

Sources for the Study of Floods and Flood Management



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Front cover illustrations – left to right:

Flood debris on the bridge carrying the gas main over the River Don, near Brightside Bridge, June 2007

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield v03522*)

Woodfall Lane, Low Bradfield, flooding caused by storms, 1932

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s10963*)

Flooding at The Wicker, caused by heavy rainfall, June 2007

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield u04446*)

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You can download a copy of this *Study Guide* from www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

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Introduction

Sheffield is a city that has thrived due to the topography of the area. The city is located on the confluence of five major rivers (the Don, Porter, Loxley, Rivelin and the Sheaf), and is nestled in several hills. As a result, it is an area very prone to flooding.

The combination of its many hills and rivers have been exploited by generations, who have used the rivers as a source of power for various industries. From early mill and dam systems powering local forges, corn mills and paper mills, to the mass expansion of the steel and cutlery industry during the industrial revolution, Sheffield's rivers have been a key driving mechanism in the city's industrial development. However, over the years, the utilisation of the city's water courses, combined with severe weather events and rapid urbanisation has led to numerous incidents of flooding across many areas of the city. Sheffield City Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library have a wealth of material about key flooding events that have occurred in the city, as well as material relating to water resource management and the development of various types of flood defence.

This *Guide* is not a detailed study of flood events and water resources management; it merely points the reader who wishes to carry out their own research to what is available within Sheffield Libraries and Archives.

As more items are catalogued and the collections are used by researchers it is likely that additional references will come to light. More detailed searching of our catalogues for wide range of terms may reveal additional material.

Please note this guide does not deal with material relating to The Great Sheffield Flood of 1864. This can be found in a separate study guide 'Sources for the Study of The Sheffield Flood 1864' (*Local Studies Library* 942.74 SQ) or visit our webpage [Research guides \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/research-guides)

Timeline Showing Key Flood Events

Date	Event
1762	Wadsley Bridge on the River Loxley damaged by flooding, a replacement was built funded by the local parish church.
1811	Flooding of Shrewsbury Hospital at Sheaf Bridge (now Park Square roundabout) resulting in the deaths of some residents. The hospital was consequently moved to higher ground.
Mar 1864	The Great Sheffield Flood (see separate study guide). A newly built dam, at Low Bradfield on the River Loxley, broke while it was being filled for the first time and killed hundreds of citizens.
1886	Sewage treatment works were built at Blackburn Meadows (Sheffield's lowest point above sea level). The works were later modernised to aid with flood prevention and pollution.
1907	River Don caused flooding at Kelham Island and Neepsend.
Aug 1922	Flooding at Meadowhall, London Road and Heeley Bridge caused by severe thunderstorms; over 6 inches of rainfall fell on the 7/8 th of August.
May 1932	Flooding across the city from Low Bradfield to Beighton.
1947	Flooding in the Beighton and Woodhouse Mill areas.
Jul 1958	Major flooding event across the city; the River Sheaf broke its banks and caused major destruction along its course. A mass clean-up operation and compensation scheme coordinated by Sheffield City Council.
1973	An estimated 5 inches of rain fell in just one day, leading to severe flooding in multiple areas.
May 1979	Heavy downpours caused widespread flooding.
Dec 1991	The River Sheaf reached its highest level ever recorded at the Sheaf recording site. Extensive flooding impacted the lower Sheaf Valley including Sheffield Station which was inundated. A tree branch left behind on platform 5 was left in situ with a small plaque attached to commemorate the event.
Oct 1998	Heavy rainfall for several days caused flooding in the south of the city.

2000	The area of Catcliffe suffered severe flooding due to heavy rainfall. Local flood barriers were built following the flooding after demands by residents
Jun 2007	A major national flooding event occurred, with repeated heavy rainfall. Sheffield and South Yorkshire were particularly badly affected. Many homes in the north of the city had to be evacuated and the flood caused two deaths in Sheffield.
Jun 2009	Flash flooding due to sudden torrential rainfall on 10 June left Norfolk Park, Arbourthorne and parts of the city centre up to 5 feet deep in floodwater. Many people in areas affected by the floods in 2007 again faced evacuation from their homes. Sheffield Station, Sheffield United's football ground and areas in the south of the city suffered the worst of the flooding, in contrast to 2007.
Jun 2012	Intense rainfall caused flooding in north west areas of the city.
Jul 2012	A day of heavy rainfall on 7 July on already saturated ground led to flash flooding and rapidly rising river levels across the city.
Oct 2013	Localised flooding in the Chapeltown area.
Jun 2014	Unexpected rainfall caused flooding in the south east area of the city.
Sep 2018	Considerable flash flooding, the worst since the June 2007 floods, occurred across Sheffield as a result of heavy rainfall from Storm Bronagh.
Aug 2019	Floodwater and sewer issues cause flooding on Chesterfield Road.
Nov 2019	Despite new flood defences in the area, heavy rainfall in South Yorkshire caused the River Don to break its banks in several places in and around Sheffield, causing shoppers to be stranded in Meadowhall overnight. Also caused flooding across the west of the city.

Flood Images

There are many photographs and illustrations about flood events in Sheffield available to see online at www.picturesheffield.com. Here are a few examples.



Flooding at Beighton, 1920s

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s10965)



Sheffield Wednesday Football Ground following flooding caused by heavy rainfall in July 2007

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield u04451)



Upwell Street bridge during a flooding event in May 1979

(Sheffield Local Studies Library Picture Sheffield s26927)

Damage to house on Yarborough Road 1958

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s33837)





Saville Street looking towards Spital Hill after flooding caused by heavy rainfall 2007
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield u04445*)

Water pouring off the M1 Tinsley Viaduct onto Sheffield Road, during flood event in May 1979
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s26926*)



List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information

Newspaper and News Reports

Relevant articles and features may appear in local newspapers. The main titles available at Sheffield Local Studies Library for the 20th century onwards are: *Sheffield Telegraph* (weekly) and the *Star*.

The Local Studies Library local newspaper cuttings collection may include relevant articles
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: microfiche*)

The British Library British Newspapers website includes over eighteen million pages from over 700 national and local newspapers (including a number of Sheffield titles, 1819 - c.1950). <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

The *Sheffield Star* and *Sheffield Telegraph* have some of their articles from the last 6 years or so available online at: <http://www.thestar.co.uk> and www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk. In addition the *Sheffield Star* (2011 onwards) is available for free via Sheffield Libraries:
<https://search.proquest.com/europeannews/>

Archives of some national newspapers are available on the internet, notably *The Times* (<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/archive/>) and *The Guardian* (<http://archive.guardian.co.uk>)

Examples of relevant articles about flood events include:

- *The Star*, 25 & 26th June, 2007
- *The Star*, 13th July, 2016 RETRO feature article on the flooding at Brightside in 1979
- *The Star*, 17th June, 2020

Documents, journal articles, books, films and other items (in date order)

FLOOD EVENTS

Papers relating to the replacement of Wadsley Bridge, which was damaged by flood, c.1762, 1767
(*Sheffield City Archives: PR54/22/2/6*)

Yorkshire Water Authority and predecessors
(*Sheffield City Archives: YWA*)

- YWA/11 *Rainfall and Weather records, 1866-1966*
- YWA/8/17/3 *Flood Readings Ledger, 1912,1949*
- YWA/8/15 *Reservoir and Waterfall Ledgers, 1915-1968*

- *YWA/10/2/9 Flood Risk Areas, c.1930-1940s*
- *YWA/11/4/3 Report of Flood Damage, Neepsend, 1907*

Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Council minutes relating to flood damage 1932/33

(Permission to access the item must be granted by the Secretary of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce. Please refer to Sheffield City Archives on how to access this item).

(Sheffield City Archives: SCCI/1/1/17)

Rotherham Rural District: Hadfield's Tip, Catcliffe - correspondence and plans. Includes reference to general flooding of River Rother at Catcliffe, 1957 - 1966

(Sheffield City Archives: SYCC/WRYCC/1/4/41)

Sheffield City Council, Administration and Legal Department, report by the City Engineer to the Highway and Sewerage Committee regarding flooding of the Rivers Sheaf and Don, Jul 1958

(Sheffield City Archives: CA660/5)

Sheffield City Council, Administration and Legal Department, report by the City Engineer to the Highway and Sewerage Committee regarding flooding of the River Sheaf, Carbrook & Meersbrook, Jul-Sep 1958

(Sheffield City Archives: CA660/6)

Sheffield Good Neighbour Flood Appeal, correspondence and papers, 1958

(Sheffield City Archives: CA665/7)

Lord Mayor of Sheffield's 'Good Neighbour Flood Appeal', claims for assistance, 1958

(Sheffield City Archives: CA41/11)

Sheffield City Council, Engineer's Department - photographs of drains, sewers and culverts; and of flood damage, mainly along River Sheaf, 1958

(Sheffield City Archives: Acc. 2004/68)

Terror by Night, Havoc by Day: Flood Plight Grave (Sheffield Newspapers, 1958)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2017 L)

Report of flooding, 1958 (Sheffield City Council, 1958)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SSTQ)

Sheffield City Council, Town Clerk's correspondence, reports and process papers relating to River Sheaf flooding and claims against the City Council, Aug 1958 - Sep 1964

(Sheffield City Archives: CA674/4/6)

Sheffield City Council, Administration and Legal Department, miscellaneous reports relating to the River Sheaf flooding and subsequent litigation, Oct 1959 - Dec 1960
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA660/9*)

Sheffield City Council, Administration and Legal Department, miscellaneous papers relating to the cases of James Christie and Sons Ltd. and J. Figorski Ltd. v. Sheffield Corporation and Abbey Glen Laundry Co. Ltd. regarding the River Sheaf flooding, 1959 - 1961
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA660/10*)

South Yorkshire County Council, Planning Department, photographic collection, flooding 1974 - 1986
(*Sheffield City Archives: SYCC/P/23*)

River Sheaf flooding (Sheffield City Council, Department of Design and Building Services, 1993)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3872 M*)

Foggitt, Bill *The Yorkshire Weather Book* (Countryside Books, 1993)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 551.5 S*)

South Yorkshire Fire & Civil Defence Authority, agendas, draft minutes and papers, Jul - Nov 2007 (floods)
(*Sheffield City Archives: SYJA/3/23/5*)

South Yorkshire Fire & Civil Defence Authority, agendas, draft minutes and papers, 2008. Environmental Forum & 2007 Flooding Reviews
(*Sheffield City Archives: SYJA/3/2/18*)

Flooded Yorkshire 2007: The Pictures that Told the Story (Yorkshire Post, 2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.3493 S*)

The Great South Yorkshire Floods: The Story in Pictures of the Area's Biggest Civil Emergency in Over 50 years (At Heart, 2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.3493 S*)

Smith, Martin, *The Great Flood: How Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster, Chesterfield and Worksop Survived the Summer Storms of 2007*
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.3493 S*)

Sheffield and South Yorkshire Flood 2007 (Rotherham Advertiser, 2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1571 L*)

The Great Flood of Sheffield 2007 (Star Newspapers Ltd, 2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2039 L*)

Overview Map of Sheffield 2007 Flooding (Sheffield City Council, 2008)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2080 L*)

Stuart-Menteth, Alice, *UK Summer 2007: Floods* (Risk Management Inc. 2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.3493 SQ*)

Bauer, Francesca, *Bouncing Back* (Sixer, 2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Bound in Sixer 2007, 052.74SQ*)

Review of 2007 Summer floods (Environment Agency, 2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.3493 SSTQ*)

Staying afloat financing emergencies (Audit Commission for Local Authorities and the National Health Service in England and Wales, 2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.3493 SSTQ*)

Three dead and 1,000 evacuated as floods strike (*The Guardian*, 2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7351 M*)

Handley, J., *Unprecedented or Unprepared? - Rainfall & Floods* (2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5913 M*)

The Great Flood One Year On (Sheffield Newspapers Ltd, 2008)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1615 L*)

Pitt, Michael, *Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods: An Independent Review by Sir Michael Pitt: Executive summary; The Pitt Review* (HMG, Cabinet Office, 2008)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.3493 SSTQ*)

The Sheffield Floods 2007 (Sheffield Weather Page, [200-])
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7336 M*)

Sheffield City Region Economic Bulletin, 2010 & 2011, includes references to flood events and flood prevention in South Yorkshire (Sheffield City Region Executive)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 338.94274 SQ*)

Bell, Pauline C., *Alfie John Bell: The Day You Were Born* (2011) includes 2007 flood reminiscences
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 929.2 BELL SQ*)

Firth, Chris, *900 years of The Don Fishery - Domesday to the Dawn of the New Millennium* (Environment Agency, 2012)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 551.483 SQ*)

Our Plan for the River Don (Don Catchment River Trust, 2012)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 480 SQ*)

Investigation of Flooding Incident - North West Sheffield, 10 Jun 2012
(Sheffield City Council, 2012)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7341 M*)

Investigation of Flooding Incident - Chapeltown, Sheffield, Jul 2013 (Sheffield City Council, 2013)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7343 M*)

Investigation of Flooding Incident - South East Sheffield, 30 Apr 2014
(Sheffield City Council, 2014)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7339 M*)

'Dreadful Floods' marked 10 years on in Sheffield (BBC News, 2017)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7350 M*)

Investigation of Flooding Incident - Chesterfield Road, Sheffield, 23 Sep 2019
(Sheffield City Council, 2019)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7340 M*)

Investigation of Flooding Incident - West Sheffield, 7 & 8 Nov 2019 (Sheffield City Council, 2019)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7342 M*)

Sources for the Study of Sheffield's Weather (Sheffield Libraries and Information Services. Archives and Local Studies, 2019)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 551.65 SQ*)

Dozens spend night in Sheffield Meadowhall shopping centre (BBC News, 2019)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7349 M*)

WATER MANAGEMENT & FLOOD DEFENCES

Terrey, Williams, *History and Description of Sheffield Water Works* (Sheffield, 1924)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.6 SST*)

Abercrombie, L. P, Sir, *Sheffield and District Regional Planning Scheme*
(Liverpool University Press, 1931)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 914.274 SQ*)

A Short Description of Sheffield's Water Supply (Sheffield Corporation Waterworks, 1955)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5378 S*)

Wood, J, 'Hydrology and Water Supply', p.70-78 (*Sheffield and its Region: A Scientific and Historical Survey* / ed. by David L. Linton, 1958)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S*)

'Operation Plan for Peace-Time Emergencies', Civil Defence Corps Sheffield Division (Revised April 1965)
(*Sheffield City Archives: X464/1*)

The Water Supply of Sheffield (Sheffield Water Committee, 1969)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.6 SST*)

Wicker Riverside action plan, 2007 – 2017 (Sheffield City Council, 2007)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 711.4 SSTQ*)

Final report on the flooding of summer 2007 (South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum, 2008)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6122 M*)

Archaeological Research and Consultancy at the University of Sheffield (ARCUS) - Nursery Street/Don Riverside, 2008-2010. Includes ARCUS report (2008) on River Don flood defences in the Nursery Street area.
(*Sheffield City Archives: X647 - (Acc. 2014/11 – Box 8)*)

Sheffield City Council: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), Level 1 & 2 (Sheffield City Council, 2008)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 351.82329 SQ*)

Reducing the risk of flooding [newspaper advert] (Environment Agency, 2008)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1616 L*)

River Don Flood Risk Management Strategy: update of progress, February 2010 (Environment Agency, 2010)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6121 M*)

Draft Don Catchment Flood Management Plan: summary report, January 2010 (Environment Agency, 2010)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6120 M*)

2007 Summer Floods: Reducing the Pressure on Sheffield's Floodplain (Environment Agency, 2010)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6119 M*)

- Chatterton, John, *Delivering Benefits Through Evidence - The Cost of the Summer 2007 Floods in England* (Environment Agency, 2010)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.3493 SQ)
- Clarke, Paul, *Sheffield Insured: Sheffield & the Insurance Industry 1600-2012* (Insurance institute of Sheffield, 2012)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 368 SQ)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment: Sheffield Local Flood Risk Management Strategy* (Halcrow Group Ltd., 2013)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.3493 SSTQ)
- Sheffield Flood Risk Management Strategy (Sheffield City Council, Regeneration and Development Services, 2013)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.3493 SQ)
- River Stewardship Company: Prospectus (RSC 2013)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7344 M)
- 'Perspectives on flood risk and city resilience', presentation by Sheffield Green commission by Will McBain, Associate Director, Arup, 2015
(Sheffield City Archives: CA1003/2/5/1)
- Managing Adaptive Responses to Changing Flood Risk (MARE) - *Sheffield Central area Flood Protection, Don Valley Sheffield* (MARE, c. 2015)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 351.82329 SQ)
- The Leisure Hall at Meadowhall Sheffield - Environmental Statement, Non-Technical Summary* (British Land Plc. 2016)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 658.87 SQ)
- The Fight to Protect Sheffield from Repeat of Deadly Floods of 2007* (Yorkshire Post, 2017)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7347 M)
- Flood & Coast 2017: Sheffield Flood Protection Programme Consultation Study (Sheffield City Council, 2017)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 711.8 SQ)
- Between Resistance and Resilience: A Study of Flood Risk Management in the Don Catchment Area (UK)* (Sheffield Hallam University, 2018)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 711.8 SQ)
- £21 million Sheffield Flood Defence Completed (Environment Agency, 2018)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7337 M)

Stephenson, J. *The History of Sheffield Water: The Sheffield Reflection*
(Pickards, 2019)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 553.7 SQ*)

Additional £16 million to protect Sheffield from flooding (Sheffield City Council,
2020)
(*Local Studies Library: MP 2039 L*)

Climate Emergency, Actions and Investments in Sheffield (Sheffield City
Council, 2020)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 7221 M*)

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A search of the City Archives catalogue of planning applications (ref: CA206)
will reveal several applications which reference flood risk assessments or
defence provision, for example:

Former Blackburn Meadows Power Station Site, Alsing Road, Sheffield,
flood mitigation proposals; flood defence provision and flood compensation
scheme, 2009
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA206/2009/754-COND*)

Land at Meadowhall Drive - *Increase in height of supporting pier to
demountable flood defence barrier*, 2009
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA206/2009/3368-FUL*)

Travis Perkins, 515 Queens Road, Highfield - *condition numbers:
Flood defence wall; Flood Route*; 2008
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA206/20085283-COND*)

Sheffield City Council, planning application, Former Hartswell Site, Savile
Street/Spital Hill, Sheffield, includes flood risk assessment, 2007
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA206/2007/1773-OUT*)

Archive and Library collections held elsewhere

The National Archives Discovery catalogue includes catalogues describing archives held locally in England and Wales

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> (accessed April 2020)

The Archives Hub contains catalogues describing archives held in universities and colleges in the UK <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/> (accessed March 2020)

The National Archives (TNA) holds records of central government departments and agencies, etc. You can search the TNA catalogue online at <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Online Resources & Websites

Map of Sheffield (South Yorkshire) postcodes and their flood risks.

<https://www.getthedata.com/flood-map/sheffield> (accessed Oct 2020)

Sheffield City Council - flood defences information pages

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/public-health/flood-defences> (accessed Oct 2020)

Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives Facilities

Sheffield Archives and Local Studies services collect and preserve original records and printed material relating to Sheffield and the surrounding area.

The information dates from the 12th century to the present and relates to Sheffield, South Yorkshire and north Derbyshire.

Included are extensive collections of books • pamphlets • photographs • church registers • newspapers • census records • minutes • diaries • films • maps • deeds • records from schools • hospitals • businesses and charities • family estates • personal papers etc.

Our facilities include:

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Adding to our collections

Sheffield Libraries and Archives seeks to preserve information about events in our city's history. If you have photographs or personal papers that may be worth preserving please consider safeguarding them for current and future generations by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries and Archives. It is only through the generosity of individuals and organisations that we are able to have a complete record of important events in the history of Sheffield and the nation. We are interested in photographs, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings etc. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please email us (archives@sheffield.gov.uk or telephone 0114 203 9395).

Contact Details

Sheffield Local Studies Library

1st floor
Central Library
Surrey Street
Sheffield
S1 4SP

Tel: 0114 273 4753

Email: archives@sheffield.gov.uk

Sheffield City Archives

52 Shoreham Street
Sheffield
S1 1XZ

Tel: 0114 203 9395

Email: archives@sheffield.gov.uk

Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

Search our catalogues

(not all of the collections are fully catalogued so if you can't find what you are looking for please contact us for further advice)

Local Studies Library catalogue:

https://library.sheffield.gov.uk/client/en_GB/default

City Archives catalogue: <http://www.calmview.eu/SheffieldArchives/CalmView/>

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