Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Alaska Construction Surveying Requirements (US Customary Units)

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1. Survey accuracy requirements

Third order survey

- ✓ Use a 1/5000 horizontal closure.
- ✓ Use an angle closure of $30\sqrt{N}$ seconds, where N equals the number of angles in the traverse.
- ✓ An Alaska-registered professional land surveyor must perform or supervise replacement of survey monuments (property, USGS, USC&GS, BLM, etc.) or establishment of monuments (including centerline).
- ✓ All monument work must comply with AS 34.65.040 and meet standards in the latest version of the Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors' *Standards of Practice Manual.*
- ✓ The allowable vertical error for misclosure is e = $0.05\sqrt{M}$ e = maximum misclosure in feet, M = length of the level circuit in miles.

Table 1—Survey accuracy requirements (in feet)

	Stationing	HI	Closure	Horizontal Angle	Distance To center line	Grade
Additional cross sections	1.0	0.01	0.04	**	0.1	0.1
Benches		0.01	0.02			
Blue tops***	1.0	0.01	0.04		0.1	0.02
Bridges	*	0.01	0.02			0.01
Centerline	*			*		
Clearing & Grubbing	1.0				1.0	
Culverts	1.0	0.01	0.04	**	0.1	0.1
Curb & gutter	1.0	0.01	0.02		0.1	0.02
Grade stakes	1.0				0.1	0.1
Guardrail	1.0				0.1	
Manholes, catch basins & inlets	1.0	0.01	0.02		0.1	0.02
Monuments	*			*		
Red tops***	1.0	0.01	0.02		0.1	0.05
Riprap	1.0	0.1	0.04		1.0	0.1
Signs	1.0				0.1	
Slope stakes & RP's	1.0	0.01	0.04	**	0.1	0.1
Under drains & sewer	1.0	0.01	0.02		0.1	0.02

* Third order survey
**Right angle prism or transit angles from center line
*** Use blue tops for top of base course and red tops for the bottom of base course.

1. Survey frequency requirements

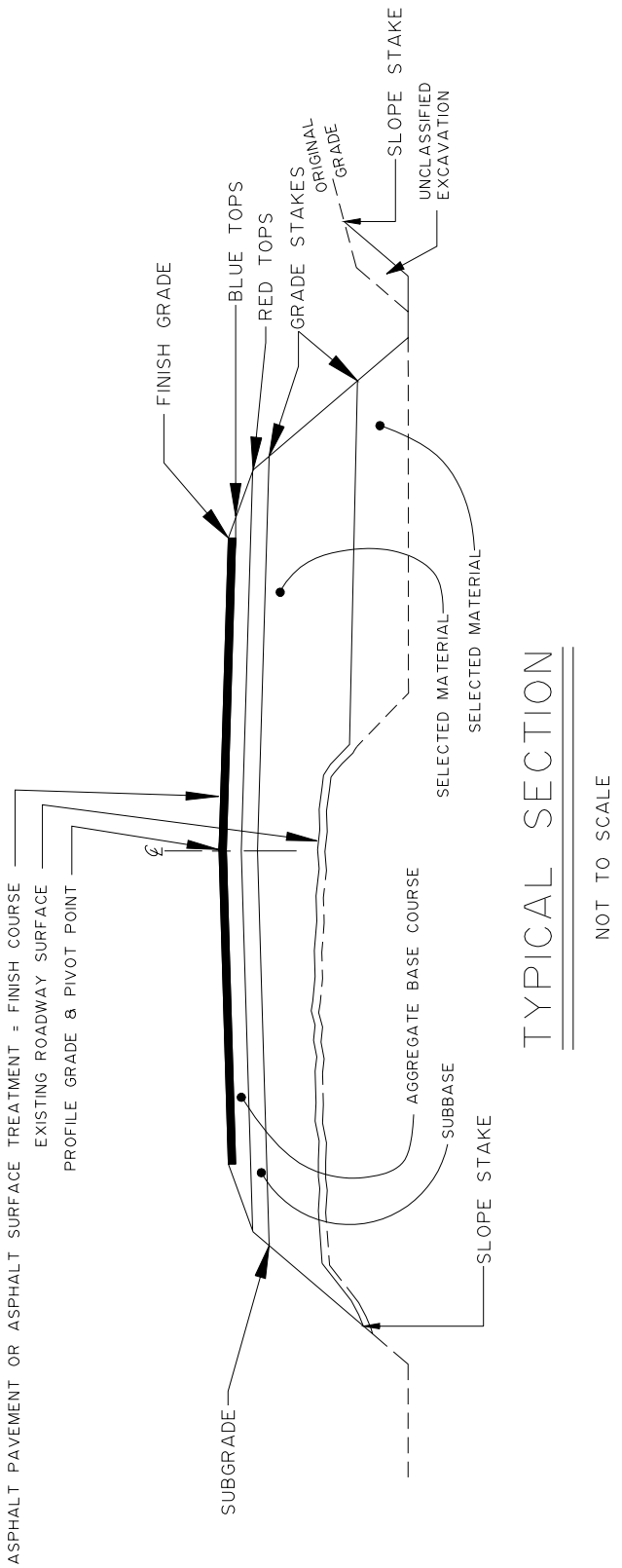
Table 2—Survey frequency requirements (in feet)

	Tangents	Curves	Interchange ramps	Stake each per plan	See special instructions on sample notes
Additional cross sections	*	*	*		
Bench marks					X
Blue tops	100	100**	25		X
Blue tops within 100 feet both sides of railroad track crossings and bridge approaches	25	25	25		X
Bridges				X	X
Center line	100	100**	25		
Clearing	100	100**	25		X
Culverts				X	X
Curb and gutter	25	25	25		
Grade stakes	100	100**	50		
Guardrail	25	25	25		
Manholes, catch basins & inlets				X	
Monuments				X	
Red tops	100	100**	25		X
Riprap	50	50	50		
Signs				X	
Slope stake / cross sections	100	100**	25		X
Under drains and sewers	50	25	25		

* Establish additional cross sections and slope stakes at all breaks in topography and where structures begin and end.

**Curves shall be staked on 50-foot stations if the curve is greater than six degrees.

2. Typical Section Drawing



3. Survey point materials requirements

- ✓ These are minimum requirements; larger sizes may be necessary.
- ✓ Use only stakes with planed sides.

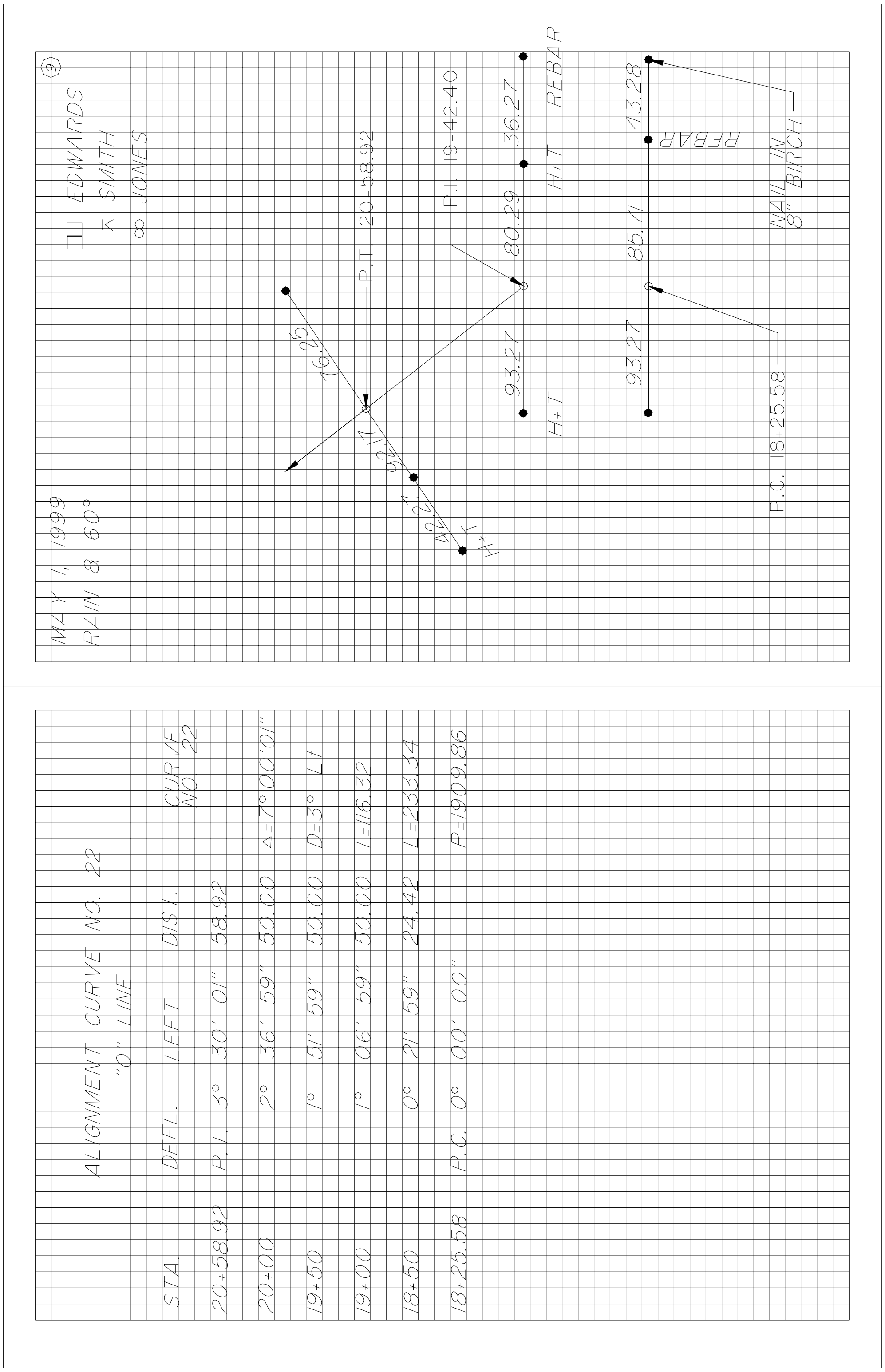
Table 3—Survey point materials requirements

	24" lath or whiskers	2" x 2" x 8" hub	2" x 2" x 12" hub	1" x 2" x 18" stake	1" x 2" x 24" stake	48" lath	Hub and tack	40d nail	60d nail	½" x 24" rebar
Benchmarks									X	
Blue tops	X	X								
Centerline P.C., P.T., P.O.T.			X	X			X *			X*
Centerline reference points			X	X			X *			X *
Centerline station				X				X		
Clearing						X				
Culvert stake			X		X	X				
Culvert stake references			X		X	X				
Curb and gutter			X		X		X			
Guardrail								X		
Major structures			X	X *	X *	X	X *			X *
Red tops	X	X								
Signs						X				
Slope stake					X	X				
Slope stake references			X		X	X				

* Optional depending on conditions, and to be determined by the Project Engineer.

4. Typical alignment notes

- ✓ The Chief of Parties must prepare the alignment book before actual staking.
- ✓ Don't use swing ties for reference points.
- ✓ Use three point right angle ties, two to the right and one left, or vice versa.
- ✓ Reference P.C., P.I., P.T., and P.O.T.



5. Typical clearing notes

- ✓ Exclude areas not needing clearing.
- ✓ Draw a diagram as required to show unusual or confusing areas.

	+ CLEARING & GRUBBING −			AUG. 6, 1999			□ EDWARDS ⑧
							∧ SMITH
				80°± CLEAR			∞ JONES
				CALM			
STA.	CL.L T.		CATCH	CATCH	CL.RT.		
5+50	149'	+12'	137'	203'	+12'	215'	
6+00	164'		152'	188'		200'	
6+50	159'		147'	204'		216'	
7+00	167'		155'	180'		192'	
7+50	179'		167'	188'		200'	

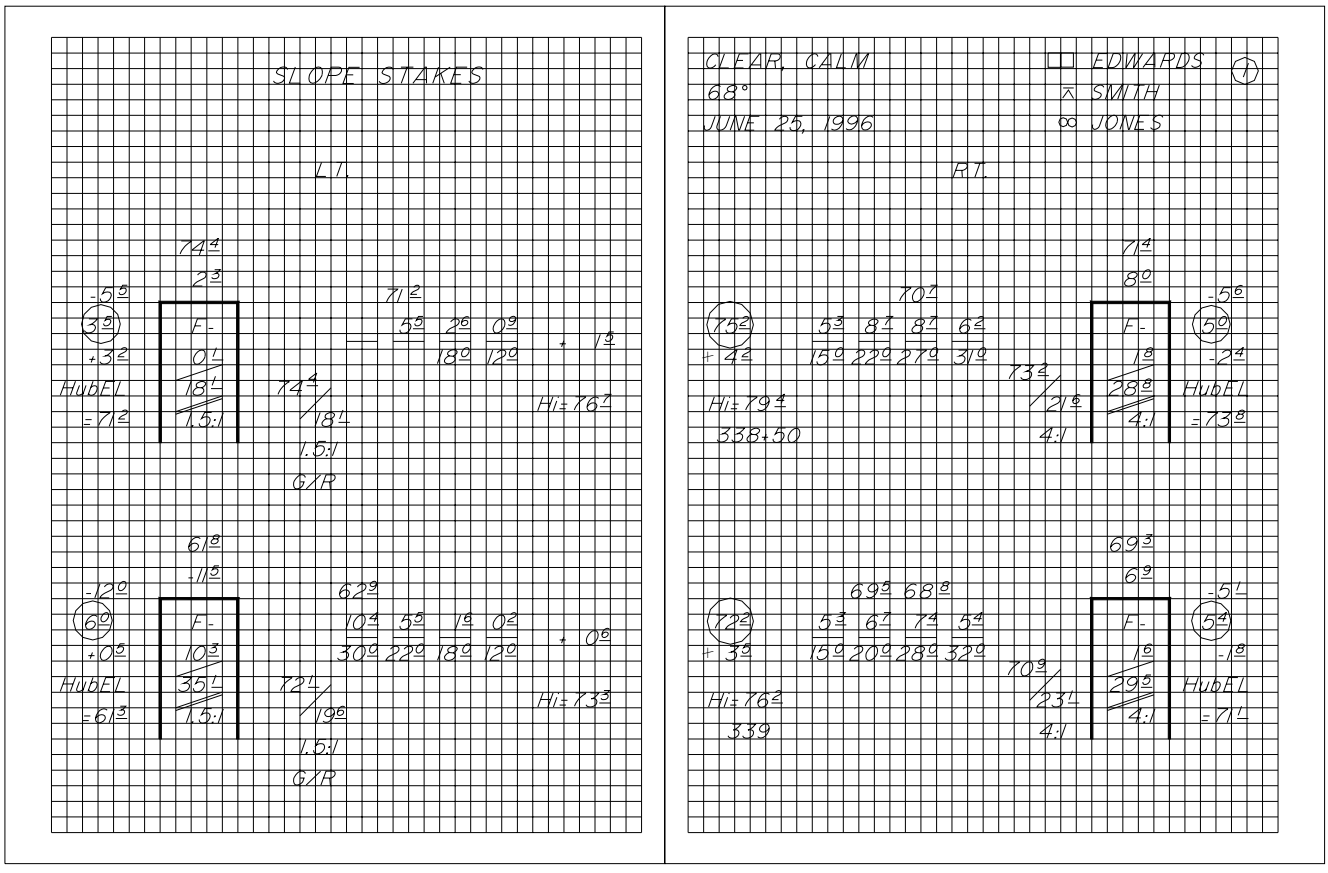
6. Typical level notes

- ✓ Balance back sights and foresights.
- ✓ Establish all benchmarks and take the centerline profile before doing any staking involving elevations.
- ✓ Don't set benchmarks in utility poles.
- ✓ Don't use side shots on benchmarks.
- ✓ Use the turn through method when establishing benchmarks.
- ✓ Re-check benchmarks after each major freeze/thaw cycle and/or any environmental event that may change the benchmark elevation.
- ✓ Do not use double rodding.
- ✓ Run separate level loops between all benchmarks.
- ✓ Set benchmarks in trees of at least six-inch diameter, unless approved by the Project Engineer.
- ✓ Correct errors in benchmark elevations so they will not affect the elevations of succeeding benchmarks.
- ✓ Consult with the Project Engineer before placing benchmarks in areas of permafrost or other unstable ground.
- ✓ Establish benchmarks at intervals and locations consistent with good engineering practice, and generally not more than 1000 feet.
- ✓ Completely describe benchmarks when establishing or re-establishing their elevation. Give centerline stationing, offset, benchmark projection, and observable benchmark characteristics. When checking into or out of benchmarks, note the book and page number that contains the most recent elevation establishment for that benchmark.
- ✓ Write the station on the top twelve inches facing centerline, with numerals a minimum of one inch in height.

STA.	BS+	HI	FS−		ELEV.	45°± CLEAR WARM CALM				⌅ □	㉓ EDWARDS
						WILD 413579		3−23−90		⌖	SMITH
TBM #101											
6+72					161.309		Nail in	base of 12" Spruce			
								85' 10" LT.		6+72	
	3.877	165.186									
6+00			1.95		163.24						
6+25			2.32		162.87						
6+50			2.96		162.23						
T.P.			3.246		161.940						
	1.103	163.043									
6+75			2.31		160.73						
7+00			2.56		160.48						
T.P.			2.823		160.220						
	2.332	162.552									
							Nail in	base of 18" stump			
TBM #102			1.143		161.409		60' 4" RT		7+21	Elev.	161.413

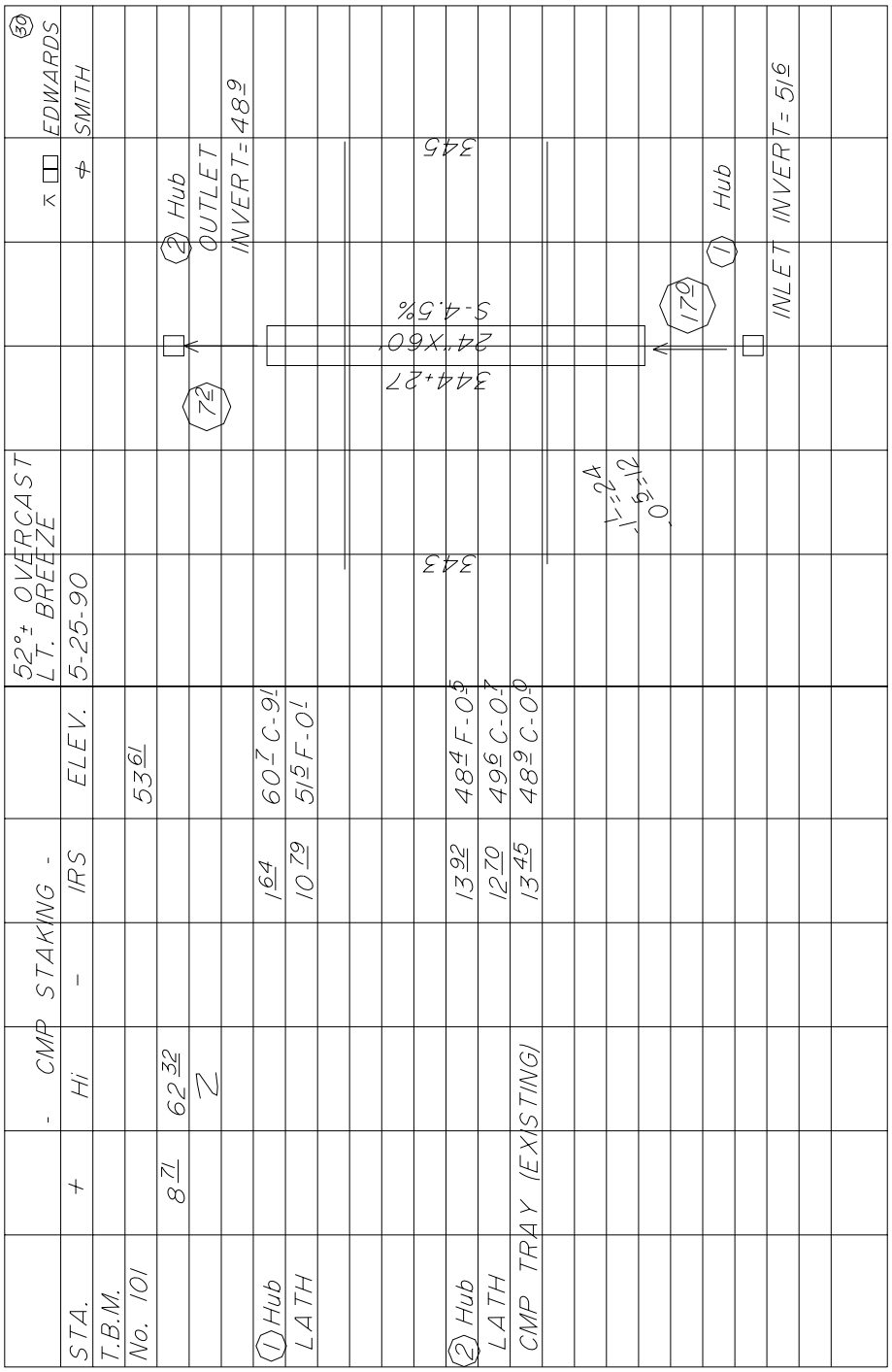
7. Typical slope stake notes

- ✓ Enter the station, elevations, shoulder distance or ditch distances, and slope in the slope stake book before staking begins.
- ✓ In areas where slides or overbreak are anticipated, extend the sections beyond the construction limits.
- ✓ Slope-stake each section that is cross-sectioned.
- ✓ Final re-cross sections are required where there are overbreaks, undercuts, etc. Re-cross section book and page numbers shall be noted on the original cross-section and slope staking page for the relevant stations.
- ✓ Use a hand level only for one turn up or down from the instrument.
- ✓ Clearly note hand level turns.
- ✓ Use a reference point that is 10-20 feet beyond the slope stake.
- ✓ The reference point must show the cut or fill to the slope stake and must include the slope stake information.
- ✓ Slope stake all abrupt changes in typical sections.
- ✓ Position all laths to face centerline.
- ✓ Include at least the following information on the stake: (1) where to begin the cut or fill (2) the slope ratio (3) the depth of cut or height of fill and (4) the station.

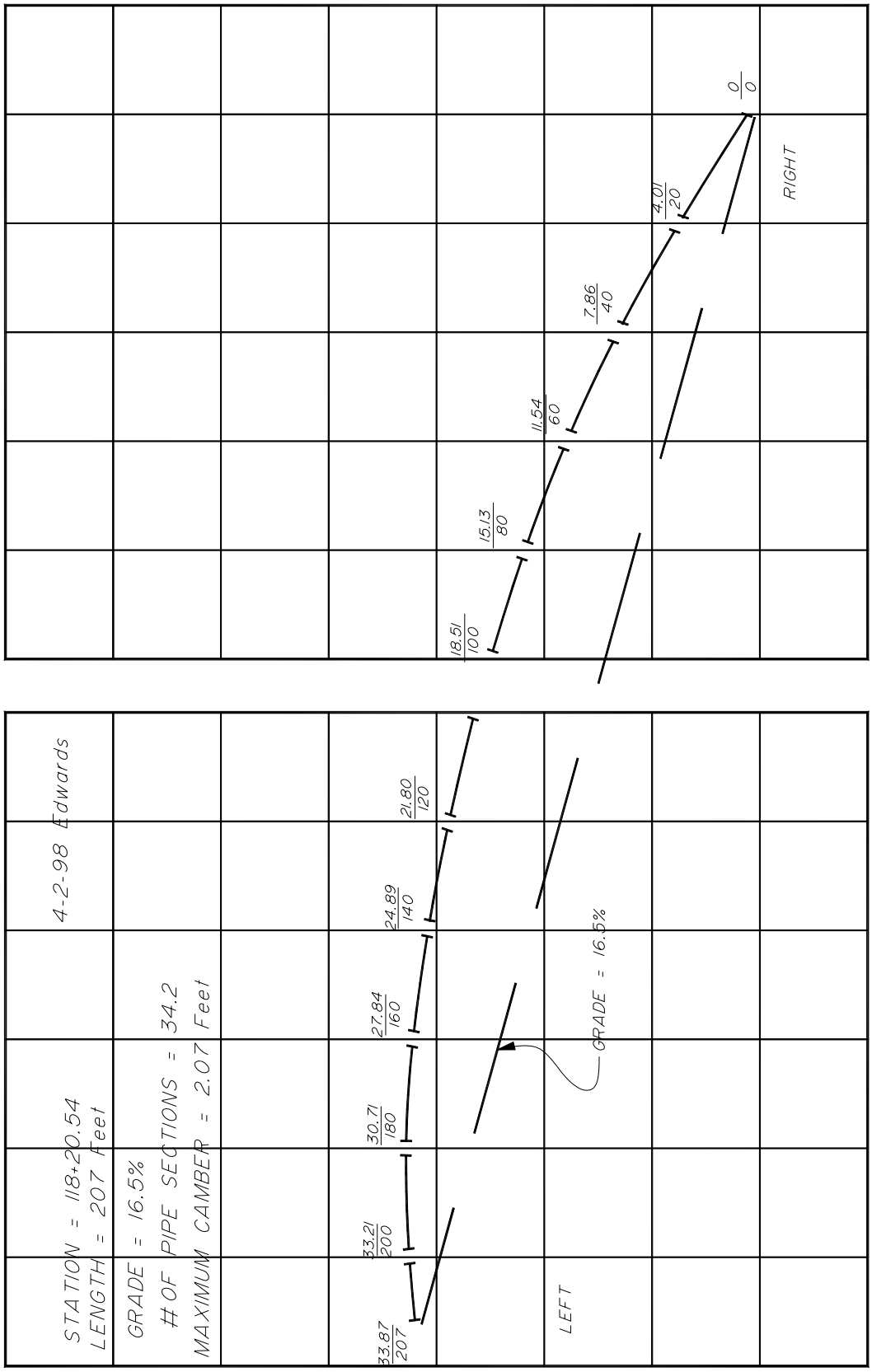


8. Typical culvert notes

- ✓ Show at least the following information on culvert stakes
  - station
  - size
  - length
  - type of pipe (e.g., 24” x 80’ CMP)
  - cut or fill from top of hub to inlet & outlet
  - skew angle
  - horizontal distance from hub to end of pipe
  - gradient of pipe
  - drop of pipe
- ✓ Ensure that all culverts have a minimum camber equal to 1% of the length of the pipe, unless the Project Engineer directs otherwise.
- ✓ Develop a culvert camber diagram showing each section of pipe and its elevation and offset.



9. Typical culvert camber diagram



10. Typical blue or red tops and grade stake notes

- ✓ Place blue and red tops at each break in typical section and on centerline.
- ✓ Use blue tops for top of base course.
- ✓ Use red tops for the bottom of the base course.
- ✓ Evenly space red/blue tops at and between crown section break points with a maximum spacing of 25 feet between red/blue tops.
- ✓ Establish horizontal control from centerline references and vertical control from benchmarks.
- ✓ Place blue tops at the same interval as slope stakes.
- ✓ Stake all curve transitions.