

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**High Beeches, Gatton Bottom,
Reigate, Surrey**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Maisie Foster

Site Code: GBE18/96

(TQ 2715 5301)

High Beeches, Gatton Bottom, Reigate, Surrey

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Wang Liu

by Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GBE 18/96

February 2021

Summary

Site name: High Beeches, Gatton Bottom, Reigate, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 2715 5301

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 22nd-23rd January 2021

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: GBE 18/96

Area of site: c. 1.9ha (300 sq m examined)

Summary of results: No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were encountered nor were any features relating to any previous layouts of the gardens of the demolished house.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate local repository in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 26.02.21
	Steve Preston ✓ 26.02.21

High Beeches, Gatton Bottom, Reigate, Surrey An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Maisie Foster

Report 18/96b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at High Beeches, Gatton Bottom, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0TU (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr Joshua Glynn of Ascot Design Ltd, Berkshire House, 39-51 High Street, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7HY on behalf of Mr Wang Liu, High Beeches, Gatton Bottom, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0TU.

Planning permission (18/01995/F), has been granted by the Borough of Reigate and Banstead for the construction of a new house following demolition of the existing structure. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological remains by these works, the consent is subject to condition 7 relating to garden archaeology and an archaeological watching brief is to be maintained during the relevant period of the groundworks. This is 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 Mr Nick Truckle, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Jon Tierney on 22nd and 23rd January 2021 and the site code is GBE 18/96.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate local repository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located beyond the north-western extent of the village of Gatton, approximately 4km north of Reigate and south of the M25 within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Grade II registered Lower Gatton Park. It comprises a rectangular parcel of land covering an area of *c.* 1.9ha previously occupied by a detached dwelling and long drive. The site is bounded by Tower Wood to the north, south and west and a playing field to the east. The underlying geology is recorded as Lower Chalk (BGS 1978). The site lies at the top of a hill at approximately 150m above Ordnance Datum, sloping down on all sides to the just *c.* 130m above Ordnance Datum in the north (the access from Gatton Bottom) and south extremes of the site.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Baljkas 2018). In summary, this potential stems from its location within the Grade II registered park. Whilst construction of the replacement building is not considered to have any significant archaeological implications, there is a possibility of encountering of old garden features associated with earlier phases of the parks use.

Gatton Park and Pleasure Grounds was purchased in 1751 by Sir James Colebrooke from William Newland. Sir George Colebrooke inherited the site from his brother in 1761 and it was he who commissioned Capability Brown between 1762-8 and again at times in the 1770s, to improve the park.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits including garden features affected by the groundworks. This would involve the monitoring of areas of intrusive groundworks and the excavation of foundation and service trenches. Any other deeply invasive groundworks would be monitored as necessary.

Results

The groundworks monitored comprised two components: creation of an access road and removal of the existing building.

The access road (Pl. 4)

The access road involved only superficial removal of turf/overburden and no deposits of archaeological or garden interest were revealed.

The demolition zone and ground reduction area (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1-3)

The area covering the floor plan for the replacement building was stripped of overburden and demolition debris initially to expose the top of the natural geology (Fig. 3, Pl. 3). The stratigraphy observed typically consisted of 0.6m of 20th-century made ground (chalk, clay and brick rubble) overlying natural chalk with flint nodules geology. This revealed no deposits of archaeological or garden archaeology interest but some areas of disturbance and remnant footings from the previous structure were noted.

The stripped area was eventually levelled with the natural geology being reduced to a depth of up to c. 1.50m (Pls 1 and 2).

Finds

All finds encountered were modern and of no archaeological interest.

Conclusion

Despite some potential for archaeological remains, in particular garden features relating to the original historic park, to be present on this site, and despite an area strip exposing the natural geology, no deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief.

References

Baljkas, G, 2018, 'High Beeches, Gatton Bottom, Reigate, Surrey, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **18/96**, Reading.
BGS, 1978, British Geological Survey, 1:50,000 Sheet 286, Solid/and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

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OASIS ID: thamesva1-416572

Project details

Project name	High Beeches, Gatton Bottom, Reigate, Surrey
Short description of the project	No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were encountered nor were any features relating to any previous layouts of the gardens of the demolished house.
Project dates	Start: 22-01-2021 End: 23-01-2021
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GBE18/96 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	18/01995/F - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	English Heritage List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY REIGATE AND BANSTEAD REIGATE High Beeches, Gatton Bottom, Reigate
Study area	300 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2715 5301 51.26152636998 -0.177455942323 51 15 41 N 000 10 38 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 152m Max: 153m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Tim Dawson
Project	Tim Dawson

director/manager
 Project supervisor Andy Taylor
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body W. Liu

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient ADS
 Digital Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey", "other"
 Digital Media available "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive Exists? No

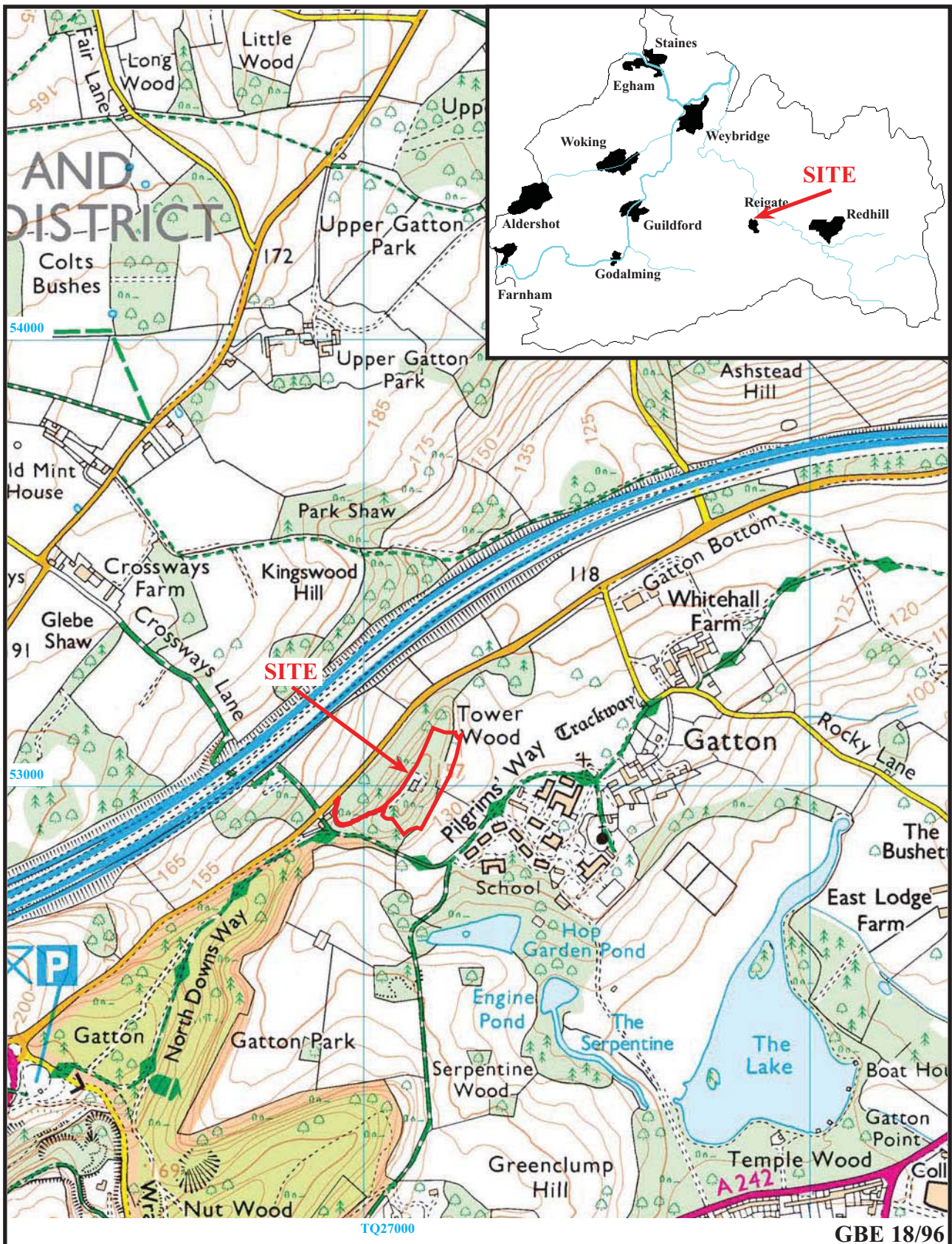
Project bibliography 1

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Figure 1. Location of site within Gattton and Surrey.

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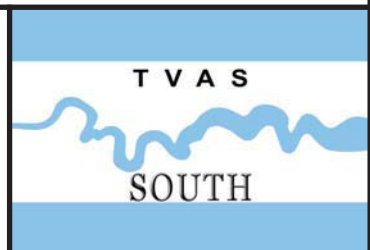
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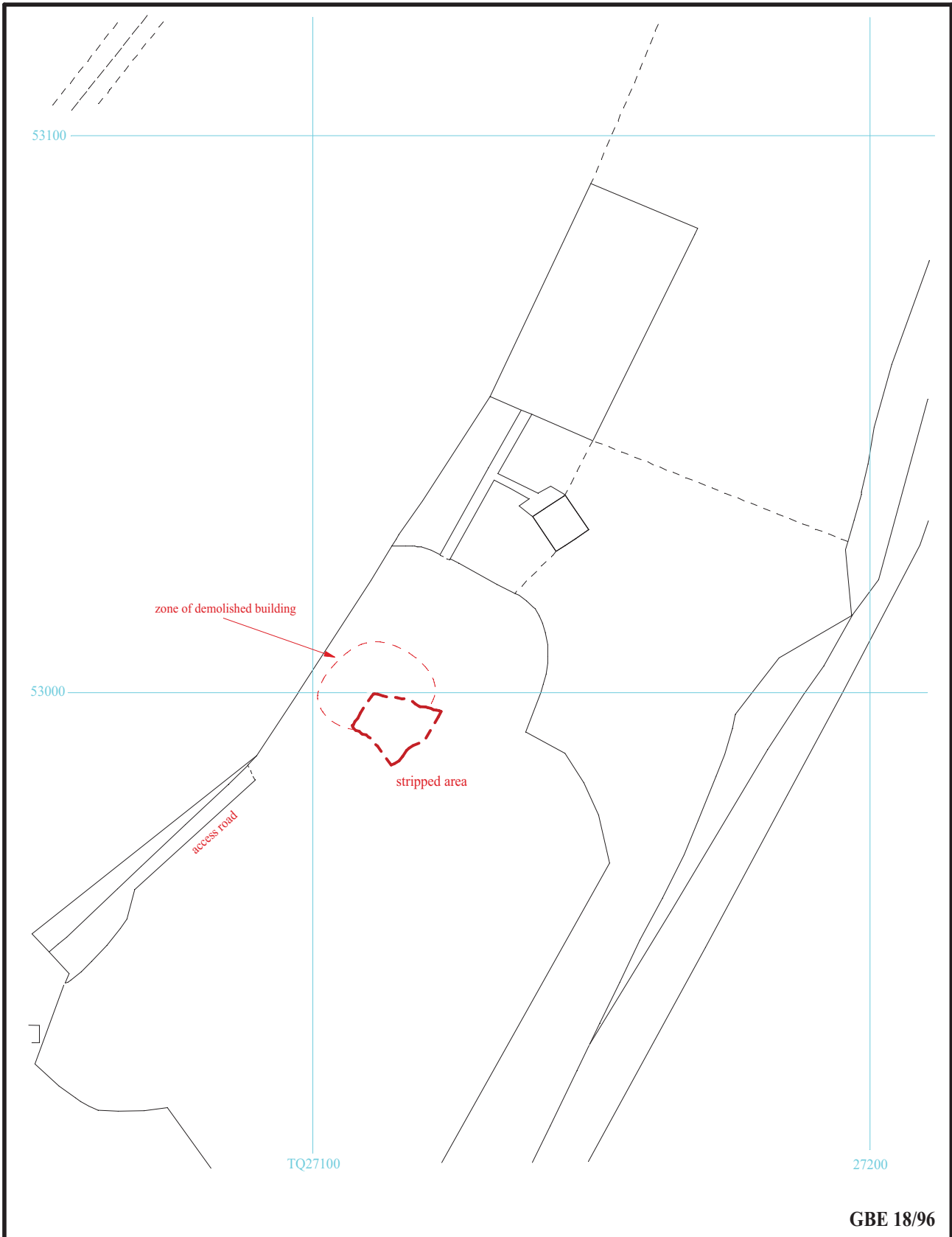


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site, showing location of now demolished building and partial limit of site.

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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



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W _____ E 154.53maOD

Madeground (20th Century, Brick, Chalk, Clay)



Natural geology
(Chalk)

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Figure 4. Representative section of stripped area.



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Plate 1. Area of land reduction, looking North West,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Section along edge of reduced area,
looking North West, Scale: 1m.



Plate 3. General site shot, looking North West,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. General site shot, access road looking North
East, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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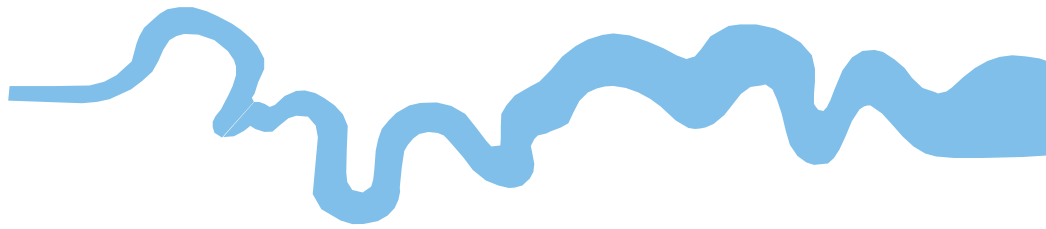
Plates 1 to 4.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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