

16 June 2025

To whom it may concern,

The threat to the Gardens Trust role as statutory consultee

The Landscape Institute is concerned by the government's proposal to review the status of the Gardens Trust as a statutory consultee in the planning process. We strongly support The Gardens Trust's work championing historic parks and gardens. These heritage landscapes contribute significantly to the UK economy, tourism, and public health.

With many of our members working in historic parks and gardens, we also recognise their vital role in addressing the climate emergency, nature recovery, public recreational space provision and strengthening communities' cohesion. Many of the historic public parks we know and love are our most significant green infrastructure assets. They were created during times of historic social challenge and change, offering spaces for wellbeing, play and connection. The Covid-19 pandemic and economic downturn periods have shown again and again their incredible value to many urban residents, from those wanting to socialise to lone visitors.

Today, quality historic gardens and parks continue to add value to communities and new developments. They reduce NHS demand, provide inclusive access to green space for diverse neighbourhoods, and support a wide range of career pathways supporting local economies. They have enduring value and deliver environmental, social and economic benefits. Indeed, heritage parks and gardens provide distinctiveness, pride and diverse value to many local communities, often demanding global recognition for their contribution to heritage and culture.

It is vital that these assets are protected and the Garden Trust's statutory consultee role is an important part of keeping them alive for the benefit of everyone. We urge the government to recognise this and retain their role in the planning system.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Göhler
President, Landscape Institute