

Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at Marshborough Farm, Marshborough, Woodnesborough, near Sandwich, Kent

Site Code MARSH/WB/15



Report for Sunsave 32 (Marshborough) Ltd

Date of report 24/11/2015

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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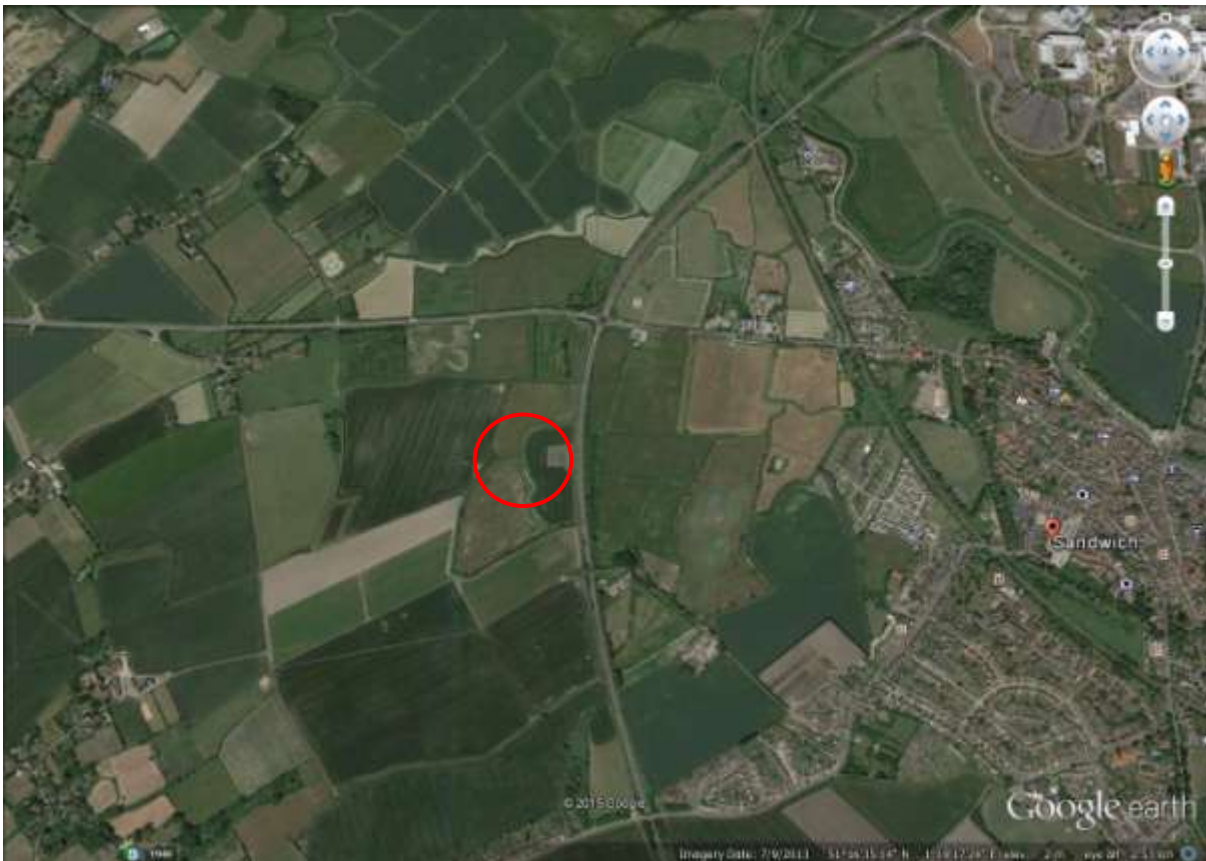


Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 07/09/2013: Eye altitude 2.53km).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From 15th August to 18th November 2015 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new solar farm, ancillary equipment, 2.2m high fencing and provision of hedgerow and tree planting at Marshborough Farm in Kent. (Fig. 2 & Plate 2-8).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Sunsave 32 (Marshborough) Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging of cable routes, temporary access roads and swales (Plate 3).

The archaeological work was undertaken in three main phases.

Phase 1: Compound area and roads (Plates 2-3)

Phase 2: Cable Routes and inverter bases (Plates 4-7)

Phase 3: Swales (Plate 8)

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the medieval farmsteads in the vicinity and the nearby Roman road running from Each End to Eastry. A number of Roman metalwork finds have been found in the fields immediately to the west and south of the proposed development site including coins and dress fittings.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is DOV/185/00115.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council (KCC), the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features, and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application DOV/185/00115 was submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Kent County Council (KCC) Archaeological Officer requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (6) was attached to the planning consent:

6 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the local planning authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written

programme and specification which has previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: Such details are required prior to the commencement of development in order to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded before development takes place.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from the 15th August to 18th November 2015. Attendance on site was dictated by the contractors work programme and a watching brief was maintained throughout the programme of ground excavation.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works.

4.2. The phased ground works were:

- Setting up of compound (Phase 1)
- Setting up of maintenance roads (Phase 1)
- Setting up of solar panel frames
- Digging main cable trench (Phase 2)
- Digging AC cable trench (Phase 2)
- Setting up inverter units (Phase 2)
- Planting native hedge
- Digging swales (drainage channels) Phase 3

The compound (15th August) was set up with interlocking galvanised steel sheets on top of the topsoil. No impact on any potential archaeology took place (Plate 2).

The maintenance roads (August 25th) were constructed with a topsoil strip, a layer of geotex and a layer of crush. No archaeology was revealed (Plate 3).

Setting up of the solar panel frames (August 28th to Sept 14th) had no known effect on archaeological remains.

Digging of the main cable trench (Sept 8th) revealed no archaeology (Plate 4).

Digging of the AC cable trench (Sept 9th) revealed no archaeology (Plates 5-6).

Setting up of the inverter units (Sept 15th) above the flood plain had no impact on any potential archaeology (Plate 7).

Digging the swales (Nov 18th) revealed no archaeology (Plate 8).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey internet map is Bedrock geology of Thanet Formation Sand, Silt and Clay and Superficial Deposits of Clay and Silt Tidal Flat Deposits (BGS <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/>). The geology revealed on site was sandy silty clay tidal flat deposits (Plate 00).

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of land at Marshborough Farm, Woodnesborough, near Sandwich and situated to the west of the A256 Sandwich Bypass and south of the A257, Two drains bisect the site which is flat with an OD height of 2.00m.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC and it also complied with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: 2014).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in three phases according to the needs of the building contractors from 15th August to 18th November 2015.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket necessary to remove the soil and cut the foundation trenches (Plates 2-5).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA).

6.6. Where possible if areas of archaeological interest were found they would subsequently be hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. If found archaeological features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (CIfA: 2014), and methodology discussed with the Archaeological Officer KCC.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was the sandy silty clay overlaid by very wet topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil.

8.0 Finds

No finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC Archaeological Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Sunsave 32 for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and the report written by Paul Wilkinson.

Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD., FRSA., MCIfA.
24/11/2015

References

HER data (<http://www.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast>)

IFA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief Specification (2015)

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Marshborough Farm, Woodnesborough, Kent

SWAT Site Code: MARSH/WB/15

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Watching Brief on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a new solar farm whereby KCC requested that Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Watching Brief consisted of site attendance during ground works which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 631590 158260

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: August to November 2015

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Underlying geology is Thanet Sands Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Watching Brief at Marshborough Farm, Marshborough, Woodnesborough, near Sandwich, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

See above

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 24/11/2015

Plates



Plate 2. General view of site compound showing galvanised sheeting



Plate 3. View showing soil reduction for maintenance road



Plate 4. The site showing cutting of main cable trench



Plate 5. The AC cable trench



Plate 6. Cutting the AC cable trench (toothless bucket)



Plate 7. Construction of the Inverter base which sits within the topsoil



Plate 8. Construction of the Swales (drainage ditches)

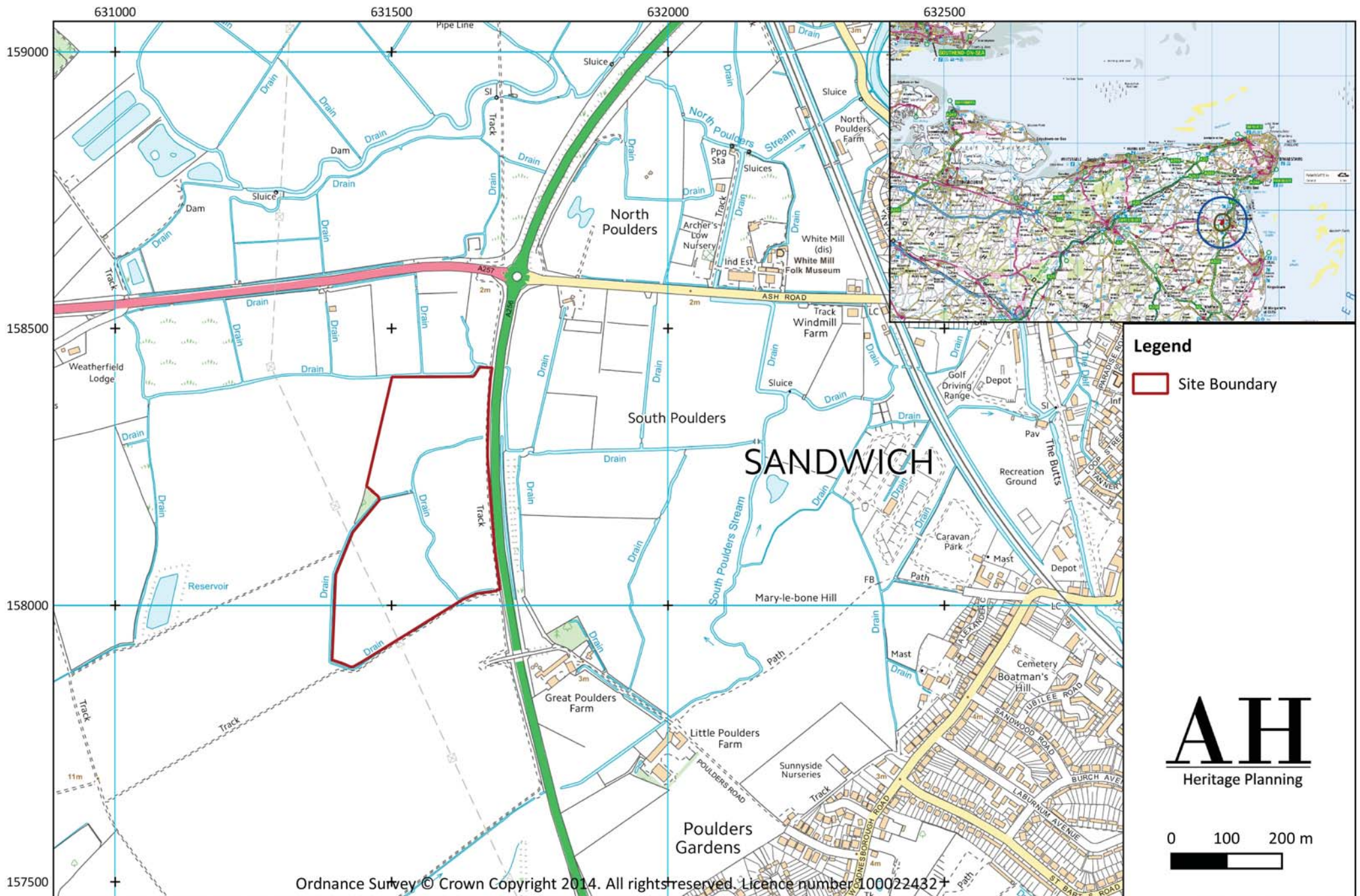
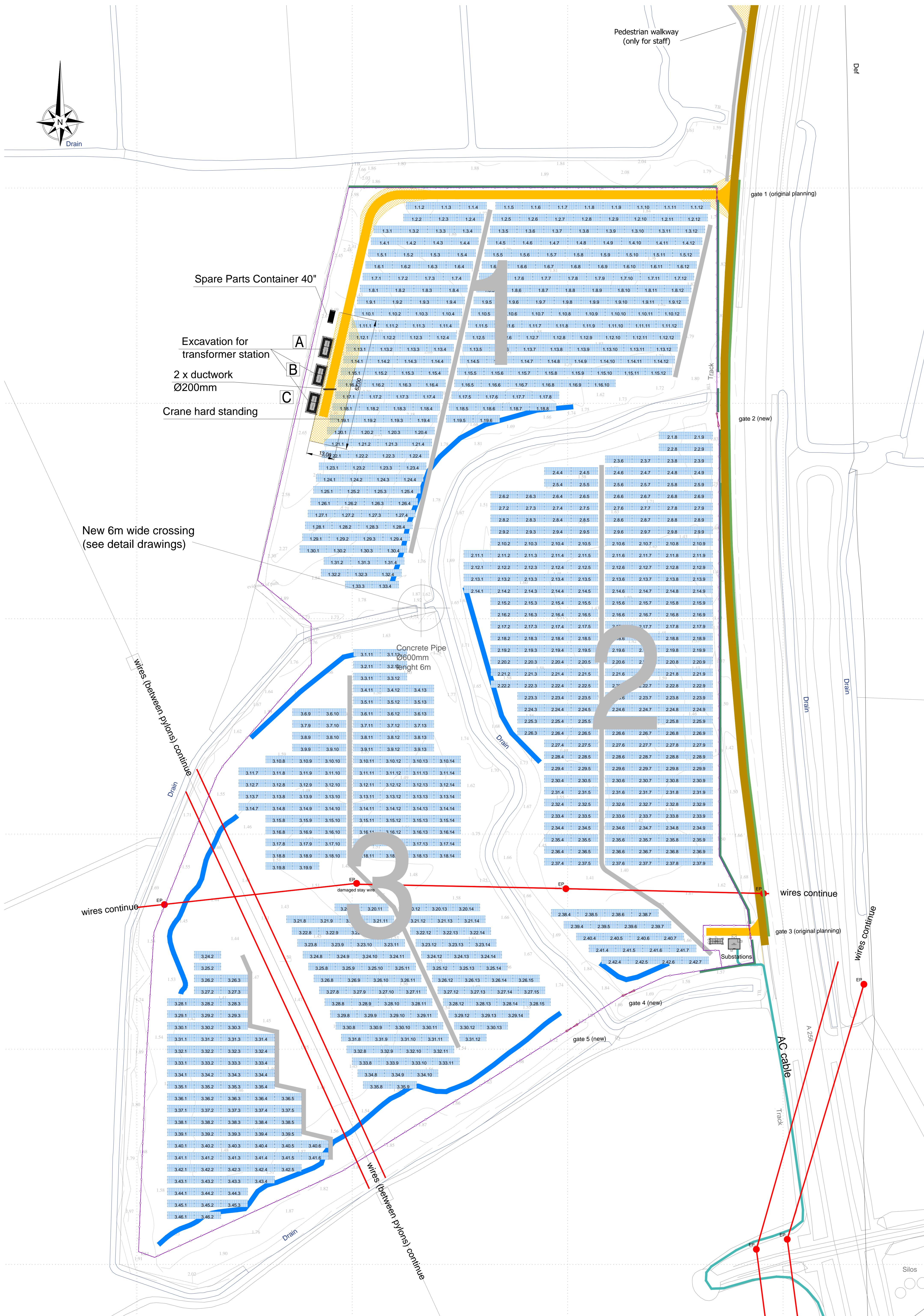
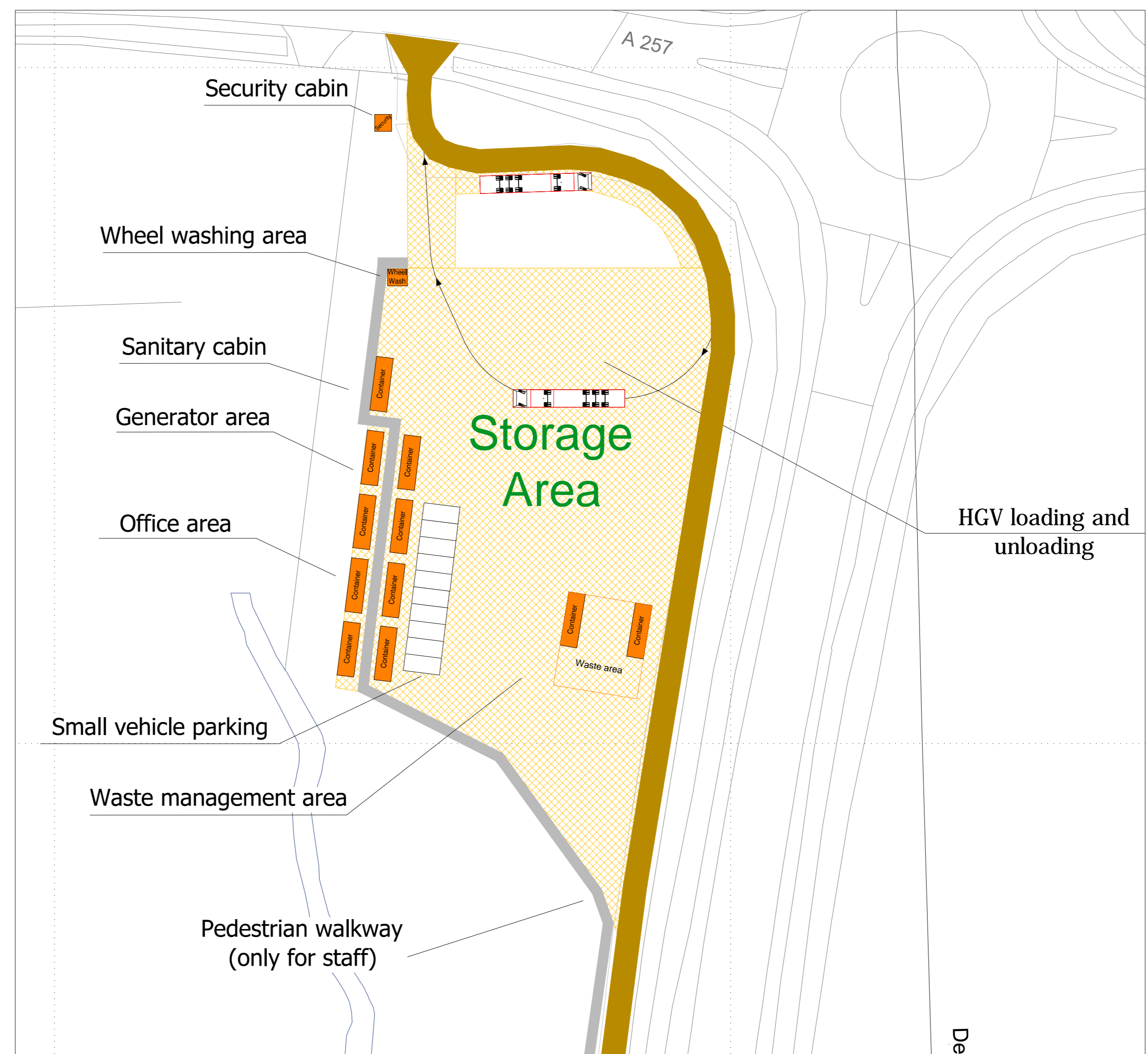


Fig. 1 Site location plan showing Proposed Development Area



1 Construction compound and access detail to the north of site
M 1:500



Geographical coordinates

Country: UK
 Address: Marshborough Farm
 Marshborough
 Sandwich
 Kent
 CT13 2BZ

Latitude: 51°18'32" N
 Longitude: 1°19'10" E
 Altitude: 2.5 m

Areas

fenced area	length
total: 24 acres	1,450 m
9.7 hectares	

Reinforced Areas:

Storage area: 3,825 m²

Compound area: 715m²

Crane hard standing: 715m²

Maintenance Road - Curves & Crane Areas

Maintenance Road: 586 m (existing)
 2,051 m²

Maintenance Road: 295 m (to be build)
 1,032.5 m²

System

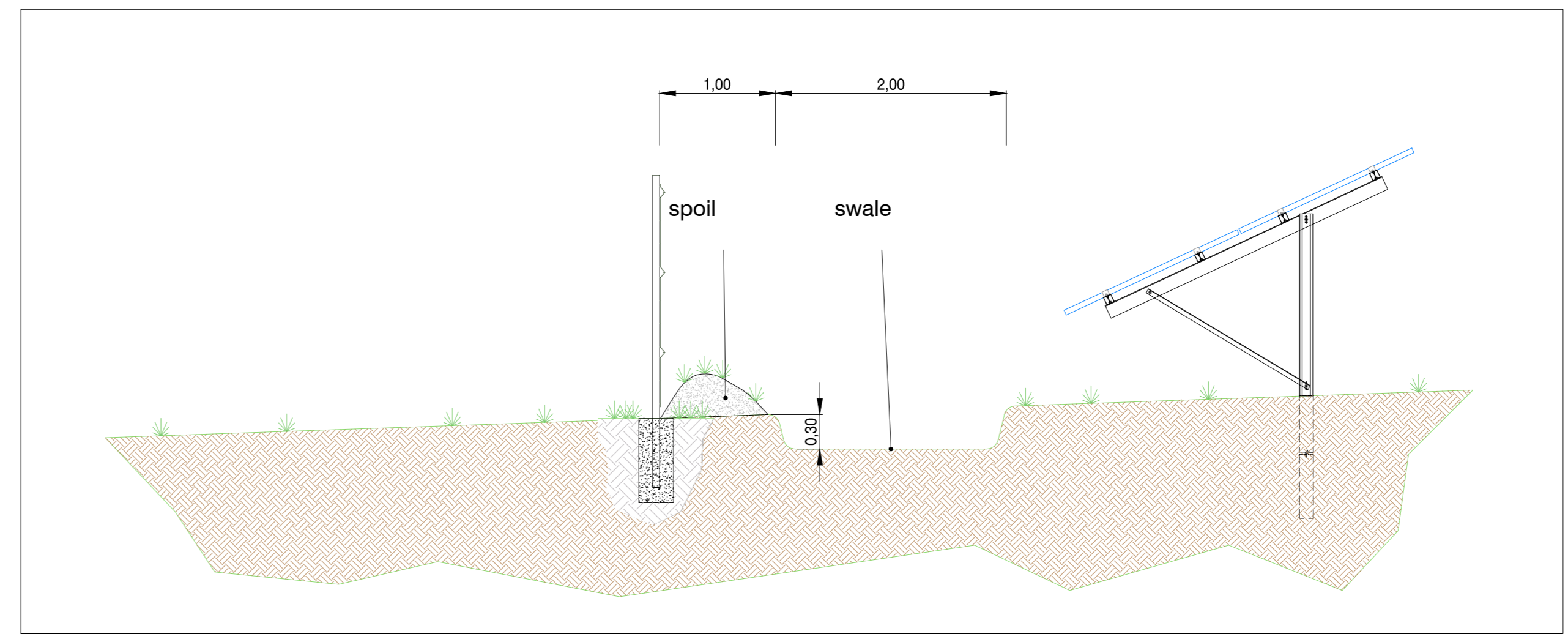
Number of racks: 816
 Modules per rack: 2x12 (portrait)
 Number of solar stations: 3
 Number of inverters: 6
 DC Power: 4.99 MWp
 Azimuth: 0°
 Plane tilt: 15°

Pitch: appr. 5.50 m
 Aisle width: appr. 2.24 m

Swales

Length of swales: 640m
 Area of swales: 1,280m²

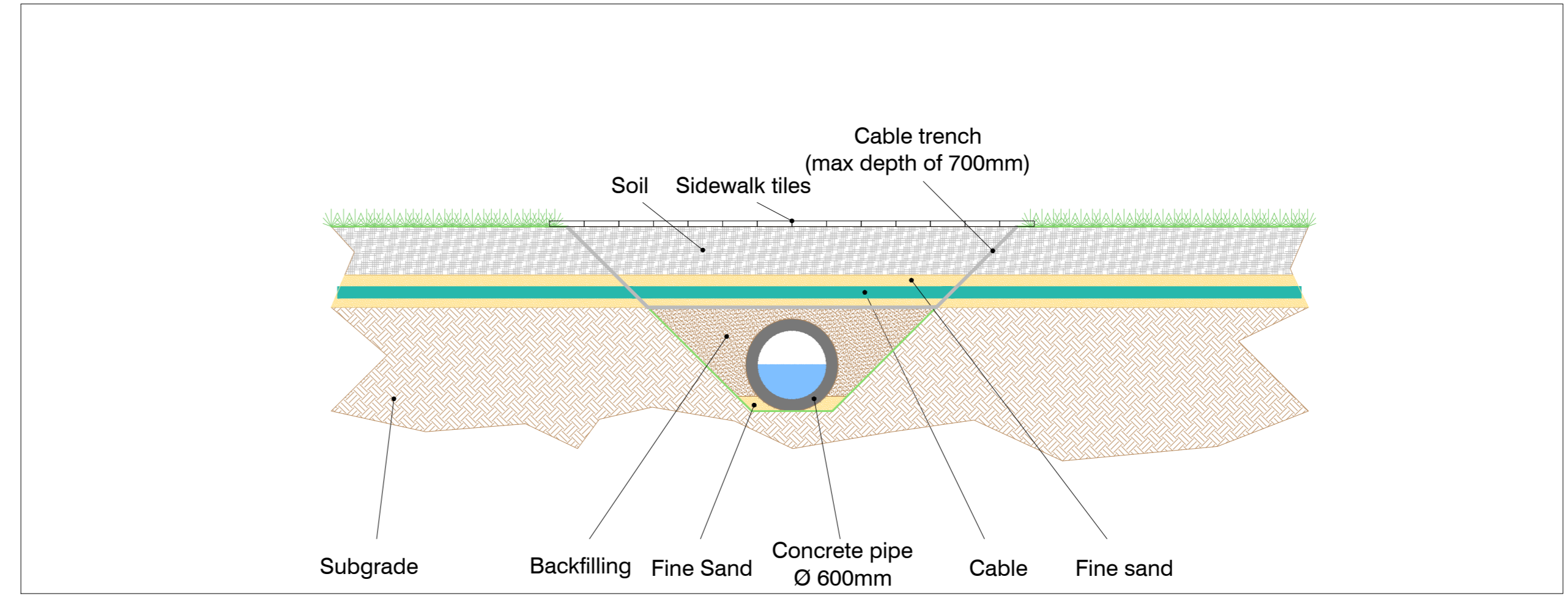
2 Detail Water Swale
M 1:40



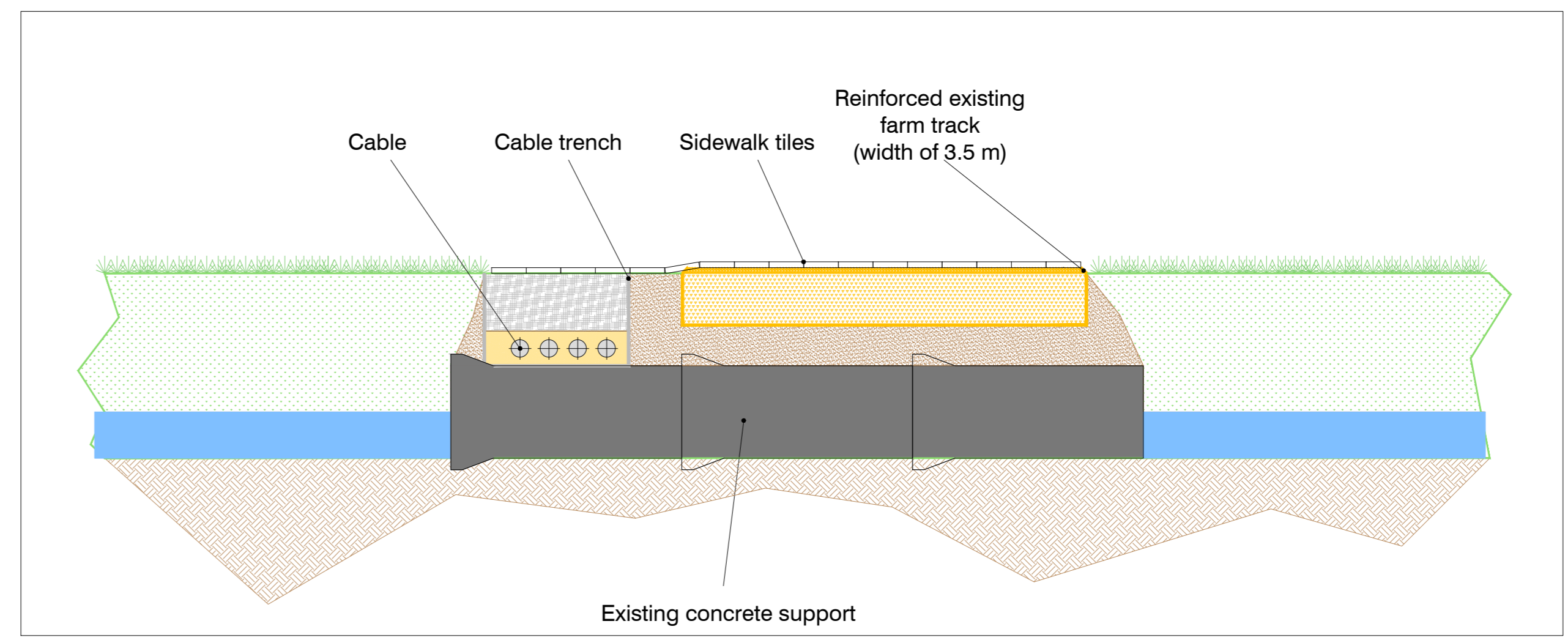
Legend

- Fence
- Overhead Wires
- Main cable trench
- Maintenance road
- Existing road
- Construction compound
- New native hedge planted as feathered willow trees
- New native hedge planted as a triple row
- PV Rack
- Solar Station
- Gate
- AC Cable Route
- Waterway - existing drain
- Swale - proposed
- Ductwork x 2 [150mm]

3 Detail Drainage Concrete Pipe View 1 (see Civil Works Plan for more detail)
M 1:40



4 Detail Drainage Concrete Pipe View 2 (see Civil Works Plan for more detail)
M 1:40



Used Xrefs of external planners in the current drawing

Rev.	Date	Xref(DWG) - File Name / Planning expert

Please note that all drawings contents have to be checked on the contractor's own responsibility prior to construction start. Discrepancies have to be communicated to the contractual partner or to the responsible technical planners. Drawing numbers and index have to be observed. With release of new drawing, previous drawings lose their validity and will not be withdrawn.

Document No: **2197.AP.101.0.D**

Project No.	Descr.	Serial No.	Scale	Rev.

Rev.	Date	Descr.	Check	Appr.	Revision Description

Project Management / Engineering Design:

ibvogt

ib vogt GmbH
 Helmholtzstr. 2-9
 10587 Berlin
 Tel. +49 30 397440-0
 www.ibvogt.com

Client:

ibvogt

ib vogt GmbH
 Helmholtzstr. 2-9
 10587 Berlin
 Tel. +49 30 397440-0
 www.ibvogt.com

Supplier:

Version	Metric	European Prot.	Page	Drawing Scale

Checked by: 10 Jul 2015
 Designed by: 10 Jul 2015
 Approved by: 10 Jul 2015

Project No.: **2197.AP.101.0.D**

Phase: **Realisation**

Status: **21 Aug 15**

Revision index: **D**

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