

Blaise Castle Estate

Site Guide



Photo by Chris Bahn

Bristol City Council

[Event Applications](#)

[Event Enquiries](#)

OFFICIAL

Contents

1. Location..... 3

2. Site Address..... 4

3. Site Description 4

 3.1 Event space 5

4. Ground Conditions 5

5. Event Areas and Capacities 5

 5.1 Event Area 5

6. Accessibility 6

7. Access and Parking..... 6

 7.1 Vehicle Access 6

 7.2 Parking 6

 7.3 Pedestrian Access 7

 7.4 Traffic Management..... 7

8. Transport Links..... 7

9. Site Facilities..... 7

 9.1 Permanent Infrastructure 7

 9.2 Power 8

 9.3 Water 8

 9.4 Toilets..... 8

10. Waste management..... 9

11. Restrictions of the site 9

12. Nature Conservation..... 10

13. Hazards..... 10

14. Consultation and stakeholder engagement..... 11

15. Fees and Charges 11

 15.1 Hire Fee 11

 15.2 Site Bonds 11

16. Maps..... 11

1. Location



Blaise Castle Estate is a Grade II listed parkland and one of Bristol's best destination parks at a magnificent 650 acres. There are around 2 million visits to the park each year, and it offers several opportunities for the local community and commercial partners. The 18th century castle and museum are focal points.

The estate also includes:

- Landscape features Goram's Chair and Potter's Point
- Playgrounds
- Cafe
- Rolling woodland
- Huge parkland
- Community spaces

Blaise Castle Estate has a significant catchment area, attracting high numbers of visits locally, citywide, and beyond as people come to enjoy this expansive green space and all its attractions.

Toward the western end there is a large event space with the potential to attract up to 5,000 event goers. With good access to the castle, Blaise Museum, and sprawling landscape. This area is a perfect starting point from which to explore the wider park.

2. Site Address



Blaise Castle Estate, Henbury Road, Bristol, BS10 7QS

Google Maps : [3D Aerial](#) [2D Directions Map](#)

3. Site Description



- The parkland and community space area are the main arrival points for many visitors, whether using the main car park or arriving by bus.
- It is a flat open park with trees around the perimeter and woodland walking routes.
- There is a large woodland area with an elevated castle folly.
- The mansion house is used for events and is the location of Blaise Castle museum
- There is a small gated dairy house and a landscaped hidden garden suitable for small private events.

3.1 Event space



Figure 1 Event space

The space towards the western boundary is flat open grassland with good access and limited neighbours with capacity for large events. Recent investment has improved access for larger event vehicles.

Find a larger online version of this site on our map of [Bristol Outdoor Events Areas](#)

4. Ground Conditions

- Mostly level grass arena
- Good drainage
- Trackway recommended for vehicular access

5. Event Areas and Capacities

The primary events site is considered the large flat grassland area.

Capacity numbers must be accurately calculated taking into consideration the specific items (e.g. equipment, structures, fixtures/ fittings) that occupy the event space, impacting on the capacity of persons on site.

Capacity numbers submitted in an application must be adjusted to reflect the site plan for each event.

5.1 Event Area

Event Area – approx 7.9 hectares or 7900 square metres

The event space is approximate 15,800 maximum capacity

6. Accessibility

Event organisers are responsible for making their events as accessible as possible

You can find [an access guide on the AccessAble website](#).

The main event space is flat grass and so would need temporary surfacing putting down to make it fully accessible.

7. Access and Parking

7.1 Vehicle Access

- **Main Access Point:** Kings Weston Lane
- **Production traffic access** via the Blaise Castle nursery entrance on Kings Weston Lane with agreement from the nursery manager.
- Turning points for larger vehicles: 1 way system around square
- King Weston Road is the Emergency access point
- Kings Weston Lane can become congested easily. Narrow roads and 1 low bridge (fine for standard sized trucks)

A Traffic Management Plan is required to demonstrate how production and public traffic will be managed to minimise impact on local residents, business and park users.

7.2 Parking

Location: Main Car Park (Off Kings Weston Road at BS10 7QS)

Available spaces: 150 vehicles, increasing to 400 vehicles with adjacent seasonal grass parking.

Location: Coombe Dingle

Available spaces: 137 spaces.

Charges

A charging regime is in place for public parking (£1 for one hour, £2 for 2 hours, and £3 for up to 5 hours.) There are also some bays for coaches and minibuses. Charges for these will depend on the size of the vehicle and the length of the stay. Parking is free for Blue Badge holders and motorcycles with two wheels. Charging will apply between 9am and 6pm daily.

Organisers should not incorporate this car parking into initial planning. Access maybe agreed on negotiation with the events team and parks area manager.



Main Car Park

7.3 Pedestrian Access

- The main pedestrian access is from the car parks. The estate is approximately 1.5hour walk from the centre of Bristol
- The park or garden has footpaths.
- The path(s) has a tarmac surface(s).
- The majority of the path(s) is / are wide enough for wheelchair users.

7.4 Traffic Management

A traffic management plan will need to be agreed with Bristol City Council and in consultation with the Safety Advisory Group

8. Transport Links

- **Car-** Vehicle access is approximately 10-minute drive from junction 18 of the M5. Portway Park and Ride is a 12-minute drive away. Access routes must be reviewed to ensure buses are not impacted by the low bridge on KingsWeston Road.
- **Train-** 36-minute bus ride to Shirehampton station (closest train station)

Find more transport options and timings on the [travelWEST website](#).

9. Site Facilities

9.1 Permanent Infrastructure

- Pavilion – can potentially be used for office/dressing rooms
- Fencing around car park
- Café, playground, and mansion house museum
- Amphitheatre
- Rose Garden

- Woodland
- Toilets
- Blaise Castle Museum- for more information, discuss with site contact



9.2 Power

Please use our [power map](#) to find out what power is available at this site.

Event organisers should prioritise means of power higher in the [power hierarchy](#).

9.3 Water

Use our [water map](#) to see what water resources are available at this site.

You can also find further details in our Water Guidance.

9.4 Toilets

The park and café are served by public toilets which are adjacent to the ranger's station. There are accessible toilets here and access to baby changing facilities.

The event organiser will be responsible for ensuring the facilities they provide are maintained to ensure that they are kept in a clean and serviceable condition throughout the duration of the event and maintained to a high standard of hygiene.

To calculate additional infrastructure facilities required for your event please refer to [The Purple Guide](#) for guidance on minimum provision.



If additional facilities are required. Please refer to The Purple Guide for numbers.

10. Waste management

- Event organisers should prioritise methods higher in the [waste hierarchy](#)
- The waste management plan must include the surrounding area and key ingress and egress routes
- The event organisers are responsible for doing a little pick after the event and also disposing of all of this waste.
- The fixed parks waste bins onsite are not for event-use and should not be factored into the waste management plan.

11. Restrictions of the site

The park is a site of significant heritage importance including Registered Park and Garden status with over 20 listed buildings, plus geological and nature designations.

- Permanent Infrastructure
- Grass protection and therefore vehicle restrictions on the ground in wet conditions
- There are some regular events that may impact the time of year that the venue may be used: Goram Fair, Lets Rock,
- Other activity: Dairy Garden space is used for filming, Shakespeare, friend groups and product launches
- Residential area requires careful noise planning and restrictions
- Time restrictions - open 07:30, closing times vary seasonally
- Open to the public at all times
- 2 weeks follow period minimum between events
- Grade 2* registered landscape
- 2 Iron Age Scheduled monuments, one on Kingsweston Down and one on Castle Hill
- There is a Park Run every Saturday 9-10am but they will cancel if it interferes with a larger event on their footprint

12. Nature Conservation

Nature Conservation Designations

Most of the site is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). The grassland area adjacent to the café/playground and car park is designated as a Wildlife Corridor.

Notable Habitats

The Events area includes the large open grassland near to the main car park. Most of this grassland is cut regularly, although some areas around the edges may be left to grow longer for nature.

Woodland and scrub cover a lot of the wider site. The Hazel Brook watercourse flows in a southerly direction through a wooded valley with exposed rock faces and caves. There are two large ponds located along the Hazel Brook corridor. In addition, there is an ornamental pond in the Dairy Garden and a cobble-lined pond in the Royals field. Grasslands within the Royals field and Kings Weston Down are managed as hay meadows, which is funded by a Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) agreement with Natural England. There are scattered specimen and veteran trees across the site.

No activities should be permitted which cause damage to these habitats. Events should be avoided within the grassland areas covered by the CSS agreement. Measures will need to be taken to avoid impacts to the wider site as a result of increased footfall or use of vehicles and machinery.

Notable Species

The hay meadows support a high diversity of wildflower species. There are known badger setts within the woodland, and there may be additional unrecorded setts present in areas of denser scrub. Several species of bat have been recorded using the site, and there is a high likelihood of bat roosts being present in trees and structures within the site. Otter have previously been recorded as present on Hazel Brook but are infrequently seen. Amphibians including great crested newts have been recorded in the ponds and will be using adjacent grassland, scrub and woodland habitats.

Reptiles such as slow worm and mammals such as hedgehog are also highly likely to be using these habitats. Rare plants and bryophytes have been recorded on the exposed rock faces within the woodlands. General potential for nesting birds across the site. Swifts have been recorded nesting in the old pumping station building and will use the adjacent grassland to forage.

Measures must be taken to ensure there are no direct impacts to these species such as via damage to habitats, or indirect impacts such as via disturbance from artificial lighting, noise and vibration, litter and pollution impacts.

13. Hazards

- Busy Road
- Surrounded by woodland- hazardous terrain with steep cliffs in the woodland
- Protected species
- The location of the venue may make events held in the open arena vulnerable to high winds and gusts.

Minimum control measures

- Fencing around site with stewarded points for the perimeter
- Controlled egress

- Shuttle buses to Bristol and tight TMP needed,
- Noise and lighting considerations to nature and local community

Wind management plan

14. Consultation and stakeholder engagement

Out of courtesy, it is recommended that event organisers contact local businesses and residents to discuss their event and the impact it may have.

For larger events, it is recommended that organisers contact all surrounding businesses to inform them about the event as well as any local residents as stipulated by the city council's Noise Pollution Team.

Park group: Friends of Blaise - contact@friendsofblaise.co.uk

15. Fees and Charges

15.1 Hire Fee

A site fee and application fee are required for the use of Bristol Council land. Please ensure you are fully aware of all relevant costs on submission of your application.

15.2 Site Bonds

A site bond may be held in consideration for damages with the amount calculated depending on the size of the event.

Land reinstatement may also be required within a week post-event (weather dependent) and a contractor is to be agreed prior to the event.

16. Maps

Maps on the future parks page include photos and detail of the car park, the event space, the café and play area, public toilets, the parkland and the museum:

[Discover Blaise Castle Estate](#)

[Bristol Outdoor Events Areas](#)