

# Orton Longueville

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

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## Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

# Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

## The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

## Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

# The Management Plan

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4. Key Features
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5. Work Programme

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GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Orton Longueville

Location:	Orton Longueville Grid reference: TL161962 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 142
Area:	8.08 hectares (19.97 acres)
External Designations:	Conservation Area
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site of Orton Longueville Wood was once part of the 12th century Orton Hall Estate, when it would have been wood pasture or hedged grassland. There is at least one remaining old oak in the wood which could be a last vestige from this era, as well as a substantial horse chestnut on the school boundary. It is thought that in the 19th century, under the 10th Marquis of Huntly, the grounds were redesigned and planted with many of the exotic specimen trees still present in the wood today. Along the southern arm is an impressive avenue of large Wellingtonias, (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) which were planted between 1859 and 1861.

The wood was actively managed until the decline of the Orton Hall Estate, around the time of the First World War, when it fell into dereliction. After the Second World War the wood came into local authority ownership. Since that time the surrounding land has been extensively developed as part of the city of Peterborough.

Being situated within a residential area, the wood is well used by the local community. The site is a narrow L-shaped band of woodland with a wide footpath running along the length. It provides a valuable amenity resource and a quiet route away from traffic which is easily accessible from either end of the wood and along most of the southern boundary which is open to housing and amenity grassland. The rest is bounded by private gardens or security fencing around the school grounds. It is one of few areas of mature woodland in the City of Peterborough south of the River Nene and for that reason is an important wildlife resource.

The history of the woodland is evident from the ancient oak and the extensive planting of exotic and native species during the 1850's. More recent influences include the younger natural regeneration which is abundant across the site and the introduction of garden plants from the neighbouring residential areas.

The woodland is diverse in structure with a good mix of both young and mature trees as well as an established understory. The wide range of species contributes to the ecological value of the wood, and whilst there is no dominant species, there is evidence of sycamore colonisation in some areas. There is one large pond where frogs, newts and several interesting water beetles have been seen.

Other species recorded in the wood give a good indication of its wildlife value: - breeding tawny owl, sparrow hawk, tree creepers, nuthatch and there is also a small rookery in the centre of the wood.

The key feature for this site are:

- Informal Public access
- Planted secondary woodland

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

Orton Longueville Wood will be allowed to develop naturally into a well structured and resilient native broadleaved woodland, which also honours the history of the site by integrating the more obscure native and non native specimens within the wood. The wood will be made up of tree species including Horse chestnut, Lime, Ash, Oak, Beech, Elm, Yew, Small leaved lime, and Hornbeam, as the main native broadleaved species. The native species will be supported by a well managed element of the historical planted exotics such as the Wellingtonia along the woods main avenue and other species such as Sycamore, Holm Oak, Scots pine, and species of cypress. The non native species will be managed to ensure they don't impact the native trees and regeneration.

Ash will still be a component of the site, but will provide the important feature of, standing and fallen deadwood habitat within the wood due to Ash Dieback. The areas where the Ash have died and opened up the canopy, will provide areas for ground flora and natural regeneration to flourish, and provide an understorey layer.

The shrub component of the site will include species such as Hawthorn, Elder, hazel, Dogwood, Box, and Holly.

The pond at eastern end of the wood will provide habitat diversity for the site and surrounding area.

The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. Public access will be maintained at the site and the paths, signs and other furniture that allows safe access for the public will be maintained in good order. The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Orton Longueville and the other immediately neighbouring boroughs of Peterborough. The wood will continue to link to the local public footpath networks and will be part of the much wider access provision in the area.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

<b>Description</b>
<p>An interesting mixture of exotic and native trees and shrubs. The wood is made up of tree species including Horse chestnut, Lime, Ash, Oak, Beech, Elm, Yew, Small leaved lime, and Hornbeam ,as the main native broadleaved species . The native species will be supported by a well managed element of the historical planted exotics such as the Wellingtonia along the woods main avenue and other species such as Sycamore, Holm Oak, Scots pine, and species of cypress. With a relatively diverse structure of high canopy and small areas of understory, colourful ground flora includes winter aconite, bluebell, snowdrop and wild garlic amongst others. A notable feature being a long avenue of Wellingtonia (<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>) some 700m in length which forms the centrepiece of the original 1850's planting, locally known as the Long walk. The site contains one permanent pond and several temporary ponds and ditches as well as some areas of open space in the form of paths and small glades.</p>
<b>Significance</b>
<p>A mature secondary woodland plantation, with some ancient woodland characteristics. Orton Longueville wood is relatively large by local standards, and for Cambridgeshire in general. A key local amenity woodland, as well as a prominent landscape feature, recognised by the local authority who have included the site in "Orton Longville" conservation area. Several recent and historic records show significant Bat activity within the site given its urban location. Great crested Newts are also known to be in the pond and surrounding areas.</p>
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Large population in proximity</li><li>-Easy access for all</li><li>-Close proximity to school and other educational facilities.</li></ul> <p>Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Soil erosion and trampling from foot traffic</li><li>-Close proximity of houses and all weather traffic routes (tree safety considerations)</li><li>-Antisocial behaviour - (vandalism, litter, fly-tipping, setting fires, motorbikes &amp; building of substantial structures.)</li></ul>
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>



- Sycamore regeneration
- Over mature canopy species
- Tree disease (+wider effects of climate change)

**Long term Objective (50 years+)**

Orton Longueville Wood will be allowed to develop naturally into a well structured and resilient native broadleaved woodland, which also honours the history of the site by integrating the more obscure native and non native specimens within the wood. The wood will be made up of tree species including Horse chestnut, Lime, Ash, Oak, Beech, Elm, Yew, Small leaved lime, and Hornbeam, as the main native broadleaved species . The native species will be supported by a well managed element of the historical planted exotics such as the Wellingtonia along the woods main avenue and other species such as Sycamore, Holm Oak, Scots pine, and species of cypress . The non native species will be managed to ensure they don't impact the native trees and regeneration.

Ash will still be a component of the site, but will provide the important feature of, standing and fallen deadwood habitat within the wood due to Ash Dieback. The areas where the Ash have died and opened up the canopy, will provide areas for ground flora and natural regeneration to flourish, and provide an understorey layer.

The shrub component of the site will include species such as Hawthorn, Elder, hazel, Dogwood, Box, and Holly.

The pond at eastern end of the wood will provide habitat diversity for the site and surrounding area.

**Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)**

**Woodland Management**

The wood will gradually move towards robust woodland structure through natural regeneration. Standing deadwood and veteran standards will be retained for as long as possible as important features of the woodland. Within the woodland, 5 new pollards will be created from young oaks to provide a diversity to the woodland structure .

Creation of Pollards - Autumn/Winter 2027/28

**Wellingtonia Avenue management**

The Wellingtonia along the main ride will be managed as a historical feature of the site . This work will be undertaken initially through a series of monitoring visits to monitor the status of the Wellingtonia avenue an the effects of the broadleaf trees on the integrity of the Wellingtonia Avenue.Any remedial works planned in for future years , such as replanting of Wellingtonia as required and removal of other species affecting the Wellingtonia Avenue.

Wellingtonia Monitoring - November 2028

Undertake assessments of woodland health every five years, Works to be ordered through observation actions as required.

Woodland Health Monitoring visit - August 2028

Pond Management

The pond will be kept free of litter with an annual collection undertaken by contractors. The pond will be monitored through the course of this plan through the pond safety observation, to look at the status of scrub around the pond and plan any remedial works required to keep the pond open from a safety and biodiversity point of view.

**4.2 f2 Informal Public Access**

<b>Description</b>
The wood is used extensively by many people living nearby and by children walking to and from school. There is approximately 2150m of unsurfaced paths through the site and the wood is linked by permissive paths to the adjacent Council owned open Green space to the South. Generally speaking the wood is regarded as an asset to the local area for its wildlife interest and as a place to take a quiet walk away from the traffic. Several local residents carry out un-tasked volunteer activities within the site, predominantly picking up litter. Though no formal group is registered with the Woodland Trust. The local school also carry out regular litter picking activities.
<b>Significance</b>
Although Peterborough has a significant proportion of parkland and open space, very little of it is mature woodland which is accessible to all. This woodland is also renowned locally for its show of wildflowers in the spring.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
Opportunities  -Easy to access, level and largely dry in most weathers. -Has historical interest as well as wildlife interest to local people  Constraints  -Does get heavy use on certain routes and erosion of some areas has occurred -Some vandalism (such as small fires, graffiti and occasional damage to trees)
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
-Fly Tipping -Path erosion -Vandalism

- unauthorised vehicle access
- bbq's/fires

### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. Public access will be maintained at the site and the paths, signs and other furniture that allows safe access for the public will be maintained in good order. The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Orton Loungeville and the other immediately neighbouring boroughs of Peterborough. The wood will continue to link to the local public footpath networks and will be part of the much wider access provision in the area.

### **Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)**

The 1900m of Paths and rides are to be managed annually , ensuring works are carried out as necessary to keep the path network open and easy to use for public access as detailed in EMC spec 2.01.

Manage site safety through safety observations and inspections.

-Associated signage (Site name/welcome signs) to be kept in good condition and regularly maintained as detailed in EMC Spec 1.01 , with a five yearly review of access facilities by the Site Manager.

Explore the opportunity for recruiting some woodland warden volunteers on the site or working with local external volunteer groups to undertake site monitoring and litter picking activities.

Access inspection - July 2028

Tree Safety surveys

- Zone A Tree Safety Inspection to be carried out every 12 months
- Zone B Tree Safety Inspection to be carried out every 24 months

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2025	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	November
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2026	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	November
2027	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2029	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	3.3	Mixed broadleaves		High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	
<p>An area of woodland thought to have been largely established at about 1850, although this may include small areas of older woodland. Dominated by the splendid avenue of Sequoia, which forms the southern boundary of the sub compartment. These trees stand at approximately 30m high and are in fairly good condition with only a few gaps in the avenue and some broken out stems. The remaining trees in this avenue are, however, becoming "over mature" and will require close monitoring in the interests of safety. Away from this feature the wood is a mixture of sycamore, horse chestnut, oak and ash with some common lime and occasional elm. There are a number of notable specimen trees within the wood such as Swamp Cyprus near the pond. The patchy understory is mainly elder with elm suckers, hawthorn and holly in places. The field layer is predominately ivy and bramble with significant areas of wild garlic, dog's mercury, snowdrop and celandine; Cleavers and nettle occur also. There is some regeneration of ash, sycamore and chestnut in areas of light canopy and some fairly dense thickets of elder with a good supply of large diameter fallen dead timber throughout the site. The Large natural pond at eastern end of compartment may contain toads, frogs and newts. In the centre of the compartment there is a small Rookery in the tops of some of the trees. This eastern boundary is marked by a well-maintained fence and high brick wall; there are a number of foundations of old structures in the wood. The wood is bounded by Orton School fields the boundary being marked by an old ditch and a security fence.</p>						
1b	3	Sycamore		High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	
<p>A strip of compartment 1 which differs from 1a in its reduced understorey and poor field layer of cleavers, ivy and nettles. Canopy mainly sycamore, horse chestnut and beech but with a greater element of ash in some pockets. The wood edge is defined by an unmanaged hawthorn/elm hedge which has crept into the edges of the cpt. The wood is very open in character. There are some large specimen trees, three large false acacia, a large oak pollard in the western end and occasional mature beech towards the eastern end. Adjacent land use is closely mown amenity grassland except in the eastern and western extremities, which have housing adjacent to within 5- 10m. There is a public right of way/cycle way running the full length of the southern border. A small area of the cpt in the western corner has been more recently planted with beech and sycamore - 30-40 years old it has a lot of elm regenerating within it. Some evidence of fly tipping of garden waste nearer the housing estates at either end of the cpt.</p>						
1c	1.9	Mixed broadleaves		High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	
<p>An arm of secondary woodland oriented north south, which joins the rest of the wood forming an L shape. This area contains many varieties of trees including some feature trees, sycamore, horse chestnut, white poplar, elm, holly and a number of conifer species. Understory of holly / elder, bramble and wild clematis, as well as exotic garden species including Mahonia aquifolium (Oregon Grape) and Laburnum. Field layer of occasional bluebell, wild garlic,</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>winter aconite and dogs mercury is very colourful in spring time. The compartment is narrow and has houses very close on nearly all its boundaries.</p>						

### **Ancient Woodland**

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

### **Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland**

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

### **Ancient Woodland Site**

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

### **Beating Up**

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

### **Broadleaf**

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

### **Canopy**

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

### **Clearfell**

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

### **Compartment**

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

### **Conifer**

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

### **Continuous Cover forestry**

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

**Coppice**

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

**Exotic (non-native) Species**

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

**Field Layer**

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

**Group Fell**

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

**Long Term Retention**

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

**Minimum Intervention**

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

**Mixed Woodland**

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

**National vegetation classification (NVC)**

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

**Native Species**

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

**Natural Regeneration**

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

**Origin & Provenance**

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.



**Re-Stocking**

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

**Shrub Layer**

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

**Silviculture**

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

**Stand**

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

**Sub-Compartment**

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

**Thinning**

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

**Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes**

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

**Weeding**

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

**Windblow/Windthrow**

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

**Registered Office:**

**The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.**

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