



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

TEACHERS' KIT

Wrest Park

This kit helps teachers plan a visit to Wrest Park, a French-style chateau set in 90 acres of gardens and used as a convalescent home then a hospital during the First World War. Use these resources before, during and after your visit to help students get the most out of their learning.

KS1–2

KS3

KS4+

SEND



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Step into England's story

WELCOME

This Teachers' Kit for Wrest Park has been designed for teachers and group leaders to support a free self-led visit to the site. It includes a variety of materials suited to teaching a wide range of subjects and key stages, with practical information, activities for use on site and ideas to support follow-up learning.

We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated our resources into one kit allowing you to decide which materials are best suited to your needs. Please use the contents page, which has been colour-coded to help you easily locate what you need, and view individual sections. All of our activities have clear guidance on the intended use for study so you can adapt them for your desired learning outcomes.

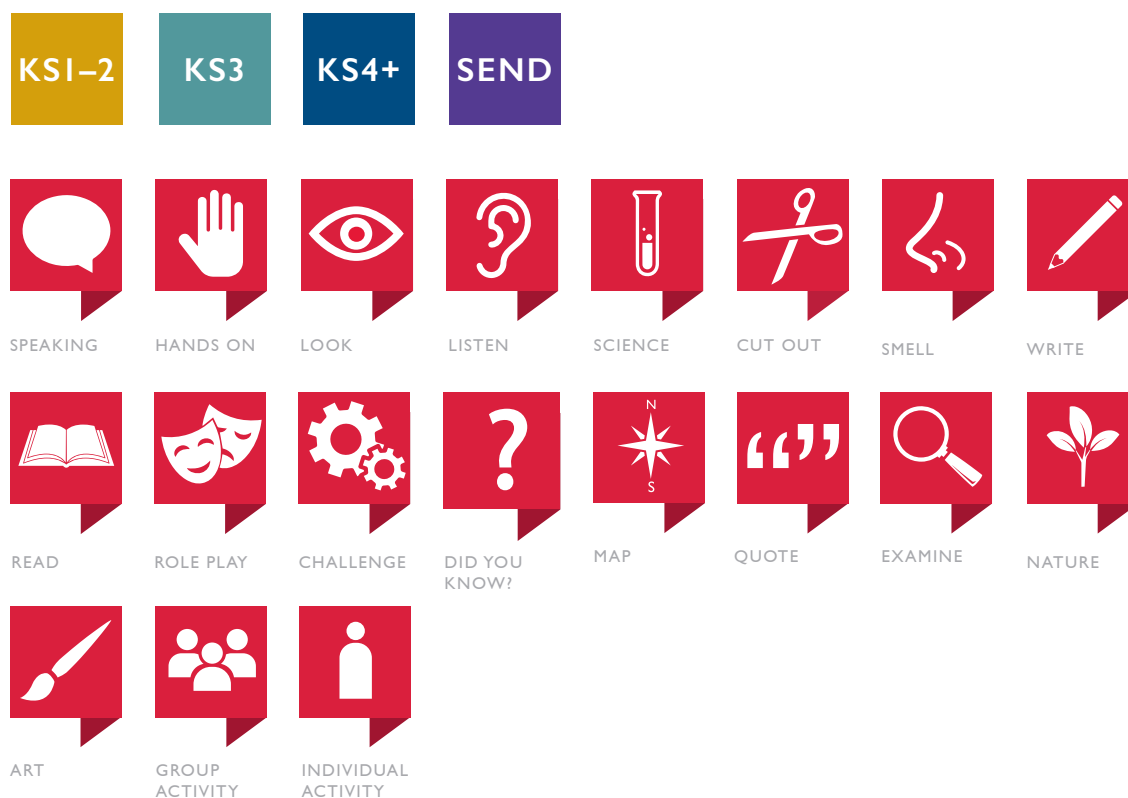
To further aid your planning, we have created Hazard Information, which you can download from the [Wrest Park School Visits page](#). Here you can also find information on our expert-led Discovery Visits and an overview of what your class can experience. You can find more practical information about your booked visit to Wrest Park on your Education Visit Permit and in our What You Need to Know document.

We hope you enjoy your visit and find this Teachers' Kit useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk or on 0370 333 0606.

English Heritage Learning Team

ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify the types of activities and information presented.



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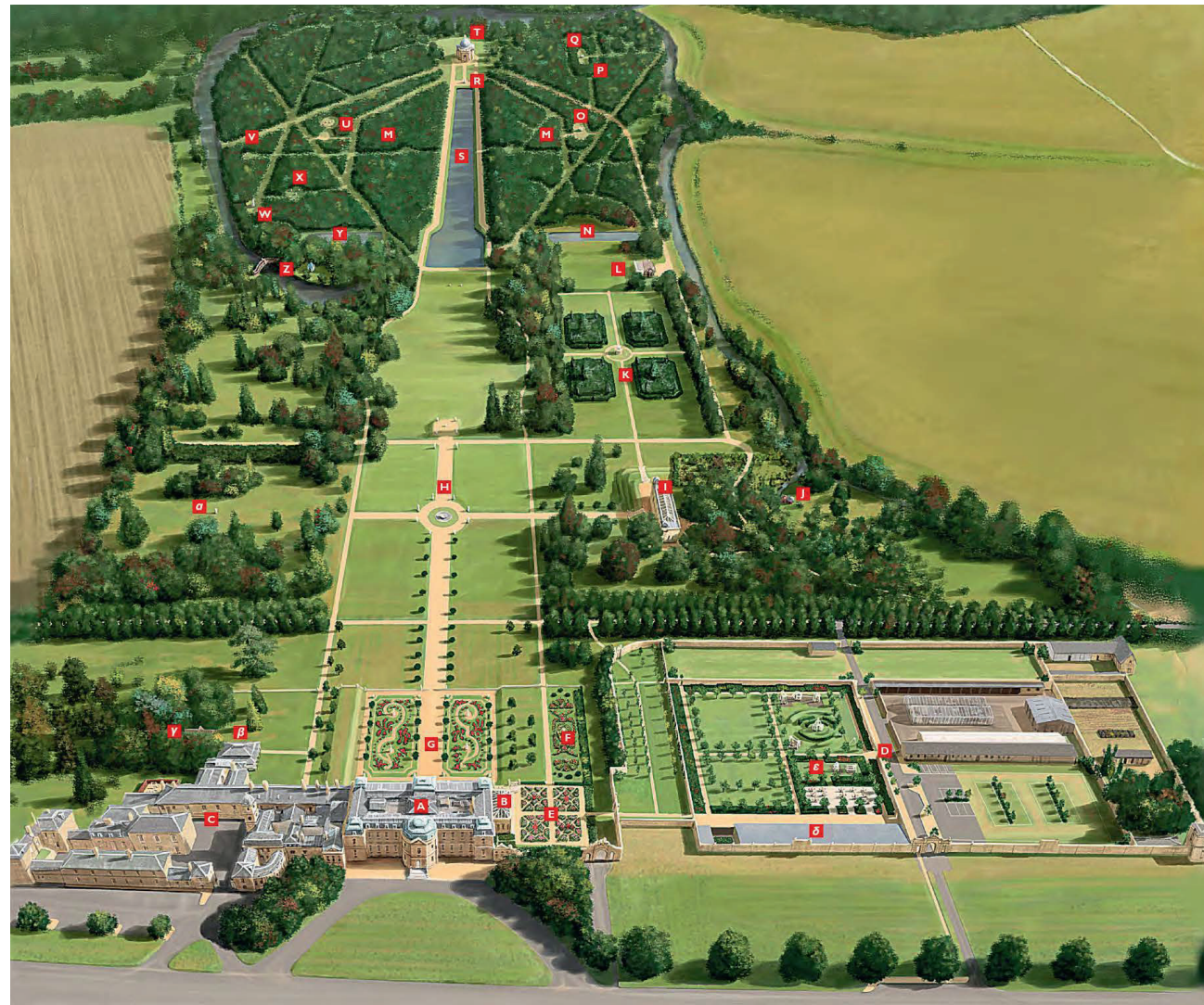
PRE-VISIT

Activities and information you can use in the classroom before your visit.

WREST PARK

SITE MAP

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PARKING

- 1** Disabled visitors' parking in walled garden

ACCESS TO THE SITE

- 1** Mobility scooters (bookable in advance)
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- 3** Steps into pavilion and slopes into orangery and Bowling Green House
- 4** Lift into house for disabled visitors

FACILITIES

- 1** Visitor centre with exhibition, tea room, shop and children's play area
- 2** Adapted WC

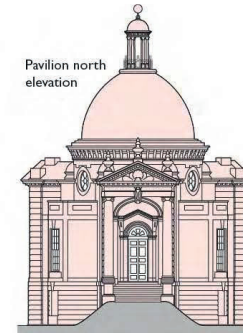
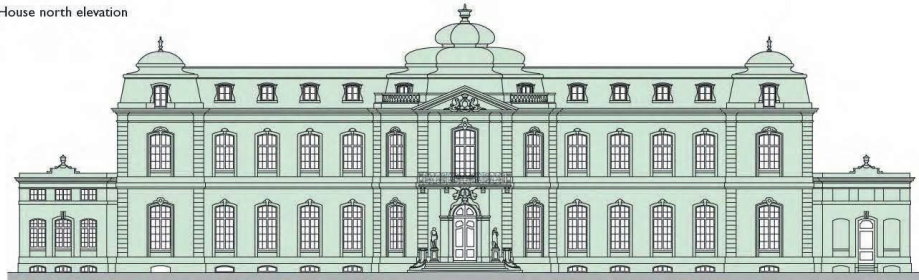
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SITE PLAN

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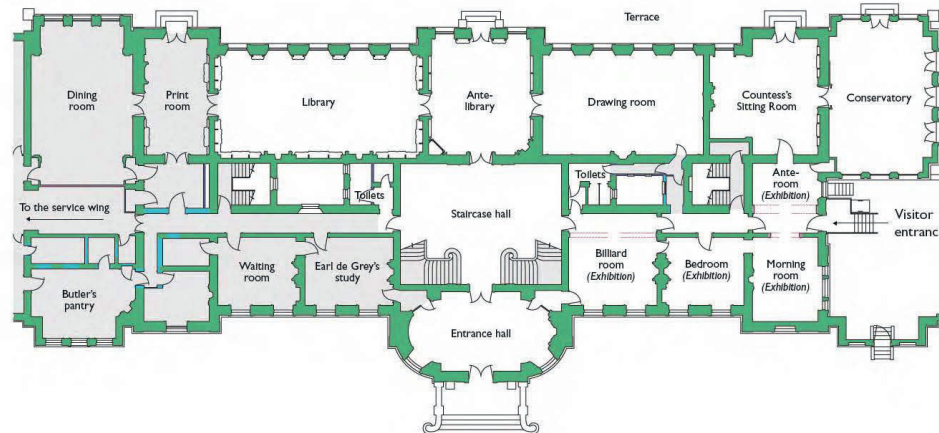
WREST PARK

House north elevation

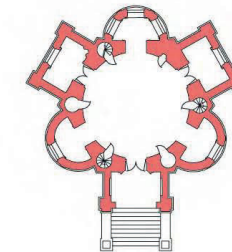


Pavilion north
elevation

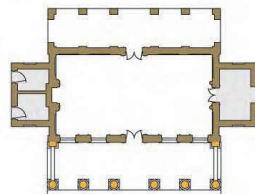
House ground-floor plan



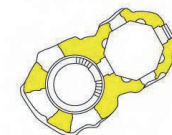
Pavilion ground-floor plan



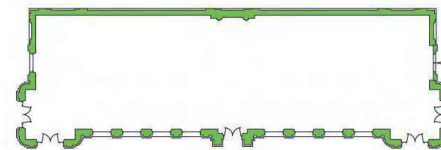
Bowling Green House floor plan



Bath house floor plan



Orangery floor plan



- 1709–11
- 1720–21
- 1735
- 1769–70
- c.1830
- 1834–9
- 1846
- Modern
- Uncertain
- Restricted or no visitor access
- Demolished walls, date uncertain

WREST PARK

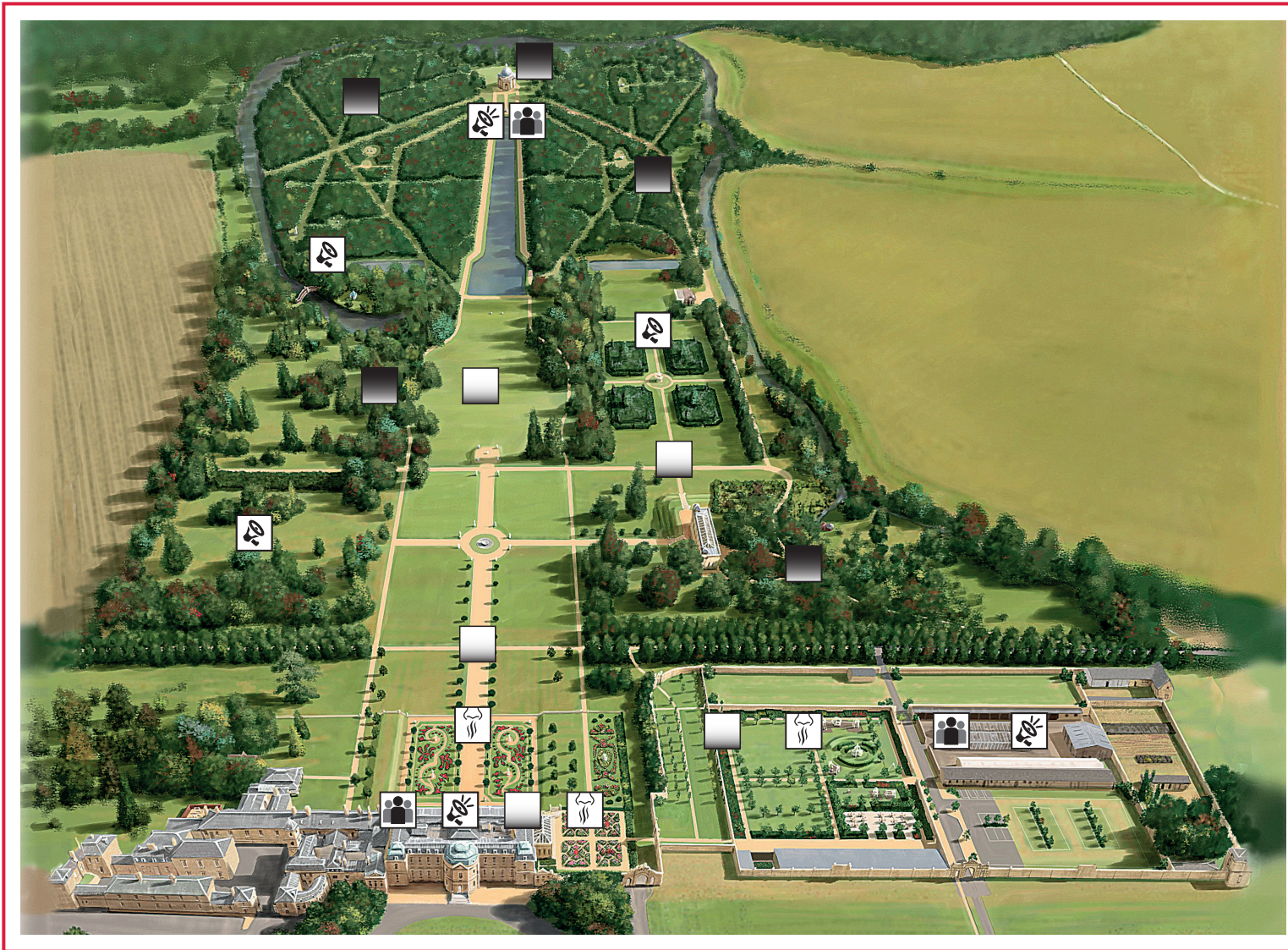
ACCESS MAP









WREST PARK

SENSORY MAP

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SENSORY CONSIDERATIONS

-  Noisy spaces
-  Quieter spaces
-  Potentially crowded spaces
-  Strong smells
-  High levels of natural light
-  Low levels of natural light

WREST PARK

ORIENTATION PHOTOGRAPHS



If you arrive by coach, you will be dropped off at the coach bay on Park Avenue, outside the garden walls..



This is the main entrance to the gardens. Beyond this gate there are grassy areas, uneven gravel paths and some features with deep water.



Toilets at Wrest Park can be found at the Visitor Centre near the shop and near the bath house.



Some rooms on the ground floor of the mansion are usually open to visitors. This includes the Ante-library, Library, Drawing Room, Countess's Sitting Room and Staircase Hall. The upstairs of the mansion is used as offices for other businesses and is not open to visitors.



The uniform you will often see around Wrest Park worn by all English Heritage volunteers.



The gardens at Wrest Park have open spaces, formal gardens, woodland, lakes and some wildlife like swans and ducks.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

DISCOVER THE STORY
OF WREST PARK

Below is a short history of Wrest Park. Use this information to learn how the site has changed over time. You'll find the definitions of the key words in the Glossary.

THE MANOR OF WREST AND THE RISE OF THE DE GREY FAMILY

The **manor** of Wrest was first recorded during the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042–66). At this time the land was held by a **thegn** called Leofnoth. After the **Norman Conquest**, a man named Hugh was granted the **barony** of Wahull which included the manor of Wrest.

After this, the Wrest **estate** was the home of the de Grey family for over 600 years. They were one of the leading **aristocratic** families in England. The family first settled at Wrest in the 13th century and the first Grey to be linked with the estate is John Grey of Shirland in Derbyshire (c.1205–66). He acquired manors in Bedfordshire on his marriage to an **heiress** called Emma de Cauz.

By the 14th century, Wrest was the de Grey family's main home in England. Edward IV made Edmund Grey his **Lord Treasurer** in 1463. The king then granted Edmund the title **Earl** of Kent in 1465.

Edmund's grandson, Richard, 3rd Earl of Kent had to sell, **mortgage** or give away most of the family's estates to pay his debts during the early 1500s.



The coat of arms of Richard de Grey,
3rd Earl of Kent. © Rs-nourse CC BY-SA 3.0

TUDOR MEDICINE AND A CELEBRITY COOKBOOK

In Tudor England women played a role in treating and healing sick family members using herbs and recipes passed down from generation to generation. Elizabeth Grey, Countess of Kent (born 1582) lived at Wrest Park with her husband Henry, the 8th Earl of Kent, and hosted many important **scholars**, poets and artists of the time. Despite being a literary **patron**, Elizabeth is best known for a collection of household recipes published after her death in 1651.

A Choice Manuall, or Rare and Select Secrets in

*Physick and
Chyrurgery:
Collected,*

and Practised

by the Right Honourable, the Countesse of Kent,

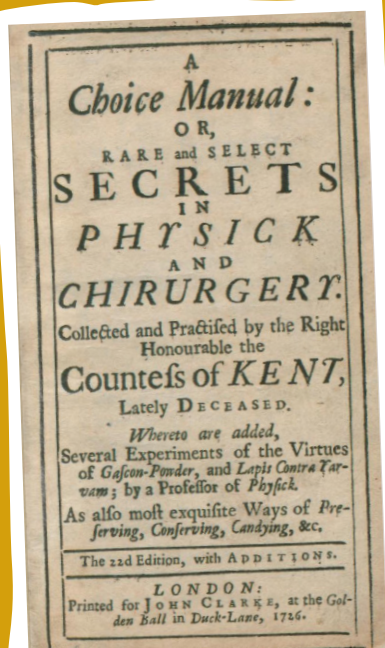
Late Deceased was published in 1653. The book was organised by an **editor** called William Jarvis who split the recipes into a medicine section and a cooking section.

One of the most popular recipes in the book was for a 'cure-all' powder which was said to work 'against all malignant and pestilent Diseases, French Pox, Small Pox, Measles, Plague, Pestilence, malignant or scarlet Fevers ... Melancholy, dejection of Spirits'.

The book remained in print until 1728 and it might be one of the earliest cookbooks to promote itself by using a celebrity name.



Elizabeth Grey, Countess of Kent (1582–1651) became famous after her death for a household recipe book bearing her name. © From a private collection



The cookbook was reprinted many times. This is the front page from the 22nd edition published in 1726.

Discover the recipe for Elizabeth Grey's 'cure-all' powder in Source 1 on page 78.



REBUILDING THE DE GREY FAMILY FORTUNES

After the 3rd Earl's extravagance, the Grey family **fortune** was gradually rebuilt over time through careful management of their estates and marriages between the earls of Kent and wealthy heiresses. Amabel Benn married the 10th Earl of Kent in 1644 and played a key role in creating new formal gardens at Wrest Park in 1658.

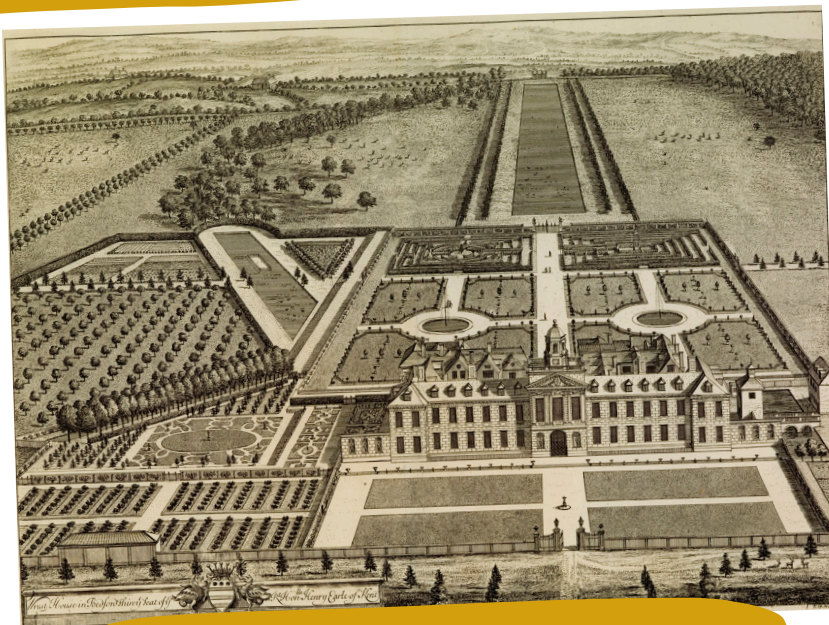
After her husband's death, Amabel worked with her son, Anthony, the 11th Earl (1645–1702) and his wife Mary Lucas to develop the formal gardens and the Long Water at Wrest Park. The Long Water was dug from north to south before 1685. It may have been inspired by Charles II's canals at Hampton Court Palace and St James's Park. Apart from the bath house (1769–71), all other features added to the garden in later periods have been placed in relation to the Long Water.



Amabel Benn (1607–98) was known locally as 'the Good Countess' and helped restore the Grey family fortune.

Mary's inheritance from her father helped to fund this work and improve the house which was a mixture of styles from different periods. A new **classical** north front was added in the 1670s and the main entrance drive was rerouted

to approach Wrest from the north. This meant that the new front became the first part of the house that visitors saw even though it mostly contained servants' rooms and bedrooms as well as a new fashionable library. Despite this **remodelling**, the house was still based around an old-fashioned courtyard shape.



This plan shows what the house and gardens looked like after improvements were made during the 1670s and 1680s.

WREST PARK IN THE 18TH CENTURY

Anthony's son Henry, 12th Earl and later 1st Duke of Kent (1671–1740), visited the Netherlands on a **Grand Tour** as a young man and wanted to introduce Dutch features like walks, canals and **topiary** to his gardens at Wrest Park.

Henry supervised many leading **architects** and garden designers at Wrest Park including Thomas Akres, Nicholas Hawksmoor, Batty Langley and William Kent. Between them they created a large formal woodland garden with avenues, statues and buildings bordered on three sides by canals. Thomas Archer designed the **baroque pavilion** at the far end of the Long Water. The inside of the pavilion is decorated with **trompe l'oeil** paintings by Mark Anthony Hauduroy.



The pavilion was used as a banqueting house for taking tea and entertaining guests.

Between 1717 and 1725 both of the 1st Duke's sons died, he lost money in the **South Sea Bubble** and his London house was damaged by fire. These misfortunes and tragedies meant that the duke was unable to rebuild the main house in a fashionable classical style as he had planned.



Jemima, Marchioness Grey inherited Wrest Park from her grandfather Henry, 1st Duke of Kent.

As Henry lacked a male heir, his granddaughter Jemima, Marchioness Grey (1723–97), **inherited** the estate in 1740. She was very interested in the gardens and employed the famous garden designer **Lancelot 'Capability' Brown** in 1758–60. He softened the edges of the garden by making the canals around the garden more curved and natural-looking. He also remodelled the park but kept the central formal layout introduced by the 1st Duke. Brown thought that to do more than this 'might unravel the Mystery of the Gardens'. His work is commemorated by

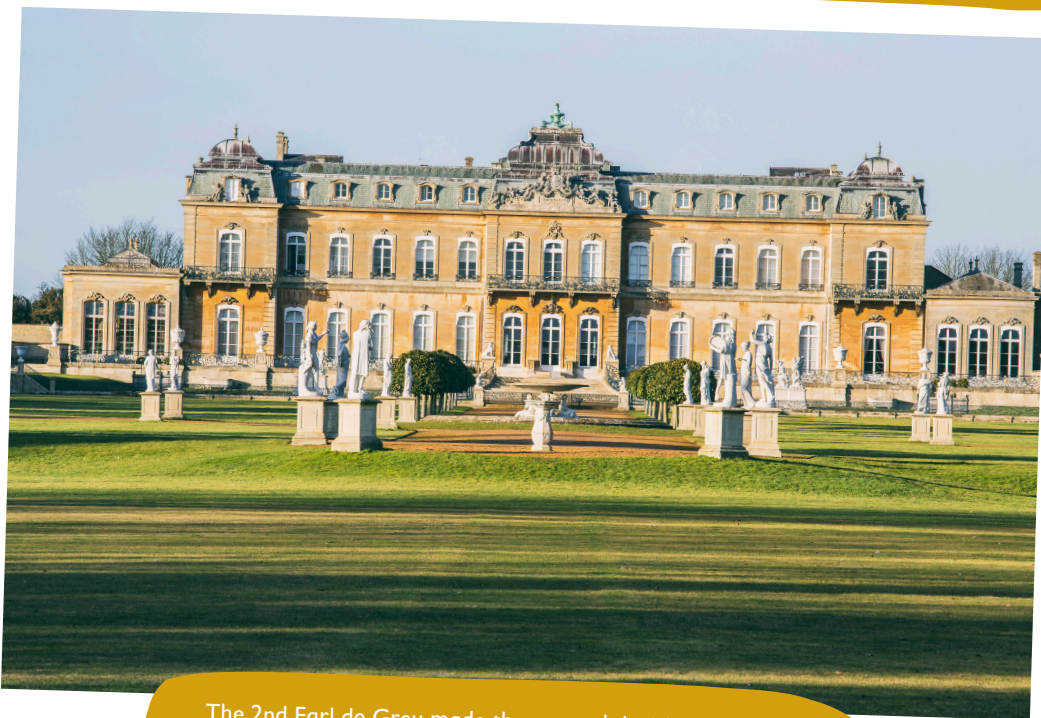
the 'Capability' Brown column you can still see in the gardens today. Jemima also added other fashionable features including the Chinese temple and bridge, the Mithraic altar (see Source 5) and the **picturesque** bath house.

CREATING A FRENCH-STYLE HOUSE

Thomas Robinson, 2nd Earl de Grey (1781–1859) inherited the estate in 1833 after the death of Jemima's daughter, Amabel. Although the gardens were considered spectacular, the large house was crumbling. Amabel had melted down many lead sculptures from the gardens to repair the old house roof.

Instead of trying to improve the old house which had been added to since medieval times, Thomas decided to **demolish** it and design a new house. Between 1834 and 1839 he built this 250m north of the original building. Thomas was an **amateur** architect and made an unusual decision to use an 18th-century French style of **architecture**. This matched a new gate and lodges at the entrance to the estate bordering the village of Silsoe which he had built in 1826.

The earl created the upper garden between the new house and existing garden in the 1830s, using a French style to complement the new house and his **ancestors'** work in the existing gardens. He also built the Orangery on the site of the 1st Duke of Kent's greenhouse designed by Batty Langley. In 1856, he built a log cabin called the Petit Trianon for his grandchildren to use as a playhouse. The following year, the earl created a large walled garden to replace older kitchen gardens and laid out the Evergreen Garden next to the Orangery.



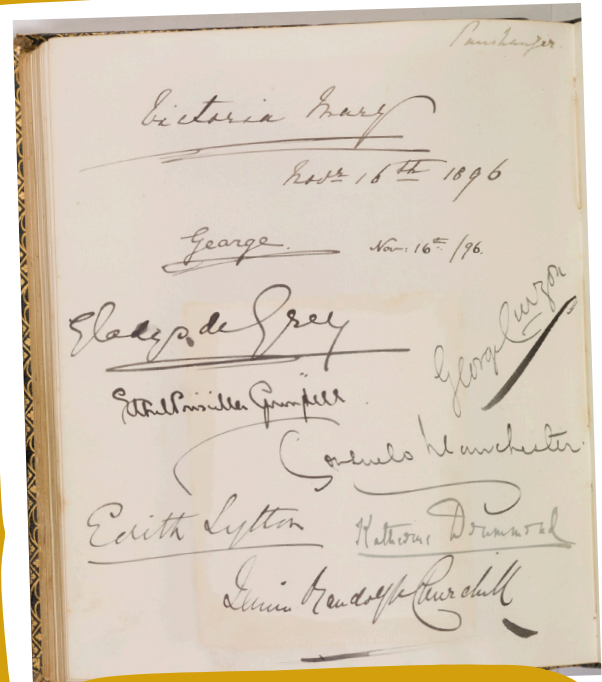
The 2nd Earl de Grey made the unusual decision to build a French-style mansion at Wrest Park less than 20 years after the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

HOSTING ARISTOCRATS AND ROYALS AT WREST PARK

In the 1880s–90s, an **elite** social and intellectual group called ‘The Souls’ gathered at Wrest to socialise away from divisions caused by political issues of the time like **Irish Home Rule**. It was led by future prime minister Arthur Balfour (known as ‘King Arthur’). Ethel ‘Ettie’ Fane, later Lady Desborough (1867–1952), was a member of the group. She had grown up at Wrest Park and visited regularly with fellow ‘Souls’.

Auberon Herbert, 8th Baron Lucas (known as ‘Bron’) inherited Wrest Park from his uncle Francis, 7th Earl Cowper in 1905 but he didn’t spend much time there. He was a **correspondent** covering the Boer War in South Africa between 1900 and 1902. Then he served in several different government departments. In 1905, Bron leased Wrest

Park to the American **ambassador** Whitelaw Reid. He entertained many important visitors at the house, including King Edward VII (1909) and former American president Theodore Roosevelt (1911).



Guestbooks record a variety of high society visitors to Wrest Park during the late 1800s.
Source: Historic England Archive



The American ambassador hosted important visitors at Wrest Park, including King Edward VII in 1909.

RUNNING A FIRST WORLD WAR HOSPITAL

Bron offered Wrest Park to the government as a hospital in August 1914. It was first used as a **convalescent home** before being transformed into a base hospital in November 1914. This hospital took casualties directly from the front line in France. Bron's sister, Nan, trained at the Metropolitan Hospital in London and became the **matron** at Wrest Park's hospital in February 1915. The hospital became known as one of the best-run country house hospitals under her leadership. Her diaries and scrapbooks have helped us understand what the facility was like. She worked with a medical officer who could call on three London-based **surgeons** as needed and a team of around 24 nurses. The nurses worked in **shifts** so there was always someone on duty.

Wounded soldiers arrived at Ampthill station by train and were met by ambulances and cars that would transport them to Wrest Park, 5 miles away. They were stripped and bathed in the 'louse house' on arrival to make sure that they were clean before they were taken onto the wards.

There were three wards at Wrest Park. A Ward was in the ground floor reception rooms and was for the most serious cases; B Ward was made up of most of the bedrooms on the first floor; and C Ward was in parts of the service wing. An **operating theatre** and x-ray room were located on the first floor.

Between 1914 and 1916, 1,600 patients passed through Wrest Park. Most soldiers stayed for just a few weeks before moving on to one of several nearby country houses to convalesce. Activities like amateur dramatics, cricket matches, fishing and billiards competitions were an important part of life at Wrest Park at this time because they kept up the patients' **morale**.

A fire started in the upper floor of the house on 14 September 1916 and all 156 patients were evacuated safely. The damage was so severe that the hospital at Wrest Park did not reopen.



Doctors, nurses and support staff cared for 1,600 patients at Wrest Park between September 1914 and September 1916.

Find out more about the nursing at Wrest Park during the First World War by searching the English Heritage website for 'The Wrest Park Nurses'.



WREST PARK AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR

After Bron died serving as a **reconnaissance pilot** in 1916, Wrest Park was sold to an **industrialist** called John George Murray from the north-east of England. Murray restored the damaged mansion, adding electric light and central heating and he tidied up parts of the garden. Murray sold parts of the parkland to the Essex Timber Company who cut down a lot of trees in the landscape in 1934. A lot of the statues from the gardens were also sold or removed. In 1939, Murray finally sold the house and grounds to the Sun Insurance Company who used the house as their **headquarters** during the Second World War.

Following the war, the Ministry of Works acquired Wrest Park in 1946 and let it to the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering from 1947. The Institute moved in gradually

between June 1947 and July 1948. It was the main centre for agricultural engineering research in Britain and was later known as the Silsoe Research Institute.

When the Institute closed in 2006, English Heritage took over the house and began a 20-year project to restore the gardens to how they looked before 1917. The project was funded by the Heritage Fund and The Wolfson Foundation.



The ground below the Atlas Pond was ploughed by the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering who used the area for potato experiments during the 1960s. Source: Vic Rees

GLOSSARY

TRICKY TERMS AND
WHAT THEY MEAN

Below is a list of words you might come across while exploring Wrest Park. Use this Glossary to find out what they mean.

amateur – someone who pursues an interest for pleasure rather than as a job

ambassador – a diplomat sent to a foreign country to represent their own country

ancestor – an individual who a person is descended from

architect – a person who designs buildings and rooms

architecture – the design of buildings

aristocratic – referring to people in the upper classes, who are usually rich, own large areas of land and often have titles like ‘Duke’ or ‘Earl’

barony – the land (estate) belonging to a baron (a land-holding nobleman)

baroque – a style of architecture, art and music from the 17th and 18th centuries which was characterised by its use of ornate details

classical – a word to show something relates to ancient Greece or Rome. At Wrest Park, there are examples of classical architectural features inspired by ancient Greece and ancient Rome.

convalescent home – a facility where patients are able to rest and recover from surgery. During the First World War, many country houses were used in this way to look after wounded soldiers.

correspondent – a reporter for a news organisation, often serving overseas



The baroque pavilion at the end of the Long Water was designed by Thomas Archer and built between 1709 and 1711.

demolish – to pull down or knock down a building

Earl – a title given to an English nobleman ranking above ‘baron’ and below ‘duke’

editor – a person who decides on the final content of a written publication like a book, newspaper or magazine

elite – used to describe the most wealthy, most powerful or best-educated group in a society

estate – an area of land or property

fortune – a large amount of money and/or possessions including property

Grand Tour – a tradition of taking a trip around Europe, popular with wealthy men and women in their early twenties. Travellers often visited ancient sites, to seek inspiration and add to their cultural education.

headquarters – a building from which an organisation is managed

heir/heiress – a person who has a legal right to own the family estates

industrialist – someone who is involved in the owning, running or management of industry. Many industrialists owned mills or factories.

inherit – to be given money, objects or titles when someone dies

Irish Home Rule – a movement in the late 19th century aimed at creating an Irish government within the United Kingdom. Prime Minister William Gladstone supported Irish Home Rule in the 1880s but faced opposition both in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Ireland remained under British imperial rule until the 1920s.



Jemima, Marchioness Grey installed a column in the gardens to commemorate ‘Capability’ Brown’s work during the 18th century.

Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown

– (1716–83) a famous landscape architect who particularly designed natural-looking landscape parks and worked at Wrest Park from 1758–60

Lord Treasurer – a senior official responsible for managing the royal treasury, where the king or queen kept their money, gold, silver and jewels

manor – an area of land held by a nobleman (for example a lord, earl or duke)

matron – a senior female nurse in a hospital who oversees and leads teams of nurses



Nan Herbert set up and ran the hospital at Wrest Park during the First World War. She became its matron in February 1915.

morale – the confidence and enthusiasm of a group of people. During wartime, it was important to keep morale high so that people remained motivated to help the war effort.

mortgage – a legal agreement where a bank lends money to an individual on the understanding that interest will be paid on the loan. If payments are not made, the bank can claim the property as payment.

Norman Conquest – the occupation of England after the defeat of King Harold II by the forces of Duke William of Normandy after winning the Battle of Hastings in 1066

operating theatre – a hospital room where operations are carried out



During the First World War there was an operating theatre on the first floor of the main house at Wrest Park.

patron – someone who gives money or support to a person, organisation or cause

pavilion – a decorative outbuilding that is used as a shelter in a large garden or park

picturesque – an artistic and design movement popular in the 18th century. This was based on the idea that landscapes should be designed like landscape paintings with a foreground, middle ground and background.

reconnaissance pilot – a pilot who flies a plane to gather military information such as the geography of the area and enemy equipment and weapons housed there.

This can be used to help decide on military strategy and tactics.

remodel – to change something's form or structure, particularly relating to buildings

scholar – a highly educated person, someone who has studied a subject to a high level

shifts – different groups of workers doing the same job in different periods of time. For example, at Wrest Park, nurses worked in shifts throughout the day and night so that patients were never left unattended.

surgeon – a medical doctor who is qualified to practise surgery

South Sea Bubble (1720) – the collapse of the South Sea Company which was founded in 1711 to pay off government debt. In 1713 the company was granted a monopoly to supply enslaved Africans to the islands in the 'South Seas' (South America and its surrounding waters). When the company collapsed, thousands of investors lost money, and many were financially ruined. An investigation revealed widespread fraud amongst the company's directors and corruption in the Cabinet.

thegn – an Anglo-Saxon aristocrat who owned land in one or more counties during the 10th and 11th centuries in England

topiary – trees or shrubs trimmed into ornamental shapes

trompe l'oeil – visual illusions in art designed to trick the eye into seeing painted details as three-dimensional objects. The Archer Pavilion's interior uses trompe l'oeil to make it seem as though it is filled with ornate carvings rather than paintings.



Mark Anthony Hauduroy painted the interior of the Archer Pavilion using trompe l'oeil decorations c.1710.

NORMANS
1066 – 1154

EVENTS IN BRITISH HISTORY

1066

William the Conqueror is victorious at the Battle of Hastings. The Norman Conquest of England begins.

1086

Domesday Book is completed.



1087

William dies. His son, William Rufus, is crowned King William II.

1000

1215

King John signs Magna Carta at Runnymede.

1216

King John dies. His son, Henry III, is crowned at nine years old.



1200

c.1042–66

The manor of Wrest is held by a thegn called Leofnoth during the reign of Edward the Confessor.

After 1066

A man named Hugh is given the barony of Wahull which includes the manor of Wrest.



11TH CENTURY

Mid 13th century

John Grey of Shirland acquires manors in Bedfordshire on his marriage to an heiress, Emma de Cauz.



13TH CENTURY

HISTORY OF WREST PARK



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

PLANTAGENETS

1154–1485

1307

Edward I dies and his son, Edward II, becomes king.

1327

Edward II is forced to give up his crown. His son, Edward III, becomes king.

1337

The Hundred Years War between England and France begins.

1300

Early 1300s

The manor of Wrest is the Grey family's primary English residence.

1308

Reynold de Grey holds a 'capital messuage (dwelling house with land) with dovecote, worth 4s. per annum'.

1320

A chapel is added to the house.



14TH CENTURY

1415

Henry V (r.1413–22) and his English army win the Battle of Agincourt, defeating Charles VI of France.

1455–87

The Wars of the Roses between the Yorkists supporting Richard, Duke of York, and the Lancastrians supporting King Henry VI (r.1422–61 and 1470–71).

1485

Henry VII wins against Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth and establishes the Tudor dynasty.

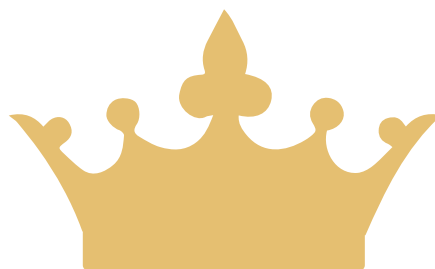
1400

1463

Edmund Grey, 4th Baron Grey of Ruthin, is made Lord Treasurer by Edward IV.

1465

Edmund Grey is made Earl of Kent.



15TH CENTURY

TUDORS

1485–1603

1509

Henry VII dies. His son Henry becomes King Henry VIII.

1534

The Acts of Supremacy recognise Henry as head of the Church in England. Pope Clement excommunicates Henry.

1588

English ships defeat the Spanish Armada.



1500

1503

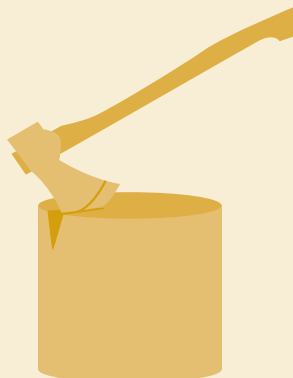
Richard Grey, 3rd Earl of Kent inherits Wrest. He sells, mortgages and gives away most of the family's property to pay his debts.

After 1524

After Richard's death, his half brother Henry, the 4th Earl, buys back some Bedfordshire manors including Wrest.

1587

Henry Grey, 6th Earl of Kent presides over the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots.



16TH CENTURY

STUARTS

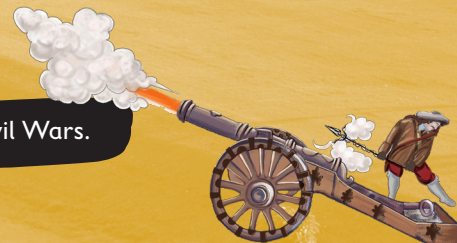
1603–1714

1603–25

Reign of James I of England (James VI of Scotland). The two kingdoms are united under his rule.

1642–51

The English Civil Wars.



1600

c.1658

Amabel Benn, known as 'the Good Countess', revives the family fortunes with careful estate management and lays out the first known gardens.

1670s–80s

Mary Lucas, wife of Anthony the 11th Earl, inherits a large fortune from her father. This is used to rebuild the north front of the house and lay out extensive formal gardens to the south.

1690s

Anthony's heir, Henry, goes on a Grand Tour of Holland, Germany and Italy where he develops an interest in art, architecture and garden design.



17TH CENTURY

GEORGIANS

1714–1837

1707

Under Queen Anne, the Act of Union unites the Scottish and English parliaments to form the Parliament of Great Britain.



1714

Queen Anne dies. George, Elector of Hanover becomes King George I.

1775–83

The American War of Independence between Britain and its American colonies.

1789–99

The French Revolution leads to the end of the French monarchy.



1700

1702–40

Henry inherits Wrest as the 12th Earl of Kent and improves the gardens with canals, avenues, the great woodland garden either side of the Long Water, serpentine paths, water features and the Archer Pavilion.

1710

Henry trades his office of Lord Chamberlain for the title of Duke of Kent. He commissions Thomas Archer to build the pavilion and Hill House on Cain Hill to mark his new status.



18TH CENTURY

1740

Henry's granddaughter Jemima inherits Wrest Park and the title Marchioness Grey. She commissions 'Capability' Brown to work in the garden and erects new buildings including the bath house, Chinese Temple and Bridge.

1760s–1833

Amabel, Countess Grey encloses the estate, lets part of the park for grazing and melts down statues to repair the roof of the house.



18TH CENTURY

VICTORIANS

1837–1901

1803–15

The Napoleonic Wars are fought against the French led by Napoleon Bonaparte.

1815

The Duke of Wellington defeats Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

1830–37

Reign of William IV.

1833

The Slavery Abolition Act abolishes slavery in the British Empire.

1837–1901

Reign of Queen Victoria.

1886 and 1893

The First Irish Home Rule Bill is defeated in the House of Commons. The Second Irish Home Rule Bill is passed by the House of Commons but defeated in the House of Lords.



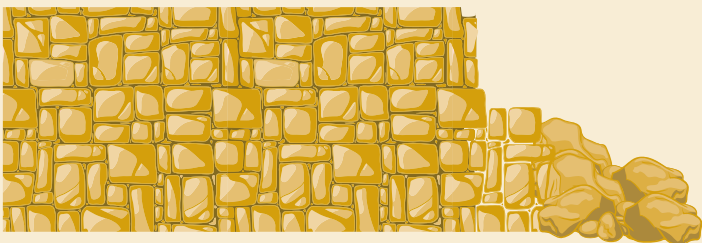
1800

1830s–50s

Thomas Robinson, 2nd Earl de Grey makes changes to the gardens. He creates the upper gardens and a large walled garden.

1834–39

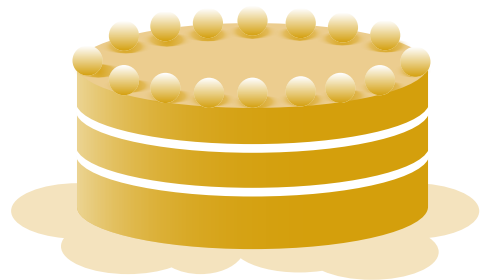
Thomas demolishes the existing house and builds a new mansion in an 18th-century French style.



19TH CENTURY

1880s–90s

Wrest Park hosts members of the elite social and intellectual group known as 'The Souls'. This includes Lady Desborough (born Ettie Fane) who had grown up in the house, and Arthur Balfour who serves as Prime Minister between 1902–05.



19TH CENTURY

WWI
1914-18

1910-36

Reign of George V.

1914-18

First World War.



1914

9 August—On the outbreak of war, the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) is sent to support France.

23 August—Four divisions of the BEF meet the German 1st Army at Mons in Belgium. This is the first major battle of the First World War.

1915

April—The German Army uses poisonous gas as a weapon for the first time on the Western Front during the Battle of Ypres.

7 May—1,200 people die when a German U-boat sinks the British liner *Lusitania*.

1916

21 February–18 December—The longest battle of the First World War is fought at Verdun.

1 July–18 November—Britain and France join together to launch the Somme offensive. This becomes one of the largest and deadliest battles of the war.

1900

1905-12

Wrest Park is leased to the American ambassador Whitelaw Reid. He hosts Edward VII and previous American president Theodore Roosevelt.

1914

Auberon 'Bron' Herbert, 8th Baron Lucas offers Wrest Park to the government as a hospital. It becomes a convalescent home for wounded soldiers, receiving its first patients in September. The house is converted into a hospital in November.

1915

Bron joins the Royal Flying Corps and his sister Nan becomes the matron at Wrest Park. 1,600 men in total pass through the hospital's wards.

1916

The hospital closes in September after the house is badly damaged by fire. Bron is killed flying over German lines in November. Nan inherits his property and titles. She decides to sell Wrest Park.

1917

Wrest Park is bought by brewing and mining magnate John George Murray from Consett, County Durham. Nan Herbert moves away from Wrest Park and marries Howard Lister Cooper.

1917

Murray sells the estate and sells or removes many of the statues and monuments in the grounds. The gardens become neglected.

20TH CENTURY

20TH CENTURY

WWII
1939-45

20 January 1936-11 December 1936

Reign of Edward VIII. Edward abdicates the throne.

1936-52

Reign of George VI.

1939-45

Second World War.

POST-WAR BRITAIN

1952-2022

Reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II.



1962

President Kennedy of the USA begins a naval blockade of Cuba, to prevent the Soviet Union from establishing nuclear weapons on one of its islands.

1939-45

The Sun Insurance Company uses the house as its wartime headquarters.



1946

The Ministry of Works buys Wrest Park.

1947-48

Wrest Park is let out to the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering (NIAE) which moves in gradually over the year.

1948

George VI visits Wrest Park to formally open the Institute.

20TH CENTURY

20TH CENTURY

2008

The Global Economic Crisis is the most severe worldwide financial crisis since the Wall Street Crash in 1929.

2012

London hosts the Olympic Games, known as the XXX Olympiad.

2013

Same sex marriage is legalised in the UK.

2019

Zero-carbon electricity production overtakes fossil fuels in the UK for the first time.

2020

Britain leaves the European Union.

2022

Prince Charles becomes King Charles III.



2000

2006

The Silsoe Research Institute (formerly NIAE) closes and Wrest Park is acquired by English Heritage.

2009

English Heritage begins a 20-year project to restore the gardens at Wrest Park. This is funded by the Heritage Fund (now National Lottery Heritage Fund) and The Wolfson Foundation.

2012

The French Parterre Garden is restored to Earl de Grey's original intricate design.



21ST CENTURY

2016

Detailed research is used to conserve the Chinese Temple and restore paths around the north-east Great Garden. The area is replanted with shrubs and flowering plants.

2017

The dome of the Archer Pavilion is weatherproofed during restoration works.

2019

The cascade and bridge near the bath house are restored and the Victorian and Edwardian fernery is replanted.



21ST CENTURY

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

MAPPING THE GARDENS



KSI-2

Recommended for

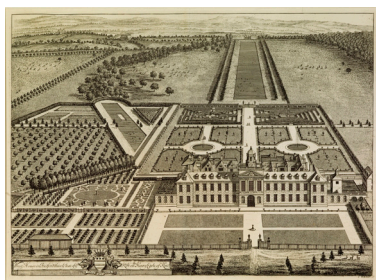
KSI-2 (Geography)

Learning objectives

- Appreciate how the gardens at Wrest Park have changed over time.
- Practise map reading and grid referencing skills.
- Develop an understanding of cartography by using and creating maps.

Time to complete

30–40 mins



A map of Wrest Park showing the gardens as they looked in 1709.

SUMMARY

The gardens at Wrest Park cover 90 acres (around 36.5 hectares) and feature a variety of outbuildings, statues and water features. As a child in the 1730s, Jemima, Marchioness Grey was taught how to survey the gardens. Her tutor was a surveyor called Thomas Wright who used chains, poles and a theodolite (a rotating telescope on a tripod) to measure distances and map the gardens.

In this activity, students will follow Jemima's lead by examining historical maps of Wrest Park to reflect on how the gardens changed over time. Then they'll practise their grid referencing skills to become more familiar with the gardens as they are today before their visit.

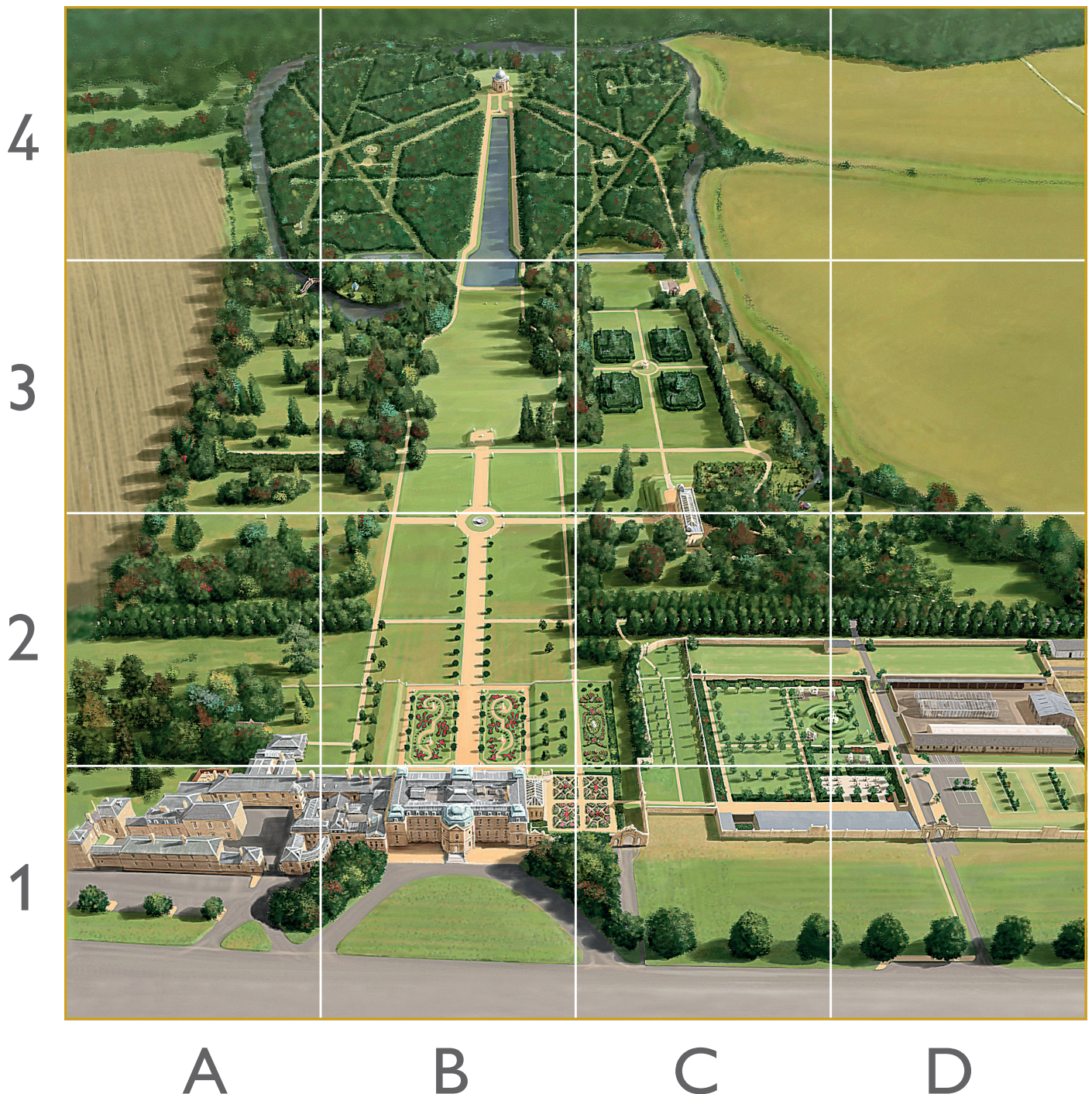
SUGGESTED APPROACH

Introduce students to the three historical maps on pages 79 and 81 and discuss any changes and similarities they can see over time. Explain that each owner of Wrest Park put their own stamp on the site's impressive garden spaces. Historical Information (on pages 11-18) and Sources (on pages 78–86) can be used to support this.

If students are unfamiliar with grid referencing, introduce the concept before giving each pair of students a copy of the Wrest Park map as it appears today (page 31) and an activity sheet (page 32). They will use these to practise their grid referencing skills in pairs.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Build on students' experience of map reading by encouraging them to develop maps of their school or local community. As part of this exercise, you could practise estimating distances using 1m = 1 long stride and introducing a simple scale. Swapping maps amongst the class and setting grid reference challenges will help develop confidence and cement understanding.



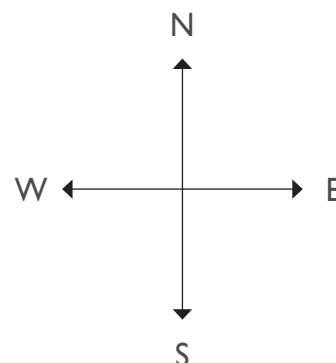
MAPPING THE GARDENS



The gardens at Wrest Park cover a large area (90 acres or around 36.5 hectares or just over 51 football pitches) and have lots of different elements like buildings, statues and water features.

Use the Wrest Park map to answer the following questions.

1. What direction is the mansion from the Long Water (north, south, east or west)? **Circle** your answer on this compass.



2. **Find** the grid reference for the mansion. **Remember** to look across the bottom of the map for the first part of your reference and up the side for the second part (along the corridor and up the stairs).

For example, the Archer Pavilion's grid reference is B4.

-
3. From the mansion, which direction is the site of the old house (north, south, east or west)?

-
4. A. **Identify** the three lakes on the map and **write** their names in the first column of the table below. (HINT: One of these is long and rectangular.)

B. **Work out** the grid reference for each of the lakes and **record** them in the second column of the table.

NAME OF LAKE	GRID REFERENCE

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT



KS2

KS3

Recommended for

KS2–3 (History, Geography)

Learning objectives

- Develop research and historical enquiry skills.
- Consider Wrest Park in its local context, through a depth study or thematic study.
- Identify outstanding questions to investigate during a visit to Wrest Park.

Time to complete

Will vary depending on the scope of the project.



Students could focus on the inhabitants of Wrest Park over time, including recovering soldiers during the First World War.

SUMMARY

Ask students to research the history of the local area as a pre-visit research project. We recommend doing this in groups of about three.

SETTING UP THE PROJECT

Each group should decide on an enquiry question to guide their research.

Provide students with Historical Information (on pages 11–18) and Sources (on pages 78–86) to kick-start their research.

Teachers may also find the Wrest Park page on the English Heritage website and the English Heritage Wrest Park guidebook helpful in providing background information. We have also suggested some Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 thematic and depth study questions for Wrest Park in the Teachers' Notes on page 34.

EXTENDING THE PROJECT

With older students, you could use this research project to open up discussions about primary and secondary sources, issues of reliability and bias, plus the skill of scrutinising historical evidence.

You might like to work as a class to develop a list of effective research skills and techniques before students begin the project. Each group can then use this list as success criteria to help them interrogate historical sources along the way.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

When students are visiting Wrest Park, remind them that buildings can also be used as historical sources. They can use their visit to gather further information to support their project, making notes and sketches in their groups as they explore. Or, students could research an area or feature of the site and act as tour guides for the rest of the class as they present their findings.

LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT

TEACHERS' NOTES

SETTING UP AN ENQUIRY

Wrest Park's history offers a variety of diverse stories across time periods from the Norman Conquest to the present day. There are many possibilities for both thematic and depth study enquiries.

We've put together some suggestions for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 enquiries below.

KEY STAGE 2

Thematic

- Who lived at Wrest Park?
- How did the gardens at Wrest Park change over time?

Depth Study

- What was it like to live at Wrest Park in the 18th century?
- How was Wrest Park used during the First World War?

KEY STAGE 3

Thematic

- How has the manor of Wrest changed since the Norman Conquest?
- What do the styles used in buildings at Wrest Park suggest about architectural design choices over time?

Depth Study

- What can the gardens tell us about the role of women in landscape design at Wrest Park?
- What impact did the First World War have on Wrest Park and Silsoe?



AT THE HOUSE AND GARDENS

Activities for students to do at Wrest Park to help them
get the most out of their learning.

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

WANDERING WYVERN

SENSORY TRAIL



KSI-2

SEND

Recommended for

SEND, KSI-2 (History, Science)

Learning objectives

- Use the senses to engage with different outdoor environments.
- Interact with the natural world.
- Develop communication and observation skills.

Time to complete

60–90 minutes



The Grey family used wyverns in their coat of arms and in statues and decorations across the Wrest Park estate.

SUMMARY

This self-guided trail around Wrest Park has been designed to highlight learning opportunities for students who respond well to outdoor, sensory approaches. Print the map and key (on pages 39–40), enough for each of the adults in your group leading the activities. Students do not need any resources to complete this activity, just their senses!

To prepare for your visit to Wrest Park, search the English Heritage website for 'Wrest Park Accessibility'.

Please contact our Education Bookings Team to discuss any specific access requirements you may have.

USING THE TRAIL

We've put together some Teachers' Notes (pages 37–38) with information supporting the following approach:

- Familiarise students with the site. You could use the orientation photos in this kit to create a social story to prepare students for their visit.
- During your visit, gather students outside and set the scene.
- Follow the trail, stopping at each location to try some of the sensory activities.
- Reflect on which sensory experiences students found most memorable and why.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Find further inspiration for sensory learning opportunities on our website by searching for 'Making Sense of History English Heritage'.

WANDERING WYVERN SENSORY TRAIL

TEACHERS' NOTES

FAMILIARISATION

To help you plan your trip, we can offer you a free advance visit. Simply print off your visit permit (sent to you when you make a booking) and take it along to the site; your permit allows you a one-time free family entry (one additional adult and up to three children). Permit entry is not accepted on event days.

We've also provided some orientation photos on page 10 of this kit, which you may wish to turn into a social story to share with your group.

SETTING THE SCENE

The Wyvern is a mythical dragon-like creature with scales and wings. He has been a part of the Grey family's coat of arms for centuries but likes to escape into the gardens of Wrest Park to explore the changing seasons. You can see him in a sculpture in the Walled Garden and on some of the iron railings around the formal gardens. He loves wandering amongst the flowers, trees and statues exploring his stately home. Today he'd like you to join him as he explores.



Introductory poem

Wander with the Wyvern,
Tour his garden home.
Hear the rustling of the leaves,
See falling raindrops as you roam.

Where is Wyvern taking us?
He shuffles to and fro.
Discover with your fingers
And even with your toes!

Sniff the fresh spring air
Feel the crisp white snow.
Hear birds singing in the trees,
See summer flowers grow.

The garden is alive today,
With smells and sights and sounds.
What treasures will you find today,
As you move along the ground?

continued overleaf ...

USING THE TRAIL

The site map on page 39 is labelled with 10 stopping points. At each stop, we have recommended two or three learning opportunities to explore, as detailed on page 40. Select the activities that are best suited to the needs of your students, at the time you are visiting.

Please do these activities safely and only run/climb in recommended areas. You are welcome to gently look, touch and sniff the things you find but please do not lick or pick anything! This keeps you safe and protects the site.

Please be aware of plants with toxic sap such as euphorbia and hogweed and do not sniff things like bracken, which has toxic spores August–September.

Please refrain from touching things like yew leaves if you are working with students who will struggle to avoid hand to mouth contact before reaching handwashing facilities.

Please also be considerate of the wildlife and other visitors around you.

REFLECTING TOGETHER

Once you have completed the trail, ask students to discuss what they found most memorable about the sensory trail.

They could report back to the Wyvern about their wanderings:

- Something they discovered.
- The most exciting thing they did.
- A question they have about the natural world.

They could also find a gift they think the Wyvern will appreciate (such as a pine cone, leaf, stick or conker).

Please only collect things that have already fallen to the ground and leave them in a pile for the Wyvern to find, out of the way of the main paths.

WANDERING WYVERN SENSORY TRAIL



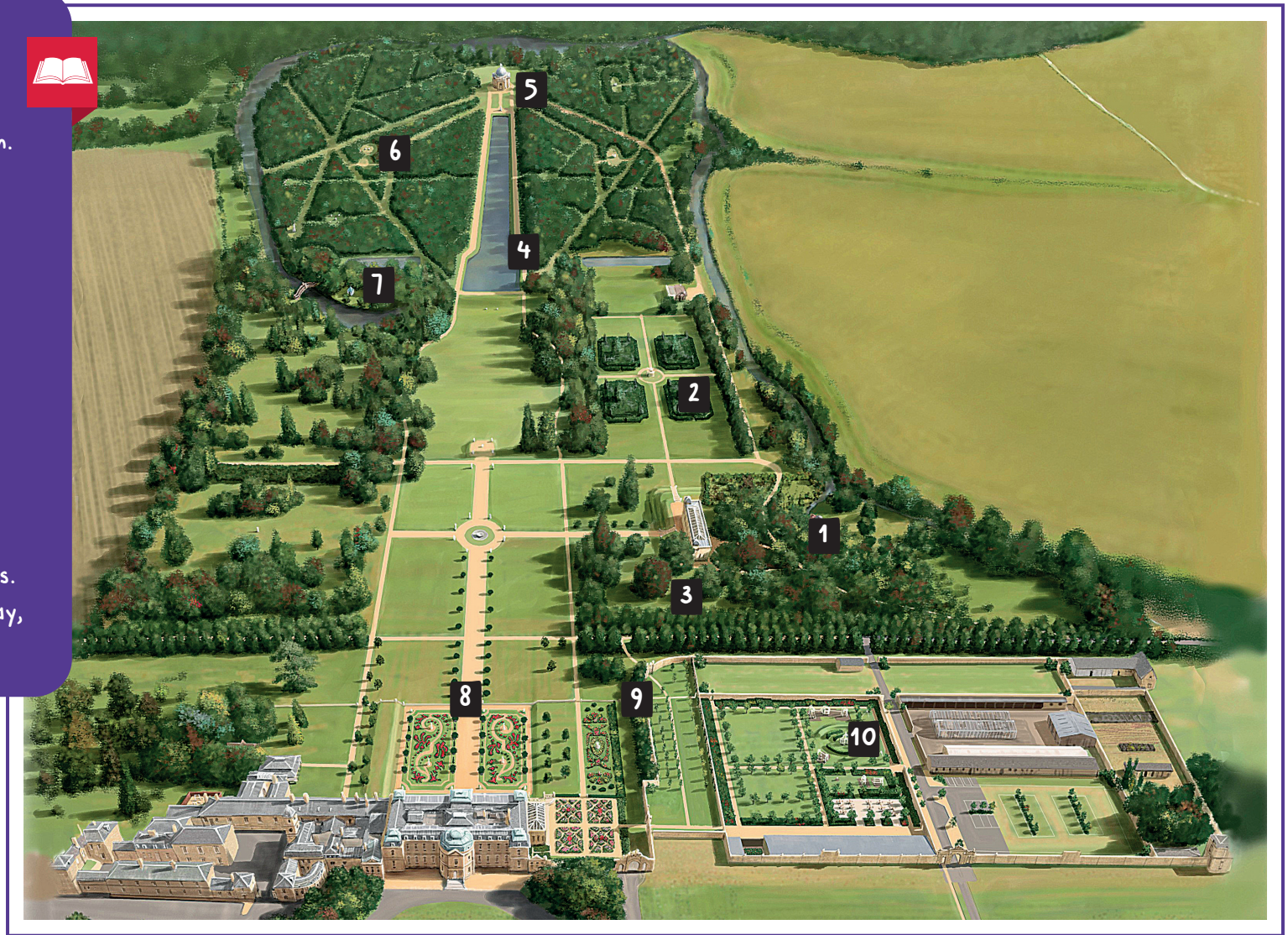
Wander with the Wyvern,
Tour his garden home.
Hear the rustling of the leaves,
See falling raindrops as you roam.



Where is Wyvern taking us?
He shuffles to and fro.
Discover with your fingers
And even with your toes!

Sniff the fresh spring air
Feel the crisp white snow.
Hear birds singing in the trees,
See summer flowers grow.


The garden is alive today,
With smells and sights and sounds.
What treasures will you find today,
As you move along the ground?





SENSORY TRAIL ACTIVITIES




1 BATH HOUSE


 **Listen** to the rippling water.

 **Feel** the rough stone of the bath house walls.


 **Find** animal bones inside the bath house.


2 EVERGREEN GARDEN

 **Find** an interesting tree or bush.


 **Look** for a sunny place and a shady place.


3 BOWLING GREEN


 **Lie** on your back and look up at the sky. Can you see some clouds?

 **Take off** your shoes and socks and **feel** the grass between your toes.


4 LONG WATER


 **Look** for swimming birds.

 **Listen** for a breeze in the trees.

 **Touch** three different leaf textures: smooth, rough and furry.


5 ARCHER PAVILION


 **Close** your eyes and **notice** three different sounds.

 **Crunch** the gravel on the path under your feet.


6 DUKE'S SQUARE


 **Listen** for birdsong.

 **Discuss:** Is the temperature here different to the pavilion area?


 **Pick up** a leaf or twig.

7 CHINESE BRIDGE

 **Walk** across the bridge.

 **Compare** this stone with the bath house. How are they different?


8 FRENCH PARTERRE

 **Look** at the view; spot three different colours.

 **Sniff** a flower.


 **Spot** patterns in the garden design.


9 ROSE GARDEN


 **Take** a deep **breath** through your nose – what can you smell?

 **Strike a pose** like the statue.

10 PLAY AREA

 **Choose** what to play on first.

 **Go up and down** something.

 **Play** hide and seek.



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KSI-2

MARVELLOUS MATERIALS TOP THINGS TO SEE

EXPLORE MATERIALS AT
WREST PARK

Find these materials and places and complete each challenge. Teachers can guide their groups, reading the information before students complete the challenges. Or, students may like to lead their own learning in small groups with support.

Can't find your way?
Use the map to help.



1 COMPOSITION STONE

The Orangery is a French-style building. In the 19th century it was stocked with orange trees bought from King Louis Philippe of France. The urn ornaments at the top of the building are made from composition stone.

WHERE IS IT?

Orangery.



DID YOU KNOW?



Composition stone is made of stone particles, resins (glues) and pigments (colours). It can be moulded into any shape and dyed in a range of colours.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Walk around the outside of the Orangery and count how many types of composition stone ornaments there are. How many of each shape are there? Are there any patterns?



DID YOU FIND IT?

2 IRONSTONE

In the 18th century, it was fashionable to have small buildings in your garden that looked older than they really were. This bath house is 300 years old, but its design and materials have been chosen to make it look much older.

WHERE IS IT? Bath house.



DID YOU KNOW?



Ironstone is a sedimentary rock made by layers of sediment being pressed together over millions of years. It contains iron ore which can be smelted to make iron.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Go inside the bath house and **look** at the floor. What other natural material can you find? (HINT: It is from an animal that lives in woodland.)



DID YOU FIND IT?

3 MARBLE

Many of the statues in the gardens at Wrest Park are made of marble. The sculptures at the centre of the round pond fountain and the mermaids at the centre of the Rose Garden are made of Carrara marble from Italy.

WHERE IS IT? Round pond, site of old house.



DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



Marble is a hard-wearing material but can be carved into delicate and smooth shapes, like human bodies. Artists have said that marble can seem like human flesh because it looks translucent (allows some light to pass through it).

CHALLENGE TIME!



Take inspiration from the statues you can see at Wrest Park to **strike a pose** you think would make a good sculpture.

4 BRICK

The pavilion at the end of the Long Water is made of yellow and red brick. The bricks are handmade and the different colours you can see were created using different ingredients. Each brick was slightly different in shape and size unlike modern bricks which are made by machines.

WHERE IS IT? Archer Pavilion.



DID YOU KNOW?



Thomas Archer designed the pavilion to be a place for entertainment. It has impressive 3D paintings inside called trompe l'oeil (trick of the eye) by an artist called Mark Anthony Hauduroy.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Walk around the outside of the pavilion and **identify** as many shapes as you can.



DID YOU FIND IT?



5 TIMBER

Log cabins were popular in the 19th century, especially after Prince Albert had one built for his children at Osborne on the Isle of Wight. This building is also known as 'the Wendy house' because it was built as a playhouse for Earl de Grey's grandchildren in 1856.

WHERE IS IT? Petit Trianon.

DID YOU KNOW?



This cabin is mostly made of a timber frame with split logs, but it sits on a brick base.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Discuss why you think this timber building has a brick base. What can happen to wood if it sits in damp earth over time?



DID YOU FIND IT?



6 STAINED GLASS

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, it was fashionable to have a dairy at country estates like Wrest Park. They often had pretty features like stained glass as well as cold marble surfaces to help make cream and butter. Stained glass is made by brushing paint made from ground-up metals onto glass and heating it to make sure the colour stays in place.

WHERE IS IT?

Dairy.

☐ DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



In the past, this was where the ladies of Wrest Park could try 'dairying' (making butter and cream). Today, this is where we look after sculptures that are too delicate to be kept outside.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Examine the stained glass in the dairy and **discuss** colours and designs you would use if you redesigned the windows here.

7 WROUGHT IRON

The railings around areas of the gardens like the French Parterre are made of wrought iron. It has been moulded into intricate shapes and in some places it's painted gold.

WHERE IS IT?

French Parterre.



DID YOU KNOW?



Wrought iron can be bent into shapes but it is very tough. It can be kept outside without rusting because it contains more carbon than pure iron does.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Look closely at the design of the railings. **Share** the shapes and patterns you find with your group.

☐ DID YOU FIND IT?



8 PLASTER

Inside the mansion, the rooms are decorated with plaster, wood carvings and even papier mâché.

WHERE IS IT?

Ground floor of mansion.

DID YOU KNOW?



Symmetry was very important to house design in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The rooms at Wrest Park have been laid out and decorated with symmetry in mind.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Stand in the entrance hall facing the door to the gardens. Can you see a line of symmetry (where the decoration in the house and the features in the gardens are the same on either side of an imaginary line)?



DID YOU FIND IT?

9 BRASS

Brass grilles in the floor inside the mansion show how the heating system at Wrest Park used to work. There was a coal-burning boiler in the basement and hot air rose out of the grilles to heat the staircase hall and the ante-library.

WHERE IS IT? Ground floor of mansion.



DID YOU KNOW?



Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc. It conducts heat and can be made to look a shiny gold colour. This helps the brass grilles at Wrest Park blend in with the rest of the decor.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Search for brass grilles in the ground floor rooms of the mansion. How many can you find and where are they?



DID YOU FIND IT?



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KSI-2

TOP THINGS TO SEE

EXPLORE MATERIALS AT
WREST PARK

See if you can find all of these things.
Tick each one off as you find it.



1 COMPOSITION STONE

☐

Orangery ☐



2 IRONSTONE

☐

Bath house ☐



3 MARBLE

☐

Statues ☐



4 BRICK

☐

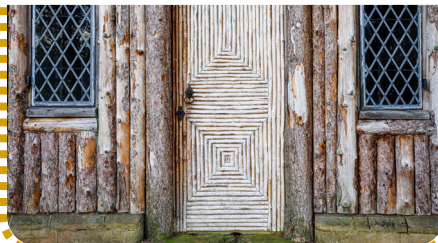
Archer Pavilion ☐



5 TIMBER

☐

Petit Trianon ☐



6 STAINED GLASS

☐

Dairy ☐



7 WROUGHT IRON

☐

French Parterre ☐



8 PLASTER

☐

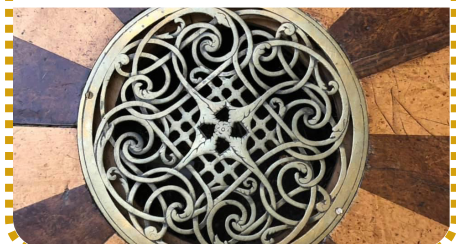
Mansion decorations ☐



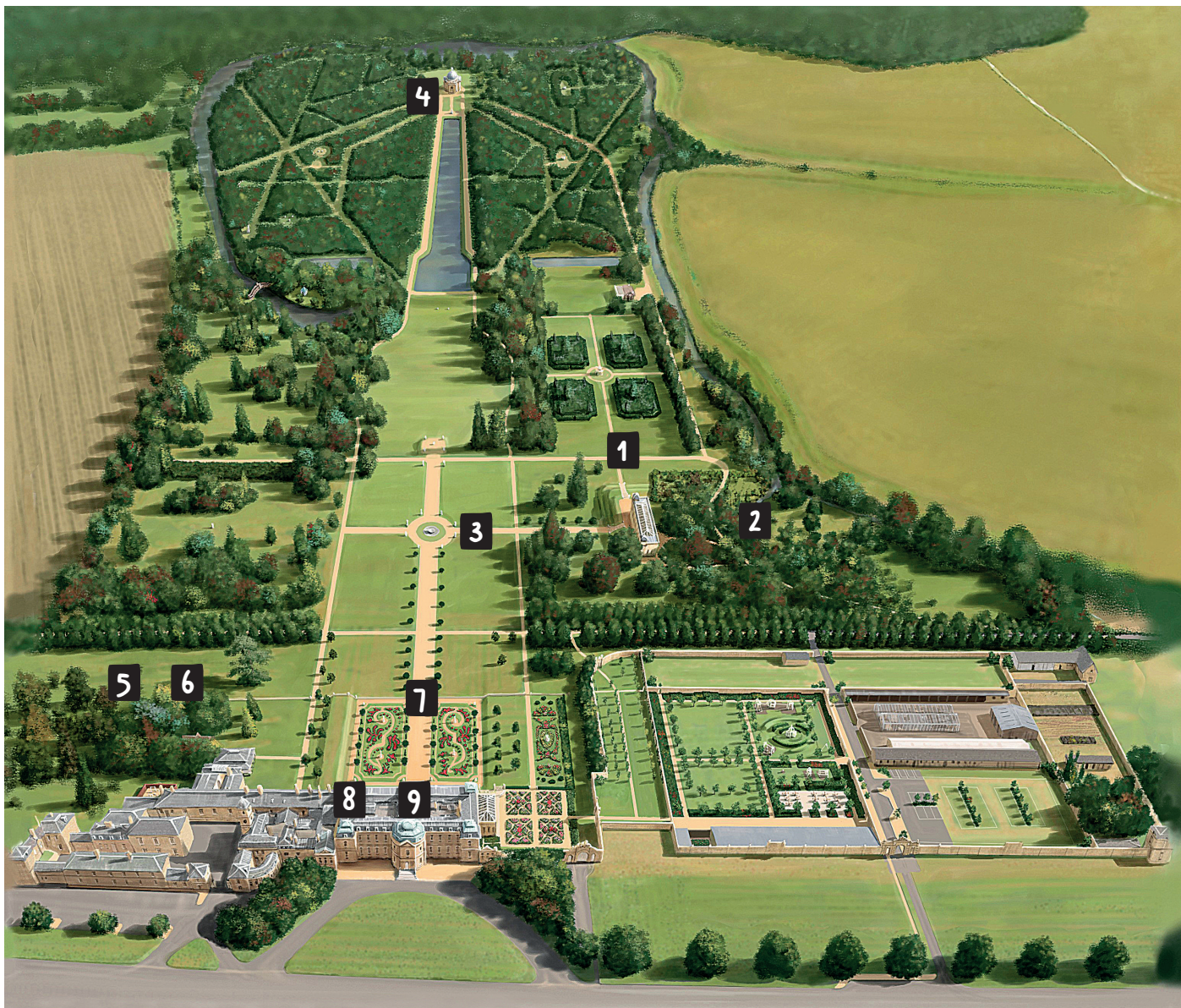
9 BRASS

☐

Mansion floors ☐



WREST PARK TOP THINGS TO SEE MAP



KEY

1	COMPOSITION STONE	4	BRICK	7	WROUGHT IRON
2	IRONSTONE	5	TIMBER	8	PLASTER
3	MARBLE	6	STAINED GLASS	9	BRASS

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

STYLING AN ESTATE

ARCHITECTURAL TRAIL



KS3

KS4+

Recommended for

KS3–4+ (History, Art and Design)

Learning objectives

- Examine the variety of architectural styles at Wrest Park for key features and motifs.
- Understand and identify the influence of international design on Wrest Park's buildings.
- Consider what the design of buildings at Wrest Park reveals about trade, fashion and empire over time.

Time to complete

60–90 minutes

SUMMARY

Wrest Park has been developed by a succession of owners, each keen to place their own stamp on their family home. Over the centuries, this has led to the coexistence of several different architectural styles from a range of periods across the site.

In this activity, students will examine key examples of architectural design from the 17th to the 19th centuries and consider what these reveal about changing ideas related to fashion, trade and empire over time.

EXPLORING ARCHITECTURE AT WREST PARK

We recommend using the trail activity on pages 50–59 to introduce students to the range of architectural styles at Wrest Park. This activity works well when completed individually or in pairs. Group leaders may also choose to use the trail to guide their students themselves and facilitate discussion en route.

If assigning this activity as individual or group work, print off the required number of copies of the trail on pages 50–58 along with the map on page 6 to help students orientate themselves within the gardens.



Wrest Park is home to a range of architectural styles dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries, including a French-style mansion built in the 1830s.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Undertake an architectural audit of your local area to better understand the ages and styles of the buildings around you. Students could choose a local building to redesign in a different architectural style, explaining their choice of style and their use of architectural features.

ACTIVITY TRAIL

TEACHERS' ANSWER SHEET

1. BAROQUE – ARCHER PAVILION (1709–11)

- A. Answers could include: roundels, columns, scrolls, gods and goddesses.
- B. Answer dependent on students' response to the pavilion and its design.

2. CLASSICAL – BOWLING GREEN HOUSE (c.1735)

- A. Tuscan.
- B. Answers may include: symmetry, pediment, balustrade, light green interior.

3. CHINOISERIE – CHINESE TEMPLE (c.1760)

- A. Answers could include: canal, tulip tree.
- B. Answer dependent on students' response to the Chinese Temple and its design.

4. PICTURESQUE – BATH HOUSE AND CASCADE (c.1769–71)

- A. Sketch dependent on viewpoint students choose.

5. FRENCH STYLE – MANSION (1834–9)

- A. The centre of the mansion is aligned with the centre of the French Parterre, the Long Water and the Archer Pavilion beyond.
- B. Answers can include: moulded plaster, gilding, floral and leaf decorations, curves, brass decorations.

6. RUSTIC – PETIT TRIANON (1856)

- A. Answers may include: single storey, level access, big windows, close to the main house, away from open water.
- B. Geometric designs will vary between students.

STYLING AN ESTATE TRAIL

DISCOVER ARCHITECTURE
AT WREST PARK

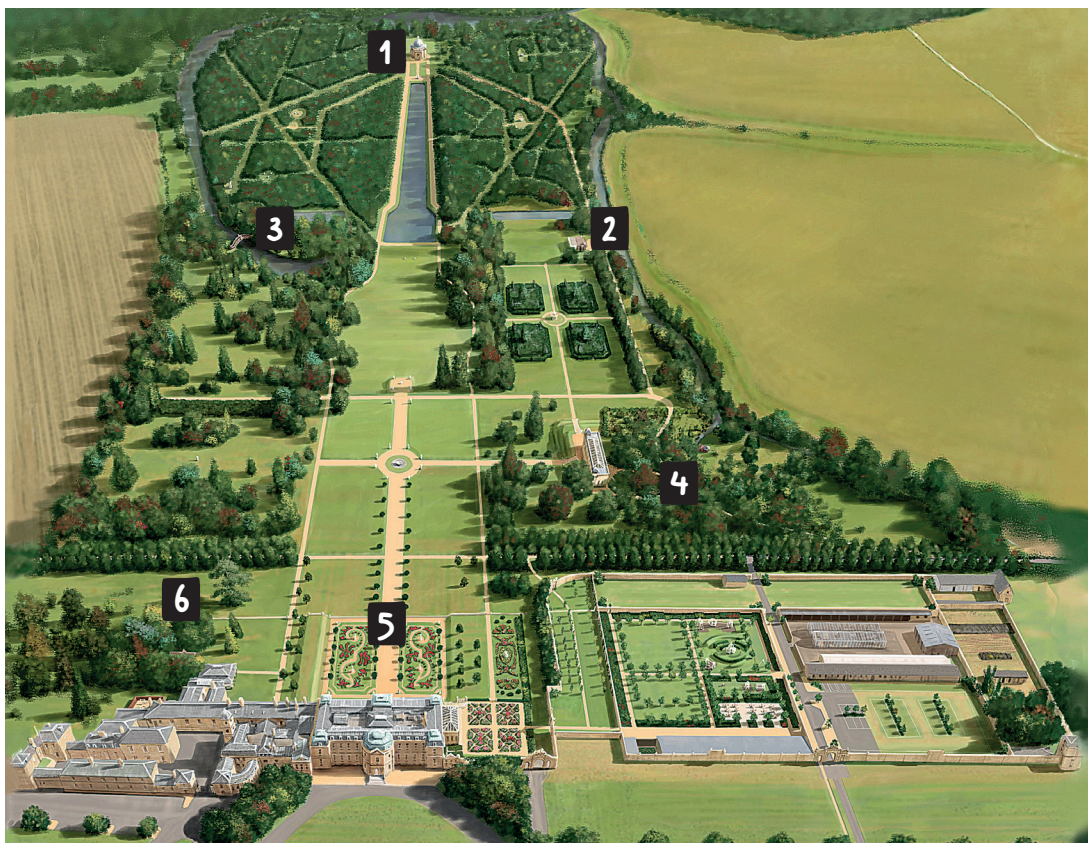
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Wrest Park, home of the Grey family for 600 years.

With each generation came new fashions in architecture and design inspired by foreign travel, trade and empire.

In this activity you will discover six different architectural styles at Wrest Park dating from the 18th to the 19th centuries.

You can visit each stop on the trail in any order using the map below but you must explore with an adult.



1 BAROQUE – ARCHER PAVILION (1709–11)

STYLE IN FOCUS: Baroque design began in Italy in the early 17th century and spread across Europe until the mid 18th century. Aristocratic people on tours of Europe visited and studied Baroque buildings and brought home new ideas about ornate and bold architectural design.

KEY DESIGN FEATURES

- Ornate and elaborate decorations, including intricate carvings
- Cupolas (domes forming or on top of a roof)
- Trompe l'oeil (trick-of-the-eye) paintings



The Duke of Kent commissioned Thomas Archer to design the pavilion and Mark Anthony Hauduroy created the impressive trompe l'oeil paintings inside.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK:

A Look around the Archer Pavilion and **find** three motifs (recurring patterns) used in its design (inside or outside). **Describe** them here:

1.
2.
3.



Sketch a feature you can see at the pavilion that represents your understanding of Baroque design in this box.

MORE BAROQUE ARCHITECTS TO RESEARCH: Sir Christopher Wren, Nicholas Hawksmoor, Sir John Vanbrugh

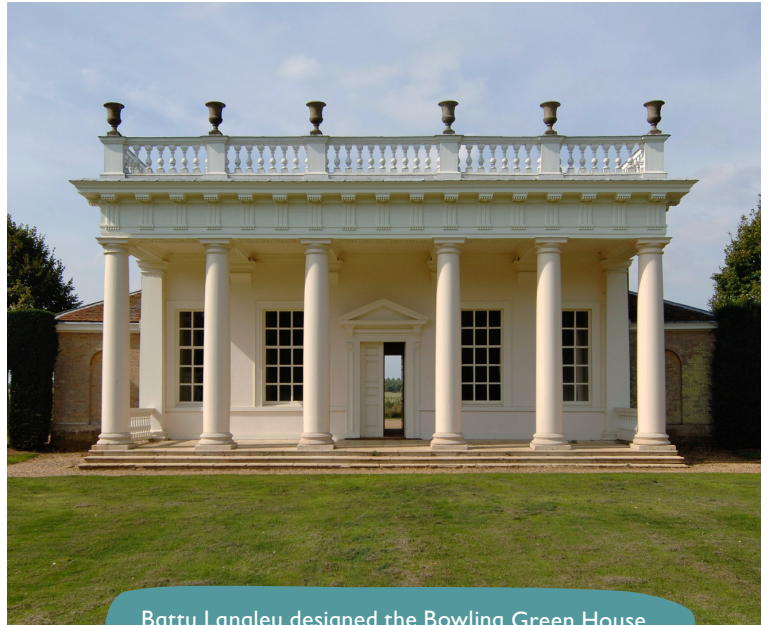
2

CLASSICAL – BOWLING GREEN HOUSE (c.1735)

STYLE IN FOCUS: The Palladian movement grew during the 18th century. Palladianism, a form of classicism, was inspired by ancient Greek and Roman design and the Italian architect Andrea Palladio's (1508–80) interpretation of this in his work. It became popular in Europe in the mid 18th century and reached its height in the 1780s and 90s.

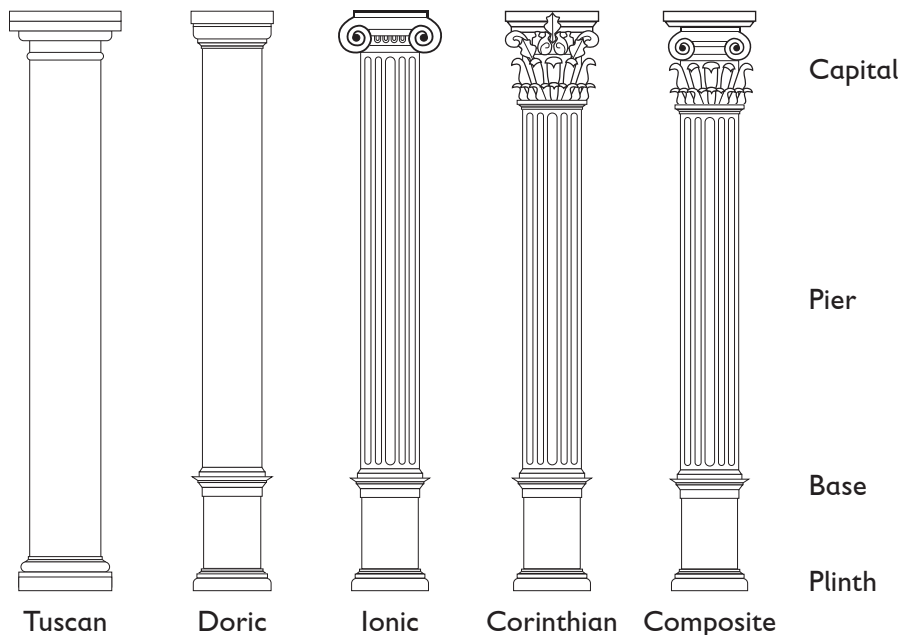
KEY DESIGN FEATURES

- Simple lines and colours
- Straight lines, geometric shapes
- Symmetry and proportion
- Porticos
- Use of orders (using a hierarchy of column design)



Batty Langley designed the Bowling Green House for the 12th Duke of Kent.

Columns – vertical supporting pillars used in classical orders of architecture. There are five main orders: Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite. They are graded by the amount of decoration they have and their proportions. Tuscan is the plainest and stoutest and Composite the most elaborate.



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK:

A **Explore** the Bowling Green House and circle the classical order that has been used in its design.

B **Record** three more classical features you can see around the building:

1.
2.
3.

MORE CLASSICAL EXAMPLES TO RESEARCH: Banqueting House (Westminster), Queen's House (Greenwich)

3 CHINOISERIE – CHINESE TEMPLE (c.1760)

Chinoiserie – a term given to objects made in China for the European market, and goods made in Europe with an oriental character or style.

STYLE IN FOCUS: Chinese design was popular in 18th-century Britain. Although Western buyers liked the intricate designs and fine techniques used in Chinese products, trade with the country took a long time and access was restricted by the Chinese emperor. Some European trading stations made products for the Western market inside China but European artists also started to make their own copies of Chinese designs at home.

KEY DESIGN FEATURES

- Pagodas and pavilions
- Natural imagery (birds, plants and trees)
- Asymmetry
- Red, white, blue, gold, black



This building may have been designed by William Chambers who built the pagoda at Kew Gardens. It was used as a summer house by Jemima, Marchioness Grey (1723–97).

The Chinese Temple at Wrest Park sits within a small designed landscape within the wider garden.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

A **Stand** on the bridge and **look** towards the Chinese Temple. What features can you see that make up the landscape design around the building? (HINT: This includes natural features.)

.....

.....

.....

.....



Examine the Chinese Temple and **sketch** a feature you find interesting in this box.

MORE EXAMPLES OF CHINOISERIE TO EXPLORE: Marble Hill (Twickenham), Royal Pavilion (Brighton), Great Pagoda (Kew)

4 PICTURESQUE – BATH HOUSE AND CASCADE (c.1769–71)

STYLE IN FOCUS: Picturesque architecture and garden design emerged in Britain during the 18th century. Landscape designers like William Gilpin believed landscape designs should be composed like landscape paintings – they should have a foreground, middle ground and background. This was called picturesque theory.

KEY DESIGN FEATURES

- Rough and natural-looking materials, including stones and animal bones
- Elements of wilderness
- Compositions including a foreground, middle ground and background.



Edward Stevens built the bath house and cascade for Jemima, Marchioness Grey. It had a plunge pool and deer bones decorate the floor inside.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK:

A **Sketch** a view of the bath house that records its picturesque composition using the template below.

Background
Middle ground
Foreground

MORE PICTURESQUE FIGURES TO RESEARCH: Humphry Repton, Richard Payne Knight

5 FRENCH BAROQUE STYLE – MANSION (1834–9)

STYLE IN FOCUS: French styles of architecture were not particularly popular in England during the early 19th century. Twenty years after the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo which ended a long period of war with France, Thomas, Earl de Grey built his new house at Wrest Park.

KEY DESIGN FEATURES

- Symmetry
- Steeply sloping mansard roofs
- Triangular pediments
- Domes and cupolas
- Rococo interior design featuring curves, floral designs, gilded decorations



Thomas, Earl de Grey demolished the old crumbling house at Wrest Park and designed a new house 200m to the north. His use of a French style may have been inspired by the estate's formal gardens.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK:

A **Stand** on the terrace in front of the mansion and **consider** the building's relationship with the gardens in front of you. What do you notice?
(HINT: Think about alignment and symmetry.)

B **Record** three more classical features you can see around the building:

1.

2.

3.

MORE EXAMPLES OF FRENCH BAROQUE ARCHITECTURE IN BRITAIN:
Waddesdon Manor (Buckinghamshire), Bowes Museum (Barnard Castle), Boughton House (Kettering)

6 RUSTIC – PETIT TRIANON (1856)

Rustic log cabins became popular amongst wealthy people in the 19th century after Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, built the Swiss Cottage at Osborne on the Isle of Wight for their children. Wooden buildings were inserted into landscapes as rustic features that would seem natural and older than they were.

KEY DESIGN FEATURES

- Single storey
- Split log walls
- Geometric patterns
- Leaded windows
- Brick base



Thomas, Earl de Grey built the Petit Trianon as a playhouse for his grandchildren. It has three rooms which were described in 1885 as a kitchen, scullery and sitting room.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK:

A Look **around** the Petit Trianon and **write** three features that make it a suitable playhouse for children. (HINT: Don't forget its location).

1.
2.
3.

B **Imagine** that you are designing your own rustic log cabin. **Sketch** a geometric design for your cabin's split log walls in the box below.

MORE RUSTIC ARCHITECTURE TO EXPLORE: Swiss Cottage (Osborne)

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

A FIRST WORLD WAR SOLDIER'S JOURNEY



KS1-2

SEND

Recommended for

KS1-2, SEND (History)

Learning objectives

- Understand the journey soldiers made between the Western Front and base hospitals in Britain.
- Use replica objects and smell boxes to immerse students in the realities of a First World War hospital.
- Reflect on the importance of nurses to the success of the Wrest Park hospital.

Time to complete

7-10 minutes per stop; 6 stops



Use our bookable trail to follow a First World War soldier's journey through the hospital at Wrest Park.

SUMMARY

To ensure that this resource is available on the day of your visit please book the resource with our Education Bookings Team.

In this self-led tour, students will follow the experiences of soldiers arriving at the hospital at Wrest Park during the First World War. Through a mixture of interactive activities, smell boxes and objects they'll discover what life was like here for convalescing soldiers and the nurses who cared for them. The tour notes can be found in this pack on pages 61-65.

Space inside the mansion is limited so we recommend that only 10 students at a time take part in this activity. You may wish to assign other activities from this kit which encourage the rest of your group to explore the wider site before switching students over. Please remember that students must be accompanied at all times during their visit.

SUGGESTED APPROACH

In the tour resource at Wrest Park you will find:

- A copy of the tour notes, including supporting flashcards.
- Replica objects: carbolic soap, bandages, fez hat.
- Smell boxes: hospital, earthy, smoke.

You can use as much or as little of the tour resource as is useful for your group. SEND and KS1 groups may wish to focus more on using the handling objects and smell boxes to evoke a sense of place and time. KS2 groups may wish to concentrate on delving into the stories of individuals using the character cards and supporting flashcards at each stop.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Build on students' understanding of soldiers' experiences of life at the Wrest Park hospital by developing creative responses to the stories they've discovered such as diary entries or visual artworks.

A FIRST WORLD WAR SOLDIER'S JOURNEY

TEACHERS' NOTES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS BEFORE THEIR VISIT

Before starting this tour, you may wish to prepare students with some background information about the First World War and wartime hospital care:

- The First World War (1914–18) was the first truly global conflict, involving fighting between 30 countries across several continents. About 6–7 million soldiers served with the British Army during the conflict. Millions of civilians also helped with the war effort by working in factories, on farms or in jobs left open when men went away to fight. It was one of the deadliest wars of all time; 880,000 British soldiers were killed.
- Medical care during the First World War was mostly organised by the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and involved lots of stages of care. Each battalion had a medical officer and stretcher-bearers. Medical officers set up Regimental Aid Posts near the front line where wounded soldiers could be evacuated and looked after by Field Ambulance crews at Advanced Dressing Stations. There were hospitals immediately behind the lines housed in tents. These had wards and operating theatres. Casualties travelled by motor vehicle or horse ambulance to a Casualty Clearing Station (a basic hospital). This would be the first medical facility where soldiers would encounter nurses, as women weren't allowed to serve any closer to the front line. Usually, patients would be transferred to a base hospital for further treatment via a network of ambulance trains and hospital barges. Soldiers would travel back to base hospitals in Britain for treatment on hospital ships.
- Although the Army Medical Service was ready to treat casualties in Britain, the War Office had underestimated the number of soldiers who would become wounded and need treatment.
- It was first estimated that only 50,000 hospital beds would be needed. This number of patients could be housed in existing military hospitals and voluntary hospitals. However, by the end of 1914, 73,000 wounded men had been brought back to England and it was clear that more beds would be needed and quickly.
- A solution for this problem was to encourage owners of large country houses to volunteer them for use as hospital accommodation. Some people volunteered their houses freely, others were requisitioned (taken over by the government to support the war effort).
- Wrest Park was one of the first country houses to be used as a hospital during the First World War. The house opened to patients on 7 September 1914, just two weeks after the first major British engagement in the conflict at the Battle of Mons. Wrest Park's owner, Bron Herbert, Lord Lucas, was a government minister and eager to offer the house to the government as a medical facility.

continued overleaf ...

SETTING THE SCENE

It's November 1915 and the war has been going on for a few months now. At first, Wrest Park was used as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers – a place where they could rest and recuperate after being wounded before they returned to the front line. In October 1915, it was decided that Wrest Park would become a base hospital, receiving soldiers from the front.

The first 100 soldiers have arrived by ambulance from Ampthill train station 5 miles from Wrest Park. The staff at Wrest Park have transformed the convalescent home into a fully functioning hospital in the space of a week.

You are going to follow the soldiers' route as they arrive at Wrest Park, are treated by the medical staff and recover from their injuries. Follow the route in the tour notes on pages 63–65. There is also a map of the stops on page 63.

FLASHCARDS, OBJECTS AND SMELL BOXES

Each stop on the tour has key questions for students to consider and hands-on activity suggestions for students to try. Some of these involve examining some flashcards and replica objects or sniffing smell boxes to discover what areas of Wrest Park were used for during the First World War. There are also character cards students can use to find out more about real people from the wartime hospital.

There are six pouches containing flashcards, objects and smell boxes:

- Stop 1: Auberon Herbert flashcard, Wrest Park site plan
- Stop 2: Patrick Kidney flashcard, ambulance and hospital train flashcards, earthy smell box
- Stop 3: Nan Herbert flashcard, carbolic soap
- Stop 4: Nurse Taylor flashcard, hospital smell box, bandages
- Stop 5: Nurse MacIver flashcard, five flashcards showing soldiers at Wrest Park, fez hat
- Stop 6: Nurse Cockburn flashcard, A-Ward flashcard, aftermath of fire flashcard, smoke smell box

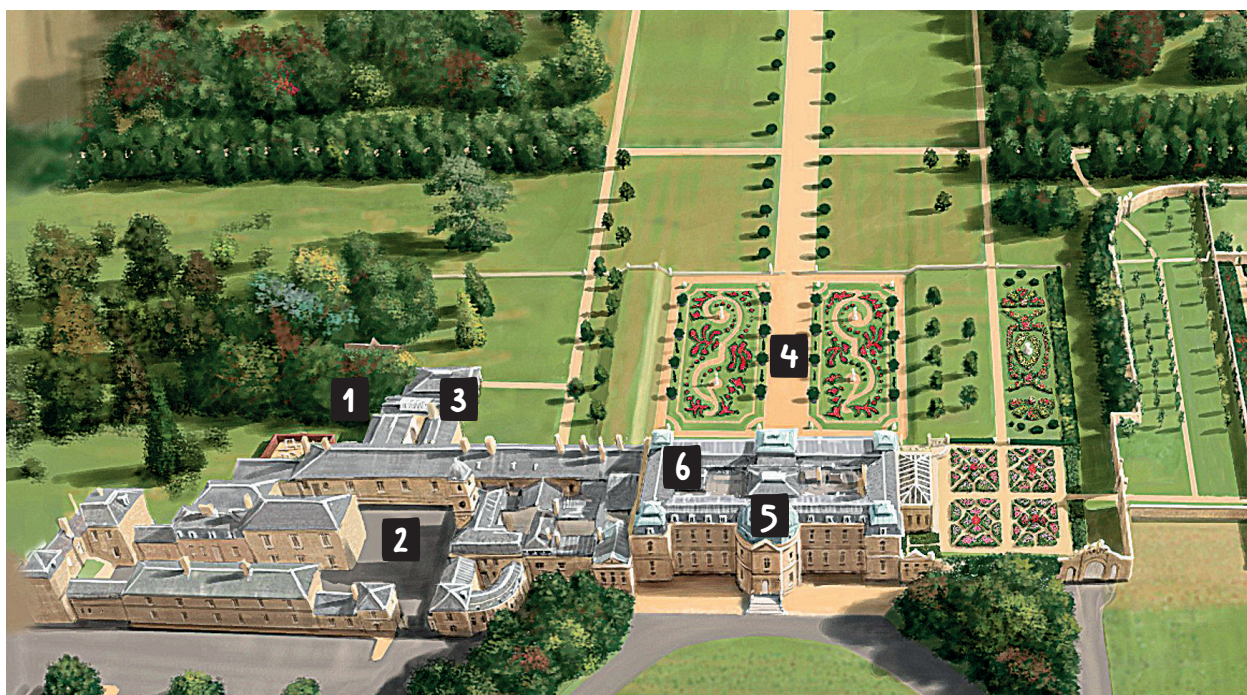
While the handling objects have no sharp or small parts, care should be taken when handling the carbolic soap to prevent ingestion. The smell boxes are self-contained plastic cube boxes with a flip up lid.

Please be aware of other visitors as you move around the site, particularly inside the ground floor rooms of the house where spaces are smaller.

Once students have found out about the hospital at Wrest Park on the tour you can extend this activity by using the 'So You Want to Be a Nurse?' quiz on pages 66–67. The answers can be found on page 68. The sheet can be printed to use back at school or in the education room.

Group leaders may choose to run a dynamic quiz in an open space at Wrest Park where students move towards features (like trees) representing A, B and C answers.

continued overleaf ...



TOUR NOTES

1. INTRODUCTION – EDUCATION ROOM

Character Flashcard: Bron Herbert, Lord Lucas

Character Flashcard Text: I am Auberon Herbert, but most people know me as ‘Bron’. I own Wrest Park and I was one of the first country house owners to offer my house to the government as a hospital during the war. I only want ordinary soldiers to be treated here, not officers.

EXTRA INFORMATION: Soldiers from all over Britain and other countries fighting as part of the Allied forces (for example Australia) were treated at Wrest Park between 1914 and 1916.

DID YOU KNOW? Bron lost his leg as a young man whilst serving as a foreign correspondent for *The Times* newspaper during the Second Boer War (1899–1902 – fought between the British Empire and the South African Republic and the Orange Free State over Britain’s influence in the area). He was a government minister at the beginning of the war and believed passionately in supporting the common man. In 1915 he resigned from the government to join the Royal Flying Corps (the precursor to the Royal Air Force or RAF).

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: Look at the Wrest Park site plan in the purple pouch. Discuss with a partner some of the features the site has which made it a good location for a wartime hospital.

2. A SOLDIER’S ARRIVAL – COURTYARD OF SERVICE WING

Character Flashcard: Patrick ‘Paddy’ Kidney

Character Flashcard Text: My name’s Patrick Kidney but you can call me Paddy. I was injured on the Western Front in France. I travelled on a boat back to Britain, then at Southampton I got on a hospital train to Amptill. A short ambulance ride finally brought me to Wrest Park.

continued overleaf ...

EXTRA INFORMATION: Paddy was from Cork in Ireland. He was treated at Wrest Park for wounds received during the Battle of Mons in Belgium in August 1914 at the beginning of the war. Paddy had a good sense of humour and entertained his fellow soldiers during their recovery. When the soldiers put on a concert in the staircase hall on 18 September 1914 Paddy danced an Irish jig and sang an Irish folk song. He was so keen to win a fishing competition at Wrest Park that he slept with one of the fishing rods in his bed!

DID YOU KNOW? The closest train station to Wrest Park was at Ampthill, 5 miles away. It took ambulances around 15–20 minutes to make the journey during the First World War.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: Look at the flashcards showing how soldiers were transported to the hospital. Find the green pouch and sniff the green smell box [earthy]. What does this suggest about conditions onboard a hospital train or inside a wartime ambulance? Use this smell and the photographs to come up with three words to describe Paddy's journey.

3. RUNNING THE HOSPITAL – OUTSIDE EDUCATION ROOM

Character Flashcard: Nan Herbert

Character Flashcard Text: My name is Nan Herbert. I'm Bron's sister but I'm also the matron at Wrest Park. I'm in charge of running the hospital and organising the nurses.

KEY QUESTION: What is a hospital? What kinds of facilities would a hospital need in 1915? Possible answers include: beds, operating tables, medical instruments, medicines, bandages, cleaning products,

DID YOU KNOW? There was a 'louse house' at Wrest Park. Tiny insects called lice were a constant problem for soldiers living in cramped and crowded conditions. They can infest clothing, irritate skin and cause illness. When soldiers arrived at Wrest Park, they were stripped and bathed in the 'louse house' to try to get rid of these pests [show flashcard of de-lousing baths]. We think the 'louse house' was where the Education Room is today.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: Imagine that you have just been brought into the 'louse house' and that you feel itchy and sweaty from your long journey. Find the pink pouch and look at the object inside. How could this help de-louse a soldier? [Carbolic soap has antiseptic properties and was widely used during the 19th and early 20th centuries.]

4. WARDS AT WREST PARK – TERRACE

Character Flashcard: Nurse Taylor

Character Flashcard Text: I'm Edith Taylor. I trained as a nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. I was working as a fever nurse when the war broke out and I've got a certificate in midwifery.

DID YOU KNOW? There were three wards at the hospital. The ground floor reception rooms of the mansion became A Ward, taking the most serious cases. The large first floor bedrooms became B Ward. There was also X-ray equipment, an operating theatre and rooms for the medical officer on the north side of the first floor. C Ward was in the service wing.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK: Look up at the mansion. What do you notice about the windows on the second floor? How are they different to other floors of the house? [They are much smaller because

continued overleaf ...

this floor of the house was originally used for servants' bedrooms. The nurses slept here during the war and Nan Herbert had a suite of rooms in this part of the house.]

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: Find the blue pouch and sniff the blue smell box inside. What can you smell? [A hospital environment.] Examine the object in the pouch [bandages] – how could this help wounded soldiers recover? Look at the operating theatre flashcard and imagine that you have entered a sterile 20th-century medical area. Role play how you would prepare for entering the hospital (e.g. washing hands, putting on a uniform) and how you would move around the wards (e.g. carefully, slowly) with a partner before going inside the mansion.

5. RECOVERING AT WREST PARK – STAIRCASE HALL

Character Flashcard: Nurse Ridley

Character Flashcard Text: My name's Nathalie Ridley. My father is a Russian aristocrat and Russian ambassador to London. I trained as a nurse early in the war even though I had two small children. I worked at Wrest Park between 1914 and 1916.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: Look at the five pictures of soldiers at the Wrest Park hospital and on day trips. Discuss what is happening in the images. Do they surprise you? Find the grey pouch and examine another clue about life for the soldiers at Wrest Park [a Fez hat].

DID YOU KNOW? The recovering soldiers enjoyed all kinds of different activities at Wrest Park. J M Barrie, the author who wrote Peter Pan, was a friend of Bron's. He took charge of organising entertainment for the soldiers. This included planning outings, visits from theatre groups, concerts and sporting activities in the grounds.

6. A TOP NOTCH HOSPITAL – LIBRARY

Character Flashcard: Nurse Cockburn

Character Flashcard Text: I'm Sybil Cockburn. I volunteered to become a nurse and trained with the British Red Cross and the Order of St John. I came to Wrest Park to do my bit. By 1916, this hospital was known as one of the best country house hospitals in England.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK: Look carefully around the library and compare what you can see today with the flashcard showing A Ward IV during the First World War. What similarities and differences can you see?

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: Find the red pouch and sniff the red smell box inside. Can you guess why Wrest Park's time as a hospital came to an end? [There was a fire in 1916.] You can see the extent of the problem in the flashcard for this stop.

DID YOU KNOW? Officially the Wrest Park hospital had 150 beds but sometimes 200 men were cared for at once. In total, over 1,600 men passed through the hospital between September 1914 and September 1916. On 14 September 1916 a fire broke out in the house, destroying much of the attic. All the patients were safely evacuated but there was so much damage that the hospital had to close. Bron Herbert died serving as a reconnaissance pilot in November 1916. After his death, Nan sold Wrest Park in 1917.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A NURSE?



Nurses were vital to the success of the wartime hospital. Work on your own or in a pair to answer the following questions about nursing at Wrest Park during the First World War.

1 Do you think that the nurses at Wrest Park during the First World War were:

- A. All men?
- B. All women?
- C. A mix of men and women?

2 How many nurses were there at Wrest Park?

- A. Between 15–24
- B. Between 25–34
- C. Between 45–50

3 Where were the nurses at Wrest Park from?

- A. From the local area only
- B. From the UK only
- C. From all over the world

4 To be a nurse at Wrest Park you had to come from:

- A. A wealthy family
- B. A working class background
- C. Either a wealthy or working class background, it didn't matter

5 What level of training did you need to become a nurse at Wrest Park?

- A. None – enthusiasm was what counted
- B. Some – you'd be trained on the job
- C. A lot of training – being a nurse is a skilled job



6 Who became the new matron (the person in charge of the hospital) in February 1915?

- A. Nan Herbert, the sister of the owner of Wrest Park
- B. Edith Taylor, an experienced nurse
- C. Hannah Mackenzie, the housekeeper at Wrest Park

7 One of the nurses at Wrest Park, Nurse Butler, came up with something called 'Shooting the Dardanelles'. What was this?

- A. A new way of treating leg injuries
- B. A game enjoyed by the soldiers
- C. A pudding eaten at Wrest Park



8 Do you think you would have chosen to become a nurse at Wrest Park during the First World War?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Maybe

Why?

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SO YOU WANT TO BE A NURSE?

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. **B. All women.** There were some male orderlies on the wards, but all the nurses were women. Today both men and women can be nurses but during the First World War nursing was considered a woman's job.
2. **A. Between 15–24.** Altogether there were around 100 people supporting the hospital at Wrest Park. This included doctors, nurses, orderlies, maids, kitchen staff and ambulance drivers.
3. **C. From all over the world.** The nurses at Wrest Park came from far and wide. There were even nurses from other places in the British Empire. For example, one nurse came from New Zealand and another from Australia.
4. **C. Either a wealthy or a working class background, it didn't matter.** Nursing brought women together from all levels of society. One nurse was the daughter of a rich, Russian ambassador (an important person who represents their country in a foreign country), another was married to a brewer (someone who makes beer).
5. **A mix of B and C.** Some of the nurses at Wrest Park were professional nurses who had a lot of experience. Others had never experienced nursing before and, after some initial training, learned on the job.
6. **A. Nan Herbert.** After training at the Metropolitan Hospital in London, Nan took up the position of matron at Wrest Park in February 1915. Under her leadership, Wrest Park became recognised as one of the best-run country house hospitals in Britain.
7. **B. A game enjoyed by the soldiers.** This was named after a short strait (a narrow passage of water joining two seas together) joining the Aegean Sea and the Sea of Marmara in Turkey. The area was a site of intense fighting during the First World War. In the game, a soldier in a wheelchair had to make his way down the length of the ward while the other soldiers in the beds threw slippers, pillows or anything else available at him!



SPOTTER SHEETS AND PLANT AND TREE TRAIL

Visual checklists and a trail that can be used as stand-alone resources or alongside the garden activities provided in this kit.

You can **look** and **sniff**, but don't lick or pick! This keeps you safe and protects the trees.

MAIDENHAIR



This tree is known as 'the living fossil' because it's one of the oldest living tree species in the world. It is endangered in the wild but recognised for its medicinal properties.

OAK



These native trees have grown in England for thousands of years. The tree has to be at least 40 years old to produce acorns.

GIANT REDWOOD



The giant redwood was brought to Britain from California in 1853. This one was used as a Christmas tree until it became too big to fit inside the house.

LIME TREES



The lime trees at Wrest Park have heart-shaped leaves. In winter you can see the trees' hairy red twigs.



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

TERRIFIC TREES

YEAR-ROUND
SPOTTER SHEET

KSI-2

HAZEL



Hazel trees are native to Britain. They produce hazelnuts that are enjoyed by squirrels and hazel dormice in the winter. In the autumn you will see small green catkins on the tree.

TULIP TREE



Tulip trees are from North America. In the summer they have tulip-shaped yellow-green flowers and in autumn their leaves turn yellow.

PINE



Pine trees are evergreen conifers and can live for up to 700 years. These trees stand tall and straight with orange-brown scaly bark.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some of these trees are deciduous, meaning they drop their leaves in autumn and regrow them in spring. Others are evergreens; they keep their leaves all year round.

These birds have made the gardens their home so please **be kind** to them!

CHAFFINCH



Most finches are seed-eaters, but in spring chaffinches also eat insects, which they can even catch while flying.

ROBIN



These sing all year round to keep other robins off their patch. If another robin dares to come too close, they will fight.

BLACKBIRD



Lots of our trees and shrubs have berries on them in autumn, which blackbirds love to eat, along with worms and insects.



BRILLIANT BIRDS

YEAR-ROUND
SPOTTER SHEET

KSI-2

GOLDFINCH



These use their beaks like tweezers to get seeds out of plants. A group of goldfinches is called a 'charm' ... how charming!

GREATER SPOTTED
WOODPECKER



In spring, these use trees to make a fast drumming noise with their beaks. They aren't drilling holes; they are sending signals to other birds.

WREN



These small birds sing very loudly for their size! They don't usually like company, but on cold nights, they sleep snuggled up in gangs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Birds have hollow bones which make them lighter so it's easier to fly.

These creatures have made the gardens their home so please **be kind** to them!

GARDEN SNAIL



A snail is a gastropod, meaning it has a soft body with a flat base which it uses to move around.

EARTHWORM



Worms will eat just about anything as long as it's dead. They have no eyes and they breathe through their skin.

SPIDER



Spiders are arachnids, meaning they have eight legs and a body made of two parts.

POND SKATER



These insects can walk on water! They are predators that feed on smaller insects by detecting vibrations on the water's surface.



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

CRAWLING MINIBEASTS

YEAR-ROUND
SPOTTER SHEET

KSI-2

CATERPILLAR



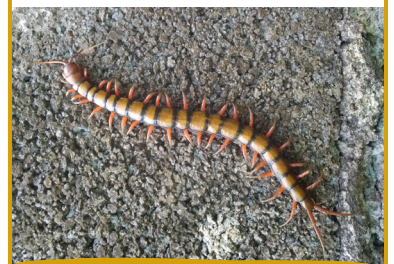
Caterpillars create cocoons around themselves and eventually come out as butterflies or moths. This is called metamorphosis.

WOODLOUSE



A woodlouse is a crustacean, meaning it has a tough outer shell and is related to lobsters and crabs.

CENTIPEDE



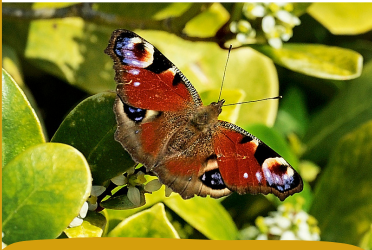
Most centipedes don't actually have 100 legs. They have two legs per body segment and they all grow to different lengths.

DID YOU KNOW?

These creatures are all invertebrates, meaning they don't have backbones.

These creatures have made the gardens their home so please **be kind** to them!

BUTTERFLY



The 'eye spots' on this peacock butterfly's colourful wings look like peacock feathers. It is one of many species that can be seen at Wrest Park in summer.

MOTH



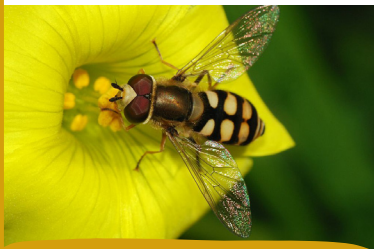
These are the less-colourful cousins of butterflies and are most active at night.

CRANE FLY



Also known as a daddy-long-legs, these look like large mosquitos. Some of their legs sometimes fall off, but they survive by learning to walk differently.

HOVERFLY



Although sometimes confused with wasps, these insects are harmless flies and can't sting you.



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

FLYING MINIBEASTS

SPRING AND SUMMER
SPOTTER SHEET

KSI-2

BUMBLEBEE



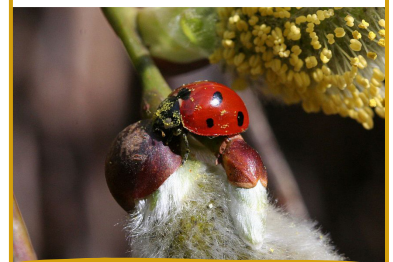
In their quest for pollen, these fuzzy bees scent mark each flower they visit so they don't waste time going back to it again.

HONEY BEE



These honey-making bees will die if they use their sting, but bumblebees will not.

LADYBIRD



These come in many colours and patterns but the most well known is the seven-spot ladybird.

DID YOU KNOW?

Most flying minibeasts are great pollinators, meaning they visit flowers all around the garden, picking up and spreading pollen, causing more flowers to grow.

You can **look** and **sniff**, but don't lick or pick! This keeps you safe and protects the flowers.

CROCUS



Crocuses can have purple, white, orange or yellow flowers. The flowers close at night and in low sunlight. The spice called saffron can be taken from the dried stigma of some crocus types.

DAFFODIL



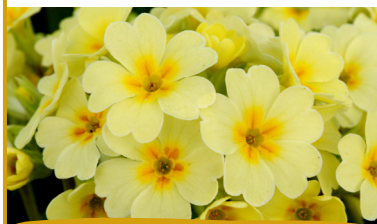
These grow all around Wrest Park, including near the hall and the castle.

TULIP



There are many species of tulip at Wrest Park. You can see a variety of tulip colours in the formal gardens.

PRIMROSE



This is one of the first plants to bloom in spring. Its name comes from the word 'primus' which means 'first' or 'early'.



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

FLOWER POWER

SPRING SPOTTER SHEET

KSI-2

SNOWDROP



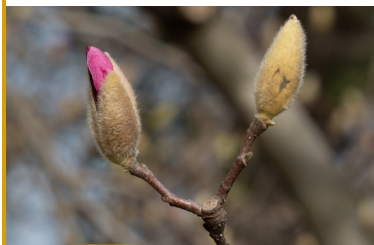
January to March is snowdrop season. Known as the first sign of spring, you will find them growing all around the gardens at Wrest Park at the end of winter.

COWSLIP



The name cowslip actually means 'cow-slop' (cowpat), because it grows best in fields and meadows near the cows!

MAGNOLIA BUDS



Magnolia trees can bloom any time between February and June. In the spring you can see their creamy white buds.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bulbs live under the ground for most of the year, until the flowers pop up in spring. If left alone, the plant eventually dies back and it happens all over again the next year!

WREST PARK PLANT AND TREE TRAIL

[BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

Use the trail map to discover some of the trees and plants at Wrest Park. The trail will take around 1 hour and 10 minutes to walk. If you don't have time for the whole trail, you could focus on a few stops.

1. JUDAS TREE

This deciduous tree has heart-shaped leaves with clusters of rosy pink flowers in spring. It's not native to Britain but can be found in southern Europe and west Asia.

WHERE IS IT? Walled Garden

☐ DID YOU FIND IT?



4. COMMON LIMES

Lime trees are often used at country houses like Wrest Park to make grand avenues (straight lines) of trees to impress visitors. The lime trees at Wrest Park lead to a gated entrance to the gardens.

WHERE ARE THEY? Left of French Parterre Garden

☐ DID YOU FIND THEM?



2. FRUIT TREES

There are many fruit trees in the Walled Garden growing pears, apples and blackcurrants. See which fruits you can identify as you explore.

WHERE IS IT? Walled Garden

☐ DID YOU FIND IT?



5. MAIDENHAIR

This plant is known as a living fossil because it is one of the oldest living tree species on earth. A substance called Ginkgo biloba is sometimes extracted from it for use in herbal medicine.

WHERE IS IT? To left of avenue of limes

☐ DID YOU FIND IT?

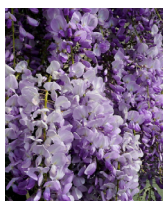


3. WISTERIA

The climbing wisterias at Wrest Park have been trained to grow up the wall in the Italian Garden. Wisterias like well-drained soil and full sun and can live for a long time.

WHERE IS IT? Italian Garden

☐ DID YOU FIND IT?



6. GIANT REDWOOD

These trees were first brought to Britain from California by a Victorian plant hunter called William Lobb. This tree was used as a Christmas tree inside the house until it grew too large in the 19th century. It may be the oldest Christmas tree in Britain.

WHERE IS IT? Near the site of the Atlas Pond

☐ DID YOU FIND IT?



7. TULIP TREE

This tree gets its name from the yellow tulip-shaped flowers it grows in June and July. *Jemima*, Marchioness Grey, planted it here alongside a willow in the 1750s.

WHERE IS IT? Near the Chinese Temple

☐ DID YOU FIND IT?



8. EVERGREEN GARDEN

The Evergreen Garden mostly features plants like laurels, rhododendrons and yew hedges from North America which like acidic soil. These were fashionable when Earl de Grey created the garden in the 19th century.

WHERE IS IT? Evergreen Garden

☐ DID YOU FIND IT?



9. ACACIA DEALBATA

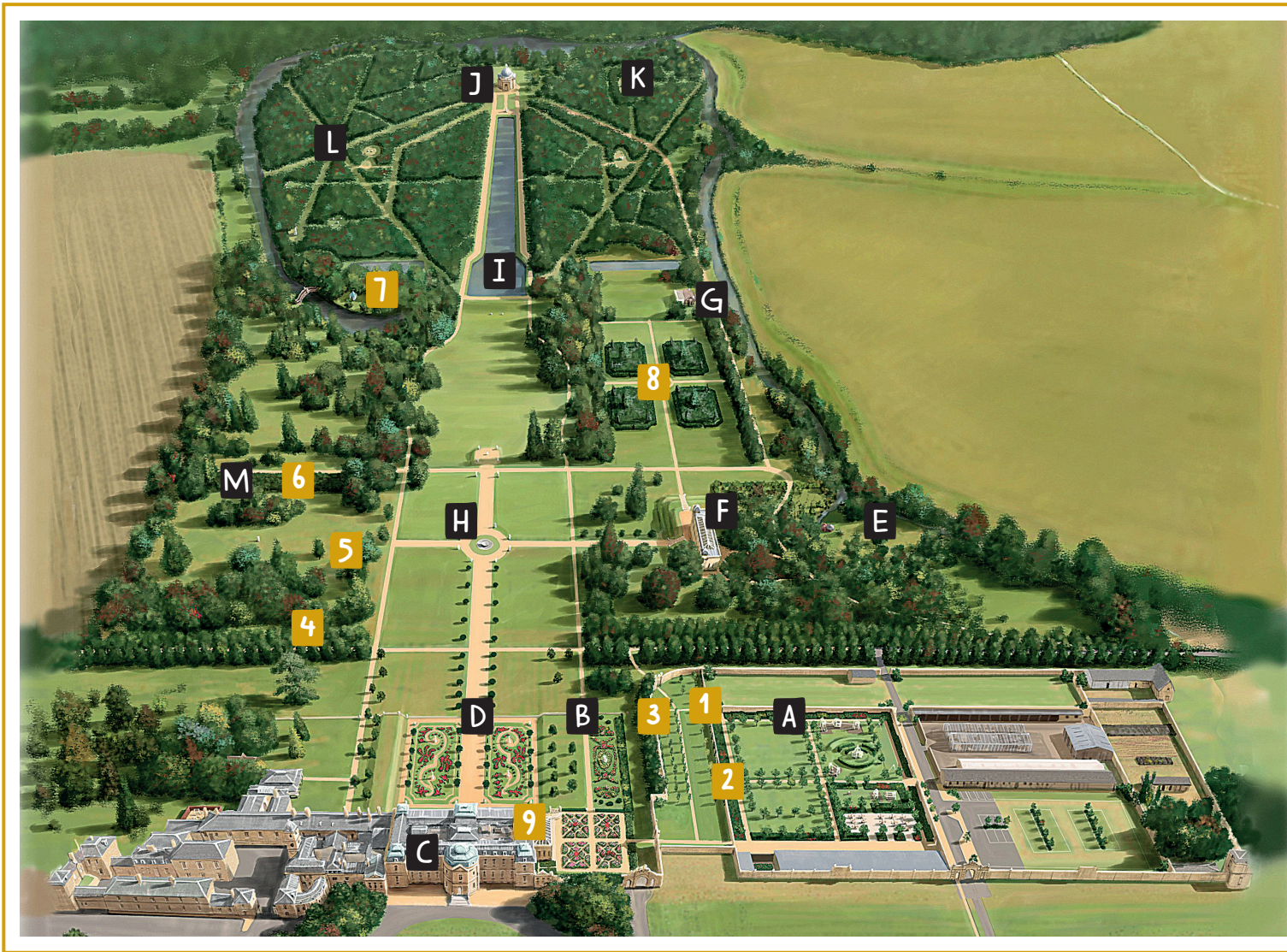
This plant comes from south-eastern Australia and Tasmania. It has yellow flowers and silvery grey leaves that look like ferns. It is a fast-growing evergreen with yellow flowers that bloom in the spring.

WHERE IS IT? Conservatory

☐ DID YOU FIND IT?



WREST PARK PLANT AND TREE TRAIL MAP



KEY

- A** WALLED GARDEN
- B** ITALIAN GARDEN
- C** MANSION
- D** FRENCH PARTERRE
- E** BATH HOUSE
- F** ORANGERY
- G** BOWLING GREEN HOUSE
- H** SITE OF OLD HOUSE
- I** LONG WATER
- J** ARCHER PAVILION
- K** MITHRAIC ALTAR
- L** DUKE'S SQUARE
- M** SITE OF ATLAS POND



POST-VISIT

Activities and information to help you extend your students' learning back in the classroom.

ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

SOURCES

PEER INTO THE PAST

A historical source is something that tells us about life in the past, such as a document, a picture or an object. It may be a primary source, from the time, or a secondary source, created later. Our experts have chosen these sources to help you learn about Wrest Park's history.

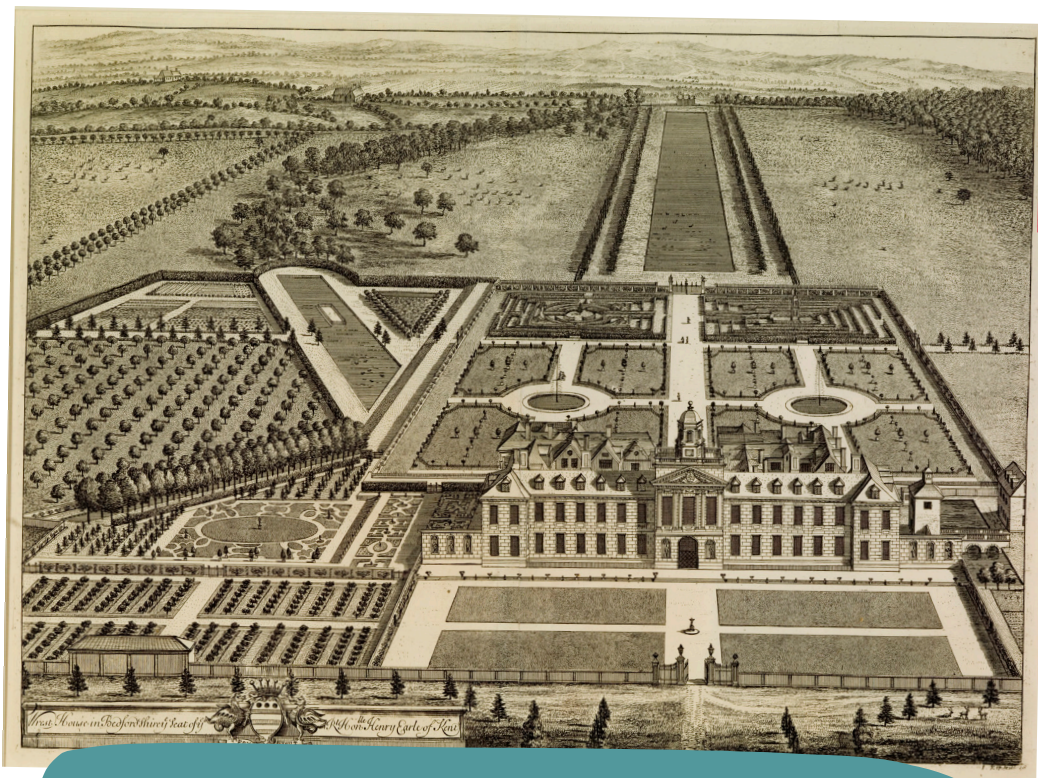
SOURCE 1

‘Take the Magistery [essence] of Pearles, of Crabs eyes prepared, of white Amber prepared, Hartshorn, Magistery of white Corral, of Lapis contra Parvam of each a like quantity, to these pouders infused put of the black tips of the great clawes of Crabs, to the full weight of all the rest, beat these all into a very fine powder, and searce [sieve] them through a fine Lawn Searce, to every ounce of this powder adde a drachm of true Oriental Bezar ...’



This was one of the most popular recipes in *A Choice Manuall, or Rare and Select Secrets in Physick and Chyrurgery: Collected, and Practised by the Right Honourable, the Countesse of Kent, Late Deceased* (1653). It was for a ‘cure-all’ powder which was said to work ‘against all malignant and pestilent Diseases, French Pox, Small Pox, Measles, Plague, Pestilence, malignant or scarlet Fevers ... Melancholy, dejection of Spirits’. Each ingredient was believed to have curative powers but their names are a bit misleading to us today. Crabs eyes for example, were not the eyes of crabs. Instead, they were small stones made of lime which were found in crayfish stomachs. These were powdered down to use in medicines.

SOURCE 2



An engraving of 'Wrest House and Park in the County of Bedford, the seat of the Rt. Hon. Henry Earl of Kent' by Knyff and Kip c.1704. This shows the old house, formal gardens and the Long Water but not the Archer Pavilion which was begun in 1709.

SOURCE 3



A plan of 'Rest Park in Bedfordshire the seat of His Grace the Duke of Kent' (1719). This plan shows the wider Wrest Park estate, including some of the Duke of Kent's additions to the gardens. You can see the Archer Pavilion and the beginning of the planting of the woodland garden on either side of the Long Water.

SOURCE 4

‘The Garden appear’d in full Beauty; the whispering of the Trees, the warbling of Birds, the surrounding Verdure, the Fragrance of Seringos and Bean Blossoms, the Gay Bloom of Roses and Honeysuckles, which are innumerable in these woods, the Smooth Canals sometimes bending like Artless Rivulets and sometimes appearing Silver Lakes with stately swans sailing up and down in them.’

An extract from Catherine Talbot’s diary describing a visit to her friend Jemima Grey’s gardens at Wrest Park in June 1745.



SOURCE 5

MITHRAIC ALTAR

This flint and stone altar was introduced to the gardens by Jemima, Marchioness Grey and her husband Philip Yorke in 1748. The monument was inspired by a collection of letters that Philip and his friends wrote while he was at Cambridge University, pretending that the letters were from Cleander, a Persian ambassador in Athens during classical times. The altar has ancient Greek and Persian inscriptions dedicating it to the Persian sun god Mithras. Visitors to Wrest Park continued to be confused by the monument and many tried to decipher the inscription’s meaning. Jemima and Philip enjoyed this intellectual joke at their visitors’ expense.



SOURCE 6

WYVERN STATUE

Wyverns are mythological animals that look like small dragons. The de Grey family crest featured wyverns and different generations of the family added wyvern statues and decorations to buildings at Wrest Park. This statue now in the Walled Garden was originally one of a pair that sat on the Silsoe entrance gates to the estate. They were made between 1825 and 1830 using cast iron.



SOURCE 7



A plan of Wrest Park from an album called 'Views of Wrest' (1831). This plan shows the outline and positioning of the old house as well as outbuildings including the Archer Pavilion. © By permission of a descendant of Thomas, Earl de Grey

SOURCE 8



A watercolour painting of Earl de Grey's new house at Wrest Park (1839). This image shows extensive walled gardens and the French Parterre. © By permission of a descendant of Thomas, Earl de Grey

SOURCE 9

‘There was only one bathroom in that lovely house and I never knew it used. Our nurseries were at the top of the house, and our nursery maids staggered up the vast stone stairs four times a day, carrying heavy trays of meals. The downstairs rooms were lit by lamps, wheeled round the house on trolleys, but in the upstairs rooms there were only candles – few and far between.’

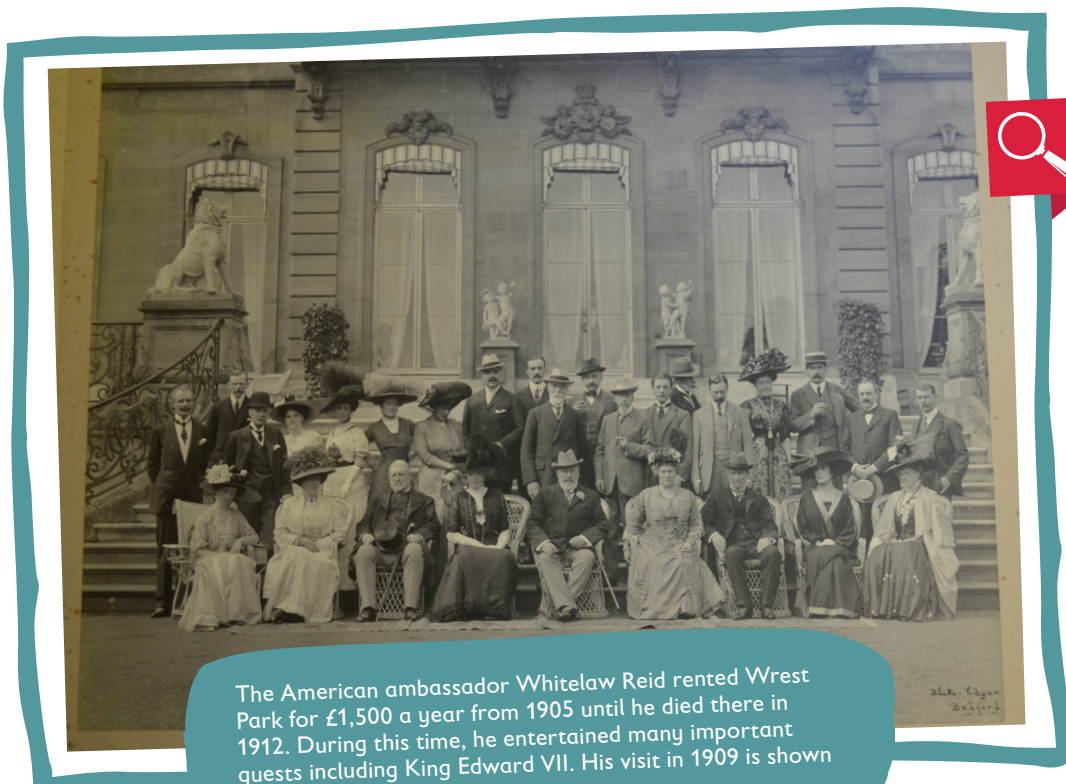
An extract from Ettie Fane's (1867–1952) memories of living in the mansion as a child. Ettie (later Lady Desborough) lived at Wrest Park during the 1870s with her widowed grandmother Lady Anne Florence de Grey Cowper after her parents died.

SOURCE 10

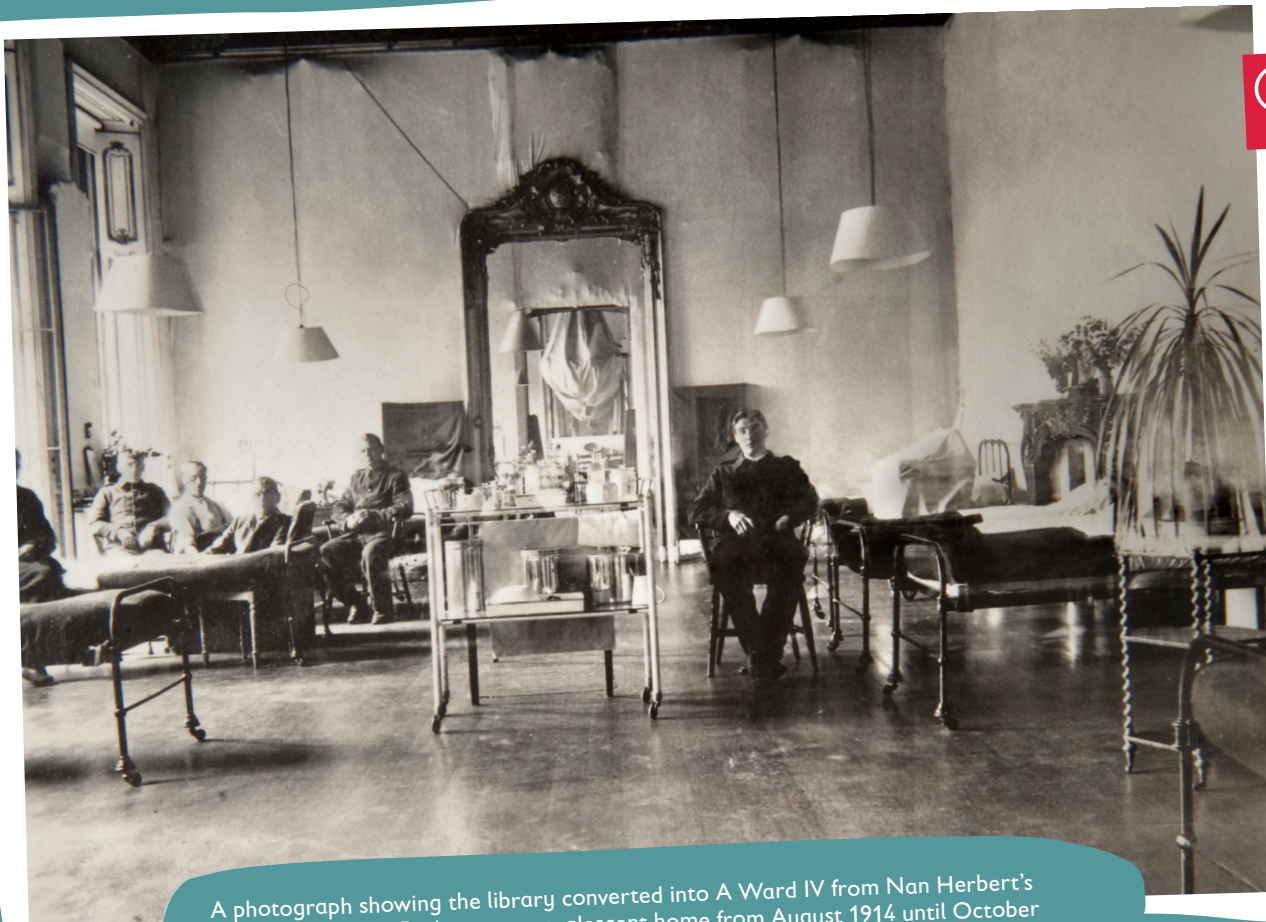


Guestbooks dating from the late 1800s show recurring visits to Wrest Park by members of an elite social group called 'The Souls'. This includes members of the Wyndham, Asquith, Balfour and Grenfell families as well as George Curzon, later Viceroy of India. Ettie Fane married William Henry Grenfell, Baron Desborough in 1887 and visited Wrest Park regularly as a member of 'The Souls'. On this page you can also see the signatures of George, Duke of York (later George V) and his wife Victoria Mary (later Queen Mary). Source: Historic England Archive

SOURCE 11



The American ambassador Whitelaw Reid rented Wrest Park for £1,500 a year from 1905 until he died there in 1912. During this time, he entertained many important guests including King Edward VII. His visit in 1909 is shown in this photograph.



A photograph showing the library converted into A Ward IV from Nan Herbert's scrapbook. Wrest Park was a convalescent home from August 1914 until October 1915 when it was transformed into a base hospital. Rooms within the main house were transformed into medical facilities including wards and an operating theatre.



‘War looks inevitable ... Bron talks of turning Wrest into a hospital. In the middle of dinner we heard that Germany had decreed a state of war.’ – July 1914

‘On August 7th we went down to Wrest to commence preparations for the Hospital. Hannah Mackenzie ... was in charge of the house with a small staff under her. She was young, highly intelligent, and very hard working, and it seemed as if she would be the ideal person to run the domestic side of a private hospital.’ – August 1914

‘No one had a matron in view, nobody could find one; so finally it was settled I was to step into the post experimentally, and retain it subject to the approval of the medical staff. My dream that night of a huge wave with crest breaking mountains high over my head expressed my feelings.’ – February 1915

‘The Wards had developed individual characteristics and owing to Nurse Butler, A Ward became notorious for its jokes. She was an elderly Irish woman with wild blue eyes always searching for a chance of a rag. The men adored her, but never quite got over having been taken in when she arrived one afternoon dressed up as the Duchess of Montrose, and went round asking the patients ‘And how are you my poor fellow and where were you wounded?’ – March 1915

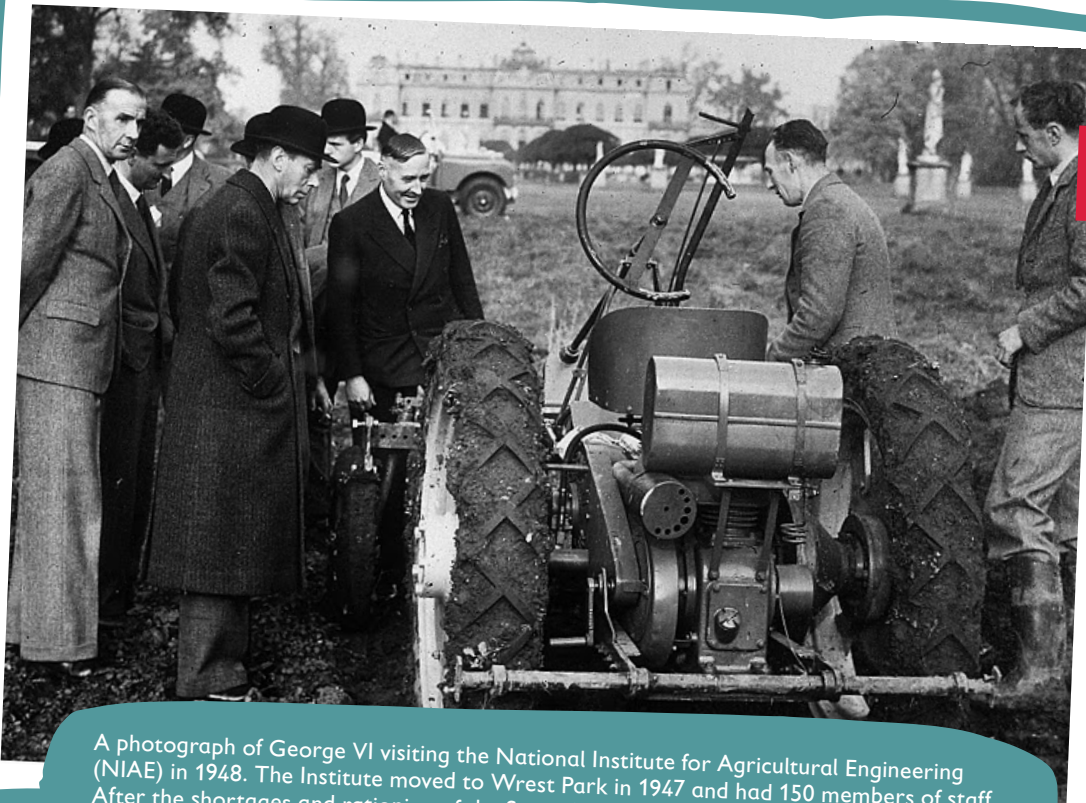
‘Dr Beauchamp reports the Deputy Director of Medical Services having said “Wrest is most satisfactory. You will not see us there often as there is no need of ever inspecting there.” He thought Wrest more efficient than Woburn.’ – November 1915

‘Train after train came in, and the convalescents were pushed on more rapidly than ever to the neighbouring convalescent homes (which were by now running almost as smoothly as the Hospital itself) in order to make room for more and yet more patients.’ – June 1916

‘In A Ward the patients, with great speed but with no sense of flurry, were rolled out in their beds to the Terrace and from there into the garden. Except for the pale anxious faces one would hardly have known that anything out of the ordinary was happening.’ – September 1916

Extracts from Nan Herbert’s diary from 1914–16. Nan’s training at the Metropolitan Hospital in London prepared her to work as a nurse at a wartime hospital. She was appointed matron at Wrest Park in 1915 and was responsible for overseeing the day to day running of the hospital until it closed following a fire in September 1916.

SOURCE 14



A photograph of George VI visiting the National Institute for Agricultural Engineering (NIAE) in 1948. The Institute moved to Wrest Park in 1947 and had 150 members of staff. After the shortages and rationing of the Second World War, countries like Britain sought to increase their self-sufficiency in producing food. Research at the NIAE supported a 'second agricultural revolution' focused on increasing mechanisation and crop yields.

SOURCE 15



A photograph showing work in the Italian Garden during English Heritage's 20-year restoration project. The gardens at Wrest Park have been restored to how they looked in the early 20th century when the de Grey family still lived there.

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

WYVERN'S WORDS



Recommended for

KSI-2, SEND (History, English)

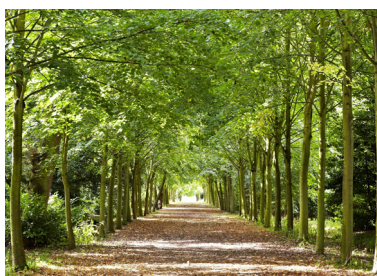
Learning objectives

- Develop storytelling skills using prompts inspired by the Wyvern and the gardens at Wrest Park.
- Create a tableau, short story or piece of drama as a class based on students' experience of visiting Wrest Park.

Time to complete

Dependent on the suggested activities chosen.

Approx. 30 mins per activity



Use students' experience of visiting Wrest Park's garden spaces to inspire storytelling back in the classroom.

SUMMARY

During his childhood, Earl de Grey performed in a play called 'The Woodcutter' written by his relative Elizabeth Yorke, Countess of Hardwicke for Christmas at Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire in 1797. He later revived the play for his own grandchildren who performed it at Wrest in 1849.

In this activity students will use their encounter with Wrest Park's wyvern and their experience of visiting the gardens to explore storytelling and performance, including expressions and gestures.

USING WREST PARK TO INSPIRE STORYTELLING

We know that each class is different, so we have put together some storytelling and performance suggestions that can be tailored for different age groups and abilities. You can use the prompt cards and activity sheet on pages 88-90 to support the following activities:

- Practise facial expressions the Wyvern might make on his journey around the gardens at Wrest Park and the vocabulary associated with them using the 'Wyvern is feeling ...' card.
- Develop a class tableau (freeze frame) or drama piece depicting the Wyvern's adventures in the Great Garden (woodland).
- Use the story sheet on page 89 to create short stories about the Wyvern using prompt words and phrases.
- Create a quest story for the Wyvern with a beginning, middle and end.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Students could consider how they would choose to put on a performance at Wrest Park. They could plan where, when and with what scenery and props their performance would take place.

WYVERN IS FEELING ...

Happy because he is exploring his favourite place – the gardens of Wrest Park.

Sad because his favourite path is blocked by a tree.

Excited because the sun is making the statues sparkle.

Scared because the trees in the Great Garden make the paths shady.

Surprised because there are new swans swimming on the Long Water.

Angry because he is too big to fit inside the Petit Trianon log cabin.

Wide awake because he's eaten lots of fruit from the Walled Garden.

Tired because the sun is setting and it's time to go home.

TIP TOP TABLEAU STORY

Wyvern was wandering in Wrest Park on a warm and sunny day. He squinted in the sunlight, eager to explore. The flowers were growing tall and strong in the French Parterre, a soft breeze was rustling through the trees in the Great Garden. Wyvern plodded along happily crunching gravel and grass beneath his claws as he made his way towards the Long Water.

Suddenly, a brown smudge whizzed past Wyvern's head – it was a bird swooping through the trees. 'They look like they're in a hurry' thought Wyvern, 'there must be something exciting happening in the Great Garden today!' He ran after the bird, dodging hanging branches and tree stumps as he went.

The Great Garden was still and quiet, with tall trees blocking out the sparkling sunlight. But Wyvern began to hear something strange – music! He followed the sound until he could see a clearing full of tall white marble statues – the Duke's Square. Wyvern couldn't believe his eyes. There were all his garden friends – swans, deer, birds and rabbits enjoying some music with their afternoon tea!

The friends laughed, ate and played all afternoon until the sun began to set. It was time to go home.

WYVERN STORY SHEET



Add your own verbs, adjectives and nouns to the sentences below to create a short story about the Wyvern's day at Wrest Park.

Wyvern was [verb] at Wrest Park.

He [verb] through the Great Garden looking at [noun(s)].

There was a [adjective, noun] in front of Wyvern and he didn't know what to do.

He [verb] and [verb]. Soon it began to [verb]. Wyvern tripped and fell into the [adjective, noun].

He dusted himself off and looked again at the [noun]. It wasn't a scary thing at all! It was just a [adjective, noun].

Wyvern smiled and turned back towards the house just in time for lunch.

WYVERN QUEST STORY SHEET



BEGINNING – Set the scene, introduce a problem Wyvern is facing and a quest (journey) he is going to go on to solve it.

One day Wyvern was walking in gardens at Wrest Park ...

MIDDLE – What happens on Wyvern's quest to solve his problem?

END – How does Wyvern's quest end and how is his problem solved?

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

DESIGN A PARTERRE GARDEN



KSI-2

SEND

Recommended for

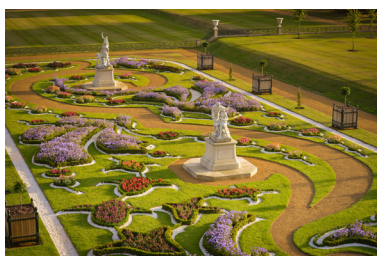
KSI-2, SEND (History, Science, Art and Design)

Learning objectives

- Understand how and why geometric designs were used to create the French Parterre at Wrest Park.
- Use artistic skills to design geometric patterns.
- Understand what seeds need to grow.

Time to complete

20 mins to set up plus ongoing maintenance



The French Parterre at Wrest Park was created by Earl de Grey to complement his new French-style house.

SUMMARY

The French Parterre Garden and the Italian Garden were planned by Earl de Grey in the 1830s. The intricate scroll patterns could be admired from the first floor of the house but were expensive and difficult to maintain. After Earl de Grey's time, the garden was made simpler, but it has now been restored to its original design following archaeological excavation.

CREATING A GARDEN

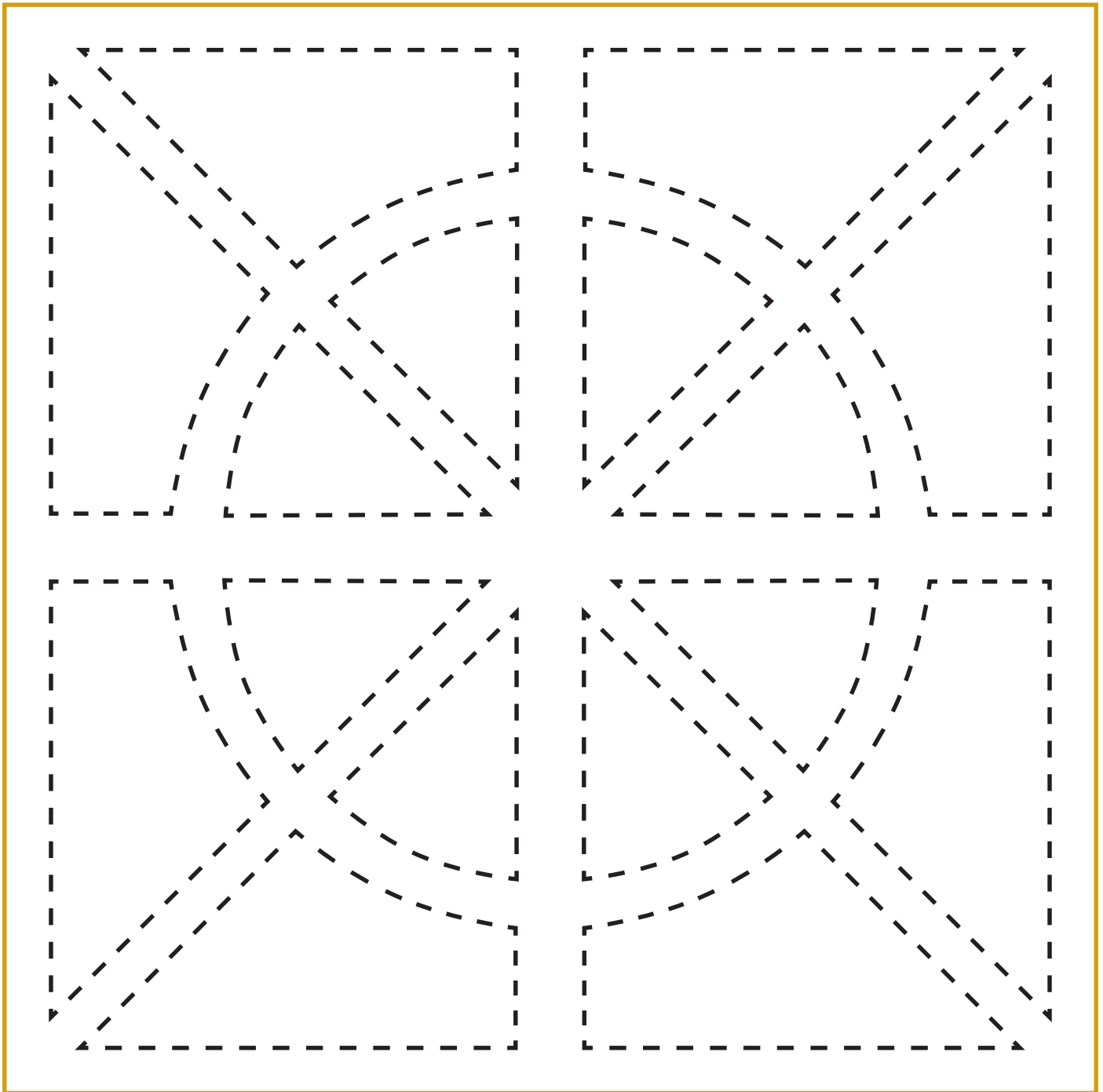
Students can design their own small-scale parterre garden individually or in pairs on paper. You can take the activity further by growing cress seeds as follows:

1. Prepare a plastic tray and line it with wet kitchen roll and add a layer of wet cotton wool.
2. Print and cut out the geometric garden pattern on page 92 or ask students to design their own, ideally on light card. Remind them only to cut out the geometric shapes.
3. Lay your templates on top of the wet cotton wool and sprinkle cress seeds into the cut-out shapes.
4. Gently press the seeds down and sprinkle them with water. You can leave the template on top of the cotton wool or carefully peel it off.
5. Leave your plastic tray somewhere warm and sunny like a windowsill and sprinkle it with water every day. The cress should start to sprout within two days and it will grow through the cut out shapes to create a geometric pattern.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

The French Parterre Garden isn't just full of plants. It also contains sculptures that Earl de Grey chose. Encourage students to design a sculpture they would include in their parterre garden. It could be inspired by their favourite story or a person they admire.

GEOMETRIC PARTERRE GARDEN DESIGN TEMPLATE



SELF-LED ACTIVITY

HOSTING A GARDEN PARTY



KS2

KS3

Recommended for

KS2–3 (History, English, Geography)

Learning objectives

- Understand the role of garden parties in Georgian society.
- Imagine the social events that took place in the gardens at Wrest Park.
- Develop planning and teamwork skills.

Time to complete

May vary, depending on depth of study.



Plan a party for Jemima, Marchioness Grey and her guests at Wrest Park.

SUMMARY

Use your visit to Wrest Park to imagine what it was like to attend a garden party hosted by Jemima, Marchioness Grey (1723–97).

Back in the classroom, use some of these ideas to help students understand what Wrest Park was like in the 18th century:

1. Show students Source 3 (on page 79).
2. Watch a 'Postcard from Wrest Park' on English Heritage's YouTube channel.
3. Explore the Google Arts and Culture Exhibition entitled 'Women's Designs at Wrest Park' which highlights Jemima and her daughter Amabel's influence on the gardens.

PLAN THE PARTY

Put students into groups of three or four and ask them to work in teams to plan entertainments for Jemima and her friends to enjoy during a garden party at Wrest Park. They should think about the following considerations during their discussions and can use the planning sheets on pages 95–96 and the site plan at the beginning of this kit to help them work through their ideas.

- Many of the outbuildings at Wrest Park, like the Archer Pavilion, were specifically designed to entertain guests and provide spaces for outdoor entertainment.
- In the 18th century, men enjoyed going hunting or shooting and playing a game of bowls. Women may have played with quoits or practised archery, walked or gone horse-riding.
- Jemima and her husband Philip had a lot of literary friends, so they probably spent a lot of time reading, reciting poetry and discussing books and poems they had read.

continued overleaf ...



The Archer Pavilion was designed as a space for holding entertainments in the gardens at Wrest Park.

- The Georgians enjoyed drinking tea and eating things like sandwiches, buns served with butter, honey or jams, and cold sliced meats like pork, chicken and beef at tea parties.
- In the Georgian period, entertaining important people at your home could enhance your status among Britain's elite (the wealthiest and most powerful people in society). Older students should consider specific Georgian figures they would invite to their event and think about how the entertainments they plan will impress them. They should also reflect on how the settings they use for their entertainments could create a lasting positive memory of Wrest Park for important guests.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Students could imagine they were at the party they have planned as an invited guest. They could write a diary entry describing the sights, sounds and smells of the event or create an image showing what the event looked like.

HOSTING A GARDEN PARTY



Jemima, Marchioness Grey and her husband Philip Yorke want you to help them plan a garden party at Wrest Park.

Work as a team to **decide** on four activities their guests will enjoy and use your map to **choose** where to host them.

1 WELCOME ACTIVITY

How will you impress your important guests as they arrive?

ACTIVITY:

.....

.....

.....

(**HINT:** The Georgians hosted parties to spend time with their friends but also to make new connections with important people.)

LOCATION:

.....

(**HINT:** Use your map to look for somewhere that guests are likely to arrive at Wrest Park. Remember that in Jemima's time, the house was where the round pond is today.)

2 RELAXING ACTIVITY

What will help keep your guests happy and comfortable during your party?

ACTIVITY:

.....

.....

.....

(**HINT:** Georgian guests will expect some food and drink during your event and may enjoy music or poetry while they relax.)

LOCATION:

.....

(**HINT:** Find somewhere on your map that guests can relax, possibly under cover in case of bad weather.)

3 EXCITING ACTIVITY

What kind of activity will engage your guests and make them remember their visit?

ACTIVITY:

.....

.....

.....

(**HINT:** Georgian men like to hunt and shoot, and women also enjoy horse-riding. Both men and women like to play garden games and watch impressive performances.)

LOCATION:

.....

(**HINT:** Use your map to find suitable locations for your activities – are they mostly outdoors or indoors?)

4 FAREWELL ACTIVITY

How will you say goodbye to your guests and leave them with a good memory of Wrest Park and its owners?

ACTIVITY:

.....

.....

.....

(**HINT:** Remember that Georgian hosts try to make connections with their important guests and send them away with a good impression of themselves and their home.)

LOCATION:

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(**HINT:** Find a location on your map where guests are most likely to leave Wrest Park. Is it the same way they came in?)

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

SELECTING SOURCES AND MAKING CHOICES



Recommended for

KS3–4+ (History, English)

Learning objectives

- Examine sources relating to how Wrest Park's use changed over time.
- Consider how English Heritage has chosen to display Wrest Park to the public and the sources that have been used to inform this approach.
- Sort and select sources to inspire a redesign of the site's interpretation scheme.

Time to complete

May vary dependent on the depth of study.



A text panel at Wrest Park explaining the history of the gardens using text, images and historic sources.

SUMMARY

In this activity, students will consider how a heritage organisation researches, selects and uses sources to present the stories behind historic places like Wrest Park. They will also reflect on the importance of inclusivity and accessibility when interpreting a historic site for the public.

SUGGESTED APPROACH

Start by discussing the interpretation students saw during their visit to Wrest Park. What form did it take? What sources did it use? What did students think about it?

Divide students into small groups of four. Each small group will be a project team developing an idea for re-presenting Wrest Park. They will then pitch their ideas to the rest of the class or a teacher panel.

Students can use the planning sheets on pages 99–100 to work through four stages of text panel development detailed in the Teachers' Notes on page 98.

Give each group a chance to present their ideas. Success criteria for the project could include:

- Appealing stories – are the stories chosen interesting and considered?
- Word count – does each panel have no more than 130–180 words?
- Accessibility – has the group thought about the clarity of their language?
- Use of sources – has the group used sources effectively in their re-presentation idea and thought carefully about images they've chosen?

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Students could extend this activity by thinking about other interpretation methods they could use. This could include costumes for re-enactors, video displays, virtual reality, audio guides or interactive games.

SELECTING SOURCES AND MAKING CHOICES

TEACHERS' NOTES

Students can work through four stages to develop their text panels:

■ STAGE 1 – SELECTING STORIES

Students will need to ensure that they are confident in their understanding of the history of Wrest Park and the primary sources available for them to draw on for their re-presentation. They can use their visit, the Historical Information in this kit (pages 11-18) and the English Heritage website to help them choose four stories that they want to present. Each student will be responsible for one story.

■ STAGE 2 – CHOOSING IMAGES AND DOCUMENTS

Students will need to select at least three primary sources such as images and documents that will inform the information they provide to the public. They could include some of these in their text panel designs later.

EXTENSION – Students could consider how they can use the sources available to them to present more inclusive stories. This could include women's history, working class history and stories relating to people in history with disabilities.

■ STAGE 3 – DRAFTING YOUR STORIES

Students will draft the text for their panel using concise and clear language that is inclusive and accessible for a wide audience. Once they have edited their text themselves and ensured that it is no more than 130–180 words long, they should swap with another member of their team for peer reviewing.

■ STAGE 4 – PLANNING A PANEL

Once students are happy with their text, they should transfer it into a panel outline, include any images they want to use and reference where these have come from. They should also consider where at Wrest Park they will place their panel.

EXTENSION – An extra challenge could be to consider environmental conditions in different areas of the site and how this may influence the kinds of materials that can be used.

EXTENSION – How will students ensure that their re-presentation is accessible? (e.g. creating text panels using high contrast colours and plain fonts so that people with visual impairments can access them; installing panels at a height that is appropriate for young children and wheelchair users).

RE-PRESENTING WREST PARK



STAGE 1 – SELECTING STORIES

Research the history of Wrest Park and in your group **select** four stories you want to present to the public. You will each be responsible for interpreting one of these stories.

The story I am responsible for is

.....

.....

STAGE 2 – CHOOSING IMAGES AND DOCUMENTS

Choose at least three primary sources you will use to support your story. This could be a mixture of images and documents.

Source 1 –

Source 2 –

Source 3 –

STAGE 3 – DRAFTING YOUR STORIES

Draft the text for a panel explaining your Wrest Park story.

Remember to be concise – a text panel should be no more than 130–180 words long and must be accessible to a wide audience. You should include a short introduction section and think about how you will reference images you want to use.

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Swap your draft with someone else in your group so they can review your work and suggest edits. Then, transfer your text and image ideas to a panel outline.

STAGE 4 – PLANNING A PANEL

[LOCATION]

[TITLE]

[INTRODUCTION]

.....

.....

.....

[IMAGE]

[CAPTION] – briefly describe your image and include a reference to where it's from, for example © English Heritage Trust.

.....

.....

[IMAGE]

[CAPTION]

.....

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[TEXT]

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