

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: N/2015/950 Accession Number: tbc HER Event UID: ENN108634 Ref: 115690.03 March 2017

wessexarchaeology



# **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

# Prepared for:

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February 2017

#### WA ref 115690.03 Planning Application: N/2015/950 HER Event UID: ENN108634



#### **Quality Assurance**

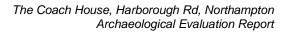
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# **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

## Contents

	ry	
ACKNOW	ledgements	IV
1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Project background	1
2	SITE DESCRIPTION	1
2.1	Location, topography and geology	1
2.2	Archaeological and historical background	
	Introduction Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43	2
	Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)	
	Medieval, post-medieval, 19th century and modern (AD 1500 – present day)	
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
3.1	Project Objectives	2
3.2	Fieldwork methodology	3
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	3
4.1	Introduction	
4.2	Natural deposits and soil sequences	3
4.3	Archaeological features and deposits	
5	ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE	4
6	ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	4
7	CONCLUSIONS	4
8	STORAGE AND CURATION	4
8.1	Museum	4
8.2	Preparation of Archive	5
8.3	Security Copy	5
9	REFERENCES	5
10	APPENDICES	7
10.1	Appendix 1: Trench tables	7
10.2	Appendix 2: OASIS form	9



## Figures

Figure 1:	Site	location	and	trench plan	n
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## Plates

- Plate 1: South facing section of trench 2, scales at 1 m (20)
- Plate 2: East facing section of trench 3 with metal utility pipe, scales at 1 m (8)
- Plate 3: North facing machine excavated slot of trench 1, scales at 1 m (25)
- Plate 4: South facing machine excavated section of trench 4, scales at 1 and 2 m (26)
- Plate 5: Trench 4 viewed from the west, scales at 1 and 2 m (28)



# **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

#### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by McAdam Design to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation comprising the excavation and recording of four trial trenches ahead of the proposed development of land at The Coach House, Harborough Road, Northampton. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 475187 263119.

Two Planning Applications have been submitted for the Site (refs. N/2015/0949 N/2015/0950) with the evaluation forming part of the archaeological mitigation associated with the consent prior to construction. The proposed development in the area covered by the archaeological evaluation comprises the construction, using pile driven foundations, of an extension adjoining the west of the existing building.

The evaluation identified a terrace which had truncated the Site c. 1.5-1.7 m below the current ground level, this had been backfilled with a mixture of redeposited natural and dumps of modern (i.e. 19th century) material. The evaluation was carried out on the 6th February 2017.

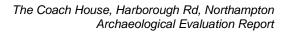


# **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

#### Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank McAdam Design for commissioning the work and in particular Simon Jackson and Chris Cheater for their assistance during the course of the works. Thanks are also due to Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor to Northampton County Council, who monitored the fieldwork, for her advice and support.

The evaluation was undertaken by Rachel Williams and Jamie McCarthy. This report was compiled by Rachel Williams. The illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mepham. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Crockett.





# Archaeological Evaluation Report

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 **Project background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by McAdam Design (the Client) to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the site of a new extension to The Coach House, Harborough Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 475187 263119 (hereafter 'the Site') (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The Site is situated just the north of the Grade II listed St David's (list entry 1372196), a late 19th century property built on the site of a medieval hospital and now in use as a care home. The Coach House is considered a curtilage building and therefore under the Listed Building and Conservation Areas Act 1990 is to be treated as part of the listed building.
- 1.1.3 The wider site including the Grade II listed building was the subject of a previous planning application to change the use from a school to a residential care home with associated extensions, new access and landscaping (Application N/2008/0746), which was granted in December 2008.
- 1.1.4 Subsequently, due to the evolving needs of the care home a new planning application (N/2015/0949) and listed building consent (N/2015/0950) was submitted to alter the previous proposed extension to The Coach House. The new design comprises an extension ad-joining the west of the building of similar size and scale to complement the existing structure and fabric. These applications were initially refused but granted on appeal (Ref: APP/V2825/W/16/3147931 and APP/V2825/Y/16/3147933) and including the following condition:
- 1.1.5 'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has se-cured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'
- 1.1.6 The Assistant Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), requested an archaeological trial trench evaluation to be undertaken in order to characterise any archaeological remains which may be present within the development footprint. Due to the size of the development footprint four 2 x 1 m test pits were excavated.

#### 2 SITE DESCRIPTION

#### 2.1 Location, topography and geology

2.1.1 The overall Site, which includes both The Coach House and St David's, comprises a 0.7 ha are of land within the Kingsthorpe area on the northern outskirts of Northampton (centred on NGR 475187 263119). The Site is bounded to the west by Harborough Road, to the



north by Kingsland Gardens and to the east and south by The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School.

- 2.1.2 The Site lies at approximately 88 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.1.3 The underlying geology across the Site is recorded as the ironstone of the Northampton Sand Formation with no superficial recorded (British Geological Survey, online viewer).

#### 2.2 Archaeological and historical background

#### Introduction

2.2.1 The following summary of the archaeological and historical background for the Site was compiled using records from the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) and other sources.

#### Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43

2.2.2 There is little evidence recorded for prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the Site, however, there is the Jurassic Way, running north-south across the Study Area approximately 70 m west of the Site (MNN160137), and an unstratified prehistoric axe 170 m west of the Site (MNN28310).

#### Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

2.2.3 Roman activity in the vicinity of the Site is suggested as Roman coins and a fragment of mosaic are recorded as being found in the area to the west of the Site (Pastscape 343652) and some 3rd century coins are also recorded as being found in Kingsthorpe itself (PastScape 343511). An evaluation at Dallington Grange also identified a small settlement area of Romano-British date with a possible earlier Iron Age origin (Oxford Archaeology 2007).

#### Medieval, post-medieval, 19th century and modern (AD 1500 – present day)

- 2.2.4 Kingsthorpe is recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey as a small settlement of 11 households, with three mills also listed. The Hospital of St. David (also known as the Hospital of The Holy Trinity), which occupied the Site, lay to the east of the medieval village and immediately east of the main road from Northampton to Market Harborough and was founded c.1200 (NHLE 1372196). A hospital building, two chapels and cemetery are documented as part of the complex, which was dissolved in 1570 and passed into private hands. The hospital building, which laid at the southern end of the Site, was demolished in 1928.
- 2.2.5 Although the list entry records St David's as late 19th century, the heritage statement (Smith 2008) and historic mapping suggests it largely dates from the 1930s. The Coach House is first depicted on the 1901 edition Ordnance Survey map with a small area of trees or orchard occupying the land immediately to the west. The property at this time occupies a separate parcel of land to the former hospital building to the south.

#### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 **Project Objectives**

- 3.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the trial trench evaluation were to:
  - To locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits;



- To confirm where possible the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the proposed development area;
- To inform the scope and nature of any requirements for any potential further fieldwork, whether additional watching brief, excavation or post-excavation work;
- To enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered; and
- To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in the agreed WSI (WA 2017) and comprised four machine-excavated trial trenches, initially 2 x 1 m but at the request of the Assistant Archaeological Advisor at NCC trench four was extended to 5.5 m. The evaluation was carried out with the relevant guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014a).
- 3.2.2 The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mini excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, and under the constant supervision by an experienced archaeologist. Machine levels were determined by the natural horizon or the presence of services. The spoil from the trenches was scanned for artefacts.
- 3.2.3 All deposits were recorded using WA's pro forma record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts.
- 3.2.4 A full photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features and the site as a whole. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.2.5 A unique site code 115690 was allocated to the site and used on all records and finds.

### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section provides a summary description of the results of the archaeological trial trench evaluation with further information included in Appendix 1. Details of individual contexts are retained in the project archive.

#### 4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

4.2.1 The stratigraphy across the site was broadly consistent. The topsoil, topped with turf, comprised a dark grey sandy loam with rare, fine, sub-angular gravel inclusions and was finely rooted throughout. Underlying the topsoil was a dark grey sandy loam levelling layer with sparse sub-angular fine and coarse gravel inclusions. A mid-grey/brown subsoil with sparse sub-angular medium gravels was noted in Trench 2, the only trench in which no significant truncation had occurred (Plate 1). The natural consisted of a compact mid-yellow/brown sand with rare sandstone boulders.



#### 4.3 Archaeological features and deposits

- 4.3.1 Archaeological deposits were noted in three of the four trenches, including a metal utility pipe in Trench 3 (Plate 2). The primary feature identified was an apparent terrace, truncating the original ground surface, to a depth of up to 1.77m below current ground surface.
- 4.3.2 The terrace (identified in Trenches 1, 3 and 4) had been subsequently infilled by a series of dumps of refuse and redeposited natural (presumably as part of a later landscaping exercise). Finds of 19th century and later date were noted and a selection retained for specialist examination (see below).

#### 5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 A sample of material was collected from Trench 1 (Terrace cut 103), in order to confirm the dating of the feature. This material comprised pottery, ceramic brick and roof tile, vessel and window glass, fuel ash slag, animal bone and oyster shell.
- 5.1.2 Datable material is entirely of 19th century date or later, and included transfer-printed and sponged refined whiteware tablewares, unglazed redware flowerpots, glass wine bottles with distinctive Continental collared rims, chemists' bottles with 'tablespoon' gradations and a small blue vertically ribbed poison bottle. The most closely datable item is a soup plate with the backstamp of Dunn Bennett & Co. Ltd of Burslem, Staffordshire (c. 1875–1907; Godden 1964, 225).
- 5.1.3 The only other artefacts recovered were the top of another Continental wine bottle, and a piece of roofing slate, from terrace 403.
- 5.1.4 None of these finds have been retained.

#### 6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was encountered; accordingly, no samples were taken.

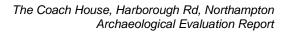
#### 7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 The evaluation was successful in identifying areas in which the Site has been subject to deep terracing. It is probable that the degree of truncation extends from the western edge of pit 404 up to the current building. The sharp horizon between the infilling and the natural and the flat base located in both trenches 1 and 4 indicate that they may be part of the same feature, possibly quarrying or levelling on the Site. The nature of the finds indicate that this truncation is probably modern (post 1800).

#### 8 STORAGE AND CURATION

#### 8.1 Museum

8.1.1 There is currently no archaeological archive depository able to accept material from the county, although it is hoped that a suitable facility will be available within three to five years. The archive will therefore be retained in the offices of Wessex Archaeology until such time as a suitable depository is available and arrangements have been made for the transfer of the archive.





#### 8.2 **Preparation of Archive**

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data (no finds have been retained), will be prepared following the *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard* (2014), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014; Brown 2011). Digital data will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), following their guidelines (ADS 2013, and subsequent online guidance).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the HER code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
  - 1 file/document case of paper records & A3/A4 graphics

#### 8.3 Security Copy

- 8.3.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.
- 8.3.2 For small projects where we may retain only digital copy of the records, these will be submitted to the HER, with a copy retained in the Wessex Archaeology security-copied and backed-up digital archive storage facility, under its designated Wessex Archaeology project code 115690.

#### 9 **REFERENCES**

ADS 2013, Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

British Geological Survey, online viewer accessed on 15/02/17

- Brown, D.H., 2011, Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
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- Godden, G A, 1964 Encyclopedia of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks, London: Barrie and Jenkins
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- SMA 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Wessex Archaeology 2017, The Coach House, Harborough Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation. Unpublished client report 115690.01



## 10 APPENDICES

## 10.1 Appendix 1:Trench tables

Trench 1	Co-ordinat	tes Length Width	Ground level				
	E:475183.3	350 N:263122.931 2.0 m x 1.0 m	88.42				
Context	Descriptio	Description					
101	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey brown sandy loam with rare fine gravel inclusions, friable, finely rooted throughout, diffused horizon with 102.	0.0 - 0.12				
102	Layer	Levelling layer. Dark brown sand with sparse sub-angular 0.12 – 0.34 sandstone cobble, rare post-medieval ceramic building material (C.B.M.), rare post-medieval artefacts, heavily rooted throughout.					
103	Cut	Terrace	0.34 – 1.77				
104	Fill	Deliberate backfill. Dark brown silty sand with lenses of darker materials. Finds include pottery and glass bottles.	0.34 – 0.55				
105	Fill	Deliberate backfill. Charcoal rich silty sand forming a distinct layer.	0.55 – 0.80				
106	Fill	Deliberate backfill. Mid yellowish brown silty sand with sparse sandstone inclusions, rare flecks of C.B.M. moderately compacted with distinct horizons.	0.70 - 0.90				
107	Fill	Deliberate backfill. Grey silty sand with abundant slag inclusions, appears to be smelting waste.	0.90 – 1.10				
108	Fill	Deliberate backfill. Mid yellowish brown silty sand with sparse sandstone inclusions, rare flecks of C.B.M. moderately compacted with distinct horizons.	1.05 – 1.10+				
109	Fill	Deliberate backfill. Dark grey silty sand with sparse sandstone inclusions, finds included pottery and glass bottles. Sharp horizon with 110. (Entirely machine excavated and recorded from the side of the trench.)	1.10 – 1.77				
110	Layer	Natural. Light yellowish brown sand with sparse sandstone inclusions.	1.77 +				

Trench 2		Co-ordinates Length Width   E:475172.287 N:263121.739 2.4m x 1.0 m				
Context	Description	n	Depth (m)			
201	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey brown sandy loam with rare fine gravel inclusions, friable, finely rooted throughout, diffused horizon with 202.	0- 0.12			
202	Layer	Levelling layer. Dark brown sand with sparse sub-angular sandstone cobble, rare post-medieval ceramic building material (C.B.M.), rare post-medieval artefacts, heavily rooted throughout.	0.12 – 0.44			
203	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy loam with rare sandstone inclusions.	0.44 – 0.70			
204	Layer	Natural. Light yellowish brown sand with sandstone inclusions.	0.7 +			

Trench 3	<b>Co-ordinat</b> E:475180.9	es Length Width 40 N:263177.239 2.0 m x 1.0 m	Ground level 88.45
Context	Description	n	Depth (m)
301	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey brown sandy loam with rare fine gravel inclusions, friable, finely rooted throughout, diffused horizon with 302.	0- 0.15
302	Layer	Levelling layer. Dark brown sand with sparse sub-angular sandstone cobble, rare post-medieval ceramic building material (C.B.M.), rare post-medieval artefacts, heavily rooted throughout.	0.15 – 0.63
303	Layer	Natural. Light yellowish brown sand with sandstone inclusions.	0.63 +

Trench 4	<b>Co-ordinat</b> E:475173.9	Length Width   064 N:263177.172 5.5 m x 1.0 m	Ground level 88.30
Context	Descriptio	n	Depth (m)
401	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey brown sandy loam with rare fine gravel inclusions, friable, finely rooted throughout, diffused horizon with 402.	0- 0.15
402	Layer	Levelling layer. Dark brown sand with sparse sub-angular sandstone cobble, rare post-medieval ceramic building material (C.B.M.), rare post-medieval artefacts, heavily rooted throughout.	0.15 – 0.60
403	Layer	Natural. Light yellowish brown sand with sandstone inclusions.	0.62 – 1.46 +
404	Cut	Cut of terrace. Steep to vertical side with a flat level base. Not fully defined.	0.60 – 1.46
405	Fill	Deliberate backfill. Dark brown sandy loam, loose with large roots at the western end. Inclusions of rare post-medieval finds including glass, pottery, slate and metal pincers. Very distinct horizon on the base.	0.60 – 1.46



# 10.2 Appendix 2:OASIS form

## OASIS ID: wessexar1-276392

Project details	
Project name	The Coach House, Harborough Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by McAdam Design to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation comprising the excavation and recording of four trial trenches ahead of the proposed development of land at The Coach House, Harborough Road, Northampton. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 475187, 263119. Two Planning Applications have been submitted for the Site (refs. N/2015/0949 N/2015/0950) with the evaluation forming part of the archaeological mitigation associated with the consent prior to construction. The proposed development in the area covered by the archaeological evaluation comprises of the construction, using pile driven foundations, of an extension adjoining the west of the existing building. The evaluation identified a terrace which had truncated the Site 1.5 m below the current ground level, this had been backfilled with a mixture of redeposited natural and dumps of modern (19th century) material. The evaluation was carried out on the 6th February 2017.
Project dates	Start: 06-02-2017 End: 06-02-2017
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	115690 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NORTHAMPTON NORTHAMPTON The Coach House, Harborough Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton
Postcode	NN2 7BB
Study area	0.7 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 475172 263167 51.93289680655 -1.30880189546 51 55 58 N 001 18 31 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 86m Max: 87m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	McAdam Design
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology



## OASIS ID: wessexar1-276392

Project director/manager	A Crockett
Project supervisor	Jamie McCarthy
Project supervisor	Rachel Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Independent Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	McAdam Design
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Digital Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report"
Entered by Entered on	Rachel Williams (r.williams@wessexarch.co.uk) 15 February 2017

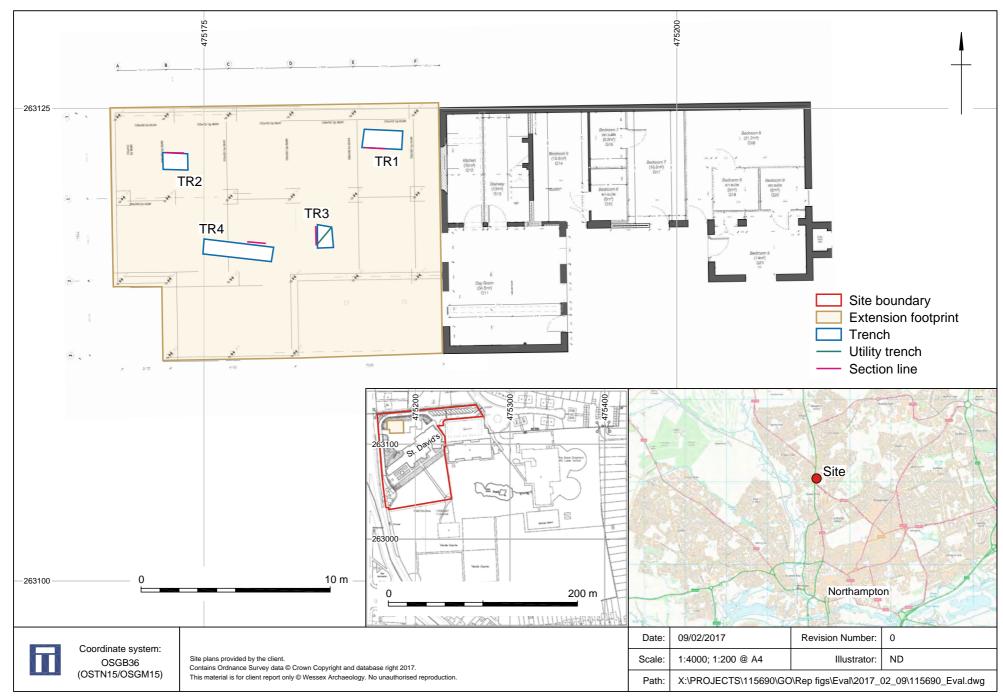




Plate 1: South facing section of trench 2, scales at 1 m



Plate 2: East facing section of trench 3 with metal utility pipe, scales at 1 m

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Plate 3: North facing machine excavated slot of trench 1, scales at 1  $\mbox{m}$ 



Plate 4: South facing machine excavated section of trench 4, scales at 1 and 2 m  $\,$ 

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Plate 5: Trench 4 viewed from the west, scales at 1 and 2  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{m}}$ 

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