

SITE NAME: Address	Milton Park/Milton House , Crewe Road, Alsager ST7 2ES				
Unitary Authority:	Cheshire East (former Congleton Borough Council)				
Parish:	Alsager				
Location:	B5070 Crewe Road Centre of the town				
Grid Ref:	SJ 79634 55447				
Owner:	Cheshire East Council				
Recorder	LAW	Date of Site Visit: 30 Aug 2012		Date of Report	12/02/13

Summary

A 19th century villa (in private ownership) with gardens and grounds that remain substantially intact and now form a public park

Principal remaining features

Set of gate piers	Part of the perimeter wall along Crewe Road
Former carriage drive	Sunken Garden with elements of fernery
Mature Trees	The Long Walk

History

Prior to the Enclosure Act of 1834¹ the land was known as Alsager Heath, an area of manorial waste. After the Act, the Tithe Map of 1840² shows the land to be made up of 4 parcels. Numbers 326/7, an area of 1 acre, were occupied by a house, garden and arable land owned by John Pimlott. Plot number 328, an area of 22 perches, a house and garden owned by Sarah Barnett, occupied by Matthew Shenton. Plot 329, an area of 4 acres known as Pimlott's Croft, arable land (see map A).

It is not known for whom the house was built. However it is known that the house was occupied in the 1860's by the family of William Craig, a Staffordshire colliery owner, whose son Sir William Craig remained the owner from 1907 until the 1930's³. During this time the gardens were developed and a perimeter wall built alongside Crewe Road⁴. In 1939 the house and land passed to the Ministry of Supply for the war effort⁵. The house was partitioned and an annexe added for worker's accommodation⁶. Temporary buildings were also erected on the land. These were probably used for accommodation for personnel at the nearby ordnance factory. Post-war the house was used for accommodation for apprentices at the ordnance factory and G.E.C. in Kidsgrove⁷. In 1964 the house reverted to private ownership and the land was acquired by Alsager Urban District Council⁸ as a park. The council established the flower beds opposite St Mary's Church, probably following the removal of a section of the boundary wall to enable road improvements. This area is now known as Milton Gardens. A Care Home had been constructed on the tennis courts by 1964.

In 1974 ownership of the grounds passed to Congleton B.C. The NHS Care Home has been owned by a private company since 2001. In 2009 the grounds passed to Cheshire East Council. In 2012 work was undertaken to upgrade park facilities.

Description

Location

Milton Park is situated on the Crewe Road section of the B5070, in the centre of the town of Alsager. The house (now apartments) has southerly views over the park towards Station Road.

The Park and Gardens

The park comprises lawns and mature trees to the south front of Milton House with a children's playground and a skateboard area, situated to the east. In the north-west corner is the renovated sunken garden which retains the Victorian fernery, and has been sympathetically altered to allow disabled access. The original entrance and carriage drive from Crewe Road remains, as does the Long Walk which runs from the carriageway completely encompassing the lawned area. The stone pillars at the entrance to the park remain. Part of the perimeter wall along Crewe Road can still be seen at the rear of the house. An area, from the perimeter wall to the entrance to the park, is known as Milton Gardens. To the front of the house is a circular rose garden occupying the circular space shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 1875.

Mature plantings include Copper Beech, Yew, Pine and Conifers.

Additional Notes

My thanks to:

Alistair Cook – Groundwork Trust
Charlie Wileman – Cheshire East Assets Management
Lindsay Lewis – Alsager Partnership
Jim Sutton – Alsager in focus

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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¹ National Archives LVA/3190/1 1834

² <http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/> Map Re EDT 12/2

³ Alsager Historical Research Group, 1999 *Alsager – It's Places and People*, 254

⁴ Alsager Historical Research Group, 1999 *Alsager – It's Places and People*, 194

⁵ Alsager U.D.C. Minutes 6.1.42

⁶ Alsager U.D.C. Minutes 6.1.42

⁷ http://www.alsagerpartnership.co.uk/p/milton_park_project.php

⁸ http://www.alsagerpartnership.co.uk/p/milton_park_project.php