



Meeting Title	Marble Hill Revived - Landscape Consultation Workshop
Date	Saturday 12 May 2018
Location	Marble Hill House

Item	Topics	Actions
1. Background	<p>Marble Hill is the last complete survivor of the elegant villas and gardens which bordered the Thames between Richmond and Hampton Court in the 18th century. The villa is Grade I listed and Marble Hill Park is designated Grade II* in Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens,</p> <p>Marble Hill is historically significant and architecturally important. It was saved for the nation by an act of Parliament in 1902, which followed a public campaign to preserve the view from Richmond Hill from suburban expansion.</p> <p>Since the 1980s it has seen little investment leading to the park losing its original character.</p> <p><u>The Marble Hill Revived Project:</u></p> <p>The Marble Hill Revived Project seeks to deliver a sustainable future for Marble Hill, by restoring the house and its landscape, providing training and volunteering opportunities, and small scale community events. A £4m grant has been awarded by the HLF to this £6m project.</p> <p>Last year, after consulting with local residents and the Local Planning Authority, English Heritage (EH) submitted a planning application for a series of £6m improvements to the house and across the park. Lots of people responded positively to our plans but it was clear that there were also concerns about some elements of our proposals, notably the café extension, the restoration of the historic garden, and the new children's play area.</p> <p>The landscape consultation focused on the biodiversity and a further event, the historic garden symposium has been scheduled for June to discuss and evaluate the evidence for of the 18th century garden. The notes below are a record of the landscape consultation that took place on the 12th of May at Marble Hill.</p>	
2. Preamble to park visit	<p>a) Independent chair welcomed attendees and gave brief outline of agenda.</p> <p>b) Independent ecologist, landscape architects and EH staff were introduced to attendees.</p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <p>c) The woodland quarters (the four woodland areas, adjacent to the house, to which public access is prohibited) have not been actively managed since the times of the Greater London Council (also known as the GLC).</p> <p>d) The only woodland management that has taken place has been removing fallen trees following gales and on the grounds of Health & Safety (e.g. the removal of a hazardous limbs or trees).</p>	

	<p>e) The result of this lack of tree management has resulted in a lack of good quality replacement tree stock. The present woodland is of poor quality characterised by too few good quality tree specimens, self-seeded trees, tall thin trees and a lack of natural light reaching the woodland floor. These conditions in turn dictate the biodiversity and therefore the variety and population of wildlife species on the estate.</p> <p>f) The Marble Hill Revived project presents an opportunity to improve biodiversity at Marble Hill</p>	
<p>3. Park Tour</p>	<p>a) Attendees were taken on a tour of the Woodland Quarters and Pleasure Gardens by JLG (Landscape Architect) and EH's Head of Gardens and Landscapes.</p> <p>The following were noted during the tour:</p> <p>b) A significant proportion of the ground in the woodland quarters is covered in ivy. Whilst ivy has its benefits the monoculture condition limits biodiversity.</p> <p>c) The spring season is considered as the high spot of the English year based on the rich variety of flora and colour as flowers come into bloom accompanied by varied birdsong. This is not the case at Marble Hill. One reason being here is not enough natural light coming through the trees and reaching the woodland floor to allow a variety of flora to thrive.</p> <p>d) Achieving biodiversity is entirely possible with appropriate interventions that could be delivered with the help of local residents.</p> <p>e) There were lots of elms lost in the great gale.</p> <p>f) EH proposals aimed to introduce a more balanced age-range of trees, which is better for the long-term tree succession, biodiversity and woodland management.</p> <p>g) Parakeets have occupied the nesting sites of the woodland songbirds. There are ways to redress this with reinforced nest box so that other birds in addition to parakeets have somewhere to nest. Local schools, children and birders can be involved in keeping records. This will mean that in May, walking through the woodland quarters, you would hear a much richer mix of birdsong</p> <p>h) Conditions around the perimeter of Marble Hill Park are very important. These conditions link into the broader landscape and the dark corridor along the River Thames. Plans to improve the rugby pitches are modest, improving the quality of the surface – improving drainage and porosity and reseeded to improve the playing condition and pitch resilience to wear.</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>1) Q: Which trees would need to be removed?</p> <p>A: Some trees are being considered for removal - for example a poor quality tree growing in the canopy of the other trees could be removed. There is benefit to the remaining trees in having more space.</p> <p>A leaning tree was discussed and there was a discussion on the pros and cons of removing trees to enable succession planting.</p> <p>2) Q: What type of trees will be replanted?</p> <p>A: Due to climate change and the introduction of new tree diseases, EH need to ensure species selection is mindful of biosecurity and climate change adaptation. Examples of species for replanting are: <i>Quercus rober</i> (English Oak), <i>Ulmus 'Lutece'</i> (Dutch Elm Disease resistant Elm), <i>Betula pendula</i> (Weeping birch),</p>	

	<p><i>Corylus avellina</i> (Hazel), <i>Malus sp</i> (apple), <i>Pinis sylvestris</i> (Scotts Pine), <i>Populus nigra and alba</i> (The Black and the White Poplar), <i>Prunus avium</i> (Wild Cherry), <i>Quercus ilex</i> (Holm Oak), <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (Common Acacia), <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> (Rowan), <i>Taxus Baccata</i> (Yew), <i>Tillia cordata</i> (Small leaved lime)</p> <p>3) Q: Why are the trees planted in a straight line (formal)?</p> <p>A: Planting often looks regimented on a plan but will generally look softer in reality.</p> <p>4) Q: Proposals to date show the tree avenue planting and the squaring off of a piece of lawn for the house. Would they be round at the outside of the current trees</p> <p>A: Apart from 6 poor quality specimens, existing avenue trees would not be removed. The new avenue and grove planting would be in addition and occupy space which is currently short-mown.</p> <p>5) Q: Could you clarify whether badgers are present on the site?</p> <p>A: The 2015 ecological report did not confirm evidence of badgers in the park but there was in the vicinity of the park. EH received a report from our ecologist of evidence of badger activity in September 2017, this was also noted in an archaeological report published in October 2017.</p> <p>The whole site is important to badgers for their night time foraging, the woodland quarters have outlier setts in partial use, there are at present no breeding setts in the woodland quarters, no doubt due to the presence of dogs. We will work around the badgers' changing use of the site and adapt proposals as necessary in order to protect the badgers and fulfill all statutory requirements.</p> <p>6) Q: Will your programme of work impact any badgers?</p> <p>A: Not at all. There is more than enough scope here to accommodate landscape improvements and badgers protection.</p>	
<p>4. Introductions and attendee comments.</p> <p>(Marble Hill, Great Room)</p>	<p>Attendees ranged from local residents, landscape organisations, wildlife organisations, play provider, students from the local school, previous and newly elected councilors and garden volunteer from Chiswick House & Gardens.</p> <p>During the introductions, there was support for landscape improvements, tree management and biodiversity enhancement:</p> <p>Local resident: "We feel the park has been badly neglected for well over 15 years. Everybody here is in favour of restoring it."</p> <p>Volunteer from Chiswick: "To anyone concerned about the pruning of the woodland I would encourage you to visit Chiswick Gardens which went through a similar transformation. You can't identify that wood has ever been taken out. There are bluebells and pink campion – it has developed very well."</p> <p>Local resident: "This is about community. We appreciate English Heritage raising funds to improve Marble Hill. This is about skin in the game – EH's mission to restore the garden vs. locals users of the park. Locals should have more skin in the game – for example providing funding for running costs"</p> <p>Concerns were raised about:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Basing the landscape improvements on an historic plan</i> <p>Local resident “There are two separate issues here. One is the maintenance and improvement of the grounds. And in this way we are all behind what you are doing. The other is the restoration of an 18th century landscape. The two are not compatible”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Not understanding the plans</i> <p>Local resident “This is a gorgeous park – an informal landscape. The 1752 plan shows formal lines of trees in an 18th century way. Are we going to see very formal lines of trees or a bluebell type landscape? This is confusing and I think this is why locals do not understand English Heritage’s plans”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The perceived formality of the planting scheme</i> <p>Local resident “The planting looks very dense and will narrow the view to the river.”</p> <p>JLG confirmed that there will be a wide view to the Thames. The new trees will be 6 meters apart.</p> <p>EH rounded off the introductions by reiterating that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EH welcomes research that improves understanding of the park and for this reason will be hosting a garden history symposium in June where all matters of historic provenance will be discussed. EH is committed to authenticity as an organisation and we will not proceed unless we are satisfied that the historical basis for our project is authentic. - EH advised that care had been taken to provide a balance that enhances the positive elements a historic park and a municipal landscape. EH does not believe the park management and landscape restoration are mutually exclusive. 	
<p>5. Outline of current Landscape Scheme by Landscape architect.</p>	<p>Presentation covered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Context of Marble Hill Park – located within the Arcadian Thames, within the protected view. The park is part of a wider network for wildlife. 2. Management & Maintenance – a variety of methods can be adopted and carried out in different intensities across the park. 3. Baseline data gathered – Preliminary Ecological Assessment highlighted the various habitats existing on site and species known to be found in the local area. Further surveys of birds, bats and badgers detailed specific species found on site. 4. Pleasure Grounds Proposals – outline of tree works proposed, new tree planting and introduction of understory layers, creation of the ninepin alley and path network within the woodland quarters 5. Planting Palette – outline of tree species proposed and shrub and herbaceous species in the understory 6. Habitat Enhancements – reference images showed the type of habitats that could be created through enhancements to the woodland quarters 	

	and ways in which community engagement could help attract wildlife				
6. Outcome of Group exercise	At the end of the group sessions it was noted that attendees would like to see the following species returning/thriving at Marble Hill Park:				
	#	Species to attract, retain or increase	Habitat required	Food Sources Required	Landscape Measures Required
	1	Badgers	Lawn/grassy area Meadow area Woodland area	Slow worms Earthworms Frogs Rodent Birds Eggs Lizards Insects Bulbs Seeds Berries	Maintain a diverse area of woodland and open grass areas. Minimise disturbance from dogs and people.
	2	Bats	Bat box Eaves Flower border Hedge Herb garden Lawn/grassy area Meadow area Patio Pond Woodland Area Flight paths	Small insects such as: Moths Gnats	Tree planting and thinning. Conserve trees where there are roosts. Introduce bat boxes to increase habitat. Create and maintain foraging flight lines. Increase insect habitat in scrub and meadow areas: Plant wildflowers for food source for insects. Plant nectar-producing

				<p>flora such as lilac for food source.</p> <p>Planting woodland edges next to paths will bring about greater insect population.</p> <p>Put up bat boxes.</p>
3	Butterflies	Sunny Wind protected	<p>Nectar</p> <p>Near water source</p> <p>Diverse range of plants for caterpillars. E.g.</p> <p>Queen Anne's Lace Violets Marigolds Milkweed Stinging nettles.</p>	<p>Variety of plants that bloom at different times all summer.</p> <p>Long grasses.</p> <p>Flowering trees, shrubs and, herb layer.</p> <p>Increasing diversity of meadows.</p>
4	Hedgehogs	Flower border Hedge Lawn/grassy area Meadow area Shrub Woodland area	<p>Slugs Snails Beetles Earthworms Birds' Eggs Nestlings Carrion</p>	<p>Note: Presence of badger population will deter an active hedgehog population as they are a food source for badgers.</p> <p>Provide shrub cover and hedge lines.</p> <p>Provide variety of landscape for variety of</p>

				food sources.
5	Kestrels	Farmland Grassland Heathland Urban and suburban	Small Mammals Birds Worms Insects	Maintain a diverse habit of woodland shrub areas and open grass
6	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Woodland Urban and suburban Wetland	Insects	Maintain standing deadwood where viable. Put up nest boxes.
7	Little Owl	Woodland Farmland Grassland Urban and suburban	Small Mammals .e.g. wood mouse. Birds Beetles Snails Slugs Worms	Introduce wildflowers for birds. Encourage pollinators for wildlife (e.g. moths, butterflies, birds, bees) Deadwood for beetles. Areas with moist soil for worms, snails, slugs. Create areas of grass with tree cover i.e. create good feeding ground. Put up nesting boxes
8	Song Thrush	Woodland Farmland Grassland Urban and suburban	Worms Snails Fruit	Improve scrub and shrub areas to improve food source. Improve shelter for nesting.

				<p>Large trees for perching on.</p> <p>Create areas of grass with tree cover i.e. Good feeding ground.</p>
9	Stag Beetle	<p>Decaying wood (on moist soil).</p> <p>Protected from predators e.g. magpies or cats</p>	Deadwood	Provide areas of deadwood in shady damp areas in a variety of sites in the park.
10	Swallow	<p>Farmland</p> <p>Grassland</p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Wetland</p> <p>Urban and suburban</p>	Variety of small invertebrates which are caught on the wing	<p>Improve plant diversity of woodland edges and meadows.</p> <p>Improve flight paths.</p>
11	Tawny Owls	<p>Woodland</p> <p>Farmland</p> <p>Urban and suburban</p>	<p>Small Mammals</p> <p>Rodents</p> <p>Small Birds</p> <p>Frogs</p> <p>Fish</p> <p>Insects</p> <p>Worms</p>	<p>Introduce wildflower areas to increase insect food sources for birds.</p> <p>Encourage pollinators for wildlife (e.g. moths, butterflies, birds, bees)</p> <p>Deadwood for beetles.</p> <p>Areas with moist soil for worms, snails, slugs.</p> <p>Create areas</p>

				of grass with tree cover i.e. Good feeding ground. Create areas of grass with tree cover i.e. Good feeding ground. Introduce nesting boxes.
12	Sparrows	Woodland Farmland Urban and suburban	Seeds Insects	Provide roosts in hedges and shrubberies. Meadows will provide more insects. Cutting meadows in the autumn will provide seeds heads. Within woodland shrubberies, use species that are nectar plants. Provide plans that fruit such as Hawthorne, and blackberries, for winter food. Put up nesting boxes.
#	Species to be controlled			
13	Parakeet	Woodland Urban and suburban	Fruit Berries Nuts	Put up nesting boxes with metal

			Seeds	openings to protect other species from parakeets.
	#	Non-wildlife	Suggestions	
	14	Homo sapiens	<p>Educational opportunities</p> <p>Notice Boards/Signs – so that public are educated about the species/ eco balance at Marble Hill.</p> <p>Use younger generations to protect the natural landscapes.</p>	
7. Discussion after Group exercise.	<p>1. TW asked if trees would be clipped and formal.</p> <p>A: The trees between the woodland quarters and the Thames will be standard trees and as they grow lower branches will be removed to maintain East/West views across the park. There will be cutting of low branches to protect views. The only clipped and formal planting will be the enclosure for the oval ‘Arcade’ (Hornbeam palisade) which will be clipped and managed as a hornbeam hedge., other hedges will also be clipped annually to maintain their form</p> <p>2. JJ asked why cowslips are not growing in woodlands near Cambridge Park.</p> <p>A: In some cases they may need to be planted. The land may have had grazing or been cultivated- this is part of its landscape history and we may be able to enrich by reintroducing.</p> <p>JW Marble Hill has had 70 years of municipal management that will have prevented reseeding of wildflowers.</p> <p>3. Has English Heritage got detailed figures about the use of the park by dog walkers etc.?</p> <p>A: English Heritage has been collecting demographic data of park users.</p> <p>4. TG: Why are 11 very formal fruit trees in formal rows in one of the woodland quarters?</p> <p>A: 2D plans exaggerate the formality. An Orchard is typically set out in a formal way with grids of trees, but the experience walking through it does not appear that way, softened by a meadow understory with wildflowers.</p> <p>5. What is the proposed cost of maintain the garden?</p> <p>A: It is difficult to extrapolate the figures instantly but we spend around £100,000 on garden maintenance contractors at present every year. We don’t have a payroll for maintaining the gardens but the cost of the staff would be</p>			

	<p>around £60 – 70,000 per year. We have made a significant commitment to the Heritage Lottery Fund to create this garden and would be in breach of the grant if we did not deliver the additional maintenance that the gardens will require. Much of this will be delivered by an in-house gardener and an apprentice and volunteers.</p> <p>Post meeting note: In 2016/17, EH spent £205,000 on maintenance of Marble Hill. The vast majority of this was spent on maintaining the landscape. Our Management and Maintenance Plan and Business Plan both commit an additional £71,000 to the maintenance of the landscape. These documents were submitted to HLF and would form part of any Grant Award contract with HLF should planning permission be granted for the project.</p> <p>6. Q: Large gap next to house what is this?</p> <p>A: A space left for marquee. This would enable EH to generate income. The marquee was not included in the March 2017 planning application.</p> <p>EH will commit to limiting wedding / marquee events to 12 times a year as a planning condition.</p> <p>7. Statement: JJ: more than 300 trees to go – even if you plant 400 the pollution levels are illegal here. To lose so many trees so fast would affect pollution.</p> <p>A: Scientific studies have shown that the young tree planting will use up more co2 and pollution than that declining overgrown trees as they will be healthy and vigorous and putting on more extension growth.</p> <p>8. Perception: “Planting in the lawn area looks too dense”</p> <p>A: Planting in question will be 6m apart. (This was more spaced out than had been previously understood by attendee).</p>	
<p>8. Other comments made</p>	<p>Landscape Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Paths: path along west side of park currently un-surfaced. Could this be made to be more hard-wearing/permanent to avoid compaction? Ideally natural/gravel surface not tarmac. b) Litter is not good for biodiversity. c) Litter is extreme after a hot day and foxes redistribute it – could we have fox proof bins? d) More volunteers/staff in park would help keep areas free of litter. e) Use bins with lift handles to prevent being pulled out by wildlife. <p>Dog Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) Opportunities to use hedges, deadwood, deadwood hedging to control movement/dogs. g) Richmond using licensing system to control dog use – similar programme could be introduced at Marble Hill. h) More bins needed on popular dog walks. i) Need more people (rangers/staff/volunteers) to encourage use of dog bins. j) Stop dogs accessing all areas. <p>Wildlife Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) Bats underappreciated. l) Focus on a few species (proxies) – as ‘champions’ and monitor their 	

	<p>success in the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> m) Birds – use MHP as a pilot for a parakeet study, not to exclude but to control through natural methods, and re-encourage smaller songbirds with the use of parakeet-proof nest boxes. n) Wild flowers and pollinators are most important to encourage more species. <p>Landscape proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o) The pitch in the south east corner is always waterlogged and never useable – turn it into a wildflower meadow. p) Reuse football pitch near the river to plant more woodland. q) Include wetland in the park and use as an educational area r) Create bee hives. s) More planting around edges of the park could create maintenance issues. t) Bulb planting for schools. u) TW The history of Marble Hill is really important – I don't know of another place that has a formal garden used as a park in the same way. But the history of the 18th century garden is narrow: in the 18th century this was a farming area, in 20th century there was the attempt to turn it into a housing development and the park was taken into Local Authority care. It was used as a Metropolitan Open Space, taken up by the government and handed to English Heritage. We should be celebrating what the park is today rather than trying to roll the clock back. <p>Fencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v) Use natural fencing to encourage further wildlife w) No fencing between the house and the river Natural fencing around woodland x) Low hedges/ dead hedging used as natural borders/fencing <p>Income generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> z) Don't erect marquee; add more managed woodland to the marquee space. 	
<p>9. Points of difference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Biodiversity and conservation objectives are incompatible:</i> It is EH's view that heritage conservation and wildlife conservation and enhancement are complimentary. b) <i>The landscape works should be based on modern history not 18th century history: Much of what park users enjoy today was established in the 18th century, for example, where animals once grazed or crops grown, sport is now played.</i> We believe that the rejuvenation of the park should draw on many aspects of the park's history, its present and potential use and ecological potential. Marble Hill is of national significance as a rare survival of an early 18th century landscape and for a local campaign that saved the park from being built over by Act of Parliament in 1902. The late 20th century decline needs to be reversed to ensure that the park can be enjoyed as it is today, by future generations. There has been subtle replanting on the East side of the park over the last 30 years to soften the harsh municipal edges of the park, reintroducing long grass areas for wildlife that are enjoyed by visitors. Today much of what we are proposing is an extension of this, enabling visitors to enjoy nature space, sport and 	

	<p>history in the same place. The rejuvenation of the woodland quarters will increase visitor access (and introduce new flight lines for bats and swallows) whilst also creating more diverse wildlife habitats. We have a severely declining tree stock in the woodland quarters. Tree thinning is desperately needed to give selected existing young trees the space and light to grow, as well as providing space for new planting to thrive. More light will enable the establishment of a more robust shrub layer, important as both a food source and for shelter and nesting. More light will enable the establishment of an herb layer (for example ferns, primroses and bluebells). New tree planting will create new shady areas, a benefit to park users who can benefit from the cool shade in London's increasingly hot summers. All this is aimed at balancing an extraordinary cultural and natural heritage with the needs of park users.</p>	
<p>10. Next steps</p>	<p>Minutes to be on the Marble Hill Revived site once approved.</p> <p>EH to analyse the biodiversity comments.</p> <p>EH to analyse any new information from Historic Symposium.</p> <p>EH to reshape landscape proposals where possible.</p>	