



BAG THE BRUCK (BtB) 1-30 April 2026



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you are able to take all the bags away with you and dispose of them either at the Household Waste disposal points or in your own domestic bins – that is the preference and would be very much appreciated.

All plastic and all non- biodegradable rubbish (Mainland and Shapinsay): Please do take home any clean and empty plastic bottles or cans that are suitable for recycling and place them in your recycle bins, to help us ensure they will get recycled. Creels can be left at Stromness Garson Household Waste Facility where they will be picked up by Orkney ZeroWaste, if reusable.

Large fishing related litter: This will be collected by Cooke Scotland and Scottish Sea Farms during April if the location (what3words) and photo is provided on the BtB Collection Form and the items are safely placed in an accessible OIC car-park or next to a main road. OIC will manage the collections.

DON'T COLLECT:

Dangerous Items: Please do not attempt to pick up dangerous items such as canisters, syringes, hypodermic needles, cylinders, drums or any other containers that might contain or have contained chemicals. If you find any **vapes** please either leave them or take them separately to one of the vape retailers who provide separate disposal facilities.

Large Items: Do not attempt to remove bulky items such as cars and fridges but make a note of their locations on the details form and we shall report it to Orkney Islands Council.

Natural Materials: Please don't bag wood, driftwood or seaweed, these are natural materials and are often collected by beachcombers.

Birds: Please do not collect dead birds from the beaches (exception is fulmars – see below) and be careful to avoid disturbing nesting birds. The clean-up dates were chosen to avoid the nesting season but there may be a few early starters! If you have any concerns please send an email to bagthebruck@gmail.com

BtB is keen to help OIC with a microplastics survey project this year, so please see the 'Fulmar' sheet. If you do find dead fulmars they can be double bagged and taken to the Orkney Marine Services building at Scapa or alternatively the location can be reported to the [Marine Environmental Unit](#) at OIC.

Injured Animals: If you find any sick or injured animals or birds please contact the SSPCA on 03000 999999.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Community Council Sponsorship Possibilities: You may wish to approach your local Community Council as they are able to offer local charities and youth groups some sponsorship for BagtheBruck. You will have to apply to the Community Council of the area where the clean will take place prior to your event. They generally prefer a rough estimate of how many bags you might collect before the event, along with the

application. The Community Council details can be found on the OIC Website at [Clerks to Community Councils](#).

Black and Small Turquoise Collection Bags: This year we are using black bags and small turquoise bags for schools etc. Please DO NOT use any other colour of bags as these will not be picked up. Once each bag is full please tie or secure it closed.

Gloves and Outdoor Wear: Gloves should be worn at all times during the clean-up. We can supply smaller sized gloves for children if notified through the form. Everyone should wear strong footwear. Conditions may also necessitate warm clothing, waterproofs, high-visibility clothing etc.

First Aid: It is a good idea to take along a first aid kit, and that at least one person in the group has first aid training.

Children: Children must be accompanied and supervised by appointed responsible adults. Guidance from MCS specifies the minimum adult/pupil ratios are as follows: Under 7s, 1/6; 7-11 years, 1/10; 12-16 years, 1/15). Please ensure that parents' permission is obtained for all children taking part. If working near water, supervisors and children should be able to swim. Before the Clean-up, please ensure all children are aware of and understand the items they should pick up and the items they should avoid.

Weather: If the weather becomes too bad, please consider delaying the clean-up. Whilst Bag the Bruck was originally undertaken over one weekend, in recent years it has been extended to cover all of April.

Roadsides/Verges: If you decide to do a clean-up in these areas, then high visibility clothing is essential and road cones/signs are advisable. Please take extra care near traffic.

Tide Times: Please be aware of high tide times. Up-to-date information for your area can be obtained online at: <https://www.tideschart.com/United-Kingdom/Scotland/Orkney-Islands/Orkney/>

Collection points for clean-up packs: Customer Services at the OIC Office in School Place, Kirkwall, Dounby Post Office and the Warehouse Buildings in Stromness have all kindly agreed to act as collection points for the pre-ordered clean-up packs of bags and gloves (for children). The items for schools will be taken to the schools if the Booking Form is received before the 20th March 2026.

Non-linked Orkney Isles: The specific instructions for pick-up points for each individual island will be agreed with the relevant island BtB teams or if appropriate the island BtB coordinator. To find out your local coordinator then please email bagthebruck@gmail.com.

AFTER THE CLEAN-UP

Please try to ensure that as many of the bags are taken away by the volunteers for disposal in their household waste.

Any bags that are left should be well tied up and placed at a collection point which is accessible for collection by Council vehicles. Pick up points **must be** on an OIC adopted road or car park. Please ensure that all metal or plastic items that are too large to fit easily in a bag are bundled together and placed in a separate pile next to the bags. Any large items relating to fishing which cannot fit in a black bag can be piled up, the what3word address recorded and a photo taken and recorded on the Collection Form.

Keep count of all the bags you collect and confirm the collection point by completing the BtB Collection Form. This will help the bags and other items being collected as quickly as possible.

Bruck collected will be taken to Chinglebraes Waste Transfer Station by the Council's waste team for disposal in Shetland. However, should you wish to recycle items collected on the day, e.g., clean and empty plastic bottles, aluminium cans, you are welcome to take them to a bottle bank, recycling centre or add them to your home recyclables.

Bruck collections may also be taken to Hatston, Bossack or Garson Household Waste and Recycling Centres. Creels collected can be left at the OIC Garson Household Waste Disposal Site.

Please remember that bruck will not disappear by magic and you must use the Collection Form to notify BtB. This takes time and it is important that waste left out is secured so that it does not become litter again.

Should you require any further information, please contact us at bagthebruck@gmail.com. Greener Orkney wishes you every success with your clean-up. Thank you again for your hard work and support!

Our very best wishes,

Greener Orkney

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