

GENERAL

Salisbury Cathedral does not allow unmanned aircraft or drone use within the Cathedral Close without formal approval. This document outlines our policy on the usage of unmanned aircraft and the relevant Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulations.

WHY DO WE LIMIT THE USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT DRONES?

There are a number of reasons:

- The Cathedral Close is a privately owned space that is open to the public including visitors, Cathedral staff, staff from other organisations, school children and residents. Many of the properties in the Close, including the Cathedral itself, are listed and the Close is in constant use. (See CAA guideline outlined below).
- From spring until the end of July the Cathedral Tower is a nesting site for breeding peregrines, a protected species, so any unmanned aircraft or drone use runs the risk of alarming or stressing the birds.
- The presence of unmanned aircraft or drones can impinge on the quiet enjoyment of visitors and residents and therefore potentially presents a public nuisance.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CAA REGULATIONS?

Civil Aviation Authority (or CAA) regulations state that drones should not be flown above or near to people. Salisbury Cathedral Close is a publically accessible space in constant use by a large number of people, therefore unauthorised drone flying is illegal and potentially puts people at risk.

The CAA states that:

- you must not fly within 150m of either a congested area or within 50m of people or properties/objects that are not under your control
- you must not fly over 400ft above the ground
- you must always maintain Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) i.e. keep the drone in direct line of sight

Salisbury Cathedral Spire is 404ft high (123m) which means that any unmanned aircraft (or drone) flying above the Spire height is both illegal and potentially infringing airspace. Only certified pilots who have obtained clearance from Old Sarum Airfield may fly above the Spire.

CAA CERTIFICATION

Few non-commercial users have the correct training or permission from the Civil Aviation Authority (or CAA) to operate unmanned aircraft or drones legally. Even if you are certificated you still need to obtain permission to fly within the Close because it is private property.

To obtain permission you must be able to supply:

- relevant CAA certification;
- evidence that you have the correct insurances to adequately compensate anyone affected if the unmanned aircraft or drone causes damage or harm.

You will also need to demonstrate a compelling reason for undertaking the flight, which will be considered by the Cathedral before permission is granted

COMMERCIAL FILMING

Salisbury Cathedral occasionally grants permission for the use of drones if there is a benefit in doing so. However, in such cases we will specifically commission the work and the selection of the contractor, their competence (they must be a registered commercial operator with the CAA) and the level and type of their insurance, will be carefully vetted. In addition, we have a number of rules which must be observed by the contractor whilst planning and undertaking the work.

We also grant permission for drone-related commercial filming, though this may attract a charge. Permission is assessed on a case by case basis and the production company must follow the same competency and insurance rules as those required for contractors.

Anyone applying for permission to film must come from a recognised production company and will need to provide a synopsis of the project involved for consideration. Contractually the footage can only be used for the named project and further use, including image libraries, is prohibited.

The Cathedral has access to high quality drone footage shot both outside and inside the Cathedral and Close that we keep regularly updated. We are happy to discuss sharing this with any production that approaches us.

Given the risks and responsibilities, we are very unlikely to grant permission to fly for amateur or student filming.

Further CAA Guidance and Information can be found [here](#) and [here](#)