

Designations

- Listed at Grade II as White Lodge to Marble Hill Park, list entry number 1250209
- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

The White Lodge was built by Lieutenant General Jonathan Peel (1799-1879), probably soon after his purchase of Marble Hill in 1825. Peel had built through the Sweet Walk a new drive providing an approach to the Mansion from Richmond Road. A lodge to guard the road entrance would have been a necessary attribute. The architect of the design, which has touches both of the Greek Revival and of a cottage orné, is not recorded. After Marble Hill became a public park the lodge was turned over the staff accommodation and in c. 1952 the London Country Council added a flat-roofed bathroom extension to the south-west corner on the site of a small lean-to structure. Since the site was taken over by English Heritage the White Lodge has remained in that use and is not open to the public.

Brief description

The White Lodge is a small, compact, single storey building. The original structure is roughly a 'T' shape in plan and orientated so that the horizontal stroke of the 'T' is aligned to be parallel with Richmond Road. The principal axes of the building do not run exactly north-south and east-west but for the purposes of this gazetteer will be assumed to do so for simplicity's sake. It stands on the west side of the junction of Richmond Road with the drive. The walls of the main portion are finished in white-painted stucco, while those of the rear wing are whitewashed brick. The roof is hipped and covered in slates with lead flashings to the ridges. On the line of the rear wall of the front portion is a tall chimney, consisting of a block of three tall stacks built of stock brick. They are separated by shadow gaps but brought together with a shared stone cornice. They are crowned with three tall pots bearing modern metal cowlings.

Significance

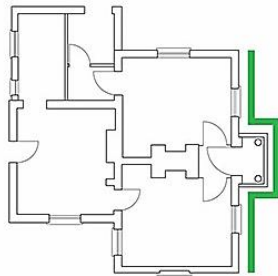
Moderate

THE WHITE LODGE – Exterior

Location: North elevation

Date(s): c. 1825, 1987

Significance: High



Brief description: This is the principal elevation of the White Lodge, which faces Richmond Road. It is a simple composition of three bays, arranged symmetrically about a central porch consisting of a pediment supported on Greek Doric columns. These lack fluting and indeed all the Classical detailing is much simplified and somewhat crude in execution. There are corner pilasters and a very simple frieze.

Notes: There is a small step down into the building from pavement level.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	White-painted stucco
Windows	Two casements with margin lights
Doors	Six-panel front door, possibly modern
Features	Tall railing running across the front, erected in 1987.

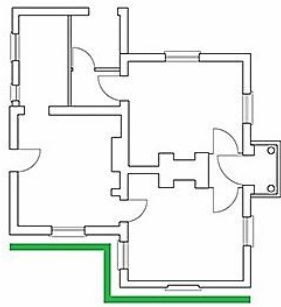


THE WHITE LODGE – Exterior

Location: East elevation

Date(s): c. 1825

Significance: High

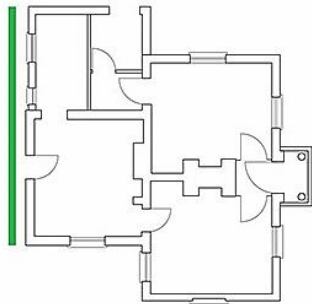


Brief description: This elevation faces the drive. It consists of the shorter, end wall of the front portion of the building, a return and the side wall of the rear wing. The frieze continues round from the north elevation and there is a second corner pilaster to mirror that at the northeast corner. This one, however, is sunken into the wall surface like a nook shaft and indeed the lower section ‘dies’ into it – perhaps unintentionally.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Front portion finished in white-painted stucco, rear wing of whitewashed brick although window has stucco surround
Windows	Two casements with margin lights, one in the return between the two sections
Doors	None
Features	Blocked window in end wall



THE WHITE LODGE – Exterior



Location: South elevation

Date(s): c.1825, c.1952

Significance: Moderate

Brief description: This is the rear elevation of the Lodge, which faces the Sweet Walk. The angle of the front and rear wings is filled by a flat-roofed extension which houses the kitchen and bathroom and was added by the LCC. The frieze is carried round but otherwise the original fabric is devoid of any kind of ornament.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Whitewashed brickwork to rear wing, whitewashed render to 1952 extension
Windows	Two casements with margin lights in flat-roofed section, of different dimensions to but following pattern of those in original section
Doors	Back door providing access from living room, flat panelled
Features	Wooden porch with latticework sides and arched entrance with quatrefoils in spandrels, date unknown

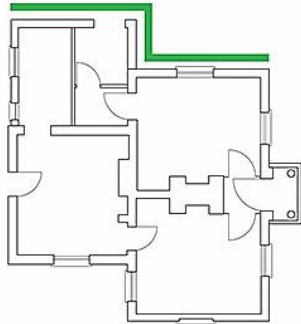


THE WHITE LODGE – Exterior

Location: West elevation

Date(s): c.1825, c.1952

Significance: Moderate

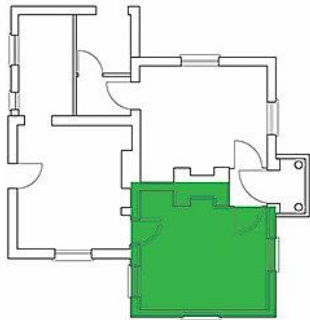


Brief description: As built this was presumably identical to the east elevation, although the window that is blocked in the corresponding position on the east side here is open. The flat-roofed kitchen and bathroom extension projects beyond the line of the original west wall of the front portion.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	White-painted stucco/render; on flat-roofed section this stops short of ground level
Windows	Two casements with margin lights, that in flat-roofed section, of different dimensions to but following pattern of those in original section
Doors	None
Features	Downpipe, stench pipe, security light



THE WHITE LODGE – Interior



Room: G1

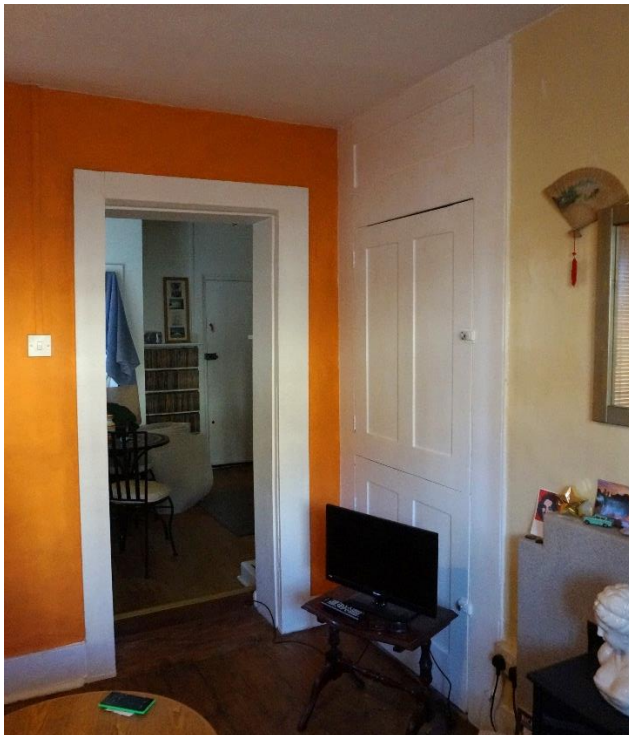
Name: Living Room

Date(s): c.1825, mid-late C20

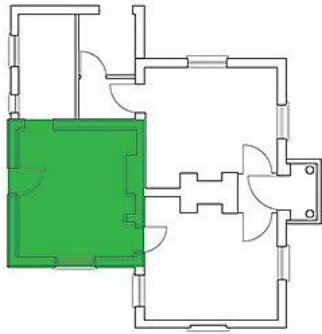
Significance: Some significance

Brief description: The eastern of the two rooms occupying the main section of the lodge towards the road, entered via a small lobby to one side into which the front door opens. It is shown as a living room on the 1952 plan.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Plastered and painted
Floor	Laminate
Ceiling	Plaster with no mouldings
Joinery	Skirtings, doors, architraves, windows
Features	Modern fireplace surround; historic cupboard filling space to left of chimney breast



THE WHITE LODGE – Interior



Room: G2

Name: Dining Room

Previous name: Kitchen

Date(s): c. 1825

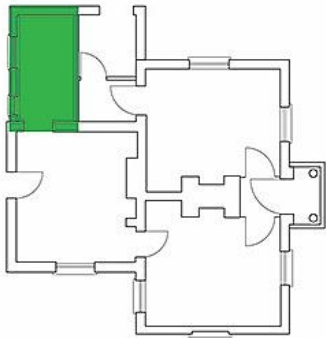
Significance: Some significance

Brief description: This room fills all of the original rear wing (i.e. the long stroke of the 'T') and was presumably originally housed services. There is a back door providing access to the garden. This space is shown as a kitchen on the 1952 plan.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Painted and plastered
Floor	Boards (modern)
Ceiling	Plaster, no mouldings
Joinery	Doors, architraves, skirting, windows
Features	Blocked fireplace in north wall; hatch to roofspace, built-in cupboard in southeast corner



THE WHITE LODGE – Interior



Room: G3

Name: Kitchen

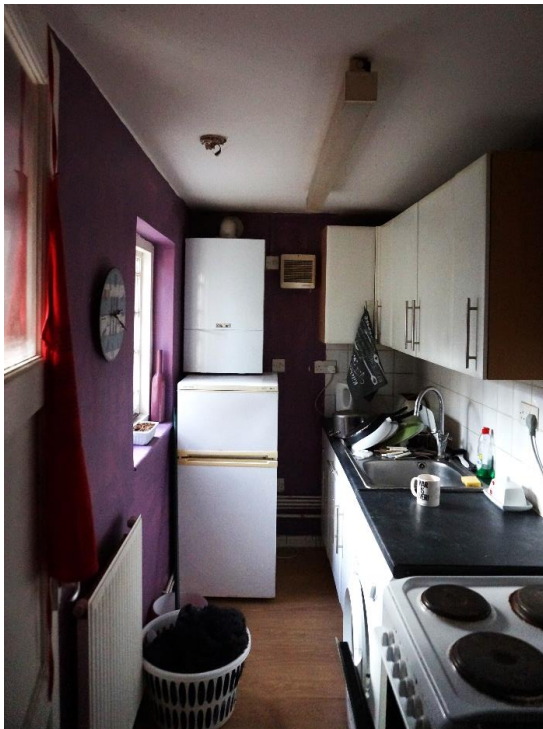
Previous name: Wash room

Date(s): 1952

Significance: Neutral

Brief description: This room occupies the larger part of the flat-roofed extension added in c. 1952. Intended as a wash room, it was subsequently converted to a kitchen.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Plastered and painted, tiled in vicinity of work surface
Floor	Boards (modern)
Ceiling	Plaster (no mouldings)
Joinery	Doors, architraves, skirting, windows
Features	Modern kitchen units, boiler



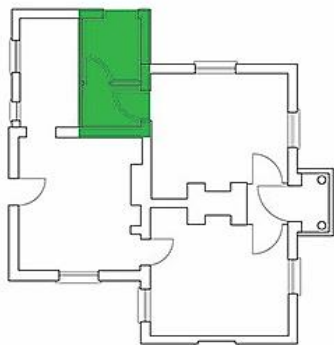
THE WHITE LODGE – Interior

Room: G4

Name: Bathroom

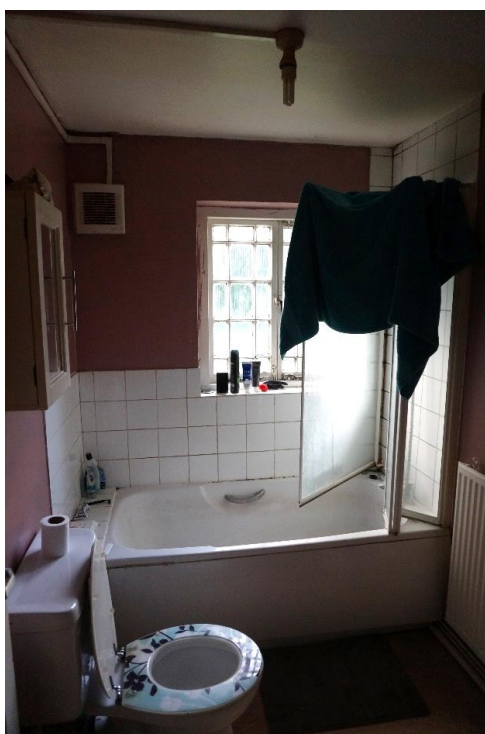
Date(s): 1952

Significance: Neutral

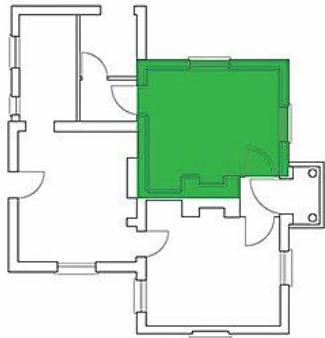


Brief description: This room occupies the smaller part of the flat-roofed extension added in c. 1952. Access is from the dining room via a small lobby that also leads to the bedroom.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Plastered and painted, tiled in vicinity of bath
Floor	Laminate
Ceiling	Plaster, no mouldings
Joinery	Doors, architraves, skirting, windows
Features	Sanitary ware



THE WHITE LODGE – Interior



Room: G5

Name: Bedroom

Date(s): c. 1825

Significance: Some significance

Brief description: This room occupies the western half of the front portion of the house. It can be reached both via the entrance lobby and the kitchen – the latter of these doorways was cut through in the late twentieth century. This room is shown as a bedroom on the 1952 plan.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Plastered and painted
Floor	Carpet
Ceiling	Plaster, no mouldings
Joinery	Doors, architraves, skirting, windows
Features	Historic cupboard occupying space to right of chimney breast; C19 chimneypiece with moulded ornament in relief in recessed panels



Designations

- Not statutorily listed
- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

This is the smaller of two grottoes known to have been constructed at Marble Hill by Henrietta Howard (the larger one is no longer extant) and is first shown on a survey of 1735. It was decorated with shells and blue glass over a long period – Lady Howard mentions being “at this time over head and ears in shells” in a letter in 1739, and a letter from her then-eleven-year-old niece written in 1763 indicates that the work was still in progress at that date. The 1752 map suggests that the setting was very different and far more extensive. Following Lady Howard’s death the grotto evidently fell into disrepair as it is recorded as being abandoned and derelict in 1816. Subsequently it was completely abandoned and the vault fell in. The site was filled in and levelled, and the grotto was only rediscovered by chance in 1983 when the ground above was affected by settlement. A restoration of the structural shell and the path leading down to it was carried out but what remained of the original interior was too fragile to be conserved.

Brief description

The grotto is approximately square in plan and, as built, was a brick structure with an elliptical, probably groined vault whose crown was about level with the ground. The brickwork, now only visible inside, marks the extent of the original structure: the remainder is the product of the restoration of 1986, most obviously the concrete slab roof. There are elliptical-headed recesses on three sides, while on the fourth side a portal with an elliptical-headed arch opens into a small well into which a long flight of steps descends from ground level. In the middle of the floor of the grotto is a circular opening. The altar with triangular plinth and circular mensa was placed here in the restoration. The entrance arch and retaining walls to either side are faced in rubble coursing and in the middle of the well is a cairn-like structure. The grotto is soft-landscaped with evergreen shrubs and surrounded by a low hedge.

Significance: Moderate



Designations

- Listed at Grade II as Ice House to west of Marble Hill House, list entry number 1194472
- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

An ice house is mentioned in Swift's *A Pastoral Dialogue Between Richmond Lodge and Marble-Hill* of 1727. As an essential facility for the kitchens (curiously it is located on the opposite side to of the mansion to the lost service wing), it is likely to have appeared at an early date. It is shown on the map of 1752, which suggests that there was a pediment over the arched entrance and indicates that the chamber was planted over and covered in a thicket. Over time it became obsolete, fell into disrepair and was eventually completely lost. It was rediscovered in the 1980s when an approximate restoration was carried out.

Brief description

All that is visible from the exterior is a large earthen mound with a brick portal and segmental-headed arch with a wooden door. The interior is completely lined in brick. A short, tunnel-vaulted passage leads towards the main ice chamber, which is closed off with a metal grille. This has a hemispherical vault and concave sides, still partly lined with plaster, leading down to the central drain.

Significance: Moderate

Notes: The ice house is a habitat for the cave spider *meta bourneti*. It is kept locked and not accessible to the public.



SPORTS CHANGING ROOM AND WORKS YARD

Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

This building was constructed c. 1970 by the Greater London Council Parks Department to provide changing rooms, showers and associated facilities for football and rugby teams using the pitches in the park. Some of the ancillary accommodation was latterly converted into a suite of offices, which, during the guardianship, have come to be used by the Rangers.

Brief description

Located in the far north-eastern corner of the park, this building is an oblong structure built of brownish and purplish brick and exposed concrete cast in situ. With the exception of a tower housing a tank room on the north side it is single-storey throughout. The plan form and massing are entirely orthogonal (the roof is entirely flat) in accordance with the prevailing aesthetic in modernism of the period, although its plain, sparing character no doubt was also partly dictated by the functional nature of the commission. The drawings in the Historic England archive are signed 'James O. Kennedy', chief officer of the Parks Department. The design work was presumably carried out by unnamed employees of the GLC Architects' Department. The deep-plan nature of the building means that much of the natural lighting has to be provided by rooflights. To the north and east is a yard for parking cars and maintenance equipment with two steel-framed sheds.

Significance: Neutral



Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

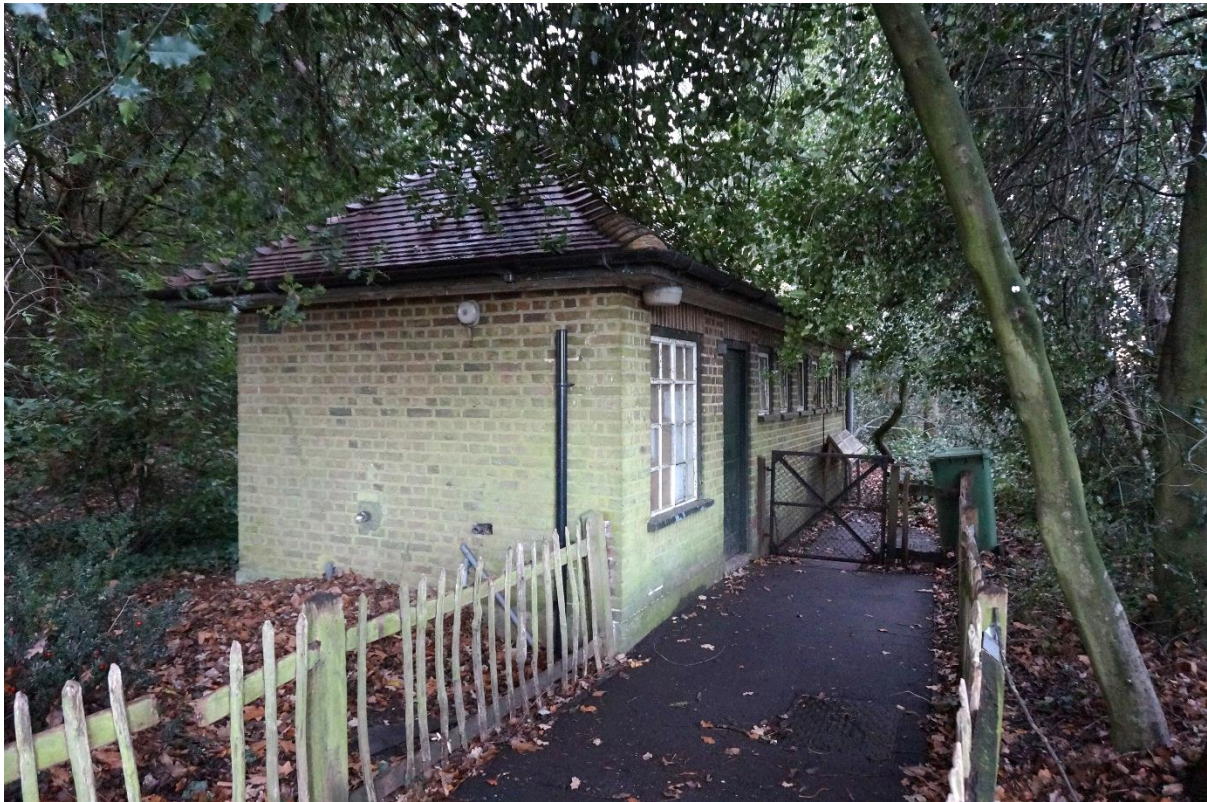
Summary history

This structure was originally built in 1937 by London County Council as a female toilet, along with a block of dressing rooms and a park shelter (q.v.). It was superseded by facilities in the Mansion and Stable Block and has fallen out of use. It is now used as a store.

Brief description

The former ladies' convenience stands immediately to the west of the Mansion adjacent to a footpath linking the Great Lawn to the Pleasure Ground and is now surrounded by dense tree cover. It is a simple oblong structure of brown brick with a tiled roof, hipped at both ends. It has steel-framed casement windows and panelled wooden doors. The cubicles survive inside. The space at the east end was originally a room for the attendant.

Significance: Low



Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

The changing room was built c. 1938 by the Greater London Council for the sports teams using the pitches in the park. Undated LCC plans in the Historic England archive show an unexecuted proposal to expand the building with the addition of extra changing rooms and an ablution block. Instead, however, the new block of changing rooms was built c.1970, and this building fell out of use. It is now used as a store.

Brief description

Located immediately to the north of the Stable Block, the former dressing room is a simple, oblong structure, timber framed and finished in creosoted horizontal chamferboard. It has a roof hipped at both ends and covered in shingles. The windows are wooden casements. As built, it had an outdoor washing area surrounded by a fence on the eastern side, through which access was provided to four separate dressing rooms.

Significance: Neutral



Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

This structure was built c. 1959 by the LCC as a superintendent's lodge by the entrance to the park from Beaufort Road. The design was produced by the Historic Buildings Section of the LCC Architect's Department and is initialled J.S.W. It is now known as the Beaufort Lodge and still in residential use.

Brief description

Located at the far north-eastern corner of the park at the junction of Beaufort Road and Richmond Road, this is a single-storey, yellow brick structure built in emulation of eighteenth and nineteenth century lodges guarding the approaches to stately homes. Stylistically, it is also redolent of the early post-war neo-classicism of architects such as Raymond Erith. It has a pyramidal slate roof and a central chimney stack. Three bedrooms, a living room and kitchen are disposed either side of a central spine corridor. On the north side is a separate, flat-roofed block which, as built, housed the toilet. This is set behind one of two screen walls extending out either side of the west elevation, which terminate in piers crowned by stone balls.

Significance: Low



Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

The shelter was built in c. 1972 by the Greater London Council to provide covered seating on a terrace where previously there had been only benches. Initially a severely rectilinear modernist structure was proposed, but this was abandoned in favour of an historicising design.

Brief description

The shelter faces west and overlooks the West Meadow. It is a modest structure of five bays, consisting of a roof with a concave pitch supporting on steel stanchions. The end bays are slightly narrower, separated from the central section by solid bulkheads, and the contain benches facing north and south. The roof was originally covered in copper and the angles at the tops of the stanchions and some of the panels have detailing suggestive of eighteenth century Chinoiserie.

Significance: Neutral



Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

The Marble Hill Playcentre was constructed by the Greater London Council in c. 1972 (the drawings by the Parks Department are dated August 1972) to provide play facilities for small children. Formerly operated by Richmond Council, it was taken over by a local charitable and voluntary organisation in 2000.

Brief description

The playcentre is located a short distance to the southwest of the Sports Changing Rooms. It consists of two blocks on a parallel alignment connected by a third, smaller one at a right angle to them forming something approaching a pinwheel plan. All are built of dark red brick with concrete tiles. Both the large blocks have continuous clerestory lights. The plan incorporates a paved play area. Immediately to the west is a larger, grassed play area with wooden climbing structures.

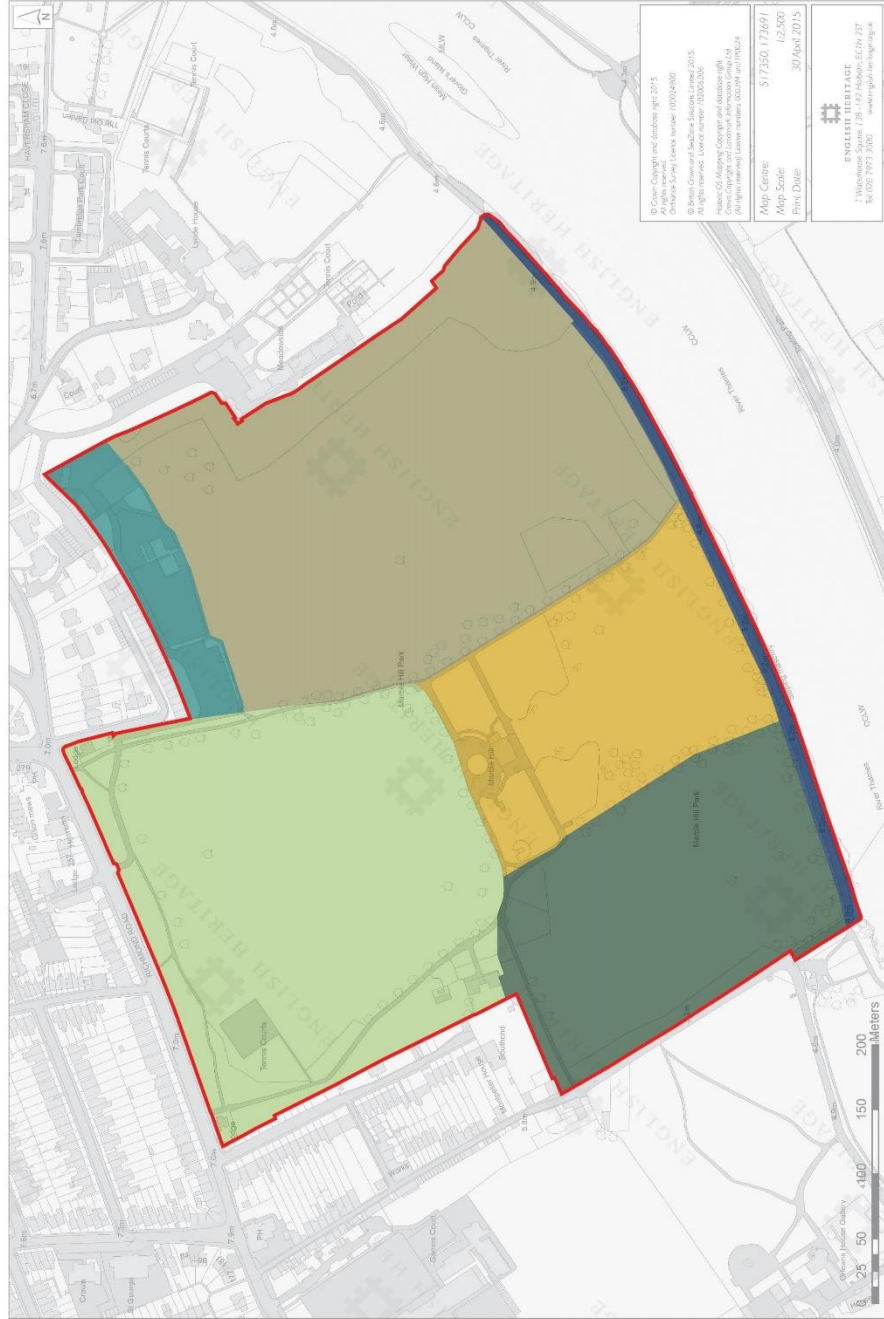
Significance: Neutral



Marble Hill
Site
Character Areas



- █ Guardianship boundary
- █ Pleasure Ground
- █ Great Lawn and Sweet Walk
- █ West Meadow
- █ East Meadow
- █ Car park, playground and works area
- █ River Terrace



Marble Hill is included in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. It is listed at Grade II* for its special interest as the remains of an eighteenth century garden and park created for Henrietta Howard by, amongst others, Alexander Pope and Charles Bridgeman. Work on a formally planned landscape with structures in the grounds began in the autumn of 1724, soon after the construction of the house had commenced. The acquisition of land to enlarge the estate continued up to and indeed beyond Howard's death in 1767. The formal planting and landscaping had been eroded by the early nineteenth century, and alterations were then carried out by Jonathan Peel at a date prior to 1850. By the time Marble Hill was acquired by the LCC and other local authorities in 1902 the grounds were badly overgrown. Since then, alterations to and construction in the park have been focussed largely on maintaining it as a public amenity with sports facilities.

Detailed information about the history and conservation of the park are provided in the Landscape Management Plan included in the appendix. The six character areas are, however, described briefly here to aid understanding of the site and to place the buildings described in the gazetteer in their context.

Pleasure Grounds

This area comprises the immediate setting of the Mansion and the section of the park running south down to the Thames, which was the main landscape feature of Bridgeman and Pope's original design. The original design was based on a series of terraces of varying form and size stepping down the sloping site towards the river, bordered by groves of trees running along the eastern and western boundaries. The essential features of this layout can still be discerned. To the east and west of the Mansion are four small woodland compartments that frame it in views from both the north (i.e. from the Great Lawn) and south. That to the northwest forms the setting of the Ice House and former Ladies' Convenience, while that to the southeast forms the backdrop to the Grotto.

Great Lawn and Sweet Walk

During Howard's lifetime most of the land between the Mansion and Richmond Road was still in different ownership and the only a turning circle for carriages in front of the north elevation and drive (which today forms the entrance from Beaufort Road and the eastern boundary of this area) were included in the Estate. By the time of the Saulthier map of 1786, however, all of the remainder had been acquired and grassed over to form the Great Lawn. A dense band of trees and shrubs had been planted along the northern and western edges to screen the Lawn and House from Montpellier Row and Richmond Road. Soon after he acquired Marble Hill, Jonathan Peel created a new drive through the band of trees from Richmond Road to the house. This, unlike the planting along the northern edge, survives well and is known as the Sweet Walk. At the road entrance he built the White Lodge, while on the western side, at a right angle to the house and overlooking the Great Lawn and new drive, he put up the Stable Block. In the twentieth century several new additions were made: a wooden block of changing rooms was erected immediately to the north of the Stable Block, hard tennis courts were created in the northwest corner of the Great Lawn adjacent to the White Lodge, and a new lodge-type building with accommodation for a superintendent was put up at the Beaufort Road entrance.

West Meadow

This large, flat area is bounded by the Pleasure Grounds to the east and the river front to the south. To the west it is enclosed by Orleans Road, which forms part of the western boundary of the park, although it is screened from view by a line of trees, which also extends through 90 degrees to run along the river front. Historically fields and meadows, after Marble Hill became a public park the West Meadow was turned into rugby pitches. There is a slight fall in the land from east to west and a shelter was built on the eastern side to take advantage of the views.

East Meadow

The East Meadow occupies a large portion of the site and stretches all the way to its easternmost extent. It is bounded to the west by the Great Lawn and Pleasure Grounds, to the south by the Thames, and to the north by the playground and car park. Historically it seems to have been mostly open ground, apart from a strip along the eastern side which was formerly occupied by the gardens of Little Marble Hill and was therefore formerly separate property, only being joined to the main estate in c.1876 after that house was demolished. The East Meadow is flat and largely occupied by football pitches. The eastern edges and river front are quite

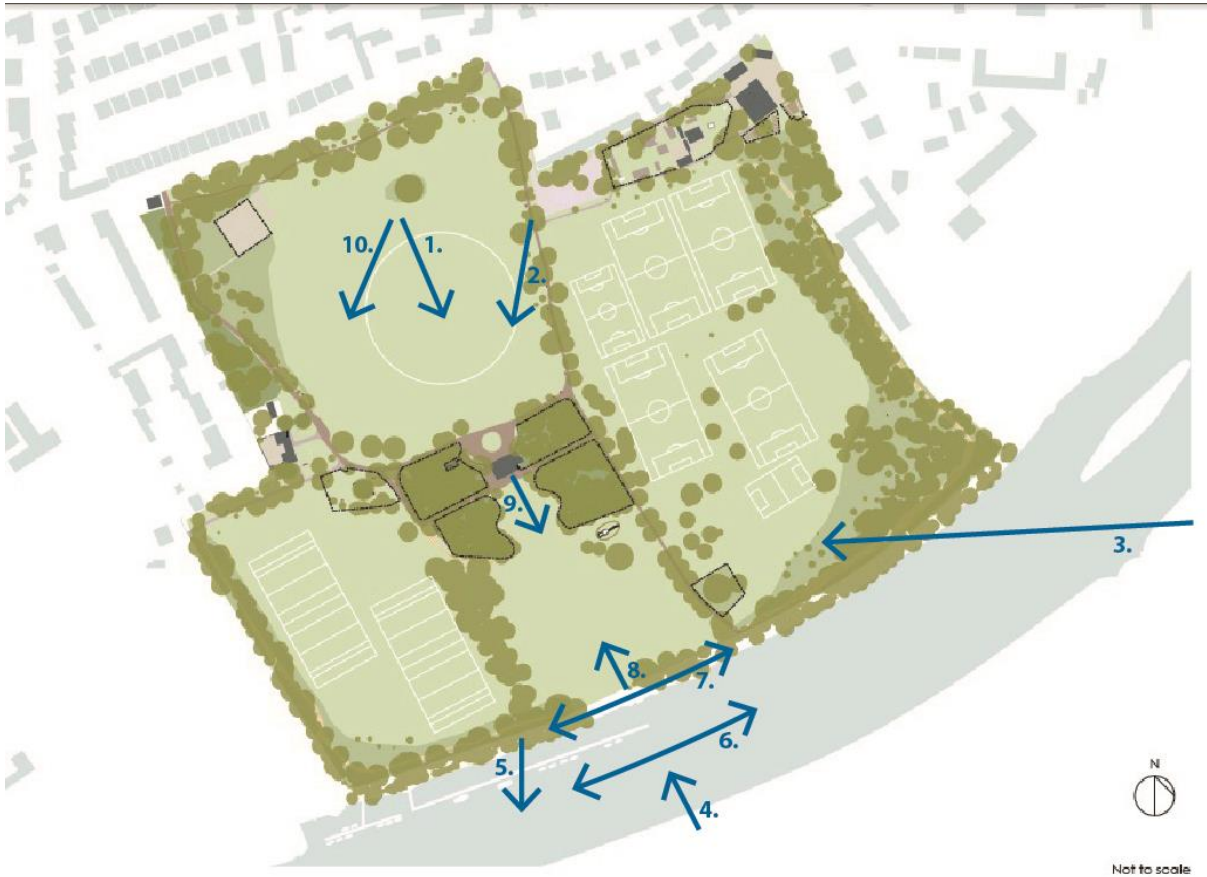
thickly wooded and Jeanie Deans's Avenue runs along the western edge where it adjoins the Pleasure Grounds. This is a grove of trees that appears to have been extant by the time of the Sauthier survey of 1786 and includes an American black walnut tree on the eastern side of the central path, which may date back to Howard's time.

Car Park, Playground and Works Area

The north-eastern corner of the park was formerly occupied by the estate's kitchen garden, which is visible on Rocque's map of 1746 and was still functioning when Marble Hill was offered for sale in 1890. By the time the estate was purchased by the LCC and its partners, however, it had been abandoned. The western third is occupied by a visitor car park, reached from the Beaufort Road entrance to the site. The middle third has been occupied since the early 1970s by the Marble Hill Playcentres building and the adjacent playground. The easternmost third is occupied by the Sports Changing Room and Works Yard. To the south of that area, extending into the band of trees running along the eastern boundary of the East Meadow, are the community gardens used by Jam Today Jam Tomorrow.

River Terrace

A tarmacked footpath, known as Warren Parth, runs along the entire length of the river front of the site, from which it is separated by iron railings. At its western end it provides access to Riverside, the continuation of Orleans Road that runs into the centre of Twickenham. It also extends east in the direction of Richmond.



VIEW 1 – From Great Lawn to house

Reason for selection

This is one of the most prominent views of the house, seen by visitors as they approach the site, people using the park as an amenity and passers-by travelling down Richmond Road.

Description

The house presents one of its main elevations, flanked by the curving screen walls, to the Great Lawn. It is glimpsed from Richmond Road between trees along the northern boundary of the site, somewhat better from the path running behind them along the northern edge of the Great Lawn. Unobstructed, frontal views of the house are only possible from here and the Great Lawn itself; visitors walking or driving up to the main entrance see it obliquely.

History

The Great Lawn was not part of Henrietta Howard's original concept for the site since during her lifetime Plumbush, the field immediately to the north of the house, and the land to the west were in different ownership – the grounds encompassed just the carriage turning circle in front of the house, which was linked to Richmond Road only by a long drive. The Great Lawn took shape at some point between 1752 and 1786 when the land was added to the estate. Since it was presumably used for agriculture there must always have been unobstructed views of the north elevation of the house across it, but these could not be enjoyed from Richmond Road since there were a deep line of planting along the boundary. The house was always flanked by areas of planting which screened all views of the river. Jonathan Peel created a second drive from Richmond Road, which opened up more views of the house across the Great Lawn. The planting along the northern boundary thinned in later years and late nineteenth/early twentieth century housing on the north side of Richmond Road took advantage of the views that opened up.

Significance: Moderate



VIEW 2 – From old carriage drive

Reason for selection

This is one of the most prominent views of the house, seen by visitors as they approach the site from the Beaufort Road entrance.

Description

Views looking southwest open up between the trees that line the drive. The north elevation of the house, flanked by the curving screen walls, is seen at an angle. The plainer east elevation is visible although always partly obstructed by trees to a varying degree, depending on the season.

History

The carriage drive follows the line of an ancient byway called Worple Way that provided access to the land along the Thames and so predates the Marble Hill estate. It was the main land approach to the house from when it was first completed to when Jonathan Peel created a second drive through the Sweet Walk in the 1820s. It was therefore from here that most visitors would have had their first glimpse of the house. The best views would have opened up from a distance, diminishing at close range. On the 1752 plan only the east side of the drive is planted with trees but they later appeared on both sides. It also shows trees along the east-west drive across the front of the house, which must further have restricted views of it.

Significance: High



VIEW 3 – From Richmond Hill (long distance view)

Reason for selection

The Marble Hill Estate forms an integral part of the celebrated view looking down from Richmond Hill over the bend in the River Thames and the surrounding landscape. This viewpoint allows the whole of the site to be taken in at a glance from a distance and also presents it in its wider context.

Description

This view opens up from Richmond Hill (the B321), the road which runs from the centre of the town up the hill towards the former Star and Garter Home and the Richmond Gate of Richmond Park. It is a kinetic view, which does not reveal itself immediately in its entirety. It starts to appear a little way south of the junction with Friar's Stile Road and disappears beyond the junction with Nightingale Lane where it is hidden by buildings along the western side of the road. A line of trees planted along the pavement partly obstructs the view for motorists although an unencumbered view can be enjoyed by pedestrians from the terrace on the other side of them. Marble Hill can best be seen from a point in the vicinity of the Roebuck pub. The house itself is largely hidden by the trees growing on Petersham Ait and on the river front of the East Meadow although naturally the view and sightlines within it change with the seasons and varying degree of tree cover.

History

Although the view is formed by natural features in the landscape, its importance was quickly recognised when Richmond began to expand in the eighteenth century. It was much celebrated by painters, including Joshua Reynolds and J.M.W. Turner, and poets, including William Wordsworth. The importance of conserving it was also quickly appreciated. In 1765 Miss Susanna Houblon bequeathed her house on Richmond Hill (Ellerker House, now the Old Vicarage School) to her great-nephew on the condition that no buildings should be erected to obscure the view. In 1886 the Richmond Vestry acquired the combined former Lansdowne/Buccleuch estate to create Terrace Gardens on the slope of the hill, which opened in May 1887 and in 1936 purchased the area along the river then occupied by Buccleuch House, which was demolished in 1938 to create public gardens. In 1896 the Trustees of the Earl of Dysart leased Petersham Meadows to the Corporation to save them from development and under the Richmond, Petersham and Ham Open Spaces Act 1902 they were vested in the Corporation as public recreation grounds and open spaces. In 1900 Max Waechter, who lived in Terrace House on Richmond Hill, bought Petersham Ait and gifted it to the Council and then in 1902, Waechter gave it the freehold of Petersham Lodge and grounds. The purchase of the Marble Hill Estate secured another important part of the view. In 1927 Mrs Nellie Ionides purchased Orleans House to preserve it from industrial use and in 1930 Deed of Covenant was entered into by Richmond Borough Council, Twickenham Borough Council and Surrey, Middlesex and London County Councils to restrict future development to certain limited areas only.

Significance: High



VIEW 4 – From opposite bank of the Thames

Reason for selection

This river is a crucially important element in the setting of Marble Hill. Many historic illustrations are based on this view. View 4 is also effectively the reciprocal of View 5 (see below). Many local residents and tourists see the house from this angle while travelling along the towpath on foot or bike or down the river by boat.

Description

This view is obtained from the towpath running upstream from Richmond towards Kingston along the opposite bank of the Thames. The mansion is seen across the water, framed by the two groves of trees that enclose the Pleasure Ground. This means that the number of viewpoints is somewhat restricted – they are all located on a short stretch of the towpath in front of Ham Polo Club – although this is to some extent a kinetic view in that the house gradually reveals itself to anyone passing along the river or towpath and then disappears from sight again. Marble Hill cannot be viewed directly from Ham House – it is necessary to travel a short distance downstream to obtain View 5. Views can also be obtained from the water by anyone travelling on the Ham House to Marble Hill foot ferry.

History

The mansion and park were conceived in relation to the Thames. As first built, the house was intended to be seen primarily from the towpaths and water (early visitors to the house would have reached it by boat from central London) and Bridgeman's layout of the park exploited the location with the terraces and Pleasure Ground leading down from the south front to the river. Although several elements in that design have been lost or altered the view survives largely unchanged from the eighteenth century.

Significance: High

