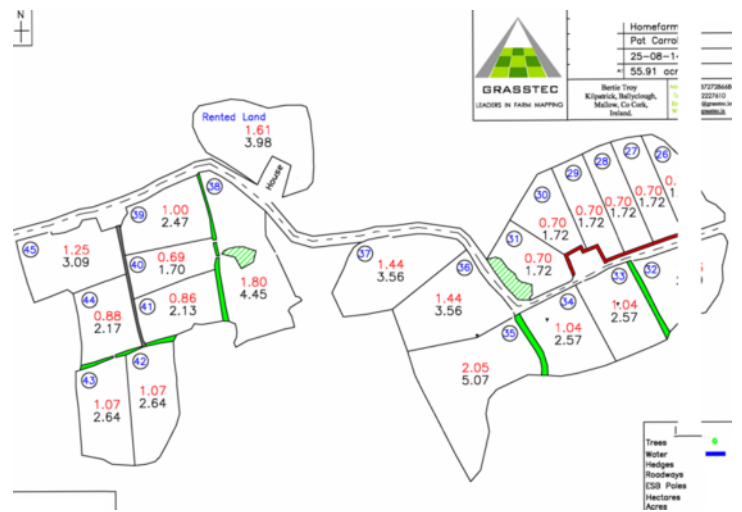
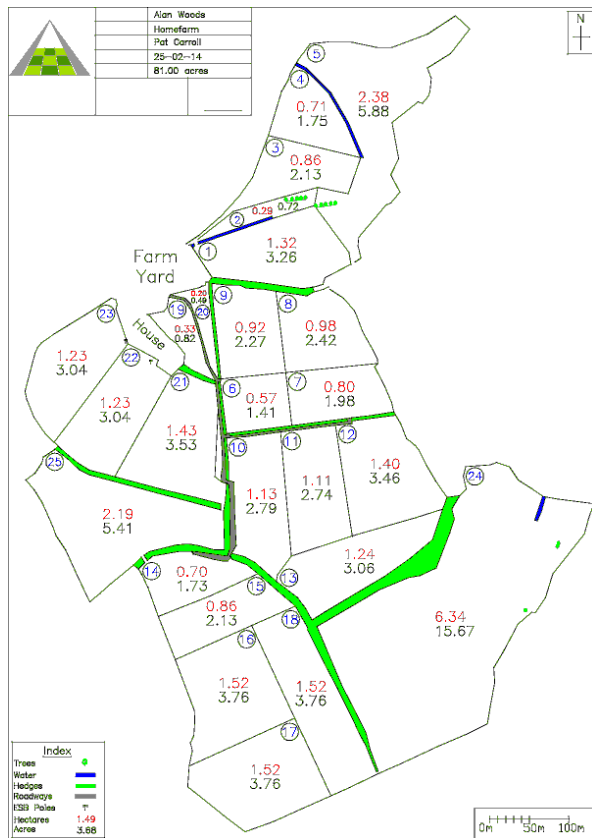


Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

This beef farm is made up of a home farm and two out farms, all on the banks of Lough Conn and each unit has its own slatted accommodation. The farm carries 50 suckler cows including a herd of 15 pedigree Charolais cows. All pedigree bulls are sold at Society sales, while commercial bulls are sold as strong weanlings. Heifers are sold as forward stores or finished to slaughter. There is a big emphasis on calf quality with 100% DIY AI usage.

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Land Drainage

Two hectares was made available by the farmer for drainage work. The following steps were then carried out.

1. Site investigation



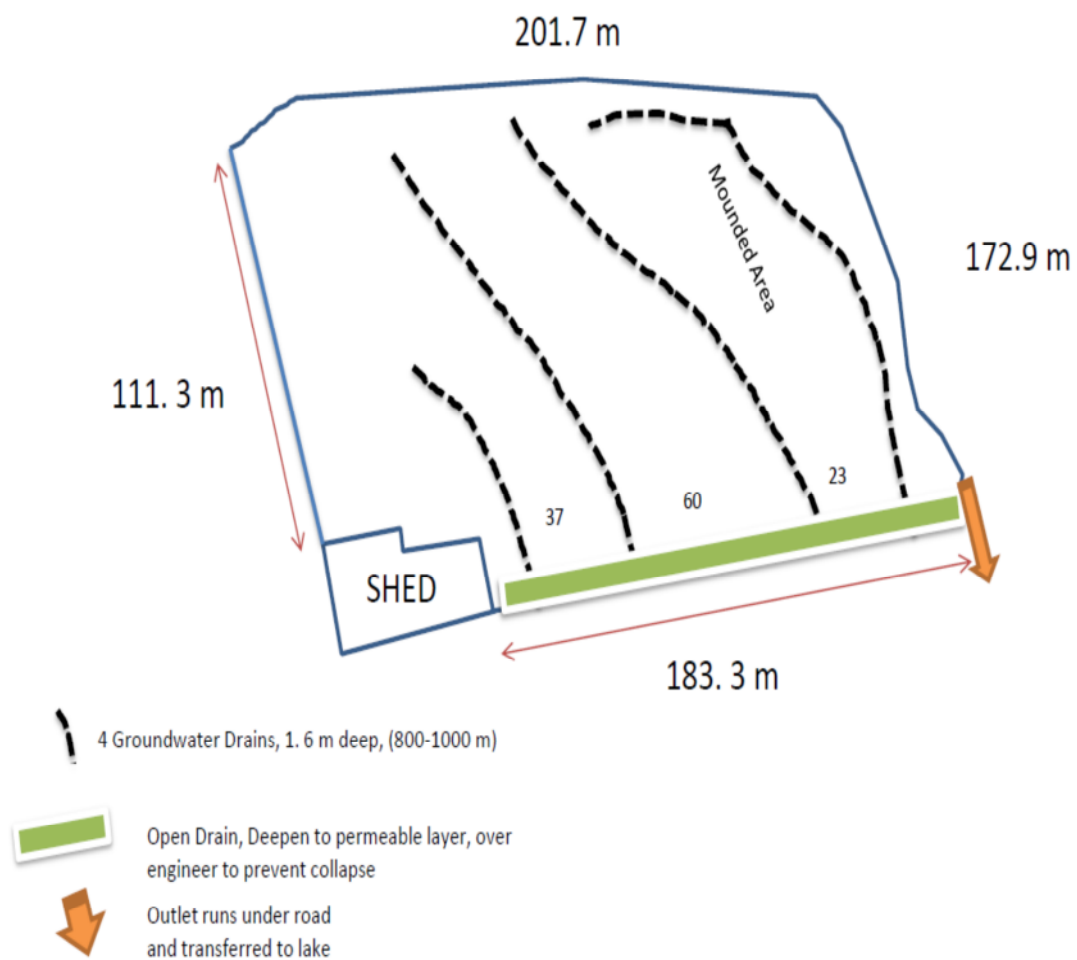
A number of test pits were dug (see picture above) to study soil profiles and get an understanding of drainage problem.

2. Drainage solution.

Test pit results confirmed strong seepage of water from 1.3 to 1.7 meters. Effective drainage would need to target the permeable layer with a groundwater drainage system which would remove excess ground water and allow surface water to infiltrate through the profile.

3. Drainage design.

The field was extensively surveyed, noting falls, existing drains and field dimensions. The falls and undulations of the field were taken into account in design, hence the non-symmetric nature of drainage layout.



Costs	Total/ha
Open drain installation @ €35/hr. (76 hrs.)	€2,670
Drainage pipe @ €1.13/m (338 m)	€1,790
Drainage stone @ €11.07/t (189 t)	€380
Drainage stone @ €11.07/t (189 t)	€2,100
Sub-soiling	€125
<u>Drainage cost</u>	<u>€7,065</u>

A new open drain at a depth of 2 metres was installed and spoil removed which proved a significant cost of €2,670 per hectare.