



Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council

Guidance for Stream Verge Clearance Volunteering

This work is organised by Parish Councillor Janette Winch who is your first point of contact should you encounter problems. If they are unavailable, please contact Kevin Boardley, Parish Clerk.

Parish Councillor Janette Winch	07572 866 430
Parish Clerk	01359 259 794 / 07783 297 914

There are a number of easily avoidable hazards that volunteers may be exposed to. This guide has been produced to help volunteers identify these hazards to make their involvement safe and enjoyable. At all times volunteers must remain fully aware of road traffic, particularly motor vehicles, and should not step onto the carriageway.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

- When volunteering always use/wear the following items
- Gloves
- Suitable footwear & clothing
- **Hi-visibility reflective waistcoat or coat**
- Volunteers are asked to bring their own equipment with which they are familiar by personal use (pruning secateurs, loppers, saws etc).

THINGS TO BE WARY OF & AVOID

- Road traffic passing the stream verges
- The edges of the stream verges where stream banks fall away
- Avoid maintenance work that requires climbing up or down with prior assessment by the organiser

The following should not be moved under any circumstances and contact should be made with the organiser so that they can arrange for these items to be removed by trained District Council staff:

- Drug related litter and hypodermic needles
- Unknown liquids in containers
- Asbestos (or something you think may be asbestos)
- Dog fouling which may be difficult to spot in grassy areas

If you have any doubt about an item leave it and report to one of the organisers.

GENERAL SAFETY & ONSITE INSPECTION

Verge clearance beside roads should be carried out with care and attention to the risk of being struck by vehicles.

- Always be aware of road traffic when working on the verges try to face oncoming traffic
- **Wear reflective hi-visibility clothing of some sort**
- Work will not continue in poor visibility or adverse weather conditions
- Never do anything that requires you to step into or be on the carriageway

- Avoid reaching into hedges or undergrowth in such a way as to expose the face, eyes and skin to injury from thorns or branches
- Avoid working on steep bank slopes where there is an increased risk of slips and falls
- Be aware of uneven ground and trip hazards along the stream verges

Assessment

- Stop and give some thought to any potential risks before proceeding.
- On every occasion, a visual inspection and assessment of any potential risk or problem should be completed.
- Volunteers have a duty towards themselves, fellow volunteers and the public to work safely.
- If you have any doubts about the safety of a particular activity then check with the organiser.

Lifting

Volunteers should not attempt to lift anything heavy without prior assessment by the organiser.

Young volunteers

Volunteers under the age of 18 should be supervised by an adult and permission for their participation should be gained from a parent or guardian. Those allowing under 18's to volunteer should check their obligations regarding Criminal Records Bureau checks.

Important Note

Volunteers should understand that in order to be covered by Parish Council insurance, they must wear **their Hi-Vis vests**, use only equipment with which they are familiar from their own personal use and follow all the directions given in this document.