

Risk Assessment for Litter Picking

This risk assessment is provided as guidance for litter pickers in Richmond Park. It attempts to cover all anticipated risks, but by the nature of potential unknown risks it cannot be exhaustive. It is expected that individuals will apply reasonable common sense and, if in doubt, should seek advice and not proceed with any potentially risk involved activities.

Hazards anything (object, person, condition etc that has the potential to cause harm	Risk Level Low, Medium, High, N/A	Control Measures to mitigate risk	Risk Level after control measures Low, Medium, High, N/A
Additional risks – Covid-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of Covid infection. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always follow government guidelines on social distancing and avoid high footfall areas at busy times, such as park gates, toilets and refreshment areas. 	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Toilet waste' and used toilet paper. 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no requirement for volunteers to collect this litter. It should be reported to Royal Parks Management, using contact details provided on the AaA web page. 	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic waste, including broken glass, metal cans, tissues and wet wipes. 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEVER pick up these items without using a litter picker. 	Low
Manual Handling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General - picking up litter, carrying bags, moving bins, moving large objects, reaching, bending or twisting 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the litter picker to avoid unnecessary bending. Lift and move items using your legs to bend, not your back. Take regular breaks to prevent fatigue because if you are tired you are more prone to injuring yourself. Assess items for hazards before you move them (e.g. sharp edges, unknown substance) 	Low

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear appropriate footwear that has suitable tread and ankle support, so that you are less likely to slip whilst carrying out the activity. Only collect litter that can be put into bags and carried. Do not handle large items. Report these, as per instructions, to the permanent litter contractors. 	
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Physical Hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground surfaces – uneven or slippery Steep banks and reed beds Shrubs, brambles, tree branches etc. Weather: sun and hot temperatures; wet and cold temperatures Deep or fast flowing water 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity should not be carried out in areas of high risk. It's advisable to wear sturdy/sensible footwear with adequate grip. No open toed footwear. Be aware of surfaces walked on. Suitable and sensible clothing should be worn for the weather conditions i.e. sun hat and sun cream in hot weather, waterproof warm clothing in cold weather. Take regular breaks out of the sun. Water should be carried and drunk regularly. Cancel activity in extreme weather. Ensure you have a phone to call for help and you are aware of where first aid can be provided. Avoid entering or over-reaching any ditches, ponds or streams and leave out screened areas at Beverley Brook. 	Low
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Biological Hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirty water in ditches • Faeces, vomit, used condoms, 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable clothing and sturdy footwear should be worn, no bare skin exposed. Gloves should be worn. • You are not required to deal with faeces or any other human waste. Leave them where they are and report their location to Park Management as soon as possible. • All cuts/grazes should be covered with surgical tape or waterproof plaster before starting litter picking. • Do not to pick up unidentified and potentially hazardous waste or handle any bio-hazard. Report their location to Park Management as soon as possible. • Be aware of personal hygiene and wash hands before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet. • Ensure you have a phone to call for help and you are aware of where first aid can be provided. 	Low
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Sharp objects: Glass, syringes, nails etc.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable clothing and sturdy footwear should be worn. • Use the litter picking stick at all times do not use hands. • Do not pick up any needles, syringes or sharp objects. Leave them where they are and report their location to Park Management as soon as possible. • Ensure you have a phone to call for help and you are aware of where first aid can be provided 	Low
Waste/litter which could be contaminated by a hazardous substance	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear gloves. Gloves will prevent substances seeping quickly through to the skin. • Any unidentified cans and canisters, oil drums, poisons, insecticides, clinical wastes, hazardous substances, dead animals, broken glass, condoms, syringes, needles or sharp objects should not be handled. Report these, as per instructions, to Park Management as soon as possible. 	Low

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Vehicles/ movements Cars, cyclists, horses, pedestrians.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter picking should not be undertaken on the roads. When picking on roadsides, keep off the road. Wear high visibility clothing in order to be seen easily. Take care when crossing roads, or tracks where cars cyclists, runners or horses pass Stand still and back off from a bridleway when riders are approaching, since some horses could react badly to being walked close to by a person, especially if wearing hi-viz and carrying a stick. 	Low
Lone Working	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure you inform someone of your whereabouts when you are out litter picking. Ensure you have a phone to advise of anything suspicious or to summon assistance. Be alert to your surroundings at all times. Do not challenge anyone if you see them wrongdoing. 	Low
Wildlife Tick bites, Oak Processionary moths (OPM), other insects and deer	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarise yourself with TRP leaflets and signs regarding deer, ticks and Oak Processionary Moths (OPM). Keep 50m from deer, especially at birthing and the rut. To prevent ticks, wear long sleeves and trousers, and avoid bracken and long grass in the summer months. Be careful near/under oak trees and watch out for OPM nests; if you see a nest on the ground at any time, do not touch it and report it to Park Management. Read this information leaflet 	Low
Group litter picking	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are organising a group litter pick ensure you take specific time to explain procedures and take particular care to describe and point out potential hazards to other group members and especially young persons. Ensure there is adequate supervision. 	Low