

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared by van Heyningen and Haward Architects to explain the basis and evolution of the design proposals and access for the conversion and refurbishment of the Stable Block at Marble Hill Park to provide enhanced visitor and community facilities.

It is submitted in support of the Planning Application for the whole of the works proposed to the Park and its constituent buildings, and the Listed Building consent applications for the works proposed to the Stable Block on behalf of English Heritage, and includes summaries of the existing heritage and the historic background to the site prepared by English Heritage's Senior Properties Curator (London).

The proposals form a fundamental part of English Heritage's wider project – Marble Hill Revived. As explained by English Heritage's Statement of Need, the project seeks to create a much better visitor experience, providing better interpretation of and public access to the heritage assets, and improved sports and amenity facilities in the Park, to broaden audiences. This is intended to establish a self-sustaining financial model for the site to enable English Heritage to conserve the Park and buildings.

1.0.1 Location

Marble Hill Park is located within the East Twickenham area of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Marble Hill House lies at the centre of the site, bounded by Richmond Road to the north, Meadowside to the east, Orleans Road to the west and the River Thames to the south.

The application Stable Block site is at the west side of the Park, adjacent to the southern end of Montpelier Row, and consists of the Stable Block and its immediate surroundings. It is about 250m from the House.

The site lies within the Twickenham Riverside Conservation Area (no.8) as designated by the London Borough of Richmond Council.

1.0.2 Site Description

The site consists of the Grade II listed Stable Block and surrounding landscape. It is a two-storey linear block running north-south, with a hipped pitched roof and small central clock tower, and two single storey rear wings, again with hipped roofs. It is made of loadbearing stock bricks, with sash windows, doors and clock tower in painted timber, with slated roofs.

At the rear of the building to the west is a yard, bounded by brick walls and accessed through the building's central archway. North, east and south of the building is the landscape of the Park.

1.0.3 Use

At present the ground floor of the building provides a small café, of about 25 covers, in the southern half with the rear wing providing the kitchen, storage and welfare facilities. The cafe is accessed from the south, and the kitchen from the rear yard.

The northern part provides the Park's WCs and a small office (with its own access). The rear wing also contains the disaster store for the house. The office is not currently in regular use.

The upper floor is occupied by two flats, each with independent access from the archway. These are used by English Heritage park staff (rangers).

The yard is used for delivery access and provides refuse storage for the café kitchen and is used for parking by the resident staff. It also provides access to the Male WCs and disaster store.

1.0.4 Condition

The condition of the building itself is generally fair. It is Grade II listed.

The landscape immediately adjacent to the Stable Block is not well maintained, and of poor quality, with incongruous raised lawns in front of the principal façade, piecemeal and poor quality terraces, hard standing areas, paving and fencing to north and south, and disintegrating tarmac in the former stable yard.



Aerial photo - Stable Block location



Stable Block from Great Lawn