



Drone Policy (2024)

Drones have transformed the way we see the world, but they have also brought with them challenges for privately owned sites such as Salisbury Cathedral and Close.

In a space that is occupied by residential properties, heritage buildings (including the Cathedral) and two schools, we have to balance the safety, security, and right to privacy of visitors, staff, volunteers, school children and residents, with the desire of drone operators to capture spectacular images.

For that reason, drone flights must not be made within the Close without prior permission.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Unauthorised take-off and landing is prohibited within the Close

The Cathedral Close is private property so any drone pilot taking off or landing within the Close *must* obtain prior permission before doing so. We are happy to supply contact details for areas where take-off and landing outside the Close may be permitted and good views of the Cathedral can be captured

2. Flying over the Close – other considerations

CAA regulations do not limit flying over the Close (as long as drone operators are registered, have undertaken suitable training and observe the regulations), but other limitations may apply:

i. Privacy, security and safeguarding

The Cathedral Close is a privately owned, residential space and has two schools within its footprint. Any drone operator overflying the Close with a camera should be aware of the penalties for breaching data protection legislation both in the gathering of the material and if published subsequently, particularly with regard to safeguarding and privacy. Security in some areas is also an issue.

ii. Schedule 1 listed wildlife (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)

The Cathedral Close is home to peregrine falcons which enjoy full legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Peregrines are included in the list of species in Schedule 1 of the Act, which means that they are given more protection than other species, in particular around their nest sites and between March and August when they are raising their young.

iii. Potential harm to a historic building

Drone operators should also be aware of possible penalties that arise from causing harm to a historic building and be insured accordingly. Whilst cases of damage are rare, incidents have been reported at the Cathedral and drones have been recovered from the scaffolding at the East end of the building where restoration work is taking place.

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iv. Potential harm to individuals

Drone operators should also be aware of possible penalties that arise from causing harm to an individual and be insured accordingly. The Close is a busy space and whilst cases of damage are rare, incidents have been reported

To request permission to operate a drone in the Close please email press@salcath.co.uk and cc Tim Croall (Head of Communications) t.croall@salcath.co.uk with the following information:

- Your drone operator ID and licence, evidence of training and any insurance information
- A risk assessment
- Details of your flight and an explanation of why you wish to undertake it
- Details of how the footage will be used, and where (if at all) it will be published

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