

GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



**Old Telephone Exchange, Church Road, Luss
Data Structure Report
Project 4067**

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Old Telephone Exchange, Church Road, Luss

Data Structure Report

On behalf of: Smith Brooke Architects

NGR: NS 36001 92882

Project Number: 4067

Report by: Kevin Mooney & Beth Spence

Illustrations: Fiona Jackson

Project Manager: Bob Will

Approved by:



Date:

11/06/2015

*This document has been prepared in accordance
with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.*

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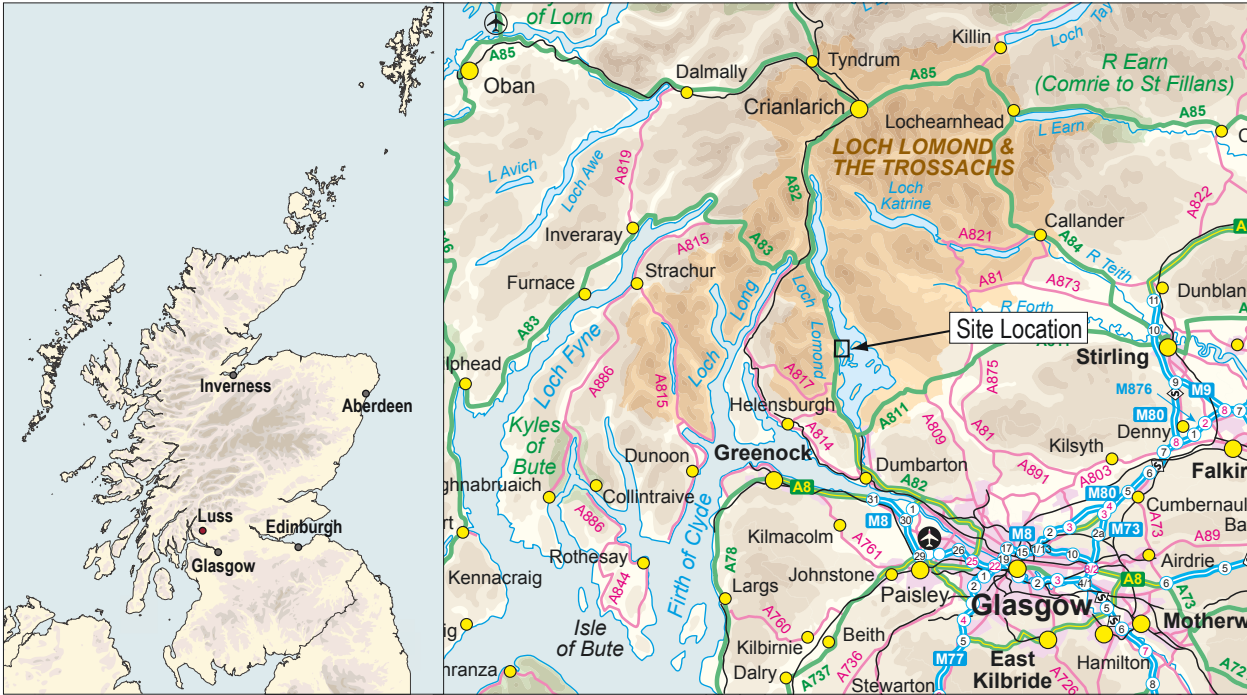
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Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Smith Brooke Architects to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundations and other associated ground preparation works for the development of a new Fish Smokery at the site of an old Telephone Exchange at Church Road in Luss. This work was undertaken between 10th February 2015 and 16th February 2015 and no artefacts or archaeological features were uncovered within the excavated areas.

Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by GUARD Archaeology, on behalf of Smith Brooke Architects on a site proposed for the development of a new Fish Smokery at the site of an old Telephone Exchange at Church Road in Luss. The archaeological work was undertaken according to a method statement agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) who advise the planning department of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (Planning Reference: 2013/0301/DET. During the course of the watching brief no archaeological features or artefacts were recovered within the excavated areas. GUARD Archaeology undertook this programme of work between 10th February 2015 and 16th February 2015.

Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The proposed development location lay within the village of Luss on the western shore of Loch Lomond (NGR NS 36001 92882). The development area covered approximately 945 square metres and sat 13 m above sea level.
- 3.2 The site was bounded by Church Road to the east, Dell Cottage directly to the south, the current telephone exchange building to the north and an area of open pasture land to the west. The site itself was the location of the original telephone exchange building. (Figure 1).
- 3.3 The underlying drift geology consisted of river terrace deposits from the Quaternary period, while the solid geology consisted of Dunoon Phyllite formation metamorphic rock.

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The proposed development was situated within the historic core of Luss village. The development area lay on the existing location of a telephone exchange just off Church Road in Luss. The site lay in close proximity to Luss Parish Church which although built in 1875 was built on the site of an earlier medieval church. The church was dedicated to St Kessog, who is associated with the neighbouring island of Inchtavannach. Within the church yard are two cross-marked stones which may date to the 7th or 8th centuries and a 'viking' hogback grave-cover that would date to the 11th century as well as a late medieval cross and at least five coped grave-covers. These grave markers and the records of the medieval church demonstrate the importance of the area in the Early Christian and Medieval period.

Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to identify:
- the presence or absence of previously unknown archaeological deposits, built remains or artefacts relating to the early occupation of Luss;
 - the extent and nature of previously unknown archaeological features within the development area;
 - to ensure that any surviving archaeological remains, encountered during the ground-works were recorded in accordance with ClfA Standards.

5.2 The objectives were therefore to:

- Conduct a watching brief on any and all ground-breaking or ground level reduction work associated with the proposed development to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving;
- Submit a report to data structure level for approval to WoSAS, on completion of the archaeological fieldwork, which includes an outline of the scope of any further excavation works should any significant archaeology be encountered.

Methodology *(Figure 1)*

- 6.1 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of foundation trenches, service trenches and any other ground preparation works including the removal of existing foundations.
- 6.2 The topsoil and/or overburden for each foundation and service trench etc was removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none was found, to the sterile, undisturbed, natural subsoil. No archaeological features were encountered.
- 6.3 A representative section was recorded denoting depth of topsoil/overburden, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information was logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.

Results

7.1 Prior to the archaeologist reaching site, much of the original telephone exchange building had been demolished and the foundations dug out. As a result of the demolition work the footprint of the building and the immediate area had been considerably disturbed. This area was examined for archaeological remains or artefacts.

7.2 Following the demolition work a series of foundation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision. These included interior and exterior footings for the new rectangular building. The main foundation trench was 12.40 m North – South and 15.70 m East West and was excavated to a depth of 0.90 to 0.95 m and was 0.90 m wide.

7.3 Within the main foundation trench a number of deposits were observed and recorded in section. The lowest deposits consisted of a mid brown/grey sterile gravel and sand subsoil deposit, (002), that contained large rounded beach cobbles. Directly above this deposit was a thick mid to light grey/brown silty sand (003). This layer appeared to be relatively secure in nature, undisturbed by the construction and demolition above. The depth of this layer varied between 0.47 m and 0.52 m across the length of the excavations. Directly above this lay a shallow, disturbed layer of topsoil, (001), that was up to 0.10 m thick and contained a large quantity modern debris and refuse.

7.4 Further foundation trenches excavated within the interior of the structure were 0.90 m wide and up to 0.95 m deep. The same topsoil, intermediate and subsoil deposits recorded within the main foundations were visible throughout.

7.5 During cleaning of debris located at the north west area of development, a number of 19th and 20th Century ceramic fragments were visible these included a small ceramic lid from a “Toilet Preparation Cream” (SF 01) and a small fragment of egg cup (SF02). Only a sample of these ceramics were retained.



Plate 1.

Discussion

- 8.1 During the course of the excavations no features of archaeological interest were noted in any of the foundation trenches or the immediate surrounding area where topsoil had been stripped or disturbed. The upper topsoil layers appeared to be heavily disturbed as a result of the construction and subsequent demolition of the telephone exchange building that previously occupied the site. The lower intermediate layers appeared to be relatively deep and secure in nature although no artefacts or archaeological features were uncovered.

Recommendations

- 9.1 The groundworks for the development have now been completed and no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were uncovered during the watching brief and in consequence no further archaeological work is recommended.
- 9.2 GUARD Archaeology would stress that these recommendations are intended for guidance only the, final decisions rest with WoSAS and the planning authority.

Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD Archaeology would like to thank Smith Brooke Architects for their assistance. Plant and drivers and groundworks were undertaken Aitchison Contracts Ltd. All groundworks were monitored and directed by Beth Spence and Kevin Mooney. Technical support was from Aileen Maule. The illustrations were produced by Fiona Jackson. The report was desk top published by Jen Cochrane. The project was managed for GUARD Archaeology Limited by Bob Will.

**Old Telephone Exchange, Church
Road, Luss
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices



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Appendices

Appendix A: List of Contexts

Context No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Loose/moderated compacted dark grey silt. Crushed modern ceramic, industrial waste, CBM and stone and root inclusions. 0.10 m to 0.25 m in depth across site. Very disturbed in nature.	Disturbed topsoil/demolition material visible across site.
002	-	Loose/moderate compacted mid brown/light brown/light yellow beige gravel and sands. Mixed stone silt and gravel inclusions. Very friable in nature, poorly sorted.	Gravel/sand sterile subsoil. Mixed stone inclusions of varying size
003	-	Loose/moderate compacted mid/light grey brown silty sand. Small root and stone inclusions alongside some larger cobble inclusions. Varies in depth between 0.47 m and 0.52 m. Appears disturbed at its upper levels by recent developments across site.	Sandy/silt material intermediate layer. Relatively deep, possible former ploughsoil or hillwash.

Appendix B: List of Finds

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
1	-	unstratified	-	Ceramic	White glazed rectangular ceramic lid from a pot of cream.
2	-	unstratified	-	Ceramic	White glazed, possibly hand painted fragment from an egg cup.

Appendix C: List of Photographs

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	-	-	ID Shot	-
2	-	-	General shot of site on arrival	SW
3	-	-	General shot of site on arrival	W
4	-	-	General view of rutting towards demolition area	SW
5	-	-	General shot of demolition area	SW
6	-	-	Service trench for former structure	SW
7	-	-	General shot of demolition area	NE
8	-	-	Outlook to south	N
9	-	-	General shot of demolition area	SW
10	-	-	Former surface – South	N
11	-	-	General shot of waterlogged conditions	W
12	-	-	General shot of site	S
13	-	-	General shot of site	S
14	-	-	Small hand dug cable trench revealing service	W
15	-	-	Slurry cleared back	S
16	-	-	Site prepared for digging foundations	SW
17	-	-	Small brick service shaft, dug out	S
18	-	-	SW facing section of foundation trench	SW
19	-	-	First area stripped	S
20	-	-	General shot of NE foundation	S
21	-	-	SW facing section of foundation trench	SW
22	-	-	Stripping at demolition area	W
23	-	-	NE foundation excavated	NW
24	-	-	NE foundation excavated	NW
25	-	-	NE foundation excavated	SE
26	-	-	S foundation excavated	W
27	-	-	S foundation excavated	W
28	-	-	S foundation excavated	W
29	-	-	General shots of interior foundation trenches	-
30	-	-	General shots of interior foundation trenches	-
31	-	-	General shots of interior foundation trenches	-
32	-	-	General shots of interior foundation trenches	-

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
33	-	-	General shots of interior foundation trenches	-
34	-	-	General shots of interior foundation trenches	-
35	-	-	General shots of interior foundation trenches	-
36	-	-	General shots of interior foundation trenches	-
37	-	-	General shot of excavated foundations	-
38	-	-	General shot of excavated foundations	-

Appendix D: DES

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Old Telephone Exchange, Church Road, Luss
PROJECT CODE:	4067
PARISH:	Luss
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Kevin Mooney
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NA
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	NA
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	NONE
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 36001 92882
START DATE (this season)	10 th February 2015
END DATE (this season)	16 th February 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	--
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	GUARD Archaeology Limited were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundations and other associated ground preparation works for the development of a new Fish Smokery at the site of an old Telephone Exchange in Luss. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were uncovered within the excavated areas.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Unknown
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Smith Brooke Architects
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd, 52 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow, G51 3TRG
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Kevin.mooney@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS

Appendix E: Method Statement

OLD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, CHURCH ROAD, LUSS

WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT

PROJECT 4067

Executive Summary

- 1.1 This archaeological watching brief method statement is applicable to the proposed excavation of foundations and other ground preparation works required for the development of a new Fish Smokery (Planning Reference: 2013/0301/DET. This method statement was prepared in consultation with WoSAS.

Introduction

- 2.1 This Method Statement sets out the methodology for the archaeological watching brief required for the ground-works associated with the development at the Old Telephone Exchange, Church Road, Luss. The watching brief will be undertaken to establish the presence, extent and nature of any significant archaeological remains, particularly those related to the early occupation and development of Luss. Should significant remains be identified and it is not possible to preserve them *in situ* a further requirement for archaeological works to ensure their preservation through record is likely to be required in consultation with WoSAS.
- 2.2 This method statement outlines the programme of archaeological works that may be needed to mitigate the effects of the development. It details the methodology to be employed in implementing an archaeological watching brief where any archaeological discoveries will be fully excavated and recorded. If archaeological remains are discovered that cannot be fully investigated within the terms of a watching brief further work may be required. Any additional work on site and post-excavation analysis and publication of the results of the watching brief, will be specified in a separate document that will be submitted for the approval of WoSAS, prior to the commencement of any further archaeological site work or post-excavation programme.

Site Location

- 3.1 The development area is the site of the Old Telephone Exchange, Church Road, Luss and is situated on the north bank of the Luss Water approximately 200m from the west bank of Loch Lomond and as such lies within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The proposed development is situated within the historic core of Luss village. The site lies in close proximity to Luss Parish Church which although built in 1875 was built on the site of an earlier medieval church. The church was dedicated to St Kessog, who is associated with the neighbouring island of Inchtavannach. Within the church yard are two cross-marked stones which may date to the 7th or 8th centuries and a 'viking' hogback grave-cover that would date to the 11th century as well as a late medieval cross and at least five coped grave-covers. These grave markers and the records of the medieval church demonstrate the importance of the area in the Early Christian and Medieval period.

Aims, Objectives and Scope

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief is to identify:
- the presence or absence of previously unknown archaeological deposits, built remains or artefacts relating to the early occupation of Luss;
 - the extent and nature of previously unknown archaeological features within the development area;
 - to ensure that any surviving archaeological remains, encountered during the ground-works are recorded in accordance with ClfA Standards.
- 5.2 The objectives are therefore to:

- Conduct a watching brief on any and all ground-breaking or ground level reduction work associated with the proposed development to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving;
- Submit a report to data structure level for approval to WoSAS, on completion of the archaeological fieldwork, which includes an outline of the scope of any further excavation works should any significant archaeology be encountered.

Watching Brief Methodology

- 6.1 The watching brief will comprise the monitoring of all hand-excavated foundation trenches, service trenches and any other ground preparation works to include the removal of any existing foundations.
- 6.2 The topsoil and/or overburden for each foundation and service trench location will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none was found, to the sterile, undisturbed, natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand by the on-site Archaeologist to determine their character and extent.
- 6.3 Any significant archaeological features encountered will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. Should negative-cut features be encountered, these will be fully excavated (100%) in order to determine their significance, date and function. A full record of excavated features will be made using a single context recording system using pro forma sheets, drawings and photographs. All archaeological features will be photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:10, and plans at 1:20. All trenches will be accurately surveyed using a sub-metre GPS and located within the National Grid.
- 6.4 All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. Finds and animal bone will be collected as bulk samples by context. Significant small finds will be three dimensionally located prior to collection. All finds will be processed to MAP2 type standards and subject to appropriate specialist assessment. If necessary, conservation of finds will be appraised to allow for specialist study.
- 6.5 All excavated feature fills and horizons will be sampled as appropriate, using bulk soil samples, for palaeo-environmental evidence.
- 6.6 A representative section will be recorded denoting depth of topsoil/overburden, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information will be logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.
- 6.7 Should human remains be revealed by the excavation, the local police, the client and WoSAS will be informed immediately. Any human remains will be accurately recorded, but left *in situ*, pending the agreement of the police, the client and WoSAS on an appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 6.8 Should significant archaeological remains be encountered during the watching brief, requiring more than limited excavation and recording, the remains will be largely left *in situ* pending the agreement of the client and WoSAS on a site specific methodology with an appropriate scope of excavation (Stage 2) and Post-excavation design including scope of finds analysis, conservation & publication (Stage 3).

Report Preparation and Contents

- 7.1 A report detailing the results of the archaeological fieldwork will be submitted to the client within two weeks of completion of all fieldwork and, subject to client approval, then submitted to WoSAS. The report will take the form of a Data Structure Report and will contain an analysis of the results of the watching brief. The report will include a full descriptive text that will characterise the date and extent of any archaeological deposits. It will also include plans at an appropriate scale showing the area subjected to ground-breaking works, archaeological features and archiving lists of all finds, samples, field drawings and photographs.

- 7.2 If appropriate, the report will also include any additional methodologies issued for further archaeological fieldwork, should significant archaeology have been encountered that could not be fully investigated as part of a watching brief.
- 7.3 The report will include the following:
- executive summary;
 - a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with at least an 8 figure central grid reference;
 - OASIS reference number; unique site code;
 - contractor's details including date work carried out;
 - nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details;
 - description of the site history, location and geology;
 - a site plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated;
 - discussion of the results of field work;
 - context & feature descriptions;
 - features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format;
 - plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale;
 - initial assessment of relevant finds/samples if appropriate;
 - recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work such as excavation (Stage 2) and Post-excavation finds analysis, conservation & publication (Stage 3);
 - bibliography.
- 7.4 A hard copy of the report will be prepared for the client and a further one including a digital PDF copy sent to WoSAS.
- 7.5 The report will be presented in an ordered state and contained within a protective cover/sleeve or bound in some fashion. The report will be page numbered and supplemented with section numbering for ease of reference.

Copyright

- 8.1 Unless otherwise agreed copyright for any report resulting from the archaeological work undertaken as part of the project will be deemed the intellectual property of GUARD Archaeology Ltd.

Publication

- 9.1 A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. In the event of minor archaeological remains being encountered during the archaeological fieldwork, it is proposed that a comprehensive report submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, will form the final publication of the site. A copy of this will be included in the Data Structure Report. Should more significant material be found, publication of the findings in a journal or as a monograph may be required and will be produced within 12 months of completion of fieldwork and approval by WoSAS.

Archive

- 10.1 The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within three months of completion of all relevant work.
- 10.2 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be completed within 3 months of completion of the work. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by

submission to or incorporation into the SMR, WoSAS will validate the OASIS form(s) thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

- 10.3 A copy of the archive contents will be included in the Data Structure Report which will be provided to WoSAS for inclusion in the planning file and HER archive in order that any relevant conditions can be discharged.

Finds Disposal

- 11.1 The arrangement for the final disposal of any finds made in connection with the archaeological work, will be deposited in keeping with Scottish legal requirements as set out in the Treasure Trove Code of Practice published by the Scottish Government in December 2008. The laws relating to Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia* in Scotland apply to all finds where the original owner cannot be identified. This includes all material recovered during archaeological fieldwork. Accordingly, all assemblages recovered from archaeological fieldwork are claimed automatically by the Crown and must be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat, the Treasure Trove Unit. In the event of the discovery of small finds, a filled-out copy of the form "Declaration of an Archaeological Assemblage from Fieldwork" and two copies of the pertinent Data Structure Report will be submitted to the Panel at the conclusion of the fieldwork. The Panel will then be responsible for recommending to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer which museum should be allocated the finds. All artefacts will be temporarily stored by GUARD until a decision has been made by the panel.

Personnel and Liaison

- 12.1 The GUARD team will comprise the following qualified and experienced GUARD archaeologists:
- Project Manager: Bob Will
 - Project Director (on-site Archaeologist): TBC
 - Finds and Environmental Support and Conservation: Ms Aileen Maule
 - Illustrator: Ms Gillian McSwan
 - Quality Assurance: Dr John Atkinson
- 12.2 The GUARD Project Manager, Bob Will, will be the point of contact for the archaeological works. A full CV for individuals concerned can be made available on request.

Monitoring

- 13.1 The proposed start date for the archaeological works has still to be confirmed. WoSAS will be informed of the site mobile phone number prior to the start date so that monitoring visits can be arranged. It is envisaged that the archaeological watching brief will take 1-2 days to complete.

Health & Safety and Insurance

- 14.1 GUARD Archaeology Ltd adheres to the guidelines and standards prescribed for archaeological fieldwork set down in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists approved Health and Safety in Field Archaeology document. It is standard GUARD policy, prior to any fieldwork project commencing, to conduct a risk assessment and to prepare a project safety plan, the prescriptions of which will be strictly followed for the duration of all archaeological fieldwork. Copies of the resultant project safety plan and of GUARD's Fieldwork Safety Policy Statement may be viewed upon request.
- 14.2 GUARD Archaeology Ltd also possesses all necessary insurance cover, proofs of which may be supplied upon request.

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