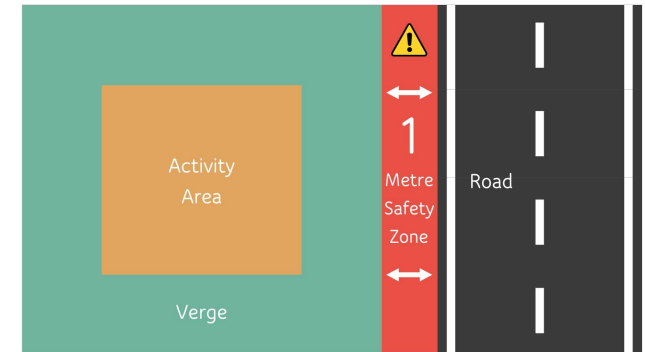


Working near or on roads/highways poses one of the most significant risks associated with litter picking. It is important to control this risk as much as possible, and the following guidance aims to help you in doing that.

The following areas must not form part of the area that you are litter picking;

- Motorway
- Dual carriageway and/or trunk roads and/or slip roads
- Central reservation or roundabout on any road type

There is no simple formula that can be applied to determine whether your chosen area can be appropriately managed to avoid the risks associated with highways. In general, you should organise your activity at an appropriate time of the day, allow for current (and future) weather and road conditions, and avoid impeding or distracting road users. The following areas should be considered when completing your risk assessment;



**Type of road and frequency of traffic** – consideration should be given to the type of road (e.g. urban, rural, quiet cul-de-sac), the speed limit in the area (and whether it is observed), the frequency of traffic, and whether there is a footpath and/or verge (see above). Fast, high volume traffic would be highly inadvisable, whereas slow and low density would be more acceptable. Please remember that a vehicle does not have to be travelling at any great speed to cause significant injury.

**Footpath and/or verge** – where a footpath and/or verge is present, then the litter picking activity should be restricted to this area. Participants should refrain from reaching into the road/highway to collect litter, as a vehicle striking a litter picker could cause serious injury. It is recommended that where there is adequate space a safety zone is employed, leaving a gap of one metre between the road and the working area.

**Size and age of group** – the age of the group is important in determining whether or not participants will be able to follow the control measures you have put in place, and remember that younger people have a much lower perception of risk. The size of your group should take into account the area in which you are doing your litter pick, for example, it may not be appropriate for 20 people to litter pick a single-track rural lane, whereas a housing estate with lots of green space would be.

**Visibility** – it is important that road users can see you and have the opportunity to react. There are a number of factors that can affect visibility, including wet weather, mist or fog, or bright or low sun; the time of day; and road features such as blind bends and/or brow of hills. Adjustments should be made, including postponement if the risks are too great.