**North Wessex Downs Guidelines on Flying Drones in the AONB**

**1st February 2018**

**Drone flying is a regulated activity:**

* Drone use must follow the Civil Aviation Authority’s rules of the air to ensure safe and proper operation (<http://www.caa.co.uk>).
* Natural England permission is required to take off, land and fly at low levels within any Site of Scientific interest (SSSI) as such sites are protected by law for their birds and habitats (contact [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk) or 0300 060 3900).
* Landowner’s permission may also be required. Certain landowners such as the National Trust have implemented a “no drone” policy.
* Drones must not be flown over nesting areas, colonies, roosts and important feeding areas.
* It is illegal to disturb nesting birds under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
* If your drone has a camera, you cannot fly it within 50 metres of another person, vehicle, vessel or structure or within 150 metres of congested areas or large gatherings of people.
* Drones must not be flown in a No Fly Zone, for example controlled airspace or military danger areas.  The website [noflydrones.co.uk](http://www.droneguideuk.com/www.noflydrones.co.uk) shows detailed maps of any No Fly Zones near you.

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