

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) on Durlston Country Park

Code Of Conduct:

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (otherwise known as Drones) is becoming increasingly popular and in light of this, Dorset County Council has had to apply a Code Of Conduct on their usage at Durlston Country Park. We do not wish to put a blanket ban on the use of drones but need to ensure all users hold a **current PFCO** with a minimum of **£5 Million liability insurance** coverage and that they follow our Code of Conduct.

Only **VLOS (Visual Line Of Site)** flights are permitted on or over Durlston.

Durlston Country Park is a National Nature Reserve and has been awarded SSSI status by Natural England. The reason for Durlston's natural riches lies in a combination of geography, geology, history and careful management which has created a mosaic of nationally important wildlife habitats: sea-cliffs, downs, ancient meadows, hedgerows, woodland, even dry-stone walls, each with their characteristic plants and animals.

Although we wish for the site to be enjoyed by all users we do have a duty of care to the public and in light of that, a policy has been put into place due to the increased usage of Drones.

This document outlines Dorset County Council's stance on such use on or over our land.

- To fly on or over Durlston you must first make an application to the park by emailing: info@durlston.co.uk. The relevant paperwork will be sent to you for you to fill out.
- **You must hold a current PFCO (Permission for Commercial Operations) granted by the CAA to fly at Durlston.** For clarity, we deem the uploading of material to YouTube and other income generation sites as commercial work. A fee may be applied dependant on the type of commercial flying you wish to undertake.
- You must adhere to regulations of **CAP393 - Air Navigation: The order and the regulations** that cover the use of **Small Unmanned Aircraft (Articles 166/167)** and **Endangering Safety Of Any Person Or Property (Article 138)**. This includes not flying over people not under your control whilst on the park in case of mechanical failure. We are aware of the different safety capabilities of quad, hex and octocopters and can discuss this on a case by case basis.
- We have implemented a no fly zone that extends from the Dorset Coastal Footpath of 50 metres seawards and 260 feet in altitude from the sea (we consider the cliffs to be 98 feet in height) that covers all cliffs at Durlston Country Park during the bird nesting season (March 1st – July 31st).
- As climbers climb our cliffs all year from the Lighthouse westwards, we need to ensure that they are not climbing when operators are VLOS flying. This requires an observational flight prior to close cliff filming to be undertaken to check for climbers, using the distance specifications in place for the bird nesting season (section above).
- All users must adhere to the **Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981**. Failure to follow this legislation can result in a maximum fine of £5000 or 6 months in prison.

- Anvil Point Lighthouse is owned and managed by Trinity House and this is a highly important structure which is still in use for mariners as an '**Aid To Navigation**'. Strict rules in regards to flying near or over this structure must be adhered to and are covered in the **Merchant Shipping Act 1995**.
- If filming off the cliffs from Durlston Head westwards, then permission must be granted from the MOD as this is classified on aerial maps as an **MOD Danger Area**. We can assist with the relevant contacts.
- You must check all **NOTAM's** that have been issued in the area for the day that you are flying.
- You must make Durlston Country Park aware prior to your arrival of when you wish to film, where and for how long.
- Whilst on the park you will have to abide by the **Park Rangers** and the rules of the park.
- A hi-visibility vest must be worn whilst operating a UAV/Drone.
- All pilots to have a banksman/watchman/observer with them.
- Signs must be erected, a minimum of 2, that explains and warns the public that you are flying and filming.
- If your filming is reported to be a nuisance by a member of the public, we reserve the right to postpone or cancel your visit.
- **You must carry proof of identification, proof of permission to fly at Durlston, proof of your PfCO and proof of insurance so that any Ranger can view it when requested.**
- Car parking charges apply.

DURLSTON

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