



Filming Locations

The ideal historic location for your next filming project

Historic locations for filming

At Cadw we manage over 130 historic properties on behalf of the Welsh Government, from Stone Age burial chambers and majestic medieval castles to industrial workers' cottages and everything in between.

We've been welcoming film crews of all sizes to our historic places for over 100 years and, with a broad portfolio of monuments spanning thousands of years of history, we're confident we have a historic site for your next filming project.

As well as amazing locations, we have a team of archaeologists and historians who can offer expert advice and guidance and can contribute to any on-camera pieces on request.

This brochure showcases just a small selection of our historic properties, so if you haven't found what you're looking for here, or have any queries, please get in touch and we'll endeavour to help in any way we can.

To discuss filming or commercial photography at any of our monuments, please email us at: CadwCommercial@gov.wales.

“

Cadw has such a good range of locations and go the extra mile. I'll look to see what the scene entails and, more often than not, Cadw will have a location.

Gareth Skelding: Company Director and Location Manager
— Location Solutions Wales.

”



Blaenafon Ironworks

(est. 1787)

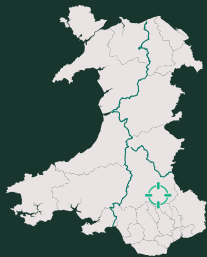
Blaenafon Ironworks was at the forefront of technological developments in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that resulted in south Wales becoming the largest producer of iron in the world.

Nestled in the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the extensive remains of the ironworks — blast furnaces, foundry, cast house and water balance tower — combined with refurbished workers' cottages means Blaenafon offers a snapshot into both working and domestic life in industrial Britain.

The workers' cottages have been furnished to represent their occupation from 1790–1967. The historically accurate interiors, along with the company truck shop (1800s), are film-ready or can be adapted to suit.

Notable past productions:

— Coal House — Da Vinci's Demons — His Dark Materials



↻ NP4 9RN

Distance from:

Cardiff 27 miles
Bristol 43 miles
Birmingham 102 miles
London 150 miles
Liverpool 152 miles
Manchester 173 miles



Caerleon Roman Amphitheatre, Caerleon Roman Baths, Caerleon Roman Barracks (est. around AD 75)

The Roman fortress at Caerleon was one of three permanent military bases built during the Roman occupation of Britain.

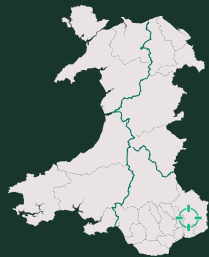
Once home to the Second Augustan Legion, the surviving remains of this fortress are unparalleled in the UK and include barrack blocks, a bathhouse, amphitheatre and sections of the fortress wall.

The diverse remains at Caerleon are ideal for non-fiction productions. The National Roman Legion Museum, also in Caerleon, holds many Roman artefacts found in the area.

Just ten miles east of Caerleon, Caer-went Roman Town also boasts low-level foundations dating back to its Roman occupation, including a marketplace, shops and a temple.

Notable past productions:

— Digging for Britain — Don't Tell the Bride — Time Team



📍 **CF83 1JD**

Distance from:

Cardiff 16 miles
Bristol 28 miles
Birmingham 102 miles
London 135 miles
Liverpool 163 miles
Manchester 173 miles



Caerphilly Castle

(est. 1268)

Located just eight miles north of Cardiff, Caerphilly Castle is the largest castle in Wales and is widely recognised as one of the great castles of medieval western Europe.

Built by Gilbert de Clare, Marcher lord of Glamorgan, Caerphilly's huge walls, towers and gatehouses are surrounded by water defences, giving this formidable fortress a footprint of over 30 acres.

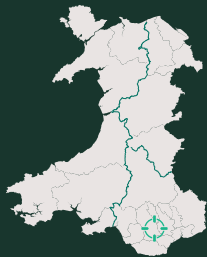
The vast nature of Caerphilly Castle means there are a wealth of options for internal and external shots.

The richly decorated Great Hall*, 23m (75ft) long by 11m (36ft) wide, provides an ideal location for grand ceremonial and banquet scenes.

*Refurbishment due for completion in 2025.

Notable past productions:

— Wolf Hall — Discovery of Witches — The Spanish Princess



CF83 1JD

Distance from:

Cardiff 27 miles
Bristol 44 miles
Birmingham 117 miles
London 151 miles
Liverpool 168 miles
Manchester 193 miles



Castell Caernarfon

(est. 1283)

For sheer scale and architectural drama, Caernarfon stands alone. Edward I and his military architect Master James of St George simultaneously erected a castle, town walls and a quay to consolidate the English conquest of north Wales.

Recognised around the world as one of the greatest buildings of the Middle Ages, this fortress-palace features high curtain walls, two massive gatehouses and nine towers. The Eagle Tower, with its three great turrets decorated with medieval sculpted figures of humans and eagles, is the castle's crowning glory.

When it comes to filming, repairs undertaken in the nineteenth century help to give Castell Caernarfon a visual boost. In addition, a recent investment has improved access within the monument.

Multiple towers and wall-walks offer plenty of options to film from height, and unspoilt views across the sea offer a dramatic depth of field. The two inner wards provide crews with plenty of outdoor space.

Notable past productions:

— The Crown — Go Jetties — Great British Railway Journey's



📍 LL55 2AY

Distance from:

Liverpool 85 miles
Manchester 104 miles
Birmingham 143 miles
Cardiff 171 miles
Bristol 217 miles
London 285 miles



Castell Coch

(rebuilt 1875)

Originally a medieval castle, Castell Coch was reconstructed in the nineteenth century by famed architect and designer William Burgess on the orders of the wealthy third marquis of Bute. The brief was to recreate a fabulous vision of the Middle Ages and raise a new fortress on the ruinous foundations of the castle built by the Clare family in the thirteenth century.

With richly decorated interiors and conical-roofed towers emerging from the dense woodland that surrounds it, it's easy to see why Castell Coch is often referred to as the fairy-tale castle.

Due to its reconstruction, Castell Coch doesn't bare the physical deterioration you would expect of a medieval building, making it ideal for a wide-range of exterior shots — either from outside the castle walls or within the inner courtyard.

The dazzling indoor spaces, which include a banqueting hall, drawing room and bedrooms, provide an ideal environment for lavish scenes.

Notable past productions:

— Heston's Great British Food — Merlin, Sherlock — Torchwood



CF15 7JS

Distance from:

Cardiff 7 miles
Bristol 45 miles
Birmingham 125 miles
London 152 miles
Liverpool 174 miles
Manchester 187 miles



Castell Oxwich

(est. 1520)

Overlooking Oxwich Bay on the Gower peninsula, Castell Oxwich is in fact a Tudor manor house built in the sixteenth century.

This ambitious building took inspiration from earlier medieval castles and the mock-military features are for show rather than defence.

The once extravagant but now ruinous east range still retains its towering south-east wing, honeycombed with small windows and fireplaces at all levels, showcasing its original scale and splendour. The relatively modest south range is in remarkable condition and contains several part-furnished rooms.

A good balance between outdoor and indoor spaces makes Oxwich a great option for filming.



↔ SA31ND

Distance from:

- Cardiff 57 miles
- Bristol 92 miles
- Birmingham 144 miles
- Liverpool 181 miles
- Manchester 194 miles
- London 199 miles



Raglan Castle

(est. 1435)

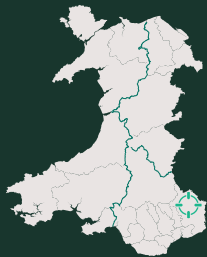
The youngest stone castle in Wales, Raglan straddles the end of the medieval castle-building period and transitions into a palatial manor house.

Located in the heart of the Monmouthshire countryside, this fortress-palace boasts extensive remains and striking architecture, including a machicolated gatehouse, polygonal towers and an imposing, moated great tower — a real highlight of Raglan and a favourite when it comes to exterior shots.

With two enclosed courtyards, well-preserved suites of residential accommodation and multiple underground cellars, Raglan has a wide range of locations in a compact area which makes it one of our more popular venues for filming.

Notable past productions:

— Merlin — The Song Remains the Same — The Spanish Princess.



📍 NP16 5EY

Distance from:

Cardiff 31 miles

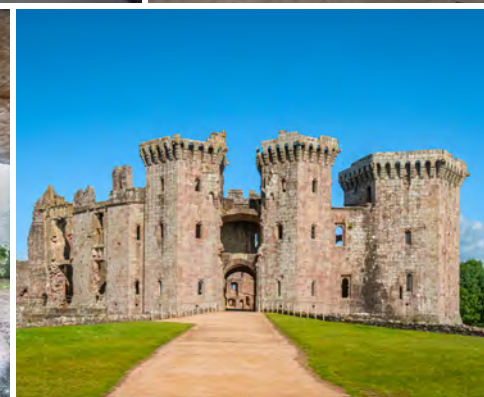
Bristol 33 miles

Birmingham 80 miles

London 138 miles

Liverpool 171 miles

Manchester 159 miles



Chepstow Castle

(est. 1067)

Founded in 1067 on the orders of William the Conqueror, Chepstow Castle is one of the oldest medieval castles in Britain.

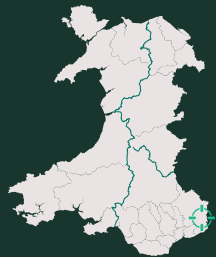
Perched on cliffs overlooking the tidal river Wye, its setting provided an excellent natural defence, plus stunning views for the nobility who once resided there.

Gothic architecture combined with its cliffside location make Chepstow Castle an emotive and dramatic backdrop to any scene. The fortress is dominated by the eleventh-century great tower but a grand thirteenth-century domestic range and a striking residential tower crowned with carved figures — Marten's Tower — occupy the lower bailey.

Chepstow boasts a number of indoor spaces that can be used, either as a set location or as a base for cast and crew between shoots.

Notable past productions:

— Dr Who — Merlin — Springwatch



📍 NP16 5EY

Distance from:

Bristol 18 miles
Cardiff 30 miles
Birmingham 98 miles
London 125 miles
Liverpool 179 miles
Manchester: 214 miles



Laugharne Castle

(est. 1116)

Originally established as a Norman stronghold, centuries of conflict left Laugharne Castle in a ruinous state until it was rescued and converted into a Tudor mansion in the sixteenth century.

Two giant stone towers and a gatehouse, all dating from the thirteenth century, overlook the reconstructed hall and Tudor accommodation block within the castle. The impressive north-west tower, which served as a keep, still retains its fine medieval domed roof.

Overlooking the Taf estuary, the beautiful views inspired acclaimed Welsh poet Dylan Thomas who spent time writing in the castle's gazebo.

The expansive outer ward, which contains beautiful ornamental gardens, offers plenty of space for filming. Outside the castle walls, the picturesque setting is enhanced by the river Coran which winds its way past this stunning monument.



📍 SA33 4SA

Distance from:

Cardiff 82 miles

Bristol 117 miles

Liverpool 164 miles

Birmingham 165 miles

Manchester 189 miles

London 224 miles



Neath Abbey

(est. 1130)

Once one of Wales' wealthiest abbeys, the remains at Neath are among the most important and impressive in Wales.

Following its dissolution in 1539, the vast estate at Neath Abbey was developed to incorporate a Tudor mansion and then, some 250 years later, a copper-smelting plant for a nearby ironworks — adaptations that contributed to preserving it.

Virtually the entire layout of the abbey and its buildings can still be explored today, confirming the sheer scale of this prosperous religious settlement. Its vast remains provide multiple scene locations, including the atmospheric vaulted undercroft and the abbey church, with its high-quality architecture.

Neath's proximity to the M4 makes it a location that is easily accessible by road.

Notable past productions:

— Da Vinci's Demon — Dr Who — Willow



📍 SA10 7DW

Distance from:

Cardiff 42 miles

Bristol 77 miles

Birmingham 142 miles

Liverpool 173 miles

London 184 miles

Manchester 186 miles



Plas Mawr

(est. 1576)

Built between 1576 and 1585 and located in the centre of the magnificent medieval town of Conwy, Plas Mawr has been described as the finest Elizabethan town house in Britain.

There are 17 impressive rooms to explore, the majority furnished as they might have looked in 1665 — based on a detailed inventory of the contents at this time, as well as contemporary objects and buildings.

The sheer number of rooms together with two interior courtyards and a recreated Elizabethan garden means that there are plenty of options when it comes to filming.

The site also benefits from several indoor spaces which can be utilised by cast and crew between shoots.

Notable past productions:

— Guy Fawkes — Most Haunted



📍 LL32 8DE

Distance from:

Liverpool 63 miles

Manchester 83 miles

Birmingham 139 miles

Cardiff 192 miles

Bristol 205 miles

London 252 miles



Tintern Abbey

(est. 1131)

Tintern Abbey is one of the great monastic ruins of Wales. Rising dramatically from the floor of the Wye valley and surrounded by a wild tree-covered landscape, travellers have flocked to the Cistercian abbey for centuries to admire its grace and sublime beauty.

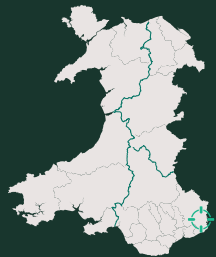
The abbey church, Tintern's greatest glory, was begun around 1269 and is an outstanding example of the elaborate 'Decorated' style of Gothic architecture. There are extensive and impressive remains of other monastic buildings on site, including the monks' day room and refectory.

Whatever your remit, there are spots and areas around the abbey to render your scenes stunning and memorable.

Note: The monument is currently undergoing a major conservation programme, so the church may not be available for filming for the foreseeable future.

Notable past productions:

— Digging for Britain — Escape to the Country — The One Show



📍 NP16 5EY

Distance from:

Bristol 22 miles

Cardiff 35 miles

Birmingham 82 miles

London 129 miles

Liverpool 149 miles

Manchester 162 miles



Tretower Court and Castle

(est. 1100)

Situated on flat meadowland and surrounded by the sprawling landscape of the Brecon Beacons, Tretower Court and Castle is one of our best-kept secrets.

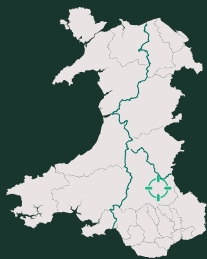
This stunning property comprises a medieval castle with a great round tower, or keep, and a large Tudor court, complete with kitchen, grand dining room, garden and inner courtyard.

Inside, original oak panelling and dressed rooms make Tretower an ideal location for more sumptuous scenes.

Outside, the adaptable inner courtyard has undergone some dramatic makeovers for previous productions, from a picturesque convent garden in *Da Vinci's Demons*, to a squalid, overcrowded medieval town in *The Hollow Crown*.

Notable past productions:

— *Cursed* — *Ironclad* — *The Libertine*



📍 NP8 1RF

Distance from:

Cardiff 39 miles

Bristol 58 miles

Birmingham 106 miles

Liverpool 139 miles

London 165 miles

Manchester 177 miles



Valle Crucis Abbey

(est. 1201)

This beautiful Cistercian abbey is situated on the Eglwyseg river in the picturesque Dee valley. It is one of the best-preserved and most atmospheric medieval abbeys in Wales.

In 1201, the prince of northern Powys, Madog ap Gruffudd Maelor, invited a community of monks to settle here and they built the buildings we see today.

Of the extensive ruins, the imposing west front of the church, chapter house, monks' dormitory and monastic fish pond are particular highlights.

The abbey offers a tranquil, spiritual atmosphere which can be translated onto screen for any media piece.

Notable past productions:

— Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy



↔ LL20 8DD

Distance from:

Liverpool 53 miles
Manchester 66 miles
Birmingham 79 miles
Cardiff 138 miles
Bristol 143 miles
London 204 miles.




**Cadw— er lles pawb.
For us all, to keep.**


**We look forward to welcoming
you to our historic places in Wales**


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