

MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP - 24TH NOVEMBER 2009

SUBJECT:

UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY:

DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1.1 Canal Channel

- 1.1 he new weed cutting/channel clearance regime was introduced this year. Clearance was undertaken on the following dates:
 - 27th April 2009
 - 27th July 2009
 - 10th November 2009

During each visit all weed present within the canal channel was cut and removed, together with any accumulated litter and other debris present.

Refer to Appendix 'A', photographs 1 and 2 depicting some of the material removed from the canal in the July visit.

It is hoped that the continued removal of weed will be reflected in a reduction in the amount of silt/plant matter accumulating within the canal channel and thus reduce the frequency of dredging. This will be the subject of further monitoring and assessment in this respect.

It is worth noting that the incidents of complaints relating to the general condition of the canal channel have fallen significantly since the increase in frequency of channel clearance.

1.2 Grass Maintenance

A new grass-cutting regime, developed in accordance with the recommendations contained within the LTC Landscape Architects Report, was introduced this year.

The first cuts of this season was undertaken on 06 April with subsequent cuts undertaken on the following dates:

- 27th April 2009
- 20th May 2009
- 24th June 2009
- 20th July 2009
- 7th August 2009
- 11th September 2009
- 19th October 2009

All feedback received on the new regime has to date been positive.

2009/2010 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Maintenance Term Service Contract

Maintenance term service contract has been awarded and commenced on 19th October 2009. The contractor appointed is Alan Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd, the contract is of 2 years duration.

2.2 Towpath

It is planned to re-surface sections of towpath within the sub-urban areas with a tarmac finish. The sections of towpath identified in this respect are from Moriah Hill to Gelli Avenue, Navigation Road to Penrhiw Bridge, Darran Bridge to Green Meadow Bridge and from Temperance Hill to Darran Road. Some areas of ponding have been denitrified within the rural areas, which will be addressed by localised repairs.

Refer to Appendix 'B' for drawings showing the extent proposed re-surfacing.

2.3 Access Enhancement

It is planned to undertake improvement works to the access points at Thistle Way, Navigation Road, Moriah Bridge, The Prince of Wales Pub, Darran Road, Green Meadow Bridge and Halls Road. The scope of works at all locations will include to varying degrees the installation of vehicle and motorcycle barriers and areas of block paving. Where the location requires it, litter and dog fouling bins will also be installed.

Refer to Appendix 'C' for drawings showing the extent proposed re-surfacing.

2.4 Water Control

It is planned to install a number of additional control measures within the canal channel in the form of depth gauges and the creation of locations suitable for installation of stank boards. The installation of stank boards at key locations will allow the easy compartmentalisation of the canal to deal with future flooding and leak issues.

2.5 Advanced Design

Advanced design works for relining schemes at Pontywaun Viaduct and the section of canal downstream of the viaduct, down to Pontywaun Bridge, are planned in order to have scheme cost surety and allow future funding bids.

FUNDING

3.1 Capital

The 2009/2010 budget was fixed at £125,000.0.

The projects identified above will result in the full expenditure of this budget.

3.2 Revenue

The 2009/2010 budget was fixed at £149,430.00.

Expenditure under this heading is allocated to cover the cost of grass and channel maintenance, tree maintenance, general cleansing, towpath repair, management cost and emergency response.

Expenditure to date is in line with that anticipated at this time period.

3.3 External Funding

The Countryside and Landscape Group secured external funding from WEFO in the sum of £50,000.00 for access enhancement. Elements of the works identified above have been funded from this source.

4. GENERAL ISSUES

4.1 Vandalism

There have been several instance of vandalism directed at recently completed works, one area in particular appears to suffered more than others this being the entrance feature at Manor Road. Sections of knee rail, which are integral to the success of the vehicle and motorcycle barriers, have been removed and damaged. This will be issued to and repaired by the term service contractor in due course.

Refer to Appendix 'D' photographs highlighting the areas of damage.

4.2 Boats

All boats have been removed form the canal by their owners, no explanation for this course of action received to date and it is not clear if there is any intention on the part of the said owners to at some later date apply for licences to put their boats back on the canal.

Author:

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Appendix 'A'

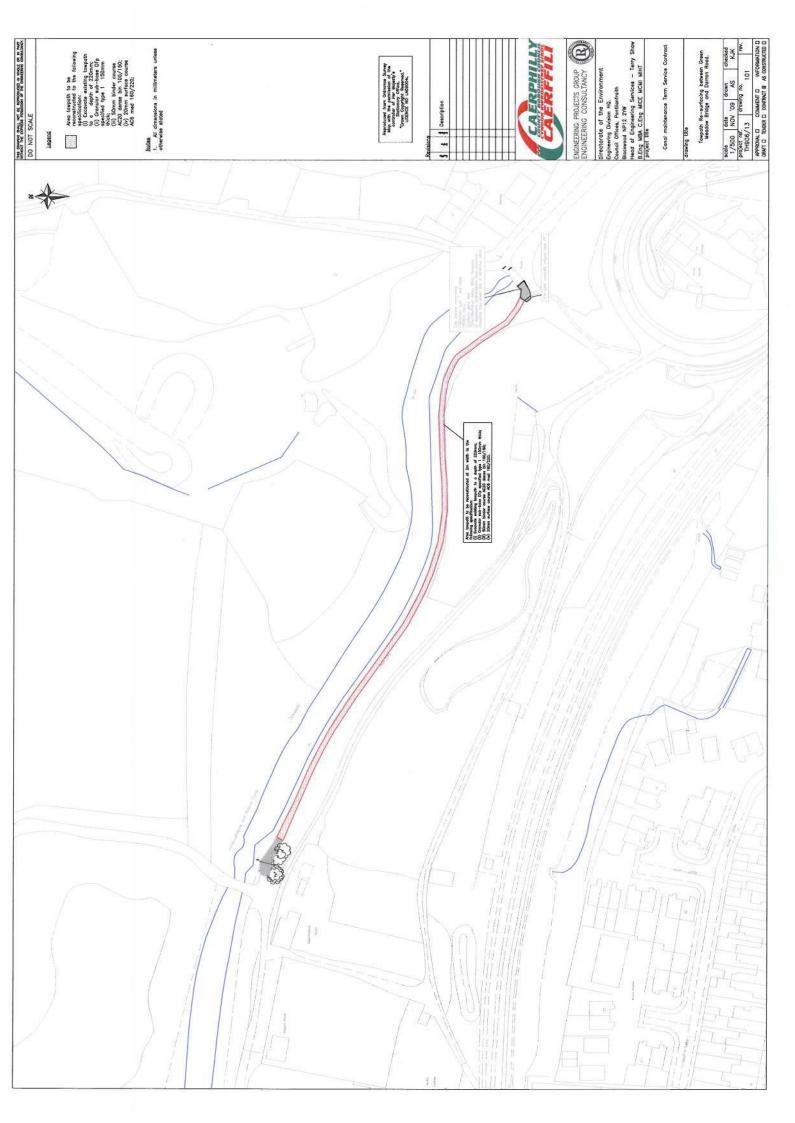


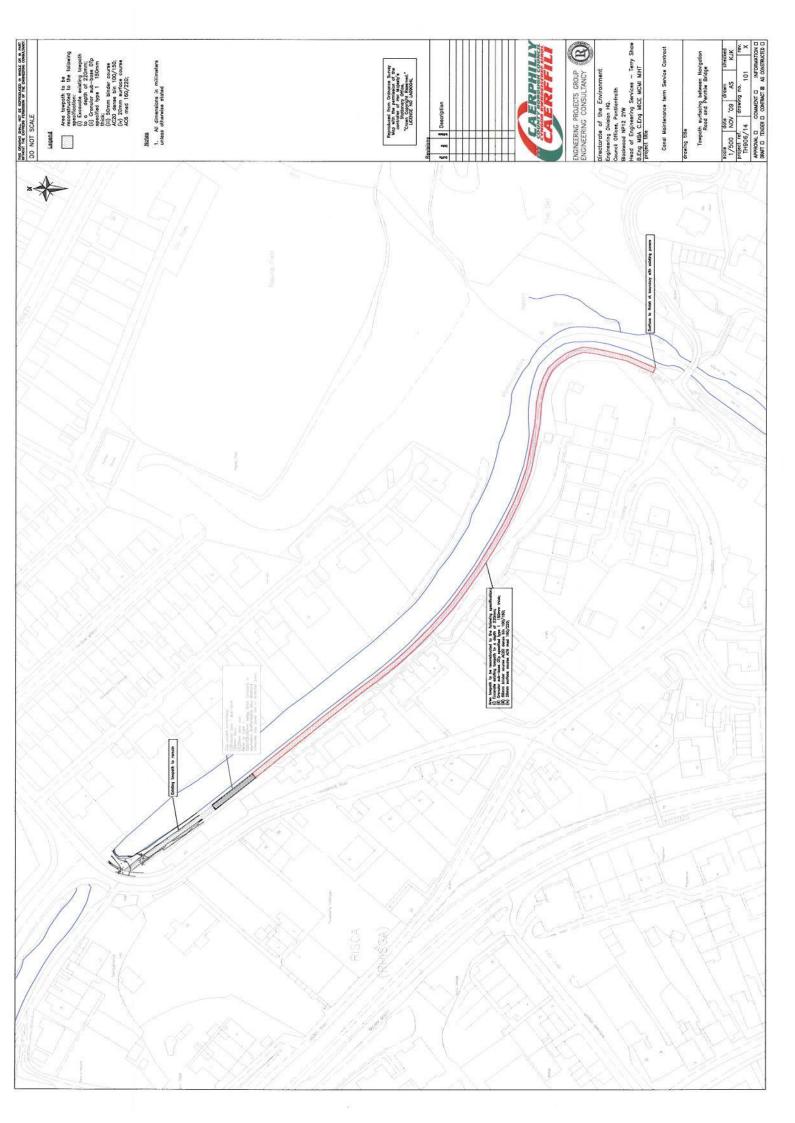
Photo 1

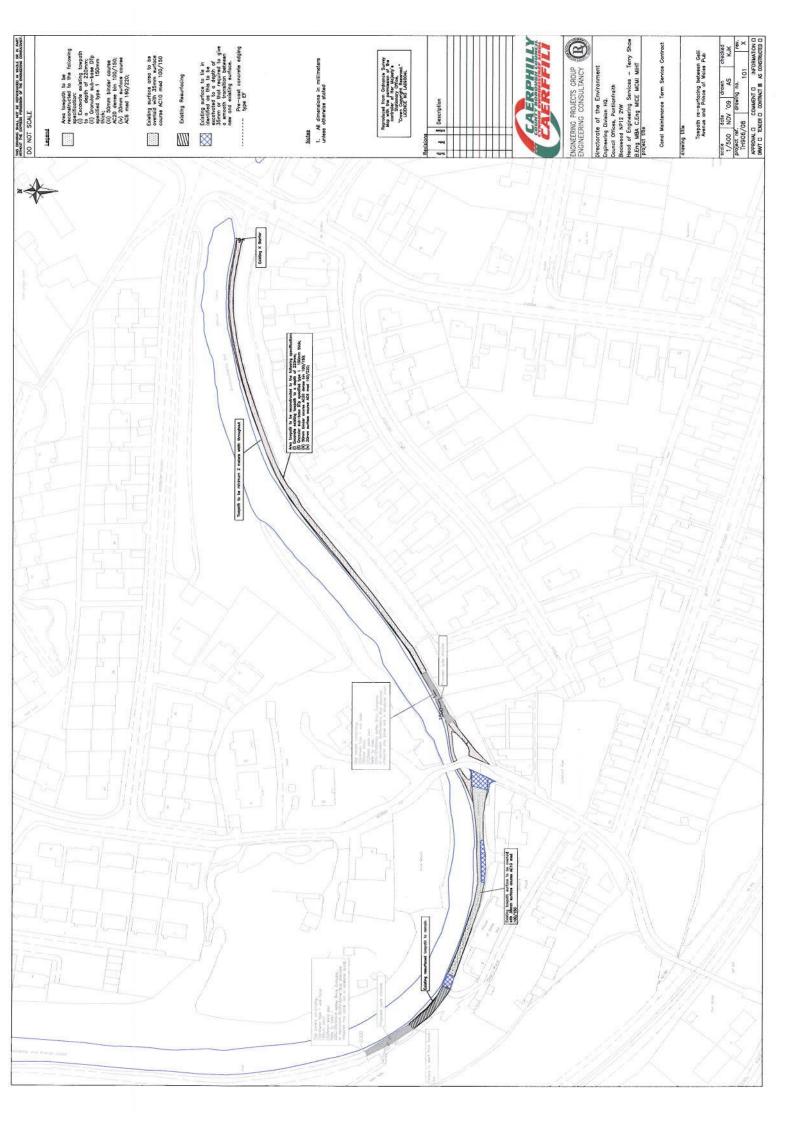


Photo 2





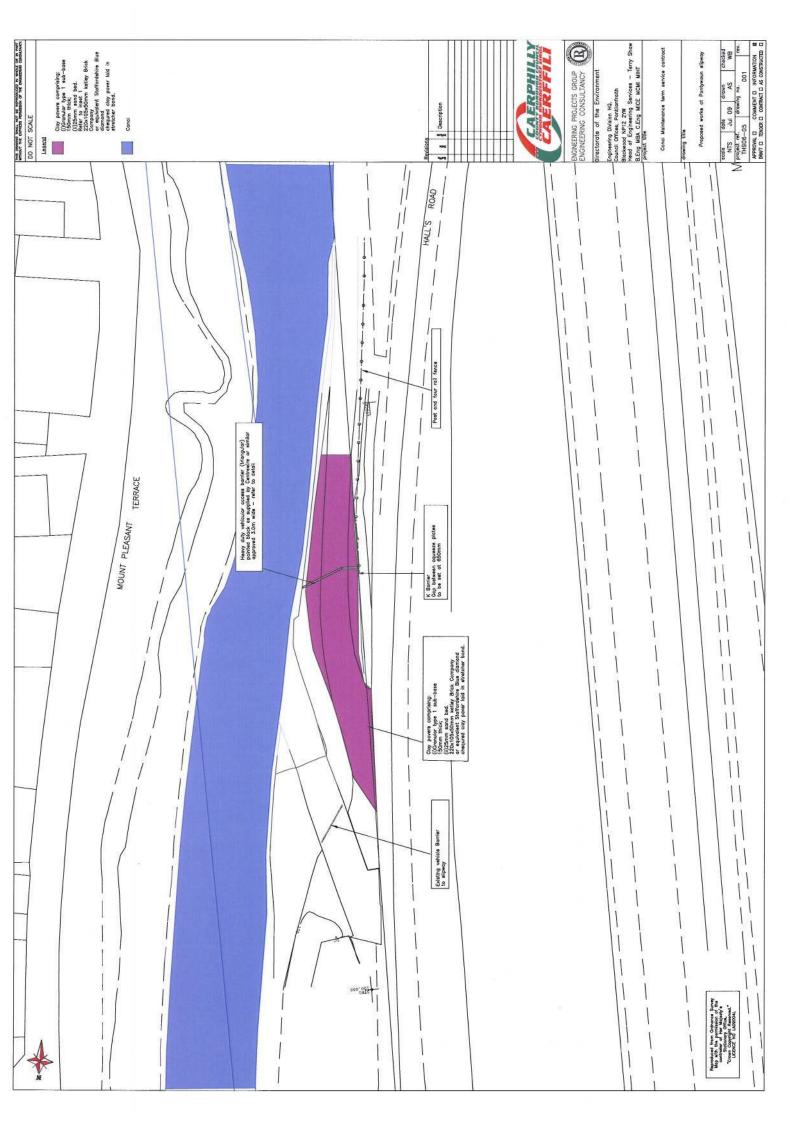


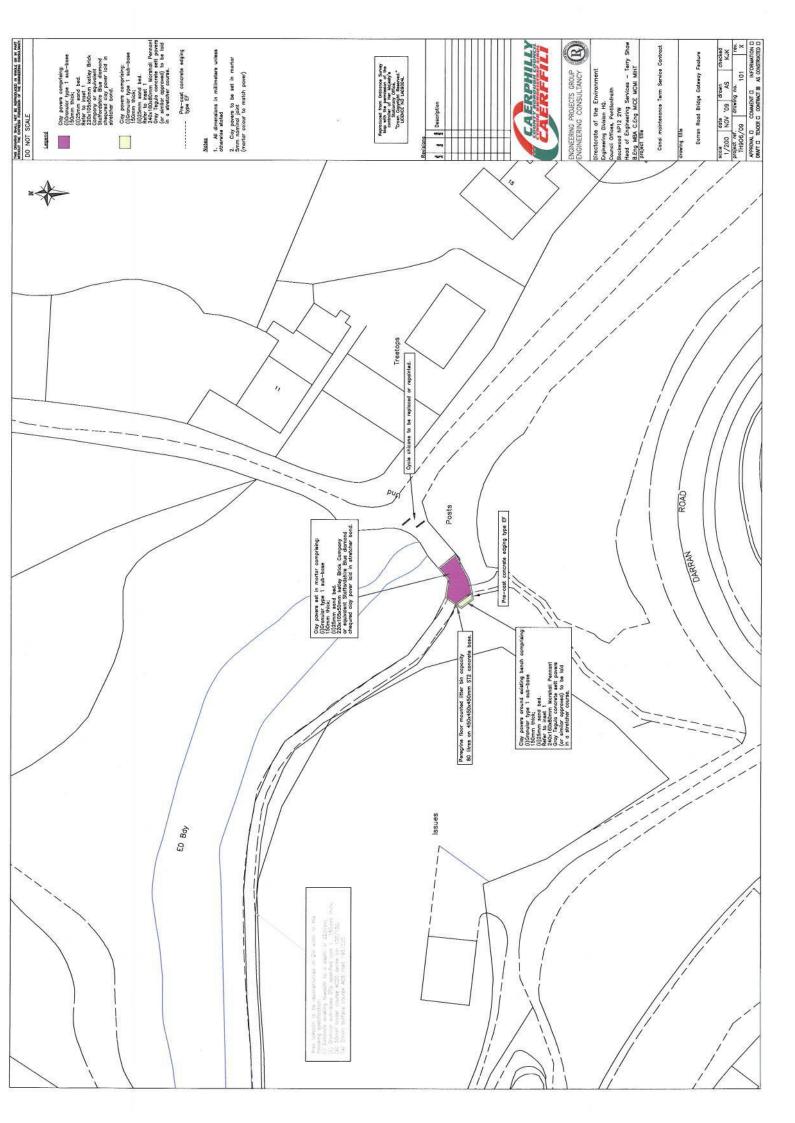


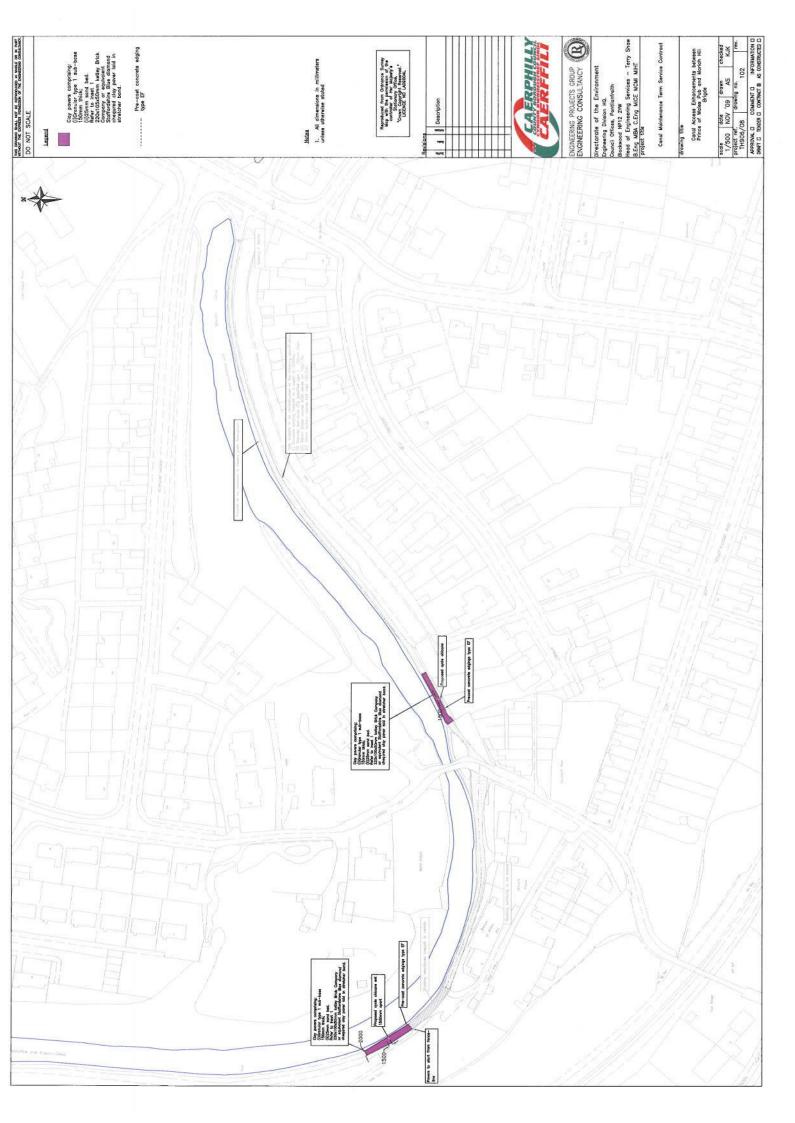


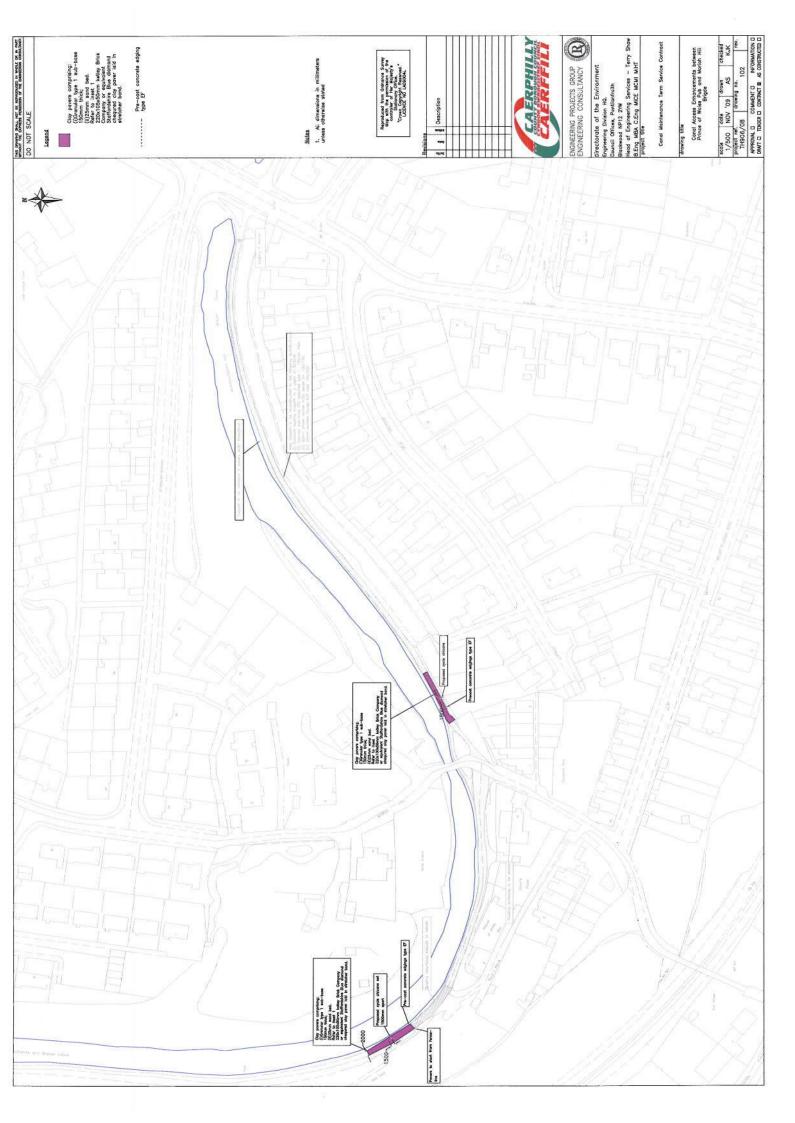


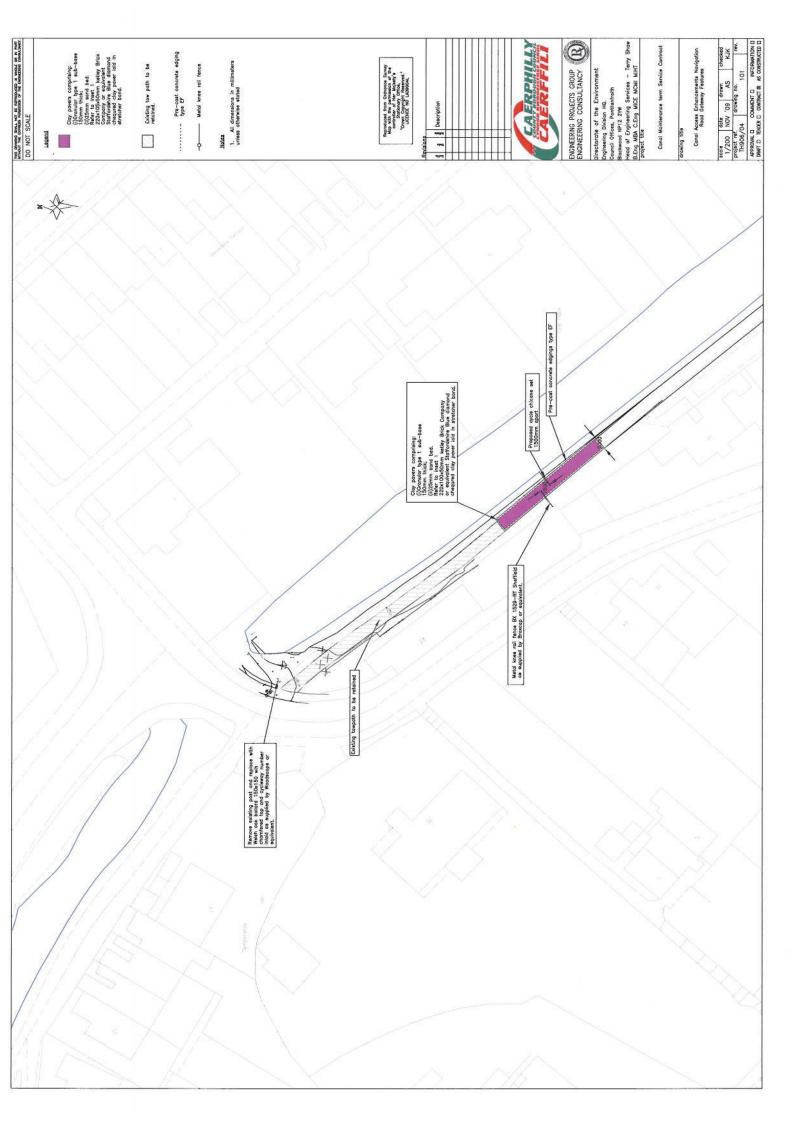












Appendix 'D'



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3