

● **Please beware.** Steep inclines and drops in this area. Please note that this walk is **not suitable for buggies.**

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

**Blaise Castle House**

Built in 1795 for John Scandret Harford by William Paty. A solid, simple design placed on a rise so as to appear bigger.

Harford was responsible for commissioning landscape architect Humphrey Repton and thereafter, architect John Nash who designed the Orangery, Dairy and nearby Blaise Hamlet.

More ornate additions representing a Greek classical influence were made to both the exterior and interior of the house from 1832-3 by C R Cockerell on instruction from J S Harford Jnr.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

**The Giant's footprint**

Local legend suggests that the footprint was created in a fit of rage by the Giant Goram. In fact it is an area of horizontally bedded carboniferous limestone, exposed through glaciation some 10,000 years ago. The cavities are created where rock has been dissolved through the passage of water down vertical joints.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

**Butcher's Cave**

One of the estates man made caves, given its name because of the red tinge to the stones with in, resembling hanging joints of meat.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

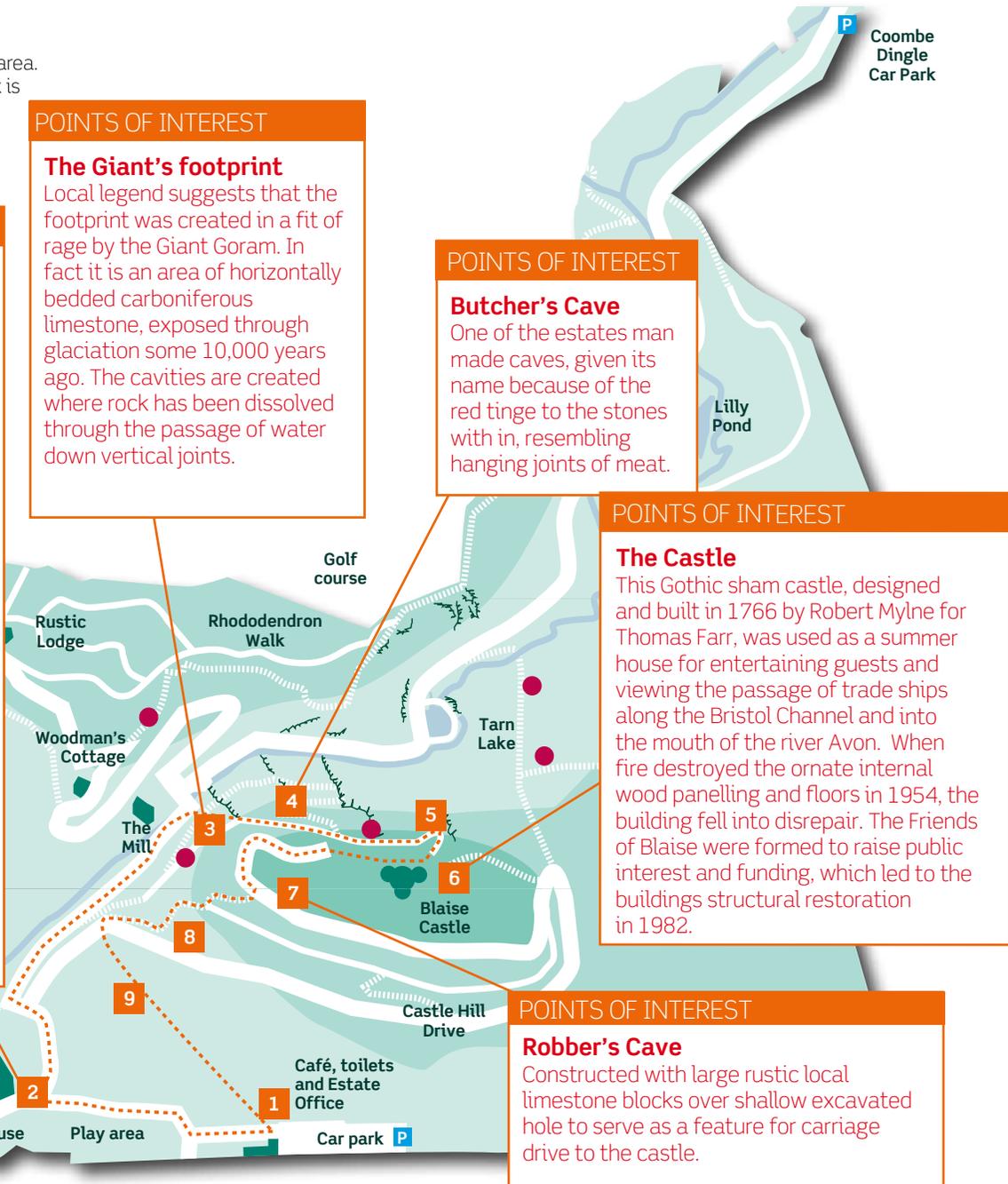
**The Castle**

This Gothic sham castle, designed and built in 1766 by Robert Mylne for Thomas Farr, was used as a summer house for entertaining guests and viewing the passage of trade ships along the Bristol Channel and into the mouth of the river Avon. When fire destroyed the ornate internal wood panelling and floors in 1954, the building fell into disrepair. The Friends of Blaise were formed to raise public interest and funding, which led to the buildings structural restoration in 1982.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

**Robber's Cave**

Constructed with large rustic local limestone blocks over shallow excavated hole to serve as a feature for carriage drive to the castle.



**BLAISE CASTLE ESTATE**



**Castle Walk**

**route/distance**

**Approx. 1¼ miles/40 minutes.**

Incorporates historical features and stunning views over the gorge.

**route difficulty**

**Medium.** This walk uses mainly woodland trails with some steep inclines (marked ● on map) that can be muddy underfoot.

**points of interest**

The Giant's Footprint, Butcher's Cave, Lover's Leap, the Castle, Robber's Cave.

Find out about events happening in Blaise Castle by visiting: [www.blaisycastleestate.co.uk](http://www.blaisycastleestate.co.uk)

**pink walk** Approx. 3 miles/1¼ hr. Hard walk  
**Rhododendron Walk**

**green walk** **Kings Weston** Approx. 1½ miles/35 mins. Easy walk

**blue walk** **Gorge Walk** Approx. 1½ miles/50 mins. Hard walk

**purple walk** **Royals Walk** Approx. 1¼ miles/50 mins. Easy walk



# WELCOME TO BLAISE CASTLE ESTATE



Blaise Estate is a Grade II listed historic landscape with recorded human activity dating back 2,000 years. It became a 'pleasure park' to a variety of wealthy private owners and has been influenced through the landscape designer Humphrey Repton. It was purchased by the Corporation of Bristol in 1926 for £20,175.

The Heritage Lottery funded a project to restore this historic landscape and public park – an investment of approx £6.5 million. Visitor facilities including a café, play area and performance space have been introduced whilst the historic nature of the site has been conserved.

These circular guided walks have been developed to provide reassurance and information for those who wish to experience all the estate offers. This includes spectacular views, the castle folly, lakes, scheduled ancient monuments, the 18th Century mansion, unique rock formations and designed landscape features.

Varying in length, all walks will contain relatively steep ascents/descents. Care should be taken on cliff edges and steep slopes.



## contact us

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**FRIENDS OF BLAISE**  
Bristol City Council is grateful to the generous financial contribution made by the Friends of Blaise towards production of these leaflets

- 1** Start at Blaise Cafe. Walk towards the Blaise Castle House, along surfaced path with play area on left hand side.
- 2** At path junction near house bear right onto path leading slightly down hill, continue on surfaced path leading down into the gorge, until you reach a set of steps on the right hand side.



Blaise Castle House



Giants Footprint

- 3** Take the steps up to the Castle. After a short distance on the right hand side you will come to a limestone pavement rock formation, known as the Giant's Footprint.
- 4** Carry on up path, passing Butcher's Cave on the right.
- 5** There are two view points; the first located on the South Bastion, takes in Sea Mills, Leigh Court and Leigh Woods. The top of this path is known as Lover's Leap, where you can see Stoke Bishop, and Sneyd Park and in the distance Dundry.



Butchers Cave

- 6** At Lover's Leap the Castle will come into view. With your back to the Castle turn left and head towards the path leading from the information board into the woods.
- 7** Follow this path on a gradual descent, then either head down the steps on the right hand side for a short cut onto the parkland, or continue over small rise passing Robbers Cave on the left hand side.



Lover's Leap



Robbers Cave

- 8** Continue following this path, down a slight descent and turn right onto Castle Hill Drive.
- 9** Continue onto main field and back to Cafe. Why not end your walk here with a freshly made coffee and slice of homemade cake. Open daily serving hot and cold snacks, drinks and a large variety of ice cream.