How to carry out research on the history of the park and recognize the historical structure of the park in nature

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- Interreg V-A Latvia – Lithuania Programme 2014-2020
- Sustainable Integration of Novel Solutions into Cultural Heritage Sites
- NovelForHeritage LLI-444

Origins of historical park and garden research

The notion that there may be some value in restoring a predecessor's garden seems to have taken root early in the nineteenth century.

It was no accident perhaps that it coincided more or less with an historicist approach to garden design which arose when the fashion for architectural historicism became dominant.

Figure. Preiļu park (https://latgale.travel/listing/preilu-parks-un-borhu-muizas-komplekss/)

Origins of historical park and garden research

The historicist approach to garden design is deeply rooted.

The past twenty years have seen ever-increasing activity in the field of historic garden restoration accompanied by a steadily accelerating increase in sophistication and professionalism.

Another important milestone was the start of the National Trust's methodical programme of survey and research for parks and gardens.

Figure. Stourhead (https://www.housebeautiful.com/uk/garden/a31730630/coronavirus-uk-social-distancing-national-trust-gardens-free/)

Turning now to conservation thinking today, it should first be remarked that conservation is an aspect of modern culture, and so the assumptions behind it move on.

One of the lessons of the last quarter century is that conservation principles cannot be seen as set in stone for all time – they are just our best thoughts at the present time. This is because they are a reflection of the passions and preoccupations of each succeeding generation, and also the onward march of knowledge and skills.

Figure. Stourhead (https://www.nationaltrustimages.org.uk/filming-locations/properties/south-west/stourhead#gallery)

Development of research

Value is now seen not as something inherent in objects, but as a complex and potentially variable set of qualities influenced by people's culture, expectations and preferences, so that a wider range of bodies and individuals could contribute to decisions.

There is a new willingness to engage a wider range of bodies and communities in deciding upon aims and priorities. The primary values recognized in historic gardens are still art-historical, with rarity and condition being additional factors, but the aesthetic dimension to significance has become more complex.

Figure. Stourhead (https://www.nationaltrustimages.org.uk/filming-locations/properties/south-west/stourhead#gallery)

In addition, there are the ‘natural’ qualities relating to geology, ecology and biodiversity, and the benefits of physical and intellectual public access.

The focus on the great monuments as proof of genius has thus been matched by an interest in the vernacular and the cultural landscape as informing us as much, or even more, about the history of mankind. In 1992 UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee accepted a redefinition of cultural qualities to include landscapes of a vernacular nature (e.g. rice terraces), and with associations (e.g. holy mountains).

Figure. European cultural landscape (https://wp.eghn.org/en/symposium-european-cultural-landscapes/)

Several factors have led to a reconsideration of this single-moment end-point. One was taking the conservation approach to its logical conclusion, by respecting the landscape as received by our generation, warts and all.
All periods of a garden (unless the result of decay or utilitarian modification) thus came to be of interest as part of the ‘document’.

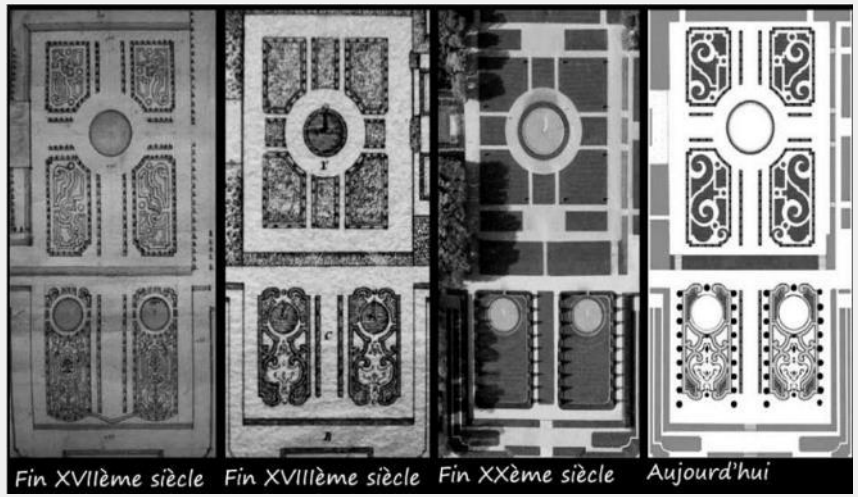


Figure. Materials from S. Rubene

Another is that virtual reality, although still in its infancy, has great potential for helping the public imagine a garden in the various phases of its existence, lessening the museum curator's desire for a literal representation of a single phase in a garden's history via reconstruction.

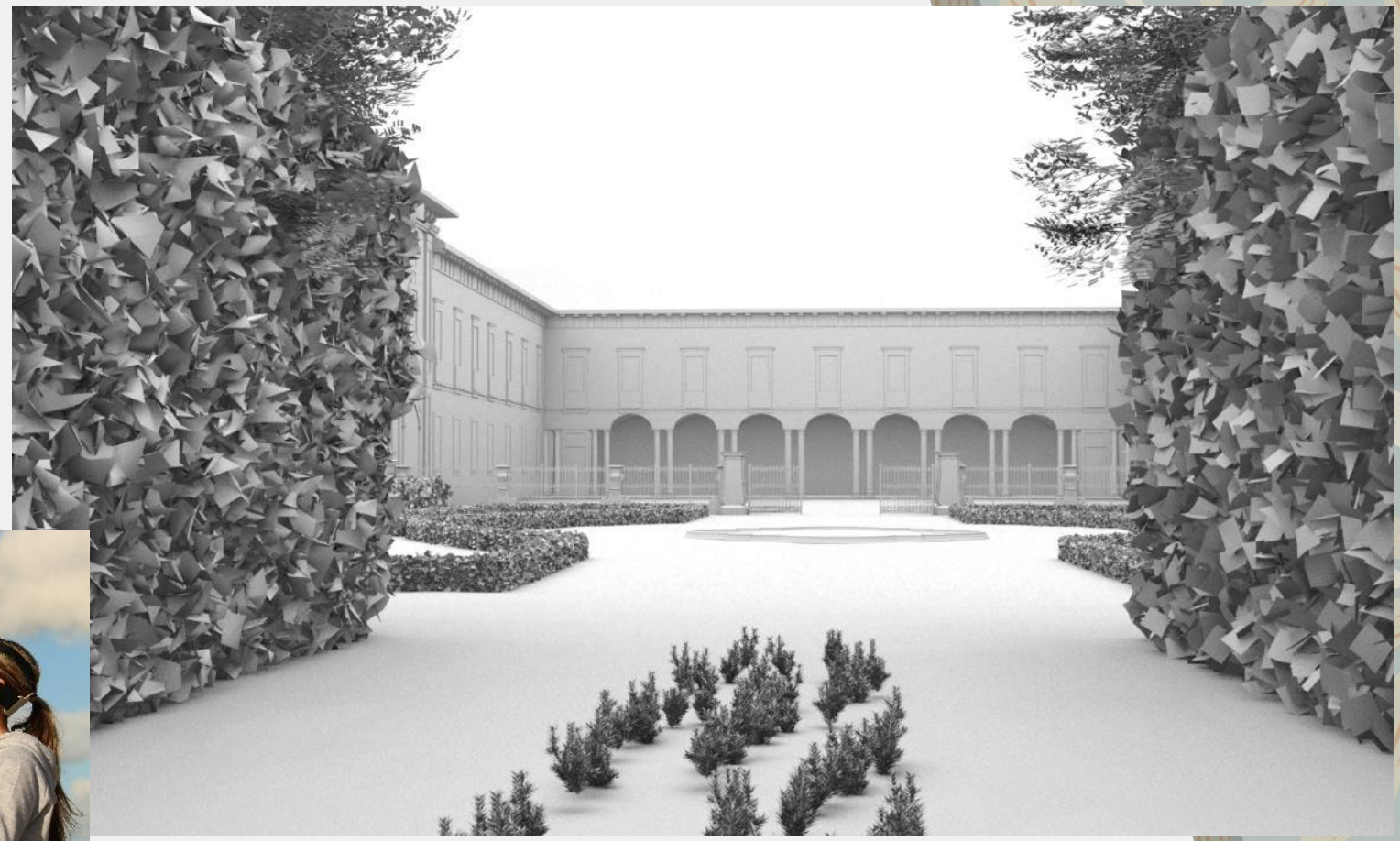


Figure. Virtual Reality for the Exploitation of Houses and Historical Gardens - The Example of Villa Arconati

Restoration

We define restoration as returning a historic park and garden to “a known earlier state, on the basis of compelling evidence, without conjecture”. The criteria include:

- Weighing up the effect of change restoration work would bring to the heritage values of the historic park and garden
- Compelling evidence for the restoration work
- The proposed work respects previous forms of the historic park and garden
- The maintenance implications of the proposed restoration are considered to be sustainable

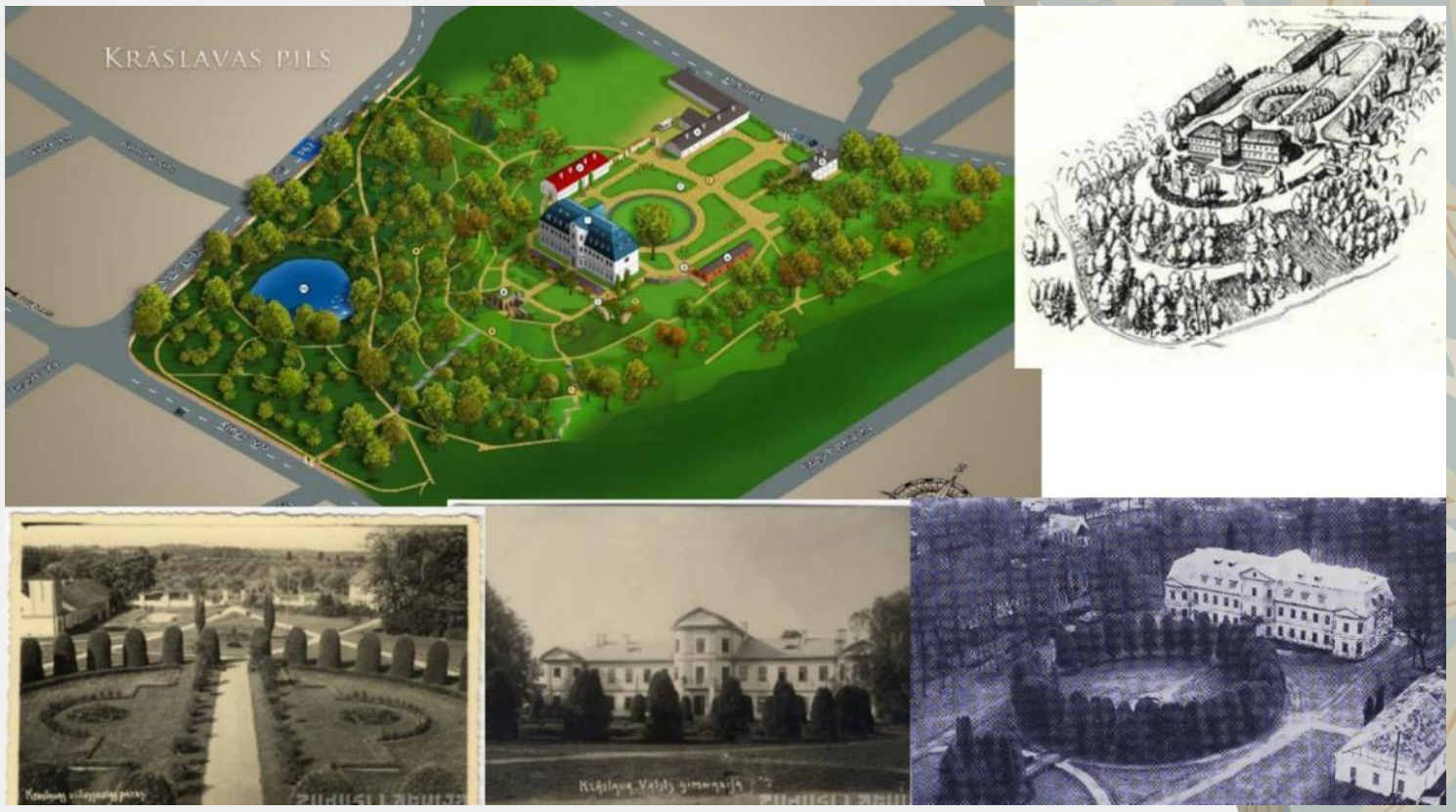


Figure. Materials from S. Rubene

Restoration

The distinction between restoration and repair can sometimes become blurred when design details and or decorative elements that are important to the character and appearance of the designed landscape become eroded or damaged.

Often a programme of repair provides an opportunity for the reinstatement of missing elements, provided:

- Sufficient evidence exists for an accurate replacement
- No loss of historic fabric occurs
- The necessary consents are obtained in advance
- In some circumstances, restoration may provide conservation benefits that cannot be achieved through repair alone.

Figure. Chambord castle (https://9gag.com/gag/a5Wj3VG)

Buillding?

Konstantin palace (since 2003 - The National Congress Palace) is a beautiful monument of architecture and landscape art located on the picturesque coastline of the Gulf of Finland.

"The National Congress Palace" State Complex was created on the basis of an architectural monument of the 18th century – the Strelna Palace and Park ensemble

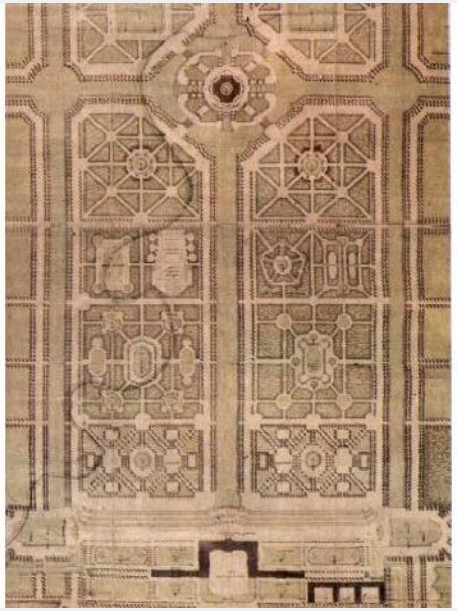


Figure. Plan of Konstantinovsky Palace in Strelna. Drawing by Jean Batiste Leblon. Beginning of the 18th century. (https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Reconstruction-of-Konstantinovsky-Palace-in-a-of-Ulitsky-Shashkin/8b2adb424fb3bc061fbf65ca8d403003d287863b)

Figure. Konstantin palace (https://www.visit-petersburg.ru/en/showplace/197860/)

Restoration

Detailed historical research enables us to restore historic designs and introduce appropriate historic plants. Research methods include landscape and geophysical surveys, aerial photography, and remote sensing technology as well as excavation and the study of environmental archaeological evidence.

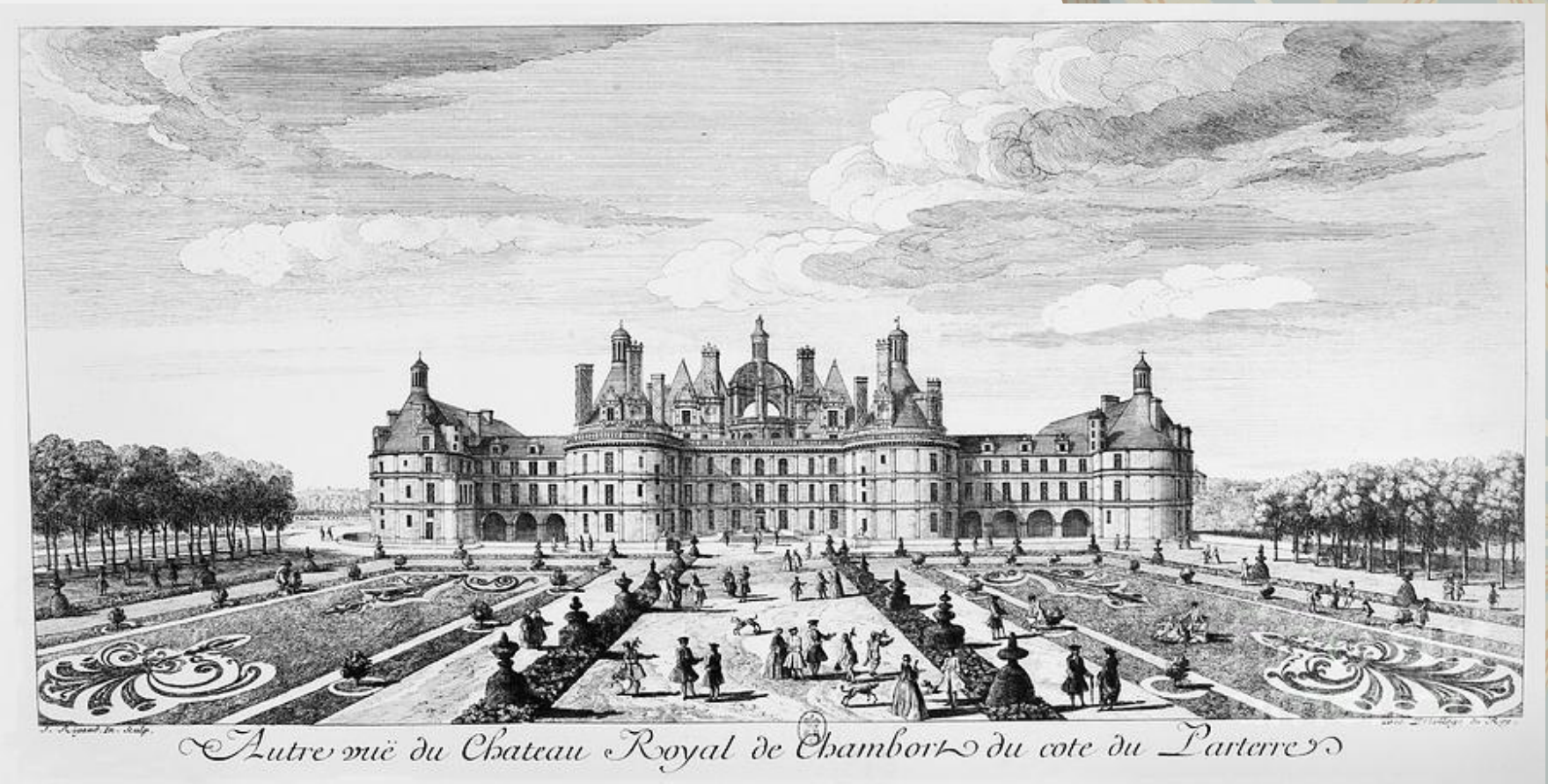


Figure. Chambord castle (http://www.bernardsmith.eu/travel/castles_of_the_loire/chateau_de_chambord/)

What could be included in research?

Research will typically need to look at:

- Historic and modern boundaries
- Entrances and approaches
- Principal building and other buildings and structures
- Formal gardens
- The park
- Kitchen garden
- Outliers (detached features of the park and garden and land separated from the main area like distant follies) and other land
- Views and vistas

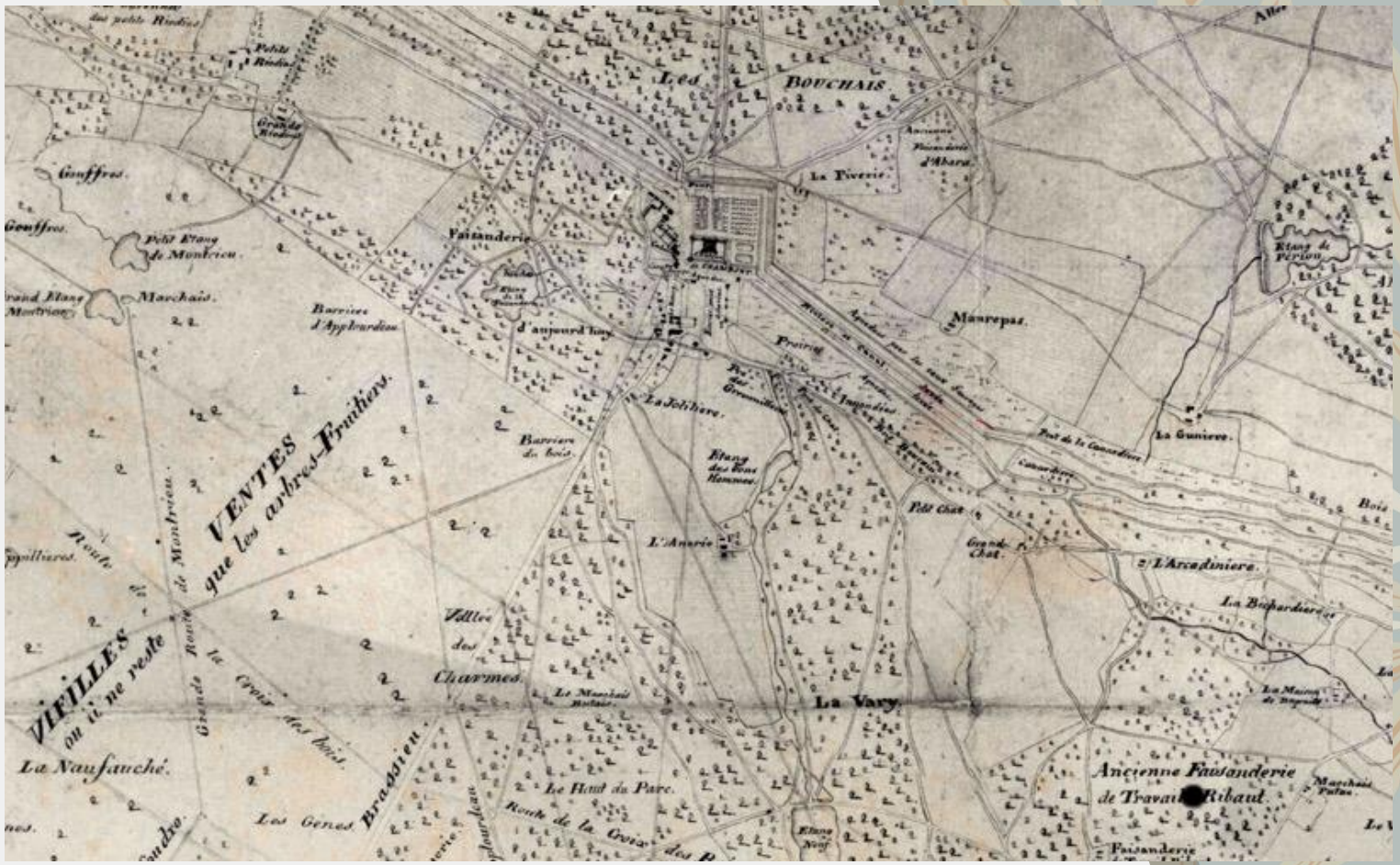


Figure. Map of Chambord castle (http://www.bernardsmith.eu/travel/castles_of_the_loire/chateau_de_chambord/)

What could be included in research?

Investigation of a historic park and garden may involve many different methods and techniques:

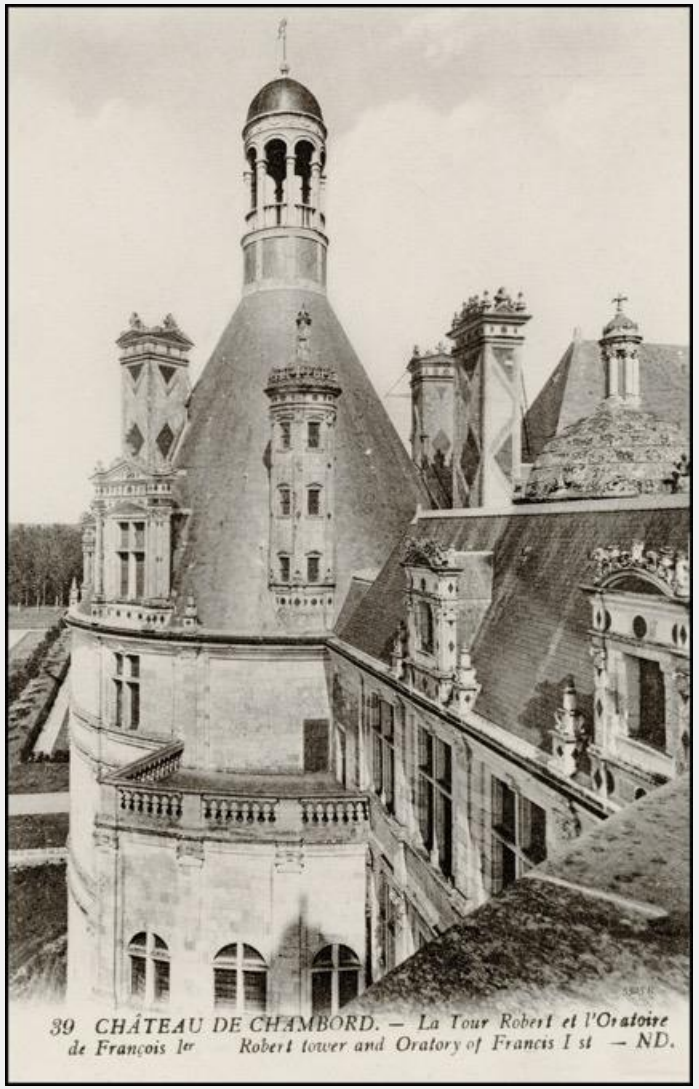
- Documentary and archive research. This could include maps and plans, estate papers, drawings, painting, photographs, postcards, local authority records and so on
- Modern photographs, aerial and satellite photographs, and maps
- Field walking to identify surviving and lost historic features
- Garden archaeology including remote sensing techniques like lidar
- Buildings survey
- Tree survey
- Wildlife and habitat survey
- Geology and soils survey

Figure. Map of Chambord castle (http://www.bernardsmith.eu/travel/castles_of_the_loire/chateau_de_chambord/)

What could be included in research?

Documentary and archive research.

- Time
- Resource quality
- Interpretation



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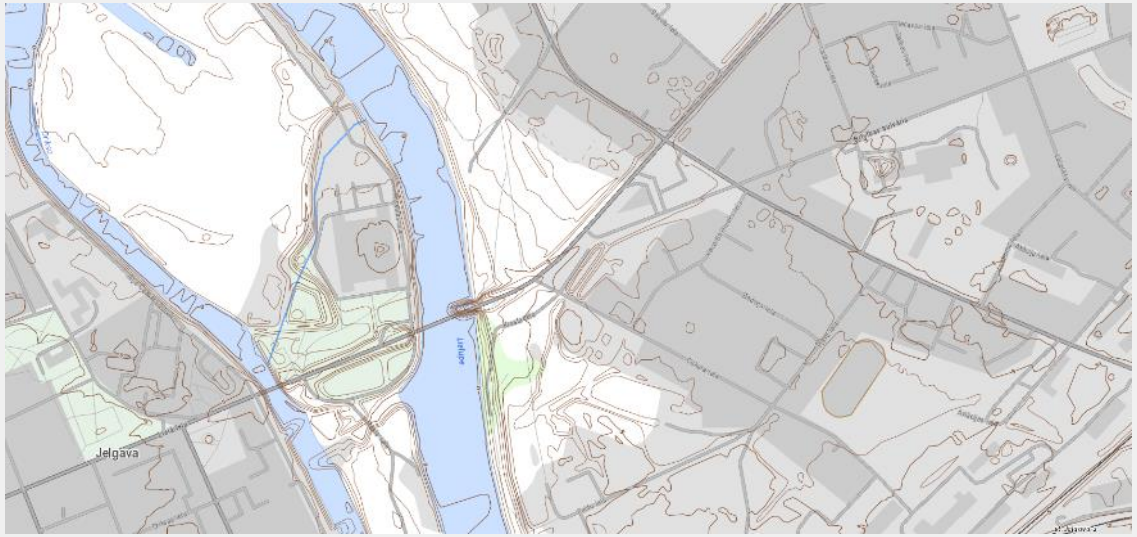
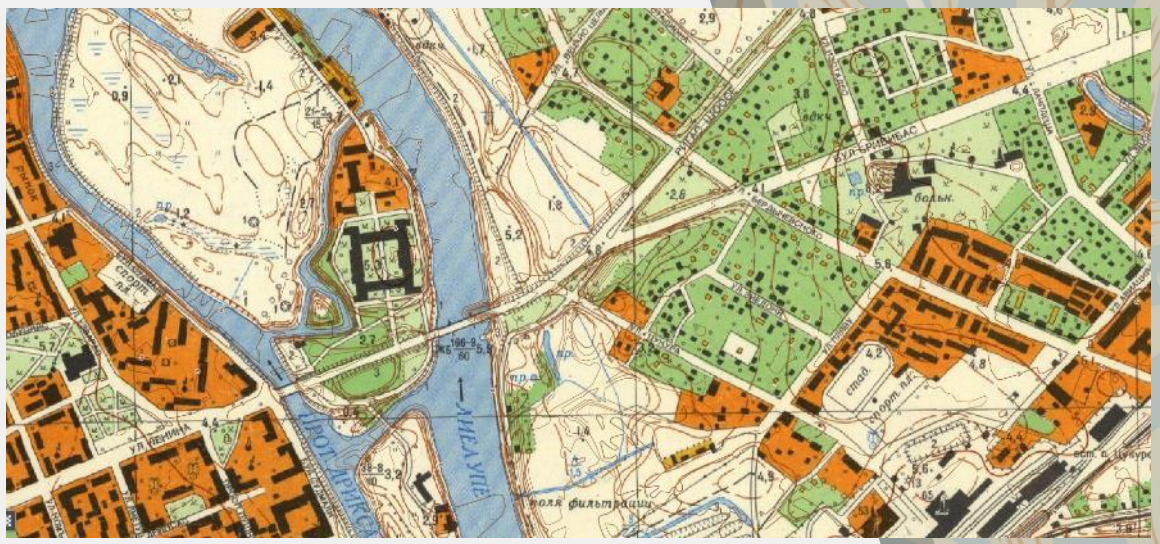




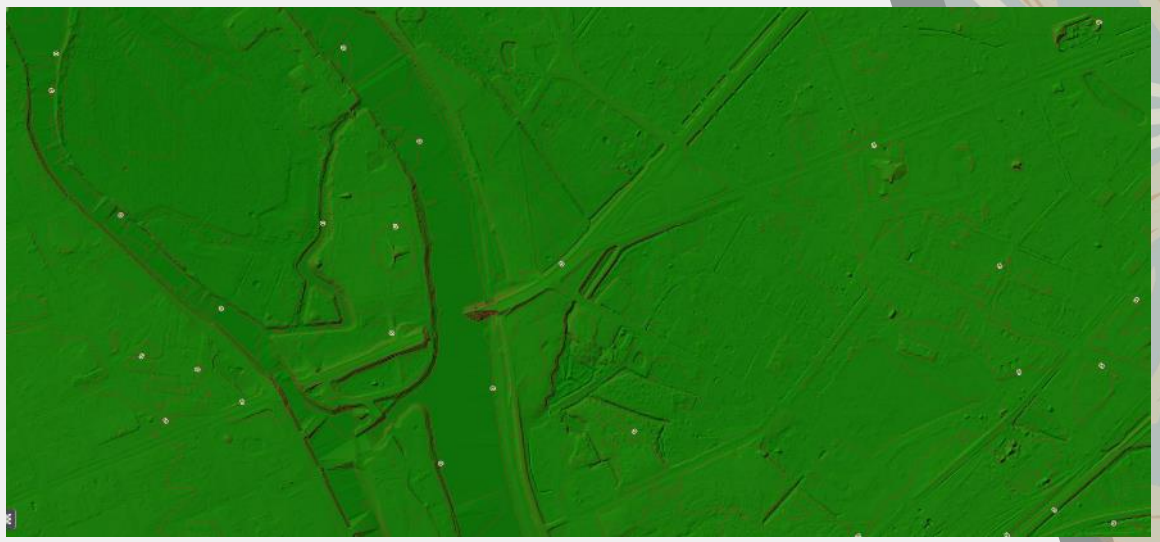


Figure. https://www.lvmgeo.lv/kartes

What could be included in research?

- Modern photographs, aerial and satellite photographs, and maps

1994-1999 year

2007-2008 year

2016-2018 year

Figure. https://www.lvmgeo.lv/kartes

What could be included in research?

Field walking to identify surviving and lost historic features

- Maps
- Geolocation instruments/apps
- Documental research on hands

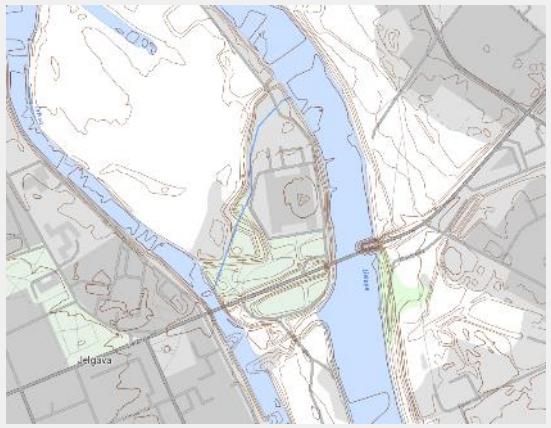


Figure. Map of Chambord castle (http://www.bernardsmith.eu/travel/castles_of_the_loire/chateau_de_chambord/)

What could be included in research?

Garden archaeology including remote sensing techniques like lidar

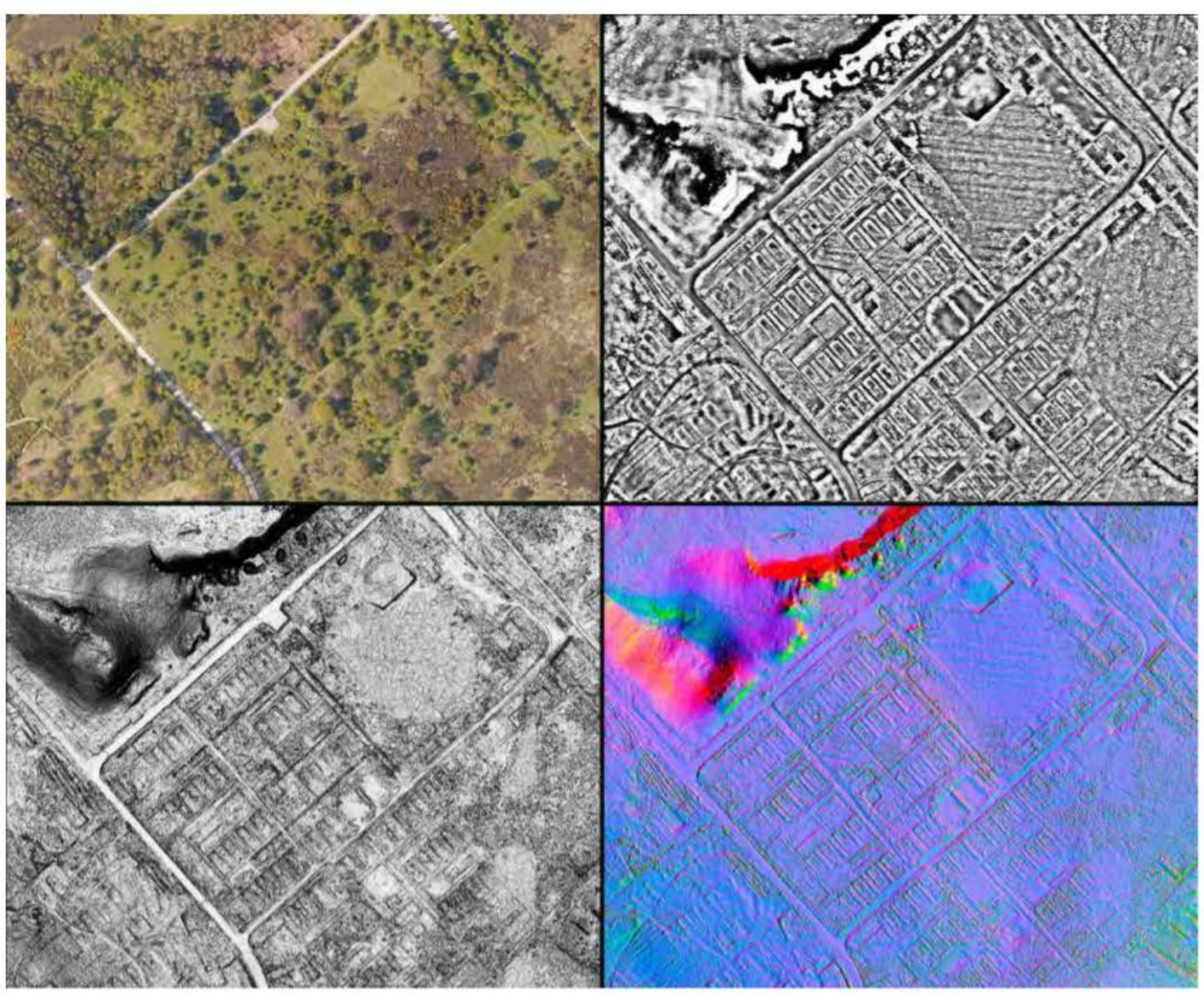
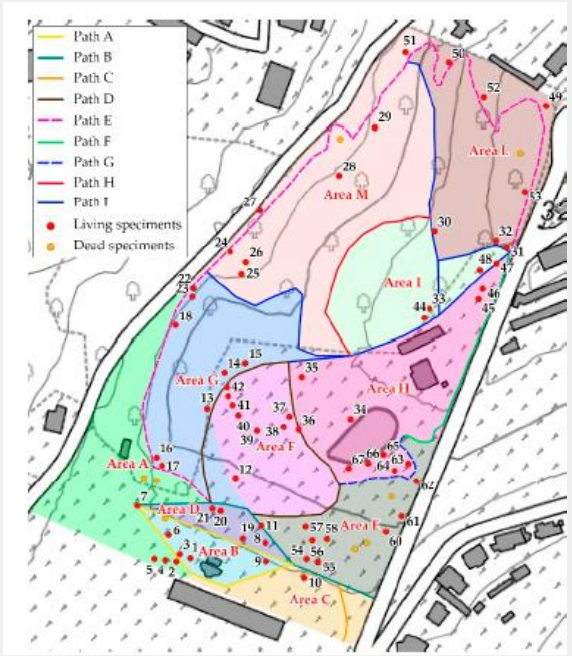
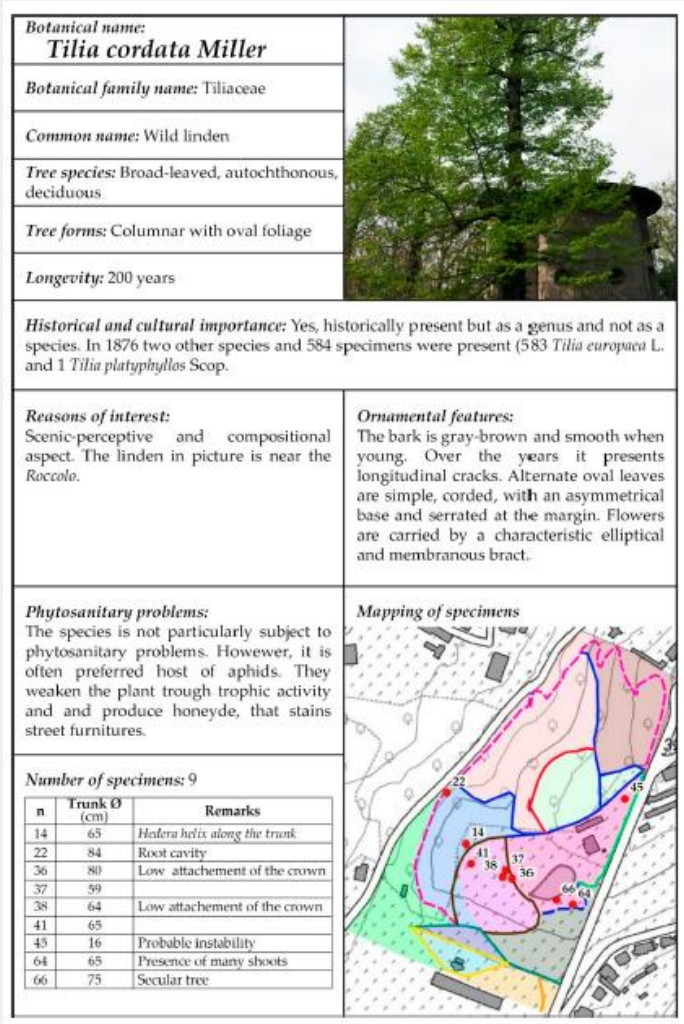


Figure. (https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/using-airborne-lidar-in-archaeological-survey/heag179-using-airborne-lidar-in-archaeological-survey/)

What could be included in research?

- Buildings survey
- Tree survey
- Wildlife and habitat survey
- Geology and soils survey





Botanical name:
Tilia cordata Miller

Botanical family name: Tiliaceae

Common name: Wild linden

Tree species: Broad-leaved, autochthonous, deciduous

Tree forms: Columnar with oval foliage

Longevity: 200 years

Historical and cultural importance: Yes, historically present but as a genus and not as a species. In 1876 two other species and 584 specimens were present (583 *Tilia europaea* L. and 1 *Tilia platyphyllos* Scop.

Reasons of interest:
Scenic-perceptive and compositional aspect. The linden in picture is near the *Roccolo*.

Ornamental features:
The bark is gray-brown and smooth when young. Over the years it presents longitudinal cracks. Alternate oval leaves are simple, corded, with an asymmetrical base and serrated at the margin. Flowers are carried by a characteristic elliptical and membranous bract.

Phytosanitary problems:
The species is not particularly subject to phytosanitary problems. However, it is often preferred host of aphids. They weaken the plant trough trophic activity and and produce honeyde, that stains street furnitures.

Mapping of specimens

Number of specimens: 9

n	Trunk Ø (cm)	Remarks
14	65	*Hedera helix along the trunk*
22	84	Root cavity
36	80	Low attachement of the crown
37	59	
38	64	Low attachement of the crown
41	65	
45	16	Probable instability
64	65	Presence of many shoots
66	75	Secular tree

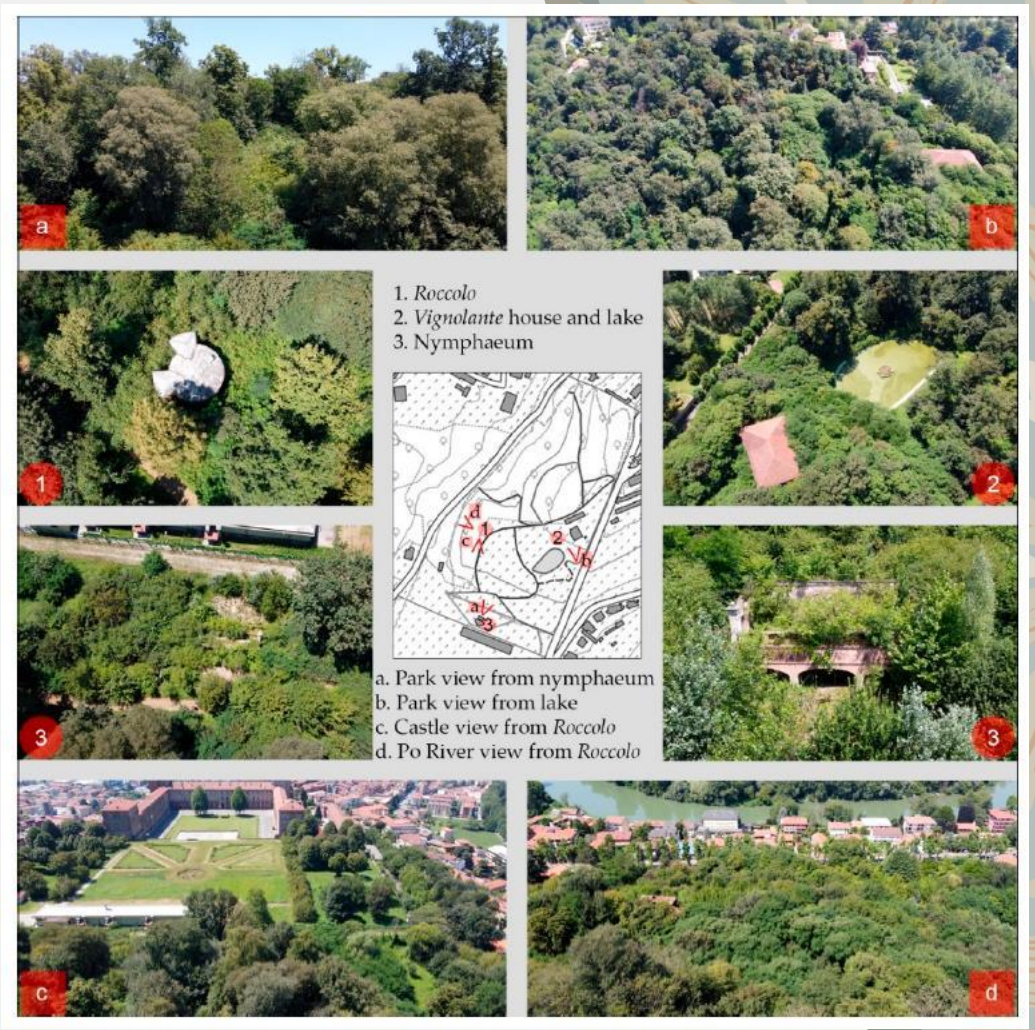


Figure. Survey examples

Defining a methodological holistic approach for restoring holistic gardens

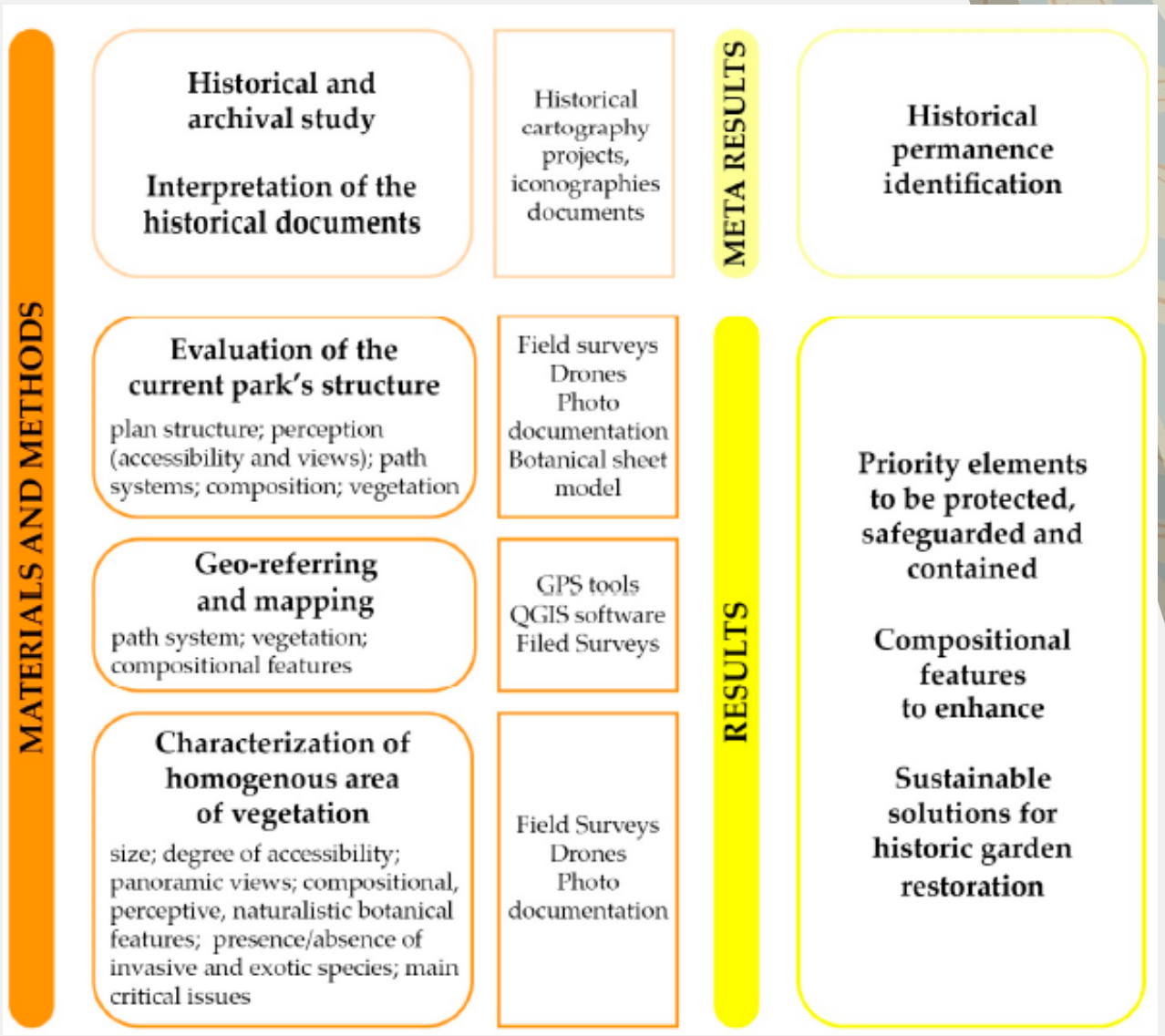


Figure. The methodical framework applied in the research

According to Birnbaum (1994), the methodology should involve the following steps:

- historical research,
- inventory and documentation of existing conditions,
- site analysis and the development of a preservation maintenance guide

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE FEATURES	DEGREE OF DOCUMENTATION					
	SITE EVIDENCE	MANNING PLAN	HISTORIC PHOTOS	LETTERS 1914-1946	1955-1993 RECORDS	SECONDARY SOURCES
NATURAL SYSTEMS/TOPOGRAPHY	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	?
Bedrock (Quarry)	●	●	●	●		
Land Contour	●	●	●	●	●	
Rockwork	●	●	●	●	●	
WATER FEATURES	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	?
Alignment—Cascade	●		●	●	●	
Alignment—Pools & Streams	●	●	●	●	●	
Materials—Cascade	●		●	●	●	
Materials—Pools & Streams	●		●	●	●	
CIRCULATION	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	?
Alignment—Upland Area		●	●		●	
Alignment—Perimeter Paths	●	●	●	●	●	
Alignment—Internal Paths		●	●		●	
Materials—Upland Area		●	●		●	
Materials—Perimeter Paths	●	●	●	●		
Materials—Internal Paths		●	●	●	●	
SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	?
Garden Site (Quarry)	●	●	●	●		
Viewshed (Cuyahoga Valley)	●		●	●		
Vista over Garden from Terrace			●	●		
Views within Garden		●	●	●	●	
Views within Upland		●	●	●		
Views from Croquet Lawn		●	●			
VEGETATION	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	?
Native Forest Trees	●	●	●	●	●	
Ornamental Shrubs in Garden	●		●	●	●	
Groundcovers in Garden	●		●	●	●	
Herbaceous Plants in Garden			●	●	●	
SITE FURNISHINGS	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	?
Lanterns	●		●	●	●	
Seats	●		●	●		
STRUCTURES	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	?
Torii Gate	●		●		●	
Cistern	●	●		●	●	
Stone Wall Concealing Cistern	●		●	●	●	
Lagon Bridges			●	●		
Umbrella House			●	●		
Trellis/Lattice			●	●		

Figure. The chart measures available documentation for character-defining features in Japanese Garden at Stan Hywet Hall

Research of Ķemeri park

The cultural and historical research of Ķemeri Park was carried out using historical maps and photography comparison and the method of reading the landscape in nature, with the aim of identifying what is preserved today from cultural and historical values and their impact on the possible development of the park.

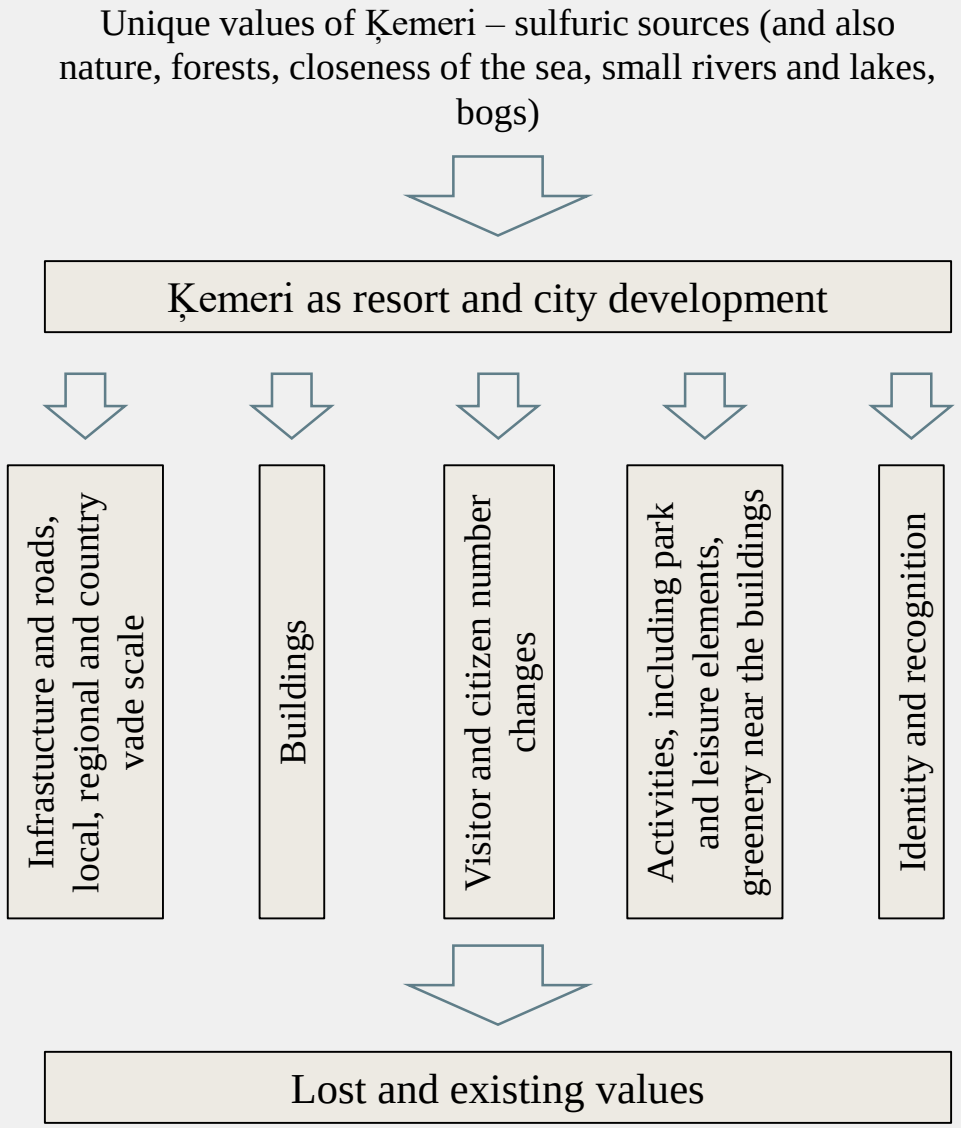


Figure. Groups for identification of cultural-historical values and research

Research of Ķemeri park

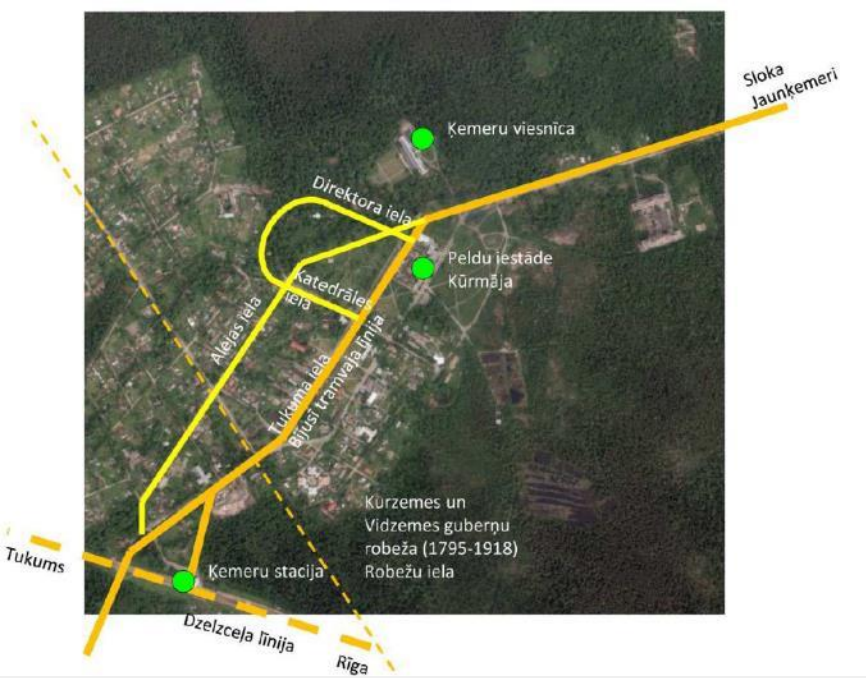
Cultural and historical values have been identified and analysed according to the following qualities:

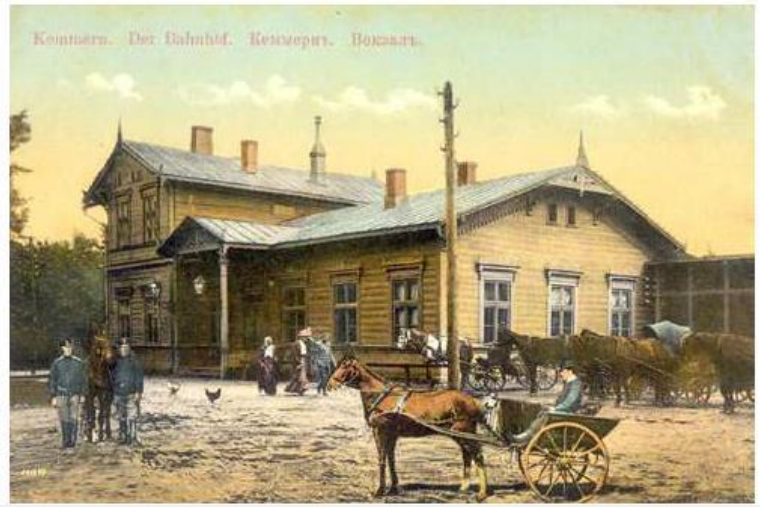
- **Historicity** or the connection between the past and the present, authenticity.
- **Aesthetic quality and integrity** - harmony of cultural and historical elements, including from different historical periods.
- **Social quality and importance**, which determines the significance of the place and its elements for the locals citizens and society as a whole.

Figure. Example of landscape map and photo analyses

Research of Ķemeri park

The beginnings of Ķemeri Park. The role of infrastructure development and national, regional and local interconnections.





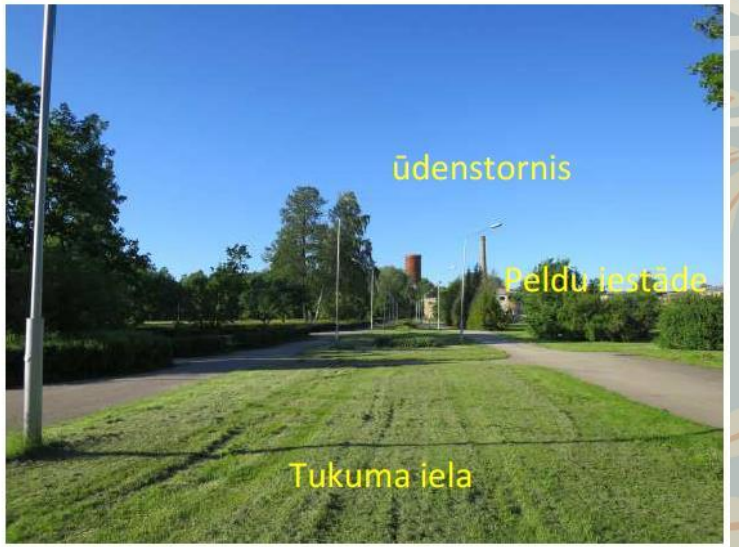
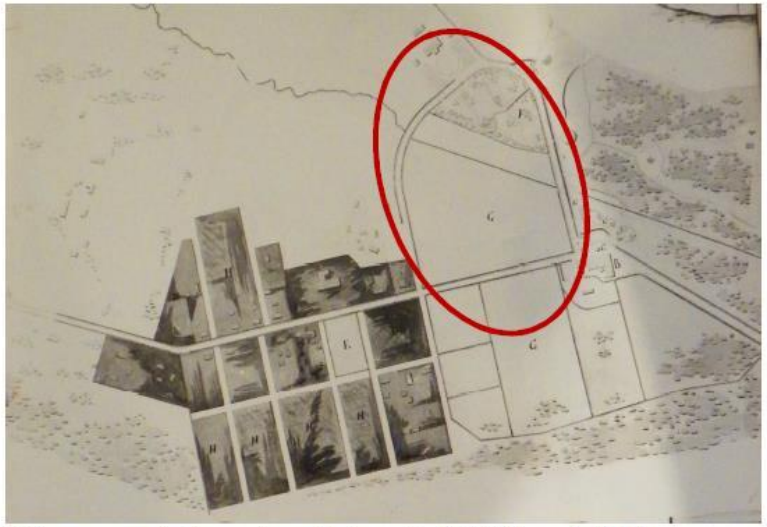


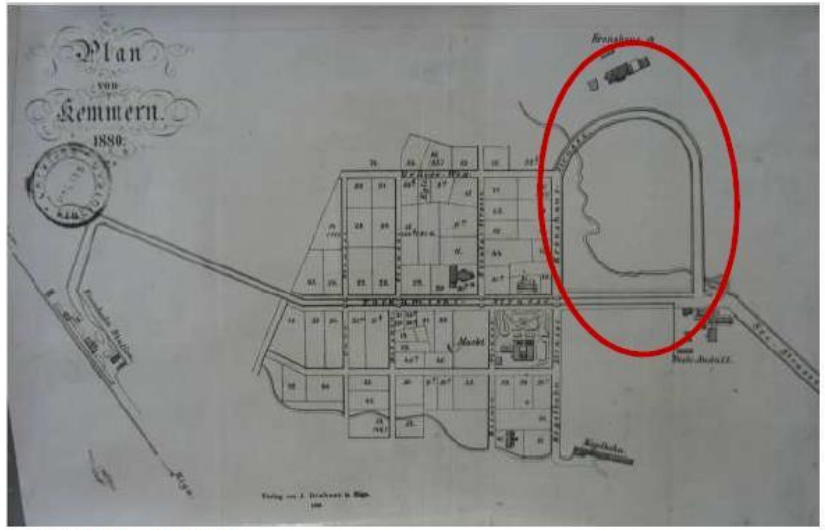
Figure. Example of landscape map and photo analyses

Research of Ķemeri park

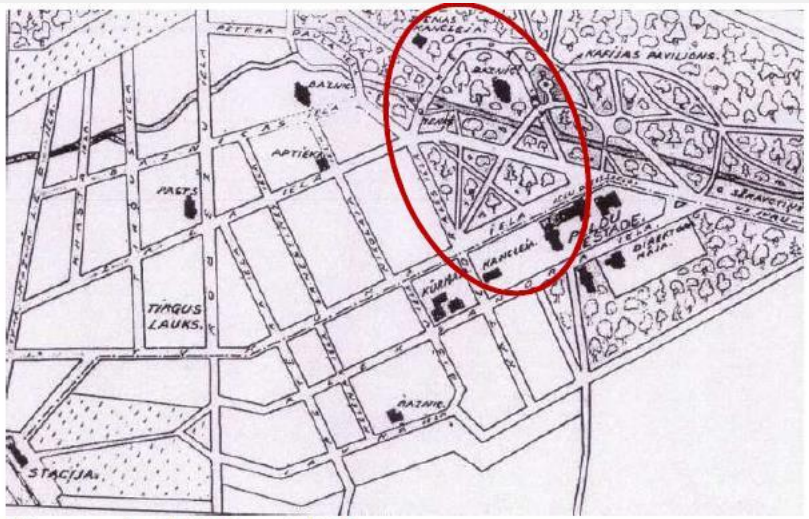
Direktora Street also partially marks two different park areas - natural forest park and landscape territory



Ķemeru kūrorta plāns (~1838.g.) [1]



(1880.g) [2]



Ķemeri (1928.g.) [2]

Ķemeru parks (1945.g.) [2]

Figure. Example of landscape map and photo analyses

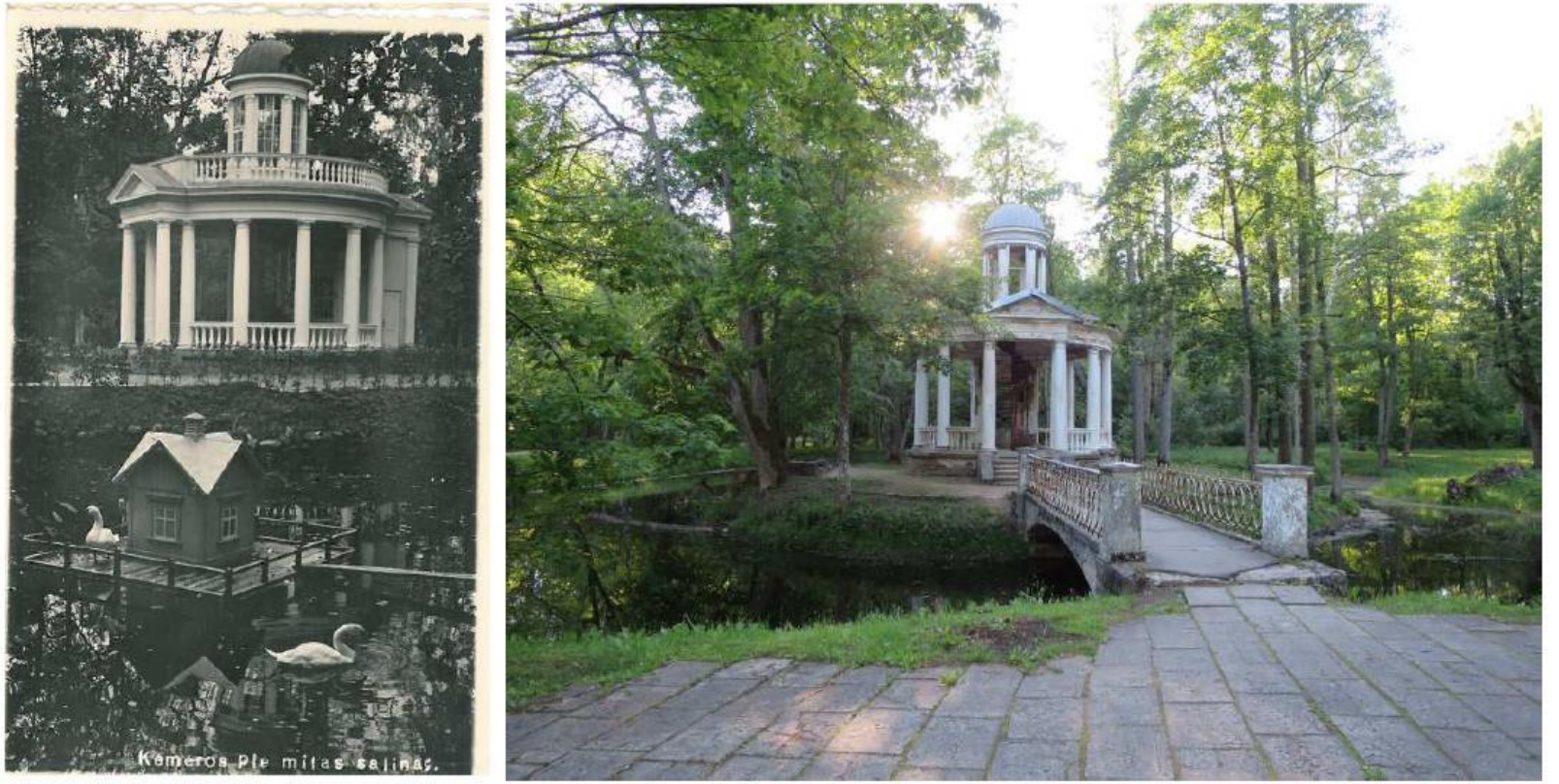
Research of Ķemeri park

Construction and its function, impact on the development of the park

Figure. Example of landscape map and photo analyses

Research of Ķemeri park

Construction and its function, impact on the development of the park

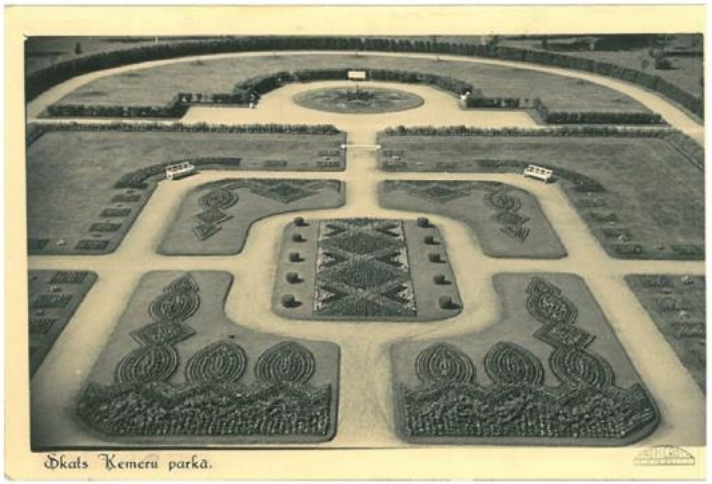


12.attēls Mīlestības saliņa ar rotondu [1], 193-.g. un 2017.g.

Figure. Example of landscape map and photo analyses

Research of Ķemeri park

Parter of park near historical resort hotel

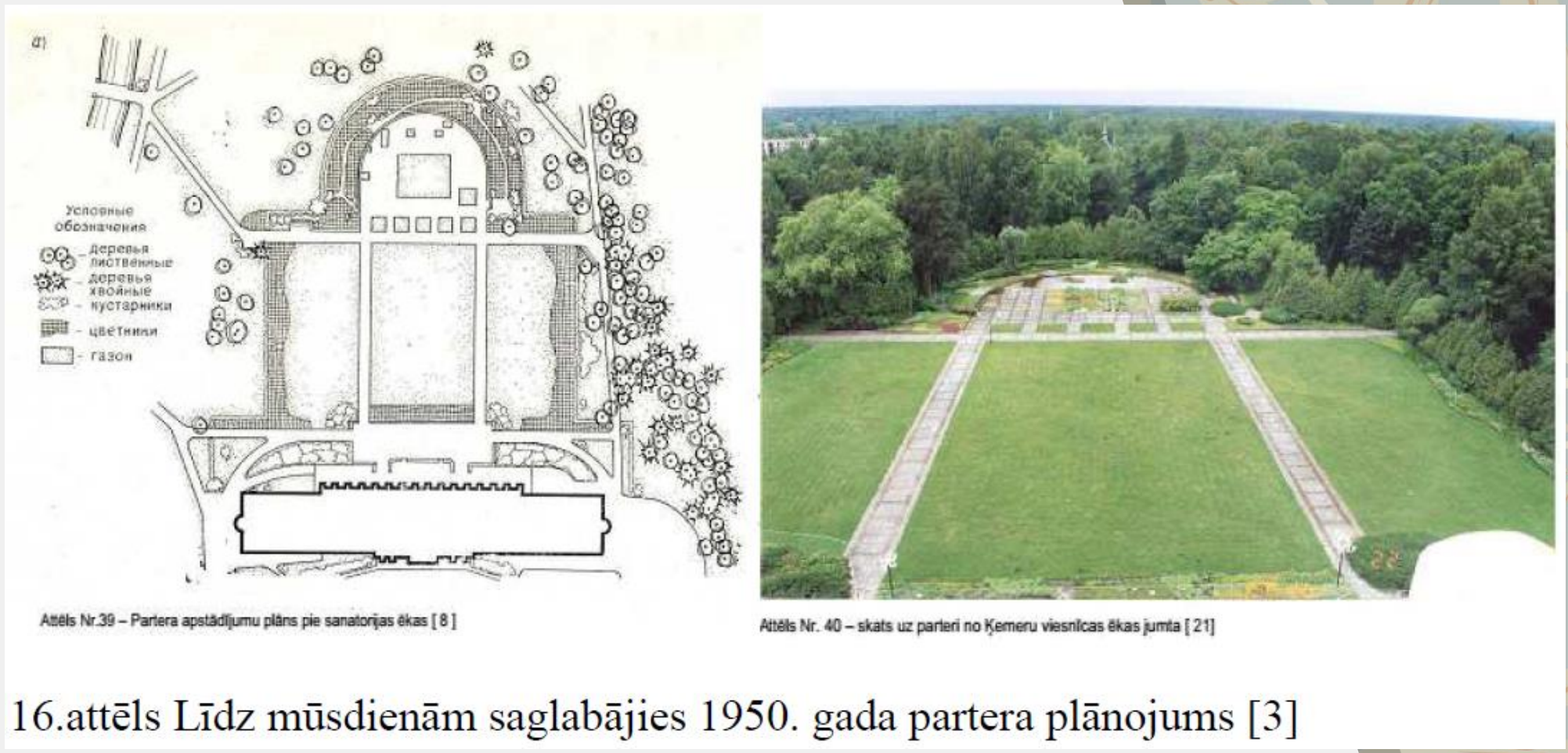


13. attēls Parteris pie viesnīcas ar mainīgiem apstādījumiem

Figure. Example of landscape map and photo analyses

Research of Ķemeri park

Parter of park near historical resort hotel



Attēls Nr.39 – Partera apstādījumu plāns pie sanatorijas ēkas [8]

Attēls Nr. 40 – skats uz parteri no Ķemeru viesnīcas ēkas jumta [21]

16.attēls Līdz mūsdienām saglabājies 1950. gada partera plānojums [3]

Figure. Example of landscape map and photo analyses

Research of Ķemeri park

What was importans?

Figure. Example of landscape map and photo analyses

Research of Ķemeri park

Results as basis for project proposal. Park was opened summer 2021.

Research of Ķemeri park

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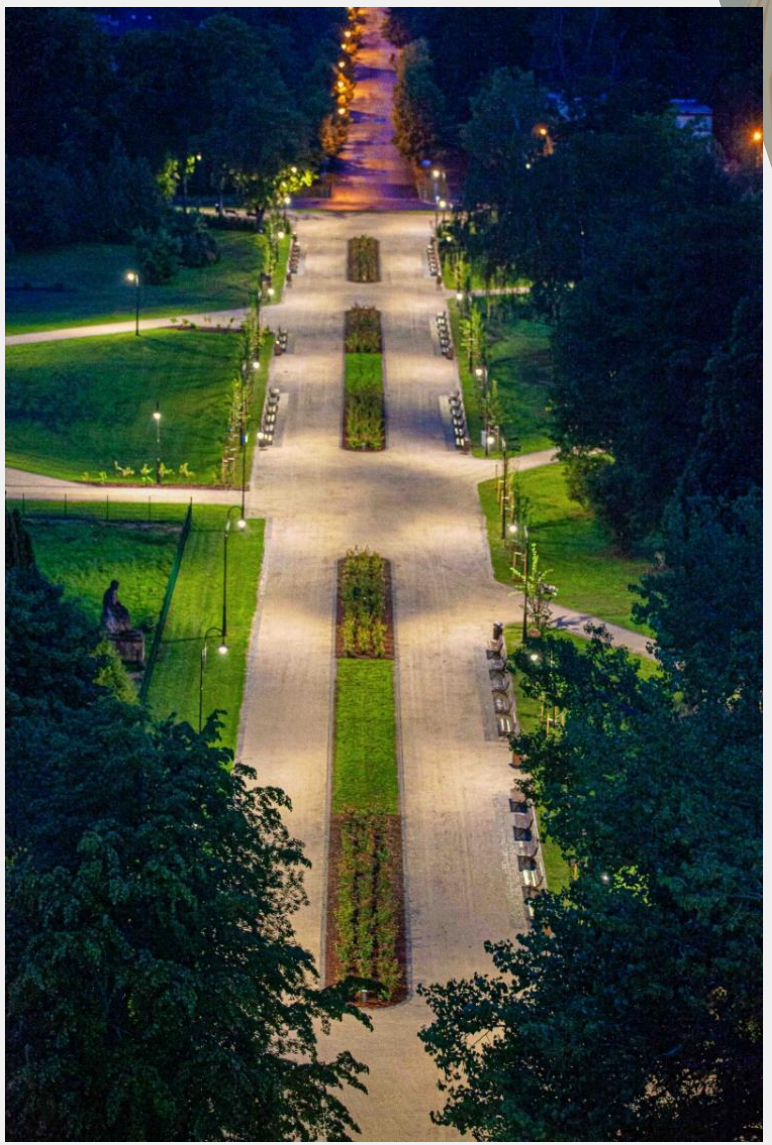

Final marks

- Clear: Our research will address clearly-articulated research questions, issues or problems, set in context of other research in that area and using appropriate methods
- Strategic: Our research will help us deliver the ambitions of our ten year strategy and our core purpose
- Outcome-driven: Our research will be designed with clear application in mind; to create a process, solution or technical enhancement in order to increase our efficiency and deliver our core purpose; to support a policy requirement; to help deliver aspects of a Property Business Plan; or to enhance our knowledge in order to inform our conservation or interpretation
- Audience-focused: Our research will always have an internal client and end user
- Appropriate: We will understand that not every decision requires new research and recognise existing knowledge and accumulated experience, both internally and externally
- Scalable: When designing a research project, we will also think beyond individual collections, properties and regions to the wider application / contribution to the knowledge of the Trust and public
- Collaborative: We will work strategically with partners to address research gaps and share knowledge in a collaborative and efficient way
- Accessible: We will make our research open access in a timely manner and will store it so that it remains accessible

Experience leads to the firm conclusion that the distinct processes involved should not be confused:

- Given a good brief, survey, research and analysis can be conveniently combined. At this stage it is safe and proper to be rigorously academic and idealistic, leaving no stone unturned and ignoring the realities of the present.

- It is essential on the other hand that the writing of the proposals should be done either by those responsible for management or in close consultation with them. This should be a long-term plan for the conservation of the garden or park, not a short-term expedient, and it must be realistic.

- The third stage should consist of a phased programme for the renewal and conservation of the park or garden, taking into account all the constraints and meeting all the management challenges, including matters like training, marketing and of course finance.

References

- https://historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/garden-history/
- https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/parks-gardens-and-landscapes/maintenance-repair-and-conservation-management-plans-for-historic-parks-and-gardens/
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Thank you for your attention!