

MARBLE HILL REVIVED  
DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT  
LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

HLF PARKS FOR PEOPLE

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ENGLISH HERITAGE



LOTTERY FUNDED



Client:  
English Heritage

Design Team:  
J & L Gibbons  
Acanthus Clews Architects  
van Heyningen & Haward  
Firmingers  
Martin Thomas Associates  
The Morton Partnership  
Lichfields

Landscape Architects, lead consultant  
Architects (Marble Hill House & Sports Block)  
Architects (Stable Block - Commercial Hub)  
Quantity Surveyor  
Mechanical & Electrical Engineer  
Structural & Civil Engineers  
Planning Consultants / Agent

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J & L Gibbons  
19 Swan Yard  
LONDON  
N1 1SD

T: 020 7226 1345  
E: info@jlg-london.com  
W: www.jlg-london.com

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## 1.1 LANDSCAPE INTRODUCTION

Marble Hill Park is a 26.7 hectare public park, designated Grade II\* in the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Within the park sits Marble Hill House, a Grade I listed Neo-Palladian villa built as the residence of Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk during the 18th century. The house and grounds are owned and managed by English Heritage.

Marble Hill Park is located within the East Twickenham area of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Located on the north bank of the River Thames it is one of a string of gardens that collectively form London's Arcadian landscape. Marble Hill Park is part of the Thames Landscape Strategy, Ham Reach and provides some of the formal landscape structure as seen from the view from Richmond Hill, which is the only landscape view in England to be protected by an Act of Parliament.

The public have enjoyed the use of the grounds as a park for over 100 years, following a successful public campaign in 1902 to save the land from development. The park provides an important recreational open space, including sports pitches for hire, used by local residents, schools and sports clubs. Other facilities include a café, public toilets, adventure playground, One O'clock Club and a Heritage Lottery Funded community food production garden.

The aerial view of Marble Hill shows its connection to a series of green spaces along the River Thames, from Richmond Hill in the east to Ham Lands in the south-west. Directly opposite on the south bank of the Thames is Ham House and Gardens and Petersham Meadows, connected by Hammerton's ferry service. To the west of Marble Hill is Orleans House, where the 18th century baroque Octagon room, designed by architect James Gibbs, still stands. Although the original Neo-Palladian villa which also occupied the site is no longer there, the Octagon room and outbuildings have been open to the public as an art gallery since 1972.

The area to the north and east of Marble Hill Park is made of predominantly low rise, 19th century residential streets. Immediately along the western boundary is Montpelier Row, comprising several listed dwellings, notably two Grade II\* listed early 18th century terraces and Grade II\* listed South End House whose grounds share a boundary to the rear of the Stable Block. The Grade II listed 'Woodside' is a detached dwelling which shares a boundary along the western edge of the park.



Marble Hill Park in the local open space context

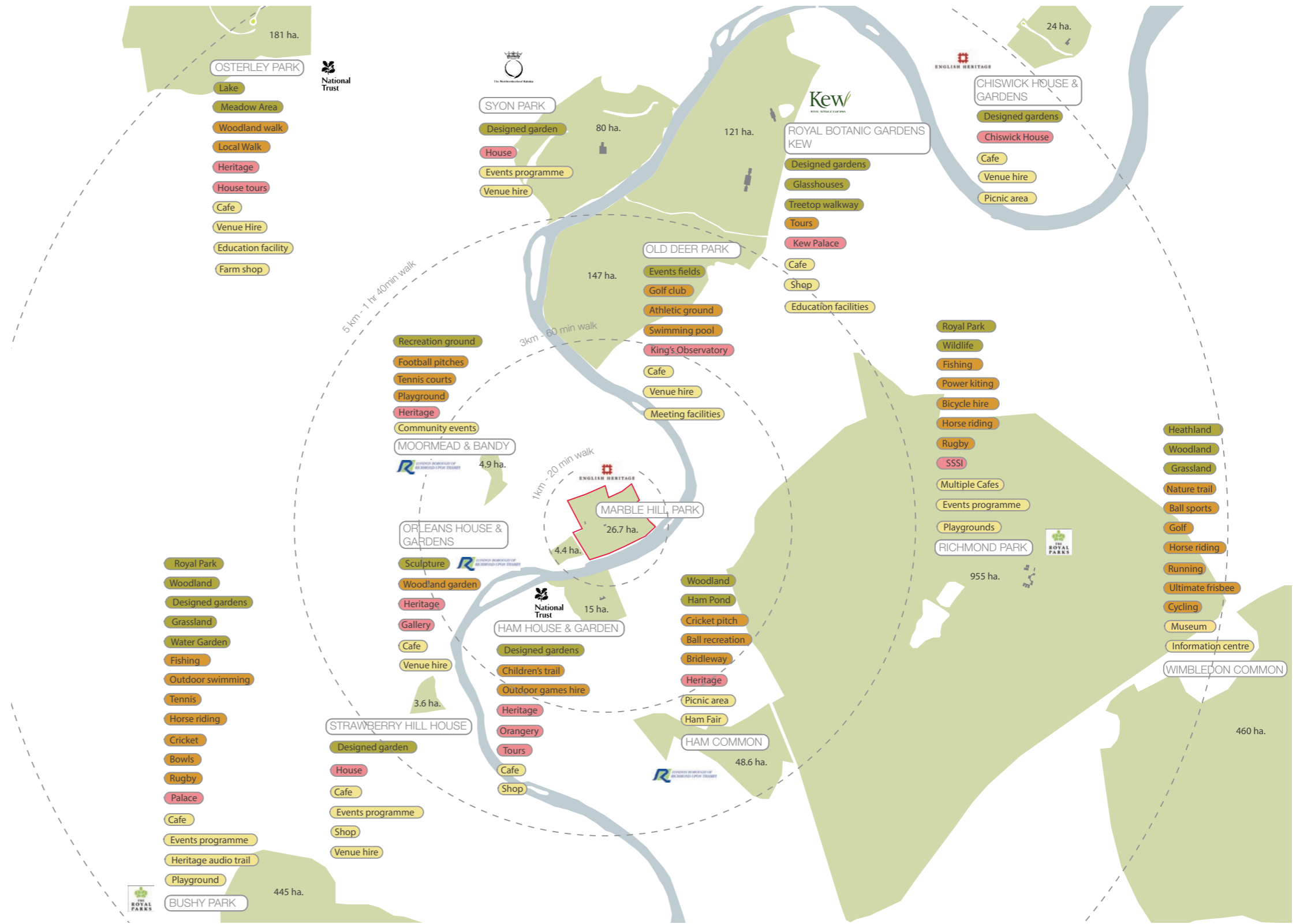
## 1.2 OPEN SPACE CONTEXT

Marble Hill Park lies within 'St Margarets and East Twickenham', one of fourteen villages identified by London Borough of Richmond to reflect the way in which borough residents live, work and enjoy their local area.

Marble Hill Park is the largest free-to-enter public open space within the St Margarets and East Twickenham area, making it an important resource for local residents. The nearest alternative large open space is to the west of the village, the Moormead and Bandy Recreation Ground, managed by London Borough of Richmond. This provides play facilities for under 7's up to 13+ as well as tennis courts and full size football pitches.

The residents of the London Borough of Richmond have access to 2000 hectares of open space, more than any other London borough. One quarter of this space is maintained by the Council Park services and the rest by various other authorities, including English Heritage, The Royal Parks, and the National Trust.

Marble Hill Park is unique in English Heritage's portfolio as it is their only property to provide pitches and sports facilities. This also differentiates it from other parks in the borough by combining significant heritage features with sports. This provides a unique opportunity to enhance the existing sports facilities to create a park with the principles of healthy living at its core and to reveal the lost Georgian Landscape which will provide spaces for quieter passive recreation and relaxation.

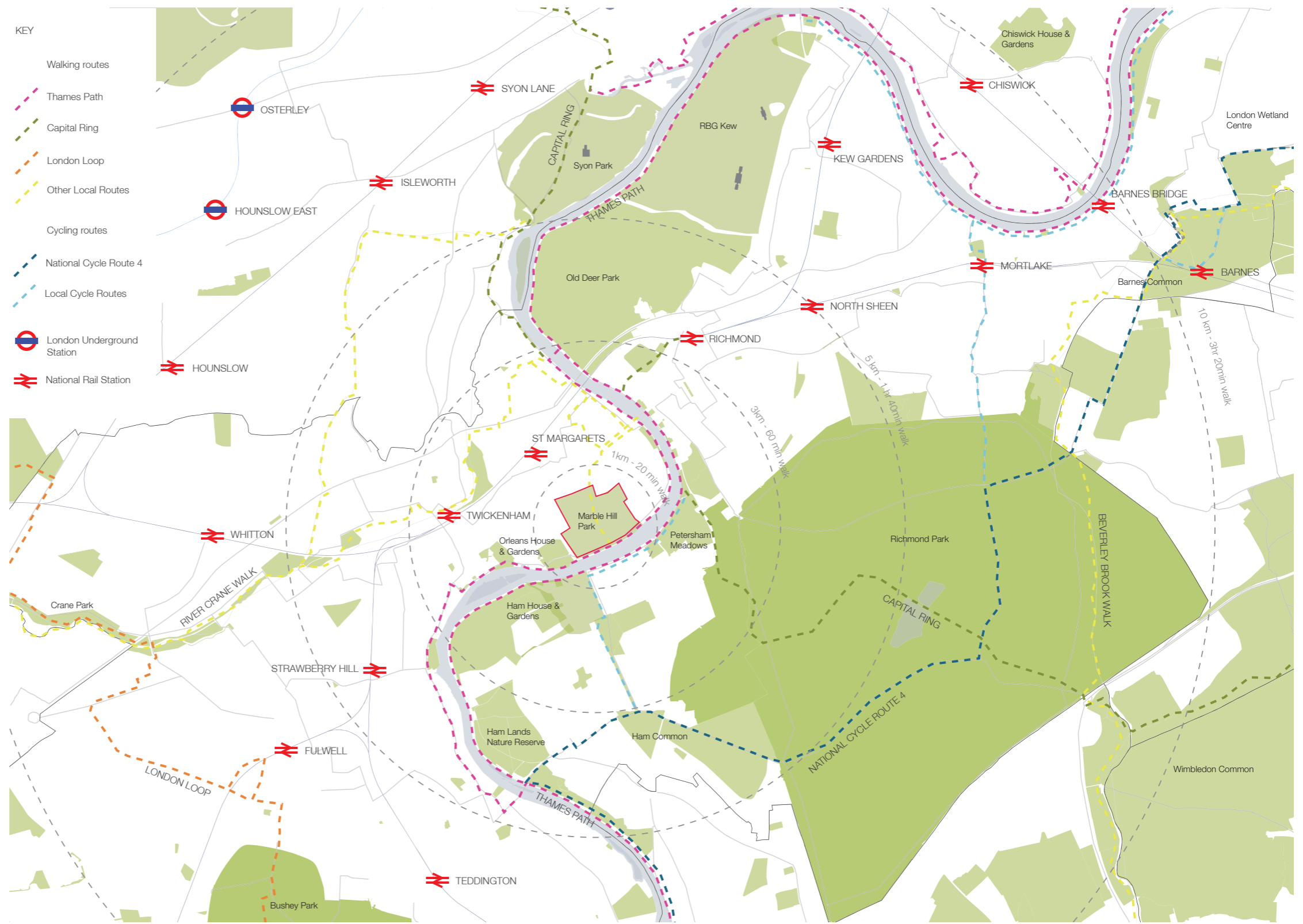


Marble Hill Park facilities with adjacent local provision

### 1.3 GREEN TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS

The diagram opposite shows the proximity of Marble Hill Park to various rail, cycle and walking networks. The closest train station is St. Margarets, a 7 minute walk away with frequent connections to central London (Waterloo) in around 30 minutes. The nearest London Underground station is in Richmond, a 20 minute walk or 10 minute bus journey from Marble Hill Park. The Thames Path runs along the southern edge of the park, connecting it to 184 miles of National Trail. Hammerton's ferry service connects Marble Hill on the north bank of the Thames to Ham House on the south bank in just a few minutes, putting the park in easy reach of the Capital Ring route around London and National Cycle Route 4.

These excellent green and public transport links have the potential to be exploited to a greater extent to encourage a more diverse audience to visit Marble Hill Park. When considered within the context of the Thames Landscape Strategy, it helps define a clear vision for the site that is both unique and complements neighbouring parks and open spaces.



Public transport connections to Marble Hill Park

2.0 BASELINE INFORMATION



View from the Terraces to Marble Hill House



## 2.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

### Marble Hill House

Marble Hill House is a Grade I listed Neo-Palladian villa built between 1724-1729, by the builder-architect Roger Morris. It is open to the public for guided tours on Saturday and Sunday from March to November. The Ice House and Grotto still remain in-situ and evidence of the structure of the original landscape design, believed to be by Charles Bridgeman and Alexander Pope, exists in part.

### Sports & Recreation

Marble Hill Park provides an important outdoor open space for both formal and informal recreation. Bookings for football, rugby and cricket pitches, artificial tennis courts and practice cricket nets are managed by the Park Ranger Team, based on site. Changing room facilities are also available for use, which are located in the north-east corner of the park. Currently the changing rooms can only accommodate single sex teams as there is no division of male and female facilities. The park is also used for informal recreation such as jogging and cycling and by many dog-walkers. The area between Marble Hill House and the River Thames is popular for relaxation and picnics with views across to the south bank and enclosure provided by the avenues of trees either side.

### Play

The Marble Hill Playcentre provides play for 0-5 years at their One O'clock Club and 5-15 years in their Adventure Playground, both are paid entry. The play area and buildings, located along the north-east boundary of the park, are leased from English Heritage. A separate 'dog-free' fenced area is located to the west of the House and is popular with parents of young children, as an area where they can run or crawl around safely.

### The Coach House Café and public toilets

The Grade II listed Stable Block is home to the Coach House Café and public toilets. The cafe currently occupies the ground floor of the southern wing of the Stable Block and provides a small indoor and outdoor seating area. Male, female and accessible toilet facilities, located in the ground floor of the northern wing are open to the public for the duration of park opening hours.

- Key:
- ▶ Entrances
  - Grass
  - Paths
  - Track
  - Meadow / long grass
  - Understorey
  - Tree
  - Site Boundary
1. Marble Hill House
  2. Coach House Cafe
  3. Lodge
  4. Works yard
  5. Play area
  6. Car park
  7. Tennis courts
  8. Cricket nets
  9. Football pitches
  10. Rugby pitches
  11. Grotto
  12. Ice House
  13. Black Walnut tree
  14. Kitchen Garden
  15. Hammerton's Ferry



Existing landscape plan

