



## 4.1 VISION

### The Vision

Henrietta Howard, a remarkable woman, overcame personal adversity to build an outstanding 18th-century house and garden at Marble Hill as a retreat for herself, her family and friends. Through this project English Heritage will rejuvenate her creation, transforming it into a vibrant public park, enabling everyone to experience the pleasure Henrietta and her circle found there.

We will restore and interpret the 1752 and later 18th century landscape, providing within it enhanced high quality sports facilities for everyone.

We will conserve and reinterpret the house, opening it free of charge on an increased opening regime. We will restore the historic stables as a visitor hub, providing commercial sustainability through a café and shop which open daily, and through hospitality opportunities.

We will work in partnership with local organisations to deliver outstanding events, education and training programmes. These, with our new volunteer programme, will deliver a welcoming and inclusive environment, sustainable well beyond the funded lifecycle of the project.



Survey Plan 1752

## 4.2 MARBLE HILL REVIVED MASTERPLAN

The proposals for the Marble Hill Revived Project aim to balance the historic significance of the site, with the environmental potential of the park and an enhanced offer for broader audience of park users. Together these themes will enable a sustainable future for Marble Hill Park to be developed.

Marble Hill Park has the potential to reconnect the house and landscape through a considered programme of repair, restoration and enhancement works and increase the understanding and enjoyment of the park for all. Work will focus on the restoration, reinterpretation and development of the park's core attributes: the Grade II\* registered landscape; the public amenities of the wider park; and the Grade I listed House.

Proposals for the park include:

- Develop the relationship between features of heritage significance and healthy living through sport and recreation.
- Interpret the layers of landscape history with emphasis on the time of Henrietta Howard.
- Integration of a new play offer for young children.
- Consideration of climate change adaptation with new planting programmes and management strategies.
- Develop management strategies that are proactive.
- Promote the importance of Marble Hill in the context of the Thames Landscape Strategy and adjacent parks and open spaces.
- Develop tree and woodland management strategies that restore the character of these areas and introduce a comprehensive planting programme to ensure the growth of a successional landscape for future generations.
- Enhance over 4 hectares of improved biodiversity including, new wetland habitat, meadow grassland and improved woodland margins
- Acknowledge the need to develop proposals with biosecurity in mind. This is particularly pertinent in the context of the former Horse Chestnut Stepped Avenues.
- Consider opportunities of sustainable urban drainage across the park to respond to tidal flooding.
- Maintain and enhance park boundaries to create more welcoming entrance to the park.
- Improve accessibility of path network and resurface to improve the setting of the house.
- Rationalise site furniture across the park.
- Decompact and improve grass sward across the park.
- The restoration of the lost 18th century Arcadian landscape and Sweet Walk.

- Refurbish and extend the existing café to boost income generation capacity.
- Relocate the retail unit from the House to the Stable Block
- Introduce a lift platform to the House
- Represent and install new interpretation to the House
- Provide training opportunities in catering, horticulture, early learning and heritage management.
- Refurbish the existing Sports Block

- Key:
- Existing tree canopy
  - Proposed avenue trees
  - Proposed orchard trees
  - Proposed specimen trees
  - Proposed grove trees
  - Proposed hedges
  - Amenity grassland
  - Wetland habitats
  - Wilderness
  - Flower garden
  - Thicket
  - Shrubbery
  - Existing paths
  - Proposed 'wiggle' paths
- Planted palisade
  - Reformed terraces
  - Ninepin alley
  - Enhanced Grotto setting
  - Grove planting
  - Enhanced planting to carriage circle
  - Enhanced cafe and shop
  - Destination play area
  - Improved wetland habitats
  - Enhanced Sweet Walk planting
  - Cafe service yard
  - Pushchair storage
  - Temporary marquee site
- A. Pleasure Grounds  
 B. Great Lawn  
 C. Sweet Walk & Stable Block  
 D. East Meadow  
 E. West Meadow  
 F. Car Park, Playground & Works Area  
 G. River Terrace  
 H. Marble Hill House  
 I. Sports Block



Proposed landscape plan - Ref - 581\_PL\_L\_01

