

From *The Spectator*, 26 May:

The great escape: where to buy property after lockdown

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The so-called 'Cotswold borders' are an untapped property goldmine with topnotch train links and chocolate box looks to boot. The area just off junction 9 of the M40 between Oxford and Banbury is infinitely more commutable than the Cotswold favourites closer to the Gloucestershire border.

Look for villages close to the beefed up Bicester to London trainline which can get you into London Marylebone in less than 50 minutes with trains leaving every half an hour. Soho Farmhouse's latest opening in the village of Great Tew (where the Beckhams have spent lockdown) has put this area on the map for canny Londoners fleeing the capital so expect significant investment interest here in the following few years.

Key villages whose potential has yet to be fully tapped are Deddington (which boasts a luxury deli and takeaway coffee shop should lockdown strike again), Duns Tew, Steeple Aston, South Newington, Wiggington and Hook Norton – all made up of gorgeous cottages built in the distinctive honey-hued stone that make this area so unique. All are within easy reach of the Banbury, Bicester and Oxford stations.