

[Location Guidelines: Your Property as a Potential Film Location](#)

What is 'Wales Screen'?

Formerly the 'Wales Screen Commission', and launched in October 2002, the all-Wales Production support service, is part of the Welsh Government's Creative Wales team. We offer a free and professional service for all productions filming in Wales. We have assisted thousands of productions in the past, from popular television shows such as *Sex Education*, *Doctor Who* and *Sherlock* to major feature films such as *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* and *Snow White and the Huntsman*.

How do television programmes and films find a location?

Location Managers are usually employed by production companies to scout and find locations for programmes and films. We provide location managers access to our extensive locations database in order for them to see what types of locations are available here in Wales. We're continually building on our database and are always looking for new properties to register.

What are locations?

Anything and anywhere can be used as a location; the enquiries we receive are as varied as our landscape. Film companies ask for all sorts of things, from remote cottages to splendid castles and sprawling factories.

What happens if I register?

If you register with us, you decide whether or not you'd like a production company to use the interior, exterior or the whole of your property. Once we have your details, your property can be considered if it fits the enquiry. If your property is suitable, we will send photographs of it and some basic information to the enquirer. If they like what they see, they will come back to us and we will then pass your details on to the production company for them to contact you directly and you can then see if you are interested in the project.

Why should I consider registering?

The use of your home or business premises can be an exciting and profitable experience, once the scope of the film production and the process involved is understood. If selected, it is a great opportunity to see your property on the screen.

Also, when a production company films on a location they will normally pay a facility fee. The amount depends on several factors, such as overall budget of the production, the length of time they will be using the property and the amount of disruption the filming will cause. If, for example, they want to use the whole house, discuss how you and your family will be accommodated during filming and the living expenses that will incur.

Some lower budget productions or short films are able to pay nominal amounts but some commercials or feature films with larger budgets could offer much more.

How do I register?

You can register directly on the website [here](#) and also add your own images. Alternatively you can contact Wales Screen to express your interest, and we can talk you through the process. It is a completely free service. Rest assured that we never publish the contact details of property owners or the exact location of private properties on our website.

Location Photographs

Ideally we would like a good selection of clear, digital images taken inside and outside of your property which give a general overview to location managers. If it's next to a main road for example, it would be useful to show this in one of the pictures. If you have any interesting features such as a large cellar or garden, images of this would also be of benefit. It would also be useful to have some wide shots of the main reception rooms (taken from the corner of the room to get as much in shot as possible). Please don't submit any family shots as we're not able to include images with people in them.

If you are unable to take photographs, please let us know and we might be able to arrange to visit to take our own.

Just as an example, here are the images that we have on file for another registered property showing a journey through the house, beginning with some exteriors of the front of the property, then showing the various rooms and finally ending up in the garden at the rear of the property - [Location Record on Wales Screen Database](#) but don't worry if you're not able to add as many as this, often 20-30 shots are enough.

Who makes the decision about filming on my property?

YOU! Everything depends on how you feel about the idea, the scale and the timing of it. Once a production company is interested in your property we will put them in contact with you directly to talk about the production. A proper contract and suitable fees should then be negotiated between yourself and the production company. It may be appropriate for you to consult a solicitor at this point.

How often am I likely to be contacted?

This is a difficult question to answer. In the past we have responded to hundreds of enquiries and have matched production companies with many local premises. Film and television companies are on location throughout the year in all kinds of places in the UK. Whilst we cannot guarantee that your property will be used, once we have your details, we can maximise your chances. Don't worry if you don't hear from us for a long time, your details are with us waiting to be "discovered"!

What to expect?

Depending on the type of production they can vary greatly in size – from a crew of 3 people to over a 100. Similarly, fees paid by a production vary according to the size of the production, the type of property and the extent the property will be used.

Wales Screen cannot enter into discussions relating to a location fee, a location owner should expect a fee that is adequate for the level of disruption caused due to the filming.

It's normal for productions to carry out several recces, possibly with additional people each time, as different crew members will need to view the location (Production Designer, Director of Photography etc).

Production companies will often look for alternative locations if they feel an owner is asking too much for a location. In some cases a production might want to re-decorate or change furnishings within your property. As a location owner it's important for you to come to an agreement with a production with what you are happy for them to do and to have a contract in place outlining this. Locations should always be returned to their original state after filming and damage or accidents paid for by the production company. A production can be disruptive but ultimately it's a positive experience for a location owner, nothing beats the feeling of seeing your property on screen.

Checklist

- Once you have been contacted by us the next step is your contact with the location manager. They usually work freelance and are hired by the production company for a specific production. They are sometimes visitors to the area and may be unfamiliar with the territory. We make every effort to welcome them and to make them feel at home.
- Discuss the nature of the project in detail with them. Find out how exactly the location will be used and ask to see the relevant part of the script in which your property will appear.
- Determine the exact number of days required for the shoot.
- Arrange for a walk-through with the director or production manager to determine the exact interiors or exteriors they wish to film.
- Discuss any areas you wish to be “off-limits” to the crew.
- Arrange where equipment and vehicles can be stored and parked.
- Determine who will be allowed on the location and how this will be enforced.
- Agree the clean-up requirements, that the property is to be left as it was found and agree on a completion time.
- It is advisable to go through anything which may come under health and safety guidelines and ensure the company has public liability insurance. Check which COVID-19 protocols they are using including details of their cleaning regime.
- Most professional production companies carry insurance that cover third-party rentals for property damage and liability. You can enquire about this and ask to be given a copy before any crew member arrives at your property.
- It is a good idea to negotiate a formal contract which incorporates some or all of the above guidelines as well as the fee.
- The fee is usually negotiable and depends on the size of the film and the production company’s budget. You should feel happy with the amount agreed upon.

Above all, enjoy the experience!

If you have any additional queries please don’t hesitate to [contact Wales Screen](#).