

Litter Pick Risk Assessment

Location: _____ **Date:** _____ **Assessment carried out by** _____

Using the risk assessment

Anyone under the age of 18 taking part in a litter pick must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult. Please note whilst undertaking litter picks, you do so at your own risk. Always assess the situation to identify and control potential risks. Do not undertake any activity you believe to be unsafe. The Environment Agency does not provide any public liability insurance. Please make sure you or your organisation have appropriate insurance where necessary. Group leaders should complete a site-specific risk assessment prior to each litter pick event. The below risk assessment can be used as a guide.

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Hazard	Risk	Controls	Measures to reduce effect in the result of an accident	Risk level (Low, medium or high)
Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges	Cuts & infections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong gloves to be worn at all times. 2. Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp items, if safe to do so. 3. All participants should have up to date tetanus protection. 4. Make sure there is a first aid kit with the group. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek medical attention where appropriate. 2. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. 3. Cover any cuts or breaks in the skin 	
Needles	Cuts & infections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not touch and report to event organiser to make others aware 2. The organiser to report to council for removal. Use this webpage to report https://www.gov.uk/report-syringes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek immediate medical attention if contact with needle occurs. 	
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Pulled muscles & strains	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extreme care to be taken, use good lifting practices and share the load with an appropriate number of people. 2. If too heavy to handle leave the object in place and report it to the organiser to arrange removal by the council. 3. Report any fly-tipping or illegal waste dumping to your local council. Use this webpage to find out who to contact for your local area https://www.gov.uk/report-flytipping 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort. 2. Seek medical attention if the ill effects persist. 	

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		4. Only fill litter bag with as much litter as you can comfortably carry. Continually assess the weight of the bag to ensure it is manageable.		
Batteries, asbestos, ordnance & miscellaneous chemicals	Potentially dangerous depending on condition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste. Don't open sealed containers or bags. 2. Report to the council for disposal. Use this webpage to report https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident. 	1. Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other unknown or potentially hazardous chemicals – record any label details.	
Ground conditions	Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. 2. Instruct volunteers to wear suitable footwear. 3. Ensure there is a first aid kit with every group. 4. Make sure you know your accurate location and the most suitable road access points. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. 2. Seek medical attention for any serious cuts, bruises or strains. 	
Highways vehicles, bicycles, plant and machinery	Collision with moving traffic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid proximity to traffic if possible. 2. Stay off the highway. 3. Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery. 4. Wear high visibility clothing if necessary. 5. Do not work on the roadside if the speed limit is 30mph or over. 6. Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick. 7. Keep a look out. 8. Children should not work by a roadside. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek medical attention in the event of injury. 2. Make sure you know your accurate position at all times in case of emergency. 	

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Lone working	Being unable to get help if needed	1. Do not work out of sight of others in the group. Always work in at least pairs		
Other people	Physical or verbal assault	1. Make sure you have the necessary permission to carry out a litter pick at your chosen site, notify landowners where necessary. 2. Be aware of aggressive and difficult people. 3. Withdraw rather than face conflict. 4. Organiser/section leader to have mobile phone. 5. Keep together and stay off private property. 6. Children or any vulnerable people should never be left to work alone. Ensure that they stay with their parents/guardians/carers.	1. Seek medical attention following any assault / injury.	
Animals – Domestic, wild & farm	Bites/scratches injury from animals	1. Make sure you always have permission from landowners to be on the land. 2. Make sure all attendees are aware of any animals likely to be present on site and that you behave responsibly e.g. keeping gates shut. 2. Beware of loose dogs. 3. Avoid contact with animals. 4. Avoid contact with animal faeces.	1. Seek medical attention as soon as possible after being bitten or scratched. 2. Wash hands immediately after contact with faeces. 3. Avoid touching eyes or mouth.	
Biological Hazards	Ticks Flea bites	1. All Skin to be completely covered. 2. Make sure people are aware of the risks of Lymes disease from ticks and when to seek medical advice. See NHS link for	1. Seek medical attention if at all concerned.	

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		<p>advise https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/.</p> <p>3. All participants advised to check themselves for ticks after an event.</p>		
Waterside diseases	Weil's disease can be caught from contaminated soil or fresh water or direct from infectious animals	<p>1. Wear gloves.</p> <p>2. Do not touch dead animals.</p> <p>3. Cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick.</p> <p>4. Avoid getting hands wet in rivers, ponds or canals.</p> <p>5. Wash hands thoroughly after the event and before eating.</p> <p>6. Make sure all participants are aware of the risks. See NHS link for details https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/leptospirosis/.</p>	<p>1. Seek medical attention where appropriate.</p> <p>2. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.</p>	
Dog faeces	<i>Toxocara canis</i>	<p>1. Do not touch dog faeces.</p>	<p>1. Thoroughly wash your hands if you know you have touched dog faeces. Always wash your hands after a litter pick.</p> <p>2. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.</p> <p>3. Seek medical attention where appropriate.</p>	
Weather, e.g. Thunder storms	Various risks to health	<p>1. Cease work in inappropriate conditions.</p> <p>2. Dress for conditions & carry additional clothing.</p> <p>3. Where necessary use sun protection.</p>	<p>1. Seek medical attention where appropriate.</p>	

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		4. In the event of extreme weather conditions the litter pick should be postponed or abandoned.		
Cliffs and, steep slopes	Falls leading to sprains, muscle damage & broken bones	1. Avoid litter picking on or close to the edge of steep slopes, cliffs etc and below unstable riverbanks & slopes. 3. Take weather conditions and possible weather changes into account. 4. Seek medical treatment in the event of injury. 5. Always wear appropriate sturdy footwear.	1. Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Electric fences	Electrocution	1. Always assume electric fences are live. 2. Warn volunteers not to touch electric fences, make sure everyone is aware of where they are.	1. Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Water, marshes, bogs	Hypothermia, drowning	1. Avoid banks, especially if they appear unstable. 2. Always work in pairs if close to water. 3. Always stay at least two meters from any lake or river edge. 4. Shower and change into warm dry clothing if immersed. 5. Never allow children to work in these areas. 6. Adults should be cautious & non-swimmers must not litter pick near water.	1. Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Hedges, fences, walls, ditches	Falls leading to sprains, muscle damage & broken bones	1. Take care when climbing stiles particularly in wet weather. 2. Avoid climbing walls, ditches and fences. 3. Stay within the nominated location.	1. Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	

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Tools, equipment	Accidents leading to cuts, broken flesh, broken bones and other injuries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Team to be shown how to use all equipment 2. Have first aid kit available. 3. Volunteers must use only the equipment provided and as instructed. 	1. Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	
Trees, shrubs	Trips, cuts & eye pokes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards. 2. Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots. 	1. Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	
Bites, stings, Irritants, dangerous plants	Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wear the gloves provided. 2. Beware of dangerous plants and possible adverse reactions e.g. giant hogweed, stinging nettles, brambles 3. Wash hands thoroughly after the event. 	1. Seek medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation or irritants.	
Risks to wildlife and the Environment	Risk posed by volunteers to wildlife and the environment e.g. through disturbance or spreading invasive species or disease	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid areas where you risk disturbing nesting birds or other protected species e.g. water crowfoot, depressed river mussel, otters, native white-clawed crayfish, water voles, bats, badgers. 2. Clean all equipment after leaving each area to minimise risk of contamination. Be aware of common invasive species e.g. water primrose, floating pennywort, giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, parrot's feather. 		
Young and vulnerable people and safeguarding	Getting lost and being in danger and vulnerable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children must be with their responsible adult. 2. Vulnerable people must be with their responsible adult. 	1. Seek medical attention where appropriate.	

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		3. Organisations safeguarding procedures must be shared and followed if applicable.		
Dynamic risk assessment	Site specific risks proximity to shooting range or river in flood	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out and onsite evaluation to check for any hazards not dealt with, and any changes to conditions. . 2. Some sites may need to be avoided completely at certain times e.g. during shooting on a firing range. 	1. Seek medical attention in the event of injury.	
Coronavirus	Spread of coronavirus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow the latest government guidelines on coronavirus. 2. Follow your organisation's coronavirus policies. 	1. Follow the latest government's rules if you have coronavirus symptoms.	