

Briefing Volunteers

A short talk before the clean-up event starts is vital. This should include information on:

- Areas to avoid and hazards - keep away from slippery, steep or crumbling banks.
- Location of first aid equipment and emergency telephone.
- Safety advice, you may consider providing a safety information board for your event so that latecomers will be aware of the advice.
- Who the appointed group leaders are and the event supervisor. Please note persons under 18 should not act in a supervisory role. — **UNDER 18's A**
- What the plan of action is eg. Rest, lunch breaks, areas to be cleared and finish time. **companied by an adult**
- Ask volunteers to report any **medical conditions** to the group leader after the introductory talk.
- **Do not touch your eyes or mouth** at any time until your hands are clean.

Areas that can be actioned by community groups:

- Litter picking of parks and open spaces
- Litter picking of residential roads
- Litter picking of play areas

Recycling Collection

We are able to provide you with clear sacks for the collection of recyclable litter. We would ask that you only include the following recyclables in the clear bags. — **we will use just black bags**

(Glass should not be picked as it may become sharp within the sacks provide and pose a potential hazard). Where possible please ensure recyclables are free from liquid, soil and food waste.

- Cans and tins
- Plastic bottles
- Dry paper and cardboard

All of the litter will be collected together and the recyclable material will be separated out and sent for reprocessing.

Rubbish Clearance

Always pick items up one-by-one with the litter picking provided, do not scoop up handfuls of litter as it may contain hidden needles, broken glass and other sharp objects

Items such as fridges, tyres, gas bottles, rubble/hard-core etc. should **not** be picked up but should be reported to your local council. As a rule of thumb litter picked items should fit into the bags provided, anything larger should be left in situ and reported as a fly tip.

Report fly tipping on the below online forms:

NHDC: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/transport-and-streets/street-cleaning/fly-tipping>

EHDC: <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35191/Dumped-Rubbish-Fly-tipping>

What to wear

- Bring plenty of warm clothes and waterproofs, if appropriate.
- Wear sturdy boots or Wellingtons for clean-up activities.
- Sun protection will be necessary in summer

Tools and equipment available on loan:

- Litter pickers
- Non protective gloves
- High Vis vests
- Refuse sacks for recyclable litter and non recyclable litter

Health and Safety Equipment to consider:

- First Aid Boxes with basic bandages
- Plasters
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Eye Wash
- Health and Safety Information and/or boards
- Supply of clean water for hand washing
- Soap
- Paper towels
- Drinking water or warm drink
- Cups

Possible Site Hazards

These are possible hazards that you may identify when carrying out the site-specific assessment.

- Proximity to a main/busy road.
- Location of water, rivers and streams / fast or deep flowing water.
- Steep / unstable banks.
- Slipping and tripping hazards.
- Derelict buildings.
- Electric fences – Especially on areas of common grazing ground – Electric fences are identified by black and yellow warning signs.
- Unsafe sites e.g. broken ground, debris, holes etc.
- Building works and site entrances.
- Animals – Wildlife, strays etc.
- Fly tipping – This is fast becoming a common problem.
- Illegal dumping of contaminated waste –
Watch for warning signs and do not approach – These signs may be found on drums etc. If you find a container displaying a sign contact the Environment Agency Pollution Hotline on **0800 80 70 60**



- Warning Signs – These warn of special risks, they are yellow and black with a pictographic symbol



Bio Hazard



Electricity



Poison

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact
wasteandrecycling@north-herts.gov.uk