

Spend a day at Chances Park - Family Activity Sheet

Thank you for downloading this activity sheet which is suitable for families. It would be useful to also have a copy of the Chances Park Nature Trail.

Activity 1: Morton Manor

We will start our trail at the house, marked number **1** on your map.

Walk to the edge of the gravelled area and look at the house. Can you tell someone in your family about the house? Does your house look like Morton Manor?

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 2: The Georgian Garden

The Georgian Gardens are marked number **2** on your map. If you walk there quietly the birds might stay there so you can watch them.

Birds can find lots of different things to eat here. Stand very still and see if you can spot any birds feeding.

Have a walk around the Georgian Gardens and see if you can find anything that birds might like to eat. Don't forget to look in cracks in walls, under leaves and on flowers.

Tell your parent about what you have found. Did anyone say seeds, berries, insects or caterpillars?



Activity 3: The Georgian Ha-Ha

Now you are going to walk to the Ha-Ha, marked **3** on your map

When you arrive at the Ha-Ha 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 family 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 4: The Mighty Oak

Our trail now moves to the Oak Tree (marked number **10** on the map). As you walk to it, count all the different types of tree you pass.

The Oak tree has an unusual shaped leaf. Can you describe it?

Can you spot the seeds of the Oak Tree? What are they called? If one has fallen onto the ground, ask if you can take it home to plant, and grow your own Oak Tree.





Activity 5: Springtime Colour and Beautiful Birds

Follow the path beside the wall to the area marked **5** on your map. If you are visiting the park in the Spring you should be able to see many different flowers growing under the trees. Can you name any of them?

Walk from the Yew Tree, slowly and quietly to the Holly Tree. Look & listen for birds, on the ground, on the wall, in the trees and in the sky.

Woodpecker Tree Creeper Pied Wagtail

These birds' names give you clues about where you might spot them, and how they behave. From their names, what do you know about each bird?



Activity 6: A home for Creepy Crawlies

Walk across the meadow, heading for the Avenue of Handkerchief Trees. You will find a small wood with some fallen trees.

First you are going to look at the outside of the fallen tree. Look carefully in the grooves and holes in the bark. Are there any beetles or spiders? If you find one, can you count it's legs?

Can you see underneath the bark? Slugs like to hide in holes in dead wood. If you spot any, tell a friend. You might also see tiny holes in the wood where minibeasts have eaten their way through.



Activity 7: Ridge and Furrow

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. Decide who is the farmer and who is the plough? The farmer will hold the ankles of the "plough" and steer them as they walk along the ridge on their hands. Can you make it all the way along the ridge?

Activity 8 : 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 9: Everywhere else!

Before you leave the park, don't forget to visit the Performance Area **9**, the Play Area **10**, have a kick about on the Football pitches **11** or try a different sport on the Multi Use Games Area **12**. Reward yourself with a treat from our Café in Morton Manor before you go home.

