

Living Memory: A 'Talking' Tour of Chester



Living Memory: A Talking Tour of Chester is a historic walking tour by Cheshire Archives and Local Studies. The tour was created using the Chester Archaeological Society's collection of oral history recordings, which have been newly-digitised thanks to the British Library's National Lottery Heritage Project *Unlocking Our Sound Heritage* and the expertise at the north west hub at Archives+ in Manchester.

It features interviews with a range of Chester residents, talking about their experience of the city over the course of the 20th century. You will be able to hear the voices of these local residents as you explore some of Chester's most scenic spots. Find out how the park's flower beds were put to use during the Great War, hear from an eyewitness to the unearthing of the amphitheatre, and even discover local residents' favourite 1920s ice creams!

The tour is self-guided, so you can choose which sites you want to visit and in which order (our suggested route can be found below, or in one of the flyers on the gate!)

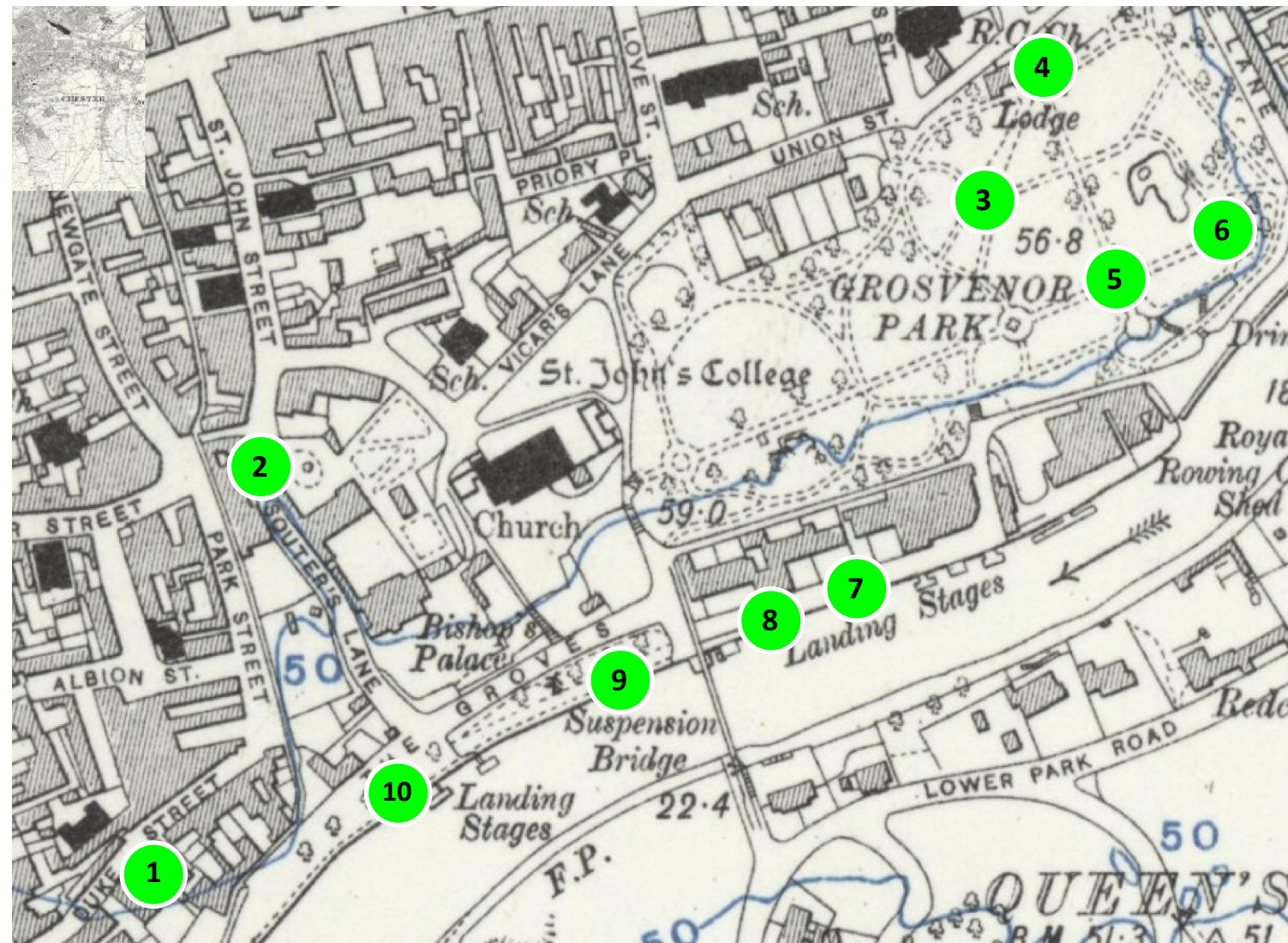
There are two ways to access the tour:

1. Download the 'Echoes' app, and access our tour via the link or QR code. As you walk along the suggested route, the app will automatically play the audio clips.
2. Access the playlist on our blog (www.cheshirero.blogspot.com/). As you walk along the suggested route you can listen to the appropriate clips by hitting the play button.



<https://explore.echoes.xyz/collections/CFMnxm2Ftz5Cti4z>

1. Welcome to Cheshire Archives & Local Studies, where this converted warehouse holds miles of shelving full of records that document almost 1000 years of Cheshire life!
2. Roman Amphitheatre: A schoolgirl, when Dee House was the Ursuline Convent School, is an eyewitness when the first trace of an amphitheatre is discovered in 1929 – but to discover more the sweet shop must be demolished.
3. Grosvenor Park: Flower beds are planted with beetroots during the war – the park-keeper's son recalls the park was planted very differently when his father was in charge.
4. Grosvenor Park Lodge: The park-keeper's family lived in the Lodge – what was it like inside?
5. Duke's monument: A little girl witnesses a zeppelin appear over the city in 1917 or 1918. But did she? We have not found any evidence that zeppelins carried out raids as far north as Chester, but this memory is so vivid we can only imagine the terror they inspired that perhaps a nightmare or an eyewitness account made this very real 80 years later.
6. Belvedere: A view of the river – perfect vantage point to watch the regatta!



7: Queen's Park Suspension Bridge: Opened in 1923 – replacing a narrow private bridge that allowed businessmen from Queen's Park to catch their trains!

8: Two women are determined to cross the new Queen's Park Suspension Bridge before the Mayor on the day of its Grand Opening!

9: Bandstand: Promenade along the Groves and imagine the sounds and sights of the city illuminated.

10: Fancy an ice cream? In this clip you can almost taste the ice cream from the 1920s – though we think ice cream today is probably closer to how it was in the 1920s than what was available in the early 1980s!

