

The Marque

Telegraph Property

25 January 2014

A step-by-step guide to a simple commute

Forget the car, bus, train or Tube: walking to work is healthy, eco-friendly and free. **Graham Norwood** finds homes for sale where all you need is your own two feet

Train fares are up, traffic jams are getting worse and you can guarantee the weather will be atrocious. Who'd be a commuter in 2014? But you can avoid being stuck in the motorway or during the wrong sort of snow by moving to a new home near where you work. A recent Census revealed that 20 per cent of London residents walk to work, but outside the capital the total is worryingly low. But now there is no excuse as many developers are spotting city centre plots that are perfect for new homes. Research has also consistently shown that regular walking improves your health, fitness and happiness. Here are the UK's best new-builds that are a short stroll from the office.

Harold's worst commuters

- **Lee Pines, Colchester**: Commuters can't get a 1,300 sq ft house for a garage.
- **Pennington, Harrogate**: 195 minutes each way to city, bus and metro.
- **Brinsford or Antwerp**: World's most air-polluted cities.
- **Teign underground**: The local bus operator is up to 177 per cent costly.
- **Sea Pooter**: Traffic jams have stretched 100 miles.
- **M50**: Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Herefordshire: 10 per cent of bus are delayed.
- **Belting**: 1,270 sq ft per square mile.

1 Chalfont, Gloucestershire
A three-bedroom flat is at Wellington Square, one of the city's sought-after addresses. It has 1,250 sq ft of space plus oak flooring and double glazing. The apartment is a 20-minute walk to the city centre. £449,950 from Fine & Country (01242 220900); fineandcountry.com.

2 Croydon, Surrey
Tens of thousands of people work in central Croydon and the 782 new homes at Seddon Square. Proportion vary from one-bedroom flats to three-bedroom penthouses in the new 43-storey tower. Residents can enjoy a roof terrace, 24-hour concierge and gym. £442,500-£1.1m through Berkeley Homes (020 8774 9898; suffolkspire.com).



3 Wolverhampton, West Midlands
Fortuna, a block of 194 one- and two-bed apartments, is a slightly 11-minute walk from the city centre or 15 minutes from the university. The living area is open-plan and flats can be purchased via the Help to Buy scheme. £86,950-£104,950 through Barrell Homes (01902 834618; barrellhomes.co.uk).

4 Bath, Somerset
The selling agent expects these two- and three-bedrooms flats to be snapped up as periods here. They are only 11 minutes' walk from the beautiful city centre. Sales range from 1,800-1,250 sq ft

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offices, the Old Tannery scheme has a two-bed flat with an L-shaped open-plan kitchen/diner and ultra-low "living area". The apartment also comes with an audio entry security system. £250,000 from Bellway Homes (0845 207 9000; bellway.co.uk).

Brighton, East Sussex
A one-bedroom two-bed flat, located in the new Royal Alexandra Quarter of Brighton. The floor-to-ceiling window and a balcony give for sweeping views along the coast road and South Downs. There is also that Brighton "sun-bath" – a balcony store. £350,000 through Mulhous Mackay (01773 770000; mulhousmackay.com).

Maidenhead, Berkshire
The Hoxley House scheme of 11 apartments is a few minutes from the centre of Maidenhead. But this may be a good investment for those working further afield, too. Groundwork starts at Maidenhead in the west and goes to Abbey Wood and Shenfield in the east. The one- and two-bedroom homes have video-entry systems and secure bike storage. £200,000-£300,000 through Roger Pym Estate Agency (01628 723333; cuckoohouse.info).

10 Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
New Year Home developments will be easy to keep as the Ceres scheme of 250 flats is a 15-minute walk from the city centre. Only two-bedroom homes remain on sale, but they come with under-floor heating and built-in kitchen equipment. Basement car parking is available at additional cost, but you may prefer to use your feet. Cambridgeshire has been described as the UK's most walkable county with 10 designated urban walkways (visitcambridgeshire.org) and hundreds more in the countywide. £199,950 through 810 Residential (0804 225 1877; 810residential.co.uk).

London Real Estate Advisers (020 3327 2750; londoreale.com).

5 Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
The Marquis, a scheme of 92 apartments, is a 20-minute walk from the new Microsoft HQ, the university's Biomedical Campus and the centre of Cambridge. There are one-, two- and three-bedroom flats with "hotel living" features, such as concierge packages, cleaning and travel arrangements. £243,000 by £1.1m from Savills (0223 340822 and 01223 941042; savills.com/cambridge).

6 Leicester, Leicestershire
A scheme of three-bedroom semi-detached houses is a 25-minute stroll from the centre. The homes are in the Help to Buy scheme. They are described as "sun-friendly, often compared to Californian developments" because of their design, with roofs and windows facing south. There is no guarantee of Californian sunshine, though. Prices £214,995 (0844 811 3377; besthomes.co.uk).

7 Canterbury, Kent
Ten minutes from Canterbury's shops and

Best fast forward living a short walk from work in London, main image, Chalfont, far left, or Cambridge, top, can save on time and money

Online: See pictures of all the homes for sale at telegraphproperty.com