



# Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems Policy

This policy has been adopted by Highfield Park Trust

Date Ratified: July 2019

Review Date: May 2020

Signed: T Abbott

Position: Chair of Trustees

## **Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems Policy**

### **What are Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)?**

UAS are known by a variety of names perhaps the most familiar of which are remote controlled aircraft or drones. Their key characteristics are that they are unmanned; they fly and are operated remotely. Some have cameras or other means of collecting information.

### **Wider Legal Framework**

Aviation law requires UAS to be seen at all times by the operator, remain below 400 ft and stay at least 50m from people, vehicles and structures.

If a system has a camera or is equipped to record data it is an offence, when without permission from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), a UAS is operated:

- Over or within 150 metres of any congested area or organised open assembly of more than 1000 persons
- Within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle, person or structure not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft
- During take-off or landing to be within 30 metres of any person unless they are under the control of the operator

If a system that has the capability to acquire data and is to be used for commercial gain CAA permission is required. It does not matter on the size of the system.

The flying of a drone becomes a prohibited act once a constable has asked a person to stop flying it or if a notice is displayed in the park stating it is a prohibited act.

**Enforcement of the law is a matter for the police.**

### **Highfield Park Trust (HPT) Policy**

While HPT recognises the growing popularity of recreational UAS, it is the Trust Policy not to allow the flying of a UAS within Highfield Park. This is because their use can have a negative impact on park wildlife and also interfere with the safety and comfort of other park visitors. There is evidence of such devices causing alarm to animals by flying too closely and recorded examples of drones crashing to the ground without warning.

### **Licensed Drone Use**

In some circumstances HPT may give written permission for drone use for commercial or news gathering purposes. This is in order to minimise the use of noisy helicopters which have traditionally been used for such image capturing.

All applications for commercial filming requests will be considered by HPT and permission may be granted subject to operators abiding by the law and HPT's terms and conditions. HPT will only give permission where it does not unreasonably impact on the comfort, safety and convenience of other park users, park wildlife and environment. Security implications will also be considered.

Please allow a minimum of 10 working days for HPT to consider your application. We cannot guarantee permission given the limited locations considered suitable for drone use.

There will be a non-refundable charge of £30 to consider an application.