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CAPABILITY
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Edgehill Park, Whitehaven, Cumbria, Phase 4

Report type: Archaeological Evaluation
Report No. Y608/22

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Grid Ref	NX 97418 15710

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Quality Procedures.

**Edgehill Park, Whitehaven,
Cumbria: Phase 4**

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. Y608/22

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of phase 4 of an archaeological trial trenching evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in September 2022 in advance of a residential development at Edgehill Park, Whitehaven, Cumbria (NGR: NX 97418 15710) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Story Homes.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for this programme of works, dated July 2022 was produced by CFA on behalf of Story Homes. The WSI covered the requirement for a trial trenching evaluation. It was designed to fulfil the requirements of the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) and was agreed in advance of works. The specification was produced by CCCHES (2014).

1.2 Background

A desk-based assessment (CFA 2011) and geophysical survey (CFA 2014a) was previously undertaken and the results of these have informed the location of trial trenching on the site.

This report covers Phase 4 of the archaeological trial trenching evaluation. This work continues on from previous trial trenching undertaken during Phases 1-4 of the development (CFA 2014b, 2018).

1.3 Site Location and Description

The Proposed Development area comprises an area of pasture grassland surrounding High House Farm. The site is divided approximately in two by a trackway which runs through the centre, oriented east/west from Gammeriggs Road to High House Farm. South of the trackway the field slopes steeply, leading to an area of waterlogged ground. The site is also marshy and waterlogged in the north-western corner.

The underlying geology is Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation with superficial deposits of Till, Devensian diamicton (BGS 2018). The drift geology comprises of clayey-loam to sandy-loam (LandIS 2018).

1.3 Objectives

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development, should they exist on the site. The evaluation specifically tested possible archaeological remains identified as geophysical anomalies.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance as necessary.

2.2 Evaluation

Six 20m by 1.5m trenches (Tr. 1-6, Fig. 1) were excavated. Topsoil and subsoil were removed by a mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All ground-breaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

All excavation and on-site recording were carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

A total of six trenches (Tr. 1-6) were excavated (Fig. 1). A summary of these trenches can be found in Appendix I.

The topsoil across the site consisted of a mid-dark grey/brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of coal. Topsoil was generally 0.18-0.27m deep. Subsoil consisted of a mid-yellow brown clayey silt between 0.04-0.26m thick, the thicker subsoils correspond positively with the respective trenches situated on the south and eastern slopes. The natural substrate consisted predominantly of a mid-yellow brown clayey silt with isolated seams of coal. Where the trenches were located upon the upper break of slope facing east and west, shaley bedrock was revealed interspersed with laminations of mid-yellow sandy clay which would overly mid-yellow brown silty clay with patches of bluish grey clay.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was undertaken on Phase 4 of the Edgehill Park development, an area considered to be low potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains. The trial trenching targeted a number of possible post-medieval field boundaries, furrows and geophysical anomalies.

No archaeological features, furrows or field boundaries were identified in any of the trenches and the geophysical anomalies were all determined to be geological in nature. The lack of visibility of the aforementioned features is likely the result of a combination of factors namely, the ground cover and uneven terrain and/or the particular form the former field boundaries may have taken, e.g., hedgerows.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with an appropriate repository. A summary statement will be reported on through *OASIS*.

5. REFERENCES

CCCHES 2014 *Brief for an archaeological evaluation on land bounded by Woodhouse, High Road and Wilson Pit Lane, Whitehaven, Cumbria (Development Phases 2-6)*, Cumbria Historic Environment Service

CIfA, 2014a, *Standard and Guidance Archaeological Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA, 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA, 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Gater, J 2014 *Wilson Pit Road, Whitehaven, Cumbria: Geophysical Survey*, CFA Archaeology Report No. Y141/14

Lee, E 2008 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. Historic England.

Lightfoot, M 2011 *Land at Wilson Pit Road, Whitehaven, Cumbria: Archaeological Deskbased Assessment*, CFA Archaeology Report No. YO33/11

Mann, P 2014 *Wilson Pit Road, Whitehaven, Cumbria, Phase 1: Archaeological Evaluation*, CFA Archaeology Report No. Y136/14

Mann, P 2018 *Land off Wilson Pit Road, Whitehaven, Cumbria, Phases 3/4*. CFA Archaeology Report No. Y354/18

Online Resources

BGS, 2018, <http://www.bgs.uk> British Geological Survey (Accessed 05/05/2018)

Landis, 2018, <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes> (Accessed 05/05/2018)

6. APPENDICES

Appendix I: Trench Summary

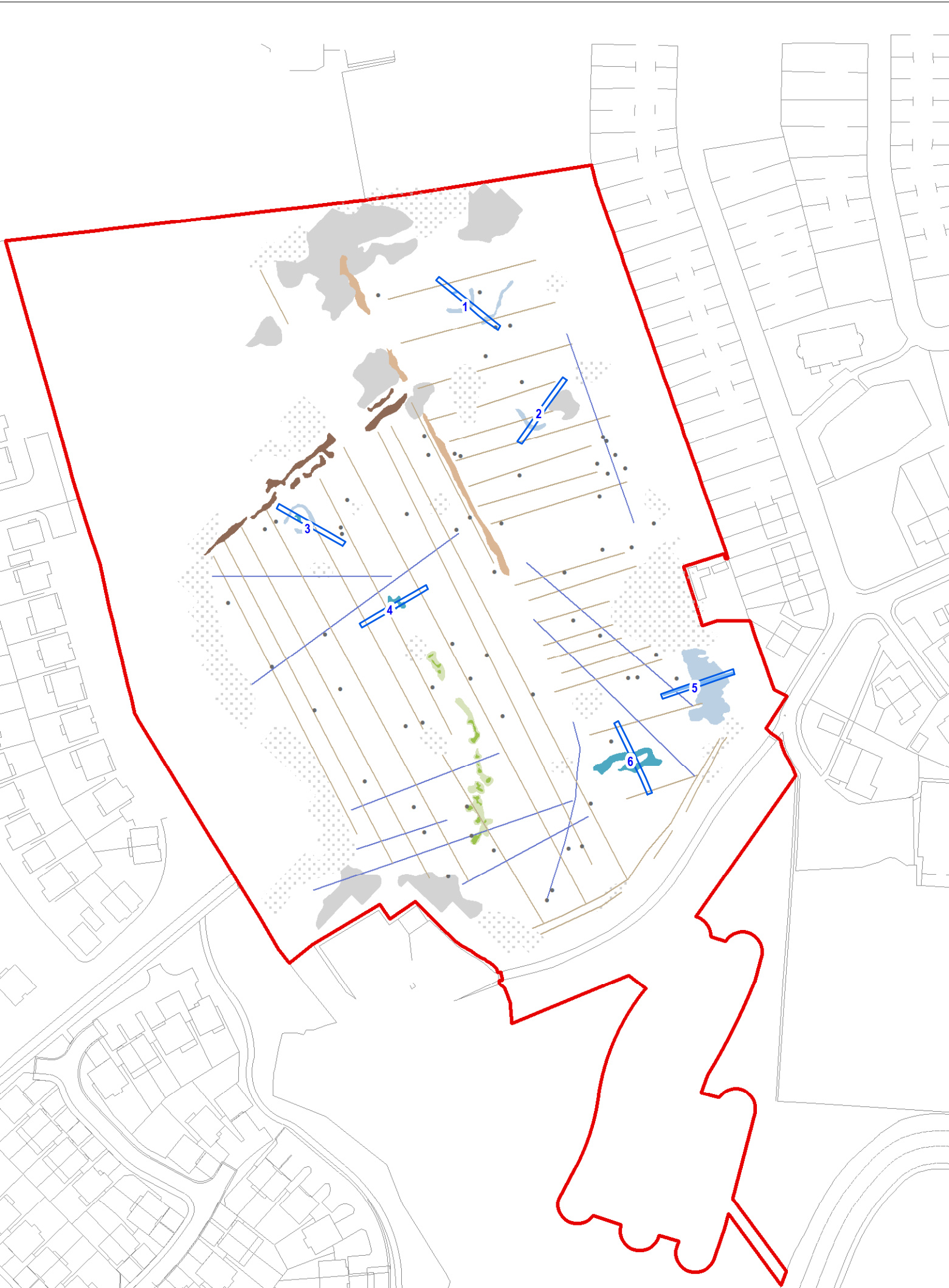
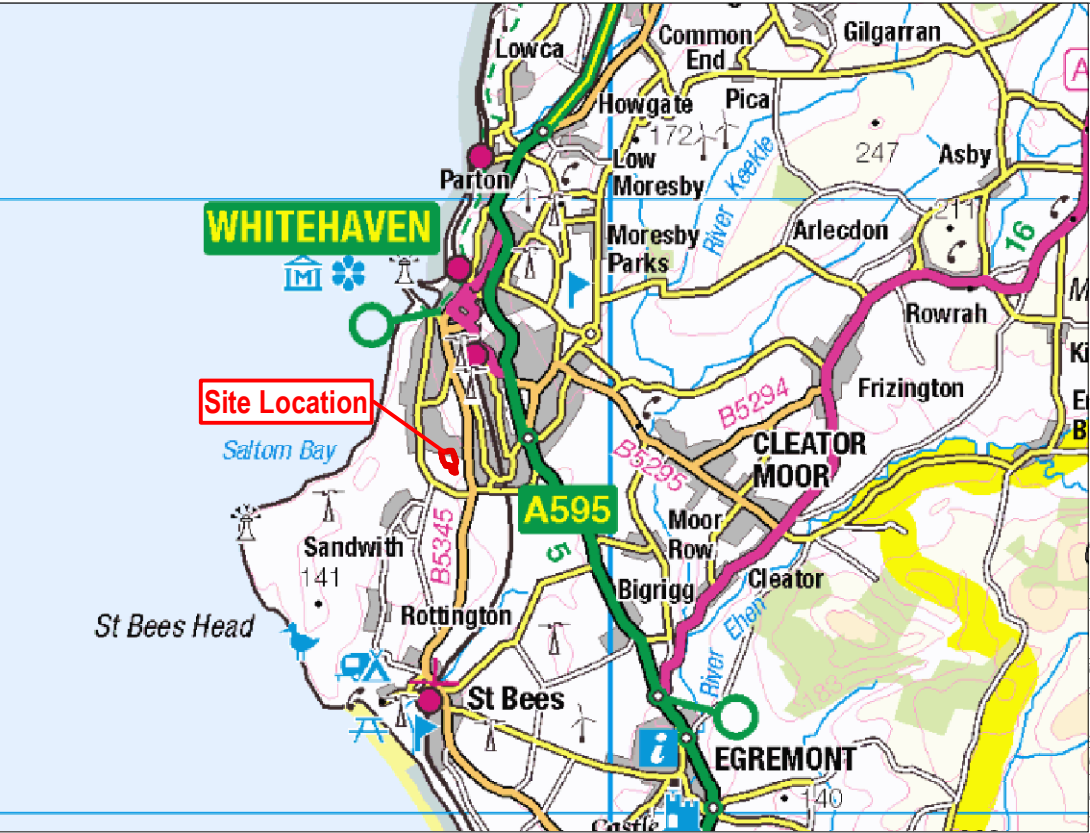
Trench Number	Description
1	<p>Trench 1 measured 20m by 1.5m and was orientated north-west south-east. Situated at the brow of an eastern sloping hill it targeted four geophysical anomalies.</p> <p>Two of these appeared on the geophysics as furrows but were unidentifiable during excavation. Of the remaining two geophysical anomalies, another remained unidentified, and one presented itself as a shallow spread of colluvium. No archaeological features were present.</p>
2	<p>Trench 2 measured 20m by 1.5m and was orientated north-east south-west. Situated on the upper break of slope of the eastern sloping hill, it targeted four geophysical anomalies.</p> <p>Two of these appeared on the geophysics as furrows but were once again unidentifiable during excavation. Of the remaining anomalies, one corresponded to a change in the natural geology and another as a narrow, isolated coal seam. No archaeological features were present</p>
3	<p>Trench 3 measured 20m by 1.5m and was orientated north-west south-east. Situated on the plateau of the hill, it targeted one geophysical anomaly and a probable furrow.</p> <p>Neither the furrow nor the geophysical anomaly targeted in this trench was identifiable. No archaeological features were present.</p>
4	<p>Trench 4 measured 20m by 1.5m and was orientated east-west on the plateau of the hill, it targeted three probable furrows and a cluster of discrete geophysical anomalies.</p> <p>The furrows were not identifiable, and the geophysical anomalies presented themselves as sterile patches of pale blueish grey clay adjacent several irregular shaped natural patches of fragmented coal.</p>
5	<p>Trench 5 measured 20m by 1.5m and was orientated east-west. Situated on a moderately steep south-easterly slope, it targeted a large geophysical anomaly and a linear trend towards its western extent. A sondage was excavated to a depth of 0.59m to investigate the potential for any colluvial deposits towards the base of the slope.</p> <p>The linear trend was not identified, and the large geophysical anomaly was an area of exposed shaley bedrock. A land drain running east-west was present throughout the entire length.</p>
6	<p>Trench 6 measured 20 x 1.5m and was orientated north-west south-east. Situated on the southerly slope, it targeted two furrows at either end, and an irregular shaped geophysical anomaly in the centre.</p> <p>The furrows were not identifiable, and the geophysical anomaly was geological in nature; a series of shaley laminations interspersed with layers of coal.</p>

Appendix II: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description	Facing
1	Trench 1	S
2	Trench 1	N
3	Trench 2	E
4	Trench 2	W
5	Trench 3	SE
6	Trench 3	NW
7	Trench 5	E
8	Trench 5	W
9	Trench 6	S
10	Trench 6	N
11	Trench 4	E
12	Trench 4	W

Appendix III: OASIS Entry

OASIS ID (UID)	cfaarcha1-510191
Project Name	Evaluation at Edgehill Park, Phase 4, Whitehaven
Sitename	Edgehill Park, Phase 4, Whitehaven
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	WIP18
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	CFA Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	13-Sep-2022 - 13-Sep-2022
Location	Edgehill Park, Phase 4, Whitehaven NGR : NX 97418 15710
Administrative Areas	Country: England County: Cumbria District: Copeland Parish: Whitehaven
Project Methodology	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Edgehill Park Phase 4, Whitehaven, prior to the construction of residential housing.
Project Results	A total of 6 trenches measuring 25m x 2m were targeted to investigate a number of possible post-medieval field boundaries, furrows and geophysical anomalies however no significant archaeology was uncovered.
Keywords	Evaluation
Funder	Story Homes Ltd
HER	Cumbria HER - noRev - LITE
Person Responsible for work	CFA Archaeology
HER Identifiers	None
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Cumbria Archive and Local Studies Centre, Whitehaven;



Key:

Site Boundary

Geophysics

Agricultural (Strong/Line)

Agricultural (Weak)

Magnetic Disturbance

Ferrous/Debris (Spread)

Natural (Strong/Line)

Natural (Weak)

Undetermined (Strong/Line)

Undetermined (Weak)

Agricultural (Trend)

Drainage Feature (Trend)

Ferrous (Spike)

Geophysical Survey Data © Magnitude Surveys

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Title:
Site Location and Trench Plan

Project:
Edgehill Park, Whitehaven,
Cumbria

Client:
Story Homes Ltd

Scale at A3:
1:1,500

Drawn by: SB	Checked: SW	Date: 04/11/2022
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Fig. 2: South facing view of Trench 1



Fig. 3: North-west facing view of Trench 5

Project:
Edgehill Park, Whitehaven, Cumbria



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Drawn by: SB	Checked: SW	Date: 04/11/2022
Report No: Y608/22		Fig. No: 2 - 3



Fig. 4: South facing view of Trench 6

Project:
Edgehill Park, Whitehaven, Cumbria



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Report No: Y608/22		Fig. No: 4



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