

Community Litter Picking Risk Assessment

Location Great Blakenham
Organized By Great Blakenham Parish Council
Date July 2025
Review Date July 2026
Purpose To identify and control hazards during community litter picking



1. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed	Potential Harm	Initial Risk	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Sharp or hazardous litter (glass, needles, metal)	Volunteers	Cuts, infections, puncture wounds	High	- Use litter pickers, not hands- Do not pick up hazardous waste (report it)- Wear gloves	Low
Traffic (near roads, crossings, car parks)	Volunteers, especially children	Collision, serious injury or death	High	Wear high-visibility vests- Avoid busy roads- Use adult supervision- Work facing traffic where possible	Low
Slips, trips and falls (uneven ground, mud, kerbs)	Volunteers	Bruises, sprains, fractures	Medium	- Wear sturdy footwear- Brief on hazards before starting- Avoid steep, muddy, or overgrown areas	Low
Heavy or awkward items	Volunteers	Muscle strain, back injury	Medium	- Don't attempt to lift heavy objects- Report large fly-tipped items to council- Use proper posture if lifting small bags - Check forecast- Wear suitable	Low
Weather exposure (heat, cold, rain)	Volunteers	Dehydration, sunburn, hypothermia	Medium	clothing- Bring water/sunscreen- Postpone in extreme weather	Low
Contact with dog mess or animal waste	Volunteers	Illness (e.g., toxocaraiasis)	Medium	- Provide gloves- Avoid direct contact- Use hand sanitiser after session	Low
Aggressive members of the public	Volunteers	Verbal or physical assault	Low	- Avoid confrontation- Stay in groups- Carry a mobile phone for emergencies	Very Low

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed	Potential Harm	Initial Risk	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Use of litter pickers/tools	Volunteers	Finger injuries, trapped skin	Low	- Provide proper instruction on use- Use age-appropriate tools	Very Low
Children participating	Children	All of the above, higher risk due to inexperience	High	- Adult supervision required- Avoid roads- Assign to safest areas- Provide safety briefing	Low

2. PPE and Equipment Recommended

- Litter pickers (one per person)
 - Heavy-duty gloves
 - High-visibility vests
 - Rubbish bags (strong and secure)
 - Appropriate footwear (boots or trainers)
 - Weather-appropriate clothing
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3. Emergency Procedures

- **First Aid:** Ensure at least one adult has basic first aid knowledge; have a first aid kit available
 - **Incident Reporting:** Log any incidents or near misses
 - **Emergency Contact Info:** Provide emergency contact number for event organizer
 - **Mobile Phone Access:** Ensure someone has a phone in case of emergency
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4. Additional Guidance

- Conduct a short safety briefing before starting
 - Do not allow volunteers to enter private property or dangerous areas (e.g. railways, steep banks)
 - Separate waste into general and recyclables if possible
 - Arrange with local council for waste bag collection
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