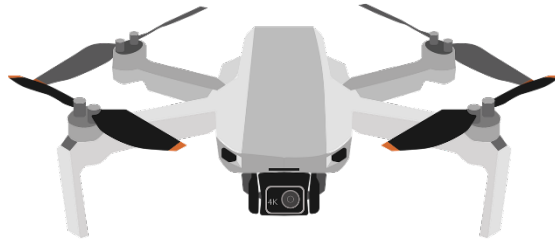


Your Quick Guide to Our Drone Filming

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Drones are an incredibly dynamic way to add fantastic, unique aerial shots and value to your videos. However, the legal framework for UK drones can be intimidating, and it's important that we stay compliant. Here's a short guide on how MidgieBite Media uses drones to capture aerial video.

A Brief Introduction to Our Drones

We use two types of drone – the **DJI Phantom 4 Pro** and the **DJI Mini 2**.

Both have different advantages over the other, and the choice of drone we will use when filming with you will depend on the nature of what we're filming.

For example, the **DJI Phantom 4 Pro** has a greater dynamic range and more flexibility with video options – meaning that it does a great job distinguishing between shadows and highlights. On the other hand, the smaller size of the **DJI Mini 2** makes it far more portable, and it will have greater flexibility in the areas it can operate due to changes in UK legislation.



DJI Phantom 4 Pro



DJI Mini 2

Staying Safe, Legal, and Compliant

While drones can offer fantastic results for video, they can also present serious hazards.

Drones have the capacity to collide with people, animals, buildings, vehicles, other aircraft, and/or other obstacles, and can cause serious injury or damage if not handled correctly.

In addition to poor handling, drones can be impacted by interference, weather conditions, bird strikes, and many other risks that must be considered and mitigated to stay safe.

At all times, we must make sure that we are compliant with UK Air Law and relevant legislation. This legislation helps to keep everyone safe while drones are in operation. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) oversees and regulates this within the UK.

While we do not expect our clients to be familiar with or memorise all aspects of UK Air Law, it is important to outline limitations and manage expectations of what and cannot be achieved while staying legally compliant.

We will not engage in any operations that would either be unsafe, or that would take us outwith legal compliance.

Our Qualifications and Insurance

Gavin Hugh is the *MidgieBite Media* Accountable Manager and UAS Operator. Gavin is qualified with both **A2 Certificate of Competence** and **GVC (General Visual Line of Sight)** qualifications, and has received **Operational Authorisation** from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Our Operational Authorisation approves our ability to offer commercial drone services for video and digital media production.

For insurance, our provider of choice is **Coverdrone**, who we use on a daily ad-hoc basis. This means that we activate our insurance cover for each specified day of flying for a daily rate. The cost of this insurance is covered within our pricing as agreed with our booking forms.

When We Can and Can't Fly

In summary, we will seek information on the intended site where flying is to take place and carry out a risk assessment (in person if necessary).

We monitor and cross-reference weather forecasts prior to filming, as even light rainfall and cold temperature can make operating a drone unsafe. This can mean that spring, summer and autumn can present many more opportunities for flying and filming compared to winter.

We also cannot operate if the wind speed is too high, as this can present a safety risk if the drone blows away and out of control. Different drones have different wind tolerances. For

both of our drones, we do not operate in wind speeds above 22mph. It is also worth noting that wind speed is stronger at height, and this must be taken into account when assessing whether it is safe to fly.

Airspace may be **Controlled** or **Uncontrolled**, and these categories can be further divided into subcategories. The key thing to note is that, in **Controlled** airspace, we may need to seek formal permissions for flying. In some cases, it may not be possible to fly at all due to legal restrictions put in place for that area of airspace – for example, near prisons.

An easy-to-read visual guide on some airspace boundaries can be found online at dronesafetymap.com. However, please note that this is not fully comprehensive. It is also worth noting that some areas may become restricted at short notice due to the issuing of a **NOTAM (Notice to Airmen)**. In this scenario, we would not be able to operate if a restriction on our area of drone flying has been issued at short notice.

If we are able to move ahead with planning our flight, we will check forecasts for the intended dates. If it seems unlikely that we will be able to fly, we will speak to our clients and rearrange where possible. We will also make a safety assessment based on forecast on the day before filming, and again on the morning of filming.

There are many other considerations to be taken into account before flying, many of which are quite technical. While in all cases we would want to be able to fly, it is important to manage expectations that it may not be safe or legal to do so. However, we will seek to work with you to find solutions to these issues, seeking alternative locations or filming techniques where possible.

What happens when we can't fly?

In the event that drone filming has been planned but cannot be carried out, we will look to rearrange the date for drone filming. Please be aware that this may occur at short notice due to changes in weather or the issuing of a NOTAM, etc.

If drone filming has been arranged in conjunction with other filming by *MidgieBite Media*, we will look to continue with the rest of the filming as planned, and simply look to rearrange the drone filming to take place on another day.

In the event that the drone filming cannot be rearranged (such as for a date-specific event), we will either not charge for this (if only drone filming by itself has been agreed), or else deduct the cost of drone filming from the final Invoice for the project (if the drone filming has been agreed along with other filming).

In the event that only drone flying has been agreed for a specific date that cannot be arranged, a deposit has been taken for this, and flying cannot take place, the deposit will be returned. However, in all other circumstances, however, we will retain any deposits made and seek to rearrange the date for drone filming.

Is it worth the hassle? Yes!

While the above may seem very technical and complicated, we will always endeavour to get flying and to capture some fantastic aerial footage.

We'll always look to do our best to clarify what you need to know. We'll let you know where any issues arise, and we'll actively try to find solutions to any challenges that occur. While we'll top priority must be staying safe and legal, we are determined to deliver great aerial footage to our clients.

If you're interested in drone flying, get in touch and let us know. We'll evaluate the flying location, carry out a full risk assessment, and do what we can to make the process as smooth and straightforward for you as possible.

By taking to the skies, we can work to capture something truly spectacular on film.

Thanks for reading this quick guide. Ready to get filming?

Please contact Gavin at gavin@midgiebitemedia.scot or call 07701028702, whether to get started or for any other queries. Alternatively, please feel free to visit www.midgiebitemedia.scot for more information on our services.



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