

Risk Assessment

Activity:	Litter Picking	Assessor Name:	Peta Gunson
Assessment Date:	March 2026	Review Date:	March 2028

Hazard	Who	Existing Controls	S	L	Risk	Further Action Required	Who	When
Lack of information and awareness	Volunteers	- Team Leader to give safety briefing at the start of each litter pick if present - Risk Assessment to be issued to new volunteers and to all impacted volunteers when any changes are made - All volunteers are issued with RCG Hi Vis vests and litter pickers - Any volunteer below the age of 18 should be accompanied by other volunteers or a family member	2	2	4 MED	Review support from those volunteers under 18 after 6 months and amend risk assessment and role profile, if required, based on volunteer feedback	-	-
Accident involving other road user (vehicle or bicycle)	Volunteers	- Instruction to stay off public highways given - Volunteers to check for hazards and be aware of surroundings when crossing roads and paths - Volunteers issued with RCG high-viz jackets - Group Leader and volunteers should have mobile phones to call for medical assistance if required	2	2	4 MED	None	-	-
Slips, trips and falls causing injury	Volunteers	- Supportive footwear to be worn - Volunteers to avoid areas which look slippery or dangerous	2	2	4 MED	None	-	-
Working near parked cars causing injury or damage	Volunteers Public	- Instruction not to attempt to retrieve litter from underneath parked cars given - Volunteers reminded to be aware of surroundings	1	2	2 LOW	None	-	-
Syringes or medical waste causing injury	Volunteers	- Volunteers are instructed not to attempt to collect syringes, medical waste, or anything hazardous (This should be reported either by the Team Leader or by a litter picking Volunteer to St Albans District Council via https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish) - Accidental piercing by syringe to be treated at A&E	3	2	6 MED	None	-	-

		- Litter picking devices to be used wherever possible. The volunteer should always consider carefully the risks of picking up anything directly, minimise these by wearing gloves, and/or not removing waste that looks hazardous. IF IN ANY DOUBT LEAVE IT - Team Leader (if present) and volunteers should have mobile phones to call for medical assistance if required							
Manual handling causing injury	Volunteers	Safety Briefing to remind volunteers that large items should not be collected. Team Leader or a litter picking volunteer to report to St Albans District Council via https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish	2	2	4 MED		None	-	-
Dog faeces causing injury or blindness	Volunteers	Volunteers instructed not to attempt to pick up dog faeces	2	1	2 LOW		None	-	-
Extreme weather	Volunteers	- Volunteers reminded to wear appropriate clothing and carry water in summer - Team leader to cancel litter picking sessions if weather deemed of concern	1	2	2 LOW		None	-	-
Cuts and grazes	Volunteers	- Serious injuries to be treated at A&E - Team Leader and volunteers should have mobile phones to call for medical assistance if required	2	2	4 MED		None	-	-

Severity

Severity of Risk is judged by evaluating the effects of the hazard if the risk occurs. This is evaluated as Minor = 1, Major = 2, Serious = 3

Likelihood

The likelihood of the harm occurring is evaluated on the following basis: Unlikely =1, Possible = 2, Likely = 3

Overall Risk

Overall Risk is calculated by multiplying the figure for Severity x Likelihood. The figure calculated is related to the rate of risk as follows: 1 to 3 Low, 4 to 6 Medium, 7 to 9 High



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