

Night Filming – Public

With film and tv production enjoying record highs year on year across the English regions, more and more days are spent out on location - as the sector continues to maximise the benefits of shooting with the width and breadth of locations on offer.

Narratives often require filming at night to tell their stories as they were intended. This, of course, is when the majority of society are not at work, and probably asleep.

The following is our guidance on how to approach filming at night:

- As soon as you are aware of your need to shoot at night at your chosen public location, we thoroughly recommend ensuring that this is communicated to every single local resident and/or business in the locality. This may extend outside of your shooting zone – especially if you are using large technical equipment that could be seen and/or heard from outside of the immediate area you are shooting in.
- We recommend reaching out to these people via letter-drop and also knocking on doors, and trying to reach as many people as you can. Leave your contact details on letters and encourage recipients to contact you.
- When speaking to locals, we advise trying to make clear that the sector you work in is ever-evolving and has many moving parts and, as such, you won't know what the final plan is until nearer the time of the shoot – but also caveating if your experience makes you think that there will be a significant presence from the production on location. Ensure they are informed that you will be reachable if they have any questions, and that you will be back in touch with updates as when they occur.
- In addition to instant comms with local residents and businesses, we also advise that the same approach is taken with the local authorities who need to be informed. This will mostly likely include Highways, and maybe parking (if restrictions are in place); however, we'd also see value in requesting that your plans are requested to be shared with any local councillors and Neighbourhood Managers, as these are the people who would most likely be required to address any potential complaints or queries from locals.
- Local Police Forces should also be informed, and dependent on the action you are shooting, you might need to request a CAD number or pay for the presence of an off-duty police officer.
- Comms will also be required with any local private land owners.
- Most councils do not provide a film office service, or employ a film officer, and as such, will probably not have a list of timings that they consider to be 'antisocial' for filming within. If you were to ask them 'how late can we film?', there's a chance they may not know how to answer; we'd recommend putting a time to them, and asking if this works, as long as everyone locally is on board and in agreement.



Filming in England

- As your plans evolve, make sure all of these people are informed of any developments. Please also make sure they are aware of the specific times of a) your arrival b) going onto camera c) going off camera d) departing.
- We'd like to think in most cases, you wouldn't face too much opposition from the local authorities. However, in some cases, this may be unavoidable for a variety of reasons. If this arises, we recommend assessing options that demonstrate your presence will bring value to the locality and local authority area. Perhaps you could approach local groups and educational establishments to find runners, or marshals, or even any background artists too. You may wish to look for the nearest park, and donate to its maintenance (usually through a 'Friends of XXXXXX Park' or something similar). You may wish to pay for the presence of some kind of mobile catering exclusively for the locals, etc etc.
- You may also be notified of disagreements to your proposals with individuals locally, for a variety of reasons; each of these will need to be delicately managed on an individual, case-by-case basis, and you would have to listen and understand to their issues and see if they could be quelled.
- When you come to your shoot day(s), generators should be silenced, however possible, and any temporary structures or mobile platforms should not intrude into anyone's property. Light spill – which hopefully would have been considered during tech recces – should be managed.
- Communication between crew should be through radio earpieces as much as possible.
- Any crew out of shot should not congregate next to residential properties.
- Upon wrap, all equipment should be packed away as quietly as possible.
- Vehicles should leave as quietly as possible, and dependent on the wrap time, they need to stay where they are until the following day.
- Once the filming has taken place and is complete, we recommend letter-dropping the area with words of appreciation, and who knows, maybe a token of your thanks wouldn't go amiss either!

If you have any further questions, please contact production@filminginengland.co.uk

