BASIC DRONE RISK
ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

A simplified template to help you think safely
before flying.

Includes:
- Hazard identification
- Risk awareness
- Site considerations
- Control measures

Aero Drone Academy: Basic Risk Assessment

A simplified template for safer sorties.

Hazard Identification & Risk Awareness

A "Hazard" is anything with the potential to cause harm. A "Risk" is the likelihood of that harm happening.

Common Hazards in UK Drone Flight:

- Static Obstacles: Power lines (pylons), trees, buildings, and phone masts.

- Moving Hazards: Birds, other aircraft (especially low-flying helicopters or paragliders), and vehicles.

- People: Uninvolved members of the public, dog walkers, or crowds.

- Technical: Signal interference (C2 link failure), battery depletion, or propeller failure.

- Environment: Sudden gusts of wind, sea spray (corrosive), or rain.

Site Considerations (UK Specific)

Before you unpack, walk the site and answer these four questions:

1. Where is my "Emergency Landing Zone"? If a person enters your primary landing area, where is your backup?

2. Is there a "Line of Sight" blocker? Will that hill or building hide the drone from view?

3. What is the local "Airspace" status? Am I near an FRZ (Airport)? (Check Drone Assist or Altitude Angel).

4. Are there livestock or pets nearby? Horses and livestock can be easily spooked by drone noise.

Simplified Risk Assessment Template

Use this logic to evaluate every flight before takeoff.

Hazard	Potential Risk	Control Measure (Mitigation)
Public Entry	Collision or privacy breach.	Brief bystanders; use a "Spotter" or high-visibility vest.
Power Lines	Total loss of drone/fire.	Fly at least 15m away; keep drone at a higher altitude than lines.
Signal Loss	Flyaway or crash.	Check Kp-index; ensure **Return to Home (RTH)** altitude is set correctly.
Bird Attack	Damage to drone/injury to wildlife.	If birds circle, descend immediately and land.
Wind Gusts	Blown off course/battery drain.	Fly "into" the wind first so you have a tailwind for the return journey.

Emergency Planning (UK Protocol)

If a risk becomes a reality, follow the "Aero Academy 3-S Rule":

- STOP: Cease all cinematic movements. Hover in place to assess.

- STABILISE: If the drone is acting strangely, try to bring it lower (under 10m) where you have more control.

- SET DOWN: Land at the nearest safe spot—even if it's not your original takeoff point.

Important: In the UK, if your drone is involved in a serious incident (injury to a person or damage to manned aircraft), you are legally required to report it to the CAA and the AAIB (Air Accidents Investigation Branch).