

North South 400 kV Interconnection Development

ESB Networks

Discharge of Condition 7 on Material Storage Yard of ABP Order 02.VA0017

Document No.: PE687-F0422-R422-025-000

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Change History of Report

Date	New Revision	Author	Summary of Change

Executive Summary

ESB Engineering and Major Projects (EMP) have been appointed on behalf of ESB Networks to manage the construction and discharge of planning conditions for the construction of the 400 kV North – South Interconnector project.

The project consists of the following:

- Construction of a new 400 kV overhead line from structure no. 103 in County Monaghan to structure no. 410 in County Meath.
- Installation of new HV equipment and supporting civil works in Woodland 400 kV Station.
- Construction of the Material Storage Yard outside Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

Planning approval for the Project was granted by An Bord Pleanála (ABP) (Board Order 02.VA0017) in December 2016.

The purpose of this report is to give a brief description of the proposed development and set out details of the external appearance of the construction material storage yard, details of the restoration of the site and a timescale for the implementation of restoration works.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

ESB Engineering and Major Projects (EMP) has been appointed on behalf of ESB Networks to manage the construction of the 400 kV North – South Interconnector. The purpose of this report is to discharge Condition 7 of the An Bord Pleanála (ABP) order VA0017. Condition 7 requires agreement with the relevant planning authority, Monaghan County Council.

Planning approval for the project was granted by ABP in December 2016.

Condition 7 of ABP's order states the following:

"Prior to the commencement of development, details of the external appearance of the construction material storage yard, and also the restoration of the site, including a time scale for implementation, shall be submitted to, and agreed with, the relevant planning authority.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity."

1.2 Report Aims

This report has been prepared for the Material Storage Yard near Carrickmacross for Monaghan County Council only. This report, along with accompanying drawings and images aims to set out to Monaghan County Council the following for their approval:

- Details of the external appearance of the construction material storage yard;
- Details of the restoration of the site; and,
- A timescale for implementation of restoration works.

2 The Approved Development

2.1 Project Overview

This approved project consists of the construction of a new 400 kV overhead line linking the existing Woodland 400 kV substation, located approximately 8km south of Dunshaughlin in Co. Meath, with a planned 400 kV substation, located approximately 3km north of the village of Moy in Turleenan, Co. Tyrone. The general alignment of the route is north to south, and the approved overhead line (OHL) is approximately 137.6 km in length. The line can be divided by county as follows:

- Monaghan County Council: Structures 103 to 212 inclusive of construction material storage yard in Carrickmacross.
- Cavan County Council: Structures 212 to 237.
- Meath County Council: Structures 237 to 410 inclusive of works in Woodland Sub-Station.

Figure 2-1 and Figure 2-2 present a condensed map depicting the approved OHL route.

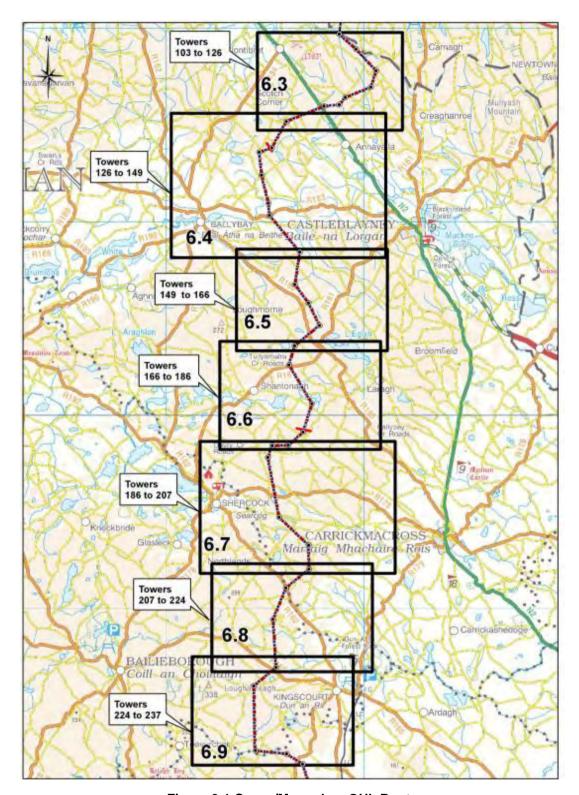


Figure 2-1 Cavan/Monaghan OHL Route

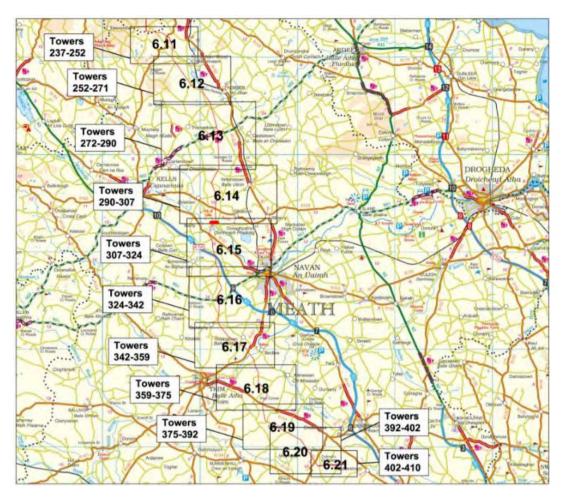


Figure 2-2 Meath OHL Route

2.2 The Material Storage Yard

The approved development includes the construction of a material storage yard for the overhead line works. It is approved to be located in the townlands of Monaltyduff and Monaltybane, Carrickmacross, County Monaghan. The yard is 1.4ha in area and is located immediately adjacent to the southern side of the N2. It is accessed via a local road (L4700). The location of the yard is shown in Figure 2-3 below.

Planning Drawing MT-009-002 titled "Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Site Layout Drawing" which was included in Volume 1B of the application documentation illustrates the approved works. Refer to Appendix 1 of this report for suite of drawings included in the application documentation.

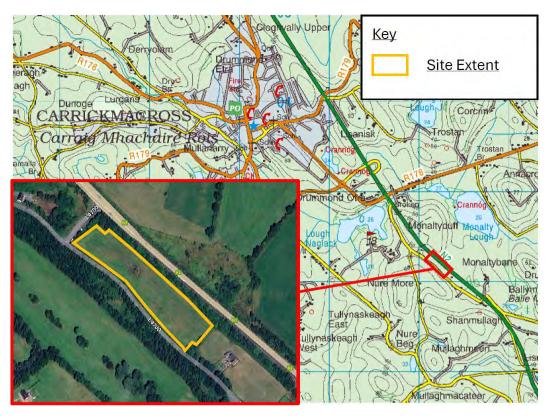


Figure 2-3 Material Storage Yard Site Location

2.3 Existing Environment

This section of the report summarises the existing conditions of the Material Storage Yard site as set out in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted as part of the planning application, along with more up-to-date survey information including;

- Topographical survey undertaken on 24/07/2023
- Photographic survey undertaken on 26/02/2025
- Information obtained from the Geological Surveys of Ireland Database (GSI) 2025.

Further pre-construction confirmatory surveys will record existing conditions in advance of work commencing.

2.3.1 Location and Context

As described in Section 2.2 and illustrated in Figure 2-3, the construction yard is approved to be located in the townlands of Monaltyduff and Monaltybane, Carrickmacross, County Monaghan.

The approved site has a history of use as a construction yard. The site was used as a construction yard facility during the construction of the N2 National Primary Road and was reinstated to agricultural use. During a visit to site in February 2025, it was confirmed from visual inspection that the site is currently in agricultural use. As can be seen in Figure 2-4, the site is improved grassland, used for grazing, surrounded by hedgerows which had recently been cut at the time of visit in February 2025.



Figure 2-4 Material Storage Yard Current Use

While a potential turlough was marked near the site (Sheedy-Skeffinton et al, 1996), no evidence of a turlough was noted at the site or in the surrounding area in January 2014 and February 2025 or during the Wetland Survey County Monaghan (Foss & Crushell, 2011). It should be noted that the entire low lying area to the east was also modified to accommodate the N2 by-pass.

2.3.2 Designated Ecological Sites

There are no European designated sites within the vicinity of the Material Storage Yard, as shown in Figure 2-5. The nearest European designated sites are located as follows:

- Dundalk Bay SAC located ca. 20km to the East of the Material Storage Yard.
- Stabannan-Braganstown SPA (site code 004091) located ca. 16km to the South East of the Material Storage Yard.

None of the European designated sites are directly hydrological linked or dependant on the Material Storage Yard site.

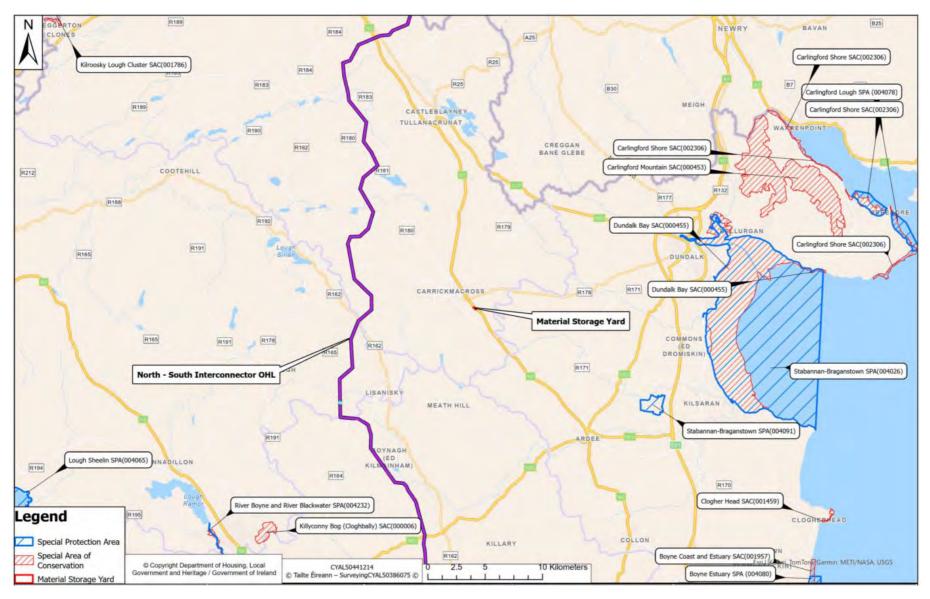


Figure 2-5 Designated European Sites located within vicinity of the Storage Yard

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3 Approved Works

The storage yard will be constructed in advance of the overhead line construction works and will include secure storage areas, staff parking, temporary offices and welfare facilities. The yard will be used to store construction material, primarily the steel tower structures, and machinery associated with the construction of the proposed overhead line. A 2.6 m high boundary palisade fence will be constructed around the perimeter of the site. A standalone noise barrier fence will be erected along three sides of the site boundary. It is proposed to create a new gated entrance midway along the L4700 on the southern boundary of the site. The entrance will consist of a 6m wide gate opening with a concrete apron at entrance area.

Topsoil will be stripped, and a geotextile membrane will be placed on the formation to enhance soil stabilisation, prevent material migration and protect the underlying layers of soil. A 150 mm thick layer of compacted 6F2 stone will then be imported and placed, followed by a final layer of compacted UGM-A stone, also 150 mm thick, to finish the compound surface. An impermeable reinforced concrete slab (minimum 200mm thickness) will be in place at a demarcated fuelling area and waste collection area to ensure that contaminants do not percolate into the hydrogeological environment.

Section 8.6.1 of the EIS (Vol 3C) states the following: "The surface water drainage system at the construction material storage yard will take into account the recommendations of the CIRIA C468 and utilises SuDs (sustainable urban drainage) devices where appropriate. Runoff from site will be limited to greenfield runoff rates. Runoff will pass through a silt trap, oil interceptor and settlement lagoon before being discharged to the surface water." The oil interceptor will be installed towards the centre of the site connected to proposed surface water drainage. No connection to public foul sewer or wastewater treatment plant is proposed in the Material Storage Yard. Foul wastewater will be dealt with by means of a temporary holding tank which will be emptied periodically.

The proposed Material Storage layout including all elements described above are presented on the drawings listed in Appendix 2.

4 Proposed External Appearance

The perimeter of the site currently consists of a mixed hedgerow and a timber and post fence. The palisade fence will be constructed inside the timber and post fence line which will fully demarcate the existing hedgerow. The existing hedgerow will provide a natural visual barrier, partially concealing the material storage yard. A typical view of a palisade fence behind a hedgerow is shown in Figure 4-1 and a typical palisade gate is shown in Figure 4-2.



Figure 4-1 Example of palisade fence behind hedgerow https://www.trentwoodfencingoxfordshire.co.uk/site-assets/images/Case%20Studies/steel-palisade-honda-

2.jpg



Figure 4-2 Example of palisade fence gate

https://www.proctercontracts.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/palisade_swing_gates901.jpg.webp

Proposed Elevation Along Road L4700 as shown on drawing MWP-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-0102 - Site Layout Plan & Details in Appendix 2, illustrates the view of the yard along its southern boundary. Extracts from this drawing are shown in Figure 4-3 and Figure 4-4. Refer to Appendix 2 for more details.

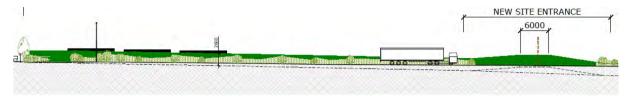


Figure 4-3 Proposed Elevation Along Road L4700 (1 of 2)

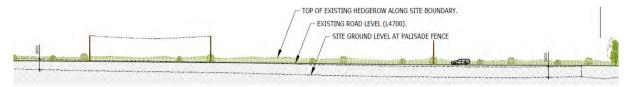


Figure 4-4 Proposed Elevation along Road L4700 (2 of 2)

5 Proposed Restoration of The Site

Upon completion of construction activities, the temporary construction and material storage yard will be fully decommissioned and reinstated as near as practicable to its preconstruction condition as seen in Figure 2-4. It is intended for the site to return to agricultural use upon reinstatement.

To return the site to its original condition, it is anticipated works will take place in the following order (refer to drawings PE687-D422-039-001, PE687-D422-039-002 and PE687-D422-039-003 as listed in Appendix 3 for further details of decommissioning and reinstatement works);

1. Removal of plant, equipment and materials

2. Removal of ground structures

- o Site offices (prefabs)
- Storage containers
- Portable toilets
- Nut and bolt store
- Wheel wash

3. Removal of below ground drainage and services

- Surface and foul water drains including all manholes, benching and stone surrounds to manholes
- o Oil interceptor and foul holding tank
- Water supply pipes
- LV supply ducts
- o Comms ducts
- French drains and catch pits
- o Culvert and road gullies at the site entrance

4. Removal of ground level surfaces

- Reinforced concrete entrance apron slab
- Stone fill layers
- Geotextile membrane

5. Removal of palisade fencing

- o Palisade perimeter fence and noise barrier and associated foundations
- o Palisade gate at the site entrance and associated foundations
- Silt fence and associated foundations

6. Relevelling of ground profile

Relevel the site using topsoil to restore the area to the original ground level

7. Reseeding of grass

 Evenly distribute grass seed and follow immediately by light raking to ensure the cover of the topsoil covers the grass seed

8. Reinstatement of site entrance

- Site entrance ramp and embankment to be reinstated to original levels with concrete entrance apron removed
- o Grass verge to be reinstated
- o Tarmac a section of road edge, where entrance apron removed

9. Reinstatement of hedgerows

 Hedgerows and planting to be reinstated to match existing (horticultural survey before any hedgerow removal to take place ensuing reinstatement matches original species).

5.1 Timescale for Implementation

It is proposed that the Material Storage Yard restoration will commence within ca. 4 weeks of the completion of the overhead line works. An approximate programme for execution of the restoration plan is presented in Table 5-1 below.

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Removal of remaining materials, equipment and cabins										
Excavation of drainage infrastructure and filling of trenches										
Removal of hardcore										
Reinstatement of existing entry and removal of fence										
Replacing topsoil (to be imported)										
Grass seeding and hedge replanting / reinforcement										

Table 5-1 Proposed Material Storage Yard Reinstatement Timeline

Regardless of the timing of reinstatement works; seeding of grass will take place in late autumn or late spring following completion of topsoil replacing. Hedgerow replanting / reinforcement will take place during the middle of the first dormant season (ca. mid-November to mid-February, depending on weather) following reinstatement of the existing entry and fence removal.

6 Conclusion

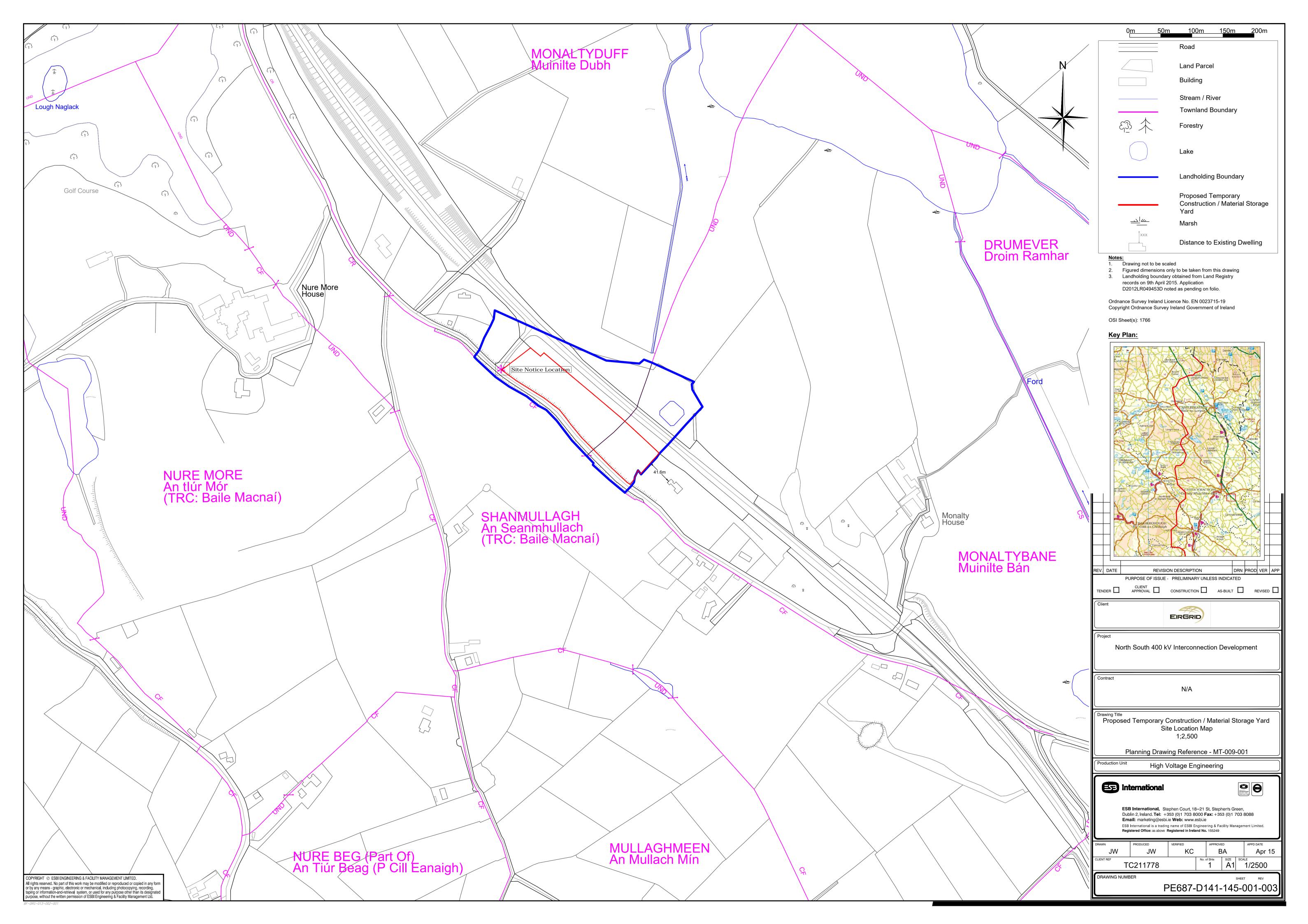
This report has explained the background of the 400kV North – South Interconnector project and the Material Storage Yard near Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. The report, along with accompanying drawings and images has set out to Monaghan County Council the following:

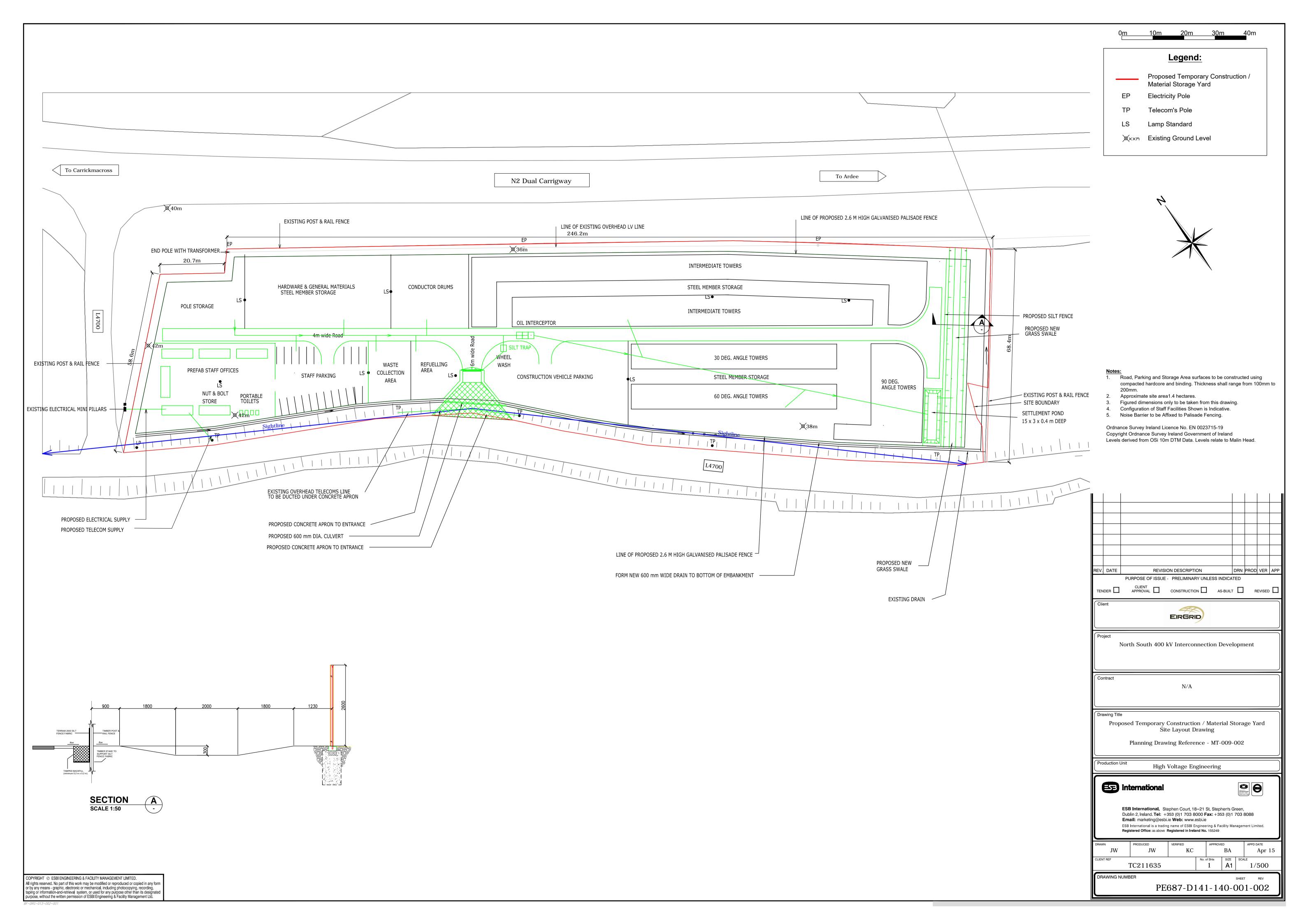
- Details of the external appearance of the construction material storage yard
- Details of the restoration of the site
- A timescale for implementation of restoration works.

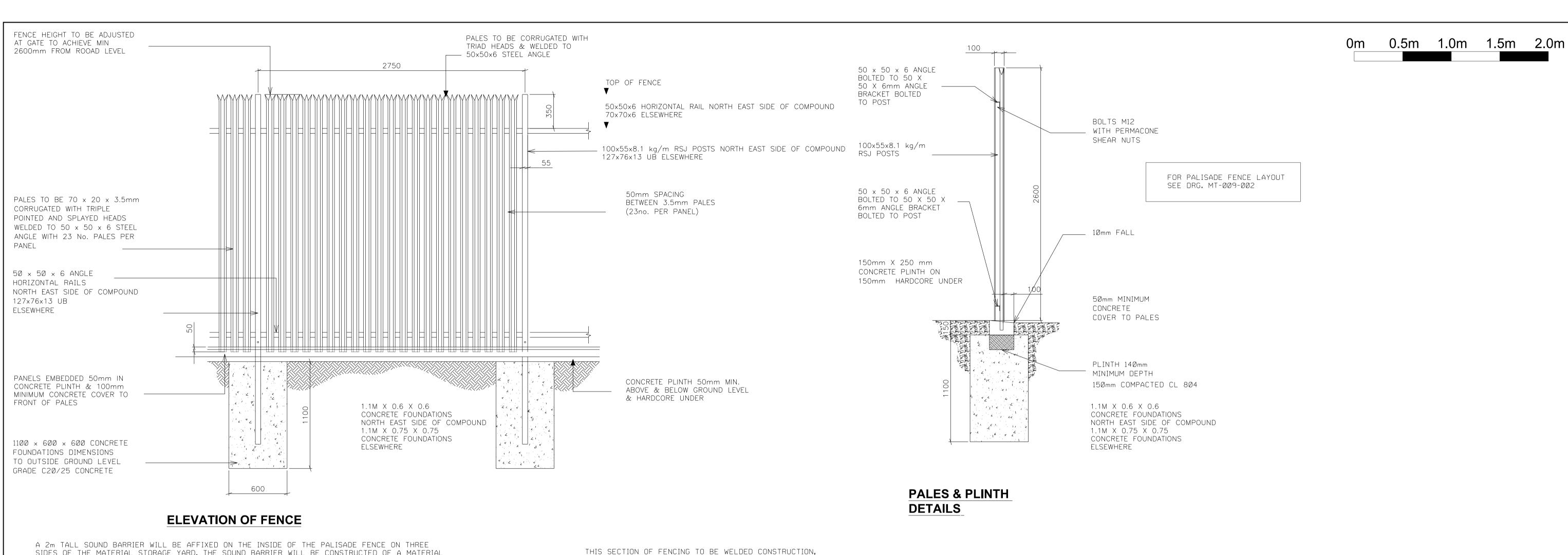
It is envisaged that the information contained in this report and associated drawings is sufficient for Monaghan County Council to discharge Condition 7 of the An Bord Pleanála (ABP) order for agreement with Monaghan County Council.

Appendix 1 – Material Storage Yard Planning Drawings

- MT-009-001 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Site Location Map
- MT-009-002 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Site Layout Drawing
- MT-009-003 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Site Boundary Palisade Fence Detail
- MT-009-004 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Palisade Gates Detail

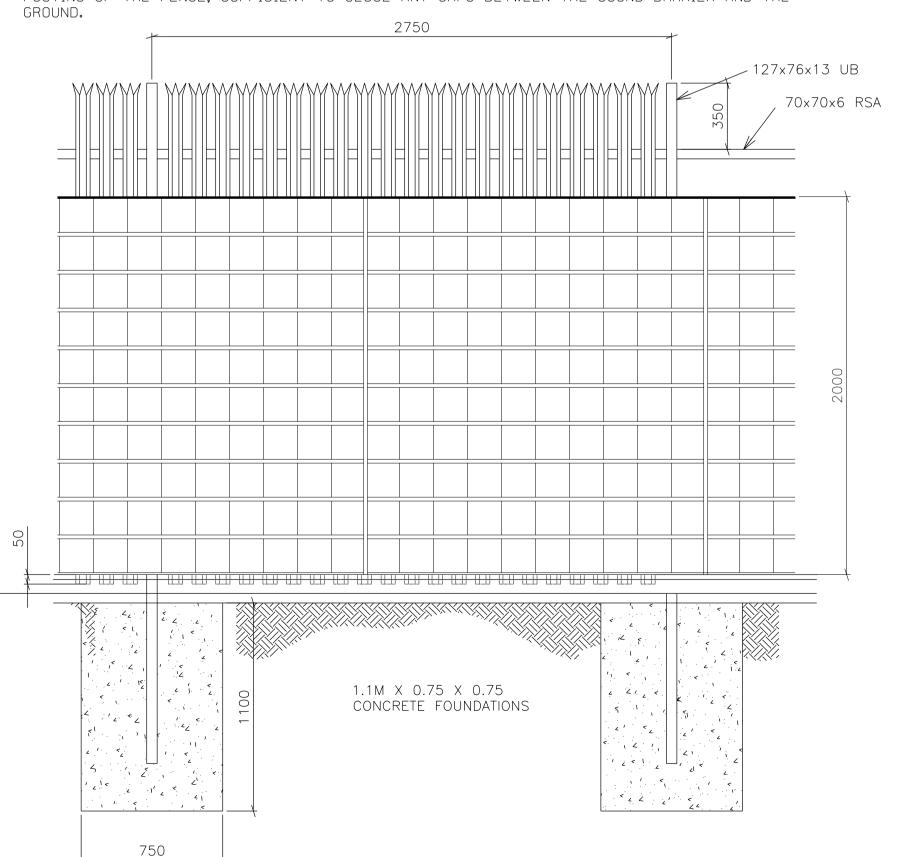






A 2m TALL SOUND BARRIER WILL BE AFFIXED ON THE INSIDE OF THE PALISADE FENCE ON THREE SIDES OF THE MATERIAL STORAGE YARD. THE SOUND BARRIER WILL BE CONSTRUCTED OF A MATERIAL WITH A MASS OF > 7kg/m2 AND HAVE NO GAPS IN THE BARRIER MATERIAL. THE SOUND BARRIER IS NOT REQUIRED ON THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE MATERIAL STORAGE YARD AND THE N2 NATIONAL

FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF THE NOISE BARRIER, SOIL MOUNDS WILL BE POSITIONED AT THE FOOTING OF THE FENCE, SUFFICIENT TO CLOSE ANY GAPS BETWEEN THE SOUND BARRIER AND THE

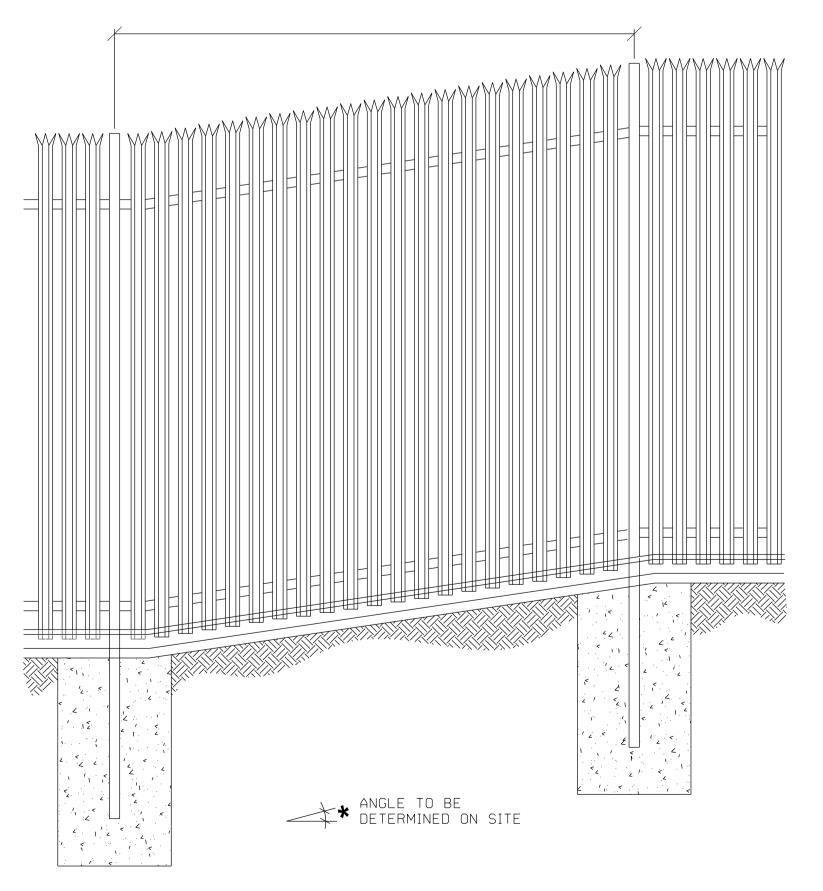


ELEVATION OF FENCE WITH NOISE BARRIER

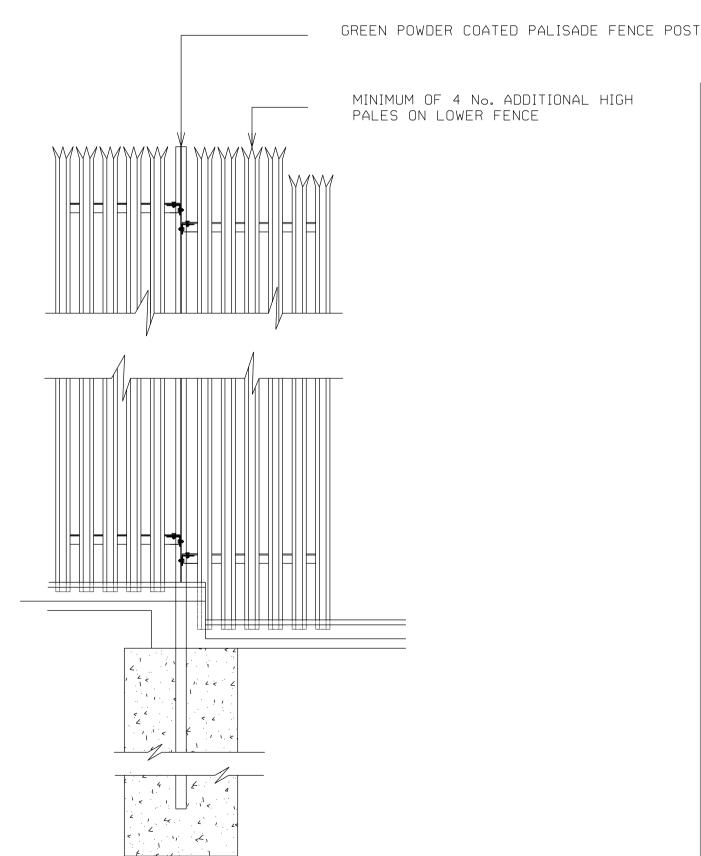
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FABRICATED AS PER MAIN PANELS AS NOTED



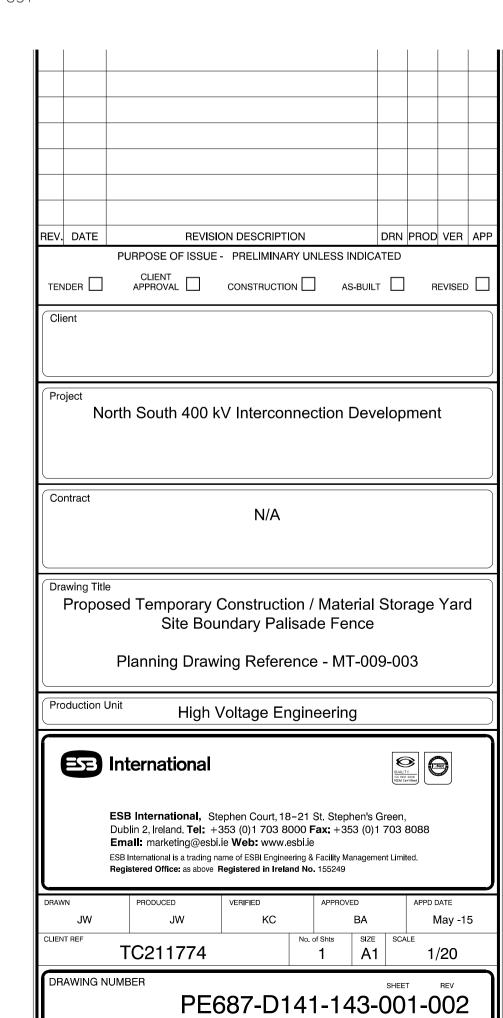
ELEVATION TO TYPICAL SLOPED SECTION OF FENCING

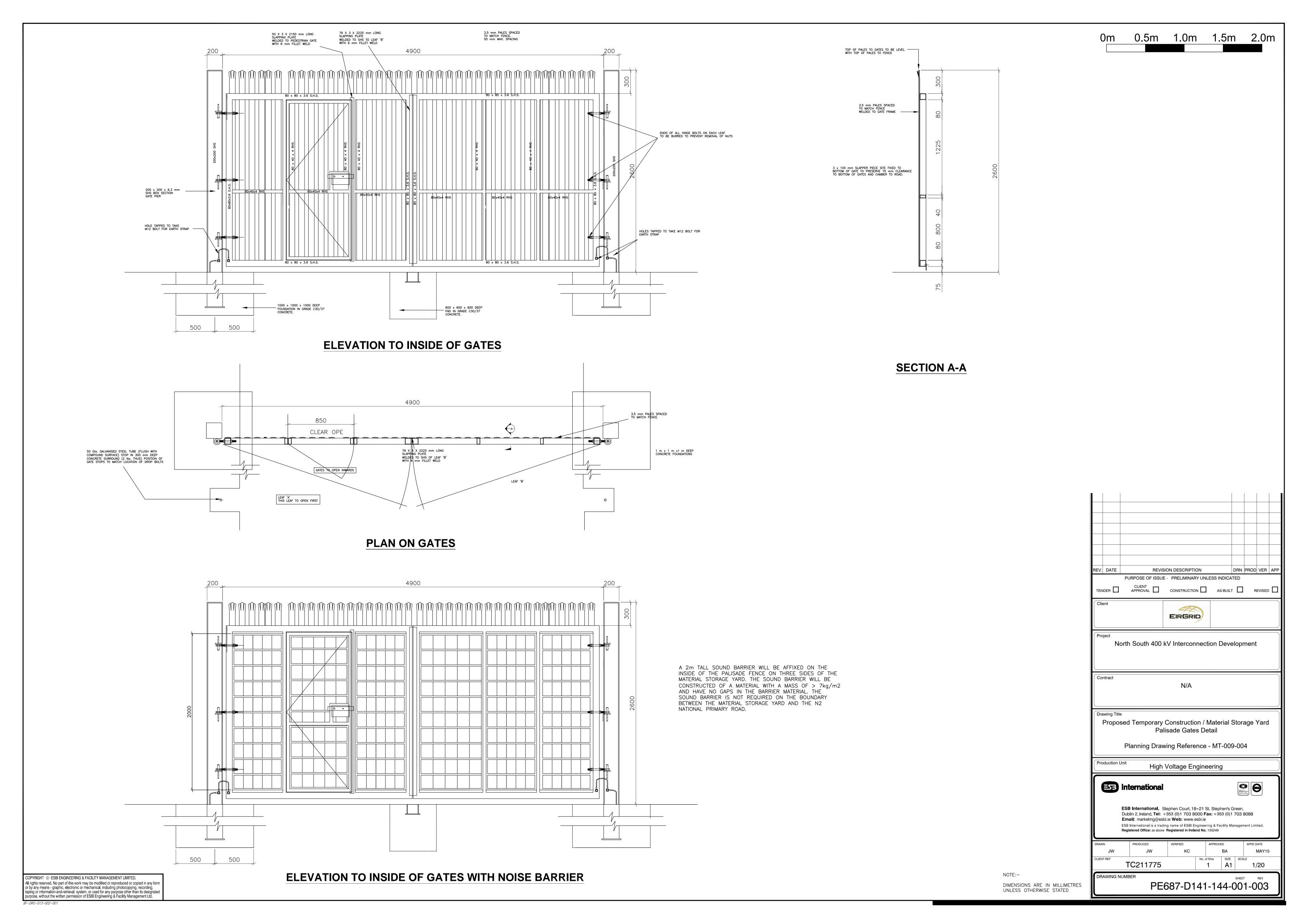


STEP(S) IN PALISADE FENCE

DEPTH OF STEP TO BE AGREED ON SITE, BUT NOT GREATER THAN 200mm NOTE:- ADDITIONAL HIGH PALES ON LOWER FENCE.

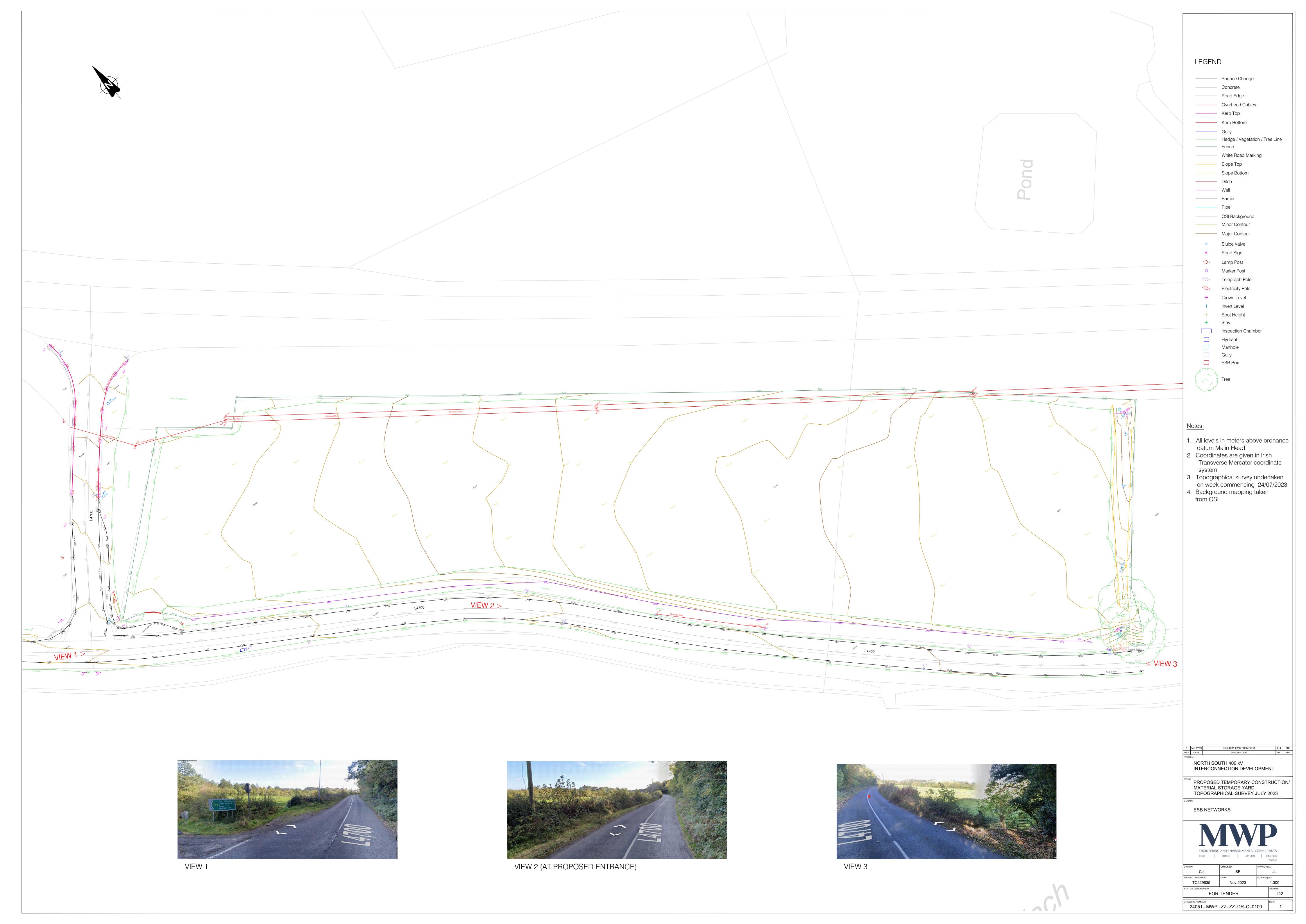
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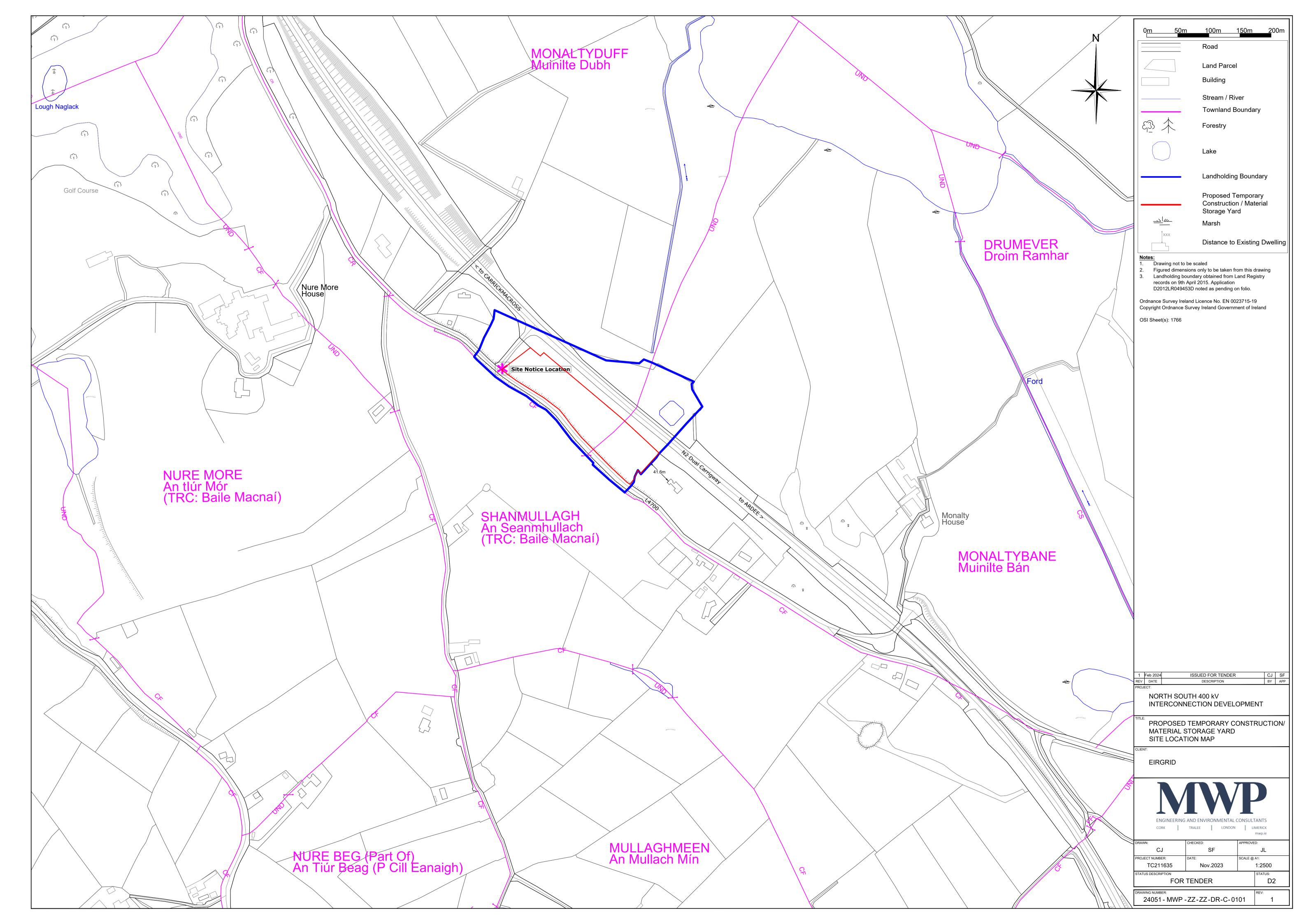


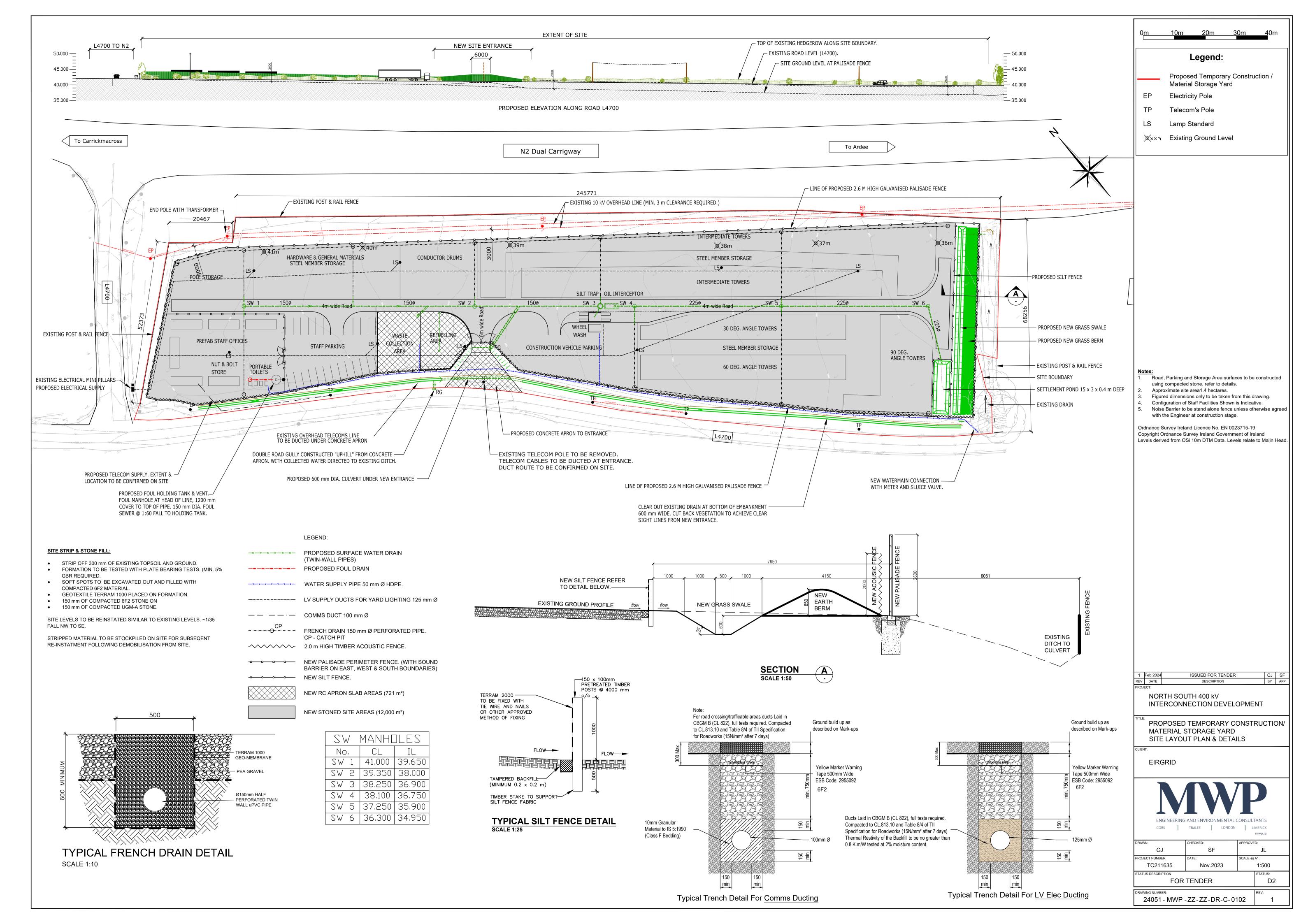


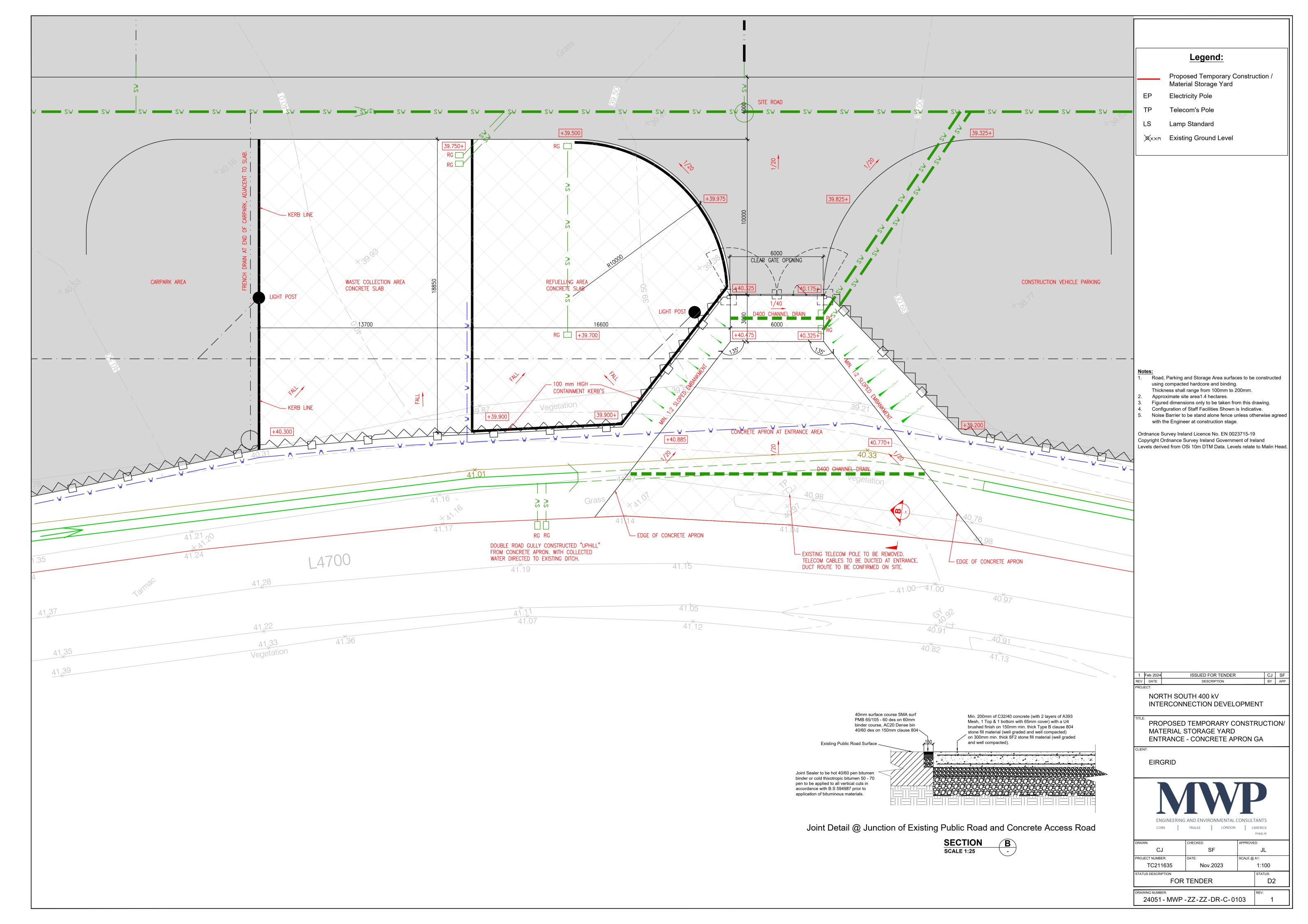
Appendix 2 – Material Storage Yard Construction Drawings

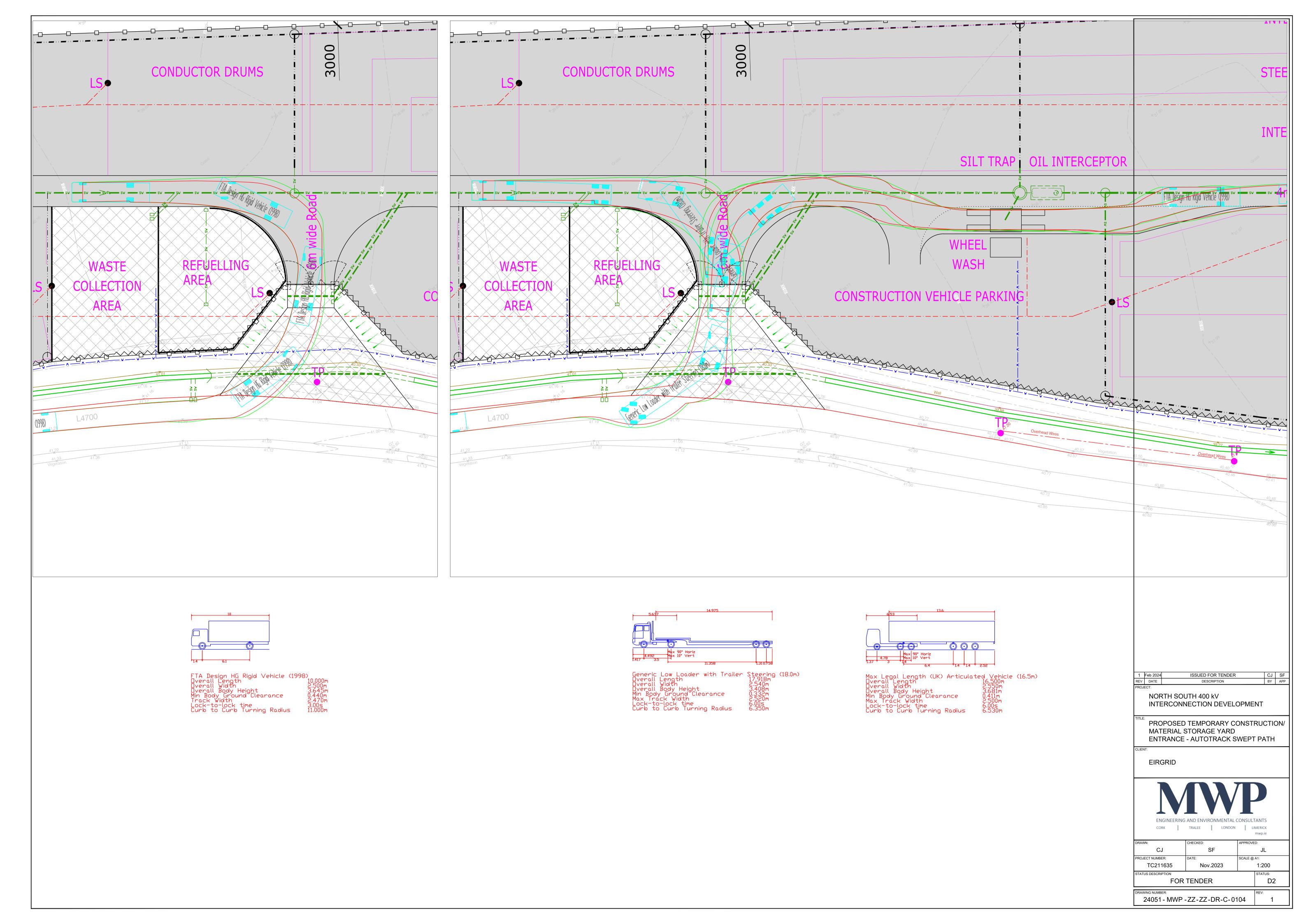
- 24051-MWP-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-0100 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Topographical Survey July 2023
- 24051-MWP-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-0101 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Site Location Map
- 24051-MWP-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-0102 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Site Layout Plan & Details
- 24051-MWP-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-0103 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Entrance - Concrete Apron GA
- 24051-MWP-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-0104 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Entrance - Autotrack Swept Path
- 24051-MWP-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-0110 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Palisade Fence Details
- 24051-MWP-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-0111 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Palisade Gate Details
- 24051-MWP-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-0112 Proposed Temporary Construction / Material Storage Yard Typical Site Details

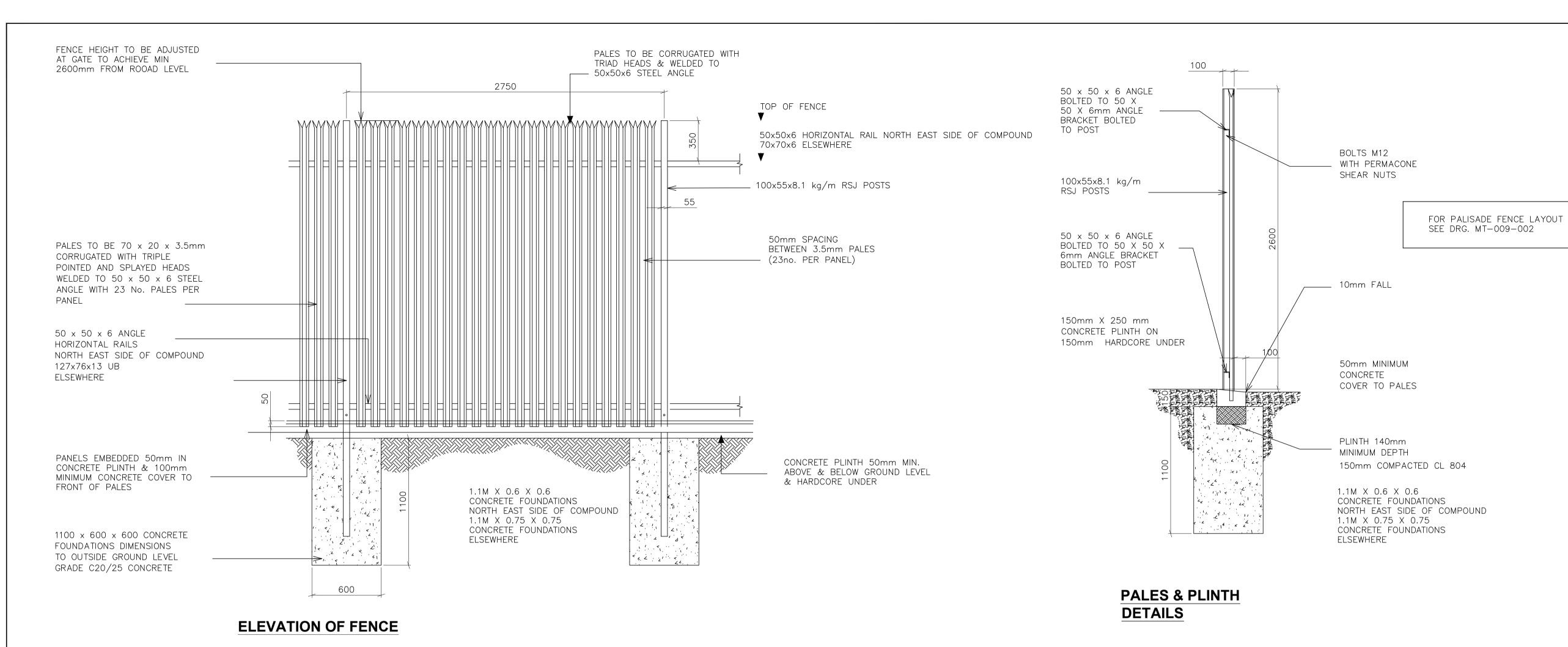




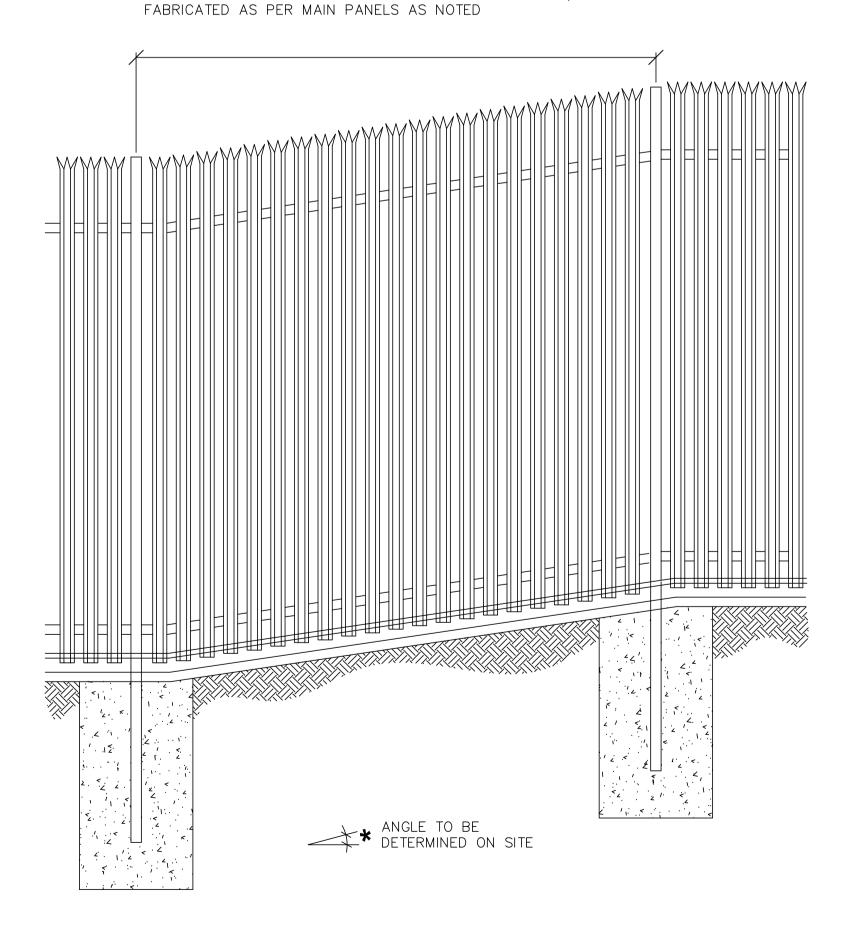




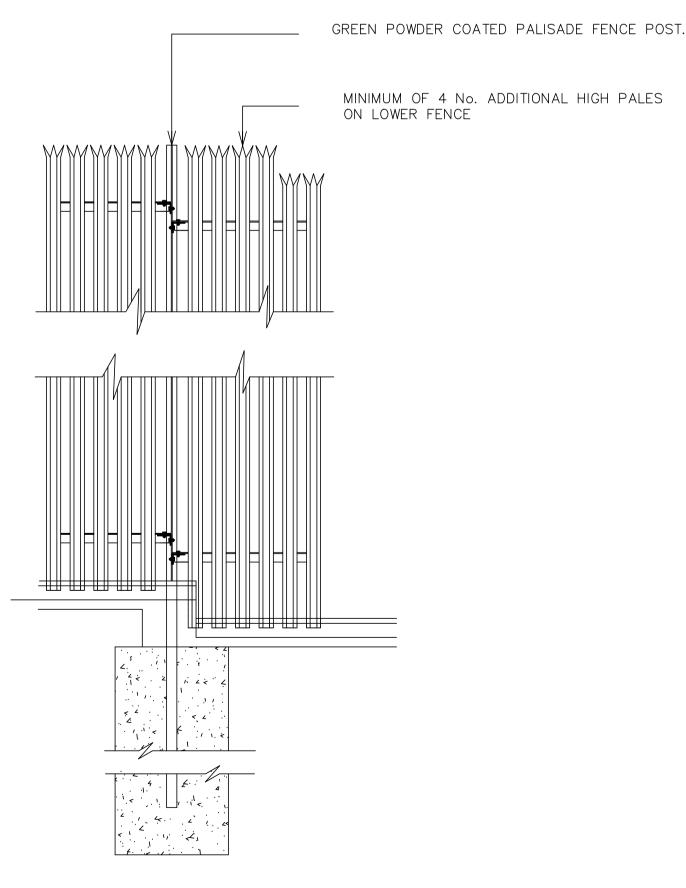




THIS SECTION OF FENCING TO BE WELDED CONSTRUCTION,



ELEVATION TO TYPICAL SLOPED SECTION OF FENCING



STEP(S) IN PALISADE FENCE

DEPTH OF STEP TO BE AGREED ON SITE, BUT NOT GREATER THAN 200mm NOTE:— ADDITIONAL HIGH PALES ON LOWER FENCE.

> NOTE:— DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

1	Feb 2024	ISSUED FOR TENDER	CJ	SF			
REV DATE DESCRIPTION BY							
PROJECT:							
NORTH SOUTH 400 kV							

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION/
MATERIAL STORAGE YARD
PALISADE FENCE DETAILS

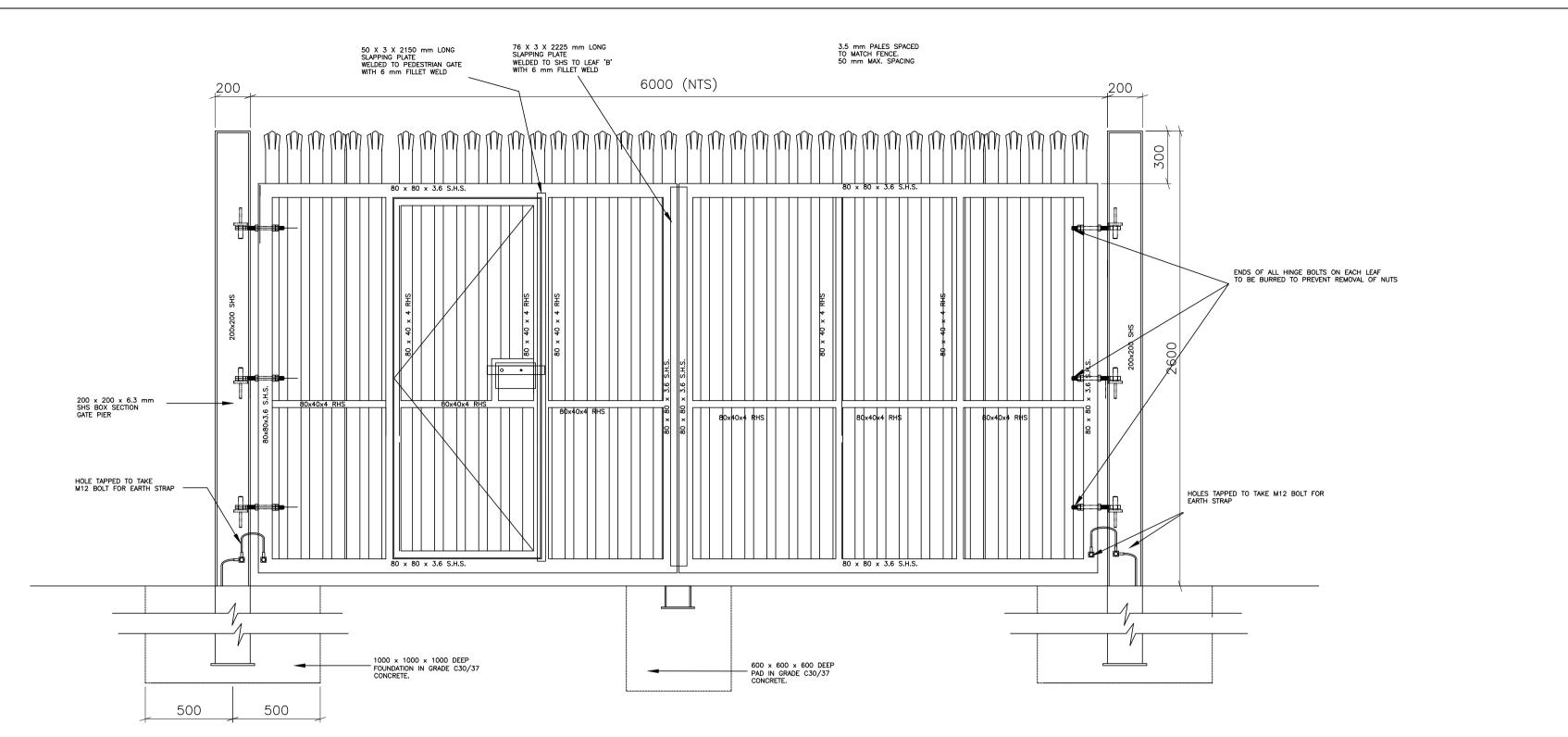
INTERCONNECTION DEVELOPMENT

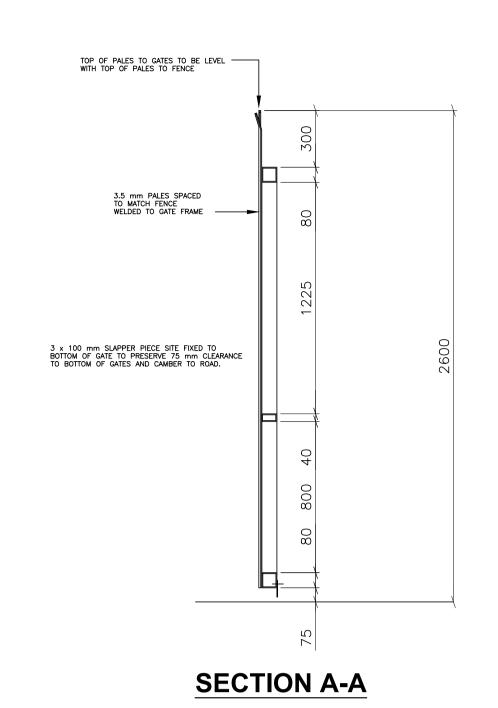
EIRGRID

IMA PONTENIA CONSULTANTS

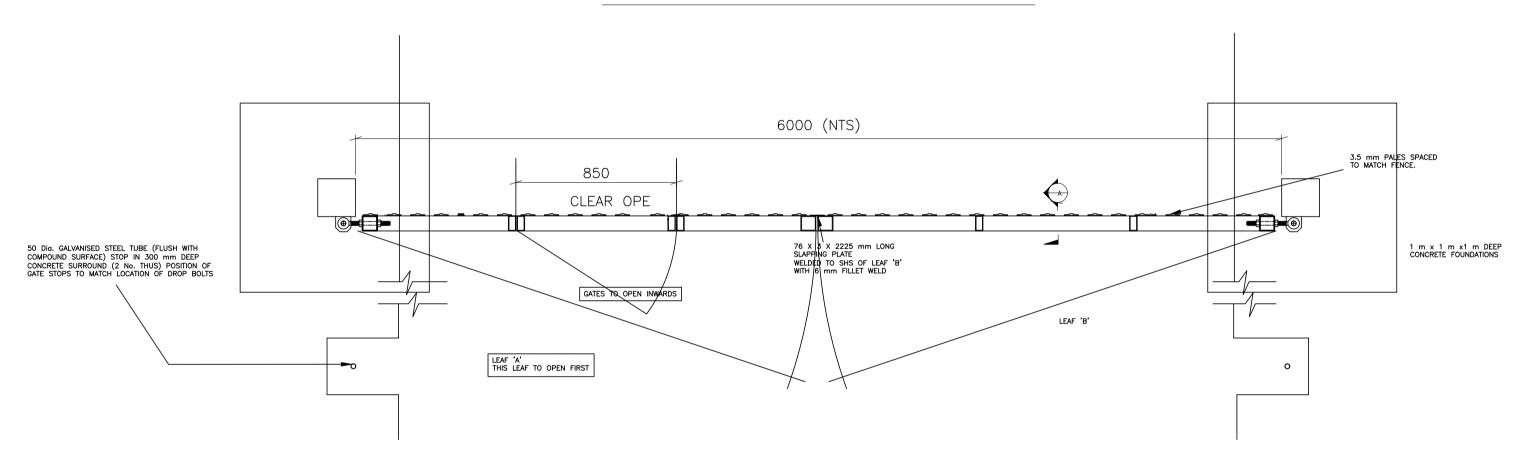
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TC211635	Nov.2023	As Noted		
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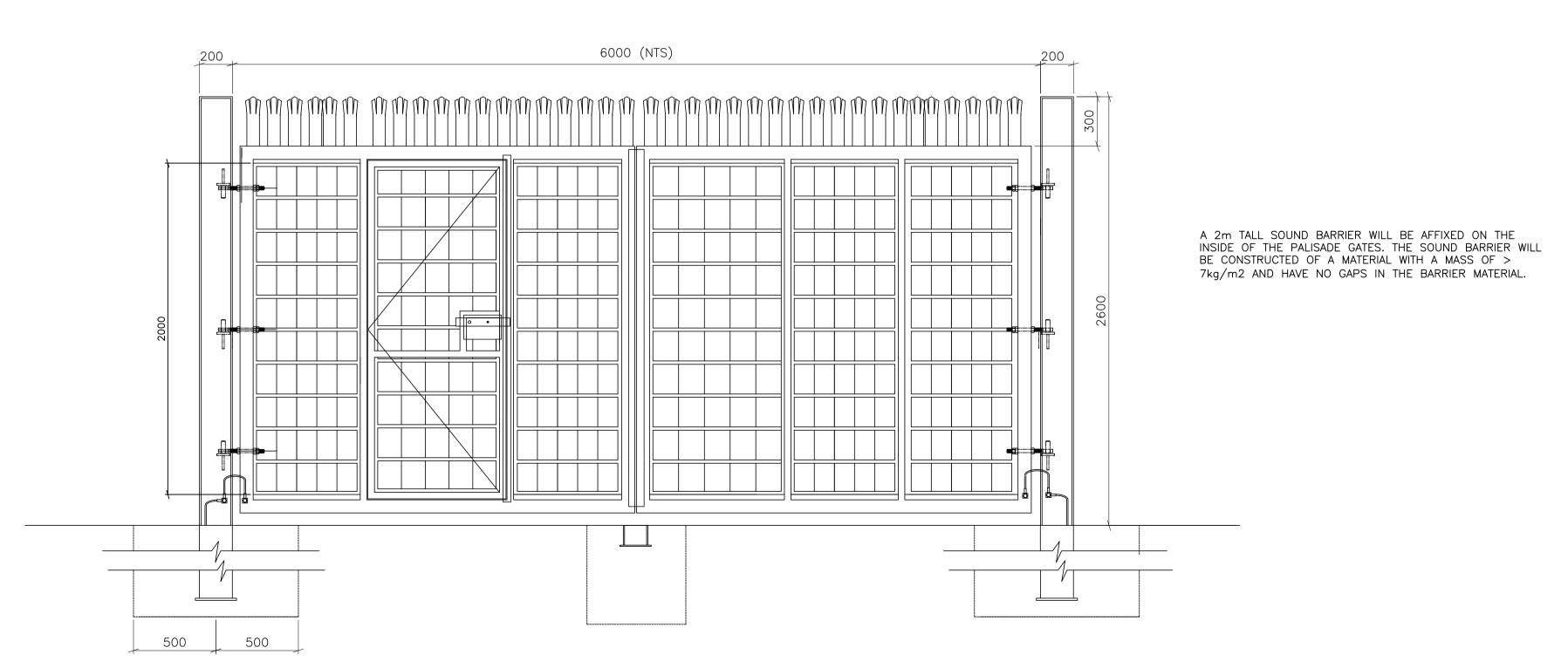




ELEVATION TO INSIDE OF GATES



PLAN ON GATES



ELEVATION TO INSIDE OF GATES WITH NOISE BARRIER

NOTE:-DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

	Feb 2024	ISSUED FOR TENDER	CJ	SF					
V	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APP					
OJ	DJECT:								
	NORTH SOUTH 400 kV								

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION/ MATERIAL STORAGE YARD PALISADE GATE DETAILS

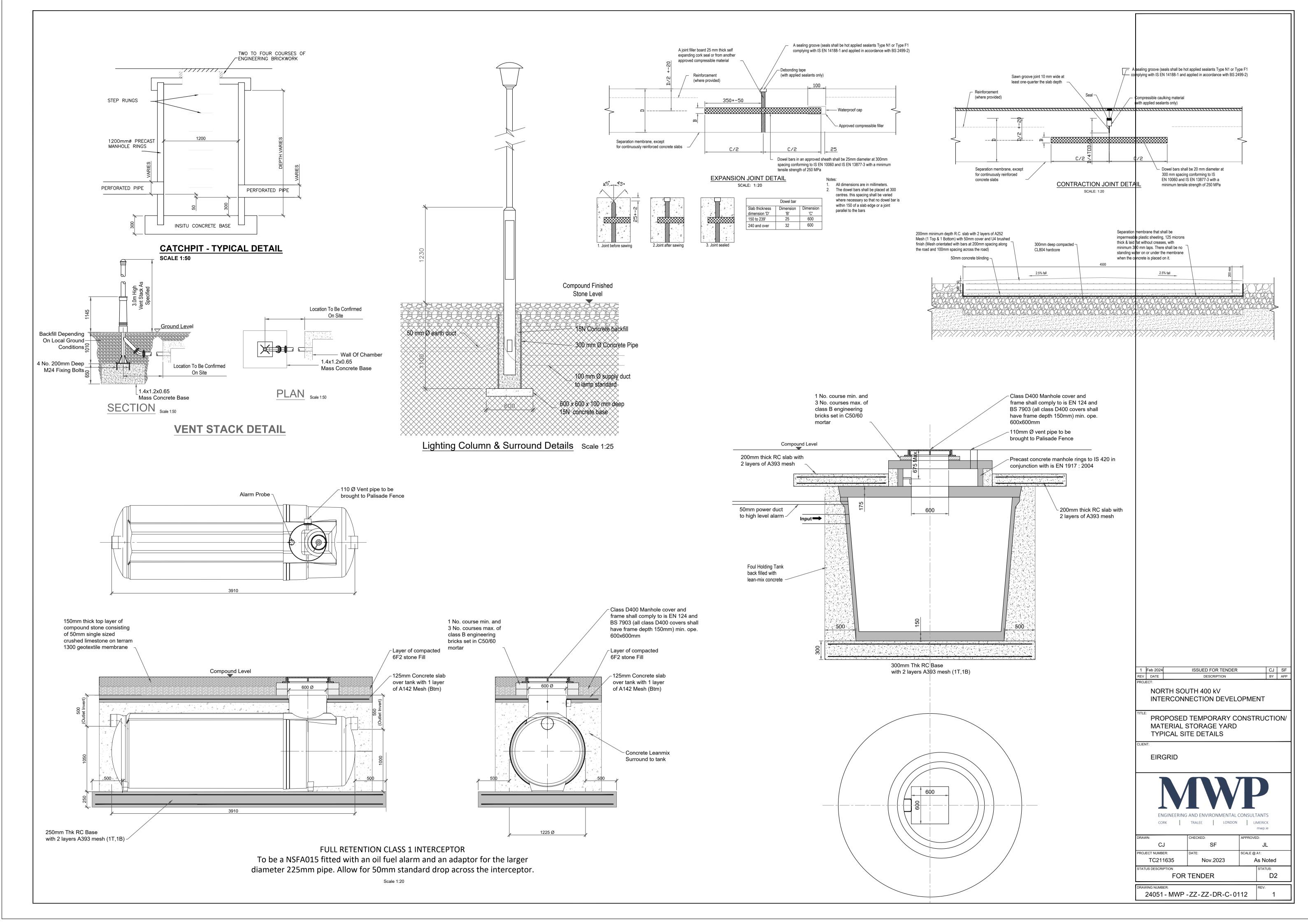
INTERCONNECTION DEVELOPMENT

EIRGRID



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Appendix 3 – Material Storage Yard Demolition, Reinstatement and Reinstatement Details Drawings

- PE687-D422-039-001 Proposed Temporary Construction Material Storage Yard Demolition Works
- PE687-D422-039-002 Proposed Temporary Construction Material Storage Yard Reinstatement Works
- PE687-D422-039-003 Proposed Temporary Construction Material Storage Yard Reinstatement Details



