

## §4 Level II in H19 and I19

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Before we could expose more of the North-West Building in I19 or H19, it was necessary to excavate the remnants of Level II in the south part of these two squares. In the case of I19, this involved removing the lowest layers of the thick sequence of deposits which had built up in the Western Courtyard while the Stele Building was in use, and thus exposing the highest remaining walls from phases IIe and, especially, IIId, described above in §3.2 and §3.3. In the case of H19, quadrant H19d had never been excavated and this therefore had to be taken down from the mound surface. The slope of the mound was steep here, and as a result there was only a single fragment of a IIf wall, in the highest SE corner of the quadrant. Directly beneath this was a mud-brick structure with in-built timbers which can be assigned to phase IIc of the Stele Building, and not far to its north the battered remains of a large fire installation which belongs to the same phase. These two features between them seal a thin band of stratified deposits contemporary with the lowest (IIa/b) layers of the Western Courtyard fill in I19c/d to their east, which are also described here, and immediately below these layers we encountered the tops of the walls of Room 33 in the IIId North-West Building.

H19d was excavated in 2008 by Yağmur Heffron, and in 2009 by Sarah Blakeney, who also supervised the work in the adjacent southern quadrants of I19, assisted in 2007 by Philip Boyes.

### Wall 5600 (IIf)

In the extreme SE corner of H19d a small fragment of the architecture of Level IIf survived, in the shape of a stone wall foundation running with the contour of the mound from NE to SW. Both the alignment of the wall and its absolute height suggest that it should be attributed to phase IIf, prolonging southwards the line of W817 as shown in EKT p. 840 Fig. 499 (the highest point surviving in the wall is at +99.01 m, which agrees well with the surviving top of W817 at +98.97 m). A length of about 2 m was exposed, with the SE face, standing three courses high, better preserved than the NW face, no doubt due to the steep slope here. At the north end of this stretch of wall the stones were jumbled, and this was the result of a pit P08/4 which had cut into the wall at this point.

It is not possible to say if the contour of the mound was already sloping steeply to the NW here in phase IIf, as the alignment of the wall and the ragged state of the NW face of W5600 might suggest; but possibly not, because on each side of the wall were roughly horizontal strata respecting the wall faces: 83003 and 83004 on its NW side, 83005 to the SE. Beneath 83005 packing against and beneath the lowest course of stones in W5600 was removed as 83006, and this layer gives way directly to deposits associated with the IIc structure described shortly. Below 83006 but backfilled with the same material, presumably in preparation for the construction of W5600, was a small pit which extended into I18 and H18 (P08/03). Further north, cutting through the masonry of W5600, was the west side of P08/04 (83008) which must have extended into I19c.

### Phase IIf units and finds

*IIf remains in SE corner of H19d: 83002, 83003, 83004, 83005, 83006*

83004	H19/431	Sherd from spindle bottle	
83005	H19/427	Iron nail	401
<i>Pit 08/03: 8300</i>			
<i>Pit 08/04: 83008</i>			

**The IIC remains in H19d: Wall 5601 and associated deposits** (Photo [4.1](#); Plan P6)

W5601 is the name given to a complex stretch of stone and mud-brick masonry which runs diagonally across the SE corner of H19d. Its SW end is unexcavated in H18b, and its location in the south baulk of H19d is indicated in [Section S1](#). Its NE end should have been encountered during the excavation of I19c in the 1990s, but most of it may have been removed by P97/4, with the remaining stub unrecognized (see EKT pp. 835-6 Figs. 494-5). As we found it W5601 was about 2.70 m in length and 0.60 m wide. Its highest surviving point was at +98.22 m, just west of the point where it is interrupted by P08/15. The brickwork (91007) is very fine yellow material, although the individual bricks are not discernible; the main brick wall still stood about 20-25 cm high, resting on a two-course stone foundation (91009) some 40-45 cm high, placed in a foundation trench with its base at ~97.55 m, and approximately 60 cm wide. Running along its SE side at the height of the mud-brick is a carbonized beam (83027), in a slot between the main wall and another parallel line of brickwork some 36 cm wide (91008) which rests on a single course and single row of stones, their base 27 cm higher than the base of the main foundation (Photo [4.2](#)). At the NW side of the main wall another strip of burnt material 25 cm wide (91010) runs along the outside of the stone foundation at a level of +97.78 m, so below the top of the stone foundation but about 20 cm above its base. This contained pieces of carbonized beam, and is presumably associated with the ground surface at the base of 82033 (see below). Where W5601 entered the [south section of H19d](#), there were at least two considerable pieces of carbonized beams (H19/458 and H19/459), at an angle consistent with having fallen from an original position above, perhaps deriving from a wooden structure here, like a door frame (Photo [4.3](#)). These pieces of wood were lying directly on the mud-brick and above the beam in the southeastern slot (83027), and they were sealed by a thick deposit of burnt brick and calcined debris (83009), which must result from the destruction of the wall and is probably therefore lying on a threshold since this would have been exposed. Timbers are often associated with thresholds in the Stele Building, and the secondary, higher and less massive wall line to the SE strongly suggests that we may be looking at the remains of a flight of two or more steps leading up to the SE. The implication of this is that even after the IIC reconstruction of the Stele Building, which was clearly in part a response to the rise in ground level in the spaces adjacent to the building, the part of the settlement to the south-west of the Stele Building and of the lane running along its outer wall lay still higher than the IIC courtyard level, necessitating a few steps up from the south side of the Western Courtyard area.

In the small space between the SE face of the wall and the corner of the square there was “light yellow silty fill” but with some burnt timber at the west end at ~98.30 m (base of 83022). Below this 91006, and below that 91011, must represent IIA/b occupation levels, into which the IIC wall was inserted. To the NW of the wall there are some associated IIC occupation surfaces. The destruction debris (83009) was lying on a layer with patches of fine black ash (83011), in which was one small depression, hardly a pit, filled with sterile soil (P08/22). Below this a clean yellow clay floor at +97.93 m, with a few shallow depressions (83021) had an unusual number of sherds lying on it, and rose gently towards the SW side of the kiln (83020). Some 10-15 cm below this was a similar earlier surface marked by occasional small round pebbles (83033 at +97.74-97.82 m; 83034 to the north at +97.79-97.82 m; 91001 at +97.82 m), which became continuous where the floor sloped up to the west side of F198/4 (Photo [4.4](#)). These successive IIC occupation surfaces all rise northwards towards this substantial fire installation in the NE corner of the quadrant, and rest on a single packing layer (83035) which constitutes the earliest IIC material here.

On this earliest floor, just to the SE of FI98/4, to be described shortly, was a circular feature (“Feature 2”) at the same level as the floor of the oven (+97.80 m) and standing about 13 cm high. It may have been a fire installation. A deposit of very fine powdery grey-white and yellowish material (83037) filled the interior of the circle, which was enclosed by a white clay rim on the south and east, and lay above a “floor” composed of a mud-brick and four stones, one of which had a circular depression on its under side and may therefore have been a door socket turned upside down (H19/481).

#### **FI98/4 ([Photo 4.1](#))**

This was a full-sized oven with a long narrow rectangular chamber constructed with large carefully selected (though not worked) stones, with the back of the fire-chamber to the NW (see Photo 4.1, on right). Parts of this feature were very close to the mound surface and recorded in the 1990s, though not fully excavated because they lay outside the limit of I19. As shown in the plan (see EKT p. 835 Fig. 494), its base was placed neatly alongside an early Level II wall (W834), with the floor of its fire-chamber at +97.83 m as compared with the surviving top of W834 at +98.27 m (EKT p. 145). However, kilns or ovens are not infrequently countersunk, and FI98/4 is certainly no earlier than W5601 and must belong to phase IIc. The lower fill of the eastern side of the kiln was partly cleared away in 2007 (74504, 74511, 74516). In 2008 the stonework of the structure within H19 was exposed (using 83028 for later deposits on the east side), and a layer of reddish-brown material, perhaps the remnants of its superstructure, was cleared from inside the fuel chamber (83026). This exposed the large flat stones forming the base of the whole kiln which were 16-17 cm deep and were finally removed later as 91002. At this level the internal dimensions of the oven’s fuel chamber were ~1.70 x 0.90 m, and the exterior dimensions were ~2.30 x 1.40 m.

#### **Wall 5601 and associated deposits**

*IIc wall W5601: 83027, 91007, 91008, 91009, 91010, 91012*

83027	H19/528	C14 sample	<sup>14</sup> CS18
91009	H19/544	Fossil	570
91010	H19/546	Spindle whorl	207

*Destruction material from W5601: 83009, 83010, 83011, 83012, 83017, 83019,*

83009	H19/435	Copper fragments	386
83009	H19/437	Copper fragment	387
83011	H19/450	Clay bead	252
83011	H19/462	Archaeobotanical sample	S08/22
83017	H19/456	Archaeobotanical sample	S08/27

*IIc fill to SE of W5601: 83022, 91006*

83022	H19/473	Glass bead	253
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*IIc occ. sequence to NW of W5601: 83020, 83021, 83029, 83030, 83031, 83033, 83034, 83035, 91001*

*“Feature 2”: 83037*

83037	H19/481	Door socket	724
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#### **FI98/4**

*Structure of FI98/4: 74519, 74520, 83026, 91002*

74519	I19/501	Worked bone	531
91002	H19/530	Grindstone fragment	765

*Fill above and inside FI 98/4: 74504, 74511, 74516, 83028*

*IIc/e fill above west side of FI98/4: 83028*

### **I1c pit P08/14**

This pit was about 2 m in diameter and preserved 56 cm deep. It occupies the SW corner of H19d. The upper part of its fill (83015) was mixed burnt debris including orange coloured brick, calcined material and stone tumble, which is continuous with the destruction material overlying the remains of W5601 and associated features (83009), indicating that this pit must have been at least partially open when that destruction took place. This material was about 35 cm deep, and lay on top of a clean yellowish-brown silty deposit with charcoal and pockets of ash, which was no more than 10 cm in depth (83016). At the base of the pit was a hard yellow bricky deposit pre-dating it (83032). The pit was subsequently cut into by P08/18 on the NW, by P08/15 on the SE and by P08/50 and P08/51 on the west.

*Fill of P08/14: 83015, 83016, 83032*

83015 H19/446

Archaeobotanical sample

**S08/44**

### **Level I1b**

After the removal of W5601, FI98/4, and associated deposits, a square 1 x 1 m was left unexcavated in the NE corner of H19d, and the remainder of the quadrant was then taken further down, initially involving the clearance of broadly horizontal layers which are the westward continuation of the accumulation of successive courtyard deposits in I19 to the east. While in I19a+b these had been cleared away in the 1990s to expose the northern half of the North-West Building, thick bands of I1a and I1b deposits remained in I19c and I19d, and these had to be removed to give access to the southern half of the building.

The southern part of the Western Courtyard had been left in 1997 at around +98.20 m on the west side, sloping down to about +98.00 m further east (EKT p. 835 Fig. 494), in levels not far (some 5-20 cm) below the earliest I1c courtyard. From our removal of the northern part above the Level III rooms in I19a+b, we were expecting a steady accumulation of occupation deposits, and this is indeed broadly what was there. On the east side the I1c pit, P97/6, had removed a large amount of the deposits in I19d, and on the west side the outlines of three mud-brick walls had been identified in the surface reached. Our work began here, redefining and removing walls W834, W835 and W836. With the passage of nearly ten years the brick of W834 was no longer perceptible, but W835 and W836 remained clear (Photo 4.5). An occupation surface (74512) in the space enclosed by these two walls was located at about 10-20 cm below their surviving top, associated with a horse-shoe shaped hearth plastered up to the SW face of W836; this was assigned the number FI97/3, but it must have been earlier than the pebble-based hearth originally given that number since this overlay the west face of the wall. Some mud-bricks resembling a feature were visible on the floor in the angle of the two walls, but it was decided they were accidental (74521). The surface was laid above a layer of fill which respects the two walls (74529). In the SW corner of the quadrant a pit (P07/21) cut through the horizontal deposits and was excavated separately.

W835 and W836 were substantial – good solid mudbrick on very solid stone foundations, but the foundations slumped downwards into the NE corner of quadrant c and this had a similar effect on the stratigraphy here which tilted down towards the NE corner, whereas the stratigraphy in quadrant d remained quite horizontal. There were no individual mud-bricks visible in either wall. The foundations

were made of an outer line of carefully aligned stones with a loose soil or rubble core, generally one course deep. The exception to this was the south end of W836 where the stone foundation stood two courses high. Along the NE side of W836 there was a shallow foundation trench. Within the space delimited by W835 and W836 excavation removed 74559, an orangey surface, and below it 74561, a yellow layer identical to 74529 in I19d, which marks the construction of the walls.

Although these walls are undoubtedly contemporary with the early phases of the Stele Building, it is noticeable that they follow the same alignment as the Level IIIe walls W5802 and 5803, and like them seem to form the north corner of a building which must have extended some distance south into I18. However W835-836 were covered by courtyard deposits quite early in the sequence and there is no corresponding structure in the IIc phase of the Western Courtyard.

#### **Level IIb units and finds**

*Occupation deposits W of W836: 74502, 74512, 74517, 74521, 74529, 74559, 74561*

74502	I19/502	Worked bone	<b>530</b>
74512	I19/285	Spindle whorl	<b>205</b>
74529	I19/286	Bone tube	<b>465</b>
74529	I19/741	Pottery disc	<b>22</b>

*FI97/3: 74522, 74523*

*P07/21: 74507, 74544*

*W835: 74518, 74532*

*W836: 74514, 74531, 74535*

74514	I19/279	Spindle whorl	<b>204</b>
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#### **Western Courtyard Level IIa-b (I19d)**

In this area IIb is the phase assigned to the construction and use of Walls 834, 835 and 836 (and the transition from IIa does not necessarily coincide with the same change as defined within the rooms of the Stele Building). Outside Walls 835 and 836 in I19d was a thick sequence of approximately horizontal occupation layers, some of them striking for their orange coloration. These were peeled off in four units (from top to bottom 74501, 74513, 74538 and 74539) giving an approximate total depth of around 50 cm, all of which had been cut by the trench for W836 and therefore by definition belong to phase IIa. Below 74539 was a thick (30-40 cm) stratum rich in pot and bone, 74543, which ran continuously into I19c beneath W836. Above 74538 was a clear thick orange layer which was interrupted by the W836 trench, and corresponds to 74540 to its west; likewise 74539, the packing layer between 74538 and 74543 to the east of W836, corresponds to 74541 to its west.

Against the SW external corner of the Stele Building at the level of 74543 a curved arc of three medium-sized stones, which had been raised a further 10 cm by a course of mud-brick, enclosed a small space filled with homogeneous grey-brown soil (see [Plan P6](#); Photo [4.6](#)). Near the top of the stone course (at +97.45 m) was found an animal horn-core (I19/353). The entire feature measured some 67 cm N-S and with the brick this partition would have stood 15 cm above the surface on which the bone was lying. Beneath the single course of stones was a packing layer of 8 cm depth, and this rested on the thick layer of packing (74543) which ran under the foundation of W836, indicating that this feature must have been installed before or at the same time as the construction of W835 and W836.

Below the base of 74543 (~97.13 m) the sequence of approximately horizontal occupation deposits alternating with packing continued down in the SE part of the courtyard (in I19d), for a further 15 cm (units: 74549 below +97.13 m, 74550 (base = surface at +96.98 m), 74556, 74557, final 2007

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Level II in H19 and I19

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unit 74588). There were signs of circular cuts probably marking short lived pits into these levels, not given numbers or separately excavated. These apparently shallow circular storage pits (less than 30 cm in depth) pose a problem. It seems improbable that a pit so shallow would have been practical, so it is probable that the level from which the pit was dug was above the highest point at which we have recorded it. Although it is always possible that the cut for a pit may be missed when first encountered, this is not likely to be repeated over several units in a vertical sequence, for any significant depth, or in every case, and one is forced to conclude that the upper reaches of each original pit were cut down shortly after it went out of use, in the course of renovating the courtyard area.

**Western Courtyard IIa-b (I19d) units and finds**

*I19d Western Courtyard sequence prior to W836: 74501, 74513, 74538, 74539, 74540, 74541, 74543, 74549, 74550, 74556, 74557, 11126*

74501	I19/243	Stone quern fragment	<b>761</b>
74501	I19/244	Copper pin	<b>343</b>
74501	I19/246	Copper fragment	<b>385</b>
74501	I19/290	Stone vessel handle	<b>684</b>
74501	I19/245	Worked astragalus	<b>501</b>
74501	I19/739	1 or 2 lentoid flasks	
74501	I19/738	Ceramic vessel	
74513	I19/266	Copper pin	<b>333</b>
74513	I19/267	Copper fibula(?)	<b>373</b>
74513	I19/291	Tortoise shell fragment	
74513	I19/271	Stone vessel(?) fragment	<b>707</b>
74513	I19/272	Flint core	<b>621</b>
74513	I19/292	Flint blade	<b>622</b>
74513	I19/314	Archaeobotanical sample	<b>S07/33</b>
74513	I19/315	Archaeobotanical sample	<b>S08/36</b>
74539	I19/443	Archaeobotanical sample	<b>S07/52</b>
74543	I19/323	Lentoid flask fragments	
74543	I19/343	Frit bead	<b>248</b>
74543	I19/341	7 frags. of copper pin	<b>345</b>
74543	I19/347	Stone bead	<b>249</b>
74543	I19/340a, b	Flint blade and flake	<b>617, 618</b>
74543	I19/342	Stone palette	<b>692</b>
74543	I19/346	Stone panel	<b>717</b>
74543	I19/326	Grindstone	<b>762</b>
74549	I19/355	Frit bead	<b>245</b>
74549	I19/383	Tortoise shell fragment	
74557	I19/359	Pottery stand	
74557	I19/362	Copper stud	<b>371</b>
74557	I19/366	Pierced shell	<b>545</b>
74557	I19/381	Tortoise shell fragment	
11126	I19/781	Copper needle	<b>332</b>
11126	I19/783	Copper loop	<b>364</b>
11126	I19/784	Ceramic item	
11126	I19/802	Archaeobotanical sample	<b>S11/31</b>

*Feature against corner of Steele Building: 74546, 74553, 74585*

74553

I19/363

Bovid horn core

### **Western Courtyard Level IIa-b (I19c)**

In I19c the position was more complicated. Along the north side of the quadrant were three intersecting pits (on the west P07/13, on the east P98/18, and between them P07/14 which they both cut). They are cut into the same accumulated occupation sequence continuing here from I19d into the NW of W835, but it begins to rise towards the west and individual layers which could be traced in I19d did not all continue across I19c. Initially there were some layers below +97.93 m which appeared to be brickly fill or packing (74503 and 74506 further east). During the excavation of 74506 a long narrow channel about 14 cm wide and 10 cm deep (base at +97.67 m) was exposed (74515), running more or less horizontally from the SE corner of F198/4 up to the side of P07/14 (making a length of 1.85 m). It was filled with extremely loose dark brown soil, but its purpose remains obscure and it did not seem to be related to any other feature. Beneath this, the sequence of occupation deposits was taken further down with 74524 above 74528 and 74530 above 74533 to the SE, and 74525 above 74526 to the NW of the channel. At ~97.58-97.64 m the entire area NW of W835 was taken down to ~97.50 m (74534). This led to the exposure of a small (2 x 0.5 m) patch of cobbled pavement (74536) in the NW part of the quadrant, cut by P07/13. The cobbles were rounded pebbles, measuring on average 15 x 10 x 4 cm. Excavation continued below 74534 and 74536, from +97.62 m to +97.46 m with unit 74537 which was described as brickly packing, making about 50 cm of deposit here too. At this level the strata were sloping sharply from the west down to the east; about 15 cm of deposits were removed using 74564 followed by 74566, and beneath this 74571 was used to follow a whitish surface: this extended from a maximum height of +97.28 m in the NW corner of the quadrant down to +96.87 m, 2.5 m to the south and 3.5 m to the east.

As with the later phases of the Western Courtyard, there were the remnants of a variety of fire installations. One small feature underlying a few stones at the base of 74552 was cut away on the north by pit P07/30 and on the south by P97/6 leaving a narrow strip. It was clearly a hearth, with a few lumps of plastered clay associated with a patch of grey ash, but too little survived to reconstruct its original form (F107/07). A longer lived installation was identified in the IIa levels at the east side of I19c. Here, at +97.61-67 m, below the base of 74561, unit 74562 exposed the surviving top of F107/10 at +97.37 m. Beneath 74562 this area was taken down (with unit 74567) to the same level as the base of 74566 further north, exposing more details of F107/10 which could be seen to be a large circular hearth constructed with two big stones and a mud-brick surround, with its plastered floor laid over pebbles at +97.36 m. At this height it measured 1.4 m (N-S) by 1.2 m (E-W), with the internal diameter of the plastered floor about 0.80 m. Subsequently an earlier phase of the oven was exposed below the stones and plastered interior: this had a rectangular mud-brick surround, possibly open to the east, and the internal floor lay about 25 cm lower at +97.11 m.

Outside the oven, 74567 was used to clear down to a whitish surface equivalent to the top of 74549 in I19d (+97.39 m at west, +97.32 m at east). As in I19d to the east, these courtyard levels were relatively rich in a variety of artefacts, including copper items. Most significant were several pieces of worked bone retrieved from a rubbly deposit of packing (74580) round the base of the oven, which clearly represented wasters from a production enterprise. Beneath 74566 in the north and 74567 round the oven the courtyard fill was removed with 74574 and this left the majority of the quadrant at the same level. Beneath this was a packing layer, removed with 74579 to a depth of approx. 10 cm. At this

point it came down on an unclear surface to be identified with 74556 in quadrant d. This surface petered out around 1.2 m west of the c/d boundary, along with the grey charcoal-rich layer visible in the section, which had characterized this packing layer. This unit revealed what appears to be a continuation downwards of the surface found at the west end of 74567/74574. Like everything else in quadrant c, this sloped steeply, in this case downwards to the east, beneath the white surface identified in 74571. It was thought that it might join up with the patch of black surface seen beneath the white, but as it was pursued eastwards it petered out before any connection could be made, around 1.2 m from the quadrant line.

Below this again above Level III were at least two layers of packing (84005/84006 and 84008/84009), alternating with occupation surfaces (84007 and 84010).

#### **Western Courtyard IIa-b (I19c) units and finds**

*I19c Western Courtyard IIb sequence: 74503, 74506, 74515, 74524, 74525, 74526, 74528, 74530, 74533, 74534, 74536, 74537*

74537	I19/227	Fossilized shell	<b>572</b>
74537	I19/303	Obsidian flake	<b>616</b>
74537	I19/382	Flint flake	<b>620</b>

*I19c Western Courtyard sequence prior to W836: 74562, 74564, 74566, 74567, 74571, 74574, 74579, 74580, 84001, 84002, 84005, 84006, 84007, 84008, 84009*

74562	I19/449	Grindstone fragment	<b>763</b>
74562	I19/373	Spindle whorl	<b>203</b>
74564	I19/425	Astragalus	<b>502</b>
74566	I19/384	Copper loop	<b>363</b>
74567	I19/387	Copper pins	<b>346, 347</b>
74571	I19/394	Silver rods	<b>443</b>
74571	I19/404	Copper awl	<b>317</b>
74579	I19/417	Pyramidal stone	<b>706</b>
74579	I19/422	Fossilized shell	<b>566</b>
74579	I19/444	Worked astragalus	<b>503</b>
74580	I19/500	Worked bone	<b>525</b>
74580	I19/499	Worked bone	<b>524</b>
74580	I19/519	2 worked bones	<b>527</b>
74580	I19/520	Worked bone	<b>528</b>
74580	I19/521	Worked bone	<b>529</b>
74580	I19/517	Worked bone	<b>526</b>
74580	I19/241	Worked astragalus	<b>500</b>
84005	I19/461	Copper tool	<b>318</b>
84008	I19/463	Ceramic sieve	
84008	I19/466	Spindle whorl	<b>202</b>

*FI07/10: 74575, 74584, 74587*

#### **Western Courtyard summary**

Taken all together, the IIa/b occupation sequence in the western courtyard had a depth of about 1 m beneath the IIc surface. It was clearly an open area, with occasional fire installations, and as already noted, the deposits were unusually rich in a variety of artefacts. The sloping layers along the west side gave way to horizontal striated deposits closer to the Stele Building. Excavation in 2011 followed these courtyard deposits for a stretch of 2 m eastwards along the SW face of the Stele Building,



showing that the closely striated courtyard sequence continued in this direction. The nature of the sequence shows very clearly in the view of the [cross section](#) through it immediately to the SW of the Stele Building (Photo [4.7](#)). It consisted of multiple thin horizontal deposits, of which some appear to be deliberate plaster lines but the majority are fine deposits of debris with charcoal and phytolith inclusions. The individual strata could not be followed for any distance, but an idea of the whole sequence is given by the following notes on it (written by Philip Boyes in 2007), starting from the top: “yellowish brickly layer approx. 10 cm thick – brownish-grey fill c. 12 cm thick – a phytolith layer c. 2 cm thick, containing more charcoal than the upper layers – pale pinkish-grey layer c. 4 cm thick, which also contained charcoal flecks – pale yellow layer c. 0.5 cm thick visible in places – ochreish-grey fill with little charcoal – patchy pale yellow layer c. 0.5 cm thick – ochreish-grey measuring c. 6 cm in thickness – whitish ochre layer c. 0.3 cm thick (sloping noticeably down from N to S, more than the layers above and below) – more ochreish-grey c. 0.3 cm thick – russet grey layer ca. 1 cm thick – white layer ca. 0.1 cm thick – pale grey, charcoal flecked layer 2.5 cm – grey fill 2 cm – ochre layer c. 1.5 cm – yellowish-white layer of varying thickness never more than 0.3 cm – charcoal flecked pale ochre-grey fill c. 6 cm – similar but slightly pinker material ca. 2 cm – very clear whitish pinky-grey ca. 2.5 cm – pinkish-grey ca. 4 cm – more golden ochre layer ca. 0.3 cm (ca. 40 cm long) – fairly compact pinky brownish grey material ca. 11 cm – white layer ca. 0.5 cm – pinky-brownish 6 cm. Base of current excavation.”

The regularity of these deposits at this point close to the SW corner of the Stele Building was greater than further west and north, out in the open area of the courtyard, and by comparison with other archaeological contexts, it strongly suggests that here they were laid down in a relatively narrow space, probably confined by another wall running parallel to the outside of the Stele Building, meaning that its SW side bordered on a lane or street; unfortunately we did not have opportunity to confirm this by excavating further south in I/J18.

In the courtyard’s earliest phase the pinky white layer, and therefore the central part of the earliest stage of the Level II Western Courtyard sequence, sloped down towards a central point, filling a wide hollow with its base near the intersection of the four main Level IIId rooms. This reflects the fact that the Level III architecture had been cut down much lower towards the centre of I19, leaving the IIId west wall of Room 37, with all the IIId walls of Room 33, and also the foundations of the IIle building in I19c standing much higher. This should not lead us to suppose that IIa is immediately subsequent to the Level IIId North-West Building, because there is ample evidence that there was a separate building phase (IIle) between the two (described above §3.3), much of which must have been completely removed towards the centre of the courtyard area. Moreover, this inward slope persisted for some time, even during the periods of use of the fair-sized oven FI07/10. It must contribute to our perception of the usage of this space during the early decades of the Stele Building: while we may call it a courtyard, it was far from a flat open space, and even in phase IIc we know that it hosted a number of short-lived hearths and ovens, as well as temporary shacks, and the ground level rose towards the north-east. It is not then any kind of a ceremonial courtyard, more of a back-yard – or a forecourt –, and it should be remembered that we cannot point to any evidence that there was ever direct access from the Western Courtyard into the Stele Building.

## Level II pit P07/30

This number was assigned to P97/69 identified in 1997 in the SE corner of I19b (overlapping into J19a), which cut through the line of W831, the east wall of Room 31 in Level IIId (see plan, EKT Fig. 491; [Plan P5](#)). It was not fully excavated then, and in 2007 after removal of backfill it was excavated from a level of +96.68 m on the west side below the Room 31 floor. It had originally been cut from at least as high as +97.37 m, through Level IIId deposits if not later, giving a total depth of 1 m or more. The sides of the lower part of the pit were vertical to a height of 75 cm from the lowest point to which we dug (possibly still not the base), with a diameter of 1.50 m, but above this point there was a small ledge which increased the diameter of the pit by about 20 cm (10 cm all round). In I19b the upper fill was removed with unit 74551 and the lowest 0.30 m with unit 74565, while the full depth of the east part of the fill which lay in J19a was taken out with 74568. The fill was brown with charcoal inclusions and white phytolith striations in the fill and up the sides.

*P07/30: 74551, 74565, 74568*

74551	I19/351	Olive/fruit stones
74551	I19/423	Tortoise shell fragment

### **The transition from Level IIa to Level III**

The point at which our excavation moved from the lowest Level II deposits and began investigating Level III varied across the area. Although the units discussed here naturally belong with the Level II courtyard sequence, it may be helpful to describe the precise occurrence of the lowest strata in their own right. This will begin in the middle and work outwards to the limits of the courtyard area in turn.

At the centre of I19, at the intersection of all four quadrants, the work in the 1990s had not penetrated south of the SW corner of Room 30. Here it had been observed that the tops of the Level IIId walls, at the junction of Rooms 30, 31, 32, and 37, were sealed by a “pinkish white” layer which seemed to mark the base of the IIa courtyard deposits, described in EKT p. 145 as “a distinctive layer of whitish material with a pink tinge”. This layer was relocated in 2007 (74582), when it was described as several centimeters thick in places, but uneven with its surface appearing fragmented with cracks. At this point it was indeed the lowest deposit overlying the Level III architecture, but it was not present throughout I19c/d, partly because it rose upwards in most directions. On the original plan of Level IIId (EKT Fig. 491; cf. [Plan 2](#)) one can see how the mud-brick courses of the walls of Room 30 (W112 and W830) have been cut away before they reach their junction, by the base of the IIa levels trending downwards towards the south and west. At this point, the SW corner of the underlying Room 30, the thick pinkish-white material marking the base of IIa was at +96.60 m at its lowest point; it sloped upwards from here to both east and west, but it did not extend more than 1.50 m from the quadrant intersection, no doubt because being higher here it was sliced away by later activities.

On the east side, the accumulated sequence of courtyard deposits ran up towards the SW wall of the Stele Building, as can be seen in the section adjacent to its corner (Photo [4.7](#)). These deposits were partly a continuation of the courtyard sequence, but close to the Stele Building wall there was packing material, including some large stones, which was associated with the lowest courses of the wall (74560, 74569, 74589), and this was also removed further north in J19c where the deposits rose over the remnants of a Level IIId wall (77078). Further to the south in I19d the courtyard sequence was largely interrupted by the large Level IIc pit (P97/6) and a second pit P07/30 not far to the north, which is either of IIa or of IIId date. In I19b the outline of Level III Room 31 was uncovered in 1997,

but the base of the IIa deposits remained further east below 74550, and these were taken out with 74555 and 74558 (in I19b, between P97/6 and P07/30), 74554 (east and south of P97/6), 74573 (below 74554, including remnants of FI07/07) and 74581 (south of 74573 up to the wall of the Stele Building). Beyond this, the removal of unit 74588, further to the south and west, exposed the highest bricks of the IIId phase, belonging to the SE wall of Room 31 (W5801).

Here although the pinky white layer, designated as 84010 and sometimes with an orangey tinge, was rising towards the south, it did not stretch as far as the south side of I19c/d, where it would have had to rise and cross over the back wall of the Level IIId building (W5801) still standing to +97.07 m at its east end, and +96.83 near the SW corner of Room 37. To the north of the wall in I19d a loose yellow deposit containing bricky lumps but not much pot or bone (84001 and 84002, top at +96.98 m near W5801 and +97.04 m further north) was cleared off the surface of 84010, whose northward slope away from the wall face is steep enough to mean that the 84001 packing layer is only 2-5 cm thick by the wall face but 30-35 cm deep in the NW corner of the quadrant. In I19d 84010 is at +96.97 m. Further west this same bricky fill peeled off from the surface of 84010, which was present across the whole of the north part of I19c, and was removed as 84008 with 84009. 84009 lay directly above the IIId foundations of Wall 5803, but 84010, and hence the pinky white layer, although it was at a height of +97.24 m in the NW of I19c, was not seen above the foundation of either W5802 or W5803. Similarly the pinky white layer can be seen clearly in the west baulk of I19c beneath FI98/4 rising up southwards before disappearing close to the base of the phase IIc wall (see below).

#### **Level IIa to III units and finds**

*Earliest IIa courtyard levels: 74554, 74555, 74558, 74560, 74569, 74573, 74581, 74582, 74588, 74589, 77078, 84010*

74558	I19/369	Worked shells	<b>544</b>
74558	I19/365	Flint flake	<b>619</b>
74560	I19/433	Human mandible	
74588	I19/740	Cypriot sherd	

#### **Levels IIa and IIb in H19d**

The IIa and IIb deposits in H19d were excavated last, and pose complications of their own. The highest of the pre-IIc layers to the north of W5601 in the 1 m strip at the east side of H19d is 91003, and beneath this is unit 91004 which cleared down to the pinky white layer (=73582 in the centre of I19). This had already been seen in the west section of I19c to rise steeply towards the south, until at a point 2.10 m south of the I19a/c boundary, and a height of ~97.75 m (20 cm above the base of the IIc foundation trench for W5601), it was sliced away by later activity, very likely the IIc construction itself. Beneath the pinky white deposit marking the base of 91004 was a second very similar pinky white stratum numbered 91015 (at +97.49 m). However, this respected the NW face of W5807 and did not slope like virtually every phase IIa deposit, but rather is strictly horizontal, in conformity with the fill and overlying layers which occupy Room 33 of the IIId building. The 91015 layer was 3-4 cm in thickness for the most part, but where it had sunk into a circular depression (numbered P09/09), as much as 20 cm deep. Further west across H19c this layer was excavated as 83039, which is clearly visible as a thick horizontal band between +97.45 m and +97.50 m, about 60 cm above the IIId floor of Room 33 (further south the equivalent is 83047 whose base is at +97.36-49 m). Above this lower

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## Level II in H19 and I19

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pinky white layer further horizontal bands, excavated as 83038, 83043, 83047 and 83042, are likely still to belong to Level III (whether IIId or IIIE), while 83035 and 83041 (base +97.75 m) may be IIa/b courtyard layers (Photo [4.8](#)). This seems to indicate clearly that either during a late IIId phase or possibly in the IIIE phase of the North-West Building a deposit was laid down horizontally over Room 33 and perhaps adjacent parts of the building.

### **H19d Levels IIa/b units and finds**

*IIa/b strata in H19: 83035, 83038, 83040, 83041, 83042, 83043, 83044, 83053, 83054, 91003, 91011, 91015, 91021*

83041	H19/486	Clay cylinder	<b>49</b>
91003	H19/535	Faience bead	<b>246</b>
<i>Lowest deposit over first IIa layer in H19: 83039, 83047, 91004</i>			
91004	H19/537	Frit bead	<b>247</b>

### **Pits into IIa/b occupation sequence in I19**

Several pits were identified in the lower layers of the courtyard sequence: in some cases their highest incidence may not have been spotted, but they are not likely to have been missed for more than one or two layers.

#### ***P97/6: 74548***

This was a large storage pit in the Level IIc Western Courtyard which had been filled with debris from the destruction of the IIc Stele Building (see EKT p. 146, Fig. 495). In 2007 it was apparent that although the base had been reached on the west side, there was a depth of 20 cm of pit fill remaining further east, and this was removed with 74548 leaving the base at +96.80 m, where it had cut into the packing layer 74549.

74548	I19/393	Tortoise shell fragment	
74548	I19/349	Spindle whorl	<b>206</b>

#### ***P98/18: 74505***

The full outline of this pit was exposed by 74500. Its northern half with the uppermost 20 cm of the south part was dug in 1998 (5537, EKT p. 114). It has a diameter of 1.53 m, and survived to a depth of 66 cm (+97.77 m down to +97.11 m). The fill was loose brown soil, with a white phytolith layer across the base and running up the sides as much as 30-40 cm.

74505	I19/250	Pilgrim flask stand	
74505	I19/312	Archaeobotanical sample	<b>S07/29</b>

#### ***P07/13: 74508***

The southern third of this pit was excavated in the north side of I19c, the remainder in I19a was presumably removed when investigating the south end of Room 32 with unit 5541 (EKT p. 114). The maximum surviving width is 1.38 m. The pit base is at +97.35 m, with the remaining upper edge,

identified after the surface cleaning unit 74500, nearly 50 cm higher at +97.82 m, and the pit cut into the west side of P07/14. The fill (74508) was mixed, with a few horizontal striations and ash lines.

**P07/14: 74509, 74510**

This is the earliest of the three pits cutting the I19a/c quadrant line, being cut into on the west by P07/13 and on the east by P98/18. Its surviving depth was 1.05 m (+97.82 m down to +96.77 m), with a diameter at the base of 1.30 m. The fill was mixed dark brown, stratified with bands of charcoal or black ash, and a white phytolith layer at the base and up the sides for about 10 cm. The lower 50 cm of fill (74510) was more densely packed with potsherds and bone than the upper half metre (74509).

74510	I19/260	Copper wire	<b>366</b>
74510	I19/311	Archaeobotanical sample	<b>S07/28</b>

**P08/6: 84004**

A small pit (0.92 m N-S and 1.04 m E-W) dug through 84001, almost the lowest I1a deposit layer in the east side of I19d. It survived to a depth of only 12 cm, and its east edge had been cut away for the I1c pit P97/6.

**P08/07: 84003, 84029**

In the NE part of I19c. 71 cm deep (+97.22 m down to +96.51 m). Di. at top 1.52 m, expanding to a maximum near base of 1.63 m. First 23 cm taken out with 84003, lower 44 cm with 84029. White phytolith layers both across the base and at intervals in the fill. Dark charcoal-rich fill relatively full of potsherds, bone and occasional other artifacts.

84003	I19/458	Copper needle	<b>329</b>
84029	I19/492	Iron slag	<b>450</b>
84029	I19/491	Copper artefact	<b>372</b>
84029	I19/522	Worked fossil	<b>479</b>
84029	I19/490	Archaeobotanical sample	<b>S08/29</b>

**P08/13: 84011**

At the intersection of I19c/d and I18a/b, above the west end of W5801. North half only excavated, as remainder is under south baulk. Very loose soft brown soil, with a white phytolith layer up to 5 cm thick across base and up sides. Di. approx. 88 cm, about 60 cm deep (from ~97.50 m down to ~96.90 m).

**P08/46: 84048, 84052**

P08/46 first showed as a plaster circle (di. 1.10-1.18 m) in the floor, in the SW corner of Level IIId Room 32 (84043), but because the pottery seems plainly later than Level IIId, it is thought to have been dug from higher up and missed during the excavation of the overlying fill. Depth below 84043 1.06 m (from +96.69 m down to +95.63 m). The majority of the fill was dark brown and rich in charcoal, pot and bone. About halfway down there was a "shelf" of large stones in among burnt destruction material, which remained unexcavated. At the lowest level reached, possibly not the base, was a white phytolith layer.

84052	I19/537	Copper needle	<b>331</b>
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84052

I19/562

Spouted jar (*Anatolian Studies* 64, 106)

### **Pits into IIc deposits**

#### ***P08/15: 83014***

Small (di. ~1 m) round pit, standing only 31 cm high (lowest point at +97.77 m). It cut through the IIc destruction layer 83009, and must also have cut into the fill of the larger and earlier pit P08/14 to its NW (despite the plan). It was sealed by the IIf packing layer 83006 associated with W5600. The fill was “light brown silty fill with small lumps of yellow mud-brick debris”, with quite large fallen stones lying at the base.

#### ***P08/18: 83018***

This small pit, diameter about 80 cm, was cut into the NW side of P08/14 near the SW corner of H19c, with its top at +97.25 m and the base 50 cm lower. Since it cuts P08/14 it must post-date the IIc destruction event, but the fill unsurprisingly includes fragments of orange burnt clay, specks of charcoal and white calcined material which must have derived from the destruction debris through which it was dug.

#### ***P08/20: 83023, 83024***

The upper edge of this pit was sealed on the east side by the surface 83020/83031 which was associated with the IIc fire installation FI98/4. It had a diameter of 1.30 m but survived to a depth of no more than 30-40 cm, its base resting on the mud-brick of the west wall of IIId Room 33 (W5602). It had a phytolith layer at the base, and the silty grey fill contained fragments of charcoal and a considerable quantity of burnt animal bones. The highest 5-10 cm of fill is identical with the deposit 83013, which presumably sank into the upper part of the pit as the contents compressed with time.

#### ***P08/22: 83025***

This was a shallow (8 cm) depression in the surface on which the IIc destruction material was lying, NW of W5601 (83011). It was about 50 cm in diameter and filled with very soft brown ashy soil.

#### ***P08/47: 83045, 91013, 91014, 91020***

The chronological placement of this pit, which was excavated both in 2008 and in 2009, is unusually certain because it was incontrovertibly sealed by the construction of W5601, which runs across its centre from NE to SW, and it cut through W5807, the SE wall of Room 33 in Level IIId. Its top edge was identified at +97.58 m and the lowest point at its base at +96.69 m, making a preserved depth of 89 cm. It was roughly circular, measuring 1.95 m E-W but only 1.70 m N-S. The upper fill for the first 36 cm or so was clean yellowish with some charcoal inclusions (91013), below this the unit was changed to 93014 as there was much more charcoal in the fill, along with bands of phytoliths, with the band at the base of the pit regularly running up the sides.

91013	H19/550	Copper wire	<b>365</b>
91014	H19/551	Copper lumps	<b>383</b>
91014	H19/552	Pierced shell	<b>549</b>
91014	H19/581	Pierced shell	<b>548</b>

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Level II in H19 and I19

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91014	H19/563	Ceramic handle	
91014	H19/579	Worked astragalus	<b>504</b>
91020	H19/561	2 copper beads	<b>250, 251</b>

***P08/50: 83055***

One of three large intersecting pits to the west of W5602, cutting (and therefore later than) P08/14 and P08/51. Since P08/14 (see above) cuts into the line of the west face of W5602, and is attributed to phase IIc, all three pits must be from Level IIc or later. P08/50 has a soft brown fill with inclusions of charcoal and plant remains.

***P08/51: 83057***

See on P08/50. This pit with a diameter of 1.30 m is the latest and best preserved of the three. The fill was soft with charcoal and fragmentary mud-brick inclusions.

**Surface and other unstratified units**

*74001, 74500, 74520, 74527, 74545, 74547, 74555, 74563, 74583, 83000, 83001, 83008, 83013, 83036, 83046, 83052, 84000, 91000*

74500	I19/254	Copper pin	<b>344</b>
74545	I19/328	Glass bead fragment	<b>289</b>