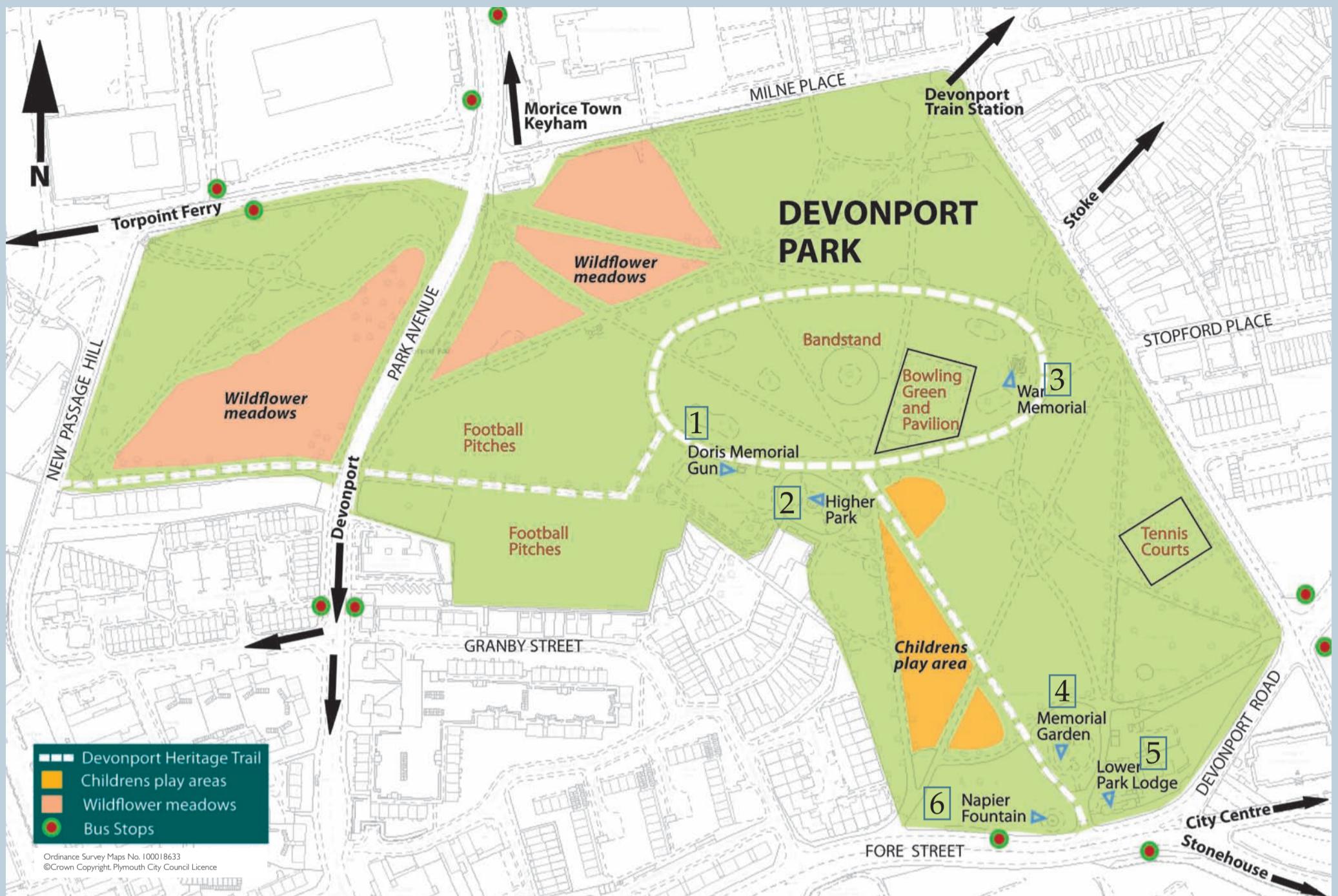


Devonport Park



1 HMS Doris Memorial Gun

Memorial to the seamen from HMS *Doris* who died during the South African Boer War, 1899-1902. Royal Navy sailors formed 'Naval Brigades', transported large naval guns hundreds of miles inland and fought alongside the Army. The Memorial includes a rare British made machine gun, which was captured from the enemy Boers.



Higher Park

Until the 1890s this formal area of the Park was still a part of the 'Dock Lines' - occupied by the Granby Bastion. The Rose Garden, the Sicilian Fountain and the distinctive Higher Lodge, - originally a Park pavilion building - are among the improvements made after 1894. Civic pride was represented by the prominent display of the Devonport coat-of-arms - still on show today.



Great War Memorial

Although Devonport was joined with Plymouth and Stonehouse in 1914, it was proud to unveil its own war memorial in 1923. The monument commemorates the soldiers, sailors and airmen of Devonport who died on active service during the First World War, 1914-18. The crest of the Royal Flying Corps denotes the airmen. The RAF was not formed until 1918.



Lower Park Lodge

This building, dated 1858, was designed by Alfred Norman of Devonport in the style of a Swiss lodge - symbolic of the new Park being a place for healthy recreation and taking the air. See if you can find the initials of the Morice and St Aubyn families and the Borough of Devonport.



Memorial Garden

Still a peaceful place to sit, stroll and reflect. This special garden is centred on a Victorian monument commemorating some 'Great' Britons, including Drake, Nelson and the Duke of Wellington. Explore the stonework in the garden more closely to find ancient stalagmites, bullrushes, water lilies and a mythical monster.



Napier Fountain

Admiral Sir Charles Napier (1786-1860) began his Royal Navy career under sail on wooden warships and ended it in command of steam-powered warships in the Baltic. Napier campaigned for the ordinary seaman and became 'The Sailor's Champion'. This fountain is a national memorial - paid for by Sailors and Marines who each gave up a day's pay. The names of the ships and Naval divisions involved are listed on the monument.

Second World War

Underground air raid shelters were constructed to accommodate up to 600 people. Above ground, and in case of gas attack, a Cleansing and Decontamination Station was built in 1941. This rare wartime building can still be seen in the Park.



Inside shelter, 2009
© Plymouth City Council

The nursery glasshouses were used to grow tomatoes and areas of grassland were used for sheep pasture and hay making.

The Park also served as a Barrage Balloon base, with the Higher Lodge pavilion used as offices. Later, and in advance of the 'D'-Day landings, parts of the Park were given over to American forces.

Tomato plants, August 1942

photo: Friends of Devonport Park

Memorials & Stonework

The Park is the setting for a number of important memorials; several of Royal Naval interest. All of the memorials are to be restored to their former glory.

Dotted around the south side of the Park are groups of carved stonework from 'Blitz' damaged and demolished Plymouth buildings. Can you identify any of the buildings from the remains? We would love to know more.



Hay making, early 1940s

© Plymouth and West Devon Record Office

© Plymouth and West Devon Record Office

The 'People's Park'

Devonport Park sits between the communities of Devonport, Stoke, Morice Town and Keyham. It is the oldest formal public park in Plymouth.

From around 1757 the land served as the *glacis* - a part of the Devonport 'Dock Line' defences. These were open fields, kept free of development and providing no cover for an enemy.

By the 1850s the 'Dock Lines' had little military value and Devonport was keen to respond to the national public park movement. Devonport Park was open by 1858 "for the purpose of healthful recreation by the public." Corporation Minutes, August 1857.

At first the planting and landscaping was restricted and limited, but by the 1870s the Park, with its wonderful views, was "a source of daily pleasure to some hundreds of people." Western Daily Mercury, 17 July 1876. There were improved walks, more trees and shrubs, with arbours, seats, - plus the occasional rugby or cricket match. In 1894-5 more land was acquired and the larger and remodelled Park was re-launched as the 'People's Park'.

Devonport Park is now recognised and Registered by English Heritage as a Park and Garden of Special Historical Interest.



The Park, 1865

© Plymouth Library Services



Dismantling the bandstand, 1950s
© Plymouth and West Devon Record Office

Bandstand

Devonport was once home to a number of military bands and there were regular concerts in the Park. A new, centrally positioned, bandstand was the focal point for the improved 'People's Park'. However, the fashion for band concerts faded and the bandstand was taken down in the 1950s.

The restored Park will have a new bandstand and outdoor community performance venue, designed in traditional style. This will, in fact, be the Park's third bandstand. See if you can find the foundations of the very first building.



Artist's impression, 2009
© Research Plus Design

Play Area and Pavilion

A brand new play area was opened in 2009, offering a space for children of all ages to have fun.

In 2010 Devonport Park will again have its own pavilion - a brand new building providing changing facilities, community room, a café and public toilets.



Artist's impression of new pavilion, 2009
© Atkins

Regeneration of Devonport and Devonport Park

The restoration of Devonport Park was made possible by the award of funds from the DRC Partnership and The Heritage and Big Lottery Funds. Plymouth City Council co-ordinated these bids, working with the local community and the DRC Partnership.

The intention is to restore the Park and create a 'People's Park' for today. This is part of a major ten year regeneration programme for Devonport led by the DRC Partnership.

Who to contact:

Parks Services

email: parks.services@plymouth.gov.uk
telephone: 01752 606034 fax: 01752 509006
Emergencies outside working hours: 01752 668000

Friends of Devonport Park

The Friends were formed in 2005 and are actively involved with all the work that takes place within the Park. They organise special events throughout the year. You will even find them caring for a number of the flower beds.

www.friendsofdevonportpark.co.uk



Devonport Park, c. 1905

© Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery



How to Get There?

Walking:

About 2 miles from the City Centre - via Union Street and Kings Road.

Main Park access from Fore Street, Devonport Road, Exmouth Road, Milne Place, Park Avenue and New Passage Hill.

By Bus:

Park Avenue Nos. 3, 26, 34, 46/47A, 53 & 81/81A/81C

Fore Street Nos. 14 & 45/45A

Devonport Road Nos. 14 & 36

Bus operators: Citybus; First Devon & Cornwall and Target Travel

By Train:

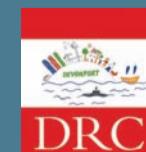
Short walk from Devonport Station, Portland Road.

One mile from Plymouth Railway Station, - via Saltash Road, Stuart Road, Wilton Street, Paradise Road and Fore Street.

Traveline number: 08712 002 233



Plymouth



DRC
Partnership



Friends of
Park
Devonport

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**DISCOVER
DEVONPORT
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The 'People's Park'

