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Research - Conserve - Campaign

8th October 2018

James Garside Esq
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Civic Centre
York Street
Twickenham TW1 3BA
james.garside@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Dear Mr Garside,

Ref : 18/2977/FUL - 1. Marble Hill House: External decoration and repair work (if a window is substantially rotten, partial or full replacement of joinery) and replacement rooflight. 2. Stable Block: External alterations, installation of mechanical plant, timber plant enclosure to the rear and front landscaping (creating an outdoor seating area) to facilitate the refurbishment of the existing cafe. 3. Service Yard: new pedestrian access and associated refuse storage facilities. 4. Landscaping: new soft and hard landscaping including restoration of gardens, upgrade of sports pitches and facilities, replacement of seating and new play areas. 5. Sports Centre: External ramp for improved access. Marble Hill House, Marble Hill Park, Richmond Road, Twickenham.

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to proposed development affecting a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens, as per the above application.

The Gardens Trust is writing to support the resubmitted application by Historic England for the landscape at Marble Hill. It is clear that they have thoroughly researched Henrietta Howard's C18 Pleasure Garden and a c1749 plan has informed the subsequent restoration strategy. They have also listened to local residents who know and love the site and taken on board their concerns, particularly in relation to placing increasing emphasis on encouraging biodiversity and wildlife and giving careful thought to the siting of the play area for younger visitors.

The GT has seen at first hand the meticulous restoration undertaken by English Heritage elsewhere (eg Wrest Park). The documentation supplied with this application demonstrates the great care and attention they have taken in order to achieve similar results here. The GT hope that your officers will support this application so that Lottery funding (which is dependent upon the granting of planning permission) can restore the house and landscape for the enjoyment of this and future generations. We also endorse fully the comments submitted independently by the London Parks and Gardens Trust and will not repeat the many points raised by them.

Yours sincerely,

Margie Hoffnung
Conservation Officer