

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 18/2977/FUL

Address: Marble Hill HouseMarble Hill ParkRichmond RoadTwickenhamTW1 2NL

Proposal: 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 café.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.

Comments Made By

Name: Mr Jonathan Bainbridge

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Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: Views and Vistas

The substantial tree planting programme to either side of the South Lawn will impact the park's historic views and vistas. These views and vistas are:

(1) a community amenity asset – the proposed tree planting will compromise the existing open character of the park. This openness is an asset in an urban setting.

(2) a visual heritage asset

i. The park's panoramic vistas (north-south and east-west) will be significantly compromised and narrowed as a result of the multiple rows of trees being planted between the House and the river.

ii. Views of and from the river will be impacted.

Damage to the historic woodland quarters

(1) The removal of 285 trees from the woodlands (plus 45 to be coppiced i.e. cut back to ground level) will destroy the character of these established woodland quarters.

(2) Protected species such as the red-listed song thrush, several species of bat, badgers and stag beetles will have their habitats destroyed. Tree lines important to bats could be compromised/severed.

(3) The quarters have been fenced and left unmanaged since 1998 to promote wildlife and their habitats. Their current condition - the result of an effective management plan not having been in place - should not be reason for their destruction.

Restoration of a "lost" garden

National Planning Policy Framework states that there should be compelling evidence for changes to a grade II* listed

landscape. “[...] substantial harm to or loss of [...] assets” should be “wholly exceptional”.

This standard of evidence has not been met by English Heritage’s research which comes to conjectural conclusions as to the existence of a formal ‘pleasure garden’.

Impact on local infrastructure

Projected visitor numbers will impact negatively on the surrounding area, as the onsite car park is unable to accommodate visitors arriving by car in high season and at weekends.