



**G.** Pishiobury Lodge (c.1840) and tree-lined drive

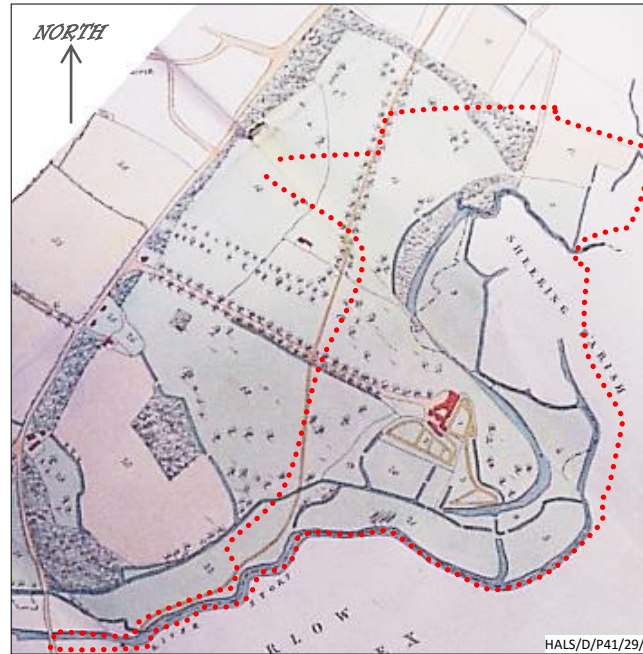
Cross Pishiobury Drive, offset from the mansion. Although now lined with 20<sup>th</sup> century houses, it still retains an avenue of mature Horse Chestnut trees, some planted late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The lodge (**G**) is topped with fine candy twist chimneys.



At Harlow Mill, walk over the bridge (**H**) and back along the towpath on the opposite side of the river. After Feakes Lock the path crosses back to the west bank. This affords views across to the park, and the mansion is just visible. A few paces further along a weir and sluice assemblage control the flow of water into the stream feeding the lake and the osier beds (**J**).

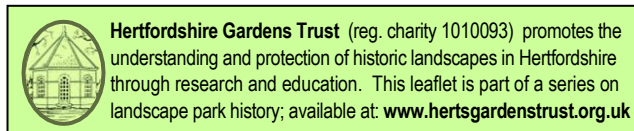


**J.** Sluice gates and weir on the River Stort



**K.** Pishiobury estate sale map, 1865 (walk in red)

Take the marked footpath on the left, but if the boardwalk is waterlogged there is a second one further along the towpath. You will cross wetland to a metal gate which leads into a meadow. Cross to the opposite metal gate and then over the footpath and through another metal gate. You will now be in one of the perimeter belt plantations known as Nursery Wood. After ascending the hill for approximately 150 metres, take the metal gate on the left which leads back into the park. Continue to walk up towards the 'Oak Avenue' where there are several paths across the western side of the park which return to the car park **P**.

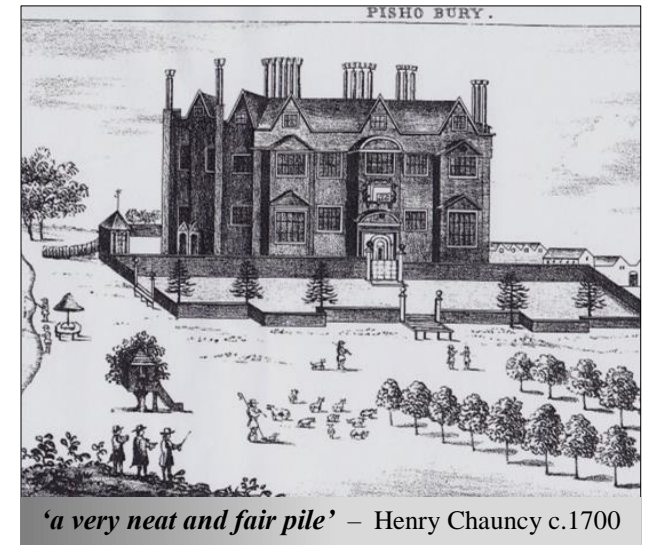


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## Hertfordshire Landscape Parks



# Pishiobury



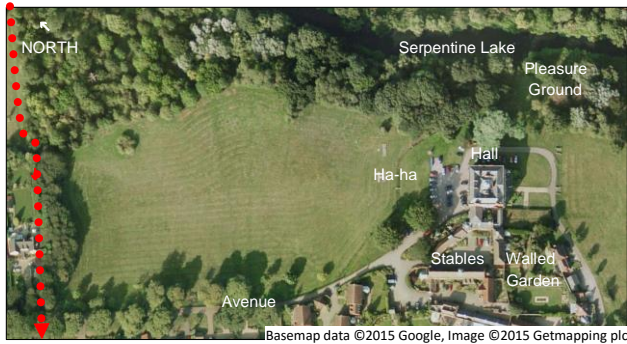
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**A.** Pishiobury Manor, engraving by J. Drapentier

**The Walk** is about 3½ miles (5.5km) on grass and paths including the River Stort towpath. It can be muddy after rain in low-lying areas. Cattle are often grazed in the park.

**Getting there and Parking:** Pishiobury Park has its own car park **P** on the A1184 (opposite Hand Lane), just south of Sawbridgeworth town centre, OS Explorer Map 194 Grid Ref. TL 476139.

There is a picnic area beside the car park, and cafés, pubs (including The Harlow Mill ☎ at the bridge, CM20 2EP) and restaurants to be found in Sawbridgeworth, along with Rivers Community Orchard located on part of the original Rivers Nursery.



**B. Pishiobury in its setting** (walk in red)

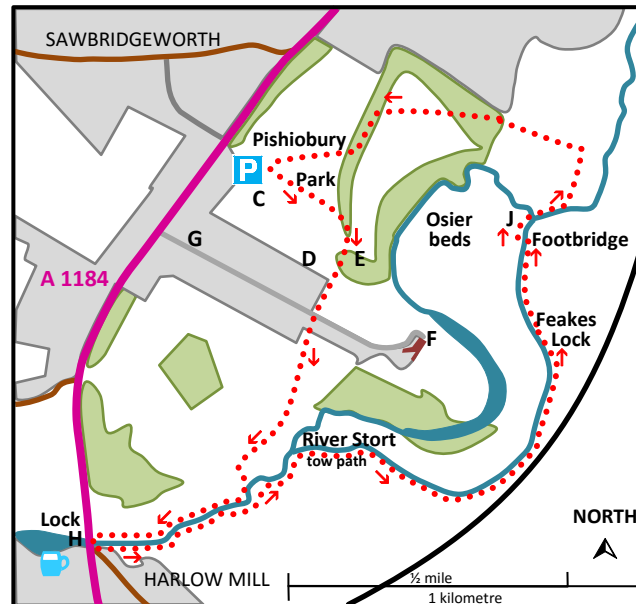
**Pishiobury** is now a public park and its mansion stands on a finger of high ground overlooking a serpentine lake (both private). Beyond, the river Stort forms the park boundary to the east, while the 65 acre site is bounded by a perimeter belt of trees on its other three sides.

The history of the site can be traced to the Middle Ages. Lord Scrope sold the manor in 1534 to Henry VIII who granted it to Queen Anne (Boleyn). In 1585, Walter Mildmay built a new house called Pishiobury, south of Sawbridgeworth. Chauncy described it as a ‘*very neat and fair Pile of building, upon rising Ground in the Vale near the river Stort*’.



**D. Limes replanted on the line of the old avenue**

Mildmay ornamented his new park with two avenues of trees, a Deer Paddock of 20 acres and a Bowling Green raised 5 ft high and enclosed by a brick wall. In 1782, following a fire, Jeremiah Milles III commissioned James Wyatt to remodel the house with a park in the Landscape Style which has been attributed to Capability Brown. The position of the avenues in the park and some mature trees might well date to this period.



**Walk** straight down from the car park **P** across a gully and up toward 'Oak Avenue' which stands on a ridge of high ground. On your right are remnants of the earlier avenues: a pair of large Lime trees left as ‘clumps’ (**C**) and another line of Limes in an east-west direction which are one side of a former avenue (some new specimens have been planted) (**D**). In this part of the park there are ditches and elderly hawthorns which indicate the field boundaries of the earlier landscape.



**E. Oak avenue and slope down to the osier beds**

Keep the forked pine tree on your right so that you will arrive at the southern end of ‘Oak Avenue’ where views in all directions can be enjoyed (**E**). Notice, to the east of the Oak Avenue, the bowl-shaped sweep of grassland that runs down to the edge of the Osier beds, river and lake. To the west the ground is more irregular with ponds and a stream bisecting the park from north to south. Turn south (right) following the path down to a metal gate, and then follow the public footpath signs to Harlow Mill. After passing through the gate, look left (east) and the mansion (remodelled 1782) and stables (c.1600) are visible through the trees (**F**). The ha-ha in front is attributed to Capability Brown.



**F. Mansion in Gothic Revival style and ha-ha**