



Beach Clean -Risk Assessment

IMPORTANT: this risk assessment has been developed to include the most likely risks associated with the beach environment and the activity of beach cleaning with your group. Due to the changing nature of this environment and variations between risks at different locations, you must adapt this document to suit the location of your event and make note of any additional risks present on the day. There are blank lines available to add risks specific to your event. You must sign to indicate that you have done this and keep a copy of this document. NEVER place yourself or others in the position of risk.

Beach name: Event Date & Time:	Risk Assessment checked on day of clean by:
Risk Assessment completed by:	Date Risk Assessment checked:
High tide:	Low tide:
Date of Risk Assessment:	I confirm the Risk Assessment is accurate and has been updated as required. Signed:

Essential for event and RA: First aid kit, container for glass, sharps box, hand sanitiser, strong gloves, (face mask if you would like to wear one)

Where is the nearest hospital? -

Where is the nearest defibrillator? -

Coastguard & Emergency Services: Call **999**.

Contact for dead/injured alive animals: If you find a live marine mammal that is injured call BDMLR on **01825 765546**.
If you find any other live but injured animal call RSPCA on **0300 1234999**.

Who has the First Aid Kit / Is a First aider: -

Mobile Phone Reception/Signal: Excellent / Good / Poor (*delete as appropriate*)



Section 1 – Identify who might be at risk (please circle)

Volunteers	Teachers / Group Leaders	Young People	Parents / Helpers	Members of Public
Other (please state)				

Section 2 – Identify who is responsible for applying this risk assessment (please circle)

Volunteers	Teachers / Group Leaders	Other (please state)
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Section 3 – Identify Hazards

1	Lack of understanding of the event site, or knowing what to do if something occurs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Fly tipped waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	15		<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Tides/currents	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Unexploded ordnance	<input type="checkbox"/>	16		<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Slips, Trips & Falls, including features of the environment (cliffs, dunes, soft sand, mud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Animals (dead/alive); Including jelly fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	17		<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Roads and slipways	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	First aid required	<input type="checkbox"/>	18		<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Weather conditions (Hot and Cold)	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Member of the public becoming involved with the event	<input type="checkbox"/>	19		<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Sharp or heavy litter	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Aggressive dogs	<input type="checkbox"/>	20		<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Hazardous waste (dog faeces, sewage, needles, containers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Lifting and carrying heavy items	<input type="checkbox"/>	21		<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 4 – Risk Controls

Hazard No.	Description of Hazard	<p align="center">Measures to manage the risk that the hazard could have.</p> <p align="center">Ensure that you are satisfied that the measures effectively control the risk to the minimum possible level.</p> <p align="center">Where risks cannot be reduced sufficiently, consider that the event cannot run</p>	<p align="center">Who is responsible for implementing the controls, and when?</p>
1	Lack of understanding of the event site, or knowing what to do if something occurs.	<p>Prior to the litter-pick taking place, Beach Clean Leader provides a briefing and safety talk, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risks and general information about correct use of the equipment • the requirement to clean hands frequently with soap, or sanitiser • particular features of the chosen area for cleaning (like cliffs, dunes etc) • risks from hazardous waste and the need to avoid touching with hands/gloves • who to contact if an accident occurs • where and when to meet if the group becomes separated • any issues that have become more hazardous (for example, due to the weather on the day, other events on the beach, increased traffic, etc). 	<p>Beach Clean Leader.</p> <p>In advance of the event and in the briefing on the day. Beach Clean Leader can call the event to a close if behaviour is putting others at risk, or for any other hazards and risks that appear.</p>
2	Tides/currents	<p>Volunteers advised to stay away from water's edge, not enter the water & be vigilant of surging waves.</p> <p>Volunteers advised of large sea swell conditions and possible rogue waves surging up the beach.</p> <p>Volunteers advised of tidal times and not to go to areas of the beach that could be cut-off.</p> <p>Special consideration of risks from the water for young people in the group – to be supervised at all times.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader.</p> <p>Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event. Beach Clean Leader monitors during the clean and cancels event if sea state threatens volunteer safety.</p>
3	Slips, Trips & Falls, including features of the environment (for example, cliffs, rocks, dunes, soft sand, mud, groynes, pebble shelves, sand banks)	<p>Event organiser to choose a location with minimal hazard to the participants.</p> <p>Volunteers advised to wear supportive, slip resistant footwear and no open toed shoes. Take care when negotiating steps.</p> <p>Volunteers advised to take extra care on overgrown areas, rocky areas, wet/muddy areas or sand dunes.</p> <p>Volunteers instructed to take extra care when carrying heavy bags.</p> <p>Volunteers advised of any hazardous areas and informed that these are to be avoided.</p> <p>If in doubt, don't carry on if an area looks slippery or dangerous.</p> <p>Volunteers advised to stay away from cliffs and never access caves or overhangs.</p>	<p>Event organiser to include particular features and cautions applicable to the cleaning site in the briefing and the conditions on the day. Monitor activity during the event.</p>

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		<p>Volunteers advised to stay away from visible landslips. All participants to stay a minimum of 5m from cliff faces. Sand dunes to be avoided to prevent the deterioration of the habitat.</p>	<p>Event organiser to cancel event if weather is sufficiently extreme.</p>
4	Roads and slipways	<p>Prior to event, organiser to advise participants of any requirement to cross roads. Children to remain under supervision and in sight of a responsible adult at all times, preferably by a parent or guardian. All volunteers advised not to work on roads or roadside verges. No litter picking near railway lines or bridges. All participants to avoid slipways and to note if vehicles are permitted on the beach.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader. Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event.</p>
5	<p>Weather conditions:</p> <p>Heat: Sunstroke, sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion.</p> <p>Cold/Wind/Rain: Hypothermia</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader to be aware of the predicted weather conditions in the lead up to the event and assess if the event can go ahead. Volunteers advised to dress appropriately for weather conditions. Gloves to be worn on all occasions. Advise volunteers to take regular breaks and seek shade if necessary. Volunteers advised to wear sun hats and sun cream, re-apply as needed. Volunteers to have access to water and advised to drink plenty. Volunteers instructed to avoid areas where debris could come loose, i.e., trees, poorly maintained structures in high winds. If lightning occurs, workers and volunteers are instructed to cease using litter pickers and stop the event. Event Organiser to shorten the event duration due to the conditions or to end the event if the weather changes, or the location becomes unsafe.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader. To assess the conditions on the day, and monitor during the event.</p>
6	Sharp or heavy litter	<p>Overall message is 'if in doubt, don't touch'. Volunteers advised to wear sturdy gardening type gloves at all times, to use a litter picker in preference to hands, and never pick handfuls of litter as broken glass and sharp items may be hidden inside. Glass and sharp items not to be put loose in a collecting bag. Collect glass in a separate container or bucket, and at the end of the clean, put into an appropriate recycling bin if one is available. Participants instructed to wrap up securely, or in a sealable container which can be put in the waste bag at the end of the clean for safe removal. Bags not to be overfilled and made difficult to carry. Heavy or partially buried items should be left and the beach owner informed to arrange collection.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader. Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event Beach Clean Leader to ensure a suitable container is provided for collecting sharp items.</p>

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7	<p>Hazardous waste:</p> <p>Dog faeces, sewage related items, suspicious containers, needles / medical waste</p>	<p>Beaches can contain a variety of unpleasant and hazardous materials that can pose a risk to human health.</p> <p>Children should be supervised at all times and instructed to ask for help with hazardous waste.</p> <p>Beach Clean Leader emphasises the requirement to wear gloves and avoid contact with hazardous materials.</p> <p>Collect bagged dog faeces with litter pickers if possible or only with gloves on.</p> <p>Unbagged dog faeces should be left - clean footwear if waste is stepped in.</p> <p>Sewage related items to be collected using litter pickers if possible – or only with gloves on.</p> <p>Volunteers instructed to never approach suspicious looking containers with or without hazard warning sign and any suspicious drums, materials, barrels to be left untouched and Environment Agency Pollution Hotline to be contacted (Tel 0800 7312453).</p> <p>Volunteers finding syringes should NOT touch them, but immediately notify the event organiser. All work must then cease in this particular area until the syringe is recovered. Any accidental piercing by syringe should be immediately treated at medical practice or A&E. Sharps are never to be put in collecting bags. Volunteers advised to alert organiser if sharps are found and if able, they will arrange proper disposal using sharps kit / by the council. https://www.gov.uk/report-syringes</p> <p>Participants requested not to touch oil/tar/chemicals found but to report to event leader; if considered appropriate the relevant agency will be informed. (Environment Agency - England).</p> <p>Participants to pay particular attention to hand washing/using sanitiser to reduce the risk of infection. Wear gloves and keep them sanitised throughout the day. Cover all existing wounds on hands with dressings and consider wearing a thin pair of extra gloves under the work gloves.</p> <p>All volunteers should be advised to seek medical advice if they become ill in the weeks following the event and to ensure they inform medical staff that they took part in a beach clean.</p> <p>Event Organiser to check with the Council / land owner about their particular approach to collecting used PPE pick when they are arranging for waste collection.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader.</p> <p>Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event.</p> <p>Beach Clean Leader to contact Environment Agency Pollution Hotline to be contacted (Tel 0800 7312453) with any suspicious or hazardous containers are found.</p>

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8	Fly tipped waste	<p>If there is an accumulation of waste which would obviously have been fly-tipped deliberately on site, then this should be left alone and the relevant local authority with responsibility for fly-tipping clearance informed.</p> <p>It is possible that asbestos could be found amongst smaller accumulations of litter that may not appear to be fly tipping. A simple asbestos ID chart can be found on the HSE website here: http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader.</p> <p>Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event.</p>
9	Unexploded ordnance	<p>Health and safety briefing at the start of the event will highlight the hazard of unexploded ordnances. Participants advised not to touch and/or approach suspected unexploded ordnance, but to immediately inform the event leader.</p> <p>Event leader to stop all activity and participants moved a safe distance away from the unexploded ordnance.</p> <p>Event leader to immediately notify Emergency Services / 999 and establish a safe cordon around the device.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader.</p> <p>Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event</p>
10	Animals (dead/alive); Including jelly fish	<p>Included in Health and safety briefing at start of event - dead animals are to be reported to relevant agency for removal.</p> <p>Jellyfish do not need to be reported but should not be touched.</p> <p>Participants instructed not to touch but immediately inform event leader.</p> <p>Remain safe distance from animal.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader.</p> <p>Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event</p>
11	First aid required	<p>Beach Clean Leaders advised to have a first aid kit available and to let participants know how to access it.</p> <p>It is recommended that all clean-up hosts are First Aid trained.</p> <p>Event organiser to have mobile phone in case of emergency and call 999 if help is needed.</p> <p>Before each litter pick takes place, organiser updates and keeps a copy of details of local walk-in centres and accident & emergency departments.</p> <p>Organiser to replace used first aid items immediately after event, check kit before every event and undertake formal inventory on a quarterly basis.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader.</p> <p>Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event</p>
12	Member of the public becoming involved with the event	<p>Beach Clean Leader to monitor the event closely and ensure that they are known as the point of contact / discussion with any members of the public.</p> <p>If a confrontation occurs move the group away and if it persists, contact the police.</p> <p>We do not recommend that you approach members of the public to challenge inappropriate behaviour such as dog fouling or littering. If you do, please be polite and respectful.</p> <p>Do not trespass onto private property whilst litter picking.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader.</p> <p>Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event</p>
13	Aggressive dogs	<p>Volunteers advised of the threat of aggressive dogs and to not approach any unknown dog.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader.</p>

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		<p>Dog walkers in vicinity to be advised by group leader of the litter pick and to keep dogs under control.</p> <p>Children to remain under adult supervision and within sight of adults at all times.</p> <p>Adopt recommended posture if confronted by a dog – do not look in eyes, look down, do not run, pull limbs into body. Retreat slowly.</p> <p>Visit A&E if bitten or attacked.</p> <p>Report attacks to the Police and refer to the government guidance on controlling dogs in public if you feel this is necessary: https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/report-a-dog</p>	<p>Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event.</p>
14	Lifting and carrying heavy items	<p>Volunteers instructed not to over-fill bags or try to carry heavy items.</p> <p>Volunteers advised to be aware of their own limitations by the event organiser during the briefing and not lift heavy items found during the clean-up.</p> <p>Volunteers with pre-existing injuries are not to lift bags or heavy items.</p> <p>No more than one bag at a time to be carried.</p> <p>Young people are always supervised by a parent or guardian.</p> <p>Only organisers/volunteers trained in safe manual handling procedures should offer guidance for safe lifting practices and reducing/removing common hazards and risks (reducing load weight, postural advice when lifting, handling asymmetrical loads, grip, other environmental factors, carry distance, obstacles en-route).</p> <p>Volunteers advised on safe manual handling practices.</p> <p>If too heavy to handle, leave the object in place and report it to the organiser to arrange removal by the council.</p>	<p>Beach Clean Leader.</p> <p>Informs as part of the H&S briefing at the start of the event.</p> <p>Beach Clean Leader monitors during the clean.</p> <p>Beach Clean Leader to organise removal of waster by informing the Council / Beach Owner.</p>



Put any additional risks that are relevant to the location and group of people attending:

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15			
16			
17			
18			