

Appendix 1

South Park Chronological Development

1636	A piece of farmland was bequeathed by James Bellasis to a trust who were to ensure that the income from the land be used for charitable purposes ⁱ . The site consisted of four fields, with a total area of 20 acres, situated along the southern edge of the town boundary ⁱⁱ . The land became known as "Poor Howdens" estate and was administered by a Trust consisting of the Vicar of St. Cuthbert's Church and other local officials ⁱⁱⁱ .	James Bellasis
1841	Access to the site was improved when a new path was constructed from Grange Road (although it is not known how the River Skerne was crossed) ^{iv} . Previously, the only access to the estate was at the southeast corner, via a path from Neasham Road ^v . The new path across the Polam Hall estate was bought for £20 ^{vi} . A house was build adjoining this path about the same time ^{vii} . It became known as South Villa and later as Neasham House ^{viii} .	access
1849	The Town Commissioners held a meeting where it was decided that the Poor Howdens estate should be appropriated for use as a public recreation ground. The initiative for such a scheme probably originated in the growing awareness of the issue of public health. The consent of the Trustees of the land was sought.	park proposed
1850	The Poor Howdens Charity had been set up to encourage the woollen and linen industry. In practice, this consisted of offering loans at reasonable rates to small businesses in these trades ^{ix} . By the nineteenth century, this was no longer necessary as the industry had come to be dominated by large companies. After reconsidering the charity's role, the trustees agreed to the recommendation that the land should become a park.	Poor Howdens Charity
1850	Previously, the main access to the site was at the southeast corner, via a path from Neasham Road. The path was now made wider, in order to allow carriages to pass, but this did not solve the problem of the site being effectively remote to the general public. To rectify this, a footbridge was constructed over the river, connecting to a path on the Polam Hall estate, adjacent to Neasham House, providing access from Grange Road ^x . Consequently, the site now became within easy reach for many more people and the potential for development as a park became more likely.	
1850	The new Committee of Darlington Public Park invited designs for a suitable layout for a park ^{xi} . It is not known how many were submitted or whose design was chosen, but it is evident that at least two designs were considered ^{xii} .	
1851	It was agreed the land was to be leased to the Board of Health at £32 per annum for 21 years for use as a park ^{xiii} .	Lease
1851-3	The transformation of the land was administered jointly between the Trustees of the estate and the local Board of Health. After much discussion, the land was drained and then laid out and planted with trees. Paths were constructed using 100 tons of furnace slag that had been donated by Joseph Pease ^{xiv} . Some of these paths still survive (although they are now surfaced with tarmac), notably the straight-line path near the southern boundary. At this time, the idea of a public park was very much a novelty. The nearest one was in Manchester and this had only been open since 1846. There were several in London, but	Laying out; access; parks elsewhere

these were all laid out while still in private ownership before being acquired by public authorities. A public park created from scratch was still a rarity. The earliest example of this was Birkenhead Park in Liverpool which had opened in 1843.

It is not known who designed the layout.

1852	Robert Henry Allen, the owner of the Polam Hill estate immediately to the south of the park, complained to the Trust about a stile that had been installed, giving access to his land. He demanded that it be removed.	stile
1852	It was complained that the access path from Grange Road was too narrow and it was therefore widened after a further small strip of land was bought ^{xv} . It was also intended that an access be made on the north side to the Bank Top area ^{xvi} . This does not seem to have been carried out.	access path
1853	After various setbacks which were largely due to poor weather conditions ^{xvii} , the park was officially opened. The actual date of opening is unknown. It was the first public park in the North East of England. It became known by several names - Bellasis Park, The People's Park, New Park, Victoria Park and even simply The Park - before finally settling on the name South Park ^{xviii} . For a while, the adjacent township of Blackwell claimed that the land fell within their jurisdiction and that rates should be paid to them rather than to Darlington ^{xix} . There may be some justification for this depending on whether the site was originally part of the Polam Hill estate immediately to the south or of another estate to the north. Different maps from around this period show the boundary either along the north edge or the south edge of the park. A survey commissioned by the Council and carried out in 1829 includes the land as lying within the Darlington township ^{xx} . The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1856 agrees with this. Some other maps disagree however, notably a Borough Surveyor's plan dated 1852 ^{xxi} , which shows the boundary on the north edge and therefore putting the park in Blackwell.	opening; dispute about Darlington boundary
c1853	A cottage, which became known as Park House, was built for the resident park keeper. It had been planned in 1851 but insufficient money was available at that time. It included a viewing tower and a refreshment room. It was and still is regarded as the main focal point of the entire park. The building was constructed with a type of white brick that is nicknamed the "Pease" brick. These are featured in many Darlington buildings that were built between approximately 1850 and 1875. Unfortunately, the brickwork on the main faces of the house has since been painted over.	Park House
1854	The Darlington Recreational Society was formed. It began to use the park for music concerts and sports events such as quoits ^{xxii} . Refreshments were often available.	events
1860	A cannon gun from the Crimean War was set in position as a permanent exhibit. Many such guns, which were no longer required by the government, were handed out to towns throughout the country ^{xxiii} . It was initially placed near Park House on the terrace ^{xxiv} . Darlington's Theatre Royal gave a special performance to raise funds for the mounting ^{xxv} .	cannon
1860	It was decided to build another cottage within the park, near the southeast entrance. This became known as East Lodge. Like Park House, the new building was constructed of "Pease" bricks. It was also decided to incorporate into the design a shed which had previously stood in the market place ^{xxvi} .	East Lodge

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1860's	A cottage style tearoom was added to the south side of Park House. Prior to this, part of the house itself had been used as a café.	tearoom
1863	A terrace of trees was planted near Park House to celebrate the marriage of Prince Edward ^{xxvii} . This included two Wellingtonias, which eventually became quite large, the growth of the multi-stems having reached a rate of one foot per annum at one time ^{xxviii} .	trees planted
1870's	<p>A new road, Victoria Embankment, was built alongside the river, towards the north end from the town centre. Prior to this, the park had been fairly remote from any built-up area. This road was later to become the main approach road to the park, although at this time there was still no access on the north side^{xxix}. Initially trees were planted on both sides of the street, but those on the east side were later removed^{xxx}.</p> <p>Before constructing the new road Victoria Embankment, the river course along this section was straightened. Material dug up during the construction of a lake in the adjacent Little Polam estate is believed to have been used for the re-landscaping of this area. This estate was to be later incorporated into the park.</p>	Victoria Embankment
1874	After the 21 year lease expired, the Corporation made a decision to continue to maintain the park. The new rental was to be a much higher figure of £90 per annum, so an offer was made to purchase the land for £2,250. It was valued at £3,900, but a compromise was eventually reached and a figure of £3,075 was agreed. It was nearly 3 years before the deal was finalised.	lease expired
1875	A drinking fountain was installed in the park, having been originally erected in Bondgate in 1860, but removed because of traffic problems. It was paid for by public subscription and dedicated to the late Dr. John Fothergill, who had been the first president of the Darlington Total Abstinence Society ^{xxxi} .	drinking fountain
1877	Darlington Corporation became the owner of the land ^{xxxii} . The money paid to the Poor Howdens charity trust was used to provide grammar school scholarships.	purchase of land
1878	A 24-acre site immediately north of the park, known as Little Polam, became available due to the bankruptcy of its owner, William Thompson. The Council offered to purchase this land for the purpose of extending the park.	Little Polam
1880	<p>The purchase deal was completed and the new site became absorbed into the park, more than doubling its previous size and bringing it nearer to the town. The cost of the land was £3,800. Unlike the initial piece of land that had been converted from farmland, this newly acquired site was already used for recreational purposes and had been laid out during the 1870's with many features which would be retained. This included an ornamental lake, a grotto and several avenue walkways^{xxxiii}. Some of the land had been used as an orchard^{xxxiv}. Other parts of it was overgrown with thistles and nettles and it was several decades before the last of it was eventually cleared^{xxxv}.</p> <p>The lake was supplied with water via a pipe from the river. This pipe passes under the grotto and also fed into the grotto's pond^{xxxvi}. This pond has since been filled in, but the lake has survived and still is one of the park's most popular features^{xxxvii}.</p> <p>At the north end was a lodge which had presumably also been built by the recent owner,</p>	new extension (north)

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William Thompson. It was then called Little Polam Cottage^{xxxviii} but is now known as Embankment Lodge.

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| 1880-2 | <p>A few new walkways were laid out, integrating the new section with the old. Many of the walkways in the new section that had been established by the previous owner were retained. There was a drop in level between the existing park and the newly acquired section. The difference was easily accommodated by extending the terraced structure that had been established thirty years earlier.</p> <p>It was popular at the time for walkways to be planted at one or both sides by an avenue of trees. It would have been convenient to make use of existing rows of trees wherever they existed and to construct paths alongside these. It is evident that this did occur, since there are at least two such avenues which follow precisely the lines of the original field boundaries^{xxxix}. One of these follows the boundary between the original and the new sites. These boundaries would have been marked by hawthorn hedging interspersed with trees, probably ash and elm^{xl}. Presumably, during the re-landscaping of 1880-2, the hedging was removed and the remaining trees used as a basis for the new layout. Over the years, many of the trees will have been replaced, but the line that they follow has been retained. Hence, certain sections of these field boundaries, which may be several centuries old, can still be clearly identified.</p> <p>Much of the layout of the park as it was in 1882 has survived intact to the present day. One notable exception is the showfield, which has since been greatly extended, but at that time had not yet been established. Another major difference is that there now many more tall trees and therefore fewer uninterrupted views. However, despite all the various constructions and artefacts that have been added over the decades, each of these have blended fairly well into the landscape without upsetting the overall balance. Nor have the later extensions had any significant impact on the older parts, since (with the exception of the showfield) these are hardly visible from the main section. The heart of the park as we see it today is essentially only a more mature version of what it was in the 1880's.</p> | <p>new layout;
old
boundaries
preserved</p> |
| 1881 | <p>A new Park Superintendent, James Morrison^{xli}, was appointed. He was to remain in this post for 44 years, residing at Park House. During his tenure, he planted many trees and introduced a great variety of new plants into the park. He was probably most famous for his annual floral displays on the terraces alongside the river. Each year, he created a different display, usually illustrating a topical theme. The practice still continues today. Some of his displays consisted of portraits of famous people, notably Queen Victoria in 1897 (jubilee year) for which he received a letter of acknowledgement from the Queen^{xlii}.</p> | <p>James
Morrison</p> |
| 1881 | <p>A bronze replica of a steam-powered plough was moved to the park from the garden of Pierremont, which belonged to Henry Pease^{xliii}. The model was made in memory of John Fowler whose design of the original instrument, on which this model was based, had won a first prize at a royal show^{xliv}. Fowler, who died in 1864, was married to one of the daughters of the former M.P., Joseph Pease^{xlv}.</p> | <p>Fowler plough</p> |
| 1882 | <p>A new entrance was constructed at Victoria Embankment, next to Polam Bridge, with both single and double gates^{xlvi}. After the opening of the new section, some of the well to do would drive into the parks in their carriages. Some of the less well off protested at this, arguing that the park was for the benefit of poorer people. They were overruled by the authorities, whose view was that the park was intended for the rich and the poor alike^{xlvii}.</p> <p>This entrance was regarded as the main entrance for the next 45 years.</p> | <p>new entrance
at Victoria
Embankment</p> |

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c1882	A lagoon was constructed off the river at the southwest corner to allow boating ^{xlviii} . The new landscaping interfered with a crossing point at what had previously been the main entrance. An additional footbridge was therefore needed across the lagoon. It was constructed alongside the southern boundary. A footpath along a narrow island connected the two bridges ^{xlix} .	lagoon
1882	The new extension was to be officially opened with a formal ceremony, but the Council did not wish to spend any money on such a function. As it happened, the park was already very popular and no extra publicity was required.	new extension completed
1882	A bandstand was erected during the summer and thousands of people gathered to listen to the music at the first opening. One councillor expressed horror that dance music had been played on a Sunday ^l .	bandstand
1885	The first tennis courts were opened.	tennis courts
1887?	A new footbridge was built near the Grange Road entrance after the original one had been washed away during heavy flooding.	footbridge
1890's (before 1897)	Posts and chain rails were removed from High Row and installed along the west side of Victoria Embankment ^{li} .	chain rails along Victoria Embankment
1891	The annual Darlington Cattle Show was held in the park, for the first time, on the new showfield. It continued to be held here each year and later evolved into the Darlington Show ^{lii} .	Darlington Show
1893	A new bandstand was built, replacing the earlier wooden structure (which was smaller and whose roof consisted of a canvas awning). It was paid for using the ice skating takings which had been exceptionally high after the ornamental lake had been frozen over for more than six weeks ^{liii} . The bandstand is now Grade II listed.	new bandstand
1896	Two bowling greens were opened. These were the first in Darlington. A bowling club was formed and still exists today.	bowling
1896	The Council agreed to purchase a collection of foreign birds for the aviary, offered to them by a Mr. John Bowman for £10 ^{liiv} .	
1900	A large shap granite boulder, taken from the River Tees near Winston, was installed in the park as a memorial to Dr. R.T. Manson, a well-known scientific and literary authority with a special interest in geology ^{liv} . The stone is believed to have originated from Westmorland and to have been swept down Teesdale by a glacier during the Ice Age ^{li} . It weighs four tons. Part of the chain that was used to lift the stone during its transportation is preserved in Darlington Museum.	boulder
1901	A four-face clock was donated to the town by William Potts, a Leeds clockmaker, in memory of his late father who had lived in Darlington. It was installed in the tower of Park House ^{li} . The	clock

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tower had originally been built for viewing the park but this function was now lost. The new clock, however, enhanced the character of the building as a main focal point.

1902	A pair of African kites were presented by Mr. A.W. Trees to be kept in the park ^{lviii} .	kites
1902	Two oak trees were planted to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII.	oak trees
1904	Three monkeys were donated to the park by a Darlington resident. Part of the greenhouse was converted to house these animals during the winter months ^{lix} . Another member of the public presented 14 canaries for the aviary.	animals
1905-9	The Council discussed a proposal to enlarge the boating lake and extend the park ^{lx} . Work was to be carried out by unemployed workers. New land was to be acquired from Sir Henry Havelock-Allen, who agreed to accept a low price of £50 per acre. However, the scheme did not get underway until 1921.	boating lake
1906-14	New developments were taking place beyond the northeast side of the park, filling the space between Victoria Embankment and Park Lane with a criss-cross of new streets of terraced houses. Some of these streets, e.g. Leaffield Road, were not finally completed until after the war ^{lxi} .	new streets
1907	An observatory was erected near the bowling greens to accommodate a telescope which had been offered to the Council ^{lxii} . The telescope, a five-inch refractor, is thought to be one of the finest of its kind made around that time ^{lxiii} .	observatory
1908	A new rustic style tearoom was built replacing the earlier cottage style construction.	tearoom
1911	Two oak trees were planted to commemorate the coronation of King George V ^{lxiv} . The idea of tree planting ceremonies to celebrate historic events had always been encouraged by the park superintendent, James Morrison, as a way of increasing the tree stock without spending money from his maintenance budget.	oak trees
1918	A tank from the First World War was presented by the National War Savings Committee to the citizens of Darlington in recognition of the readiness with which they had lent their support to the war effort ^{lxv} . It was placed near the Victoria Embankment entrance ^{lxvi} .	tank
1919	Another piece of land was purchased at a cost of £1,750. This consisted of a fifteen-acre site to the northeast of the park ^{lxvii} . Most of this site was eventually cleared of all trees and obstacles and is now part of the showfield.	extension (NE)
	A footpath which ran along the edge of the site was retained as a public right of way ^{lxviii} . It was fenced off so that it remains accessible when the park is closed. Beyond this was some land used as allotment gardens. Part of this has since been built on, but most of it remains as allotments.	
1920's	The remaining gaps in the rows of terraced houses in the Leaffield Road area were filled. Clifton Road and Park Lane were extended southwards, with new-style semi-detached houses.	new houses; street names

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Park Lane follows the line of an ancient footpath and is so named because the land along which it skirts was formerly known as the High Parks. Its name and its proximity to the park is entirely coincidental. Similarly, Park Place and Park Street had been built in the 1830's on land known as the Low Parks^{lxix}. Unlike these, the road which eventually became known as Parkside was developed and named long after the park was established, was named in accordance with its location adjacent to the park.

1921	The farm immediately south of the park, called Polam Hill, was purchased by the council from Sir Henry Havelock-Allen ^{lxx} . It amounted to 77½ acres in total, but not all of it was to be designated for parkland.	new extension (south)
1921-4	The long awaited boating lake extension was finally implemented, using most of the newly acquired Polam Hill site. The total cost was £7,200. An employment grant of £3,800 was provided by the government for the scheme ^{lxxi} . The original boating lagoon in the old part of the park was retained for another ten years or so.	boating lake
1923	A new 18-hole putting green was opened. It was to be the first of several in the town. The formal opening was well attended ^{lxxii} .	putting green
1924	Neasham House (205, Grange Road) was purchased by the Council from George Wells Jennings at a cost of £2,850 ^{lxxiii} .	Neasham House
1924	The remainder of the Polam Hill site was used for a new road (now called Parkside but then known as Geneva Road), which was constructed along the south edge of the park, running east west and linking Grange Road with Neasham Road. Its construction included a bridge over the Skerne ^{lxxiv} , with wall and piers constructed of sand-faced hand-made bricks ^{lxxv} . Some new houses were built, mainly on the south side of the road. The park (excluding the new boating area) was now enclosed on three sides by residential housing.	Parkside
1924	The new 22 acre boating lake was finally completed ^{lxxvi} . Six new boats were purchased before the opening ^{lxxvii} .	boating lake
1925	A fountain was installed inside the park, on the edge of the sub-tropical garden near the ornamental lake, having been originally erected in South Pierremont for Henry Pease around 1872. It was donated to the park by Cuthbert Todd, a builder who had purchased a section of the Pierremont estate in which the fountain stood ^{lxxviii} . The structure weighs over ten tons, so deep foundations were required ^{lxxix} . At the opening ceremony, Alderman Crooks said he hoped it would flow until the millennium ^{lxxx} . The fountain is currently not functional.	fountain
1925	The long-serving Park Superintendent, James Morrison, finally retired after 44 years. He was replaced by his son Thomas who had been born at Park House and had already spend fifteen years of his life employed working in the park. Unlike his father's post, this new appointment included responsibility not only for South Park but for all of the Darlington parks. There were 104 applicants for the job ^{lxxxi} .	new park superintendent
1927	Ornamental iron fencing was erected along the edge adjoining the new road (then known as Geneva Road but now called Parkside) ^{lxxxii} . In total, it covered a 668 yard stretch from the river bridge to the southeast corner. A new entrance, with ornate pillars and spherical finials, was constructed near the bowling greens ^{lxxxiii} . It has come to be regarded as the main	new fence and entrance

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entrance. The entrance at the southeast corner of the park was also replaced with a new construction.

The new fence followed a smoother curve than the original boundary, diverging by several yards around the section near the new entrance^{lxxxiv}. The old boundary would typically have consisted of a hawthorn hedge interspersed with trees. A line of trees spaced at roughly equal intervals exists just inside the fence along a section towards the east corner. Presumably this is the remains of the old boundary, surviving in similar fashion to other old boundaries elsewhere in the park.

At this time, the park staff consisted of seven people in total.

Late 1920's	The Crimean cannon was moved to its present location at the southern edge, near the aviaries.	cannon
1930	One of the bowling greens was re-surfaced ^{lxxxv} .	bowling
1930	The 1921 extension to the park (containing the boating lake) was previously part of the Township of Blackwell, but subsequently became part of Darlington, following boundary changes ^{lxxxvi} .	boundary changes
1930	The system for taking money for the games was formalised when a ticket office was erected near the new main entrance and new staff were employed over the summer months to run it ^{lxxxvii} .	ticket office
1930	A children's playground was installed. The cost of the equipment was £238 ^{lxxxviii} .	playground
1930	The Council decided that motor boats were to be banned from the river and used on the main lake only ^{lxxxix} .	
1932	The lagoon that had been the original boating lake was filled in and re-landscaped.	lagoon
1933	An area west of the river, adjacent to Grange Road, was added to the park ^{xc} . A rockery was constructed in the centre ^{xc1} . Two new entrances were constructed to this new section, one at Grange Road and one at Parkside.	new extension (west)
1936	New aviaries were opened along the path which runs along the southern edge. They were so constructed that rats, which were alleged to have overrun the old aviaries, could not gain access.	new aviaries
1937	The observatory that had been in the park for nearly thirty years was not a success ^{xcii} . Its lack of use was largely due to the fact that the park's security arrangements conflicted with one of the main requirements for an observatory, i.e. that users can gain access at nighttime and at short notice whenever the weather conditions are favourable. This was not the case, with the park being locked during hours of darkness and the park's superintendent not being contactable. Some steps were taken to rectify this, by giving extra sets of keys to other individuals, but it still proved unsatisfactory. In the end, the observatory was removed and re-sited on the Grammar School playing field near Westbourne Grove ^{xciii} . It became frequently used by the Darlington Astronomical Society. Sadly, in the 1990's, it was gutted by fire and the telescope was damaged beyond repair ^{xciv} .	observatory

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The surviving lenses and fittings are in the care of Darlington Sixth Form College.

1938	New public conveniences were built at the south edge.	new toilets
1938	A stone arch, which had formed part of the Bishop's Palace in Lead Yard, was planned to be moved and installed in the grotto ^{xcv} . The Palace, which was demolished in the 1960's to make way for the new town hall, dated back to the twelfth century. Sadly, there is no sign of the arch in the park now so it was probably never installed. A stone arch at the entrance to the grotto is evidently not the one referred to here as it can be seen in the background on an etching from circa 1890 ^{xcvi} .	arch
1938	A roller skating rink was constructed next to the bandstand. A ticket office with turnstile was built, presumably at the same time.	skating rink
1939	A new footbridge over the River Skerne was built after the lagoon had been filled in and this section of the river straightened ^{xcvii} . The foundations of this bridge remain as part of the current structure ^{xcviii} . There have been several pieces of land added to the park since it first opened, but only one occasion where some land was taken away. It was with the advent of the new section west of the river and the construction of a new footbridge connecting this section to the main body of the park that the original access path from Grange Road was no longer required. It was blocked off and, from then on, was no longer part of the park. Currently, only the first 40 metres of this path is in use as an access to a modern block of flats (No. 199, Grange Road). Further along, it is overgrown and derelict. The land does not belong to the Council and it has not been possible to trace the ownership ^{xcix} .	river re-routed; Grange Road entrance lost
1939	An entrance at Bedford Street was planned with ornate gates and pillars ^c . However, presumably because of the war, only a pair of plain gates was constructed.	Bedford Street entrance
1939	Blackwell Mill, an old disused building on the edge of the boating lake, was demolished, despite opposition from the Darlington Society of Arts. An earlier structure on this site is believed to date back to the fourteenth century or earlier.	Blackwell Mill
1939	The First World War tank was broken up for scrap for the new war effort. The plaque belonging to it is now in Darlington Museum. The site of the tank was used as a collection point for scrap metal. Most of this came from railings from domestic front gardens. Some railings were taken from public parks. South Park railings survived, however.	tank
1940's	Most of the playing field was temporarily ploughed over and used to grow vegetables for the war effort.	park used as farmland
1943	New entrance gates & pillars were planned to replace an older entrance at the southeast corner near East Lodge. This was apparently not implemented, as only a pair of plain gates exists there today. One brick pillar still survives, however. Like the two early lodges, it is constructed of "Pease" bricks and therefore was probably part of the original entrance that was constructed in 1851.	new entrance at Parkside

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1947	Some new greenhouses were erected.	greenhouses
1949	Lily ponds were constructed at the centre of the grotto ^{ci} replacing the large pond. Presumably, these were fed from the same pipe as the previous pond. Some time after, the lily ponds were filled in with soil.	lily ponds
1949	Partly due to its lack of use during the war, the boating lake had deteriorated and had now become expensive to maintain. Also, regular dredging operations had to be carried to remove silt. The silt was mainly composed of coal dust and believed to have originated from some collieries far upstream ^{cii} . The Council discussed various proposals as to what do with the site. The expense of constructing a new lake, around £30,000, could not be justified. It was realised that if the lake was filled in and the area was to be re-landscaped, it would take at least ten years for the ground to settle before it could be laid out for some other use. In the end, no decision was reached ^{ciii} .	boating lake
1950	The Parks Superintendent Thomas Morrison retired. The post had been in his family since his father was appointed in 1881 ^{civ} .	
1951	Some trees were planted on the west section to commemorate the Festival of Britain ^{cv} . Decorative lighting was installed around the bandstand and elsewhere for the event and was retained for a few years after.	trees planted
1951	Tree Preservation Orders were placed on many trees in the area. South Park was largely excluded from this except for three trees along the southwest edge of the boating (now pitch & putt) area ^{cvi} .	tree Preservation Orders
1952	A short section of railway track attached to some stone sleepers from the original 1825 Stockton & Darlington Railway were installed as an exhibit near the southern edge of the park ^{cvi} .	railway sleepers
1952	A formal rose garden was laid out on the west side of the river on what had previously been a derelict site. It was named the Chandler Rose Garden as a tribute to Alderman W.G. Chandler, chairman of the Parks Committee. 800 rose bushes were planted ^{cvi} . In this section, part of an earlier path with stone steps still survives. It probably originally lay inside the garden of Neasham House (No. 205, Grange Road), which was built sometime around the 1830's.	rose garden
1953	Various animals - including rabbits, guinea pigs, goldfish and doves - were donated for the aviary by members of the public ^{cix} .	aviary
1953	A sundial was purchased from Halnaby Hall to be placed in the new rose garden. Its inscription attributes it to Inigo Jones ^{cx} . Only the plinth now survives.	sundial
1954	Due to its lack of use during the war, the boating lake had deteriorated and had now become expensive to maintain. Regular dredging operations had to be made to remove silt. The	boating lake filled in

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income from boating charges fell far short of the cost of repair and maintenance. It was therefore decided to fill in the lake and re-landscape the area^{cx1}. After filling in, the ground was left to settle for some fifteen years.

1954	The skating rink was re-surfaced and slightly extended ^{cxii} .	skating rink
c1950's	A new ornamental entrance was constructed off Parkside near the children's playground.	new entrance
1956	The fence adjoining Grange Road on the former boating lake area was set back further from the road ^{cxiii} .	fence moved
1958	The Council approved a proposal to allow the ornamental lake to be used for angling. The Darlington Brown Trout Association agreed to stock the lake with fish ^{cxiv} .	angling
1958-65	New council houses were built south of Parkside (Skerne Park Estate).	Skerne Park estate
1961	The section of fence adjoining Grange Road, from Neasham House to Parkside, was moved back further from the road ^{cxv} .	
1963	The rustic style footbridge over the Skerne was replaced by a new concrete construction ^{cxvi} . The foundations of the previous structure were retained.	footbridge
1968	There was a proposal to remove the railings adjacent to Parkside.	railings
1969	The first dog show was held. It has been repeated every year since and has now become a two-day event ^{cxvii} .	dog show
1971	A new pitch & putt course was laid out on the site of the former boating lake ^{cxviii} . Some of the land was set aside for other uses, e.g. for picnicking. A car parking area was also considered but never constructed.	pitch & putt
1971	A children's miniature boating pool was constructed near the ornamental lake ^{cxix} .	boating pool
1970's	The bandstand and the fountain became Listed Buildings, as did Neasham House and its front boundary wall ^{cx} .	Listed Buildings
1979	The model of Fowler's Plough was stolen from its plinth ^{cxxi} . It had been badly damaged some years earlier and was incomplete ^{cxxii} . A replica has since been made but has not been placed in the park for fear of theft and vandalism. The granite plinth still remains.	Fowler's plough
1985	The Council agreed to allow an open-air rock festival to take place in the park ^{cxxiii} .	rock festival
1991	Repair and restoration work was carried out on the fountain after it had been damaged by vandals ^{cxxiv} .	fountain
1991	The park won an award for best park in the Northeast in the annual Northumbria In Bloom horticultural event ^{cxv} .	award

Appendix 1 – South Park Chronological Development

1991-3	A £30,000 scheme to improve the aviary was proposed, following complaints about some of the conditions in which the birds were kept ^{cxvii} .	aviaries
1992	The Darlington show was held in South Park for the last time. Due to financial difficulties and security problems, it did not take place in 1993. It has subsequently resumed but at a different venue. It's future is currently in doubt.	Darlington Show
1993	South Park was listed by English Heritage in their Register of Parks & Gardens of Special Historic Interest ^{cxvii} . The 200 municipal parks included here are given statutory recognition.	Listed by English Heritage
1996	A section of iron fencing was removed from the Grange Road side because of its deterioration.	fence
1996	The roller skating rink's ticket office, which had been unused for some time, was demolished.	skating ticket office

REFERENCES:

- ⁱ Longstaff W.H.D. - The History & Antiquaries of the Parish of Darlington (1856) p261
- ⁱⁱ Reed A. - Survey of Township of Darlington 1829 (Darlington Borough Council)
- ⁱⁱⁱ Darlington & Stockton Times 17/07/1954 Article by R. Scarr
- ^{iv} Deeds relating to Neasham House, dated 1939 (Darlington Borough Council)
- ^v Longstaff W.H.D. - The History & Antiquaries of the Parish of Darlington (1856) p261 Refers to location as being at Bracken Moor, indicating 'proximity' to Neasham Road.
- ^{vi} Wooler Cuttings Vol.6 p366-7
- ^{vii} Deeds relating to Neasham House, dated 1939 (Darlington Borough Council)
- ^{viii} Name appears on wooden plaque on front wall of house.
- ^{ix} Wooler Cuttings Vol.6 p366-7
- ^x Wooler Cuttings Vol.6 p366-7
- ^{xi} Robbins - The People's Park (Darlington Library) p2
- ^{xii} Plan entitled 'Design B' showing proposed layout of park, dated 1850 (Darlington Borough Council) This design is very different from the one that was implemented, as can be seen by examining the 1st Edition O.S. maps of 1856.
- ^{xiii} Scarr R. - South Park (1954) (Darlington Library)
- ^{xiv} Scarr R. - South Park (1954) (Darlington Library)
- ^{xv} Wooler Cuttings Vol.6 p366-7
- ^{xvi} Robbins - The People's Park (Darlington Library) p4
- ^{xvii} Robbins - The People's Park (Darlington Library) p4
- ^{xviii} Darlington & Stockton Times 17/07/1954 Article by R. Scarr
- ^{xix} Wooler Cuttings Vol.6 p366-7
- ^{xx} Reed A. - Survey of Township of Darlington 1829 (Darlington Borough Council)
- ^{xxi} Borough Surveyor's Plans dated 1852 (Darlington Borough Council)
- ^{xxii} Robbins - The People's Park (Darlington Library) p5
- ^{xxiii} Northern Despatch 06/12/1930 p4
- ^{xxiv} Shown on plan of proposed lagoon, dated 1881 (Darlington Borough Council)
- ^{xxv} This took place on 21/03/1861. Lloyd C. - Memories of Darlington (undated) p15-16
- ^{xxvi} Wooler Cuttings Vol.6 p366-7
- ^{xxvii} Northern Despatch 11/12/1933 p4
- ^{xxviii} Darlington & Stockton Times 21/07/1934 p5
- ^{xxix} 1st Edition O.S. maps 1956
- ^{xxx} Flynn G. - Darlington In Old Photographs (1989) p105
- ^{xxxi} Inscription on fountain
- ^{xxxii} Deeds relating to Poor Howdens Estate 1881 (Darlington Borough Council)
- ^{xxxiii} Plan dated 1878 in Deeds relating to part of Little Polam Estate

Appendix 1 – South Park Chronological Development

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- xxxiv Darlington & Stockton Times 21/07/1934 p5
 - xxxv Darlington & Stockton Times 21/07/1934 p5
 - xxxvi Plan showing land drainage and proposed layout, dated 1881 (Darlington Borough Council)
 - xxxvii According to results of survey by questionnaire issued to schools and elsewhere in 1996 (Darlington Borough Council)
 - xxxviii Plan dated 1878 in Deeds to Little Polam Estate
 - xxxix Plan showing proposed layout of park extension, dated 1881 (Darlington Borough Council)
 - xl Hoskins W.G. The Making of the English Landscape (1955) p196-7
 - xli Various newspaper articles on South Park give his name as John rather than James. The articles written specifically about Morrison refer to him as James.
 - xlii Darlington & Stockton Times 08/10/1938 p11; Evening Despatch 16/07/1923 p1; Darlington & Stockton Times 02/10/1897 p2
 - xliii Northern Despatch 05/12/1933 p4
 - xliv Darlington & Stockton Times 17/07/1954 Article by R. Scarr
 - xliv Northern Despatch 25/04/1960
 - xlvi Set of 2 Drawings showing details of gates & brickwork, dated 1882 (Darlington Borough Council)
 - xlvii Darlington & Stockton Times 17/07/1954 Article by R. Scarr
 - xlviii Plans showing proposed layout of lagoon, dated 1881 (Darlington Borough Council)
 - xlix 2nd Edition O.S. Maps 1896
 - l Darlington & Stockton Times 17/07/1954 Article by R. Scarr
 - li Flynn G. - Darlington In Old Photographs (1989) p105
 - lii Flynn G. - The Book of Darlington (1987) p102
 - liii Northern Despatch 12/12/1933 p4
 - liiv Darlington Council Minutes 1896 pages 79, 94 & 118
 - liv Wooler Cuttings Book p169
 - lvi Wooler Cuttings Book p152
 - lvii Plaque above doorway at Park House
 - lviii Darlington Council Minutes 1902 p221
 - lix Darlington Council Minutes 1904 p354
 - lx Northern Echo 18/11/1908 p5 and 08/01/1909 p5
 - lxi 3rd Edition O.S. Maps 1915
 - lxii Northern Echo 08/02/1907 p5
 - lxiii Hetherington B. - The Darlington Telescope: A Documentary History (1986)
 - lxiv Darlington & Stockton Times 28/02/1959 Article by R. Scarr on planting
 - lxv Plaque formerly belonging to exhibit, now at Darlington Museum
 - lxvi Northern Despatch 14/12/1933 p4
 - lxvii Deeds relating to remainder of Little Polam Estate (Darlington Borough Council)
 - lxviii Records of Public Rights of Way (Darlington Borough Council)
 - lxix Chapman V. - Rural Darlington (1975)
 - lxx Deeds relating to of Polam Hill Estate (Darlington Borough Council)
 - lxxi Northern Echo 06/10/1993 p7
 - lxxii Northern Echo 06/09/1923 p10
 - lxxiii Deeds to Neasham House dated 1939 (Darlington Borough Council)
 - lxxiv Plaque on bridge dated 1924
 - lxxv Darlington & Stockton Times 29/01/1927 p5
 - lxxvi Northern Echo 25/04/1924 p5 and Northern Despatch 22/04/1924 p5
 - lxxvii Northern Echo 21/03/1924 p7
 - lxxviii Northern Despatch 07/12/1933 p4
 - lxxix Northern Despatch 30/05/1925 p1
 - lxxx Northern Echo 11/07/1925 p5
 - lxxxi Northern Echo 20/08/1925 p3
 - lxxxii Darlington & Stockton Times 29/01/1927 p5
 - lxxxiii Drawings showing proposed design of new entrance, dated 1926 (Darlington Borough Council)
 - lxxxiv Comparison between O.S. Maps of 1896 and 1939
 - lxxxv Northern Despatch 05/05/1930 p5; Council Minutes 1929-30 p329

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- lxxxvi Sunderland N. - A History of Darlington (1967) p112; Darlington Council Minutes 1929-30 p 2
- lxxxvii Darlington Council Minutes 1929-30 p329
- lxxxviii Darlington Council Minutes 1929-30 p413
- lxxxix Darlington Council Minutes 1929-30 p339
- xc Darlington & Stockton Times 29/07/1933 p8
- xcI Darlington & Stockton Times 12/08/1933 p8
- xcii Darlington & Stockton Times 31/01/1931 p8
- xciii Hetherington B. - The Darlington Telescope: A Documentary History (1986)
- xciv Northern Echo 12/04/93 p9
- xcv Darlington & Stockton Times 19/02/1938 p2
- xcvi The Album of Darlington Views (G&B Company) undated but believed to be circa 1890's
- xcvii Drawing showing detail of construction, dated 1939 (Darlington Borough Council); Northern Despatch 08/05/1939 p1
- xcviii Northern Echo 20/10/1995 p4
- xcix Search by Durham Land Registry, August 1996
- c Plan showing proposed construction of Bedford Street entrance (Darlington Borough Council)
- ci Plan showing proposed layout of lily pond, dated 1949 (Darlington Borough Council)
- cii Darlington & Stockton Times 05/11/1949 p5
- ciii Darlington & Stockton Times 03/12/1949 p5
- civ Northern Despatch 27/03/1950 p3; Darlington Library Biographical Cuttings Book p72
- cv Northern Despatch 31/12/1951 p5
- cvi Records of Tree Preservation Orders (Darlington Borough Council)
- cvi Plaque on exhibit
- cviii Darlington & Stockton Times 28/06/1952 p2
- cix Northern Echo 29/05/1953 p5
- cx Northern Echo 15/06/1953 p5
- cxI Northern Despatch 18/06/1954 p8
- cxii Plans showing proposed new layout of skating rink, dated 1954 (Darlington Borough Council)
- cxiii Plan showing improvements to junction at Grange Road and Blackwell Mill Lane, dated 1956 (Darlington Borough Council)
- cxiv Darlington & Stockton Times 22/11/1958 p14 & 20/12/1958 p2
- cxv Plan showing positioning of railings, dated 1961 (Darlington Borough Council)
- cxvi Leeming N. - The South Park
- cxvii Flynn G. - The Book of Darlington (1987) p102
- cxviii Evening Despatch 25/03/1971
- cxix Evening Despatch 05/04/1971
- cxx Records of Listed Buildings (Darlington Borough Council)
- cxxi Northern Echo 13/08/1988
- cxvii Evening Despatch 08/03/1972
- cxviii Northern Echo 07/05/1985 p5
- cxvii Darlington & Stockton Times 16/11/1991
- cxv Plaque on Park House
- cxvii Northern Echo 12/11/1991 and 12/07/1993
- cxvii Darlington Town Crier No.22 Spring 1993 p3; Northern Echo 16/11/1993 p3