

St Cuthbert's Monastic Gardens



The 21st Century Garden Village must sustain itself in all ways and its landscape provides the means to achieve this.

St Cuthbert's Monastic Gardens comprise **five interconnected landscapes** that sustain and provide for the community environmentally, socially and economically and which symbolise the Green Heart of the 21st Century Garden Village. The gardens provide a framework for the development of new sustainable green industry and leisure opportunities, utilising processes of vertical farming, renewable energy and clean water, interwoven with places of spiritual uplift and design excellence upon every doorstep.

In common with historic and contemporary Monasteries, and with 19th and 20th Century garden communities, **St Cuthbert's Monastic Gardens** will be the living and breathing vital organs of the new community providing food, water, air, work, wellbeing, sanctuary, passage and spiritual meaning for the neighbourhoods and village districts with which it is interconnected and interdependent.

St Cuthbert's Monastic Gardens - five connected productive landscapes

The gardens embrace, align and reinterpret the Monastic and ecclesiastic traditions of Carlisle and the agrarian heritage and values of the site, reinterpreting these as the central landscape heart that sustains and defines a ground-breaking 21st Century Garden Village. The gardens are the embodiment of a sustainable new world in which **agrarian and spiritual tradition** is fused with **21st Century technology and placemaking** to forge a quality benchmark and catalyst for 21st Century living.

The Monastic Gardens are a series of **five connected landscapes** that promote neighbourhood and settlement scale environmental, social and economic self-reliance through providing:

- high yield organic food, that utilises and stores harvested clean water, renewable energy and waste to resource management;
- green spaces that celebrate, reinterpret and embed the learning and practice of traditional farming, land management and monastic gardening at the heart of placemaking, embedding a sense of stewardship within the community and new local businesses;
- green-collar employment, education, training and profitable green industries, which harvest, store and distribute water for agricultural and grey water use;
- green spaces, places and stewardship models engendering community stewardship, ownership and empowerment;
- a green and blue infrastructural framework as a quality benchmark for post-COVID lifestyles;
- biodiversity net gain across the site with the introduction of local BAP target Habitats; and
- places for art, expression, creativity, spirituality and mindfulness.

St Cuthbert's Causeway - the Monastic Garden journey

St Cuthbert's Causeway

The five Monastic Gardens are linked by and experienced through journeys along connective watercourses, walkways and routes representative of St Cuthbert's journeys and message. The interconnected routes and water bodies are named St Cuthbert's Causeway.

Water connections

Connective watercourses and bodies provide interconnected water supply, irrigation, flood management and sustainable drainage systems for the Garden Village. New technologies fulfil traditional requirements: weirs and dams, bridges, causeways and water wheels punctuate waterside walks with contemporary structures and sustain the land and the community. Levees and embankments contain water meadows for filtration and retention lagoons / towers utilising windmill pumps for sustainable distribution.

Walks, hubs and activities

Links and routes into, through and between the gardens provide active travel facilities, healthy living networks that integrate automated / assisted transport and delivery opportunities, mobility hubs and water transit (water bus, coracles, canoeing, kayaking) interwoven within a network of art trails, exercise trails, heritage / interpretive trails, and key recreational and leisure hubs at key intersections such as at schools, care homes, community facilities, village centres - including waterside pubs and microbreweries, water sports centres and boat hire.

1 America Meadows

America Meadows provides a combined productive landscape with hop yards and sequential wetland habitat, the promotion of biodiversity and the formation of routes and places to encourage mindfulness at the western section of the Monastic Gardens

- The adjacency of the River Caldew and tributary watercourses and associated green spaces provide the opportunity for more open landscapes as **nature reserves** and village-edge places of contemplation.
- Riverside / lakeside **restaurants** and **micropub / brewery**, using **locally grown** hops and **produce**, provides a focus, with water wheels providing localised power supply. This builds on the booming craft beer industry and provides a **meeting point for the community**, from which public events, private parties, fêtes, etc. can be run.
- The **hop yards** and **orchards** will provide a formal landscape type complemented by meadows which will allow for informal contemplative walks within the area through permissive access, providing **views out** across the Caldew Valley.
- Wider spaces and open aspects provide places for **sustainable energy production** including solar farms, wind-farm turbines, and smaller scale windmills and **water wheels** reflective of both monastic and agrarian traditions.
- The more open landscape aspects and ecological focus to the environment provides a place for a Mindfulness Centre and **spiritual retreat** promoting mental wellbeing and highlighting a post-COVID renewed focus upon the importance of outdoor space.
- The retreat incorporates **mindfulness** gardens, **sensory** gardens and trails, sound gardens and wind sculptures.

“A sustainable agriculture is one which depletes
neither the people or the land”

Wendell Berry



Multi-functional water systems provide sustainable drainage, biodiversity net gain, and spaces for contemplation



Celebration and reflection of history through the integration of heritage localised energy production methods

2 Peasetree Fields

Leisure and recreation facilities at Peasetree Fields

- Proximity of both Carlisle Racecourse proposed local centre and Durdar village presents the opportunity to provide new **parkland recreational and leisure facilities** to support the wider garden village ethos and function.
- Opportunities are developed for the careful integration of hotel use within new built areas and overlooking the parkland corridor, partnered with **eco-tourism** facilities such as camping and 'glamping' and naturalistic-themed holiday villages of a Centreparks / Woodland Trust (Forest Holidays) model as a transition and link between proposed Woodpark Gardens and Durdar / local centre hub to the east and more open landscapes of America Meadows to the west.
- The development of open water, wetland, grassland and woodland copse habitat provide both **visitor and educational facilities**, with boardwalks, places for pond dipping, bird hides and visitor interpretation centres **promoting ecology and biodiversity**.
- Visitor and open space leisure uses are integrated with localised broadening of water courses into recreational ponds and lakes through which **cycle routes, trails and bridleways** provide links within St. Cuthbert's Causeway.
- Extended Equestrian Centre and stables related to Carlisle Racecourse provides **horse riding lessons and equestrian sports facilities**.
- Outdoor **sports trails**, cross country running, cycling and orienteering courses activate the landscape.

"It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit"

Robert Louis Stevenson



New parkland and recreational facilities connect seamlessly through the linked waterways and walkways



Opportunities for unique visitor attractions and hospitality ventures to contribute to the local economy

3 Woodpark Gardens & Commons

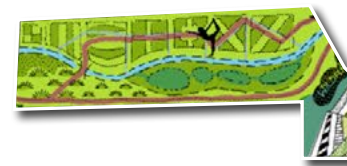
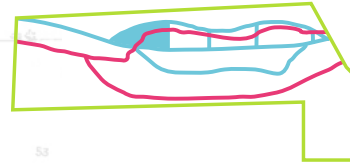
Community gardens, parkland and commons at Woodpark, Durdar Road

- Adjacent to the existing settlement at Durdar and new potentially denser neighbourhoods within the masterplan, Woodpark Gardens is the intensive open space heart of the Garden Village providing a focus for **community interaction** and celebration and a locus for visitor attraction and facilities.
- New buildings and garden pavilions within Woodpark Gardens include **cafés, garden centres, and art galleries** set amongst walled gardens, open arcades and cloistered walks that provide key links within the wider connective corridor of St Cuthbert's Causeway.
- Enclosed community gardens and orchards provide venues for **local food production**, community interaction and **classes**, reflective of Monastic 'Hortus Concius'; the enclosed herb, fruit, vegetable, flower and psychic / medicinal gardens often laid out upon terraced forms and where plants were grown for cooking, healing and dyeing wool and fabric.
- Community gardens include living walls and pleached plants, water gardens as **contemplative spaces**, and a **local produce exchange**, shop and café.
- The adjacent village centre provides hotel and visitor facilities, whilst structures and pavilions within the Gardens provide further leisure and retail venues for **performances and events**.
- Working centres, shared offices and **SMART office systems** that support changing post-COVID living / working practices ensure day-long activity and the footfall required to invigorate this area.
- Areas of land surrounding Woodpark Gardens provide **reinstated Commons**, where smallholdings and allotments are provided for further **local food production**. Traditional practices and planting patterns of Spring planting, Autumn planting, fallow and Winter gardens provide seasonal 'doorstep' food habitat enhancement.

The landscape as a journey - the transmission of fire

The transmission of St Cuthbert's message of spirituality and the importance of the conservation of the natural world became known as the spreading of the **'Fire of the North'**.

The message is reinvigorated and expressed through the new Garden Village landscapes as heralding and championing new and sustainable ways of living.



Community food production provides opportunities for local market events where produce is bought and sold



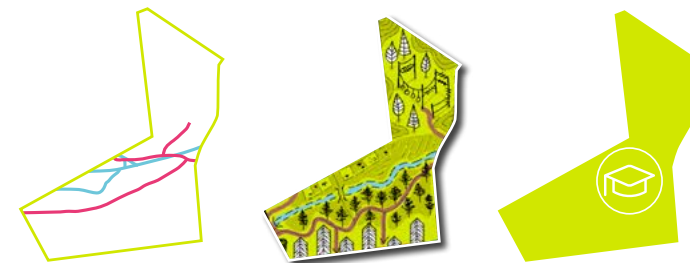
Visitor facilities are built into distinctive structures and pavilions within the central parkland and gardens

4 Durdarclose Fields

Green environmental education, training and research hub at Durdar

- The adjacency of the proposed school creates the impetus and opportunity for a nationally-important **environmental training and educational centre**.
- Uses associated with the proposed school include **fruit and vegetable gardens**, a cooking and **nutrition school**, and **Forest School** that champions outdoor learning, embracing Forest School values and practices.
- A Farm school teaches **traditional agricultural management** including techniques such as hedge setting and water meadows management that promote biodiversity and are commercially profitable.
- Horticultural training facilities including for **husbandry** and tree and garden nurseries include instruction and working production of **market gardening**, intensive **micro-gardening**, contemporary walled kitchen gardens, indoor **vertical farms** growing micro-herbs, herbs vegetables and salads for the growing local restaurant and hospitality sector, such as that practised at Aqua Garden, Chesterfield.
- New links are established with national and regional Universities and Colleges and private sector links to develop research, training and education programmes and **courses in environmental, climate action, and high-yield organic food production**.
- Woodland recreation opportunities include recreational Woodland trails, **woodland outdoor pursuits**, sculpture trails, Ropewalks and tree-top play.
- Development of **new productive forestry** uses including coppice, copse planting, pollarding and wetland production of Alder, Willow, Sallow and Ash beds provide biofuel and materials for traditional agricultural crafts.
- Lakeland forest types trigger woodland crafts and carpentry, a sawmill and **traditional wood industries**, such as that practised at Handspring Design, Sheffield.

“Tradition is not the worship of ashes
but the preservation of fire”
Gustav Mahler



New educational facilities are integrated into the landscape with green roofs and rain garden planting



Training initiatives provide the community with opportunities for learning and upskilling across all ages

5 Netherton Meadows

The reinstatement and development of working farms and commercial forests at Netherton

- Existing and traditional agricultural land uses such as those at Netherton and Lough Farm are reflected in the development of new working farms with both traditional crops such as **hops, corn, and wheat** and diversified and intensive crops to serve the new adjacent neighbourhoods and communities, providing employment opportunities for residents.
- Farm development and parcelisation will incorporate the **reinstatement of former hedgerows**, boundaries, copses and watercourses.
- Commercial and visitor opportunities include a **Farm Shop and café / restaurant** and **pick your own** activities and orchards that attract visitors and **strengthen the local economy**.
- At the seams and interfaces with new residential neighbourhoods, intensive **vertical farms, biodomes** and **glasshouses** provide doorstep food for residents, families and workplaces.
- The development of **new wetland habitats** and crops fed by Cammock Beck include water meadows, wild wetlands for meadowsweet, salad burnet, watercress beds, and rushes.
- The utilisation of **watermills and towers** for pumping and distributing **harvested water** is promoted as part of a wider sustainable water network that reduces agricultural take from mains and abstraction, thereby enhancing the water security of the Garden Village into the future.

The New Garden Village - reinterpreting tradition for the 21st Century

Our own independent 21st Century Garden Village Manifesto identifies key mechanisms for the application 19th Century Garden Village principles to a 21st Century Garden Village community. We identify the 21st Century translation of the underlying foundations and the fundamental role of the Garden Village landscape as comprising:

- Connectedness** - the Garden Village as a series of connected physical, social and economic systems that provide opportunities for the growth of Social Capital and creation of great places.
- Wellbeing** - the benefits of physical and psychological wellbeing through networks of open space that promote activity, biodiversity and engender cultural and spiritual enrichment.
- Design Cohesion** - distinctive, diverse and memorable places in which the intrinsic natural qualities of the site are celebrated and realised in a consistent and coordinated manner and with a tangible commitment to Design Quality standards.



Agricultural innovations such as vertical farming provide a means of sustainable local food production



Commercial opportunities for farm shops and 'pick your own' activities strengthen the local economy