



# DRONE POLICY

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Reviewed	Policy & Resources Committee 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 Minute number
Next Review Date	As required.

## DRONE POLICY

Newton Abbot Town Council has a responsibility to ensure that persons using its land and buildings do so without disturbance or a breach of their privacy. This policy governs the flying of model planes and drones on Council land.

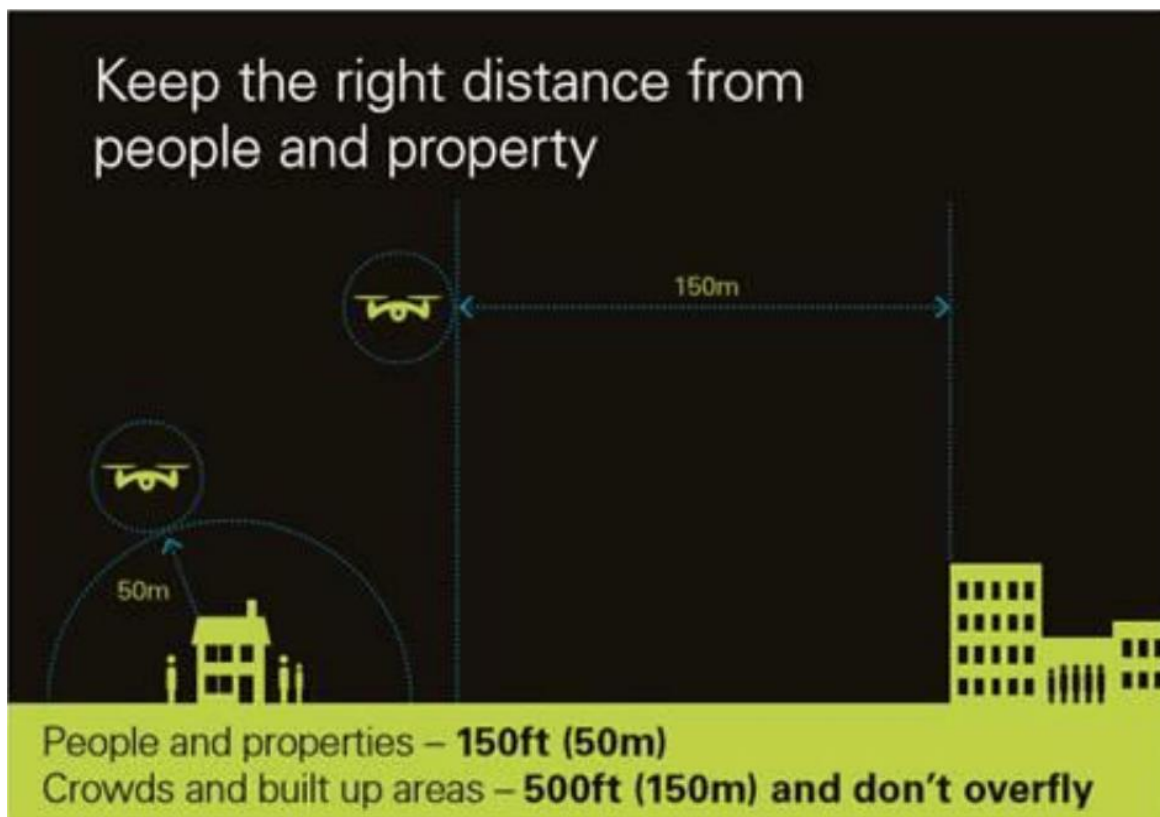
The take off and landing of drones, model planes or unmanned ariel vehicles (UAV) is prohibited from Council land without the express permission of the Town Clerk.

If a person or company wants to launch a drone or UAV (including those carrying photographic equipment for commercial purposes) from land or property owned or controlled by the Council. Permission must first be sought and granted from the Town Clerk.

Permission to launch a drone or UAV from a Council owned site will not generally be granted in relation to any public parks and open spaces in Council ownership, unless for the purpose of education, promotion of place (e.g. tourism).

Devon County Council's [Public Rights of Way Drone Code](#) states that drones cannot be used within 50 metres of a public right of way. In addition, use of drones is prohibited in Stover Country Park and on all other sites owned by Devon County Council, including at Devon County Council events.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is responsible for regulating drone use. There is a "Drone code" approved by the CAA which includes a rule that drones must not be flown within 50 metres of people or properties. A drone operator should not fly within 50 metres of a public right of way (and therefore cannot launch from a public right of way either). The emergency services have a general exemption.



## Drone flying in the UK

- Never fly more than 120m (400ft) above the surface
- Always keep your drone or model aircraft in sight
- Never fly in a flight restriction zone unless you have permission

## Guidance on Flying Drones and Model Planes

If the Council does grant permission for launching of drones or UAVs on Council owned land operators must follow the guidelines detailed below.

- For the safety of our staff and other site users, UAV operators must follow the Drone Code. Anyone flying drones on Council sites in breach of this code will be reported to the CAA.
- If you want to fly a drone or model aircraft, you have to be registered and must pass a theory test to get a flyer ID.
- The person that is responsible for the drone or model aircraft must register to get an operator ID More details regarding registration can be found on the Civil Aviation Authority website.

The following rules must be followed;

- Your drone must weigh under 20kg
- You can't fly above 400 feet in altitude or 500 metres from you horizontally
- Ensure your drone is always in sight.
- Always keep away from aircraft, helicopters, airports and airfields.
- Use your common sense and fly your aircraft safely.
- Any drone weighing more than 250 grams must be registered with the CAA and the drone pilot must complete an online safety test, obtaining a Flyer ID and an Operator ID that should be attached to the Drone.
- You must not fly within 50 metres of people, vehicles, buildings or vessels.
- Your drone must not be flown within 150 metres of a congested area or any large group of people such as a concert or sporting event as you may be prosecuted
- If you intend to record in an area where people are, you must inform them before you start, as you will need to respect privacy, or risk being prosecuted.

The UK has many restrictions on where drones can be operated. The Air Navigation Order provides that, without explicit permission from the CAA, drones may not be flown:

- within 150 metres of, or over, a congested area;
- within 150 metres of, or over, an organized open-air assembly of 1,000 or more people;
- within 50 metres of any vehicle, structure, or vessel that is not under the control of the operator; or within 50 metres of any person not under the control of the operator.

Operators Should:

- be courteous of other park users including people walking dogs;
- keep the UAV in full view at all times (e.g. not operated through binoculars, video monitor or smartphone, unless an observer is present);
- fly in daylight hours only;
- cease operation if requested by council staff.
- Any breaches of the code of conduct could result in the council terminating your permission to fly UAVs on public land.

All Town Council owned land/assets covered by this policy;

- All Council owned or managed allotment sites.
- Council events
- St Leonards Clock Tower
- Victoria Gardens
- Golden Lion Square
- The Town Quay
- Newton's Place

If your drone is fitted with a camera there are additional regulations you must follow;

- You must not fly within 50 metres of people, vehicles, buildings or vessels.
- Your drone must not be flown within 150 metres of a congested area or any large group of people such as a concert or sporting event as you may be prosecuted.
- If you intend to record in an area where people are, you must inform them before you start.
- If you intend to use the drone for commercial purposes you must have permission from the CAA and comply with additional laws governing their use.

To get guidance on operating permissions for drones see the CAA's website for the latest information and regulations regarding drone use.