

| Group/Organiser |  |  | **Prepared by** |  | **Date:** |  | |
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| Task / Process /Activity | Litter picking |  | **Approved by[[1]](#footnote-1):** |  | **Date:** |  | |
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|  |  |  |  | | | | |
| Location | Various |  | **Review date[[2]](#footnote-2):** |  | **Ref. No:** | |  |
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| [**Hazard**](https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/media/3115885/Litter-Picking-Risk-Assessment.pdf) | **Consequence** | **Persons Affected** | **Control Measures**  **(existing precautions)** | **Measures to mitigate potential effects** |
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| **Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges** | Cuts & infections | Litter pickers | * Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp litter. * All participants should have up to date tetanus protection. | Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. |
| **Needles** | Cuts & infections | Litter pickers | Leave alone & report to council for removal. | Seek immediate medical attention if accidentally pierced by a needle. |
| **Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish** | Pulled muscles & strains | Litter pickers | * Extreme care to be taken, use good lifting practices and share the load with an appropriate number of people. * If too heavy to handle leave the object in place and report it to the organiser to arrange removal by the council. | Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort.  Seek medical attention if the ill effects persist. |
| **Lack of information and awareness** |  |  | All volunteers should be given a briefing Safety Talk, covering the risks and general information about correct use of the equipment, the site etc |  |
| **Batteries, asbestos & miscellaneous chemicals** | Potentially dangerous depending on condition | Litter pickers | * Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste. * Report to the council for disposal. | Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record any label details. |
| **Ground conditions** | Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones. | Litter pickers | * Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. * Instruct volunteers to wear suitable footwear. | Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention for any serious cuts, bruises or strains. |
| **Roads or paths. Vehicles, bicycles, plant and machinery** | Collision with moving traffic. | Litter pickers | Avoid close proximity to traffic if possible.  Stay off all roads.  Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery.  Wear high visibility clothing if necessary. Do not work on the roadside if the speed limit is 40mph or over.  Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick.  Keep a look out.  Children should not work by a road-side | Seek medical attention in the event of injury. |
| **Lone working** | Physical or verbal assault | Litter pickers | Be aware of aggressive and difficult people.  Withdraw rather than face conflict. Do not work out of sight of others in the group. Children to remain under supervision and in sight of a responsible adult at all times  Organiser/section leader to have mobile phone.  Keep together and stay off private property. | Seek medical attention following any assault/injury. |
| **Animals – Domestic, wild & farm** | Various diseases, bites, scratches, goring, etc | Litter pickers | Wear appropriate clothing.  Beware of stray/unleashed dogs.  Avoid areas if any evidence of aggressive dogs  Avoid contact with animals.  Avoid contact with animal faeces. | Seek medical attention as soon as possible after being bitten or scratched. Wash hands immediately after contact with faeces. Avoid touching eyes or mouth. |
| **Waterside diseases** | Leptospirosis from rat’s urine | Litter pickers | Do not touch dead animals.  Cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick.  Avoid getting hands wet in rivers, burns, lochs, etc. | Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor |
| **Dog faeces** | Variety of potential infections | Litter pickers | Do not touch dog faeces with bare hands.  Always wear gloves and use a shovel when removing dog faeces. | Thoroughly wash your hands.  Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention where appropriate. |
| **Weather extremes** | Various health issues e.g. hypothermia or hyperthermia | Litter pickers | Cease work in inappropriate conditions. Avoid working in extreme conditions. Dress for conditions & carry additional clothing. Apply sunblock before beginning the activity and re-apply as required.  In the event of extreme weather conditions the litter pick should be postponed or abandoned. | Seek medical attention where appropriate. |
| **Cliffs, steep slopes, unstable ground** | Falls leading to sprains, muscle damage & broken bones. | Litter pickers | Instruct volunteers to stay away from these areas.  Avoid picking on or close to the edge of cliffs, steep slopes etc and below unstable cliffs & slopes. Take weather conditions and possible weather changes into account.  Take account of tides. | Seek medical attention where appropriate. |
| **Electrified fences** | Electric shock | Litter pickers | Always assume electric fences are live.  Warn volunteers not to touch electric fences | Seek medical attention where appropriate. |
| **Standing and/or running water e.g. marshes, bogs, burns, reservoirs, sea, rivers, etc** | Hypothermia, drowning. | Litter pickers | Avoid banks, especially if they appear unstable. Always work in pairs if close to water.  Shower and change into warm dry clothing if immersed.  Never allow children to work in these areas. Adults should be cautious & non-swimmer must not litter pick near water | Seek medical attention where appropriate. |
| **Hedges, fences, walls, ditches** | Slips, trips, falls leading to minor or more serious injury | Litter pickers | Take care when climbing stiles particularly in wet weather.  Avoid climbing walls, ditches and fences.  Stay within the nominated location. |  |
| **Tools, equipment** | ?? depends on what they’re using | Litter pickers | Stay within the nominated location.  Use tools as instructed.  Be aware of ‘horseplay’ among children. | Obtain medical attention in the event of injury. |
| **Trees, shrubs** | Trips, cuts & eye pokes | Litter pickers | * Team to be shown how to use equipment if appropriate. * Allow sufficient working area for the correct and safe use of the tool. * Use appropriate protection as appropriate (e.g. visor, sturdy gloves, etc) * Have a First aider and a first aid kit available, if possible * Volunteers must use the equipment provided and as instructed. | Obtain medical attention in the event of injury. |
| **Irritants, dangerous plants** | Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions | Litter pickers | * Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards. * Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots. * Wear the gloves provided. * Beware of dangerous plants and possible adverse reactions. * Wash thoroughly on completion of such operations. * Instruct all litter pickers, particularly children or anyone with additional support needs not to eat any plants paying particular attention to brightly coloured berries, fungi, etc. | Seek medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation. |

(Expand table to give additional rows as required)

| **(STRIKE- THROUGH AS REQUIRED):**  The responsible organiser for this assessment (identified on page 1) considers that:   1. All risks have been addressed and reduced to levels which are as low as reasonably practicable **OR** 2. Further Action is required as detailed below. | | |
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| **Further Action Required / Review Comments** | **Action by**  **(whom)** | **Action by (date)** |
| Ensure all volunteers:  • Have the appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) – e.g. Thick gloves, hi-viz vest, sensible footwear, weather appropriate clothing etc.  • Have the correct equipment – e.g. Litter grabbers, plastic bags, dog waste bags, brush, shovel etc and know how to use the equipment.  • Consider all the hazards and risks from those hazards, in the work area, e.g. hazardous waste, broken glass, dog waste, vomit, needles, condoms and roads/cycle ways, thorny bushes, low branches, uneven ground, hidden bankings, holes, rodents, etc.  Know  • the work area and how to report incidents or hazardous or unidentified waste  • where to access first aid  • where to rendezvous on task completion  • where to deposit bags of waste and how to mark bags containing sharp material e.g. broken glass.  • Ensure no lone working in remote areas with no mobile phone signal and assess the nearest area that has a mobile phone signal when in these areas  • Ensure litter pickers have alcohol wipes and/or alcohol rub and that they clean mobile phones  • Ensure how to remove gloves safely, without contaminating their hands is demonstrated (see attachment)  • Ensure litter pickers don’t pick up bags that may have been dumped, as they will have no idea what they may contain |  |  |
| **Add any relevant contact number(s) here** |  |  |
| If you come across a discarded needles or hazardous waste, please contact Environment (special uplifts) on 03451 55 00 22 |  |  |
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1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)