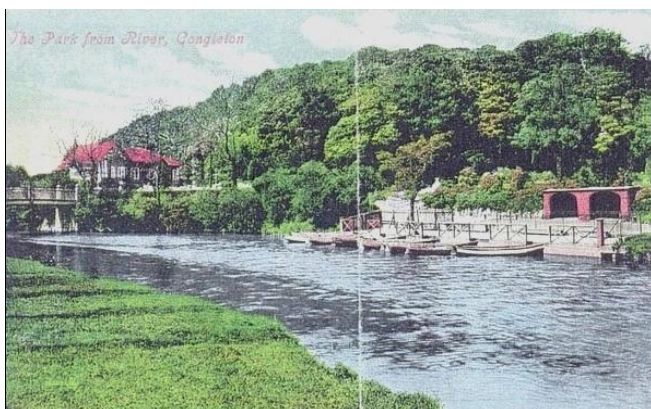


SITE NAME:	Congleton Park (public park)				
Address	Park Road, Congleton CW12 1JG				
Unitary Authority:	Cheshire East				
Parish:	Congleton				
Location:	c. 400 m N of town centre				
Grid Ref:	SJ 862 634				
Owner:	Congleton Town Council				
Recorder	IBW	Date of Site Visits	29/06/2016 7/08/2016 17/09/2016	Date of Report	31/10/2016

Historic Images



- 1) **1887** The earliest image of the park shows the new landing stage and a brick arbour. The S circuit walk (above the stone-lined embankment) leads to an urn on a pedestal. The foliage of young trees contrasts with that of Town Wood beyond.



- 2) **c.1890** ↑ The Pavilion has been built.



- 3) **1910-19** Cast iron bridge and park entrance with topiary and circular fountain ↑ on lawns.



4) c.1890 S circuit walk looking W towards the Pavilion. Horse-Chestnuts line both sides of the walk.



5) c.1890 S circuit walk looking E towards the bowling-green. The trees by the river would soon be replaced with yew hedging.



6) 1898 S circuit walk with landing stage, pavilion and bridge. The walk is edged with one line of horse-chestnut trees and a yew hedge and flowers beds.



7) 1905 View from the bridge: landing stage and stone embankment. The thin white line is the S circuit walk lined with a yew hedge and maturing horse-chestnuts. Some of the young poplars, on the river's other side, remain.



8) 1910-19 Town Wood's steep slope, clear of any undergrowth. Seen from the promenade, as indicated by the upright stones of the retaining wall. Here, access to the path is not flanked by piers.



9) c. 1910-19 Mock fortress and Russian cannon on the highest viewpoint of Town Wood.

(Sources of historic images: www.cheshireimagebank.org.uk, www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/leisure_culture_and_tourism/parks; Dates as given on websites. No 4) Framed and dated photograph in 'Stocks at the Pavilion' restaurant, photo by JC 2016).

Photographs from site visits summer 2016 (by CGT members JG, BM, JW and IBW)



10) **Town Wood:** restored ascent



11) Path along a contour line



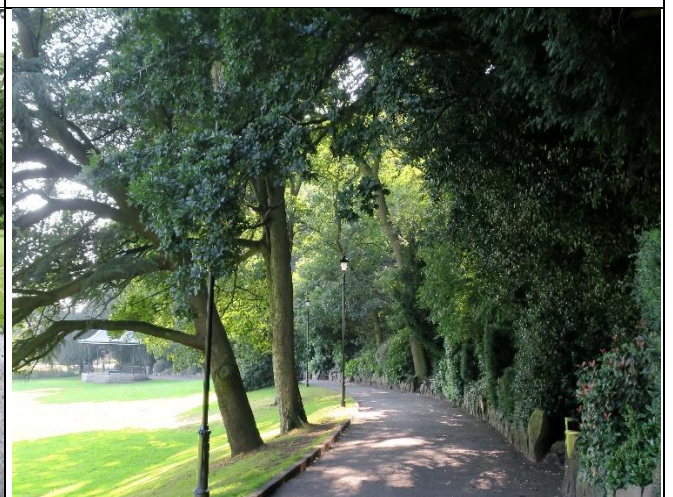
12) The most northerly path on the edge of a level plateau (right), the latter occupied by modern housing.



13) The restored viewpoint at Town Wood's summit. Trees were cleared to allow views across the town.



14) The **Promenade** looking NE, with seating niche, retaining wall and shrubby. A curve hides the walk's continuation.



15) Promenade looking SW: its gradual rise is shown by the change of level in the open grassland. Several coniferous trees remain and may date back to Kemp's time.



16) **Rockwork** along the promenade:
retaining wall of Millstone grit, c. 60-80 cms high.



17) Small planting bed above the retaining wall.



18) Niche decorated with quartzite stones.



19) Dressed stone piers with pyramidal caps and steps with rock embankments lead into Town Wood.



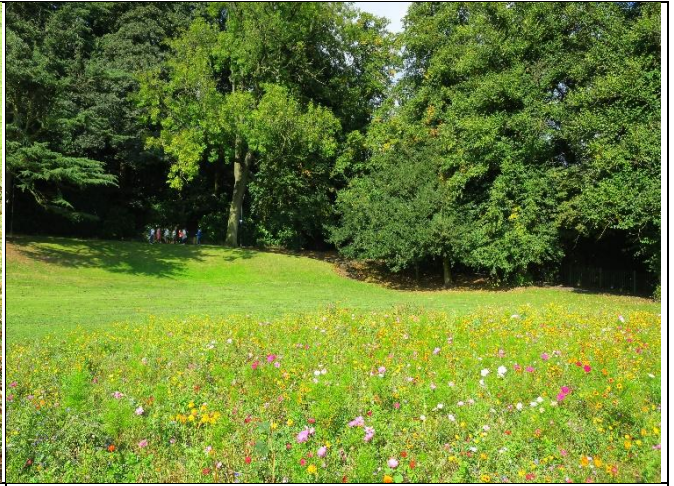
20) The Promenade rises towards the (hidden)
turning point at the park's NE end.



21) View from the Promenade to the E circuit walk,
the 'Jubilee Walk' of 13 Limes (2012) and a round
wild flower meadow (2014).



22) Steps lined with rocks near the NE turning point, shown in 1909 (D), then leading to the children's play area.



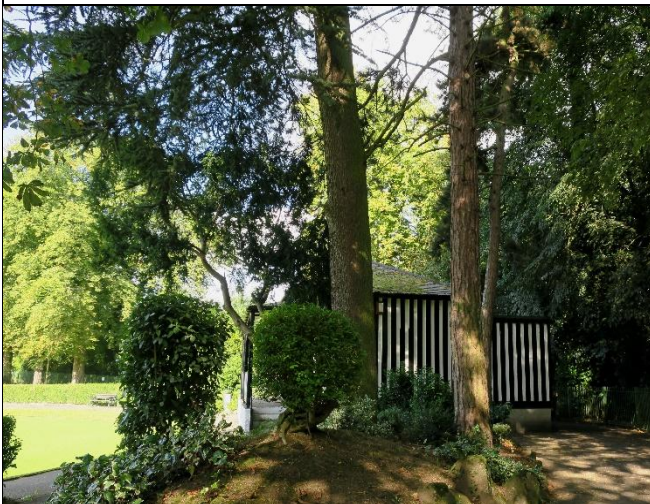
23) Looking back at the NE turning point's Ash tree framed by old Cedars and Yews.



24) **E Circuit Walk**, lined with modern fencing by the river and Lime and Horse-Chestnut trees.



25) The E circuit walk's goal: the oval bowling-green, surrounded with hedging. Kemp: *"It is in no way requisite that the margins should be straight"* (p. 286)



26) Pine trees by the bowling-green pavilion contrast with the deciduous trees of the E circuit walk.



27) Looking N across the bowling-green towards Town Wood and coniferous trees by the promenade.



28) **S Circuit Walk**: four veteran Beech trees near the bowling-green, their foliage hidden by a large Yew (remains of a 2nd line of trees shown in 1909 (D)).



29) S circuit walk looking E towards the bowling-Green. Modern fencing replaces earlier trees and yew hedging (cf. 6,7).



30) S circuit walk look W towards the Pavilion with 11 old Horse-chestnut trees.



31) Veteran Yew trees by the landing stage, remains of the line of evergreen trees shown in 1909 (D).



32) Today the S circuit walk leads into the formal 'Jubilee Gardens' (1953). During restoration, the layout of the beds was redesigned with reference to geometric shapes in Kemp's book.



33) View towards the landing stage (no longer in use); Yews and variegated Hollies (former topiary?) against the backdrop of Town Wood.