Agenda	7.2
item	
Report	PLN/058/18
no	

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: North Planning Applications Committee

Date: 11 September 2018

Report Title: 18/02744/FUL - Land 90M SW Of Kinvara, Altass

Report By: Area Planning Manager – North

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 Applicant: Mr Alexandar Campion

Description of development: Erection of 2 no. houses

Ward: 1 - North, West and Central Sutherland

Category: Local

Reasons Referred to Committee: 5 objections

All relevant matters have been taken into account when appraising this application. It is considered that the proposal accords with the principles and policies contained within the Development Plan and is acceptable in terms of all other applicable material considerations.

2. Recommendation

2.2 Members are asked to agree the recommendation to approve as set out in section 11 of the report.

3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 The application seeks consent for the erection of two houses, to be used primarily for holiday letting purposes. The proposed development also includes formation of a new access and installation of private drainage arrangements. The proposed houses have been designed specifically to provide functional accommodation for disabled people.
- 3.2 No pre-application advice was sought in advance of the submission of the planning application.
- 3.3 There is no infrastructure on site at present.
- 3.4 The application is supported by a Supporting Statement and a further document has been lodged by the applicant to provide clarity in response to objections.
- 3.5 **Variations**: No variations have been made to the proposal since it was lodged. As noted above however, further information has been submitted in the form of a response to objections. A topographic survey and site level information has also been submitted following a request from the Planning Authority.

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 The site lies to the northern side of the public road at Altass, which is accessed from the A837 which connects Lairg with the west coast. There are a number of houses to the west of the site which lie adjacent to the public road, and a number of more recently completed house to the east and north east. The site slopes relatively steeply from north to south and has an attractive outlook over the Kyle of Sutherland.

5. PLANNING HISTORY

5.1 No planning history.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

6.1 Advertised: Unknown Neighbour - 29.06.2018

Representation deadline: 02.07.2018

Timeous representations: 7 from 6 households

Late representations: 0

- 6.2 Material considerations raised are summarised as follows:
 - The site is too small
 - Poor access which is already over-used
 - Loss of agricultural land
 - Design not suitable for weather conditions
 - Limited space in the site for car parking vehicles therefore likely to block the road
 - Proposed tree planting is not suitable
 - Unavailability of services

Non material considerations raised are summaries as follows:

- The applicant should convert existing buildings within his own landholding
- Not a residential development but a holiday/quasi medical development
- The applicant is not the owner of the land it is owned by Trustees
- Neighbours will be called upon to assist if disabled occupiers 'get into difficulty' unless there is a full time carer
- Development will 'inconvenience' and 'place burdens' on existing residents
- There is not a lack of wheelchair accessible accommodation in the local area as stated by the applicant.
- 6.3 All letters of representation are available for inspection via the Council's eplanning portal which can be accessed through the internet www.wam.highland.gov.uk/wam. Access to computers can be made available via Planning and Development Service offices.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 **Sutherland Access Panel**: Support the proposed development. The Panel have visited the site and do not agree with some of the objections made especially those that disabled may cause a burden on the local community. The panel support this application as it would provide much needed fully accessible accommodation that is not currently available in Sutherland.
- 7.2 **Scottish Water**: No objections however the applicant is required to complete a Pre-Development Enquiry directly to SW.

8. DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY

The following policies are relevant to the assessment of the application

8.1 Highland Wide Local Development Plan 2012

28	Sustainable Design
29	Design Quality and Place Making
36	Development in the Wider Countryside
44	Tourist Accommodation

8.2 Sutherland Local Plan (As Continued in Force, 2012)

No site specific policies. The general policies which applied in respect of the site previously have been superseded by the provisions of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan.

9. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 **Draft Development Plan**

Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan (Modified Proposed Plan, 2016)

9.2 Highland Council Supplementary Planning Policy Guidance

Housing in the Countryside and Siting and Design SG

9.3 Scottish Government Planning Policy and Guidance

Scottish Planning Policy (June, 2014)

10. PLANNING APPRAISAL

- 10.1 Section 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 requires planning applications to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 10.2 This means that the application requires to be assessed against all policies of the Development Plan relevant to the application, all national and local policy guidance and all other material considerations relevant to the application.

10.3 **Development Plan Policy Assessment**

The application seeks consent for the erection of two houses to be used primarily for holiday accommodation. As such the proposal requires to be assessed primarily in terms of Policy 44 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan however Policy 36. which provides general considerations for new development in the wider countryside, is also applicable. In terms of Policy 44, which sets out a requirement for applicants to demonstrate that a demand exists for tourist accommodation, the application is supported by a detailed statement which outlines the rationale for the proposed development. It is evident that the project is being driven by the applicant's strong desire to provide holiday accommodation which will cater to disabled people and there is evidence, as backed up by the Sutherland Access Panel, that accommodation of this kind is severely limited in the Sutherland area. In particular the roof has been designed to support a hoist in both the wet room and bedroom with additional internal features designed to create ease of access throughout. Whilst it is acknowledged that the proposed houses may not be used by disabled people on every occasion, as this will be dependent on demand, it will provide an option which is currently lacking in the Sutherland area. As such it is considered that the proposal is in accordance with Policy 44 and the principle of development is therefore supported.

10.4 Material Considerations

Siting and Design

The site lies in a rural area which has been subject to moderate development pressure in recent times; this has led to a number of house completions to the east, north and north-east of the proposed site. Whereas development previously was concentrated along the public road, it has now extended northwards. The proposed site will infill an area of ground in between the main public road and the track along its eastern boundary and is considered to add more coherency between the existing patterns of development to the east/north-east and the west. As noted in objection comments, the site is relatively small particularly in terms of its north-south axis. However this has been addressed through the design of the proposed houses which are modest in scale and would make optimum use of the site by being built into the

slope. The site sections and topographic information both demonstrate that both houses would set well into the site, with minimal or no visibility from the adjacent house to the north.

The design of the proposed houses requires to be assessed against the provisions of the Housing in the Countryside and Siting and Design Supplementary Guidance. The houses in this instance are of a contemporary design featuring a turf mono pitch roof with extensive glazing on the southern elevation. The remainder of the external walls would be finished in a dry stone. A number of submitted objections refer to the proposed design with particular concern noted regarding the roof pitch. It is acknowledged that traditionally the Planning Authority have sought to retain a uniformity in roof pitch in the Altass, that is a traditionally proportioned 45 degree pitched roof. In this instance, the proposed low pitched roof allows the proposed houses to be discretely positioned within the site so that existing views will be retained from the house to the north. The turf roofs will further allow the houses to be assimilated into the landscape.

The proposed houses have a reasonable amount of amenity space however in accordance with the uses being applied for, a condition is added to ensure these houses are not used for private residences. The condition therefore outlines that no person(s) shall occupy either unit for more than 3 months at a time.

Access and Parking

A new access point would be created for the development; this would incorporate a service layby at its junction with the public road. Visibility looking left is reasonable however more restricted when looking right due to the layout of the road. Due to the works involved with levelling out the site to incorporate the proposed houses, visibility for the proposed access would be significantly improved and will be able to comply with the Access to Single Houses and Small Housing Developments document. This is further secured by condition.

Drainage and Servicing

The development proposes to install a treatment plant and soakaway, which would be shared for both properties and sited 10m from any boundary. As such, the proposed development is in accordance with Building Regulations.

10.5 Other Considerations – not material

Land Ownership: The applicant has confirmed that the site is within the ownership of his own Trust.

10.6 Matters to be secured by Section 75 Agreement

None

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 The proposal concerns a modestly scaled development of two houses, to be used for holiday accommodation, which has been well designed to take account of the topography of the site. All relevant matters have been taken into account when

appraising this application. It is considered that the proposal accords with the principles and policies contained within the Development Plan and is acceptable in terms of all other applicable material considerations.

12. IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Resource Not applicable
- 12.2 Legal –Not applicable
- 12.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) –Not applicable
- 12.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever –Not applicable
- 12.5 Risk Not applicable
- 12.6 Gaelic Not applicable

13. RECOMMENDATION

Action required before decision issued N

Subject to the above, it is recommended the application be **Granted** subject to the following conditions and reasons / notes to applicant:

- No other development shall commence until the site access has been constructed in accordance with The Highland Council's Access to Single Houses and Small Housing Developments guidelines and the attached Access Schedule (dated 30th August 2018), with:
 - i. the junction formed to comply with drawing ref. SDB2; and
 - ii. visibility splays of 2.4m x 90m (the X dimension and Y dimension respectively) in each direction formed from the centre line of the junction.

Within the stated visibility splays, at no time shall anything obscure visibility between a driver's eye height of 1.05m positioned at the X dimension and an object height of 0.60m anywhere along the Y dimension.

Reason: To ensure that an adequate level of access is timeously provided for the development; in the interests of road safety and amenity.

2. Prior to the first occupation of each of the dwellinghouses, parking spaces (excluding garages) for a minimum of 2 cars shall be provided within the associated curtilage in accordance with The Highland Council's Access to Single Houses and Small Developments, and shall thereafter be maintained for this use in perpetuity.

Reason: To ensure that sufficient space is provided within the application site for the parking (and, where necessary, turning) of cars, so they do not have to park within or reverse onto the public road.

3. No development or work shall commence until a detailed specification for all proposed external materials and finishes (including trade names and samples where necessary) has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Planning Authority. Thereafter, development and work shall progress in accordance with these approved details.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and to ensure that the development is sensitive to, and compatible with, its context and local architectural styles.

4. The development shall be used for holiday letting purposes only and shall not be used as a principal private residence or be occupied by any family, group or individual for more than three months (cumulative) in any one calendar year.

Reason: To ensure that the development does not become used for permanent residential occupation in the interest of the area's visual amenity, in recognition of the lack of private amenity space and in accordance with the use applied for.

REASON FOR DECISION

The proposals accord with the provisions of the Development Plan and there are no material considerations which would warrant refusal of the application.

TIME LIMITS

LIMIT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLANNING PERMISSION

In accordance with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), the development to which this planning permission relates must commence within THREE YEARS of the date of this decision notice. If development has not commenced within this period, then this planning permission shall lapse.

FOOTNOTE TO APPLICANT

Initiation and Completion Notices

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) requires all developers to submit notices to the Planning Authority prior to, and upon completion of, development. These are in addition to any other similar requirements (such as Building Warrant completion notices) and failure to comply represents a breach of planning control and may result in formal enforcement action.

- The developer must submit a Notice of Initiation of Development in accordance with Section 27A of the Act to the Planning Authority prior to work commencing on site.
- 2. On completion of the development, the developer must submit a Notice of Completion in accordance with Section 27B of the Act to the Planning Authority.

Copies of the notices referred to are attached to this decision notice for your convenience.

Accordance with Approved Plans and Conditions

You are advised that development must progress in accordance with the plans approved under, and any conditions attached to, this permission. You must not deviate from this permission without consent from the Planning Authority

(irrespective of any changes that may separately be requested at the Building Warrant stage or by any other Statutory Authority). Any pre-conditions (those requiring certain works, submissions etc. prior to commencement of development) must be fulfilled prior to work starting on site. Failure to adhere to this permission and meet the requirements of all conditions may invalidate your permission or result in formal enforcement action

Flood Risk

It is important to note that the granting of planning permission does not imply there is an unconditional absence of flood risk relating to (or emanating from) the application site. As per Scottish Planning Policy (p.198), planning permission does not remove the liability position of developers or owners in relation to flood risk.

Scottish Water

You are advised that a supply and connection to Scottish Water infrastructure is dependent on sufficient spare capacity at the time of the application for connection to Scottish Water. The granting of planning permission does not guarantee a connection. Any enquiries with regards to sewerage connection and/or water supply should be directed to Scottish Water on 0845 601 8855.

Septic Tanks and Soakaways

Where a private foul drainage solution is proposed, you will require separate consent from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Planning permission does not guarantee that approval will be given by SEPA and as such you are advised to contact them direct to discuss the matter (01349 862021).

Local Roads Authority Consent

In addition to planning permission, you may require one or more separate consents (such as road construction consent, dropped kerb consent, a road openings permit, occupation of the road permit etc.) from the Area Roads Team prior to work commencing. These consents may require additional work and/or introduce additional specifications and you are therefore advised to contact your local Area Roads office for further guidance at the earliest opportunity.

Failure to comply with access, parking and drainage infrastructure requirements may endanger road users, affect the safety and free-flow of traffic and is likely to result in enforcement action being taken against you under both the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

Further information on the Council's roads standards can be found at: http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport

Application forms and guidance notes for access-related consents can be downloaded from:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/101/permits_or_working_on_public_roads/2

Mud and Debris on Road

Please note that it an offence under Section 95 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to allow mud or any other material to be deposited, and thereafter remain, on a public road from any vehicle or development site. You must, therefore, put in place a strategy for dealing with any material deposited on the public road network and maintain this until development is complete.

Designation: Area Planning Manager - North

Author: Gillian Webster

Background Papers: Documents referred to in report and in case file.

Relevant Plans: Plan 1 – Location Plan

Plan 2 - Site Layout Plan

Plan 3 - North/South Elevations

Plan 4 - East/West Elevations

Plan 5 - Floor Plan

Plan 6 - Roof Plan

Plan 7 - Section Plan

Plan 8 - Section Plan

Plan 9 - Section Plan

Plan 10 - Site Sections

Plan 11 - Site Sections

Plan 12 - Tree Planting Plan

Plan 13 - Landscaping Plan

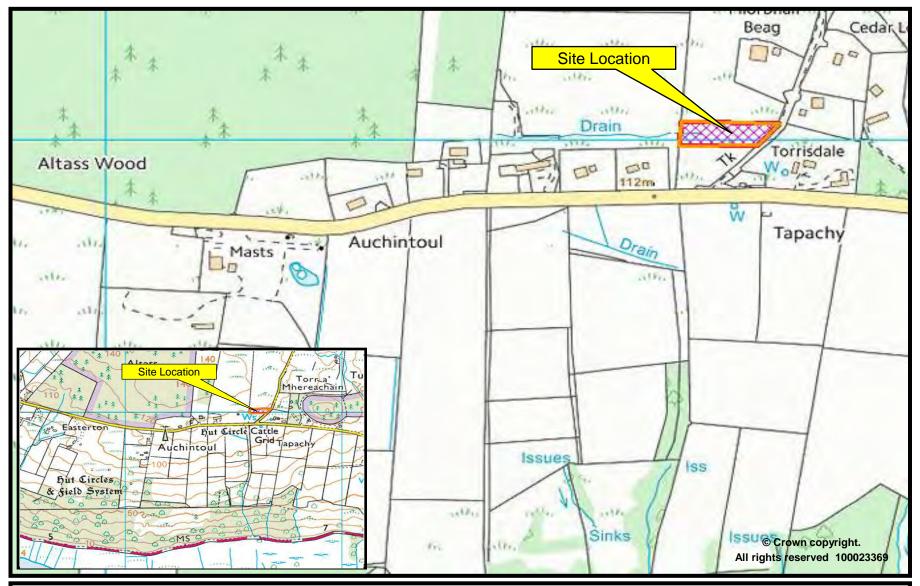
Appendix – Letters of Representation

OBJECTORS

	Richard Vetters, Miorbhail Beag, Altass, Lairg,	
1.	IV27 4EU, ,	11/07/18
	Ludovic and Christine Stuart, Curlew Cottage,	
2.	Altass, Rosehall, Lairg, IV27 4EU, ,	11/07/18
	Michael and Marion Wittet, Molalatau Lodge,	
3.	Altass, Lairg, IV27 4EU,	16/07/18
	Mr Ivan Mackay, Kinvara, Altass, Lairg, IV27	
4.	4EU,	12/07/18
5.	Alan Kennaway, Cedar Lodge, Altass, IV27 4EU,	11/07/18
	Ivan and Marta Mackay, Kinvara, Altass, IV27	
6.	4EU,	11/07/18
	Mrs C M and Mr C E Gilmour, Shenaval, Altass,	
7.	Sutherland, IV27 4EU,	11/07/18

SUPPORTERS

8.	Sutherland Access Panel,	23/07/18





Development and

Infrastructure Service

18/02744/FUL

Erection of 2 no. houses, formation of access and installation of private drainage at Land 90m SW of Kinvara, Altass.

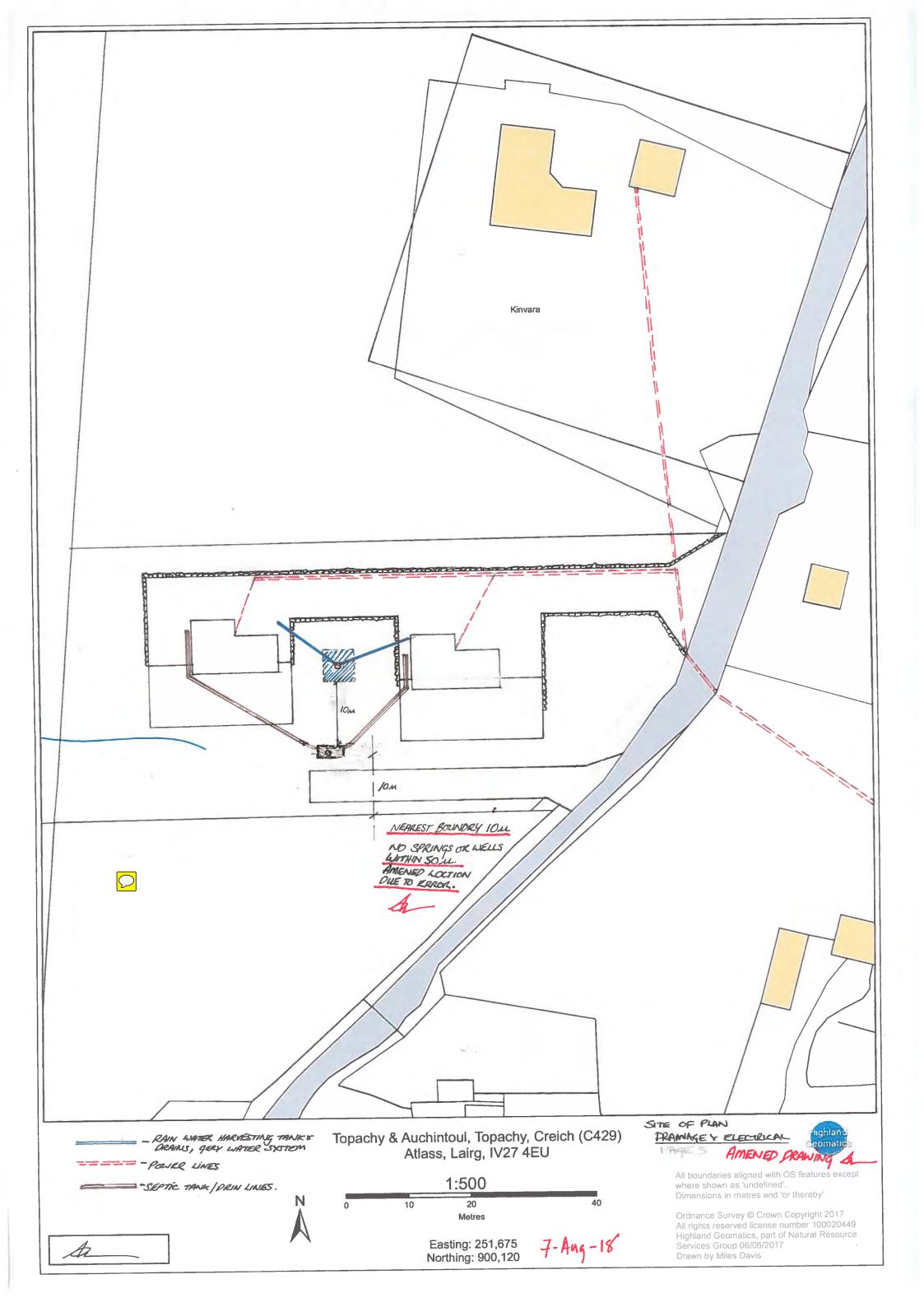
August 2018

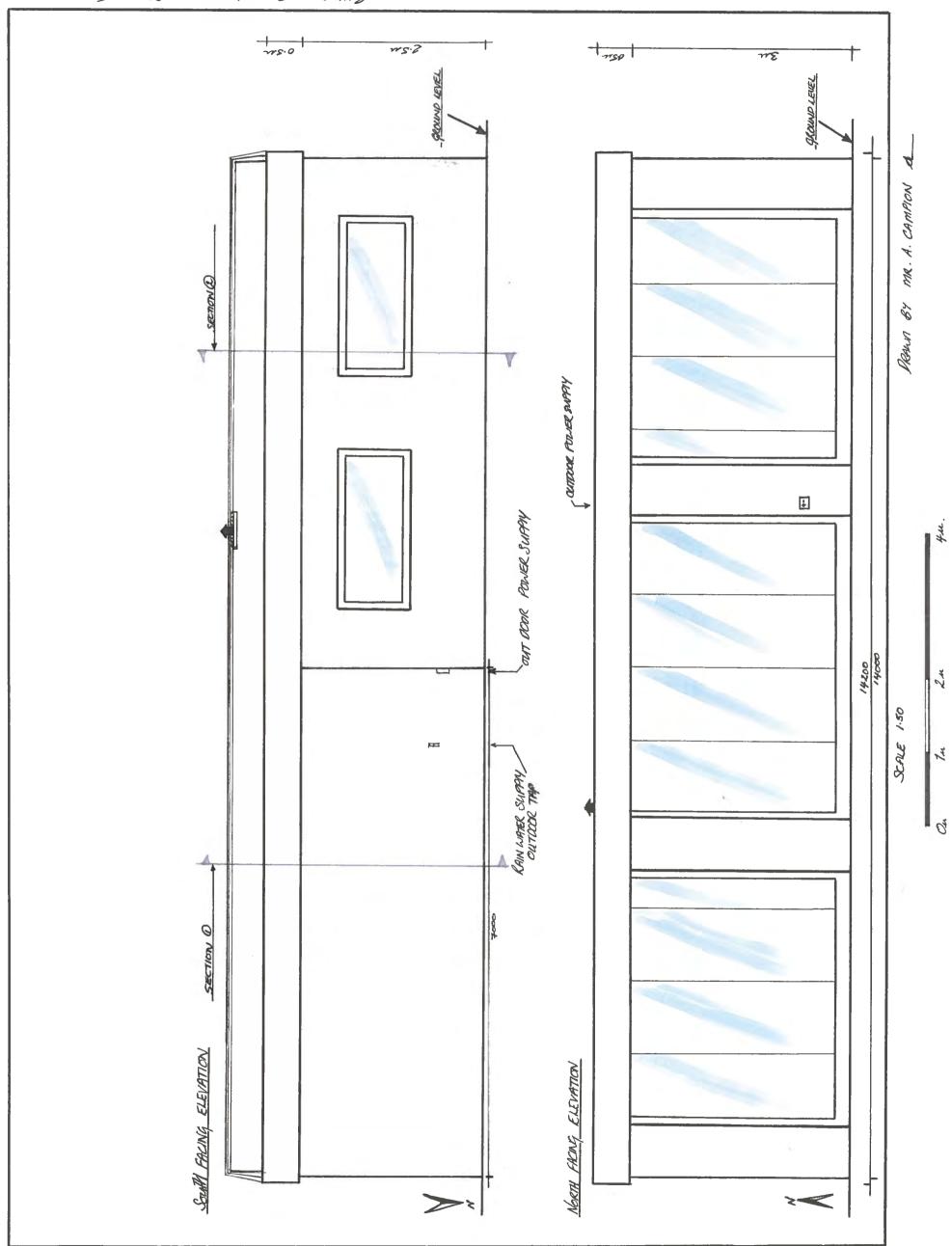


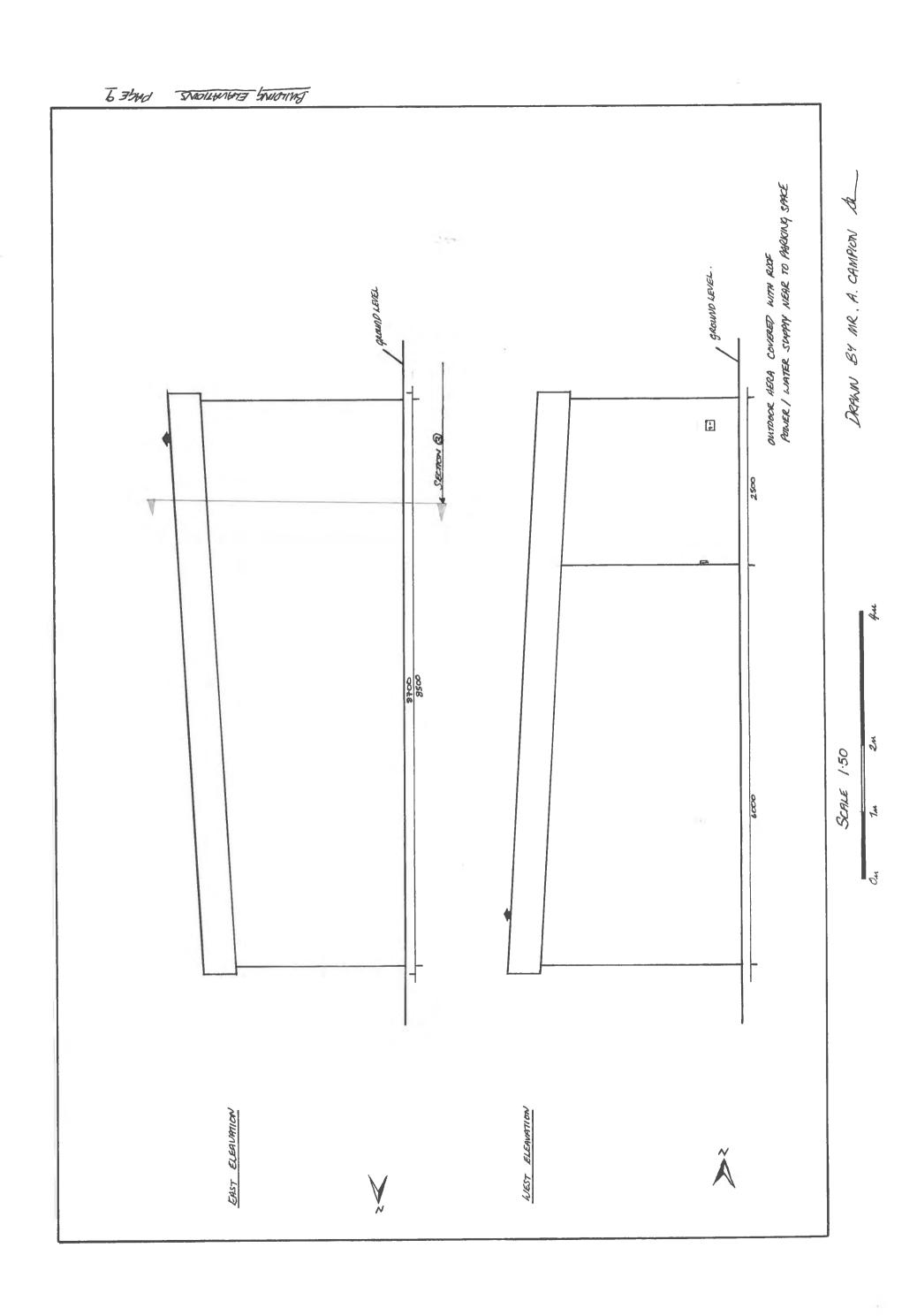
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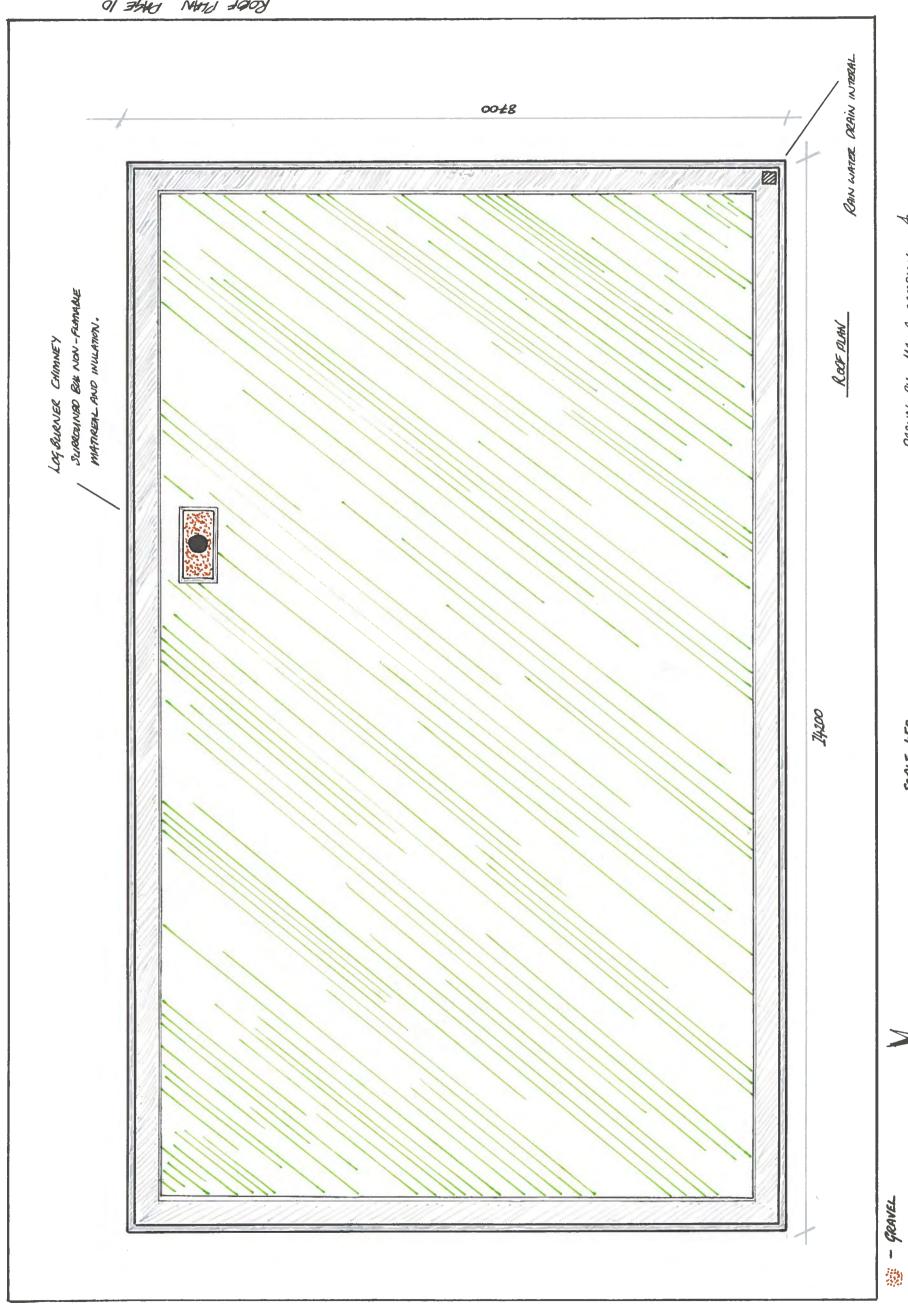


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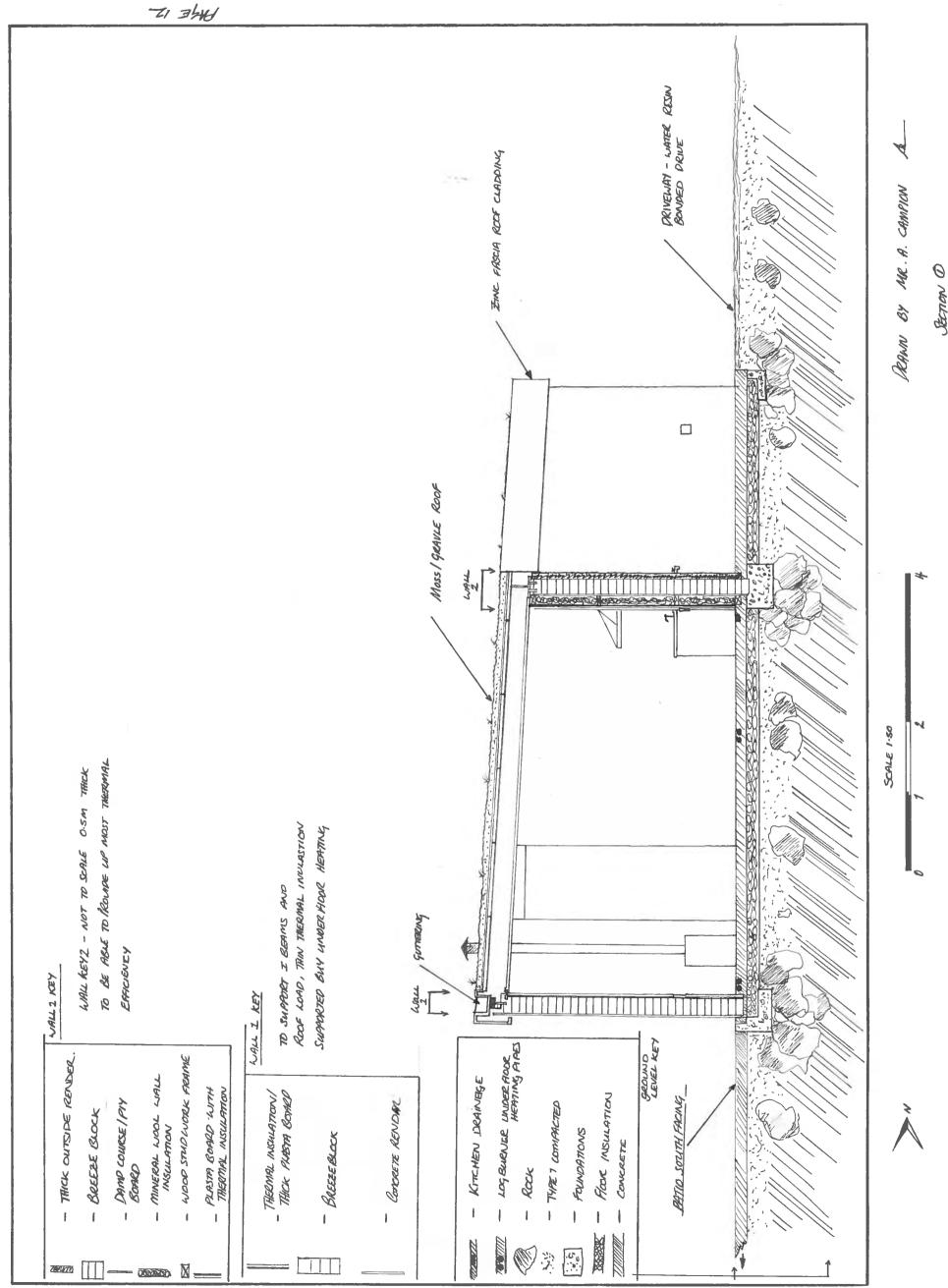


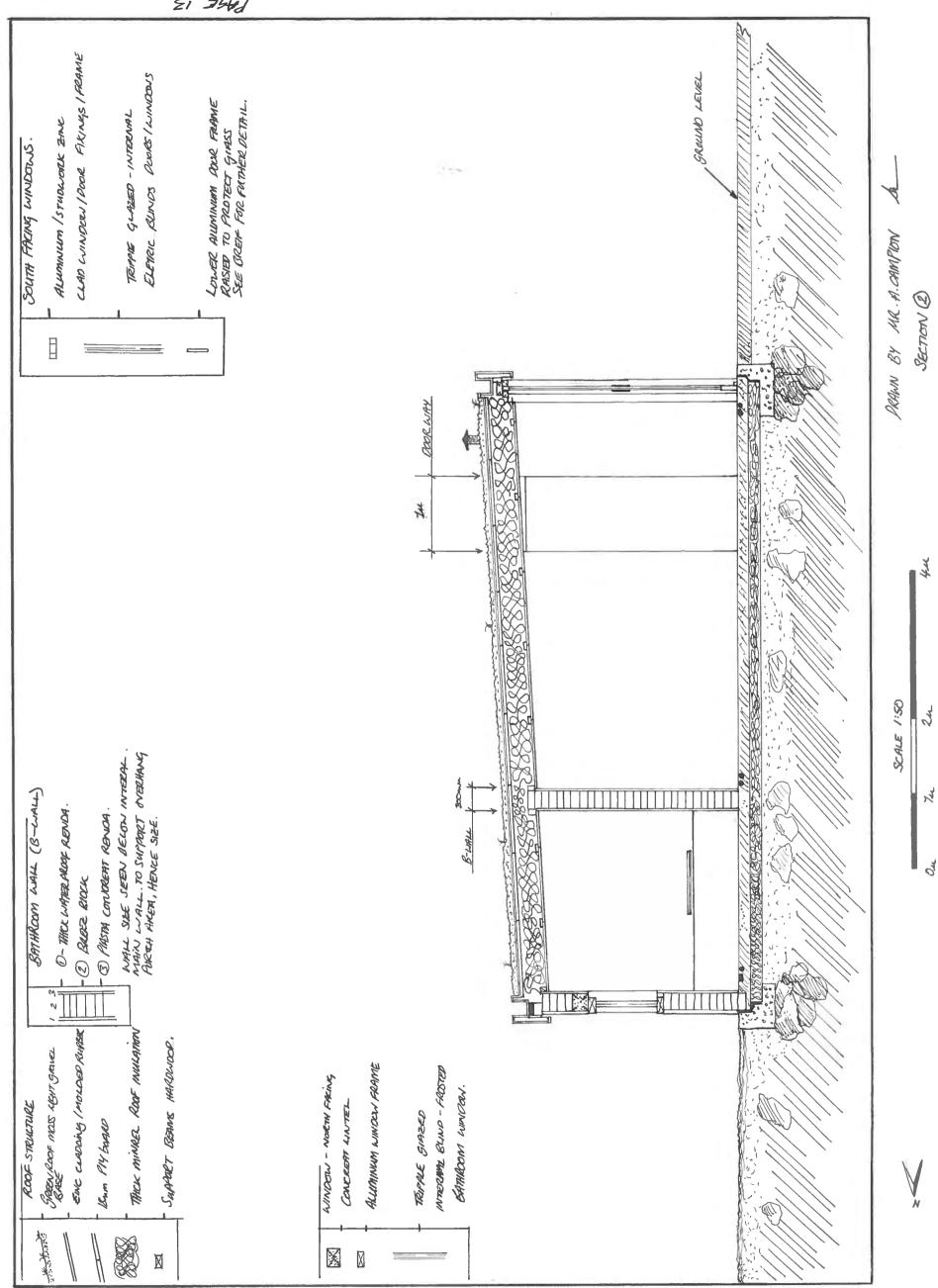
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DRAWN BY MR.A. CAMPION

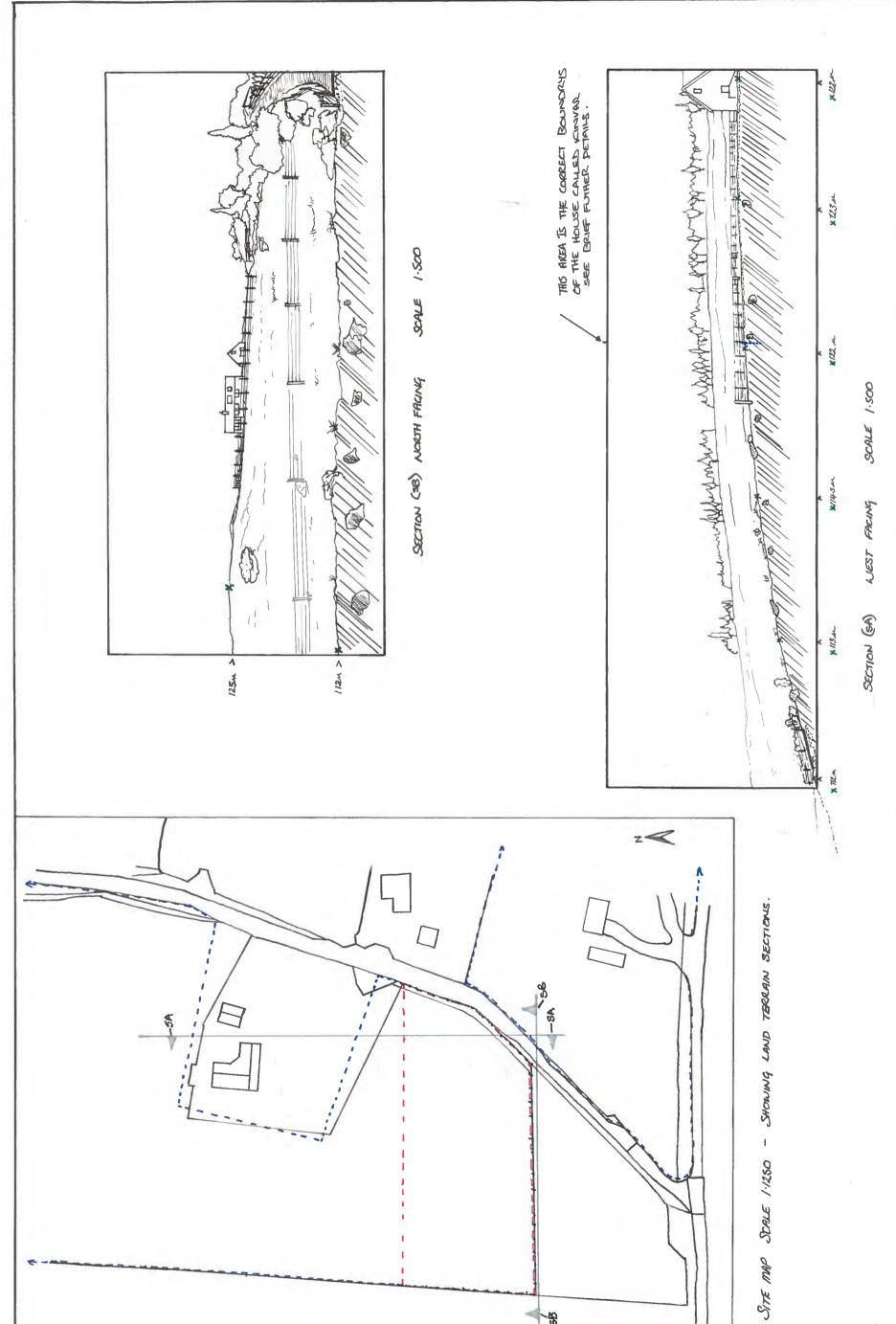
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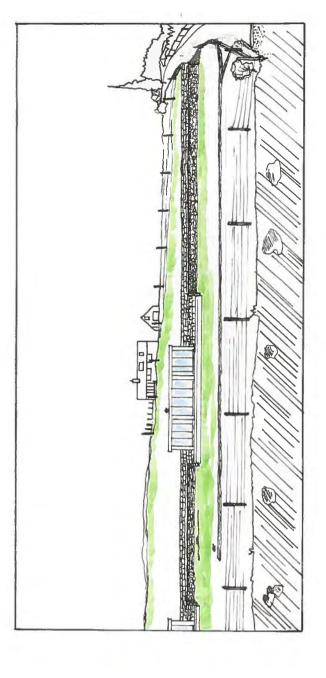
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X - LAND HIGHT TYPEOGRAPHY

.... - LAND OLUNED BY AC PI TRUST 2013

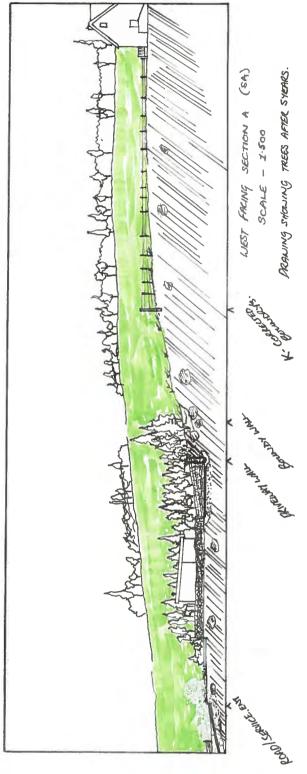
SECTION GUIDE LINES



NORTH FACING SECTION (SB) SCALE 1'500 - Showing BEFORE TREE PLANTAG, AMENDED FENCE BULNDRYS.

* THIS SHOWS HOW THE VINE LINES FROM THE HOUSE TO NORTH CALLED KINNAUA ARE NOT EFECTED BY THESE TOO BULLANGS.

- PUE TO THE LOW KOOF HIGHT AND DESIGN & PLACENSINT OF THE BUILDINGS THIS HAS BEEN CONSIDERD.





CALE 1:1250 SHOWING SECTION LINES (SA) Y (SB)



