

Langford & Ulting Parish Council – Risk Assessment for Volunteer Litter Picking.

As the organiser of the litter pick you should ensure that all volunteers know the risks and understand the control measures before clearing any litter. It is sensible to address all volunteers and introduce yourself as the lead volunteer/organiser, so they know who to go to with questions/to report an incident. You should also check that all volunteers know what equipment they must use and what area they may clean up. Also advise that a copy of the risk assessment is available on request.

Name	Date	Phone	Location of Clean Up
Langford & Ulting Parish Council	14th March 2026	07736 716900	Langford and Ulting

Before starting your clean up ensure all volunteers:

- Have the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – eg Thick gloves, hi-viz vest, sensible footwear, weather appropriate clothing etc.
- Have the correct equipment – eg Litter grabbers, plastic bags etc and know how to use the equipment.
- Consider all the risks and hazards in the work area, eg hazardous waste, broken glass, dog waste, vomit, needles, condoms and roads, thorny bushes, low branches, uneven ground, hidden bankings etc.
- Know the work area and how to report incidents or hazardous or unidentified waste, where to get first aid, meet on completion, deposit bags of waste and mark bags containing sharp material eg broken glass.

Risk Assessment Table

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROLS	MEASURES TO REDUCE EFFECT IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT	Risk with control measures (H/M/L)
Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges	Cuts & infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong gloves to be worn at all times. • Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp litter. • All participants should have up to date tetanus protection. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.	L
Needles	Cuts & infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave alone & report to event organiser • Report to the council for removal. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	L
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Pulled muscles & strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme care to be taken, use good lifting practices and share the load with an appropriate number of people. 	Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort.	M

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If too heavy to handle leave the object in place and report it to the organiser to arrange removal by the council. 	Seek medical attention if the ill effects persist.	
Batteries, asbestos & miscellaneous chemicals	Potentially dangerous depending on condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste. • Report to the council for disposal. 	Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record any label details.	L
Ground conditions	Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. • Instruct volunteers to wear suitable footwear. 	Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention for any serious cuts, bruises or strains.	L
Highways vehicles, bicycles, plant and machinery	Collision with moving traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid close proximity to traffic if possible. • Stay off the highway. • Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery. • Wear high visibility clothing. • Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick. • Keep a look out. • Children should not work by a road-side 	Seek medical attention in the event of injury.	L
People, lone working	Physical or verbal assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in pairs if possible. • Be aware of aggressive and difficult people. • Withdraw rather than face conflict. • Stay off private property. 	Seek medical attention following any assault / injury.	L
Animals – Domestic, wild & farm	Lymes Disease carried by animal ticks & bites/scratches from animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear appropriate clothing. • Beware of loose dogs. • Avoid contact with animals. • Avoid contact with animal faeces. 	Seek medical attention as soon as possible after being bitten or scratched. Wash hands immediately after contact with faeces. Avoid touching eyes or mouth.	L
Waterside diseases	Weil's Disease from rat's urine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch dead animals. • Cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick. • Avoid getting hands wet in rivers, ponds or canals. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor	L
Dog faeces	Toxocara canis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch dog faeces. 	Thoroughly wash your hands.	L

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always wear gloves and use a shovel when removing dog faeces. 	Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Weather eg Thunderstorms	Various health issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cease work in inappropriate conditions. Avoid working in extreme conditions. Dress for conditions & carry additional clothing. In the event of extreme weather conditions, the litter pick should be postponed or abandoned 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	L
Steep slopes	Falls leading to sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct volunteers to stay away from these areas. Avoid picking on or close to steep slopes etc. Take weather conditions and possible weather changes into account. Seek medical treatment in the event of injury. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	L
Electric fences	Electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always assume electric fences are live. Warn volunteers not to touch electric fences 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	L
Water	Hypothermia, drowning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid banks, especially if they appear unstable. Always work in pairs if close to water. Shower and change into warm dry clothing if immersed. Never allow children to work in these areas. Adults should be cautious & non-swimmers must not litter pick near water 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	L
Hedges, fences, ditches		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take care when climbing stiles particularly in wet weather. Avoid climbing into ditches and over fences. Stay within your designated location. 		L
Tools, equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers to be shown how to use equipment if appropriate. Allow sufficient working area for the correct and safe use of the tool. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	L

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use appropriate protection • First aid training. • Have first aid kit available. • Volunteers must use the equipment provided and as instructed. 		
Trees, shrubs	Trips, cuts & eye pokes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards. • Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.	M
Irritants, dangerous plants	Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear strong gloves. • Beware of dangerous plants and possible adverse reactions. • Wash thoroughly on completion of such operations. 	Seek medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation.	L

On Completion of the Litter Pick Ensure:

- 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.
- Volunteers carry out a personal inspection for cuts etc.
- That the area covered is inspected to see if there is any hazardous material still present. If so record for reporting 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.
- Any bags containing sharp material, eg broken glass, have been marked.