

No: NRS 295

Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Unmanned Aerial Systems/Aircraft (*Drones*)

For the attention of: Designers, Engineers, Planners, Surveyors, Project Managers

Background:

The use of unmanned aerial aircraft (“*drones*”) in the commercial sector is becoming a reality and provides Network Rail with some potentially exciting opportunities for reducing cost/risk and improving efficiency.

It should be noted however that in the UK, there are significant regulatory and safety implications which need to be assessed before we can safely use/introduce this technology over or near our railway infrastructure.

The air operations team are actively working with the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) and other stakeholders to develop a standardised acceptance framework and associated protocols for the safe integration and use of unmanned aerial systems technology on or adjacent to our infrastructure.



Immediate Action Required by all persons affected:

Until this framework has been agreed and formalised, unmanned aerial aircraft operations **must not** be permitted to operate either on our behalf (e.g. through contractors/sub-contractors) or directly by Network Rail employees without a safe method of work being first agreed/approved by the air operations team (who will gain the necessary internal approvals).

For further details contact
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