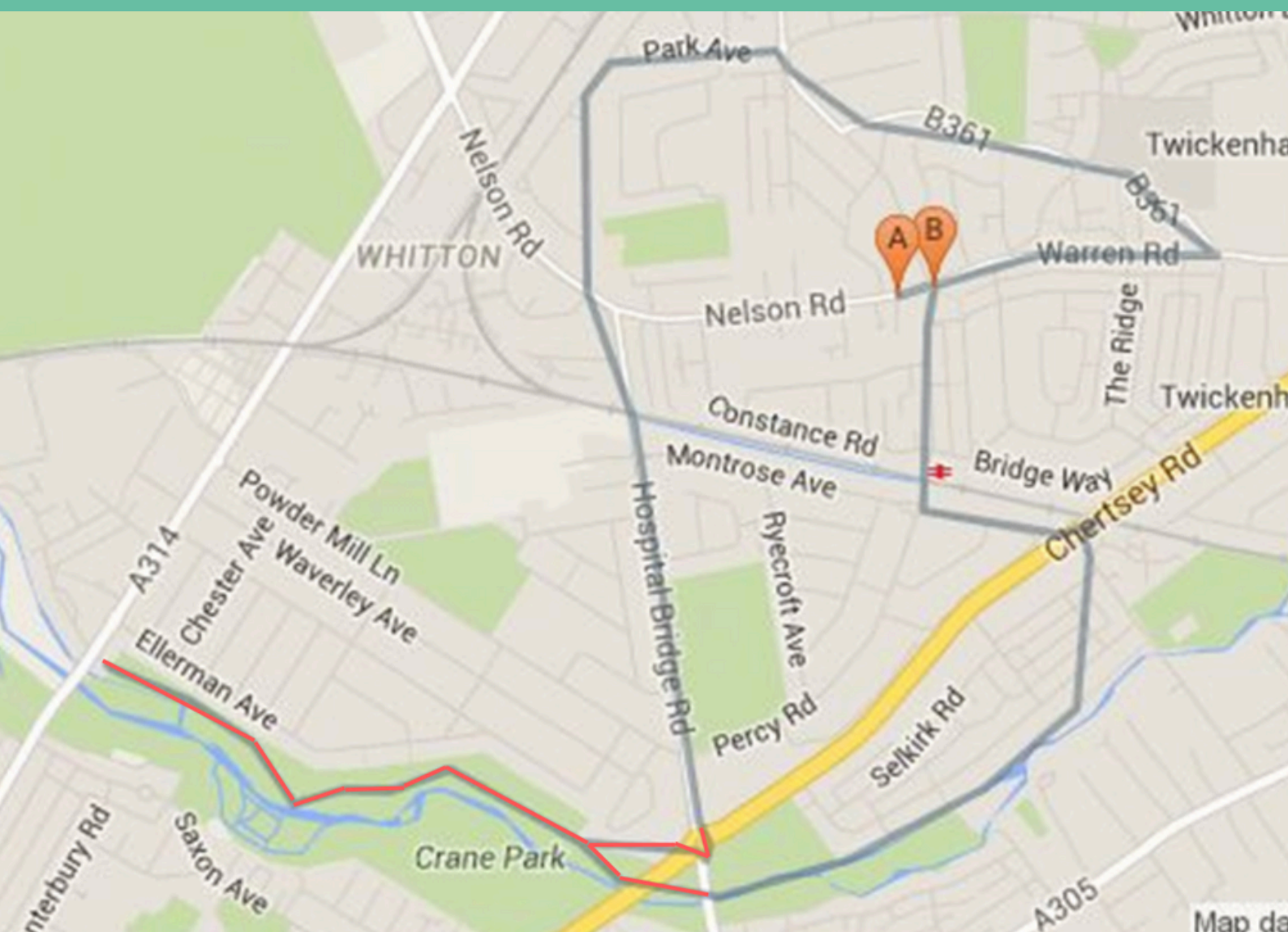


Miles Better Hidden Whitton Walking Tour



5.5 mile walk around Whitton

4.5 miles without Shot Tower extension



Learn more about the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames with our fascinating Miles Better walks. Step back in time with our series of 4 to 6 mile walks that will introduce you to new facts about the area whilst celebrating the great outdoors.

All walks start and finish at one of the Borough Libraries. Please visit www.richmond.gov.uk/libraries for details of our opening hours.

[Click here to get directions with Google Maps.](#)





Whitton Library



The route starts at Whitton Library. Starting at Whitton Library, turn left onto Nelson Road and then right towards the mini roundabout. Cross High Street Whitton and continue travelling east along Nelson Road.



Here you'll find the 19th and early 20th century shops and houses of Old Whitton on the left. Before 1932, everything to the right was nursery and arable land.



A little further on Nelson Road becomes Warren Road. Continue downhill.





These two images from our archives show Nelson Road circa 1920 and 1970. The image above features Martin Gale and Wright, a conveyors/estate agents. At one point, the company was managed by Edward Windsor, a devoted member of the Whitton community who fought against fascism in the 1930s and, as part of the Royal Corps of Signals, he fought in WW2 and was present at Dunkirk and the Allied D-Day landings at Normandy in June 1944.



During the 17th century the cavalier poet and inventor of cribbage, Sir John Suckling, was born in Whitton and baptised locally in 1609. During his lifetime the population of Whitton was only c.120 people!



Turn left down Kneller Road towards Kneller Hall.





Kneller Hall was formerly the home of royal court painter, Sir Godfrey Kneller who painted King Charles II, Louis XIV and James II among others. This led to his knighthood in 1692 and he was later made a baronet in 1715.



In 1847 it became Kneller Hall Training School for Teachers. For the last 150 years it has been the Royal School of Military Music.



Continue along Kneller Road to the mini roundabout.

On reaching Whitton Village, note the remains of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian buildings. Including the Duke of Argyll's house which dates from the late 18th century. Additionally, 1-4 Clarence Terrace which were originally built as four shops around 1895, can now be seen at 112-118 Kneller Road.





Cross over the mini roundabout to The White Hart Inn, which dates back to 1685, and continue down Kneller Road.



Whitton Dene near Hounslow belonging to Mrs Campbell 1791.

On the left side of the road, Murray Park is Whitton's only public open space and was once part of the Whitton Dene Estate where the Duke of Argyll maintained his mistress. The third Duke of Argyll was said to have had "one of the most valuable private libraries in Great Britain."

At the end of Kneller Road is the church of St Philip and St James, erected in 1862 when the parish of Whitton was created.

The 3rd Duke of Argyll left his estate and personal belongings to "Mrs Elizabeth Williams" who was "his mistress and bore him a son". She lived in Whitton Dene which was "very convenient when the Duke was in residence in Whitton", as well as having a residence in Marlborough Street, which was "equally convenient when the Duke was in town."



ST. PHILIP'S & ST. JAMES CHURCH.
KNELLER ROAD
WHITTON.

At the end of Kneller Road, stands Ss Philip & James Church.

Completed in 1862, the foundation stone was "laid on 17 July 1861 by Augustus Murray, aged seven."





At the T-junction at the end of Kneller Road turn right to join Hounslow Road.

Continue along Hounslow Road. When you reach the mini-roundabout and parade of shops, turn left onto Park Avenue.

As you follow Park Avenue it will merge into Argyle Avenue.

Bear left to continue along Argyle Avenue until you reach gates in the road. Then turn left onto Whitton Way.

When you reach Nelson Road, turn left. Walk past the shops and take the first turning on your right, Hospital Bridge Road.



Towards the end of Hospital Bridge Road is Twickenham Cemetery where many eminent local figures are buried.

Eddie Allan 'Fast Eddie' Clarke, who was the lead guitarist for Motörhead and Fastway, Leonard Jack Lewis, who was a British director who directed and produced episodes of Eastenders and Doctor Who.

Another interesting individual buried here is Sgt Norman Cyril Jackson, who fought in WWII and had quite a remarkable survival story! His aircraft was attacked by Germans near Schweinfurt, after which he fell twenty thousand feet with a partially open and alight parachute. When he landed, he only broke an ankle, pretty remarkable! Since he had landed in Germany, the locals weren't big fans of his – they paraded him through the streets and stoned him. He was held in Stalag Kc prisoner of war camp, from which he attempted escape twice and was successful the second time. He was then later awarded the Victoria Cross for his service in 1945.





Cross Percy Road and continue along Hospital Bridge Road until you get to the roundabout.



On the left you will see the church of St Augustine of Canterbury, which was built in 1951 to serve the parish of Heathfield, created following the 1930's housing boom.

Route extension (Crane Park and Tower)



At the roundabout, cross Hospital Bridge Road to the right. Follow the A316 for 100 metres to the entrance of Crane Park. Once in the park follow signs to the shot tower.





The shot tower is part of remnants of the gunpowder industry. In terms of location for the mills, it was perfect – it was isolated as the area wasn't very developed yet, there were plenty of willow trees which produced the best charcoal for gunpowder, and via the river it was easy to reach the Port of London. The tower itself is a listed building, Grade 2 and is the only surviving building from the mills.



At the Tower retrace your steps. When you see the A316 ahead of you, the path splits into two. Take the right-hand path to go under the road bridge. Follow the path under the next bridge as well, and you will **rejoin** the main walk.





At the roundabout, turn left and use the pedestrian bridge. At the other side of the A316, walk back towards the roundabout, taking the first left for the entrance to Crane Park.

Extension rejoins here: Continue along the path for approximately 20 minutes until you reach Meadway road. Please note there is a café and toilet facilities on the opposite side of the road in Kneller Gardens.

Turn left along Meadway. When you reach the A316 turn right for the underpass. Once you are on the north side of the A316 turn right, then turn right again into Jubilee Avenue.

At Percy Road turn right for the High Street.



The High Street is considered to be one of the finest examples of the 1930s. A public library used to be located at numbers 39 and 41 on the high street.



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Continue along the High Street, then turn left at the Admiral Nelson public house for Whitton Library to complete the walk.

Walk complete!

Congratulations, you've completed the Miles Better: Hidden Whitton walk.
Why not try our other Miles Better walk, A Tour of Teddington?

