#### Building Surveyors' Oxford Briefing 2017 Culham Science Centre | Friday, 13 October 2017



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# Agenda: high level inspections

- Thames Valley Drones
- Drones (overview)
- Safety considerations
- Operating commercially / Getting license / Renewal
- Drone capabilities
- PROs & CONs of drones
- In-house vs outsourced
- Useful outputs for surveyors
- Q&A





#### www.thamesvalleydrones.co.uk



- Drone-based aerial photography, filming, inspections, surveys, 2D mapping & 3D modeling
  - Property (residential, commercial, agricultural, public)
  - Land

#### Building /structural inspections & surveys



# Work for surveyors

- Dilapidation / condition reports
- Pre & Post remedial work
- General inspections / trouble shooting
- Insurance
- Land / development opportunities









#### RAISON D'ETRE

















- What else sets Thames Valley Drones apart ?
  - Professional ethos (all operational aspects [procedures to presentation])
  - End-to-end delivery:
    flying > surveying > editing > post-production > delivery
  - Fly some of the latest equipment in its class, use professional software for image editing / project management
  - Customer centric deliver what the customer requires / exceeding customer expectations
  - Where analytics & technology meets innovation & creative
  - We believe we are one of the most professional drone operators in the South East serving the property, construction & building management sector





- What else can Thames Valley Drones offer?
  - Thermal
    - Anyone can fly a done but delivering actionable data especially for roofing is key
    - Not all roof types are created equal
  - Specialist drones







#### The drone business

- What is a drone?
  - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle / System (UAV / UAS)
  - Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)
- Takes majority of principles from aviation unmanned flight
  - Pilot
  - Aircraft ...
- Governed by

#### - Civil Aviation Authority & Air Accident Investigation Board

- Air safety
- Police
  - Criminal activity / damage to private property / drone mis-use
  - Main reporting line for incidents
- Information Commissioner (camera)
  - Privacy & data protection



#### Fly Drone Safe Guide

- The Pilot is responsible for the drone at all times
- The operation must not endanger anyone or anything especially aircraft
- Maximum height for flight 400 feet | maximum distance 500 meters
- **The drone MUST be in sight at all times** (no First Person View) or Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS) and Extended Visual Line of Sight (EVLOS remote observers) require additional training, qualification & permission (CAA)
- (With camera) Should not be flown within 50 meters of anyone or anything not directly under the control of the pilot (there for the sole purpose of the filming or have their explicit permission
- Not fly within 'no fly zones' ie airports, danger areas (military & civilian [hi-intensity radar or radio waves)
- Not fly for 'valuable consideration' (commercially) without PfCW
- If fitted with a camera you should not fly within 50 metres of congested area, large gatherings, other people or property
- Careful when flying in the extreme cold battery life is considerably shorter
- Don't' fly if you aren't feeling 100% most accidents are human error
- Know where you are flying <u>www.skydemonlight.com</u>



# Categories of drone

- Toy quadcopters
- FPV / Racing
- Consumer camera
- Prosumer
- Consumer Industrial, Agricultural, Utilities & Transport
- VTOL (search & rescue / conservation)
- Military





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#### Our drones





# Air Safety - people





## Air Safety - aircraft





# Type of licence (PfCW)

- Who you are
- What your are flying
- Why you are flying
- Where you are flying
- What you intend doing with any data (images / other)?





#### Basic Principle of Commercial Work

"Valuable consideration"

• which is available to the public

Oľ

- which, when not made available to the public, is performed under a contract between an operator and a customer, where the latter has no control over the operator,
- in return for remuneration or other valuable consideration."



### Commercial Operation

- Qualified
  - ground school / theory (exam)
  - flight exam (practical)
  - operations manual CAA approved
- Licensed (Permission for Commercial Work)
  *renewed annually*
- Insured



# Ground School / Theory

Air Law: (rules of the air, regulations, airworthiness, airspace & air traffic services, accident investigation (safety)

**Aircraft: software & hardware**, operation / navigation methods, flight instruments, GPS, Li-Po battery management

**Flight performance:** (operational envelope, Max take-off weight, airspeed, altimeter settings, operational ceiling, weather limitations)

Human factors: pilot, ground crew, air crew

**Meteorology:** weather, international standards (atmosphere) air pressure / altimeter, visibility, cloud formations, wind

**Navigation:** aviation charts, flight planning, latitude & longitude

**Operational procedures:** everything operational from crew to Special Operational Procedures, exemptions & permissions, types of operations / limitations

Basic Principles of flight: lift, stall windshear, command & control

Communications: air traffic control, NATS, other air users



#### Aeronautical chart section(UK)





#### **Operations Manual**

Thames Valley Drones	Operations Manual	Thames Valley Drones	Operations Manual	Thames Valley Drones	Operations Manual
		12.1. Qualification Requirements and Currency	14	Customer Enguiry Form	97
		12.2. Crew Health	14	Pre-Site Assessment Form	10
CONTENTS		13. Logs and Records		Call Sheet	39
ACCOUNT OF A DECEMBER OF A		PART C - FLIGHT PLANNING AND PREPARATION (Pre-Site)		Risk Assessment Form	40
		14. Determination of Intended Task and Feasibility		On-Site Assessment Form	43
Amendment Record	·······	15. Operating Site Location and Assessment		Appiendix # Checklists	42
Commitment of Accountable Manager.	1	16. Risk Management	17	Embarkation Checklist	42
CONTENTS	2	17. Communications		Arrival Checklist	43
PART A - SAFETY AND ORGANISATIONAL LAYOUT		18. Pre-Notification		Pre-Flight Checklist	44
1. Purpose	in internet in the second second	19. Site Permissions.	18	Post-Flight Checklist	45
2. Scope		20. Weather Forecasts	19	Appendia G Logbooks	46
2.1. Safety Policy and National Perspective		21. Preparation and Serviceability of Equipment	19	Battery Identification Chart & Logbook	46
2.2. Safety Goals		PART D - OPERATING PROCEDURES (On-Site)		Maintenance Logbook	47
2.3. Safety Assurance		22. On-Site Assessment Survey	20	Pilot and Aircraft Hours Logbook	48
2.4. Organisational and Safety Training		28. Selection of Operating Areas and Alternative	20	Incident Logbook	49
3. Definitions and Abbreviations		24. Weather Checks	20		
4. Document Control and Amendment Process	6	25. Crew Briefing	21		
5. Referenced Documents		26. Crew Clothing	21		
6. Organisation.	7	27. Cordon Procedure	21		
6.1. Nominated Personnel	······································	28. Aircraft Communications	22		
6.2. Responsibilities		29. Charging and Fitting of Batteries	22		
PART B - AIRCRAFT AND OPERATIONAL CONTROL		30. Loading of Equipment	23		
7. Aircraft Technical Specifications	.9	31. Pre-Flight and Post-Flight Checks	24		
7.1. Operating Limitations and Conditions		32. Flight Procedures	24		
7.2. Types of Operation	10	32.1. Start-up Procedure	24		
8. Maintenance Principles and Regime	10	32.Z. Take-off Procedure	25		
8.1. Software and Firmware Update Policy	11	\$2.3. In-flight Procedure			
9. Supervision of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)	12	12.4. Landing Procedure	26		
10. Incident Investigation and Mandatory Occurrence Reporting		12.5. Shut-down Procedure	26		
10.1 Incident Handling	12	33. Emergency Procedures			
10.2 Incident Logging		Appendix A Permission for Aerial Work	ko l		
10.3. Investigation Procedure	12	Appendix B Insurance Documents	3.2		
10.4. Mandatory Occurrence Reporting		Appendix C Thames Valley Drone's Phantom 3 Photograph	35		
11. Operation of Multiple Aircraft	14	Appendie D Besic National UAS Certificate - Small Unmanned Aircr	an		
12. Flight Team Composition	14	Appendix 8 Operational Forms			
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# Compliance with various CAA regulations

Reference	Full Title	Issue Number & Date of Issue
CAP 382	Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Scheme	Ninth Edition, 18 March 2011
CAP 393	Air Navigation: The Order and Regulations	Fifth edition, August 2016
CAP 722	Unmanned Aircraft System Operations - Guidance	Sixth Edition, 24 March 2015
CAP 1059	Safety Management Systems: Guidance for small, non complex organisations	June 2013
N-2014/190	Small Unmanned Aircraft Operations Within London and Other Towns and Cities	21 November 2014



### Renewal

- PfCW renewed annually
  - Updated Operations Manual for each drone (submit an SRG1320 for different drone or type of activity)
  - Flight / Pilot / Maintenance logs
  - Flying hours
  - Insurance
- BNUC-S (Basic National UAS Certificate) resubmission for each different aircraft



# Drone Capabilities





## Benefits of drone inspections

- Increased efficiency (time / resources)
- Reduced cost
- Improved health & safety



#### Specific benefits of drones for surveyors

- In-built safety
- Minimal disruption
- Non-intrusive / reduced risk of further damage
- Greater / Full access to inaccessible rooves / areas
- Better quality images / information
- Reduced survey / working time (contractors)
- Environmentally friendly
- Remote monitor facility
- Flexible
- Easily repeatable



### Cons of drones

#### • Specific no fly zones

- Danger areas Danger Areas are areas of military airspace often used for activities such as fighter pilot training, live ammunition training or weapons and systems testing (including GPS jamming exercises
- Prohibited Areas are areas of airspace which for one reason or another have been prohibited from having aircraft enter them.
- Controlled airspace Aerodrome Traffic Zones, they surround smaller airports and aerodromes that do not have additional controlled airspace
- Restricted Areas protect sensitive locations such as prisons and nuclear facilities.
- Military Aerodrome Traffic Zones
- London Restricted areas EG R157 (Hyde Park), EG R158 (City of London) and EG R159 (Isle of Dogs)

http://www.noflydrones.co.uk



## Cons of drones

- Weather?
- Specialist knowledge?



#### Factors that need special consideration

- Tree lines
- Telephone cables
- Neighbouring properties (terraced properties particularly)
- Other buildings / structures
- Railway lines
- Main roads
- Motorways
- High voltage power lines
- Power / Electricity / Substation
- Animals / Pets that are housed outdoors

- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Wildlife / Nature reserve
- Elderly
- Children
- Special needs groups
- Police station
- Army barracks
- Other sensitive military sites
- Cranes
- Heavy / Plant machinery
- Golf courses or other outdoor recreational sites

- Other airspace users eg microlite, hang gliding, parasailing, parachute, gliders, hot air balloon clubs or sites who use the area
- High power radio or communications equipment (particularly on roof tops)
- Industrial any stack or flue that is emitting any form of output



# Challenges: in-house (balancing weather / requirements vs resource vs timescales)

- Heavy up-Front costs (business case / sizeable capital expense up front)
- Takes time to qualify & set up a project (esp while working full-time)
- Can take 6 9 months to qualify
- Part-time resource(s) enough resource at the right time to cover all surveys required with other workloads
- Full time resource(s) resources sitting idle in bad weather / when not required
- Can't easily scale up / down as requirements dictate
- Adding new technologies / skill sets takes time
- Reliant on one or two pilots (flexibility / scalability/ availability)



#### Benefits of using a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Supplier

- We have the experience and the skills to manage the whole process, we work within the sector
- Networked into pilots / groups, know what to look for, can add additional skills (Infra-red / specialist drones), scale up or down as requirements change
- Pilot recruitment, management, project management, quality control all outsourced to experienced team
- Develop bespoke standards & specifications
- No capital expense
- Fully scalable, additional skills sets easily added
- Regionally-based pilots means flexibility in cover / resourcing



### Outsource whole function

- Thames Valley Drones has the experience and the skills to manage the whole process
- Networked into pilots / groups, know what to look for, can add additional skills (Infra-red / Lidar [3D laser mapping]), scale up or down as requirements change
- One point of contact for clients
- Pilot recruitment, management, project management, quality control all outsourced under one roof
- Scalable, additional skills sets easily added
- Regionally-based pilots means flexibility in cover



#### Types of output | photographic images





#### Types of output | video





#### Types of output | video (stills)





#### Types of output | video (stills)





#### Types of output | survey images





#### Types of output |point clouds (volumetrics)



Point Cloud with camera positions



#### Types of output |point clouds (volumetrics)



Example distance measurement



# Types of output | 2D mapping





# Types of output | 2D mapping



THAMES VALLEY DRUNES

# Types of output | 3D model





# Types of output | complex projects

Commercial Building Northampton | roof inspection & survey



Source grids

Point cloud (volumetrics)



Video fly throughs Potential leak area





#### Credentials – Thames Valley Drones

- 10 years + successful delivery of complex digital projects for companies large & small
- Experienced in delivering land, building / property surveys
- Experienced in projects requiring comprehensive method statements & risk assessments
- PPE/CSCS ready
- Precision flying, image / video handling & editing skills, digital distribution – all under one roof



#### Q&A/Discussion



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