



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**A fieldwalking survey of land south of
Bourne Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire**

NGR: TF 2286 2202 – TF 2260 2024

John Thomas



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**A fieldwalking survey of land south of Bourne Road,
Spalding, Lincolnshire**

NGR: TF 2286 2202 – TF 2260 2024

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For: Mouchel Ltd.

Approved By:

Signed:



Date: 10th November 2011

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A fieldwalking survey on land south of Bourne Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire

TF 2286 2202 – 2260 2024

1. Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by ULAS for Mouchel Ltd. in October 2011 on agricultural land south of Bourne Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire TF 2286 2202 – TF 2260 2024, in advance of the proposed Spalding Western Relief Road. The earliest evidence for activity was recovered from the northern end of the survey area and comprised a small concentration of Roman pottery. The sherds were in fairly good condition and probably indicate activity within a known wider area of Roman remains. Apart from this the survey recovered a generally sparse scatter of post-medieval – early modern material that probably derived from manuring scatters across the fields. The archive will be deposited with The Collection, Art & Archaeology in Lincolnshire under accession code LCNCC: 2011.425 in due course

2. Location, Topography and Geology

The fieldwalking survey was carried out in advance of the proposed Spalding Western Relief Road (Option A) and took place on 27-10-2011 & 28-10-2011.

The survey area lies within the parish of Spalding, which lies in the Fen basin of south-eastern Lincolnshire. The proposed road corridor is situated to the west of the central urban core of Spalding, south of Bourne Road and covers an area of approximately 2.5km (Fig. 1).

The survey area is generally flat and low-lying, with an average height of 3-4m OD and is currently in use as agricultural land. At the time of the survey crops were in various stages of growth. One field was inaccessible due to the amount of crop coverage but generally visibility was good across the remainder of the survey area.

The British Geological Survey of England and Wales shows that the underlying geology over much of the survey area comprises Tidal Flat Deposits – Clays and Silts.

3. Historical Background

A desk-based assessment for the proposed road route has been undertaken by Mouchel Ltd. (Mouchel 2011). The report considered a study area with a radius of 1km around the proposed road corridor to assess the potential for archaeological remains on the development site. The results of the assessment were based on records of known sites recorded on the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) of archaeological and historical significance.

development area from the early 18th century onwards. Some of the earlier mapped examples, from a Stuckley map of 1723, are not depicted on later maps hinting at the changing development of the area during this period of early drainage. Buried evidence relating to the history of Post-Medieval landuse in the area may be present within the development site.

4. Aims

The overall aim of the fieldwalking survey is to examine the surface of the fields for cultural material disturbed by ploughing in order to make an assessment of the presence, extent and date of any potential underlying archaeological deposits within the proposed development area.

5. Methods

Five fields (Fields 8, 26, 145, 150 & 151) were available for survey (Fig 2). A further two fields (Fields 147 & 149) lay within the proposed road corridor but were not available for survey. Permission was not granted to enter Field 147 and Field 149 contained a sugar beet crop in advanced stages of growth and was therefore not suitable for walking. All other fields had been ploughed, harrowed and left to weather, leaving an even surface with, for the large part, good visibility for the collection of artefacts.

The edges of the proposed road corridor (Option A) were marked with a hand-held GPS from waypoints retrieved from mapping supplied by the client.

Within the road corridor three fieldwalking transects were laid out on a 10m grid, the ground scanned for artefacts approximately 1 metre either side of this transect line, giving a theoretical 20% sample coverage of the total area.

Artefacts of any antiquity were recovered from the surface and their position logged as small finds with hand-held GPS units. These were showing an accuracy of 3m throughout most of the survey. Bearing in mind the dispersion factor found in fieldwalking surveys (Yorston et al 1990) this was an appropriate resolution for the aims of this project). Modern (i.e. post 1750) artefacts were not recovered deliberately, although inevitably some recovered artefacts turned out to be modern after cleaning and identification.

Two hand held GPS units were used, each generating a sequential small find number with one starting from 001 and the other from 100.

The light was generally good on both survey days although the afternoon of the first day became overcast and gloomy which hindered visibility somewhat. Conditions were better on the second day but the bright low sunlight caused a certain amount of shadowing on the field surface, particularly in the afternoon.

The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).

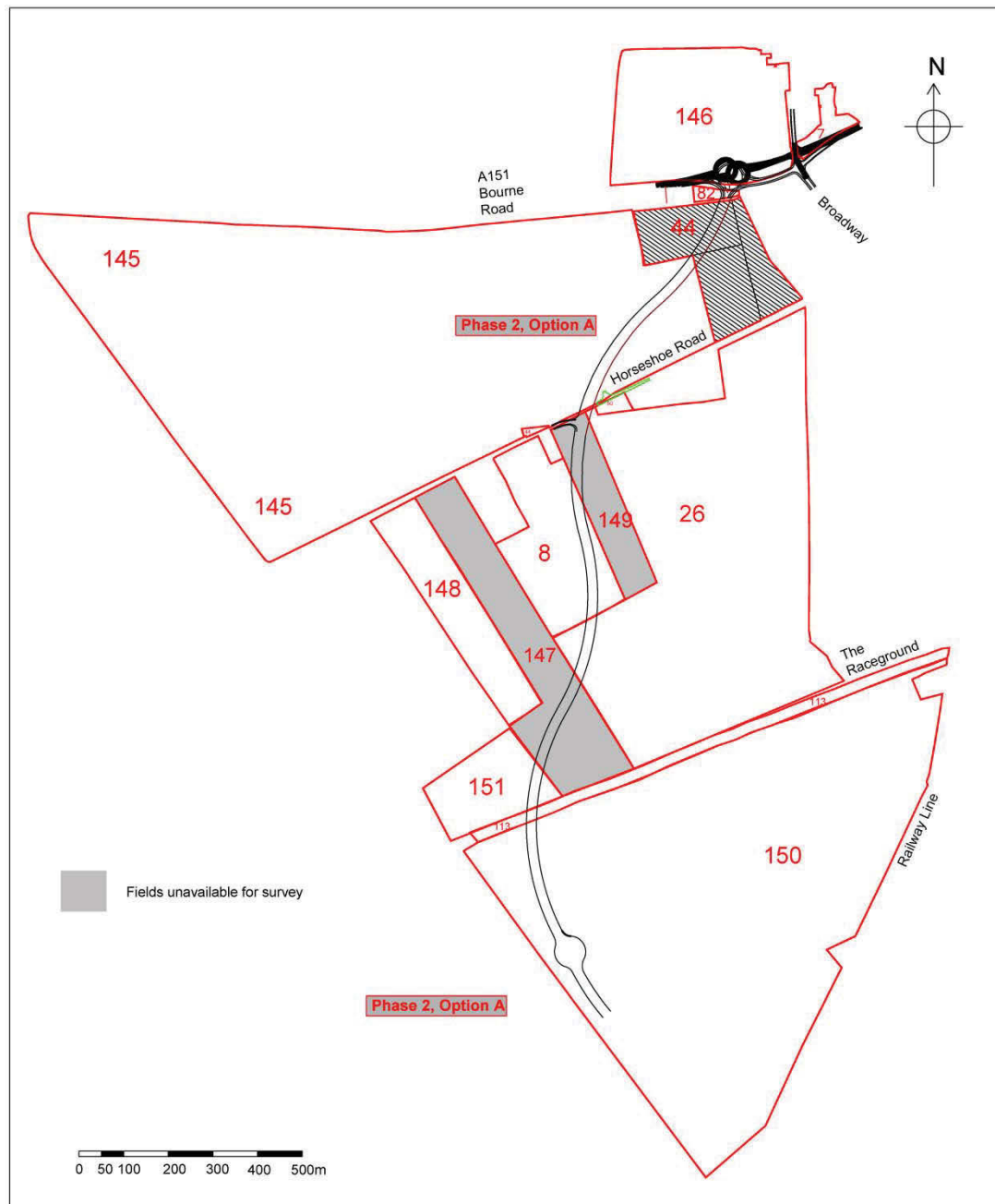


Figure 2 The development area with fields walked (adapted from mapping supplied by Mouchel).

6. Results

The majority of the artefacts recovered during the survey were located in Field 145 at the northern end of the projected road corridor. The remainder of the survey area contained only thin scatters of material, with one field (151) producing nothing at all (although visibility in this field was poor).

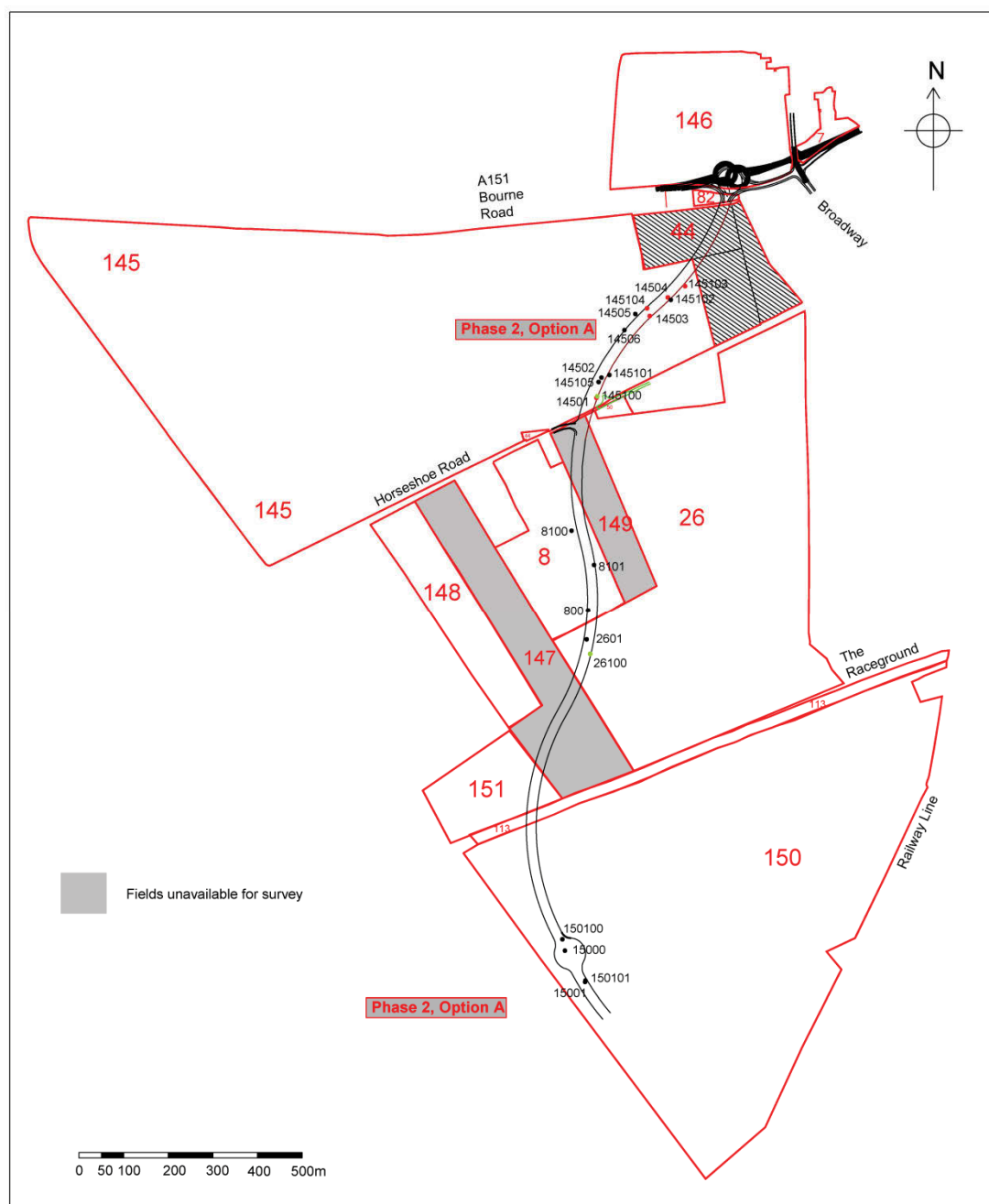


Figure 3 The study area showing the overall spread of finds

Roman material

A minor concentration of Roman pottery, consisting of four sherds, was identified towards the northern end of the corridor, in Field 145, close to land currently in use as allotment gardens (Area 44). In general the material was in good condition although one sherd of Grey Ware was abraded and had perhaps been exposed on the surface for some time. A fragmentary piece of ceramic building material (brick or tile) was also retrieved from the southern end of Field 145. Its condition is such that it cannot be precisely dated, but could also be Roman.

Post-medieval and early modern material

The survey also recovered a general scatter of post-medieval and modern material. The majority of the material is pottery although one glass fragment and a piece of coal were in evidence. The amount of pottery is not particularly large and the artefacts were probably introduced to the site via manuring scatters throughout the post-medieval period and in more recent times. Some of the modern ceramic evidence also relates to broken land-drains that must have been damaged during ploughing.

Details of individual finds can be found in the ceramic finds report (Appendix 1).

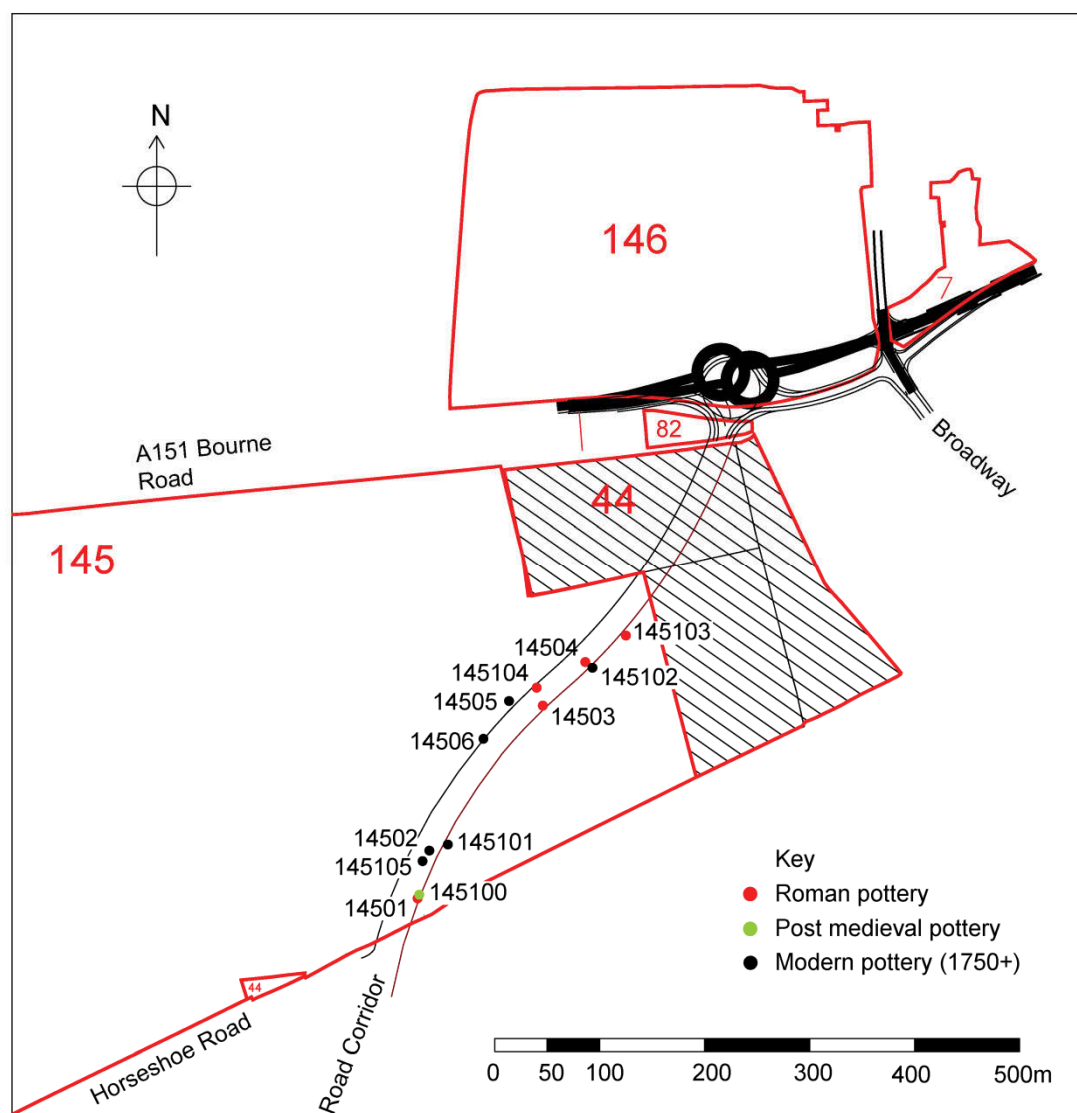


Figure 4 Field 145 showing all finds recovered

7. Discussion

The survey recovered a generally low amount of material considering the scale of the study area, however there was a clear concentration of finds in the northern part of the projected road easement (Field 145). The most interesting result from this field was a small concentration of Roman pottery sherds, most of which appeared in fairly good condition suggesting that they had not lain on the surface for too long. Records show that Roman pottery has previously been found within this field and that it lies adjacent

to a cropmark complex of the same period to the west. The pottery discovered in this survey probably indicates an area of related activity.

The low amount of post-medieval/early modern pieces show no obvious concentration and may be explained as manuring scatters from nearby settlements.

8. Archive

The archive consists of:

- 1 copy of this report
- 5 *pro-forma* fieldwalking diary sheets
- 1 annotated plan showing crop status
- 13 digital colour photographs and accompanying record sheet
- 1 box of finds
- 1 cd containing the report, GPS data and digital photographs

The archive will be deposited with The Collection: Art & Archaeology in Lincolnshire under accession code LCNCC: 2011.425 in due course.

9. Acknowledgements

The survey was undertaken by Andrew Hyam and John Thomas and the project was managed by Dr. Patrick Clay. The Roman pottery was identified by Nicholas J Cooper and the medieval and post-medieval pottery was identified by Deborah Sawday.

10. Bibliography

Institute for Archaeologists., 2008 *Codes of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

Mouchel., 2010 *Spalding Western Relief Road. Environmental Constraints and Options Study*.

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Yorston, R.M., Gaffney, V.L., and Reynolds, P.J., 1990 Simulation of Artefact movement due to cultivation. *Journal of Archaeological Science* **17**, 67-83.

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10-11-2011

APPENDIX 1: THE POTTERY AND MISCELLANEOUS FINDS.

Deborah Sawday and Nicholas J Cooper

The finds were catalogued by context with reference to the guidelines set out by the Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series for Roman pottery (Pollard 1994) and the Medieval Pottery Research group, (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2001). An attempt has been made to place the pottery within ware groups, with reference, where possible, to the Lincoln fabric series, and to the ULAS reference collection. The results are shown below (Table 1)

Bibliography

MPRG, 1998 *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, London.

MPRG, 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Saxon and Medieval Ceramics*

Pollard, R., 1994. The Iron Age and Roman Pottery in P. Clay and R. Pollard (eds.) *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester. Excavations 1962-1971*. Leicester: Leicestershire County Council Museums, Arts and Records Service, 51-114.

Young, J., Vince, A., and Nailor, V., 2005 *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies 7. Oxbow Books

Unpublished list of Lincoln and County pottery fabric codes

Table 1: The finds by fabric (where appropriate), number and weight (grams) by find spot.

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
POTTERY				
Field 8				
8 100	LERTH – Late Earthenware.	1	11	Black glazed internally, abraded, post med/modern
8 101	LERTH – Late Earthenware	1	5	?flower pot - modern
8 800	SW - Stoneware	1	18	wall of jar - modern
Field 26				
26 01	SW - Stoneware	1	2	Modern
26 100	BL - Blackware	1	5	Post-medieval, black glazed internally.
Field 145				
145 100	BL - Blackware	1	11	Post-medieval, black glazed internally.
145 02	SW - Stoneware	1	27	Base of jar - modern
145 103	GW – Grey ware	1		Roman - abraded
145 03	GT – Grog Tempered	1	17	Roman
145 104	CG – Calcite Gritted	1	15	Roman jar
145 04	GW – Grey ware	1	3	Roman – Nene Valley
145 105	LERTH – Late Earthenware	1	14	Black glazed internally, abraded, post-med/mod.
Field 150				
150 101	SW – Stoneware	1	25	Base of jar - modern
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL				

Field 8				
8 100	LERTH – Late Earthenware	1	22	Modern drain pipe
Field 145				
145 01	LERTH – Late Earthenware	1	6	?Roman/Post Medieval
145 05	LERTH – Late Earthenware	1	6	Post Medieval/Modern
Field 150				
150 00	LERTH – Late Earthenware	1	13	Thickness of wall suggests post med/modern drain pipe
150 01	LERTH – Late Earthenware	1	16	Thickness of wall suggests post med/modern drain pipe
150 100	LERTH – Late Earthenware	1	14	Modern
MISCELLANEOUS				
Field 8				
8 100	Stone	1	16	(discarded)
Field 145				
145 101	Coal	1		
145 102	Glass	1		Modern black bottle glass

Site/ Parish: Spalding Common, Lincs. Accession No.:LCNCC: 2011.425 Document Ref: spalding1.docx Material: pot & misc. finds Site Type: rural – near Roman archaeology	Submitter: J. Thomas Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 8.11.2011 Method of Recovery: field walking Job Number: 12 527
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Appendix 2: Oasis

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	Land south of Bourne Road, Spalding, Lincs
Project Type	Fieldwalking
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	John Thomas
Previous/Future work	Previous: DBA. Future: unknown
Current Land Use	arable
Development Type	Road scheme
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination
Site Co ordinates	TF 2286 2202 – TF 2260 2024
Start/end dates of field work	October 2011
Archive Recipient	The Collection: Art & Archaeology inLincolnshire
Height min/max	3-4m OD
Study Area	2.5km
Finds	Roman, Post-medieval, modern

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