



Linden Groves  
Head of Operations and Strategy  
The Gardens Trust  
70 Cowcross Street  
London EC1M 6EW

7 April 2025

Dear Linden,

**Concern at the removal of The Gardens Trust as a statutory consultee from the planning system**

The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (NFPGS) is dismayed that the vital consultative role of The Gardens Trust is under threat. We recognize the invaluable contribution made by the Trust consulting and then coordinating responses, and ensuring a vast range of community expertise and site user knowledge can help inform a robust planning process.

Our historic parks and gardens are an exceptional, extensive national asset of huge social, cultural, economic and environmental significance. For many, these special landscapes are their most accessible heritage contributing to a precious sense of place. Moreover, in difficult times these areas provide an enduring refuge from daily concerns, available to all and a crucial asset in community health, wellbeing and cohesion. Any changes or threats to these qualities must be subject to the utmost scrutiny.

We strongly support your campaign to protect the statutory consultee status of The Gardens Trust and will continue to promote your work and the importance of this commitment to our historic parks and gardens.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Morris  
Chair, National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces  
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