

Behind the Scenes: Cobra Film Shoot

A collection of moments from Seething Airfield, Norfolk – featuring John Barns' Dax Cobra and others during a full day of filming.







John Barns' Account – November 20th, 2023

November 20th 2023 Location Seething Airfield Norfolk They say the sun shines on the righteous and today was the day — the first day of sunshine in weeks. A glorious winter's day: cool air temp and clear skies, just perfect. The day started at the control tower with a briefing from the film crew and the airfield manager. All filming was to be carried out at no more than 40mph — “Really?” The airfield manager stated the airfield was live so be aware and give way to any incoming or departing planes as they will have trouble stopping for us! Then came his statement: “I don't want to see any skidmarks or 11's.” That was going to be a challenge, especially in a Cobra. To start with there was myself (John) and Pete. We were briefed to do the finish sequence first. The film crew set up 200 yards up the runway and said, “When we drop the flag, please drive towards us at no more than 40mph, with Pete crossing the line just in front of John.” Well, that's what I heard. Pete heard, “When we drop the flag, nail it...” so he did. He took off like a scalded cat. I thought I must have got it wrong, so did the same — leaving plumes of tyre smoke behind me. Whoops! The film crew, whilst loving the entertainment, re-instructed us to do it again. And again. And again. That shot was in the bag... The day continued with shots from various angles using chase cars and drones. It really was a professional job — I was impressed at the effort and attention to detail to get it right. Later in the morning, after filming a close chase scene, I noticed steam from the front of my car. A small hole in the radiator. This could have been a show-stopper — but with help from the film crew, Pete's tools, and a

quick trip to a nearby village, we were back in action within the hour. Then we heard an almighty roar in the distance. Enter Simon in his Cobra. Now there were three. Filming continued throughout the day — shoot and repeat — to cover all angles. Cameras were mounted on the cars too. One scene involved all three of us jinking down the runway as if we were racing, then veering off onto a perimeter track. As we slowed, I heard a screech to my right. Simon, laughing, appeared alongside me in a full front lock. His tyres were now like 50 pence pieces. Filming continued into the early evening to capture the golden hour. By the end of the day, the crew had everything they needed. We were tired, but in good spirits. We'd had a great day and made some new friends. Heading home, Simon found his lights had stopped working. Most of my dashboard lights didn't work either. I had a repaired radiator, a cracked windscreen, and a bit of gravel rash — but what a great day. It was brilliant meeting two other owners who were happy to really use their cars to make this film. The filming crew were freelance and work across various well-known film companies and TV programmes. Personally, I love the video. I was part of it and saw the effort that went into it. I hope you enjoy it too. — John