Aberystwyth Bandstand Ceredigion

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
Kate Pitt ACIfA

Report No. 1425

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Aberystwyth Bandstand

Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared For: Ceredigion County Council

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Signed: Managing Director

Date: 8/1/16

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Ceredigion County Council. It details the results of an archaeological Watching Brief, which was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of five new retail units at Bandstand, Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. The primary aim of the watching brief was to examine and record any archaeological deposits exposed or cut into as a result of the site investigations.

The groundworks were limited in scope and the watching brief revealed only 19^{th} century make-up deposits associated with the bandstand's construction.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In May 2015 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the site of Bandstand, Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, LL30 1PX, NGR: SN 58309 82046 (Fig 1). The works were a requirement of Conditional Conservation Area Planning Permission Application Number A140478 for demolition and reconstruction work at the Bandstand building, undertaken as part of the Promenade Regeneration Strategy. The Local Planning Authority is Ceredigion County Council.
- 1.1.2 The Bandstand is within a locally designated Conservation Area. In considering an application for conservation area consent the decision maker is required by Section 16(2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any feature of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses, enacted by section 74(3) of that Act. Policy relating to the alteration or extension of listed buildings is contained in Chapter 6.5 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 7, July 2014). This supplemented by Welsh Office Circular 61/96, paragraphs 31 to 35, which provide detailed guidelines and criteria to be used in the assessment of applications for the demolition of unlisted buildings in conservation areas. This considers that demolition of unlisted buildings in conservation areas should be considered against the same broad criteria as proposals to demolish listed buildings.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) was prepared by Dr Iestyn Jones, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd, at the request of Ceredigion County Council. This was subsequently approved by DAT Curatorial prior to work being undertaken on the site. The WSI is included as Appendix 1 of this report.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the site area is comprised of Aberystwyth Grits Group of sandstone and mudstone, with drift geology of gravel storm beach deposits (Geological Survey Map, 2001).
- 1.2.2 The site area is located at the centre of the seafront promenade in the town of Aberystwyth. The bandstand protrudes westwards from the promenade on to the beach (Fig.2, Plates 1-2).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 The semi-circular bandstand is located adjacent to the Promenade (Marine Terrace) and was built in several phases between 1820 and 1931 (Fig. 2, Plates 1-2). Recent work on the Bath Rock Shelter, 150m to the north of the Bandstand, discovered the remains of earlier structures and it is possible that earlier remains are present under the present Bandstand. The archaeological potential of the Marine Terrace and Promenade Character Area (Cadw 2013, 67) is described as significant because 'before the area was developed in the nineteenth century, the beach front may have been the site of various marine activities and there is the potential for significant palaeoenvironmental deposits to survive along the coastline'.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Watching Brief

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the watching brief, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), is:
 - To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
 - To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
 - The main objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.

3 Methodology

3.1 Watching Brief

3.1.1 The watching brief was maintained on all areas where groundworks were undertaken on the site. The development plans are include in Appendix 5 of this report.

- 3.1.2 The on-site work was undertaken by Jerry Bond. Overall management of the project was undertaken by Kate Pitt (ACIfA). All areas were photographed using high resolution (14mp+) digital photography
- 3.1.3 All on-site illustrations were undertaken on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20, 1:50) as appropriate.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

4 Watching Brief Result

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken during a period of mixed weather conditions.
- 4.1.2 The area of the watching brief consisted of the interior of the bandstand.
- 4.1.3 The groundworks (Plates 3-6) were mainly excavated to 0.45m in depth, revealing a series of modern, made ground deposits. From the bottom up, these consisted of:
 - (102), a layer of grey sand located at 0.4m below the present bandstand concrete floor surface, this was sealed by
 - (101), a layer of mixed made ground of sand, concrete and cobbles 0.2m thick. These layers were both make-up for
 - (100), the 0.2m thick extant concrete floor of the bandstand.

In addition, a sondage was cut to a depth of 1m below present ground surface, which revealed further mixed made ground deposits, similar to (101) and (102).

- 4.1.4 Modern services were encountered in several location.
- 4.1.5 No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

5 Discussion and Interpretation

5.1 Overall Interpretation

5.1.1 The limited excavations within the bandstand interior revealed the 19th and 20th century construction make-up deposits and concrete floor of the bandstand itself.

5.1.2 No evidence for any other anthropogenic activity was located in any of the exposed or excavated deposits.

5.2 Acknowledgements

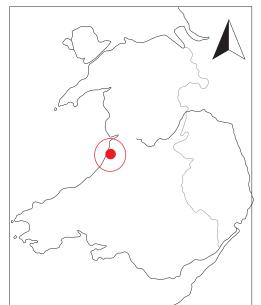
5.2.1 Thanks are due to the ground-workers for their co-operation on site and to DAT for their curatorial assistance.

6 Bibliography and references

British Geological Survey. 2001, 4th Edition. Solid Geology Map, UK South Sheet

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014, Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief

APPENDIX I: Figures



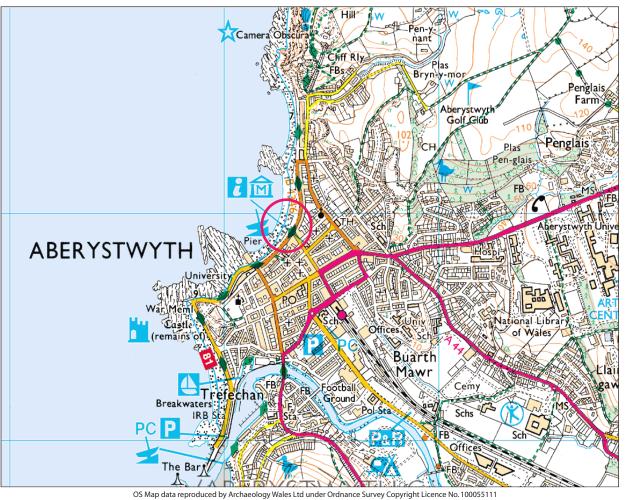
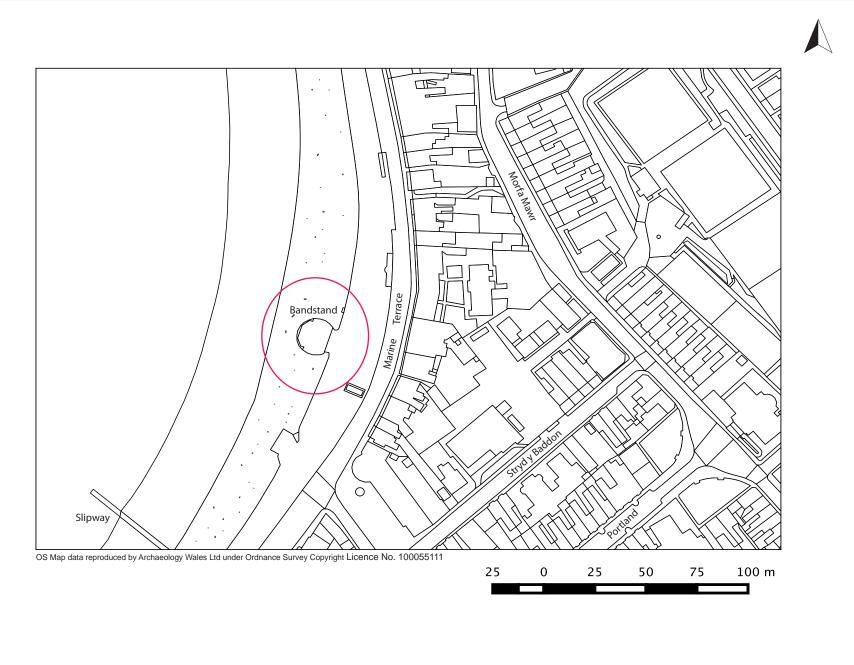
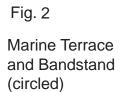


Fig. 1 Location of site









APPENDIX II: Plates



Plate 1 - Overall view of bandstand, looking north-east

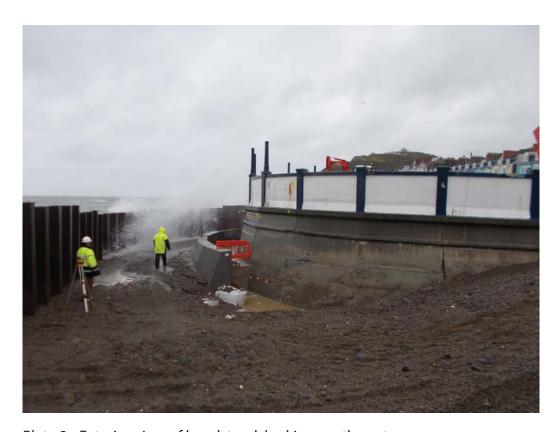


Plate 2 - Exterior view of bandstand, looking north-east



Plate 3 - Bandstand interior, breaking out of concrete slab (100), looking north-east 1m scales



Plate 4 - Plan of groundworks below (100), looking north-west, 1m scales



Plate 5 - Section of groundworks (100)-(102), looking north-east, 1m and 0.3m scales



Plate 6 - Sondage through (100)-(102), looking south-east, 1m scales

APPENDIX III:

Written Scheme of Investigation

SPECIFICATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

Bandstand, Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 2BX

Prepared for:

Cyngor Sir Ceredigion County Council

January 6th 2015

Archaeology Wales Limited Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371

Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk



NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Specification details the proposal for an archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks associated with the demolition and reconstruction of the Bandstand, Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. Conditional Conservation Area planning permission has been granted (Application No. A140478). The Watching Brief will attempt to identify any features of archaeological interest during ground works associated with the development in order to mitigate the impact of works on the archaeological resource. This specification has been prepared by Dr Iestyn Jones, Project Officer, Archaeology Wales, on behalf of Ceredigion County Council.

1. Introduction and archaeological background

In December 2014 Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned by Ceredigion County Council (the Client) to carry out an archaeological Watching Brief (AW Project No. 2300) at the Bandstand, Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth (NGR: SN 58309 82046; fig. 1). The client has gained conditional Conservation Area Consent for demolition and reconstruction work of the Bandstand building as part of the Promenade Regeneration Strategy. The Local Planning Authority is Ceredigion County Council (Planning Application Number: A1404778)

This Specification has been prepared by Dr Iestyn Jones, Project Officer, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW). It provides information on the methodology which will be employed by AW during the archaeological watching brief at the site. All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

The semi-circular bandstand is located adjacent to the Promenade (Marine Terrace) and was built in several phases between 1820 and 1931 (fig. 2). Recent work on the Bath Rock Shelter, 150m to the north of the Bandstand, discovered the remains of earlier structures and it is possible that earlier remains are present under the present Bandstand. The archaeological potential of the Marine Terrace and Promenade Character area Cadw study is described as significant because 'before the area was developed in the nineteenth century, the beach front may have been the site of various marine activities and there is the potential for significant palaeoenvironmental deposits to survive along the coastline' (Cadw 2013, 67).

The Bandstand is within a Conservation Area and in considering an application for conservation area consent the decision maker is required by Section 16(2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any feature of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses, enacted by section 74(3) of that Act. Policy relating to the alteration or extension of listed buildings is contained in Chapter 6.5 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 7, July 2014). This supplemented by Welsh Office Circular 61/96, paragraphs 31 to 35 which provide detailed guidelines and criteria to be used in the assessment of applications for the demolition of unlisted buildings in conservation areas. This considers that demolition of unlisted buildings in conservation areas should be considered against the same broad criteria as proposals to demolish listed buildings.

2 Site specific objectives

The aims of a 'watching brief', as defined by the CIfA (2008; revised 2011) are:

- To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- To provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

3 Watching Brief and Limited Archaeological Excavation Methodology

General

The archaeological watching brief and limited archaeological excavation will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist and will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2008; revised 2011).

Detailed

Where possible mechanical excavation will be undertaken by a machine using a toothless bucket. This will be supervised and watched by the site archaeologist.

If archaeological features, finds or deposits are uncovered, work will be stopped in the area of the exposed feature in order that the supervising archaeologist can clean and identify the extent and nature of the feature and for excavation and recording to take place. DAT Curatorial Department will be informed of this process.

All archaeological deposits that are identified will be mapped, cleaned, recorded and fully excavated. The developer will provide a safe working area and sufficient time to record and excavate all features to the satisfaction of AW and DAT Curatorial Department.

Contingency Arrangements

In the event of significant archaeological features being discovered all activities in this area of the site can be temporarily suspended. The site archaeologist will clean relevant sections/plans for inspection by DAT Curatorial Department who will provide advice before further action is taken.

Following such consultation, recommendations will be presented to the Developer and DAT Curatorial Department.

The methodology and timescale of additional archaeological work to investigate such

features will be presented and included in the Developers Programme.

Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries and related to the developer's site plan.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a 14MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format. Should significant remains be identified that require excavation, photographs will also be taken in black and white and colour slide (35mm film).

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the watching brief and limited archaeological excavation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with a suitable local museum.

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and the Environment Agency, DAT Curatorial and the local coroner informed, within the guidelines of the Treasure Act 1996.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

Human remains

In the event of burials or cremations being found all work will be halted in the area of the burials and their extent and nature established. The client, DAT Curatorial and the Ministry of Justice will be informed and a methodology of excavation agreed which will adhere to Ministry of Justice Guidelines and undertaken following the receipt of a M.O.J. exhumation licence.

Environmental and technological samples

Environmental samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. Technological samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located.

Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of external specialists is given in the table below.

Туре	Name	Tel No.
Flint	Dr Amelia Pannett	02920 899509
Animal bone	Jen Kitch	07739 093712
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall	01305 259751
Clay pipe	Hilary Major	01376 329316
Glass	Andy Richmond	01234 888800
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst	01759 368483
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy	01652 658261
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson	Bradford University
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby	01453 882851
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke	
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot	01388 772167
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling	University of Wales (Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham	01992 552256
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers	01443 233466

4 Post-Fieldwork Programme

Conservation

After agreement with the landowner arrangements will be made for the long-term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate local or county museum.

Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with MORPHE, (English Heritage 2006). It will comprise all the data recovered during the fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. The archive will be deposited with the finds in a suitable local museum.

Reporting

The results of the watching brief will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include the following material:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development

- Statement of local, regional and national context of the remains
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

Monitoring

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DAT Curatorial for approval.

Representatives of DAT Curatorial Department will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. DAT Curatorial will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during any potential post-excavation.

Archive Format & Deposition

The full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the client report.

The paper/drawing/digital archive and finds will be deposited with the appropriate local museum. AW will agree the location and timing of the deposition of the archive before the contract commences.

The archive will include all site notes, finds, documents, drawings, photographs, digital data and a copy of the final report and any prior draft versions. All of these items will be clearly quantified in tabular from in an 'archive deposition statement' located at the rear of the clients report, and their ultimate location and proposed date of deposition stated.

5 Resources and timetable

Standards

The watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the CIFA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff.

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The watching brief will be undertaken in March 2015 and is estimated to take 3-4 days. DAT Curatorial will be informed of the actual start date at least 1 week in advance of works commencing.

Insurance

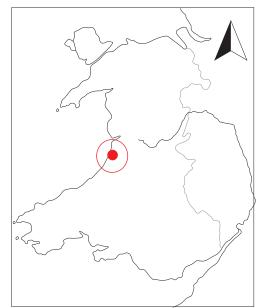
AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

Arbitration

In the event of any dispute arising out of this Agreement (including those considered as such by only one of the parties) either party may forthwith give to the other notice in writing of such a dispute or difference and the same shall be and is hereby referred for decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration scheme for the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists, applying at the date of this Agreement.



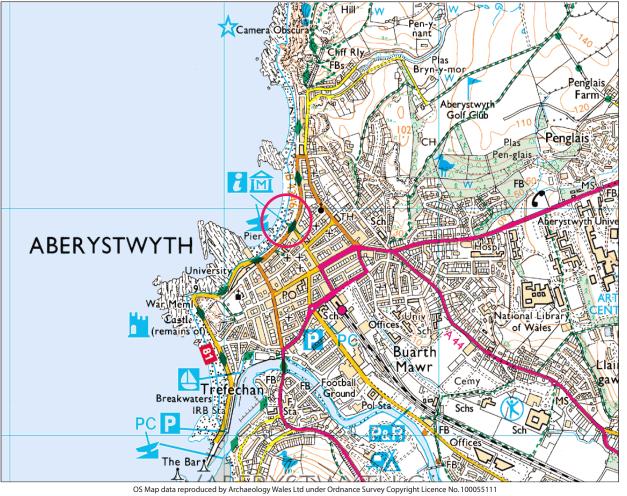
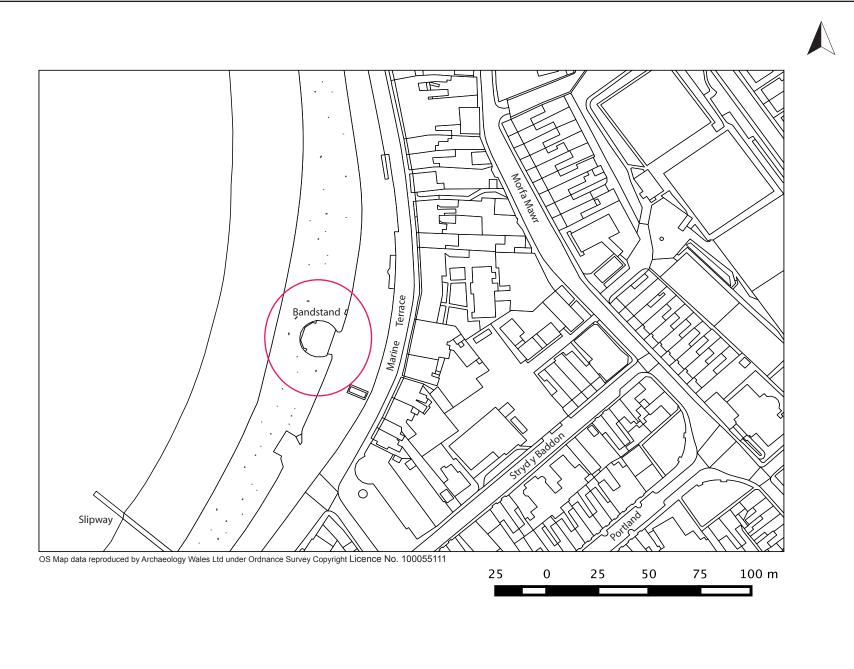
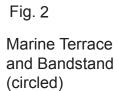


Fig. 1 Location of site









APPENDIX IV:

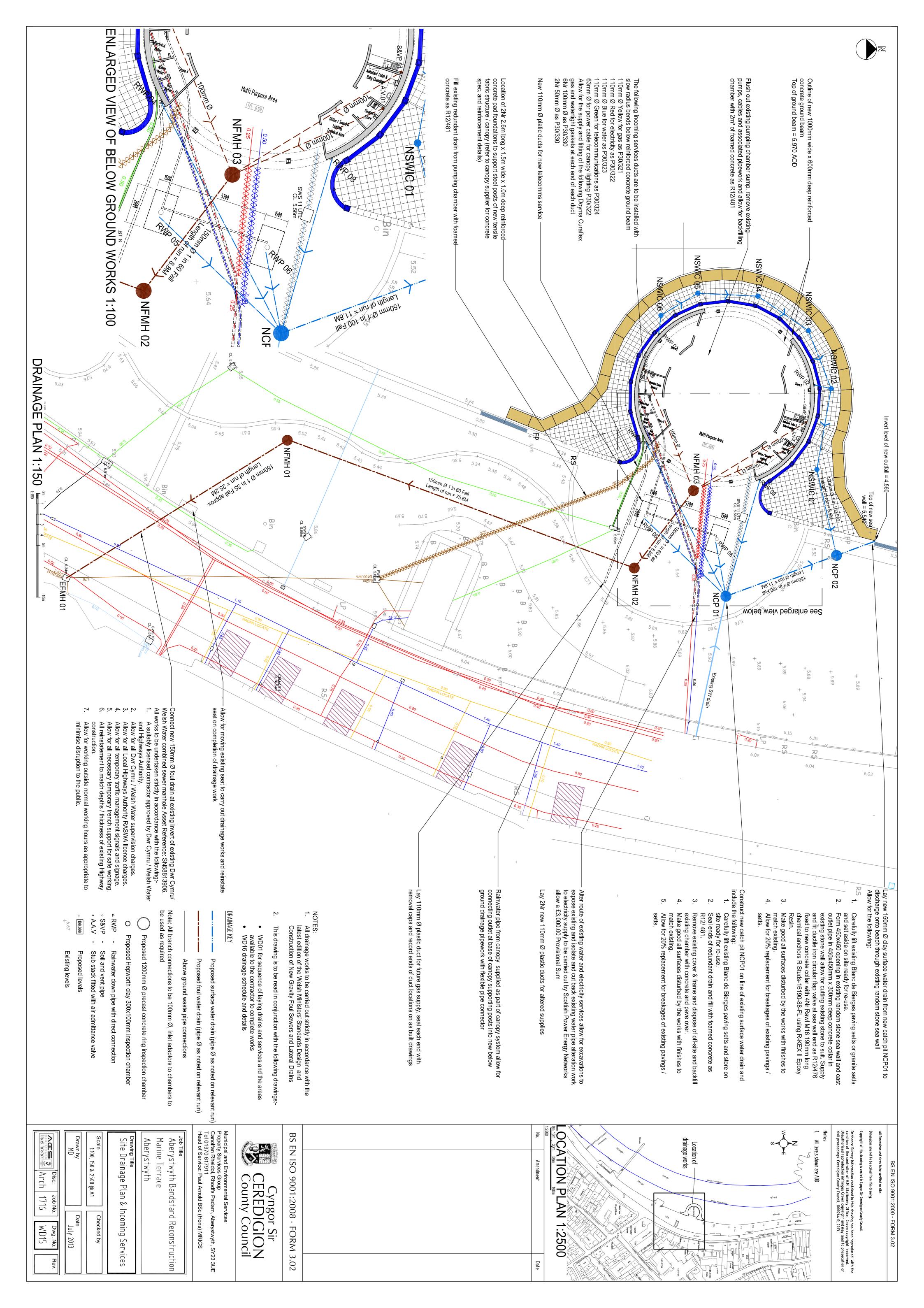
Archive Cover Sheet

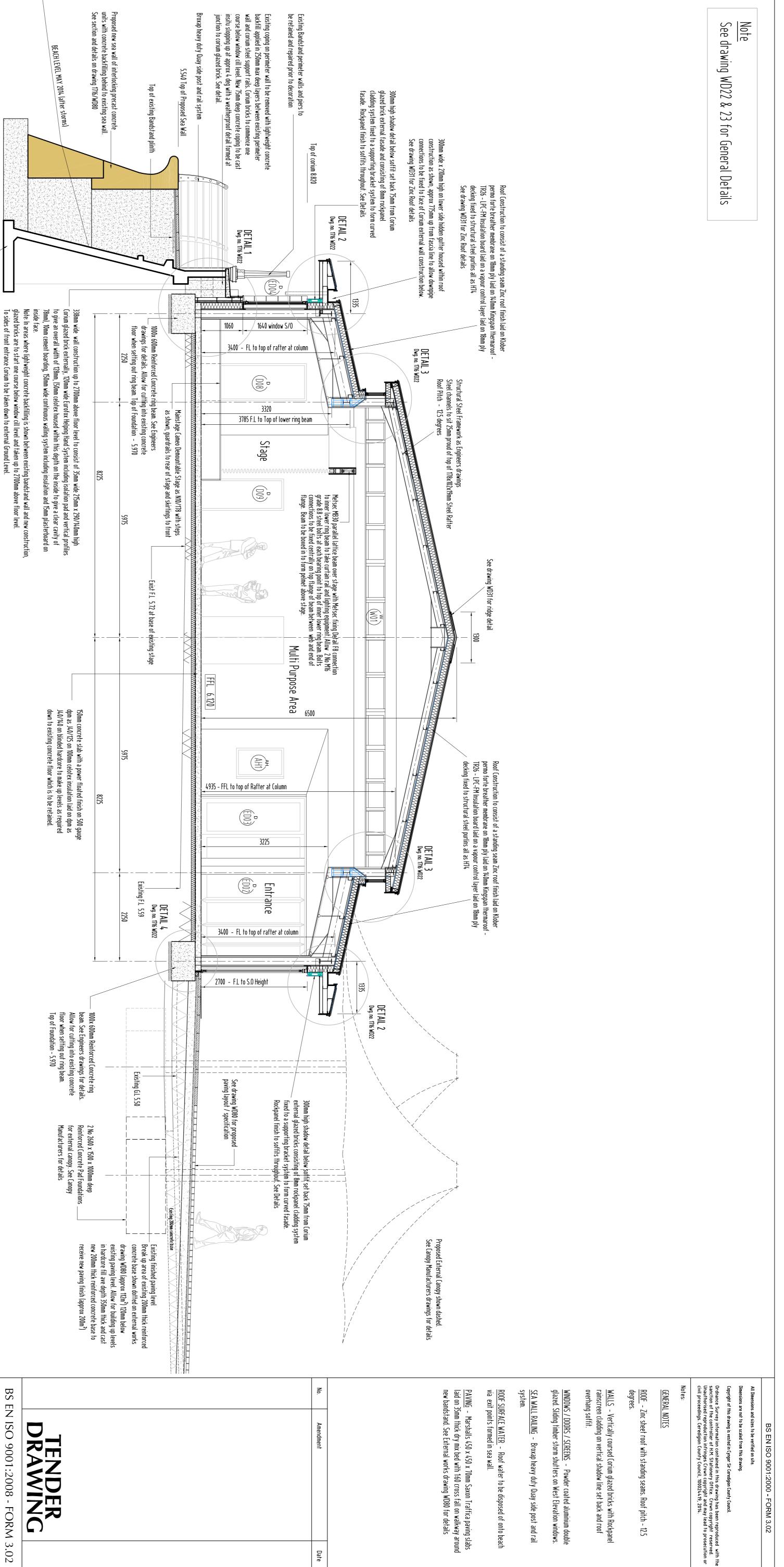
ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Aberystwyth Bandstand

Site Name:	Aberystwyth Bandstand
Site Code:	ABA/15/WB
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	SN 58309 82046
Site Type:	Urban Brown Field
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Kate Pitt
Project Dates:	August 2015
Categories Present:	Undated & Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	-
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

APPENDIX V: Development Plans





Date

Pen 1716 WD20

REGISTRARS UAAS 9001

Scale 1:50 @ A1

Checked by DIB

Date

June 2014

Proposed Section AA

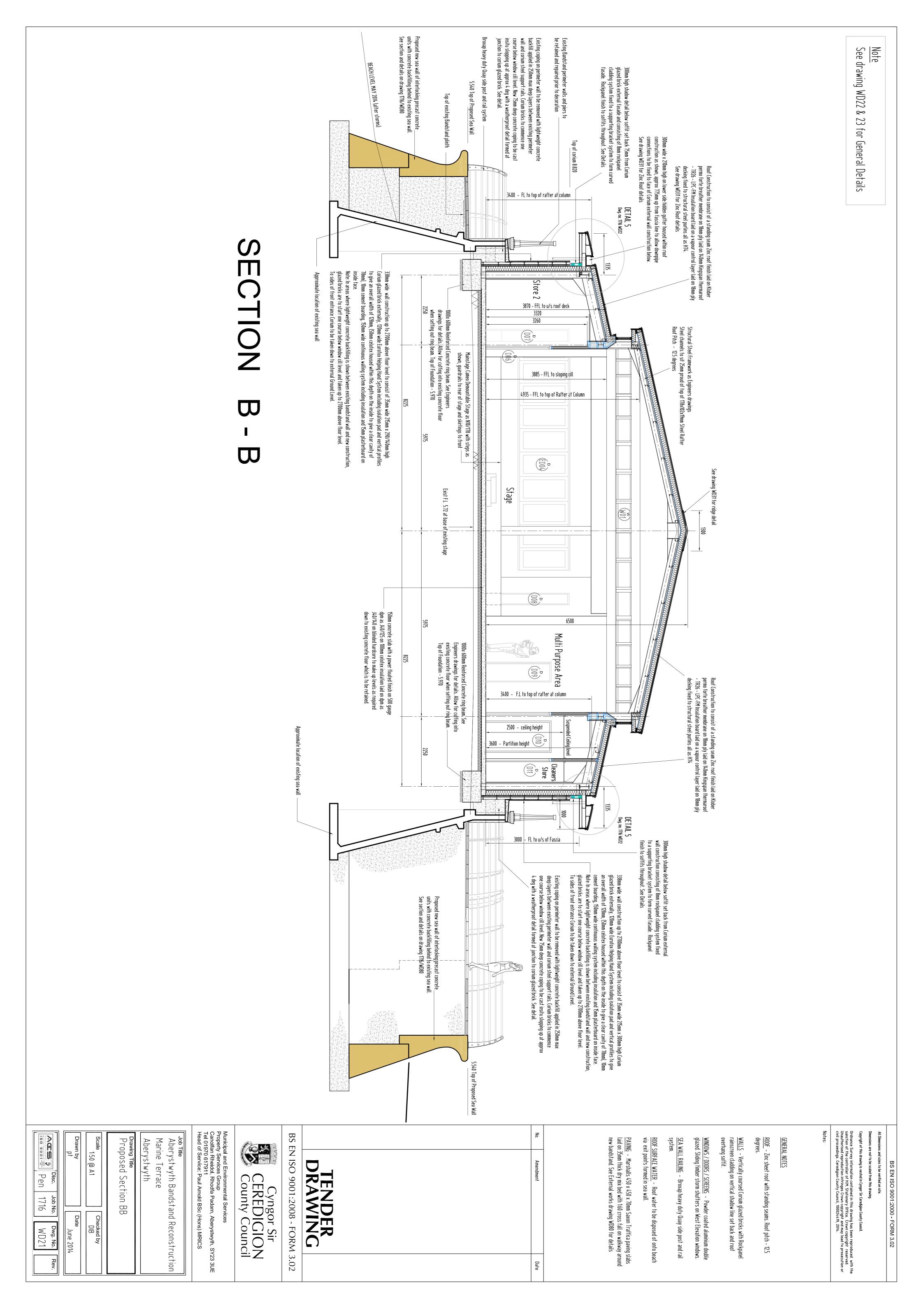
Marine Terrace

Aberystwyth Bandstand Reconstruction

Aberystwyth

Municipal and Environmental Services Property Services Group Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UE Tel 01970 617911 Head of Service: Paul Arnold BSc (Hons) MRICS

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council



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