

SWEDEN

Historic Gardens

The last five years show a rising trend of both academic and popular interest in historic gardens and their conservation. Today institutions give courses in garden history, seminars are arranged regularly and research is in progress at different levels in different disciplines, as well as field surveys.

We are seriously concerned that this current promising development might lose its momentum. Our concern is based on the Swedish National Heritage Board discontinuing their only appointment of a specialist on historic gardens last [northern] summer. As a result, no person has responsibility for the general supervision or support for the assessment and conservation of historic gardens and parks. At a time when economic cut-backs are forced on regional and local authorities, this reduction in expertise at the national level is an even more serious loss.

Right now there is an urgent need for further action in the following areas:

- Inventories for a national register of the different types of historic gardens and parks, including their contents of decorations and plants (for National Collections).
- Strategies to protect the most significant gardens, including historic research, survey, conservation programs, conservation measures and maintenance by expert and skilled gardeners.
- Evaluation of methods and results of finished projects.
- Information on the most useful methods and recommendations by available experts at regional and local levels.

This work needs to be systematically organised for the most efficient use of the limited resources at our disposal.

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