

ANTICIPATING & CONSTRAINING DRONES on Exmoor: a short ES Overview Paper

- Drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, UAVs) are small devices for aerial photography
- The positive use of aerial reconnaissance is well appreciated since World War II
- Cameras mounted on small radio-controlled aircraft have long use to assess crop trials
- Drones are now relatively common-place for hobbyists & increasingly widely owned
- Farmers/Land managers may use drones to improve surveillance of crops & livestock
- Researchers, Planners and Policymakers often find drone-acquired information useful
- Drones may be used for both topographic & bathymetric surveys for LiDAR maps
- HOWEVER:-
- Drones may penetrate remote areas disturbing tranquillity for wildlife, people, animals
- Drones may be used illegally in unauthorised places for unauthorised surveillance
- Unregulated drones can be disruptive to aircraft, emergency services & communities.

In the light of the above points, **The Exmoor Society** is keen that a watching brief be kept on the anticipated increased use and potential intrusion of drones within Exmoor National Park, and indeed in greater Exmoor. To this end we note and monitor:-

1. The ENPA website information on [*Policy & Guidance on the Use of Drones and Model Aircraft within Exmoor National Park.*](#)
2. The range of approaches taken on this issue within other National Parks and Protected Landscapes, and by significant landowners both in the UK and abroad.
3. The current licencing legislation at <https://dronesafe.uk/drone-code>
4. Sites where drones have already been found problematic to nesting birds & people, such as Porlock Marsh.
5. Emerging aspects of drone use that will need appropriate deterrence or management.
6. Constructive usage of drones in improved understanding and mapping of Exmoor.