

Marine LitterWatch Survey FAQs

Do I need a smart phone or tablet to do the survey?

Yes, the Marine LitterWatch is an application designed specifically for either iOS or Android mobile devices.

What's a Survey Coordinator?

A Survey Coordinator is a volunteer that is willing to set up and carry out a survey. This can be as an individual survey or they can coordinate a number of survey volunteers. A Survey Coordinator must set up the event on the Marine LitterWatch app, designate the survey area and access the event code. This event code must be shared with Survey Volunteers if there are any.

What's a Survey Volunteer?

A Survey Volunteer will carry out a survey on the beach after downloading the Marine LitterWatch app, and will upload their survey data with the event code (the event code will be provided by the Survey Coordinator). The Survey Volunteer will be told what part of the beach to survey by the Survey Coordinator.

Can I use the Marine LitterWatch app if I don't get an Internet connection on the beach?

Yes. The Marine LitterWatch app can be used to survey marine litter without Internet connection. Internet connection is required to upload the survey data and this can be done when you are back home or in an area with strong mobile internet connection.



How do I upload my survey data to the Surfers Against Sewage community in the Marine LitterWatch?

This is answered in the guidance above.

Can I access and share my survey data too?

Yes. You can access your beach clean data on the Marine LitterWatch app and share with anyone you wish to.

Do I have to do a beach clean when I do a survey?

No, you can carry out surveys without organising or participating in a beach clean. But we would always ask volunteers to pick up the largest items if it's safe to do so and combine a survey with a beach clean event whenever possible. If there is more than one surveyor it's strongly recommended to pick up the litter to ensure it's not included twice in the surveys.

How do I organise my own beach clean event?

There's another handy SAS how to organise your own beach clean guide here: <http://www.sas.org.uk/campaign/beach-cleans/>

How often do I need to survey the beach(es)?

The more survey data we have the better. We won't limit the number of surveys we receive, but we would ask that they are all carried out with due care and attention. Quality is better than quantity here.

Can I survey more than one beach?

Yes, we need as much data as possible. As above, our only stipulation is the quality of the data needs to be as high as possible.



Do I need to survey a beach that is cleaned by the council?

Yes. We need to understand what litter is present at beaches with active cleaning programmes in place, as well as beaches without local authority beach clean support. This can reinforce successful cleaning programmes and identify programmes that aren't adequately addressing the litter problem.

What parts of the beach do I need to monitor?

The survey area should be representative of the spread of marine litter across the beach. Quality is better than quantity and we would rather 50m of beach is surveyed in detail rather than 100m of beach partially surveyed. It's vital that an accurate recording of the survey area is recording on the Marine LitterWatch app. The Marine LitterWatch app features an easy to use map that captures the surveyed area.

I don't live near a beach can I still do a litter survey?

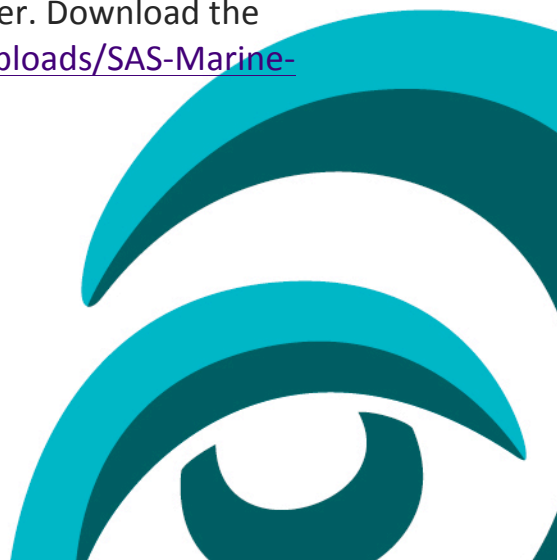
If you can get to a beach you can survey the beach.

What actions are SAS taking to reduce marine litter?

SAS has an array of successful anti-marine litter campaigns, find out more about them and get involved at <http://www.sas.org.uk/campaigns/marine-litter/>

Where can I learn more about the impacts of marine litter?

SAS's new Marine Litter Report details the latest science on the issues and impacts of marine litter and features a range of cross sector solutions that can be implemented to reduce levels of marine litter. Download the report here: <http://www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SAS-Marine-Litter-Report-Med.pdf>





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Can my school fill in a survey?

Yes! And please contact beachcleans@sas.org.uk if you would like a free Seas For Life education pack.

Should I do the SAS Marine LitterWatch survey or the MCS Beach Watch survey?

Ideally you should do both, the more data we have the better equipped we are to call for the appropriate improvements. However, we know your time is limited and if you can only do one survey, do the one you want to.

Why are SAS starting a litter monitoring programme when the MCS has been running Beach Watch for approximately 20 years?

We are big fans of the Beach Watch programme and have taken part in the programme for a number of years. However, the UK Government has recently referenced the lack of robust data on the spread of marine litter across our marine environment as an excuse for inaction. We have a huge network of beach clean community volunteers with the potential to help fill this data gap. We are working with the European Environment Agency to improve the dataset that feeds into the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. There's no such thing as too much information!

Can I do a river bank clean and include the data?

The Marine LitterWatch app doesn't currently accommodate riverbank surveys. We will be raising this issue with the European Environment Agency with a view to collecting this data in further version of the app.

