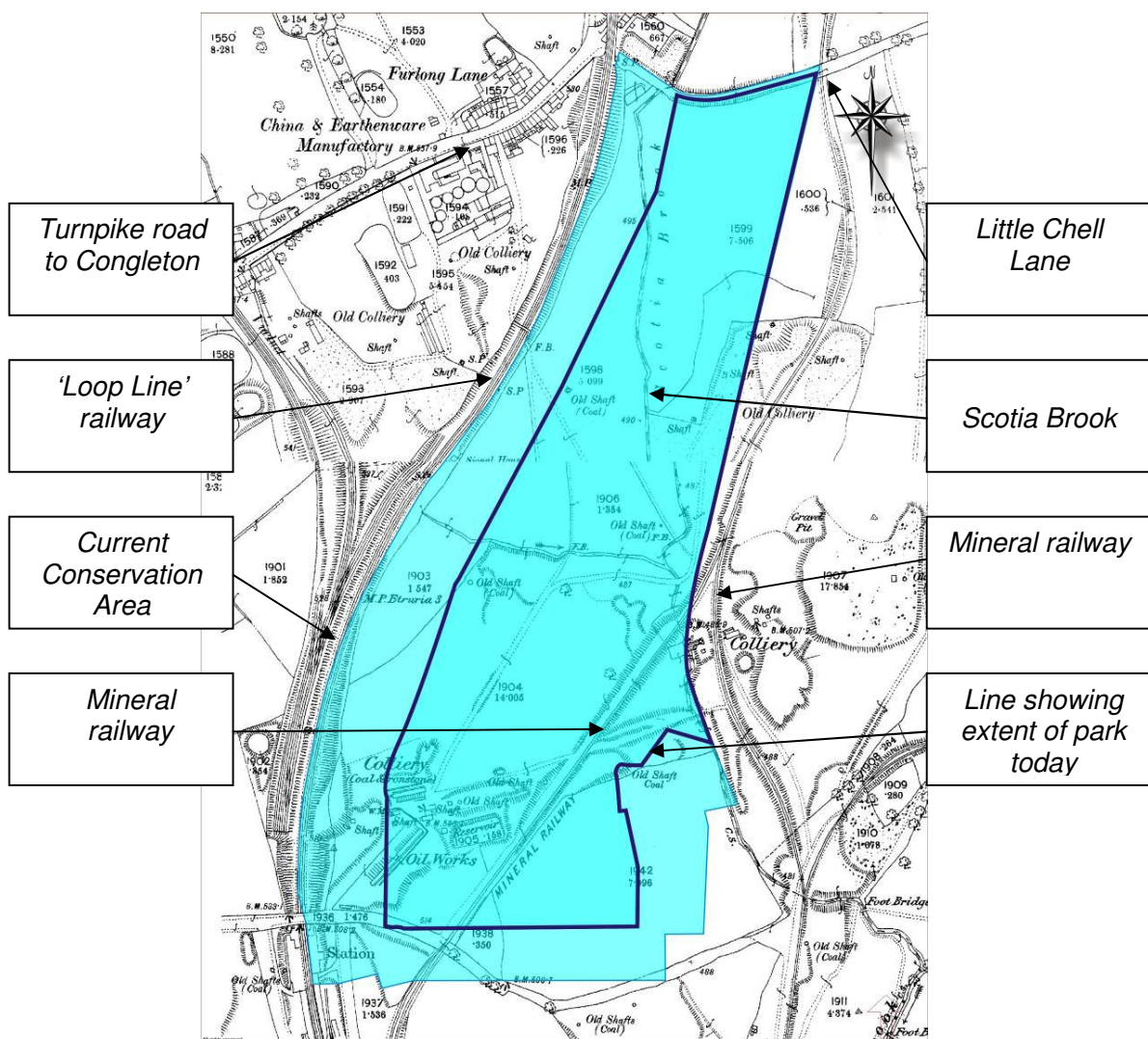


- 3.9 Due to financial problems the park was built over a period of 11 years, from 1897 to 1908. The park was originally planned to celebrate the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria but by the time it was completed it was opened to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII. Many of the features still in evidence today such as the gate, tower and bandstand were gifts from local dignitaries necessary as public funds for the completion of the park diminished.
- 3.10 The pavilion, later known as the Floral Hall, was completed in 1911 and the plant conservatory was added somewhere between 1924 and 1937. This building remained an important community building and many local wedding receptions and dances were held there. Today the building is boarded up and the conservatory was removed in 1997 for safety reasons.
- 3.11 Much of the original layout of the park is still in evidence and used, although some features such as the paddling pool have been filled in for safety reasons. There has been little development in the area in recent years.



**FIGURE 1:** The site of Victoria Park in 1879.

- 3.12 Between 1950 and 1970 the A50 was built to bypass the centre of town and create a clear route through Tunstall. This had the effect of chopping Tunstall in two and today represents the line between the residential and commercial sections of Tunstall.