Self-guided walk no 21. Pishiobury Park, Sawbridgeworth 4.0 miles.

Distance: 4 miles. Easy walking with 2 stiles, 1 rail crossing. On quiet roads, farm tracks and well drained field edges and footpaths. There is one section that is overgrown and long thick trousers are recommended.

Start: Pishiobury Park car park. Harlow Road, Sawbridgeworth, Herts, CM21 0AU is close by. OS Explorer Map 194. Grid TL 475 139

The paragraph numbering relates to the numbering on the map.

1. From the car park take the small gate in the north corner of the car park (by a litter bin)(photo) to a path that runs parallel to the main road and wanders through a wooded area.(photo) Ignore paths and gates off to the left and right. Cross a wooden foot bridge and follow the path until it comes out to an open area of the park.

2. Cross to Oak Walk and turn L and shortly take the kissing gate on R back into another wooded area of the park. Continue slightly downhill passing the backs of houses on L. Go through next kissing gate down a couple of steps and turn R. At next kissing gate turn L. In a short while go through kissing gate on R
and turn immediately L. along a small river. There are several short sections of wooden board walk. At the river Stort turn R and in a short while cross bridge 28 over the river. Follow the path through a hole in the hedge. It is in the same line as the bridge. The path turns L and into an open field.

3 Just before the railway crossing, turn L onto a wide grassy track. Follow this track parallel to the railway. At the end the track turns R and pass through a cattle pass under the railway. Turn R to the field edge and then L. When path reaches Sheering Lower Road turn L. At the 30 MPH signs and Lower Sheering sign turn R into Back La. Where the road bends to the L take footpath on R. The footpath sign is covered in overgrowth. At the field edge turn L and you now have the hedge on your L. The path needs to be re-instated by the farmer and has been reported to Essex CC.

4 At the end, pass through a gap in the hedge and turn R. The path gently descends and at the next way post turn R. You now have ditch and hedge on R and open field on L. This path is also overgrown and obstructed by piles of earth. It too has been reported to Essex CC. Where the farmer stores his machinery, turn L and slightly up hill. At the top there is a way post and turn R. At the next double 7 bar metal gates go round and carefully cross the road and continue to railway crossing.

5 Cross the stile onto the edge of the rails. There is a good view to the R, but only a short view to the left due to the bend. Cross with extreme caution and keep looking left and right as you cross. Exit via a second stile on other side. For a short while you are now walking in the opposite direction to which you came. At the river Stort, cross bridge 28 and over to the other bank. In a short while take path to L. and follow the small river on your left. This channel was man made on the instructions of Lancelot Capability Brown, who landscaped Pishiobury Park. It feeds the oxbow lake at the rear of Pishiobury House. Just before the next kissing gate, turn L onto the board walk. There is a sign explaining the osier beds. These were used to supply Rivers Nursery with packaging material for the export of trees all over the world. The path wanders through a wooded area. There are 2 seats and a viewing platform if you want to rest. (photo) Where the path exits the wood via a kissing gate, turn L. Follow the bottom of the bowl round and towards its end turn gently uphill to Oak walk. Take the avenue of Lime trees which were planted about 10 years ago. These mark the original grand drive to Pishiobury House. Take the footbridge over the boggy area,(photo) which has been improved to provide habitat for frogs and toads. At end of the avenue turn R and then L to kissing gate into the car park.

If you spot any errors or omissions please email rj.masters@talktalk.net. Thanks.

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