

Linden Groves  
Head of Operations  
The Gardens Trust  
70 Cowcross Street  
London EC1M 6EJ

28 July 2025

Dear Linden

**Letter of Support for The Gardens Trust**

I am writing to confirm the Horticultural Trades Association's (HTA) support for your campaign to ensure The Gardens Trust remains as a statutory consultee in the planning system. The Trust has an important role on planning applications that may affect historic parks and gardens. These green spaces – green infrastructure – deliver so much for the UK economy, environment, biodiversity and our health and wellbeing.

The HTA represents around 1400 UK businesses, including growers, retailers, suppliers, designers and landscapers who collectively deliver the gardens, green spaces, and green infrastructure with a wealth of associated benefits. The sector delivers £38bn to GDP and supports 722,000 jobs (this is 2024 independent data from Oxford Economics). Further analysis projects a sector growth potential of 45% in the 2020s, to £51.2 billion (in 2023 prices), supporting 763,000 jobs across the UK economy.

This growth potential is dependent on barriers to growth being unlocked, such as around planning and ensuring we have high quality, accessible and well-maintained parks and gardens.

The value of the sector has often been overlooked or what it delivers been taken for granted. By ensuring The Gardens Trust remains a statutory consultee, the government would be taking one step in recognising that green infrastructure is critical to the UK.

We look forward to the consultation being published and working with supporting partners to ensure UK gardens and green spaces, and the sector behind them, can thrive.

Yours sincerely,



**Jennifer Pheasey**  
Director of Policy & Public Affairs