

Richmond Park Kite Flying Code

This code of conduct is intended to provide information and advice for both kite flyers and spectators alike. If you are planning to fly kites or enjoy any other kite-related activities please responsibly follow this code so that Richmond Park can be enjoyed by ALL its visitors.

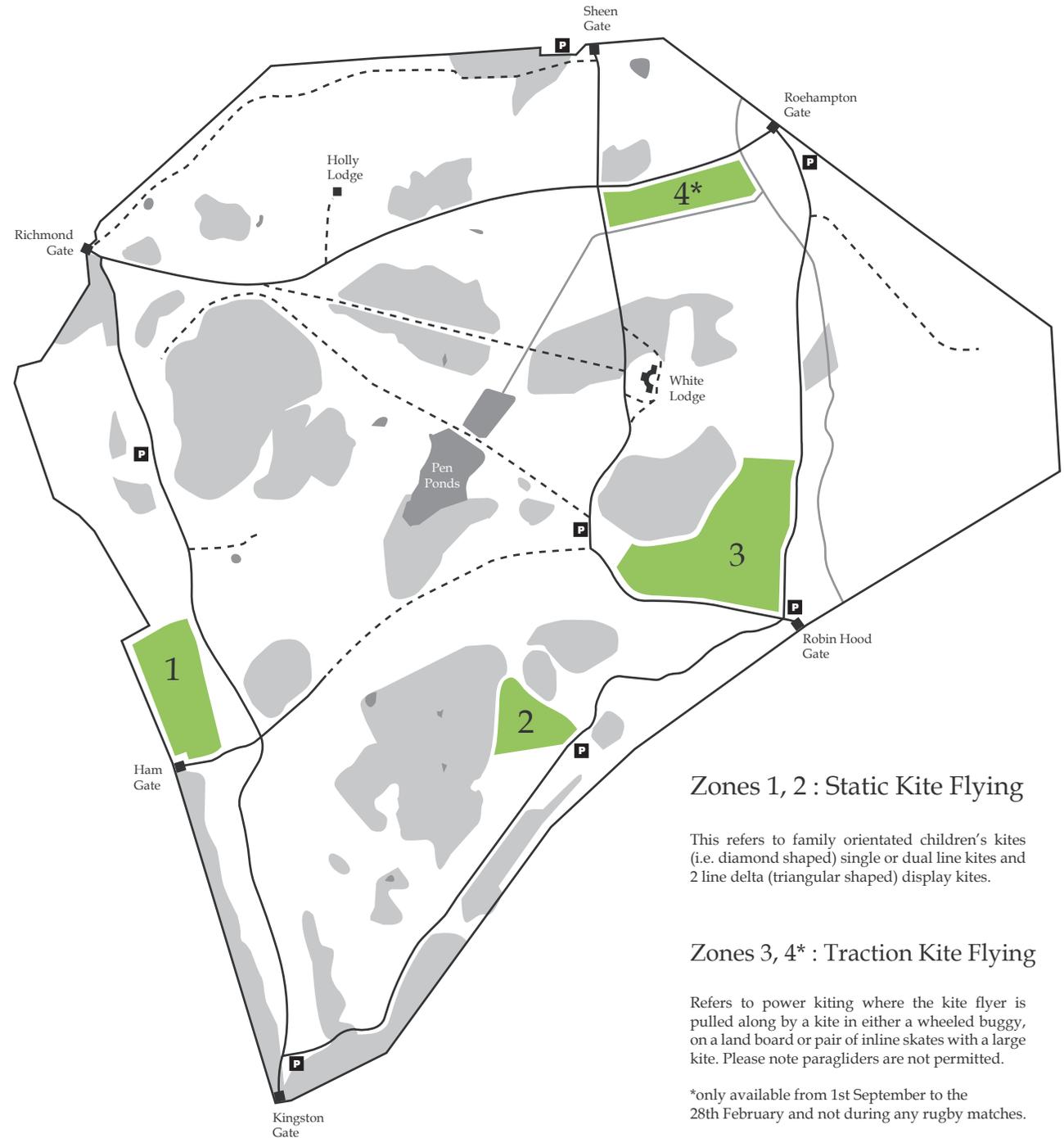
All kite flyers:

1. Only fly in the designated zones as marked on the map opposite.
2. Only have one kite out at a time so as to avoid an accident and ease congestion.
3. Give way to any livestock and/or pedestrians - make sure you are a safe distance away from horse riders or any other land users and where appropriate land your kite.
4. As a spectator please do not walk over any kite lines and where possible walk around the edge of the flying area and not through.
5. Only park your vehicle(s) in the official car parks (as shown on the map opposite).
6. Do not drop or leave any litter. Take it home with you.
7. Respect and obey any notices posted by The Royal Parks or instructions from the Park's Police.

Traction kite flyers: (in addition to the above)

8. Ensure you are in possession of a current kite flying permit. Permits are available from The Royal Parks at Holly Lodge for an annual fee. In order to be eligible you must also carry third party kiting insurance (or comparable) which must be made available for inspection.
9. For third party kiting insurance visit either the Power Kite Sports Federation (www.britishbuggyclub.co.uk) or the British Kitesurfing Association (www.kitesurfing.org).
10. Please wear a helmet and suitable safety gear (knee and elbow pads) whilst you are flying here. We wish to promote a safe environment.
11. Please test upon arrival and subsequently use at all times any kite killers, kite leashes or comparable emergency release systems whilst you are flying in the park. If you are unsure, please approach any present traction flyers for advice.
12. Safely ground stake your kite whilst you are not actively flying and do not leave it unattended. Remove your ground stake when launching so as to avoid it becoming an unnecessary obstacle.

Kite Flying Zones:



Zones 1, 2 : Static Kite Flying

This refers to family orientated children's kites (i.e. diamond shaped) single or dual line kites and 2 line delta (triangular shaped) display kites.

Zones 3, 4* : Traction Kite Flying

Refers to power kiting where the kite flyer is pulled along by a kite in either a wheeled buggy, on a land board or pair of inline skates with a large kite. Please note paragliders are not permitted.

*only available from 1st September to the 28th February and not during any rugby matches.

Richmond Park

A National Nature Reserve.

Richmond Park was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.) in 1992 and as a National Nature Reserve (N.N.R.) and a European Special Area of Conservation (S.A.C.) in 2000. This places a legal duty on The Royal Parks to conserve and enhance the wildlife of the Park.

Why have The Royal Parks placed restrictions on kite flying in Richmond Park?

Recent advice from the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection for Birds) has identified that kite flying is likely to impact on the breeding success of ground nesting birds – in particular the Skylark. The Skylark is a species in rapid national decline and surveys carried out in the park over the last 20 years have shown that this decline was mirrored in Richmond Park to the point where there are only two remaining areas of the park where the skylark still breeds. One of these is immediately to the south of the area that has been used by traction kite flyers over recent years.

As a traditional pastime enjoyed by generations of small children kite flying has grown into an active sport enjoyed by many adults and this has additionally raised some safety concerns for both kite flyers and other visitors.

The Park Managers together with Local Kite Flyers and the Police have agreed a compromise solution that seeks to accommodate kite flying within designated flying zones whilst not affecting the breeding patterns of endangered birds. This together with a permit scheme* for traction kite flyers is intended to ensure safe, responsible kite flying for the future.

It is the sincere hope that through these initiatives and on-going close dialogue between the kite flying community, Richmond Park can continue to facilitate responsible kite flying whilst respecting the vital needs of its wildlife.

* Please note: Permits are only available from Holly Lodge on Monday-Friday between 9am - 4pm.



THE
ROYAL
PARKS

Holly Lodge
Richmond Park
Surrey, TW10 5HS
Telephone 020 8948 3209
Web: www.royalparks.gov.uk
Email: richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk

Types of Kites

Not sure which zone to fly your kite in?

Static Flying zones are specifically for more conventional, family orientated kites where the flyer stands still, whereas Traction Flying zones are for flyers who want to be pulled along (using buggies or landboards) or up into the air by their kites.

Static:



1 (or 2) Line
Children's kite



2 Line Delta
shaped kite



2 Line Soft
ParaFoil kite



Revolution
4 Line kite



2 Line Flexifoil
Power kite

Traction:



4 Line Traction
Power kite



Depowerable
4 Line kite



Depowerable
Twin Skin kite



Leading Edge
Inflatable kite *



Kitewing
Fixed Sail

The above examples are intended as a rough guide. There are many different kites available from lots of different manufacturers but their use is what sets them apart. Hence the creation of specific flying zones (see map overleaf).

* Please note: Leading Edge Inflatable (LEI) kites are intended for use on water and should not be used in Richmond Park

Further Info

If you are new to kiting it would be advisable take some lessons before flying in the park. Local courses are available with fully qualified instructors at kitevibe.com. Please phone 07866 430979 or email: lessons@kitevibe.com.

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