

Putney Society Buildings Walks No.6: Putney High St to River Wandle

A selection of interesting ancient and modern buildings.



This level walk (approx. 1.6km / 1 mile) from Church Square on Putney High St (bus stop St Mary's Church) and finishes at the mouth of the River Wandle. From there you can either retrace your steps or cross the Wandle and follow it upstream to Wandsworth Town Centre or Wandsworth Town Station – both signposted.

Do look and admire from outside but please note that private homes are just that and even 'public' buildings may have restrictions on entry.

Start in **Church Square**.

St Mary's Church (1). There has been a centre of Christian worship on this site since the 13th Century. Parts of the existing church date from the 15th and 16th Centuries, but most of the building dates from 1836 to the designs of Edward Lapidge. It was Grade II* listed in 1955. The interior was rebuilt after an arson attack in 1973 and the new extension the Brewer Building completed in 2005. The Putney Debates on the English Constitution took place in the Church in 1647 during the English Civil War.



Follow the Thames Path East away from the High Street to **Putney Wharf**.

Ahead of you is **Putney Wharf Tower (2)**. Originally built as an office block for International Computers Ltd (ICL), it was converted in 2003 to residential use by stripping back to the concrete frame, stepping the upper floors, and adding the bow front on the river side. The Putney Wharf and the Brewhouse developments replaced an industrial site and the rebuilt Castle public house; the original having been bombed in WWII.



Past the Tower **The Boathouse (3)** gastro pub on the right occupies three floors in the historic red brick Isherwood Building (once a vinegar brewery) complete with a cupola and clock and with a glass fronted extension overlooking the river.



Look back at the Grade II listed **Putney Bridge (4)**. The present bridge, a five-span structure built of stone and Cornish granite, was designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette and was opened in 1886. It was widened in 1933.

If you glance to the right up Brewhouse Lane, you will see the back of **Jubilee House (5)** an office block designed by Seifert & Partners and constructed in 1966.



Walk eastwards along the Thames and turn right into **Deodar Road**.

A good summary of history of the buildings on the river side of the road can be found in first section of the 2010 Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Report https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/media/1590/deodar_caandms.pdf

On the right are 5 new houses built as **Wharf Terrace, Deodar Road (5)** as part of the Brewhouse redevelopment by St George South London. They were designed to reflect the adjoining terrace of Victorian houses.



Take time to look at the Victorian houses on the **north side** of the road. They were built in the 1890's by a number of local builders and are mostly of three stories, gabled with decorative bargeboards and finials and some bracketed first floor bays. **Deodar Road** is one of the handful in London street where the rear gardens run down to the Thames. (A view of these can be had from the footbridge- see next entry). The houses also have fairly large front gardens and towards the park end several feature mature magnolia trees; perhaps the finest are at **79/81 Deodar Road (6)**. Number 79 was used as a studio by the artist Sir Sidney Nolan from 1960-76 and Swan Studios, 65 Deodar Road, was the studio of stained-glass designers Colwyn & William Morris.



As you walk down the road notice the blue stone setts used to line the road gutters.

After 50m Deodar Road is crossed by the District Line (Wimbledon Branch) on the **Fulham Railway Bridge (7)** an eight-span wrought iron girder bridge constructed 1887-9. Stock brick stairwells with red brick trimming and rusticated granite and Portland stone abutments. The L&SWR were required, as an amenity, to provide the footbridge that runs along the east side of the main bridge. Locally listed. Hiding under the bridge is the Hurlingham Yacht Club which was often used as a location for 1970s TV series "The Sweeney" and other programmes.

78 Deodar Road, Thornhill House (8) is a Grade II listed house built around 1890 by Kensington builder Mr Wakefield and incorporating parts of Wandsworth Manor a late 17th C house demolished in 1890.

84 Deodar Road (9) is a modern 5 bedroom house constructed in 2004 on vacant land used as a temporary car park. The architects were Carnell Green.

109-115 Deodar Road (10). A large late 1850s house formerly known as Riverdale. This stuccoed, detached building is of elegant proportions, three stories with tall, bracketed stacks and a mix of flat and arched head windows. The dummy balustrade running around the house, decorative panels under the second-floor windows and bracketing to the eaves are all strong design features and add considerable interest, all elevations being visible from public areas. It is on the Council's Local List of buildings of architectural and historic interest.

Where [Deodar Road](#) makes a right hand turn continue straight on through [Blades Mews](#) into Wandsworth Park. Turn left and follow the path alongside the Thames.

Wandsworth Park (11), Grade II listed, was opened in 1903 after the purchase in 1897 of 19 acres of allotments. Along the river you walk under overhanging London plane trees. A fine avenue of lime trees follows the parallel path to the south. Across the river are the grounds of the Hurlingham Club and you may be able to glimpse the 19th C Hurlingham House through the trees.

Leaving the Park by the riverside gate you approach the [Riverside Quarter](#) developed from 2010 onwards on an industrial site; a large part being a former Shell oil terminal used to store & distribute fuels brought upriver by tanker barge from the refinery at Shellhaven. As you pass the end of the first block of flats turn right and walk south for 30m.

Prospect House (12). This Grade II listed two storey stucco house is said to have been built in the 1790's. The blue plaque attached says that the property was reputed to have been frequented by King George IV.

Riverside Quarter (13). A riverside development comprising nine blocks designed by Roz Barr and Lori Pinkerton-Rolet Architects and constructed from 2010-20. There are landscaped gardens between them, built over underground parking, and base heating and cooling is provided by a 2.5 MW Aquifer Thermal Storage system.

At the end of the Riverside Quarter development, you reach the mouth of the River Wandle. A small park has created on the spit of land between the two channels. Across the river you see huge red **West Riverside Waste Authority plant (14)** designed by Louis Hellman of the old LCC architects dept., who is also a well-known cartoonist! Beyond the waste plant are the remnants of what was an industrial area, including a gas works, now scheduled for residential development.

You have reached the end of the walk. Follow the signs to [Wandsworth Town Centre](#) or [Wandsworth Town Station](#) for buses (220, 270, 485 & 337) and trains back to Putney or simply retrace your steps back to the High Street.

