

SOURCE TO SEA BRIEFING SHEET FOR VOLUNTEERS



Updated - 13/08/2020

INTRODUCTIONS

Hello, my name is [xxxx]. Thank-you for coming to take part in the Source to Sea Litter Quest! Before we get started today, I need to run through a few things.

This event is part of the Marine Conservation Society's Great British Beach Clean, which is their flagship event, now in its 27th year. The Great British Beach Clean is more than just litter picking - people become citizen scientists and carry out a litter survey, recording what they find on the beaches to help show a national and international picture of the most common forms of litter. The Marine Conservation Society uses this data to call for policy change, tackling ocean pollution at its source.

Illustrating the impact of inland litter on beach pollution, the Marine Conservation Society's Source to Sea Litter Quest highlights the most common beach litter and asks volunteers to spot them (and pick them up!) in their local area. The plastic bottles, drink cans and face masks spotted in the UK's parks and streets will ultimately end up on the beach. 80% of the pollution on beaches around the UK is from litter which has travelled from our towns, parks and rivers.



HEALTH AND SAFETY BITS

It's important we all keep safe when litter picking so here are a few things to note for health and safety.

With the coronavirus outbreak please make sure you keep to social distancing guidelines with anyone not in your household. You must all be wearing strong sturdy gloves, remember to not touch your face during the clean and don't forget to wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds after the clean or use a hand sanitizer until you can get to soap and water.

Please don't touch anything that looks like it might be dangerous or full of something nasty (containers, drums, unexploded shells or syringes). If you're unsure, ask me. Be careful about lifting heavy or semi-buried objects that could cause a strain injury - if in doubt don't lift!

Sharp items must not go in bin bags as they can rip the bags and cut your legs. Syringes go in a yellow sharps box (if one is available. If you do not have one then please leave the needle/syringe there and inform the land owner.) All other sharp items like broken glass go in this container which I will carry [e.g. a bucket, milk bottle with the top cut off etc].

If you cannot socially distance whilst on your litter pick, please stop litter picking and, if required, we will all move away from the overcrowded location.

All pets must be on a lead where required and on narrow footpaths.

[If you are by a river] Please keep away from the water's edge. Young people/children should be supervised at all times.

Weill's disease is a form of a bacterial infection. It can be caught by humans through contact with rat or cattle urine, most commonly occurring through contaminated fresh water. It is important that you keep away from the water's edge.

Volunteers must keep hands/gloves clean, use clean water to rinse if available, wash hands or use sanitiser. Ensure that all existing cuts and grazes are covered and keep your gloves on when on the litter pick.

If you become ill in the weeks following the event you are advised to seek medical advice and inform medical staff that you took part in a river clean.

If anyone accidentally falls in then do not jump in to help. If you have fallen in then swim to side if possible or if not, lay on your back with the current. I will call 999 for urgent help

I have undertaken a risk assessment and I'd like to point out the following hazards that need to be noted today [refer to risk assessment].



THE LITTER PICK ITSELF

During the litter pick we want to identify any key items that the Marine Conservation Society also find on our beaches. The items are:

- Glass bottles
- Metal drink can
- Plastic drink bottles and tops
- Plastic drink cups
- Polystyrene cups
- Plastic bag for life
- Single-use plastic bag
- Polystyrene fast food container
- Single-use plastic gloves
- Single-use face mask
- Balloons

Please let me know if you find any and I can mark it down on the Source to Sea Litter Quest.

POST CLEAN DEBRIEF

- Weigh your bags of litter [if you have weighing scale]
- Who got most / weirdest items

Ensure you wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds after the clean or use a hand sanitizer.

- **Key messages:**
 - This is a great time to talk about the importance of litter picks to gather information - once it's in our environment it's too late. We want to stop it from ever getting into the sea, and that's why we collect the litter data.
 - Also mention what people can do in their day-to-day lives from reducing their single-use plastic, from plastic bottle, bags, coffee cups and straws to choosing loose fruit and veg where they can. They can also check out our website and sign up to our e-news to keep to-to-date on all our campaigns and how they can get involved.

Marine Conservation Society, Overcross House, Ross Park, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 7US

T 01989 566017 E info@mcsuk.org W www.mcsuk.org f facebook.com/mcsuk t twitter.com/mcsuk i mcs_uk

Registered Charity No (England and Wales): 1004005. Registered Charity No (Scotland): SC037480. Company Limited by Guarantee No: 2550966. Registered in England VAT No: 321 4912 32