

# Evidence from excavation

## Mr Ratford's House or shop

### Excavation of the site of a 17<sup>th</sup> Century House at Wimpole Hall

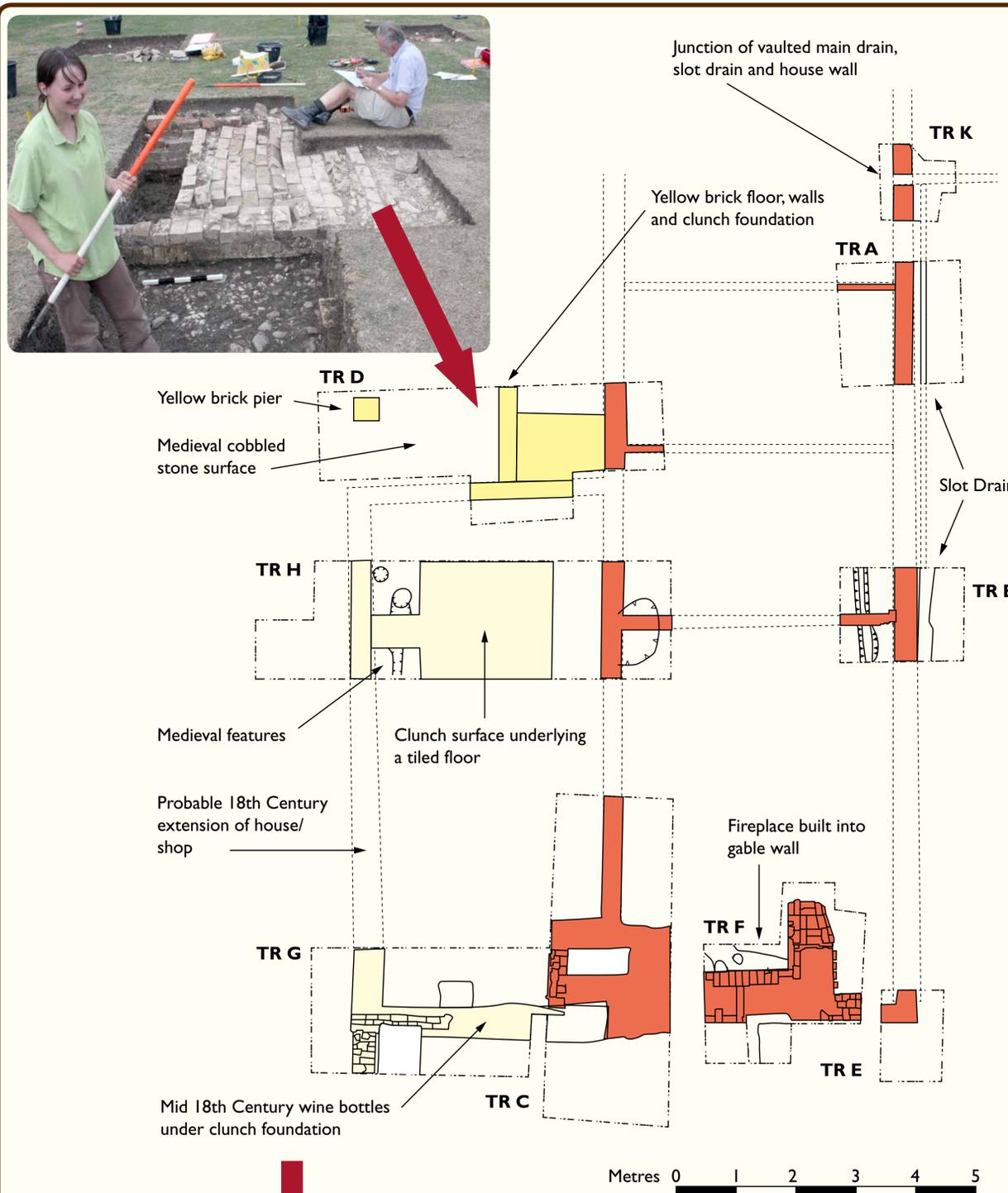
The site was discovered when brickwork was found in a trench for a telephone cable excavated to the south west of the buildings of Home Farm.

Documentary research showed that in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century this was probably the home and shop of John Ratford (otherwise Radford).

It had replaced a house originally occupied by John Stokes, as shown on the 1638 map by Benjamin Hare.

In 2010 and 2011 ten trenches were excavated to explore the construction of the building, the state of preservation of the structure and date of occupancy.

The excavations were carried out by members of CAFG including a number of school and college students.



#### EVIDENCE FROM EXCAVATION

Finds of pottery, glass and metal all suggest that this was a household living at a level somewhat above the normal for rural living. Tea, not ale, drinkers.



Gold plated scent bottle top

Wig curler [part]



Italian tin-glazed earthenware



Drawing slate and stylus



Engraved wine glass



Staffordshire teapot finial

Red brick walls survive just below the turf.

House is one room across and at least five long.

Walls were probably timber framed.

South end has a massive redbrick gable with inglenook fireplace.

Roofing was probably thatch with some ceramic and stone tile.

Built of red brick in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, extended in later 18<sup>th</sup> century with clunch foundations and demolished in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Analysis of all the pottery shows the presence of significant amounts from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Unlike the test pits, there is also pottery from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### Pottery by number of sherds and by period

