DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

For

CONSERVATION CONSENT and PLANNING APPLICATION

For

REPAIRS & REBUILDING OF EXISTING ROSE GARDEN WALL AT MANOR PARK, GLOSSOP

Applicant: Staffordshire Moorlands District Council & High Peak Borough Council Alliance

Project Manager: Mick Stephens (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council)

Agent: Liam Brown (Derbyshire County Council)

Conservation Officers : Joanne Brooks (High Peak Borough Council)

CONSERVATION DOCUMENTATION DESCRIPTION

Manor Park

Manor Park was created from part of the Norfolk estate, sold to the Corporation in 1926. The site is c.32.4 ha., the grid reference at the centre of the site being SK0494SW. Since it was first acquired, the main approach to the park has altered, moving from the east, where there is a lodge, to the south, which is now nearer to the centre of population in new Glossop. The new access is via an unadopted road, and a sprawling area, surfaced with hard core, serving as a car park. In the Local Plan, it is clear that not all this area falls within the park these boundaries are much less clear on the ground. Consequently, this whole area has been brought into the scope of the landscape survey.

Glossop Hall Park, renamed Manor Park, was formally acquired on the 29 April 1927 and opened to the public on the 17th September 1927, by the Mayor, John Edwin Buckley, J.P. His Worship unveiled a plaque, summarising the history of the park, which was placed just inside the entrance from the eastern lodge (see frontispiece). Significantly, the text places great emphasis upon the proud moment when 'the Grounds were acquired by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Glossop for use as Public Recreation grounds'.

In view of the Council's concern to create employment within Glossop, the acquisition of Manor Park and its transformation into a public park was a major opportunity. The Borough Surveyor prepared a rough plan for the use of the grounds of Glossop Hall and the work was carried out over the next ten years by local labour. Initial works within the park were aimed at tidying up 'dead trees and tree roots' and the 'sale of that old iron fence, .. sold by tender on the spot'. Surplus land to the park was sold off for housing, plots in Norfolk Road going for a minimum of £800. As anticipated, this helped to finance the scheme.

Much of the character of the new public park had, of course, been laid down over the generations. And, although not available for public use, the house still performed its part as the dynamic focus of the design, dominating all. Interestingly, the souvenir brochure issued at the opening of the park hardly pictures the house at all; and it was not long before the Borough Surveyor was required to wall up the park gateway near the house. Instead, the brochure includes several evocative images of the lake, its borders softened by shrubs and marginal planting the wooded banks of the stream and the rustic bridge The latter is rather intriguing.

There were several bridges across the brook (two or three of which are now in slightly different positions). It is possible that the one illustrated was repeated elsewhere. It appears to be constructed of timber and might even have been designed for the new public park, for its simple, geometric, even slightly Japanese character is very suggestive of c.1930.

There is surprisingly little reference to the hanging woods in the Council minutes, though the Borough Surveyor was directed to demolish the ice house in the woods and fill in the pit. What we do find is a preoccupation with reshaping some of the park, lending it a new character, to reflect the interests of its new owners and beneficiaries. It was quickly agreed that provision for refreshments should be made. Accordingly, a 'suitable refreshment pavilion' was designed by the Borough Surveyor as a centrepiece. A successful application was made to the Ministry of Health for a loan of £1,350 for its construction; an additional application to the Unemployment Grants Committee was refused after much debate. Nevertheless, the Borough Surveyor prepared the documentation enabling tenders to be sought from local contractors. The Pavilion was finally opened on the 19th March 1932, including the sale of refreshments. It stands near the east lodge and has a simple, rather bold geometry, characteristic of its period. The protective verandah at front and back lends it a welcoming air To the south it overlooks the Bowling Greens laid out in 1929 by Messrs. Conway of Halifax; to the north, are the tennis courts.

Further facilities were quickly developed. The Borough Surveyor was obviously kept busy, for he was required to design public conveniences - which flank the Pavilion - and to develop the larger fish pond as a Boating Lake. At the same time, it was agreed that the 'Town Clerk be instructed to endeavour to obtain two swans for the lake in Manor Park'. What had been shown on the early OS maps as the partly-walled kitchen garden, traversed by paths serving an essentially utilitarian purpose, now became the site of a delightfully sheltered ornamental garden, with an herbaceous border, colourful shows of bedding-out and serpentine walks It was soon agreed by the Glossop Branch of the British Legion and the United Services Benevolent Fund that this should be the site of a Garden of Remembrance, 'in memory of the fallen ex-Servicemen of the Borough'. In 1931, the British Legion donated 200 rose trees to the garden.

An analysis of contemporary Ordnance Survey sheets reveals the extent of the design development which was associated with the public park. It is very clear that the landscape was transformed, the focus now being on the provision for recreation and leisure pursuits.

The Council was very proud of this park and committed to the idea that it could provide the people of Glossop with a range of opportunities. It is interesting to note that, in 1931, W.W. Pettigrew visited the town, to give advice on the layout of Banks Wood, another area of land acquired from the Norfolk estate. Doubtless his opinion of Manor Park was also invited. Pettigrew had first of all been responsible for Cardiff's fine parks, and, in 1915-32 he was the enormously influential superintendent of Manchester parks. From as early as 1907, he had published articles in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* - the Bible of all gardeners - on the layout and management of parks. These articles were gathered together and formed the core of his *Municipal Parks, Layout, Management and Administration*. Although not published until 1937, this was being prepared in the 1920s, and there can be no doubt of Pettigrew's influence on his peers.

Pettigrew was interested in creating impressive displays of trees, shrubs and flowers in parks, undoubtedly sharing with the previous generation of park designers a conviction that a well-tended, ordered and colourful appearance would not only delight, but also tend to improve the behaviour of, the visitors. He was, of course, acutely conscious of the practical problems of creating such displays in an urban environment, particularly those in cities such as Manchester, which were overwhelmed by pollution. At the same time, he was increasingly preoccupied with the provision of opportunities for energetic sporting activities; this in contradistinction to his predecessors, many of whom had been suspicious of the potential for rowdiness inherent in sports. Pettigrew, like other park designers and managers after the First World War, was committed to the necessity for developing the physical fitness and strength of the British population, so many

of whom had failed their medical examination and had thus been unable to fight for their country in the services. In Manor Park's colourful ornamental display beds disposed across the lawns in the walled garden, and its provision of facilities for sport and recreation, there is clear evidence of Pettigrew's influence and the Council's aspirations.

Thus Manor Park developed, establishing itself as a focal point of life in the town. The new public landscape seems quickly to have turned its back on the old house, now the school; the trees grew to obscure the view of the house and the activities were concentrated on the southern and the western areas of the landscape - areas which had once been on the periphery of the private grounds. The eventual demolition of the house did not have a fundamental

impact on the park. Some features remained: the handsome stone wall which surrounds so much of the park was not removed, even though, for one writer, Utopia would be achieved only 'when the wall along Manor Park road is demolished and replaced by railings so that we can admire the park as we go along.

Ultimately, the most significant change in the character of the Manor Park landscape was the inevitable consequence of its new, intimate relationship with the populous town of Glossop in the valley, rather than with Old Glossop. The eastern entrance no longer provides the principal route into the park; instead, the southern entrance, past the site of the old Corn Mill, is much more important, despite its rather run-down, *ad hoc* appearance . This, of course, changes the way in which the landscape is viewed, alters the sequence of experiences when walking through the park, creates a new dynamic to the layout. And it does seem entirely appropriate that, after so many centuries, the people of the town have now imposed on the park a shape which reflects their own needs and values.

The critical task for the future is to create a happy relationship between the historic beauties of this magnificent landscape, designed to delight the few, and the requirements of a public park, responsive to the demands of the many.

DESIGN PROPOSAL

The proposal is to undertake repairs, and rebuild the arched section of the existing gated opening to the rose garden wall at Manor Park, Glossop.

The works will include the installation of strengthening works to the rear elevation of the wall, with new piers constructed in brickwork to match the existing structure.

All works have been formulated by Derbyshire County Council, structural engineers and Joanne Brooks the conservation officer at High Peak Borough Council respectively.

ARCHITECTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The recommendations given in the conservation documentation state that "The brick and stone walls should be regularly checked, repaired and maintained in good condition. It is essential that an appropriate conservation grade mortar should be used in both cases; there should be no repeat of the ugly concrete repointing that has been carried out on the rear elevation of the estate building."

JUSTIFICATION

The works have been requested due to the condition of existing spalled masonry, a consequential lack of stability to the structure, and subsequent assessment by the structural engineers. A request was raised for the works by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for Derbyshire County Council to submit the statutory approval applications, and undertake the works as detailed.

MITIGATION

The brickwork will be replaced on a like for like basis, and the proposals have all been formulated in accordance with the conservation officer, and a replacement brick identified and agreed at a site meeting.

ACCESS

Manor Park is a busy public area, frequented by many users all year round. The proposed building works should be done in accordance with the Construction Design and Management Regulations, and therefore access, and site provisions will be agreed to comply with these statutory requirements.