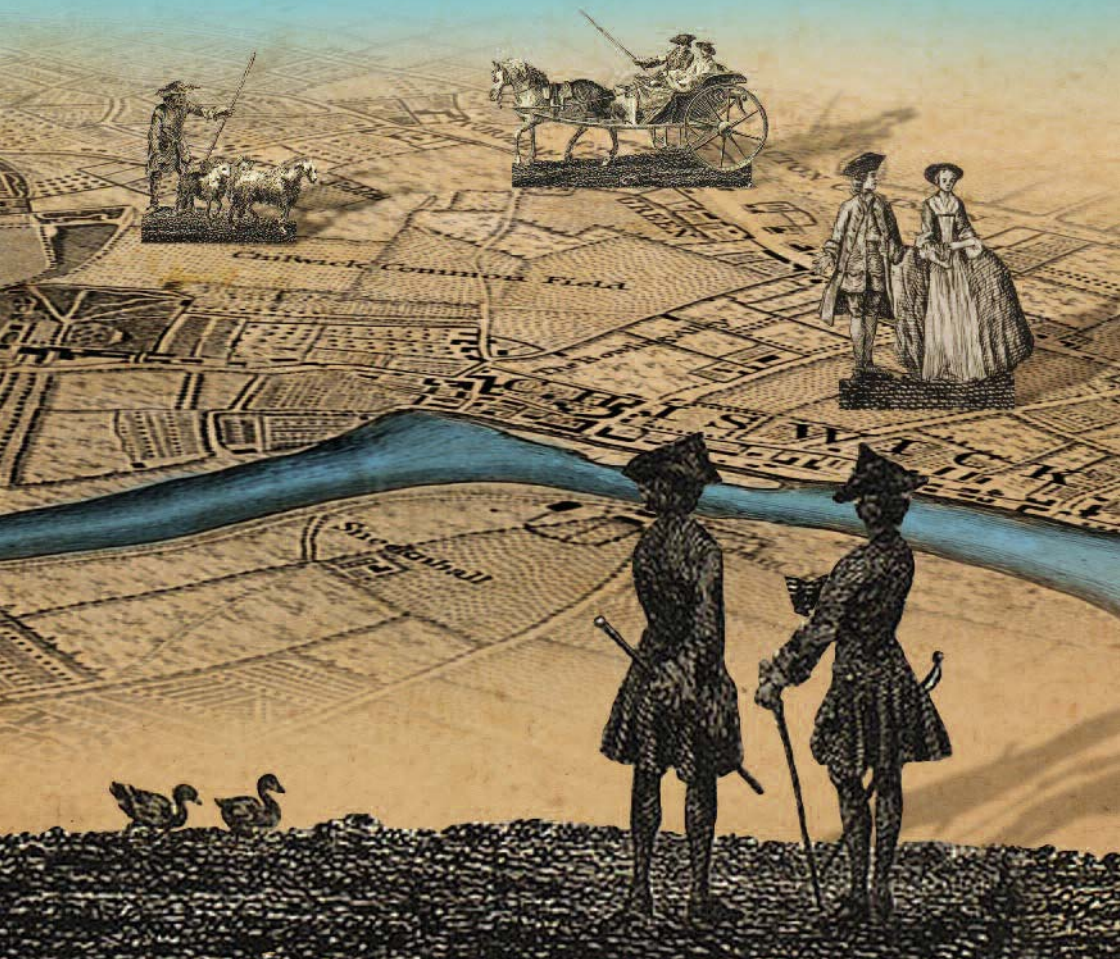


FREE

IN GEORGIAN FOOTSTEPS

- Explore the lanes and paths of 18th century Chiswick



Chiswick Parish lies on low land, in a loop of the Thames. The river was an important transport route for people and goods.

The ancient Bath Road - today's High Road - ran east-west across common land in the north, where Chiswick & Acton parishes met. A settlement grew up there, known as Turnham Green, with fashionable houses and mansions, and inns, blacksmiths and farriers to serve travellers.

Burlington Lane linked the two riverside villages, Chiswick Town in the east and Strand on the Green to the west. It followed a route along slightly rising ground, probably to stay clear of the risk of flooding from the river.

The big estates were The Grove, whose garden by the river was protected by a wall, Sutton Court, the manor house with its own farm and parkland, and Chiswick House.



Bath Road



Burlington Lane



Hogarth's House



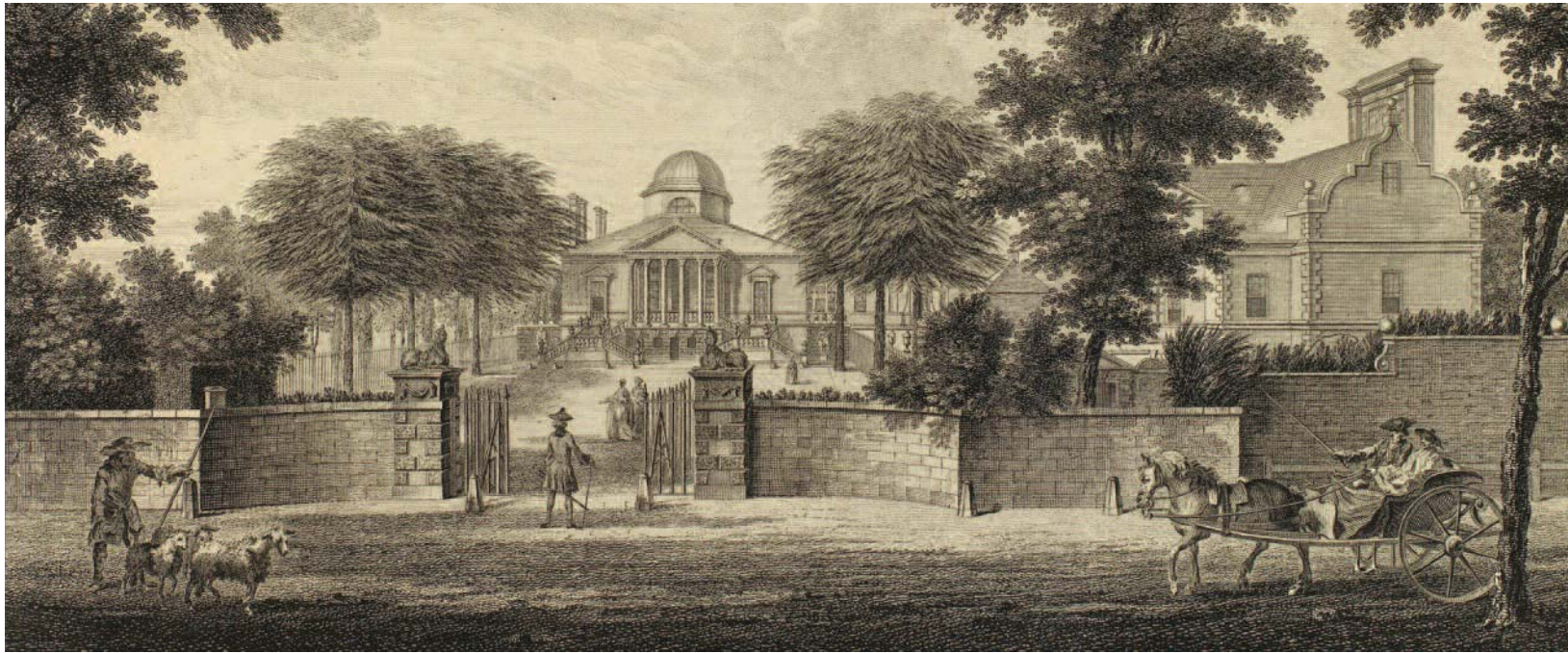
Chiswick House



The Thames

Detail from John Rocque's Map of London and Environs, surveyed 1741-45, colours added





John Donowell's view, published in the 1750s, shows Lord Burlington's new villa. It was built after a wing of the 17th century house was destroyed by fire in 1725. You can see what survived of the old house through the trees. Travelling left from this picture the lane crosses the stream which was dammed to create Burlington's lake in the 1720s, with his Cascade alongside, as shown in this companion print.

At the inner gates in front of Chiswick House you are standing on the old line of Burlington Lane. This road was moved away from the house, for greater privacy, in about 1815, bringing some additional land into the grounds, with a new outer gate onto the Lane.

► **Walk** beyond the right of this picture, across the grass towards the small lodge and gate where you join today's Burlington Lane.

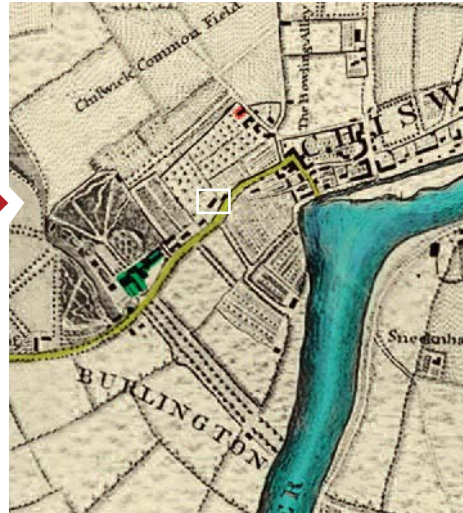
Alternatively you can reach the same point by leaving the grounds through the huge iron gates south of the House, and following the fine brick boundary wall, built when the lane was moved. Some of the brick used in its construction is much older than 1815 so was probably re-used from the wall shown in this print.



► **Continue** along Burlington Lane towards the Hogarth Roundabout and cross the road at the traffic lights beside St Mary's Convent.

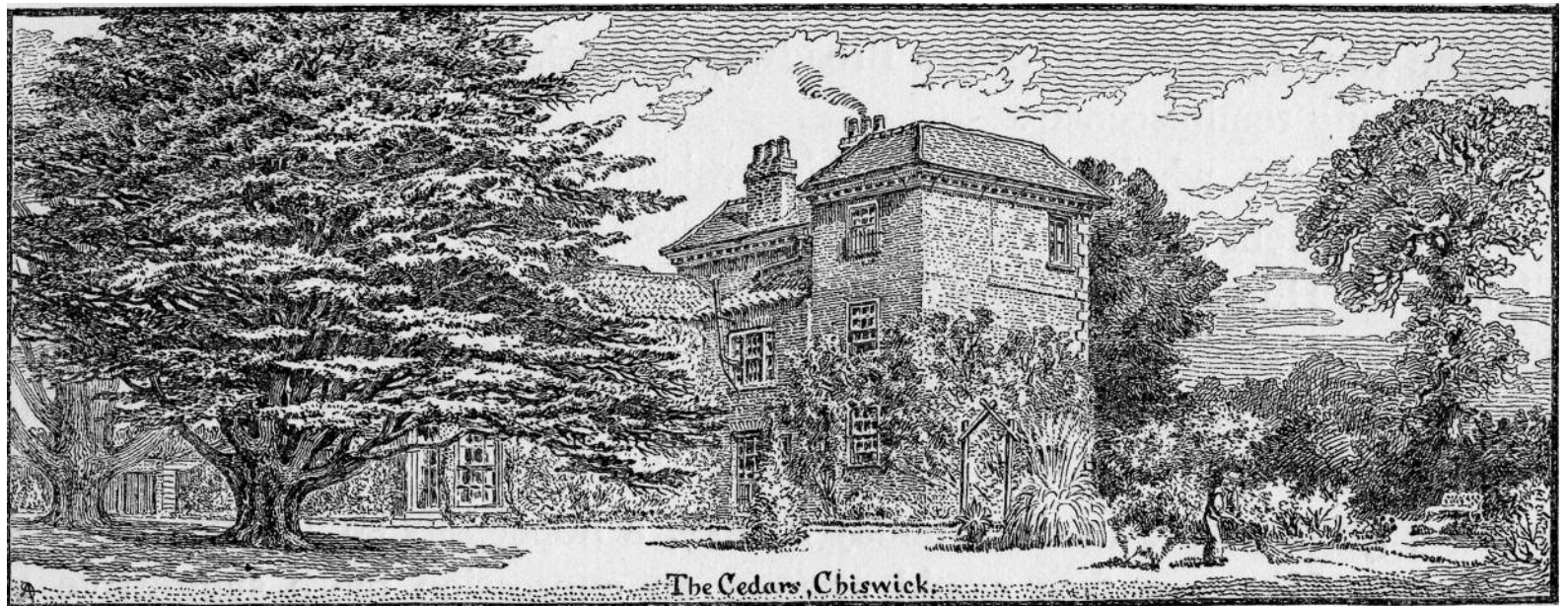
18th century pedestrians would only have had glimpses of the flat fields, walled orchards and productive gardens (today's Edensor, Corney and Grantham Roads) because many of the garden grounds were surrounded by high walls. These gave shelter from frost and provided security for high value plants.

Between the three villages of Chiswick Town, Strand on the Green and Turnham Green, lay fields and many more nursery gardens and orchards as John Rocque's map of 1746 shows.



Beyond today's Paxton Road junction two large houses stood opposite each other in the lane. On the north side was The Cedars, built about 1700, whose grounds ran up to the boundary wall at Hogarth's House.

Like many local houses, this was a second home for comfortably off Londoners. Hogarth's friend, Dr John Ranby, a significant military surgeon, probably used it until 1754. Then recently-married Frederick and Dorothy Ernst took it on. Frederick was a page to George III and lived with his wife at St James's Palace. He died in 1767, but Dorothy remained in Chiswick until her death in 1810. She complained in 1777 to the Duke of Devonshire about the damp in this house which she was leasing from him. She was also upset about the "most disagreeable unwholsom smell" of bricks being fired in the field across the lane and dreaded the noisy behaviour of the "low fellows", the brickmakers.



This wood engraving of The Cedars is the work of Alfred Dawson, who owned both this house and Hogarth's House in the 1890s

Opposite, and slightly at an angle, stood a house built much later in the 18th century. It appears in this photo of 1906. Beside it ran a footpath with high brick walls on each side, a short cut to the church. This is today Powell's Walk, but was originally Paul's Walk (named for the cathedral which owned Chiswick's manors). Several walks, enclosed in brick at about the same time, still run through Chiswick. The routes may date from the middle ages.



- **Take a quiet stroll** along Powell's Walk to avoid the traffic noise of the Hogarth Roundabout. At the end of this path you will reach the churchyard. Only the area fenced off around the church itself was used for burials in the 18th century.



Along Powell's Walk the locally-made red-brown brick with lime mortar has been repaired by owners of neighbouring gardens with a patchwork of modern brick and cement

- **If you have time, explore** the churchyard. Do not miss the Hogarth family's tomb on the river side of the church. His family would have worshipped at St Nicholas in an earlier building than the one you see today. Then descend into Church Street turning towards the river to see the causeway.

The tomb of Richard Wright, designed by William Kent, is as grand as that of the Hogarth family nearby. Though he was described as a bricklayer, he was actually in charge of building Lord Burlington's villa and other structures at Chiswick House

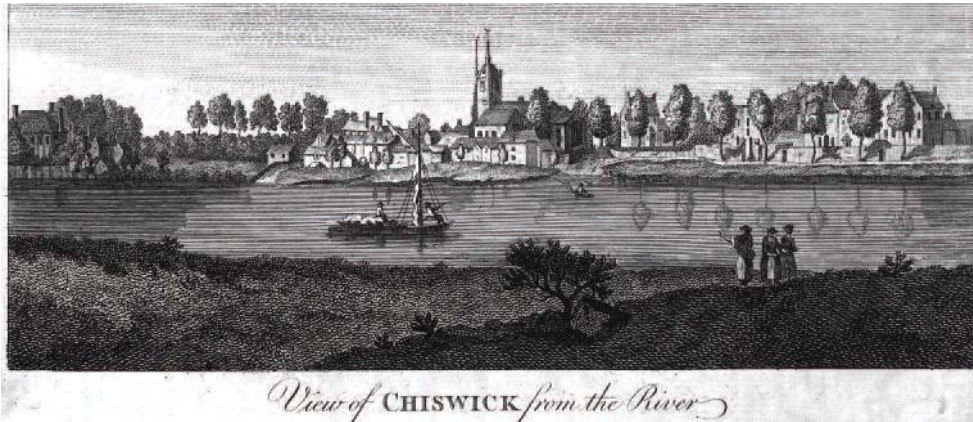


This lithograph issued in 1823 places Hogarth's tomb nearer the river than it is in reality. This enabled the artist to include it in a view showing, left, the 1658 Vicarage, modernised with stucco in the 18th century, with Chiswick Eyot beyond. Basket-makers used the crop of willow grown on the island



The watercolour shows the old church, built on rising ground away from risk of flooding

Below the church was an area called Sluts Hole, facing a row of wooden wharves built across the foreshore. The name is not a slur on the residents, but probably refers to a sluice, where a stream running across the parish flowed into the Thames. At the bottom of Church Street the ferry took passengers from the causeway which you can still see at low tide.



Chiswick Town seen from Barnes in about 1750. The ferry is being rowed across to pick up three women waiting at Chiswick Steps. A western barge is being poled along the river with a load of cargo, its sails furled as there is no wind

- **Walk** along the river front towards the Eyot. If you visit on one of the open garden days you will be able to see 18th century walls and earlier buildings in the rear gardens which adjoin the brewery. Many of the houses along the Mall were here long before the 18th century. Some are timber-framed buildings with later fronts and window openings.

Yale Center for British Art; Yale University Art Gallery Collection B1 1998.14.833



On Chiswick Mall many houses remain which would have been known to Georgian residents. Behind them were two breweries. Thomas Mawson established what became the Griffin Brewery around the domestic brew-house of Bedford House (now divided as Bedford and Eynham Houses).

The shingle bank, sheltered by the eyot, was used as a drawdock where flat-bottomed barges could load and unload at any state of the tide.

- **If you have time, explore** the riverfront towards Hammersmith. Rocque's 1746 map shows a line of dots, representing trees upstream of the drawdock, and four black squares which may be huts for water men or basketmakers. The riverside gardens were taken in by 19th century householders after the lane was improved and raised.



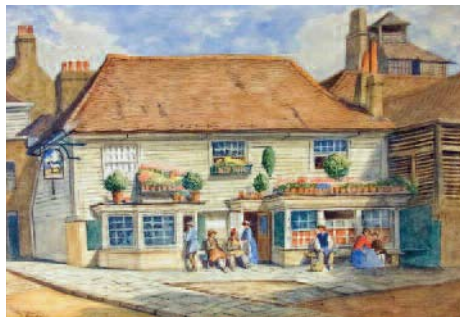
The Drawdock, 1860s, the pub sign for the Red Lion located to attract custom from the river. The white buildings on the left include the old Prebendal Manor House, home of writer James Ralph (d 1762), friend of Hogarth and Benjamin Franklin

- **Peep** into the Brewery yard; the 18th century Brewery House on the right has a very old wisteria, a plant introduced to England in 1816. Walk up towards the Mawson Arms past the handsome early Georgian terrace built by Thomas Mawson.



The pub was a private house until 1898; its two names come from earlier licences for a pub and a beer-house further down the Row. Behind the pub and beside the A4 look for the upper floor of a fine red-brick summer-house. Could it have belonged to the Pope family who lived here 1716-19? Their son, Alexander, became a significant poet and knew Lord Burlington.

- **Now walk along** Thomas Mawson's substantial boundary wall; it has been raised and incorporated into later buildings but by now you should recognise the local bricks. At the Hogarth Roundabout you have reached the heart of Chiswick Town which was swept away by the road. Turn left and take a short walk down Church Street to Lamb Cottage, then return to the roundabout. The George & Devonshire is still recognisable as an 18th century pub. To the rear stood an assembly room which could hold up to 300 guests in the 1770s.



At the Lamb, shown in a watercolour by J T Wilson, a second brewery was established in the 18th century. As it grew, new buildings were added through the gate on the right. Now it is a private house



John Crowther's watercolour shows Mawson Row from Chiswick Lane in about 1860. All the buildings in the foreground stood where the A4 now runs

London Metropolitan Archives



In this sketch, the artist stood at the old junction of Church Street and Devonshire Road, facing the George & Devonshire. In the foreground are timber-framed houses with red tiled roofs; the site now lies beneath the roundabout and the subway takes you north to the rest of Devonshire Road

Chiswick's Georgian residents would still recognise the George & Devonshire as well as Chiswick Square next door. Its two small houses beside the pub were built by 1680, almost certainly by John Meard, who with his son developed part of Soho around Meard Street. At the end of the square, Boston House, about 1740, was a grand second home whose residents included Viscount Boston.

Ewan Munro



- **Now descend** into the subway under the roundabout and turn left. You emerge in Hogarth Lane (now part of the A4) and a short distance ahead is Hogarth's House. It is usually open to visitors in the afternoon, except on Monday.



Hogarth's little etching of about 1750 shows the House in shade with the same gateways in the wall as those you see today. Hogarth converted the hayloft over his stable at the bottom of the garden into his studio. Chiswick Common Field, in the foreground, stretched up to Turnham Green.

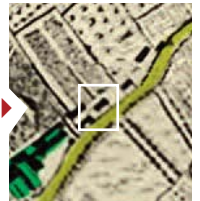


Hogarth's House, built by 1717, was mainly used as a second home for Londoners. It stands in the corner of a walled orchard from which a mulberry tree survives. The Hogarths added one room on each floor in 1750 and the value in the parish rate books rose from £7 to £10. Hogarth's close friend Dr Thomas Morell, who wrote libretti for Handel's music, lived in Chiswick Lane. He asked to be buried next to Hogarth but his wife's wealthy family, the Barkers, placed his body in their family tomb instead. Mrs Hogarth had close women friends at Woodroffe House on the Mall and Corney House near today's Chiswick Pier.

- **Enter** Chiswick House Gardens via the gates onto the A4. Walk down the avenue, observing the high walls built from local brick, and turn right through the Italian Garden towards the café and the villa where this trail began.

Next door to Hogarth's House stood the 17th century Turret House, of which no picture survives, then the walled nursery garden of the prosperous William Cock, another friend of the Hogarth household. The avenue runs across Mr Cock's garden ground and on the east side are the walls which protected his nursery. Opposite is the 1680s garden wall of Sir Stephen Fox's house. Both properties became part of the Chiswick House estate when they were bought by the 6th Duke of Devonshire in 1812. The Duke demolished Fox's house to make way for his Italian garden and conservatory but its kitchen gardens survive behind the conservatory.

London Metropolitan Archives



James Douglas, 14th Earl of Morton, acquired Stephen Fox's house in 1755. It was afterwards always known as Morton Hall. A sun dial in the Chiswick House Gardens marks the centre of its site.

Walking this trail enables you to discover some of the landscape and buildings of 18th century Chiswick which still survive. Using the maps and images it is also possible to imagine Georgian Chiswick without leaving home!



The map above and John Rocque's 1746 map on pages 2 and 3 show the area it covers. The text can be followed from Chiswick House on a circular route, or you can start at any point, tracing the route to the last page before returning to the beginning. We hope local people will see Chiswick through new eyes while others will enjoy exploring the setting of Hogarth's House and Chiswick House which together attract huge numbers from across the world.

Useful websites

chiswickhouseandgardens.org.uk

Hogarth's House: hounslow.gov.uk/info/20174/heritage_and_arts/1855/historic_houses/2

williamhogarthtrust.org.uk

brentfordandchiswicklhs.org.uk



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CHISWICK
HOUSE & GARDENS

**Brentford & Chiswick
Local History Society**

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