# **STOCKLEY**



Exeter College, Oxford, Walton Street Quadrangle Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy March 2013

## Exeter College, Oxford, Walton Street Quadrangle Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy

Prepared by	NC	NC	NC	
Checked by	JB	JB	JB	
Date:	18/3/13	25/03/13	23/04/13	
Revision:	P01	P02	P03	
Reason for issue:	Preliminary	Planning	Planning (Inclusion of EA information)	

#### **Contents**

1	Introduc	tion	1
2	Propose	d Development	2
	2.1	The Existing site	
	2.2	Development	3
	2.3	Classification	
	2.4	Planning Background	3
3	Potentia	al Sources of Flooding4	
	3.1	Historical Flooding Information	4
	3.2	Tidal / Coastal Flooding	
	3.3	Flooding from Sewers.	4
	3.4	Flooding from Surface Water	5
	3.5	Flooding from Groundwater	5
	3.6	Fluvial Flooding	
	3.7	Climate Change	6
4	Design F	Response	
5	Flood Ris	sk Management Measures	7
6		Impacts	
7	Residual	l Risks	7
8	Drainage	e Strategy	9
	8.1	Existing Condition	
	8.2	Proposed Condition	9

#### **Drawings**

Existing Site Plan
Existing Sections
Proposed Basement Plan
Proposed Ground Floor Plan
Proposed Sections
Existing Drainage Plan
Proposed Drainage Plan

### **Appendices**

Historical flooding Maps Card Geotechnics Report - Basement Hydrological Assessment SFRA2 – Flood zone Map Environment Agency - Flood Data

#### 1 Introduction

Exeter College Oxford is developing a new college campus as an addition to the existing Turl Street site. The site is that of Ruskin College, who vacated the site in October 2012. The site is located on the junction of Worcester Place and Walton Street in Oxford City Centre, and is referred to in this report as the Walton Street Quadrangle site.

Stockley were appointed in January 2012 by Exeter College Oxford to provide structural and civil engineering services for the redevelopment of the Walton Street Quadrangle site. Alison Brooks Architects are the Lead Consultant appointed by the College, with Northcroft acting as the Project Manager.

The proposals are to transform the site into a new college facility for Exeter College including residential, teaching, cultural and social accommodation for students and faculty staff. Existing structures will be carefully demolished, with the exception of the existing façade to the original Ruskin building facing Walton Street and Worcester Place which will be retained.

This Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has been prepared in line with PPS25 to support the planning application for the redevelopment of the Walton Street Quadrangle site. According to the online EA flood maps for the area, approximately half of the proposed site sits within flood zone 1 and the remaining area sits within flood zone 2.

#### 2 Proposed Development

#### 2.1 The Existing site

The site is located at the junction of Walton Street and Worcester Place in Oxford. The site sits on the northern edge of the city centre and is approximately 10 minutes' walk from Oxford Train Station.

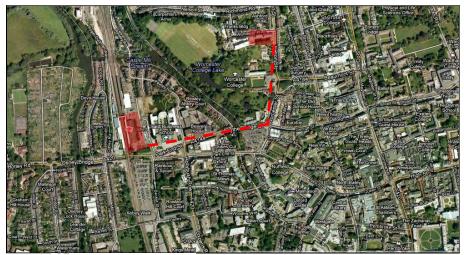


Figure 1 - Site Location Plan

The site is bounded on its northern edge by Worcester place which is a residential scale road and is home to residential properties along its entire length. To the east the site is bounded by Walton Street which is a distributor road and is also lined with residential properties in the vicinity of the site. To the south the site is bounded by Worcester Lane which is a private lane within the grounds of Worcester College. To the west the site is bounded by Worcester College properties providing residential accommodation for Worcester College.



Figure 2 - Existing Site Aerial View

#### 2.2 Development

The development proposals are to create a structure which varies from three to five storeys in height and includes rebuilding the existing basement which covers approximately 70% of the site area. The new building will house student and Fellows accommodation on the upper levels whilst the ground floor and basement areas will house teaching, dining and communal areas along with archive storage, plant space, cycle parking and back of house areas.

#### 2.3 Classification

The new building will house student and Fellows accommodation on the upper levels whilst the ground floor and basement areas will house teaching, dining and communal areas along with archive storage, plant space, cycle parking and back of house areas. The upper floors would be classified in accordance with PPS25, annex D, table D.2 as more vulnerable uses and the ground floor and basement areas are classified as less vulnerable uses.

#### 2.4 Planning Background

In principle, planning policy at the local level is supportive of the redevelopment of sites already in use for higher education, increasing density whilst being respectful to the character and setting of Oxford's historic core (Policy CS29: The Universities). Redevelopment of the former Ruskin College site, for use by Exeter College, is considered wholly consistent with this policy and with the wider policies of the Core Strategy. The proposals are also in accordance with the aims of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In particular, the scheme will adhere to the principles of sustainable development, seeking to deliver good quality design which makes a positive contribution to the surrounding area whilst conserving significant aspects of the buildings' heritage in an appropriate manner.

#### 3 Potential Sources of Flooding

#### 3.1 Historical Flooding Information

Oxford is located at the confluence of the Rivers Thames and Cherwell and as such is at risk of flooding by both watercourses. The Oxford SFRA1 report details dates of the historical flood events back to 1947 as follows:

Spring 1947 Summer 1977 Winter 1979 Autumn 1992 Autumn 1993 Easter 1998 Winter 2000 New Year 2003 Summer 2007

The mapping for these events taken from the SFRA appendix C is attached as Appendix A of this document.

None of these historical flood events resulted in flooding of the proposed development site on Walton Street.

#### 3.2 Tidal / Coastal Flooding

Tidal or Coastal flooding is not applicable to this site in Oxford.

#### 3.3 Flooding from Sewers

The Oxford City SFRA Level 2 (February 2012) contains data on historic incidences of flooding from sewers in the last 10 years. This data, which was gathered from Thames Water, shows that there were 16 flood incidents recorded in the last ten years. 13 of these incidents were attributed to flooding from foul water sewers and it is therefore assumed that the surface water flood risk from the surface water sewer network within the city is low;

Properties flooded by Properties flooded by Properties flooded by Postcode surface water sewers foul water sewers in combined sewers in Total in last ten years the last ten years the last ten years OX1 2 0 OX2 0 0 7 1 6 OX2 6 0 2 3 1 **OX28** 0 0 1 1 OX43 0 1 0 1 **OX44** 0 0 1 **OX46** 1 0 1 0 OX47 0 0 1 Total 16

Table 4-1: Thames Water Sewer Flooding Incidents

Figure 3 - Incidents of Flooding from SFRA2

Further to that the incidents of flooding within the same postcode area as the proposed development site (OX1 2) was limited to only one incident, which occurred from a surface water sewer. This shows that the foul water flood risk in the vicinity of the site is also low. The mapping of the flooding events from sewers is contained within appendix A of this report.

#### 3.4 Flooding from Surface Water

The Area Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding (AStSWF) maps taken from the Oxford SFRA2 show that the site is unlikely to susceptible to surface water flow or ponding, below is an abstract from the mapping which is also contained within appendix A of this report.

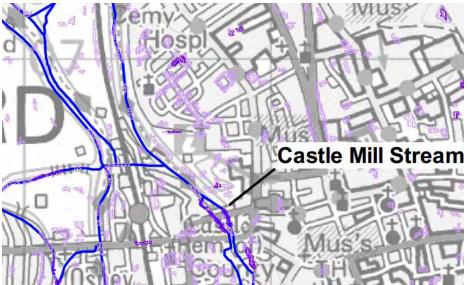


Figure 4 - Area at Risk of Flooding Map

#### 3.5 Flooding from Groundwater

The Oxford SFRA shows that there have been no historical events of groundwater flooding in proximity of the site, refer to Appendix A for the mapping of historical groundwater flooding events. The closest groundwater flooding event occurred in New Botley over 1Km to the west-southwest of the site.

A Hydrogeology assessment has been prepared by Card Geotechnics for the proposed development. This report was commissioned in order to assess the impact on groundwater of reconstructing the new basement on the site. The report is included in Appendix B of this report.

A maximum increase in groundwater level of 5.5cm is predicted at the up-gradient (north east) site boundary, reducing to 3.8cm at 20m distance. The impact of such a rise is considered to be negligible, given that the nearest upstream structures are some 10m to 15m away, and given that conservative assumptions were made in the modelling.

#### 3.6 Fluvial Flooding

The site sits to the north east of the River Thames and Castle Mill Stream. The eastern half of the site sits in Flood zone 1 which gives a less than 0.1% annual probability (1 in 1000 year) of flooding occurring. The western half of the site sits within flood zone 2 which gives a 0.1% annual probability (1 in 1000 year) of flooding occurring. The Oxford SFRA flood zone map is contained within Appendix C of this report

As detailed in the Oxford SFRA1 the historical flooding events have been mapped, refer to appendix A of this report for the mapping of these flood events. None of these events resulted in fluvial flooding of the proposed site.

The information from the Oxford SFRA is substantiated by the data received from the environment agency which is contained in appendix D of this report which gives a 1% annual probability plus climate change flood water level of the nearest watercourses of +57.84 (mAOD).

#### 3.7 Climate Change

PPS25 gives anticipated increases in rainfall intensities to account for climate change. The design of the new drainage system at the Walton Street development site will account for climate change and although there is little space available on the site due to the constrained nature of the site SUDS in the form of attenuation tanks will be provided to attenuate against climate change increases in rainfall and also to reduce the peak flow rates compared to the existing peak flow rates from the existing site.

#### 4 Design Response

The new building will house student and Fellows accommodation on the upper levels whilst the ground floor and basement areas will house teaching, dining and communal areas along with archive storage, plant space, cycle parking and back of house areas. The upper floors would be classified in accordance with PPS25, annex D, table D.2 as more vulnerable uses and the ground floor and basement areas are classified as less vulnerable uses. The basement is to be constructed using a secant piled wall to create a complete box around the basement in conjunction with a watertight concrete method which together will ensure that the basement cannot be inundated by any way other than water overtopping the capping beam which is generally set at ground floor level (approximately +60.485m AOD) although this does did down to +58.50 (mAOD) in locations. The surface water drainage system within the basement is a pumped system which ensures that water cannot re-enter the basement from the sewer network due to the presence of non-return valves.

The ground floor level will be set at the threshold level at Walton Street (+60.485m AOD) which relates to a level above the 0.1% annual probability (1 in 1000 year) of flooding occurring this is generally raised from the existing ground floor level in the existing situation which currently follows ground level, this raised ground floor will ensure safe access from the residential parts of the development in the upper floors if required.

The 1% plus climate change flood water level of +57.84 (mAOD) is over 3.5m below the capping beam level generally and 660mm above the lowest capping beam level of +58.50 (mAOD) the capping beam level is the level that the water would need to reach to overtop the basement causing inundation.

#### 5 Flood Risk Management Measures

Exeter College will sign up to the Environment Agency's flood warning system, Floodline Warnings Direct (FWD). FWD is a multimedia flood warning system that is used to issue flood warnings to specific areas by telephone, mobile, fax or pager. The aim of this service is to provide flood warnings at least two hours in advance of a flood event to properties that lie within flood zone 2 or flood zone 3.

#### 6 Off-site Impacts

The redevelopment of the Walton Street site is not anticipated to cause any adverse effects to surrounding or downstream sites. The design of a new SUDS drainage system will reduce peak water flows from the sites which will help to reduce the risk of flooding from sewers and flash flooding in the locality of the site. A detailed hydrology report has been produced to test the impacts of the reconstructed basement on groundwater in the area and this has shown that the effects on groundwater are not considered to be significant.

#### 7 Residual Risks

The new ground floor of the redeveloped Walton Street site will be set at threshold level and will be level throughout the site this has the effect of raising ground floor levels generally to those as

existing, this increase in ground floor levels will ensure safe access from the site in the event of a flood event.

#### 8 Drainage Strategy

#### 8.1 Existing Condition

#### The Site

The existing site is mainly covered with existing structures and hard standing although there is a small grassed quadrangle within the site which is presently not formally drained. The existing hard standing area is 1600m2 and the existing soft landscaping area is 100m2.

#### The drainage System

The existing complex of buildings on the site were home to Ruskin College, the existing drainage network carries the surface water from all hard standing and roofs to the surface water sewer within Worcester Place under gravity, there is currently no provision for attenuation or any form of SUDS system.

The existing foul water also drains under gravity to the foul water sewer within Worcester Place.

The as surveyed existing drainage layout is appended to this report.

#### 8.2 Proposed Condition

The below ground drainage layout is shown indicatively on (DR) 001. The proposed hard standing area is 1700m2 although planting areas are to be provided these will generally be on top of structure and will require positive drainage.

#### Surface Water

The surface water from the majority of the 1150m2 roof areas will be drained into water harvesting tanks for re-use within the building as a grey water supply. Where collection is unfeasible from the roof due to the proximity of the boundary and the space restrictions the surface water from the roofs and hard standing will be drained under gravity to the existing sewer within Worcester Place.

The external hardstanding areas will drain to basement level and will need to be pumped to the surface water sewer in Worcester Place due to the reduced level of the existing basement. The pump chambers will conform to building regulations and provide 24 hour storage in case of malfunction.

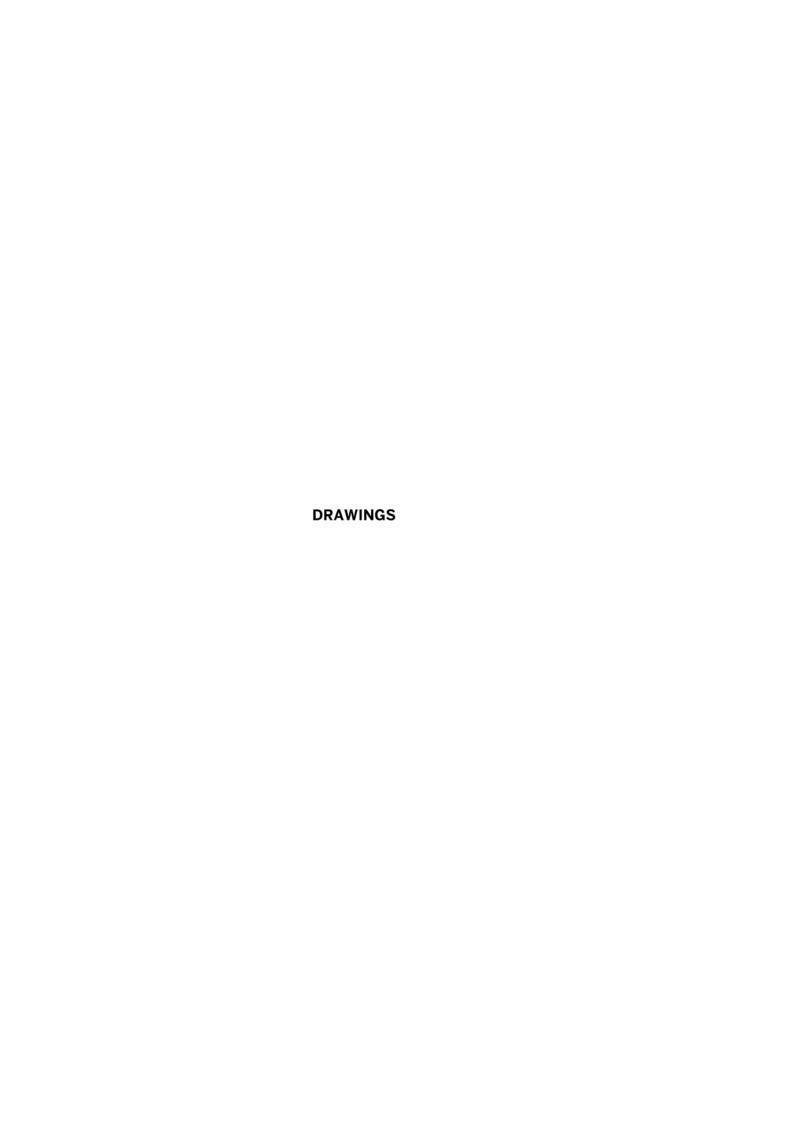
The proposed development should be designed so that there is no flooding to the development in a 1 in 30 year (3.33% AEP) event and so that there is no property flooding in a 1 in 100 year (1% AEP) plus climate change event.

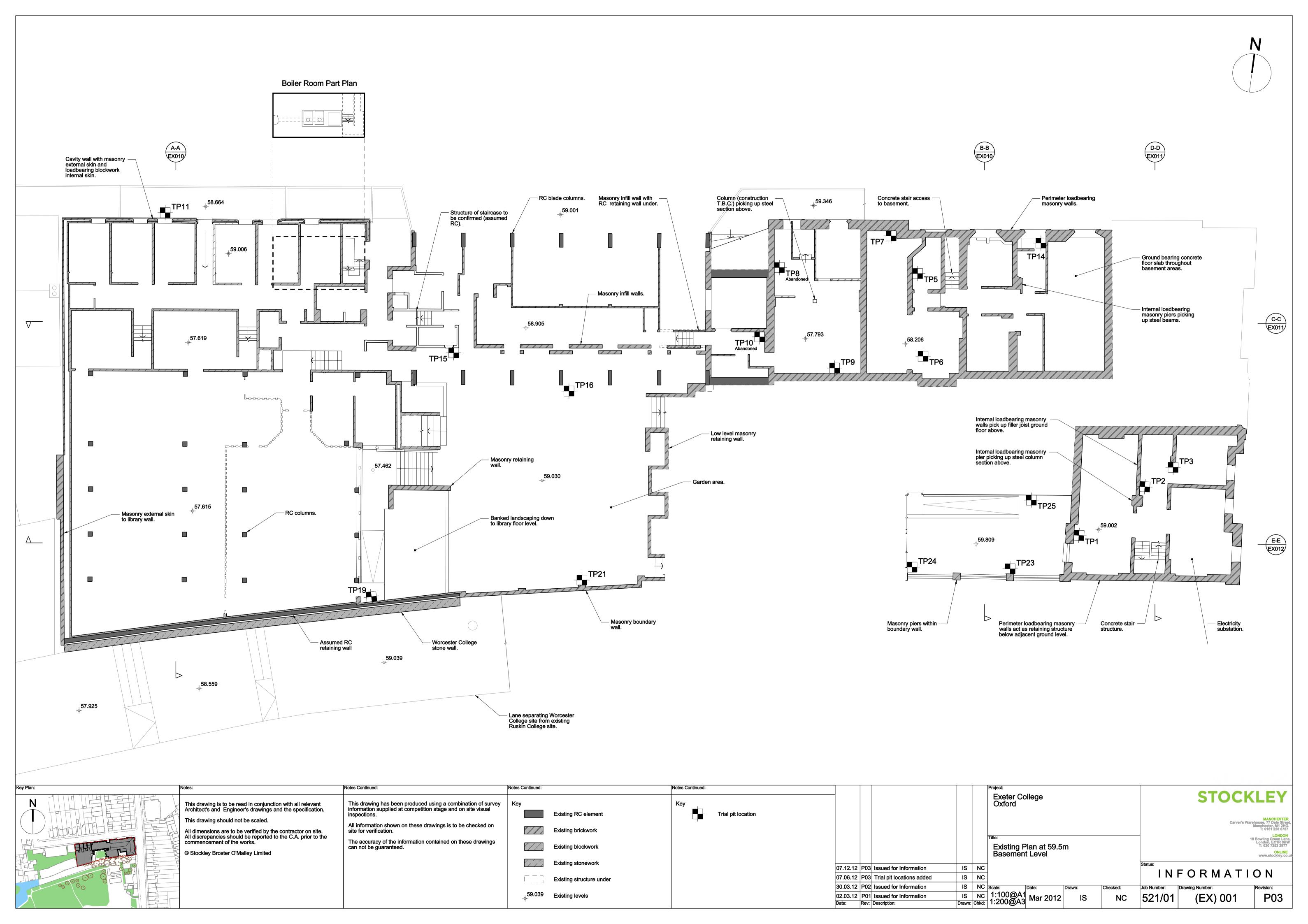
The increase in hard standing area of 100m2 will be attenuated for along with a target reduction of 30% of existing peak flows up to a 1 in 100 year plus climate change event as outlined in

Oxford City Councils SFRA2. The rainwater harvesting tanks will double up as attenuation tanks which will be further supplemented by the storage capacity within the Hydrobrake manhole by providing a free board within the tanks itself with flow being regulated by a Hydrobrake or similar flow control.

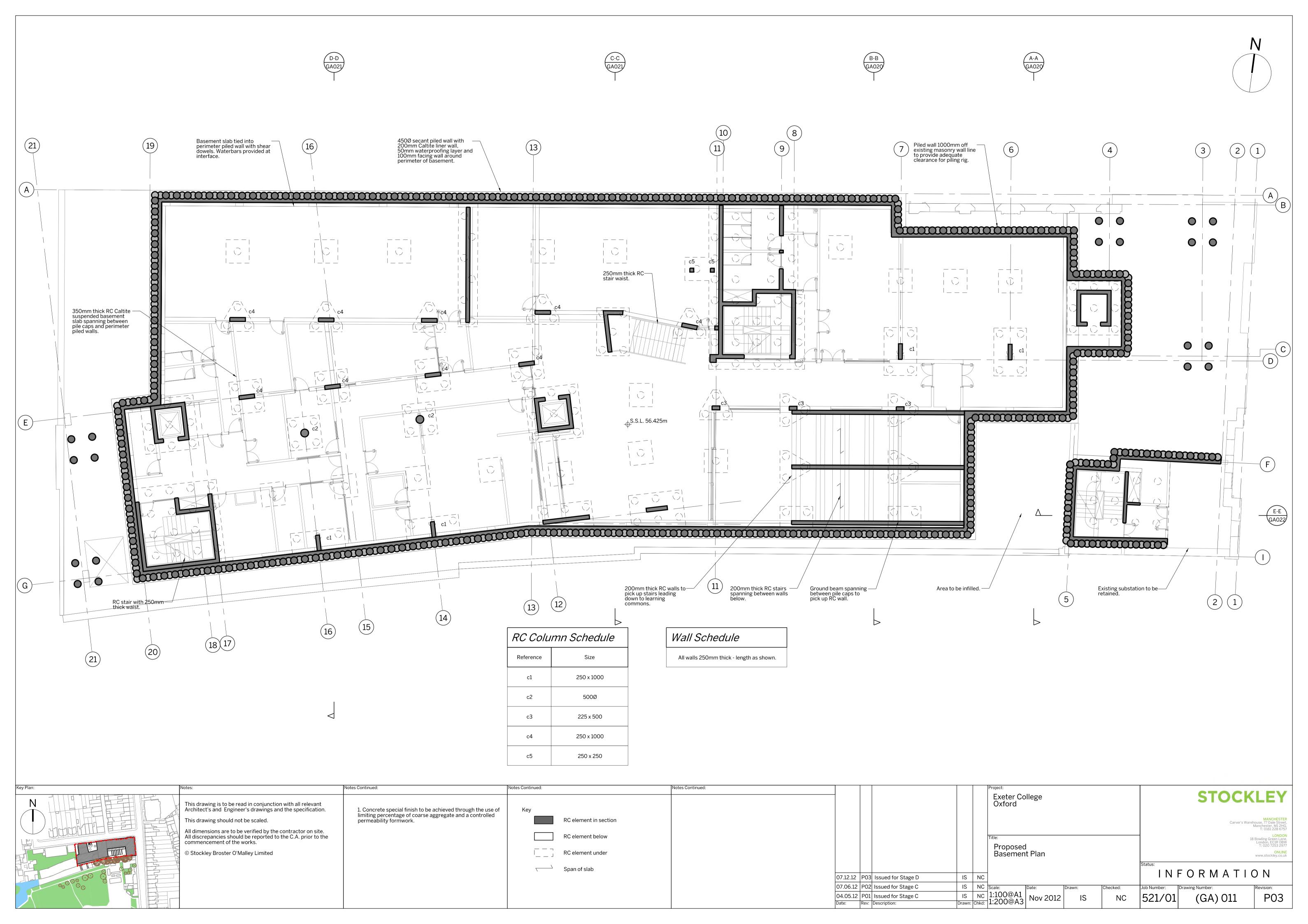
#### Foul Water

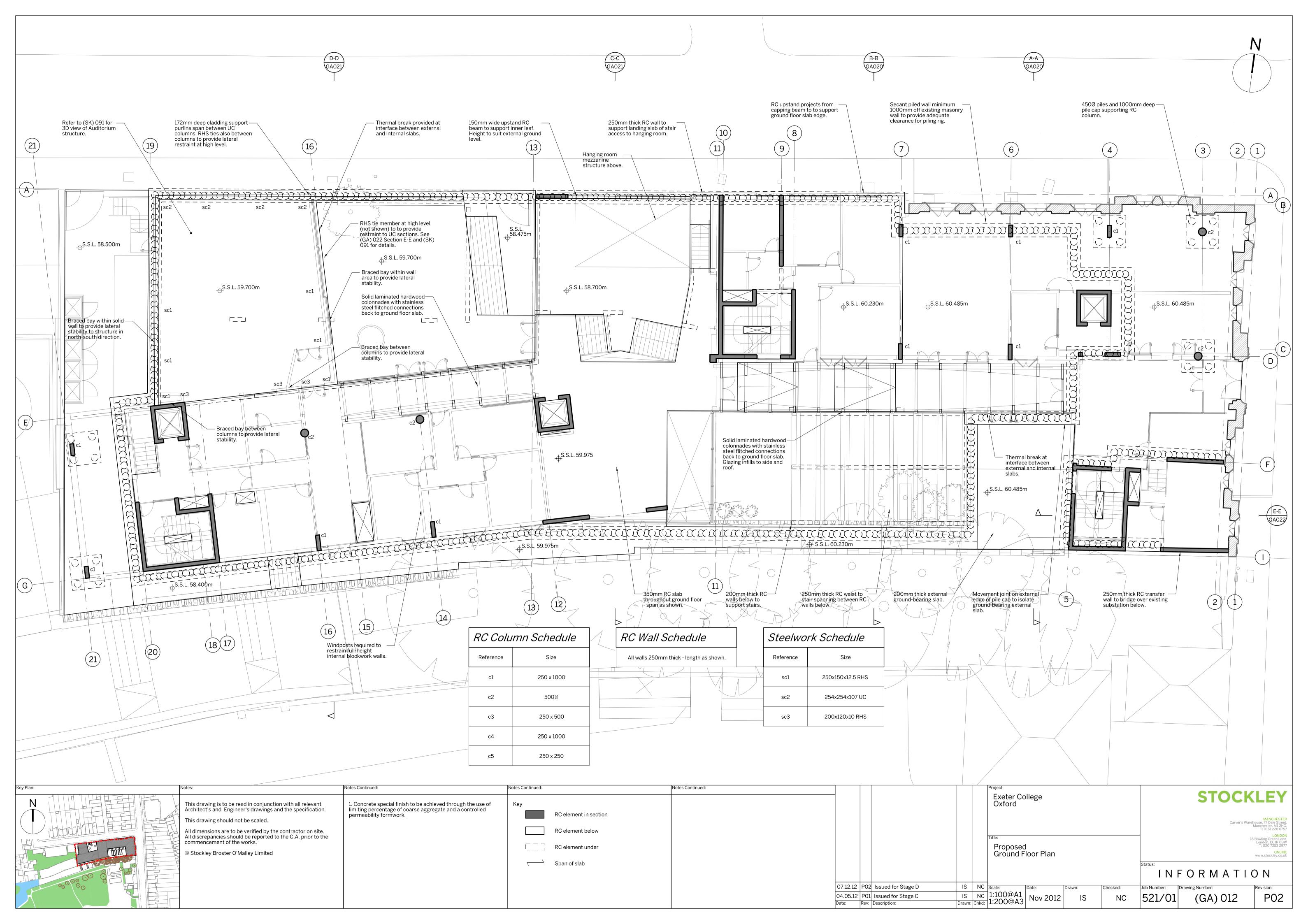
Foul water will generally be collected below the basement of the new building and will be pumped to the foul sewer on Worcester Place. The pump chambers will conform to building regulations and provide 24 hour storage in case of malfunction.

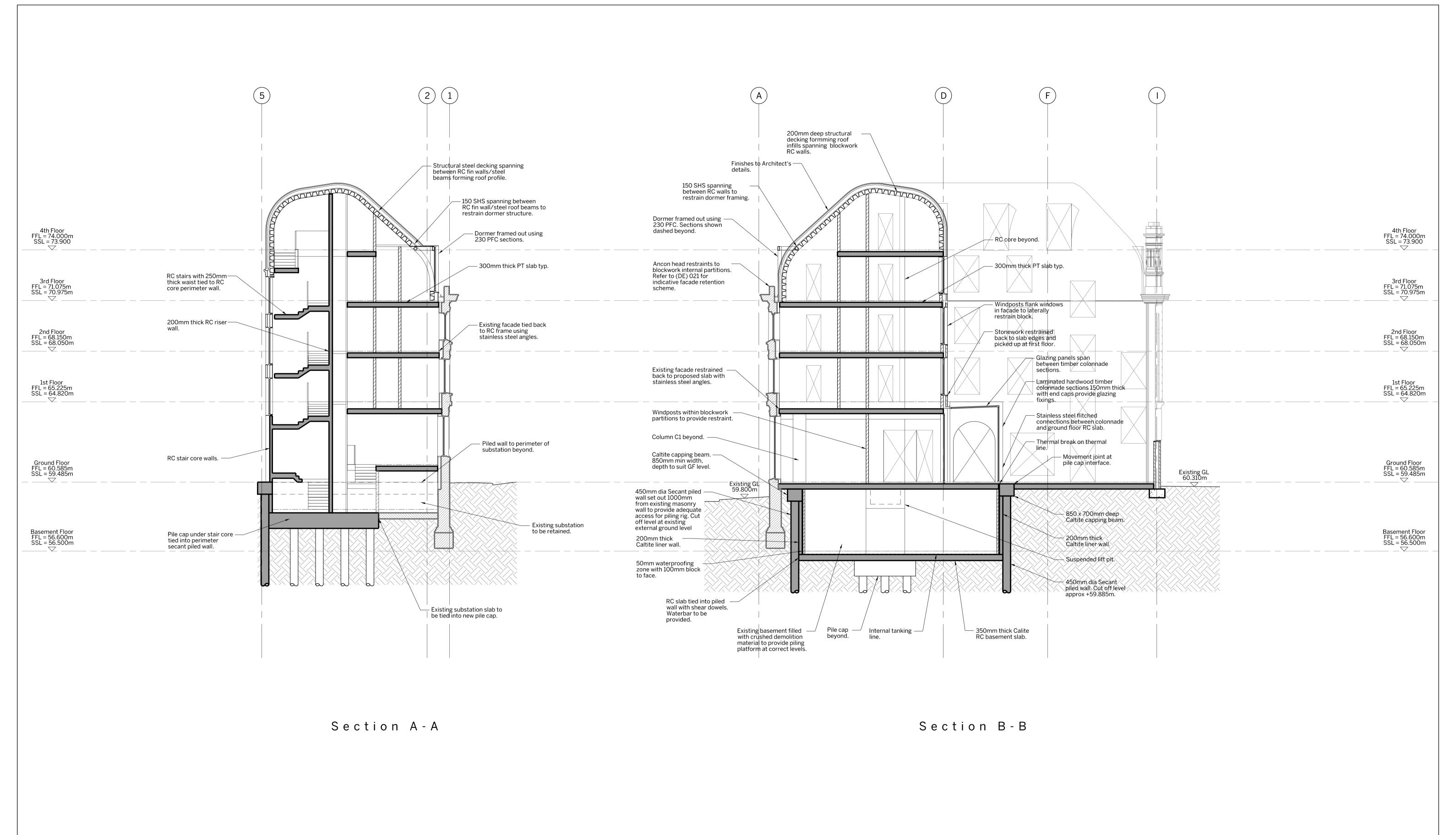




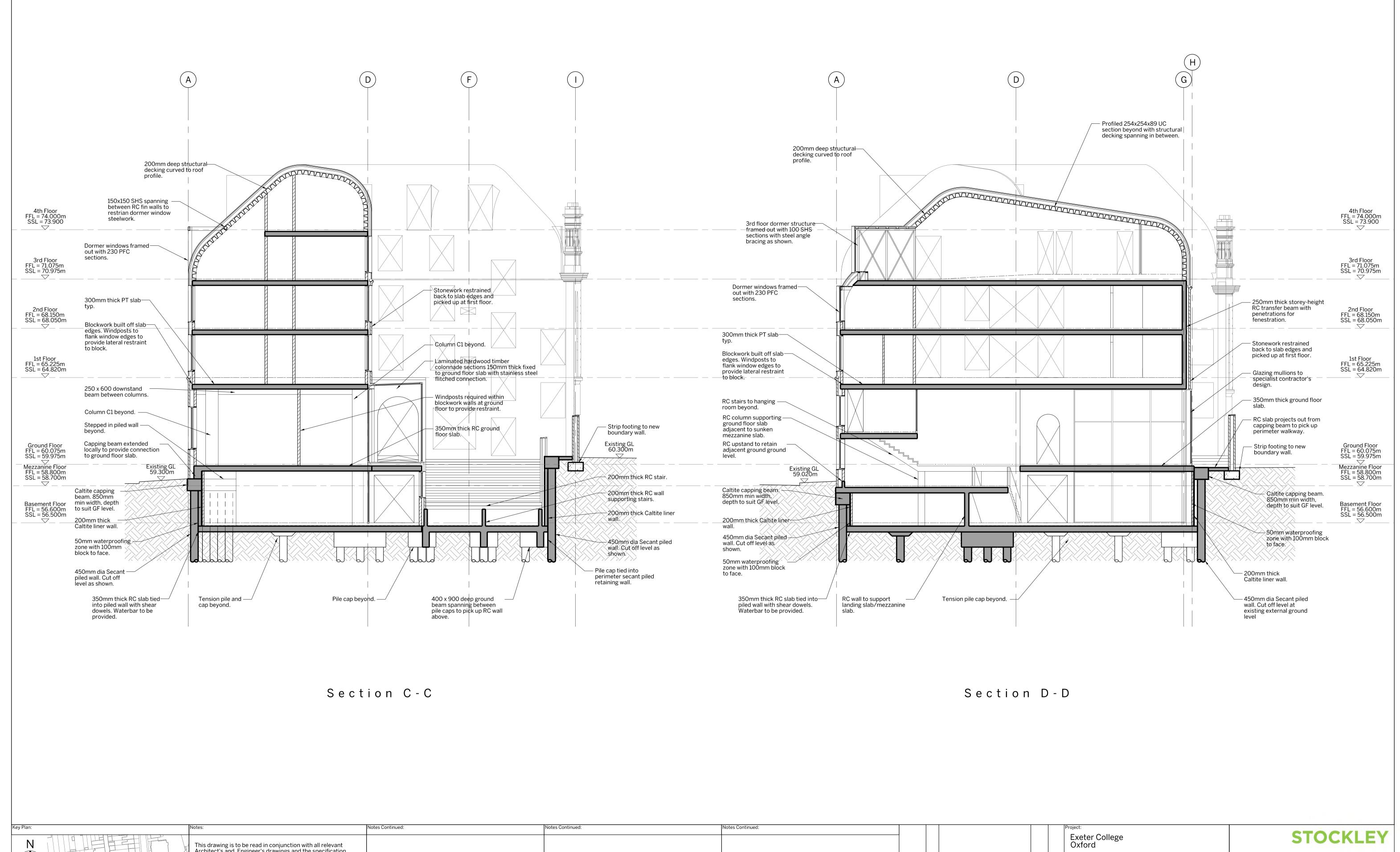




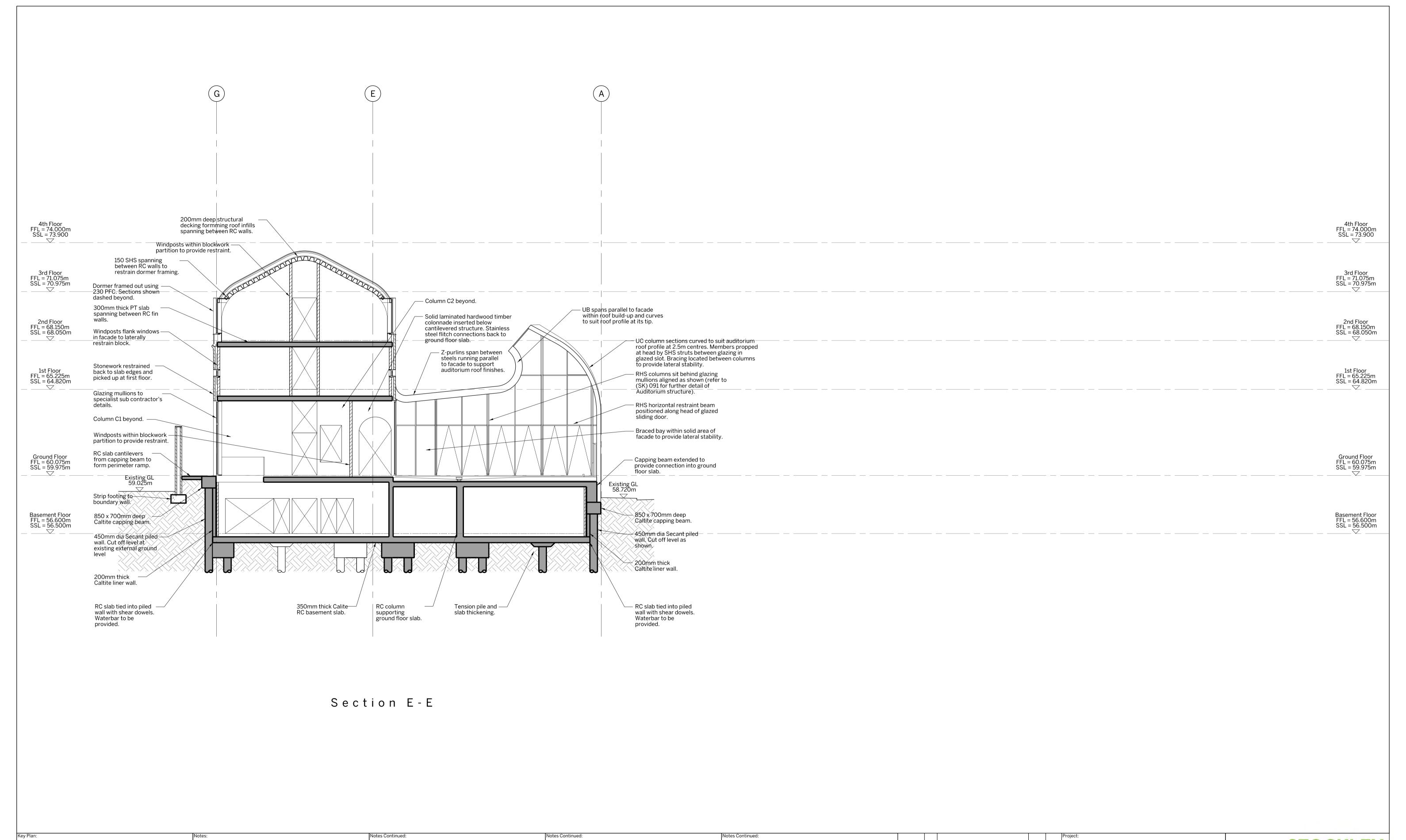




Key Plan:  Notes:  This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant Architect's and Engineer's drawings and the specification.	Notes Continued:  Notes Continued:	Notes Continued:	Exeter College Oxford	STOCKLEY
This drawing should not be scaled.  All dimensions are to be verified by the contractor on site. All discrepancies should be reported to the C.A. prior to the commencement of the works.  © Stockley Broster O'Malley Limited			Title: Proposed Sections A-A and B-B	MANCHESTER Carver's Warehouse, 77 Dale Street, Manchester, M1 2HG. T: 0161 228 6757  LONDON 18 Bowling Green Lane, London, EC1R 0BW T: 020 7253 2977  ONLINE www.stockley.co.uk  Status:
B			PO1 Issued for Stage D	Job Number: Drawing Number: Revision: PO1



Key Plan:	Notes:  This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all rel Architect's and Engineer's drawings and the specif	Notes Continued:  levant fication.	Notes Continued:	Notes Continued:		Exeter College Oxford	STOCKLEY
	This drawing should not be scaled.  All dimensions are to be verified by the contractor of All discrepancies should be reported to the C.A. pri commencement of the works.  © Stockley Broster O'Malley Limited	on site. ior to the			07.12.12 P01 Issued for Stage D Date: Rev: Description:	Title: Proposed Sections C-C and D-D  Scale: 1:100@A1 1:200@A3 Dec 2012 IS N	Status:  INFORMATION  Status:  Job Number:  Job Number:  GAA) 021  MANCHESTER Carver's Warehouse, 77 Dale Street, Manchester, M1 2HG. T: 0161228 6757  LONDON 18 Bowling Green Lane, London, ECIR 0BW T: 020 7253 2977  ONLINE www.stockley.co.uk  Status:  FRevision:  GAA) 021  P01



This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant Architect's and Engineer's drawings and the specification.	Exeter College Oxford STOCKLE	Y
This drawing should not be verified by the contractor on site. All dimensions are to be verified by the contractor on site. All discrepancies should be reported to the C.A. prior to the commencement of the works.  © Stockley Broster O'Malley Limited	Title:   Proposed   Sections E-E     Status:   I N F O R M A T I O N	NDON Lane, OBW 2977 NLINE co.uk

