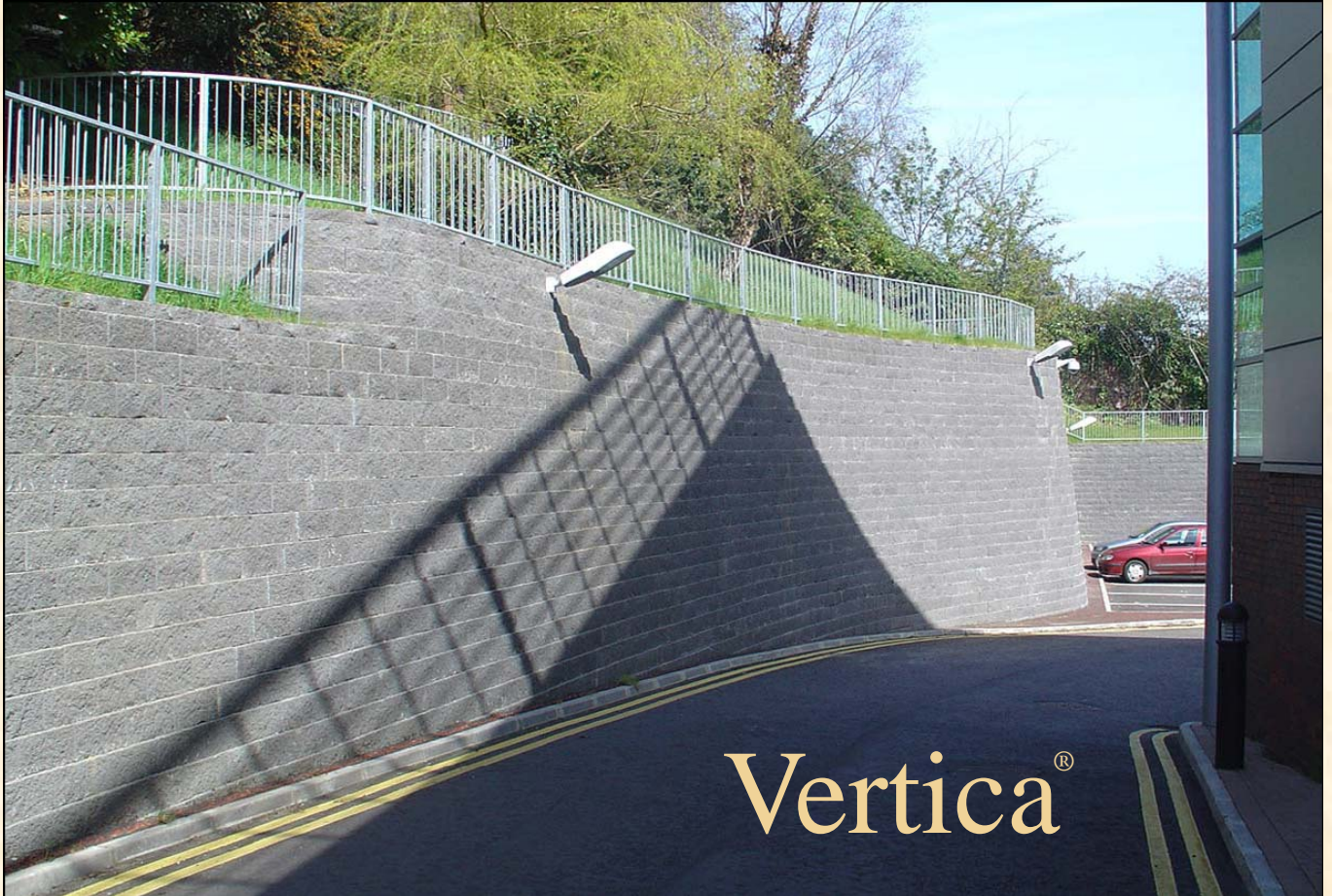


## Magee College

*University of Ulster, Derry, N. Ireland*



**LOCATION:**

Magee College, Derry

**PRODUCTS USED:**

Anchor Vertica

**ARCHITECT:**

Samuel Stevenson and Sons Ltd.

**MAIN CONTRACTOR:**

McLaughlin & Harvey

**WALL SUBCONTRACTOR**

Joe Kerlin Site Services

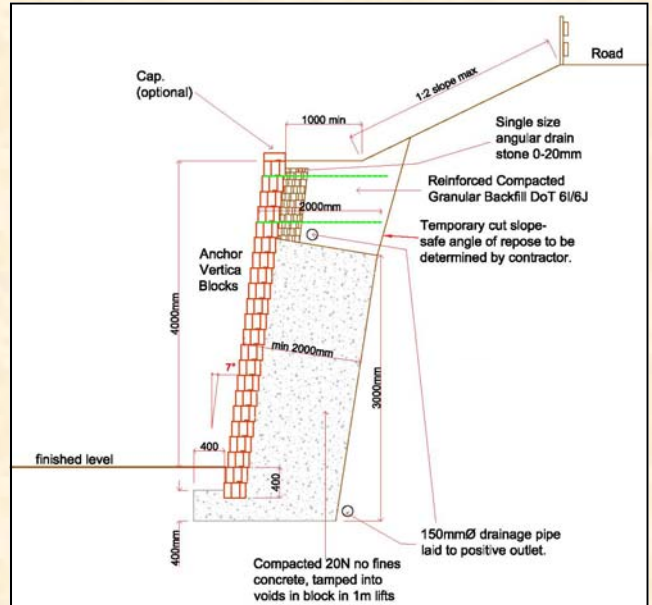
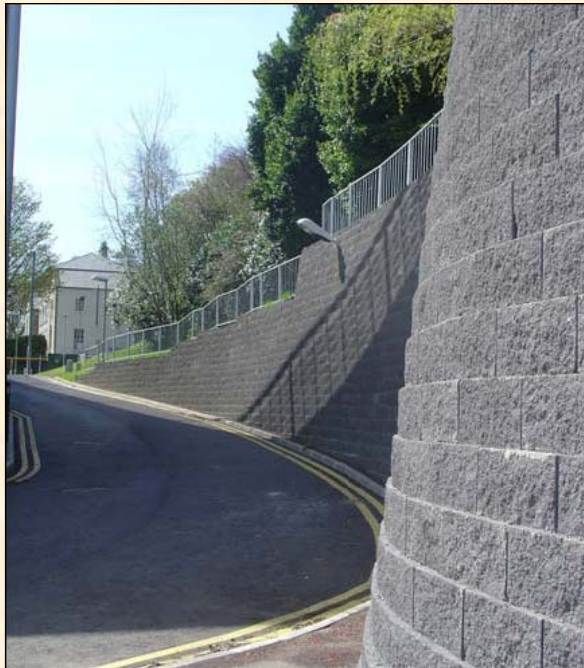
**DESIGNER:**

Maccaferri Ltd

**THE CHALLENGE**

The Magee campus is a thriving centre of the University of Ulster with rapidly growing student numbers. There was a need to optimise the use of available space during development on the steeply sloping Strand Road site.

Because the layout of the proposed new building included a permanent access road, incorporating curves into the retaining wall using the Vertica retaining wall was identified as an ideal solution. However, there was also a need to consider additional factors that would complicate the construction of conventional types of retaining walls. These included a steep crest slope above the proposed wall, carrying a road which would have to remain open during the works. There were also many existing mature trees on the crest slope which should be preserved.



Above: Typical detail used during construction—note 20N no-fines concrete backfill and steep crest slope

Left: the finished project—note the fence detail above the wall and the incorporation of street lighting and CCTV into the wall

## THE SOLUTION

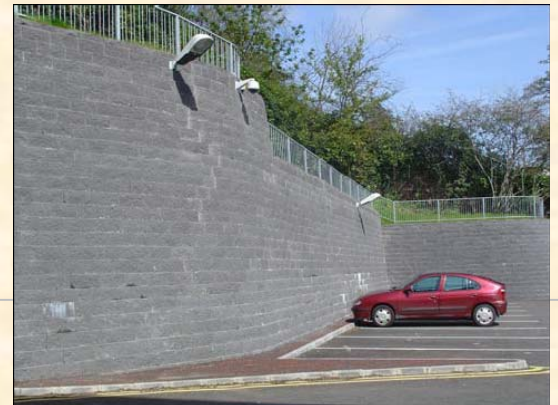
In this project, it was decided to build the wall as a mass gravity structure using no-fines concrete as a backfill material. By doing this, the cut slope could be quickly covered and stabilised. Additionally, because the overall depth of cut could be kept to a minimum, the roots of existing trees and shrubs were relatively undisturbed and could all be retained.

Pedestrian fencing was required at the crest of the slope. Plastic ‘void-forming’ pipes were installed vertically behind the wall face and were concreted into position. Fence posts were grouted into these pipes.

The near vertical, 7 degree face provided by the system maximised land gain behind, and minimised land loss in front of the wall and the ‘dry-build’ nature of the Vertica system along with its unique system of locator lugs on the top of each block enabled it to be built quickly and accurately. The high quality “split face” concrete block finish can be supplied in a range of colours and in this case, in a colour that integrated well with existing masonry walls nearby on the site.

Contracts manager for the site Liam Clarke McLaughlin & Harvey representative, stated “One of the main concerns where that the retaining wall would be supporting a busy access road through the university campus. Closing the road was not an option so the solution had to be flexible and fast to construct. Anchor gave us the ideal solution.”

Steven Wright, the architect’s representative on this project commented, “We were familiar with the Anchor Vertica system but realised that for a lot of reasons, this site could be challenging. This solution gave us a great looking wall which could be built quickly and efficiently and we are delighted with the result”



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