

The Green Man Public House, Ickleford, Hertfordshire

HN1279

Report No. 1022

Site name and address:	The Green Man PH, Arlesey Road, Ickleford, Hertfordshire SG5 3UX		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	North Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Ickleford	Parish:	Ickleford
Planning reference:	15/03233/1	NGR:	TL 1820 3160
Client name and address:	Green Man Homes Ltd. & RAK Land Ltd. 10 Station Road, Letchworth Garden City, Herts. SG6 3AU		
Nature of development:	Residential development	Previous land use:	Public House Car Park
Site Status:	Area of Archaeological Significance (AA86)	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	After determination, as a condition	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c.200m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.30m ²
HN Ref:	HN1279	HER consultation:	330/15
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.	Trial trenching	Archive Recipient:	North Herts Museum Service
Start of work	11/10/2016	Finish of work	11/10/2016
Related HER Nos:	N/a	Periods represented:	None
Oasis UID:	heritage1-246596	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	None		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	Ashworth, H. 2016 <i>The Green Man PH, Ickleford, Hertfordshire: Heritage Asset Assessment</i> . Heritage Network Report no.996		

Introduction:

In response to a planning condition on the redevelopment of land at the former Green Man Public House, Ickleford, Hertfordshire, SG5 3UX, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Pentangle Design, acting on behalf of Green Man Homes Ltd. & RAK Land Ltd. to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. Planning permission for the development (15/03233/1) was granted by North Herts. District Council (NHDC), subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). A full specification for the work carried out is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design* dated June 2016.

Narrative:

The site, centred on NGR TL 1820 3160, is located on the northern side of Arlesey Road, at its junction with Turnpike Lane (Figure 1). It lies within Archaeological Area 86 (AA86) on the draft North Hertfordshire District Local Plan. This covers a large area encompassing the medieval core of the village around St Katherine's Church and Upper Green. The buildings on the frontage lie within the Ickleford Conservation Area, although the car park at the rear of the site lies outside.

A desk-based archaeological assessment of the public house and adjoining car park has demonstrated that the site lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, with evidence of activity from the later prehistoric period onwards in the immediate vicinity (Ashworth 2016). The earliest known reference to the Green Man PH is dated 1788, and by the mid 19th century a blacksmith's shop was attached to the public house. The original public house was completely demolished and rebuilt slightly closer to the road in 1970-71. Cartographic evidence has shown that the area of the car park was occupied by a garden in the north-western half and by the eastern end of a large field in the south-eastern half by 1771 (Ashworth 2016, Figure 4). Ordnance Survey maps of late 19th and 20th century date demonstrate that the present site remained undeveloped until it was converted to a car park after 1960.

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The present investigation consisted of the excavation of two trial trenches which were focused on the footprints of the proposed new buildings in the area of the car park to the north-west of the public house (Figure 2).

Both trenches measured 15m in length by 1.8m in width, representing nearly 15% of the car park area.

Trench 1 data:

Length (m):	15	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.74	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	54.74	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	54.33
			Base	53.99			Base	53.75
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Overburden	Tarmac over a sandy clay bedding layer with frequent gravel, over modern brick rubble hardcore.	>15	>1.8	0.4			
-	Layer	Light olive brown (2.5YR 5/4) redeposited soft clay.	>15	>1.8	0.1			
-	Natural	Yellow (2.5YR 8/6) friable clayey sand with occ. small-medium stone inclusions.	>15	>1.8	>0.1			

Trench 1 was located in the western half of the site and was aligned northwest to southeast (Figure 2). The sections exposed a layer of made ground up to 0.4m thick, which consisted of a tarmac surface above a sandy clay and gravel bedding layer over modern brick rubble hardcore (Plate 1). This overlay a thin layer of light olive brown (2.5YR 5/4) redeposited soft clay. The natural substratum, consisting of a yellow (2.5YR 8/6) friable clayey sand with occasional small-medium stone inclusions, was revealed below the subsoil at a depth of 0.50m (Plate 2).

A modern land drain was observed crossing the eastern end of the trench on a northwest to southeast alignment. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 1.

Trench 2 data:

Length (m):	15	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	1	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	54.50	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	54.35
			Base	53.56			Base	53.58
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Overburden	Mixed. Tarmac over sandy clay bedding layer with frequent gravel over modern brick rubble hardcore.	>15	>1.8	0.5			
-	Layer	Light olive brown (2.5YR 5/4) redeposited soft clay.	>15	>1.8	0.2			
	Natural	Yellow (2.5YR 8/6) friable clayey sand with occ. small-medium stone inclusions.	>15	>1.8	>0.1			

Trench 2 was located in the eastern half of the site and was aligned northeast to southwest (Figure 2, Plate 3). The sections exposed an identical stratigraphy to that recorded in Trench 1 (Plate 4).

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 2.

Discussion:

The excavated trial trenches demonstrated a substantial amount of modern made ground which directly overlay the natural clayey sand natural. It appears that the original topsoil was completely removed and the entire site infilled with modern levelling deposits, as bedding layers for the pub car park.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the course of the investigation. No information was gained that would be considered to contribute to the research aims for the evaluation as defined in the approved Project Design. On this basis, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

Illustrations:

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Trench Layout
Plate 1	Trench 1, looking west
Plate 2	Trench 1 section, looking north
Plate 3	Trench 2, looking north
Plate 4	Trench 2 section, looking west

Bibliography

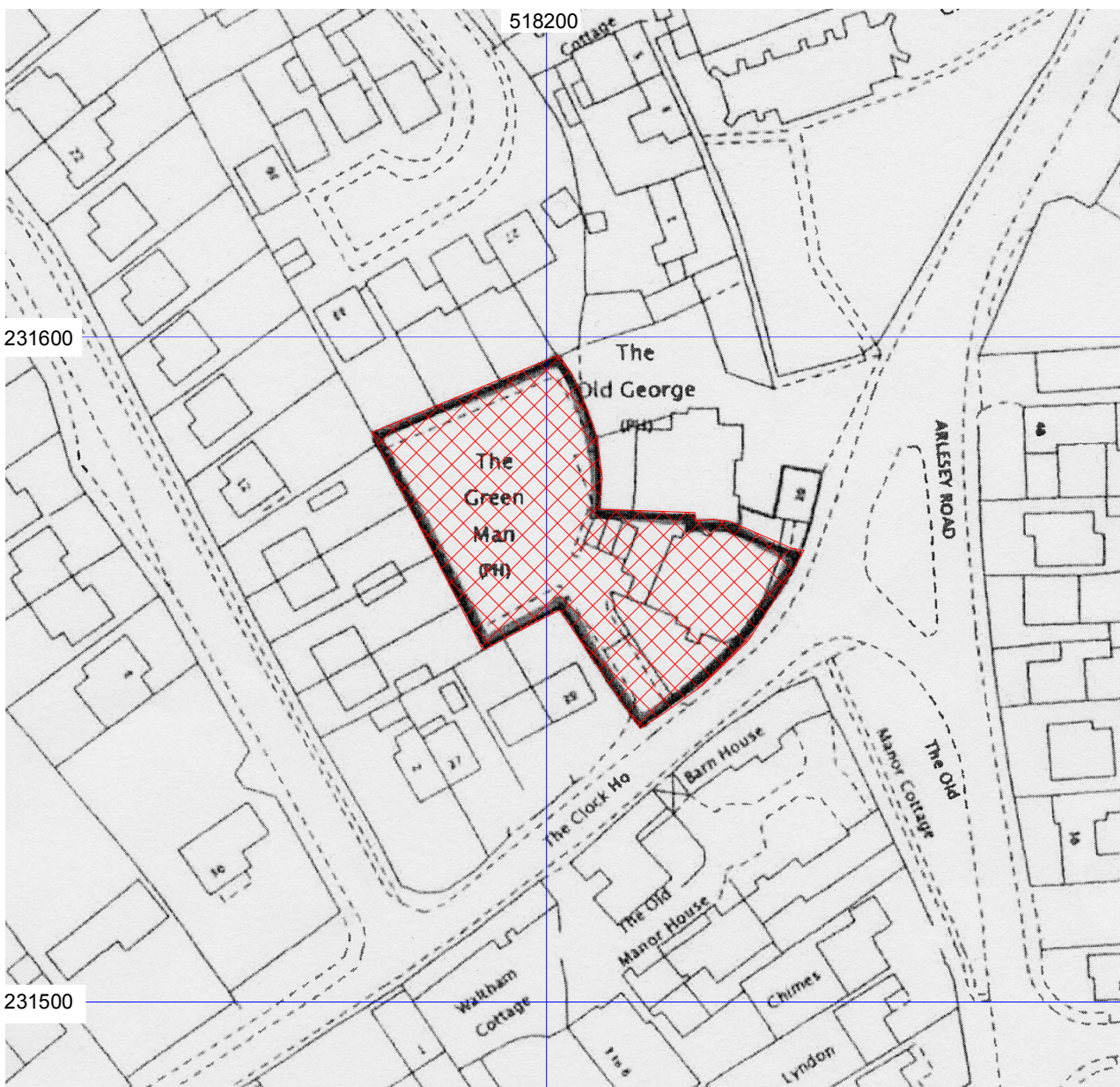
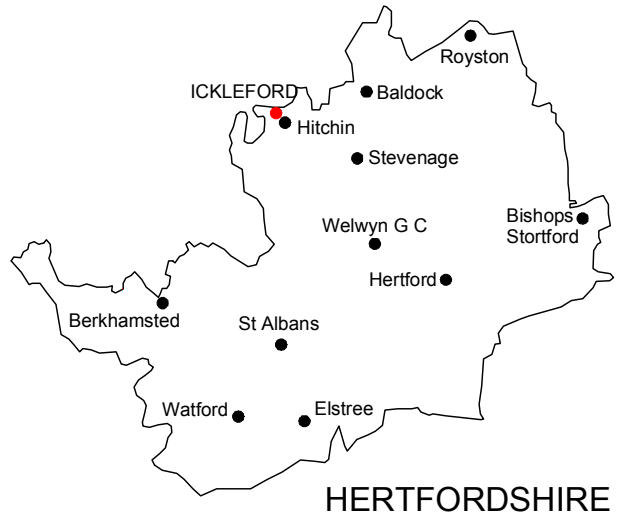
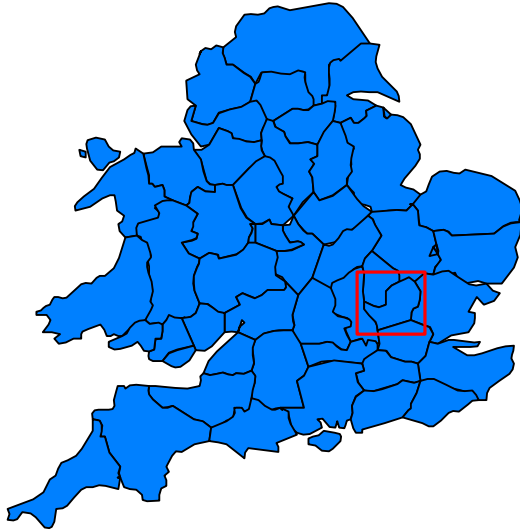
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- Greg Jones, BA (Hons) MA AIFA
October 2016

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THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

The Green Man PH, Arlesey Road,
Ickleford, Herts.

HN1279

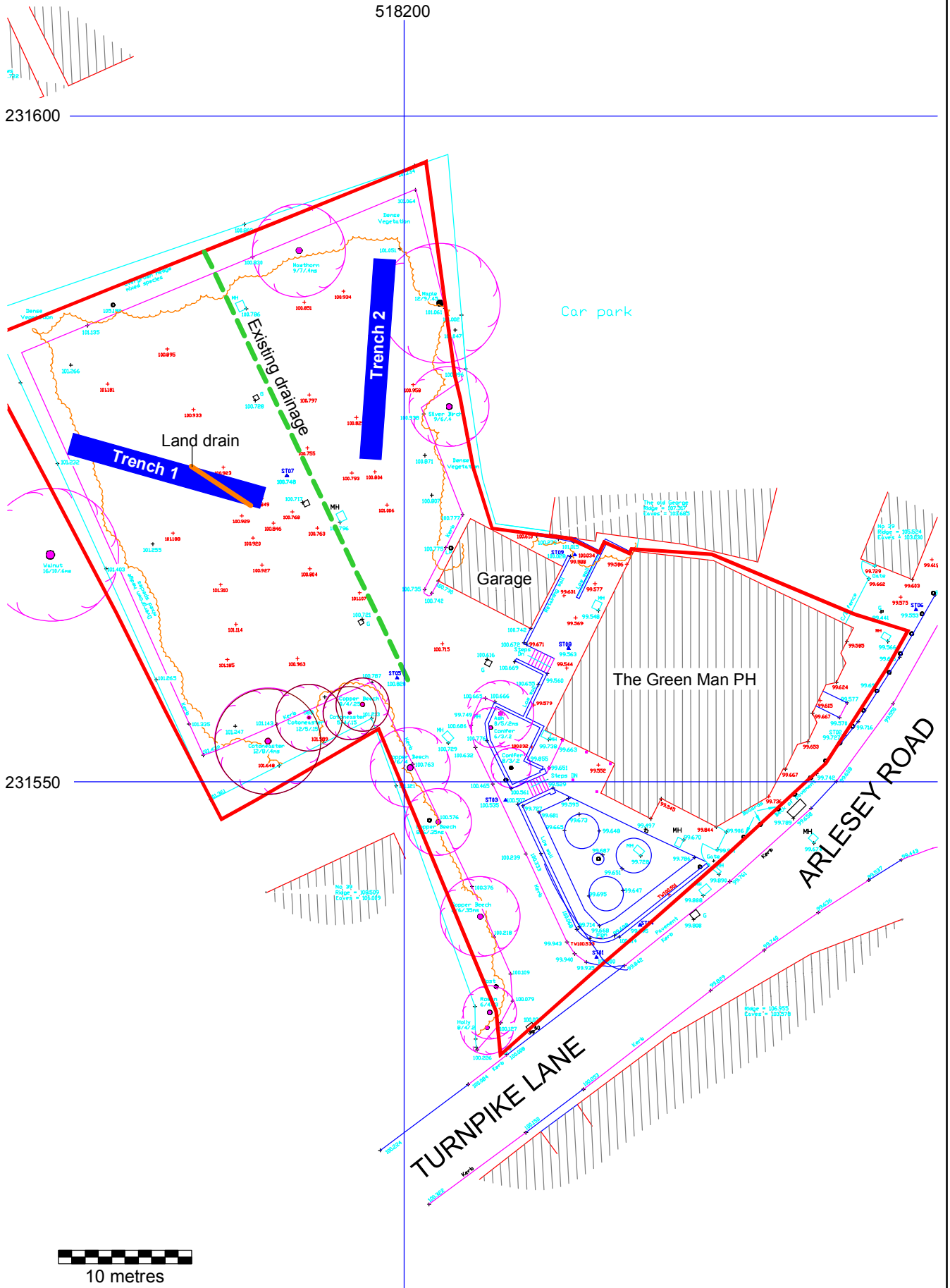


Site Location

Scale 1:1000

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Figure 1



Trench layout

Scale 1:400

Figure 2



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking west



Plate 2: Trench 1 section looking north



Plate 3: Trench 2 looking north



Plate 4: Trench 2 section looking west

Site Name:	Green Man PH, Ickleford	HN ref:	HN1279
	Herts.	Site Code:	

Recorder(s):	GAS	Arrive time:	8:30 am	Return travel:	1W
Date:	11/10/16	Depart time:	15:30pm	Total hours:	

Reported to:	SUKH	Position:	CLIENT.
Purpose of visit:	EVALUATION		

Photograph film no	N/A		
Staff on site:	GAS, MS	Gate Code: 1999	
Observations:			

07973505938 - Sukh (Client).

Opened up both trenches by lunch time. Both trenches were blank. Stratigraphically it appeared as though the site had been stripped to natural and then built up with mortar and bricks (red machine made bricks 19m/20m c) as a bedding layer for the car park, with tarmac overlying the overburden.

No archaeology. Both trenches were cleared, photographed and recorded, levels taken and further site and cover shots taken.

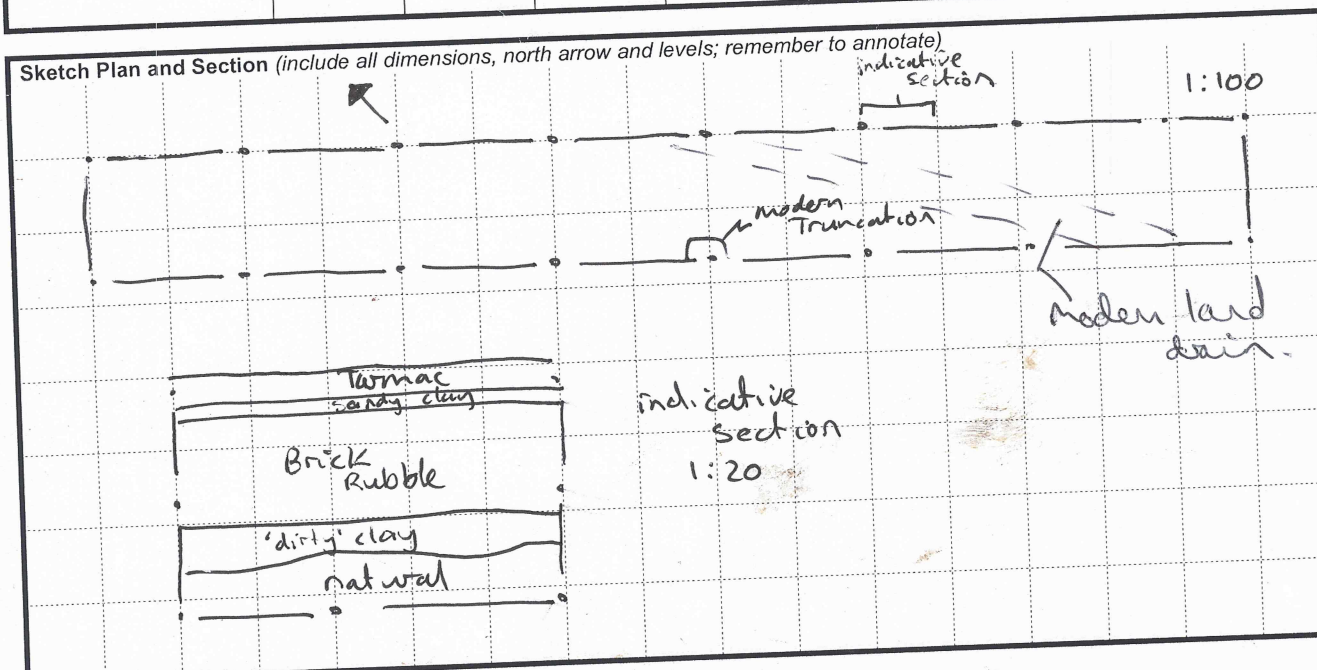
(at 12:30pm)

Andy Instone was telephoned and he agreed that the trenches could be backfilled once recorded as long as photos were sent to him by email.

Weather:	Fog in morning / Sun afternoon.	Sheet	1	of	5
Additional records:					
Text sheet(s)					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sketch sheet(s)					<input type="checkbox"/>
Context form(s)					<input type="checkbox"/>
A4 Scale dwng(s)					<input type="checkbox"/>
A3 Scale dwng(s)					<input type="checkbox"/>
Photographs					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SITE CODE HN1279	Site Name Green man PH, Ickleford	Sub-division —	Orientation NW-SE	TRENCH No 1
	Length 15m	Width 1.8m	Depth 0.74-0.58m	
	Machine Type JCB	Bucket Size 1.8m		

Topsoil/Overburden		Composition Tarmac over sandy clay bedding layer (frequent gravel) over Brick rubble hardcore	Depth 0.4m					
Colour Mixed								
Subsoil		Composition soft clay (dirty) redeposited or trampled during construction	Depth 0.1m					
Colour 2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown								
Natural		Composition friable sand clayey sand occ. small-medium stone inclusions	Depth > 0.1m					
Colour 2.5Y 8/6 yellow								
Observations (circle)	Archaeology	Root activity	Structure	Contamination	Unstable	Mod truncation	Other:	
	Bur'd horizon	A. Burrows	Services	Flooding	Blank	Plough mark		



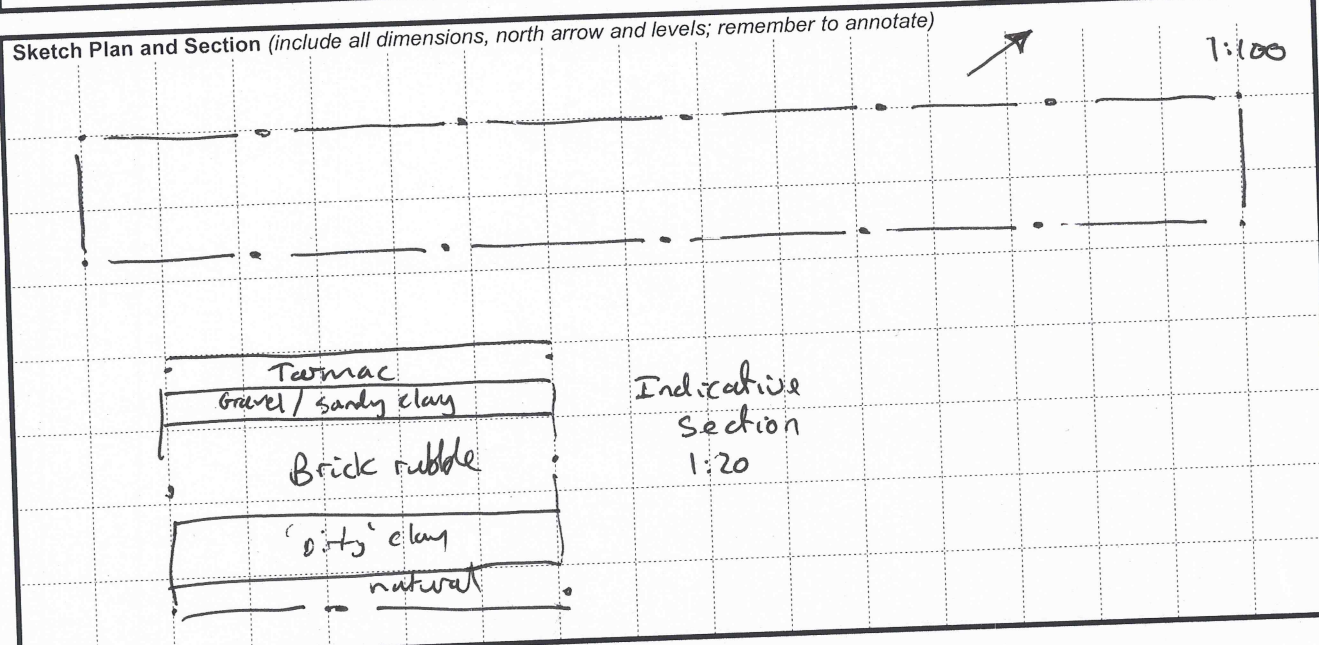
Discussion and interpretation

no archaeology present.

Contexts	/			Signature	MS
Finds	/			Date	11/10/16
Plan no.	see above		Photo (b/w)	Checked	✓ CM
Section no.	/		Photo (colour)	Cont.	
Levelled	Located	Samples	/		
Weather conditions	Dry, overcast				

SITE CODE HN1279	Site Name Green man PH ickleford	Sub-division -	Orientation NE-SW	TRENCH No 2
	Length 15m	Width 1.8m	Depth 1m - 0.76m	
	Machine Type JCB	Bucket Size 1.8		

Topsoil/ Overburden		Composition Tarmac - Bedding layer - Hardcore	Depth 0.5m					
Colour Mixed								
Subsoil		Composition soft clay redeposited or contaminated by construction	Depth 0.2m					
Colour 2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown								
Natural		Composition friable clayey sand occ. small-medium stone inclusions	Depth 20.1m					
Colour 2.5Y 8/6 yellow								
Observations (circle)	Archaeology	Root activity	Structure	Contamination	Unstable	Mod truncation	Other:	
	Bur'd horizon	A. Burrows	Services	Flooding	Blank	Plough mark		



Discussion and interpretation

no archaeology present Banding in natural light grey bands through out.

Contexts				Signature	MS
Finds				Date	12/10/16
Plan no.	see above	Photo (b/w)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Checked	✓ CIA
Section no.	above	Photo (colour)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cont.	
Levelled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Located	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Weather conditions	Dry, overcast				

Site Name / Code					Page 1	
The Green Man Public House, Ickleford, Herts. TW1279.						
Date	Details	TBM value	Backsight	Collimation	Foresight	Reduced level
11/10/16	TR1 Northend (T)	53.57	2.24	55.81	1.07	54.74
	↓ (B)	53.57			1.82	53.99
	TR1 SE (T)				1.48	54.33
	↓ (P)				2.06	53.75
	TR2 W. End (T)				1.31	54.5
	↓ (B)				2.25	53.56
	TR2 SE End (T)				1.46	54.35
↓ (B)			2.23	53.58		
		52.4	2.17	54.57	1.12	53.45
	TRAVERSE → WORKING			54.57	2.24	

Site Name / Code		The Green Man PH, Tickford, Herts.				
HN1279						
Site	Shot Number	Details	View	Date	Time	Initials
HN1279	1	Trench 1 Tr. shot	LW	11/01/16	-	GAS
	2	↓	LW		-	
	3		LE		-	
	4	↓	LE		-	
	5	Trench 1 shot Tr. shot	LW		-	
	6	indicative section	LW		-	
	7	Trench 2 Tr. shot	LW		-	
	8	↓	LW		-	
	9		LW		-	
	10	↓	LW		-	
	11	Trench 2 shot.	LW		-	
	12	↓	LW		-	
	13	Cover shot	LN		-	
	14		LN		-	
	15		LN		-	
	16		LN		-	
	17		LW		-	
	18		LN		-	
	19		LN		-	
			LW			