

Kent County Council's Parking Standards

1. Introduction

Background

- 1. This guidance sets out the parking standards for new developments in Kent. It considers parking for all types of vehicles and seeks to balance the need to provide an appropriate parking provision, ensure the safe operation of the public highway and encourage travel by sustainable modes. It represents a starting point for engagement with the Local Planning and Highway Authorities on parking and layout matters and promotes a pragmatic approach that can also be informed by site-specific considerations as appropriate.
- 2. Parking standards are not new and were first introduced in Kent over 50 years ago. However, the approach to parking at local and national level has changed considerably in recent years and parking standards have evolved accordingly. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the concept of maximum parking standards was introduced with the aim of significantly lowering levels of off-street parking as a means of reducing car use. With the introduction of Manual for Streets in 2007, the emphasis for residential development switched to the promotion of some unallocated, on-street parking. More recently, national government parking policy has sought to end 'unrealistic' restrictions on parking provision.
- 3. This guidance aligns with the current approach to parking. It should, however, be recognised that travel patterns, car ownership and transport technologies are evolving. Parking design will need to be flexible in the face of technology-driven changes to the way we use vehicles and therefore this guidance is likely to be regularly updated as new innovation that impacts the way we travel comes forward.

4. Once adopted this guidance will supersede all previous Kent County Council parking standards, including the Kent and Medway Structure Plan: Supplementary Planning Guidance 4 (2006) in respect of non-residential developments, and the Kent Design Guide: Interim Guidance Note 3 (2008) in respect of residential developments.

Policy Context

- 5. National planning policies are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), which provides further detailed guidance on the policies set out in the NPPF.
- 6. This guidance has been prepared in accordance with the policy context set out in paragraph 117 of the NPPF (December 2024), which states that:

"Applications for development should:

a) give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas; and second – so far as possible – to facilitating access to high quality public transport, with layouts that maximise the catchment area for bus or other public transport services, and appropriate facilities that encourage public transport use;

b) address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility in relation to all modes of transport;

c) create places that are safe, secure and attractive – which minimise the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, avoid unnecessary street clutter, and respond to local character and design standards;

d) allow for the efficient delivery of goods, and access by service and emergency vehicles; and

e) be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations."

7. The NPPF also states at paragraph 113 that: "Maximum parking standards for residential and non-residential development should only be set where there is a clear and compelling justification that they are necessary for managing the local road network, or for optimising the density of development in city and town centres and other locations that are well served by public transport (in accordance with chapter 11 of this Framework). In town centres, local authorities should seek to improve the quality of parking so that it is convenient, safe and secure, alongside measures to promote accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists."

Application of the Standards

- 8. This document provides guidance on appropriate parking standards for new developments within the Kent County Council (KCC) area. It is intended to be flexible and to be the starting point for dialogue with the Local Planning and Highway Authorities.
- 9. Kent is a large and diverse county and hence identifying an appropriate level of car parking provision should take account of local circumstances. This includes accessibility to public transport, levels of car ownership, existing parking controls and local travel patterns. However, where the proposed supply of parking deviates significantly from the recommended standard, a detailed justification will be required.
- 10. Transport Assessments and Travel Plans should be used to support and justify proposed parking arrangements. Developers are advised to engage with the Local Highway Authority prior to submitting a planning application and to include a clear parking allocation plan within the submission. The suitability of the proposed parking area in terms of its design, size and number of spaces will be assessed as part of the planning application. A Management Plan may also be required to ensure the parking can operate effectively. Further details can be found at: Highway pre-application advice <u>- Kent County Council</u>¹

¹ <u>Highway pre-application advice - Kent County Council</u> *https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/planning-and-land/planning-applications/planning-advice/highway-pre-application-advice*

11. The Objectives and Principles contained in the Kent Design Guide should be followed when incorporating parking within the design for developments.

2. Parking for Residential Uses

Layout and Design

- 12. Providing the right amount of infrastructure for parking relies upon robust and thoughtful design. Parking provision should be an integral part of the design of the development, and be considered at an early stage in the planning process. It is important that the amount, location, and critically, the layout of residential parking is appropriate to the development, for the benefit of future residents.
- 13. Besides providing an appropriate number of parking spaces, parking design must consider how parking spaces will be used in practice. Parking spaces which are not well-designed and convenient will not be used as intended.
- 14. Car parking should be designed so that it is wellintegrated with and does not detract from the public realm, particularly in high density developments. The provision of parking should not dominate the street scene. The Ashmere and Alkerden villages at Whitecliffe, Ebbsfleet, show how parking has been located discretely, to the side of the buildings or behind the building line.



Car ports located to the side of buildings – Alkerden, Ebbsfleet.



Discreet car parking situated behind the building line -, Ashmere, Ebbsfleet

15. The development at Vellum Drive in Sittingbourne is of a lower density provision. A key aspect of these developments is that where parking is provided, it is well

used and inappropriate on-street parking is kept to a minimum, allowing for the internal road and footway network to function effectively.



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Well utilised parking between buildings – Vellum Drive, Sittingbourne.



Footway parking creates obstructions for pedestrians and can cause safety concerns.

16. At other developments within the County there are examples where parking does not work well and consequently residential parking has frequently been the greatest source of dissatisfaction among residents. Otherwise good developments have been blighted by inconsiderate, and sometimes dangerous parking across footways and in turning areas. Safety concerns are often associated with parking problems.

- 17. Common issues include:-
 - Allocated parking is located remote from residential units;
 - Rear parking courts feel unsafe and unattractive to use;
 - Parking spaces located against a hard boundary are too small;
 - Garages are too small and inaccessible;
 - Driveways are too short or not used as intended with vehicles overhanging the footway;
 - Poor quality on-plot parking spaces lead to indiscriminate on-street parking as an alternative; and
 - The streetscape is dominated by cars.



- 18. Resultant footway parking can lead to obstruction, forcing pedestrians and wheelchair users into the carriageway. The lack of appropriate turning space due to inconsiderate parking can also prevent the use of driveways.
- 19. Getting the parking layout right results in a well-functioning development and a better place to live.

- 20. Residential parking is not just a 'numbers game'. The parking provision should satisfy reasonable demand bearing in mind the location, be well-designed with useable spaces and make the best use of the land available.
- 21. Parking design should seek to meet the design criteria relevant to parking within the national Building for Life tool at the Design for Homes website.²



22. The existing on-street parking controls in the immediate vicinity of a site can have a bearing on the most appropriate parking provision for a new

The "Building for a healthy life" toolkit document.

development. For example, where effectively enforced on-street parking controls (or positively managed covenants/agreements) limit the opportunities for residents to own cars that they cannot accommodate in dedicated parking areas, lower levels of provision should be considered.

- 23. Parking standards for residential uses are outlined in **Table 1** in the Appendix.
- 24. There are a range of parking options for residential uses, which are discussed in the following paragraphs. For a large residential development, a mix of different parking options should be considered.

Car Barns, Car Ports and Garages

25. Where housing densities are lower, space for car parking can be provided on-plot, within the curtilage of the dwelling, such as in the form of a car port or private drive.

² Building for a healthy life https://www.designforhomes.org/project/building-for-life/

- 26. Experience has shown that garages are unlikely to be used for the parking of a vehicle unless there are no alternative parking options available in the locality (e.g. due to the presence of on-street parking restrictions). As such, in suburban and rural locations, the Local Highway Authority will not count garages as formal car parking spaces.
- 27. Where garages are provided, the recommended standard for the internal dimensions is included in **Table 8** in the Appendix.



Example of a double car port

28. Open car ports and car barns are typically well-used by residents for parking vehicles, subject to good design. Car ports and car barns should be overlooked by housing from at least one side of the street. Where a car port is located to the side of a house, any fence or wall provided to secure the rear garden should be at least 1.0 metre from the end of the car port.

29. Where they are of good design and meet the minimum standard, car ports and car barns will count towards the parking requirement in full. They should be designed to ensure that the upright supports do not prevent opening of car doors. If this is the case, a larger space will be required. The recommended standard for the dimensions of car ports is included in **Table 8** in the Appendix.

30. Parking spaces in front of a garage, car port or car barn should provide space for the full length of the vehicle, plus an allowance for opening of a garage door where applicable. 6.0 metres should be provided in front of garages and 5.0 metres in front of car ports and car barns. Where there is insufficient space to allow for the full length of a vehicle on the forecourt, left-over space should be designed to ensure that it is not used for vehicle parking, with consequent overhanging, or blocking of the footway. Where no



An example of poor design, resulting in footway obstruction due to an overhanging parked vehicle.

parking space is provided in front of garages, a space of 0.5 metres should be provided to allow for the opening of the garage door. 31. The location of all privately allocated parking spaces should relate well to the dwellings they belong to, in order to ensure they are user friendly and effectively utilised.

Parking Courts

- 32. Flatted and higher density residential developments often require communal parking areas. Again, however, it is important that parking spaces are conveniently located in close proximity to the residential units they serve.
- 33. Parking courts are off-street communal parking areas which can be located to the front or rear of dwellings.
- 34. Front parking courts are preferred since these are located where people prefer to park and where parking can be overlooked and be close to front doors.
- 35. In order to be supported, rear parking courts must be as secure as possible and designed in a way that encourages their use. They should be relatively small in nature, serving no more than eight residential units. They should be designed as part of the public realm, overlooked, secure and with a sense of place in order to encourage ownership. They should have direct access to/from surrounding dwellings and have adequate lighting. They should also provide sufficient manoeuvring space. Security can be improved where rear parking courts are for use by specific residents only, controlled with a gate or barrier.
- 36. For larger residential developments, communal parking areas should be divided and distributed around the layout, with some spaces convenient for visitors where required.

Tandem Parking



Tandem parking, with a car port space equating to 50% of the parking provision.

37. Tandem parking is where one car parking space is located behind another. Observations indicate that such arrangements are often poorly utilised where the rear space takes the form of a garage. However, utilisation can be better where both spaces are uncovered or incorporated within car barns.

38. Whilst independently accessible on-plot parking is preferred, where it is necessary to provide tandem arrangements (e.g. higher density schemes), the use of garages should be avoided.

- 39. Tandem parking in communal parking areas where access is already restricted, such as rear parking courts, is not acceptable and will not count towards the parking provision.
- 40. Where tandem parking is used there may be a requirement for additional parking provision within the layout.
- 41. The use of triple (or more) tandem parking is not acceptable as this fails to provide adequate and independently accessible parking spaces for future occupants. This approach introduces significant challenges for residents, due to the impracticalities associated with constant vehicle shuffling.

Visitor Parking

- 42. Consideration should be given to visitor parking in all new residential developments.
- 43. Unallocated parking allows for the flexible use of parking spaces and is the most efficient way to cater for visitor parking. Allocation of parking to individual units

increases the amount of parking needed, whereas unallocated parking takes advantage of different levels of car ownership, including those without vehicles, to use the land given over to parking in the most efficient way. It can also satisfy the reasonable needs of visitor parking because of the varying occupancy patterns across the day.

- 44. A design-led allowance for on-street parking will normally be the best way to cater for visitor parking. This provision should be well distributed throughout residential developments, to maximise its utility and minimise the prospect of abuse.
- 45. Within town centre locations with good accessibility to public transport, it should be encouraged for visitors to use non-car modes or existing public car parks.



An example of on-street parking which is recessed from the carriageway.

Van Parking

46. It is noted that some Councils have introduced the requirement for van parking within their own parking Supplementary Planning Document. Whilst this can be effective in better accommodating these vehicle types within the street scene, observations have indicated that if they are not well related to the properties in which their owners live, they are unlikely to be used for their intended purpose. As such, the need for such provision will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Car Free Development

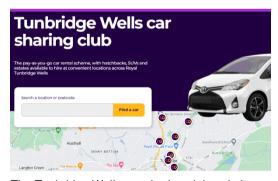
47. KCC Highways are supportive of and will encourage car free development in the right locations. Should a developer wish to promote car free design then the development must already have (or include as part of the development) excellent public transport links. In addition, the standard of amenities within the development must be highly valued and include community wide uses such as shops, schools, medical centres and

library/leisure facilities. Streets should be designed to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists but also be inclusive for mobility scooters and encourage social interaction and engagement across all ages. Seating should be provided on longer links and all routes should be secure by design with opportunities taken for overlooking and wide enough to safely accommodate multiple users at any one time. Emergency vehicles, service vehicles and vehicles used by disabled badge holders (essential traffic) will still need access across the development but visitors to the area should be encouraged not to enter the development other than by sustainable modes. Car clubs, reduced charges for public transport, bicycle provision and repair packages should all be considerations of the Travel Plan (TP). Links within the site should extend to the wider area and connect with the existing Public Right of Way network and adjoining footways/cycleways. To prevent cars penetrating the area there should be a development wide Traffic Regulation Order enforcing on-street parking or physical (but removeable for essential traffic) barriers to control access by motorised vehicles.

Car Clubs

48. A car club can be an effective initiative within developments with limited parking provision. A car club is a membership based, pay as you go, car rental scheme. It

provides easy and affordable access to a car when needed, without the cost and inconvenience of owning it. It can be an attractive alternative to car ownership, or to having a second car in the household and the number of sites where car clubs are operating in Kent is steadily increasing.



The Tunbridge Wells car sharing club website.

3. Parking for Non-Residential Uses

Context

- 49. It is widely acknowledged that limiting the amount of parking provided at the end destination of a trip can discourage journeys by car. This is particularly evident where there are a range of alternative modes available in sustainable locations. The optimum method of determining the parking provision for non-residential uses is often a 'first principles' approach, taking into account the development's predicted parking requirements and local circumstances.
- 50. Parking standards for non-residential uses are shown in **Table 2** in the Appendix. Where a particular land use is not included in **Table 2**, an individual assessment is required, using a first principles approach. It should be demonstrated that demand for parking is either met on-site or mitigated and managed as appropriate. The parking standards include staff, unless otherwise stated.

Travel Plans

- 51. All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be supported by a robust Travel Plan. This should detail appropriate measures to encourage sustainable travel amongst future occupants and visitors. These measures may include a car club, sustainable travel vouchers, and welcome packs, although the final package of measures should be tailored to the development and site in question.
- 52. Some travel plans will be subject to monitoring if the reduction in trips generated by the development is critical to the safety and capacity of the adjoining highways. Further measures will be required if monitoring demonstrates that expected targets have not been achieved.

Deliveries and Servicing

53. All developments should provide adequate facilities to enable delivery and refuse vehicles to park and manoeuvre clear of the public highway. For developments which are anticipated to be served by a significant number of these large vehicles, swept path

analysis should be submitted to demonstrate that the manoeuvres can be accommodated within the proposed layout. The recommended parking space dimensions for light goods vehicles, minibuses, coaches, rigid goods vehicles and articulated goods vehicles are included in **Table 9** in the Appendix.

54. Vehicle parking requirements will be evidenced based according to land use, trip rates and business needs. Comparison to vehicle operating licences for similar buildings/operations may also be considered.

Mixed-Use Developments



The TRICS website can be used to obtain trip generation information.

55. For mixed-use developments, the parking provision should first be determined for each constituent land use or building, both with reference to the applicable standards in this document and potentially also through an accumulation assessment on the TRICS database³ (or similar). The scope to reduce overall parking through shared provision between uses should then be discussed with the Local Planning and Highway Authorities.

For example, at retail or business parks, parking could be provided centrally rather than for individual units. Different uses within a site that require parking at different times of the day or week may be able to share provision.

Hotels

56. For developments exceeding 20 bedrooms, suitable provision should be made for coaches. This should take the form of either: -

³ <u>TRICS is the system of multi-modal trip generation analysis for developments in the UK and Ireland</u> *https://trics.co.uk/*

(a) Facilities to drop-off and pick-up guests which may consist of a lay-by adjacent to the public highway or utilisation of the car parking area (exact details to be agreed with the Local Planning and Highway Authorities), or

(b) Coach parking provision of 1 space per 20 bedrooms contained within the allocated space for car parking.

57. Additional vehicle provision should be made where bars and restaurant facilities are open to the general public of one third of the appropriate standard contained under Class A3. For bars, this equates to 1 space per 12m² and for restaurants, this would be 1 space per 15m².

Retirement Communities and Continuing Care Facilities

- 58. Research has highlighted that older people are travelling more than they did previously in the context of an ageing population. 'A comparison of the National Travel Survey results⁴ shows how the average number of car trips and miles travelled for those aged 60+ has increased over the past few years. Car ownership levels for over 60s are also higher than for previous generations.
- 59. It is clear that older people are active for longer than they have historically been. As such, models of care are also changing, with a move towards retirement communities and continuing care facilities for the over 50s. For such facilities, the typical care home parking standard is often insufficient.
- 60. At the application stage, an understanding of the type and level of care being offered should be provided and an individual assessment of parking should be completed, potentially through the use of TRICS or through a 'first principles' approach using specific examples of similar sites, and this may lead to a requirement for the highest

⁴ <u>National Travel Survey 2022</u> https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2022

parking provision within this use class to be provided. Parking should be discussed with the Local Planning and Highways Authorities to ensure suitability.

Schools



61. New schools, or those where expansion is proposed, are expected to develop, update and monitor School Travel Plans. Further details can be found at *www.jambusterstpms.co.uk*

The Jambusters website for School Travel Planning

<u>Cars</u>

- 62. Operational requirements (broadly defined as staff and visitors) should be provided for, together with overflow parking areas for any community uses. Parent and pupil parking is discouraged, as this is a disincentive to travel by sustainable modes. Appropriate provision should nevertheless be made for the setting down and picking up of pupils in a safe environment and in a manner that does not unduly interfere with the operation and use of the public highway. Exact details should be agreed with the Local Planning and Highway Authorities.
- 63. Measures to discourage parking should be considered and could include car sharing, parking restrictions, parking permits issued based on need and other measures as appropriate. A Parking Management Plan should be prepared and submitted as an integral part of any planning application where parking is an acknowledged issue.

Coach/Bus/Minibus

64. On all new school sites where it is likely that pupils will travel to and from school in coaches, buses or minibuses, sufficient space should be reserved to allow for the dropoff and collection of pupils. Where appropriate, bus stops, bays, raised kerbs, seating and shelters should be provided on the highway by the applicant.

Cycles and Non-Motorised Scooters

65. Provision of cycle and non-motorised scooter parking should be provided at any new or expanded school. Wherever possible, improvements to cycle routes and related safety measures should be provided by the applicant.

4. Parking for Electric Vehicles

Background

- 66. The popularity of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) has increased in recent years. ULEVs include electric, plug-in hybrid and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles. The Government has committed to ban new diesel and petrol cars and vans in the UK from 2035 to help tackle air pollution. This will further encourage the uptake of ULEVs.
- 67. Planning policy supports the provision of infrastructure for ULEVs, with Paragraph 116 of the NPPF stating that local parking standards should take account of: *"be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations."* It is appropriate, therefore, that new developments incorporate ULEV charging points into parking design. Alongside this, developments should also look to incorporate charging points for e-bicycles, which are considered as electric vehicles by the National Design Guide⁵.
- 68. The technology associated with ULEVs is rapidly evolving and the parking design should accord with the most relevant technical requirements and open standards. Currently, this comprises a wired connection between a vehicle and a charging point. There are different charging speeds available for the wired connection. Justification and discussion of the type of charger would need to be undertaken with officers at the application stage to ensure an appropriate provision. For example, it may be that a

⁵ <u>National Design Guide</u> https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide

lower speed charger would be suitable for office and residential uses where vehicles are parked for longer, yet for retail uses a faster charger may be more appropriate.

Designing for Electric Vehicles

- 69. Currently, most charging of ULEVs takes place at home, overnight. Therefore, each dwelling with on-plot parking should provide an electric vehicle charge-point within close proximity to the parking space.
- 70. For communal residential parking areas and car parks for non-residential uses, it is important to provide a mix of 'active' charging spaces with the charging infrastructure in place at the outset, and 'passive' charging spaces with the wiring and cable duct and draw rope in place under the car park for future use as aligned with the requirements in the Building Regulations Approved Document Part S. In situations where it is not possible to meet demand for ULEV parking on-site, a financial contribution towards the provision of a charging hub nearby may be sought.
- 71. KCC has been allocated funding through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund to facilitate the installation of on-street EV chargers primarily aimed at residents and businesses without access to off-street parking. Our ambition is to install up to 10,000 chargers by 2035 across the county. Outside of this programme on-street electric vehicle chargers will generally only be supported in locations where no other option is available locally. This will not only minimise street clutter and provide cost efficiencies but allow users to more easily find a charge point when grouped together.



An example of a charging hub, credit: Western Power Distribution (WPS)

72. ULEV parking spaces should be signed and marked for Electric Vehicle Charging Only, which will require ongoing management and enforcement. Charging points at public parking spaces, for example at retail parks or places of work, must be accessible to the general public and employees. Publicly available charging points should be registered with the National Charge-point Registry. Consideration should be given to the provision of charging points for disabled parking bays, alongside standard parking bays.

- 73. Details of how ULEV parking will be allocated and managed should be included within Transport Assessments and/or Car Park Management Plans (where relevant). This should also set out how ULEV parking for visitors and disabled users will be accommodated.
- 74. The ULEV parking standards are shown in **Table 3** in the Appendix.

5. Disabled Parking, Mobility Aids and Adaptive Bicycles

Background

- 75. Detailed guidance on the design and location of parking for disabled people can be found in the Department for Transport's (DfT) 'Inclusive Mobility' guidance.
- 76. Any new development that includes off-street parking should have at least one parking space that is either designated as disabled, or if not specifically designated, is of sufficient size to be used by a disabled person. Where provision for disabled people is not to be provided as part of the development, the Local Planning Authority may seek a financial contribution from the developer towards the provision, operation and maintenance of parking spaces either on-street or in public off-street car parks.
- 77. In some new developments, it has become apparent that the disabled parking provision is under-utilised. Where the proposed disabled parking provision is less than the standards shown in **Table 4**, the reduced provision should be fully justified and controlled through a Travel Plan. In such circumstances, oversized parking spaces should normally be provided as an alternative to designated disabled parking spaces, on the proviso that should demand dictate additional supply, these will be demarcated at a future date.

Design and Layout

- 78. Disabled parking should be conveniently located and clearly signed. Its location should take into consideration the distances that potential users may be capable of covering to reach the facilities they desire. The generally accepted guidelines of walking distances for different degrees of mobility are:-
 - Visually impaired 150 metres;
 - Wheelchair users 150 metres;
 - Ambulatory impairment without a walking aid 100 metres;
 - Ambulatory impairment with a walking aid 50 metres.
- 79. Disabled parking should be designed so that drivers and passengers, either of whom may be disabled, can get in and out of the vehicle easily and safely. They need to be designed to encompass a wide range of mobility impairments. They should also ensure easy access to and from the side and rear of the vehicle and protect from moving traffic.
- 80. Typical layouts of disabled parking are shown in **Figure 1** below. Off-street parking bays that are parallel to the access aisle, making access available from the side, should be at least 6.6 metres long and 2.4 metres wide. The additional length will allow access to the rear of the vehicle where wheelchairs are often stored. Access from the side should be unencumbered by street furniture.

81. Off-street parking spaces that are perpendicular to the access aisle should be at least 5.5 metres long and 2.5 metres wide with an additional width of at least 1.2 metres along both sides and the rear as per the DfT's Inclusive Mobility Guidance⁶. This should allow sufficient width for wheelchair



Disabled parking with additional width provided on both sides and the rear. Access to the footway to the front of the spaces is level.

access between vehicles and enable vehicle doors to be fully opened. Where spaces are adjacent to each other, the 1.2 metre access area can be utilised to serve parking spaces on either side. Access to and from the parking spaces should also be free from steps, obstructions and steep slopes.

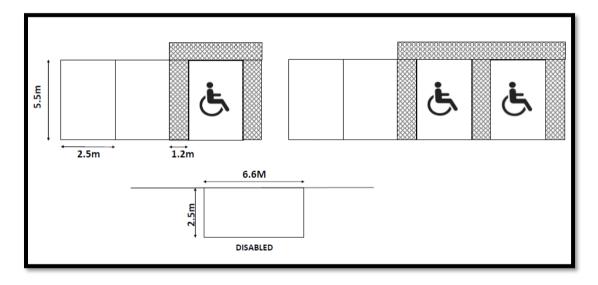


Figure 1 – Dimensions and layouts for disabled parking bays.

⁶ Inclusive mobility: making transport accessible for passengers and pedestrians

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-mobility-making-transport-accessible-for-passengers-and-pedestrians

- 82. Where changes in level between the car park and the development have to be overcome, a ramp should be provided. Ramps should be short, preferably with a gradient of 5% (1 in 20) or less but not exceeding 8% (1 in 12). Where steps are provided, they should have edges with a strong colour contrast. Both ramps and steps should be provided with handrails on both sides and should be well lit.
- 83. Disabled parking should be clearly signed both within and at the entrance to the car park.
- 84. The parking standards for disabled users are shown in Table 4 in the Appendix.

Mobility Aids

- 85. Use of mobility aids, such as scooters and large wheelchairs, is increasing. It is therefore appropriate to make provision for parking mobility aids at new developments, including within communal parking areas. Mobility aid parking should be located as close to the building's pedestrian access points as possible.
- 86. The parking standards for mobility aids is shown in **Table 5** in the Appendix.

Adaptive Bicycles

- 87. Adaptive bicycles are designed to accommodate the individual needs of a disabled cyclist. The majority of cycle parking and storage facilities fail to cater for the needs of disabled cyclists. This is often because the cycle parking space is not wide enough. Therefore, the following design standards apply when catering for adaptive bikes:-
 - The minimum gap between standard cycle stands should be 1.0m;
 - At least one signed bay for non-standard cycles should be allocated at the end of a row of standard cycle parking stands, with these bays a minimum of 1.5m wide in order to allow for dismounting.

6. Parking for Cycles and Motorcycles

Cycles

- 88. The provision of secure and convenient cycle parking is required to encourage people to cycle. It is essential that cycle parking is designed into a development at an early stage, prior to the granting of planning permission to ensure it relates well to the development.
- 89. The following locational requirements should be considered in the design of cycle parking:-
 - Obvious and well signed;
 - Close to the entrance of the premises being visited;
 - Visible and attractive;
 - Well lit;
 - An appropriate level of surveillance and security;
 - Good weather protection;
 - Off-street location with good and safe access that does not require cyclists to dismount before reaching it, separated from parked vehicles;
 - Situated close to well-used thoroughfares;
 - Well maintained.
- 90. In addition to the provision of well-designed cycle parking, facilities for showering and storing of clothing and helmets in non-residential developments will be sought, as they are also important for encouraging cycle use.
- 91. Cycle parking standards are shown in **Table 6** in the Appendix.

Motorcycles

- 92. Provision should be made for motorcycle parking at all new developments in addition to vehicle and cycle parking.
- 93. Motorcycle parking areas should only be provided to the rear of footways in exceptional circumstances and under the condition that they would not compromise pedestrian safety.
- 94. Motorcycle parking standards are shown in **Table 7** in the Appendix.

7. Parking Dimensions and Layouts

Parking Space Dimensions

95. The dimensions of a car vary considerably and the average car size has been increasing in recent years. In view of this, the car parking space dimensions provided in **Table 8** in the Appendix are the absolute minimum required. **Figure 2** below shows typical types and dimensions for standard car parking spaces. The provision of larger spaces would be strongly supported and there are particular instances where this is necessary. This includes parking spaces which are located adjacent to a hard boundary, such as a wall at the end of a parking aisle. In these situations, the width of the parking space should be increased by a minimum of 0.2m for each restricted side to aid manoeuvrability into and out of the space. Larger parking spaces on private driveways can increase the attractiveness and ease of using the spaces, which can prevent inappropriate on-street parking.

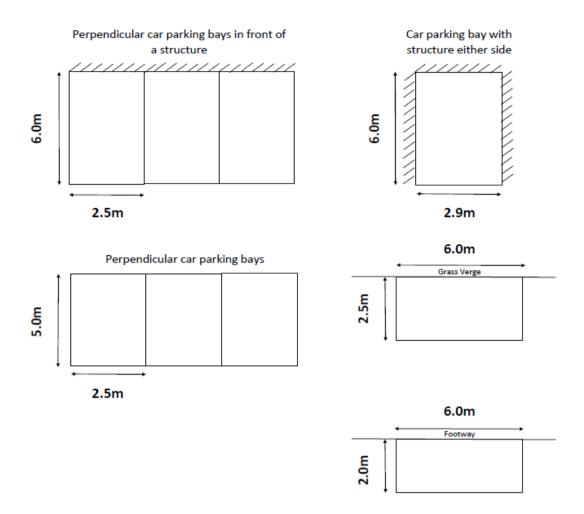


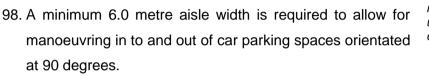
Figure 2 – The minimum dimensions for standard car parking spaces in different layouts..

Car Park Design

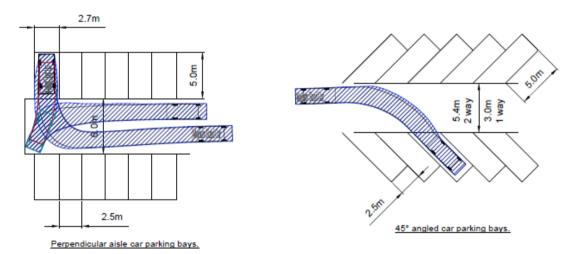
96. Car parks should be designed to provide good quality pedestrian routes in order to minimise conflict between those walking through the car park and manoeuvring vehicles.

97. Where multi-storey or underground car parks are provided, these should be designed in accordance with the usability specifications outlined in relevant industry guidance such as the Institution of Structural Engineers 'Design Recommendations for Multi Storey and Underground Car Parks' (2011). This includes guidance on issues such as the positioning of columns and minimum headroom requirements, which would affect the usability of a space.





Cover page of the Design Recommendations for multi-storey and underground car parks document.



Diagrams showing the minimum aisle widths required for different car parking space layouts.

Appendix

Table 1: Residential Car Parking Standards - Use Class C3(a)

Location	City / Town	Edge of Centre ¹	Suburban	Rural
	Centre ¹			
On-Street Controls	On-street controls preventing all (or all long stay) parking	On-street controls, residents' scheme and/or existing saturation	No, or very limited, on-street controls	No on-street controls, but possibly a tight street layout
1 & 2 Bed Flats	- 1			
Provision	1 space per unit	1 space per unit	1 space per unit	1 space per unit
Form	Controlled ²	Unallocated	Unallocated	Unallocated
1 & 2 Bed Hous	ses			
Provision	1 space per unit	1 space per unit	1 space per unit ⁶	2 spaces per unit
Form	Controlled ²	Allocation possible	Allocation possible	Allocation of one space per unit possible
3 Bed Houses		•	•	
Provision	1 space per unit	1 space per unit	2 spaces per unit	2 spaces per unit
Form	Controlled ²	Allocation possible	Allocation of one space per unit possible	Allocation of one or both spaces possible
4+ Bed Houses	;			
Provision	1 space per unit	2 spaces per unit	2 spaces per unit ⁶	3 spaces per unit ⁷
Form	Controlled ²	Allocation of one space per unit possible	Allocation of both spaces possible ⁵	Allocation of both spaces possible ⁵

Location	City / Town Centre ¹	Edge of Centre ¹	Suburban	Rural
Are Garages Acceptable? ³	Yes, but with areas of communal space for washing etc.	Yes, but not as a significant proportion of overall provision	Additional to amount given above only	Additional to amount given above only
Visitor Parking Provision⁴	None	Communal areas 0.2 per unit	On-street areas. 0.2 per unit.	On-street areas. 0.2 per unit

Notes:

¹ The locational category of sites will be subject to discussion between the Local Planning and Highway Authorities.

² Parking/garage courts, probably with controlled entry.

³Open car ports or car barns acceptable at all locations, subject to good design.

⁴ May be reduced where main provision is not allocated or increased potentially to 0.5, subject to evidence and in accordance with Government guidance.

⁵ Best provided side by side, or in another independently accessible form. Tandem parking arrangement are often under-utilised.

⁶ An additional "off plot" parking space may be required for some properties at the discretion of the Highway Authority depending on the size of the property and the layout and capacity of the adjoining road network. ⁷ The use of triple tandem parking is not an acceptable design solution as this fails to provide adequate and

independently accessible parking spaces for future occupants. This approach introduces significant challenges for residents, due to the impracticalities associated with constant vehicle shuffling.

These car parking standards are for guidance purposes and evidence will be required from local surveys or from similar sites to support the level of parking provision being sought.

A lower provision may be appropriate where effective measures are in place or proposed. Measures might include car clubs, travel plans, controlled parking zones and/or the availability of sustainable transport modes.

A higher provision may be appropriate such as in suburban or rural areas and/ or where local car ownership data /parking stress' surveys support this.

Table 2: Non-Residential Car Parking Standards

Class B					
General Indus	trial – B2				
		Car Parking		Goods Vehicles	
Up to 200m ²		3 spaces		See Note 1	
Over 200m ²		1 space per 50m ²		1 space for 200 m ²	
Notes:	 Adequate facilities should be provided to enable delivery vehicles to park and manoeuvres clear of the public highway. For large developments the provision for goods vehicles only applies up to a maximum of 6 spaces. For sites where more provision is required, a minimum of 6 spaces should be provided with the actual number being determined by consideration of the operational requirements and demonstrated through a Transport Assessment. 				
Storage or Dis	stribution – B8				
		Car Parking		Goods Vehicles	
Storage & Dis	tribution	1 space per 110m ²		1 space per 300m ²	
Wholesale Tra	ade Distribution	1 space per 35m ²		1 space per 300m ²	
Notes:	Notes: 1. Parking provision for associated office space to be determined using the standards set out under Use Class E(g).				
Class C					
Hotels – C1					
		Car Parking		Goods Vehicles and	
		Staff	Guests	Coach Parking	
Hotels, boardi houses (exclu		1 space per 2 staff	1 space per bedroom	See Notes 1 and 2	
Notes:	to park and 2. For develop should be m (a) Facilities lay-by adjac parking area	manoeuvre clea ments exceedin hade for coaches to drop-off and cent to the public a (exact details t	r of the public g 20 bedrooms s. This should t pick-up guests highway or ut o be agreed w	nable delivery vehicles highway. s, suitable provision ake the form of either: - s which may consist of a ilisation of the car ith the Local Planning of 1 space per 20	

	 An additiona facilities are appropriate 	al provision open to tl standard	n shou he ger contai	uld be made win neral public of o ned under Clas	pace for car parking. here bars and restaurant one third of the ss E (b). For bars this hts this would be 1 space
Residential Ins	stitutions – C2				
	Car Park		king		Goods Vehicles and
		Staff		Visitors	Coach Parking
Nursing / Resi Homes	dential Care	1 space resident + 1 spac 2 other s	staff e per	1 space per 6 beds or residents	Minimum of 1 space for an Ambulance (see Note 1)
Hospitals & He	ospices	1 space staff	per 2	2 spaces per 3 beds	See Notes 1 & 2
Residential So Colleges, Trai		1 space resident + 1 spac 2 other s	staff e per	1 space per 15 students	See Note 1 & 3
Notes:	 Adequate facilities should be provided to enable delivery vehicles to park and manoeuvre clear of the public highway. Sufficient ambulance bays and/or parking should be provided to meet the operational needs of the development. Exact details should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority. At special schools there is a need to include appropriate additional spaces for ambulances, taxis and coaches. 				
Secure Reside	ential Institution – C	C2A			
Including use as a prison, young offenders institution, detention centre, secure training centre, custody centre, short term holding centre, secure hospital, secure local authority accommodation or use as a military barracks.		Provi basis		ermined on an individual	
Dwellinghouse	es – C3				
C3(a) – see Ta	ble 1				
six people livi	red Accommodatic ng together as a si d receiving care).			ace per resider ? units	nt warden and 1 space
C3(c) – up to six people living together as a single household, including groups that do not fall within Class C4.		Provision to be determined on an individual basis.		ermined on an individual	
Houses in Mul	tiple Occupation –	C4	Prov	ision to be dete	ermined on an individual

		basi	S.	
Class E				
Shops, exclue	ding sale of hot foo	od – E(a)		
		Car Parking		Goods Vehicles
Food Retail up to 1,000m ²		1 space per 18m ²		1 space per 500m ²
Food Retail over 1,000m ²		1 space per 14	4m ²	1 space per 500m ²
Non-Food Reta	ail	1 space per 2	5m²	1 space per 500m ²
	growing and included as of car parkin required car 3. For all large only applies provision is with the acto operational Assessmen Quality Part	d are not open to part of the gross og provision. Up h be provided as retail establish up to a maximus required, a min ual number bein requirements as t, which include nership.	o members of the s floor space for to 50% of the s overflow car p ments, the provum of 6 spaces imum of 6 spaces ong determined b and demonstrate s examination of the premises –	I predominantly for the public should not be or determining the level car parking spaces parks. vision for goods vehicles . For sites where more es should be provided by consideration of the ed through a Transport of the scope for a Freight E(b). See Sui Generis
	•	Car Parking		
		Staff	Customers	Goods Vehicles
Restaurants a	nd Cafes ⁽²⁾	1 space per 2 staff	1 space per 6m ²	See Note 1
Transport Caf	es ⁽³⁾	1 space per 2 staff	1 space per 15m ²	1 lorry space per 5m ²
Notes:	 Adequate facilities should be provided to enable delivery vehicles to park and manoeuvre clear of the public highway. Includes roadside restaurants. Car parking provision for customers should be contained within th allocated space for lorry parking. 			
	Professional Servio		other appropri	iate services in a
		Car Parking		
All Developmer and E(c)(iii)	nts – E(c)(i), E(c)(ii)	1 space per 20 visitors/custon		space for staff and

	recreation or fitnes iming pool or skatii			icles, firearms, or
		Car Parking		
Centres, Health	asia, Social Clubs,	1 space per 2 appropriate	22m ² + 1 space per	15 seats where
Notes:	to park and 2. Provision sh standard of provided as 3. Where prov accommoda space per 1 4. Provision sh	manoeuvre cle nould also be m 1 coach space an alternative isions are mad ate spectators t 5 seats should nould also be m	ear of the public high nade for coach par per 300 seats. Su to car parking prove within the develo hen an additional p be provided.	king with a maximum ch provision is to be vision. opment to parking provision of 1 king with a maximum
Medical or hea	alth services – E(e)			ſ
		Car Parking		Goods Vehicles
		Staff	Visitors	
Medical Centres/Clinics/Surgeries (including veterinary surgeries)		1 space per 2 staff	4 spaces per consulting/treat ment room	See Notes 1 and 2
Notes:	to park and	manoeuvre cle nould be made	ear of the public high	ble delivery vehicles Jhway. ambulances where
Creche, day n	ursery or day centr	e (not includi	ng residential use	e) – E(f)
		Car Parking		Goods Vehicles
		Staff	Pupils/Visitors	Coous venicies
Nurseries/Crèc	hes/Pre Schools	1 space per 2 staff	1 space per 4 children	See Notes 1 and 2
Day Care Cent	res	1 space per 2 staff	1 space per 4 attendees	See Notes 1 and 3
Notes:	to park and 2. Appropriate picking up o does not un	manoeuvre cle provision shou f children in a duly interfere v	ear of the public hig Ild be made for the safe environment a vith the operation a	

	 Provision within the overall allocation for car parking should be made for mini-buses where these are used to transport people to and from the day care centres. which can be carried out in a residential area without detriment to its amenity 				
Uses which ca – E(g)	an be carried out in	a residential	area without	detri	ment to its amenity
				Car	Parking
		Offices up to	500m ²	1 sp	ace per 20m ²
Offices for operation or administrative functions – E(g)(i)		Offices betwee 2,500m ²	en 500 -	1 sp	ace per 25m²
		Offices over 2	2,500m ²	1 sp	ace per 30m ²
	development of rocesses – E(g)(ii) processes –	Hi-tech / Research / Light Industrial		1 sp	ace per 35m²
Notes:	1. Provision fo	r goods vehicle	es may be rec	quirec	l.
Class F					
Learning and	non-residential ins	titutions – F1			
		Car Parking			
		Staff	Visitors/Pu Clients	pils/	Goods Vehicles
Provision of Education –	Primary and Secondary Schools	1 space per s	taff + 10%		See Notes 1, 2, 3 and 4
F1(a)	Further and Higher Education	1 space per 1 staff	1 space per students	7	See Notes 1, 2 and 3
Display of wo	rks of art – F1(b)	1 space per 6	0m²		See Note 1
Museums – F ^r	1(c)	1 space per 6	i0m ²		See Note 1
Public librarie reading rooms	-	1 space per 6	i0m ²		See Note 1
Public halls of – F1(e)	r exhibition halls	1 space per 6	i0m ²		See Note 1
Public worshi instruction (or with such use	in connection	1 space per 5 seats See Note 1		See Note 1	
Law courts –	F1(g)	1 space per 2 staff	6 spaces p courtroom	er	See Note 1

Notes:	 park and mano Provision shou vehicles dropp Appropriate propriate proprise propriate propriate prop	ities should be provided to enable delivery vehicles to beuvre clear of the public highway. Ind be made to accommodate school/ public transport ing off and picking up children. ovision should be made for the setting down and hildren in a safe environment and in a manner that by interfere with the operation and use of the public schools there is a need to include appropriate additional bulances, taxis and coaches.			
Local Com	munity – F2				
		Car parking			
essentials food, where not exceed	stly) selling goods, including e the premises do 280m ² and there is uch facility within £(a)	Provision to be determined	l on an individual basis.		
	ng places for the se of the local r – F2(b)	Provision to be determined	l on an individual basis.		
sport or red	aces for outdoor creation (not notorised vehicles or F2(c)	1 space per 2 participants + 1 space per 15 spectators			
	utdoor swimming ating rinks – F2(d)	1 space per 22m ² + 1 spac appropriate	e per 15 seats where		
Sui Generis	5				
		Employees	Visitors/Customers		
•	ses in Multiple n (over six unrelated).	Provision to be determined	l on an individual basis.		
	inemas, concert erences centres and	1 space per 5 seats			
Amusemen funfair	t Arcade/centre or	1 space per 22m ²			
Launderett	es	Provision to be determined	on an individual basis.		
Fuel station	ns	Provision to be determined	on an individual basis.		
Selling and vehicles	/or displaying motor	1 space per 2 staff	1 space per 50m ²		

Vehicle servicing and repair	1 space per 2 staff	4 spaces per service bay
Taxi and vehicle hire. Coach and bus depots	1 space per 2 staff	1 space per 4 registered vehicles
Open commercial use (e.g. scrap yards, recycling centres)	1 space per 2 staff	To be assessed individually
Hostels (providing no significant element of care)	1 space per resident staff + 1 space per 2 other staff	1 space per 6 residents
Waste disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or landfill of hazardous waste	Provision to be determined on an individual basis.	
Retail warehouse clubs	1 space per 25m ²	
Nightclubs	1 space per 22m ²	
Casinos	Provision to be determined on an individual basis.	
Betting offices/shops	Provision to be determined on an individual basis.	
Pay day loan shops	Provision to be determined on an individual basis.	
Public houses, licensed bars/ drinking establishments and banqueting halls (Includes bars open to non-residents in hotels and non-diners in restaurants).	1 space per 2 staff	1 space per 10m ²
Drinking establishments with expanded food provision	Provision to be determined	l on an individual basis.
Hot food takeaways, including drive-thru restaurants	1 space per 2 staff	1 space per 50m ²
Dance halls	To be determined	
Historic Houses and Gardens, Country Parks	1 space per 400 visitors pe See Note 4	er annum
Theme parks, leisure parks	1 space per 200 visitors pe See Note 4	er annum
Golf Courses and Driving Ranges	3 spaces per hole/bay	
Bowling green/Centres/Alleys, snooker halls, tennis/squash/badminton clubs	3 spaces per lane/court/tal See Note 3	ble
Equestrian Centres, Riding Stables	1 space per stable	

Marinas and of facilities	ther boating	1 space per mooring or berth
Stadia		1 space per 15 seats See Note 2
Other Uses		1 space per 22m ²
Notes:	to park and 2. Provision sh standard of provided as 3. Where prov accommoda space per 1 4. Provision sh	acilities should be provided to enable delivery vehicles manoeuvre clear of the public highway. hould also be made for coach parking with a maximum 1 coach space per 300 seats. Such provision is to be an alternative to car parking provision. isions are made within the development to ate spectators then an additional parking provision of 1 5 seats should be provided. hould also be made for coach parking with a maximum 1 coach space per 5,000 visitors per annum

Table 3: Electric Vehicle Parking Standards

Residential Uses	
Dwellings with On- Plot Parking	<u>Refer to Building Regulations</u> https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/upload s/attachment_data/file/1057375/AD_S.pdf
Dwellings with unallocated communal parking Non-Residential Us	Refer to Building Regulations https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/upload s/attachment_data/file/1057375/AD_S.pdf
Non-Residential US	
All Uses with Off- Street Parking	Refer to Building Regulations* https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/upload s/attachment_data/file/1057375/AD_S.pdf An exception to the above applies for units with less than 10 spaces whereby provision will be required for a minimum of 10% active charging spaces and 20% passive charging spaces*

*applicable to new sites, change of use applications or extensions will be discussed on an individual basis

For Employees and Visitors to Business Premises (Land Use Classes B2, B8, E(c) and E(g)).				
Car Parks up to 40 spaces	2 designated spaces + 1 space of sufficient size but not specifically designated.			
Car Parks with 40 to 200 spaces	4 designated spaces or 5% of the total capacity, whichever is greater			
Car parks with greater than 200 spaces	6 designated spaces + 2% of the total capacity			
For Shopping, Recreation and Leisure (La F2(c-d) and Sui Generis).	nd Use Classes C1, E(a-b), E(d-f), F1(b-e),			
	nd Use Classes C1, E(a-b), E(d-f), F1(b-e), 1 designated space + 2 spaces of sufficient size but not specifically designated.			
F2(c-d) and Sui Generis).	1 designated space + 2 spaces of sufficient			

Table 5: Mobility Aid and Adaptive Bicycle Parking Standards

	Mobility Aids	Adaptive Bicycle
All land uses	1 designated car parking space + 2% of all car parking spaces	5% of all cycle parking spaces designed for use by disabled cyclists

Table 6: Minimum Cycle Parking Standards

B2/B8/E(g) Uses	1 space per 1,000m ²	1 space per 200m ²
Hotels – C1	1 space per 10 beds, units or pitches	
Uses – C2		
Hospitals & other residential institutions offering a level of care	1 space per 10 beds	
Residential schools, colleges & training centres	1 space per 5 students	
Residential Uses – C3		
Houses	1 space per bedroom	
Flats and Maisonettes	1 space per bedroom	
Sheltered Accommodation	1 space per 5 units	
 Cycle parking provision should normally be provided within the curtilage of the residential dwelling. Where a garage is provided it should be of a suitable size to accommodate the required cycle parking provision in addition to that of a car. Parking provision should be provided as a secure communal facility where a suitable alternative is not available. For flats/maisonettes it is recommended cycle parking is provided at 1 space per bedroom. 		
Retail Uses – E(a)		
Up to 1,000m ²	1 space per 200m ²	1 space per 200m ²
Up to 5,000m ²	1 space per 400m ²	1 space per 400m ²
Over 5,000m ²	Minimum of 12 spaces; Additional Spaces Negotiable	
Retail Uses – E(b)/Sui Generis	1 space per 10 seats	1 space per 20 seats
Retail Uses – E(c)	1 space per 1,000m ²	1 space per 200m ²
Non-Residential Institutions – E(e-f), F1		

Primary	Schools	1 space per 20 pupils	
	ry Schools, ducation	1 space per 5 pupils preferred or 1 space per 7 pupils minimum	
Medical Surgerie	-	1 space per 2 consulting / treatment rooms	
Other No Institutio	on-Residential ons	1 space per 50 seats or 100m ²	
Notes:	1. Scooter parkin	ng should also be provided for nurseries and primary schools	
Assembly & Leisure Uses – E(d), F2(c-d)			
Leisure and Entertainment Venues		1 space per 300 seats	1 space per 300 seats
Sports Facilities and Venues1 space per 10 participants + 10%1 space per 10 staff		1 space per 10 staff	
Sui Generis Uses			
To be determined on a first principles basis			

Table 7: Minimum Motorcycle Parking Standards

Non-Residential Developments

1 motorcycle space + 1 space for every 20 car parking spaces provided

Table 8: Minimum Car Parking Space Dimensions

	Length	Width
Cars – Minimum ¹	5.0m (6.0m for parallel spaces ²)	2.5m
Disabled Car Space	5.5m	3.7m
Cars - Abutting hard	5.0m	2.7m

boundary/vegetation on one side ³ - Minimum		
Cars - Abutting hard boundary/vegetation on both sides ³ - Minimum	5.0m	2.9m
Garage - One Car ⁴	7.0m	3.6m
Garage - Two Cars⁴	7.0m	6.0m
Car Port/Car Barn – One Car⁵	5.0m	2.5m
Car Port/Car Barn – Two Cars⁵	5.0m	5.5m
Car Barn – One Car ⁶	5.5m	3.6m
Car Barn – Two Cars ^{6 & 7}	5.5m	6.0m
Tandem Parking – First Car	6.0m	2.5m
Tandem Parking – Rear Car ¹	5.0m	2.5m

¹Where space abuts a footway or carriageway, 0.5m setback should be provided.

² Applicable where car parking spaces are provided parallel to, and abutting, a carriageway, aisle or drive.

³ Typically in a car park, rather than residents' driveway.

⁴ These dimensions refer to internal dimensions.

⁵ These refer to car barns/car ports that are open on all sides.

⁶ These refer to car barns that are enclosed.

⁷ Carn barns to accommodate more than two vehicles may be considered. A triple car barn with a single supporting pillar requires a minimum width of 7.9m whilst a triple car barn with two supporting pillars requires a minimum width of 8.3m.

Table 9: Parking Space Dimensions for Other Vehicle Types

	Length	Width
Powered Two Wheelers	2.5m	1.5m
Light Goods Vehicles	7.5m	3.5m
Minibuses	8.0m	4.0m
Coaches	15.0m	4.0m
Rigid Goods Vehicles	14.0m	3.5m
Articulated Goods Vehicles	18.5m	3.5m

Information on recommended cycle storage dimensions can be found in the Department for Transport's Cycle Infrastructure Design LTN1/20 guidance document (2020)⁷.

Information on storage requirements for mobility scooters can be found in the Department for Transport's Inclusive Mobility Guidance (2021)⁶

⁷ <u>Cycle infrastructure design (LTN 1/20)</u> https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycleinfrastructure-design-ltn-120