

Project: St Michaels Church East Coker



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Project No.

12680

Sheet No.

Issue Date

C= Construction T=Tender P=Preliminary
FD = Final Design Issue



16th June 2025

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Dear Michael

East Coker, St Micheal and All Angels - Structural survey for Proposed Opening

Mann Williams have been instructed by East Coker PCC to provide structural input for a proposed doorway at the Church of St Michaels and All Angels. The church is Grade II* listed (list entry 1345781). We attended site on Monday 9th June 2025 to review the existing structure. Proposed alterations involve the insertion of a disabled access doorway between the transept and the vestry. The survey was a visual survey with limited opening up comprising strips of plaster removal on both faces of the wall to expose the nature of the masonry where the opening is proposed.

The vestry is at the base of the tower, which is in the Northeast corner of the building. The tower is composed of three stages, with the tower measuring approximately 16.5 m high with a 1.16 m high parapet at the top. The current proposal is for an opening in the West wall of this tower, between the transept and current ground floor vestry. The opening will need to be formed with new back to back lintels with capacity to resist the masonry loading from the tower.

In addition to the masonry loading, this wall supports at least one of the upper stages (bell chamber). The direction of loading for the roof and the floor to the ringing chamber could not be ascertained. The floor directly below the Belfry (housing the clock mechanism), was double boarded with floor beams running North-South and this level is not adding to the load of the West tower wall. The original floor beams for the Belfry also ran North-South, but there has been a later insertion of two steel beams, so this stage is now loading the East and West walls of the tower.

Generally, the tower masonry was observed to be in good condition; there was no visual evidence of structural issues within the walls. Some deterioration was noted in the structural timber floors. The inserted steel beams to the floor supporting the bell chamber indicate previous timber bearing decay and one floor beam was noted as having significant beetle activity, this was the westernmost beam supporting the floor to the bell mechanism room. This is not expected to affect the design of the proposed doorway opening, but it is recommended that the condition of existing timbers in the tower are investigated further.

During the survey, two patches of plaster were removed to enable inspection of the wall construction. The Archaeological consultant, Keith Faxon, was present to record the findings. These patches (1.3 m wide x 0.2 m high) revealed random rubble course stone. The individual stones were approximately 140 to 350 mm long and 100 mm high.

Considering the wall composition and the loading requirements, the recommended solution would require local consolidation of stonework and local stitching around the opening using a combination of Cintec anchors and

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stainless-steel embedded bars to ensure continued integrity (prior to formation of the opening). Precast reinforced concrete lintels back-to-back would be proposed for the head of the new opening carrying the tower wall over.

The foundation construction and founding geology are not known. British Geological Survey online mapping shows the church is likely sited on Cornbrash Limestone although, there is always potential for foundations to have been formed over softer superficial deposits. A linear feature (fault), inferring displacement in the Cornbrash is noted on BGS mapping immediately north of the tower. To avoid settlement caused by local increased concentration of foundation loading, the structural design would aim to maintain the existing ground bearing stresses; to achieve this without the need for remedial foundation works the 1200 mm wide new structural opening will requires a minimum depth of 600 mm of masonry below the base of the opening - given the external levels this seems likely. However, it is recommended that a trial pit is undertaken ensure a depth of masonry greater than 600mm below the base of the opening is present. To prevent disruption to the internal fabric of the church nave, a modest trial pit could be excavated internally to the vestry where the floor will be renovated as part of the works.

Summary

The masonry at St Michaels and All Angels in East Coker is in good condition and it is structurally feasible to insert a disabled access doorway into the ground floor West wall of the tower. A trial pit is required to confirm that remedial foundation works are not needed. The superstructure design includes back-to-back precast concrete lintels and local reinforcement and consolidation of masonry to the perimeter of the opening with Cintec anchors and stainless-steel reinforcement (refer to our attached drawing).

Please should you have any queries or require any further input at this stage do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Grace Morris

Engineer

Mann Williams

Enc.

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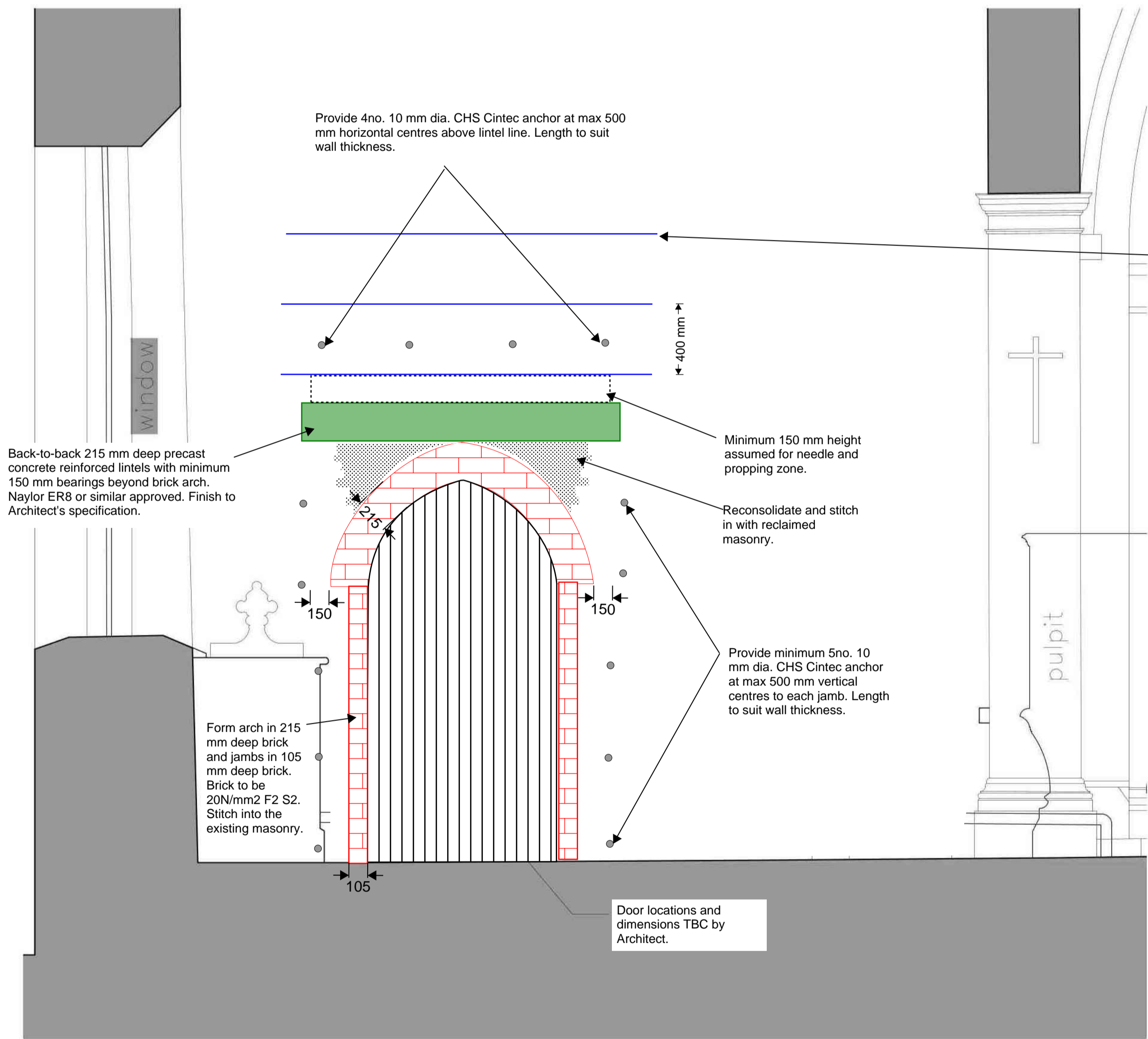
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Envisioned sequence of works:

1. Conduct a trial pit to establish the depth and condition of existing foundations.
2. Remove plaster finishes to each face in the location of the proposed doorway to expose masonry.
3. Insert Cintec anchors in the indicated arrangement around the proposed doorway location.
4. Rake out pointing and bed in stainless steel reinforcing bars to each face at the indicated locations.
5. Insert needle and propping (to Contractors design).
6. Locally remove masonry and insert back-to-back reinforced concrete lintels. Ensure minimum 150 mm bearing (consider and account for rubble masonry being removed below the lintel to enable arch forming so that they do not undercut this 150 mm).
7. Remove masonry below the new lintels to form doorway.
8. Form brick arch and jambs, stitch into the existing and fill between Voussoirs and concrete lintels with reclaimed masonry, stitched into existing.
9. Remove needle and propping.
10. Repoint and apply finishes to Architect's details.



Do not ring bells during the works. Ensure the mechanical ringing mechanism is disengaged.



West elevation on proposed opening
1:20



Subject to condition and dimensions of existing foundations. To be determined during works.

Provide 3no. rows of stainless steel 3.5 mm diameter reinforcement ties at 400 mm vertical centres to each face. Length 2100 mm. Remove pointing to a depth of 40 mm, bed reinforcement in lime mortar and repoint. Lime mortars to Architect's specification.



Ground floor plan on proposed opening
1:20

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REV	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
P1	PRELIMINARY ISSUE	GAM	16.06.25
P2	ARCH FORM ADDED	GAM	07.07.25

DRAWING TO BE READ IN COLOUR

PROJECT
ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, EAST COKER

TITLE
NEW DOORWAY - STRUCTURAL PROPOSAL



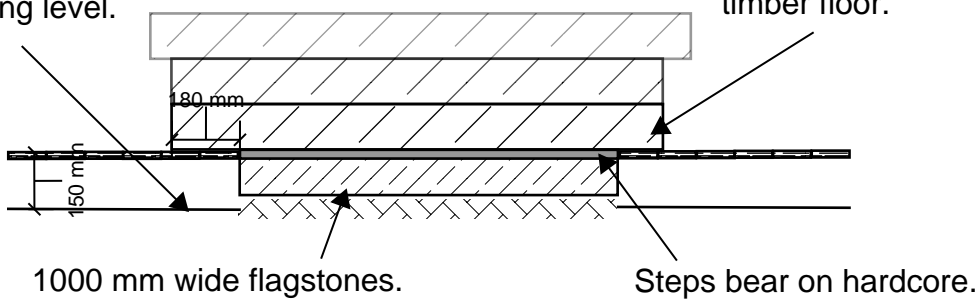
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DRAWN	CHECKED	SIZE	SCALE	DATE	REV
GAM	SS	A1	1:20	JUN 2025	12680

S2 INFORMATION (NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION)			
ZONE/SYSTEM	LEVEL	TYPE	ROLE
XX	XX	DR	S
PROJECT CODE		NUMBER	REVISION
12680		9001	P2

Minimum 150 mm from top of floorboard to bearing level.

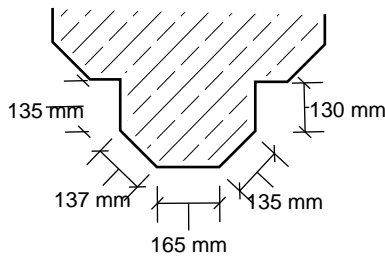
Lower two steps 1300 mm wide. Steps cantilever over timber floor.



Porch existing steps - Section A-A
1:20

Mortar joint at arch centre pointer. Thinner voussoirs to each side.

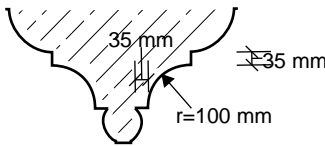
Voussoir width approx. 250 mm.



Arch existing profile - Type 1
Section B-B
1:20

Note: Do not scale from this drawing. Measurements taken at the columns and springing points, not the arch crown. Stone to be measured on site for any templating.

Mortar joint at arch centre pointer. Thinner voussoirs to each side.

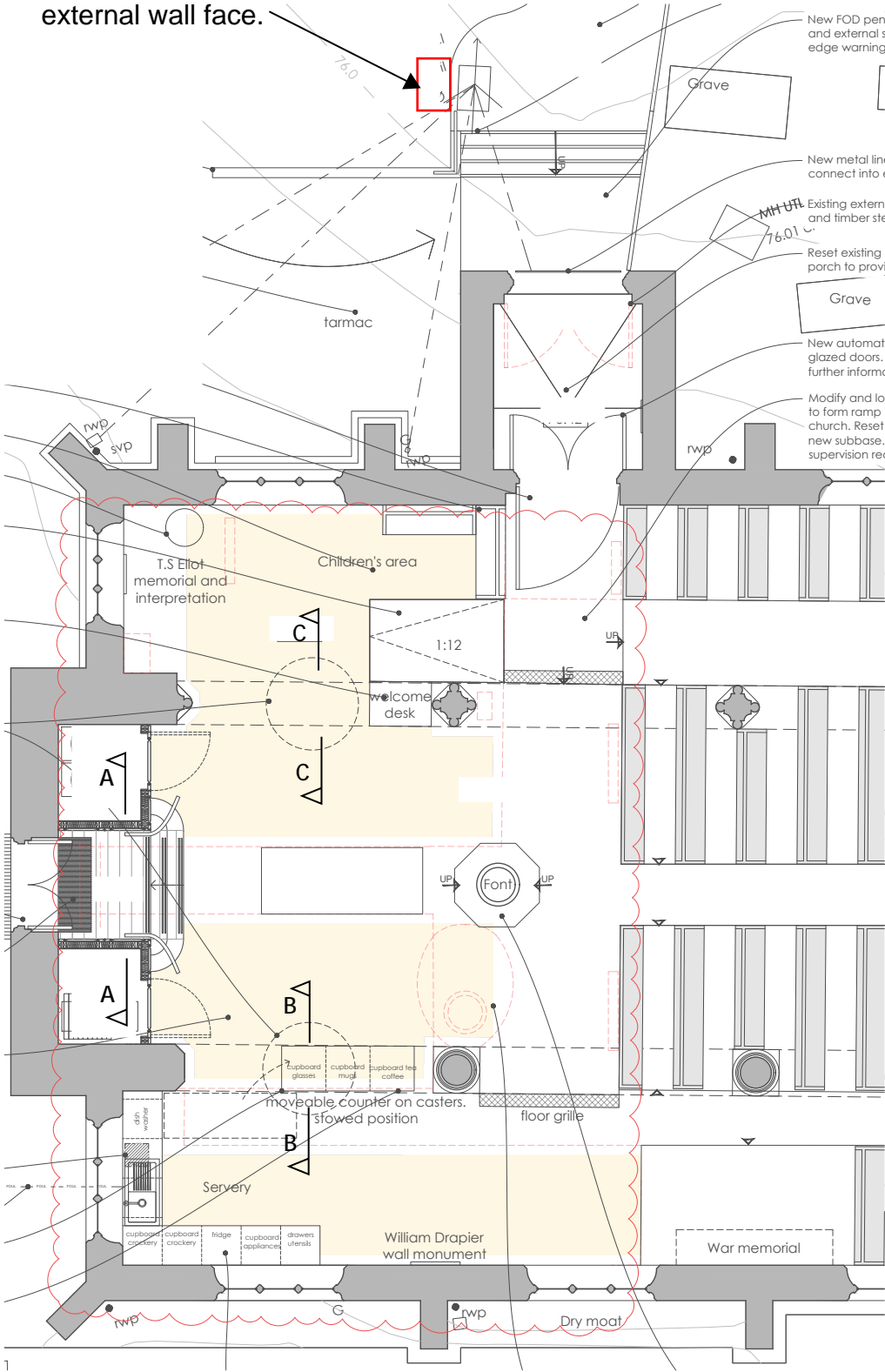


Arch existing profile - Type 2
Section C-C
1:20

Stone waning towards arch crown. Possibly thinner towards arch crown.

Voussoir width approx. 300 mm.

Exiting MH appears to align with porch external wall face.



Key plan - Proposed
NTS

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REV	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
P1	PRELIMINARY ISSUE	GAM	29.09.25
P2	SCALE CORRECTED	GAM	30.09.25

PROJECT

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, EAST COKER

TITLE

EXISTING STRUCTURAL SURVEY NOTES



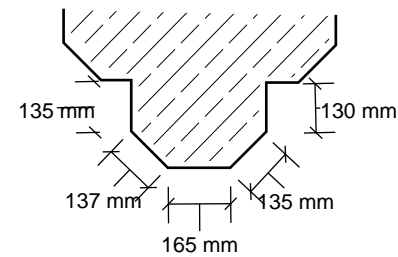
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GAM	SS	A3	1:20	SEP 2025	12680

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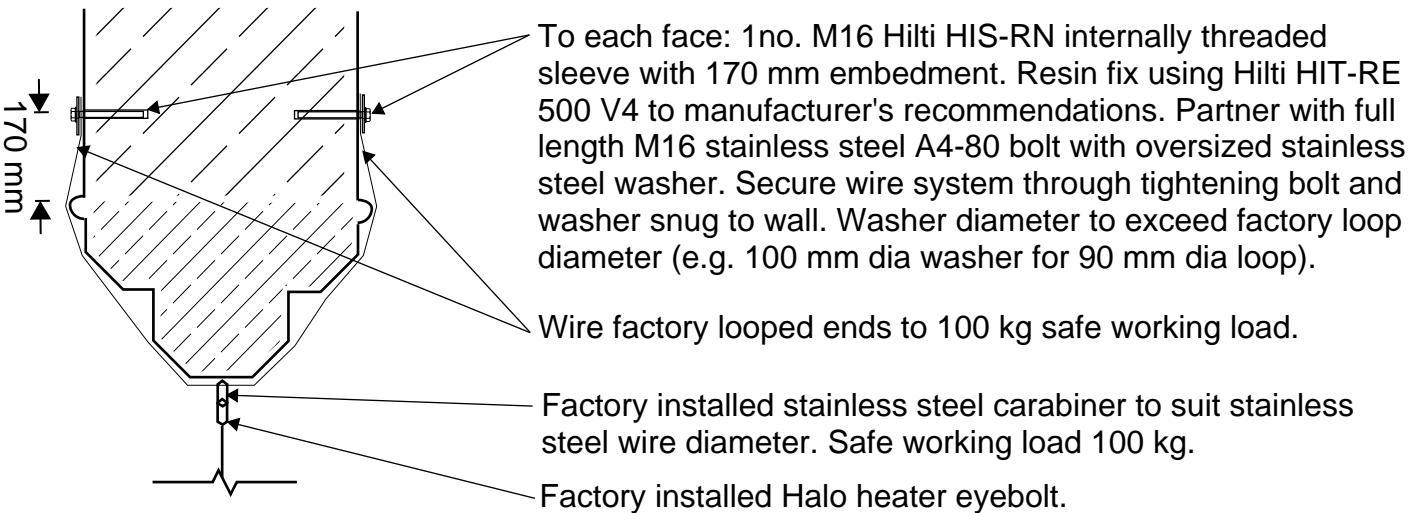
ZONE/SYSTEM	LEVEL	TYPE	ROLE	ORIGINATOR
XX	XX	DR	S	MWB
PROJECT CODE		NUMBER		REVISION
12680		9002		P2

See 12680-MWB-XX-XX-DR-S-9002
for section locations.

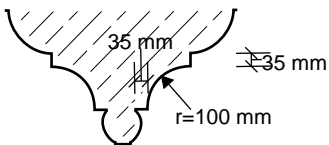


Arch existing profile - Type 1
Section B-B
1:20

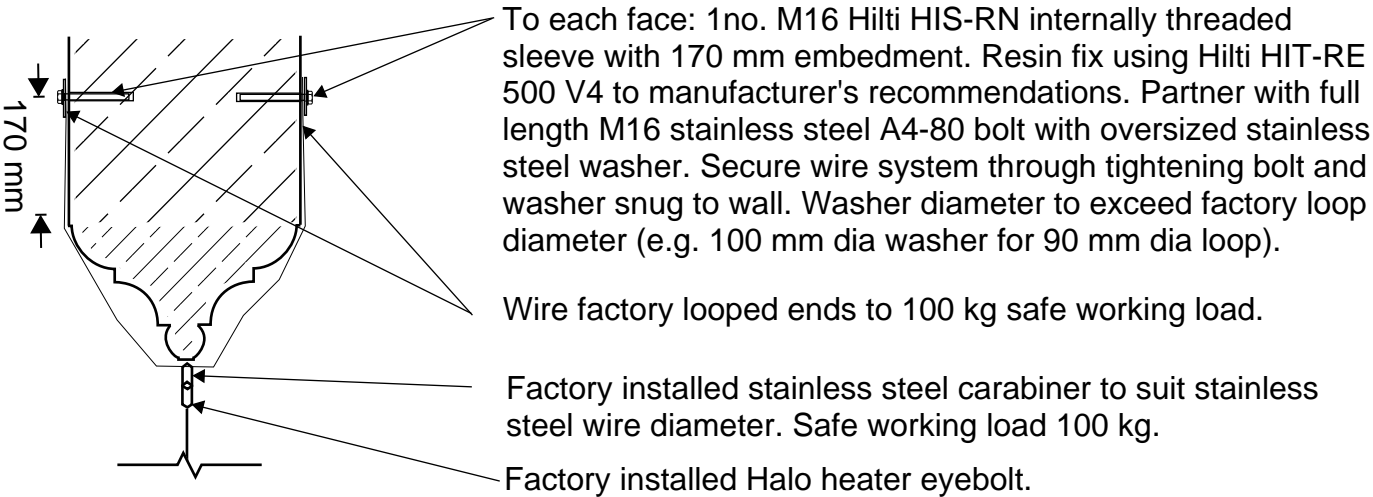
Note: Do not scale from this drawing.
Measurements taken at the columns and
springing points, not the arch crown. Stone
to be measured on site for any templating.



Fitting proposed - Type 1
Section B-B
1:20



Arch existing profile - Type 2
Section C-C
1:20



Fitting proposed - Type 2
Section C-C
1:20

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P1	PRELIMINARY ISSUE	GAM	30.09.25
P2	FITTING LOCATION AND ARRANGEMENT CHANGED	GAM	06.10.25

PROJECT

ST MICHAEL AND ALL
ANGELS, EAST COKER

TITLE

PROPOSED HEATER
FITTINGS



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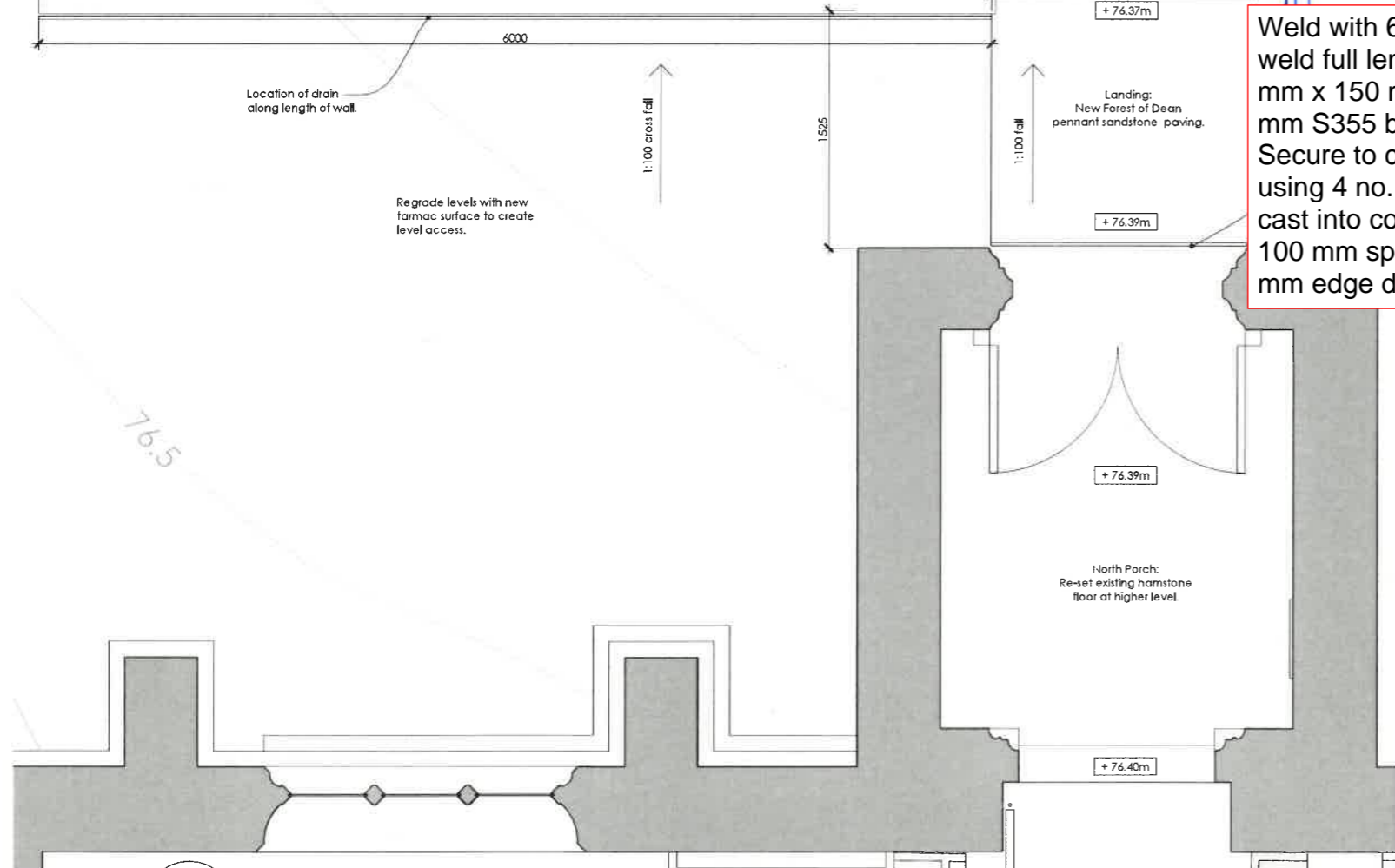
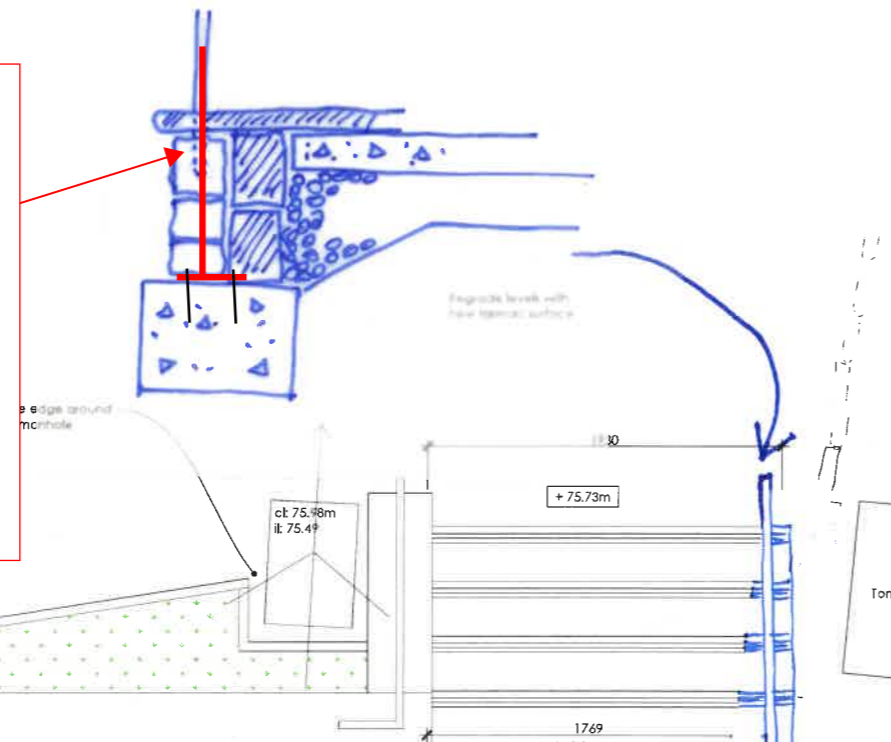
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ZONE/SYSTEM	LEVEL	TYPE	ROLE	ORIGINATOR
XX	XX	DR	S	MWB
PROJECT CODE		NUMBER		REVISION
12680		9003		P2



In abeyance. Allow for fixing to concrete. Weld with 6 mm fillet weld full length to 150 mm x 150 mm x 10 mm S355 baseplate. Secure to concrete using 4 no. M12 bolts cast into concrete at 100 mm spacings (25 mm edge distance). Max eccentricity 50 mm.



PLAN 1:20

Mann Williams
Structural Comments
30/09/2025

EAST COKER St Michael and All Angels
Proposed Porch and New Access

WORKING DRAWING			
Author	mh	Date	24.09.25
Scale		Varies at A1	

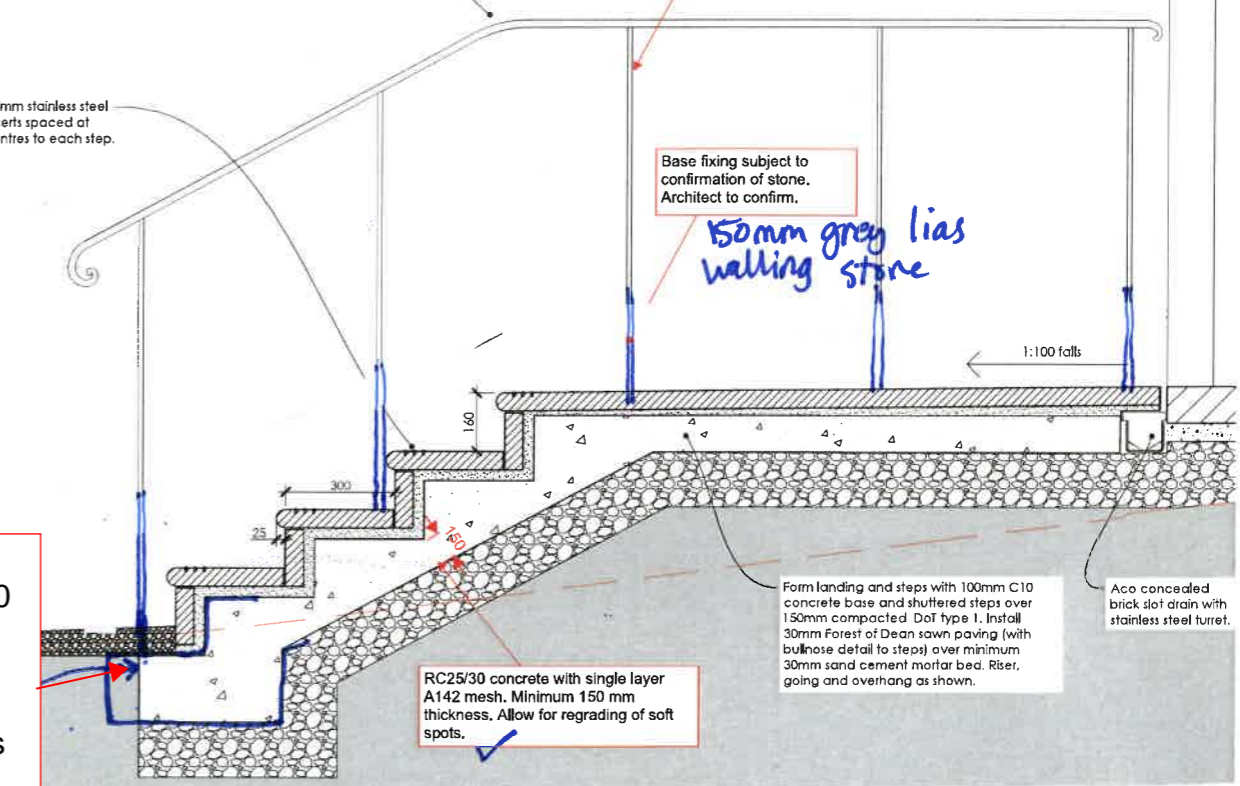
Mild steel convex bar with square edges handrail 38x12mm with scroll ends. Welded Mild steel 12x12mm spindles at regular centres. All galvanised and painted black. Set spindles 175mm into stone and fix with hot lead method.

Posts minimum 20 x 20 in S355 steel at current spacing (640 mm). Architect to confirm.

Base fixing subject to confirmation of stone. Architect to confirm.

150mm grey lias walling stone

3no. 12x5mm stainless steel nosing inserts spaced at 25mm centres to each step.



SECTION THROUGH STEPS 1:10

Form raised bed against retaining wall with 50mm sawn douglis stone edge set in lean mix concrete haunch. Fill with minimum 150mm topsoil over loose pea gravel drainage and 100mm compacted DoT type 1 base.

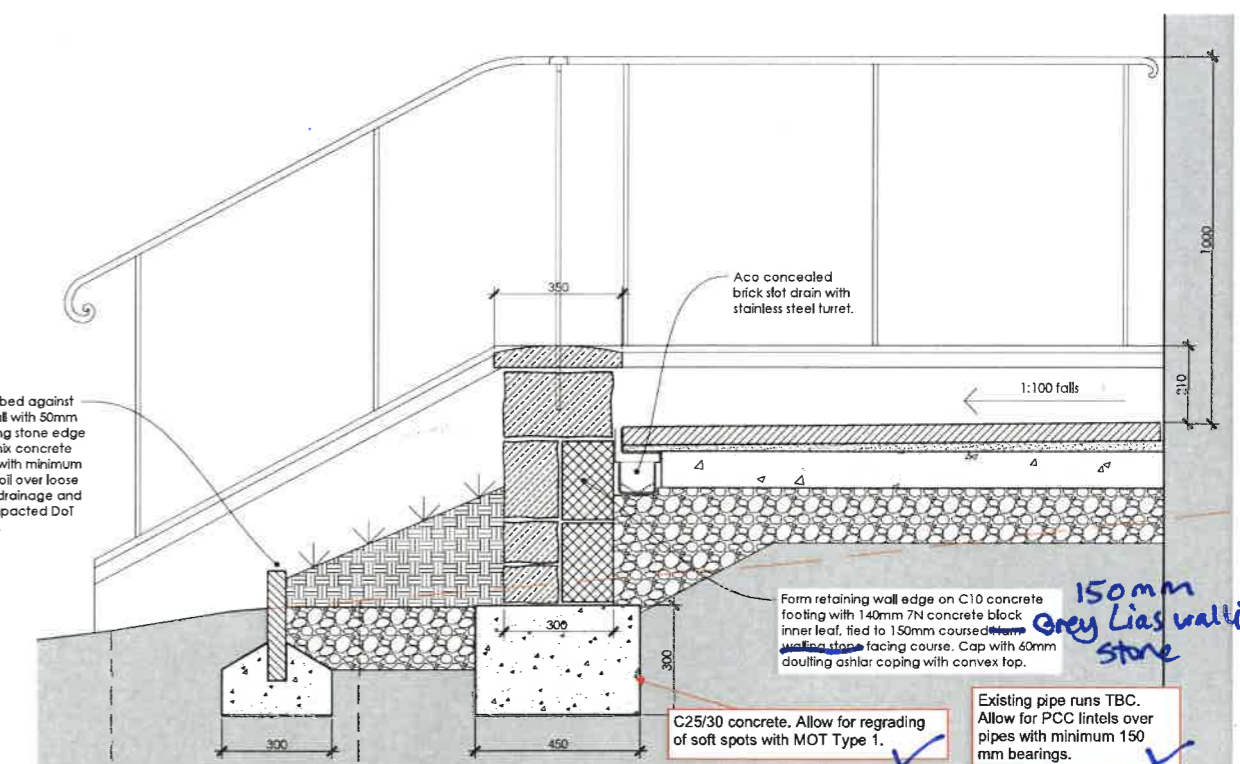
Aco concealed brick slot drain with stainless steel turret.

Form retaining wall edge on C10 concrete footing with 140mm 7N concrete block inner leaf, tied to 150mm coursed walling stone facing course. Cap with 60mm douglis ashlar coping with convex top.

150mm Grey Lias walling stone

C25/30 concrete. Allow for regrading of soft spots with MOT Type 1.

Existing pipe runs TBC. Allow for PCC lintels over pipes with minimum 150 mm bearings.



SECTION THROUGH RETAINING EDGE 1:10

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