

Whaley Bridge Uniting Church – Car Park Project

Design and Access Statement

Existing Car Park

The Whaley Bridge Uniting Church has an existing car park with a hardcore surface at the rear of the Church building. The car park has an asphalt footpath and concrete kerb on one side and a grass bank on the other three sides, with no underground drainage. The surface water falling on the car park currently drains through the hardcore. The surface of the hardcore is very uneven and difficult to push wheelchairs and children's pushchairs and difficult for the elderly building users wading over it. The parking of cars is very haphazard due to the absence of white lining for the parking bays. The cars entering the car park travel over an existing asphalt road between the highway on Buxton Road and the entrance into the car park, which will remain and not be changed. The car park is partially visible from Buxton Road, which will not change as a result of this Project. Refer to the photographs of the existing car park in the Documents section of the Planning Application.

Design

The Church looked at 2 designs at concept stage, the first being impermeable asphalt with new underground drainage, needing to discharge into the public sewer, canal feeder or the river, but all these options were problematic and expensive. The second design was the use of permeable asphalt with no new underground drainage.

The common detail for both these design options would be the use of the precast concrete kerb on the perimeter of the car park at the bottom of the grass banks, which would act as a stop end for the new asphalt and prevent grass growing over the edge of the asphalt.

The permeable asphalt option has been chosen on economic and sustainability grounds with no adverse effects on the public sewer, canal feeder or river.

Due to the sloping nature of the car park entrance there could be limited surface water run-off during an extreme weather event. To mitigate such an event a new concrete dished channel will be installed adjacent to the existing drop kerb across the car park entrance. The rainwater from the dished channel will discharge into a trapped gully and then into a 1 cubic meter stone soakaway located in the adjacent garden area,

The size of the car park has not changed and remains at approximately 300 square meters. The use of the new precast concrete kerbs will improve the maintenance and appearance of the car park. The new asphalt and white lining for the parking bays will improve the safety for all building users. The use of the permeable asphalt will have no adverse effect on the surface water run-off.

To increase the biodiversity of the site, eco/insect friendly plants will be added to the grass banks around the car park.

Access

The access from the public highway to the entrance into the car park will not change.

The movement of vehicles in the carpark and the new white lining of the parking bays will greatly improve the safety of vehicle movements and the efficiency of parking in bays which will maximise the number of vehicles using the car park.

The Whaley Bridge Uniting Church is very heavily used by numerous community groups, therefore any improvements we can make to the car park, will benefit the whole community, when parking in the local area is always in short supply.

John Morten

10.07.2026