

# The Royal Parks Policy on Filming and Photography

The Royal Parks Filming & Events Team

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The Royal Parks have served as popular backdrops for many feature films and television programmes. Any filming, photography or audio recording that takes place in parks requires permission from The Royal Parks before it can go ahead and, in most cases, will incur a fee.

**Filming and photography for personal use is permitted by The Royal Parks. "Personal" in this context is defined as images and vocal recordings that are not broadcast or shared with the general public nor used for political or proselytizing purposes. The images may only be captured on small handheld devices such as mobile phones.**

The Royal Parks was integral in drafting the first ever **London Filming Partnership** between the moving image production industry and all public and private sector stakeholders affected by location filming in London. The Partnership is aimed at ensuring that London is a place where location filming can be conducted efficiently and successfully thereby delivering the significant economic benefits associated with filming (including local employment and tourism) while also being sensitive to the needs of those who live and work in London. The Royal Parks fully supports and endorses the Partnership.

The Royal Parks welcomes filming in the parks that is **consistent with one or more of the following aims:**

- Promotes the parks as special natural environments and historical landscapes.
- Respects the values of the parks, our users and stakeholders.
- Raises the profile of London and the parks as tourist destinations in the foreign and home markets.

All requests to film will be assessed according to these aims along with existing scheduled events, planned maintenance work, potential security risks, ceremonial activities and political sensitivities.

Furthermore:

- The Royal Parks supports **amateur and student photographers** taking photographs for a private portfolio, educational coursework or other non-

commercial use. It is necessary to apply for permission to use images of any of The Royal Parks for commercial purposes, this includes professional portfolios.

- The Royal Parks supports emerging talent and will offer reduced rates where possible to **low-budget, small scale and student film-makers**. The same process of 'How to Film' should be followed and students must produce a letter on headed paper from their educational establishment confirming their student status. Method statements and risk assessments will need to be shown. Film London can help with these if necessary – call 020 7613 7676 and ask for the Locations Department.
- The Royal Parks may suggest a site meeting to meet filmmakers face-to-face and discuss the logistics of their request. This is essential for large scale or complicated productions. An early meeting and/or discussion with the Production Designer / Art Department will be appreciated.
- Film makers will be asked to provide **in writing** as much information as possible on the following: proposed dates and times; potential locations; content and nature of the script or relevant script pages; talent; public liability insurance; potential stunts, special effects, pyrotechnics, wet-downs, use of drones, gun-fire/fire-arms, nudity and reference to royalty, politicians or public figures; road closures; numbers of vehicles, cast, crew and extras; equipment; parking and budget.
- The Royal Parks has a responsibility to conserve for future generations the Parks, their buildings, wildlife, historic landscapes, views and vistas. Filmmakers must therefore agree to abide by all statutory legislation relating to filming, in addition to professional standards of filming described in the **Location Filming in London Code of Practice**. This can be found on-line at Film London's website: [Location Filming in London Code of Practice | Film London](#)
- Filming of a blasphemous, salacious or derogatory nature will not be permitted.
- We take particular care with filming requests in sensitive locations across The Royal Parks. These include, but are not limited to, Brompton Cemetery, memorials and monuments, Victoria Tower Gardens, and private or royal residences. Requests for these areas are carefully reviewed to ensure they are handled with respect for the individuals and histories associated with these sites

- In line with charity law and [charity commission guidance](#), The Royal Parks is party politically neutral. As a general rule, we will not permit political filming, to avoid The Royal Parks being perceived in any way as supporting or opposing a political party. By exception, we may from time-to-time permit filming by political figures, if the context of that filming is relevant to the Royal Parks and we are comfortable that the filming or output will not imply that the Royal Parks has a party political view. As with filming that includes reference to politicians (and also members of the Royal Family or The Royal Parks) each request will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. In all cases applicants will be asked to submit relevant script pages to support the review process, which will be signed off at Director level. No political filming is allowed during any 'pre-election period of sensitivity' also known as purdah.
- As a general rule, Filming & Photography in or near any of the Royal Parks' playgrounds is prohibited. There are exceptions to this rule and requests may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and shoots permitted by special arrangement. When it is permitted an advance notice warning must be clearly displayed. It is advisable to use children whose parents/guardians have given prior permission and signed a release form and who have been cleared through the relevant Local Authority's Education Welfare Service or provide evidence of Children's Working Licenses or Chaperone arrangements.
- People wishing to undertake wedding or lifestyle photography or filming in any of the Royal Parks will be required to obtain a permit to do so. For more information and to download an application follow this link [Wedding & lifestyle photography | The Royal Parks](#)
- **The Royal Parks will respond to filming and photography requests as quickly as possible and recognises the deadlines of the film and photographic industries. Requests with less than 5 days' notice cannot be guaranteed. The Royal Parks will acknowledge receipt of applications within 24 hours and no later than 48hours (office hours only).**
- Vox-pops are not permitted in any of The Royal Parks.