

# THE ST HELENA Est. 2005 INDEPENDENT

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**Yippee!!!!  
We are Getting  
Eggs Again**



## **Richard Branson- Our Next Investor?**

### **The Transatlantic Submarine Cable –**

***will St Helena become the eyes and ears for this side of the globe***

*The recently launched St Helena Earth Station website announced to the world the St Helena Government is calling for expressions of interest in the “unique opportunity to establish satellite earth stations on St Helena.” It is explained that in 2020 a transatlantic fibre-optic cable will be landed on the Island providing large capacity data transmission to South Africa, Brazil and the United States. The St Helena Government has started to plan the earth station project and is inviting interest from the satellite and space industry. One day after being launched the earth station website recorded more than 500 visitors. Many of those interested will just be curious about this new development but the immediate level of interest is a welcome indication that what is offered should get a good response from businesses and organisations involved with satellite and space craft.*



**ST HELENA**  
SOUTH ATLANTIC EARTH STATION PROJECT



# International Conference – into the second week

Vince Thompson



Ocean Conservancy and Georgia Aquarium combined to survey Sandy Bay Beach and Fizzle's Beach for plastic waste washed ashore. It's the first time this kind of survey has been done in St Helena. On Sandy Bay Beach the survey team found, at that time, a lot of micro plastic, worn down to small pieces after a long time in the ocean. After checking the amount of pieces in a small area the survey calculated there are and 5.5 million bits of small plastic on Sand Bay Beach. Also there are about 1,400 bottle caps. Al Dove of the Georgia Aquarium tweeted his survey result above.

The survey of nearby Fizzles Beach produced a different result. On Fizzles the washed up plastic rubbish was much larger, such as plastic bottles and pieces of foam. There were a few smaller bits of plastic, some of it showed evidence of brand names in Singapore and Taiwan but could have been thrown from ships.



Charles Clover of the Blue Marine Foundation described the

work 'Blue' is engaged in as well as the various parts of the Blue Belt campaign which is gathering strength and speed at the moment. The Blue Belt Charter promoted by the Great British Oceans Coalition put islands in the South Atlantic at the centre of their marine conservation effort. These are UK government commitments the Coalition are pressing them to take action on.

1. Establish a 500,000 km<sup>2</sup> fully protected Marine Protected Area around the South Sandwich Islands in 2018
2. Deliver on the commitment to establish a fully protected Marine Protected Area in at least 50% of Ascension Island's waters in 2019
3. Support the establishment of a locally-led marine protection regime throughout the waters of Tristan da Cunha by 2020
4. Strengthen the development of the locally-led marine protection regime throughout the waters of St Helena

A successful campaign by the coalition resulted in 265 MPs putting their names in support of the Blue Belt Charter. The Blue Marine Foundation is providing the funding for Beth Taylor to work with the St Helena National Trust on marine conservation issues.



Beth Taylor explaining what the Blue Marine Foundation, the Great British Oceans Coalition and the new Blue Belt marine conservation initiative can do for St Helena.



2018 Diverse Island Environments