

<u>Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd</u>

WATCHING BRIEF:
BELMONT VIEW
HAILEY DRIVE
HODDESDON
HERTFORDSHIRE

NGR: TL 37110 10676

on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council



M Cuthbert BA (Hons) PIfA

JULY 2011

ASC: 1086/HBV/2

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Site Data

ASC project code:	HBV		ASC Project No:	1086		
OASIS ref:	archaeol2-4	19627	Event/Accession no:			
County:		Hertfordshire				
Village/Town:		Hoddesdon				
Civil Parish:		Broxbou	rne			
NGR (to 8 figs):		TL 3711	0 10676			
Extent of site:		c.200m x	c.100m			
Present use:		Resident	ial home for the older	people		
Planning proposal:		Extensio	ns to existing building	5		
Planning application	ref/date:	7/0848/08/F				
Local Planning Author	ority:	Broxbourne Borough Council				
Date of fieldwork:		17/05/11 - 29/06/11				
Client:		Hertfordshire Property				
		Hertfordshire County Council				
		County Hall				
		Hertford				
		SG13 8D	ON			
Contact name:		Felix Bel	hrndt (Tropus & Spice	er)		

Internal Quality Check

Primary Author:	Martin Cuthbert	Date:	4 th July 2011	
Revisions:		Date:		
Edited/Checked By:	ele	Date:	4 th July 2011	

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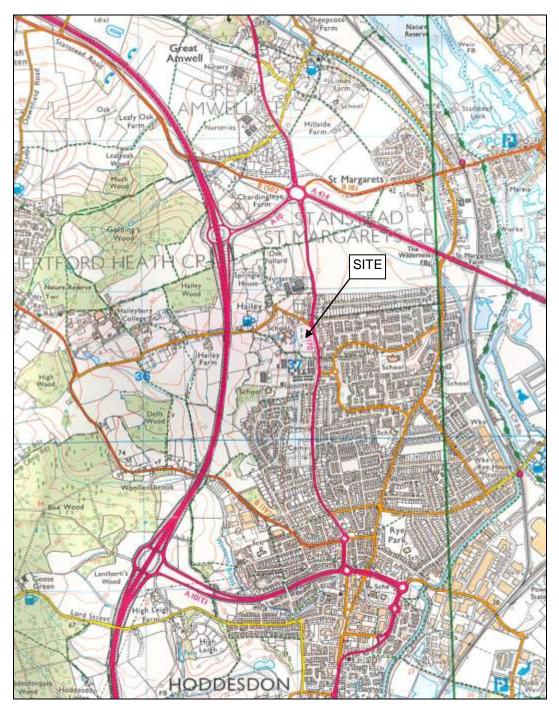


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In May and June 2011 a watching brief was maintained at Belmont View, Hailey Drive, Hoddesdon, during the construction of two extensions to the existing care home. A trial trench evaluation carried out in 1995, prior to the construction of the home, had revealed a linear feature and some pottery thought to date to the Neolithic/Bronze Age. The watching brief did not reveal anything of archaeological significance, but it was noted that much of the site is covered by up to 0.6m depth of redeposited clay, probably laid down when the care home was built, which could preserve archaeological deposits elsewhere on the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 In May and June 2011 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Belmont View, Hailey Drive, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Hertfordshire Property (Hertfordshire County Council), and was carried out according to a brief (Instone 2008) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Broxbourne District Council, by their archaeological advisor (AA), Hertfordshire Historic Environment Unit, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2008). The relevant planning application reference is 7/0848/08/F.

1.2 Planning Background

This watching brief was originally required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance 16* (PPG16), now superseded by *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 The Site

1.4.1 Location & Description

The development site is located in the Hertfordshire district of Broxbourne, to the north west of the town of Hoddesdon, within the parish of Broxbourne, at NGR TL 37110 10676 (Fig. 1).

The development site is a sub-rectangular plot of land located on the western side of Hailey Lane, to the northwest of the town of Hoddesdon. Access to the site is from Hailey Drive, which forms the site's northern border. The building subject to extension is located in the centre of the site, with a tarmaced car park directly to the north. The southern part of the site is largely covered by grass (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 Geology & Topography

The site is located to the west of the river Lee, close to its flood plain, within an unsurveyed area (Soil Survey 1983, U) but is likely to comprise soils of either the Hamble 2 Association, which are characterised as *deep stoneless well drained silty soils and similar soils affected by groundwater; over gravel locally (ibid*, 571z), or the Beccles 3 Association, which comprise *slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey soils and similar soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging (ibid*, 711t). The underlying geology is characterised as boulder clay (BGS, Sheet 239).

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises extensions to the northwest and southeast of the existing building (Fig. 3, Extensions A and B).

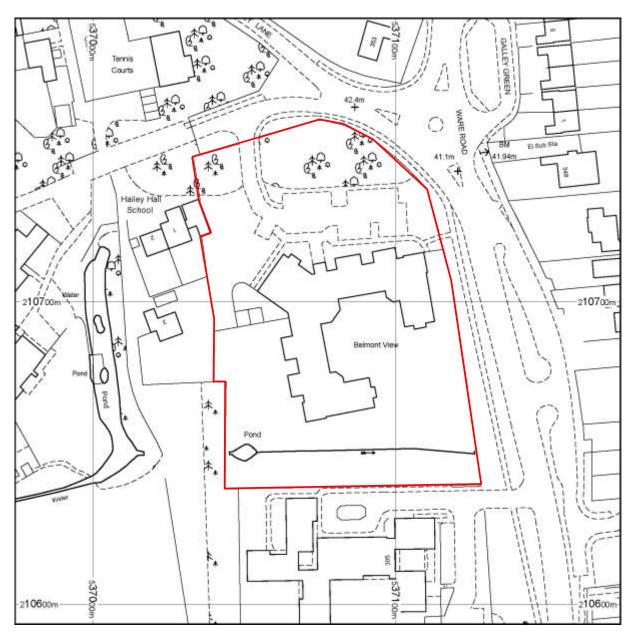


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)



Figure 3: Proposed developments, shown in red (not to scale)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3.3), which required:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision
- Inspection of subsoil deposits fro archaeological features
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits
- Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision
- Examination of any service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits
- Examination of spoil heaps for archaeological material
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were encountered on this project.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from readily available sources.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before 600BC)

A number of prehistoric features and finds have been discovered in Hoddesdon including four Mesolithic occupation sites dating from 9350bp and 6895bp on the flood plain at Dobbs Weir, approximately 900m southeast of the study area. (Thompson 2002, 3). Archaeological evidence was also discovered for Neolithic occupation in a quarry face at Rye Meads, and at Hailey Hall, c1km to the west of the site.

Two stone implements comprising an Acheulian handaxe and the butt end of a handaxe as well as two flakes (HER 1216) were found by SH Warren in a brickyard worked in c.1895 to the west of the main road through Hoddesdon. A stone or flint handaxe (HER 2101) was also discovered in the same vicinity.

Trial trenching undertaken on the development site in 1995 prior to the construction of Belmont View revealed a linear feature and some pottery thought to date to the Neolithic/Bronze Age (Instone 2008).

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

An Iron Age settlement site has been identified to the west of the development site at Hailey Hall. It appears that this was abandoned after the Roman Conquest and the site used for cremation burials (Thompson 2002, 6). Some pottery fragments (HER 0184) dating from the Iron Age were also recovered from Yewlands to the south of the present study area.

Little is otherwise present in the archaeological record for this period, other than a series of co-axial land boundaries covering some 20 sq km in the vicinity of Hoddesdon, Cheshunt and Brickendon. Many of these boundaries are still in use as footpaths, roads and field boundaries (Thompson 2002, 4).

3.4 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

Although it has been difficult to discern the character of the Hoddesdon area during the Roman period, it is thought likely that it took the form of rural farmsteads (Thompson 2002, 4). Late Iron Age and Roman period settlement appears to have been largely on the boundary between the gravels and clays so that the streams and the Lea valley could be exploited.

Roman pottery and bones associated with small burial vases (HER 1225) were discovered in Pauls Lane approximately 2km southeast of the present site in 1861. Other Roman material, including a coin from the Vespasian period (HER 1432) was found a similar distance to the southeast. A stone paved trackway and three horseshoes similar to known Roman examples were discovered when new houses were being built

in Ware Road in 1899 (HER 2953). Two pottery fragments were revealed close to Woollens Brook (HER 10956), one of which is almost certainly of Roman date.

Roman Road is named after the Roman building materials (HER 1217) discovered close to the medieval fords north of Woollens Brook in the 19th century. The nature of the finds suggests that there was a building of some status on or close to the site. Other finds discovered in the area (HER 1218) included urned cremations in a ditch with a spearhead nearby.

Ermine Street, the Roman road linking London and York lies to the west of the town, approximately 2km from the present site. A section to the north of Hoddesdon Park is seen to have been built on two levels; one for faster and the other for slower traffic (*ibid*:6).

The archaeological evidence suggests that the Hoddesdon area was well settled in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD with a number of farmsteads centred on a higher status building at a crossing of the Woollens Brook. The later settlement was apparently more concentrated further north on the gravel terrace (ibid).

3.5 **Saxon & Medieval** (c.450-1500)

The Domesday Survey (1086) records six properties in Hoddesdon, amounting to 10 hides in total (Thompson 2002, 7; VCH online). None of the manors had a priest, a church or a mill, but there were weirs and a fishery in four of them producing eels (Thompson 2002, 7). The inclusion of these properties in the Domesday Survey implies that they were in existence before the Norman Conquest in 1066. It is therefore likely that Hoddesdon had its origins in the late Saxon period.

The development site lies close to *Area of Archaeological Significance 15*, which relates to the medieval moated site at Hailey Hall, *c*.200m to the west of the site.

3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

Hoddesdon flourished in the 17th century, when the highway became part of the Old North Road linking London, Wadesmill, Ware, Royston, and Huntingdon where it joined the Great North Road. It was turnpiked between Enfield and Ware in the 1720s and a tollhouse was erected at Spitalbrook in the 19th century. This was demolished in 1872 (Thompson 2002:12).

The town retained much of its earlier layout despite the fact that many new houses were erected, largely along the High Street.

3.7 *Modern* (1900-present)

By the early 20th century brewing, building, the manufacture of sporting equipment, market gardening and watercress growing had replaced milling and malting as the major local sources of income. Watercress beds were set up in 1885 at the Lynch, where it was possible to control the speed and temperature of the water. Willows were grown on the river Lea near Rye House for the manufacture of tennis rackets and cricket bats. This business failed when the river level fell during the Second World War. The development of market gardens and nurseries in Hoddesdon began in 1899 at the north end of town (*ibid*, 31).

Town redevelopment of the later 20th century saw the loss of many of these nurseries and older buildings as well as the construction of the new shopping precinct in the 1960s and the Dinant Relief Road in the 1970s (*ibid*, 31).

Belmont View residential home was constructed on its present site during the mid 1990s.

4. Results & Conclusions

4.1 Results

Seven monitoring visits were made to the site during the groundworks phase of construction (Appendix 1). The works observed on both extensions included topsoil stripping and ground reduction, the excavation of footing trenches and soakaways.

Extension A (Fig. 4: Plates 1-3)

The area of the smaller extension, to the north-west of the existing care home, was reduced in level by up to 1.3m in depth. The stratigraphy encountered comprised:

```
0.00 – 0.30m Topsoil & turf

0.30 – 0.80m Redeposited soil Mid brown/orange, very silty friable clay

0.80 – 1.05m Subsoil Clean orange/brown, very fine silty friable clay

1.05m+ Natural Orange clay with pea gravel
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With the exception of a small area in the west corner, the whole of Extension A was reduced to natural, so the excavation of footing trenches in this area was not monitored. Excavation of a large soakaway pit on the north-east side of the extension revealed similar stratigraphy to that described above.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were noted in Extension A

Extension B (Fig. 5: Plates 4-6)

The area of the larger extension, at the south-east corner of the existing building, was mechanically stripped of topsoil, following which footing trenches were excavated to a depth of c.1 m below the stripped level. The stratigraphy encountered comprised:

```
0.00 – 0.60m Redeposited soil Mid brown/orange, very silty friable clay 0.60 – 1.00m Subsoil very gravely, mid brown/red sandy silt 1.0m+ Natural Orange clay with pea gravel
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The actual depth of the natural varied across the site: not all footing trenches reached it (Fig. 5). Two soakaways were excavated in association with this extension, to the north-west and south-east respectively. Both revealed similar stratigraphy to that described above.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were noted in Extension B

4.2 *Conclusions*

The watching brief at Belmont View did not reveal any archaeological deposits, features or artefacts within the areas of the two extensions to the care home. A redeposited layer of clay up to 0.6m was present below topsoil in both areas, and may have been laid down when the care home was constructed in the 1990s. In view of the discoveries made in the 1995 evaluation, it is possible that archaeological features or deposits could be present elsewhere on the site, sealed by the redeposited clay.

4.3 Confidence Rating

A high confidence rating is attached to the results of this watching brief.



Plate 1: Extension A: general shot of reduced area



Plate 2: Extension A: detail of stratigraphy



Plate 3: Extension A: soakaway



Plate 4: Extension B: general view during topsoil stripping



Plate 5: Extension B: detail of stratigraphy



Plate 6: Extension B: northern soakaway

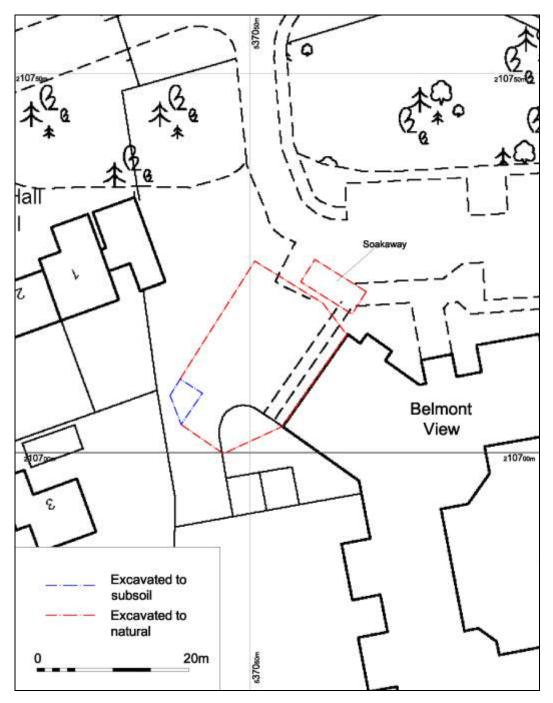


Figure 4: Extension A (scale 1: 500)

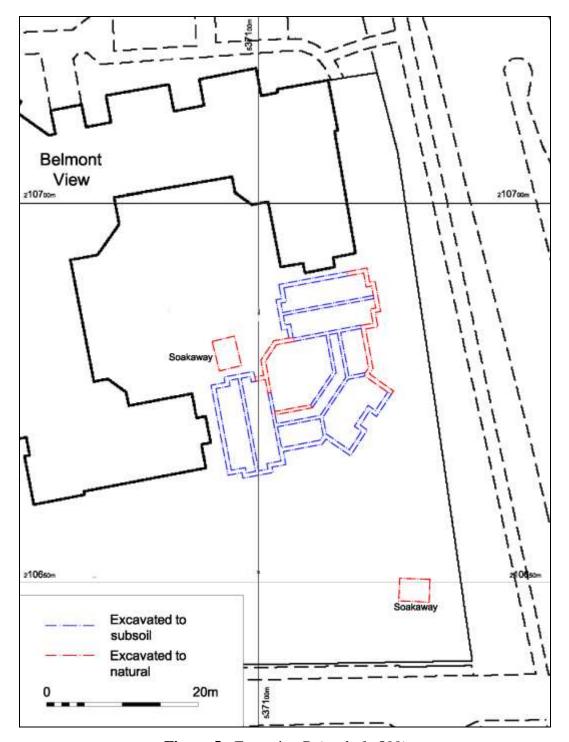


Figure 5: Extension B (scale 1: 500)

5. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by *Hertfordshire Property (Hertfordshire County Council)*. The writer is grateful to Andrea Gilmour (Herts Property) and Felix Behrndt (Tropus & Spicer) for their assistance. The project was monitored by Andy Instone of the Herts CC Historic Environment Unit on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Jason Keble of contractors ISG Jacksons for his assistance

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIfA. Fieldwork was carried out by Martin Cuthbert BA PIfA. The report was prepared by Martin Cuthbert and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

6. Archive

- 6.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Brief
 - 2. Project Design
 - 3. Initial Report
 - 4. Clients site plans
 - 5. Site Monitoring Sheets
 - 6. Site record drawings
 - 7. List of photographs
 - 8. B/W prints & negatives
 - 9. Original specialist reports and supporting information
 - 10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 6.2 The archive will be deposited with Broxbourne Museum.

7. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- IFA 2000b Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- IFA 2001 Institute for Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds).
- Instone, A 2008 Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring & Recording: Belmont View, Hailey Drive, Hoddesdon. Herts CC brief: 15/05/08.

Secondary Sources

- BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.
- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).
- Thompson, I 2002 *Hoddesdon: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report* Hertford: HCC
- Victoria County History 'Parishes: Broxbourne with Hoddesdon', *A History of the County of Hertford: volume 3* (1912), 430-440.
 - URL: http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43639&strquery=hoddesdon.
- Williams, A & Martin, G.H. (eds) 2003 Domesday Book: a complete translation London:Penguin Classics

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

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Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAM	/IE: Belm	ont View,	Hoddesdon	SITE NO/CODE: 1086/HBV		
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject			
1	✓	✓	Extension A, general shot			
2	✓	✓	Extension A, general stratigraphy			
3	✓	✓	Extension A, overall reduction			
4	✓	✓	Extension A, soakaway			
5	✓	✓	Extension A, detail of SW corner of red	uced area.		
6	✓	✓	Extension B, general shot			
7	✓	✓	Extension B, northern soakaway			
8	✓	✓	Extension B, footing trench, west side			
9	✓	✓	Extension B, southern soakaway			
10	✓	✓	Extension B, southern soakaway			
11	✓	✓	Extension B, southern soakaway			
12	✓	✓	Extension B, topsoil strip			
13	✓	✓	Extension B, footing trench, centre			
14	✓	✓	Extension B, footing trench, east end			
15	√	✓	Extension B, footing trench, west end			

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

	PROJECT	DETAIL	 S	
Project Name:	Belmont View, Hailey Drive, Hodo	desdon	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-49627
Short Description:	In May and June 2011 a water Hoddesdon, during the construct evaluation carried out in 1995, feature and some pottery though not reveal anything of archaeole covered by up to 0.6m depth of rebuilt, which could preserve archaeole covered by the construction of the co	ion of two prior to that to date ogical signated	extensions to the exi- ne construction of the to the Neolithic/Bronz nificance, but it was d clay, probably laid of	sting care home. A trial trench home, had revealed a linear e Age. The watching brief did noted that much of the site is down when the care home was
Project Type:	Watching Brief			
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None		Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Residential care home		Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	None
Monument type:	None		Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None			
	PROJECT	LOCATIO	N	
County:	Hertfordshire	OS refe	rence: (8 figs min)	TL 37110 10676
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Belmont View, Hailey Drive, Hodo	desdon, H	ertfordshire	
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	100x200m	Height (DD: (metres)	45m OD
	PROJECT	CREATO	RS	
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consu	Itancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Andy Instone	Project	design originator:	Calli Rouse ASC Ltd
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat	Director	/Supervisor:	Martin Cuthbert
Sponsor / funding body:	Herts. County Council			
		CT DATE		
Start date:	17/05/11	End dat	e: 	29/06/11
	PROJECT			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content	(eg. pottery, animal	bone, files/sheets)
Physical:	Broxbourne Museum	None		
Paper:	Dioxbourne wuseum	Brief, pr	oject design, site note	s, photos, report
Digital:		CD with	all digital files	
BIBLIOGRA	APHY (Journal/monograph, publisl		<u> </u>	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Title:	Watching Brief: Belmont View, Ha	ailey Drive	, Hoddesdon, Hertford	Ishire
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1086/HBV/2			
Author(s):	Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) PIFA			
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