

# MIDSOMER MURDERS NORTHERN TRAIL

Dorchester-on-Thames / Wallingford / Ewelme / Watlington / Lewknor / Aston Rowant / Chinnor / Thame / the Haseleys and the Miltons / Warborough / Dorchester-on-Thames (total drive time approximately 3.5 hours)

**1** The trail begins in **Dorchester-on-Thames**, one of the prettiest Midsomer county villages. Become truly immersed in the Midsomer Murders experience by following the village Midsomer walking trail and staying overnight in one of the three historic coaching inns, all of which have appeared in the series. Dorchester Abbey is a 'free' must-see in South Oxfordshire, the Abbey is open all year round.

Remember Joyce Barnaby's meeting with her conservation group in 'The House in the Woods'? That's the Abbey's museum. (Museum and tea room seasonal opening)

**2** Next stop is the delightful and tiny village of **Ewelme**, overlooked by many but not the Midsomer Murders film crew. It's worth a stop to take a walk around Ewelme Watercress Beds and to see the nature reserve, community shop, tea room and church.

**3 + 4** Move onwards to the market town of **Watlington** where the library featured as Causton library in 'Orchis Fatalis'. Reputedly the smallest town in England, Watlington's historic architecture covers from the 15th century onwards and has plenty of shops and restaurants. Set off towards **Lewknor**, a pretty brick and flint village complete with pub, village school and a church you may recognise from 'A Tale of Two Hamlets'.



**5** Driving towards Thame, you are in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and there are a few options depending on your interests; **Aston Rowant** nature reserve; the picturesque villages and pubs of Henton and Sydenham or the train station used in 'Death in a Chocolate Box' at the **Chinnor** and Princes Risborough railway (where steam and diesel locomotives run on event days).

**6** On arrival in **Thame** several locations are immediately recognisable from the series, such as The Spredaegle Hotel which appeared as The Morecroft Hotel in 'Midsomer Life' and Rumseys tea room which was Madrigals camera shop in 'A Picture of Innocence'. Thame's independent shops and tea rooms have traditional frontages, there's a spectacular 13th century church, a museum, walking trails, a 700 year old pub and markets, fetes and festivals throughout the year – all the ingredients of a classic Midsomer market town. Time it right and play a championship golf course at The Oxfordshire Golf Resort, or stroll through nearby Waterperry Gardens to learn its remarkable story.

**7** Head in the direction of **Warborough**, and you can take turnings off to the **Haseleys and the Miltons**, locations of many scenes as well as one of the world's finest restaurants, Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons. But make sure you arrive in Warborough in time for a 'swift half' at the Six Bells on the Green; a thatched 16th century pub which features in so many episodes of Midsomer Murders, regulars will recognise it at once!

**1** Returning to **Dorchester-on-Thames** there will be time over dinner to decide tomorrow's agenda. There's plenty more Midsomer to see but if it's Morse you're after, then Oxford is very close. Sticking to the countryside your local options include Wittenham Clumps, a walk along the Thames Path, or the Oxford University's arboretum at Nuneham Courtenay.

For useful links about where to stay in this lovely area, its Midsomer connections, Midsomer walking trails and a more detailed version of this trail log onto [www.visitmidsomer.com](http://www.visitmidsomer.com) [www.southernoxfordshire.com](http://www.southernoxfordshire.com) [www.midsomermurders.org](http://www.midsomermurders.org)



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## DRIVING TRAILS

# MIDSOMER MURDERS

# MIDSOMER MURDERS SOUTHERN TRAIL

Henley-on-Thames / Nettlebed / Wallingford / Moulsoford / Goring & Streatley / Mapledurham / Dunsden Green / Rotherfield Peppard / Rotherfield Greys / Henley-on-Thames (total drive time approximately 3 hours)

**1 + 2** From **Henley-on-Thames**, head out through **Nettlebed**, where The White Hart Hotel and the village hall have both appeared in the series. Or, if you want to start the day with a walk, detour to the Warburg Nature Reserve or to Stonor (seasonal opening), one of England's oldest manor houses.

**3** Arriving in **Wallingford**, the original Causton, follow the Midsomer walking trail which includes The Corn Exchange, the much-filmed Market Place and the theatre which appears in a number of episodes as Causton Playhouse. Period architecture typifies this market town, set on the banks of the River Thames. Bathed in history, take one of the town trails, starting at Wallingford Museum and finishing at the ruins of the 13th century castle and gardens. Famous crime writer, Dame Agatha Christie, was President of the theatre in Wallingford and is buried at St Mary's Church in Cholsey. For a step-back-in-time visit nearby Cholsey and Wallingford Railway, a GWR branch line running steam trains on event days.

**4 + 5** Journey on through the pretty rural village of **Moulsoford** which featured in 'Dead in the Water' (lunch stop or boat hire available at the Beetle and Wedge Inn). Or on to **Goring & Streatley**, pretty riverside villages with a good range of accommodation, shops, pubs and restaurants. Then on to Mapledurham House and Watermill.



An alternative route from Wallingford to Mapledurham would take you through two Midsomer village locations: North Stoke with its pretty 13th century church and Ipsden which offers picture perfect scenes of village pub, village shop and post office, a cricket green and a great place to watch the red kites hovering overhead.

**6** **Mapledurham House** and Watermill has a history of filming, with 'The Eagle has Landed', Inspector Morse, Miss Marple and a double dose of Midsomer Murders where John Nettles is DCI Tom Barnaby in 'The Fisher King' and Neil Dudgeon is DCI John Barnaby in 'Dark Secrets'. Enjoy a cream tea made with flour from the watermill. Still privately owned, the family are lovingly restoring this magnificent 17th century home, the watermill and its extensive grounds. (seasonal opening)

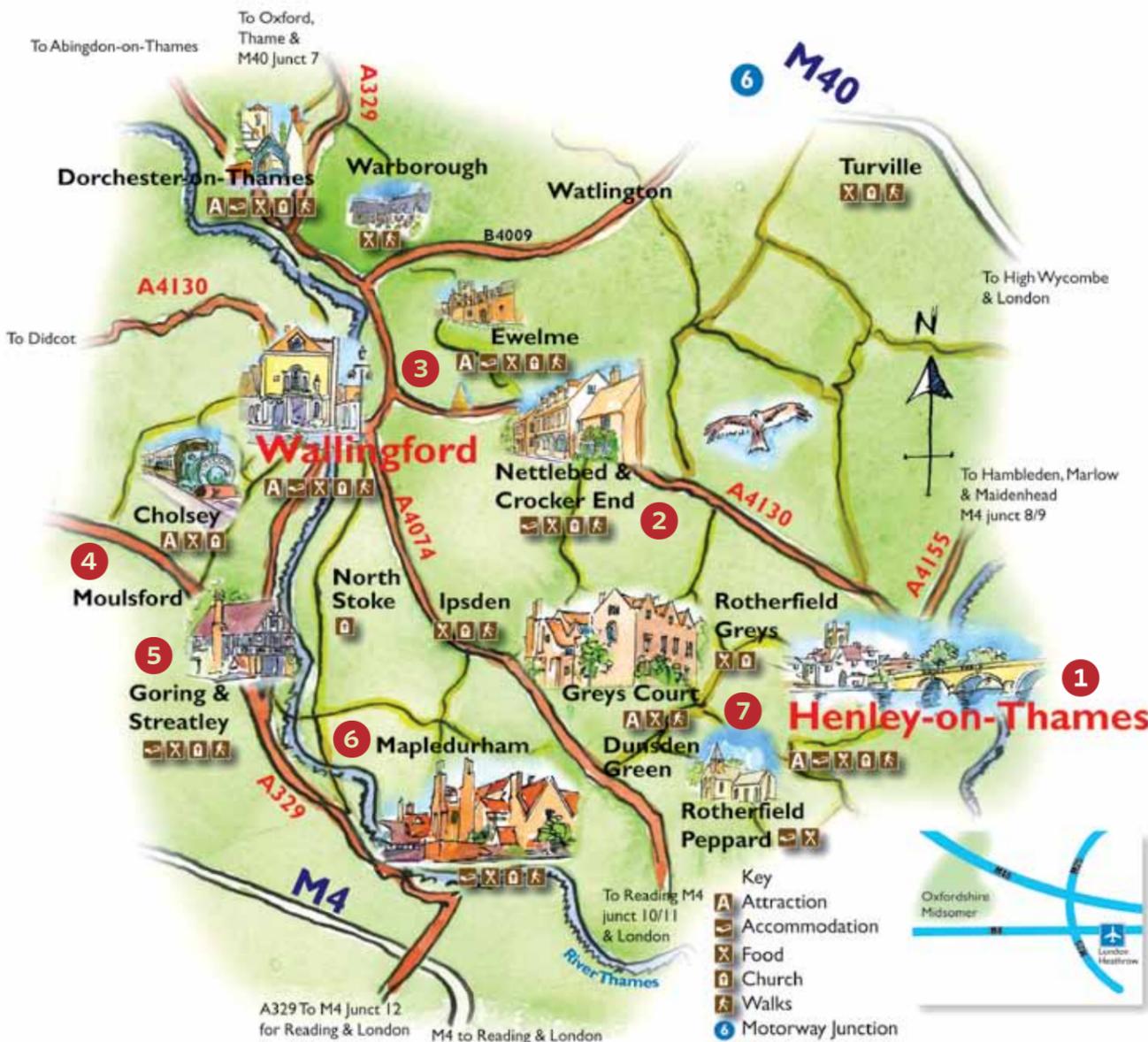
Heading back towards Henley-on-Thames, you have three detours to choose from: Dunsden, Rotherfield Peppard or Rotherfield Greys.

**7** **Dunsden Green** is the home of Lodden Brewery featured in 'The Night of the Stag'. Peer in to see the beer brewing and buy a few bottles from the shop to take home (Mon-Sat). At **Rotherfield Peppard**, both church and primary school featured in the series. The school is 'Badgers Drift Primary School'. **Rotherfield Greys** is home to Greys Court, a 16th century, wisteria clad, mansion managed by The National Trust and site of Brother Robert's monastery in 'Orchis Fatalis' and the priory in 'A Sacred Trust'. Greys Court was also a location for Downton Abbey.



**1** Back into **Henley-on-Thames**, choose from the many restaurants, bistros and pubs in this vibrant market town. The Kenton Theatre is thought to be the 4th oldest working theatre in the UK. Chill out at the cinema or enjoy a cruise to view this picturesque town in style from the River Thames. Why not walk along the river and visit the Henley River and Rowing Museum where the Wind in the Willow's Ratty and Mole make a special appearance. Henley's festival season runs almost year round, taking in literature, film, music and, of course, the world famous Royal Rowing Regatta where Barnaby and Joyce attended the Midsomer Regatta in 'Dead in the Water'.

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