



### Woodlands

The Park occupies approximately 120 acres of which more than 50% is mature woodland. Both native and coniferous tree species are present. A replanting programme was undertaken in 2013 to replace fallen and diseased coniferous trees with six native species as part of a woodland management plan. The Park also has some rare species including Norwegian Maple and an Indian Bean tree. A variety of animal and bird wildlife is to be seen and heard in the Woodlands.

There is much colourful foliage to be seen in the various seasons of the year, including bluebells and rhododendrons in spring, and vibrant leaf colours in the autumn.

### Our Neighbours on the Park

Teddy's Garden Day Nursery for children is on the site of the former hospital isolation ward.

Leek Rugby Club has a clubhouse and several rugby pitches, and cricket is played adjacent to the clubhouse from April until September.

### Trails

A series of four colour-coded trails has been developed, of varying lengths, different degrees of difficulty, and covering various points of interest on the Park. All trails start and end at St Edwards Hall, where trail leaflets are available at the notice board which also contains a map of the Park.

### How to find us

St. Edwards Park lies approx. 2.5 miles south of Leek on the A520 and can be accessed on East Drive. If approaching from the south on the A520, the Park can be accessed on Wall Lane Terrace leading to West Drive (use ST13 7FA for Sat. Nav. users). A bus service (route 16) operates between Hanley and Leek on all days of the week. The bus stops at St Edwards Hall close to the junction of East and West Drives.

Vehicle parking is on East and West Drives beyond the residential housing (marked P on the leaflet). We request that visitors respect residents' property and their privacy, and that dogs are kept on leads and their waste is bagged and placed in the waste bins provided.

On behalf of our Residents Association, we hope you will take the opportunity to visit St Edwards Park and enjoy walking in the mature woodlands and viewing points of interest relating to its past history.



**A more detailed history of St Edwards Park can be found in the following publications:**

**A History of St Edwards Hospital, Cheddleton, Near Leek (1993) Max Chadwick & David Pearson; E.D. Myers (editor), Churnet Valley Books, Leek, Staffordshire.**

**The History of the Cheddleton Hospital Railway 1895-1954; R.B.Cornwell (2012).**

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# Trails and Heritage

Welcome to St Edwards Park at Cheddleton. This leaflet shows a map with signed trails to help visitors navigate the Park, and briefly describes some of the heritage associated with the Park through its former use as a hospital. St Edwards Hospital (mental asylum) was built in 1897 and was closed after 100 years of use.



### Heritage

Following the closure of the hospital, the site was developed for residential use from 2001. Many of the hospital buildings were demolished as part of the site development; however, some grade II listed buildings remain, especially St Edwards Hall which has been refurbished for residential use. The Water Tower, which notably dominates the surrounding area, and the Chapel are now privately owned. Five summerhouses can be found on the Park; these were used previously by hospital patients and their visitors. The Old Cheddleton Asylum Burial Ground can be found at the junction of West Drive and Wall Lane Terrace.

A short railway was built from the nearby Churnet Valley Railway to transport building materials for the hospital. Soon after completion in 1899 this was converted to an electric tramway which was to remain in use to transport passengers and goods until its closure in 1954. The track bed of this line can be walked on some of the trails.



# St. Edwards Park Trail Map

## Red Trail (2km Route)

This trail proceeds up East Drive and briefly enters woodland on the right of East Drive at the start of a road signposted to St Edwards Lawn Cemetery. Follow the trail with rugby club pitches on your right until the trail turns left to cross over East Drive. Enter the mature upper woodlands and follow the trail downwards to the former track bed of the old tramway. Turn left up the track before exiting the woodlands to walk along Villa Road with its houses in which some of the hospital employees lived previously. At the end of Villa Road, enter a track which is gated at both ends. Go through the far gate and complete the trail back to St Edwards Hall passing Leek Rugby Club sports field on your left.

## Green Trail (1km, Accessible Route)

This trail proceeds on a steady, shallow incline along East Drive to the junction with Villa Road. It then turns left following Villa Road downwards with woodlands to the right. Follow the road almost to the start of the gated track. Turn left passing a play area on your left to Willow Drive and proceed up to the area in which some original hospital buildings can still be seen. Turn right by the Water Tower and keep to the right of St Edwards Hall to complete the trail. This short trail is along paved surfaces and is suitable for visitors with wheelchairs and buggies.

## Blue Trail (1.5km Route)

The route of this trail passes to the right of St Edwards Hall, the Water Tower and the Chapel and then follows a footpath through to Villa Road. Turn right up Villa Road, bear left at its junction with Birchtree Drive and continue up to its junction with East Drive. Turn left along East Drive and follow the trail downwards through a leafy glade in the main woodland area to the track of the Old Tramway. Turn left on to this track, join Villa Road to the right and continue to its end before entering a gated track. Proceed along the track until a left turn leads to three summerhouses. Continue past the third summerhouse which lies close to the front of St Edwards Hall.

## Yellow Trail (2.5km Route)

The longest trail proceeds past Leek Rugby Club sports field on the right, through a gate and immediately down a track to the left. At the bottom of the track there is a single track rail line which is being restored between Leekbrook Junction and Endon. Bluebells are prolific in this area in May. Turn right to follow the trail upwards, and at the top turn left on to a track towards Villa Road. Continue along Villa Road and branch left to the Old Tramway. Proceed down the gentle slope until the trail takes a right turn in to the woodlands and follows a steep climb to the upper woodlands on East Drive. Turn right on to East Drive, right again on to Villa Road and then on to Birchtree Drive. Turn left off Birchtree Drive and follow the trail which passes two summerhouses on the left as it returns to St Edwards Hall.



	Estate Roads
	St. Edwards Park Trails
	Information / Noticeboard
	Bus Stop (Leek-Hanley)
	Limited Roadside Parking
	Summerhouse

