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FREELANCE ARCHAEOLOGIST & CONSULTANT**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AT PLOT 3, MANOR FARM,  
TOWN ROAD,  
QUARRINGTON, SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE.

**National Grid Reference: TF 0564 4450**

**Site Code: MFQA10**

**Accession No: LCNCC: 2010.91**

**Planning Reference: 10/0365/FUL (Revision of N/57/1046/08)**

PREPARED FOR MR. MARK WRIGHT

By

Neville Hall MIFA

July 2010

## **List of Contents:**

### **Summary**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Site Location and Description**
- 3. Planning Background**
- 4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Monitoring**
- 5. Archaeological and Historical Background**
- 6. Methodology**
- 7. Results**
- 8. Discussion and Conclusions**
- 9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating**
- 10. Acknowledgments**
- 11. Bibliography**

## **List of Figures:**

- Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000.
- Figure 2:** Site location showing the layout of Plot 3 at an original scale of 1:1,250 (extract from Architects plan).
- Figure 3:** Plan Showing the Monitored Foundations & the Location of Representative Sections 1-4 at an Original Scale of 1:100 & of Representative Sections 1-4 at an Original Scale of 1:20.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1:** Plates
- Appendix 2:** List of Contexts
- Appendix 3:** OASIS Summary Sheet

## **Summary**

- *The archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation of the foundations for a new two-storey residential dwelling with attached garage on land at Plot 3, Manor Farm, Town Road, Quarrington, Lincolnshire was carried out by Neville Hall MIFA on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2010.*
- *The monitored mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new build footprint identified two simple deposit sequences within the monitored area. To the west, this comprised a topsoil/ploughsoil horizon which overlay a natural subsoil and a second natural horizon made up largely of weathered cornbrash limestone fragments. To the east, the topsoil/ploughsoil horizon was replaced in this sequence by a modern made ground deposit, which was quite substantial in places. This and a slightly reduced ground level at the eastern fringes of the new build area were associated with the siting and the recent removal of a farm outbuilding that had been associated with the nearby Manor Farm.*
- *No archaeological features, deposits structures or finds that could be associated with the medieval and/or post-medieval settlements of Quarrington were identified. It is also considered that this development site was beyond and to the west of the early/mid Saxon settlement.*
- *Due to the absence of archaeological activity on this site and following consultations between the author and the local planning authority archaeologist, it was agreed that no further monitoring would be required.*

## 1. Introduction

Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by Mr. Mark Wright to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation of the foundations for a new two-storey residential dwelling with attached garage on land at Plot 3, , Manor Farm, Town Road, Quarrington, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference TF 0564 4450. The archaeological monitoring was carried out at the development site on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2010.

The work was carried out according to the requirements of an archaeological condition, which was attached to the granting of planning consent for this development by North Kesteven District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and acting on the advice of Ms Liz Mordue, Assistant Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire, in her capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the LPA. This is in accordance with the principles established in *PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010), and *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999).

Copies of the final report will be deposited with the client, Ms Jenny Young (on behalf of the local planning authority), the Planning Department of North Kesteven District Council, the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and the Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

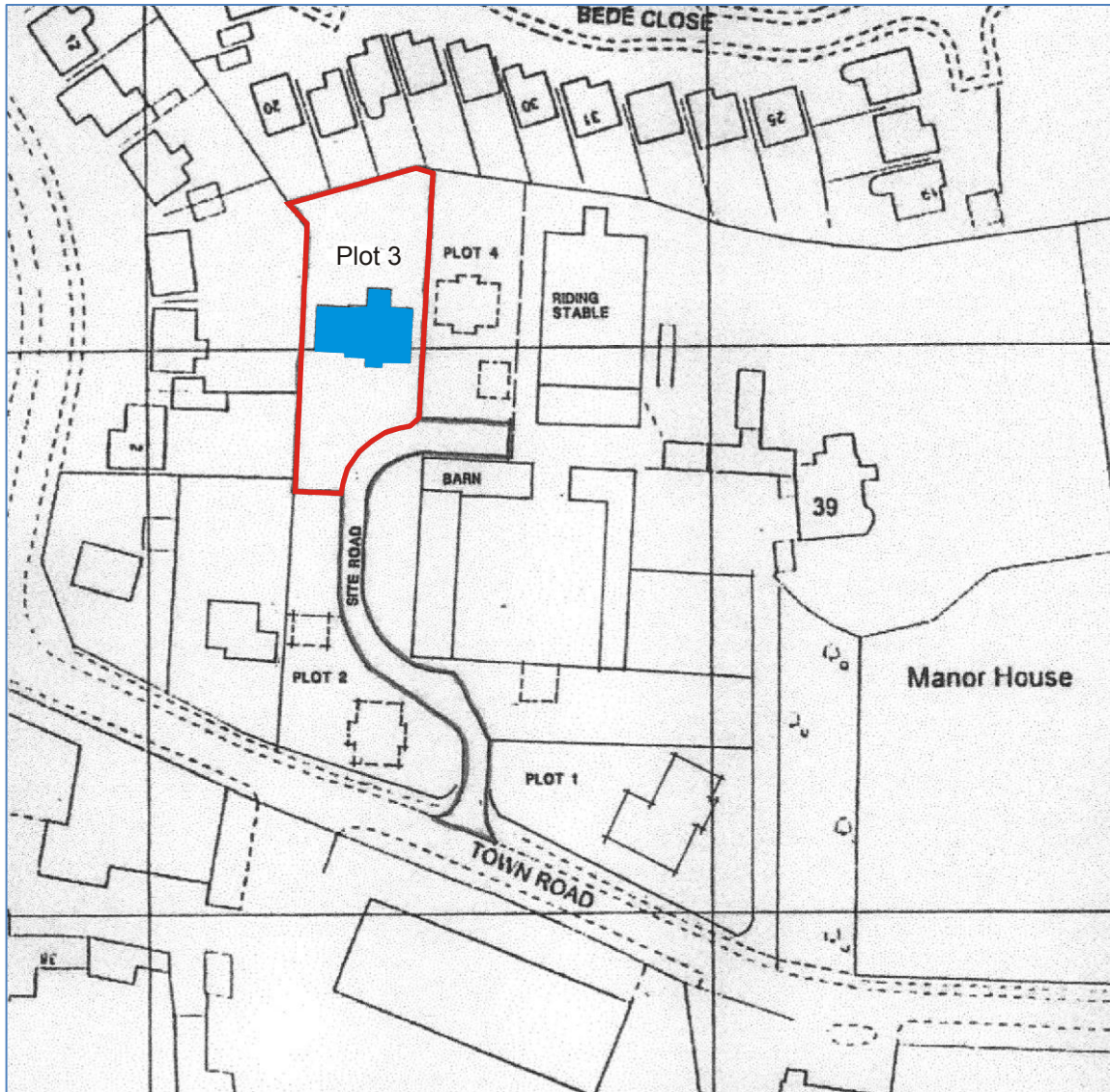
## 2. Site Location and Description

The development site comprising Plot 3 is situated to the immediate north-west of Manor Farm, to the north of Town Road, within the historic core of the settlement of Quarrington, at National Grid Reference TF 0564 4450, and at a height of approximately 20mAOD. Quarrington is located approximately 16.5km to the south-east of Grantham and approximately 2km to the south-west of Sleaford, in the civil parish of Sleaford, within the administrative district of North Kesteven, county of Lincolnshire [Figures 1-2].

The development site is located on an undulating upland area. The development site is also situated on deep permeable calcareous coarse and fine loamy and sandy soils of the Ruskington Series, which have in turn developed on deposits of glaciofluvial sands and gravels. The underlying solid geology comprises Cornbrash of the Middle Jurassic [BGS, 1996; Soil Survey, 1983].



**Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red.  
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**Figure 2:** Site location showing the layout of Plot 2 at an original scale of 1:1,250 (extract from Architects plan). The site boundaries are shown in red.

### 3. Planning Background

A planning application for the proposed erection of a new two storey residential dwelling with attached garage on land at Plot 3, Manor Farm, Town Road, Quarrington, Lincolnshire (Planning reference: 10/0365/FUL (revision to previously approved application N/57/1046/08) has been submitted to and granted consent by North Kesteven District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA). However, as the proposed development is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area and within the historic core of the village of Quarrington, a condition (No. 5) was attached to this consent which stated that:

*No development shall take place unless and until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of an agreed written specification that sets out a programme*

*of work to archaeologically monitor groundworks during development. The specification should be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*The programme of work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the agreed specification. A final report of the archaeological findings will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within six months of the completion of the development, or such longer period as may be agreed by the Local Planning Authority.*

A specification for the archaeological monitoring was submitted to and approved by Ms Jenny Young, Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire (on behalf of the LPA) prior to the commencement of the on-site works.

#### **4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Monitoring**

The aims of the project were the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which comprised the excavation of foundations and services for the construction of the new two storey residential dwelling with attached garage.

The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

As the development site is situated within the historic core of the village, the specific objectives of the project were to record any archaeological features, finds, structures and/or deposits associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Quarrington. A previous archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new house on Plot 1 to the south-east identified pits and ditches associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlements along with residual finds of Iron Age, Roman and early-mid Saxon pottery. It was anticipated that similar such finds may be encountered on this site.

#### **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 0.5km radius of the centre of the development site. The Heritage Gateway website was also consulted for additional data.

There is some evidence for potential prehistoric activity within the search area. The cropmark of a possible prehistoric enclosure is located to the south-east of the London Road (HER 63943). This has been identified from aerial photographic sources. An isolated Neolithic cremation burial was found during an excavation on land to the north of Town Road in 1995 along with other scattered finds of a fragment of polished stone axe and several other isolated flint finds (HER 60646) [Walker & Lane, 1996]. A flint scraper of Bronze Age date was found during a watching brief that took place during the construction of a single residential dwelling in 1996 on land at Northfield Road (HER 60595) [Herbert, 1996].

The archaeological investigations of land to the north of Town Road in 1995 also found some evidence of peripheral Romano-British settlement activity comprising a single pit and a number of

severely truncated features, the latter of which produced sherds of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD pottery (HER 60648) [Walker & Lane, 1996].

Archaeological trial trenching and subsequent full excavation in advance of housing development between 1992-5 identified the remains of an early-mid Anglo-Saxon settlement along with associated small scale industrial activity (HER 60487). This was a significant site because of the longevity of the settlement and that these investigations also yielded one of the largest assemblages of Anglo-Saxon pottery found in this country, which ranged from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The settlement activity at the site comprised ditches, pits, gullies and postholes. Two distinct pit groupings were located, one of which yielded evidence of early Saxon metalworking that consisted of slags, hearth linings, mould and crucible fragments. Some lines of postholes were identifiable as representing the lines of buildings. Several rectangular and sub-circular shaped structures as well as at least one grubenhaus were also identified. The absence of late Saxon pottery tended to suggest that the settlement had perhaps been abandoned by this time [Walker & Lane, 1996]. It is possible that the focus of this settlement then moved slightly to the west to the location of the present settlement, which from place name evidence may have originated in this late Anglo-Saxon period.

The earliest documentary reference to the settlement of Quarrington dates from AD1060 when it is referred to as *Cuernintune*. The first element in the place name is a derivative of the Old English *cworn* or mill to which was added the Old English suffix *ing* or a place i.e. 'a place with a mill'. The Old English *tun* or farmstead/village was further later added, hence 'the farmstead/village of the millers' [Cameron, 1998; Ekwall 1991; Mills, 1991].

At the time of the Domesday Survey of AD1086, this settlement is referred to as *Cornintone*. Lands here were variously held by the King, the Bishop of Lincoln and Ramsey Abbey. Domesday also records that the manor of Quarrington had sokeland in Old Sleaford, Dunby St. Andrew and Morton, two churches and at least three mills. This latter reference has been taken to denote that arable farming was a significant economic activity in this part of Lincolnshire even before the Norman Conquest [Morris, 1986; Sawyer 1995].

Later medieval documentary references variously refer to this settlement as *Querentone* (AD1178); *Quercut* (AD1175); *Querinton* (AD1202) and *Queringtone* (AD1219) [Cameron, 1998; Ekwall 1991; Mills, 1991].

A watching brief took place in 2009 to the immediate south-east of the development site during the construction of a new residential dwelling on Plot 1 (HER 65260). The findings from this watching brief appear to confirm that the early-mid Saxon settlement was perhaps confined to the east of this development site and that later medieval and post-medieval settlement activity was more likely to be found within the development site itself. The 2009 watching brief located several settlement features of medieval and later date. This consisted of two pits of 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> century date and of 10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> century date from pottery finds from them. Two drainage and/or boundary ditches, one dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the other to the 16<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> centuries were also found. These features also contained redeposited earlier material which comprised sherds of early-mid Saxon pottery (HER 65693), single sherds of Iron Age pottery (HER 65694) and Roman pottery (HER 65695). Two undated pits were also found [Mellor, 2009].

A further watching brief during the groundworks for a new residential dwelling with attached garage on Plot 3 to the north of this development site in 2010 identified deposit sequences of topsoils/ploughsoils and made ground overlying natural subsoil horizons. No activity associated with the medieval and/or post-medieval settlements of Quarrington were found at this location [Hall, 2010].

The cultivation remains of possible medieval ridge and furrow have been identified from a site walkover survey to the south of Town Road and to the south-east of Home Farm in 2006 (HER 64062), as part of an archaeological desk based assessment of a pipeline route. Two medieval

pottery sherds were also recovered from this area. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow and a former associated headland were found during the archaeological investigations to the north of Town Road in 1995 (HER 60649) [Walker & Lane, 1996].

The site of a stone cross is located at Stump Cross Hill (HER 65261). The remains of this cross appear to have gone by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

There are a number of Grade II listed buildings in the search area that are located within the historic core of the settlement of Quarrington. The church of St. Botolph is a small 13<sup>th</sup> century church composed of a nave and a three-bay north aisle with an early 14<sup>th</sup> century west tower, which was restored in 1887 (HER 64798). The chancel was added in 1862. This church may be located on the site of one of the earlier churches that is documented in the Domesday Survey [Pevsner & Harris, 1995; DoE, 1986].

The Manor House, which is located to the south-east of the development site, is a late 17<sup>th</sup> century house, later a Georgian farmhouse, which still later underwent extensive mid-19<sup>th</sup> century alterations. A brick garden wall to the Manor House is also encompassed by this listing (HER 64799). Nos. 22-24 Town Road comprise a single mid-19<sup>th</sup> century house (HER 640800) along with Nos. 32-34 Town Road which are a pair of former estate cottages dating to 1842 (HER 64874). Bristol Farmhouse is a late 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse and is also Grade II listed along with farm outbuildings to the north of the farmhouse (HER 64875-6).

The archaeological excavation that took place on land to the north of Town Road in 1995 also located the foundations of a stone building or grain drier of post-medieval origin along with other finds of three ditches, a rubbish pit that contained 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery and two further pits that contained horse and calf burials respectively (HER 60647) [Walker & Lane, 1996].

A geophysical survey in 1996 of land at Quarrington Glebe to the north-west of the development site and in advance of new housing development did not find any definitive evidence of archaeological activity in this area (HER 60650) [Johnson, 1996].

To the south of Town Road and to the west of the London Road, a desk based assessment carried out in association with a pipeline route in 2006 identified a number of circular features from aerial photographic sources. This assessment concluded that these were associated with recent equestrian activity comprising horse exercise rings (HER 65259).

Copies of manuscript and Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps were obtained from the Lincolnshire Archives. The enclosure award map for the Lordship of Quarrington of 1794 (Archive ref. Kesteven Award 67) shows the area of the development site as being located within an open field (plot no. 57) with the Manor House to the east in the adjoining plot no. 58. By the Second Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1905, plot no. 57 was subdivided by the addition of a north-south orientated field boundary, though the development site is still situated within an open field. The modern O.S. map, which dates to 2006, shows modern residential development to the north and west of the development site with the Manor House complex to the south-east [Figure 1].

## 6. Methodology

The archaeological monitoring at the development site was undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2010. This comprised the continual monitoring and recording of the mechanical excavation of the foundation trenches for the new two storey residential dwelling with attached garage [Figure 3].

Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. A plan at an original scale of 1:50 was made of the monitored foundation trenches and of the location of the four



representative sections [designated as **Representative Sections 1-4**] recorded therein at a scale of 1:20. This plan is reproduced in this report at a scale of 1:100 and the sections at the original scale of 1:20 [**Figure 3**]. A complimentary colour photographic digital record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-7, Appendix 1**. A list of contexts is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.

All work was carried out according to the approved Specification and to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

## **7. Results [Figure 3; Appendix 1, Plates 1-7]**

The foundations for the new two-storey residential dwelling with attached garage had already been set out prior to arrival.

The mechanical excavation of the foundations for this new build were continually monitored and recorded. The excavations were carried out by a JCB excavator that was fitted with a 0.90m wide toothless bucket. The foundation trenches were thus of an average width of 0.90m and were excavated to depths of between 0.80m to 1.0m below ground levels.

This archaeological monitoring identified a simple sequence of a topsoil/ploughsoil horizon (**001**) which overlay a natural subsoil horizon (**002**). This was in turn over a second natural horizon (**003**). This second horizon contained a high proportion of angular stone fragments in its make-up, which were derived from the underlying bedrock of cornbrash limestone. This sequence was identified in the western portion of the site and was recorded within two sections – **Representative Sections 1 and 2**.

Over the corresponding eastern part of the site, this sequence changed slightly. This change was associated with the siting and recent removal of a former farm outbuilding. The outline of this building was still discernible on the ground as a slightly reduced area of an average lower level of approximately 0.20m at the eastern extremity of the site. To the west of this was an area of a modern made ground deposit (**004**), which was undoubtedly associated with this former building. This made ground deposit (**004**) in effect replaced the topsoil/ploughsoil horizon (**001**) in the deposit sequence in the eastern portion of the site.

The modern made ground deposit (**004**) was quite substantial in places and overlay the natural subsoil horizon (**002**), which in turn sealed the second natural horizon (**003**). This second simple deposit sequence was recorded within two further sections - **Representative Sections 3 and 4**.

No archaeological features and /or deposits were identified in the monitored area and no finds were made.

## **8. Discussion and Conclusions**

The groundworks for this development comprising the mechanical excavation of the new build foundations were extensively monitored and recorded.

The monitoring identified two deposit sequences across the monitored area. To the west, this comprised a topsoil/ploughsoil deposit which overlay a natural subsoil and a second natural horizon which included fragments of weathered cornbrash limestone fragments in its make-up. To the east, this sequence was found to be slightly different with a modern made ground deposit replacing the topsoil/ploughsoil horizon. This change was associated with the siting and recent removal of a former farm outbuilding (associated with the nearby Manor Farm) as was a slight reduction in ground levels at the eastern fringes of the site.

The monitoring did not identify any archaeological features, deposits and structures that could be associated with the medieval and/or post-medieval settlements of Quarrington and no finds were made.

It is also considered that this development site was beyond and to the west of the early/mid Saxon settlement.

The remaining groundworks will comprise the excavation of a short length of service trench southwards from the new build, however, because of the absence of archaeological activity within the monitored area, it was agreed that no further such monitoring would be necessary.

## **9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating**

The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated the absence of archaeological activity on this site; while providing sufficient time to record the deposits observed. A more detailed level of archaeological assessment and investigation clearly would not have been necessary. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to ensure the absence of archaeology present within the area of the development site with a high degree of confidence.

## **10. Acknowledgements**

Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. Mark Wright for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Ms Jenny Young of Heritage Lincolnshire, and to the staff of the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record, the Lincoln Central Library and the Lincolnshire Archives for their kind assistance.

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## Appendix 1: Plates



**Plate 1:** Pre-groundworks, from the east



**Plate 2:** Pre-groundworks, from the south



**Plate 3:** Work in progress, from the south



**Plate 4:** Work in progress, from the south



**Plate 5: Representative Section 1,** from the east



**Plate 6:** Work in progress, from the north



**Plate 7: Representative Section 2, from the south**

#### **Appendix 2: List of Contexts**

- 001** Topsoil/ploughsoil horizon. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small angular stones & medium-large fragments of cornbrash. Depth – 0.44m.
- 002** Natural subsoil horizon. Soft, light orange brown clayey silt with occasional small angular stones. Depth 0.22m.
- 003** Natural horizon. Friable, light yellow brown sandy silt with small-large angular cornbrash fragments 60%. Depth - >0.30m.
- 004** Modern made ground deposit. Comprised redeposited topsoil, medium-dark grey brown clayey silt with frequent small angular & rounded stones & demolition atrial made up of small-large brick, tile & concrete fragments 5% & occasional large fragments of stone masonry. Overlay (002). Depth – 0.50m.

**Appendix 3: OASIS Summary Sheet**



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OASIS ID - nevilleh1-78825

#### Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Neville Hall MIFA	nevillehallmifa@googlemail.com	29 June 2010

#### Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

#### Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

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