



SWATK Environmental Policy

ENVIROMENTAL AUDIT for SWATK

The environmental impact report is broken down in to 4 main areas:

- 1.1.1. General atmospheric damage
- 1.1.2. Damage to land
- 1.1.3. Damage to local wildlife
- 1.1.4. Other considerations

Atmospheric/sound pollution 1.1.1

The kites are completely environmentally neutral; on a stormy day there is a slight noise from the lines which equates to about 70d (bad) the actionable level is 85d (bad).

No fuel is used or discarded

If damage to a kite occurs fabric may be left, in trees etc although due to the cost of equipment damages kites and buggies will be removed from the site and not left or clogging up litter bins.

Damage to land 1.1.2

No definitive study exists on the environmental impact of light wheeled vehicles passing over grass/land etc. It is however widely recognised that mountain bikes actually impacts the environment far less that a person walking¹, so I would assume that the larger tyres used would actually put very little pressure on the grass. And compared to other user footballers/crickets dog walkers give the ground the results from 3 or 4 a few days a week would be minimal.

Taking gravity to be 9.81 and using the formula $F=PX$ Walking (in sensible walking boots) gives ground pressure of roughly $80\text{Kg} \times 9.81 / .4\text{M}^2$ $1962\text{Kg}/\text{M}^2$

Football penetrates grass to a average of 4mm and assuming the footballers use standard boots give a pressure of $80\text{Kg} \times 9.81 / 0.1$ $7848\text{Kg}/\text{M}^2$

The buggies that we use all have 3 wheels which run at a low pressure giving a ground pressure of, there is also a significant up lift from the kite but for simplicity I will remove this from the calculation. $90\text{Kg} \times 9.81 / .5\text{M}^2$ $1765\text{Kg}/\text{M}^2$

Push Chair with 4 wheels $25\text{Kg} \times 9.81 / .08$ $3065\text{kg}/\text{M}^2$

Buggiers do not tend to use equipment in the rain (the kite will not fly very well, so the extra damage that equipment such as your mowers will not occur.

Damage to local wildlife1.1.3

Whilst again no study exists the profile of a person in a buggy does not arouse suspicion from local bird life, as soon you go bipedal the wildlife generally moves away. There is a slight danger of bird strike on the kite, however the kites used are soft foil and no evidence exists of any bird injury.

Other considerations1.1.4

The general attitude towards the overall environment of kite flyers and buggiers is good. Anecdotal evidence from other councils shows no levels of litter left and areas left in a good condition. The sport is also open to all, and there are several differently enabled participants who enjoy the sport on an equal footing. The national race series (held on beaches) is one of the few competitions where men and women compete on equal terms, so kiting and buggying is truly inclusive.

Emergency planning procedureIf a member of the public or flyer is injured in any way it must be reported to the SWATK who will insure that the BBC insurers are informed and that the Council are aware. In the unlikely event of a serious injury (worldwide there has not been a single death reported in connection with kite buggies, and last year 17 people died whilst opening cat food) the emergency services can be called either using a mobile phone or from the nearest landline.

All injuries MUST be reported to the SWATK to insure no reoccurrence will occur.

based on a report by Dean J Mitchell