



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:  
LAND AT PASTEUR ROAD,  
GREAT YARMOUTH,  
NORFOLK**

*on behalf of LIDL UK GMBH*



**Jonathan R Hunn BA, PhD, MIFA**

**July 2004**

**ASC: 586/GYP/02**

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## Site Data

ASC site code:	GYP04	Project no:	586
County:	Norfolk		
District:	Borough of Great Yarmouth		
Village/Town:	Great Yarmouth and Gorleston on Sea		
Parish:	Great Yarmouth (Ancient parish)		
NGR:	TG 51950-072205 (site centre)		
Extent of site:	85m x 45m (3800 sq. m approx)		
Present land use:	Waste ground used for car parking		
Planning proposal:	Construction of Lidl UK store and associated parking		
Extent of development:	1063 sq. m.		
Planning application ref/date:	06/04/0317/F		
Client:	Lidl UK GmbH, Wellington Parkway, Magna Park, Lutterworth LE17 4XW		
Contact name:	Andrea Morley		
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## Internal Quality Check

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## CONTENTS

Summary .....	6
1. Introduction .....	6
2. Aims & Methods .....	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Background .....	18
4. Results .....	19
5. Conclusions .....	15
6. Acknowledgements .....	16
7. Archive .....	16
8. References .....	17

### Appendices:

1. Detailed soil description .....	18
2. Levels register .....	19
3	

### Figures:

1. General location.....	4
2. Site plan .....	5
3. Location of site in relation to OS plan of 1928 .....	9
4. Trench location plan .....	11
5. Plan of trench with levels .....	12
6. Drawing of section at NE end of trench .....	13

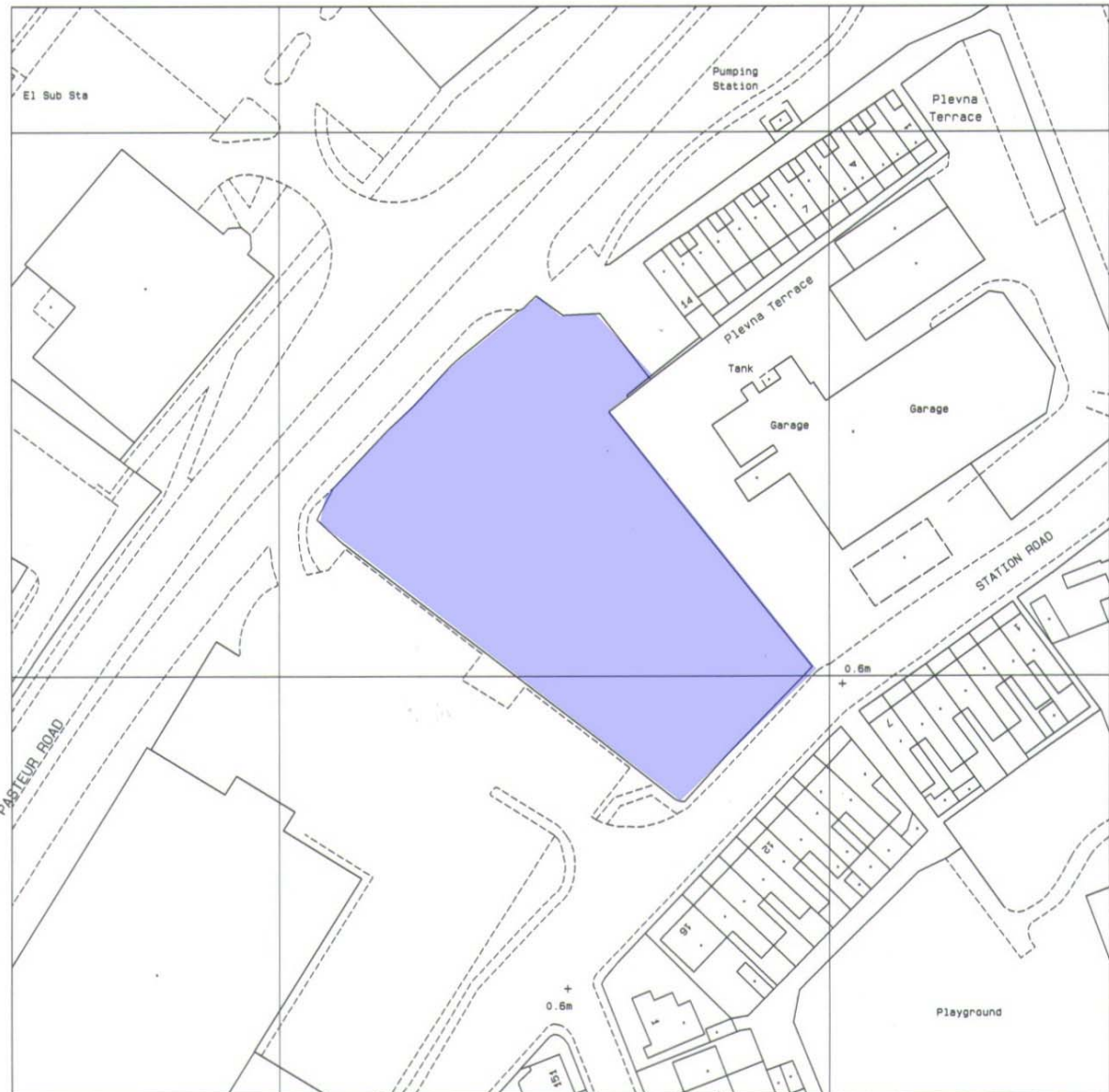
### Plates:

Cover: view south east with machining underway

1. View north east showing state of sandy silts freshly excavated.....	14
2. View north east showing detail of section at north east end of trench.....	14
3. View south south east showing character of surface silts .....	14
4. View north east showing detail of section at south east end of trench.....	14
5. View south east showing foundations .....	15
6. View south east of trench section .....	15
7. View north west showing character of foundations .....	15
8. View north north west of trench extension.....	15



Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



**Figure 2:** Site plan (scale 1:1,250 approx.)

## Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to Pasteur Road, in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk in mid-July 2004. The work was undertaken prior to the development of the site by Lidl UK. The evaluation confirmed what was known of the recent history of the site and also confirmed the character of the sub-soils. The site is situated on what was originally an area subject to marine alluviation. There was no evidence that any human activity took place earlier than the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when the railway was built on low lying land to the north of the site.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 During mid-July 2004 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation on a site adjacent to Pasteur Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk (NGR TG 51950-072205 : Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Jeremy Lee of Lidl UK GmbH, and was carried out according to a brief (NMA5 24/5/04) prepared by Andrew Hutcheson of Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service (NMA5) on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Great Yarmouth Borough Council and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (ASC: 586/GYP/01).

### 1.2 *Reason for Work*

The south western side of the site is to have a Lidl supermarket built with associated car parking (planning ref: 06/04/0317/F).

### 1.3 *Setting*

1.3.1 The site is located on the western side of Great Yarmouth between Pasteur Road to the north west and Station Road to the south east. To the north east lies Plevna Terrace and a Vauxhall garage. The site is approximately 3,800 sq m in extent and consists of hard standing (concrete and tarmac) which is currently used for car parking.

1.3.2 The site is flat and lies no more than 1m above Ordnance Datum. The local natural top-soils have been truncated but where they survive will have been derived from marine alluvium. These are classified as belonging to the Newchurch 2 Soil Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). The Newchurch Series '*belongs to the pelo-calcareous alluvial gley series*' (Hodge et al 1984, 263).

1.3.3 Access is obtained from Station Road to the south via the Vauxhall garage forecourt. The site once contained engineering workshops which have since been demolished.

## **2 Aims & Methods**

### **2.1 Aims**

As described in the brief (Section 4), the aims of the field evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains
- To provide an assessment of the regional context in accordance with the regional research agenda (Ayres 2000) within which any archaeological remains lie
- To provide a predictive model of any archaeological remains on the site, with an assessment of their significance

### **2.2 Methods**

The work was carried out according to the brief which required:

- To obtain a 5% sample (53 sq. m.) of the footprint of the proposed building.
- A trench at least 30m in length and between 1.4 and 1.8m wide to be excavated using a toothless ditching bucket.

### **2.3 Standards**

The work conforms to the brief and to the requirements of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a) , and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

#### 3.1 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

The settlement evidence for the pre-early medieval period in the Yarmouth area remains sparse (Wade-Martins 1993). This is hardly surprising given the physical evolution of the area immediately around Great Yarmouth and Gorleston-on-Sea.

#### 3.2 Iron Age (600BC-AD43)

There is no known Iron Age occupation in the vicinity of Great Yarmouth.

#### 3.3 Roman (AD43-c.450)

It is probable that much of the topography, let alone Roman occupation existed at this time. The nearest known Roman site is Burgh Castle which lies over 5 km to the south west.

#### 3.4 Saxon (c.450-1066)

The earliest evidence for human occupation in and immediately adjacent to Great Yarmouth dates to the late Anglo-Saxon period. It is one of only three settlements, the others being Norwich and Thetford, to be described as having 'burgesses' (Ayres 1993, 72). To judge from the excavations undertaken from the Fuller's Hill site, Great Yarmouth, the settlement consisted of little more than a fishing village (Rogerson 1976, 131).

#### 3.5 Medieval to modern period (1066-2000)

At the time of the Domesday Survey and in 1066 there were 70 burgesses (Beresford & Finberg 1973, 139) and in 1086 there were 24 fishermen (Darby 1980, 57). In 1208 the town was created a free borough (*ibid.*). In the post-Conquest period the first Bishop of Norwich, Herbert de Losinga, founded the church and priory of St Nicholas and possibly the market (Ayres 1993, 72). It is believed that the town contained a planned element consisting of transverse rows aligned north-south, parallel to the river (*ibid.*). The town was granted a charter by Henry III to enclose the town with walls and moats (Enc. Brit. 1875, vol 24, 728). Within its wall were various religious orders such as Benedictines, Carmelites, Dominicans and Franciscans (Hadfield 1970, 427).

According to the Sites & Monuments Record (4313) held by NMAS there is a potential for one of the three medieval churches of Great Yarmouth to be present on, or near the site. The area was known as *West Town* within *Little Yarmouth* where a church tower was reputed to stand until the railway station and track (SMR 13574) was built in 1877 (Carter 1959, 428). This ran along the course of the present Pasteur Road. The SMR data also notes that three inhumation burials were discovered near Plevna Terrace in 1959; they lay about 1.5m below ground level and about 1m apart. A map of 1814, '*illustrated in Manships's History of 1619*' ,according to the SMR, shows the site of the *Hermitage* standing opposite the church. Apparently, the church was abandoned in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and demolished in 1548. Associated with the Hermitage was a graveyard; the Hermitage itself was demolished in 1704. In 1986 a gas main cut through flint foundations which were 1.2m wide and aligned north-south.



They were situated at 9.9m from the kerb in Southtown Road and at a depth of 0.4m. Two disarticulated skeletons were found to the east.

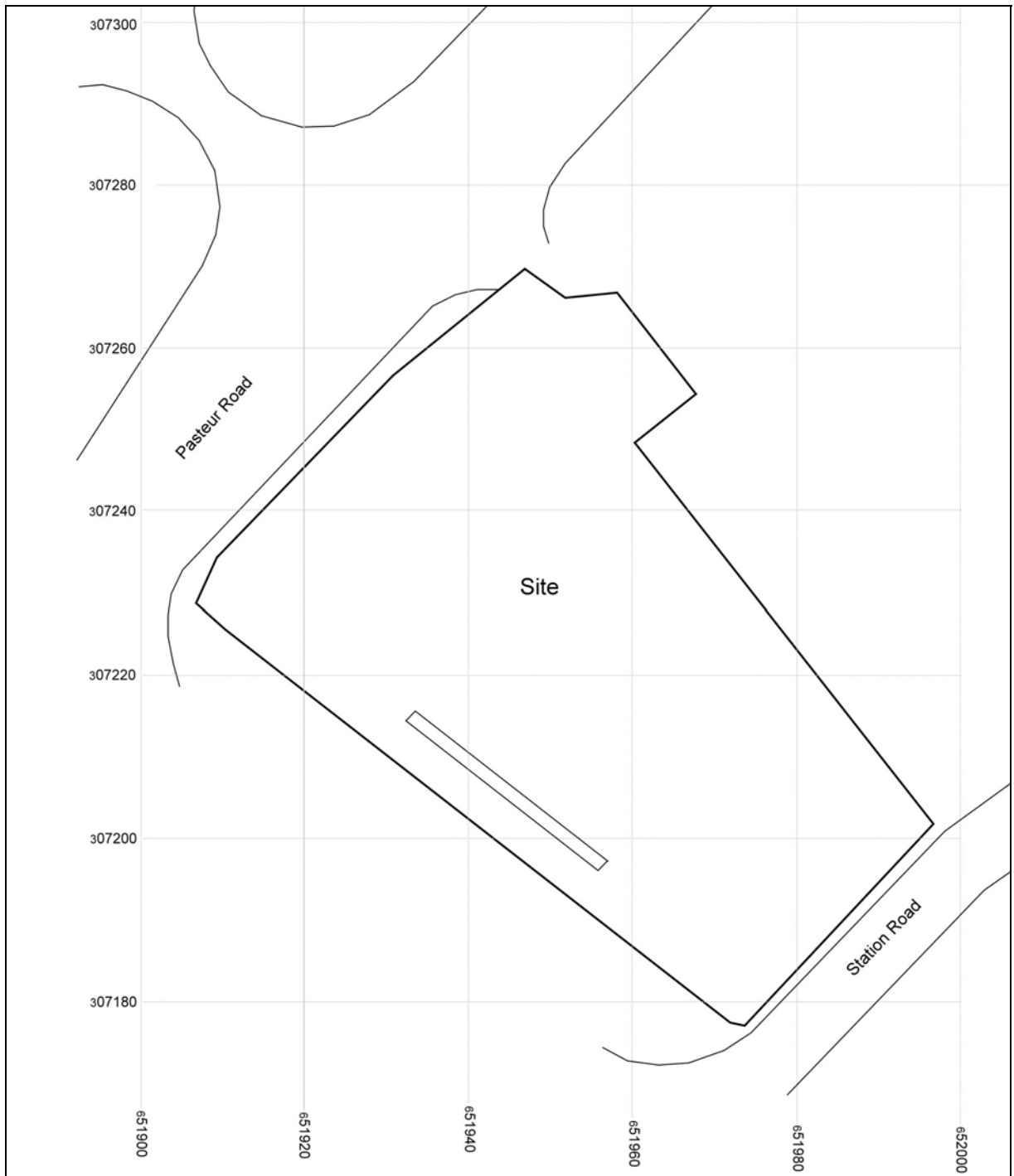
In recent years the site was used as a coal store and subsequently as an engineering workshop (Andrew Brown *pers. com.*). To the north, the railway station was closed on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1976 (Clinker 1978, 152).



**Figure 3:** Location of site in relation to OS plan of 1928

## 4 Results

- 4.1 The single SE-NW trench (NGR TG 519575-071960 to 519325-072150) was 33m long by 1.6m wide which represented approximately 5% of the footprint of the proposed new building. The average depth down to the undisturbed marine alluvium was just under 1m. Each end of the trial trench was excavated a further 0.5m in order to examine the character of the natural soils. There was some seepage of ground water from below a depth of 0.6m from below the present day surface. The water was contaminated with diesel. Visibility of the natural ground surface was initially quite good though this deteriorated with water seepage and frequent, albeit minor, trench collapses.
- 4.2 With the exception of some modern foundations (described below) the upper 0.75m of the ground was all modern make-up. A detailed description of the section towards the north west end of the trench was made representing a typical profile of the underlying ground (Fig. 6; Plate 2) .
- 4.3 The natural sandy silt lay at an average depth of 0.95m below current ground surface. According to the level readings the top of the silt at the north west end of the trench was -0.26m (AOD); in the middle of the trench at -0.19m (AOD) and at the south east end no more than -0.06m (AOD). The natural marine alluvium would appear to increase in height from north to south, though still below sea level.
- 4.4 The only man made feature revealed were two parallel walls some 2.4m apart, each 0.36m wide and 0.3m below ground surface (Fig 6; Plates 5 and 7). The bricks were Flettons and were set in a hard mortar. The surrounding debris was all mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**Figure 4:** Location of trench (scale 1:500)

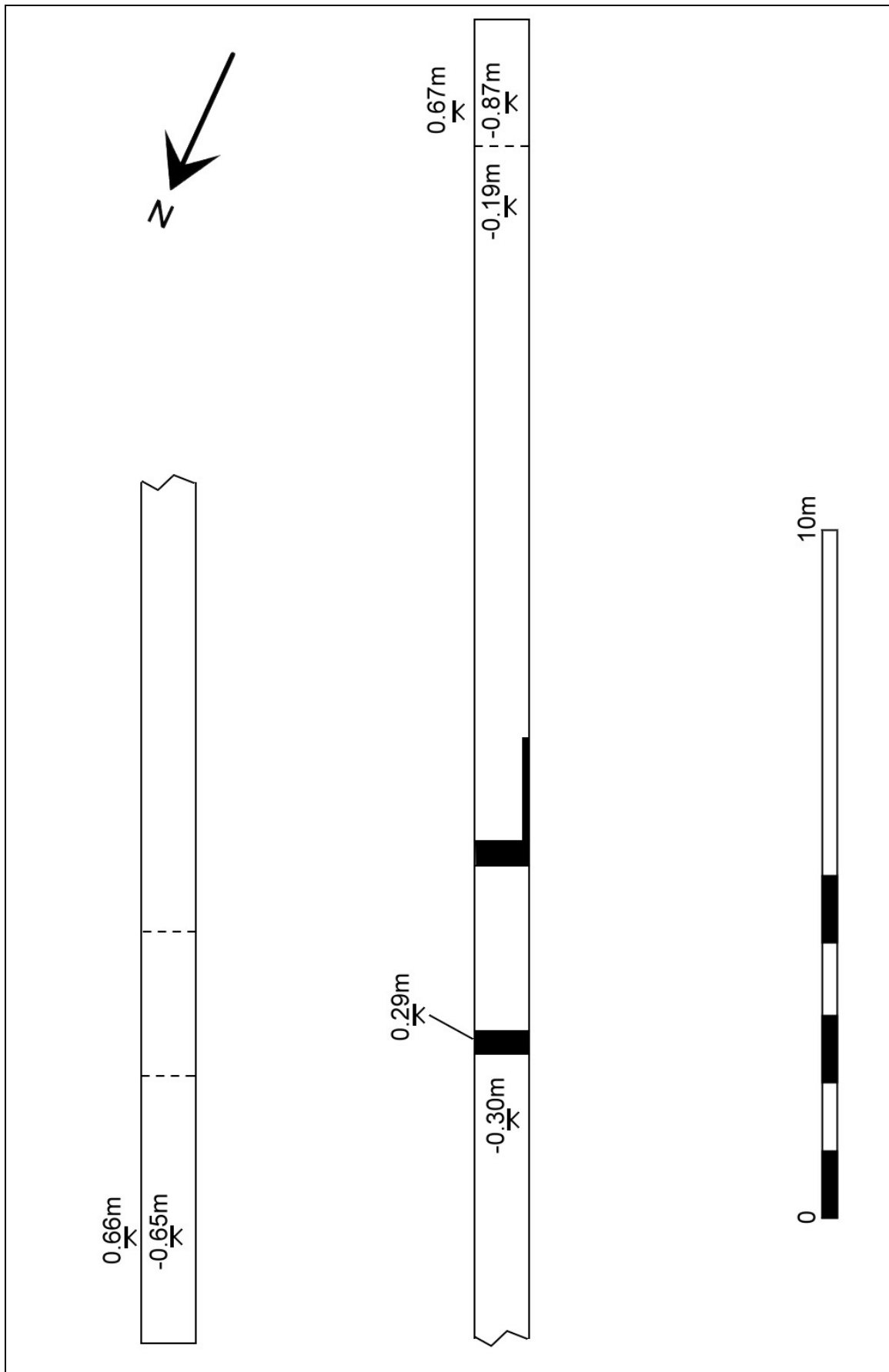
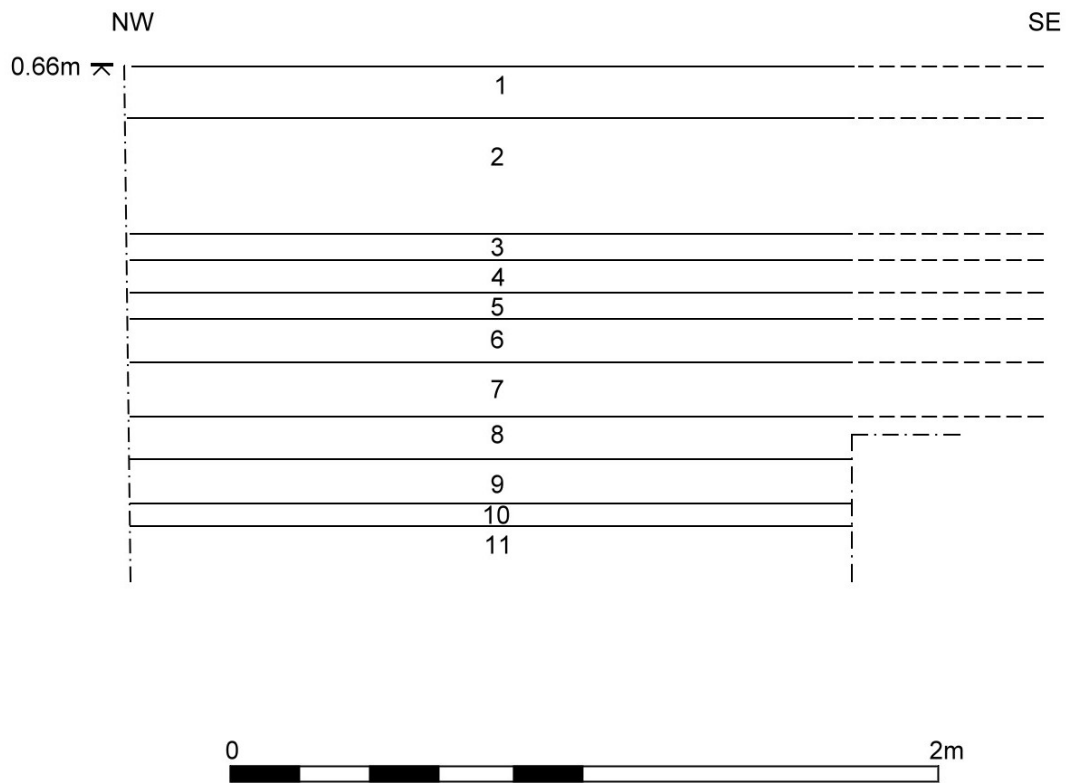


Figure 5: Plan of trench with levels



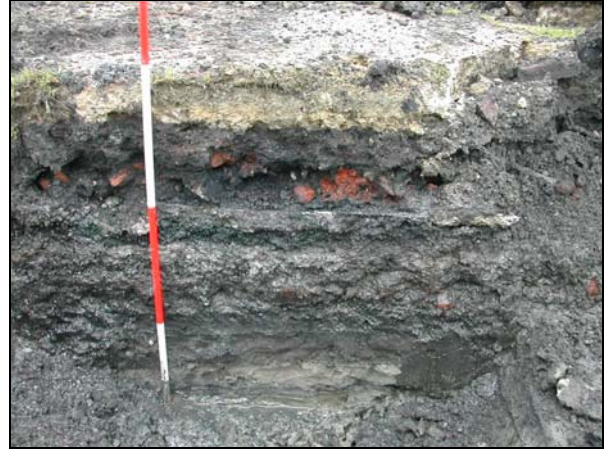
### Description

1. concrete 0.15m thick.
2. brick rubble and clinker 0.33m thick
3. concrete 0.08m thick.
4. dark stony make up, no brick, some mortar 0.09m thick.
5. concrete 0.08m thick
6. brick, stone, mortar flecks in sandy matrix 0.2m thick.
7. very dark, sandy silt, some sandy lenses 0.13m thick.
8. very dark, yellowish brown sandy silt, occasional tile fragments 0.13m thick.
9. greyish brown, sandy silt (Mun 2.5 Y 5/2) 0.13m thick.
10. dark grey, sandy silt (Mun 2.5 Y 4/1) 0.06m thick.
11. light olive brown, sandy silt (Mun 2.5 Y 5/3) continuing depth.

**Figure 6:** Drawing of section at NE end of trench



**Plate 1:** View NE showing freshly excavated test pit at NW end of trench



**Plate 2:** Detail of section



**Plate 3:** View SE showing character of surface silts



**Plate 4:** Section at SE end of trench view NE



**Plate 5:** View SE showing foundations



**Plate 6:** View SE of trench section



**Plate 7:** View NW showing character of foundations



**Plate 8:** View NW showing trench extension

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The observations of the evaluation trench confirms that the site is located on marine alluvium as broadly described in the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983), is reproduced in Appendix 1. The site level has been artificially raised above the sandy silts by between 0.75 and 0.95m. Levels surveyed on the site suggests that these marine deposits lie below sea level and at a shallower depth the further south one goes. To what extent these deposits are a result of marine activity and/or fluvial processes is not possible to say. It is quite possible that they were a product of an interaction between tidal and estuarine activity. Whatever, the precise date is, and the assumption here is that the author is referring to geological rather than archaeological time (i.e. 4,500 BP), it certainly pre-dates human settlement in the area.
- 5.2 The evaluation was not able to shed much light on the oral tradition that three undated inhumations were found '5ft down' near Plevna Terrace in 1959. It appears that these burials were located on slightly higher ground, though still well within the former estuary of the River Yare. What is curious about these burials is that they don't appear to have been reported to the coroner which would, one assume, have been normal practice when unexpected skeletons turned up. As for the question of the medieval church, the author believes that the 'massive footing of flint' located in Southtown Road (SMR 4313) in 1986, could conceivably refer to some structure unrelated to the church.
- 5.3 Notwithstanding the proximity of the burials, it seems unlikely that the area saw much human occupation or even activity before the advent of the railway line in 1877. The ground was too low lying and must, despite the variation in the sea level, have been subject to episodic flooding.



## 6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Jeremy Lee and Andrew Morley of *Lidl UK GmbH* who respectively commissioned and co-ordinated the project. Thanks are also due to the landowner, Warwick Shubbrook for his co-operation and hospitality; to Andrew Brown the manager of the site and Brian Banam who supplied the excavation machine. Thanks are also due to Andy Hutcheson and Edwin Rose of *Norfolk Museum Archaeology Service* for their advice and co-operation during the course of the project. Finally, my thanks to Bob Zeevat for editing the report.

## 7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Site record drawings
7. List of photographs/slides
8. Colour slides
9. B/W prints & negatives
10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Norfolk Museum

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## Appendix 1: Soil description

### Newchurch 2 Soil Association

*0-0.26m A very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) stoneless silty clay with very many fine yellowish brown (120 YR 5/4) mottles; moist moderately developed medium subangular blocky with dark grey (5 Y 4/1) faces; medium packing density; very firm soil strength; abundant roots; slightly calcareous; abrupt smooth boundary.*

*0.26-0.38m Light grey to grey (5 Y 6/1) stoneless silty clay with many coarse dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) dark greyish brown (2.5 Y 4/2) mottles; moist moderately developed medium subangular blocky; medium packing density; very firm soil strength; abundant roots; slightly calcareous; gradual smooth boundary.*

*0.38-0.64m Dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) stoneless silty clay with common medium brown to dark brown (10 YR 4/3) mottles; moist; moderately developed coarse angular blocky and prismatic with dark grey (5 Y 4/1) faces; high packing density; very firm soil strength; common roots; slightly calcareous with secondary calcium carbonate on ped faces; gradual boundary.*

*0.64-1.0m Dark reddish grey (5 YR 4/2) stoneless silty clay with many coarse brown to dark brown (10 YR 4/3) mottles; moist; weakly developed coarse brown to dark brown (10 YR 4/3) mottles; moist; weakly developed coarse angular blocky; high packing density; very firm soil strength; common roots; slightly calcareous with secondary calcium carbonate common on ped faces (Hodge et al 1984, 432).*

NB this sample was located at an elevation of 3m whereas the Lidl alluvium is 0.23m.

