# Burnham Market parish council warns drone users after privacy concerns in affluent village



Burnham Market, a picturesque village renowned as one of Norfolk’s most affluent and sought-after locales, has issued a warning to drone operators following a complaint about a drone being flown over a resident's property. The parish council addressed the issue in their village magazine after discussing it during their May meeting, urging pilots to fly drones responsibly and with appropriate permissions. The exact circumstances surrounding the drone's flight remain unclear, including the operator’s identity and intent, whether innocent or intrusive.

The warning comes amid wider concerns about drone use in exclusive residential areas. Similar incidents have been reported in places like Castle Combe near Bath, where residents displayed warning signs after tourist drones repeatedly filmed their homes. In Burnham Market, often described as “Chelsea-on-Sea” due to its popularity among wealthy Londoners owning second homes, drone photography is a common tool for estate agents marketing high-value properties, with average prices exceeding £1 million. Local agents, including Bedfords Estate Agents, acknowledge using outsourced aerial photography, but report no formal complaints related to drones to date.

Drone operation in the UK is regulated based on the drone's size, purpose, and location. Operators must generally register with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) if their drones have cameras or weigh more than 250 grams. There are strict rules prohibiting flying drones within 50 metres of people or buildings for larger drones, while smaller drones have slightly more leeway but still cannot be flown over crowds. Furthermore, drone pilots need to be mindful of privacy concerns even though, legally, landowners do not own the airspace above their properties. Safety and respect are strongly emphasised; drone users are encouraged to avoid nuisance behaviour and seek necessary permissions before flying over private land.

The situation in Burnham Market highlights the tension between technological advancement and community privacy. Drone enthusiasts highlight that flying drones over private property is not illegal per se, but guidelines underline the importance of respecting others’ privacy and safety. The parish council’s statement reflects a broader push by local authorities to ensure drone users are aware of their legal obligations under UK laws, including the Air Navigation Order, and the Drone and Model Aircraft Code, which sets out responsible flying standards. Failure to comply can lead to police intervention, especially if drones cause danger or infringe on privacy rights.

Residents and visitors in exclusive communities like Burnham Market are thus caught between enjoying the benefits drones provide—such as innovative aerial photography for estate sales—and guarding their privacy and safety. This dynamic has become increasingly relevant as drone usage rises, prompting ongoing discussions about regulation enforcement and community impact.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25263164.warning-flying-drones-homes-burnham-market/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.burnhammarketparishcouncil.gov.uk/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25263164.warning-flying-drones-homes-burnham-market/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.cambs.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/drones/drones/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25263164.warning-flying-drones-homes-burnham-market/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.heliguy.com/blogs/posts/uk-drone-laws-where-can-i-fly/), [[5]](https://maint.loc.gov/law/help/regulation-of-drones/united-kingdom.php)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25263164.warning-flying-drones-homes-burnham-market/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.heliguy.com/blogs/posts/uk-drone-laws-where-can-i-fly/), [[3]](https://www.cambs.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/drones/drones/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25263164.warning-flying-drones-homes-burnham-market/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.cambs.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/drones/drones/), [[6]](https://greenham.gov.uk/news/drones-flying-safely-and-legally)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25263164.warning-flying-drones-homes-burnham-market/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.heliguy.com/blogs/posts/uk-drone-laws-where-can-i-fly/> - This article provides an overview of UK drone laws, detailing where and how drones can be flown legally. It covers topics such as restricted airspace, temporary flight restrictions during events, and the importance of respecting privacy when operating drones. The piece also emphasizes the need for drone operators to be aware of local byelaws and to avoid flying near structures or animals. Additionally, it highlights the necessity of reporting dangerous incidents and obtaining appropriate insurance for drone operations.
3. <https://www.cambs.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/drones/drones/> - Cambridgeshire Constabulary's page outlines the responsibilities of drone operators to ensure safe and legal flights. It introduces the Drone and Model Aircraft Code, akin to the Highway Code for drones, and details registration requirements with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The page also discusses insurance needs, flight rules, and the legal framework governing drone use in the UK, including the Air Navigation Order 2016. It provides guidance on reporting potential breaches of drone laws and the police's powers in such cases.
4. <https://www.burnhammarketparishcouncil.gov.uk/> - The official website of Burnham Market Parish Council offers information about the village and its governance. It includes details on council meetings, councillor contacts, and community initiatives. The site serves as a resource for residents and visitors, providing updates on local events, planning applications, and parish news. It also features sections on the village's history, amenities, and services, aiming to keep the community informed and engaged with local developments.
5. <https://maint.loc.gov/law/help/regulation-of-drones/united-kingdom.php> - This resource from the Law Library of Congress provides an in-depth analysis of drone regulations in the United Kingdom. It covers the primary legislation, including the Civil Aviation Act 1982 and the Air Navigation Order 2009, and discusses the roles of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in enforcing these laws. The document also addresses restrictions on drone operations, such as proximity to congested areas and controlled airspace, and outlines the legal responsibilities of drone operators and pilots.
6. <https://greenham.gov.uk/news/drones-flying-safely-and-legally> - Greenham Parish Council's article emphasizes the importance of flying drones safely and legally. It outlines essential responsibilities for drone operators, including understanding and adhering to the law, maintaining visual contact with the drone, and avoiding congested areas. The piece also highlights the need to respect privacy laws when capturing images or videos and warns against flying near airports or aircraft. It serves as a guide to ensure drone users operate within legal and safety parameters.
7. <https://www.massport.com/massport-asks-drone-operators-fly-safely> - Massport's advisory urges drone operators to adhere to safety guidelines and legal requirements. It outlines key regulations, such as obtaining FAA registration, flying below 400 feet, and maintaining visual line of sight. The advisory also emphasizes the prohibition of flying drones near airports and aircraft without prior FAA approval and the necessity of complying with Remote ID rules. Additionally, it introduces the B4UFLY mobile application, designed to help recreational drone operators identify safe and legal flying locations.