



Kent & East Sussex Railway



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Operational guidance for drone users: flying a drone near railway track

Non-qualified remote pilots (hobbyists)

Flying near, on or over the railway infrastructure is extremely dangerous and could result in significant loss or damage to the railways and/or affect passenger journeys. Your aircraft could cause significant issues, including:

- Endangering people working on the railway;
- Disrupting track inspections that are being carried out;
- Cause damage to railway property and equipment.

You should:

- Always comply with the Civil Aviation Authority's Drone and Model Aircraft Code;
- Note that you could be personally liable for any damage caused to the railway infrastructure by you or your drone if you do not have Public Liability Insurance of at least £5,000,000; and
- Be aware that you could be prosecuted under Article 240 or 241 of The Air Navigation Order 2016:
 - Article 241 - 'A person must not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property'

Qualified remote pilots (professionals)

You are wholly responsible operating a UAS/drone near, on or over railway infrastructure and must follow relevant UK legislation. You should:

- Conduct a risk assessment / method statement / safe system of work. This includes but is not limited to:
 - a. boundary ownership
 - b. track worker distraction
 - c. moving trains / line speeds
 - d. lineside hazards (e.g. overhead equipment)
- Document a robust and agreed system of alerting the K&ESR's Duty Controller of an incident involving the UAS/drone if it causes a safety concern to the running of the railway;
- Have Public Liability Insurance in force with a minimum value of £5,000,000 for drone operations on or near the railway;
- Operate under a current [CAA] Permission supported by an approved Operations Manual

If in doubt, do the right thing before you fly and contact the K&ESR by emailing enquiries@kesr.org.uk

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