

National Trust Press Release

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Calke Abbey stars in Netflix's *Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man*

The National Trust can confirm that Calke Abbey, the 'unstately home' near Ticknall, Derbyshire, plays a key role in the upcoming film *Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man*, which arrives in cinemas on 6 March and on Netflix on 20 March.

Set in Birmingham, 1940, the film sees Academy Award® winner Cillian Murphy return as Tommy Shelby in an epic new chapter written by Steven Knight and directed by Tom Harper.

The production selected Calke for its extraordinary authenticity, filming both inside the house and on the wider estate. Unlike many historic houses, Calke remains little restored, vividly portraying a period in the 20th century when country houses faced dramatic decline.

Calke's seemingly-abandoned spaces, peeling paintwork and layered interiors — offered the filmmakers an atmospheric backdrop that required almost no alteration — with key scenes shot in the ground-floor passageways, Kitchen, Schoolroom and Night Nursery, where the wartime setting seems to rise naturally from the fabric of the building.

Beyond the house, the historic redbrick Stableyard and Riding School underwent an even more dramatic transformation. Set dressing, atmospheric lighting and the arrival of a vintage car reshaped these usually practical spaces — typically home to agricultural tools and equipment — into a moody, cinematic world that feels a world away from everyday Calke.

The Stableyard also became the backdrop for the now-iconic Tommy Shelby walk. With mist rising between the redbrick buildings and the overgrown courtyard thick with tension, Cillian Murphy's silhouette emerges in a slow, swaggering stride — a sequence shot right at the heart of Calke's stables and now instantly recognisable to fans.

Bringing this world to life required meticulous preparation behind the scenes. Calke's Collection team worked closely with the production to protect the site's historic environment, ensuring filming could take place safely within such fragile spaces.

More than 1,300 historic objects were carefully packed, moved and reinstated by the House team in a process that took over 950 hours, while floors, doorways, staircases and finishes were protected to accommodate heavy equipment and increased footfall.

Artificial frost and snow effects were used during filming in a way that was safe for the environment, although an unexpected early snowfall provided its own continuity

challenge – particularly for scenes shot through the Schoolroom windows (Tommy Shelby's writing room), where winter weather appeared earlier than planned.

Caroline Taylor, Visitor Operations Manager at Calke Abbey, said: "Welcoming the *Peaky Blinders* team to Calke Abbey was a remarkable experience. Seeing the estate in all its glory on screen, from the atmospheric rooms to the historic Stableyards, truly celebrates what makes Calke special. It's a privilege to share this unique house and landscape with the film, and we can't wait for audiences to see it brought to life."

To celebrate the release of *Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man*, from Saturday 14 March visitors will be able to discover more about Calke's on-screen transformation with new walking routes and interpretation.

- **Outside** visitors will be invited to follow a downloadable walking route across the estate, taking in key filming locations and discovering how familiar spaces were adapted for the screen.
- **Inside the House**, plans include newly created interpretation inspired by *Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man*, sharing behind-the-scenes stories and images showing how Calke was altered for filming.
- **In the Stableyards** interpretation will reveal how the spaces were dressed, disguised and digitally enhanced to create worlds far removed from present-day Derbyshire.

Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man comes to cinemas from 6 March and launches on Netflix on 20 March.

– Ends –

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About the National Trust

The National Trust is an independent conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people: Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley, who saw the importance of the nation's heritage and open spaces and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. Today, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we

continue to look after places so people and nature can thrive.

We care for more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline, 1 million collection items and 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves. In 2023/24 we received 25.3 million visitors to our pay for entry sites. The National Trust is for everyone - we were founded for the benefit of the whole nation, and our 5.38 million members, funders and donors, and tens of thousands of volunteers support our work to care for nature, beauty, history for everyone, for ever.

In January 2025 the National Trust marked its 130th birthday by launching its new 10-year strategy People and Nature Thriving. This strategy, which will guide the charity's work and direction from 2025-2035 and beyond, focuses on three key goals:

- Restore Nature
- End unequal access to nature, beauty and history
- Inspire more people to care and take action

The plans follow the largest public consultation ever carried out by the National Trust, with more than 70,000 people – including members, volunteers and industry partners – sharing their views on the Trust's work and direction. Read more about the National Trust's strategy [here](#).

About Calke Abbey

With peeling paintwork and overgrown courtyards, Calke Abbey tells the story of the dramatic decline of a country house estate. The house and stables are little restored, with many abandoned areas vividly portraying a period in the 20th century when numerous country houses did not survive to tell their story.

The Calke estate spans more than 600 acres and is managed with a dedicated approach to conservation. It contains such features as a walled garden, with a flower garden and kitchen garden. The ancient deer park of the Calke Abbey Estate is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest and national nature reserve.