

National Trust Press Release

Issued on: Thurs 12 March 2026

Title: Calke Abbey transformed for *Outlander* Season 8 filming

The National Trust can confirm that Calke Abbey, the ‘unstate home’ near Ticknall, Derbyshire, was used as a filming location for the eighth season of the hit Starz drama *Outlander* – becoming one of the very few English historic sites to feature in the globally popular series.

The series follows Claire Randall, a 20th century nurse who is swept back to 18th century Scotland, becoming entwined in war, rebellion, and a powerful love story with Jamie Fraser. Across seven seasons, the drama spans continents and centuries, with the Frasers navigating love and conflict. In the eighth and final season, their story reaches its climax as the American Revolutionary War intensifies and new dangers close in.

Filming took place in September 2024, with the crew on site from July to transform Calke’s historic Stableyards into Savannah-inspired scenes – including a bustling market, military garrison, and a large blue-screen installation for harbour sequences. While *Outlander* is internationally recognised for its distinctive Scottish landscapes and castles, filming in England is comparatively rare. Calke Abbey’s scale, authenticity and adaptable historic spaces enabled it to convincingly double for an 18th-century setting.

The shoot brought together more than 100 supporting artists, horses, specialist crew and a stunt team, making it one of the most ambitious filming projects ever hosted at the estate. Caroline Taylor, Visitor Operations Manager at Calke Abbey, said: “We were thrilled to welcome the *Outlander* team. Seeing the Stableyards transformed into such a dynamic setting was remarkable – it brought a real sense of excitement to the estate. While Calke may look very different on screen, it’s exciting to know it forms part of the final chapter of such a well-loved series.”

Calke Abbey, acquired by the National Trust in 1985, is renowned for its preserved, little-restored interiors and historic parkland – qualities that make it appealing to filmmakers seeking authenticity and adaptability. Its selection highlights the estate’s versatility and its growing reputation as a filming location.

To celebrate the release of the latest series of *Outlander*, from Saturday 14 March visitors will be able to discover more about Calke’s on-screen transformation with new walking routes and interpretation across the estate. This will sit alongside behind-the-scenes stories from the filming of the Netflix film *Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man*, which was also filmed at Calke in 2024.

The eighth season of *Outlander* began airing in the US on Starz on 6 March, and is available in the UK on MGM+ from 7 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.