

Land at Jubilee Farm
Hillesden
Buckinghamshire



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



Oxford Archaeology

December 2004

Client: Mr R.T. Lines

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 2543

Planning Ref N^o: 04/01091

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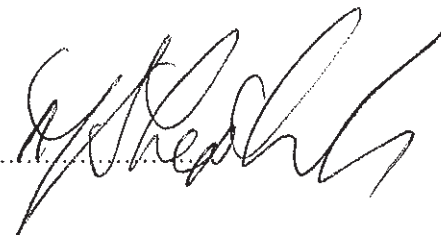
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Signed.....



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Land at Jubilee Farm, Hillesden, Buckinghamshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

Between 8th and 10th December 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at Jubilee Farm, Hillesden, Buckinghamshire (NGR: SP 681 298). The work was commissioned by Mr C. R. J. Anstey, Chartered Surveyors, in advance of construction of a parking area and new access road to a barn conversion. The watching brief revealed agricultural soils directly overlying natural clay and sand. No features or archaeological deposits other than those dating to the 19th or 20th centuries were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between 8th and 10th December 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at Jubilee Farm, Hillesden, Buckinghamshire (NGR: SP 681 298) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr C. R. J. Anstey, Chartered Surveyors, on behalf of Mr R. T. Lines in respect of a planning application for a parking area and new access road to a barn conversion (Planning Application 04/01091).
- 1.1.2 A project brief (BCAS 2004) was set by David Radford, the Planning Archaeologist representing Aylesbury Vale District Council.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2004) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the south-west of the village of Hillesden. The area of the watching brief is located on a shallow south-east facing slope running from a hilltop down to the metalled road. The area is presently permanent pasture displaying some undulations on the surface and runs from approximately 100 m OD at the hilltop down to 96 m OD at the road. The stripped area was approximately 720 m² in area. The underlying geology is Oxford Clays and Kellaways Beds.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2004) and is included below.
- 1.3.2 Hillesden is first mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Charter of 949 before the Conquest Alric, a thegn of King Edwards, held a manor house (Lewis et al. 2001, 92; VCH 1969, 174). In 1086 the parish was assessed at 18 hides as part of the lands of Walter Giffard, 1st Earl of Pembroke. Shrunken medieval earthworks are recorded to the south of Jubilee Farm, and the site of the manor and later Hillesden House and park are located 1,200 m to the south, close to the church.

- 1.3.3 Hillesden House was besieged and burnt down by Parliamentary troops during the Civil War and a number of objects relating to the siege have been recovered by metal detecting in the vicinity.
- 1.3.4 The proposed new access route crosses an area of earthworks believed to be the remains of medieval closes and post-medieval sand quarrying.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To record the extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the areas of the site affected by the proposed works. In particular, to preserve by record features and deposits associated with the medieval shrunken village located to the south of the site.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the watching brief.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The groundworks monitored consisted of the topsoil stripping over the length of the new access road and a turning bay, and ground reduction within the area of the new car park. These works were undertaken by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a 1.0m toothed bucket. Monitoring consisted of two site visits during the course of these works.
- 2.2.2 A plan of the extent of the works and the location of the sections was drawn at a scale of 1:100 (Fig. 2). Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. The extent of the site and the sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (OAU 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 A natural tenacious light brown silty clay (2) was exposed 0.24 m below ground level during the stripping on the south facing slope and part of the hill ridge (Fig. 3, section 1). This was overlaid at its southern extent by a layer of modern made ground (5), approximately 0.25 m thick, laid to prevent "poaching" of the ground by cattle within the gateway.
- 3.1.2 At the crest of the slope the natural clay was also overlaid by two lens of post-medieval (19th /20th century) rubbish (6) and burnt remains (7), both of approximately 0.2 m depth and probably relate to refuse disposal from the nearby dwellings rather than backfilling of sand quarries.
- 3.1.3 Within the reduced area to the immediate south-west of the barn a layer of friable reddish orange natural sand (4) (Fig. 3, section 2) was exposed at a depth of 0.45 m below ground level. This was sealed by a 0.22 m thick layer of friable mixed silts

and sands (3), a very clean deposit with no evidence of ploughing or working. This layer could also be seen to overlie the natural clay (2) to the south.

- 3.1.4 A layer of friable dark brown silty loam topsoil (1) , measuring between 0.2 m and 0.25 m in depth, and containing many post-medieval finds such as pottery and bottle glass sealed the entire site.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 All the finds recovered were of 19th and 20th century date. These were evaluated on site but were not retained.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 All the deposits encountered were of natural geology or modern in origin. There was no evidence suggesting that post-medieval sand quarrying had taken place within the area of the watching brief or of medieval earthworks crossing the area, however upstanding earthworks were seen either side of the access road.

- 4.1.2 Conversations with the local farmer suggest that the area has always been permanent pasture within living memory, and that any sand quarrying known to have taken place within the area was situated to the north of the barn, as evidenced by the large amount of visible hollows on the north facing slope running down from the barn.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	0.25 m	-	Modern topsoil and turf	Pottery and bottle glass	Post-medieval
2	Layer	>0.1 m	-	Natural clay	-	-
3	Layer	0.22 m	20 m	Mixed silts and sand	-	-
4	Layer	> 0.46 m	20 m	Natural sand	-	-
5	Layer	0.25 m	18 m	Modern made ground	Brick and tile fragments	20th century
6	Lens	0.2 m	8 m	Lens of modern rubbish and burning	Pottery, bottle and window glass, ashes	19th/20th century
7	Lens	0.2 m	7 m	Lens of modern rubbish and burning	Pottery, bottle glass, ashes	19th/20th century

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

BCAS, 2004 *Land at Jubilee Farm, Hillesden: Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

IFA, 1992 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Lewis, C, Michell-Fox, P and Dryer, C, 2001 *Village, Hamlet and Field*

OA, 2004 *Land at Jubilee Farm, Hillesden, Buckinghamshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

OAU, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson)

VHC, 1969 *Victoria History of the Counties of England: Buckinghamshire Vol. 4*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land at Jubilee Farm, Hillesden, Buckinghamshire

Site code: HISB 04

Grid reference: SP 681 298

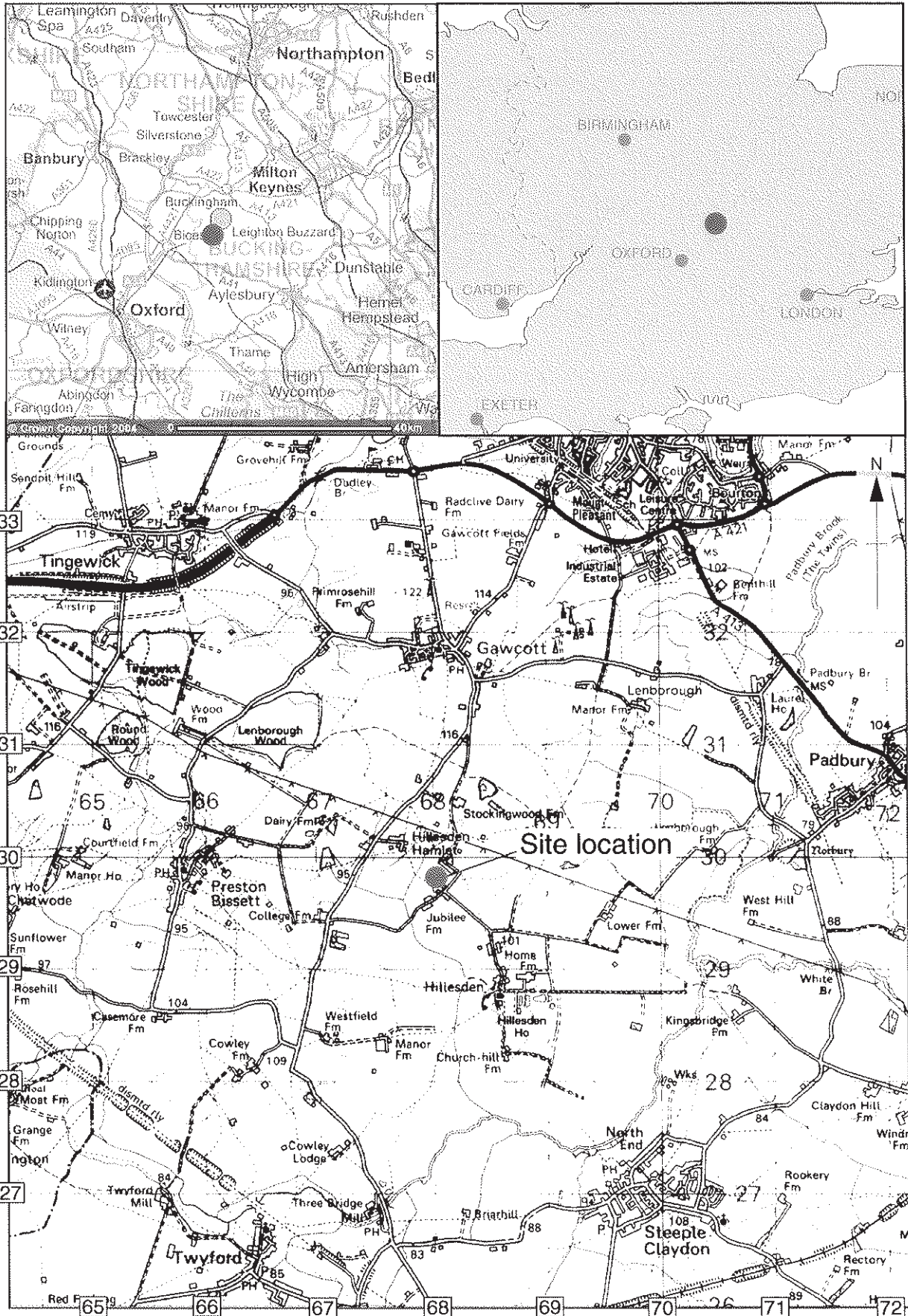
Type of watching brief: Monitoring of stripping for a new access road and ground reduction for a car park

Date and duration of project: 3 days, 8th to 10th December 2004

Area of site: 720 m²

Summary of results: Natural clay and sand overlaid by agricultural soils and 19th/20th century deposits. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museums Service in due course.



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

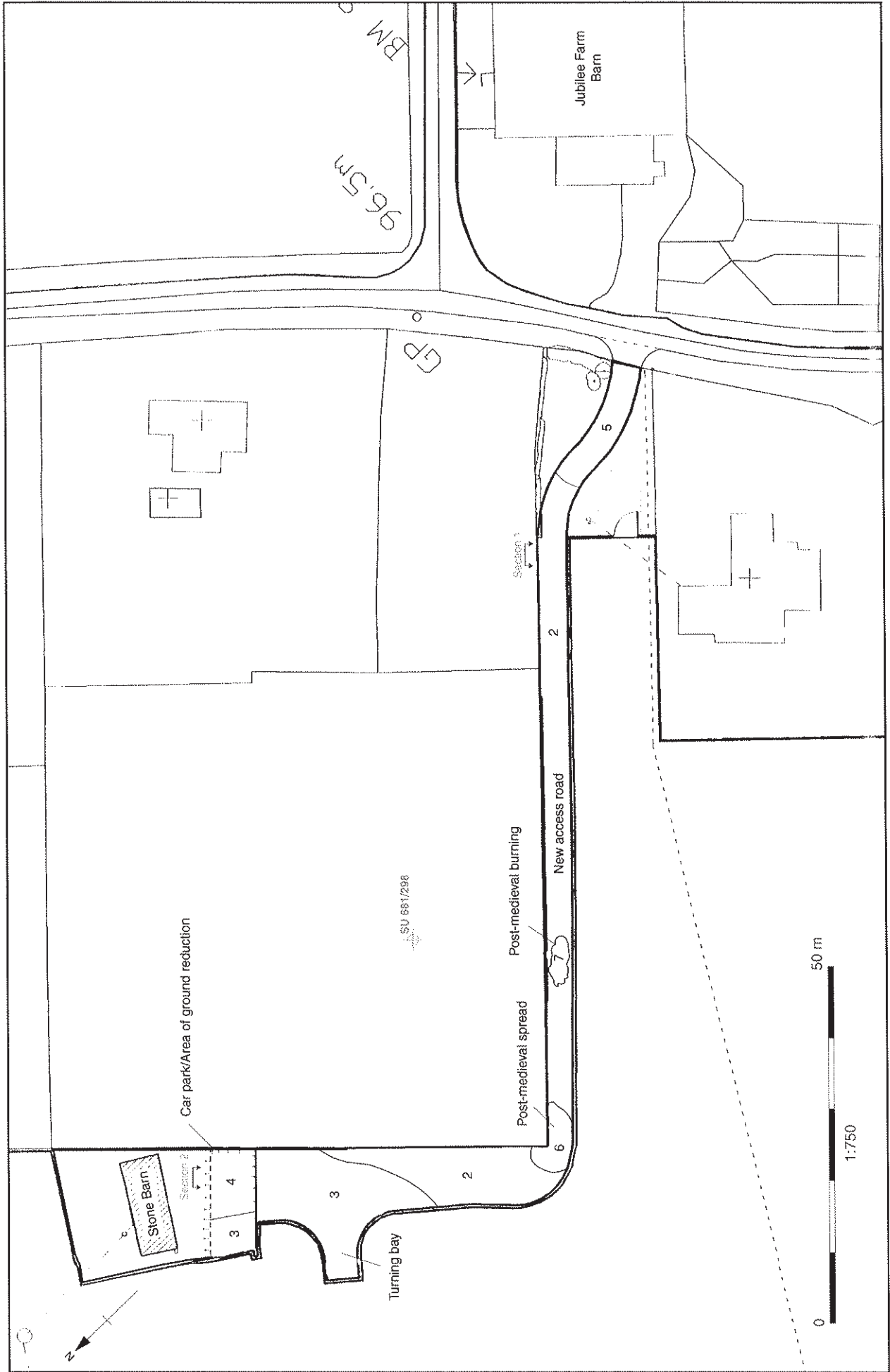
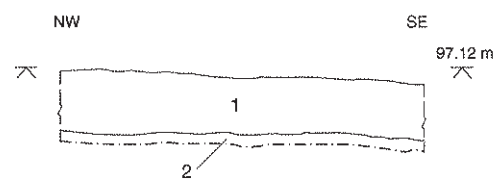


Figure 2: Plan of watching brief area

Section 1



Section 2

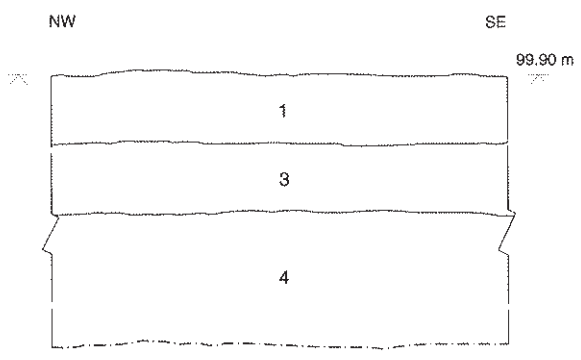


Figure 3: Sections 1-2



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