

SHCAC – Work Party & Litter

Picking Risk Assessment 166/03/2025

This risk assessment acts as a guide to outline some of the common hazards, risks and control measures that might be encountered whilst undertaking a clean-up event or work party where participants are volunteers.. Due to changing weather and water conditions, ideally this risk assessment should be undertaken on the day of the event prior to it commencing.

Before undertaking a clean up or work party, make sure that you have permission of the landowner.

All participants should be briefed by the leader on the risk assessment before the start of the clean-up or work party.

Date of event: 12/03/2025	Location: Marle Green, North Fm	Event Leader: Ian Whitwell
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Hazard		Risk	Suggested control measures	Additional measures
Environment conditions	Weather condition - Cold	Hypothermia	Tell participants to wear appropriate clothing and bring extra layers Review the conditions on the day and be aware of deteriorating conditions	
	Weather condition – Hot	Dehydration, sunburn	Participants to bring sun cream and water	
	Weather condition – Rain	Slippery surface; slips trips and falls	Ask participants to wear waterproofs and appropriate footwear with good grip	
	Slippery, uneven, or steep terrain	Slips, trips and falls	Ask participants to wear appropriate footwear with good grip	
Tool handling and litter picking Use of Tools during a work party	Use of tools: Loppers, Power tools Saws Bow saws Axes Chain saws Strimmers Litter pickers	Collision with other users: eye injury Risk of body injury to user or other person	Be aware of other volunteers around the area Work slowly, minimising splashing Keep the end of the tool away from eyes When moving with the tool, keep it pointed at ground height (litter picker) When not in use, leave the tool in a visible safe location.	If cutting branches at ground level or above head height Wear appropriate protective clothing. Suitable headwear & protection, footwear, gloves. Eye & face protection, clothing with no loose parts, tassles etc
		Tools causing trip hazard	When not in use, leave the tool in a visible, safe location that will not cause a trip hazard	
		Balance – risk of falling reaching for hard to reach branches or bushes, litter	Do not overreach for branches or litter.	
	Heavy bags	Back injury	Participants are warned not to overfill sacks with rubbish. Participants are informed to carry and move bags with good form	

			Heavy items should be lifted with the correct lifting method.	
	Sharp objects or litter (broken glass, metal, cans)	Cuts, punctures, wounds	Protective gloves must be worn whilst collecting litter Instruct participants not to handle any visible needles, to note their location and report them to the local authority. Inform participants to use litter pickers wherever possible to pick up litter Inform participants not to kneel to avoid cuts or scrapes to the knees Inform participants of the specific container for sharp items that can be safely removed.	
Contact with the water	Water borne diseases and pollution	Becoming sick or unwell from contact with the water e.g. Weils disease	Protective gloves must be worn whilst collecting litter or branches & debris from the water. Use litter pickers to handle litter wherever possible Carry anti-bacterial hand sanitiser and ensure hands are washed before eating Keep hands away from mouth and eyes whilst litter picking or carrying out work party duties. Advise participants to cover any cuts and grazes before they start any work Wash hands thoroughly after the clean up Advise of symptoms to be aware of for Weils disease including but not limited to: fever, chills, headaches, nausea and vomiting. Avoid outlets e.g. storm water overflows	
	Entering the water	Drowning	Where possible undertake the litter picking or branch & tree cutting from the bank. Advise a participant if they are entering the water, to check the depth for silt prior to entry. Inform the participant to inform someone if they plan on entering the water and to only do so in the presence of another individual	If entering the water to carry out work on trees or gathering debris or litter. Check the depth before entering and do not enter without another person nearby who is capable of assisting. Waders should not be worn too tight.
Other users	Conflict	Other water users	Brief the participants to be aware of other water users that might be passing during the event. Where possible, step aside to let them pass If confrontation develops remain calm and summon help as quickly as possible	

Invasive species	Invasive species	Unintentional transfer of invasive species between water bodies	Brief participants on the risk of spreading invasive non-native species to/and from other water courses. Advice participants to follow Check Clean Dry before and after the litter pick or work party.	
	Other hazards not covered above			

