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THAME OXFORDSHIRE

MIDSOMER MURDERS TRAIL

Follow filming locations in and around
the historic market town of Thame



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THAME AND ITS MIDSOMER MURDERS FILMING LOCATIONS

MIDSOMER WALKING TRAIL OF THAME TOWN CENTRE

Midsomer Murders is based on the novels of Caroline Graham. The original pilot programme, *The Killings at Badgers Drift*, was aired on 23rd March 1997 and the four episodes of the first full series in 1998, *Written in Blood*, *Death of a Hollow Man*, *Faithful Unto Death* and *Death in Disguise*, were based on her books. Elizabeth Spriggs was a leading actor in the first episode and is buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Thame.



There have now been well over 100 episodes. John Nettles played DCI Barnaby for the first 81 episodes, stepping down in 2011 at the end of series 13. Neil Dudgeon has played Barnaby ever since. Thame has featured in 16 episodes, in some briefly but in others, such as *Picture of Innocence* and *Vixen's Run*, it features heavily. Episode 1, series 20, screened in 2019, features the gatehouse of Thame's Prebendal and nearby cricket ground.

The walking trail takes just over an hour and features all the locations used in the town centre. The suggested starting point is Thame Museum.



THAME MUSEUM



THAME TOWN HALL



BUTTERMARKE



THE COFFEE HOUSE



MARKET HOUSE



RUMSEY'S CHOCOLATERIE



THE SWAN HOTEL

1 THAME MUSEUM

The Museum was used for the interior scenes at Causton Museum in *Secrets and Spies*. An object, an animal's skull, is suspected as the murder weapon (not one of the museum's exhibits!). Causton Museum is broken into and is investigated by DC Jones who flirts with the Curator, Amanda Watson.

Thame Museum was originally built in 1864 as the County Court House. It was converted into a magistrate's court in 1984 and finally became the town's museum in 2005.

Leave the Museum, turn left, cross Bell Lane and walk along the High Street

2 WILLS & TRUSTS, 91-92 HIGH STREET

The offices of Wills & Trusts (next to the Book House) were used as a solicitor's offices in *The Oblong Murders*.

3 THAME TOWN HALL

As you walk along the High Street, you will see a large red brick building facing you - Thame Town Hall. In *Days of Misrule* it appears in the Christmas scene, with Joyce Barnaby singing carols round the Christmas tree outside Causton Town Hall. The Town Hall was again used as Causton Town Hall in *Shot at Dawn* and as Causton Arts Centre in *The Maid in Splendour*. Across from the Town Hall, Connells Estate Agents appears as Causton Bookies in a sub-plot of the same episode.

There has been a building on the site of the Town Hall since 1509. The current building was built in 1887, using local brick, to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

Looking to the left you will see ...

4 TIM RUSS & COMPANY

In *The House in the Woods* Tim Russ & Company, Estate Agents, became Harriet Davis' Estate Agency. Harriet Davis is involved in a plot to acquire a derelict building in the woods. However, it doesn't end well for Harriet.

The partly pedestrian street to the left of the Town Hall is Buttermarket ...

5 BUTTERMARKE

This pedestrian street appears in many episodes. In the opening of *Vixen's Run*, it is dressed for the 1953 Coronation. A woman is seen riding a horse along the road. She is on her way to meet a lover. In *Picture of Innocence* Buttermarket becomes a street market where Barnaby is kissed by a complete stranger - this incident is photographed, and the picture is used as part of the plot line. In *Midsomer Life*, a tipsy barmaid from the Morecroft Hotel (the Spread Eagle) is seen staggering along Buttermarket. In *Dead in the Water*, Jones and Barnaby take coffee with Hattie Trent at the end of Pump Lane.

6 THE COFFEE HOUSE

In *Picture of Innocence*, Barnaby is sitting in the Coffee House looking at the picture of him kissing a woman. He notices faintly in the background the sign on the health food shop called Now and Zen - actually the side entrance to what is now White Stuff.

7 PRETTY LIKE PICTURES

At the top of Buttermarket, Pretty Like Pictures appears in *Picture of Innocence* as Quikpix, the digital photography shop and major rival to Madrigal's camera shop. Jones talks to the owner about photographs of a glamour model.

Cross the road by the zebra crossing and go left along North Street to the passage leading to Kew Bookbinding

8 KEW BOOKBINDING

Kew Bookbinding's premises feature as a printing shop in *Blood Wedding*. Barnaby has forgotten to pick up the order of service cards for his daughter's wedding. The shop is closed and Jones tries to force entry with a credit card.

Now walk back to Montesson Square and Market House

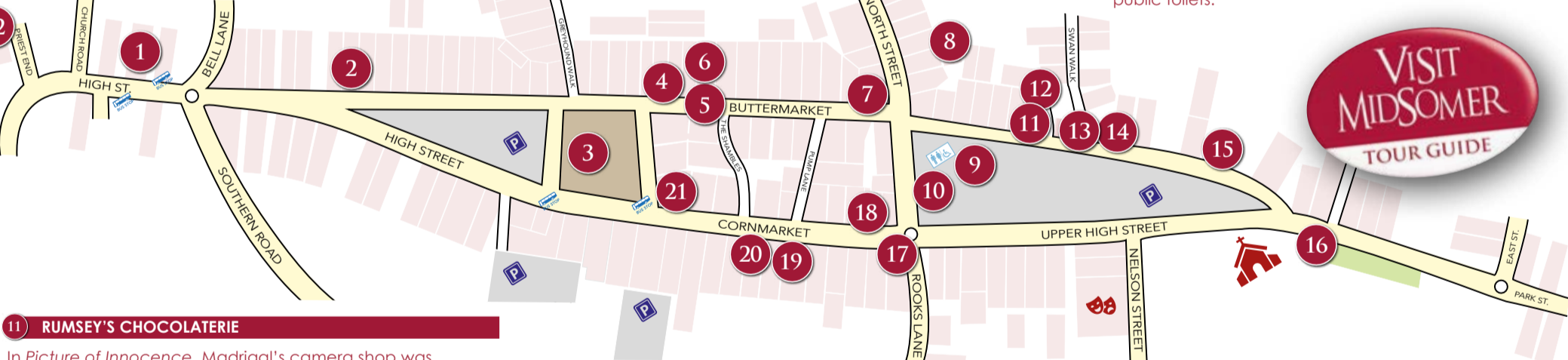
9 MONTESSON SQUARE

Montesson Square features in a panoramic shot during the title sequence at the start of *Picture of Innocence*, ending outside Madrigal's camera shop - now Rumsey's Chocolaterie.

10 MARKET HOUSE, MONTESSON SQUARE

Market House became the offices of the local magazine, *Midsomer Life*, in the episode of that name. When the murderer was arrested, she was actually led from the building via the public toilets. In *Vixen's Run*, Market House was Causton Library.

Built in the eighteenth century, Market House has, over the years, been a baker's shop, an inn, and a Methodist chapel. Market House today houses a Citizens' Advice Bureau and also public toilets.



11 RUMSEY'S CHOCOLATERIE

In *Picture of Innocence*, Madrigal's camera shop was what is now Rumsey's Chocolaterie. At the time of filming, the shop was empty: having been Jordan's Delicatessen it was to become Rumsey's. Madrigal's was a traditional photographic shop in the village of Luxton Deeping, and the owners were bitter rivals of Quikpix, a digital camera shop in a neighbouring village.

12 JORDAN'S YARD

In *Vixen's Run*, Barnaby is seen turning into Jordan's Yard to visit a solicitor's office. The woman who was riding along Buttermarket goes to see the solicitor regarding her late husband's estate. There is a break-in at these offices and, later still, the solicitor dies in a fire at his cottage.

13 THE SWAN HOTEL

In *Vixen's Run*, Lucinda and Simon are staying at the Swan. They are trying to find clues regarding Lucinda's father's estate and later go into Causton Library (Market House) for information. The clues are found in an edition of Rupert Brooke's *Collected Poems*.

The Swan Hotel dates from the fifteenth century. The frontage was later altered to become the present Georgian façade. Inside this Grade 2 listed building, there is a sixteenth-century painted ceiling.

14 THE AGA SHOP

Featuring as Causton Chemists in *Vixen's Run*, Barnaby is seen leaving this shop after going in to get some tablets for his indigestion.

Outside the shop, he has a conversation with the pathologist, Ballard, about whether Sir Freddy Butler really died of natural causes.

15 UPPER HIGH STREET

This is Lionel Bell's house in *Picture of Innocence*. Lionel is murdered and Barnaby is seen in conversation with the postman outside the front door. Later, Lionel's daughter, Philomena, the new owner who has put it up for sale, is seen leaving the house whilst in conversation with Barnaby and his wife, Joyce.

Walk to the end of the car park and look across the road into the courtyard of 34 Upper High Street on the opposite side of the road

16 COURTYARD, 34 UPPER HIGH STREET

This courtyard (belonging to the offices of CarmichaelUK) has featured twice as an undertakers'. In *Things That Go Bump in the Night* it was Pennyman's. In *Vixen's Run* it was Cook's.

Now walk back towards the Town Hall, staying on the car park side of the road

17 THE BLACK HORSE

This pub and brasserie featured in *Death in the Slow Lane*. It was Neil Dudgeon's first episode as DCI Barnaby and he decides to visit a local Causton pub. He is seen approaching it and standing at the bar chatting with the barman and one of the locals.

Cross the road into Cornmarket

18 OXFAM BOOKSHOP

This was the Cover to Cover Bookshop in *Vixen's Run*. It was managed by Jenny, thought erroneously to be the love child of Sir Freddy Butler (deceased). Before he passed away, he had set her up in Cover to Cover, now the Oxfam Bookshop.



19 THE SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL

The Spread Eagle became the Morecroft Hotel in *Midsomer Life*. It also featured in *Vixen's Run*, being used for the interior shots of the Swan Hotel, where Lucinda and Simon were staying.

The Grade 2 listed hotel dates to the Georgian period. Between 1922 and 1932, John Fothergill, legendary innkeeper, chef and wine connoisseur, made it the place to stay and dine in the UK. It is instantly recognisable by the 30ft original sign depicting the Spread Eagle crest.



20 OXFAM SHOP

The Oxfam Shop appeared as another charity shop in *They Seek Him Here*, which revolves around a remake of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. In this episode the shop was raising funds for a hospice.

21 PARKERS ESTATE AGENTS

Parkers Estate Agents was used as the offices of *The Causton Advertiser* in *Last Year's Model*.

22 THE PREBENDAL

The gatehouse entrance appears in *The Ghost of Causton Abbey*. Barnaby and Jones are investigating a murder at a brewery, formerly Causton Abbey.

The Prebendal, in medieval times the residence of the Bishop of Lincoln's prebendary, has more recently been home to Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees, and he is buried in St Mary's Churchyard nearby.

THAME - A MIDSOMER MARKET TOWN

THAME - A MIDSOMER MARKET TOWN

Thame is one of the most filmed locations in the fictional Midsomer County for the popular ITV series Midsomer Murders. As a thriving Oxfordshire market town set at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, Thame has much to attract visitors who come to see places featured in the TV series.

Thame is an award-winning town. It has twice received awards, as a Rising Star and as a Small Market Town finalist in the Great British High Street Competition. The town also gained second place in the Royal Town Planning Institutes's England's Greatest Places Competition.

Thame was thought to be Anglo-Saxon in origin, but in 2015 archaeologists made the major discovery of an early Neolithic enclosure in the town, dating from nearly six thousand years ago. There is also evidence of Iron Age and Roman settlements.

Thame has developed its own individual character whilst preserving its rich history. Ancient medieval buildings stand alongside Georgian and Victorian architecture and the iconic boat-shaped High Street stands as testimony to the marketplace for which it was originally designed. Thame still hosts a popular weekly market, which has been trading continuously for over 800 years, as well as a regular farmers' market.

Visitors can follow Thame's own Midsomer Walking Trail, and the town is also an ideal base for enjoyable excursions to the many picturesque villages in the local area featured in episodes of Midsomer Murders.

Thame is perfectly situated close to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Visitors can follow many public footpaths through the Chiltern Hills, including the Ridgeway Path and Oxfordshire Way, where superb views of the surrounding area can be enjoyed.



Thame has an active calendar of events hosted by local organisations through the year, including **Thame Food Festival**, **Thame Arts & Literature Festival**, **Music in the Park** and **Thame Town Music Festival**. The Players Theatre in Nelson Street, off Upper High Street, presents live theatre and cinema throughout the year. Visit thameplayers.co.uk for details.

MIDSOMER LOCATIONS NEAR THAME

Soak up the atmosphere of the English rural villages that make up 'Midsomer County', by taking a guided tour or following Midsomer driving trails. These are some of the delightful and historic villages that have featured in episodes of Midsomer Murders. For more information go to visitmidsomer.com, thametowncouncil.gov.uk, visitchilterns.co.uk, visitbuckinghamshire.org or experienceoxfordshire.org

Adwell, Oxfordshire

St Mary's Church - Midsomer Parva Church, *The Sword of Guillaume*, *Death and the Divas*

Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire

Village houses - *The House in the Woods*; *A Sacred Trust* (the Virtue Arms, a village store)

Beckley, Oxfordshire

The main street - *Electric Vendetta*

Bledlow, Buckinghamshire

The Lions of Bledlow pub, *Holy Trinity Church*, houses (all in Church End)

The Killings at Badgers Drift, *Death's Shadow*, *Dead Man's 11*, *Blue Herrings*, *Dark Autumn*, *A Worm in the Bud*, *Birds of Prey*, *King's Crystal*, *A Rare Bird*

Brill, Buckinghamshire

All Saints Church - *Four Funerals and a Wedding*

The Pointer pub - the John Knox pub, *Four Funerals and a Wedding*

In village - incident room, *Four Funerals and a Wedding*

Brill Windmill - *A Tale of Two Hamlets*

Chearsley, Buckinghamshire

The Bell Inn - the Woodman pub, *Country Matters*

Chearsley Post Office & Stores - Elverton village store, *Country Matters*

Chinnor, Oxfordshire

Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway Station - Holm Lane Junction, *Death in a Chocolate Box*

Village houses - Trevor Minchin's house, Woodley & Woodley tailors, *The Made to Measure Murders*

Christmas Common, Buckinghamshire

Gated house - *The Killings at Badgers Drift* and *Ring Out Your Dead*

Crowell, Oxfordshire

The Shepherd's Crook pub - the Apple Tree pub, *The Night of the Stag*

Cuddington, Buckinghamshire

Cuddington Village Stores - *Death of a Stranger*, *Not in My Backyard*, *Talking to the Dead* (Paradorma shop)

The Crown pub - *Death in Disguise*

Bernard Hall (Village Hall) - incident unit, *Death of a Stranger*; band's headquarters, *Death and Dreams*; Spanish evening, *Bad Tidings*; Cyrus's talk, *Talking to the Dead*

St Nicholas Church - graves of Tom Hicks, Douglas Hammond, *Shot at Dawn*

Village houses - *Birds of Prey*, *Bad Tidings*, *Death and Dreams*, *Talking to the Dead* (the vicarage)

Dinton, Buckinghamshire

The village green - Midsomer Barton's Oak Apple Day, *Dead Letters*; *Who Killed Cock Robin?* (a well)

The Seven Stars pub - Heart of Oaks pub exterior, *Dead Letters*

Church of SS Peter and Paul - the wedding, *Who Killed Cock Robin?*

Great Haseley, Oxfordshire

St Peter's Church - wedding scenes, *Midsomer Rhapsody*; postman's funeral, *Dark Autumn*

Great Haseley Village Hall - an antique shop, *Dark Autumn*; Midsomer Parva village hall, *Blood Wedding*; recital location, *The Silent Land*; photographic exhibition, *Picture of Innocence*; book-signing session, *The Fisher King*; *Not in My Backyard*

The Haseley Plough pub - Barnaby and Troy play Aunt Sally, *Dark Autumn*; March Magna library, *The Silent Land*

Village houses - *Picture of Innocence*, *The Silent Land*, *Days of Misrule*, *Hidden Depths*, *Midsomer Rhapsody*

Great Milton, Oxfordshire

The Bull Pub - the Blacksmith Arms, The Old Stores, *The Christmas Haunting*

Haddenham, Buckinghamshire

St Mary's Church and pond - *Birds of Prey*, *Judgement Day*, *A Talent for Life*

Village properties - *Vixen's Run*, *Orchis Fatalis*, *Midsomer Life*

Henton, Oxfordshire

A village house - Ford's house in *A Rare Bird*

Lewknor, Oxfordshire

Lewknor Primary School - *A Tale of Two Hamlets*, *The House in the Woods*

Little Haseley, Oxfordshire

Village properties - *Dark Autumn*, *Hidden Depths*, *Midsomer Rhapsody*

Little Haseley Manor House - Melvyn Stockard's house, *Who Killed Cock Robin?*

Little Milton, Oxfordshire

Morgan & Associates Estate Agents - *Hidden Depths*

Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire

Long Crendon Manor - *Garden of Death*, *Things That Go Bump in the Night*, *The Axeman Cometh*

The road outside the Manor - *A Tale of Two Hamlets*, *Second Sight*

The High Street - *Tainted Fruit*, *The House in the Woods*, *Blood Wedding*, *Blood on the Saddle*

The Eight Bells pub - *A Tale of Two Hamlets*, *Blood on the Saddle* (as the Florey Arms), *The Oblong Murders*

The Library, St Mary's Church - *Blood Wedding*, *Dead Letters* (church only)

Monks Risborough, Buckinghamshire

Local houses and the bells of the church - *Ring Out Your Dead*

Moreton, Thame, Oxfordshire

Chestnut Farm - the home of a victim, *Death and Dreams*

Nether Winchendon, Buckinghamshire

St Nicholas Church - *Things That Go Bump in the Night*

A nearby house - *Death in Disguise*

Nether Winchendon House - The Lodge of the Golden Windhorse, *Death in Disguise*; Lynton Pargetter's home, *Talking to the Dead*

Shabbington, Buckinghamshire

The Old Fisherman pub - *A Talent for Life*

Stanton St John, Oxfordshire

Village store - *Electric Vendetta*, *A Worm in the Bud*

Local cottages - *A Worm in the Bud*

Stoke Talmage, Oxfordshire

St Mary Magdalen Church - funeral scenes in *Orchis Fatalis* (Joyce and Tom are seen walking in the churchyard)

Sydenham, Oxfordshire

St Bartholomew's Church - Midsomer Abbas church

The Crown pub - the Stag Inn, *The Night of the Stag*

Thame Park, Thame, Oxfordshire

Thame Park House - Tye House in *Death's Shadow*

Thame Park grounds - hunt scenes in *Death of a Stranger*

NB Private house, not open to the public

Towersey, Oxfordshire

Village houses - Adam Keyne's house, *Tainted Fruit*; Connor Simpson's house, *Death in Chorus*

Wainhill, Buckinghamshire

Wainhill Railway Crossing - *Death in a Chocolate Box*

Worminghall, Buckinghamshire

Worminghall Village Hall - Midsomer Wore School, *Second Sight*

Former Oakley Airfield - *A Talent for Life*

Thame is 14 miles east of Oxford, 10 miles south-west of Aylesbury and 47 miles from London. It is well connected to Birmingham and London by the M40 motorway and just an hour from Heathrow.



ACCOMMODATION



In the town centre, both the Spread Eagle Hotel and the Swan Hotel have been used as Midsomer filming locations. Near Thame there is a wide choice of hotels, inns, B&Bs and guest houses to choose from, including Midsomer locations such as Long Crendon Manor and The Pointer in Brill. For further information on where to stay, visit thametowncouncil.gov.uk, visitchilterns.co.uk, visitbuckinghamshire.org.

EATING & DRINKING

There are many excellent choices for eating and drinking in Thame, including a varied selection of pubs and restaurants. Why not try Midsomer locations such as Rumsey's Chocolaterie, where you can sample delicious Barnaby Buns served with jam and cream, the Black Horse Pub & Brasserie, or the Coffee House on Buttermarket? Also on Buttermarket, The Deli at No 5 offers Midsomer-themed cheese and gin. Atalay's Kebabs (Upper High Street) has been voted Best Kebab Van in Britain.

There are also plenty of great pubs and gastro-pubs nearby, including Midsomer locations such as The Haseley Plough at Great Haseley, The Old Fisherman in Shabbington, and the Eight Bells in Long Crendon.



SHOPPING

The town centre boasts a fantastic range of unique shops and delicatessens as well as high street names. Goods on offer range from beautiful handmade jewellery to local produce such as artisan breads and oils. More information on shopping in Thame can be found at thametowncouncil.gov.uk.



GUIDED TOURS OF MIDSOMER FILMING LOCATIONS IN THAME



Why not join a tour led by one of our knowledgeable Midsomer tour guides? Tours for groups of up to 15, lasting up to 1¼ hours, run at 11am every Wednesday between April and October. The tours start from inside Thame Museum, 79 High Street, Thame, OX9 3AE.



Tickets cost £7.50 each and may be purchased online at ticketsource.co.uk/thamemidsomer. Tickets may also be purchased in person at Thame Museum (open Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 10am - 4pm and Sunday 1pm - 4pm), or online on the Thame Museum website thamemuseum.org.

Alternatively, simply turn up on the day and pay the guide.

For more information visit thametowncouncil.gov.uk or visitmidsomer.com.

Part of the proceeds from Midsomer tours goes to charitable causes.

Grateful Thanks

We are grateful for the support of our sponsors and partners in producing this leaflet.



We are also grateful to Bentley Productions, producers of **Midsomer Murders**, for their kind assistance.

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