

EASI Risk Assessment

This Risk Assessment covers individual litter picking (rather than group activities) by EASI volunteers. It should be noted that EASI litter pickers are working entirely at their own risk.

The aim of the risk assessment is to identify the likely risks associated with litter picking for EASI, to score their impact and likelihood of their occurrence, and then to identify countermeasures to reduce the risk. The following explains the scoring used in this risk assessment:

- Impact is a measure from 1 to 5 of how serious a risk is likely to be.
- Likelihood is a measure from 1 to 5 of how likely it is that the risk will occur.

The description associated with each score is given in Appendix A.

The two scores have been multiplied together to give a total score of between 1 and 25 with a higher number indicating a greater risk. The impact and likelihood scores are independent so there can be a risk that has a large impact but a low likelihood (a meteorite hits the picker) or equally a high likelihood but low impact (tree pollen whilst out picking makes a hay fever sufferer sneeze).

For each countermeasure identified, a revised score has been calculated which, if the countermeasure is effective, should be lower than the original.

Note

- This risk assessment covers the risks associated with litter picking as an individual (so not group activities such as Earley Town Council's Huge Earley Litter Pick).
- It seeks to address the risks specifically due to litter picking activity rather than just walking the same route.

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Area	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Countermeasures to be taken by litter pickers & revised score	Comments
Litter picking for EASI		Score before countermeasure				
1.1	<p>Slips, trips and falls</p> <p>Wet surfaces, pavement edges, vegetation and other items that might be a hazard</p>	3	2	6	<p>Wear appropriate footwear, look where you are going and don't litter pick whilst crossing a road.</p> <p>Don't overreach into trees or hedgerows as falling could result in injury.</p> <p>Revised score: Impact 3, likelihood 1, score 3</p>	Note the act of scanning the ground for litter can reduce the risk of not seeing a trip hazard or wet surface
1.2	<p>Injury from lifting and moving items</p> <p>Trying to lift or move large or heavy litter or objects and carrying bags that are too heavy</p>	3	2	6	<p>If items are too heavy or too large to go in a bin bag leave them where they are found and report to Wokingham Borough Council, using either the Council website for reporting rubbish and fly-tipping or the Fix-My-Street App.</p> <p>Finish litter picking if the bag is becoming too heavy, ensuring that it can easily be carried home or to a nearby street rubbish bin.</p> <p>Revised score: Impact 3, likelihood 1, score 3</p>	<p>Wokingham Borough Council often collect reported larger or heavy items within 24 hours.</p> <p>When making a report send a photo to help them locate the litter</p>
1.3	<p>Impact of adverse weather conditions whilst litter picking</p> <p>Staying safe whilst out litter picking</p>	3	2	6	<p>Only pick in daylight and when the weather is suitable – avoid rain, strong winds, great heat or thunder storms.</p> <p>Dress appropriately for the weather.</p> <p>Consider carrying a mobile phone in case of emergency.</p> <p>Revised score: Impact 3, likelihood 1, score 3</p>	Litter picking is not time-critical so pickers are able to delay the activity until better weather conditions.

Area	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Countermeasures to be taken by litter pickers & revised score	Comments
1.4	<p>Collision with other road or path users</p> <p>Crossing a road or path, risk of collision with other pedestrians or wheeled means of transport</p>	5	2	10	<p>Pick a route that minimises the need to cross roads e.g. stay on the same side of the road rather than keep crossing the road. Pick busier roads at quieter times – outside the rush hour.</p> <p>When crossing a road or path look out for motor vehicles, cyclists and e-bikes.</p> <p>Avoid wearing headphones as these reduce the ability to hear risks and warnings from car horns or bicycle bells.</p> <p>Consider carrying a mobile phone in case of emergency.</p> <p>Do not pick rubbish on the highway - report it to Wokingham Borough Council for them to collect.</p> <p>Revised score: Impact 5, likelihood 1, score 5</p>	Most pickers pick their home or local street so are familiar with the area and traffic patterns.

Area	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Countermeasures to be taken by litter pickers & revised score	Comments
1.5	<p>Sharps, needles, broken glass, nitrous oxide containers, condoms, human waste and similar hazards</p> <p>Items occasionally found that could harm the picker</p>	3	2	6	<p>All these items should be left untouched and reported to Wokingham Borough Council using either the Council Website for reporting rubbish and fly-tipping or the Fix-My-Street App.</p> <p>Always wear gloves when litter picking. Be aware of personal hygiene and wash hands on returning home, even if gloves have been worn.</p> <p>Revised score: Impact 3, likelihood 1, score 3</p>	Fortunately finding many of these items is relatively rare with the exception of broken glass.
1.6	<p>Violence and abuse whilst litter picking</p> <p>A poor reaction from other members of the public.</p>	4	1	4	<p>If someone is abusive then retreat to safety rather than confronting them</p> <p>Consider carrying a mobile phone in case of emergency.</p> <p>Litter picking should only be carried out during daylight hours</p> <p>Anyone under the age of 16 should be supervised by an appropriate adult.</p> <p>Revised score: Impact 2. Likelihood, 1, score 2</p>	Again this sort of incident is very rare
Area	Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Countermeasures to be taken by litter pickers & revised score	Comments
1.7	<p>Injury or illness from contaminated waste</p> <p>These can cause chemical burns, skin irritation,</p>	4	1	4	<p>Do not handle any can, canister, oil drum, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste, hazardous substances or dead animals.</p>	Fortunately finding many of these items is rare

	sickness, diarrhoea, infections and diseases				<p>Always wear gloves when litter picking. Be aware of personal hygiene and wash hands on returning home, even if gloves have been worn.</p> <p>If chemicals have been touched, do not touch your own face prior to washing your hand.</p> <p>Revised score: Impact 4, likelihood 1, score 4</p>	
1.8	<p>Drowning, injury or illness from falling into watercourses, e.g. streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and ditches.</p>	5	1	5	<p>Do not enter any watercourses and take extra care if litter picking along river banks and edges of ponds and lakes, especially if steep and unstable.</p> <p>Do not enter flooded areas or pick litter from floodwater as it may be contaminated.</p> <p>Consider carrying a mobile phone in case of emergency.</p> <p>Revised score: impact 3, Likelihood, 1, score 3</p>	<p>As people pick their local area they will usually be aware of where there are water courses or where flooding occurs</p>

Appendix A: Explanation of scoring system

Impact	Description		Likelihood	Assumes the volunteer litter picks once per week
1	Minor injury, no pain or discomfort. No medical help required		1	Very rare – less than once a year
2	Temporary injury requiring first aid treatment		2	Less than once a month
3	More significant injury needs to be treated by a pharmacist or medical professional		3	Perhaps once a month but less than every week
4	Hospital visit required		4	Once per week
5	Potential or actual fatality		5	More than once per week

Revised score meaning

1-4: Acceptable – no further action may be needed and maintaining control measures is encouraged

5-9: Adequate – may be considered for further analysis

10-16: Tolerable – must be reviewed in a timely manner to carry out improvements

17-25: Unacceptable – must cease activities until the score can be reduced.