

Distington Walled Garden Car Park

Design and Access Statement

Distington Walled Garden and Café is owned and managed by Cumberland Council.

The café is open four days a week (Tuesday-Friday) from 10am to 3pm.

During the course of the year, four “Artisan Fetes” are held on weekends in March/April, July, September and late-November.

Volunteers play an important part in the ongoing maintenance of the garden and café and are present on most days when the facility is open. In addition a programme of weekend Volunteer Activity Days takes place on the first Saturday of every month (generally between 10am-12noon),

There is currently a very limited amount of car parking available. This is confined to a small area of hardstanding immediately outside the main entrance to the garden – enough for max 4 cars.

The number of visitors is steadily growing, in particular attracted to the café. Even on quiet days, car-parking demand exceeds the space available. When the “Artisan Fetes” are taking place the situation becomes even more of a problem, with many cars having to park on the grass verge of the access road leading to the Crematorium.

The proposal for a formal car park will address this problem to a large degree.

Twelve new car parking bays will be created, including a disabled parking bay immediately alongside the new pedestrian entrance into the garden. This entrance will be created by re-opening the bricked up archway in the boundary wall, which will have a new bespoke gate fixed. A paved surface suitable for wheelchairs will be constructed between the car park and the new pedestrian access.

A one-way circulation system will apply to the car park.

The entrance into the car park will be via the existing access from the highway.

The exit from the car park will include a new tarmac “bell-mouth” and dropped kerb.

On exiting the car park, traffic will follow the current one-way system via the crematorium before re-joining the main road via the existing junction.

“One-way” and “No Entry” signage will be installed at the exit from the car park.

The car park surface will be a grass cellular system suitable for bearing the weight of vehicles. This will ensure the car park is hard wearing, free-draining and in keeping with the surroundings.

A low knee-rail will be installed along the boundary of the car park to prevent vehicular incursion into the car park across the road verge.

Landscaping will include two new shrub beds and creation of a wildflower verge.

The existing tree at the entrance to the car park will be retained.