Access Statement:
Poppies: Wave at Barge Pier, Gunners Park,
Shoeburyness, Southend-on-Sea
12th April 2017 to 25th June 2017

This Access Statement does not contain personal opinions as to suitability for those with access needs, but it aims to accurately describe the Gunners Park site, facilities and services on offer to all our visitors on viewing Poppies: Wave, as described below.

We offer a warm welcome to everyone and aim to offer an excellent level of service to all our customers. We really want you to enjoy your time visiting Poppies: Wave in Shoeburyness.

Please note – A short walk to Poppies: Wave is required from all arrival points.

PLEASE CONTACT US ON POPPIES@SOUTHEND.GOV.UK BEFORE YOUR VISIT IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE DETAILS ABOUT OUR FACILITIES OR THE SUPPORT WE CAN OFFER

Introduction

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and 14-18 NOW are pleased to present Poppies: Wave by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper at Barge Pier, Gunners Park, Shoeburyness, Southend-on-Sea, as part of 14-18 NOW’s UK-wide tour of the iconic poppies.

Wave is one of two breath-taking sculptures, initially conceived as the key dramatic sculptural elements in the installation Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London during the summer and autumn of 2014.

In Southend-on-Sea, Wave has been designed against the fantastic backdrop of the Thames Estuary. The spectacular sculpture features a sweeping arch of bright red poppy heads suspended on towering stalks, which will rise up from Barge Pier to create a spectacular wave towards the Thames Estuary.

The Sculpture is open to the public for from the 12th April 2017 to 25th June 2017.
Shoeburyness, Southend-on-Sea is one of just two locations in 2017 where visitors will be able to see Poppies: Wave against a backdrop of sand, sea & stunning coastal views.

Poppies: Wave is an artwork which marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. The presentations of Wave and Weeping Window by 14-18 NOW, the UK’s arts programme for the First World War centenary, will give people across the UK the chance to experience the impact of the ceramic poppy sculptures in a range of places of particular First World War resonance.

Poppies: Wave is hosted outdoors, and is sited on Barge Pier in Gunners Park, Shoeburyness. Barge Pier is situated on the foreshore at Shoebury Old Ranges in Gunners Park. The foreshore in this area is owned by the MOD, although not operational.

Gunners Park is described as a public park. Part of this park is designated as a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI) and is managed by Essex Wildlife Trust.

Viewing of Poppies: Wave is possible from a variety of different places (please view the site map for recommended locations to view Poppies: Wave). Viewing is not possible from Barge Pier itself or from the adjacent beach and foreshore. Visitors are advised that access to the beach and foreshore in this area is prohibited at all times. For further information visit [www.shoeburyness.qinetiq.com](http://www.shoeburyness.qinetiq.com).

Poppies Waves is visible from the both sides of the path leading up to Barge Pier, but there are also two wooden viewing platforms for you to use. A ramp is in place to allow for step-free access for wheelchairs and buggies.

**Before you visit – key information**

- Clear and printable site MAP available from [www.visitsouthend.co.uk/poppies](http://www.visitsouthend.co.uk/poppies)
- Poppies: Wave is FREE to view
- Opening hours - The sculpture is available to view all day, seven days a week from 12th April until the 25th June 2017. Poppy Volunteers will be available to greet visitors between 9am and 7pm, each day.
- Arriving – a short walk to Poppies: Wave is required from all arrival points
- Poppies: Wave is hosted outdoors. Please ensure you wear appropriate footwear and clothing. We would advise flat footwear due to the different gradients.
- Dog walkers - Gunners Park is a lovely area to take your dog for a walk. We welcome owners and their dogs all year round and during Poppies: Wave being hosted at Barge Pier. We want as many people to enjoy their visit as possible so please:
  - Don’t forget your lead and dog waste bags when you leave the house.
  - Keep your dog under close control whilst visiting the sculpture
  - Help others to enjoy their visit by cleaning up after your dog – it’s against the law not to! You can use the dog waste bins provided around the site to dispose of your dog mess.

- Mobility scooters and manual wheelchairs are available for hire from the following local companies (Advance booking recommended to avoid disappointment):

  **Lifestyle & Mobility**, Unit G39 The Victoria Centre, 362 Chartwell Square, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS2 5SP. Open Mon-Sat 9am-5pm. Wheelchairs £5/day hire fee + £50 deposit. Advance booking recommended. T: 01702 417 088 info@lifestyleandmobility.co.uk / [www.lifestyleandmobility.co.uk](http://www.lifestyleandmobility.co.uk)

  **Shop Mobility**, 3rd Floor of car park, Victoria Shopping Centre, Chartwell Square Southend on Sea, Essex. Open: 9am -5pm or later & weekends by appointment, they will also deliver and pick up – please call to make arrangements). Scooters £8/day, Wheelchairs Hire Fee by donation, £50 deposit by cash or cheque. Advance booking recommended. T: 01792 875 815 hire@southendshopmobility.org / [www.southendshopmobility.org](http://www.southendshopmobility.org)

  **Essex Mobility**, 134-136 Hobleythick Lane, Westcliff, Essex, SS0 0RJ. Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm. Wheelchairs £10/day, payment by debit or credit card only. T: 01702 300790 essexmobility@aol.com / [essex-mobility.co.uk](http://essex-mobility.co.uk)

  **ABLE-AID**, 864-866 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 3NQ Open Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm. Wheelchair £10/day hire fee + £50 deposit on card or cheque. Various sizes available. Advance booking recommended. T: 01702 470581 enquiries@able-aid.com [www.able-aid.com](http://www.able-aid.com)

**Transportation to the site**

Gunners Park is accessible by foot, bike, bus, car, train or taxi. We would encourage visitors to access the site via public transport where possible please.

**Approximate Walking Times:**

**Church Rd / Ness Road Bus Stop** – a 10 minute walk

**Shoeburyness Train Station** – 20 minute walk

**Car Park 1: Shoebury Common South** – 10-15 minute walk

**Car Park 2: Shoebury Common North** – 10-15 minute walk

**Car Park 3: Shoebury East Beach** – 20 minute walk. If you enjoy walking, then the walk from this car park along the coast offers you the opportunity to experience the historic elements of Gunners Park.

**Car Park 4: Thorpe Esplanade** – 20 minute walk

For details about how to get to Barge Pier, including car parks, please go to: [www.visitsouthend.co.uk/poppies/poppies-getting-here.aspx](http://www.visitsouthend.co.uk/poppies/poppies-getting-here.aspx)
For further information regarding travel to and within Southend, please visit www.ideasinmotionsouthend.co.uk where you’ll find available service information, links to useful advice, and details on how to plan your journey.

**Blue Badge Holders**

Blue Badge Holder parking is available in all the car parks listed at the above link. We have also allocated around 10 Blue Badge Holder parking bays close to Barge Pier. These bays can be found at the sea-end of Ness Road which is adjacent to the Coast Guard Station and Shoebury Common South.

**Taxi Drop Off**

A temporary taxi drop-off area is located on New Barge Pier Road close to Barge Pier. The pavement from the taxi drop off has a dropped kerb, with a tarmac path leading to Barge Pier.

Southend benefits from a number of private hire taxi firms. Visitors can contact these firms directly to make bookings, discuss travel arrangements and assistance.

- AC Radio Cabs - 01702 334455
- Andrews Taxi’s - 01702 200200
- Southend Radio Cars - 01702 345678
- Triple3Triple4 - 01702 333444
Getting Around

Route from Car Park 1, Car Park 2, Car Park 4 & Blue Badge holder car parks: There is a dropped curb to the road, followed by a self-binding gravel path leading to Barge Pier:

Route from Car Park 3 / Shoeburyness Train Station: From Car Park 3 / Train Station, you can follow a tarmac path alongside the sea wall, gently sloping in places. A small section of the route consists of a self-binding gravel path.
**Benches along route**
Several picnic benches and tables are positioned in the grassy area along the route from Car Park 3 / Shoeburyness Train station. Two temporary benches are available along the route from Car Park 1, 2 and 4.

![Benches](image)

**Contemplation Area**
Our Contemplation Area is positioned on a grassy area near Barge Pier, which has a slight downward gradient towards the lake.

![Contemplation Area](image)

**Public Toilets**
The following public toilets are available nearby:

- **Shoebury Common** - provides male, female, disabled and baby changing facilities.
- **Ness Road** – corner of Campfield and Ness Road - provides male and female facilities.
- **East Beach** – provides male and female facilities
- **George Street - entrance to Shoebury East Beach** – provides male, female and disabled facilities.
- **Marine Parade – close to the Kursaal** – offers male, female, disabled & baby changing facilities.

Please view our site map for full details.
Catering:

A catering unit near Barge Pier offers light refreshments, including hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and cakes. Seating is available with a step-free access.

Viewing Facilities:

Poppies Waves is visible from the both sides of the path leading up to Barge Pier, but there are also two wooden viewing platforms for you to use. A ramp is in place to allow for step-free access for wheelchairs and buggies.

Viewing of Poppies: Wave is possible from a variety of different places (please view the site map for recommended locations to view Poppies: Wave). Viewing is not possible from Barge Pier itself or from the adjacent beach and foreshore. Visitors are advised that access to the beach and foreshore in this area is prohibited at all times. For further information visit www.shoeburyness.qinetiq.com.

First Aid:

First aid trained staff will be available on site, please ask one of our volunteers if you need to speak to our staff or if you need other assistance.

Contact Information:

Should you require further information, please don’t hesitate to email us on poppies@southend.gov.uk