

# Source to Sea Litter Quest

## Briefing sheet for volunteers

Thank you for taking part in our Source to Sea Litter Quest by running an event in your local area. Before you start the survey, make sure your volunteers have the correct equipment to keep them safe. It is useful to talk about the survey and explain any safety procedures before you start collecting litter. We have put together some key points to mention to your group.

### Introduction

**(Introduce yourself and the Marine Conservation Society)**

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.

Plastic bottles, drinks cans and face masks found in the UK's parks and streets will ultimately end up in our ocean. 80% of the pollution found on UK beaches comes from inland sources, travelling from our towns, parks and rivers into our ocean. The Source to Sea Litter Quest tracks items to their source by asking people to spot (and pick up!) common litter items in their local area.

This event sits alongside the Marine Conservation Society's flagship Beachwatch programme which was established in 1994. Beachwatch is much more than just litter picking - people become citizen scientists and carry out a litter survey, recording what they find on the beach to help build a national and international picture of the most common forms of litter in our ocean.

The Marine Conservation Society uses this data to call for policy change, tackling ocean pollution at its source.



### Equipment

Some useful things to take on your clean:

- A bucket for sharp items
- Pencils
- Recording forms
- Gloves
- Litter pickers
- Bin bags
- Hand wash
- Risk assessment

### Health and Safety (Point out any safety procedures)

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

- 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].
- You must 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!
- Do not put sharp items in bin bags as they can rip the bags and cut your legs. Syringes and needles must be left where they are and never put in collection bags. Please alert me if you find one and I will inform the landowner. All other sharp items, like broken glass, can be put in this container [e.g. a bucket, milk bottle with the top cut off etc].
- All pets must be on a lead where required and on narrow footpaths
- Please make sure you keep to the current Covid guidelines.

### If you are by a river

- Please keep away from the water's edge. Young people/children should be supervised at all times.
- Weil'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 during 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 do fall in then swim to side if possible or if not, lay on your back with the current. **Call 999 for urgent help.**

### The Source to Sea Litter Items

During the litter pick we want to identify any key items that the Marine Conservation Society also find on our beaches. Keep a tally of the items you find on the Source to Sea Litter Quest recording form.

There are **15 items** to look out for and record:

- |                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Plastic drinks bottles           | • Disposable BBQs           |
| • Loose plastic bottle caps/lids   | • Single-use plastic bags   |
| • Plastic drinks cups              | • Plastic bags for life     |
| • Glass bottles                    | • Wet wipes                 |
| • Metal drinks cans                | • Single-use face mask      |
| • Polystyrene fast food containers | • Single-use plastic gloves |
| • Polystyrene cups                 | • Balloons                  |
| • Paper cups                       |                             |

