

Media Release from Alderney Wildlife Trust

Date: 27th February 2025

Roy the Razorbill Rescued: Alderney Charities and Community Unite to Protect Wildlife.

A great example of community and charitable collaboration unfolded on Wednesday when an injured Razorbill was found on Longis Beach. The incident highlighted the importance of teamwork between local charities, the Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) and the Alderney Animal Welfare Society (AAWS), and the local community in safeguarding the island's unique wildlife.

The Razorbill, a close relative of the Puffin, is highly vulnerable when stranded on land. Recognising the urgency, a member of the public promptly reported the sighting to AWT's State of Nature Team. In response, AWT alerted AAWS, and within 30 minutes, veterinary nurse Kelly was on-site to rescue the distressed bird.

On examination, Kelly discovered that the Razorbill, now affectionately named Roy, had been fouled by a sticky, clear substance. Treatment began immediately as it is vital to prevent ingestion of toxins, requiring patience and meticulous care. Unfortunately, though early signs were positive, Roy's health declined, most likely to toxic shock from ingesting the substance as he preened, leading to his death this morning.

The incident has also triggered an environmental alert. Kelly's report of the fouling prompted AWT staff and volunteers to monitor local beaches closely for any further strandings. In addition, the community is being asked to remain vigilant in case the contaminant is part of a larger pollution event. In 2013 polyisobutylene's (PIBs), a form of synthetic rubber, was discharged into the English Channel killing thousands of seabirds. Whilst substance fouling Roy has not been identified, it is similar to PIB.

This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of community action in preserving Alderney's natural environment. It is this united commitment to wildlife that makes Alderney such a special haven for nature.

Ends

Notes to Media

The Alderney Wildlife Trust works to conserve and enhance the natural environment of Alderney, engaging the community in its efforts.

The Alderney Animal Welfare Society provides care and rescue services for animals in need across the island.

For further information, please contact:

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