
SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE STRATEGY

Car park extension and resurfacing

St Agnes RC Church, 82 Huyton Hey Road / St Mary's Road, Huyton, Knowsley, L36 5SQ

Client / Applicant	The Archdiocese of Liverpool (Registered Charity No. 1199714)
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Note

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1. Introduction

This Sustainable Drainage Strategy is submitted in support of the application for full planning permission for the extension and resurfacing of the existing car park at St Agnes RC Church, Huyton.

It sets out the approach to the management of surface water from the site, and is provided in response to the requirement in the Council's Local Validation Checklist for a sustainable drainage strategy.

It should be read with drawing ADL00002/002, Proposed Car Park — Construction, which identifies the proposed permeable paving areas, and with drawing ADL00002/004, Existing Site Topo and Services.

2. The Site and Existing Drainage

The site comprises the existing car park and hardstanding serving St Agnes RC Church, together with the footprint of the former parish club building. The site area is approximately 1,597 square metres.

The existing surfaces are as follows.

Area	Description	Approximate area
Area 1 (A1)	Footprint of the former parish club building	623 m ²
Area 2 (A2)	Existing macadam car park and footpath area	1,063 m ²
Areas C, D and E	Existing soft landscape and vegetation, all retained	Balance of the site

Existing levels and recorded services are shown on drawing ADL00002/004. The existing car park drains by surface gradient to existing gullies and inspection covers, which are to be retained and reinstated within the new surfacing.

The former parish club building is drained to the existing system. Under the separate prior approval for demolition, all drains from the building are to be sealed off at the boundary of the site in accordance with the requirements of the Section 81 notice.

3. Flood Risk Context

- The site lies within Flood Zone 1, being land assessed as having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding.
- The site area is 0.16 hectares, below the one hectare threshold at which a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment is required in Flood Zone 1.
- The site is not within 20 metres of a watercourse.
- The proposal involves no change to a more vulnerable use. The existing and proposed use is a car park ancillary to a place of worship.
- The proposal does not increase flood risk elsewhere.

4. Change in Impermeable Area

The proposal does not represent a significant increase in impermeable area. The site is already substantially hard surfaced, comprising an existing macadam car park and the footprint of a building with a solid roof, both of which are effectively impermeable at present.

The former building footprint of 623 square metres presently discharges from its roof to the existing drainage system. On completion that area will form part of the car park surface. The net change in the volume and rate of surface water runoff from the site is therefore minimal, and the introduction of permeable paving is expected to result in an improvement over the existing position.

All existing soft landscaped areas are retained and no permeable surface is lost.

5. The Drainage Hierarchy

The proposed strategy has been developed by reference to the drainage hierarchy, under which surface water should be discharged in the following order of preference.

Option	Position
Infiltration to ground	Adopted in part. Permeable paving is proposed to the areas indicated on drawing ADL00002/002, allowing infiltration where ground conditions permit. Percolation testing will be undertaken at detailed design stage to confirm infiltration rates
Discharge to a surface water body	Not available. There is no watercourse within or adjacent to the site
Discharge to a surface water sewer	Retained as the fallback for that part of the site not served by permeable paving, and for exceedance flows, by way of the existing outfall
Discharge to a combined sewer	Not proposed

6. Proposed Strategy

The strategy comprises the following elements.

- Permeable paving to the areas identified on drawing ADL00002/002, providing infiltration and attenuation at source. The build-up comprises a permeable surface over a sub-base acting as a storage layer.
- Retention and reinstatement of the existing gullies and inspection covers within the new surfacing, maintaining the existing drainage function for those areas not served by permeable paving.
- Surfacing laid to appropriate falls, directing surface water to the permeable areas and to the retained gullies, and away from the church, the adjoining residential boundaries and the public highway.
- Retention of all existing soft landscaped areas, which continue to provide infiltration.
- Sealing of the drains serving the former parish club at the boundary of the site, under the separate demolition consent, removing that connection from the system.

The detailed design of the permeable paving, including the depth of the storage layer and the need for any lined or tanked construction, will be developed following percolation testing. The applicant would be content for the detailed surface water drainage design to be secured by condition.

7. Water Quality

Runoff from a car park serving a place of worship is of low pollution risk. Vehicle movements are intermittent and concentrated around service times, and no commercial vehicle operations, fuel storage or vehicle washing take place on the site.

Permeable paving provides treatment at source through filtration within the surface and sub-base layers, removing suspended solids and hydrocarbons. This represents an improvement in the quality of runoff from the site over the existing position, in which the whole of the car park drains directly to the existing system without treatment.

8. Exceedance and Maintenance

8.1 Exceedance

In the event of a rainfall event exceeding the capacity of the system, surface water will follow existing overland flow routes to the retained gullies. Levels will be designed so that exceedance flows are directed away from the church, from the adjoining residential boundaries and from the public highway. No property is placed at increased risk of flooding.

8.2 Maintenance

The drainage system will be maintained by the Archdiocese of Liverpool as landowner. The following regime is proposed.

Element	Action	Frequency
Permeable paving	Sweep surface to remove detritus and prevent clogging	Twice yearly
Permeable paving	Inspect for surface ponding, sediment accumulation and weed growth	Annually
Permeable paving	Remedial cleaning or replacement of surface where infiltration performance has reduced	As required
Gullies and inspection covers	Clear and jet as necessary	Annually
Falls and overland flow routes	Inspect for ponding, damage or obstruction, following heavy rainfall	Annually and after storm events
Landscaped areas	Maintain as existing; no change proposed	Ongoing

9. Conclusion

The site lies in Flood Zone 1, is below one hectare, is not within 20 metres of a watercourse and involves no change to a more vulnerable use. A site-specific Flood Risk Assessment is not required.

The site is already substantially hard surfaced and the proposal results in no material increase in impermeable area. The introduction of permeable paving, the retention of all existing soft landscaping, and the sealing of the drains serving the demolished building together represent an improvement over the existing position in respect of both the rate and the quality of surface water runoff.

The proposal does not increase flood risk on the site or elsewhere. The detailed surface water drainage design, informed by percolation testing, can be secured by condition.