

Aims and objectives of the Anglers Against Litter snapshot survey

Anglers are passionate about the places they fish, and many have been working to restore and conserve their local waters for years. Undertaking litter picks is no different, with clubs, syndicates, and individuals across the country, putting aside their time to pick up litter from our lakes, rivers and beaches to stop it harming the environment.

Although we have been picking up litter for a long time, we still do not have a complete picture of what type of litter are being found, and how this may differ between areas – from urban to rural locations and from the headlands down to the sea.

Sadly, the angling community are often blamed for the litter that is found in our waterways, and whilst some may be left by some individuals, in the majority of cases, anglers are a significant force for good and often unsung heroes when it comes to protecting the environment.

The Anglers Against Litter (AAL) 'snapshot survey' aims to gain valuable insights into the types of litter being found in our waterways, to showcase the effort being undertaken by anglers around the country to tackle litter and provide valuable evidence to support campaigning efforts on litter and plastic pollution.

Methodology

This survey will provide an insight into the current state of litter in our rivers, beaches, lakes and canals across the UK. Surveys will be completed by the angling community during 'Anglers Against Litter' week in the Spring every year. This will provide annual updates on changes in waste that is ending up in our waters, and emerging issues such as single use face masks during Covid.

Monitors record data in-situ using the Epicollect5 data gathering platform on their mobile phone with the option to record data at home using a PC. Epicollect5 is a proven solution which is free and easy to use.

We are asking individuals or angling clubs to undertake at least a five-minute litter pick at their chosen waterbody. All the litter collected during this time, will be counted and added into our reporting form to provide an insight into the litter found in our waterways.

Where you opt to sort through the litter at the end, please be aware of any sharp objects, glass or other objects.

There is a form available in the appendix with the listed litter categories. These match the questions in Epicollect. You may find it easier to use the form to tally up the litter you collect and then add this into Epicollect at the end.

Club pick

If you are part of a club, we suggest you work in pairs, with one person using the form in the Appendix to tally up the litter items whilst another collects the litter. Alternatively, you can collect the litter in bags, and then sort through this at the end to complete your count.

Individual

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Anglers can also complete a survey by themselves after a fishing trip, or just as part of an extra trip to your water. It is important if you do so to let people know where you are, and what time you will be back. We suggest that you undertake your five-minute pick and then sort and count the litter afterwards. This may represent an easier approach than trying to tally as you go, but this is only a suggestion and approaches will vary according to an individual.

What to do with your litter afterwards?

Every local authority has different preferences on what volunteers should do with the litter they collect. If you plan to collect a large amount of litter, contact your local authority ahead of your event to get advice and to arrange a collection point.

Collected recreational angling line and spools can be recycled through the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS). This can be sent through to the scheme via post or can be dropped off at a local collection point. You can find their address or the nearest drop off point on their website <https://www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk/>

Selecting a sampling site

When choosing a specific site think about:

- **Access**

You need to have permission to access the site.

- **Safety**

Ensure it is easily accessible, and that you have completed an appropriate risk assessment?

Depending on whether you count the litter items as you go, or you want to do a sort at the end, is there a safe area to sort the litter, away from the water and other hazards such as livestock or traffic?

- **Avoid**

Sites directly below sewage outflows, wastewater pipes, combined sewer overflows should be avoided.

Risk assessment

A risk assessment must be undertaken before the first sampling session, see our ['Toolkit for clean up events'](#) for an example template. A risk assessment should be completed for every clean up event.

Hazards

When working or volunteering on or near water, there is a danger that persons might slip or fall into the water, be swept off their feet by strong currents, wave action, tide action or swell from passing water traffic. Adverse weather can also be a factor and result in rapidly changing conditions.

Whether or not a person is injured by falling in the water, there is an immediate risk of drowning and/or being carried away by water currents.

Sound precautions must be taken, firstly to prevent persons accidentally entering the water, and secondly to ensure that they are rescued in the shortest possible time. It is essential, when working

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on near water that safe systems of work are in place based on a thorough risk assessment and that employees and volunteers are properly trained and instructed.

Consideration should also be given to the health implications of working near, or falling into the water, due to water pollution, bites or stings or leptospirosis (Weil's disease).

We recommend you carry a sharp's box for the event. However, do not attempt to remove any items which pose a risk to yourself or other volunteers. If you come across a needle, do not attempt to remove it. Note its location and report it to your local authority.

Precautions

- Appropriate use of gates, stiles, bridges, platforms, edges, gangways, etc.
- Observe warning signs
- Store equipment where it will not cause a trip hazard
- Avoid slippery areas (caused by water weed, slime, bird droppings, etc.)
- Take into account dangerous weather conditions (rain, rising winds, fog, mist, snow, ice)
- Wear appropriate footwear, clothing and protective gloves
- Observe relevant directives e.g. Environment Agency, Rivers Trust

Using Epicollect to record your survey results

You will be using Epicollect to record information relating to your litter pick.



Why are we using Epicollect?

It is completely free!

- It allows us to create our own projects and forms
- It allows total customisation of forms
- It is user friendly
- It has all the key features we need
- It has a smartphone app as well as a web browser interface

What does Epicollect do?

- Allows you to collect, store, view, and download geolocated data
- Can be used as an app on your mobile smart phone

- Can be accessed on a computer via a web browser

Creating a free Epicollect account

You will need to create a free account online to get started:

- Go to: <https://five.epicollect.net/>
- Select log in in the top right-hand corner
- Currently Epicollect makes signing up easier for those with Google accounts, but it is also possible to use an Apple account or another email address. You do not need a Gmail address to create a free Google account

More information about registering with Epicollect can be found here:

<https://docs.epicollect.net/web-application/manage-users>

You can learn more about Epicollect's privacy policy here:

<https://docs.epicollect.net/about/privacy-policy>

Downloading the Epicollect App



Once you have created your Epicollect account you will need to download the App onto your smart phone.

Versions are available for both Apple and Android phones.

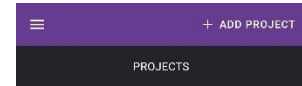
Epicollect support phones and tablets on Android 5.1 onwards - [Download it from the Play Store.](#)

Epicollect support iPhones and iPads with iOS 13+ - [Download it from the App Store.](#)

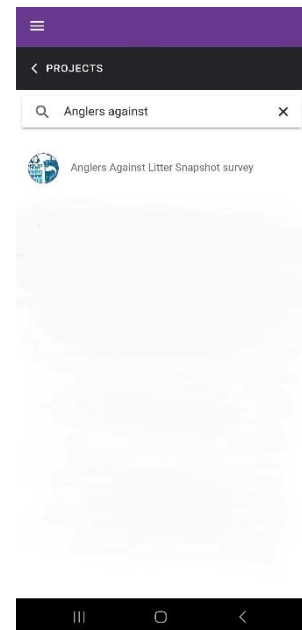
Anglers Against Litter 'Snapshot' survey Recording information using the Epicollect App

Before you go to take your first sample

1. Open the Epicollect App
2. Select '+Add Project'



3. Search for 'Anglers Against Litter Snapshot Survey' and add it



Familiarise yourself with the 'Anglers Against Litter Snapshot Survey' Project in Epicollect before you undertake your litter pick. You can 'test' it beforehand. You can enter data and delete your entries at any time, so do not worry about submitting 'test' entries

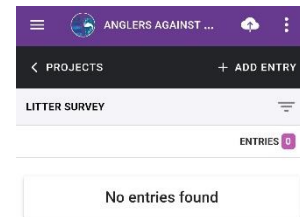
Recording your litter results

Remember, it is best to use the smartphone app in situ, at the survey site.

1. Before you start your survey open the Epicollect App and check it is working okay

You do not need to have a mobile phone or wi-fi connection to record data, only to upload it. If there is a problem with the App you can always record your data using paper and pen or taking photos and add the data later using the app or your web browser.

2. Select '+Add entry'



3. Start completing the questions





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Taking immediate action if necessary

If you see any of the following:

- Pollution to water or land
- Dead fish or fish gasping for air
- Poaching or illegal fishing
- Main rivers blocked by a vehicle or fallen tree causing risk of flooding
- Damage or danger to the natural environment,
- Collapsed or badly damaged riverbanks
- Unusual changes in river flow

Call the Environment Agency 24-hour Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60

Appendix: Manual report sheet

Location _____

Date _____

What 3 words _____

Duration of litter pick _____

Number of volunteers _____

Number of bags collected _____

Type of water body:

Urban/rural _____

River/lake/canal/ beach _____

Plastic and polystyrene	Total
Food and drinks related	
4/6 pack can rings	
Caps and lids (if separated)	
Cups	
Cutlery, trays and stirrers	
Drinks bottles	
Food containers (inc. fast food)	
Food packets and wrappers	
Straws	
Bags	Total
Large bags (shopping)	
Small bags (freezer/vegetable)	
Household and recreation	Total
Bottles and containers (cleaner, cosmetic)	
Toys, dummies, and party accessories	
Smoking and vaping	Total
Cigarette stubs & filters	
E-cigarettes & vaping products	
Lighter & cigarette/ tobacco packaging	
Sanitary & medical	Total
Cotton bud sticks	
Wet wipes	
Period products	
Single use face masks	
Nappies	
Miscellaneous	Total
Bottles and containers (drums, jerry cans)	
Industrial packaging, sheet & films	
Agricultural related (incl. feed bags)	
Unidentifiable plastic and polystyrene pieces	
Glass	Total
Bottles and containers (incl. pieces)	
Fragments > 2.5cm	

Fishing litter	Total
Recreational angling line	
Lures, hooks and weights	
Angling related packaging (ground baits bags, luncheon meat tins etc)	
Commercial nets and fragments	
Pots, floats and ropes	
Metal	Total
Drinks cans	
Food cans	
Caps & lids (if separated)	
Aerosol & spray cans	
Disposable BBQs	
Foil wrappers	
Paper and cardboard	Total
Bags	
Cardboard	
Cartons (tetrapak and purepak)	
Cigarette packets and papers	
Cups (inc. coffee cups)	
Food packaging, paper straws (& trays)	
Newspapers and magazines	
Scratch cards & lottery tickets	
Rubber	Total
Balloons (inc. strings, valves, ribbons)	
Gloves (washing up or disposable)	
Tyres and engine belts	
Wood	Total
Cutlery, stirrers & lolly sticks	
Pallets & crates	
Other	Total
Pollutant (wax, oil, grease)	
Pottery & ceramics	
Clothing & fabrics	
Bagged dog faeces	
Bagged rubbish	



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Other litter items

Use this table to record any items that you found that didn't fit into the categories provided

Item description & material type	Tally	Total
e.g. sunglasses (plastic - household & recreation)		

Your observations & ideas

Can you identify a particular source of the litter? (e.g. lots of a particular branded item, nearby restaurant, warehouse etc)

Thank you for taking part in this clean up and litter survey. The data you've collected will help the Angling Trust to raise awareness on litter and campaign for change.

Tell us about your clean up and share your photos on social media using #Anglersagainstlitter