

WALK DIRECTIONS

The start point is in the public car park off Shirehampton Road. White-painted boulders mark the entrance. Buses stop close by. For satnav the closest postcode is BS11 0UN

- 1 Take the unmarked footpath about half way along the car park that leads up and along the grassy hill to your right (when viewed from the main road). Follow the path along the tree line in a straight line as far as the stone wall of the viewing terrace and cross the iron bridge.
- 2 On the other side of the bridge take the well defined tarmac path leading uphill in front of you, which passes to the right of the hedge in front of the old Inn. Go through the kissing gate, and then continue to follow a gravel path, keeping to the right, and pass alongside the railings above a quarry.
- 3 Follow the path sharply right immediately before the TV mast, and pass between the transmitter buildings, and the quarry railings on your right. At the end of the track take the small path on your right into the trees ahead of you, and keep the railings close on your right as you descend through the woodland (steep in some areas). At the bottom, turn left when you reach the old south carriage drive.
- 4 Continue along the drive through the woodland for half a mile. When you reach a crossroads with a steep cobbled path joining you from the right, turn sharp left uphill onto Kingsweston Hill (or continue onwards to extend your walk to Blaise Castle estate). Cross directly over the open meadow which runs along the top of the hill, and follow the path into the woods on the opposite side. After a short distance turn left at the crossroads and join the north carriage drive. Continue along this path as far as Kingsweston Road.
- 5 Take extreme care in crossing the road to the pavement outside the lodge house. Follow the pavement and take the first path on your right. Follow the line of the path parallel to the road, but through the field. Notice the views across to Wales on your right. At the far end of the field exit onto the road and continue along the wide verge past the former stables and walled gardens.
- 6 Take extreme care and cross the road directly ahead of you through the gates to Kings Weston House. Follow the drive to the right and continue through the car park to the right of the main house.
- 7 Carry on along the terrace and follow the path ahead of you along the ridge passing through the avenue. At the end of the avenue take the main path as it curves to the left and returns to the car park.

WALK 2

The Carriage Drives

Difficulty - easy/moderate

This second Kings Weston walk guide takes you across the east side of the historic estate and around Kingsweston Hill. Once common land and long admired for its secluded character the hill has always been a popular spot for walks.

In the early Nineteenth Century visitors were drawn to Kings Weston by the spectacular landscaped parkland enjoying famous views across the River Severn to Wales and southwards towards the Avon and Somerset. Lord de Clifford of Kings Weston House was keen to show his gardens and art collection to discerning visitors and the inn at the foot of Kingsweston Hill did brisk trade from these early tourists. Artists and poets of the Romantic Movement were frequent visitors and Jane Austen mentions Kings Weston in her novels Emma, and Northanger Abbey as a popular excursion from Bath and Clifton.

Scenic carriage drives were built across Kingsweston Hill to create a circular route out from Kings Weston House, across the downland and returning via the stables. This walk retraces the footsteps of the Nineteenth Century tourist along those drives, through ornamental plantations and passing many of the historic garden features and buildings along the way.

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

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

KINGS WESTON

ESTATE WALK GUIDE



Distance approx. 2.5 miles

Time approx. 90 minutes

The Iron Bridge & old Kingsweston Inn

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Kings
Weston
Action
Group



Stables and walled garden



The Grade II* Listed stables and walled gardens were designed by the architect Robert Mylne in 1763 to serve the Kings Weston estate. Across the lily pond can be seen the medieval Bewy's cross, relocated here in the 1950's from nearby.

Kings Weston House

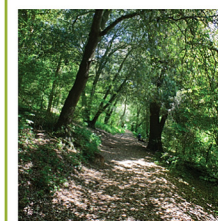
Begun in 1712 for the Southwell family Kings Weston House achieves a monumental effect perched high above the River Severn. This Grade I Listed building by Sir John Vanbrugh, the same architect as Blenheim Palace, is one of the most important in Bristol. A coffee shop in the vaulted cellar is an ideal stop for refreshments.

Henbury Lodge



Henbury Lodge, also known as Home Lodge, was built in the late 1700's and is a Grade II Listed Building. It once controlled access from the public highway into the private park around Kings Weston House.

Carriage rides



Carriage drives were added at Kings Weston in the early 1800's for the enjoyment of both the estate owners and the public, and took visitors to the edge of the Blaise Castle estate. Look out for the fine trees planted along the length of both north and south drives.

Georgian viewing terrace



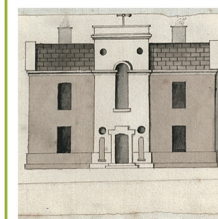
Spectacular views were always a feature of the Kings Weston parkland and this viewing terrace dates from the Eighteenth Century. The views across Shirehampton Park, the Avon and Somerset beyond are still dramatic.

Iron Bridge

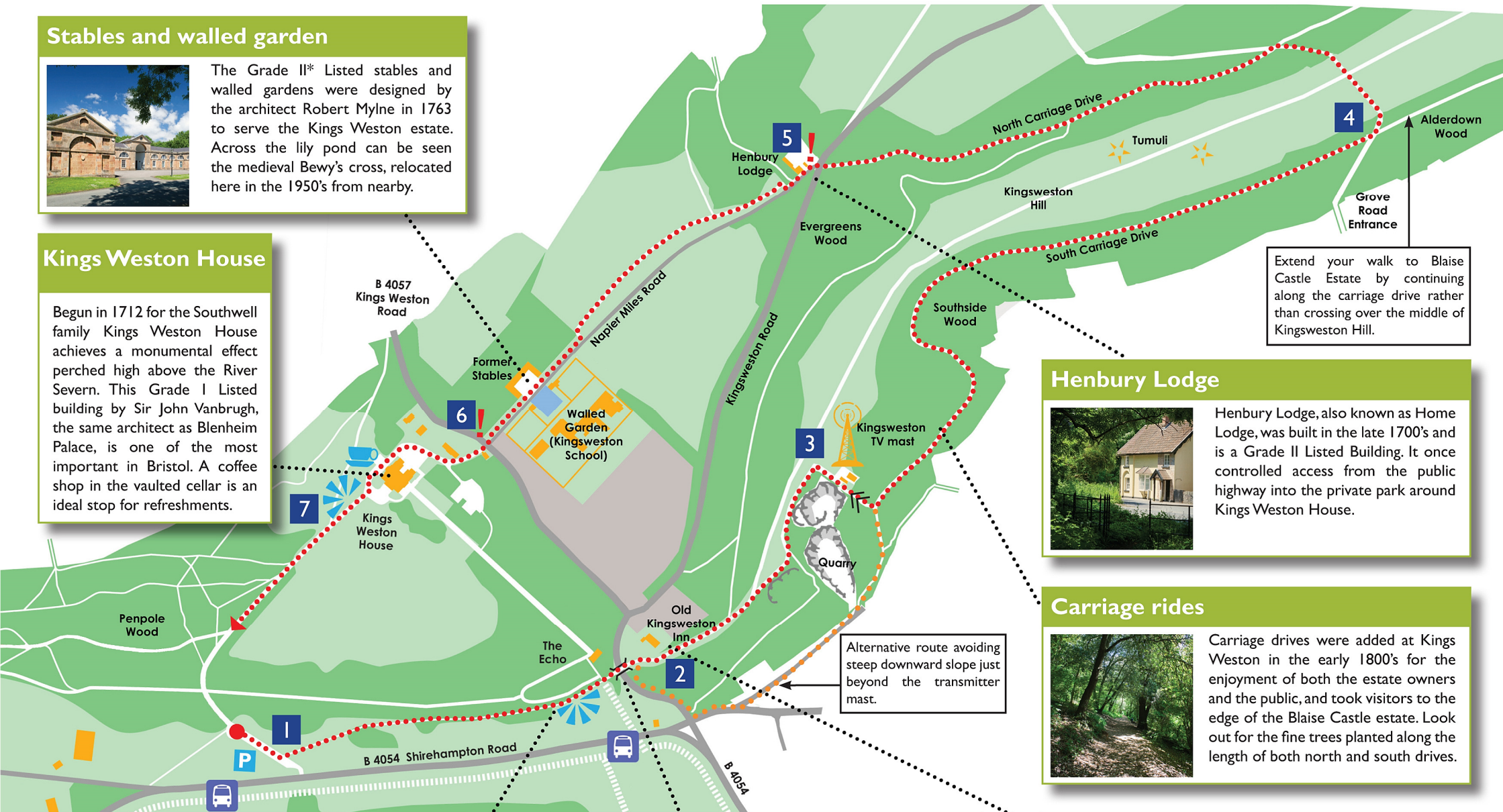


The famous highways engineer John McAdam diverted Kingsweston Road from a steeper route over the hill into a cutting in 1821. The decorative iron bridge was added at the same time to allow visitors to the estate to cross unhindered.

Former Kingsweston Inn



No longer performing its original role catering to visitors Kingsweston Inn is now private residences. The architect of Kings Weston House Sir John Vanbrugh probably designed it in the 1720s. It was much altered and enlarged in the Victorian era.



Extend your walk to Blaise Castle Estate by continuing along the carriage drive rather than crossing over the middle of Kingsweston Hill.

Alternative route avoiding steep downward slope just beyond the transmitter mast.