

Royal Horticultural Society
RHS Garden Wisley
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Gardens Trust
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Statement of Support for the Gardens Trust

Historic parks and gardens are a vital part of the UK's cultural and natural heritage. These landscapes bring joy to their many visitors, support biodiversity, improve public health and wellbeing and contribute significantly to tourism and the wider economy.

The Gardens Trust—the only national charity dedicated to historic designed landscapes—plays a crucial role in protecting these spaces through expert, constructive engagement with the planning system.

The RHS fully supports the Gardens Trust and is deeply concerned by the government's proposal to remove its status as a statutory consultee. This decision risks diminishing the protection of some of the country's most valued landscapes at a time when the importance of green spaces for wellbeing, biodiversity and climate resilience has never been clearer.

The Gardens Trust brings unique expertise and invaluable local knowledge to the planning process, helping to ensure that proposals are carefully considered and that irreplaceable landscapes are not lost to short-term decisions.

The importance of historic parks and gardens should not be understated. They receive over 18 million visits per year, provide inclusive green space in both urban and rural areas and offer some of the most ecologically mature landscapes in the country.

With local authorities under increasing pressure, the Gardens Trust provides essential capacity at minimal cost—just £42,000 per year to the taxpayer. The RHS urges the government to reconsider this proposal and to recognise the enduring value of the Gardens Trust's work in safeguarding the landscapes that shape our history, environment and quality of life.