

# Hanley Park

## Conservation Area Appraisal

March 2013



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# 1. Appraisal Context

The heritage value in Hanley Park is primarily in its value as a historic park listed Grade 2 on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens. The description was written in 1999 and can be found in appendix C. It is also in a Conservation Area which was declared on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1997 and this document replaces the former appraisal also dated 1997. The Caldon Canal and its associated Conservation Area also cuts through the grounds.

The Park is in two parts, being bisected by College Road, (formerly Victoria Road). To the west are the Cauldon Grounds and to the east is the main body of Hanley Park. Please note the Canal is spelt differently to the area that surrounds it.

An understanding of the heritage and statement of significance are to be found at part 7; a description of future works in part 8.

Conservation Areas are designated by Local Authorities under fulfilment of duties imposed by Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. This defines Conservation Areas as:

“areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”

Special interest may originate from a variety of sources, while character is defined in a holistic sense rather than deriving from the merits of any single building.

The objective of an Appraisal is to analyse and define in depth the special interest and traits which make up the character of a Conservation Area, to identify the pressures and challenges facing its survival and to recommend courses of action which will aid in achieving sensitive management, preservation and enhancement (the latter points fulfilling duties imposed by Section 71 of the 1990 Act).

Conservation Area status is a material consideration in the evaluation of planning applications. Here Section 72 of the 1990 Act requires Local Planning Authorities to pay special attention to the desirability of achieving preservation or enhancement through their decision making.

Conservation Area status curtails certain ‘permitted’ householder development rights requiring planning permission to be sought in these areas (outlined in the General Permitted Development Order 1995). Local Authorities have further powers to restrict permitted developments to the elevations of dwellinghouses that front the highway through the introduction of Article 4 designations. These further restrictions are not currently proposed for Hanley Park Conservation Area.

When reading or using an Appraisal it is important to note that while every effort is made to provide detailed analysis the document can never be comprehensive. Failure to mention a particular element or detail must not be taken to imply that it is of no importance to an appreciation of the character or appearance of the Area and thus of no relevance in consideration of planning applications.

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## 2. The Study Area

Hanley Park is located in North Staffordshire, amongst the Stoke on Trent conurbation. It is located approximately 1km to the south of the city centre (Hanley) and to the north of Shelton. The Caldon Canal runs through the site and has its own separate conservation area designation. The designation covers two parks, Hanley Park and the Caldon Grounds and some of their surrounding properties.

Residential Streets surround the park and define the boundaries, some of these developments contribute to the character of the park and others are neutral. All of the development is historically interesting as the original development proposal was not only for the Park but also for new roads and housing that would potentially offset the cost of the new amenity. This followed a model established elsewhere in the Potteries where the Duke of Sutherland had been successful in selling housing plots adjacent to a new park and the Council imagined that they could repeat a similar housing opportunity.

Hanley Park provides valuable recreational space within the inner urban core of Stoke-on-Trent. Its Western edge is adjacent to the Cemetery (completed 1860) that also has an entrance on Stoke Road; lodges to each development are placed carefully apart from each other in contrasting architectural styles.

The North side of the Caldon Grounds are bounded by Stoke College. This campus replaces an earlier pottery factory and Master Potter's house that was screened by glasshouses and a large terrace.

This drawing from a book written in 1906 by William Scarratt called "Old Times in the Potteries" illustrated the area called 'Stoke Fields' which was purchased to build Hanley Park.



[Drawn by William Scarratt.]

HANLEY TO STOKE THROUGH THE FIELDS, 1869.  
(FORMER SITE OF HANLEY PARK).

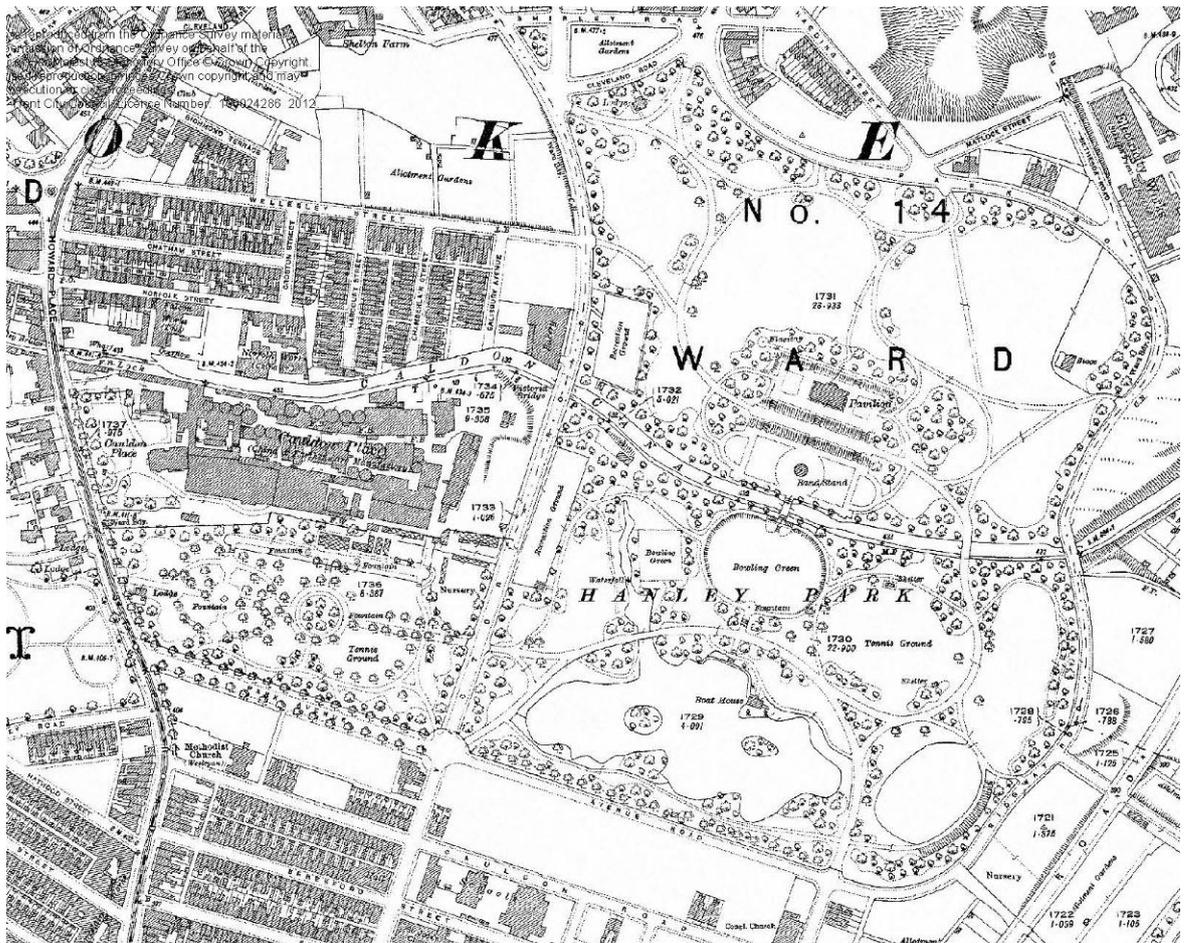
**Fig1: Illustration dated 1869**

A footpath from Stoke to Hanley is running diagonally across the picture and the path crosses the Caldon Canal over the bridge. This area was described:

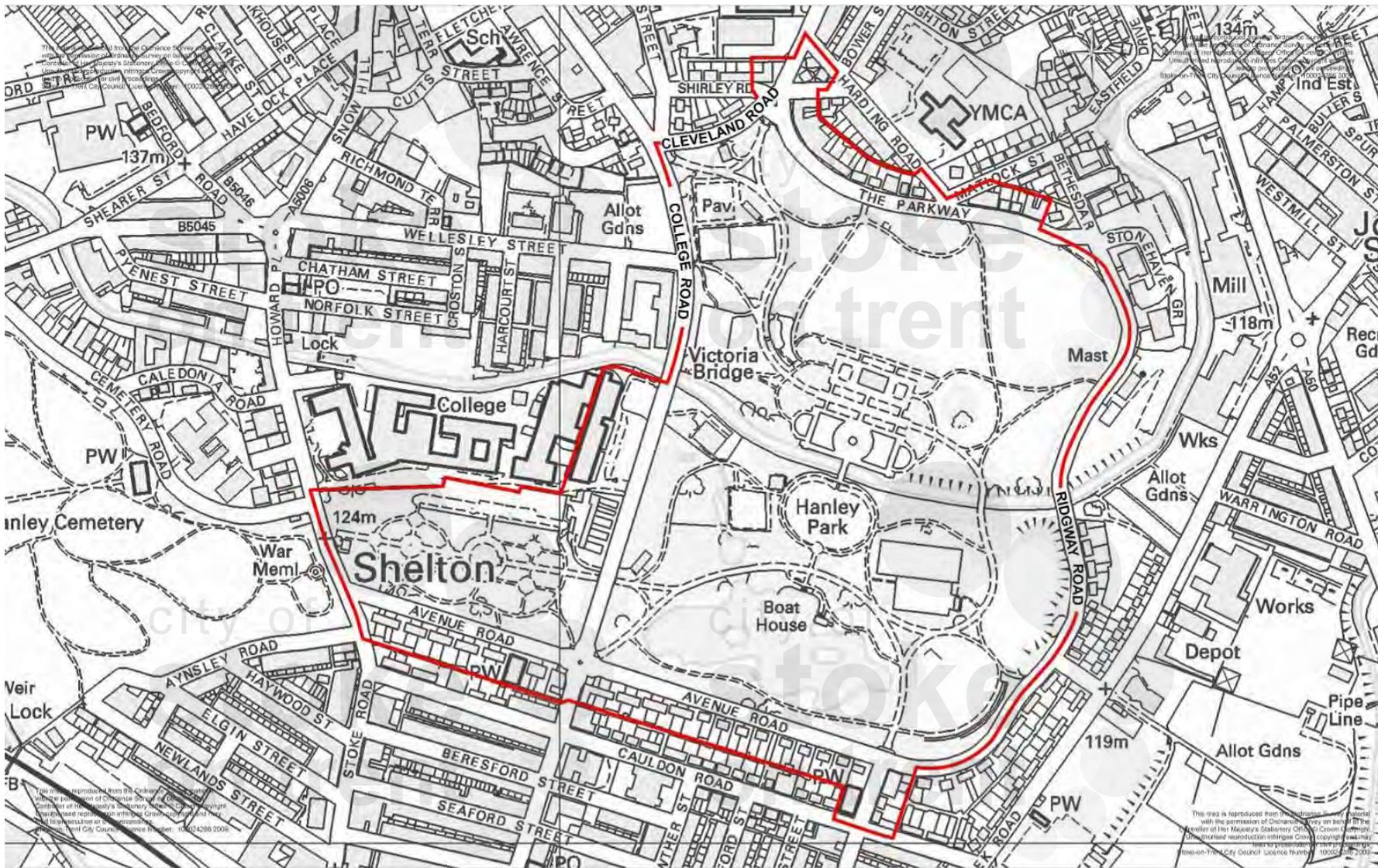
*"Down Stoke Fields were a few whitewashed huts with patches of garden. The Victoria Road bridge existed, but for the use of the farm only. The one to the left of the park pavilion was the one on the Stoke Fields footpath. Shardruck, mounds and ventilating shafts were far more plentiful than houses."*



**Fig2:** Yates 1775 map of the area



**Fig3:** OS Map 1924



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## Hanley Park Conservation Area

Scale	Not to scale
Date	09 Jun 2010
Drawn By	
Drawing Ref	
Revision	

**Fig 4: Showing the location of the Conservation Area**

### 3. History and Archaeology

Although the provision of a public park for Hanley was discussed as early as 1857, it was not until a public meeting at the Victoria Hall in 1890 that a scheme was approved. Hanley Corporation acquired 105 acres of the Shelton Old Hall estate for a cost of £41,877 raised by public subscription. Additional parcels of land were also secured for the scheme. The landscape architect Thomas Mawson (1861-1933) was appointed by the Town Council to design and lay out the park. This was Mawson's first public project; he eventually went on to design Burslem Park, East Park in Wolverhampton and public spaces in New York and Athens. He became president of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1923 and was a committee member for the Royal Fine Arts Commission.

The early history of the park is well documented as it was Thomas Mawson's first "great public work" and is recalled in his book "The life and Work of an English Landscape Architect" published in 1927. He was a prolific author who wrote several articles and books describing his life and work.

"Hanley Park" is an illustrated report (to be found in the City's Reference Library) written by Mawson before the project was completed showing the scheme as approved by the Council. This formal design was Mawson's but the development of the estate was managed by the borough surveyor Joseph Lobley between 1871-1910. Management of the Park was the responsibility of the Parks Committee.

The park was laid out in 1892-7 on a 63 acre site crossed by Victoria Road (now College Road) (running north-south) and the Caldon Canal (running east-west). The land upon which the park was established was littered with disused pit shafts, ventilation shafts and pottery-waste heaps; elements which caused numerous problems for Mawson.

An extract from the 1878 O.S. Map in the Keele University History Walk "Hanley Park" shows it as an undeveloped area bounded to the north and west by pot-banks, industry dominating with a few terraced houses appearing, by 1924, as the map (fig. 3) shows the area was on its way to being dominated by the terrace housing.

The first part of the scheme, the Cauldon Grounds, was opened on July 26th 1894 by Alderman Hammersley. This was a three hectare site to the West of Victoria Road, which was bounded by Stoke Road to the west, Avenue Road to the south and the Cauldon Place Works (now occupied by Cauldon College) to the North. The main body of the park (some 21 hectares in area), known as Hanley Park, was opened on June 22nd 1897, two days after Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The park was completed at a cost in excess of £70,000.

To the North of the Cauldon Grounds sat the nearest pottery (see newspaper article fig. 5) part of which was laid out as a garden to an impressive Master Potter's house. The majority of the site was taken up with industry however which must have had an impact upon the character of the area. Hanley was no leafy suburb like Dresden, this park was desperately needed as an amenity to counter the immediate environment of pollution and industry. The business of Cauldon Potteries Ltd declined and by 1936 most of the buildings on the Cauldon Pottery Works site had

been vacated. In 1938 some of these were devastated by a fire. During the Second World War, the derelict buildings were used for the training of Civil Defence Workers.

**MESSRS. THOMAS C. BROWN-WESTHEAD, MOORE & CO.,**  
**China, Earthenware and Sanitary Goods Manufacturers, Caudon Place, Stoke-upon-Trent.**

In dealing with the staple industries of the Staffordshire Potteries, it is doubtful if any house could be mentioned which is more typical of a successful business establishment, or more notably exemplifies those features which are so essential to an industrial institution of the present day as that of Messrs. T. C. Brown - Westhead, Moore and Co., china, earthenware and sanitary clay goods manufacturers, of Caudon Place, Stoke-upon-Trent. The business now represented by this world-renowned firm is one of exceptional antiquity. One hundred and twenty years ago what are now known as the Caudon Works of Messrs. T. C. Brown-Westhead, Moore and Co., were founded by that once famous potter, Mr. Job Ridgway. The conditions under which earthenware manufacture was carried on in those days in Great Britain were crude in the extreme. Josiah Wedg-



THE CAUDON WORKS.

wood had not yet established himself as the pioneer of improved methods of pottery manufacture.



A SHOWROOM AT THE CAUDON WORKS.

Thomas Minton had not so much as been heard of. The most ordinary domestic ware in use among the people of this country was drawn from foreign sources, chiefly from Holland; the superior qualities came from Dresden and Sèvres, for the most part. Even China clay had not yet been discovered to be procurable in England, Cookworthy only having "unearthed" that invaluable substance in 1786 at St. Austell, Cornwall. At the death of Job Ridgway the business passed into the hands of his two sons, John and William, and, on the retirement of the latter, the concern was carried on for many years under the sole management of Mr. John Ridgway, to whom the present firm eventually succeeded. With the growth of the century the business of the house developed

**Fig 5:** Article/Trade Advert dated 1893 ([www.thepotteries.org](http://www.thepotteries.org)) showing pottery photographed from Stoke Road; Canal is to left hand side.

The use of part of the site for further education originated in 1946 when the newly-created Building Department of the Stoke-on-Trent Technical College was established here. In 1958 the College of Commerce was erected on the site. In 1963 the Elms Technical College was established on the Caudon site, the business of Caudon Potteries Ltd having been taken over and moved off site the previous year.



**Fig 6:** Interior view of the Winter Gardens, during the 1950's.

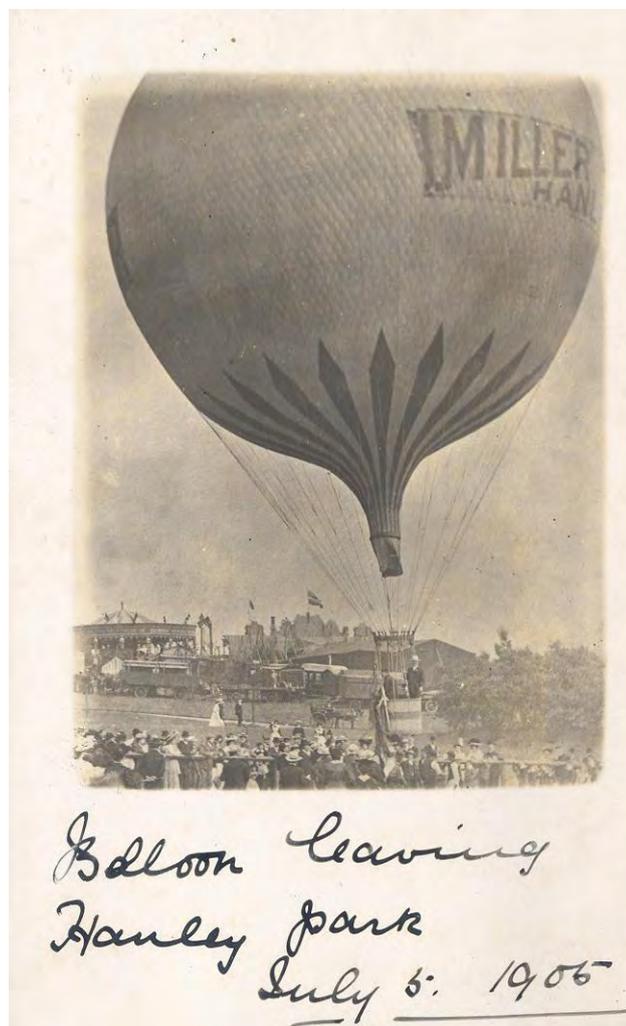
The focus of the main park was the pavilion, designed by Mawson's junior partner, Dan Gibson and constructed on a levelled platform in the centre of the site. The pavilion featured tea-rooms, a central hall with a bar, and male and female cloakrooms. Originally built to offer residential accommodation to the occupier on the upper floors, unfortunately the building did not succeed commercially and changed use in the 1950's to a council office. It eventually closed in 2004 and is currently empty and in poor condition.

To the south of the pavilion, two terraces were constructed, forming a cross walk and a flower bed with bandstand. A bowling green and boating lake were established on the Southern side of the Caldun Canal. Tennis courts, a bowling green and playgrounds were also provided.

The Caudon Grounds featured both straight and circuitous walks to the south of a raised terrace. This terrace originally fronted a conservatory, which was demolished

in the early 1980s. Fountains were also present, including a terracotta example manufactured at Doulton's Lambeth Works.

In addition to weekly promenading and informal dancing, the park accommodated major events and shows (fetes and parades) until the Second World War. A gradual decline in the post-war period began with the closure of the tea rooms in 1957 and the removal of boats from the lake in the early 1970s.



**Fig 7: 1905 Balloon rides**

There are some small interwar pavilions on the site, the veteran's pavilion parallel to College Road, changing rooms for the tennis courts and a small kiosk adjacent to the new children's play area established in 2004. There is also a new bowling green and pavilion dating from 1963 - the central crown bowling green and kiosk under the steps to the bridge are no longer in use.

The establishment of the nearby institutions of Staffordshire University and Stoke on Trent College (formerly Caudon College) have, however, helped ensure the park's continued viability. Numerous funding schemes have taken place during the period 2000-2010, including the Greening for Growth Scheme, which provided £350,000. This involved the installation of a skate area, multi-use courts, public art as well as the restoration and refurbishment of several structures. Redevelopment of Stoke College in 2007 has also provided funding for further restoration works for the terrace, the former site of the winter garden conservatory in the Caudon Grounds.



**Fig 8:** *The 'Portland Vases' in this postcard were part of the celebration "The Life and Times of Josiah Wedgwood 1730-1795"*

The park continues to host the city's large events with several citywide festivals being held there in recent years including the celebration of the centenary of the federation of the six towns in 1910 and an annual music festival.

The land purchased for the Parks also included new roads and housing plots. The Council anticipated offsetting the costs of the development by selling land. This strategy was in the main part not successful, but the areas that did develop before the Second World War are included in the Conservation Area as historically interesting.

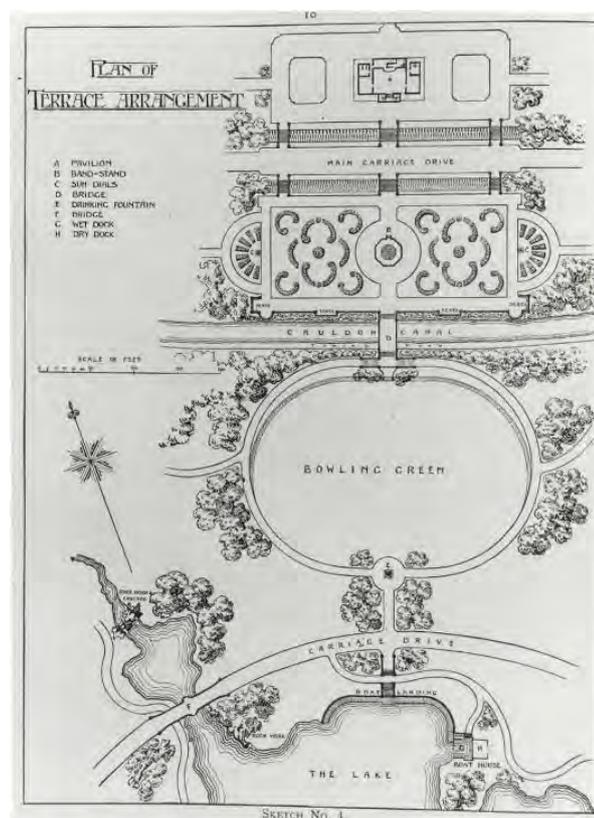
## 4. Spatial Analysis and Appraisal of Views

### 4.1 Townscape Form, Levels and Views

At the time of land acquisition, College Road bisected the site from north to south and the Caldon Canal bisected the site from east to west. These existing transport routes physically fragmented the park into three parts. The main body of the park was split into a southern section and a northern section, with the then unsightly canal occupying the heart of the park. A further section resulted to the west of College Road, now known as the Cauldon Park. Unsightly views out of the site towards industrial works also needed to be screened from view.

Clever design solutions were required that enabled the three fragments to be closely linked together, whilst minimising unsightly views of the surrounding works, canal and road. Site remediation and ground re-modelling was also required, in order to deal with the problems of old pit shafts and enormous spoil heaps.

In order to provide a link over the canal, the need for a bridge was self-evident. Mawson constructed two bridges, one for pedestrian access only, and one to allow for the passage of horse drawn carriages. The location of the pedestrian bridge defined the axial alignment of the formal terraces, leading from the elevated south-facing Pavilion, down stepped terraces to the band stand, across the bridge to the lower bowling green, with a final stepped descent to the boat house and boating lake. The axial view was punctuated by the boating lake fountains. This axial alignment of formal terraces, laid in a series of descending level grades, is still evident today, with the fountains still functioning to serve as a visual punctuation. Longer distance views of Stoke Minster tower also align to the Hanley Park axis.



**Fig 9:** Original Mawson plan to show planned north-south axial alignment



**Fig 10:** View towards the pavilion from Avenue Road



**Fig 11:** View of bridge 5A, bandstand and the pavilion café from the main carriage drive

Three options were explored by Mawson in order to cross College Road. A tunnel was discounted because it was considered to be an unpleasant solution. A bridge was considered, but then discounted because it would open up views towards the Cauldon Works, which was not desirable. Mawson made a conscious decision to cross College Road at level, using a formal arrangement of gardens that centred on a second axial alignment. The gate entrances were designed in an elaborate and welcoming manner, in order to deflect attention away from the road. Again, this second axial alignment was punctuated by the boathouse, in order to encourage pedestrian flows across the road. An upper terrace promoted views across the valley towards Hartshill and allowed access to the Winter Gardens. The Cauldon

Park axial alignment is still evident today but the fountains are obscured from view due to the growth of surrounding vegetation. Views of Hartshill have been obscured by the construction of housing fronting onto Avenue Road. The Winter Gardens have been demolished and replaced by the sixth form College Building.

All other paths within the park are laid out in the manner of the picturesque, allowing for changing views and maximum visual interest at a leisurely pace. The winding nature of these paths results in a more informal layout that contrasts with the formal axial alignments in the central areas of Hanley Park and Cauldon Park. This informal layout is further accentuated by undulating mounds that help to contain localised views within the park. Sightlines can be obtained into the park north of canal bridge 5B.

Views of the winter garden terrace can be glimpsed from Avenue Road, due to the elevated nature of the park in relation to the surrounding roads.

Views along the Caldon Canal are channelled due to topographic levels and overgrowth. This was originally intended by Mawson, in order to screen views of the canal from the park. Bridge 5A presents a local landmark along the canal corridor. Today the canal presents an asset within the parkland setting and should be celebrated, with views opened up from the canal to expose the formal parkland setting.

The recently constructed Science Building now terminates the view along Boughey Road from the park.

The approach to Parkway from Cleveland Road reveals views of buildings of townscape merit, although the extension to the park keeper's lodge detracts from the visual quality of Cleveland Road.

## **5. Built Form**

### **5.1 The influence of use patterns and patronage**

The park was developed out of a benevolent feeling of the local gentry that there should be somewhere for ordinary local people to get clean fresh air. It is likely that this was the first park to be considered within the City, although not completed until some 50 years later.

As a concept, the park originally began as a resource for local people. The Staffordshire Advertiser reported in 1890 that the proposal would include areas for football, tennis, a bowling green and possibly skating on the lake in winter. This did not translate fully into the final design which controlled the activities in the Park closely.

As always, the cost of the design and the cost of subsequent maintenance and the call on ratepayers to support these costs were matters of great interest to the local press. The eventual outcome was that the majority of activities in the Park were for adults who could afford to pay for them.

There were small playgrounds (separate ones for girls and boys) placed against College Road (formerly Victoria Road) that did not affect the setting of the main perambulatory routes. The areas at the North of the Park that could have accommodated football were not used for this purpose, indeed when adjacent land rented from the Council was subsequently used for football, the Council terminated the lease.

The bandstand was successful, originally set out with concentric circles of fixed seating surrounding it and plain grassed areas for dancing, although dancing was not permitted on Sundays. The minutes of the Parks Committee in 1897 give a detailed picture of the management of the Park before the Second World War. Sunday controlled the selling of sweets and refreshments and the playing, timing and content of the musical entertainment.

One of the most interesting uses was the permission given in the same year to allow carriages and bicycles into the park, this included motorcars.

Patronage in the form of gifts to the park included fountains and decorative urns. The bandstand was also a gift.

There is evidence of budget control and cost saving within the Parks as they evolved. As the project developed it is clear that some savings had to be made due to the cost of the remediation of the ground. The most clearly visible evidence of this is the boundary treatment. The perimeter of the Cauldon Grounds was enclosed by a low brick wall and ornamental railings (sadly lost in the war) to match the gates. Hanley Park is enclosed by plain railings and no wall. The balustrading within Hanley park is also metal in places rather than terracotta throughout.



The Pavilion and Bandstand, Hanley Park. C 302

**Fig 12:** Archive photo



**Fig 13:** Archive photo of Boat house and landing stage

Modern maintenance patterns have also had influence over the appearance of the Park. Not all the paths originally carved into the grass are still maintained. The use of large mowers has created a more open and less cultivated character to the Cauldon Grounds.

The loss of the Crown Bowling Green in the centre of the main axis and the insertion of another green has affected the original design, this made the kiosk redundant under the canal bridge and the altered the water management of the Cascade.

The loss of the seating in the park, especially the loss of the seating to the bandstand has created a change in character to the terraces. The seating was removed to undermine anti-social behaviour. People now sit on the wall to the canal in lieu of seats.

The insertion of modern play areas for children has enlivened the park and made it a successful place for families to visit.

The creation of a wildlife area and community garden creates different character areas in the Park building on Mawson's vision of a less regulated space for Hanley Park.

## **5.2 Architectural Character, Materials, Colours and Textures**

### **5.21 Style: Buildings in the Park**

The architectural style of the mid nineteenth century when the park was originally conceived was Gothic. This is clearly shown by the early English and decorated Gothic styles of the lodges and chapels in the adjacent Hanley Cemetery built in 1860. At that time it was felt the need for the cemetery was "more pressing" than the needs for the park, so the Cemetery came first. These two major civic projects face each other across Stoke Road with highly decorated entrance gates offering similar opportunities for recreational walks away from the industrial environment of the potteries. By 1890 when the Park scheme was finally approved, architectural styles had moved away from the Gothic and were travelling towards the arts and crafts movement championed by William Morris and Charles Voysey. The Cemetery Lodge and Park Lodge which face each other are very different in appearance, whilst the Cemetery buildings are stone and distinctive white brick, the park buildings are more domestic in character and local, in the strong reds of potteries brick and tile.

In the 1870's and 80's Norman Shaw developed an eclectic cocktail of an architectural style known as "Queen Anne", this developed further into the grand mixed revival style of circa 1835–1890 that had been called things like "Free English Renaissance" where half timbering details (often in gables at first floor) appear. It was also popular at this time to introduce Jacobean details and the resulting buildings became commonly known as "Jacobethan" or even "Tudorbethan".

The buildings in the park are both eclectic and nostalgic in composition, the best being the Boathouse benefiting from the romantic setting of the lake. The central building is the Pavilion around which the whole composition for the landscape depends. Mawson likened its importance as a feature to that of a country house on an estate. The original design sketch shows a magnificent and rather theatrical stone entrance with twin cupolas looking rather like a Lutyens composition coupled with large half timbered gables. These were not realised and the built design

replaced them with more modest dormer windows and a singular cupola and clock tower. The veranda was built as envisaged but the original design of the joinery is missing. The lodges were built as designed with the twin purpose of not only being cottages for staff but also welcoming entrances for the public. These remain in good condition with strong and simple joinery details, original doors and windows. The bandstand was the gift of George Howson a local pottery manufacturer and prominent Methodist. Photographs of the bandstand show that the existing metalwork is not original but also that Mawson's original design in timber was not implemented as a cost saving. The winter garden or conservatories in the Cauldon Grounds were demolished in 1980s.

There are small pavilions associated with changing rooms, bowling and refreshments that are built simply in brick and tile without ornament. There are also a number of important structures that contribute to the original design; these include the canal bridge, fountains and vases, terracotta balustrading to steps and terraces, wrought iron forming gates and decorative standards. They are all fine examples of local design and craftsmanship, the most prominent of which is the fountain in the Cauldon Grounds presented by the then mayor, Alderman Hammersley in 1894. The boundary treatment of the park is largely as designed although not complete. The principal gates are in situ but some of the intermediate brick walls and railings have either not been implemented or replaced over time.

**Avenue Road.** Avenue Road was largely developed in the late 1920's; the OS Maps of 1900 and 1924 show almost no development other than at the intersections of other roads. The houses facing the park are in the form of two storey simple terraced blocks with bay windows and plain uninterrupted roofs in local clay tiles. The breaks between the houses give glimpses of the gardens beyond and give a green and garden character to the Conservation area. Front gardens are contained by low "stone" garden walls allowing views in and out of the gardens. These are mirrored on the other side by low brick walls to the Cauldon Grounds reinforcing the open character of the road. The pavement adjacent to the houses is planted with an avenue of trees that are also repeated along the park edge along the boundary within the park giving an arched green canopy overhead. The grassed areas along the wide pavement in front of the houses enforce this green character. Materials used are local red brick and painted render. There are some prominent oak coloured plastic windows that are unduly prominent in the street scene. At the intersection with college road there is a prominent Edwardian building with curved front wall to frame the entrances to the park, now used as a roundabout.

The westerly section of the road is very different in character. The park has no boundary wall along the length, just open railings and there are no street trees to match those on the park boundary. Here the houses are built in a post war Tudorbethan style for two terraces and then form a series of larger semi detached houses with steeply pitched roofs. At the next intersection with Boughy Road the park gates also curve but this is not reflected in the garden walls of the adjacent houses and the layout there much less formal.

**The Parkway (formerly Park Road).** The parkway borders the northern edge of the park and has some of the earliest houses built to take advantage of the new and improved setting at the end of the nineteenth century. At junctions with Maycock Street and with Cleveland Road and Regent Road small developments are shown on the 1900 OS map, these are three storey and distinctive in character. By 1924

there is more infill development but very little. There is no consistent style or appearance to the houses. With the exception of those at the north eastern junction described below it is clear that the park had little or no direct influence on the architecture that surrounded it. Unlike Avenue Road there is no comprehensive development pattern.

**Ridgeway Road (not in CA).** Ridgeway road is set on a curve bordering the park. The houses are largely changed from their original designs with many having new windows or porches. They are still predominately two storey terraces in groups of 3 or 4 dwellings with the occasional original 1930's door visible. The layout is similar to avenue road with generous gaps between the groups to afford views of gardens beyond. The pavements are narrower and there are no street trees. The park edge is guarded with open railings, no wall and mature trees. The houses become plainer and later; post war semi detached council housing with hedges to front boundaries rather than walls adjacent to the junction with the Caldon Canal. There is a new development site between the park and the canal at this point called Caldon Quay and two blocks of flats with commanding views over open countryside.

**Cleveland Road, Shirley Road and Regent Road.** Here a small group of houses have been built to address the park and its setting with large bay windows and first floor balconies directly overlooking the park entrance and Lodge. They are on the local list and of some architectural interest.

## 5.22 Plan, Form and Massing

The plan, form and massing of the park buildings is formal and structured around the two axes; the principal north south axis which controls the sequence of spaces and the east west axis which connects the Caldon Grounds with the main park. The paths around the park are designed to give the visitor a variety of experience. The formal "town garden" with flowers in the Caldon Grounds and the less structured informal and natural areas of the main park where Mawson hoped people would wander without getting told off for walking on the grass. The alignment of gates is important as it provides an uninterrupted vista between the parks. Other formal entrances respond to the intersection of roads and the houses around the perimeter. The central axis is almost symmetrical but not quite. The form of the lake is natural although man made.

The park buildings are formally designed as a set piece to respond to the landscape and are built within a fixed time period. With the exception of Avenue Road the surrounding housing at the perimeter is considerably less formal and spans many decades in development. The transformation from mining land to landscaped park did not bring any sustained speculative housing that occurred in both Tunstall and Dresden. The perception of Hanley must have remained industrial and not attracted the middle class as much as the other more suburban environments did such as the successful 1930's developments in Trentham and The Westlands in Newcastle under Lyme.

### **5.23 External Walls and Façade Finishes**

The prevailing material in the conservation area is brick although there is some render both roughcast and smooth. Some of the gables have timber and render to emulate a Tudor appearance. There are brick quoins to rendered buildings in Avenue Road and Cleveland Road and stone bay windows to houses in the Parkway. The large Edwardian houses also have inset porches with glazed ceramic tiles to the walls and encaustic tiles to the floors. The garden walls are a mixture of brick, stone, imitation stone and concrete.

### **5.24 Roofs**

The roofs in the Conservation area are all local clay tiles. Some of the roofs in the park have sprocketed eaves that kick up slightly at the edges; this is a detail that adds warmth to the free-style buildings and reinforces their vernacular character. The house at the corner of Shirley Street has a turreted roof and some of the earlier houses have gable finials and decorated eaves boards. A large house on Avenue Road has some Queen Anne Dutch gables and decorated tiles to both slopes and ridges. The roof of the main pavilion to the park is visually dominant and appears very heavy for the building. This may be because the design is lacking the grand entrance it had as a sketch scheme. It may also be because this style of architecture is not well suited to symmetry. Both Free Style and Arts and Crafts compositions are mostly asymmetrical with a complex roof line of different elements. The dormer windows are also much smaller than the gables that were originally designed for the building.

Chimneys are important features on the older houses, some still retain impressive pots. The roof of the bandstand is metal has a decorative central finial.

### **5.25 Windows**

Windows in the Park are largely original although the glass may not be, as the sketch designs show leaded lights for the “tudor” theme in a different form to that which survives on the Stoke Road Lodge. These may have been omitted as a cost saving. Windows outside the Park have been replaced to a large extent and there are some unfortunate examples of oak effect upvc. White would be most appropriate for the 1930- 50’s houses in simple casement form, darker colours for the older houses. Some of the 1920-30 houses have coloured leaded lights in their upper windows which add historic interest.

The locally listed buildings have impressive single and double height bays.



**Fig 14:** Double Height Bay in Shirley Road, note painted glass to upper shaped sections

## 5.26 Porches

Buildings in the park have verandas, either original or added to make them similar to later buildings. The bowling pavilions, changing rooms and main pavilion all have areas to sit outside and still be sheltered. Archive photographs show the veranda at the main pavilion and the bandstand to have simple robust painted balustrades similar to those enclosing the porches to the Lodges. The boathouse also had a projecting balcony in painted timber now sadly lost. The eaves brackets to the bandstand have also been replaced in metalwork although the original designs show timber.

Outside the park the houses in Parkway and Shirley Road have a wide variety of porch details including projecting timber to echo the bay windows and large recessed ornamental stone doorways. The later houses also have recessed arched porches although a lot of these have been enclosed by later additions in glass and timber. There are also simple porch hoods supported on decorative console brackets.



**Fig 15:** Tiled Porch to Parkway House

### 5.27 Doors

A few original panel doors survive in the larger Edwardian houses and in the park Lodges. There are set into elaborate doorcases with glazed side panels enriched by coloured or etched glass.

The doors to the main pavilion in the Park seem to have been replaced with windows on conversion to offices, which is perplexing as the building has now lost its relationship with the bandstand that was so important to the original design.

A number of typical original doors survive in Avenue Road although the majority have been replaced. They are characterised by stained glass set into an oval, typical of the period.

### 5.28 Enclosure

Enclosure of the park spaces by walls, gates and railings is covered in the public realm section as these elements are important contributors in their own right. Enclosure of the adjacent roads is essentially the enclosure of front gardens.

The gardens to the large Edwardian houses are small and urban. They developed on the edge of the Town and concentrated their designs on walls with railings, gates and gateposts. All elements used were substantial. Gateposts are dominant with large stone copings.

The gardens to the Avenue are larger and more suburban. Garden walls are made from a variety of materials mostly concrete blocks set out to form a castellated top edge.



*Fig 16: Garden gate in The Parkway*

## 5.29 Details and Features

**Non Park Features.** The projecting bays in Regent Road have balustrading to their roofs in both metal and stone.

Park Evangelical Church at the corner of Boughy Road has many good original features including stained glass.

## 5.30 Park Features



**Fig 17:** *Hammersley Fountain*

**Caldon Fountain.** The fountain presented by His Worship the Mayor (Alderman Hammersley), still exists today, although it no longer functions as a water fountain. The fountain occupies a prominent position in the centre of what was originally intended to be the Flower Garden.

The lower pond is 20 feet to the outside of rim, and 23 feet to the outside of steps, the outline being quatrefoil. From the centre of each segment springs a truss, which attached to the central column, divides the first basin into four parts. The truss would have originally formed the setting for the dragons, but the dragons are no longer in situ. The dragons would have served the purpose of spouting water into the lower pond. From this point rises the central shaft supporting in turn four basins, which work around the shaft, which again rises to carry spouting masks, terminating in a central jet. The central jet has lost the upper portion of the jet housing. The central jet and spouting masks would have supplied the four basins, overflowing into the larger basin, which in turn would have overflowed into the lower pond.

The fountain was constructed from moulded terracotta in a decorative and ornamental fashion, which has weathered over time, creating a weathered patina on the structure. Some of the terracotta units have been removed, exposing the internal structure to the elements and allowing for water ingress and plant growth. These terracotta elements need to be replaced, in order to prevent further damage from water ingress. The steps leading to the fountain are constructed of stone.

The water for the Fountain would have been obtained from the Caldon Canal, using a gravity feed.

**Winter Garden Terrace and Terrace Wall.** the terrace wall forms the edge to the terrace that formed the south facing curtilage to the former Winter Gardens. The terrace is parallel to the formal axis of the Flower Garden, to the north and set at a higher level to allow for views across the park and longer distance views into Hartshill (now obstructed by buildings). The length of the terrace allows for localised connections across the length of the park.

The boundary of the terrace is constructed of terracotta bricks, with infill panels of moulded terracotta balustrades to add visual interest. Moulded terracotta coping stones finish the wall. Stone steps allow for level changes along the length of the terrace, and stone edgings define the edge of the promenade walk, flanked by mown grass verges. Stone plinths can also be found at the edge of the stone steps, suggesting further punctuation of the terrace with ornamental vases. The terrace wall has a circular bastion at each end, originally intended for seating. Two circular features punctuate the length of the terrace. Decorative stone plinths laid to a circle sit on a stone foundation and a metal basin lines the internal depression. A truss-like structure sits within the centre of each stone circle. The metal basin serves as an impermeable container and suggests that these structures served as lower ponds to catch fountain water.



**Fig 18:** *Terrace Fountain*



**Fig 19:** Lake Edge

**Boating Lake and Water Fountains.** The boating lake was devised in order to generate revenue for the upkeep of the park. It was planned to accommodate as many boats on the water as possible, in order to maximise revenue gain. The construction of the lake was guided by levels and cost, with manipulation of surrounding levels to ensure that the lake sat at the lowest level in the area. The picturesque arrangement was preferred over a formal arrangement as it allowed for the perception of apparent extent. The surface area equates to 5.5 acres. The design of the margins was also carefully considered, in order to ensure pleasant reflections. Willows were used to break up the margins of the lake and contribute to a natural character. These willows have now matured. The natural stone edgings to the lake projected only slightly above the level of the water, followed by undulating grass verges, to promote this natural character. The stone edgings are still in place today, but subsidence has reduced the level of the edgings, causing water to overflow the bank at its western edges. There is a danger that the lake edge may fail, resulting in a breach, if not repaired.

The boathouse landing was designed of considerable size to accommodate large numbers of boats drawing up at the same time. It has been replaced recently, but does not include provision for boat moorings. It partially obscures the aperture for the wet dock. Should the boathouse be brought back into use as a boathouse, this may need to be altered.

**Cascades.** The water for the lake was obtained by gravity feed from the Caldon Canal. The Cascades were artificially constructed to enable the passage of this stream feed in a picturesque manner. In Mawson's report to the park's sub-committee, he states the following:-

*'in the formation of the rockwork, I propose to use anything which could be built into large masses; furnace slag covered with cement would answer the purpose below water-line with natural stone above water-line, worked into stratifications and boulders'*

The stonework still exists today. Mawson envisaged the use of red sandstone for this feature, as it weathered more naturally, but the angular and worked appearance of the Cascades suggests that cheaper stone was sourced.



**Fig 20: Mawson's Cascade**



**Fig 21:** *The Cascades today*

**Drinking Fountain Plinth.** the set of steps leading from the main carriageway towards the bowling green lead to a stone plinth. Historically, a drinking fountain was situated on this plinth, but it has since been removed. Only the plinth remains.



**Fig 22:** *Original Drinking Fountain, to the south of the bowling green (now removed)*

**Bridges.** Bridge 5B, crossing the canal, demonstrates engineering techniques and materials commensurate with the time of its construction. The beam bridge uses simple brick abutments to support the wrought iron arc beams that in turn support the deck. Decoration to the beams is restricted to the exposed beam edges, with repeated metal stud mouldings. The decorative metal railings contrast in style to

the simplicity of the abutments and beams, displaying decorative elements throughout. Metal railing posts are capped with ornamental metal knobs. Ornamental metal panels are suspended over the canal water, attached to the posts and supporting beams. The infill panels are graceful and slender. A decorative metal accent panel denotes the central point of the bridge, rising above the level of the handrail. The marked difference in style relates to the intended audience, with landed gentry crossing the bridge in horse drawn carriages, and working narrowboats passing underneath.

Bridge 5A is similar in design to bridge 5B, but is more ornate. It was intended for pedestrian use only. The original wrought iron metalwork balustrades have been replaced, but they show decorative detailing. Terracotta copings top the brick piers, with wrought iron decorative finials providing a final sculptural flourish. The orbs that top the finials have been lost in some instances and need repairing.

The grandeur of this bridge is further magnified by the double flight of stone steps that leads from the lower level of the bowling green, conjoining to lead towards the elevated height of the canal bridge. The terracotta balustrades and coping stones have deteriorated significantly, resulting in partial closure of the steps, due to safety concerns. The original staggered coping line has been replaced with a more geometric arrangement that lacks the finesse of the original design. This feature should be re-instated.

The double flight allows for the opportunity for further architectural grandeur on the elevation facing onto the bowling green, in the form of a terracotta arch, with repeated terracotta keystones. The aperture to the arch is of terracotta brickwork, with a doorway and two windows that have been made secure. Scaffolding surrounds the structure. A final stepped descent from the archway leads directly to the bowling green.

The dilapidated state of the double flight of stairs is distressing, given that so much care and attention to detail was taken during the design and construction of the stepped descent. The stewardship of the park needs to be addressed, with a focus on vandalism.



**Fig 23:** *Poor condition of the pavilion terrace wall*

**Pavilion Terrace Wall.** The Pavilion Terrace defines the southern edge of the former Flower Garden and Bandstand. It also forms an elevated edge to the Caldon Canal, allowing for views across Stoke Town. Two viewing balconies extend towards the canal, breaking the consistent line of this linear feature. The structure returns at each end, to form an enclosure that may have been envisaged to accommodate seating. Moulded terracotta plinths and coping stones define the base and top of the terrace wall. Regularly spaced terracotta piers provide structural support, infilled with moulded terracotta balustrades. Decorative wrought iron finials can be found in isolated instances on top of the gate piers. The layout of the terrace wall is still coherent, but the balustrades have been subject to vandalism in isolated instances along the terrace, and need to be replaced. Re-instatement of the finials should also be considered, to re-instate the original design details of the terrace wall.



**Fig 24:** Only one dragon remains of the original pair adorning the Hanley seal to the lodge entrance

**Park Entrances.** The entrances to the park are distinctive features, set within the overall boundary treatment of the park perimeter. The majority of the park entrances remain intact, although the condition of each entrance varies. The design of each park entrance is individually tailored to respond to the surrounding street network and internal path layout. The terracotta brick pier (finished with terracotta or stone finial) wrought iron gate and concave or convex connecting element form the family of elements that give consistency to form a family of park entrances. Most of the park entrances are set back from the street pavement, inviting the user in to the park. The concave or convex connecting wall and/or railing arrangement allows each entrance to respond to important axial alignments in the park, or further exaggerate the picturesque layout. The importance of each entrance is articulated through the number of gate piers and decorative ornamentation of the metal gates.

The main carriageway entrances show an arrangement that was intended to separate pedestrian users from carriages.

Cauldon Park was built during phase 1 of the construction programme, and the main park entrances were from Stoke Road, next to the lodge, leading through to the entrance bounding the junction between Avenue Road and College Road. When phase 2 was completed, the connecting entrance on College Road became the more dominant gateway, as it connected to phase 2 of the park. The Hanley Coat of Arms can be found on the Stoke Road entrance. One of the dragons still remains on the crest, although the second dragon has disappeared.

A new entrance has been introduced on the Parkway. The style of the entrance departs from the traditional character of entrances designed by Mawson.

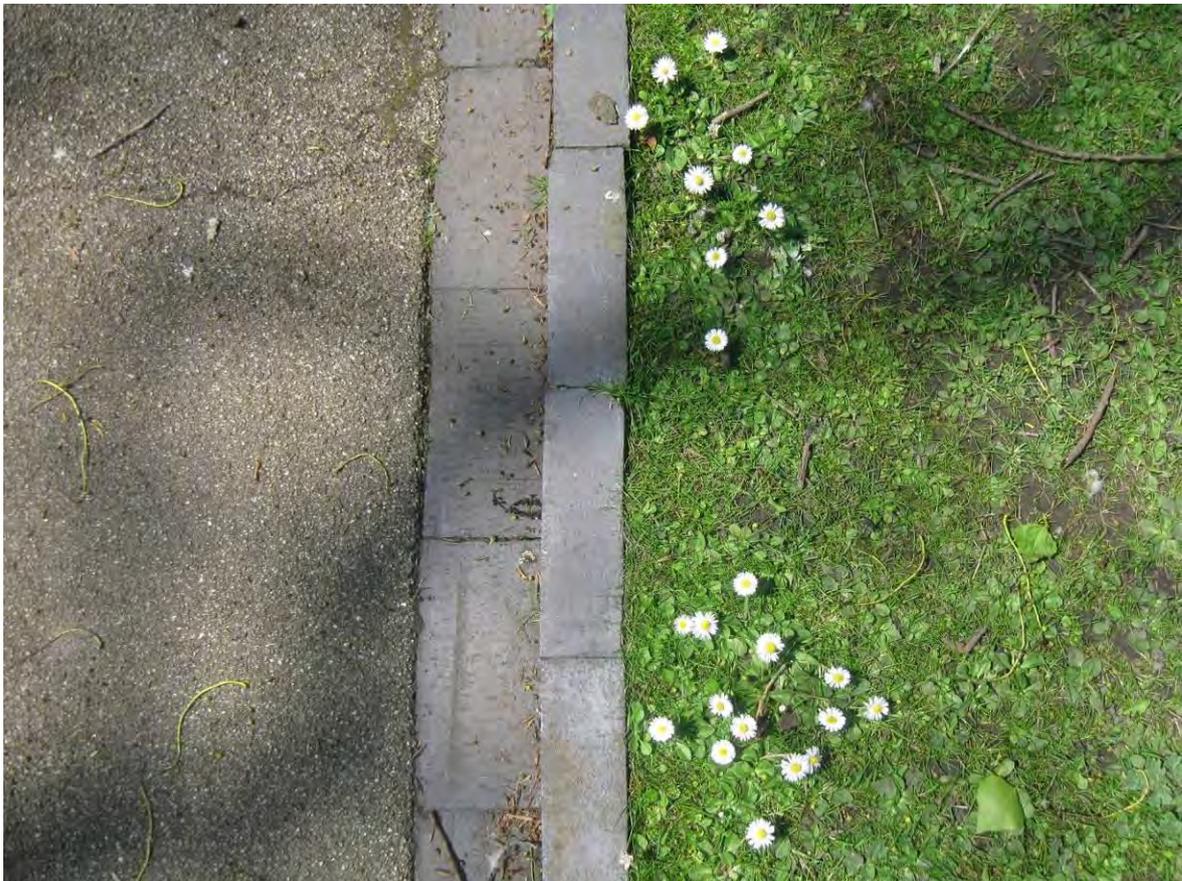
## 5.4 Groundscape and Public Realm



**Fig 25:** Tarmac re-surfacings have compromised the functionality of original elements

**Avenue Road.** this street was originally referred to as Park Avenue. Mawson adopted a formal layout of this road, with wide grass verges and avenue tree planting separating pedestrians from horse drawn carriages. This arrangement departed significantly from the general organic character of streets in Stoke-on-Trent at this time, and influenced the planned arrangement of development generally in the Shelton area. The layout of Avenue Road remains intact today, and the avenue trees have matured, arching overhead in a grand manner and enclosing the space. Residential properties have subsequently been built on the avenue, enhancing the sense of enclosure further, but the wide and generous proportions of the road and grass verges continue to support a spacious environment.

**Paths & Steps.** the picturesque layout of paths allows for gentle gradients throughout the park, despite significant level changes throughout the site. Paths laid out in the picturesque style are surfaced in tarmac and are commonly edged with Staffordshire blue pin kerbs. The condition of paths for the most part is good, but tarmac surfaces have deteriorated in the Cauldon Park and peripheral areas of Hanley Park. Where formal arrangements within the park occur, the paths straighten out, in accordance with the formal geometry, and are surfaced with resin bonded gravel.



**Fig 26:** Staffordshire blue pin kerb edging to the pathways

Level changes in these formal areas are denoted through flights of steps, incorporating stone steps and terracotta balustrades. The formal duplication of steps accommodates the potential for crowds at the Pavilion and bandstand. The stone steps have weathered well over time, but some of the terracotta balustrades and copers have deteriorated, or been replaced using concrete. The condition of the double flight of steps leading to bridge 5A is of particular concern, as mentioned previously in section 5.312.

**Carriageway.** The carriageway, or main drive, was intended to allow for a more visually pleasing drive through the park from Hanley to Stoke, rather than the more direct route of College Road that passed through industrialised areas. This route still exists, although it is no longer used for horse drawn carriages, due to changes in transport modes. The additional width of the main drive spaciouly accommodates pedestrian and cycling routes.

**Boundaries.** The boundary treatment to the Cauldon Park differs from that of Hanley Park. A brick retaining wall, finished with stone copings defines the eastern, southern and western boundaries of Cauldon Park, with the park elevated above the level of the street. The original railings have been removed from the stone copings. The condition of the wall has deteriorated since implementation. Tree roots have placed pressure on the retaining wall, resulting in a distinctive lean in some instances.

Pointing has eroded over time, resulting in the displacement of bricks. Stone copings have shifted. Ground ivy has further damaged the structure of the wall, and

will continue to do so, unless removed and replaced with a less invasive ground species.



**Fig 27:** Stone copers to the boundary walls have been dislodged, with damage to brickwork

The boundary to Hanley Park and the northern boundary to Cauldon Park is comprised of railings only. This is due to cost pressures experienced during the implementation of phase 2 of the park. The original railings have been replaced with more utilitarian railings, but the permeable nature of the ground underneath the railings has allowed for the encroachment of tree and shrub roots over time, without damaging the railings. Mowing regimes appear to have damaged supporting struts.

Railings have been added to the park over time. Examples include the railings on the embankment between the Cascades and boating lake and also the lake and park avenue. These railings are unnecessary and should be removed. Replacement railings can also be found on bridge 5A. A comparison with the railings on bridge 5B shows that the replacement railings lack the elegance of the original railings. Different types of railings also surround the children's play areas. Again, they differ in style. A review of railings within the park would help to resolve inconsistencies in design.

**Seating and Lighting:** The layout of park seating departs significantly from the original intentions of Mawson. Whereas seating was originally envisaged to be situated in the more formal areas of the park, laid to a formal layout, seating is now found next to the children's play area and the boating lake. A limited amount of seating can be found on the Pavilion Terrace, next to the main carriage drive and seating can also be found near the Caldron fountain. The style of seating differs,

with no consistency. Seating would benefit from a more coherent design style. A review of locations is also suggested, with consideration given to night time lighting.

There is no mention of park lighting within Mawson's original reports. However, lighting can be found within Hanley Park today, following the line of the main carriageway through the park. A contemporary column is used. There is no lighting within Cauldon Park. Both parks benefit from street lighting surrounding the edge of the park, although it differs in style from the lighting column found within the park. CCTV can also be found within the park at various intervals.

**Public Art.** There are two main pieces of public art, situated at the edge of the boating lake and lake island. They are constructed of steel, and are recitations of poetry. A third piece within this family was situated on the steps leading up from the boat landing stage, but most of the steel panels have been stolen, and only one piece within the set remains.



**Fig 28:** *New street furniture*

## 5.5 Listed and Unlisted Buildings of Importance

The park is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden. The designation is not the same as normal statutory listing and does not withdraw any permitted development rights. The Caldon Canal is now a separate designated conservation area.

### 5.51 Buildings on the Statutory List

There are no statutory listed buildings within the Conservation Area.

### 5.52 Buildings of Special Local Interest

- 123 Regent Road
- 125 Regent Road
- 2 Harding Road

These are attached at Appendix B

### 5.53 Other heritage assets

The identification of such buildings as “Buildings of Townscape Merit”, follows the good practice advice within English Heritage’s own guidance about the appraisal of conservation areas where they can be considered as ‘heritage assets’. Such buildings may have already been altered and may have lost some of their special features. However, it is considered that they could, with care, be restored to their original appearance and are therefore identified on the map. The Park buildings are in this category and special importance should be attached to the Boathouse which is of listable quality.



**Fig 29:** Coloured postcard of Lodge to Stoke Rd



**Fig 30:** *The Boathouse*

There is a general presumption in favour of retaining all “Buildings of Townscape Merit” so any application for demolition via Conservation Area Consent will need to be accompanied by a detailed justification through a Statement of Significance for the proposals similar to that required for a listed building. Additionally, all applications to alter or extend such buildings will be very carefully considered by the local planning authority.

Buildings outside the park of merit are:

- Park Church
- 11-17 Boughy Road,
- 28 Avenue Road
- 47-52 Avenue Road
- 2 Harding Road
- 123-125 Regent Road
- 128 Regent Road
- 9-11 Shirley Street
- 13,15,17,19 The Parkway



**Fig 31:** Canal Bridge

## **5.6 Trees, Green Spaces, Edges and Ecology**

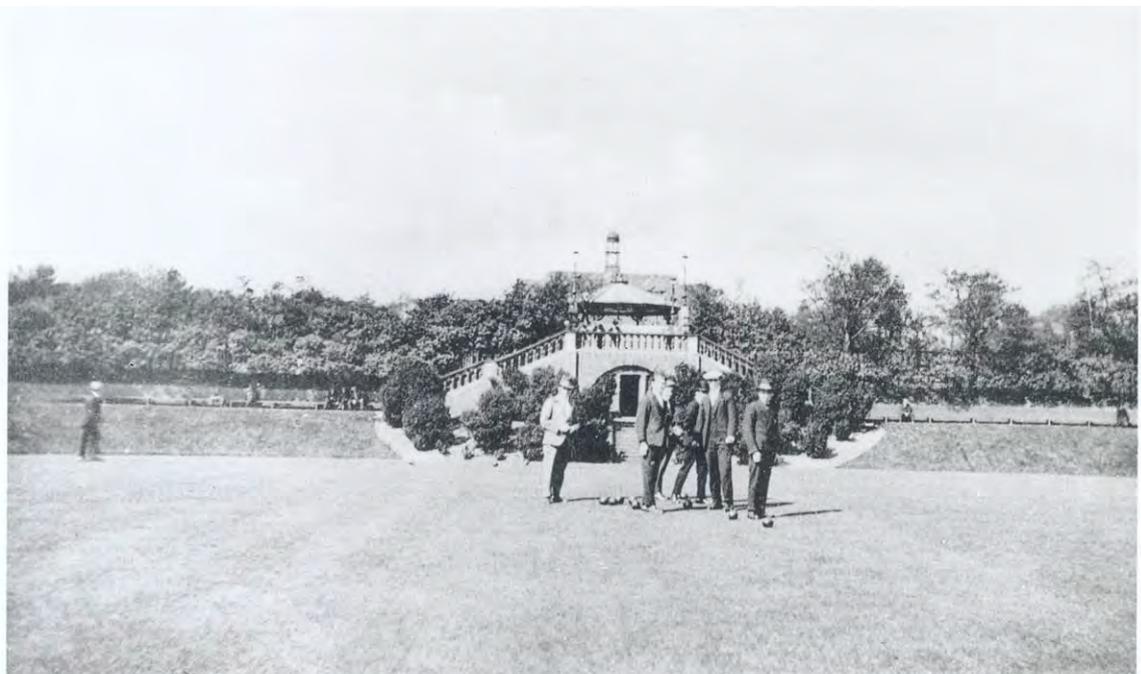
**Structure planting.** Thomas Mawson intended to use informally arranged groups of trees to provide variety of form, an effect enhanced by seasonal colour. Secondary plantings were intended to provide support or connected tree groupings together. This arrangement underpinned the conscious use of the picturesque style, generally deployed within the park. Mawson departed from this style in the formally arranged parterres and terraces associated with the pavilion, winter garden and the bowling green. These areas would have been characterised by openness and contained within the informal structure planting surrounding them. Avenue tree planting on Park Avenue departed from the informal approach to structure planting within the park. Avenue tree planting was laid out in a formal arrangement which extended into the park boundary, in order to extend the length of the design line along this route. Mawson's planting palette was restricted, due to industrial pollution, but he deemed various species suitable, such as weeping elm, hornbeam, laburnum, lime, various oaks and the black Italian poplar.

Today, many of the picturesque plantations have matured, with additional trees added over time. Tree species include a mix of native and non-native species ash (predominant) with some oak, lime, cherry, willow and ornamental species. Sycamore has self-seeded into large trees in areas.



**Fig 32:** Avenue Rd

The most significant changes have occurred in the formal parterres, with lawns and tree planting replacing maintenance intensive topiary and rose gardens. Specimen trees are now situated within the pavilion parterre and terraces, with Swamp Cypress and Larch forming significant features. A double avenue of trees has recently been planted on the Winter Garden Terrace. Tree root growth may impact upon the structural integrity of the terrace wall in the long term.

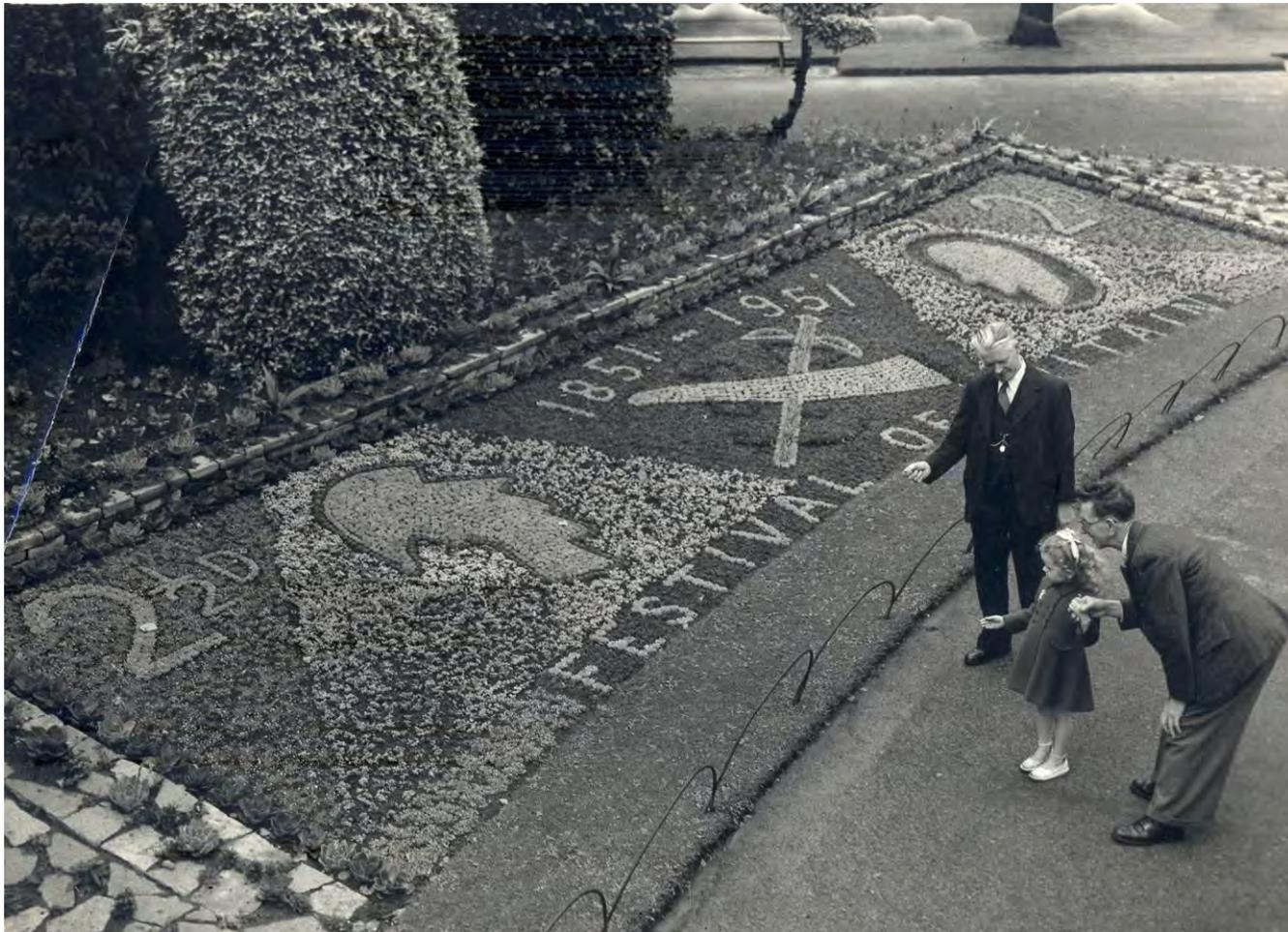


Bowling Green, Hanley Park. C 300

**Fig 33:** Archive Photograph (date unknown)

**Shrub and ornamental Planting.** Historically, the formal planting beds were situated within the town garden of Cauldon Park and the lower section of the Pavilion terrace. Formally arranged topiary and rose beds formed the ornamental flower gardens next to the band stand and winter garden terrace, and closely mown grass characterized the bowling green. Ornamental planting beds occurred regularly throughout the park. Over time, staffing for the park has reduced, and the treatment to formal planting beds has changed to the extent that there is now very little formal bedding planting existing in the park. It is limited to a triangular bed at the entrance to Cleveland Road at the north-western side of the park, and some small areas near the pavilion, bounded by formally clipped privet hedging. In places, the outline of former planting beds can be seen and they have been grassed over to reduce maintenance costs.

The remainder of the park has shrub planting beds which are of varied quality. Rhododendron is common as are overgrown holly groves. Shrub beds are informal with many bare areas and often with poor structural variety with larger specimens towards the front and lower specimens at the back. Under trees, where light levels are low, plants that tolerate low light levels are found including *Skimmia japonica* and *Hedera helix*, although many tree groves have bare ground beneath. In distinct areas, less formal planting has been used such as in the wildlife area. Clipped privet hedges present a tidy boundary, behind which native perennial plants extend above the clipped hedge line. Perennial planting includes swathes of red campion. Adjacent to the wildlife area a stream valley flows into the lake. This valley is informal, with native plants that thrive in damp conditions predominating including pendulous sedge.



**Fig 34:** *Festival of Britain, 1951*

The edge to the Caldon Canal is not under any management regime with trees and ivy cover dominant. In areas, Japanese knotweed is present and requires treatment to eradicate it. The canal edge, where bank meets water has little marginal vegetation.

**Ecology and biodiversity.** The main habitats in the park are close mown amenity grassland, native and non native plantations, formal non-native shrubberies, informal perennial beds, horticultural bedding areas, a lake and stream valley.

A good range of common garden birds utilise the site, for feeding, roosting and breeding and there are many existing opportunities within the park for them. The shrub beds will provide secluded nesting opportunities.

The trees in the park are varied in age, structure and species with a mixture of both native and non-native species.

A wide range of invertebrate species will also utilise the park for all or part of their lifecycle.

People using the park were observed enjoying interacting with the wildlife including feeding the grey squirrels and waterfowl.

Some areas of the park are less formally managed and consequently of greater interest to biodiversity. These are an area alongside the southern side of the canal on the eastern side of the site and the area on the southern part of the park, northwest of the lake.

The former area is recent tree planting that is maturing. It consists of closely spaced oak, rowan, field maple, salix and poplar species. The understorey is mostly nettle. Many bird species were noted using the area.

The latter area is promoted as an area for wildlife and some native perennial species have been planted as well as allowing species to develop naturally. Alongside the stream, some vegetation that prefers damp conditions flourish and it provides an attractive less formal area for people to visit and to enjoy wildlife.



**Fig 35:** *Wildlife areas have been added to diversify the habitat found within the park*

**Edges.** The edge of the canal adjacent to the pavilion terrace balustrade is problematic. There is a reluctance to maintain the edge due to health and safety issues, and the original stone edging to the canal is deteriorating, with overgrowth and invasive species colonising to a significant degree. Mature willows impede natural surveillance of the canal from the pavilion terrace, and root growth continues to compromise the structural integrity of the terrace balustrade. Gangs of youths occupy the wall, deterring narrowboats from mooring, due to concerns in respect of security. This has exacerbated since the removal of seating around the crescent framing the bowling green.

## 5.7 Detractors, Neutral Areas and Gap Sites

The dilapidated states of the Pavilion, terrace balustrade and canal bridge, complete with scaffolding and boarded up windows detract from the visual quality of the park at the present time, and this is further magnified given that they form the main features of the set piece within the park. Other built features within the park, such as the boathouse and lodge have also been boarded up, due to vandalism through disuse.



**Fig 36:** *The Main Pavilion*

The canalside edge adjacent to the pavilion terrace balustrade also presents an untidy aspect within a formal environment.

The derelict building adjacent to College Road within Cauldon Park detracts from the visual quality of the mature parkland setting. This building needs to be demolished to allow for a fresh approach in this area.

The grounds to the parks maintenance depot, situated adjacent to the canal also detract from the high visual quality of the park.

Stands of Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam also need to be monitored and eradicated where possible.

Detractors along the roads surrounding the park include:

- Off-road parking where provision has involved removal of the front wall and garden, or garden alone
- Replacement boundary treatments such as the installation of fences or high railings and walls which would be out of character with the area or removal of the boundary walls
- the alteration of roofs by changing the material or inserting rooflights, altering the symmetry and design of the buildings and altering the flow of the roofscape
- Two storey side extensions which disrupt the symmetry of the buildings and obscure views to the rear gardens
- Removing the original design of the building by inappropriate use of render or pebbledash
- Replacement windows and doors, particularly those made of PVCu. These are often of varied design within semi-detached houses or terraces, spoiling their harmony, while plastic windows are intrinsically harmful to the appearance and fabric of historic buildings
- Replacement or new front porches to a modern design which alter the traditional design of the properties and in some cases the symmetry of the properties
- Removal of traditional outbuildings ancillary to dwellings such as coach houses and privies
- Large Satellite dishes have been located on front elevations and detract from the character, especially on the terraced housing to the North of the park
- Rebuilding of sections of buildings with inappropriate materials

## Enhancement and Development Opportunities

All of the buildings within the park should be renovated and brought back into active use, in order to preserve their longevity and re-instate their status as visual features within the park, as well as providing community facilities to complement the recreational uses within the park. This should include the renovation and re-use of the arch under bridge 5A, to complement the uses within the park

An opportunity exists for the derelict building adjacent to College Road within Cauldon Park to be demolished and replaced with a building that reflects the style of the College Lifestyle Building. This approach will help to establish a contemporary frame around the park and enhance natural surveillance.

A further opportunity exists to open up the surroundings to the depot so that it serves as an access link from the canal to Stoke College, with limited parking. This will help to encourage sustainable modes of transport along the Caldon Canal.

Consideration should be given to re-instate pleasure boating and horse drawn carriages within the park. Repairs should be undertaken to the lake edge in order to prevent a breach and consideration should be given to re-instating the original width of the wet dock aperture, should pleasure boating be re-instated.

The park has the capacity to serve as an excellent outdoor events venue and recreational area for the residents of Stoke-on-Trent as a whole, but space should also be made available for quiet contemplation.

Consideration should be given to re-instatement of the original town garden within Cauldon Park and also re-instatement of the low ornamental planting to the pavilion terrace. Where there are concerns in respect of theft, CCTV should be considered, in order to act as a deterrent. Planting beds would benefit from the use of low clipped hedging, such as privet, in order to present a formal edge. Where original hedges have matured into trees, consideration should be given to re-instating the original hedge lines if it serves to open up key views.

The Cauldon fountain needs to be repaired and brought back into active use as a fountain. Where other fountains have subsequently become redundant, such as on the Cauldon terrace, site of the former drinking fountain and entrance to the bowling green, these bases could be adapted to accommodate public art. Other suggested repairs, at the more detailed level include the re-instatement of the pair of dragons to the Hanley coat of arms on the ironwork at the Stoke Road entrance (next to the lodge), repair and re-instatement of the decorative finials at bridge 5A and the pavilion terrace balustrade, repair of pavilion terrace wall and balustrades, and repair of the pavilion steps.

Boundary treatments would also benefit from review and repair. The removal of the railings next to the Cascades and boating lake would help to re-inforce the naturalistic style of the picturesque in this area. Bridge 5A is an important feature within Mawson's set piece, and the re-instatement of the original design of railings and coping details would align with railing details on bridge 5B. The Caldon boundary wall would benefit from the re-pointing of brickwork and replacement of stone copings, in order to preserve the longevity of this structure and prevent further deterioration.

Re-instatement of the original railings to the Cauldon Park boundary would give greater meaning to the original gated entrances and enable restricted access.

At the time of construction, Mawson's intention was to hide the Caldon Canal from view, using levels and tree planting. In the present day, the canal is a feature that can be celebrated and integrated within the park. Views of the Pavilion from the canal could be opened up, to enhance the status of the Pavilion and provide a greater degree of natural surveillance onto the canal towpath when occupied. The management of the canal edge should also be reviewed, to integrate with the park, whilst allowing for the movement of small animals.

Lighting and CCTV provision within the park should be reviewed, with lighting and CCTV introduced to the Cauldon Park main axis and elevated terrace. The pavilion terrace would also benefit from enhanced lighting and CCTV, as it is prone to anti-social behaviour due to the secluded location in which it sits.

Seating and bin provision would also benefit from review, including a review of seating locations to allow for contemplation and also coherency in terms of style. Perhaps seating could be introduced to the Caldon and Pavilion terraces, subject to CCTV provision.

Where new paths are required in the future, the route should follow the curved style of the picturesque. Tarmac surfacings in poor condition should be re-surfaced. This is particularly applicable to the condition of paths in Cauldon Park.

Stewardship and management of the park should be enhanced where possible, to include the local community. Staff warden cover should be made available at weekends and school holidays, as this is when vandalism and anti-social behaviour is likely to increase.

## 6. Pressures and Threats

### Within the park

- Tree roots affecting structural integrity of boundary walls framing Cauldon Park and the pavilion terrace balustrade
- Reduced park wardens at peak times, resulting in anti-social behaviour, vandalism and litter in the park
- Risk of loss of original historic features due to reduced maintenance and vandalism, resulting in further deterioration of original features, including fountains, gate piers and wrought iron metalwork.
- Insensitive repair and modification of original features
- Lack of clear defined strategy for the style and appearance of street furniture leading to the mismatch of elements and a cluttered appearance.
- Potential revenue creating facilities such as sport, fishing, kiosks and pavilions not in use and alternative sustainable models for community involvement not yet explored.



**Fig 37:** Sports Pavilion- currently not in use

## Outside the park

- Tree roots affecting structural integrity of boundary walls framing Cauldon Park and the pavilion terrace balustrade.
- Removal of the front wall and garden, or garden alone to provide off-road parking
- Replacement boundary treatments such as the installation of fences or high railings and walls which would be out of character with the area or removal of the boundary walls
- the alteration of roofs by changing the material or inserting rooflights, altering the symmetry and design of the buildings and altering the flow of the roofscape
- Two storey side extensions which disrupt the symmetry of the buildings and obscure views to the rear gardens
- Removing the original design of the building by inappropriate use of render or pebbledash
- Removal of traditional features such as chimneys, eaves detailing and cill bands
- Replacement windows and doors, particularly those made of PVCu, however this is currently allowed under permitted development in dwellinghouses
- Replacement or new front porches to a modern design which alter the traditional design of the properties and in some cases the symmetry of the properties
- Removal of traditional outbuildings ancillary to dwellings such as coach houses and privies
- Large Satellite dishes have been located on front elevations and detract from the character, especially on the terraced housing to the North of the park
- The removal of the trees lining Avenue Road

## 7. Summary of Special Interest

### Key Points of interest

- Hanley Park including the Cauldon Grounds is a registered historic park displaying the first public design of Thomas Mawson.
- The Cauldon Grounds are designed as a formal “Town Park” to form a connection between the Cemetery and Hanley Park, a larger and more informal, perhaps natural environment. Views and alignment of entrances are very important to achieve these connections.
- The designs of both spaces consciously screened negative views of the surrounding industry, the Park was a place for respite and enjoyment.
- The canal, once a method of transporting heavy goods was originally considered as a negative element. Now it carries tourists and potential income to support the Park. As a conservation area in its own right, the Canal is now seen as making a positive contribution to the area.
- The quality of the original features within the park is high and they all contribute to the special interest. The use of local clay in brick and terracotta give a distinctive feel and appearance to the park.

### Key characteristics

- Consciously planned arrangement
- Picturesque style contrasts with formal symmetry
- Two axial alignments
- Family of park entrances
- Family of park buildings
- Undulating levels
- Varied and diverse structure planting
- Boulevard arrangement to Avenue Road

## Summary

At over 24 hectares in size Hanley Park is one of the largest Victorian public parks in the UK and is listed Grade II on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. It is a designed urban space, the main purpose of which is for informal recreation and enjoyment. Designed as a much needed antidote to the working conditions of the potters and miners in the district, it continues to serve the public for both recreation and sport.

Hanley Park lies at the heart of Stoke-on-Trent between the city's main railway station, 1 kilometre away to the south, and city centre, which is about the same distance to the north. There are 17 formal pedestrian entrances around the park, including two for vehicles accessing the small car parks. The main entrances are considered to be those at Stoke Road, College Road, Cleveland Road, Boughey Road, and The Parkway. The park is consequently very accessible for use by local residents, students, and workers alike, as well as providing a much used route between the railway station and city centre (and vice versa).

In terms of its immediate surroundings Hanley Park is situated in the residential area of Shelton. The majority of housing here consists of small Victorian terraced properties, originally built for workers at nearby pottery factories and the railway. Immediately surrounding the park are a mix of larger Victorian and Edwardian villas and terraces and inter-war semi-detached properties.

Of particular significance to the local area, and particularly for the park, is that the district of Shelton is also home to the city's largest educational establishments - Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent College, and the city's Sixth Form College. All are within a kilometre of the park and as a consequence it has a wide catchment area and is extremely well used - estimated to be approaching 1 million visitors per annum.

In terms of Hanley Park itself, it is in two parts either side of College Road. The smaller, formally structured Caudon Grounds to the west of College Road was opened first in July 1894, with the main park body following 3 years later in June 1897.

In terms of main buildings and features, the Caudon Grounds has an impressive entrance gate fronting Stoke Road. On the other side of the road is Stoke Cemetery which existed before the park and was the only nearby 'green lung' for the local residents. Caudon Grounds also possesses a park lodge at the Stoke Road entrance, and a large terracotta fountain and associated pool which unfortunately has not operated as such for many years.

The 'main' park still retains its original buildings - the grandly positioned pavilion located in the centre of the park, the boathouse adjacent to the lake, and the lodge. The small kiosk under the steps to the canal also survives but is not in use and there are 3 small later pavilions on the site. Other significant features include the large lake at the southern end of the park, and the formal tiered terraced gardens to the front of the pavilion which contain symmetrical flights of steps down to the bandstand and terracotta balustrade detailing. The other main feature of note today is the attractive Caudon Canal which passes through the centre of the park. Interestingly, because of its very industrial nature, it was not viewed in such a positive way when the park was designed and laid out.

The focus and intention of the Hanley Park's design is still very evident. Conveniently the park is on a south-facing slope - there is a 25 metre difference in height from north to south - and the original design uses this to maximum effect. Consequently the layout is based around the main pavilion and accompanying terraces which occupy the centre of the 'main' park. The centre-line of the pavilion provides an axis upon which is located a bandstand in the lower terrace, and beyond that a footbridge and steps over the Caldon Canal and a large oval bowling green beyond. The more open northern part of the park provides grass sports pitches and a major events area with peripheral mature trees. A large modern play area is located along the College Road boundary adjacent to the 'top' bowling green and its later 20th century bowls pavilion.

The southern half of the 'main' park is quite varied in character and is dominated by the large informally shaped lake with its two islands and timbered boathouse standing on the northern shore. The lake is fed from a short stream via a rock cascade and small pool. The informal gardens adjacent to the stream are much more intimate in character, and another bowling green nestles into this quieter location. The southern area of the park also contains formal recreation facilities in the form of 'hard' surfaced sports courts for tennis, football, basketball, and cricket.

The Cauldon Grounds is laid out on a strong formal east-west axis on which is located the main fountain. This part of the park is leased to Stoke-on-Trent College, the park's 'neighbour', which restored the formal terrace walk as part of its campus developments in recent years.

The whole of Hanley Park, both formal and informal, 'main' park and Cauldon Grounds, is cleverly brought together by the broad and sinuous main carriageway which runs through the park and manages to achieve the significant ground level changes with relative ease for the visitor.

## Heritage Value

Stoke-on-Trent is a collection of six towns including Longton, Fenton, Stoke, Hanley, Tunstall and Burslem, known as "The Potteries". A census of 1851 shows that nearly 90% of all Longton potters died before the age of 45, and a third were dead by the age of 15. Six years before Hanley Park, Queen's Park in Longton opened; the health of workers at this time was a common theme taken up by civic officials in the Potteries.

The establishment of Hanley Park signifies the growth of an urban conscience in each of the local towns, whilst providing us with a legacy to appreciate the aims and ideals of late Victorian society. Although Longton Park was the first to be realised, Hanley Park may have been the first to be conceived. Many of the town's inhabitants proposed a park from as early as 1857. Archive material, including postcards, newspaper reports and local history books all document the reasons why it was made and the decisions taken to design it in its final form.

Hanley Park has a different history and character to the city's other 'formal' parks. Its location, almost midway between Hanley and Stoke, was chosen to serve both communities and the park is therefore the largest in the City. It spans College Road and together with Hanley Cemetery forms a green band between the two 'towns'

which have become the City's shopping and administrative centres respectively. It also straddles the Caldon Canal as it follows the outskirts of Hanley before setting off for the picturesque Churnet Valley. This unique location and interchange of busy pedestrian routes gives Hanley Park a vitality which far exceeds that of the other parks.

The Park was designed by the well-known landscape architect Thomas H. Mawson on colliery waste land and lies about 1km south of Stoke-on-Trent's city centre. It is considered to be one of the best and earliest examples of his public parks work in this country, indeed it was notably his first public commission. "Mawson Grove" in Hanley records his contribution to the locality, and good archival records and information exist to explain and justify his designs. Mawson went on to become one of the leading landscape architects of his time and arguably the most successful designer of parks in the first quarter of the 20th century. The national importance of Hanley Park thus results in part from the reputation of its designer.

Most of the original layout is still intact, with key elements being still evident, specifically the formal core based around the north-south and east-west axes. It is not only the spaces and landscape which have significance in the park but also its buildings and structures. In terms of buildings, of particular note are the pavilion, boathouse, and two lodges which remain from the original design; these have high aesthetic and historic value.

The large pavilion, designed by Dan Gibson, occupies a very prominent position and is topped by a clock tower and cupola, unfortunately the building is now in poor condition, shut for asbestos removal. The entrance lodges are in a good state of repair but are not used. The boathouse is particularly attractive (although currently boarded up and in a poor state of repair) located as it is on the lakeside. The large bandstand still remains, although the ironwork balustrades and steps are modern as those to some of the bridges are, and not to Mawson's designs. The bandstand has high communal and evidential value, the aesthetic could be improved. The newer pavilions have limited aesthetic value although the Veteran's Pavilion has high communal and evidential value.

The gates to the park survive but are in poor condition with some features missing such as a dragon to the main Stoke Road entrance, all the original metalwork in the Park has high aesthetic and historic value. Many of the original seats have been removed and there is a lack of seating in the park.

The drinking fountain on the central axis is missing but the base survives. The original design by Mawson was not built, a more modest one is shown in archive photographs. This element had aesthetic value by virtue of its position.

The imposing terracotta fountain in Cauldon Grounds survives in part although no longer operational and requires refurbishment. This is the most dominant element with aesthetic value in the Park. The most notable original feature of the park which no longer exists is the conservatory and park greenhouses which were located on the terrace in Cauldon Grounds. These fell into disrepair and were removed in the 1980's along with two fountains on the terrace of which only the bases survive.

Over the last century the park has managed to respond successfully to the changing fashions in recreation and specifically the demand for extensive and

comprehensive new sports and play facilities have been achieved in a manner which is respectful of Mawson's master-plan and indeed the park's embodied heritage.

In addition to its historic social and cultural value the park has surviving historic buildings and features that are recognised by its Grade II listing on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. The park is also a Conservation Area in its own right as well as being immediately adjacent to the Caldon Canal conservation area.

The park is certainly greatly valued not only by the local Shelton and Hanley communities but by residents from right across the city of Stoke-on-Trent, primarily because of its rich history and for the range of facilities and events which it offers today. Preliminary estimates of visitor numbers suggest that in the region of 1 million people visit the park every year, primarily from its neighbouring communities but also from much further afield. Hanley Park is a venue for major city events including music concerts, being able to comfortably manage up to 20,000 people for such an event. Indeed earlier this year the park hosted the Olympic Torch relay during its journey through Staffordshire.

Further evidence of how the community values the park is the existence of the 'Friends of Hanley Park' (FoHP), which was formed in 2011 as an independent group of local people with a commitment to seeing improvements in the facilities and management of the park. Since then FoHP has been working closely on behalf of the local community with the City Council, Stoke-on-Trent College and Staffordshire University to help improve and restore Hanley Park.



**Fig 38:** Gatepost in poor condition

## **8. Recommendations and Proposals**

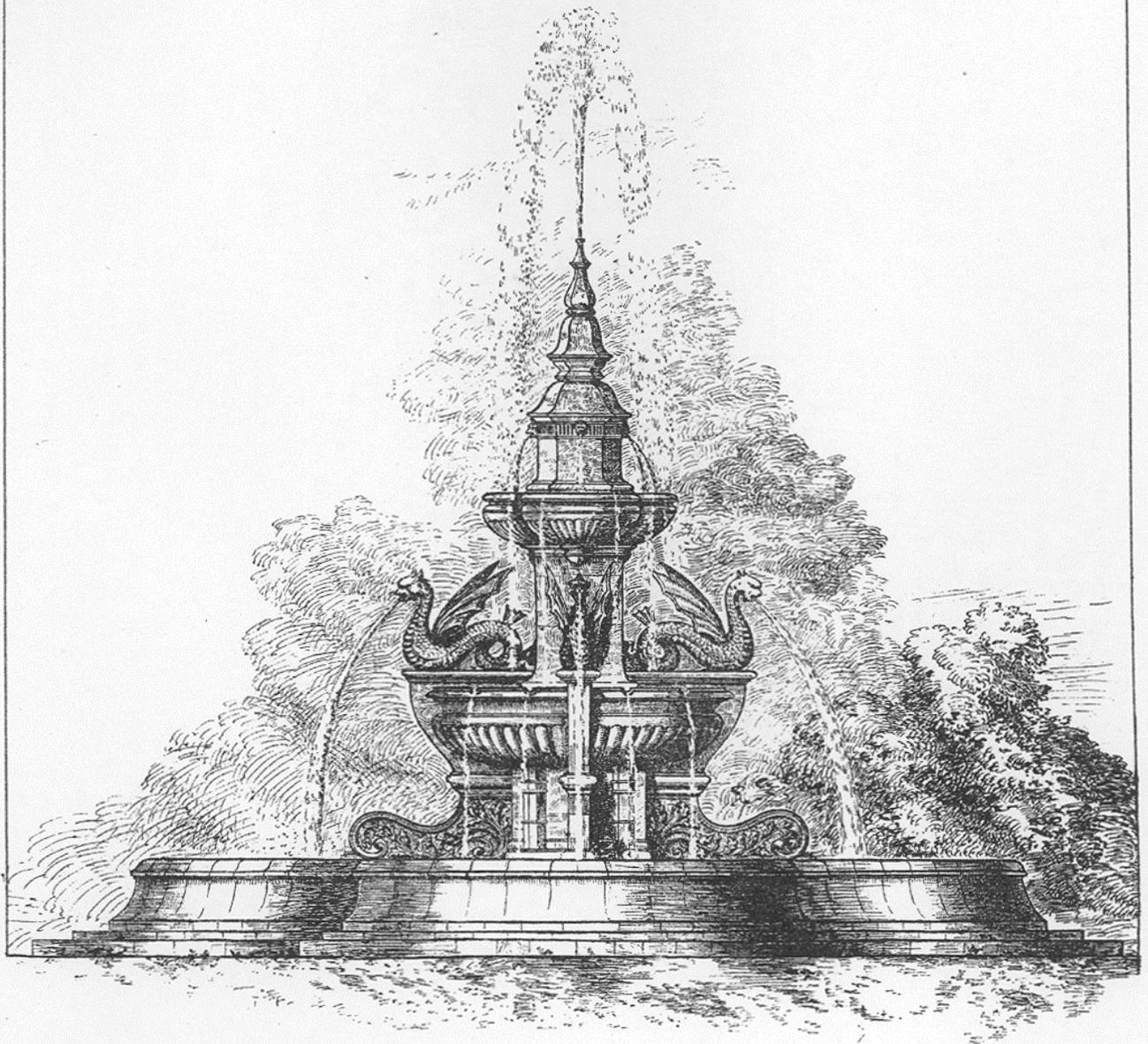
- 8.1 A conservation management plan is prepared which conserves the aesthetic, communal evidential and historic value of the Conservation Area, and most importantly discusses new sustainable uses for the buildings within the Park
- 8.2 A detailed survey of all the existing street furniture is made to include seating, lighting, signage, interpretation and bins. This survey is to inform and control any new proposals for street furniture.
- 8.3 Proposals are made for the restoration conservation and management of the buildings and structures; special consideration to be made for:
  - Restoration of the Boathouse including the lost balcony
  - Restoration of doors to the main Pavilion to improve its relationship with the terrace and bandstand
  - Restoration of lost features to existing gates and gateposts
  - Repair and restoration of terracotta balustrades and steps
  - Repair and restoration of the Hamersley fountain
  - Proposals for Cauldon Grounds terrace including the redundant fountains and extent of tree planting
  - Reappraisal made of modern interventions and their impact upon the character and appearance of the Conservation Area
- 8.4 Thought is given to the location of the lost water fountain on the central axis and its possible replacement with another structure that would perform a similar function and importantly, have faces to all four sides.
- 8.5 The seating to the Park be improved, especially that to the bandstand.
- 8.6 Urgent repairs to be made to the edges of the lake to stop the water encroachment
- 8.7 Planting schemes proposed that clearly enhance and differentiate between the different character areas of the Park.
- 8.8 Proposals made for tree pruning, planting, crown lifting to enhance important views, or indeed, screen poor views.
- 8.9 An assessment to be made of grass cutting techniques and the loss of minor pathways.
- 8.10 Proposal should be made for improving the relationship between the Canal and the Park. It should be possible to create direct visual contact and easy access between the main pavilion and mooring sites to encourage tourism.
- 8.11 The Canals and Rivers Trust (formerly British Waterways) are consulted over land ownership and maintenance of the canals edges to improve the northern edge abutting the terrace.

## 9. References & Sources

- Greenslade, M. W. 1963 'Burslem', 105-142, in Jenkins, J. G. (ed.) *Victoria History of the County of Stafford*, Volume VIII. OUP.
- Scarratt, William 1906 "Old Times in the Potteries"
- Hargreaves, T. 1832 Map of the Potteries and Newcastle
- Ordnance Survey 25 inch county series for 1878, 1900, 1924, 1937.
- Yates, W. 1775 Map of the County of Stafford
- The Park and Town - Chadwick 1966
- Potters in Parks – Mervyn Edwards 1999
- The Life and Work of an English Landscape Architect - Autobiography Thomas Mawson 1927
- Hanley Park – Thomas Mawson 1894
- The Life and Work of a Northern Landscape Architect 1861-1933
- University of Lancaster 1976

### **Websites:**

[www.thepotteries.org](http://www.thepotteries.org)



Fountain in Cauldon Place Grounds.

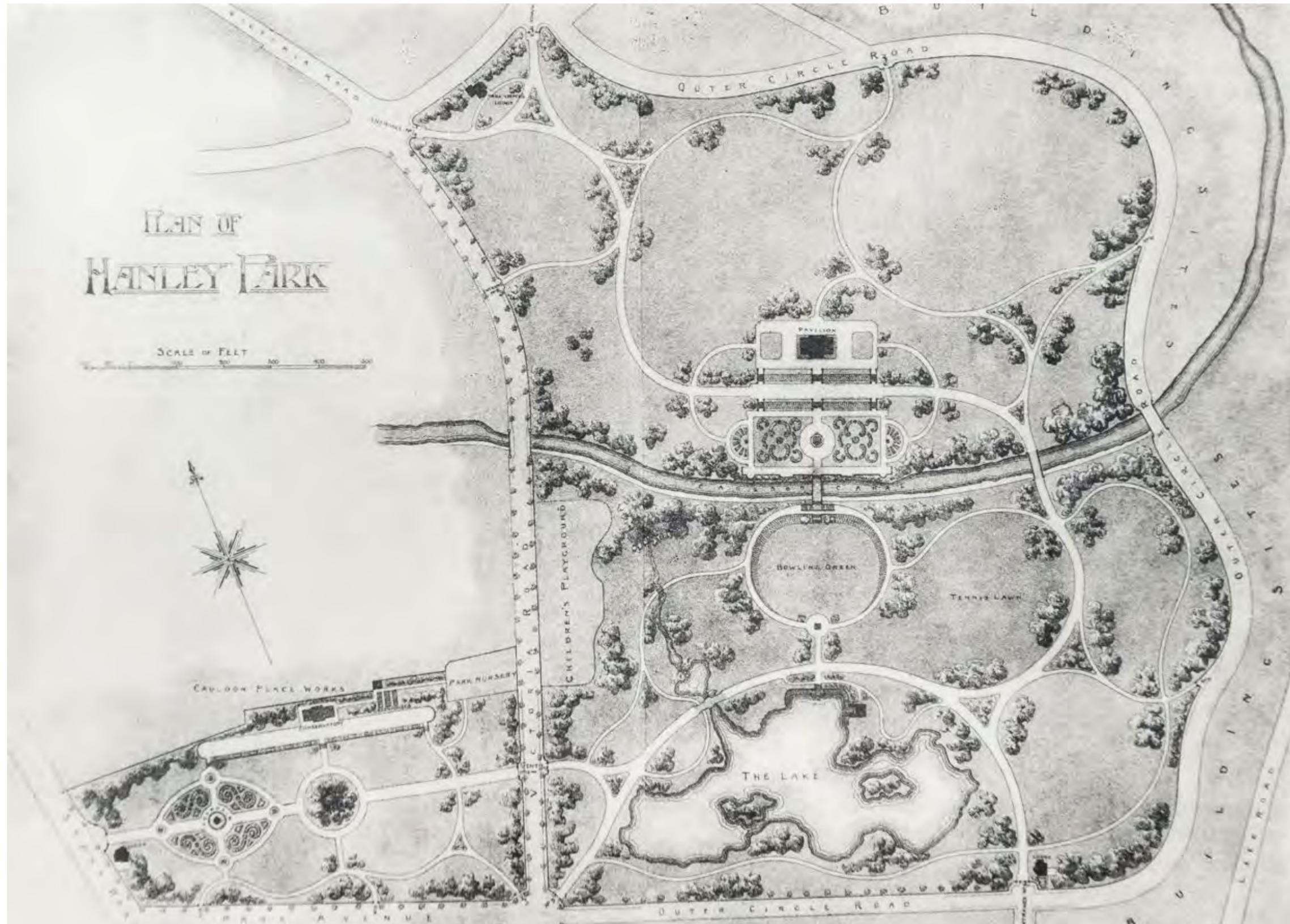
Presented by His Worship the Mayor,  
Alderman Hammersley, July 1894.

Plate 3.

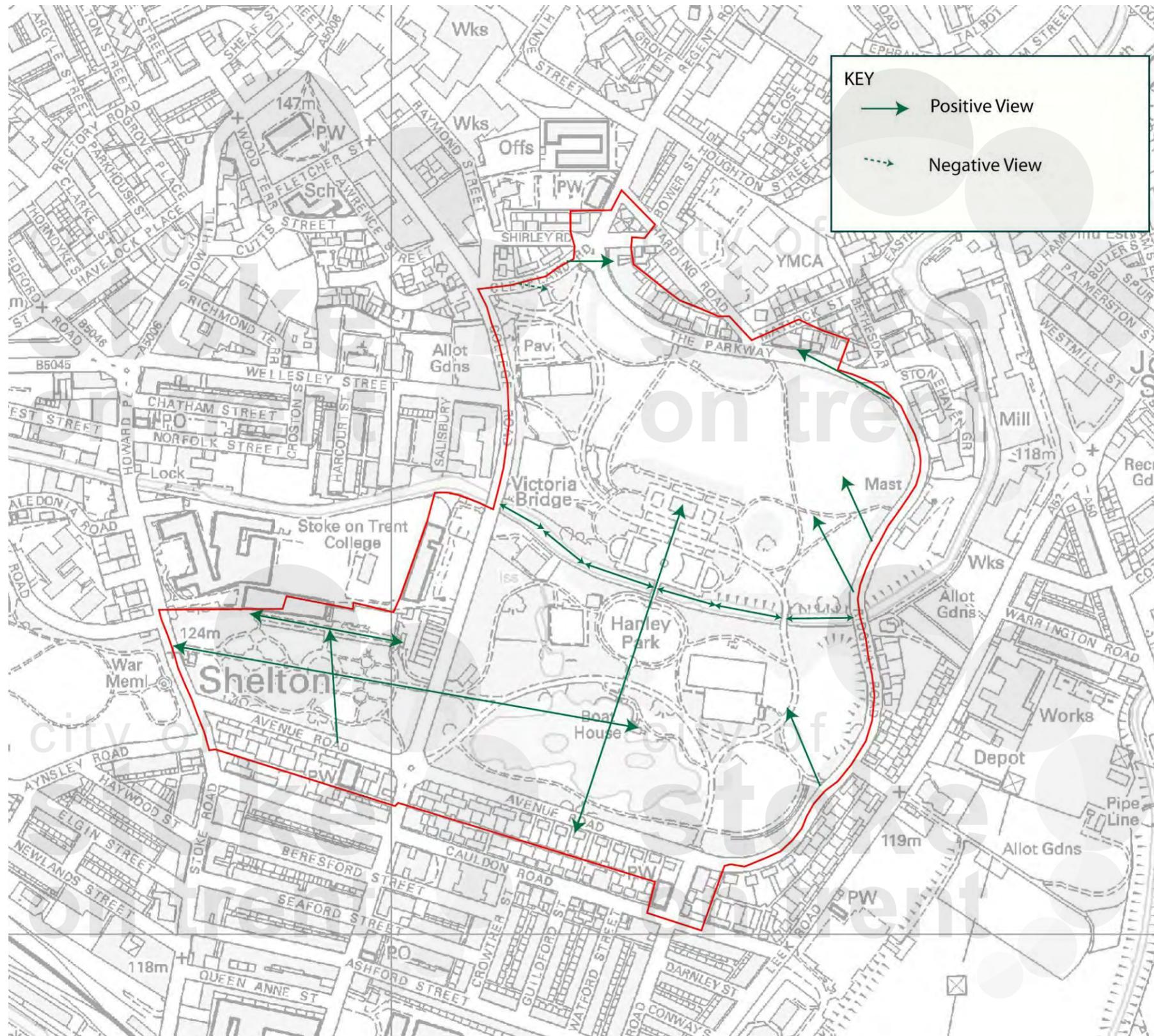
**Fig 39:** Hammersley Fountain design in Mawson's "Hanley Park".

# APPENDIX A : MAPS

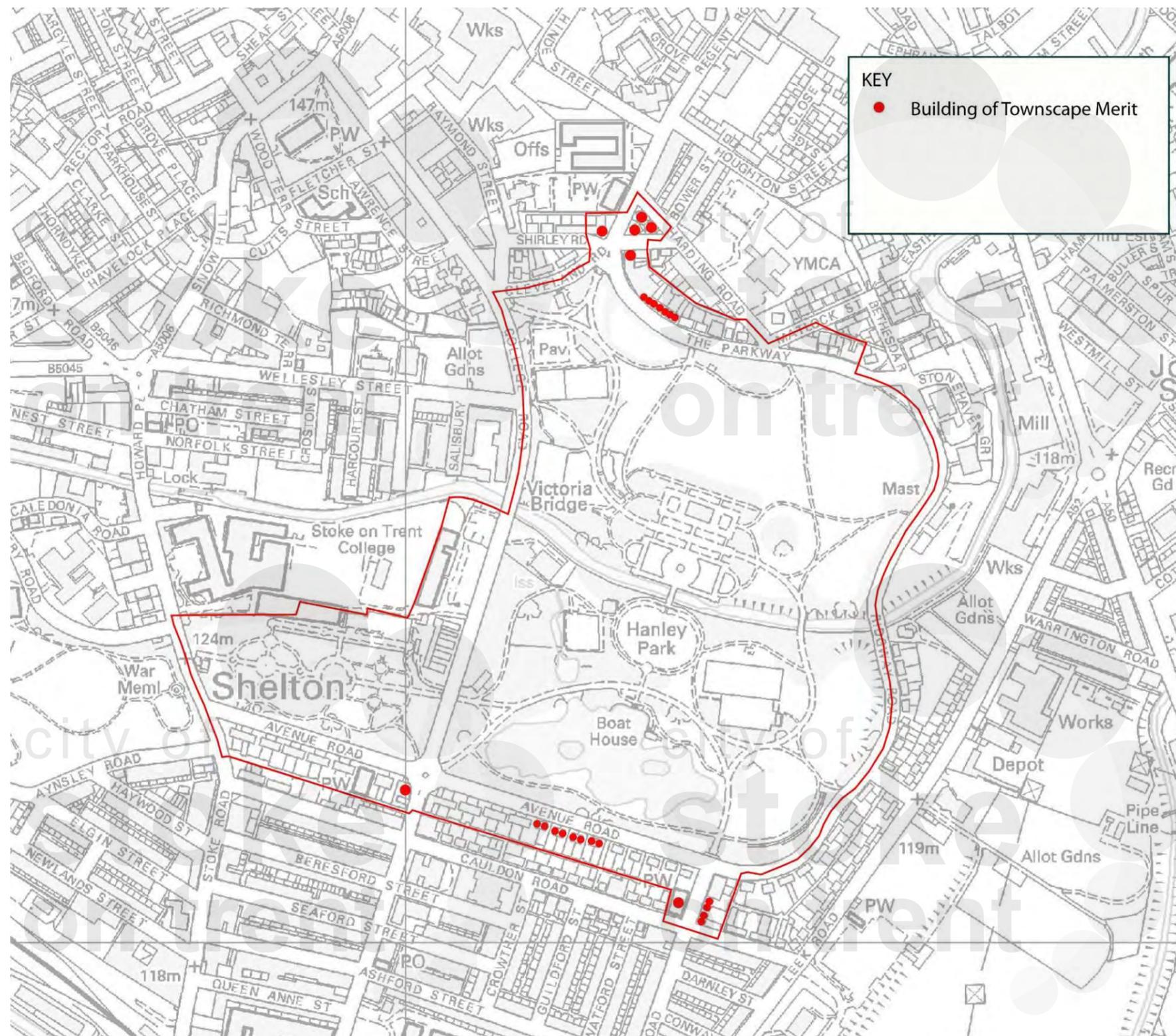
**Map 1: Mawson's Design For The Park**



### MAP 2: Townscape Appraisal: views



### MAP 3: Townscape Appraisal: buildings of townscape merit



## Appendix B

### Locally Listed buildings

#### THE CEDARS

2 Harding Road  
Hanley  
ST1 3BL

Hanley

No: 72 C

Residential

HANLEY WEST AND SHELTON WARD  
HANLEY PARK CONSERVATION AREA

GRID REF: 388265E 346765N

#### LIST DESCRIPTION



Stoke-on-Trent Historic Buildings Survey:  
Non intensive record  
1878-1900. Visited 03.08.1983

2 Harding Road

Plan: 1 basically rectangular unit, see drawing, about 3 rooms wide by 3 rooms deep, roofs are pitched at varying angles, all plain tiled with wooden finials on gables. Chimneys – position see plan. No. 1 – external brick stack which continues to ground, narrows after passing through eaves, stone block quoins at this point. Narrow brick pilasters run up stack on all sides with 2 horizontal projecting courses near top of stack. Stepped brickwork under cap. Pilasters widen and run up cap, 3 pots. No. 2 – as for No. 1 from projecting course

upwards.

Front – Front Projection: gable to front, red facing stretcher bond with brick skirting including moulded brick coping. Wooden framing on gable end, wooden bargeboarding and supports with decorative wooden finial.

Ground Floor: Bay window, moulded brick sill, chamfered wooden lintel and entablature, wooden ballustrading above.

First Floor: Door, rectangular light, plain stone lintel. 2 windows flanking door, plain stone sill and lintel.

Side of Projection: Brickwork as front. External chimney stack.

Ground Floor: Door, rectangular light, stone step. Porch – wooden framing, glass sides and over entrance opening. Set on low boundary walling with coping stones. 2 steps. Chamfered wooden lintel and entablature over porch. Wooden ballustrading above.

Front 1 & 2: Brickwork as front.

Forecourt: Low boundary walling with coping stones, Flemish garden wall bond.

Side B – Side Projection: Walling is 3-sided to front although roof continues on rectangular plan and corners overhang walling. Gable end. Wooden framing with wooden bargeboarding. Brickwork as front.

Ground Floor: 6 windows in a row, 2 on each section of walling, plain stone sill and lintel and pillars between each window. Moulded brick string coursing above windows and continues on sides of projection at same height.

First Floor: 6 windows as ground floor except no string coursing.

Side B – a - Brickwork as front and moulded brick string coursing continues from side projection.

Side B – b - Brickwork at front. (First floor) 2 windows, plain stone sill and lintel.

Side A: Brickwork as front.

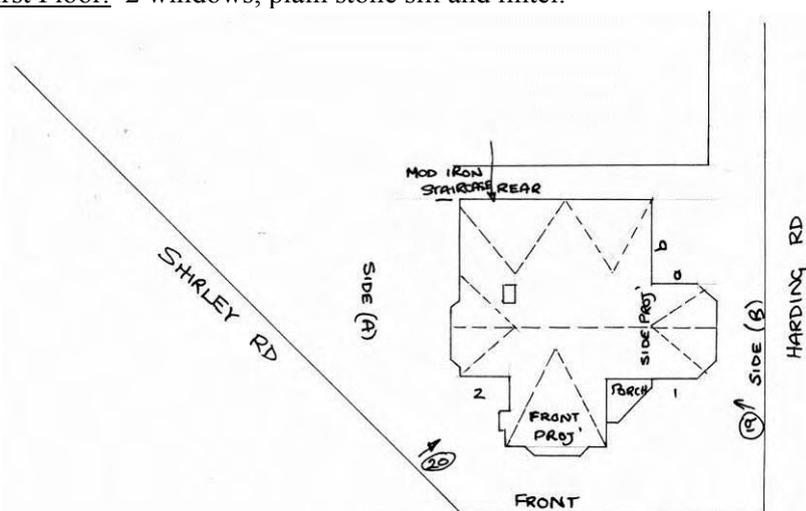
Ground Floor: Bay window as front except no ballustrading. 3 narrow windows set together, plain stone sill and lintel.

First Floor: 3 windows set together, plain stone sill and lintel. 3 narrow windows set together, plain stone sill and lintel. Framing on gable end, as front.

Rear: Brickwork as front. 2 raised gables, framing as front. Iron stairway up to first floor.

Ground Floor: Not visible.

First Floor: 2 windows, plain stone sill and lintel.



## RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

123 Regent Road  
Hanley  
ST1 3BL

Hanley

No: 72 A

Residential

HANLEY WEST AND SHELTON WARD  
HANLEY PARK CONSERVATION AREA

GRID REF: 388251E 346776N

### LIST DESCRIPTION

Stoke-on-Trent Historic Buildings Survey: Non intensive record  
1878-1900. Visited 03.08.1983

123 Regent Road

Plan: 1 basically rectangular unit, see drawing, with about 3 rooms wide by 3 rooms deep. Roofs are pitched at varying angles. All plain tiled with wooden finials on gables. Chimneys two – position see plan. No. 1 – external brick stack which continues to ground, narrows after passing through eaves, stone block quoins at this point. Narrow brick pilasters run up stack on all



sides with 2 horizontal projecting courses near top of stack. Stepped brickwork under cap. Pilasters widen and run up cap, 3 pots. No. 2 – as for No. 1 chimney from projecting course upwards.

Front – Front projection: Gable to front, red facing stretcher bond with brick skirting including moulded brick coping. Wooden framing on gable end, wooden bargeboarding and supports with decorative wooden finial.

Ground Floor: Bay window, moulded brick sill, chamfered wooden lintel and entablature, wooden ballustrading above.

First Floor: Door, rectangular light, plain stone lintel. 2 windows flanking door, plain stone sill and lintel.

Side of Projection: Brickwork as front. External chimney stack.

Side of Front Projection: Brickwork as front.

Ground Floor: Door, rectangular light, stone step.

First Floor: Door, plain stone lintel, stone step.

Porch: Wooden framing, glass sides and over entrance opening. Set on low boundary walling with copings tones, 2 steps. Chamfered wooden lintel and entablature over porch. Wooden ballustrading above.

Front 1 & 2: Brickwork as front.

Forecourt: Low boundary walling with coping stones. Flemish garden wall bond.

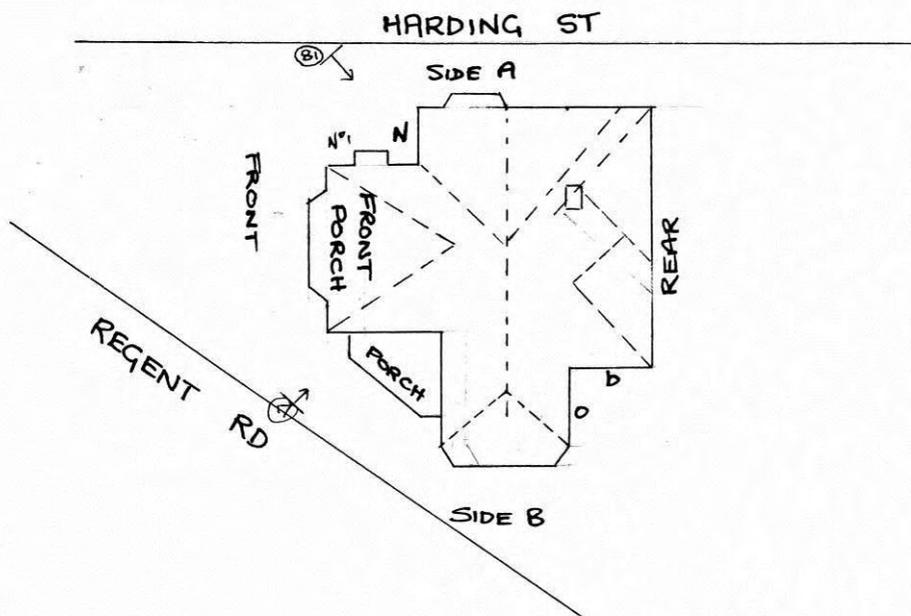
Side B – Side Projection: Walling is 3-sided to front although roof continues on rectangular plan and corners overhang walling. Gable end, wooden framing with wooden bargeboarding. Brickwork as front.

Ground Floor: 6 windows in a row, 2 on each section of walling, plain stone sill and lintel and pillars between each window. Moulded brick string coursing above window which continues on sides of projection at same height.

First Floor: 6 windows as ground floor except no string coursing.

Side B: - a – brickwork as front and moulded brick string coursing continues from side projection.

Side B: - b – brickwork as front. First Floor: 2 windows, plain stone sill and lintel.



# RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

125 Regent Road  
Hanley  
ST1 3BL

Hanley

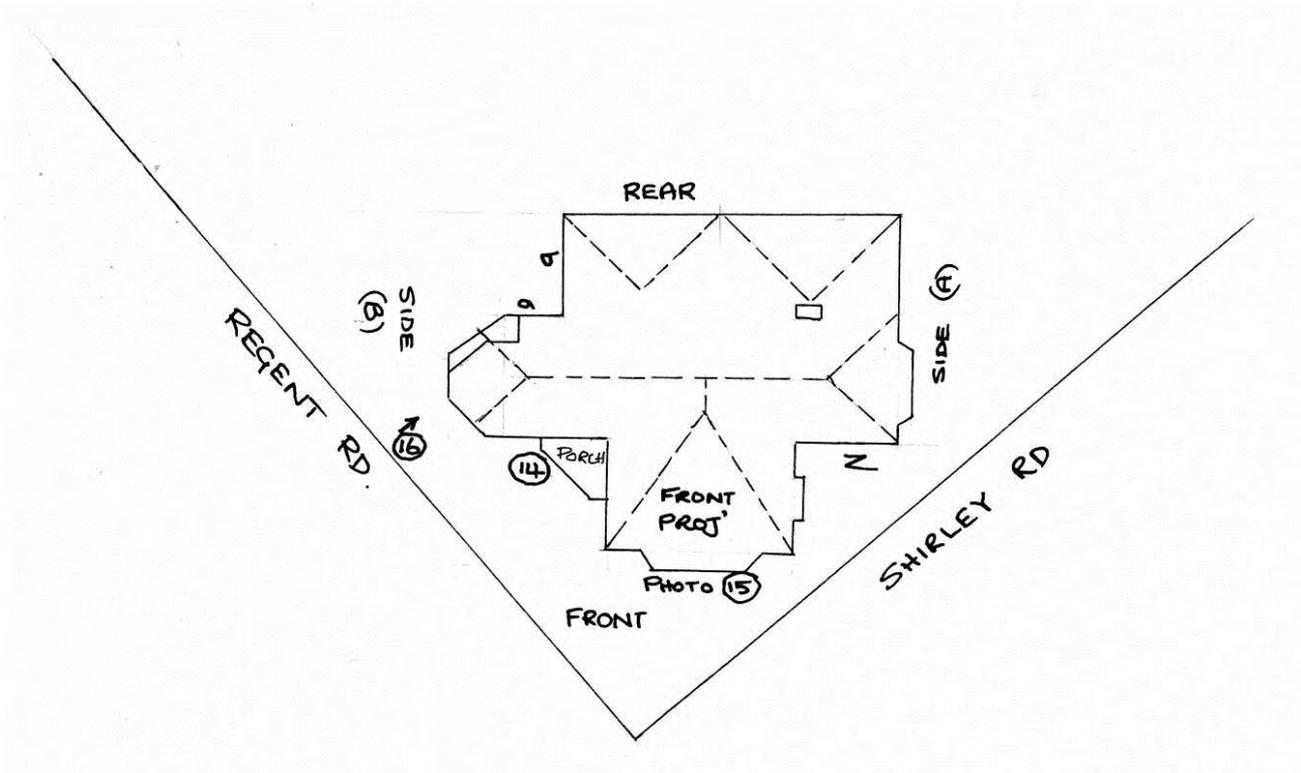
No: 72 B

Residential

HANLEY WEST AND SHELTON WARD  
HANLEY PARK CONSERVATION AREA

GRID REF: 388245E 346758N

## LIST DESCRIPTION



# Appendix C

## Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

### List entry Summary

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest.

**Name:** HANLEY PARK

**List entry Number:** 1001328

#### Location

The garden or other land may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
	City of Stoke-on-Trent	Unitary Authority	

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** II

**Date first registered:** 12-Apr-1995

**Date of most recent amendment:** Not applicable to this List entry.

### Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

**Legacy System:** Parks and Gardens

**UID:** 2450

### Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

### List entry Description

#### Summary of Garden

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

#### Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

#### History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

#### Details

A public park laid out by Thomas H Mawson, the Cauldon Grounds being opened in 1894 and the main body of the park, Hanley Park, in 1897.

## HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The provision of a public park for Hanley had been discussed in 1857 and 1864, but it was not until c 1890 that such a proposal was finally approved and the site in Shelton acquired by Hanley Corporation. The £41,000 cost was raised by public subscription. Thomas H Mawson (1861-1933) was appointed by the Town Council to lay out the park, the commission being his first for a public body. Mawson was explicit in his vision of 'a people's public park' (Lawley 1988). The Cauldon Grounds were opened in July 1894, and the main body of the park in June 1897.

## DESCRIPTION

**LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING** Hanley Park lies c 1km to the south of the centre of Hanley, west of the A5009. The area here registered is 24ha.

**ENTRANCE AND APPROACHES** There is a lodge at the entrance to the Cauldon Grounds on Stoke Road. A gate off College Road, opposite that into the Cauldon Grounds, leads past a lodge into the main body of Hanley Park. The main lodge stands at the north-west corner of the site, between the pair of entrances off Cleveland Road. There is also an entrance off Park Road, the northern boundary, two off Ridgway Road, to the east, two off Avenue Road, which marks the southern limit of the site, and a second subsidiary entrance off College Road to the west.

**PARK CAULDON GROUNDS:** The Cauldon Grounds occupy a roughly rectangular site of 3ha to the west of College Road (formerly Victoria Road), defined by Stoke Road to the west, Avenue Road to the south, and Cauldon Colleges (formerly the Cauldon Place Works) to the north. A raised terrace runs along the northern side of the Grounds, which originally fronted a conservatory (demolished). A pair of fountains flank the central point of this terrace, and sets of steps lead down from the middle and the two ends.

The site is bisected by a straight walk which leads east from the lodge at the entrance on Stoke Road, across the Grounds, to the gate on College Road. On this walk, to the east of the lodge, a terracotta fountain, presented by Alderman Hammersley, stands at the centre of an oval marked out by paths. The northern side of the oval connects with the western steps of the terrace.

At a point opposite the site of the conservatory, the walk forms a circle around a shrubbery. The southern side links with a serpentine walk through plantings along the southern edge of the site, which swings north to cross the central walk to join with the eastern steps to the terrace.

**HANLEY PARK:** The main focus of the design is the pavilion and accompanying terraces which occupy the centre of the 21ha site. The pavilion stands on a levelled platform, to the south of which the ground falls away in two great terraces, the first a cross walk, the second a formal flower garden arranged on an axis with the centre-line through the pavilion, the central focus of which is a bandstand. The line is continued south by a bridge over the Cauldon Canal which cuts from west to east through the centre of the park. The cross walk below the pavilion terrace leads eastwards, then curves to the south to a second bridge over the cut.

The open northern part of the park is given over to sports pitches, with a bowling green and late C20 pavilion standing towards the north-west corner.

On the south side of the canal the walk from the main bridge divides, with steps leading down to an oval bowling green encompassed by the path. The central axis is picked up again on the south side of this

feature and continued down a further two flights of steps to the large informal boating lake which occupies the southern part of the site. The lake is fed by the canal, a feature being made of the feeder stream, crossed by a bridge, which leads in from the north-west, this being set within rockwork.

The surface of the water of the lake is broken by two islands and a boathouse stands on the northern shore. Curving paths provide access round the water and across the areas to the west and to the east of the central core.

Hard surface tennis courts and a shelter replace the lawn courts of Mawson's layout to the north-east of the lake. Children's playgrounds occupy the western side of the southern half of the Park.

## REFERENCES

The Builder 60, (1891), pp 478, 514 T H Mawson, Civic Art (1911), pp 337-41 I Lawley, Parks for the People ... A Celebration of 100 years of Public Parks in The Potteries [1988]

Description written: January 1999 Register Inspector: PAS Edited: September 1999

## Selected Sources

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details

National Grid Reference: SJ 87900 46292, SJ 88299 46368



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