

Cedars Park History



Historical Discovery Walk

A learning walk around the historically important features of Cedars Park.

National Curriculum Links

History Key Stage 2 – a local history study

- a study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality (this can go beyond 1066)
- a study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

Geography Key Stage 2

- use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world.

Mathematics Key Stage 2 – Measurement (Year 3)

- measure, compare, add and subtract: lengths (m/cm/mm); mass (kg/g); volume/capacity (l/ml)
- measure the perimeter of simple 2-D shapes

Art and Design Key Stage 2

- learn about great artists, architects and designers in history.

Equipment and resources

- Clipboards and pencils
- Cedars Park Education Pack map
- Challenge worksheets – Architects, Builders, Gardeners
- Tape measures/rulers

- Compasses
- Cameras (optional)
- Magnifying glasses (optional)

Timing

1 hour

Activity

This activity can start at any of the information boards around the park as each of the activities is linked to these boards. However if you would like to do the activities chronologically see the history trail.

Split the class into 3 groups and assign each group one of these roles:

Whilst walking around the grounds of Theobald's Palace stop at the various information boards and ask the children to investigate each building/object under their assigned role.

Architects – at each feature the children sketch the object and work out what age the object is (using the information on the back of the worksheet).

Builders – at each feature the children note down the type of building material (using the information on the back of the worksheet) and measure dimensions of material as well as the object (if possible).

Gardeners – at each feature the children note the compass direction that the object is facing and then work out which plant/tree would be suitable to plant in that location (using the information on the back of the worksheet).

To vary the tasks, swap the roles round at some point around the trail so that everyone gets to have a go at each role.

Extension Activity/Follow Up

Write fact sheets on the different historical features in Cedars Park which could be made into a Top Trumps game.

Background information

- 1. Palace Gardens** - The new privy garden was King James I's private garden. There is evidence of 3 garden seats with viewing windows. The arched peep hole windows allowed light to be reflected and a good view into the maze garden (made of privet hedges). This was where King James sat with his wife Ann of Denmark. On the south side of the wall, there would have been peach and fig trees absorbing the warmth and light from the sun.
- 2. Old Palace House** - Evidence of the Old Palace House (1765). They used bricks from the palace to build this as well as 18th century bricks – a form of recycling! The roof tiles from the palace were used as part of the render, which can be clearly seen. The gardens were very different to King James I's Great Gardens, gentle curves replaced straight lines, they were informal water features, shrubs and specimen trees.
- 3. Palace Ruins**

Palace Window - There is an original Palace window behind the wall in front of you. You can see how it might not be in its original position by looking at the brickwork as it looks like it has been slotted in. The frame is made from Flemish stone work. The stones were carved in Holland and sent over by barge to England to be assembled on site.

Cloisters – The cloisters lead into Fountain Court see the image on the back of the Architect's Challenge worksheet. There were 7 great archways in the wall joining Fountain Court to the Great Garden. You can see evidence of one of these (the rest is Victorian). On the first floor there was a bowling alley (109 feet long) and on the top floor was King James I and Queen Ann's

private apartments. King James died here after catching a fever whilst hunting.

4. **The Cedars** – 18th century house built from yellow London brick. The Cedar of Lebanon trees in the park are young but may have originated from the trees that Charles I's gardeners planted. Back then in 1600s Cedar trees were rare, exotic and expensive.
5. **Walled fruit garden** – This was part of the Great Garden, which was 7 acres in size, which is 3 x size of Hampton Court Gardens. There were peach, fig and other fruit trees growing along the east facing wall due to the direction of the sunlight. The Fig tree would have borne from one of the original fig trees that were planted here during William Cecil's time. The surface of the garden used to be 1 foot higher seen by the dark marks on the wall from the original stream course. Diagonal tiles at the bottom of the wall could have been for drainage or just decoration!

Bricks - evidence of 16th and 17th century bricks (at the bottom) are narrower, fired at a lower temperature and have sandy coloured mortar. 18th century bricks are fired at higher temperatures and are redder however some of the 18th century bricks are over-fired, which means they are thicker and have a blue tinge. Limewash mortar, made from cow dung and oyster shell, was used. The uppermost bricks are 19th – 20th century.

Bee boles - These were used in the 16th century to store straw beehives (called skeps) to provide a habitat for the bees so that they pollinated the flowers on the fruit trees. Heating channels were in the wall to help the fruit grow. In the 18th century the bee boles were used for garden lanterns to light up the garden and help get rid of insects.

6. **Venusburg** – This is a reconstructed Venusburg (viewing mound) which was used as a viewing point over the Great

Garden, which William Cecil had made. Yew trees in the Great Gardens indicate where there may have been 16th century canals. They were planted on the banks of canals because their tight network of roots helped to bind the banks together. The canal ran around the Great Garden. Individual gardens were interconnected with bridges between the canals.

7. **Maze** – This maze has been replanted in a different position from the original, which was near the new privy garden (arched peep hole windows).

Flint Arch – there was a pond on the north side of the Flint Arch which produced a reflection of the arch and Cedars Manor. The south side of the arch is based on Rye House and is made from brick. The north side is made from flint and Hertfordshire Pudding stone, which is formed by river pebbles compacted by glaciers.

Gardener's challenge

- Work out what direction you are facing
 - Decide which plant would be best suited to the area.
1. White Mulberry tree – these were planted to feed King James I's silk worms and grew best on south facing walls so that they could receive maximum sunlight for growth (Palace Garden – King James I's private garden).
 2. Ginko biloba tree - this is an example of an exotic tree planted in the manor's gardens because it is the oldest flowering species in the world, discovered in China in 1750s (Old Palace House Garden).
 3. No trees/plants (Palace Ruins).
 4. Cedar – this tree is likely to be related to the original Cedar tree that was planted by Charles I's gardeners. Cedars were rare,

exotic and expensive trees and were favoured because of this (The Cedars).

5. Fig or Peach trees - these were planted on the east to receive the morning sun and shelter from the westerly winds (Walled Garden).
6. Yew trees were planted on the banks of the canals as their tight network of roots help to bind the banks together (Venusburg and Great Gardens).
7. Privet hedge - this grows easily and forms a solid hedge (Maze).

Builder's challenge

- What building material has been used?
- Measure the length, width and depth of the material and the feature if possible.

16th and 17th century bricks are narrower, fired at a lower temperature and have sandy coloured mortar.

18th century bricks are fired at higher temperatures and are redder however some of the 18th century bricks are over-fired, which means they are thicker and have a blue tinge. Limewash mortar, made from cow dung and oyster shell, was used.

1. 17th century bricks (Palace Garden)
2. 17th and 18th Century bricks, roof tiles (Old Palace House)
3. Flemish stone (Palace Window) 17th century bricks, Victorian bricks, Flemish stone (Cloisters)
4. Yellow London brick (The Cedars)
5. 16th century, 17th Century, 18th century, 19th century, 20th century bricks (Walled Garden and bee boles)
6. Soil (Venusburg)
7. Hertfordshire Puddingstone, flint and 18th century brick (Flint Arch)

Architect's challenge

- Sketch or photograph the design of each feature

- Decide which period of history the features were built.

1500s – 16th century – William Cecil started to create the Palace

1600s – 17th century – King James I extended the Palace

1700s – 18th century – Theobald's Palace was demolished and 4 large villas were built using material from the palace.

1. Arched peep hole windows – these allowed King James I and Queen Ann to admire the view of the new privy garden and the privet maze (1600s)
 2. Remains of the Old Palace House – this was built from materials leftover from when Theobald's Palace was demolished (1700s)
 3. Palace window - the stone for the window frame was carved in Holland and shipped over on a barge (1500s)
 4. Cedars House - this was one of the 4 villas built after Theobald's Palace was demolished (1700s)
 5. Bee boles – William Cecil designed these as part of the walls of the Walled Garden (1500s)
 6. Venusburg – William Cecil had this made so that the palace guests could admire the views over the Great Gardens (1500s)
 7. Maze – William Cecil had the maze designed as part of his improvement to the Palace's grounds (original maze 1500s and new maze 2011)
- Flint arch – this was created as a folly and focal point for the Cedars House gardens (1700s)

Name:

School:

Date:



The Architect's Challenge



Objective: To use historical evidence to deduce activity at Theobald's Palace.

Use this equipment to help you record your findings:



Sketch each feature.

Decide which period of history the features were built.

1 Palace Gardens

2 Old Palace House

3 Palace Ruins (can you find the window and an arch?)

Sketch each feature.

Decide which period of history the features were built.

4 The Cedars

5 Walled Fruit Garden (can you find the holes in the wall?)

6 Venusburg

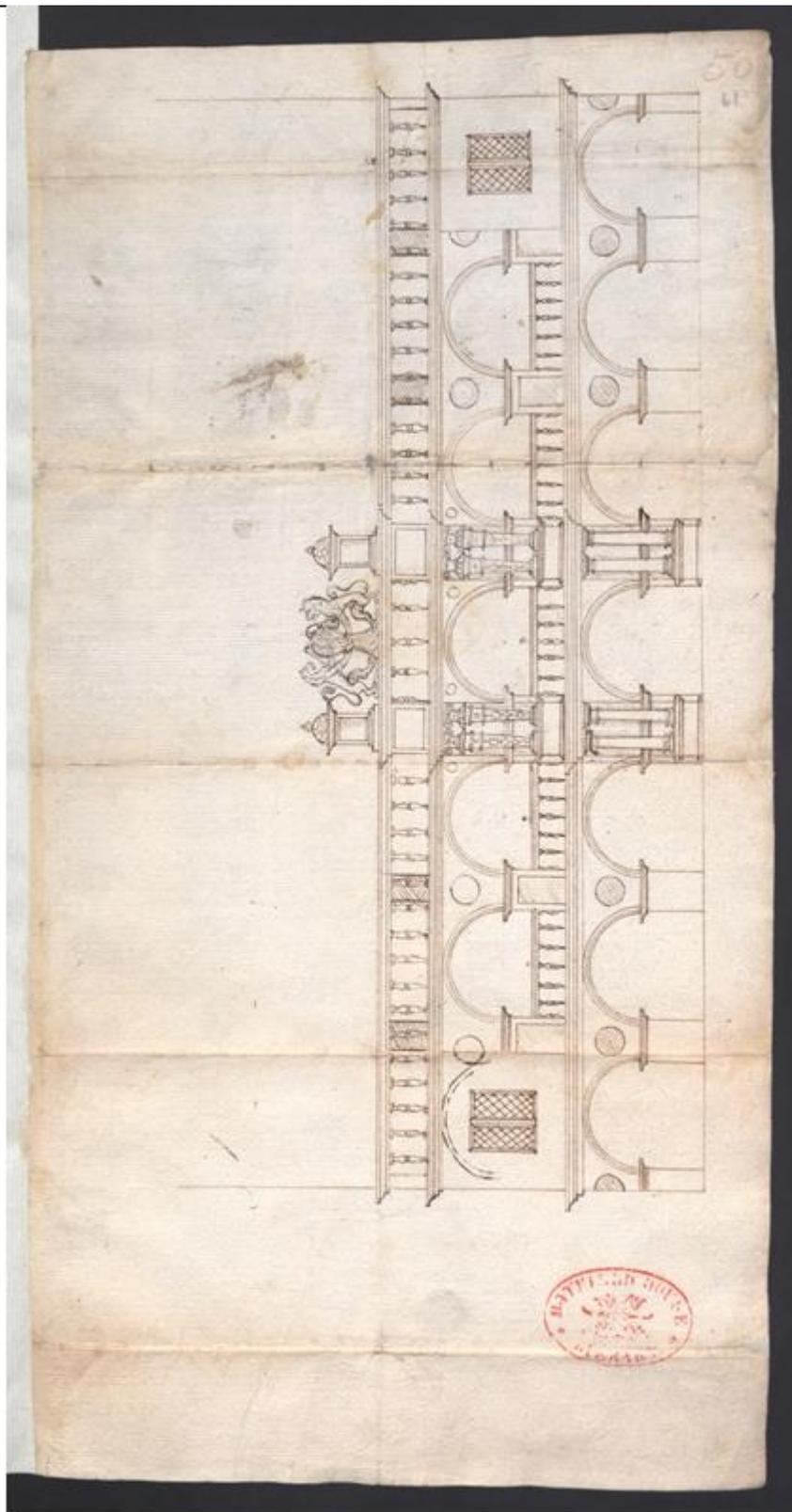
7 The Maze

Periods of history to choose from include:

16th century (1500s) – William Cecil started to create Theobald's Palace. The bricks are orange, narrow, fired at a lower temperature and have sandy coloured mortar.

17th century (1600s) – King James I extended Theobald's Palace.

18th century (1700s) – Theobald's Palace was demolished and 4 large villas were built using material from the Palace. The bricks were fired at higher temperatures and are redder however some of the 18th century bricks are over-fired, which means they are thicker and have a blue tinge. Lime-wash mortar, made from cow dung and oyster shell, was used.



The cloisters at Theobald's Palace courtesy of the Marquess of Salisbury.

Name:

School:

Date:



The Builder's Challenge



Objective: To use historical evidence to deduce activity at Theobald's Palace.

Use this equipment to help you record your findings:



What building materials have been used? Measure the feature as well as the length and width of the material.

1 Palace Gardens

2 Old Palace House

3 Palace Ruins (can you find the window?)

What building material has been used? Measure the feature as well as the length and width of the material.

4 The Cedars

5 Walled Fruit Garden (can you find the holes in the wall?)

6 Venusburg

7 The Flint Arch

Building materials to choose from include:

16th and 17th century bricks are orange, narrow, fired at a lower temperature and have sandy coloured mortar.

18th century bricks were fired at higher temperatures and are redder however some of the 18th century bricks are over-fired, which means they are thicker and have a blue tinge. Lime-wash mortar, made from cow dung and oyster shell, was used.

Hertfordshire Pudding Stone is made from river pebbles compacted by glaciers.



Flemish stone was carved into shape in Holland and shipped to Theobald's Palace by barge.

Yellow London bricks are made from the yellow clay found in London soil.

Flint was used to create a folly in the grounds of Cedars Manor.

Roof tiles these were originally used on the roof of Theobald's Palace.

Name:

School:

Date:



The Gardener's Challenge



Objective: To use historical evidence to deduce activity at Theobald's Palace.

Use this equipment to help you record your findings:



What direction does the feature face?

Which plants are best suited to the location?

1 Palace Gardens (King James I's private garden)

2 Old Palace House Garden

3 Palace Ruins

What direction does the feature face?

Which plants are best suited to the location?

4 The Cedars

5 Walled Fruit Garden (can you find the Fig tree?)

6 Venusburg and the Great Garden

7 The Maze

Trees and plants to choose from include:

White Mulberry Trees were planted to feed King James I's silk worms and grew best on south facing walls so that they could receive maximum sunlight for growth.



Mulberry fruit



Silk worms

Fig trees and peach trees were planted on the east wall to receive the morning sun and shelter from the westerly winds.

Box hedge grows easily to form a solid hedge.

Cedar trees are likely to be related to the original Cedar tree that was planted by Charles I's gardeners. Cedars were rare, exotic and expensive trees and were favoured because of this.

Ginkgo biloba tree is an example of an exotic tree planted in the manor's gardens because it is the oldest flowering species in the world, discovered in China in 1750s.

Yew trees were planted on the banks of the canals in the Great Garden as their tight network of roots helped to bind the banks together.

No trees or plants