

2.2 DESIGNATIONS & LISTINGS

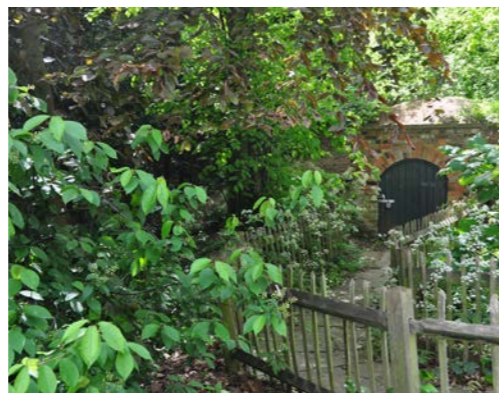
Marble Hill Park is included in Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, designated Grade II*. The park lies within the Twickenham Riverside Conservation area of London Borough of Richmond. The park is also designated Metropolitan Open Land and Public Open Space.

There are several listed buildings within the park, most notably Grade I listed Marble Hill House. The Stable Block, Ice House and White Lodge are all Grade II listed. The setting of these features can be greatly improved through subtle and sensitively integrated interventions in the landscape of the park.

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.

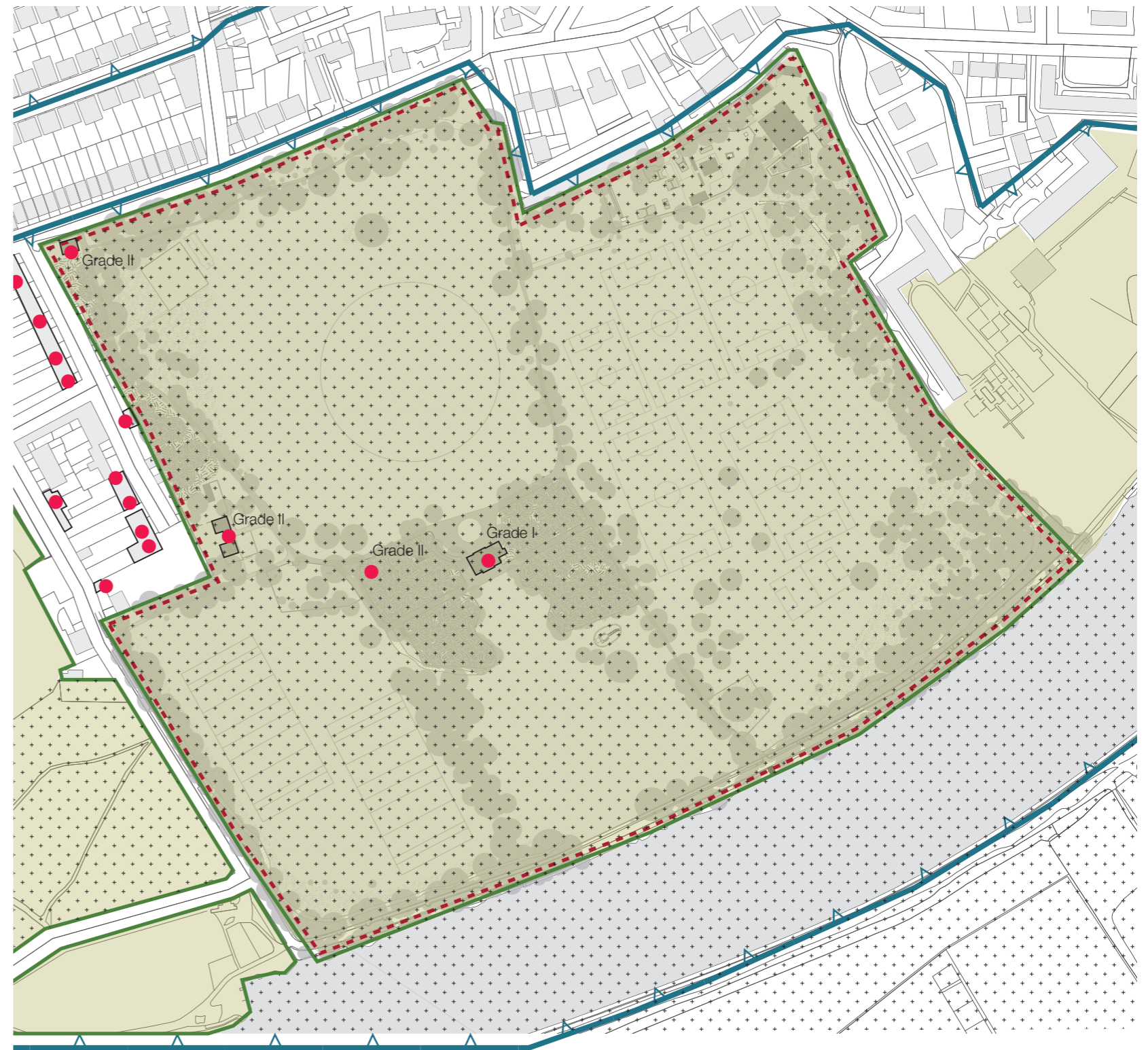


Marble Hill House - Grade I listed



The Ice House - Grade II listed

- Key:
- Metropolitan Open Land
 - Conservation Area
 - Public Open Space
 - Historic Parks & Gardens
 - Site of nature importance
 - Listed Building



Designations and listings plan



2.3 CHARACTER AREAS

The character areas at Marble Hill Park have been identified through analysis of the existing park layout and uses, in conjunction with historic research and review of nomenclature used on the c.1749 plan. Seven areas of different character exist within the park. The principal area, The Pleasure Grounds, is further subdivided to describe more specific features. The character areas enable the articulation of feasibility proposals and help to focus on areas where the greatest intervention is required to maximise the benefit for park users and to preserve features of heritage significance.

Much of the original landscape design believed to be by Alexander Pope and Charles Bridgeman in the 1720's is still evident, although eroded. Interrogation of the c.1749 plan of Marble Hill has helped to further understand the landscape and fill the gaps of understanding in areas that are now missing. Subsequent research by Magnus Alexander et al of Historic England, Mark Laird and Dr. Jan Woudstra for English Heritage have provided further clarity in these areas. Please refer to subsequent sections of the report for further information.

Note that areas have been variously referred to by other names which may appear within the various reports cross referenced in this document. As our understanding of the history of the park is refined so will the names used to describe each area.

Notably the Woodland Quarters which are variously referred to as Woodland Compartments or by the constituent parts of each quarter such as Thickets, Groves (NW Quarter), Orchard (NE Quarter), Wilderness, Ninepin Alley (SW Quarter) and Flower Garden, Grotto (SE quarter).

Key:

1.0	Pleasure Grounds
1.1	Carriage Circle, Southern Terrace and House Representation
1.2	Terraces
1.3	Avenues
1.4	The Woodland Quarters
1.5	Palisade and Oval Lawn
2.0	Great Lawn and Sweet Walk
2.1	Great Lawn
2.2	Sweet Walk including Stables Block
3.0	West Meadow
4.0	East Meadow
4.1	Woodland Walk
5.0	Car Park, Playground and works areas
6.0	River Terrace
7.0	Marble Hill House



Character areas



1.1 Carriage Circle, Southern Terrace & House Representation

This area concerns the land immediately surrounding Marble Hill House; the carriage turning circle to the north and the paved terrace to the south. The north elevation of the House is flanked by two curved white walls.

The carriage turning circle is asphalt surfaced with a lawn circle in the centre. At the foot of the two flanking walls is a graveled strip, each containing 4 freestanding white timber planters with clipped Bay trees. This is the main entrance to the House and the entry point for guided tours. Legibility and orientation is not clear for visitors wishing to enter the House, who may walk away unaware of tour timetables.

1.2 Terraces

The c.1749 plan shows a series of terraced lawns stepping south of Marble Hill House down to the Thames. These terraces can still be seen today. The Terraces are enclosed on three sides by the House and two avenues of trees either side. The southern view is open towards the Thames, which is partially obscured by encroaching scrub and tree planting. Due to the elevation of the Thames Path and flood embankment it is not always possible to view the water. The terraced lawns are a popular place for picnics, relaxation and as an open space for informal games.

1.3 Avenues

Running north-south either side of the Terraces are avenues of trees running down to the Thames, comprising a mix of species including Lime and Horse Chestnut. The c.1749 plan shows clear double avenues of trees and groves flanking the lowest terrace, today a lot of the definition has been lost. The Avenues provide division between the Pleasure Grounds and the East and West Meadows. Within the eastern avenue is a black walnut tree, *Juglans nigra*, which is a significant specimen of its type in the UK and a remnant of the landscape works carried out in the mid to late 18th century by Henrietta Howard's nephew, the 2nd Earl of Buckinghamshire. The black walnut is enclosed by timber post and wire fencing for protection.

1.4 The Woodland Quarters

The Woodland Quarters are densely canopied with a large number of self-seeded species such as Sycamore, Holly and Yew. The groundcover is sparse due to lack of sunlight and poor in biodiversity. These areas are not open to the public and enclosed by timber post and rail fencing creating a municipal appearance. A couple of features still remain, such as the Grade II listed Ice House and Grotto. Visually the Woodland Quarters appear as solid blocks and permit limited views in and out of the Pleasure Grounds. According to the c.1749 plan, the Woodland Quarters would have had four very distinct characters. The north-west quarter, containing the Ice House was formally planted with a grove of trees and a thicket to the north, likewise the north-east quarter which housed the, now demolished, servant's wing was planted with an orchard and was the location of the Green House. The south-west quarter contained a ninepin bowling alley and paths through a wilderness of trees and shrub planting. In the south-east quarter was a flower garden and winding paths through tree and shrub planting leading to two grottoes, of which one remains today albeit lacking its original woodland setting.

1.5 Planted Palisade and Oval Lawn

This area occupies one of the middle terraces sitting below the House and has a distinct character. Surviving of the c.1749 plan is the oval shaped lawn although the palisade enclosing no longer exists. The lower Woodland Quarters provide an enclosing sense to the space and a backdrop to several benches that edge the lawn. The lawn is flat and a popular place for relaxation and picnics, enjoying views down to the Thames.

2.1 Great Lawn

This area provides the foreground and setting to the House upon entry from Richmond Road. It is mostly devoid of trees with the exception of a large Turkey Oak. The lawn is bounded by the East Meadow and Sweet Walk to the west. Benches are located intermittently around the perimeter of the lawn, offering view across the park. The lawn contains the cricket pitch, which is available for hire.



1.1 Carriage Circle, Southern Terrace & House Representation



1.2 Terraces



1.3 Avenues



1.4 The Woodland Quarters



1.5 Palisade and Oval Lawn



2.1 Great Lawn

2.2 Sweet Walk & Stable Block

This area bounds the north and west edges of the Great Lawn. The area along the north boundary has moderate tree cover but remains open in feeling and has an understorey of improved grassland. A narrow asphalt path connects the pedestrian entrances on Richmond Road until it reaches the wider vehicular road. Along the western boundary tree cover is more dense and understorey predominant in self-seeded holly and yew make it dark and overshadowed. This is the primary vehicular route for deliveries to the café and House. The Grade II listed Stable Block houses the café and public toilets. The café is located in the south wing of the Stables and has a small paved terrace facing south with views to the Thames.

3.0 West Meadow

This area is predominantly short cut grass with margins around the south and west managed as meadow. There are two entrances along the western boundary from Orleans Road. This is part of the lower lying areas of the park and suffers from intermittent flooding. Two rugby pitches are marked out for hire in this area which can become unusable following flooding. Towards the Stable Block is a fenced dog-free area containing benches and is used by parents with young children.

4.0 East Meadow & Woodland Walk

This area is also predominantly short cut grass with meadow margins and trees to the perimeter, however, due to its more elevated position, it has an open character. It is bounded to the north by the car park, playground and works areas. The area is marked out with four senior sized pitches, one junior and one five-a-side pitch.

4.1 Woodland Walk

Bounding the south and east edges of the East Meadow is an area of mature woodland trees with meadow understorey and informal paths. A relaxed mowing regime to the edge of the sports pitches has encouraged a more biodiverse ground flora.

5.0 Car Park, Playground & Works Areas

This area is municipal in appearance, 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. The playground is managed by the Marble Hill Playcentre and contains colourful timber play structures. 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.

6.0 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 park has an access gate from the lime avenue path, east of the House, onto the Warren Path.

7.0 Marble Hill House

Grade I listed Marble Hill House is an 18th century Neo-Palladian Villa, sitting centrally to the grounds of the Park. This area is described further within section 7.



2.2 Sweet Walk & Stables



3.0 West Meadow



4.0 East Meadow



4.1 Woodland Walk



5.0 Car Park, Playground & Works Areas



6.0 River Terrace



7.0 Marble Hill House

Below is the view from Richmond Hill, the only landscape view in England to be protected by an Act of Parliament, the Richmond, Ham and Petersham Open Spaces Act 1902. Marble Hill sits to the centre of the view, identifiable by a row of Lombardy Poplars within the western avenue running from the House to the Thames.





Marble Hill Park