

Land at Cromwell Road, Winchester, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Site Code: CRW13/182-AY534

(SU 4725 2872)

Land at Cromwell Road, Winchester, Hampshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Drew Smith Limited

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code AY534

October 2013

Summary

Site name: Land at Cromwell Road, Winchester, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4725 2872

Site activity: Archaeological evaluation

Date and duration of project: 11 – 14th October 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: AY534

Area of site: 0.30ha

Summary of results: A large number of deposits were uncovered relative to the size of the area evaluated. These deposits were Early Iron Age through to Middle Iron Age in date and appeared to represent the nucleus of an occupation site. The site is considered to have a high archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Winchester Museum in due course, with accession code AY534.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 4.11.13 Steve Preston ✓ 23.10.13

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Land at Cromwell Road, Winchester, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Report 13/182

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at110-112 Cromwell Road, Winchester, Hampshire (SU 4725 2872) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Phil Farminer of Drew Smith Limited, Drew Smith House, 7-9 Mill Court, The Sawmills, Durley, Southampton, SO32 2EJ.

A revised planning consent (12/1634/FULL/W21707/01) has been gained from Winchester City Council for the demolition of existing housing and construction of 9 affordable houses. As a condition on the granting of the planning consent a field evaluation was required in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Tracey Matthews, Archaeologist for the Historic Environment Team, Winchester City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt, Kyle Beaverstock, Steve Crabb and Susan Porter between 11th and 14th October and the site code is AY534. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Winchester City Museum in due course, with accession number WINC:AY534

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a parcel of located on the northern side of Cromwell Road, Winchester with site access located where demolished houses 110-112 formally stood (Fig. 2). The underlying geology was Middle Chalk (BGS 1975) and this was observed in the trenches as a white chalk marl with occasional flint inclusions. The site lies at c.47m above Ordnance Datum and the land was formerly used as allotments.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is that it lies just to the west, c.250m of an area of prehistoric (Iron Age) occupation at Airlie Road, where excavation revealed parts of a ditched enclosure and some pits. This is as recorded in the Winchester Historic Environment Record. Roman pottery was recovered in the upper fills of the

ditch thus it may have been a landscape feature during that period of time with Roman occupation also likely to be present in the general area. A Roman cremation burial was also recorded.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. This was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine if archaeological deposits or finds representing Iron Age or Roman occupation are present on the site.

To determine if any Roman burial remains are present on the site.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in English Heritage Research Agenda (English Heritage 2005) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as the emerging Solent Thames Research Agenda as necessary

It was proposed to dig 8 trenches, each 1.6m wide and 10m long, targeting the footprints of the proposed new buildings. A contingency of 5m of trench was included within the proposal should it be required to clarify initial findings. The topsoil was to be removed by a JCB-type machine equipped with a ditching bucket to expose the archaeologically sensitive levels. Machine excavation of the trenches was to be observed at all times and spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. Where deposits of possible archaeological interest were encountered they were to be cleaned and excavated by hand.

Results

All eight trenches were excavated in the positions as intended (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 9.50m to 12.0m and in depth from 0.40m to 0.98m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 4, 5 and 7)

Trench 1 was aligned SW – NE and was 12.0m long and 0.98m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.70m of subsoil overlying natural geology. Two groups of intercutting pits were found. One group

consisted of pits 4, 5 and 9. Pit 4 was 0.84m in diameter and 0.10m deep and was filled with a mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional flint and chalk inclusions. Pit 5 was 0.43m in diameter and 0.32m deep and consisted of three fills. The primary fill (60) was a light brown white silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions, the secondary fill (59) was a mid brown grey silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions, the tertiary fill (58) was a mid grey brown clay silt with occasional chalk inclusions. This pit was cut by pits 4 and 9 meaning it was earliest in the stratigraphic sequence. Pit 9 was 0.42m in diameter and 0.31m deep and consisted of two fills. The primary fill (69) was a dark brown grey clay silt with infrequent chalk inclusions and the secondary fill (68) was a mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions.

The second group of intercutting pits consisted of pits 6, 7 and 8. Pit 6 was 0.98m in diameter and 0.10m deep. It consisted of two fills, the primary fill (62) was a light brown white silty chalk with occasional chalk inclusions and the secondary fill (61) was a mid brown grey silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions. Five small Early/Middle Iron Age sherds were recovered. This feature cut pit 7 which was 0.66m in diameter and 0.44m deep and consisted of three fills. The primary fill (65) was a light brown grey silty clay with infrequent chalk inclusions, the secondary fill (64) was a dark grey brown clay silt with infrequent chalk inclusions, the tertiary fill (63) was a mid brown grey clay silt with infrequent chalk inclusions. Pit 7 cut pit 8 which was 0.48m in diameter and 0.12m deep and consisted of two fills. The primary fill (67) consisted of light brown grey clayey silt with frequent chalk inclusions and the secondary fill (66) was a mid grey brown clay silt with occasional chalk inclusions chalk inclusions.

Trench 2 (Figs 4, 5 and 7)

Trench 2 was aligned SE – NW and was 9.50m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.32m of subsoil overlying natural geology. A ditch and three pits were uncovered. Pit 1 was 1.60m in diameter and 0.20m in depth and contained a single fill (52) which consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt with frequent small chalk and occasional flint inclusions. 3 pieces of long bone were recovered from fill 52, two of these were from a medium sized animal and one was unidentifiable.

Pit 2 was 2.30m in diameter and 0.40m in depth and contained two fills, the primary fill (54) consisted of a pale brown grey clayey silt with frequent small chalk inclusions and the secondary fill (53) consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt with frequent small chalk and occasional flint inclusions. A sheep/goat metapodial fragment was recovered from fill 53.

Pit 3 was cut by pit 2 and was approximately 0.80m in diameter and 0.50m deep and contained two fills. The primary fill (56) consisted of a pale grey brown clayey silt with frequent small chalk inclusions and the secondary fill (55) consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt with frequent chalk inclusions. Two long bone fragments from a medium sized animal were recovered from fill 55 and one of these showed evidence of butchery. One sherd of Early Iron Age date was recovered.

Ditch 15 was at least 0.80m wide and was 0.40m deep and contained three fills. The primary fill (77) was a mid brown grey clayey silt with frequent small chalk inclusions, the secondary fill (76) was a pale grey white redeposited chalk lens with occasional flint inclusions, the tertiary fill (75) was a mid brownish grey clayey silt with frequent small chalk inclusions. A piece of unidentified animal bone was recovered along with 6 sherds of Early-Middle Iron Age date. This ditch was disturbed on the base and the southern side by animal burrows making its profile difficult to determine.

Trench 3 (Figs 4, 5 and 7; Pls 1,3)

Trench 3 was aligned SSW – NNE and was 10.50m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.30m of subsoil overlying natural geology. Four pits and a ditch were found. Pit 10 was 0.80m in diameter and 0.2m deep and contained a single fill (70) which consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt with frequent chalk and flint inclusions. Five sherds of Middle Iron Age were recovered. Pit 10 was intercutting with pit 11 however, there was no relationship visible.

Pit 11 was approximately 1.2m in diameter and 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (71) which consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt with frequent chalk and flint inclusions. Three pieces of animal bone were recovered from this fill, one was an animal tooth from a sheep/goat and the other two were unidentified.. Twelve sherds of pottery including a rim sherd were recovered of Middle Iron Age date. A single piece of copper alloy metalwork was also recovered.

Ditch 12 which cut pit 11, was 1.2m wide and 0.27m deep and contained a single fill (72) which consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt with moderate to frequent chalk and flint inclusions. Four sherds of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery and a well made prehistoric flint flake were recovered from this ditch. Two pieces of animal bone were recovered from fill 72, one of which was a cattle or horse tooth.

Pit 13 was 0.70m in diameter and 0.13m deep and contained a single fill (73) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt with frequent small chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Pit 14 was 0.90m in diameter and 0.15m deep and contained a single fill (74) which consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt with frequent small chalk inclusions. Two small sherds of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 7)

Trench 4 was aligned SE - NW and was 10.40m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.18m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

Trench 5 was aligned SE - NW and was 10.20m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 6 (Figs 4, 5 and 7)

Trench 6 was aligned SE – NW and was 10m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.36m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. Four pits were found. Pit 16 was 0.7m in diameter and 0.32m deep and contained a single fill (78) which consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional chalk inclusions. Pit 17 was 1.01m in diameter and 0.35m deep and contained two fills. The primary fill (80) consisted of a light brown white silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions, the secondary fill (79) consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay with frequent flint inclusions. A sheep/goat tooth was recovered from fill 80. Pit 18 was cut by pits 17 and 19 and was approximately 1.25m wide and 0.37m deep and consisted of two fills. The primary fill (82) consisted of a light brown grey silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered. Pit 19 was 1.18m in diameter and 0.25m deep and contained a single fill (83) which consisted of a light brown grey clayey silt with frequent chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Figs 4, 5, 6 and 7; Pls 2,4)

Trench 7 was aligned SSW – NNE and was 9.5m long and 0.67m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.30m of subsoil overlying natural geology. Four ditches and a pit were found.

Pit (22) was 1.11m in diameter and 0.3m deep and contained a single fill (88) which consisted of a mid yellow grey silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Ditch 20 appeared to be aligned E-W and was 1.02m wide and 0.15m deep and contained a single fill (86) which consisted of a mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Ditch 21 also appeared to be aligned E - W and was adjacent to ditch 20 but there was no visible relationship between the two. Ditch 21 was 1.19m wide and 0.21m deep and contained a single fill (87) which consisted of a dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered. These ditches continue into Trench 8 which lies close by. Ditches 23 and 24 also appeared to be aligned E - W.

Ditch 23 was 1.93m wide and 0.38m deep and contained a single fill (89) which consisted of a light grey yellow sandy clay with frequent chalk inclusions Six sherds of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered. Ditch 24 was cut by ditch 23 and was therefore stratigraphically earlier in the sequence. Ditch 24 was 2.52m wide and 0.46m deep and contained two fills (90 and 91). The primary fill (91) consisted of a light yellow grey silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions, the secondary fill (90) consisted of a dark grey brown sandy clay with frequent chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered from this ditch.

Trench 8 (Figs 4, 6 and 7)

Trench 8 was aligned SE – NW and was 9.5m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil 0.37m of subsoil overlying natural geology. A posthole (25) and a pit (26) were uncovered. Posthole (25) was 0.30m in diameter and 0.24m deep and contained a single fill (92) which consisted of a mid grey brown clay silt with occasional chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered. Pit (26) was 1.78m wide and 0.15m deep and contained a single fill (85) which consisted of mid grey brown clay silt with occasional chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered silt with occasional chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Finds

Iron Age Pottery by Frances Raymond

The assemblage is of early to middle Iron Age date and is composed predominantly of wall fragments (Appendix 4). Stylistically diagnostic sherds representing both phases of the Iron Age are present, while the technological attributes suggest that the majority of sherds are most likely to be of middle Iron Age origin. Work on the pottery has been limited to a rapid appraisal to provide information on its date and character. The material has been quantified and phased by context, while a brief record has been compiled of sherd type, form, the general nature of the fabrics and the degree of abrasion. Where possible the vessel types have been keyed into the Danebury form series.

Early Iron Age

Two sherds with early Iron Age attributes, both in hard sandy fabrics, are from Cut 3 and Cut 15. The example from Cut 3 is a shoulder fragment from a shouldered jar with an upright neck (similar to Form JB2; Cunliffe 1984). The second sherd from Cut 15 has a very thin oxidised exterior with surviving traces of burnishing. This

may be a red surface coating typical of the early Iron Age, but with such a small fragment it is equally possible that it might be an unintentional firing effect.

Middle Iron Age

The two largest rims (4cm across) from Cuts 10 and 11 are both derived from middle Iron Age vessels. The slightly beaded example from Cut 10 with its finely burnished surfaces is typical of a saucepan pot (Form PB1; Cunliffe 1984), while the rim from Cut 11 is likely to be from a high shouldered jar (Form JC2; Cunliffe 1984). Both are associated with sherds in flint tempered and sandy wares, which are prominent in other local middle Iron Age assemblages including that from Easton Lane to the north-east (Hawkes 1989, 93-94).

Early to Middle Iron Age

The sherds from Cuts 6, 12, 14, 15 and 23 are exclusively wall or base fragments in flint tempered or sandy fabrics. Those from Cuts 6, 12 and 14 are unoxidised and the better preserved are all burnished, characteristics that would point to a more likely middle Iron Age date. The pottery associated with the possible early Iron Age red coated sherd in Cut 15 and the sherds from Cut 23 could be of early or middle Iron Age origin.

Metalwork by Steven Crabb

A single piece of copper alloy was recovered from Pit 11 (71). It consists of a curved length of material measuring 54mm long with a round cross section 1.5mm in diameter. It has a small half loop at one end which where the object has broken since burial. The surface has a light bluish green patina indicative of oxidisation this continues through the object at the broken end. The form of this suggests that it may be a small fitting possibly for suspension.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A single intact struck flint was recovered from ditch 12 (72). It was a well made narrow flake and was patinated a light bluish white. It is not closely datable other than to broad neolithic /Bronze Age times.

Animal bone by Danielle Milbank

A modest assemblage of fragmented disarticulated animal bone was hand collected from 7 contexts encountered in the evaluation, a total of 17 fragments weighing 150g (Appendix 3).

The preservation of the remains was moderate to poor, with high fragmentation and frequent surface erosion. This poor condition and small fragment size greatly decreased the amount of identifiable bone. Bone which was not identifiable by species was classified as being from a medium-sized animal (sheep/goat, deer or pig), or a large animal (cattle or horse).

Overall, the assemblage was dominated by medium sized animal bones, of which one was a sheep/goat metapodial fragment from context 2 (53). A further sheep/goat tooth was recovered from 17 (deposit 80). A single example identified as cattle or horse was a tooth recovered from 12 (72).

Evidence of butchery was limited to a long bone fragment from context 3 (deposit 55) from a medium sized animal.

Due to the lack of duplicated skeletal elements, the minimum number of individuals present in the assemblage was found to be 1 sheep/goat and one cattle animal. In the majority of contexts, the animal bone is likely to represent domestic consumption, with the presence of horse and chicken bones reflecting other livestock.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed a surprisingly high density of cut archaeological deposits with six out of eight trenches containing pits postholes and linear features (ditches/gullys). Several of the features are broadly dated to the Early or Middle Iron Age, and it is likely that most if not all of the others are of a similar date. These deposits appear to represent, the nucleus of an occupation site.

References

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Cunliffe, B., 1984, Danebury, an Iron Age Hillfort in Hampshire, Volume 2, the Excavations, 1969-1978: the Finds, Council for British Archaeology, Research Report 52

Hawkes, J. W., 1989, "Later prehistoric pottery", in P. J. Fasham, D. E. Farwell and R. J. B. Whinney, *The Archaeological Site at Easton Lane, Winchester*, Hampshire Field Club Monograph **6**, 91-97

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SE or SW end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	12.0	1.6	0.98	0-0.26m topsoil, 0.26-0.96m subsoil 0.96m+ chalk natural geology.
				Pits 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9
2	9.50	1.6	0.70	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.62m subsoil 0.62m+ natural geology. Pits 1, 2
				and 3
3	10.50	1.6	0.50	0-0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.57m subsoil, 0.57m+ natural geology. Pits 10,
				11, 13 and 14 and ditch 12. [Pls 1 and 3].
4	10.40	1.6	0.50	0-0.28m topsoil, 0.28-0.46m subsoil, 0.46m+ natural geology.
5	10.20	1.6	0.40	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30m+ natural geology.
6	10	1.6	0.40	0-0.36m topsoil, 0.36m+ natural geology. Pits 16, 17, 18 and 19
7	9.50	1.6	0.67	0-0.30 topsoil, 0.30-0.60m subsoil, 0.60m+ natural geology. Gullies
				20 and 21, ditches 23 and 24 and pit 22. [Pls 2 and 4]
8	9.50	1.6	0.70	0-0.26m topsoil, 0.26-0.63m subsoil, 0.63m+ natural geology.
				Posthole 25 and pit 26.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Туре	Date	Dating evidence
2	1	52	Pit		
2	2	53, 54	Pit		
2	3	55, 56	Pit	EIA	Pottery
1	4	57	Pit		
1	5	58, 59, 60	Pit		
1	6	61, 62	Pit	E/MIA	Pottery
1	7	63, 64, 65	Pit	Prehistoric?	Stratigraphy, cut by 6
1	8	66, 67	Pit	Prehistoric?	Stratigraphy, cut by 7
1	9	68, 69	Pit		
3	10	70	Pit	MIA	Pottery
3	11	71	Pit	MIA	Pottery; Copper item
3	12	72	Ditch	E/MIA	Pottery
3	13	73	Pit		
3	14	74	Pit	E/MIA	Pottery
2	15	75, 76, 77	Ditch	E/MIA	Pottery
6	16	78	Pit		
6	17	80, 81	Pit		
6	18	82, 83	Pit		
6	19	84	Pit		
7	20	86	Ditch		
7	21	87	Ditch		
7	22	88	Pit		
7	23	89	Ditch	LE/MIA	Pottery
7	24	90,91	Ditch		
8	25	92	Posthole		
8	26	85	Pit		

APPENDIX 3: Inventory of animal bone

Cut	Deposit	Number	Weight	Sheep/goat	Cattle	Large	Medium	Unidentified
		of	(g)			animal	animal	
		Fragments						
1	52	3	30				2	1
2	53	5	24	1				4
3	55	2	26				2	
11	71	3	10	1				2
12	72	2	52		2			
15	75	1	2					1
17	80	1	2	1				
			MNI	1	1			

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of pottery

Cut	Deposit	Number	Weight (g)	EVE	Abrasion	Date	Description
3	55	1	15	1	Light	EIA	Fragment from a shouldered jar in a hard sandy fabric
							with a smoothed and finger moulded exterior
6	61	5	2	1	Heavy	EIA-MIA	Split wall sherds in a predominantly sandy fabric
10	70	5	48	4	Fresh to	MIA	One slightly beaded saucepan pot rim with burnished
					light		surfaces in a hard, fine unoxidised flint tempered ware;
							wall and base sherds with smoothed exteriors in flint, sand
							or shelly wares
11	71	12	82	4	Fresh to	MIA	One simple/rounded jar rim and three wall fragments with
					light		burnished surfaces in a hard unoxidised flint tempered
							fabric; one rounded rim and three wall fragments with
							oxidised and smoothed exteriors in a hard flint tempered
							fabric; one rounded rim top and three unoxidised wall
- 10							sherds in a sandy ware with traces of burnishing
12	12	4	24	2	Fresh	EIA-MIA	Unoxidised burnished wall fragments in flint tempered or
							predominantly sandy fabrics
14	74	2	4	1	Moderate	EIA-MIA	Unoxidised sandy wall fragments, one with traces of
					to heavy		external burnishing
15	75	6	15	4	Light to	EIA-MIA	Wall fragments: two flint tempered; and four including
					heavy		two burnished examples in predominantly sandy wares.
							One of the sandy sherds has a thin oxidised exterior that
							may be the remains of a red surface coating
23	89	6	55	1	Fresh	EIA-MIA	Wall sherds from a flint tempered vessels with smoothed
							surfaces and an oxidised exterior
	TOTALS	41	245	18			

















Plate 1. Trench 3, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m



Plate 2. Trench 7, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, veritcal 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.



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Plate 3. Trench 3, pit 14 looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.



Plate 4. Trench 7, features 24 and 23, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 3 - 4.



TIME CHART

Calendar Years

Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43 BC/AD 750 BC
	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC ↓



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