

Risk Assessment – Adopt-a-Street *Litter Picking*

Date of Assessment:	Written by: Catrin Wade Approved By: Cate Sampson on 16/03/21
Assessed by:	Role: Waste Minimisation Officer Role: Senior Health and Safety Advisor
Street name/ area:	

Volunteer Litter Pick.

Volunteers must not go litter picking if they are experience any symptoms of Covid-19. If you are, please follow all NHS advice:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus

Volunteers must adhere to all up to date government guidelines relating to Covid-19: **www.gov.uk/coronavirus**

All volunteers must wear appropriate clothing and footwear together with the provided PPE (Hi-Viz, cut resistant gloves and litter picker).

Everyone to wash hands thoroughly as soon as possible after the litter pick and before taking any food or drink.

Any wounds are covered and then redressed after cleaning and disinfecting if there has been any contact with water.

Volunteers carry out a personal inspection for cuts, ticks etc. Find further information on how to remove a tick at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/

Report any hazardous or sharp items to the Council or Police as outlined within the risk assessment. Volunteers should **NEVER** attempt to dispose of these objects.

The organiser of a small group litter pick should ensure that all volunteers have reported back at the agreed time and be responsible for collecting the equipment back in.

All recycling or waste for collection has been left grouped in the pre-arranged pick up site in a respectful manner.

Lone working may take place, but volunteers should carry a mobile phone and have access to first aid in the event of an emergency.

Volunteers need to self-assess each task, in line with their own limitations, before taking part. This includes volunteers with any medical conditions such as back concerns, angina etc, those involved in lifting and any changes in weather conditions.

What hazards are present or may be generated?	Who might be harmed by the hazards and how?	What control measures/ precautions are in place to eliminate or reduce the risk?	Is the residual risk acceptable?		If no to the previous question, what additional control measures/ precautions are needed to manage the risk?	Additional control measures implemented:		
			Yes	No		Action by whom?	Action by when?	Date complete
Covid-19	Volunteers	<p>Follow all government guidelines and maintain social distance from volunteers not in your household or bubble. Government guidelines: www.gov.uk/coronavirus</p> <p>Do not go litter picking if you are showing symptoms of Covid-19. If you are, you must isolate at home and book a test immediately – go to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus</p>	Yes		None			
Dog Faeces	Volunteers Toxocara canis	<p>Volunteers are to not remove any dog faeces from the site, unless bagged and are using a litter picker.</p> <p>Wash/clean hands before eating/smoking etc.</p>	Yes		None			
Lone working or work in small teams	Volunteers Risk to personal safety	<p>Work in daylight hours.</p> <p>Sign up to work on a specific road/area and only work within the designated area.</p> <p>Tell a friend or family where you are working, and what time to expect you back.</p> <p>Ensure you have a mobile phone on you in case of an emergency.</p> <p>Read and adhere to the safety guidelines.</p> <p>Wear correct PPE as provided, including Hi-Viz tabard, gloves, litter pickers.</p>	Yes		None			

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Sharps (eg syringes) /broken glass – litter picking within undergrowth	Volunteers Cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds and possible infection	Volunteers are not to touch or remove any sharp objects such as syringes or broken glass. Please report syringe location to the NSC (01934 888 888) to notify Glendale who will remove accordingly. Use the provided cut resistant gloves and litter pickers to protect against hidden/ unseen sharps. Participants are responsible for ensuring tetanus is up to date.	Yes		None			
Uneven ground, trip hazards	Volunteers	Volunteers to be aware of their surroundings whilst carrying out their work. For any group work the organiser must highlight any known hazards on the site. Take care around slippery surfaces (especially around water) and wear suitable footwear.	Yes		None			
Highways (carriageway and footway) Vehicles Bicycles and Machinery	Volunteers Collision with moving traffic	Work will be carried out predominantly within a designated area and will be on council owned land. Litter picking may only take place in the vicinity of a highway when the max speed limit is 30mph, and volunteers may only work from the footway (pavement).	Yes		None			

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		<p>Wear Hi-Viz and move towards the direction of oncoming traffic.</p> <p>Volunteers must not step onto or work on the carriageway.</p> <p>Be aware of the likelihood of agricultural machinery in the area.</p>						
Bushes/hedge rows	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Abrasions</p> <p>puncture wounds, eye injuries</p>	<p>Where litter picking is required under shrubs and hedgerows individuals must be aware of the potential danger of branches at eye height.</p> <p>Do not remove litter if there is a risk of injury.</p> <p>Gloves and appropriate clothing to be worn to prevent skin scratches.</p>	Yes		None			
Ponds, Lakes, Slipways, Ditches, Marsh and other water margins	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Microbiologic al infection e.g. Weils disease</p> <p>Immersion</p>	<p>Cover cuts and abrasions with waterproof plasters.</p> <p>Individuals should not attempt to pick litter from particularly hazardous areas such as bodies of water (ie, lakes, ponds etc) or steep/ slippery slopes as they are not included in the designated area.</p> <p>If you come into contact with water hands must be washed before eating//smoking etc.</p>	Yes		None			

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		Individuals should not be litter picking the ditches unless the litter is easily accessible and should not be leaning in/over the ditch to reach the litter.						
Trash screens on drainage systems	Volunteers Risk of personal injury and immersion	Individuals should not attempt to pick litter from trash screens. Do not remove litter but report location via (01934 888 888) to notify the Council	Yes		None			
Collecting items that could be unclean or broken	Volunteers Risk or personal injury or infection	Volunteers should wear appropriate PPE and use the correct equipment as advised. If unsure they can collect and store an item safely or leave it and alert the authority	Yes		None			
Dogs off lead	Volunteers	Some areas within North Somerset are agreed areas for people to exercise their dogs off lead. Volunteers to be aware of their surroundings and dogs within a park. Should not approach unknown dogs without permission from owner.	Yes		None			
Heavy or awkward items	Volunteers Pulled muscles, strains or sprains	Participants are advised to only lift items within their capabilities.	Yes		None			

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		<p>All lifting must adhere to manual handling guidelines, which can be found here: http://www.hse.gov.uk/pUbns/indg143.pdf</p> <p>Share the load with others if safe to do so.</p> <p>If too heavy contact (01934 888 888) to notify Glendale who will remove accordingly.</p>						
Batteries, asbestos containing materials, refrigerator coolant and other chemicals	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Potentially dangerous to via inhalation, ingestion or absorption</p>	<p>Do not remove but report location via (01934 888 888) to notify Glendale who will remove accordingly.</p> <p>Participants are reminded not to touch hazardous items. Seek medical attention if necessary take note of any information relating to product name, packaging etc.</p>	Yes		None			
Weather conditions	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Hypothermia heat stroke sun burn Dehydration etc</p>	<p>Stop work in poor weather conditions.</p> <p>Ensure dressed appropriately for conditions.</p> <p>Use of sun block or waterproofs.</p> <p>Maintain hydration levels.</p>	Yes		None			
Cliffs and steep slopes	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Falls leading to fracture strains, sprains</p>	<p>Cliffs/ steep slopes are not part of the designated safe working area and therefore must be avoided.</p> <p>Consider weather conditions e.g poor visibility high winds etc</p>	Yes		None			

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Use of hand tools/ Litter pickers	Volunteers Cuts strains	Instruction in use, seek advice if necessary. Ensure enough space for the correct use of the tool. Use appropriate protection if required. Volunteers to use equipment provided and in the way instructed.	Yes		None			
Dangerous plants and other irritants e.g. Giant Hogweed	Volunteers	Wear appropriate protective clothing and do not remove any plants or vegetation. Further information about some of the dangerous plants you may encounter can be found here: https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/02/uk-poisonous-plants/ If unsure, avoid skin contact with any plant.	Yes		None			
Possible unexploded device	Volunteers	If any possible unexploded device is located during litter picking – more likely along a coast line – volunteers are not to touch it under any circumstances. Inform the police in the first instance 101 or 999 in case of an emergency and identify location and description of object. Please also inform council connect on 01934 888 888.	Yes		None			

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The provided PPE is not suitable for children under the age of 12 as litter pickers, gloves and Hi-Vis will be too big.	Child using the equipment	Due to the provided PPE being unsuitable for volunteers under the age of 12 they will be unable to take part in the litter pick.	Yes		None			