

## DODDINGTON AND WHISBY PARISH COUNCIL

### Updated litter picking risk assessment – approved by council on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Hazard	Risk	Existing controls	Measures to reduce effect in the event of an accident
Sharps – glass, needles, rusty metal	Cuts and infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp litter.</li> <li>• All participants should have up to date tetanus protection or be aware that this will be needed in the event of a sharps injury.</li> <li>• Leave alone any uncertain items &amp; report to council for removal.</li> </ul>	<p>Seek medical attention where appropriate.</p> <p>Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.</p>
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Pulled muscles or strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme care to be taken, use good lifting practices and share the load with an appropriate number of people.</li> <li>• If too heavy to handle leave the object in place and report it to the organiser to arrange removal by the council.</li> </ul>	<p>Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort.</p> <p>Seek medical attention if the ill effects persist.</p>
Batteries, asbestos & miscellaneous chemicals	Potentially dangerous depending on condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste.</li> <li>• Report to the council for disposal.</li> </ul>	Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record any label details.
Ground conditions	Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground.</li> <li>• Instruct volunteers to wear suitable footwear</li> </ul>	<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>
Highways vehicles, bicycles.	Collision with moving traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid close proximity to traffic if possible.</li> <li>• Stay off the highway.</li> <li>• Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery.</li> <li>• Wear high visibility clothing if necessary.</li> <li>• Do not work on the roadside if the speed limit is 40mph or over.</li> <li>• Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick.</li> <li>• Keep a look out.</li> <li>• Children should not work by a road-side</li> </ul>	Seek medical attention in the event of injury.
People, lone working	Physical or verbal assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of aggressive and difficult people and withdraw rather than face conflict.</li> <li>• Advised to carry a mobile phone with you.</li> </ul>	Seek medical attention following any assault / injury.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep together and stay off private property.</li> </ul>	
Animals – domestic and wild Waterside diseases	<p>Lymes disease carried by animal ticks &amp; bites/scratches from animals</p> <p>Weil's Disease from rat's urine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear appropriate clothing.</li> <li>• Beware of loose dogs.</li> <li>• Avoid contact with animal faeces.</li> <li>• Do not touch dead animals. <a href="#">Report to North Kesteven District Council</a>.</li> <li>• Cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick.</li> <li>• Avoid getting hands wet in rivers, ponds or canals</li> </ul>	Seek medical attention as soon as possible after being bitten or scratched. Wash hands immediately after contact with faeces. Avoid touching eyes or mouth.
Dog faeces	Toxocara canis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not touch dog faeces.</li> <li>• Always wear gloves and use a shovel when removing dog faeces</li> </ul>	Thoroughly wash your hands. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention where appropriate.
Weather	Various health issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cease work in inappropriate conditions.</li> <li>• Avoid working in extreme conditions.</li> <li>• Dress for conditions.</li> <li>• In the event of extreme weather conditions the litter pick should be postponed or abandoned</li> </ul>	Seek medical attention where appropriate.
Tools, equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers to be shown how to use equipment if appropriate.</li> <li>• Allow sufficient working area for the correct and safe use of the tool.</li> <li>• Use appropriate protection.</li> <li>• First aid training if necessary.</li> <li>• Have first aid kit available at agreed locations.</li> <li>• Volunteers must use the equipment provided and as instructed</li> </ul>	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.
Trees, shrubs  Irritants, dangerous plants	<p>Trips, cuts &amp; eye pokes</p> <p>Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards.</li> <li>• Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots.</li> <li>• Beware of dangerous plants and possible adverse reactions.</li> <li>• Wash thoroughly on completion of such operations.</li> </ul>	<p>Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.</p> <p>Seek medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation.</p>

On completion of the litter pick ensure that:

- 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;
- medical attention is sought where necessary;
- report any hazardous items to the Council;
- all volunteers have reported back and all equipment is collected back in;
- all rubbish for collection has been left in the arranged pick up site; and
- any bags or containers containing sharp material, eg broken glass, are clearly identified.

### Children

Children are not covered by Council's insurance to carry out litter picking and we cannot accept volunteers under the age of 16. If you choose to take children with you while litter picking please ensure that:

- they are accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times;
- they understand which items are potentially dangerous; and
- suitable gloves and clothing is worn.

## Covid risk assessment supplement

Further information and advice for litter picking during covid-19 can be found at <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean/coronavirus-guidance>.

Key principles	Government guidance	Controls already in place	Additional controls
General maintenance issues	Ensure equipment is safe to use.	Equipment checked before and after use.  Hi-vis clothing checked before and after use.  Gloves to be provided	Consider washing of hi-vis clothing after use.  Note that hi-vis clothing will lose its effectiveness each wash up to about 25 washes.
Social distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations.	No obstructions to be put in place for pedestrians or other road users.	Maximum numbers of individuals to meet in line with government guidelines.  Observe social distancing when giving out or collecting equipment and during the activity.  Avoid any areas where crowds may gather or 'pinch-points'  Volunteers to be invited directly to take part to control numbers involved.
Cleaning and hygiene	Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes all equipment  Encourage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• users to clean equipment before and after use</li> <li>• use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing</li> </ul>	No handwashing facilities are provided. Members of the public and volunteers are already responsible for their own hand hygiene.	Government guidance suggests that common touch surfaces should be cleaned 'frequently'. No definition of frequent is given.  Equipment to be allocated before activities and not shared between different participants.  Group leader to keep a record of equipment distributed.  Hand sanitiser can be provided by council.  Volunteers to keep hold of litter-picking equipment so that only they use it. Equipment should be sanitised before storing.

			Any equipment that is returned to be sanitised at the end of the event.  Waste sacks to be left in a limited number of identified places rather than in scattered locations.
Additional measures	Promote responsible behaviour by volunteers.  Anybody shielding, in 'at-risk' groups or displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should not take part in volunteering activities	No consumption of food or drink while volunteering for litter picking activities  Litter must be disposed of responsibly.	Volunteers not to go to any indoor facility together as a group. Any refreshments provided to be consumed in an outdoor setting and in line with maximum group sizes.
Face coverings	If possible, a face covering should be worn in enclosed public spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where the public may come into contact with people they do not normally meet.		Face coverings are not a requirement for the use of outdoor facilities as they are not an enclosed setting.

### Litter picking equipment register

All equipment to be wiped down before and after use. Cleaning equipment provided on collection.

Item	Volunteer name	Date and time taken	Date and time returned
Litter picker			
Hi-vis vest			
Sack hoop			
Hand sanitiser			N/A
Bags			N/A

### Volunteer declaration

I understand and accept the risk assessment and safety controls for litter picking.

Name

Date

Signed
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Please return to the Clerk to council.