



**Bassetlaw**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
— North Nottinghamshire —

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

Please ask for: Michael Tagg  
Direct dialling:(01909) 533427  
Email: [Michael.Tagg@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Tagg@bassetlaw.gov.uk)

29<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Linden

**RE: The Gardens Trust – Role as Statutory Consultee in Planning and Heritage Matters**

I have been contacted by my counterpart at Nottinghamshire County Council, Jason Mordan, regarding the current consultation being carried out by Government on the role of The Gardens Trust as a statutory consultee in planning and heritage matters.

My experience of The Gardens Trust, and also of the individual county branches, is of a very knowledgeable team and individuals who add a great deal of value and understanding to our historic parks and gardens. This is not only in terms of promoting historic landscapes in general, but also in relation to their very detailed research work and planning consultation responses on individual sites, both large and small, across our district, the county and nationally.

As a mostly rural district with 4 Registered Parks and Gardens and 57 Unregistered Parks and Gardens, we have regular contact with The Gardens Trust and have done for many years. In particular, within our district we have Clumber Park, registered at grade I and the most visited National Trust property in the country, which has seen lots of development pressure in its vicinity due to its location on the edge of the growing town of Worksop. The Gardens Trust have been a very active and informative consultee throughout my 20 years here at Bassetlaw, especially in relation to Clumber. Their comments have helped my team formulate our own responses to a number of large scale industrial/commercial proposals which had the potential to affect Clumber, its component buildings and its setting. In some cases, where harm has been identified, this has resulted in development proposals being amended to mitigate that harm. The Gardens Trust have been a crucial part of this process.

Responses from The Gardens Trust, whether on large-scale development proposals, on wider local plan policy and allocation consultations, or on small individual sites, have always been received very promptly and have added much to our understanding of the impact of such proposals on these important landscapes and landscape features.

We have had a long relationship with The Gardens Trust in terms of their wider aims of promoting historic landscapes. We have taken part in training events run by The Gardens Trust, illustrating best practice, presenting our own processes in both a local and national context, sharing ideas, working with individual county trusts and ensuring that the lessons learned at a local level are translated into a national strategy which is at the forefront of the protection of our historic man-made landscapes. The Gardens Trust is the best mechanism for ensuring that knowledge and best practice in relation to historic landscapes forms part of the planning process, especially in a time where heritage advice at a local planning authority

level is not always there or even a priority in some cases.

Indeed, that is one of the main benefits of The Gardens Trust being a statutory consultee – often the advice provided by The Gardens Trust simply isn't available at a local planning authority level. Many councils simply do not have a Conservation Officer in-house. Nor do they have anyone skilled to properly assess the impact of development on a designed landscape. Advice from Historic England on smaller sites can sometimes be difficult to obtain as they are required to priorities their efforts on the higher grade sites due to their own lack of resources. Therefore, **across large parts of the country, it is only The Gardens Trust who provide advice on historic designed landscapes.** Removing them as a statutory consultee will result in large numbers of historic designed landscapes, many nationally designated, being at serious **risk of harm** from inappropriate development proposals which would otherwise be carried out elsewhere or at the very least their most harmful impacts being mitigated against.

As the Conservation Manager at Bassetlaw for nearly 6 years, and having worked here for over 20, I would be very aggrieved to see The Gardens Trust no longer being a statutory consultee in the planning process for the reasons set out above.

I trust this is of use. Please do share with the Government Office in your response to the current consultation. I would be happy to provide a direct and more detailed response to Government should they request it.

Please note these are my own professional views only.

Yours sincerely



**Michael Tagg, BA (Hons), MSc, IHBC  
Conservation Manager (Planning Services, Bassetlaw District Council)**

Cc Jason Mordan, Nottinghamshire County Council