

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION AT  
THE GREEN MAN,  
SLOUGH LANE, KINGSBURY,  
LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

**MAY 2007**

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**THE GREEN MAN, SLOUGH LANE,  
KINGSBURY, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Quality Control

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at The Green Man, Slough Lane,  
Kingsbury, NW9, London Borough of Brent**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2012 8854**

**Site Code: GMZ 07**

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**Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, May 2007**

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May 2007**

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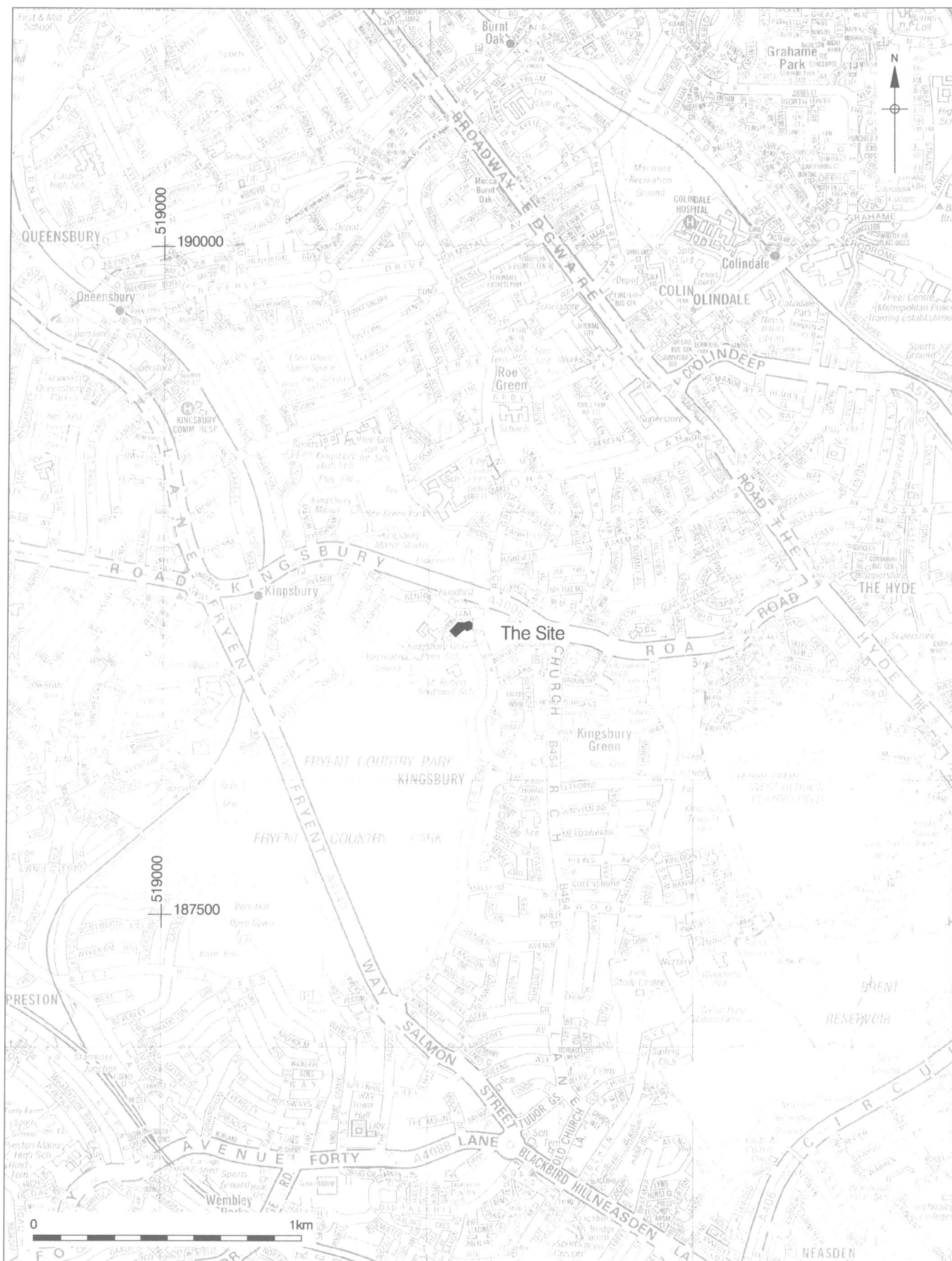
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land that currently comprises the Beer Garden and Car park at The Green Man public house, Slough Lane, Kingsbury, NW9, London Borough of Brent. The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 2012 8854. The field evaluation was undertaken between 30th April 2007 and 3rd May 2007, and the commissioning client was Declan Ryan on behalf of Peachwalk Properties Ltd / Thornsett Apartments Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of three trial trenches, designed to investigate the sites' archaeological potential. Prior to the evaluation, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd had been commissioned to undertake a Desk-based Assessment of the site (Sargent 2006), and this has suggested a good potential for medieval and post-medieval remains being present.
- 1.3 The earliest deposit encountered was natural clay. Sealing the natural was a 'dirty' natural in which traces of post-medieval CBM and brick were visible. The foundations of an early modern brick building and a line of wooden posts cut into this layer of redeposited natural were found in Trench 3, while in the other two trenches the 'dirty' natural was overlain by a layer of post-medieval sub-soil.
- 1.4 It has been concluded that the paucity of medieval or earlier features on this site was probably due to terracing of the land during the modern period.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological site investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 30th April 2007 – 3rd May 2007, in advance of redevelopment of land to the south of The Green Man public house, Slough Lane, Kingsbury, NW9 (Fig.1). The study site covers an area of approximately 3,850 square metres; it was bordered to the north by Old Kenton Lane, to the northwest and southwest by Sunningdale Gardens, to the southeast by a plot of land containing Ferndene flats, and to the east by Slough Lane. The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation and recording of three trial trenches, which were to determine the archaeological potential.
- 2.2 The commissioning client was Declan Ryan of Peachwalk Properties Ltd / Thornsett Apartments Ltd. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of James Langthorne and the project management of Chris Mayo. The evaluation was monitored on behalf of the London Borough of Brent by Kim Stabler of English Heritage.
- 2.3 The evaluation followed an approved method statement (Mayo 2007) and an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Sargent 2006). This had concluded that the site held a good potential for the presence of medieval and post-medieval remains.
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the London Archaeology Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) under the site code GMZ 07.



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Figure 1  
Site location  
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:500 at A4



### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.
- 3.3 The current London Borough of Brent Unitary Development Plan, adopted in 2004, has the following policies relating to archaeology (London Borough of Brent 2004):

#### **BE31 SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

For developments involving groundwork on Sites Of Archaeological Importance or in Archaeological Priority Areas, the following is required:

- (a) That applicants have the archaeological implications of their proposals assessed by means of a recognised archaeological group (if necessary by a preliminary site investigation);
- b) Nationally important archaeological remains and their settings are permanently preserved in situ, and where practicable, made available for public display and access;
- (c) For archaeological remains of regional importance, the desirability of this will be weighed against other factors such as the need for the proposed development;
- (d) Otherwise provision is made so that sites are properly investigated and excavated before development begins; and
- (e) Landowners and developers work in accordance with the British archaeologists' and developers' code of practice.

#### **Paragraph 3.10.25:**

Archaeological remains constitute the principal surviving evidence of the Borough's past but are a finite and fragile resource that is vulnerable to modern development and land use. Once removed, that part of the Borough's past is lost forever. The Council considers that the archaeology of the Borough is a community asset as an educational, recreational and tourist resource: its preservation is a legitimate objective, against which the needs of development must be balanced and assessed. The destruction of such remains should be avoided wherever possible and should never take place without prior archaeological assessment, (which may include excavation) and record. These principles are embodied in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Planning Policy Guidance Note on Archaeology (PPG16).

#### **Paragraph 3.10.26:**

In 1988, the Council adopted a comprehensive policy which identified a number of archaeological sites of interest and endorsed the Code of Practice on archaeological rescue work agreed between the British Property Federation and the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. The support of all interested parties will be sought.

#### **Paragraph 3.10.27:**

Where development may affect land of archaeological importance, the Council expects a preliminary site evaluation to take place. This requirement applies both to 'Archaeological Priority Areas' which are known, or to likely sites of prehistoric settlement and to 'Sites of Archaeological Importance' where there have been important or concentrated finds in the past. Archaeological sites should be properly investigated and excavated by a recognised archaeological organisation such as, the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) before development takes place. In appropriate cases, the most important archaeological remains and their settings should be permanently preserved. Interpretation and presentation to the public is a key part of this process. The Council will therefore seek provision for the analysis and public display of finds. Sites of Archaeological Importance and Archaeological Priority Areas are listed in Appendix BE5. Archaeological Priority Areas are also shown on the Proposals Map. Further information on archaeological sites is contained in the publication 'Archaeology in Brent'.

- 3.4 The site does not lie within any Archaeological Priority Areas, the nearest being approximately 2km to the south, around St. Andrew's church. Likewise there are no scheduled monuments in the vicinity.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 4.1 The geological and topographical profile of this site has been laid out in full in the Desk Based Assessment (Sargent 2006). The following is a summary of the data from that document.
- 4.1.1 It is clear from the British Geological Survey 1:50.000 series that the underlying geology of the site is London Clay. This was further confirmed in a Geotechnical report by F.S. Kefford (2000), which described hard grey clay between 1.80m and 2.50m below ground level overlain by weathered clay deposits across the site.
- 4.1.2 It has been suggested that soils formed on London Clay considered as non-desirable for agriculture due to being prone to severe seasonal waterlogging, being acidic, and also apt to being leached (Williamson 2004).
- 4.1.3 The relatively flat region to the east and south of the site is drained by two tributaries from the River Brent. The first travelled on a course from Kingsbury Green, approximately 350m to the east of the site, to converge with the river eastward of St. Andrew's Church. The second emerged at the junction of Mallard Way and Salmon Street, about 1km to the south of the site, and followed the path of Salmon Street where it joined the river to the west of the church.
- 4.1.4 The site is located on fairly flat ground at a height of approximately 57.00m OD.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The archaeological and historical background to this site has been laid out in full in the Desk Based Assessment (Sargent 2006). The following is a summary of the periods represented in that document.

### **5.1 Prehistoric**

5.1.1 The closest prehistoric sites are over 3km to the southeast. Excavations at Dollis Hill revealed the presence of some form of settlement or agricultural activity (Sankey 2000). However it is considered that this site would exist on a marginal upland area and occupation would therefore have been less intense than in the more easily worked Thames terraces to the south. Only one Bronze Age potsherd has been discovered within the immediate vicinity of the site.

5.1.2 Based on this research it was therefore concluded that the archaeological potential for this period was low.

### **5.2 Roman**

5.2.1 The site is situated between two Roman roads, Watling Street just over 1km to the north-east of the site and Honeypot Lane which lies to the south-west of the site and runs parallel to Watling Street. These may have defined part of an estate or administrative district the centred on a late Roman stone-built structure that lies approximately 2km to the south of the site(Holliday 1934). Otherwise very little Roman material has been uncovered in the site's immediate vicinity.

5.2.2 It was concluded that there was a moderate potential for Roman activity on the site.

### **5.3 Early Medieval**

5.3.1 No early medieval findspots were apparent in the vicinity of the site. This lack of finds coupled with evidence describing the site as lying within an area of managed woodland and wood pasture by the end of the early medieval period (Holliday 1934) led to the conclusion that there was a low probability of finding early medieval remains on the site.

## **5.4 Medieval**

- 5.4.1 By the 13th century onwards the area around the site was subject to woodland clearance in order to facilitate the creation of arable and pasture land. Documentary evidence exists detailing tenements on and around the site and map regression suggests that it may lie across the middle of a row of these tenements, which bordered the south-west edge of Piper's Green.
- 5.4.2 The potential for medieval archaeology, especially in the south-west part of the site, was therefore considered to be high.

## **5.5 Post-Medieval**

- 5.5.1 Between the 16th and 18th centuries the site appears to have been a portion of the estate of Piper's Farm. By 1851 though the site had undergone a radical change of use as The Green Man public house had been constructed on the defunct Piper's Green (Baker and Pugh 1976). Although rebuilt in 1936-37 The Green Man is still operating to the east of the site.
- 5.5.2 Various outbuildings belonging to the pub were constructed during the 19th and 20th centuries on the south-west area of the site. These have now all been demolished to make way for the car park and beer garden on which the archaeological evaluation took place.
- 5.5.3 This data led to the conclusion that the potential for discovering post-medieval archaeology at the site was high.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The excavation of three trenches measuring 20.00m by 2.00m at base was outlined in the 'Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation' (Mayo 2007). The general aim of the evaluation was to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains. The character and position of two of the trenches (1 and 2) had to be adjusted due to on-site conditions.
- 6.2 All trenches were broken out and then excavated with a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket in spits of between 150mm and 200mm, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Trench 1 was an 'L' shaped trench which measured 4.00m east-west before turning 16.00m north-south. Like Trench 1, Trench 2 was an 'L' shaped trench which measured 12.00m east-west before turning 8.00m north-south. Trench 3 was orientated north-south and was 20.00m long. All trenches were 2.00m wide at base.
- 6.3 All deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:100, except for Trench 3 which was drawn at 1:20, and the sections at a scale of 1:10. The trenches were surveyed using a total station theodolite. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in colour slide and digital formats.
- 6.4 Two temporary benchmarks were set up on the site at heights of 56.88m OD (TBM 1) and 57.05m OD (TBM 2), which were transferred from a spot height of 57.91 m OD located on the northernmost corner of The Green Man public house.

## **7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **7.1 Phase 1 - Natural**

7.1.1 The earliest deposit seen in all three trenches was a natural slightly weathered clay (referred to as [3] in Trench 1, [6] in Trench 2, and [17] in Trench 3). It was a very firm, light-mid yellowish grey/brown clay with occasional pea grit and small sub-rounded and rounded pebble inclusions. This deposit was encountered at a height of 55.94m OD in Trench 1, 56.05m OD in Trench 2, and 56.12m OD in Trench 3.

### **7.2 Phase 2 – Disturbed Natural**

7.2.1 Overlying the natural clay in all three trenches was a layer of material very similar in composition to the natural but within which were inclusions of a distinctly post-medieval character. This was referred to as [2] in Trench 1, [5] in Trench 2, and [16] in Trench 3.

7.2.2 This layer consisted of a firm, light greyish brown clay with occasional root activity, occasional charcoal flecks, and occasional post-medieval CBM and brick fragment inclusions. This deposit was encountered in Trench 1 at a height of 56.26m OD and was 0.31m thick, in Trench 2 at a height of 56.28m OD and was 0.22m thick, and in Trench 3 at a height of 56.50m OD and was 0.40m thick.

7.2.3 It is concluded that this deposit resulted from the terracing of the site during the post-medieval period.

### **7.3 Phase 3 – Post-Medieval Sub-soil**

7.3.1 This layer was encountered in Trenches 1 and 2. Within Trench 3 the layer appears to have been entirely truncated during the developments described below in Phase 4.

7.3.2 Referred to as [1] in Trench 1 and [4] in Trench 2, this layer was a firm, dark grey, very slightly silty clay with occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded pebbles, small wood, glass, and CBM fragments, and occasional to moderate flecks of charcoal. It was encountered at a height of 56.40m OD and was 0.17m thick in Trench 1 and at a height of 56.65m OD and was 0.42m in Trench 2.

7.3.3 This layer sealed the disturbed natural and appeared to be a post-medieval sub-soil.

#### **7.4 Phase 4 – Early Modern Structures**

- 7.4.1 Within Trench 3 the disturbed natural [16] was cut by two distinct groups of features: a north-south running fence line comprised four posts, [8], [9], [10], [11], and their respective cuts, [12], [13], [14], and [15], and also a brick and concrete foundation, [7], for a demolished out-building of The Green Man pub.
- 7.4.2 The posts were mostly rectangular in shape, except for [10] which was roughly circular. They varied between 140mm-20mm in width and 120mm-20mm in thickness, and belong to a north-south running fence line. Post [8] was encountered at a height of 56.46m OD, [9] at 56.43m OD, [10] at 56.40m OD, and [11] at a height of 56.39m OD.
- 7.4.3 The out-building foundation [7] consisted of a light grey concrete base which was about 0.23m thick. Upon this base a single course of factory-made, orange-red, frogged bricks in a header bond was still extant in parts. The foundation, which occupied the northern end of the trench, ran 9.30m north-south turning 2.00m east-west about mid-way down its length and at the end of its length. The maximum width of the foundation was 0.72m and was 0.30m thick. It was encountered at a height of 56.68m OD, and was observed within construction cut [18].
- 7.4.4 The out-building foundation is early modern in character and from the complete truncation of the post-medieval sub-soil within this trench it is thought that the fence line also dates from the late post-medieval/ early modern period.



## **8 TRENCH SUMMARY**

### **8.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)**

8.1.1 Trench 1 revealed natural clay [3] overlain by disturbed natural clay [2]. This layer was sealed by post-medieval sub-soil [1], which was overlain by modern made ground (0.11m thick) [+] and subsequently tarmac [+].

8.1.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 1.

### **8.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 2 + 4)**

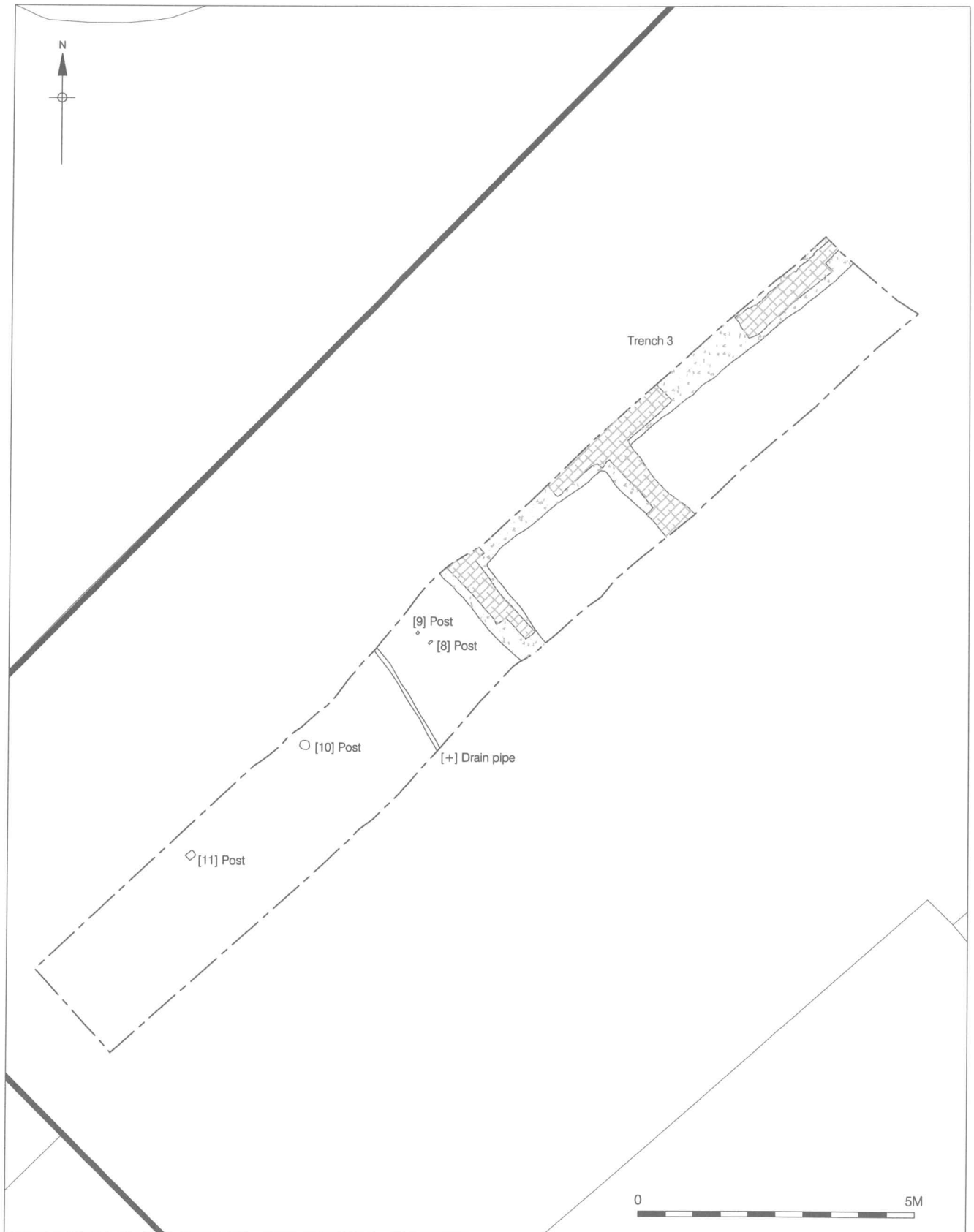
8.2.1 Trench 1 revealed natural clay [6] overlain by disturbed natural clay [5]. This layer was sealed by post-medieval sub-soil [4], which was overlain by modern made ground (0.09m thick) [+], a thin (0.08m thick) reinforced concrete slab [+] and finally tarmac [+].

8.2.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 2.

### **8.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 2 + 3)**

8.3.1 Trench 3 revealed natural clay [17] overlain by disturbed natural clay [16]. Cut into this layer was a north-south running fence line: posts [8], [9], [10], [11] and a concrete and brick foundation for an early modern out-building [7]. These structures were overlain by modern made ground (0.45m thick) [+] and subsequently tarmac [+].

8.3.2 No discrete archaeological features dating from earlier than the post-medieval period were seen in Trench 3.



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
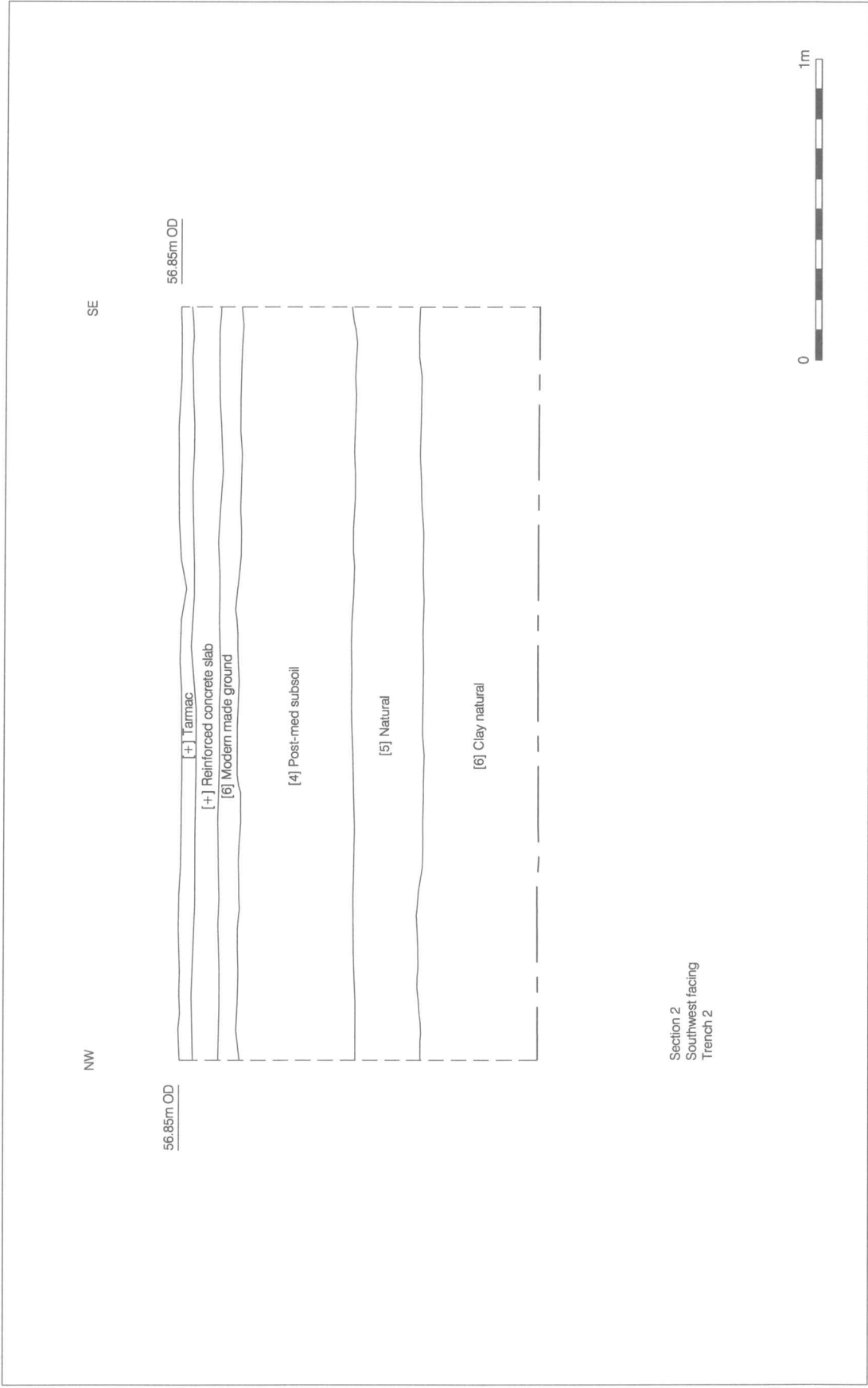
-  Wall
-  Concrete

Figure 3  
Trench 3 Detail  
1:100 at A4



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Figure 4  
Section 2  
1:20 at A4

## **9 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **9.1 Interpretation**

9.1.1 All the trenches revealed natural deposits that were consistent with the underlying geology of this area.

9.1.2 Only post-medieval and early modern deposits were encountered in the three trenches.

### **9.2 Conclusions**

9.2.1 It has been clearly shown by the evaluation that only archaeological deposits from the post-medieval and early modern periods are still extant on the site.

9.2.2 The character of the layer which seals the natural is suggestive of clay that has been disturbed during post-medieval terracing operations. The disturbed natural was recorded at consistent heights across the site, and it is probable that any archaeological deposits have been removed to provide level ground for the outbuildings associated with the pub.

9.2.3 It is proposed that the area to the north of the evaluation site, which is currently in use as a car park, is to remain undeveloped (see Appendix 4). However, should work be required in that area, Kim Stabler of English Heritage has stated that a watching brief will be necessary in order to either confirm that the terracing has extended into the existing car park or that archaeological features are present nearer to the historic road alignment. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd will be advised of the necessity of work in the car park area in due course by the client.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Declan Ryan for commissioning the work on behalf of Peachwalk Properties Ltd / Thornsett Apartments Ltd, and Kim Stabler of English Heritage for monitoring the work.
- 10.2 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for project managing the site and editing this report, Jem Rodgers for surveying, Dave Harris for the illustrations, Lisa Lonsdale for logistical support, and Charlotte Veysey of MoLAS for her work on site.

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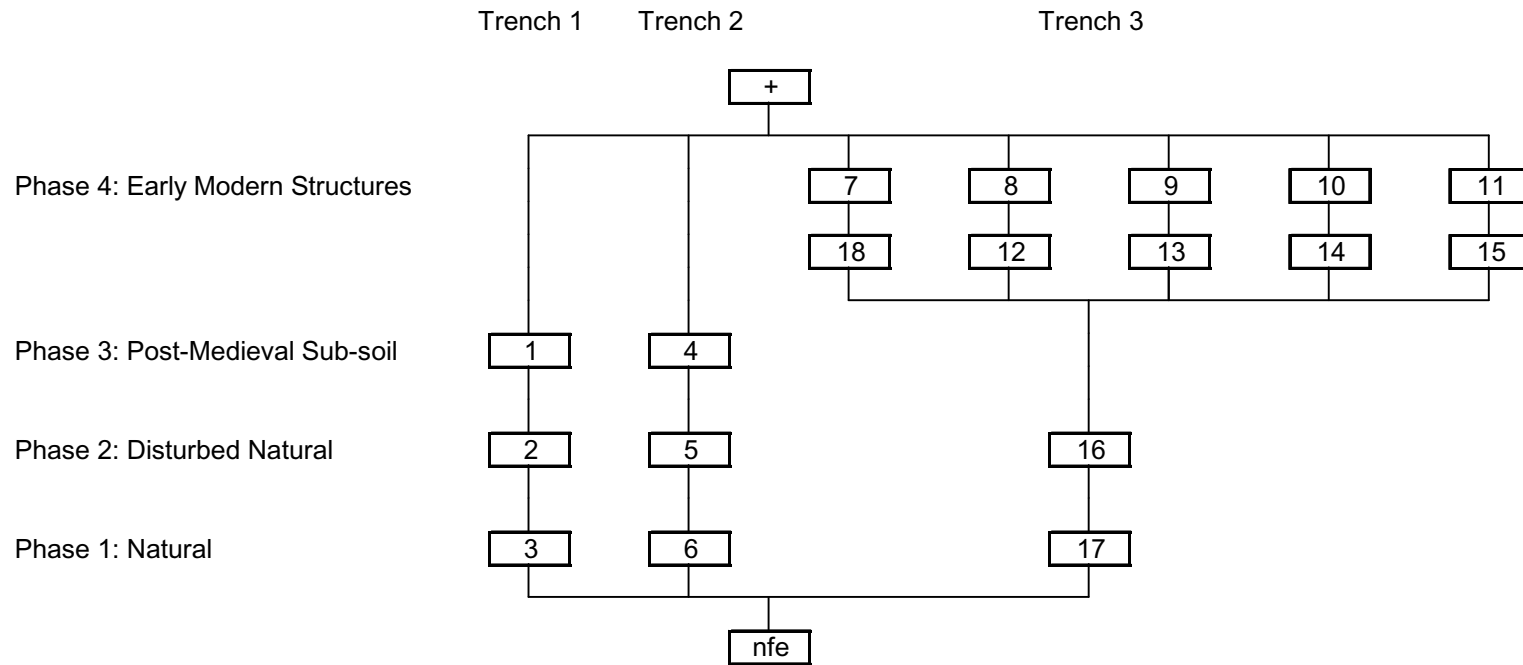
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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase	Photos No.
GMZ 07	1	N/A	S1	Layer	Post-med Sub-soil	Post-med	3	1:2-6 & 2:9-11
GMZ 07	2	N/A	S1	Layer	'Dirty' Natural	Post-med	2	1:2-6 & 2:9-11
GMZ 07	3	Trench 1	S1	Natural	Natural clay	N/A	1	1:2-6 & 2:9-11
GMZ 07	4	N/A	S2	Layer	Post-med Sub-soil	Post-med	3	1:7-13 & 2:2-4
GMZ 07	5	N/A	S2	Layer	'Dirty' natural	Post-med	2	1:7-13 & 2:2-4
GMZ 07	6	Trench 2	S2	Natural	Natural clay	N/A	1	1:7-13 & 2:2-4
GMZ 07	7	Trench 3	N/A	Masonry	Foundation for out-building	Early Modern	4	1:14-19 & 2:5-8
GMZ 07	8	Trench 3	N/A	Timber	Post	Early Modern	4	1:14-19 & 2:5-8
GMZ 07	9	Trench 3	N/A	Timber	<b>Post</b>	Early Modern	4	1:14-19 & 2:5-8
GMZ 07	10	Trench 3	N/A	Timber	Post	Early Modern	4	1:14-19 & 2:5-8
GMZ 07	11	Trench 3	N/A	Timber	Post	Early Modern	4	1:14-19 & 2:5-8
GMZ 07	12	N/A	N/A	Cut	Cut for post [8]	Early Modern	4	N/A
GMZ 07	13	N/A	N/A	Cut	Cut for post [9]	Early Modern	4	N/A
GMZ 07	14	N/A	N/A	Cut	Cut for post [10]	Early Modern	4	N/A
GMZ 07	15	N/A	N/A	Cut	Cut for post [11]	Early Modern	4	N/A
GMZ 07	16	Trench 3	S2	Layer	'Dirty' natural	Post-med	2	1:14-19 & 2:5-8
GMZ 07	17	Trench 3	S2	Natural	Natural clay	N/A	1	1:14-19 & 2:5-8
GMZ 07	18	N/A	N/A	Cut	Cut for masonry [7]	Early Modern	4	N/A

## APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX





## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-26726

### Project details

Project name	The Green Man, Slough Lane, Kingsbury, NW9
Short description of the project	An evaluation consisting of 3 trial trenches. The earliest deposit found was weathered natural clay. Sealing the natural was a 'dirty' natural clay in which traces of post-medieval CBM and brick were visible. The foundations of an early modern brick building and a fence line of wooden posts cut into this redeposited layer were found in Trench 3. While in the other two trenches the 'dirty' natural was overlain by a layer of post-medieval sub-soil. It was concluded that the paucity of medieval or earlier features on this site was probably due to terracing during the post-medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 30-04-2007 End: 03-05-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GMZ 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Modern
Monument type	FENCE LINE Modern
Monument type	REDEPOSITED CLAY Post Medieval
Monument type	SUB-SOIL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BRENT BRENT The Green Man, Slough Lane, Kingsbury, LB Brent
Postcode	NW9
Study area	3850.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2012 8854 51.5824162728 -0.266125914821 51 34 56 N 000 15 58 W Point
Height OD	Min: 55.94m Max: 56.12m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology

Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	James Young Langthorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Thornsett Apartments Ltd.

#### Project archives

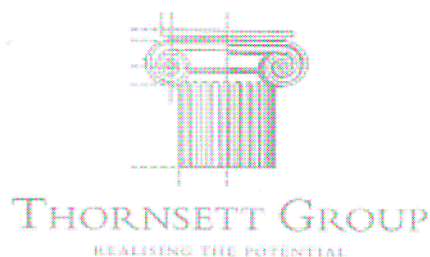
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	GMZ 07
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	GMZ 07
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at The Green Man, Slough Lane, Kingsbury, NW9, London Borough of Brent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Langthorne, J.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 softcover unpublished report

Entered by	archivist (archive@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	4 May 2007

## APPENDIX 4: CLIENT STATEMENT REGARDING WORK IN CAR PARK



08<sup>th</sup> May 2007.  
Ref: 080507/DR/01.

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd,  
Unit 54,  
Brockley Cross Business Centre,  
96 Endwell Road,  
London SE4 2PD.

Dear Mr. Chris Mayo,

**Re: The Greenman, Slough Lane, Kingsbury, London NW9.**

We write to confirm that there is no intention to undertake any major excavation work within the retained car park area during the course of the new development, unless it is necessary to excavate for drainage and services supplies, as this area is due to be overlaid with a tarmac surface finish.

If there is a requirement to excavate for drainage and services then these excavations will be in the form of shallow trenches and we are happy for a watching brief to be undertaken.

Yours sincerely,



Declan Ryan.