



Community Litter Pick Briefing

This risk assessment form has been reviewed for a Community Litter Pick. Please read this information before starting to help ensure a safe event.

Please contact **Karen Duffill** Borough and Parish Cllr to report any incidents
07486406045

Please return to the **Mill site at 12.30** to return your equipment and to leave rubbish bags so that they can be collected from the one site and we can see how many bags we can pledge to the British spring clean that we have collected.

- **Please collect a route to target for litter picking.**

Hazards and How to Stay Safe:

- **Wear gloves** while litter picking.
- **Avoid touching your eyes or mouth** while litter picking.
- **Good hygiene is critical.**

syringes Sharp Objects (glass, etc.):

- **Use litter pick grabbers** to pick up all litter. Do not pick up litter with your hands.
- If placing sharp objects in a bin bag, ensure edges do not damage the bag.
- **If unsure about an item, leave it and report it to the lead organiser.**
- **Never touch needles.** If you see a needle, **leave it where it is and report it immediately to the lead organiser.**
- It is recommended that all volunteers have up-to-date tetanus protection (this is a recommendation, not a requirement of this risk assessment).

Strains, Sprains & Dislocations:

- **Check your surroundings and choose a safe route.**
- **Clear any obstacles** to avoid tripping and be mindful of uneven ground, potholes, and steps.
- **Wear suitable footwear.**
- **Use safe lifting techniques:** Bend your knees (keep your back straight), keep the object close to you, and do not twist.
- **If an object is too heavy or awkward, do not lift it yourself. Seek help or leave it.**
- Avoid dangerous areas like steep slopes. Assess the area before litter picking.
- Be aware of low-hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots.

Asbestos Exposure:

- **Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste.**
- **If you see any material that might be asbestos, do not touch it. Leave it where it is and report it to the lead organiser immediately.**

Chemicals:

- **Do not approach or remove any potentially dangerous chemicals.**
- **If you are unsure what a substance is, leave it and report it to the lead organiser.**
- If possible, record any labels or warning symbols on the chemicals to report to the organiser.

Moving Vehicles:

- **Wear a high-vis vest at all times** during the litter pick.
- **Avoid close proximity to traffic if possible.**
- **Ensure you are facing oncoming traffic** and stay off the main highway.
- **Do not work on the side of the road if the speed limit is 40mph or over.**
- **Stay alert** to the presence of vehicles, watching and listening.
- **Children should not work by a roadside.**

Lone Working:

- Volunteers should **try not to work out of sight of others** in the group.
- Ensure you **have the lead organiser's mobile phone number** in case of difficulty.
- Routes will be distributed to pairs of volunteers

Verbal / Physical Abuse / Violence:

- **If you encounter a potential conflict situation, walk away** to a safe area, preferably covered by CCTV if possible.
- In an emergency situation, **contact the Police.**
- **Report all incidents to the lead organiser.**

Contact with Animals:

- **Wear gloves** while carrying out the litter pick.
- **Beware of loose animals/dogs.**
- **Avoid contact with animals and animal faeces.**
- **Do not touch dead animals.**
- **Cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof plaster** before litter picking.

- **Avoid getting hands wet in rivers, ponds, or canals.**

Be aware that all litter may be contaminated with rats' urine, which can cause Weils disease.

Weather Conditions:

- **Avoid working in extreme weather conditions.** The litter pick may be postponed or abandoned if necessary.
- If there are thunder storms, stop litter picking.
- **Wear suitable clothing and sensible footwear** for the weather conditions.

Water Courses on Open Spaces:

- **Avoid river and pond banks, especially if they appear unstable.**
- **Always work in pairs if close to water.**
- **Non-swimmers should not litter pick adjacent to water.**
- **Never allow children to work close to water.**

Contact with Electricity Fields:

- **Always assume electric fences are live.**
- **Do not touch electric fences.**

Accidents Caused by Untrained Volunteers:

- You are receiving this briefing before the start of the litter pick.
- You have been shown how to use litter pickers correctly. **Only use litter pickers to pick up litter, not your hands.**
- If a litter picker becomes damaged or faulty, **do not use it and inform the lead organiser.**
- **Wear a high-vis vest and gloves at all times.**
- You have been given the **contact details of the lead organiser** in case of emergency.
- If medical attention is needed, seek it appropriately. T
- The lead organiser has a first aid kit.

If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to the lead organiser.