



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Geophysical Survey of Land to the West of Carlton Hall, Carlton Colville, Suffolk June 2012



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Site code: CAC048

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Report 12/110

June 2012



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM 128737

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological Geophysical Survey of Land at to the West of Carlton Hall, Carlton Colville, Suffolk	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development site located to the west of Carlton Hall, Carlton Colville, Suffolk. The survey identified several linear features which probably represent sections of boundary or enclosure ditches. These cannot be directly dated, but circumstantial evidence suggests that they may be of late Saxon or medieval origin.	
Project type	Geophysical survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None known	
Current Land use	Rough grazing	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Possible Saxon or medieval ditches	
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Suffolk	
Site address	Carlton Hall, Carlton Colville, Lowestoft	
Study area	c 1.7ha	
OS grid reference	TG 509 902	
Height OD	c 10m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	John Walford	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	13 June 2012	
End date	13 June 2012	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical	N/A	
Paper	NA- CAC048	Site survey records
Digital	NA- CAC048	Geophysical survey & GIS data
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Title	Archaeological Geophysical Survey of Land at to the West of Carlton Hall, Carlton Colville, Suffolk, June 2012	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 12/110	
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Cover General view of site, showing builders' compound

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF LAND TO THE WEST OF
CARLTON HALL, CARLTON COLVILLE, SUFFOLK
JUNE 2012**

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development site located to the west of Carlton Hall, Carlton Colville, Suffolk. The survey identified several linear features which probably represent sections of boundary or enclosure ditches. These cannot be directly dated, but circumstantial evidence suggests that they may be of late Saxon or medieval origin.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct a geophysical survey in advance of a proposed development on land to the west of Carlton Hall, Carlton Colville, Suffolk (NGR TM 509 902; Fig 1). The aim of the survey was to investigate whether there were any archaeological remains present which might be affected by the proposed development. The fieldwork was conducted on 13 June 2012.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development area consists of two small paddocks, with a total extent of 1.7ha. These are located to the immediate west of Carlton Hall and within 70m of the parish church of St Peter. At the time of the survey, both of the fields were in a rough and partially overgrown condition. The northern half of the northern field was fenced off and completely overgrown, and the south-eastern part of the same field was occupied by a builders' compound with a steel container and other obstructions (see front cover photograph). There were also dense patches of nettles around the edges of both fields.

The two paddocks are both nearly flat, and stand at an elevation of c 10m AOD. They are underlain by Pleistocene glacial deposits attributed to the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2012).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area has considerable archaeological potential, as summarised by Gailey (2012). A number of prehistoric features have been found in its vicinity, including two Bronze Age or Iron Age pits to the immediate east and an Iron Age ditch to the west. More substantial settlement remains of Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon date have been excavated at Bloodmoor Hill, about 1km to the south-east.

The proposed development area is located close to the historic core of Carlton Colville, in an area where many Saxon and medieval remains have been discovered. A trial trench evaluation immediately to its east, between Carlton Hall and St Peter's Church, identified a number of pits, ditches and postholes of late Saxon to medieval date (Meredith 2007) and a watching brief on the site of Carlton Hall recorded ditches and other features of medieval and later date (SCCAS 2005). Other excavations to the north and west of the site have also revealed medieval remains (Gailey 2012).

The present Carlton Hall was built in the eighteenth century, replacing a medieval manor house which had been destroyed by fire in 1736 (Gailey 2012, 13).

The 1842 tithe map of Carlton Colville shows that the proposed development area was a single field at that date. The first edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1883) also shows it as a single field, but with some ornamental tree planting around its edge. Subsequent maps show changes to the extent and layout of the planting but do not record any other significant developments (Gailey 2012, figs 2 - 5).

4 METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted with Bartington Grad 601-2, twin sensor array, vertical component fluxgate gradiometers (Bartington and Chapman 2003). These are standard instruments for archaeological survey and can resolve magnetic variations as slight as 0.1 nanoTesla (nT).

An independent system of 20m grids was established within each of the fields to be surveyed. The grids were established with a tape measure and optical square and were tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by measurement to field boundaries and

other points of detail. The gradiometers were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid square, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 1600 measurements per square.

All fieldwork methods complied with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute for Archaeologists (EH 2008; IfA 2011).

The survey data were processed using Geoplot 3.00v software. Striping, caused by slight mismatches in sensor balance, was removed using the 'Zero Mean Traverse' function and destaggering of the data was performed as necessary.

The processed data is presented in this report in the form of grey-tone plots at a scale of +/- 4nT black/white. The plots have been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 2). An interpretative overlay has been produced and is shown in Figure 3.

5 SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 The northern field

Only two anomalies of possible archaeological significance were detected in the northern field. One is a very weak and narrow positive linear anomaly which may represent a small ditch or gully, the other a rather amorphous positive anomaly which may represent a pit.

A slightly curving linear anomaly extends eastwards across the centre of this field. It is defined, in part, by a scatter of small ferrous anomalies, and this fact suggests that it may represent a feature of fairly modern date. Possible causes might include an old fence-line, a service trench or a small path.

Much of the data from the eastern end of this field exhibits strong magnetic disturbance, indicating the presence of ferrous scrap and brick rubble within the soil. The area of disturbance coincides with the location of a temporary track and storage area in use during recent construction works at Carlton Hall (Google Earth aerial photograph, dated 2006).

5.2 The southern field

There are several positive linear anomalies in the southern field, most of which aligned from north-west to south-east. They probably represent lengths of boundary ditches, but they do not form a particularly diagnostic pattern and cannot be reliably dated. One of the anomalies is unusually wide, at about 3m across, which suggests that it represents either a very substantial ditch, or else a stream channel or other natural feature.

Towards the centre of the field there is one localised positive anomaly, measuring about 5m across, which may represent either a pit or a hollow in the surface of the underlying subsoil.

An intense linear anomaly with alternating polarity crosses the centre of the field before turning northwards and running along its eastern boundary. It represents a modern pipeline or electricity cable.

6 CONCLUSION

The survey has detected several ditches and pits which may be of archaeological interest. None can be directly dated, but their location, close to the historic core of Carlton Colville suggests that a late Saxon or medieval origin would be most likely.

It is not to be expected that the survey will have detected every archaeological feature within the proposed development area. Magnetometry is well suited to identifying ditches and large pits, but is less adequate for the detection of structural remains and laid surfaces. These limitations can be particularly significant on medieval village sites (Gaffney and Gater 2003, 165), and the reader should be aware of this fact when considering the results presented here.

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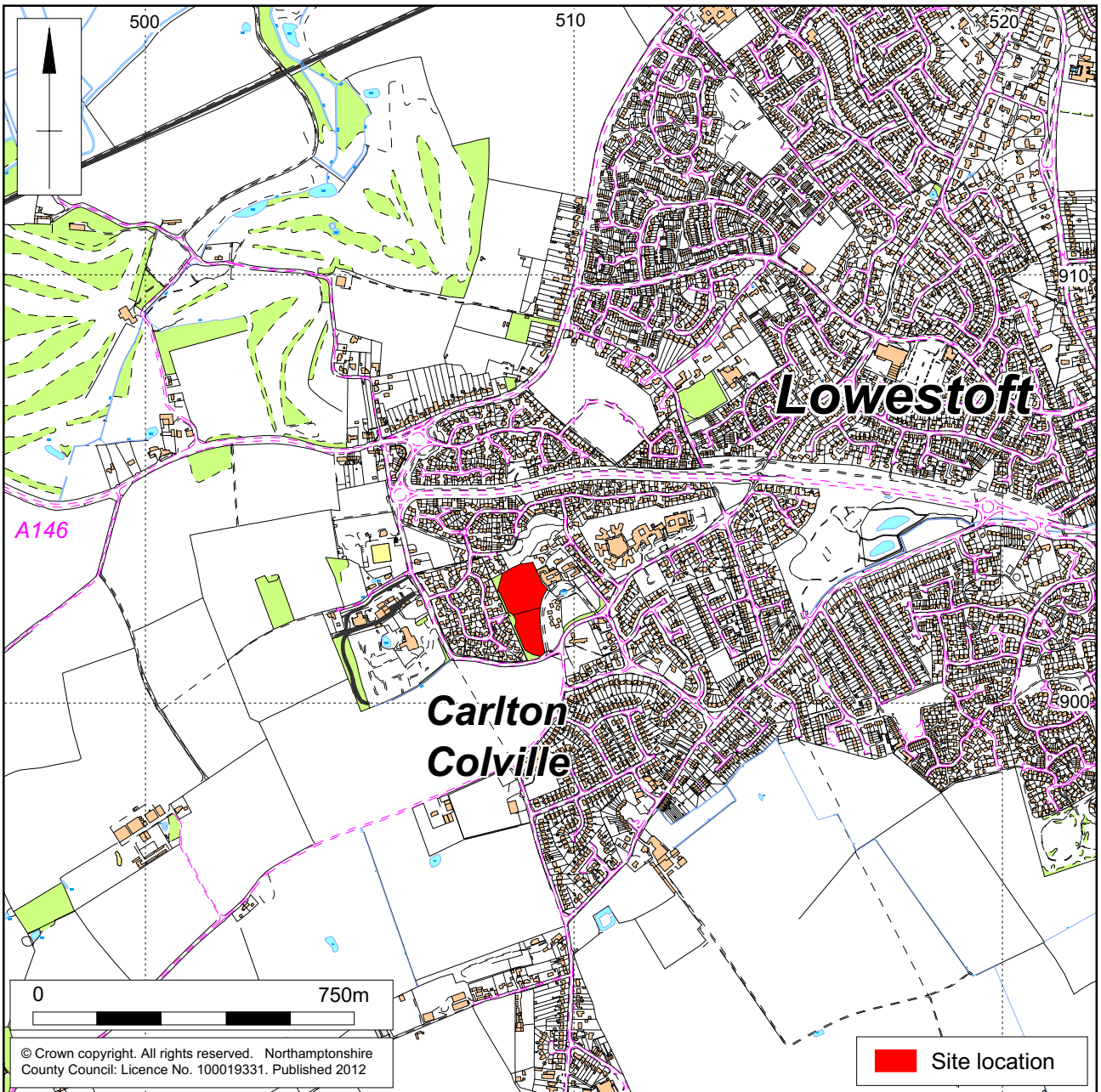
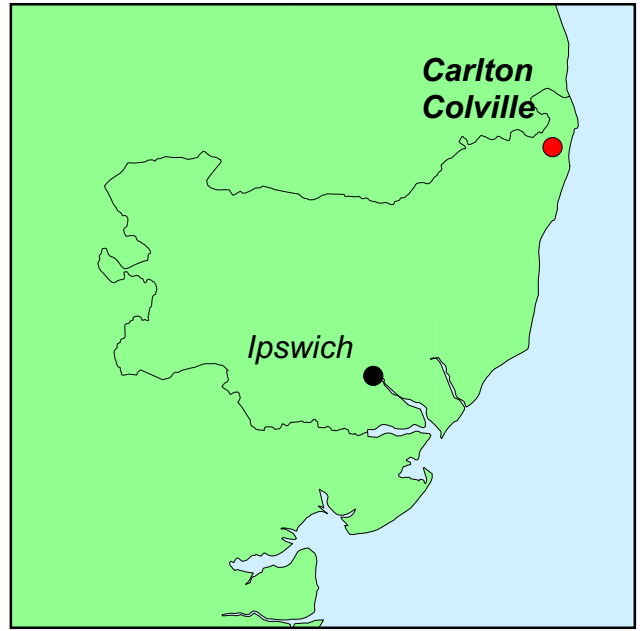
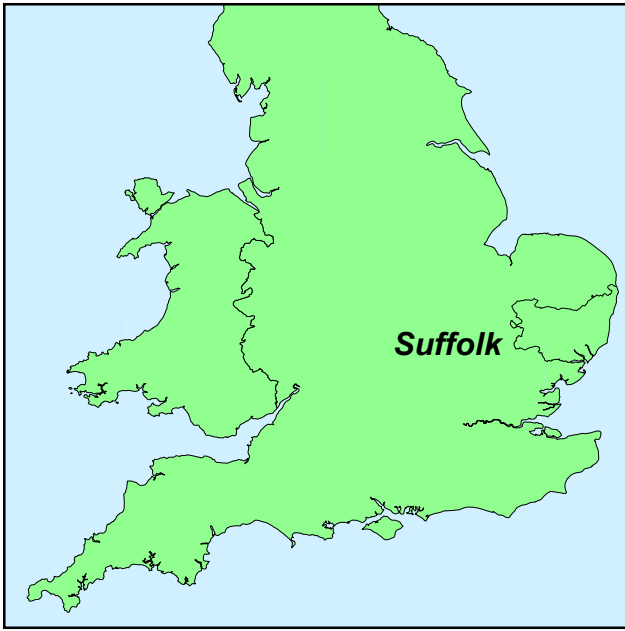
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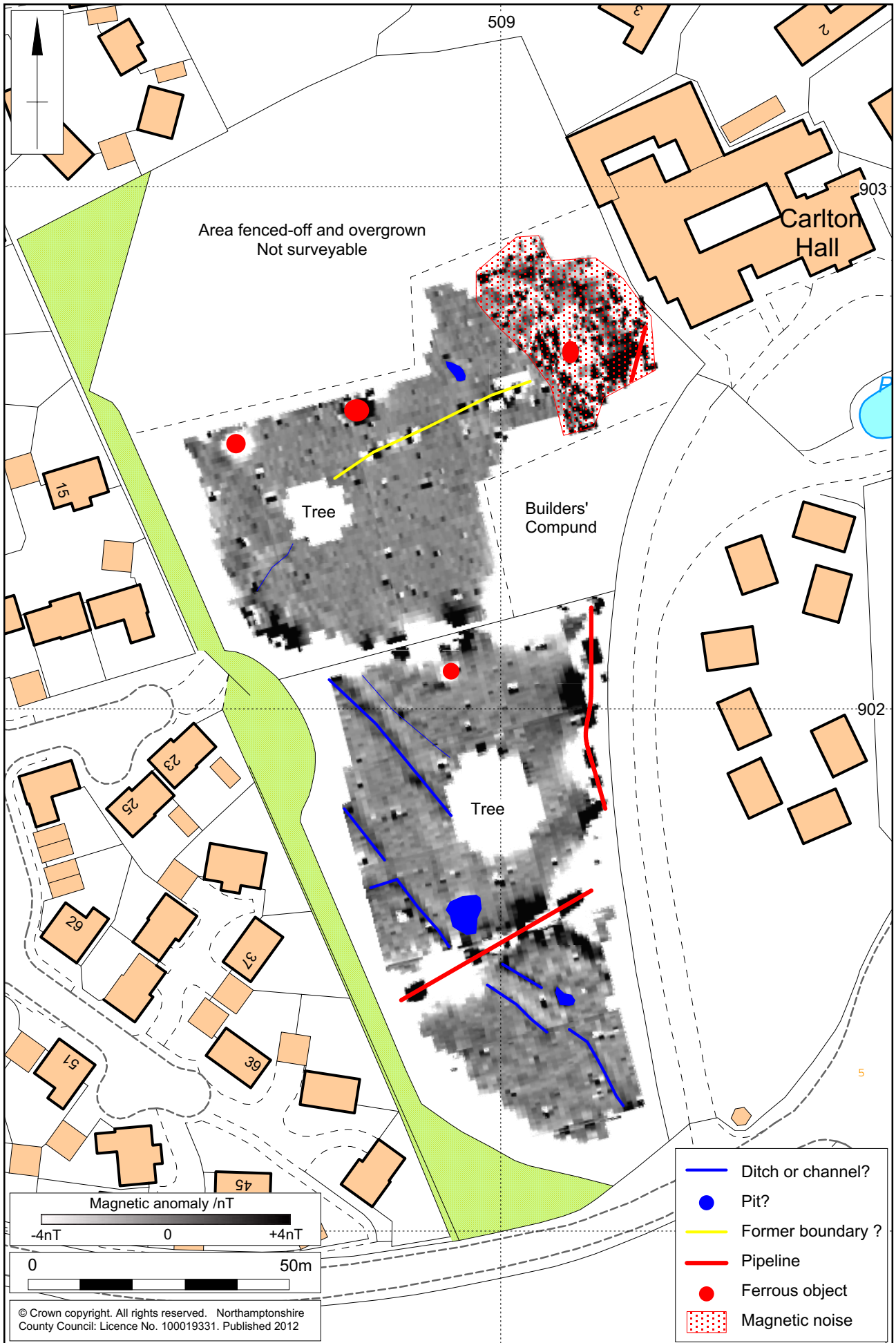
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Scale 1:15,000

Site location Fig 1





1:1000

Magnetometer survey interpretation Fig 3



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