



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation at Brackley Road, Croughton Northamptonshire



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. 142100
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Brackley Road, Croughton, Northamptonshire, January 2013	
Short description	Two trial trenches were excavated within a field adjacent to the village of Croughton, neither contained any evidence of activity dating before the 20th century.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site Status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Pasture fields	
Future work	None	
Monument type and period	N/A	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Brackley Road, Croughton	
Post code	NN13 5PP	
OS co-ordinates	NGR SP 54738 33762	
Area (sq m/ha)	2,200 sq m	
Height aOD	125m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Liz Mordue (NCC planning)	
Project Design originator	Jim Brown (NA)	
Director/Supervisor	Simon Markus (NA)	
Project Managers	Jim Brown (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Morton Wykes Kramer Architects	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	24/01/2013	
End date	25/01/2013	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	NA store	None
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Brackley Road, Croughton, Northamptonshire, January 2013.	
Serial title & volume	13/21	
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT BRACKLEY ROAD, CROUGHTON NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology at Brackley Road, Croughton, Northamptonshire prior to the proposed development on the site. Two trenches were excavated neither showing any evidence of activity prior to the 20th century and no finds were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by Morton Wykes Kramer Architects to carry out archaeological trial trenching on a proposed housing development on land just off Brackley Road, Croughton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 54738 33762; Fig 1).

The proposed development site comprises c2,200 sq m. of land, lying on the northern edge of the village of Croughton. The site consists of a rectangular block of land in the south-east corner of a larger field.

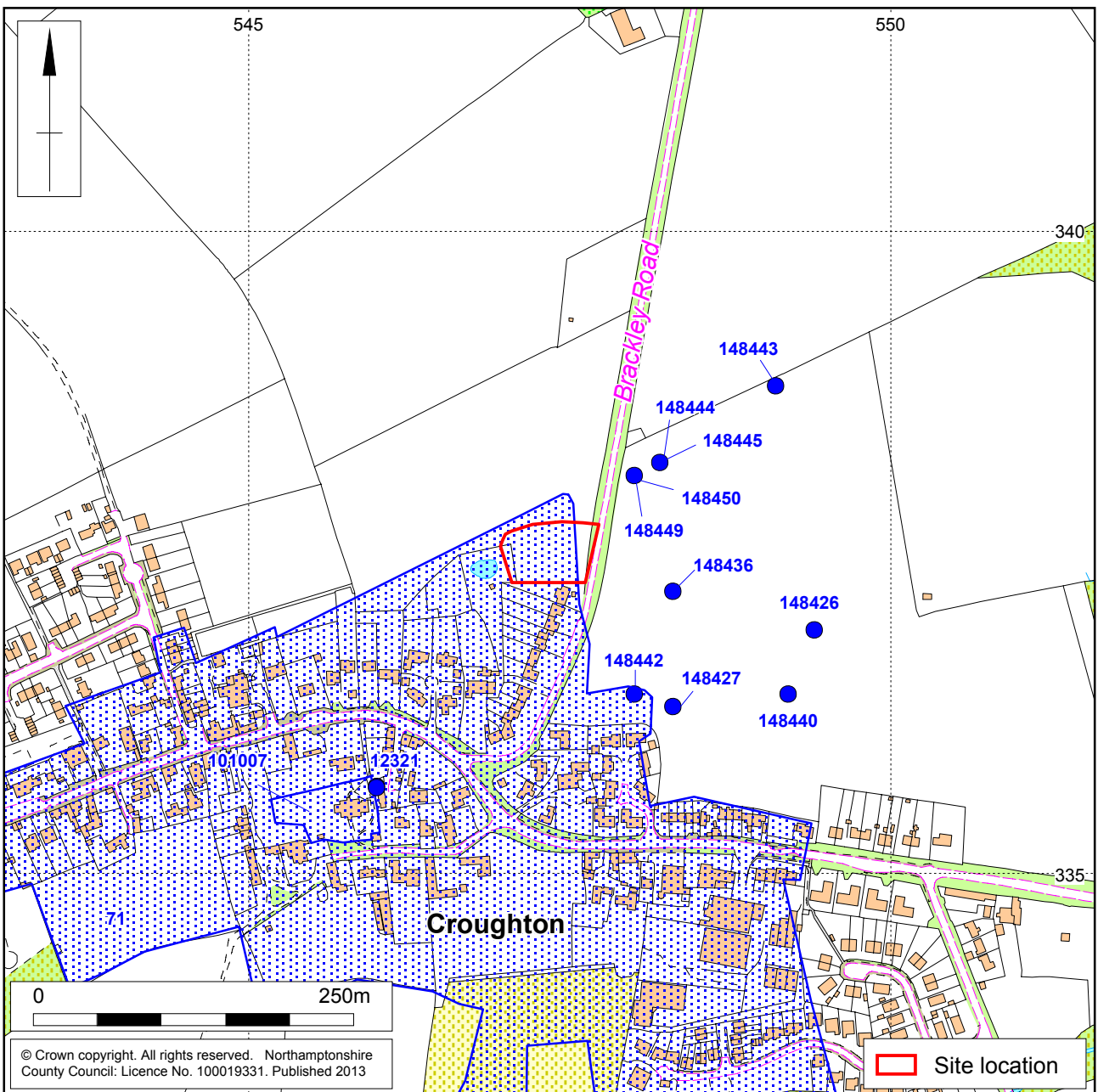
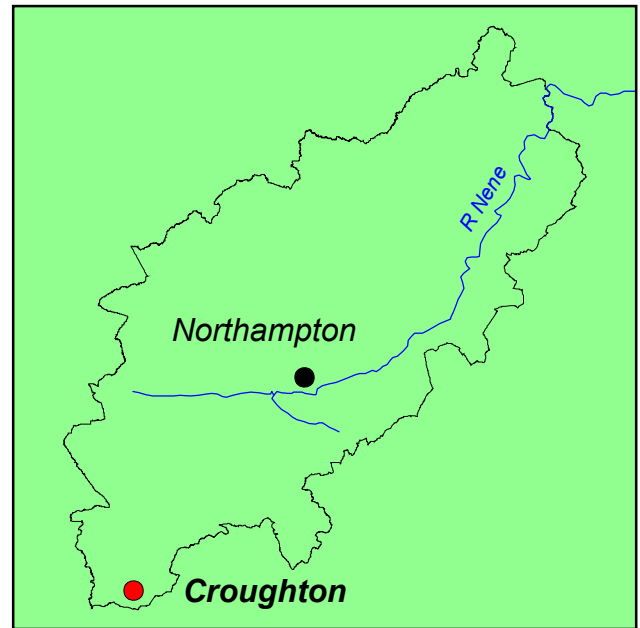
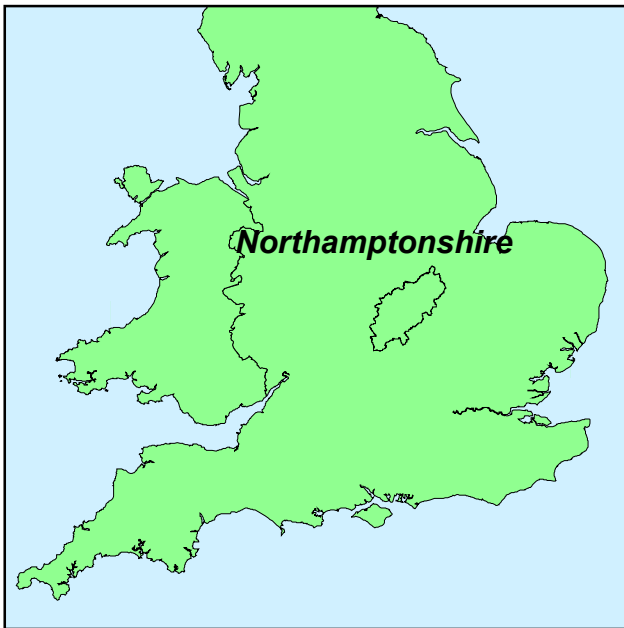
The works were undertaken in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2011) to meet the requirements of the brief issued by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC planning 2012a-b).

All works were conducted in accordance with the IfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and *Code of conduct* (IfA 2010).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The area is located to the north of Croughton and is bounded to the east by the Brackley Road and to the west and south by fence lines associated with houses on the outskirts of Croughton. There is no visible boundary to the north as the land is connected to a further grass field.

The site occupies relatively flat ground at approximately 125m above Ordnance Datum. It is underlain by a sequence of Jurassic strata comprising Middle Lias Clay with Oolitic limestone outcrops (BGS 2012), and localised Northampton sand with ironstone (NCC planning 2012). The soils are of the Aberford (511a) association, comprising shallow brashy well drained calcareous fine loamy soils (LAT 1983).



Site location showing Historic Environment Record (HER) data Fig 1

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No archaeological work has been undertaken on the site of the development; however, the potential for archaeological remains has been identified through an Historic Environment Record (HER) data search (Table 1) which presented a series of metal detecting finds, evidence of medieval activity within the village of Croughton.

Roman finds from within the parish include two late Roman pewter plates, discovered before 1975, and thought to be associated with the nearby settlement at Aynho (c4km to west).

At the time of the Royal Commission survey there was very little written about in the village of Croughton (RCHME 1982, 38-39). There is also an extensive Roman estate at Rowler Manor Estate, c1.5km north, containing a villa with a mosaic pavement depicting Bellerophon slaying the Chimera. The monument was scheduled in 1995 and the mosaic has remained buried (Dawson 2008).

Table 1: Inventory of Historic Environment Record data

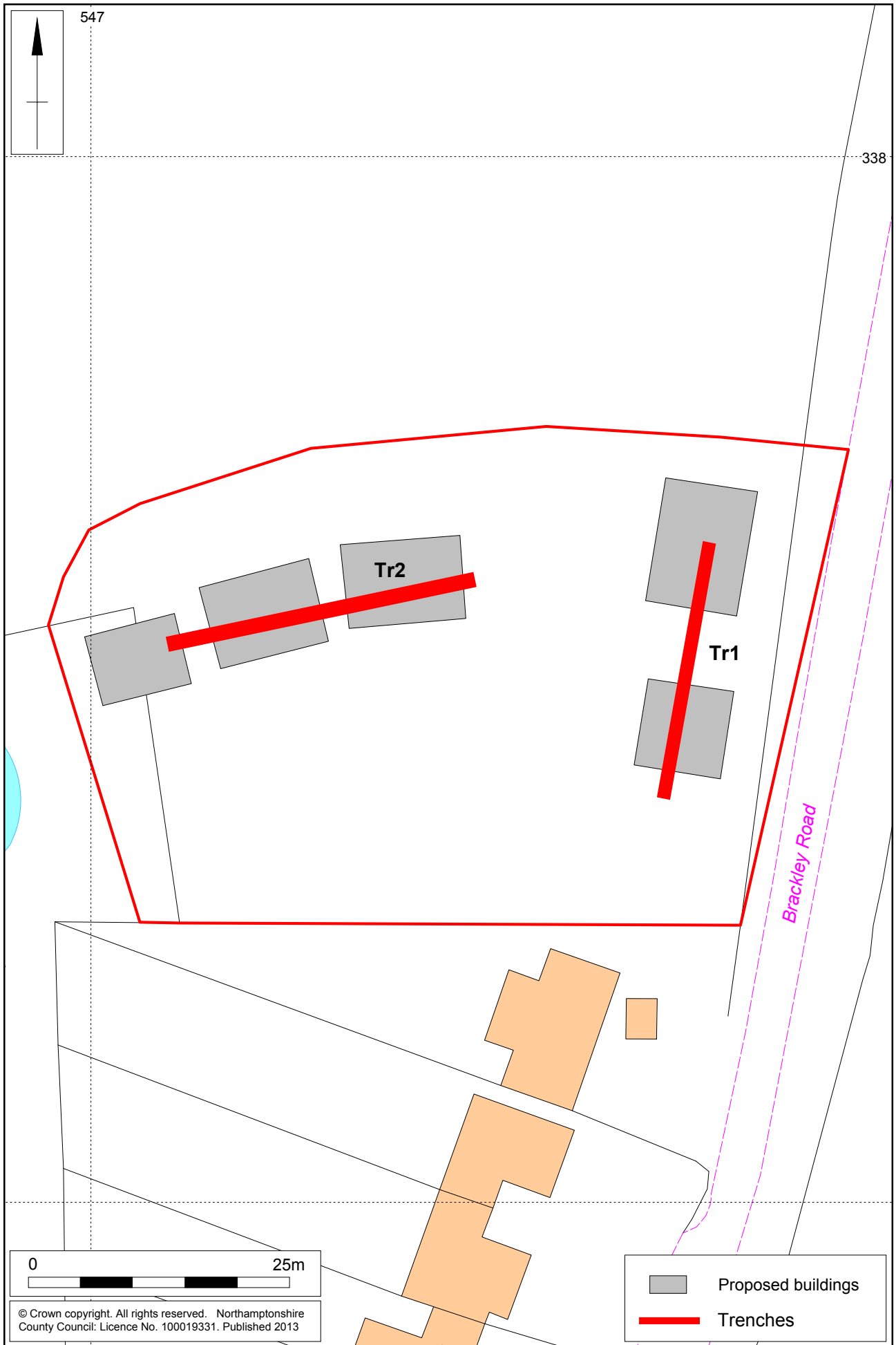
Period	HER Ref.	Event or monument
late Roman	148442	copper alloy coin, AD293-296
	148443	copper alloy coin, AD330-335
	148449	copper alloy coin, AD260-300
	148450	copper alloy coin, AD330-335
medieval	71	Croughton village
	148427	copper alloy buckle
	148436	silver coin, AD1279-1307
	148440	silver coin, AD1377-1399
	148444	copper alloy buckle
	148445	copper alloy buckle
post-medieval	9274	Warmington to Buckingham turnpike road
recent work	12321	watching brief, no archaeological remains present
	101007	survey, boundary of All Saints churchyard recorded
undated	148426	copper alloy vessel

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains were present within the application area.

The specific objectives of the project were to provide further information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present at the proposed development site;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present at the proposed development site.



Scale 1:500

Trench location Fig 2

5 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Two trenches were excavated, 25m by 1.8m, and 30m by 1.8m, respectively (Fig 2). The trenches were positioned to cover the proposed footings of the five buildings planned to be constructed on the site. The total length of trenching was 55m, amounting to approximately 4.5% of the area available.

Trenches were positioned using accurate measurements with tapes from known points within the development area. The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to reveal significant archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the natural substrate. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits under archaeological supervision. Trenches were backfilled, with the topsoil uppermost and lightly compacted.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratification was recorded on *pro-forma* sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the *Excavation Manual* (NA 2011).

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive.

6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The mid-orange sandy clay natural was overlain by a subsoil of mid-dark brown silty clay, up to 0.42m thick. The topsoil was a dark brown silty-clay loam, up to 0.50m thick. Few inclusions were noted in either the subsoil or the topsoil.

Trench 1 showed evidence of two modern dumping events at the southern and middle portions of the trench (Fig 3). There is also evidence of a geotechnical test pit towards the northern end of trench.

Trench 2 produced some evidence of modern dumping at the western edge of the trench (Fig 4).

No further archaeological features or finds were present within the trenches.



General view of trench 1, looking south Fig 3



General view of trench 2, looking west Fig 4

7 DISCUSSION

The modern deposition in the centre of trench 1 appears to fill a natural hollow within the topography of the land and is therefore likely to be a levelling deposit.

The modern deposition at the south of trench 1 and the west of trench 2 consist of similar materials and are likely to have been deposited within a short time of each other. No further archaeological features or finds were present.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT TABLES

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
1	25m x 1.8m N-S	SP 54738 33762	125m aOD	0.80m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay loam	0.50m thick	—
102	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.30m thick	—
103	Natural	Mid brown-yellow silty sandy clay	—	—
104	Modern	Dark grey-brown silty clay	0.70m thick	—
105	Modern	Mid orange sand and gravels	0.15m thick	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
2	30m x 1.8m E-W	SP 54738 33762	125m aOD	0.81m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay loam	0.40m thick	—
202	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.42m thick	—
203	Natural	Mid brown-yellow silty sand clay	—	—
204	Modern	Dark grey-brown silty clay	0.70m thick	—



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