

Asset Details

Asset name	Parkstone Cemetery
Asset address	Parkstone Cemetery Elgin Road Parkstone Poole BH14 8RD
Additional location information	Choose an item.
Asset type	Gardens and designed landscapes

Heritage Significance

Value	Description	Level
Archaeological value	<p>As is the case with cemeteries, the site has a large repository of human remains dating from c.1890 to 2012. Examination of these remains has the potential to add to our understanding of the health and social wellbeing of British society at the time, but this is not a trait unique to Parkstone cemetery, which is no more likely to reveal this information than any other comparative burial ground. Any data obtained would be specific to Poole, though, and so could help build a richer picture of life in the town at the time and help people better connect and understand the local community of the past.</p> <p>To the north of the site, a clay pit historically provided access to a seam of Dorset ball clay, which supplied materials to the Southwestern Pottery, a successful and innovative pottery run by the Victorian engineer George Jennings. The pottery was established before the creation of the cemetery and aerial photography shows it was still an open pit in 1934. The existence of the claypit appears to have impacted on the ability of the cemetery to extend northwards and, therefore, affected the designed landscape. However, the pottery and clay pit sites have since been developed into a residential area so the existence of the pit and any associated archaeological evidence has little influence on the designed landscape.</p>	Little
Architectural value	<p>The cemetery is a planned detached cemetery, built between 1888 and 1900, and there are a number of elements within the site that are fine representations of the architectural styles of the time, not least the memorials and monuments. The style of the individual monuments is a tangible record of design trends over a given period. The advantage with a memorial is that the date of death of the deceased often gives us an accurate date of manufacture for the monument, conveying the architectural styles and preferences that were prevalent in the area at the time.</p> <p>At the east entrance on Pottery Road, the lodge, with its asymmetrical layout, hanging tiles and robust timber mullions, follows the Arts and Crafts style which represented a return to craftsmanship and a reaction against late-19th century industrialisation and mass production. Following the expansion of the cemetery west between 1925 and 1934, a new entry point to the cemetery was created along Elgin Road. A modest timber pavilion was built at this south entrance, which remains in situ and has been well maintained. All of these assets have architectural value that contribute to the interest of the cemetery.</p>	High
Historic illustrative value	<p>Relating to its architectural value, the cemetery represents nationwide changes in funereal practices and architecture. During the Victorian era, numerous new cemeteries were opened. These large vacant spaces allowed for larger and</p>	High

	<p>more elaborate tombs to be installed, many examples of which can be seen in Parkstone cemetery. The wider range of stone available and improved affordability of the monuments also contributes to the range of tombs and headstones visible. These new cemeteries were seen as showpieces of the Victorian advancement, much like the political and health reforms that were the driving force behind their establishment.</p> <p>On a more individual level, graves were seen as a public extension of the family's property and a show of status and so grew both in size and intricacy. However, after the loss of life seen in the first World War, the extravagance of these tombs was seen as overblown and inappropriate, and almost overnight a more prudent approach to funerary monument was adopted. Across the whole site there are many hundreds of memorials, providing a comprehensive and detailed pool of evidence that documents changing fashions.</p> <p>The cemetery is an important record of the social history of the area and biography of the community. The surviving features of the site are illustrative of the traditions and practices of Victorian funerals, as well as the rules that were set on the opening of the cemetery. The widths of the paths tell us which are carriageways and which are footways, and show how the funeral procession would have progressed around the site.</p> <p>Local industry is also illustrated by the landscape of the cemetery. Whereas the site was confined to the east by Pottery Road and to the south by Elgin Road (previously Cemetery Road), there was some expansion into an area of claypit by the 1920s. Around this time, a mineral railway was built, running North-South, connecting industrial works in the area such as South Western Pottery and Salterns Works. The railway created a gentle semicircle as it ran to the west of the cemetery. This seems to have created a new boundary to the cemetery, and by 1930 the cemetery had grown to occupy the space created by the railway. The semi-circular design of the landscape as it can be seen now is a direct result of the railway which serviced prosperous local industries.</p>	
<p>Historic associative value</p>	<p>Archival newspaper records from 1894 show that a portion of the new cemetery was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, in the presence of other local clergy, officials and parishioners. It is also likely to have had connections with the South Western Pottery and local families who worked there.</p> <p>One notable interment is that of Mr W M Carter, a member of a widely respected Poole family, and one of the first proprietors of the Bournemouth Guardian. Mr Carter died in 1921, at which time he was a member of Dorset County Council and was a keen support of the Adult School movement.</p> <p>There are also around 52 war graves in Parkstone cemetery, commemorating the lives of military personnel killed during World War I and II. These include those of Captain Henry Van Goethem, who was wounded in an aeroplane accident and died in 1917, and Esme Mary Thomas, a Senior Commander in the Auxiliary Territorial Service who died in 1943.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p>Aesthetic or artistic value</p>	<p>The principal aim of the design of the cemetery is the efficient and dignified burial of the dead in a site that has a specific 'cemetery' aesthetic.</p> <p>Although the infill of the clay pit and surrounding fields with residential housing is of interest in relation to the story of the town, in relation to the site it has diminished the contribution that setting makes to the site's aesthetic value, as well as its historical illustrative value. That said, the juxtaposition between the bustle of everyday life and the tranquillity of the internal environs of the site has been amplified by their imposed proximity, which intensifies the experience of privacy and seclusion, of visual and auditory respite and the abrupt change of pace that the site provides. The cemetery therefore represents a place of calm and sanctuary away from the busy environment around it. It also illustrates how well the boundary still performs its function and shows that, whilst the boundary itself consists of mainly mature planting and wooden fences, it has an important role to play as facilitator in our experience of the site and our ability to appreciate its other aesthetic values.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>

<p>Communal value</p>	<p>The communal value of the cemetery is currently not well understood and there is no community group associated with it. There does not appear to be pedestrian access through the site to any of the surrounding residential roads, meaning visitors may be using the site only for visiting specific graves or walking dogs. That said, its social value should not be underestimated: such places often have deep emotional ties for communities that sometimes only become apparent when a site is threatened.</p> <p>The associative value with various locally renowned people also has communal value to some. The site also has communal value from an ecological perspective. Interest in ecology is the discipline of a distinct community and value in it is often derived from biophilia or science rather than any specific heritage value of a site. The context of Parkstone cemetery – now enveloped by residential housing – has made the site an isolated pocket offering vital habitats amid the urban sprawl. This pocket provides habitats for nesting, feeding and shelter and will act as an important steppingstone for species moving through the landscape. As such, it has the potential to facilitate better appreciation of the natural environment and build a stronger connection in people's minds of the value of historic sites in relation to ecological well-being.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
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A view of monuments and headstones within the western half of the cemetery.



The cemetery lodge on Pottery Road.