



Risk Assessment: Beach Cleans

	Name/Signature	Designation	Date
Assessment Carried Out By:	Ken Nicol	Secretary / L5 Coach	23 June 2025
Reviewed By:	Emily Kearn	Safety Officer	24 June 2025

Introduction

This is a **Generic Assessment** for Club members undertaking a beach clean. A dynamic risk assessment should be undertaken by the organiser of the beach clean supported by those attending.

Risk Assessment

The risks are:

- Personal Injury
- Drowning
- Infection
- Property Damage



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Significant Hazard	People who are at risk	Risk	Control Measure(s)
Hazardous Items Found These could be wide ranging including suspicious containers marked with a hazard label; needles & medical waste; animal faeces	Club Members Members of the Public	Personal Injury Infection Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All volunteers MUST wear gloves at all times during the event. ■ Volunteers should be instructed to not pick up any hazardous materials and to instead notify the event leader. ■ Hands to be washed before eating / drinking ■ At least one sharps box should be held on site.
Carrying Heavy Items Lifting and carrying of heavy items	Club Members	Personal Injury Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Individual only to lift items within their capability ■ For heavier items, 2 or more individual to be used



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Hoisting of Items The use of mechanical systems to lift items away from an area	Club Members Members of the Public	Personal Injury Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Club will not be in charge of, or responsible for, setting up hoisting systems ■ 3rd parties (eg Caithness Beach Cleans) may set up systems. When these are used, the Club will work under their direction and they will maintain full responsibility ■ An exclusion zone should be established where items are being hoisted. This zone is to be communicated to others.
Tides Incoming and outgoing tides causing a changes in the shore. Individuals becoming stranded	Club Members	Personal Injury Drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tide times to be checked ■ Where possible Beach cleans should be organised for during an outgoing tide. ■ Dynamic risk assessment to be undertaken at venue based on the tides.



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review in case of particularly high sea state or unusually high tides. Individual to be advised
Surf / Swell Surf catching people and sweeping them into the sea	Club Members	Personal Injury Drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic risk assessment to be undertaken at venue based on the tides. Review in case of particularly high sea state or unusually high tides. Individuals to be advised to keep away from water where waves may catch them unaware.



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Uneven and or slippery Ground This could include rocks covered with seaweed, hidden holes, ditches	Club Members	Personal Injury Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slips, trips and falls Route should be assessed for steep slopes or slippery surfaces. Suitable sturdy footwear to be worn. Verbal safety briefing should be conducted prior to the event starting with individuals informed of the potential hazard Volunteers should be advised to, where possible, avoid surfaces (eg rocks covered with seaweed, algae) that could be slippery
Slopes (generally less than 25% - 1 in 4) These are slopes which can be accessed up and down without the use of specialised equipment.	Club Members	Personal Injury Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose the most accessible location to access the foreshore Organisers will carry out a dynamic risk assessment taking into account underfoot conditions, weather and gradient. Appropriate footwear ideally with ankle support Access will be restricted to individuals who are reasonably fit to independently access and egress the area



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There maybe evidence of paths / tracks.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aids such as walking poles and rope as an aid to be considered by individuals if appropriate. If a rope is used as a support, this should be inspected for signs of damage / degradation and securely fixed ■ Gloves to be worn
Cliffs / Rock faces / Very Steep ground Areas where individuals are required to use climbing techniques to access areas) Cliff edges Falling rock / debris	Club Members	Personal Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cliff / rock Faces are not to be descended /ascended to access / egress from shoreline ■ Individuals to stand back from cliff edges



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Weather temperature, rain, wind potentially leading to hypothermia or hyperthermia. Rain causes areas to become slippery	Club Members	Personal Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Weather conditions to be checked ■ Individuals advised of potential condition and recommendation on clothing, food, drinks ■ Suitable footwear to be worn ■ Dynamic risk assessment to be undertaken at venue based on the weather



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Sharp Items There maybe sharp objects to pick up.	Club Members	Personal Injury Infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gloves to be worn. ■ Were possible use litter pickers ■ Broken glass to be put into a suitable collection container
Unexploded Ordnance During the cleaning, unexploded ordnance is found. This could include flares or MoD munitions	Club Members	Personal Injury Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Individuals briefed not to touch or handle items ■ Area evacuated to at least 200m from item (National Minimum Cordon Distances for a large Suspicious Packages) . ■ Do not to use radios or phones within 15m of the suspect item ■ Call emergency services - Police
Dead Animals Wildlife having contradicted a disease eg birdflu or	Club Members	Infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dead animal should not be touched and should be left in situ ■ Location of dead animal should be communicated to others in the group to allow them to avoid the location too



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decaying bodies may present a health hazard			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dead Cetaceans should be reported to Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (SMASS) (https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-environment/marine-mammals/) Gloves to be worn Hands to be washed before eating / drinking
Wildlife / Live stock This includes seals, sheep, nesting birds etc	Club Members Members of the Public	Personal Injury Infection Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beach cleans should avoid areas with seal and especially pups in pupping season (Common seals June/ July; Grey seals Oct – Dec) Beach cleans should be sensitive to areas where ground-nesting birds (terns, oyster catchers, eider ducks etc) may be present and nesting



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ When crossing farmland, keep to paths or edge of fields. Make sure gates are closed. Avoid fields with young animals ■ Initial safety briefing should include advising volunteers not to disturb or interact with wildlife. ■ Any sensitive wildlife (seals during pupping season or nesting birds) found during the beach clean should be communicated to the wider group to then can avoid the area
Road Traffic Impact injury to pedestrians.	Club Members Members of the Public	Personal Injury Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Where possible use established footpaths ■ Park in recognised car parks / laybys ■ Where possible avoid crossing roads. If roads need to be crossed extra care should be taken



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Vegetation Overhanging trees Vegetation on access / egress routes	Club Members	Personal Injury Infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible keep to established footpaths when accessing and egressing. Appropriate footwear to be worn Individuals to be informed of any obvious hazards Avoid handling potentially harmful plants (eg giant hogweed)
Vehicles Towing trailers to dispose of waste material; 3 rd parties using rough terrain vehicles. Eg quad bikes	Club Members Members of the Public	Personal Injury Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drivers are responsible for ensuring trailers are roadworthy and to check that loads are secure Drivers are experienced in towing trailers Club insurance does not cover driving quad bikes. Club members should only use quad bikes if they are trained to do so and insured. It is the responsibility of trained and experienced individuals to ensure they take appropriate safety precautions if using a quad bike.



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Railway Traffic To access the beach area may require a railway line to be crossed	Club Members Members of the Public	Personal Injury Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Only cross at recognised areas■ Times of trains to be checked■ Minimise the number of times to cross the line■ No loitering when crossing

The review date for this assessment is 30 April 2028.