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Millions of French fries wash up on UK beach – 22nd January 2026

Level 0

Beach-goers saw a strange sight this week. A beach was covered in French fries. They fell off of ships because of bad weather. Bags of chips reached a beach in England. A local man said: "From a distance, it looked like the golden sand of a Caribbean beach." He said the chips were 75 cm deep in some places.

Volunteers are now cleaning the beach. The chips are a danger to the environment. Seals live near the beach. If the seals see the chips, they might try to eat them. A local official warned people to be careful. She said any food on the beach might be harmful. She asked people to report any food they see on the beach.

Level 1

Beach-goers saw a strange sight this week. A beach was covered in French fries. Thousands of bags of fries fell off of ships. Bad weather caused three containers from a ship to fall into the sea. One of the containers got to the beach. A local man found the fries. He said: "From a distance, it looked like the golden sand of a Caribbean beach." He said the chips and chip bags were 75 cm deep in some places.

Many volunteers are now cleaning the beach. The local man said the chips were a danger to the environment. He is worried about seals that live near the beach. He said: "If the seals see the bags, they will...try to eat them." A local official warned people to be careful. She said: "Food washing onto the beach may be harmful." She asked people to report any new food. Last month, thousands of bananas washed ashore near the same beach.

Level 2

Visitors to a beach saw a strange sight this week. The beach was covered in French fries ("chips" in British English). Thousands of bags of chips washed up on a beach in England. The bags were in containers that fell off ships. Bad weather caused three of the containers to fall into the sea. Tides carried one of the containers to the shore. A local man found the chips. He said: "From a distance, it looked like the golden sand of a Caribbean beach, but on closer inspection, we saw not just the chips, but chip bags." He said the chips were 75 cm deep in some places.

Many volunteers went to the beach to help clean it up. The local man said the chips were a danger to the environment. He said: "Removing the plastic bags is a priority." He is worried about seals that live near the beach. He said: "If the seals see the bags, they will...try to eat them." A local official warned people to be careful if they go to the beach. She said: "Some of the food items washing on to the shoreline may be harmful." She asked people to report any new food. The chip spill is the second such event recently. Last month, thousands of bananas washed ashore.

Level 3

Visitors to a UK beach saw an unusual sight earlier this week. The shoreline was covered in French fries ("chips" in British English). Thousands of bags of chips washed up on a beach in the county of Sussex. The bags were in shipping containers that fell off cargo ships in the English Channel. Bad weather caused three of the containers to fall into the sea. Currents and tides carried one of the containers and the chips to the shore. Joel Bonnici, a local man, was the first to find the chips. He said: "From a distance, it looked like the golden sand of a Caribbean beach, but on closer inspection, we saw not just the chips, but chip bags." He added: "In some areas, the chips were 75 cm deep."

Volunteers are helping to clean up the beach. Many people came to the beach to help the clean-up. Mr Bonnici said the chips were an environmental hazard. He said: "Removing the plastic bags is a priority." He is worried about a colony of seals that live near the beach. Bonnici said: "If the seals see the bags, they will play with them or try to eat them." A local official warned people to be careful if they go to the beach. She said: "Please keep dogs on leads as some of the food items washing on to the shoreline may be harmful to them." She asked people to "report any new debris". The chip spill is the second such event in Sussex recently. Last month, thousands of bananas washed ashore.