

# Enfield Archaeological Society Occasional Research Note No. 1

## The Roman ‘Roadline Settlement’ at Cheshunt Park Farm, Hertfordshire: A Review of the Evidence

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### Introduction

The small Roman settlement at Cheshunt Park Farm (TL 344 042) lies on the line of Ermine Street, the main Roman road running north from *Londinium* along the Lea valley, between two other known ‘roadline settlements’<sup>1</sup> at Bush Hill Park, Enfield and Ware (Fig. 1). It is poorly known from unpublished excavations and survey work in the 1950s and 1960s and then in the early twenty first century. The former were carried out by individuals with no archaeological experience so that, along with the limited survival of the finds, they are now difficult to interpret. However, the site is sufficiently important as one of the small settlements that grew up along this major Roman road to justify reviewing what can be established about it. This review is based on an analysis (Dearne *et al* 2010) by the author, Neil, John and Lesley Pinchbeck and Roger Dormer of the archive left by one of the early excavators, Tom Howlett (Herts County Record Office D/EHW23 *Cheshunt Park Roman Site 1957-61*), of photographic and plan evidence held by the Enfield Archaeological Society<sup>2</sup> and of the surviving finds in the Lowewood Museum, Hoddesdon,<sup>3</sup> together with the unpublished reports on the later work by and for Channel 4’s *Time Team* programme in 2001 (Ely and Edwards 2003; GSB Prospection 2001; Wessex Archaeology (2002)), and the site archive generated by that work.<sup>4</sup>

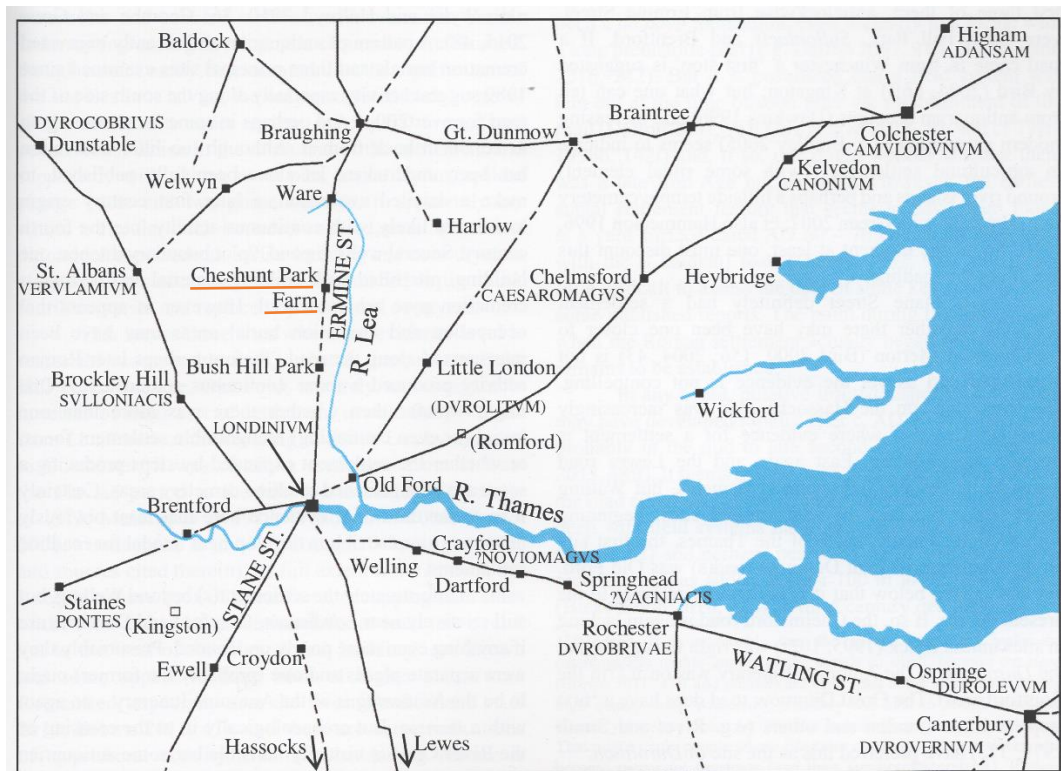


Fig. 1: Cheshunt Park Farm in Relation to the Road Network and (Quasi-)Urban Sites in South East England

<sup>1</sup> For a discussion of the terminology used of small settlements on Roman roads see Dearne (2017) 318f.

<sup>2</sup> Largely deriving from the archive of the late Geoffrey Gillam, but including copies of photographs taken by and a plan reflecting the recollections of Jean Mullinger, acquired through the good offices of Brian Hornby.

<sup>3</sup> Examined by kind invitation of Neil Robbins, then the curator of the museum.

<sup>4</sup> Held by the Lowewood Museum and consulted again by kind permission of Neil Robbins.

The early excavations from 1954 – 1969 were undertaken by the ‘Cheshunt Park Archaeological Group’, comprising Tom and Jean Mullinger, Tom Howlett and their friends and families. None had any archaeological training and, despite the efforts of John Kent of the British Museum, Ild Anthony of St. Albans Museum and Geoffrey Gillam of the Enfield Archaeological Society, only limited systematisation could be introduced into even the later stages of the work, for which permission was given by Phyllis Debenham, the owner of the (now demolished) Cheshunt Park House and the surrounding farm.<sup>5</sup> In all over 100 (relatively small) separate ‘trenches’ of one sort or another were cut during this period across a wide area, but mainly focused in what were then known as Pump Meadow and The Orchard (Fig. 2). Nothing is known of those cut before 1957 and little of value is recorded of many subsequent ones, but it is possible to assess some elements of the work undertaken in 1961 – 1964, mainly in an area that was (partly and haphazardly) excavated within a ‘box grid’, so that what recording there was can be evaluated to an extent. Subsequent excavation here and nearby by *Time Team* confirmed/augmented some of the records of this work, however, it should be emphasised that the 1960s records primarily drawn on here are still very incomplete, ‘amateurish’ and problematic, reflecting excavation by individuals with little comprehension of the importance of stratigraphy, the nature of the archaeological method or the importance of accurate record making. Indeed, trench positions and relationships are often in some doubt, excavations in the ‘box gridded’ area subsumed some earlier trenches (not shown on figures) and what is shown on figures are often slightly simplified ‘best fit’ approximations from inadequate records.<sup>6</sup>

### The Settlement

The exact line of Ermine Street at this point is not certain, but possible roadside ditches located by *Time Team* suggest that it lay around 30 m east of the 1960s box grid work (Fig. 2), while another *Time Team* trench c. 15 m closer to the roadline identified a basic tessellated floor of cut tile possibly associated with a beam slot (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). Other than Structures 1 and 2 described below, this is the only specific structural evidence for which reliable records are available, but elsewhere in the ‘box gridded’ area and to its east there are sufficient 1960s and *Time Team* records of e.g. possible surfaces, cbm scatters, cut features and indications of burning to be reasonably confident that there was occupation of some sort across something like a 25 - 30 m<sup>2</sup> area (Fig. 4) and activity covered probably 50 m<sup>2</sup> at least.



Pl. 1: *Time Team* Excavation of the Tessellated Floor (Photo, EAS Gillam Archive)

<sup>5</sup> The site is now in the ownership of Cheshunt Borough Council.

<sup>6</sup> Reconciliation of the location of 1960s work with *Time Team* trenches is also problematic and should not be relied on in detail.

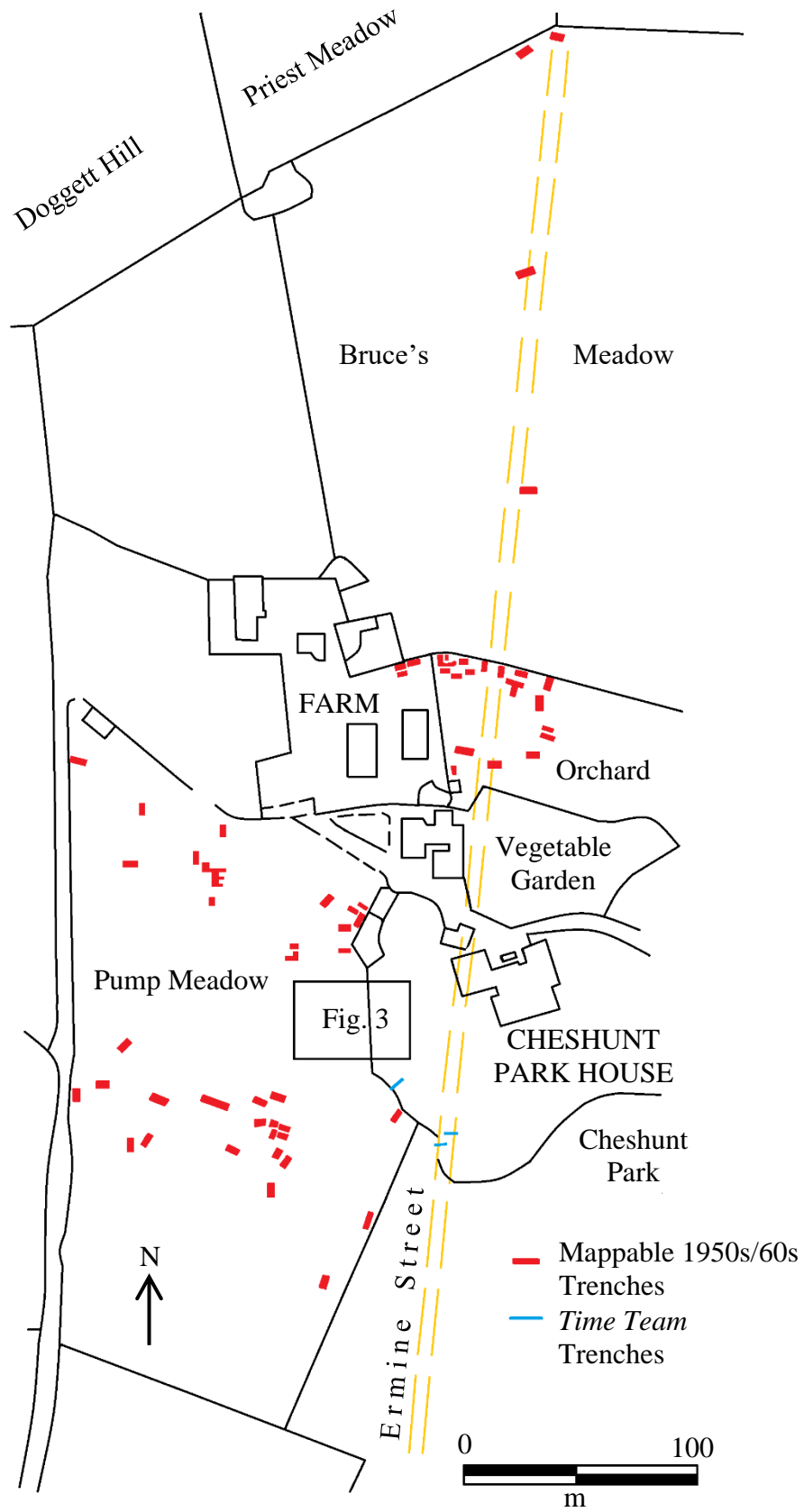


Fig. 2: Mappable Excavation Trenches in Relation to 1960s Site Features

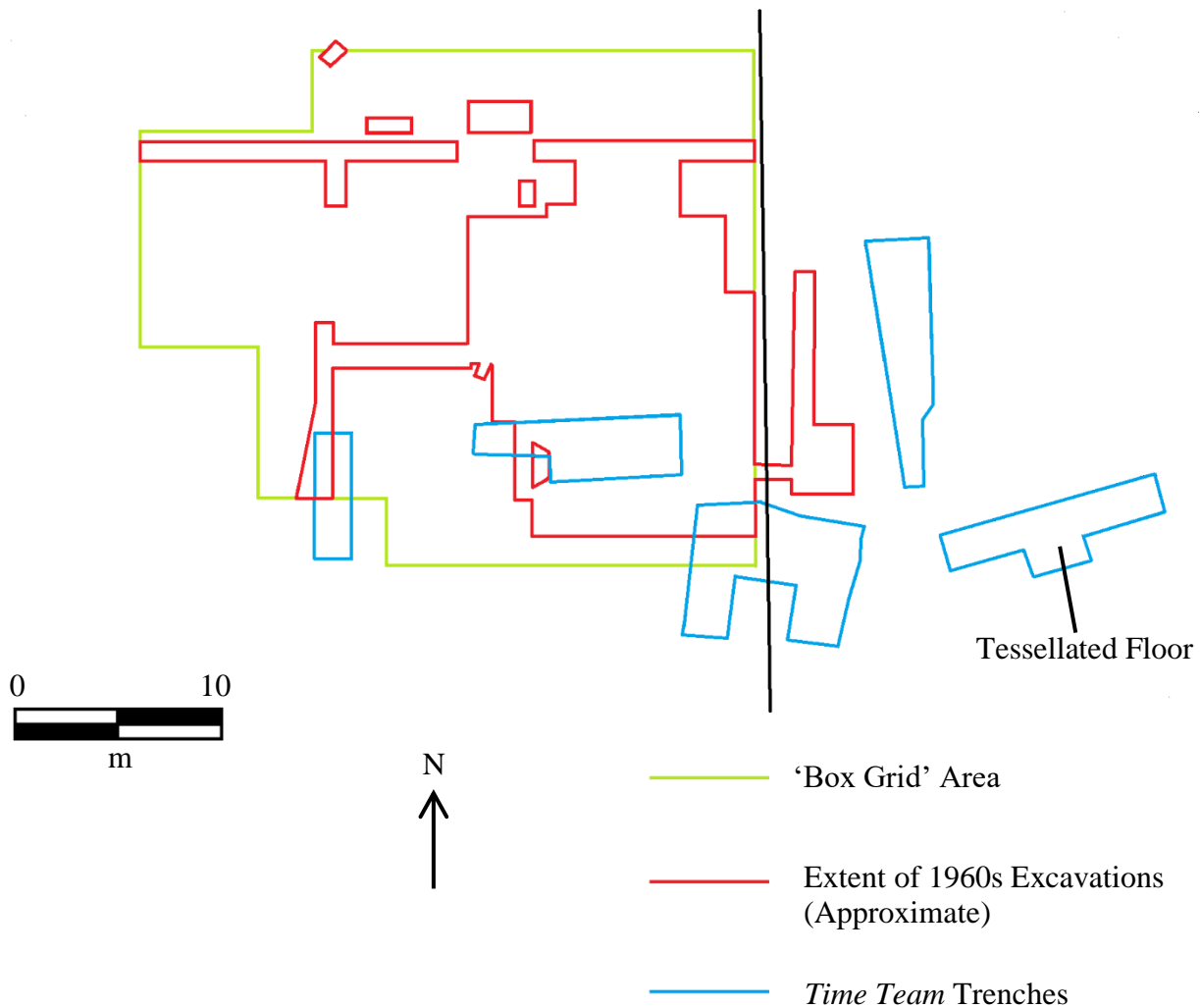


Fig. 3: Excavations in and Around the 1960s 'Box Grid' Area (for Location see Fig. 2)

Gradiometry carried out for *Time Team* (GSB Prospection 2001) and validated by their excavations strongly suggests that there was a rectilinear ditched enclosure west of Ermine Street at this point with two southern entrances. Though the excavators interpreted this as part of 'an earlier brickwork pattern of field boundaries that cover Cheshunt, Broxbourne and Wormley' on an alignment unrelated to Ermine Street (Ely and Edwards 2003, 15), this seems to be contradicted by projections of the line for the road based on their work (Fig. 4). Moreover, they recovered a later first/second century necked jar from the fill of the primary ditch cut here and a partially complete third or fourth century BB1 jar from the fill of a ?recut (Wessex Archaeology (2002, 2); Ely and Edwards (2003, 14f)). This seems to question the enclosure belonging to the putative prehistoric co-axial field system with later subdivision proposed and studied by Bryant *et al* (2005), who (*op cit*, 13 f) cite the assertion that the enclosure alignment is unrelated to Ermine Street as evidence for the date of the putative system. Ely and Edwards' (2003, 15) suggestion that the original ditch was filled when the settlement was established and a later ditch was cut on exactly the same line following some (unevidenced) settlement contraction also seems less likely than that the enclosure ditch defined the Cheshunt Park Farm settlement throughout its existence. Though the records are poor, the 1960s work also suggests the presence of further ditches parallel to, but east of, the western side of the gradiometry detected enclosure (Fig. 4). One might then postulate that the (?subdivided) enclosure (?c. 75 m east west and at least 27 m north south) demarked the formal limits of the Roman settlement, perhaps with its western part less settled as a scatter of possible pits here and west of the enclosure were suggested by the gradiometry.



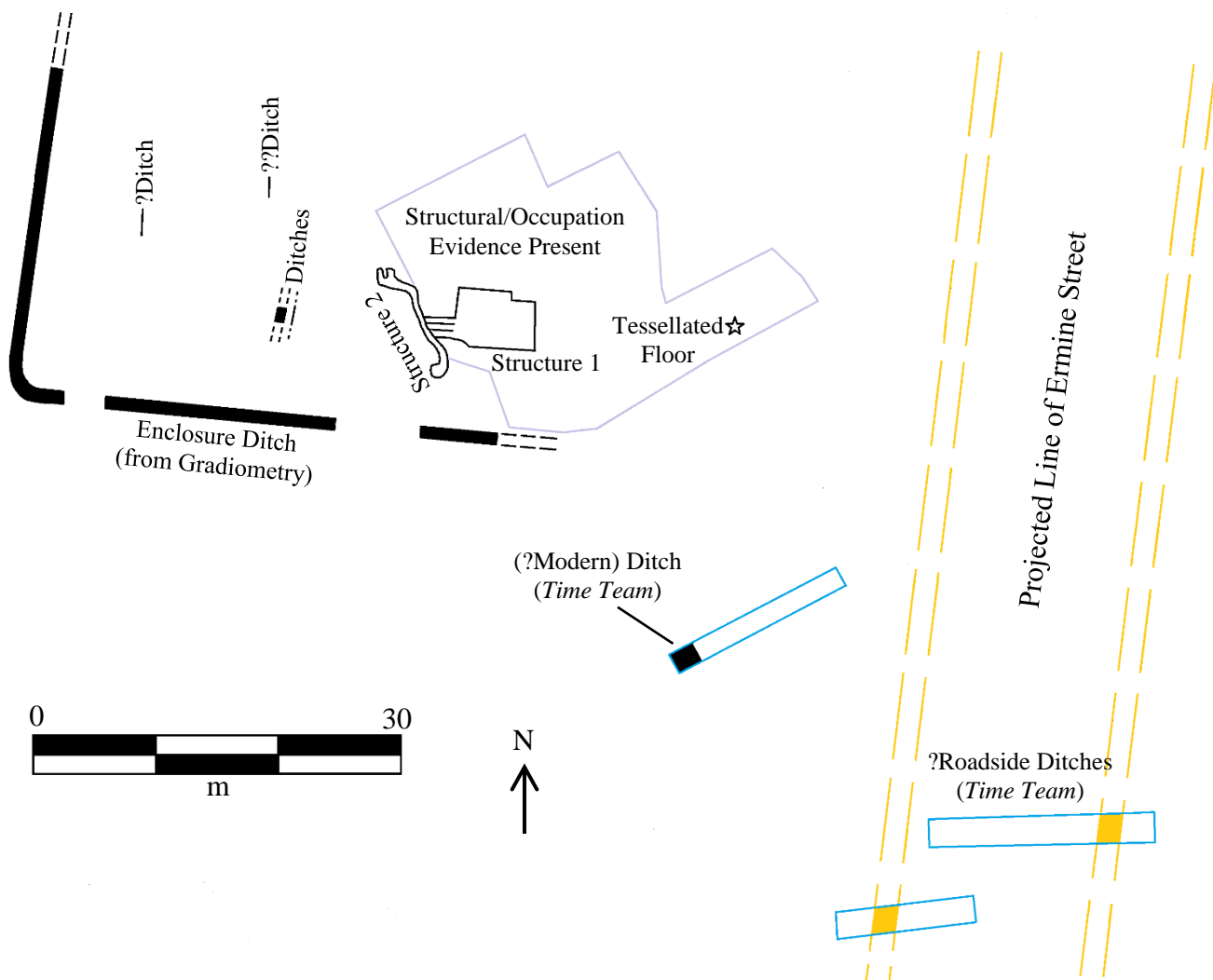


Fig. 4: Evidence for the Roadline, Enclosure and Occupation

Whether that was the case or not, analysis of surviving finds from the early work at the site appears to suggest a Flavian start date and continuous activity through to the fourth century. All material has to be treated as unstratified due to the poor standards and records of the excavations, and what survives is known to only be part of the finds made (mainly from the box gridded area). However, it includes coins<sup>7</sup> of Trajan, M. Aurelius, S. Severus, Tetricus I, Phillipus Augustus and Maximianus plus possibly the House of Constantine and a ?copy of a Constantinopolis issue. Approaching 1,000 sherds of pottery represent both fine and coarse wares. Of c. 60 sherds of samian the earliest are South Gaulish forms 29 and 37 in La Graufesenque fabrics, one of the former perhaps being early Flavian or just possibly Neronian, while second century activity is represented by Trajanic, earlier and mid to mid/late second century vessels which include a form 37 in the style of Ioenalis (Rogers' Potter X-12) of Lezoux. There is little East Gaulish samian, bar a possible sherd from a ??Form 54/Ludowici Vd-g series beaker, but later finewares include Nene Valley colour coated ware beakers and some flagons (and perhaps one East Gaulish black colour coated product), several belonging to the later second to later third centuries and at least one more likely being fourth century. Mortaria also suggest activity over an extended period, and include a late first/early second century Brockley Hill vessel stamped by Marinus (c. AD 80 – 125) (see Appendix 1) and a range of Nene Valley, Colchester and Oxfordshire vessels with, if anything, a preponderance of third and fourth century forms.

Coarseware sources included Highgate Wood (to c. AD 160) and the Verulamium region (though more often in the red firing, cream slipped fabric introduced c. AD 130 than in their buff granular fabric). From the ?later second century Alice Holt products also appeared and from the mid third century Much Hadham vessels. Black Burnished ware was present, but many vessels were in more or less sandy reduced fabrics of unknown origin (though Much Hadham must be a potential source for some of these greywares), including copies of forms made by e.g. the

<sup>7</sup> Both extant coins and lost ones reliably identified by Dr. Kent.

Verulamium region industry. In date it seems likely that the assemblage represents continuous activity through the second, third and fourth centuries. There was only one specifically late first century beaker and one late first/very early second century vessel (and a few sherds in an Iron Age tradition). But second century jars were very common and second century bowls present in reasonable numbers. As is usual specifically identifiable third century vessels were rarer, but present and many low rimmed flanged bowls present probably represented the later second and third centuries. Other flanged bowls identified would be at home in fourth century contexts and a little post mid third century Much Hadham oxidised ware as well as vessels such as a jar comparable to Frere (1972, 359) No. 1239 of AD 350 – 410 reinforces the impression of activity well into the fourth century (though few third and fourth century jars were recognised and few bowls had preserved decoration).

### Structural Features in the 'Box Gridded' Area

#### *Structure 1*

The only structural features excavated in the 1960s in the box gridded area and well enough recorded to do more than speculate about were two partly or wholly tile built constructions of which the earlier was almost certainly Structure 1, a small part of which was re-examined by *Time Team* in 2001 (Ely and Edwards 2003, 13f), though by then many elements of the structure no longer existed.<sup>8</sup>

Structure 1 (Pl. 2) is reconstructed in plan on Fig. 5 as far as is now possible from a variety of records, though in detail at least considerable caution is necessary as records were made haphazardly at different stages of the deconstruction of built features and with no good understanding of stratigraphic principles. However, it appears to have been a 'hypocausted' building, probably a grain drying shed, overall something like 7.08 m east west and 4.72 m north south, but with its east end narrowed to c. 3.20 m. Much of its limits were indicated by the presence of a solid floor of closely packed cracked tile fragments and gravel, described by Ely and Edwards (2013, 13) as a 'charging layer', and probably thicker on the north than south. Up to 21 *pilae*, or at least large tile fragments that might mark their positions, seem to have been found in this structure, and in its central part one or two rectangular cobble features (one 0.50 m wide) might also represent improvised *pilae* bases. The *pilae* were founded on a variety of whole and, mainly, part and matched fragments of floor tiles, the (complete) largest of which (0.40 x 0.29 m) was presumably a *lydion* tile, but others of which were *pedalis* tiles/fragments or incomplete larger tiles. Where surviving, in one case to three courses, the *pilae* were built of smallish *bessalis* tiles (0.19 x 0.18 x 0.03 – 0.04 m) above these bases and were fairly regularly positioned if irregularly spaced.

Evidence for the walls of the structure principally consisted of a 0.66 m wide probable foundation trench cut into (?natural) gravel running along its north side and evidently filled with 0.02 – 0.10 m sized pieces of iron slag forming a deposit 0.08 m deep, and perhaps similar 'pockets' of slag along the east end. However, a ?wall fragment of cobbles and part tiles seems to have been found at the south west corner and, with one or two other patches of cobbling, may well suggest mortared cobble and tile fragment dwarf walls for a timber superstructure at least on the north, east and south. Whether there was any form of wall on the west is unclear, however, tile debris from a 'black deposit' just west of the structure seems to have included more floor tiles, but also *tegula*, *imbrex* (and 'hypocaust') tile fragments, raising the possibility that the structure had a tiled roof.

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<sup>8</sup> Ely and Edwards (2003, 14) assert that 'beam slots were identified within the hypocaust system', presumably referring to 1960s records of up to 0.15 m wide north south clay filled 'channels', one crossing Structure 1 and one well east of it. However, the stratigraphic level of these is unclear and one suspects that they represented an ??earlier structure (if they were indeed beam slots) rather than part of Structure 1. A probable ditch line which may well represent further activity preceding Structure 1 was also recorded in section in the 1960s.



Fig 5: Composite Plan of Structure 1 and Environs (1:50)



The best preserved part of the structure was the at least 2.00 m long flue used to fire the ‘hypocaust’ which lay towards the south side of its west end. It appears that its (?more poorly built) western part may have been extended at some point across a *bessalis* tile surfaced north south slope and may then have been truncated by the construction of Structure 2 (for which see below). The 0.53 m wide flue may have had a cobbled floor and was formed by partly tile founded, clay or mortar bonded flint cobble and tile fragment walls, the north at least ?c. 0.50 m wide and 0.58 m+ high, which may have been topped with, and their inner faces lined with, part tiles. There also seem to have been burnt timbers ?set into these walls. Exactly how the flue related to the ‘hypocausted’ area is unclear, but it may have flared out towards the south west corner of the structure and on the north, where it could have been represented by areas, and a strip of, burnt mortar. Significant ‘black deposits’ within the ‘hypocausted’ area, the flue and the wider area west and north of it presumably represented the firing of the probable grain dryer from somewhere to the west of the recorded flue.

It is possible that Structure 1 burnt down as further ‘black layers’ including a substantial burnt timber seem to have been encountered in its vicinity, but records are too poor to be sure. As to date, what (second to fourth century) pottery survives from the area is from poorly located, and probably poorly differentiated, deposits, but five (unfortunately lost but drawn) fragments of roller stamped, presumably box-flue, tile did come in at least some cases from just above the floor of closely packed cracked tile fragments and gravel, so they should probably provide at least a *terminus post quem* for it. The fragments (?from one tile) unquestionably showed Lowther Die 2 (probably in places with overlapping strikes of a die that may have been worn) and Die 2 belongs to Black’s (1985) Group 1, a group restricted to north of the Thames and probably dateable to c. AD 155 – 75.



Pl. 2: Structure 1, Looking East (Photo, EAS Gillam Archive)

### *Structure 2*

The second structure, again partly re-exposed by *Time Team* (Ely and Edwards 2003, 14 and Fig. 6), comprised a rather sinuous tile built subterranean flue approximately 8.50 m long which incorporated two ‘chimneys’ and ran from a furnace at its northern end to a poorly recorded feature that may or may not have had anything to do with it (Fig. 6). The furnace and flue were apparently well preserved and recorded in some detail by photographs and scale plans/sections which there is at least no reason not to assume are basically valid. But they still leave many questions unanswered and in some cases the plans and sections could be schematised/idealised and elements of them might have been drawn at different stages of ‘excavation’/dismantling of the structure. Again then, in detail at least, considerable caution is necessary in interpreting the records drawn on here and what is shown on Fig. 6, for instance, should not be taken as having the accuracy or authority of a normal archaeological plan.



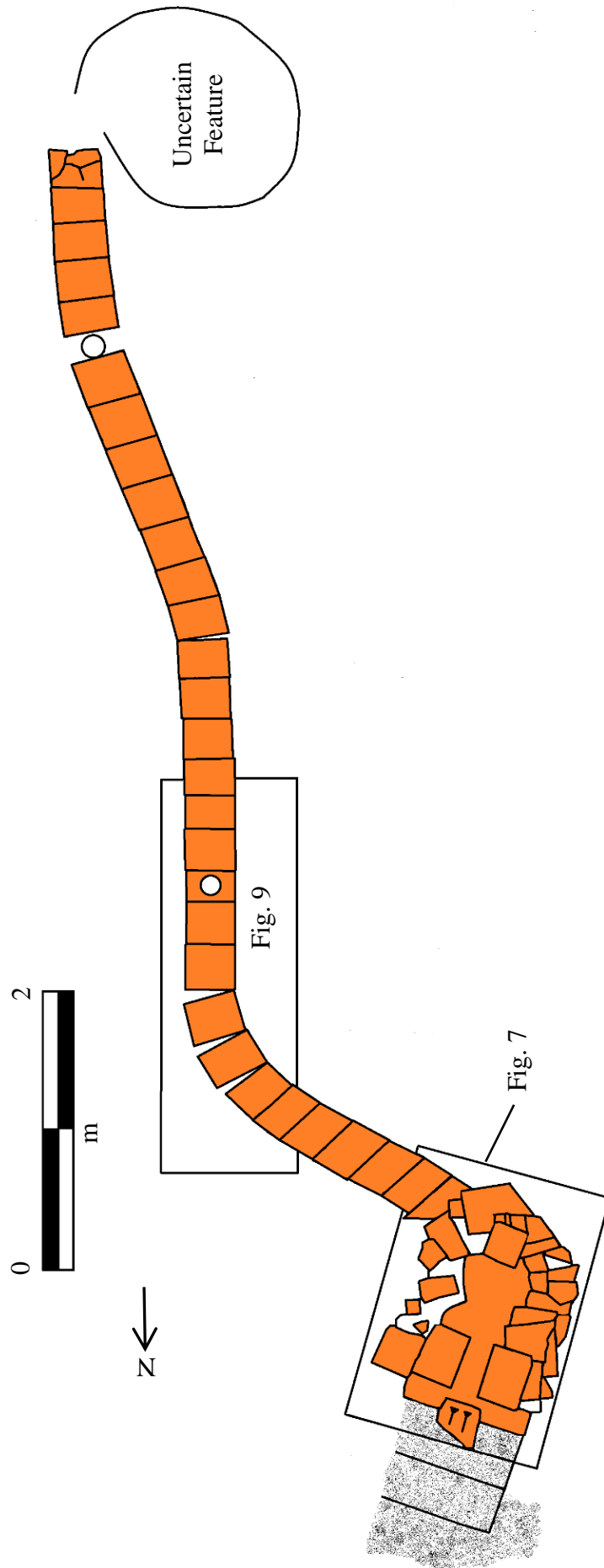


Fig. 6: Structure 2 (Composite Plan from Various 1960s Records) Key as Fig. 5

Never the less, the furnace (Pl. 3; Fig. 7), overall c. 1.40 m long and up to 0.89 m wide, survived to a maximum height of 0.31 m, and in places to five tile courses, above its tile floor. Records of it appear to be reasonably reliable except at its north end where a ?firing chamber, or perhaps an ash pit, may have been represented by what seems to have been a fuel ash/charcoal filled cut north of and the width of the rest of the furnace structure (plans drawn on for Figs 6 and 7 are especially difficult to interpret here; thus, how exactly this cut related to the furnace (if it indeed did) it is now impossible to be sure, while whether a tile fragment ?surface to the north of this (not shown on figures) was associated with the furnace is equally hard to say).



Pl. 3: Structure 2 Furnace (Photo, EAS Gillam Archive)

However, south of this cut it does seem that a step down led to the structural part of the furnace. Itself possibly built into a cut up to 0.28 m deep, it had a floor, covered by a 0.03 m thick layer of ‘soot’ or ‘charcoal’, consisting of perhaps ten (0.40 x 0.28 m) floor tiles lain to give a 0.23 m wide surface behind (north) of, as well as being the base for, a flue ending in an apsidal chamber. Within the chamber the floor apparently had a south westerly slope and the flue was 0.20 – 0.23 m wide. Exactly how the furnace was constructed is probably open to doubt given the paucity of the site recording, but it appears at least that the flue had ‘inner’ and ‘outer’ walls. Thus, a 0.25 m thick coursed floor tile and clay ‘inner’ wall on its west and a five (*lydion*) tile high, clay bonded ‘inner’ wall on its east side seem to be indicated. However, both were flanked by a c. 0.30 m thick ‘outer’ wall of roughly coursed large floor tile fragments (?and more complete floor tiles) that ran south to form the furnace’s apsidal end. On the east side of the flue though the ‘outer’ wall seems to have been more solidly built of *pedalii*, ?bonded by offsetting alternate courses of the ‘inner’ and ‘outer’ walls (in all 0.56 m wide). The apsidal south end of the furnace was asymmetrically set, ?0.37 m in diameter at floor level and broadening to 0.43 m in diameter at the upper surviving point. It presumably had a domed ?fired clay roof, the one surviving tile of the top (fifth) course overhanging the chamber and perhaps providing its base.

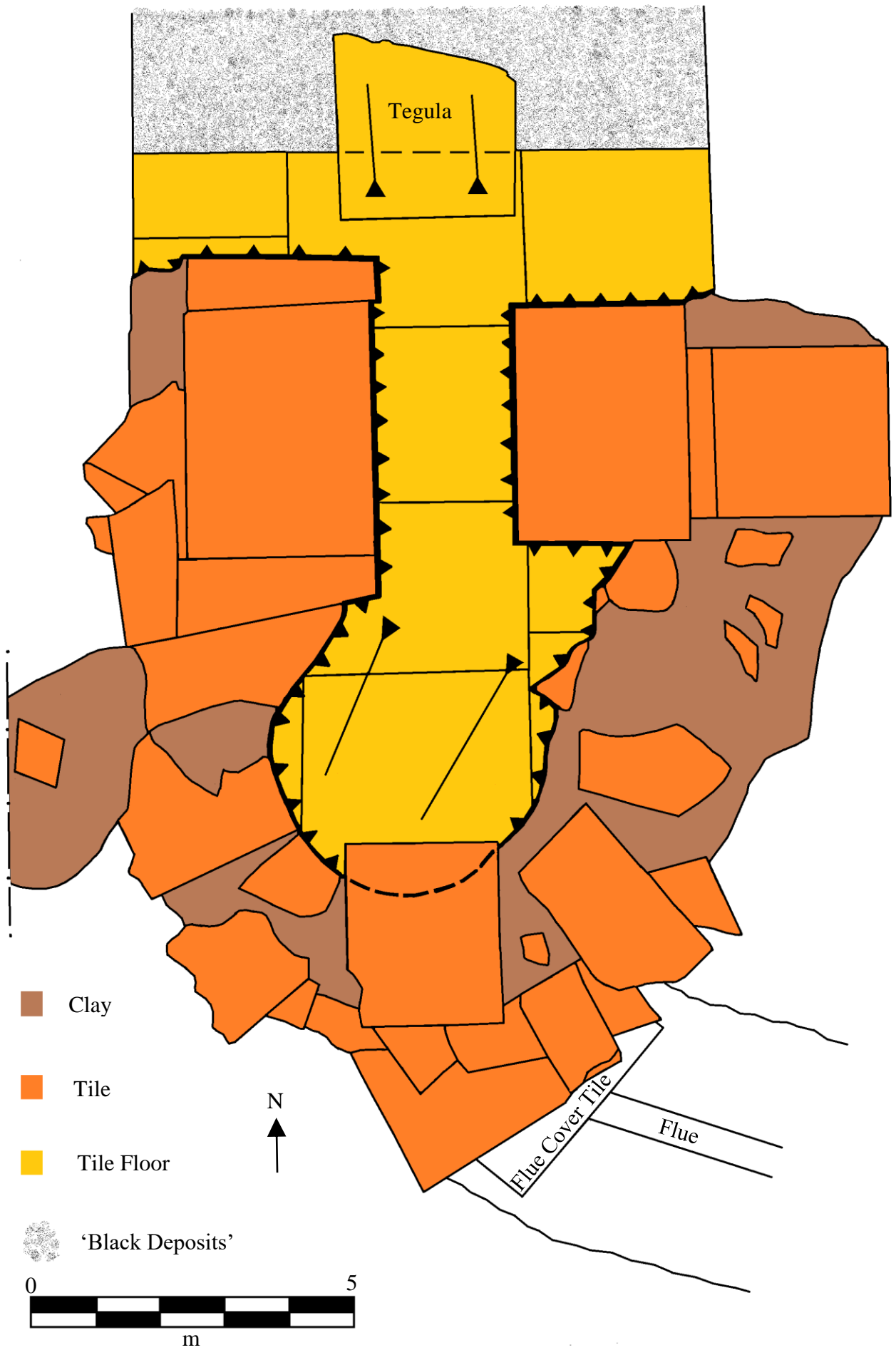


Fig. 7: Structure 2 Furnace and Beginning of Flue



The apsidal chamber evidently communicated at its south end – though the details of how are unclear – with a subterranean flue, perhaps c. 0.12 m below it. Once more caution is necessary in accepting the records made at the time (and much relies on probably schematic archive plans/sections such as those on which Figs 8 and 9 are based), but if they are correct this flue, built into a U-shaped cut and then capped with a thick clay deposit, comprised a 0.08 – 0.10 m wide, 0.11 m high channel defined by two courses of paired c. 0.25 x 0.29 m tiles and roofed with 0.44 m long tiles (presumably *lydions*) flanked by lines of part floor tiles (Fig. 8).

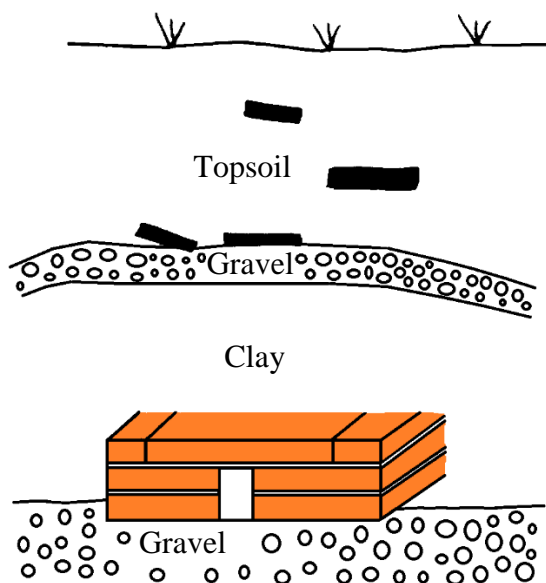


Fig. 8: Probably Schematic Section Showing the Structure 2 Flue Construction near the Furnace

It seems to have run, sloping downwards, initially south east for c. 2.00 m and then for some reason turned to the south where the flue itself narrowed to 0.05 m wide at its lowest point (Fig. 9). The turn is recorded as more heavily constructed, including having a tile floor, a two tile thick roof and ‘curved or ridge’ tiles flanking the roof (Fig. 9A). Returning to a straight course and to a lighter construction beyond the turn (Fig. 9B), after 0.57 m one of the roof tiles was recorded as omitted, and a smaller pair of tiles flanked the flue to accommodate a ‘chimney’. This was evidently formed of a pair of *imbrices* set on their broader ends, edge to edge, slightly off centre with respect to the flue and resting on tiles flanking the flue (Pl. 4), which it seems had been adjusted to narrow just below the ‘chimney’. The ‘chimney’ was c. 0.39 m high, leaving its top, 0.11 m in diameter, apparently just proud of the clay which covered the flue if records are to be believed and presumably served either to provide an initial ‘draw’ through the system (its top being covered when not required) or as one exit point for the hot air drawn through the flue.

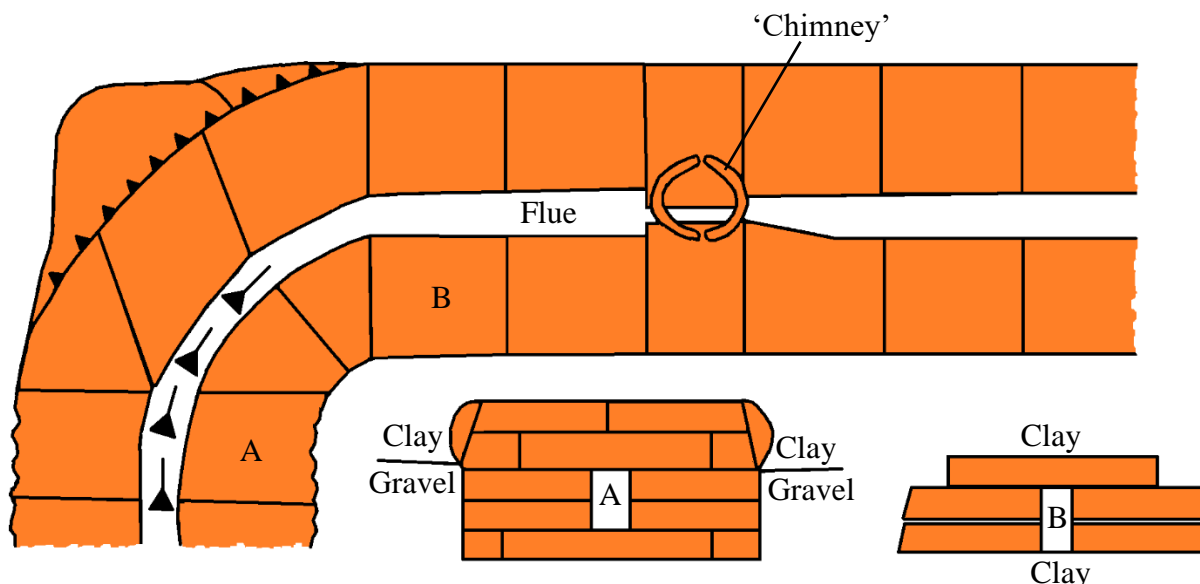


Fig. 9: Probably Schematic Plan (Roof Omitted) of the Structure 2 Flue and its Construction at Two Points



Pl. 4: Structure 2 'Chimney' (Photo, EAS Gillam Archive)

Beyond this the flue may have sloped up again and followed a curved path, incorporating a second similar 'chimney' in a clay packed gap in the roof of the flue (?providing a second 'draw' point or exit point), before it probably sloped down again and appears to have ended, perhaps curving and ?sloping down yet again, at or near a feature which lay on its west side.

But the records of this feature are partial and particularly difficult to interpret, not least because the 'excavation' of it may have been rapid and *ad hoc* and any analysis of records of it must be treated with very considerable caution. However, it appears it was an oval or circular, around 0.90 to 1.00 m diameter, ?straight sided, probably c. 0.95 m deep, possibly tile ??lined and ?floored, ?flat based 'pit' at the centre of a much broader (c. 2.00 m diameter), probably roughly circular, more dished cut. The flue may have lain roughly at the level where the broader cut began and the 'pit' seems to have been partly at least filled with large floor tile fragments and to have been cut to below the (1960s) water table, so it is possible that the 'pit' was in fact a (?later rubble filled) ??sump (or even shallow well) that functioned with or had later truncated the flue. But records here really are too poor to be sure of almost anything about this feature.

The only indication of the date of any finds that might have been associated with Structure 2 is an archive note that Dr. Kent identified pottery found in the vicinity of its furnace as of the late third/fourth centuries, but excavation was clearly far too amateurish to place any store on this.

### Discussion

It is extremely regrettable both that the majority of the work that has been done to date at Cheshunt Park Farm was undertaken by people with little or no understanding of archaeological methods and that what has been prosecuted in a professional way has been so limited. Never the less, it is clear that something more than a simple farming settlement existed here, probably throughout the majority of the Roman period, and there can be little doubt that it was a roadline settlement like those better known at Bush Hill Park, Enfield (Dearne 2017) and Ware (Partridge and Day 1979; Kiln and Partridge 1995; O'Brien with Roberts 2004/5; Petchey and Collier 2004/5). What we can actually say about its size and functions though remains limited. Structure 1 seems far more likely to represent evidence for a drying/gentle heating process carried out on some scale rather than the heating of any

residential building. One is inevitably tempted then to suggest that significant quantities of grain were either being dried for storage or malted for brewing. Indeed, this would not be the only instance of what looks like large scale grain processing in the general area as another particularly large corn dryer is known at Foxholes Farm (Partridge 1989, 36ff, corndryer 5). Other possibilities (e.g. the initial drying of pottery or tiles) might be canvassed, but seem far less likely.

That iron slag was apparently used in Structure 1's foundations presumably indicates on site metalworking, while it is difficult not to assume that Structure 2 had some sort of industrial function. What that might have been is much harder to suggest, but the degree of effort and planning involved in constructing it surely implies something specialist in nature being undertaken systematically. It is then especially regrettable that so little is known of the feature at the south end of the flue and whether it was in fact connected to the rest of the structure. However, one can assume that whatever process the flue served its intent was to provide a controlled flow of hot air rather than more direct heat to at least one point and perhaps up to three (if the 'chimneys' were not simply to provide a 'draw' through the system). Grain drying/malting, perhaps brewing or processes where controlled steam generation was required (e.g. steam bending of timber) might all be canvassed as possibilities.

Sadly though the site finds provide few other clues to the function and status of the settlement. There are one or two vessels that might be imputed a ritual function (Appendix 1) and ?lava quern fragments and pieces of window glass are believed to have been recovered (but are lost), however, the circumstances of the work and known loss of many finds mean that nothing beyond this can usefully be said. The one aspect though that is striking is the amount and variety of fired ceramic material (be it new or re-used) available for construction work (and indeed the impression from archives of the amount of loose tile encountered, in some cases forming putative tile fragment surfaces and, indeed, the simple tessellated surface found by *Time Team*). The author has discussed elsewhere the inherent problems in knowing what the presence of tiles may mean for the status of settlements like Cheshunt Park Farm in terms of whether they may have had an establishment such as a *mansio* within them (Dearne 2018), but one possibility is that Structures 1 and 2 could have been constructed from tile reused on the demolition of such a *mansio*. Equally, the first three settlements on the line of Ermine Street north of *Londinium* (Bush Hill Park, Cheshunt Park Farm and Ware) are unusually close together and it may be that this indicates that especially heavy *cursum publicum* use of this road led to a greater than usual incidence of *mansiones* and *mutationes* along it (see further Dearne 2017, 322ff). Thus, the establishment of a *mansio* (or *mutatio*) must be one putative origin for the Cheshunt Park settlement. Yet the availability of tile for building work could equally be due to the presence of a tiler somewhere in the vicinity, if not at the site itself; the brickearths of the Lea Valley are ideal for tile production even if few production sites are known.

The origin and function(s) of the Cheshunt Park Farm settlement then remain unclear, as indeed they do even for many better evidenced roadline settlements. Most must have prospered to some extent from 'passing trade' and some probably hosted *cursum publicum* establishments or at least civil inns, but others may have developed specialist industrial functions and some at least might have been tied to the agricultural economy as much as that represented by travellers along roads (Dearne 2008; 2017, 319ff). In which categories Cheshunt Park Farm fitted we simply do not yet have the evidence to say. However, the roadside situation must have played some role in its economy and the presence of another site at Holy Cross Hill only 1.3 km along Ermine Street to the north, where a considerable amount of Roman material and coinage has been found but no permanent settlement is evident (Dearne 2016), emphasises that roads act as a draw to all sorts of people. It is possible that the latter was a 'camping' site regularly used by e.g. itinerant traders or even brigands, in contrast to the presumably more permanently settled Cheshunt Park Farm, but both emphasise the role that roads must have played in the economy of Roman Britain and so the importance of disseminating even the partial and flawed evidence provided by the work to date at Cheshunt Park Farm.



## Appendix 1: Selected Finds

A full analysis of the extant and otherwise recorded finds from the 1960s work is available in Dearne *et al* (2010), but five pottery vessels are sufficiently important or unusual to merit specific publication here.

Fig. 10 No. 1: a semi complete mortarium with a low bead and deep hooked rim in a Brockley Hill fabric, stamped MARINUS with FECIT counterstamp. Marinus was stamping his wares during the late first and the first quarter of the second centuries (e.g. Hartley in Frere (1972, 376) No. 26, assigned to AD 70 – 110); though Tyers (1996, 132) suggests AD 80 – 125 for his floruit.

Fig 10 No. 2: an element of an uncertain, compositely made vessel/object. Dark red core, black external surface. Hard micaceous fabric. Groove rimmed, externally carinated, semi-hemispherical and retaining traces of a ‘wall’ attaching it to some other element. Distant comparison might be made with Marsh and Tyers (1978) 9.E vessels, but these are usually in oxidised fabrics and consist of three more vase like miniature vessels on a base and the miniature vessels are usually basally pierced, though they may have a small internal ledge as shown here and the basal piecing might have been absent if this was some sort of ‘puzzle jug’. Desk inkwells might be another possibility, but are usually in copper alloy. Alternatively a similar construction may have been used for the base of a tazza. However, the item is an exceptionally close match for approximately the middle (separating two compartments) of an unidentified cylindrical double-ended vessel (?? a two-ended measure for liquids, the capacities for the two compartments being approximately 2:1), two heavily-decorated, but very poorly potted examples of which came from kilns at Rushden, Northants. (Woods and Hastings 1984, 87ff, Nos. 165 – 6) where they seem to date from the middle of the first century AD. (The author is grateful to Andrew Peachey for discussing this item with him and Roger Dormer and suggesting some of the possible identifications, including the last).

Fig. 10 No. 3: an unusual jar. Grey core, orange surface, cream white slip. Moderately hard granular Verulamium region red fabric with cream slip. The vessel is a jar, but the rim is formed as a Marsh and Tyers (1978) 4.A.7 or more likely 4.A.8 bowl with its grooved top, but here also with the edge of the rim grooved twice (occasionally seen on 4.A bowls; Hammerson and Murray 1978, 358 No. 1135). ?c. AD 130 - 180/200. This probably represents occasional jar production by potters used to making a common bowl form at the beginning of the use of a new red firing, cream slipped fabric in the Verulamium region.

Fig. 10 No. 4: a (?face) jar. Orange (at thickest grey) core and orange surface. Moderately hard, micaceous fabric with occasional white quartz and clay pellets. Discoid rim with prominent internal projection. Abraded external beaded/crimped cordon and part of raised/applied moulding. An unusual third/fourth century Much Hadham product. Though heavily abraded, its internal profile makes it very difficult to see this as a functional vessel and, together with its very unusual rim and the indications of decoration below it, it must be very likely that this was a ritual vessel. It adds to the evidence for this aspect of the, as yet under studied, Much Hadham oxidised ware industry.

Fig. 10 No. 5: a small flanged beaker. Orange/red core, grey/buff margin, black slipped internal and external surfaces, external burnished. Hard sandy fabric. No parallels have been noted for this extremely unusual ?miniature vessel (rim Di. 8 cm).

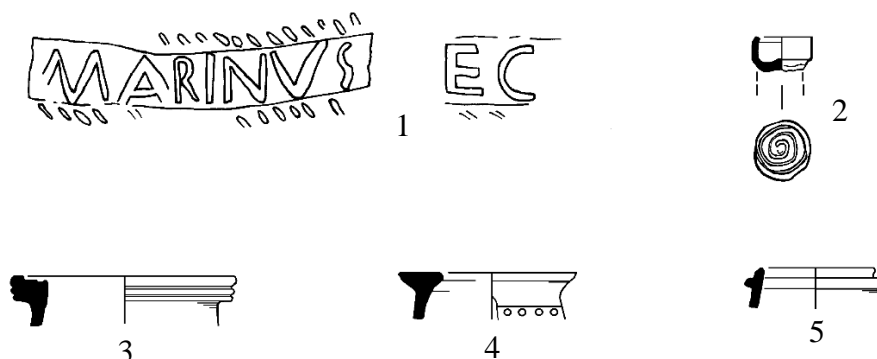


Fig. 10: Finds (1:4 except No. 1 at 1:1)

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