§3.2 The North-West Building, Level IIIId

Sarah Blakeney and Yağmur Heffron

Level IIIId (Plan P4)
The North-West Building as recovered in this phase is roughly square in shape, and largely intact, although the NW corner is lost to the slope of the mound, and how far the whole complex extended to the west is an open question. The building is bordered on its NE side by an outdoor area called the “Eastern Courtyard”, south of which was an open space containing pits, while outside its SE wall there was a cobbled area. The slope of the mound down to the north and west suggests this building stood at the NW corner of the settlement, although the presence of the stub ends of Rooms 35 and 36, and the second wall foundation outside the NW wall of Rooms 30 and 32 with wall returns to its NW show that there were further rooms at this point. The existing plan of the building is thus of a suite of seven clearly defined rooms with the possibility of perhaps another couple to the north and west that have been lost to the mound slope (Photo 3.2.1).

The rooms in the middle and eastern side of the building (Rooms 32, 30, 31, and 37) are roughly similar in size and shape – a longer rectangular room on the north side (30 and 32) and a shorter slightly squarer room behind on the south side (31 and 37). The four rooms forming this suite are broadly similar in construction and phasing. Rooms 30, 31 and 37 are all “work” rooms, housing storage vessels or fire installations. Room 32 does have some special features, but for reasons discussed below it does not seem to have been a primary component of the plan, but rather a space created by the adjacent rooms. Hence it may well be that the North-West Building as we have recovered it was only an ancillary part of a complex of which the most significant sector was represented by Room 33 with Rooms 34 and 38, which cover the width of the building from NW to SE, and possibly also other rooms further west, now lost. Hence we can say that the exterior width of the complex, from W100 at the NW end of Room 32, to W5801, at the SE end of Room 37, comes to 13 m, while if we accept the seven rooms (Rooms 30-34, 37-38) as the entire complex the length from NE to SW would also be about 13 m, increasing marginally towards the NW thanks to the divergence of walls W113 and W5602. If we suppose that the complex continued further to the west, the NW-SE dimension remains unchanged, whereas the NE-SW length would probably be at least 17 m.

Internal surfaces
Rooms 30, 31, and 37 have two distinct phases of occupation indicated by two clear floor surfaces in each room. In each of these rooms we have referred to the higher of the two floors as “Surface 1”, and the lower as “Surface 2”. In the absence of continuously plastered floors running over thresholds, we cannot affirm that Surface 1 was laid simultaneously in each room, but it seems reasonable to assume that the final floor surface in each room was in use at the moment when the IIIId phase of the building was closed down, and since in each case the floors were raised by about the same height, it also seems reasonable, though less certain, to guess that this took place at the same time as part of a general reflooring event. However, the rooms had different constructional histories, and Room 32 had a more complex stratigraphic sequence, with both walls and floor resurfaced several times (see below): it is likely that one of these refloorings coincided with the laying of the later Surface 1 in Rooms 30, 31 and 37, but it is not possible to say which. The floor, like the walls, in Room 33 was also carefully plastered on at least two occasions, but the filling materials used here were quite different from those on the rooms at the east side of the building. Little was left of the deposits in Room 34, and Room 38 was only excavated to its highest surface so there might well be an earlier floor level beneath.
Room 30
The description of Room 30 in EKT, 114-5, is still generally valid. The internal length of the room varies from 5.98 m at the west side to 6.25 m at the east side; and the internal width at 0.75 m north of W830 is 2.55 m, at 2.60 m north of W830 2.63 m, and 0.75 m south of W109 2.60-2.63 m. It therefore narrows slightly towards the SE and its length increases towards the NE. Two occupation surfaces were identified in Room 30. The later floor was some 30 cm higher than the first, and lay beneath a thick (55-65 cm) deposit of fill at the south end of the room, less at the north, due to the slope of the mound. Wall plaster continuous with the lower floor ran up the face of the stone foundation, and the later plaster of the upper floor ran up the face of the overlying mud-brick. At least three coatings of pinkish-white plaster were visible on the internal wall faces at the south end of the room.

At least one function of Room 30 was storage: there were pot emplacements in both floors, two at the south end of the room on the lower, and two at the east side on the upper floor. In 2007 the fill between the two floors falling within I20, which had not previously been excavated, was cleared down to Surface 2, a clearly recognisable horizontal surface marked by white phytolith traces (at ~96.37 m), but without any other distinctive feature or finds. Access into the room was presumably via its north end as there were no clear breaks in the other walls. Investigations in 2007 at the north end of the room failed to elucidate the purpose of the mud-brick structure across the north end of the room (W742). It could have been a secondary wall surviving to a height of only some 15 cm, but it could also have been some sort of bench feature or the base of a stair. Also at the north end of the room a pit (P07/28) cutting the room fill was located against the north wall proper (W109). This was filled with lumpy soil, including medium sized pebbles and many small pieces of animal bone; it may have been sealed by the mud-brick of W742, and seems to have burrowed in underneath the stones of the SE face of W109 without removing the upper courses. It could indeed have been an old animal burrow. Alternatively, the surviving stones of W109 may represent a foundation course (e.g. of Level IIIe) cutting through the north side of the pit.

Room 30 units and finds
Occupation surface, north half of Rm 30: 71702
Fill, north half of Rm 30: 71701, 71703, 71704, 71708

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Feature W742 and fill beneath it: 71705, 71706
P07/28: 71707, 71709
Surface clearance: 71700

Room 31
Outstanding questions in Room 31 were the position of the south wall of the building, and of any thresholds giving access to adjacent rooms. It was probably the most disturbed of all the rooms, as the west wall of the Stele Building overlies the room at its SE corner. Its length, measured at 1.07 m east of W5804, is 5.04 m; its width, measured at 0.80 m north of W5801, is 2.85 m from mud-brick face to mud-brick face, and 2.62 m from stone foundation to stone foundation. A large pit (P97/69=P07/30; see §4) cut through W831 and removed the middle section of the wall together with an area of floor on the east side of the room. Like Rooms 30 and 37, Room 31 had at least two main floor surfaces. The upper floor (Surface 1: 84026) was relatively easy to trace beneath fill layers 84023 in I19b and 84018 and 84019 in I19d. It sloped gently down to the north, from +96.72 m at the south corner of the room.
to +96.64 m at the north, and was marked by white phytolith patches in places and patches of brown burning in others. This floor surface did not survive in the NE corner where an area marked out by a large crack in the surface surrounding it contained darker soil with largish stones protruding from it. Either the floor sloped more steeply here and more fill needed removing, or the activities that cut away parts of the western wall face of W831 had also removed the floor surface in this area.

Wall 831 at its north end was difficult to define, and excavation of the fill at that end of Room 31 suggested that there had been later intrusion into the fill by a mixed deposit packed up against the west face of Wall 831 which may have cut into the west side of the wall itself. Further south the remainder of W831 was cut away by pit P97/69 and then built over by the Stele Building, so that the only well-preserved part of W831 was the SE end, as exposed inside Room 8 of the Stele Building, where it turned westwards to form W5801. In this wall corner, measuring 82 cm N-S by 60 cm E-W, three yellow bricks measuring 18 cm x 30 cm were visible laid in a row and set into orange bricky material which extended 12 cm in width beyond the edge of the bricks and gave the wall a discernible width of 70 cm.

In association with Surface 1 were two fire installations – FI 08/09 which was situated on the west side of the room just south of the threshold area in the corner of the room (for which see on Rm 37 below) and FI08/10 in the SE corner of the room. The two fire installations were generally of the same construction method. Both were made up of a thick grey plaster layer giving a base ca. 1-2.5 cm thick, and surrounded by a burnt clay rim. FI08/09 found up against W5804 was of a slightly better construction than FI08/10 on the east side of the room, as it had a layer of small pebbles underlying the plaster base (Photo 3.2.2). FI08/10 was much wider (diameter of at least 1 m as opposed to FI08/09 which was probably 70-80 cm in diameter when complete), but as it was lying directly beneath the Stele Building’s west wall it was very badly damaged (Photo 3.2.3). In fact at the level of the upper surface FI08/10 was mainly recognized from a large dump of ashy burnt debris presumably from the collapsed superstructure, whilst the clay oven floor was recognized lower down in the course of clearing the lower floor (Surface 2), suggesting that FI08/10 was in use during both phases of the room. It is presumed that both fire installations were originally circular in shape and probably had clay domed walls. The other interesting feature of FI 08/09 was its position in the room very close to the threshold into Rm 37, so that in fact the outer clay rim that surrounded the oven, also curled round to become part of the plastering of the east face of the threshold, indicating that the oven and threshold were part of the same construction or replastering process. Apart from these two fire installations there were no other features of note associated with the upper or lower surface.

Above Surface 1 at the north end of the room, falling within I19b, a thick band of packing, the characteristic mixture of clean yellow and grey bricky material encountered elsewhere, lay against the SE face of W830. The packing was in two successive bands: the lower (74578) respected an uneven brick ledge along the south side of the wall, which was some 30 cm in width and incorporated a line of uneven shaped stones. Towards the south the base of the packing layer yielded some larger bones and potsherds, which indicates that we were entering the Surface 1 floor deposit (excavated in the following season as 84023). The upper band (74577) was more of the same grey and yellow packing, but ran over the line of stones to meet the SE face of the main foundation. 74577 and 74578 together had a depth of no more than 15 cm, and to their west the same stratigraphic material was removed with 74582. The fill taken out as 74577 was sealed by a thick pinky-white layer which ran over the stones of W830 to the NW and marks the end of Level III and the base of Level IIa. Above the pinky-white layer, units 74572 and 74570 were composed of clean packing which was also a characteristic mix of yellow and grey, but ran over the few remaining stones of the IIIe version of W831. This clearly represents a back-filling event when the walls of the room were no longer standing.

In the southern half of the room the packing above Surface 1 (84019) was similar yellow and grey material, with charcoal lumps, except at the east side where a patch of burnt material (84018)
indicated the presence of FI08/10. This packing was up to 20 cm thick, and like the floor itself it sloped gently down towards the NW corner of the room. The upper limit of this packing coincided with the highest surviving traces of the west wall of the room (W5804), and the layer of packing material above this extended across the line of the wall, just as the higher packing in I19b (74572 and 74570) ran over the stones of W831.

The decision was made to excavate below Surface 1 only in the southern half of the room as we suspected interference into the deposits in the northern half. The material below Surface 1 (94058) was a mixed fill some 15–18 cm in depth, and its removal exposed the lower surface of the room, Surface 2, together with the lower part of FI08/10 which, as mentioned above, we believe to be associated with both floors. At the south corner of the room it revealed the west side of a threshold leading out onto the exterior cobbled surface to the south, and uncovered a small ledge of bricky material some 20 cm in width wedged with a single row of small stones up against the east face of wall W5804, not unlike the additional line of stones against the foundation of W830 at the north end of the room. This brick ledge was not part of the foundation of the wall and seemed too uneven to be a bench feature; perhaps it was inserted to strengthen the wall when the upper floor was laid.

On excavation Surface 2 was found to be very uneven in nature. Along the edges of walls W5811 and W5804 within the room there was a width (40 cm along W5811 and 20 cm along W5804) of very hardened and compacted floor surface. However it suddenly dips downwards by ca. 9–10 cm into the centre of the room and there are a number of pebbles and small stones pressed into the surface. This depressed area of the floor is ca. 94 cm N-S by ca. 70 cm E-W. It might be an emplacement for something, but this seems unlikely so close to the exit threshold in the SW corner of the room, so its function remains enigmatic. The floor area around the base of FI08/10 and in the middle section of the room seemed quite solid and there was a burnt brown section of floor close to FI08/10 with some residual yellow ash on it.

At the west end of Wall 5811 in the SW corner of Room 31 was a clear threshold leading from Room 31 out onto the exterior cobbled surface 84060 to the south. The length of the threshold area was uncertain as it extended under the Stele Building’s west wall but it had a width of ca. 50 cm across the space where Wall 5811 would have run. The threshold area was made up of an outer line of large flat stones (on the Room 31 side) with a slight step up (8 cm) across a hard clay like substance (31 cm in width) to a 13 cm step up (over a timber set into the step) onto the cobbled exterior surface on the south side of the building. The timber slot ran lengthwise along the base of the step out of the building for at least 50 cm before disappearing under the wall of the Stele Building – presumably it performed some function in the threshold step up arrangement similar to the steps seen in the IIc phase building in H19d.

The details of this threshold area were only seen clearly in association with the lower floor of the room. If, as we presume, there was also a threshold here belonging with Surface 1, the evidence for it would have been removed by the Stele Building construction, which would also have removed the corresponding ground surface outside the room to which the doorway would have led. At neither floor level was a door socket found associated with this threshold area. However, where W5801 and W5804 should have met there is not the expected stone masonry but an enigmatic hollow rectangular feature. It had a total width of ca. 36 cm and length of 29–48 cm (the west side being longer) and was at least 25 cm deep, though possibly deeper; the interior was filled with loose material and its inner surfaces were clay-plastered in places. A similar hollow box-like feature was noted at the junction of walls at the NE corner of Room 3 in the Level Iic Stele Building (EKT p. 125), although here it was not associated with a doorway.

Room 31 units and finds
Fill below Floor 1 in S half: 94058
- 94058 119/692 Copper pendant 297
- 94058 119/696 Spindle whorl 197

Floor 1: 84026
Fill above Floor 1 (I19d): 84018, 84019, 84026
Lower packing above Floor 1 (I19b): 84023
Yellow and grey packing above Floor 1 (I19b): 74570, 74572, 74577, 74578
- 74578 119/448 Fossil 600

Unstratified wash: 74547

Room 32
This was the largest room in the complex, but it is irregular in shape. Its length NW-SE, measured at 2 m west of W112 from the stone foundation of W100 to the line of the stone foundation of W5805, is 6.02 m; its width, measured at 0.50 m north of W5805 from stone foundation to stone foundation, is 4.88 m. W112 forming the NE wall of the room, was recorded in the 1990s, when a series of successive plaster lines were visible against its west face at the level at which excavation ceased, well above the highest floor surface. The north end of this wall was a later addition, because it blocks the threshold in W100 which can only have functioned when the north ends of Rooms 30 and 32 were an undivided space. The interior face of W833 on the SW side of the room also showed a plastered face where it was observed in the SW corner of I19a. The line of this wall was unexpected, since it stands back some 0.55 m from the expected alignment achieved by extending the NE face of W738 to the south. However, there is no doubt that W833 is the true SW wall of Room 32: after excavation in 2007 it was clear that the south end of the room is supplied by W833 and W5805, which were built together, with three courses of stone foundation standing 0.30-0.40 m high and capped with mud-brick. At least the SE end of W112 was similarly constructed. The height and position of W738 (= the NE wall of Room 34), were confirmed from the excavation records, and it is clear that because Room 34 projected further to the NE than Room 33 to its south, Room 32 did indeed narrow towards the NW as shown in the plan.

Access into Room 32 from Room 37 to the south is thought to have been via a threshold in the SE corner of the room through W5805. The base of pit P97/70 has largely cut away this stretch of the wall, but two large stones in the floor of Room 37 along with a post-hole in the floor are suggestive of a threshold area. At the NW end of the room the stone footing of W100 breaks off before it reaches the north corner of the room, leaving a space some 1.25 m wide which is likely to correspond to an entrance. There are no obvious breaks in the line of W112 which could have given access to Room 30, although there was a single post-hole observed in the floor of the room against the interior face, at the point where there seems to have been a change in the floor surface, some 2.00 m SE of the north corner of the room. The post-hole itself had a plaster lining, and measured 24 cm along the wall, projecting 16 cm into the room. At this same point the multiple layers of plaster on the SE face of W112 curled gently outwards and then ceased, also suggesting that there was some change in the interior arrangements at this point. On the SW side of the room the stone footings of W738 likewise gave no hint of a doorway or threshold, but there was certainly no access between the south end of the room and Room 33, so if these western rooms were reached from Room 32 there must have been access across the line of W738, of which only the stone footings survived.

The unusual width and irregular SW side of Room 32 suggest that this was more an entrance hall to the complex than a room in its own right. Nevertheless, the central hearth (see below), even though it is only solidly attested in the final phase, and the care with which the floor and walls were plastered, indicate that this space was of particular significance. Unlike Rooms 30, 31 and 37, where two well-separated phases of floor plastering were identified, Room 32 seemed to have been successively re-
plastered throughout its lifetime. The interior faces of both the east and the west walls (W833 and W112) were replastered more than once – at least four separate plasterings with a fine yellow plaster were noted on the interior face of W112 (see Photo 3.2.4), and rather different plaster with a fine white finish was applied up to 5 cm thick to the south wall (W5805) at least twice (Photo 3.2.5). The W112 plasters were continuous with the floor plasters, and although the floor plastering was understandably less well preserved, multiple fine layers of plaster alternating with fill showed very clearly in the side of P97/70 at the SE corner, and could be followed across the room.

This was only the latest phase. Beneath the lowest of this band of plaster layers was a layer of mixed fill with black and reddish components, at least 20 cm thick in places (Phase 8 below), beneath which was an earlier floor surface without the fire installation present on the upper floor. The regular replastering of the walls and the associated floor plasterings fit with the theory that Room 32 was a significant room, and the central hearth in the later phase is consistent with this.

The occupation sequence in detail
The post-occupation back fill of Room 32 was excavated in the 1990s, consisting of a deposit of clean yellow fill 25 cm in depth (5536), overlying a further layer of clean fill some 25-30 cm in depth (5539/40). On resumption of work in 2007, after clearance of the remaining room fill (units 84031 and 84032), the highest surviving occupation surface was exposed across the full extent of the room (units 84040 and 84043). Below this the interior of the room was excavated in separate operations to retain control of the stratification. Initially in 2008 the room was divided along a line across its width just to the NW of the fire installation, giving a “NW half” (2.60 x 3.90 m) and a “SE half” (3.70 x 5.00 m). Subsequently in 2009 the lower stratification below 84051 and 84066 was first excavated in a small sounding in the SW corner of the room round the intrusive pit P08/46 (“SW unit”). After this the remainder of the SE half of the room was taken down to the same level (“SE unit”; at times in a western and eastern strip), and finally the NW half (“NW unit”) was excavated, at which point the walls of phase IIIc were encountered. There was a significant change in the stratified sequence which accidentally coincided with the arbitrarily imposed division between the NW and SE parts of the room fill. It is not clear if there was a vertical cut which caused this difference, but the only continuous layer across this divide seems to have been a charcoal rich seam numbered 94042 on the SE side and 94037 on the NW side (see Phase 3 below).

The stratigraphic sequence here is very complex, and there is nothing comparable elsewhere in the North-West Building; for this reason it is described in detail, since it marks Room 32 out as different from the other rooms we excavated. From the layer 94042/94037 upwards the sequence was as follows:

1 Deposit of rich brown fill (94045; 94038, lower). This is the lowest IIId phase since 94038 seals the top of W740 (IIIc). These layers respect the SE face of W100, which therefore belongs with both the IIId early and late phases. The base of this deposit, like most layers in IIId (early), slopes down to the south, and the heavy deposits of charcoal-rich ash are more characteristic of open spaces elsewhere, certainly not resembling the densely clustered clay-lined surfaces in IIId (late).

2 Band of orange packing (94041, 94043 and 94017 lower) sealing 94045 in the south but either absent in the north or excavated as the upper part of 94038.

3 Surface and overlying burnt deposit sloping down from north and sealing phase 2, but not observed in SE (94042, 94023 base, 94035, 94037, 94034). Slopes from +96.35 m at north to +96.03-96.13 m in south.

4 Band of yellowish packing overlying phase 3 burnt deposits (94017 upper; 94023, 94033, 94036).

5 Surface and overlying burnt deposit overlying phase 4 (94018, 94022, 94032, 94031). Slopes from +96.39 m at north to +96.15-96.20 m at south.

6 Packing layer overlying Phase 5 (94020, 94025, 94030, 94016 lower).

7 In south and centre, packing layer (94016 upper, 94019 with 94024), but in north, a band of closely striated occupation surfaces overlying Phase 6 (94026-94029). In the NW part of the room the sequence of alternating
floors and fills sloped up towards the NW, so their higher portion at the NW end of the room had been sliced away with the laying of 84066.

8 Throughout, a thick deposit (~20 cm) of mixed “destruction debris”, with charcoal flecks and many small stones and burnt brick debris (84051; 84066). This layer, with its base at ~96.40 m respects the lower stones of the foundation of W5805 and W833, indicating that it belongs with the (re)construction of the IIId walls. The flotation sample from this distinctive deposit yielded the ivory stamp seal (I19/541=1).

9 Packing layer (~11 cm) of looser brown soil (84049), not present in SE corner of room. In NW half yellow packing (84065).

10 Band of clean clay packing (84047; 84063), separated from Phase 9 by a 3 cm band of floor surfaces.

11 Band, up to 10 cm thick, of closely clustered IIId occupation surfaces with clay dressing (84043; across whole of room). The highest of these surfaces (84040) is the latest surviving IIId occupation.

12 FI 08/12 constructed on Phase 11 floors (84044, 84045, 84046, 84064).

13 Layer of packing above Phase 11 occupation surface (some excavated in 1990s; 84031; 84032 and 84042).

To sum up, the initial post-IIIc phase here is represented by deposits some 30-45 cm deep composed of layers of packing separated by two or more episodes of charcoal rich deposits, all sloping down to the south from the SE face of W100, and running beneath the NW face of W5805. This is sealed by the distinctive 20 cm deep band of destruction debris which respects the foundation layers of W5805 and underlies two consecutive bands of clay packing capped with a sequence of frequently relaid floors. From the base of 84051/84066 to the topmost surviving floor is another 30-40 cm. Finally the topmost floor and the contemporary fire installation were buried in fill to a depth of 50 cm, which was then cut away and sealed by the basal Level IIa pinky-white deposit. Whether there had been a still later IIIId phase here, and thereafter also a IIIe phase, cannot be answered from this sequence.

FI08/12 (Photo 3.2.6)
In 1998 an area of fallen mud-bricks separated by mortar lines was visible in the packing towards the centre of the room (see plan, EKT Fig. 491). Overall, the brick collapse deposit (84041) measured 78 cm E-W x 1.27 cm N-S, and the individual bricks had a height of 12 cm and length of 41 cm. They lay directly above the remains of a large fire installation FI08/12, although it is not clear if they belonged to its own superstructure or to one of the main walls of the room. FI08/12 comprised a large L-shaped plastered surface, with what looked like a semi-circular mud-brick superstructure to its north – all of which had been razed to its base. A long rectangular stone measuring 21 cm width by 70 cm length and clearly chosen for its regular shape had been set in the floor to the west of the plastered surface, and to the north of the surface, but contained within what we think is the mud-brick surround, was a long rectangular channel (stokehole ?) that measured 15–20 cm wide, with a depth of 5 cm and a length of 2.10 cm, running from the southern section of the square to the curve of bricky material on the east side. In all, the whole structure would have measured around 2 m N-S by 2 m E-W. With the exception of a deposit of bright orange ash-like material (84045) in the area contained by the plastered surface and the channel there was very little burning associated with the fire installation. When first excavated the short length of the “L” looked like a separate rectangular feature with lipped plastered sides. The plastered lip on the west and south sides of the rectangle appeared to be original (there was no real lip on the north side), but the lip on the east side was probably formed by the weight of the mud-brick wall causing a shift upwards in the plaster. The plaster itself (removed as 84044) was only ca. 1 cm thick and it was underlain by a dark brown deposit of compacted soil (84046), not stones or
pebbles which is the usual construction technique found in the circular fire installations elsewhere in the building. This compacted brown deposit was ca. 5 cm in depth, and in turn was sitting on top of the upper floor surface (Phase 11 above). There were no indications of high temperatures (e.g. surfaces baked hard or clinker-type debris) associated with this feature, and given its central position in Room 32 (unlike FI08/09, FI08/10 and FI08/11 in Rooms 31 and 37) this suggests that it was more for heating a social space than for food-preparation or any industrial purpose.

Little else apart from the hearth was found in association with this room. There were no pot emplacements or bench-like features, and this may also reflect a function such as courtyard or entrance hall. Given the unusual width of the room, some or all of it may have been unroofed, although it would be unusual for such an open space to have the repeated fine clay replasterings of the floor and walls. As mentioned above, against the SW face of W112, and about 2.0 m from the north angle of the room, was a posthole, which was respected by the floor plaster and may have been associated with a change in the floor surface across the room at this point.

**Pits in Room 32**

Indicated in EKT Fig. 491 is the outline of a large pit (P97/70), which cut into the SE corner of the room, and after further excavation proved to have removed the stones of the eastern end of W5805. This pit was certainly dug from an early phase of the Level II Western Courtyard. It had a maximum diameter of 3.00 m and penetrated at least 1.05 m below the base of Level II. The fill contained much animal bone and potsherds. The outline of another pit in the SW corner of the room (P08/46) was not observed until the highest surviving floor surface in Room 32 was exposed in 2008 but there was no sign that the top of the pit-cut has been adapted to the floor surface, as one finds where a pit’s usage is contemporary with a floor, and we assume it was sunk from a higher level, and that the upper extent of the pit’s side was not noticed in the packing layers above the floor. Whether it belonged with a later IIId or IIIe room, or with the Level II Western Courtyard is impossible to say, but the distinctive painted ceramics which were recovered from its fill are consistent with a Level II phase.

**Summary**

This room provides us at present with our only sequence from the beginning of phase IIId. It appears that in an early phase, prior to the construction of the south wall (W5805) and probably of the two walls bonded with it (W112 and W833), this space saw usage which left charcoal-rich deposits on unplastered surfaces sloping down from the SE face of W100. This rather suggests an open space. However, the construction of W5805, accompanied by the deposition of a body of finely processed packing with much burnt matter, marked a second phase of use, with sub-phases, during which the floors were virtually horizontal and plastered, and during the latest sub-phase the floors and walls were repeatedly replastered, betraying a concern to keep the room in good condition and suggesting it was an important space. The elaborate central hearth seems to have belonged only with the final sub-phase, but it too points to the special nature of the room.

**Room 32 units and finds**

*Fill above IIIc walls: 94038 (NW), 94045 (SE)*

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*IIId (early) packing and ashy surfaces, SW unit: 94016, 94017, 94018*

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*IIId (early) packing and ashy surfaces, SE unit: 94019, 94020, 94025, 94021, 94022, 94023, 94024, 94025, 94032, 94036, 94041, 94042, 94043*

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<tr>
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<td>Copper pin</td>
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<td>94043</td>
<td>I19/665</td>
<td>Copper chisel</td>
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### IIId (early) packing and surfaces, NW unit: 94026, 94027, 94028, 94029, 94030, 94031, 94033, 94034, 94035, 94037

| Artifact ID | Description                          | ID | Charcoal 

- 94028 119/733 Worked astragalus 490
- 94033 119/734 Worked astragalus 491
- 94034 119/646 Archaeobotanical sample S09/17
- 94034 119/661 C14 sample 14C54

### IIId (late) mixed fill layer below clay packing: 84051 (SE), 84066 (NW)

| Artifact ID | Description                          | ID | Charcoal 

- 84051 119/541 Ivory seal 1
- 84051 119/536 Stone disc 728
- 84051 119/570 Base of spindle bottle with pot mark 682
- 84051 119/571 Stone bowl sherd 607
- 84051 119/597 Flint blade 682
- 84051 119/611 C14 sample 14C2
- 84066 119/573 Copper hook 370

### IIId (late) packing: 84047, 84049 (SE); 84063, 84065 (NW)

### IIId (late) floors: 84040, 84043

| Artifact ID | Description                          | ID | Charcoal 

- 84043 119/524 Worked shell 541
- 84043 119/525 Copper needle 330
- 84043 119/564 Ceramic possibly Mycenaean

### Fill above IIId (late) floor: 84031, 84032, 84042

### Cross-section of wall plaster: 84072

- 84044, 84045, 84046, 84064

| Artifact ID | Description                          | ID | Charcoal 

- 84045 119/545 Unfinished bead 243

### Fallen mud-brick: 84041

### Sealant layer (base of IIa): 84010

| Artifact ID | Description                          | ID | Charcoal 

- 84010 119/742 Ceramic tile 38

### Fill of P08/46: 84048, 84052

| Artifact ID | Description                          | ID | Charcoal 

- 84052 119/537 Copper needle 331
- 84052 119/562 Jar fragments

### P97/70, probably Level II: 74586

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### Room 33

Room 33 was dug in two parts over two decades, and has turned out to be a roughly square space with internal dimensions of 2.70 m (NW-SE) by 3.20 m (NE-SW). It, like Room 32 to its east was clearly well maintained – with a good quality plaster floor and also yellowish plaster that continues up the wall faces. A small section of the north corner of the room was dug in the 1990s when its NW wall – W737 – was revealed as a parallel line of foundation stones some 60 cm wide bonded at its east end with W738 going north and with W833 southward to form the east wall of the room. Walls 737 and 738 were noted as having no overlying mud-brick, although the SE return – W833 – was standing to a height of 50 cm with 4 clear courses of mud-brick overlying the stone foundation. This north corner revealed in the 1990s showed that the room’s interior had been plastered with a hard yellow clay both across the floor and up the walls. No finds were found in association with the floor in this area (EKT p. 112-3).

When excavation began again in 2008 W737 was re-numbered as W5603 and was observed higher up in the stratigraphy, thus revealing a 30 cm block of clear mud-bricks resting on at least four courses of stone foundations. Overlying this mud-brick masonry was a deposit of bricky wash (83050) close to the mound surface, which had presumably formed part of the brick superstructure originally but was now badly deteriorated. The foundation stones at the west end of wall W5603 were also
partially exposed by the removal of a further deposit of wash (83046). Clay plaster was again noted clearly on the south face of W5603. Wall 5602 forming the SW wall of the room was 2.60 m in length and survived to a height of 30 cm, with mud-brick resting on a stone foundation. The southern end of W5602 is cut off by pit P08/47 and it was also partially cut away on its west side by pit P08/14. We saw no evidence for a doorway in any of the four walls of this room, even though they still stood some 80 cm above Surface 1. Surface 1 in Room 33 is at the same height as the floor in Room 38, and it seems likely that there was a doorway between them in the south corner of Room 33 where the walls have been removed by P08/47.

W5807 forms the SE side of the room, and the face of its masonry is a good deal more ragged on the Room 38 side, suggesting that the stonework was laid with special attention to the interior of Room 33. The interior wall faces of W833 on the NE and W5907 along the SE side of the room were similarly well plastered, with multiple layers up to 6 cm thick, and the large amount of plaster strips and lumps found within the clean bricky fill of the room is suggestive of plastering that extended all the way up the walls. The latest definite occupation surface of the room (Surface 1 – 83058) was at +96.85-96.90 m at the west side, and some 10 cm lower towards the east (+96.72 m). A few potsherds were found lying flat in association with the surface but generally it would be described as “clean” and devoid of features. The floor plaster was noted as running up to the wall at approximately 10 cm below the lowest course of mud-bricks where the uppermost course of foundation stones begins, rising in a slight curve as it did so and merging with the plaster applied to the wall itself. Surface 83058 was certainly plastered although only patches remained visible. The fill of the floor (91018 and 94004) was noticeably clean, yellow and grey bricky, with (as mentioned) whitish plaster strips and lumps probably deriving from recycled brick off the superstructure of the walls. It was sealed some 40-50 cm above the floor by a thin burnt layer (91016, equal to 83040 on the west side of the room), which respected the NW face of W5807, and would appear to represent a late occupation phase of the room. Above this was further clean bricky packing some 6-10 cm deep, its top at +97.32 m, sealed by the pinky-white layer 91015, which marks the base of Level IIa. This layer (91015) also sealed P09/09 which was a shallow scoop through 91016, only 5 cm deep, and filled with a dense concentration of charcoal flecks. The ashy floor 91016 appears to seal the remnant of a pit next to W5807 (P09/08). This was 40 cm deep and in diameter, filled with a very clean yellow deposit with charcoal flecks, but had largely been cut away subsequently by P08/14.

The existence of the ashy floor 96016/83040, resting on but also sealed by the very clean yellow bricky fill which is characteristic of Room 33, raises the possibility that this is a late Level IIIId occupation phase, significantly higher than any IIIId floors we have observed elsewhere in the building. This leaves open the possibility that there were once IIIId floors in the other rooms we excavated, which have been cut away either by IIle builders or by the Level II clearance of the whole site. Alternatively, we might consider the possibility that Room 33 was not cut down at the time of the Level IIIe reconstruction but that this part of the building was left intact. One small hint that this may be what happened is given by the carbonized fig recovered from unit 83056, since the IIle occupation of the NE courtyard was characterized by the presence of such figs.

At the time of Surface 1 there was a bench-like feature extending 1.20 m from the SE corner along the face of W5807. This is a narrow strip standing 0.36 m high and formed of three courses of mud-bricks 9-10 cm high and 18 cm deep with grey mortar between courses, and plastered on its outer face. When this was dismantled a cluster of seven very fragmentary frit beads was recovered from within the brickwork, inviting comparison with the beads incorporated in the plaster of Room 8 in the Level IIa Stele Building. At this level the room has no other features such as pot emplacements or fire installations, which, combined with the clean surfaces, suggests a non-utilitarian function.

About 20 cm below Surface 1, the earliest occupation of Room 33 is represented by Surface 2, a band of floor lines some 15 cm thick, the latest of them with a thin white plaster finish. Towards the
centre of the room one of these floors had an area of parallel white phytolith impressions from a layer of reeds (Photo 3.2.7). The Surface 2 floors were associated with a stone-built feature in the west corner of the room. This was a triangular area of paving, its diagonal long side bordered by a narrow pebble lined gutter which would appear to have channelled liquid down along the front of the paved surface and then to have turned to take it through the foundation stones of W5602 into Room 34. The centre of the feature was paved with flat stones laid on a bed of sandy soil, and each side of this, to the north and south the remainder of the triangular space was paved over with small cobbles (Photo 3.2.8). This feature was plainly designed for the storage or pouring of liquids, though no containers were found here. In the rest of the room the occupation surface sloped gently down from the edge of the gutter to the SE corner.

**Room 33 units and finds**

**Surface 2: 11138**

*Fill above Surface 2: 11132, 11135*

- 11132: I19/792 Stone bead 241
- 11132: I19/795 Copper pin 339

**Surface 1: 83058**

*Bench against W5807: 11133*

- 11133: I19/794 7 beads 239

*Lower fill above Surface 1: 83056, 91018, 94004*

- 83056: H19/507 Carbonized fig fragment
- 83056: H19/580 Late Cypriot pottery sherd

*Upper fill of room: 83048, 83049, 83051*

*Burnt floor surface: 83040, 91016*

*Pit P09/08: 91017*

*Pit 09/9: 91019*

*Decayed mud-brick of W5603: 83050*

*Pinky-white layer (IIa): 83047, 91015*

*Wash over W5603: 83046*

**Rooms 34 – 36**

These rooms were excavated in the 1990s (see EKT pp. 113-4). Room 34 was very close to the mound surface, and no floor was noted here, the only possible suggestion of a room feature being a semi-circular patch of burnt orange clay about 1 m wide in the SE corner of the room. It was mixed with pebbles and thus very likely was the base of a hearth that had been sunk below the floor. Rooms 35 and 36 were also very close to the mound surface with no floor or features found in Room 35, and only a small strip of floor found in Room 36 along with a jumble of stones that did not represent a feature (these could just have been hill wash). If the long wall W739/100/109 was the main northern wall of the building it is possible Rooms 35 and 36 were tacked on as storage rooms or stalls to the exterior of the building, but there are similar walls further east (see below).

**Room 37**

Room 37 was approximately square, with the same length as Room 31 to the east but significantly wider: its internal dimension from NW-SE increased from 4.74 m on the west side to 4.92 m along the east wall, and from SW to NE it narrowed from 4.15 m along the SE wall to 3.76 m at the NW. It had two clear IIIId floor levels separated in depth by some 5 to 13 cm, and two clear access points – both in the NE corner of the room, one through W5804 into Room 31 to the east, the other through the north wall of the room (W5806) into Room 32. Whether it was roofed or an open area remains unresolved.
The upper surface of the room – 84039 or Surface 1 – was easily traced as it was plastered in most places, with a white/yellowish plaster layer with burnt patches in places which was relatively easy to follow. After clearing this later floor of the room it was apparent at the end of the 2008 season that there was a regular circular depression at the centre of the room, and it was assumed – correctly – that this marked the outline of a large pit beneath the floor. On excavating beneath the floor in the 2009 season it became clear that the pit was in fact beneath a lower floor (Surface 2, 94009). This floor was then exposed and the pit (P09/14) emptied. The fill between the two floors varied in depth between 5 cm in the north half of the room and 10-13 cm in the south and was a clean bricky material (94003, 94013, 94044). The lower floor surface was also easily recognized, as it had patches of white plaster on it in the north half of the room, like Surface 1 above, and patches burnt brown on it in the south half of the room. Surface 2 quite clearly sealed P09/14 as it too had a circular depression over the pit area, and this was also clear in section when we excavated the pit.

Associated with the later floor of the room (Surface 1) are two threshold areas in the NE corner of the room. At the east end of W5805 it is presumed that there was a doorway leading into the SE corner of Room 32. This part of the wall and the floor area adjacent to it in Room 32 have been lost due to the later intrusion of pit P97/70, but the belief that there was a threshold at this point is supported by a number of factors. Firstly the east end of W5805 appears to be recessed by ca. 10 cm just before it is cut by the west side of P97/70, indicating some change is about to occur. Secondly to the east of the recessed wall area there is a large mud-brick lump 69 cm in length and 36 cm in width – it is set clearly within the space of Room 37 (i.e. it is not on the W5805 wall alignment), and then to the east of the mud-brick lump and also within the space of Room 37 are two large smooth stones deliberately placed and set within the floor of the room. The larger stone, ca. 57 cm in length by 35 cm in width, is set nearer into the threshold area, with the other slightly smaller rounded stone ca. 32 cm by 30 cm directly to its south. The smaller stone is also set into the floor and is at a lower height than the larger stone implying a stepping up into the threshold area. When Room 37 was excavated to its lower surface (i.e. after removal of 94009) it was clear that the bases of these two stones were also countersunk into this floor level too, so it is presumed that they were used during both phases of the room’s occupation. The stones are not placed accidentally and no similar features were noted in any other room. Thirdly at a distance of some 20 cm to the east of the larger stone is a posthole 20 cm in diameter and 29 cm deep which is also presumed to be related to the threshold area, although there is a distance of some 30 cm between it and the projected SE face of the wall. Taken together, all this suggests that there was access from Room 37 into Room 32, with Room 37 some 25 cm lower down and very likely unroofed or poorly sheltered which would make the two stone steps sensible. The post-hole could have supported some feature related to the doorway even if not a well-fitted wooden door.

Also in the northern end of the room was a threshold leading through the NW end of W5804 into the NW corner of Room 31. The threshold was roughly 97 cm in length and 73 cm in width. On its Room 37 side there is a bricky ridge or step ca. 20 cm in width with a small gully ca. 18 cm in width behind it to the NE, presumably for a timber now decayed. The rest of the width of the threshold, on the Room 31 side, consists of a patch of flattish medium-sized stones, some packed rubble and also some bricky lumps. As described under Room 31, the outer eastern edge of the threshold on the Room 31 side has a plastered face, and the plaster line marking the edge of the threshold also curls round to meet the back of FI 08/09. This plaster perhaps originally extended up and across the full width of the threshold, whose rather scrappy construction would thus have been concealed while it was in use. This may not have been the only doorway through W5804: close to its SW face and halfway along its length, in Room 37, there was a post-hole similar to that in the north corner of the room (diam. ~25 cm). Although both the stone foundations and the overlying first course of mud-bricks belonging to this wall were very clear further south, towards its middle it was less well
defined, and there is a possibility that at some time the doorway through to Room 31 was here instead, and that the post-hole belonged with it.

Also in association with Surface 2 were two fire installations – FI08/11 and FI08/13. FI08/13 was situated up against the middle section of W5805 and was no more than a patch of burnt brown floor measuring 29 cm N-S and 35 cm E-W, with yellow ash on top of it. It was not a particularly convincing fire installation but for ease of description it was given a number. The much more substantial fire installation was FI08/11 (Photo 3.2.9) an oven situated in the SE corner of the room, behind which was found a concentrated deposit of animal bone debris (see description below). The oven was half-sectioned E/W in the 2009 season enabling a close view of its construction (see Photo 3.2.10). The lowest layer was a band of largeish (average: 18 x 15 x 4 cm) flat stones set in a loose deposit of dark brown soil. This flat stone base layer was ca. 1.20 m in diameter at its widest part and was wider than the clay above (i.e. the stones extend out further than the diameter of the clay structure of the oven). On top of the flat stone layer 94051 was moulded the clay rim of the oven (94047), which measured some 7-10 cm in width (widening to 16-20 cm where it splays out to curl round the NE side). Also resting on the flat stone layer was laid a clean yellow clay layer (94050) some 4–8 cm thick and set within the outer clay rim. This clay layer was the levelling layer for the deposit of small rounded pebbles (94049) laid above. The pebbles were an average size of 4 x 2 x 1 cm set in a loose grey fill. There was generally more than one layer of pebbles giving the deposit a depth of ca. 5 cm. On top of the pebble layer was laid the clay plaster surface (94046). At the western side of the oven this surface dipped into a plastered gully up against the clay wall. The excavation of the lower floor in the 2009 season revealed the presence of a pit (P09/30) beneath its outer side, which could account for the slump. However, excavations at Ilıpınar where similar fire installations have been found suggest that a gully on one side of the oven would in fact have served as an ash pit. As described the Chalcolithic fire installations at Ilıpınar are very similar to the circular hearths found in our Late Bronze Age building – i.e. ca. 1.50 m in diameter, clay domed, with a smooth clay floor and little in the way of ash remains. This is because the products would have been baked on the smooth clay floor with the ash being swept out of the oven before dough was placed on the base – relying on the layer of stones beneath the plaster floor of the oven to retain their heat and cook the bread (see Coockson 2009).

Although FI08/11 was positioned in the SE corner of the room up against W5801 and W5804 there was enough of a gap between the side of the fire installation and the walls for a deposit of material to build up (84030). This was a dark charcoal mix containing a very large number of discarded animal bones (1051 in total). As reported by Dr Popkin (2014, 134), the bones were a mix of mammal and bird bones, 265 of the mammal bones being identifiable to taxon level. Of the identifiable mammal bones 88% were caprine whilst just one bone was identified as cattle, and none as horse (usually these species make up 15-20% of the assemblage in Late Bronze Age Levels). The caprine elements were dominated by long bones, and bones with cut marks on them, consistent with the theory that the assemblage behind the hearth was the deposition of consumption debris. There was also pig, deer and some identifiable bird bone present; a piece of worked antler from the deposit (I19/493) was presumably not directly related to consumption.

P09/30. Sealed by the construction of FI08/11 and the associated Surface 1 was a storage pit with a diameter of 1.32-34 m, cut through both Surface 2 and the overlying fill, and so contemporary with an early usage phase of Surface 1. The base of the pit was not reached but its depth as far as excavated was 76 cm. The highest 15 cm of the fill, removed as unit 94052, was loose brownish soil with burnt brown patches and grey ash; below this unit 94055 included both a 36 cm deep deposit of bricky yellow/grey mixed fill and below it the lowest deposit reached, which consisted of brownish charcoal.
flecked soil, at least 26 cm in depth. Like P09/14 this pit was in use during the lifetime of the room, and was presumably designed for storage.

**P09/14 and P09/16.** P09/14 (Photo 3.2.11; see also Photos 3.1.6 and 3.1.8) was centrally placed within the room and proved to be large: its northern edges were better defined than its southern edge but it had an overall diameter of 2.18 m E-W and 2.68 m N-S. The pit fill was dug in 3 quarter-sections (with fill numbers of 94008, 94010, 94011 and 94014). The north side of the pit was dug to its full depth of 59 cm but the south side was only cleared to a depth of 28 cm as there were problems in defining the southern side of the pit. What was most noteworthy about the fill on the north side of the pit (i.e. 94008 and 94010) was the high density of animal bone, and of large pieces in particular. These included a complete cow skull (I19/619 in 94008), skull and horn core (in I19/622 from 94010), and another cow skull I19/625 from 94011. The size of some of these pieces and their relatively good preservation makes it clear that the backfilling of the pit was an opportunity to dispose of recent trash, and like the assemblage behind the oven it suggests that this location witnessed meat consumption.

Once P09/14 had been dug it was clear that directly underlying it was another pit (P09/16), smaller but perfectly circular in shape. It was 1.56 m in diameter and 0.62 m in depth and lay directly beneath the fill of P09/14. The fill from P09/16 (94012 in north half, 94015 in south half) peeled off very easily from the sides and although containing some bone these were not substantial pieces like those noted in P09/14. This was evidently an earlier version of the same storage facility, and the two successive pits in the same location can be compared to P11/25 and P11/39 in J14b Phase 5. While the precise stratigraphic status of this lower, smaller and earlier pit cannot be fixed, it must have preceded the later version (P09/14). The sides and fill of P09/14 lay immediately below Surface 2, so it is clear that there must have been an earlier surface from which the pit was sunk at a higher level, which was cut down when Surface 2 was laid; the back-filling could easily have been completed at the same moment, and it was certainly fairly close in time to the laying of Surface 2 because the depression in the floor must result from the compaction of recently deposited fill.

The tidy sequence of two surfaces does not tell the full story of this room, as emerges from a detailed study of the west wall (W5806). We have already noted that Surface 1 in Room 37 was likely to have been some 25 cm lower than the contemporary floor in Room 32, and Room 31 may also have stood higher. This difference in level agrees with the observation that the west face of the stone foundation of W5806 had been built against a vertical cut into the stratigraphy of Room 38: this cut was visible in the I19c south section and also in plan in the SE corner of Room 38. It implies that when Room 37 as we found it was constructed the existing deposits were cut down and the walls and floor of the room were laid lower than the neighbouring rooms (specifically Rooms 32, 33 and 38). This was not however the earliest phase of Level IIId here, as is shown by the stratigraphic status of P09/16 (see above) which must have been associated with an earlier floor than Surface 2.

After its initial construction Wall 5806 had a complicated history, although wider (70 cm) and of more robust construction than most of the walls. At its north end it abuts the south face of W5805, and at +96.92 m the stone foundation of W5806 is at the same level as the mud-brick superstructure of W5805 (+96.66 m), meaning that the top of the W5805 stone foundation is 26 cm lower than the top of W5806’s foundation stones. This is compatible with the evidence just presented that Room 37 was a later construction, but it may also be explained by noting that the ground surface may have risen towards the south away from the northern rim of the mound, so that there may here have been terracing which led to parts of the building towards the north being founded lower down. However further south along the line of W5806 the stone foundation courses slumped down, and there survived up to 14 cm of the mud-brick superstructure. This is possibly due to the weight of the substantial stone foundation of the IIIe wall W5802 that was built above the southern end of W5806 before turning eastwards to become W5803. Finally at the south end of the wall beneath the mud-brick, and
the two-course (32 cm) stone foundation, is a stretch of mud-brick masonry standing 25 cm high from the level of Surface 2. The history of this wall is quite different from the north and south walls of Room 37, and the reasons for the rebuild are not obvious.

**Room 37 units and finds**

*Brickwork of W5806: 84071*

| 84071 | I19/612 | C14 sample | 14C1 |

*Surface 2: 94009*

*Fill between Surface 1 and Surface 2: 94002, 94003, 94013, 94044, 11112*

| 94003 | I19/617 | Copper chisel | 313 |
| 94044 | I19/678 | Obsidian blade | 608 |
| 94044 | I19/687 | Whetstone | 697 |

*Post-hole in south corner of Rm 37: 11114*

*P09/30 fill: 94052, 94055, 11111*

| 94055 | I19/686 | Copper pin | 321 |

*Fill above pit depression: 84067*

*Surface 1: 84039*

*FI08/11: 84053, 94046, 94047, 94049, 94050, 94051, 11110*

*Ashy fill behind FI08/11: 84030*

| 84030 | I19/493 | Antler used as handle for tool | 523 |

*Grey and yellow packing: 84027, 84028, 84033, 84038*

| 84038 | I19/568 | Pottery disc | 16 |
| 84038 | I19/569 | Pottery disc | 17 |
| 84038 | I19/567 | Pottery disc | 15 |

*Fill beneath sealant layer: 84024, 84036, 84020, 84025, 84037, 84050*

*Later pit P08/39: 84034*

*P09/14 fill: 94008, 94010, 94011, 94014*

| 94008 | I19/619 | Cow skull |
| 94010 | I19/623 | Horn core and skull fragment |
| 94011 | I19/625 | Cow skull fragment |

*P09/16 fill: 94012, 94015*

| 94015 | I19/627 | Bone (C14 sample) | 14C55 |

*Unstratified wash above Surface 1: 94001*

| 94001 | I19/614 | Spindle whorl | 201 |

**Room 38**

Only the northern half of this room on the SW side of the complex has been excavated, as the rest, with its SW and SE walls, lies under a 2.5 m high baulk to the south. It is possible that the SW wall of the room would have been supplied by a southward extension of the SW wall of Room 33 (W5602), but if so it has been completely cut away by the substantial pit P08/47. It has been noted under Room 33 above that there was probably access from Room 38 through the west end of W5807 into the SW corner of Room 33, the evidence for which would also have been entirely removed by P08/47. The floor surface in Room 38 was at the same level (+96.72 m) as the upper floor (Surface 1) in Room 33, and this increases the likelihood that the two rooms belonged to the same part of the building, and were connected by a doorway at the west end of W5807. However, the only evidence suggestive of a threshold was found at the south end of wall W5602 at floor level where a circular stone door socket (18 cm in diameter, with the central depression measuring 4 cm in diameter) was found set into soft grey material contained by a semi-circular band of bright yellow plaster or mud-brick some 50 cm in length with a square stone at its eastern end. If it does mark a doorway, this is another instance of a doorway positioned in the corner of a room (cf. Room 37), and from its position at the SW corner of W5602 it would have to be a doorway leading west from Room 38 to the (unnumbered) space further
west. There were no fire installations or other features in the part of the room which has been excavated.

The occupation surface was at the level of the foundation stones of both W5807 and W5806, and the two walls were bonded at the north corner of the room. The walls of Room 32 (W5805 and W833), by contrast, are still of mud-brick at this level, suggesting that Rooms 32 and 37 were lower than Rooms 33 and 38, with their stone foundations noticeably deeper. As noted above (under Room 33), the stones of W5807 are laid so as to give a relatively smooth face in Room 33, while in Room 38 the stone elevation is much more irregular. There was no evidence for wall plaster in association with this room on either W5807 or W5806. This is consistent with the clean and regular deposits in Room 33 as opposed to the much rougher surface and fill of Room 38. In the NE corner of Room 38 in 2009 a curious stub of mud-brick was discovered consisting of clean brickwork and at least one clear line of grey mortar projecting about 50 cm into the room. It looks rather like a southward continuation of W833, in which case it (along with the associated strata in Room 38 and Room 33) must have pre-dated the construction of the west wall of Room 37 (W5806), and the Room 38 floor level contemporary with Room 37 Surfaces 1 and 2 will have been lost.

Occupation surface: Beneath the fill into which the foundation trenches of the Level IIIe walls W5802 and W5803 had been cut (84012, 84013), from +97.03 m, further packing was removed down to +96.80-96.85 m, exposing an unplastered surface which was burnt brown in patches (94007). A large section of the floor surface of the room had been cut through by a substantial NE/SW rectangular cut labelled P09/60, and discussed in §3.3 below. Found in association with the part of the surface surviving to the SE of this cut was the side of a jar (I19/632) set into a patch (~35x55 cm) of brick-like material raised 3-4 cm above the floor, so as to line a shallow pit alongside clean clay lining (Photo 3.2.12). Further to the east on the same surface was the in situ base of a small woven basket (I19/705; Photo 3.2.13). This was circular, 12 cm in diameter, and was preserved as an imprint of white phytolith remains, to one side of which was a cluster of 14 small (di. from 0.3 to 0.45 cm) blue and green frit beads (I19/621, 736), which had either been contained within the basket or attached to it as decoration (Photo 3.2.14). On the same surface to the north of the cut (P09/60), and close up against the face of wall W5807, just to the east of the cut for P08/47, was a cache of 7 sheep and goat astragali (H19/564).

Room 38 units and finds

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>94005 I19/632 Base of in situ jar</td>
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<tr>
<td>94006 I19/621 13 frit beads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94006 I19/736 Frit bead</td>
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<tr>
<td>94006 I19/737 2 astragali</td>
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<tr>
<td>94006 I19/651 Articulated goat’s foot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Surface: 94007

Exterior spaces

The Eastern Courtyard

This space, bounded by the NE wall of the building, the continuation of W109 to the NE, and the unexcavated deposits beneath the outer wall of the Level II Stele Building, was excavated down to the phase IIIId surface in the 1990s within quadrant I20d. The courtyard surface here was marked by a
charcoal-rich deposit which ran beneath the foundation stones of the IIId NE wall (W111), and presumably respected the (unexposed) outer face of the Level IIId NE wall of Room 30 (i.e. W113). These deposits were associated with a large but scrappy fire installation in J20c (FI97/10). This oven, combined with the width of the space (at least 7m NE-SW and 9 m NW-SE) indicates that this was an open space. In 2007-8 the southward continuation of these deposits was cleared in the small parts of I19b and J19a lying NE of W831, and this exposed some large irregular stones and beneath them the foundations of a Level IIIe wall (W6001, see §3.3). This wall was laid in a shallow trench cut into a packing layer composed of the yellow/grey bricky material found elsewhere above the latest surviving IIId floors, and reaching from the space east of W831 northwards alongside the east face of W111. Near W111 within the grey/yellow packing layer was a patch 1.80 x 1.00 m which included a number of carbonized figs (84061). Closer to the NE face of W831 this layer also included a length of fallen wall with bricks 50 cm in length and 12 cm thick distinctly visible (in 84055).

Along its NW side the courtyard area seems to have been contained by W109 which is the continuation of the NW wall of the NW Building. At a point 3.3 m NE of the corner of the building there seems to be a deliberate break in this wall: the stones are squared off and after a gap of 1.3 m the wall line continues towards the NE as a narrower stone foundation for at least 2.7 m. The break appears likely to mark the location of a threshold, but no associated features such as timbers or door sockets were noted.

**Eastern Courtyard units and finds**

Eastern Courtyard units and finds

Material overlying stones of W831 (N end): 11118

Packing etc. E of W831: 84055, 84056, 84058, 84061, 84062

84061 I19/555 Carbonized figs

84061 I19/565 Carbonized figs

84062 I19/560 Clay bead 244

84062 I19/559 Copper wire 361

Occ. surface beneath W6001: 84054

84054 I19/544 Spindle whorl 195

Occ. surface north of W6002: 96525

Material W of FI97/10: 84069

84069 I19/607 Clay stand 54

Clearance of backfill: 84068

84068 I19/604 Ceramic

South side

To the south of the building beyond W5801 and accessed via the threshold in Room 31 we exposed a small area of cobbled surface which we presume was an external space (84060). It runs under the southern baulk and on its east side it is overlain by the west wall of the Stele Building, leaving an exposed space measuring 1.80 m E-W by 1.5 m N-S. To access the cobbled space from Room 31 the occupant would be stepping up some 20 cm from the inside of the building. The cobbles in the surface are of roughly a similar size – 4 x 4 cm and rounded in shape and are set into a compact yellow bricky material. At the west end of the surface as it tapers to a point in the baulk are four deliberately laid stones, three of which are set on their sides to form three sides of a square box-like feature (external dimensions of 60 x 60 cm, internal dimensions of 40 x 30 cm). The feature did not appear to have any depth to it but it is notable that there were no cobbles set within the floor of the feature. It probably continued further southwards under the baulk, and has not been fully uncovered. To the east the cobbled surface was followed south of the SE wall of the Stele Building foundation for at least 1.10 m; it rose slightly towards the east (some 10 cm) and at the eastern end of this the cobbles became noticeably larger (around 5 x 5 cm). Along the north side of this small area the cobbles were absent,
probably indicating the very base of the clearance work undertaken when the Stele Building foundations were laid.

In one small area at the SE corner of I19d between the 118/19 section and W5801 a 1 m wide window was opened beneath the cobbled surface. This confirmed that there was just a single layer of cobbles, set in a yellowish/white layer of clay 2-3 cm deep. Beneath this was a layer of fill overlying a surface 10 cm below the cobbles, and beneath this again another layer of fill overlying a surface 20 cm below the cobbles. Both surfaces, as well as the cobbles, respected the SE face of W5801, suggesting that the position of the SE façade of the building was unchanged throughout most if not all of phase IIId.

South side units and finds

**Fill SE of W5801**: 84057, 11130
- 84057
- I19/547
- Bone spindle whorl

**Cobbled surface below 84057**: 84060, 11134
- 11137
- I19/804
- Fossil

South-East side

Work in J19c, in Room 8 of the Stele Building, had been for the purpose of identifying the SE corner of Room 31, and of the building as a whole, but also to establish if the cobbled pavement 84060 extended further east into this area. Only a restricted area could be excavated due to the constraint of working within the confines of the walls of Room 8 (see Photo 3.2.15). In the event the pebbled surface 84060 did not appear to continue further to the east and in fact it had turned into a dirty outdoor surface by this point – 96526. Just to the east of the point at which the corner turn of walls W5811 and W831 was located three intersecting pits were discovered – P09/24, 26 and 27 – suggesting that this was an exterior area used for the dumping of waste. P09/24 which continued on under W620 to its east had a length of articulated sheep/goat backbone buried in it (J19/722), but other than that the fill of the pits was unremarkable. At the south end of the excavated space a small post-hole was found – only 12 cm wide and 25 cm deep. There is a possibility of a fourth pit in the SW part of the excavated area, however this is where a small sounding was undertaken to see if the pebbled courtyard could be picked up at a lower depth and this has interfered with a possible pit cut.

South-East side units and finds

**Levelling deposit prior to Stele Building**: 96512
- 96512
- J19/708
- Lump of white chalk
- 736

**IIIId surface respecting W831 and W5811**: 96526
- 96523
- J19/722
- Cattle vertebra

**Pits into area E of IIIId NW Building**: 96523 (P09/24), 96527 (P09/26), 96528 (P09/27)
- 96523
- J19/722
- Cattle vertebra

Review of the building

**Access**

External access into the building has only been clearly identified at the SE corner into Room 31, and this would have required a step down into the building from the higher cobbled surface outside. There was most probably also external access from the north through Wall 100 into Room 32 as well, but the walls are very eroded here and a clear opening was only recovered for the earliest phase of IIId when the north end of W112 was not present. Access within the building between rooms has also been
difficult to trace. The only clear threshold is between the north ends of Rooms 31 and 37, although there is reason to reconstruct a threshold leading from the NE corner of Room 37 into Room 32. There was presumably also access into the Eastern Courtyard from the NW, through Wall 109 in the area where there is a break in the stone foundation. Note however that there is no reason in Level IIId to restore a doorway in the west wall of Room 37, leading into Room 38, nor is there any sign of a doorway in the surviving masonry of W112 between Rooms 30 and 32. Room 33 could apparently only be accessed through the west end of W5807 in the SW corner. Access from the surviving part of the building to the lost rooms further west in H19 could have been through the northern half of the west wall of Room 32 (W833).

Wall construction
Generally the method of wall construction in the IIId building is consistent, although there are differences in widths depending on the position of the wall within the building. The range of wall width is generally from 50 to 70 cm wide, although the usual width is 65 to 70 cm, with the narrower walls (such as W5804 and the mud-brick top of W830) being the exception. Construction is always mud-brick on top of stone foundation. The stone foundations are made of two lines of larger stones set with their straight sides facing outwards and an inner rubble core of smaller rougher stones. The walls generally have two to three courses of stone foundation before the mud-brick is laid, although some of the walls have more than this. It is believed that the building was built on a slope (rising from north to south) as there seems to be evidence of terracing up the hill side – for example W5805, the central E/W spine of the building, has three courses of stone foundation on its north side and only two on the south.

The overlying mud-brick varies in its preservation, but again it can be stated that generally the method of construction is similar across the building. The mortar used in all walls was grey in colour and varied in thickness – the thickest, noted on W5804, being 10 cm wide. There are very few examples of complete mud-bricks and therefore it is difficult to reach definitive conclusions about their size and construction. Where dimensions could be observed, bricks were either 60 to 70 cm in length, in which case the brick length gave the full width of the wall, or were approximately square with sides of 33 cm. At the south end of W5804, the east end of W5801, and the west end of W830 the wall widths are of a single brick length – i.e. 60-70 cm, and the bricks have a width of ca. 54 cm and a height of ca. 11 cm.

The only exception to this pattern is the short stretch of mud-brick wall at the south end of W112, which was noted in the 1990's as being constructed of two rows of mud-bricks measuring 33 cm x 33 cm, giving a total wall width of 70 cm. The only other instance where two rows of mud-brick were noted making up the width of a wall was the strange mud-brick structure labelled W742 at the north end of Room 30, possibly contemporary with W112. This was made up of a double row of bricks with an average size of 35-38 cm giving a wall width of 70 cm, like W112. Its function is unclear though, as it is only a short distance from the main north wall of the building W100. Wall 742 has survived no more than 15 cm above the upper floor of Room 30, so it might have been a secondary wall, or could equally well have been a bench or the base of a stair.

The best preserved piece of wall in the IIId building is the stretch of W833 exposed in I19c. Here the wall stood 4 stone foundation courses and about 35 cm high, and on top of that there was mud-brick to a height of 62 cm. Grey mortar lines were clearly visible within the brickwork of the wall and it was possible to take an accurate measurement of brick height of 11 cm. When excavated in the 1990's the excavator noted in section that the wall was constructed of a single width of mud-brick, measuring 55 to 60 cm, although no brick length was recoverable. The other interesting feature of the wall was noted on its eastern face where it appeared to be stepped out slightly at the base – so that the wall got narrower as it was constructed; this explains why the wall was noted as having a width of
56 cm in the 1990’s when first excavated and ca. 62 cm in 2009 when the lower levels of the wall were excavated. Whether this was a deliberate or accidental feature is uncertain. Rather different is the south side of W830, between Room 30 and Room 31, where a lower stone course extended about 20 cm further south than the higher foundation courses, with the room fill of Room 31 running across the top of the lower course up to a line which no doubt represents the wall-face.

Wall layout
For the most part the IIId layout follows the alignment of the IIIc building, and some of the IIId walls replicate IIIc predecessors: the stone foundations of W833 stand directly on the foundations of phase IIIc, while in I20d the IIId stones of W100 rest on those of W104. On the other hand, more often than not there is no precise replication so that the west wall of Room 36, W101, is slightly NW of its IIIb predecessor W103, while it looks as though Rooms 34 and 33 have been shifted eastwards. Under the IIId floors of Room 32 the IIIc NW-SE wall W5808 runs about 1.5 m west of W112, and the return wall W5810 about 0.5 m north of W5805. It has already been noted that the IIIc remains under Room 37 show that here the layout of the IIIc building differed from the IIId plan, and that the IIId reconstruction of the NW Building extended the complex southwards by absorbing an area which had previously been a separate open area. All the same, most of the Level IIId layout remained in the same place throughout the phase, with the exception of the north end of Room 32 (with W112), and possibly of its west wall (W833), as discussed below.

The new layout of seven rooms (including Room 34) forms a square of approximately 14 x 14 m, similar in size to the Stele Building in Level II. The apparent similarity is however misleading, in that the construction history of the North-West Building is much less coherent, and there is a strong possibility that it extended further to the west. A closer look at the walls themselves reveals this lack of coherence. The NW limit is supplied by the 20 m stretch of stone foundations numbered W739, W100, W109, W1406 and W6302, delimiting not only Rooms 34, 32 and 30 but also the Eastern Courtyard. The wall was probably reconstructed more than once, and the different stretches may not belong to the same precise phase, though in its eroded state this is hard to demonstrate. Towards its western end the foundations stood five courses of stone high and 75 cm in width, more solid than most of the internal walls and supporting the idea that this was a major architectural element.

There are of course remnants of architecture beyond the NW wall which show that the complex at times at least may have extended further in this direction. Room 35 shares a party wall with Room 34, although nothing is known of the contents of either room. Room 36, on the other hand, does seem to have had walls on three sides with sherds of large storage jars on a surface close to W100. This room will have been accessible from inside the building since the stonework of W100 at its east end narrows to a single line of smaller stones forming a threshold for an opening 1.80 m in width. This entrance was later blocked by the NW end of W112, and it must belong to an early sub-phase of IIIId during which W112 did not exist, or at least did not extend northward for its full later length, rather reinforcing the view deriving from its western wall that Room 32, despite the care devoted to its wall faces and floors, was perceived not so much as a unit in its own right as the space remaining after other rooms had been put in place.

Further east there was more architecture, where rather than using W109, the builders erected a self-contained structure with W110 tight against the north-west face of W109. There is nothing to indicate the function of this space, unfortunately, and the stratigraphic origin of the two pits shown in I20b (P94/4 and P94/3) is unknown because we are here at the surface of the sloping mound. South of W109 is the large open space designated the “Eastern Courtyard”. It may have been accessed through the break in the wall (between W109 and W1406), and on the west side it is bounded by the eastern
exterior wall of the complex, provided by W113 and W831, the eastern walls of Rooms 30 and 31 respectively.

Turning to the back of the building, W5801 is clearly the southern exterior wall as the threshold in the south corner of Room 31 brings the occupant out onto a cobbled exterior space directly south of Room 37, and a dirty compacted exterior surface (96526) damaged by intrusive pits to the south and east of Room 31. To the west the situation is very unclear. There is no definite western wall to Room 38 or Room 34, but features in the west side of P08/47 indicated that the wall-line of W5807 continued here beyond the line of the west wall of Room 33 (W5602), and raise the possibility that there was originally at least one further range of rooms here which is lost to the erosion of the mound surface.

The SW limit to Rooms 32 and 37 is supplied by three dissimilar and discontinuous stretches of wall. The NE wall of Room 33 is W833, which is some 80 cm further to the south-west than W5806, the SW wall of Room 37, and W738, which supplies the SW wall of the north half of Room 32.

Plaster
By plaster is meant a coating of clay or similar material covering the floor and/or the vertical wall-faces of a space. In Level III, as indeed in Level II, this was not usually lime plaster, although hard white lime plaster was in use at Kilise Tepe in the Byzantine levels. In the North-West Building wall plaster was really only observable in Level IIIId, and it was not consistently present throughout the building. Starting from the west, the floor of Room 33 and its interior wall-faces were all coated in a yellowish white plaster, and although the floor was relaid at least once, it was noticeable that the fill of the room was unusually clean. The mud-bricks of W833 on the east side of the room had at least four layers of plaster, one of them more than 5 cm in thickness. As noted above, there was also very thick plaster on the north face of W5805, some of it with a thin white finish, possibly lime. By contrast, in Room 32, as noted in the 1990’s and confirmed in the 2008-9 seasons, the eastern side of W833 was coated in a grey plaster some 0.5 to 1 cm in thickness. On the opposite side of Room 32 at least four applications of fine yellowish plaster were visible against the SW face of the mud-brick masonry of the wall overlying the stone foundations. On excavation this could be followed down to the floor and the outermost layer was continuous with the latest floor plaster. In Room 30 there were two floors separated by about 20 cm fill, and scrappy remains of a coarse plaster were observed against the east wall of the room in both phases. Finally, in Rooms 31, 37 and 38 we did not observe any plaster on the wall faces, although there were rough floor plasters in each room. It seems evident that some rooms were singled out for special treatment, and this must imply that they had a special function.

The uses and functions of the rooms
As with the walls then, no room is similar to any other in various respects, reflecting their distinct functions. Room 30 had two consecutive floors with storage vessels and a noticeable number of copper items in the fill. Room 37 uniquely was sunk beneath the surrounding rooms and had a roughly plastered floor surface, while Room 31 had rough floor surfaces predominantly unplastered, with a brick feature near to the south end of the room. Both Rooms 31 and 37 contained domestic fire installations and there is good evidence of meat consumption in Room 37. Room 32 appears to be the central hub of the complex being the largest and best maintained of the rooms, and it has a detailed sequence of stratification which is unmatched by any of the other rooms. Some of the floor deposits, notably 84051 and 84066 (see above, stratum 8), were rich in organic debris and quite unlike any strata observed in the other rooms. Room 33 was particularly well maintained, which must be associated with whatever activities took place on the triangular platform, and a comparison of the two wall-faces of W5807 suggests that special care was taken with the NW face in Room 33, leaving the
SE face in Room 38 much more untidy. The purpose of Room 38 remains unclear, but the astragali and beads found within its walls are intriguing. These differences may partly reflect each room’s different architectural history and intended purpose, but more particularly they display features resulting from the different uses to which the space was put. Plainly different things were happening in each of these rooms on a regular basis.