



## Guidance for the safe use of drones

### Drones and unmanned aircraft

The use of small, unmanned aircraft, usually known as drones, is becoming more widespread. Their use includes applications in teaching, research, and for commercial purposes, with a very broad range of activities including filming, building and land surveillance, sports, and many others.

The safe use of such equipment within the UK is closely regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), in their capacity as the enforcing authority for all aircraft, and the Health and Safety Executive, who have a general responsibility for the regulation of equipment in the workplace. All users must abide by the guidance offered by the CAA, available at: <https://www.caa.co.uk/drones/>

Regulations which regulate the use of drones can be both detailed and complex. Within the University oversight of such equipment is managed through a Sharepoint site: <https://uoesharepoint.com/sites/drone-management>

This site is maintained by the Airborne Research and Innovation (ARI) facility within the School of GeoSciences. The site will take you through the requirements for the registration of pilots and the registration and labelling of equipment, and all users of such equipment within the University must complete this information before starting any work with drones.

As with all University work activities the responsibility for managing the safety of these activities lies with the work area, and ultimately with the Head of School (or equivalent). A risk assessment for all drone activities must be formulated which takes into account the category of aircraft, the proposed flight area, pre-flight checks/maintenance, planning, etc. The ARI facility has a well-established operational management system for drones covering these requirements, and other operating units within the University are invited to participate within this framework if they so desire. Contact details for ARI can be found through the Drone Management site above or through the ARI website: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/airborne>

### Document version

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