

Steam Locomotive 2857 and the Severn Valley Railway Star in New Netflix Film – Enola Holmes



The Holmes' at Arley Railway Station The scene was filmed at Arley Railway Station in nearby Worcestershire.

One of Shropshire's stately homes has played a starring role in an upcoming Netflix film, Enola Holmes, starring Millie Bobby Brown and Henry Cavill.

The Severn Valley Railway has announced that it played an important role in the new film release on Netflix, Enola Holmes. Last year, the railway hosted the star-studded cast, which included Millie Bobby Brown, Henry Cavill and Sam Claflin, over the three days of filming.

The film shows off Kidderminster and Arley stations, along with GWR steam locomotive 2857 and vintage carriages. Filming was completed in July 2019 with tight security in place.

Duncan Ballard, the SVR's contracts manager, made arrangements for the production company and was lucky to get close to all the action. He said: "We were sworn to secrecy about the whole project, although it caused quite a stir when the film crew was here. It was exciting to see the stations transformed into fictional locations for the film. Although they look a little different on camera, they are clearly recognisable as 'ours'. The production company chose to use locomotive 2857 because it had exactly the look they were after, and our 'toplight' carriages also fitted in well with their plans. Catching a glimpse of the actors was definitely a thrill. The SVR has hosted many film and TV crews over the years, but you can't help being impressed when so many top Hollywood stars come to Kidderminster!"

Stately Shropshire Home Playing Starring Role in New Netflix Film



Benthall Hall, Broseley, 'wilded' for the film

Benthall Hall, in Broseley, was used as a filming location for the new star-studded film based on the beloved book series by Nancy Springer. One of streaming giant Netflix's original films, *Enola Holmes* is a dynamic new mystery-adventure film which introduces the world's greatest detective to his fiercest competition yet: his teenage sister.



Henry Cavill as Sherlock Holmes, Millie Bobby Brown as Enola Holmes, Sam Claflin as Mycroft Holmes

Released in September, the film features Millie Bobby Brown as Enola Holmes, Henry Cavill and Sam Claflin as Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, and Helena Bonham Carter as their mother Eudoria.

Surrounded by Shropshire countryside, and with a fine stone building and grand courtyard entrance, National Trust property, Benthall Hall, was chosen as the ideal filming location for the exterior of 'Ferndell' – the Holmes family estate. However, a lot of work was needed to make this well-cared for historic place look wild and unkempt for the film.

Production Designer Michael Carlin said: "In the story we have the brothers, Sherlock and Mycroft, arriving home for the first time and Mycroft expressing dismay at the state of their home. He's been sending his mother money for upkeep, but she has more important things to do with the money. The gardeners and the people taking care of the house at Benthall were brilliant in allowing the gardens to get really overgrown and letting us drape vines all over the exterior."



Benthall Hall, Broseley

Along with the return of Sherlock and Mycroft to their family home, this location was also used to film carriage rides through the horse chestnut avenue and through gates behind the church into the front courtyard. An assembling search party scene was also filmed on the front courtyard.

Helen Selkirk, visitor experience manager at the National Trust, said: “We’re all really proud and excited to see Benthall Hall on the silver screen, although it is strange to see it looking so wild and unkempt. Our gardening team did an amazing job supporting the film crew create the neglected look they were after. They let the lawns overgrow, helped to dress the hall with vines and added lots of fake plants in the gardens. It was interesting to see what goes into making a film like this as the preparations took around three weeks, then the actual filming was only three days.



On set at Benthall Hall, Broseley

“On one of the days the hall was open to the public and we carried out guided tours, the cast and crew were all very friendly and one young girl was particularly excited to see Millie Bobby Brown. After the filming, the crew and Benthall team quickly restored the hall and garden back to its usual well-loved condition and it was as if they’d never been.”

As well as Benthall Hall, the historic Severn Valley Railway was also showcased at the start of the film when Enola meets her brothers as they get off their train from London.

Benthall Hall's car park and estate walks are open. However the hall, gardens and on-site facilities remain closed. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/benthall-hall for more.