

Great Gonerby Parish Council

Litter Picking Risk Assessment

May 2025 -2026

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Activity risk rating (no controls)	Control measures already in place	Risk rating with control measures
Manual handling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying bags, moving bins, moving large and heavy objects, reaching, bending and twisting 	<p>The Litter picker & Volunteer workers</p> <p>Musculoskeletal issues from over exertion</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter picker sticks and bag hoops provided to avoid bending and ease debris transferral The Litter Picker & Volunteers to be aware to lift and move items by using their leg muscles to bend – not their backs! Regular breaks are recommended and can be taken at anytime The Litter picker is advised to wear safety footwear PPE & Volunteers are to be made aware to wear suitable footwear that have good tread such as hiking boots or study trainers The Litter Picker & Volunteers are made aware not to lift or move anything above their own capability. Ideally under 25kg. Report any issues such as moving heavy hazardous items to the Proper Officer. The Litter Picker & Volunteers are aware they only collect litter that can be transferred easily into black bags 	Low
Slips, trips and falls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uneven or slippery ground surfaces, steep banks, shrubs, 	<p>The Litter Picker & Volunteer workers</p> <p>Head injuries, fractures, dislocations,</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Litter Picker *Volunteers should stay within the pathway boundary and not to venture into banked up areas The Litter Picker is advised to wear safety footwear PPE. Volunteers are made 	Low

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brambles, tree branches, debris, and dark areas	sprains, cuts and bruises		<p>aware to wear suitable footwear that have good tread such as hiking boots or study trainers – no open toed shoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Litter Picker & Volunteers to be aware of the surface they are walking on and the current weather conditions Litter picking should only take place during daylight hours 	
Adverse weather <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy rain – flood, deep puddles or fast flowing water Ice/snow – difficult walking conditions High winds – trees to bend/break Extreme heat – over exposure to UV rays 	<p>The Litter Picker & Volunteer workers</p> <p>Head injuries, fractures, dislocations, sprains, cuts and bruises, fatigue, dehydration, sun burn</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Litter Picker & Volunteers should be aware of the local weather reports and assess if it is suitable to carry out the litter picking. The Litter Picker & Volunteers to be aware of changing weather conditions during their litter pick Do not litter pick in extreme weather Clothing worn should be appropriate to the weather conditions i.e. sun hat and sun screen during hot weather, waterproof and warm clothing in cold weather Regular breaks are recommended 	Low
Biological hazards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dirty water, faeces, vomit, used condoms, used syringes 	<p>The Litter Picker & Volunteer workers</p> <p>Infections and diseases</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable clothing and study footwear to be worn at all times Use litter pickers at all times – do not use hands The Litter Picker & Volunteers are recommended to use gloves as supplied of at least EN388 standard to ensure they are puncture and tear resistant. Any existing cuts/grazes should be covered with surgical tape or waterproof plaster before starting activity 	Low

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not touch any unidentified and potentially hazardous waste and report it to The Clerk or other responsible person. Be aware of personal hygiene and wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking, going to the toilet and handling children. Do not touch your own face prior to washing your hands 	
Sharp objects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broken glass, syringes, nails, cans sharp twigs 	The Litter Picker & Volunteer workers Cuts and abrasions	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable clothing and sturdy footwear to be worn at all times The Litter Picker & Volunteers are recommended to wear gloves as supplied of at least standard EN388 and EN374 protect themselves against micro-organisms and be adequately puncture and tear resistant Use litter pickers at all times – do not use hands Do not touch any sharp objects and on discovery report it to the Clerk 	Low
Contaminated waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter contaminated by hazardous substances 	The Litter Picker & Volunteer workers Chemical burns, skin irritation, sickness, diarrhoea, infections and diseases	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not handle any can, canister, oil drum, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste, hazardous substances, dead animals, broken glass, condoms, syringes, needles or sharp objects – on discovery report it to the Clerk. Dead animals larger than a rabbit please report it to waste@n-kesteven.gov.uk Suitable clothing and sturdy footwear to be worn at all times Be aware of personal hygiene and wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking, 	Low

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			going to the toilet and handling children. Do not touch your own face prior to washing your hands	
Collisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles, cyclists, joggers, dogs, other pedestrians 	The Litter Picker & Volunteer workers Head injuries, fractures, dislocations, sprains, cuts and bruises	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Litter Picker & Volunteers are advised to be aware of their surroundings and be considerate of other using the route and look before making abrupt changes in direction Follow the highway code at all times Be extremely careful when working on the roadside if the speed limit is 40mph or over Don't litter pick on, or within any roadway used by motorised vehicles, or any highway central reservation. When litter picking on the highway footpath: ideally pick litter facing oncoming traffic. 	Low
Lone working within the highway environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violence/abuse 	The Litter Picker & Volunteer workers Stress	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Litter picker to follow the council's lone worker policy and always carry the mobile phone, provided ensuring it is fully charged prior to commencing duties. Lone working is not recommended by volunteers, minimum of 2 persons at any one time A fully charged mobile phone to be carried at all times by volunteers Ensure you inform someone of your whereabouts when out litter picking and an agreed timescale Litter picking should only be carried out during daylight hours 	Low

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report any abusive threats or potential violence to the police and the Clerk. Anyone under the age of 16 needs to be supervised by an appropriate adult 	
Undisclosed health issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diabetes, epilepsy, hay fever and adverse reactions to stings, bites, nettles 	The Litter Picker & Volunteer workers Stress, ill health and allergies	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Litter Picker & Volunteers who are aware they have underlying health issues should ensure they protect themselves sufficiently during the activity bearing in mind the environment they will be surrounded by It would be prudent to inform a friend that will be with you of any health issues prior to starting the litter pick Carry appropriate equipment and medication if required Do not approach any domestic pets unless agreed by the owner. Try not to disturb any wildlife that you may come across Be aware of your nearest defibrillator - You can see these at www.defibfinder.uk Consider taking a first aid kit with you. 	Low
Watercourses	The Litter Picker, Volunteers and rescuers Drowning, waterborne illnesses	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't enter any rivers, ponds, lake or canals. River banks can be steep and unstable Do not enter into floodwater or pick litter from floodwater as it may be contaminated. 	Low

Risk rating

Taking into account the potential risks you should calculate your risk using the likelihood and severity calculation below.

- Risk = Likelihood × Severity
- Both likelihood and severity are scored on a scale of 1-3
- Maximum risk score is therefore 9

Likelihood

Likelihood is the probability of an occurrence considering the control measures that you have in place.

Likelihood score	Description
1 (Low)	Where harm is unlikely to occur under normal circumstances. Low expectation of occurrence.
2 (Medium)	Where harm is likely to occur in time or exposure to the hazard exists intermittently or hazardous event occurs occasionally.
3 (High)	Where the hazard is likely to occur imminently or in the very short term, or exposure is permanent or occurs frequently or much evidence of previous harm.

Severity

Severity is how serious a potential risk could be.

Severity score	Description
1 (Low)	All other minor injuries – first aid treatment with no permanent harm – minor cuts and bruises
2 (Medium)	Injuries or work related illness where people are unable to undertake their normal work for more than 3 days ; semi-permanent harm or injury.
3 (High)	Death, major injury or work-related illness, permanent harm or disability.

The parish council has used volunteer litter pickers in the past and may again in the future. They will be fully inducted before commencing operations