

#ShotOnMyDrone

The winning photographs

“I’ve been absolutely amazed by the high standards that we have seen. It shows just what can be achieved with this technology. It’s also really important for the Civil Aviation Authority to sponsor competitions like this because it helps sponsor responsible drone usage. It helps ensure that drones are properly integrated in our airspace, so that we can share that with everyone”

Sir Stephen Hillier, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Chair

The winners of our latest drone photography competition were announced in March 2022. #ShotOnMyDrone followed the success of 400ft Britain drone photography competition which we promoted alongside Vist Britain in 2017. These competitions are part of our work to encourage a safe and responsible attitude to drone flying to protect the safety of the wider aviation industry and the future success of drones.

There were four entry categories and the competition was judged by CAA Chair Sir Stephen Hillier, Editor of the Royal Aeronautical Society’s Aerospace magazine Tim Robinson and award-winning photographer and drone user Anna Henly. National Air Traffic Services (NATS) colleagues also voted for a winner that will be on display at one of its key centres.

The winning photographs

Countryside >

‘Glenfinnian viaduct’

Glen Cairns

Urban day >

‘Lorries, lots of lorries’

Andy Betts

Urban night >

‘roundabout’

Andy Wells

Christmas >

‘Christmas express’

Steve Banner

NATS selection >

‘Autumn thunder rolling in’

Matt Hoyland

Hear more

Listen to our podcast to hear interviews with the winners and judges.

[CAA Drone Safety podcast >>>](#)



“It’s the Glenfinnan viaduct otherwise known as the famous Harry Potter bridge. It was taken on a summer’s day and you can see the train going past going on their viaduct with the loch in the background. I think the worst thing is waiting because you only really get one shot at these sort of photos. So making sure the battery is fine and making sure the lens is clean. I was getting ready five minutes before the train was due to come, I got the drone up and it just so happened it came four minutes early! I didn’t actually have a lot of time to compose the shot, so I’m really lucky the way it came out.”



“It was taken just before Christmas a couple of years ago down at Manston airport when the lorries were parked up, waiting to get out back to main-land Europe. I think there were four and a half thousand lorries parked up. I’m a fan of symmetry and I thought ‘this has got a chance of getting some really nice pictures.’ It took a little bit of time just to get perfectly lined up so that everything was parallel and all the rules were there and done but I’m very pleased with how the picture came out.”

Urban night – winner 'roundabout' by Andy Wells



“When you’re doing a long exposure on a drone, it’s not the steadiest of things. Normally you want to be using a tripod but once it steadied down, I fired off a few shots and that was the best one. It was what I was looking for, I’ve been into my photography since about 2012; specifically night time and long exposure photography. Having the drone enables me to get a different take things and see them from an angle that that you wouldn’t have normally.”



“The drone I used was a DJI Phantom Pro. The image shows an express train travelling on a very snowy track when normally the railways don’t seem to be running. This was around Christmas time and I was actually filming at a church and heard the train coming so spun the drone around to face the other way and catch the train disappearing. The viewer sees the train as though it’s coming towards you but in fact it’s the back of the train that you see. With it being a photograph, everyone interprets it in a different way.”



“My image was taken just above the Gwynedd shore facing southwest looking towards the Menai Bridge and the Menai strait. It was late last September, just as the sun’s going down, on a day when we had thunderstorms coming in the evening and the thunder clouds are on the horizon. There’s rain falling in the far distance and the light is behind the clouds. So it’s all purple and blue, behind the clouds and yellow and I couldn’t have timed it better really. My drone is a DJI Mavic 2 Pro and this was photographed at approximately 290 feet in the air above a field looking south west.

It’s a composite of 21 separate images stitched together. So it’s not just one picture, the drone rotates left to right takes panoramic and then I stitch them together afterwards and colourise it.”

“It’s really important that we stick to the rules that we’re not infringing on airspace, where we might be endangering the public, endangering proper pilots, whose livelihood it is to fly aircraft with lots of people on board. We have apps so that we know where we are allowed to fly. And there are local bylaws that we need to follow.”

Anna Henly, award-winning photographer and drone user

Using a drone in towns and cities can produce amazing images but it does though involve more risk and you are likely to need specific authorisations from the CAA.

Our **Drone and Model Aircraft Code** sets out the laws and rules that apply for flying a drone in the UK for all users.

It’s worth remembering that bylaws may restrict when and where you can fly from. Look out for local signs for information and contact details where you can find out more. Bylaws are unlikely to be shown on apps or drone websites.

Check for any tall structures, such as cranes, masts and wires. Do not fly your drone if there are structures in the area that will mean it’s not safe or legal.

There are apps available that help you to understand the airspace around where you plan to fly. These will also show airfield restricted zones and any short-term restrictions that may be in place.

Rules

<https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/drone-code>

Registration

<https://register-drones.caa.co.uk>

Inspiration from the winners

Glen Cairns

<https://www.glencairnsvideoproductions.com/>

Andy Betts

[Esprit Drone Services](https://www.espritdrone.com/)

Andy Wells

<https://www.instagram.com/andrewwellsphotography>

Steve Banner

<https://www.photocrowd.com/photographer-community/47196/>

Matt Hoyland

<https://twitter.com/OffWorldPhotos>