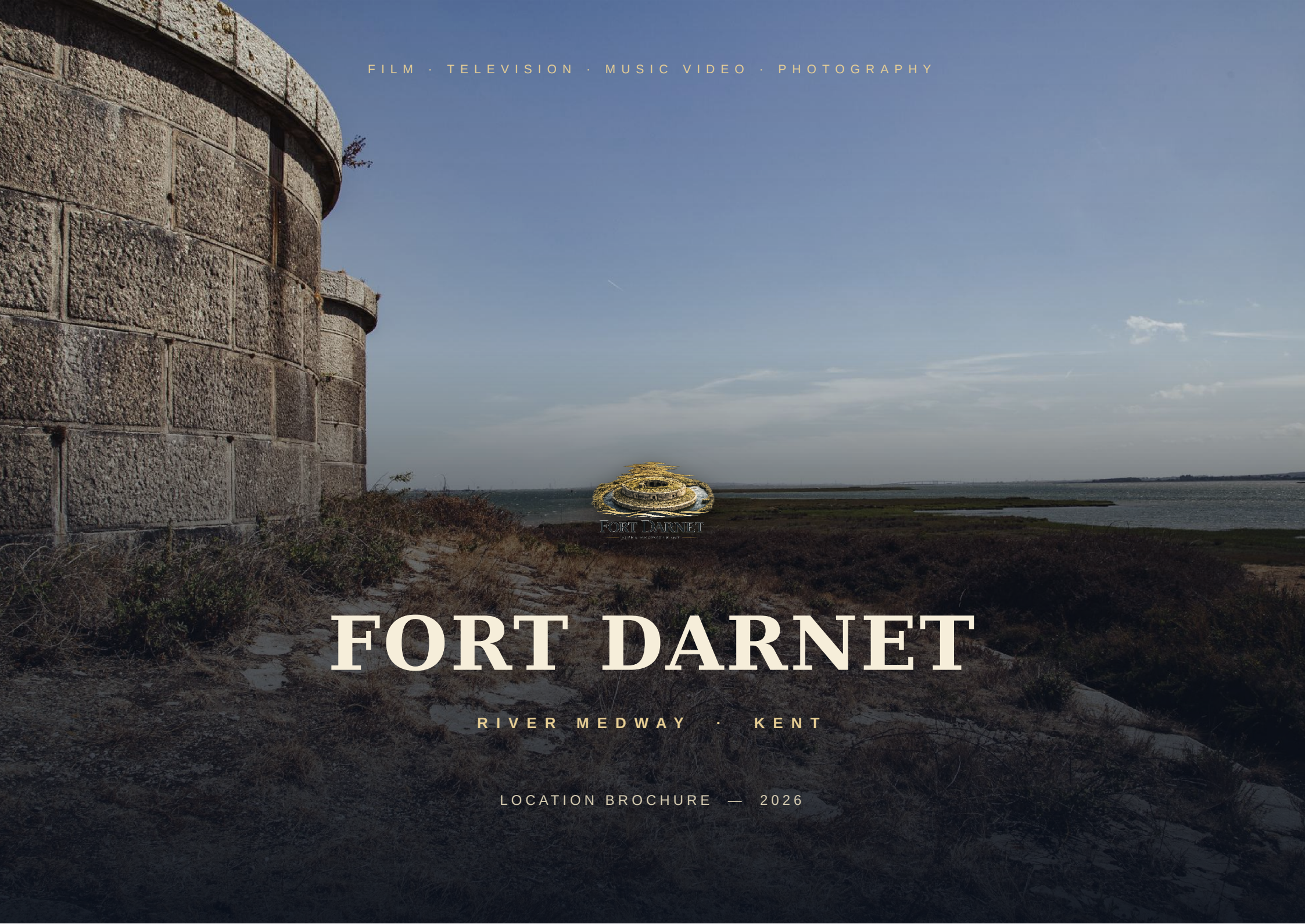


FILM · TELEVISION · MUSIC VIDEO · PHOTOGRAPHY

FORT DARNET

RIVER MEDWAY · KENT

LOCATION BROCHURE — 2026

FORT DARNET BROCHURE

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WELCOME

A Location Like No Other

Fort Darnet is a remarkable, atmospheric 19th-century coastal fortress standing alone on its own island in the River Medway, Kent — 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

Completed in 1872 to Defend the Medway

Fort Darnet was completed in 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 offers a wide variety of filming angles and enclosed period backdrops.

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.

Selected viewpoints offer striking period backdrops, with minimal modern intrusion — ideal for drone work, wide establishing shots and boat-to-shore sequences across the open estuary skyline and surrounding marshland.

GALLERY

Interiors & Detail

GALLERY

Exterior, Setting & Detail



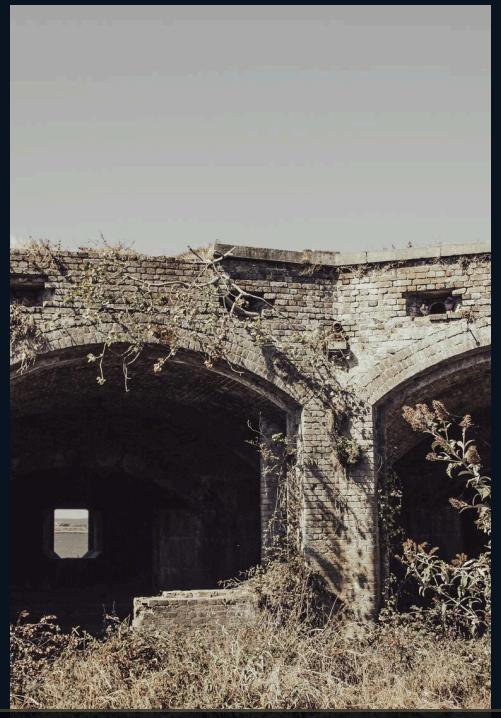




GALLERY

Texture & Detail







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. Scan the code, or find it on YouTube, to watch the film in full.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE

Scan to watch
youtu.be/080nGHUMAEE



SHOWREEL — 02

WWII Concept Trailer

A concept trailer imagining Fort Darnet as a wartime setting, produced using AI-generated footage with 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



SHOWREEL — 03

The Island

A supernatural horror concept trailer, produced using AI-generated footage, following five friends whose Halloween camping trip turns to dread as strange sounds, shifting shapes in the darkness and something glimpsed in the water suggest the island is not as abandoned as it seems. It shows how Fort Darnet's isolation and atmosphere can anchor horror, thriller and period genre production.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE

Scan to watch
youtu.be/BAt4j7fcuaw



SHOWREEL — 04

The Last Key

An escape-room thriller concept trailer, produced using AI-generated footage, in which five friends enter Fort Darnet for an exclusive escape-room experience, guided by a Game Master through a vintage television — only for the fort itself to become part of the puzzle as the clock counts down. It shows how Fort Darnet could anchor a contained, atmospheric feature film or television thriller.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE

Scan to watch
youtu.be/k9sSG_fltIQ





FORT DARNET

“A location that does half the production design for you — stone, water and sky, exactly as found.”

SUITED TO

Genres & Production Types

Heritage & Period Drama

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

War & Conflict Film

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

Music Videos

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

Fashion & Editorial

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

Thriller, Horror & Fantasy

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

Documentary & Factual

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







AT A GLANCE

Fort Darnet, In Brief

Built

Completed in 1872 to defend the Medway

Location

River Medway, Kent — a private tidal island

Status

Scheduled Monument

Access

By boat only, arranged and supervised in advance

Structure

Circular casemated battery in dressed stone and brick

Suited to

Period drama, war film, horror & thriller, music video, fashion, documentary



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.

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.

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.

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 Scheduled Monument.

"Every production 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



FORT DARNET
RIVER MEDWAY · KENT

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