

## Jason Alexander's Beach Clean Marathon – Litter Report



**Dates carried out:** 30.7.2018 to 4.8.2018

**Weather:** Variable, heavy rain to hot sunshine, winds low to moderate

**Beaches surveyed:** 11 – an estimated 1.92 area of kilometres squared<sup>1</sup>

**Distance Jason walked:** 96km (60miles)

**Money raised for the Brain Tumour Trust:** £600+

**Number of volunteers involved:** 32

**Number of volunteering hours:** Over 80

**Number of bags of litter picked:** 34 and a half (an average of 17 bags per kilometre squared)

**Weight of rubbish:** 136kg (approximately the same weight as 49 bricks)

*“Data collection and analysis is an important part of any large-scale litter pick. Data gathered can help local groups target communications and activities and help decision makers understand what the main challenges are and where. This report is an important part of the Beach Marathon and will be shared with the Marine Conservation Society and anyone else who requests it. It has been produced by the Greenprint Forum as part of their #YearofPlasticAction which is resources by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils and funded by the East Suffolk Partnership and Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB”* Deborah Wargate, Environmental Officer

<sup>1</sup> Assuming 20m width of transect

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## Reasons for doing the Beach Clean Marathon



*"It combines four things I care about – raising money for The Brain Tumour Charity, keeping nature and people safe, keeping our fabulous beaches clean and helping people to be plastic action champions in their own communities or organisations"* Jason Alexander



To leave a permanent legacy and reminder of the Beach Clean Marathon in the form of three #2MinuteBeachClean boards presented to locations along the route. These boards join the existing one in Felixstowe and provide spots all along the Suffolk coast where free litter picking equipment is now provided by the beach making it simple for members of the public to do a #2MinuteBeachClean.



Lowestoft



Southwold



Aldeburgh

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## Who helped?

18 fabulous organisations and 32 wonderful volunteers helped.

Some of the volunteers...



Thorpeness



Bawdsey



Dunwich



Felixstowe

Organisations...

2 Minute Beach Clean	Keep Britain Tidy
Anglian Water	Mark Murphy and BBC Radio Suffolk
BBC Look East	Mollet's Farm
Beach Bonkers	Refill
Beach Care River Care	Sentinel Leisure
Cragg Sisters Tea Room	Spa Pavilion
East Anglian Daily Times	The Brain Tumour Charity
East Suffolk Councils	The Dip Kiosk- Felixstowe
Greenprint Forum	Suzie's Beach Cafe



10 items rescued for reuse

**Weight separated for recycling: 21kg – Estimated value = £2.76** (Would you work for over 80 hours to earn this? No one would – so don't drop litter!)

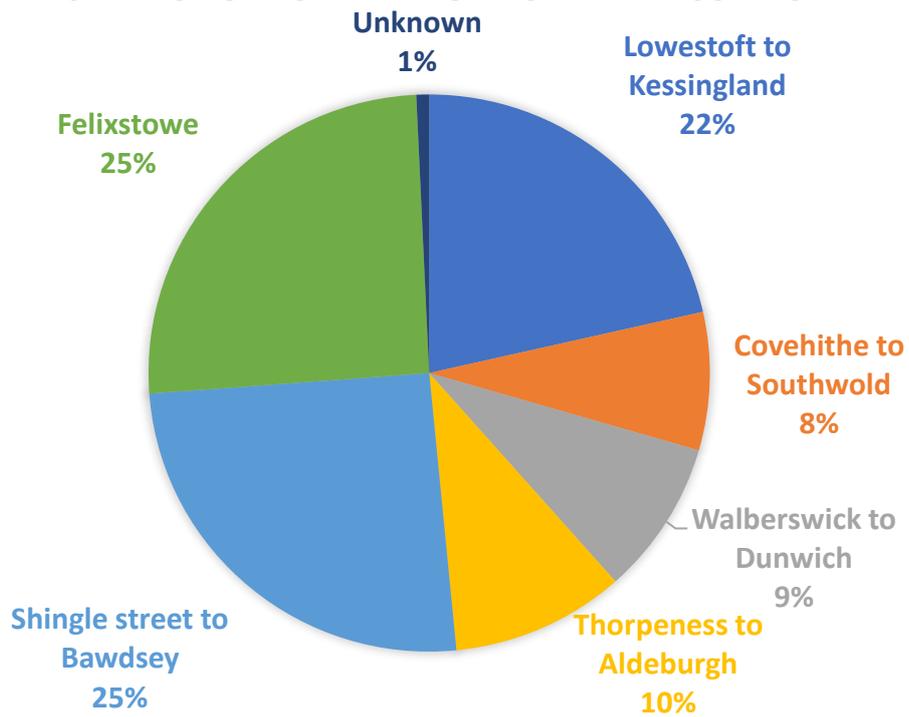
## Analysis by area

It is recognised that there are a great many individuals in each area who work very hard to organise and take part in litter audits and picks. There are also many more individuals who are trying their best to reduce the amount of waste they produce (particularly plastic) and actively show others how they can do the same. The following analysis is not a reflection of their efforts, nor a reflection of the efforts of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Norse who work on behalf of the District Councils to keep streets and beaches clear. It is instead a wakeup call for all. No one should have to pick up litter or handle waste – none of us should be creating it in the first place.

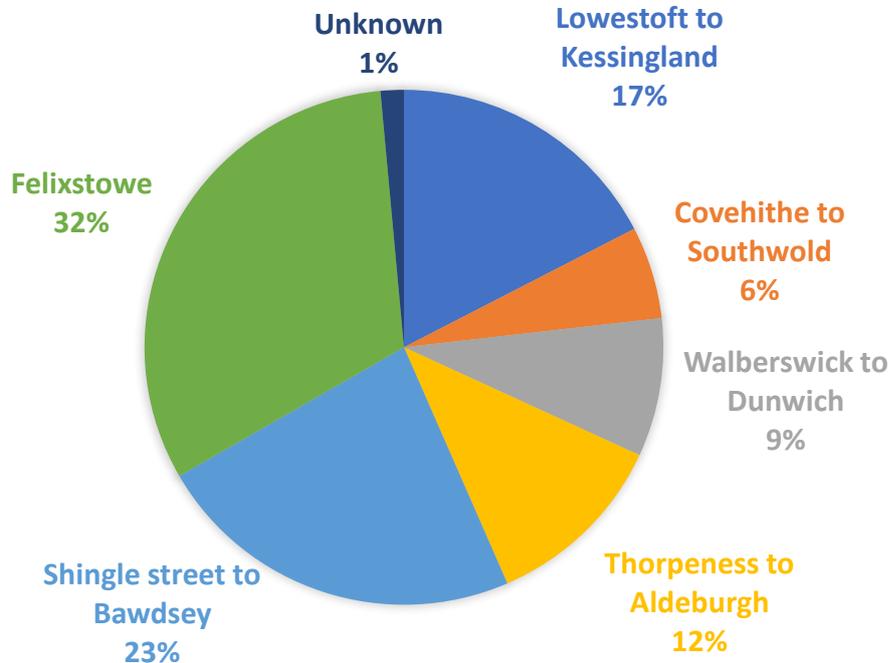
The area with the highest number of individual items found was Felixstowe (2687 out of 8039), in terms of weight of waste, Felixstowe beach tied with the Shingle Street and Bawdsey. However, the Lowestoft to Kessingland route was not far behind. Visually, Felixstowe had the only beach rated as a D using the Governments Cleanliness scale. This score is the lowest that an area can receive.



PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WEIGHT OF LITTER COLLECTED



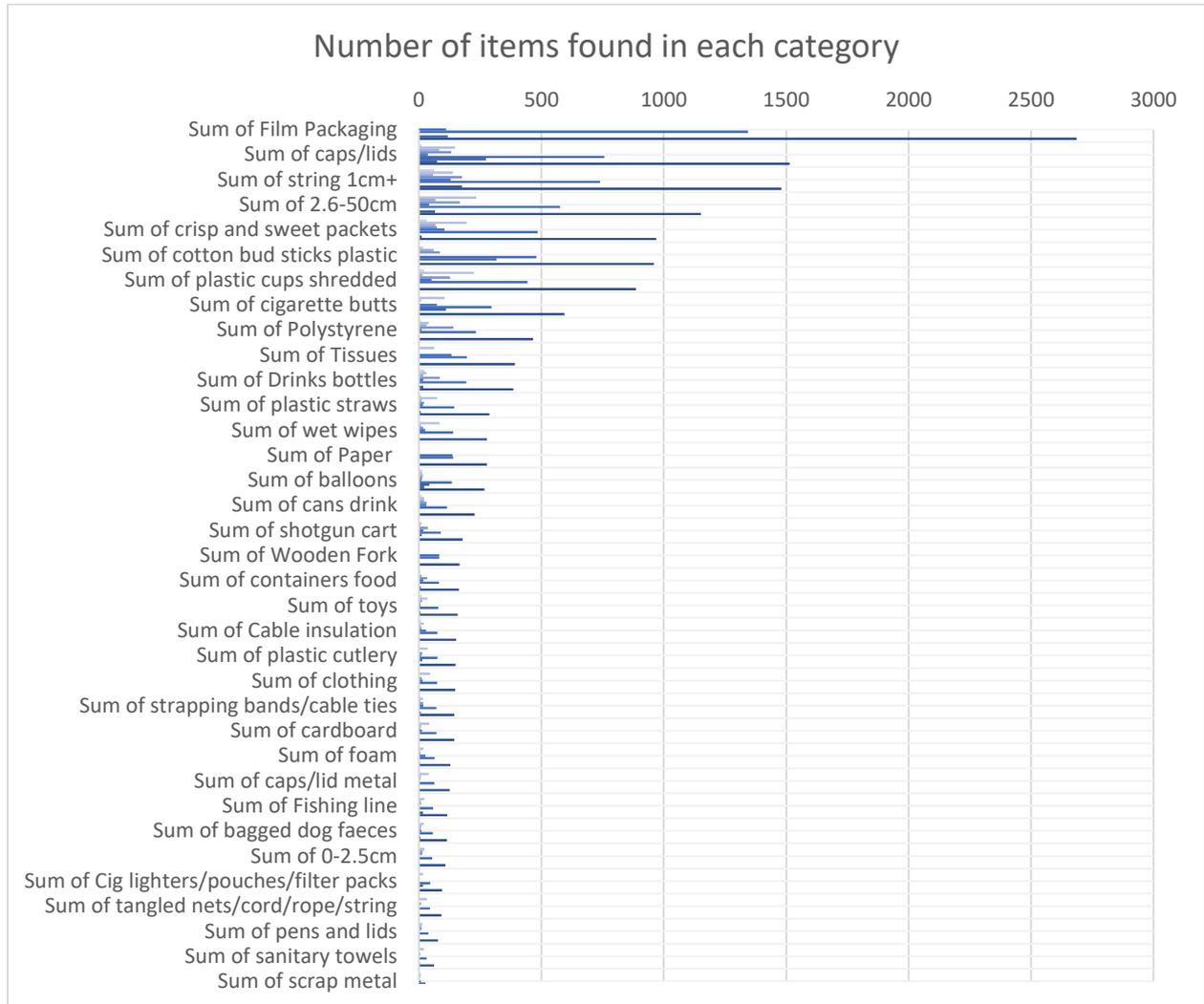
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL NUMBER OF BAGS COLLECTED



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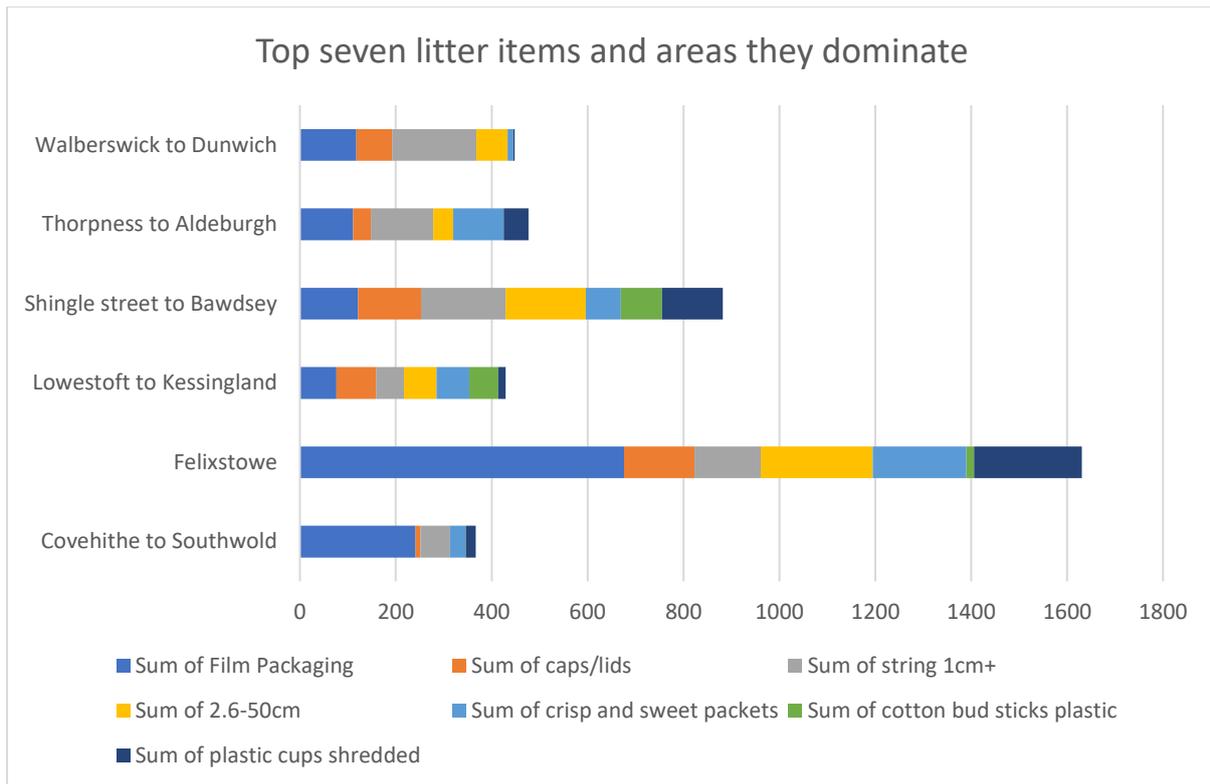
## Items that are the biggest problem based on numbers found

Different types of litter will have different environmental and social impacts, it is beyond the scope of this report to explore these. What is clear is that based on this snapshot plastic films, caps and lids, string/rope, bits of plastic between 2.6cm and 50cm, crisp and sweet wrappers, cotton bud sticks, plastic cups and cigarette butts are all key areas to address. Due to the environmental harm they can cause the presence of balloons and wet wipes is also of concern.

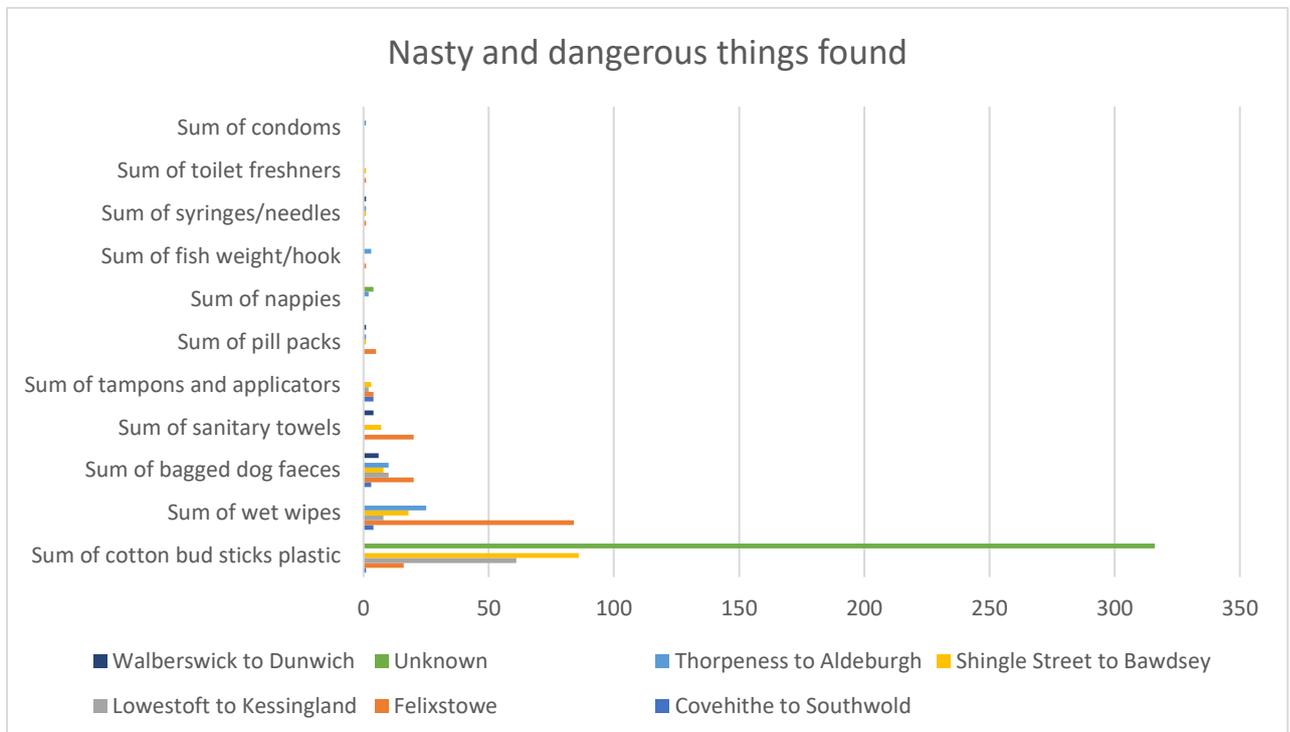


Taking the seven most common items found and comparing them in each area shows Bawdsey, Felixstowe, and Lowestoft had all seven most common items appearing on their beaches. Aldeburgh has six of the seven items, and the Walberswick to Dunwich and Covehithe to Southwold stretches only had five.

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1490 items of objectionable/hazardous waste were found, with cotton buds and wet wipes being the most prevalent. Wet wipes appear to be a challenge for Felixstowe to overcome and cotton buds will be an issue for Lowestoft and Bawdsey.



## Recommendations for decision makers and community group leaders

- 1) Use the data to inform practical action – seek ways to reduce production, sale and use of items commonly found on beaches. Particularly the following:
  - Balloons
  - Caps and lids
  - Cigarette butts
  - Cotton bud sticks
  - Cotton buds
  - Crisp and sweet wrappers,
  - Plastic cups
  - Plastic films
  - String/rope
  - Wipes
  
- 2) Support and generate activity in those areas where this count has shown there to be particular issues such as:
  - Felixstowe
  - Bawdsey



Items rescued for reuse