

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

MARBLE HILL OPEN DAY

Sat 15 September 11am – 2pm

Join us for tours of the house and landscape, and find out more about the Marble Hill Revived project.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL THE CAFÉ BE OPEN AT NIGHT FOR EVENTS?

No, it won't. The opening hours will be very similar to what they are now - the café will only open during the day and will close at 6pm.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO REMOVE TREES FROM THE LANDSCAPE?

We want to increase the tree cover across the park by 20%, but we will be thinning the parts of the woodland that have become overcrowded. We will remove some saplings, along with shrubby growth and poor quality trees. This will allow a new, healthier and more diverse generation of trees and wildlife to grow and flourish.

WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE FOR THE HISTORIC GARDEN'S EXISTENCE?

There is a huge amount of evidence for the garden, including a precise plan from approximately 1749 (detail below) – the details of which have been confirmed by recent archaeological investigations. There are also estate papers, letters, engravings and even poems.



We have now submitted a new planning application to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Our plans are backed by groups including The Marble Hill Society, Marble Hill Play Centres, Orleans House Gallery, the Environment Trust and the London Parks and Gardens Trust.

But we also need your support. Both the house and park desperately need investment and we believe our proposals will secure Marble Hill's future.

To find out how you can support our planning application, contact our Audience Development Manager, Kate Pitt, on:

020 8891 2130
marblehillrevived@english-heritage.org.uk

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

Marble Hill Revived has been awarded a grant of over £4m by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund through the Parks for People Programme.



English Heritage cares for over 400 historic monuments, buildings and places. Through these, we bring the story of England to life for over 10 million visitors each year.

KEEP UP TO DATE

To find out more about our Marble Hill Revived project and for all the latest news, visit

english-heritage.org.uk/marblehillrevived

facebook.com/MarbleHillHouse

@MHrevived

If you have any questions or comments or would like to meet and hear about our plans, contact Kate Pitt, our Audience Development Manager at

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020 8891 2130



ENGLISH HERITAGE

MARBLE HILL REVIVED COMMUNITY UPDATE

September 2018



We've been listening to your thoughts and concerns about our proposals for Marble Hill. And in response, we've made some significant changes. We've now submitted a new planning application and we're asking you to support it. Marble Hill desperately needs this investment.

In February this year we decided to withdraw our planning application to make a series of £6m improvements in the house and across the park. While lots of people responded positively to our plans, some had serious reservations about them.

So we took a step back. We held three workshops with local people to look at those elements causing the most concern. We widened the Community Steering Group to include more points of view. We also met with local groups and held two Open Days. We kept people informed and updated through our newsletters and website.

As a result of all your feedback, we've made some major changes to our proposals, including:

- The Café – instead of extending the café, we'll keep it within the Stable Block.

- The Play Area – we will keep the existing baby area and provide another space for young children.

- The Landscape – we will place a greater emphasis on biodiversity and we'll restore the landscape at a slower pace to reduce the short-term impact on wildlife.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. The input you've given to the project over the past six months has made for a better proposal.

We have now submitted a new planning application to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Marble Hill desperately needs investment, and we believe our proposals will do justice to both the house and the park. By supporting it, you can help secure Marble Hill's future.

WHAT IS MARBLE HILL REVIVED?

Anyone visiting Marble Hill House and Park today will struggle to understand its significance. Across the park, the tree stock is in decline. The sports pitches are worn and there are no changing rooms for women.

Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, there is now a chance to revive Marble Hill and to invest in its long term future. Key elements include:

- Opening Marble Hill House for free
- Opening up more areas in the park
- Creating new habitats to improve the park's biodiversity
- Restoring the 18th-century garden
- Improving the sports facilities

Marble Hill Revived is about keeping what makes Marble Hill so special, but also making it better.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more or to get involved, visit
english-heritage.org.uk/marblehillrevived

Step into England's story

MARBLE HILL REVIVED OUR PROPOSALS

1 THE HOUSE

At present, Marble Hill House – a Georgian masterpiece – is only open for guided tours on Saturdays and Sundays in the summer. We want to open the house five days a week for seven months a year – and for free. We plan to install new interpretation to tell the property's fascinating stories. We'll also improve access for disabled visitors. And most importantly, we want to repair and conserve the house for future generations to enjoy.

2 THE CAFÉ

You spoke, we listened. Our original proposal for the existing café in the Stable Block was for an extension at the rear. But many people disliked that idea so we went back to the drawing board. Instead of extending the café, we will now keep it within the Stable Block – this approach was inspired by a proposal from the local community.

The opening hours for the refurbished café will be similar to what they are now – it will only open during the day, and it will close at 6pm. The money raised from the café will go towards caring for Marble Hill House and Park, which costs English Heritage – a charity – £200,000 a year to run.



3 PLAY AREA

You spoke, we listened. One of our three workshops was dedicated to the play spaces in the park. In general, people liked the existing fenced grassed area for babies. And they were clear that if we were to create an extra play space, they didn't want any large play equipment in it. So we're keeping that baby play area and adding another one with low-level equipment for young children. We'll also create a nature play trail around the park.



4 SPORTS FACILITIES

The sports pitches at Marble Hill are worn and in need of intensive maintenance. By upgrading the changing rooms, they'll be more family friendly and suitable for men, women and disabled users. The toilets will also be open to the public, meaning that along with those at the café, there'll be public toilets at both ends of the park.



THE LANDSCAPE

We're aiming to restore the core of this exceptional 18th-century landscape (between the house and the river) by reinstating the woodland walks, orchard and flower garden. The structure of this historic design can still be seen, and archaeologists have recently uncovered other elements of this lost landscape, including a ninepin bowling alley.

You spoke, we listened. We will not proceed with a marquee area, instead we'll create an orchard in that space. As per our original plan, we will open up the currently inaccessible woodland quarters at the back of the house, but we'll now do this at a slower pace and create new habitats to encourage greater biodiversity. These woodland quarters will remain dog free so that the wildlife is undisturbed.

We will keep the weeping birch at the back of the house as young children like to play under it. We still need to thin the overcrowded woodland quarters to allow space for a new generation of trees to establish but right across the park, we'll be planting 20% more trees than we'll be removing.

We also want to create a new wetland grassland habitat along the south west boundary of the park and improve the meadow areas.

People want to see butterflies, bats, thrushes and owls thriving in the park. Our new head gardener and apprentice will recruit park volunteers to help encourage these species.

