



# Lynton Way Recreation Ground, Babraham Road, Sawston

## Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report

July 2017

**Client: Sawston Parish Council**

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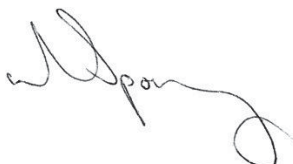




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# Lynton Way Recreation Ground, Babraham Road, Sawston

## *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report*

*Written by Steven Graham BA*

*With illustrations by Séverine Bézie BA MA*

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## Summary

*Between the 29th of May and 2nd of June 2017, OA East carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording of development work carried out at Lynton Way Recreation Ground off Babraham Road, Sawston. Whilst previous excavation work in the area of the site and the desktop assessment indicated archaeological potential, the decision not to excavate deeper than the upper topsoil ensured that no potential archaeology was exposed nor would be disturbed by the development work. As such no further archaeological monitoring was required.*

## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Sawston Parish Council for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Gemma Stewart who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeology Office and for their advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Richard Mortimer. The monitoring was carried out by Richard Mortimer. Thanks are also extended to the illustrator and Kat Hamilton who prepared the archive.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Sawston Parish Council to undertake an archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of the Lynton Way Recreational Ground, Babraham Road, Sawston .
- 1.1.2 The site is currently occupied by a recreation ground. The client plans to build a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) measuring 24m x 12m at the southern extreme of the area.
- 1.1.3 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. S/2670/15/FL)/to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. A brief/specification was set by Gemma Stewart and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to approximately 1.5km west of the River Granta at an approximate height of 25m AOD.
- 1.2.2 The geology of the area has a chalk rock bedrock of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

#### *Prehistoric*

- 1.3.1 Archaeological work (Weston and Newton 2007) 80m east of the proposed development area at the land off Lynton Way revealed a Middle Bronze Age (D-shaped) enclosure with associated pits and postholes (MCB16829). Potential Iron Age pottery has also been found at this site (ECB 1979). To the west of the site a series of cropmarks of rectangular enclosures ranging from 20m to 100m have been identified (04118), these most likely represent the remains of a further Middle Bronze Age enclosure.
- 1.3.2 Approximately 700m to the north-west of the development area parts of a Bronze Age field and enclosure system were found at the police station site at 16-20 Cambridge Road (MCB17152).

#### *Roman*

- 1.3.3 Roman pottery was found during the construction of housing to the south of the development area suggesting a general settlement presence in the area during the Roman period. Roman pottery and coins were also found at the Cambridge Road Police station site (MCB17152). Roman pottery was also found in springs behind Sawston Hall (ECB2291).

## *Sawston Hall*

- 1.3.4 Sawston Hall is located 0.78km to the south-west of the development area.
- 1.3.5 The evaluation within the grounds of Sawston Hall (ECB2291) revealed a range of remains from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. A wide channel/spring was recorded containing a large assemblage of burnt and worked flint with late Iron Age and early Roman pottery. This water channel seems to have been a focus of activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods and probably recut in the early Roman period. Roman pottery was found in springs behind Sawston Hall (ECB2291).
- 1.3.6 A series of late Saxon and medieval ditches were also recorded, these were interpreted as ether field ditches or features associated with the medieval manor grounds. A large moat ditch was recorded within the walled garden, which may have been part of the original 12th /13th century manor.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological monitoring and recording were as follows:
- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
  - ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Documentary research was undertaken in order to determine the expected archaeological character of the site. Existing information from historical sources and previous archaeological finds and investigations were collated. The likely archaeological potential of the site was assessed with regard to the current regional and national research issues and preservation criteria.
- 2.2.2 The initial strategy was for the excavation of a single 10m X 1.60m trial trench to the depth of the geological horizon comprising 6% of the site, however upon initial investigation it became apparent that a 'live' electrical service was running across the proposed area of the trench from an adjacent electrical sub-station. The revised strategy was for a watching and recording brief whilst the client excavated the area of the multi-use games area measuring 24m x 12m. Machine excavation was to be carried out by a mechanical excavator using a flat bladed ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 All ground penetrating works undertaken by the client were to be observed by OA East. In the instance of any archaeology being revealed, then the investigation and recording of any archaeological features would have been carried out where safe to do so.
- 2.2.4 Spoil arising from the ground penetrating works was to be scanned visually and with a metal detector to aid recovery of artefacts. The depth, nature and potential artefact content of colluvial and other masking deposits were also to be investigated and recorded.

### 3 RESULTS

- 3.1.1 Upon arriving at site, it became evident that the development strategy had changed and rather than excavate the development area, the developers were intending to build up the area of the MUGA site using topsoil from around the play equipment to the north. These excavations were only c. 10cm deep and did not extend to the full depth of the topsoil (see Plate 1).
- 3.1.2 Within the area of the proposed MUGA is a raised made-ground mound (raised c. 1990s), formerly part of the play equipment at the site, approximately 0.61m high (maximum) and lying atop the modern ground level. The developer intended to strip approximately 0.10m of topsoil from the top of one end of the mound to establish a construction level for the base of the MUGA with more dumped topsoil deposited to the side of the mound to provide a platform for the games area and cycle racks (see Plate 2). At no time were the developers intending to penetrate deeper than 0.10m from the top of the mound.
- 3.1.3 No archaeological finds or levels were exposed.

#### 3.2 Finds summary

- 3.2.1 No archaeological finds were retrieved from the watching brief.

## 4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 Whilst the proposed development area of the MUGA has potential for archaeology, the decision by the developer not to excavate to the geological horizon meant that no archaeology was identified or recorded. Moreover, it should be considered that any surviving archaeology may have been disturbed by the high voltage electrical cable cutting across the site from the sub-station.
- 4.1.2 The current activities of the developer will have little or no impact on any potential archaeological remains as there will be no penetration of the ground below the surface of the topsoil except by the driven fence posts surrounding the MUGA. Any surviving archaeological remains will not be disturbed and will be preserved *in-situ* beneath the MUGA and the earlier raised mound.

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## APPENDIX A      BIBLIOGRAPHY

Morgan, S., 2016, Written Scheme of Investigation. Archaeological Evaluation. Oxford Archaeology East.

Stewart, G., 2016, Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, Cambridgeshire Historical Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council.

Weston, P. and Newton, A., 2007., Late Bronze Age enclosure at Lynton Way, Sawston, Cambridgeshire. Pre-publication draft Archaeological Solutions Report.

### Electronic Sources

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 05/06/17)

## APPENDIX B OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-286583		
Project Name	Lynton way Recreation Ground, Babraham Road, Sawston		
Start of Fieldwork	29/05/17	End of Fieldwork	02/06/17
Previous Work	no	Future Work	no

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SAWLYN16	Planning App. No.	S/2670/15/FL
HER Number	ECB 5088	Related Numbers	n/a

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Leisure
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new            | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey                | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey          | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors                | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search       | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey               | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling              | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey         | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography          |  |

Monument	Period
	None
	None
	None

Object	Period
	None
	None
	None

Insert more lines as appropriate.

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Lynton Way, Babraham Road, Sawston, CB22 3EA
District	S Cambs	
Parish	Sawston	
HER office	Cambridge	
Size of Study Area	0.14 Km	
National Grid Ref	TL 4929 4975	

### Project Originators

Organisation	O A East
Project Brief Originator	Gemma Stewart
Project Design Originator	Stephen Morgan
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Project Supervisor	Steve Graham

### Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	n/a	n/a
Digital Archive	O A East	SAWLYN16
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB 5088

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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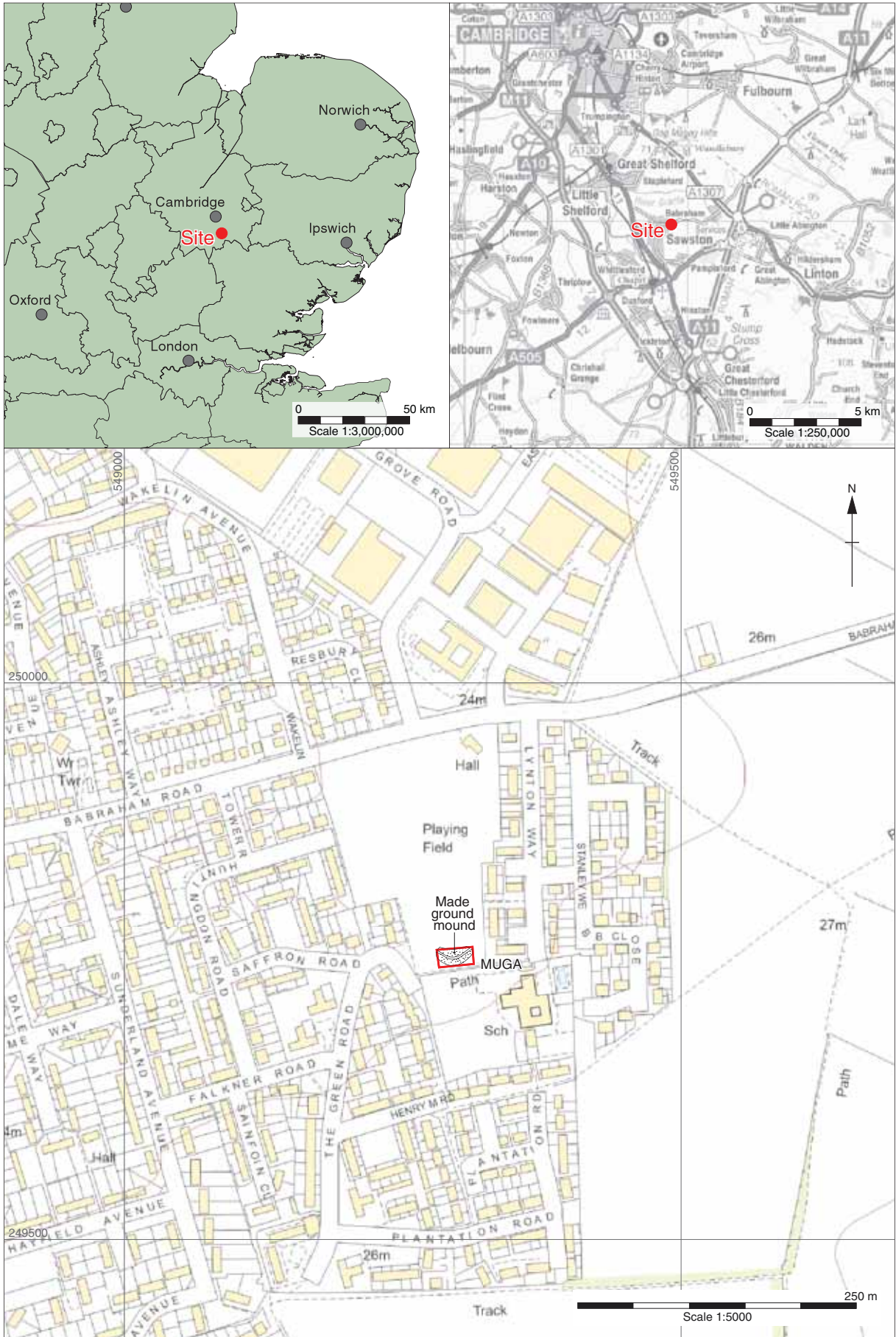
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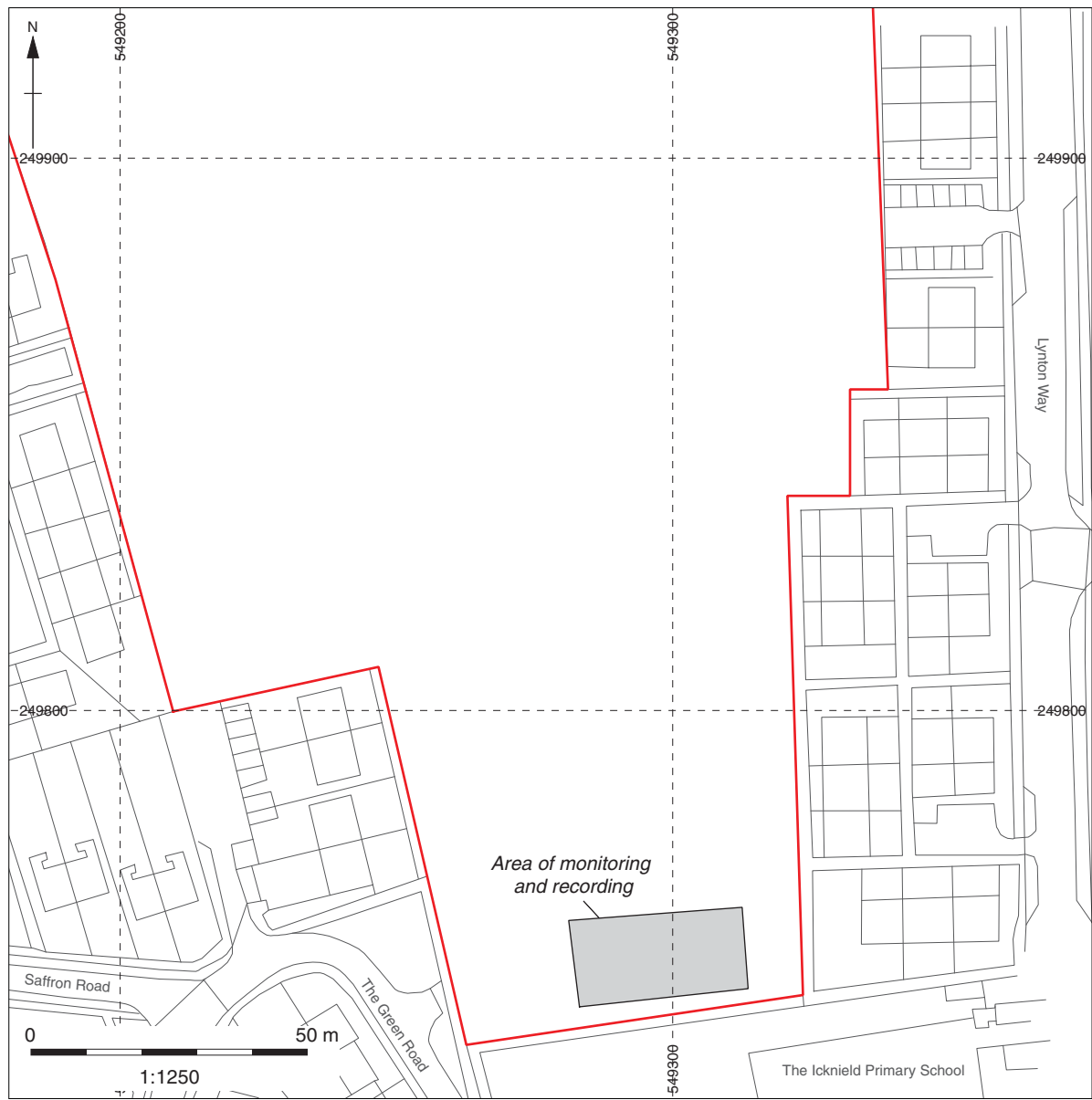
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Context Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Further Comments



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Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Location of monitoring and recording



Plate 1: Soil strip around play equipment to north



Plate 2: MUGA Development Area from the west



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