

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

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## **Glasgow to Edinburgh Canoe Trail Union Canal**

### **Watching Brief**

**Report No. 3163**

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

### **Glasgow to Edinburgh Canoe Trail Union Canal**

#### **Watching Brief**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at three canoe/kayak access/egress points on the Union Canal. Scottish Canals are installing 10 access/egress points along the Union Canal, which is a Scheduled Monument, to form part of the Glasgow to Edinburgh Canoe Trail. The watching brief was required at the three following locations; Broxburn; Bridge 51; and Polmont (Fig 1).

It was possible that the remains of sections of canal wall may survive and also that the puddled clay lining of the canal or canal furniture such as mooring rings might be exposed. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Scottish Canals and agreed by Historic Scotland.

### **1.2 Objectives**

The project's aims and objectives as described in the addenda were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all ground breaking works as described above.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through their excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.

### **2.2 Watching Brief**

Watching briefs were carried out during ground breaking works associated with the installation of three canoe/kayak access/egress points along the Union Canal at: Broxburn NT 0776 7233; Bridge 51 NS 9571 7671; and Polmont NS 9304 7798.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **3.1 General**

*Broxburn (figure 1, plates 1 & 2)*

An area approximately 1.2m long and 0.5m wide was excavated on the banks of the Union Canal in Broxburn. The turf and topsoil was removed, revealing the original canal wall. The exposed wall comprised of two roughly shaped stone blocks measuring approximately 0.6m by 0.5m by 0.35m. Due to the presence of the wall no further work was carried out at this location. An alternative location for the access/egress point was chosen.

*Bridge 51 (figure 1, plates 3 & 4)*

An overall area approximately 1.2m wide and approximately 1.6m long was excavated on the banks of the Union Canal near Bridge 51. The excavation removed the topsoil which consisted of a dark brown/grey silt, to a pre-defined level. The posts which support each step, two to a step, were driven in by hand using a large mallet. Four steps were excavated at his location. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were encountered.

*Polmont (figure 1, plates 5 & 6)*

An overall area approximately 1.2m wide and approximately 0.8m long was excavated on the banks of the Union Canal at Polmont. The excavation removed the topsoil which consisted of a dark brown/grey silt, to a pre-defined level. The posts which support each step, two to a step, were driven in by hand using a large mallet. Two steps were constructed at this location. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were encountered.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief monitored ground works for the construction of steps at three locations in West Lothian and Falkirk. A section of the canal wall was exposed at Broxburn and was left in situ. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were uncovered either here or at the other two locations.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the West Lothian Council and Falkirk Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Upon completion of this project a summary statement of the results will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and an *OASIS* entry for the project will be completed.

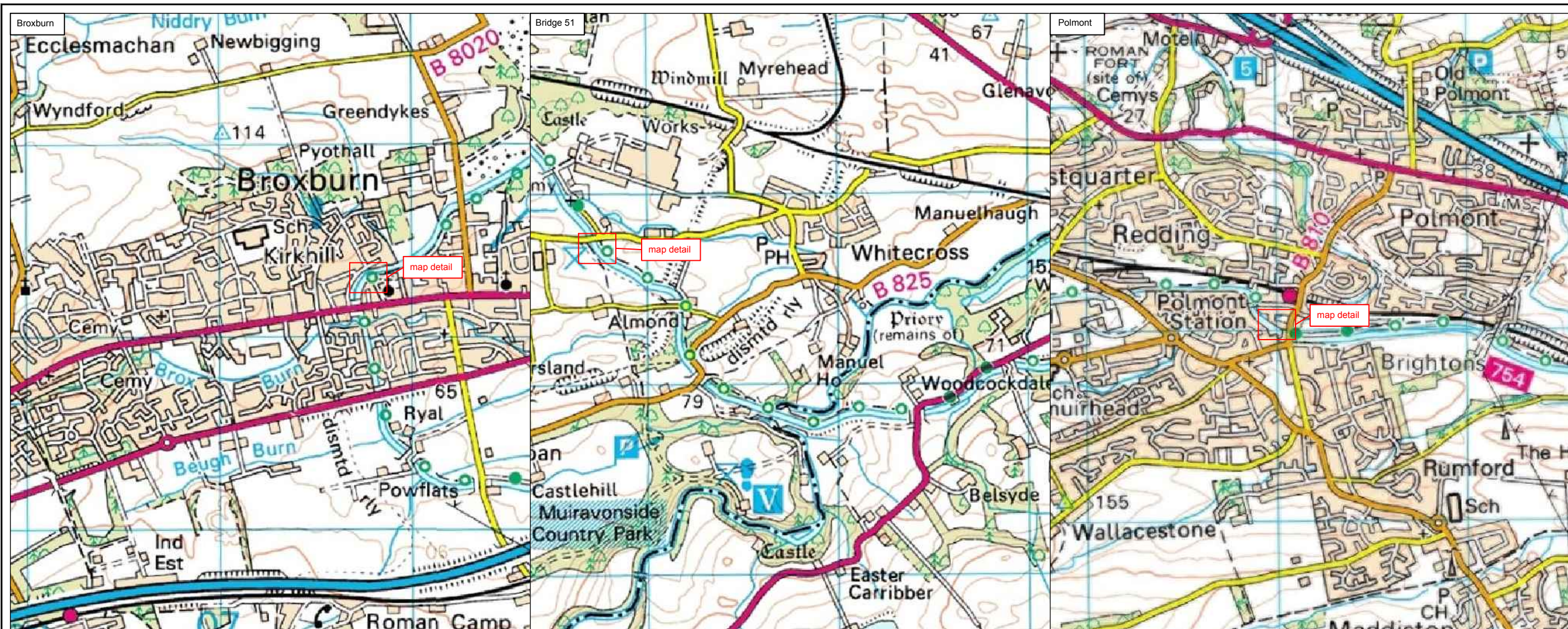
## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Broxburn – canal wall from above	Above	Wet
2	View along canal towards exposed area	SSW	Wet
3	View of exposed canal wall from opposite tow path	SSE	Wet
4-5	View of exposed canal wall from opposite tow path, close up	SSE	Wet
6-7	View of canal from bridge 51 showing working area	N	Wet
8-9	Steps near completion near bridge 51	W	Wet
10	Location of proposed steps pre-excavation	Above	Wet
11-12	View along canal towards working area	NW	Wet
13	View of construction of initial step from the canal	NNE	Wet
14	View of construction of initial step from the canal with second step excavated	NNE	Wet
15	View of steps post-excavation	E	Wet

## APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

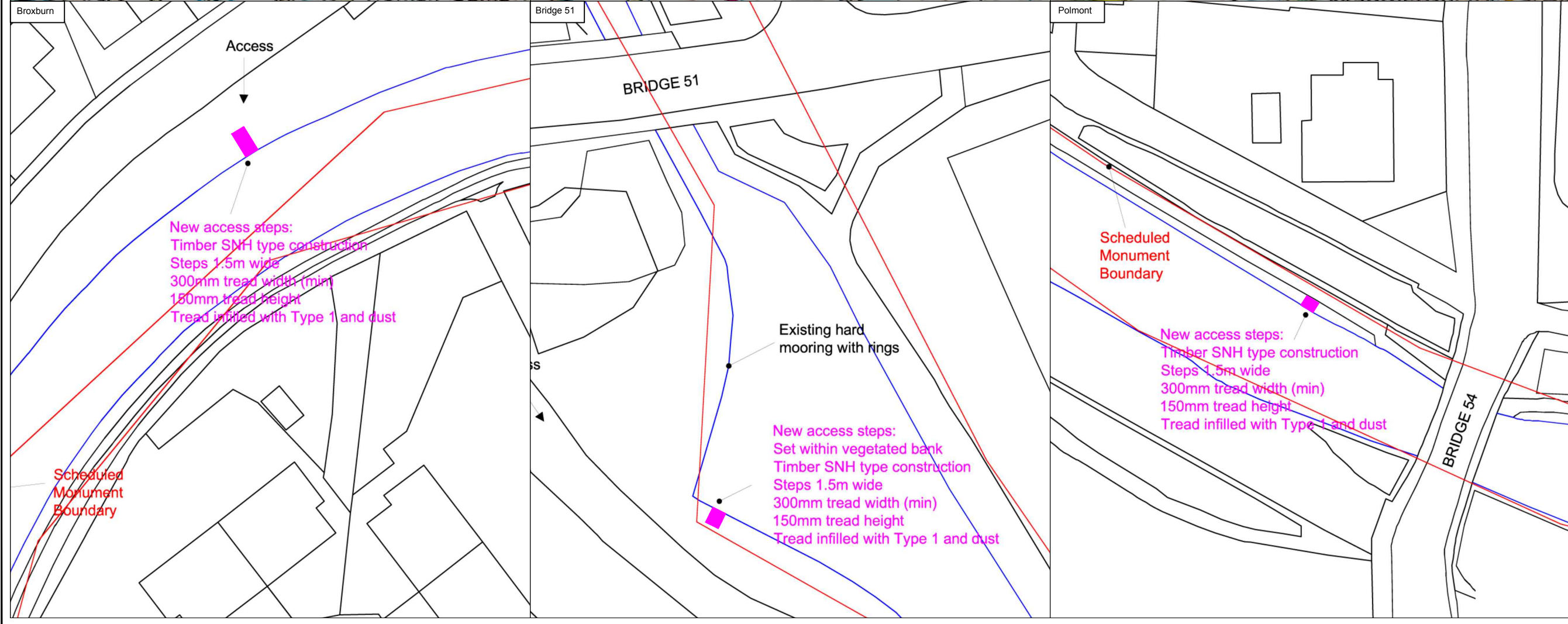
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	West Lothian/Falkirk
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Glasgow to Edinburgh Canoe Trail, Union Canal
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	BWSF6
<b>PARISH:</b>	Uphall, Muiravonside, Grangemouth
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Samantha Hickman
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	Broxburn NT 0776 7233 Bridge 51 NS 9571 7671 Polmont NS 9304 7798
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	01/04/14
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	02/04/14
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during ground breaking works associated with the installation of canoe/kayak access/egres points along the Union Canal. Three areas were monitored at Broxburn, Bridge 51, and Polmont. At Broxburn the original canal wall was uncovered but no other features of archaeological interest were identified either here or at the other locations.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	N/A
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Scottish Canals
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	National Monuments Record of Scotland





Key:

Location of watching Brief Area



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Fig. No: 1 Report No: 3163

Title:  
 Location map showing watching brief areas

Project:  
 Glasgow to Edinburgh Canoe Trail, Union Canal, Watching Brief

Client:  
 Scottish Canals

Scale at A3:  
 map details @1:500

Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Date: 27/06/14

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Plate 1 – Exposed canal wall, Broxburn



Plate 2 – Location of proposed steps, Broxburn

Fig. No:		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: <b>Glasgow to Edinburgh Canoe Trail, Union Canal, Watching Brief</b>			<b>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b> The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ  T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
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Plate 3 – Location of steps near Bridge 51



Plate 4 – Completed steps near Bridge 51

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Plate 5 – Location of steps, Polmont



Plate 6 – Pre-excitation of proposed steps, Polmont

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