Little London Roman Tileworks Excavation Project
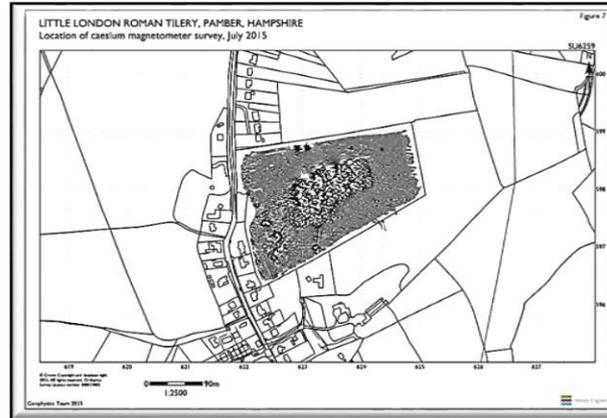

SITE BACKGROUND

The site is the potential location of a Romano-British tileworks producing building materials for the Roman town of Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*) approximately 1km to the north-east. It has been subjected to limited formal investigation.

Lt. Col. Karslake excavated at the site in 1925 when he discovered a widespread deposit of Roman bricks and tiles including a fragment of tile bearing a stamp: **NER.CL.CÆ.AUG.GR,** the title of the Emperor Nero.

Eleven other tiles with similar stamped have been found within the walled town at Silchester. One example was found during the Antiquarian excavations of the public baths at Silchester. A further ten examples have been recovered during the more recent excavations of the forum-basilica and *Insulae* IX & III.

LITTLE LONDON ROMAN TILERY, PAMBER, HAMPSHIRE
Location of caesium magnetometer survey, July 2015

AIMS OF THE PROJECT

A detailed geophysical survey of the site has been carried out. Magnetometer results have highlighted a number of anomalies worthy of investigation.

Two trenches have been located to investigate these anomalies.

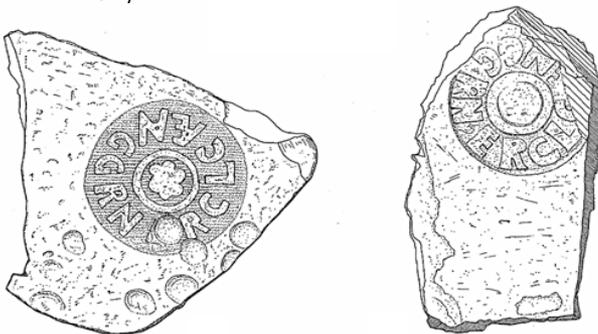## WHY IS NERO'S TITLE FOUND ON TILES AT SILCHESTER?

Nero was Emperor from AD54-68, early in the development of the Roman town. The tiles are seen as evidence of an Imperial sponsored building programme at Silchester.

Was Nero trying to buy the support of the Calleva locals with a lavish spending spree, or perhaps thanking them for their defence against the Boudiccan rebellion of A.D. 60/61?

The municipal baths in Insula XXXIII are among the earliest public buildings in the town, therefore, these tiles could have been produced for this large scale public building project.

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