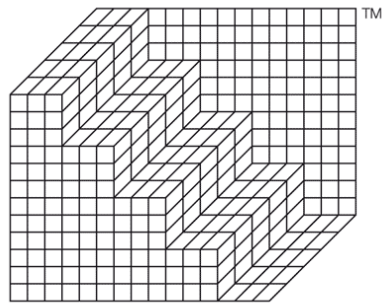


Annex 7.4

South Humber Channel  
Marine Studies: Ground  
Engineering Interpretive  
Report

*(Buro Happold)*





Buro Happold

**027559 South Humber Channel  
Marine Studies**

Ground Engineering Interpretative  
Report

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**date**                              **09 January 2011**

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# 1 Introduction

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## 1.1 Overview

This Ground Engineering Interpretative Report summarises the geotechnical conditions relating to the planning and design of the marine elements of the proposed commercial development of an area of the South Humber estuary at Killingholme. It has been prepared on behalf of Yorkshire Forward by Buro Happold.

The nature of any commercial development of the site is, as yet, undefined and it is intended that the data and knowledge gathered from the geotechnical (and other) studies will inform decisions regarding the feasibility/viability of specific commercial development proposals for the site. It has emerged during the course of the investigations that the most plausible and economically beneficial development for the region would be the development of a multi-user marine terminal, with associated dredging, to be used for the production, assembly and installation of wind turbines or tidal turbines by one or more manufacturer. For the purposes of this report (and in line with the brief from Yorkshire Forward), it has been assumed that this is the most likely development. However, a possible alternative use could be to develop a tidal power generating farm using a run of tide turbines.

It is anticipated that the data and information gained through this study is largely generic and would be equally applicable to the planning of various types of marine development, although it is recognised that additional studies would be needed that are specific to whatever commercial development ultimately proves to provide the greatest economic benefit to the region.

## 1.2 Study Aims and Objectives

The aim of this study was to develop strategies for the design of jetty foundations, the construction of earth retaining structures and earthworks.

This was achieved through the following objectives:

- To determine the ground conditions (ground profile, ground water levels);
- To determine the geochemical composition of the soils and groundwater for foundation purposes, and as a guide to likely waste disposal routes;
- To provide recommendations on the concrete class for buried structures;
- To determine parameters for the detailed design of foundations; and
- To assess the design parameters for construction of any earth retaining structures.



## 2 The Site

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### 2.1 Location and Description

The ground investigation study site is located within the intertidal and subtidal zone adjacent to the south bank of the Humber estuary at Killingholme Marshes, approximately 3.5km to the north west of Grimsby town centre at Ordnance Survey grid reference 517359, 419018.

The marine site comprises a gently shelving foreshore, with a narrow, near-shore margin hosting grasses and small trees/shrubs which passes in to mudflats. The bathymetric data for this area shows the sea bed slopes away from the shoreline in a south-west north-east direction with the lowest bed level lying at approximately -10m OD. The gradient of the submarine slope varies, but at its steepest lies at 1 in 22. The landward edge of the site is marked by a flood defence bund, comprising a concrete pavement and wall. The pavement level lies at approximately +5.8m OD, some 1.8m above the general site levels.

The adjacent land, defended by the flood defence bund, is flat, with a general ground level lying at approximately +3m OD. The land use is mixed, with both industrial and arable farmland as well as small areas of unused space comprising predominantly of standing water. The industrial land is concentrated mainly to the north of the site and consists mainly of hardstanding used for vehicle storage.

### 2.2 Previous Ground Investigation

A number of previous ground investigations have been undertaken across the adjacent land. The earliest was by George Wimpey & Co Ltd in 1965. This investigation was followed by a further two investigations carried out in 1970 by Soil Mechanics Ltd and Dredging Investigations Ltd. The factual data from these reports is not presently available but the field data was préciséd and summarised by Allot Atkins Mouchel (Ref. 1). Details of these earlier findings are summarised in Table 2-1 below.

### 2.3 Geology & Hydrogeology

#### 2.3.1 Published Geology

The British Geological Survey sheet 81, 1:50,000 series, shows that the superficial deposits on the site comprise two distinct groups of soils. The spatial distribution of the various soils are shown on an extract from the geological plan presented in Figure 1. The near shore materials comprise estuarine deposits composed of silts, clays, thin peat layers and undifferentiated beds. Inland from the shoreline, the soils grade in to glacial deposits which are predominantly Tills, however there are outcrops of sands and gravels which lie just to the south of the site. The Tills are reported to be between 10m to 21m thick in the area and contain a coarser gravel size fraction comprising sandstone, mudstone and chalk. Shell fragments are also reported to be present within the Till.

In addition to the natural superficial soils the geological plan also identifies areas of filled ground which are concentrated to the north area of site. No detail is given regarding the nature or vertical extent of this material.

The solid geology underlying the superficial deposits comprises the Upper Cretaceous Chalk which is reported to be in excess of 250m thick in this region. The Chalk strata dip at a very shallow angle, of the order of 2° to the north east and east, and have an undulating top surface. The undulations are described as shallow depressions which run in a north west to south east direction. The upper surface is also characterised by a highly fractured zone extending apparently to a depth of 10m to 20m, and is reported to be a function of glacial and periglacial processes.

The Upper Cretaceous Chalk beneath site has been divided in to two formations, the Flamborough Chalk and Burnham Chalk.

The younger Flamborough Chalk has identifiable bedding surfaces, distinct marl bands and is reported to be "without" flints. The underlying Burnham Chalk, which subcrops along the eastern side of the site, is described as thinly bedded and laminated and contains continuous flint bands, which vary in thickness from 10mm to 300mm.

The subsoil profile on the site derived from the available information is summarised in Table 2-1 and incorporates the data from the previous desk study (Ref. 1)

**Table 2—1:**-Existing Information on Ground Profile derived during previous evaluation of the adjacent land area (outside study area)

Strata	Top level of Strata (m OD)	Thickness min to max (m)	Material
Made Ground	+2.3 to +5.5	0.8 to 5.8	Fill comprising ash, clay, concrete, slag, sand, gravel. Occasional wood, domestic refuse, glass & pottery
Alluvium	+2.5 to -0.9	2.10 to 8.9	Very soft – soft very silty clay, fibrous peat. Firm laminated clay. Stiff grey – blue clay traces of roots
Glacial Till	+1.2 to -7.2	10.0 to 13.7	Firm and stiff clay – laminated – thin sand bands – layers of sandy silt, with some gravel of siltstone, sandstone & chalk
Chalk	-10 to -20.6	Thickness proved 1.7 to 45	Gravel sized chalk fragments in a stiff silty clayey matrix with occasional flints

### 2.3.2 Hydrology/ Hydrogeology

The available data from the Environment Agency shows that the Chalk bedrock is designated as a Principal Aquifer. The superficial deposits in the foreshore area beyond the flood defence bund are designated as Secondary (undifferentiated) aquifer whilst the remainder of the superficial deposits on the site are unclassified. In terms of source protection zones the site lies outside any zones; however, an inner zone lies just to the south of the site boundary.

## 3 Ground Investigation

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### 3.1 General

A ground investigation was undertaken by Soil Engineering Ltd (part of the Technology Division of VINCI Construction UK Limited) between 15 June and 15 July 2010. The scope of works was defined by Buro Happold within the budgetary constraints set by Yorkshire Forward. The work was concentrated on the offshore section of the site and comprised the following work:

- 30 No vibrocores
- Bathymetric Survey
- Magnetometer Survey
- Unexploded Ordnance Desk Study

The results of the investigation are reported in the factual ground investigation report by Soil Engineering (Ref. 2)

### 3.2 Soil Sampling and Laboratory Testing

Soil samples for geotechnical and contamination testing were selected from the soils recovered at all vibrocore locations. The site investigation was followed by laboratory testing of the soil samples retrieved from the vibrocores including:

- soil classification tests (moisture content, plasticity, particle size distribution);
- unconsolidated-undrained (UU) triaxial tests;
- one-dimensional consolidation tests including measurement of swelling and swelling pressure;
- Sulphate and pH tests (BRE SD1 2005 Suite); and
- Metals (Cd,Cr,Cu,Pb,Hg,Ni & Zn), Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (Carbon Working Group includes: Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl benzene & Xylene), speciated/total Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (16), speciated/total Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls ((WHO(12) & ICES(7)) and Organo-tins..

### 3.3 Exploratory Holes

A total of 30 vibrocores were sunk as part of the investigation. The depth penetrated by the vibrocores in to the sea bed varied from 1.8m at VC 14 to 6m at VC 02. The vibrocore locations are shown on the exploratory hole location plan presented in Figure 2.

### 3.4 Geophysics and Bathymetric Survey

#### *Magnetometer*

As part of the investigation a magnetometer survey was undertaken to determine the presence of any magnetic anomalies. The survey was undertaken using a 10m line spacing using G882/G881 magnetometers. The investigation located seven significant anomalies and two smaller anomalies. One of the significant anomalies was a known wreck which is plotted on the admiralty charts. The remainder are unknown ferrous objects which may be debris or possible UXO. The detailed findings of the survey are presented in the Soil Engineering report (Ref. 2) and a sketch plan showing the evaluation area and identified anomalies is presented in Figure 3.

#### *Single Beam Echo Sounding*

The bathymetric survey was undertaken using Knudsen 320M single beam echo sounder. The results of the survey show that the deepest bed level occurs at the northern edge of the study area (within the HST berth pocket) with an overall variation in bed level ranging from -1m OD to -17m OD, albeit with minimum level of -10m OD within the footprint of the potential multi – use terminal. The detailed results from the survey are presented in Soil Engineering's report (Ref. 2) and a sketch plan showing the bathymetric levels in m below Ordnance Datum is presented on Figure 4.

#### *Boomer Survey*

A boomer survey was undertaken using an Applied Acoustic Boomer and a 20 element single-channel hydrophone array. The purpose of the survey was to determine the depth from seabed to "rockhead". An isopachyte plan contouring the distance from seabed to rockhead, and a plan showing the contour levels of the interpreted rockhead are presented in the Soil Engineering report (Ref. 2).

An extract from the contour plot is presented in Figure 5. The plot shows the contoured surface in relation to Chart Datum. Chart Datum is 3.9m below Ordnance Datum. The inferred rockhead levels based on the Boomer survey suggest that rockhead level dip away from the foreshore area from a level around -6m OD to approximately -22m OD furthest from the shore.

As with all geophysical methods the boomer survey, which is a seismic reflection technique, relies on there being sufficient contrast in the physical properties between geological layers to generate a reflection of the seismic wave. A seismic reflection is generated when there is a contrast in the acoustic impedance which is a product of the density of the rock ( $\rho$ ) and the wave travel velocity ( $v$ ). If there is not sufficient contrast in these properties then no reflection is detectable. The published geological data indicates that the chalk rockhead is highly fractured and a weathered zone also exists which may be vertically fairly extensive. There is a possibility that the difference in acoustic impedance between the glacial till and chalk at rockhead is not sufficient to generate a reflection. It is therefore important that any future investigations include deep boreholes to correlate with the seismic information.

**Table 3—1:**-Standard Tide Levels for Immingham (reference port) to Ordnance and Chart Datum

<b>Tidal Range for Immingham</b>	<b>Tide</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>OD</b>
Highest Astronomical Tide	HAT	+7.97	+4.1
Mean High Water Springs	MHWS	+7.19	+3.3
Mean High Water Neaps	MHWN	+5.74	+1.8
Mean Sea Level	MSL	+4.20	+0.30
Mean Low Water Neaps	MLWN	+2.58	-1.3
Mean Low Water Springs	MLWS	+1.0	-2.9
Lowest Astronomical Tide	LAT	+0.11	-3.8
Notes: Relationship between CD and OD	OD = 3.90m above CD		

Levels are generally presented as Ordnance Datum.

## 4 Ground Conditions

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### 4.1 General

The vibrocore investigation shows that the general subsoil sequence in the area of the investigation comprises the following:

- Very soft – soft alluvial clays/clayey silts – occasional thin peat layers;
- Silty and gravelly sands; and/or
- Soft to firm becoming stiff glacial till with beds of glacial sands and gravels.

A series of sketch sections have been produced across the site, these show the variation of the subsoil sequence. The location of the sections is presented on Figure 2 and the sections, A to F, are presented on Figures 6 to 11. On the cross sections no attempt has been made to differentiate between the alluvial sands and the glacial sands and gravels. In some locations the distinction is clear, as there are bands of peat present which is a clear indication that the material is alluvial in origin. Where peat is not present however it is not possible to clearly differentiate the materials. There is a compositional difference in places, refer to Figure 16, where there is a set of data which shows the material to be predominantly a silty fine sand, there is a chance that that this material could be alluvial sands, simply due to the lack of gravel. However glacial sands can also exhibit a similarly narrow compositional variation. At this stage it is not too critical to be able to differentiate between the two. Differentiating between sand with peat and sand without is probably sufficient. In Figure 2 the location of the peat layers has been delimited. Knowing the relative density of the sand/gravel material would be useful and this can be done in later phases of the investigations using techniques such as a static cone testing.

Indicative engineering design parameters for the various soil units are discussed in the following sections, and summarised in Table 4-1, below.

### 4.2 Alluvial Clays/Silts

#### 4.2.1 General Characteristics of the Alluvial Clays/Silts

With the exception of vibrocores 11, 14, 18, 23 and 28, alluvial clays and silts were encountered to depths varying between 0.3m (VC 8) and 3.90m (VC12). The Atterberg limits tests undertaken on this material (Figure 12) show the material to range between a low to high plasticity clay with bands of low and high plasticity silt. The grading curves show the particle size distribution to vary, and compositionally the material ranges from a gravelly clay to a silty clay with the clay fraction ranging from 11% to 35%. The undrained shear strength of the alluvium is very low (Figure 14). The maximum shear strength recorded was  $20\text{kN/m}^2$ ; however, there is a significant proportion of the data which is less than  $5\text{kN/m}^2$ . Consolidation test data on a single sample of

alluvium (Figure 15) shows it to be highly compressible with a coefficient of volume change ( $m_v$ ) value of  $1.3\text{m}^2/\text{MN}$ .

Peat layers were encountered within the alluvial clays at 6 vibrocore locations (VC 05, 07, 09, 12, 13 & 15). The peat is generally described as occurring in thin lenses, which range in thickness from <10mm to <30mm. At one location however, VC13, two thicker, persistent bands of peat are recorded, each less than 100mm thick.

#### **4.2.2 Engineering Properties of the Alluvial Clays and Silts**

The undrained strength of the alluvial clays is very low. As a consequence the material will be highly compressible and this is borne out by the oedometer test data which indicates the material has a constrained modulus,  $E_{\text{oed}}$  of  $550\text{kN/m}^2$ . The shear strength shows similarly low values, however there is a larger data set so the variability of the layer stiffness can be estimated in more detail. The Young's modulus for normally consolidated clays can be derived from the relationship  $E=250 \times C_u$ . Using this relationship, the variation in stiffness of the alluvium, ranges from  $500\text{kN/m}^2$  to  $5000\text{kN/m}^2$ . The long-term strength parameters (effective stress) can be determined from the plasticity index data (Ref. 3). The general range of the plasticity index varies from 35% to 70% (Figure 12). Based on this data the drained angle of shearing resistance  $\phi'$  is expected to vary between  $22^\circ$  and  $26^\circ$ . No drained cohesion should be considered. The permeability of the alluvial clays is estimated from the oedometer test data. This shows the permeability of clay material lies in the range  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  to  $9 \times 10^{-11}$  m/s. However, the test results will not reflect the influence of mass fabric such as silt or sand laminations which could result in significantly higher mass permeability characteristics.

#### **4.3 Silty and Gravelly Sands**

##### **4.3.1 General Characteristics of the Silty and Gravelly Sands**

As discussed above, it is difficult to clearly differentiate whether the sands/gravels are of alluvial or glacial origin. In some cases, the presence of peat for instance in VC 05, 06, 08 and 09, defines the material as alluvium (refer to Figure 2 for the plan positions where peat was encountered). In other cases, sand/gravel underlies the glacial clays, and must be glacial in origin. Elsewhere the distinction is not clear; therefore, no distinction is made in this report.

In general terms the grading test results (Figure 16) show the granular soils to vary between a silty sand and gravel, a gravelly sand to a silty fine sand. The layer thickness of these granular soils varied generally between 0.3m and 4.25m.

##### **4.3.2 Engineering Properties of the Silty and Gravelly Sands**

The grading curves, Figure 16, show that this material can be divided into two groups based on the particle size distribution. The finer group, which is a silty fine sand, has a uniformity coefficient of 2, whilst the coarser material, comprising a silty very gravelly sand, has a uniformity coefficient of around 20. In the absence of field



strength test data it is not possible to determine the stiffness of this material; however, in terms of the effective angle of shearing resistance  $\phi'$  the guidelines given in BS8002 (Ref. 3) can be used in conjunction with the grading curves and the soil descriptions on the logs. This method is not rigorous, but provides a guide to the likely values. On this basis it is estimated that the finer material will have a  $\phi'$  value of approximately  $32^\circ$  whilst the coarser material will have a  $\phi'$  value in the range  $34^\circ$  to  $36^\circ$ .

The permeability of granular soils can also be estimated from the methods detailed CIRIA Report 113 (Ref. 4). This uses the  $D_{10}$  value from the grading curves. On this basis the permeability of the material is estimated to vary between  $4.0 \times 10^{-5}$  and  $1.7 \times 10^{-4}$  m/s. The values are presented merely as guidance as more accurate values would require a wider data set and an indication of the in situ density of the material.

#### **4.4 Glacial Till**

##### **4.4.1 General Characteristics of the Glacial Till**

The glacial till was encountered in the majority of the vibrocore locations but was not encountered in VC 07, 08, 09 12 & 15, the general spatial distribution of the material is shown on the sections presented in Figures 6 to 11. The till comprises generally soft to firm, firm, and stiff, low to intermediate plasticity clay. The undrained strength data is presented in Figure 14, and shows the strength range to lie generally between  $30 \text{ kN/m}^2$  and  $110 \text{ kN/m}^2$ . The plasticity data presented on Figure 17 show the Atterberg Limits of the material lie in a tight range with the plasticity index (PI) varying between 7% and 25%.

The grading curves, Figure 18, show the material to be well graded, with a size fraction ranging from fine to medium gravel to clay. The clay content ranges between 22% and 62%. The gravel fraction generally comprises sandstone, mudstone and chalk, however at certain locations, VC 05, 10, 13, 16 and 22 there is a very high proportion of chalk present. In VC 22, the material was very similar to structureless chalk and therefore could be interpreted as chalk rockhead. The data from previous investigations and the BGS information suggests that the glacial tills in this area are of the order of 10m to 21m thick, therefore it is unlikely that the material in VC 22 represents chalk rockhead (see 2.3.1, above) However it must also be borne in mind that the chalk "surface" is described as "undulating" (see 2.3.1, above) and any future investigations should set out to establish the relationship between the till and the underlying chalk. Any variation in chalk surface level may have a significant influence on the settlement behaviour of any earthworks and the length of any piles associated with the construction of the marine facility.

##### **4.4.2 Engineering Characteristics of the Glacial Till**

The till varies in strength and the data shows that the strength increases with depth below bed level (Figure 14). The oedometer test data (Figure 15) indicates that the till is of low to medium compressibility with  $m_v$  values varying between 0.12 and  $0.34 \text{ m}^2/\text{MN}$ . This equates to a constrained modulus ranging from  $3 \text{ MN/m}^2$  to

8MN/m<sup>2</sup>. Based on the undrained strength, values of Young's Modulus suggest higher stiffness, with the undrained modulus ( $E_u$ ) in the range 12MN/m<sup>2</sup> to 44MN/m<sup>2</sup> and drained modulus  $E'$  varying from 6MN/m<sup>2</sup> to 22MN/m<sup>2</sup>.

In respect of permeability, this can be estimated from the oedometer test data and this suggests that the permeability of the till lies in the range  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-11}$  m/s. It should be borne in mind that this does not take account of any influence of coarser layers within the clay, which could significantly increase the mass permeability.

**Table 4—1 Summary of engineering parameters**

Engineering properties	Alluvial clays/silts	Silty gravelly sands	Glacial till
Bulk unit weight, $\gamma$ (kN/m <sup>3</sup> )	1.37 – 2.09	-	2.13 to 2.23
Plasticity Index, PI (%)	35 to 70	N/A	7 to 25
Undrained shear strength, $c_u$ (kN/m <sup>2</sup> )	5 to 20	N/A	30 to 110
Angle of shearing resistance, $\phi'$ (deg)	22 to 26	32 fine grading 34 to 36 coarse grading	
Estimated in situ permeability, $k$ (m/s)	$1.0 \times 10^{-9}$ to $9.0 \times 10^{-11}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-4}$ to $4.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-10}$ to $1.0 \times 10^{-11}$
Coefficient of volume change, $m_v$ (m <sup>2</sup> /MN)	1.3	N/A	0.12 to 0.34

## 5 Engineering Assessment

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### 5.1 Design Considerations

The key design consideration with a development such as this is the consolidation of the founding soils under the loads imposed by the dock walls, structures and back-fill materials. Rate of settlement is also an important consideration.

The ground investigation has shown that the alluvial soils are highly compressible containing impersistent peat layers. Values of Young's moduli for the alluvial soils are in the range 0.5 to 5MN/m<sup>2</sup>. Based on these figures a preliminary settlement estimate, assuming a general surcharge loading imposed from the development of the order 50kN/m<sup>2</sup> as a uniformly distributed load (UDL), would result in consolidation settlement in the order of 250 to 350mm.

With respect to differential settlement the ground investigation shows that the highly compressible alluvial clay layer varies in thickness across the area, ranging from 0.3m to 3.9m thick. With such a variation it is likely that differential settlements of the order of 50% or more of the total settlement could occur over specific areas of the development.

In order to mitigate the effects of overall settlement and the effects of differential settlement a number of construction options could be considered. The choice of options will be largely dependent on the construction programme. A critical element in a design of this nature is the rate of settlement of the subsoils under the imposed loads. The results of the ground investigation have shown, that both the alluvial and glacial clay soils have relatively low permeability, between 10<sup>-9</sup> to 10<sup>-11</sup>m/s. It should be borne in mind that the data comes from tests on relatively small samples, and the results will not reflect the mass permeability of the soil. Mass permeability of soils can be significantly higher than laboratory data suggests as it is very often governed by the macro structure of the soils, which is difficult to reproduce in the laboratory. The macro structure often comprises silt and sand laminations and layers, which have the effect of significantly reducing the drainage path which governs the rate of consolidation. In order to accurately assess the effects of this macro structure, future investigations should employ methods such as piezocone testing which can readily identify the presence of thin layers of higher permeability material.

The construction options which could be considered are as follows:

Option A – dredge alluvial soils leaving a subgrade of more uniform stiffness

Option B – install vertical drains to increase the rate of settlement

Option C – Surcharge the backfill to accelerate the settlement

Option D – Any combination of the above

#### **5.1.1 Option A – Dredge out alluvial soils**

A significant proportion of the overall settlement results from the settlement of the alluvial clays. By removing this material through dredging the overall magnitude of the total settlement and the differential settlement could be significantly reduced.

#### **5.1.2 Option B - Install vertical drains**

The effects of settlement and differential settlement can be mitigated to a greater or lesser extent by speeding up the settlement process and ensuring that a certain percentage of the overall settlement has occurred prior to construction of the settlement sensitive structures on the quay. The rate of settlement is a function of the permeability of the soils, the mass permeability determined by the presence of a soil fabric, and the drainage path. The permeability and the mass fabric are in effect a constraint but the drainage path can be altered by the provision of vertical drains. The vertical drains are proprietary products which can be installed rapidly. The technique requires on-site monitoring to ensure that the anticipated settlement occurs at the expected rate.

#### **5.1.3 Option C – Surcharge**

Surcharging of fills and subgrades is a commonly used technique and works by applying load ahead of the main construction phase, thereby reducing the level of settlement from the construction stage onwards. It requires that sufficient surplus material is available to form the surcharge and that sufficient time is available in the construction programme to allow the required settlement to occur.

#### **5.1.4 Option D – Combined Treatment**

It is often the case that more than one technique is adopted to accelerate the settlement phase and all the above could be used to a lesser or greater degree in combination. The key drivers are often cost and programme and it is necessary to optimise the design to achieve the most satisfactory result.

#### **5.1.5 Stability**

The bathymetric data indicates that the seashore slopes at a gradient of approximately 1 in 20 at its steepest point. Whilst this is a relatively slack slope, instability can be generated by the surcharging effect of placing the fill. The alluvial soils are very weak, and time will be required for these to consolidate and gain strength during the filling process. Instability can also be generated through the build up of excess pore water pressures, particularly in finer grained soils such as silt. If the rate of filling is not controlled, and monitored against the development of pore pressures, then the strength of the soils can be reduced due to a decrease in effective stress. If overall stability is an issue then these effects can be mitigated by the introduction of vertical drains or controlling the rate of filling.

#### **5.1.6 Retaining Structures**

The ground conditions on the site lend themselves well to the construction of embedded cantilever or propped/anchored retaining walls. The driving conditions appear to be favourable and sheet piles, combi-walls or driven bearing piles should be acceptable. The depth to which piles can be driven may be governed by

rockhead level, and more data is required to identify accurately the depth and nature of this layer. Flint bands in the chalk may present an obstacle to piling, and further investigation is required to identify the presence or otherwise of significant flint bands.

#### **5.1.7 Additional Investigations**

The current ground investigation has given a good overall indication of the nature and variability of the shallower ground conditions. In order to complete the detailed design it is recommended that further investigations are undertaken to obtain more data. As discussed above, overall settlement, rate of settlement and stability are important aspects of the design. In order to obtain sufficient and adequate data the additional work should include cone penetration testing with pore water measurement, cable percussion and rotary boreholes to obtain quality samples of the superficial deposits and accurate determination of the depth and nature of the chalk.

## 6 Geoenvironmental Assessment

---

### 6.1 Design Considerations

The disposal route is a key design consideration with a development such as this where surplus alluvial soils may be generated. Options include

- dredging and disposal off-shore;
- dredging and treatment for retention on-site;
- dredging and disposal on-shore; and/or
- do nothing leave *in situ*.

The ground investigation has shown that the alluvial soils contain elevated levels of potential contaminants (measured against background levels) as well as impersistent peat layers. The results of laboratory analysis have been compared to CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science) Action Levels (see Appendix A), and assessed using our Hazardous Waste Assessment Spreadsheet (based on the EA Waste Classification Calculations). The results indicate the following:

- Several of the determinands (metals) fall above CEFAS Action Level 1 but all fall below Level 2 and therefore the arisings are likely to be suitable for disposal at sea (pending approval and potentially further testing and liaison with CEFAS and the MMO (Marine Management Organisation)); and
- For disposal on-shore, the material tested is likely to be classified as Non-Hazardous Waste.

#### 6.1.1 Dredge with disposal off-shore

The material may be suitable for disposal off-shore; however further testing may be required by CEFAS and/or the MMO before a license is issued.

#### 6.1.2 Dredge and treat with retention on-site

The material may be suitable for stabilisation treatment using lime and/or cement which should allow reuse on-site as general fill, if required. The bulk of the organic component (peat layers) will have to be removed in order to make this option viable.

#### 6.1.3 Dredge with disposal on-shore

The dredged material is likely to require pre-treatment prior to on-shore disposal to reduce moisture content to levels where the as-dredged material ceases to behave as a liquid. This can be achieved by addition of cementitious material. The material is likely to be classified as non-hazardous waste although this would have to be confirmed by the producer of the waste (dredging/earthworks contractor) in tandem with the receiving landfill.

#### **6.1.4 Do nothing – leave in situ**

The cheapest option would be to leave the material in-situ although there are geotechnical constraints that come into play due to the high moisture content etc the details of which are discussed above. There is however, a potential impact to any buildings and enclosed spaces etc that may be built on site in the future arising from the potential for ground gas (methane and carbon dioxide etc), although this may be mitigated during the reclamation process through incorporation of impermeable membranes or low permeability soil layers. Nevertheless, the risk to buildings and human health arising should be explored in more detail and suitable mitigation measures built into building design as required.

## References

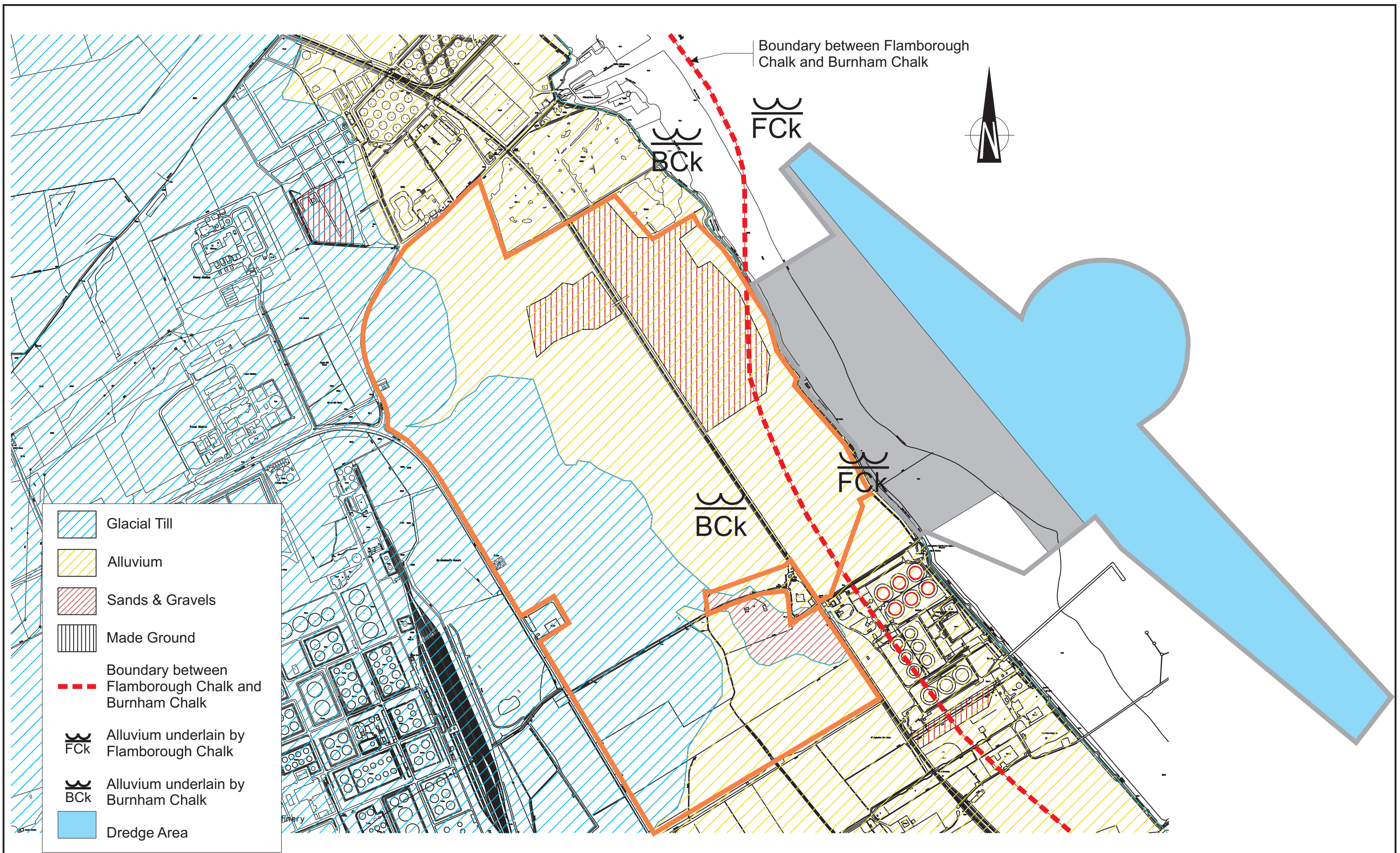
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






- Ref. 1. Desk Study by Allott Atkins Mouchel, in connection with a proposed power station development (1987)
- Ref. 2. Report on a Ground Investigation for South Humber Channel Marine Studies, Soil Engineering Ltd (part of the Technology Division of VINCI Construction UK Limited), Report No SI FR 1.05 2010
- Ref. 3. BS 8002 : (1994) Code of Practice for Earth Retaining Structures
- Ref. 4. CIRIA Report 113 (1986) Control of Groundwater for Temporary Works



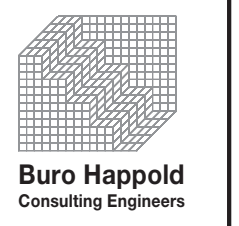
## Figures

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-  Glacial Till
-  Alluvium
-  Sands & Gravels
-  Made Ground
-  Boundary between Flamborough Chalk and Burnham Chalk
-  Alluvium underlain by Flamborough Chalk
-  Alluvium underlain by Burnham Chalk
-  Dredge Area

<b>Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies</b>					
<b>GEOLOGICAL PLAN</b>					
Scale: NTS	Drawn: JMB	Chk: BJ	Date: JANUARY 2011	Job No: 027559	Figure No: 1
					Rev: 02



**SKETCH SHOWING THE VIBROCORE LOCATIONS WHERE PEAT & PLANT MATERIAL WAS ENCOUNTERED**

VIBROCORE

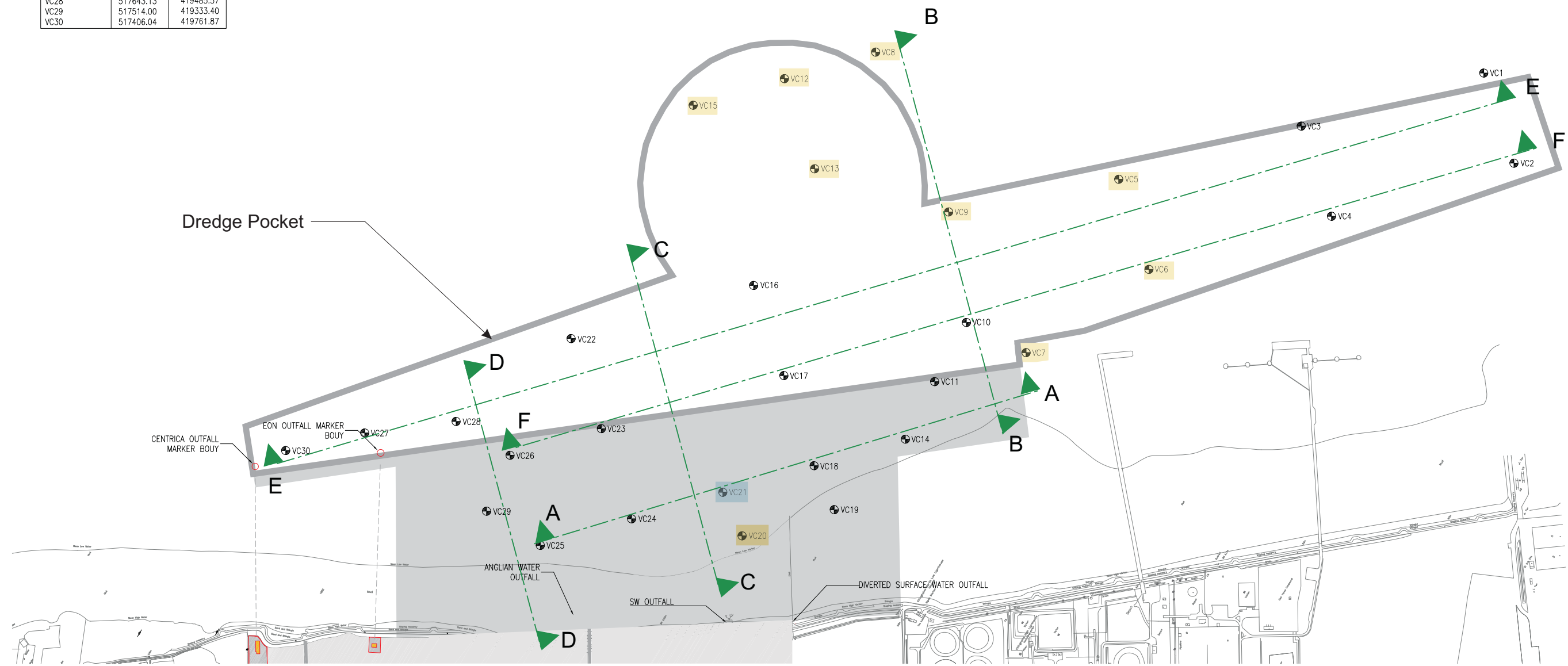
VIBROCORE REF.	EASTING	NORTHING
VC1	519385.11	418006.23
VC2	519254.99	417855.08
VC3	519090.98	418279.34
VC4	518961.84	418126.17
VC5	518797.85	418551.43
VC6	518667.72	418399.28
VC7	518384.45	418530.56
VC8	518763.96	419127.84
VC9	518554.69	418822.82
VC10	518374.58	418671.37
VC11	518233.13	418664.33
VC12	518617.89	419263.88
VC13	518487.77	419111.73
VC14	518097.39	418655.27
VC15	518470.83	419399.93
VC16	518210.57	419095.63
VC17	518080.45	418943.48
VC18	517950.32	418791.33
VC19	517893.14	418707.14
VC20	517746.10	418845.20
VC21	517804.25	418927.37
VC22	517917.44	419367.72
VC23	517787.31	419215.57
VC24	517657.18	419063.42
VC25	517510.12	419199.47
VC26	517640.24	419351.63
VC27	517523.29	419638.24
VC28	517643.13	419485.57
VC29	517514.00	419333.40
VC30	517406.04	419761.87

**Vibrocores where peat was encountered**

NB peat is generally described as pseudo-fibrous. It occurs either as distinct layers generally no more than 200mm thick but also as "frequent or occasional" lenses.

It generally lies at relatively shallow depths, ie less than 1.5m below bed level. There are some instances where peat occurs to greater depths eg VC05 & VC06 where it is present to 3.45 and 4.5m depth below bed level respectively

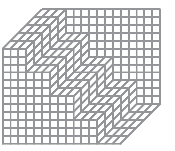
**Vibrocores where plant remains were identified**  
1.50m to 3.10m below bed level (including seaweed)  
Also material had a strong organic odour  
NB peat was not present



**Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies**

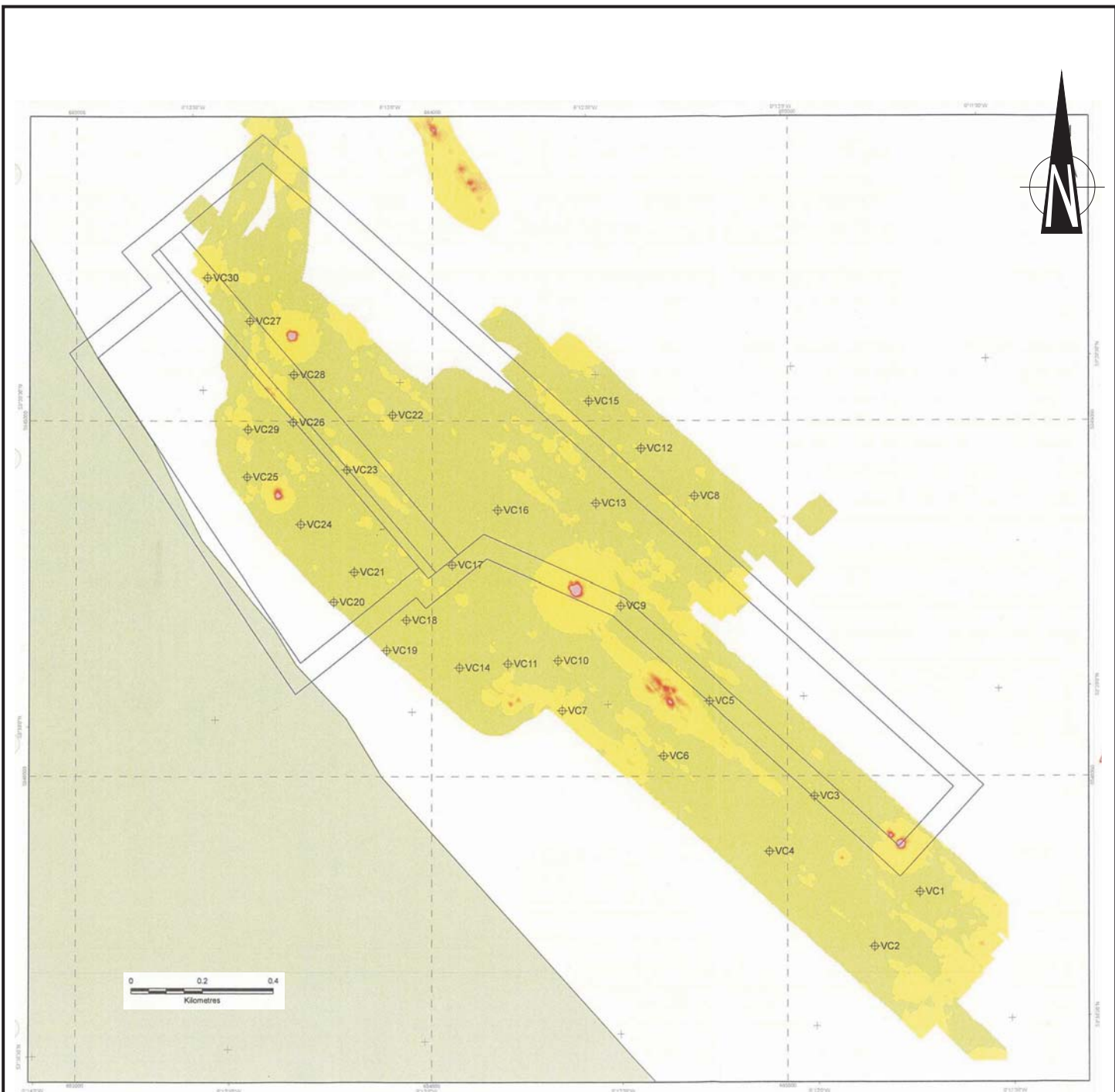
**EXPLORATORY HOLE LOCATION PLAN**

Scale: NTS | Drawn: JMB | Chk: BJ | Date: JANUARY 2011 | Job No: 027559 | Figure No: 2 | Rev: 02



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**Legend**

□ Survey Boundaries

⊕ Vibrocore Location

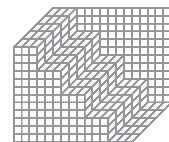
**Magnetic Anomaly**

- 471.768
- 361.306
- 294.749
- 241.335
- 195.193
- 149.610
- 111.298
- 74.664
- 39.148
- 0.277
- 34.959
- 70.755
- 108.228
- 152.133
- 195.759
- 245.257
- 304.263
- 391.234
- 536.094

ftss

**Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies**

**MAGNETOMETER SURVEY**



**Buro Happold**  
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Scale: NTS

Drawn: JMB

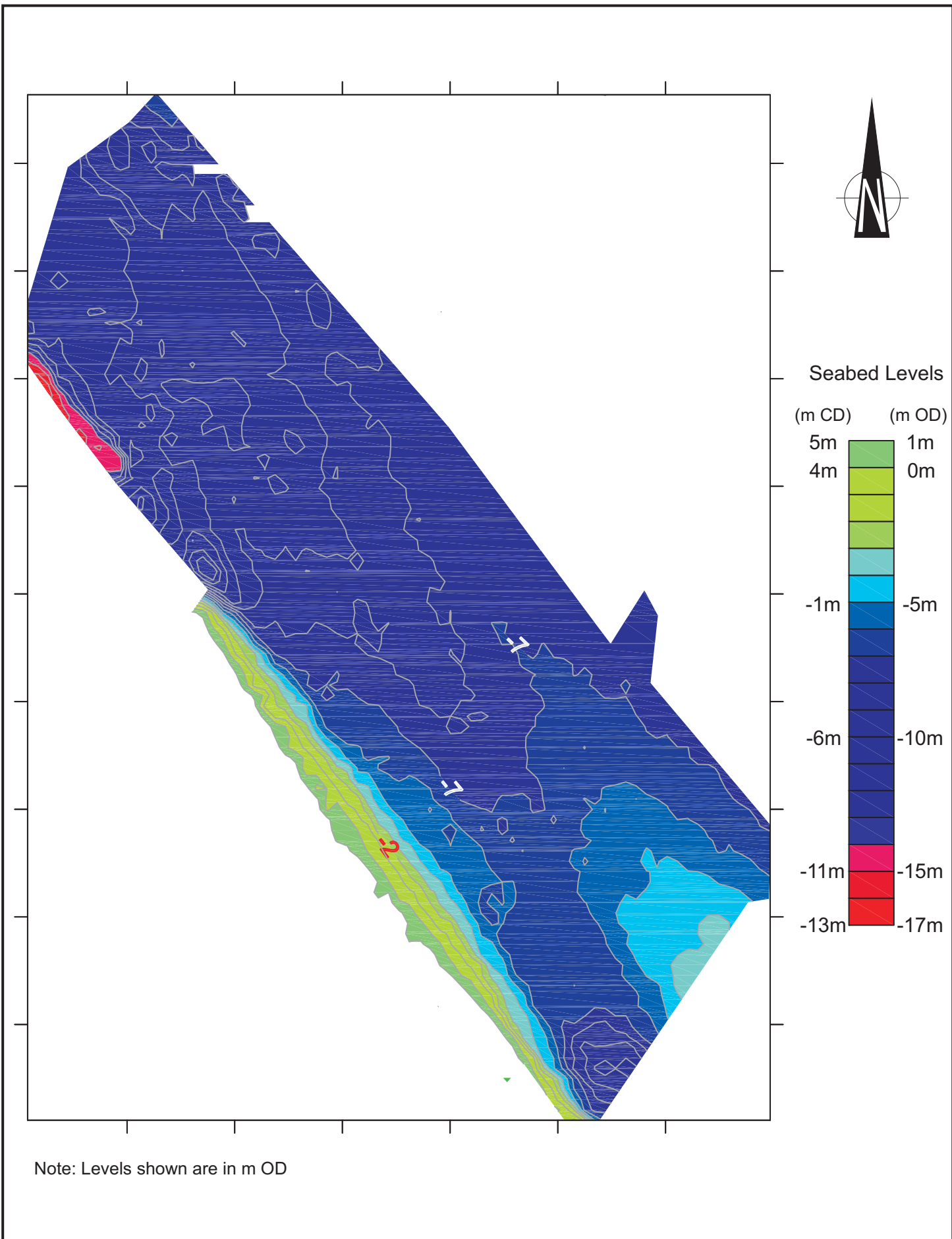
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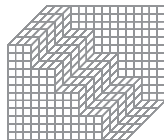
Date: JANUARY 2011

Job No: 027559

Figure No: 3

Rev:02



<b>Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies</b>							 <b>Buro Happold</b> Consulting Engineers
<b>BATHYMETRIC LEVELS IN M BELOW ORDNANCE DATUM</b>							
Scale: NTS	Drawn: JMB	Chk: BJ	Date: JANUARY 2011	Job No: 027559	Figure No: 4	Rev:02	

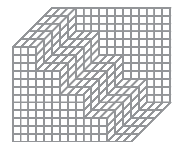


Legend

-  Survey Boundaries
-  Vibrocore Location
- Isopachyte (m below CD)
-  2
-  4
-  6
-  8
-  10
-  12
-  14
-  16
-  18
-  20
-  22
-  24

**Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies**

**ROCKHEAD LEVELS (m BELOW CD)  
(DETERMINED FROM BOOMER SURVEY)**



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Scale: NTS

Drawn: JMB

Chk: BJ

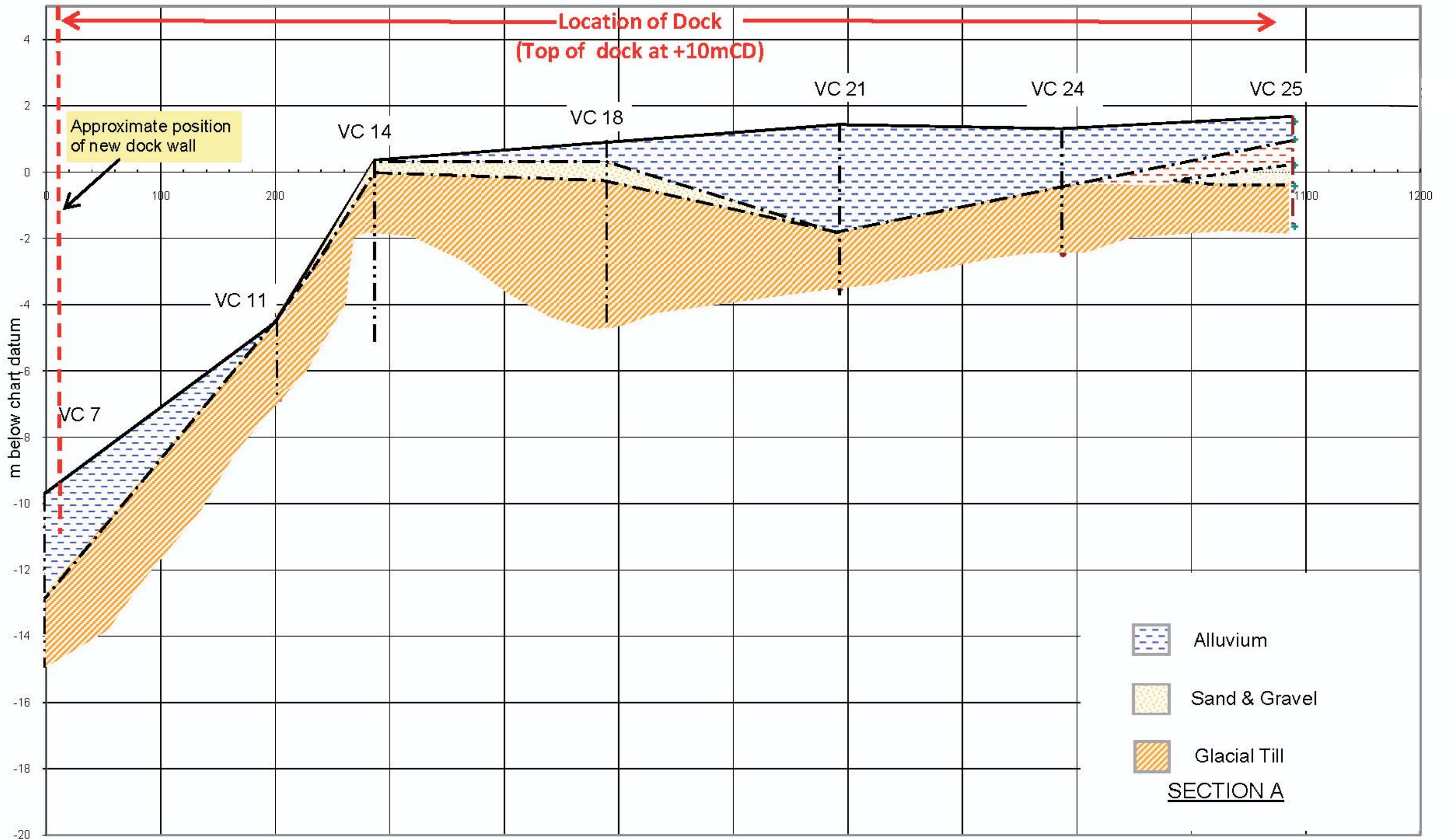
Date: JANUARY 2011

Job No: 027559

Figure No: 5

Rev:02





(Refer to figure 2 for section locations)

Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies

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Drawn: JMB

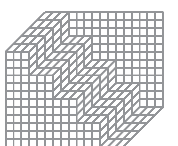
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Date: JANUARY 2011

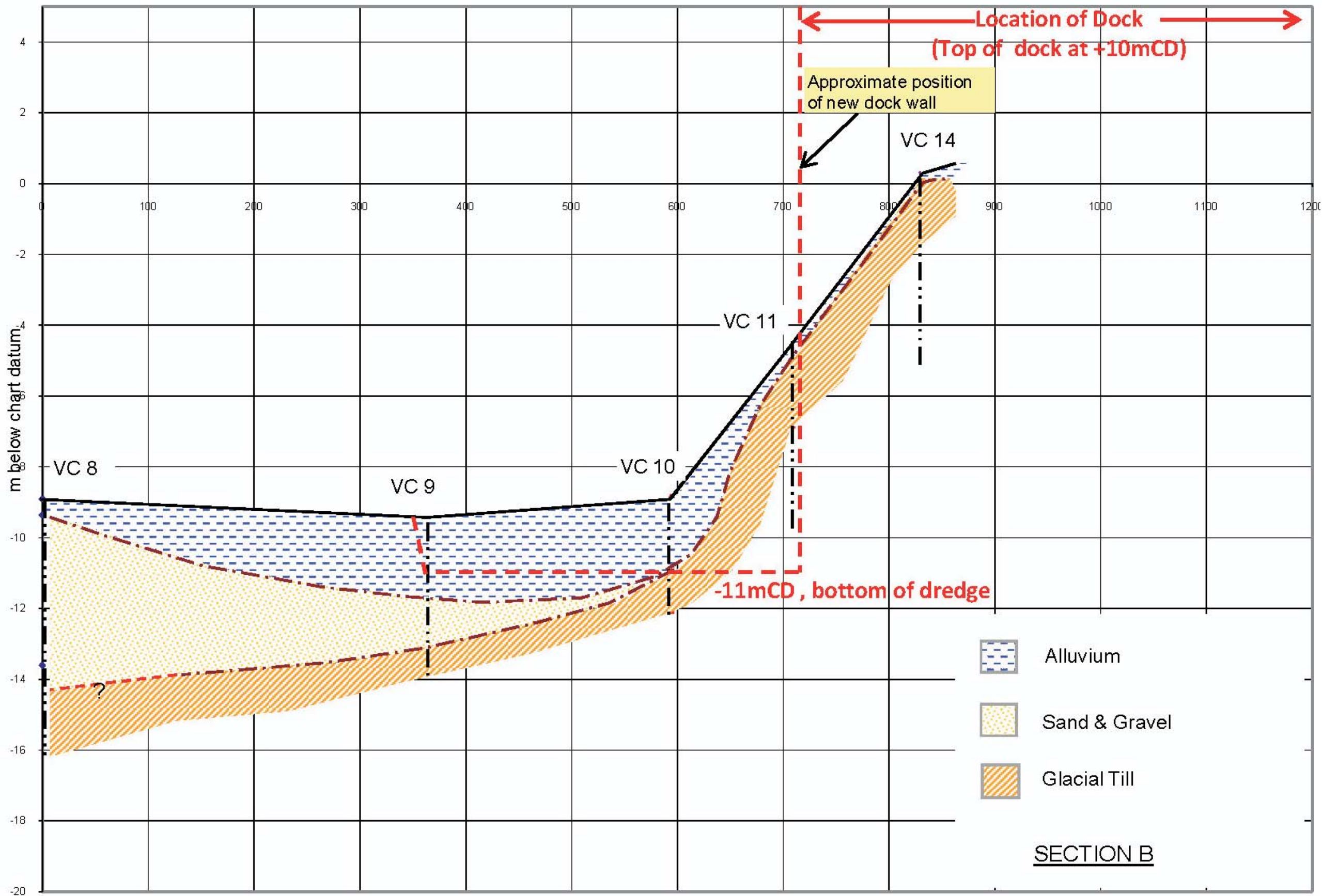
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Figure No: 6

Rev: 02



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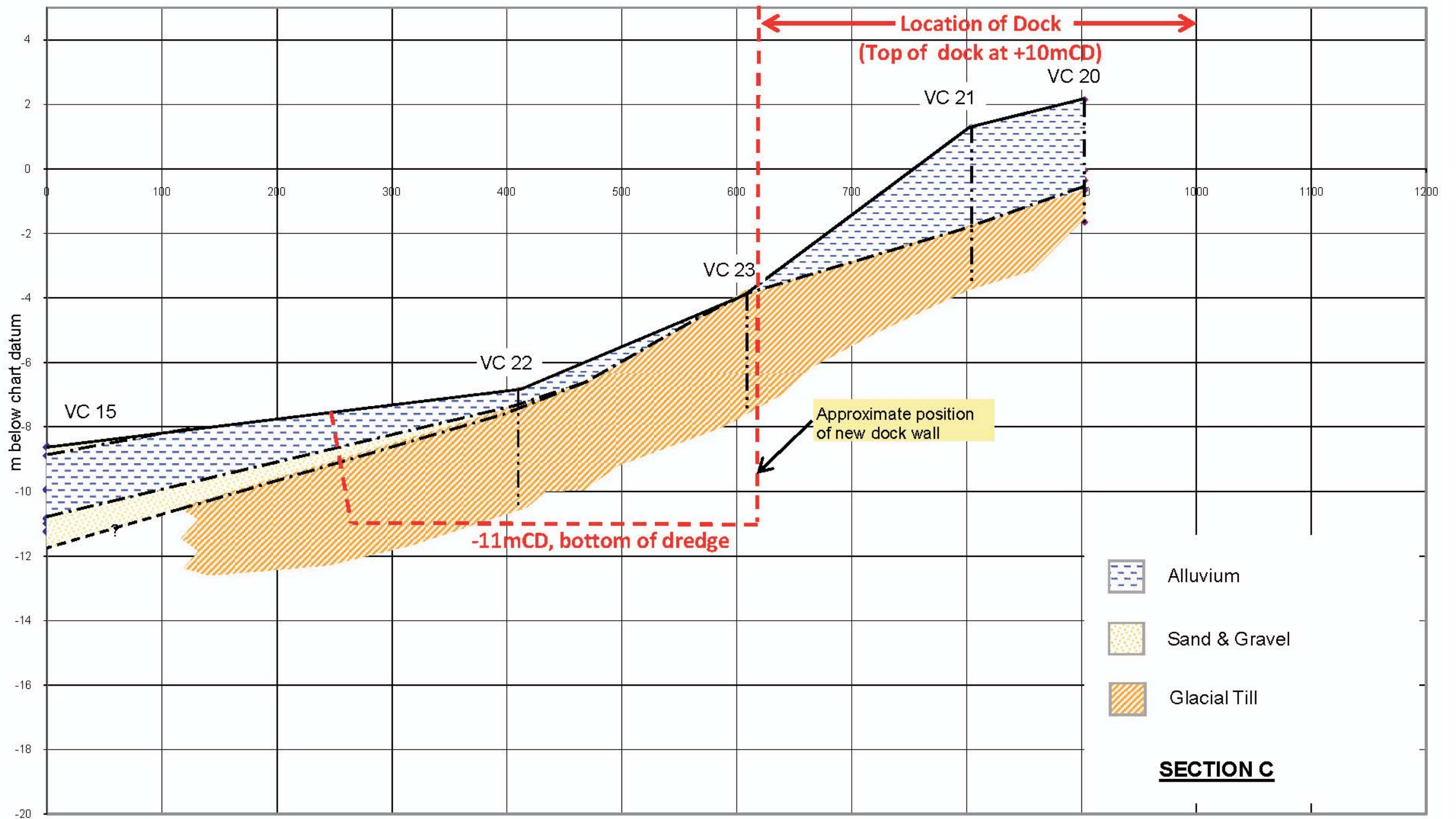


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Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies					
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Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies

**GEOLOGICAL SECTION C**

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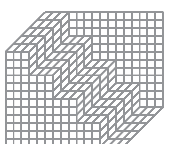
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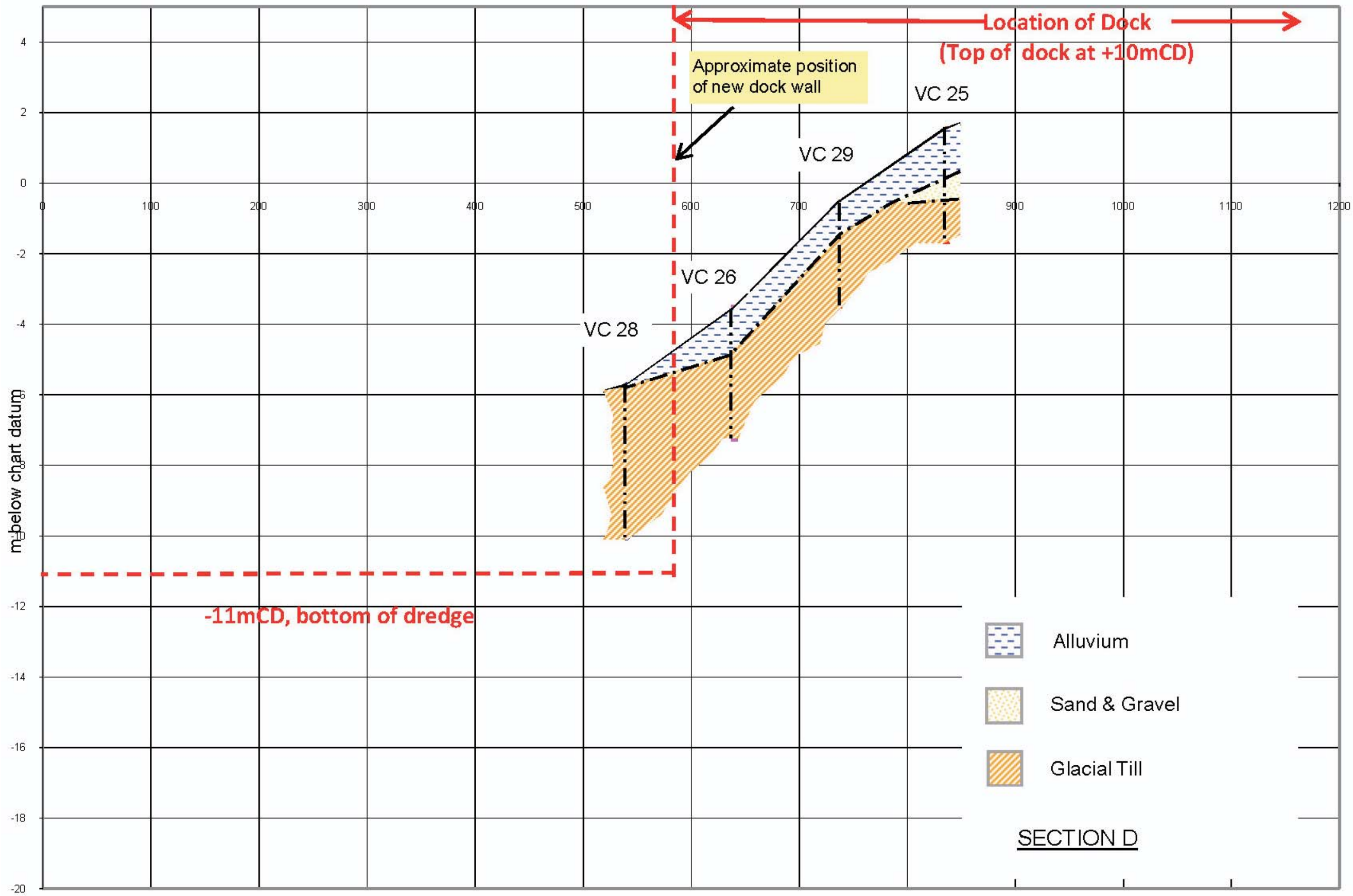
Job No: 027559

Figure No: 8

Rev: 02



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(Refer to figure 2 for section locations)

Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies

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Drawn: JMB

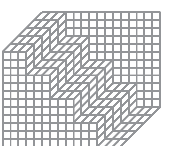
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Date: JANUARY 2011

Job No: 027559

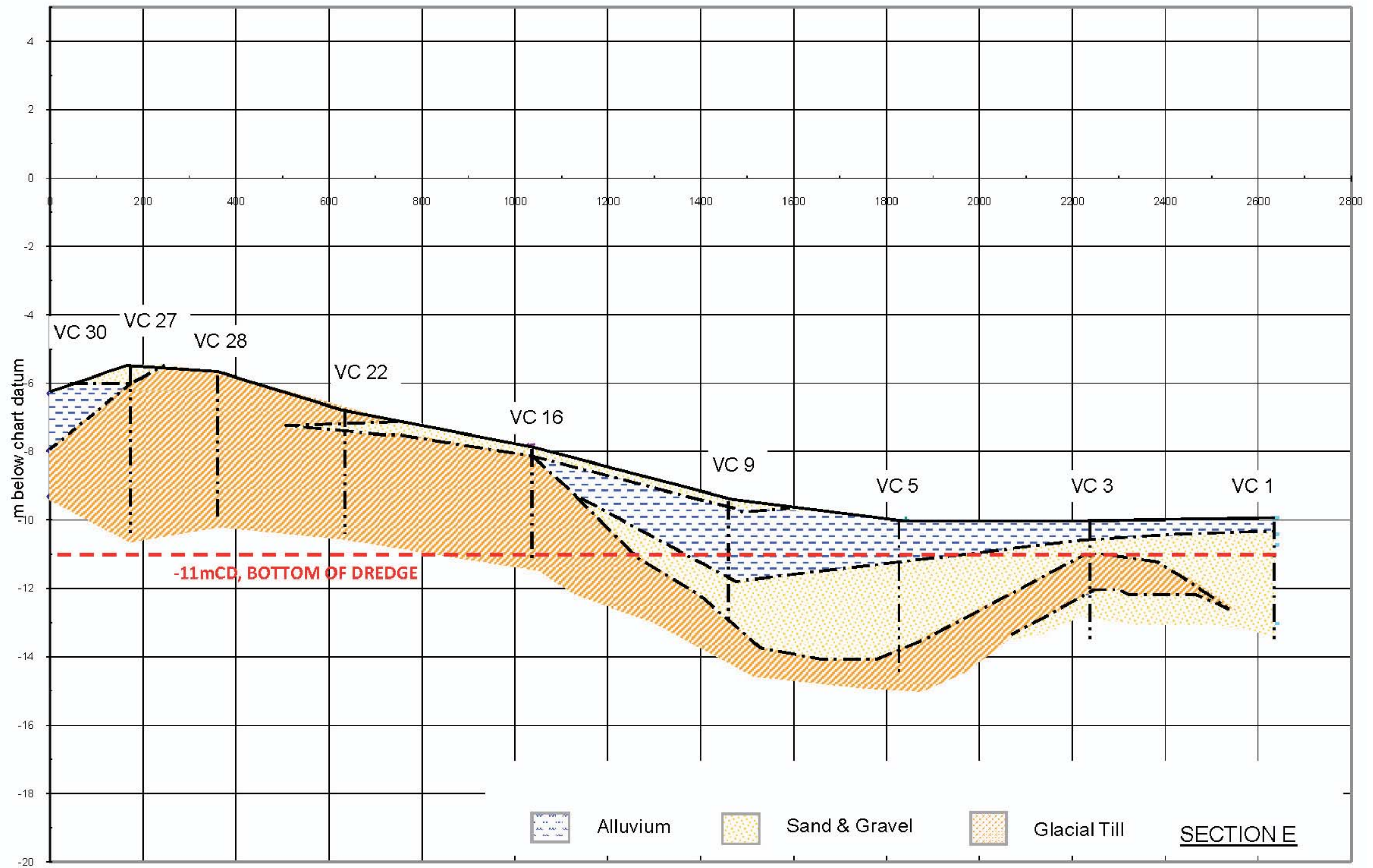
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Rev: 02



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(Refer to figure 2 for section locations)

Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies

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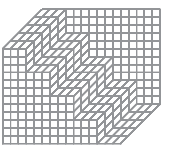
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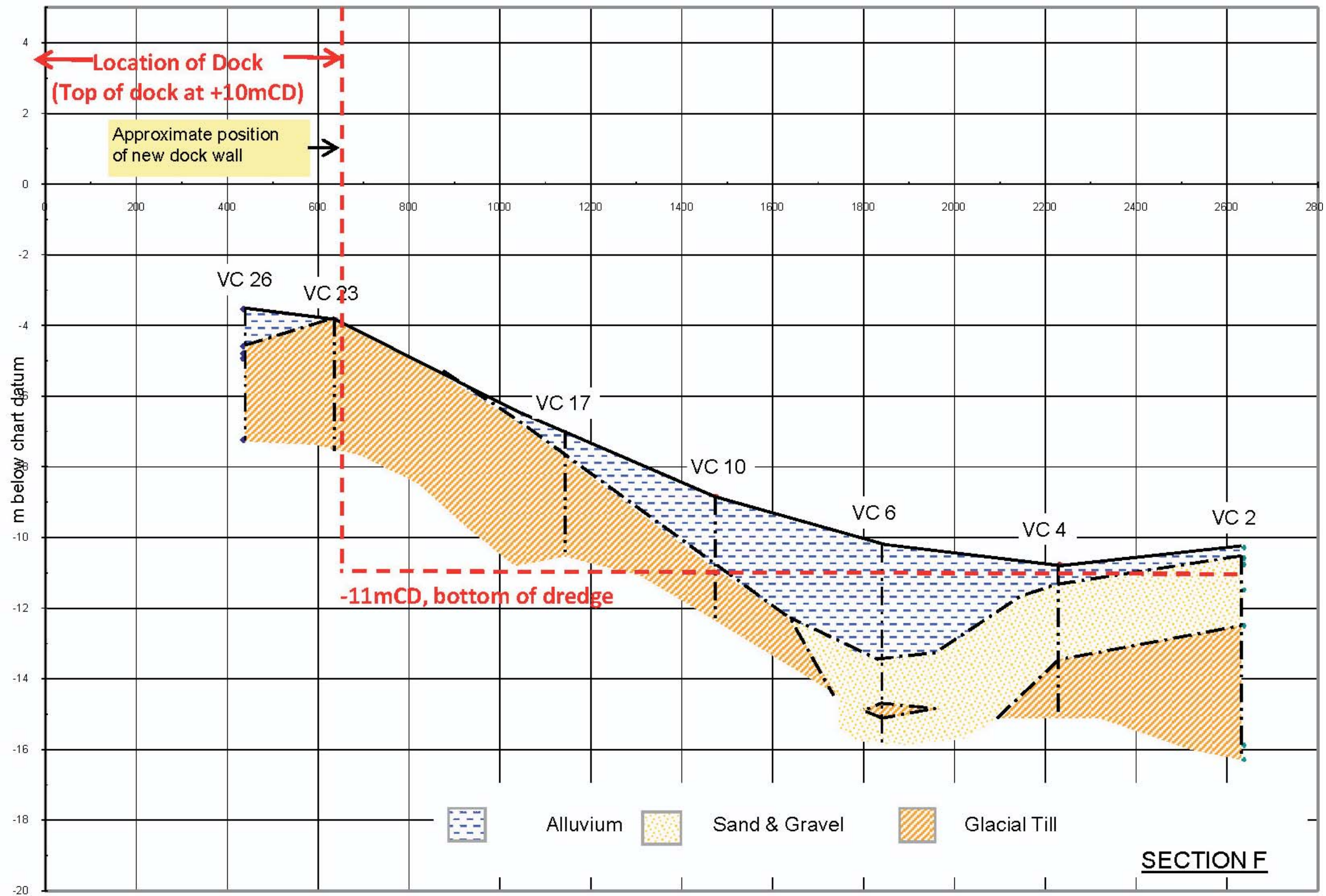
Job No: 027559

Figure No: 10

Rev: 02



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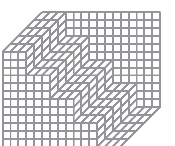


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Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies

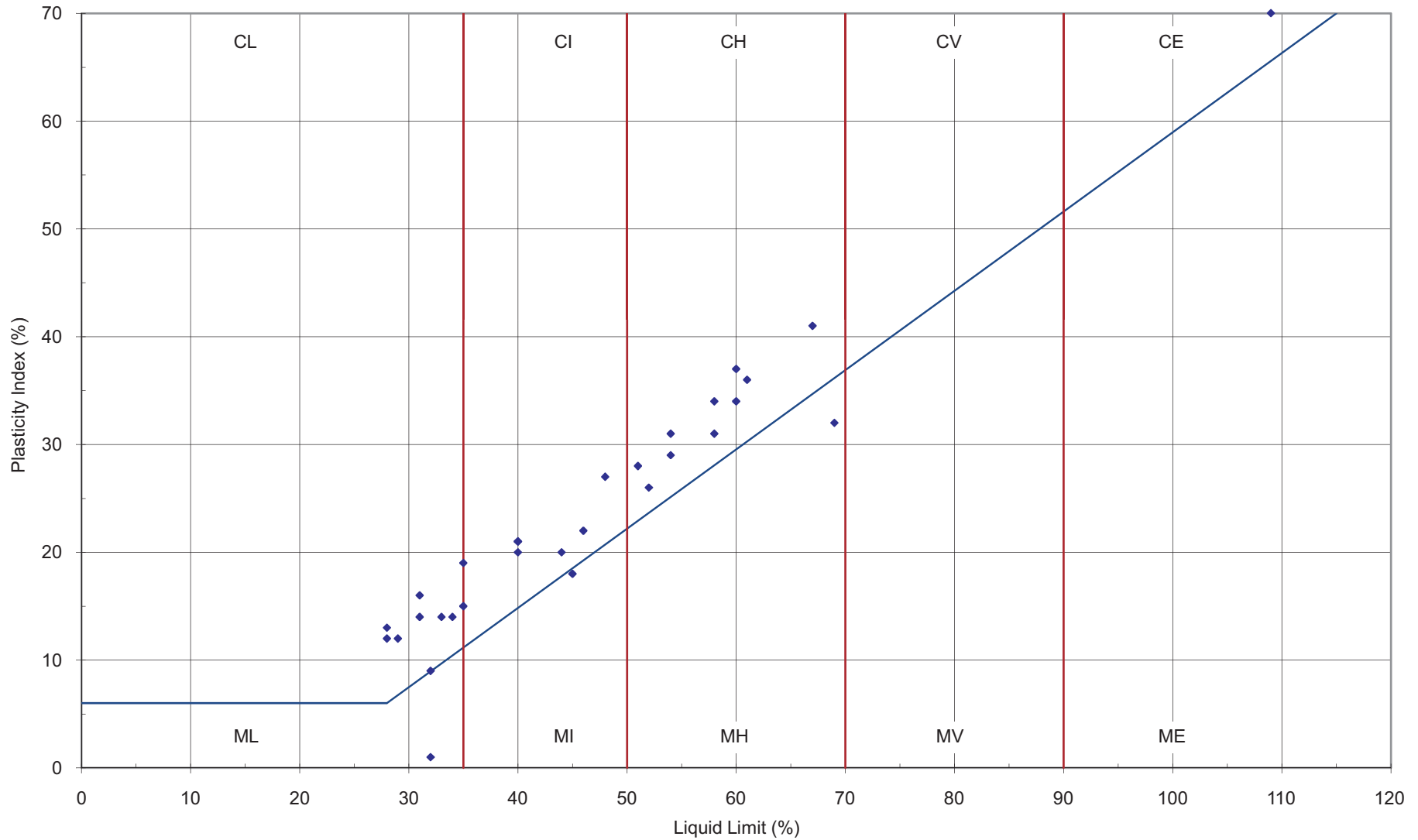
**GEOLOGICAL SECTION F**

Scale: NTS | Drawn: JMB | Chk: BJ | Date: JANUARY 2011 | Job No: 027559 | Figure No: 11 | Rev: 02



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Consulting Engineers

# Atterberg Limits - Alluvium



Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies

## ATTERBERG LIMITS ON ALLUVIUM

Scale: NTS

Drawn: JMB

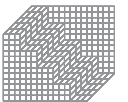
Chk: BJ

Date: OCTOBER 2010

Job No: 027559

Figure No: 12

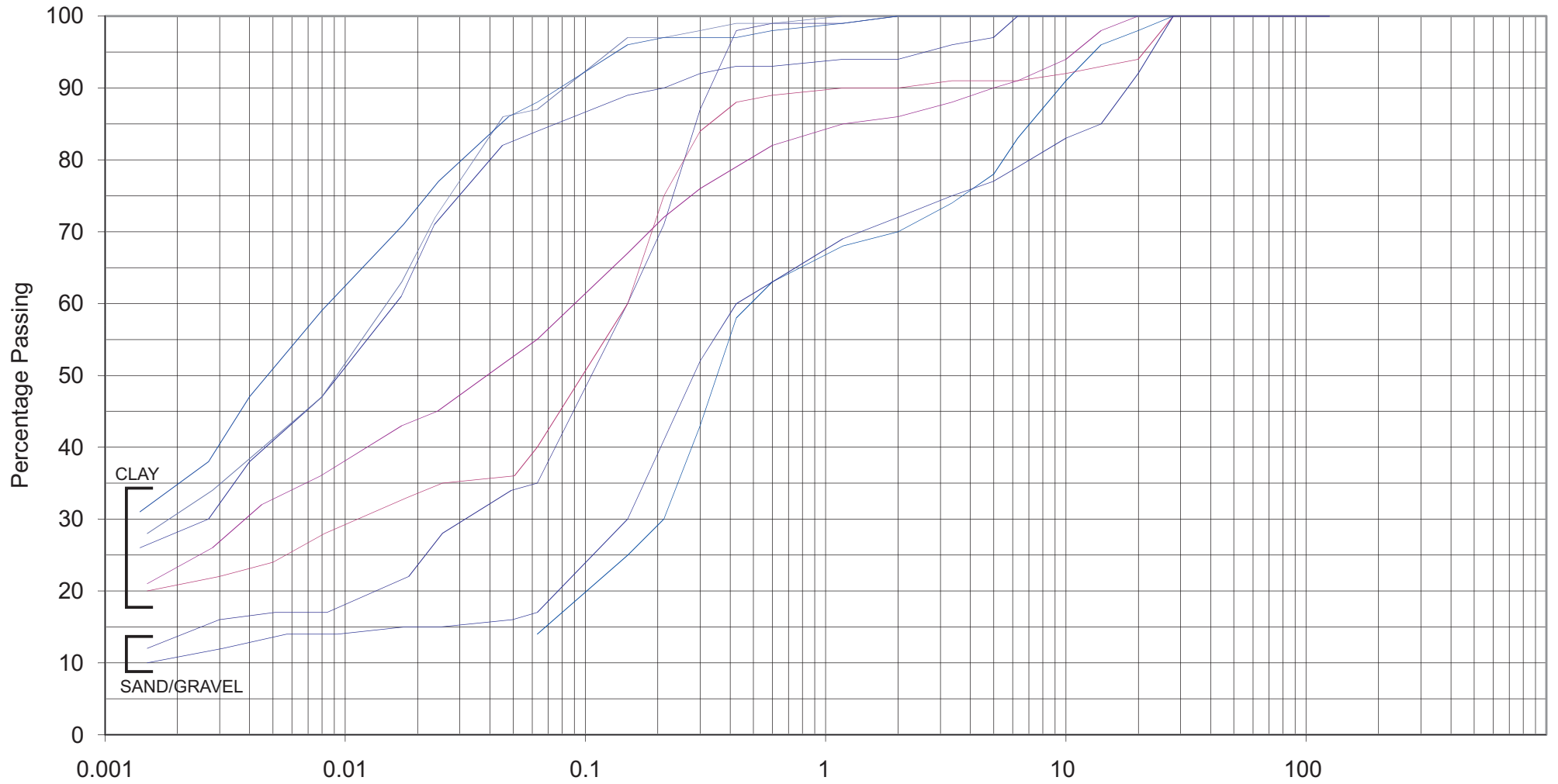
Rev: 01



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# Particle Size Distribution Curves - Alluvium



Clay	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Cobbles	Boulders
	SILT			SAND			GRAVEL				

Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies

## PARTICLE SIZE DISTRIBUTION OF ALLUVIUM

Scale: NTS

Drawn: JMB

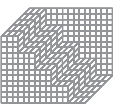
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Date: JANUARY 2011

Job No: 027559

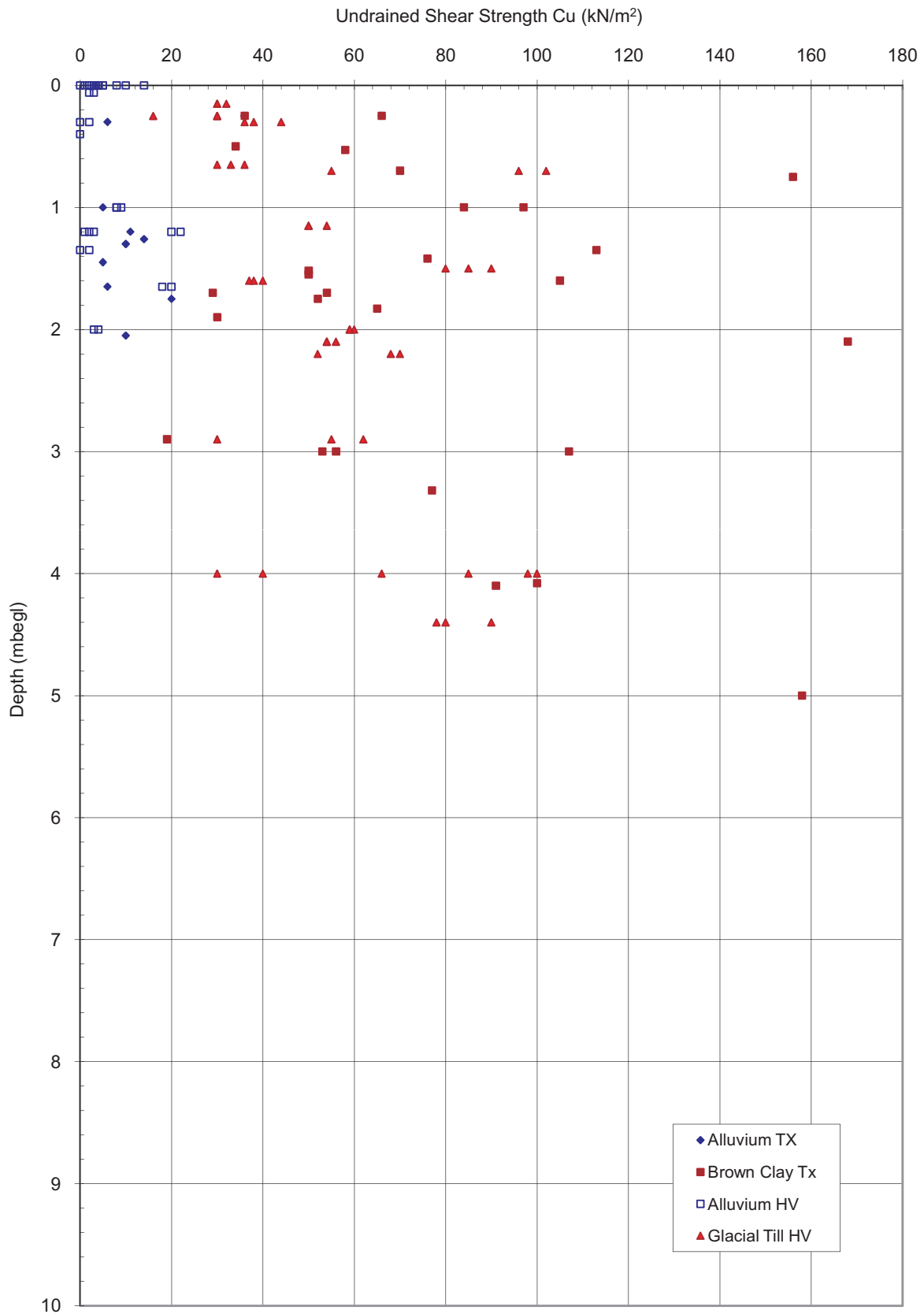
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Rev: 02



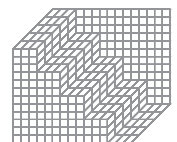
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# Triaxial and Hand Vane Undrained Shear Strength



Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies

## TRIAxIAL AND HAND VANE UNDRAINED SHEAR STRENGTH TEST



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Scale: NTS

Drawn: JMB

Chk: BJ

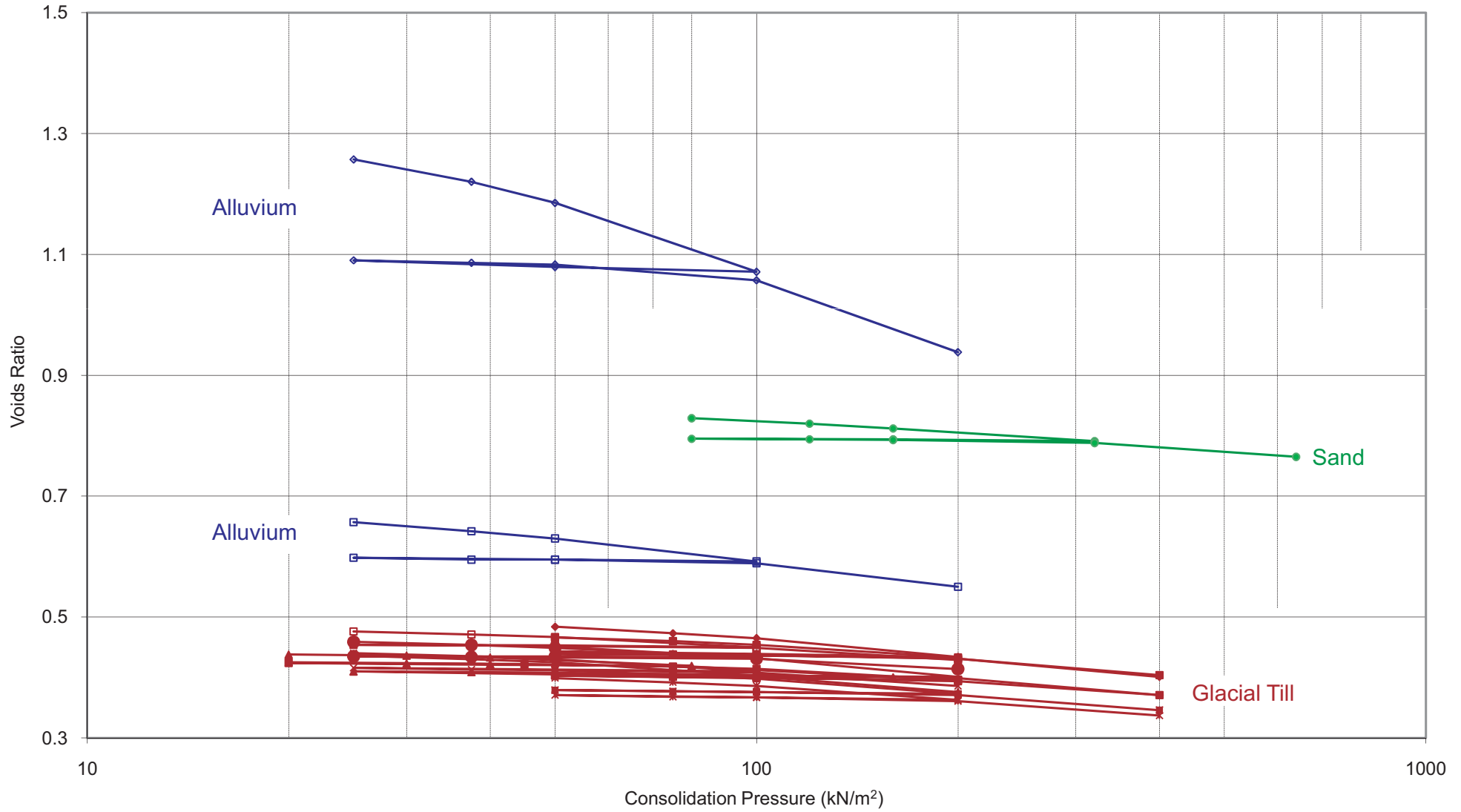
Date: JANUARY 2011

Job No: 027559

Figure No: 14

Rev:02

# Consolidation Test Results



Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies

## CONSOLIDATION TESTS

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Drawn: JMB

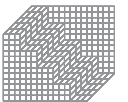
Chk: BJ

Date: OCTOBER 2010

Job No: 027559

Figure No: 15

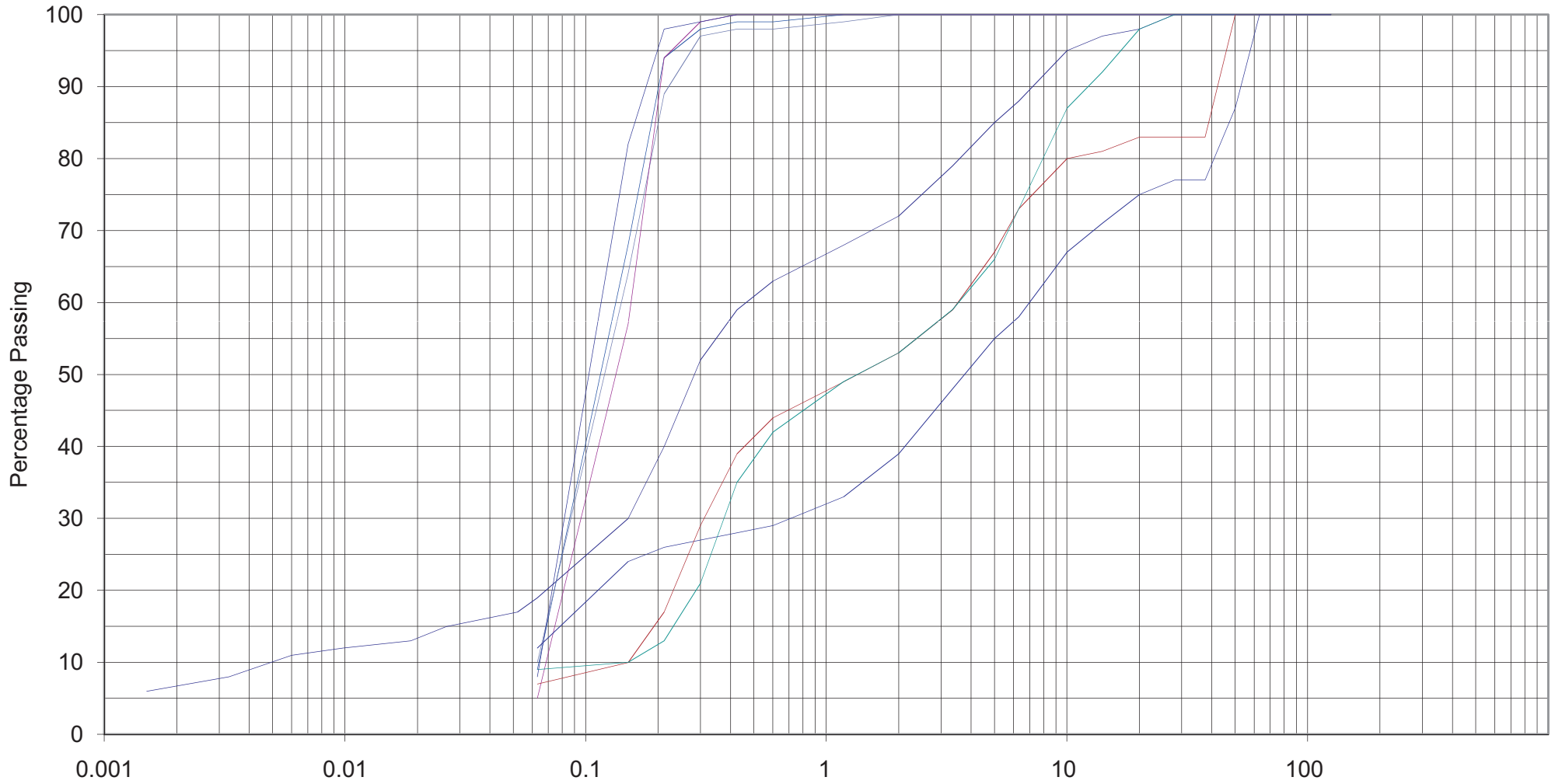
Rev: 01



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# Particle Size Distribution Curves - Sands & Gravels



Clay	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Cobbles	Boulders
	SILT			SAND			GRAVEL				

Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies

## PARTICLE SIZE DISTRIBUTION OF SANDS AND GRAVELS

Scale: NTS

Drawn: JMB

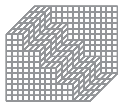
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Date: JANUARY 2011

Job No: 027559

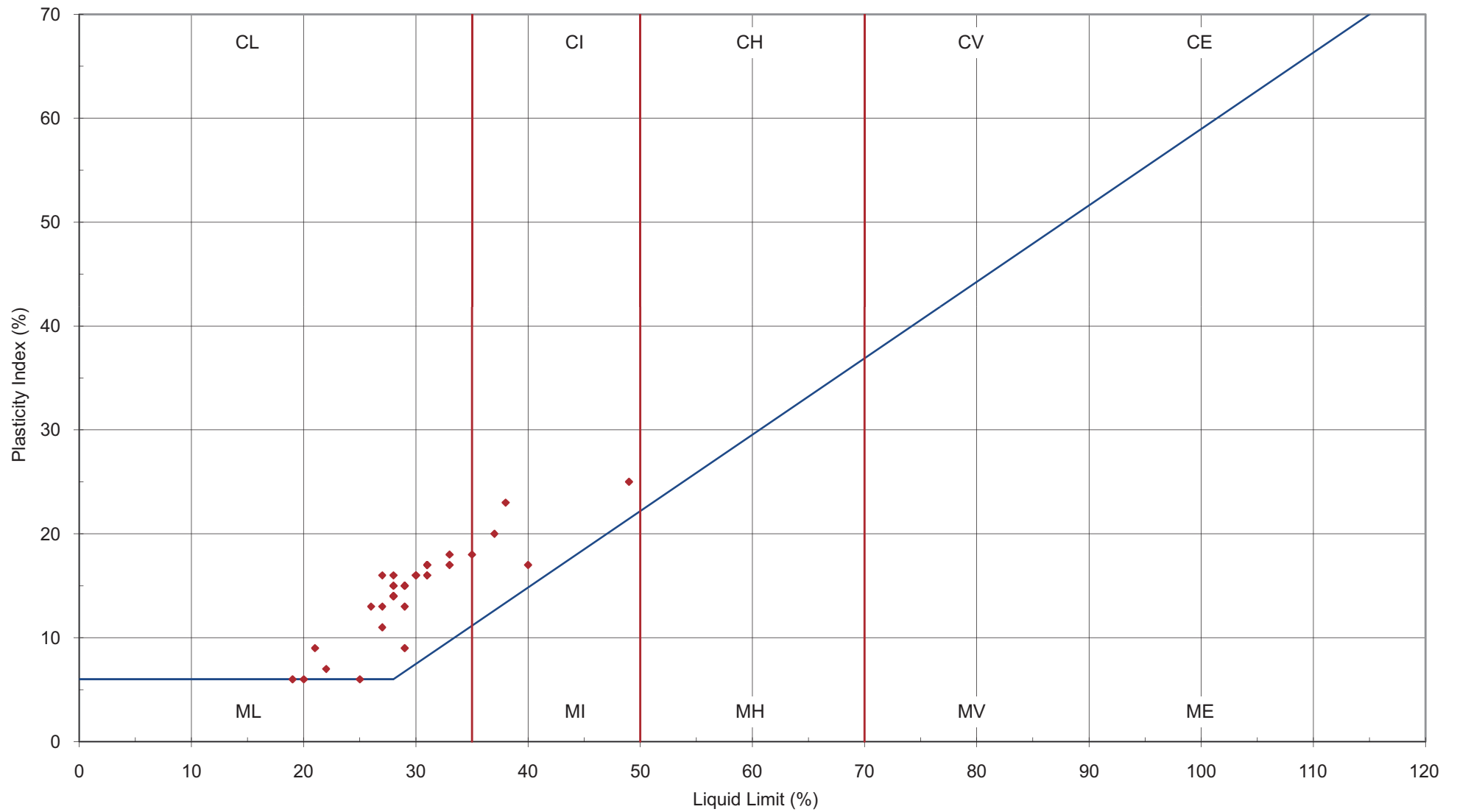
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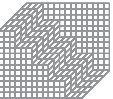
Rev: 02



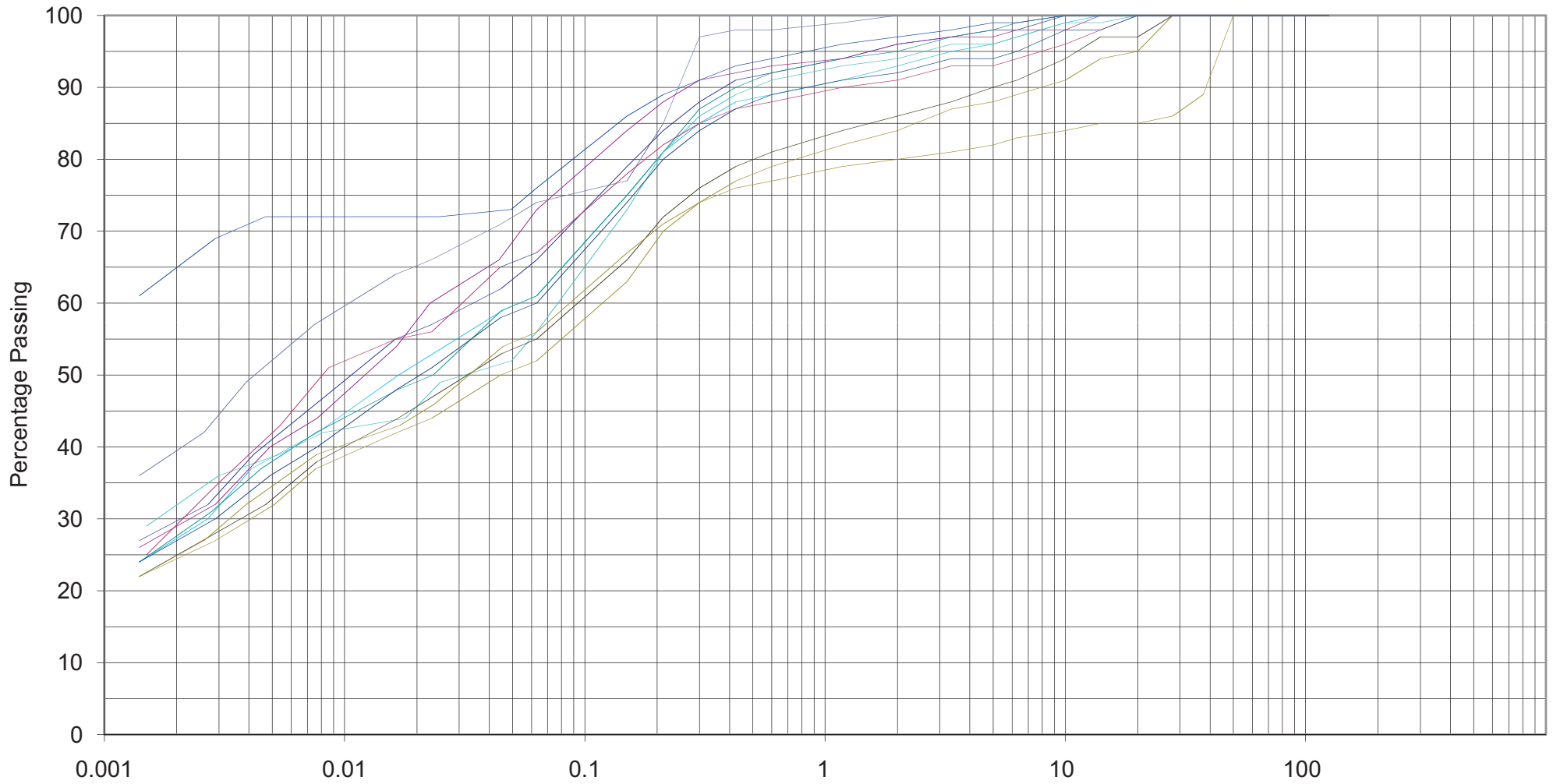
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# Atterberg Limits - Glacial Till



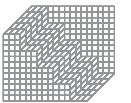
<b>Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies</b>						 <b>Buro Happold</b> Consulting Engineers
<b>ATTERBERG LIMITS ON GLACIAL TILL</b>						
Scale: NTS	Drawn: JMB	Chk: BJ	Date: OCTOBER 2010	Job No: 027559	Figure No: 17	

# Particle Size Distribution Curves - Glacial Till



Clay	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Cobbles	Boulders
	SILT			SAND			GRAVEL				

<b>Project: South Humber Channel Marine Studies</b>						
<b>PARTICLE SIZE DISTRIBUTION OF GLACIAL TILL</b>						
Scale: NTS	Drawn: JMB	Chk: BJ	Date: OCTOBER 2010	Job No: 027559	Figure No: 18	Rev: 01



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## Appendix A – Hazardous Waste Assessment

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## Cefas Action Levels in Dredged Material Assessments

### General

Action Levels are used as a part of a 'weight of evidence approach' to assessing dredged material and its suitability for disposal at sea. These values are used in conjunction with a range of other assessment methods e.g. historical data, characteristics of the dredging site, the materials physical characteristics, the disposal site characteristics and other data to make management decisions regarding the fate of the dredged material.

In general, contaminant levels in dredged material below Action Level 1 (yellow) are of no concern and are unlikely to influence the licensing decision. However, dredged material with contaminant levels above Action Level 2 (orange) are generally considered unsuitable for sea disposal. The latter situation usually exists for localised parts of a dredging area so this material can potentially be segregated and disposed of *via* other routes e.g. landfill. Dredged material with contaminant levels between Action Levels 1 and 2 require further consideration and testing before a licensing decision can be made.

		Cefas Action Levels	
		Cefas Action Level 1	Cefas Action Level 2
<b>Contaminant / Compound</b>			
Arsenic	mg/kg	20	100
Cadmium	mg/kg	0.4	5
Chromium	mg/kg	40	400
Copper	mg/kg	40	400
Lead	mg/kg	50	500
Mercury	mg/kg	0.3	3
Nickel	mg/kg	20	200
Zinc	mg/kg	130	800
PCBs, Total ICES 7	µg/kg	100	none
Tributyl tin	mg/kg	0.1	1
Triphenyl tin	mg/kg	0.1	1
Dibutyl tin	mg/kg	0.1	1
Tetrabutyl tin	mg/kg	0.1	1









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