

Code of Practice for Filming in Edinburgh

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Foreword

*It is a source of real pride that Edinburgh attracts high profile film and TV productions that project our remarkable city onto screens around the UK and the world. Classic films like the *Pride of Miss Jean Brodie*, show Edinburgh's spectacular backdrop. Recent productions filmed in the city include the *Avengers: Infinity War*, *Frankenstein* and *Outlander*. It is fantastic to see visitors in Edinburgh who have been captivated by films and literature set in or inspired by our city.*

We welcome filming not only for the on-screen promotion and tourism benefits but also for the direct economic impact from filming, the employment and commercial opportunities it brings to our city's creative industries, local businesses and residents. Our positive reputation as a filming destination is supported by both our Film Charter and our Code of Practice for Filming which sets out guidelines for successful filming within our community, ensuring the continuation of the city's film-friendly credentials.

The interest in our beautiful capital city as a filming location looks set to grow and we look forward to working with many more exciting productions over the coming months and years.

Councillor Margaret Arma Graham

Convenor of the City of Edinburgh Council's Culture and Communities Committee



Use of Public Spaces for Filming and Events

The City of Edinburgh Council has a diverse range of wards and locations, with various requirements, to host events, filming or other activities. The [Public Spaces Policy 2023](#) is designed to be flexible, while maintaining the standards expected of organisers and the responsible use of the city's public spaces. Below are the strategic aims of this policy. These are the result of a lengthy engagement process and are to provide support and reference to organisers and the community, and to inform council officers' decisions.

Key Themes

Process is Transparent & Accountable	Process and Activities are Proportionate	Activities Have a Positive Effect	Organisers will Minimise their Impact
<p>The application and decision-making process will be open and transparent, with a digital platform to hold up to date, public, event and filming information and representation options.</p> <p>A process for rejecting or accepting when applications do not or cannot meet the guidelines will be in place.</p> <p>Incorporates principles: 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 16.</p>	<p>The application process to be proportionate to the scale of the activity & location.</p> <p>Event & Filming activities will be proportionate to the location via area conditions including organizer engagement with the community.</p> <p>Incorporates principles: 1, 5, 8.</p>	<p>Events will have a net positive effect in one or more of the following areas: community wealth, cultural identity, reputation, quality of life & social value. It is expected that activities will be covered by the living wage and employment practices including training provision.</p> <p>Incorporates principles: 6, 13, 16, 17</p>	<p>Organisers will commit to minimise disruption and impact as far as reasonably practicable, including physical reinstatement and sustainability approach of 'net zero' by 2030 and industry best practice.</p> <p>Engagement with residents about proposed activities, with stakeholders entitled to explanations.</p> <p>Incorporates principles: 9, 11, 12, 14, 15</p>

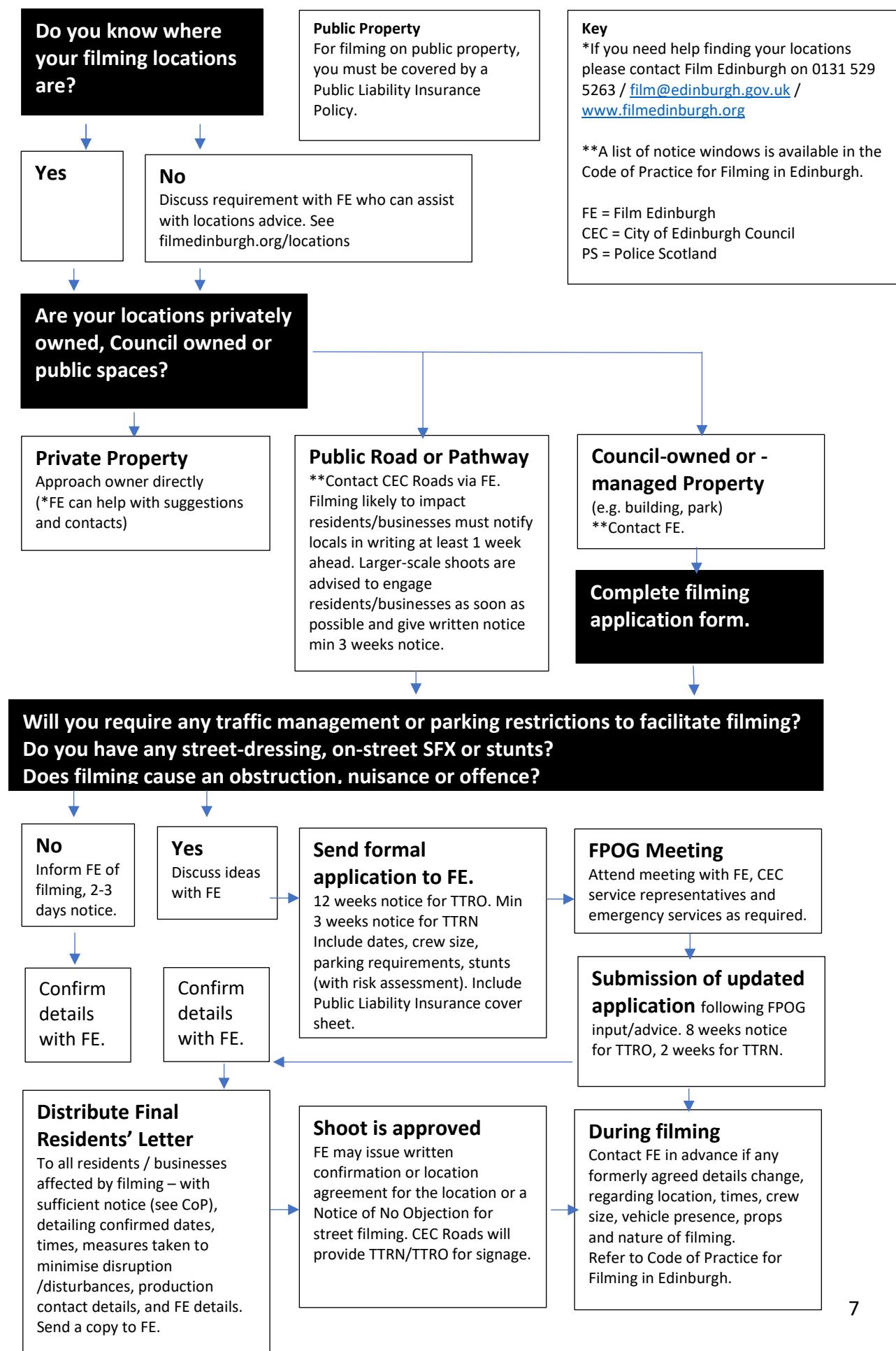
The 17 key principles agreed at committee on 14th September 2021 which are incorporated into the key themes can be read in full here: [Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming-FINAL.pdf \(edinburgh.gov.uk\)](#)

Apply to film in Edinburgh

Film Edinburgh should be advised of any filming activities taking place within Edinburgh. No filming activity should take place until permissions have been granted by all relevant parties. The Production Company must ensure that all those affected by filming have been consulted and informed of arrangements. Dialogue and special guidance should be sought by the Production Company from CEC for **large-scale productions** and those involving points 1c through 1f below.

1. **CEC** should be informed of all filming activity taking place on public property within their area. The production's first point of contact for this purpose is Film Edinburgh. Film Edinburgh will require copies of the shooting script and the schedule at the earliest opportunity. The following will be required by Film Edinburgh for dissemination to the appropriate local authority services:
 - a. Name of the production company, type of production, contact person and telephone number.
 - b. Scale of production in terms of numbers of personnel and vehicles
 - c. Road closures, removal, alteration and disguising of street furniture and carriageway markings.
 - d. Use of cranes, aircraft, cherry pickers, track, low-loaders, A-frames and other potentially hazardous equipment in a public place
 - e. Parking of production vehicles on yellow lines, in meter bays or residents bays
 - f. Use of special effects, rain or snow machines, wet downs and stunt work on public footways or carriageways.
 - g. Productions which depict subjects of a controversial nature
 - h. Filming involving children or animals.
2. CEC requires that access to filming activity in Edinburgh shall be afforded to a representative of Film Edinburgh; such access not to be unreasonably withheld.
3. The representative of Film Edinburgh or nominated officer of CEC will bring to the attention of the production company non adherence to any aspect of the Code of Practice, especially in relation to Health & Safety. Where resolution cannot be achieved, the matter will be passed to the statutory body for consideration.

Location Filming Process Map



Notification timescales

Activity	Notification period (final deadlines)
Camera track / equipment on the road (partial obstruction)	2 weeks (minor road, no more than 5 days), 8 weeks (main road / more than 5 consecutive days)
Intermittent Traffic Controls (ITC)	2 weeks (minor road, no more than 5 days) following joint agency meeting 8 weeks (major road, more than 5 days) following joint agency meeting
Large-scale production requests	4 weeks
Lighting towers / scaffolds / cranes permits	4 weeks
Location contracts (estates)	2 weeks
Parking in city centre controlled parking zone during restricted hours	3 days
Parking outside controlled zone/hours	2 weeks
Residents and Businesses letter drop	Night filming – 3 weeks High impact filming initial approach - 3 weeks Confirmation of details - 1 week
Road closure	2 weeks (minor road, no more than 5 days) following joint agency meeting 8 weeks (major road, more than 5 days) following joint agency meeting
Small-scale production requests (low/no impact)	1 week
Stunts / Special Effects/ Pyrotechnics	2 weeks (minor road, no more than 5 days) following joint agency meeting 8 weeks (major road, more than 5 days) following joint agency meeting
Yellow Line Dispensation	24 hours

Cabling

No cables should be run over the public highway in such a manner to cause a hazard to the general public. Cables should be flown to a minimum height of 2.6m above the footway and 5.7m above the carriageway or covered with matting when crossing pavements. Where appropriate warning cones and hazard tape should be used.

Camera Track

All matters relating to tracking and filming equipment on the public highway must be discussed with the Roads department via Film Edinburgh at least 2 weeks in advance of filming.

If filming equipment blocks a footway, an alternative safe and supervised route for pedestrians must be discussed with CEC and provided by the Production Company. This route must be fully accessible for wheelchair users, the elderly, parents / guardians with pushchairs, and other pavement users with limited mobility. A minimum safe width of 1.2m must be maintained at all times. However, more available width may be required depending on the location. This should be discussed with CEC.

Roadways must be clear of equipment unless agreed with CEC and relevant permits and traffic management have been obtained.

Catering

Drinks and meals should be taken only in designated areas.

The positioning of catering vehicles must be discussed in advance with CEC via Film Edinburgh. *Productions companies are discouraged from positioning catering vehicles directly in front of residential property or commercial hospitality businesses.*

Caterers must provide evidence of licenses to CEC Environmental Health. Wherever possible, the production company should make use of environmentally friendly materials.

Wherever possible, but subject to the Production's or Commissioner's rules, catering should be sourced locally. All catering waste including spillages must be removed from site. Food waste and oils must not be deposited in rainwater gullies.

Child Performers

For performances involving children, filmmakers must comply at all times with the The Children (Performances and Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2014. For advice and guidance on any matters relating to children in filming, Film Edinburgh can introduce the Production Company to the designated CEC officer.

Coning

No Waiting cones on public roads have no legal status unless they are sanctioned by a Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice/Order or have been issued by CEC's Parking Services. If cones are placed on the road without permission, they are considered an obstruction on the road. They should not be used unless they are being positioned to ensure a pre-arranged TTRN/O is enforceable.

Council Property

Use of Council property as a filming location will be facilitated by Council services wherever feasible; security, confidentiality, daily work requirements and schedules allowing. Location fees will reflect disruption and dedicated personnel time and will be negotiable. Any damage caused by a Production will be re-charged to the production company by CEC.

It should be noted that The City of Edinburgh Council is required by legislation to ensure that publicly owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views. We will not allow any of our publicly owned venues, including schools and community centres, to be used by any party, individual or group that would be in conflict with our duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)

Council Parks

Permission is required for commercial activity in Council parks, greenspaces and beaches. There are varying conditions of use for each of the Council's parks so please check with Film Edinburgh.

Filmmakers are required to complete a filming application form and provide a risk assessment, proof of public liability insurance, a vehicle access plan (if applicable) and Tree & Root Protection Plan (if applicable, see details below). If filming involves use of heavy equipment on soft ground, a reinstatement bond to cover any damage may be requested, in addition to the fee, and should be paid prior to access to the site.

Depending on the scale and/or complexity of the event, it may be determined that an on-site presence is required by the Council. This will be confirmed by a Council officer once your application has been reviewed and any associated costs charged to the Production Company.

Cranes / Jibs / Cherry Pickers

CEC via Film Edinburgh must be consulted about the positioning of cherry-pickers, cranes, jibs on the public road so that authorisation can be provided. It may be necessary for CEC to carry out an inspection with the Location Manager both before and after a cherry picker is used. Such equipment will require a permit from the Council. Conditions of any permission granted must be adhered to at all times.

Rigging and de-rigging shall be undertaken with respect for local residents and must be carried out outside anti-social hours to avoid any unreasonable noise or nuisance. Any rigging in anti-social hours must be agreed in advance with CEC's noise abatement team and with consultation with local residents and businesses.

Credits

CEC requests that location and/or filming credits, where possible, be acknowledged for filming activity taking place on the public highways in Edinburgh. Credits should refer to 'The City of Edinburgh'.

Designated Areas

Filmmakers' activities should be limited to areas and times for which permission has been granted.

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Production vehicles should be parked where agreed at pre-arranged times. Engines should be switched off on arrival. Cast and crew should not park in the immediate vicinity of a location unless strictly necessary to ensure minimum disruption to residents and for which spaces are provided.

Drinks and meals should be taken only in designated areas.

No smoking restrictions in accordance with the Prohibition of Smoking in Certain Premises (Scotland) Regulations 2006 must be adhered to. No smoking areas must be observed. Where smoking is allowed, cigarettes must be extinguished in the ashtrays provided by the Production Company.

Crew members must not trespass onto neighbouring property or enter areas of a location which the owner has stipulated may not be used for filming.

Drones / Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Filmmakers' activities should be limited to areas and times for which permission has been granted. Please see appendix 2 for more details.

Filming from Vehicles

The Production must inform CEC via Film Edinburgh when filming from a moving vehicle on public roads. This includes, but is not limited to, filming using low loaders, vehicle mounted cameras, tracking vehicles and A-Frames. Film Edinburgh will consult with Police Scotland when any such request is received. All Road Traffic legislation must be complied with subject to the grant of any concessions by CEC and/or Traffic Scotland and Police Scotland.

Firearms and Weapons

No weapons (armoury) or firearms of any kind, including prop or replica firearms, shall be used without agreement in advance between the Production and Police Scotland. This includes filming exteriors and/or interiors on public and private property.

Where it is a live firing weapon, the Production must have a license holder for that weapon present, or a Registered Firearms Dealer (RFD) or a servant of the RFD. Where it is a blank firing weapon, it is recommended to have the above present.

Generators

All generators must be positioned as far away as reasonably practicable from residential and commercial properties unless prior permission has been given. In line with Edinburgh's 2030 Climate Strategy, renewable / green generators should be used wherever possible. It is recommended that super-silent generators are used, particularly where long term use or use during unsociable hours is anticipated. The production company should be prepared to take action should a reasonable complaint about noise be received.

Health & Safety

It is the responsibility of the Production Company to ensure that employees are in compliance with current Health and Safety Regulations (HSE INDG360) when filming on location. It is a criminal offence to breach Health and Safety Regulations. Failure to comply may invalidate any insurance.

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All locations must be assessed for risk and hazard. When necessary a Health and Safety professional should be consulted. The Council's Public Safety Manager should be consulted when filming on Council property.

A person qualified in First Aid should always be present during filming.

Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas

Added restrictions will apply to historic buildings and conservation areas. Details of filming should be discussed with the respective filming contact and regulations observed.

Indemnity and Insurance

Proof of public liability insurance with an adequate limit of indemnity (no less than £10 million) and all other insurances required by law should be made available on demand to anyone affected by the location filming activities of the production company.

Letters for Residents and Businesses

Filmmakers on location are visitors and should be sensitive to the community in which they are working. Members of the public should be treated with courtesy and consideration at all times. All neighbouring residents and businesses affected by filming or film-related activity (unit bases, technical parking etc) should be notified by letter of the filming arrangements, impact and mitigating action. For day-time filming, notice of at least one week should be given, though an initial letter setting out intentions should be distributed to all affected residents and businesses at the earliest opportunity in order to give locals a chance to raise questions of impact and activities which may affect the production. For night-filming in residential areas, three weeks' notice should be given (see Night Filming). A copy of residents' and businesses letters should be received by Film Edinburgh prior to it being printed and distributed and to a timescale so that the notice period above is achieved.

Resident letters should include the following information:

- Name of production company, type of production, contact name, telephone number and email address
- Location of filming and filming-related activity
- Dates and times of filming and filming-related activity
- Description of exterior activity / scenes
- Scale of impact in terms of numbers of personnel / vehicles
- Use of drones / large-scale filming equipment
- Road closures, removal / alteration, parking disruption
- Access arrangements
- Disruption and mitigation
- Night-filming: mitigation of noise/light nuisance
- Who to contact with concerns or queries

Lighting

The placement of lighting stands on the carriageway or footway must be agreed with CEC.

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Lighting must not cause a hazard to the general public. (Please refer to the section *Cabling* for guidance on safe cabling of such items).

No danger or annoyance should be caused to residents or members of the public by the dazzle of lights.

The following considerations should be taken to prevent any risk to the public or Production Company employees:

- Lights above ground level and lighting stands are properly secured
- Lighting stands placed on a footway are attended at all times or are weighted and secured
- Lights do not dazzle any motorists
- Lights are not shone directly towards residential or commercial properties at any time without specific permission
- Blackouts are available so as to protect the public from light pollution when required.

Locations

Filmmakers should ensure that location owners are:

1. Kept fully informed of the intentions of the production company at all stages, whether the location is used for filming eventually or not.
2. Given a reasonable site rental in accordance with the budget of the film.
3. Issued with an approved location contract which clearly states the terms agreed between themselves and the Production Company.
4. Given details of any art department requirements including dressing and construction.
5. Protective materials or dust sheets should be provided where appropriate to cover furniture and flooring for interior filming.
6. Objects belonging to the location must not be moved or removed without the owner's express permission.
7. All property removed or disguised for filming purposes must be reinstated upon completion of filming.
8. The filming location should be kept clean and any waste generated by the filmmakers should be removed.
9. The Production Company must make good any damage (including ground damage) caused by its activities immediately after filming and must notify all parties concerned.
10. Whenever necessary, the company must ensure that the location and its environs are protected by security staff.
11. The crew and members responsible for the location should check it thoroughly before departure to ensure that the property has been restored to its original state and that any evidence of filming activity has been removed.

Night Filming

Filming or filming-related activity on the public road will be limited to no later than 23:00 and no earlier than 07:00 in residential areas unless by prior agreement and adherence to Night Filming guidelines. Any filming or filming-related activity between these hours will require consultation with affected residents / businesses as well as CEC and Police Scotland. Adequate time must be allowed for consultation. Generators must be baffled or integral with the location vehicle. Large equipment must be in place outside anti-social hours and not moved during this period. Any anticipated noise must be limited to a specific short period of time and this made clear to affected residents / businesses.

Where possible, vehicles should use white noise warnings or bunksmen as opposed to beeping or spoken word alerts.

Unreasonable noise and nuisance caused by filming may be subject to action under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and permits / traffic orders may be revoked.

Please see detailed guidance for *Night Filming*.

Noise and Nuisance

Use of audio playback and megaphones must be discussed with CEC via Film Edinburgh. The parking position of generators must be agreed in advance and will depend on local sensitivities. Generators should be baffled or integral with the location vehicle. If numerous days of filming are proposed in the same location the production company should provide one day of respite per week for residents.

Notifications

CEC via Film Edinburgh must be notified of all filming taking place on public property within its area. Film Edinburgh will require copies of the shooting script and schedule at the earliest opportunity. See *Apply to Film in Edinburgh* above.

Police Scotland Edinburgh Operations Planning Dept must be informed of filming activity. Film Edinburgh will notify the police with this information initially but a follow-up dialogue directly between the Police and the Production Company is suggested for larger productions. Special guidance should be sought about the staging of crimes, accidents or use of firearms or other offensive weapons, artists dressed in police uniforms and use of pseudo police vehicles.

Emergency Services should be notified of filming activity and access for emergency vehicles must always be maintained during location filming. CEC will advise Emergency Services of temporary traffic restrictions through distribution of the TTRN / TTRO. The Production Company must advise the emergency services of use of SFX, fires or braziers, fire hydrants, impersonation of emergency services officers or pseudo emergency vehicles.

All neighbouring residents and businesses affected by filming should be notified in advance by letter of filming arrangements in their area. Notice of at least one week prior to the first day of filming should be given for confirming details, though an initial letter setting out intentions should be distributed to all affected residents and businesses at the earliest opportunity in order to give locals a chance to raise questions of impact and activities which may affect the production. See *Letters for Residents and Businesses* above.

Parking

Parking plans should be submitted by the Production Company and discussed with Film Edinburgh and agreed with CEC; in particular for technical vehicles, equipment, and bays reserved for continuity. The Production Company should make every effort to find off street parking for all facilities vehicles. Cast and crew should not park personal vehicles in the immediate vicinity of a location unless spaces are provided. Production vehicles should be parked where agreed at pre-arranged times. Cones for parking should only be used with the prior agreement of CEC.

Engines should be switched off on arrival. Access to homes and businesses should be kept clear at all times unless agreed in advance with the owner. Mandatory or warning traffic signs must not be obscured when parking vehicles on highways that are not closed.

Productions units can apply for a combination of single yellow line dispensation and pay bay suspension for production vehicles if they are operating within restricted zones and times. Parking Services need three working days notice to implement this. See *Parking Operations Special Events Procedure* in the Appendix.

Productions that plan to arrive at a location outside restricted zones or times and need to guarantee their spaces will need to apply for a TTRN / TTRO through the Roads Department. Two weeks notice is required for TTRNs, eight weeks for TTROs. Cones must be used only in agreement with CEC. See *Roads and Traffic Management*.

Parking operations can supply dedicated resources such as parking attendants and removal trucks to ensure that suspensions and TTROs are cleared in time. These services can be employed Monday to Saturday 07:00 – 18:30. Outside these hours a minimum of 1 week's notice is required. See *Parking Operations Special Events Procedure* in the Appendix for pricing.

Pedestrian Access to public spaces

The Production Company may ask members of the public if they would be agreeable to waiting for a few minutes during a 'take', but pedestrian access to public street and paths should be maintained at all times with the exception of reasons of health and safety. The Production Company is responsible for obtaining any appropriate permissions in terms of [The Land Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#), to exempt land from access rights, where necessary.

Police & Emergency Services

Police Scotland – Edinburgh Operations Planning Department must be informed of filming activity. Film Edinburgh will notify the police with this information initially but a follow-up dialogue directly between the Production Company and the Police is suggested for larger productions. In addition to advising the Police of points 1a-h above (see: *Apply to film in Edinburgh*), special guidance should be sought with the following:

1. The staging of crimes, accidents or use of firearms or other offensive weapons
2. The dressing of artists in police uniforms. It is an offence to impersonate a police officer and cast must cover such uniforms between takes.

Any Police presence requested to assist filming events will be by risk assessment and will be subject to cost recovery by Police Scotland. Where management of traffic is involved, a TTRN/O will be required.

Emergency Services should be notified of filming activity and access for emergency vehicles must always be maintained during location filming. Where relevant the emergency services should be duly advised of:

1. Any likely disruption to traffic due to road closures during filming. CEC will distribute the TTRN / TTRO to emergency services in this regards.
2. Use of fire hydrants, special effects, fires or explosions (Fire and Rescue Services)
3. The impersonation of fire officers or use of pseudo fire tenders (Fire and Rescue Services)
4. The impersonation of ambulance staff or use of pseudo ambulances
5. Where occupied premises are used as film locations all fire precautions must be complied with unless previously agreed by the Fire and Rescue Services.

Publicity

The Production (or the Distributor or Broadcaster) shall provide Film Edinburgh with publicity materials on release of the project wherever possible.

Public Liability Insurance

Proof of public liability insurance with an adequate limit of indemnity (no less than £10 million) and all other insurances required by law should be made available on demand to anyone affected by the location filming activities of the production company.

Rates

CEC does not have the authority to waive business rates on its or privately owned property which is rented and occupied by production companies. If however the production company believes that the rateable value is excessive, it can apply to the Valuation Office to have the rateable value reviewed.

Residents and businesses

Filmmakers on location are visitors and should be sensitive to the community in which they are working. Members of the public should be treated with courtesy and consideration at all times.

The production company should consult with local residents and businesses that may be affected by filming prior to and during the shoot. Film Edinburgh should be approached before residents and businesses are contacted because they can provide relevant local information to aid a fair consultation process.

Please see *Night Filming* guidelines for filming in anti-social hours.

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessments are required by both the self-employed and any organisation with employees so that they can meet their statutory duties to employees and those affected by their actions, as well as satisfying their insurance obligations. Specific Risk Assessments, beyond those generic assessments generally applying to film production on location, are also required depending on the type and nature of filming, and also as to the place(s) where filming is to take place. When necessary a Health and Safety professional should be consulted. The Council's Health and Safety Manager should be consulted when filming on Council property.

While the Location contact may demand the provision of copies of the Production's Risk Assessments, the responsibility of the completion and content of this document lies solely with the Production, specifically the Producer. The Producer retains a non-delegable duty to ensure that the film production is performed safely, though the Producer can decide to delegate some element of responsibility to a 'competent other'. All such health & safety duties, and therefore any liability arising, ultimately lie with the Producer – to that extent those duties are non-delegable. It must be underlined that merely because Risk Assessments have been provided as requested by the provisions of the Location contact, that does not mean that the Location contact has approved or signed off the document.

Rivers & Waterways

When planning to film on any waterway, the production company must liaise with the relevant governing body as early as possible. Specific Health & Safety measures will apply.

Road and Traffic Management (TM)

The Production Company will liaise with CEC via Film Edinburgh about using public roads and footpaths for filming or placing down equipment. Once locations and the requirement for street closures, control or occupation are identified, Film Edinburgh will convene a meeting of Police and Council authorities to examine plans, identify difficulties, suggest solutions to problems and settle on schedules. Thereafter, the producer or location manager will liaise with Police and Council officers to conclude the details.

To close roads, restrict parking or control traffic a Temporary Traffic Regulation Day Notice (TTRN) or Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) from CEC's Roads Authority is required.

Road closures, parking restrictions and traffic control away from main arterial routes, unlikely to cause widespread disruption and not in effect for longer than 5 consecutive days, will require a TTRN. A minimum of 2 weeks' notice prior to the first restriction is required for a TTRN.

Road closures, parking restrictions and traffic control on main arterial routes and/or likely to cause widespread disruption and/or in effect for longer than 5 consecutive days, will require a TTRO. A minimum of 8 weeks' notice prior to the first restriction is required for a TTRO.

CEC will issue the TTRO or TTRN to the applicant, but it is the filmmaker's responsibility to put out the TTRO notices as well as the yellow Correx 'No Parking' boards and cones on the street. Filmmakers will require the services of a competent TM company to put in place the necessary traffic management (signage, cones, barriers, intermittent traffic controls etc). Drawings showing TM setups should be submitted to CEC for review within the timescales above and approved prior to being placed out on the street.

The Production Company should ensure that access for emergency service vehicles is kept clear at all times (4 metres wide). The Production Company must ensure that measures are taken to minimise public congestion caused by the event.

Where an event requires the closure of a road which forms an established route for cyclists, the Production Company must provide details of the considerations have been made in relation to this and any temporary arrangements that are planned. This must be authorised in writing by the Roads Authority prior to any closure or changes being implemented.

It should be noted that main (trunk) routes outside city and town boundaries are the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and separate negotiations will be required.

Road Markings

Subject to agreement in advance with CEC, yellow lines and other road markings may be covered by the production company, either with loose material which can be swept up afterwards or with water-soluble paints which must be cleaned off after the shoot. The production must fully reinstate any alterations to road markings to the satisfaction of CEC and, when obliged to use official contractors, the production company will cover the cost.

Rubbish and Waste Removal

The filming location should be kept clean and any waste generated by the filmmaker must be removed, including spillages such as oil or fuel.

Scaffolding / Lighting Towers

All requests to erect scaffolding, staging or lighting towers in a public area, highway or footway, must be agreed in advance with CEC. A temporary structure permit will be required. Applications should be submitted to the Permits team in CEC. 4 weeks notice is requested.

Security

Whenever necessary, the production company must ensure that the location and its environs are protected by security staff. Staff should be SIA licensed.

Signage

All production and unit signs to direct the company to location / unit base must be removed promptly when no longer required.

Smoking

No smoking restrictions in accordance with the Prohibition of Smoking in Certain Premises (Scotland) Regulations 2006 must be adhered to. No smoking areas must be observed. Where smoking is allowed, cigarettes must be extinguished in the ashtrays provided by the Production.

Street Signs / Street Furniture / Street Lighting

Requests to remove bollards, street lamps, bus stop signs, bike racks, street signs etc can be accommodated but sufficient notice must be given to CEC. All agreed work shall normally be carried out by CEC and filmmakers will be charged at cost for this service. Quotes will be supplied for each request. Other contractors may be used to work on street lights subject to approval by CEC Street Lighting.

Subject to negotiation, street lighting can be removed switched on or off or timings altered, where changes do not cause undue Health & Safety problems. Temporary lighting should be provided by the Production Company if the public access to the area is to be maintained where street lights have been removed or switched off, especially where street lights are disconnected or removed for long periods of time. Any public footpaths and carriageways must be lit to the appropriate standards set out in HSE BS5489 if previously lit.

Notice of at least one week is required.

If necessary, some bus shelters can be removed or replaced, although this can be expensive and dressing may be more cost-effective. CEC rather than the bus companies oversees the management of bus shelters.

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All signs or property removed or disguised for filming purposes must be reinstated upon completion of filming. In some cases this will need to be completed before the road can reopen (i.e. where this is statutory signage).

Special Effects & Pyrotechnics

This section refers to, but is not limited to, all sequences including physical, atmospheric and pyrotechnic effects. The Production Company must notify the relevant location contact whenever physical, or pyrotechnic effects are to be used, and must consult CEC, Police Scotland and Emergency Services in advance. In accordance with statutory Health and Safety obligations, the Production Company must provide a Risk Assessment and Method Statement to CEC and the location contact.

The production company must inform local residents and businesses of such activity, in consultation with CEC / Film Edinburgh. All special effects must be under the direct supervision of a JIGS graded SFX Supervisor, or person of similar experience. Atmospheric effects (e.g. wet downs, snow, mist and rain) may only be carried out with the approval of the filming contact (CEC / location representative) after a proper evaluation of the forecast weather conditions and with the proper signage and a clear up and safe disposal schedule. Productions should consider existing industry codes and guidance documents from recognised bodies such as HSE, BECTU etc.

Stunts

The Production Company must notify CEC via Film Edinburgh whenever stunts are to be used and must consult Police Scotland and Emergency Services in advance. In accordance with statutory Health and Safety legislation, the Production Company must provide a Risk Assessment and Method Statement. The production company must inform local residents and businesses of such filming. All stunts must be under the direct supervision of a recognised Joint Industry Stunt Committee (JISC) Coordinator or a person of similar experience.

Sustainability

We expect production companies to take a sustainable approach to production. Productions must comply with Scotland's [ban on single-use plastics](#) (2021) and are encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint by, for instance, arranging shared transport, discouraging use of paper and plastics and ensuring the [protection of biodiversity](#) at key sites. Use of sustainably powered vehicles and green generators should be employed wherever possible.

The Council is supportive of [ALBERT](#) and encourages all productions to become more sustainable. Creative Carbon Scotland are a great source of information and advice on how productions can be adapted to become more sustainable. [Starting Point | Creative Carbon Scotland](#). They also have lots of guides, case studies and reports [Resources | Creative Carbon Scotland](#).

Traffic Management

See Roads and Traffic Management above.

Trams

Filmmakers wishing to film on or near the tramlines are required to familiarise themselves with the Edinburgh Tram Byelaws and with supplementary guidance supplied by CEC and secure relevant authorisation from Edinburgh Trams as required by the Byelaws in advance of filming. Any construction or installation work within the “hazard zone” of the tramway will require an “Authority To Work” (ATW) Permit. More information can be found at <https://edinburghtrams.com/information/working-around-trams>.

Tree and Root Protection

The Council is committed to protecting its greenspaces and therefore when using a Council park or greenspace we expect event organisers to submit a Tree and Root Protection Plan. More information can be found in Appendix 4.

Waste Removal

The filming location should be kept clean and any waste generated by the Production Company should be removed, including spillages such as oil and fuel.

Crew members responsible for the location should check it thoroughly before departure to ensure that the location has been restored to its original state and that any evidence of filming activity has been removed.

Wet Downs

See Special Effects & Pyrotechnics above.

Unit Parking

The Production Company should make every effort to find off-road parking for all facilities vehicles. Where this is not possible, the Production Company should not park facilities vehicles directly in front of residential property or commercial businesses. The Production Company should ensure that generators are silent and parked as far away as reasonably practicable from residential and commercial properties unless prior permission has been given. Residents and businesses likely to be affected by a unit base should be notified by letter within a reasonable time (usually at least 1 week).

Appendices

Appendix 1: Documents & Permits

ROAD OCCUPATION PERMIT

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20089/roads_and_pavements/1390/road_occupation_permits

EDINBURGH TRAMS: AUTHORITY TO WORK PERMIT

<https://edinburghtrams.com/uploads/general/AtWform.pdf>

CEC CEMETERIES FILMING GUIDELINES

<https://www.filmedinburgh.org/Filming/Permits>

HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS HSE INDG360

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg360.pdf>

HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS: ROAD LIGHTING HSE BS 5489

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/factsheets/lighting.htm>

CHILDREN (PERFORMANCES AND ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2014

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/372/pdfs/ssi_20140372_en.pdf

MANAGEMENT OF FIREARMS AND WEAPONS IN FILM & TV PRODUCTIONS

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/etis20.pdf>

RISK ASSESSMENTS

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/controlling-risks.htm>

REQUEST A TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE / ORDER

Contact Film Edinburgh film@edinburgh.gov.uk

REQUEST PAY BAY SUSPENSION OR SINGLE YELLOW LINE DISPENSATION

<https://www.filmedinburgh.org/dyn/1536249142707/GG-Special-Events-Procedure-2018-19.pdf>

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Appendix 2: Drone filming in Edinburgh

The City of Edinburgh Council has a Drone Policy due to an upsurge in public request and usage of drones (or Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)) on council managed land including parks, roads and public open spaces.

Since 31 December 2020 there is no longer a regulatory distinction between commercial and non-commercial operation. Drone categories and sub-categories, which determine what operators are allowed to do, are now based only on the estimated risk associated with that category or drone, which is determined by the weight of the drone.

The person controlling a UAS is fully responsible for the safe operation of any flight, but it is important to consider whether permission, in addition to and separate from a license from the CAA or others, is needed.

The key restriction that covers all drone activity is Article 241 of the Air Navigation Order 2016 which states that: "A person must not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property."

CAA regulations: <https://www.caa.co.uk/media/q1il5nqs/the-drone-code-january-2026.pdf>

Drone Flights in Urban Areas

There are certain types of drones you can fly within residential, commercial or industrial areas. While these regulations enable you to fly within urban areas, it is always important to consider whether a flight can be carried out safely.

Drone below 250g / within UK0, UK1, C0 or C1 class:

- You can fly closer than 50m horizontally and you can overfly them, including people not involved in what you are doing.
- You still cannot fly over crowds, so please bear in mind the high volume of people within the city.
- You can fly in residential, recreational, commercial or industrial areas.

Drones below 2kg / within the UK2 or C2 class:

- You must have an A2 Certificate of Competency, Flyer ID and Operator ID, and must fly within the Near People (A2) rules.
- You can fly in residential, recreational, commercial or industrial areas.
- You must not intentionally fly over people who are not involved in what you're doing. This applies to all drones or model aircraft flying in this category.
- If your drone or model aircraft has a UK2 or C2 class mark, you must fly no closer than 30m to people who are not involved in what you're doing. If you fly in low-speed mode, you can reduce this distance to 5m from people.
- If your drone or model aircraft does not have a UK2 or C2 class mark, you must increase this distance and must fly no closer than 50m to people who are not involved in what you're doing.

To fly a drone over 100g and with a camera, you must have both Flyer ID and Operator ID.

Drones above 2kg and below 25kg / within the UK, UK3 or UK4 (European class C2, C3 or C4) must not be flown within residential, recreational, commercial or industrial areas.

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City of Edinburgh Council Land Owner Stance – Drone Usage

In general terms, and in line with CAA advice, The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) should be contacted as a landowner with regard to access to Council land or property from which to launch or land a drone. The operator is responsible for the proper use of the airspace itself, and it is the responsibility of the operator to ensure compliance with the CAA regulations, the law, and terms of insurance.

Under the new regulations, there are some UAS that fall within the Open Category which can be operated from public land or public rights of way without requiring permission. However, please note the Park Enforcement & Bylaws below. If permission is required for take-off and landing sites, the Council should be presented with the operator's up-to-date documentation. If the paperwork is correct and current, no additional responsibilities or legal liabilities will be incurred by the Council.

Park Enforcement & Bylaws

The Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace can be seen here:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22552/management-rules-for-parks-and-greenspaces>

Item 4 of those rules advises that “The following acts are prohibited unless the Council’s written permission has been obtained first:

...4.13 Engaging in any commercial activity whatsoever (including, without limitation, dog walking services, photography, filming and fitness training services)”

Further, item 8 advises that “The following acts are prohibited:

8.2 Operating any motorised or mechanically propelled toy or model vehicle, aircraft or boat so as to disturb wildlife, endanger or give annoyance to other people or if asked by a Council Official not to do so.

If person/persons are found to be using an unauthorised drone or model aircraft on or from CEC land without permission, they will be requested to stop immediately. If the user refuses to stop, Police Scotland will be called to attend to cease activity and remove the user from CEC land.

Transport

Roads

Requests to control any part of the roads network of the City of Edinburgh should be made via the appropriate “ROAD OCCUPATION PERMIT”

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/13190/road-occupation-permits>

Trams / Rail

Requests to fly from or near any part of the tram network should be made through the through the “AUTHORITY TO WORK PERMIT” outlined in the Code of Practice.

<https://edinburghtrams.com/uploads/general/AtWform.pdf>

Similar requests for filming on or near railways and rail property should be made to the relevant part of the Rail Authority.

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Application Process

Any person whose drone category requires them to seek permission to launch or land their UAS from Council owned or managed land/property should contact the appropriate Council team as below.

Drone use for commercial filming should first contact the Council's film office Film Edinburgh with a minimum of a week's notice. Drone use for other purposes (e.g. surveys, engineering) should contact the relevant department directly.

Film Edinburgh – film@edinburgh.gov.uk

Apply here: <https://www.filmedinburgh.org/Filming/Permits>

Parks & Greenspaces - parks@edinburgh.gov.uk

Apply here: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/events-venues/event-planning-public-spaces>

Roads Permits - roadpermits@edinburgh.gov.uk

Apply here: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/13190/road-occupation-permits>

Applications should be made well in advance and should detail:

- Nature of the proposed activity (e.g. filming, event, structural survey etc)
- Operator details including Operator ID and Flyer ID
- Take-off and landing site(s), minimum distance from persons not directly under the operator's control, whether the drone will fly above any people including pedestrians, roads and buildings. Use [what.three.words](#) where possible.
- Category and weight of UAS and CAA paperwork.
- Public Liability Insurance and appropriate UAS insurance.
- Risk Assessment and Method Statement which must be specific to the operation in question and include the maximum height, flight plan and control measures. Please take into consideration uninvolved people, animals/wildlife and weather conditions.

Depending on the assessment of the above further documentation is likely, these commonly include:

- **A Traffic Order or Traffic Notice as well as A Traffic Management Plan:** required if the flight is close to or includes a highway. A fee will be applicable to obtain this additional permission.
- **Stewarding Plan:** description and maps of what control measures will be in place and where stewards will be located whilst the UAS in use.

Appendix 3: Night Filming

These guidelines are for filmmakers wishing to film or undertake filming-related activity outside social hours in residential and commercial areas in Edinburgh.

Unsocial or 'night filming' refers to any filming activities taking place between 23:00 and 07:00.

The key to successful working outside social hours is effective consultation with those people affected by the work. Therefore when considering night filming in residential and commercial areas it is essential to consult with local resident and businesses in the planning process and adequate time must be allowed for this. Any planned noise in anti-social hours, including the lowering of crane arms, needs to be time-specific and local residents/businesses notified as such.

Residents who have legitimate objections can result in your application being declined. In addition, residents and traders who are left inconvenienced and disgruntled following a shoot may result in an area becoming difficult to film in the future.

Depending on the nature of filming and/or location, CEC may require a deposit to ensure and safeguard against noise and nuisance, reinstatement works, cleansing, damage or staff costs to supervise or assist any other unforeseen circumstances when filming takes place in residential and business areas.

Therefore in all instances, CEC via Film Edinburgh must be fully briefed and informed in advance, working to the following guidelines and best practice:

- Any activity outside of social hours, including filming, is subject to the Environmental Protection Act (1990) regarding noise and nuisance. A legitimate complaint about noise or nuisance from a resident to CEC / Film Edinburgh can result in the termination of filming at that location and withdrawal of any permits or traffic orders obtained. Therefore it is advisable to film all scenes requiring noise above conversational level before 22:00.
- Filming in residential areas should be finished and de-rigged no later than 23:00, unless prior permission has been granted by CEC and the residents have been consulted and no objections have been received.
- Noise should be kept to a minimum.
- All options should be explored to keep noise from generators to a minimum including baffling and the use of super-silent generators, which should be sensitively located.
- In instances where de-rigging of noisy equipment or heavy vehicles cannot be removed silently at the end of filming, they must be left in place and attended overnight by security staff. Should this happen, Film Edinburgh must be informed.
- Technical vehicles must be parked in sensible locations which will not disturb residents.
- All crew should use covert kits with their walkie-talkies.
- Earplugs should be made available to residents and traders if requested.
- Black out material should be made available to residents and traders if required, and the production company should make staff available to assist those residents that are not able to put up or take down the blackout material.
- The production company should be prepared to take immediate action if complaints about noise or lighting in antisocial hours are received.

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Requesting approval to film outside social hours

In order to comply with the Environmental Protection Act (1990), where a Production Company identifies a need to work outside normal hours they should liaise as soon as possible with Film Edinburgh who will in turn liaise with CEC's Environmental Protection Unit to discuss the request. Before approval can be given the following information must be provided via a method statement:

- Name of location
- Explanation for out of hours working
- Duration
- Location of noise sensitive premises affected
- Details of proposed consultation with occupiers of noise sensitive premises
- Working methods
- Mitigation methods to minimise noise.

It is recommended that filmmakers factor in three week's notice in order to allow adequate time for community consultation.

Appendix 4: Tree & Root Protection

All root protection measures should adhere to British Standards 5837 where possible.

A Root Protection (RP) zone map is available (speak to Film Edinburgh) the RP areas identified in these appended maps must be treated as exclusion zones with no infrastructure placed in the red areas marked on the site maps.

A detailed Tree Protection Plan should be provided at an early-stage and must clearly indicate the precise location and type of protective barriers planned to form an exclusion-zone around all park trees that are to be affected by the building/hosting of the proposed event; this plan being superimposed onto an up-to-date tree location plan. Drawings and statements demonstrating how trees on-site will be protected throughout the event from access/egress through to build and de-rig will be required. The plan needs to include the type of ground-protection to be used to form the necessary exclusion-zones. The Council stipulates the use of "heras" fencing that is bolted together and installed using concrete footing blocks so no ground excavation is required. The full specification for any barriers must be included within the Tree Protection Plan. All tree protection measures must be in place before any other build commences.

These measures will potentially impact the available space for event infrastructure and consequently, the siting of this. This includes but is not limited to fencing, portable toilets, concession stalls (including storage and back-of-house requirements), other large event infrastructure (including Big Tops, Big Wheels and Fairground Rides) as well as ground protection requirements for vehicles (access/egress and build/de-rig), crowds and Plant.

It is the responsibility of the main event organiser to ensure any contractors using the site have clear, unambiguous, guidance on the steps they need to take to protect on-site trees and that these measures are communicated and adhered to by any sub-contractors employed carrying-out a role as part of the event. Failure to do so risks incurring a penalty charge and/or determining if an event is permitted to use one of our sites in the future. The penalty for any tree damage occurring as a result of the Event set-up, derig or occupation or due to failure to comply with the agreed Tree Protection Plan, will be based on a percentage of the overall CAVAT** figure for said tree, based on the severity of damage. The decision on any penalty payment will be at the sole discretion of the Council's Forestry Service.

There should be no vehicle movement across any grass / soft landscaped areas, outwith the RP zones, which are going to be used as an event area or for temporary access required for any build/de-rig, without the use of protective matting. The specification for this protection needs to also be included in the Tree Protection Plan and Vehicle Access Plan.

The lopping of overhanging branches and any ground excavation to facilitate construction of any infrastructure for the event is not permitted within any Park & Greenspace area.

**** CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees)** - CAVAT provides a method for managing trees as public assets rather than liabilities. It is designed not only to be a strategic tool and aid to decision-making in relation to the tree stock as a whole, but also to be applicable to individual cases, where the value of a single tree needs to be expressed in monetary terms.