

SITE NAME: Address	Queen's Park, Crewe 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				
Owner:	Cheshire East Council				
Recorder	IBW	Date of Site Visit	26/03/2017	Date of Report	24/04/2017

Maps and aerial photographs

A) 1873-74: Location of the future park

OS map Cheshire LVI.7, surveyed 1873-74, published 1876. (Source: www.nls maps)



Crewe Station ↑
Crewe Hall estate ↑

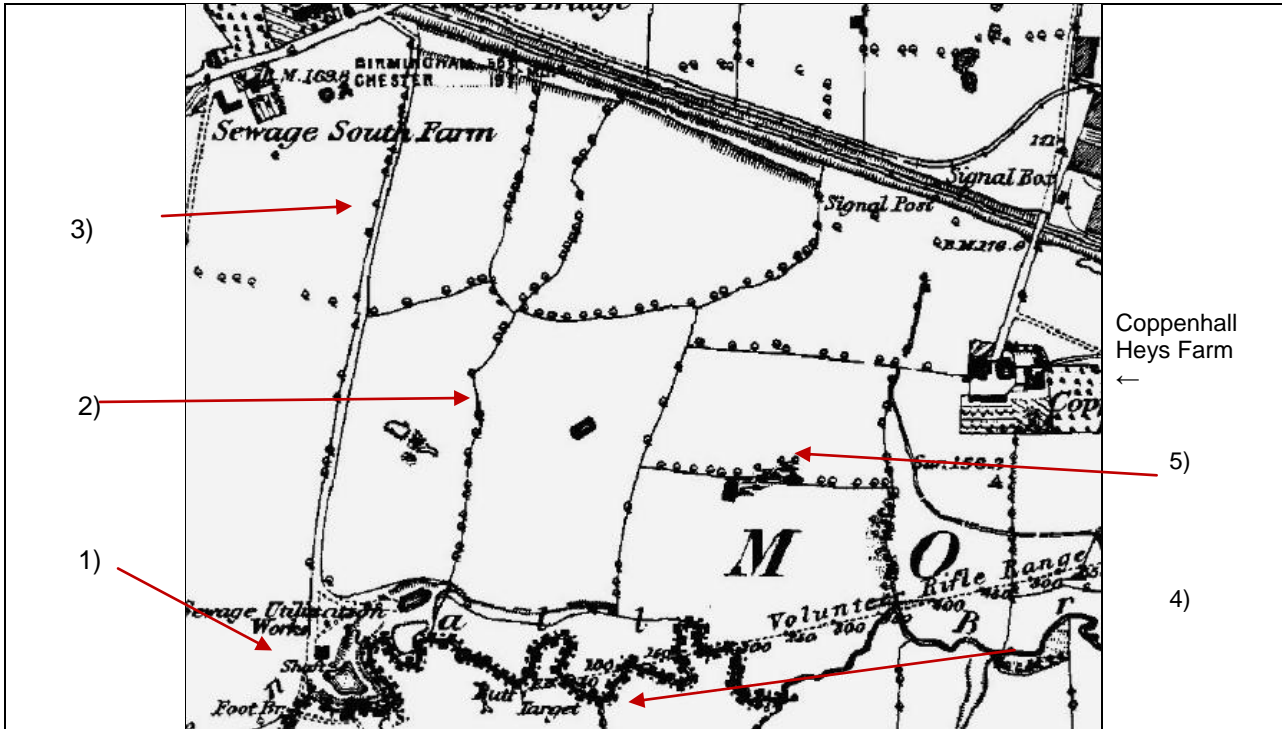
Crewe town: The town had grown around Crewe Works located in the triangle made by the railway lines leading to Chester (W) and Warrington (N). The Steel works N of the Chester line were built in 1861.

Webb began to look for a site at the far Western fringes of the town (▶), an area of open fields between the Chester line and the river Waldron (or Valley Brook).

B) c. 1875 OS map (Source: www.maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps)

Advantages of the chosen site: most of the land belonged to the LNWR Company. Also,

- 1) the river could be dammed into a lake;
- 2) a subsidiary stream could feed the lake;
- 3) there was an access road to the Sewerage Works (closed in 1874);
- 4) a mound S of the river, built as butts for the Volunteer Rifle Range;
- 5) trees on field boundaries could be left to dot open parkland.



C) Overlay of Webb's drawing (D) onto the 1875 OS map: (Source: Management Plan 2016, *Heritage in Context*)



The park's area comprises 45 acres. Land W of the access road and S of the river, a total of c 7 acres, belonged to 2 different owners. Webb negotiated the purchase on behalf of the LNWR Company.

D) 1887 'Bird's Eye View of the New Park',

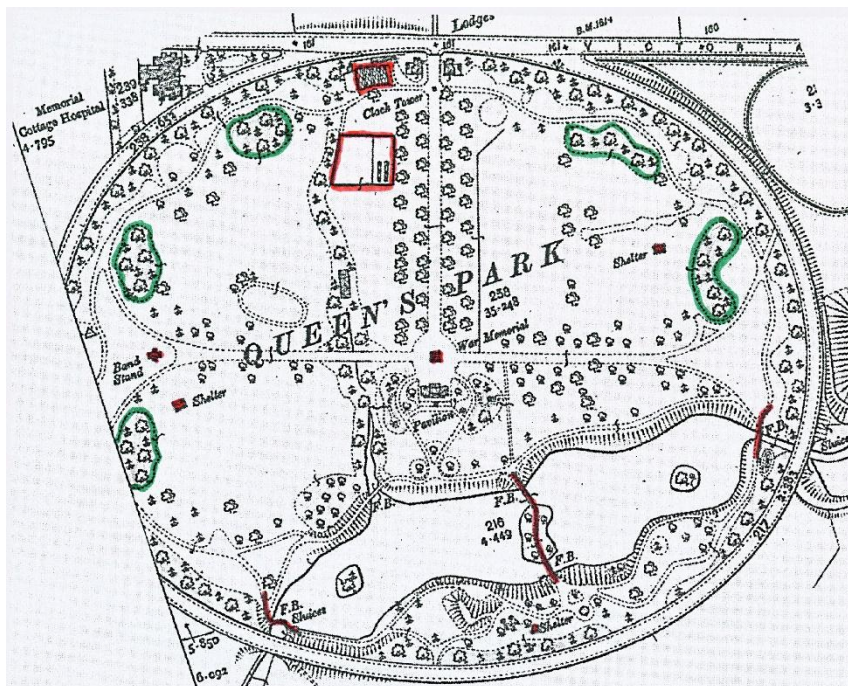
Webb's drawing dated March 1887, reproduced in the *Crewe Guardian* 9 July 1887
(Source: CALS Ref. D4465/1, photo by IBW)



The park is surrounded by Queen's Park Drive. The circle's main E-W axis creates a N and a S half. The drawing shows a rather formal layout in the N, and a softer, more picturesque treatment of the S. Mature trees shown are clearly remainders from former field boundaries.

E) 1909 The matured park: Ordnance Survey sheet Cheshire LVI:7

(Source: CD by the Family History Society of Chester; tilt and colour by IBW)



Amendments and additions are shown in - - - - -:

- 2 bridges now link paths on the lake's S embankment to the circuit walk,
- 2 bridges across the central island lead N.
- The Boer War Memorial occupies the centre, the bandstand moved to the W end of the Broadwalk.
- There are 3 shelters, glasshouses and a walled nursery.

- - - - - indicates groups of trees and shrubs planted in the manner advocated by Kemp.

F) 1970s Aerial photograph: The layout remains unchanged. (Source:www.maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps)
 The 'Coronation Walk' and some amenities have been added, but the walled plant-nursery has gone.



G) c. 2010 Aerial photograph: Restoration: (Source: © www.webbaviation.co.uk , reference ic13869ipg)



The main phase is nearly complete:

- Tree-felling and removal of overgrown shrubs has opened vistas throughout the parkland and towards the restored Victorian features and the new pavilion.
- Retaining walls of the lake and islands have been re-built, 4 new bridges are in place.
- N-S avenue planted with a double row of lime-trees; topiary yews and round flower beds retained.
- Children's play area in the NE quadrant completed late 2010.

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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