

Chelsea & Battersea

Start

96
Knightsbridge
Belgravia

SLOANE SQUARE STA
(District)

VICTORIA STA
(Circle, District, Victoria, mainline)

pub

04

Pimlico & Westminster

PIMLICO STA
(Victoria)

CHELSEA

Battersea Park

Battersea Power Sta

BATTERSEA POWER STA
(Northern)

Start

36

To Stockwell walk, along
Thessaly Road (1.1 km)

Many streets have been omitted from this map

- Chelsea circular route 6.5 km
- Battersea circular route 7.8 km
- Battersea Power Station to Victoria 6.9 km
- Battersea Power Station to Pimlico 8.6 km

96

Interconnection with another walk



1 kilometre

Pubs: The Orange, The Cask, Battersea Brewery

55

Chelsea

Chelsea is known to us for Thomas More, The Royal Hospital, the Physic Garden, the Flower Show, the home of Thomas Carlyle, Elizabeth Gaskell, Oscar Wilde, Henry James and James McNeill Whistler and many others.

The parish church of St Luke's was designed by James Savage in 1819 and is one of the earliest Gothic Revival churches in London. It is a designated Grade I listed building. Dovehouse Green is a former burial ground for Chelsea parish church on land given by Sir Hans Sloane in 1733. It was closed for burials by 1882, and became a garden for inmates of the adjacent workhouse. Following war damage it was developed as a garden, with a small part open to the public. It was named Dovehouse Green in 1977.

Carlyle Square is one of a series of squares lined by listed terraces along the King's Road developed by the Cadogan Estate. Although the houses were not completed until 1867 it appears that the garden was the first element to be laid out in 1836. At one time within the Manor of Chelsea, land in the area was purchased by Sir Hans Sloane in 1712; on his death his estate was divided between his two daughters, the eastern part going to Elizabeth, becoming the Cadogan Estate on her marriage to Charles Cadogan. With architect Henry Holland, Cadogan began

developing the 90-acre estate from the 1770s, to be called Hans Town. The name of the square was changed in 1875 in honour of the philosopher Thomas Carlyle, who lived in Chelsea.

Chelsea Park Gardens has a garden suburb atmosphere of its own. Dwellings are influenced by Norman Shaw style architecture, arts & crafts, and date from around 1914+. Paultons Square is a Georgian terraced garden square listed grade II. It was built in 1836-40, on the site of a former market garden, land previously owned by Sir Thomas More and Sir John Danvers.

Crosby Hall

At the bottom of Danvers Street is the amazing Crosby Hall. Sir John Crosby was the son of a wealthy fishmonger who became a freeman of the Grocer's Company in 1452-54. He traded in luxury textiles, especially silk, from his warehouse just off Poultry. He was also a diplomat, politician, soldier and a fervent Yorkist who was knighted by Edward IV in 1471. Crosby Hall originated in Bishopsgate and was lived in among others, by Sir Thomas More. It was purchased in 1988 by Christopher Moran and moved to its current site, the former garden of Thomas More. It was remodelled on various other buildings at the same period. It is also the setting is for a remarkable Tudor garden. The layout was designed by the

Marchioness of Salisbury, based on her own experiences at Hatfield and following in detail Tudor designs published in the 1570s. In the centre is a fountain, a copy of the fountain installed in the gardens of Nonsuch Palace between 1579 and 1591. Chelsea Old Church was originally the parish church.

Old Church Street, Glebe Place

After walking up Old Church Street to return to the river via Glebe Place, haunt of artists in the 1880s and some very interesting buildings. Glebe Place Studios, 52-59, 60-61 and 64-65, were all built in 1888, the latter by Dance and Smirk. They were used by, among others, Walter Sickert, William Rothenstein and Ernest Shepard. Cedar Studios were built for the sculptor Conrad Dressler in 1885. Francis Bacon the painter lived at 1 Glebe Place in the 1930's. The West House, no.35 Glebe Place, is in Queen Ann revival style, built in 1869 to the design of Philip Speakman Webb for the Pre-Raphaelite artist G.P. Boyce and the building greatly influenced Lutyens. The Studio, no.48, was designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1924. No.50 was designed by Frank Lowe in 1987.

The Chelsea Physic Garden was founded in 1673, as the Apothecaries' Garden, with the purpose of training apprentices in identifying plants. The location was chosen close to the river for a warmer microclimate

and as a transport route that linked the garden to other open spaces such as Putney Heath, facilitating easy movements of both plants and botanists. Some years later, Dr. Hans Sloane purchased the Manor of Chelsea from Charles Cheyne and leased the area to the Society of Apothecaries for £5 a year in perpetuity. The Garden has developed a major role in public education focusing on the renewed interest in natural medicine and is open Monday to Friday 10 am to 4pm.

Royal Hospital

In 1681, responding to the need to look after poor and injured soldiers, King Charles II issued a Royal Warrant authorising the building of the Royal Hospital Chelsea to care for those 'broken by age or war'. Sir Christopher Wren was commissioned to design and erect the building. The chosen site, set adjacent to the River Thames in the countryside of Chelsea contained the uncompleted building of the former 'Chelsey College'. In 1692 work was completed and the first Chelsea Pensioners were admitted in February; and by the end of March the full complement of 476 were in residence. The museum is open Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) from 10am to 4pm via the London Gate.

Battersea

Battersea was a totally different situation, being on the wrong side of the river and cut

through by railways. The original village nucleus is marked by St. Mary's Church, which is on a site that has featured churches since the 9th Century. The present, handsome, church was completed in 1777 and hosted the marriage of William Blake and Catherine Blake née Boucher in 1782. Four stained glass windows celebrate Arnold, William Blake, William Curtis and J. M. W. Turner. The walk follows the bank of the river with fine views across to Chelsea, meanders through the Park and takes a quick trip to the High Street and church.

Battersea Power Station

In 1930 the London Power Company engaged Sir Giles Gilbert Scott as consulting architect for its new electricity generating station at Battersea. His role was to enhance the external appearance of the massive architecture. He opted for external brickwork, put some detailing on the sheer walls, and remodelled the four corner chimneys so that they resembled classical columns, rather than the originally intended square brick columns. The Power Station was also known for its unique, lavish Art Deco interior. Battersea Power Station was the first of its kind, producing 400,000 kilowatts of electricity using 1 million tons of coal annually. The first stage of the Power Station, with two chimneys, was completed in 1935, the second half in 1944. The

chimneys reach 101m from the ground, the lower 50m being wash towers.

From 1950, water from the power station boilers was pumped through a tunnel beneath the Thames to provide hot water and central heating for Pimlico's Dolphin Square flats and Churchill Gardens housing estate.

In 1983 the power station closed down.

Scott was a grandson of Sir (George) Gilbert Scott, known for St Pancras Station. He designed Waterloo Bridge, Liverpool Cathedral, the revamp of the House of Commons and the red telephone box.

Battersea Park

In 1844 speculative builder Thomas Cubitt envisaged the development of Battersea Fields as a park, with the surrounding land designated for housing. In 1846, the Government passed an Act of Parliament which enabled the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to lay out a royal park at Battersea. The Commission acquired 320 acres of Battersea Fields, of which 198 acres became Battersea Park and the remainder was let on building leases. A schematic park design was drawn up by James Pennethorne in 1845 (he had already helped design Regent's Park and went on to outline Victoria and Kennington parks). 750,000 tons of material excavated from Surrey Docks was used to raise the level of the site and further material was moved to create the ground shaping. At low

tide it is possible to see how much the river embankment has been raised to create the park. In 1854 the carriage drives, lake and mounding were designed and built by the first park superintendent, John Gibson, who had been a pupil of Joseph Paxton, the head gardener to the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth. The park was officially opened in 1858 by Queen Victoria.

Battersea Bridge was designed in 1886-90 by Sir Joseph Bazalgette to replace an original wooden bridge which was difficult for boats to navigate. The Albert Bridge was designed and built by Rowland Mason Ordish in 1873 as a toll bridge. It proved structurally unsound, so between 1884 and 1887 Sir Joseph Bazalgette incorporated some design elements of a suspension bridge. In 1973 the Greater London Council added two concrete piers, transforming the central span into a simple beam bridge. It is an English Heritage Grade II* listed building and one of London's *prettiest*.

Grosvenor Canal

London's shortest canal originally went as far as its basin, half a mile away, at Victoria where the railway station is now situated. It was the last canal in London to close. The Chelsea Water Company initially dug a navigable tidal inlet in 1725 to provide waterborne access from the Thames to their works. The company had reservoirs also in Green Park and Hyde Park. However, it was to be almost a hundred

years before they decided to build a proper canal in lieu of the tidal creek. The canal was opened in 1823 (1825?) as far as the site now occupied by the forecourt of Victoria Station. It also served as a water supply channel for the company's reservoirs. Originally containing coal, stone, and timber wharfs, the basin at Victoria was used to carry goods to and from Belgravia, under development between 1825 and 1847.

In the 1852 the Metropolis Water Act prohibited the extraction of water for household purposes from the tidal Thames and the company moved to Surbiton in 1856.

Much of the canal subsequently disappeared under the new railway route being built at Victoria, opened in 1860. The canal was initially cut back to Belgrave Road. A further regression was made when the number of platforms at Victoria were increased in the 1900s. The canal's terminus then stood on the north side of Ebury Bridge until the 1930's when it was again cut back, the land being made available for council housing.

The canal's last years were primarily as a garbage disposal facility, whereby trains of garbage barges were towed down the Thames for the rubbish to be dumped at sea. This ceased at the end of the 1990's and the canal has now been redeveloped as Grosvenor Waterside.

Western Pumping Station

The remaining waterworks building, known as the Western Pumping Station and built in 1875, can still be seen today by both road and rail users. However, the chimney now acts as a ventilation shaft for sewers rather than its original purpose of being the chimney for boilers.

