

regenerated tree growth for instance of sycamore. The ground flora within the quarters is sparse due to the heavy shading although a few plants of male fern are present. Generally both the visual amenity and the ecological value of these woodland blocks is low and the historic character, which originally would have been far more decorative and orderly, has been lost.

The unchecked growth of the quarters also means that Marble Hill House is now set within unevenly shaped woodland blocks rather than the symmetrical design originally intended.

The Icehouse (listed grade II) is still in place in the north west quarter and while it is not accessible to the public it is marked by an interpretation sign. The grotto is accessible with the interior visible through a metal grille.

The terrace to the south of the house which was probably originally gravel is now a narrower tarmac path which is heavily shaded by trees. The turning circle is also tarmac with an inner grassed circle. The planting immediately in front of these walls is no longer in place apart from one yew tree. Some small decorative trees planted close to Marble Hill House (the cedar to the north west and the weeping birches to the south) are inappropriate to the historic character of the area and intrusive in views to the house.

The woodland quarters are enclosed by low wooden fencing, similar to that around the Sweet Walk. Although there is a historic record of wooden fencing being used on site this style of fencing tends to appear temporary and contributes to the slightly neglected feel of the quarters.

Archaeological investigations in 2016 revealed the outline of the ninepin alley and the eastern and western boundary ditches or hahas.

This character area is used as the setting for events which make the most of the backdrop of the house. The events cause wear and tear to the landscape fabric, particularly the trees (which suffer from vehicles parking under them) and the grass. There is also the temporary visual impact of the stage which is situated at the south western corner of the character area, positioned to have the least effect on the view from the river to the house.

5.4.2 The Great Lawn

The Great Lawn still retains its fundamental historic character as a wide open level green space framed by trees but its gradual decline during the latter part of the 19th century and use as a public park during the 20th century has led to a loss of the simplicity and tranquillity as well as the visual interest that the area would have had in its heyday in the 1780s.

The Great Lawn is now dominated by its use for sports. The hard tennis court and the cricket nets are immediately inside the White Lodge entrance and so form the first impression of the site for many visitors rather than the view across the expanse of the Great Lawn to the house.

The open ground of the Great Lawn is close mown grassland and this is visually monotonous, and is liable to show signs of wear in areas of heavy use. There are now also

no parkland trees in the open grass apart from one mature Turkey oak to the north east of the area.

Tree cover consists of the remnants of the Sweet Walk along with some younger planting from the 20th century. There has also been some recent tree planting in the Sweet Walk area and along the park boundary in line with the 2006 LUC Management Plan proposals. To the northern boundary the trees are set into closely mown grass with some swathes of spring flowering bulbs. Tarmac paths pass through this area along with the main access road en route to the car park. The views to the passing traffic on the Richmond Road are clearly visible below the tree canopy and through the wooden fencing.

The Sweet Walk is more intact along the western boundary where it forms a dense band of trees and shrubs, although it retains little of its historic character. A number of mature trees survive probably from Jonathan Peel's planting but the feature is now crowded with naturally regenerated trees particularly hollies and sycamore giving a cluttered appearance and limiting the ecological interest of the area. Flanking the path outside the Sweet Walk are mature trees and newly planted trees set in an area of longer grass.

Worple Way is also lined by trees, again in a random formation. Due to the piecemeal land acquisition this route was lined just to the east with trees when it was the drive to the house (rather than having avenue planting on both sides). In the 19th century trees were planted on the western side but not in a formal layout and these have been supplemented with 20th century plantings.

There are three buildings in the Great Lawn character area. The Stable Block is an important element in the landscape with views across from the east focussing on this historic building, which is listed Grade II. The building houses the café, toilets plus flats for staff on the first floor. The raised beds in front of the block are thought to have been added with rubble from the Second World War. To the rear of the Stable Block is a walled yard. This is currently used for car parking and is poorly presented although the stone setts are present beneath the modern surfacing. Associated with the stable block are the former changing rooms, a wooden building hidden in the shrubbery of the Sweet Walk, plus the sports booking hut, a small wooden building sited on the path to the north east of the Stable Block.

The other buildings are the two lodges, the early 19th century White Lodge (listed grade II) to the west and the more recent Beaufort Lodge to the east. Both of these are set in small garden areas.

5.4.3 West Meadow

The current character of the West Meadow is of a large open grassy space, with the vast majority of the area close mown, which makes the area monotonous and lacking in visual interest or structure. In the south west corner and north west corner there are areas of longer grass which help soften the edges of the park. During the winter months the rugby pitches dominate the space with their goals and markings.

The area is enclosed by tree planting which forms a rural backdrop to the grassland. To the west an informal path runs through a narrow band of woodland with longer grass and this is a pleasant walk during the spring when the cow parsley is flowering. Trees overhang the area with some limbs reaching almost to the ground which reinforces the rural feel. The boundary is a metal fence along which runs a hedge which is in poor condition.

On the eastern edge of this area there is a Chinese style seating shelter which is in a very poor condition. The design of this feature enhances the feel that this area is purely a municipal park.

To the north east the dog free area is highly visible in the open grassland due to the wooden fencing.

5.4.4 The East Meadow

The East Meadow is a large, fairly featureless expanse of close mown grass framed by trees with its use for football visually dominant during the winter months. The football pitches are also used for parking during the summer concerts and this use leads to wear on the grass leaving bare patches and also compacts the soil of the pitches.

The eastern margin of the area, the former gardens of Little Marble Hill, is now a secluded wooded area with an informal path winding gently through long grass and leading on to the southern margin again through long grass shaded by trees along the boundary with the riverside path. The south east corner is also left as long grass which softens this area of the park.

The large old black walnut tree is a significant feature to the south west. The tree is contained within a fenced enclosure in which the grass is allowed to grow long. The fencing is advisable for safety reasons but, in combination with the patch of long grass set amid the shortly mown parkland, is visually highly prominent.

5.4.5 Car Park, Playgrounds and Works Area

This area is municipal in feel and function, comprising the car park and works yard occupied by the Park Rangers Team. The car park provides the entry point for visitors arriving by car; there are clear opportunities to improve and enhance the arrival experience. The playground is managed by the Marble Hill Playcentre and contains brightly painted timber play structures, detracting from the setting of the House. This facility could be better integrated into the park setting. The works area comprises a concrete paved yard used by the incumbent landscape contractor, with storage buildings, the Park ranger offices and the sport changing block. This area is not open to the public, with the exception of managed entry into the changing facility.

A community Kitchen Garden is located in the east of this area and contains two plots surrounded by a wooden fence and managed by volunteers.

5.4.6 River Terrace

The stretch of Thames Path running south of Marble Hill Park is owned by English Heritage and maintained by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. This route, also known as the Warren Path is a pedestrian path with permissive cycling. Tree cover and understorey is quite dense along both sides of the path with breaks along the boundary at the Pleasure Grounds, offering a view to Marble Hill House. The entrance to the park along from the Warren Path would benefit from refurbishment to create a more welcoming arrival experience to the park. There is a secondary gate in the south-east corner of the park which is permanently locked.

The trees on the north side of the footpath, away from the river are contained within small brick retaining walls, some of which have partly fallen down due to root expansion. Some of the trees have also failed leaving empty areas surrounded by retaining walls.

The lighting along the warren footpath was replaced in 2009 to be less intrusive and sensitive to bats as part of the HLF London's Arcadia project.

5.4.7 Ecology

The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in July 2018, comprising a Phase I habitat survey, protected species assessment and ecological evaluation of land at Marble Hill Park, Twickenham, London. The main findings of the PEA are as follows:

- The site comprised the habitats within Marble Hill Park, dominated by amenity grassland with scattered planted trees, areas of woodland, semi-improved and improved long sward grassland at the margins and buildings and hardstanding. Other, smaller areas of habitat included tall ruderal vegetation, scattered scrub, introduced shrubs and species-rich and intact native hedgerows.
- The site is entirely within the non-statutory, local-grade designation 'Marble Hill Park and Orleans House Gardens' Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). The local vicinity includes a large number of other statutory and non-statutory designations (four and nine respectively within a 1km radius). The closest statutory designation is Ham Lands Local Nature Reserve, and the closest non-statutory designation is the 'River Thames and tidal tributaries' Metropolitan-grade SINC which is adjacent to the south.
- Habitats present include Woodpasture and Parkland Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI) and Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland HPI, both of which are abundant in the local vicinity. The habitats in the site are considered of value at the local level, but form part of a borough-wide network of green spaces of higher ecological value in combination. Recommendations are set out to protect the habitats of elevated ecological value and extend and enhance them to ensure a biodiversity net gain.

- Bats – the site contains buildings and a large number of trees that are likely to provide suitable roosting opportunities for bats, and at least one potential soprano pipistrelle transitional roost has been identified by previous survey work. Previous survey work has also confirmed the presence of at least nine bat species that utilise the site for foraging and commuting. Further survey work is required to conclude those already reported, and to inform mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures. Bat boxes and a sensitive lighting scheme are recommended.
- Badgers – A number of mammal holes were recorded in the site, of which some have been confirmed to form an outlier badger sett within the proposed works area in the central woodland quarters. Further survey work is required to confirm the use of this sett and other holes within 30m of any proposed works, which will inform the requirement of mitigation such as a temporary sett closure under Natural England licence.
- Breeding birds – woodland, scattered trees and scrub and buildings on site all have potential to support breeding birds and some will be lost to the proposed works. In order to comply with legislation, these habitats should be removed/external building works completed during the months of September to February inclusive which is outside of the main bird breeding season. Where this is not possible, a check for nesting birds prior to works should be undertaken by an experienced ecologist and, if any nests are found, the nests should be protected until such time as the young have left the nest. If any nesting birds are found at any time during the works, work should stop immediately and an ecologist consulted.

5.4.8 Paving

The paving in Marble Hill Park is relatively consistent, with most pedestrian walkways asphalt surfaced. This includes the perimeter path to the Great Lawn, carriage circle and south terrace adjacent to Marble Hill House and the north-south path running down to the Thames. There are bark surfaced informal pathways through the margins of the east and west meadows, popular with dog walkers. The courtyard of the Stable block contains areas of cobbles, some partially covered by a layer of asphalt and missing in patches. Vehicular routes have speed bumps formed by granite cobbles. Concrete pavers have been used in small areas, such as the outdoor seating area at the café and at some entrances. Most footpaths and roadways would benefit from localised repair and the setting of Marble Hill House would be greatly improved with a top dressing more suitable to the setting of a Grade I listed building.

5.4.9 Boundary Treatment

The boundaries of Marble Hill Park are fairly consistent, broadly falling into three categories; iron railings, timber post and rail and brick wall. The northern boundary to Richmond Road is entirely timber post and rail fence with timber gates and is in good condition. The southern boundary onto the Thames Path is black painted iron railings and gates. Where brick walls exist, these are mostly onto adjacent properties and in the main superficially

appear to be of a satisfactory condition. The timber post and rail fence and gates along the western boundary to Orleans Road are in good condition with some areas of localised repair necessary, the entrances may be improved to enhance the arrival experience.

5.4.10 Enclosures

Marble Hill Park contains various enclosed areas, for example the tennis courts, dog free area and kitchen garden beds. The Tennis courts are fenced with metal chain link and the cricket nets are a black fibre mesh, unsympathetic to the setting of Marble Hill; an opportunity exists to improve the integration of these facilities in this location. The Woodland quarters are fully enclosed with timber post and rail fencing; this could be removed to open more of the park to visitors allowing access to areas of varied landscape character. The community kitchen garden beds, playground and dog free area are fenced with timber post and rail which is in good condition. The Black Walnut is currently protected with timber post and wire mesh fencing; this could be upgraded to improve the setting of this important tree.

5.4.11 Benches

The benches at Marble Hill Park are generally consistent, timber slatted seats with backrests and armrests. A couple are more municipal in style with simple timber slatted seats and backrests but no armrests. Most benches have a paved plinth to prevent grass erosion around the base. In some locations the bench is missing and just the plinth remains. There is opportunity to rationalise the bench provision.

5.4.12 Litter Bins

Litter bins and dog waste bins are provided at Marble Hill Park. Litter bins are predominantly hexagonal or cylindrical cast iron painted dark green, the latter bearing English Heritage logo casting. Most are rusted with peeling paint and require refurbishment or replacement. Dog waste bins are consistent, square green plastic mounted on poles, some requiring cleaning. The opportunity to rationalise the collection of litter and dog waste into one receptacle is being explored.

5.4.13 Signage

Entrances to the Park are consistently signposted with the standard English Heritage information boards which include opening times and admission prices; these are all in good condition. Navigation within the park is provided via fingerposts, one at the car park is timber, another near the house is black metal; there is opportunity to rationalise. Additional information is posted on A-Frame information boards at the car park and café and on an ad-hoc basis throughout the park on laminated posters. Vehicular route traffic signs i.e. speed restrictions are consistently signposted on black metal boards mounted on poles. A consistent approach to signage across the whole park will be developed through the development stages of the project.

5.4.14 Memorials

English Heritage accommodates memorial benches within Marble Hill Park, covered by the 'Commemorative Benches Policy Document'. There is currently a maximum number of 54

memorial bench places. Benches are of a standard approved design, currently the 'Kenwood' 180cm bench.

5.4.15 Other

Marble Hill Park has CCTV columns and vehicle movement sensors located in close proximity to the House. The park is generally not lit at night since it closes in the evening, although some unused lighting columns still stand in the park which can be removed. The Thames Path is lit using anti-light pollution LED lighting, due to bat commuting routes. A number of bollards line vehicular routes, which are consistently square timber and are removable many of the fixed bollards can be removed to help improve the appearance of the park.

6 Green Flag Audit

One of the primary outcomes of the project at Marble Hill will be the awarding and retention of Green Flag status on completion of the capital works.

In 2014 English Heritage commissioned an external assessment of Marble Hill Park by Bramhill Designs against the criteria needed for Green Flag status. The assessment was based on a desk based survey on the draft Landscape Management Plan produced by Land Use Consultants in 2006 and a visit to site. The assessment concluded that Marble Hill falls well short of receiving a reward currently. The scores achieved by Marble Hill Park are summarised below (each mark is out of 10):

Overall score:

Element	Score
Desk Research (minimum score 15)	12.0
Field Research (minimum score 42)	30.8
Total Score (pass 66)	42.8

Desk Research score:

	Score
1 Presentation	3
2 Healthy, Safe, Security	6
3 Maintenance of equipment, buildings and landscape	6
4 Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	6
5 Environmental Sustainability	5
6 Conservation of heritage & nature	4
7 Community Involvement	4
8 Marketing Strategy	1
9 Overall Management	1
Total	36
Average (Total divided by 9)	4
Out of 30 (Average x 3)	12

Field Research score:

A Welcoming Place	Score
1 Welcoming	3
2 Good and Safe Access	4
3 Signage	3
4 Equal access for all	3
Health, Safe and Secure	
5 Safe equipment and facilities	5

6 Personal security in park	5
7 Dog fouling	5
8 Appropriate provision of facilities	4
9 Quality of facilities	4
Clean and Well Maintained	
10 Litter waste management	7
11 Grounds maintenance and horticulture	5
12 Buildings and infrastructure maintenance	4
13 Equipment maintenance	6
Sustainability	
14 Environmental sustainability – energy & natural resource, conservation, pollution	6
15 Pesticides	6
16 Peat Use	6
17 Waste minimisation	5
18 Arboriculture and woodland management	4
Conservation and Heritage	
19 Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora	6
20 Conservation of landscape features	4
21 Conservation of building structures	6
Community Involvement	
22 Community Involvement in management & development including outreach work	6
23 Appropriate provision for the community	6
Marketing	
24 Marketing and promotion	2
25 Provision of appropriate information	3
26 Provision of appropriate educational and interpretation/information	2
Management	
27 Implementation of management plan	0
Total	119
Average (Total divided by 27)	4.4
Out of 70 (Average x 7)	30.8

The total score for Marble Hill was 42.8 (out of 100). The assessment identified a number of key weaknesses, in particular the draft management plan which had never been fully adopted or reviewed by English Heritage. It also scored poorly on Marketing and Presentation. A discussion of all the criteria and the key issues raised are covered in detail in the following section.

6.1 Welcoming Place

‘Welcoming, good & safe access, signage, equal access for all’

The assessment of this section concluded the following:

The road and pedestrian entrances are poorly presented, with decaying infrastructure and a lack of information on the landscape and park. The car park surface is in a poor condition and is littered with unattractive signage, furniture and amateurish notices. Signage at the entrances is basic and uninformative especially about the location and opening time of facilities in the park.

When the house is not open during the week the house looks unwelcoming and detached from the landscape.

There is no information about the rangers on-site and the location of their office minimises their public facing benefits. There is nothing welcoming about their office area and no encouragement to engage with them.

The key issues to be addressed are:

- Lack of signage and orientation information provided at entrances
- Poor condition of road and path surfaces on arrival
- Reinforcement of the link between the house and historic landscape
- Engagement and availability of Rangers team to the public

6.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

‘Safe equipment & facilities, personal security, dog fouling, appropriate provision of facilities, quality of facilities’

The assessment of this section concluded the following:

The prevalence of dog walkers in the park makes gives a reasonable sense of personal safety. There was a lack of information on why certain areas of the park were fenced off to visitors.

Owners appeared to be clearing up after their dogs, although dog-fouling on the sports pitches is a health and safety concern for players and needs to be managed carefully. The dog free area is a limited size considering the extent of the park, but very obvious due to the fencing.

A catering strategy needs to be developed to define the difference in offer in such a competitive area. The Stable Block does not feel large enough to host the café and the configuration of the building is awkward. The toilets were poorly signed but reasonably clean.

The presence of Marble Hill Playcentre adds to the enjoyment of the park but the scale and colour of the equipment and buildings is very intrusive. The community garden area is in good condition but their siting appears unplanned and uninviting.

Most of the buildings are in a reasonable state of repair and seem well maintained and free of graffiti. However, the street furniture, including benches, bins and lighting were in a very poor state of repair.

The key issues to be addressed are:

- Impact of dog free area in open parkland
- Dog fouling on sports pitches
- Configuration and offer of Stable Block café and visitor facilities
- Visual intrusion of the Marble Hill Playcentre structures
- Uninviting appearance of community garden area
- Poor condition of street furniture including benches, bins and lighting

6.3 Clean and Well Maintained

‘Litter & waste management, grounds maintenance & horticulture, building & infrastructure maintenance, equipment maintenance’

The assessment of this section concluded the following:

The overall quality of the day-to-day maintenance is good, however the longer-term repair/repainting/replacement of features such as the palisade fences or benches has been carried out on an ad hoc basis and as a result these features have deteriorated detracting from the otherwise clean and tidy park appearance. The site was remarkably litter free and the landscape was adequately maintained for parkland but not up to standard for sport.

There is a lack of horticultural diversity in the landscape.

The key issues to be addressed are:

- Continuation of good quality day to day maintenance
- Ensure that longer term cyclical repairs are carried out
- Condition and maintenance of sport pitches
- Lack of horticultural diversity in the landscape

6.4 Sustainability

‘Environmental sustainability, pesticides, peat use, waste minimisation, arboriculture & woodland management’

The assessment of this section concluded the following:

Although a 50-year planting strategy has been created and some replanting has taken place this does not seem to be strategic and the park is still dominated by over mature trees.

The presentation of the black walnut could be improved with an explanation offered for its retention and need for an exclusion zone. This is also the case for other trees in the park.

The fencing off of large woodland areas has no explanation and is confusing to visitors.

The key issues to be addressed are:

- Lack of a proactive tree planting strategy
- Presentation and explanation of management of mature trees
- Fencing off woodland areas

6.5 Conservation and Heritage

The assessment of this section concluded the following:

Grasslands show little diversity and there is not substantial differential mowing. There was no significant evidence of the site being a haven for wildlife.

Play and sports facilities detract from the historic value of the landscape. Views to the river have been lost from the terraces and the various intrusive fenced enclosures, around the woodland, community garden and dog-free area clutter the landscape.

There is not much of a sense of visiting a Grade II* registered park reflecting an 18th century landscape.

The historic buildings and structures are in acceptable condition although the house is beginning to look shabby and the Stable Block needs investment. The lodges appear in reasonable condition. The Grotto and Ice House could be better presented and the disused toilet block adjacent to the house adds to the feeling of neglect.

There was a distinct lack of interpretive material available.

The key issues to be addressed are:

- Lack of diversity in the grassland and wildlife habitats
- Intrusive play and sports facilities detracting from the historic value of the landscape
- Views to the river have been lost
- Fenced off areas add clutter to the landscape
- No sense of visiting a Grade II* registered park
- Presentation of house and Stable Block
- Presentation of Grotto and Ice House
- Neglected feeling created by disused toilet block
- Lack of interpretative material

6.6 Community Involvement

‘Community involvement in management & development including outreach work, appropriate provision for the community’

The assessment of this section concluded the following:

On site there is little indication of community involvement. The community gardens in East Meadow would demonstrate some recent activity but the signage gives no information on the Marble Hill Society or how to join in with the community gardens. There is no organised users group which represents all those who visit and enjoy the park.

Any partnerships in the park do not appear to be celebrated. Signage at entrances gives no information on the play partnerships, who runs the café and who the sports clubs are using the park. There is very little to encourage users to get involved or understand more about how they could engage with many of the activities.

There is a lack of strategy to developing facilities and the impression is that the community demands facilities on the site and this is developed ad hoc in the absence of a strong plan for the future of the site.

No education visits are taking place on site. The site has not been assessed for access requirements and there is a lack of appropriate provision for these visitors.

The key issues to be addressed are:

- Lack of information on how to get involved with the various facilities on site
- No organised user group representing all users of the park
- No information of partnerships with the park
- Lack of overarching strategy to determine opportunities for visitor facilities
- No education visits on site
- Poor and unsuitable facilities for those with access needs

6.7 Marketing

‘Marketing & promotion, provision of appropriate information, provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information’

The assessment of this section concluded the following:

There is currently very little understanding amongst the users of Marble Hill Park about the significance of the landscape as a historic site and basic facilities and activities in the park.

There is no mechanism for communicating with users on a regular basis and providing information and updates on the park.

The website information does not reflect the site and refers mainly to the house. It does not describe the historic interest of the park or its use for sport.

The key issues to be addressed are:

- Lack of public understanding about the significance and facilities at Marble Hill
- No communications strategy for involving the community
- Website information does not reflect the nature of the site

6.8 Management

'Implementation of management plan'

The assessment of this section concluded the following:

The management plan created by LUC in 2006 laid out proposals for changes in maintenance and management but little has changed due to the lack of opportunities on the site to support a more sustainable business plan. Significant new investment is needed to bring the site infrastructure to up to appropriate standard in order to make it sustainable.

A new up-to-date Conservation Management Plan and Maintenance and Management plan need to be in place in order to progress towards the desired management objectives.

The key issues to be addressed are:

- Lack of opportunities on the site to support a more sustainable business plan
- Create an up to date adopted Conservation Management Plan for the site
- Create an up to date adopted Maintenance and Management Plan for the site

7 Summary of Masterplan Proposals

7.1 The Vision

The overall vision for the restoration of Marble Hill is:

‘Henrietta Howard, a remarkable woman, overcome personal adversity to build an outstanding 18th-century house and garden at Marble Hill as a retreat for herself, her family and friends. We 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 c.1749 and later 18th-century landscape, providing within it, improved 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 which will open daily. We will work in partnership with local organisations to deliver outstanding community 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.’

The proposals for the Marble Hill Project will 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.

The key considerations and opportunities for the site included in the proposals were:

- 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.
- Improve the economic sustainability of the site by creating a commercial hub at the Stable Block and improving sports provision.
- Improve the play offer.
- Consider 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 biodiversity across the site.

- Acknowledge the need to develop proposals with biosecurity in mind. This is particularly pertinent in the context of the former Horse Chestnut Avenues.
- Consider opportunities of sustainable urban drainage across the park.
- 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.

Refer to Marble Hill Conservation and Management Plan 2016 for further details.

7.2 Built Structures Proposals

7.2.1 Marble Hill House

Marble Hill House was surveyed in 2008 (Acanthus Clews Architects) and 2011 (Purcell Architects) as part of English Heritage's Asset Management Programme. The surveys comprised a full visual survey of the building (excluding mechanical and electrical items), recommendations on repair and cost information. Following the 2011 survey a further report was commissioned to investigate instances of penetrating damp at ground floor level. These proposals are based on the findings of the previous surveys and a resurvey of the site that was undertaken in May 2015, with the aim of identifying the maintenance priorities for the proposed Marble Hill Re-Presentation project. The Mechanical and Electrical Services were also surveyed.

7.2.1.1 External Masonry

The render and stucco work to all elevations is generally sound, however several minor cracks were noted on the north, west and south elevations and to the wing walls. These will require cutting back to a sound edge before repairing with lime mortar.

Sections of the external render will be repaired and in some cases replaced with lime render to prevent further moisture ingress. The exterior will then be redecorated and repaired to prevent further decay and improve the overall presentation of the building. A series of paint trials will be undertaken prior to the decoration works in order to establish the best product for the building and local environment.

All the external joinery will be repaired where necessary using traditional SPAB techniques and all elements will be redecorated at the earliest opportunity, to prevent further decay and lower the risk of moisture penetration into the building.

The main roof will be overhauled as part of the planned decoration works. This work will include the replacement of all missing and defective pantiles and slates, the assessment and re-oiling of all lead work and the repointing of all hip tiles and edge details as required. The large tree that overhangs the west elevation will be removed as part of the planned landscaping works.

The rainwater goods will be refurbished and some modification will be carried out to the gulleys in order to improve water management.

7.2.1.2 Penetrating Damp

Internally there is evidence of penetrating damp to the Breakfast Parlour, Tetrastyle Hall Dining Room and Paper Room. It is proposed to remove and repair the defective plaster and redecorate all damp affected walls to the Paper Room, Dining Room, Tetrastyle Hall and Breakfast Room.

7.2.1.3 M&E and Fire Protection

The labelling of electrical equipment is unclear and not always legible, which, coupled with a lack of test records and schematics, means the existing installation is confusing. It has therefore been recommended that the English Heritage Maintenance team undertakes a full test and inspection, including the rectification of known problems in the short term.

The existing incoming MCCB panel and final circuit-distribution boards will be replaced as part of the project. This work will also include the restoration of power to the Breakfast Parlour and the associated opening-up works.

The existing fire alarm has come to the end of its useful life and no longer functions correctly or conforms to current regulations. Therefore, it is proposed that a new wireless fire alarm and detection system conforming to BS5839 Part I type LI is installed as part of the project. As the 2013 edition of this British Standard recommends that detectors should be at least 500mm away from walls, the current detector locations will have to move and allowance for making good ceilings should be included.

Lastly, there has been a long standing problem with a lack of fire separation between the Great Room and the ceiling void and roof space above due to the hole which allows the chandelier to be suspended from a winch at Garret level. This is exacerbated by the lack of compartmentation around the eaves of the roof. It is therefore proposed that the following works endorsed by Historic England's National Fire Officer also form part of the planned maintenance works:

- A fixed intumescent seal within a steel frame will be attached between the ceiling and ceiling joists where the winch cable and electrics penetrate, to give at least one-hour fire resistance.
- The roof void at garret level will be subdivided with a one hour fire resisting partition in line with the masonry walls
- The roof void above the Garret level will be investigated to see if the walls mentioned above have been fire stopped at the junction with the roof. If they have not, any holes will be fire stopped with lime mortar.

Several of the doors on the ground and first floor, which has been shown to contain asbestos fire retardant panels, will be upgraded by removal of the toxic panels and adaptation by introduction of appropriate sealant and intumescent paint.

7.2.1.4 Lift

A light-weight, platform lift, positioned within the present control room, will be installed in the House to provide access to the first floor for a person using a normal wheelchair.

7.2.2 Stable Block

The entrance to the building is demarcated by the carriage arch. On entering the cafe the servery beyond, is visible immediately. The servery backs onto the kitchen. The kitchen has a direct link to the café seating area for the waiter service.

The management office is located in the historic office space, allowing its interior to remain undisturbed, and the plant room is located in the north wing, minimising BWIC work in the historic building. The existing scout hut building to the north is used for dry goods and cold storage.

The kiosk/ hatch is at the south-east corner of the building, making sure its potential queues at peak times are separate from that for the main servery. Its position here allows the existing doorway to be modified to create the hatch, and work with the existing terrace which overlooks the children's play area.

A staff welfare room, used by all café staff is located adjacent to the WC's. Circulation between the various parts of the building is via the carriage arch. There are no stairs or ramps.

Services

The aged systems above ground drainage, domestic hot and cold water supply, mechanical ventilation and heating serving the existing ground floor areas of the café and public toilets shall be removed and replaced with new energy and water efficient systems in keeping with the Grade I listed building and Parkland.

The existing external natural gas and mains cold water supplies to the café and plant room shall be upgraded to support the building's revised services requirements, including the provision of a new gas meter kiosk mounted on the southern side of the outbuildings.

The incoming natural gas and main cold water supplies serving the first floor flats shall be replaced with new dedicated supplies.

The staff room and the seated areas of the café shall be naturally ventilated through the refurbishment of the building's existing openable windows.

The public and staff toilets shall be provided with supply and extract ventilation via a fan unit incorporating a high efficiency system of heat recovery.

The kitchen shall be provided with mechanical supply and extract ventilation in accordance with the specialist requirements of the Catering Consultant.

A high efficiency fully condensing natural gas boiler shall be installed within the plant room, this shall provide space heating to the ground floor via a system of radiators, with heating also being provided to the Air Handling Unit serving the kitchen and a wall mounted fan convactor located within the kitchen.

The boiler shall be provided with a purpose built flue designed to conceal the flue as a heritage SVP.

Domestic hot water shall be generated by an unvented cylinder located within the plant room and heated by the new condensing boiler.

A potable cold water storage tank and pressurisation set shall be installed within the plant room to provide a pressurised water supply for the operation of the specialist catering equipment.

A system of natural gas supply incorporating an automatic gas safe system shall be provided to serve the plant room and kitchen.

Inverter driven variable speed fans and pumps shall be used to minimise electrical consumption.

To minimise water consumption, all WHB's shall be fitted with spray taps and all new WCs shall be fitted with low volume flushing siphons.

To minimise potential water wastage, the public toilets shall be fitted with automatic solenoid valves which will isolate the water supply to the building when the toilets are not in use.

Pipework and ductwork insulation with a global warming potential of zero and an ozone depletion potential of less than 5.

A replacement system of above ground drainage shall be installed to meet the revised locations of the new sanitary and kitchen appliances.

Use of automatic lighting controls within WC's and ancillary areas

Light fittings will be selected to have low energy lamps, where practicable LED fittings will be employed

External Lighting will be minimised to prevent light pollution

External Lighting controls will be incorporated to reduce the power consumption of the external lighting system.

Security strategy will be developed with the client security advisors to minimise the risk of vandalism

External Materials Palette

The material palette of the Stable Block will be maintained and extended for altered elements of the historic building, such as the servery hatch, new kitchen door and door to refurbished WC's. The new brickwork, cills, joinery and metalwork details are intended to match existing elements with similar details and finishes. Existing bricks and cills will be reused if possible when altering openings.

The relatively minor interventions to the facades of the Stable Block are in the majority modifications to existing openings. These modifications allow for the layout required to fulfil the brief. In each case the brickwork and joinery detailing and finishes will follow the precedents of the existing building.

Internal Materials Palette

Existing historic elements (mouldings, skirtings and details) will be retained, and the new constructions cut around them, rather than vice-versa. This maximizes reversibility. Any local damage to retained finishes will be made good to match.

The north wing (garage) of the Stable Block retains its ceramic stable block floor, and the office in the north-east corner retains its fireplace and matchboard internal linings, and possibly its floor (now covered).

The proposals thus uses simple contemporary finishes as appropriate to create the new facilities, with layout, materials and detailing chosen to maintain those surviving historic finishes, minimize further intervention to the historic fabric and enable their later removal. All existing WC's and Kitchen will be stripped out and internal partition (not original) walls removed to allow for the new open plan layout.

New partitions will be of drywall with skimmed and painted plasterboard. Internal doors will be simple painted solid core doors, with plain simple painted timber architraves and skirtings.

New ceilings will be painted plasterboard, to allow light fittings to be inserted and create adequate fire separation to the flats above. New lighting is provided throughout to enhance the facilities, improve control and efficiency and provide proper emergency lighting.

Non-original flooring will be stripped and replaced, with the exception of the existing café and office.

The plant room existing walls and floor are to be retained as they are currently, being made good at redundant penetrations. The layout of the plant room is subject to detail design, the principle equipment and design intent is detailed in the M&E section of this report. The existing floor will be retained, with plant sitting either directly on the existing floor or on concrete bases cast onto the floor over a separating layer.

The new WC's will be individual loos, divided with drywall partitions. The finish to the WC's will be robust but not institutional. Sanitary ware is white ceramic, but specified for maximum durability and resistance to vandalism.

7.2.3 Sports Block

The main driver for the reordering of the Sports Block is to provide changing facilities for both men and women and provision of an accessible WC and shower. . There needs to be making good, maintenance and decoration of the entire block and simple M&E refurbishments.

The proposal is for a flexible layout with two changing rooms on one side and 6 changing rooms on the other side. The key areas to be modified are as follows:

- Store room/office to be converted into kit store to be accessed from the main circulation space
- Accessible shower and WC added to main circulation space
- Existing sinks and boot wash removed; replaced with new unisex WCs
- Blocking in of three existing openings; creation of three new openings
- New partitions and lockable doors
- Ramp built to main entrance and to fire escape doors
- WCs will be available to the public when the changing rooms are not being hired by Sports Groups.

7.3 Interpretation and Collections Proposals

7.3.1 Interpretation Proposals

Marble Hill House will be open for everyone to explore at their own pace, with visitors of all ages welcome. It will be brought to life in new and playful ways and through working with the community. This will include:

- Showing how Henrietta's home was used including recreating lost furnishings, like a magnificent peacock table for the Great Hall, and recreating her great niece's bedroom
- Telling Henrietta's story using the writings of her and her friends, and film, sound installations, music, and objects which can be touched and smelt, and tried on. Each room will include a fan shaped room introduction and a set of collections /theme booklets.
- Exploring previously un-told aspects such as Marble Hill's links to the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and Henrietta's deafness
- Using innovative interpretation in the landscape to show how the house and landscape were cleverly designed as a whole, including viewing frames with illustrated figures to show how the landscape was used, and a garden hand cart with games and fun family focused interpretation
- Henrietta's story will be told in ways which are as accessible as possible for a wide range of visitors. This will include using British Sign Language and subtitles on the film, a virtual tour and using smells and tactile objects.
- Creating a family trail which covers both house and landscape

7.3.2 Collections Proposals

The collections will be enhanced with key acquisitions and loans, informed by the earliest surviving inventory for the house, in order to create a sense of Marble Hill as Henrietta Howard's home and to help convey the Interpretation Key Messages. For example, these items are likely to include: a dining table and six chairs for the Dining Parlour; a writing table for the Dressing Room; a four poster bed with needlework hangings for Miss Hotham's Bedchamber; as well as smaller items such as a dinner service, tea making equipment,

writing box, ear trumpet, and items for Henrietta's dressing table. In addition, we will commission high quality replicas of the marble-topped 'peacock' table and a needlework sofa.

7.4 Landscape Proposals

7.4.1 Pleasure Ground

The Pleasure Grounds represent the most significant opportunity to reinterpret and rediscover the lost landscape designs of Alexander Pope and 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 ground to the layout created by Henrietta Howard between 1724 and 1767 to create an attractive area within the park. The reintroduction heritage features will create a diversity of spatial character and habitats within the park which it currently does not provide. Removal of the timber palisade fencing to promote access into the Woodland Quarters and using estate fencing to enclose the Pleasure Grounds enabling managed access.

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

7.4.1.1 Carriage Circle, Southern Terrace and House Representation

In this area the proposals are to:

- Restore the formal planting along the walls to both sides of the north front of Marble Hill House according to the historic pattern to enhance the presentation of the house.

7.4.1.2 Terraces

In this area the proposals are to:

- Enhance views and vistas to and from the House and the River Thames.

7.4.1.3 Avenues

In this area the proposals are to:

- Restore the avenues based upon available historic plans and archaeology surveys.
- Improve the setting of the Black Walnut.

7.4.1.4 The Woodland Quarters

In this area the proposals are to:

- Restore the Orchard to the east of the house to its early 18th-century pattern.