

4.5 GREAT LAWN, EAST AND WEST MEADOW, CAR PARK AND RIVER TERRACE PROPOSALS

The Great Lawn provides the foreground to Marble Hill House when approaching from Richmond Road. The open informal character is an important part of conserving this vista.

The Great Lawn

Key considerations and opportunities for this area:

- Conserve the open, informal grassy space of the Great Lawn including its use for cricket.
- Sensitively integrate the existing tennis courts and cricket nets into their landscape setting with new planting as part of the Sweet Walk.
- Resurface tennis courts.
- Provide new nets and surfacing to Cricket nets.
- Improve habitats and biodiversity and promote access to nature.

The East Meadow is characterised by open grassy areas home to the football pitches at Marble Hill Park. The adventure play facility is a visual detractor from the setting of the House and in the context of the registered park framing and screening of views would help to better integrate this facility.

The East Meadow

Key considerations and opportunities for this area:

- Conserve and enhance the East Meadow as an open grassy area enclosed by tree belts through diversifying the mowing regime.
- New tree planting.
- Screening views of intrusive features to increase visual and biodiversity interest.
- Improve habitats and biodiversity and promote access to nature.
- Expanding areas of tall grassland to provide wider movement corridors for wildlife.
- Create a year round sports provision acknowledging seasonal variations and the need for pitches to recover and regenerate.

The West Meadow is characterised by open grassy areas enclosed by tree belts. Detracting features such as the Chinese style pagoda will be removed.

The West Meadow

Key considerations and opportunities for this area:

- Conserve and enhance the West Meadow as an open grassy area enclosed by tree belts.
- Diversify the mowing regime and tree planting to increase visual and biodiversity interest.
- Improve drainage to Rugby pitches.
- Create low-level play area adjacent to the cafe.
- Improve habitats and biodiversity and promote access to nature, particularly in flood zones.
- New tree planting.
- Formalise existing bark path along west meadow park boundary between gate entrances adjacent to Orleans Road with accessible surface.

The functional components of Marble Hill Park are generally contained within this area, a remnant of the historical separation of the kitchen garden from the House. The aim is to better integrate these facilities and where possible reduce their impact on the park as a whole.

The Car Park, Playground and Work Areas

Key considerations and opportunities for this area:

- Preserve the significance of the core landscape by focussing all functional operations to one area.
- Improve orientation and wayfinding to create a hub for visitors arriving by car or public transport links on Richmond Road.
- Expanding areas of tall grassland to provide wider movement corridors for wildlife.
- New tree planting.

The River Terrace provides an under utilised connection to adjacent parks and open spaces and the River Thames. The aim is to retain the iconic view between the house and the river and manage the terrace in line with its historic nature of Marble Hill.

The River Terrace

Key considerations and opportunities for this area:

Improve boundary treatments to create a more welcoming entrance to Marble Hill Park.

- Promote the River Terrace as a wildlife corridor.
- Improve habitats and biodiversity and promote access to nature.
- Improve orientation and wayfinding

4.6 SPORTS PITCH PROPOSALS

The sports pitch provision and arrangement of pitches will remain the same as it is at present. The following pitch proposals aim to improve the quality of the playing surfaces and address the issue of flooding, particularly to the rugby pitches. The proposals will not prevent flooding of the pitches, but aim to drain water more efficiently to allow pitches to be put back into use more quickly.

Pitch Improvements:

Tennis Courts (1)

- 2no. courts to be resurfaced

Cricket Practice Netws (2)

- Nets to be replaced

Cricket Pitch (3)

- Recently had false turf wicket replaced
- Lime and fertiliser application proposed

Rugby Pitches (4 & 5)

- Selective regrading to include stone reduction
- Installation of sand slit drainage with connection to drainage network
- Grass overseeding with shade tolerant species
- Fertiliser application
- Enhanced maintenance regime and on-going review of adjacent tree canopies for overshadowing

Football Pitches (7, 8 and 9)

- Selective regrading to include stone reduction
- Installation of sand slit drainage with connection to drainage network
- Grass overseeding with shade tolerant species
- Fertiliser application
- Enhanced maintenance regime and on-going review of adjacent tree canopies for overshadowing

Football Pitches (6, 10 and 11)

- No works proposed at this stage
- Ongoing increased maintenance regime to improve pitches

The proposed improvement works to the pitches would be carried out in phased operations, so that pitches are still available for club and community use. Upgrade works to the football and rugby pitches require one year to allow the new grass to establish, therefore only one pitch of each type will be taken out of action in any one playing season. Works to the cricket pitch will be able to be undertaken outside of the playing season and should not affect the pitch availability to local clubs.



Sports pitch proposal plan. Ref 581_PL_L_25_E