



Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

Policy for the Operation of Drones on Manx National Heritage Land

Background

Drones, more formally referred to as Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) or Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircraft (SUSA), are perhaps best known for their military use. However, recent years has also seen the increasing availability and use of SUSA as technological progress has made them more affordable for both commercial and private use.

From Manx National Heritage's (MNH's) own business perspective, SUSA can be very beneficial and they have already been used to good effect as a cost effective method of assisting with the monitoring of building condition and the pin-pointing of building defects. In addition, MNH has benefitted from the provision of high quality aerial images from new angles of some of our historic sites which in turn, provides excellent promotional material. SUSA may also have potential for monitoring habitat changes to a greater level of detail than is currently available through satellite imagery.

Inevitably, the more widespread use of SUSA brings with it the potential for conflict with other users and with wildlife on MNH land and property, with consequential business risks in terms of public liability and failure to safeguard protected species. Issues with data protection may also arise from the images captured during flight. Consequently, it is important that MNH develops a clear policy for the use of SUSA on MNH land and subsequently promotes public awareness of the agreed policy.

What are the key risks arising from SUSA operation on MNH land?

The main risks to MNH can be summarised as:

- Personal injury to visitors, site staff and the public at large from an uncontrolled SUSA;
- Damage to buildings or monuments;
- Lack of public liability insurances carried by the SUSA operator which could in turn expose MNH to a claim by an injured party;
- Failure to control an activity that could lead to disturbance of protected species – primarily birds and seals – and potentially in contravention of the Wildlife Act 1990 and non-compliance in relation to those ASSI (Areas of Special Scientific Interest) within MNH's ownership;

- General noise disturbance of the public enjoying our land and property, which in many cases are valued for their peacefulness and absence of any vehicles etc

Agreed Policy for the operation of SUSA on or over MNH land

SUSA are only permitted to be used on MNH land with written authorisation as follows:

- Only IOM CAA approved operators (or UK CAA approved operators who have been given temporary approval by the IOM CAA) may seek approval to use SUA/SUSA on MNH land – individuals without such accreditation will not be permitted to use SUSA on MNH land;
- Operators must seek written authorisation at least 14 days before their planned use of a SUSA on MNH land by completing an application (available on MNH's website, together with the appropriate guidance);
- Depending on the nature of the flight or use of the SUSA, a fee may be chargeable e.g. commercial filming;
- As part of their application, approved operators will be required to provide evidence of public indemnity insurance cover of a minimum of £5m;
- A flight plan showing the proposed flight route;
- A risk assessment and method statement for the flight;
- For those areas of MNH land that fall within ASSI's or contain bird/animal species falling within Schedules 1 and 5 of the Wildlife Act, consent for SUSA use will normally not be given during the bird and seal breeding season;
- Unless previously otherwise agreed with MNH, operators will not operate a SUSA at any MNH built heritage site when the site is open to the public.



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Application Form: Operation of Drones or Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircraft on Manx National Heritage Land

Prior to completing this application, please read the accompanying Policy for the Operation of Drones or Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircraft.

Written applications to use a SUSA on MNH land must be received a minimum of 14 days before the date of your planned use.

Name:	
Address:	
Tel/Mob:	
Email:	

Location of planned use of a SUSA on MNH land:
Date/time:
Purpose of your SUSA use:

Please submit:

1. a copy of your IOM CAA authorisation (including any temporary authorisation)
2. a copy of your Public Liability Insurance (minimum requirement £5m)
3. a map showing your proposed flight path
4. a risk assessment and method statement for your proposed SUSA use

Please return your completed application and any accompanying documentation to enquiries@mnh.gov.im