

Heritage Lottery Fund Developments

Blaise Castle Estate is an outstanding Grade II* listed landscape with features both natural and resulting from five thousand years of human influence. However a Historic Landscape Survey of the estate published in 1993 showed that much of the designed landscape was in a poor state of repair.

As a result of this Bristol Parks made, in 1998, an application for Heritage Lottery Funding, to restore the historic landscape and public park.

The Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to provide £2.8 million towards a total project cost of £3.8 million in 2000. Following a review of the project in 2001 the Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to increase their award to £4.3 million the total cost of the project now being £6 million.

The grant expiry date was also revised from 1 January 2003 to the 31 December 2006.

Project Budget

The areas for development and revised budgets for the project works are as follows:

Dairy	£ 620,000
Woodlands	£ 249,000
Meadows	£ 71,000
Archaeology	£ 21,000
Water Features	£ 274,000
Drives	£1,459,000
Walls	£ 249,000
Buildings	£ 343,000
Car Parks	£ 294,000
Café	£ 665,000
Play	£ 357,000
Project Management	£ 159,000
Project Fees	£ 406,000
Contingency and Inflation	£ 52,000
Sunk Costs	£ 778,000
TOTAL	£5,997,000

Dairy

Restoration of the Dairy Garden, repairs to the conservatory, reinstatement of the balustrade urns and statues, rebuilding the Dairy Scullery and the creation of a performance space:

Budget –	Building Works	£476,679.00
	Landscape Works	£143,632.73

Consultants – Andrew Townsend Architects, Press and Starkey, Environmental Design Associates

Contractors – Building Works Nimbus Conservation Limited

Landscape Works - Nu Landscapes Limited

Status – Building works on site due for completion April 06
Landscape works due to take place and complete December 06

Woodlands

Management of 110 hectares of woodland, clearance of vegetation from rock faces, opening up of historic views and the planting of specimen trees and shrubs:

Budget - £249,000

Consultants – Bristol City Council

Contractors – Fountain Forestry, Treeworks, Silvanos, Ropeworks and Continental Landscapes

Status – Majority of works completed, Castle view points and Arbutus Walk planting – November /December 2006

Meadows

Palisade fencing around Kings Weston Quarry, fencing and improvement of Coombe Dingle Field to enable grazing and gates to The Royals, Bowdens Field and Kings Weston Down:

Budget – £71,000

Consultants – Bristol City Council

Contractors – ASP Fencing, Almondsbury Forge

Status – Works completed

Archaeology

Restoration and consolidation works to the caves, south bastion and bathhouse:

Budget - £21,000

Consultants – Hartley Conservation Partnership

Contractors – Nimbus Conservation Limited

Status – Works complete

Water Features

De-silting of Tarn Lake and Lilly Pond, bank stabilisation and repair, the creation of water control structures and replanting:

Budget - £274,000

Consultants – Mann Williams, Bare Leaning and Bare, BCC Landscape Section

Contractors – Nimbus Conservation Limited

Status – Desilting and water control structures complete

Repairs to linings March to June 2006 and replanting February – November / December 2006

Drives

Re-pointing, grouting, rebuilding and anchoring works to Main Drive retaining walls and Mill Bridge. Drainage, bank stabilisation, edging and resurfacing works to the Main Drive, Hazel Brook Drive. Installation of vitreous enamel entry point and interpretation signs:

Budget - £1,459,000

Consultants – Mann Williams, Bare Leaning and Bare, Placemarque, Bristol City Council

Contractors – Nimbus Conservation Limited, Britannia, Wood and Wood

Status – Works complete.

Walls

Replacement of wooden gates and doors and restoration works to Kings Weston Road wall:

Budget - £249,000

Consultants – Bristol City Council, Mann Williams, Bare Leaning and Bare

Contractors – Clifton Joinery and Nimbus Construction Limited

Status – Replacement of wooden gates and doors completed. Remedial works to Stable yard June 2006. Remedial works to Henbury Gate awaiting completion of Walls and Dairy Contracts June 2006. Walls works underway due for completion May 2006.

Buildings

Restoration works to Blaise Castle, Stratford Mill, Woodman's Cottage and the Stables:

Budget - £343,000

Consultants – The Hartley Conservation Partnership

Contractors – Ken Biggs Construction Limited, Nimbus Conservation Limited

Status – works to Stables and Woodman's Cottage complete. Works to Castle and Mill March to June 2006 .

Car Parks

Refurbishment, planting, resurfacing & extension of Main Car Park and Coombe Dingle Car Park:

Budget - £294,000

Consultants – Bristol City Council

Contractors – Tarmac, Alun Griffiths and Wyevale Landscapes

Status – works completed.

Café

Reuse of Cow Byre + new build to create café, toilets & Office for the estate:

Budget - £665,000

Consultants – CODA Architects, Mander Structural Design, Northcroft, 4D Landscape Design

Contractors – Stradform, Wyevale Nurseries

Status – works complete

Play Area Projects

Provision of new junior & adventurous play facilities:

Budget - £357,000

Consultants – Footprints, BCC Lansdcape Section

Contractors – Hags Play

Status – works complete

Art

Replacement and original art works to enhance estate buildings and landscape:

Consultants – Poetry Can, Bristol City Council

Artists – Alan Wilson, Jason Lane, Pip Hall, Alicia Stubbersfield, Fiona Hamilton

Status – Café Waterwall, commemorative plaque, Café Glasswall and Café Dog Sculpture complete. Castle Artwork/interpretation feature May - June 2006. Balustrade and Dairy Garden urns and statues underway and due for completion April 2006.