



Filming and Photography in Chichester Harbour

Guidelines for Commercial Filming, Drone Filming and Photoshoots

1. Welcome to Chichester Harbour

Thank you for your interest in using Chichester Harbour as a filming or photography location.

Chichester Harbour is a nationally important landscape and a working harbour, valued for its natural beauty, wildlife, communities and recreational use.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) is the statutory harbour authority and CHC permission is the primary gateway for filming, including drone filming on or around the water.

These guidelines are intended to help productions plan well, work safely and protect the special qualities of the Harbour.

We are pleased to provide guidance on requests for commercial filming and professional photography and will do our best to support enquiries wherever possible.

2. Permissions and Agreements

CHC permission is required for activity on or affecting the water within the amenity area (*Appendix 1*).

Private landowner permission is required where access to private land is needed. Please note that much of the land around the harbour is privately owned and it may be necessary to seek landowner permission to access some locations.

Seabed owner permission may be required where anchoring or equipment is placed on the seabed.

When making an enquiry, please provide as much information as possible, including proposed dates and times, locations, crew numbers, equipment, vessels or vehicles, and a short description of the filming or photoshoot.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC), as the statutory harbour authority, will issue its own permission or licence agreement governing filming and photography activities within its jurisdiction.

This agreement relates solely to CHC's role in regulating harbour operations, safety and environmental protection, and does not grant exclusive rights to use the harbour or any land or seabed within it.

CHC is not able to enter into, or be bound by, third-party production agreements, location agreements or rights agreements.

Production companies remain responsible for securing any additional permissions required, including (but not limited to) private landowner consent, seabed owner consent where applicable, and any other third-party rights.

3. Filming On the Water

As the statutory harbour authority, our permission is required for filming on or around the water. Our consent would govern:

- Vessel positioning and movements within the harbour
- Any temporary on-water structures
- Safety and operational compliance
- Mooring and anchorage within our jurisdiction

We will usually ask for:

- Public liability insurance (minimum level as advised by CHC)
- Risk assessment and method statement (RAMS)
- Filming schedule or production plan
- Evidence of any relevant licences or permits, including drone permissions where applicable

Depending on the nature and scale of the activity, we may ask for further information to make sure the proposal can be supported safely and responsibly.

In addition, Seabed (private) owner consent may be required:

- Filming from vessels on the water surface — seabed owner consent is generally not required
- Anchoring vessels or placing production equipment on the seabed — consent from the relevant seabed owner(s) would be required

4. Filming on the Land

Much of the land around the harbour, including the mud land is privately owned .It may be necessary to seek landowner permission to access some locations.

Landowner permission will be required if the film/photography crew wish to physically access private land e.g. to set up equipment or if filming captures identifiable private individuals on private land.

Please note that, gaining landowner permission is the responsibility of the film/ photography production company.

5. Protecting the Harbour Environment

Chichester Harbour includes sensitive habitats, protected species and designated conservation areas, and we ask all visiting productions to help us safeguard these important features.

Filming and photography activity must:

- Avoid disturbance to wildlife, particularly birds and marine species
- Take account of any seasonal sensitivities, such as nesting or overwintering periods
- Respect nature reserves, restricted areas and any site-specific guidance provided by CHC
- Avoid damage to habitats, including mudflats, saltmarsh and shoreline areas
- Prevent pollution, littering and any fuel or waste discharge

Where necessary, CHC may apply specific conditions or suggest adjustments to help protect the Harbour while enabling filming to take place.

6. Drone Use

Drone filming can sometimes be accommodated, but it is subject to prior approval and careful consideration.

Operators will need to:

- Obtain approval from CHC before any flight takes place
- Comply with all Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requirements
- Avoid disturbance to wildlife and other harbour users
- Keep away from restricted or particularly sensitive areas unless specifically agreed.
- Please note – if flying over mudflats, islands, spits or beaches adjacent to the harbour then the drone will need to be above 200ft to avoid disturbing wildlife nesting/resting/using the habitats.

Some locations or timings may not be suitable for drone operations or may not permit drone operations and CHC may limit or decline drone use in certain circumstances.

The following information will be required:

- Size of the drone.
- Flight plan – ie a planned track or box of operating area with GPS co-ordinates.
- The operator's CAA pilot licence number/ID.

7. Harbour Operations and Safety

Chichester Harbour is an active, working environment, so safety is an important part of every filming or photography proposal.

All activity must:

- Comply with harbour safety requirements
- Avoid obstructing navigation channels, moorings, slipways or launching areas

- Follow reasonable instructions from Harbour Patrol Officers
- Ensure crew members are briefed on relevant safety arrangements

If your production involves vessels or activity on the water, this should be discussed and agreed with CHC in advance.

8. Access, Parking and Logistics

We ask crews to plan access carefully and to minimise disruption to local communities, harbour users and neighbouring landowners.

Productions should:

- Use agreed access points only
- Comply with any parking or vehicle restrictions
- Keep equipment movements proportionate and well managed
- Coordinate any larger logistical requirements in advance

Larger or more complex productions may require additional coordination with CHC and other relevant parties.

9. Fees and Charges

Commercial filming and photography in Chichester Harbour is usually subject to fees.

Charges may include:

- Administration Fee
- Harbour dues and launching fees
- Overnight berthing on CHC jetty
- Car parking
- Staff time, including Harbour Patrol support where required
- Use of vessels, equipment or other CHC resources where applicable
- Location fees

A cost schedule can be provided on request once we understand the nature and scale of the proposal.

10. Public Access and Reputation

We want filming activity to sit well alongside the Harbour's day-to-day use and its public enjoyment.

Projects should therefore be planned so that they do not:

- Unreasonably restrict public access
- Conflict unnecessarily with recreational or commercial harbour use
- Present the Harbour or CHC in a misleading or damaging way

Where appropriate, CHC may ask to review relevant details of the proposed use or portrayal of the Harbour.

11. Compliance

These guidelines, together with any site-specific conditions issued by CHC, form part of the basis on which permission is given.

Each request will be considered on its merits, and while we aim to support filming activity where possible, CHC reserves the right to decline proposals where they are not compatible with operational, safety, environmental or reputational considerations, including alignment with the values and responsibilities of the Conservancy.

If agreed requirements are not followed, CHC may need to pause activity, withdraw permission or recover any additional costs arising from the filming.

12. Enquiries

We welcome early discussions about filming and photography proposals so that any site-specific advice, access arrangements or environmental considerations can be discussed in good time.

Please send enquiries to:

Chichester Harbour Conservancy Communications Team.

01243 512301 info@conservancy.co.uk

Appendix 1: Chichester Harbour

