

FILM · TELEVISION · MUSIC VIDEO · PHOTOGRAPHY



FORT DARNET

RIVER MEDWAY · KENT

LOCATION & MEDIA INFORMATION PACK — 2026

Contents

03	Welcome to Fort Darnet	An introduction to the location
04	A Fort With History	Coastal defence, 1870–1872
05	Inside the Fort	Architecture & atmosphere
06	Why Filmmakers Choose Fort Darnet	Five reasons to shoot here
07	Setting & Access	An island apart
08	Gallery — Interiors & Detail	Stills from the fort
09	Gallery — Exterior & Aerial	Stills from the fort
10	Watch — The Fort Darnet Film	Promotional film
11	Watch — WW2 Concept Trailer	Concept trailer, made with Kling AI
12	Suited To	Genres & production types
13	Planning a Shoot	Practical information
14	Rates & Booking	How to secure a date
15	Get in Touch	Contact details



WELCOME

A Location Like No Other

Fort Darnet is a 19th-century coastal fortress standing alone on its own island in the River Medway, Kent — restored, atmospheric, and made available for a limited number of filming, photography and event days each year.

“Rich in character, untouched by modern development, and unlike anywhere else within easy reach of London.”

This pack introduces the fort, its history and its possibilities as a production location, and brings together our stills and films alongside everything a producer or location scout needs to start planning a shoot here.





HISTORY

Built to Defend the Medway, 1870-1872

Fort Darnet was constructed between 1870 and 1872 as part of a ring of Victorian sea forts guarding the approaches to Chatham Naval Dockyard and the River Medway. Positioned alongside neighbouring Hoo Fort, it formed part of an inner defensive line intended to control the river's key routes, originally armed with eleven rifled muzzle-loading guns trained on the main channel.

Though its guns were never fired in anger, the fort's circular casemated battery, gun positions and flooded lower chambers survive largely intact today — a rare, untouched piece of Victorian military architecture, set entirely apart from modern life.

THE SPACE

Inside the Fort

Circular in plan and built from dressed stone and brick, Fort Darnet's interior is a sequence of vaulted casemates, arched corridors and gun rooms, connected by openings that frame the surrounding water and sky.

Decades of weathering have left the walls textured and atmospheric, with ivy, moss and salt-worn stone throughout — a gift for production design, whether the brief calls for abandonment, historical authenticity, or simply a sense of place no studio build can match.



FILMING HIGHLIGHTS

Why Filmmakers Choose Fort Darnet

01 A COMPLETE, ENCLOSED WORLD

The fort's circular structure gives a full 360° usable backdrop with no sightline to modern buildings, roads or signage.

02 TEXTURE AND SCALE

Vaulted stone casemates, flooded chambers and weathered brickwork, ready-made for period or post-apocalyptic dressing.

03 TOTAL PRIVACY

A private island with no public access, so sets stay secure and undisturbed for the full length of a shoot.

04 WATER ON EVERY SIDE

The open Medway estuary offers wide skies, reflections and options for boat-based filming and drone plates.

05 UNTOUCHED BY TIME

No modern signage, cabling or clutter to remove in post — the fort reads as period on camera, as found.





THE SETTING

An Island Apart

Fort Darnet stands on its own tidal island in the River Medway, reached only by boat and surrounded on every side by open water and salt marsh. There is no public access to the site — every visit, including filming, is arranged and supervised in advance — which means a production has the location entirely to itself for the duration of a shoot.

The open estuary skyline and surrounding marshland give unbroken backdrops in every direction: ideal for drone work, wide establishing shots and boat-to-shore sequences, with none of the modern intrusions of a mainland location.



GALLERY
Interiors & Detail





GALLERY
Exterior & Aerial



SHOWREEL — 01

The Fort Darnet Film

Our promotional film shows Fort Darnet in motion — its scale, stonework and setting captured from land, water and air. Tap the still, scan the code, or follow the link to watch in full on YouTube.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE



Scan to watch
youtu.be/080nGHUMAE



SHOWREEL — 02

WW2 Concept Trailer

A concept trailer imagining Fort Darnet as a wartime setting, produced using Kling AI. It offers an early look at how the fort's casemates, corridors and gun positions can be dressed, lit and staged for period war drama.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE



Scan to watch
youtu.be/1h7UL9dXEfQ



SUITED TO

Genres & Production Types

Heritage & Period Drama

Authentic Victorian military architecture — little to no dressing required for exteriors.

Music Videos

Dramatic, graphic backdrops, wide open skies and total shoot privacy for a full day.

Thriller, Horror & Fantasy

Isolation, scale and texture on tap — an island setting with genuine atmosphere.

War & Conflict Film

Casemates, gun rooms and flooded chambers suited to WWI/WWII-set drama and concept work.

Fashion & Editorial

Striking stonework, changing light and water for both stills and moving image.

Documentary & Factual

A genuine, little-seen piece of coastal defence history with a strong story to tell.





PLANNING A SHOOT

Practical Information

ACCESS

Fort Darnet is reached by boat only, and access is tidal and weather-dependent. All visits, filming included, are arranged and supervised in advance — there is no public access to the site.

RECCE & CREW

A site recce is arranged ahead of booking to plan access, load-in and crew logistics for your specific production, in discussion with the Fort Darnet team.

ON THE DAY

Every crew is given a guided orientation and safety briefing before filming begins. Surfaces underfoot are historic and uneven in places, with flooded lower chambers, so care and appropriate footwear are required.

PERMISSIONS

All filming is pre-authorised and confirmed in writing before a date is scheduled or any content is published, in line with the fort's status as a private, protected heritage site.

“Every site is different — get in touch with your production dates and requirements and we’ll talk you through what’s possible at Fort Darnet.”

RATES & BOOKING

Rates on Application

Every production is different, so day rates, recce visits and access are agreed individually based on scope, crew size and dates. Get in touch with an outline of your project and we'll come back to you with availability and a quote.

ENQUIRE — INFO@FORTDARNET.CO.UK

01

ENQUIRE

02

RECCE

03

AGREEMENT

04

FILMING DAY



INFO@FORTDARNET.CO.UK

WWW.FORTDARNET.CO.UK

“Thank you for considering Fort Darnet for your production.”

FORT DARNET · RIVER MEDWAY · GILLINGHAM · KENT · ME9 7HJ