

The Historic Estate Today



Kings Weston as 'Heritage asset'

It is easy to forget the former extent of Kings Weston Park as today it is separated into several parts. Kings Weston House continues to be the focus of the Home Park and Penpole Wood, constituting what most people think of as Kings Weston Park. Kingsweston Hill has since been included as an extension of Blaise Castle Estate, but is rightly a part of the Kings Weston Landscape as are Napier Miles Park and The Tump. Consisting of about 220 acres, most of this land is in the ownership and care of Bristol City Council. A further 93 acres of Shirehampton Park to the south was gifted to the National Trust in 1918, but is also an integral piece of the Kings Weston jigsaw.

Together these areas form a Registered Historic Landscape, a status awarded by English Heritage, and enjoy a degree of protection from future development. The majority of the area is managed as part of Blaise Castle Estate, but suffers from having no conservation or management plan and general maintenance is minimal.

The National Trust continues to lease Shirehampton Park to a golf club. Public access is restricted and the character of parts has been damaged by the golf course. There has never been a full assessment of the history or importance of this area as part of the Kings Weston landscape and, whilst the use as a golf course is not incompatible with the landscape, it has resulted in the loss of historic features.

Key to the character of the Registered Landscape is its important ensemble of Eighteenth Century buildings, most of which are now Listed Buildings. The work of Sir John Vanbrugh is well represented with a number of Grade I Listed structures, whilst later buildings by the architect Robert Mylne and others are protected with Grade II and II* listing. The icehouse, kitchen garden with its pond, pavilions and walls, and medieval Bewy's Cross are all on English Heritage's register of Heritage at Risk. The ownership of these buildings is now split between public and private owners with the buildings on the Risk Register in the care of the City Council.



Derelict pavilion beside the pond

The good work of two organisations in protecting the estate should be recognised here. The now-defunct Kings Weston Preservation Trust was formed to resist a proposal to develop the house and grounds as a police training centre in the 1970s and continued to champion the conservation and improvement of the Park over several decades. The Bristol Buildings Preservation Trusts saved the Brewhouse and Echo and ensured a future for the Loggia.

Acknowledgement should also be made of the efforts and dedication of John Hardy who, since 2000, has devotedly restored Kings Weston House as a wedding venue and conference centre. With the lease of the house coming up for sale and concern over the state of the historic landscape the Kings Weston Action Group was formed in April 2011 to bring together the disparate elements of the historic estate with a single focus.

Key to historic structures:

- The area bounded in Blue is owned by Bristol City Council
- The area bounded in Green is owned by the National Trust

1. Kings Weston House. Listed Grade I
2. The Loggia. Listed Grade I
3. The Brewhouse. Listed Grade I
4. The ice house. Listed Grade II, Building at risk
5. Home Farm. Listed Grade II
6. Stables. Listed Grade II*
7. Kitchen garden & pond. Listed Grade II*, buildings at risk.
8. Terrace of early C18th houses. Listed Grade II
9. Napier Miles House. Listed Grade II
10. Henbury Lodge. Listed Grade II
11. The Echo. Listed Grade II*
12. Park Lodge. Listed Grade II
13. The old inn. Listed Grade II
14. The Iron Bridge. Listed Grade II
15. War Memorial, registered monument.
16. Wood Lodge. Listed Grade II
17. Shirehampton Lodge. Listed Grade II
18. Penpole Dial. Grade II
19. Penpole Lodge. Demolished.