Inspector Morse in Oxfordshire

Oxford has long been home to Morse author Colin Dexter and famously became the backdrop to his popular murder mystery novels. It is not surprising that when ITV came to shoot the 33 Morse films, Oxford and the surrounding county consistently made it on to the screen. Inspector Morse is best known for an appreciation of beer, Wagner compositions, crossword puzzles, and zipping around his beloved city of dreaming spires in a red Jaguar car, usually accompanied by his long-suffering sidekick Sergeant Lewis played by actor Kevin Whateley. Enjoy a taste of Oxfordshire as you wind your way around some unmistakeable county locations in pursuit of mystery, Morse and murder!

1. **Sheep Street 33, Burford**
   The picturesque medieval town of Burford (known as the “Gateway to the Cotswolds”) features in *The Remorseful Day* where John Barron falls to his death from a ladder. He is pushed by a hooded culprit while painting Mrs Bayley’s house.

2/3. **Blenheim Palace & Combe sawmill gate.**
   Set in 2100 acres of beautiful parkland the unique English Baroque architecture of Blenheim Palace is on view in *The Way through the Woods*. Morse drives up to Blenheim to investigate after George Daley’s body is discovered inside the Combe sawmill gate, to the west of the estate. Morse returns to Blenheim to interview a worker on the grounds.
   (Blenheim Palace & Gardens, Woodstock. Open: 10:30 - 5:30 daily Tel: 01993 810500. Combe sawmill gate: Park Road to East End in Combe, Woodstock)

4. **Oxford Canal, Thrupp basin** (Banbury Rd. North of Kidlington)
   In the opening scene of *The Last Enemy* a decapitated body is found in the canal, along Thrupp just north of Kidlington. Later in the episode they return to the canal and interview a boatman who indicates the missing head may have floated through the lock upstream.

5. **The Boat Pub, Thrupp.** (Canal Road, Thrupp Tel: 01865 374279)
   Later Morse and Lewis interview the landlord of this canal side pub in Thrupp in connection with the case.

6. **The Trout Pub** (195 Godstow Rd. Wolvercote. Tel: 01865 302071)
   The Trout, one of Inspector Morse’s favourite pubs, is featured in several of the 30 films. In *The Wolvercote Tongue* Morse and Lewis stand on Godstow Bridge looking at the floodlit pub down below. In a subsequent scene Morse interviews Mr. Poindexter and his daughter on the terrace. The Trout is also seen in the background of a later scene where a police diver recovers the valuable Anglo-Saxon Wolvercote Tongue artefact from the river. In *Who Killed Harry Field* Morse takes Helen Field for a drink there to further interview her about her husband’s murder.
7. **The Victoria Arms Marston, Oxford** (Mill Lane Marston, Oxford. Tel: 01865 241 382)
On the outskirts of Oxford in Marston, **The Victoria Arms** is worth a visit. It is located above the old Marston ferry across the Cherwell, and is often featured in the films. In *Who Killed Harry Field* Lewis asks Morse to recommend him for promotion over drinks on the lawn. Morse and Lewis make a visit to discuss this case in *The Daughters of Cain* and, later, Morse takes Brooks' daughter on a punt across the river to interview her over a drink. Morse and Lewis also sit on the outside terrace to discuss a case in *The Remorseful Day*.

8. **Marston Village Church**.(Elsfield Road. Old Marston, Oxford)
Seen in the opening shots of *Death is Now My Neighbour*.

9. **Didcot Railway Centre & Didcot Parkway Station** (Station Rd, Didcot.)
In *The Wolvercote Tongue*, Morse and Lewis find Howard Brown, an American railway enthusiast, at the Didcot Railway Centre and interview him about the murder of one of his tour companions. Later, Brown waiting at the Didcot Railway station platform to return to Oxford, spots Mr Poindexter.

10. **Oxford Railway Station** (Park End Street. Tel: 08457 000125)
The station features in the opening scenes of *The Ghost in the Machine* where Morse arrives home by rail after spending the evening at a concert in London. After the murder of her husband in his artist's studio, Helen Field meets her father-in-law on the railway platform in *Who Killed Harry Field*. And in *The Wolvercote Tongue* Morse discovers a surprised Prof. Cedric Downes waiting on the railway platform.

Morse and Lewis have a drink here to discuss another case. Opposite in Combe Road (renamed Canal Reach) in *The Dead of Jericho* Morse walks Anne Stavely to her home along this street after choir practice.