

Design and Access Statement (DAS)

Scattering of Human Ashes in the Inshore Rivers (SHANTIR) Project

Location: Northenden, Manchester, England

Planning Application Reference: 136743/FO/2023

9th June 2025

1. Background

Scattering of ashes is a significant last rite for the deceased. It also carries deep spiritual and emotional meaning for people and is seen as an obligatory stage that marks the end of physical life. The Scattering of Human Ashes in the Inshore Rivers (SHANTIR) project is to build a safe and clean facility for all people where they can scatter the ashes of deceased loved ones in flowing water. Currently, there is no such facility available in whole of Greater Manchester and there has been a long felt need to have a facility which is inshore within Greater Manchester and has the sanctity and dignity to perform this last rite safely and peacefully.

The law permits scattering of ashes in inland rivers. The Environment Agency has conducted studies and concluded that scattering of ashes can take place provided some simple precautions are taken to ensure that other items should not be placed in the water with the ashes and permission should be taken from landowners and local authority.

The SHANTIR project team has worked with the Environment Agency and Senior Estates Surveyor from the Corporate Estates Manchester City Council to identify the site in Northenden on the banks of the river Mersey. Topographical survey of the site has been carried out and detailed design has been completed.

This Design and Access Statement (DAS) is submitted in support of the SHANTIR project, a proposed steel and concrete structure located within the Green Belt area of Northenden, Manchester. The proposal has been carefully developed to align with Manchester City Council's Core Strategy and Green Belt policies [Ref 1], ensuring minimal environmental impact and full compliance with the planning regulations.

2. Site Description

The proposed development site is located on the eastern bank of the River Mersey in Northenden, within the administrative boundary of Manchester City Council. The structure will be a permanent steel/concrete installation for public use. The location of the structure on the river bank is shown in Fig 1.

3. Site Context and Existing Infrastructure

The proposed site lies adjacent to the River Mersey and close to the M60 motorway bridge in Northenden. It is connected by existing public footpath to an existing public car park and is served by established pedestrian footpath to the Palatine road as depicted in Fig 1. The site is already developed to a degree and lies in the shadow of the significantly larger civil engineering structure of the M60 bridge, which dominates the local landscape.

4. Green Belt Policy Compliance

In accordance with the Manchester's Core Strategy [Ref 1] and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [Ref 2], development within the Green Belt must preserve its openness and not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. The SHANTIR project complies with these principles in the following ways:

(a) No New Access Required:

The project will utilise the existing public car park and footpaths, avoiding any new encroachment or disruption to the Green Belt land. The existing public foot paths are shown as green lines in Fig 1.

(b) Minimal Visual Impact:

The structure is modest in scale compared to the adjacent M60 bridge and will be visually screened by its larger surroundings, preserving the openness and character of the Green Belt.

(c) Reinforcement of Existing Infrastructure:

The structure will strengthen the existing riverbank and integrate with existing flood defences, contributing positively to the site's resilience without requiring additional land take.

5. Design Justification

The design of the SHANTIR structure is both functional and sympathetic to its setting. Constructed from durable steel and concrete, it is engineered to blend with the industrial aesthetic of the nearby motorway infrastructure as shown in the proposed drawings and visuals in the appendices at the rear of this report. Its placement and scale have been carefully considered to ensure it does not introduce any new visual or environmental harm. The structure will cover area of approximately 4.5m x 4m with height of 4.8m which is much smaller than the existing motorway bridge.

6. Access and Movement

The development will not require any new vehicular or pedestrian access routes. It will make full use of the existing public car park and footpaths (see Fig 1), ensuring continued accessibility for all users without altering the current movement patterns or landscape.

7. Conclusion

The SHANTIR project represents a sustainable and policy-compliant development within the Green Belt. By utilising existing infrastructure, respecting the visual context of the site, and enhancing the resilience of the riverbank, the proposal aligns with Manchester City Council's planning objectives and contributes positively to the local environment whilst providing a much needed facility for scattering of ashes safely and peacefully.

8. References

1. Manchester City Council Core Strategy 2012-2027. Updated March 2024.
Available at:
https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200074/planning/6573/core_strategy_2012-2027
2. National Planning Policy Framework, December 2024. Available at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NP_PF_December_2024.pdf



Northenden Riverside Park,
9B Mill Ln, Northenden,
Wythenshawe, Manchester
M22 4HJ

The Shantir structure is ~100m
from the public car park at the
Northen Riverside Park and ~60m
from Palatine Road.

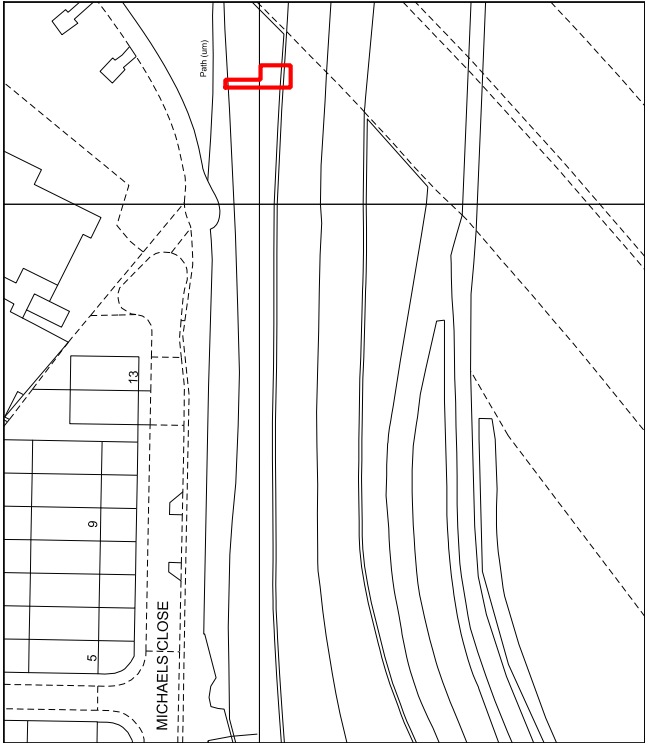
SHANTIR structure
~ 4.5m x 4m

Public car park
off Mill Lane and existing public
footpaths. No additional access is
required.

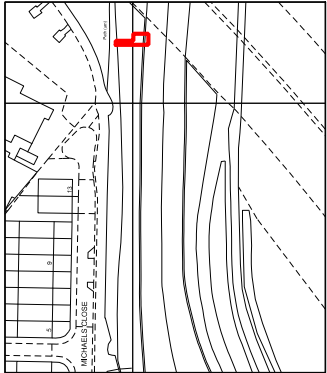
Figure 1. Aerial view of the site indicating location of the proposed jetty like structure

Appendices – Proposed Drawings and Visuals

Location Plan
1:1250



Location Plan
1:2500



A. 24-04-25 First Issue

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Project Title
SHANTIR- Jetty Project
Northenden Riverside Park
Off Mill Lane, Northenden.
Manchester

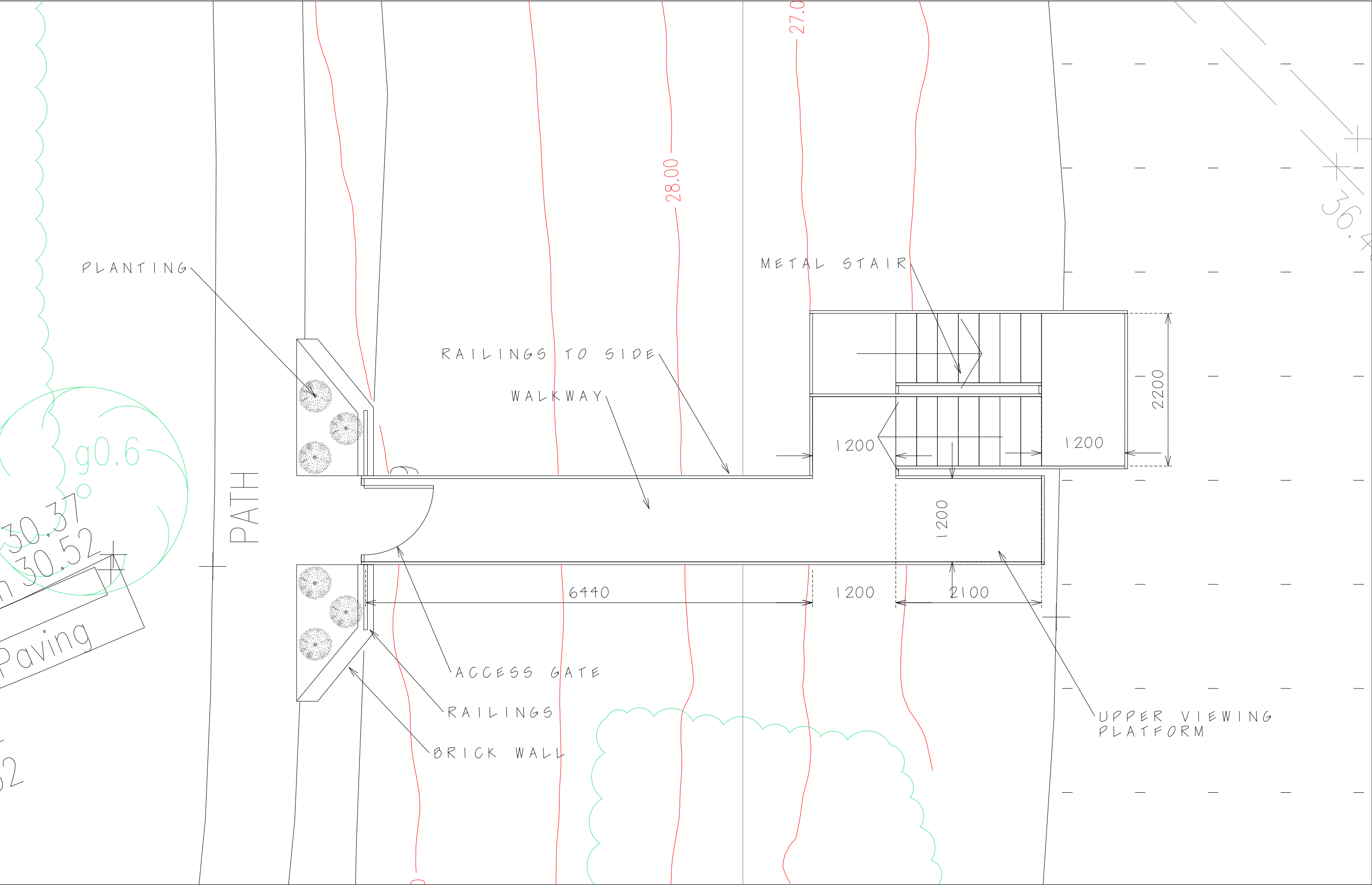
Dwg Title
Location Plan

Dwg. No
PP02

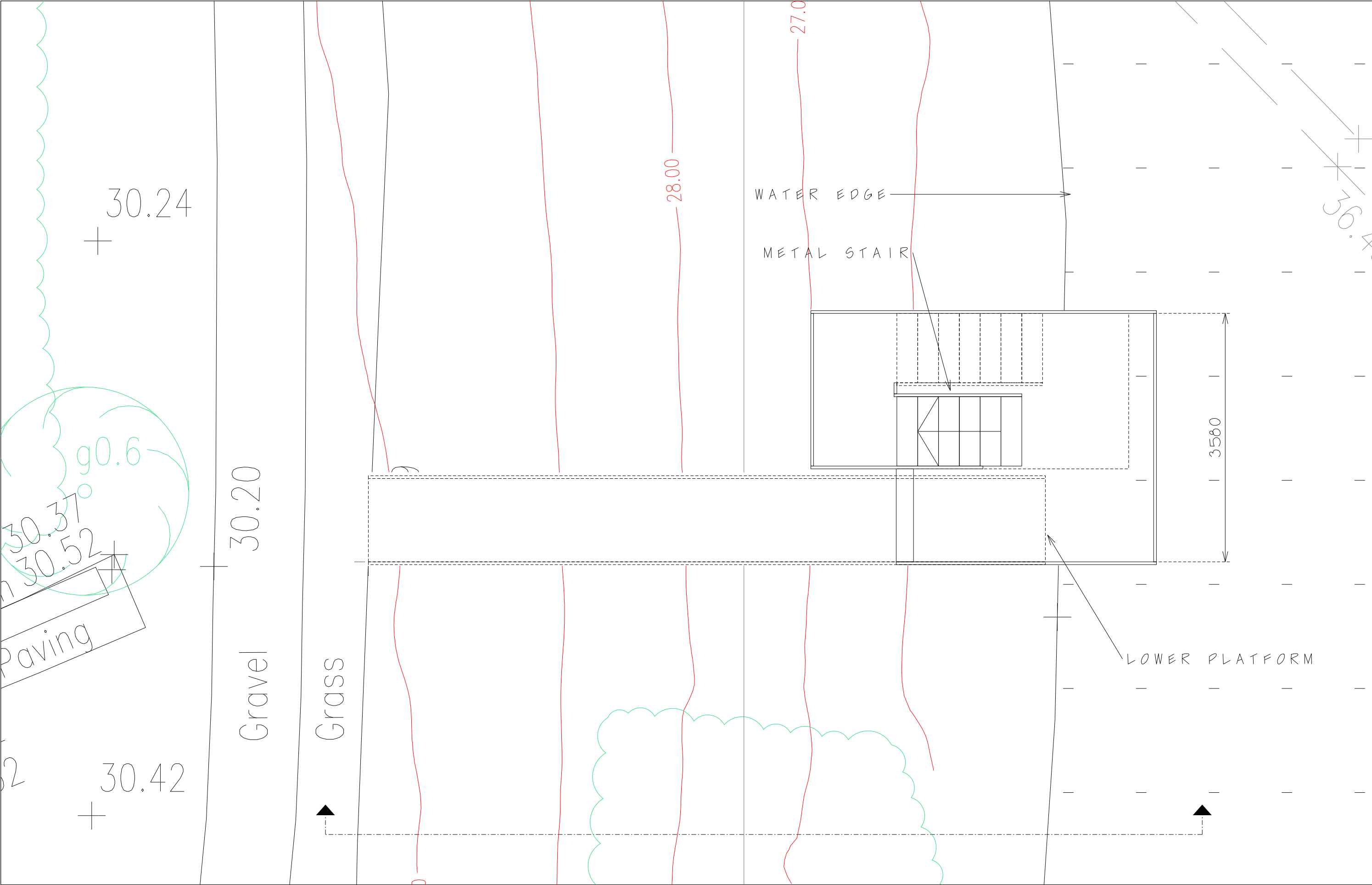
Revision
A

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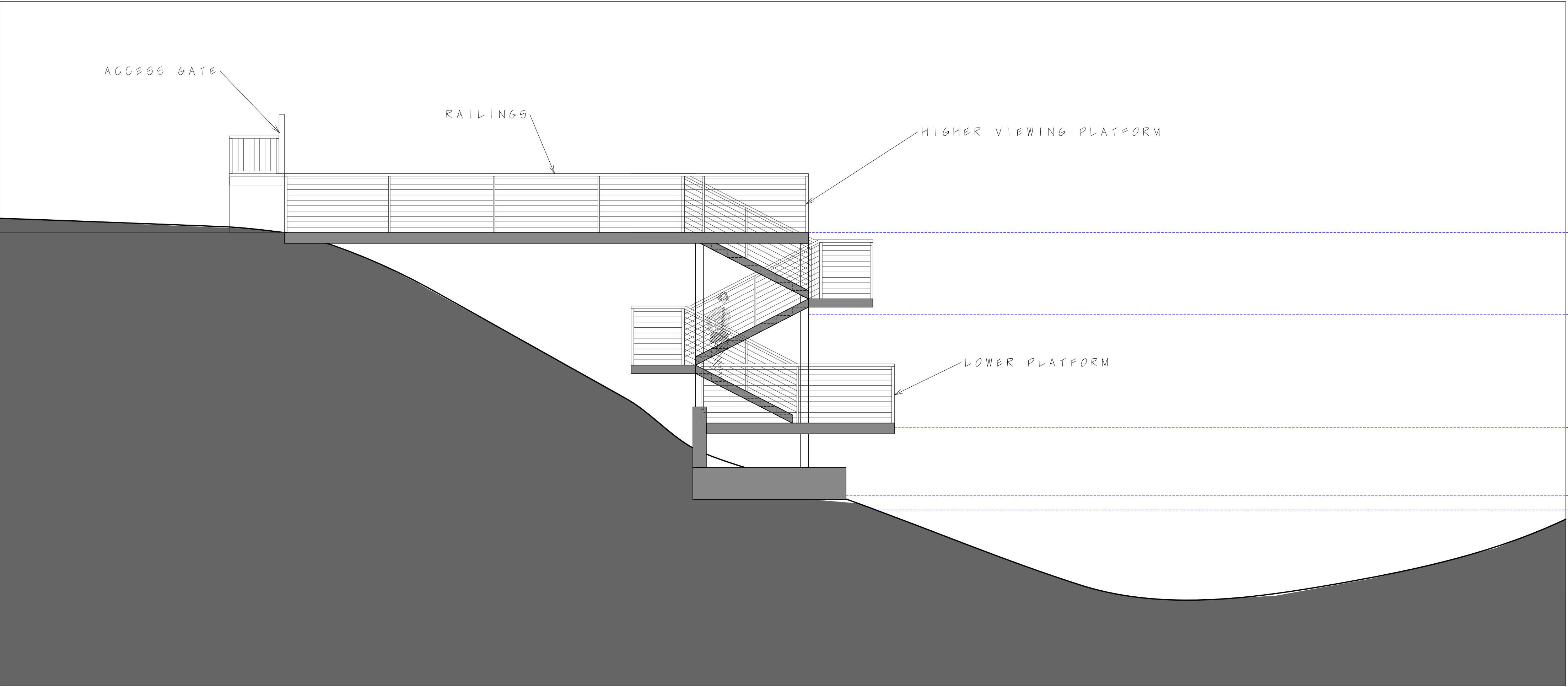
Drawn By
JML



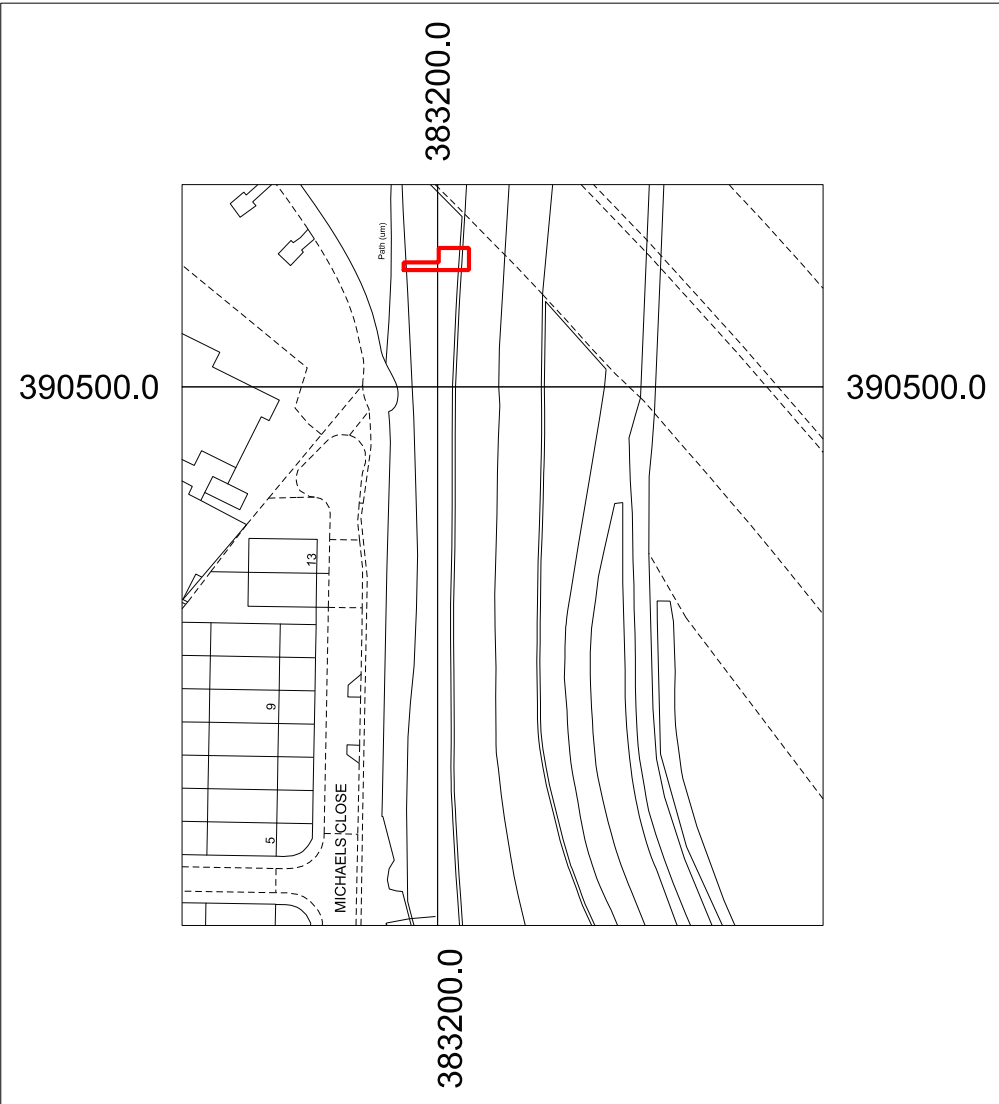
Access - footpath level plan 1:50



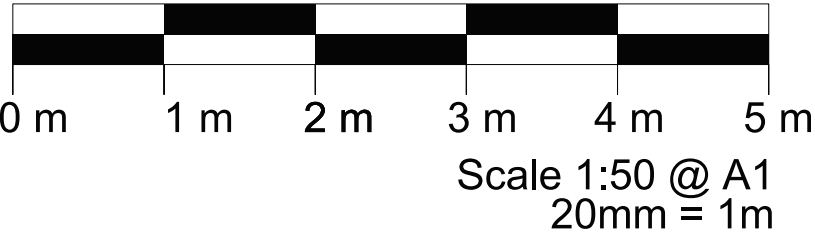
Jetty - lower level plan 1:50



Side Elevation
1:50

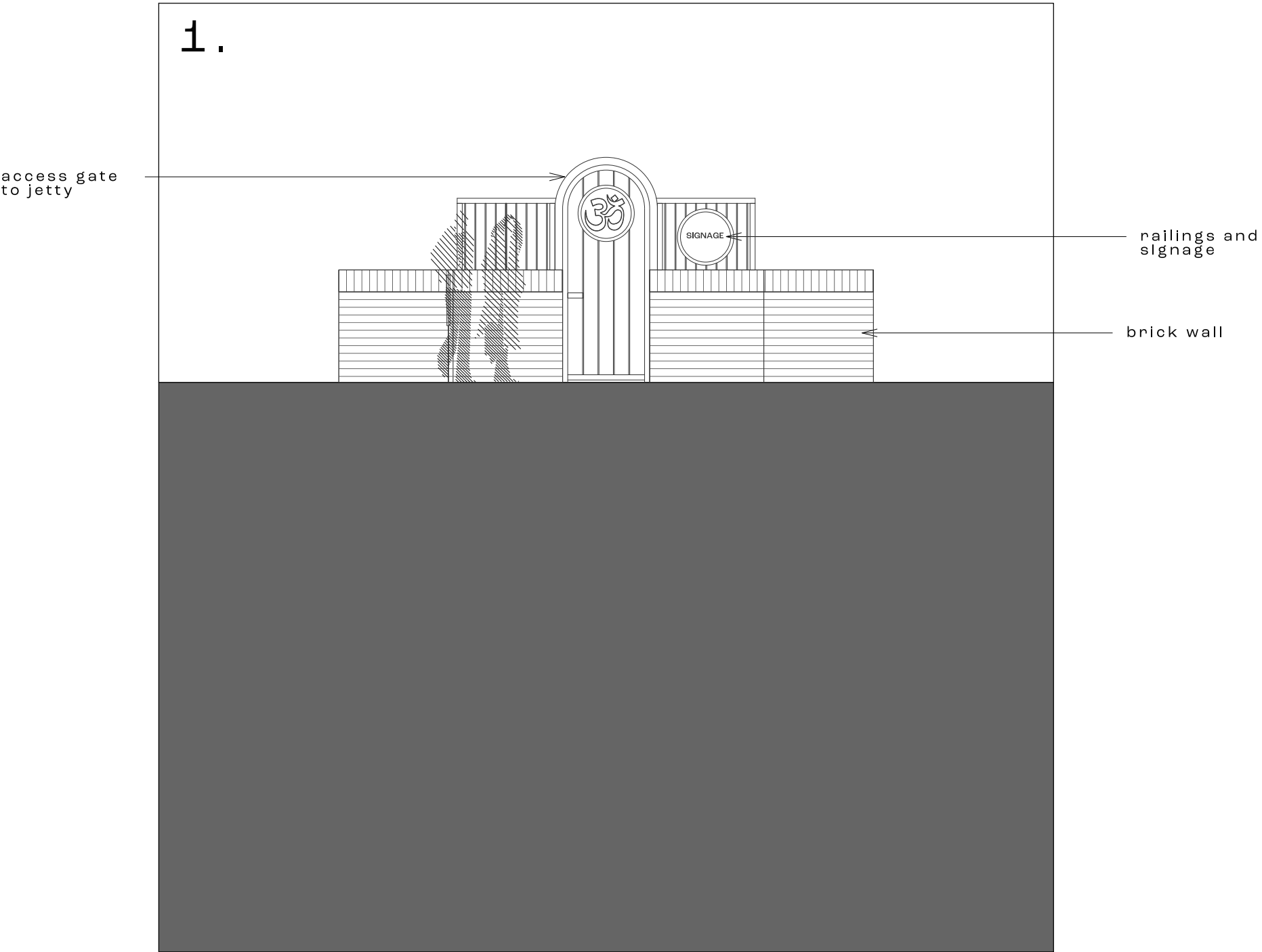


location plan 1 : 1250

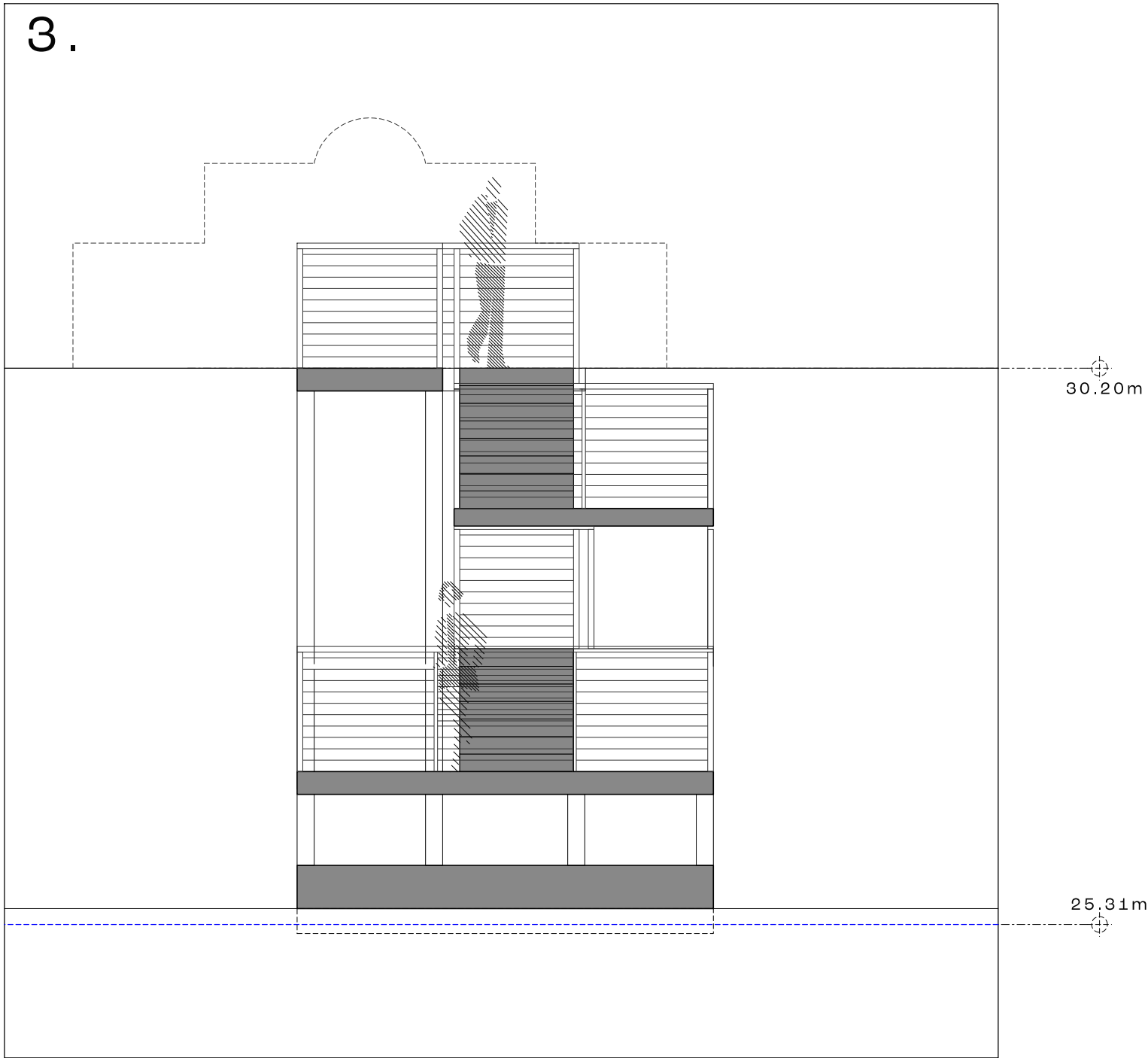


A. Planning Application 08-06-23	
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Project Title SHANTIR - Jetty Project Northenden Riverside Park Off Mill Lane, Northenden, Manchester	
Drawing Title Proposed Plans and Section	
Dwg. No. PP01	Revision A.
Scale 1 : 50 @ A1	Drawn By JML

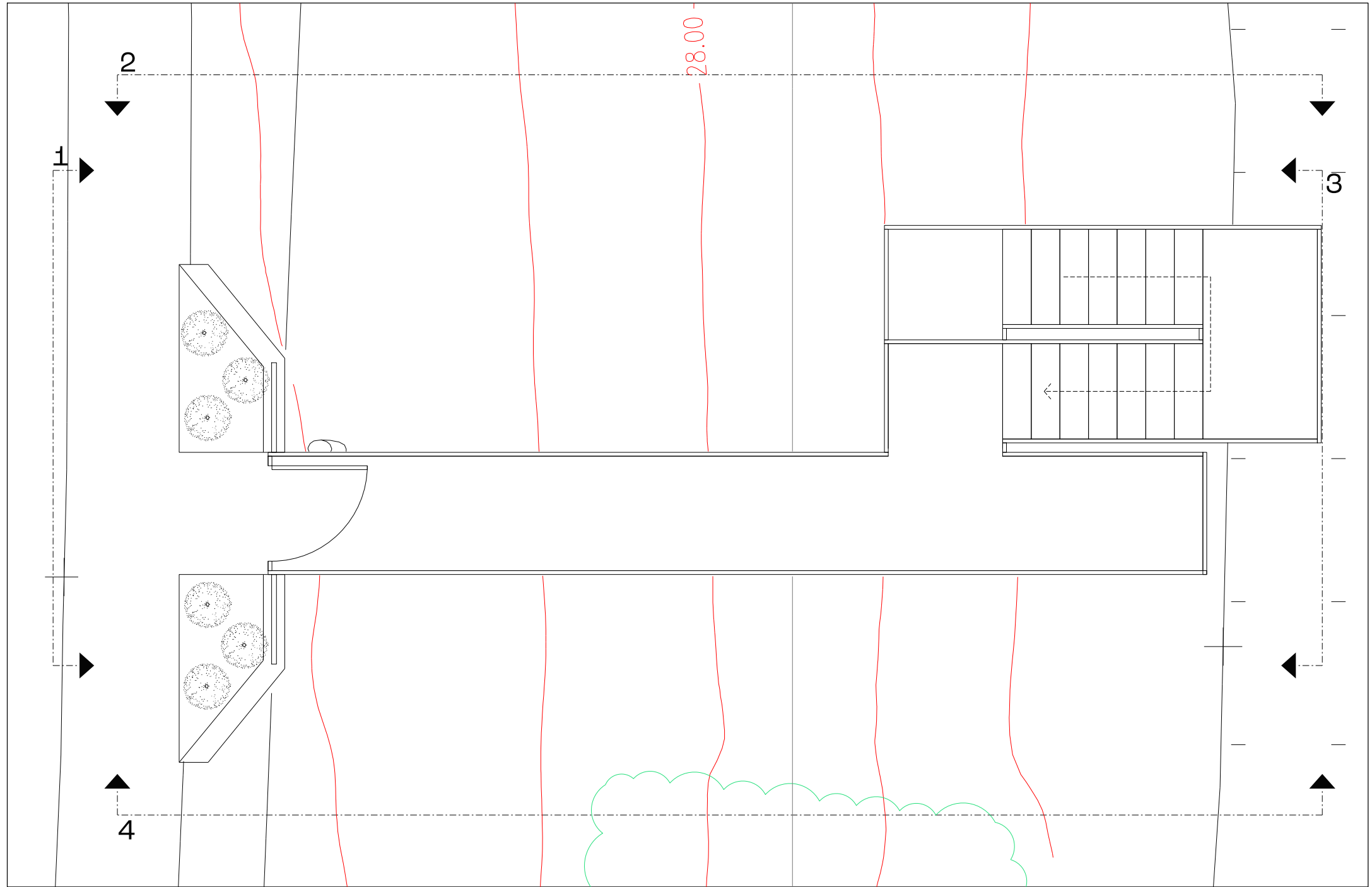
Elevations 1:50
Front



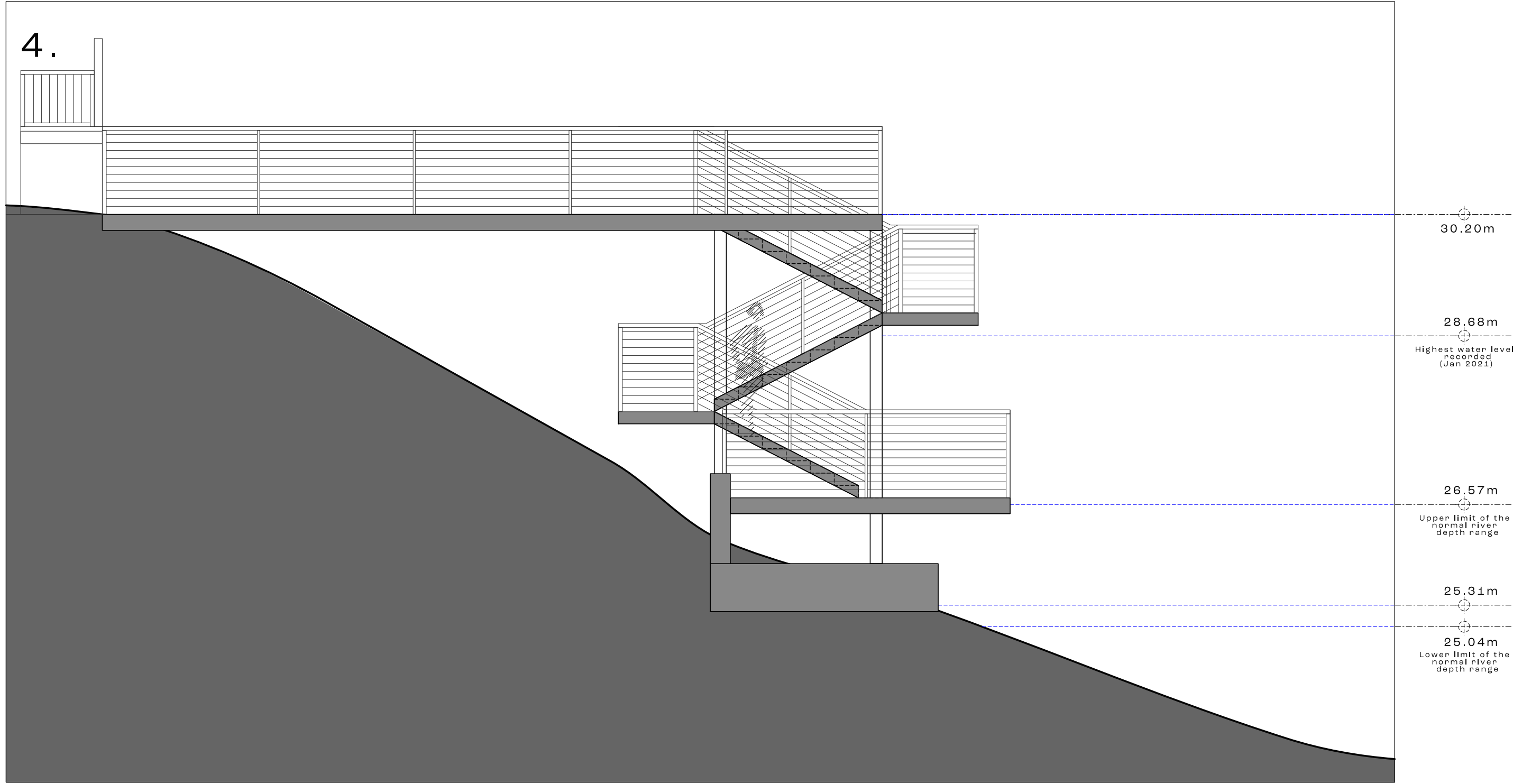
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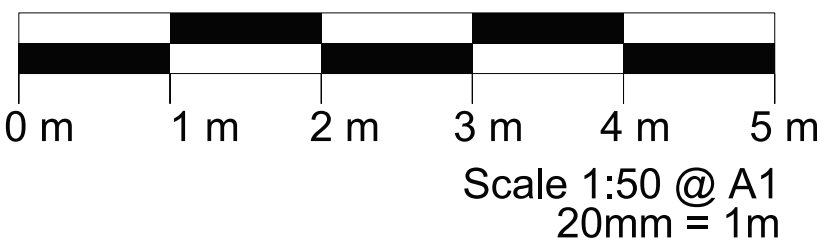
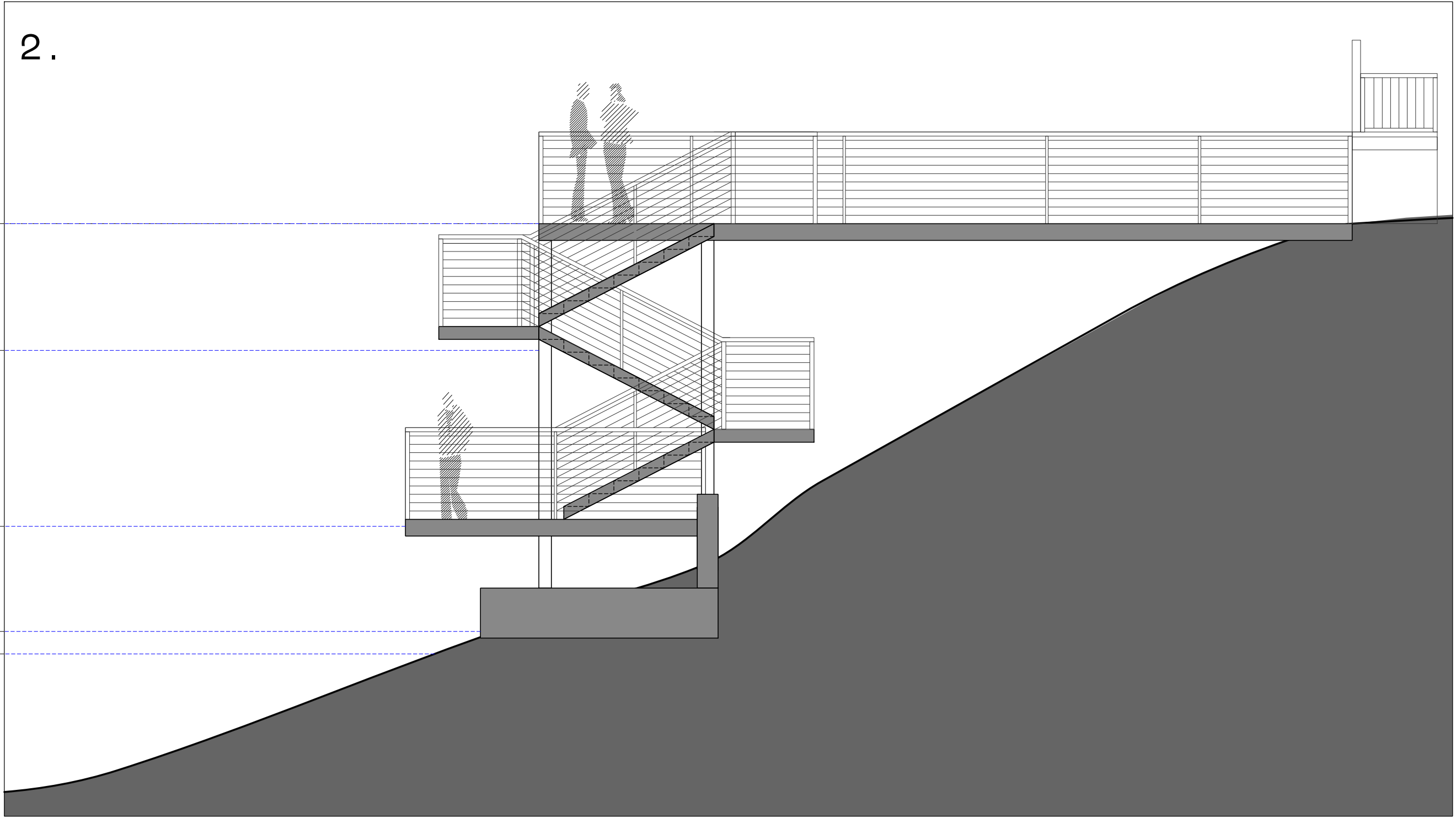
Elevation Key 1:50



RHS



LHS



A. Planning Application 06-06-25

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Project Title
SHANTIR - Jetty Project
Northenden Riverside Park
Off Mill Lane, Northenden,
Manchester

Dwg Title
Proposed Elevations

Dwg. No. PP03	Revision A
Scale 1 : 50	Drawn By JML

Proposed Visuals



Proposed Visuals

