Hathersage Open Air Swimming Pool and Bandstand An Assessment of the History and Significance of the Site





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The Hathersage Ope	n Air Swimming F	ool and Bandstan	d: History and Signifi	cance

1. Introduction

The Hathersage Open Air Swimming Pool is situated on Oddfellows Road, in the centre of Hathersage. The site is comprised of the pool itself, the Bandstand, the associated office, toilet block, solarium and changing rooms. The car park for the pool is situated to the southwest between the Memorial Hall and the hard play areas. A café is located under the solarium.

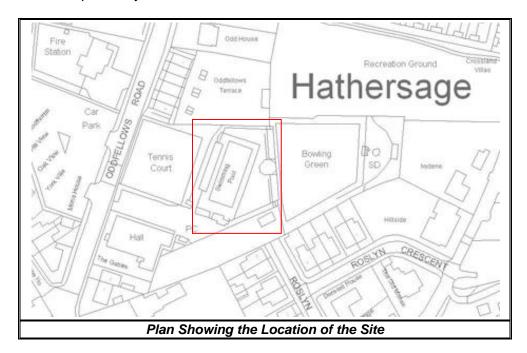
The pool was built in 1936 thanks to a generous donation by razor blade manufacturer, George V Lawrence. The pool was built as part of a larger sports complex situated in the King George Memorial Field. The pool is currently still in use and is open between March and the end of November. It is a popular attraction that hosts a variety of events as well as providing a high quality, unique leisure facility for the local residents and many visitors from the UK. The pool is owned by the King Georges Field Charity and it is managed by Hathersage Parish Council.



2. Description of the Site

2.1. Location

The Hathersage Open Air Swimming Pool is located off Oddfellows Road, to the north of Station Road in the centre of the village of Hathersage. Hathersage is located in the Derbyshire Dales, within the Peak District National Park. It is situated on the valley slope of the River Derwent in the eastern end of the Hope Valley.



2.2. Building Materials

The Hathersage Open Air Swimming Pool complex is constructed of a variety of materials. The Office and Toilets/Showers with boiler room and plant room below are a combination of brick, stone and wavy edged cedar cladding. The solarium is a combination of steel, timber, stone and glass. The swimming pool itself is concrete lined originally with tile. Following problems with these tiles in 2011 they were covered with polyurethane resin.

2.3. The Swimming Pool

The swimming pool is a concrete construction that has been laid with black and white tile. The pool is rectangular in plan and measures 30m by 10m (originally 33 yards by 12 yards). Access to the pool level from the car park is via a very steep and constricted set of steps. These steps are too steep and narrow to allow access for wheelchairs or push chairs.





2.4. The Office and Plantroom

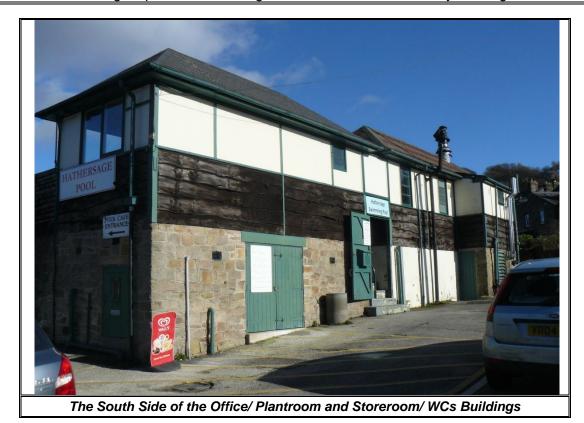
The Office is situated at first floor or pool level. This is constructed of timber boarding with a wavy edged cedar cladding to the lower section. It has retained its original panelled double timber doors. It has two large single light windows in timber frames to each side of the central doorway. The roof has been re-tiled and it has lost the decorative quality of the original patterned roof.



Internally the office is painted cream and the timber doors are white. There is office furniture to the east side of the room along the north and east walls, and bookshelves to the east side along the southern wall. There is a four light window in the east wall. The western half of the Office currently contains kitchen facilities for the staff. There is a two light window in the west wall. Most of the windows retain the original window furniture.

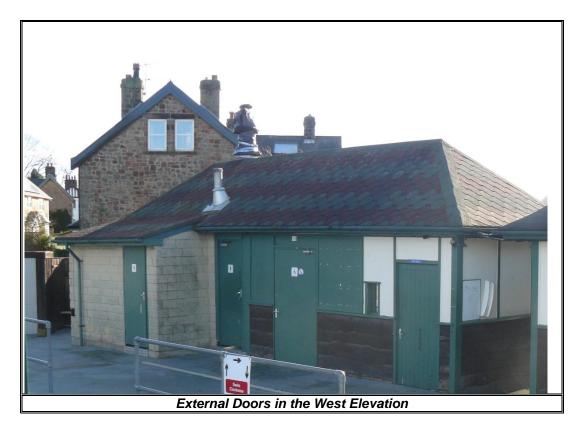


To ground floor level is the Plant Room. This is clad with stone. It is accessed via a set of double timber doors, which have been painted green. As this structure is situated on ground that slopes down towards the west, the line of the building follows this slope, and it presents a longer elevation to the western end. There are air vents at upper ground floor level.



Internally the Plant Room is a combination of stone and brick. The floor is concrete screed. This room has no decorative scheme and it houses the plant for the site.

2.5. The Storeroom, WCs and Plant Room



The toilets and store room are situated at first floor pool level. As with the pool Office, it is constructed of timber boarding with a wavy edged cedar cladding to the lower section. It has timber doors to each toilet and the storeroom. There are no windows in the north, east or west elevations, but there are three in the southern elevation. There are two four light transom windows with metal frames and window furniture and one single light window. There has been a modern extension to the eastern end of the structure to accommodate the male toilets. This is of a stone with green timber door. The roof is of green and brown hexagonal asphalt shingles, laid in alternating lines to produce a striped, almost wave like pattern. This is the original roof pattern.

Internally the building is divided into the male and female toilets and the storage facility. The Storeroom is located on to the west side of the building. It contains sporting equipment and storage facilities. The floor is concrete screed. To the east of this, in the centre of the building, are the disabled toilets. Internally this is painted cream with white sanitary goods. There are simple mirrors on the walls and white tile splash backs to the sink areas. The female toilets are next to this. They too are painted cream, divided into cubicles containing with white sanitary goods. Again, there are white tile splash backs to the sinks, with mirrors above. The male toilets are situated in the brick extension to the eastern end of the building. They are painted cream with white sanitary goods, white tile splash backs and modern halogen spotlight light fittings.



At ground floor level structure is stone, which is partly rendered and painted white. There is a louver window in the eastern bay and two flues extend upwards, just to the east of the window. A combination of cast iron and plastic downpipes and soil stacks are also visible on this elevation. Internally the plant room is a combination of stone and brick. The floor is concrete screed. This room has no decorative scheme and it houses the plant for the site.



The Southern Elevation of the Storeroom, WCs and Plant Room

2.6. Solarium

The solarium extends from north to south, adjacent to the swimming pool. It is constructed of timber columns forming the four arches of the eastern elevation and steel beams are used for the supporting structure. The arches are painted white with an outline of green. The floor is concrete, covered in a waterproofing coating. The western, northern and southern walls are comprised of eight by three multipane lights to the upper section and timber panelling painted green to the lower section. There is a green timber handrail which spans between each timber arch on the eastern elevation. There is an original green timber bench extending along the south, west and north walls of the Solarium. The roof is a replacement, in corrugated metal sheets.





2.7. The Cafe



The café is situated underneath the Solarium at Ground Floor Level. It is of stone with wavy edged cedar cladding and above. The windows are modern insertions of UPVC. There are two green awnings to the exterior, one at the southern end of the western wall and the other on the southern wall.



Internally the cafe is divided into the service area with seating, the kitchen area for food preparation and the toilet facilities. The walls are clad with timber panelling, which has been painted cream and brown. The ceiling has been painted with artex in a random design. Steel beams are visible spanning the ceiling; these have been painted brown, presumably to imitate timber. The floor is carpeted. The toilets are located at the northern end of the Café. They consist of two single

cubicles to cater for both males and females. The dividing wall is plaster board or some form of composite timber, and is painted white. There is white and black tiling to the lower half of the toilet cubicles, and white sanitary goods.

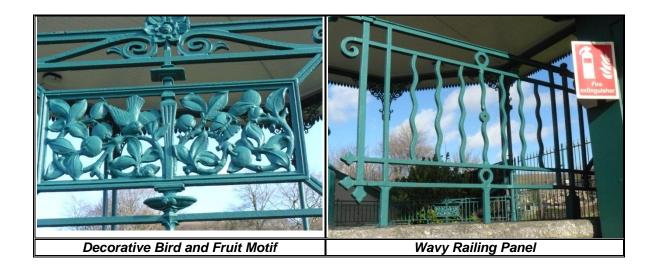


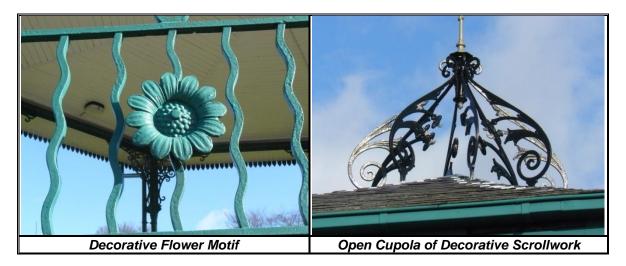
2.8. The Bandstand



The Bandstand is located to the east of the swimming pool. It is a cast iron structure mounted on a raised stone plinth. The space underneath the Bandstand is currently used for storage and is accessed via a small timber door. The Bandstand itself is highly decorative, with flower motifs, decorative scrollwork to the tops of slender, elegant columns and decorative panels containing a bird and fruit motif. The roof is topped by an open cupola of decorative scrollwork. The columns

carry the imprint of McFarlane and Co. Glasgow, a famous foundry also known as Saracen Foundry.





2.9. Modern Changing Facilities

The new changing facilities are located either side of the Bandstand. They occupy the same footprint as the original and are rectangular structures of stone, with a large eight light mullion window along the front elevation. The roof is pitched and of artificial slate. Internally there are changing rooms along one side of the building and the floor is tiled. The timber roof trusses are visible to the ceiling.





2.10. Store and Switchroom

This is a modern, square, flat roofed construction. It is constructed of brick with a concrete render and concrete roof. It has no architectural features or merit.



2.11. Exterior Elements and Boundary Treatments

A set of modern timber stairs give access from the pool to the Café. The stairs are surrounded by a wavy timber surround, a typical style from the 1930s, which matches the timber elements of the buildings.

The timber fence surrounding the site is a modern replacement but has been in place for over thirty years. The original fencing was more open with a diagonal pattern.



3. The History and Context of the Site

3.1. Historical Overview

3.1.1 Mr G. H Lawrence

George H. Lawrence was born in Sheffield, but later moved to Hathersage in 1932. He started his working life as a newspaper vendor but eventually became one of the most successful razor blade manufacturers in Sheffield. His factory, Laurel Works, was situated on Nursery Street in Sheffield. His financial success enabled him to become a generous benefactor for both local and foreign causes. It is suggested that he helped to alleviate some of the pressures of the Great Depression in Hathersage offering to employ less fortunate friends and family. He was a director of Sheffield United Football club and he personally paid for improvements to the grounds. After the First World War the City of Sheffield, and in no small part Mr. Lawrence himself, financed the building of houses for the needy and a school in Bapaume (The Somme). As a resident of Hathersage he personally improved the facilities of the village. He started by paying for electric lighting to be put into the village school. He donated the land and money for the bowling green in the village centre, suggested to be in response to the fatal heart attack of William Goulder and dedicated to him. He also donated the land and capital for establishment of an open air pool and leisure facilities at Longley Park in Sheffield as well as at Hathersage. He was also on the management committee that oversaw the day to day running of the pool. A report in The Guardian dating to the July of 1936 reported on the generous donations of Mr. Lawrence:

VILLAGE'S KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL FIELD

The Derbyshire village of Hathersage is one of the first in the country to have a KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL FIELD. This is the gift of Mr. G. H. Lawrence of Belmont, Hathersage to the village of his adoption. In addition to the purchasing of the field he has laid it out at a cost of £6,000. It is to be handed over to the Parish Council a week on Saturday. The ground has been equipped with a swimming pool, Bandstand and 236 chairs, two all weather tennis courts, large paddling pool, sand pit, gymnasium, refreshment room, sun bathing parlour of Vita glass and gardens.

Last year Mr Lawrence a well-known Sheffield business man and a director of Sheffield United Football Club presented the village with a bowling green and grounds which cost £3,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence also provided funds for public and religious buildings in Hathersage. He offered to build an extension to the Hathersage War Memorial building which became known as The Lawrence Hall. Though not officially dedicated to him it remains the only thing in the village to carry his name. Mr. Lawrence offered £5,000 for the erection of a Methodist Chapel in the village and Mrs. Lawrence funded the purchase of the organ. She also bought 100 new hymn books to be used by visitors as well as presenting each Sunday School child with a Bible and a hymn book. A newspaper article of 1937 commented that they planned to donate £7,500 towards a new hospital in the Hope Valley.



George and Elsie Lawrence (bottom far left) at the Opening of the Methodist Chapel

The generosity of the Lawrence family continued into war time. Mr. Lawrence worked with the Sheffield Newspapers War Relief Fund to aid those in need, as well as donating half a million francs towards canteen facilities for the French Troops. His most notable donations were to a French town Bapaume due to Sheffield Battalion's involvement in that area. Some of his donations went towards the building of the 'Alderman Wardley Creche'. In 1940 Lawrence donated 500,000 French francs, half of which was given to the French Reconnaissance Committee and the other half was to be given to provide woollen clothes for the winter campaigns. However France capitulated in June 1940 so the money was never donated but Lawrence did send 1,000,000 razor blades to the French troops.

Due to the long response time of fire brigade services George Lawrence also gave money for a Coventry Climax trailer fire pump in case of fires from enemy bombing in Hope Valley. In 1940 he also provided a motor ambulance for use in Hope Valley and it was delivered to Hathersage on the 26th May. He offered to maintain this for the duration of the war.

George Lawrence passed away in tragic circumstances on the 13th of December, 1940. He was taking food hampers and supplies to the workers in his Sheffield factory when there was an air raid by German forces. He was in Hathersage when the air raid started and became concerned for his staff, who were to be working until 8 o'clock. He was advised not to go but did not heed the warning. The factory suffered a direct hit, and sadly most of the people in the building perished including Mr Lawrence himself.¹ His body was the first to be brought to the Methodist church which he had helped to open only 12 months earlier. George Lawrence's obituary was printed in the Sheffield Telegraph and Independent on the 16th of December 1940. With regards to his charitable works it read as follows:

Mr George H. Lawrence, the Sheffield industrialist and generous supporter of local charities was among those who lost their lives in Thursday night's air raid. He went to the building in the city which was hit. His body has been recovered.

Mr George H. Lawrence's career was a romance of industry. He rose from a seller of "The Star" running miles each night to earn a few pence, to be the head of one of Sheffield's most thriving razor blade businesses, and a man whose generosity embraced not only his native city but other towns and countries.

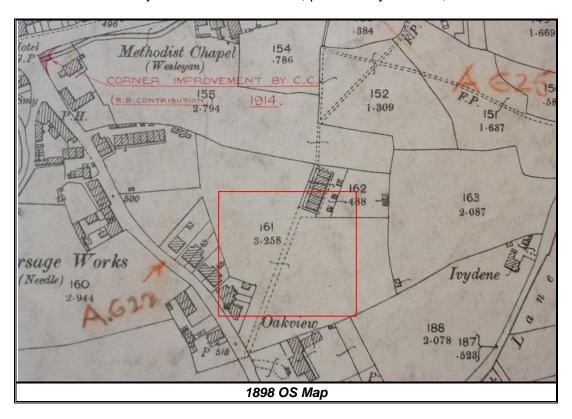
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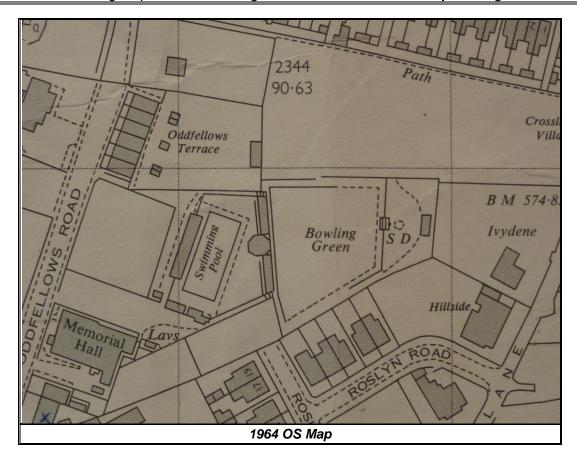
¹ http://www.chrishobbs.com/sheffield/georgelawrence.htm

When the Memorial Hall bathing pool and bowling green, which he gave to Hathersage, were being opened, Mr Lawrence, who lived at "Belmont" in the Derbyshire town said: "I have found through life that I have been blessed and I will endeavour to share those blessings with others. I also realise this- the more blessings I give to my fellow men, the more blessings I will receive." Mr Lawrence was actuated by that motive all his life and was never happier than when he was helping others, sharing with them his bountiful fortune.

3.1.2 The History of the Hathersage Open Air Swimming Pool

The 1896 OS Map of the area shows that the site of the swimming pool was formerly undeveloped land. This area of the village was sparsely developed at this time, and much of the land was undeveloped. In the immediate vicinity of the site there was a small row of terraced houses to the north of the plot, Oddfellows Terrace, and a row of semi detached houses along Station Road. There was a structure directly to the south of the site, presumably a house, called Oakview.





The land was given to the council on the 1st of July 1936.² The parish council then started to organise the required documentation in order to establish the swimming pool. On the 31st of July 1936, a resolution was carried that the Baths and Warehouses Act should be adopted. It was approved by the Minister of Health and was given the official seal of the Minister on the 10th of August.³ Building work commenced on the complex and it was opened that same year. It was originally comprised of the Swimming Pool, Changing Rooms, Showers and Toilet facilities, an office, Solarium, Café and Bandstand. The Bandstand was not a new erection, but was a Victorian example designed by McFarlane & co of Glasgow. It was re-located from a village in Sheffield called Loxley.

En-Tout-Cas Company from Leicester was the main contractor for the swimming pool, tennis courts and children's paddling pool. This company still exists as a tennis court surfacing company. C L Marcroft Ltd of Dore constructed the children's sandpit as well as the refreshment rooms and some changing rooms for those using the tennis courts underneath the solarium. Further local tradesmen involved in the building project included George Percival & Son of Hathersage who built the boundary walls and steps, J H Jepson of Hathersage carried out the plumbing works. J W Froggatt & Son, also local, were given the haulage contract, and the dressed stone from the local quarry was supplied by the local firm J Beresford. Although from slightly further afield, other firms from the local area include Charles Ross Ltd who supplied the constructional steel work for the tearooms and solarium.

The construction of the site started on the 17th of May and the pool was officially opened on the 27th of July. The Solarium was the only thing that was unfinished at the time of the pool opening as referenced in the opening speech by Sir Charles Clegg. The Solarium roof had Vita glass panels which allowed UV light from the sun to pass through which was considered extremely healthy at the time. In spite of this, it was an impressively short period of time for the construction of such a site.

² Conveyance document, Derbyshire County Record Office.

³ Baths and Warehouses act document, Derbyshire County Record Office

⁴ B. Ward, *The Forgotten Philanthropist, the story of George Lawrence* (Hucklow Publishing, 2011) 17.

⁵ B. Ward, *The Forgotten Philanthropist, the story of George Lawrence* (Hucklow Publishing, 2011) 17.

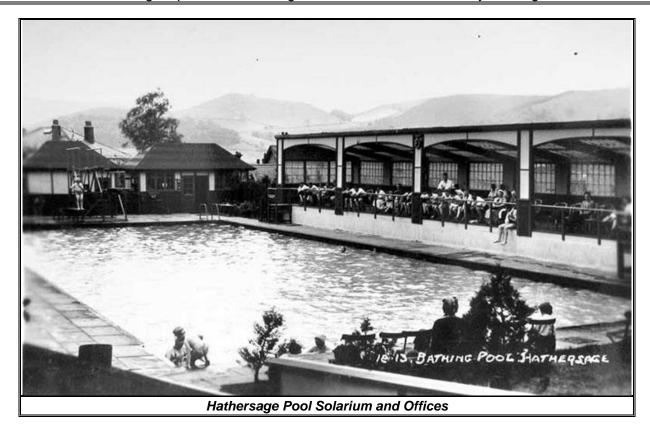
When the pool had been completed, it was filled with water by the Sheffield Fire Brigade to be tested. After the completion of the building works, the grass surrounds and paths were laid.⁶



The opening ceremony was an important local event, attended by over 400 spectators and many members of the local Parish Council; The Lord and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield, Mr and Mrs Lawrence and Sir Charles Clegg. There was a swimming display by the Sheffield City Police and Croft House Swimming Club, which ended in a water polo match. On other parts of the site, leading local tennis players played matches on the new courts and on the Bowling Green, some local players challenged a team from the Hallamshire Association. Music was staged on the new Bandstand, with the Hathersage Band playing through the day and the Holmes Mill Band playing into the evening. After the opening ceremony, George Lawrence's' involvement with the site continued. He was the president of the Hathersage and District Swimming Club.

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⁶ B. Ward, *The Forgotten Philanthropist, the story of George Lawrence* (Hucklow Publishing, 2011) 17.





A committee meeting was held on the 8^{th} of August during which it was decided that the swimming pool attendant should be paid £3.00 per week and would be required to work one weeks' notice. It was proposed that a Mr. Birkinsher be employed in this post. It was also decided at this meeting that the 31^{st} of December would be the season's year end.⁷

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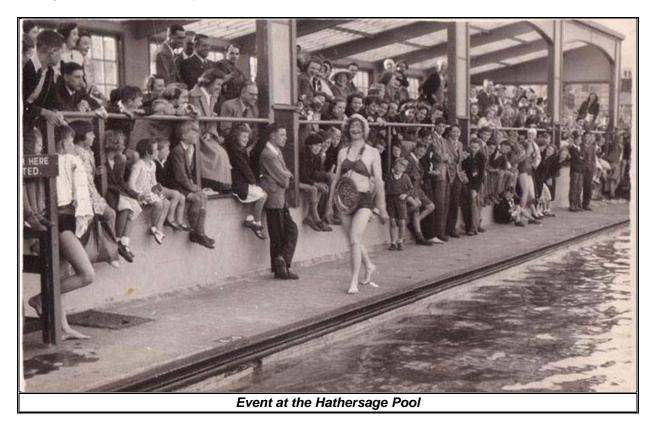
⁷ Committee meeting document, Derbyshire County Record Office.

After an initial season with unheated water, in 1937 heating apparatus was installed to keep the pool water a temperature of 68 to 70 degrees. The cost of £200 was paid by Mr. Lawrence.⁸

For unknown reasons the MOD requisitioned the pool at the beginning of the war. A year later it was de-requisitioned and was prepared to be re-opened. In an article written by Chris Cave, he describes how the pool was run in these early days:

Health & Safety was not as stringent and only one lifeguard was employed; the water was heated by means of a coke boiler which was not capable of raising the water temperature above 18°C (65°F) although a period of hot sunny weather could raise the temperature as high as 20°C (68°F); the shower had cold water only.⁹

The pool was a popular attraction and was well used for everyday swimming and special events. As the image below shows, many were well attended.



Historic photographs also show the variety of people who visited, from honeymooning couples to the Sheffield United Football team. It certainly proved to be a popular attraction in the wider community, as well as to local inhabitants of the village. In 1946 the site was so popular that the number of weekend visitors to the playing field was proving problematic to the area. It was suggested that the facilities be closed at the weekends, but eventually the decision was made to appoint another attendant to police the playing fields.¹⁰

⁸ B. Ward, *The Forgotten Philanthropist, the story of George Lawrence* (Hucklow Publishing, 2011) 25.

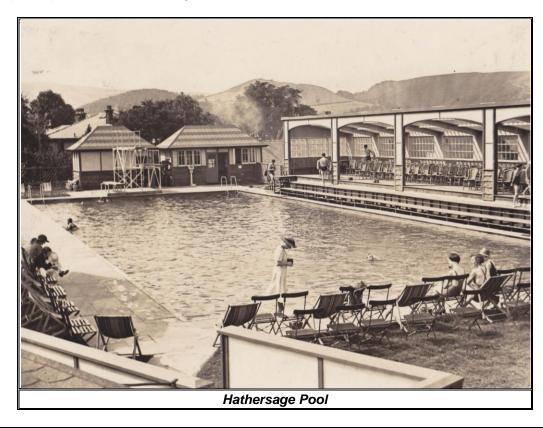
⁹ Chris Cave, article for Dore to Door magazine. Taken from

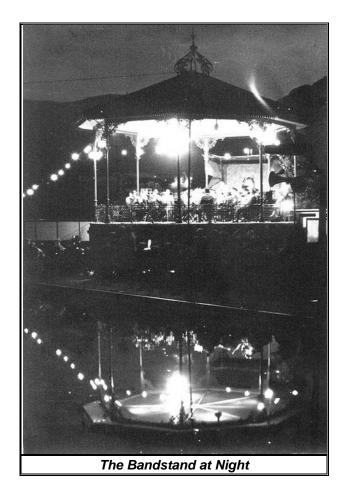
http://www.hathersageswimmingpool.co.uk/about/history/hathersage-swimming-pool-history-chris-cave/

¹⁰ B. Ward, *The Forgotten Philanthropist, the story of George Lawrence* (Hucklow Publishing, 2011) 22.



In the autumn of 1947 the pool was financially in a bad way and according to a survey undertaken by Mr Cook, Mr Birkinsher and a third party, the buildings were in a state of disrepair. It was the finding of the survey that whilst the general condition was good; "There are a number of deficiencies and many of the objects are worn out and require replacing or repairing." The survey specifically mentions the Tea Room window frames, the paintwork to external walls internal asbestos boards, panels in the gentleman's toilets. The diving boards are also discussed and it is stated that they have already been repaired numerous times by this point, and should be wholly replaced before the start of the new season. The need for new equipment such as tarpaulins, brushes for maintenance and mirrors for the changing rooms is also noted. The Bandstand floor is discussed and the survey states that it would benefit from being crowned or altered in such a way that water can drain away from the structure, as at that time, it was penetrating down to the store room below. The money to keep the pool open was found during the season.





During the 1950s the pool was open from Whitsuntide until the first Saturday in September. The general public were charged 1s 3d (for adults) and 4d (for children) for admission. A child's season ticket cost 7s 6d.

The pool has run into numerous periods of financial difficulty, and the threat of closure has been a constant concern. Permanent closure was being considered but thankfully, in the 1950s, a group of volunteers gave their time to reduce the running costs. In 1954 the wooden floor to the Bandstand, which had become rotten, was replaced with concrete. The money to undertake this work was raised and donated by the 'Winhill Girls', a local fund raising group. At some point, the Vita glass panels of the Solarium roof were replaced with corrugated metal. In the 1980s financial assistance was awarded to the pool by the Derbyshire Dales District Council. The Pool Committee also received some help from the High Peak Borough Council. Today the workings of the pool have been vastly improved to adhere to health and safety standards. There is currently a gas boiler that maintains the water at 28°C and the showers are heated. There are now two full time employees and in season up to 16 lifeguards who work part time working at the pool. The original changing facilities and toilets have been replaced using funds raised by the Parish Council and the local community. The pool tank was relined in 2011.

3.2. Wider Heritage Context

3.2.1 En-Tout-Cas Ltd.

The En-Tout-Cas Company was responsible for the design and construction of the swimming pool, tennis courts and children's paddling pool. They are a world renowned manufacturer of artificial tennis courts and sporting facilities. The En-Tout-Cas Company has been in business since 1909. The company's foundation stems from a request from Commander GW Hillyard to Claude Brown of

Leicestershire to create an artificial court that drained well. Commander Hillyard was the Captain of the Great Britain Tennis Team and Secretary of the All England Lawn Tennis Club. During his travels in South Africa he had seen courts made of crushed ant hills. He approached Brown, the manager of a coal merchant and brick yard, to see if he could create a similar surface. Brown developed the En-Tout-Cas court, comprised of crushed brick and burnt shale, which drained and dried quickly. These courts soon became extremely popular and by 1914 the En-Tout-Cas red clay courts were being installed by the best clubs and wealthy individuals. The company continued to thrive after the First World War and they had expanded internationally by the 1920s, with agents in Europe, Scandinavia and North America. Claude Brown was appointed Tennis Court Maker to King George V and by the 1930s there were En-Tout-Cas courts at Wimbledon and the courts were used for the French Open and the Davis Cup.

In the 1930s and during the Second World War the En-Tout-Cas company supported the war effort by building and repairing airfields for the RAF. The company built the flight school training facilities at Yatesbury, later a RAF base. They also built the runways at Llanbedr and Caernafron airfields plus many others during the War, as well as parts of the bomb stores at Llanberis. En-Tout-Cas joined forces with another company, to form British Runways Ltd. They were also the main manufacturer of the Uni-Seco prefabricated buildings, which were used on airfields throughout the war.¹¹



¹¹ Web Ref:1

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After 1945, the combination of enormous amounts of rubble and brickwork created by air raids and the large open spaces left by bomb damage created the opportunity for the speedy development of shale tennis courts and sports amenities. This both raised the morale of the general public and improved the appearance of the country's battered urban landscape. In 1948, the Olympic Games were staged in London. The main venue, Wembley Stadium, had no athletics track and En-Tout-Cas came up with a completely new cinder formulation for the occasion and completed the track with just two days to spare.

Through the 1950s, En-Tout-Cas installed cinder tracks all over the world until the introduction of faster plastic tracks at the 1968 Olympics rendered the tracks obsolete. The company has developed new products such as Tennisquick, a porous concrete tennis court, Pladek an acrylic-painted porous bitumen macadam tennis court and Savanna, a sand-filled polypropylene synthetic grass court surface.

3.2.2 Cecil Jones, Architect

Cecil Jones was one of the resident architects at En-Tout-Cas. He was responsible for the design of sporting facilities, pools and pitches, tennis courts, airfield buildings and a variety of other buildings. As well as being responsible for the design of the Hathersage Open Air Pool, he was responsible for the Longley Park swimming pool in Sheffield that opened in 1938. The Solarium at Longley Park, now demolished, appears almost identical in design to the Hathersage Open Air swimming pool, and the ancillary buildings, also demolished, appear to have a similar design.



In August 1935 Cecil Jones designed a large number of new buildings for the Bristol Aeroplane company who were given a contract for a reserve flying training school at what is now the former RAF Yatesbury airfield. The flying school opened at the start of 1936 even though the works were not entirely completed at that time. In 1936 Flight Magazine commented that "they have unhesitatingly made at Yatesbury a model school whose pattern few will equal and none better." The Combined Officers Mess and Offices, one of the buildings designed by Cecil Jones, is listed Grade II. The listing description states "its crisp modern style makes it the most distinguished example associated with a purpose-built Elementary and Reserve Flight Training Station."

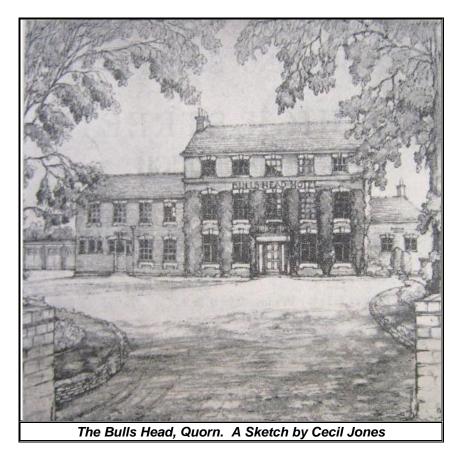
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¹² Richard K Morris & Associates, *RAF Yatesbury, Yatesbury, Wiltshire. A Heritage Statement* (June 2013) 12.



Combined Officers Mess and Offices RAF Yatesbury, Main Flying School Site, c. 1936

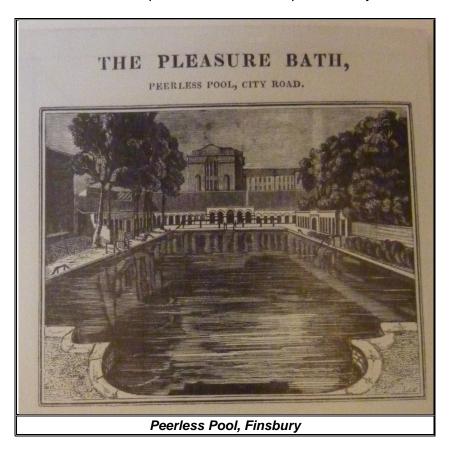
Cecil was also responsible for smaller private jobs such as the renovations at the Bulls Head Public House, Quorn. This was a former residence dating to the 18th century. It was at one time a coaching house called the *Swan with Two Necks*. It was also a private residence for some time but after 1919 it was used as a nursing home and then a public house and hotel. The Loughborough Echo of 1939 refers to the Bulls Head refurbishment as "an old building treated with imagination and respect for its original architecture.....The building has been completely re-designed and modernised to fulfil the requirements of an up to date roadside hotel, without sacrificing it pleasing early Georgian exterior...subsequent additions made as far as possible to blend harmoniously with the original structure"



3.2.3 Outdoor Swimming and Lidos in Britain

In the 17th century the concept emerged that swimming as an activity which may be beneficial to health, especially in sea water, due the advice of certain notable physicians. In the 1660s Dr Wittie of Scarborough espoused such advice and shortly after Scarborough became Britain's first seaside spa town. People enjoyed swimming on segregated beaches at the turn of the 18th century, and this was undertaken in the nude. The earliest example is recorded in Lancashire in 1709. The trend for outdoor swimming continued and in 1750 Dr Russell published writings about the benefits of visiting Brighton, sea bathing and 'taking in the waters'. Drinking the local water was a common activity in the already popular inland spa towns, so the trend easily transferred to the coast. As the middle class expanded many more people of lesser means began to visit inland spa towns. This may have prompted the upper classes to find similar facilities elsewhere, such as along the coast. Margate was regularly visited for this purpose from the 1750s and by 1780 Bognor Regis had become a popular spa town, equipped with bathing machines.¹³

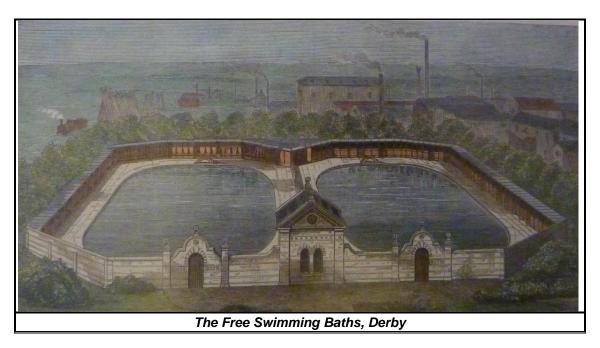
The fashion for swimming spread across the country and in the Georgian period purpose built indoor pools were constructed. At first these establishments had rather negative reputations and many were viewed as little than bordellos for gentlemen. Outdoor swimming in purpose built lakes and pools became even more popular and morally acceptable. The Peerless Pool in Finsbury, a large outdoor pool, opened to subscribers in 1743. Promoters of outdoor pools exploited the fact that pools were a safer option than swimming in lakes and rivers. As the industrial revolution gripped the country there was a rise in concern for the welfare of the working classes. People of lesser means traditionally bathed in rivers, lakes and ponds where drowning was a common occurrence and water borne diseases posed a real threat to public safety.¹⁴



¹³ Janet Smith, *Liquid Assets: the Lidos and Open Air Swimming Pools of Britain* (London: English Heritage, 2005) 10.

¹⁴ Janet Smith, *Liquid Assets: the Lidos and Open Air Swimming Pools of Britain* (London: English Heritage, 2005) 11.

In 1846 the Baths and Wash-houses Act was passed to encourage local councils to build public baths and wash-houses. This made a great improvement to some areas, but in others local authorities did not provide such facilities. In lieu of government facilities local philanthropists would often provide indoor pools themselves. A rare example of an open air pool provided in such circumstances is the Free Swimming Baths formerly in Derby. The funds for this were donated by brewing magnate Michael Bass. This was a free pool, intended for working people. The pool sadly no longer survives; it was levelled after the Second World War. Even though there were a few examples of open air pools constructed throughout history, the majority were constructed in the early 20th century. This may have been due to the fact that sea bathing and seaside resorts remained popular and the advent of the railway in the 19th enabled even more visitors to access the seaside.¹⁵



The 20th century saw the development of numerous types of buildings. These included multi-storey car parks, stadiums, cinemas, airports, sky scrapers and open air swimming pools, or as they are also known, lidos. Although examples of open air pools can be found throughout British history, the open air swimming pools of the 20th century were not inspired by concern for public safety or the need for new spa facilities for the country's elite. Early twentieth century pools were influenced by physical fitness trends emanating from Europe, although the British needed little convincing. The ideology behind the movement was to popularise healthy outdoor living. As early as 1900 there were examples of simple open air pools in Southampton, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester. These were both publicly and privately funded. Municipal swimming lakes in London were well attended. Blackpool and Scarborough were well underway with plans for their extravagant outdoor pools by 1914. The South Bay Pool in Scarborough opened in 1915 and the impressive Open Air Baths at Blackpool opened in 1923. These were more than just a pool and changing facilities, they were more akin to the leisure complexes and tourist attractions that we are used to today; with sunbathing terraces, café facilities and spectator areas. With these pools the focus was not simply on swimming for the health benefits, but on recreation, leisure and family time. This leisure came at a price and pools like those at Scarborough and Blackpool charged an entrance fee.

Although some complexes charged a fee, there was no first and second class distinction at the new pools. At the opening of the Morecambe Open Air Baths in 1936, Josiah Stamp, the Governor of the Bank of England, said:

Bathing reduces rich and poor, high and low, to a common standard of enjoyment and health. When we get down to swimming we get down to democracy.

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¹⁵ Janet Smith, *Liquid Assets: the Lidos and Open Air Swimming Pools of Britain* (London: English Heritage, 2005) 17.

Also, these new open air baths, unlike the Victorian and Edwardian predecessors, were being built in a time when mixed sex bathing was becoming more acceptable. Ladies only sessions did continue until approximately the 1920s, but the popularity of the activity with children and parents alike gave swimming the reputation of a family activity. The changes in the way the British public used swimming pools charts altering attitudes towards society at this time. By the 1930s Lidos and Open Air Pool symbolised modernity, leisure and a brighter future.¹⁶

A number of contributing factors, cultural, social and economic can explain the boom in open air pool building during this period. Between 1920 and 1930 it is estimated that 50 lidos were built and between 1930 and 1939 at least another 180 were constructed. By the 1930s, nearly nine million British people were eligible for paid holiday, this was formalised in 1938 by the Holidays with Pay Act. This entitled people to a week of paid holiday between May and October. In the years before foreign travel was common, many people would have made good use of the local lido, increasing the demand for such facilities. The 1930s was also a time of mass unemployment, reaching a peak of three million in 1932. In order to help local communities the government made grants and loans to councils who wished to carry out works. This financial aid was offered under the proviso that local unemployed people be hired to undertake the labour and that materials were sourced from British suppliers.¹⁷

During the Second World War, many of the lidos were closed to the public. Those in urban areas were taken over by the National Fire Service. Only a few open air pools continued to remain open throughout the war. The effects of the war continued into peace time. Several were damaged during the hostilities and some failed to re-open for several years as materials for renovations were limited. The war had not deterred people from partaking in open air swimming; in fact after 1945 they became more popular than ever. Simple recreation facilities such as the open air pools, provided relief from the austere life that people were still leading after the conflict ended.

In the 1960s the Wolfenden Report on Sport in the Community concluded that although more swimming facilities were needed, they should be indoors. This report also suggested the 'large barns' be erected to house various sport. This was the birth of the modern leisure centre, which eventually drew numbers away from the country's lidos. The growing popularity of travel abroad and the package holiday decreased the number of people spending their holidays in Britain. This further decreased the visitor numbers to lidos. The Conservative Government on the 1980s also played a role in the decline of the lido. They passed the Local Government Planning and Land Act in 1980. This required that local authorities put key council services out to competitive tender. When leisure companies took over the management of an area's leisure provision many soon realised that many open air swimming pools no longer made economic sense, resulting in closures. The Conservative Government also introduced the Rates Act, through which local authorities were penalised for exceeding budgets. This resulted in councils slashing costs and services, wherever they could and many lidos were closed down. Those that did survive had less money for maintenance and staffing. As a result the pools were open for a shorter season and in many cases the quality of the facilities deteriorated.¹⁸

In 2005 there were approximately 100 open air pools left in operation, less than half of the number built in the early 20th century, and many more have ceased operation in the past decade as well. Over the past thirty years some early 20th century pools have been listed, with the aim of preventing further loss and moving towards renovation and re- use. A Grade II listed open air swimming pool at Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd, was awarded £2.3 million by the HLF in 2013, the bulk of the funding for repair and restoration.

¹⁶ Janet Smith, *Liquid Assets: the Lidos and Open Air Swimming Pools of Britain* (London: English Heritage, 2005) 19.

¹⁷ Janet Smith, *Liquid Assets: the Lidos and Open Air Swimming Pools of Britain* (London: English Heritage, 2005) 22.

¹⁸ Smith, Janet. *Liquid Assets: the Lidos and Open Air Swimming Pools of Britain*. (London: English Heritage, 2005) 24.



Other open air pools dating to the 1930s that are in use today include Ilkley Lido, built between 1934-35. This complex included the swimming pool, associated changing rooms and cafe facilities. Tinside Lido, built in 1935 and Saltdean Lido, built in 1938, are more flamboyant examples still open to the public. Peterborough Lido is a smaller complex, in a more vernacular style like Ilkley Lido, built in 1936 that still operates today. Parliament Hill Fields Lido and Brockwell Lido, both built in the late 1930s, remain popular leisure facilities in London.



3.3. Management Information

Hathersage Swimming Pool and the Bandstand are part of the King George V Memorial Field, which includes the Bowling Green, hard play area, the Playing Field and the Park. The King George V Memorial Field is owned by a charity, the King Georges Field charity. Hathersage Parish Council manages the Swimming Pool and Playing Fields on behalf of the Trust. The Trustees of the charity, Hathersage Parish Councillors, are responsible for the management of the pool. The Hathersage Parish Council Swimming Pool Committee oversees the management of the Swimming Pool. Three

years ago a reorganisation took place which meant that the local community became more involved in all aspects of the pool. There are now many volunteer groups, primarily a Marketing and Fundraising group, who along with the pool staff have organised many events to raise funds to improve the pool. There is also a very successful swimming club run by volunteers. With over 100 children attending lessons each week during the season. Local schools also use the pool for lessons on a regular basis.

The Pool charges admission fees and season tickets are available. Over recent years, there has been an average of around 600 season tickets sold, and over 27,000 individual admissions. In addition, the pool is used by visiting school groups and guides and scout groups. The Pool donates season tickets to certain charity groups such as one for children affected by the Chernobyl Disaster. Grants from Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Council, Outseats Parish Council and Hathersage Parish Council help offset the running costs of the pool.

4. Significance

This section contains a statement of significance which addresses the significance of the Hathersage Open Air Pool complex overall and each of the individual buildings and structures. This has been compiled using the values outlined in English Heritage's *Conservation Principles, Polices and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment.* A detailed schedule of significance is then provided which assesses levels of significance for each of the individual buildings and structures, followed by plans which set out the levels of significance for each element.

4.1. Overview of Significance

Evidential Value

"Evidential value derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. Physical remains of past human activity are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them... Their evidential value is proportionate to their potential to contribute to people's understanding of the past. The ability to understand and interpret the evidence tends to be diminished in proportion to the extent of its removal or replacement." 19

- The Hathersage Open Air Swimming Pool provides evidence of the growth of Hathersage and the need to provide public facilities.
- The buildings are exceptionally well preserved examples of interwar architecture.
- The complex of pool and ancillary buildings is virtually intact.
- The design of the Solarium documents important trends in 1930s architecture, using an expensive glass which allowed ultraviolet light through, thought to be health at the time.
- The building is evidence of the philanthropic works of G. H Lawrence
- Their rapid rate of closure, and demolition in most cases, suggests that the building type is under significant threat. Sources report that at present only thirteen outdoor swimming baths, of all ages, are listed.

Historical: Illustrative Value

"Historical value derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative. Illustration depends on visibility in a way that evidential value (for example, of buried remains) does not. The illustrative value of places tends to be greater if they incorporate the first or only surviving example of an innovation of consequence, whether related to design, technology or social organisation." ²⁰

- The building is illustrative of the popularity of open air swimming pools in the 1930s.
- The Bandstand is illustrative of the popularity of live musical performances from the 1930s to the present day.

¹⁹ English Heritage, Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance, (English Heritage, 2006) 28.

²⁰ English Heritage, Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance, (English Heritage, 2006) 29.

Historical: Associative Value

"Association with a notable family, person, event, or movement gives historical value a particular resonance. Being at the place where something momentous happened can increase and intensify understanding through linking historical accounts of events with the place where they happened – provided, of course, that the place still retains some semblance of its appearance at the time."²¹

• The Open Air Swimming Pool is most associated with the philanthropist G. H Lawrence and highlights the value he placed on sports and recreation.

Aesthetic: Design Value

"Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. Aesthetic values can be the result of the conscious design of a place, including artistic endeavour. Equally, they can be the seemingly fortuitous outcome of the way in which a place has evolved and been used over time. Many places combine these two aspects... Design value relates primarily to the aesthetic qualities generated by the conscious design of a building, structure or landscape as a whole. It embraces composition (form, proportions, massing, silhouette, views and vistas, circulation and usually materials or planting, decoration or detailing, and craftsmanship ... Strong indicators of importance are quality of design and execution, and innovation, particularly if influential."²²

- A rare and intact example of 1930s open air swimming pool design with significant ancillary buildings built for the local community.
- A significant piece of architectural history marrying 1930s style elements in half timbering and wavy timber boarding with the local vernacular of sandstone buildings.
- The Bandstand, a very good Victorian design, is made by a famous manufacturer and the same design as several other listed examples.

Communal: Symbolic Value

"Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience of memory. Commemorative and symbolic values reflect the meanings of a place for those who draw part of their identity from it, or have emotional links to it... Such values tend to change over time, and are not always affirmative."²³

• The Hathersage Pool complex remains an important symbol of community pride, evidenced by the many volunteers and supporting groups, the grants given by the surrounding local authorities, the volunteers, the high number of swimmers and people attending concerts and the value placed on the building by those who use it. At the recent 75th anniversary, five members of the original Swimming Club were delighted to attend.

Communal: Social Value

"Social value is associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence... They may relate to an activity that is associated with the place, rather than with its physical fabric. Compared to other heritage values, social values tend to be less dependent on the survival of historic fabric."²⁴

- The Hathersage Pool complex is valued by those who currently use the pool and bandstand as a place for social interaction, leisure and exercise, including the many clubs and groups and other activities who use the pool and attend concerts.
- The landmark nature of the building gives a sense of distinctiveness to the local community.

²¹ English Heritage, Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance, (English Heritage, 2006) 29.

²² English Heritage, Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance, (English Heritage, 2006) 30.

²³ English Heritage, Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance, (English Heritage, 2006) 31.

²⁴ English Heritage, Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance, (English Heritage, 2006) 32.

• There is a great benefit to the local community in terms of health and fitness. The complex still reflects the ideology that instigated the Lido movement in the 1930s, that of healthy living and a passion for the outdoors.

4.2. Schedule of Significance

The following schedule proposes a significance level for the buildings and structures of the pool complex. These elements have been assessed on their cultural significance using the English Heritage guidelines, including evidential value, historical value, aesthetic value and communal value. There are five levels of significance, high, medium, low, neutral and negative.

High Level of Significance:

The element is critical to an understanding of the cultural significance of the building.

Medium Level of Significance:

The element is important to an understanding of the cultural significance of the building.

Low Level of Significance:

The element makes a moderate contribution to an understanding of the cultural significance of the building.

Neutral Significance:

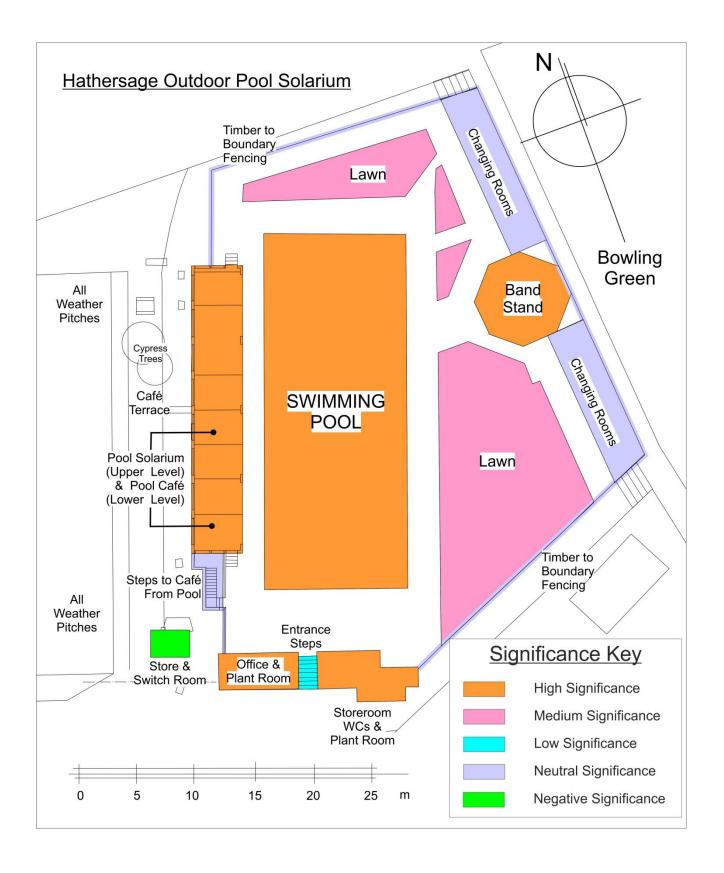
The element does not have a negative impact and could be enhanced to provide an understanding of the cultural significance of the building.

Negative Significance:

The element is intrusive or detracts from an understanding of the cultural significance of the building.

Element	Level of Significance
Swimming Pool	High
Solarium & Cafe	High
Changing Rooms	Neutral
Office and Plantroom	High
Storeroom, WCs and Plantroom	High
Bandstand	High
Store and Switchroom	Negative
Entrance Steps	Low
Terrace to Café	Low
Timber Surround & Steps to the Café from	Neutral
the Pool	
Lawned Areas	Medium

4.3. Significance Plan



5. Assessment against Comparable Listed Building Types

5.1. Open Air Swimming Pools

There are numerous examples of comparable listed Open Air Pools throughout Britain. Based upon an assessment of the site using the English Heritage *Designation Selection Guides (Sports and Recreation Buildings* and *Parks and Garden Structures)* and a review of comparable listed open air pools and bandstands, it appears that Hathersage Open Air Swimming Pool and Bandstand are of listable quality.

With regards to swimming pools the English Heritage Selection Guide offers the following advice.

"For early to mid 20th century examples it is the ancillary buildings that normally give a lido its special quality: changing rooms, perhaps a grandstand and a café, diving boards and art deco aerators rather than the pool itself."²⁵

The Hathersage Open Air Swimming Pool is a largely intact example of a 1930s open air pool built in an unusual timber-framed vernacular style in an upland rural location. The complex remains largely unaltered with the survival of most of the key ancillary buildings. The pool, sunbathing area, Bandstand, office, solarium, storeroom and plant room and the café remain as the original buildings of the complex. The ancillary buildings are excellent examples of 1930s vernacular architecture and the local building materials used, such as the local sandstone, illustrate the importance of distinctive local traditions.

The Selection Guide also states; "They (Lidos) can form significant additions to the public realm. Therefore the relationship to other civic buildings is a consideration." The Pool and Bandstand at Hathersage make a highly significant contribution to the public realm, as they form part of a larger sports recreation ground on the King George Memorial Field. This recreation ground includes a memorial hall, tennis courts, a bowling green and a playing field. The land and the cost of constructing the buildings was donated by George Lawrence, an important local benefactor and philanthropist. The local sandstone was used for all of the walls and buildings.

5.2. Comparable Listed Open Air Swimming Pools

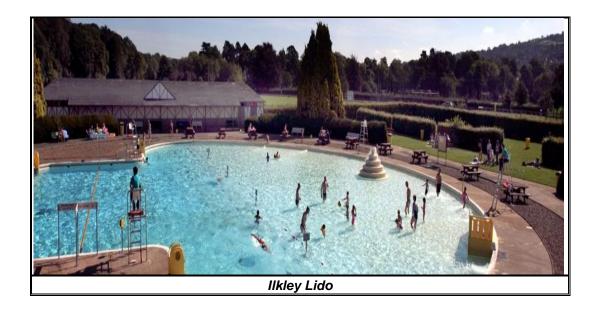
5.2.1 Ilkley Lido

Ilkley Lido is a Grade II listed open air swimming pool complex including a café and changing rooms. It was listed on the 30th of November 2009. It is a largely intact example of a 1930s lido, similarly to Hathersage it was built in an unusual timber-framed vernacular style in an upland rural location. The unusually shaped pool, designed for multiple uses, retains its water filtration system and original circular, tiered aerator, providing a focus to the shallow end. The design of the café with glazed concertina doors opening onto a raised sun terrace, representative of the 1930s enthusiasm for outdoor leisure and an important component of the lido.

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²⁵ English Heritage, *Sports and Recreation Buildings Designation Listing Selection Guide*, (London: English Heritage, 2012) 13.

²⁶ English Heritage, *Sports and Recreation Buildings Designation Listing Selection Guide*, (London: English Heritage, 2012) 12, 13.

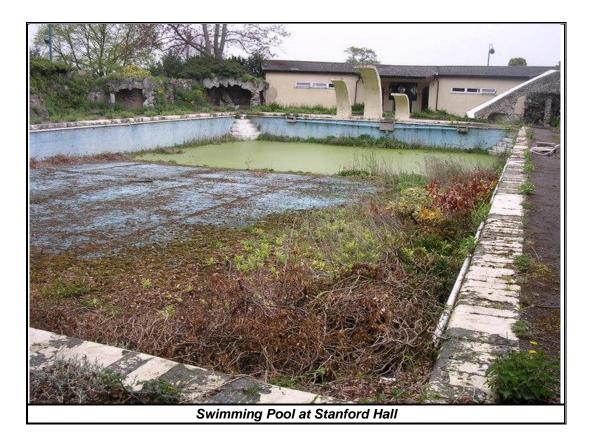


5.2.2 Ealing Village

Ealing Village swimming pool is a Grade II listed pool that was built in 1934 for the Bell Property company. The concrete-lined pool is rectangular, the south side having central shaped pediment with lion's head fountain. As with Hathersage, this is a smaller rectangular pool. The pool previously had a diving board to the east end, but similarly to Hathersage and most other pools, this has been removed. The site has retained the plant room which is painted brick with hipped roof of green pantiles. It rises to a single storey and is of three bays with three round arched windows.



5.2.3 Stanford Hall



The open air swimming pool at Stanford Hall is a grade II listed pool that dates to the 1930s. The pool is small and rectangular with three curved concrete diving boards and a single slide to the east end. There is a water course remaining at the west end. Other features of interest include the boundaries of the site, extending around the pool to the west, north and south sides is the rock and ashlar wall. Created within the wall are seats, some covered, rock pools and grottos.

5.2.4 Swimming Pool, Pump House and Fountain at Kingfisher Court

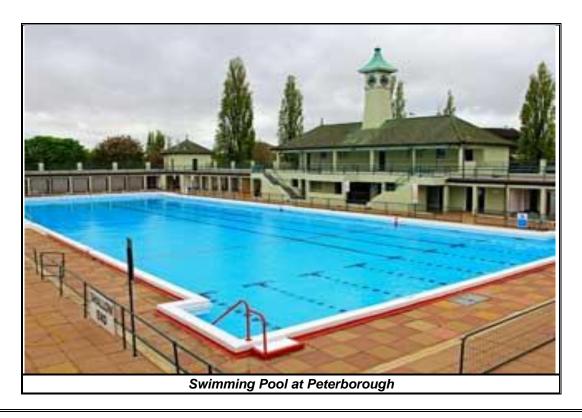
The site at Kingfisher Court was listed Grade II in February 1999. The pool was built around 1935 by Guy Morgan. It is a rectangular concrete swimming pool with pump house to the south side. This is a small rectangular building, with brick plinth and cedar shingles to walls. The roof is hipped, of wood-shingle. There is a single window in the east side and board door in south side. There is also a fountain, set on west side. The fountain has circular concrete basin and tapering central pillar with small upper basin and font.



5.2.5 Peterborough Open Air Swimming Pool

The open air pool at Peterborough has retained the original changing rooms and sunbathing facilities. The complex was built in 1936 and has been listed Grade II. Unlike other complexes, there is a large 50 yard Main Pool, plus a Learner Pool and a Paddling Pool. The main pool has diving boards. The ancillary buildings surround the pool on three sides and are painted and rendered brick with hipped green pantile roofs. The main range to the west of the site has a central 2-storey gateway and grandstand, above is a tall square metal clock tower surmounted by a pyramidal copper roof.

There are single storey wings to either side of the main wing, with continuous window strips and at either end is a two storey square pavilion. The side fronts have single storey wings, again with continuous metal framed window strips and further two storey pavilions.



5.2.6 Example of an Open Air Pool Complex not of Listable Quality

Jesus Green Outdoor Swimming Pool, Chesterton Road, Cambridge

This complex has been judged to not meet the criteria for listing in a national context. This is due to the fact that although the pool itself has remained intact, the map evidence suggests that none of the original ancillary buildings has survived. Although the pool is of interest as being perhaps the longest pool in Europe, the loss of the original ancillary buildings has destroyed any special interest the site may have had.

5.3. Bandstands

With regards to the listing of bandstands, English Heritage provides guidance in the *Designation Listing Selection Guide Parks and Garden Structures.*²⁷ This states that "Discretion should be used in selecting examples for designation; quality, rarity, date, and condition will all be factors, as may its location and the significance of the park itself." ²⁸

The Bandstand is a key feature of the pool complex. It is a Victorian example, designed by MacFarlane & Co of Glasgow at the Saracen Foundry. Walter MacFarlane & Co were one of Scotland's most successful and internationally renowned 19th Century industrial firms. The Bandstand has remained almost entirely intact, is in good condition and is of high quality.

The Bandstand was re-located from the village of Loxley in Sheffield. This relocation should not preclude the Bandstand from being listed, as other examples of listed bandstands such as that at Church Road in Tame and the Beamish Open Air Museum were listed after they were moved from their original location.

There are several examples of listed bandstands by McFarlane & Co throughout the country; however none are included as a key element of an open air pool complex. The location of the Bandstand was designed to sit within the larger designed Memorial Field, at a prominent site between the Bowling Green and the Pool. There is a sense of place and visual harmony resulting from the use of a local sandstone in all of the structures, including the base of the Bandstand, the pool structures such as the café, offices and all of the walls surrounding the Memorial Fields. In addition, this rare association of a Bandstand within a pool complex documents the civic nature of the original planning for the complex. The Bandstand provides the Hathersage Open Air Pool complex with an unusual entertainment facility which is often used in conjunction with pool events, or the lawned areas of the pool complex are used by the public for events staged at the Bandstand.

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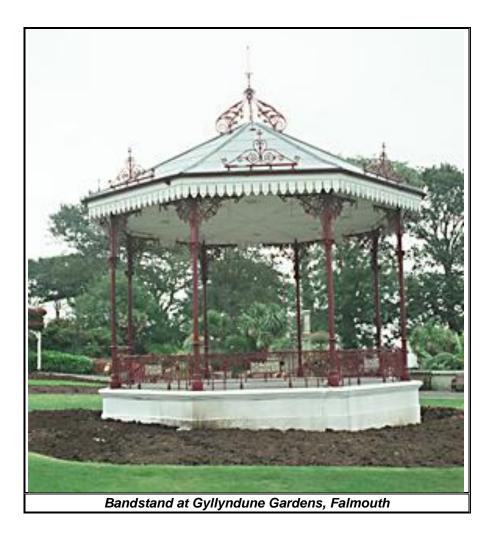
²⁷ English Heritage, *Parks and Garden Structures Designation Listing Selection Guide*, (London: English Heritage, 2011) 11.

²⁸ English Heritage, *Parks and Garden Structures Designation Listing Selection Guide*, (London: English Heritage, 2011) 11.

5.4. Comparable Listed Bandstands

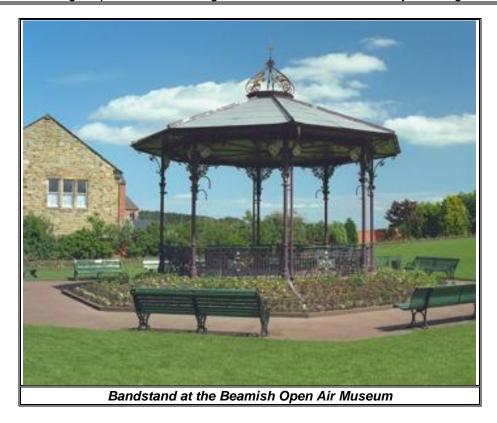
5.4.1 Gyllyndune Gardens, Falmouth.

The Bandstand at Gyllyndune Gardens is listed Grade II. It dates to 1907. It is cast iron, octagonal in plan on a moulded rendered base with zinc roof with multi-pendanted eaves, scrolled crest over each bay and central finial with scroll and leaf decoration. It presents an arcade of shaped arches with ornate spandrels on slender columns; balustrades with straight and twist balusters and elaborate panels.



5.4.2 Beamish Open Air Museum, Urpeth

The Bandstand was originally located in Saltwell Park, Gateshead, but was moved to the Beamish Open Air Museum in 1978. It was built in the late 19th century and has been grade II listed. Octagonal in plan, the base is of three courses of Flemish-bond brickwork in light-red engineering brick with chamfered stone coping. The low-pitched hipped roof has overhanging eaves and is crowned by an open cupola with scrollwork and ornamental finial. It is a cast-iron and wood superstructure, with eight thin columns with Roman Ionic capitals. There are low railings between the columns with each section divided into three panels: the central panels have bird, butterfly and floral motifs but the flanking panels have simple wavy bars. The columns support posts with scrolled brackets and stylised lyres.



5.4.3 South Promenade, Lytham St Annes

Built between approximately 1890-1914, the Bandstand on the south promenade at Lytham St Annes is one of an associated group of promenade structures. It is now Grade II listed. Octagonal in plan, with ashlar plinth with rounded coping. The slender cast iron columns have fluted bases and volute caps, and upper sections with ornamental open-work brackets and spandrels. There is a shallow polygonal roof with wrought iron crest and brackets to the prominent eaves.



5.4.4 Stanley Park, Liverpool

The grade II listed Bandstand at Stanley Park, was built in approximately 1870. It is octagonal in plan, set on a shallow plinth with a roof that was felted in 1984. There is a decorative iron crest to the peak of the roof. There are eight slender cast iron columns with ornamented arch braces.



5.4.5 Ripon Spa Gardens

The Bandstand at Ripon Spa Gardens was built in the late 19th century and is now grade II listed. Octagonal in plan on a brick plinth with ashlar dressings. The slender columns with composite capitals and elaborate cast-iron spandrels incorporate lyre ornament. There are also elaborate cast iron brackets that extend from the exterior of the columns to support baskets of flowers. There is a fretwork valance to roof: cast iron cresting over the eaves and a cast iron open cupola in centre. The balustrade in-between the columns have characteristic art nouveau balusters incorporating daisy motif, and panels with bluebirds and butterflies.



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Outdoor Swimming Society
Pooling Resources (a Campaigning Group for Reopening Closed Lidos and Indoor Pools)
The Thirties Society

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Web Ref 2: http://tenniscourtsuk.co.uk/about-us.html