

Dinkling Green Farm, Chipping, Lancashire

Historic Building Investigation and Recording

September 2023

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Dinkling Green Farm, Chipping, Lancashire

Historic Buildings Investigation and Recording

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SUMMARY

In August 2023 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Anderton Gables to undertake an historic building photographic survey of an agricultural building (referred to in this report as Dinkling Green barn or simply, the barn), associated with Dinkling Green Farm, Chipping, Lancashire (NGR: SD 63994 46961). The work was undertaken as a condition of listed building consent (3/2022/0750) ahead of extensive structural repairs to return it to agricultural use. The fieldwork was completed on the 22nd of August 2023 and the following report brings together the resulting photos to provide a comprehensive visual record of the exterior and interior of the building. The barn first appeared in its present form on the 1844 Ordnance Survey map and dates to at least the late eighteenth century, evidenced by an extant date stone of 1774. Evidence suggests it was constructed in at least two and possibly three phases with the later addition of the southern cell and lofted byre butted against the original southern gable (now internal cross wall) of the northern cell. There may have been an earlier phase, now 'fossilised' within the northern gable of the structure as a roof line. It was likely erected as a multi-purpose barn with storage on the upper ground level and the housing of cattle in the lower-level byre. It is not clear when the structure fell out of agricultural use, however, it has, up until recently, been used for storage. Currently, heras fencing restricts access to its eastern side due to it being structurally unsafe.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 In August 2023, Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Anderton Gables to undertake an historic building photographic survey of an agricultural building (referred to in this report as Dinkling Green barn or simply, the barn), associated with Dinkling Green Farm, Chipping, Lancashire (NGR: SD 63994 46961).

1.1.2 The building, which is subject to listed building control, is in a poor condition and requires extensive structural repairs prior to its return to agricultural use. Ribble Valley Borough Council, acting on the advice of Lancashire County Council's planning archaeologist, granted conditional listed building consent for the works (3/2022/0750), subject to the completion of an historic building survey. The condition (Condition 8) stipulated that the survey 'should comprise the creation of a Photographic Record of the building (Historic England 2016) and be completed prior to the commencement of the works. The fieldwork was completed on the 22nd August 2023 in compliance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by OA North and approved by the Historic Environment Team at Lancashire County Council (OA North 2023).

1.2 Aims and Objectives

1.2.1 The principal aim of the project was the creation of a photographic record of the building to provide a lasting record of the structure in its present state. To achieve this objective the following aims were proposed:

- To complete a photographic survey to comply with Historic England Standards (2016);
- To collate the results of this data into a report on the results of the Historic Building Survey;
- To ensure adequate provision for archival deposition of the historic building record.

1.3 Location and geology

1.3.1 Dinkling Green Barn is located on the western edge of the hamlet / farmstead of Dinkling Green Farm within an area of ancient enclosure, approximately 11km north-west of Clitheroe and 19km north-east of Preston. The barn's principal elevation faces east onto a trackway and two adjacent agricultural buildings. The barn's northern elevation abutted the garden wall of a two-storey house that lay approximately 13m to the north-west, while to the rear were open fields which rose steeply to the west. Immediately against its southern boundary was a road / trackway on an alignment of roughly east-to-west. Beyond the trackway to the south and south-east are three grade II listed structures dating from the late seventeenth to the early nineteenth century (1072310, 1362223, 1308665).

1.3.2 Locally, the soils are characterised as slowly permeable wet very acid upland soils with a peaty surface (Soilscapes 2023). The soils lie upon a diamicton till, a superficial sedimentary deposit dating to the Devensian period, which in turn overlies a Hodder Mudstone Formation formed during the Carboniferous period (BGS 2023).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This historic building survey was carried out in accordance with the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Historic England guidelines (CIfA 2014a; 2014b; 2014c; Historic England 2015; 2016) and industry best practice.

2.2 Historic Assessment

2.2.1 Desk-Based Research: A brief examination of readily available online cartographic sources was completed in order to place the building in context and identify any relevant statutory or non-statutory designations.

2.2.2 Oxford Archaeology North: OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out, both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

2.3 Building Survey

2.3.1 Introduction: The survey was undertaken on the 22nd August 2023 in a mixture of wet and dry conditions with overcast and sunny spells, and complied in full with the approved WSI (OA North 2023). The barn's construction along the contours of a slope meant it was split over two levels with the lower ground level containing two rooms, including a byre with a lofted space above at the south-western end. Access to the upper ground level was restricted by heras fencing which had to be opened in order to gain access to the northern and southern cells.

2.3.2 Health and safety concerns prevented access to the lofted space and adjacent small room on the western side of the upper ground level southern cell. Entry into the lower-level byre was possible through a pedestrian width door on the western end of the southern elevation but access to the smaller room next to it was not available. Most recently the building was used for storage, with equipment and detritus filling areas of both the upper and lower levels. The investigation entailed the generation of a photographic record and production of an accompanying photographic plan.

2.3.3 Photographic Record: the survey included photographs of the external appearance and setting of the building, including a mixture of general oblique shots and detailed views taken from perpendicular and oblique angles. It recorded the general appearance of the interior and provided shots of any external or internal detail, structural or architectural, which was determined to be relevant to the design, development and use of the building.

2.3.4 A Canon EOS 2000D digital SLR (24 megapixels) camera with a wide angle-lens, was used for the general photographic record. Images in Canon RAW format files (.cr2 format) were captured and saved as 8-bit TIFFs for archive purposes. The data are stored on two separate servers, each on different sites and with appropriate back-up and disaster plans in place. Architects' plans, as supplied by the client, were annotated on site to produce a photographic location map showing the position and direction of all photographs (Figs. 4 and 5).

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 Upon conclusion of the project, copies of this report along with any archival material, will be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER) for reference purposes. Hard copies of the images were created on paper of appropriate archival quality and will be deposited as part of the paper archive.

3 STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

3.1.1 The building's northern gable end lies within the curtilage of Dinkling Green Farmhouse, a nineteenth-century building that does not carry any designation. To the south and south-east of the barn are three grade II listed buildings, farm building (1072310) c 3.4m to the south, Dinkling Green Farmhouse (1362223) c 13m to the south-east (distinct from that referred to above), and farm store (1308665) c 47m to the south-south-east. Due to the proximity of the listed structures the barn is considered to be subject to the same designation and protection. The barn's location within the hamlet / farmstead of Dinkling Green Farm lies within an area of ancient enclosure and the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), an area deemed to be of national and international importance due to its unspoiled and richly diverse landscapes, wildlife and heritage (Landscapes for Life 2023).

4 PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The barn was a rectangular, mainly single-storey but part two-storey structure, aligned north-to-south, constructed of sandstone / limestone rubble beneath a slate gable roof. The building comprised two large storage spaces (northern / southern cells) on the upper ground floor on the eastern side, and a further two smaller storage spaces on the western side (Reid Jones 2022). Its construction along the contours of a slope showed it to be an example of a bank barn with its southern end split over two levels. Its principal elevation faced east, where two double-width door openings and a single pedestrian doorway provided access to the northern and southern cells. The barn appeared to be constructed in two phases with the southern cell butted against the original south gable wall of the northern cell (now the internal cross wall). Internally, a timber-framed roof with queen trusses spanned the northern and southern cells, with the remains of cobbled and stone slab surfaces present in both.

4.1.2 A two-storey, lean-to, beneath a cat-slide slate roof protruded from the southern end of the western elevation and featured a pedestrian-width doorway on the southern gable end, a pedestrian-width doorway and three windows on the western elevation, and a lower opening and upper arched window on the northern elevation. The lower ground floor contained two rooms, the larger of which was used as a byre with no access available to the smaller room (*ibid*). No obvious join was visible on the exterior / interior of the southern elevation between the gable and lean-to, thus suggesting the lean-to was possibly contemporary with the later southern addition. Internally, a mono-pitch truss supported the lean-to roof and wooden stalls and a cobbled / stone slab surface were extant within the byre.

4.1.3 A brief consultation of available cartographic and other historic sources indicates that the barn in its current plan form can be clearly identified on the 1844 Ordnance Survey mapping on the western edge a large farmstead or hamlet (Fig 3). A date stone with initials above the southern double-width door opening on the principal elevation read 'H. E: L. 1774' and supports the understanding that a farmstead, originally known as Inkling Green, stood on the site from at least the late eighteenth century (Yates 1786).

4.1.4 Although the overall condition was poor, the barn is an example of an agricultural building dating to at least the late eighteenth century and so has the potential to contribute to our understanding of rural settlement and farming during the early industrial period onwards (*ibid*). Its use was likely multi-functional with storage on the upper level and the housing of cattle on the lower level. Its surviving layout, fabric, fixtures and fittings provide important evidence of the evolution of agricultural practice, technological development and economic conditions in rural Lancashire over the course of the last two hundred and fifty years.

4.2 Exterior

4.2.1 The following images depict the exterior elevations of the barn and include a brief description. ('Facing' describes the direction in which the elevation is facing).



Plate 1: Principal elevation facing south-west. 1m scale



Plate 2: Northern end (cell) of principal elevation containing pedestrian width door and double-width doorway facing west. 1m scale



Plate 3: Thickness of jamb of the northern double width door opening c 0.75m. 1m scale



Plate 4: Southern cell butted against the southern gable wall of the northern cell with quoins incorporated into the northern jamb of the southern double width door. 1m scale



Plate 5: Southern double width door with date inscribed on stone lintel facing west. 1m scale



Plate 6: Close up of date stone above the southern double width door. Reads 'H. E : L. 1774'



Plate 7: Southern end of southern cell facing west. 1m scale



Plate 8: Large elongated sandstone block at the base of the southern end of the southern cell facing east. 0.5m scale



Plate 9: Southern gable end with lean-to lofted byre. 1m scale



Plate 10: Pedestrian width door at western end of byre facing north. 1m scale



Plate 11: Two benchmarks on the base of the western door jamb of byre facing north. Also depicted on OS mapping 1895. 0.2m scale



Plate 12: Rectangular apertures and an owl hole on the southern gable wall



Plate 13: Western elevation (rear). 1m scale



Plate 14: Western elevation of lean-to lofted byre with cat-slide slate roof. 1m scale



Plate 15: Pedestrian-width door at the northern end of byre with narrow rectangular window opening adjacent (right). 1m scale



Plate 16: Iron object protruding from above the lintel of the pedestrian width door at the northern end of the lean-to byre



Plate 17: Curled iron object towards the base of the northern door jamb of byre facing east



Plate 18: Graffiti on upper southern jamb of byre facing east



Plate 19: Two window openings on ground level of byre facing east. 1m scale



Plate 20: Plinth at the southern end of the byre facing east. 1m scale



Plate 21: Northern elevation of lean-to byre. 1m scale



Plate 22: Arched window with central iron bar on the upper of lofted byre facing south



Plate 23: Western elevation of barn clad in a concrete render showing alterations to the roof slates. 1m scale



Plate 24: Possible blocked doorway with extant lintel and blocked aperture facing west. 1m scale



Plate 25: Exposed sandstone rubble at the northern end of the western elevation



Plate 26: Northern elevation obscured by vegetation with vertical wall crack (bottom left), ventilation loop (upper right) and grey render (right)



Plate 27: Northern end of barn (facing west) with adjacent two-storey farmhouse (facing south-east)



Plate 28: Rubble terracing to the west (rear) of the barn. 1m scale

4.3 Interior

- 4.3.1 The following images depict the interior elevations and spaces within the northern / southern cells and the byre. The lofted space over the byre was not accessible and so photographs of this area were taken from a distance.



Plate 29: Interior of northern cell, facing east with double-width door, pedestrian-width door (left) and whitewashed mid-height walls. 1m scale



Plate 30: Wooden lintel above double-width door



Plate 31: Small rectangular niche to the left of the double-width door (northern cell). 0.2m scale



Plate 32: Pedestrian-width door at northern end of the northern cell, facing east and showing mid-height whitewashed walls. 1m scale



Plate 33: South-eastern corner of northern cell, facing south-east with possible extant floor sockets (upper left). 1m scale



Plate 34: Southern gable end, now internal cross wall of northern cell, facing south. 1m scale



Plate 35: Upper southern gable end (northern cell)



Plate 36: Northern cell, facing west. 1m scale



Plate 37: Blocked pedestrian-width door (1m scale) and niche (0.2m scale) (left) in the centre of the western wall (northern cell)



Plate 38: Possible blocked aperture at the southern end of western wall (northern cell)



Plate 39: Vertical crack on the western wall beneath the northern queen truss (northern cell)



Plate 40: Northern gable end wall with vertical crack (right) (northern cell). Note the possible former roof line of an earlier building fossilised within the present gable as diagonal scars. 1m scale



Plate 41: Upper northern gable containing three ventilation loops (northern cell)



Plate 42: Western ventilation loop on northern gable. The design shows them to be played towards the interior (northern cell)



Plate 43: Queen truss at the southern end of the northern cell (one of three in the northern cell)



Plate 44: Underside of timber-framed roof showing damage at the southern end of the northern cell



Plate 45: Stone surface or possible wall footing at the centre-northern end of the northern cell. 1m scale



Plate 46: Stone / cobbled surface at double-width door entrance (southern cell). 1m scale



Plate 47: Eastern wall of southern cell with double-width door (left). Wall rendered / mortared with a white mortar. 1m scale



Plate 48: Wooden lintel above double-width door (southern cell)



Plate 49: Southern gable end with rectangular apertures (southern cell). Facing south with 1m scale



Plate 50: Upper southern gable with owl hole. No obvious join between the gable wall and lean-to (left) (southern cell)



Plate 51: Western loft over byre beneath lean-to roof with mono-pitch truss (southern cell). 1m scale



Plate 52: Western wall of lofted space above byre, facing west (southern cell)



Plate 53: Western room butted against the cross wall (former southern gable of northern cell). 1m scale



Plate 54: Entrance to western room with remains of door hinges (southern cell)



Plate 55: View inside small storage room looking west
(southern cell, western side)



Plate 56: Internal cross-wall, formerly southern gable of northern cell, facing north.
1m scale



Plate 57: Vertical crack on cross-wall, facing north, (southern cell)



Plate 58: Queen truss at northern end of southern cell (one of two in southern cell)



Plate 59: Gable roof (upper) and cat slide roof (lower) on western side (southern cell)



Plate 60: Looking inside the byre from the southern entrance. 1m scale



Plate 61: Eastern elevation of a cattle stall with cobbled surface. 1m scale



Plate 62: Lofted timber ceiling packed with straw, note empty sockets that suggest reuse of the beam



Plate 63: Iron hook on timber ceiling joist



Plate 64: Window opening on western wall of the byre. 0.2m scale



Plate 65: Graffiti on byre window sill (western elevation)

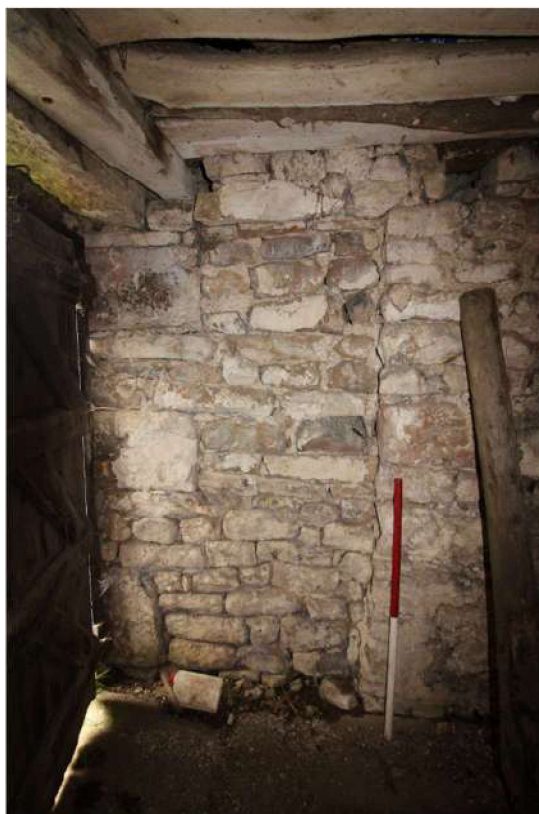


Plate 66: Doorway recess at southern end of western elevation. Floor socket present (upper right). 1m scale



Plate 67: Wooden lintel above pedestrian width door on southern elevation



Plate 68: Cobbled and stone slab surface of byre. 1m scale

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Figure 1: Site location

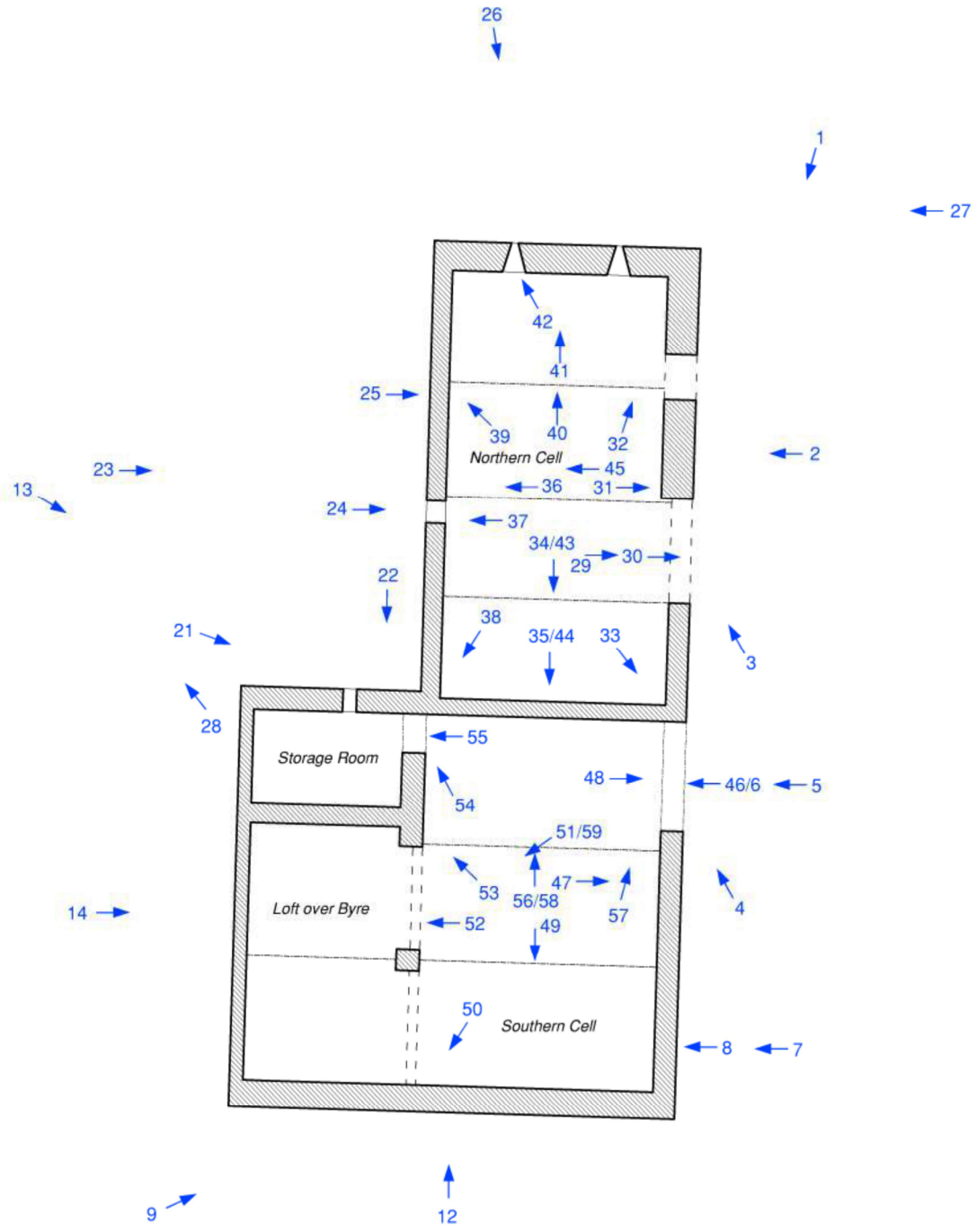


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Figure 2: Building location plan



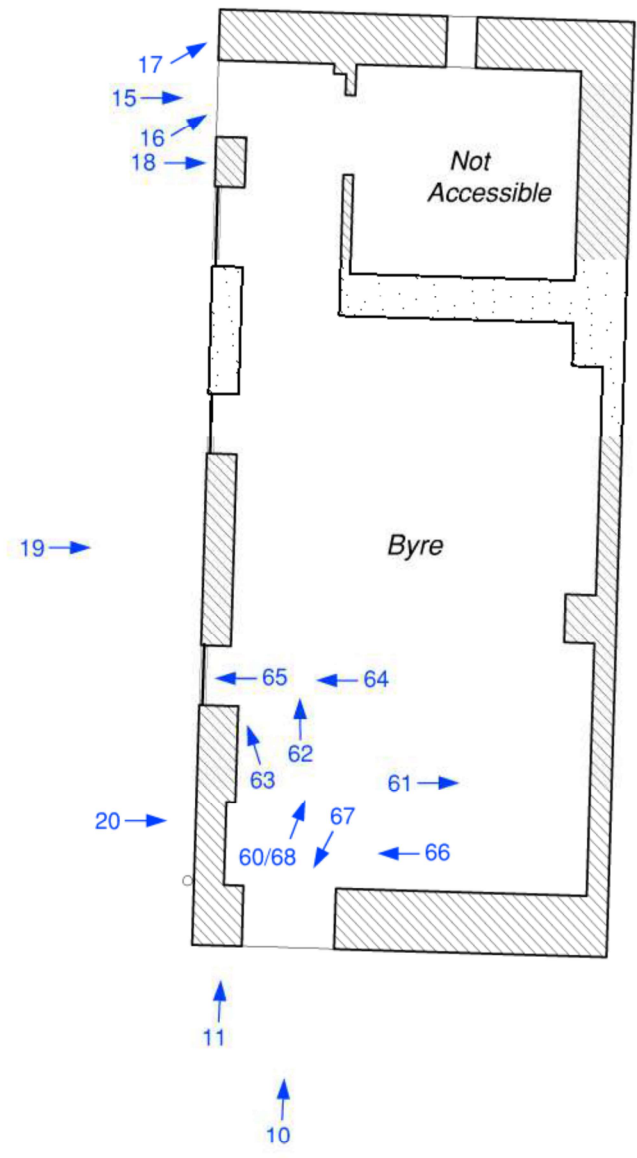
Figure 3: Building plan superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 6":1 mile map of 1844



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Figure 4: Ground floor photographic location plan



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Figure 5: Lower ground floor photographic location plan

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