Creating PDF Files from MicroStation DGN Files

Introduction

T.D.O.T. Design Division personnel have two methods available to them for producing PDF files from plan sheets in MicroStation. Both of these are described in this document. The recommended method is with InterPlot Organizer, which is used for batch plotting and generating PDF plan sets. They can also use MicroStation Print to produce individual sheet PDF files.

Consultants that use MicroStation's Print Organizer tool for batch plotting can use that section for guidance in producing PDF plan sets.

A single PDF file should be created that contains all required sheets for all plan sets except for the final construction plans turn in. For final construction plans, each individual sheet is generated as a separate PDF file. They can then be combined in a PDF portfolio where they can each be digitally signed by the project engineer(s).

PDF Sheet Sizes

All Plan sheets in PDF files used for posting to FileNet must be set up at full size. Other PDF plans sheet submittals may be half size as stipulated in the T.D.O.T. Design Division Guidelines.

This document contains a section at the end describing the correct way to print from PDF files to avoid scaling errors. It shows document and paper sizes as well as how to print from either full or half size to generate any required prints you may need.

PDF Plan Sets from InterPlot Organizer

1. Open **InterPlot Organizer** and create a plot set.

The next several pages illustrate the set-up of sheets in InterPlot Organizer. They vary by type and when your plans were originally set up. Once you have your sheets set up in InterPlot Organizer you scan skip to page 8 and step 2.

For plan sheets created after January 2006 that utilize the MicroStation V8 sheet borders:

Create a plot set using settings files, **PdfEnglishFul.set** for regular plan sheets or **PdfEnglishXSFul.set** for cross section sheets.

These settings files utilize a smaller plot shape in the MicroStation V8 sheet border that is drawn with color 253. This special plot shape for PDF generation was set up to stop data from being clipped from the right edge of the sheets when plotted from the PDF file. **The resulting PDF document**

sheet size will be smaller than the normal printed sheet size so that it will fall within standard printer margins.

Document Sheet Sizes

Regular Full Size: 33.185" X 21"

Cross Section Full Size: 32.85" X 21.25"
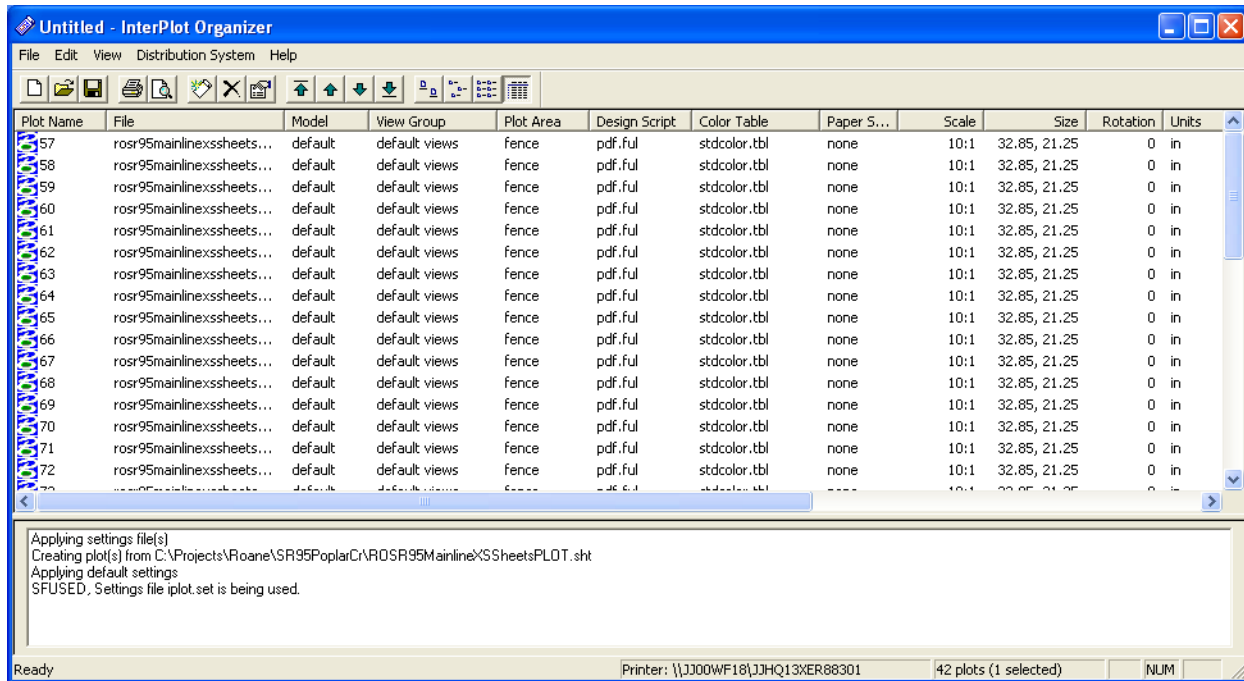
Regular Plan Sheets (Full Size)

Untitled - InterPlot Organizer

File   Edit   View   Distribution System   Help

Plot Name	File	Model	View Group	Plot Area	Design Script	Color Table	Paper S...	Scale	Size	Rotation	Units
001	001.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	5280:1	33.185, 21	0	in
001a	001a.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	1:1	33.185, 21	0	in
002	002.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
002a	002a.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
002b	002b.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	1:1	33.185, 21	0	in
002c	002c.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	1:1	33.185, 21	0	in
002d	002d.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	1:1	33.185, 21	0	in
002e	002e.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
003	003.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
003a	003a.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	200:1	33.185, 21	0	in
004	004.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
004a	004a.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
004b	004b.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
004c	004c.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
005	005.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
006	006.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
0061	006.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
007	007.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	100:1	33.185, 21	0	in
008	008.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
009	009.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	50:1	33.185, 21	0	in
010	010.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	350:1	33.185, 21	0	in
010a	010a.sht	default	default views	fence	pdf.ful	stdcolor.tbl	none	100:1	33.185, 21	0	in

Creating plot(s) from D:\PROJECTS\Bradley\Mouse Creek\010.sht
Applying default settings
SFUSED, Settings file iplot.set is being used.
Creating plot(s) from D:\PROJECTS\Bradley\Mouse Creek\010A.sht
Applying default settings
SFUSED, Settings file iplot.set is being used.

Ready   Printer: \\JJ00WF18\JJHQ13XER88301   23 plots   NUM

Cross Section Sheets (Full Size)

For 8 ½ X 11 Permit Sketches:

Create a plot set using the following settings files:
PdfEnglishPermitLand.set or **PdfEnglishPermitPort.set** for black & white landscape or portrait permit sketches,
PdfEnglishPermitLandColor.set or **PdfEnglishPermitPortColor.set** for color landscape or portrait vicinity maps.

These settings files utilize a PDF plot shape in the permit sketch borders that is drawn with color 253.

For permits set up prior to October 2007 when the PDF plot shape was added to the permit sketch border cells, use the **Draw Plot Border** tool to set symbology and manually add the PDF plot shape by drawing over the outside border of the permit. This tool can be found under the TDOT drop down menu at **TDOT > Tools > Draw Plot Border** or from Geopak's D&C Manager at **Drafting Standards > Tools > Plot Border**.
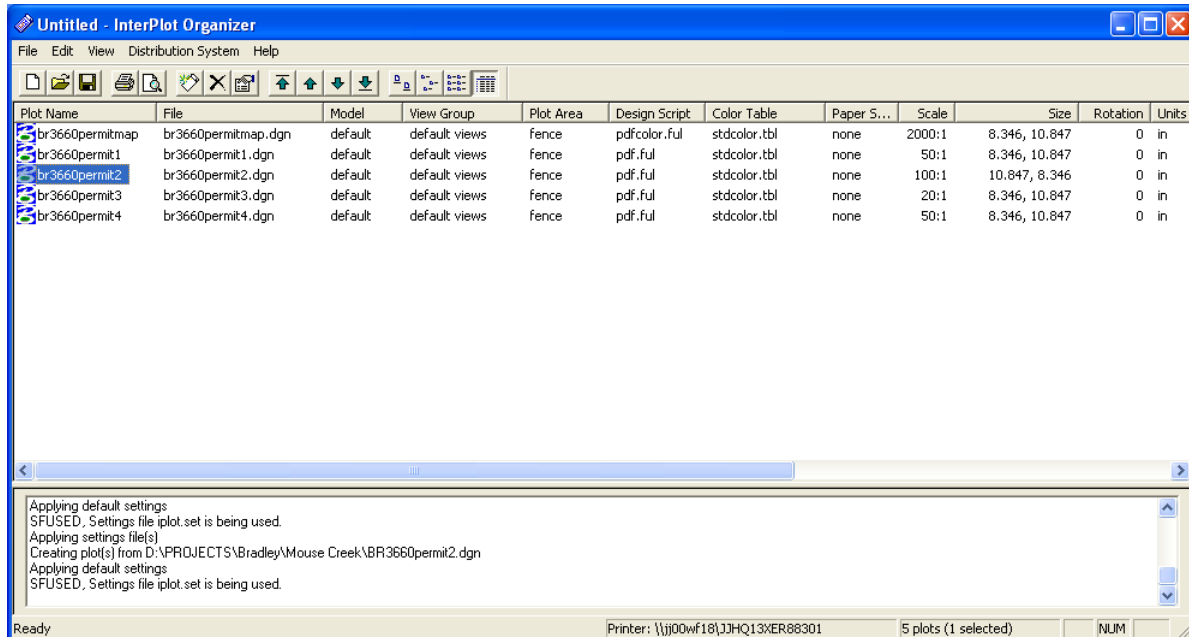
2. Go to **File > Export PDF**.

When one or more plots are selected in the list, you can right click on your mouse and choose **Export PDF** from the pop up menu. There is also an icon to launch this function on the menu bar

The Export PDF dialog display varies slightly from previous versions and includes an option to create separate PDF files for each sheet. This option should be used when creating PDF documents for final construction plans (portfolio).
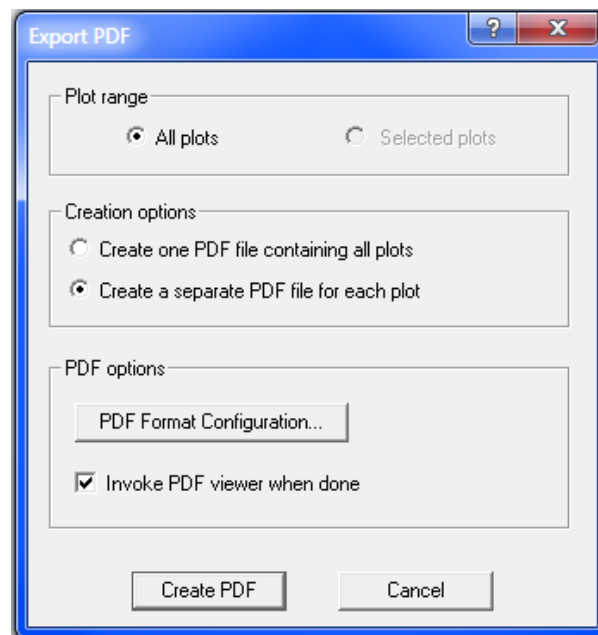
To Export PDF documents for final construction plans (portfolio), select **create a separate PDF file for each plot** is recommended under creation options of the Export PDF dialog.

Note: Sheets should be named according to TDOT CADD standards.
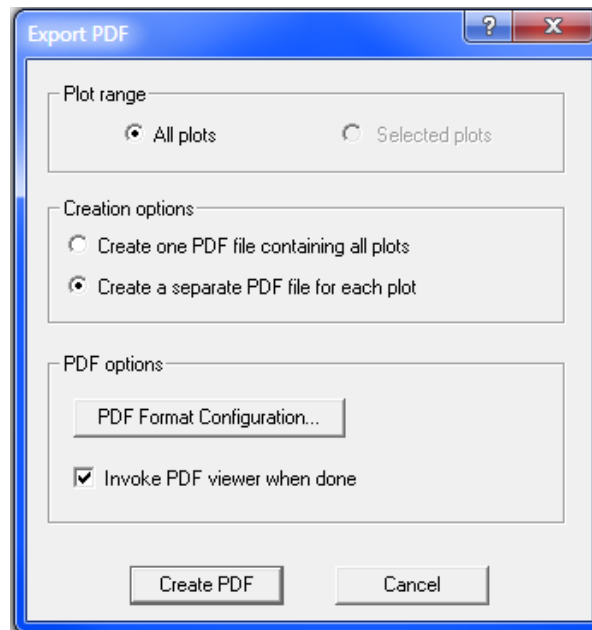
3. In the Export PDF dialog, click on **PDF Format Configuration**.

Make the following settings:
Resolution: 600 dpi
Rotation: 270
Version Compatibility: Acrobat 8.0 and later
Searchable Text: clicked On.
RGB JPEG Compression: clicked On.

After the settings are made, select **OK** in the PDF Format Configuration dialog.
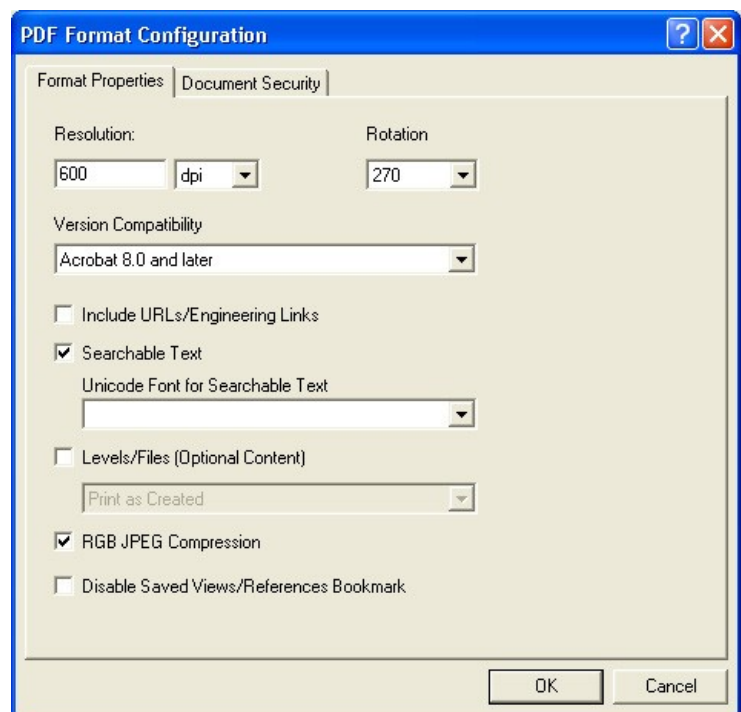
4. Back in the Export PDF dialog, you may wish to click on the option to **Invoke PDF viewer when done** to automatically open the new PDF file for review.

   Click **Create PDF**.

5. In the **Save PDF File** dialog, navigate to your project folder, enter a filename and click **Save**.
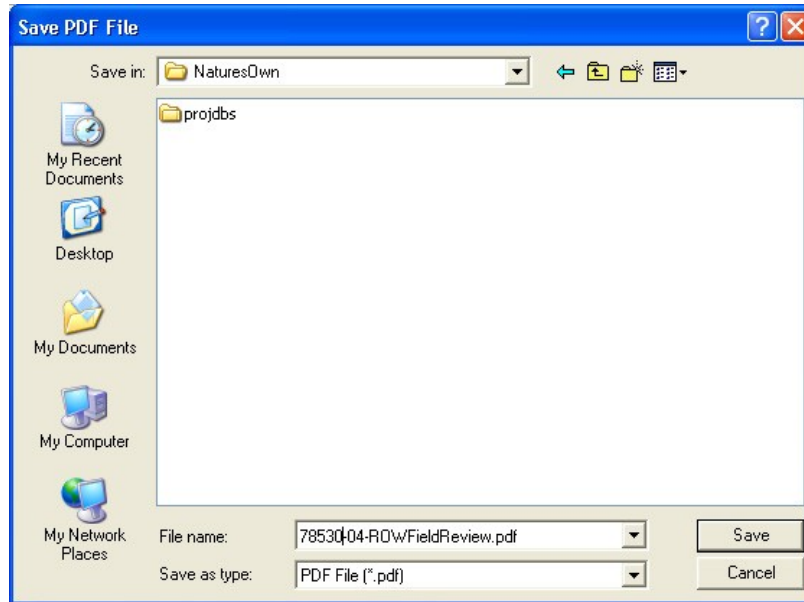
If you had the **Generate a separate PDF file for each plot** clicked On then you are prompted for the folder to place the sheet PDF files in.
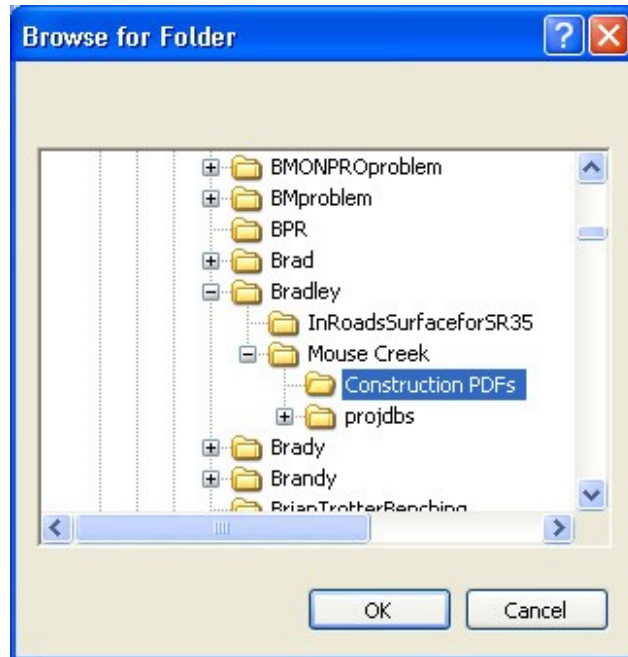
If the option to Invoke PDF viewer when done was clicked, the new PDF file is opened when generation is completed.
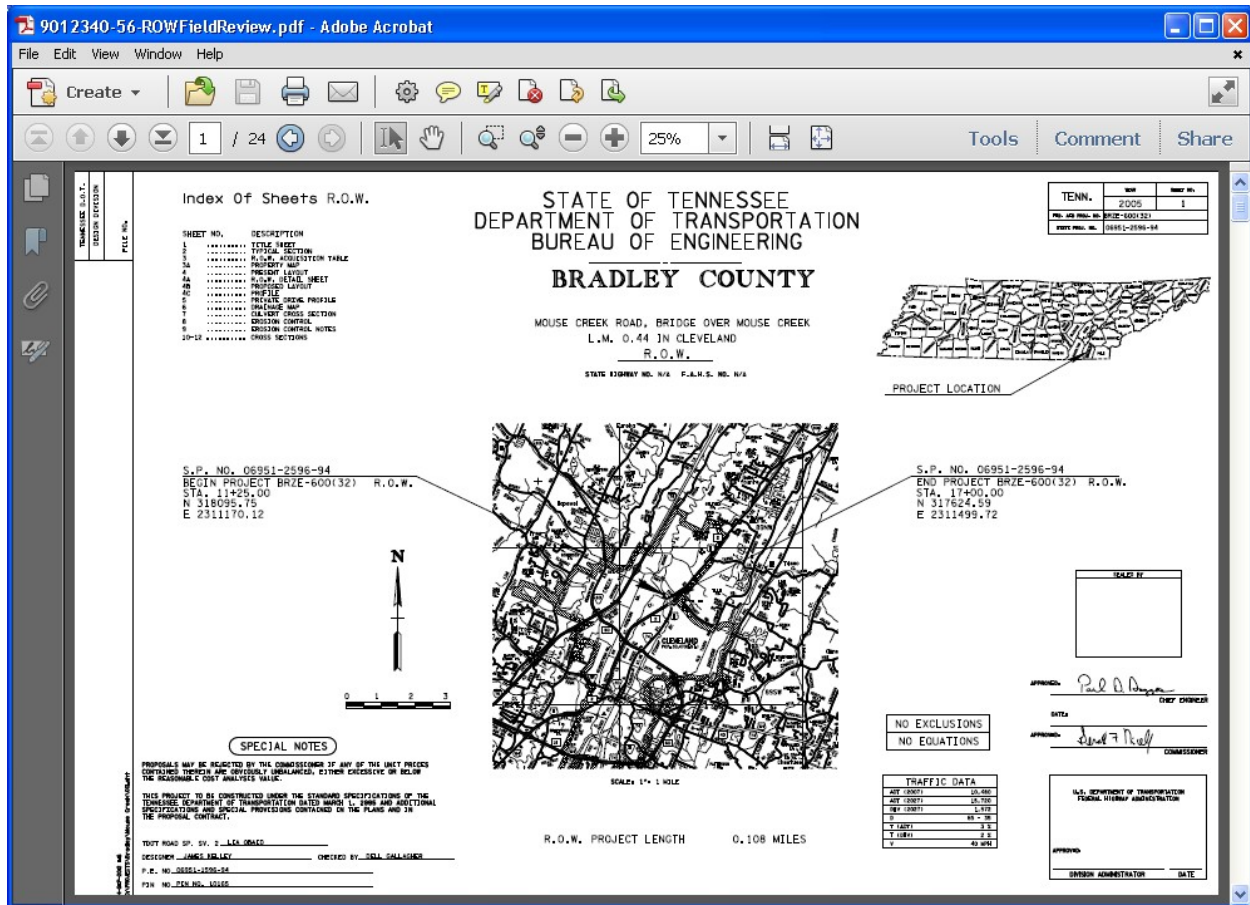
6. Back in the Interplot Organizer dialog, go to **File > Save** and save the plot set for later recall as needed.

Creating PDF Portfolios for Final Construction Plans

In the previous example, we created a plan set of all of the sheets. For final construction plans, each sheet must be a separate PDF. The previous steps can be used to create individual sheet PDF files as well. These individual PDF files are later combined in a portfolio so that each can be digitally signed by the engineer. For full documentation on creating PDF portfolios and digitally signing plans refer to documentation file Digital Signature Certification Workflow.pdf .

Missing Data in Adobe Acrobat 9

In some instances and especially with PDF files created from scanned images, some sheets may not show when viewed in Adobe Acrobat version 9. You will often get the error prompt, **"Insufficient data"** when attempting to view the sheet.

To correct this problem, simply re-generate the PDF document with version 9.

Open the document in Adobe Acrobat version 9 and click the **Print** option. In the Print dialog, choose the printer, **CutePDF Writer**, make settings as needed to maintain the paper size and then click **OK**. After entering a name for the new PDF file, it is created using version 9 which will make the missing sheets visible in the new document.

Creating PDF files using MicroStation Print

1. In the MicroStation plan sheet DGN file, change the default view attributes to **Line Weights** on, **Data Fields** off and **Fill** on. Adjust other view attributes if needed as shown below
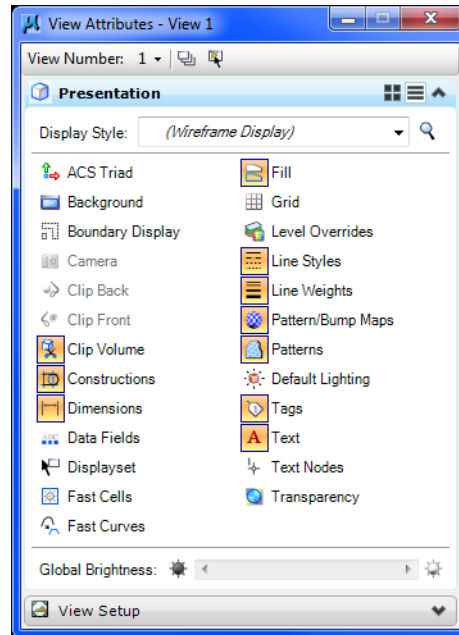
2. Turn on level **DESIGN - SHEET - Plot Shape** if it is not on. Snap to the corners of the purple PDF plot shape on that level to place a fence around the plan sheet. It follows the inside sheet border on the right and is visible to the left of the inside sheet border on the left. On cross section sheets, it drops below the offsets at the bottom of the sheet grid.
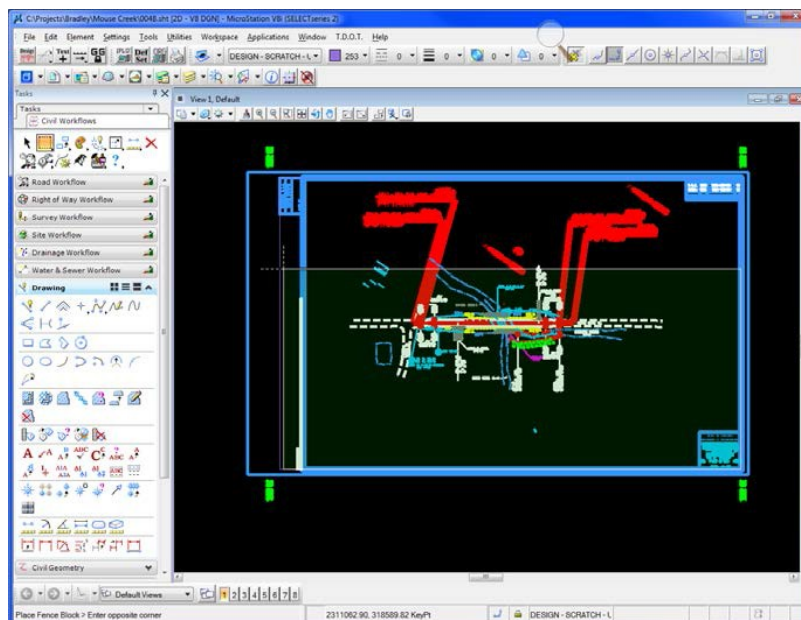
Warning:
Do not use the plot snap points on the sheet border to set up the fence. These are set up for plotting to plotters that have the margins set at 0, not for PDF production.

3. MicroStation Print uses the current view attributes to set up the plot parameters. Turn off levels **DESIGN - SHEET - Plot Shape** and **DESIGN - SCRATCH - User 1**.

4. Open MicroStation Print. Go to **File > Print** or click the printer icon on the Standard tool strip.

or from the **TDOT Design Division** tool strip, **Plotting** tool box
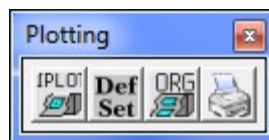
5. Attach the desired Bentley driver. In the MicroStation Print dialog go to **File > Select Bentley Driver** or click the browse icon next to the Bentley driver option on the dialog. Use plot configuration files **Tdotpdfful.pltcfg, Tdotpdffulc.pltcfg** (full size color) or **Tdotpdfhaf.pltcfg** to create PDF files.

    Using the full size plot driver, the Paper Size will default to **PDF Regular Full** (33.185 X 21) for regular plan sheets. Other paper options include PDF XS Full and PDF Permit Full.

The **Print Scale** should come out at the correct scale by default based on the Paper Size. If the scale is incorrect, the fence may need to be adjusted.
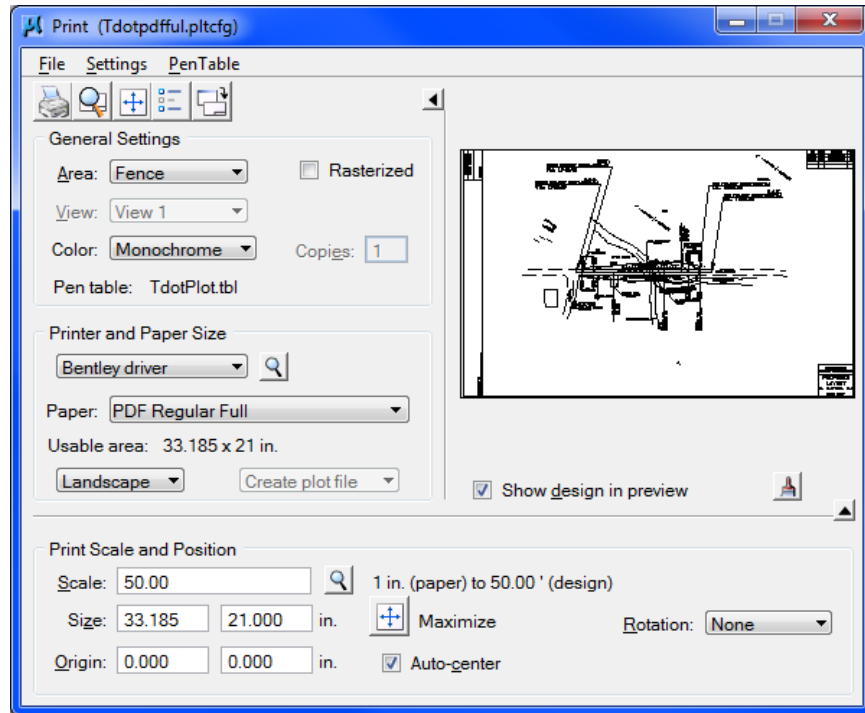
6. In the MicroStation Print dialog go to **File > Print** or click the printer icon on the dialog.The **Save Print As** dialog opens. Adjust the folder and filename as needed and click **OK** to save the PDF file.
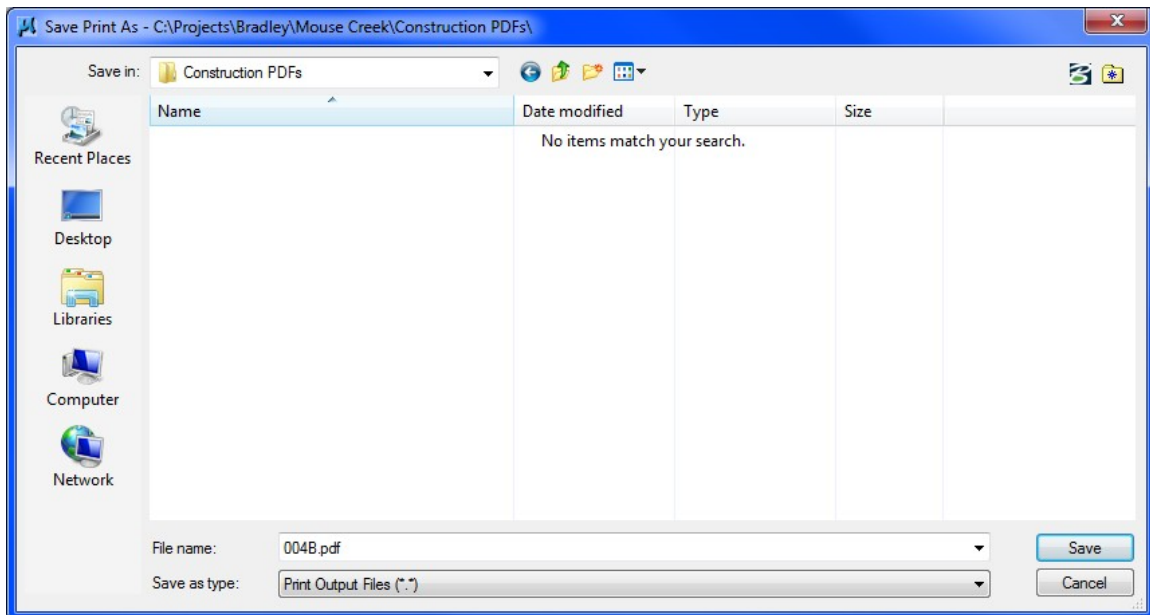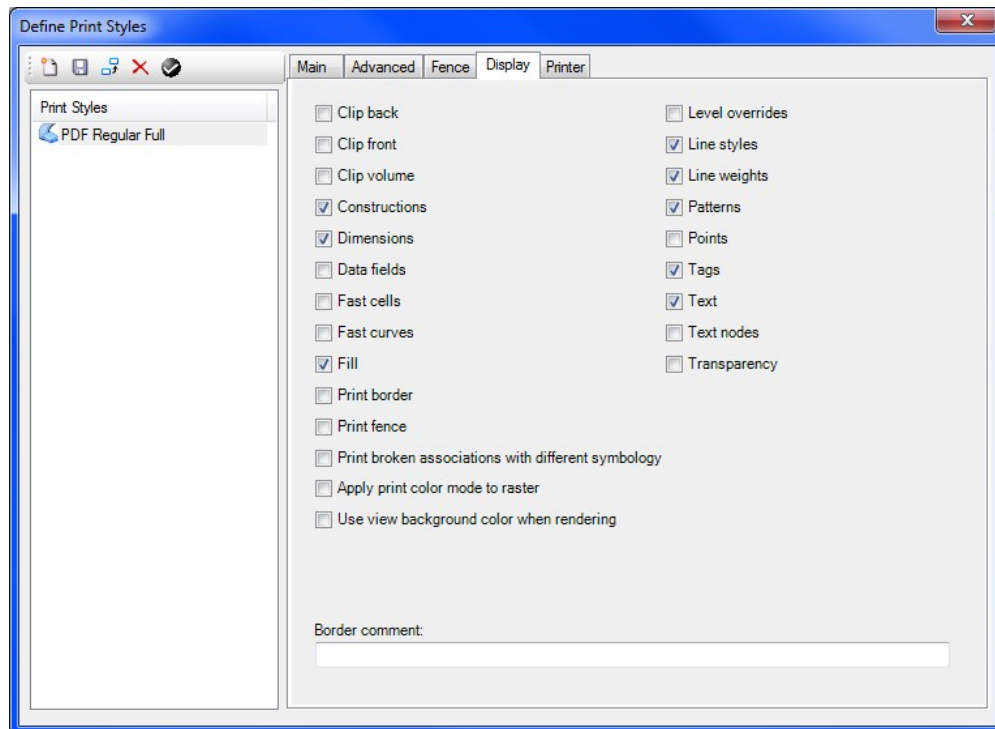
PDF Plan Sets from MicroStation Print Organizer

Consultants that use MicroStation Print Organizer can utilize the same MicroStation Print plot configuration files to set up complete plan sets in a single PDF file. This is preferable to individual files for each sheet, which is only needed for final construction plans. In Print Organizer set up a **Print Style** for generating PDFs:
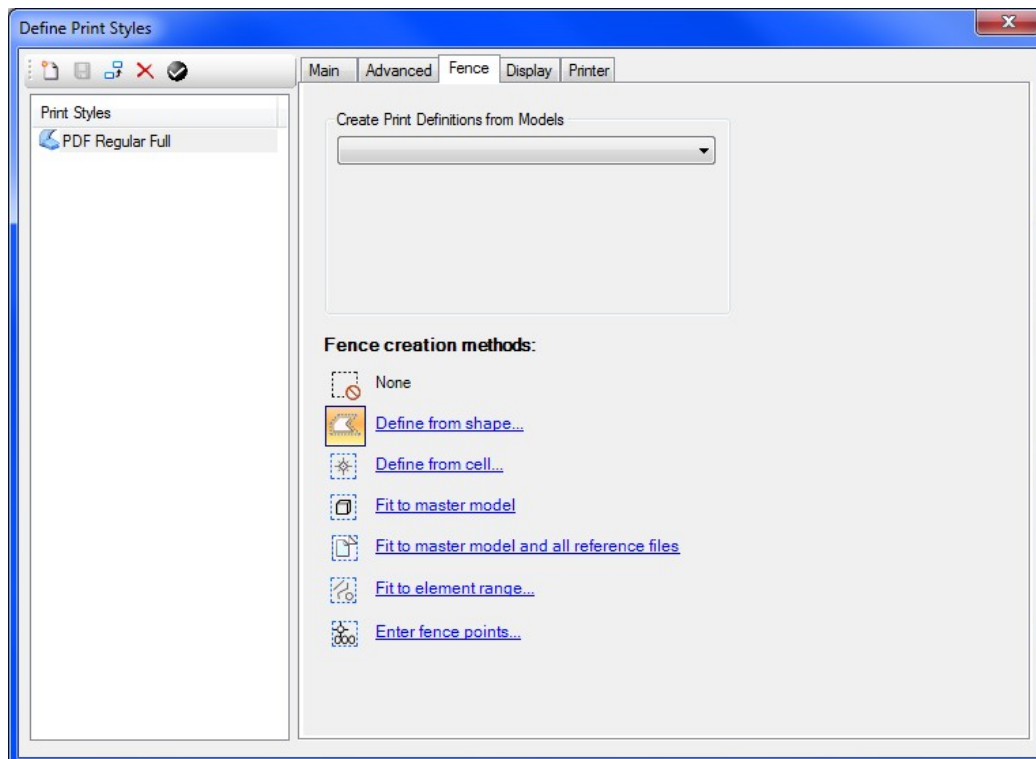
Printer
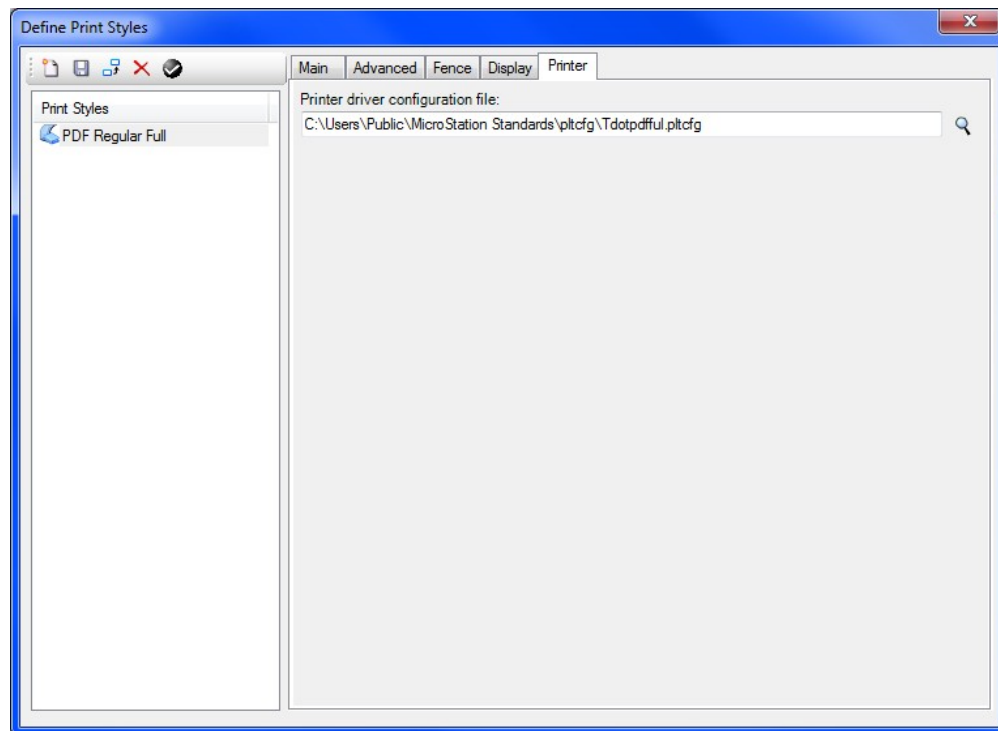
Display
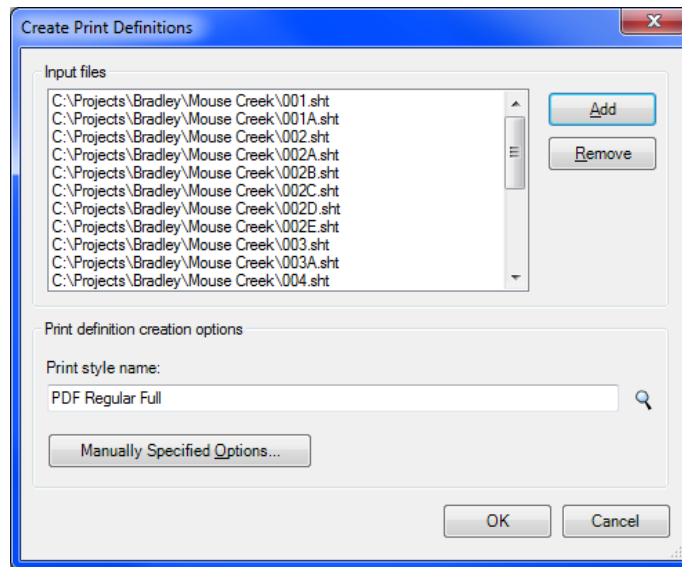

Fence
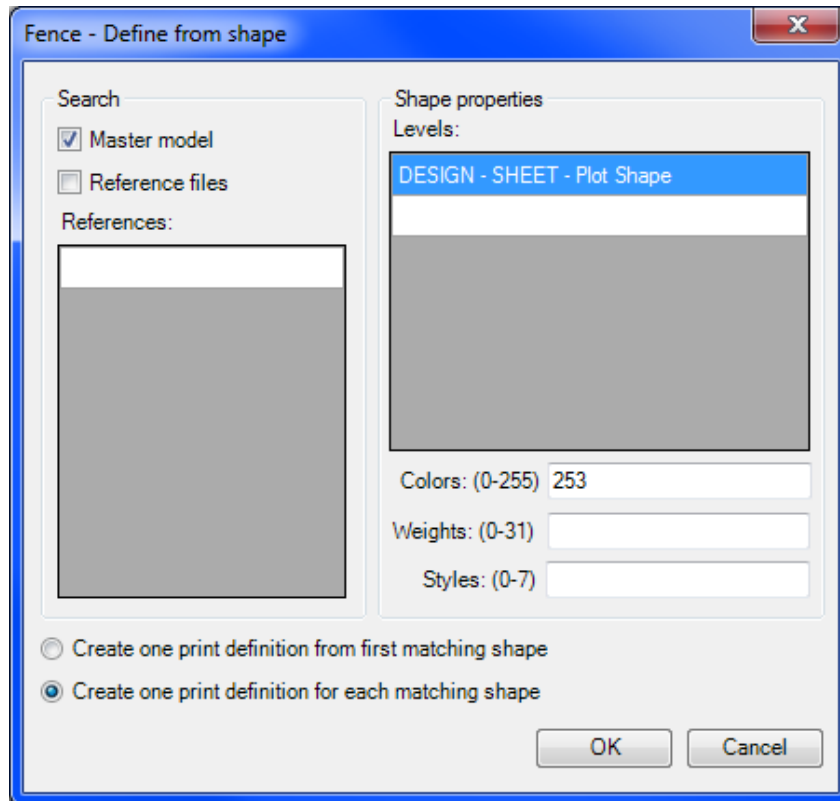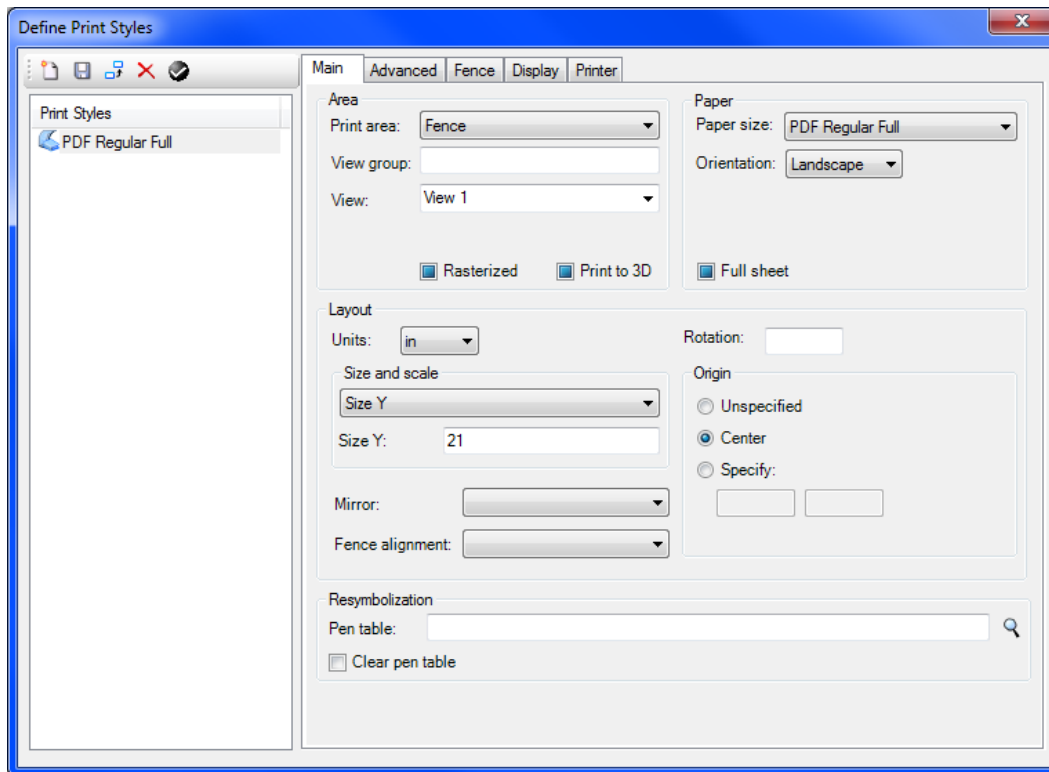
Advanced
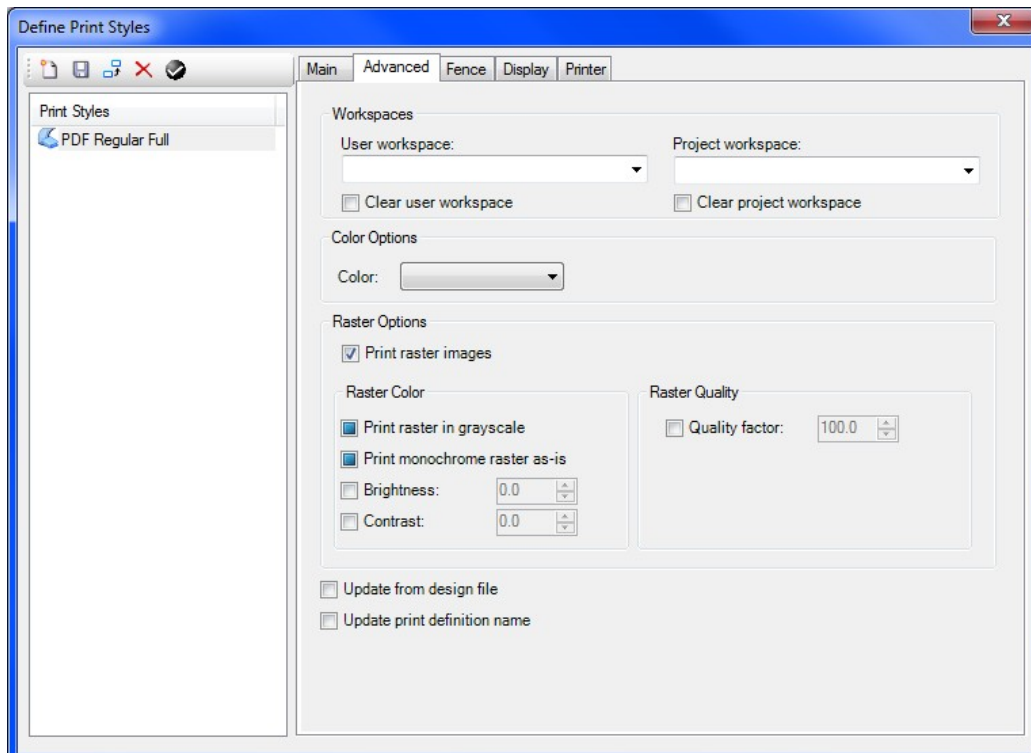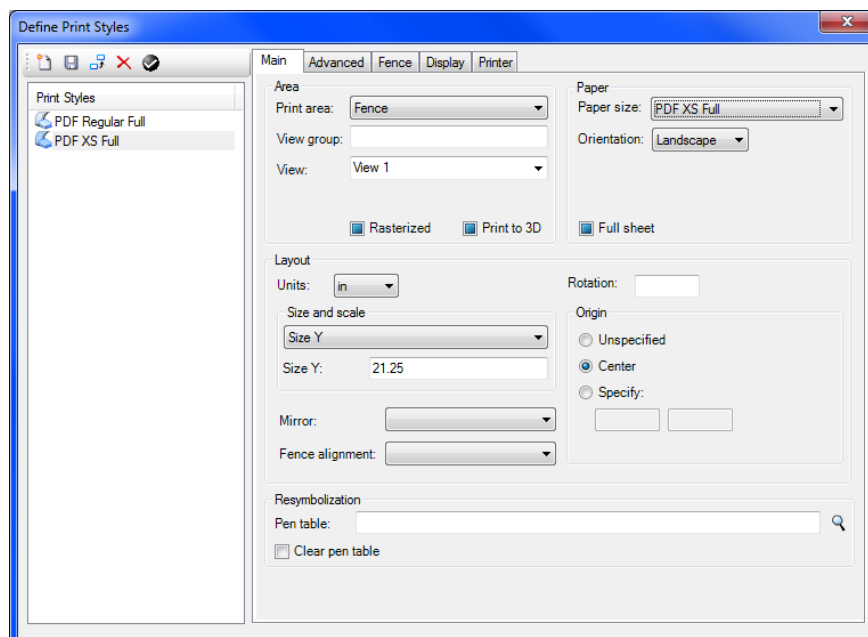
Main

Copy the PDF Regular Full print style and make the following changes to **Paper Size** and **Size Y** on the Main tab to set up a print style for **PDF XS Full**.
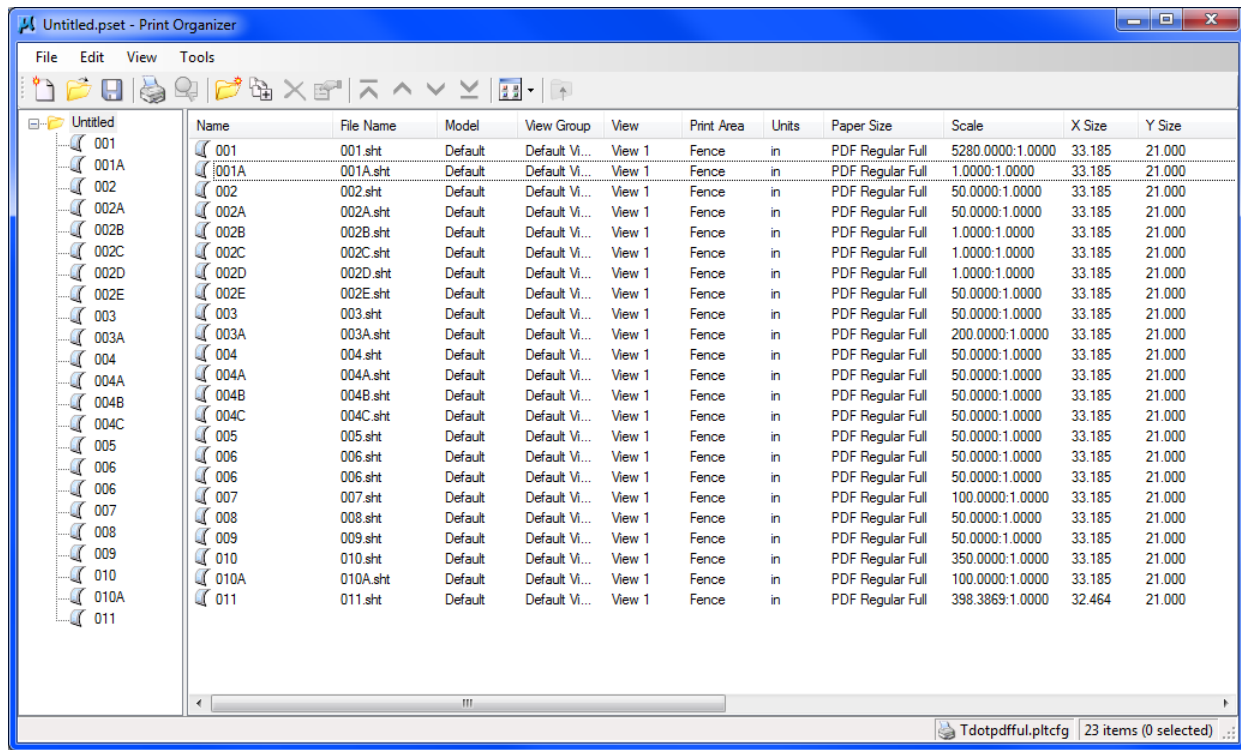
After all of the settings for the print style have been made to control the output of the PDF file, you can add the individual DGN files for the sheets to the plot set using the Print Style desired.

Review the resulting **Print Area** and **Scale** values for each plot to make sure all sheets have been captured correctly. A Print Area defined by View rather than Fence with an odd Scale indicates problems finding the PDF plot shape.

Click the **Print** icon to open the dialog to generate the PDF file for the plan set.

Printing PDF plan sheet files

Step 3 includes alternate settings that should be used if you want a sheet size other than what is defined in the PDF file such as half sizes from PDF full size sheets.

1. Open the PDF file with Acrobat.

2. Go to **File > Print** or click the Print icon

3. Make the following settings in the Print dialog to ensure that the sheets are scaled correctly.

   - Under **Printer** pick the printer or plot queue that has the desired sheet size for the plot.

   - In the Print dialog click on Properties:

     Under Paper Source or Page Setup (depends on printer), set **Paper Size** based on the **desired paper size when printed**. Use the following as a guide:

17 x 11:	**Tabloid** or **11X17**
34 x 22:	**ANSI D 22 X 34 in**

     The next several pages provide settings for **Printing Plan Sheet Size (Full or Half) as defined in the PDF File** or for **Printing Alternate Plan Sheet Sizes**. The dialog appearance and settings are similar but vary in Adobe Acrobat versions 8, 9, 10 Standard and 10 Pro. For this reason, we have included separate instructions for the use of each of those versions of Acrobat as needed.

     These are followed on page 28 with step 4 and **Collating Plan Sheets & Plan Sets**.

Printing Plan Sheet Size (Full or Half) as defined in the PDF File

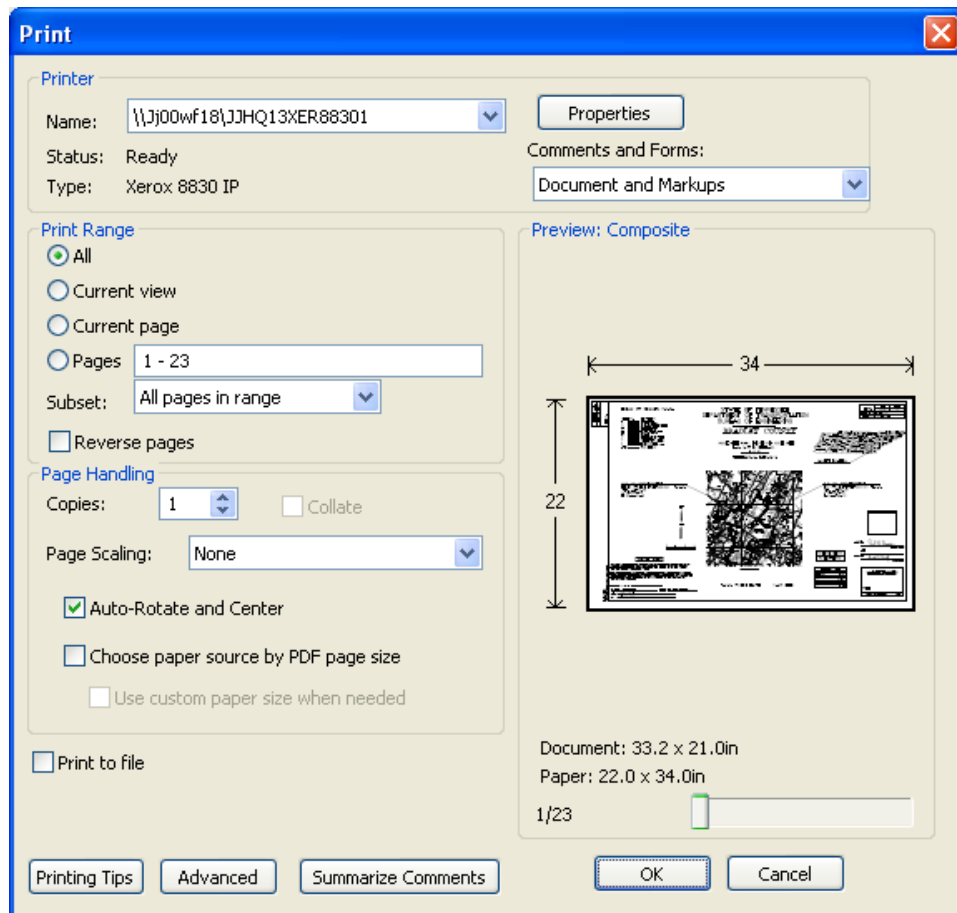## Adobe Acrobat 8 or 9

- In the Print dialog under Page Handling set:

  Page Scaling to None
  Auto Rotate and Center clicked ON
  Choose Paper Source by PDF page size clicked OFF.

Adobe Acrobat 10 Standard

- In the Print dialog under Page Handling set:

  Page Scaling to None
  Auto Rotate and Center clicked ON
  Choose Paper Source by PDF page size clicked OFF.
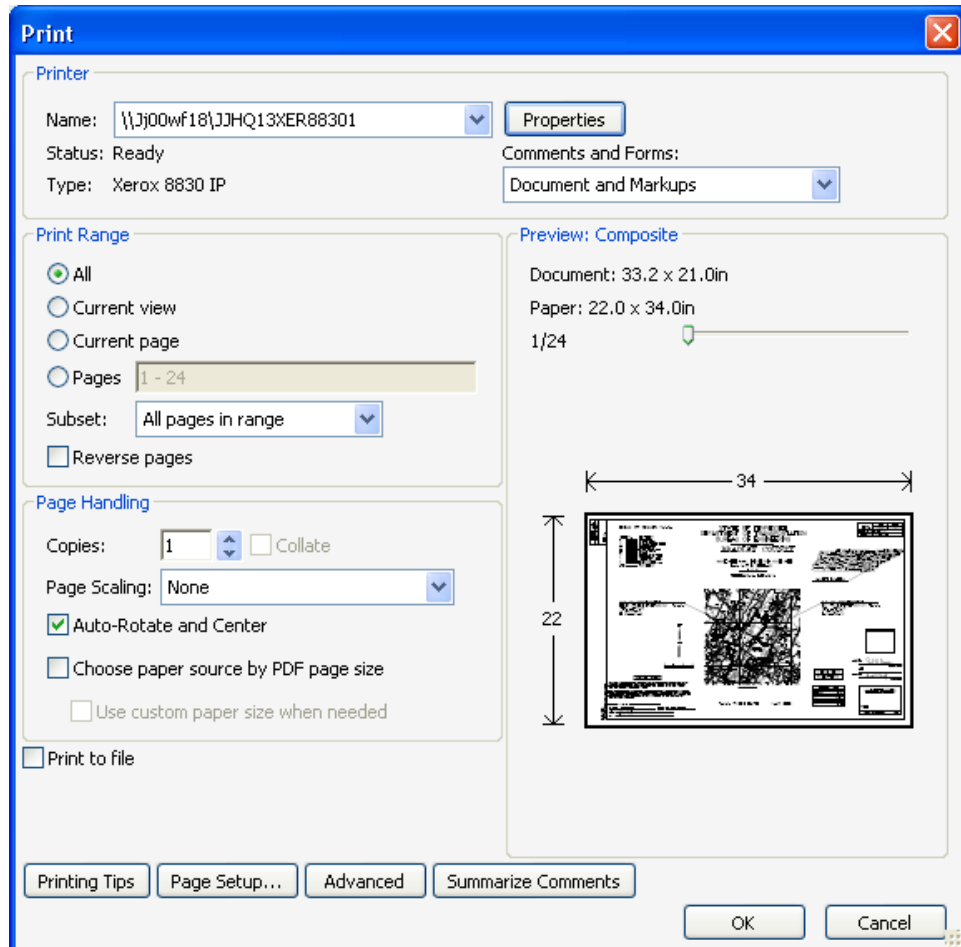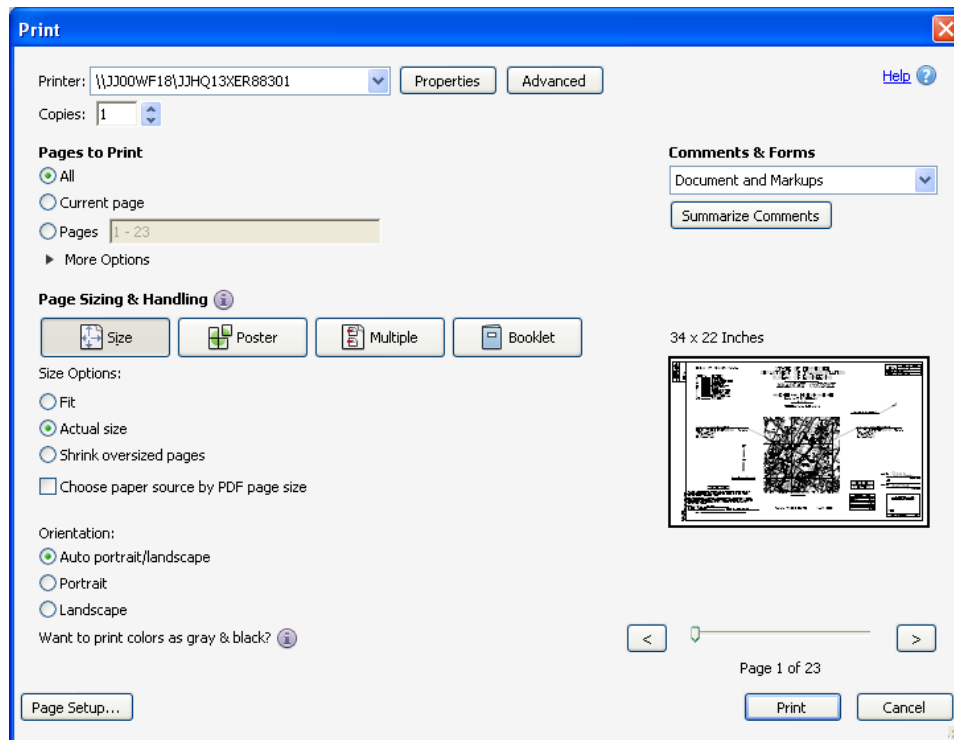
Adobe Acrobat 10 Pro

- In the Print dialog under Page Sizing & Handling set:

Size ON
Size Options to Actual Size
Choose Paper Source by PDF page size clicked **OFF**.
Orientation to Auto Portrait/Landscape

Printing Alternate Plan Sheet Sizes

Using the following settings specified for **Adobe Acrobat 8** or **9**, you can print half sizes at the correct scale from full size PDF files generated using the plot shape used to plot to plotters (Document dimension: 34 X 21.788 inches) but data will be clipped slightly on the right when printed on printers with standard margins.

Adobe Acrobat 10 Standard or **10 Pro will not** let you print half sizes at the correct scale from full size PDF files generated using the plot shape used to plot to plotters (Document dimension: 34 X 21.788 inches) when printed on printers with standard margins. They do not allow margin overlaps as previous versions of Acrobat did. **You can use the Fit or Shrink options, which will yield an approximate half size but it will not be to the correct scale.**

The specifications shown below are for the current specified methods of PDF sheet generation using the special PDF plot shape that is reduced in size to correct the margin overlap problem when printing on printers with standard margins.

Adobe Acrobat 8 or 9

- In the Print dialog under **Page Handling** set:

Page Scaling to   Tile All Pages
Tile Scale to   **50%** for half size from full size PDF sheets **200%** for full size from half size PDF sheets
Overlap to   0.00
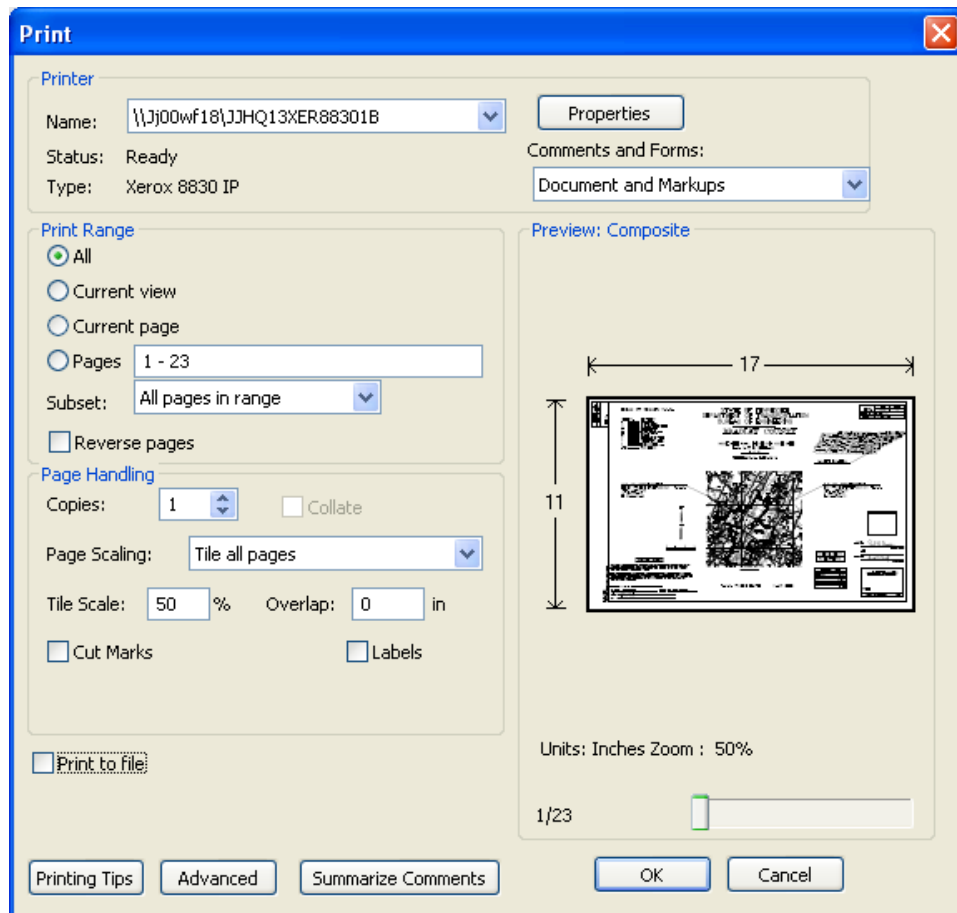
Adobe Acrobat 10 Standard

- In the Print dialog under **Page Handling** set:

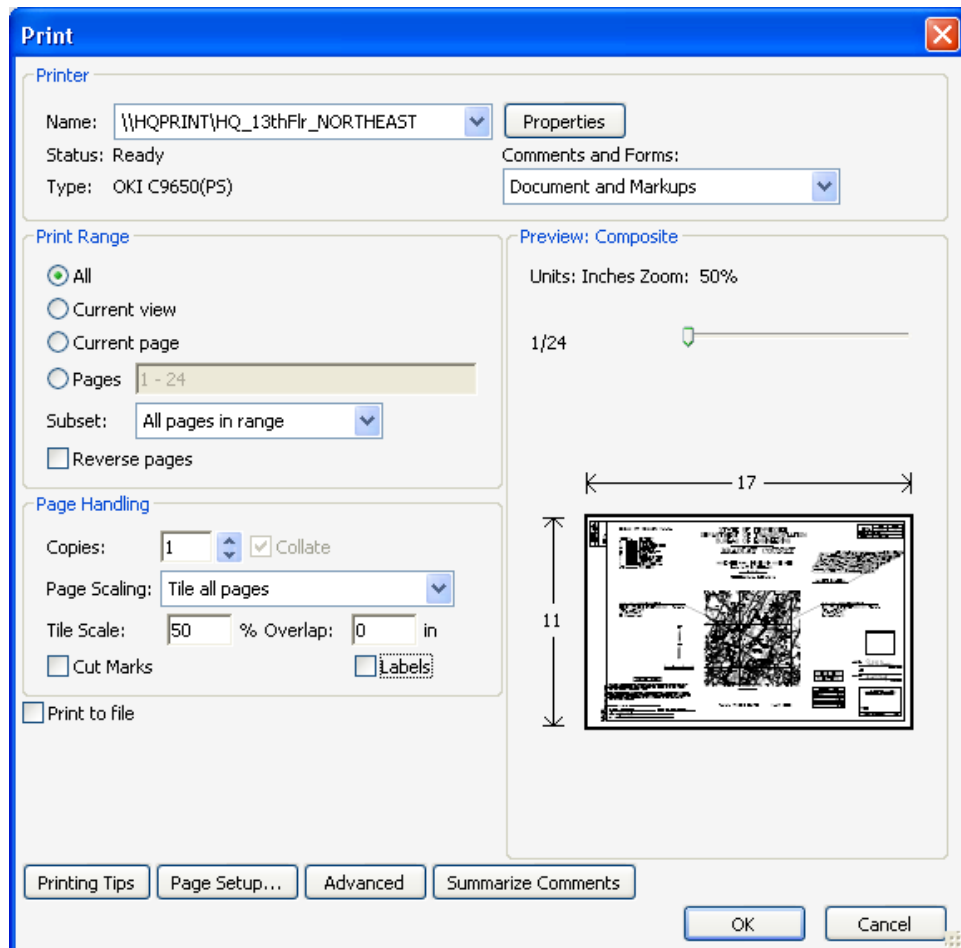**Page Scaling** to   Tile All Pages
Tile Scale to   **50%** for half size from full size PDF sheets **200%** for full size from half
                             size PDF sheets
Overlap to   0.00

Adobe Acrobat 10 Pro
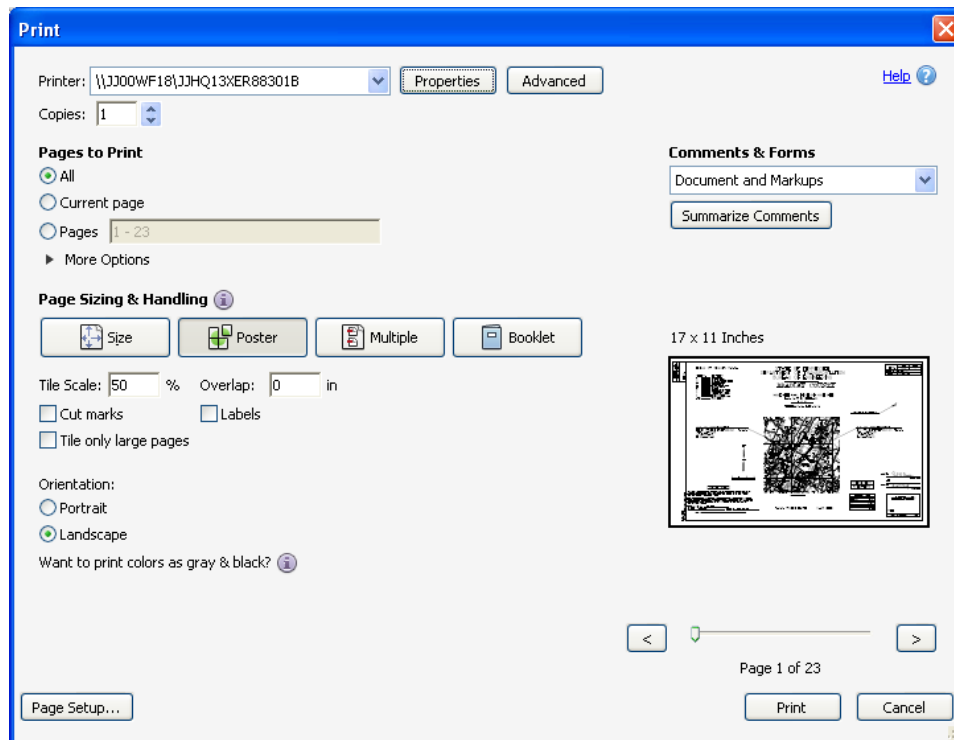
- In the Print dialog under **Page Handling** set:

Poster	**ON**
Tile Scale to	**50%** for half size from full size PDF sheets **200%** for full size from half size PDF sheets
Overlap to	0.00

Collating Plan Sheets & Plan Sets

4. Make the following settings to collate single or multiple plan sets.

    The following information for printing may vary per printer/plotter depending on whether prints come out face up or face down.

Adobe Acrobat 8, 9 or 10 Standard

Printing a Single Copy on a Plotter (output face up)

- In the Print dialog under **Print Range** set:
  Reverse Pages box should be checked

Printing Multiple Copies on a Plotter (output face up)

- In the Print dialog under **Print Range** set:
  Reverse Pages box should be checked

- In the Print dialog under **Page Handling** set:
  Copies to Number required
  Collate box should be checked

Printing Single or Multiple Copies on a Printer (output face down)

- In the Print dialog under **Page Handling** set:
  Copies to Number required

- For more than 1 copy, in the Print dialog under **Printer** select:
  Properties, the **Job Options** tab & then under **Job Type** set:
  Collate box should be checked.

Adobe Acrobat 10 Pro

Printing a Single Copy on a Plotter (output face up)

- **Copies** to 1
- In the Print dialog under **More Options** set:
  Reverse Pages box should be checked

Printing Multiple Copies on a Plotter (output face up)

- **Copies** to Number required
- **Collate** box should be checked
- In the Print dialog under **More Options** set:
  Reverse Pages box should be checked

Printing Single or Multiple Copies on a Printer (output face down)

- **Copies** to Number required
- **Collate** box should **NOT** be checked for more than 1 copy
- For more than 1 copy, in the Print dialog under **Printer** select:
  Properties, the **Job Options** tab & then under **Job Type** set:
  Collate box should be checked.

5. Click **OK** to print.