

Clyde Nurdle Quest – Call for Volunteers!

What is a Nurdle?!



Nurdles are the raw ingredient for the majority of our plastic products. About the size of a lentil, they are easily lost through accidental spills during production, transport and plastics manufacture, and can end up down our drains, in our watercourses and sometimes find their way to the sea. Here they can be mistaken by prey by many marine animals and seabirds and enter the food chain, and can cause harm to marine ecosystems.

Countless pellets are found littering Scottish beaches. The Great Nurdle Hunt has used information from citizen scientists like you to build up a better picture of where nurdles are found in many parts of Scotland. This helps us build up evidence and highlight the scale of the problem to the plastics industry, to persuade them to stop spilling nurdles for good.

What is The Clyde Nurdle Quest?

By taking part in this unique survey, you will not only be helping us to gather evidence to show to industry, but will also contribute to unique scientific research into microplastic pollution in our seas.

The Clyde is a known hot-spot for nurdle pollution, and shocking numbers of pellets have been found littering its beaches, but we still don't have many finds reported in the area. The survey will pinpoint the worst polluted areas and highlight that there is a problem.

The Quest is also looking to gather the first data on short term changes in nurdle pollution. This gives us more of an idea of how nurdles are transported by waves and currents, and why they wash up where they do.



Nurdles at Irvine beach

What exactly will I be doing?

We would like volunteers to **adopt a beach** on which to conduct several surveys, most likely a beach you already visit regularly.

Suggested beaches on Arran are **Brodick** and **Lamlash** beaches, but others on the East coast of Arran could also be good locations.

Before you start, you will be expected to attend a free training event on **Friday 29th April**.

Starting in early May, you will conduct a nurdle hunt on your chosen beach **once a fortnight**, for 2 months (**4 surveys total**), walking along a 500 m stretch of beach and counting the number of nurdles you see. You can submit the results [online](#) onto The Great Nurdle Hunt website.



How much time do I need to commit?

Training: **0.5-1 day** (Friday 29th April, 2016)

Surveys: ~30min for surveying, every 2 weeks, starting on a specific date (tbc) for two months after this date = **total of ~2 hours on the beach**.

To book a place at the training day, or to find out more, please contact:
Jenny Stark, Marine Outreach Officer, Community of Arran Seabed Trust
jstark@arrancoast.com
01770 600 656

