



Safety Alert Drone Incident

30 September 2021

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by National Highways' supply chain partner:

Taylor Woodrow

A358 – Drone Incident 10/09/2021



Alert Details

On the 10th September 2021 at 12:52 during a routine operation near the A358 a survey drone encountered a sudden and unexplained mid-air problem. The DJI Matric M300 RTK drone had completed several flights previously that day using a P1 payload. The drone was set up out of the box following the contractors standard pre-flight procedure and had a short mission with a nine minute flight. The occurrence happened on the final turn of the flight, roughly 8 minutes and 40 seconds into the mission. The logs recorded a vertical descent of 22.3 m/s or 49.9 mph.

The warnings presented by the drone at the time of this freefall (observed retrospectively through the logs function) indicated a loss/malfunction to the propeller/motor. No damage to people or property was recorded. The drone fell into an open field from which the pilot had permission to operate in.

Immediate Actions

- All survey works using DJI Matric M300 RTK drones have been suspended until the investigation has been completed.
- The manufacturer of the drone was informed and the drone wreckage was returned to the manufacturer for further investigation
- The Civil Aviation Authority were informed via the UK Mandatory Occurrence Reporting (MOR) portal
- Ensure all drone preflight checks are completed and that the Manufactures Instructions are followed at all times.
- Do not overtighten coupler and ensure overall fleet is in good working order.