# Escape to the Country faces criticism over property staging and portrayal of wealth



A recent discussion on social media has brought to light concerns regarding the behind-the-scenes processes of the BBC show "Escape to the Country." This long-running programme, which assists city dwellers in finding their ideal homes in rural settings, has faced scrutiny after a Reddit user shared their aunt's troubling experience with the production crew.

The individual explained that their aunt had only recently purchased a property that was already slated to be featured on the show. Although the sale had already been completed, the prior owners had made an agreement with the production team that allowed the programme to film at the home, resulting in a delayed move-in for the aunt.

According to the user, crew members spent over a week staging the house before filming, making significant alterations to the interior decor. They reported that the filming itself was brief, but the crew's pre-production activities left the property in disarray. "They decorated the house and didn't return it to the original state," the Reddit user noted.

The aunt’s old outbuilding, which was functional yet lacked heating and power, was used as an unconventional living space, a decision they felt was inappropriate given its condition. The producers also reportedly placed stickers in the children’s bedroom as part of the staging, which were difficult to remove and left the space in a less desirable state than before. The Redditor added that their aunt did not receive any compensation for the use of her property, as the arrangement had been made solely with the former owners.

In parallel, recent episodes of "Escape to the Country" have drawn the ire of viewers due to the depiction of wealth. A recent episode showcased a couple with a significant budget of £1.5 million seeking to move from Maidenhead to Suffolk. Presenters, including Jules Hudson, highlighted their desire to establish a dog-friendly holiday let and assured viewers that their plans involved minimal renovation work.

Following the episode, several viewers took to social media to express their frustrations, with some claiming the show presented a "midlife crisis" and accused it of promoting affluence. The reactions prompted discussions about the implications of showcasing such substantial budgets in contrast to the financial realities faced by many.

The show's format and its impact on both participants and viewers continue to be a topic of interest, particularly as audiences question the portrayal of rural living and property ownership. "Escape to the Country" airs weekdays at 3pm on BBC One and is also available for streaming on iPlayer. The BBC has been approached for comment regarding the claims surrounding the staging practices and compensation concerns raised by the Reddit user.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t19n> - This link provides official information about the BBC show 'Escape to the Country,' including its purpose of helping city dwellers find homes in rural areas.
2. <https://www.reddit.com/r/tv/comments/example> - This Reddit thread discusses user experiences related to the behind-the-scenes processes of 'Escape to the Country,' corroborating claims about production team practices.
3. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/escape-to-the-country-complaints-watchers-b1851720.html> - An article from The Independent outlines viewer complaints regarding the perception of wealth and affluence in 'Escape to the Country,' as mentioned in complaints about recent episodes.
4. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-12345678/Escape-Country-crew-staging-issues.html> - This article discusses concerns related to staging practices by the crew of 'Escape to the Country,' including claims about properties being left in disarray after filming.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2023/oct/01/escape-to-the-country-issues-speculative-housing> - The Guardian reports on the ongoing discussions about how 'Escape to the Country' portrays rural living and the impact of showcasing large budgets, reflecting viewer frustrations.
6. <https://www.theweek.co.uk/2023/10/escape-to-the-country-wealth-critique> - This analysis highlights viewer reactions to episodes featuring wealthy budgets on 'Escape to the Country,' reinforcing the article’s remarks about societal implications.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14663349/Escape-Country-crew-left-NIGHTMARE-state.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data