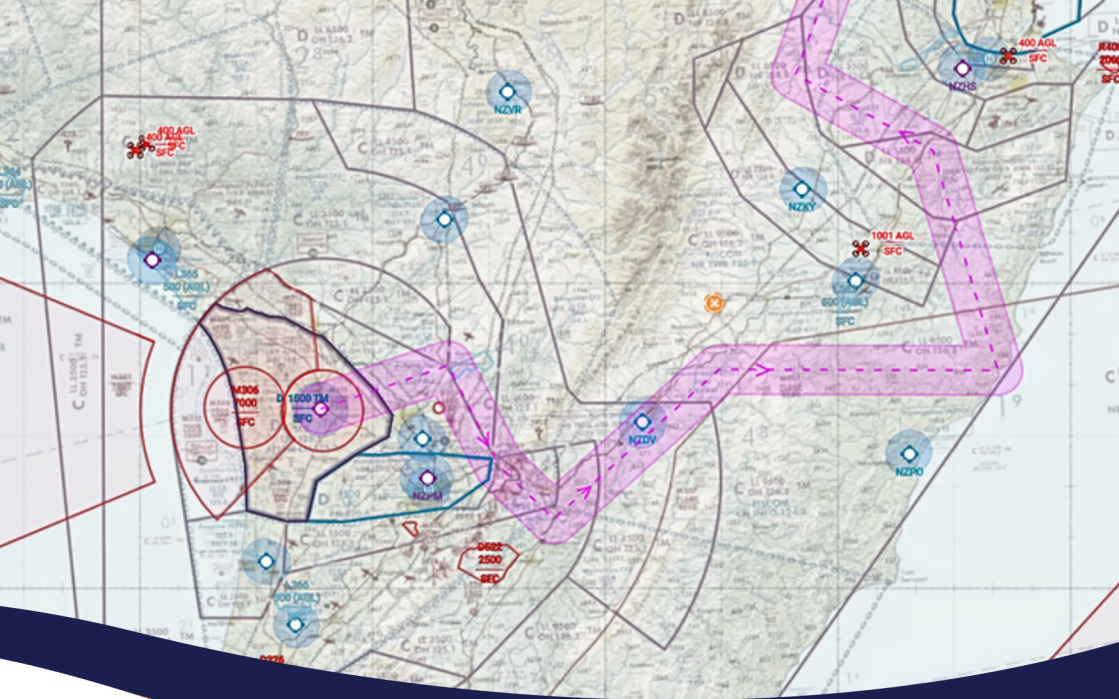




QUICK GUIDE FOR DRONE OPERATORS:

FLIGHT ADVISOR



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Terminology

In this guide we use the commonly used term “drones”. Alternative terms are **RPAS** (Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) or **UAS** (Uncrewed Aerial Systems).

Introduction

Flight Advisor was developed by the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) as a tool to enhance aviation safety in low level airspace.

Flight Advisor graphically displays several sources of information relevant to low level flights:

- Boundaries of airspace
- NOTAMs
- Low level flight advice notifications (not available from any other source)
- Relevant maps

The single pictorial display of this information provided on Flight Advisor helps aviation participants maintain awareness of each other and co-ordinate their activities.

This Quick Guide explains how to access Flight Advisor, how to interpret the information provided, and how to access the different types of maps.

Accessing Flight Advisor

To access Flight Advisor, navigate to the Flight Advisor website <https://flightadvisornz.io/> or scan the QR code on this page.

Once you are on the Flight Advisor website, click on the red 'Open App' button. You will not need to login or register for viewing information.

Registration

Registration is not required to view the information on Flight Advisor, but it is required if you want to be able to log your own low level flight advice and to obtain notifications.

Registration also enables you to view the "within 4km area" around aerodromes.

See the Flight Advisor website for more information on registration.



Flight Advisor QR Code

Standard Map View

When you open the Flight Advisor app you will see a map similar to the map on the right.

Standard Colours

The Flight Advisor standard map uses **standard colours** from a **Visual Navigation Chart** to depict airspace. This means that:

- **Dark blue** is the boundary of a **control zone**. Inside this zone you must have Air Traffic Control authorisation (use AirShare), or fly shielded.
- **Red** is the boundary of **special use airspace**. This may be a Danger Area, Military Operating Area, or Restricted Area. Remember that you need to have permission to fly in a Military Operating Area or Restricted Area.
- **Light blue** is the boundary of a **low flying zone**. Under Part 101 you cannot fly there.

Additional Colours

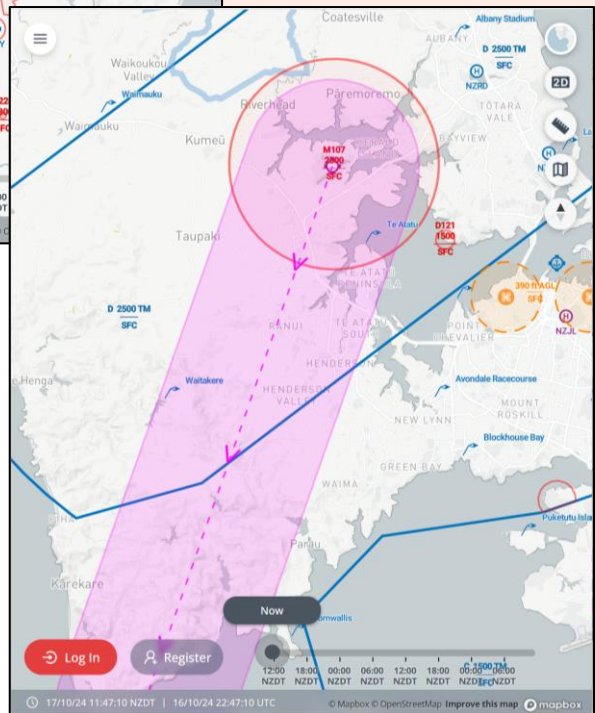
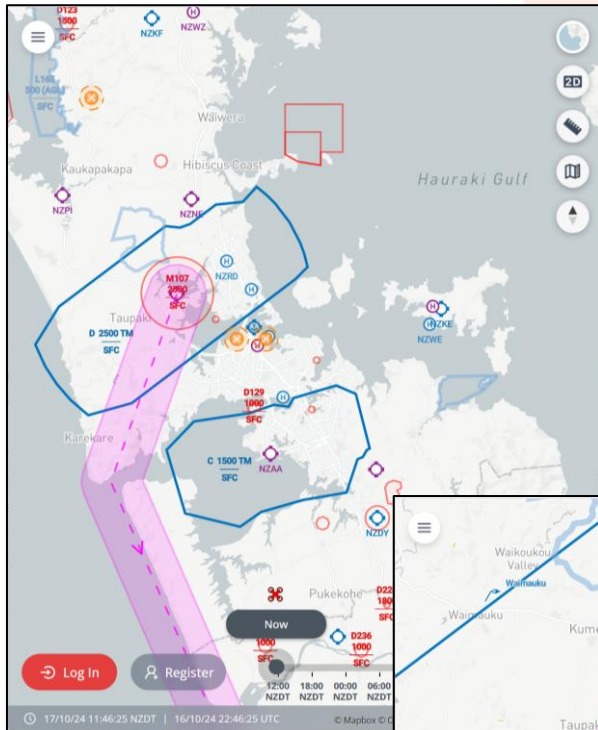
The standard map has additional colours to provide further information:

- **Pink** depicts a low level flight advisory. This has been filed by a registered user of the system and is only visible on the map during the time that the advisory is active.
- **Orange** depicts a NOTAM. Hover over the orange area to see the text of the notice. NOTAMs have been filtered so that only those relevant to low level flight are shown.

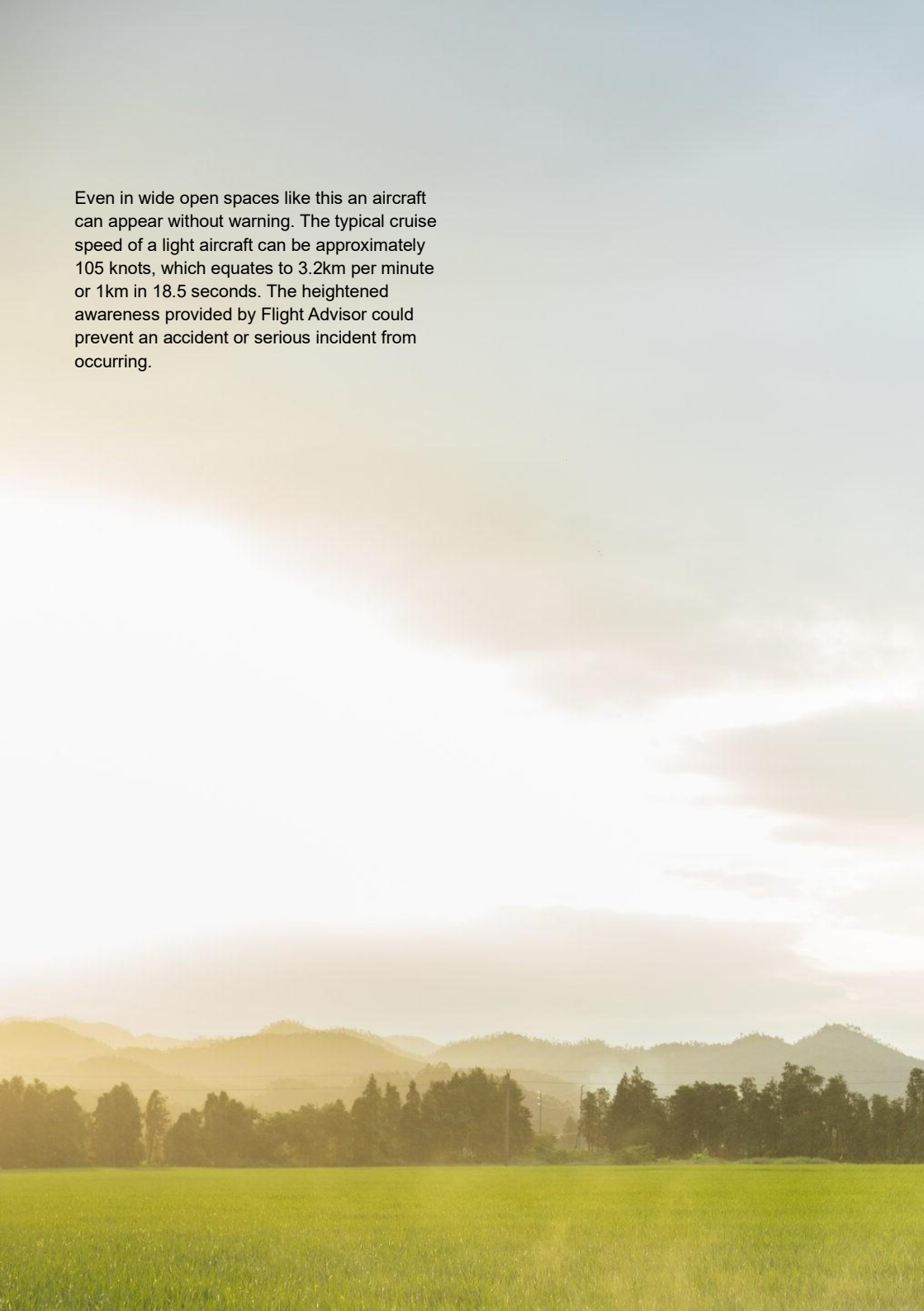
Important Symbols

Other symbols visible on the standard map include those in the table below.

Symbol	Meaning
	A drone flight logged on Airshare
	A drone flight advised via NOTAM
	Aerodromes
	A heliport (treated as an aerodrome for the purpose of Part 101)



Even in wide open spaces like this an aircraft can appear without warning. The typical cruise speed of a light aircraft can be approximately 105 knots, which equates to 3.2km per minute or 1km in 18.5 seconds. The heightened awareness provided by Flight Advisor could prevent an accident or serious incident from occurring.





Information in a Low Level Flight Advisory

Hover over a pink or orange area to obtain further information. The figure on the right shows a flight advisory from 17 October 2024.

This advisory tells us the planned time for the flight, the planned altitude, and the type of aircraft. In this case the aircraft is a King Air fixed wing aircraft ("plane") operated between 500ft AMSL and 3,000ft AMSL.

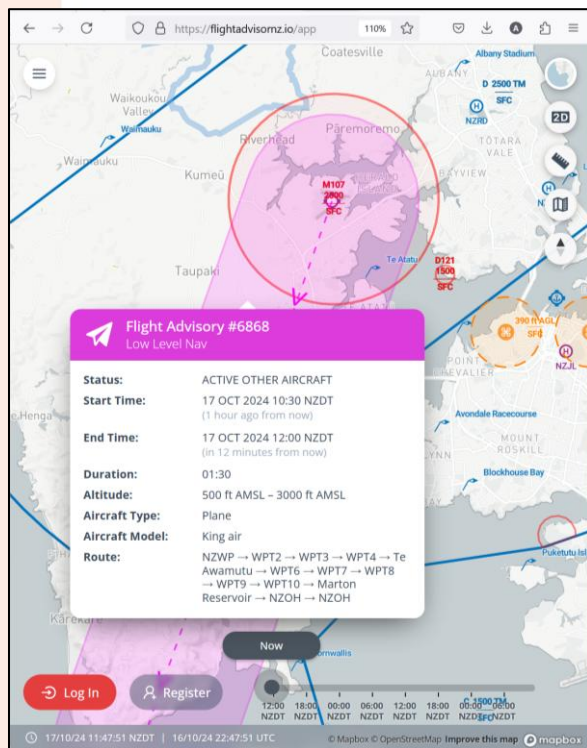
Interpreting Times

Wherever possible, Flight Advisor displays times in New Zealand time.

NZDT means New Zealand Daylight Time; the time during daylight savings (i.e. during summer).

NZST means New Zealand Standard Time; which is the time when it is not daylight savings (i.e. during winter).

UTC means Coordinated Universal Time; this will need to be converted to New Zealand time.



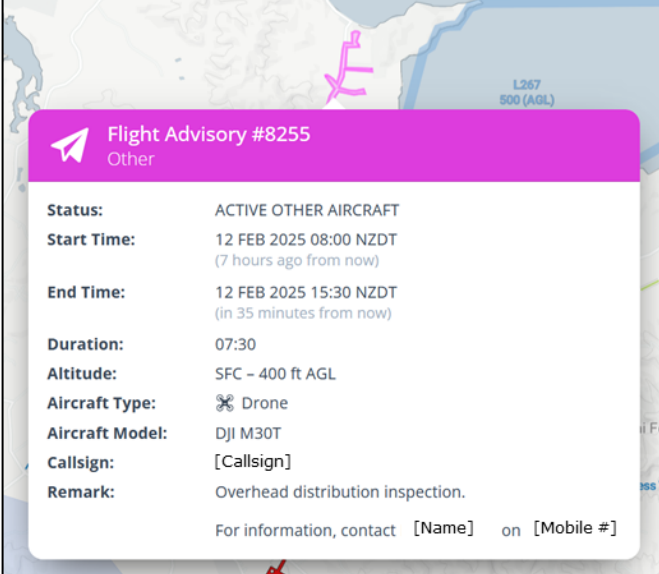
Information about a flight advisory

Additional Information for Registered Users

You can use Flight Advisor as either a registered or unregistered user.

As an unregistered user you can still see all the map views, NOTAMs, and Flight Advisories. But non-registered users can't see the Airshare flights and they can't see all of the details of a Flight Advisory.

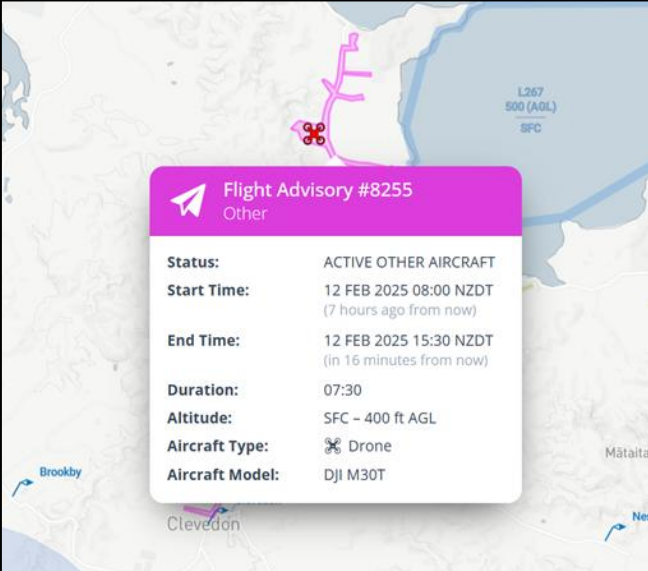
The examples on this page show the difference in information seen by registered users (left) and unregistered users (below).



Flight Advisory #8255
Other

Status:	ACTIVE OTHER AIRCRAFT
Start Time:	12 FEB 2025 08:00 NZDT (7 hours ago from now)
End Time:	12 FEB 2025 15:30 NZDT (in 35 minutes from now)
Duration:	07:30
Altitude:	SFC - 400 ft AGL
Aircraft Type:	✈ Drone
Aircraft Model:	DJI M30T
Callsign:	[Callsign]
Remark:	Overhead distribution inspection. For information, contact [Name] on [Mobile #]

Example of information seen by a registered user



Flight Advisory #8255
Other

Status:	ACTIVE OTHER AIRCRAFT
Start Time:	12 FEB 2025 08:00 NZDT (7 hours ago from now)
End Time:	12 FEB 2025 15:30 NZDT (in 16 minutes from now)
Duration:	07:30
Altitude:	SFC - 400 ft AGL
Aircraft Type:	✈ Drone
Aircraft Model:	DJI M30T

The same Flight Advisory seen by an unregistered user

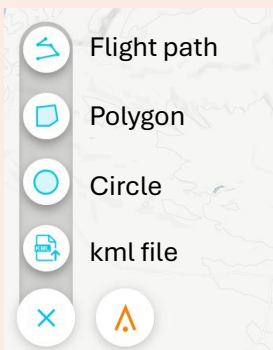
In addition, only registered users can log their own flight advisories and obtain automatic notification of advisories entered by other users.

Logging an Advisory

Flight Advisor works best when everyone logs their flights.

To log an advisory, first login as a registered user.

Using the appropriate map view, navigate to the area where you intend to fly – the standard, satellite, and topo map views may all be useful for this. The flight area can be entered as a path, a polygon, a circle, or a kml file.



Flight location options

The date / time will automatically be set to the current date and time, but you can alter this up to 48 hours in advance. Set the duration of the flight to match your expected duration.

The activity type can be set to training, low level navigation, agricultural operations, survey, search and rescue, or other.

As a drone operator your lower altitude should be 0 feet AGL. Set the upper altitude to the upper limit of your operation, in either feet AGL or feet AMSL.

As a registered user for drones, the Aircraft Type will be set as a drone. The other options will be available to registered users with the appropriate permissions.

Enter your drone make and model – this will help other users of Flight Advisor understand the size of your drone and the nature of your flight. A callsign is optional. Enter the number of aircraft you will be operating – this will normally be just one aircraft, but may be more.

NORDO means that you will not have an aviation radio. As a drone operator you will not normally have a transponder.

Add any remarks that would be useful for another registered user. This may include more detail about the operation or the type of activity.

Finally, don't forget that if part of your flight area extends into a control zone then you will also need to file an Airshare request for that part of your flight area.

 Add New Advisory

Date / Time (NZDT)

Up to 48 hours from now

13 Feb 25 17:09

Duration

Hours : mins

02:00

Speed

Optional

kt IAS

Activity

Select activity type

Lower Altitude

50 ft increments

0

ft AGL

-

+

Upper Altitude

50 ft increments

500

ft AMSL

-

+

ft AMSL

ft AGL

Aircraft Type



Aircraft Model

Hide

DJI Matrice M30T

Callsign

Hide

Maverick

Number of Aircraft

-

1

+

NORDO

No

Yes

Transponder

No

Yes

ADS-B

Remarks

Optional

Change Area

Upload KML file

Append Contact Details

Optional

Cancel

Submit

Filing a flight advisory

Quick Guide for Drone Operators: Flight Advisor
Feb 2025

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Additional Map Views

Flight Advisor also provides the ability to use different map views. To select a different map view, click on the round icon at the top right of the screen. This will bring up a list of four map views:

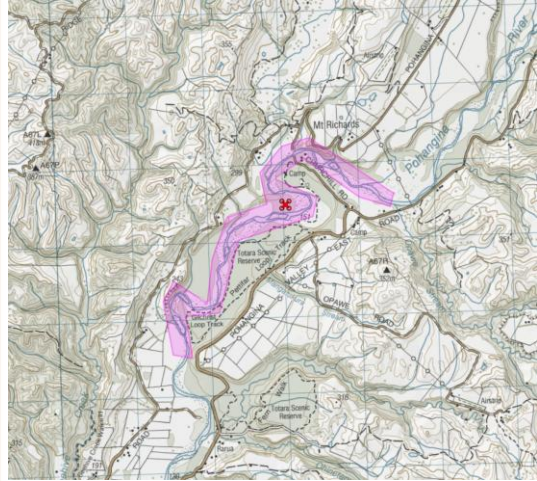
- **Standard** – as seen in this guide;
- **Satellite** – aerial photos;
- **VNC** – the Visual Navigation Chart used in aviation; and
- **LINZ TOPO** – topographic maps.

Both the satellite and topographic maps can be used to identify your area of operation with a high degree of accuracy.

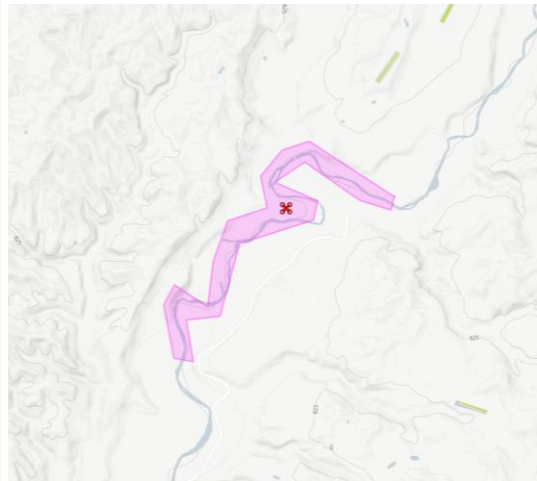
The top panel on the right shows a drone flight advice entered using the topographic map view. The lower panel shows the standard Flight Advisor view – in this case the map has insufficient detail to be able to enter a precise job area.

The top panel on the opposite page shows the satellite map view. As with the topographic map, this view provides the level of detail required to enter a precise job area.

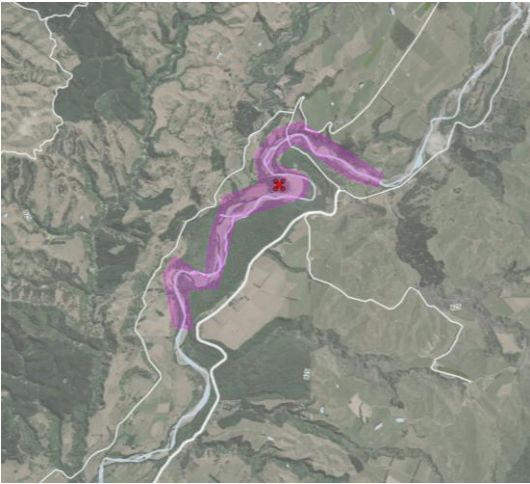
An zoomed out example of the Visual Navigation Chart view is shown in the figure at the bottom of the opposite page. In a case concerning a drone pilot, the New Zealand District Court has held that a “reasonable and prudent pilot” must check the VNCs.



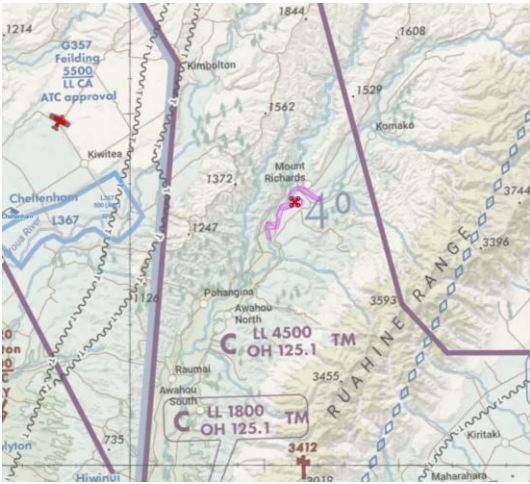
Flight Advisory entered using topo map view



Standard map view



Satellite photo view



Visual Navigation Chart view (zoomed out)

Interpreting Heights

Aviation heights are in feet. If you normally work with heights in metres rather than feet, use the chart on this page to convert from feet to metres. 500ft is 152.4m.

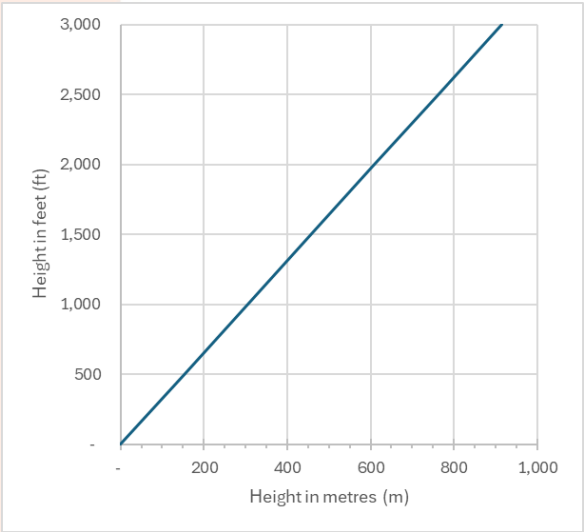
Heights may be expressed in:

AMSL, the height above mean sea level; or

AGL, the height above ground level.

The difference between AMSL and AGL heights can be very important. An aircraft that is flying at 800ft AMSL over ground that is 500ft AMSL is only flying at 300ft AGL. This means that the aircraft would be flying lower than the maximum 400ft AGL for drones.

Under the Part 101 rules, drones are generally restricted to a maximum height of 400ft AGL, although there are some circumstances in which you can fly higher than this.



Conversion between heights in feet (ft) and metres (m)

About Fenix UAS

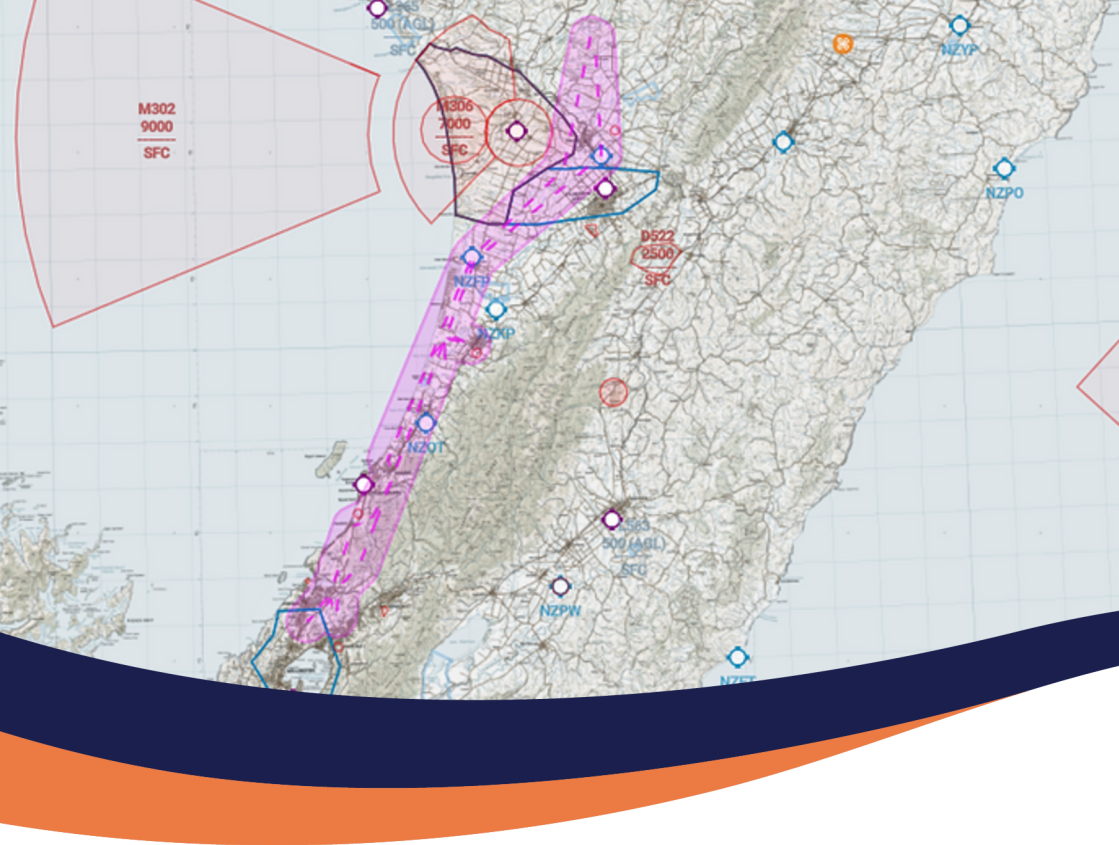
Fenix UAS is a New Zealand owned and operated company. We are a leading provider of training for UAS operators, expositions required for Part 102 certification, and drone-related advisory services.

Further Information

For further information about Flight Advisor, see the Frequently Asked Questions on the Flight Advisor website.

For further information about airspace, visual navigation charts, units of time in aviation, or the Part 101 rules for drones, you should attend one of the Fenix UAS training courses. Scan the QR code below or visit our website <https://fenixuas.nz/>.






FENIXUAS



www.fenixuas.nz