

Environmental Group Code of Conduct

Working with Bolton Council



These guidelines are compiled to provide assistance to groups working with the council and provide a working framework to ensure tasks and events are beneficial to wildlife, the public, participants and the council as landowner.

Groups working with the council are expected to follow these guidelines and adhere to these principles.

To inform the council's Neighbourhood Services of proposed plans, tasks and activities in advance and feedback on outcomes of tasks, habitat improvements and interesting occurrences.

Health & Safety

To comply with legislative requirements and the council's requests in relation to Health & Safety. This includes the provision of risk assessments for activities and tasks (and daily risk assessment sheet)

Not to undertake tasks or activities on Bolton Council owned sites without suitable public liability insurance cover. This will provide cover for your legal liability arising from accidental damage or injury that may occur during the event; including damage or injury to any member of the public or their property

If working with children:

Bolton Council takes the safeguarding of children very seriously. We ask that coordinators visit the below link to find useful information about how to keep child volunteers safe:

<http://boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/working-with-children-and-young-people/>

Do not allow unaccompanied young children to take part or attend tasks or events.

Bolton Council requires that all volunteers who wish to work along with the Council and/or any of its partners respect other volunteers, coordinators, members of the public, the relevant partner organisations, and Bolton Council.

Volunteers should not do, say, or write, anything that might be considered offensive, inappropriate, or critical of individuals, groups, organisations, or Bolton Council in relation to their volunteering activity. This includes comments made on social media sites.

Environmental Laws

To protect wildlife and abide by current wildlife legislation. This includes The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Do not disturb nesting birds
Do not disturb roosting or hibernating bats
Prevent the spread of invasive non-native plants like Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed, cotoneaster etc.
No fires are allowed.

Trees greater than 7.5cm diameter and 1.5m from the ground should not be cut by volunteers without checking with the council if they are legally protected.

Park and Nature Reserve byelaws must be adhere to as any breach may be a criminal offence.

Physical tasks and some events will need to comply with the site management plan. This is to ensure that wildlife is protected, that previous work is not compromised and that organised task work contributes towards the overall aims of the site.

Sites should be left clean and tidy after tasks or events and any unsafe features or occurrences of damage should be reported to the council.