

SG Historic Environment 3: Historic gardens and designed landscapes

We will only approve development that would have an adverse effect on the character, structure or setting of a designated historic garden or designed landscape, subject to other policies, if:

- 1) the objectives of designation and the overall integrity and character of the designated area will not be compromised; OR**
- 2) any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by long term strategic social or economic benefits of over-riding public importance, for which no other alternative site is available.**

In either case, mitigation and appropriate measures must be taken to conserve and enhance the essential characteristics, aesthetics, archaeological, historical value and setting of the garden or the designed landscape.

Reasoned Justification

The aim of this supplementary guidance is to meet Aberdeenshire Council's national and international obligations to protect and enhance designated gardens and designed landscapes from development that would damage their special character.

Gardens and designed landscapes are identified as an important part of Aberdeenshire's culture and heritage, and are recorded in both the Historic Scotland Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and the Gordon Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. These gardens and landscapes are valuable assets at an international, national, regional and local level. They provide a landscape dating back to previous historical periods and landscape settings for important buildings, as well as having rare plant collections, and a rich biodiversity with fine specimen plants and trees. As such they must be protected from damaging development.

To help assess development proposals, we will seek the views of the Garden History Society, Historic Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Architectural Heritage Society for Scotland and The Scottish Civic Trust, as appropriate.