
POOLE PARK Interpretation Strategy

Delivery phase



page

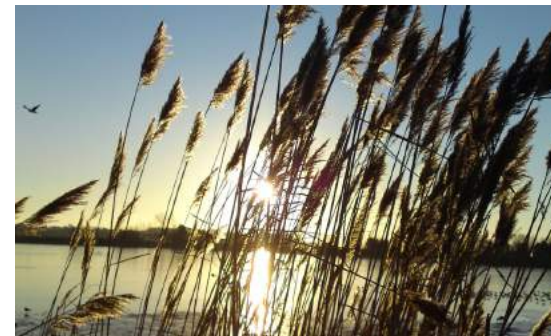
3	Why do people come to our park today?
4	Why did people come to our park in the past?
5	The aim of our interpretation
6	Our approach to meeting people's needs
7	An identity reflecting the past but not fixed in time
8	Welcome and orientation
9	Summary of interpretive themes
12	Exploring priority themes in detail
12	Planning in the park
14	Managing (Looking after) the park
18	Being active / Playing in the park
24	Closer to nature in the park

Why do people come to our park today?

To keep myself fit and active

Interested in the plants

It's a safe place for my kids to play



It is a very satisfying place to be away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life

It's our garden as we live in the flat across the road

To sit in the car and watch life go by

We love that we can get so close to birds and nature in general.

Lots to do for little money

Need to get out. Calm atmosphere



... meet up with friends, introduce to visitors, meet people which makes me feel as though I live in a community

... to be outside near the water and the view out to the harbour and Brownsea and the land beyond



I like the green space and the lake, it's mostly peaceful and relaxing

Eat lunch, read, watch any events

Take the grandchildren to play, fresh air, scenic views, it's OUR park

Close to the office On walking route

Do park run
Use it as cycle route to the beach

... it is a special place to my family. We have been using the park for over 50 years and three generations.

Why did people come to our park in the past?

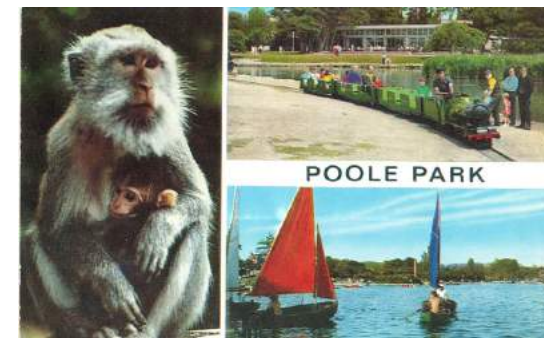
Paul Hillman postcard collection /
Andrew Hawkes photograph collection / Borough of Poole archive

We are in for a good time. Just been to these gardens. Just lovely. (1909)

We are going to this Park one day isn't it pretty. (1909)



Do you have your morning's walk like this dear? (1907)



This is the lake that I have been rowing upon. The boat with sails on we were on on Saturday but the sails were taken off. (1908)

We have the Carnival here on Wed. (1927)



...you would like to see all these swans. Lucy & Auntie saw the man feeding them this morning. There is some big black ones as well as white ones. There is all sorts of pretty birds here. (1917)

I don't think House games will be affected this term, but next term there will be snags - Ladies W. Field is now an allotment!! (1942)



My cousin is on munitions & he takes us nearly every day with him through this park it is 4 miles away. (1917)



I thought perhaps you would like a postcard of Poole Park. Do you remember the games we had there? (1906)



I am sitting in this park on the grass with my friends [.....] we are just going to have a cold lunch that we brought with us (1923)

"... an idealised landscape where people could be physically and spiritually refreshed and separated from the realities of surrounding urban areas ..."

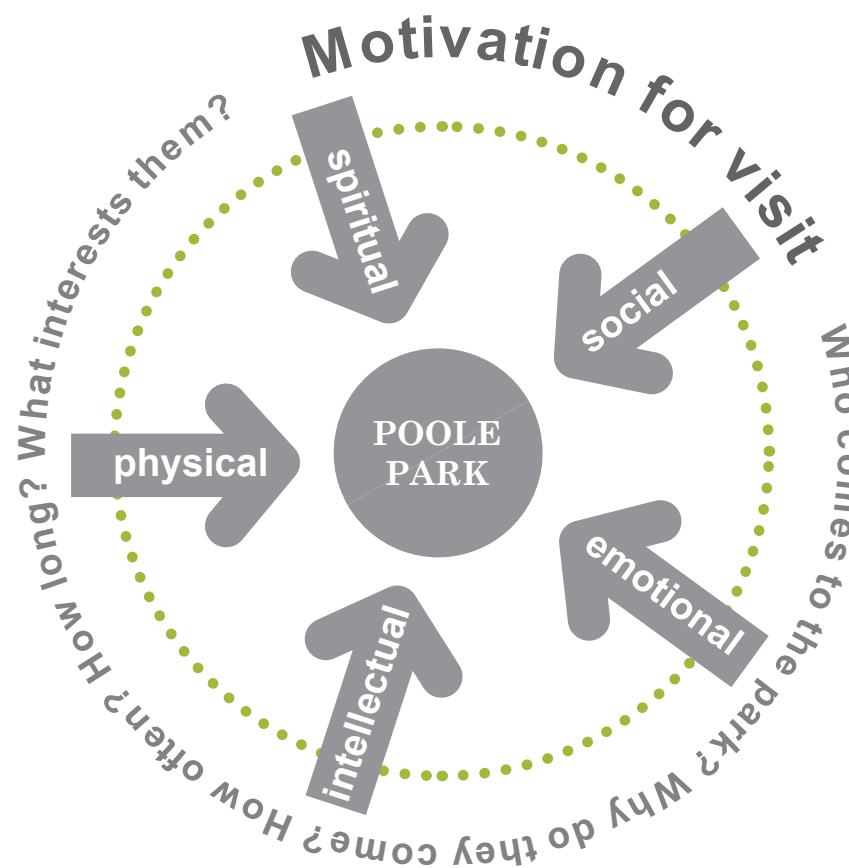
The aim of our interpretation

Who are we interpreting for?

Around 50,000 people live within a 1.2 km walk of our park. This catchment contains some of the most affluent, and some of the most deprived communities in Poole. Accessible by car and public transport, the park also attracts visitors from much of the South East Dorset Conurbation – a potential visitor base of several hundred thousand people.

As detailed in the Activity Plan, we used various methods to analyse the park's visitors throughout the development phase from 'counting and tracking' days to qualitative questionnaires and monitoring participation in event activities.

We will aim to provide accessible, informative, inspirational "opportunities" to support people from all walks of life, ages and abilities, to connect with their park.



Our interpretation will **enhance the sustainable enjoyment** of the park by its users as they come to understand and value it's heritage.

They will understand

- why the park looks the way it does
- why people in the past have made changes and what effects those changes have.

They will reflect on the differences and similarities of park life now and in the past.

They will feel

- inspired to explore the park further
- empowered to influence changes in the future and to engage with us on key issues concerning the ways we manage the park
- encouraged to volunteer their time and develop skills by participating in historical research, practical conservation and public events. (see Activity Plan)

Our interpretation will be sensitive to the **aesthetics of the park environment**.

In terms of scale, material and siting, new features will integrate with the overall design intent as identified in our Conservation Plan and Street Furniture Strategy.



Our interpretation will increase **awareness of the broader range of benefits** the park environment provides

They will understand and value

- the shared space, open to all, where individuals and communities can flourish
- the potential of the park's green space / blue space to promote physical and mental wellbeing
- the park as home to wildlife
- the 'eco-services' the park's natural assets offer in the urban landscape such as flood mitigation, helping to clean the air and regulate temperature.

They will feel

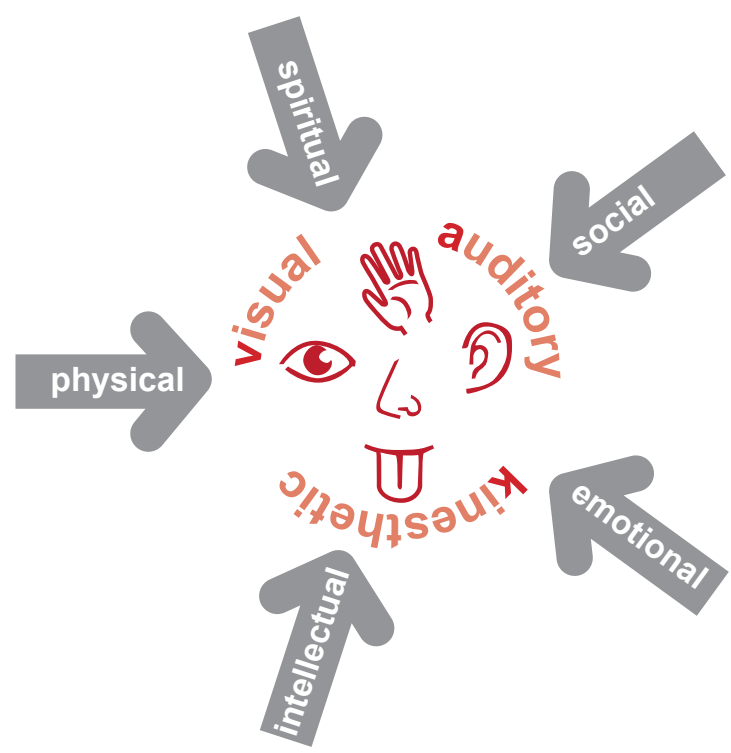
- mutual respect and a greater sense of belonging
- inspired to take action to maintain personal wellbeing
- an increased connection to nature
- appreciation of the impact of urban living, climate change and their own actions.

We are working in partnership with Poole CVS to develop a **volunteer handbook** to support volunteer participation across a variety of activities. Our gardening group includes people of all ages, families, individuals, retired people, unemployed young adults, people attending after work, people with learning difficulties and people suffering from trauma.



Our approach to meeting people’s needs

Our main aspiration is that park users will want to understand the different ways people past, present and future shape and experience the physical place that is “Poole Park”. Our interpretive approach will be guided by their motivations for visiting and their needs and **preferences for engagement**



In terms of partnerships we have developed new links with local groups such as residents groups, local schools, children’s centres, environment groups, local artists, local care homes, youth groups, BME groups and disability groups. We have also enhanced partnerships with the Friends of Poole Park and Poole Park Heritage Group. All of these links and the building of new partnerships will bring creativity, expertise and resilience to future projects.

Our free Fundays will ensure families on low income can enjoy extra activities in the park. Our outreach activities will take aspects of the park to people in other places such as Parkstone Church Hub, where intergenerational groups will planting seeds intended for the park’s sensory gardens.

We will find ways to **engage with people before, during and after their visit** through a range of marketing communication, in-situ events, outreach activities and social media and web.

We will find it useful to consider the Sensory Trust’s “**Access Chain**” when developing our communication and interpretation materials:

- 1. Decision to visit
- 2. Journey and arrival
- 3. On-site experience
- 4. Return home

Many people may rely on off-site information to find out if a place is accessible to them for a number of reasons including families with young children, people with sensory impairment or limited mobility and people living with dementia. During the restoration phase we will develop pre-visit information detailing the transport and parking, location and access information for facilities, terrain, independent activities and or guided tours, organised activities and events. This will be available online together with new themed material to enhance visits.

On-site information should enable getting around and understanding: clearly worded signs, indicating direction and distance and enough information about a route to allow the visitor to make their own choice. We should indicate where routes contain steps, rough surfaces, gradients or cambers, either on a map or the signs, or both (see Access Audit).

We should design our standard information using access guidelines to minimise requests for other formats but there should be provision for Large Print, Plain Language and audio in compliance with the Council’s policy. We will work with advisory groups such as Poole Forum when producing these.

We should make it easy for people to give feedback on their experiences.

Our themes for interpreting park life (page 9) have been developed from exchanges and activities during the project’s development phase. They interweave with the built, landscape, water and wildlife features of the park and are a basis to explore and organise the flow of the stories we would like to share.

Guided by the Tilden Principles **provoke / relate / reveal**, we will draw attention and make our stories meaningful to people by relating to something within their experience. We will reveal some meaning that was previously hidden, helping people to make sense of what they see. We will give information in ways that enable people to discover the revelations for themselves. In this way they will experience a deeper learning and awareness.

Developing our ideas

As detailed in the Activity Plan, there will be a programme of activities to engage local communities and park visitors as well as compensate for operational works during the restoration phase. These activities will focus on heritage, landscape, play, lakes, lagoon and wildlife. They will also be an opportunity to interpret the changes as they are happening, to trial ideas and to allow people to be inspired and learn from the park’s heritage.

We will also reflect on the park’s day-to-day rhythms and informalities. Functional structures might be enhanced with temporary or permanent interventions. Eg Victorian games - chalking a path and tagging a park bench with how to play hopcotch rules.



fence mending



shared use path



tagged equipment

An identity reflecting the past but not fixed in time

What are the shapes and forms of memories ...
looking through layers, frames shadows and lights



An identity could be developed inspired by the cut, cast and wrought features of the park environment and the Victorian passion for silhouetting.



An opportunity for engagement
Although we will develop a consistent identity for Poole Park, people could play with and share their ideas of their significant features or activities in the park in silhouette form.



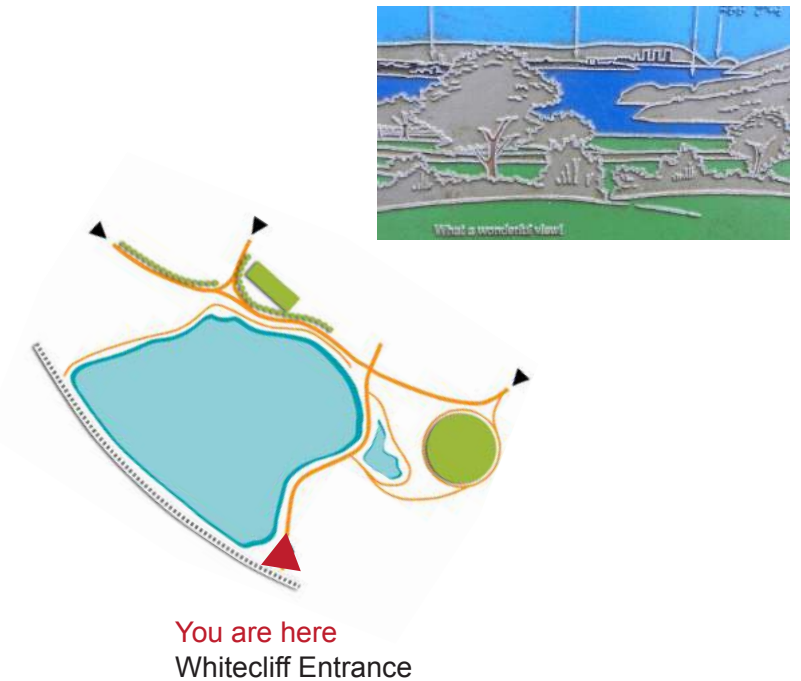
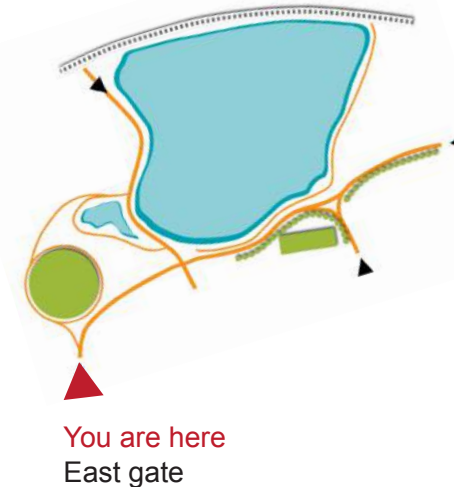
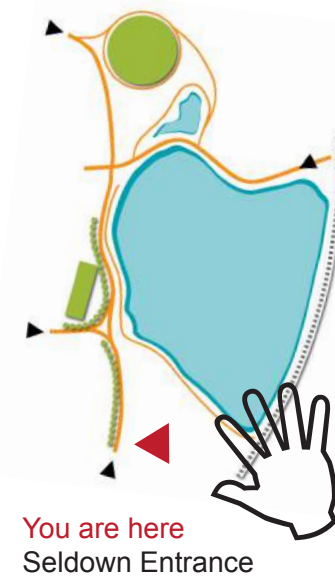
Welcome and orientation

A new welcome on-site

A clearly branded recognition of arrival at formal entrances will promote a sense of place. People will know where they are in relation to rest of park and what options they have during their visit. We aim to encourage better use of all areas, particularly at busy times, including the southern lake edge.

We will explore a **heads-up mapping style** unique to each key entrance referring to zones for the *physical improvement, play, spiritual refreshment* of original design intent.

It may possible to combine a simple tactile approach on lectern-style boards with either or both of the zone mapping or 'feel-a-view' concepts. The appropriate siting of these will need to take into account the different arrival spaces of pedestrians, cyclists and car users.



Connectivity

The park is a 'porous site' with many access points passing through formal and informal entrances. Fingerposts will indicate connections within the park to features of interest and to/from other sites such as a Baiter Park and Whitecliff recreation ground. The appropriate style and material of these is identified in our Street Furniture Strategy with potential to develop silhouette cut-work on 'fingers' or finials.



Reflect on past media forms to inspire future?



Guiding and self-guiding

We will build on the success of our development phase discovery walks and live interpretation. Ideas from these could be developed into hand-held options such as downloadable themed walk leaflets or audio material to provide different ways of exploring the park. Special interest trails, particularly for children, could provide in-situ links such as small marker posts, to collect rubbings or other rewards. Imagery on these could play with scale eg mini beasts.



Mrs Jennings
live interpretation

The park is a varied learning resource. As identified in our Activity Plan we would like to encourage joint working and online sharing of content from different user groups with particular interests or special needs groups. More material such as heritage trails will also be available from the Information Kiosk.

Inspiration: Paul Farrington's 'Kingston **Navigation Wheel**' - paper disc that visitors can use to explore alternative routes, discover stories and surprise details. Historically called Volvelles or Wheel Charts and are now considered to be "an early form of analogue computer." Content research was informed by walking clubs, late 1800s sporting pursuits such as Orienteering and Pedestrianism.

Summary of interpretive themes

Main aspiration

Park users will understand the different ways **people past, present and future** shape and experience the physical place that is “Poole Park”

Planning in the park

Our stories will help people understand the motivations people **past, present and future** have for creating and designing public open space and the different professional skills, aesthetic considerations and civic procedures they use to implement this and to manage change.

Local industry in the park

Our stories will help people gain awareness of the different professional skills people **past, present and future** have to create and maintain the park landscape and built features and the different techniques and materials they use.

Managing (looking after) the park

Our stories will help people understand the ways those who look after the park balance the conservation of the park’s natural and built assets with development to meet the needs of park users **past, present and future** and how they approach the day-to-day business of park life.

Subthemes:

Wartime in the park - impact of temporary or permanent change during WWII

Doing business in the park - how people past, present and future operate “concessions” within the park to offer services/entertainment to park users

Planting the park

Our stories will help people understand the aesthetic considerations, physical conditions and skills needed **past, present and future** to create and maintain a ‘special’ open space.

Being active in the park

Our stories will help people understand the ways people **past, present and future** use the park environment for physical exercise.

Playing in the park

Our stories will help people understand how people **past, present and future** enjoy the parks assets and facilities for informal and formal recreation.

Remembering in the park

Our stories will help people understand how people **past, present and future** design and use parts of the park as special places to remember, commemorate and reflect on personal, family, community or national ‘events’.

Closer to nature in the park

Our stories will help people understand how people **past, present and future** get closer to nature, experience and interact with the wildlife in the park.

Meeting up in the park

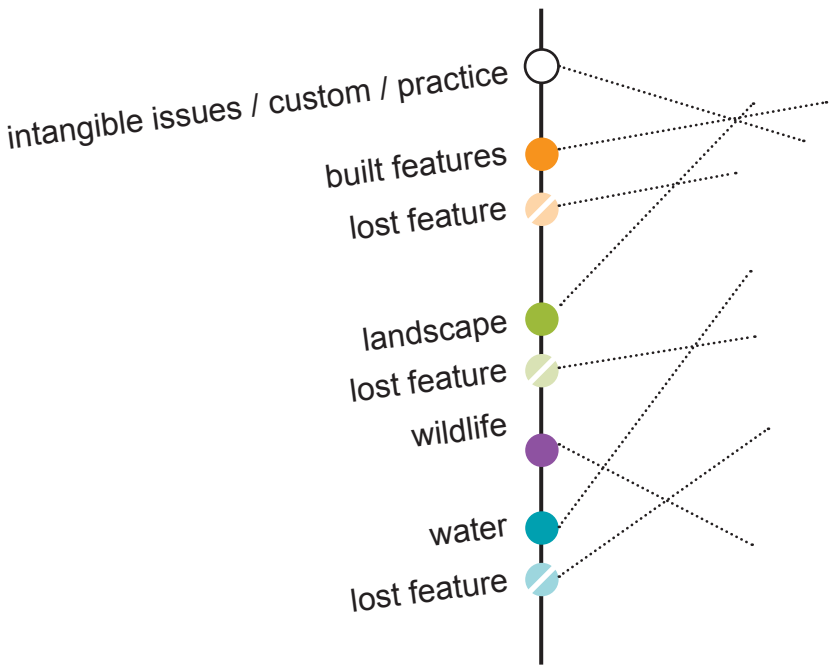
Our stories will help people understand how people **past, present and future** use the park’s assets and facilities as opportunities for personal sharing, socialising and community spirit.

Celebrating in the park

Our stories will help people understand how people **past, present and future** use the park as a space to gather and celebrate personal, family, community or civic events.

The **theme mapping** (overpage) shares an holistic overview of the park life topics and features we will consider for our stories.

We will develop this map with ongoing research and use it to trace connections and understand the interwoven and interdependent nature of many of our activities.



Theme mapping

● built features ● feature gone ● landscape ● feature gone ● water ● feature gone ● wildlife ○ intangible issues / custom / practice



physical improvement

being active in the park

- arrival - tram/bus?
- signposting/connections
- carriage drive
- parking
- bridges
- landing stages?
- fitness trail
- swimming pool
- cycle track around cricket ground
- cycling (national cycle network)
- walking
- orienteering
- "active travel" through route
- "parkrun" weekly national event
- promenading/'drives'
- "Ladies walking field"
- What do you wear to exercise?
- land train
- scouts / guides
- school groups
- health & well being agenda
- fitness, green space/blue space
- close to nature, mental health
- Rockley watersports training
- boat hire concession - pedaloes / rowing / canoeing / sailing / windsurf

playing in the park

- putting/crazy golf
- miniature railway track 1930s
- station 1961/62
- swimming pool
- aviaries 1912/13
- fitness trail
- children's zoo 1963
- childrens' gymnasium?
- bowling pavilions
- 1930 men 1950s ladies ○ social ?
- cricket pavilion
- boathouse
- "formal recreation" - organised sports
- "informal recreation"
- UN Rights of the Child - to play
- cricket pitch
- tennis courts
- miniature railway from mid 1930s
- 2/3 mile around Swan lake
- bowling green
- hockey & lacrosse
- seasonal cricket & Copse La. annexe - temp lines/posts
- leaning trees - climbing, jumping
- circus skills - slack rope, diabolo
- feeding swans
- pond dipping
- boat hire - pedaloes / rowing / canoeing / sailing / windsurf
- model yacht enclosure
- 3.8 acres & cat walk 1952
- 1975 powerboats
- now Poole Radio Yacht Club?

spiritual refreshment

meeting up in the park

- shelters
- bench seats
- picnic tables
- clubs' facilities - cricket, bowls, model yacht etc
- cafe with soft play for toddlers
- indoor ice rink
- restaurant
- community notices?
- bandstand
- fountains
- picnic
- trees - shade, shelter, sitting on
- events & celebrations
- birdwatching
- health & well being agenda
- green space/blue space
- close to nature, mental health
- model yacht enclosure
- 3.8 acres & cat walk 1952
- 1975 powerboats
- now Poole Radio Yacht Club?

socialising, community spirit
relaxing in the park?

celebrating in the park

- municipal pride
- Gothic-style Grand Opening commemoration panel on Seldown Lodge
- Borough Coat of Arms
- fountain (centenary gift 1990)
- bandstand
- Grand Opening 1890
- 125 Years Celebration
- Mela
- Poole Carnival
- outdoor theatre events

remembering in the park

- Poole Municipal War Memorial WWI (1927) inscription added after WWII
- Memorial Gates & railings
- Burma Star Rose Garden 19??
- commemoration events
- Mountbatten Pillar 1980
- commemoration benches donation scheme
- tree planting
- Rose Garden
- ash scattering
- Hospice fund temporary sunflower installation
- fundraising events

closer to nature in the park

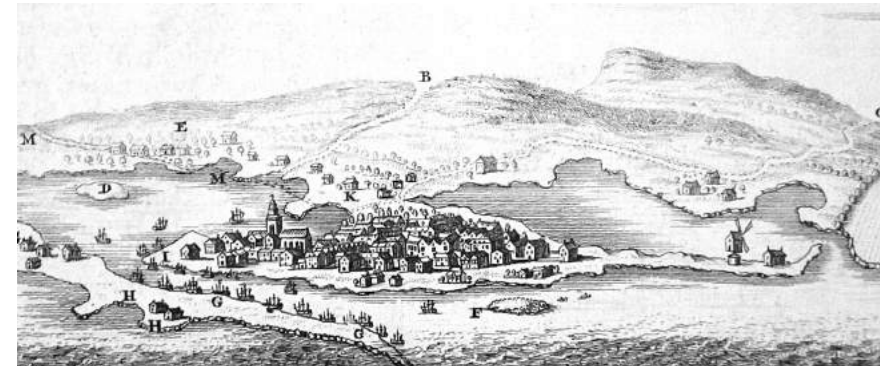
- Learning outside the classroom
- changing seasons
- leaves, fruits, seeds
- conker challenge
- day time
- feeding wildlife?
- appropriate interaction
- visitor : wildlife
- after dark
- nocturnal
- bats
- foxes
- geese/swans
- flying away
- to evening roost
- ducks
- pond dipping
- moonlight on the water reflections

Theme detail: Planning in the park



- Public Health 1875 & Town Planning Act
- Victorian "Peoples Park" Movement
- "Conservation Area" & listings
- Conservation Plan 2014-2021 HLF project
- railway embankment
- sluice engineering
- "Borough Engineer/Surveyor" John Elford
- design competition
- design styles - High Victorian Cottage, Chinoiserie, Modern Movt
- entrance gates, piers and lamps
- Seldown, Norton, East Gate, Middle gate, Whitecliff
- Seldown Lodge 1888/89
- East Gate Lodge 1888/89
- summerhouse
- bandstand removed 1930s
- rustic bridge (destroyed WWII)
- Keyhole bridge & underpass
- connections
- marsh + Wimborne land gift 1885 + council purchase + land exchange
- philanthropy
- "zoning"
- horse chestnut avenue
- "landscape gardener" Meyer Veitch
- "Arcadian Landscape" views
- Copse Close Annex 1930
- drainage
- tidal flow / flushing
- saline lagoon
- ornamental freshwater lakes
- lagoon islands echo harbour

Our stories will help people understand the motivations people **past, present and future** have for creating and designing public open space and the different professional skills, aesthetic considerations and civic procedures they used to implement this and to manage change.



Why was Poole Park originally built? Why HERE? Why THEN?

During the 19th century the town of Poole expanded with new residential suburbs being developed to the east of the medieval and 18th century town and port. An embankment built along a land spit in Poole Bay to carry the London to Weymouth railway cut off that part of the bay. The trapped water became a saline 'lagoon' surrounded by marshy land which was considered unsuitable for housing.

Original motivations - Victorian civic purpose, public health legislation and the movement to design People's Parks. Philanthropy - Lord Wimborne land gift, additional land purchase by the Council and agreement for construction of roads on east and west side of lake.

Connection

A tidal sluice constructed in embankment by Dorset Iron Foundry Co. in 1886 and the design for arched subway beneath embankment for use of carriages approved - Keyhole Bridge.

In the early 1970s a pedestrian link under the railway embankment was opened which now connected Poole Park with new open space and the harbour beyond.

WHY was Poole Park designed like that?

Designs for the proposed park were submitted to a competition (1886). This was common practice in the procurement in public park design at the time to generate ideas. The two winning designs were by Robert Veitch and Reginald Upcher. Borough Engineer and Surveyor John Elford reported that neither plan was capable of implementation and produced revised plan incorporating elements from both.

Elford created a landscape of simple zoning of recreational uses 'inland' and opportunities for spiritual refreshment associated with the boating and freshwater lakes. His plan detailed prestigious entrances with lodges and gates, the Park Drive, curving paths and tree planting, with the boating lake as a central focus.

The entrance gates were deliberately designed to demonstrate civic pride and symbolise Poole with imagery from its port and harbour. The terracotta features on the gate piers and lodges were produced by the South Western Pottery Company of Parkstone, founded by George Jennings, a celebrated Victorian entrepreneur.

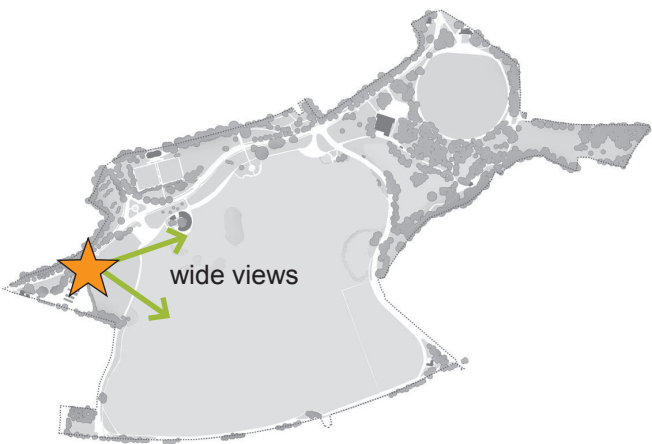
Prince blown away by new Park?

The Grand Opening of Poole Park by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) on 18 January 1890 is commemorated in a gothic-style panel on the front of Seldown Lodge.

Streets were decorated and the ceremony was scheduled to take place in a marquee in the park. Unfortunately the marquee was damaged in a storm the night before and so, after a carriage ride through park, the ceremony took place in a waiting room at Poole Station prior to the Prince's departure.



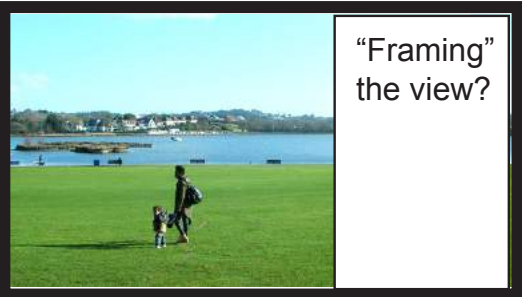
Lectern-style board is proposed near western entrance, top of West Field at new arrival space



The view visitors currently see from Seldown Entrance



What view did park users see in 1900?
Layout today is quite close to original planned by Elford

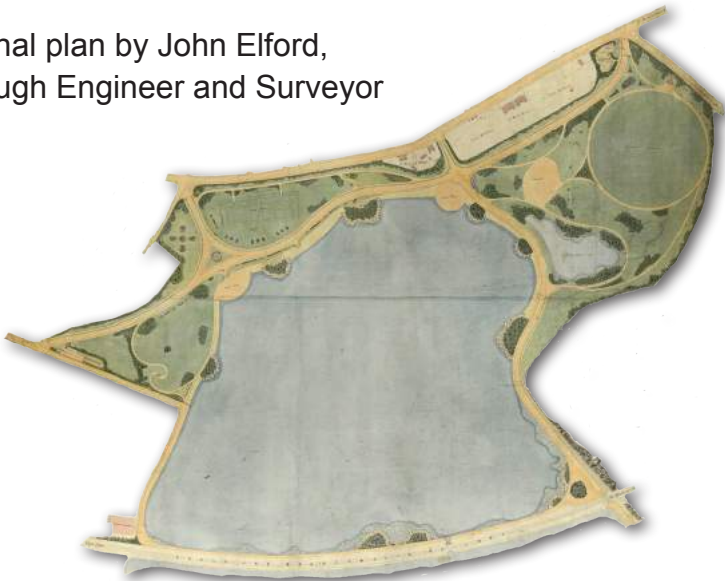


Mrs Jennings
live interpretation

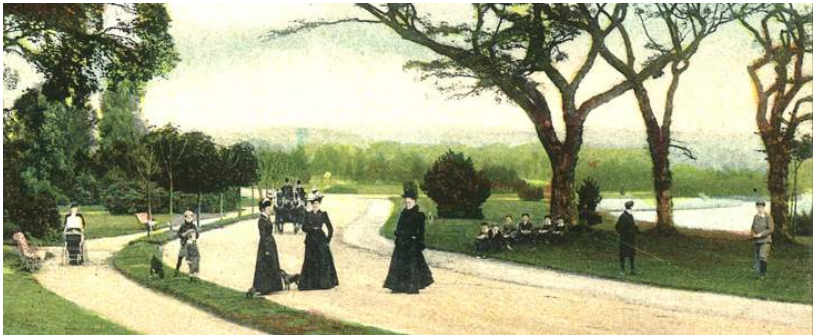
Inspiration: Sustrans portrait
benches, peep board photo
opportunities and selfies



Original plan by John Elford,
Borough Engineer and Surveyor



John Elford



Historic visualisation

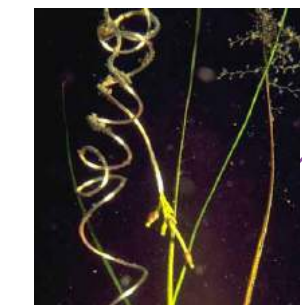
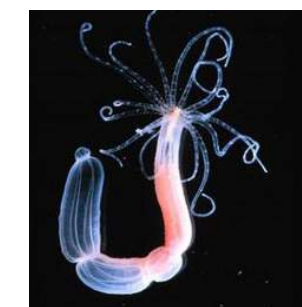
using archive reference - Gravel Drive with horse and carriage / Victorian cyclist, picnic on west field and children playing traditional Victorian games (hoops etc) / promenading long the Drive and lagoon / muddy lake edge (now concrete) / boating in the lagoon and use of landing stages / Victorian seats / band stand and summer house / heathland and farmland in the distance / smoking steam engine on railway bank that severed lagoon from harbour

Art activities with mental health group and local school casting plaster of paris features from pottery moulds and painting them.
Remaking features in other materials.
(See Activity Plan)



Eagles, suitable for Gate Piers, £ s d
Lecterns &c, right and left hand 5 5 0
JENNINGS CATALOGUE

Theme detail: Managing (looking after) the park ~ water



- Public Health Act
- Town Planning Act
- byelaws & regulations
- health & safety notices
- sluice/algae
- Conservation Plan
- 2014 HLF project
- consultation
- railway embankment
- sluice engineering
- land drains
- Spring tides
- flooding
- litter collection
- protected species - bats
- tree protection orders
- invasive species
- Green Flag Award
- "pest" control Canada Geese
- appropriate interactions
- visitor : wildlife
- biodiversity
- ecological buffer between
- urban area and Poole Harbour
- proximity to "designated areas"
- SSSI, Ramsar
- ecological research
- water quality - biohazards - algae
- protected species
- star anemone, beaked tasselweed
- midge life cycle
- invasive species
- dredging
- weedcutting
- regular lake drain - litter pick
- Wildlife Trust, school, volunteers

Our stories will help people understand the ways those who look after the park balance the conservation of the park's natural and built assets with development to meet the needs of park users **past, present and future** and how they approach the day-to-day business of park life.

Taking on the Poole Park Pong!

(headline ref Bournemouth Daily Echo May 2011)

Our challenge today is balancing recreation use and park aesthetics with the ecological value of lagoon.

The difficulty of managing a highly dynamic ecosystem of a sluiced tidal lagoon, shallow water depths and the discharge of surface water from the surrounding catchment area into the lagoon has resulted in poor water quality, periods of extensive weed growth and outbreaks of midge infestations.

Originally formed part of Poole Harbour this area would have been refreshed with seawater on every tide. With water exchanges with the harbour now controlled by sluice gates we need to overcome a number of challenges to manage the lake to its best potential. Normal tides don't have a great enough effect need the extreme low water level and high water level of monthly spring tides to drain water from lake and flush fresh tidal water in.

We have used weed harvesters and floating barley straw bales to discourage algal growth and worked with Bournemouth University to research water quality and potential management solutions which may include light-filtering dyes, dredging and an automated sluice.

Sluice

An embankment built along a land spit in Poole Bay to carry the London to Weymouth railway cut off that part of the bay. The trapped water became a saline 'lagoon'. Creation of park on surrounding marshy land brought concerns for water quality and the idea of refreshing water by sluice flushing operations.

The lagoon exchanges water into Poole Harbour which is now ecologically designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); a Special Protected Area (SPA) and a Ramsar site.

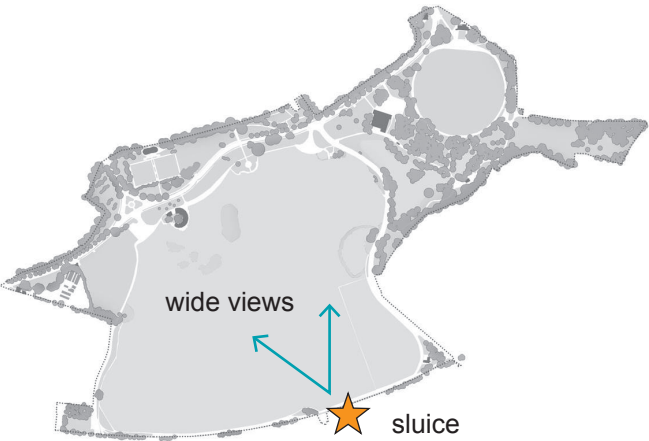
On site: Sluice gate, bridge and piers, original cast iron gate into a fenced enclosure. The bridge over the inlet has brick piers which match the design of the entrance piers. The brick piers/terracotta dressing are original and show mountings for gates that at one time restricted access to the sluice gate area by boats using the lake. These gates were probably removed during the second world war.

Only rain down the drain

The needs of urban Poole have led to over 50 land drains entering the lake from a variety of sources. The total catchment area for surface water drain inputs is about 2km². The combined effect of multiple freshwater drain inputs decreases the salinity between tidal flushing.

The 'only rain down the drain' campaign is intended to increase awareness of effect of pouring pollutants such as phosphates, detergents and fertiliser into land drains on the nutrient and contaminant loading in the lake water and bed sediment.

Lectern-style board is proposed near sluice footbridge



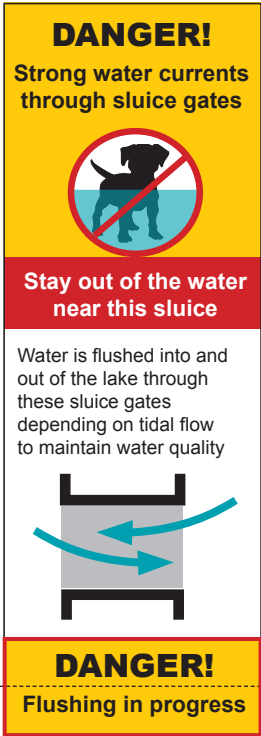
Inspiration for possible cut work on wheelchair-friendly lectern side supports. Trains pass by southern path today.



Context - Sluice gate and winding mechanism are within British Rail boundary on the lake side of the embankment. Recommendation to restore piers, consider reinstating swing gates to restrict access and replace fencing with original-style iron work. Crimped wave railings with motifs elsewhere in park - consider motifs appropriate for southern lake edge?



No paddle zone and hazard warning signs on both sides of to indicate flushing operations. Explore more accessible hazard warning with illustrative link to sluice interpretation.

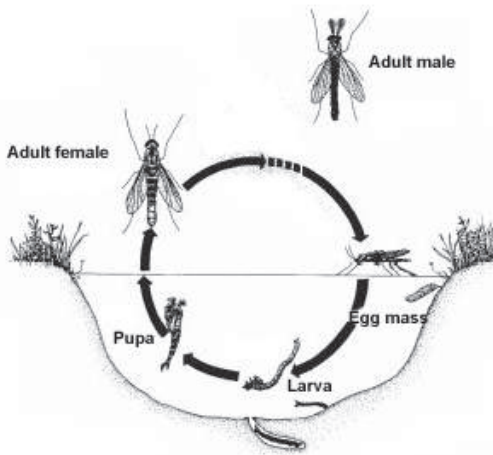


Why flush?

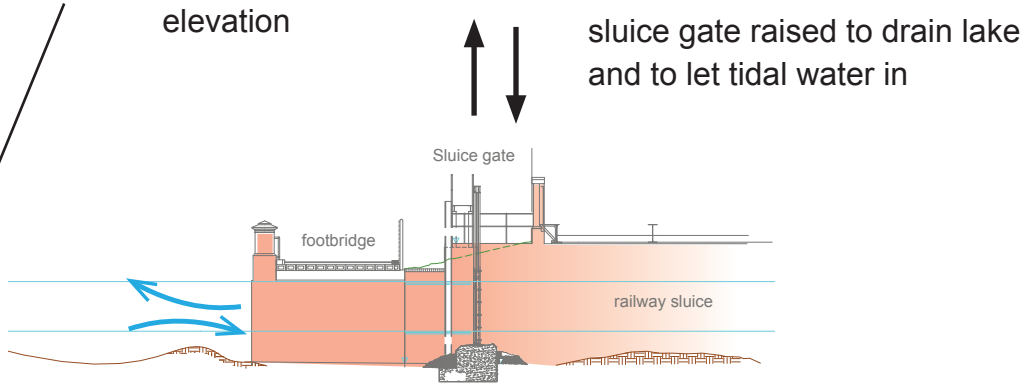
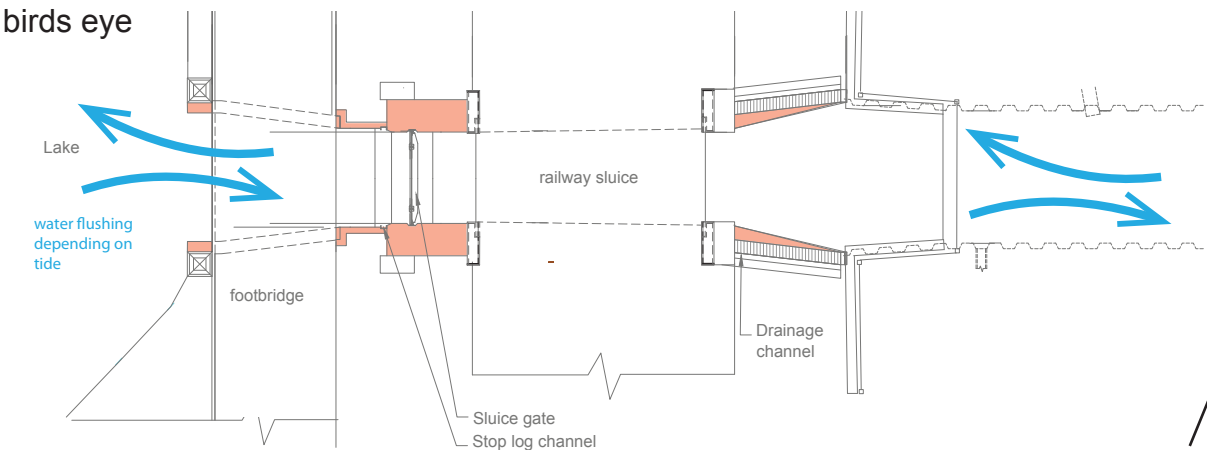
Trapped water, land drains and too many nutrients. Balance to achieve best conditions for protected species. Weedharvester cutting tons of tassel/blanket weed.



“Unseen” protected star anenome and problematic midge make interesting shapes for trail marker rubbings



How to flush? Sluice engineering



Theme detail: Managing (looking after) the park ~ landscape

byelaws & regulations
health & safety notices
event management
traffic management - bollards/closure
Seldown Lodge was park keeper's house
stables & cart house
with "ladies waiting room"
East Gate Lodge was head gardener's house
with "ladies waiting room"
park "concessions"
information kiosk
Friends of Poole Park & volunteer groups
flooding
grounds maintenance
mowing, pitch marking ..
litter collection
protected species - bats
tree protection orders
invasive species
"pest" control Canada Geese
appropriate visitor : wildlife interactions
Green Flag Award
ecological buffer between
urban area and Poole Harbour

Planting

irrigation systems
greenhouses
Chestnut Nursery
Meyer Veitch Nursery
original landscaping
Victorian planthunters
around the world
leaning tree
seasonal displays
& bedding plants
planting for wildlife
- wildflower meadows
pollinators
lake edges?

Our stories will help people understand the ways those who look after the park balance the conservation of the park's natural and built assets with development to meet the needs of park users **past, present and future** and how they approach the day-to-day business of park life.

Our stories will help people understand the aesthetic considerations, physical conditions and skills needed **past, present and future** to create and maintain 'special' open spaces.

Looking after an 'idealised landscape'

Robert Veitch & Son, a notable family of Victorian plant hunters, and F.W. Meyer, a researched landscape designer, are credited with preparing one of the winning competition designs and implementation of landscape works.

The Veitch Nurseries, of Exeter and Chelsea, were the largest group of family-run plant nurseries in Europe during the 19th century. They supported plant hunting expeditions around the world which brought back curious and wonderful species from Australasia, China and Africa and made them available for cultivation. The firm had, by the outbreak of the First World War, introduced 1281 plants into cultivation, which were either previously unknown or newly bred varieties.

Lawn and grassland

Open areas of lawn play an important role in providing a natural visual amenity and recreational use.

The fine turf at Seldown Lodge and East gate entrances is protected from pounding feet access by low rails.

The park contains large areas of amenity grass including West field Events area, with sports turf Copse Close playing fields and cricket pitch. The wicket and bowling greens are fertilised, spike, rolled and watered.

Trees

The majority of trees were planted as the Park was laid out in the late 19th century. A tree survey in 1990 recorded 76 different species (around 1076 trees):

81.5 % were broad leaved trees (horse chestnut, deciduous oak, holm oak, poplar, willow alder)

18.5% were conifers (pine, others)

Interesting and unusual species reflect the Victorians' passion for planting hunting including: tree of heaven, araucaria, maidenhair tree, Persian iron wood, liquid amber and swamp cypress.

Trees subject to a number of pressures including disease, rising water table, change in climate, storm damage and ground compaction due to visitor pressure (such as parking). Today our trees are managed by specialist arboricultural officers.

Horticultural displays

Horticultural areas added during the twentieth century provide points of interest and horticultural diversity. There are bedding areas at Seldown Lodge and East Gate entrances. Formal lawns, hedging and bedding provide a setting to the War Memorial with a raised linear rose bed leading from the memorial gates.

As detailed in our Activity Plan we will be working with our volunteer group and horticultural therapy participants to develop the planting in the proposed new quiet gardens.

Our challenges today

We are committed to your sustainable enjoyment of Poole park by adopting environmentally sustainable strategies and maintenance techniques:

- minimal use of chemicals,
- choosing plants that don't need so much watering,
- mulching and optimised timing
- peat free composts
- promoting public transport to reach the Park.

Plant Collectors' Garden
This proposed garden will label key plants with their name and the story behind their discovery. It will an enclosed space for entertaining and meeting. A place for the exchange of information, 'seeds' and memories ...



The 1970s saw a period of themed topiary and colourful bedding in the Park featuring television favorites.



Poole Park has Green Flag status (Civic Trust Award).

The Council's ground maintenance team at work in Poole Park and adjacent Whitecliff Recreation Ground.

Managing a shared space for all - tone of voice? - health and safety - visitor behaviour?



Inspiration USA park sign
ref James Carter AHI

*Byelaws for
Pleasure Grounds,
Public Walks and
Open Spaces*
adequate for problems
of the day but new
problems evolve
Dog Control Orders



Miniature railway over bridge,
open access elsewhere



Theme detail: Being active / Playing in the park ~ water

- landing stages
- What do you wear to exercise?
- land train
- scouts / guides
- school groups
- health & well being agenda
- fitness, green space/blue space
- close to nature, mental health
- Rockley watersports training
- boat hire concession -
pedaloes / rowing /
canoeing / sailing / windsurf
- boathouse
- "formal recreation" - organised sports
- "informal recreation"
- UN Rights of the Child
- feeding swans
- pond dipping
- boat hire - pedaloes /
rowing / canoeing
sailing / windsurf
- model yacht enclosure
3.8 acres & cat walk 1952
1975 powerboats
now Poole Radio Yacht Club?

Our stories will help people understand the ways people **past, present and future** use the park environment for physical exercise.

Our stories will help people understand how people **past, present and future** enjoy the parks assets and facilities for informal and formal recreation.

Elford's original park layout provided separate areas for '*physical improvement*' and '*spiritual refreshment*'. The physical improvement area was inland away from the water's edge and subdivided into the cycling / cricket area, and the tennis area. Spiritual improvement encompassed the 'Arcadian landscape' and the boating and freshwater lakes. The large lake was a focal point and provided opportunity for swimming, paddling and boating. Promenading and feeding swans was a popular past time.

By the beginning of WWII, the Park was a well established home for several clubs and organisations and a venue for regular sporting events, including bowling, model yachting, tennis, cycling and cricket often being played at county level.

From the early 1900s paddling, rowing and sailing water-based recreational use has developed to include 1980s passenger steamer and electric fun (bumper) boats to windsurfing and stand-up paddle-boarding.

In 2007 we dredged sediment from the lake bottom to improve conditions for watersports. We used the dredgings to create islands that are in the shape and arrangement of Poole Harbour's islands.



Frozen water?
Going out on the ice can be dangerous and is not advised today. Instead lots of fun is had in the indoor ice rink.

Lectern style board is proposed near
freshwater lakes/boating lake



Theme detail: Being active / Playing in the park ~ landscape



Our stories will help people understand the ways people **past, present and future** use the park environment for physical exercise.

Our stories will help people understand how people **past, present and future** enjoy the parks assets and facilities for informal and formal recreation.

Most of Poole Park's 43 hectares are directly accessible to the public. The landscape is enjoyed by early morning joggers, young children and their parents visiting play areas, dog walkers and exercise groups. Many people working nearby visit the park during their lunchbreaks and local residents describe it as an extension to their outdoor living space.

The two playgrounds are well-used as are the 'leaning trees' - fallen Corsican Pine trees that have continued growing in a curious shape.

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By the beginning of WWII, the Park was a well established home for several clubs and organisations and a venue for regular sporting events, including bowling, model yachting, tennis, cycling and cricket often being played at county level.



Lost feature - Zoo



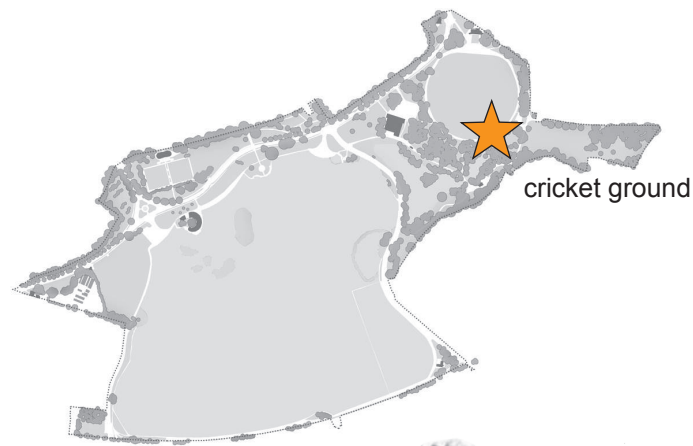
Lost feature - Swimming pool



Today - natural play and fitness trail



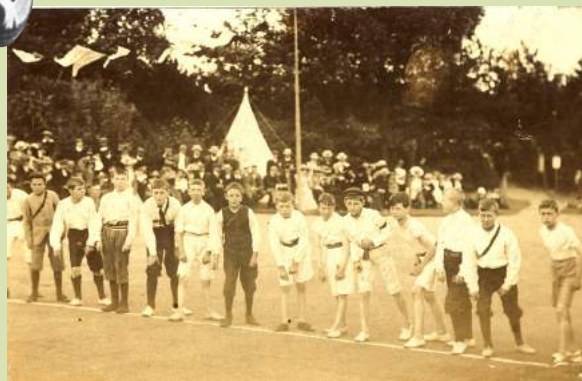
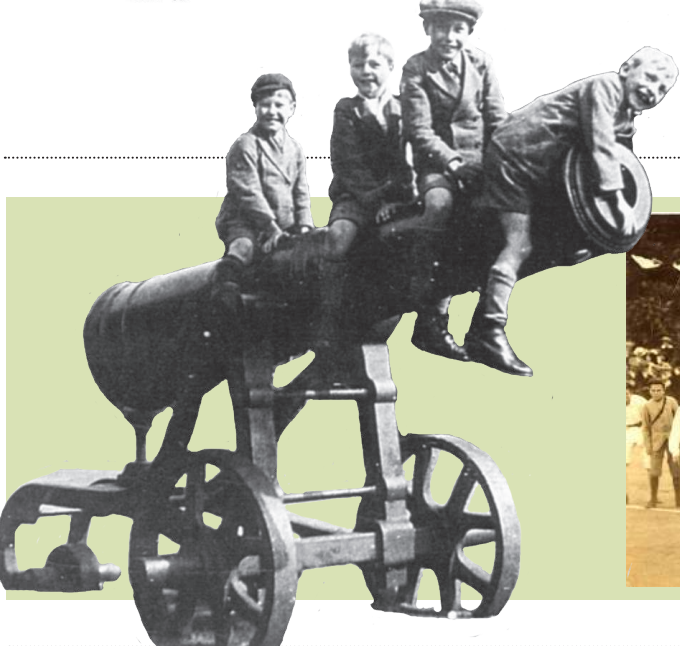
Lectern-style board is proposed near cricket ground



Mrs Jennings
live interpretation



What are you wearing in the park today?
corsets, petticoats, plus-fours, top hat & tails, parasol ...



Pennyfarthing-style
cycle racks by cricket
pavilion and Westfield



Cricket scoreboard
box obtrusively visible
in and out of season -
silhouetting?

Reflect on past media forms to inspire future?
What else was going on in Victorian times?
Inspiration: Stills photography and Muybridge sequential 'motion' photography
Zoetrope / phenakistoscope / magic lantern show



How did you record your day at the park?



Theme detail: Remembering in the park



- Poole Municipal War Memorial WWI (1927) inscription added after WWII
- Memorial Gates & railings
- commemoration events
- Burma Star Rose Garden with Mountbatten Pillar (1980)
- commemoration benches
- donation scene
- tree planting
- Rose Garden
- ash scattering
- Hospice fund temporary sunflower installation
- fundraising events

Our stories will help people understand how people **past, present and future** design and use parts of the park as special places to remember, commemorate and reflect on personal, family, community or national 'events'.

Municipal commemoration Poole's wait for a war memorial

The memorial was dedicated October 1927, but why did a town of Poole's size (then 48,000) wait for nine years after the end of the Great War to commemorate its war dead? Caused much controversy as first freestanding war memorial in Poole dedicated 1919 in Hamworthy. Discussions, proposals, letters to Poole Herald, money collected - and returned or given to hospital.

Ex-Servicemen's Club 1923 and Mayor Alderman Herbert Carter (5 times mayor) influence. "Something must be done to wipe away the reproach" of a town like Poole having no municipal war memorial.

1925 Decision cenotaph rather than building. Site chosen. Sea View viewpoint rejected as it was venue for coach parties and too exposed for Remembrance day services. "Secluded corner" lakeside site in Poole Park.

Memorial scheme designed by local architect James Allner - from new memorial gates into Poole Park leading to slender 25 ft high cross in local stone (C15th style).



Personal remembrance What encourages us to reflect?

Proposed Rose Garden development into **sensory garden** as a special place to visit, reflect, grieve or recall happy moments associated with all stages of life.

Planted for scent, texture and meaning with central feature with bird bath - water reflecting the sky, bird symbol of life words/poems inscribed on bench

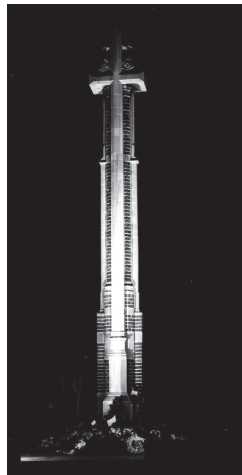
Plant remembrance the daisies, forget-me-nots and honeysuckle of childhood ... the wisteria, rosemary and lavender of a kitchen garden ... violets for loss ... the roses and gypsophylla of a wedding day ...



Lectern-style board is proposed near memorial and rose garden and leaning tree

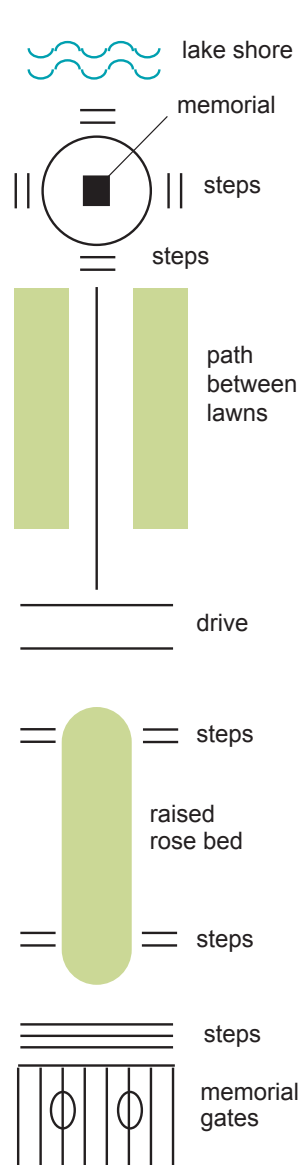


Context: alignment, respectful, ceremonial
Flight of stone steps from memorial gates to low raised rectangular rosebed crosses over Park Drive path between lawn panels to reach circular raised terrace. To rear steps descend to lake.



Inspiration: Appropriate occasional
Floodlit and projection for Centenary
permanent? temporary?

A memorial scheme plan may have tactile possibilities



25 ft high

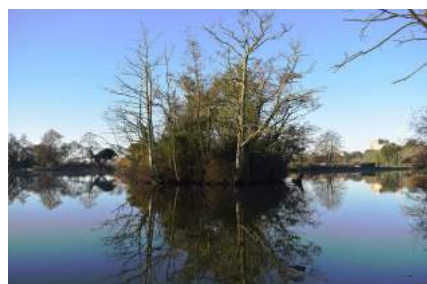
.Inscription (eroded)
They died that we might live. We will remember them.
Cross on top carved suggestions of dolphin and scallops from Poole Coat of Arms.



Inspiration:
Poppy Field by Valise Noire.
(HLF funded) dramatic interpretation for Poole WWI Centenary sensitive use of memorial area - bandaging leaning tree etc



Theme detail: Closer to nature in the park



Our stories will help people understand how people **past, present and future** get closer to nature, experience and interact with the wildlife in the park.

Poole Park forms an important ecological buffer between the urban areas and Poole Harbour which is protected by some of the highest national and international designations for ecological protection, including:

- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Protected Area (SPA)
- Ramsar Site

The park is a formal, urban park with no ecological designations itself but is now managed for its potential to provide habitats for wildlife.

We have put bird and bat boxes in some of the mature trees and flowerbeds and herbaceous borders are a valuable nectar source for pollinating insects. Long grass and meadows and areas of seeded wildflower meadows near the freshwater lakes provide habitat and food sources for invertebrates.

There is a wide variety of birds including Goldeneye, Little Egret, Oystercatcher, Tufted Duck, Turnstone, Gadwall, Garganey, Coot, Moorhen and a range of common waterfowl and woodland species.

The ways we try to improve habitat value will have to respect the historic character and intended use of the park. In 2007 we dredged sediment from the lake bottom to improve conditions for watersports. We used the dredgings to create islands that are in the shape and arrangement of Poole Harbour's islands. A very mini cruise for the pedaloes! To improve water quality and combat lake edge erosion we could set aside parts of the boating lake for reedbeds and marginal vegetation but this may not be achieved without compromising public use of these areas.

We're on a diet!

We're asking everyone who feeds our ducks to consider swapping the usual white bread for something a little healthier.


If we supplement the diet of wild birds we should, as closely as possible, mimic their natural diet. The microbes in their gut which are evolved to deal with particular foods, but can't cope well with others; their gut flora is different to ours. Overfeeding with poor food choices is detrimental to the birds and their environment. Uneaten bread either directly adds to the nitrification problem in lakes or attracts rats and other vermin which bring their own problems.


Offering a cheap, readily available and toddler-friendly alternative is a great way to encourage mums and little ones away from bread. Concession could be limiting the amount of seed they sell in a day ('if the bin is empty, the birds are full!').

The appearance and droppings of a large population of Greylag and Canada Geese conflicts with public use of some areas, particularly around the freshwater lakes and cricket pitch. Some parkusers have strong views about our need to control numbers in line with current legislation.




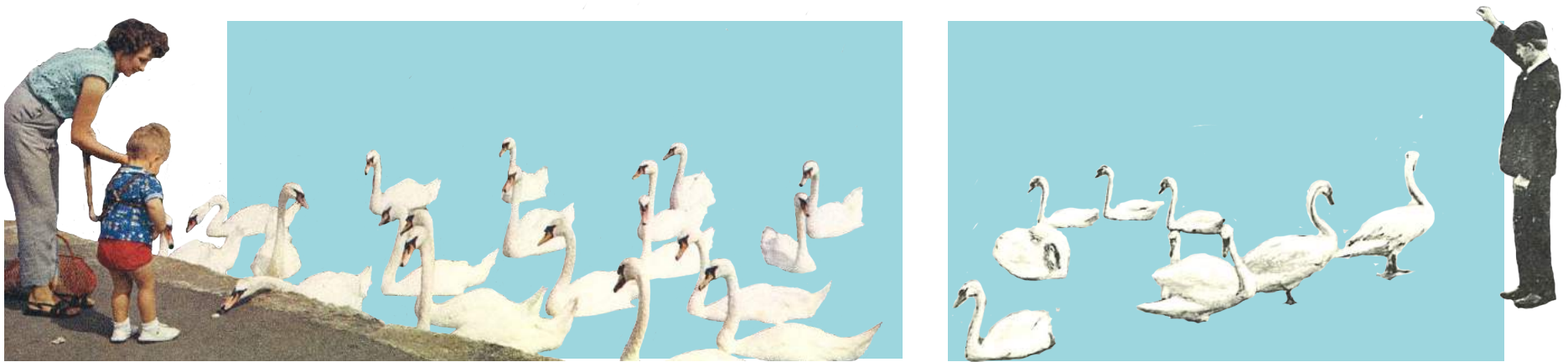


No bread please! 

I really like ... 

seeds - pellets - sweetcorn
lettuce - defrosted peas
oats - vegetable peelings

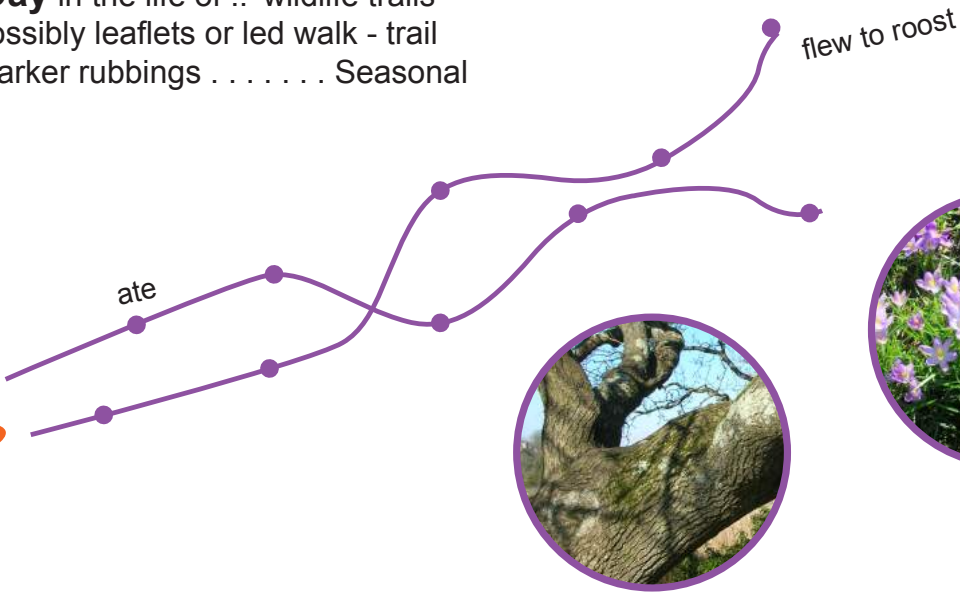
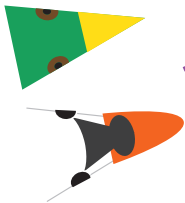




‘Day in the life of ..’ wildlife trails - possibly leaflets or led walk - trail marker rubbings Seasonal



masks eg Wildlife Watch



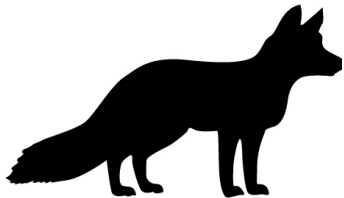
Nocturnal / **Night** life of Poole Park



Inspiration: installations in Bournemouth



Torch stencil walks
Lighting gobos on lampposts for special events winter time



Resource: terracotta features on entrance pillars

Art installation in Poole Park



Reflect on past media forms to inspire future?
What else was going on in Victorian times?

Stills photography and Muybridge sequential ‘motion’ photography
zoetrope / phenakistoscope



magic wheels

