

Step back in Time. Welcome to Chances Park.

Thank you for downloading this activity sheet aimed at children aged 3-8 years. It would be helpful for the parent or adult in charge to also download a copy of the "Chances Park Nature Trail" for extra information. Adults must stress to children that they must not put anything that they find in the park in their mouths, and that they should wash their hands after finishing the activities.

Activity 1: The Mansion House

- We will start our trail at the house, marked number **1** on your map. Do you know the name of the house? Does your house have a name or a number?
- Walk to the edge of the gravelled area and look at the house. Can you tell your friend about the house? Does your house look like Morton Manor?

Activity 2: A Grand Entrance

- Do you know when Morton Manor was built? Do you know when your house was built? Some very rich people have lived in Morton Manor. When it was built the people who lived here would have travelled around by horse drawn carriage. Can you act out a scene where the Lord and Lady of the Manor arrive in a carriage, and the servants of the house stand outside to meet them?



Activity 3: The Georgian Gardens

- We are now going to walk around to the Georgian Gardens, marked **2** on your map. They are called Georgian because they were built when the King of England was King George. Imagine that you are Lord or Lady of the Manor. Have a walk around the gardens and tell your friend about your favourite flowers. You are very proud of your plants so you are allowed to show off a bit!



Activity 4: The Ha -Ha

- Take a walk to the Ha-Ha, marked **3** on your map. Walk carefully along the wall, then run back along the trench.
- Now go and stand on the lawn in front of the house. Look out across the park. The Ha-Ha does not block your view. Ask some people from your group to stand on the wall, and make themselves into a fence. Do they block your view of the rest of the park? The Ha-Ha's job is to stop rabbits or deer from getting at the plants in the Georgian Gardens, without spoiling the view.

Activity 5: What's in a Name?

- Our trail now moves to the circular seating area, marked **8** on your map. Before Chances Park became a Park it was used for farming. The area where the play area and football pitches are now, used to be called "Rye Close". Why do you think it was called "Rye Close"? The area near to the Manor house was called "Turnip Close". What do you think was grown in that field?
- If you were a farmer what would you grow in your field? What would you call the field?



Activity 6: Ridges and Furrows

- Walk along to the area marked **7** on your map. You should be able to spot some grooves and bumps in the ground. These are called Ridges (the bumps) and Furrows (the grooves). This was a way of dividing up the land, and sharing it out between all the different people who worked on the farm.
- Find a ridge to walk along, then walk back along the furrow beside it. Pretend that you are a farmer getting your ridge ready to be planted. The ground will need to be ploughed, or dug up. Choose a friend to be your plough. You will hold their ankles and steer them as they walk along the ridge on their hands. Swap over at the end of the ridge, and come back.



Activity 7: Pigs and other Animals

- Farmers sometimes kept pigs and other animals in large fields which they shared. We are going to walk to the Oak Tree in front of the house, marked **10** on your map. Imagine that this area is a field where you can keep your pigs. Pigs really like to eat acorns. Can you find any acorns for your pig to eat?

Activity 8: Back to the Future

- Your trail finishes back at the Manor house. As you walk there tell your friend something that you have found out about Chances Park today. Is there anything that you would like to see here in the future?

