

## **TECHNICAL NOTE:**

# Flood Risk Assessment: Proposed Larinier Fish Pass on the River Exe at Bolham Weir

**Prepared for:** Fishtek Consulting

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**Approved by:** James Dodds

Reference: P22-068 Fishtek Bolham \ TN Fish Pass FRA

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Fishtek Consulting (Fishtek) are preparing a Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) application on behalf of the Westcountry Rivers Trust (the applicant) for a proposed installation of a Larinier fish pass on the River Exe at Bolham Weir, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 7RW (the 'Site'). The proposed fish pass is part the wider Strategic Exe Weirs project in the River Exe catchment to improve access for migratory fish.

Envireau Water has been commissioned by Fishtek to prepare a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) to support the FRAP application for the proposed fish pass.

#### 1.2 Scope and Objectives

This FRA assesses the proposed fish pass structure and its potential impact on flood risk at the Site and elsewhere. The FRA has been prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Commmunities & Local Government, 2021).

The objective of this FRA is to demonstrate that the installation and operation of the Larinier fish pass will not increase the risk of flooding upstream or downstream of the Site.

#### 1.3 Data Sources

This FRA has been prepared using the following main data and information sources:

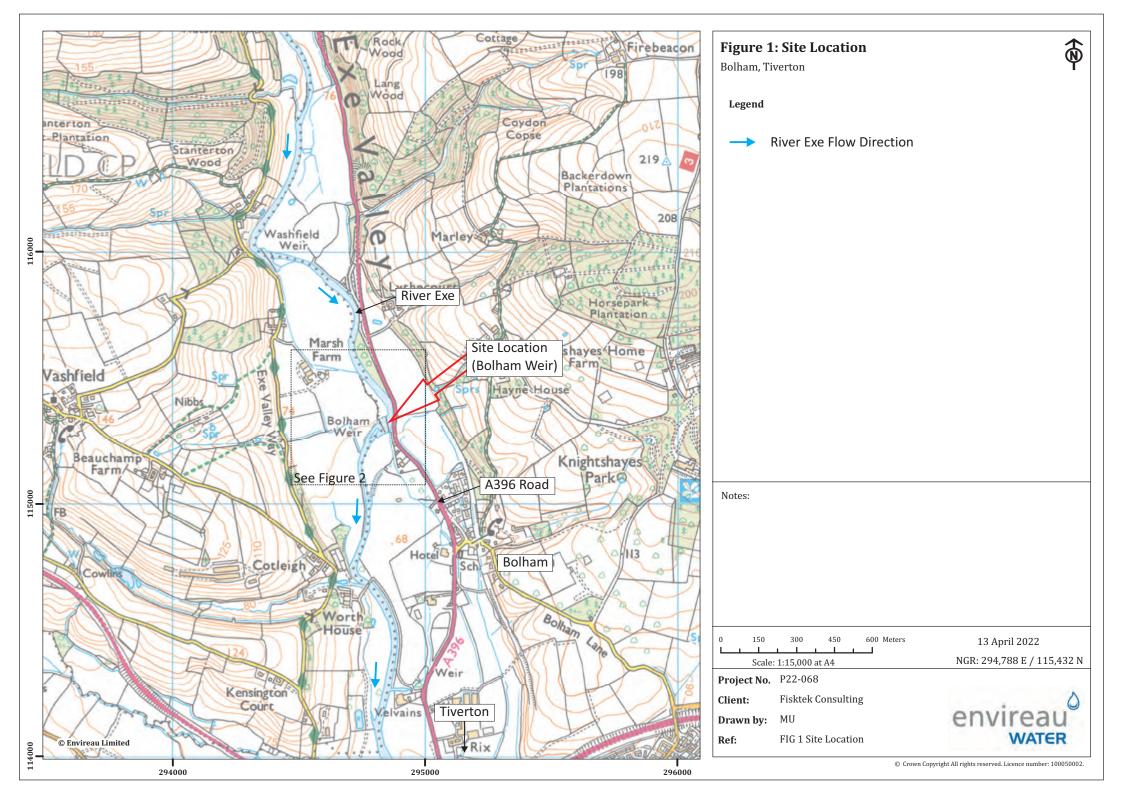
- Proposed Larinier fish pass detailed design drawings provided by Fishtek;
- Ordnance Survey mapping;
- Satellite aerial imagery; and
- Environment Agency Fluvial Flood Risk mapping.

#### 2 SITE DESCRIPTION

#### 2.1 Location and Setting

Bolham Weir (the 'Site') is situated approximately 600m to the northwest of Bolham in the Exe Valley at National Grid Reference SS 94855 15302 (see Figure 1). The River Exe flows in a north to south direction towards the town of Tiverton which is located approximately 2.5km south of the Site.

The site and proposed fish pass setting is shown on Figure 2. The land to the west, north and south of the weir principally consists of agricultural land. The Bolham Road (A396) runs adjacent to the eastern bank of the River Exe at the Site. A South West Water pumping station is present 50m to the south of the Site and neighbouring is Riverside House. Marsh Farm is situated 400m northwest of the Site.







#### 2.2 Bolham Weir Structure

Bolham weir is a modern 'crump' type weir construction over a historic weir site (Westcountry Rivers Trust, 2021). The weir has a smooth sloping concrete face which although it controls hydraulic conditions, it poses a significant challenge for all migratory fish. The weir crest along the entire length of the weir ranges from approximately 69.22m to 69.30m AOD. The toe of the weir is at an elevation of 68.10m AOD, approximately 1.2m lower than the weir crest. An image of the weir is shown below in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Bolham Weir Structure (looking north). Source: David Jury, 2020, YouTube.com



#### 2.3 Proposed Larinier Fish Pass

The proposal is to construct a new Larinier fish pass in the field immediately adjacent to the north of Bolham Weir, bypassing the weir itself and tieing back into the river channel downstream of the weir (see Figure 2). No changes to the structure of Bolham Weir are proposed. Detailed design drawings are provided in Appendix A.

The proposed Larinier fish pass consists of a narrow constructed concrete channel with side walls. One of the main features of the fish pass is a series of metal plate baffles which are installed on the bed of the pass to reduce flow velocity and turbulence. A studded-tile eel pass will also be installed adjacent to the fish pass channel which is bounded by a concrete access walkway

A small area of armourstone will be placed on the bed of the river at the foot of the western riverbank at the downstream end of the fish pass to prevent scour and erosion of the bank from the fish pass flows. The height of the armourstone will be set below the high flow level (Q10) to ensure no impact on flood flow capacity.

The fish pass will be constructed during a period of lowest flows outside of the fish migration/spawning season (i.e. between June to end of September). A temporary sheet pile cofferdam dam is proposed around the fish pass only to facilitate dry installation.



#### 3 FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

#### 3.1 Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification

The proposed Larinier fish pass can be considered "water transmission infrastructure" as per the listed classifications within the NPPF Table D.2 'Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification'. The fish pass would therefore be classified as 'Water-compatible' development which is an appropriate development type within Flood Zone 3, in accordance with the Sequential Test of the NPPF.

#### 3.2 Fluvial Flood Risk to Fish Pass

An extract of the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) is shown in Figure 4. The proposed fish pass is shown to lie within Flood Zone 3 (functional floodplain) indicating a high probability of flooding. The floodplain of the River Exe is laterally extensive at the Site, extending some 500m across the full width of the Exe Valley.

#### 3.3 Flood Risk from Fish Pass

The proposed fish pass will be installed in the field adjacent to Bolham Weir and not through the weir itself. No changes are proposed to the structure of Bolham Weir. Therefore, the river channel capacity and flood flow hydraulics upstream and downstream of the weir will remain the same. This is fundamentally different to fish passes which are excavated into the weir itself, thereby causing changes in the water surface elevation upstream and downstream of the weir.

Given the proposed location and bypass design of the fish pass, it will not change gradients, nor alter water surface elevation and flow downstream of Bolham Weir and therefore will not change flood risk. If there is any effect upstream, it will be positive in terms of flood risk as the diversion of some of the river flow to the fish pass will lower the head over Bolham Weir, albeit by a very small amount. Therefore, the fish pass will not pose any risk to nearby receptors.

The mean annual maximum flow (QMED) of the River Exe is significant at 141 m<sup>3</sup>/s, as gauged 2.5km upstream at Stoodleigh gauging station (ID. 45002) (UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, 2022). The flood flow will be significantly greater than the capacity of the proposed fish pass. Therefore, during a flood event, the fish pass will be at or near submerged and floodwater will spill and become stored in the extensive floodplain, returning back to the River Exe channel downstream of the weir, as per the existing scenario.

There are no flood defence assets or designated water storage areas shown on the flood map at the Site or 1km upstream or downstream. The nearest flood defences are located some 1.5km downstream at Tiverton. Therefore, the fish pass will not impact any flood risk assets.

The fish pass will be constructed during a period of lowest flows (June to end of September). The temporary cofferdam to enable safe construction will be confined to the extent of the fish pass only and will not impede the main river channel or flows over the Bolham Weir.





#### 4 **CONCLUSIONS**

This Flood Risk Assessment demonstrates that:

- The proposed Larinier fish pass will be installed on a field adjacent to the weir and not through the Bolham Weir, thereby "by-passing" the weir;
- No structural changes are proposed to Bolham Weir ensuring the existing flow hydraulics and regime over the weir will remain the same;
- The fish pass is an appropriate development type in Flood Zone 3;
- The fish pass will not alter gradients, water surface elevation or flow downstream or upstream of Bolham
   Weir; and
- The fish pass will not increase the risk of fluvial flooding upstream or downstream on the River Exe.



#### **REFERENCES**

Ministry of Housing, Commmunities & Local Government. (2021). National Planning Policy Framework.

UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology. (2022, April). *45002 - Exe at Stoodleigh*. Retrieved from National River Flow Archive: https://nrfa.ceh.ac.uk/data/station/info/45002

Westcountry Rivers Trust. (2021, March 31). *Strategic Exe Weirs – 'Design Live' sites for 2021*. Retrieved from WRT.org.uk: https://wrt.org.uk/strategic-exe-weirs-design-live-sites-for-2021/

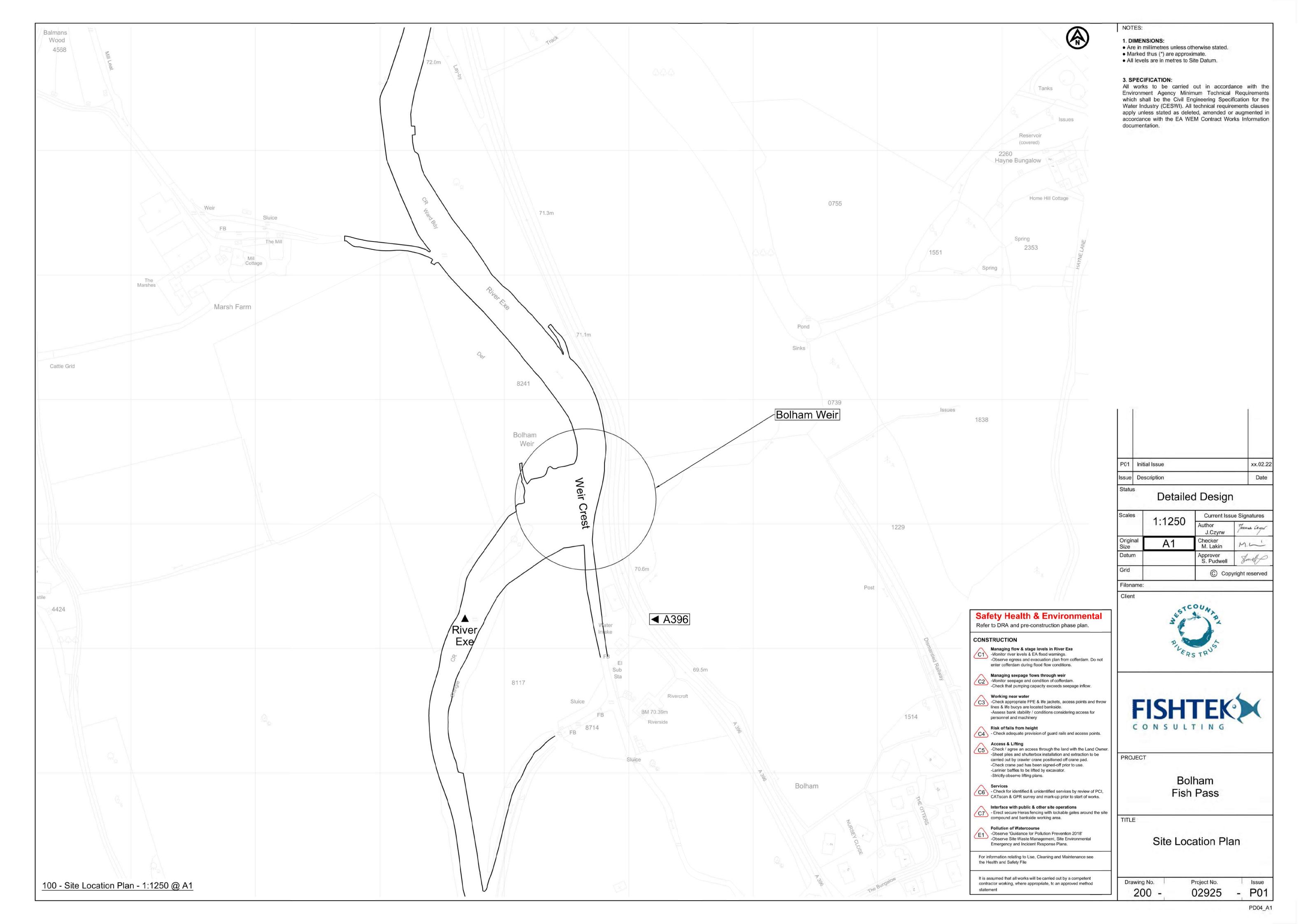
YouTube. (2020). David Jury, River Exe - Bolham Weir 2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6I6DHPsiWJE

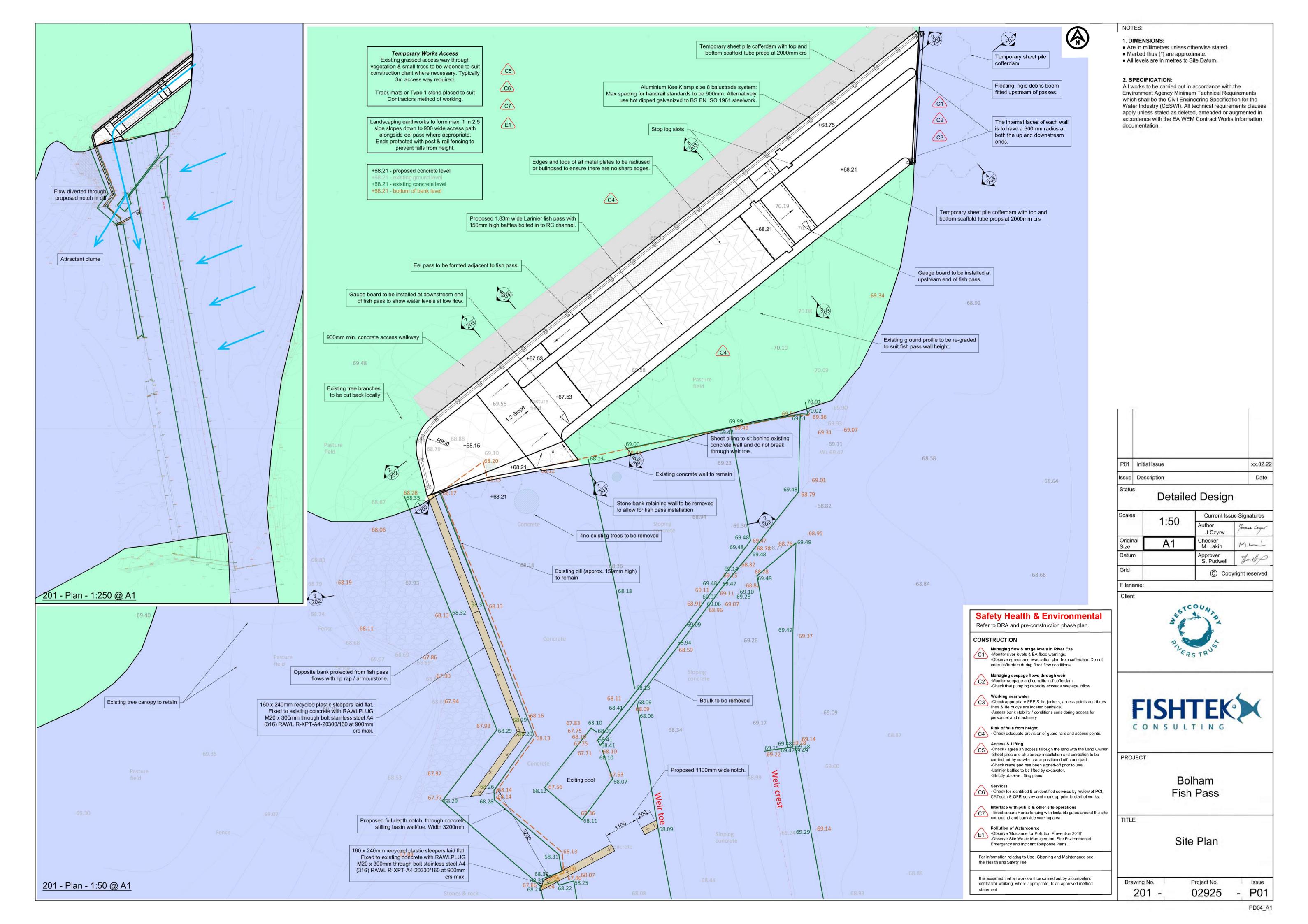


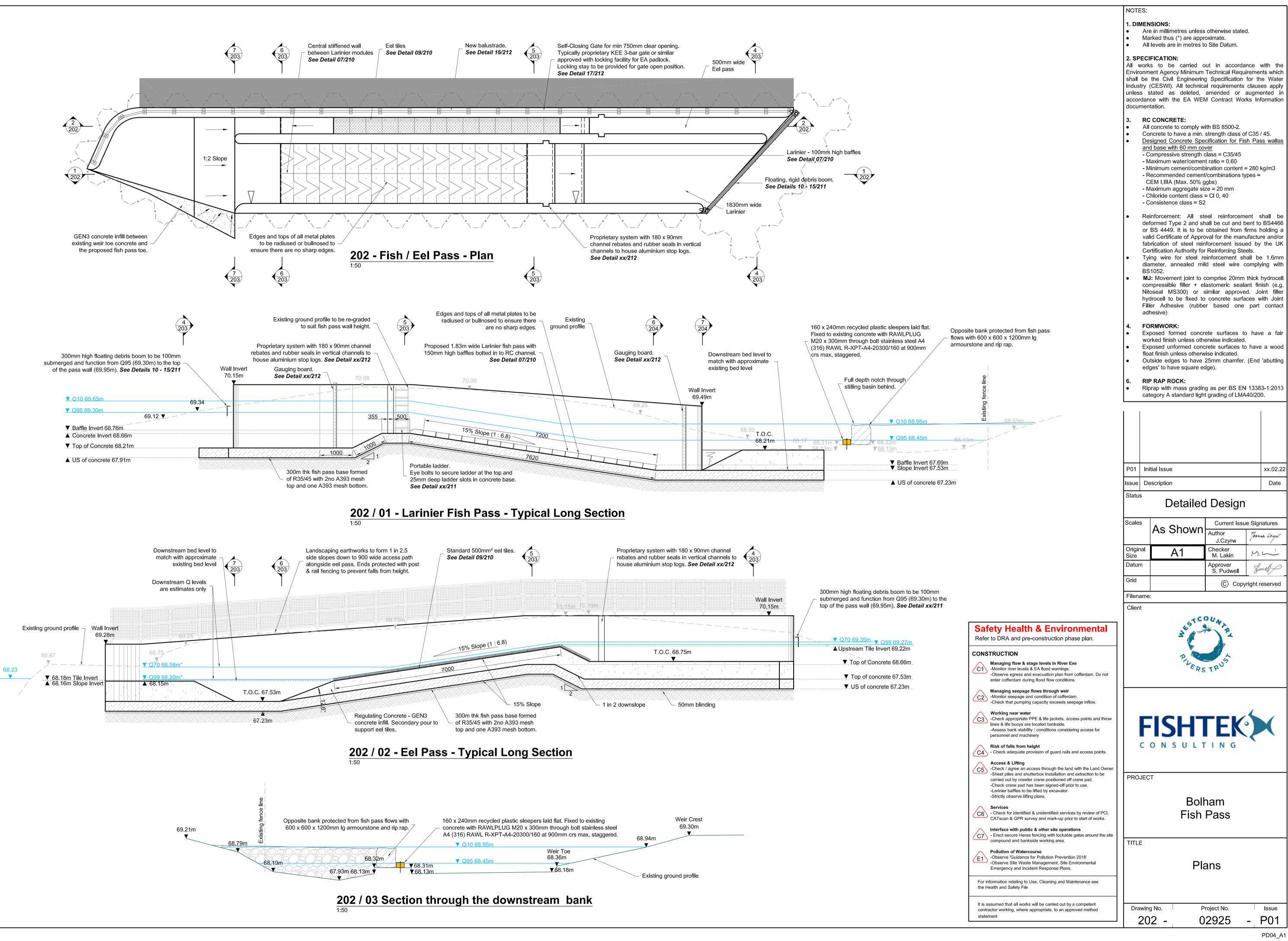
# **APPENDICES**

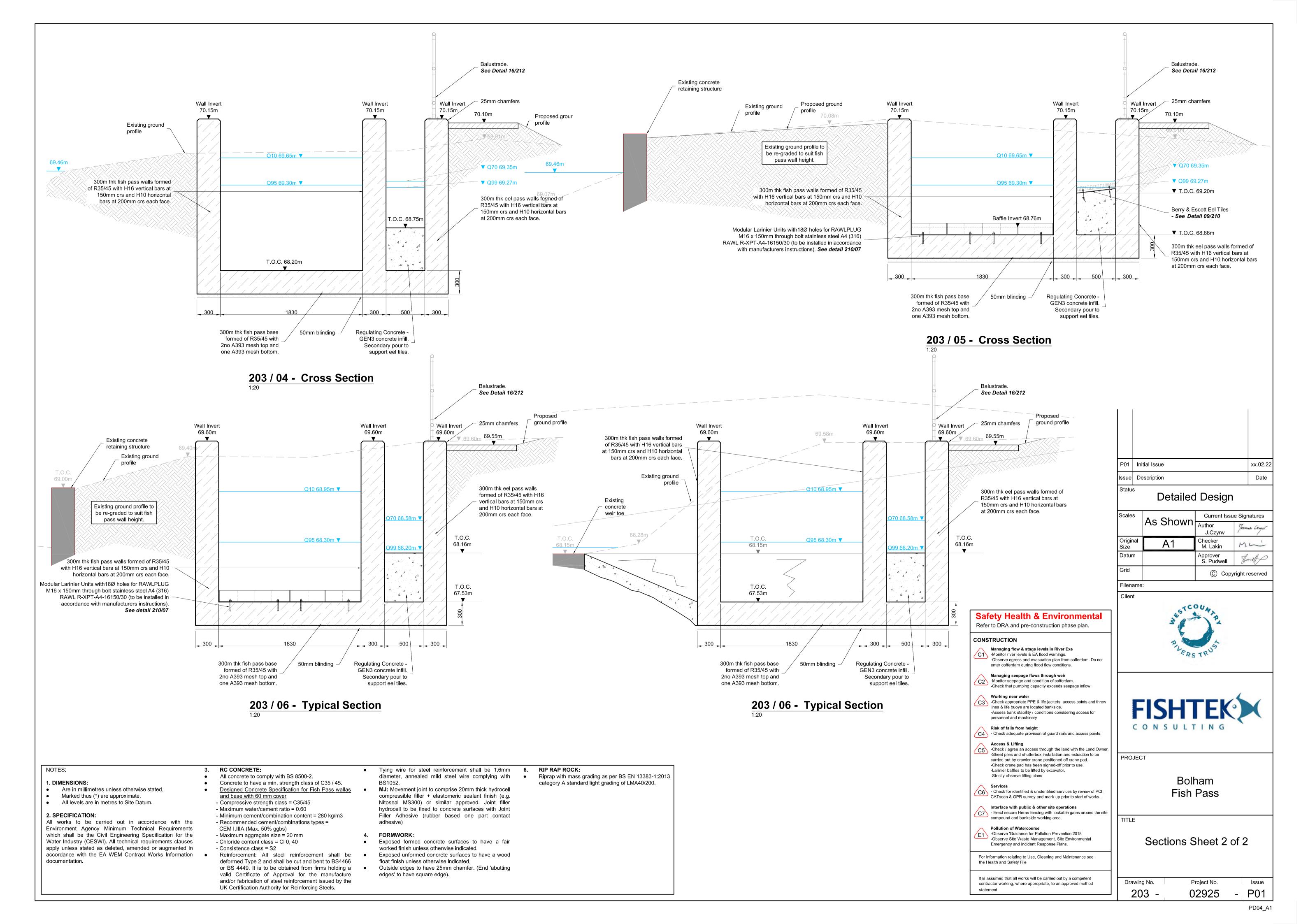


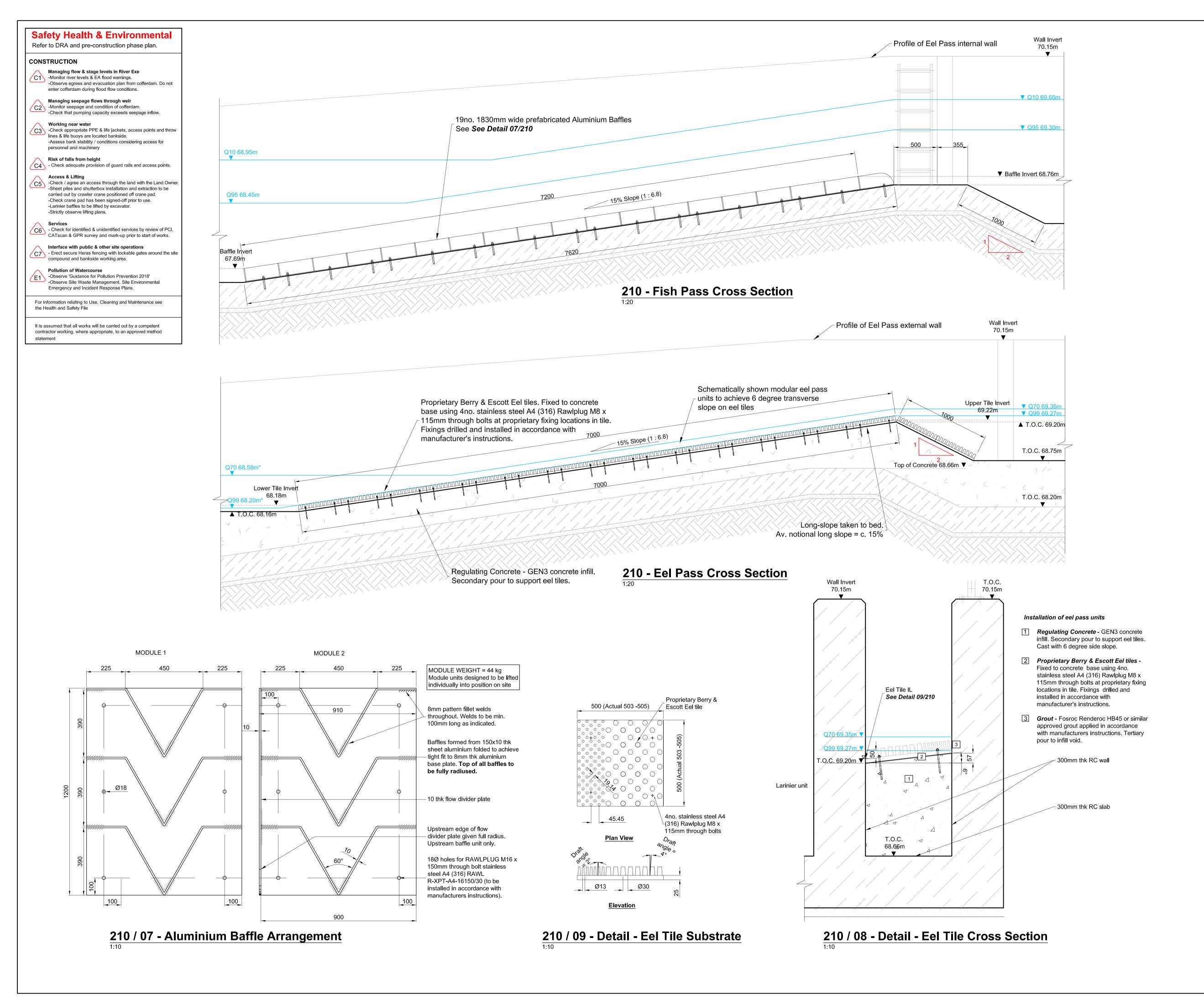
# **Appendix A Proposed Larinier Fish Pass Design Drawings**











NOTES:

1. DIMENSIONS:

Are in millimetres unless otherwise stated.

 Marked thus (\*) are approximate. All levels are in metres to Site Datum.

2. SPECIFICATION:

All works to be carried out in accordance with the Civil Engineering Specification for the Water Industry (CESWI). All technical requirements clauses apply unless stated as deleted, amended or augmented in accordance with the Contract Works Information documentation.

#### 3. ALUMINIUM:

 All Larinier pass plates & extrusions to be in aluminium unless otherwise indicated.

• All structural aluminium alloys to BS 8118.

• Sheet plate grade to be Alloy 5083 0 Temper or similar

approved. • Thin walled extrusions to be 6082 T6 Temper or similar approved.

 All aluminium welds to match substrate thickness, typically 10mm for structural plate & stiffeners unless otherwise stated. All welds to be continuous unless

#### 4. BOLTS:

otherwise indicated.

- All stainless steel to BS5950. • All fasteners to be stainless steel A2 (304) set screws,
- M12 (in 14mm dia holes) unless otherwise indicated. • All fasteners to have white M12 (or to suit) nylon washers (Form A Nylon 66 2mm thk x 21mm OD) to isolate stainless steel fasteners from aluminium alloy extrusions
- Nut & bolt cover caps in black plastic polyethylene to be fitted where fixings are externally exposed on side walls above ground or bed level.

#### 5. FABRICATION:

Fabrication drawings to be prepared by the fabricator.

- All fabricated structural steelwork & aluminium structures executed to conform to BS EN 1090-2.
- Size of connection plates & bolt hole positions to suit fabrication tolerances and checked for fit prior to deliver

### 6. ASSEMBLY:

 Individual module units to be pre-assembled off site prior to delivery.

- All bolted connection plates to receive a bead line of
- Sika-flex when connecting units in position on site.
- Residual open joints to be filled with sika-flex.
- Sika-flex to black marine grade silicone 291i or similar approved.

P01	Initial Issue	xx.02.22
Issue	Description	Date

# **Detailed Design**

Scales	As Shown	Current Issue Signatures	
		Author J.Czyrw	Teanna Czyst
Original Size	A1	Checker M. Lakin	M. L
Datum		Approver S. Pudwell	Jonell -
Grid		© Copyright reserved	

## Filename: Client

Status





**PROJECT** 

Bolham Fish Pass

TITLE

Details Sheet 1 of 3

Drawing No. Project No. Issue 210 -02925 P01

