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Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Search for potential housing sites: Review of landscape sensitivity assessment

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Annex 3

Landscape sensitivity study:
Settlement analysis for Horton in Ribblesdale

August 2024
Reference no. 497/3/04.3
Revision 2.0

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

12 Horton in Ribblesdale



Landscape setting

The village of Horton in Ribblesdale has a dispersed form, with buildings clustered in three centres:

- **Horton in Ribblesdale** - a historic nucleated settlement (mentioned in the Domesday Book), which developed around the Norman Church of St Oswald
- **New Inn** - a hamlet that developed at the river bridge crossings over the River Ribble and its tributary, Brant's Ghyll. A separate hamlet that developed around the site of the medieval water mill, on Brant's Ghyll to the south of New Inn, is today merged with the New Inn settlement.
- **Rowe End** - a Victorian development that grew up around Horton Station on the Settle to Carlisle Railway. The station opened in 1876 to serve the local community and the adjacent Horton Quarry and Limeworks.

The broad landscape setting of Horton in Ribblesdale is shown on Figure 12.1. The village is on the valley floor of the River Ribble in an area where mounds of glacial drift have created an undulating local topography, with rounded low drumlins and ridges alongside the river and on the lower slopes of Pen-y-ghent to the east and Ingleborough to the west. The B6479 connects the three parts of the settlement, twisting abruptly to cross the valley floor between New Inn and Rowe End.

Horton in Ribblesdale is overlooked by the distinctive and dramatic slanted summit of Pen-y-ghent to the east and by the stark industrial backdrop of Horton Quarry to the west. However,the village's landscape setting is complex because views to the surrounding fells, and indeed to the river, are often obscured by low rounded drumlins. This mounded topography, together with terraced houses along the road and belts of trees towards the river's edge, ensures that parts of the village feel enclosed at a local scale.

There are particularly striking views across the Ribble floodplain at the New Inn Bridge, looking north westwards across the floodplain towards Ingleborough and looking eastwards along the B6479 to the summit of Pen-y-ghent on the approach to the New Inn Bridge from Rowe End.





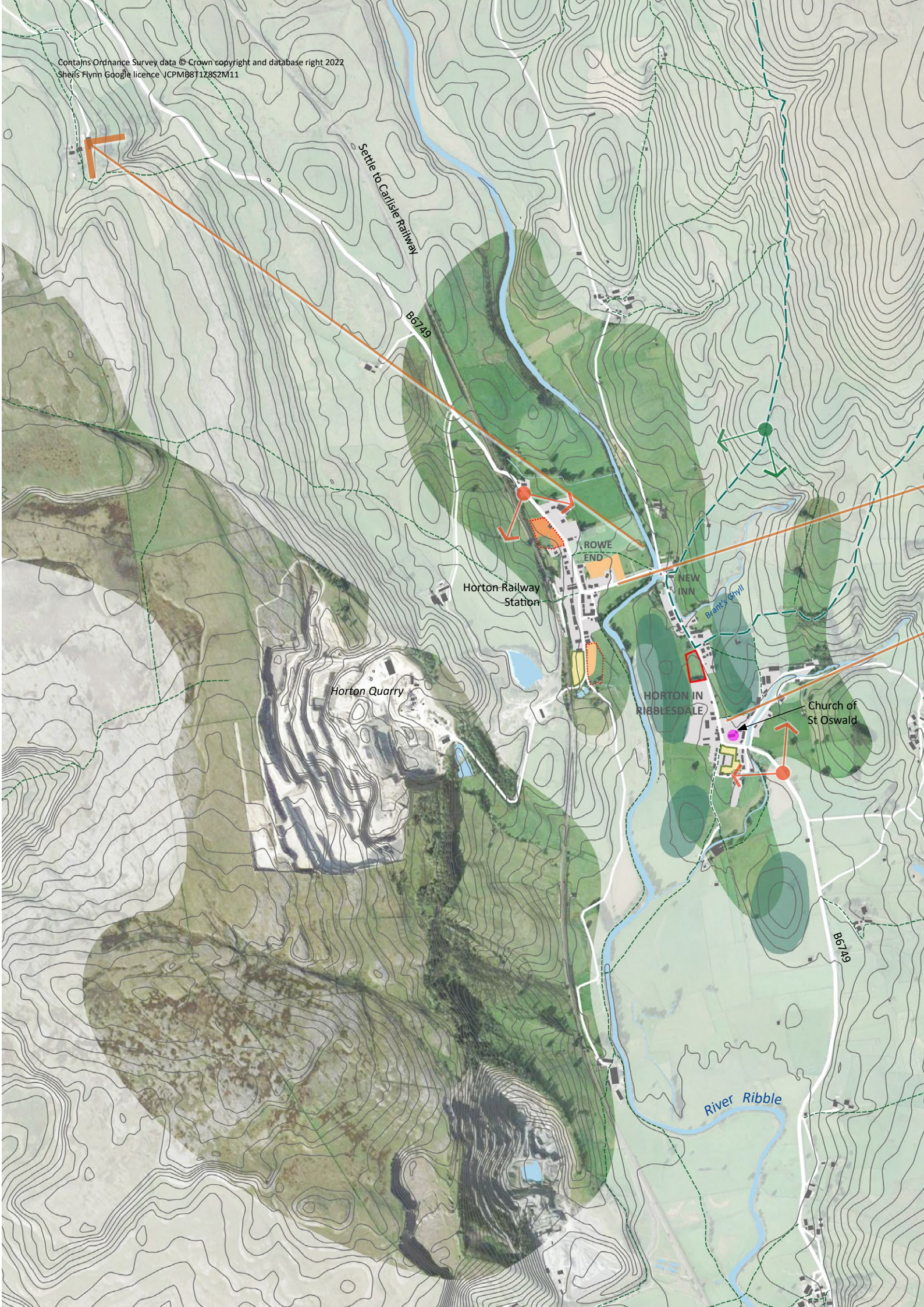
View west from New Inn Bridge towards Rowe End; the grey rockface of Horton Quarry is a backdrop

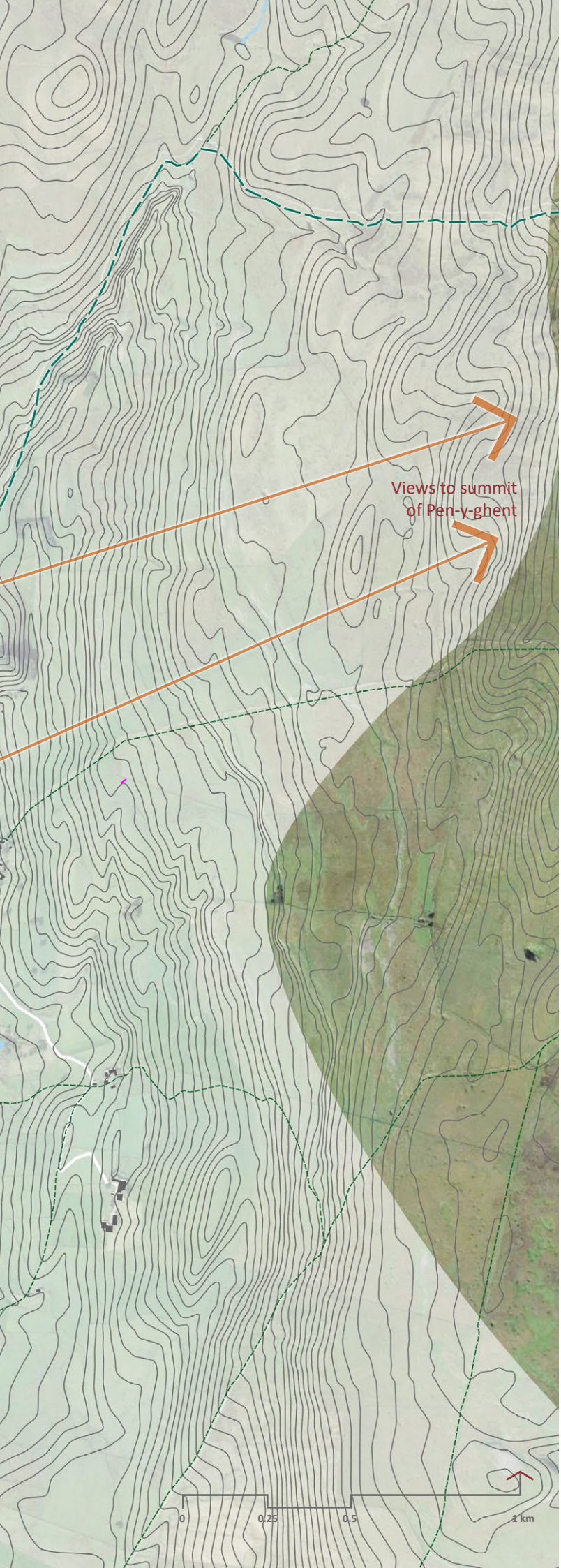


Crown Inn at New Inn, Horton in Ribblesdale

View south from the B6479 at the northern gateway to Rowe End. The railway embankment is to the right and Pen-y-ghent is to the left of the photograph




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Settle to Carlisle Railway
B6749
ROWE END
NEW INN
Brant's Ghyll
Horton Railway Station
Horton Quarry
HORTON IN RIBBLESDALE
Church of St Oswald
B6749
River Ribble



Land within broad landscape setting of Horton in Ribblesdale

Valley farmland (outside landscape setting)

Settlement

Contour lines (5m interval)

Water courses

Structuring drumlin landform which contributes to the character and quality of the landscape setting of Horton in Ribblesdale

Church tower (upstanding landmarks)

Key views which describe Horton in Ribblesdale's overall landscape setting

Promoted long distance routes

Public rights of way

Yorkshire Dales National Park Boundary

Principal vehicular route gateway

Principal recreational route gateway

Important open spaces
Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2015-2030, Adopted 2016

Potential residential development - landscape sensitivity scores

Search for potential housing sites: landscape sensitivity assessment, Sheils Flynn/YDNPA, March 2022

Sites scored as moderate-high* sensitivity

Sites scored as moderate sensitivity

Sites scored as moderate-low sensitivity

Sites scored as low sensitivity

Sites scored as high or moderate-high sensitivity which have subsequently been excluded from the search for potential housing sites

Former extent of those housing sites scored as moderate-high* in the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment which have been reduced to reflect their partial suitability for development

Figure 12.1

Horton in Ribblesdale - Settlement analysis

Analysis

Box 12 sets out the most important (and sensitive) landscape features and elements which contribute to the landscape setting and distinctive character of Horton in Ribblesdale. Alongside analysis of the settlements' landscape setting, Figure 12.1 shows the possible development sites which were included in the landscape sensitivity assessment and which were considered to merit further consideration. With reference to these possible development sites, there are opportunities to integrate carefully designed residential development in the following areas:

- Land south of the Church of St Oswald in the historic core of Horton in Ribblesdale, where a relatively dense residential scheme could provide a positive built frontage to the B6479 while bringing land that is under-used (and partially derelict) into functional use as an attractive and permeable part of the village landscape.
- Land to the south of Rowe End and east of the Settle to Carlisle Railway, where residential development (on both sides of Cragg Hill Road) could create a new neighbourhood of sufficient scale to have its own sense of place and would fit with the rather dispersed 'linear-with-clusters' form of settlement that is typical of Horton in Ribblesdale. There is space to integrate the built form with bands of trees that align with and emphasise the terraced slope landform.
- Land on the eastern fringes of Rowe End, which is partially enclosed by existing houses/trees. Carefully designed residential development here would be seen against the backdrop of existing buildings and could potentially enhance riverside and cross dale views. The informal character of the village should be conserved, with indented built edges and groups of trees that shelter and contain the buildings within the relatively large scale and open landscape of Mid Ribblesdale.
- Land between the B6479 and the Settle to Carlisle Railway embankment on the northern approach to Rowe End, where a relatively low density development could be integrated, provided the existing traditional roadside barn (and its setting) is incorporated as part of the scheme and if the elevated southern part of the site remains undeveloped. Groups and bands of native trees should form part of the layout to form a backdrop to local views southward from the B6479

The key landscape sensitivity constraints for residential development in Horton in Ribblesdale are:

- The setting of the historic (grade I listed) Church of St Oswald. The B6479 wraps around the walled churchyard and there are stunning views north eastwards in which the historic church is seen against the slopes of Pen-y-ghent. New built development to the south of the church should reflect the architectural form, character and local materials of the Ribblesdale area.
- The narrow steep lanes that lead upslope from the B6479. Development along these lanes would be intrusive in local views from the road and would damage Horton in Ribblesdale's Pen-y-ghent slope landscape setting
- The landscape setting of the River Ribble and views from the Ribble Way long distance path. Blocks of built development should not be visible from the incised, rural riverside landscape that threads between the drumlins to the south of the river crossing.
- The remaining gaps that separate the three component parts of the settlement and which prevent coalescence.
- The scale and informality of Horton in Ribblesdale's settlement pattern and the diversity of character between the three local village centres. New development should respect the local traditional architectural form, incorporating a higher proportion of native trees within housing layouts than is currently present to integrate buildings and enhance the local industrial environment.
- The open slopes and crests of the drumlin landforms on the valley floor, which contain local views and contribute to the gateways and landscape setting of each component part of Horton in Ribblesdale

BOX 12

Valued landscape features and elements within Horton in Ribblesdale are:

- The distinctive character of each of the three separate clusters of buildings with their focus (separately) on the Church of St Oswald (Horton in Ribblesdale), the river bridge crossings (New Inn) and the railway station (Rowe End).
- The slopes and rounded ridgetops of the drumlins that enclose and frame local views.
- The setting of the Church of St Oswald (grade I listed), particularly views in which the church is seen against the backdrop of Pen-y-Ghent.
- The abrupt right angled bends in the B6479 as it twists through each part of the settlement, which provide thresholds within the diverse sequence of roadside views.
- The landscape setting of the River Ribble, particularly at the historic (grade II listed) New Inn Bridge and Gray Bridge crossings, where views suddenly open up along and across the river floodplain.
- The historic landscape of the Settle to Carlisle Railway and former Horton Limeworks, which is a component of the linear Settle to Carlisle Railway Conservation Area.



The summit of Pen-y-ghent dominates views eastwards across Ribbledale from Rowe End.

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