



Filming with Drones

Royal Borough of
Windsor & Maidenhead

Policy Statement:

This policy aims to provide guidelines and ensure the safe and responsible use of drones for filming within the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. We recognises the increasing popularity and potential of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, for filming purposes. While the person controlling a UAS is responsible for safe operations according to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulations, it is crucial to consider the need for additional permission specific to the borough.

1 Regulatory Compliance:

- 1.1 All drone operators must adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the CAA, including obtaining the necessary licenses and permissions for carrying out drone operations.

2 Article 241 of the Air Navigation Order 2016:

- 2.1 Drone operators must strictly comply with Article 241 of the Air Navigation Order 2016, which states: "A person must not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property."
- 2.2 Drone operators must exercise caution and responsibility to prevent any potential harm or damage to individuals, property, or wildlife during drone operations.

3 Permission for Drone Filming:

- 3.1 Prior to conducting drone filming within the borough, drone operators must seek permission from the relevant authorities in addition to holding a valid CAA license.
- 3.2 Drone operators should obtain permission by contacting the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead's [film office](#).
- 3.3 The film office must be provided with:
 - A copy of your CAA Licence
 - A copy of your public liability insurance (minimum £5 million)
 - A copy of your flight plan including launch and landing points
 - A copy of your risk assessment and method statement
- 3.4 The risk assessment should identify potential hazards, assess the associated risks, and propose appropriate control measures to mitigate those risks effectively.
- 3.5 The method statement should outline the step-by-step procedures and safety protocols to be followed during drone operations, including take-off, flight paths, landing, and emergency procedures.



- 3.6 Both the risk assessment and method statement should also address any specific concerns or requirements related to the filming location, such as proximity to public spaces, historic sites, or protected areas. Applicants must also ensure these align with best practices and relevant industry guidelines.
- 3.7 The Royal Borough reserves the right to deny permission if it is deemed necessary to protect public safety, privacy, or sensitive areas.

4 Liability:

- 4.1 When filming with drones the responsibility for any potential liabilities or issues arising from the use of the drone rests solely with the production company or individuals operating the drone.
- 4.2 The council assumes no liability for accidents, damages, or any legal matters associated with drone operations.
- 4.3 Any production seeking to film or conduct takeoff/landing operations on council-owned land or property must agree to indemnify the council for any injuries or damages that may occur.
- 4.4 The best insurance solution may be a specialist drone insurance policy. This needs to be fully compliant with EC785/2004 regulations. This is because domestic public liability policy wording may exclude liability arising from certain situations but a commercial drone insurance policy will be more specific (and provide loss, theft and damage cover for drones). Some specialist policies can be restricted to provide liability cover only i.e. if the user has a smaller, less expensive aircraft they may be comfortable in meeting loss/damage costs themselves.

The drone operator bears the responsibility for any flight and its legal compliance. The [CAA's Drone Code](#) offers valuable guidance to drone operators, ensuring the protection of the public.

For comprehensive information and advice on all aspects of unmanned aviation, including safe usage guidelines, please visit the [CAA website](#). Additionally, general information for the public regarding drones and their use can also be accessed on the website.

