

Guildford Design Awards 2023 Submission

Guildford Walnut Bridge Project

Address of the scheme

Walnut Bridge, Bedford Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4SJ

Category of Project

Public Realm including soft (landscape) and/or hard works

Name of the Client

Guildford Borough Council

Architect, Design Consultants or Artist

Knight Architects

Key Contact

Hanna-Liisbeth Lumi, hanna-liisbeth.lumi@guildford.gov.uk, 01483 444 038

Brief Description of the Project Including key features of the design

The Walnut Footbridge improves a vital east-west connection within the town masterplan, increasing capacity for pedestrians and cyclists travelling between the railway station and the town centre.

The existing bridge crossing the River Wey did not meet the current user demand and was particularly impractical for cyclists. The route from the station was set back behind the building facade line of Walnut Tree Close, which made it difficult to find, and created a potential security hazard at night. The new bridge offers greater visibility and an improved user experience for all.

Designed by Knight Architects, the bridge features an understated, modern aesthetic which has been developed to deliberately contrast with that of the historic neighbouring Billings printworks buildings to protect the clarity of their 19th century character. The simple beam is aligned to promote clear wayfinding across the river and designed to maximise headroom below.

The bridge provides a 4m-wide shared use deck, with steps down to the towpath level to give a direct connection to the River Wey. This unique feature of the urban realm is a significant asset to the scheme. As such, the bridge is designed to enhance the user experience below it, and to address key views along the river corridor. Here, pedestrians and river users will see the feature soffit - the 'forgotten elevation' of many bridges. The simple yet unique arrangement of the

structural ribs provides interest to users passing underneath the bridge, and offers a clean, well-detailed surface which promotes a high-quality urban realm along the river's edge.

The inclined surface of the outer creased edge beam catches the light, creating a slender elevation across the river. Sat atop, the parapet is formed of a regular array of vertical plates which provide solidity on oblique views and transparency in elevational views. The outer geometry of the parapet posts interpolates a subtle crease which adds visual interest as it undulates across the length of the bridge.

On the bridge, low level handrail lighting will provide an even wash of light over the deck to illuminate the pedestrian and cycle ways and the faces of oncoming users. As the river is a sensitive ecological corridor, light spill from the bridge and wider site is minimised.

Surrounding the structure itself, the eastern access and the descent to Bedford Plaza is defined by land ownership constraints. These inspired a 'pocket place' combining steps, seats, and planters along the ramp sides, with tall lighting totems and carefully co-ordinated brickwork.

The scheme combines a simple yet elegant bridge structure with co-ordinated approaches. In doing so, the Walnut Footbridge not only provides critical active-mobility connectivity across the river, but through careful detailing and a recognition of surrounding viewpoints, it contributes positively to the sensitive urban realm which it now forms a part of.

Photographs of the completed project



Image 1. Walnut Bridge with extender ramp at night



Image 2. Steps coming off the ramp on Bedford Plaza



Image 3. Structural Ribs

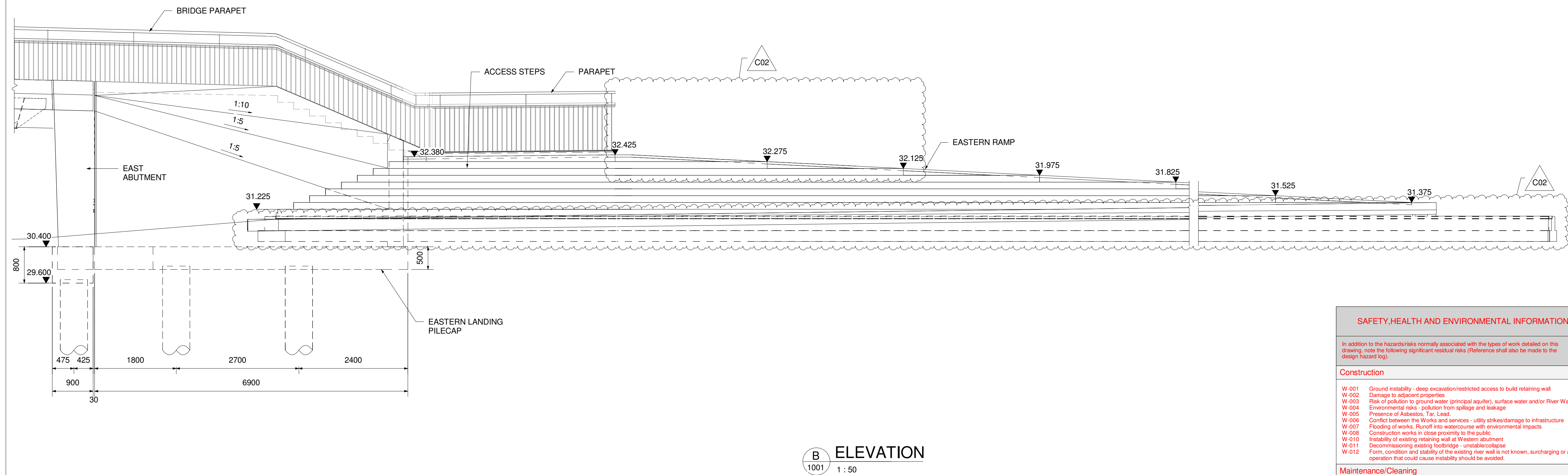
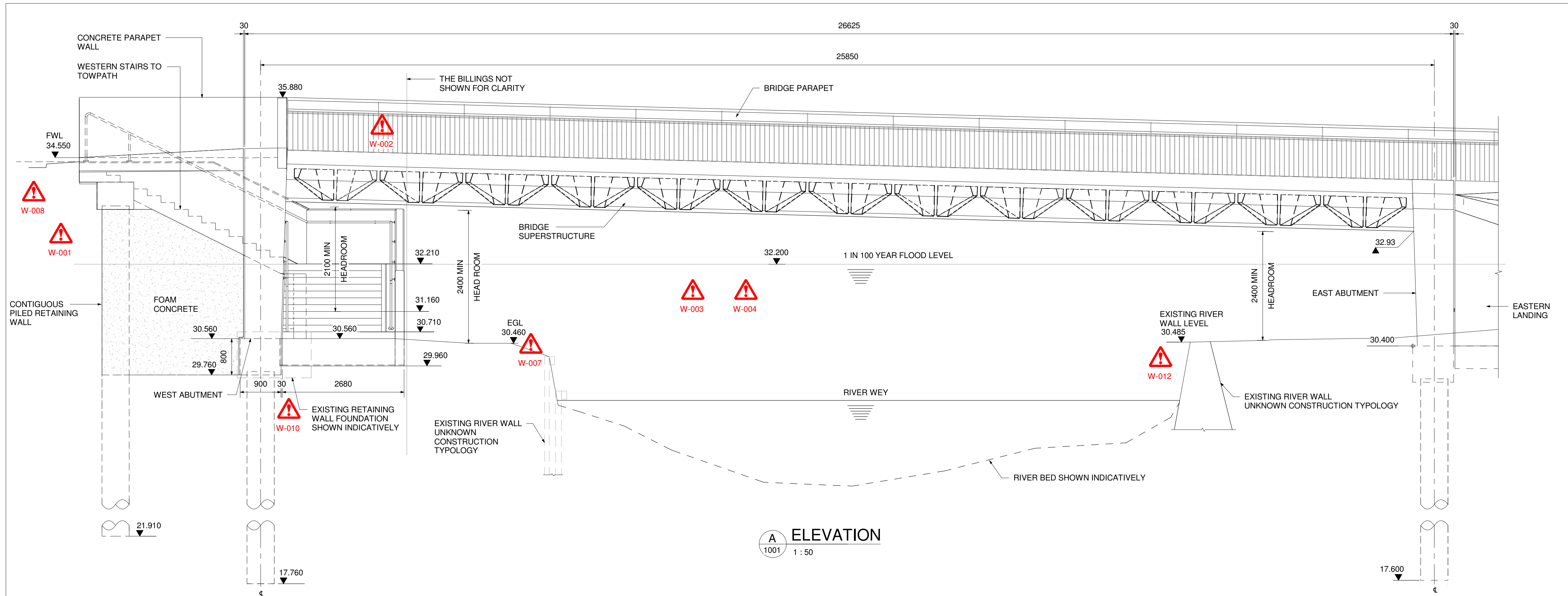


Image 4. View of the bridge from the River Wey towpath

Further images showing the fabrication of the new structure: [Walnut Footbridge - In Progress - Bridges - Knight Architects](#)

Plans, Sections and Elevations

Find attached to the submission separately



SAFETY,HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION					
In addition to the hazards/risks normally associated with the types of work detailed on this drawing, note the following significant residual risks (Reference shall also be made to the design hazard log).					
Construction					
W-001	Ground instability - deep excavation/restricted access to build retaining wall	Signed	FF	Date	15MAY2019
W-002	Damage to adjacent properties	Signed	PS	Date	15MAY2019
W-003	Risk of pollution to ground water (principal aquifer), surface water and/or River Wey.	Signed	RC	Date	15MAY2019
W-004	Environmental risks - pollution from spillage and leakage	Signed	JR	Date	15MAY2019
W-005	Presence of Asbestos, Tar, Lead.	Signed		Date	
W-006	Conflict between the Works and services - utility strikes/damage to infrastructure	Signed		Date	
W-007	Flooding of works. Runoff into watercourse with environmental impacts	Signed		Date	
W-008	Construction works in close proximity to the public	Signed		Date	
W-010	Instability of existing retaining wall at Western abutment	Signed		Date	
W-011	Decommissioning existing footbridge - unstable/collapse	Signed		Date	
W-012	Form, condition and stability of the existing river wall is not known, surcharging or any operation that could cause instability should be avoided.	Signed		Date	
Maintenance/Cleaning					
NO UNUSUAL OR SIGNIFICANT RISK IDENTIFIED					
Use					
W-101	Antisocial behaviour	Signed		Date	
W-102	Lack of CCTV on bridge and adjacent areas	Signed		Date	
W-103	Lack of lighting at Bedford Wharf Area	Signed		Date	
Decommissioning/Demolition					
NO UNUSUAL OR SIGNIFICANT RISK IDENTIFIED					

- NOTES:**
- FOR GENERAL NOTES REFER TO DRAWING NO. UA009070-ARC-DD-XX-DR-S-1000.
 - THIS DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH:
UA009070-ARC-DD-XX-DR-S-1001
UA009070-ARC-DD-XX-DR-S-1003.
 - RIVER LEVELS SHOWN IN THIS DRAWING ARE BASED ON THE HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY WATER LEVEL DATA.

Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Check	Approv
C02	16/05/22	STEP LEVELS CHANGED	MB	RC	AB
C01	27/03/20	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	PS	AB	DC

Client
GUILD FORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

PROJECT:
WALNUT BRIDGE

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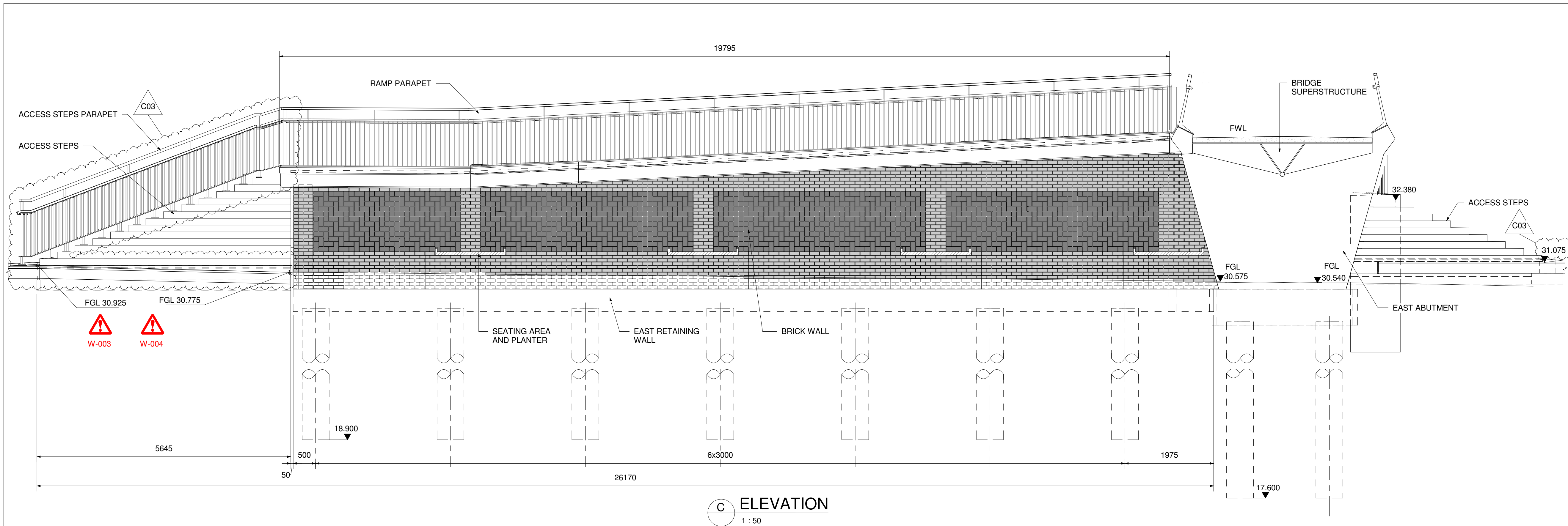
Coordinating office:
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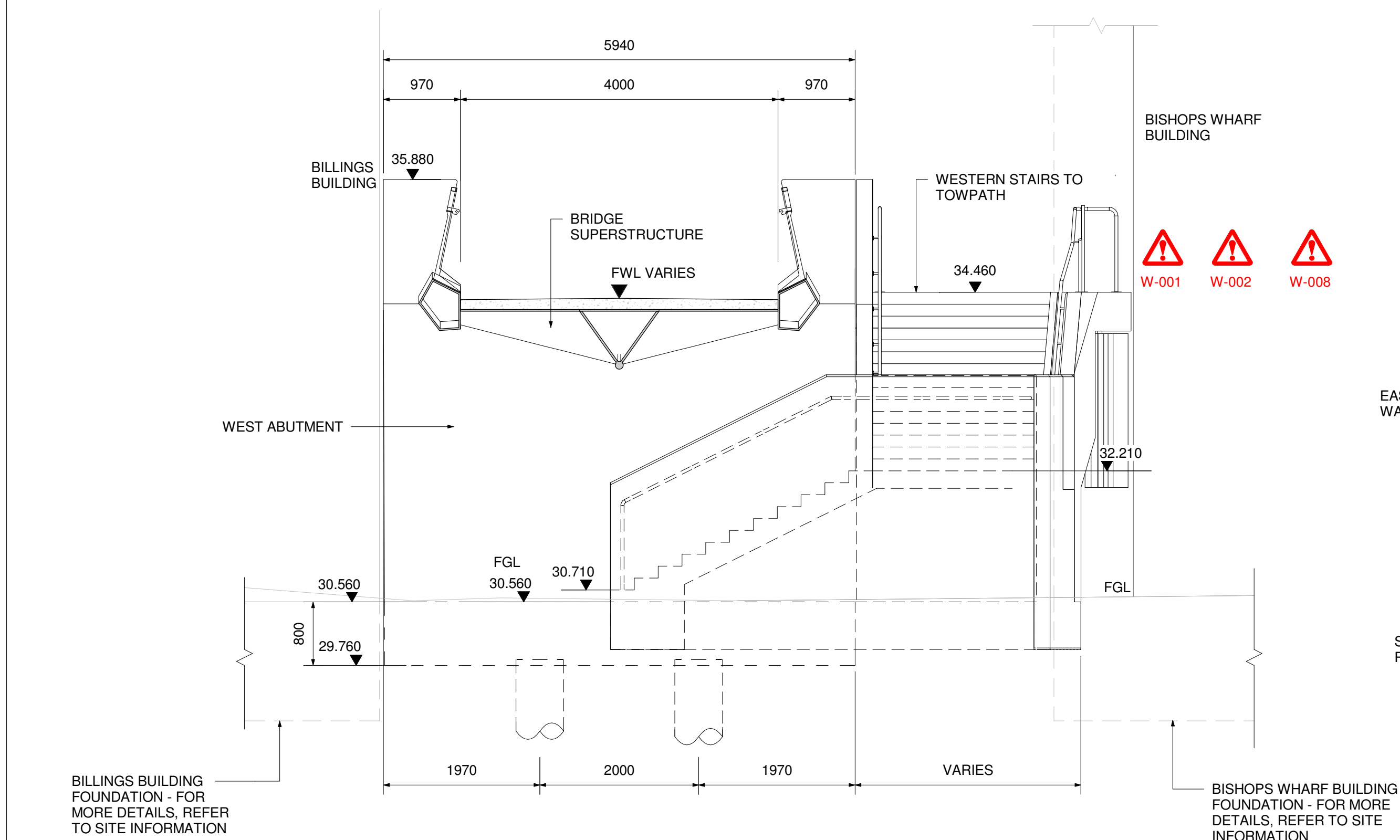
Coordinating office:
Thame House
9 Castle Street
High Wycombe
Bucks HP13 6RZ
Tel: 44(0)1494 52 500

TITLE:
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
SHEET 2 OF 3

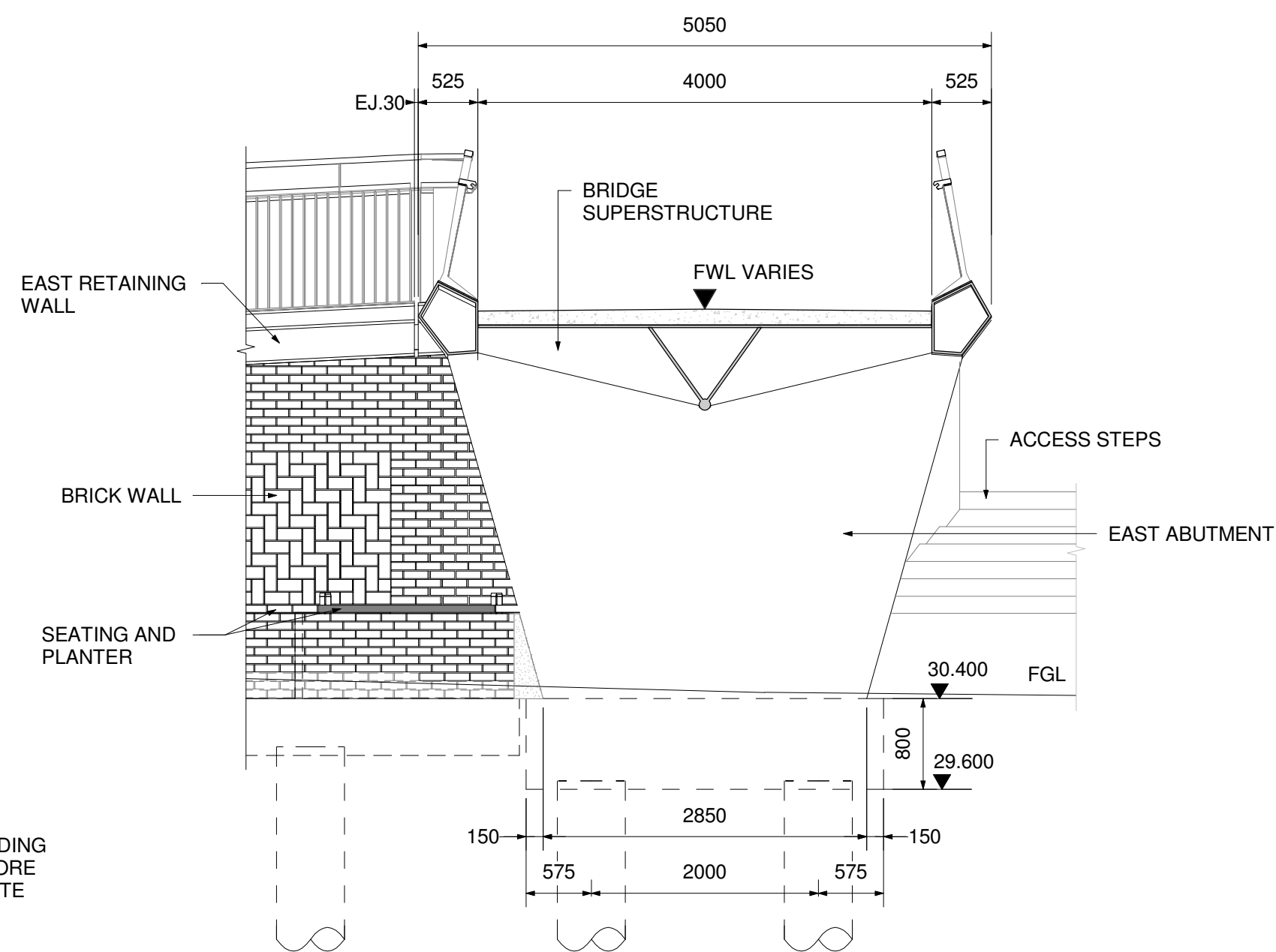
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Drawn	P. SELVAM	Signed	PS	Date	15MAY2019
Checked	R. CAPRA	Signed	RC	Date	15MAY2019
Approved	J. ROYDS	Signed	JR	Date	15MAY2019
Scale:	1 : 50	Datum:			
Original Size:	A1	Grid:			
Suitability Code:	A	Project Number:	UA009070		
ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION					
Drawing Number: UA009070 - ARC - DD - XX - DR - S - 1002				Revision: C02	



C ELEVATION
1 : 50



D SECTION
1001 1 : 50



E SECTION
1001 1 : 50

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UA009070-ARC-DD-XX-DR-S-1002.

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C02	02/07/21	FLGS ADDED	JW	RC	AB
C01	27/03/20	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	PS	AB	DO

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TITLE:
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
SHEET 3 OF 3

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