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property



Best of British

Sarah Beeny on the way we live

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Heart and home

Valentine's Day love nests

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Retiring types

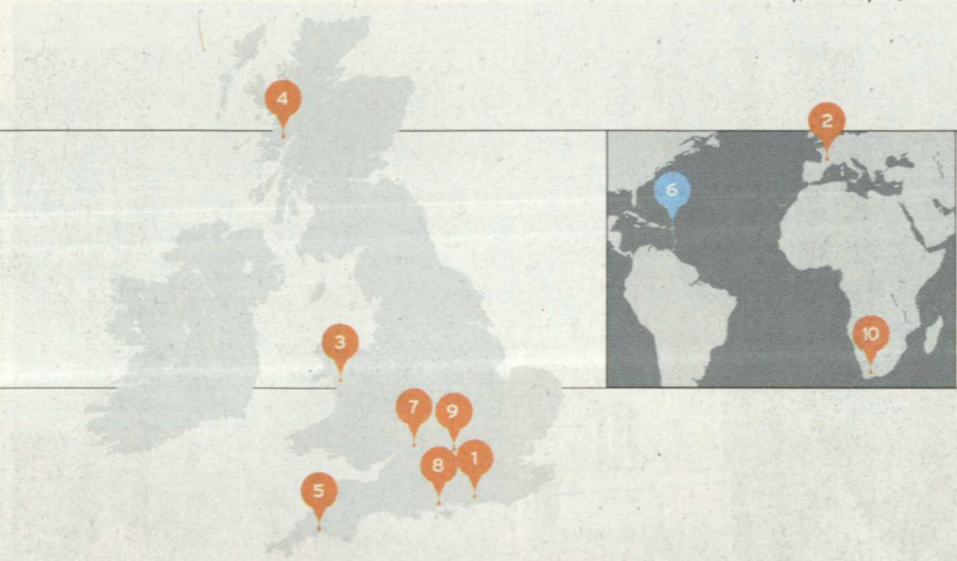
Top 10 villages for downsizers

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The Daily Telegraph

Property hot spots

Compasspoints



With romance in the air, property sleuth **Graham Norwood** makes a date with some houses to fall in love with

1 West Sussex



LOCATION
Amberley

PRICE
£440,000

AGENT
Strutt & Parker,
01243 832600;
struttandparker.
co.uk

Forget the roses and chocolates - this pretty two-bedroom house would be a perfect gift for the love of your life. The property sits in a South Downs hamlet and has attractive south-facing gardens as well as off-road parking for several vehicles. It is close to the River Arun for those romantic Valentine's Day waterside strolls.

2 France



LOCATION
Dordogne

PRICE
£2.096m

AGENT
Home Hunts, 0033
970 446643;
home-hunts.com

If you like your landscaping to come with a romantic twist, look no further. One of the previous owners of this magnificent 15th-century house had a lake built in the grounds in the shape of a heart, for his wife. The estate is almost 70 acres in total, and inside the main house there are spiral stone stairs, fireplaces, exposed stone walls and original beams. There is also a vaulted wine cellar and three bedrooms, as well as a two-bedroom guest cottage.

3 Wales



LOCATION
Snowdonia

PRICE
£320,000

AGENT
Carter Jonas,
01248 360410;
www.carterjonas.
co.uk

Remote? Tick. Views? Tick. Romantic? Tick. This three-bedroom home is at the foot of the Moel Gynghorion Mountain. It has dramatic views to a nearby pass and surrounding hills. A private water supply comes direct from a mountain stream and there is an on-site wind turbine, but the romance ends somewhere near the septic tank.

4 Scotland



LOCATION
Loch Shiel

PRICE
£365,000

AGENT
Bell Ingram,
01631 566122;
bellingham.co.uk

You can only reach this house by boat, so it is for slow-burning lovers. There are three bedrooms, a veranda, shore frontage and four acres of grounds, including woodland. It also has panoramic views of the Ardnamurchan peninsula.

5 Cornwall



LOCATION
Merrymeet

PRICE
£795,000

AGENT
Chesterton
Humberts,
01823 331234;
chesterton
humberts.com

This six-bedroom 18th-century farmhouse, on the south coast just a few miles west of Plymouth, is best suited to families. Those seeking more intimate surroundings, however, could escape to one of three adjoining cottages. Alternatively, just rent the cottages, which are perfect for couples looking to flee the hubbub of the city.

Property of the week



6 Caribbean

LOCATION

Antigua

PRICE

£3.5m

AGENT

Savills, 020 7016 3740; savills.com

Weatherills is one of the oldest plantation houses on the island, complete with Georgian colonial facade and an immaculate interior. Its history is steeped in romance. The land on which the five-bedroom house stands was originally bought by a pirate. He fell in love with a local girl and was transformed into a respectable citizen. There are terraces, 35 acres of land and a 17th-century sugar mill.

Property hot spots

10 South Africa

LOCATION

Western Cape

PRICE

£586,780

AGENT

Aylesford International, 020 7349 5110; aylesford.com



This is the ultimate *Out Of Africa* love nest, one of several secluded four-bedroom lodges on the Gondwana Game Reserve. The property includes a library, bar and area for

outdoor dining. It is situated close to a watering hole visited by black rhinos, elephants, hippos and springboks. For the sake of romance, we must hope there are no cheetahs.

7 Gloucestershire



LOCATION

Chipping Campden

PRICE

£295,000

AGENT

Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01386 840224; jackson-stops.co.uk

The Cotswolds is the quintessential Valentine's location. This tiny cottage, with about 550 sq ft of space, boasts

a stone fireplace, a window seat, and a summer house for fair weather lovers. It's in a village, ideal for hand-holding walks.

8 Hampshire



LOCATION

Southampton

PRICE

£500,000

AGENT

Fox & Sons, 01489 785269; sequencehome.co.uk

It may look cosy but this thatched home has four bedrooms as well as large gardens. It backs on to

fields and a river, so there's no doubting its romantic credentials, especially the main bedroom's original beams.

9 Berkshire



LOCATION

Hermitage

PRICE

£650,000

AGENT

Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01635 45501; jackson-stops.co.uk

There are three upstairs bedrooms and one more downstairs in this 18th century brick and thatch cottage: It features exposed ceiling timbers and an inglenook, plus two bathrooms. If romance is likely to lead to a tribe of children, fear not - it also comes with permission to extend by adding an extra bedroom and a reception room.