

Back in Time - 4 - Extension of Ellesmere Park

by John Rabbitt

Something a bit different today, an article from the local newspaper of 1878 describing a proposed extension to Ellesmere Park (Eccles and Patricroft Journal, 3rd August 1878). The photocopy we have in the archive is not of a very good quality so I have transcribed it, adopting the same layout as the original which is displayed alongside the transcript.

In 1878 probably less than half of the final number of Victorian residences had been constructed. The area was very rural, Eccles was not much more than a small village. The section of the 1848 O.S. map I have included (Eccles and Monton 1848) shows very little occupation from Gilda Brook, along Monton Lane and Slack Lane (which became Half Edge Land and Monton Road) all the way to the Blue Bell Inn. Ellesmere Park as we know it was just fields and pastures. The rapid growth of the hundreds of terraced houses in Eccles had yet to start. Apart from transportation by the railway, travelling from Manchester to Eccles was by carriage or horse drawn tramcars.

For the wealthy mill owners of Salford and Manchester, Ellesmere Park in Eccles was a very attractive and healthy place to live. It was therefore not surprising that the Bridgewater Estate saw the potential for expanding Ellesmere Park, even though many of the building plots remained vacant in 1878. In the event, this extension was not implemented and Ellesmere Park remained as we see it today.

I'm sure you will enjoy reading this article, you might not recognise Ellesmere Park from the description but it should raise a smile. A couple of things in the text which seem a bit strange, it says "... the running of the finest cars". I presume they are using the word 'cars' here to describe 'tramcars'. Also they use the word 'metal' describing material for a roadway; 'metal' in this context is any material, usually stone or gravel, which has been quarried or dug out of the ground.

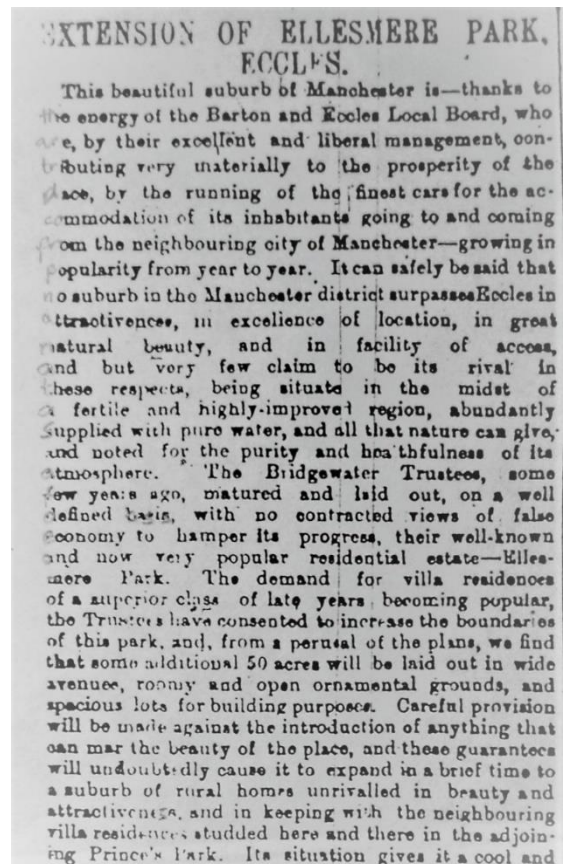
The only question I cannot answer is the exact location of Prince's Park which is mentioned a number of times in the article. I can only guess it is the area bounded by Chatsworth Road, Portland Road and perhaps Lancaster Road. If anyone knows where Prince's Park is (or was) please let me know.



Eccles and Monton 1848

**An article in the
Eccles and Patricroft Journal 3rd August 1878
EXTENSION OF ELLESMERE PARK
ECCLES**

This beautiful suburb of Manchester is -- thanks to the energy of the Barton and Eccles Local Board, who are, by their excellent and liberal management contributing very materially to the prosperity of the place, by the running of the finest cars for the accommodation of its inhabitants going to and coming from the neighbouring city of Manchester -- growing in popularity from year to year. It can safely be said that no suburb in the Manchester district surpasses Eccles in attractiveness, in excellence of location, in great natural beauty, and in facility of access, and but very few claim to be its rival in these respects, being situated in the midst of a fertile and highly-improved region, abundantly supplied with pure water, and all that nature can give, and noted for the purity and healthfulness of its atmosphere. The Bridgewater Trustees, some few years ago, matured and laid out, on a well defined basis with no contracted views of false economy to hamper its progress, their well-known and now very popular residential estate -- Ellesmere Park. The demand for villa residences of a superior class of late years becoming popular, the Trustees have consented to increase the boundaries of this park, and, from a perusal of the plans, we find that some additional 50 acres will be laid out in wide avenues, roomy and open ornamental grounds, and spacious lots for building purposes. Careful provision will be made against the introduction of anything that can mar the beauty of the place, and the guarantees will undoubtedly cause it to expand in a brief time to a suburb of rural homes unrivalled in beauty and attractiveness, and in keeping with the neighbouring villa residences studded here and there in the adjoining Prince's Park. Its situation gives it a cool and



bracing atmosphere, the air coming freely across the long reaches of primeval verdure in Swinton Park, and from the wooded slopes beyond, laden with a rich fragrance as grateful to the senses as it is invigorating to the system. Hence its popularity. Coming to particulars, we find it is intended to place a lodge entrance at a point near the Prince's Park Estate, to communicate with Park-road, and so allow of the residents using the proposed trams on Eccles Old-road. A commodious lodge, surrounded by ornamental grounds and shrubberies, has been erected at the Clarendon Crescent entrance. From this lodge a carriage drive, or roadway, extending to the Clifton Junction Railway, is in the course of construction, which it is proposed to extend to Worsley-road, Swinton at some future day. Junctions with the roadways leading from Ellesmere Park are in course of formation, a quantity of metal being carted from the Trustees' works at Worsley for this purpose. It is proposed by the Surveyor to Trustees, Mr. Berry (by whom the plans have been designed and under whose superintendence the work is being carried out) to lay out, constructed in the best manner, a drive from a point near the Prince's Park entrance, to sweep along in graceful curves, which will traverse the whole extension, terminating at a point near to Ellesmere Park. A quantity of young trees and shrubs will be planted, and arrangements have been made whereby small plots will be tastefully planted with trees at the junction of cross roads. The land has been so laid out that villa residences of a certain value will be erected in such positions that the residents can reach any particular point in very little time.

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