

## Greenprint Forum Beach Watch 20-22.9.2019

### Part of action towards Greenprint Forum's goal of a pollution free environment

We were pleased not to find as much pollution on our designated beaches for us to pick up as we have on some past occasions. Of course the key part of Beachwatch is the collection of data which is all important evidence to help improve better understanding of the bigger picture when it comes to marine pollution on the local and national scales.

All who attended made it fun and it is encouraging to see that there are so many people who understand the issues and are prepared to give up their time to support this form of action.

Beachwatch events were organised around the whole coastline of Britain as part of the Marine Conservation Society's Great British Beach Clean weekend. Beachwatch is an incredibly important national data recording, reporting and campaign organisation incorporating citizen science. You can find out more at: [www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/](http://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/)

### What did we do?

In some form we supported three Beachwatch events in Suffolk over the campaign weekend as follows:



### Day 1: Friday 20th—Bawdsey upriver of the Quay

Your secretary organised this event to give the 2019 cohort of seven Graduate Project Officers of the Suffolk Graduate Partnership the opportunity to experience environmental volunteering and citizen science as part of their team building induction.

This was the first time this beach had been subject to a Beachwatch survey. **87.8%** of the marine litter found here was plastic— or polystyrene-based, particularly small fragments, bottle caps, and sweet wrappers—we also found some nurdles. We collected a total of **440g** of litter along our designated transect of 100m, and also hit the surrounding beach and quay car park afterwards and removed another **1KG** of land-based litter that might otherwise have ended up in the marine environment.

**More on page two!**

## Day 2: Saturday 21st - Felixstowe Beach Manor Terrace to Orford Road

Your secretary joined his predecessor, Debbie Wargate, who since 2015 has adopted this stretch of beach, to carry out a Beachwatch pick and survey here where we picked up just 40g of litter on this 100m survey transect. The commonest item numerically were cigarette ends at nearly 75% of all litter found!

After the survey we cleared the streets along Manor Terrace, Manor Road and Langer Road and stuffed an entire bin-bag—**approx. 4KG**—mainly with litter of the food-on-the-go variety likely thrown by pedestrians and from moving vehicles. Again helping ensure this litter didn't go on to end up in the sea.



## Day 3: Sunday 22nd—Southwold north of the Pier

This event was organised under the Greenprint Forum banner. A total of 11 of us turned out, including a family of seasoned Beachwatchers from Ipswich and an inspiring couple who were in Suffolk on holiday and who do a beach clean every time they have a holiday by the seaside.

It was reassuring to see so little litter on our 200m transect, in particular relatively few plastic fragments and no plastic pellets at all. If it had not been for a mass of tangled netting and rope—a significant hazard for marine wildlife—we would have removed much less than the **1.96KG** of litter gathered from the transect.

We spoke with some of the holiday makers in the beach huts who echoed the observation of minimal plastic pollution here—it does seem that beaches are individual in terms of the types of marine litter they are affected by, perhaps reflecting a combination of tide and current patterns as well as land-based activities and demographics in their vicinity.

### Thanks to our event supporters:

- Adnams—vouchers for drinks at their shops as a thank you to volunteers.
- Suffolk Coast and Heaths — collated and shared local results (reports from 2015-2018 available [here](#)) and encouraged participation, and provided litter pick sticks, sharps boxes, hoops and bags. Last year the team supported 1323 Beachwatch volunteers in Suffolk!
- [East Suffolk Norse](#)—who provided hi-vis coats and arranged for the removal and disposal of the gathered litter.
- Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils, East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police & West Suffolk Council—for agreeing for Beachwatch to be the voluntary team-building activity for the 2019 cohort of graduates in the Suffolk Graduate Partnership.

