

## 4.3 PLEASURE GROUNDS PROPOSALS

The Pleasure Grounds represent the most significant opportunity to reinterpret and rediscover the lost landscape designs of Charles Bridgeman. These proposals seek to reintegrate the design of House and Landscape conserving the integrity of important key elements of the core historic landscape. It will restore and reframe important views and vistas between the house and River Thames.

The overall strategy for this area is to restore the Pleasure Grounds to the layout created by Henrietta Howard between 1724 and 1767. The reintroduction of heritage features will create a diversity of spatial character and habitats within the park which it currently does not offer. The existing timber palisade fencing will be removed to promote access into the Woodland Quarters.

The Pleasure Grounds are subdivided into five areas each with their own special character and landscape features.

### 1.1 Carriage Circle, Southern Terrace and House Representation

Key considerations and opportunities for this area:

- Restore the historic form of the turning circle and the southern terrace removing the grass infill and repaving with tar and chip asphalt.
- Resurface with a more informal surface to enhance the setting of Marble Hill House.
- Restore the formal planting along the curved walls to the north of Marble Hill House according to the historic pattern to enhance the presentation of the house.
- As part of long term tree management strategy remove the Atlantic Cedar to restore symmetrical view of the house and remove the Holm Oak encroaching on the house to the south west.

### 1.2 Terraces

Key considerations and opportunities for this area:

- Reinststate sharp lines and structure of the terraces - to include four steps, through subtle land form remodeling, working with the existing topography and constraints now imposed by tree roots.
- See section 3.3 for site level works

### 1.3 Stepped Avenues

Key considerations and opportunities for this area:

- Restore the stepped avenues to follow quincunx arrangement shown on the 1752 survey plan, review species mix to avoid a mono-culture that may be susceptible to biosecurity risks. Plant large species trees.
- Improve the setting of the Black walnut by creating a new fenced enclosure and monitor adjacent tree encroachment in the long term.
- Deliver opportunities for managed extensive volunteer tree planting projects.

### 1.4 The Woodland Quarters

Refer to the following pages for more information

### 1.5 Planted Palisade and Oval Lawn

Key considerations and opportunities for this area:

- Restore the palisade cut into an arcade on the oval lawn in front of the villa on the 1752 plan.
- Plant the palisade and create a structure to support growth during plant establishment. Accommodate existing tree species of note where appropriate.
- Enhance views and vistas to and from the House and the River Thames.



Planometric of the proposed Pleasure Grounds reinterpretation - Ref. 581\_PL\_L\_03