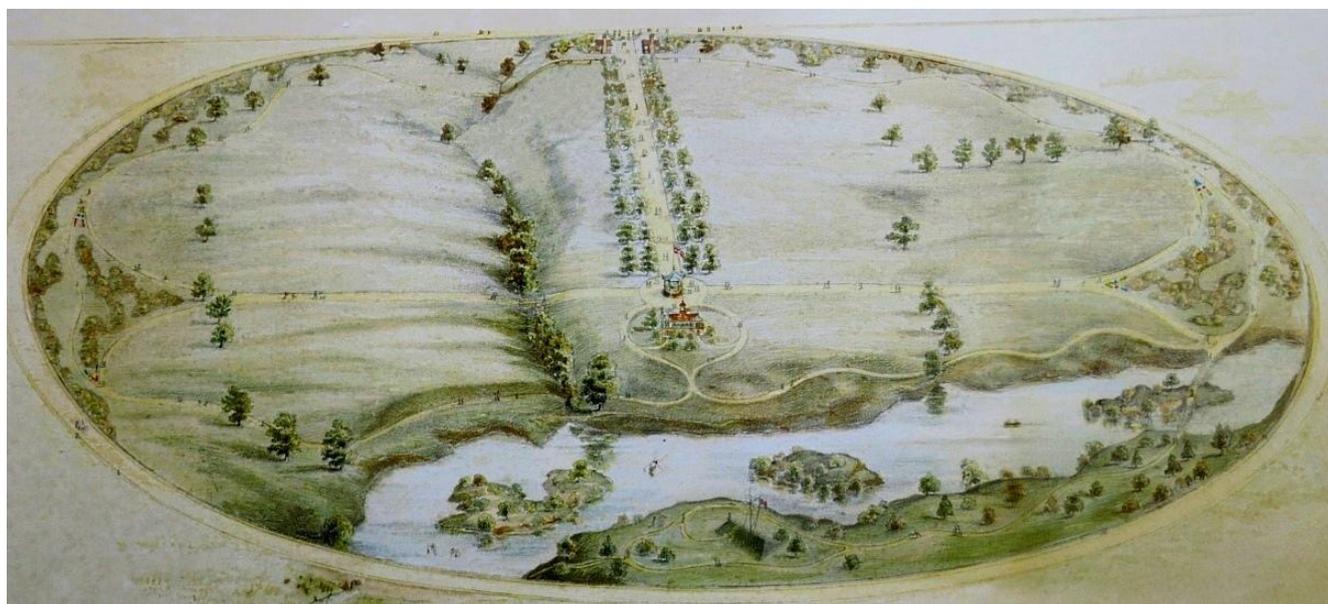


<b>SITE NAME:</b>	<b>Queen's Park Crewe</b>				
Address	Victoria Avenue, Crewe CW2 7SE				
Unitary Authority:	Cheshire East Council (former Crewe and Nantwich B.C.)				
Parish:	Crewe				
Location:	c. 2 kms W of the town centre				
Grid Ref:	SJ 687 556				
<b>Owner:</b>	Cheshire East Council Managed by				
<b>Recorder</b>	IBW	<b>Date of Site Visit</b>	26/03/2017	<b>Date of Report</b>	24/03/2017

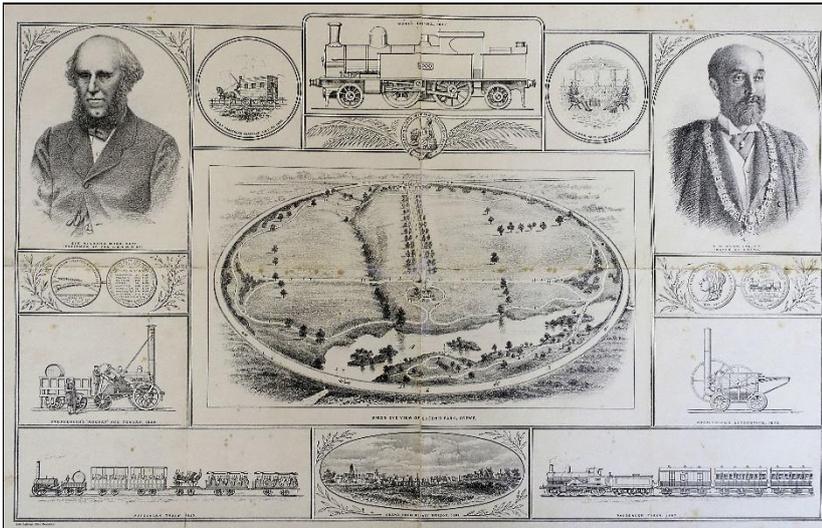
## Historic Images



1) **Crewe town in 1887:** detail from image (3) below



2) **"Bird's eye view of the New Park Crewe"**. Watercolour signed by **F.W. Webb**, dated **07/03/1887**: the earliest surviving depiction of the park's layout and likely to be a copy of the original, or a copy, produced for Crewe Corporation's album presented at the ceremonies during the Dedication (Source: LNWR Society Archives, Ref. CREWE 032)



**3) 1887: Poster** published by the *Crewe Guardian* for Dedication Day:

Portraits,  
Sir Richard Moon Chairman of the LNWR Co. (left) and  
F.W. Webb Esq. C.E. Mayor of Crewe

Top: Locomotive 3000 designed by Webb and built in Crewe 1887.

'Then and now' images of locomotives, passenger trains and carriages.

Medals awarded to LNWR Company.

(Source: CALS Ref: D 4465/1)



**4) July 1888:**

**N entrance** with gate piers, gates, lodges and the clocktower.

**Large birch trees** were transplanted to line the N-S avenue leading to the pavilion.

Photo probably taken at a rehearsal for the Opening ceremony. A similar ceremony had taken place the year before, on 'Dedication Day', when the *Crewe Guardian* reported:

"On each side of the drive the Crewe Volunteer Engineers were drawn up in line...and the soldier-like bearing of the men, with their smart uniforms, was a theme of general admiration."

(Sources: www.nrm.org © National Railway Museum and SSPL. / Text: *The Jubilee of Crewe*, Inwrs Archives Ref: CREWE 022)



**5) 1888**

Looking E across the lake from the SW slope. The arch at the E end is the inlet of the Valley Brook and carries the new road, Victoria Avenue, built by LNWR.

Two '**rustic**' **wooden bridges** lead across the central **island** and (not shown) to the lake's N edge and the pavilion - a change to Webb's 1887 drawing.

Large-scale **planting** of trees and shrubs has taken place.

(Source: www.nrm.org.uk © National Railway Museum and SSPL)

**Sources** for images 6-18 below:

Unless otherwise indicated, **historic** photos are from: LNWR Society Archives *Photo Album 1907*, Ref: MZ66; **modern photos** taken by BM / IBW during site visits.

110 years ago

Principal features in 1907.... and in

Today

2011-17 after the restoration



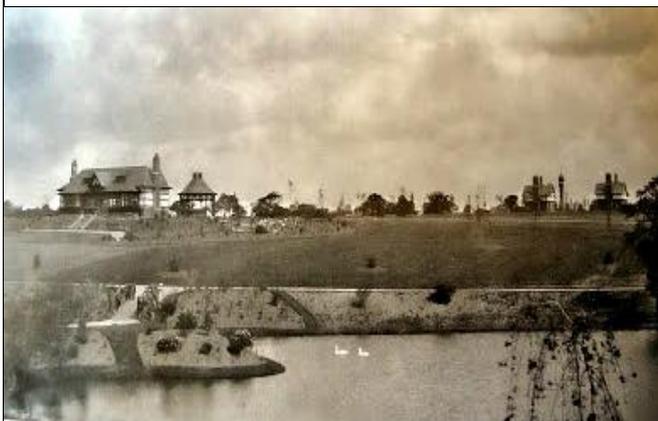
6) The N entrance seen from the S. The **clock tower** used to have a drinking fountain with cups. **Lodges, gate piers with gates and railings.**

Beyond the gates lies Victoria Avenue, the new road to Nantwich built by LNWR. It is now built up.  
(Source: www.embconsultants.com)



7) Looking N along the length of the **N-S avenue**. It is lined with double rows of birch trees and **round flower beds**.

The old trees have been replaced with double rows of red-twigged **limes**. 38 **round flower beds** maintain the tradition of carpet-bedding. Between the rows of trees are rows of alternating green and golden clipped **yews**.  
(Source: www.geograph.org.uk by Steven Craven)



8) **1888** Looking N across the lake towards the pavilion and, to its right, the **bandstand**. In 1904 the bandstand was moved to the W end of the Broadwalk, when the Boer War Memorial was erected by the pavilion.  
(Source: www.queensparkcrewe.com)

The restored **bandstand** at the W end of the E-W axis / Broadwalk. Most of the **boundary plantations** remain intact.



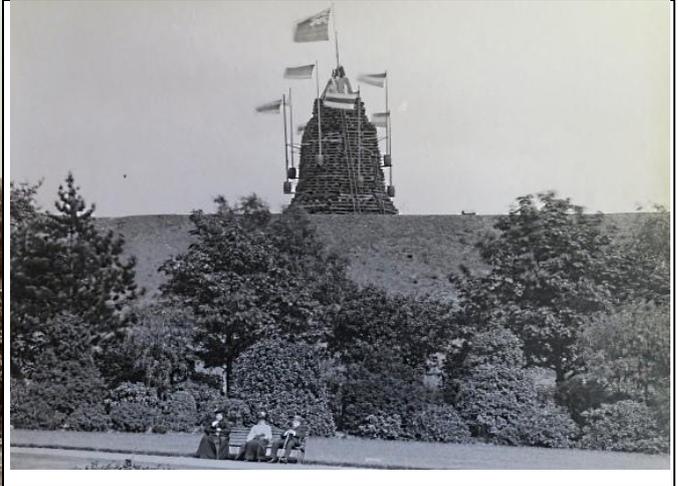
9) The **South African** or **Boer War Memorial** of 1904 at the centre of the park, with the **pavilion** to its S. The cannons were given to the war effort during WWII.



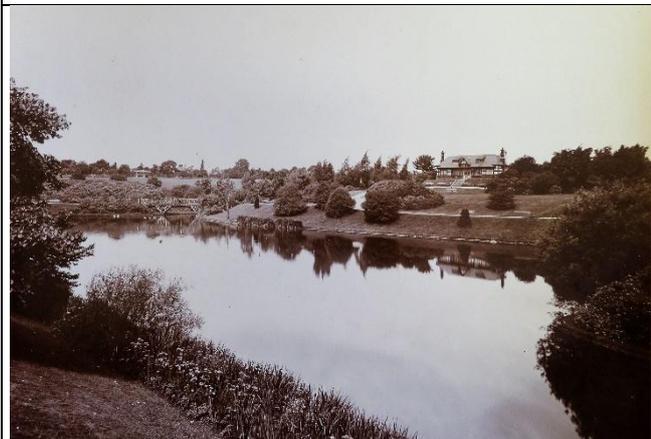
The original **pavilion** burnt down in 1972 and was then rebuilt. As part of the restoration programme, it was replaced with a modern design and facilities. Now called 'Lakeside Café'.  
(Source: [www.queensparkcrewe.com](http://www.queensparkcrewe.com))



10) A 'bird's eye view' looking along the **E-W axis/Broadwalk** from the E. It shows the bifurcation of paths indicated in Webb's 1887 plan. Cast-iron **railings** separate the park from **Queen's Park Drive**, the circular road around the park. It is no longer possible to take this view today →



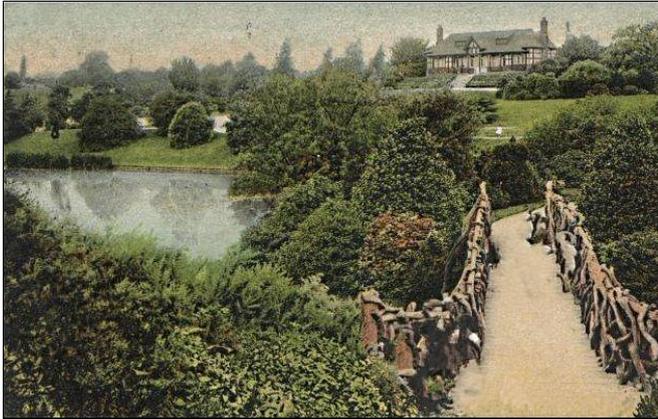
In 1907 a huge **tip** from LNWR's blast furnaces dominated the E end of the park. **Plantations** of trees and shrubs hid it from view. Shown here, a large bonfire-tower made of railway sleepers, possibly to be lit for the inauguration of the Boer War Memorial. The tip was levelled decades ago, and has become **Tipkinder Park** and BMX track.



11) View across the **lake** from the SE, showing part of the E island (right) and the pavilion.



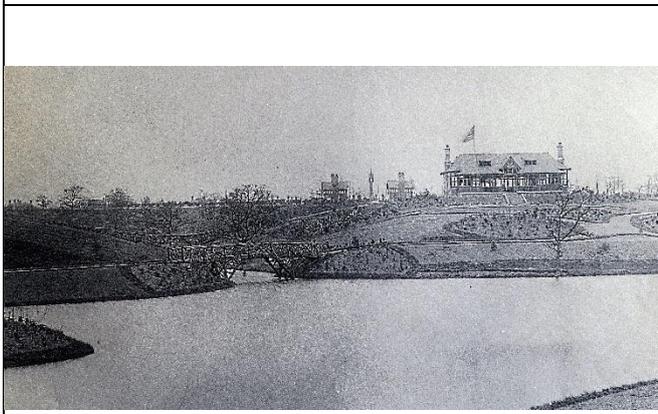
Today, the pavilion is virtually hidden behind trees. Retaining walls of the E island have been rebuilt.



**12) 'Rustic' wooden footbridge** (as advocated by Kemp) leading from the S edge of the lake across the central island to the pavilion.  
(Source: www.queensparkcrewe.com)



The condition of the old bridges made a replacement with a modern, stable design a necessity. The island was replanted only recently.



**13) 1888** View across the lake from the SW shore. It shows the steep subsidiary **valley** running N-S and its brook entering the lake. Two wooden **footbridges** lead the circuit walk and the Broadwalk across the valley.



Today the level of the lake is higher. The wormscrew installed in 1913 remains in use to fill the lake. The two wooden bridges have been replaced with modern structures.

**Examples of design principles advocated by Kemp:**



**14)** A **mound** S of the lake, possibly remains of the old rifle-range butts. The recent re-planting keeps to Kemp's advice; evergreen shrubs will clothe the ground and create contrast to the specimen tree and large conifers beyond.



**15)** The **E island** and E end of the lake show the rich variety of shape and colour in the evergreen trees and shrubs of the E **boundary planting**. They give prominence to **specimen deciduous trees**.



**16)** Clumps of shrubs and trees of differing height and colour, planted as advocated in Kemp's book *How to Lay Out a Garden*.



**17)** 'Rustic' rockwork retains the slope behind and provides permanent edging to the path – a device Kemp used in Congleton Park. Stonework at the lake edge is modern.

**Coronation Walk:**



**18) 1940s (?)** postcard. The small valley and stream in the NW quadrant was developed in 1937. From a path along the stream, visitors enjoyed an aviary, a waterfall, and a lily pond as well as colourful planting.

Courtesy of RHS Lindley Library



Looking upstream from the Broadwalk footbridge. In March 2017, restoration of the watercourse, footpath and landscaping was still in progress.

**Please note** that this report contains the research and recording information available to Cheshire Gardens Trust at the time. It does not purport to be the finite sum of knowledge about the site as new information is always being discovered and sites change.

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