



Litter Free Dorset Challenge – Risk Assessment

Date: Spring/Summer 2021

Details of operation or work activity: Risk Assessment for litter picking and monitoring

Typical groups at risk: Volunteers; workers; members of the public

This risk assessment is to make sure the health, safety and welfare of any participants has been considered and that all reasonable precautions and controls are in place prior to any clean up activity taking place. This generic style risk assessment is not definitively listing all potential hazards but is intended as a guide to enable activity organisers and/ or individuals to manage risks when litter picking.

Hazard Identified	Hazards	Control Measures
General Conservation Activities	<p>Typical uncontrolled outcomes: Minor cuts, bruises, burns, lower back pain, verbal abuse, contracting disease, blisters, sunburn, participation of children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather conditions • Contact with Hand tools • Contact with microorganisms such as tetanus • Slips, trips, and falls • Manual handling • Abuse/Attack from member of public • Under 16's supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep equipment clean & tidy • Plan any lifting, ensure bags of litter are easy to lift. • Wear sturdy footwear • Wash hands before eating / drinking • Protect cuts and avoid sea/river/pond water • Advise participants to keep skin covered, use high factor sun cream if required. • Park vehicles to enable quick access in case of emergency. • Under's 16's supervised by parent/guardian at all times • Do carry a mobile phone in case of emergencies.
Litter Picking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken Glass, sharp objects • Sharps, used personal waste items • Dog faeces • Risk of conflict, ie, asking member of public to stop littering • Hazardous materials – drums with hazardous symbol, bombs, explosives • Disposable BBQS • Dead animals • Over filling rubbish bags • Fly tipping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants to only pick up litter with litter pickers • Use gloves to protect hands • Sharps should be reported to the group leaders or the Dorset council waste team. If you are unsure of whether the litter is hazardous or not, leave it and contact the Dorset council waste team: wasteteam@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk • Avoid contact with dog faeces • Advise participants not to confront anyone littering • Do not overfill sacks, ensure the bag is comfortable to carry and if struggling start a fresh bag. • Participants not to hold sacks against body

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you come across any bombs DO NOT TOUCH contact the Police and work with them to help evacuate the area if they advise to do so • Abandoned disposable BBQs can still be very hot therefore proceed with caution and only pick up if you are sure it has cooled • Do not touch animals (dead or alive) including jellyfish, birds, bait boxes with maggots or other bait. • If an item is stuck (beware as items may be tethered) then please leave item alone. • If you see fly-tipped items report to the Dorset Council waste team: wasteteam@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Hazard Identified	Hazards	Control Measures
Vehicles on roads and car parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with moving traffic • Crossing roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to litter pick the individual or group leader should assess the level of risk associated with any road, car park or area where vehicles are likely to occur. • Advise participants of the risks associated with the hazard and inform them of areas which should not be accessed. • Extra care should be taken with Children who should always be supervised by an adult. • Hi-vis tabards to be worn if needed.
Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical injury while accessing sites by foot (falls, breaks, sprains, cuts) • Naturally occurring diseases • Adverse weather conditions • Flooding • Wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do be careful on uneven and slippery ground. Keep to designated paths and avoid steep banks. Take particular care in rough terrain, boggy ground, near river/lake margins and around barbed wire fences. • Don't enter the water under any circumstances • Be aware of risks from Lyme's Disease, Leptospirosis (Weils Disease) and other waterborne diseases. Cover all cuts and scratches and wear appropriate clothing. Wash hands before eating/drinking/smoking. Report any suspicious rashes or flu-like symptoms to a doctor. Ensure your tetanus jabs are up to date. • Check weather forecast before starting. Have a good knowledge of the area being visited. Heed weather and travel warnings provided by the Met Office.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for flood and travel warnings provided by the Met Office/EA. Be alert to rising water levels after rainfall events. Leave the area if river water is close to the top of the bank or over the bank or if you are uncomfortable with water levels and/or flow. • DO be aware of nearby wildlife. Try to avoid disturbing nesting birds along the bank. There are several species of plants and animals that could pose a risk: (a) Giant Hogweed, (b) Oak Processionary Moth Caterpillars, (c) Ticks and Wasp nests. More information can be found HERE!
Beaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being Trapped by incoming tides • Large waves surging onto beach • Rip currents • Unstable cliffs, falling debris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check tide times and do not to go into areas that can be cut-off by tides. • Stay away from the water's edge, extra caution should be taken when waves are large. • Stay away from landslides, caves or overhanging/unstable looking cliffs. • Identify areas of unstable cliffs & areas that are likely to be cut-off by tides.
Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of virus from; sharing gloves, sharing litter pickers, litter picked up from rubbish bags, sharing pens and clipboards to sign in and complete forms • Talking to others when outside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter picks can only happen in groups of between 2 and 6 people • Equipment should not be shared • For group litter picks, equipment should be cleaned thoroughly before and after each use • Litter should not be touched at any point by bare hands • Do not touch face, eyes or mouth whilst working • Maintain a 2 metre social distance from others (following government guidance at time of litter pick). • Only carry out a litter pick if the area is quiet enough for you to maintain social distancing whilst carrying out the clean • Use antibacterial hand gel at the end of the clean (and throughout if needed) and wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds at the earliest opportunity. • Check government Covid-19 guidance with regard to organised events and volunteering.