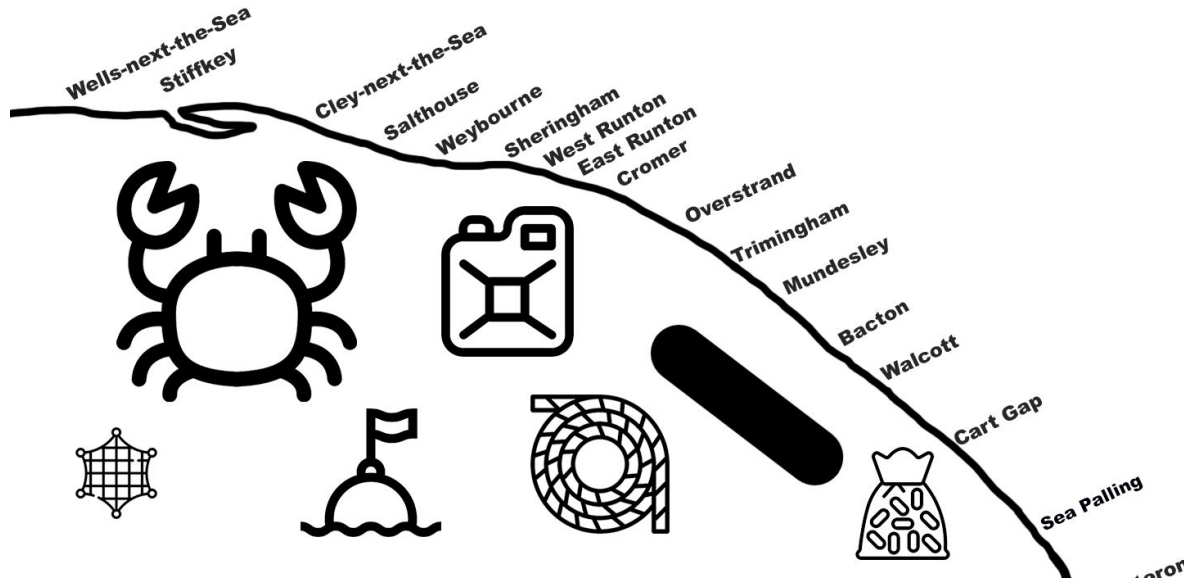
- Not all beach cleans are reported
- Not all reported beach cleans collect data
- Not all data are in the same format or contain the same information
- Some of the data are estimations
- Data tends to be self-reported

Fisheries gear found in King's Lynn & West Norfolk



- 23 recorded beach cleans
- 51 bags of rubbish plus another 30 kg
 - Including 5 crab pot coatings
- 0 crab pots
- 2 canisters
- 8 nets
- 20 pieces of large rope
- 1 buoy
- Polystyrene / foam present

Fisheries gear found in North Norfolk



- 143 recorded beach cleans
- 109 bags of rubbish plus another 31 kg
 - Including 2270 crab pot coatings
- 82 crab pots
- 45 canisters
- 9 nets
- 51 pieces of large rope
- 13 buoys
- Polystyrene / foam present

Underwater, divers reported (approx):

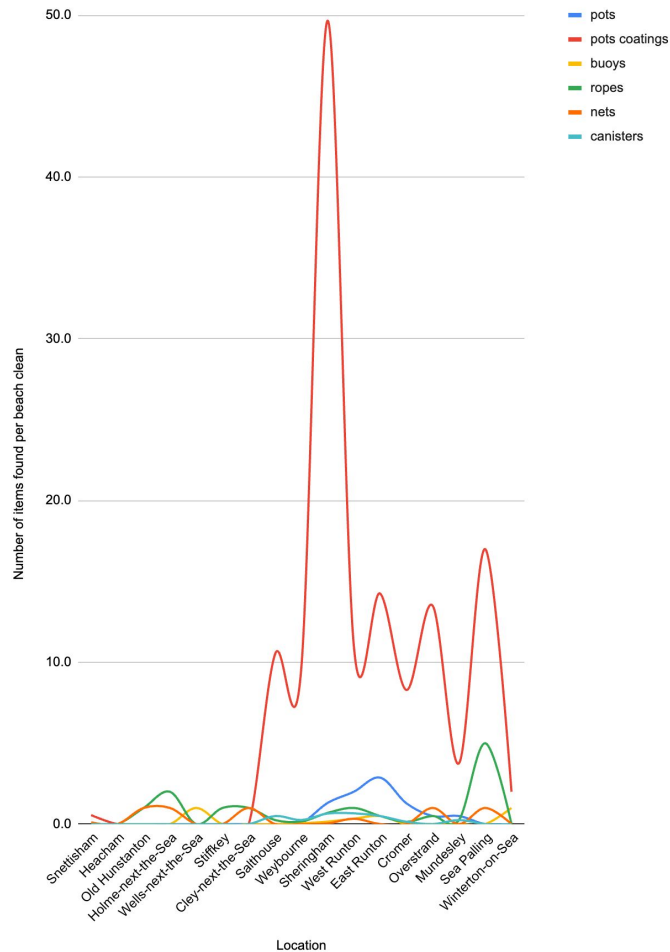
- 60 pots
- rope and net



Fisheries gear found in Great Yarmouth



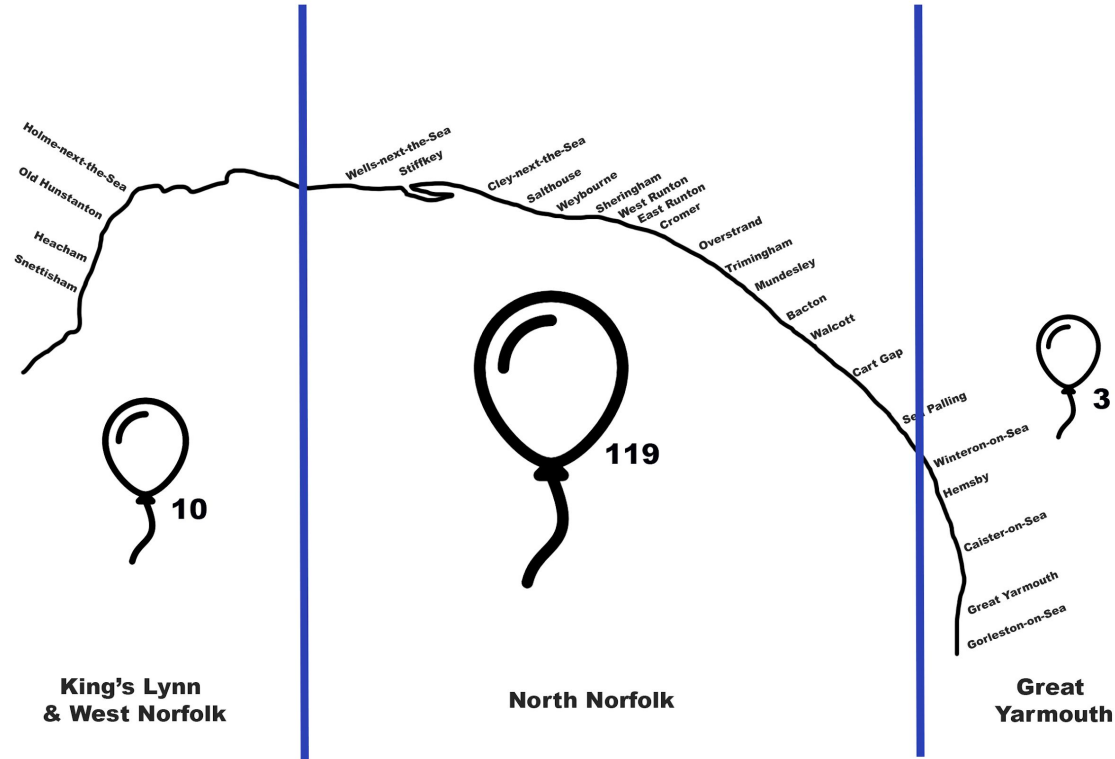
- 54 recorded beach cleans
- 13 bags of rubbish plus another 1001 kg
 - Including 2 crab pot coatings
- 0 crab pots
- 4 canisters
- 0 nets
- 1 pieces of large rope
- 2 buoys
- Polystyrene / foam present



Fishery gear found per beach clean by area (from the MCNAG beach clean data form only)

- The highest number of crab pots found per beach clean were in East Runton, followed by West Runton
- Crab pot coatings were the most numerous item found, with the highest concentration in Sheringham
- Buoys weren't found very often, but the highest numbers were in Wells-next-the-Sea and Winterton-on-Sea
- Sea Palling was the location for the most ropes found
- Nets were reported from both West and North Norfolk
- Canister numbers peaked in Sheringham and West Runton
- Locations south of Winterton-on-Sea are excluded as no data were submitted via the MCNAG beach clean data form for this area

Reported number of balloons or balloon fragments found on Norfolk beaches from May to December 2022



Plea not to release sky lanterns and balloons

People are being urged to find other ways of marking occasions instead of releasing balloons and sky lanterns.

Balloon litter has been found along Norfolk's coastline, prompting a fresh call from the county council and the North Norfolk Beach Cleaners for people to choose other ways to celebrate or mark important events.

Balloons were found on half of the beach cleans carried out over the last few months, along with wet wipes, drinks cans, food packaging and fishing equipment.

Eric Vandy, Norfolk County Council's cabinet member for environment and waste, said it was "shocking" to see "wonderful stretches of coastline" littered in this way.

"I'd urge people to join the 328 individuals and organisations who have already signed our Balloon and Sky Lantern Charter pledging to stop use of these unnecessary products that litter our countryside and harm wildlife."



One of the examples of balloon litter found around the Norfolk coast this year. Picture: Elizabeth Beston

People have been urged to use environmentally friendly alternatives.

Elizabeth Beston from the North Norfolk Beach Cleaners Collective, said: "We have recorded nearly 60 balloons or balloon fragments since May on the North Norfolk coast alone, but the real number is likely to be much higher across the whole of the county."

"I understand how fun, beautiful and poignant balloons

can be for different occasions, but with such great alternatives available, it really is time we chose a better way to celebrate or remember loved ones – ways that don't harm the wildlife that Norfolk is famous for."

After-effects of balloon and lantern releases can see animals hurt and even die after getting trapped in, or eating, the remains of the products.

Nigel Lloyd, chairperson of the Norfolk Waste Partnership,

said: "We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful county."

"It's saddening to see this kind of litter spoiling coastlines and countryside when sustainable alternatives to mark a special event are readily available."

"I urge Norfolk residents and our visitors to encourage their neighbours, friends and family to find more sustainable ways to celebrate or commemorate important days."

"These might include tree planting, flag flying, or even using giant bubbles! It is much better to mark a special occasion in a way that respects the environment, our local wildlife, and our beautiful coastline."

The county council has banned the release of helium balloons or sky lanterns on land it owns since 2015.

Find out more at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/balloonsandsky lanterns

To find out about beach cleans/litter picks, visit: www.norfolkrecycles.com/communityaction/lovenorfolkhalitter

Climate change conference

County leaders and members of the public attended a special event to showcase new ideas and solutions to tackle climate change in Norfolk.

Hosted by the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership, the Net Zero Norfolk Conference focused on the potential to deliver sustainable climate change solutions based on the findings of two studies.

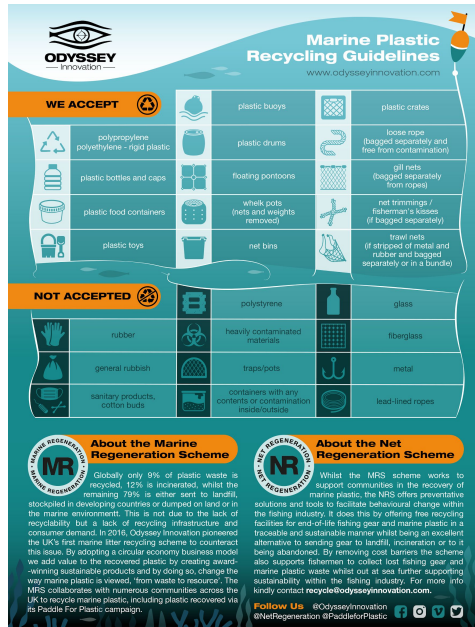
At the event the potential for local communities to work collaboratively to reduce, purchase, manage, and generate energy, was highlighted.

Lorraine Gore, chief executive of West Norfolk Council and co-chairperson of the partnership member group, said: "The challenges around net zero are complex and we need to look at everything we can."

"Innovation and partnership working can take us forward, and it was great to see so many people coming together at the Net Zero Conference with a shared purpose and commitment to addressing climate change for Norfolk."

Data collected by MCNAG were used to help promote the Norfolk District Council's [Balloon and Sky Lantern Release Charter](#)

2022 highlights



- The [East of England Plastics Coalition](#) (EEPC) Marine Debris Working Group ran a pilot project in North Norfolk and the Wash at the beginning of 2022 (funded by Natural England)
- Beach cleaners rallied together to collect marine debris to be analysed and recycled
- The hope is to find a way to increase the recycling of marine debris in the region



- MCNAG launched a Found fisheries gear database
- Beach cleaners and divers can report found gear
- The database allows the recording of types, amounts and locations of lost gear
- Efforts are made to:
 - Collaboratively remove items from the beach
 - Reunite usable gear with the owner (via [EIFCA](#))
 - Recycle unclaimed gear
 - Donate unclaimed gear to artists
- The form for reporting found gear is [here](#)



- Local beach cleaners and [Precious Plastic East](#) are working together to recycle marine debris into useful items
- So far, Precious Plastic East have used crab pot coatings, broken beach toys, and rope to create products



Images from Precious Plastic East

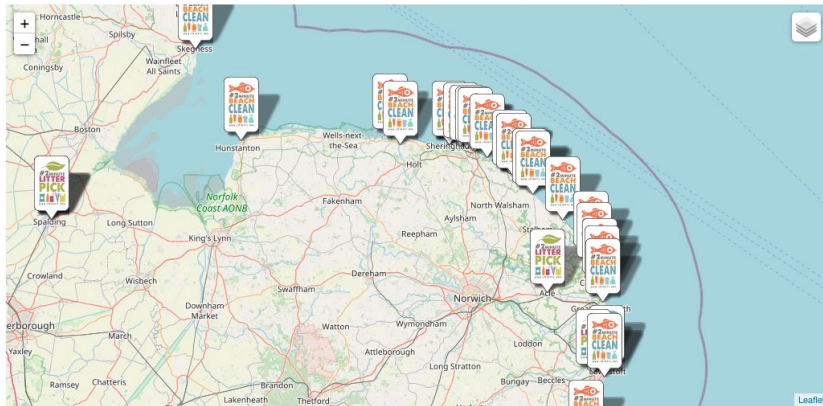


- Thanks to [Norfolk Beach Cleans](https://www.norfolkbeachcleans.co.uk/) and [Plastic Free Cromer](#), there are now beach toy borrow boxes in 5 locations around the county's coast
- Members of the public can place unwanted or found beach toys in wooden bins for other people to use

Top photo from <https://www.norfolkbeachcleans.co.uk/>



- There are now nineteen [2 Minute Beach Clean](https://2minute.org/) Stations around the Norfolk coast
- Members of the public can use the equipment to pick up litter



This is our Stations map. Zoom in to see your nearest clean up Station.

Map from <https://2minute.org/>



24 May - 4 June

Artspace on the Prom, Art Deco Block, Promenade, Cromer NR27 9HE

- A week-long art exhibition, with workshops, highlighting beach litter was held at Artspace on the Prom
- It featured artwork from [Ann Jones](#), [Elizabeth Beston](#), and [Emma Sturman](#)