


<b>SITE NAME:</b>	<b>Congleton Park</b>				
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				
<b>Owner:</b>	Congleton Town Council				
<b>Recorder</b>	IBW	<b>Date of Site Visit</b>	29/06/2016 17/08/2016 17/09/2016	<b>Date of Report</b>	31/10/2016

## Maps

### A) 1819




Greenwood's map shows

- the steep embankments of Town Wood,
- the situation of the future public park North of the town centre and the river Dane,
- 7 mills, a sign of the town's early silk and cotton industry.

(Source: [www.cheshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.cheshirehistory.org.uk))

### B) 1845 Tithe map: Land ownership of the future public park:



In order to create a public park N of the river, Congleton Town Council acquired riverside meadows from Sir Shakerley by lease, and from J. Darcey by purchase.

In 1869 **Kemp** submitted a plan which included 'several acres' S of the river, owned by up to four different owners. This plan was rejected by the Town Council, probably for economic reasons.

(Source: [www.maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps](http://www.maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps), Colour by IBW)

North of the river: ■ Congleton Corporation ■ Sir C.P. Shakerley ■ John Darcey  
South of the river: ■ Sir C.P. Shakerley ■ Thomas Garside ■ Joseph Harwan ■ Henry Hogg



**C) 1873 Ordnance Survey** (surveyed 1873, published 1882)

This map is closest in time to the park's opening. (Source: www.nls, colours by IBW)

Kemp chose to enhance the site's natural features rather than to impose an intricate design.

***“Simplicity, with a certain amount of intricacy, are, perhaps, the first things to be aimed at in laying out a garden”*** (p. 45).



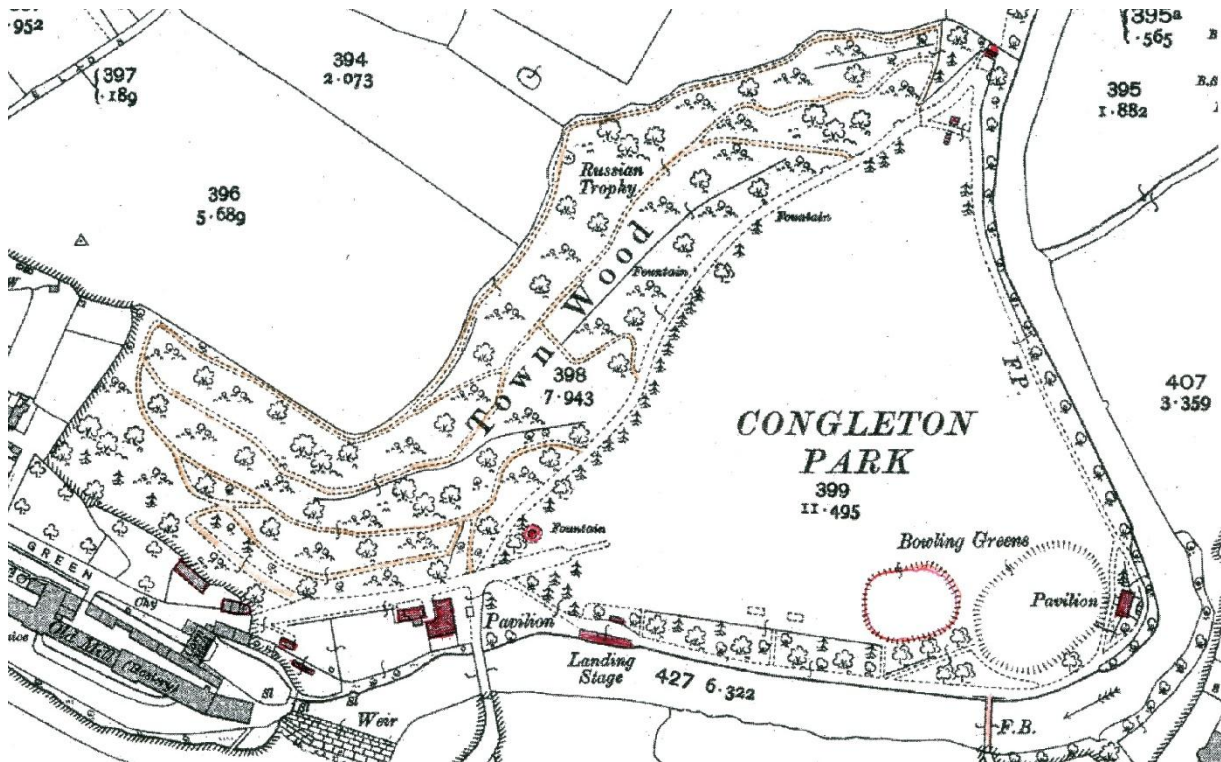
**Principal features of Kemp's design:**

- **Promenade** with **rockwork** features  
winds along the edge of Town Wood, but is cut into the escarpment's lower slopes to raise it above the open grassland and to provide views.  
Lined with **evergreen shrubs** and **ornamental trees**.
- **Town Wood: network of paths** accessed from the promenade.  
**Viewpoint:** in 1873 marked by a flagstaff. (Russian cannon and mock fort were installed later.)  
Woodland was cleared to provide views S across the town, and E towards the 'Cloud' hill.
- **Oval bowling-green** (65 X 45 yds) fitted into the river's bend.
- **Circuit walk** along the river: in 1873 work on its construction had begun.  
Lines of **deciduous trees** along the river's edge.



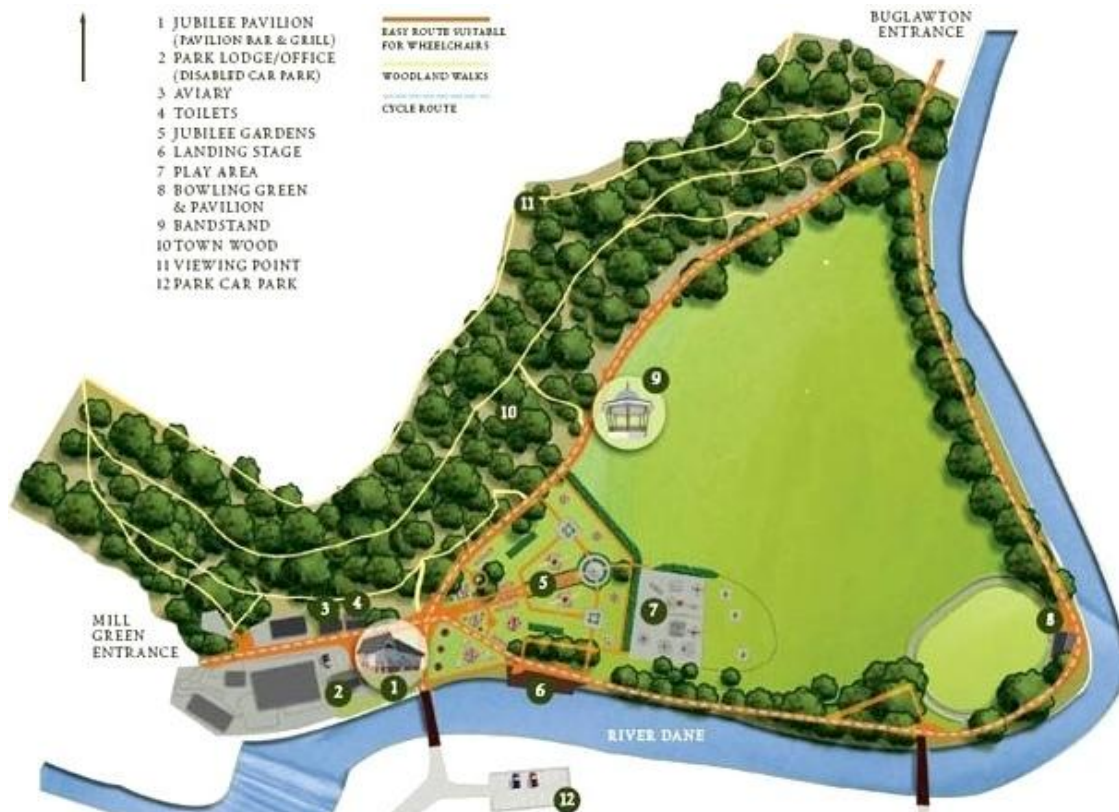
#### D) 1909 OS map: Changes and additions since 1873

(Source: CD published by Family History Society of Chester, colour by IBW)



- **red:** = buildings, amenities and fountain added to the park landscape.
- **Coniferous trees** are shown by the promenade and parts of the S circuit walk.
- **Town Wood:** network of paths and number of access points have increased.

#### E) 2005 Congleton Park after restoration (Source: Congleton Park Management Plan, see 11, p.4)



- In **Town Wood**, the network of paths was restored to its original design.
- In the **Jubilee Garden** of 1953 (5), the bedding areas were reset based on examples of **Kemp's** geometric shapes. The tradition of carpet-bedding continues to be upheld.