

ECOPredS guidelines for retrospective footage

To contribute drone footage that was shot prior to 1st April 2021, we ask that the flights that you carried out adhered to the following guidelines:

- **Civil aviation law:** all drone pilots must have adhered to the law, recommended flying parameters and operating procedures (such as minimum distance to non-involved people and residential areas) set out within the flight class they were legally permitted by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).
 - Please note that the law changed in January 2021 and flying even a small drone with a camera now requires registration with CAA (<https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/registration-requirements>).
- **Animal welfare:** animals must not have been intentionally disturbed during the process of collecting footage.
 - All drone pilots must have adhered to guidelines and laws set out in *A Guide to Best Practice for Watching Marine Wildlife* and *The Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code* published by Nature Scot, applying to both on the ground and airborne activities. Where flights were conducted from boats, vessels must have adhered to best practice guidance for boat-based wildlife watching as outlined in the wildlife watching codes.
 - Animal welfare is not exclusive to the target species and consideration must have been made for colonies of breeding birds (e.g. Arctic Terns), seal haul outs and any other species that could be disturbed by a drone (e.g. Oystercatchers, gulls etc.).
 - We may request for additional details about the flight, such as altitude or whether footage was cropped.
- **Using areas of operation:** all drone pilots must follow the Scottish Outdoor Access code at all times.

For best practice for future flights contributing to research, please see the ECOPredS standard operating procedures (SOP) for drone flights.

Further reading

- CAA Drone and Model aircraft code <https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/drone-code/flying-safely-and-responsibly>
- A Guide to Best Practice for Watching Marine Wildlife <https://www.nature.scot/guide-best-practice-watching-marine-wildlife-smwwc-part-2>
- The Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-coasts-and-seas/scottish-marine-wildlife-watching-code>
- The Scottish Outdoor Access Code <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/>
- ECOPredS community science project <https://ecopreds.com/citizen-science> and Facebook page www.facebook.com/ecopreds

Submitting images/footage

To contribute data to the project, please email ecopreds@st-andrews.ac.uk. If this is your first time contributing to the project, we will send you participant information that will explain how the data would be used, and a consent check list. If you agree to participate, we can then proceed with the image/footage contributions in way that is convenient to you.

