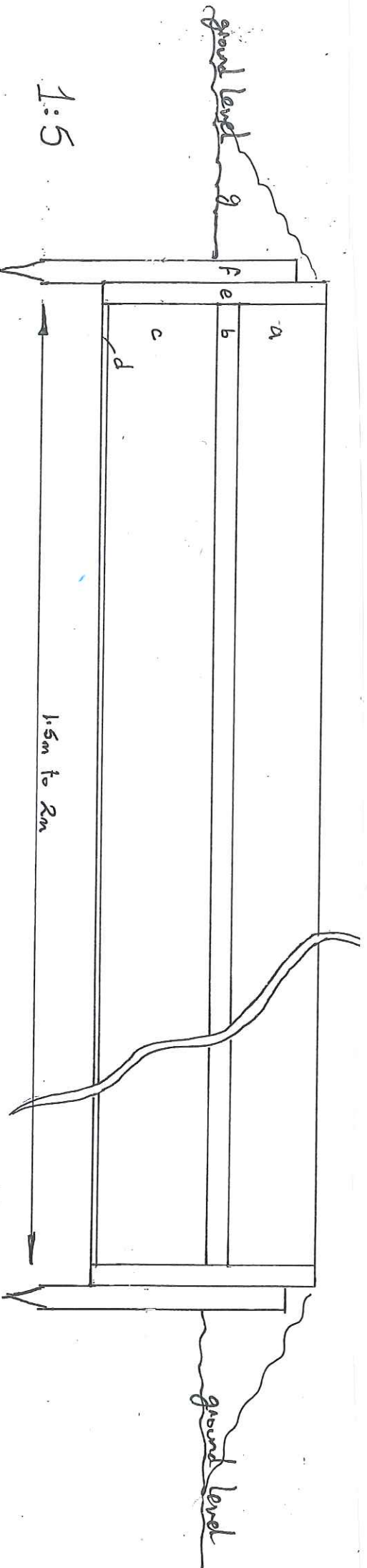


## POROUS FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION

This specification is intended to be used for situations close to trees within their BS5837 specified Root Protection Zones but not exceeding the 20% surface area coverage recommended in the standards. Significant excavation would almost certainly result in root loss affecting vigour and vitality and whilst in the arboricultural industry we often refer to this as the 'No Dig' method it is rarely the case in my experience that a site does not require at least a minimum of excavation to remove the surface vegetation layer (e.g. grass/weeds) or some minor adjustments to provide a level surface (e.g. raking or introduction of sand to fill voids). This surface layer disturbance must be kept to a minimum with 'hand digging' operations only permitted in order to allow a footpath to be bedded in to the site.

The depth to which this footpath can ultimately be set into the ground will be dependent on site specific ground conditions and may depend on pre-development excavation of a trial trench to determine rooting patterns and intensity – but would typically fall into the range of 100mm to 150mm.

The depth and composition of the footpath can therefore vary but one solution is provided in the drawing below at 1:5 scale.



Key:

- a - 80mm deep porous Formpave 'Aquaflo' blocks/slabs/setts
- b - 20mm deep bedding layer of sharp sand/grit
- c - 100mm deep 'GeoCell' or 'Cellweb' plastic cellular confinement system filled with porous aggregate
- d - 5mm layer of 'Tensar' geogrid to prevent the aggregate from migrating down into the soil sub-base layers
- e - treated wooden board edging to constrain lateral spread of materials
- f - quality topsoil introduced to hide the edges and avoid a hazardous 'trip' situation