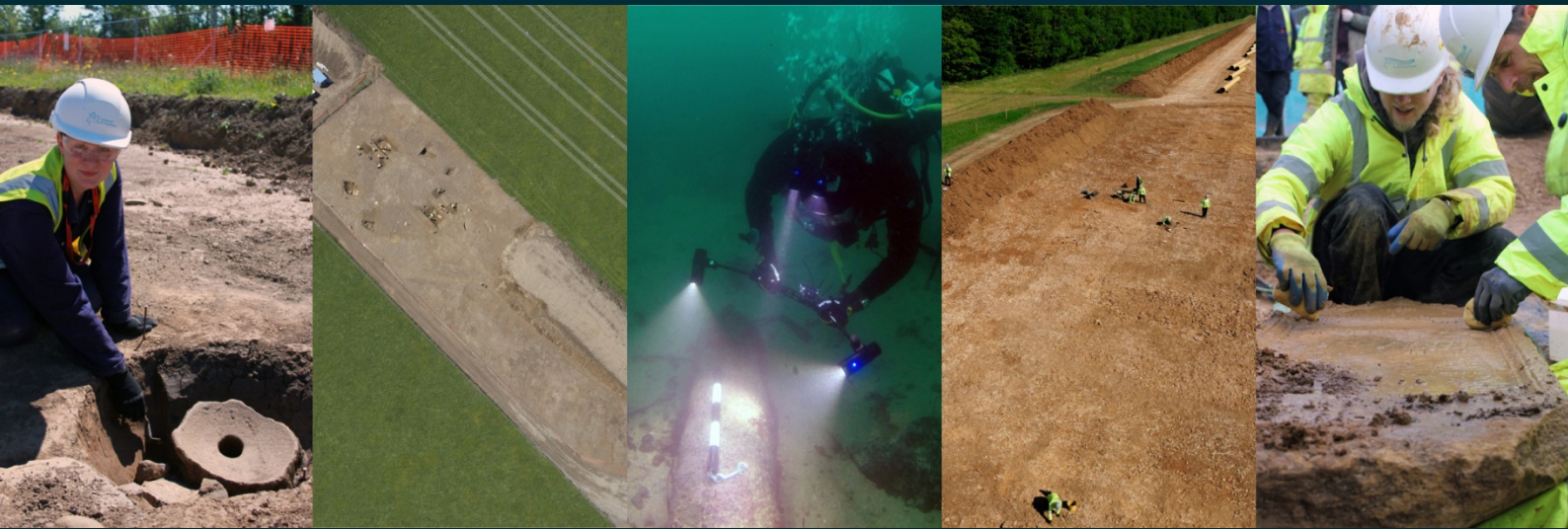


# Land to the east of Barbican Road East Looe Cornwall

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Tavy Properties Ltd

CA Project: 880307  
CA Report: 18245

May 2018



# Land to the east of Barbican Road East Looe Cornwall

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 880307  
CA Report: 18245



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	16 May 2018	Jonathan Orellana	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Derek Evans
B	17 May 2018	Jonathan Orellana	Derek Evans	Curator review	Revised Discussion section in line with Curator comments	Derek Evans

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land to the east of Barbican Road
<b>Location:</b>	East Looe, Cornwall
<b>NGR:</b>	226095 054545
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	26–27 April 2018
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	PA17/05908
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
<b>Site Code:</b>	BRDL 18

In April 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Barbican Road, East Looe, Cornwall. A total of twelve trenches was excavated within the site.

The evaluation identified seven ditches and two pits in the northern and western parts of the site. All but one of these features were undated artefactually. Four of the ditches corresponded to extant/historic field boundaries; one of these ditches contained late post-medieval/modern pottery. Three undated ditches were on a different alignment to the extant field system and may therefore be part of a previous field system of medieval or earlier date.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Barbican Road, East Looe, Cornwall (centred at NGR: 226095 054545; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken for Tavy Properties Ltd.
- 1.2 Cornwall Council has refused an application for outline planning permission (planning ref: PA17/05908) for the construction of up to 100 dwellings and an affordable care/extra care home at the site, along with associated access, parking, infrastructure, landscaping and open space. Reason 3 in the Notice of Refusal states that a WSI and trench plan for an archaeological evaluation should be submitted prior to determination. This evaluation was undertaken in response to this requirement.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Phil Copleston (Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council). The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2016).

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The site lies at the north-eastern edge of East Looe, on the eastern side of Barbican Road. The site is an irregularly shaped plot of land measuring approximately 4.4ha in extent. It currently comprises pastoral land bordered by Cornish hedgebanks.
- 1.5 The site is bordered by Barbican Road to the west, with Looe Community School beyond; by a small industrial estate, a covered reservoir and Looe Town Football Club to the south; and by pastoral and scrub land to the east and north.
- 1.6 The evaluation site slopes from c. 111m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at its southern boundary to c. 62m aOD at its north-eastern corner.

- 1.7 The bedrock geology in the northern part of the site is mapped as Upper Longsands Sandstone Member (sandstone, siltstone and mudstone), which formed during the Devonian period. The bedrock geology in the southern part of the site is mapped as Bovisand Formation (slate, siltstone and sandstone), which also formed during the Devonian period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2018).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the previous subject of a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2012) and a desk-based archaeological assessment (AOC 2017). The following text is summarised from these sources.

### ***Bronze Age (2400 BC–700 BC)***

- 2.2 A total of four Bronze Age barrows have been identified within 300m of the evaluation site, including one immediately beyond the southern site boundary.

### ***Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)***

- 2.3 The settlement of Pendrim, mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086), is believed to have been located c. 500m north of the evaluation site, and may have included an early Christian enclosure known as Lancof.

- 2.4 The fields in the vicinity of the site have been interpreted as medieval farmlands, with earthworks in the vicinity interpreted as remnants of these field systems.

### ***Post-medieval (1540–1800) and modern (1800–present)***

- 2.5 The evaluation site is shown in the 1839 Tithe Map as two east/west oriented plots. A linear geophysical anomaly corresponds to the former boundary between these plots, which was removed in the early/mid 20th century.

### ***Undated***

- 2.6 The geophysical survey and a study of aerial photographs identified a number of potential features within the site of unknown date. These include: a series of linear anomalies forming possible fields or enclosures on a north-east/south-west alignment in the north-western part of the site; weaker linear anomalies, on the same orientation as those above, in the south-eastern part of the site; and occasional discrete anomalies.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide further information about the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. This information will enable Cornwall Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets at the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 12 trenches (Fig. 2). The trenches measured between 15m and 40m in length; all trenches were 1.8m wide. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies, as well as to give a representative sample of the remainder of the site. The location of T4 was adjusted slightly from the location specified in the WSI (CA 2018) in order to avoid an overhead power line. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All recovered artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The evaluation archive will be held by CA until such time as all archaeological works at the site have been confirmed as completed. CA will then prepare a combined project archive. CA will make arrangements with the Royal Cornwall Museum for the

deposition of the archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will be prepared and submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

- 4.5 A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered during the evaluation are provided in Section 6. Figure 2 shows the trenches and the recorded archaeological features in plan.

- 5.2 The natural geological substrate generally comprised greyish shillet and mudstone with patches of orangey silty sand. It was encountered at depths of 0.3m–0.65m below the present ground level and was directly overlain by the topsoil.

- 5.3 Archaeological features were identified in T1, T3, T8, T9 and T11. These trenches are discussed in more detail below. All archaeological features were cut into the natural substrate and were sealed by the topsoil.

### ***Trench 1***

- 5.4 Shallow pit 102 was oval in plan. It measured 0.5m in length, 0.42m in width and 0.05m in depth (Fig. 3, Sec. AA). Pit 102 contained a single fill (103) from which no artefactual material was retrieved.

### ***Trench 3***

- 5.5 Circular pit 302 was 0.65m in diameter and 0.15m in depth (Fig. 3, Sec. BB). No finds were recovered from its single fill (303).

- 5.6 To the south-west of pit 302, north-west/south-east orientated ditch 304 was 0.65m wide and 0.1m deep, with a single undated sedimentary fill (305). Ditch 304 was on the broad location of a linear geophysical anomaly.



**Trench 8**

- 5.7 North-east/south-west orientated ditch 803 was 0.6m wide and 0.27m deep (Fig. 4, Sec. CC). This ditch terminated in T8. It contained a single fill (802) that yielded no finds.

**Trench 9**

- 5.8 Ditch 906 was north-east/south-west orientated. It was 0.56m deep, and contained two undated fills (908 and 907; Fig. 4, Sec. DD).
- 5.9 Ditch 906 survived to a width of 0.95m. It was observed to be truncated by later ditch 902, which ran on the same alignment. Ditch 902 measured 1.85m in width and 0.68m in depth (Fig. 4, Sec. DD). This ditch featured a sequence of three sedimentary fills (903–905), none of which contained any finds.
- 5.10 Intercutting ditches 906 and 902 correlated with a linear geophysical anomaly.

**Trench 11**

- 5.11 Three ditches (1102, 1104 and 1106) were identified in T11. All three displayed a good correlation with linear geophysical anomalies.
- 5.12 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 1102 was 2.82m wide and 0.28m deep (Fig. 5, Sec. EE). A small amount of late post-medieval/modern pottery was retrieved from its single fill (1103).
- 5.13 To the immediate south of ditch 1102, north-west/south-east orientated ditch 1104 was 0.6m in width and 0.07m in depth. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1105).
- 5.14 In the south-western end of T11, north-west/south-east orientated ditch 1106 was 1.35m wide and 0.55m deep (Fig. 5, Sec. FF). This ditch contained a single undated fill (1107).

**6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Three fragments of pottery (9g total) were recovered from deposit 1103 (single fill of ditch 1102, T11). This group comprised a single bodysherd of Westerwald

stoneware (dateable to the late 17th–18th centuries) and two sherds of refined whiteware, one featuring blue transfer print decoration. The refined whiteware sherds are dateable to the late 18th–19th centuries.

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
1103	modern pottery	Refined whiteware	RWW	2	8	LC18-C19
	post-medieval pottery	Westerwald	WES	1	1	

Table 1: finds concordance

## 7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The evaluation identified seven ditches and two pits in the northern and western parts of the site. All but one of these features were undated artefactually.

7.2 There was a variable correspondence between the evaluation results and those of the previous geophysical survey (Stratascan 2012). The majority of the ditches exposed by the evaluation had been detected by the geophysical survey, although ditch 803 (T8) had not been detected. There were also several geophysical anomalies which were not found to correspond to below-ground archaeological features.

### ***Post-medieval (1540–1800)/modern (1800–present)***

7.3 Ditch 1102 (T11) contained a small amount of late post-medieval/modern pottery. This ditch was on the line of a former field boundary shown in the 1839 Tithe Map and detected by the geophysical survey. This boundary was removed in the early/mid 20th century. Immediately-adjacent ditch 1104 was on the same alignment, and is presumably associated with this boundary.

7.4 Intercutting ditches 906 and 902 (T9) were on the same alignment as the adjacent extant western field boundary, and are presumably post-medieval/modern in date.

### ***Undated***

7.5 A total of three further ditches (T3, T8 and T11) and two pits (T1 and T3) were undated. Ditches 304 (T3), 803 (T8) and 1106 (T11) are on a different alignment to the extant field system and may therefore be part of a previous field system of medieval or earlier date.

## 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Orellana, assisted by Tina Tapply, Parris Stubbings and Jake Godfrey. This report was written by Jonathan Orellana. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden. The report illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

## 9. REFERENCES

AOC 2017 *Barbican Road, Looe, Cornwall: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey Report*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>  
Accessed 13 March 2018

Cotswold Archaeology 2018 *Land to the east of Barbican Road, East Looe, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Stratascan 2012 *Geophysical Survey Report: Barbican Road, Looe, Cornwall*



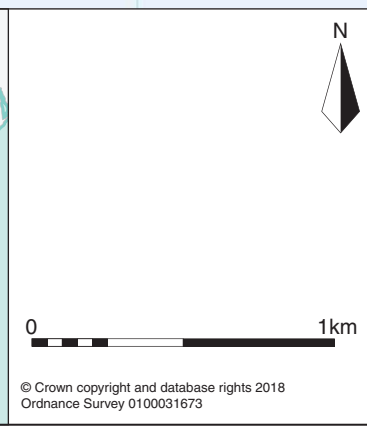
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.55
1	101	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
1	102	Cut		pit	oval in plan, moderate sloping sides and flat base	0.5	0.42	0.05
1	103	Fill	102	single fill of pit	mid orangey brown silty sand	0.5	0.42	0.05
2	200	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.4
2	201	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
3	300	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.35
3	301	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
3	302	Cut		pit	circular in plan, moderate sloping sides and flat base	0.65	0.65	0.15
3	303	Fill	302	single fill of pit	mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.65	0.65	0.15
3	304	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated, shallow sides and concave base	>0.5	0.65	0.1
3	305	Fill	304	single fill of ditch	dark brown silty clay	>0.5	0.65	0.1
4	400	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.35
4	401	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
5	500	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.4
5	501	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
6	600	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.3
6	601	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
7	700	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.4
7	701	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
8	800	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.35
8	801	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
8	802	Fill	803	single fill of ditch	dark greyish brown silty clay	>0.5	0.6	0.27
8	803	Cut		ditch	NE/SW orientated, steep sides and concave base	>0.5	0.6	0.27
9	900	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.52
9	901	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
9	902	Cut		ditch	NE/SW orientated, steep sides and concave base	>0.7	1.85	0.68
9	903	Fill	902	3 <sup>rd</sup> fill of ditch	mid orangey brown silty clay	>0.7	1.5	0.25
9	904	Fill	902	2 <sup>nd</sup> fill of ditch	mid greyish brown silty clay	>0.7	1.85	0.33
9	905	Fill	902	1 <sup>st</sup> fill of ditch	mid greyish brown silty clay	>0.7	0.95	0.14
9	906	Cut		ditch	NE/SW orientated, steep sides and concave base	>0.7	0.95	0.56
9	907	Fill	906	2 <sup>nd</sup> fill of ditch	mid yellowish brown silty sand	>0.7	0.95	0.45
9	908	Fill	906	1 <sup>st</sup> fill of ditch	mid greyish brown silty sand	>0.7	0.95	0.3
10	1000	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.3
10	1001	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
11	1100	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.4
11	1101	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			
11	1102	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated, moderate sloping sides and flat base	>1.8	2.82	0.28
11	1103	Fill	1102	single fill of ditch	mid greyish brown sandy silt	>1.8	2.82	0.28

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
11	1104	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated, moderate sloping sides and flat base	>0.5	0.6	0.07
11	1105	Fill	1104	single fill of ditch	mid greyish brown sandy silt	>0.5	0.6	0.07
11	1106	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated, steep sides and flat base	>0.7	1.35	0.55
11	1107	Fill	1106	single fill of ditch	dark greyish brown silty clay	>0.7	1.35	0.55
12	1200	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay			0.3
12	1201	Layer		natural substrate	greyish shillet with patches of orangey silty sand			

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land to the east of Barbican Road, East Looe, Cornwall	
Short description	<p>In April 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Barbican Road, East Looe, Cornwall. A total of twelve trenches was excavated within the site.</p> <p>The evaluation identified seven ditches and two pits in the northern and western parts of the site. All but one of these features were undated artefactually. Four of the ditches corresponded to extant/historic field boundaries; one of these ditches contained late post-medieval/modern pottery. Three undated ditches were on a different alignment to the extant field system and may therefore be part of a previous field system of medieval or earlier date.</p>	
Project dates	26-27 April 2018	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Stratascan 2012) Desk-based assessment (AOC 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land to the east of Barbican Road, East Looe, Cornwall	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	c. 4.4ha	
Site co-ordinates	226095 054545	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Orellana	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Royal Cornwall Museum	Pottery
Paper	Royal Cornwall Museum	Context sheets, trench forms, section drawings
Digital	Royal Cornwall Museum	Digital survey, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2018 <i>Land to the east of Barbican Road, East Looe, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>18245</b>		




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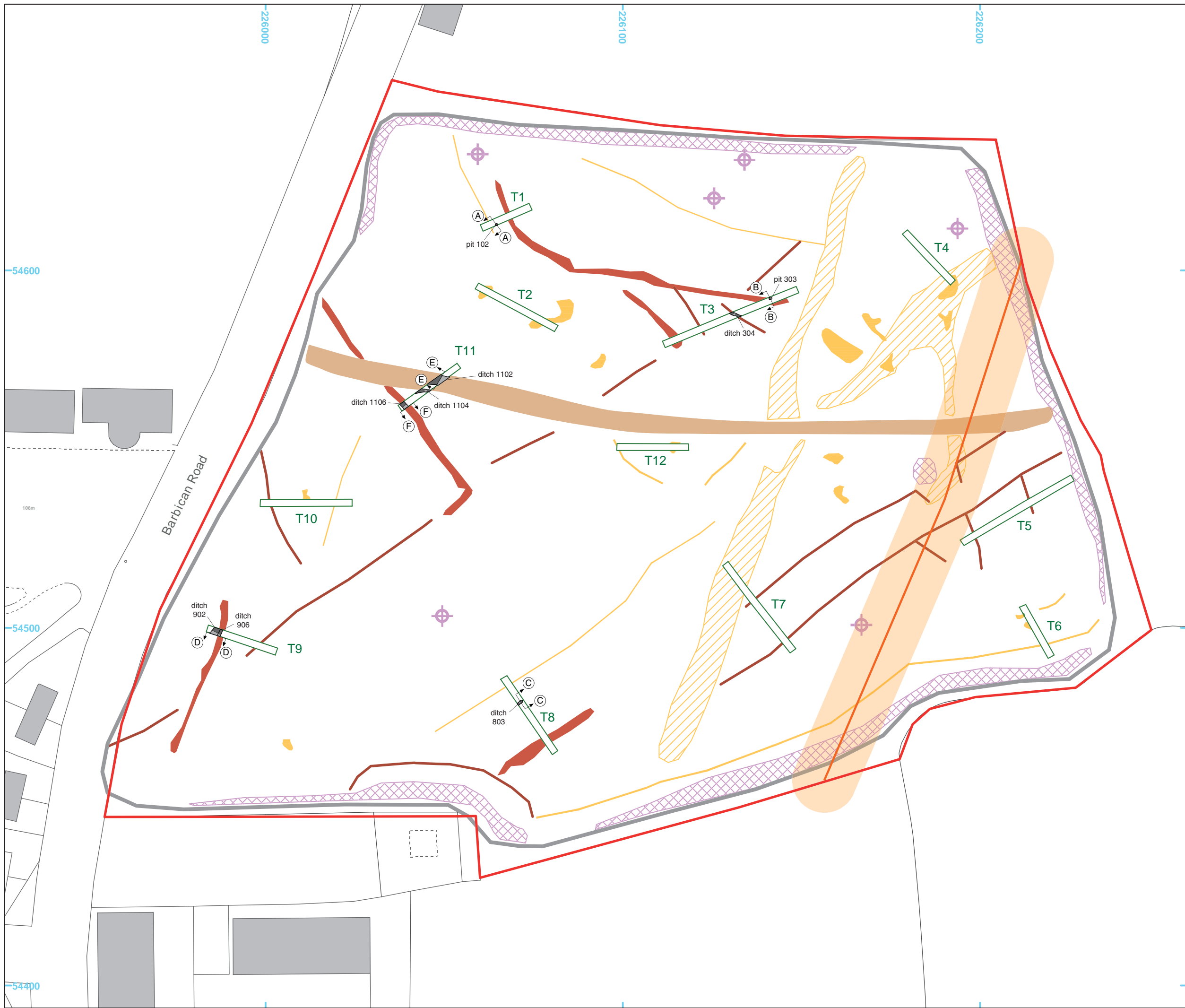
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land to the east of Barbican Road,  
 East Looe, Cornwall

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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

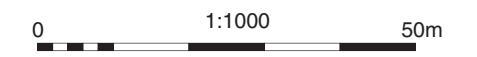
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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- A Section location
- Service OH cable (9m buffer)

Stratascan Key	
<b>PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY</b>	
<span style="background-color: red; border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
<span style="background-color: blue; border: 1px solid blue; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
<span style="background-color: orange; border: 1px solid orange; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Linear anomaly likely to be related to former field boundaries
<span style="background-color: green; border: 1px solid green; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow
<b>POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY</b>	
<span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid yellow; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
<span style="background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid lightblue; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
<span style="background-color: purple; border: 1px solid purple; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Moderate strength discrete anomaly - possible thermoremanent feature
<span style="border: 1px solid purple; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object
<b>OTHER ANOMALIES</b>	
<span style="background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid lightgreen; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
<span style="background-color: pink; border: 1px solid pink; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
<span style="background-color: lightpurple; border: 1px solid lightpurple; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
<span style="background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid lightblue; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
<span style="background-color: lightgrey; border: 1px solid lightgrey; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
<span style="background-color: lightgrey; border: 1px solid lightgrey; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Scattered magnetic debris
<span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid yellow; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin



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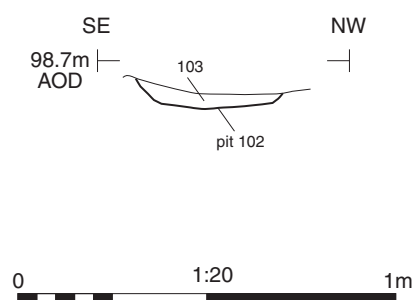
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land to the east of Barbican Road, East Looe, Cornwall

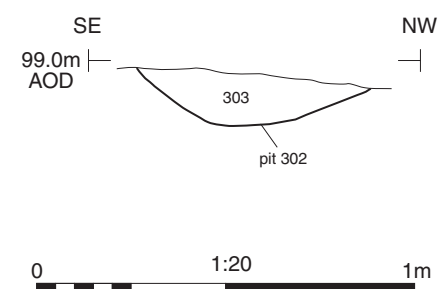
**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

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Section AA



Section BB



Pit 102, looking south-west (0.3m scale)



Pit 302, looking south-west (0.4m scale)


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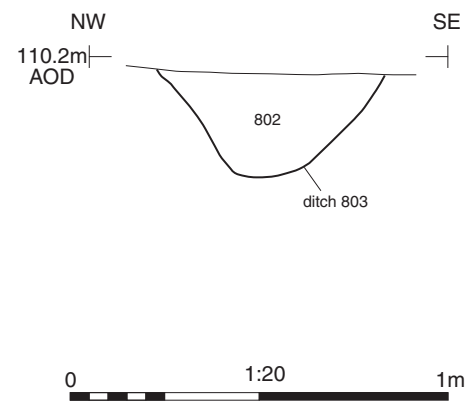
PROJECT TITLE  
 Land to the east of Barbican Road,  
 East Looe, Cornwall

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 1 and 3: sections and  
 photographs**

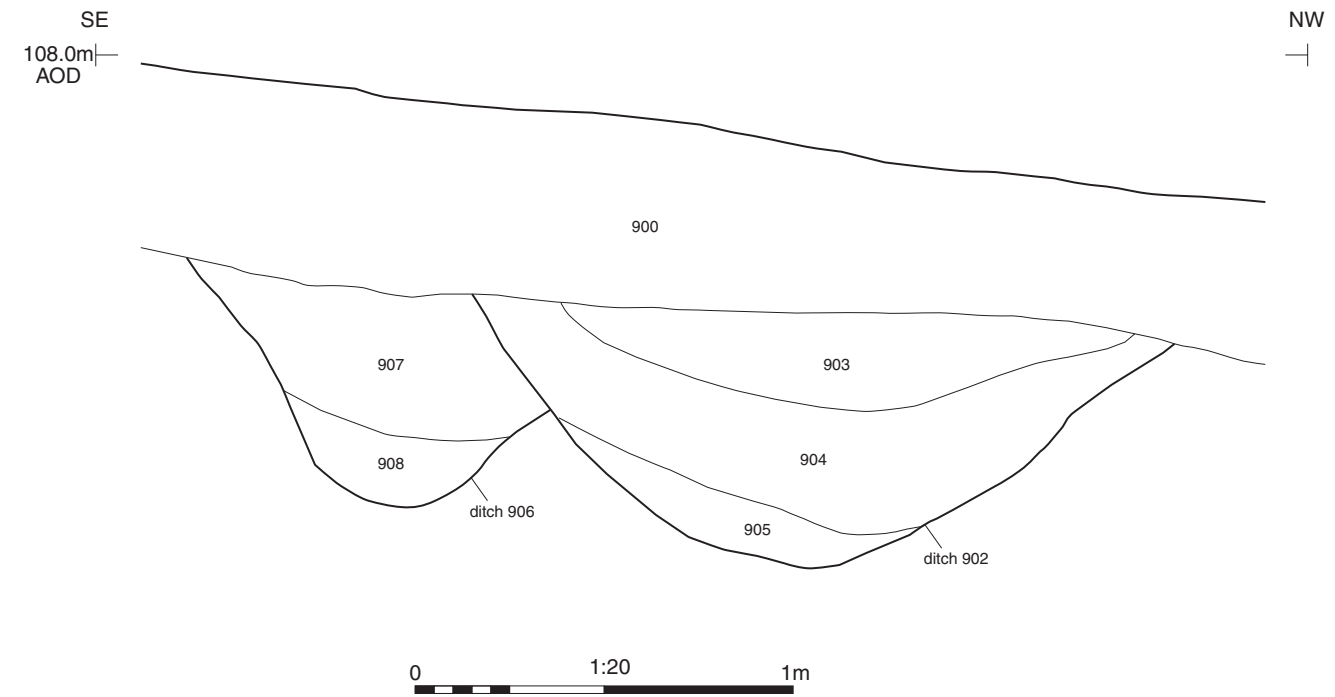
DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	880307	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/05/2018	<b>3</b>
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE @A3	1:20	



Section CC



Section DD



Ditch 803, looking north-east (0.3m scale)



Ditches 906 and 902, looking south-west (1m scale)

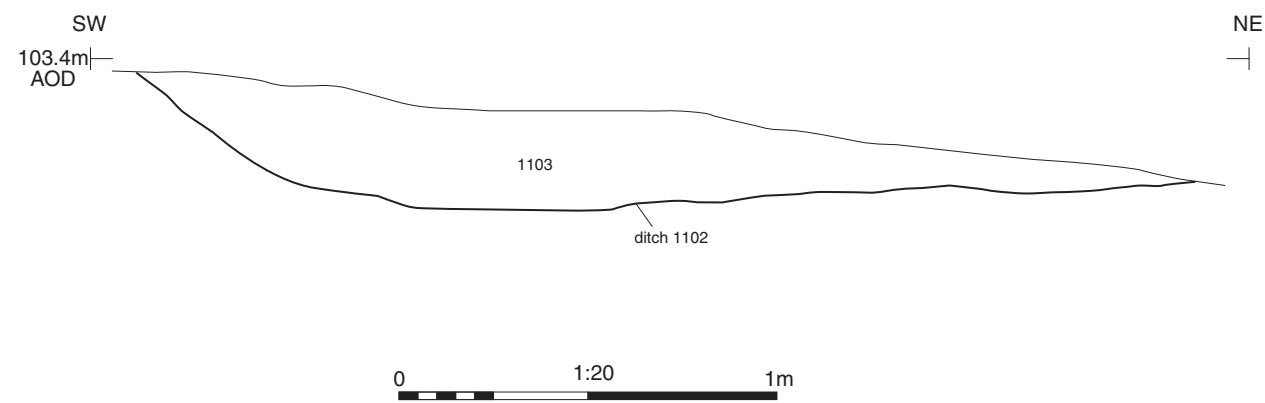

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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land to the east of Barbican Road,  
 East Looe, Cornwall**

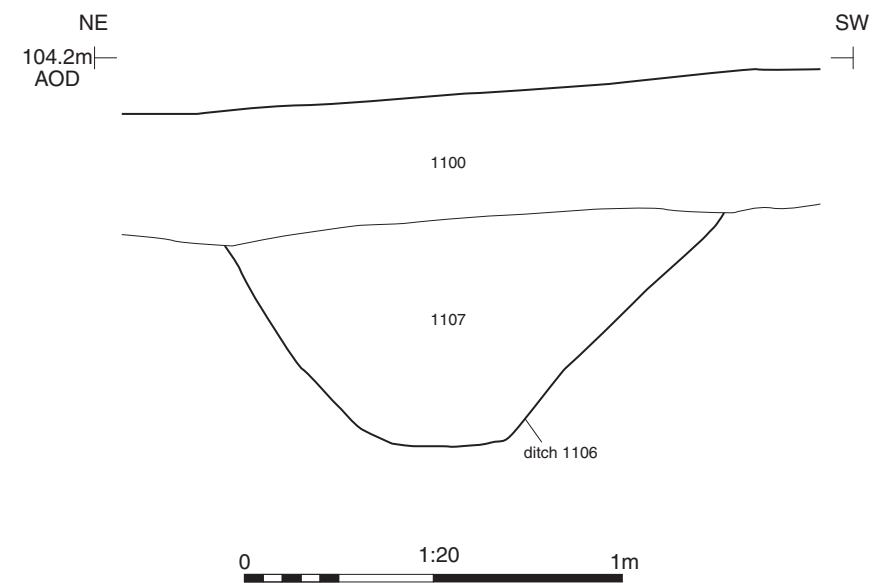
FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 8 and 9: sections and  
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	880307	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/05/2018	<b>4</b>
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE	@A3 1:20	

Section EE



Section FF



Ditch 1102, looking south-east (1m scale)



Ditch 1106, looking south-east (1m scale)

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