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# The Early Neolithic household remains of Lugo di Romagna, Fornace Gattelli (North East Italy)

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## Résumé

In the village of the Early Neolithic of Lugo di Romagna, Fornace Gattelli (North East Italy), have been found and excavated (1983-2001) by the State Archaeological Heritage Service (Soprintendenza Archeologia, Bologna - Italy) the exceptionally well preserved remains of a sector of the perimeter fence surrounding the village and of a wattle and daub house. The quick burial of the structures gives us a view of a living space as it was when the fire spread and provides us with interesting information about the activities in the house and its immediate surroundings. Also important are some details regarding the ritual aspects associated with the construction of fencing structures and the construction of the house.

Enclosure structures include, in a first phase, a ditch with pits on the bottom and an earthen wall along the interior border; in the second and last phase, the fence is made by a palisade, whose wedge timbers were found carbonised along the structure.

Inside the house, have been found remains of three ovens and a hearth, and traces of an interior division in two rooms. House walls were obtained by a timber frame with an inhomogeneous plot, covered with silty clay mixture, collapsed and partially burnt by the fire which destroyed the structure. Only a part of the daub of the walls is sintered in a permanent way, while most of it remained at an inconsistent stage reddened by the heat; this incoherent mass was weighed on the excavation and withdrawn in part, hardened daub fragments were systematically located on the map and picked up, and afterwards fully weighed and examined. The refitting of data obtained with the study of all daub fragments and the comparison of these data with the house plan features found under the amount of walls debris has permitted to reconstruct building techniques, collapse dynamics and some postdepositional events.

The amount of hardened daub is about 3% of the incoherent mass of reddened earth, according to the hypothesis of an accidental fire as the event which destroyed the house.

This paper's aim is to present the main results of the systematic study of recovered data – site geomorphology, anthropic layers micromorphology, pollen analysis, raw materials, clay and timber work and other materials working processes, disposal and functional study of the examined structural earthen remains – that has now been completed.

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