Victorian buildings in Poole Park

The brick and terracotta structures within Poole Park

Conservation Condition Survey, Report and Recommendations for Care

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Stone Conservation
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Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

This report covers a survey conducted in Poole Park between the 15th December 2015 and the 12th January 2016. The subjects are specific buildings and structures dating from the late C19th that were conceived, designed and built as enhancements to the overall design of the Park. Not all the built structures are covered – later additions, the ornamental fountain and timber structures are excluded.

Although the historical context and significance of the subjects is covered in Section 2, each subsequent section deals specifically with one structure or group of structures and can be viewed as a 'stand alone' report (ie. description, condition, possible causes of disruption and recommendations for conservation). Specifications and estimates for the cost of implementing recommendations are outlined in Sections 15 and 16.

The report covers only the exterior of the two gate lodges. Any interior condition or structural issues would be covered in existing building survey reports.

The report covers principally the media of brick, terracotta and mortar. Reference is made to other materials but specialist advice on lead and timberwork should be considered.
The term terracotta or ceramic is used as a generic description of the fired clay ornamentation featured on many of the subjects. Lower levels of iron mineral and clay content in the material have produced a cream coloured finish (unlike the reddish brown usually associated with terracotta work). Some of the ceramic work has a salt glazed appearance but most has the matt surface appearance of an architectural limestone such as Bathstone.

The 'Gate' sections refer to the main vehicular and pedestrian accesses to the Park and detail mainly the brick and ceramic gate piers with some limited reference to the cast ironwork.

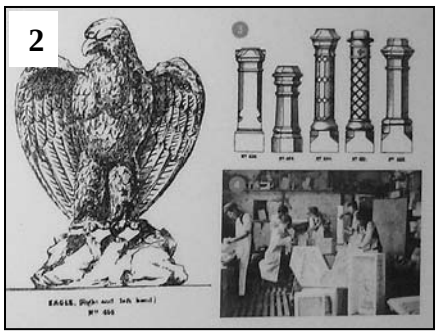
Examples of previous restorative interventions upon, and any substantial reorganisation of, several of the subjects will be highlighted within each section.

Weather conditions were exceptionally mild for December and harsh for January – as a result light conditions for the photography were challenging and varied, plant growth was still flourishing and biotic growth on many of the structures appeared more pronounced than would be the case in summer.

2. Significance of structures

All the structures were built between 1888 and 1890, when the Park was officially opened by the Prince of Wales. The programme of construction and laying out of the grounds was completed in the relatively short space of less than three years. Most Victorian municipal parks contained some ornate structures (bandstands, fountains) that were as much statements of civic pride as they were public amenities. Despite various alterations and losses in the last century, Poole Park's collection of built adornments has survived in surprisingly good condition and is on a scale that exceeds that of many British cities' green spaces.

Begun in the middle of the C19th and spurred on by the Public Health Act of 1875, the Victorian obsession for urban spaces and public parks reached its peak by the turn of the century. The creation of the Poole Park was made possible by the donation of land adjacent to Parkstone Bay by Lord Wimborne in 1885. As a civic project it was driven by the Baths and Recreation Committee of the Council, principally under the direction of the Borough Surveyor, John Elford. Elford took responsibility for the design of the park after previous proposals were rejected and is known to have designed aspects of many of the survey subjects. The building works were in the main carried out by a local builder, W H Gray.



The outstanding feature of most of the structures is the high quality terracotta work. Architecturally, the lodges and gate piers are not exceptional in design but they are made visually striking by the decorative detailing, executed in ceramic. Although the gate piers are reported to have been designed by John Elford, they are adorned by both bespoke and 'stock' terracotta features produced by the Parkstone firm South Western Pottery, founded by George Jennings in 1856. This company featured prominently in the ceramics industry that was dominant in the Poole area during the C19th and first half of the C20th and which was renowned for the production of water closets for the Great Exhibition of 1851 and "many arrangements effected.....in sanitary arrangements and appliances".*

By the time of the Park's construction, South Western Pottery was a major producer of architectural terracotta ornaments on an industrial scale. Their incorporation into the Park's structures and subsequent survival means that there is a now an extensive record of the company's work within one location.

War Memorial

A visually striking memorial in a sublime setting, its listed status was granted as recently as 2009. Its description in the entry as 'a simple monument' belies its uniqueness of design and its setting adds to the significance of both memorial and Park to the history and heritage of the local community.

1. The yard at South Western Pottery c. 1890 (Poole Museum)
2. Detail of a page from the Jennings catalogue showing monumental eagle and chimney pots (Poole Museum)
3. Examples of architectural detailing produced by South Western Pottery (Poole Museum)

* From George Jenning's obituary in 'The Builder' in 1882

3. Seldown Gate

3.1 DESCRIPTION
The main vehicular entrance to the Park lies at its westernmost end and is flanked by two brick and terracotta gate piers. All the principal entrances to the Park have similar gate piers in varying configurations. All were constructed in 1888 by W H Gray, most probably to a design by the Borough Surveyor, John Elford. The terracotta detailing was produced by The South West Pottery.

The design comprises of a three course plinth of buff coloured terracotta, battered, with a scotia and torus moulding on the top course. A brick shaft with chamfered edges has inset terracotta bas relief panels depicting sea life including flat fish and eels. The band around the base of the capstone (terracotta) features relief modelling of three scallop shells on each face. The capstone itself, again terracotta, is formed of four sections. The underside has cartouche and scroll detailing with classical dolphins on each corner. On the summit an eagle perches on an outcrop of stylised rocks. The original iron gates were removed at the start of WWII.

3.2 CONDITION
The piers are in relatively good condition, possibly because of their orientation away from direct contact with either heavy traffic or the sea. The construction of the capstones in four sections has resulted in perpendicular joints that have been susceptible to weathering and there is some loss of pointing (which may have been a cementitious material) Holes remain in the plinth blocks where (railings?) may have originally been located. There is ivy growth on the more northerly pier which, although it appears not to have invaded joints in the capstone, may, if left, cause future damage. A small plaque (purpose indecipherable) has been screwed to the brick face of the southerly pier. There are the remains of original gate ironwork protruding from the brickwork which do not appear to be causing expansion damage as a result of oxidisation.

3.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
Although visually inoffensive, the ivy should be removed. Not all species cause damage to building materials but jacking open of joints on the capstone may occur if growth continues. Some minimal lime mortar re-pointing to the ceramic detailing would be prudent and consideration should be given to the removal of the redundant plaque and the filling of plug holes with lime mortar to match the brickwork. The unsightly hole in the plinth of the S pier should be repaired with matching mortar. The protruding hinge ironwork is the visible part of a large Y shaped fixing, bedded deep within the core of the pier. These protrusions should be carefully treated with a rust inhibitor but otherwise should be left undisturbed.

3. Seldown Gate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4. NORTHERNMOST PIER
5. SOUTHERNMOST PIER SHOWING SMALL (REDUNDANT) PLAQUE ON LOWER BRICKWORK
6. IVY GROWTH AROUND THE CAPSTONE OF NORTHERNMOST PIER
7. HOLE AND PERIPHERAL DAMAGE ON PLINTH OF SOUTHERNMOST PIER

4. Norton's Gate

4.1 DESCRIPTION

The westernmost pedestrian entrance to the Park (probably originally a vehicular access) faces the junction of Parkstone Road and Mount Pleasant Road and lies at the northern end of the short avenue from the fountain. The creation of the junction at the end of the 1960s resulted in the dismantling of the five original gate piers. The raising of the road level meant that the entrance was now over 1 metre above the existing avenue into the Park, requiring the construction of a (visually overpowering) flight of concrete steps down to the level of the paving. The gate piers were rebuilt at the beginning of the 1990s. Unfortunately it appears no elements of the originals remained so the new piers were constructed of a matching brick and the decorative features (a composite/concrete material) cast from the original designs. The (terracotta) eagles on the outside two piers were modelled from the original by the renowned potter and sculptor David Ballatyne. Copies of the original cast iron lampposts and glass globes top the three centre piers.

4.2 CONDITION

Being cast ceramics, the eagles have weathered well and are comparable to the originals at the other entrance gates. The composite material has weathered less well, the dyes used in the concrete to simulate the terracotta have discoloured in many places, resulting in a pinkish hue. The coarse open texture of the concrete plinth blocks has attracted pollutants and biotic growth.

4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Being only 25 years old, these piers are in relatively sound condition. Some gentle cleaning to remove moss growth on the capstones and discolouration of the plinths, coupled with a biocidal treatment might be considered. The new construction of the capstones has resulted in fewer vulnerable perpendicular joints but some re-pointing may be necessary.

4. Norton's Gate


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8. steps from the gate to the Park level
9. the five piers compliment the other original gates well
10. much of the composite cast material has developed an unfortunate pink bloom
11. unsightly moss accumulation and open joints on the capstones

5. MEMORIAL GATE

5.1 DESCRIPTION
A pedestrian entrance with two central and four flanking piers connected by iron railings, two iron pedestrian gates and large central iron gates incorporating commemorative crests. They are constructed of brick with Purbeck stone banding to mimic the design of the memorial itself, the two central piers displaying stylised elongated crosses in stone relief on the N and S elevations. Designed in 1927 by J. A. Allner, they frame the view down the avenue to the memorial (also by Allner, 1927).

5.2 CONDITION
Structurally sound, the piers have suffered mainly from the dulling effect of biotic growth and low level pollutants, due partly to their position underneath the adjacent trees and their proximity to the busy road. The Purbeck stone, being naturally coarse in texture, has accentuated this discolouration. There is evidence of some ivy growth on the piers.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
From a conservation stance, the piers require minimal intervention. Consideration could be given to a cleaning programme involving Doff or Thermatech superheated steam systems, combined with a benign biocidal treatment (thorough trials should be undertaken to safeguard the substrate material). Appropriate paint treatment of the ironwork would enhance the entrance in general.


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12. CENTRAL PIERS AND IRON GATES
13. BIOTIC GROWTH ON CENTRAL PIER

6. Middle Gate

6.1 DESCRIPTION
Although originally one of five vehicular entrance to the Park, Middle Gate was designed with a single carriage width (possibly because of existing structures limiting available space). Access from Parkstone road leads via a short avenue to the main vehicle junction within the Park. The four pier format consists of two central piers adorned by lamp fittings and two outer piers supporting the Jennings eagles. Again all iron gateware has been removed.

6.2 CONDITION
At first glance the piers seem to be in reasonable condition. Despite the turfed area extending to and nearly surrounding the bases, there is limited discolouration from biotic growth, although the most westerly pier is succumbing to ivy invasion because of its proximity to the hedging/shrubbery. There has been previous re-pointing of the brickwork with a cement mortar which, although not causing serious salt decay to the adjacent bricks, is unsightly. There is some damage/loss of material to the terracotta detailing both on the plinth blocks and the capstone decoration. Joints on the capstone have suffered from loss of pointing material. Several of the cast iron hinge and bracket (sic) fixings have been left in situ, some have been cut off flush to the brickwork (presumably to avoid injury to pedestrian users of the centre opening).

6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
Initial work should involve the re-pointing of the perpendicular capstone joints to reduce potential water ingress. Damage to the terracotta detailing could be repaired using a hydraulic lime mortar on armatures, mixed to colour match the substrate material. There is a reasonable case for the removal of the cement pointing on the brickwork and its replacement with a suitable lime mortar but extreme care would need to be taken to avoid damaging the bricks in the process. All remaining iron work should be cleaned and treated with a rust inhibitor but left in situ if deemed to be non hazardous to the public.
Consideration should be given to the removal of turf from, and paving of, the areas on the Park side of the piers. This would reduce the risk of water saturation around the bases, it would reduce the risk of damage from grass cutting/trimming equipment and may enhance the piers' appearance. Limited biocidal cleaning could be considered.

6. Middle Gate


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14. Middle gate viewed from Parkstone Road
15. Damage to the corner of the terracotta detailing and loss of pointing mortar on the capstone
16. Damage to the mouldings on the terracotta plinth blocks
17. Invasive ivy on the westernmost pier

7. East Gate

7.1 DESCRIPTION
One of the three major vehicular entrances to the Park, standing adjacent to the intersection of the Sandbanks and Parkstone roads. This is the only entrance whose configuration has been altered from the original, the centre pier of five having been removed early in the last century to improve traffic flow. As a result of this and its orientation on the busy junction the entrance suffers from disproportion and consequently, a less imposing quality than the other entrances. As with the other gates, iron lampposts and terracotta eagles adorn the remaining piers.

7.2 CONDITION
The piers are suffering from a low level discolouration, mainly due to lichen and algae growth but also as a result of their proximity to heavy traffic flow. A considerable amount of joint mortar has been lost both from the plinth blocks and the capstones. As on the Middle Gate piers, previous cement re-pointing is inappropriate, unsightly and in areas, failing. There is damage to the terracotta moulding on the decorative band below the several of the capstones and to detailing on the corners of the capstones themselves. Previous unsightly (cementitious) repair has been carried out to areas of damage on the plinth blocks. There is a distinct horizontal crack across the terracotta 'sealife' panel on the Park elevation of the inner east pier. Over the years, a haphazard approach to retaining or removing the redundant iron fixings has resulted in a variety of random shapes protruding from the brickwork. Considerable plant growth has established itself around the base of the lampposts and encroaching shrubbery may further disrupt/discolour the outer two piers.

7.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
Although the lichen biotic growth is not particularly threatening, all the piers would benefit from a low level clean (primarily with low pressure water spray and brush) to highlight the terracotta detailing. The plant growth around the lampposts should be removed and any stubborn root growth treated with a weedkiller. Consideration should be given to the removal of areas of cement pointing mortar and replacement with a lime based equivalent (naturally hydraulic lime mortar for low level or weathering surfaces). All damage to terracotta work should be addressed with plastic repair using a hydraulic lime mortar on fired clay armatures and the crack in the 'sealife' panel made good with the same mortar. A decision should be made on the retention or reduction in size of the remaining iron fixings and they should, if necessary, then be 'trimmed' with hand held hack saws, cleaned and treated with inhibitor. No attempt should be made to remove them completely.
The East gate suffers from its role as a primary entrance to the park and this is reflected in the proliferation of signage (fixed and temporary) around it. Metal signs should not be lent against the brickwork and care should be exercised when inserting and removing the traffic bollards to avoid damage to the pier plinths.

7. East Gate


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18. The impact of the east gates is slightly over shadowed by the 'no entry' signage on the Park side of the entrance
19. Plant growth on and corner damage to the terracotta capstones
20. loss of mortar in the plinth joints
21. horizontal crack across terracotta sealife panel

8. Whitecliff Gate

8.1 DESCRIPTION
Although it is the only original five pier gate format remaining (Norton Gate being a reconstruction), this is due mainly to restoration work in the late C20th. Located at the southern end of the Park, it is adjacent to the eastern edge of the boating lake. Unlike the East Gate, the retention of the centre pier makes it the only gate with two narrow vehicle entrance/exits. Its position also gives it a more visible and unencumbered presence. Construction and decoration of the piers is identical to those at other gates. The westernmost pier was struck by a car in early 2015 and completely demolished. Its repair and reconstruction using nearly all the original elements was undertaken by ourselves over the past year (see appendix).

8.2 CONDITION
Despite their close proximity to the salt water of the boating lake, the gate piers show little evidence of salt decay in the brickwork. As with the other gates, loss of jointing mortar is an issue, both on the ceramic work and in parts of the brickwork. There is evidence that the narrow carriageways have resulted in damage to the plinth blocks from vehicle impact. Marine environment plants have rooted themselves around some of the capstones and there is lichen growth on some of the capstone pieces. The remaining ironwork is, as with the other gates, random and without any obvious reference to its original purpose. The C20th work obviously substituted different materials for a number of elements – although there appear to be original ceramic sections alongside recent replacement terracotta pieces - resulting in something of a patchwork effect in some of the detailing. Other composite (concrete) replacements are of a very different texture and mineral composition to the remaining original terracotta work, resulting in mineral discolouration and the accumulation of pollutants in their more porous surfaces.

8.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
Re-pointing of failed joints and inappropriate mortar should be carried out. Some repair work to the terracotta could be undertaken. Plant and growth removal with appropriate biocidal treatment is recommended. Consideration should be given to restricting vehicle speed through the entrances to minimise the risk of minor collision with the piers. Unfortunately the options for minimising the discordant appearance of the former restorative work are limited and it should be viewed as honest evidence of these previous interventions.

8. Whitecliff Gate


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22. View from the south, showing the now rebuilt westernmost pier
23. Plant growth established in the capstone jointing
24 and 25. Clear visual discrepancy between replacement terracotta and cast concrete/composite elements

9. Seldown lodge

9.1 DESCRIPTION
The lodge is a fine two storey brick and terracotta structure to the south of what was the main entrance to the Park, currently used as accommodation for Council staff. Constructed between 1888 and 1889, the lodge served both as staff accommodation and the location of facilities such as a ladies' waiting room (an absolute necessity whilst the gentlemen took exercise in the Park....). Each elevation boasts extensive ceramic detailing including window hood moulds with stiff leaf label stops, quoins and, angled on the west corner, a ground floor square bay window with a decorated parapet. As well as a roundel displaying the date of construction, this elevation also displays a Gothic-style plaque commemorating the opening of the Park by the Prince of Wales and listing the names of the attendant aldermen and councillors.
On the south elevation there is an impressive circular terracotta panel, some 1.5m in diameter, displaying the armorial bearings of the Borough of Poole. There are decorated terracotta cappings and pots on the northernmost chimney stack. To the rear of the lodge there is a stable yard, entered through gates with piers adorned with ceramic ball finials.

9.2 CONDITION
Overall, the lodge appears to be in relatively sound condition (this report cannot attest to its structural integrity). The most significant details (the commemorative plaque and the armorial) are in good condition with no damage or staining. There is disruption and loss of bedding and pointing mortar on the joints of the corner bay parapet, the SW corner quoins and the stable yard gate piers. There is no visible evidence of settlement, jacking or stress in the former, in the case of the latter there is evidence of vehicle damage to the glazed brickwork plinth and plant growth disruption around the capstone. There is some plant growth from the base of the N chimney pots. The south gable elevation has relatively recently been re-pointed with a cement mortar that appears to be performing well. An unsightly void and radiating cracking in one of the SW quoins has possibly been caused by the past insertion of a ferrous? fixing.
Rain water goods appear in reasonable condition but paintwork is failing in several places. Paintwork on the timber elements is, in many places, in poor condition.

9.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
Removal of any failed pointing and re-pointing with an appropriate lime mortar (see Specifications Section 15). Any plant growth should be removed and any inaccessible root systems treated with systemic weedkiller. The caps and finials on the stableyard gate piers should be checked for stability. Loose elements should be removed, cleaned and re-set in lime mortar. The parapet above the corner bay should also be checked for stability and loose elements re-set as above. Any holes/excavations in the terracotta work should be filled with colour matched mortar. Re-decoration of the cast iron rainwater goods and timber elements would benefit the appearance of the building and help prolong their integrity and that of the surrounding materials.

9. Seldown lodge


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26. West elevation of the lodge
27. Armorial roundel on the south elevation
28. Terracotta stiff leaf label stop
29. Parapet over corner bay showing open perpendicular joints between copings

9. Seldown lodge


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30. Hole left by previous fixing in terracotta quoin (SW corner)
31. Plant growth on northernmost chimney stack
32. Disruption to capstone on stableyard gate pier
33. Vehicle? Damage to plinth on stableyard gate pier

10. East gate lodge

10.1 DESCRIPTION
A charming single storey gate lodge next to the East Gate entrance, built in 1888 as accommodation for the head gardener, to designs by John Elford. It is currently occupied/leased by The Richmond Fellowship, a mental health charity. As with the other structures in the survey, it is constructed in brick with glazed and plain terracotta detailing. L shaped in plan, with a five panel canted bay window to the east and a square bay, angled on the southeast corner. It has had a small extension added to the west (rear) and may have had original chimney pots removed. As with Seldown Lodge the simplicity of design is complemented by the rich terracotta ornamentation which includes quoins, bay window jambs, mullions and transoms, and label stops and corbels in the style of medieval stiff leaf carving. There is also an ornate ceramic scrolled panel on the north elevation celebrating the donation of the land for the Park by Lord (Baron) Wimborne the design of the Park by John Elford.

10.2 CONDITION
The building is in relatively good condition and has been by no means neglected. It has however been allowed to shrink from prominence, mainly because of unsympathetic alteration and, currently, excessive plant growth around the east and north elevations (the inscription panel is almost obscured from view). Dense growth around the canted bay window and soil levels rising above the air bricks may prevent adequate ventilation and impede drainage away from the walls (ivy, although not directly harmful to the brick surfaces, can invade joints where pointing has failed or between timberwork and eventually cause expansion damage). There is loss of facing on many of the (newer) bricks on the west extension. There is unsightly damage to the weathering underside of the terracotta sill on the south window (due perhaps to frost or impact). On the north elevation some of the terracotta plinth weathering course is missing. There is considerable loss of mortar around the joints of the inscription panel and the surrounding window and some slight cracking to the surface of the panel itself. Jointing between the timber window frames and the terracotta surrounds has failed in some windows and been replaced by scrunched up paper.
The rainwater goods appear in good condition. Paint work on the soffits is badly deteriorated with extensive blistering and peeling. There is some slight distortion of the leaded lights on the bay windows.

10.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
A programme of re-pointing all failed joints should be considered. Damaged bricks and terracotta work would benefit from limited repair in matching lime mortar. Plant growth around the north elevation and underneath the east bay window should be cut back, the soil level lowered and appropriate drainage considered. Some care should be taken to clean and repair the fine cracking on the inscription panel and consideration given to clearing the plants obscuring it from view. A programme of paint re-decoration should be considered for the timber elements including window frames, soffits and corbelled brackets around the canted bay.

10. East gate lodge


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34. View from the southeast
35. North elevation window and commemorative inscription panel
36. Failed mortar in joints around the inscription panel
37. Subtle use of paper around window frames
38. Damage to window sill on south elevation
39. Excessive plant growth around canted bay window

11. SLUICE GATE PIERS

11.1 DESCRIPTION
The gate piers on the northern or lakeside end of the sluice are in effect now redundant. Their name is misleading since the gates they supported were mainly a safety feature for the control of pleasure boat access to the sluice. The original sluice gate and the newer C20th mechanisms lie underneath the foot bridge and the railway line. The piers are of a simple brick design with terracotta cappings.

11.2 CONDITION
The piers are in poor cosmetic condition and may have some structural issues. Their appearance is not enhanced by the unappealing railings of the footbridge behind and the overgrown banks and old fencing to the sides. There is considerable loss of jointing mortar on both, especially at lower (water) levels and some missing and loose bricks on the easternmost pier. Concrete rendering at water level is cracked and may be detaching. Original hinge locations are now unsightly holes. The cappings on each consist of five sections and pointing has failed on most joints allowing water ingress to the core. One section of capping on the east pier is missing and has been replaced with a completely mismatched brick and render repair (which does appear to be structurally sound). There is considerable plant growth around both piers and it is likely that root systems have invaded the cores of both.

11.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
More investigation into the integrity of the piers is advisable. The loss of the gates themselves has probably lessened the stresses imposed but repair work should only proceed if the piers are deemed to be structurally sound. All plant growth should be removed and the piers treated thoroughly with an (environmentally suitable) biocide. Repair or replacement of render and pointing at and below water level should be carried out using a natural cement. Other failed brick work mortar should be re-pointed with an eminently hydraulic lime mortar (NHL 5). The capstones should be re-pointed and cleaned and consideration should be given to replacing the missing section on the east pier with either a cast ceramic or stone substitute. A comprehensive risk assessment must be undertaken before any further work on the piers.

11. Sluice gate piers

40. The westernmost pier
41. The east pier showing missing capstone, failed and missing brickwork and damaged waterline render
42. The west pier capping
43. The east pier capping showing the missing section

12. War memorial

12.1 DESCRIPTION
Designed by J.A. Allner and unveiled in 1927, the memorial is an elegant structure with a visual impact that differs when viewed from the land or the water. It was listed as a Grade II monument in 2009. When entering through the Memorial Gates the cross is viewed at the end of a pathway as a bold image against the water and sky. It is visible as an equally strong landmark from nearly every point around the lake.
Its design departs from many of the country's monuments and the choice of materials enhances its graceful form. A brick obelisk shaft supports an elongated stylised cross and irregular banding in Purbeck stone with carved dolphins and shells adorning the top. The simplicity of design extends to the inscription – raised lettering around the base - THEY DIED THAT WE MAY LIVE WE WILL REMEMBER THEM. '1914-1918' is inscribed on the north side above the lettering with '1939-1945' added on the south. The podium is formed of two octagonal brick step plinths and is set on a raised terrace of brick and flag paving, enclosed within a low circular brick wall. There are four accesses through the wall with two steps leading down to ground level where an assortment of flagstone and crazed paving surrounds and leads to and from the Memorial.

12.2 CONDITION
The Memorial obelisk is in reasonable condition given the coastal environment. There is some slight loss of pointing mortar on the brick work (mainly at the corner arrises) and on a few of the stone joints. As would be expected there is little pollutant staining but there is considerable lichen growth on the stonework at the top of the cross, where there also appears to be a slight area of damage to the end of the west horizontal member. There is a severe fissure across the north of the brick terrace, the hard cement grouting/pointing causing the bricks as well as the joints to crack. This may be due to some slight settlement but there is nothing to indicate major disruption. A smaller fracture can be seen just to the south of the podium steps. The brickwork around the Memorial is in reasonable condition but there are some areas of lost pointing. The flag and crazed paving is unsightly but not in poor condition.

12.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
Normally one would advocate as little invasive cleaning as possible and the Memorial is not greatly stained or discoloured but it may benefit from a benign steam based cleaning programme such as the Thermotech or Doff processes. This would remove the unsightly lichen and restore brightness to the Purbeck stone. Limited re-pointing should be undertaken to the obelisk shaft and cross with care taken not to damage brick and stone arrisses during the removal of old mortar. Any damage to the Purbeck stone should be repaired using a matching hydraulic lime mortar. The brick terrace may also benefit from cleaning using the same steam based method as the cross and again careful re-pointing is recommended. Any fractured bricks should be removed and replaced with a durable and suitable match. It is not within the scope of this report to advise on the aesthetic of the subject but it is debatable whether the landscaping around the Memorial suitably enhances its intended impact.

12. War memorial


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44. View from the south (lakeside)
45. View from the north (inside the memorial gates)
46. Lichen build-up around the top of the cross (slight stone damage also visible)
47. Cracking across the brick terrace (north end)

12. War memorial


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48. Slight loss of pointing on purbeck stonework
49. Open joint between brick shaft and stone cross
50. Corner erosion of pointing
51. Cracking and loss of pointing to the south of the Memorial base

13. Burma star/Mountbatten memorial

13.1 DESCRIPTION
As part of the original 1927 scheme, the raised rose bed on the path from the memorial gates acts as a visual pointer to the War Memorial itself. A small angled plaque at its south end was erected after WWII and is dedicated to the Burma Star Association. In the centre of the bed is a truncated obelisk (in what appears to be Purbeck stone) dedicated to Earl Mountbatten, dating from the 1980s. Around this time the dwarf wall copings were replaced with a rustic dogtooth scheme designed to deter the public from sitting.

13.2 CONDITION
From a conservation point of view, the bed and memorials are in good condition (the use of cement mortars having little detrimental effect on the stonework thus far).

13.3 RECOMMENDATIONS
A consensus suggests that the dogtooth 'copings' are at least unsightly and at worst unsuitable for a memorial and, as later alterations, are questionable as worthy of the Park's listed status. Although outside the scope of this report, consideration could be given to their replacement with a more aesthetically appropriate design in keeping with the reflective atmosphere of the Memorial 'avenue'.


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52. View south along the rosebed towards the war memorial
53. The mountbatten obelisk

14. SUMMARY

The brief of this report was principally to highlight any conservation issues with the specified structures within the Park. Although the connecting factors are their significance, design and materials, they are varied in their function and construction. One size fits all specification is not appropriate but at the very least a holistic programme of mortar repair/re-pointing should be applied to them all.
Although there is no major disruption to any of the structures, ongoing damage or decay due to environmental conditions cannot be ruled out and any work carried out should always be regarded as merely one part of the process of care, with future maintenance being as important a component.

The terracotta elements of the structures are as deceptive in their composition as they are attractive in appearance. Although the ceramic gives the impression of strength and has withstood the ravages of time better than many alternative materials, it has been vulnerable to frost and impact damage and has in some cases expanded/contracted, causing distortion of form. Care should be taken when repairing (the ceramic is relatively brittle and at risk from impact drilling) and repair media should be suitably sacrificial as to avoid further loss of the original material.

The remains of the ironwork in the gate piers are significant. In some cases where previous attempts at removal have been somewhat crude, careful 'tidying' of the remains should be undertaken. All intact latches, keeps and hinge elements should be retained and treated with rust inhibitor. The proportion of the hinges buried deep within the structures is considerable. No attempt should be made to extract them.

Cleaning of the structures should be non aggressive. The use of high pressure water is not recommended due to the risk of water ingress to the core of the structures and damage to vulnerable detail. Acid based cleaners must not be used. Only approved biocides and systemic weedkillers (glyphosate) are appropriate.

The concept of conservation as applied to the Parks structures is, as with the principle in general, complex. The recommendations for action vary for each subject but are fundamentally based on the need to prevent further decay (conserve) with secondary motives being repairing damage (restore) and cleaning (renovate). Re-decoration, although suggested on some of the structures, is a subjective choice and is intended as a protective as much as an aesthetic measure. Specification and costing for paint re-decoration is *not* included below and should be sought from a specialist contractor.
These recommendations (and specifications outlined below) are hopefully intended to both prolong the life of the subjects and return some the prominence and impact they once had and should in future have.

15. SPECIFICATIONS

Cleaning

Heavy biotic staining and growth on brick and terracotta work Biotic growth on concrete elements Biotic growth on natural stonework	Super heated steam (Doff or ThermaTech)
Heavy biotic staining on terracotta work	Low pressure water and brush (+ biocide)
Heavy lichen growth on all materials	Dry bristle brushing

Re-pointing mortar

Terracotta elements
1 x NHL2 (sheltered areas)/NHL3.5 (exposed areas)
1 x Wareham washed sand
1 x Frith End yellow sand

Brickwork
1 x NHL2 (sheltered areas)/NHL3.5 (exposed areas)
1.5 x Wareham washed sand
0.5 x Portland (0r Bath) stone dust <600 microns

NB. Pointing mortar colours and textures may vary and trials are advisable

Terracotta repair mortar

3 x NHL2 (sheltered areas)/NHL3.5 (exposed areas)
2 x Silver sand/Wareham washed (fine/coarse)
2 x Bath stone dust <1.18 mm
1 x Guiting stone dust < 600 microns
1 x Ham stone dust < 600 microns
or
2 x NHL2 (sheltered areas)/NHL3.5 (exposed areas)
2 x Shorncote sand
1 x Bath stone dust < 600 microns
1 x Silver sand/Wareham washed (fine/coarse)

Armatures

316 (marine grade) stainless steel	Low level (vulnerable)
Nimty fired ceramic 'T's	High level

16. Estimate of costs

As with all conservation work there is a level of uncertainty when estimating the cost of remedial work that is only clarified when all damaged or decayed material is removed and the original proposals prove sufficient. The estimates below are general figures based on the initial (visual) evidence in the survey. Steam system cleaning on any structures other than those where it is specifically suggested would increase costs. As stated above re-decoration costs are not covered.
Some provision is made for scaffold access (eg. War Memorial and sluice gate piers) however accurate costs would depend on contractors' assessments.

To implement the recommendations proposed in:-

Section 3	£675
Section 4	£1700
Section 5	£1500
Section 6	£1500 (not including suggested landscaping)
Section 7	£1900
Section 8	£1900 (not including speed restriction measures)
Section 9	£4850
Section 10	£3750 (not including suggested landscaping)
Section 11	£5750
Section 12	£7600 (not including landscaping)
Section 13	This figure would depend on design alterations to the subject

TOTAL £31125

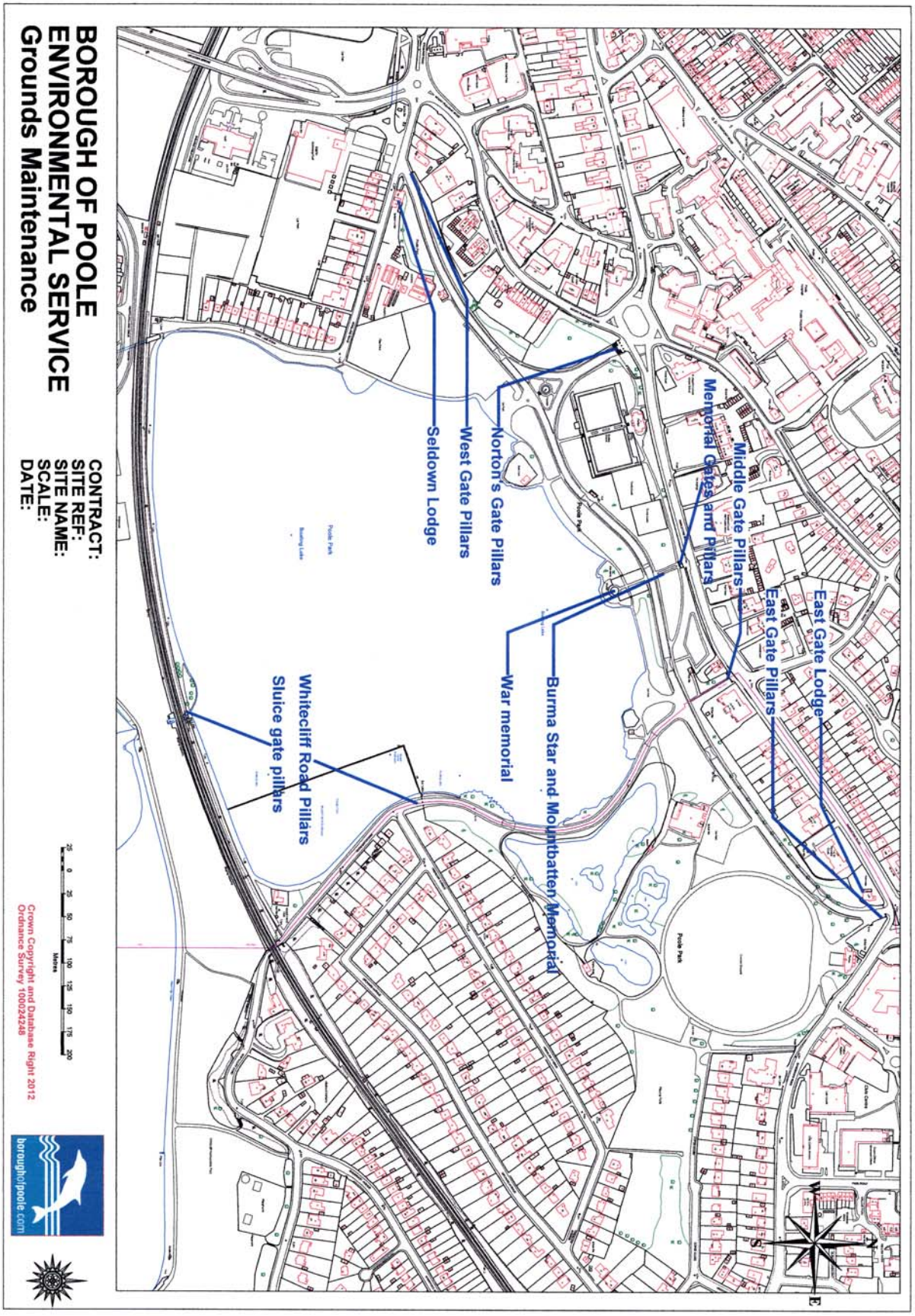
17. Appendices

i Location map

ii EH listing entry for poole park

iii EH Listing entry for poole war memorial

iv Conservation report on the reconstruction of the westcliff gate pier


BOROUGH OF POOLE
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE
Grounds Maintenance
CONTRACT:
SITE REF:
SITE NAME:
SCALE:
DATE:
Seldown Lodge
West Gate Pillars
Norton's Gate Pillars
Memorial Gates and Pillars
Middle Gate Pillars
East Gate Pillars
East Gate Lodge
Burma Star and Mountbatten Memorial
War memorial
Whitecliff Road Pillars
Sluice gate pillars
Poole Park
Boating Lake
Crown Copyright and Database Right 2012
Ordnance Survey 100024246
boroughofpoole.com

Poole Park - List Entry Summary

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest.

Name: POOLE PARK
List entry Number: 1001588

Location

The garden or other land may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County:
District: Poole
District Type: Unitary Authority
Parish:
National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.
Grade: II
Date first registered: 06-Feb-2002
Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: Parks and Gardens
UID: 5067

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

Summary of Garden

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

A late C19 public park laid out to a design by the Borough Surveyor, John Elford.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT
During the C19 the town of Poole expanded, with new residential suburbs being developed to the east of the medieval and C18 town and port. In April 1885 Lord Wimborne presented land and a salt-water lake adjacent to Parkstone Bay for the purpose of creating a 'People's Park and Recreation Ground' (Council Minutes, 1885) to serve these new residential areas. This land is shown on a survey of c 1885 (Waterfront Museum). Negotiations with Lord Wimborne continued throughout 1885, with agreement being reached for the construction of roads on the east and west sides of the lake (Council Minutes, 1885). A tidal sluice was constructed in the railway embankment by the Dorset Iron Foundry Co in February 1886, while the design for an arched subway beneath the railway embankment for the use of carriages was also approved (Council Minutes, 1886).

In October 1886 the Baths and Recreation Committee reported that designs for the proposed park had been submitted, of which the best were those by Robert Veitch and Son of Exeter, and Reginald Upcher of Poole, who later designed Morrab Gardens, Penzance (qv) in 1888; these plans do not appear to survive. The following year, in

October 1887, the Borough Surveyor, John Elford, reported that neither of the selected plans for the park was capable of implementation and advised that his own revised plan, presumably incorporating elements from the Veitch and Upcher plans, should be adopted (Council Minutes, 1887). Work on the construction of the park progressed throughout 1888: the contract for landscaping was awarded to Veitch of Exeter, earthworks were undertaken by J C Rigler of Poole, and fences were supplied by W J Bacon. Ornamental gate piers were built by W H Gray, and cast-iron gates supplied by E Howell (Council Minutes, 1888). Tenders for the erection of the lodges, bandstand, shelter, cricket pavilion, and drinking fountain from J C Rigler were accepted in July 1888 (ibid), while planting of the park by Mr Ingram began in October 1888 (ibid). Further work including planting of shrubs supplied by David Stewart took place in October 1889, while Mr Rigler constructed a rustic bridge at a cost of £22 5s 0d (Council Minutes, 1889). The park was formally opened by the Prince of Wales on 18 January 1890. The ceremony scheduled to take place in a temporary pavilion in the park had to be cancelled due to storm damage, and instead took place in the waiting room at Poole Station prior to the Prince's departure (Borough of Poole 1989). Work on the completion of the park continued throughout 1890, with one of the last features, the cricket ground, being completed early in 1892 (Council Minutes, 1892).

Today (2002), Poole Park retains its late C19 plan and many original features including the circuit of drives and walks, the lodges, and structural planting. Several new features were created during the C20 including the war memorial of 1927, an ice-cream kiosk of striking Modern Movement plan (c 1922), and a new park pavilion (1960). The late C19 bandstand was removed during the 1930s, its site being taken c 1992 by a cast-iron fountain. The layout of several of the park entrances was altered during the mid C20 to ease the flow of vehicular traffic; some restoration was undertaken in the late C20. Poole Park remains (2002) in municipal ownership.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Poole Park is situated c 1km north-east of the Old Town of Poole, and immediately south-west of the C20 Civic Centre. The c 45ha site is bounded to the north by the A360, Parkstone Road and by C19 and C20 domestic properties. The boundary adjacent to Parkstone Road is closed by a late C20 wrought-iron fence, while the boundaries adjacent to domestic properties are fenced and planted with mixed belts of trees and ornamental shrubbery. To the north-west the park adjoins properties on the B3093, Mount Pleasant Road and Kingland Road, from which it is separated by hedges and fences. The western boundary is formed by early C20 properties to the west of Park Lake Road, while to the south the site is separated from the Baiter Recreation Ground and nature reserve by a mid C19 railway embankment; this serves as a dam to retain the salt-water lake in the park. To the east and south-east the site adjoins mid and late C20 domestic properties in Copse Close, Twemlow Avenue, and Orchard Avenue, while to the north-east the boundary is formed by the A35, Sandbanks Road which separates the park from the 1930s' Civic Centre. The site is generally level with extensive views from the principal walks and drives across the salt-water lake, and to the wooded Constitution Hill c 1km north-east of the site. There are also views south-west across Poole Harbour to the Purbeck Hills. To the west, adjacent to the boundary with Kingland Road, the ground is formed into a mound from which there are extensive views east and north across the park. Mature trees and shrubbery planted along the northern boundary of the site substantially screen adjacent late C19 and C20 properties.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES Three vehicular entrances provide access to Poole Park from the west, north, and south-east. The western or Seldown Gate entrance, leading from Kingland Road at a point c 50m east of its junction with Mount Pleasant Road, is marked by a pair of elaborate brick and terracotta gate piers, each comprising a rusticated stone base, a brick shaft inset with terracotta relief panels showing fish, and a moulded terracotta cap surmounted by a terracotta eagle set on a rocky base. Each principal entrance to the park is marked by groups of similar gate piers which were constructed in 1888 by W H Gray (Council Minutes, 1888), probably to the design of the Borough Surveyor, John Elford, with terracotta ornaments by George Jennings of the South Western Pottery, Parkstone (Gillespies 2000). The original design for the Seldown entrance, and the other principal entrances, incorporated a symmetrical arrangement of five gate piers, two of which supported standard gas lamps, together with cast-iron gates decorated with the arms of the Borough of Poole. The gates were removed c 1939. To the south of the Seldown Gate entrance stands the late C19 two-storey Seldown Lodge. Constructed in brick with extensive terracotta ornament, the Lodge incorporates adjacent to the front door a Gothic-style terracotta panel commemorating the opening of the park by the Prince of Wales in January 1890, and on the south gable facing Kingland Road a terracotta panel showing the armorial bearings of the Borough of Poole. Immediately south-east of the Lodge is a contemporary stable and cart yard which is entered from Kingland Road through a pair of timber gates supported by tall brick piers surmounted by terracotta ball finials. From the Seldown Gate entrance the Park Drive extends c 900m parallel to the northern boundary of the park to reach the East Gate entrance which is situated adjacent to the junction of Parkstone Road and Sandbanks Road, immediately west of the Civic Centre. The East Gate entrance retains four of its original five brick and terracotta gate piers, two of which support ornamental cast-iron lamp standards; the central pier was removed to ease traffic flow in the early C20 (P Hillman pers comm, 2002). To the west of the entrance stands East Gate Lodge, a single-storey brick and terracotta structure which incorporates a canted bay window to the east and a square bay to the south. The north facade adjacent to Parkstone Road incorporates a terracotta panel with an inscription recording the donation of the site of the park by Lord Wimborne and its design by John Elford. Some 400m south-west of the East Gate entrance a further carriage drive leads c 270m south-east to reach the Whitecliff Road entrance which comprises five brick and terracotta gate piers; these were restored to the original plan in the late C20. To the south of this entrance, Whitecliff Road extends c 270m south-east to an arched subway which allows the road to pass beneath the railway embankment. The subway bridge, constructed in 1886 as part of the scheme for developing the park, is the effective entrance to the park from the south-east (Council Minutes, 1886).

In addition to the three present vehicular entrances to the park, three further formal entrances, two of which were formerly used for vehicular access, are situated on the northern boundary of the park. Norton's Gate, at the north-west corner of the park adjacent to the junction of Mount Pleasant Road and Parkstone Road, comprises five brick, terracotta, and concrete gate piers. These piers were rebuilt c 1990 to replace the original late C19 piers which were

demolished in the 1960s. A flight of late C20 concrete steps descends from Norton's Gate allowing pedestrian access to the level of the park. Some 240m east of Norton's Gate, the War Memorial Gates comprise a pair of ornamental wrought-iron gates supported by a pair of tall brick and stone piers flanked by a pair of wrought-iron pedestrian gates which are supported by similar, shorter brick and stone piers. The War Memorial Gates were constructed to the design of James Allner in 1927, and were never used for vehicular access to the park. Bird's Hill or Middle Gate Entrance c 130m east of the War Memorial Gates is today (2002) a pedestrian entrance; it retains its late C19 plan with four brick and terracotta gate piers, the central pair of which support ornamental cast-iron lamp standards.

There are further informal entrances to the park from Park Lake Road to the south-west, Copse Close to the north-east, Sandbanks Road to the north, and Park Lake Road to the south-west.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS The pleasure grounds are laid out to the north and north-east of the extensive salt-water lake which occupies c 22ha at the centre of the site. The salt-water lake is irregular in outline with early C20 concrete edging; it was developed from an existing tidal lake when the park was laid out by Elford in 1886?90. To the north-east of the salt-water lake, and separated from it by Park Drive, are two informal fresh-water lakes. The larger, southern lake formed part of Elford's scheme (1887), although its outline was altered to its present form in 1890-1 (Council Minutes, 1890). An arm leading north-east from the main lake is crossed by a mid C20 brick and concrete bridge which replaced a rustic bridge commissioned from Mr Rigler in 1889 (Council Minutes, 1889) which had been destroyed by enemy action during the Second World War. The smaller, northern fresh-water lake contains two islands; although not shown on Elford's plan (1887), the smaller lake had assumed its present form by 1892 (Gillespies 2000). The margins of the fresh-water lakes are planted with mixed ornamental trees and shrubs, while a miniature railway forms a circuit round the southern lake. Constructed in the mid 1930s, the railway was restored in 1949. The area to the east of the lakes which is today laid to grass was developed in 1912-13 with a group of aviaries housing exotic waterfowl; these were replaced in 1963 by a small zoological garden which continued in existence until the late C20 (ibid).

The Park Drive, a carriage drive 24' (c 6m) wide, bordered on each side by a footpath, extends east from the Seldown Gate entrance parallel to the northern boundary of the park and to the north of the salt-water lake. The drive connects Seldown Gate entrance to the west, Norton's Gate and Bird's Hill Gate to the north, and East Gate entrance to the north-east and the various facilities within the park. It was a principal feature of Elford's scheme for the park and is shown on his plan (1887). The drive is partly planted with mature horse chestnuts and is bordered by lawns, with ornamental planting generally concentrated to its north. Immediately east of Seldown Lodge areas of lawn and beds for seasonal planting adjoin the south side of the drive. Some 130m north-east of the Lodge a late C20 public convenience incorporates salvaged late C19 materials. Of late C19 design with a circular turret to the north, the toilets are set within a metal-railed enclosure. Gently sloping lawns descend south-east from the drive towards the lake, while c 100m south an artificial mound is enclosed within late C20 metal railings and laid out as a children's play area. To the west mature trees and shrubs screen the nursery area. The mound formed part of Elford's scheme for the park (plan, 1887), and was originally surmounted by a summerhouse approached by curvilinear walks.

The drive continues c 130m north-east to reach a junction with an avenue of horse chestnuts which leads c 120m north-north-west to Norton's Gate. A triangular lawn at the centre of this junction surrounds a circular stone-edged basin containing a two-tier cast-iron fountain of C19 design. The fountain was donated to the park by Lord Wimborne c 1992 and occupies the site of a late C19 bandstand which was removed during the 1930s (P Hillman pers comm, 2002). To the south of the fountain, and on the axis of the avenue leading to Norton's Gate, a further drive extends to an area of car park on the lake-edge which occupies one of Elford's landing stages (plan, 1887). A significant reciprocal vista extends from Norton's Gate south-east along the chestnut avenue to the lake.

The Park Drive continues east of the fountain, passing to the south of an artificially levelled terrace which supports two bowling greens. Surrounded by ornamental shrubbery, the bowling greens were constructed in 1909 and 1930 on the site of late C19 tennis courts (plan, 1887). To the south of the bowling greens a flight of steps descends to lawns adjoining the Park Drive, while to the north further steps ascend to a terrace and late C20 pavilion which replaces a brick and timber pavilion of c 1930 (Borough of Poole 1989). East of the bowling green hard-surfaced tennis courts occupy the site of tennis lawns shown on Elford's plan (1887), while to the south-east, immediately adjoining the drive, is an ice-cream kiosk of distinctive Modern Movement design. Originally planned in 1922, this single-storey concrete structure appears not to have been built until c 1945 (Gillespies 2000). Some 130m east of the bowling greens the Park Drive passes the early C20 war memorial which is aligned on the War Memorial Gates to the north. The memorial scheme comprises a flight of stone steps descending from the Memorial Gates to a low raised rectangular rose bed retained by a rustic stone wall and surrounded by crazy-paved walks. A low stone obelisk at the centre of the rose bed commemorating Earl Mountbatten of Burma was erected in 1980. To the south of the Park Drive the memorial scheme is continued by an axial walk which passes between panels of lawn set with circular beds for seasonal planting to reach a circular raised terrace supporting a slender tapering brick and stone cruciform obelisk. Stone steps descend from the circular terrace to the shore of the salt-water lake. The war memorial was constructed to the design of James Allner in 1927 on the site of a lake-side shrubbery which is shown on Elford's plan (1887).

East of the war memorial the Park Drive passes to the south of a mid C20 rose garden comprising geometric beds set in panels of lawn enclosed by beech hedges. Some 130m east-north-east of the memorial the drive divides, with one branch leading south-east between the salt-water lake and fresh-water lake to reach the Whitecliff entrance, and the other branch extending north-east to the East Gate entrance. The line of the Park Drive is continued south of the Whitecliff entrance by Whitecliff Road which is bordered to the west by the Model Yacht Enclosure. Separated from the salt-water lake by a concrete walkway, the Model Yacht Enclosure was constructed in 1952. A timber clubhouse stands among mature trees and shrubbery at the south-east corner of the enclosure, adjacent to a walk which extends from Whitecliff Road along the north side of the railway embankment which retains the salt-water lake. Some 270m south-west of Whitecliff Road the lakeside walk crosses the tidal sluice on a C20 metal bridge which replaces a late

C19 timber structure (Gillespies 2000). The late C19 sluice is set in an ornamental brick structure with terracotta dressings. Immediately west of the sluice a semicircular bastion projects into the lake and is planted with a group of

trees. This corresponds to Elford's scheme for 'naturalising' the margins of the lake (plan, 1887). The lakeside walk continues c 400m west of the sluice to reach Park Lake Road which returns c 270m north along the west side of the lake to re-enter the park at the east end of Kingland Road.
The Park Drive is adjoined to the north by mixed shrubbery and specimen trees, while to the south of East Gate Lodge it is bordered by a mid C20 rockery. Opposite the Lodge an early C20 stone pedimented structure with an arched niche formerly contained a drinking fountain; its design echoes that of the facade of the 1930s' Civic Centre which is visible outside the park to the north-east. East Gate entrance is adjoined by areas of lawn with geometric beds for seasonal planting. Some 120m south-east of the entrance the late C19 cricket pavilion comprises a single-storey structure with a verandah supported by cast-iron columns and balustrades. The pavilion formed part of Elford's design for the park and was completed c 1890; it was restored in 2001-2. To the south of the pavilion the cricket pitch is enclosed by a circular bicycle track which formed a principal feature of Elford's scheme for the park (plan, 1887). Some 240m south-west of the pavilion the Swan Lake Cafe stands at the north-west tip of the southern fresh-water lake. Surrounded by a group of mature pines and other specimen trees and ornamental shrubbery, the single-storey flat-roofed cafe was constructed in 1960 to replace an earlier refreshment pavilion which stood on a site to the north. The site occupied by the present cafe was designed by Elford as a children's gymnasium (plan, 1887). Some 270m south-east of the cricket pavilion a level area laid out with sports pitches (1934, 1957) extends c 250m east from the line of the late C19 park boundary. The park extension was acquired by gift and purchase in the late C19 (Gillespies 2000).

OTHER LAND The Park Nursery is situated to the south-east of Seldown Gate Lodge and is approached from Kingland Road. The irregularly shaped area is separated from the park by hedges, and retains several mid and late C20 glasshouses and other structures. The nursery is today (2002) in separate management, but remains in horticultural use. It occupies the site identified on Elford's plan (1887) for a nursery, but extends further north than envisaged by Elford. It had assumed its present area by 1933 (OS).

REFERENCES
Kelly's Directory for Dorsetshire (1935) Poole Park The People's Park, management plan and historical survey, (Borough of Poole 1989) Poole Park Historic Landscape Restoration Feasibility Study, management plan, (Gillespies 2000)

Maps Plan of Land situate in the Tithing of Parkstone in the Parish of Canford Magna in the County of Dorset Given by the Right Honorable Lord Wimborne to the Corporation of the Borough of Poole For a People's Park, c 1885 (Waterfront Museum, Poole) J Elford, Plan of a Public Park in the Tithing of Parkstone in the Town & County of the Borough of Poole as Proposed to be Laid Out by the Council of the Borough of Poole, 1887 (Waterfront Museum, Poole)

OS 6" to 1 mile: 1938 edition OS 25" to 1 mile: 2nd edition published 1902 1933 edition

Illustrations Late C19 and early C20 postcard views of Poole Park (private collection) Late C19 and early C20 photographs and postcard views of Poole Park (reproduced in Gillespies 2000)

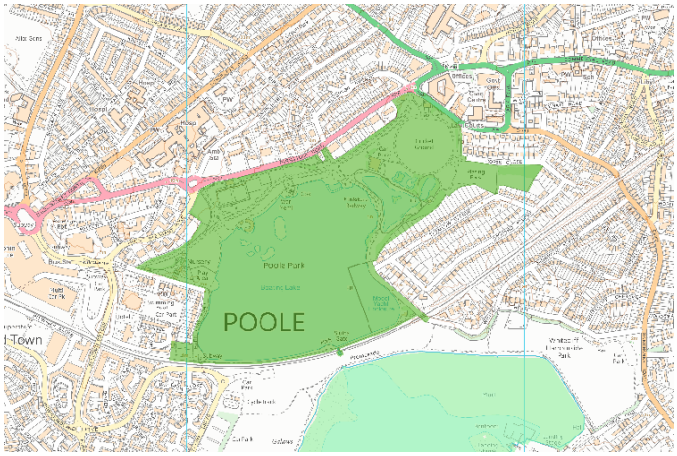
Archival items Poole Borough Council Minutes, 1883-97 (DC/PL: B1), (Dorset Record Office)

Description written: January 2002 Register Inspector: JML Edited: January 2003

Selected Sources
Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details

National Grid Reference: SZ 02450 90962

Map



This copy shows the entry on 13-Oct-2015 at 06:51:23.

Historic England 2015

Poole Municipal War Memorial, Poole

DESCRIPTION: Poole Municipal War Memorial

GRADE: II
DATE LISTED: 22 September 2009
ENGLISH HERITAGE BUILDING ID: 506402

OS GRID REFERENCE: SZ0231191154
OS GRID COORDINATES: 402311, 91154
LATITUDE/LONGITUDE: 50.7200, -1.9686

LOCATION: A350, Poole BH15 2NE

LOCALITY: Poole
COUNTY: Poole
COUNTRY: England
POSTCODE: BH15 2NE

Listing Text

POOLE

958-1/0/10039 POOLE PARK
23-SEP-09 Poole Municipal War Memorial

II
War memorial. 1927. Designed by J.A. Allner (1884-1955). Purbeck stone and red brick. A tall cross set in a red brick tapering column upon a plinth. It stands on a raised platform surrounded by a low brick wall and three steps. The north face of the cross is inscribed: '1914/ 1918'. The south face is inscribed `1939/ 1945'. The plinth is inscribed `THEY DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'. Stone detailing includes scallop shells and dolphins (from the Poole coat of arms) at the top of the memorial.

HISTORY: Designed by James A. Allner and unveiled on 16th October 1927 to commemorate the men of the town who were killed in the First World War. Further inscriptions were added to those who died in the Second World War. Allner designed a number of other buildings in Poole. The memorial is surrounded by formal gardens and hedging, and is approached from the north via a flagged pathway. This path leads to a set of ornate wrought iron gates at the entrance to the park. Poole Park also contains further individual memorials to the Burma Star Association (added after the Second World War) and Lord Mountbatten (late C20).

REASON FOR DESIGNATION: The war memorial at Poole Park is designated at Grade II, for the following principal reasons:
* It has strong cultural and historical significance within both a local and national context
* It forms a poignant reminder of the effects of tragic world events on this local community
* Although a simple monument, it is an elegant and dignified memorial that contributes to the village street scene

SOURCES
War Memorials Trust, Bulletin, Summer 2008

This text is a legacy record and has not been updated since the building was originally listed. Details of the building may have changed in the intervening time. You should not rely on this listing as an accurate description of the building.

Source: English Heritage

tom beattie

historic stonework conservation

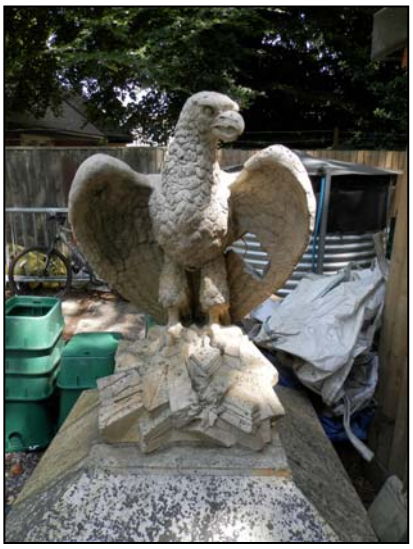
Whitecliff Gate Pier reconstruction 2015

The pier was demolished when struck by a vehicle at the beginning of 2015. Prompt action meant that Parks staff managed to retrieve a large amount of material including the bulk of the eagle fragments, some of which had been thrown into the boating lake
The unsorted debris was relocated to the Park's works yard immediately after the accident. The large ceramic (South Western Pottery) capstone, consisting of 5 sections and weighing approx ¼ of a ton was mainly intact.
Some of the brickwork was intact but the strength of the cement mortar meant that many of the bricks had shattered before their jointing material.
All but four of the plinth sections, large ceramic blocks, were dislodged. Four of the twenty four blocks were damaged beyond repair.
One of the two ceramic seascape panels was completely fractured, the other remained intact with a horizontal hairline crack across the centre.
After sifting through the debris an assessment was made of the scale of work needed.
An estimated 75 matching replacement (reclaimed) bricks would be required.
Since the modelling, mould making and firing of new ceramic elements would be difficult and expensive it was recommended that carved Bathstone would be a suitable substitute for the replacement plinth blocks (the original architectural effect would have been of Bathstone detailing).
Since much if not most of the eagle was retrieved it was determined that it could be reconstructed.
The fractured seascape panel could be pieced together.

Eagle reconstruction
When work was authorised, the upper broken parts of the eagle were transported to the workshop near Salisbury, together with the broken seascape panel. (the legs were still attached to the capstone in the works' yard)
Being a cast figure the eagle was effectively hollow, the body 'shell' being only about 1 inch/25 cm thick - the central void extending to within the wings.
The principal issue with the eagle was the left wing which was shattered into over a dozen pieces.
These were carefully cleaned and gradually pieced together using stone resin adhesive, with small stainless steel pins to reinforce the heavier sections.
The eagle was then unceremoniously dangled on its side while a liquid lime grout was poured into the voids inside the reconstructed wings.
The beak had been found in the lake and was relatively easy to resin back into place.
Any small missing sections were built up using a mortar made of hydraulic lime, fine sands and stone dusts. Any hairline cracks were 'rubbed' with the mortar.
The seascape panel had a clean break and was glued together using stone resin. Its ceramic walls were too thin to be safely drilled for reinforcing pins - a slot was cut in each side and a stainless steel dowel glued into it to act as a splint.
When the rebuilt upper body was returned to the park there was a slight moment of doubt when it came to fixing it to the lower (legs) on the capstone. So many sections in the shattered upper part had been reassembled that there was the possibility of it not fully lining up with the base. It was however a perfect fit and was secured with resin adhesive and stainless steel 'splints' inside the body. The large hole in the left wing (the only major parts missing) was framed out with a copper wire mesh and built up using the lime mortar. The reconstructed eagle and capstone was stored in the works yard whilst the pier could be reconstructed.

Pier reconstruction

Reconstruction was carried out in stages over the summer to allow the lime mortars to gain an initial set before each step of the process. Bathstone replacements for the four destroyed plinth sections were cut and worked with corresponding mouldings. Two other sections were repaired with stone resin and a third with lime mortar. The site of the pier was cleaned and the four intact plinth sections remaining in situ were cleared of rubble. The plinth was rebuilt with hydraulic lime mortar up to the first course of brickwork and back filled with limecrete to a depth of 400mm. This was then allowed to take an initial set for three weeks before the construction of a lightweight concrete block core. This was designed to replace the original flint rubble core which proved vulnerable to impact. It also hastened the build, bypassing the need for a prolonged lime setting period. Stainless steel ties held the ceramic sealife panels in position relative to the core and the brick courses built around these, again bedded on a hydraulic lime (NHL 3.5) mortar. On completion of the topmost brick course a period of four weeks was allowed before the fixing of the capstone. This was craned into position in early October and final mortar repairs to the damaged terracotta detailing completed the process.



Above; the remains of the pier immediately after impact, the shattered eagle, prior to grout filling, the remains off the eagle on the capstone, reconstruction nearing completion

Overleaf; Stages of the pier reconstruction

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