



National Trust

Heritage Explorer Challenge



Did you know the gardens and parks you visit are full of secrets from the past? Inside, hidden and surprising pieces of history are waiting to be found - if you know where to look. Become a heritage explorer with this spotter sheet and see how many discoveries you can make. **Let us know what you find! Twitter @NatTrustArch and Facebook @NationalTrustArchaeology**

Spot a house for doves

Look out for grand, freestanding dovecotes, or missing bricks high up at the ends of buildings, that tell you a nesting hole is nestled within. **Why do you think people kept doves?**



Don't fall in a ha-ha!

A ha-ha is a hidden ditch that separates gardens from parkland, creating the illusion it's not there at all. You might think its name comes from laughing when somebody falls in, but it actually comes from being surprised by discovering the illusion. **Look out from the garden. Can you see cows, sheep or deer across the ha-ha? What do you think it was for?**



Wander a walled garden

Walled gardens would have grown all the food and flowers for the house. That's many plants to water before the days of hoses. Instead, gardeners would have used a dipping pond to water the crops. **Can you find flowers, fruit, and vegetables growing here? And can you still find the pond?**



Discover living history

Fruit trees were also grown in orchards or groves that blossomed in spring and bore fruits or nuts in autumn. Many of the fruiting trees found at our places have been alive for hundreds of years. **What fruit can you find?**



Find a folly

Many of the estates in our care have a folly somewhere. These curious buildings weren't practical, they were built to look interesting, and impress guests. **What folly would you build to impress your friends?**



Stare into a lake

The lakes in our gardens and parklands can be huge, full of wildlife and surrounded by many trees - but most are actually man-made. **What can you see reflected in the water's surface?**



Time travel at the stables

Before cars and engines, horses carried people around and provided 'horsepower' for our estates. Because of this, the grand estates often had grand stables to match, and many of these have now been turned into cafés and shops. **Can you spot the where the horses would have lived? Should be Can you spot where the horse would have lived?**



Tree lined road or avenue

Avenues of trees were often built next to the main house, sometimes to make a grand entrance, or sometimes just to walk down. Some of our avenues are over 2 miles long, and the Lime Avenue at Clumber Park contains 1296 trees. **Can you find a tree avenue? How many trees can you count?**



Say 'hi' to a statue

National Trust gardens are full of all kinds of statues. Some big, some small, look up to see some hanging from the rooves of houses as gargoyles, or down to find some hidden between hedges. **Can you see a statue that looks like someone you know?**

