

Thanet District Council Community Clean-up Risk Assessment

This form should be completed by the lead volunteer before the start of any litter pick. Litter picks are generally very safe and it is unlikely that you will encounter any serious hazards or incidents – you will see that the points below are just common sense and are worth considering to ensure your event runs as smoothly and safely as possible.

As the organiser of the litter pick you should ensure that all volunteers know the risks and understand the control measures before clearing any litter. It is sensible to address all volunteers and introduce yourself as the lead volunteer/organiser, so they know who to go to with questions/to report an incident. Make sure the litter pick doesn't last more than a couple of hours, and allow for rest breaks.

Before starting your clean up you must give your group a safety talk going through the risk assessment to make sure they have the correct:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – eg Thick gloves, hi-viz vest, sensible footwear, weather appropriate clothing etc.
- Equipment – eg Litter grabbers, plastic bags, container for needles, dog waste bags, brush, shovel etc and know how to use the equipment.

And understand:

- all the potential risks and hazards in the work area, eg coastal hazards, tides, hazardous waste, broken glass, dog waste, needles, condoms etc and roads/cycle ways, thorny bushes, low branches, uneven ground, banks, water etc.
- Know the work area and how to report incidents or hazardous or unidentified waste to the group leader, where to get first aid, meet on completion, deposit bags of waste etc

And advise them:

- To avoid rubbing mouth and eyes whilst working
- Wash hands and forearms before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet
- Don't lift heavy items, or touch anything that they are unsure of or may be dangerous

Name	Date	Phone	Location of Clean Up

Use the table below to score the risks in the **Risk Assessment Table**.

Likelihood (a)		Severity (b)		Magnitude = a x b
Certain	5	Fatality	6	2 x 3 = 6
Probable	4	Serious Disablement	5	le LOW RISK
Even Chance	3	Sprain, Major Cuts/Bruises	4	High Risk = 21 to 30
Possible	2	Minor Cut/Strain	3	Medium Risk = 11 to 20
Unlikely	1	Minor Bruises/Grazes	2	Low Risk = 2 to 10

Risk Assessment Table

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROLS	MEASURES TO REDUCE EFFECT IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT	Score	Risk
Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges	Cuts & infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharps bins to be available on site • Group leader must be notified of sharps • Strong gloves to be worn at all times. • All volunteers to use litterpickers to collect rubbish - NEVER scoop up items by hand in case of concealed needles or sharps. • All participants should have up to date tetanus protection. 	<p>Seek medical attention where appropriate.</p> <p>Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.</p>		
Needles	Cuts & infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site survey prior to event to check for any evidence of syringes. • Volunteers finding syringes should not touch them, but immediately notify the Group Leader. Group work must then cease in this particular area • The Group Leader who will arrange disposal with the council or using a litter picker and sharps box if safe to do so. • All volunteers to use litter pickers to collect rubbish - NEVER scoop up items by hand in case of concealed needles or sharps. 	<p>Seek medical attention where appropriate.</p> <p>Any accidental piercing by syringe should be immediately treated at medical practice or A & E (see below)</p>		
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Pulled muscles & strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All volunteers to use litterpickers to collect rubbish - NEVER scoop up items by hand • All volunteers to leave bulky/heavy items alone • Extreme care to be taken when lifting bags of rubbish, use good lifting practices as outlined in your group briefing 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. 	<p>Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort.</p> <p>Seek medical attention if the ill effects persist.</p>		
Hazardous substances - Batteries, asbestos & miscellaneous chemicals	Potentially dangerous depending on condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste, drums or containers, or oil. • Report to the council for disposal / clean up. 	<p>Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record any label details.</p>		
Ground conditions	Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. • Instruct volunteers to wear suitable footwear. No unprotected feet – wear sturdy shoes, boots or trainers • Be wary of uneven ground and trip hazards including trailing vegetation 	<p>Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.</p> <p>Seek medical attention for any serious cuts, bruises or strains.</p>		
Car parks, Roads, vehicles, bicycles, plant and machinery	Collision with moving traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief your group on the hazards of roads, speed limits and any known hazards at the location • Avoid close proximity to traffic completely if 	<p>Seek medical attention in the event of injury.</p>		

		<p>possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay off the highway. • Do not work on the roadside if the speed limit is 40mph or over. • Wear high visibility clothing at all times Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick. • Be aware of cars, potentially trying to park, maintain vigilance, give warning to others of approaching vehicles • Always focus when crossing streets and be aware of surroundings at all times • Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery. • Children should not work by a road-side 			
People, lone working	Physical or verbal assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of aggressive and difficult people. • Withdraw rather than face conflict. • Do not work out of sight of others in the group. • Organiser/section leader to have mobile phone. • Keep together and stay off private property. • Children to be supervised (see below) 	Seek medical attention following any assault / injury.		
Animals – Domestic, wild & farm	Lymes Disease carried by animal ticks & bites/scratches from animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear appropriate clothing. • Avoid contact with animals. Avoid contact with animal faeces. • Beware of loose dogs. • Children to remain under adult supervision and within sight of adults at all times 	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	Weil's Disease from rat's urine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, ponds or canals. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor		
Dog faeces	Toxocara canis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch dog faeces. • 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 Eg Thunder storms, hot weather etc	Various health issues, cold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cease work in inappropriate conditions. • Avoid working in extreme conditions. • Dress for conditions & carry additional clothing. • In hot weather, wear hat and use sunblock when needed • First-aider on site, with access to First Aid kit • In the event of extreme weather conditions the litter pick should be postponed or abandoned 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.		
Cliffs and, steep slopes	Falls leading to sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek medical treatment in the event of injury. • Take account of tides. 			
Electric fences	Electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always assume electric fences are live. • Warn volunteers not to touch electric fences 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.		
Water, marshes, bogs	Hypothermia, drowning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid banks, especially if they appear unstable. Always work in pairs if close to water. • Be aware of the dangers and changing conditions • Shower and change into warm dry clothing if immersed. • Never allow children to work in these areas. • Adults should be cautious & non-swimmers must not litter pick near water 	Seek emergency assistance/ medical attention where appropriate.		
Tides, slippery rocks, soft sands and wildlife disturbance	Drowning, slipping injuries, disturbance - to birds and marine wildlife/other beach users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the tide times before you start - avoid high tides, and that the bay does not become completely cut off at high tide • Know your exit routes from the beach, make sure you know where you have phone signal in case of needing to make emergency calls. • Take care walking on algae of slopes/steps on the beach, or seaweed on rocks • Advise volunteers to avoid any soft/quick sands • Avoid high tide time, 1.5 hrs before and 30 minutes after, from October to march in order to protect wintering birds rest sites. • Point out to volunteers the other beach user activities to reduce chances of conflict 	Seek emergency assistance, call 999 for the Coastguard.		
Hedges, fences, walls, ditches	Personal Injury, cuts and grazes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care when climbing stiles particularly in wet weather. • Avoid climbing walls, ditches and fences. • Stay within the nominated location. 			
Tools, equipment	Personal Injury, cuts and grazes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 protective clothing and gloves • First aid training. • Have first aid kit available. • Volunteers must use the equipment provided and as instructed. • All volunteers to use litterpickers to collect rubbish - NEVER scoop up items by hand. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.		

Trees, shrubs	Trips, cuts & eye pokes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards. • Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.		
Irritants, dangerous plants	Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear the gloves provided. • Beware of dangerous plants and possible adverse reactions. • Wash thoroughly on completion of such operations. 	Seek medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation.		

On Completion of the Litter Pick Ensure:

- Everyone washes their hands thoroughly as soon as possible after the litter pick and before taking any food or drink.
- Any wounds are redressed after cleaning and disinfecting if there has been any contact with water.
- Volunteers carry out a personal inspection for cuts etc.
- That the area covered is inspected to see if there is any hazardous material still present. If so record for reporting to the Council.
- All volunteers have reported back and all equipment is collected back in.
- All rubbish for collection has been weighed and left in the arranged pick up site.
- Any bags containing sharp material, eg broken glass, have been marked.
- Borrowed equipment is returned

Advice on working with children:

It is important that children are accompanied and supervised at all times by a responsible adult when taking part in a clean-up. Ensure children have protective clothing and gloves and that they understand not to touch anything they are unsure about. It should be clearly explained to children which items they must not go near which may pose a hazard. An adult should work with them to advise on any hazards they come across together.