



Drone Filming Guidelines

South Somerset District Council has produced some guidelines to those wishing to film in our District using a drone. Please consider the following if wishing to use a drone but note these are only guidelines and these are not exhaustive. If you require specific advice you should contact an independent specialist.

Drones are more formally known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and can fly up to 400ft (restricted air space starts at 500ft).

Key Guidelines

- Avoid using your drone in bad weather such as strong winds or heavy rain;
- You are legally responsible for safely flying your drone;
- A pilot requires permission of the landowner to take off and land the drone on their property;
- A pilot must be licensed with the Civil Aviation Authority and follow their regulations and advice to the letter or you could be at risk of being prosecuted;
- You must require CAA permission to fly on a commercial basis;
- There should be a health and safety risk assessment completed beforehand to identify risks and then steps to mitigate those risks.;
- You should ensure that you have appropriate public liability insurance cover and supply a copy to the Council;
- You should notify the Police that you are using a drone;
- Before flying your drone, make sure all the parts of the object are working according to the supplier's manual;
- Keep the drone in sight when flying;
- Don't fly your drone within 50 metres of a person, vehicle or overhead of groups of people at a height;
- Remember it is illegal to fly your drone over congested areas such as streets, towns, cities, public spaces and especially airports;
- Drones cannot be flown at night (or out of daylight hours) unless the company has special permission for night flying;
- Using a drone to record images of other people without their consent could be construed as a breach of the Data Protection Act or the CCTV Code of Practice

which was extended to include public use of drones where they are collecting information about individuals;

- In South Somerset, Yeovil, Merryfield, Ilton and Yeovilton are shown on www.noflydrones.co.uk as controlled airspace and or military aerodrome traffic zones and places you should not fly your drone;

For more information on flying drones, visit www.caa.co.uk/drones