Network Rail

Trent Valley

West Coast Mainline Upgrade

Staffordshire: Tamworth to Lichfield

Site 28-31 Fisherwick

Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxford archaeology

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Network Rail, Trent Valley
West Coast Mainline Upgrade
Staffordshire: Tamworth to Lichfield
Sites 28-31 Hademore Crossing

NGR: SK 176 080

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Summary

In March 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation as part of the West Coast Main Line upgrade in Staffordshire between Tamworth and Lichfield, on behalf of Network Rail. A number of areas of this rail improvement have been designated to be of archaeological interest and this report concerns the Hademore Crossing site Area A28-31 (centred at NGR: SK 176 080).The evaluation covered three fields (fields 1-3) which were to be impacted on by the construction of two new bridge crossings over the railway, and associated link/access roads to and from the Fisherwick Road.

Numerous geological variations were observed during the evaluation, although evidence for archaeological features and deposits was negligible. The evaluation did reveal a post-medieval field boundary to the east of the railway, possibly associated with a plantation marked on the first edition OS map (1843-93) as 'Hademore Belt'. A second field boundary was identified to the west of the railway, and may also represent a boundary shown on the first edition OS map.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In March 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land adjacent to the West Coast Railway Mainline, in three fields adjacent to the Hademore Level Crossing, in the parish of Whittington near Lichfield, Staffordshire (Fig.1). The evaluation site was 5.6 hectares in area and located at NGR SK 176 080 (centred).

1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out on behalf of Network Rail ahead of works for the construction of two new bridged crossings and associated link/access roads to and from the Fisherwick Road.

1.1.3 Discussions between Steve Dean, Archaeological Officer for Staffordshire County Council and OA, led to an agreement that in areas where there was the potential for damage to possible archaeological remains, due to temporary or permanent land-take disturbance, archaeological fieldwork would be carried out.

1.1.4 The construction of the haul road at Hademore Crossing was subject to a separate archaeological watching brief (OA, client report). The mitigation of areas subject to temporary and permanent land take took the form of a trenched evaluation. An outline project proposal detailing how OA would implement the evaluation was agreed by all parties (see 1.3 below).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The geology of the area around Hademore is Keuper sandstones (BGS 1971) overlain by Recent and Pleistocene Glacial Boulder Clay. Within this area there are alluvial

deposits associated with three watercourses at Huddlesford, along Fisherwick Brook and both sides of the River Tame (Methodology, OA, 2004).

1.2.2 The site is on flat ground previously used for agricultural purposes. At the time of the evaluation, land to the west of the railway line (field 1) had been recently ploughed and tilled. The area to the east (fields 2 and 3) also displayed evidence for recent cultivation, but still retained the stubble from the last crop. Geological variations and evidence for bioturbation were observed across the site and are described in more detail below.

1.3 Previous work and project background

1.3.1 In 2002, an initial phase of field-walking was carried out by OA for *Railtrack* along the northern side of the railway line between (approximately) Whittington and the Sewage works to the north-west of Tamworth.

1.3.2 The report for this work has not been issued, as the project did not continue once *Railtrack* as a company had ceased to exist. The results of the work, however, revealed post-medieval material throughout the study area in the vicinity of a former track-way. It was thought, nonetheless, that there would have been greater potential for archaeological finds along the walked route, owing to the number of crop marks within the vicinity of the track-way and in adjacent fields.

1.3.3 In 2002, when Network Rail Order 2 went to Public Inquiry, Staffordshire County Council requested that further and more detailed archaeological work should be undertaken on known crop-marks along the route and within fields with ancient field names depicted on Parish Tithe maps.

1.3.4 The Council also requested that an all-encompassing archaeological project design be produced to cover the construction works proposed under Order 2. This work (*West Coast Mainline Upgrade - Trent Valley. Outline Proposal for Phase 1 Works, OA 2004*) was undertaken by OA and included provision for both evaluation trenches and watching briefs.

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following background information is reproduced from the Heritage Impact Assessment produced by OA for Railtrack but never issued due to the collapse of the latter. The "study corridor" refers to a corridor 500m either side of the railway line which was the subject of the Impact Assessment

General

1.4.1 Between 1960 and 1976 JK St Joseph and later J Pickering carried out regular aerial reconnaissance of the central section of the study corridor, following the discovery of a large number of cropmarks on the Gravel Terrace within the Tame Valley. As a result of this research a number of archaeological 'rescue' excavations were carried out in the early 1970s in the Fisherwick area in response to gravel extraction, which

threatened to destroy a number of cropmark sites within this area of seemingly high archaeological potential. The majority of these excavations were located *c.* 2 km to the north-east of the study corridor. One excavation was undertaken within the study corridor *c.* 300 m north-east of the line of the railway. The results of these excavations were published in a British Archaeological Reports volume in 1979 entitled '*Fisherwick: The Reconstruction of an Iron Age Landscape*' (Smith *et al.*, 1979).

1.4.2 In 1980, Christopher Smith published a summary of his doctoral thesis for the University of Nottingham on the historical development of the parishes of Alrewas, Fisherwick and Whittington, in *Transactions of the Southern Staffordshire Archaeological Society* Vol **XIX**. Smith's study area forms a broad north-south strip which encompasses the central section of the WCML study corridor between eastings SK 16 (Whittington) and SK 19 (River Tame). The study involved detailed examination of documentary and cartographic sources, air photographs, and also involved several fieldwalking surveys. The survey revealed concentrations of material from the prehistoric to post-medieval period at various locations within his study area. Smith attempted to reconstruct the landscape of his study area at four periods in time: the 1st millennium, AD200, *c.* AD1300 and the mid 18th century.

Prehistoric

1.4.3 Excavations on the Gravel Terrace at Fisherwick, *c.* 2 km to the north-east of the study corridor, prior to gravel extraction in 1968 and 1973-4, have revealed further evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of a possible Neolithic settlement and extensive Iron Age activity. The latter includes Iron Age settlements believed to have been agricultural in nature - small farmsteads surrounded by extensive field systems. It has been suggested (Smith 1977 quoted in Hodder 1982, 19) that the Tame Gravel Terrace was divided by a series of permanent ditched boundaries during the first millennium BC, as the result of population increase. Excavations at Fisherwick revealed that pre-medieval population levels within the Valley are likely to have been considerably greater than was previously supposed (Smith 1979, 103).

Roman

1.4.4 Excavations in 1968 prior to gravel extraction at Fisherwick, *c.* 2 km to the north-east of the study corridor, revealed a Romano-British farmstead consisting of four circular huts, pens and palisaded enclosures, adjacent to a drove-way. The farm, dated to the early 2nd century AD to the 3rd century AD, was believed to have specialised in stock-rearing. In addition, traces of Roman activity have been found within the historic core of Tamworth and it is possible that there may have been an earlier settlement here prior to the early medieval *burh* (Staffs SMR).

Medieval

1.4.5 There were a number of known medieval settlements within the study area, some of which later became deserted and which have left no trace. The settlements include Lichfield, Streethay, Whittington (all extant) and *Fisherwick* (deserted), located just outside the study corridor, and *Tamhorn, Horton, Fulfen* and *Morughale* (all deserted), located within the study corridor. These settlements would have provided a focus for the community within the parish. In addition, there were probably a number of smaller secondary settlements in the form of isolated farmsteads located away from the villages. The identification of these is less straightforward and is primarily based on buildings shown on the earliest maps consulted and place-name evidence.

1.4.6 Fisherwick, although not mentioned in Domesday Book, is recorded as a manor in 1167 (VCH xiv, 239). The settlement no longer exists but is believed to lie outside the study corridor, *c.* 1.5 km to the north-east of the railway (Hurst 1967, 45 and VCH Staffs xiv, 239).

1.4.7 Tamhorn and Horton are both mentioned in Domesday and formed a township by the late 13th century, with Horton apparently more important (VCH Staffs xiv, 239). The township of Tamhorn and Horton is listed in a Subsidy Roll of 1327 when 12 people were assessed for subsidy. Smith (1980, 7) identified the possible location of the DMVs of Tamhorn and Horton through concentrations of medieval pottery and building material found during fieldwalking in the early 1970s. The spread of artefacts was too dense to be simply residual material within a manure scatter used to assist cultivation. It should however be noted that the VCH (XIV 1990, 240) suggests that the site of Horton village may also lie close to, or on, the present site of the small cluster of houses at Hademore, immediately to the south of the railway.

Fisherwick Park

1.4.8 The Railway line between Fisherwick Brook and Hademore cuts the southern edge of a formal post-medieval park called Fisherwick Park. The park is not listed in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens. The park was created to provide a setting around a '*very proper brick house*' (possibly located on or near the site of the medieval manor) built by John Skeffington in the late 16th century (VCH Staffs xiv, 243-4).

1.4.9 The park was enclosed by a park pale (boundary) intended to keep deer and rabbits out of the park grounds. The park was planted with a large number of trees and by the 1680s the trees had '*grown to a magnitude* (in number) *almost beyond belief*' (*ibid.*, 244). Two avenues led through the park to Fisherwick Hall (*c.* 1.5 km to the north-east of the railway) aligned on the Whittington and Tamhorn churches. The park increased in size in the later 18th century, evidently to the north-east (VCH Staffs xiv, 244), absorbing enclosed farmland adjacent (Smith 1980, 5). In 1747 the park covered an area of 450 acres; in 1760 this had grown to 571 acres. A map of the park dated 1760 shows a fence around the perimeter of the park and the broad avenue leading to Fisherwick Park from an entrance by Hademore Lodge. The map shows

little detail, other than a depiction of land within the park boundary and the enclosed fields to the east.

1.4.10 Between *c.* 1766-79 Fisherwick Hall was demolished and rebuilt for Lord Donegall. This involved landscaping of the park by Lancelot (Capability) Brown, following an Act of 1766 stopping up all public roads through the park. The two avenues were removed and replaced with two new drives, which led to south to the lodge at Hademore, and east to Stubby Leas (outside the study area). Brown planted 10,000 trees and created a boundary plantation enclosing a ride along the south and east sides of the park (VCH Staffs xiv, 244). A plan of the Estate of Lord Spencer Chichester dated to the late 18th century shows boundary plantations along the southern edge of the park at Hademore as well as a building marked 'Hedimore Lodge' at the southern entrance to the park. Also shown is the developing estate hamlet of 'Hedimore' immediately to the south, consisting of Hademore Farm, Holly Cottage and another cottage (now demolished). It had been intended to build a brick wall around the whole park, but only about a mile of it was completed, on the south-east side. This wall was evidently still standing in 1990 (*ibid.*, 244). Shortly after 1808 Fisherwick Hall was demolished. A large number of trees were felled and the park divided into fields. The OS 1" map (1834) shows the former park, with a clear boundary in the form of a line of screening trees along the southern edge. This is the earliest map which enables the southern line of the park to be placed in relation to the modern OS mapping with any accuracy. A Plan of the Township of Fisherwick (1842) and the OS 1st edition 6" map (1883-8) both show Hademore Lodge as still extant, the latter showing the lodge to have lain some 50 m north-east of the railway.

1.4.11 When the Trent Valley Railway was built in 1846-7, it cut across the extreme southern corner of the former Fisherwick Park, just to the south of the gate lodge. It is unclear whether the southern edge of the park as shown in 1834 represented the extent of the original 16th century park however. It is therefore possible that remains of the original park pale, in the form of a bank, ditch of fence (the latter is suggested by a map of 1760) may survive in the form of an earthwork, or that remains of a ditch may be preserved as a buried feature beneath and close to the railway. Whilst the site of Fisherwick Hall is now occupied by a container company, and its grounds now lie under a former explosives depot and a field of crops, a pair of Grade II Listed gate piers dating to the early 19th century still survive at a point some 50 m north of the railway, flanking the former formal drive, which remains in use from this point northward. The course of the driveway southward from the gates has been abandoned following the construction of a later connecting road, although its alignment is still traceable as a double hedge line. This crosses the railway at a disused level-crossing to the west of Fogg Cottages, before passing behind Holly Cottage to emerge onto the public road behind a cast-iron telephone kiosk.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving on the site
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features
- To make available the results of the investigation on completion of the fieldwork
- To define relevant research priorities if additional archaeological investigation was deemed necessary

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 A total of 20 evaluation trenches were proposed in Areas 28-31. The location of these trenches was chosen at random and took the form of a grid of north-south and east-west orientated trenches. After discussions with Steve Dean of Staffordshire County Council, it was agreed to re-locate Trenches 9, 15, 16 and 17 to facilitate the acquisition of temporary land take areas for the setting up of compounds associated with the works. Trench 20 was abandoned as the proposed location lay over the access road to an existing bridge across the railway.

3.1.2 The evaluation trenches each measured *c* 30 m x 1.6 m (Fig. 2), with the exception of Trench 3 which was shortened to 21 m to avoid overhead cables. The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were mechanically excavated to the top of natural deposits or the first significant archaeological level, whichever was highest. The topsoil and subsoil layers were stored separately and checked for any finds of archaeological importance.

3.1.3 The trenches were cleaned by hand and where appropriate revealed features were sampled to determine their extent, nature and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures outlined in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992). The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded even where no archaeological features were encountered.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the evaluation and bagged by context.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.3.1 No deposits of environmental significance were revealed.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The site is located on Recent and Pleistocene Boulder Clay overlain by predominantly sandy alluvial deposits; heavy showers during the course of the evaluation caused the recently ploughed and tilled topsoil in field 1 to become waterlogged. However, the underlying geological deposits drained well.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 The evaluation revealed two post-medieval field boundaries and some evidence for bioturbation. No other archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Field 1

Trenches 1, 3-6 and 8

5.1.1 These trenches (Fig. 2) all measured *c* 30 m x 1.6 m in with the exception of trench 3 which was shortened by 9 m to avoid overhead cables, at its northern end.

5.1.2 The trenches were excavated to the first archaeological horizon which was the interface between the existing topsoil and the underlying natural geology. The depth to the top of this horizon was on average 0.4 m (this was occasionally broken down into top and sub soil. Although effectively the same deposit (modern ploughsoil), the lower part of this deposit tended to contain more gravel inclusions (ref. Appendix 1 for individual trench context inventory). The geology was predominantly composed of mid yellowish brown sands and gravels. However, numerous variations within this deposit were observed within the trenches. These comprised spreads of mid-pale grey sand; mid brownish grey sand with orange brown mottling and very pale grey sand and gravel. Manganese and iron panning were observed within a number of these variations. It seems likely that these variations represent 'fills' of naturally occurring hollows within the surface of the sandier components within the sand and gravel. All these deposits appeared to overlay a mid reddish brown clay which may represent Triassic Keuper Red Marls. The interface between the sandy deposits and the underlying clay was very irregular.

5.1.3 The origin of the sandier deposits is unclear. It seems likely that the consistent mid yellowish brown sands and gravels represent alluvial deposits associated with either

the Fisherwick Brook or the River Tame, and may even mark the western extent of the terrace gravels which overlay the Red Marls and Boulder Clay. The variations within the sand and gravel deposit may represent further periods of alluviation, or may be glacial in origin.

5.1.4 All trenches displayed evidence for recent plough scarring in the top of the natural geological deposits.

5.1.5 Trenches 1 and 5 displayed evidence of bioturbation, probably animal burrows. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 2

5.1.6 Trench 2, (Fig. 2) was aligned north-south and displayed a similar sequence of deposits to those described above. The natural geology was encountered at *c* 61.8 m aOD. The natural was allocated a single number (201) but variations within this deposit were noted. The reddish brown clay appeared to be overlain by a mid yellowish brown sand and gravel with spreads of mid-pale grey sand with orange brown mottling.

5.1.7 Two probable tree throw pits (204 and 208) were recorded, one of which had an associated area of root disturbance (202). These were filled with predominantly dark grey brown silty sand with *c*10% gravel pebbles (205, 209 and 203 respectively).

5.1.8 A single NW-SE aligned linear feature was recorded toward the northern end of the trench. This feature (206) was 0.8 m wide and a maximum of 0.15 m deep and was filled by a loose, mid brownish grey silty sand with 5% gravel pebbles (207). It is possible that this represented the base of a ditch of indeterminate date and function. However, the feature was very ephemeral in nature and no finds were recovered from the single fill.

5.1.9 All these features and deposits were overlain by a single layer of modern ploughsoil (200), *c* 0.4 m thick.

Trench 7

5.1.10 Trench 7, (Figs 3 and 4) was aligned north-south and was the furthest north of the trenches in field 1 and displayed a similar sequence of deposits to those described above, although with considerably fewer geological variations. The archaeological horizon was encountered at 61.31 m aOD at the southern end of the trench and 60.96 m aOD to the north, and comprised a predominantly mid yellowish brown sand and gravel with spreads of mid orangey brown sand (702).

5.1.11 One possible pit or ditch terminus was recorded to the southern end of the trench (703) and was filled by a dark brownish grey sandy silt with 20% gravel pebbles (704). This feature was quite irregular in plan and may represent bioturbation.

5.1.12 A NW-SE aligned ditch was recorded in the north of the trench (705). This measured 1.4 m wide, 1 m deep and was filled by a dark brown silty sand with 5% gravel pebbles (706) which was overlain by a secondary fill comprising a dark grey silty sand with patches of orange brown sand (707). Deposit 707 produced a significant quantity of early 20th-century artefactual evidence, including a number of glass bottles, some pottery fragments and a tin saucepan (the latter not retained).

5.1.13 The lower fill (706) was indicative of gradual silting, which together with evidence for root activity in the ditch edges suggested that the ditch was open for a considerable period before being backfilled in the early 20th century.

5.1.14 All these features and deposits were overlain by a single layer of modern ploughsoil (701), *c* 0.5 m thick, and a 0.3 m deep layer of topsoil (700).

Field 2

Trenches 9, 10 and 11

5.1.15 These trenches (Fig 2) all measured *c* 30 m x 1.6 m. The trenches were excavated to the first archaeological horizon which was the interface between the existing topsoil and the underlying natural geology. The depth to the top of this horizon *c* 0.4 m (ref. Appendix 1 for individual trench context inventory). The natural geology was predominantly composed of mid yellowish brown sand and gravel with evidence for similar variations to those noted within field 1. However, considerably more evidence for bioturbation was revealed, particularly within trench 11. This comprised a number of irregular spreads of mid reddish brown sandy silt in the top of the natural geology. A number of these spreads were investigated and proved to be shallow and irregular in profile. No evidence for the reddish brown clay deposit observed within field 2 was observed.

5.1.16 Additionally, a spread of *c* 19th-century brick rubble and mortar was observed beneath the topsoil in the south of Trench 9 and the west of Trench 10. The origin of this deposit is unclear, although the proximity to the gateposts associated with Hademore Lodge may suggest that it is associated with the demolition of same.

5.1.17 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within these trenches.

Trench 12

5.1.18 Trench 12 (Figs 3 and 4) was aligned north-south. The natural geology was encountered at *c* 62.03 m aOD to the north of the trench and 62.40 m aOD to the south. The natural geology comprised a predominantly mid yellowish brown sand and gravel with orange brown mottling throughout (1200). This appeared to be considerably more gravelly below the top 0.2 m of the deposit, where exposed in the edges of archaeological features (see below).

5.1.19 An east-west aligned linear feature (1202), at least 1.6 m wide by 0.36 m deep was recorded toward the middle of the trench. This was filled by a mid orangey brown

sandy silt with 2-3% gravel fragments (1203) and appeared to have been re-cut by narrower, deeper linear features along its northern and southern edges ((1204) 1.6 m wide and 0.5 m deep and (1208) 1.6 m wide and 0.55 m deep, respectively). The northernmost of these (1204) then appears to have been re-cut again by ditch 1206. The fills of all these features (1205, 1207 and 1209) were all fairly homogenous, comprising a mid grey sandy silt. Significant breaks of slope and variations in the inclusions indicating re-cuts which were barely discernible in section. The exception to this being (1206), whose fill (1207) was considerably darker than that of cuts (1204) and (1208).

5.1.20 All these features and deposits were overlain by a single layer of modern ploughsoil (1201), on average *c* 0.42 m thick.

Trenches 13 and 14

5.1.21 Both these trenches (Fig. 2) were located to the south of the linear features within trench 12. The natural geology was encountered at between 61.43 m and 61.87 m aOD, dropping to the south and west. This comprised a mid yellowish brown sand and gravel with occasional irregular spreads of mid-pale sand with orange brown mottling. The natural was overlain by *c* 0.4 m of modern ploughsoil.

5.1.22 No archaeological features were observed within these two trenches but they are notable in that they displayed significantly less evidence for bioturbation and geological variations than those to the north of the linear features in Trench 12 (Trenches 9-11). The potential significance of this is discussed below.

Field 3

Trenches 15, 16, 18 and 19

5.1.23 Trenches 16, 18 and 19 (Fig. 2) measured 30 m by 1.6 m. Trench 15 measured 15 m by 1.6 m. Natural geology was observed at *c* 63.00 m aOD and comprised a mid orange brown sand and gravel with occasional spreads of mid grey brown sand with orange brown mottling. This was overlain by *c* 0.4 m of modern ploughsoil. Modern plough-scarring was apparent throughout.

5.1.24 No archaeological features were observed with the possible exception of a potential N-S aligned linear feature in Trench 15. Cut (1501) 0.5 m wide by 0.14 m deep was filled by (1502) a light greyish brown sand. This appeared reasonably convincing in plan although further investigation revealed very irregular sides and base, and it seems likely to have been a geological variation, or root disturbance.

5.1.25 Trench 16 revealed a roughly W-E aligned service trench at its western end. This appeared to cut through an area of disturbance possibly representing a hedge-line.

Trench 17

5.1.26 Trench 17 (Fig. 2) revealed a similar sequence of deposits to those described above. At its western end, a NW-SE aligned linear feature (1702) proved to be a pebble filled drain measuring 0.4 m wide by 0.55 m deep. A fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material was recovered from the fill of this feature.

6 FINDS

6.1.1 With the exception of the 20th-century material from ditch 703 a *c* 19th-century pottery sherd and building material from the re-cut boundary in Trench 12; and a fragment of post-medieval building material from the rubble-filled field drain in Trench 17, no significant finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

7 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

7.1.1 Although little evidence for archaeological features or deposits was recovered during the evaluation, certain tentative suggestions can be made as to the features which were observed.

7.1.2 The ditch in Trench 7 coincides roughly with a field boundary shown on the first edition OS map (1843-93). As none of the field boundaries shown on this map are aligned from the railway, it seems likely that the railway was superimposed on an existing field system, and that the boundaries continued in use after the construction of the West Coast Mainline. The fact that the upper fill of this feature contained a significant amount of early 20th-century artifactual evidence may suggest that this boundary was extant well into the last century, and that it was only recently that the north-eastern boundary of this field was extended as far as the railway line.

7.1.3 It is also possible that the W-E aligned, re-cut linear feature in Trench 12 represents a field boundary. The first addition OS map shows a boundary on this alignment in the approximate vicinity of Trench 12, marking the southern edge of a plantation labelled 'Hademore Belt', which appears to have been associated with Hademore Lodge. Whilst it is not certain that this boundary and the features in Trench 12 are one and the same, the fact that the trenches to the north of these features displayed considerably more evidence of bioturbation than those to the south, may add weight to the suggestion that this marks the southern boundary of an area of woodland.

APPENDICES

8 APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	*Ctxt No*	*Type*	*Width (m)*	*Thickness/ depth (m)*	*Comment*	*Finds*	*No./ wt*	*Date*
001								
	100	deposit		0.22	topsoil			
	101	deposit		0.20	subsoil			
	102	layer			sand and gravel natural			
002								
	200	deposit		0.4	topsoil			
	201	layer		-	sand and gravel natural			
	202	cut			tree root disturbance			
	203	fill			fill of tree root disturbance			
	204	cut	1.5	0.5	possible pit / probable tree throw pit			
	205	fill	1.5	0.5	fill of probable tree throw pit			
	206	cut	0.8	0.15	possible linear			
	207	fill	0.8	0.15	fill of possible linear			
	208	cut			tree throw			
	209	fill			fill of tree throw			
003								
	300	deposit		0.4	topsoil			
	301	layer		-	yellow brown sandy natural			
	302	deposit		0.3	alluvial clayey sand overlying geological depression in sandy natural?			
004								
	400	deposit		0.2	topsoil			
	401	deposit		0.2	subsoil			
	402	layer		-	reddish brown sandy natural			

Trench	*Ctxt No*	*Type*	*Width (m)*	*Thickness/ depth (m)*	*Comment*	*Finds*	*No./ wt*	*Date*
005								
	500	deposit		0.18 - 0.3	topsoil			
	501	deposit		0.15	subsoil			
	502	layer		-	yellow brown sandy natural with variations throughout			
	503	cut			root disturbance			
	504	fill			fill of root disturbance			
006								
	600	deposit		0.35	topsoil			
	601	layer		-	yellow brown sandy natural			
007								
	700	deposit		0.3 - 0.35	topsoil			
	701	deposit		0.15 - 0.2	subsoil			
	702	layer		-	reddish brown sandy natural - variations throughout			
	703	cut	0.4	0.22	possible pit / ditch terminus or bioturbation			
	704	fill	0.4	0.22	fill of possible pit			
	705	cut	1.4	1.00	ditch cut			Post-med
	706	fill	1.4	0.5	primary ditch fill / gradual silting			
	707	fill	1.4	0.5	upper ditch fill / deliberate backfilling			
008								
	800	deposit		0.4	topsoil			
	801	layer		-	yellow brown sand - variations throughout			
009								
	900	deposit		0.3 - 0.45	topsoil			
	901	deposit		0.1	spread of ?demolition rubble			
	902	layer		-	yellow brown sandy natural			

Trench	*Ctxt No*	*Type*	*Width (m)*	*Thickness/ depth (m)*	*Comment*	*Finds*	*No./ wt*	*Date*
	903	deposit		0.2	reddish brown sandy ?geological variation			
010								
	1000	layer		-	yellow brown natural			
	1001	deposit		0.4	topsoil			
	1002	deposit		0.1	spread of ?demolition rubble			
011								
	1100	layer		-	predominantly yellow brown sandy natural with reddish brown sandy variations throughout			
	1101	deposit		0.38 - 0.5	topsoil			
012								
	1200	layer		-	sand and gravel natural			
	1201	deposit		avg. 0.42	topsoil			
	1202	cut	3	0.36	?field boundary			Post-med
	1203	fill	3	0.36	fill of ?field boundary			
	1204	cut	0.8	0.5	?re-cut of 1202			Post-med
	1205	fill	0.8	0.5	fill of ?re-cut			
	1206	cut	0.7	0.5	?re-cut of 1204			Post-med
	1207	fill	0.7	0.5	fill of ?re-cut			
	1208	cut	1.7	0.55	?re-cut of 1202			Post-med
	1209	fill	1.7	0.55	fill of ?re-cut			
	1210	?cut	0.45	0.06	interface of top fill of 1204 and 1206?			
	1211	fill	0.45	0.06	lens of dark silty material in top of 1204 and 1206			
013								
	1300	cut	1.35	0.17	shallow linear			
	1301	layer		-	orange brown sandy natural			

Trench	*Ctxt No*	*Type*	*Width (m)*	*Thickness/ depth (m)*	*Comment*	*Finds*	*No./ wt*	*Date*
	1302	fill	1.35	0.17	fill of shallow linear			
	1303	deposit		0.4	topsoil			
014								
	1400	deposit		0.3	topsoil			
	1401	layer		-	sand and gravel natural			
015								
	1500	layer		-	orange brown sandy natural			
	1501	cut	0.5	0.14	root disturbance?			
	1502	fill	0.5	0.14	fill of root disturbance			
	1503	deposit		0.1	subsoil			
	1504	deposit		0.3	topsoil			
016								
	1600	deposit		0.3 - 0.4	topsoil			
	1601	layer		-	orange brown sandy natural - root disturbance throughout			
017								
	1700	deposit		0.35	topsoil			
	1701	layer		-	sand and gravel natural			
	1702	cut	0.4	0.55	rubble filled field drain			
	1703	fill	0.4	0.1	top fill of field drain			
	1704	fill	0.45	0.3	rubble fill of field drain			
018								
	1800	deposit		0.25 - 0.35	topsoil			
	1801	layer		-	orange brown sandy natural			
019								
	1900	deposit		0.4	topsoil			
	1901	layer		-	sand and gravel natural			

9 APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 1992 OA Fieldwork Manual (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992)

OA 2000 West Coast Mainline-Historical Impact Assessment -not issued. OA Internal report only.

OA 2003 West Coast Mainline-Field-walking Report-not issued. OA Internal report only.

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OA 2005b Network Rail, Trent Valley. West Coast Mainline Upgrade. Staffordshire: Tamworth to Lichfield. Haul Roads Watching Brief Report

OA 2006 Network Rail, Trent Valley. West Coast Mainline Upgrade. Staffordshire: Tamworth to Lichfield. Site A15 Shaw Lane : Archaeological Evaluation Report

OA 2006b Network Rail, Trent Valley. West Coast Mainline Upgrade. Staffordshire: Tamworth to Lichfield. Site 33 Burton Road Compound : Archaeological Evaluation Report

OA 2006c Network Rail, Trent Valley. West Coast Mainline Upgrade. Staffordshire: Tamworth to Lichfield. Sites 28, 29, 30 and 31: Archaeological Evaluation Report

10 APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Hademore Crossing, Fisherwick Road A28-31
Site code: WCMA2805
Grid reference: SK 176 080
Type of evaluation: Trial Trenching
Date and duration of project: The fieldwork commenced in March 2006 and was completed within five days
Area of site: 5.6 hectares
Summary of results: The evaluation produced limited archaeological features which indicated possible post-medieval field boundaries

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Potteries Museum & Art Gallery Service in due course, under accession number : **2005.LH.7**

LIST OF FIGURES

Scale 1:50,000

Figure 1: Site location

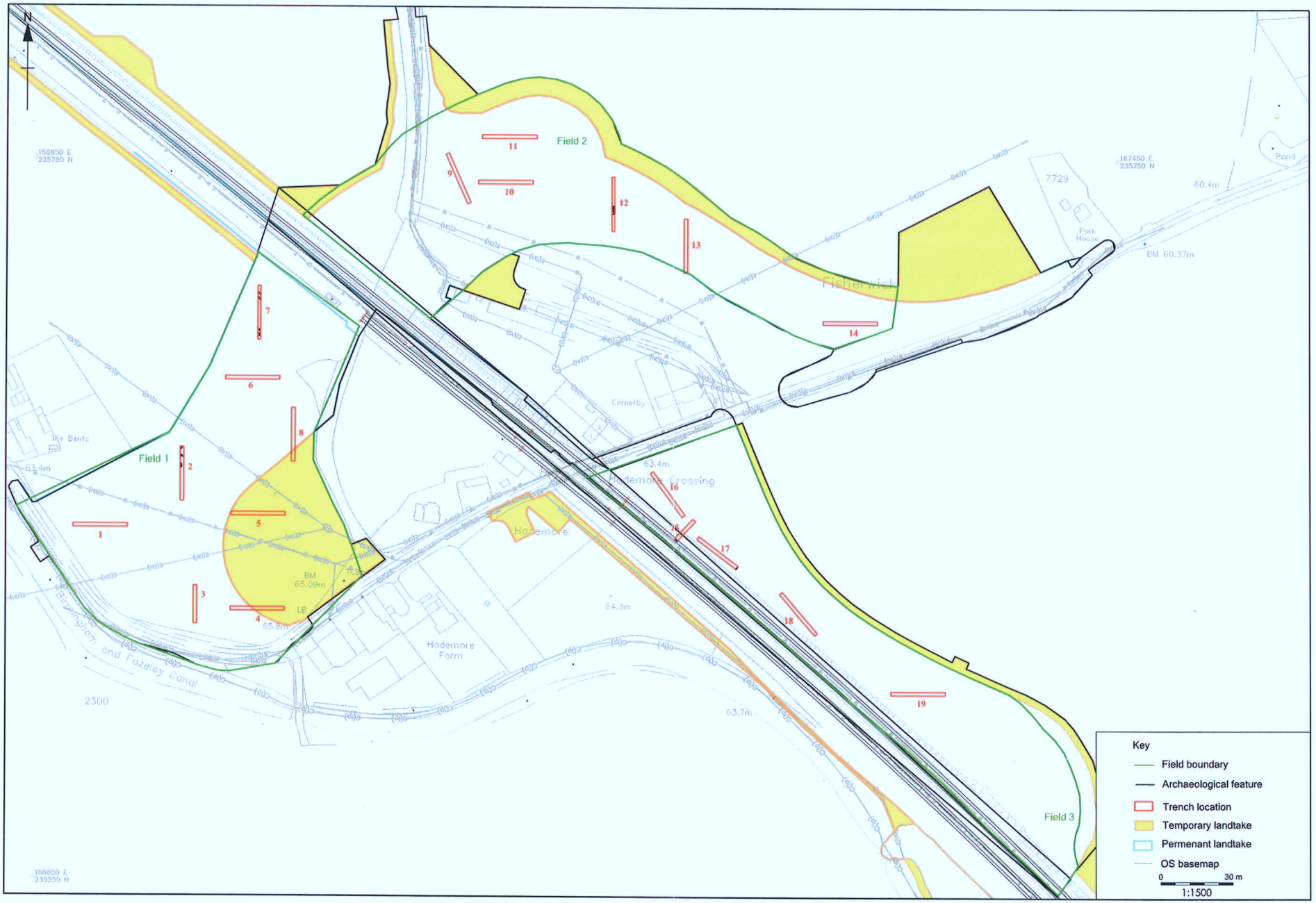


Figure 2: Trench location

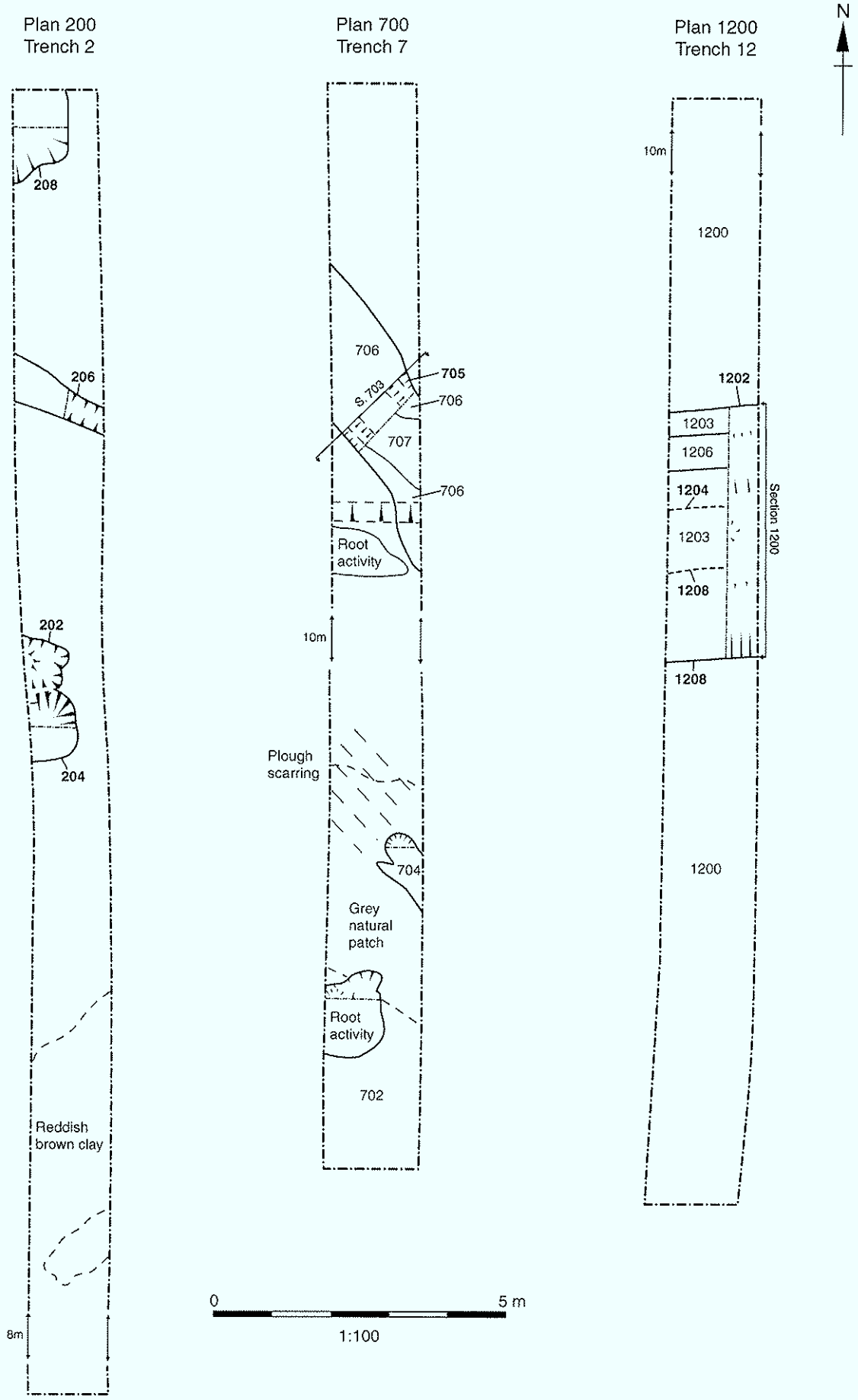
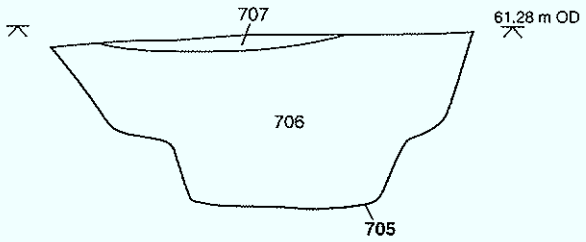


Figure 3: Trenches 2, 7, and 12; plans

Section 703
Trench 7



Section 1200
Trench 12

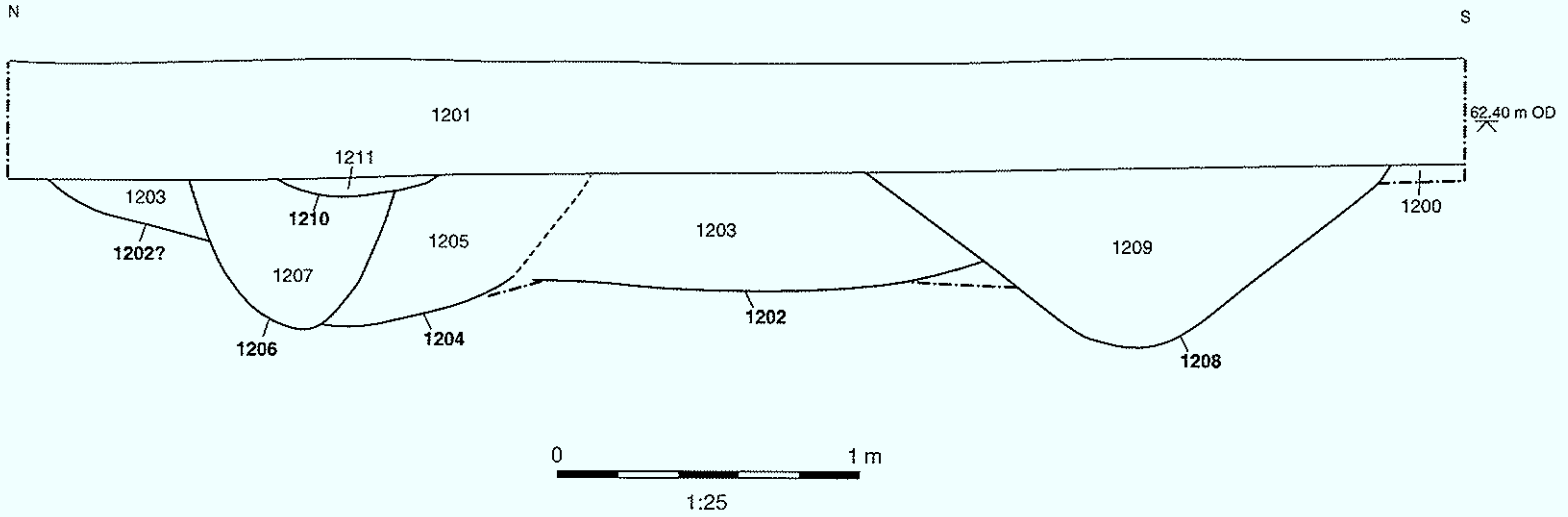


Figure 4 : Trench 7 and 12 sections

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