Shenley Park Tea Rooms

Start at the Green Dragon Public House (1) and walk across the concrete footbridge and straight on to a plank bridge and a gate. Go through the kissing gate beside it and continue keeping the overgrown hedge on your left. This path (London Colney 005) continues behind Sainsbury's Superstore to the embankment of the M25. Climb the embankment, there are steps, and cross the motorway on the footbridge. Downhill from the motorway you will come to Bell Lane. Cross at the pegasus crossing (for horse riders) and enter the drive to the Arsenal practice ground. At the end of the drive, carry on between high hedges to a crossroads in the path (2). Turn right here along a broad, hedged track which curves to the left until it meets another path at a gate on the left (3). Follow the main track (Bridleway 013) as it turns right and continues straight to the rear of Clore Shalom School (4).

Make your way around the school and through the houses to the bottom of Black Lion Hill (5). Here the bridleway continues on the other side of the road on a broad track between open fields. Turn left at the corner of a small wood (6) and walk along the edge to the waymark at the next corner (7). This directs you up across a sloping and very wet, muddy field to Cow Banks Wood (8). Once through the wood, also very wet underfoot, you emerge onto a footpath leading behind Porters Park (9).

There are lovely open views from this path across farmland to the North and West. The path opens onto Porters Park Drive.

Enter the green area to the right of the road signposted to Shenley Park (10). Once inside the park, follow signs for the Tea Rooms (11).

Turn left at the tea rooms and enter the Orchard and Meadow. Here a path runs parallel with Radlett Lane at the edge of the park with the orchard and then the wild flower meadow on the left. Leave the park through an exit onto the road (12) and walk uphill along the pavement until you see the shops opposite. Cross to the shops and turn left in front of them until you reach a grassed area(13). A well marked path leads across the grass and into the houses. Here it loses its way a bit but you can pick it up if you carry on downhill on King Charles Road past the entrance to Cox Close where it reappears on the right, crosses another cul-de-sac and eventually emerges onto Porters Park Drive next to a bus stop. Turn right, cross Black Lion Hill at the junction (14) and carry on left and downhill on a footpath that runs parallel with the road until you reach a waymark post for Footpath 29. Follow this as it cuts diagonally across the field to some scrubby woodland on the far side (15).

Walk through this and you will see a larger wood called Dell Grove on the other side of the field, make for the right hand corner of the wood (16). Cross the track and over a stile to continue walking on Footpath 30 over fields past the corner of a stand of trees and a ruined house on the left (17).

Here you should aim for a stile in the hedge ahead to the left of the track. Cross the stile, turn left and walk along the edge of the field to another stile in the hedge(18.). Turn left here, over the stile and walk across the field to the wood where a waymark shows footpath 21.

Through the wood and the next waymark points directly downhill across the field. Unless it has been very well trodden, you may prefer the path of least resistance around the left hand edge of the field as far as the cluster of buildings in the hollow where MicroLite aircraft are kept. Cross the grassy runway with care and continue downhill to the crossroads in the paths (19) at the edge of the football pitches. Once across the football pitches you are at point 2. of your outward journey and need only retrace your steps to the Village Green at the river.