DART+ West Railway Order

Dublin City to Maynooth and M3 Parkway

Impact on Gowan Group Limited

26.09.2023

23088-TNT-XX-XX-RP-T-00001



Site Address:

Mill Lane, Ashtown Grove, Navan Road, Dublin 15 Client:

Gowan Group Limited

Office Address:

Tent Engineering Ltd. 32 Francis Street Dublin, D08 NN96, IE

Revision and Review

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REVISION(S)

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1 Executive Summary

We, Tent Engineering, have been appointed by Gowan Group Limited, a well-established and highly successful business located adjacent to the Navan Road and Mill Lane. Our client's highly utilized land is consumed as part of upgrade works in the proposed DART+ West Railway order - Dublin City to Maynooth and M3 Parkway.

In this report, we have conducted a thorough assessment of the impact that the alterations to facilitate the DART+ West will have on the existing operations of Gowan Group Lands. Our analysis aims to identify the current functioning of the Gowan Group facility and its interactions with the surrounding road network. Additionally, we highlight the anticipated negative effects of the planned improvement works, emphasizing that without fundamental changes, both during construction and as built, to accommodate the Gowan Group on-site operations, the business will suffer severe disruption in its successful operation.

Given the business's high requirements for car parking/car storage related to the car sales activities conducted at this facility, we present evidence in this report indicating a high probability of a sudden decrease in customer numbers during the construction phase and also at completion. This decline is expected due to the potential disturbances caused by the upgrade works, meaning our client's inability to carry stock on the premises for customers to view and test and also customers' difficulty in simply accessing the site.

Furthermore, this report acknowledges that lands owned and leased by Gowan Group are subject to both temporary and permanent acquisition. We have determined that the impact on the business resulting from these acquisitions will be significant. We have set out alternative options for the DART+West team to explore.

In summary, our study demonstrates that the proposed DART+ project will severely impact the existing facility, leading to a decrease in customer numbers. Therefore, it is crucial to address these issues and make necessary adjustments to mitigate the adverse effects on the Gowan Group operations.

Fig 1.0 - Site location in relation with the existing road network



2 Description of the Gowan Group Lands

The car sales and showroom offered from this location have been continuously provided for over 23 years. Currently, the facility employs a total of over 35 staff members.

While we acknowledge that the proposed schemes will improve transportation options for businesses along the route, it is essential to consider the unique nature of this motor sales business and their requirements for sufficient space to store high-value items in a secure location while also giving customers immediate access to test this stock. Our client's business is dependent on customers being able to get a "look and feel" of their potential future car and visit the premises for precisely this activity. Reducing the number of cars on the lot will directly diminish our client's ability to generate sales. In addition, very few customers will visit the showroom via public transport as the existing car owners are looking to upgrade or trade in their vehicles. Their existing vehicle is often needed for inspection to calculate the trade in value.

The facility currently has 413 external designated number of parking spaces used for storage of cars as well as customer parking. It can be seen from the layout that lands are highly utilized. Our clients' demand for lands is such that they are currently leasing lands to help increase the number of cars on the facility. The prospect of reducing the size of lands is considered detrimental to their business. The existing parking facility is already at capacity, leaving no room for a reduction in parking facilities. To better understand the parking arrangement and its significance, please refer to Figure 2, which illustrates the parking layout, access arrangements, and the crucial role the surrounding roads play in the successful operation of the existing facility.

Additionally, it is important to note that Mill Lane, which currently operates as a cul-desac and generates no through traffic, is heavily relied upon by the business for the movement and temporary parking of vehicles. While this arrangement is informal, it emphasizes the highly intensive land use of their Gowan Group facility.

The lane way is heavily utilised by Gowan group at the times of loading and unloading of car transportation lorries.

Refer to fig 2.1 which details this activity. This is an activity which is both regular and essential for the successful operation of the business and an activity that they have been able to conduct in all years of operation at this site via Mill Lane. Bringing this activity into the facility will result in a significant loss of car spaces, as detailed in drawing 23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90013. The truck will no longer be able to reverse onto the quite cul de sac thus it will need to perform a turning movement in the yard.

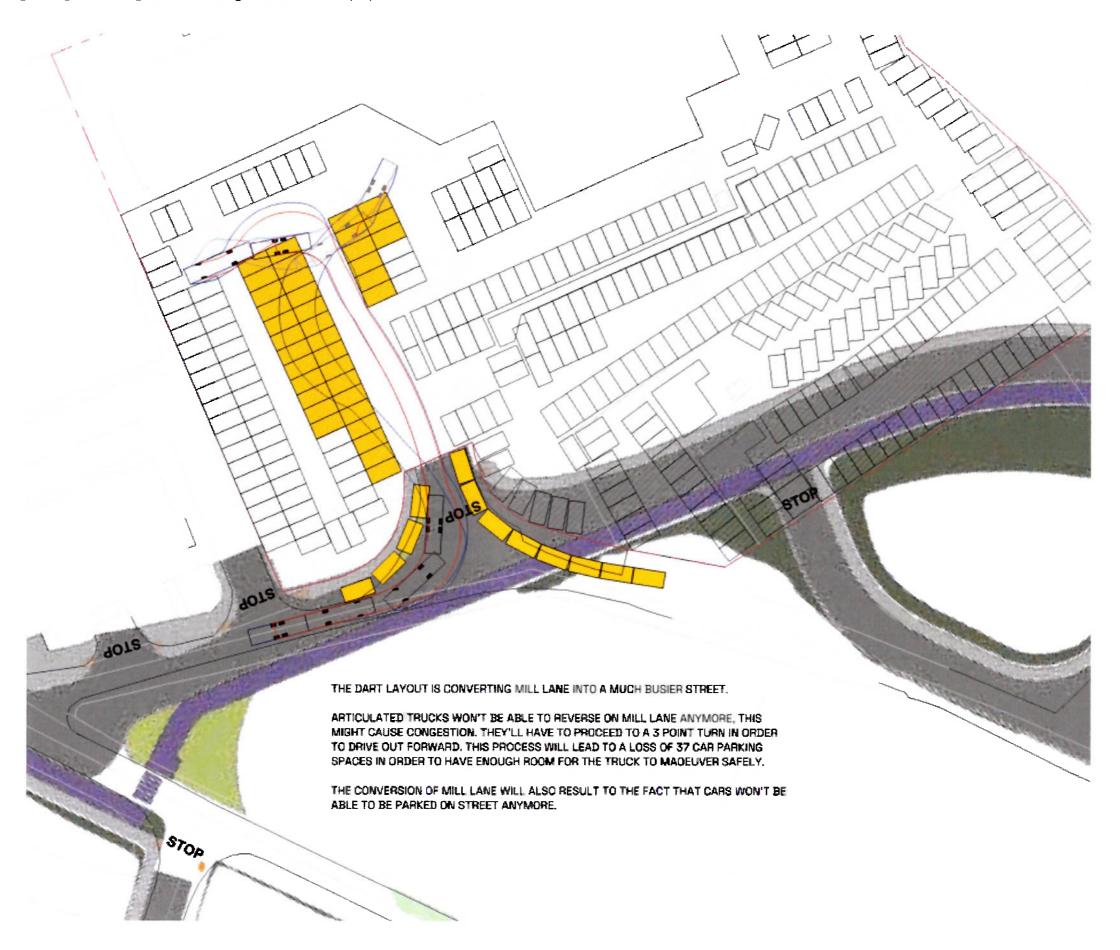
This change alone will result in the loss of up to 37 parking spaces. In addition, the facility will store a number of customer's cars which are in for service as well as store a number of courtesy cars for clients to take away. This activity places a strong demand on the available parking spaces. Any reduction in parking will be detrimental to the overall on-site operations. As can be seen form the image below it is sometimes the case that up to 12 temporary spaces will be used only when the yard is at maximum capacity to facility the operations.

Fig 2.0 - Description of the existing facility



Fig 2.1 - Description of the existing facility Car Delivery Truck off loading - Existing Situation CURRENTLY, TRUCKS DRIVE INTO THE SITE TO UNLOAD THE CARS AND THEN REVERSE ONTO MILL LANE TO FINALLY DRIVE OUT.

Fig 2.2 - Description of the existing facility Car Delivery Truck off loading - with Mill Lane as proposed



3 DART+ West & Impact on Gowan Group

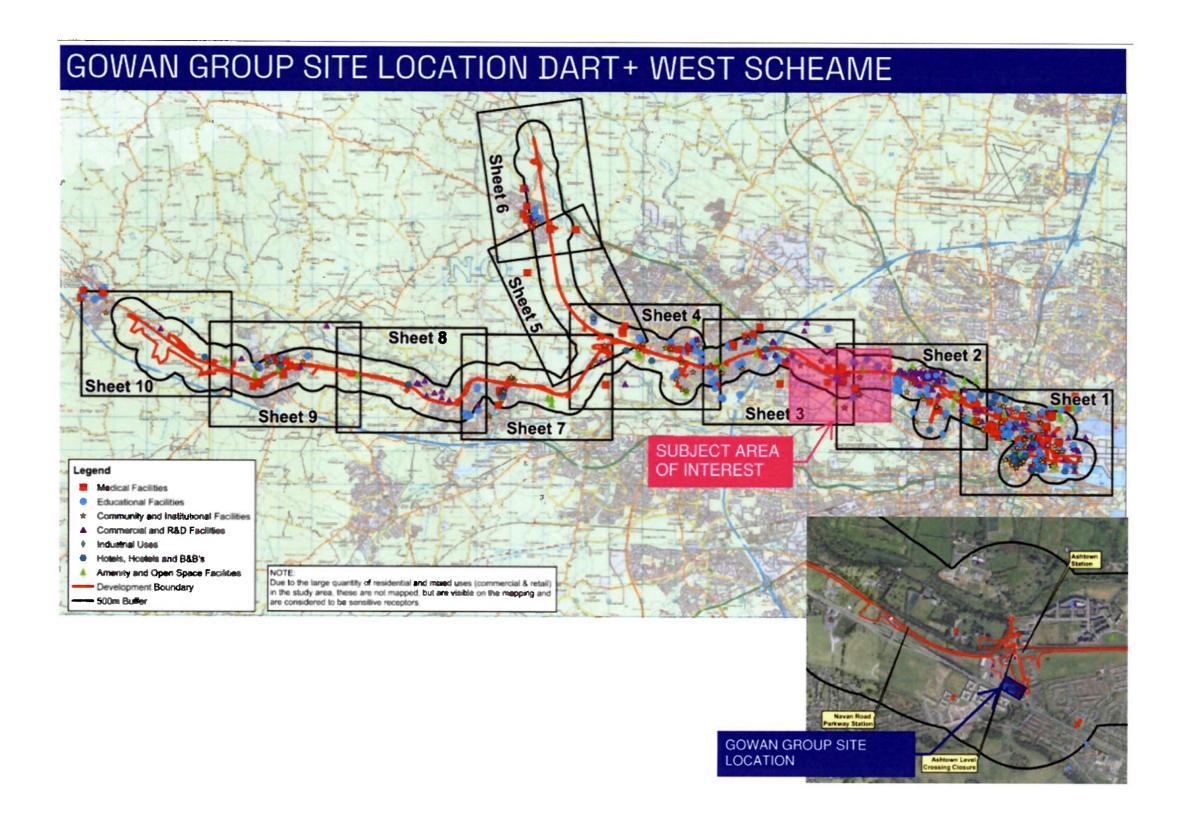
Our site location was identified along this scheme at the City end of the route, as shown in Fig. 3.0.

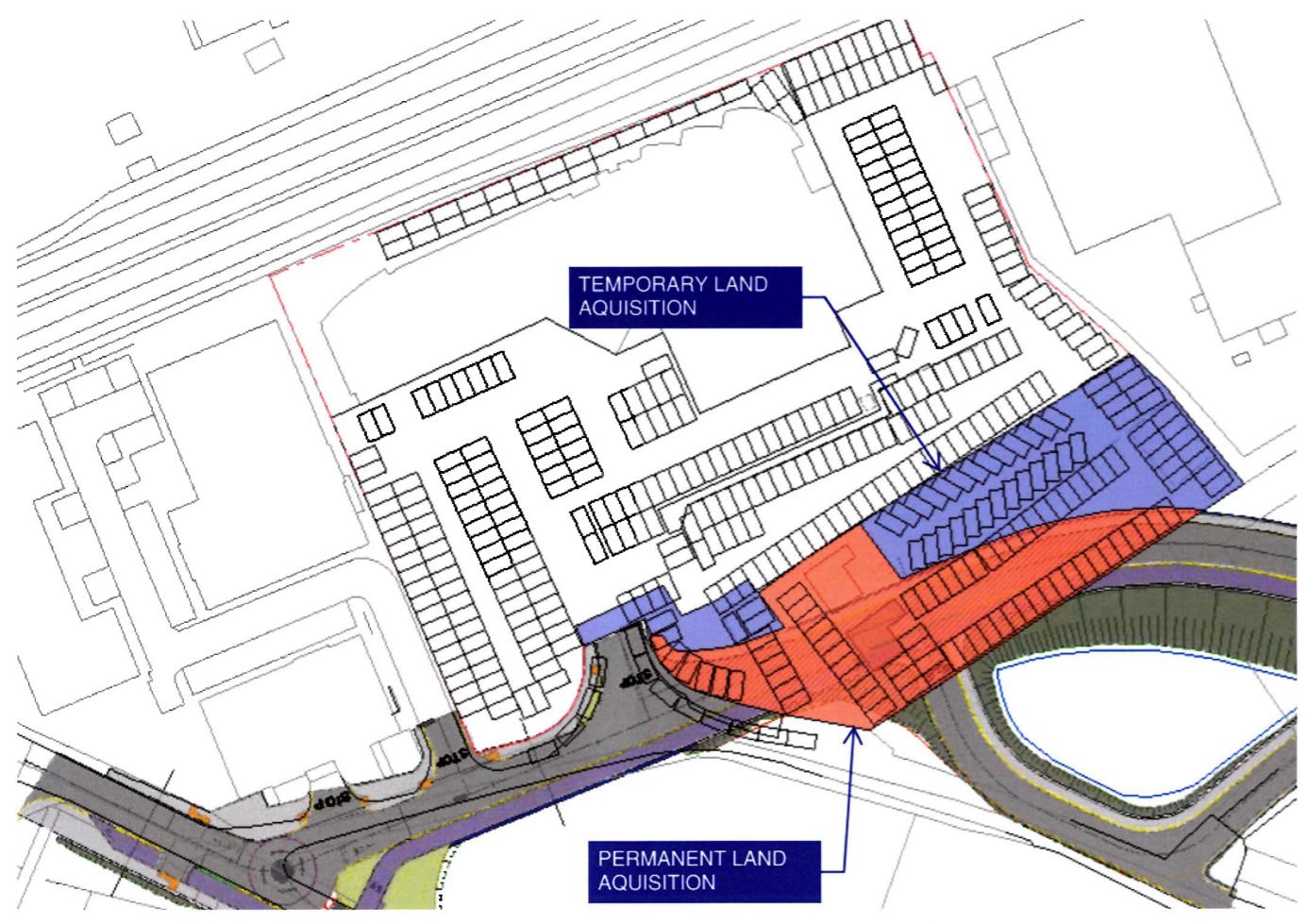
For the purpose of assessing the impact on our site location, the highlighted area in red was investigated.

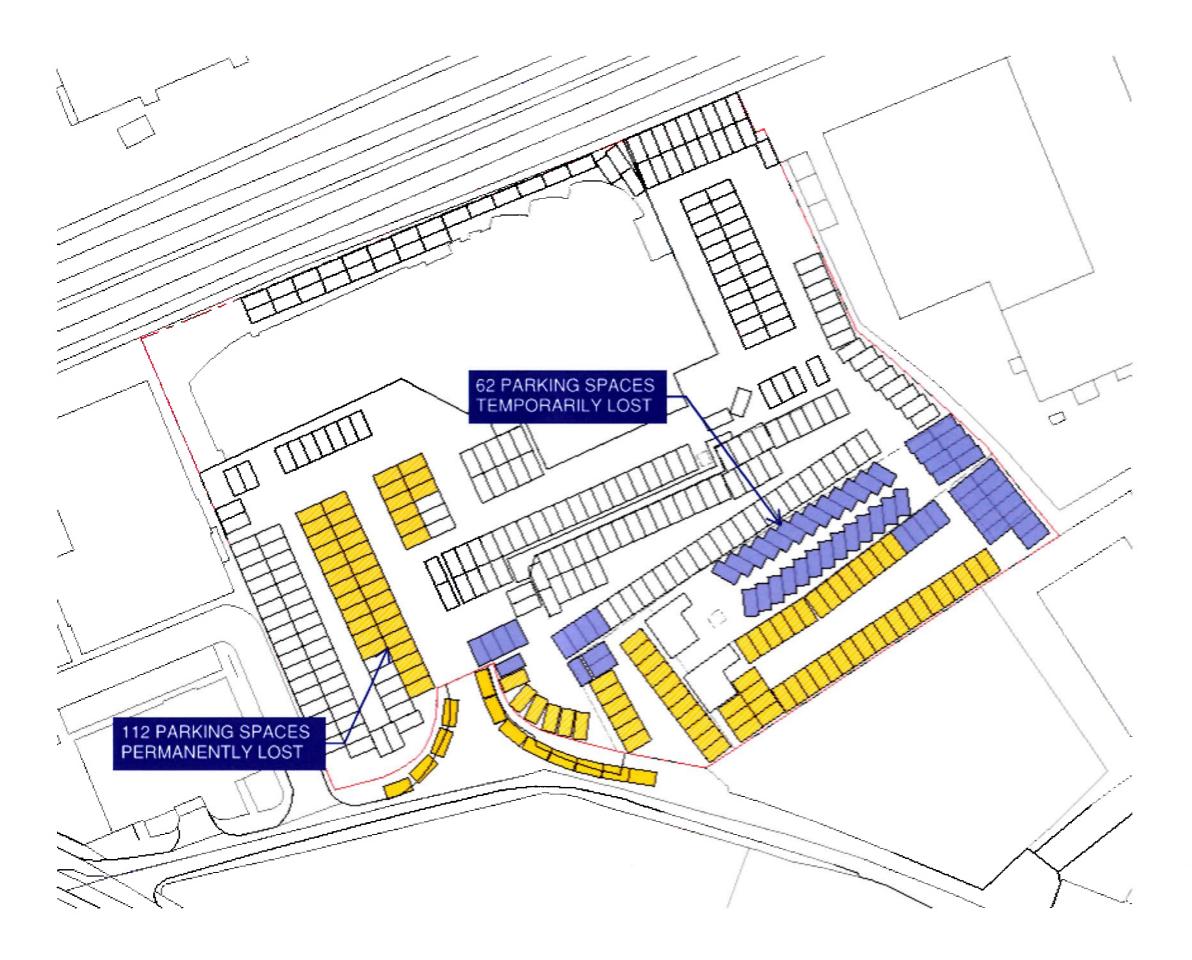
Figure 3.1 provides a visual representation of the proposed changes to the access and 3.2 demonstrates the knock on loss of on-site parking for our client

It is imperative to recognize the heavy reliance of the facility on the existing car parking/ storage arrangement, which is already operating at full capacity. Any alteration to the land available will have severe implications for the facility's ability to maintain its on site operations and existing customer experience.

Fig 3.0 - DART+West Scheme







4 Construction Related Impacts

Our client urgently requires detailed information regarding the construction management plan, which should outline the expected extent of noise and dust, as well as temporary access arrangements for customers. Until this information is received, our client remains highly concerned about the severe impact the construction phase will have on their revenues and their ability to operate during this time. There is a significant risk of experiencing a substantial reduction in customers who may become frustrated with the difficulties of accessing the facility during the prolonged construction period.

It is important to note that the adjacent equine facility has ample space available, which could act as a compound for the construction phase. It appears efforts have been made to avoid any impact on this facility. This is despite the fact it is highly unlikely this business will be able to remain operational during the construction phase due to the health and safety of riders and the welfare of horses.

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Horses are highly sensitive animals with acute senses, and construction activity can have a significant impact on their well-being. It would be challenging, if not impossible, to operate a riding school adjacent to the construction project.

Noise Sensitivity: Horses have incredibly sensitive hearing, and loud construction noises such as heavy machinery, drilling, and banging can be distressing for them. The sudden and loud sounds associated with construction can startle horses, causing them to become anxious or fearful.

Vibrations: Construction activities often produce ground vibrations, which can be unsettling for horses. Horses can feel even minor vibrations through their hooves, and prolonged exposure to this can lead to stress and discomfort.

Dust and Debris: Construction sites generate dust and debris, which can pose respiratory problems for horses. The inhalation of dust particles can irritate their airways and lead to coughing or other respiratory issues.

Altered Environment: The presence of construction equipment, barriers, and the disruption of the surrounding landscape can alter the familiar environment of a riding school. Horses thrive on routine and can become agitated when their surroundings change dramatically.

Traffic and Movement: Road works projects typically involve increased traffic, detours, and changes in traffic patterns. Horses are creatures of habit, and changes in traffic and road conditions can be unsettling. It can be dangerous to have horses near busy construction zones where vehicles may not expect their presence.

Stress and Behavior Changes: Horses are known to react to stress by exhibiting behavior changes. Increased stress levels due to construction activity can lead to undesirable behavior, such as spooking, bolting, or refusing to cooperate during riding lessons.

Safety Concerns: Safety is paramount when working with horses. Construction sites can pose safety risks to both the animals and riders. Horses may become unpredictable or anxious, making it challenging to ensure the safety of riders and instructors.

Accessibility Issues: Construction projects often result in road closures, detours, or limited access to nearby areas. This can make it difficult for clients, riders, and staff to reach the riding school, potentially causing disruptions to the school's operations.

In summary, horses are sensitive creatures, and their well-being and the safety of riders are paramount concerns when operating a riding school. The disturbances and stress caused by construction activity, including noise, vibrations, dust, and changes in their environment, can make it extremely challenging to run a riding school adjacent to a road works project. Special considerations and precautions must be taken to ensure the welfare of the horses and the safety of all involved. It is highly likely this facility cannot remain in operation; thus, it is most logical to locate the compound on these lands.

Figure 5.0 sets out the location of the equine facility relative to the Gowan Group operations. We feel the temporary land acquisition should be located on the lands of the stables adjacent. The temporary land take will paralyze the Gowan business by making parking, delivery of vehicles, and customer sales near impossible. Our client stands to lose substantial revenue, far in excess of that generated by the stables. As set out in section 2 the stables will be unlikely to operate due to the noise, dust ect.

Fig 5.0 - Location of Equine Facility in close proximity to construction work



5 Changes required to the permanent scheme to facilitate ongoing successful operation

Figure 6.0 illustrates the necessary changes our client requires to ensure smooth operations. Failing to address these modifications may result in highly negative visitor experiences, which pose a real risk of a drop in customer numbers and in turn revenue. Our client cannot accept this for any duration during construction.

The key benefits of this proposal are:

Elimination of priority junction/direct access onto the road

The DART+ West proposed layout results in four entrances/Priority junctions off the proposed new road. Two of these entrances are within very close proximity to the roundabout and have the potential to create confusion and, in turn, a traffic hazard. The proposed layout consolidates the three entrances into a single access onto the new road. This move see the traffic hazard associated with the car park entrance immediately adjacent to the roundabout being removed.

Relocation of the proposed round about

The roundabout is pushed further north towards the Martin Savage Park Entrance. The existing Mill Lane access to Ashtown Road is closed off and redirected to the new roundabout. The remaining section of Mill Lane is maintained as a cul-de-sac at each end, allowing for ease of access and egress for all businesses that currently have direct access off Mill Lane.

Realignment of the proposed rail crossing road

The proposed road links from this revised roundabout location to the rail/canal crossing as per the DART+ West crossing point. This alignment means no land take from Gowan and indeed more usable land for Burke's.

New Entrance to Burke's Land

This improved layout also alters the entrance to Burke's land. In the DART+ West as-proposed layouts, this involves the creation of a new dedicated and costly road bridge. In the suggested improved proposed layout, access is via a road built immediately adjacent to the railwau line. The crossing will be at existing ground level. This land take will be significantly reduced due to no ramp-up or ramp-down requirements. The costs will be substantially reduced because the foundation will be in place at this part to support the road deck. The only extra cost is the structural deck for the bridge, which will be significantly less expensive than an entirely new bridge. This proposed change appears to be safer, less expensive, and results in less total land take, as is evident from the suggested augmentation of the layout.

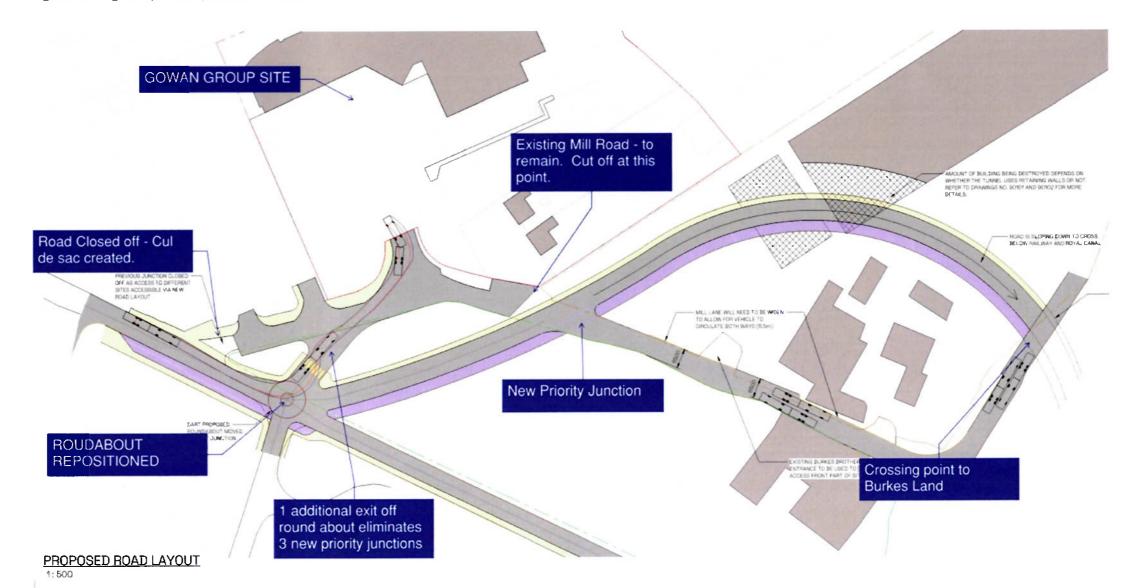
Fig 6.0 - Changes required to permanent scheme

A variation on this layout is shown in Figure 7.1. This utilizes a larger degree of retaining walls as opposed to open-cut slopes to deal with the cut required to bring the road under the rail line. This increase in the use of retaining walls leads to a substantial reduction in land take required. The land take is as follows.

For both options, the stables are certainly being impacted significantly more than the as-proposed DART+ scheme. However, for reasons surrounding horse sensitivity to noise and vibrations as set out in Section XX, it is unclear if this business has a future in these lands zoned as 'high technology' following the completion of the works.

See table below which sets out the comparison in land take among each option

	EXISTING SITE AREA	DART+ WEST PROPOSED LAND TAKEN	TENT PROPOSED LAND TAKEN	TENT PROPOSED LAND TAKEN (RETAINING WALL OPTION)
GOWAN GROUP	13,000m	1,500m	0m²	Om²
BURKES BROTHERS	17,500m	4,000m²	4,000m²	2,500m²
ASHTOWN STABLES	11,000m	500m²	2,500m²	2,500m²



6 Conclusion

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In this report, we have conducted a comprehensive assessment of the impact that the proposed alterations for both during and after construction will have on the existing operations of the Gowan Group business. Our analysis thoroughly examined the current operations of the facility, emphasizing the importance of on-site parking and its interaction with the surrounding road network.

Furthermore, we have highlighted the anticipated negative effects of the planned improvement works, underscoring the need for fundamental changes to accommodate the Gowan Group on-site operations and prevent severe disruptions to their successful functioning. Given the high land use demands of the car sales activities conducted at this facility, we have identified a high probability of a sudden decrease in customer numbers during the construction phase and when the works are completed.

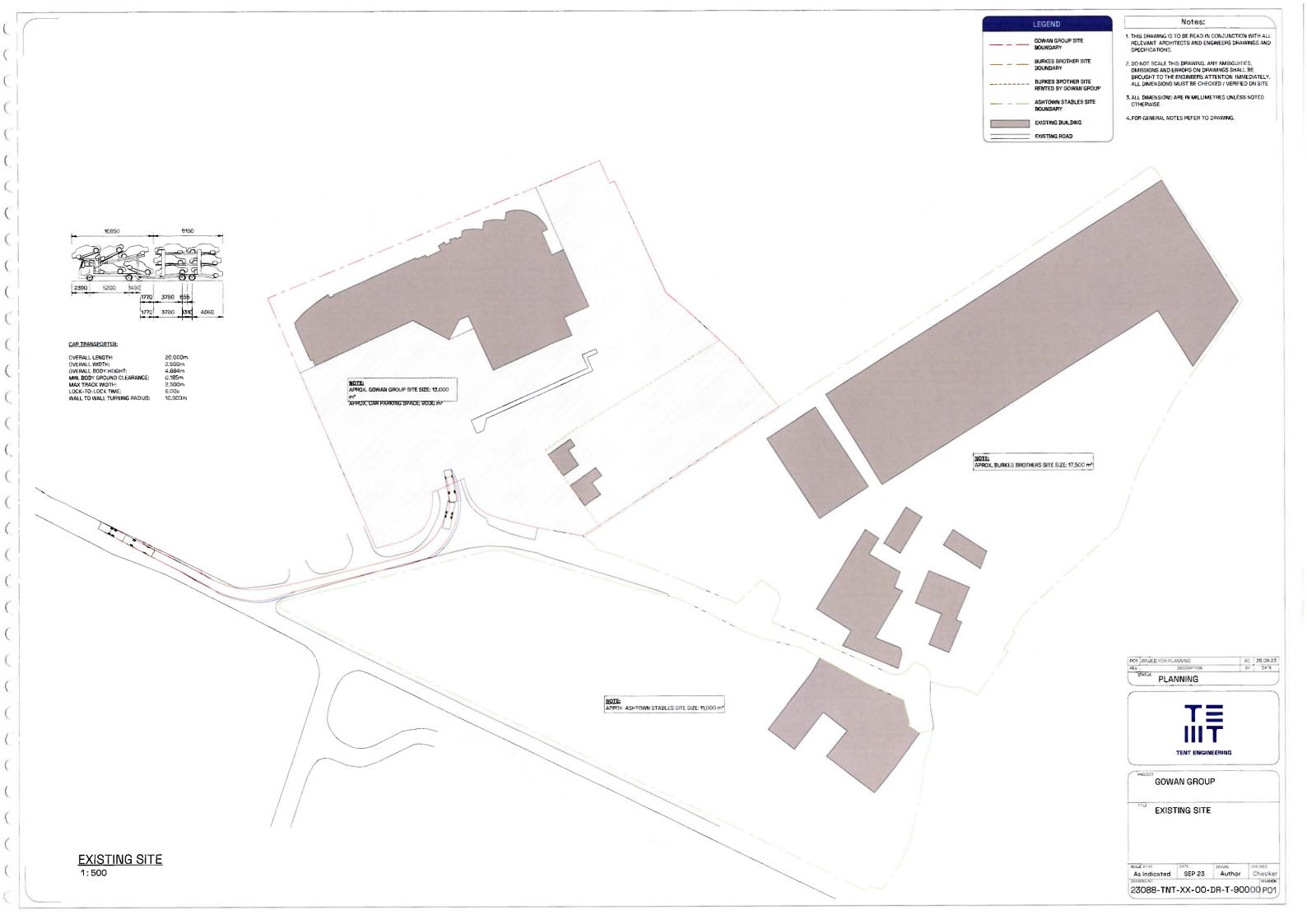
To adequately assess the potential disruptions faced during the scheduled construction phase, we have requested evidential construction management plans from the relevant authorities. These plans will enable our client to fully evaluate the extent of the disruption and devise strategies to mitigate its impact. These plan should take consideration of the on going access of a car transportation lorry and the successful unloading/loading of this vehicle.

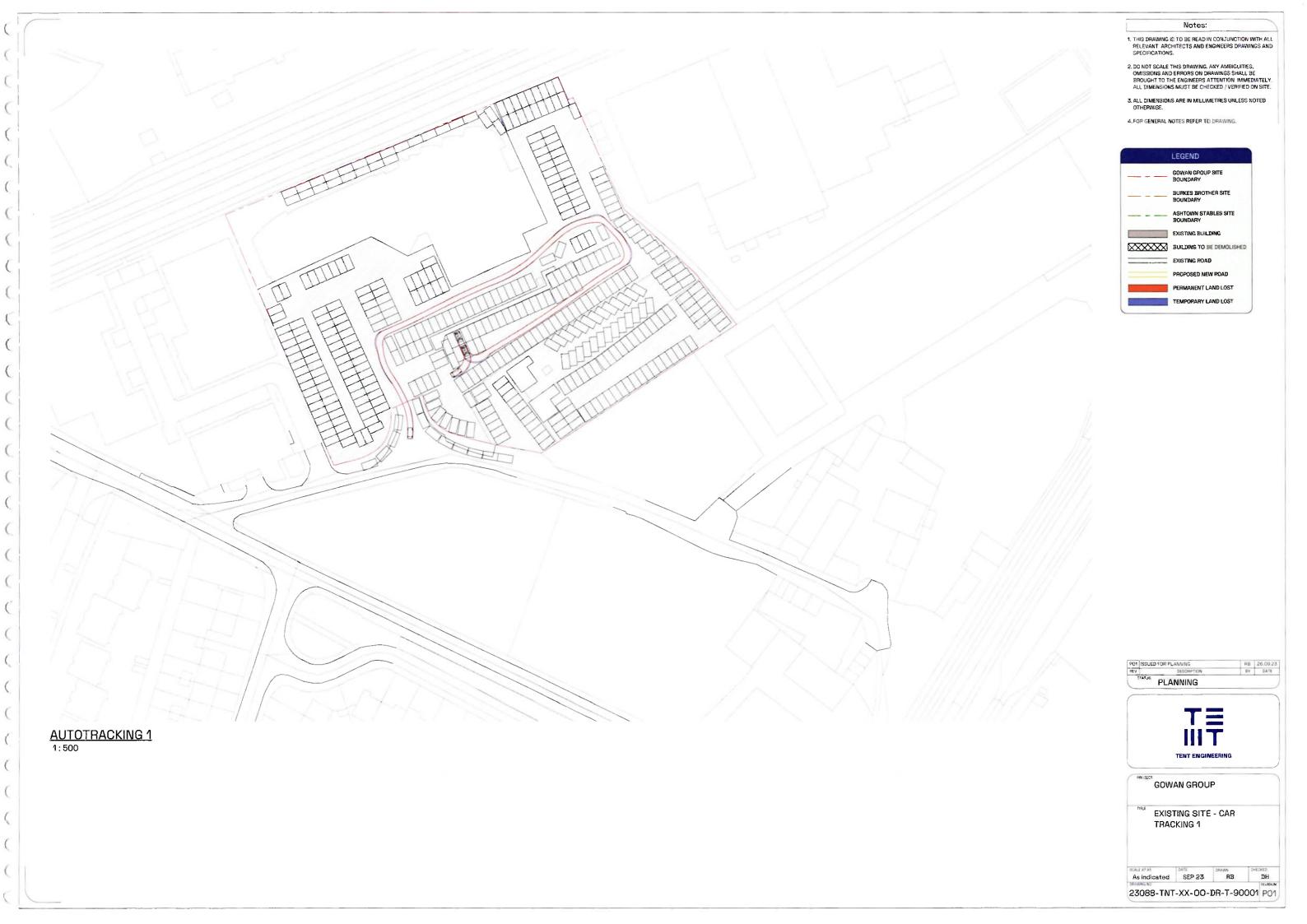
Our evaluation concludes that the impact on the business resulting from these acquisitions will be highly significant. As a result, we have highlighted the need for fundamental changes to the scheme to ensure the continued operation of the facility.

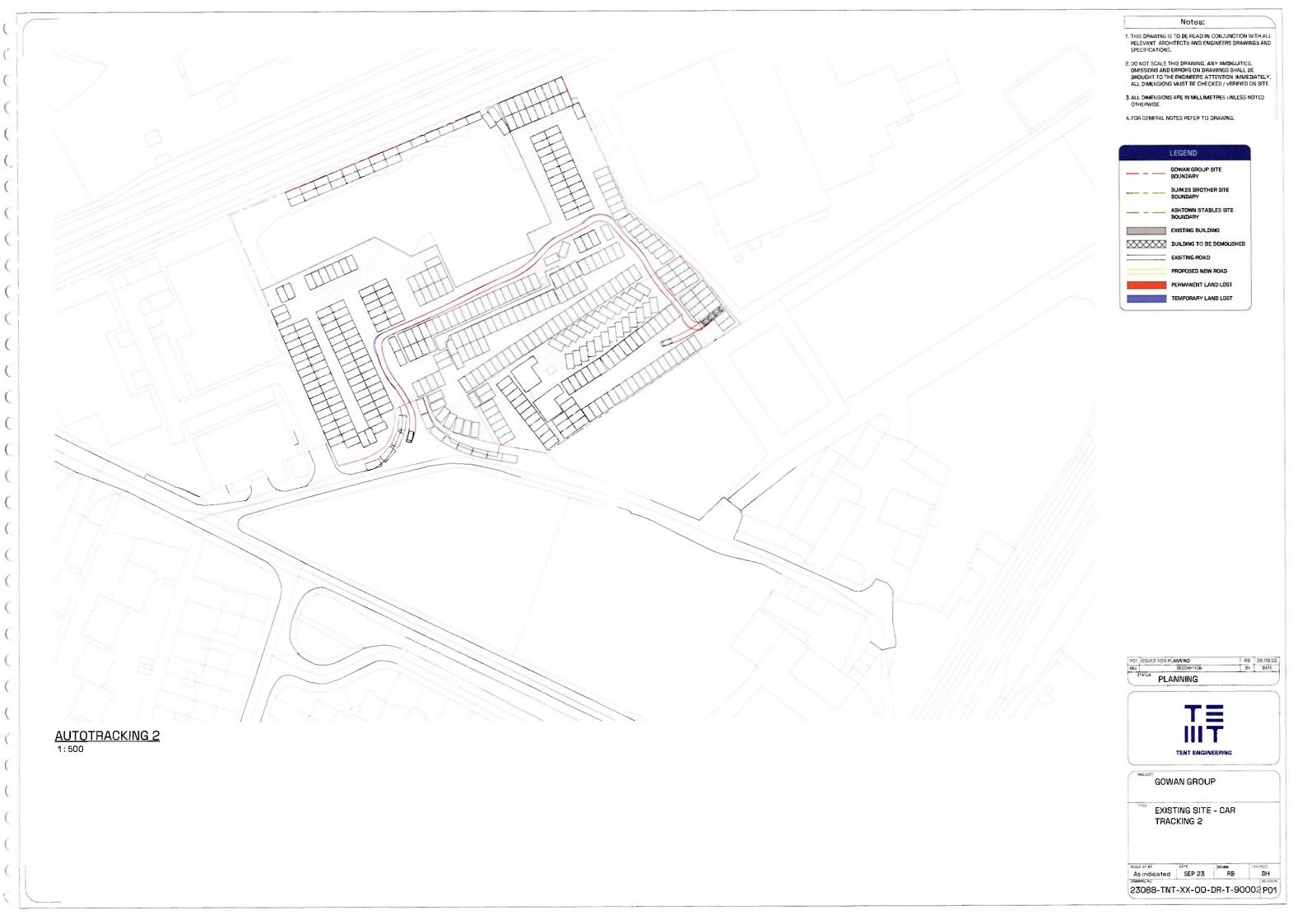
In summary, our study demonstrates that the proposed DART+ West project will severely impact the existing facility, leading to a decrease in customer numbers. It is therefore crucial to address these issues and make necessary adjustments to mitigate the adverse effects on Gowan Group facility.

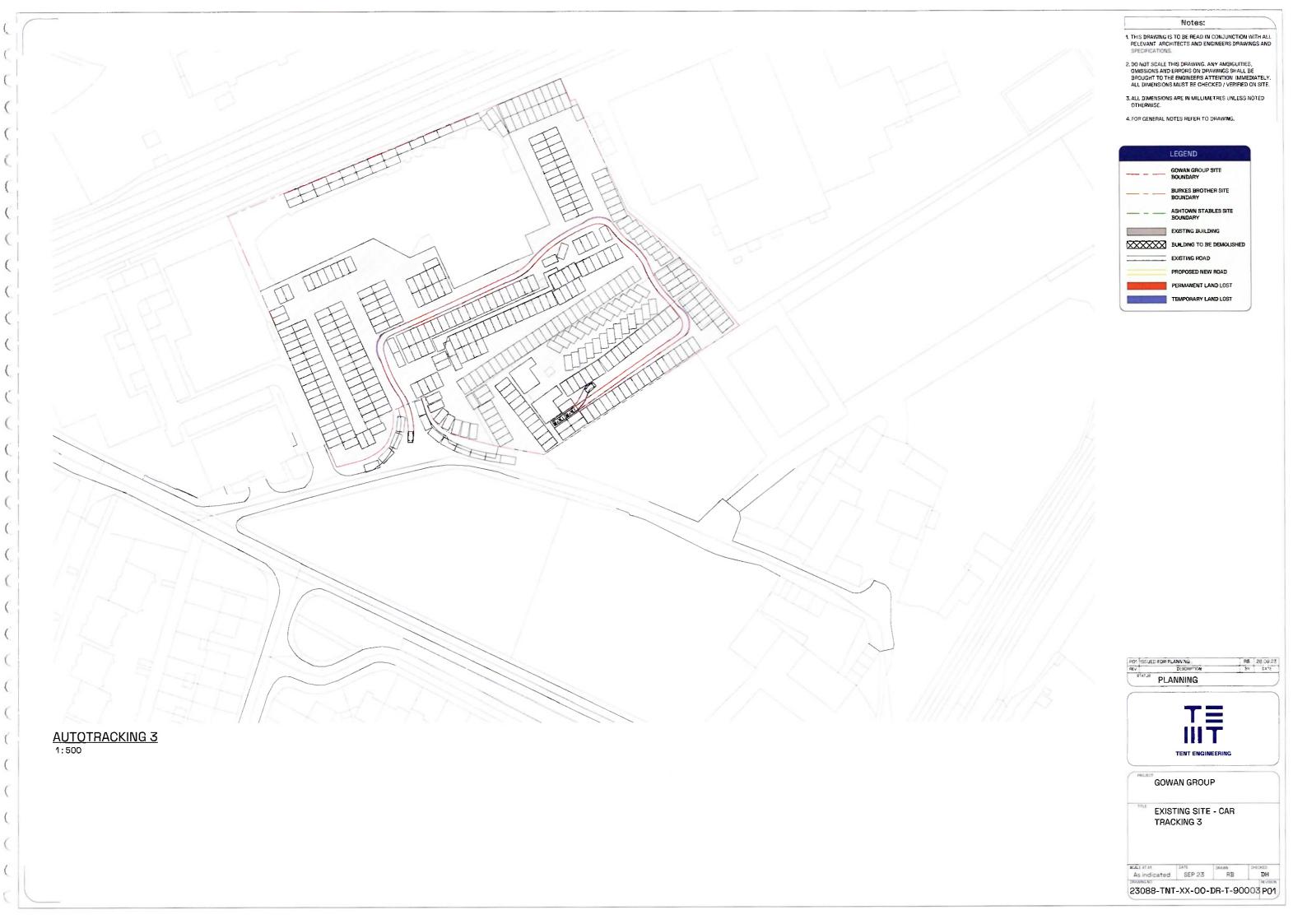
7 Appendix

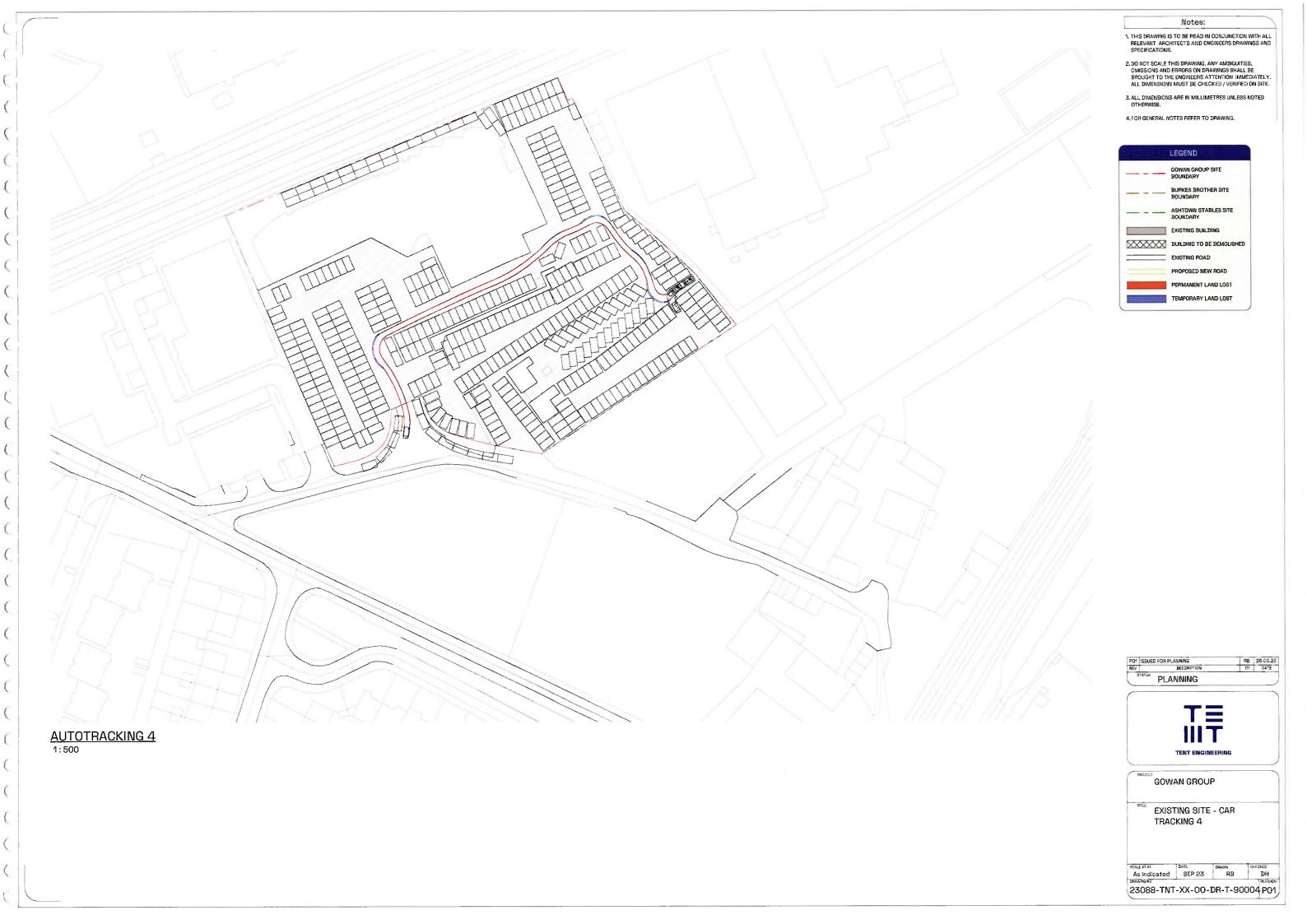
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-S-90000	EXISTING SITE
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90001	EXISTING SITE - CAR TRACKING 1
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90002	EXISTING SITE - CAR TRACKING 2
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90003	EXISTING SITE - CAR TRACKING 3
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90004	EXISTING SITE - CAR TRACKING 4
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90005	PROPOSED RAILWAY ORDER LAYOUT
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90006	PROPOSED RAILWAY ORDER LAYOUT - CAR TRACKING 1
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90012	EXISTING CAR DELIVERY VEHICLE OFF LOAD AND TURNING
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90013	PROPOSED RAILWAY ORDER LAYOUT CAR DELIVERY VEHICLE OFF LOAD AND TURNING
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90100	PROPOSED REVISED ROAD LAYOUT
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90101	LAND TAKE ANALYSIS WITH AUTOTRACKING 1
23088-TNT-XX-00-DR-T-90102	LAND TAKE ANALYSIS WITH AUTOTRACKING 2

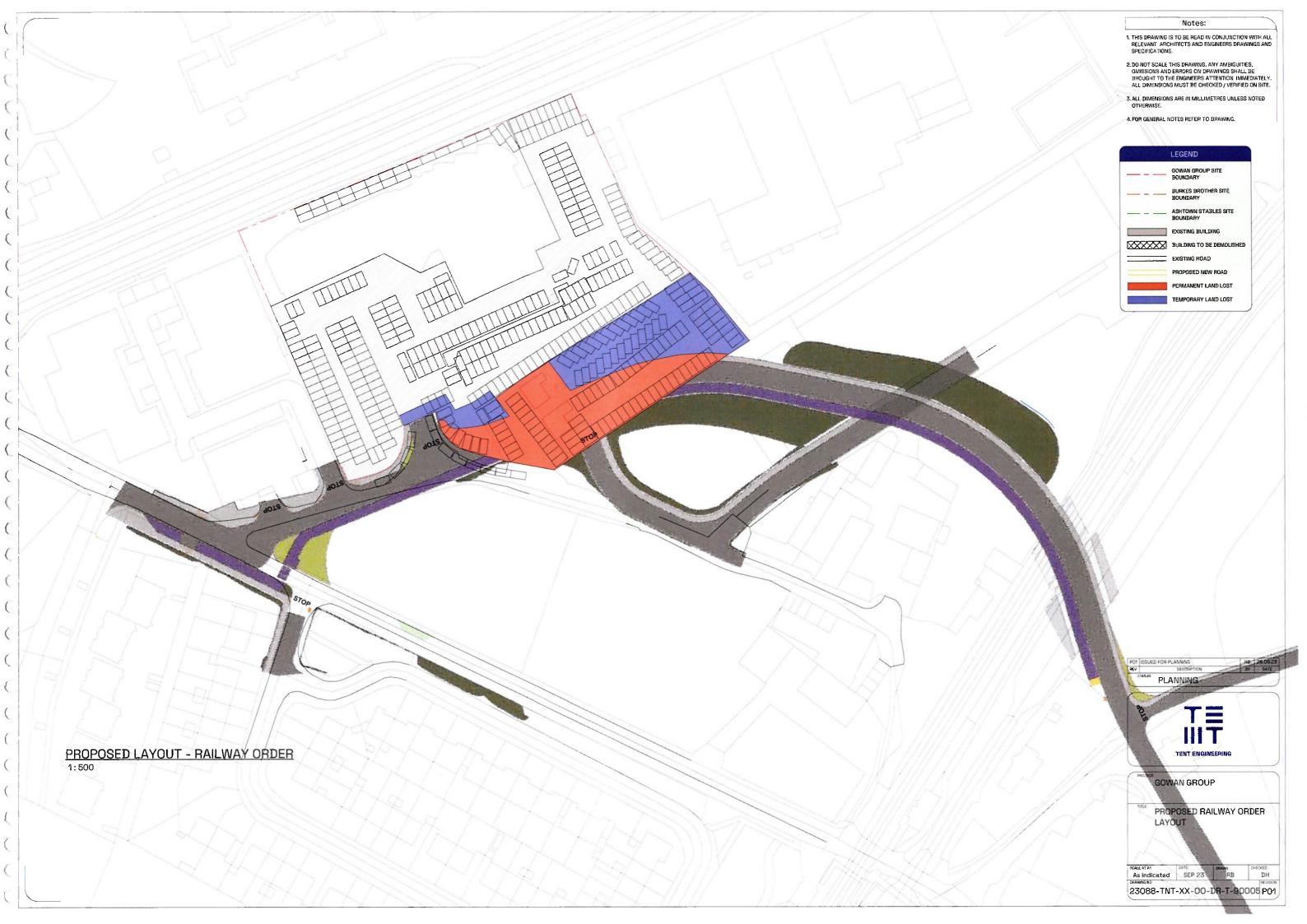


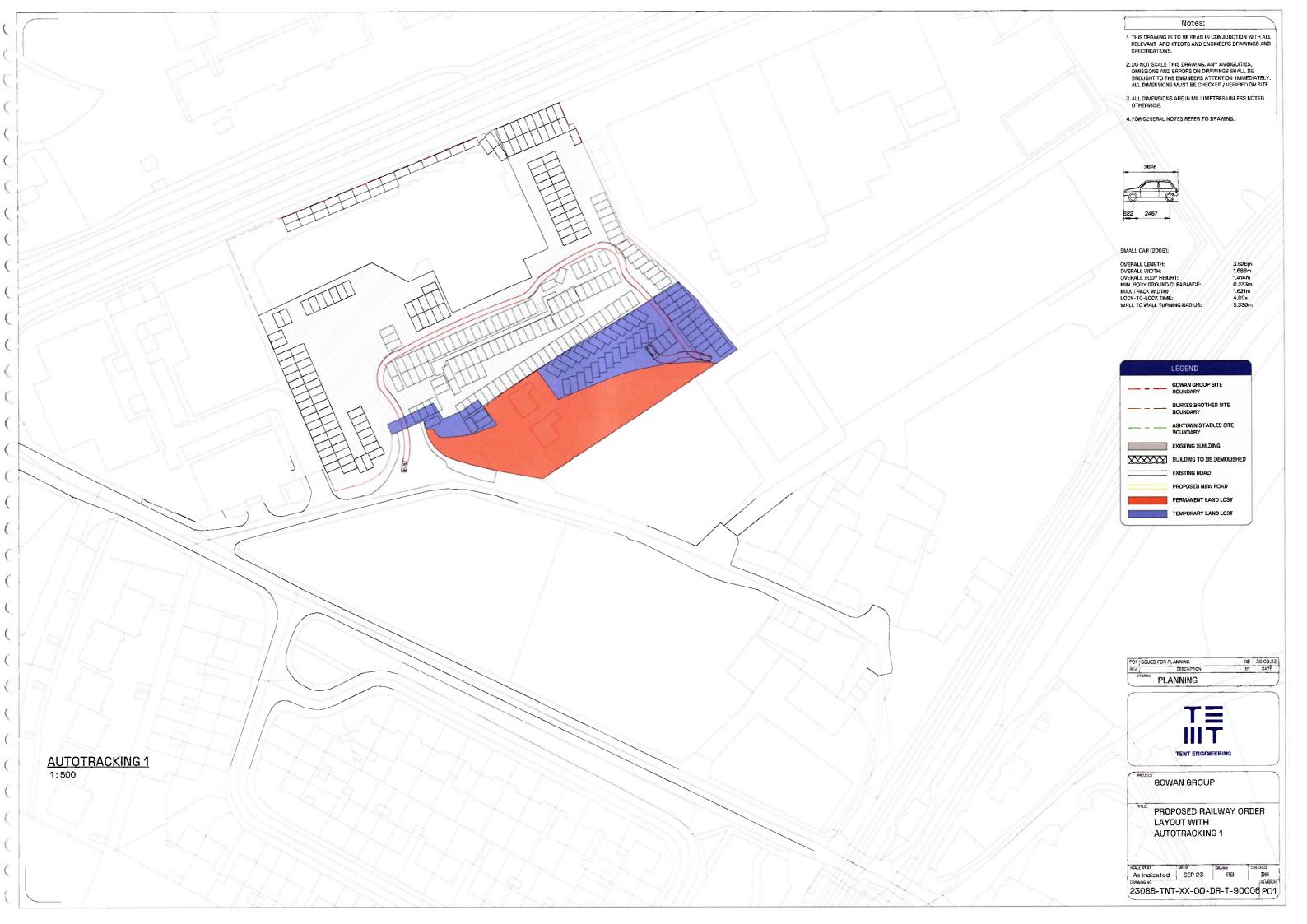


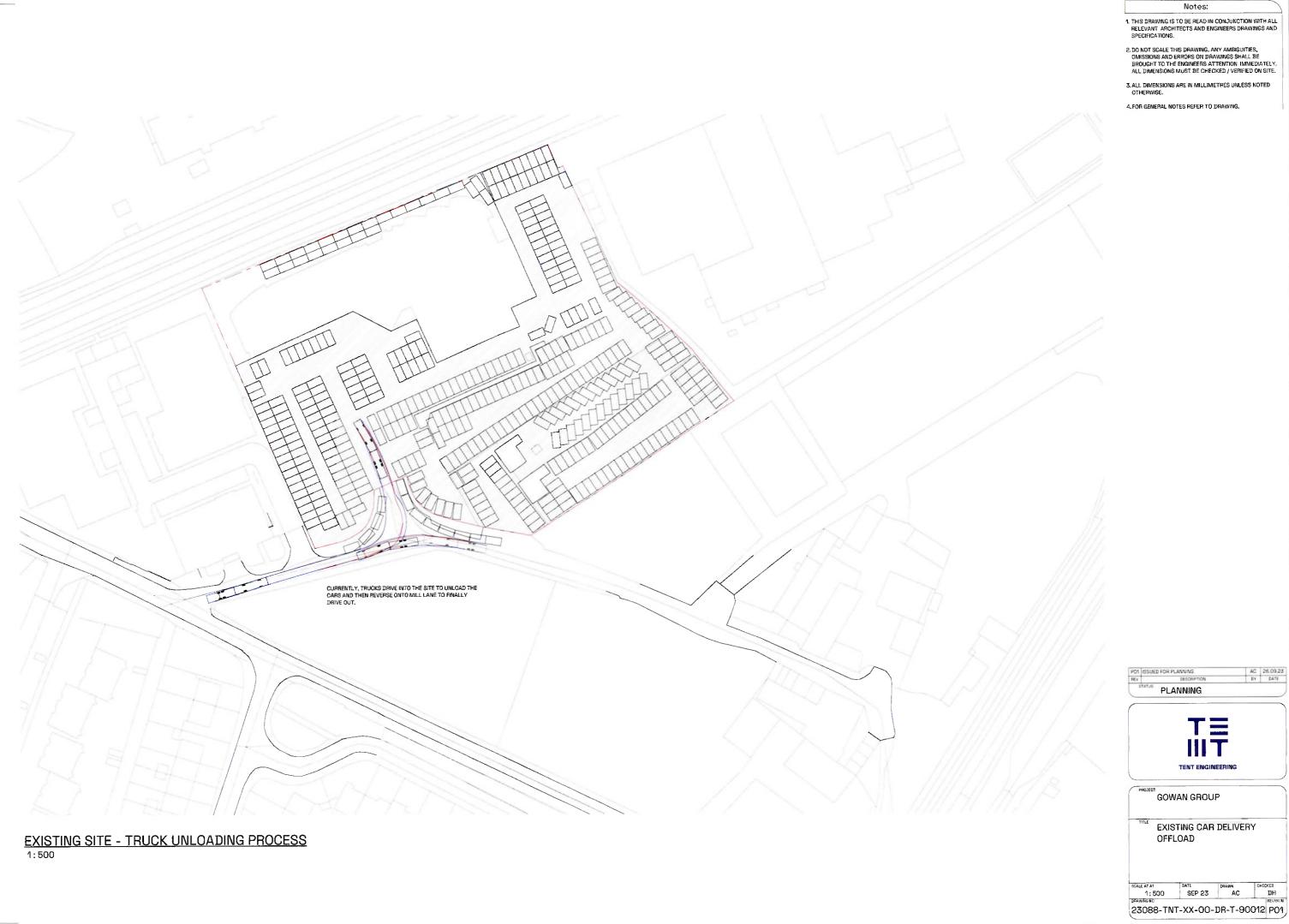






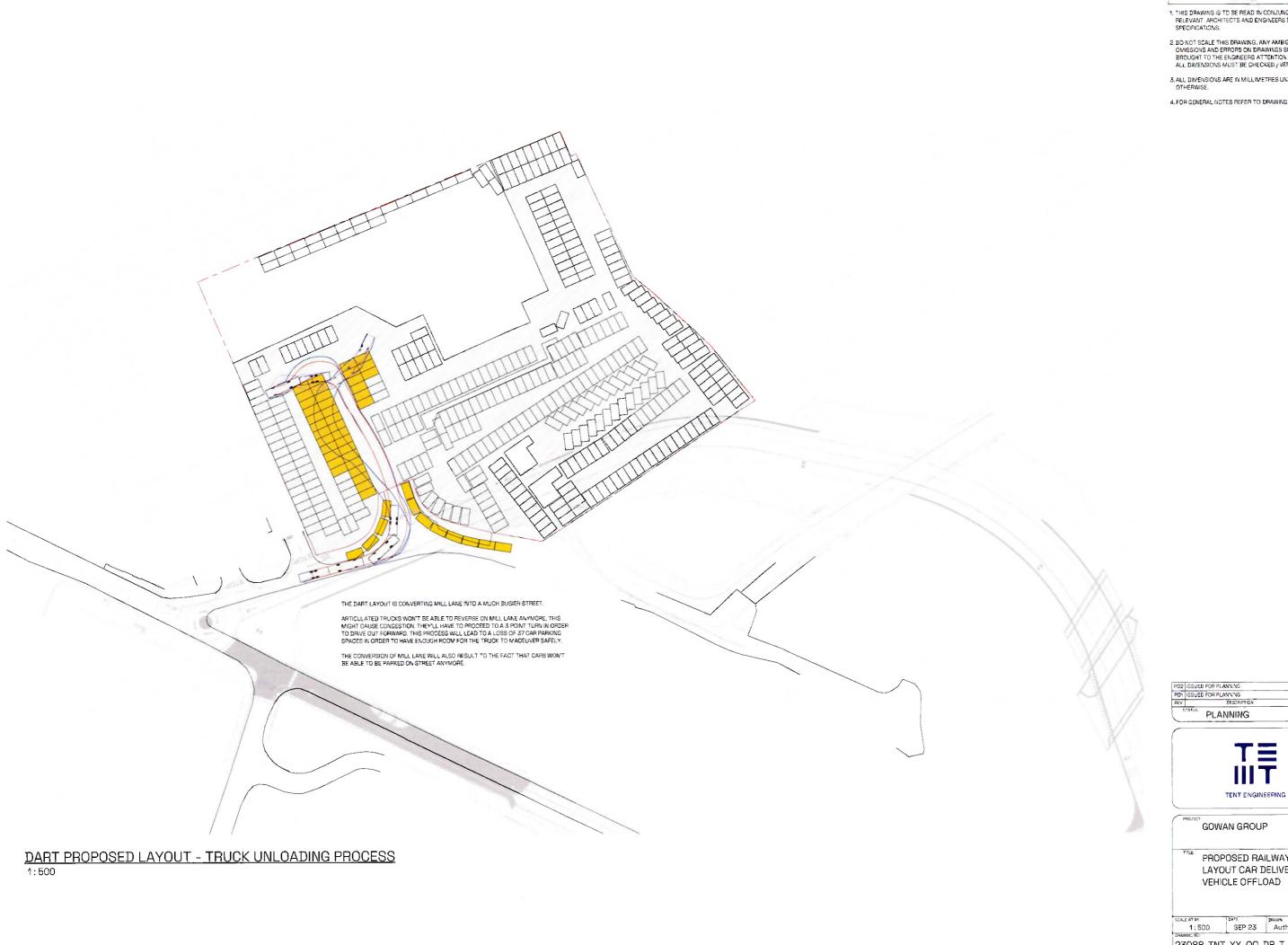






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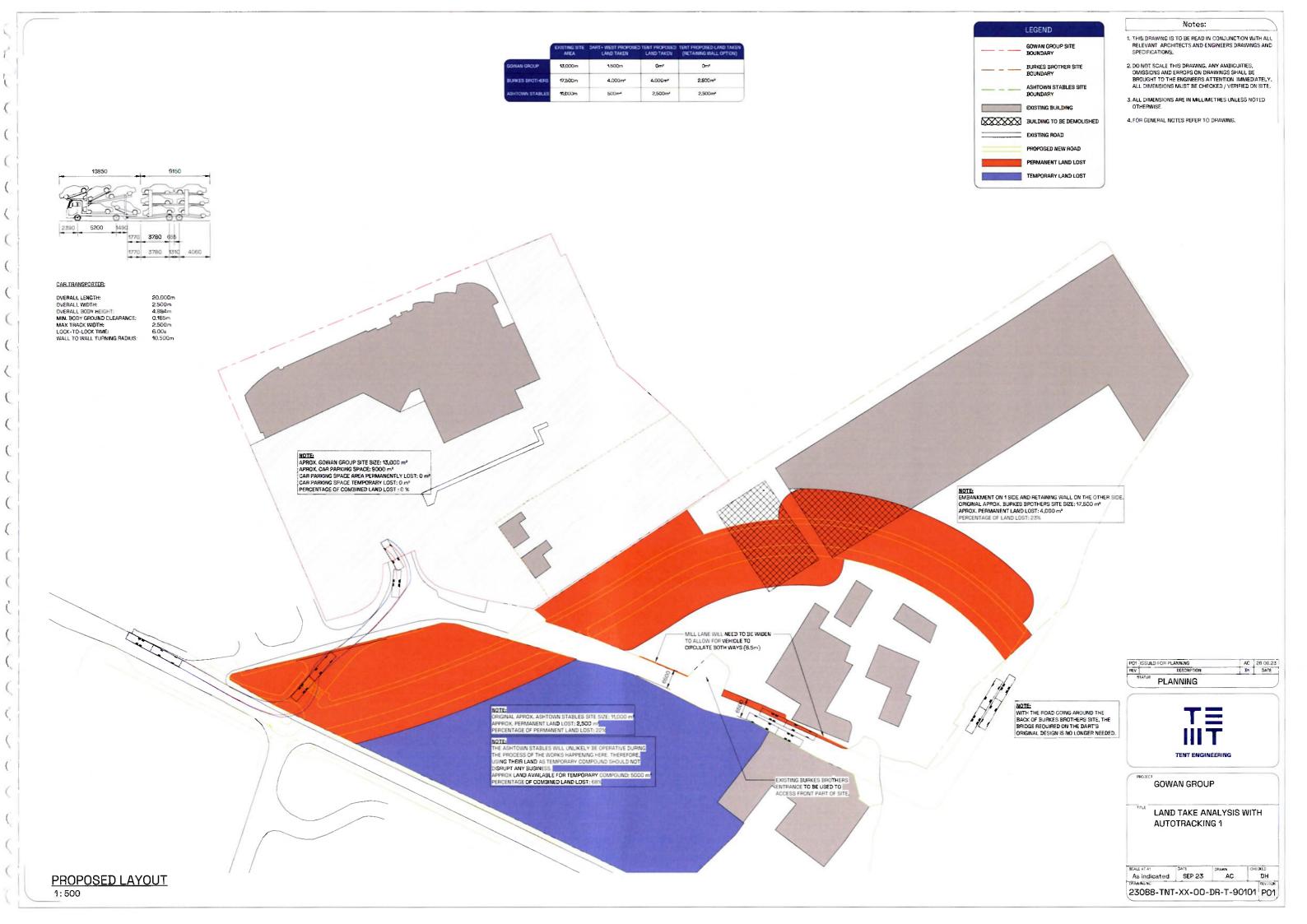
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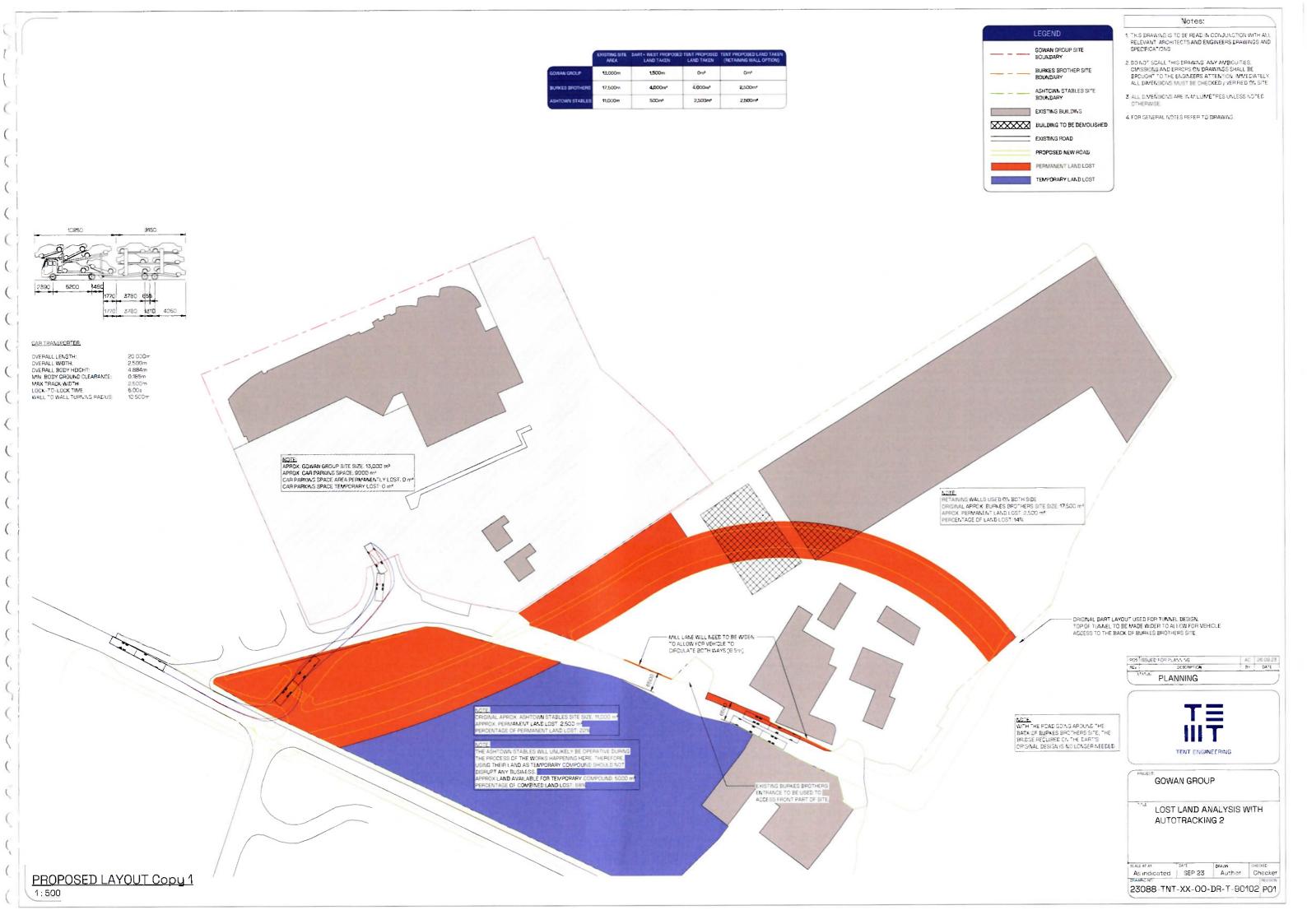
GOWAN GROUP

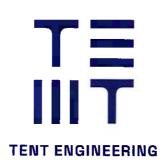
PROPOSED RAILWAY ORDER LAYOUT CAR DELIVERY VEHICLE OFFLOAD

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