

# THE GREAT MIGRATION

GORGEOUS HOMES FOR SALE WITHIN AN HOUR'S COMMUTE OF LONDON

Words: **Anna Solomon**



In 2021, in what was perhaps the defining property market trend of the year, regional markets outpaced London – up, on average, by 9.3 per cent year-on-year. The South East saw the greatest increase in house value, followed by homes in the North. London came in third. There's nothing like not being allowed outside to make you realise that, actually, you really like being outside.

Yet while remote working habits have led to buyers widening their geographic searches, access to London remains a top priority. Thinking of joining the exodus? Here are some of the most spectacular homes currently for sale within commuting-distance of the capital...

LUXURY LONDON  
HOMES & INTERIORS

## CASTLE STREET, FARNHAM, GU9

This Grade II-listed four-bed home is located on a gorgeous 18<sup>th</sup> century street in Surrey. A mainline station provides regular train services to London Waterloo, while Farnham Park, comprising some 300 acres of public parkland, is just up the road. This is a classic Georgian-style home: the impressive frontage welcomes you into an entrance hall, while period features, including a turned staircase, combine with updated aspects like the fitted kitchen with its centre island. This open-plan area also includes a second reception/living room, which provides access to a walled garden through bi-fold doors. The first and second floors accommodate four bedrooms, while the lower ground floor offers generous cellarage suitable for wine or recreation.

£1,250,000, [struttandparker.com](http://struttandparker.com)



## CAMBRIDGE BUILDING, ALDERSHOT, GU11

As renovations go, this one is pretty spectacular. The Cambridge Military Hospital at Gun Hill Park has been converted into luxury residences, including a penthouse which is literally in the 109 ft clock tower. The Grade II-listed building was constructed in 1875-79 in a neoclassical style, based on design principles championed by Florence Nightingale. It now comprises 74 homes, including the three-bedroom penthouse: a fusion of contemporary spaces and heritage features, which starts with a long, gallery-esque entrance hall and ascends to five further levels, each with a unique hexagonal floorplate and high-vaulted ceiling. The fifth floor, which originally housed a bell, features a cupola, arched windows, and forms a viewing platform for breath-taking panoramas. The top level comprises the clock turret itself, the face of the clock measuring eight feet in diameter.

£850,000, [weston-homes.com](http://weston-homes.com)





**HAREFIELD PLACE, ICKENHAM, UB10**

Harefield Place is a Georgian manor originally built in 1786 for Sir Roger Newdigate, whose family were, for almost 440 years, the Lords of Harefield Manor, a baronetcy created by King Henry VI. When Sir Roger inherited the baronetcy, he demolished the Elizabethan house and replaced it with the current building. After changing hands, and functions, numerous times, Harefield Place has been returned to its residential origins: the estate has been transformed into a gated development of 25 two- and three-bedroom apartments.

You approach via a sweeping driveway that opens onto a forecourt and parterre garden; the original entrance hall has been retained, and apartments include original or reinstated cornicing, ceiling detailing, architraves and skirting boards. There is also a new-build wing with floor-to-ceiling glazing, open-plan layouts, and private balconies and terraces. Amenities include a spa, gymnasium, swimming pool and tennis court, plus 8.5 acres of landscaped grounds.

*Prices from £850,000, harefieldplace.com*

**OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, CHOBHAM, GU24**

The Old School House is a new development built by boutique developer Aitch Group with dog-owning residents in mind. This is evident in the vast amounts of outdoor communal space – three acres, to be precise – comprising a tennis court, petanque piste for boules, and an al-fresco dining area underneath a pergola. It's also indicative of the abundance of picturesque local walks: there's an ancient woodland nearby, as well as Chobham Common (the largest National Nature Reserve in southeast England) and Horsell Common, which was the basis for H.G Wells' *War of the Worlds* (all of this, a mere 28 minutes from London Waterloo). Homes, which are built on the former site of Flexlands School, have open-plan layouts and private gardens. The two-bedroom show home features a soothing palette of natural tones highlighted by moss greens and burnt oranges.

*Prices from £850,000, oldschothouse.co.uk*



**HASCOMBE ROAD, GODALMING, GU8**

People move out of London for all manner of reasons – one of them is to occupy a gorgeous gable property sitting amid towering trees. Woodmead House fulfils every 'country house' brief there is: it sits on 4.83 acres of land and boasts an ornamental pond; there is an adjoining wooded area and the Winkworth Arboretum beyond. The house itself extends over 4,000 sq ft and is arranged over two floors, incorporating a feature staircase, a wealth of oak-work and panelling, impressive fireplaces, window seats, and decorative cornicing. Oh, and don't forget the all-important boot room, complete with dog washing area (we're not in London any more, Toto). The Hascombe Road property is believed to date back to the 1930s (with later extensions) and was subject to a thoroughly-modernising refurbishment project by the previous owners.

*£3,300,000, knightfrank.co.uk*



**ROWLEY RIDGE, ARKLEY, EN5**

The village of Arkley is technically in outer London, but it has such a fascinating history that we think it's worth mentioning here. This country house was once a top-secret listening base used by MI6 to intercept German signals during World War II, chosen by Churchill for its 440-ft altitude. After the war, the villa was demolished and its role in the effort largely forgotten, other than by military history buffs. Now, the house has been reconstructed and given a modern makeover – the double-fronted façade of the 11,000 sq ft mansion features architecture inspired by the original Edwardian building, observable in bays to the front and rear, dormer windows, and feature chimneys. The interior is even more spectacular, with a three-story atrium surmounted by a glass cupola taking pride of place. Galleried landings lead to rooms bedecked with marble, stone, and oak, and state-of-the-art leisure facilities include a cinema, games room, gymnasium, swimming pool and steam room.

*£8,500,000, beauchamp.com*



**MOLES HILL, OXSHOTT, KT22**

This 7,000 sq ft, six-bed, four-bath Surrey property is located within the exclusive Crown Estate in Oxshott, on a secluded south-west facing plot of 0.45 acres. A vast block-paved drive leads to a double-front door, which enters into a double-height reception hall with an impressive floating staircase. The generous rear garden includes a large terrace, breeze house, swimming pool and summer house.

*Offers in excess of £4,000,000, knightfrank.co.uk*



**WARREN ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, KT2**

This property enjoys proximity to London without compromising on perks like a swimming pool, orangery and an enormous forecourt. You'll find it in Kingston-upon-Thames, close to Coombe Golf Club and Richmond Park (although, who needs Richmond Park when the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is on your doorstep?). The house itself is a neo-Georgian property set within a gated development that was the former residence of General Eisenhower during World War II – the 4.72-acre plot is shared with only five neighbours, ensuring a degree of privacy and exclusivity. The property also boasts seven generous bedrooms and bathrooms featuring Italian marble surfaces and aqua televisions.

*£10,500,000, harrodsestates.com*