Smart Shooting
on *The Devil's Hour*

Sustainable Film

An analysis of the significant CO2e savings made when *The Devil's Hour* series used footage shot during Season 2 in the making of Season 3.

The Devil's Hour Series

The Devil's Hour is a British psychological thriller television series streaming on Amazon Prime Video. The show was created by Tom Moran and produced by Hartswood Films, it follows Lucy Chambers, a woman who experiences terrifying visions at exactly 3:33 AM, known as the "Devil's Hour."

The visions are tied to a series of unsettling events across multiple timelines, making it an ideal case for planning ahead and filming footage for future seasons.

Smart Shooting:
CO2e Savings Made By Using Previously Shot Footage

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Overview

The purpose of this case study is to analyse the carbon savings made when footage that was shot during production of Season 2 of **The Devil's Hour** was used in the making of Season 3.

It will highlight how this approach reduces CO2e emissions by minimising additional shoot days, cutting down on travel, accommodation, power usage, and other production-related carbon impacts. The study aims to provide insights into sustainable filming practices and demonstrate how strategic planning can contribute to lower-carbon productions.

> ***Due to the nature of the content, everything had to be the same to line it up, there was no chance of shooting elsewhere which means we definitely would have gone back for season 3.***
>
> *Helena Murphy - Head of Development- Hartswood Films*

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Location Filming

To delve further with specific data points, we focused on the carbon emissions from one particular shoot location. The Season 2 Shepton Mallet shoot was chosen due to the availability of data and because two significant scenes filmed there were used in Season 3.

The Devil's Hour Season 2

Shepton Mallet Shoot Dates: **Wednesday 29th March 2023 – Friday 31st March 2023**

During this period 2 scenes were shot for Season 3, totalling **3 mins 17.5s of on-screen time :**

- **Scene 305A:** DI Lucy in agony... (52.5 seconds of on-screen time)
- **Scene 306**: OLD GIDEON faces an accusation whilst incarcerated. (2.25 mins of on-screen time)

If these two scenes were filmed in Shepton Mallet during Season 3...

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Shoot, Travel & Accommodation

For the purposes of this study, we estimate that re-shooting these scenes during Season 3 would have required:

- 1 day of filming
- overnight travel for on-set crew the night before
- overnight stay in a hotel for 1 night for on-set crew
- overnight stay in a hotel for 2 nights for departments needing prep time (such as construction, props, and facilities)

Transport & Fuel Use

Travelling to and from Shepton Mallet for Season 2 and 3 would have remained the same (a full crew move using a mix of cars and minibuses), but there would have been fewer journeys for minibuses and unit drivers between UB and the hotels for Season 3.
To reflect this, when calculating Season 3 Shepton Mallet's Transport & Fuel Use, we halved Season 2 Shepton Mallet's actual fuel usage and emissions, allowing us to account for the fewer journeys and any unrelated travel (such as Bourne Woods or production office trips).
The table below outlines these actual and estimated figures:

		SEASON 2 ACTUAL DATA		SEASON 3 ESTIMATED DATA	
Vehicle type	**Fuel type**	**Litres**	**t/CO2e**	**Litres**	**t/CO2e**
Minibus/Crew car	Diesel	1615.15	4	807.57	2
Crew car	Unleaded	640.58	1.33	320.29	0.32
Unit car	Unleaded	277.86	0.277	138.93	0.289
		TOTAL	**5.96 t/CO2e**	**TOTAL**	**2.98 t/CO2e**

Findings

From this case study, we can conclude that returning to Shepton Mallet to film Scenes 305A and 306 (a total of 3m 17.5s of on-screen time) in Season 3 would have produced a total of:

3.5t CO2e, which would have accounted for 4.46% Season 3's total carbon footprint

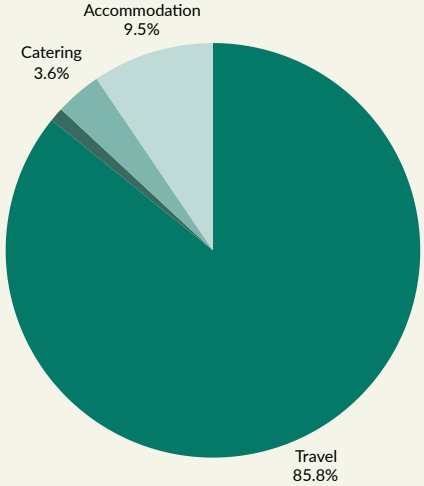
The footprint of the Season 3 Shepton Mallet shoot can be broken down into four main data points:

Travel:
2.98 tCO2e

Power:
0.038 tCO2e

Catering:
0.124 tCO2e

Accommodation:
0.33 tCO2e



Travel contributes the largest share, accounting for 2.98 tCO2e.
Accommodation and catering also contribute significant emissions, while power usage adds a smaller but still relevant footprint.

Conclusion

This Location Shoot Deep Dive has confirmed that by shooting smarter and filming two scenes for Season 3 while they were conveniently on location for Season 2, **The Devil's Hour production was able to save 3.5t CO2e from Season 3's carbon footprint.**

It is also worth emphasising that these savings are for these two scenes totalling 3mins 17.5secs alone. In fact DVHR3 utilised previously shot footage for a total of 21.12 mins of on-screen time, taking the season's overall carbon savings to 27.772 tCO2e.

Planning Ahead = Shooting Smarter

With the knowledge that there were three seasons of the show, DVHR were able to plan ahead and not only save costs, but save carbon too by shooting smarter and filming footage for seasons to come while they were on location shooting Season 2.

The production's forward thinking approach is an admirable, cost-effective & environmentally responsible way of filmmaking, particularly when it is known that there will be further seasons or films made about the same characters in the same spaces. This study has shown that the small act of using previously shot footage can be hugely impactful, and we hope this will bring inspiration to other film and TV makers who find themselves making a a multi-season / multi-film production, particularly one with flashbacks/flashforwards.

The opportunity to save carbon by utilising previously shot footage, rather than returning to a location to film again, can have a huge impact on a production's overall carbon footprint.

Shooting Smarter:
CO2e Savings from Utilising Previously Shot Footage

Data and Methodology
Methodology of each emissions category

Power

Power emissions (S2 actual): 69.03kg/CO2e
Power emissions (S3 equivalent – 33% of actual due to 1 day shooting): 38.35kg/CO2e

Methodology
Generators (source: Daily Production Tracker): 1 x lighting truck, 1 x voltstack and 3 x generators used – Catering, Toilet trailer, camera/DIT/tea urn. All run on HVO.

Fuel deliveries: 1316 litres HVO delivered 24/03, 624 litres HVO delivered 28/03.

1940 litres HVO total for 1-2 days prep, 3 days shoot. (4.5 days).

Estimated shoot time for S3: 1-2 days prep, 1 day shoot (2.5 days)

55.55% of 1940 litres (69.03kg/CO2e) = 1077.8 litres of HVO – (38.35kg/CO2e)

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Data and Methodology
Methodology of each emissions category

Accommodation

Accommodation emissions (S2 actual): 660kg
Accommodation emissions (S3 equivalent – 50% of actual due to 1 night rather than 2): 330kg/CO2e

Methodology: Cutting all on-set crew from 2 nights, to 1 night, all prep days from 2 days to 1 day.

Catering

Catering emissions (S2 actual): 416.3 kgCO2e
Catering emissions (S3 equivalent – 1 day shooting): 124.9 kgCO2e

Methodology: Total emissions from 3 days worth of meals on location in S2 (source: Daily Production Tracker), divided by 3 to show equivalent for 1 day in S3)