

PRESS RELEASE



POPULAR FILMING LOCATIONS ON ENGLAND'S GREAT WEST WAY®

Great West Way, England's touring route between London and Bristol, has provided the perfect backdrop for many popular British period drama films and television series, in recent years.

The Great West Way encapsulates the best of England, including locations rich in historical architecture, luscious landscaped gardens, chocolate-box villages and iconic sites, all of which provide a quintessentially English setting to transport you back in time. With period dramas growing in popularity in recent years, following the international success of *Downton Abbey*, *Poldark* and *The Crown*, the Great West Way has become a firm favourite amongst filmmakers.

Secret Garden – Iford Manor Gardens, Wiltshire

Coming to cinemas in April is the new film adaptation of *The Secret Garden*, starring Colin Firth and Julie Walters. Filming took place at several locations in the UK; however, the film's pinnacle garden scene was shot at [Iford Manor Gardens](#), located in Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. The award-winning, Grade 1 listed Iford Manor Gardens is unique with its romantic design and architectural gems, and offers magnificent rural views across an unspoilt valley. Iford Manor Gardens opens for the 2020 season in April, on Wednesdays through to Sundays.

Emma – Chavenage House, Cotswolds

Out now in cinemas, *Emma*, based on the classic Jane Austen novel, stars Anya Taylor-Jon and tells the story of the titular resident of the village of Highbury. Within easy reach of the Great West Way is [Chavenage House](#) known as 'Hartfield' in the film, located in Tetbury, a small town in the Cotswolds. Chavenage House is an Elizabethan manor where the television series *Poldark* was also filmed. Chavenage is open to the public on Sunday, 12 April and Monday, 13 April, as well as Sundays and Thursdays from Sunday 3 May, until Sunday 27 September 2020.

The Crown – Wilton House, Wiltshire

[Wilton House](#), within easy reach of the Great West Way, is located just outside of Salisbury and has featured in many films and television shows, including *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*, as well as also featuring in *Emma*. Wilton House also appears in almost every episode of *The Crown*, doubling up as Buckingham Palace. The House will be open on Friday, 10 April until Monday, 13 Monday and then Thursdays through to Sundays from Friday, 8 May to Thursday, 6 September.

Sanditon – Dyrham Park, Bristol

Another Jane Austen adaption which aired on ITV in August 2019 was *Sanditon*, a period drama television series based on Austen's unfinished final novel. Sanditon House's exterior was filmed at the [National Trust's Dyrham Park](#), a 17th century mansion just outside of Bristol, with more filming taking place in the city centre. Dyrham Park is open to the public everyday throughout the year, except for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Some scenes featured in *Sanditon* were also filmed at Iford Manor Estate.

Downton Abbey – Highclere Castle, Newbury

The very popular television series and film, *Downton Abbey*, were filmed at many locations on the Great West Way, including the 'Real Downton Abbey' as it's known, [Highclere Castle](#) in Newbury, at the heart of the route. Other filming locations include the National Trust's village of [Lacock](#) as well as [Bowood House & Gardens](#), both in Wiltshire. [National Trust's Basildon Park](#) in Berkshire, features in the series five finale as well as one of the television show's Christmas specials. Highclere Castle is open on select days in Spring and then from Sunday, 12 July to Tuesday, 8 September.

Other film and television series filmed on, or within easy reach of the Great West Way:

- 1917 scenes were filmed on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, and Chamber of Secrets scenes were filmed in Lacock, Wiltshire
- Midsomer Murders' scenes were filmed in Marlow, Buckinghamshire
- Poldark scenes were filmed in Corsham, Wiltshire
- Some of the original Secret Garden film was filmed at Eton College

To experience a quintessentially English trip, explore one of Great West Ways thematic itineraries: www.GreatWestWay.co.uk/plan-your-way/suggested-itinerary

For more information, visit: www.GreatWestWay.co.uk

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About the Great West Way

The Great West Way is one of a number of successful projects to receive funding from the UK Government's £40 million Discover England Fund, administered by VisitEngland. For further information go to www.discoverenglandfund.org

The Story of the Great West Way booklet is available at:
www.GreatWestWay.co.uk/storyoftheGreatWestWay

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