

Harriet Carty

Caring for God's Acre

protecting wildlife
preserving heritage
involving people



What is good management of a
historic burial ground?

Features of a well managed site

- accessible
- safe
- respectful
- welcoming
- inclusive

and.....

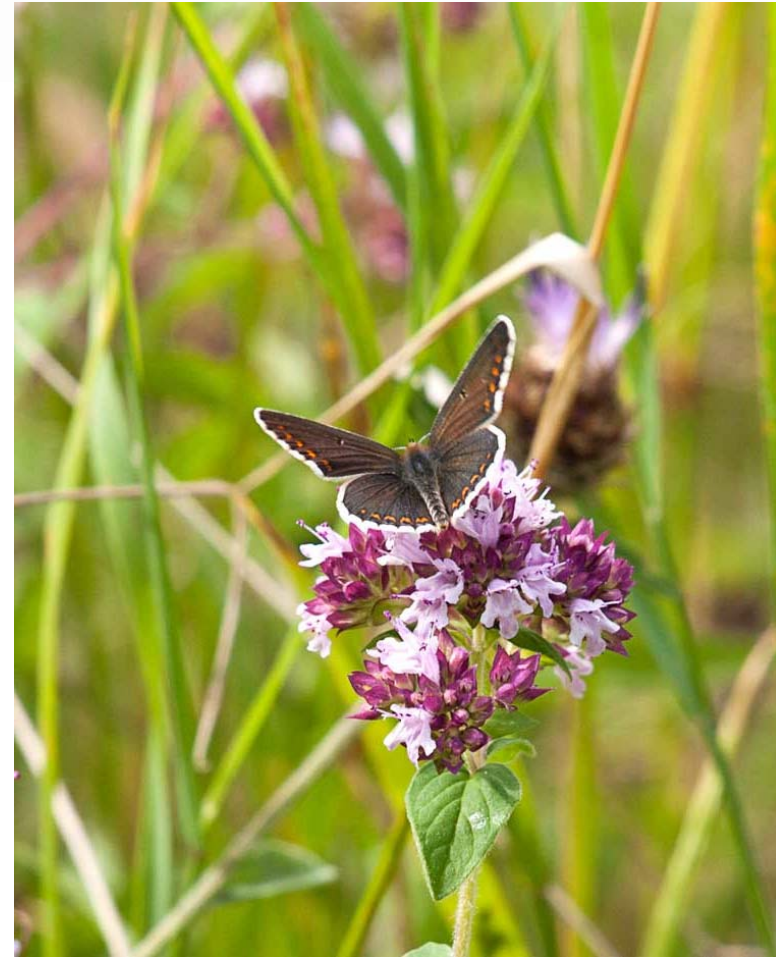
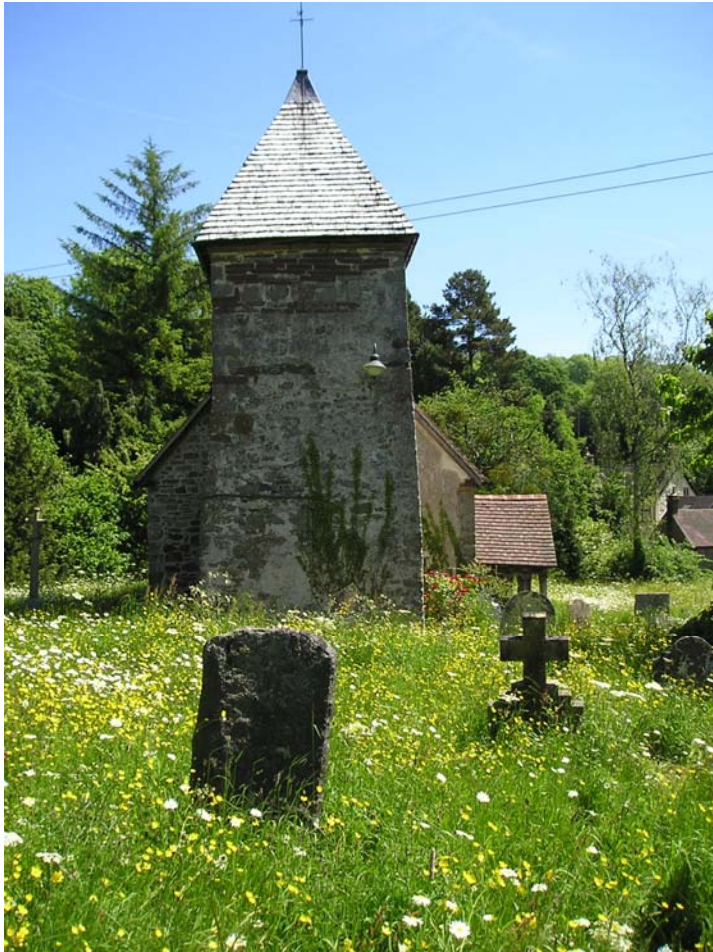
- natural
- peaceful
- enjoyed by the general public
- a sense of 'ownership' by the local community
- interesting
- a place of learning

Natural

Ancient & veteran yews Lichens



Species rich grassland



Brown Argus, I Seccombe

Long, medium or short



and a great deal more.....



Lisa Griffiths PTES



Howard Inns ARC



Chris Dresh ARC



Eric Kaiser Swift Conservation



all photos northeastwildlife.co.uk

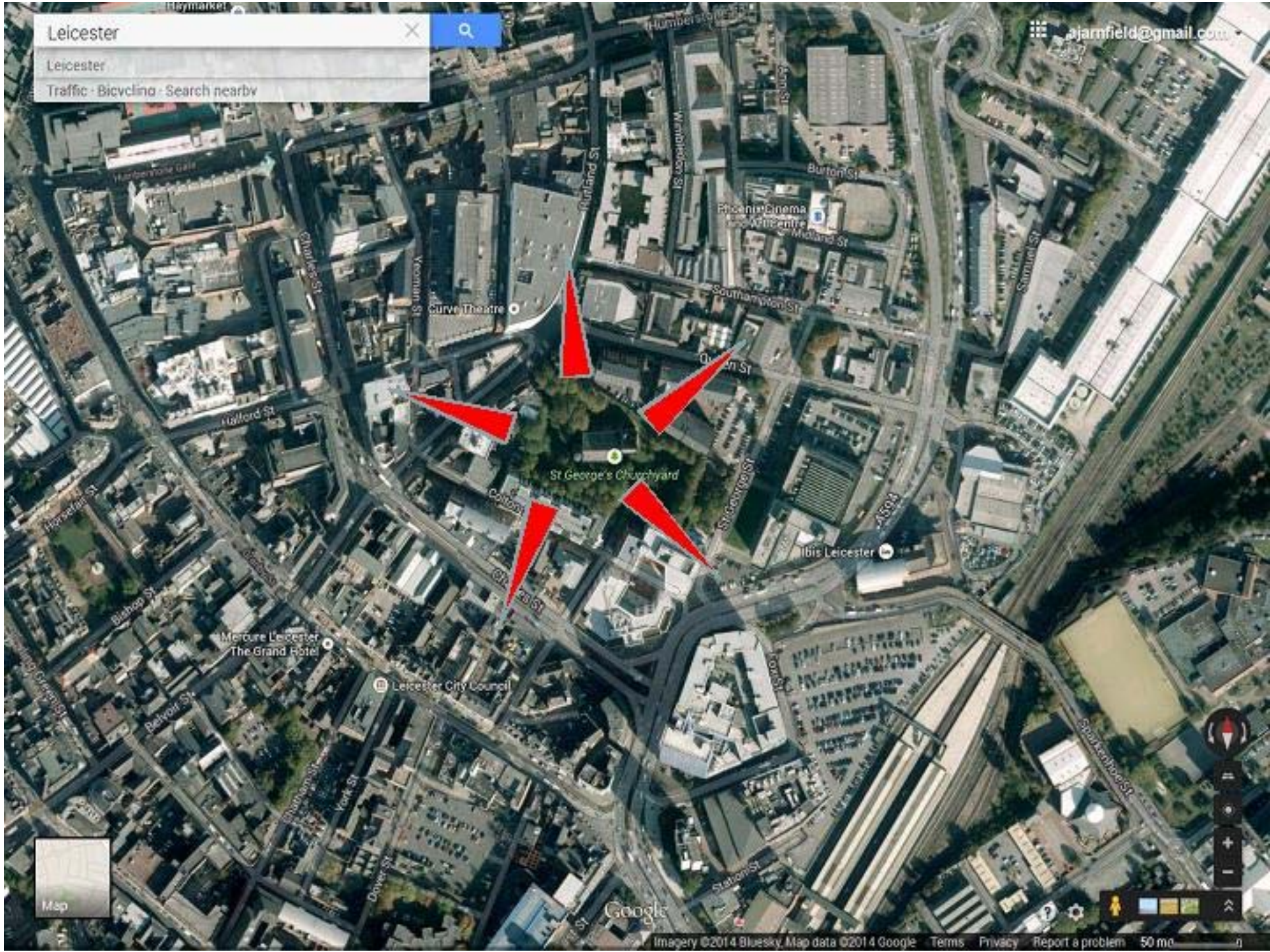


S Lewis Butterfly Conservation



Bumblebee Conservation





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ajarnfield@gmail.com

Map

Google

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The whole is greater than the sum
of the parts

Peaceful



Enjoyed by the general public

The Nature of God's Acre Survey

- people valuing the peace, history and nature
- consistently 2% or 3% strongly negative voices

The Nature of God's Acre – Miles King and Mark Betson 2014

Survey of 175 visitors to 26 Sussex churchyards

Pushing at an open door



Caring for God's Acre - partners

here are a few examples of the many organisations we work with:

- Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
- Ancient Yew Group
- Association of British Fungus Groups
- Buglife
- Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- Butterfly Conservation
- Cadw
- Churches Tourism Association
- Dry Stone Walling Association
- English Heritage
- Federation of Family History Societies
- Field Studies Council
- National Federation of Cemetery Friends
- Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
- Swift Conservation
- The Wildlife Trusts
- War Memorials Trust

Sense of 'ownership'





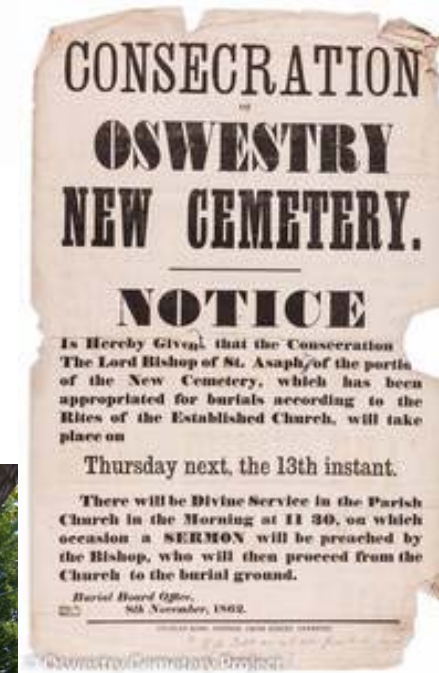
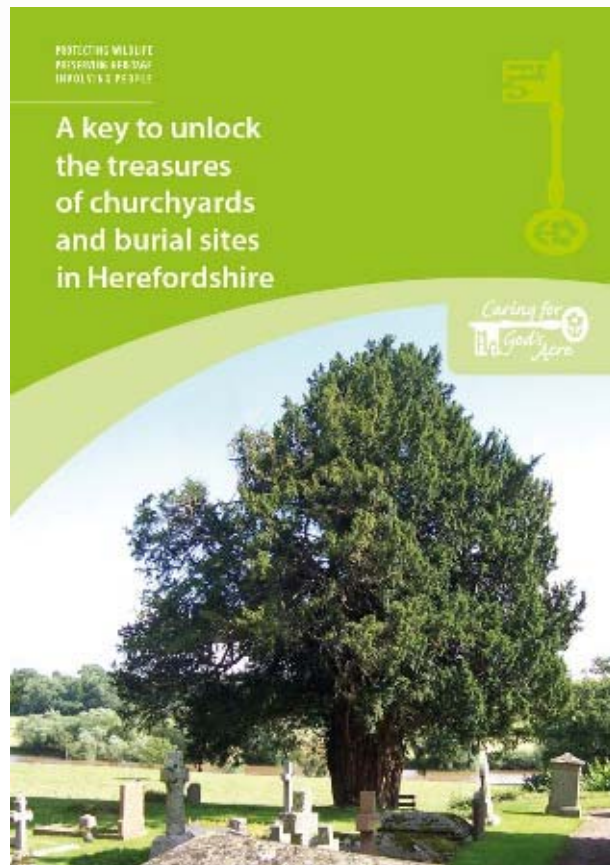
St Ishmael's Pembrokeshire

Regular group of over 20 volunteers

Average of 10 attend each work party

3 key volunteers who organise, 1 of whom needs to be present

Interesting



learning

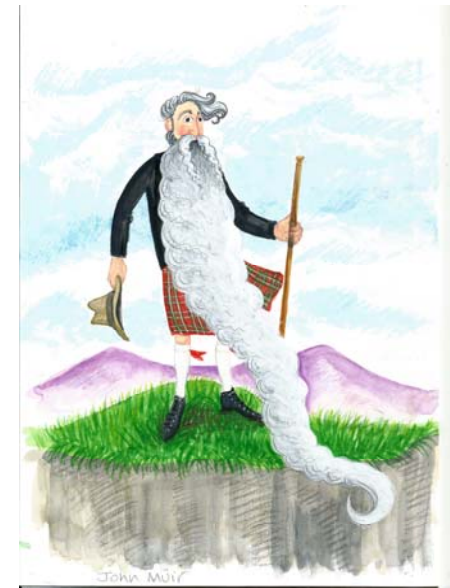
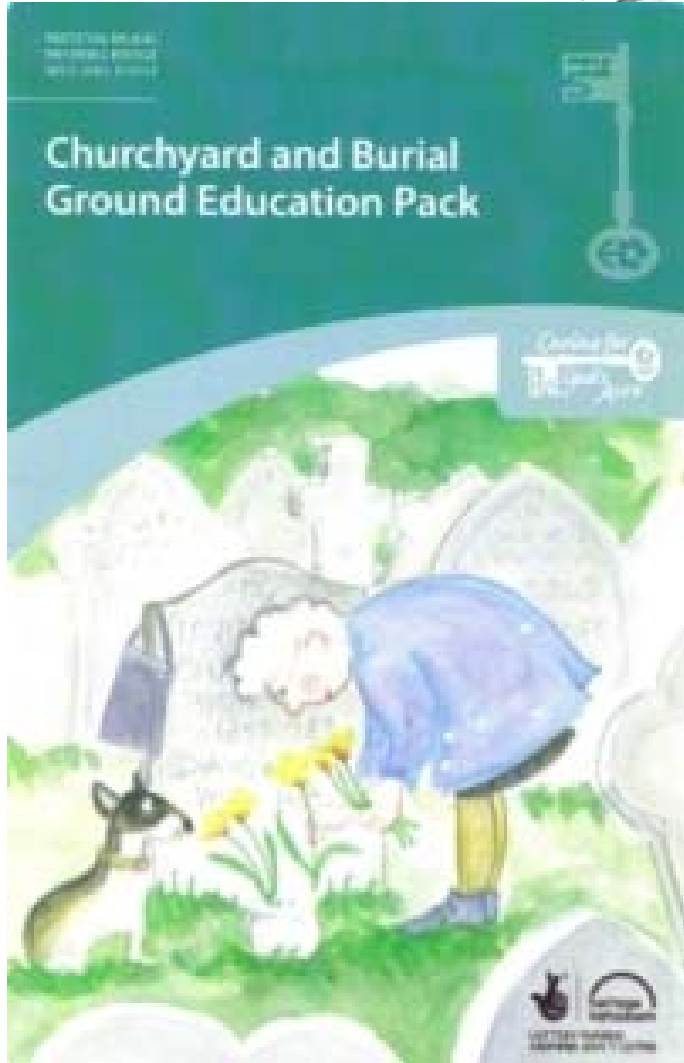


St. Michael's Troedyraur

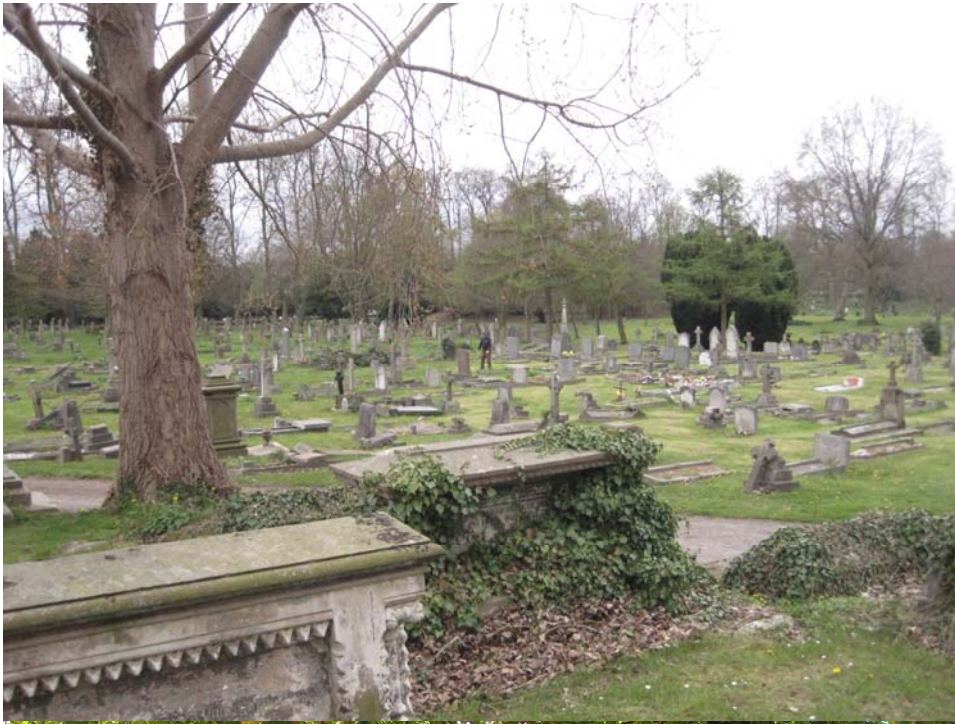
'Last Wednesday, we held a public meeting, the speaker being the Ceredigion Archivist, talking on what's in the archives for Troedyraur Parish. To our utter amazement, 93 people turned up!'







Longden Road Cemetery Shrewsbury



2013 Lots of volunteer surveyors

- Botanical survey by Shropshire Botanical Society
7 volunteers spent a total of 28 hours, 87 species recorded including a first for Shropshire
- Fungi survey found 53 species on one visit including rarities
- Ornithologist who had done the BTO atlas work a couple of years earlier drew up a quick bird list of 18 species

2014 Designated a Local Wildlife Site

- September - Open evening with walks, talks, discussion and a bat walk attracted over 70 people
- November – Meeting to set up a Friends group attracted over 20 people and a constitution was drawn up.
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust put the site forward as a Local Wildlife Site based on the 2 surveys, this has been accepted

2015 Friends group starts to be active

- April - work party to pull seedlings and cut saplings. Family History Society doing monument recording to attract volunteers
- April - an agreed area to be left uncut until early July to allow flowering
- May - evening bird walk
- June - moths, mammals and more! Morning event opening moth and small mammal traps plus invertebrate surveying
- July – work party to rake long grass area plus management meeting
- September – fungal foray
- November – AGM plus talk by local historian

Cost implications

- Volunteer input can be significant
- Raised public engagement may reduce anti-social behaviour
- Grant opportunities increased

Sharing Heritage £3,000 - £10,000

Parks for People £100,000 - £5,000,000



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Thank you

