



RAMSGATE SPORTS CENTRE
HIGH STREET
RAMSGATE
KENT

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	85890	ACCESSION CODE	CLIENT CODE
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	F/TH/11/0195	NGR	637838, 165260

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
		M.KELLEHER	REG		10.08.12	

*** I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL**

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs consulting on behalf of Inter Services Group PLC (the Client), to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief for a development at Ramsgate Sports Centre, High Street, Ramsgate, Kent. The Site is centered on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 637838, 165260. The development consists of the construction of two swimming pools with associated facilities and a new entrance to the existing Ramsgate Sports Centre.

The groundwork consisted of the excavation of a large L-shaped area approximately 370m² and a foundation trench for the retaining wall of the new building (**Figure 1**). The Site lies upon a gradual slope upwards from the north-east to the south-west.

The purpose of the groundwork was to reduce existing ground levels to that of the existing sports centre. No archaeological finds or features were recovered from the Site during the course of the watching brief. The watching brief was carried out on the 22nd and 25th of June and the 16th and 17th of July 2012.

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Inter Services PLC (the client) and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Suzanne Gailey in this regard.

The report was researched and compiled by Marie Kelleher and illustrations were prepared by Daniel Jackson. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex.

**RAMSGATE SPORTS CENTRE, HIGH STREET,
RAMSGATE, KENT
CT11 9TT**

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Inter Services Group PLC (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Ramsgate Sport Centre, High Street, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 9TT (hereafter known as 'the Site'), centered on National Grid Reference 637838, 165260.
- 1.1.2 An archaeological watching brief was requested by Kent County Council, following the submission of a planning application (F/TH/11/0195) for the proposal to develop the land to the south of the existing Ramsgate Sports Centre with plans for additional swimming facilities comprising of a six lane 25m pool and a training pool as well as associated facilities, and a new entrance to the existing sports centre.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with Kent County Council's *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. The specification illustrated the strategy, techniques and methods to be employed by Wessex Archaeology's archaeologist during the fieldwork.
- 1.1.4 All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008).
- 1.1.5 The fieldwork was conducted on the 22nd and 25th June and the 16th and 17th of July 2012.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located to the south west of High Street in Ramsgate Town Centre. The Site comprises of a large sports centre building, with a car park and a lawn area in the southern part of the Site. The Site is bound by the High Street and associated buildings to the north and north-west, an Infant School to the east and residential properties to the west.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies upon a gentle slope upwards from the north-east to the south-west. The underlying geology of the Site is comprised of head deposits of sandy silt overlying bedrock chalk (Seaford formation). Due to previous development and landscaping at the Site, the natural stratigraphy was only encountered in the southern part of the Site.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological Background

- 2.1.1 The Lower Palaeolithic began in Britain with the earliest activity of hominids such as *Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis* and *Homo neanderthalensis*, and in the Upper Palaeolithic of Anatomically Modern Humans. Prehistoric activity within the area surrounding the Site is relatively sparse. The Kent Historic Environment Record does not hold any entries for the Palaeolithic period in the immediate area. A small number of Mesolithic implements and a few isolated finds from the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age have been recorded from a 500m radius.
- 2.1.2 Evidence of Romano-British activity within the immediate area consists of a possible cemetery within the area due to an urn found 300m north-east of the Site. A ritual shaft with associated pits surrounding dating to the Romano-British period, was discovered 250m north of the Site containing a large amount of pottery and animal bone. A findspot 200m north of the Site also revealed a large collection of Romano-British pottery.
- 2.1.3 Anglo-Saxon evidence from the area consists of an isolated burial with associated grave goods that was excavated close to Ramsgate train station. It is thought that during the Medieval period the Site itself would have been used for agriculture, but Ramsgate would have existed as a small coastal settlement at this time.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The aim of the watching brief as specified in the Kent County Council *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Ramsgate Sports Centre, High Street, Ramsgate*, was:
- To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.
 - To contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Kent County Council Specification and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008).

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 The watching brief monitored all groundwork associated with the reduction of the level of the land in preparation for the proposed development. The excavation of the L-shaped area began at the top of the slope in the south

east corner and worked backwards towards the sports centre to the north. The reduction of the ground varied from between 2.10m in the south to 0.50m in the north. The excavation was carried out using a machine with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket.

- 4.2.2 On the eastern extent of the excavated area a foundation trench was excavated for the retaining wall of the swimming pool. The alignment of the trench was south west- north east, with the excavation beginning in the south west. At its deepest point the trench was 4.00m in depth but was gradually stepped up as it was excavated; the trench was 0.80m wide.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *Pro forma* recording system. A unique site code (**85890**) was issued for the investigation.
- 4.3.2 A photographic record which contains digital images was maintained throughout the excavation, illustrating both the detail of the excavated areas and the Site as a whole.

4.4 Health and Safety

- 4.4.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974*, the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992* and *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1997*, and all other relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.4.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a site-specific Risk Assessment was produced (Wessex Archaeology 2012). All site staff involved in the works signed and complied with this document.

5 FIELDWORK RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section presents the results of the archaeological watching brief. Detailed descriptions of the stratigraphy encountered across the Site are produced in **Appendix 1**. In addition to this **Figure 1** shows the location of the area monitored and the Site location as a whole. **Plates 1-5** provide photographs of the stratigraphic sequence across the Site and the Site overall.

5.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

- 5.2.1 A varied stratigraphic deposit model was identified across the Site. The deposits within the area excavated (**Trench 1**) comprised of a topsoil layer overlying a made ground layer throughout most of the trench, apart from the south west corner where the topsoil overlaid a subsoil layer. The preservation of the subsoils and natural layers varied across the Site as the land had been developed and landscaped previously.

5.3 Archaeological Results

Trench 1

- 5.3.1 The excavation of the L shaped area at Ramsgate Sports Centre was monitored over two days. The excavation of the area revealed made ground layers **102** at a depth of 0.38m and **103** at 0.23m beneath the topsoil layer **101** over much of the Site. However in the south eastern corner of the Site subsoil deposits **104** at 0.48m, and **105** at 0.92m, were encountered, as there had been no previous development in this area. Over the rest of the Site the previous development had removed subsoil **104**, leaving some of subsoil **105** intact above the natural layer **106**. At the northern extent of the area excavated only made ground layer **102** was encountered.

Trench 2

- 5.3.2 The excavation of the foundation trench was monitored over two days. The foundation trench was monitored when it extended north of the area that had been previously watched. The depth of the trench varied between 2.00m-4.00m, with the deepest point towards the south-west on the higher part of the sloping ground. A similar stratigraphic model was encountered in Trench 2 as was in Trench 1. In the south western half of the trench, topsoil **201** overlaid subsoil layer **202** at a depth of between 0.23-0.44m. Beneath this the natural chalk was revealed, **203**. Towards the north eastern section of the trench made ground layers were encountered. Made ground layer **204** was approximately 1.15m in depth and **205** was between 1.15-2.00m.

6 ARTEFACTS

- 6.1.1 No artefactual evidence was recovered from the watching brief or from the excavated spoil.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 7.1.1 No features suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The monitoring of the groundwork for the development at Ramsgate Sports Centre was carried out over four days. No archaeological finds or features were identified or recovered during the monitoring of the Site. The trenches excavated had a varied stratigraphy comprising of made ground layers and head deposits and the bedrock geology. The survival of natural soils in the southern extent of the trenches increased the potential for the survival of archaeological remains but none were encountered. The previous ground impact across the remainder of the Site prevented the survival of any *in situ* archaeological remains.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 9.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's *Guidelines for Archive Preparation* and in accordance with

Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage (Walker 1990) and following the nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995). On completion of the project the archive will be deposited with the County Museum Service or similar repository to be agreed with the archaeological advisor at Kent County Council.

9.2 The Archive

9.2.1 Following the fieldwork the archive was transported to Wessex Archaeology's Rochester Office. The documentary records from the watching brief have been compiled into a safe fully cross referenced and indexed archive in accordance with appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

9.2.2 The contents of the project archive, comprises an A4 ring-bound file containing the following (as further detailed in **Appendix 1**)

- 2 Record Sheets
- 2 Photographic Record Sheets
- Day Book (5 Sheets)
- A copy of the Kent County Council Specification
- A copy of the Risk Assessment

9.3 Discard Policy

9.3.1 The project archive including written record and photographs are currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Rochester Office under the site code **85890**. As no artefactual evidence was recovered no agreement from the landowner is required in relation to the deposition of the archive.

9.4 Copyright

9.4.1 Full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum however will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003.

9.5 Security Copy

9.5.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (NMR) (English Heritage) in Swindon; a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the appropriate local museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

10 REFERENCES

CgMs 2012, *Land at Alliance Leisure Centre, Ramsgate, Kent; Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Kent County Council 2012, *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Ramsgate Sports Centre, High Street, Ramsgate Thanet, Kent*

SMA 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*. Society of Museum Archaeologists

Walker K. 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage*. UKIC Archaeology Section

Online Sources

<http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic/>

<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer/>

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

Trench 1

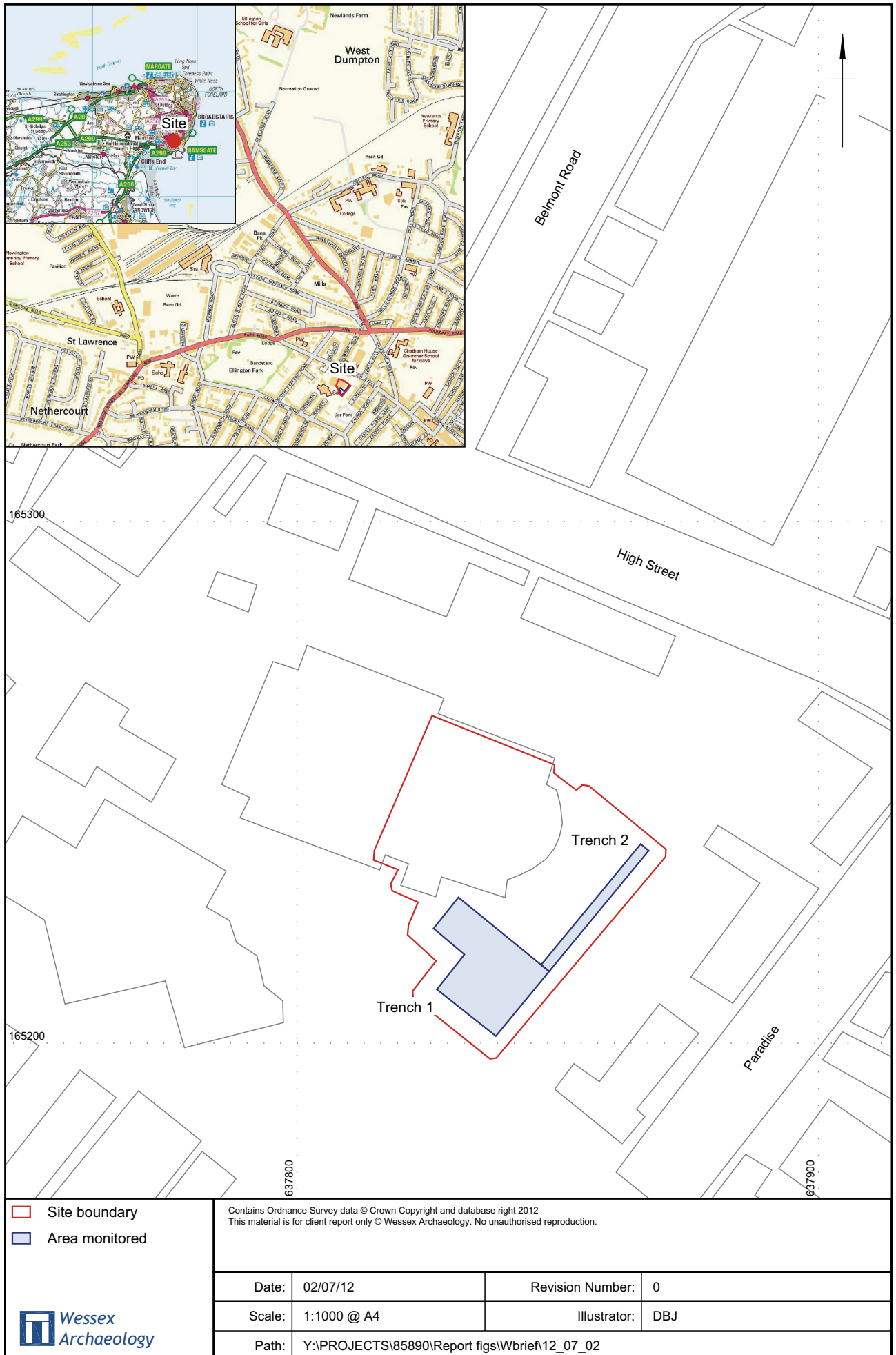
Context	Category	Description	Depth
101	Topsoil	Mid Grey Brown, silty clay with frequent stones and rooting (stones sub-angular/sub-round) flint inclusions. Varied in depth, less over made ground layer	0.00-0.48m
102	Made Ground	Dark blackish grey silty clay with inclusions on concrete, tarmac, orange sand and demolition material- high amount of bricks	0.37-0.71m
103	Made Ground	Light brownish white redeposited chalk layer, used to make up ground beneath topsoil- inclusions, sand and some stones	0.23-0.67m
104	Subsoil	Light orange brown, firm sandy silty clay with some sub-angular/sub-round flint gravel	0.48-0.92m
105	Subsoil	Light yellow brown silty clay with sub-angular/sub-round fine-course flint gravel and a high amount of chalk lumps	0.92-1.40m
106	Natural	Light brownish white densely packed chalk lumps, infilled with light yellowish brown silt	1.40m+

Trench 2

Context	Category	Description	Depth
201	Topsoil	Mid Grey Brown, silty clay with frequent stones and rooting (stones sub-angular/sub-round) flint inclusions	0.00-0.23
202	Subsoil	Light orange brown, firm sandy silty clay with some sub-angular/sub-round flint gravel	0.23-0.44
203	Natural	Light brownish white densely packed chalk lumps, infilled with light yellowish brown silt	0.44+
204	Made Ground	Dark blackish grey silty clay with tarmac, concrete, orange sand and gravel	0.00-1.15
205	Made Ground	Very loose gravel and sand with mid grey brown silt	1.15+

APPENDIX 2: KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HER SUMMARY FORM

Site Name: Ramsgate Sports Centre, High Street, Ramsgate	
Site Address: Ramsgate Sports Centre, High Street, Ramsgate Kent CT11 9TT	
Summary of discoveries: No archaeological finds or features were encountered upon the excavation of an area and foundation trench at Ramsgate Sports Centre.	
District/Unitary: Thanet	Parish: Ramsgate
Period(s): N/A	
NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): 637838, 165260 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) 22/06/2012 and 25/06/2012	
Unit/contractor undertaking recording: Wessex Archaeology (Rochester)	
Geology: Subsoil depth- 0.48m and 0.92m, Natural chalk depth- 1.40m	
Title and author of accompanying report: 'Ramsgate Sports Centre, High Street, Ramsgate; Archaeological Assessment Report'- Wessex Archaeology 2012	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Ramsgate Sports Centre, High Street, Ramsgate, Kent, whereby an area was excavated by machine for the construction of new swimming facilities at the site. The groundworks were monitored throughout the excavation and no archaeological finds or features were recovered from the site. 2 layers of subsoil were recorded at depths of 0.48m and 0.92m and the natural chalk was recorded at 1.40m. There was a high amount of made ground present at the site due to a previous development. <p style="text-align: right;">(cont on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: Wessex Archaeology (Rochester)	
Contact at Unit: Richard Greatorex	Date: 26/06/2012



Site location plan showing excavated area

Figure 1



Plate 1: Excavated Area looking north west



Plate 2: Excavated Area looking north

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Plate 3: North west facing section of excavated area



Plate 4: South east facing section of excavation area

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Plate 5: South east facing section of excavation area

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