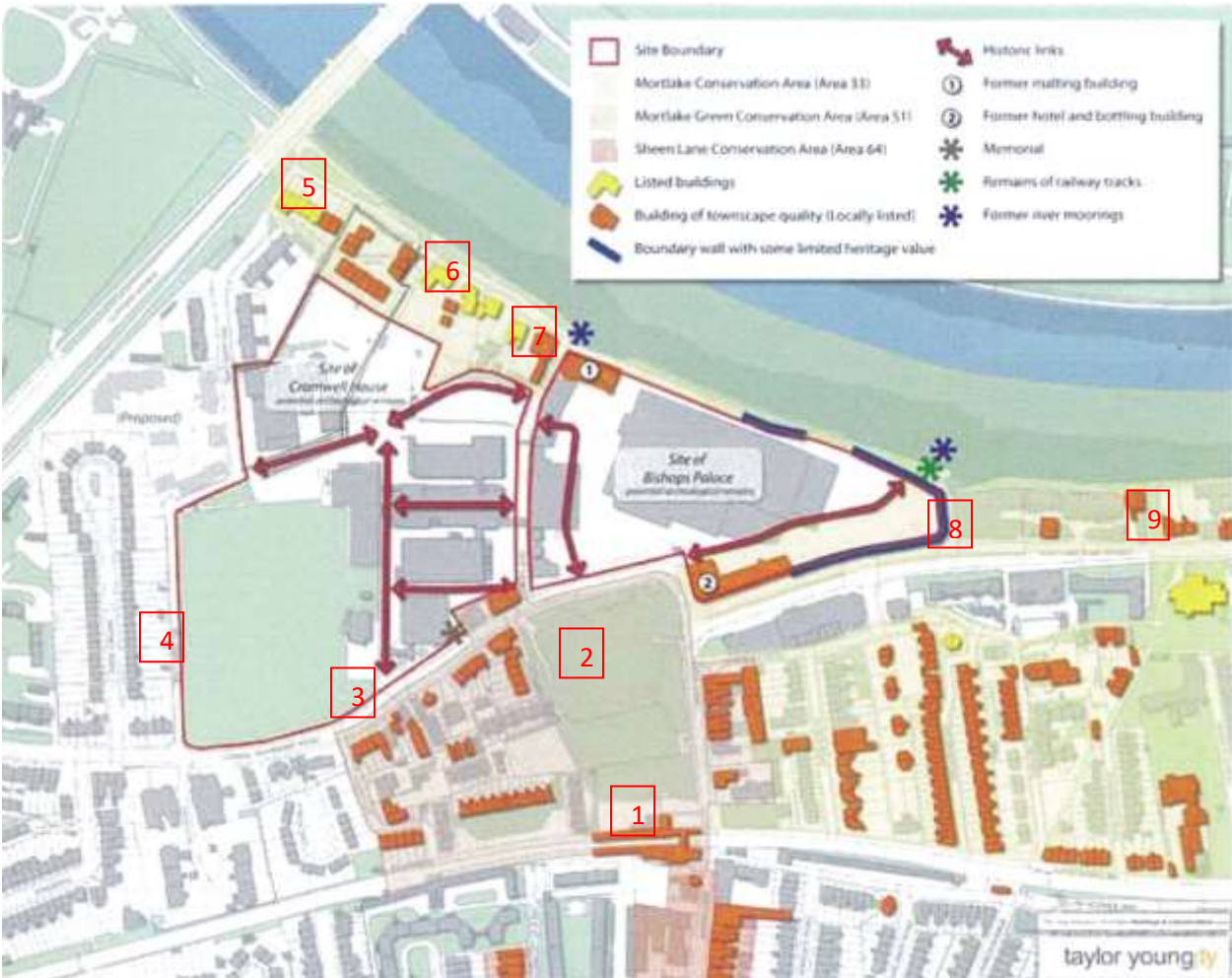


The Mortlake Brewery Walk



Plan 5: Heritage and Conservation

from the Planning Brief, 2011

1. Mortlake Green – intro including Brewery, Station, planning brief, Thomson House School
2. Mortlake Green – hotel and bottling plant, proposed extension of Green, phasing, memorial
3. Brewery entrance – playing fields, proposed new secondary school, overdevelopment of site
4. Williams Lane – cricket square, Cromwell House gates
5. Chiswick Bridge and Thames towpath
6. Thames Bank and University Boat Race stone
7. The Ship and the Maltings – including site of Bishop’s Palace and proposed new development
8. Bulls Alley and Boat Race House
9. Tapestry Court and St Mary’s Church – including site of John Dee’s house and Tapestry Works

N.B. The walk from stop 7 to stop 8 is along the towpath but, if the towpath is too muddy, then it can be via Ship Lane and eastwards along Lower Richmond Road and Mortlake High Street.

1. Mortlake Green – intro including Brewery, Station, planning brief, Thomson House School

- Brief potted history
- 1086, Mortlage in Domesday Book. Land owned by Archbishop of Canterbury. Bishop's Palace on Brewery site till 17th century.
- 1348, first church built here near Bishop's Palace.
- 1487, first brewery built here.
- 1496, first Cromwell House built to west of brewery by John Williams
- 1536, Henry VIII took land from Archbishop Cranmer and granted it to Thomas Cromwell who, however, fell out of favour in 1540 and was sent to the Tower.
- 1543, first church demolished and replaced by new church in Mortlake High Street at reasonable distance from brewery.
- 1619, tapestry works emerged opposite new church and flourished here for about 80 years.
- 1846, Mortlake Station built serving new branch line which extended from Clapham Junction to Richmond and thence to Windsor, generating much of the development seen here today. One of only five stations in the country to have a royal waiting room (used by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert when visiting son Edward at White Lodge, Richmond Park), a remnant of which remains as part of the classic cars showroom on other side of station.
- 1860, Brewery donated a field (used as its dray park) to the Parish to become Mortlake Green.
- 1889, Brewery bought by Watneys who expanded it and provided playing fields. Their main brewery was at Stag Place in Victoria and when that brewery was demolished in 1959 the name Stag was transferred to Mortlake.
- 1969, Watneys teamed up with Carlsberg and started to brew lager in great quantities. New large buildings emerged.
- 1981, Fosters took over.
- 1986, Budweiser took over.
- 2011, in anticipation of the Brewery's closure Council produced planning brief in consultation with Mortlake Brewery Community Group. Brief prescribed new community hub for Mortlake plus housing, primary school and retention of playing fields.
- 2015, site bought by Reselton (Singapore), who will shortly be applying for planning permission to redevelop. At same time Council, in view of primary school provision having since been met, notably through development of Thomson House School, decided to change primary school to secondary school.
- 2016, draft Local Plan prescribed 6-form entry secondary school and retention of playing fields.
- 2017, final Local Plan prescribed retention "and/or re-provision" of playing fields.

2. Mortlake Green – hotel and bottling plant, proposed extension of Green, phasing, memorial

- Hotel and Bottling Plant built in 1869 will be retained in proposed redevelopment along with Maltings built in 1903. Everything else will be demolished.
- Mortlake Green will extend across road and link to river.
- Ship Lane leads to Ship pub on river. Two other pubs here, Jolly Gardener and Tapestry. All three pubs are outside Brewery site and will remain.
- Ship Lane will remain public road in redevelopment which will be carried out in two phases. Phase 1 basically everything to east of Ship Lane and Phase 2 everything to west – but one key component in west will be developed in Phase 1, namely the secondary school.
- Brewery Memorial – 111 employees died in WW1 and 53 in WW2 (that's high for WW2).

3. Brewery entrance – playing fields, proposed new secondary school, overdevelopment of site

- Main entrance to Brewery. Site of developer's exhibitions in May and July this year.
- Alongside are Watneys playing fields laid out for use by Brewery staff and by local community on what was formerly field in front of old Cromwell House.
- Controversially developer's first exhibition here in March showed redevelopment of playing fields to provide secondary school plus single all-weather pitch – plus also 980 housing units and new community hub.
- Gross overdevelopment of site. Main concern was impact on traffic which is already in gridlock on this road going west in morning peak and thereby not able to accommodate any traffic exiting Brewery site in same direction.
- Second exhibition here in July showed slight improvement, vis. reduction in number of units from 980 to 860 including 200 affordable and 126 Care Village. But reduction is not enough and playing fields are still lost.

4. Williams Lane – cricket square, Cromwell House gates

- Playing fields comprise two football pitches and cricket square between them. As well as Brewery staff and local community there were other users, notably England football team in build-up to winning World Cup in 1966.
- In recent years, with closure of Brewery, Barnes Eagles FC based at Barn Elms have used pitches at weekends and Thomson House School use them on Mondays. This leaves Tuesdays to Fridays for pitches to recover ready for use next weekend.
- Presumption in favour of replacing the two grass pitches with a single all-weather surface. If Mortlake community want to see grass playing fields retained they must start a cricket club.
- The house that John Williams built in 1494 was inherited by cousin Morgan Williams who worked in Brewery and married Catharine Cromwell, sister of Thomas Cromwell. Readers of Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall will know that Thomas, who grew up in Putney, had a bust-up with his father and took refuge at his sister's house in Mortlake. After Thomas was executed by Henry VIII, his sister's son Richard changed his name from Williams to Cromwell. His great grandson was Oliver Cromwell.
- Cromwell House stood to east of Williams Lane dog-leg. Rescue archaeology required before construction begins.
- Cromwell House gates were moved to present location after demolition of Cromwell House in 1860. They became entrance to Brewery's bowling green which was developed for today's housing about 20 years ago.
- New Cromwell House was built on riverside but was demolished in 1947.

5. Chiswick Bridge and Thames towpath

- Bridge built to replace ferry in 1933, architect Sir Herbert Baker. Opened by Edward, Prince of Wales in 1936 – and he also opened the re-designed Hampton Court Bridge, architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, on same day (Lutyens and Baker having fallen out with each other over the layout of the Viceroy's Palace and Secretariat buildings in New Delhi).
- Chiswick Bridge carries the A316. The opportunity of creating an access to Brewery site from A316 has gone, alas, as new development has prevented this.
- Thames towpath is 184 miles long and is one of several long distance footpaths in UK. Opened in 1996.
- Riverside House here in 1617 survey and rebuilt in 18th cent. Listed Grade II.

6. Thames Bank and University Boat Race Stone

- University Boat Race Stone marks end of Oxford v Cambridge boat race which was inaugurated in 1845.
- Parliament Mews built on site of new Cromwell House.
- Leyden House here in 1617 survey and rebuilt in 18th cent. Also listed Grade II.

7. The Ship and the Maltings – including site of Bishop’s Palace and proposed new development

- The Ship, built in 1781, replaced previous pub mentioned in 1617 survey.
- The Maltings will have community uses on ground floor and housing above but substantial refit required because ceiling heights are too low for housing.
- Bishop’s Palace stood here and was handed over to Crown in 1536. Date of demolition not known, about 17th cent.
- Planning Brief shows 4-storey development along riverside, as elsewhere in Mortlake, rising to 7 storeys inland. Maltings will not be precedent for building heights along riverside.

8. Bulls Alley and Boat Race House

- Paving, slipway and wharfage are of historic interest.
- Boat Race House recently subject of planning application for two additional storeys but MESS and MBCG instrumental in opposing application on grounds that Planning Brief for Brewery redevelopment had shown lower height along riverside. Single storey subsequently approved and now under construction.

9. Tapestry Court and St Mary’s Church – including site of John Dee’s house and Tapestry Works

- Site of Dr John Dee’s house. John Dee was mathematician, astronomer, astrologer, alchemist and advisor to Queen Elizabeth I, who came here sometimes to visit him.
- House demolished to make way for Tapestry Works in 1619, demolished in 1703.
- St Mary’s Church was one of the first churches to be built after Henry VIII’s break with Rome. Has undergone many alterations and enlargements during its long history and, of the original Tudor church, only the tower remains.
- John Dee, who died in 1609, is said to be buried in chancel.