

WALK DIRECTIONS

- 1** Follow the path from the end of Shirehampton Road car park. This brings you to a clearing known as the Circle that stood at the end of the avenue from the house. Walk straight across the circle and follow the path slightly to the right. Take the first path off it to the left and left at the 'T' junction follow it all the way to the end.
- 2** Just as you exit the trees you will see the remains of Penpole Lodge hidden in the undergrowth on your left. Turn right and after approx. 40m you will come across The Dial a stone pillar set on a high ridge.
- 3** Retrace your steps but follow the open ground rather than going back into the woods. This will bring you to Penpole Lane. When you have passed the Oasis Academy turn right through an unmarked gap into the cricket ground. Following the path on the right of the grounds will bring you out on Shirehampton Road.
- 4** Cross the road by Shirehampton Lodge and enter Shirehampton golf course. The path is almost hidden in the front right hand corner of the car park. Follow this public right of way down towards the Portway.
- 5** Follow the path around to the left and you will come across sweeping views over the river at Horseshoe Bend. From here you can see the Powder House at the end of Hung Road, where ships had to off-load gunpowder and other inflammable materials before they reached the port in the centre of Bristol.
- 6** Continue along the lower edge of the golf course and at the bottom of the slope by a gate to the Portway turn left. Follow the yellow footpath markers up the hill towards Shirehampton Road. Cross the road and follow the track uphill into the trees. Take the steps in front of you. Here you will find the Echo, one of the garden buildings designed by Vanbrugh.
- 7** With the Echo behind you walk downhill towards the house. Once at the house the path which follows the line along the edge of the original main avenue will lead you back to the car park.



KINGS WESTON HISTORY

First mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086, Kings Weston passed through several families before the estate you see today was formed. It was purchased in 1679 by Robert Southwell, from Humphrey Hooke, a former mayor of Bristol. Robert's son Edward commissioned Sir John Vanbrugh to rebuild the house in its present form; it was designed c. 1712 and completed by 1720. The house is Grade I listed and sits in a Grade II registered historic landscape.

Robert was amongst other things Secretary of State for Ireland and later President of the Royal Society. His son Edward followed him into the Society in 1692 in recognition of his interest in 'natural science'.

Jane Austen records the estate as "being on the circuit" and mentions Kings Weston in her novels *Emma* and *Northanger Abbey*.

Like many great houses of its day it was open to the public. A gardener was employed specifically to show visitors around and advertised times were published for the inspection of the Southwells' collection of paintings. The house is still open to the public at certain times. Please contact the property for up to date opening times.

The Kings Weston Action Group has been formed to fight for the estate's future and ensure that it regains its former status as one of the finest estates in the Southwest.

If you would like to find out more about KWAG and what we are doing then send us an email or you can find us online. kwactiongroup@gmail.com

KINGS WESTON ESTATE WALK GUIDE



Distance approx. 2½ miles

Time approx. 80 minutes



Penpole Lodge



Designed in 1724, the upper floor housed a Breakfast Room. The building marked the edge of the estate on Penpole Point where it became common land. Despite a campaign launched by Country Life it was demolished in 1952.

Kings Weston House



Built 1712-1720 by Sir John Vanbrugh. Altered between 1764-75 by Robert Mylne. It is one of Vanbrugh's smaller country houses, yet nonetheless achieves a monumental effect. This Baroque building replaced an earlier Tudor house in the same location.

The Echo

Designed by Vanbrugh in 1722 the Echo was an ornamental garden feature. Now stabilised as a roofless shell it once housed a marble statue on the plinth inside. Note the faces and twisted tops on the urns around the parapet.



This is a circular walk with a mix of paths and grass. There may be a few muddy sections in wet weather. A couple of areas can be slippery when wet and it is unsuitable for buggies or wheelchairs. Dogs are welcome but keep a close eye on them. Please keep dogs on a short lead when crossing the cricket ground and golf course.

The Dial



The dial was already old by the time the Merchant Venturers spent £5 on its repair in 1668. It's thought the dial was a navigation mark for shipping. Before trees grew around it in the last 50 years Penpole Point was a prominent landmark.

Horseshoe Bend



The cliff top gives sweeping views south over one of the most dangerous bends in the river Avon. Off to the right is the end of Hung Road where ships would have moored waiting for the tide to turn before sailing into Bristol.

