



Summary of Bag the Bruck 2026

Once again there has been a tremendous response from the population of Orkney to the call to carry out the islands-wide spring clean after the winter storms. The weather at the start of April was poor but as the sun came out, we had some great days for the various beach cleans and tidy ups around our schools and verges.



This year there were more than 64 different events recorded and more than 1550 black bags of rubbish picked up. Many schools were involved including Glaitness School which had over 170 pupils and staff picking up bruck and Papdale which had around 400 children involved. In total 395 adults recording helping out and over 872 children. Other primary and nursery schools which reported back were Eday, Evie, Firth, Orphir, Rousay and Sanday. Many youth and community organisations undertook beach cleans and roadside litter events including the 1st Rousay Rainbows & Brownies. The charity “In the Same Boat”, who also spoke to over 850 bairns at the Orkney schools and assisting with the cleans.

Caption : Stenness School Nursery group



The image here is from one of the Sanday cleans. Out of the Northern Orkney Isles, Sanday excelled with 13 groups and 81 beach clean participants collecting 587 black bags and some other items. The residents of Papa Westray also did a sterling job with 20 beach clean participants and 250 bags collected. Westray had 75 beach clean participants and collected around 300 bags.

From the photos and verbal feedback we've seen that the northern Orkney Isles are still being affected by fishing related items coming from the waters around our shores. An example of this was the pile of 150 creels which had accumulated on the shore at Evie. These creels were removed as part of a clean organised by the U-Arctic conference



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which took place in April involving assistance from In the Same Boat and Greener Orkney. This wouldn't have been possible without the assistance of the local farmer who generously allowed access across his land to remove the rubbish. An outstanding question is, why have so many creels been lost over the years at this location?



One of our sponsors this year SSEN also organised a shore clean at Breckness outside Stromness. This resulted in a large amount of scrap metal and bags being removed from a difficult to reach beach. Many other community groups in Orkney also helped with the cleans including Species on the Edge and the Orkney Field Club, a regular contributor to the annual event.



The image here is from Sandwich Beach, passing Weems Castle on South Ronaldsay. Many of the volunteers who take part in the annual Bag the Bruck quietly clean the shores and islands removing significant amounts of bruck in a helpful manner. There

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are too many to mention but it is these people that we thank the most. Finally a massive thanks to all those who took their bruck home or to the recycling centres. We greatly appreciate your help.

Key Sponsors of Bag the Bruck 2026 include:

