

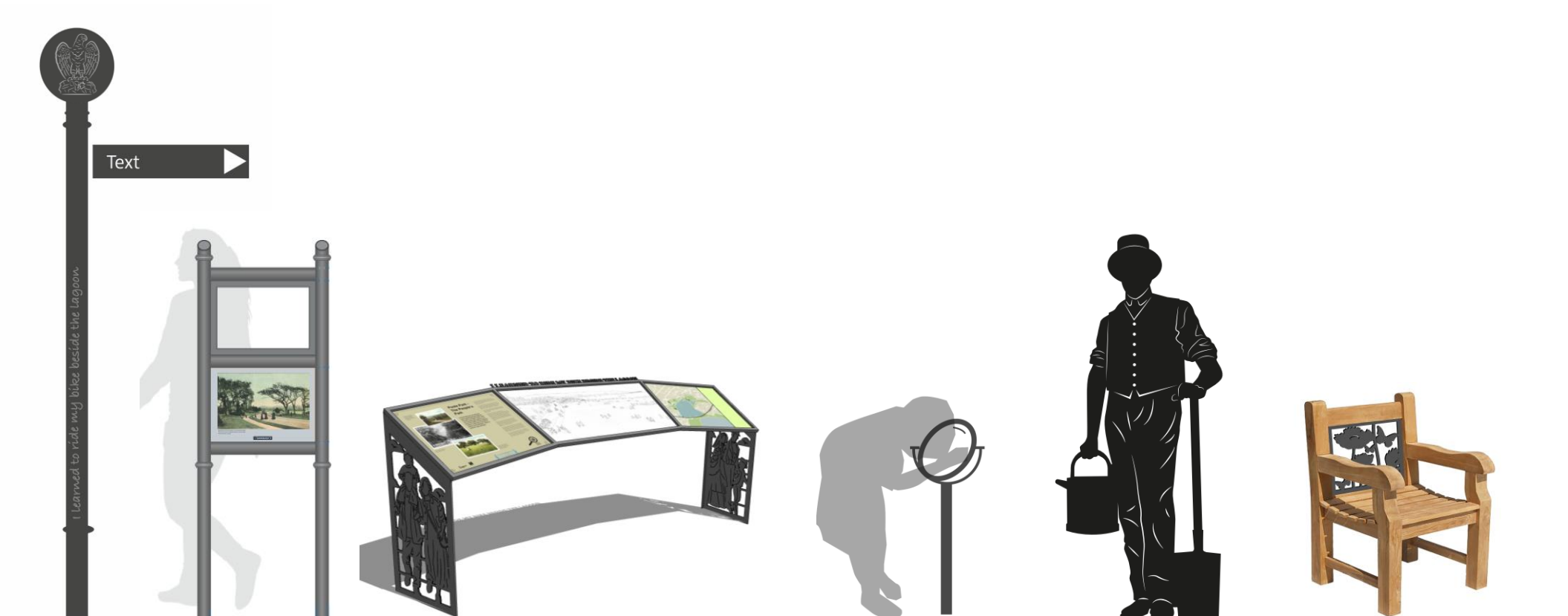
Poole Park Signage and Interpretation Scheme

A suite of new orientation, interpretation and themed sculptural interventions to enhance the park experience for local people and visitors alike.

The designs are being developed and we would welcome your feedback on these concepts. Please use the link below to leave us your feedback.

Interpretation is described as “an educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by first-hand experience, or by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information” (Tilden, 2007, *Interpreting Our Heritage*)

We hope to reach all park audiences through these new installations.



Fingerposts to aid orientation and wayfinding

Picture frame viewers connecting today's visitors with historic views

Bespoke styled information and interpretation lecterns including park map and historic images and illustrations

Interactive activities for children including trails and magnifiers to get closer to nature

Life-sized bespoke styled character silhouettes. Characters feature in Poole Park children's stories

Bespoke styled social seating



These park improvements are funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Poole Park Signage and Interpretation Scheme

The Plant Collectors' Garden

Telling stories about:

- Victorian fashion plant collecting and the exotic
- Plants and trees chosen for the park – where they came from and who collected them
- Veitch Nurseries – Meyer assisting with planting for park
- The 1970s themed topiary and colourful bedding featuring television favourites.
- Plant collecting today – importance of seed, banks modern plant collectors.



The Plant Collectors' Garden

Final locations will be determined by the new planting scheme.

Poole Park Signage and Interpretation Scheme

West Field Park entrance

Telling stories about:

- Need for park - life in the Old Town/living conditions, the People's Park Movement and the call for open spaces for Poole's population.
- Planning the park - Lord Wimborne and the donation of land, the design competition, Veitch
- The design and zones – Meyer and Elford – Picturesque Spiritual refreshment, physical improvement and civic pride.
- The not-so-grand opening – the Prince of Wales and the weather.



West Field entrance

Heads-up orientated map, historic illustration and introduction to the Park



A Victorian View

An artist's impression of Poole Park in 1901 is being drawn.

This is the sketch which will be coloured up before being printed on the centre panel

Poole Park Signage and Interpretation Scheme

The Cycle Track and Cricket Pitch

Telling stories about:

- Cycling popularity – families, clubs and races. Often 12k spectators
- Banten Brothers 1890s, Bill Harvell Olympian 1930s, Marguerite Wilson, Poole track 1970/80s,
- Track composition
- End of racing/cycling today
- Range of recreation activities from the beginning
- Cricket – County matches
- Sports Days - Poole Shop Assistants 1906
- Other types of racing – car rallies and speed trials
- Promenading and ladies activities in Victorian era
- Other Poole Park champions – e.g. bowling
- Activities today – Park Run, play areas etc



Cycle Track

Recreation in the park.

Two interpretation panels,
picture frame viewer and cyclist
silhouettes

Poole Park Stories

Children have been visiting Poole Park for over 130 years – unlock the secrets of the past by listening to these stories and imagining the lives of the children who played here long ago.

Voices of the Past is a series of nine short imagined episodes, each from a different moment in the Park's history, each linked to a different location in the Park, each told from a different child's point of view.

E-versions of the stories will be accessed via QR codes on the panels to listen to whilst walking around the park – or access from home on the new Poole Park website at poolepark.uk.

Poole Park - The People's Park

In Poole Park you can discover many original Victorian features. The park is a People's Park created to provide open spaces to improve the health of local residents. Today it continues to provide attractive surroundings in which to exercise, relax and play.

Poole grew rapidly during the 19th century. Overcrowding and the living conditions of the poor led to disease and social problems. The situation was similar across the country.

The Public Parks Movement recognised that people needed open spaces to relax and exercise. The health benefits were clear. Parliament recommended more parks, and councils sought land to create them.

In April 1885, Lord Wimborne donated this land and the salt-water lake to create a 'People's Park and Recreation Ground'.

The Baths and Recreation Committee ran a competition to design the park. The winning entry was by F.W. Meyer, a landscape designer working for Veitch and Son of Exeter. Unfortunately, it was too expensive to implement. John Elford, the Borough Surveyor, revised the plans incorporating ideas from Meyer's design including the cycle track around the cricket ground.

Elford's landscape used the natural beauty of the waterside location to provide zones for 'spiritual refreshment' alongside opportunities for 'physical improvement'. Decorative lodges and gates added grandeur to encourage civic pride.

The carefully planned royal opening in January 1890 was a disaster. Severe storms wrecked the pavilions and decorations. Edward, Prince of Wales eventually opened the park in the booking office at the railway station. Speeches weren't even read, just handed over.

After an unpromising start but there is no doubting Poole Park's popularity through time. It still has much of its Victorian plan and features. See if you can spot them whilst you enjoy the park today.

View from the Bowling Green early 1900s. Elford created a Picturesque landscape mixing long vistas with short glimpses of features.

Norton's Gate 1907. The gate piers, drives and lines of Ficus Chestnut trees remain today.

The lawn, drive and structural planting including a Monkey Puzzle tree in 1909. Many of the park's trees are from the late 1800s to early 1900s.

POOLE PARK

Follow our Victorian story here

Follow our Victorian story here

Story No. One of Nine or Other Title
by Artist / Narrator Name
00:00

- 1. PARK ENTRANCE Welcome to the Park! (1890)**
A local child tells of their excitement and wonder at their first ever visit to this brand-new Park.
- 2. PLANT COLLECTORS' GARDEN The Gardener's Boy (1892)**
A daydreamy young gardener's apprentice tells of the wondrous plants from far off lands... and narrowly avoids the wrath of the grumpy head gardener
- 3. WAR MEMORIAL - War is Over (July 1919)**
A local girl attends the celebration event for children to mark the end of the war.
- 4. WAR MEMORIAL -The Seaplane (1941)**
A young lad tells of his wartime experiences as he watches a Seaplane coming in to land in Poole Harbour.
- 5. THE LANDING STAGE - Boating on the Lake (1910)**
Two children take a ride on one of Arthur Shutler's boats as a very special birthday treat.
- 6. CYCLE TRACK - The Big Race (1893)**
Inspired by the Banten Brothers, a local child tells of his determination to win a bike race.
- 7. QUIET GARDEN - The Chilean Guava (spring 1892)**
Inspired by Marianne North's art and adventures, a young workhouse girl sketches the wonderfully scented plant that is Queen Victoria's favourite and enjoys this moment of tranquillity and escape from her harsh life.
- 8. SLUICE GATE – The Steam Train (1891)**
A local child waves to the train and marvels at how once all this was part of Poole Bay, but oh the Poole Park Pong!
- 9. SWIMMING POOL – The Swimming Lesson (summer 1957)**
It's the first day of the summer holidays and it's baking hot - a joyful local girl tells of her excitement to leap into the freezing waters of the pool.