

September 2014

GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

A request for advice on the use of small unmanned aircraft generated the following comments from the Association of English Cathedrals. It is agreed to adopt this guidance at Salisbury Cathedral in the wider context of any filming and photography for a commercial purpose in the Close and/or Cathedral itself is by permission only and filming fees would apply.

Applications for permission to fly a small unmanned aircraft (unmanned aircraft system) should only be considered in the following circumstances:

- The pilot operating the unmanned aircraft has either a BNUC-S or RPQ-S certificate (Pilot's Licence), and can provide copies of his or her CAA-approved Operations Manual (which includes details of the pilot's risk Assessment/ method statement, testing process, pilot training and continued practice) and CAA-issued Permission to Operate (which includes details of agreed special permissions regarding the distance from the public or public buildings that the system can be operated).
- The pilot has adequate suitable insurance and can provide a copy of the policy.

No flight should be permitted without permission. If someone attempts a flight without permission it should be immediately stopped as it breaches Health and Safety procedures.

Even if the pilot has permission, he/ she should adhere to all of the conditions below;

- The pilot should only fly the aircraft if reasonably satisfied that the flight can be made safely;
- The pilot should maintain direct, unaided visual contact with the aircraft sufficient to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures to avoid collisions;
- The pilot should have special permission from the CAA to fly the aircraft;
 - over or within 150 metres of any congested area;
 - over or within 150 metres of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 people;
 - within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft;
 - within 50 metres of any person; and
 - at take-off or landing, a small unmanned aircraft must not be flown within 30 metres of any person.

Information and guidance from the CAA can be found on its website (see <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1995&pagetype=90>).

Other considerations:

The Cathedral should discuss planned use of an unmanned aircraft with our insurers before giving permission – even though the pilot should have insurance.

If you permit use of an unmanned aircraft within the building it should be ensured the building is empty at the time of the flight. A hexacopter must be expected to generate a down draft so, if any dust on high level ledges will be dislodged and fabric hangings disturbed.

The BBC uses unmanned aircraft for filming in and around ecclesiastical buildings, experience shows that the Corporation understands the requirements and ensures that those it commissions to do the filming are properly certified and insured.

If you have any concerns around privacy issues, copyright and security arising from the use of unmanned aircraft, please contact the Director of Marketing and Communications.

Please use the term 'unmanned aircraft system' rather than 'drone'.