

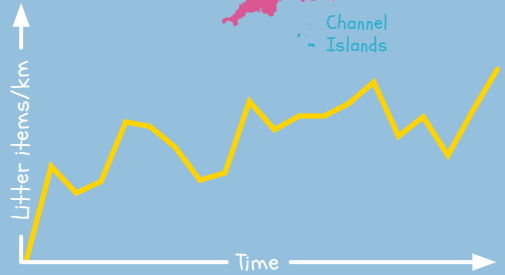
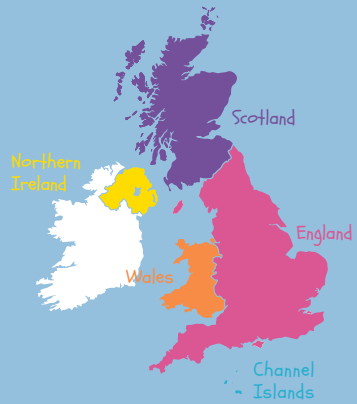
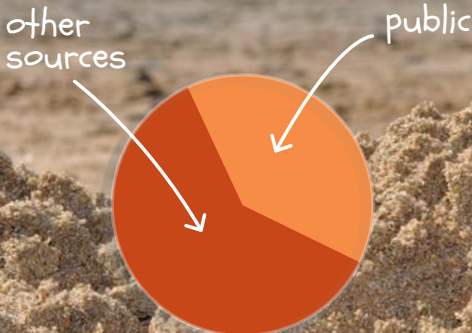
Marine litter in the UK

The amount of litter on UK beaches has been increasing for 20 years.

Most litter is made of plastic. Once it's in the environment, plastic never really goes away, it just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Even these tiny pieces of plastic can be harmful to marine animals that mistake them for food.

Where does it come from?

The most common source of beach litter is the public, people like you and me. Litter is either dropped on purpose or left accidentally. It can be carried to the beach from any part of the country by the wind, drains and rivers.



How do we know this?

Every September, the Marine Conservation Society organises the Beachwatch Big Weekend. Thousands of volunteers help us clean up hundreds of beaches around the country and do a survey to find out what types of litter are on our beaches.

