From private photography to documentaries and dramas, drones have transformed the way we see the world, but they have also brought with them challenges for heritage sites such as the Cathedral and Close.

While drone photography brings pleasure to one person, it can also constitute a nuisance, a risk and even an invasion of privacy to others.

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 any drone operator wanting to fly within the Close must seek permission in writing beforehand.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING LIMITATIONS:**

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. You will be asked to leave immediately if you have failed to obtain permission.

1. **Flying over the Close**   
   CAA regulations do not limit flying over the Close provided pilots have an operator ID, have undertaken suitable training and observe the regulations.

If the drone is more that 250g the pilot must be registered, have a Flier ID and have an A2 Certificate of Competence or a GVC (whichever is applicable).

Drones must be kept in visual line of site of the remote pilot at all times, and not flown above 400ft max.

1. **ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS:**
2. **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, risks around safeguarding and privacy. Security in some areas is also an issue. Be aware not to commit the offences of harassment, voyeurism, and (Section 8 Human Rights Act) right to private and family life.

1. **Schedule 1 listed wildlife (**[Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3614))

The Cathedral Close is home to peregrine falcons which enjoy full legal protection under the [Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3614). 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. We are particularly sensitive between March and August when they are raising their young.

1. **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 and here at the Cathedral drones have been recovered from the scaffolding at the East end of the building, where restoration work is taking place.

1. **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

Every drone pilot has a responsibility to ensure a safe flight. Any Incident or Accident that occurs will naturally be referred to the AAIB Air Accident Investigation Authority and the CAA Civil Aviation Authority. Any findings could result in a prosecution and fines imposed by the courts.

For further information please go to the CAA website: <https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/>

REQUESTING PERMISSION:  
  
To request permission to operate a drone in the Close please email [press@salcath.co.uk](mailto:press@salcath.co.uk) and copy the email to [m.thomas@salcath.co.uk](mailto:m.thomas@salcath.co.uk) including the following information:

* your drone operator ID/Flier ID
* evidence of training/relevant certification and relevant insurance information
* a risk assessment
* details of your flight and an explanation of why you wish to undertake it, how the footage will be used, and where (if at all) it will be published

Please copy your email to [press@salcath.co.uk](mailto:press@salcath.co.uk) and copy in [m.thomas@salcath.co.uk](mailto:m.thomas@salcath.co.uk)