## The Parks Agency

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## THE GARDENS TRUST

As a consultancy working in the field of historic parks and gardens since 2002 we would like to commend the work of the Gardens Trust with which we have been familiar for many decades, including in its previous incarnation as the Garden History Society. As the Gardens Trust, it has harnessed the specialist knowledge and dedication of a countrywide network of county trusts which is the envy of the National Amenity Societies.

As the other societies are all primarily concerned with the built heritage, it is the only source of authoritative information in this area of national heritage other than Historic England. When the Garden History Society was made a statutory consultee in 1995, that was expressly in recognition of the fact that Historic England (then English Heritage) did not have adequate resources to deal with consultation on all registered sites (approximately 1600 at the time). Since then it has performed a vital service in providing free expert advice and soundly researched information to planning authorities on historic parks and gardens in the planning system; all the more vital because there is rarely any in-house expertise on this topic of great heritage importance.