

The Scottish Government

Energy Consents Unit
Consents Unit Scottish Government
4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

For the attention of Eleanor McKechnie

Our reference

11057

Date

28 April 2023

Address

37 Otago Street
Glasgow G12 8JJ
Tel: 0141 334 9595

Dear Eleanor,

Loch Liath Wind Farm: Energy Consents Unit (ECU00002182)

This letter together with the supporting documents listed below, comprise an application made under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended), made by Loch Liath Wind Farm Ltd. (the Applicant), for:

1. A section 36 consent for a new wind farm generating in excess of 50MW (The 'Proposed Development'); and
2. A Direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (the '1997 Act') that deemed planning permission be granted.

LUC is acting as the agent on behalf of the Applicant for the purposes of the application.

Site Location and Boundary

Loch Liath Wind Farm (hereinafter referred to as the Proposed Development) is located wholly within The Highlands Council (THC) administrative area, within the Balmacaan Estate, directly west of the Great Glen and Loch Ness. The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the Site is NH 37981 24085

The location of the Site is shown in **Figure 1** (Appendix 1).

The Proposed Development

The Applicant is seeking a 35-year consent for:

- Up to 13 wind turbines (three (T1, T6 and T7) will have a maximum blade tip height of up to 180 metres (m) and ten (T2, T3, T4, T5, T8, T9, T10, T11, T12 and T13) will have a maximum blade tip height of up to 200m).
- It is proposed that six of the turbines (T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13) will be fitted with visible aviation warning lights;
- Foundations supporting each wind turbine;

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FS566056



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OHS627041



- Associated crane hardstandings and adjacent laydown areas at each turbine location;
- Approximately 9.3km of new access tracks which includes 8.2km standard track and 1.1km of floating track;
- A total of nine new watercourse crossings, seven crossings over small drains (16 crossings in total) and associated infrastructure, i.e. culverts;
- Network of onsite underground electrical cables and cable trenches to connect the turbines to the onsite substation;
- One permanent steel lattice anemometer mast of up to 122.5m in height;
- Vehicle turning heads;
- Onsite passing places (final location and specification to be determined by the turbine supplier);
- Site signage;
- A permanent compound containing the onsite substation and control building; and
- An Outline Restoration and Enhancement Plan (OREP) for peat, biodiversity, forestry and landscape.

In addition to the above components of the operational Proposed Development, construction of the Proposed Development will also require the following components:

- One temporary compound;
- Creation of one temporary borrow pit for the extraction of stone;
- A concrete batching area (location to be confirmed however this will be within the existing infrastructure area identified e.g. in the borrow pit or construction compound as identified by the Contractor and agreed in the CEMP); and
- Whilst no widening of the existing Bhlairaidh Wind Farm access from the A887 is required, it may be necessary to improve the running surface prior to use and to scrape of the top layer of material to facilitate delivery of the turbine components.

Drawings showing the above key components are shown in Appendix 2.

The Application Documents

One full set of the EIA Report in PDF format to support the application has been uploaded to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) WebPortal (ECU Reference: **ECU00002182**). As requested, the documents have been uploaded in less than 10MB files. The EIA Report consists of:

- Volume 1: Written Text;
- Volume 2: Figures;
- Volume 3(a)-3(b): Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Visualisations (NatureScot format) and Assessment of Effects on the Special Landscape Qualities and Wild Land Assessment Points;
- Volume 4(a)-4(b): Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Visualisations (The Highland Council format);
- Volume 5 (a)-5(b): Appendices; and
- Non-Technical Summary.

Confidential appendices (Figure 2 of Annex B of Appendix 8.3 and Appendices 9.3, 9.4 of the EIA Report) are also enclosed with respect to ornithological interests. These will also be provided to NatureScot, THC and RSPB, but not to other consultees, and will not be made available online.

In addition, the following documents are also provided in support of the application:

- A Design and Access Statement;
- A Pre-Application Consultation Report; and
- A Planning Statement.

The Applicant has also uploaded copies of these documents to the project website at: www.LochLiath.co.uk.

Carbon Calculator

The reference for the online carbon calculator is: CJIN-M077-ZQJ5.

Adverts, Publication & Consultation

At the time of submission the Applicant shall arrange for the advertisement of the notice of the application and accompanying EIA Report in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 14 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, as amended.

A copy of the newspaper advertisement which you have previously approved is in Appendix 3. This will be published in Edinburgh Gazette, the Scotsman and the Press and Journal. Dates of the adverts will be confirmed once the uploaded documents have been checked. We understand that the consultation period deadline will then be not less than 30 days after the last published advert (to be agreed with the ECU).

The Applicant will provide copies of these notices to the Energy Consents Unit once advertised.

Prior to the advertisement of the above notices, and in accordance with Regulations 6 and 7 of the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990, as amended, and Regulation 14 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, as amended, it is understood that the ECU, on behalf of Applicant, shall serve copies of the relevant documentation via weblinks to the statutory consultees, namely, The Highland Council, Nature Scot, Historic Environment Scotland and SEPA.

It is understood that the Energy Consents Unit shall also send web links to the remaining consultees, including the relevant community councils, as listed on the agreed consultee list.

The depositary copy will be located at the Glenurquhart Library and Learning Centre, Drumadrochit, Inverness IV63 6XA.

The Application fee of £150,000 has been paid.

The registered office of The Applicant is 19th Floor 22 Bishopsgate, London, United Kingdom, EC2N 4BQ (Company Number: 12820057). The Applicant team for the Proposed Development is based at The Garment Factory, 10 Montrose Street, Glasgow G1 1RE.

On the basis of the information provided in this application and in the supporting documents (including the EIA Report) the Applicant requests that the Scottish Ministers grant the application for section 36 consent.

I hope the information provided is appropriate to enable you to validate the application and I would be grateful if you could confirm. Please let me know if you need anything further.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Wotton

Associate Environmental Planner

jo.wotton@landuse.co.uk

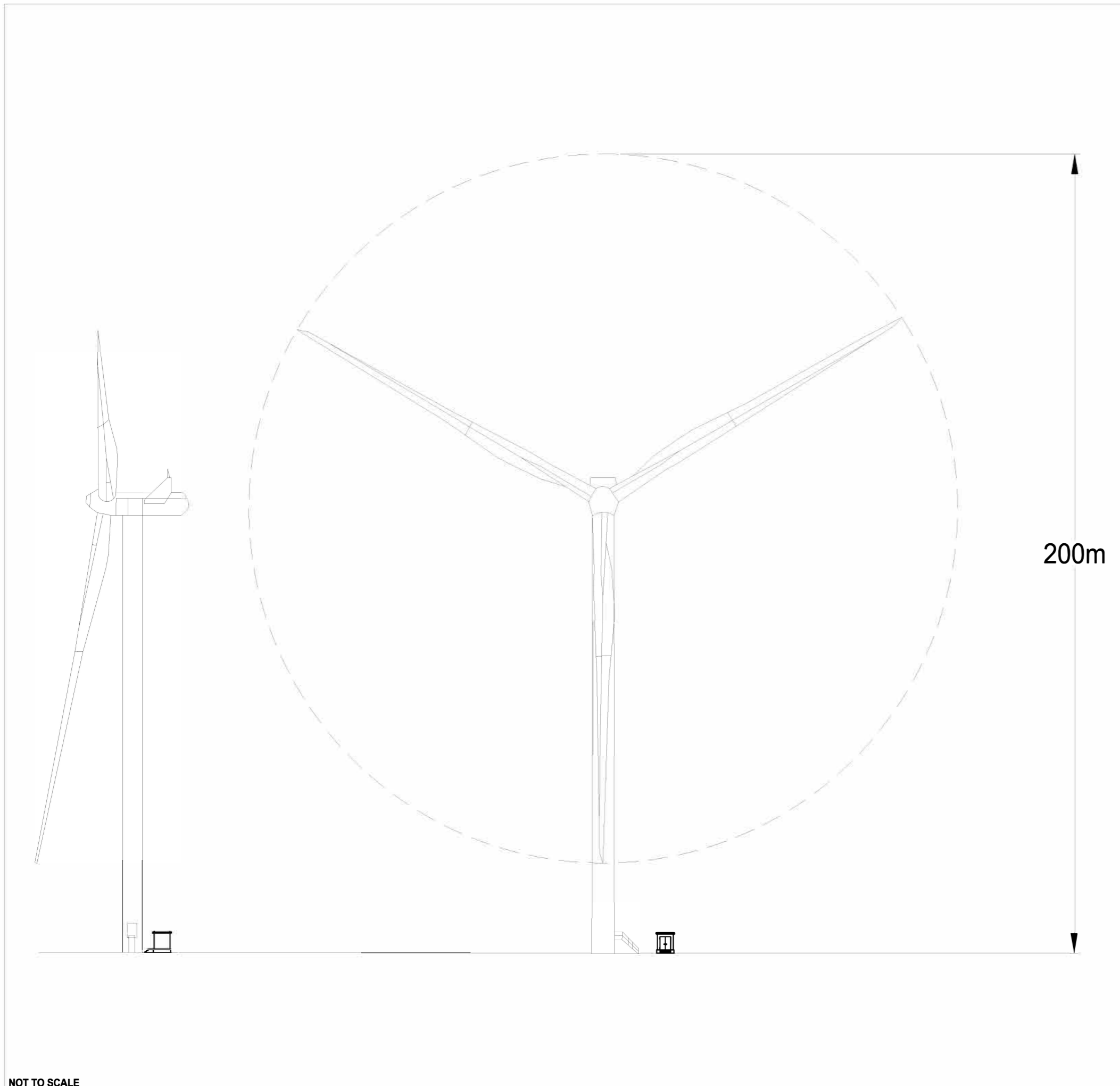
Appendices uploaded separately:

Appendix 1 – Figure 1 Site Location

Appendix 2 – Application Drawings

Appendix 3 – Agreed Advert for Newspaper Publication

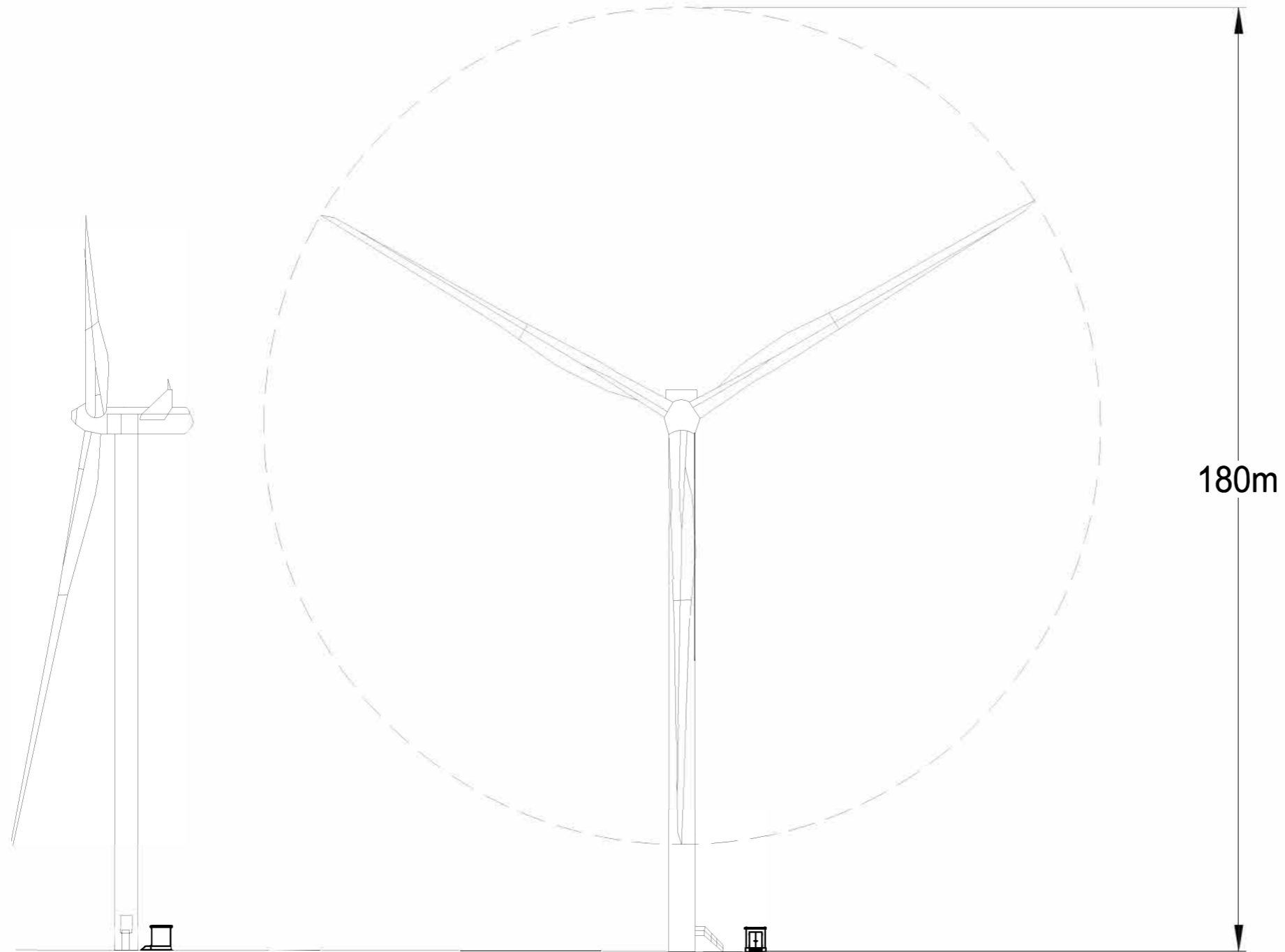
Figure 2a: Typical Wind Turbine - 200m Tip Height



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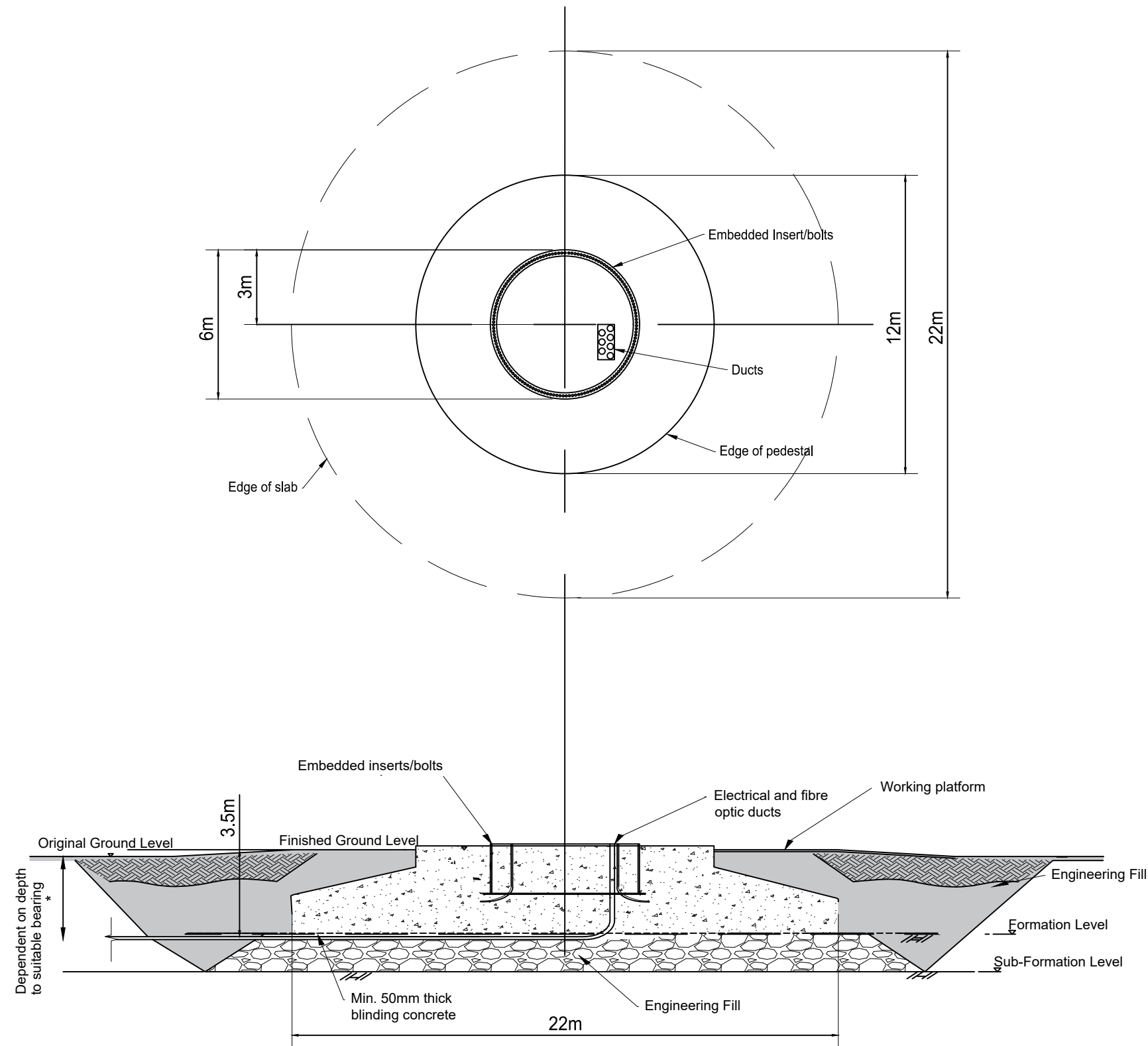
Figure 2b: Typical Wind Turbine - 180m Tip Height



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Figure 3: Typical Turbine Foundation



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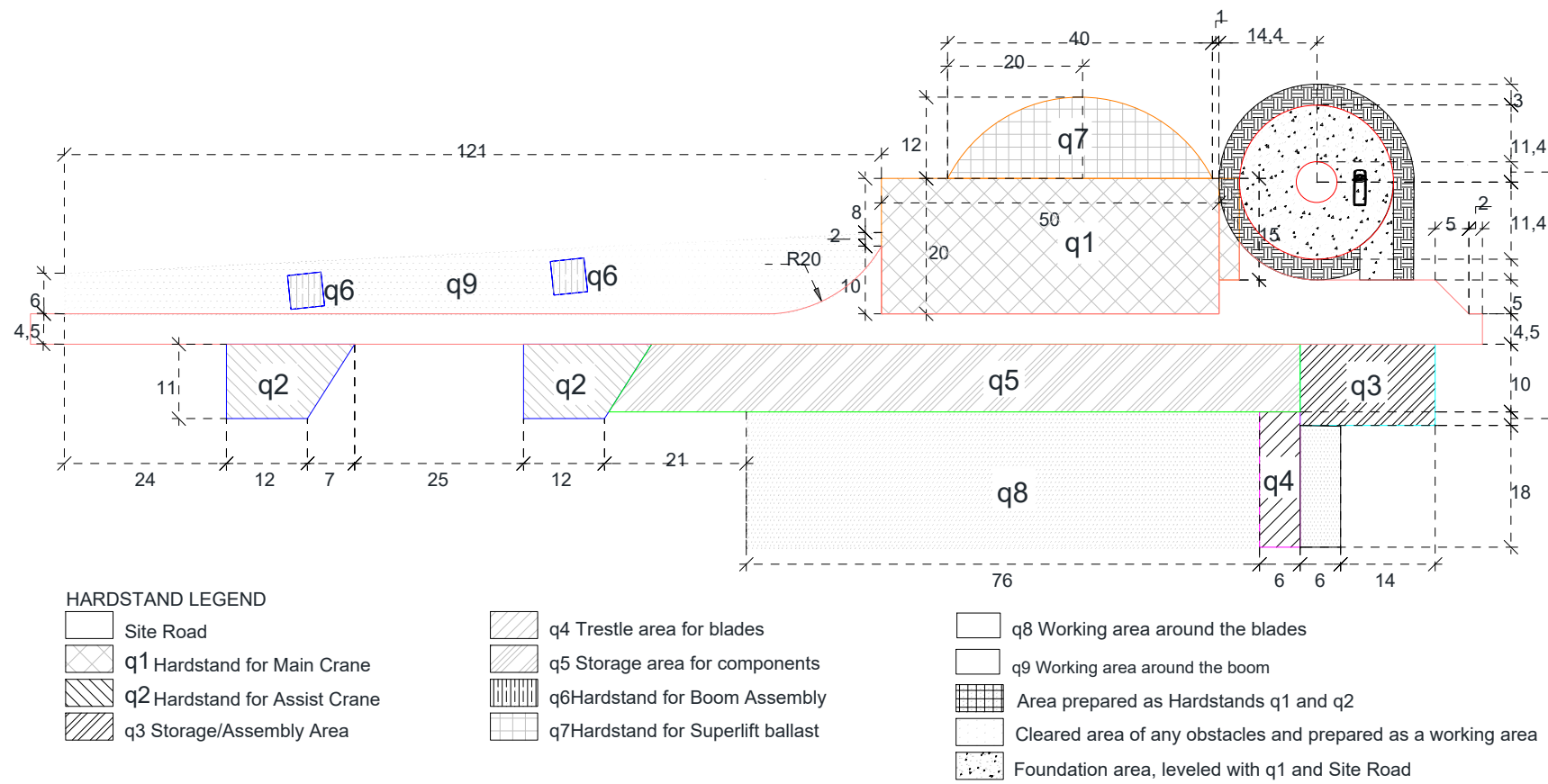


Figure 4: Typical Crane Hardstanding

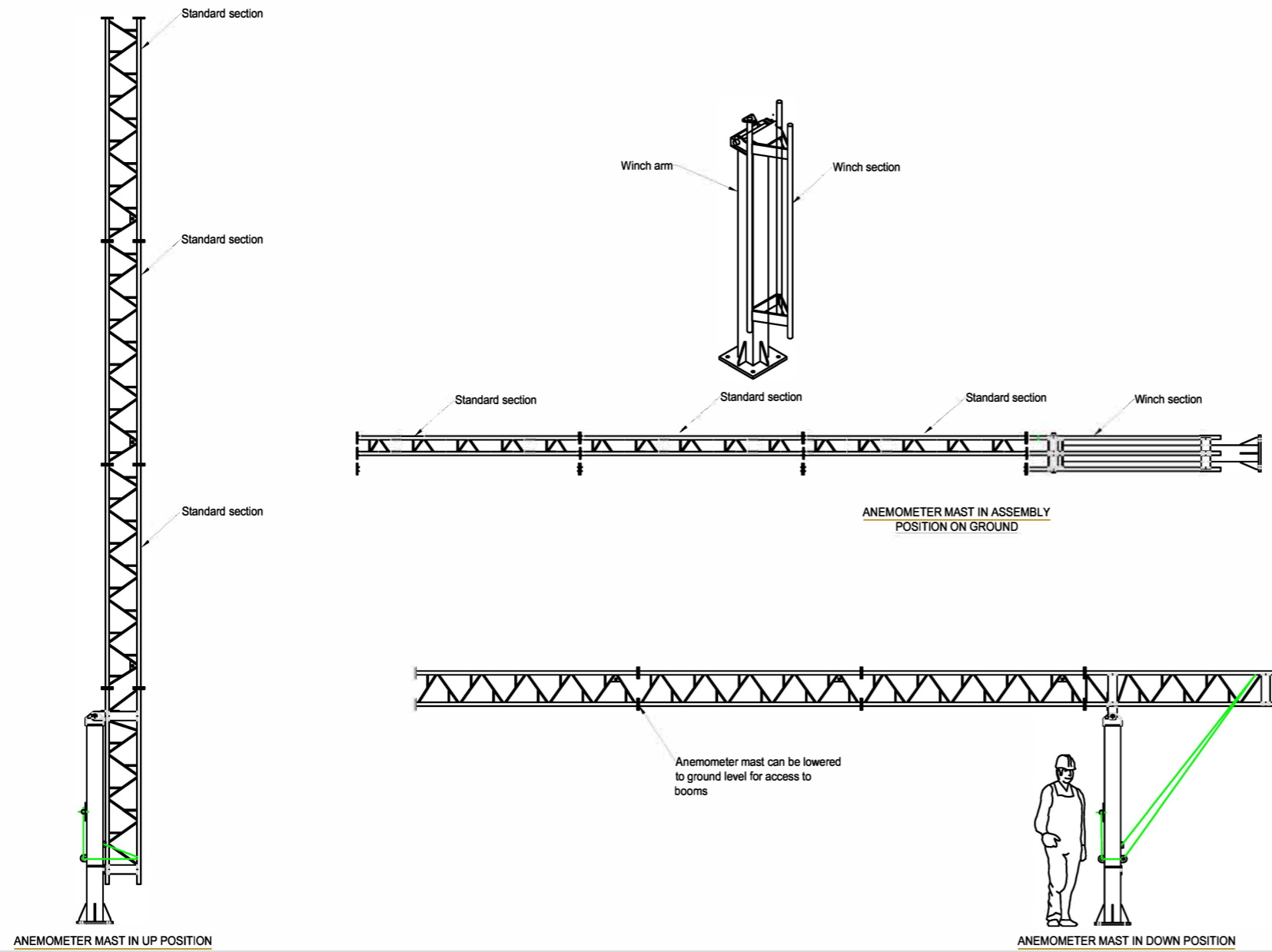
Figure 1: Example of Installation Area with modified rectangular Hardstand for the Main Crane (LG1750)

Area	Description	Max. fall	Area (m ²)	Dimensions (m)	Maintenance	Relationship to other q areas
Road	Site road section from q1 to q2	≤0.25%		4,5	Permanent	Level with q1, q2, q3 and q5
q1	Hardstand for Main Crane	≤0.25%	1,045	(50 x 20) + (15 x 3)	Permanent	See comments below
q2	Hardstand for Assist Crane	1.5%	341	2x (12 x 11) + 77	Temporary	Ideally the q2 will be level with the site road, if not, then access for the assist crane must be provided.
q3	Storage/Assembly Area	≤0.25%	240	20 x 12	Temporary	Level with site road, q4 and q5
q4	Trestle area for blades	≤0.25%	120	6 x 20	Temporary	Level with q3, q5 and q8
q5	Storage area for components	≤0.25%	975	(96 x 10) + 15	Temporary	Level with site road, q2, q3, q4 and q8
q6	Hardstand for boom assembly	≤0.25%	50 / 75	2x (5 x 5) or 3x (5 x 5)	Temporary	Level with or higher than q1.
q7	Hardstand for Superlift ballast	≤0.25%	336	12 x 40 – 12 x 12	Temporary	Level with q1
q8	Working area around the blades	≤0.25%	1.628	76 x 20 + 6 x 18	Temporary	Level with q4 and q5
q9	Working area around the boom	≤ 1.5%	835 or 810	885m ² – (2x 5x5) or 885m ² – (3x 5x5)	Temporary	Level with site road

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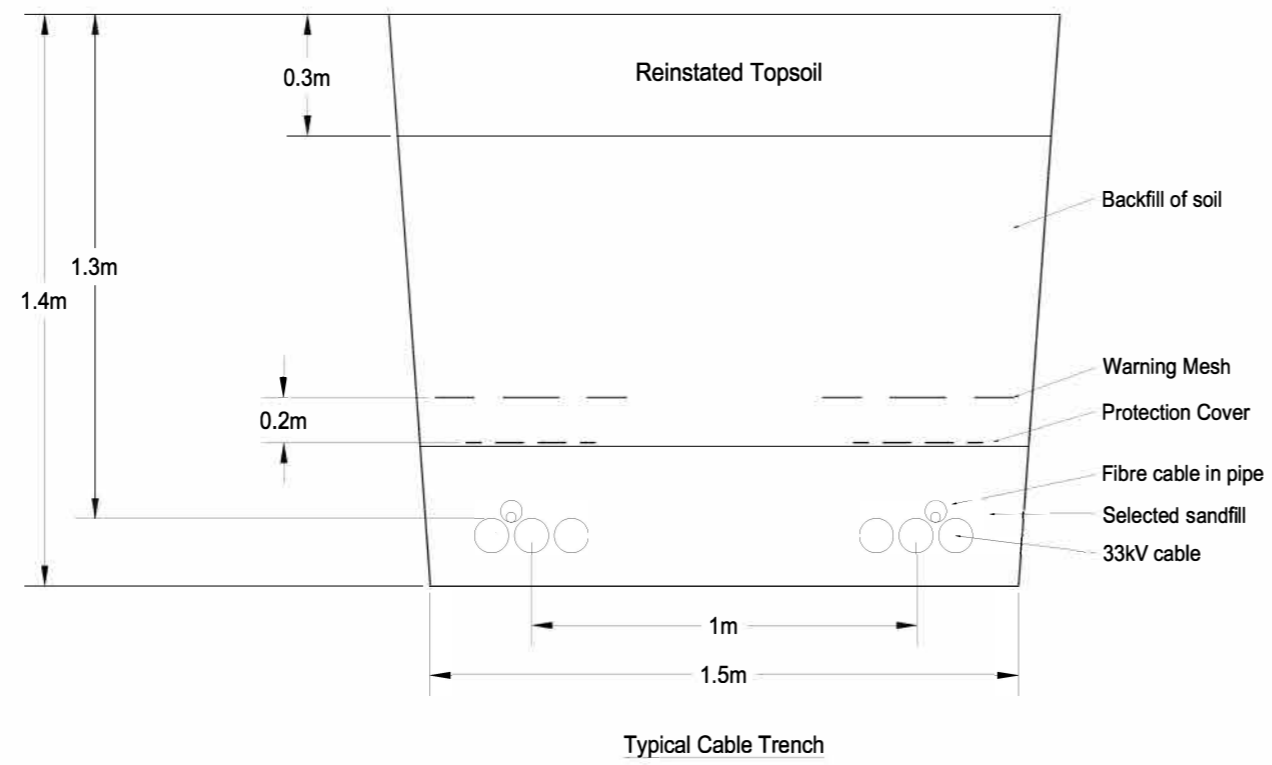
Figure 5: Typical Anemometer Mast



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Figure 6: Typical Cable Trench



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Figure 7: Proposed Construction Compound and Substation

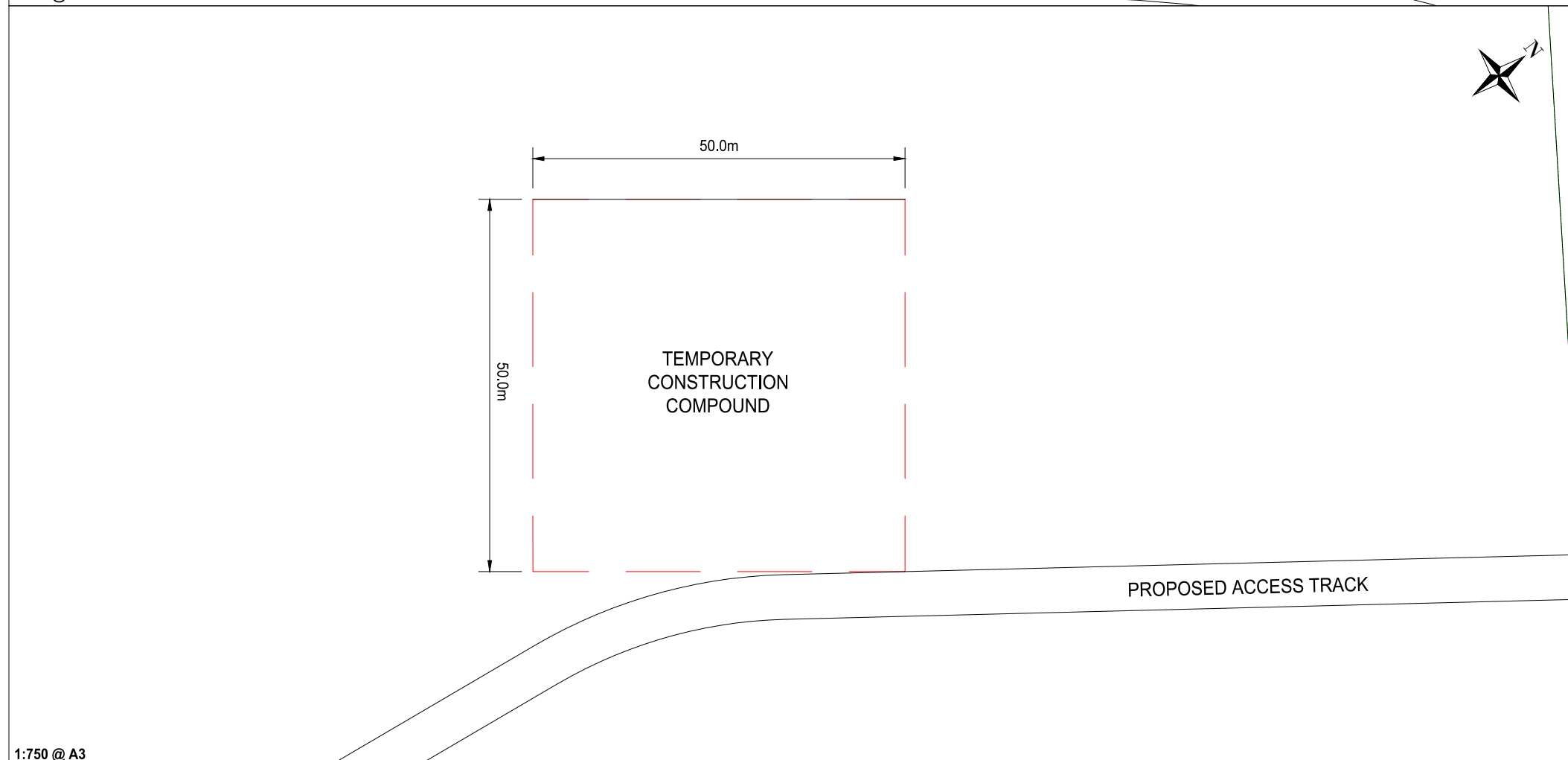
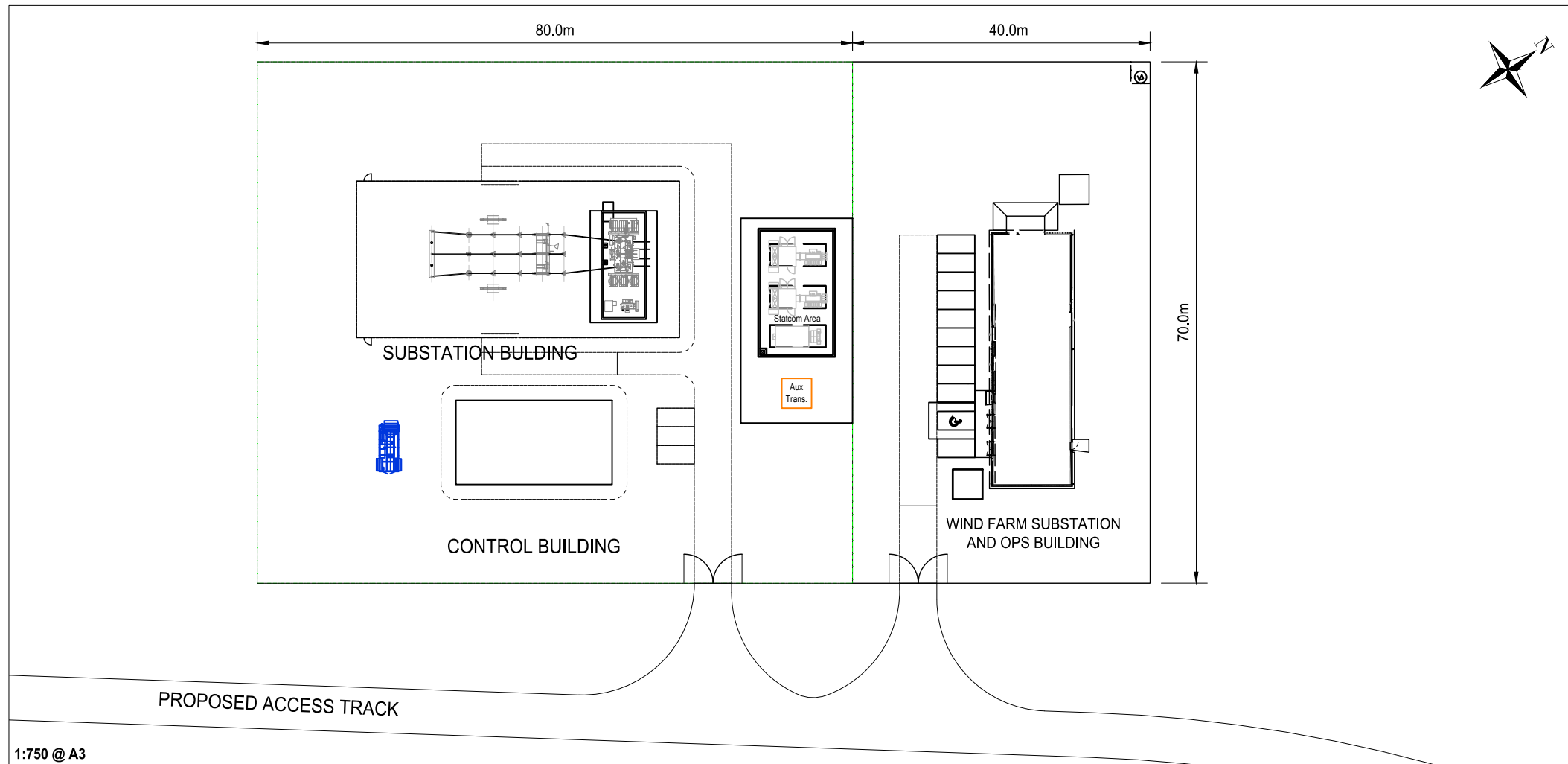
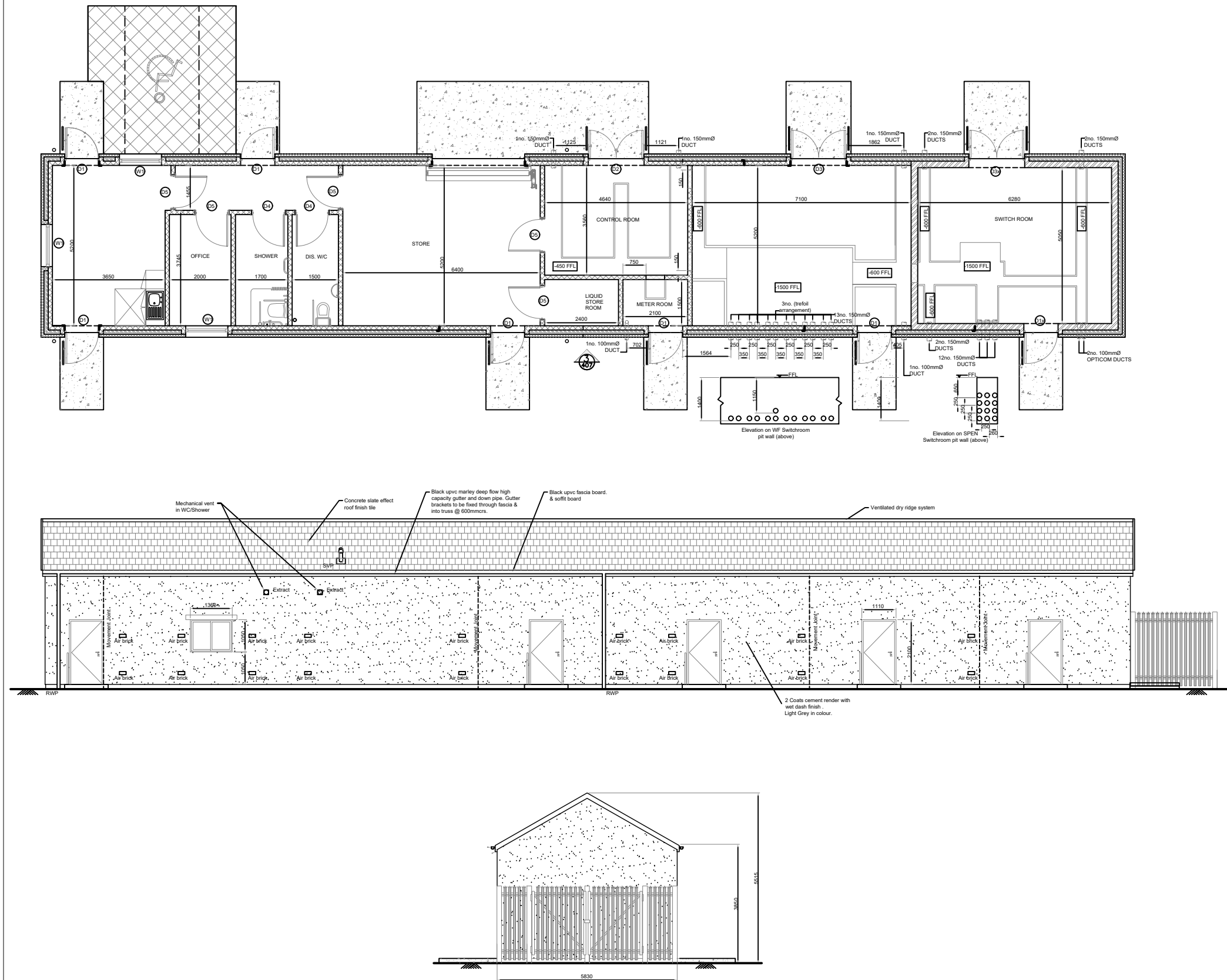


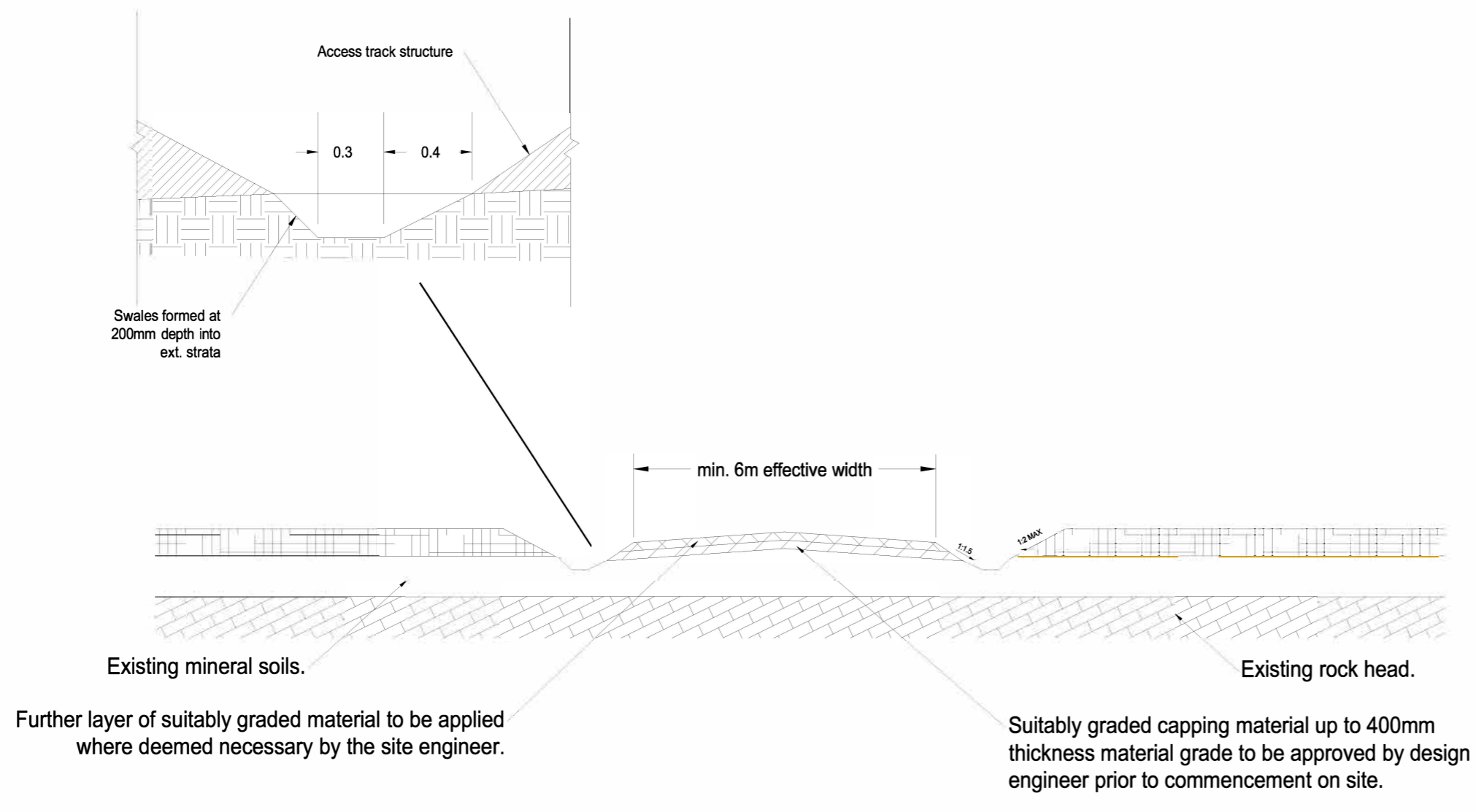
Figure 8: Typical Onsite Control Building - Plan and Elevation



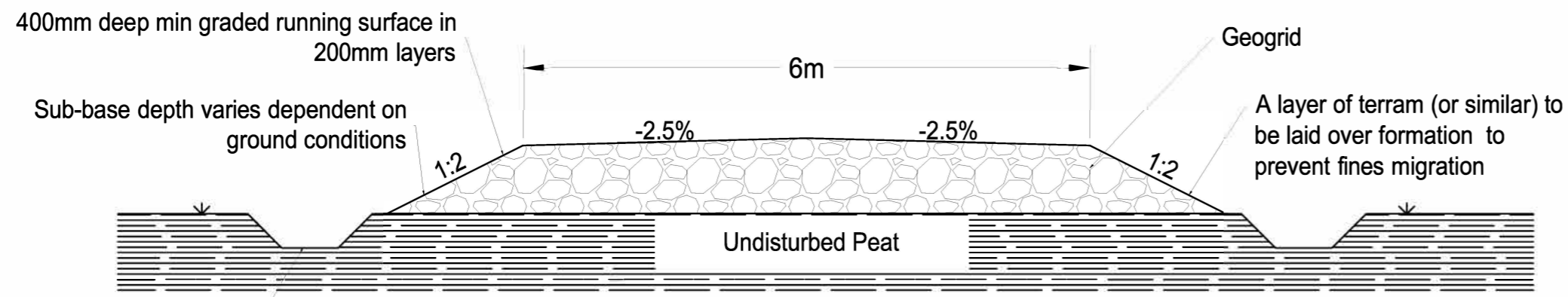
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Figure 9: Typical Cut and Floating Track Details



TYPICAL TRACK FORMATION ON OVERBURDEN SOIL











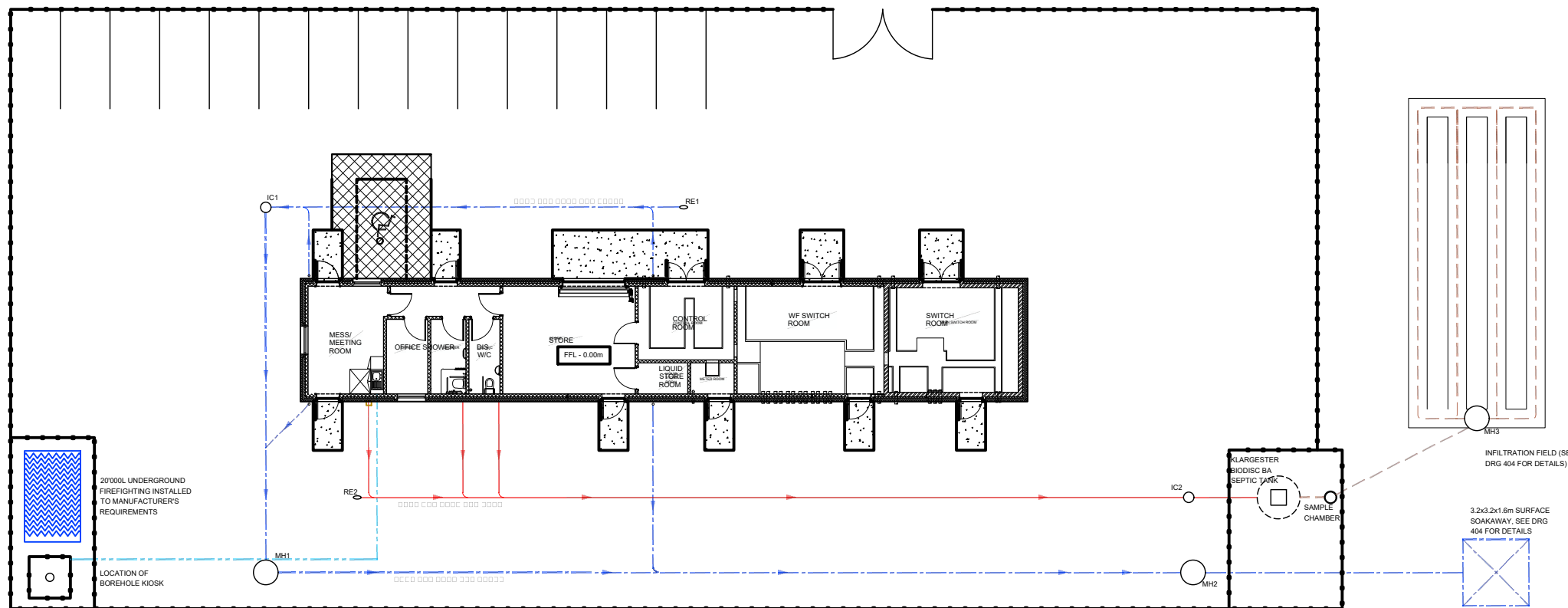
TYPICAL FLOATING TRACK

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Figure 10: Indicative Drainage Design

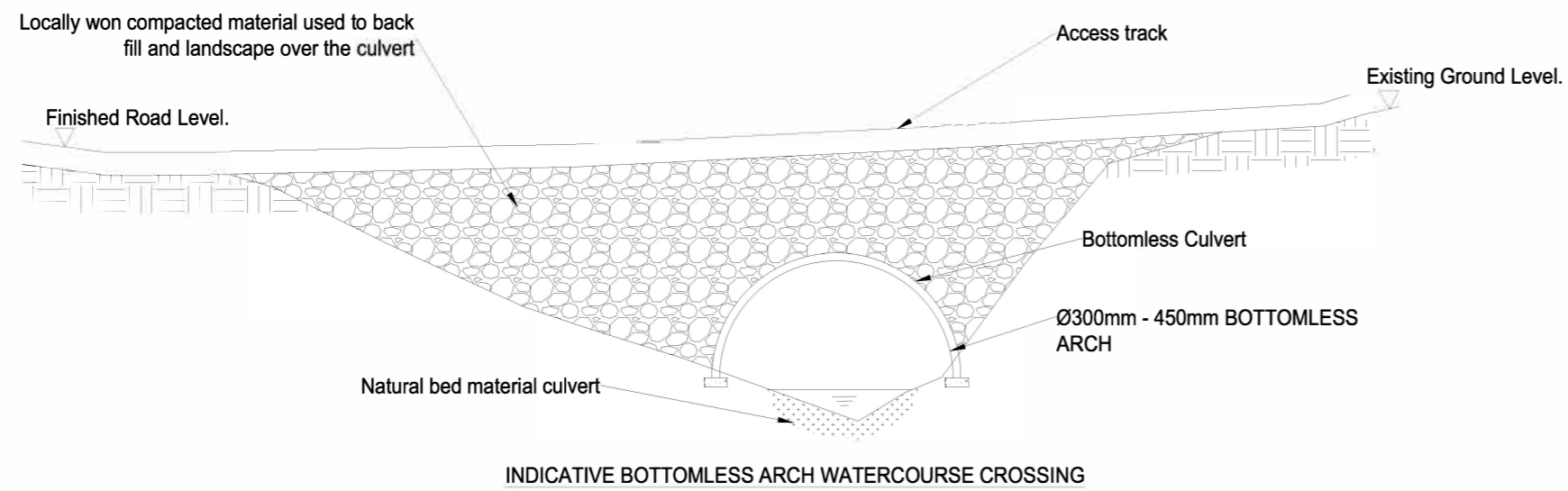
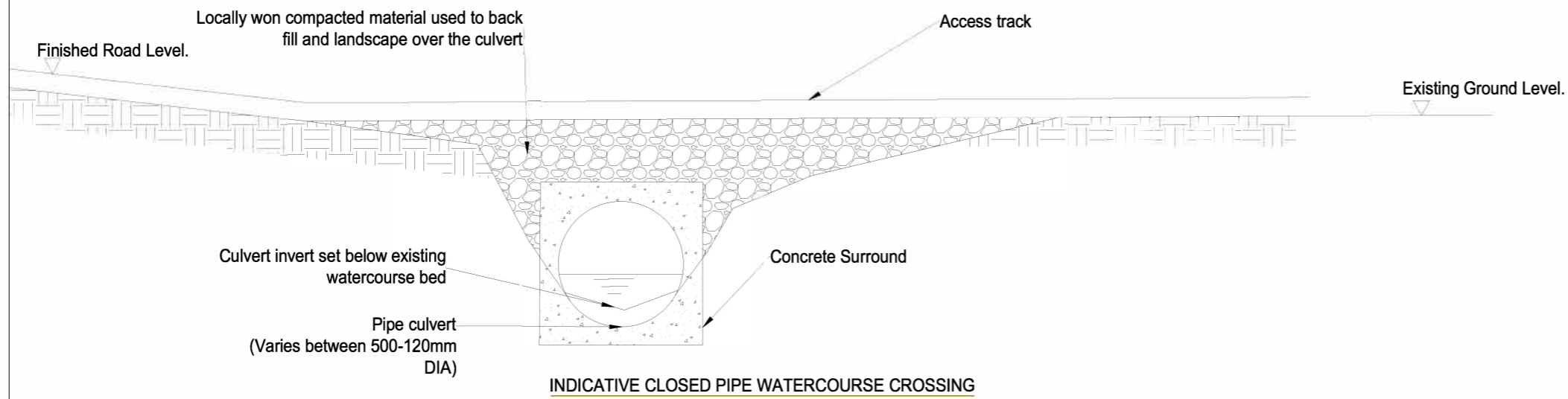
-  Surface Drainage Pipe (D.N. 150mm UPVC) UNO
-  Foul Drainage Pipe (D.N. 110mm UPVC) UNO
-  Treated Drainage Pipe (D.N. 110mm UPVC) UNO
-  Borehole Water Supply
-  Inspection/Sample Chamber
-  Precast Manhole
-  RE Rodding Eye
-  Direction of Flow



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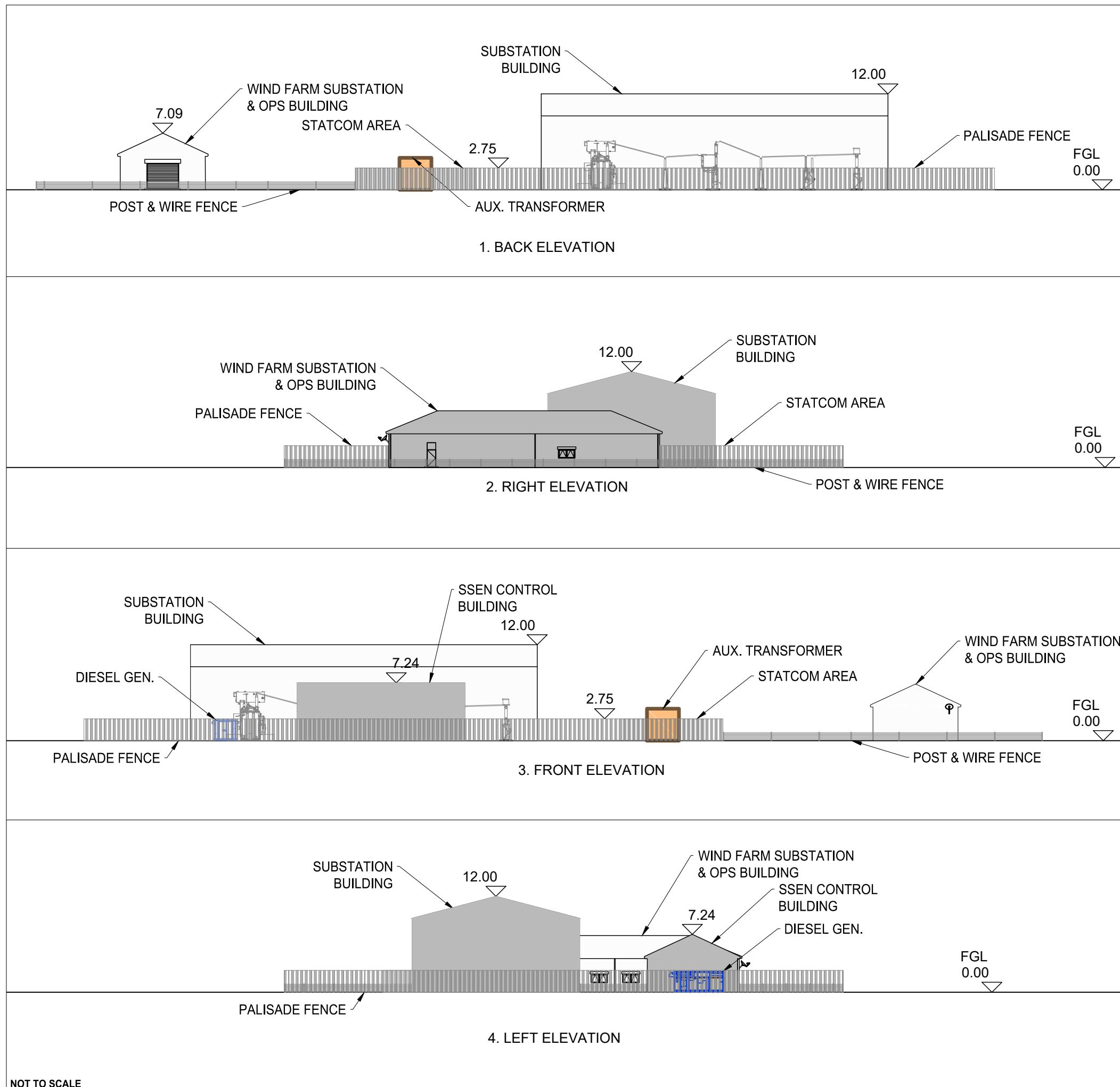
Figure 11: Typical Watercourse Crossing Methods



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Figure 12: Proposed Substation Elevations



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Loch Liath Wind Farm Limited

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

Notice is hereby given that Loch Liath Wind Farm Limited, company number 12836747, registered at 19th Floor 22 Bishopsgate, London, United Kingdom, EC2N 4BQ has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a wind farm known as Loch Liath Wind Farm (“the proposed development”) at the Balmacaan Estate, directly west of the Great Glen and Loch Ness (Central Grid Reference NH 37981 24085) within The Highland Council administrative area. The proposed development will have an installed capacity exceeding 50MW and will comprise of up to 13 turbines with three turbines with maximum ground to blade tip height of up to 180 metres and ten turbines with maximum ground to blade tip height of up to 200 metres. The proposed development is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). An Environmental Impact Assessment report has been produced.

Loch Liath Wind Farm Limited has also applied for a direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the EIA report discussing the Company’s proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for public inspection in person, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Location	Opening Hours	Address
Glenurquhart Library and Learning Centre	Mon: 09:00-12:00; 13:00-17:00 Tue: 09:00-12:00; 13:00-17:00 Wed: 09:00-12:00; 13:00-17:00 Thur: 09:00 - 12:00; 13:00 - 17:00; 18:00 - 20:00 Fri: 09:00 - 13:00 Sat: 10:00 - 13:00	Glen Urquhart High School Drumnadrochit Inverness-shire IV63 6XA

The EIA report can also be viewed on the application website at www.LochLiath.co.uk; or at www.energyconsents.scot under application reference ECU00002182.

Copies of the EIA report may be obtained from Loch Liath Wind Farm Limited (telephone: 0800 772 0668/email: UKprojects@statkraft.com) at a charge of £2500 for hard copy or free of charge for a USB stick. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations to the application may be submitted via the Energy Consents Unit website at www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx; by email to the Scottish

Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@gov.scot; or by post to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation.

Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to representations@gov.scot will receive acknowledgement. Please note that there may be a delay in the Energy Consents Unit receiving representations by post.

All representations should be received not later than 26 June 2023 although Ministers may consider representations received after this date.

Any subsequent additional information which is submitted by the developer will be subject to further public notice in this manner, and representations to such information will be accepted as per this notice.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held.

Following examination of the environmental information, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

General Data Protection Regulations

The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit processes consent applications and consultation representations under the Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at www.energyconsents.scot. A privacy notice is published on the help page at www.energyconsents.scot. This explains how the Energy Consents Unit processes your personal information. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email Econsents_admin@gov.scot