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| **RISK ASSESSMENT – Litter Pick** |
| **Assessors Names:**  | **Assessment Date:**  | **Review Date:**  |
| **Area:** **Date of event**: **Meeting point**:  | **Identify People at Risk**: Participants and members of the general public |

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| **What are the hazards?** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **What are you already doing?** | **What further action is necessary?** | **Action by whom?****(Full Name)** | **Action by when?** | **Done (Must be YES and include date)** |
| COVID-!9 | Participants and members of the general public | * Sanitise litter pickers before and after the event
* Clear advice to participants to not share pickers outside household groups.
* All participants to keep at least 2m from other people including participants outside of a family group and members of the public.
* Sanitiser and gloves to be offered
 | None | Event organiser | On the day |  |
| Lack of information and awareness | Volunteers not knowing safety procedures or who first aiders are | * Prior to the litter-pick taking place, all volunteers should be given a briefing and Safety Talk, covering the any risks and general information particularly covering being careful near roads, social distancing and not touching other people’s litter pickers. These will be printed and copies available.
 | None | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |
| Safeguarding children  | Children and vulnerable adults  | * All children up to the age of 18 and any vulnerable adults to be accompanied by responsible adult (parent, carer or teacher) in approved ratios
* No child to be out of sight of a responsible adult
* All hosts on site to maintain vigilance where members of the public not participating in the event are using the same public space
* In the event of an incident, immediately inform the local Police and any other relevant agencies
* No children invited to participate
 | Check for unaccompanied children and confirm supervision ratios are satisfactory.We use the NSPCC ratios as a guide:* 0 - 2 years - **1 adult to 3 children**.
* 2 - 3 years - **1 adult to 4 children**.
* 4 - 8 years - **1 adult to 6 children**.
* 9 - 12 years - **1 adult to 8 children**.
* 13 - 18 years - **1 adult** **to 10 children.**
 | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |
| Aggression/ abuse from members of the public | Risk of conflict with member of the public | * We do not recommend that you approach members of the public to challenge inappropriate behaviour such as dog fouling or littering. Ignore this behaviour and report it if necessary either to your local authority or police if a confrontation occurs.
* Do not trespass onto private property whilst litter picking.
 | Report any incidents to the police. For an immediate threat or emergency use 999. For a non emergency please use 101 to report the incident.  | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |
| Extreme Weather | Volunteers risk sunstroke, sunburn, dehydration and heat exhaustion due to **hot weather** | * A first aid kit will be available at the base by with the organiser
* Volunteers advised to dress appropriately for weather conditions.
* Advise volunteers to take regular breaks and seek shade if necessary.
* Volunteers advised to wear sun hats and sun cream, re-apply as needed.
* Volunteers to have access to water and advised to drink plenty.
 | If under 18’s are present parent or guardian should supervise closely.Organiser to shorten event duration due to conditions.Organiser to cancel event if weather is extreme. | Event organiser | On the day |  |
|  | Volunteers risk discomfort from cold weather, wind and rain. | * A First Aid kit will be available at the base
* Volunteers instructed to wear warm and waterproof clothing, thick socks and sturdy boots
* Volunteers instructed to avoid areas where debris could come loose, i.e. trees, poorly maintained structures in high winds
* If lightning occurs, workers and volunteers are instructed to cease using litter pickers and stop the event
* Volunteers instructed to warm up and stretch prior to event during cold weather and to pay particular attention not to overexert themselves in order to avoid back injury.
 | If under 18’s are present, parent or guardian should supervise closely.Organiser to shorten event duration due to conditions.Organiser to cancel event if weather is extreme. | Event organiser | On the day |  |
| Vehicles on roads and in car parks | Volunteers risk injury through contact with moving vehicles | * Prior to event, the organiser to advise volunteers on areas where vehicles maybe present.
* Briefing to include warning on roads, speed limits and any known hazards Briefing to include warning to always focus when crossing streets and be aware of surroundings at all times
* Be aware of any vehicle, potentially trying to park, maintain vigilance, give warning to others of approaching vehicles
* Volunteers advised that they must not work on roads or on roadside verges.
* Absolutely no litter-picks to take place near railway lines or on bridges
 | Check for any unusual hazards on the day itself  | Event organiser | On the day |  |
| Collection of litter – manual handling | Workers and volunteers risk injuries or back pain from handling heavy loads  | * Volunteers instructed not to over-fill bags or try to carry heavy items.
* Volunteers advised to be aware of their own limitations by the event organiser during the briefing and not lift heavy items found during the clean up
* Volunteers with pre-existing injuries are not to lift bags or heavy items
* No more than one bag at a time to be carried
* Under 18’s are always supervised by a parent or guardian (none invited to participate)
* Only organisers / volunteers trained in safe manual handling procedures offer guidance for safe lifting practices and reducing/removing common hazards and risks (reducing load weight, postural advice when lifting, handling asymmetrical loads, grip, other environmental factors, carry distance, obstacles en-route).
* Volunteers advised on safe manual handling practices.
* If too heavy to handle, leave the object in place and report it to the organiser to arrange removal by the council.
 | Organiser to ensure this is covered in the safety briefing delivered ahead of the clean up starting.  | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |
| Collection of litter – toxic materials / hazardous chemicals | Volunteers risk coming into contact with toxic or hazardous material. | * Volunteers instructed to never to approach suspicious looking containers with or without hazard warning badges.
* Any suspicious drums, materials or containers with contents not identifiable to be left untouched and Environment Agency Pollution Hotline to be contacted (Tel 0800 7312453)
 | Organiser to conductsite survey at beginning of clean up and contact the Environment Agency Pollution Hotline (Tel 0800 7312453) if suspicious or possibly hazardous barrels, containers or materials are found. | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |
| Collection of litter – fly-tipped asbestos | Illness from contact with asbestos | * If there is an accumulation of waste which has obviously been fly-tipped deliberately on site, then this should be left alone and the relevant local authority with responsibility for fly- tipping clearance informed.
* It is possible that asbestos could be found amongst smaller accumulations of litter that may not appear to be fly tipping. A simple asbestos ID chart can be found on the HSE website here: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm>
 | Undertake an on-site review of the area, identify any hazards and brief volunteers before event begins.Do not litter-pick fly-tipped rubbish. | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |
| Collection of litter – sharps, syringes and medical waste | Volunteers risk injury from sharp items, infection  | * Site survey prior to event to check for any evidence of syringes.
* Volunteers finding syringes should not touch them, but immediately notify the event organiser. All work must then cease in this particular area
* Any accidental piercing by syringe should be immediately treated at medical practice or A&E
* All volunteers to use litter pickers and gloves.
* Volunteers instructed never to put sharp objects in bags.
* Broken glass to be collected in glass bucket and disposed of safely at end of the event.
* Volunteers advised not to handle sharps, i.e. needles, syringes, unless trained to do so.
* Volunteers advised to alert organiser if sharps are found and if able, they will arrange proper disposal using sharps kit / by the council.
 | Organiser to ensure this is covered in the safety briefing delivered ahead of the clean up starting. Organisers to check that litter picking tools are in good, clean condition.Remain vigilant at all time during the clean up and end the clean up immediately if syringes are found. | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |
| Accidents and emergencies | Workers risk injury during event | * A First Aid kit will be available at the base
* Event organiser to have mobile phone in case of emergency.
* In the event of an emergency, event organiser to call 999
* Before each litter pick takes place, organiser updates and keeps a copy of details of local walk in centres and accident & emergency departments – for minor injuries.
* Organiser to replace used first aid items immediately after event, check kit before every event and undertake formal inventory on a quarterly basis
 |  | Event organiser | On the day |  |
| Slips, Trips and falls | Volunteers risk slips, trips and falls | * Volunteers advised to wear supportive, slip resistant footwear and no flip flops.
* Take care when negotiating steps
* Volunteers advised to take extra care on overgrown areas, rocky areas, wet/muddy areas or sand dunes.
* Volunteers instructed to take extra care when carrying heavy bags.
* Volunteers advised of any hazardous areas and informed that these are to be avoided.
* If in doubt, don’t carry on if an area looks slippery or dangerous
 | Event organiser to remind volunteers to take care when pavements are slippery from rain, leaves, ice, snow etcEvent organiser to check clothing and footwearEvent organiser to cancel event if weather is sufficiently extreme. | Event organiser | On the day |  |
| Trees, shrubs | Trips, cuts & eye pokes | * First Aid kit with organiser
* Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots.
 | Obtain medical attention in the event of injury. |  | On the day |  |
| Proximity to water, contact with water  | Volunteers risk injury or drowning | * Volunteers advised to stay away from water’s edge
 | Organiser to ensure this is covered in the safety briefing delivered ahead of the clean up starting.  | Event organiser | On the day |  |
| Irritant and dangerous plants | Workers and volunteers risk injury from irritant and dangerous plants, e.g. Giant Hogweed | * Access to First Aid kit
* Volunteers advised not to touch any potentially irritant and dangerous plants.
* If unsure or concerned about presence of irritant and dangerous plants in the area, organiser to advise relevant authority, i.e. Local Authority.
 | Organiser to ensure this is covered in the safety briefing delivered ahead of the clean up starting.  | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |
| Dog fouling / faeces | Toxocara canis | * Do not touch dog faeces.
* Do not use litter-pickers.
* Always wear gloves and use a plastic spade when removing dog faeces.
* If a volunteer steps in dog faeces, clean shoes if possible
* If found warn others in the vicinity
* If touched, thoroughly wash your hands.
* Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.
* Seek medical attention where appropriate.
 | Organiser to ensure this is covered in the safety briefing delivered ahead of the clean up starting.  | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |
| Animals – Domestic, wild & farm | Lyme Disease carried by animal ticks & bites/scratches, stings from animals/ shock | * Access to First Aid kit
* Avoid contact with animals. Avoid contact with animal faeces.
* See separate Guidance on Lyme Disease.
 | Seek medical attention as soon as possible after being bitten, stung or scratched. Wash hands immediately after contact with faeces. Avoid touching eyes or mouth. | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |
| Aggressive dogs | Workers and volunteers risk injury from dog attack | * Volunteers advised of the threat of aggressive dogs and to not approach any unknown dog.
* Avoid areas if any evidence of aggressive dogs
* Volunteers to maintain vigilance for dogs off leads
* Dog Walkers in vicinity to be advised by group leader of the litter pick and to keep dogs under control
* Children to remain under adult supervision and within sight of adults at all times
* Adopt recommended posture if confronted by a dog – do not look in eyes, look down, do not run, pull limbs into body
* Retreat slowly
* Visit A&E if bitten or attacked
* Report attack to the Police and refer to the government guidance on controlling dogs in pubic if you feel this is necessary: <https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/report-a-dog>
 | Check site for evidence of dogs. | Eventorganiser | On the day |  |