



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

An archaeological watching  
on land adjacent to  
10 Market Place,  
Shepshed,  
Leicestershire  
(SK 47990 19787)

Leon Hunt



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**An archaeological watching  
on land adjacent to  
10 Market Place,  
Shepshed,  
Leicestershire  
(SK 47990 19787)**

**Leon Hunt**

*for*

Brice Homes

Planning Application Number P/12/0360/2

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed:**



**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**Name:** Vicki Score

**University of Leicester**

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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## **An archaeological watching on land adjacent to 10 Market Place, Shepshed, Leicestershire (SK 47990 19787)**

Leon Hunt

### **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during ground-works at 10 Market Place, Shepshed, Leicestershire (SK 47990 19787).*

*The site lies within the medieval core of the town and is close to several historic buildings. The land was occupied by terraced houses prior to being a car park.*

*The archaeological work consisted of monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the erection of two new dwellings.*

*The sequence observed in the sections of the trenches mainly consisted of made-up ground, overlying silty sands and gravels, probably alluvial across most of the site and garden soil. Red clay was seen at the front of the site close to the street frontage.*

*A small row of granite setts were observed in section and in the spoil at the rear of the site, probably associated with the yards of the terraced buildings which once occupied the site.*

*No other archaeological features or artefacts were discovered during the watching brief and no trace of previous buildings was observed.*

*The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service with accession number X.A30.2013.*

### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Brice Homes to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground works at 10 Market Place, Shepshed, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 47990 19787)

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment. The watching brief is required as a condition of the planning consent for new dwellings on the site (Planning Application No. P/12/0360/2) issued by Chardwood Borough Council.

The site lies within the medieval core of the town and is close to several historic buildings.

### **Location and Geology**

The site lies in the centre of Shepshed, Charnwood, Leicestershire on the southern side of the Market Place, on the south-western side of Church Street, adjacent to 10 Market Place (Figures 1 & 2).

The site consists of a sub-triangular car park covered in asphalt. The total area of the site is approximately 300 square metres and the site lies at a height of around 75m aOD falling from east to west.



The British Geological Survey shows the underlying Bedrock to be Gunthorpe Member Mudstone, overlain in places with alluvium.



Figure 1: Site Location

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## Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the site is within the medieval and post-medieval village core of Shepshed and is close to a number of historic buildings. The first edition OS map of Shepshed shows that a row of small terraced houses once stood on the development area.

## Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological excavation is to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.



The aims of the Watching brief were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground-works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground-works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.



Figure 2: Location of development area. Scale 1: 1250. Plan provided by developer

### Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).

A *Design Specification for Archaeological Work* (see Appendix) was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works.

The work consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the erection of two new dwellings.

The trenches were excavated by a small tracked excavator fitted with a 0.6m toothed bucket (Plates 1 & 2).

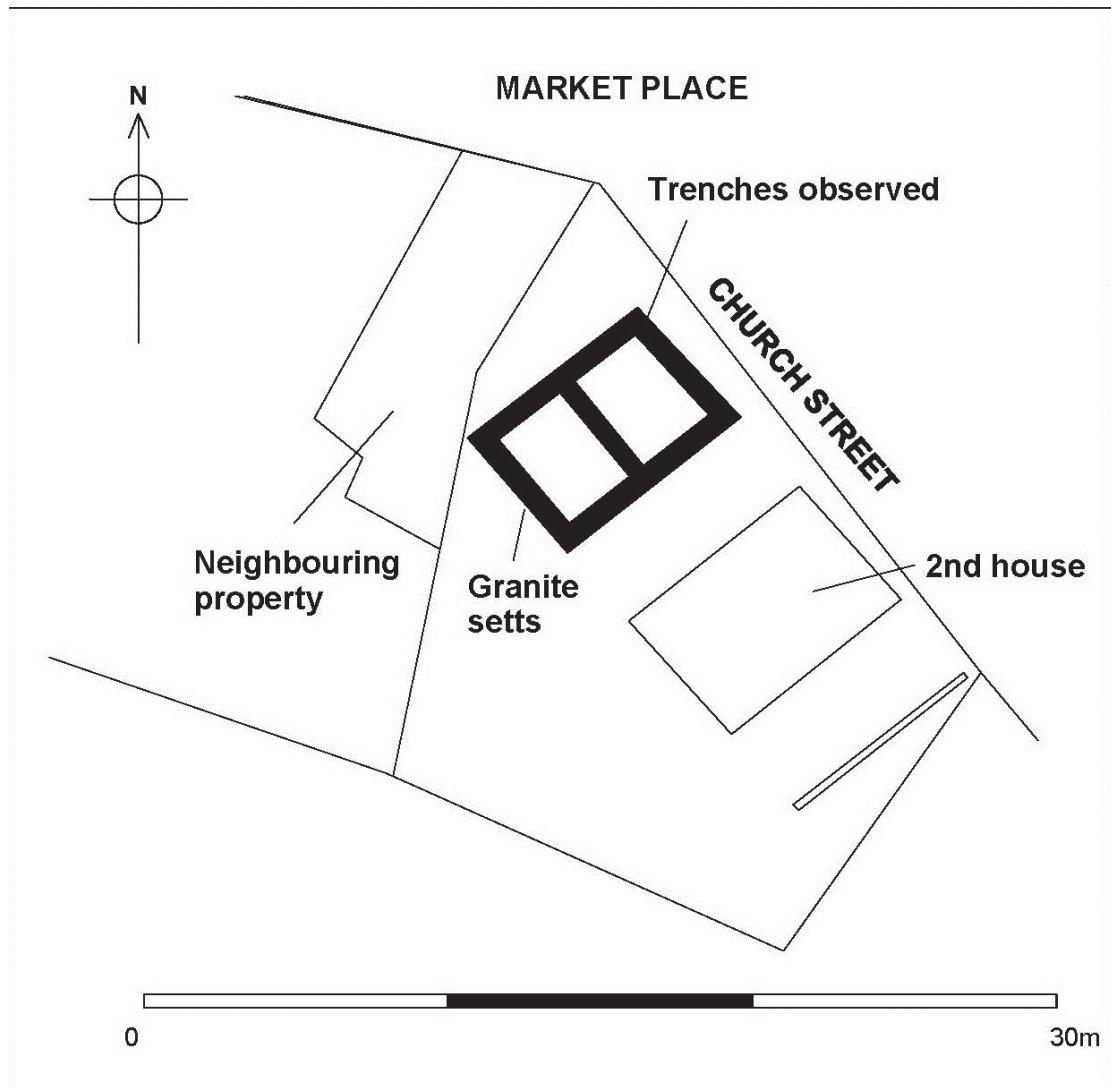


Figure 3: Plan of work observed during watching brief

## Results

The site was visited by an archaeologist on 13th March 2013 and trenches associated with the construction of the new houses were observed.

Prior to the work the site had been covered in mill waste over most of the site, with a small section of block paving at the eastern end.

Work started on the trenching close to the existing wall of the neighbouring shops to the west.

The rear wall of the new build was excavated first, moving from north-west to south-east. The trench was 0.6m wide at the north-west end was 1.5m deep, stepping up to 1.3m and then 0.95m at the eastern end.

This exposed a sequence of around 0.40m of made up ground, mainly soil, and fragments of building material over a reddish brown silty sand and gravel. At the base of the trench was red and blue Mudstone (Plate 3).

A layer of small roughly hewn granite setts were exposed in the north-east facing section here, around 0.20m under the surface. Many more setts were to be found in the spoil

The work then continued to the north-east up against the neighbouring property. The sequence here was similar, except that a ceramic drain and a large concrete slab were exposed at the base of the trench. A large amount of hard-core was excavated from above the concrete (Plate 4).

The trench at the front of the site exposed a slightly different sequence, with around 0.10m of made-up ground over 0.25m of dark topsoil over red clay (Plate 5). The central trench of the new build was similar to the trenches at the rear of the site with made-up ground over the dark silty sand.

No archaeological artefacts or features were observed. No remains of the terraced house that once occupied the site nor any earlier remains were seen.

It was not felt necessary to watch any further trenching on the site.

## **Conclusion**

The soil sequence seen in the foundation trenches on the land adjacent to 10 Market Street largely consisted of disturbed made-up ground, which lay over a thick layer of silty sand and gravel, most probably alluvial in origin with a small section of garden soil lying over the natural clay at the front of the site.

No evidence was found for previous buildings on the site, suggesting that the site had been fully cleared before being turned into a car park.

A small section of granite setts were discovered at the very south-western edge of the excavation and within the spoil, which may have been the remnants of the yards of the terraced house that occupied the site from around the time of the first edition maps (the end of the 19th century) up until the 1980s.

The concrete slab at the base of the western trench is most likely the foundation for the new brick gable end of the neighbouring shop to the west, which was presumably constructed when the terraced houses were demolished to finish off and support the gable end of the shop left standing.

## **Publication**

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.



*OASIS data entry*

Project Name	Land adjacent to 10, Market Place, Shepshed
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Car Park
Development Type	Housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 47990 19787
Start/end dates of field work	12-03-2013
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	300 sq. m.

**Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to thank Roy Summers and Brice Homes for their help and co-operation during the watching brief, which was carried out by Leon Hunt of ULAS.

**Archive**

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service with accession number X.A30.2013. The archive consists of the following:

- 1 unbound copy of this report (No. 2013-044)
- 1 watching brief recording sheets
- 1 CD digital photographs
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 Set B&W Negatives
- 1 Set B&W Contact sheets

Leon Hunt  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email:

[lh90@le.ac.uk](mailto:lh90@le.ac.uk)

13-03-2013



Plate 1: Work in progress against neighbouring property, looking west



Plate 2: Work in progress on final trench, looking south-west





Plate 3: South-west facing section of south-west corner, looking north-east



Plate 4: View of concrete slab in western trench, looking south-west





Plate 5: South-west facing section of northern trench, looking north-east



**APPENDIX: Written Scheme of Investigation****UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES****Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance,****Inspection and Recording (watching brief)****Land adjacent to 10 Market Place, Shepshed, Leicestershire****NGR: SK 47990 19787****For: Brice Homes****Planning application: P/12/0360/2: Erection of 2 semi-detached dwellings.****Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council****Start Date: 11th March 2013 TBC.****1 Introduction***Definition and scope of the specification*

- 1.1 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording (watching brief) at the above site, in accordance with NPPF (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). This specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority, of groundworks in connection with work on land adjacent to 10 Market Place, Shepshed, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 47990 19787)
- 1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client.
  - Archaeological attendance, inspection and recording during groundworks

**2. Background***Context of the Project*

- 2.1. The planning consent is for the erection of 2 new semi-detached dwellings on land adjacent to 10, Market Place, Shepshed (Figs 1 and 2).

*Archaeological and historical background*

- 2.2 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the site is within the medieval and post-medieval village core of Shepshed and is close to a number of historic buildings. The first edition OS map of Shepshed shows that a row of small terraced houses once stood on the development area.

**3. Archaeological Aims and Objectives**

- 3.1 The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows:
  - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
  - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
  - To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
  - To advance understanding of the heritage assets
  - To produce an archive and report of any results.

*Geological background*

The British Geological Survey shows the underlying Bedrock to be Gunthorpe Member Mudstone, overlain in places with alluvium.

#### **4. Methodology**

##### ***General methods***

- 4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).
- 4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.3 An accession number will be obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

##### ***Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording***

- 4.4 The project will involve a watching brief during groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.
- 4.5 Excavation should be undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket for stripping in level spits. A toothed bucket may be used for removing modern overburden or rubble deposits.
- 4.6 If the initial monitoring identifies areas of no archaeological interest (e.g. modern made ground or disturbed areas), then the archaeologist may stand down monitoring of that area.
- 4.7 If significant archaeological deposits are discovered work may need to be halted in order for contingency excavation and recording to be carried out. The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.
- 4.8 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid.
- 4.9 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded using standard ULAS procedures. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.
- 4.10 All below ground stratigraphy will be recorded. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.
- 4.11 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.12 Spoil will be monitored for artefacts. A representative sample of unstratified finds may be retained.
- 4.13 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ, covered and protected, and only be removed in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The landowner and/or developer, the Planning Authority and the coroner will be informed immediately of their discovery.

##### ***Preservation in situ and Contingency Provisions***

- 4.14 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the archaeological investigation there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken.
- 4.15 On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer and the planning authority in order for detailed discussion between all relevant parties to take place.

##### ***Recording Systems***

- 4.16 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.

- 4.17 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.18 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 4.19 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.
- 4.20 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared as per the brief, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.21 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

## **5 Finds & samples**

- 5.1 The IfA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.2 An Accession number will be obtained prior to the commencement of any on-site works, that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 5.3 Any finds that may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996 will be reported to the local Coroner and removed to a safe place.
- 5.4 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to LCC for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording.
- 5.5 Although the environmental potential of the site is uncertain, if significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the following environmental sampling strategy will be adopted, following consultation with the ULAS Environmental Officer.
- i. A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
  - ii. Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
  - iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
  - iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.
- 5.6 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be

scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

- 5.7 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues (or a sample of them) may be collected. Separate samples (c. 10ml) may be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets). All industrial samples will be undertaken with reference to the Centre for Archaeology Guideline on Archaeometallurgy (English Heritage 2001).
- 5.8 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context

## **6. Report and Archive**

- 6.1 Arrangements will be made for the archive, consisting of record sheets, original drawings, drawn plans, photographs, notes, copies of all reports along with an index to the archive to be deposited at Leicestershire Museums in accordance with the relevant procedures. Digital photos will be submitted in tiff format.
- 6.3 The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent and marked with the site accession number.
- 6.4 The archive will be prepared in line with appropriate professional guidelines (e.g. UKIC and ADS guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long term storage and *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).
- 6.7 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be directed to the client, the Planning Authority and to the Historic Environment Record.
- 6.8 The report will include consideration of:
- Summary
  - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
  - The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
  - The local, regional and national context as appropriate highlighting any research priorities where applicable.
  - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
  - a summary of artefacts, specialist reports and a consideration of the evidence within its local, regional, national context.
  - The location and size of the archive.

## **7 Publication and Dissemination of Results**

- 7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.
- 7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. Once the report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

## **8. Copyright**

- 8.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.



**9. Timetable**

9.1 It is anticipated that work will be undertaken starting 11th March 2013..

**10. Health and Safety**

10.1 A Risks Assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works (see end of this document).

**11 Insurance**

11.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance, details of which are provided in the accompanying Health & Safety Method Statement.

**12. Monitoring arrangements**

12.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and to the Planning Authority subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Development Control Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological survey in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

12.2 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

**13. Bibliography**

AAF 2007 *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

LCC 2013 *Advice Letter*

English Heritage 2001 *Centre for Archaeology Guidelines on Archaeometallurgy*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2010 *Code of Conduct*

Leon Hunt  
Senior Supervisor  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614  
Email: lh90@le.ac.uk

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Fig. 1 Location plan



Fig. 2 Detail of site location (provided by client).



## Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester Archaeological  
Services (ULAS)  
University of Leicester,  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

**T:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**E:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)



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