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Do you live on one of the UK's favourite streets? Here's where house-hunters really want to buy

Two fifths of buyers know where they want to move down to the exact road, according to Zoopla. These are the most sought after addresses

By Melissa Lawford

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The residents of Nether Edge Road in Sheffield are nonplussed to hear that they live on

one of the most sought-after streets in the UK.

Angela and Graham Rees decided to buy their house on the road in 1993 “before we had even been inside it”. They were sold on the south-easterly view from the garden over the city, says Angela. But the neighbourhood of Nether Edge, south of the city centre, had no reputation, says Graham.

The postcode of S10 on the other side of Ecclesall Road has long been better known for its grander houses. Nether Edge Road is not the most posh, nor the [most expensive place to live](#).

But then that, of course, is what many buyers want. They are a picky bunch: “Forty per cent of households know the house or street they want to live on next,” says Richard Donnell, research director at the property portal Zoopla.

This is because they have insider knowledge. The majority of house moves are within a 10-mile radius of where buyers already live, he adds. So what can we learn from the local wisdom?

— ADVERTISEMENT —



Zoopla has pulled together a list of the most searched-for streets across the UK. There are some anomalies; some are packed with new-build homes that have just come on the

market, and a few are simply very long. But most tell a story of local quirks – and what, free from estate agent sales pitches, most people really want.



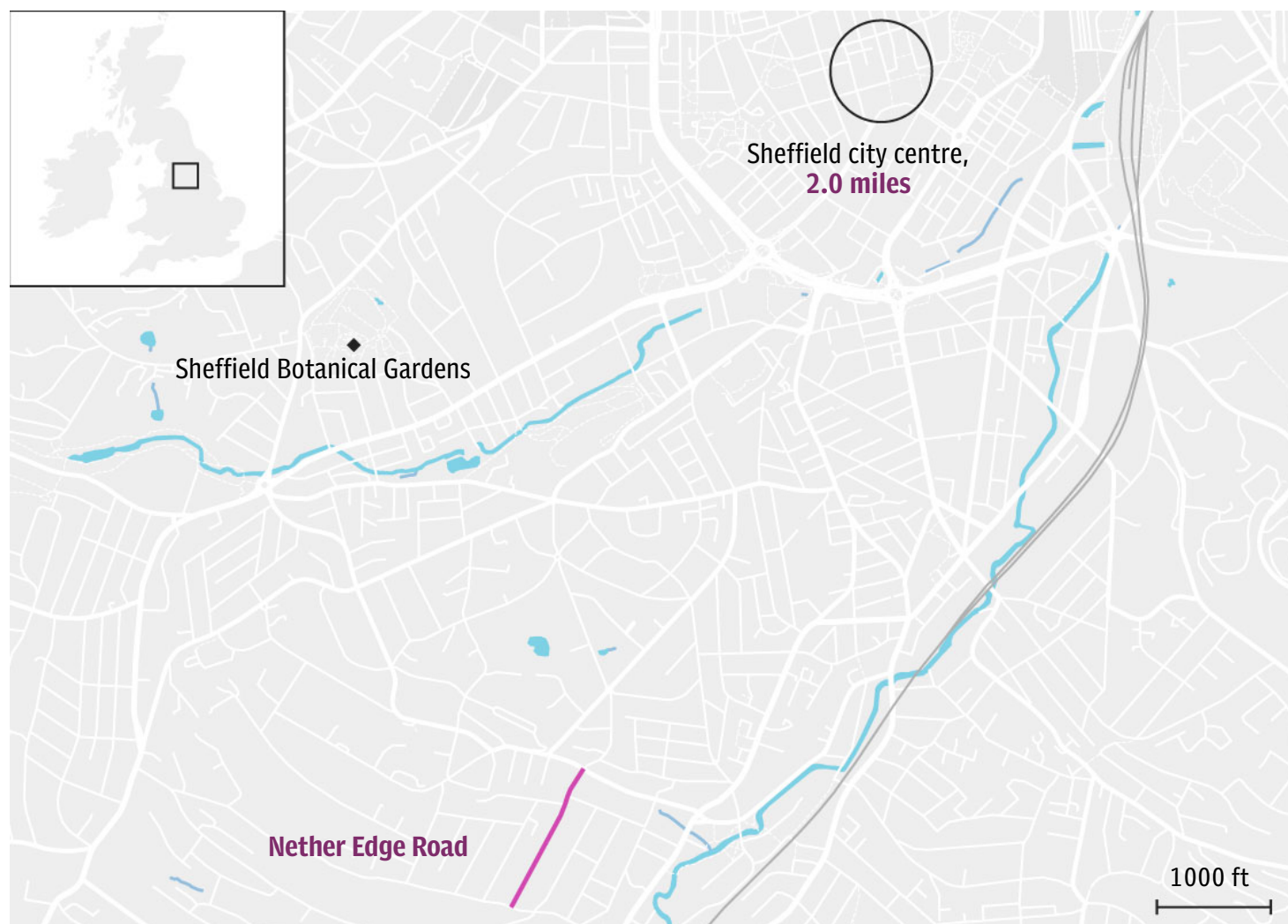
Community spirit

At the top of Nether Edge Road is a steep, wooded drop. The neighbourhood is “nether of the edge,” says Susan Gudjonsson, who has lived with her husband Ingo on the street since 1988, and is an active member of the neighbourhood’s historical society.

They moved here after Gudjonsson took her two children on an outing to journey the length of the No 97 bus with a picnic. “When we got off the bus at Nether Edge I had a huge [sense of coming home](#),” she says.

The houses are mostly detached and built in varied styles, apart from a block of low-rise flats at the bottom of the hill, where both the Gudjonssons and the Rees family [moved their elderly mothers](#).

Sheffield's Nether Edge Road is the most sought after street in Yorkshire & the Humber



It is common to hear owls in the woods here, says David Pierce, the recent chair of the 900-strong Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group. But it is the sense of community that really sets this area of Sheffield apart.

At the bottom of the road is a collection of shops and eateries, including Cafe#9, a bohemian place with a log burning stove and which hosts regular live music performances. One lady is enjoying a coffee serenely cross-legged on the floor. “It’s not called Cafe hash nine for nothing,” jokes Graham.

Through a purple-painted door, there’s the Nether Edge Bowling Club. The shed here, for the Christmas edition of the quarterly Nether Edge Farmers Market, becomes a grotto. Though, alas, Santa noted in the December newsletter that he would no longer be able to visit next year.



Is that tradition over? “Well,” says Pierce, taking off his glasses with aplomb, “I might change my mind.”

Pierce was part of a small group who founded the farmers’ market in 2008. It has grown to an event with 80 stalls and has so far raised £80,000 for charity. The roads are pedestrianized for the market, and there’s entertainment.

“Obviously we have had Morris dancers, and belly dancers,” says Pierce. “And there’s nothing better than [the orchestra in the fresh air.](#)”



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New-build bonanza

There are some outliers on Zoopla’s list of the most-searched for streets that can be attributed to a degree of voyeurism. For example, the Bishop’s Avenue in Highgate,

[London](#), often called “billionaires’ row”, comes up top in the capital.

“It’s a rather ostentatious street that has a huge number of unoccupied properties, some of which are used as a vehicle to store capital by offshore entities,” says Thea Carroll, a buying agent.

But it is also home to some high spec new developments, including Crossways, a collection of nine apartments that share a chandeliered entrance hall. Homes are due to complete in the summer.

One of Scotland’s most sought-after streets is Simpson Loan in [Edinburgh](#), which is the borderline between The Meadows and the Quartermile development, the Foster + Partner-designed regeneration of the eight-acre former Royal Infirmary site.

Simpson Loan in Edinburgh is one of Scotland's most popular streets with buyers



Hilary Pinnock bought a one-bedroom apartment on Simpson Loan in 2014 for about £260,000 to use four days a week while she works in the medical department at the University of Edinburgh; the rest of the time she lives in Kent where she has her GP practice.

Developer marketing campaigns will play a key role in the street's popularity on Zoopla, she says. She recalls seeing an advert for the Quartermile development on a trip in Hong Kong.

The new-build flats on Simpson Loan also offers something different to typical Edinburgh properties. The city's historic stock is freehold and apartments share responsibility for their communal areas.

The result is that "we got used to going into the most disastrous hallways," says Pinnock. On Simpson Loan, she pays about £500 per quarter in service charges, which includes management of the stairwells.

The university department and Edinburgh Waverley station are within easy walking distance, and Simpson Loan backs on to The Meadows, whose criss-crossing paths are lined in spring with blossoming cherry trees. Pinnock is hoping to buy a property with a park view.

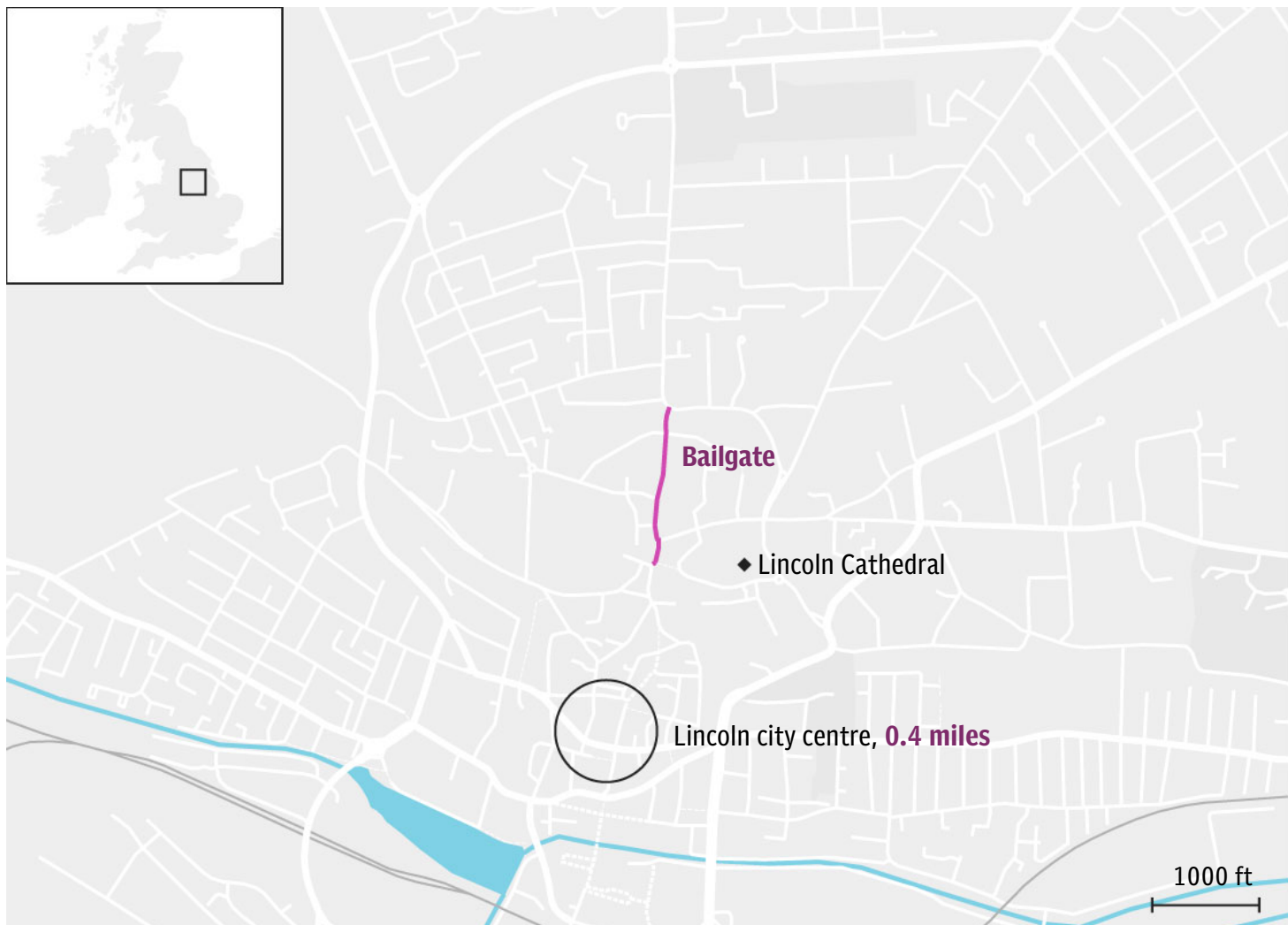
Her current apartment is now on the market with Savills for £345,000. [Prices have been climbing fast](#) in Edinburgh: values in January were up 5.9 per cent on January 2019, according to Zoopla, the steepest rise in the UK.

The scenic route

Inevitably, seaside locations hold serious sway. Two of the most-searched for streets in Wales are in Gowerton – Ffordd Beck, and one of its small adjoining cul-de-sacs called Clos Marina – which sit just out outside Swansea on the Gower Peninsula, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the [Bristol](#) Channel.

In the North East and North Yorkshire, Scarborough comes out on top with Trafalgar Road, which sits between Peasholm Park and the coastline of North Bay. The terraced, period houses sell for between £95,000 to £125,000, says Lauren Spivey, of Hunters. It is popular with buy-to-let investors, she says; a four-bedroom house would let out for £575 to £625 per month.

Lincoln's historic Bailgate is the East Midlands' most sought after street



Some of the most popular streets are sought-after for their historic charm. Bailgate, the cobbled, partly pedestrianised street that leads up to Lincoln's medieval cathedral, wins out in the East Midlands. The shops and cafes have exposed timber beams and, bar a Greggs, there are few chains.

The small residential offering consists of small, period townhouses. “It’s almost a time capsule of [yesteryear Lincoln](#),” says Kyle Leeman, assistant manager at the street’s Duke William Hotel.

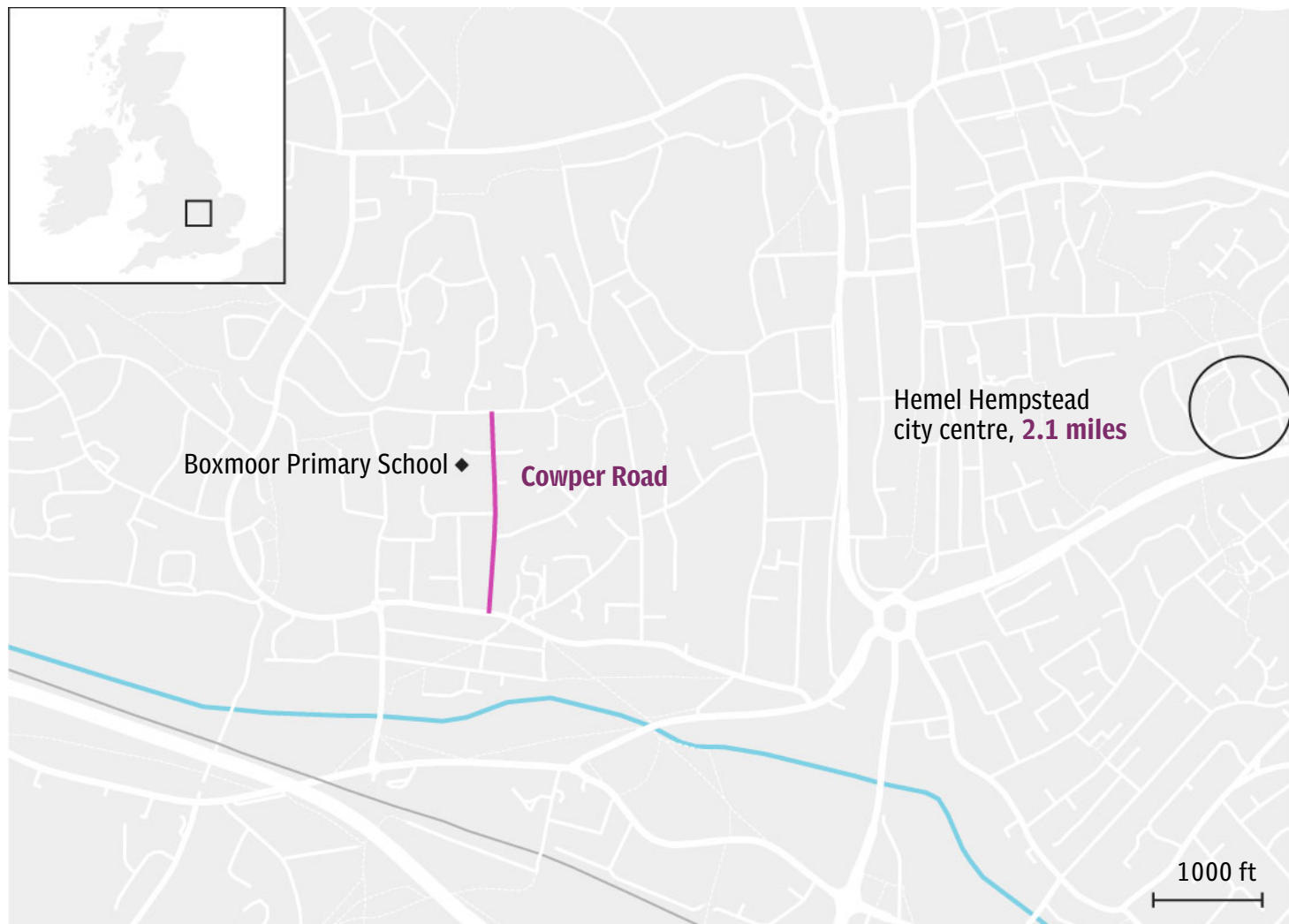
Family friendly

People go to extreme lengths to be in [catchment areas for good schools](#). But some streets can offer the perks of minute-long school runs: Cowper Road in Hemel Hempstead, which comes top of the list in the east of England, has its own nursery and primary schools, Boxmoor Pre School and Boxmoor Primary School.

Susan McDonald bought her house here with her husband in 2007 when she was pregnant with their first child. They sold their first home in [south-east London](#) to find a family house within [easy commuting distance of the capital](#) (the train journey to Euston is 28 minutes). They have been on Cowper Road ever since.

Her son is currently at Boxmoor Primary School and her daughter has just started at The Hemel Hempstead School, a 12-minute walk away, which is a positive mission by Cowper Road standards.

Cowper Road in Hemel Hempstead comes up top in the East of England



At the bottom of the street is a small cluster of shops, including a florist. “They did my wedding flowers”, says McDonald.

“Everyone is dead friendly, but not overly so,” she adds. The family are planning to upsize locally. Their home is for sale with David Doyle for £495,000.

The price is right

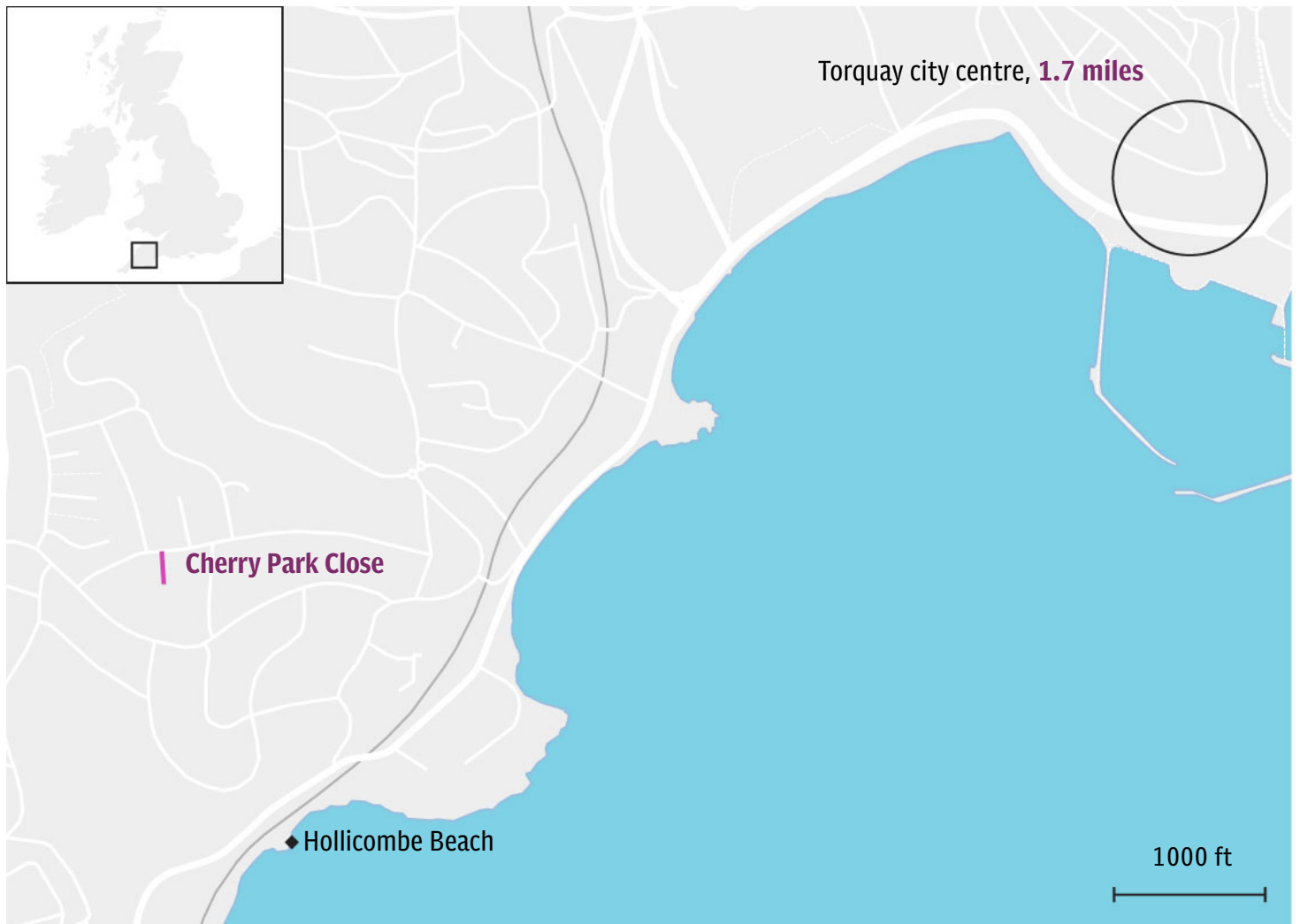
It’s clear that it is not beauty alone that gives a property or a street far-reaching appeal. In Torquay and Tamworth, two small, unassuming cul-de-sacs, each with about nine houses, in unassuming parts of town, are the most searched for streets in the South West and West Midlands respectively.

Torbay, the sought-after street in Tamworth, is in Amington Fields, an estate of about 900 homes built in the late Nineties. By Tamworth’s standards, it is the old guard.

Bellway, Barratt Homes, Redrow, Persimmon and Ashberry Homes all have major projects underway in the town.

Amington is not box-fresh but simply a “very normal estate”, says Anton Plackowski, director of Next Place, a local agent. Homes will sell for £300,000 to £400,000, half that of the grand properties on Gillway Lane to the north. Its appeal is its price accessibility.

Cherry Park Close in Torquay is one of the most searched for streets in the South West



Similarly, Cherry Park Close, the sought-after, quiet cul-de-sac, is a 10-minute walk from Hollicombe Beach. It's in is in Livermead, an area popular with downsizers looking to retire in the micro-climate, says Gerald Pincombe of Pincombe's Estate Agents; homes here are mostly bungalows, selling for £400,000 to £800,000.

They are far from the most expensive homes in Torquay; these are on Ilsham Marine

Drive, says Pincombe, which runs along the edge of the town’s peninsula, where homes sell for £1.7 million. Which goes to show that money doesn’t always buy you popularity.

Britain's favourite streets: the definitive list

Region	Top street
London	The Bishops Avenue, Highgate
Scotland	Simpson Loan, Edinburgh
Wales	Clos Marina, Gowerton
North East and North Yorkshire	Trafalgar Road, Scarborough
North West	Park House Drive, Sale
South East	Lawsone Rise, High Wycombe
South West	Cherry Park Close, Torquay
East Midlands	Bailgate, Lincoln
West Midlands	Torbay, Tamworth
Yorkshire & the Humber	Nether Edge Road, Sheffield
East	Guilfords, Harlow

Zoopla

Do you think your address deserves a place on the list of Britain's favourite streets? Leave a comment to tell us why

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