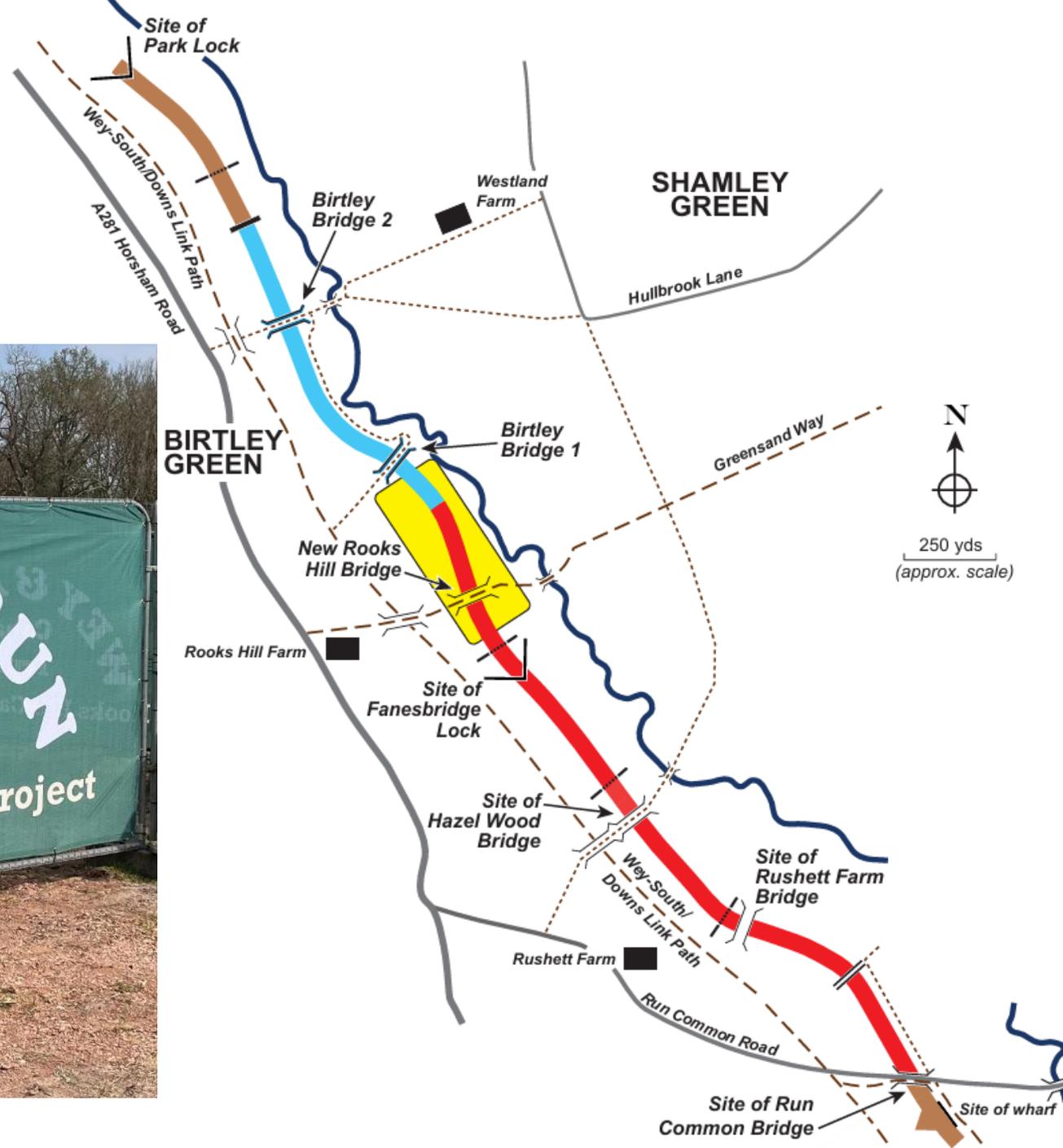


WACT AGM 2025

Rooks Hill Project Oct update



Background

- 900 metres of canal and footpath at Birtley restored 2018 - 2023
- Two new lifting bridges installed
- Circular footpath route with Downslink established and well used
- Water supply from springs at the northern end

Rooks Hill

- One of the Trust's priority areas
- Extends useable canal south from Birtley
- Includes first new length of canal since WACT formed
- Phased project - Phase 1 underway



Three phases

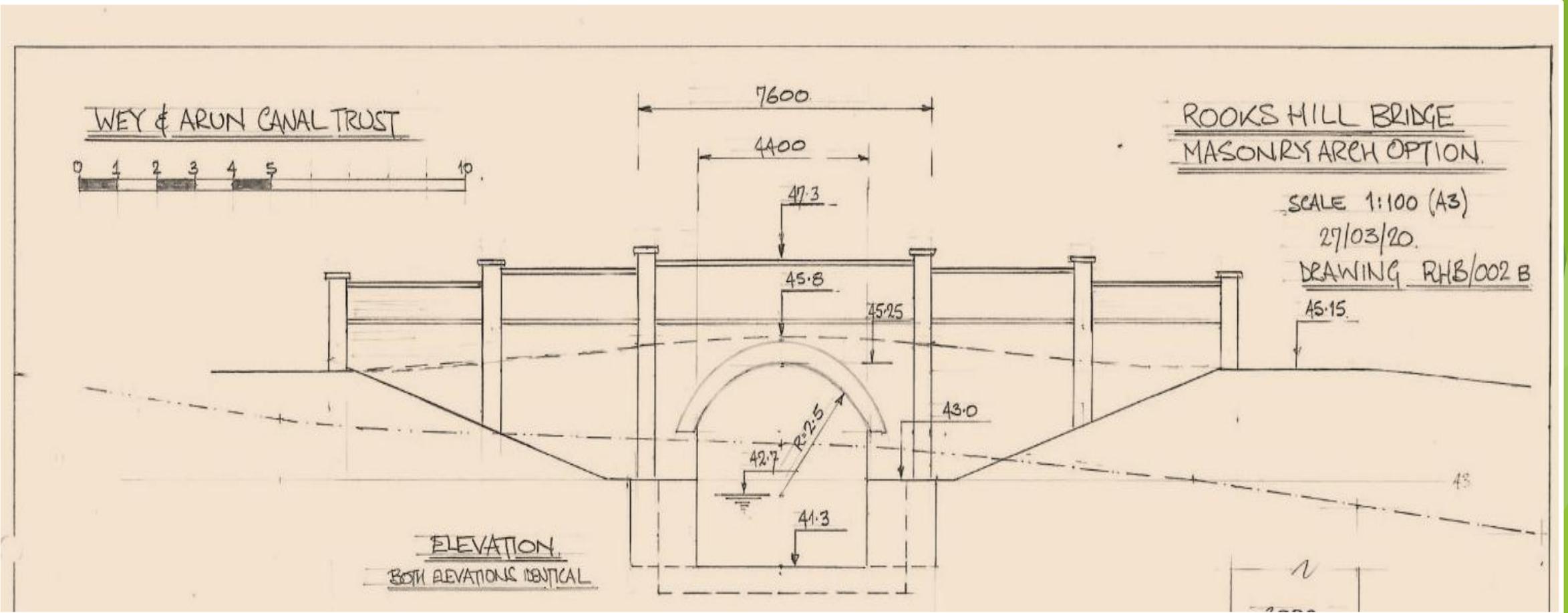
Phase 1:

- Bridleway brick faced concrete overbridge and approach ramps
- 100m of waterway bank retaining wall
- Overflow weir
- Repair Fanesbridge culvert

Phase 1 Timetable

- **April/May** Site set up, access planning conditions
- **June** Dig out bridge hole and cast base
- **July** **WRG summer camps**
Bridge abutments, Culvert repair and start waterway bank retaining wall
- **Aug 25 - June 2026** Complete bridge, wall & culvert/weir

The Bridge









Summer Camps

- ▶ 2 weeks July 2025
- ▶ Newbury Working Party Group
- ▶ Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group
- ▶ Average of 15 volunteers per day
- ▶ Staying at Kirdford Village Hall
- ▶ Very hot
- ▶ Part of WRG summer camps programme
- ▶ TV filming!
- ▶ D of E volunteers - gold award

























LEY & ARUM
Canal
Texas
Locks Hill Canal Project

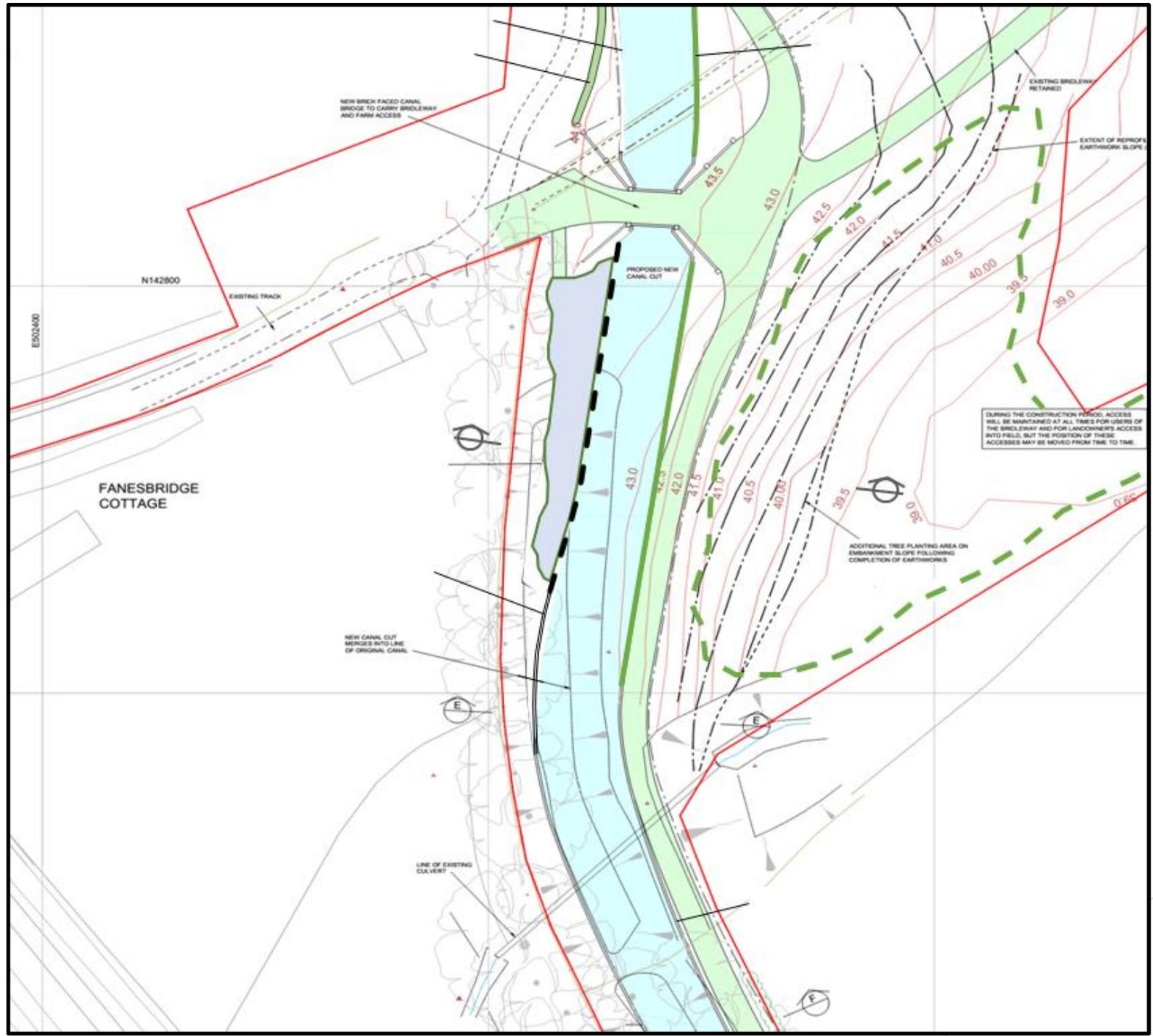


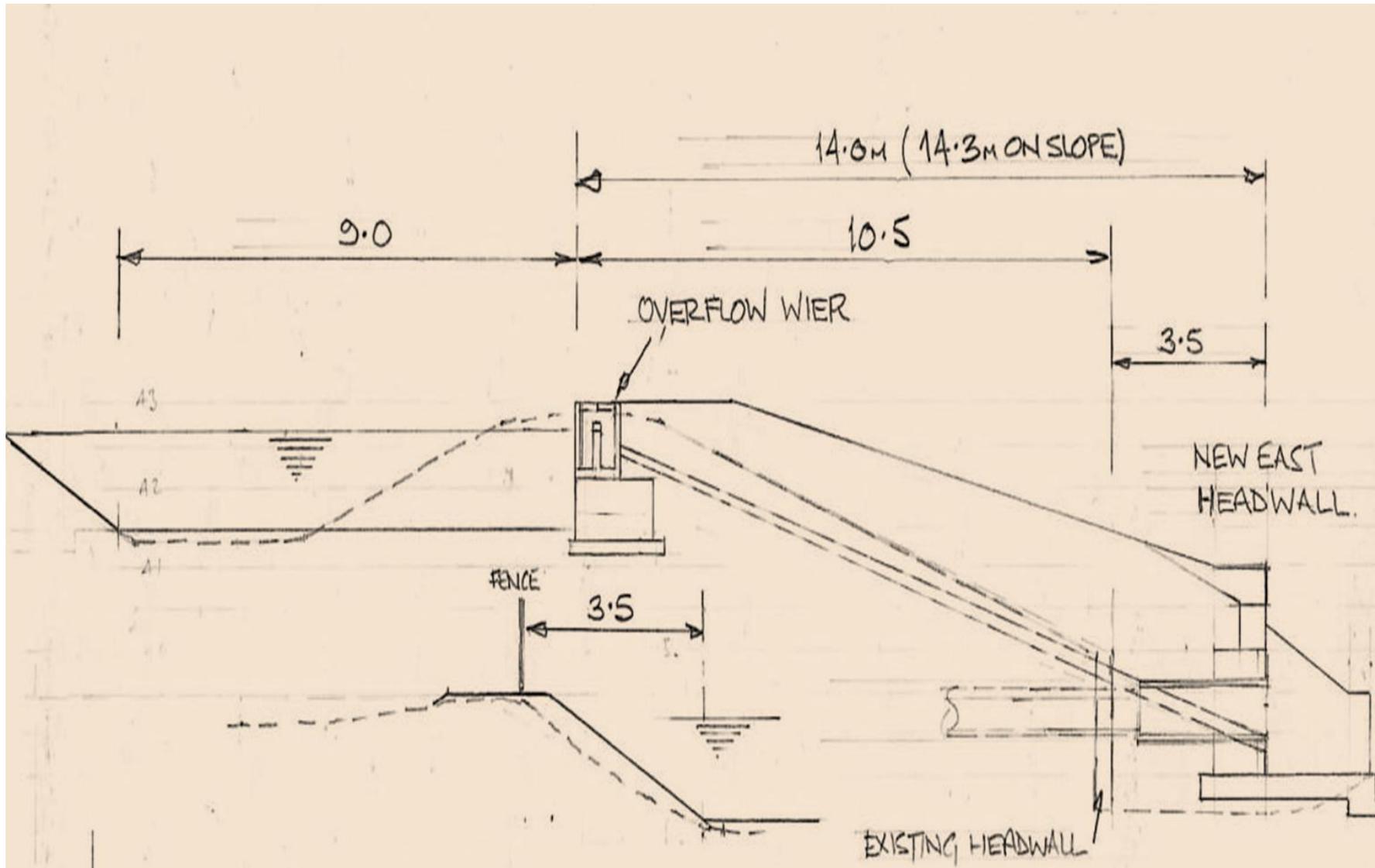
Worker in yellow safety vest and white hard hat.

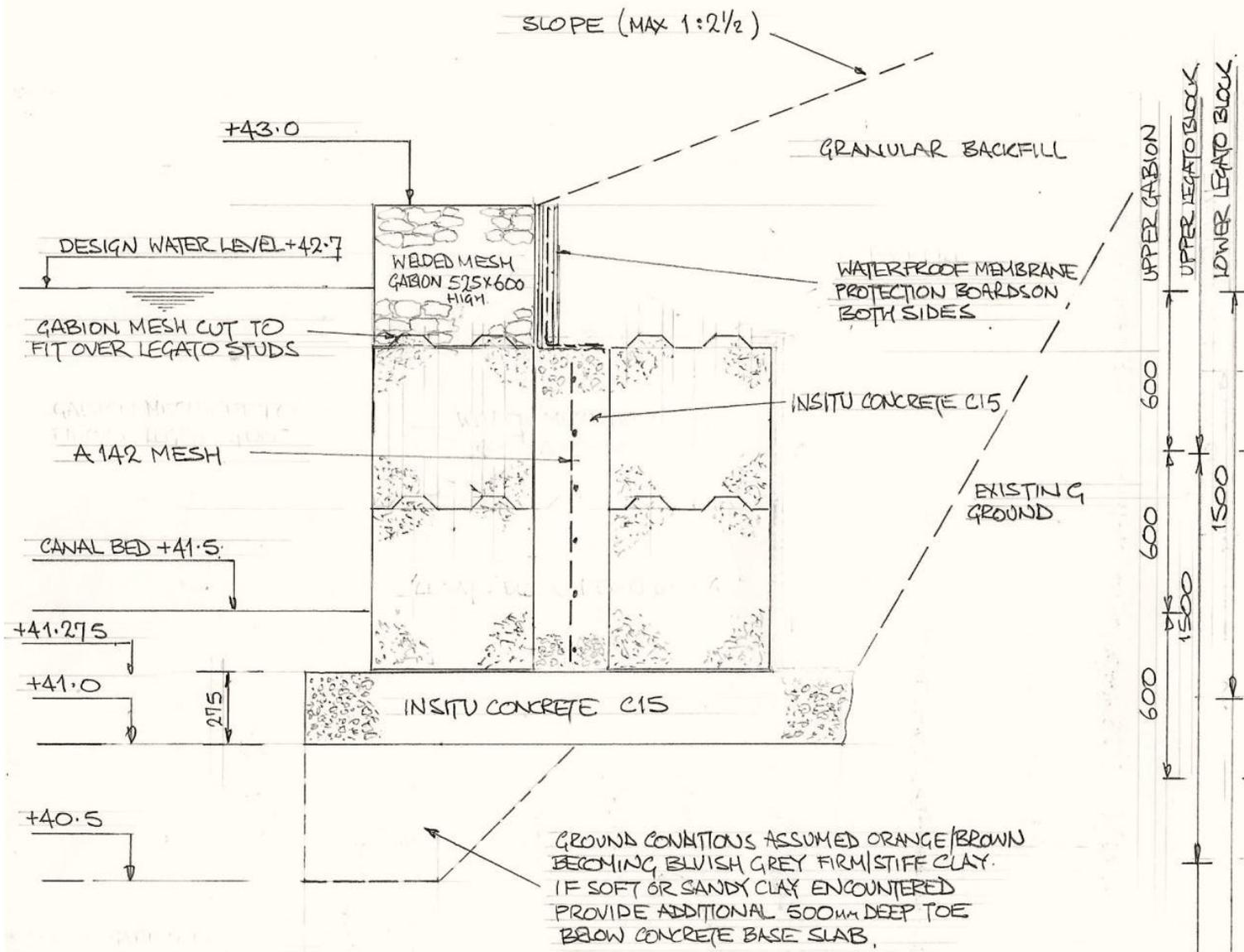
Worker in yellow safety vest and white hard hat.



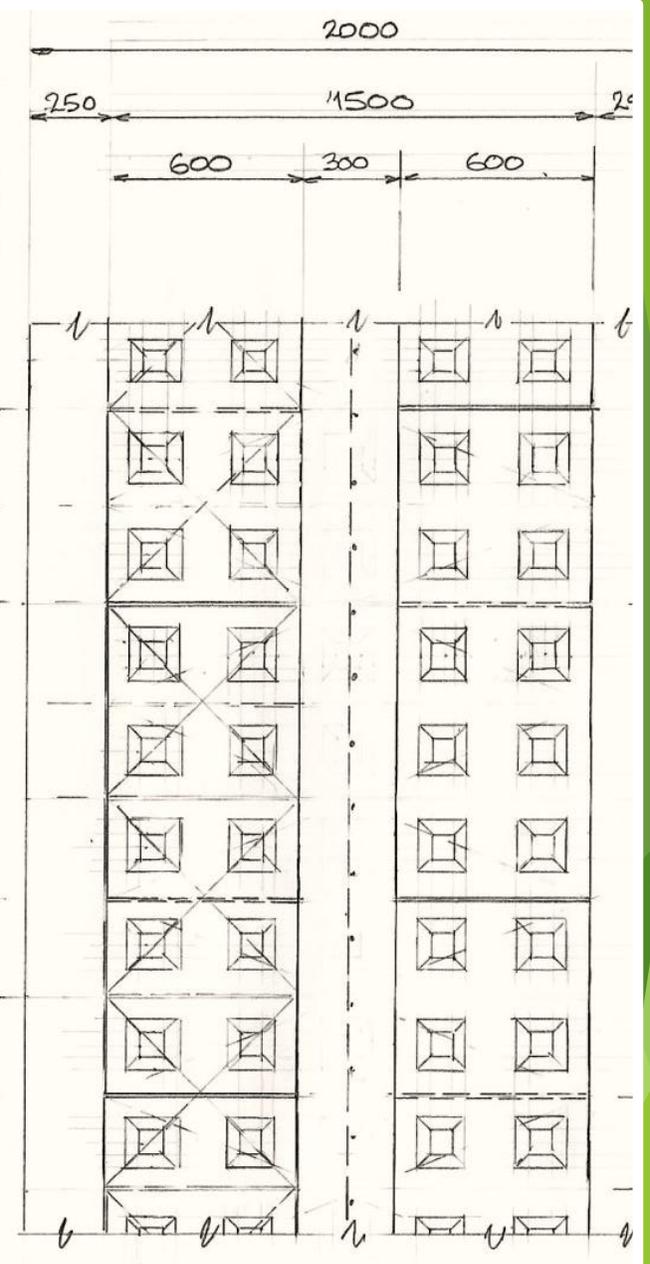
The waterway bank retaining wall and overflow weir







TYPICAL ELEVATION



TYPICAL PLAN

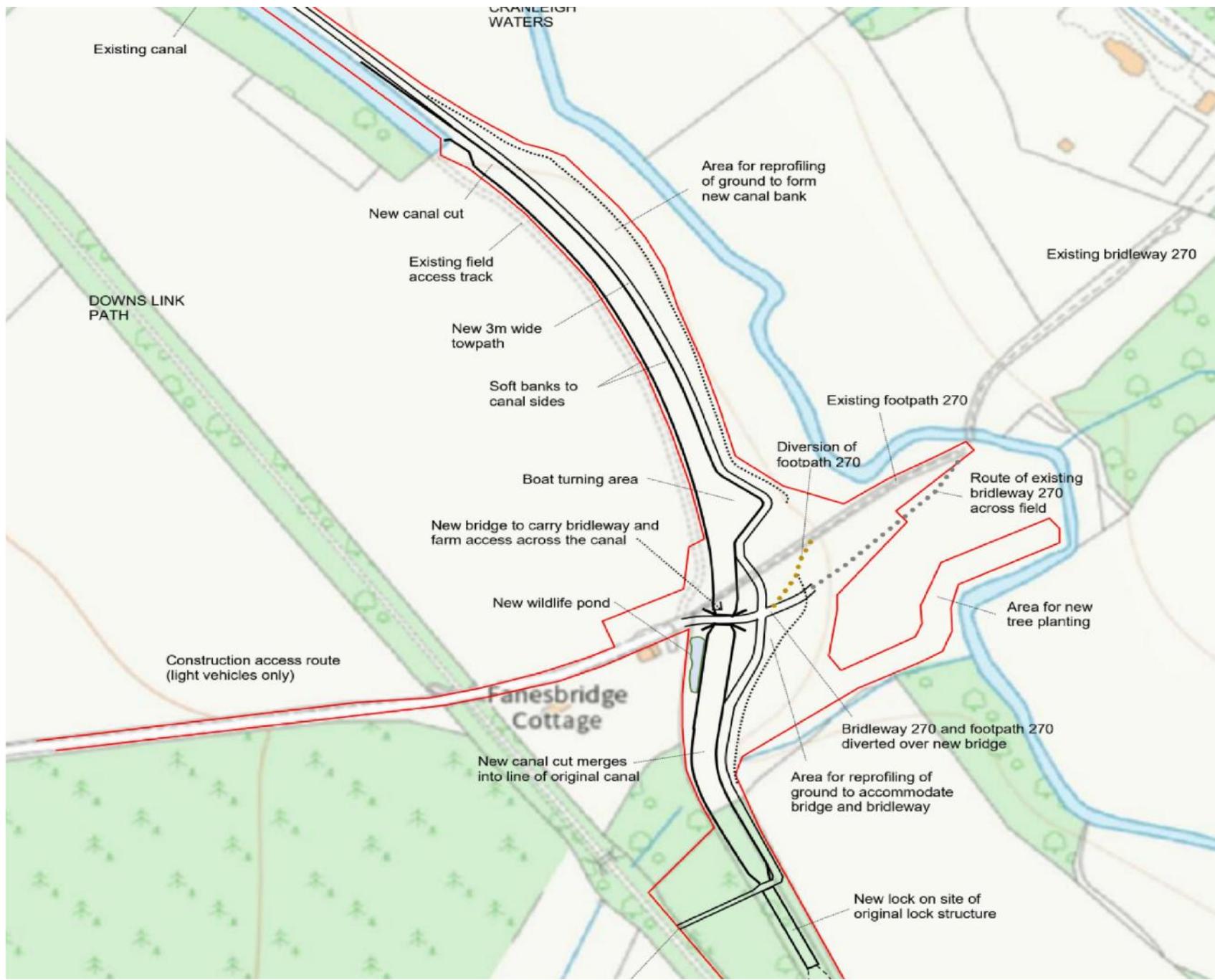


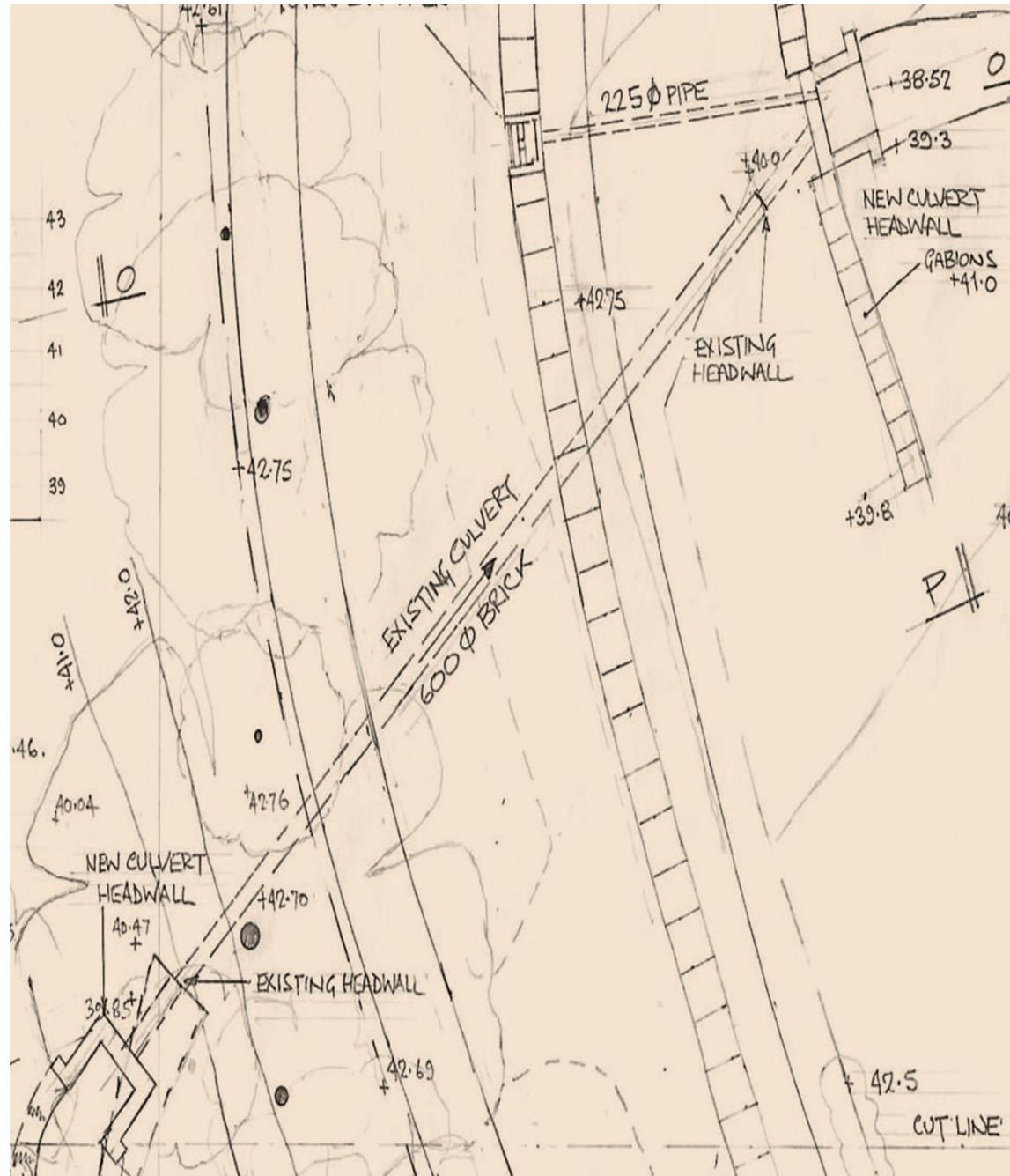




The Culvert







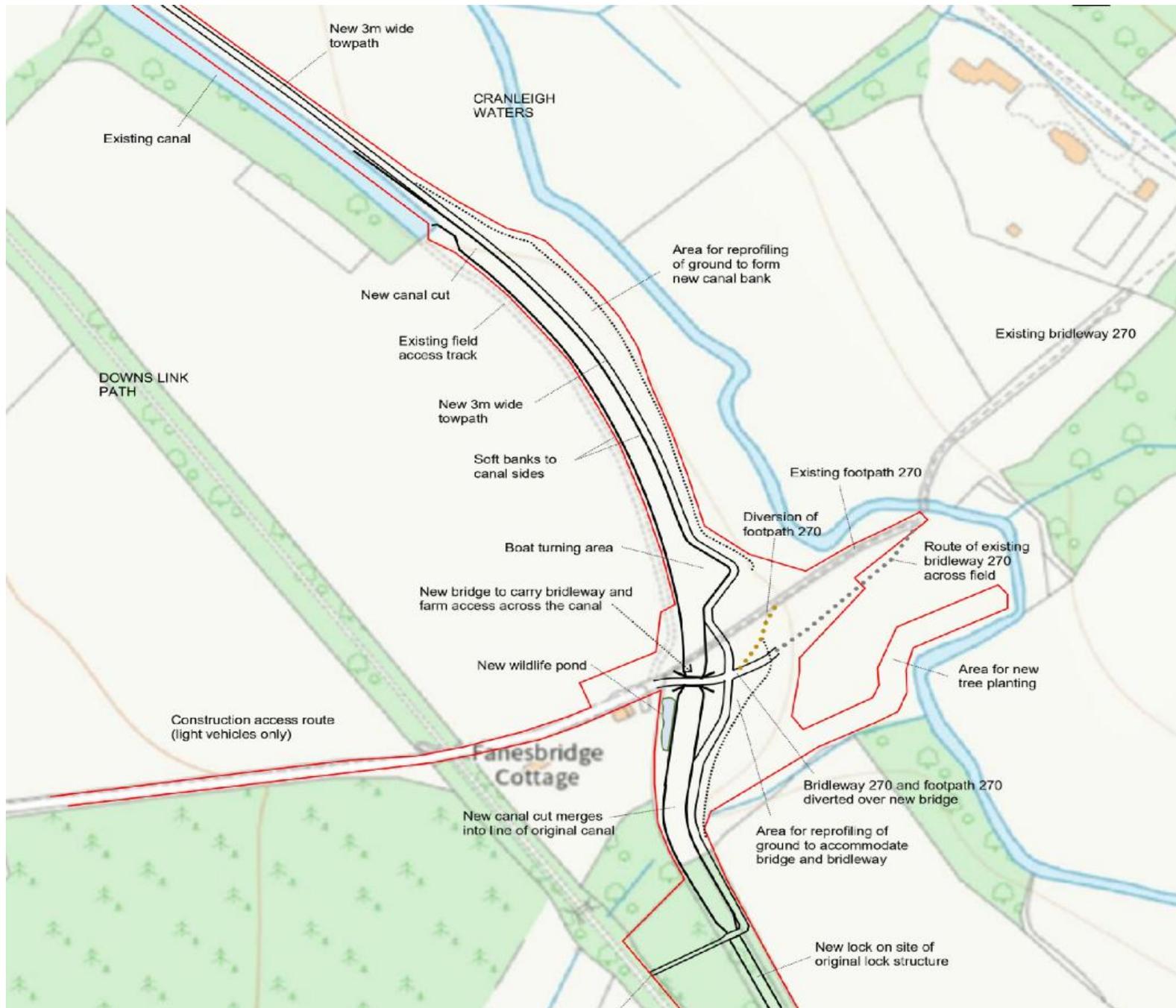






Phase 2 - 2026/2027

- 300 metres of newly dug canal north from bridge
- Soft banks with coir rolls planted to enhance ecology
- Narrows section to link to existing canal
- New hedge and tree planting
- 3 metre wide permissive footpath from Birtley to the Greensand Way
- West bank - Bridge to Fanesbridge boundary



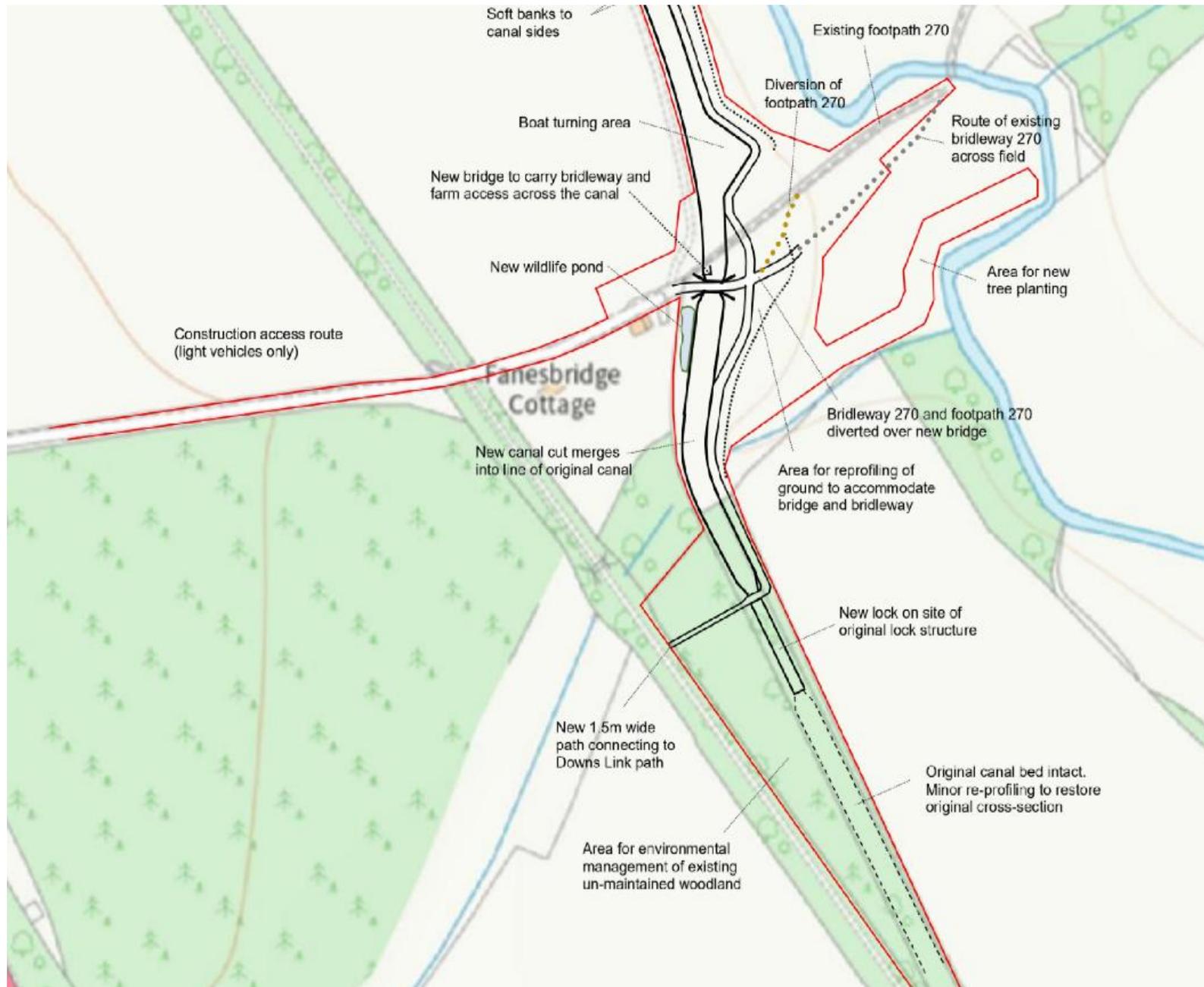


Phase 2 Current status

- Planning permission issued Feb 2025
- Major excavation - material disposal?
- Plastic wood donated by John Lewis
- Coir rolls and gabions needed
- Funding required
- Start summer 2026?

Phase 3 - 2027 +

- Fanesbridge Lock - planning permission granted
- Tree work 2025/6
- part of Rushetts scheme?
- Watch this space!



The End