

BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

LITTER PICK RISK ASSESSMENT



Adopted: December 2014

Reviewed: July 2026

Hazard (Source of potential danger)	Precautions (To remove hazard or reduce risk)	Measure to reduce the effect in the event of an accident	Management Activity
Traffic <i>Med</i>	Litter should only be collected on the highway if it falls within the high-speed road restrictions set by MBC and additional lookouts should be identified within the group to act as 'eyes and ears' Litter picking should be carried out from footpaths wherever possible Be aware of traffic and hazards Ensure use of Personal Protective Equipment Litter on the highway will be collected by MBC via a mechanical sweeper	Seek medical attention immediately	Volunteers to act as 'eyes and ears' for traffic movements on behalf of the rest of the group Signage to be put up where possible to warn drivers of activity
Lifting heavy objects <i>Low</i>	Do not move or lift heavy objects Use correct technique if lifting is required	Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort Seek medical attention if ill effects persist	If volunteers find large/heavy objects, make a note and report to the local council for removal after the event
Chemicals <i>Low</i>	Do not touch or remove containers which contain/contained chemicals	Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record any label details if exposure occurs	Contact MBC or the Environment Agency 0800 80 70 60
Electric fences <i>Low</i>	Always assume electric fences are live Avoid contact	Seek medical attention if symptoms persist	Warn volunteers not to touch fences
Ground conditions <i>Low</i>	Wear strong boots with ankle support Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground	Seek medical attention for any serious cuts, bruises or strains	Instruct volunteers to wear suitable footwear
Hedges, fences, walls, ditches <i>Low</i>	Take care when climbing stiles particularly in wet weather Avoid climbing walls, ditches and fences	Seek medical attention for any serious cuts, bruises or strains	Warn volunteers not to climb walls, ditches and fences

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Vehicles, bicycles and machinery <i>Low</i>	Avoid close proximity if possible Stay off the highway Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery Wear high visibility clothing if necessary	Seek medical attention in the event of injury	Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick
People & lone working <i>Low</i>	Agree groups and keep within sight of others in the group School age children working off highway areas only and must be supervised at all times Keep together and stay off private property	Leader to have mobile phone	Leader to identify supervisors of individuals requiring supervision
Refuse, litter <i>Low</i>	Pick up only general litter Do not collect medical waste (e.g. needles) Wear gloves and use a litter picker wherever practicable	Seek medical attention for any cuts or injury	Volunteers must wear the safety clothing provided
Tools & equipment <i>Low</i>	Team to be shown how to use equipment if appropriate Use appropriate protection	First aid kit available Seek medical attention in the event of injury	Volunteers must collect litter safely and use litter pickers provided and as instructed
Trees and plants <i>Low</i>	Be alert to the risks and keep a sharp look out for hazards Beware of dangerous plants & possible adverse reactions Wash thoroughly on completion of such operations	Seek medical attention in the event of injury Seek medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation	Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree/ shrub roots Wear the gloves provided
Weather <i>Low</i>	Adjust work programmes to avoid extremes Cease work in inappropriate conditions Avoid over exertion in hot and cold extremes Dress for conditions	Seek shelter	In the event of extreme weather conditions, the litter pick should be postponed / suspended
Individual capability <i>Low</i>	Check that individuals understand and are able to carry out voluntary work on site	Seek medical attention in the event of injury	Individuals to take ownership of own ability and adjust as necessary
Waste disposal <i>Low</i>	Appropriate disposal of waste to be identified		Leader to arrange collection and appropriate disposal of waste