



## ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY FILMING in THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

### IN ASSOCIATION WITH Scottish Borders Film Focus

Care of the environment both in the short and long term is essential. In this age of greater environmental awareness and the conservation of resources for future generations, the film and television industry should be equally aware of the potential negative impact on the environment that film and TV production can have. Following some simple and mostly common sense steps can help conserve the environment and leave locations as wonderful and as film friendly as you found them. When it comes to care of locations and their environs, last minute good ideas are not a good idea! Planning is essential.

### Planning and Preparation

When it comes to the care of locations and their environs, forward planning is essential. The following agencies can advise you with regards the minimization of potential environmental impacts of filming activities:

- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency Office (SEPA), Scottish Borders. SEPA can offer advice and guidance to ensure your filming activity complies with key environmental legislation.

SEPA, Scottish Borders

Tel: 01896 754797

[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

- Scottish National Heritage, the Tweed Foundation or Scottish Borders Council all have a remit to care for the natural heritage, local environment and sites of archaeological, scientific and natural importance.

Scottish National Heritage  
Scottish Borders Council  
Tweed Foundation

Tel: 0131 447 4784  
Tel: 01835 824000  
Tel: 01896 848271

[www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk)  
[info@tweedfoundation.co.uk](mailto:info@tweedfoundation.co.uk)

- Ensure the local community is aware of filming well in advance and in particular are pre-warned of any environmental issues. A copy of the Environmentally Friendly Filming Checklist might prove helpful to advise community members.

- Scottish Borders Film Focus (SBFF) can also advise you on relevant contact numbers

Scottish Borders Film Focus

Tel: 0131 622 7337

[info@edinfilm.com](mailto:info@edinfilm.com)

### Filming & the Effect on Tourism

The use of a location by film or TV can result in increased interest in the site as a visitor attraction. While additional tourism is to be encouraged at sites prepared in advance, for certain locations, extra visitors could have a damaging effect.

Scottish Borders Film Focus will make the initial assessment in conjunction with the property owner or manager. However, if filming activity is expected to increase visitor numbers, filmmakers should undertake a site assessment of visitor impact in advance of filming and in consultation with relevant council departments and environmental agencies.

If site assessments result in concerns about visitor impact, this may become a stipulation with regards use of the site. SBFF are aware of a number of locations, which stipulate as part of the location contract that no details of the site and its location be disclosed. SBFF should be contacted in all instances.

## Minimising Damage to the Environment

The following guidelines provided below are given to highlight areas of good practice. We recommend you contact the various environmental agencies prior to filming in the first instance.

- Be aware of the impact that particularly heavier vehicles can have on the land and prevent avoidable damage by laying trackways or the equivalent. Do not track through rivers and streams (without taking suitable precautions such as laying matting) as this will cause bank erosion and pollute the water downstream.
- Keep vehicles to a minimum. Save fuel, cause less wear and tear on roads and tracks and make unit parking easier by discouraging use by crew of their own cars. Where possible use crew buses and local support services and personnel.
- All health & safety aspects must be adhered to in the use of power generators including fuel consumption. Plan your activity in advance with designated storage areas and anti-pollution spill kits. SEPA can provide advice on all these issues.
- Set Construction and Dressing — where possible, try and utilise locally sourced and/ or environmentally friendly materials in set builds, furniture and dressings.
- Noise - keep noise levels to a minimum. Filmmakers must adhere to the Environmental Protection Act (1990) in relation to noise and disturbance. All vehicles and generators should be serviced before filming activity to avoid air and noise pollution.
- If accessing countryside areas, ensure that any filming activity does not distress farm animals or cause undue disturbance to wildlife.
- Waste - try to minimize the amount of waste you create and use biodegradable products where possible. Be strict with litter management and arrange regular collections by waste disposal firms. Take care that all liquid waste (such as sewage, grey water etc) derived from static vehicles are disposed of in a proper manner. SEPA can advise on local waste disposal sites licensed to accept such waste.
- Paper - When ordering paper for scripts, schedules etc purchase recycled or paper from sustainable forests and in turn recycle any used paper.
- Water - despite Scotland's abundance of water, care must be taken to avoid waste. In addition, check with SEPA to ensure that any of your activities will not impact on potable public or private ground water zones.
- Catering - where possible, try and utilise locally sourced food & drink for onsite catering requirements.
- If filming activity includes burning, smoke machines or explosions, Lothian & Borders Fire Brigade must be contacted in advance. A full risk assessment must be undertaken and all the necessary safety procedures in place on the day of filming. Notify the Fire Brigade on commencement & completion to avoid false alarms. Ensure that you have adequate insurance cover to undertake such activity.
- The use of some chemicals to generate artificial snow can cause serious pollution, check with SEPA in advance to ensure that you do not cause pollution which may result in enforcement action. Take care when using solid forms such as polystyrene derivatives - these can be wind blown and difficult to clear up and contain and will cause litter and other waste disposal issues.

**If an incident occurs on site which might cause pollution to air, land or water contact SEPA'S POLLUTION ADVICE LINE immediately on 0800 80 70 60**





## Scottish Borders Environment Friendly Filming Checklist

### FILM COMPANY DETAILS

Project Title	
Production Company	
Producer	
Contact Name	
Contact Telephone Number	
Contact email	
Location	
Ownership	
Dates of filming	

### FILMING CHECKLIST

Site Status	If protected/ designated, you must consult SEPA, SNH, SBC
Access to site	Please supply drawings/ maps.
Unit vehicles	Number and description over 5 Tonnes inc load
Unit parking	
Power Generators/ Fuel consumption	





## FILMING CHECKLIST (cont)

Set Builds and Dressing	Please supply drawings and describe materials to be used.
Crew size	
Number of Extras	
Use of Special effects	
Ground Disturbance	
Noise Disturbance	
Waste Disposal	
Use of Animals	
Disturbance to animals/ local wildlife	

**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHECK LIST AND IS NOT A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT. IT IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO ASSESS RISKS. PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT.**

For further advise and information on risk assessment, contact your local Health & Safety Officer.

