Opening session

The value of management & science

Sue Biggs CBE, Director-General, Royal Horticultural Society

Rosie Hails, Director of Nature and Science for the National Trust and Head, Valuing Nature Programme Co-ordination Team

#VLConf2018
RHS & LI
Sue Biggs,
RHS Director General

7 September 2018
Our Heritage

- The Horticultural Society of London est. 1804
- 1861 received the Royal Charter > Royal Horticultural Society
- 1904 moved into Vincent Square
- 1929 LI (BAGA!) formed at RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- 2018 RHS at LI conference, and then ….
What do we stand for?

**Our mission** - To be the world’s leading gardening charity by inspiring passion and excellence in the science, art and practice of horticulture

**Our vision** - To enrich everyone’s life through plants, and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place
The changing face of the RHS
(or what we do to reconnect people and places
and with nature)

- Shows
- Gardens
- Gardening science
- Horticulture
- Education & Learning, Qualifications and Careers (Horticulture Matters)
- Community Gardening
- Libraries & Art
- Publishing – The Garden, books and online
- Our Members
- Our Industry
- Government
Why are we investing £160m in horticulture?

- Plants are vital to life, to the environment, and to the health, wellbeing and happiness of us all
- Help strengthen communities, build a more resilient society, support biodiversity, cool cities, protect against flooding, improve air quality

- To enrich everyone’s life through plants, and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place
Our Strategic Investment £160m

1. **RHS Garden Wisley**
   - Hilltop Science & Learning
   - New Welcome building & re-emergence of the historic core
   - A vibrant community in Wisley village

2. **RHS Garden Hyde Hall**

3. **RHS Garden Bridgewater**

4. **Greening Communities**

5. **RHS Lindley Library**

6. **Horticulture Matters**
Bridgewater
Bridgewater Location
Our Industry, Government and Public Policy

- Core asks:
  - Commercial
  - Education
  - Research
Our Future Collaboration?
(post Brexit)

❖ Closer ties between horticulture and landscape, we’re all the same industry
❖ Advice on plant health and environmental issues
❖ Health and wellbeing
❖ International development
❖ RHS Flower Shows
Thank you and any questions?