

Project: Stage 50 (Phase 2) Wycombe Film Studios Village

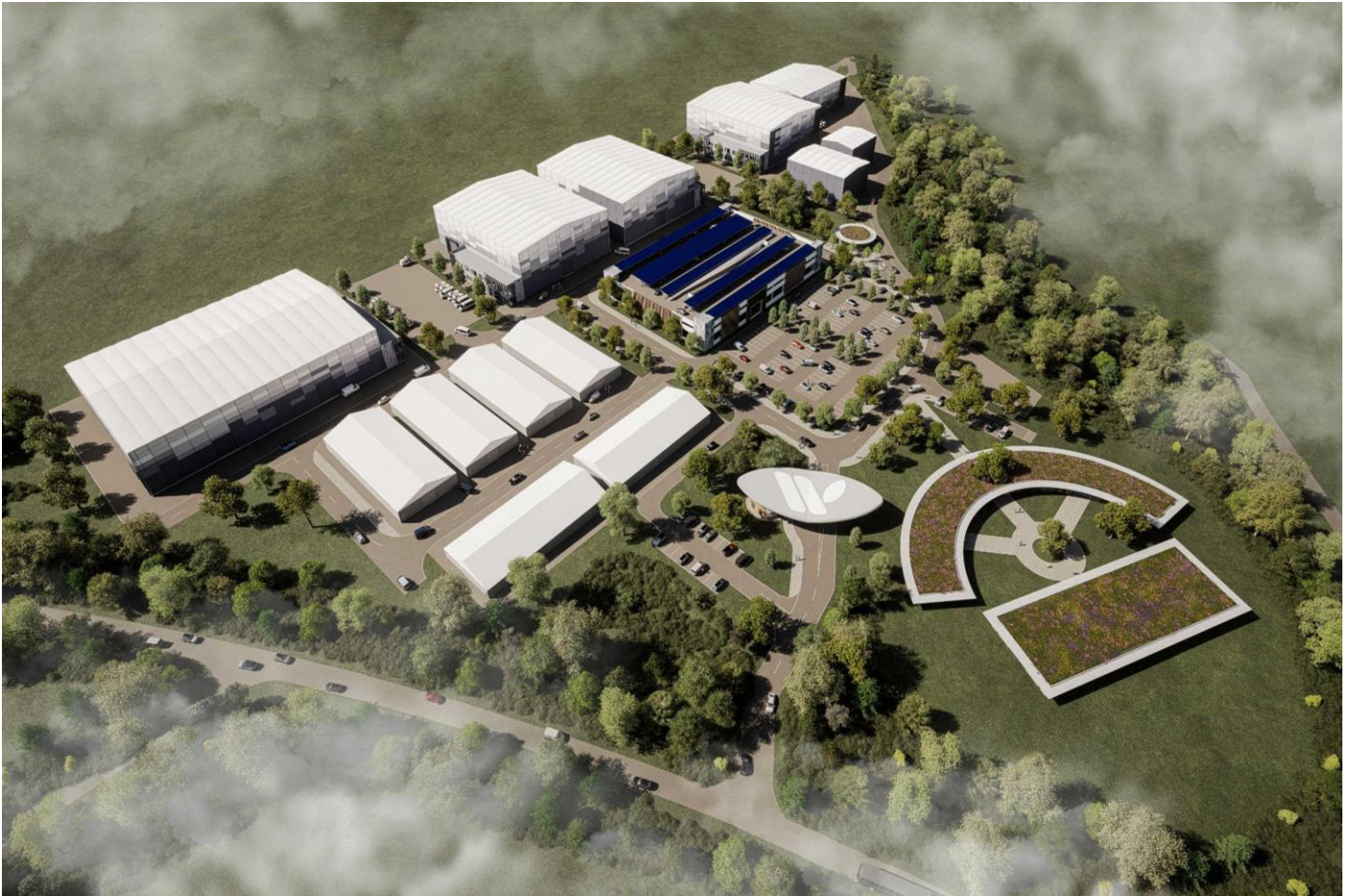
Client: Stage 50

Scope: Structural engineering design for 8 stages including foundation and superstructure and civil engineering design for the site layouts, road design and drainage design.

Project Description and Scopes:

Beta Design Consultant has completed an important, high value contract on behalf of its major client, Stage 50. Beta was involved in the second stage design of the foundation, superstructure and road design. With almost 295,000 sq. ft of high-quality production space, Wycombe Film studio offers purpose-built professional facilities. The structure design supports the studio and stages design to create unique space that support sustainable structure to use for the film production. The civil engineering design supports the client vision by delivering roadway design in the green-belt site that results in minimum impact regenerating the ex-landfill site to make it suitable for the 10-year life span of the temporary license. Overall, the design helps to create one of the UK's film industries that facilitates the art as a hub for creativity. The scope of the projects is:

- ❖ **Structural Design for Foundations and Stages**
- ❖ **Infrastructure Planning and Road Design**
- ❖ **Drainage Design**



Approach:

1. Structural Design for Foundations and Stages:

Software Used: Scia and Tekla Tedds

A. Designs Checks:

The primary scope involves design checks for the foundation for the Phase 1 stage of the Wycombe Film Studio. This includes;

- Design check of Foundations: BETA perform the structure checks for the foundation as per provided loads and design criteria. The design checks for the foundation shows that the column bases were generously sized.
- Base plate and post installed anchor bolts: The design of the base plates and the anchor bolts were based on the design forces obtained from the reference projects. Based on available data, a 600mm long by 400mm wide by 25mm thick plate have been designed with 6 M20 Hilti HIT-HY 200-A + HAS-U HCR M20 post Installed anchor.
- checks on Ground beams: Beta perform 600 x 600 Ground Beams Design Checks. Ground beams have been provided to acts as ties for the foundation, as confinements for the earth fill for the stage area and partly supports the square hollow sections (SHS) supporting the timber floor.

Recommendation:

- Due to the thickness of the foundation (1500mm), anti-shrinkage reinforcement should have been provided at the top to prevent shrinkage cracking at the top of the foundation. In lieu of this, the contractor has agreed to use fibre-reinforced concrete which is expected to limit the shrinkage of the concrete.



Figure 1 Base Plate and Stage Inspection of Wycombe Film Studio



Figure 2 Stage Frame Inspection

B. Sub-Structural Design:

After completion of first stage design check, Beta was reappointed to carry out sub-structural design for stage 2 floor of 50x60 m Wycombe Air Park Film Studios. Beta designed for;

- The structural foundation supporting the stage frames (2250mm wide reinforced concrete strip footing to support the side and corner columns; and 1700mm wide strip footing to support the gable columns).

Reinforced concrete slab – 250mm thick slab with A393 mesh fabric top and bottom.

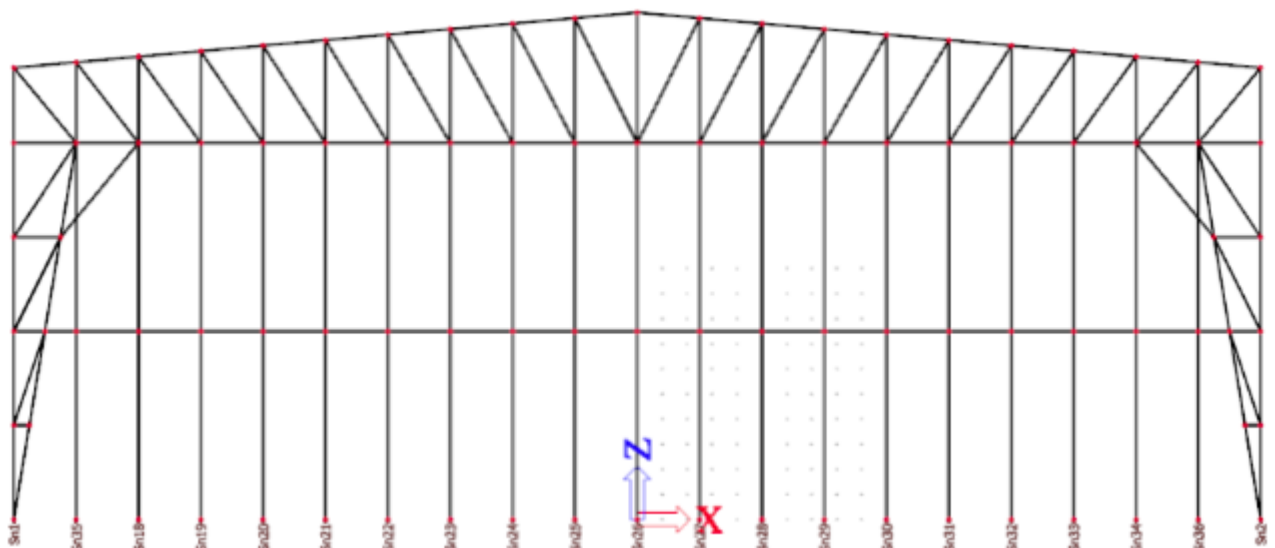


Figure 3 Gable Columns

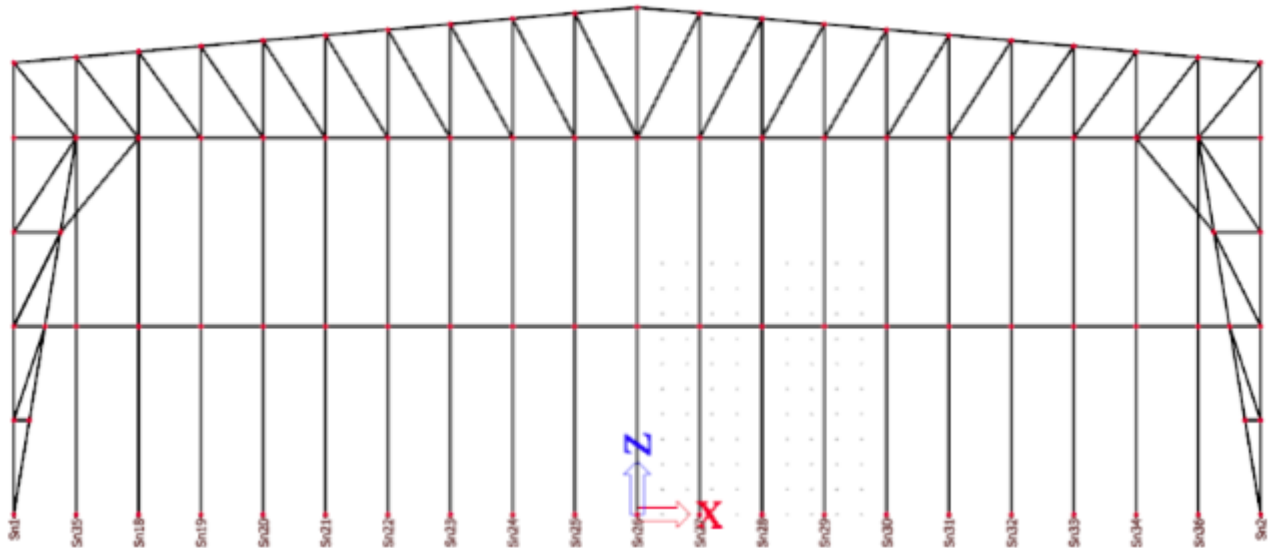


Figure 4 Side Columns



2. Infrastructure Planning and Road Design:

Scope: Develop a functional road network integrated with the site's drainage system and suited to challenging ground conditions.

Project Overview

Beta Design delivered a sustainable road design that addressed site-specific challenges, including a chalk layer with clay and flints and the need for stormwater management integration. The design incorporated permeable pavements, filter drains, and grading to support the Surface Water Drainage Strategy.

Challenges & Solutions

Geotechnical Conditions:

Extensive soil testing informed flexible pavement designs to ensure long-term durability on clay and flint subgrades.

Drainage Integration:

Roads featured permeable paving and filter drains to tie into attenuation tanks and basins, reducing surface water runoff.

Topography Management:

Grading optimized water flow while minimizing earthworks and avoiding poorly drained areas.



Figure 5 Working Area for Design of Wycombe Film Studio

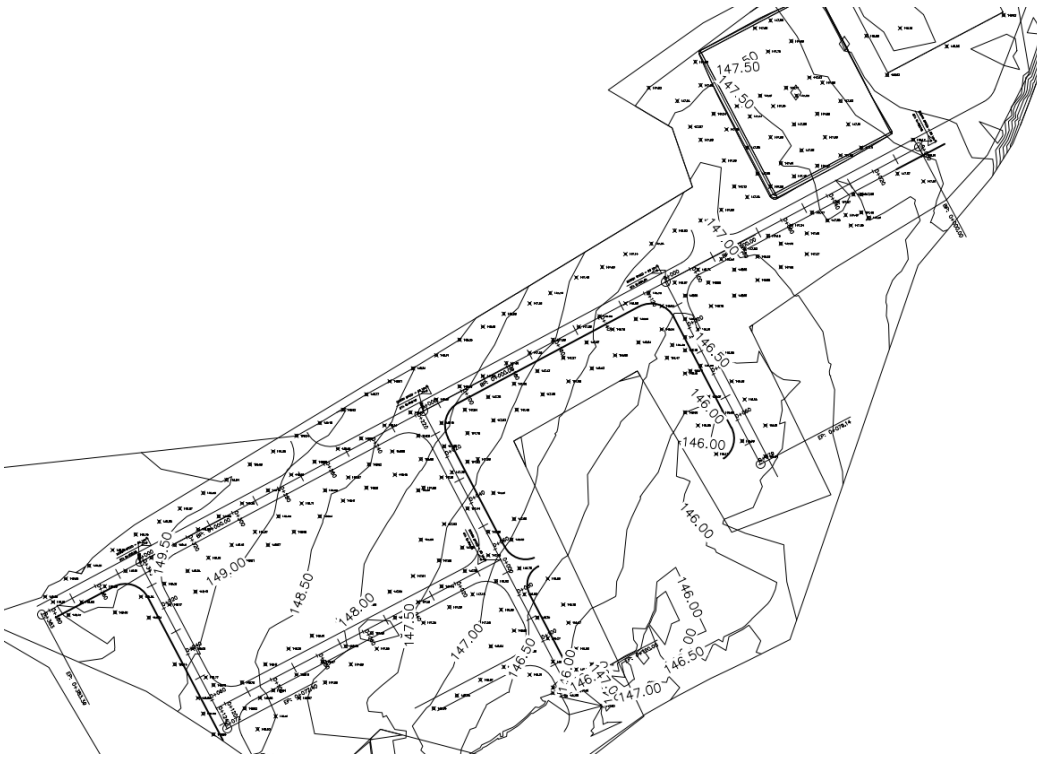


Figure 7 Top map Survey point for Phase 2 Road

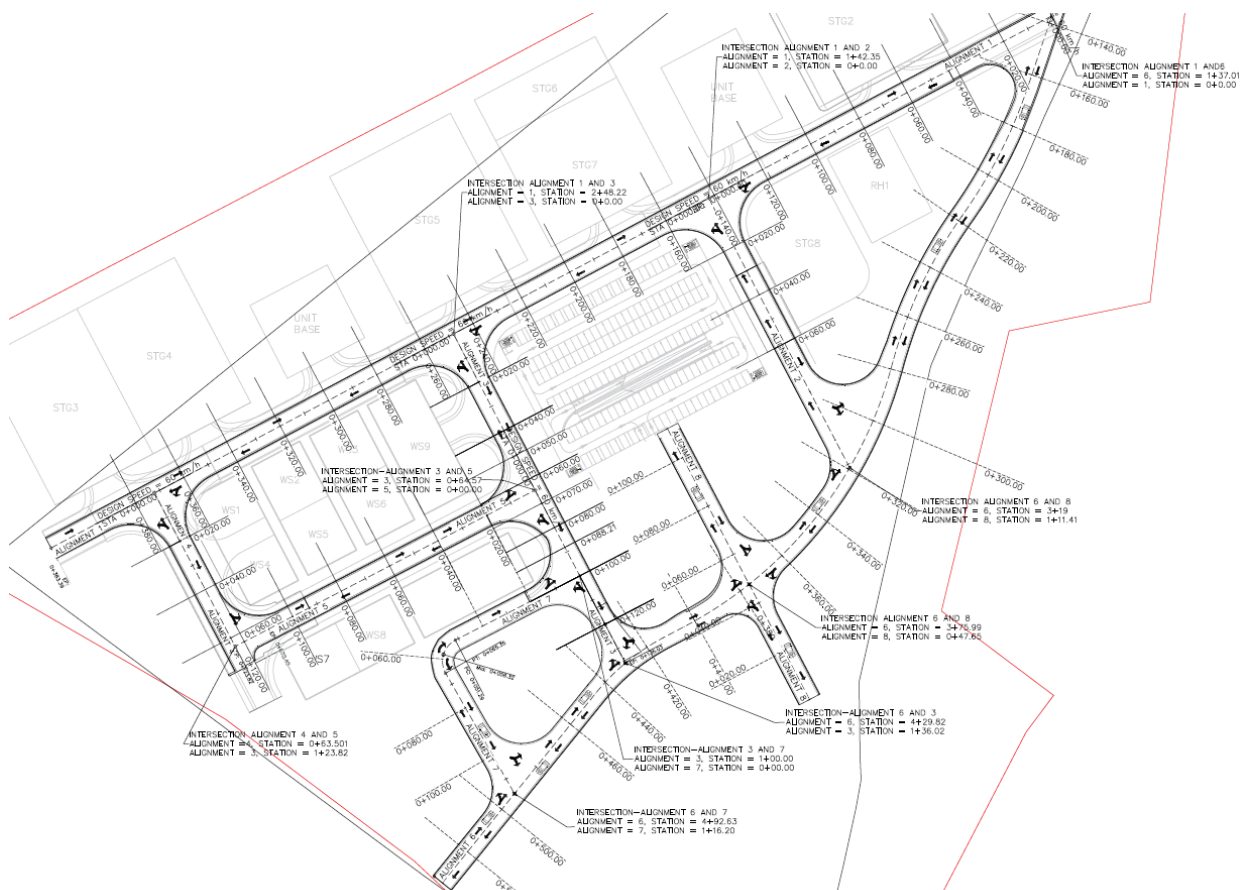


Figure 6 Detailed Road Design



Figure 8 swept path analysis for phase 2 road

3. Drainage Design

Scope: To create a sustainable stormwater drainage system for a development site, meeting regulatory and environmental standards.

Project Overview

Beta Design provided detailed design support for the stormwater drainage system on the project, ensuring compliance with CIRIA C753 – The SuDS Manual. The proposed Surface Water Drainage Strategy incorporated sustainable drainage solutions (SuDS), including:

- Filter drains
- Green roofs
- Permeable paving
- Attenuation tanks
- Geocellular storage tanks

These features ensured the system effectively attenuated surface water for storm events up to and including the 1-in-100-year return period, plus an allowance for climate change.

Design Challenges

The site presented a unique challenge due to the presence of a chalk layer. This natural superficial deposit consisted of clay with flints, limiting infiltration and raising concerns about effective water drainage.

Approach

To address these challenges, different testing was conducted;

Borehole and Soil Testing

Soil infiltration tests were performed at various locations to determine the site's drainage characteristics. Testing revealed variability in infiltration rates, necessitating further evaluation for soakaway compatibility.

A combination of attenuation tanks, permeable surfaces, and green infrastructure was implemented to reduce runoff volumes and improve water quality. The use of geocellular tanks provided additional storage, preventing surface water flooding.





Results:

- Design of foundations of the stages with the roads design to reduce construction work, cut and fill and utilized sustainable practices to provide significant carbon footprint reductions. Examples included using trench foundations that removed need for shuttering and edge protection and formwork/falsework, as well as using Eco Pact RC mixes from Aggregate Industries with nearly 40% carbon savings for less than 10% increase in concrete cost.
- We integrated cutting-edge technology in ground improvement and soil stabilisation, maximizing use of laboratory trial soil-mixes, field tests and pilot trials on site to ensure the ex-landfill site is developed to support new loads. We adopted a cost-effective method for soil stabilisation and ground improvement using evidence-based soil-mix design to reduce cost and impact of civil works
- The design delivered a durable and sustainable road network that complemented the drainage strategy, reduced flood risks, and ensured compliance with relevant standards.
- A robust and resilient stormwater management system was delivered, compatible with the site's challenging geological conditions. The design achieved regulatory compliance and aligned with sustainable development principles. The strategy mitigates flood risks, while providing long-term environmental benefits, including groundwater recharge and biodiversity enhancement.