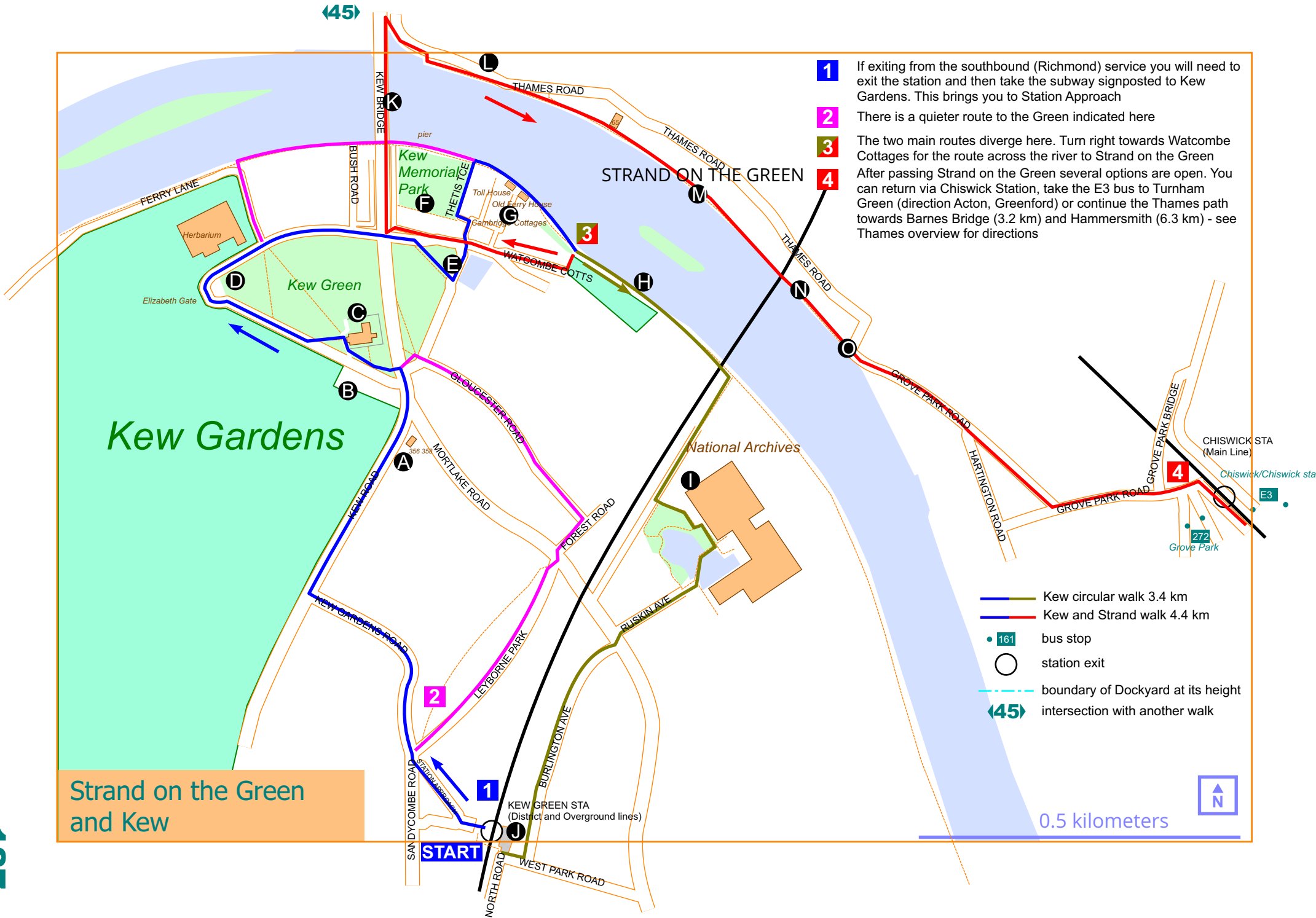


←45→



- 1** If exiting from the southbound (Richmond) service you will need to exit the station and then take the subway signposted to Kew Gardens. This brings you to Station Approach
- 2** There is a quieter route to the Green indicated here
- 3** The two main routes diverge here. Turn right towards Watcombe Cottages for the route across the river to Strand on the Green
- 4** After passing Strand on the Green several options are open. You can return via Chiswick Station, take the E3 bus to Turnham Green (direction Acton, Greenford) or continue the Thames path towards Barnes Bridge (3.2 km) and Hammersmith (6.3 km) - see Thames overview for directions

- Kew circular walk 3.4 km
- Kew and Strand walk 4.4 km
- 161 bus stop
- station exit
- - - boundary of Dockyard at its height
- ←45→ intersection with another walk

Strand on the Green and Kew

0.5 kilometers



Kew Village

But for its closeness to the royal palace at Richmond, it would have been a village just like any other.

Kew began as a hamlet in the parish of Kingston and the Manor of Richmond. It was a fishing village complete with cornfields and market gardens.

It developed at an intersection between the road from London to the palace at Richmond and the north-south route across the Thames at Brentford.

In the mid 1600s, the origin of the green was a common which stretched westwards to a ferry landing, where three large properties were then built: Kew Farm, Kew House (a manor house occupied by the Capel family) and the Dutch House, so-called because it was built in the Dutch style by a merchant of Flemish extraction.

With the arrival of the Hanoverians, the two houses were commandeered by the Royal family and the first development of Kew took place. Frederick and Augusta developed the Capel's garden - the start of Kew Gardens, while the Dutch House went on to become Kew Palace. The other two buildings were subsequently demolished to make way for more gardens, and the Green was curtailed, the route to the ferry being diverted along its current route of Ferry Lane. The first bridge arrived in 1759

Much of what is here today dates from the late 19th Century with the arrival of the District Line and easy access to London, enabling commuter development around the station. The National Archives arrived in the mid-1970s,

moving here from Chancery Lane.

Ⓐ Here, after Newens Maids of Honour tea rooms, the early village starts, with an early 19th century row of houses and cottages facing the wall of the RHS gardens. Nos 356 and 358, were built for the Engelhart family, a Hanoverian family in early-mid C18.

Ⓑ Here fronting the green is a collection of fine period houses of a similar age but grander. Early C18 Capel house we pass on the other side of the green should be noted.

Ⓒ Although there was a private chapel at Kew Farm in the 1500s, Kew's first chapel of ease was built on Kew Green in 1714, when a public subscription raised the money and Queen Anne granted the plot of land and gave £100. There were several subsequent enlargements and full parish status was granted by 1788. Several notable persons have been buried/interred here: Sir William Hooker the first Director of Kew Gardens and his son Joseph who succeeded him, Thomas Gainsborough, Joshua Kirby architect as well as artist and Royal Drawing Master; Jeremiah Meyer, the Queen's miniature painter Francis Bauer botanical artist to the king, and John Zoffany.

Ⓓ In the 1720s, George II and Queen Caroline and their children took leases on the Dutch house and several others in the near vicinity, thinking it a perfect lodging for their three eldest daughters. In 1730, his son Frederick took the lease on a house there (Kew House, or the White House), owned by the Capels and known for its gardens. 1759 his wife Princess Augusta, mother of King George III, founded a

nine-acre botanic garden based on those gardens of the White House. The White House was demolished in 1802 but the Dutch House became known as Kew Palace.

In 1840 Kew Gardens was transferred from the Crown to the government and Sir William Hooker appointed director. The Gardens are opened to the public. The gardens now cover 300 acres.

Ⓔ Kew Pond is thought to have originally been a natural pond fed from a creek on the Tidal Thames which was enlarged to serve as a fishery in the 10th century. In 1824 the creek was partly filled in and built over to give access to the King's School which was built that year to the north of the pond. As the pond has no natural inflow, it could only be filled once a month from the river when the tide of the River Thames was exceptionally high. Threats to fill the pond in have been fought off and Friends of Kew Pond open and close the valve into the river every month.

Ⓕ Kew has four war memorials. After WWI funds were collected for a memorial on the green. The remainder of the funds was spent on converting Westerly Ware, (an unkempt field, that was part of common land until the 18th, used by fishermen as a place to beach boats and mend nets), into a recreation ground, with tennis courts, a playground and other facilities. The splendid memorial gates were erected in about 1927 and were restored fairly recently.

Ⓖ Cambridge Cottages were built over Kew Dock. This was the centre of the local fishing industry until it was wiped out by pollution

around 1850. City of London barge house was between the Toll House and Watcombe Cottages. It is said to have housed the 'Maria Wood' - the State Barge of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London. Its 140 ft length meant that a special barge house was needed parallel to the river but which could be filled with river water from the eastern end.

In about 1843 the barge house was extended to the west to become the Toll House, which was later enlarged. It was then used by the Thames Conservancy and later the Port of London Authority. The barge house itself was dismantled in the early 1900's. The Kew Toll Keeper was responsible for the maintenance of the City Barge. The Toll House is now a private house and has a flood marker on the wall below the window.

📍 From the late 18th century Oliver's Island had a kind of tollbooth, a wooden structure shaped like a small castle, which levied charges on passing craft to fund improvements to the river's navigability. A barge was moored alongside, from which the tolls were taken. By 1865 there was a smithy and barges were built and repaired here. In 1909 the Thames Conservancy assigned Oliver's Island to the Port of London Authority, which used it as a storage depot and as a wharf for derelict vessels. The smithy was demolished in 1990. The thickly wooded island is now a haven for herons, cormorants and Canada geese. The name relates to mythical connections with Oliver Cromwell. (Hidden London)

📍 The National Archives of England, Wales and the United Kingdom has one of the largest archival collections in the world, spanning 1000

years of British history, from Domesday Book of 1086 to government papers recently released to the public.

The 33,300 square metre Q1 Building at the National Archives in Kew is a low-profiled, deep-plan cube in the brutalist style. It was completed in 1976 to accommodate the ever-expanding government archive for England and Wales, and behind its inscrutable facades sits a collection of 11 million records spanning 1,000 years of governance in formats ranging from parchment to archived websites. The earliest record is an Anglo-Saxon land deed from 974, and the collection includes the Domesday Book, Guy Fawkes' confession and the wills of Shakespeare and Jane Austen.

The building was designed by John Cecil Clavering, a Sunderland-born architect who made his name designing the first Odeon cinemas with Harry Weedon before moving in 1935 to the government's Office of Works. It was one of the first open-plan spaces to be built for the British government and one of the first public buildings to employ CCTV. (AOC) The building and canteen are open to the public and meals are good value. Between the Archives and the river is a large residential development on the site of a former sewage works.

📍 Kew Gardens station was opened by the London and South Western Railway in 1869. It retains its two-storey yellow-brick station buildings, a fine example of mid-Victorian railway architecture, and protected as part of the Kew Gardens conservation area.

The footbridge to the south of the station is also noteworthy and is Grade II, listed in its

own right. It was not until 1912 that a bridge was provided to allow residents to cross the tracks safely. It is a rare surviving example of a reinforced concrete structure built using the pioneering technique of French engineer François Hennebique. The bridge has a narrow deck and very high walls, originally designed to protect its users' clothing from the smoke of steam trains passing underneath. It also has protrusions on either side of the deck to deflect smoke away from the bridge structure. Today, there is the alternative of a subway.

In 1877 the District Railway, now the District line, started services from Hammersmith. The LSWR service became part of the North London line, now part of the Overground. What now stands as The Tap on The Line was originally the station's Timber Steaming Hall. Later, it became the Buffet Rooms, before it was finally converted into a pub.

📍 The first Kew Bridge was a toll bridge, built by the ferry owner Robert Tunstall at approximately the same site in 1759. It had two stone arches at each end and seven timber arches between them. It was a problem for barge owners who objected to it, and in 1782 Robert Tunstall, son of the original builder rebuilt it.

In 1873 it was bought by a consortium of the City Corporation and the Metropolitan Board of Works who abolished the tolls.

A new bridge in Cornish granite was opened in 1903 as King Edward VII Bridge to cope with increase traffic. (It joins the North and South Circular Roads) It was designed by John Wolfe Barry and Cuthbert A. Brereton.

Strand on the Green

Strand on the Green began as one of Chiswick's four villages, Strand developed to service the river's activities - boat mending, fishing etc. This was encouraged by the building of Kew Bridge, but with time the bank made way for residential property.

It is only since 1870 that a path has existed along the river's edge, overlooked by numerous imposing 18th-century houses and local pubs despite being flooded at spring tides. Fortunately property flooding is rare but occurred to basements and other storeys before the construction of the Thames Barrier. Renowned now as a particularly picturesque part of London, the Strand-on-the-Green conservation area, established in 2018, includes 25 listed buildings and the juxtaposition of different styles adds to the charm.

● Just below the bridge is an imposing structure that began life as a laundry. The Pier House building was renovated following a recent fire and now houses the headquarters of Fuller's, who sold their brewery and moved out in 2019.

● Leaving Thames road offers a fine view of Strand's waterfront. Before long one arrives at no. 75, Strand on the Green, a pre-Georgian building, and its next door neighbour, The Bell and Crown. The current Arts and Crafts style pub building dates to 1907.

No. 71, Prospect House is a large three-storied late 18th century building with a bay window and curved balcony on iron columns.

The finest of the lot is considered to be No. 65, Zoffany House, (Grade II* listed), built c. 1704,

an imposing three-storey house of brown brick with red dressings.

Next is the grade II 18th or early 19th century Magnolia House, a three-storey brown brick building which is house is distinctive in having the first and second floors with a bow front, supported by two round cast-iron columns. Then come The Moorings, five houses from 1930, built for the "Cottage Craftsmen"; the 18th century Compass House (Grade II); Dutch House with its gable front; the former "The Ship", a pub throughout the 19th century (Grade II); and an impressive terrace of 5 three-story Georgian houses at nos 52 to 55 (Grade II). The Malthouse, nos 49 and 50 (early 19th century) are also Grade II as are no. 44, Navigator's Cottage and no. 45, Picton House.

The City Barge pub opened in the 15th century, but as can be seen, only some of the lower part survived the World War II bombing.

● Below the latticed wrought iron girder railway bridge (W R Galbraith) are The Bull's Head pub 18th century with later additions (Grade II), a two-storey white-painted brick building, still with its pantile roof with two dormer windows. flanked by nos 10 to 14, Bull Cottages, also 18th century; they suffered flood damage from high tides, and were restored in 1967.

The Hopkin Morris Almshouses form a terrace running back from the river along an alley and are described as "an attractive feature of a modest scale and pleasingly detailed with tall chimneys". The almshouses of 1724 were built by Thomas Child as six small one-roomed

houses for the poor and were refurbished as the "Hopkin Morris Homes of Rest" in 1933, creating three two-roomed houses. The 1933 and 1724 foundation stones survive on the end wall facing the river.

● Marking the end of the riverside walk is the Reardon drinking fountain erected in 1880. Press the button and the water spouts from behind the lower lily leaf. The Reardon Memorial Trust were responsible for providing 109 drinking fountains.

From there it is a pleasant walk along Grove Road to the station at Chiswick or to continue the Thames Path to Barnes Bridge.