



# Poole Park Furniture Strategy

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Prepared by the Borough of Poole

*Design Stage C*

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# 1

## Introduction

### Current Situation

Poole Park has never benefited from planned infrastructure renewal on a co-ordinated and comprehensive basis. Changes and modifications have been made over time in smaller ways, frequently in reaction to an immediate opportunity, and without reference to a long-term, considered, masterplan. Over time this resulted in:

- poor quality and mismatched park furniture
- corporate colour finishes (blue) that now appear dated
- incongruous or poorly located furniture which impacts on the setting of heritage features
- visual clutter
- lack of provision of certain types of furniture
- poor lighting
- worn surfaces and desire lines
- surface water ponding on paths
- car parking and highway infrastructure that dominates the natural character of the landscape.

Consequently, the park infrastructure fails to unify the landscape or contribute to the Park's identity as an historic landscape.

On the other hand, an extensive archive of historic photographs and postcards, the original features remaining on site and the contrasting beauty of its formal and natural landscape provide opportunity to develop a site specific strategy for material and furniture provision.

### Purpose of the Document

This document responds to Conservation Plan Policy BUIL 1 'Furniture, Surfaces and Drainage' which calls for a coordinated design guidance for the renewal of the Park's infrastructure. Included are surfaces, benches, bins, signs, lighting, railings, vehicular barriers, cycle parking and other fittings.

The strategy should be read in conjunction with the Conservation Plan, the Interpretation Strategy and Management and Maintenance Plan. Guidance on play provision can be found in the Poole Park Play Strategy.

### Overarching Design Objectives

Selection of materials and furniture shall follow these principles:

- Reinforce the Park's heritage and strengthen the distinctiveness of the landscape
- Be coherent
- Be fit for purpose and comfortable to use
- Require minimal maintenance
- Be robust, durable and not easily vandalised
- Not imitate or become confused with original features.

Proposals should reinforce historic, current and emerging cultural references. These include:

- Poole's Industrial heritage
- Victorian society
- Our increasing understanding of the ecology of the Park's water bodies
- Poole Park as an emerging center for arts and cultural experiences.

### Vision for Poole Park

*"To protect and enhance the historic landscape of Poole Park as a place of enjoyment, inspiration and reflection and a source of pride for all people of Poole, now and into the future."*



Examples of visual clutter created by the current Park's furniture and impact on the setting of historic buildings.

# 2

## Design Approach

### Responding to the Park's Heritage

The design approach draws inspiration from the existing historic and contemporary landscape and build fabric of the Park and its vegetation and lakes.

Historic materials:

- Architectural terracotta
- Red brick
- Purbeck stone uneven or cropped finish
- Gravel surfaces
- Black ornate ironmongery

Contemporary materials:

- Tarmac
- Light coloured render and detailing
- Architectural glass
- Sawn Purbeck stone
- Dark grey coloured metal work
- Timber

Natural landscape:

- soft natural hues and shapes of the natural vegetation and ornamental shrubbery
- strong colours of short cut lawn and bedding displays
- vertical structure of trees
- the reflective qualities and blue hues of the water

### Existing Materials - Historic



Architectural terracotta



Local red coloured brick



Purbeck stone - uneven finish



Compacted gravel surfaces



Black coloured ornate ironmongery



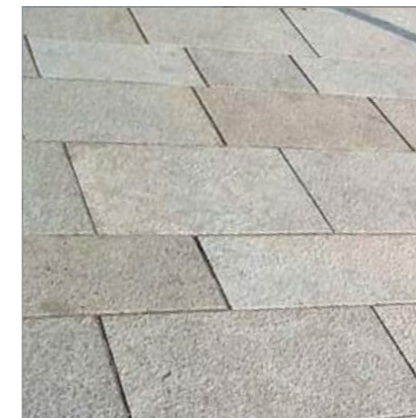
### Existing Materials - Contemporary



Light coloured render and detailing



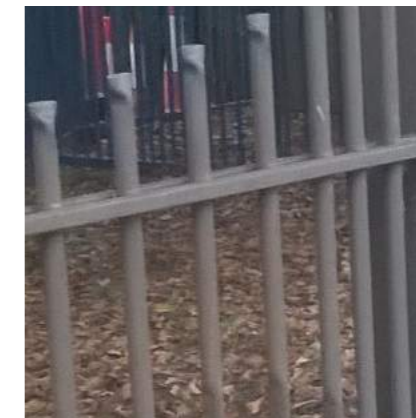
Architectural glass



Purbeck stone - even finish



Macadam surfaces



Railings with dark gray, matt finish



Timber in external detailing

Landscape Character



Reference images illustrating the character of the existing natural landscape and build form.

# 3

## General Design Principles

### Key Design Materials

The following main materials have been chosen based on the understanding of the Park and their ability to meet the design objectives set out in the introduction of the document:

- Powder coated galavinsed steel or wrought iron; colour Anthracite grey RAL 7016 - a reference to the industrial heritage of the Park
- Soild durable hard wood - for its warm appearance and texture and ability to blend into the natural landscape
- Purbeck stone - for its versatile use (surfacing, edging, sculptural elements) and therefore its ability to unify different areas of the landscape.



### Ground Surfaces

Ground surfaces comprise footways, carriageways and kerbs. The following key principles should inform the selection of surface materials for Poole Park:

**Consistent** – The application of surface materials should be consistent to help unify the paths and spaces within the park and bring definition to key areas.

**Neutral** – Surfaces should form a seamless and neutral base that does not compete with the buildings, spaces and features in the Park.

**Natural** – Where possible, natural, local materials should be used ahead of man made alternatives. The initial high cost of natural materials is often off-set by appearance and durability.

**Simple** – Ground surfacing should be simple and not a focal point.

**Robust** – Surfaces should be fit for purpose, supporting the functions and demands placed upon them from all users (pedestrians and vehicles) and be easy to clean and maintain. Given Poole Park's topography and location near the water it is particularly important to choose materials with a high slip resistance.

**Available** – Selected materials should be readily available to maintain consistency, using local sustainable sources wherever possible.

### Benches

**Victorian Benches** – Priority will be given to the Poole Park Victorian style benches throughout the Park. Victorian benches shall be repaired and maintained. Benches in other styles, such as 'Southampton' style, should be removed and replaced with those provided in the Guidance, Section 3 below:

Alternative style of seating will be provided

- communal seating on the promenade west of the Large Freshwater Lake;
- specialised benches in the proposed Quiet Garden located next to Small Freshwater Lake;
- Windsor style seating in the Putting Green area and Rose Garden.

**Paved area below benches** – Benches shall be installed with a paved recess for wheelchair users.

### Barriers

**Knee rails and timber dragon's teeth** – These shall be removed throughout the Park. Where barriers are deemed necessary, such as at the Ark Cafe and along Copse Close these shall be replaced in accordance with guidance in Section 3.

### Event Services

**Electric supply Points** – These shall be moved underground where possible to reduce their visual appearance.

# 4

## Guide for Materials and Furniture

### How to use this Guide

This section provides a common park-wide palette for materials and furniture in Poole Park. Continuity and coherence is important to unify and strengthen identity of the historic landscape.

Within this framework proposals allow for variation to respond to site specific characteristics. The common palette may be modified to suit the local situation and cultural reference through further site analysis or input by an artist. Particular guidance is given for the Northern Park Boundary, the Freshwater Lakes and Copse Close Character Areas as it was felt important to highlight the distinctiveness of these landscapes.

### Poole Park Character Areas

The Park comprises of eight character areas:

- 1 Park Drive
- 2 Northern Park Boundary
  - 2a Putting Green
  - 2b Bowling Greens and Tennis Courts
  - 2c Rose Garden
- 3 War Memorials
- 4 Lagoon
- 5 Cricket Pitch and Cycle Track
- 6 Freshwater Lakes
- 7 Copse Close Annex
- 8 Nursery Character Area

A full description of each Character Area is given in the Poole Park Conservation Plan 2017.



Figure X: Character Areas

# Material and Furniture Palette: All Character Areas



Resin bonded gravel/Tinted tarmac



Tarmacadam



Granite kerb and imprinted tarmac with granite sett effect



Concrete flag paving with natural stone aggregate



Sawn Purbeck stone paving with textured finish



Solid oak bollard with reflectors

Finger post, 2.4m high

High pressure laminated interpretation panel on solid oak frame

Cope of original Poole Park seat - cast iron frame and timber slats

Street light , 5m column, Ely Lantern by Urbis



Bin housing, timber with natural finish, to receive 120l wheelie bin



Bike stands, laser cut steel sheets. Ornamentation to reflect location, such as sports or fauna and flora in the Park.



Information board with wrought iron sculptural element to reflect location, eg. oars at the landing stage nr West Field.



Laser cut galvanized steel barrier panels to demarcate boundary to proposed Plant Collector's Garden and replace existing timber palisade fence.

# Material and Furniture Palette: Specific to Freshwater Lakes and Copse Close Character Areas

Proposals for the Freshwater Lakes and Copse Close Character Areas respond to the more naturalistic landscape and the contemporary build form of the Ark Cafe.

The park-wide palette has been widened to include natural stone, naturally binding gravel surfaces and heavy timber seating.



Well compacted gravel surface



Gabions filled with Purbeck stone, random fill or hand stacked



Purbeck stone for edging and lake revetment



Timber composite decking board pond dipping platform



Picnic set: solid durable hardwood, natural finish



Bench: solid durable hardwood, natural finish, curved or straight, with or without back



Bench: heavy durable hardwood, natural finish, back rest to be carved by artist.



Vehicle barrier: Purbeck stone blocks, cropped finish approx. 400mm high.

# Material and Furniture Palette: Specific to Northern Park Boundary Character Area

The Putting Green (2a) and the Rose Garden (2c) of the Northern Park Boundary are characterised by a formal parkland or garden landscape. The Rose Garden already contains Winsor style seating and it was felt appropriate to apply this seat throughout the area as an alternative to the traditional Victorian Park bench.



Traditional Windsor seat: durable hardwood, with high back and arm rest; double or single seat.