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### **Quantock Hills AONB Drone (unmanned aerial vehicles) Policy**

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's), commonly known as a drone, is an aircraft without a human pilot aboard.

Over the past year the usage of drones for both a recreational purposes and for commercial usage has grown. The fall of the cost of the units has allowed them to become a more common recreation past-time and as a consequence the individual using the equipment is now neither trained in an appropriate manner or understands the risks associated with their usage.

The following 'code of conduct' has been adopted by the Quantock Hills JAC in order to allow individuals to understand what is acceptable:

- Drone use must follow the Civil Aviation Authority's rules of the air to ensure safe and proper operation (<http://www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Unmanned-aircraft-anddrones/>)
- Natural England permission is required to take off, land and fly at low levels within any Site of Scientific interest (SSSI), such as the Quantock Common SSSI which is protected by law for its birds and habitats (contact [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk) or 0300 060 3900).
- Landowner's permission must be obtained before using drones.
- Drones must not be flown over nesting areas as it is illegal to disturb nesting birds under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- Commercial use of drones should have undertaken appropriate recognised training.