

NORTH EAST ENGLAND WORKS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

invest northeast england



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Why North East England

From film, TV and radio to culture, arts and gaming, North East England is a hot bed of creative talent. In 2022, the region – which stretches from Northumberland right down to County Durham - has seen the largest growth in the creative industries, positioning it as a major UK hub for the sector.



We're home to the BBC, ITV, international gaming studios including Ubisoft Reflections and Sumo Newcastle, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, fashion designer Barbour, and much, much more. The impact of our creative sector can be felt right across the world.

Here in the UK, it's estimated the creative industries could contribute £132 billion to the UK economy by 2025. In North East England, every £1 created by the creative industries generates £2.50 elsewhere in the local economy, and recent data published by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport shows the North East has seen a 51.7% growth in creative industries GVA (2022).

The sector is a huge growth area for North East England, and one that offers significant investment opportunities across music, film, TV, radio, advertising and marketing, fashion and design, publishing, animation, video games and interactive media.

Now is the time for North East England's moment in the spotlight.







Film and TV in the North East

North East England has a long and proud history in film and TV production. Pioneering TV shows like The Tube and Byker Grove were made on Tyneside, and acclaimed films like Harry Potter, Transformers, 1917, and **Dungeons and Dragons were part**filmed in the region.

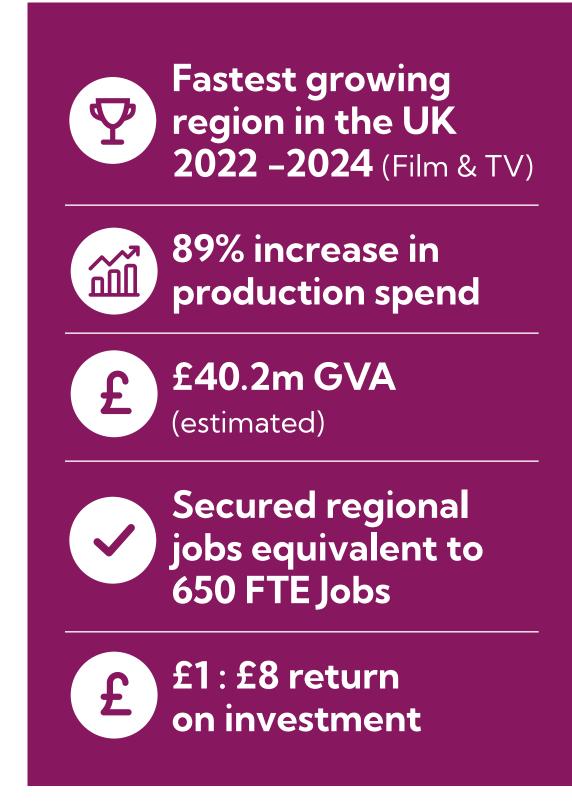


Today, North East England is still one of the leading destinations for film and High End TV (HETV) production in the UK. A growing cluster of production and facilities companies in the region has helped grow and attract a skilled and talented workforce. Coupled with skills and training delivered though the North East's universities, there is a pipeline of talent that is driving growth across the sector.

The region's established infrastructure, competitive operating costs, and extensive transport links has made it a popular destination for major national and international production studios. In recent years, Lucas Film, Warner Bros, Quay Street Productions, Fulwell 73, Hat Trick Productions, and Rivers Meet Productions have filmed in region, working on projects including Harry Potter, Downton Abbey, Indiana Jones, Vera, Smoggie Queens, and Robson Green's Weekend Escapes. The continued growth of the sector has led to new companies opening in the region including True North Post, Northern Child and Sensel Studio; as well as new educational institutions offering bespoke training programmes.

North East England's dedicated Film Office – delivered by North East Screen – remains a huge asset for the region; supporting all incoming productions to find crew and locations. Through its filming friendly local authority network, it's able to make filming in the region seamless - from start to finish.

Funding commitments from the BBC, BFI/ National Lottery, Screen Alliance North, Fulwell 73 and the North East Combined Authority has signaled further growth in the sector and a raft of opportunities. For example, the BBC's £25m investment in 2021, has supported network TV production, talent development and wider support for the creative sector in the region.



*Source North East Screen Impact Report 2022-2024

North East Screen



North East Screen is dedicated to making North East England a destination for global sustainable film and TV production. It works to provide new career opportunities, well-paid jobs and ensure the industry has good working practices, and inclusivity and accessibility at its heart to reflect the region's commitment in making the North East a great place to live, work and play.

Their delivery programme is designed to steadily grow demand balanced with capacity, increasing inward investment and regional production spend, responsibly driving employment and indigenous company growth.

Growing North East England's screen industries will not only deliver economic benefits for the sector, it can also deliver economic benefits across the visitor economy and the wider supply chain that supports the film and TV industry.



The North East Screen Industries Partnership (NESIP) aim is to transform the screen industry in North East England, increasing regional employment and driving inward investment.

North East Screen has a range of support available for production companies looking to work or invest in the region.



Its North East **Production fund** supports world class High End TV (HETV) and award-winning features filming in the North East attracting inward investment and jobs.



Its Film Office supports all incoming productions finding crew, locations and making filming in the region seamless through its filming friendly local authority network.



Its **Development team** supports regional production and supply chain companies to attract talent, and win business.



Its **Skills team** provide support to established crew and new entrants to the industry in the region.



Award-winning skills development programme with **BBC's The Dumping Ground**

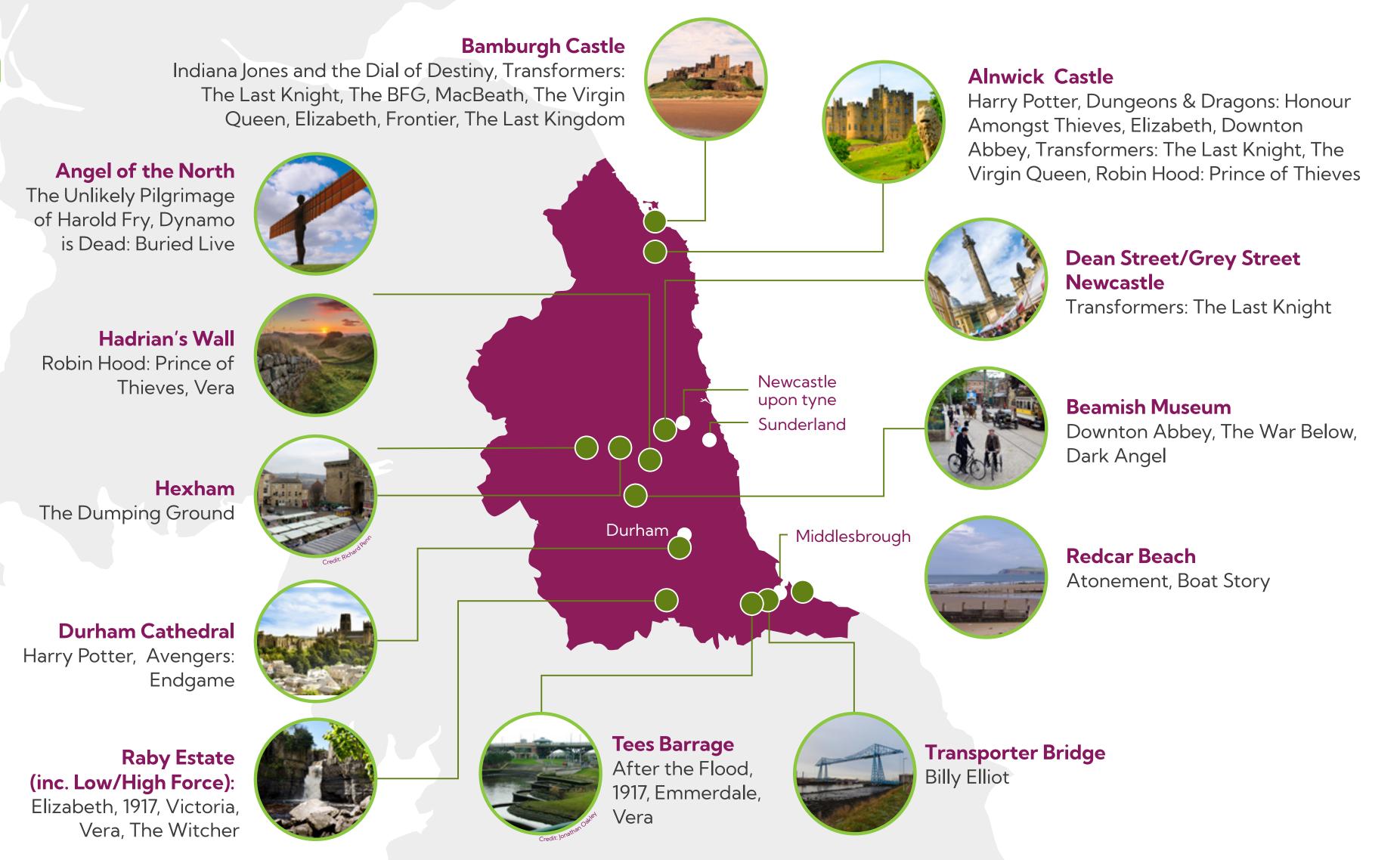
For three years, North East Screen has partnered with the BBC to provide a transformative skills training programme for new entrants and established crew on the set of CBBC's The Dumping Ground, which is currently filmed in Northumberland. The pioneering programme provides new entrants with hands-on experience on a working set and also provides existing crew with the opportunity to upskill, propelling their careers in the TV and film industry. In 2023, 50% of final-stage trainees secured paid, full-time roles on The Dumping Ground and continue to work with the BBC on series 13.

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Film tourism

North East England's reputation as a world-class filming location has led to big name productions being made here - everything from the Transformers and Indiana Jones franchises to the upcoming Danny Boyle feature film. As a result, the region is seeing a rise in film tourism - where film fans visit the sites and locations featured in their favourite movies.



Skills and Training

To support the expansion of the film and TV sector in the North East, a growing number of academic courses and industry-led training programmes are now available; helping to equip local talent with the skills the sector needs. The region's end-to-end support for the filming industry has been bolstered by its access to a great pool of talent.





North East England's talented and experienced crew can access post production facilities and other important assets here in the region.

Screen Alliance North

A British Film Institute (BFI) Skills Cluster created by North East Screen, Liverpool Film Office, Screen Manchester and Screen Yorkshire: Screen Alliance North is a lead skills body for the north of England. The alliance aims to tackle skills shortages and improve access to quality training provision for diverse talent and communities.

Industry-led training programmes

North East Screen

Crew Advance - helping established crew step up into key department lead roles, North East Screen's Crew Advance programme provides mid-career crew with bespoke training and development opportunities through placements and training.

Crew Academy – supporting new entrants to the industry by running bootcamps, masterclasses, workshops, CV surgeries, onset open days and shadow placements, North East Screen's Crew Academy makes a career in Film and TV more accessible.



ITV Signpost Productions

Making Creativity Works offers over 100 hours of free hands-on training that equips local talent with the skills and knowledge they need to develop careers in film, television or video production.

Crew Gal Bootcamps

Crew Gal is a creative industries tech training, recruitment, employment, and consulting agency supplying world-class technical crew for live events and tours. It also provides ongoing training and workshops for its CREW GAL members. CREW GAL is able to put a technical crew in place for the full range of live events and train new tech crew. It also provides a variety of consultancy services both technical and safeguarding/equality.

Beacon Film Academies

Newcastle-based Beacon Film works with young filmmakers through their BFI Film Academy. The programme is open to all, with a special focus on creating a supportive and inclusive environment for disabled and neurodivergent young people.

Universities and Colleges

Universities in the North East offer a range of innovative and creative Film and Media degrees that provide students with the practical skills and academic knowledge to take their next steps in the media and cultural sectors. With some offering masterclasses from **BAFTA**-winning and Oscar-winning film producers, writers, and other experts, places on the courses are increasingly sought after.

With more than 124,000 students studying at the region's five universities, and high levels of graduate retention, there is a strong pipeline of talent for production companies looking to invest in North East England. Universities and colleges in the North East are working in partnership with the sector to inform curriculum development and ensure students join the workplace with the skills the sector needs.

Sunderland University

Students at Sunderland University who study film and media will gain theory alongside practicalbased modules in film production. Their Media and Film Studies courses are ranked 3rd in the UK (Guardian University Guide 2025).



Independent production company Fulwell 73 – makers of Netflix show 'Sunderland 'Til I Die' and lead partners in the £450 million planned Crown Works Studios project – launched a new regional office, Fulwell North, in the **David Puttnam Media Centre at** Sunderland University where students can gain direct experience and insight into a leading production company and how it operates.



Northumbria University

Northumbria University is ranked 2nd in the UK for Film, Production & Photography (Guardian University League Table, 2024) and is ranked 4th in the UK in research power for Art and Design (REF, 2021).

The University has partnered with the British Film Institute to provide students with live-briefs and projects and has connections with local performance venues including Northern Stage and Alphabetti Theatre.

Newcastle University

The media and cultural courses at Newcastle University provide students with the practice skills and academic knowledge needed for the Film and TV sector.

The university is ranked 7th in the UK in the Communication and Media Studies category,

(The Complete University Guide 2025) and is ranked 4th in the UK in the Communications and Media Studies category, (Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024).

Newcastle University film graduates have produced an array of documentary films with some winning prestigious awards national Royal Television Society Awards (RTS) and the Grierson Awards (The British Documentary Awards).

Creative Writing, English Literature and Creative Writing, Film and TV Production, Film and Media, Fashion Communication, Media and Communication, Visual arts and film, Digital Journalism and

Content Creation

Gateshead College

Gateshead College offers a mix of education and practical, real-world skills employers need. Students have regular opportunities to gain work experience from BAFTA-nominated guest speakers and industry partners including BBC, ITV News, and Channel Four.

Students studying Media, Film and TV at Gateshead College are awarded by Europe's largest specialist art and design university - The University of the Arts London (UAL). Comprising six renowned colleges, UAL specialises in nationally recognised qualifications in art, design, fashion, creative media, music, performing and production arts.



93% of TV and Media students have gone into work, an apprenticeship, further or higher education.

Production and Facilities Companies

With decades of experience in delivering film and High End TV productions, North East England has an established and growing cluster of production and facilities companies based in the region.

Companies such as Northern Child, Twentysix 03, New World Design, Natterbox, Fulwell 73, Wooshi, and Sensel Studio have all chosen to establish a base in the region to take advantage of the R&D expertise, skills and ecosystem.

Production companies in the North East have expertise across several genres of TV and Film and have specialisms in all areas of production including content creation, story boards, VR and Al plus post production.

Productions supported from North East studios include scripted and non-scripted content, factual documentaries, sport and comedy such as Angels of the North (Twentysix 03), Sunderland Till I Die (Fulwell 73), A New Life In The Sun (True North) and Mo's last Mile (Film Nova).



Crown Works Studio

Spearheaded by Fulwell 73 and **Sunderland City Council, Crown Works** Studios is a planned £450m project to create one of Europe's largest filmmaking complexes in Sunderland.

Described as the most economically significant development for the North East since the arrival of Nissan in the 1980s, Crown Works Studios will see the creation of a major studio that meets the requirements of the international film and television industry; enabling the region to establish itself as a prime destination for the UK's high-end film and TV production.

Due to open in 2026, Crown Works Studio will transform not just the regional creative ecosystem, but the wider economy too. When complete, the full site is expected to attract global productions worth £644m a year and create over 8,450 new jobs in the region. The state-of-the-art facilities will also deliver a hub for skills and innovation to support the objectives of the UK's film and TV industries.

Crown Works Studio provides an unprecedented opportunity to reshape the geography of the screen industries in the UK.

Crown Works is set to be one of the largest film studios in Europe and is expected to attract global productions worth over

> £644m a year and create 8,450 new jobs in the region.



Sunderland **City Council**

The £120m committed by Sunderland City Council and the North East Combined Authority through the region's devolution deal opens the door for further private and public sector investment.





Major Roads Motorway **Airports** Newcastle upon Tyne 134567205 Newcastle International Airport Sunderland 1426 Gateshead 1011121978 Durham O 9 O17 Middlesbrough Teesside International Airport n ivest north east england

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20 Shudder Films

Productions companies

1 Northern Child	8 Rivers Meet Productions	MCC Media
2 Schnoobert Productions	9 Signpost Entertainment (Multistory Media)	Red Stamp Productions
3 Lonesome Pine	Twenty Six 03	Wander Films
4 Honeybird Studios	11 Candle & Bell	Sea & Sky Pictures
Rock Paper Productions	12 Filmnova	19 Natterbox

Motif

7 Trylife Fulwell 73

6 Bridge + Tunnel Productions

Studios and sites for set builds

1 Northern Studios	6 Pallion
2 Crown Works Studios	7 Pride Media World
3 Hoults Yard	8 Proto
4 Oceana Business Park	9 Middlesbrough Town Hall
5 Neptune	10 Teesside Airport

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Facilities/Supply Chain companies

1 Focus Canning	8 Sam Claypole Casting
2 True North Post	9 PROTO
3 The Church Post	10 Wooshi
4 RunVT	11 Drummond
5 Titan Security	12 Dentsu
6 Orbital FX	13 YNOT
7 The Bee and Dragon	14 Sensel Studio

Education

1 Durham University	8 Gateshead College
2 Newcastle University	Newcastle College
3 Sunderland University	10 Crew Gals
4 Northumbria University	11 Beacon Films
5 Teesside University	12 Signpost/ITV
6 Sunderland College	The Northern School of Art (Hartlepool)
7 New College Durham	



Assets

Supporting the region's film and TV production industry is an established infrastructure and supply chain delivering the technology, innovation and expertise to take the sector forward.

North East Screen Film Office

The North East Screen Film Office supports all incoming productions to find crew and locations across the region by working in partnership with the North East's 12 local authorities through its Filming Friendly Charter.



PROTO

The first digital production facility of its kind in Europe, PROTO - which is based in Gateshead - provides virtual production, 3D scanning, motion capture and sound recording facilities. With access to leading-edge production technology and expertise, PROTO provides a space to support educators, practitioners and innovators to define the future of art and entertainment.

Film and TV companies based in North East England have access to the latest content production methods, allowing them to push creative boundaries in filmmaking.



Facilities at PROTO include:

- · Virtual Production LED Wall PROTO's curved LED wall measures 8 x 3.5m and consists of Leyard VVRi 2.5 LED panels with a combined resolution of 3200 x 1400 pixels at 100Hz 10bit HDR.
- · Optical Motion Capture and Photogrammetry Stage perfect for animation and VFX, it also provides innovative tracking solutions for virtual reality, training and simulation, hologram creation and movement sciences.
- · 3D Scanning the state-of-the-art photogrammetry stage is used to scan and capture characters and large items. Using 120 cameras to shoot 3D images of bodies, faces and heads, it creates photorealistic digital characters for games, immersive experiences and beyond.
- · Immersive Lab offering companies access to the very best hardware and innovative software across AR, VR and mixedreality.

PROTO is a one-of-a-kind facility for film makers, games developers, educators and future focussed creatives.

Advanced **Media Production**

Also located at PROTO in Gateshead is the Advanced Media Production network (AMP). The UK's first network of advanced media production studios, AMP is also the UK's first interconnected 5G enabled facility designed to explore research and innovation capabilities in media production.

[The AMP's Creative Space at PROTO is an exceptional option for production houses, companies, and performers seeking a studio in the North East of England. Its unique location provides significant advantages, including reduced travel time, cost savings, and a smaller environmental impact. This facility comes equipped with all the necessary infrastructure for a top-tier production, boasting top-of-the-line sound, camera, and post-production equipment that meet industry standards.]

The facilities are open to companies and individuals who want to explore, research and share projects, by accessing the unique combination of technologies and leadingedge expertise in virtual production, 3D technology, motion capture, photogrammetry, compute, 5G private networks, and XR equipment.

Some of the technical facilities available include:

Technical expertise

productions benefit from the presence of the AMP studio team, whose knowledge and experience enable creators to get more value from their time on set. The AMP studio team are able to help set up and test custom workflows, calibrate the motion capture systems, and provide technical support and operations throughout the shoot. They also offer post-production data cleaning services.

Full performance capture

the volume capture area features 20 Optitrack Prime17W and PrimeX41 cameras, which - in combination with its in-house hand and facial tracking solutions - offer the unprecedented capability of capturing the full range of motions 4+ actors simultaneously and displayed in real time within a virtual environment of your choice.

Top of the line Industry Equipment

AMP have selected an array of high-end cinema cameras, including URSA black magic cameras, that will capture scenes in stunning clarity while recording its position within 3D space. The interactive wall can mimic depth of field, bokeh, and parallax movements in relation to the operation of the camera.

Support

Like other areas of industry in North East England, the film and TV sector benefits from an established and growing creative development cluster. North East Screen, creative and cultural talent agency Generator, and New Writing North support every element of screen production, and creative writing and publishing.

Other creative agencies, including Creative UK and Helix Arts, also deliver bespoke workshops and networking opportunities for creatives, artists, and freelancers. And three Culture and Creative Zones across the region provide additional help by signposting access to sector support and encouraging collaboration.







Supply chain

The region's film and TV sector has an established and growing sector of businesses who can support including:

Focus Canning

True North Post

The Church Post

RunVT

Titan Security

Orbital FX

The Bee and Dragon

Sensel Studio

Sam Claypole Casting

New World Designs

The region's wider digital and tech cluster forms part of the sector supply chain, offering skills and expertise in areas like graphic design, extended reality, virtual reality, and augmented reality.

Supporting sectors including construction, transport, and food and drink – all vital to the delivery of film and TV production in the region – are in abundance in the North East, and ready to grow alongside the screen production industry to meet its future needs.

The North East is very accessible in it permissions for filming as well as having a wide pool of talented crew that TV & Film companies can utilise.

Twenty Six 03

Twenty Six 03

Twenty Six 03 is a Gateshead-based production company founded in 2015 by industry heavyweight, Duncan Grey. Specialising in unscripted TV, it has brought a number of projects to the North East including the successful bingeable Angels of The North and soon to come, The Big Idea Works with Sara Davies.

Duncan has been responsible for bringing some of the most popular, memorable and ground-breaking entertainment shows to TV audiences in the UK and the US over the past 25 years, including Britain's Got Talent, Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway, The X Factor, The Big Breakfast, and League of Their Own.

On bringing Twenty Six 03 to the region Duncan said: "We knew there was something special about the North East. The appeal of the atmosphere and the people of the region helped us make the decision to move our head office to Gateshead."



Sensel Studio – Sunderland

Chris Simcock founded Sensel Studio in 2015, executing live events, architectural installs, and virtual productions globally, including feature films for 20th Century Studios, episodics for Amazon Studios and Netflix, Faceit eSports leagues, MTV music concerts, and brand launches for Macallan, Nike, and Virgin Media. The company launched Real Time Artists (RTA Pictures ®) in 2022, a next gen virtual production service delivering real-time workflows and pipelines for feature films and episodics.

"[we chose to locate in] North East England as it is becoming well known all over the country for new projects and innovation in film, media and technology. The new, proposed developments along the River Wear will really put the North East on the map in the film industry and we really want to be a part of the success of Sunderland! Also, the incredible courses on offer in the local colleges and universities will mean we have fantastic options when it comes to growing our workforce."

"We have some really cool projects in the pipeline! Our training sessions will launch in February 2024 which will give students really valuable, onsite specific training in VP and In-camera VFX.

Christopher Simcock, Founder of Sensel Studio

Support and access to finance

To support film and TV companies to invest or locate in North East England, a range of funding opportunities are available.

Inward Investment Grants

North East Combined Authority Inward Investment Grant (managed by North East Combined Authority)

Designed for business looking to make their first investment in North East England, grants of between £0.5m-£2.5m may be available for significant investments to support capital expenditure in the setting up of a new operation (subject to companies meeting eligibility requirements).

Local Authority Business Growth Grants (managed by local authorities)

Businesses looking to make investments leading to the creation of new jobs may be able to access grant funding of between £10,000 up to £200,000 (subject to companies meeting eligibility requirements).

The grant schemes are managed by the local authorities and vary slightly depending on the local authority concerned.

North East Production Fund (managed by North East Screen)

Open to both local and national companies, the North East Production Fund aims to catalyse the sustainable growth of the region's film and TV production sector by investing in a portfolio of distinctive, high-quality projects. It aims to contribute to the North East region by increasing on-screen visibility, the employment of locally based crew, and spend in region. It also aims to improve equality, diversity and sustainability.

REACH

(managed by North East Screen)

A grant award aimed at companies requiring business and product development support.

Government Tax Credits for Filming (managed by BFI)

The new Audio-Visual Expenditure Credit (AVEC) provides film and high-end TV with a taxable credit rate of 34%, Children's TV, animated TV and animated film are eligible for a taxable credit rate of 39%.



Connectivity

North East England provides direct access to locations worldwide, with flights to major cites and European hubs via Newcastle International Airport. To the south of the region is Teesside Airport which offers additional flights to the UK and Europe.

The four major train stations in the region -Durham, Darlington, Newcastle and Sunderland - all offer fast and frequent rail links to London (2 hrs 45 mins), Birmingham (3 hours), Manchester (2 hours 30 mins) and Edinburgh (1 hour 30 mins). The Tyne and Wear conurbation benefits from a light rail system with over 60 stations and some of the least congested roads, with an average commute to work of less than 30 minutes.



Well known filming locations across the region, including Alnwick Castle and Durham Cathedral (both used in the Harry Potter franchise), are connected via the region's extensive road network and can be easily accessed for multi-site shoots. North East England's connections by road and rail provide a quick and efficient way to travel between all of the region's stunning filming sites.

With some of the best coast and countryside in the UK, all within short distance from major transport hubs and urban city centres, North East England offers some unique filming locations. From award-winning beaches to iconic historical landmarks, the landscapes and heritage of the North East has provided the backdrop for hundreds of films and TV programmes.

Outside of their use as filming locations, North East England's town, cities, coast, and countryside continue to provide an enviable quality of life for people working in the region. Easily accessible via public transport and car, there's no end to the activities and experiences on offer – everything from locally sourced food and drink, world-class culture, international sport, and iconic events.







Our service

Invest North East England is the first point of contact for companies looking to locate and invest in our region.

Our highly experienced team opens the door for businesses to the region's network of specialist organisations and individuals with the information, support and advice essential for businesses looking to locate in North East England.

We co-ordinate investment enquiries on behalf of our region's local authorities to ensure businesses are able to make the best decisions based on a wide array of information.

Our team has access to the UK Government, support agencies, sector specialists, universities, colleges, knowledge networks, finance streams and business organisations, helping your transition and move to North East England run smoothly.

"Invest North East England has provided our company with many valuable introductions into relevant pathways in the region. They facilitated introductions to the City Council, PROTO in Gateshead, and also North East Screen; all of which have made finding our feet in the North East very smooth.

If we had not reached out to Invest North East England, I doubt we would have the contacts we have made, or the knowledge of the area that we have now. The pride from Invest North East England in the region is contagious, and we have found ourselves really excited for all our future projects here."

Christopher Simcock, Founder of Sensel Studio

Invest North East England supports businesses with a whole range of practical relocation support and advice including:



Advice on availability of land and property and costs



HR support, including wage comparisons, training, recruitment and local market information



Information and statistics on the local economy, demographics, infrastructure and labour market



Support for key employees and their families moving to the area



Organising visits to the region and meetings with key stakeholders



Introductions to supply chain knowledge networks and technological expertise



Access to finance – guidance on the availability of financial assistance and grants



A personal account manager dedicated to your project with a full aftercare programme

Want to take the next step in locating or expanding your business in North East England, or just need to find out more?

Get in touch today.



NORTH EAST ENGLAND WORKS.

- **O** + 44 (0)7342069367
- @InvestNEEngland
- inwardinvestment@northeast-ca.gov.uk
- investnortheastengland.co.uk

invest north east england

