

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Days Garage  
Forsethlyn and rear of 76-98 Main Road  
Broomfield, Essex**

**NGR: TL 7086 0949**

**Planning Ref: CHL 16/01451/FUL**

**ASE Project No: 170070**

**Site Code: BRDG17**

**ASE Report No: 2017006**

**OASIS id: archaeol6-276100**



**By Craig Carvey**

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<b>Date of Issue:</b>	<b>March 2017</b>		
<b>Revision:</b>			

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**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and to the rear of 76-98 main road, Broomfield, Essex between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Higgins Homes in advance of residential development. Nine evaluation trenches were investigated.*

*No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the evaluation. A large late 19th / 20th century quarry pit, backfilled with china, glass and building demolition, was located in Trench 6. All other features belong to 20th century activity.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Higgins Homes to conduct an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Land at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and rear of 73-98 Main Road, Broomfield, Essex.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out in relation to a planning application CHL 16/01451/FUL for the site.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The site consisted of a roughly triangular plot of land. The site is positioned between Broomfield main road to the west, Saxon Way to the south, Roselawn Farm to the East and residential housing to the north.
- 1.2.2 The site is split between two levels: the highest to the south-west consisting of Days Garage forecourt, and the lower on the eastern side of site consisting of overgrown vacant land.
- 1.2.3 The forecourt area was relatively flat. The lower vacant field had a slight slope running north-west down towards the south-east.
- 1.2.4 The British Geological Survey indicates a bedrock of London Clay, with overlying superficial head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS Map Viewer online, 2017).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 A planning application was submitted to Chelmsford City Council in August 2016 for the erection of 37 residential properties with parking areas. As the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, a condition was recommended to ensure that appropriate archaeological recording is undertaken:

*No development or preliminary groundworks can commence until a programme of archaeological trial trenching has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.*

*A mitigation strategy detailing the excavation/preservation strategy shall be submitted to the local planning authority following the completion of this work.*

*No development or preliminary groundworks can commence on those areas containing archaeological deposits until the satisfactory completion of fieldwork, as detailed in the mitigation strategy, and which has been signed off by the local planning authority through its historic environment advisors.*

*The applicant will submit to the local planning authority a post excavation assessment (to be submitted within six months of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Planning Authority). This will result in the completion of post excavation analysis, preparation of a full site*

*archive and report ready for deposition at the local museum, and submission of a publication report.*

- 1.3.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017a) for archaeological evaluation of the site was submitted to and approved by Alison Bennett, Essex Place Services, prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of the evaluation conducted by Craig Carvey between the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The work followed the guidelines set out in the WSI (ibid) and was conducted in accordance with the Risk Assessment Method Statement (ASE 2017b).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 An archaeological desk based assessment (CAT 2014) was conducted by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in support of a planning application. As part of this report a detailed examination of the historical background of the area was conducted, the details of which are summarised below.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 Late Neolithic and early Bronze Age flints were recovered during a 1985 watching brief (EHER 5549) 600m directly east of site, possibly indicating a prehistoric settlement alongside the river Chelmer.

2.2.2 Residual Prehistoric flints were also found in the 1894 excavation of a Saxon burial mound discussed below.

### **2.3 Roman**

2.3.1 Despite the presumption of Broomfield main road being a Roman road linking Chelmsford and Braintree, evidence of Roman presence in the immediate area is restricted to residual Roman tile recovered from Saxon burial mound.

### **2.4 Saxon**

2.4.1 Quarrying in the 19<sup>th</sup> century uncovered a Saxon burial mound 600m east of site. The 1894 excavations recovered finds including a knife, spear head, a sword, lavishly embellished with gold and garnets, two blue glass bowls, buckets, cups and a cauldron amongst other finds (EHER5546). The burial is dated to the 7<sup>th</sup> century and is on par with that of Prittlewell and Taplow in terms of finds and significance, the burials make a trio of 'princely burials' within the south-east.

2.4.2 Further excavation within the quarry site in the 20<sup>th</sup> century uncovered Saxon pit clusters relating to metal working activity and then filled with domestic refuse. These pits predate the burial and indicate a Saxon settlement somewhere in the area.

2.4.3 Two modern excavations: Roselawn Farm in 1999 and Post Office Road in 2003, 40m and 100m north of site respectively, predominantly aimed at targeting Saxon remains uncovered nothing but 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century garden features.

### **2.5 Medieval and Post Medieval**

2.5.1 Post-medieval remains within the area of the site consist of two listed buildings, and the WWII pillbox near the Chelmer to the east of site.

2.5.2 OS maps of the area indicate the site remained undeveloped from 1777 until the 1950s when the southern end of site was built upon. The area surround site followed a similar pattern with the only significant activity being quarrying through the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the adjacent fields to the east.



## 2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation are as follows:

*To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.*

*To enable Essex County Council's Historic Environment Management Team to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work required in order to satisfy the archaeology condition.*

2.6.2 Site specific research aims:

*Is there any evidence for Roman activity on the site?*

*Is there any evidence of Saxon activity on the site?*

2.6.3 With reference to the East Anglian research framework:

*On sites during the Iron Age/Romano British transition, does the evidence suggest a seamless transition or a change in use of the land or farmstead, or continued occupation of the site but a change in building-types or agricultural practice? (Medleycott 2011, 31)*

*Is there any evidence of Roman settlement activity? Specifically, to inform on settlement typology (Medleycott 2011, 47)*

*Is there evidence that the site spans the transition period between the Romans and Saxons? (Medleycott, 2011, 57)*

*Is there any evidence of Anglo Saxon settlement or burial activity? Specifically, to inform on settlement typology and distribution (Medleycott 2011, 57)*

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 Prior to the arrival of ASE on site, the lower field, forming the eastern half of the site, was stripped of overgrowth and excessive rubbish by ground workers of Higgins Homes, and the material banded or piled at various locations across the field.
- 3.1.2 The nine trenches were plotted using a Leica GPS system and scanned with a CAT scanner by a trained member of staff to avoid any live services.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were excavated using an 8 tonne 360 mechanical excavator with a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket. Trenches 6 to 9 required the use of a concrete breaker prior to excavation. Topsoil, modern overburden and subsoil were removed under archaeological supervision to the geological horizon. The removed soils were banded around the edge of the trench at a distance of 0.5m. Concrete and tarmac from trenches 6 to 9 were separated from other spoil to be reinstated last.
- 3.1.4 Trench 4 was moved from its original position approximately 5m to the west and shortened by 7m due to the locations of bunds created when clearing the area of over growth and rubbish. This was done with the agreement of the project manager and Alison Bennett.
- 3.1.5 At the request of Alison Bennett, Trench 2 was extended with a rectangular area, approximately 4.50m by 4m, at the south eastern end around posthole [2/005].
- 3.1.6 All archaeological features and deposits were hand cleaned and recorded. A small sample of representative sections were also taken to illustrate the geology.
- 3.1.7 Standard ASE Evaluation Trench Record sheets were used to record depths, descriptions and sketch plans. The trench position, levels and archaeological features were digitally plotted using a GPS.
- 3.1.8 A digital photographic record was made to document the excavation of the trench and all excavated features. The photographic register included: shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject photographed.

### 3.2 Archive

3.2.1 ASE informed Braintree Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Braintree Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	28
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	83
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	9

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	1
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located at the north end of site on a NW-SE alignment, and measured 27.60m long by 1.80m wide, and was cut to a maximum depth of 0.53m.

Heights at NW end of trench = 34.67m AOD (top), 32.20m AOD (bottom)

Heights at SE end of trench = 34.12m AOD (top), 33.72m AOD (bottom)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.26m - 0.30m
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.16m - 0.20m
1/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	0.03m+
1/004	Cut	Cut of pit	1.06m	0.55m	0.12m
1/005	Fill	Fill of pit [1/004]	1.06m	0.55m	0.12m

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.2 The geology in trench 1 consisted of topsoil [1/001], a loose, very dark blackish brown silty garden soil, with frequent rooting and stones, and moderate modern pottery, porcelain, CBM and refuse, which overlaid subsoil [1/002], a soft, mid greenish grey silty clay, with moderate chalk flecks and stone. The natural [1/003] consisted of a firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay, with occasional stones.

4.1.3 Cut into natural was a single ovate pit [1/004] with rounded corners. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and concave sides, leading to a gradual break of slope with shallow concave base. The fill [1/005] was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay, with bitumen/tarmac fragments, and very occasional rounded flint. The pit contained a metal fragment.

4.1.4 The pit is 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century and believed to be a garden feature.

## 4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Trench was located at the north end of site on a NW-SE alignment, and measured 29.90m long by 1.80m wide, and was cut to a maximum depth of 0.59m.

Heights at NW end of trench = 35.17m AOD (top), 34.56m AOD (bottom)

Heights at SE end of trench = 34.37m AOD (top), 34.04m AOD (bottom)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.20m - 0.37m
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.10m - 0.17m
2/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	0.10m+
2/004	Fill	Fill of posthole [2/005]	0.39m	0.40m	0.13m
2/005	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.39m	0.40m	0.13m
2/006	Fill	Fill of posthole [2/007]	0.25m	0.24m	0.05m
2/007	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.25m	0.24m	0.05m

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.2 The geological sequence in trench 2 consisted of topsoil [2/001], identical to [1/001], with frequent rooting and stones, and moderate modern pottery, porcelain, CBM and refuse inclusions. Beneath which was subsoil [2/002], a soft, mid greenish grey silty clay, with moderate chalk flecks and stone. There were two types of natural [2/003] within the trench; in the south-east a firm, mid brownish yellow silty clay, with occasional stones, and a loose, mid brownish yellow sandy gravel in the north-west.

4.2.3 Cut into the natural in the south east end of the trench were two similar 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century postholes, believed to be garden features, possibly a fence alignment (Fig.4).

4.2.4 Posthole [2/005] had a circular shape in plan, with a sharp break of slope and concave sides, leading to a gradual break of slope with rounded V-shaped base. The fill [2/004] was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay, with occasional bitumen/tarmac fragments, and very occasional small rounded flint, 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, CBM fragments and a single iron nail.

4.2.5 Posthole [2/007] was circular, with a sharp break of slope and steep straight sides, leading to a sharp break of slope with near flat base. The fill [2/006] consisted of a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay, with very occasional small rounded and sub rounded flint. No finds were recovered from this feature.

4.2.6 The trench was extended in a roughly rectangular area measuring c. 6m N-S x c. 5m E-W around the two postholes, no further features were found.

### 4.3 Trench 4

4.3.1 Trench 4 was located at the eastern side site of site on a N-S alignment, and measured 23m long by 1.80m wide, and was cut to a maximum depth of 0.60m.

Heights at N end of trench = 34.34m AOD (top), 33.93m AOD (bottom)

Heights at S end of trench = 34.73m AOD (top), 34.18m AOD (bottom)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.26m - 0.40m
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.05m - 0.12m
4/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	0.20m+
4/004	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.45m	0.38m	0.06m
4/005	Fill	Fill of posthole [4/004]	0.45m	0.38m	0.06m
4/006	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.70m	0.44m	0.27m
4/007	Fill	Fill of posthole [4/006]	0.70m	0.44m	0.27m
4/008		VOID			
4/009	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.45m	0.38m	0.06m
4/010	Fill	Fill of posthole [4/009]	0.45m	0.38m	0.06m
4/011	Cut	Circular shape in plan, gradual break of slope with concave sides, and gradual break of slope with shallow rounded V-shaped base			
4/012	Fill	Firm, mid brownish grey silty clay, with occasional small rounded flint, CBM and wood fragments			

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.3.2 The trench revealed 4 postholes, 2 at its northern end and 2 mid trench, one of which was brick lined and all contained remnants of wooden posts. All features were cut into the natural and are 19th or 20th century garden features (Fig.5).

4.3.3 The geological sequence in trench 4 consisted of topsoil [4/001], identical to topsoil [1/001], under which was subsoil [4/002] a soft, mid greyish brown silty clay, with moderate chalk flecks and stone. Natural bedrock [4/003] was formed of a firm, mid orangey brown silty clay, with occasional rounded flint and gravel patches.

4.3.4 Posthole [4/006] had an irregular shape with rounded sides, a sharp break of slope with steep concave sides, leading to an irregular round V-shaped base. Fill [4/007] was a firm, mid greyish yellow silty clay, with frequent rounded and sub rounded flint and gravel. Rooting in the western edge of the feature was originally recorded as a second fill [4/008] but later amended. A broadly post medieval dated U shaped iron staple was found in [4/007].

4.3.5 Posthole [4/009] had a circular shape in plan, with a gradual break of slope and

concave sides, and gradual break of slope with shallow rounded V-shaped base. Fill [4/010] was a firm, mid brownish grey silty clay, with occasional small rounded flint and wood the remains of a modern fencepost. Postholes [4/004] and [4/011] were identical in shape, colour and consistency and also contained modern fence posts, [4/011] had a brick lining. These features were not excavated.

#### 4.4 Trench 5

4.4.1 Trench 5 was located in the south eastern corner of site on a N-S alignment, and measured 30.50m long by 1.80m wide, and was cut to a maximum depth of 0.50m.

Heights at N end of trench = 34.03m AOD (top), 33.80m AOD (bottom)

Heights at S end of trench = 34.01m AOD (top), 33.74m AOD (bottom)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.05m - 0.10m
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.16m - 0.23m
5/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	0.24m+
5/004	Cut	Cut of pit	0.38m	0.40m	0.14m
5/005	Fill	Fill of pit [5/005]	0.38m	0.40m	0.14m

Table 6: Trench 5 list of recoded contexts

4.4.2 The geological sequence in trench 5 consisted of topsoil [5/001], identical to topsoil [1/001], under which was subsoil [5/002] a soft, mid greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional rooting. Natural bedrock [5/003] was formed of a firm, mid orangey brown silty clay, with occasional chalk flecks and sub angular flint.

4.4.3 The only feature exposed consisted of a circular pit [5/004], which had a sharp break of slope at the top and concave sides, leading to a gradual break of slope with a rounded V-shape base. The fill [5/005] was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay, with charcoal flecks, modern CBM and bitumen/tarmac fragments, and occasional sub-rounded flint.

## 4.5 Trench 6

4.5.1 Trench 6 was located at the north eastern corner of the garage forecourt on a E-W alignment, and measured 14.60m long by 1.80m wide, and was cut to a maximum depth of 2.00m.

Heights at E end of trench = 36.74m AOD (top), 35.58m AOD (bottom)

Heights at W end of trench = 36.98m AOD (top), 36.08m AOD (bottom)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
6/001	Layer	Overburden	-	-	0.38m - 0.46m
6/002	Layer	Natural	-	-	1m+
6/003	Cut	Cut of pit	13.20m+	1.80m+	2m+
6/004	Fill	Fill of pit [6/003]	13.20m+	1.8m+	02m+

Table 7: Trench 6 list of recoded contexts

4.5.2 Trench 6's geology consisted of overburden [6/001], a modern concrete layer with underlying silty clay with abundant modern demolition material, bitumen/tarmac and stone. The natural [6/002] was a firm, mid orangey brown sandy gravel.

4.5.3 No subsoil was observed within trench 6.

4.5.2 The trench revealed one very large 19th century pit extending beyond the limits of excavation to its north, east and west, and exceeding the excavation depth. The pit had very steep straight sides. The shape and base of the pit were unobservable. Its fill [6/004] was a soft, mid grey silty clay, with frequent stone, modern CBM, pottery/porcelain, glass, and domestic refuse. This pit is 20<sup>th</sup> century.



## 4.6 Trench 7

4.6.1 Trench 7 was located at the north western corner of the garage forecourt on a E-W alignment, and measured 15.10m long by 1.80m wide, and was cut to a maximum depth of 0.55m.

Heights at E end of trench = 36.08m AOD (top), 35.43m AOD (bottom)

Heights at W end of trench = 36.05m AOD (top), 35.74m AOD (bottom)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
7/001	Layer	Overburden	-	-	0.20m - 0.36m
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.15m - 0.19m
7/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	1m+
7/004	Cut	Cut of pit	0.40m	0.40m	0.25m
7/005	Fill	Fill of pit [7/004]	0.40m	0.40m	0.25m

Table 8: Trench 7 list of recoded contexts

4.6.2 The Trench 7 geological sequence comprised an overburden layer [7/001] of silty clay with modern demolition material, bitumen/tarmac, gravel and concrete patches, under which was subsoil [7/002] a compact, mid greyish brown silty clay, with stone and chalk flecks. Natural [7/003] was made up of a firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay, with stone and gravel patches.

4.6.3 The only feature within the trench was [7/004], a rounded pit, with moderate concave sides, and a rounded base. The pit fill [7/005] was a compact, mid greyish/bluish green silty clay, with frequent charcoal and chalk flecks, stone and brick fragments.

## 4.7 Trench 9

4.7.1 Trench 9 was located at the south western corner of the garage forecourt on a E-W alignment, and measured 14.80m long by 1.80m wide, and was cut to a maximum depth of 0.45m.

Heights at E end of trench = 35.84m AOD (top), 35.33m AOD (bottom)

Heights at W end of trench = 35.98m AOD (top), 35.48m AOD (bottom)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
9/001	Layer	Overburden	-	-	0.35m
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.05m – 0.10m
9/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	0.01m+
9/004	Cut	Cut of pit	1.05m	1.00m+	-
9/005	Fill	Fill of pit [9/004]	1.05m	1.00m+	-
9/006	Cut	Cut of pit	1.00m+	0.50m+	-
9/007	Fill	Fill of pit [9/006]	1.00m+	0.50m+	-
9/008	Cut	Cut of pit or linear	1.80m+	1.50m	-
9/009	Fill	Fill of pit or linear [9/008]	1.80m+	1.50m	-

Table 9: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

4.7.2 The trench revealed two 20th century pits and its eastern end, and one large 20th century pit at its western end. Due to contamination and obviously modern fills all three features were not excavated.

4.7.3 The geological sequence consisted of overburden [9/001], subsoil [9/002] and natural [9/003] was identical to that described for trench 7.

4.7.4 Pit [9/004] had a sub oval shape in plan, containing fill [9/005], a compact, mid greyish green silty clay, with frequent charcoal and chalk flecks, modern industrial refuse and bitumen/tarmac fragments. Pit [9/006] had an irregular shape in plan, with fill [9/007] having an identical fill to [9/005].

4.7.5 The shape of pit or linear [9/008] was unobservable due to its extension beyond the trench limits. Its fill [9/009] was a soft, mid brownish grey silty clay, with concrete, brick, wood and metal.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation on land at Days Garage, Broomfield. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 10). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Coal	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Other	Weight (g)
1/004	1	4	1	26			1	62						
2/004	1	22	1	26	1	4	1	12						
4/007							1	12						
6/003	5	452	2	4140					1	52	5	1186	1	<2
Total	7	478	4	4192	1	4	3	86	1	52	5	1186	1	<2

Table 10: Finds quantification

### 5.2 The Pottery by Helen Walker

5.2.1 A total of seven sherds of modern pottery, weighing 481g, was excavated from three contexts. The pottery data have been entered onto an Excel spreadsheet and the pottery is tabulated by ware in Table 11.

Pottery by ware	Sherd Nos	Wt (g)
Modern flowerpot	2	27
Modern stoneware	1	45
Modern white earthenware	2	117
Modern field drain	2	292
Total	7	481

Table 11: The pottery by ware, sherd count and weight

5.2.2 Most of the pottery came from Pit [6/003], the most diagnostic sherds comprising the beaded rim from a stoneware jar showing a lead glaze and brown wash, and a complete white earthenware small cylindrical jar showing a groove beneath the rim. The jar is unmarked but is almost certainly an ointment jar in which various medicinal preparations of dubious efficacy were sold (Blakeman 2002, 38-39). Both pieces have a probable date of c.1880 to 1920, and fragments of modern field drain and a sherd of modern white earthenware showing moulded decoration and an apple-green glaze, also from this feature, could be of this date range. Pit [1/004] and post-hole [2/005] both produced fragments of modern flowerpot dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## Discussion

5.2.3 All the pottery is modern and probably represents domestic occupation of buildings on this site. The pottery is not of any significance and no further work is required on this assemblage.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Two brick fragments and two full bricks collectively weighing 4192g represent the total ceramic building material (CBM) assemblage. Single fragments were recovered from contexts [1/004] and [2/004], and two full bricks from [6/003]. The fragments were too small to provide much dateable information but the fragment from [1/004] looked very similar to Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) fabric 3033 (see Table 12), and the other from [2/004] fabric 3034. However, the small size and poor condition of these fragments make these identifications far from certain.

5.3.2 Fabric 3033 has a broad date range starting in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century and continuing to be used (although less so) after the Great Fire in 1666, whereas fabric 3034 begins to be used only after 1666. One of the bricks from [6/003] was in the distinctive and very common MOLA fabric 3035, although was a very heat-affected example and the clay had become vitrified and vesicular in places. It had a slight frog and bricks in 3035 typically date to the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

5.3.3 The only piece of CBM in a non-MOLA fabric was the second brick from [6/003], which was in a pink toned fabric (B1). In this instance the fabric of the brick doesn't provide dating parameters, but the brick was very thin at only 45mm, and the upper surface worn which suggests it functioned as a paving brick. There were traces of lime mortar on the edges and base. This brick most likely dates to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As an assemblage there is no material that holds any potential for future research and thus whilst the CBM has been retained it is suggested for discard.

Fabric	Description
MOLA 3033	Fine fabric with scatter of quartz (up to 0.8mm), calcareous/calcium carbonate inclusions (up to 1.5mm) and black iron oxide (up to 1.5mm). Occasional flint fragments and small pebbles (up to 7mm).
MOLA 3034	Parts of the surface are often discoloured by fine yellow speckling. Moderate-common calcareous/chalk inclusions, burnt ash, flint inclusions (up to 6mm) and varying amounts of quartz (up to 0.8mm). Common yellowish white silty bands in clay matrix. [Similar to MOLA 3032].
MOLA 3035	Generally yellow fabric with common burnt black ash and chalk inclusions (up to 4mm). Scatter of quartz (up to 0.6mm). The fabric is hard and riddled with tiny air pockets where organic matter has burned out during firing.
B1	Pink fabric, fairly low-fired, with white, calcareous inclusions and sparse quartz.

Table 12: CBM fabric descriptions

## 5.4 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Context [2/004] produced a single fresh piece of coal (4g) that is likely to be of post-medieval date.

## 5.5 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.5.1 A sample of five complete bottles was recovered from context [6/003]. All are in good condition with no signs of surface corrosion. They are summarised in Table 13.

Colour	Type	Weight (g)	Dimensions	Closure	Embossing	Function
Colourless	Octagonal bottle	328	R – 27mm B – 64mm H – 232mm	<b>Ext screw Twist cap</b>	<b>Around base: 'H. J. HEINZ Co PATD'</b> Across base: '81 // 57 // 'o' (in square)	Sauce
Colourless	Cylindrical jar	148	R – 47mm B – 33mm H – 93mm	Metal cap	Vertically ribbing around body except for circular area for paper label Around base: 'RG. No 653358' Base centre: '4'	Shipams Meat paste
Colourless	Cylindrical jar	92	R – 43mm B – 30mm H – 71mm	Metal cap	Vertically ribbing around body except for circular area for paper label Around neck: 'REGD No 653358'	Shipams Meat paste
Aqua	Square bottle	258	R – 29mm B – 43x43mm H – 181mm	Cork/glass stopper	Up front: 'MASON'S OK SAUCE' Across base: 'A22 // ?S 10 // UGB	Sauce
Amber	Flattened cylindrical bottle	362	R – 52mm B – 50mm H – 117mm	Metal cap	Across front: '16oz // BOVRIL // LIMITED // 500' Across rear: same but without the '500'	Bovril

Table 13: Glass assemblage from [6/003] (R – rim, B – base, H – height)

5.5.2 The bottles consist of two meat paste jars, two sauce bottles for food and a Bovril bottle that was probably consumed as a hot beverage. As such all can be seen as food related – the absence of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, together with household products and medicines is quite notable. However, this may be due to the sample size, which is far too small to allow comment on the originating source of the refuse. Taken as a whole the assemblage can best be placed in a c. 1910 to 1925 date range. It is interesting to note that all of the bottles represented can be paralleled in assemblages from the Great War camps in Seaford (East Sussex).

## 5.6 The Bulk Metalwork

5.6.1 Three iron objects weighing a total of 86g were recovered. Context [1/004] produced a rectangular strap with probable nail at the centre measuring 73 x 51mm, this is probably part of a structural fitting such as a hinge. A single square headed general purpose nail (L54mm) was recovered from [2/004] and a U shaped staple came from [4/007]. The assemblage is post medieval in

date and as such is recommended for discard.

## **5.7 Miscellaneous Material** by Luke Barber

5.7.1 Context [6/003] produced the remains of a 40mm diameter (7mm thick) cork disc from a bottle/jar stopper/lid. The piece would be very much in keeping with the date of the associated glassware.

## **5.8 The Animal Bone** by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

5.8.1 A small assemblage containing just one bone weighing 52g was recovered from the evaluation. The bone was hand-collected from context [6/003] and is in a moderate-good state of preservation, with minimal signs of surface erosion present.

5.8.2 The bone retrieved from context [6/003] has been identified as a large mammal thoracic vertebrae fragment. Evidence of butchery was observed with saw and chop marks axially splitting the vertebrae. This type of butchery is used to dismember and portion a carcass, which suggests that this area of the site had a domestic refuse function. No evidence of burning, gnawing, non-metric traits or pathology was recorded.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 6.1.1 The evaluation exposed the London Clay, with overlying superficial head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel at 33.72mAOD to 36.06mAOD. A layer of silty clay subsoil, ranging in colour from greyish green to greyish brown, varied in thickness across site between 0.05m to 0.23m. Topsoil, consisting of a dark brown silt garden soil, varying in thickness from 0.23m to 0.34m, and contained modern building debris including CBM, slate and tarmac. In trenches 6-9 topsoil was instead replaced by concrete and modern made ground to a thicknesses of 0.20m to 0.46m.
- 6.1.2 The excavation revealed 10 features spread across 7 trenches, with an additional 2 negative trenches.
- 6.1.3 Perhaps the earliest activity recorded on the site was a large pit [6/004], in trench 6 believed to be a quarry pit - like those shown on OS maps from 1870 onwards. Backfill [6/003] contained an assortment of 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic, glass, brick and metal finds.
- 6.1.4 Six postholes and one rectangular pit make up the sum of uncovered features in trenches 1 to 5. These features are believed to be contemporary with one another and are 20th century.
- 6.1.5 All uncovered features in trenches 7 to 9 were 20<sup>th</sup> century, containing modern industrial rubbish or bitumen and CBM inclusions, and were heavily contaminated.

### **6.2 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

- 6.2.1 No archaeological features or finds pre-dating the late post-medieval/modern era were recorded.
- 6.2.2 The evaluation established no Roman activity extending along the eastern side of Broomfield main road, a presumed Roman road. The evaluation also established no continuation of Saxon activity relating to the Saxon burial mound (EHER 5546-55512) or associated pits found directly to the east of site.
- 6.2.3 The absence of Saxon and Roman activity, taken with the negative results from investigations at Roselawn Farm and Post Office Road to the north, are thought-provoking. Domestic occupation of Chelmsford during the Roman and Saxon periods does not appear to have extended this far northwards.
- 6.2.4 A large late 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century quarry pit, backfilled with china, glass and building demolition, was located in Trench 6. All other features recorded belong to 20<sup>th</sup> century activity.
- 6.2.5 Due to the absence of archaeology within the site, the evaluation was unable to contribute any data towards the East Anglian research framework.

### **6.3 Conclusions**

- 6.3.1 No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the evaluation. A large late 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century quarry pit, backfilled with china, glass and building demolition, was located in Trench 6. All other features recorded belong to 20<sup>th</sup> century activity.



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## Online resources:

British Geological Survey 2017 -  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Edina Digimaps 2017 - <http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/roam/historic>

Heritage Gateway 2017 –  
[http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced\\_search.aspx](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced_search.aspx)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Higgins Homes for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, Alison Bennett, County Archaeologist, Chelmsford City Council for her guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Craig Carvey. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the project; Natalie Gonzalez who produced the figures for this report; Sarah Ritchie who managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson, Dan Swift and Mark Atkinson who managed the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Days Garage, Broomfield, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Broomfield	<b>District:</b>
<b>NGR:</b> TL 7086 0949	<b>Site Code:</b> BRDG17
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Craig Carvey, Archaeology South-East
<b>Date of Work:</b> February 2017	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 0.5ha
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Braintree Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Higgins Homes
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> Unknown	<b>Related HER Nos: Planning Ref:</b> CHL 16/01451/FUL
<b>Final Report:</b> yes	<b>OASIS No:</b> archaeol6-276100
<b>Periods Represented:</b> modern	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p><i>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and to the rear of 76-98 main road, Broomfield, Essex between 7th and 9th February 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Higgins Homes in advance of residential development. Nine evaluation trenches were investigated.</i></p> <p><i>No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the evaluation. A large late 19th / 20th century quarry pit, backfilled with china, glass and building demolition, was located in Trench 6. All other features belong to 20th century activity.</i></p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> CAT, 2014. An archaeological desk based assessment of a site in Broomfield, Essex. Colchester Archaeological Trust unpublished report	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> C Carvey	<b>Date of Summary:</b> March 2017

**OASIS Form****OASIS ID: archaeol6-276100****Project details**

Project name Days Garage, Forsethlyn and rear of 76-98 main road, Broomfield, Essex

Short description of the project: A nine trench evaluation in Broomfield. The site lies between a nationally significant Saxon burial mound 500m to the east and a Roman road along the sites western side. A small number of 19th or 20th century postholes and pits and a 19th century quarry pit were uncovered.

Project dates Start: 07-02-2017 End: 09-02-2017

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes EHER5546 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes EHER 5549 - HER event no.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)

Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Monument type POSTHOLE Modern

Monument type PIT Modern

Significant Finds CHINA Post Medieval

Significant Finds GLASS Post Medieval

Significant Finds BRICK Post Medieval

**Project location**

Country England

Site location ESSEX CHELMSFORD BROOMFIELD Land at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and rear of 76-98 Main Road, Broomfield, Essex

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 7086 0949 51.757497049857 0.475903891093 51 45 26 N 000 28 33 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 33.72m Max: 36.06m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief  
originator Essex County Council

Project design  
originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/  
manager Sarah Ritchie

Project  
supervisor Craig Carvey

Type of sponsor/  
funding body client

Name of sponsor/  
funding body Higgins Homes

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive  
recipient Braintree Museum

Physical  
Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Metal"

Digital Archive  
recipient ASE

Digital Media  
available "GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive  
recipient Braintree Museum

Paper Media  
available "Context sheet","Report","Section"

### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and rear of 76-98 Main Road, Broomfield, Essex

Author(s)/  
Editor(s) Carvey, C.

Other  
bibliographic  
details 170070

Date 2017

Issuer or  
publisher ASE

Place of issue  
or publication Portslade

Entered by Craig Carvey (ycrng10@ucl.ac.uk)  
Entered on 13 February 2017

**Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts**

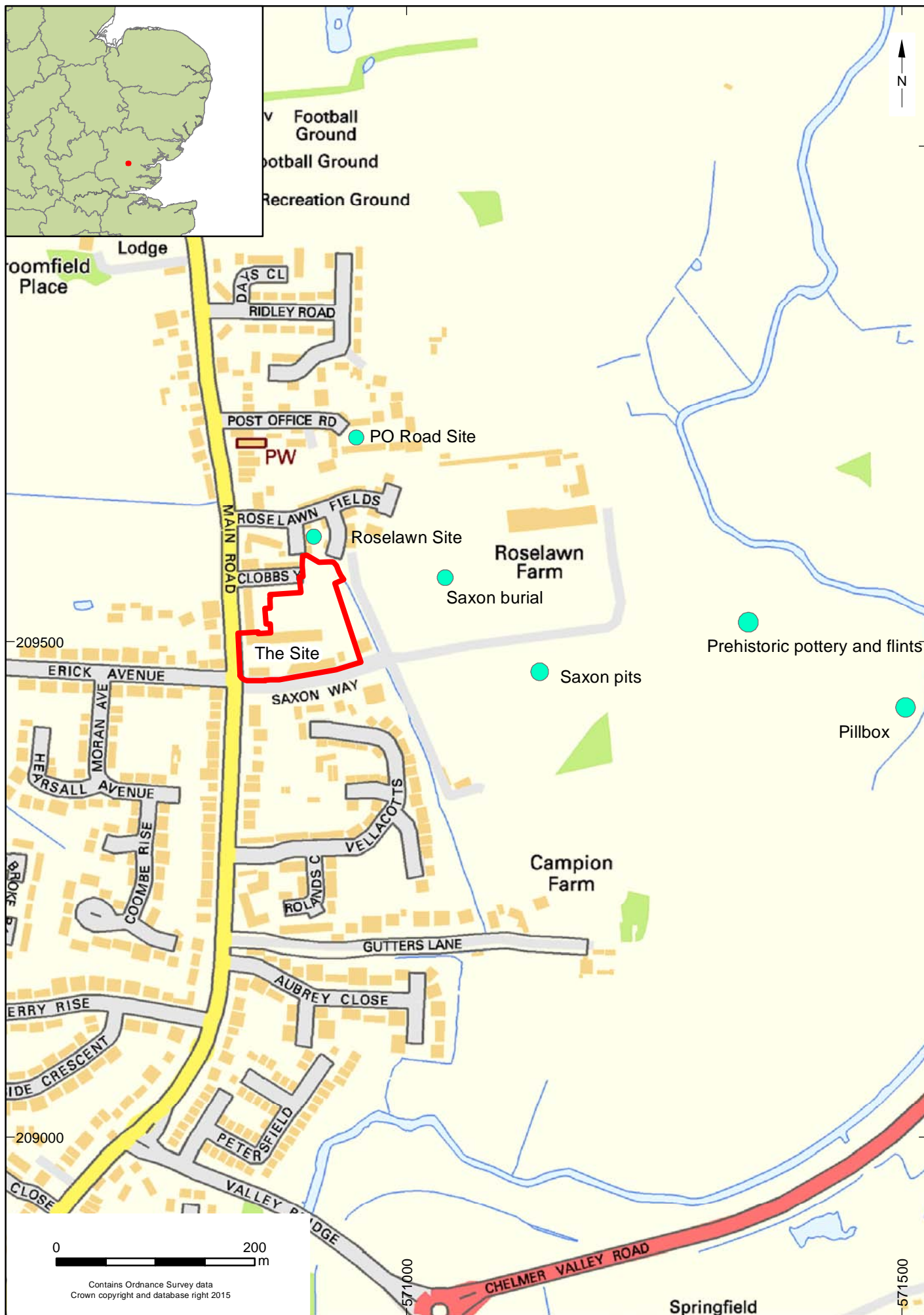
Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m
3/001	Layer	Very dark blackish brown silty garden soil, with very frequent rooting, and occasional small rounded flint	0.25m – 0.40m
3/002	Layer	Mid greyish brown silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded flint, brick and pottery fragments	0.20m – 0.35m
3/003	Layer	Mid to light greyish brown silty clay with sub angular flint	0.27m+
8/001	Layer	Concrete and silty clay with abundant modern demolition material, bitumen/tarmac and stone	0.30m – 0.42m
8/002	Layer	Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay, with stone and chalk flecks	0.15m – 0.30m
8/003	Layer	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional stone	0.01m+

Trench 3

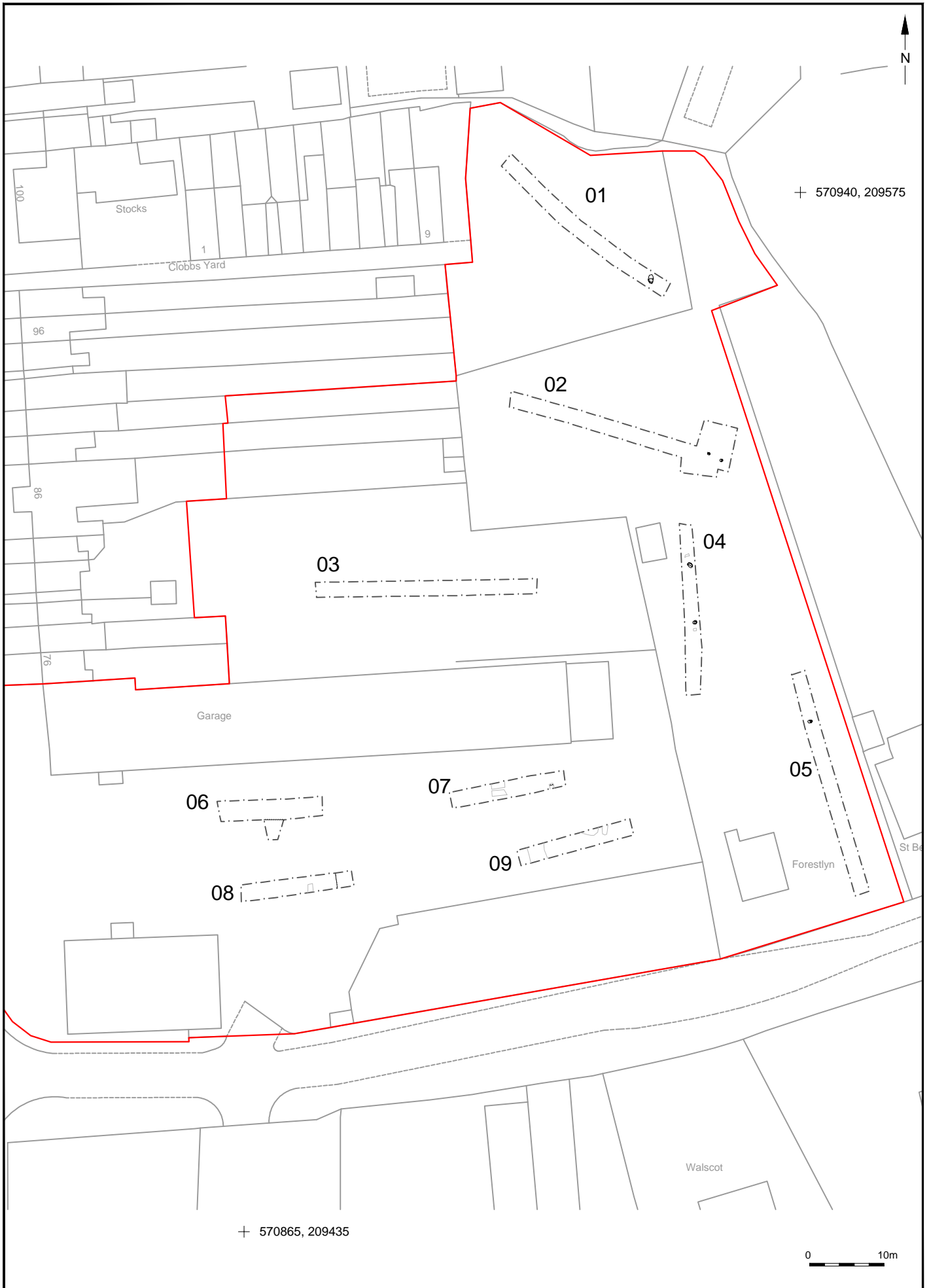
Heights at E end of trench = 35.59m AOD (top), 34.78m AOD (bottom)  
Heights at W end of trench = 36.45m AOD (top), 36.06m AOD (bottom)

Trench 8

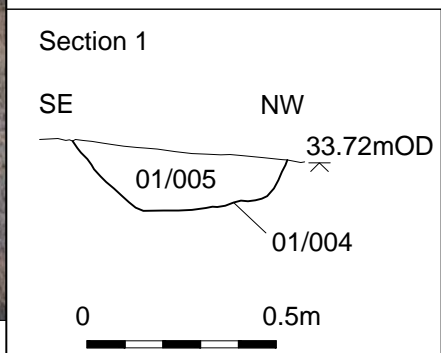
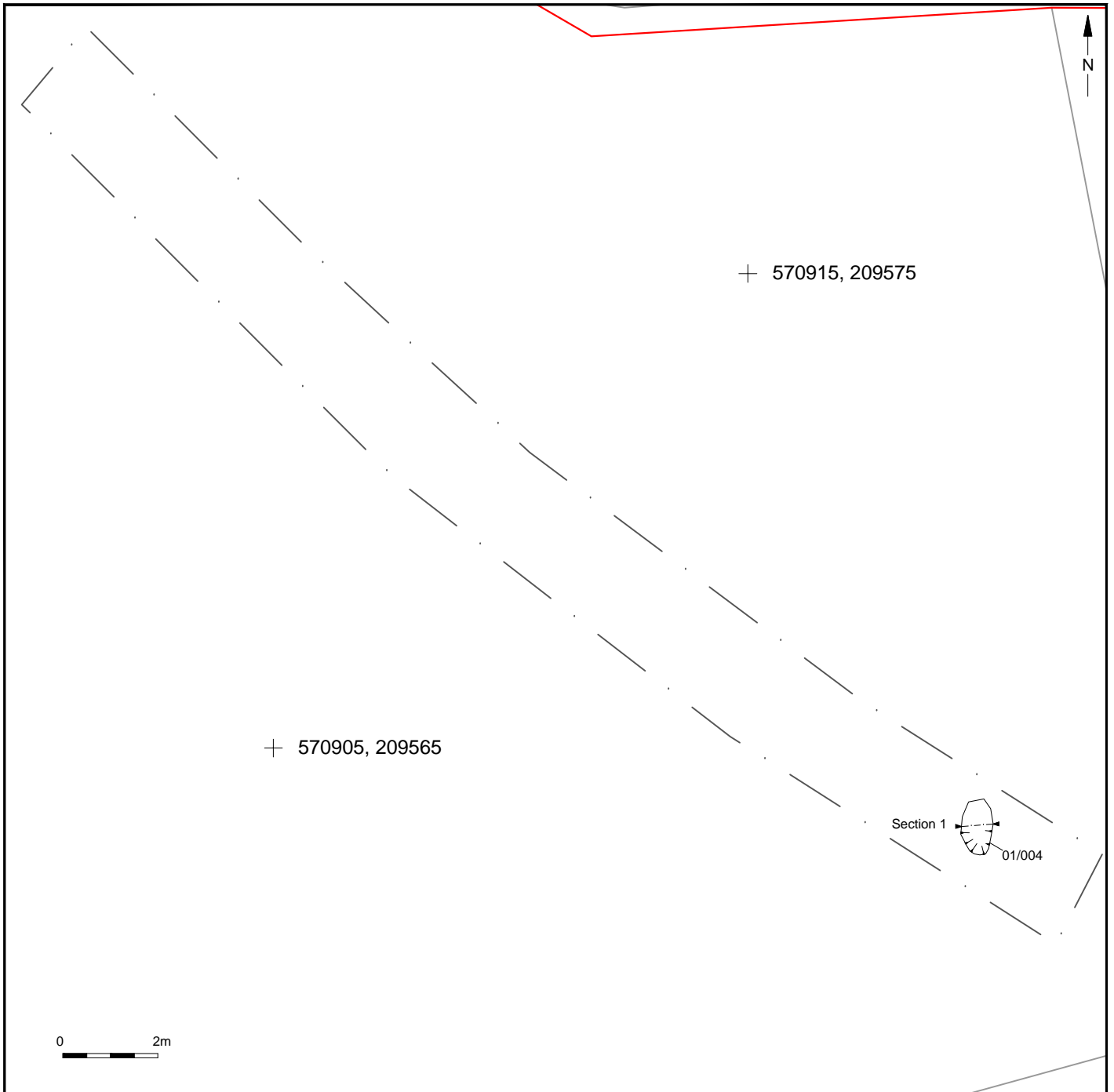
Heights at E end of trench = 36.71m AOD (top), 35.48m AOD (bottom)  
Heights at W end of trench = 36.97m AOD (top), 36.32m AOD (bottom)



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Day's Garage, Main Road, Chelmsford	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170070	02 - 2017	Site location and archaeological finds and other heritage assets	
Report No: 2017066	Drawn by: NG		

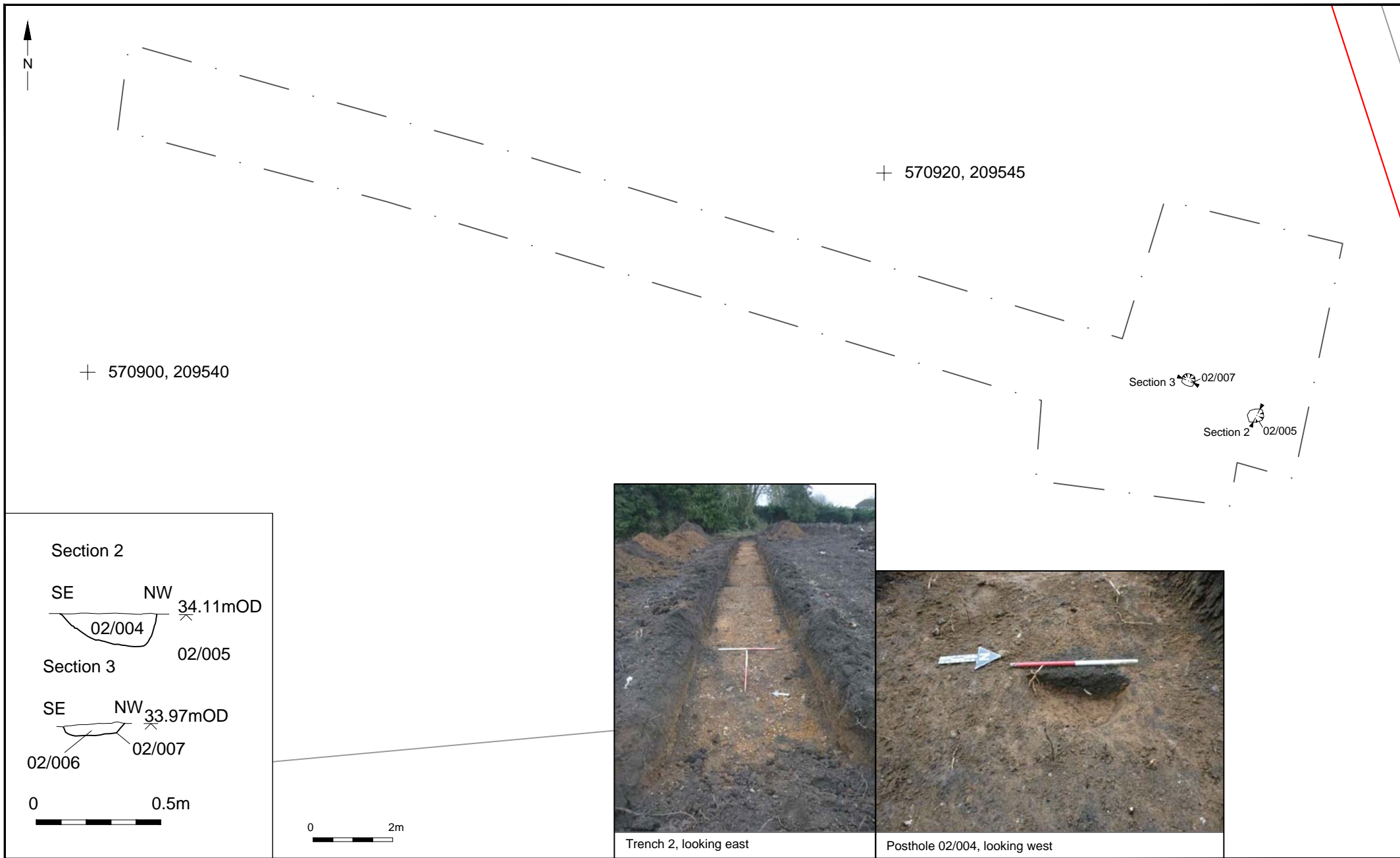


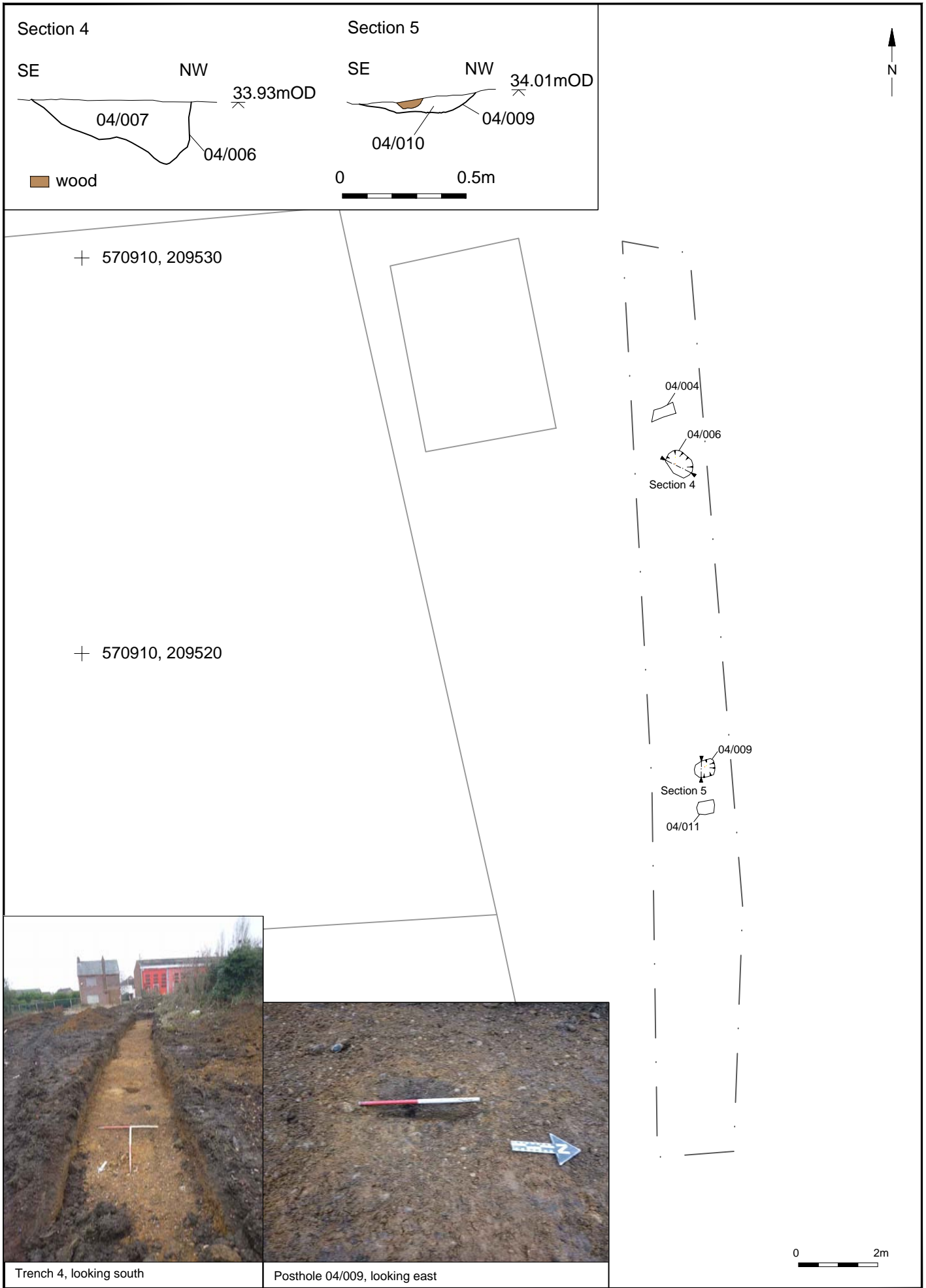
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and rear of 76-98 Main Road, Broomfield	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170070	02 - 2017	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2017066	Drawn by: NG		



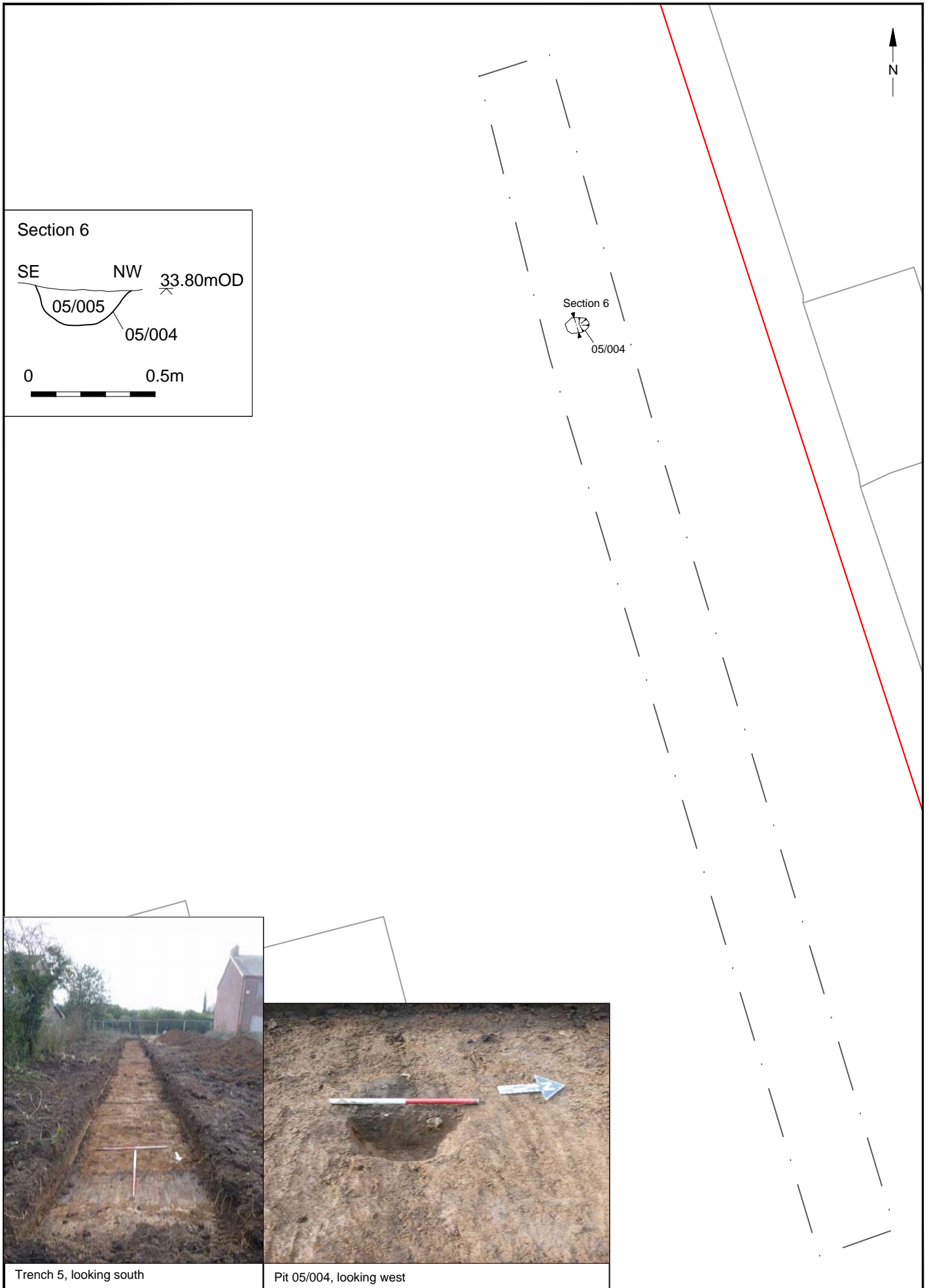
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and rear of 76-98 Main Road, Broomfield	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170070	02 - 2017	Trench 1 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017066	Drawn by: NG		







© Archaeology South-East		Land at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and rear of 76-98 Main Road, Broomfield	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 170070	02 - 2017	Trench 4 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017066	Drawn by: NG		



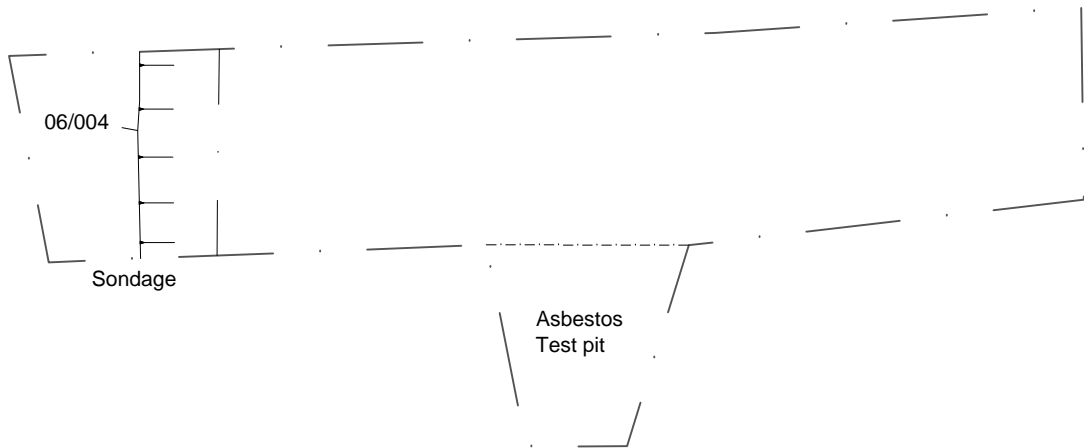
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and rear of 76-98 Main Road, Broomfield	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 170070	02 - 2017	Trench 5 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017066	Drawn by: NG		



Pit 06/004, sample section, looking north



+ 570860, 209495



0 2m

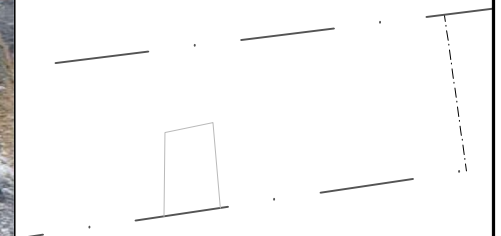
+ 570870, 209485



Trench 6, with sondage into pit 06/004 looking east



Trench 6 with asbestos sondage, looking east

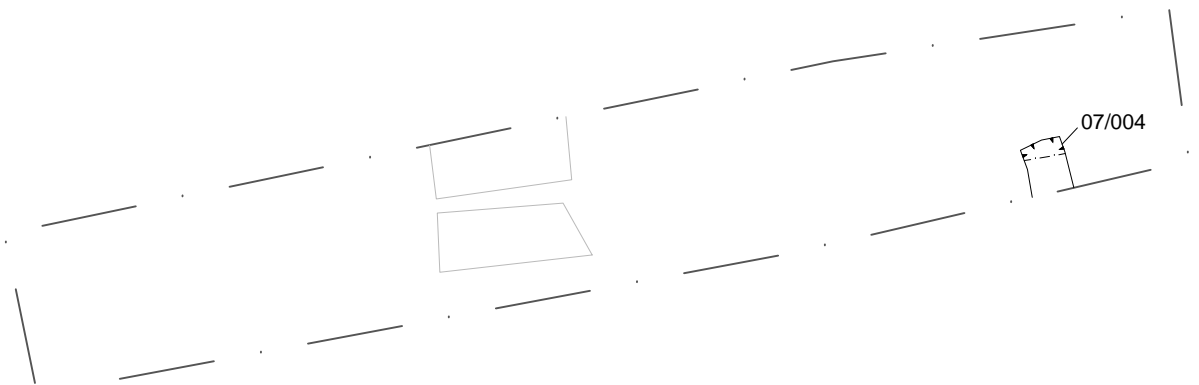




Pit 07/004, looking south



+ 570905, 209500



+ 570895, 209485



Trench 7, looking east



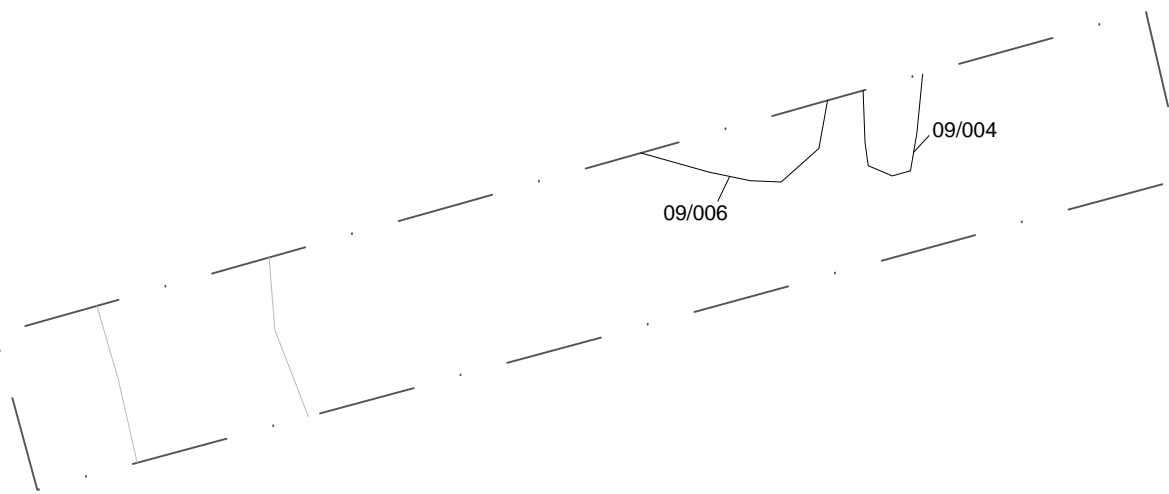
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and rear of 76-98 Main Road, Broomfield	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 170070	02 - 2017	Trench 7 : plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017066	Drawn by: NG		



Pit 09/004, looking north



+ 570915, 209495



+ 570905, 209480



Trench 7, looking east



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Days Garage, Forsethlyn and rear of 76-98 Main Road, Broomfield	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 170070	02 - 2017	Trench 9 : plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017066	Drawn by: NG		

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