

ARK
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 360
AERIAL • GROUND • 360° VR • UK WIDE

UK DRONE CODE 2026
THE RULES AT A GLANCE
SAFE FLYING • RESPECT FOR PEOPLE • A SHARED AIRSPACE

A1 OPEN A1 OVER PEOPLE

Under 250g (legacy) or UK0/UK1 class (up to 900g)
(C0/C1 accepted until 31 Dec 2027)



- ✓ May fly in residential, recreational, commercial and industrial areas (towns, villages, cities and parks).
- ✓ May fly closer than 50m to people, including over individual people (keep time over people to a minimum).
- ✓ Suitable for lightweight camera drones used for aerial photography, filming and 360° tours.
- ✗ Never fly over crowds (people who cannot move away quickly, e.g. festivals, concerts, sporting events).

PEOPLE SEPARATION
No fixed minimum
Keep a safe distance

MAX HEIGHT
120m (400ft)

A2 OPEN A2 NEAR PEOPLE

UK2 / C2 class (up to 4kg)
(C2 accepted until 31 Dec 2027)
or legacy drones under 2kg
(with A2 Certificate of Competency)



- ✓ May fly in residential, commercial and industrial areas.
- ✓ Keep a horizontal distance of 30m from uninvolved people for UK2/C2 drones (this can be reduced to 5m in Low-Speed Mode).
- ✓ For legacy drones under 2kg with an A2 CofC, keep 50m from uninvolved people.
- ✗ Do not fly directly overhead of uninvolved people at any time.
- ✗ Never fly over crowds.

PEOPLE SEPAPATION
30m (5m low-speed)

MAX HEIGHT
120m (400ft)

A3 OPEN A3 FAR FROM PEOPLE

Larger / legacy drones over 250g
(up to 25kg), privately built drones
or UK2/UK3/UK4 class
(C2/C3/C4 accepted until 31 Dec 2027)



- ✓ May fly in open countryside and remote areas.
- ✓ May fly near involved people (e.g. pilot and briefed crew on site).
- ✓ Keep 50m from uninvolved people, vehicles and buildings.
- ✓ Keep 150m from residential, recreational, commercial and industrial areas (built-up areas).
- ✗ Not permitted in towns, villages, cities or parks (unless in a specific authorised category).

PEOPLE SEPARATION
50m (people)
150m (built-up areas)

MAX HEIGHT
120m (400ft)

THE 6 CORE CAA DRONE CODE RULES (APPLIES TO EVERY FLIGHT)

1. KEEP IN SIGHT
Always keep your drone in direct visual line of sight (VLOS).

2. STAY BELOW 120m
Maximum height 120m (400ft) above the closest point of the surface.

3. CHECK AIRSPACE
Stay clear of airports, Flight Restriction Zones (FRZs) and other restricted or dangerous areas.

4. RESPECT PEOPLE
Do not intentionally film people without consent and respect reasonable expectations of privacy.

5. NEVER FLY OVER CROWDS
People cannot move away quickly (e.g. festivals, concerts, sporting events).

6. FLY RESPONSIBLY
Be considerate to others, follow the CAA Drone and Model Aircraft Code and keep up to date with any airspace changes.

REGISTRATION & IDENTIFICATION (2026)

FLYER ID
Required from 100g or more, regardless of camera.

OPERATOR ID
Required at 250g or more (or from 100g or more if the drone has a camera). Display on your drone.

REMOTE ID
Required for specified classes (e.g. UK1, UK2, UK3). Check the current CAA rules for full details.

COMMON MYTHS VS. THE FACTS

- ✗ **"Drones can't fly in towns."** False – A1 and A2 drones can legally operate in residential and urban areas.
- ✗ **"Drones always need to stay 50m away."** Only applies to A3 and (some) legacy drones. A1 can fly closer and over people.
- ✗ **"Drones are not allowed over my property."** There is no airspace ownership below 120m. Fly responsibly and respect privacy.
- ✗ **"360° cameras spy into windows."** Wide-angle aerial cameras capture the environment, not private interiors.



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CHECK THE LATEST CAA DRONE AND MODEL AIRCRAFT CODE BEFORE EVERY FLIGHT
caa.co.uk/drones

UK Civil Aviation Authority

AERIAL • GROUND • 360° VR • UK WIDE • FROM YOUR ANGLE
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