§5 The Stele Building

Adam Stone

Introduction

Excavations during the late 1990's at Kilise Tepe revealed a large building on the NW edge of the present topography of the Tepe, roughly located within site grid squares J19-20 and K19-20. The building measured 14m NW-SE x 18m NE-SW, and in the central courtyard was found a large, painted, but unfortunately broken, stone stele, a find which provides our name for this building. The last full incarnation of this 'Stele Building' was given the stratigraphic label Level IIc. While this building had been destroyed by a serious fire, parts of a later rebuilding, along a similar layout and also destroyed by fire, were recognisable in Level IId. Discovered on the floor of this later building was pottery of the style Mycenaean LHIIIC, dating approximately to 1175-1150 BC, offering a chronological estimate for the final form of the Stele Building to the time shortly after the collapse of the Hittite Empire, at the end of the Late Bronze Age.

The Stele Building was more or less a free-standing structure; to its NW was an open space, the 'Western Courtyard', and there was also open space outside the SW wall of the building where it joined the NW wall. Beyond the NE exterior wall was a domestic area known as the 'North-East Annex', while to the SE, the 'East Building' was constructed up against the walls of the Stele Building. The close of the final, 1998 season had exposed the complete plan of the Stele Building in its IIc form, and cleared to the floor levels of this phase in each of its ten 'rooms'.

The walls of the IIc Stele Building were, for the majority, mud-brick built on stone foundations. In places throughout the building, archaeological soundings beneath the IIc structure and its surfaces had revealed that these foundations were often placed in alignment with, and in some instances, directly upon an earlier structure of similar layout to the IIc form of the Stele Building. In some places the mud-brick of the earlier walls still extended up above the phase IIc floors, and the stones of the IIc foundations rested on it.

In the second series of five seasons of excavation begun in 2007 the earlier phases of the Stele Building were to be among our key areas of investigation - both to shed light on the nature and purpose of the building itself, and to recover more artefactual and environmental materials from a well-controlled context. Primary among the latter, was a sequence of C14 samples from each of the phases of construction and use of the earlier building. Our initial objective, therefore, had to be the removal of the IIc walls and floor levels which remained *in situ*, albeit heavily eroded since our last season in 1998. Thereafter, we aimed to clear out the rooms of the earlier building and establish the layout of the original construction. Our work in 2007 largely exposed the southern and western sides of the building in its first phases, during 2008 the northern and eastern parts were completed (Photo 5.1), and in 2009 the excavations across the building were concluded. The full plan of the earliest incarnation of the Stele Building is given in Plan P7, and of phase IIb in Plan P8, and this chapter is designed to give a full account of these phases.

Note: Dimensions of the rooms uncovered will be those between the interior faces of opposing walls, where possible. All heights given are for the top of any deposit, unless stated otherwise, and are measured from our site Temporary Bench Mark set at an arbitrary level of 100 m (=approx. 142 m above sea level, see §1 above, p. 6; EKT p. xxiii).

The pre-IIc phasing of the building is as follows:

- IIa: Initial construction, packing and occupation of the Stele Building
- IIb.i: Subsequent occupation and alterations to the construction of the building prior to and including the major packing event across Stele Building which raised the level of the building roughly to that of the IIc phase
- IIb.ii: Events which date to after the major packing event but before the IIc construction and occupation

IIc: The construction and occupation of the later building

N.B. In some rooms the major packing event, which raised the height of the building to roughly that of the IIc occupation, immediately overlies an initial and single IIa surface, after which there was no further occupation until the IIc phase. The IIb.i and IIb.ii phases are not continuously present across the building, which means that the assignment of some events to the same phase may not be certain.

In order to ease the reader's comprehension of our description of the building and its layout, and because walls first constructed in the IIa phase of the Stele Building were often those still in use in the IIc phase, the designations used to describe the IIc walls of the Stele Building have been maintained for the earlier forms of these walls. Where differentiation is needed, the walls are described by their phase, e.g. the IIa phase of W120. It should be noted that some walls which were given separate numbers in the IIc building have been shown to have been continuous in the IIa phase. Where such continuity was recognised the lower wall number has been used for the entire wall. Walls with no IIc form were given new designations from the 2007 excavation number sequence, e.g. W6001.

The construction of the IIa Stele Building

The construction of the IIa Stele Building is most peculiar. Our initial confusion, however, was often replaced by a growing appreciation for the forethought and skill of those who had undertaken the construction. It must be noted that our understanding of the construction of the building is limited by certain factors. First, the walls of the IIa Stele Building have been left mostly *in situ*. Furthermore, some of the exterior walls of the building formed the limits of our excavations, and, because of this, only the plan and internal faces of these walls were revealed. Additionally, the state of preservation of the IIa walls of the Stele Building was not consistent across the building. In places the IIa walls have been heavily truncated by later phases of the building and remained only to the height of their stone foundations, while elsewhere courses of the IIa mud-brick superstructure survived. Much of the existing mud-brick has homogenised, which has meant that individual bricks and the relationships between the mud-brick levels of different walls were often impossible to define. In light of these issues, full comprehension of the methods and nature of the building's construction often remains uncertain.

In order to understand the architectural approach of those who constructed the IIa Stele Building, one must appreciate the pre-existing topography and nature of the ground that was to form the construction surface of the building. The idiosyncrasies of the building's construction were often related to the characteristics of the underlying, earlier space. Importantly, the construction of the IIa phase of the Stele Building was not carried out upon a level and even surface, nor had there been any single concerted, cross-site effort to level or prepare the area. Nor was every wall constructed within a foundation trench, which might have provided a mechanism to counter the varying levels and qualities of the pre-existing ground-surface. Almost every wall had some element peculiar to the construction surface underlying it. Subsequently, the sequence and methods of construction of the building varied in line with the characteristics of the earlier space. Most obviously, the bases of the IIa walls were founded at dramatically varying heights, with variation both between walls across the building, and even along the length of individual walls. The lack of concerted, cross-site preparation of the construction site of the Stele Building is extraordinary. The construction of the Stele Building was a major and clearly important project. The effort involved in gathering even those building materials still visible must have been a time- and energy-consuming task. In places, a great deal of care and effort had been expended to prepare specific locations for the construction of the building – why was this done on such a piecemeal basis? Why wasn't the entire ground-site cut down or raised so as to be level? We can only pose the question.

The area of the Stele Building before the IIa construction (see Plan 6)

The topography and nature of the ground that was to form the construction site for the IIa Stele Building have a number of characteristics pertinent to the later construction. Most importantly, the construction surface was not level. Spot-height measurements taken on the base of the IIa foundations, where these had been laid directly upon an unaltered construction surface, demonstrate that the pre-existing topography of the area sloped down to the west and south. Such sloping is clearest when comparing the corners of the structure, but, as will be described, even this sloping was not consistent across the area. The most north-eastern point of the building's construction surface was at a height of +98.30 m. The spot-height of the construction surface at the junction of W5702 and W5701 was +97.75 m. The spot-height at the most north-western point was +97.89 m, and the spot-height at the most south-western point was +97.06 m, so more than a metre below the north-eastern corner.

In addition to the slope of the pre-existing topography, one must consider the earlier, Level III, use of the space in this area. The use of this space in Level III is in startling contrast to that of Level II. Throughout Level II an open, multi-function and heavily-pitted courtyard space was maintained to the west of the Stele Building. In Level III the occupation and use pattern was the reverse: a major, multi-roomed structure was found below the Level II open space to the west of the Stele Building, while below the Stele Building itself, there was a mostly open and heavily-pitted space, with little in the way of substantial architecture. Due to the restraints of time, and the necessity of maintaining the structure of the IIa building, excavation into Level III below the Stele Building was restricted to those spaces delimited by the walls of the IIa building. Two main excavations were undertaken. The first was in the area defined by the walls of the IIa phase of Room 3, the second was below Room 8. In addition to these targeted excavations, areas of the pre-Stele Building space were uncovered in the course of clearing the rooms of the IIa building. These excavations revealed the impact that the earlier use of space had had upon the construction and form of the IIa Stele Building. While it was possible to define the construction surface of the walls of the IIa building as these appeared within each room, equating these surfaces with those on the other side of these walls was often not possible with complete certainty.

Level IIIe below Room 3

Targeted excavations in a 1.5 m (E-W) x 2 m (N-S) trench opened in the centre of the space later defined as Room 3 of the IIa Stele Building, revealed some limited earlier architecture at a depth of ca. 0.6 m below the IIa construction surface. Constructed upon a solid, yellow, clay-rich deposit (96556), was a very shoddy 1.4 m stretch of foundations: W6003 (base: +97.46 m). These wall foundations were formed of two courses of a single row of large unworked stones, some of which were simple lumps of conglomerate. W6003 ran NW to SE for 1.4 m out of the west section of the excavation to where it met a very short, ca. 0.5 m stretch of mud-brick, which ran back into the section at an angle of ca. 50 degrees to the original stone foundations. This stretch of mud-brick was constructed upon the same yellow deposit, and may be the return of W6003. The short stretch, peculiar angle and different material of this 'return' make such a statement less certain, and further explanation is almost impossible when excavating in such a small area. The preceding architecture in the space below the IIa Stele Building would appear, however, to be shoddy and irregular. In the small space defined by the two short sections of wall was a thin lens of black-grey, charcoal-rich, possible occupation material (96560). To the west of W6003, were deposits 96557, 96554, 96553, which served to pack the foundations of the wall. Overlying these was a surface (formed of the upper horizon of 96552 and 96551), which was associated with the wall and its return, and sealed by deposit 96550 at +97.96 m.

Excavation across the wider area later defined as Room 3 revealed the subsequent use of this space. In the south of this area lay ca. 0.6 m of regular dumps of rubbishy material (96530, 96531, 96532). These deposits sloped down to the NE, and were partially overlain by ca. 0.6 m of numerous

lenses of material, which could also be seen to slope down to the NE following the topography of the tepe. These lenses were probably occupation surfaces separated by layers of occupation material (in order from earliest to latest: 96549, 96548, 96545, 96533, 96543, 96542, 96541, 96540, 96539, 96538, 96546). This regular build-up of surfaces and occupation material may reflect the use of this area as an open space or courtyard contemporary with an earlier structure to the west. Several pits were noted cut into these surfaces, with each pit quickly filled and then truncated by a later pit in a similar location. Cutting 96533 were four pits: P09/34 cut by P09/33, cut by P09/32, and to the north of these P09/35. This pattern of use confirms this area as an outside space to the east of the Level III structure.

A definite stratigraphic relationship to the North-West Building is provided by a charcoal-rich burnt layer 96537 (+98.03 m), partially overlying the latest of these regular surfaces (96546). This is most likely the south-western extent of what has been recognised elsewhere as the Level IIIe destruction or 'burnt fig' layer. This layer had originally been seen below the Western Courtyard of the IIa Stele Building and below the floors of Rooms 1 and 2(W). In Room 1, below a construction-related packing event (78064 and 78088 equivalent to 78058=78060 at +97.88 m), was a sequence of charcoal-rich and ashy deposits, 78061=78062, which, in turn, lay above a dark, burnt layer: 78085=78079 and 78059 (+97.80 m) – this was the same 'burnt fig layer', seen to the west and north of the Stele Building's outer walls. While this deposit petered out ca. 0.5 m south of W6101 of Room 1, it was seen to extend beneath Room 2 (81824=81418=81423 at +97.90 m).

Overlying this Level IIIe destruction layer, and the dumped material to the south, was a deposit (96534), which stretched across our Room 3 excavation. In the NW of the excavation area the upper horizon of this 'post-Level IIIe destruction' deposit was cut by pit P09/31. 96534 and the pit's fills were sealed by 96535, which was in turn overlain by 81608=81024. This latter deposit was a thin layer of occupation material, the upper horizon (+98.10-98.24 m) of which formed a surface which stretched across the excavation area. Cutting this surface were two postholes, P09/47 and P09/48, and, in the south of the excavation area, a large pit P08/55 (Plan P7). The latter extended below the walls of the Stele Building into the area later defined as Room 10(E), but not into the area below Rooms 4 and 5. In addition to being cut by these features, the upper horizon of this deposit also formed the construction surface for the bounding walls of Room 3 of the IIa Stele Building, and was directly overlain by the earliest IIa deposits internal to Room 3, 81023=81606. The pit P08/55 had clearly been cut and filled over a very short period of time, immediately prior to the construction and occupation of the IIa Stele Building, for it was cut into the construction surface of the IIa Stele Building, and the walls of the IIa building had been sunk into the fills of this pit. All of which suggests an immediate transition from open and pitted area to construction surface. 81608=81024 and the fills of the two postholes and of P08/55 were the latest deposits pre-dating the construction of the IIa Stele Building below Room 3; their upper horizons form the construction surface of the building.

Units and finds below Room 3

Contemporary with NW Building phase IIIe: 96530-3, 96538-43, 96545-6, 96548-54, 96557, 96560
Occ. deposit with burnt figs: 96537
Fill of P09/33: 96558

96558	J19/749	Spindle whorl	**200**
96558	J19/751	Copper needle	**325**

Fill of P09/32: 96559
Fill of P09/34: 96561
Fill of P09/35: 96572
Post IIIe but pre-construction of Stele Building: 81024, 81608, 96534, 96535
Fill of P08/55 in SE corner of Room 3: 81035, 81306, 81307, 81308, 96520

96520	J19/716	Fossil	**586**
96520	J19/717	Stamp seal	**2**

96520	J19/718	Flint core	**612**

Fill of P09/31: 96521, 96529

96521	J19/721	Copper needle	**324**

Fill of P09/47: 96577
Fill of P09/48: 96578

Level IIIe below Room 8 (Plan P5); see also §3.3.

Excavations below the space later defined as Room 8 of the IIa Stele Building revealed a similar almost instantaneous transition from open and pitted space to construction surface. The earliest feature revealed in this excavation was the very SE corner of the Level IIId building excavated below the courtyard to the west of the Stele Building. This corner was formed of the bonded union of walls W5811 and W831 (top of foundations: +96.97 m). These foundations had been placed in a foundation trench cut into the construction surface of this IIId building (96562, +97.00 m). No deposits respecting the internal faces of this corner could be seen, because only the outer edge of the corner was in the area of excavation. External to the south and east of the walls' corner, and overlying the construction surface, was a layer of packing (96526, at +97.14 m). This packing respected the lowest course of the walls' mud-brick, and its upper horizon formed the external surface to the outside of the building. To the east of these walls and cut into this associated external surface were two pits, P09/27 cutting P09/26.

Sealing this IIId surface, the remaining height of the IIId walls W5811 and W831, and the two pits was a deposit (96512), which stretched across the entirety of the space later delimited by the walls of the IIa Room 8. The upper horizon of this deposit (~97.10-97.40 m) not only formed the construction surface for some of the walls of Room 8 of the IIa Stele Building, but also had been associated with various activities which could be seen to pre-date the construction of the IIa Stele Building. These activities included the excavation and filling of the pit P09/24, which cut into 96512 as well as P09/26 and P09/27, and was located in the NE of the excavation area. Additionally, 96512 was also the construction surface for a very shoddy wall, W6002 (base: +97.45 m), which had been built and fallen out of use prior to the construction of the IIa Stele Building. This wall, which must be at least partially contemporary with the IIIe phase of the NW Building, ran E-W across the north-western corner of our area of excavation, beneath the IIa walls. W6002 remained to a height of 1-2 courses of roughly-worked randomly-sized stone, mostly laid on bed (Photo 5.2). These stones were in two facing rows with a central core of mud and smaller stones. The wall was not seen to continue to the west or east: to the west, its stones had been truncated by a later pit, P97/76, and, to the east, Room 9 has not been excavated to a depth at which one would expect to see it. The very rapid demise of W6002 is clear, as tumble from the wall's stone foundations was found lying on the construction surface of the wall itself, and no occupation deposits were associated with it. 96512, the fill of P09/24, and W6002 were, therefore, the latest deposits pre-dating the construction of the Stele Building below Room 8.

Units and finds below Room 8

Contemporary with NW Building phase IIId

Construction level for IIId walls: 96562
External surface below 96525: 96526
Occ. deposit below 96514: 96525
Fill of P09/26: 96527
Fill of P09/27: 96528

Post IIId but before construction of Stele Building

Fill below packing for IIa floor: 96512

96512	J19/708	White stone	**736**

96512	J19/731	Copper fragment	**326**

Fill of P09/24: 96523
Construction material of W6002 (IIIe): 96524

96524	J19/723	Grindstone fragment	**751**

Features below Room 7

The general clearance of Level IIa Room 7 revealed some features which were earlier than the construction of the IIa Stele Building. In the SW corner of the area later defined as the room, the outline of a pit clearly overlain by the walls of the IIa building was seen. A similarly sized pit (P09/11) was seen in the north of the room. The latter was seen to have extended north below W5701 into the area below that was later defined as Room 10(E). The former pit was left un-excavated (hence it is without a pit number), but P09/11 was excavated to its full extent within the area later defined as Room 7. A large proportion of this pit, however, had been truncated by a much later and very deep robber-pit, P07/17. These features will be discussed further below, but for the moment it is sufficient to say that the fills of these pits and the deposit into which they were cut (96016=96015=97507; +97.40-97.62 m), are the latest deposits pre-dating the construction of the Stele Building below Room 7, forming the construction surface for the building. The fill of this pit was relatively rich in artefactual debris (compared with the surrounding largely sterile packing), and must attest to something other than mere construction work, even if it was serving only as a waste disposal facility.

Below Room 7: Pre-construction of Stele Building

Fill below Stele Building walls: 96015, 96016, 96507
Fill of P09/11: 96500, 96501, 96502, 96503

96500	J19/685	Ceramic flask	
96502	J19/777	Polished bone	**478**
96503	J19/691	Copper pin	**341**
96503	J19/692	Copper arrowhead	**303**
96503	J19/778	Worked astragalus	**496**
96503	J19/690	Tortoise carapace	

Elsewhere across the building, no concerted excavation below the IIa structure was carried out. It was only possible to view the external construction surface of the Stele Building to the west of W130 and the NW of W120, which could be seen to have been built upon 96610, a deposit overlying the 'burnt fig layer' 96607 (see Room 1 description below). The construction surface of the building, as revealed below individual rooms, however, was often uncovered in the process of the full excavation of the IIa deposits. In most cases only the upper horizon of such deposits was revealed. Internally, across the space later defined as Room 4, the latest deposits which pre-date the construction of the IIa Stele Building, and which formed the construction surface of the building, were (overlapping each other from north to south) 81015=81408, 81014=81407, and 81013=81405=81406 (top at +98.17 m), which is probably equivalent to 81608=81024 below Room 3. Across the space later defined as Room 5, the latest deposit pre-dating the construction of the Stele Building, which formed the construction surface for the earliest walls, was 81032 (+97.70 m). Despite the difference in height 81032 was probably equivalent to 81012 below Room 4, and 81608=81024 (+98.05-98.25 m) below Room 3. Across the space later defined as Rooms 2(W) and (E), the latest deposit pre-dating the construction of the Stele Building is 81815 (+97.95-98.05 m), which overlay 81824=81418=81423 (+97.85 m) - the 'burnt fig layer'. These deposits were those which formed the construction surface for the earliest walls in this part of the IIa building, and 81815 is probably equivalent to 81012 below Room 4 and 81608=81024 below Room 3.

Below Rooms 1(N) and (S) the latest deposit which pre-dates the construction of the Stele Building, and which formed the construction surface of the earliest walls of this part of the IIa building, was 78061=78062 (+97.80 m) (probably equivalent to 96610 to the north and west of the building), which overlay 78085=78079 and 78059 – the 'burnt fig layer' (equivalent to 97707 to the north and west of the building). 78061=78062 is probably equivalent to 81815 below Room 2, 81608=81024 of Room 3, and 81012-81014 and 81404-81405 under Room 4. Below Rooms 10(W) and (E) the latest deposits which pre-date the construction of the Stele Building were 81613=81622 (+97.85-97.95 m) and the fills of P08/55; these deposits formed the construction surface for the earliest walls in this part of the building. 81613=81622 is probably equivalent to 81608=81024 of Room 3, and 81032 of Room 5, etc.

No attempt to declare any equivalences between the construction deposits of Room 7 and Room 8 has been made because Room 7, as will be described, had been cut down prior to construction.

Below IIa Stele Building

Below Room 1: 78061, 78062, 78080, 78081, 78086
Below Room 2: 81815, 81816, 81418, 81423, 81824

81816	J20/323	C14 sample	**^{14}CS3**

Below Room 3: 81608, 81024
Below Room 4: 81012-15, 81404-08

81012	K19/505	Bone bead	**265**
81408	K20/258	Whetstone	**698**
81408	K20/284	Jar base with potmark	
81408	K20/290	Copper arrowhead	**304**

Below Room 5: 81032, 81033
Below Room 10: 81613, 81622

81622	J19/678	C14 sample	**^{14}CS4**

Fill of P08/21: 81416, 81417
Fill of P08/55: 81635

The sequence of construction (Plan P7)

Before discussing the impact of the pre-existing area on the construction of the IIa Stele Building, it is important to detail the sequence of construction of the walls of the building. Across the building peculiarities arise: for example, the foundations of walls which might be expected to be bonded with one another are un-bonded, and in certain cases a particular wall (A) may be bonded at one end with a wall (B), which is known, through bonded relationships, to be contemporary and bonded with another wall (C), yet wall C and the other end of the original wall (A) are not bonded, though wall A appears to abut wall C. A specific example of this situation is W6101: the east end of W6101 was bonded with W130, and W130 was bonded with W120, which was bonded with W122, yet W6101 was not bonded with W122, but respected it.

It is possible that such apparently confusing sequences of construction, may more reflect the uncertainties of making such designations as abuts, abutted by, bonded with, when it was not possible to fully excavate the walls of the building, so that we are making such designations by interpretations of only the visible archaeology. This may certainly be the case when the stone foundations are only of two to three courses. It is also possible that un-bonded walls do not necessarily reflect a non-contemporary construction-event, but rather a happenstance of construction. Similar confusion concerning walls which had abutting stone foundations but bonded mud-brick, or vice versa, again, might reflect, not a different construction choice or a delay between the construction of foundations and the mud-brick levels of the walls, but a happenstance of construction and/or issues of interpreting only the currently visible archaeology.

The exterior walls of the IIa Stele Building were all bonded with one another. Starting in the NE corner: the IIa foundations W120 and W5702 were bonded with one another - no mud-brick levels of either wall remained due to the truncation by the IIb.i phase of this wall (described below). The IIa foundations and mud-brick of W5702 and W5701 were bonded with one another. The relationship between the IIa foundations of W5701 and W436 was not ascertained as the northern end of the IIa phase of W436 had been completely removed when the IIb.i phase of the wall was built, but one assumes a bonded relationship must have existed. The IIa foundations of W6400 and the partially remaining southern end of the IIa phase of the foundations of W436 were bonded with one another - no IIa mud-brick remained. The IIa foundations and mud-brick of W6400 and W130 were bonded with one another. The IIa foundations of W130 and W120 were bonded with one another - no IIa mud-brick remained.

Internally, the picture was slightly more confused. On the east side of the Stele Building the IIa foundations of W797 abutted W120 in the north, and the IIa foundations of W5701 in the south. There was no IIa mud-brick at either juncture, due to truncation in the north, and to a IIa threshold across the stone foundations in the south. The IIa foundations of W622 abutted those of W797 and W5702, but interestingly the IIa mud-brick of these walls was bonded together. The IIa foundations of W624 abutted those of W797, but the mud-brick levels of both walls were bonded together. The IIa foundations of W796 abutted those of W797, but again the mud-brick levels are bonded together. It was not possible to ascertain the relationships between the mud-brick levels of either W624 or W796 with W122. At these points of union, no mud-brick levels had existed because both walls were broken by thresholds, at the level of the stone foundations, at which level the E-W oriented walls abutted W122. Both the foundations and the mud-brick levels of W6200 and W6001 in Rooms 2 and 10 abutted the walls to the north and south.

The pattern of abutting foundations but bonded mud-brick, as described for some of the internal walls, suggests that the foundations of the above mentioned external walls were laid first, followed by the foundations of the internal walls (W622, W796 and W624), and finally the mud-brick of both external and internal walls was laid simultaneously, providing strength to the mud-brick levels and unions of these walls. Such strength was clearly necessary for the long walls W624 and W796, both of which had only one bonded end at foundation level, and one might expect to have seen a similar situation for the northern end of the IIa W797 if the mud-brick had survived. W622 might have required the extra strength, because as will be shown below, it had been built across a slope. W6200 and W6001 were probably short enough not to require such extra strengthening.

To the west, the IIa foundations of W122 did not abut the main exterior walls (as W797, the eastern equivalent, had done), but were bonded with the IIa foundations of W120 to the north, and with the IIa foundations of W618 to the south. The relationship of the mud-brick levels of these walls cannot be determined, for while the mud-brick of W122 survived for most of its length, the mud-brick of the IIa phases of W120 and W618 did not survive at the point of union with W122.

The IIa foundations of the main stretch of W122 were not continuous with those of the east wall of Room 8, instead its IIa foundations here abutted W618 in the north (with no mud-brick union visible). The foundations and mud-brick of W122 in Room 8 were bonded, however, with W6400 in the south. This leaves a situation where it is bonded with W6400, which in turn is bonded with W130; and W130 is bonded with W618; but W122 in Room 8 is not bonded with W618, although they were apparently constructed contemporaneously.

The same situation was found for the internal walls to the west of the IIa W122. The IIa foundations of W6101 and W625 were bonded with those of W130. The construction of W130 was contemporary with W122 (as the IIa foundations of W130 were bonded with those of W618 and W120, and W122 was similarly bonded with the latter walls), and yet the IIa foundations of W6101 and W625 were not bonded with those of W122. The IIa walls W6101 and W625, the western end of the IIa phase of W120, and the northern end of W130 had been constructed upon a thin layer of

packing (78064 and 78088 equivalent to 78058=78060, detailed below), which could be seen to respect the western face of the IIa phase of W122, thus confirming the slightly later construction of these walls/sections of wall.

Construction of the IIa walls

The walls of the IIa Stele Building were formed of stone foundations topped by courses of mud-brick. The stone foundations were usually composed of roughly worked local limestone of two to four courses (but sometimes only one – W6001, and sometimes as many as eight – south of W130). Sometimes the stones were unworked and in places lumps of local conglomerate had been used. The size of the foundation stones was quite varied, with some massive examples, over 0.6 m long x 0.5 m wide, but on average they were ca. 0.4 m long x 0.3 m wide x 0.15 m high. These were laid on bed, most commonly in two rows, though sometimes with a mud/rubble core. There was no evident use of mortar between stones or courses. There was a clear intention to try to lay the stones in a stretcher pattern (joints overlain by whole stones), but with randomly sized stones, this was not always possible. In I19 and J19 the lowest stones forming the outer base of the NW outer wall (W130) had been laid into a distinctive band of greenish clay – this was not observed elsewhere.

The mud-brick levels of the IIa walls of the Stele Building, having been truncated by later phases, varied in remaining height and were not always present. Furthermore, the mud-bricks had often homogenised, leaving individual bricks indiscernible. The mud-brick remained to an average height of between 0.3-0.6 m, but along W622 it survived to a height of over 1 m, and the full height of the wall remaining, including the foundations, was 1.5 m). The IIa mud-brick of W622 was in use from the IIa inception of the building until the IIc phase: the original IIa mud-brick had remained standing to a height above the IIc floor, had been reused to form the boundary between Rooms 4 and 5 in this phase, and had been burnt *in situ* by the fire which destroyed the IIc Stele Building. While most of the mud-brick across the Stele Building had homogenised, the individual burnt mud-bricks of W622 remained clearly visible, thanks to this IIc firing (Photo 5.3). In the northern face of this wall, the bricks could be seen to be 10 cm thick and 50 cm long. The uppermost course, visible in plan (at +98.88 m), was constructed of two rows of bricks laid on bed and running with the line of the wall (bricks: 10 cm (high) x 50 cm (long) x 30 cm (wide)). This construction and brick size matched what could be seen elsewhere, as for example in W797.

The initial phase of construction of the IIa Stele Building, i.e. walls W120, W5702, W5701, W436, W6400, W122, and W130, W825, and W6101, was influenced by the pre-existing topography of the construction site of the Stele Building. The base of the IIa foundations of W5702 slopes more than 0.4 m, from +98.20 m in the north, to +97.77 m in the south. This slope is most pronounced at the southern end of the wall, where ca. 0.2 m of this drop occurs over ca. 1.5 m. The E-W axis has a similar slope: W120 can be seen to slope down to the west, from +98.20 m in the east to +97.89 m in the west.

Only W5702 and W122 appear to have been built directly upon pre-existing ground-surfaces, and only these walls were not affected by any pre-existing peculiarities of the construction surface. While it was possible to define the construction surface of the walls of the IIa building as it appeared within each room, equating these surfaces with those on the other side of the walls was often not possible with complete certainty. The construction surface for the IIa wall W5702, as seen in Room 4, was formed of the upper horizon of 81015=81408, 81014=81407, and 81013=81405=81406 (~ 98.27-98.07 m). As seen in Room 5 it was the upper horizon of 81032, probably equivalent to 81015 etc. (Room 4), despite the obvious slope.

The construction surface for the IIa wall W122, was also formed of the pre-existing ground-surface, the upper horizon of certain pre-Stele Building deposits. As seen in Room 2(W), this was the upper horizon of 81815 and 81824=81418=81423, probably equivalent to 81015=81408, 81014=81407, and 81013=81405=81406 (Room 4). As seen in Rooms 1(N) and (S), this was the upper horizon of 78061=78062 (+97.80 m), also probably equivalent to 81815 and

81824=81418=81423 (Room 2), and 81015 etc. (Room 4). As seen in Room 3, this was the upper horizon of 81608=81024, possibly equivalent to 81815 (Room 2) and 78061=78062 (Room 1). As seen in Room 10(W), it was the upper horizon of 81613=81622, probably equivalent to 81608=81024 (Room 3).

The other walls of the IIa Stele Building each had some peculiarity of construction. As seen in Room 4, the IIa phase of W120 was constructed upon the pre-existing ground-surface formed of the upper horizon of 81015=81408, 81014=81407, and 81013=81405=81406. As seen in Rooms 2 (E) and (W), the construction surface for this wall was the equivalent upper horizon of the pre-existing ground-surface: 81815, and 81824=81418=81423. As seen in Room 1(N), however, the western end of W120 was not constructed directly upon the pre-existing ground-surface (78061=78062 at +97.80 m), but, instead, was constructed over a thin layer of packing material 78064 and 78088 equivalent to 78058=78060 (+97.88 m), which overlay the earlier surface. Interestingly, this deposit respected the western face of W122, but ran underneath the other walls of Room 1. This situation highlights the peculiar sequence of construction seen on the west side of the building, and confirms that W122 had been laid earlier than some of the walls with which it was bonded. W6101 and W625 were also constructed upon this post-W122 packing event, confirming the above outlined suggestion, that these walls were constructed slightly later than W122.

The major alteration to the pre-existing ground-surface in preparation for the construction of the IIa Stele Building occurred prior to the construction of W5701, specifically the section of this wall which divides Room 7 from Rooms 10(E) and (W). To the east, i.e. south of Room 5, no alteration of the pre-existing ground-surface was visible, and the wall was built directly upon the pre-existing construction surface of the building: 81032 (+97.77 m). At the north of what would be Room 7, however, the original ground-surface had once been considerably higher at +97.95 m, which was the height of the construction surface of the other walls of Rooms 10(E) and (W), the upper horizon of 81613=81622. In contrast to the pattern of construction elsewhere across the building, where foundations usually follow the topography of the pre-existing ground-surface, here the ground-surface had been cut down by ca. 0.3 m to +97.62 m (upper horizon of 96016=96015=96507) and the wall foundations, as seen from Room 7, had been laid at this height. To the north of the wall, in Room 10(E)/(W) this cut appeared as a steep sided and deep foundation trench cut through 81613=81622, while to the south this lower level had been maintained across the area that would become Room 7.

The cut down of the pre-existing surface across the area that would become Room 7 truncated the upper levels of P09/11. The current level for the top of this pit, therefore, is not indicative of the level from which it had been cut. P09/11 extended north beneath W5701, and here the original level from which this pit had been cut was also indeterminable, as it had been truncated by the IIc pit P97/73. Interestingly, P09/11, over which W5701 had been built, had caused the foundations of this wall to subside (from +97.60 m to +97.19 m). This subsidence must have occurred almost immediately after the original three courses of foundation stones had been laid: there was no damage to the mud-brick, and an additional course of smaller foundation stones had been laid over the stretch of wall which extended across the pit to level the subsided foundation courses prior to the mud-brick construction (Photo 5.4).

The lowered construction level for the area that would become Room 7 had been further reduced along the length of the walls in the south of the room. From ca. 0.3 m on either side of these walls, the construction surface for W620, W436 and W6400 had been scraped down by ca. 0.30-0.40 m. The base of the foundations of W6400 was at +97.04 m, and the southern ends of W620 and W436 were at +97.10 m, in comparison with +97.50 m in the north.

The pre-existing ground-surface to the west of Room 7, i.e. below what would later be defined as Room 8, was lower than the original surface that had been cut down to form the level of Room 7 (+97.34-97.44 m compared to +97.95 m). There was no evidence that the construction surface for Room 8 had been cut down. In comparison with the construction surfaces to the east and

west, therefore, it is clear that the area that would be later defined as Room 7 had been a humped or raised piece of land. However, just as in Room 7, the pre-existing construction surface below Room 8 (96512), had been scraped down by ca. 0.30 m along the length of the IIa wall W6400 and along the southern extents of IIa W620 and IIa W130. Subsequently, at these points the walls were founded at a height of ca. +97.20-97.10 m. To the north, however, no reduction in the construction surface had occurred, indeed the construction surface below W5701, the north of W122 east of Room 8, and W130 had been raised intentionally. As described elsewhere, the north of the building was at a higher level than the south (construction surface below Room 9 at +97.90 m), and the raising of the construction surface below Room 8 was probably to manage this change.

It was perhaps as part of this desire to raise the level of the foundations of the northern part of Room 8 that W6002, which ran across the NE corner of the area that would become Room 8, was not completely removed. Instead, the construction surface and the base of the IIa foundations of wall W130 were raised to run over this feature. Dumped material (96513, 96514, and 96515) was deposited to a height of ca. 0.30 m to the north and west of the wall, and the north ends of W130 and W122, and the section of W5701 seen in Room 8 had been built on top of this raised level, and subsequently ran over W6002 (Photo 5.2). To the north of W5701, below Room 9, the pre-existing construction surface was higher, and the walls returned to being built upon this unaltered construction surface. The foundations of W130 continued at this height, until below Room 1 they could be seen to have been built upon the slightly raised level of the post-W122 packing event 78064 and 78088 equivalent to 78058=78060 (+97.88 m), described above.

Internal walls

Having detailed the sequence and method of construction of the IIa foundations of the major walls of the Stele Building, a few issues must be raised concerning the internal walls. During excavation it became apparent that some of the internal walls, notably W622 and W796, were not only sequentially later than the walls they abutted, but post-dated a deposition event, which had occurred after the construction of the walls which they abutted.

The depositional event upon which W622 was built was only visible within Room 5. From Room 4 it appeared that this wall had been built directly upon deposits which predated the construction of the entire Stele Building: 81015=81408, 81014=81407, and 81013=81405=81406. Here, as elsewhere, this peculiarity is sensible in light of the pre-existing surface upon which the Stele Building was constructed. This surface sloped down to the south, and when the IIa W622 was to be built, it must have been clear that either the wall would have to be built running across this pre-existing slope, and thus be very poorly founded, or that the construction surface of Room 5 would have to be levelled with that of Room 4. This levelling was achieved by the deposition of deposits 81031, 81030 and 81029, which were seen in Room 5 to respect the IIa walls W5702, W5701, and W797, but to run below W622. These deposits were not seen to the north of W622, as, here, the north of W622 was built upon the higher ground-surface.

While the entire length of W122 was built upon deposits which date to before the construction of the Stele Building, some of the internal walls abutting W122, and forming Room 2(E)/(W), were constructed upon a thin deposit of packing (81415=81814 at +98.22-98.42 m), which respected W122. The IIa foundations of W6200, the northern side of the IIa foundations of W796 and the western side of the northern end of the IIa foundations of W797 were built upon this ca. 0.10 m deep deposit. The southern side of W796 and the eastern side of W797, however, were built directly upon the upper horizon of pre-Stele Building construction deposits, 81608=81624, and 81015=81408, 81014=81407, 81013=81405=81406 respectively. The packing deposit (81415=81814), would appear, therefore, to represent an attempt to level the internal construction surface for the area that was to become Room 2(W)/(E).

The construction of the IIa wall W797 varies along its length. As described above, where W797 divides Room 2(E) and Room 4, the western side of the wall is built upon a thin layer of

internal packing, the eastern upon the pre-existing ground-surface. Along the section of this wall that divides Rooms 3 and 4, the eastern side of this wall's IIa foundations was laid directly upon the pre-existing construction surface for the Stele Building, but the western side was affected by a pre-existing pit, P08/55 (Photo 5.5). The pitfalls of construction over such a feature had been apparent to those who had built the IIa Stele Building, and a clear foundation cut (P08/54=P08/66), beginning where the wall ran over this pit, could be seen for the western side of W797 (Photo 5.6). This cut had allowed the foundations to be laid ca. 1 m deeper here than to the north (south: +97.28 m; north: +98.27 m). No sign of P08/55 could be seen below Room 4 or 5, suggesting that the eastern edge of this pit was below W797, and the eastern side of the wall was apparently unaffected by P08/55.

While the pit P08/55 had not extended east below what was to become Room 4 or Room 5, it had extended south, and there it cut through the construction surface as seen in Room 10 (81613=81622). The foundation trench and deeper foundations for the western side of W797 continued, only diminishing as the southern limit of P08/55 was reached. W624 was also built over this pit, and was similarly constructed within a foundation trench (P08/56), cut into the fill of P08/55. This foundation trench extended through the visible extent of P08/55, deepening from west to east (base of W624: west: +97.83 m, east: +97.20 m (Photo 5.7)).

Construction phase units and finds

Pre-Stele Building fill beneath IIa walls, Rm 1: 78064
Pre-Stele Building construction packing beneath W796 and 797: 81013-5, 81405-8

81408	K20/258	Whetstone	**698**

Packing for IIa construction beneath Rm 8: 96513-15

96514	J19/734	Ceramic animal fragment	
96513	J19/713	C14 sample	**^{14}CS56-56bis**

Rm 2, initial IIa deposit: 81415, 81814

81814	J20/322	C14 sample	**^{14}CS8**

Construction material of W122: 78005

78005	J20/207	Copper awl	**316**

Construction material of the upper pisé level of W6200: 81420
Fill of P08/54=P08/66, foundation trench cut for W797: 81042
Fill of P08/56, foundation trench cut for W624: 81039

81039	K19/566	Flint blade	**629**

Rm 5, initial packing beneath IIa floor: 81031

81031	K19/558	Ceramic vessel base	

Rm 5, material of initial IIa floor: 81029, 81030

81029	K19/556	Flint flake	**628**
81029	K19/557	Polished stone	**699**

Construction material of IIa W620: 96518
Fill of Foundation trench P08/56 for W624: 81634
Fill of Foundation trench P08/54=P08/66 for W797: 81637
Construction material of mud-brick levels of W6001: 77076, 77077
Greenish clay packing at base of W130: 11129

The Rooms of the IIa Stele Building

Room 1 (Photo 5.8)

The NW of the building, on the very edge of the modern tepe was greatly susceptible to erosion. In addition, it had suffered much damage from later pitting. The mud-brick levels of the IIa walls bounding Room 1 were evident to the east (W122), south (W625), and west (W130). Modern collapse had directly exposed the IIa stone foundations of W130's northern half, and the entirety of the IIa W120. While the IIc incarnations of these walls alone formed the boundaries of the IIc room,

the IIa plan was different. A cross wall W6101, running east to west from W122 to W130, meant that in the IIa phase there had been two rooms: Room 1(N) and Room 1(S), the southern room being rather bigger than the northern: Room 1(N) ca. 2 m N-S x 2.8 m E-W; Room 1(S) ca. 3.8 m N-S x 3.0 m E-W. At the height to which W6101 survived, there was no indication of any access between Room 1(N) and Room 1 (S) across the line of this wall.

To the south of W6101, in the area bounded by the IIa phases of W6101, W122, W625 and W130, and defined as Room 1(S), an initial layer of internal packing (77094=78069=78063 at +98.00 m), overlying the pre-construction deposits 78064 and 78088 equivalent to 78058=78060, had raised the internal level of the room to the height at which deposit 81636=78036=77093 (at +98.05~98.10 m) was found. The upper horizon of this deposit formed the initial IIa floor of this room. In the NW corner of the room were two subsequent deposits: 78076 and 78075 (+98.05-98.10 m). These had been laid to correct a depression seen in this corner and to level the floor across the room. In the NW corner of Room 1(S), cut down from the upper horizon of 78075, was a pit (P07/67) serving as an emplacement for a large pithos (J20/217), which was sunk some 20 cm below the IIa floor (base: +97.30 m) (Photo 5.9). The IIa floor was overlaid by a sequence of further IIb.i occupation deposits: 78031=78051=77092=78034, above which was 78016=78033=77095=78050=81625. The upper level of these was some 0.10-0.15 m higher than the initial IIa floor. These deposits respected the bounding walls of Room 1(S) and the pithos in the NW corner. The pithos, therefore, could have remained open, and in use, for the entirety of this occupation sequence. Only partial fragments of plaster remained on the IIa walls of Room 1(S). Access between Room 1(S) and Room 3 will be discussed in the section considering the latter Room.

To the north of W6101, our picture of the pre-IIc occupation of the room was disturbed by the erosion of this area as well as intrusive pits P07/05 and P94/12. Where the room was undisturbed by these pits, it was possible to see a layer of internal packing (78054, at +98.00 m), overlying the earlier pre-construction packing of the area (78064 and 78088 equivalent to 78058=78060). The internal packing was bounded by the IIa phases of walls W130, W120, W122 and W6101, and was overlain by a deposit, the upper horizon of which formed the initial IIa floor of Room 1(N). Upon this horizon there was a thin layer of IIb.i occupation material. Cut down from the upper layer of these occupation deposits was P07/05 which also truncated the south face of W6101 and the eastern face of W130.

Access between Room 1(N) and Room 2(W), through W122, was probably first associated with the initial IIa occupation of Room 1(N). The heavy truncation of the north-east of Room 1(N) by P07/05, together with the truncation of W122 and the north of the room by P94/12 meant that deposits associated with such access were not visible during the excavation of Room 1(N). The threshold is described in more detail in the section concerning Room 2. No remaining plaster was found against the walls of Room 1(N), but the truncation is so severe and the walls remain to such a low level, that such a find was unlikely.

A thick band of homogenous, clean, grey-yellow IIb.i packing (81626 equivalent to 78009 overlying 78008=78022=77091=78049=78032 overlying 78030=78013=78014), sealed all the following: W6101, the final occupation deposit of Room 1(S), the pithos J20/217, the final occupation deposit of Room 1(N), and the fills of P07/05. The packing respected the IIa walls W122, W625, W130 and W120, and marked the close of the initial phase of the room, widening it to the open IIc layout, and raising the level to ca. 0.15 m below the IIc occupation floor. This packing material remained to a level much higher in the south of the now-open Room 1 than in the north: +99.15 m compared to +98.50 m, due to the degree of truncation or erosion of the north of Room 1.

In the south, the upper horizon of this packing (+98.67-98.77 m) formed an ephemeral IIb.ii floor, upon which, in the south-west corner of the room, there had been constructed a fire installation (FI08/17, also numbered FI07/13) (Photo 5.10). FI08/17 was formed of a pebble-based hearth (81629=78072, at +98.80 m) with a mud-brick/pisé surround (81627 at +98.86 m). The NW side of this fire installation was formed by the western wall of Room 1 (W130), while to the south, the mud-

brick surround respected the IIa mud-brick of the southern wall of the room. No other features were associated with this floor, but 81624=78070=78068=77090=78072 (+98.91 m) was a thin deposit filling the fire installation and spilling over it onto the upper horizon of the packing material.

The above-described packing, floor, occupation material and fire installation were overlain by a less substantial IIb.ii packing event: 78067=78074=77089 (+99.05 m), similarly bounded by the IIa walls W122, W625, and W130. This later packing completed the raising of the room's level to that of the IIc construction and use. However, a large IIb.ii bell-sided pit (P07/11 = P96/79+P97/67) had cut through this later packing, but pre-dated the construction of the IIc benches and occupation of the SW of the room (Photo 5.11). There is evidence, therefore, for possibly two intermediate phases of use of Room 1 which date to after the packing of the room to roughly the height of the IIc phase, but to before IIc's construction and use. These intermediate phases may have been associated with the time of the construction of the building as a whole.

The loss of the north of Room 1 and of the levels of packing which once filled this room above the IIb.i occupation, means that it was not possible to observe a full sequence of deposits prior to the IIc phase. The remaining IIb.i packing could be seen to have been truncated by the IIb.ii foundation trench for W6100 (P07/18 with fill 78012; base at +98.34 m). This wall only partially remained, consisting of two courses of stone foundations and one superior course of mud-brick (Photo 5.12). It is not possible for us to be certain about the stratigraphic position of this wall, as it was sealed only by the eroded material accumulated since 1998 and had not been observed in the earlier seasons. The west side of P07/18 and west end of W6100 truncated the IIa stone masonry of W130, suggesting, however, that the wall dates to a period when this phase of the room was out of use. The east end of W6100, like the east side of P07/05 was truncated by P94/12. The poor and partial condition of W6100 and its uncertain stratigraphy means that any interpretation is almost impossible.

The IIb.ii occupation of Room 1(S) suggested a use of this area after the IIb.i packing and before the IIc construction. Excavations in Room 2 (see below) recorded a similar intermediate phase, when the IIb.i phase of W120 and the IIb.i packing of the room were cut into by the southern wall of a building to the north of the Stele Building, which was itself later truncated by the IIc phase of W120. A definite period of time, long enough for some occupation of the area of the Stele Building and the construction of buildings, whose walls truncated those of the Stele Building, passed between the IIb.i packing and closure of the IIa/b building and the IIc construction and occupation. More evidence for this intermediate phase, when the Stele Building was out of use, was discovered to the north of the Room 1(N).

Excavations in this area were limited in space because of the slope of the tepe, just to the north of the Stele Building, but a sequence was visible. From the exterior of the Stele Building, the IIa phase of W130 and W120 could be seen to have been built upon a deposit: 96610 (+97.85 m), which lay over 96607 - the 'burnt fig layer' or 'IIIe destruction deposit'. Overlying 96610 and respecting the exterior walls of the Stele Building's NE corner was deposit 96606, the upper horizon of which formed an exterior surface contemporary with the IIa Stele Building. A later deposit, 96605, overlay 96606, its upper horizon (+98.22-98.33 m) forming a later exterior surface, again contemporary with the IIa building. Upon 96606, a 0.40 m deep deposit of ashy material rich in broken fragments of mud-brick had been deposited (96603). This upper horizon of the deposit formed the construction surface for two walls, W118 and W119, which form the SE corner of a structure located to the north of the Stele Building.

W118 and W119, the remains of the structure they formed and the associated floors and occupations were excavated pre-2000, but their relationship with the Stele Building was now visible for the first time. The remaining foundation stones of W118 could be seen to have been cut into the IIb.i phase of W120 of the Stele Building, an action which must have taken place after this wall went out of use. Indeed, it is possible that the ashy and mud-brick-rich deposit 96603 originated from the cutting-down of the IIa/b Stele Building. Importantly, the phase of occupation represented by W118

and W119 pre-dates the construction and occupation of the IIc phase of the Stele Building. The foundation stones of W118 were seen to be overlain by 96604, a deposit which served to widen the IIb.i W120 in preparation for the overlying IIc stone foundations. Overlying the structure formed of W118 and W119 a later building had been constructed, contemporary with the IIc Stele Building, and this was destroyed in the same fire that ended the IIc phase of the Stele Building. Both these buildings, the earlier and the later, retained an alignment similar to that the North-West Building, thus emphasising the radical shift in alignment adopted by the architects of the Stele Building itself.

Room 1 units and finds
Pre Stele Building
*Deposits pre-dating IIa construction***:** *96607, 96608, 96610*
Initial packing below IIa walls: 78058, 78060, 78064, 78088

78058	J20/261	Roll of lead sheet	**444**

Phase IIa
IIa deposits outside NW wall of Stele Building: 96605, 96606
Initial packing of Room 1(S): 77094, 78063, 78069

78063	J20/276	Bone pendant	**474**
78069	J20/264	Copper arrowhead	**305**
78069	J20/267	Flint core	**627**

Initial IIa occupation deposit of Room 1(S): 77093, 78036, 81636

Phase IIb.i
Fill of P07/05: 78010, 78018-78020, 78027, 78028

78019	J20/240	Archaeobotanical sample	**S07/23**

Packing of Rm 1 (N) overlying IIa: 78054
Occ. material above 78054 in Room 1 (N): 78053
Occ. deposit overlying IIa occupation: 78075, 78076
Rm 1 (N) and (S), occ. sequence: 77092, 78031, 78034, 78051

78034	J20/247	Glass bead	

Rm 1 (N) and (S), IIb.i packing: 77091, 78008, 78009, 78013, 78014, 78022, 78030, 78032, 78049, 81626

78022	J20/356	Ceramic vessel	
78049	J20/257	Frags of copper object	**374**

P07/67, pit and storage jar: 78065, 78066

78066	J20/217	Storage jar	

Phase IIb.ii
Primary fill of P07/11: 77059, 77069, 78047
Second fill of P07/11: 77058, 77068, 78046

77058	J19/787	Ceramic flask	

Third fill of P07/11: 77057, 77067, 78045
Fourth fill of P07/11: 77060, 77066, 78052
Final fill of P07/11: 77056, 77065, 78044
Fill of foundation trench for W6100 in Room 1: 78012
Construction material of W6100: 78011, 78026
Occ. sequence: 77095, 78016, 78033, 78050, 81625

78033	J20/243	Archaeobotanical sample	**S07/46**

Fill of posthole cutting 78014: 78017

78017	J20/216	Pot sherds	

FI08/17: 78068, 78070, 78072, 7090, 81624, 81627, 81629

81624	J19/674	Copper nail	**348**

Secondary packing of Rm1: 78067, 78074, 77089
Deposit exterior to IIa Stele Building, construction surface for W118 and W119: 96603

Phase IIc

Widening of W120 for IIc foundation: 96604

Lower remains of IIc bench in SW of Rm 1: 77051, 78043

78043	J20/254	Pottery disc	**24**

Fill of P94/12: 78023, 78024

78023	J20/235	Clay spoiler/ kiln support	**56**
78023	J20/293	Ceramic vessel	
78023	J20/350	Ceramic vessel	
78024	J20/241	Archaeobotanical sample	**S07/37**

Fill of posthole in base of P94/12: 78025

Unstratified units: 77004, 77049, 78000-78002, 78021, 78029, 78035, 78048, 96002, 96570, 96581, 96600-96602, 96611

78001	J20/204	Obsidian blade	**677**
78029	J20/231	Iron rod	**431**

Room 2

The initial IIa layout of Room 2 in the north of the central range of the building, was different to that seen in Level IIc. Instead of the single open room of the later phase, the IIa phase consisted of two rooms. The IIa walls – W120 to the north, W797 to the east, W796 to the south, and W122 to the west – matched the location and layout of the later IIc phase, but there was an additional wall (W6200) running north to south from W796 to W120, forming a divide between two small rooms: Room 2(E), ca. 2.75 m E-W x 2.4 m N-S and Room 2(W), ca. 2.75 m E-W x 2.10 m N-S (Photo 5.13). No plaster was noted on the internal faces of these walls. In most areas the floors appeared to respect the mud-brick levels of the walls, but in some cases the foundation stones were visible above the height of the earliest floors (Photo 5.14).

In Room 2(E) there was a single IIa floor formed of the upper horizon of the early packing deposit 81415=81814 (+98.22-98.42 m), which extended across the room, pre-dated the construction of W6200, respected W122 and W120, and ran beneath the internal walls of the Stele Building to the south and east. The initial floor level in Room 2(E), therefore, was consistent with the base of the foundation stones of the walls to the west, east and south. This single floor, with no overlying occupation deposit, must have been kept clean throughout the use of this room. This observation suggests, when compared with the sequence of deposits seen in Room 2(W) and described below, a different function and treatment for these two spaces.

Below 81415=81814 was the pre-existing ground-surface beneath the Stele Building: 81423=81418 (+98.12-98.34 m). A small pit, P08/23 (with fill 81425), cut into this deposit in the south of Room 2 (E), contained most of the skeleton of a 20-24 month old sheep, disarticulated and with butchery marks on some of the bones (K20/276) (Photo 5.15). This may have been some kind of symbolic deposit contemporary with the first construction of the building, but as it is cut into the pre-existing ground-surface it cannot be dated with complete certainty to the time of use of the building. To all appearances the pit itself and its fill were sealed by the overlying fill of Room 2(E), despite the ^{14}C dating of one of the bones which would seem to suggest that the deposit was closer in time to the IIc than the IIa phase of the building (see §2 and *Anatolian Studies* 64, 135 on Sample 57).

In Room 2(W) the original IIa floor lay at approximately ~98.25 m. It was formed of the upper horizon of two partially-overlapping packing deposits, 81813=81422 and 81809=81414, both bounded by the room's walls to the south, east and west, and once probably bounded by the IIa phase of the wall to the north, a wall phase now truncated by the foundation trench of a later phase of this wall (see below for description). These deposits overlay the internal packing deposit 81814=81415, which, in turn, overlay those deposits which pre-date the construction of the IIa Stele Building: 81815 and 81824=81418=81423.

The initial IIa floor of Room 2(W) was associated with the first phase of a threshold through the wall to the south, W796, which gave access to Room 3, and with a threshold through the wall to the west, W122, which gave access to Room 1(N). The threshold between Room 2(W) and Room 3 was formed of a ca. 2.25 m break in the mud-brick levels of the western part of W796. Upon the stone foundations of W796, which continued beneath this threshold, were once two beams running almost the full length of the threshold, now represented by empty slots in the material overlying the threshold (Photo 5.16). These beam slots were filled by 78040, and had once formed a sill between the two rooms, just as a mud-brick sill had in the IIc phase of the Stele Building. The threshold between Room 2(E) and Room 1(N) had not been recognized during the excavation of Room 1 due to the heavy disturbance from a later pit P94/12, in the NE corner of this room, truncating W122. Overlying the first course of the mud-bricks of this wall, which form the base of the threshold (+98.17 m), a thin sequence of deposits (81821, +98.21 m), could be seen to have built up, contemporary with the initial IIa floor of Room 2(W). Subsequently a mud-brick sill, ca. 0.15 m wide (81811, +98.31 m), was constructed to the east of the threshold, over the initial IIa floor of Room 2(W). Respecting this sill to the east was a series of later IIb.i floors of Room 2(W), while to

the west a number of thin lenses, rich in charcoal (81812, +98.28 m) accumulated over a layer of packing 81822, sealing 81821. P94/12 had cut away the northern extent of this threshold down to the level of the stone foundations of W122. However, the southern limit of the threshold had been widened to the west, possibly for the emplacement of a door-socket, now removed. This threshold was later blocked up with a mix of mud-brick/pisé material (81807), an event which occurred prior to the widening of the western wall of Room 2 (81808) (Photo 5.17).

Overlying the first IIa floor of Room 2(W) was a deposit (81819=81421, +98.33–98.23 m), the upper horizon of which made up the first IIb.i floor of Room 2(W). This deposit respected W6200, W122 and the mud-brick sill placed at the threshold through this wall. It runs over W796's foundations at the point of the open threshold and can be seen to have once respected the beams of the threshold, continuing around these into Room 3 as 81819=81025=81605. To the north, this deposit had probably also once respected the southern face of the IIa wall W120, but had been truncated by the foundation trench for the later phase of this wall.

The sequence of construction for W120 was complicated, and our decision to leave the northern wall of the Stele Building *in situ* from the level of its IId foundations and not to excavate north of this wall, means that it was possible to assess the phasing of this area and wall only from its southern elevation. An initial IIa phase was constructed upon the pre-existing ground-surface. The IIa phase and the deposits which had once respected this wall's southern face (those described above) were subsequently truncated by the foundation trench (P08/16; base: +97.98 m) for a later IIb.i phase of W120. This foundation trench removed many of the stones of the IIa foundations – possibly for re-use in the construction of the IIb.i phase. The uneven build-up of deposits on either side of the dividing wall (W6200) meant that in Room 2(W) the foundation trench for the IIb.i phase of W120 had cut through occupation deposits which had built up against W120's IIa southern face. Subsequently, the foundation trench was filled with soil before construction of the IIb.i phase's lowest foundations, raising the level of the base of the stone foundations to the height of the latest IIa floor (+98.33 m). In Room 2(E), however, the floor level had not risen above that of the initial floor, which was the same level at which the IIa walls had been founded (+98.10 m). The truncation of this stretch of the IIa phase of W120, by the foundation trench for the wall's later phase, cut the wall down to the height of the floor and removed almost the entirety of the foundation stones of the IIa phase. Here, the foundations of the IIb.i phase of W120 were not laid out at the level of this lower IIa floor, but were continued at the level seen to the west of W6200. A 0.30 m high pisé plinth was deposited (81817=81427), upon which the new IIb.i foundations were placed. The foundations of the IIb.i phase of W120 to the north of Room 2(E) were, therefore, higher than the IIa floor which was to remain in use contemporary with the new IIb.i W120 - a most peculiar construction decision, but paralleled in some of the IIc rooms.

After the IIb.i wall had been constructed, a new feature was added to Room 2(W). Overlying the fill of the foundation trench for the IIb.i wall and the latest IIb.i floor associated with the earlier IIa W120, was a mud-brick/pisé structure (81806), which respected the southern face of the recently-constructed wall (Photo 5.18). This structure (ca. 0.35 m N-S x 1.75 m E-W x 0.6 m high) blocked a gap between the southern face of W120 and a large ceramic tub (J20/305), which had been placed on the same floor ca. 0.40 m to the south (Photo 5.19). Although the tub stands upon the floor truncated by the foundation trench for the later IIb.i phase of W120, its placement must date to after the construction of this later phase of W120. This is because 81806 was built prior to the placement of the tub and abutted the southern face of the IIb.i phase of W120. Since parts of the tub were standing 0.50 m high, and, therefore, only 0.10-0.20 m below the IIc floor, it is clear that the tub and the associated floors remained in use until immediately before the IIc reconstruction.

Overlying the first IIb.i floor was a third occupation deposit: 81802=81412 (+98.27-98.37 m), the upper horizon of which formed a second IIb.i floor for Room 2(W). This deposit respected the mud-brick levels of W122, the mud-brick sill of the threshold across this wall, W6200 to the east, and continued into Room 3 as 81019=81604. It also respected the structure to the north

(81806), and the *in situ* tub (J20/305). A further floor deposit: 81804 (+98.38-98.29 m), similarly bounded, petered out to the south, just into Room 3. 81804 was overlain by the final IIb.i deposit of Room 2(W) (81803=81411=78042 at +98.44-98.32 m). This final deposit respected the walls to the north, east, and west, as well as the sides of J20/305, and similarly petered out into Room 3. Upon this final IIb.i floor, was found a lentoid flask of rather coarse reddish ware (J20/304), complete except for ancient breakage to its rim (Photo 5.20).

Overlying this final IIb.i floor was 81808, a feature of pisé and broken brick which served to widen the east end of W122. Respecting this addition, sealing the final IIb.i floor, and W6200, and filling Room 2(W) and Room 2(E), was a ca. 0.70 m layer of IIb.i packing. This packing event also sealed the beam-slots across the threshold between Room 2 and Room 3, and was continuous with the packing of Room 3, serving to raise the level of the rooms to that of the IIc occupation (+99.80-99.30 m). From the packing came an unusual three-handled painted pottery lid (K20/283; Photo 5.21). The rectangular pisé 'box' excavated as 2900 (EKT p. 123), and located at the western end of the mud-brick levels of W796, had been constructed within a pit P08/17, which had cut through this packing event.

The IIb.i packing and the IIb.i phase of W120 were truncated by a later foundation trench (P08/31) for wall W6201 (base: +98.83 m) – the remains of the SW corner and southern wall of a building to the north of the Stele Building. This area of the IIa/b Stele Building had been intruded upon and partially built over by a later and different structure, which was in turn cut down and built over by the walls of the IIc Stele Building, the IIc phases of W120 and W797. Again, as in Room 1, here was an indication that there was a phase of use of this part of the site, subsequent to the packing of the rooms of the Stele Building to the IIc level but nevertheless prior to and sealed by the actual IIc construction and occupation. The intrusive wall (W6201), which extended ca. 0.60 m into Room 2 was only partially visible, its northern face remaining beneath the *in situ* and overlying IIc phase of W120. Where visible, W6201 was formed of mud-brick on top of stone foundations poorly constructed from a mix of large (0.20-0.40 m^3) semi-worked stones, and smaller unworked rounded pebbles and sub-angular stones.

Room 2 units and finds

Phase IIa

S beam-slot across threshold through W796: 78056

Rm2(W) IIa floor surface: 81414, 81422, 81809, 81813

81813	K20/265	Clay spindle whorl	**208**

Fill of P08/23: 81425

Phase IIb.i

Fill of P08/16, foundation trench for W120: 81427, 81817

Packing material beneath 81806, structure to N of bath tub: 81810

Packing of Room 2(E) and Room 2(W): 81410, 81413, 81419, 81800, 81801

81801	J20/306	C14 sample	**^{14}CS16**
81410	K20/283	Painted ceramic lid	(*Anatolian Studies* 64, 139, Fig. 45)
81413	K20/266	Clay bead	**261**
81413	K20/268	Grindstone	**764**
81413	K20/270	Flat stone	**739**

Fill of pot J20/305: 81805

Packing material beneath Rm 2(W) and Rm 1(N) threshold: 81823

Beam slots across threshold between Rm 2(W) and Rm 3: 78040

Occ. deposit over initial phase of Rm 2(W) and Rm 1(N) threshold: 81821

Sill associated with threshold between Rm 2(W) and Rm 1(N): 81811

Occ. deposit across Rm 2(W) and Rm 1(N) threshold: 81812

Packing overlying 81821: 81822

Blocking of Rm 2(W) and Rm 1(N) threshold: 81807

Material widening W122 to the west: 81808
Occ. deposit of Rm 2(W) overlying initial IIa floor: 81421, 81819
Fill of P08/16, foundation trench for IIb.i phase of W120: 81427, 81606, 81817

81606	J19/676	C14 sample	**^{14}CS5**

Occ. deposit of Rm2(W): 81802, 81412

81802	J20/312	2 worked astragali	**507**
81802	J20/313	Stone panel	**715**
81802	J20/321	C14 sample	**^{14}CS14**
81802	J20/325	Spindle bottle base	

Occ. deposit of Rm 2(W) above 81802=81412: 81804
Occ. deposit of Rm 2(W) above 81804: 78042, 81411, 81803

78042	J20/252	Moulded dish	**47**
81803	J20/300	C14 sample	**^{14}CS15**
81803	J20/304	Lentoid flask (*Anatolian Studies* 64, 113, Fig. 24)	
81803	J20/305	Bath tub	**48**
81803	J20/334	Flint	**632**

Phase IIb.ii
Fill of P08/31, foundation trench for W6201: 81426
Construction material for W6201: 81424

Phase IIc
Construction material of rect. shaft 2900: 81820

Unstratified
Initial debris clearance: 76100, 76101, 76102, 78003, 78004

Room 3

The earlier phases of this central space of the building had already been examined in previous seasons, clearing most of the room down to the latest floor beneath the IIb.i packing. The IIa room (ca. 5.5 m E-W x 4.5 m N-S) was bounded by W796 to the north, W797 to the east, W624 to the south and W122 to the west. No plaster was noted for the internal faces of these walls except at the union of W797 and W624, where there was a small patch of at least four coats of plaster (Photo 5.22). In most areas the IIa floors appear to have respected the mud-brick levels of the walls, but in some cases the foundation stones were visible above the height of the floors.

At the junction of W797 with both W622 and W624 a break in the mud-brick was apparent, leaving a vertical channel in the wall between Room 3 and Room 5. This channel ran from the level of the IIa floors in both rooms for the full height of the remaining mud-brick (Photos 5.23, 24). The remains of some internal plastering of this channel were visible (Photo 5.25). Moreover, it appeared that this channel may not have been completely open to the rooms, as in places layers of plaster ran across the aperture. These were continuous with the partially remaining plaster layers on the mud-brick walls to either side, and thereby sealed the channel off from the room. For plastering in such a fashion to have been possible, this channel must have been once lined or filled with some form of wood, and it would appear that there was a similar vertical, presumably wooden, divide halfway through the channel, for here traces of plastering across the channel were visible, suggesting that it was not originally open between the two rooms. The state of preservation of these partial remains of plaster, and the damage to this area by animal action, meant that further analysis was impossible, and any internal fill was not stratigraphically secure. Various questions remain: Were the bottoms of these once separate channels open to the rooms? Did they act as some form of ventilation or chimney? If Room 3 was an open space, as suggested by its size, what was the purpose of such a vent/chimney? No fire installations or other features were associated with this corner of either Room

3 or Room 5. No signs of burning were visible within the channel, albeit it was filled with ash from the later IIc conflagration and a burnt stone from the IIc collapse.

The earliest IIa event within Room 3 was the deposit of a platform of compacted soil (81023=81606 at +98.14-98.29 m), upon the material dating to before the IIa construction of the Stele Building (81024=81608 at +98.10-26 m). Constructed upon this platform was a IIa mud-brick/pisé surround measuring ca. 2 m E-W by 1.5 m N-S (81021=81603=77070 at +98.36 m), for the central hearth (FI08/14) of Room 3. At the centre of this hearth was a burnt depression filled with loose red and ashy soil 81022=81602 at +98.26 m; Photo 5.26). This hearth was of similar size, if less elaborate construction, to that of the overlying IIc hearth. Where visible, the mud-bricks of the surround were mostly laid on bed and the majority were 0.50 m long x 0.40 m wide x 0.10 m deep, or bricks of half such width. Respecting the emplacement was a sequence of floors, which sloped slightly down to the bounding walls of the room. The initial IIa floor was that formed of the upper horizon of the initial packing material (81023=81606 at +98.14-98.29 m), overlying which, in the NW, was 81607 (at +98.14-98.30 m). Subsequent IIb.i floors were formed of the upper horizons of 81025=81605 (+98.16-98.31 m), and finally 81019=81604=77062=78055 (at +98.18-98.32 m).

In the NE corner of the room and associated with the earliest floor of Room 3, but continuing in use throughout the subsequent occupation, was a trapezoidal free-standing structure (for loci information and associated finds see EKT pp. 124-5). The IIa form of this feature, suggested in the prior excavation publication to be an altar, was of a "row of 'half' bricks (ca. 34 x 14 x 14 cm), which were laid across the corner of the room". This feature had been coated in numerous layers of plaster (which together were up to 0.08 m thick on the sides and 0.05 m thick on the front). While the top had been plastered, it had not received the same number of coats, and the back had not been plastered. Two astragali were found within the plaster as it was removed. Subsequent to the layers of plastering, a large wedge of hard white plaster material filled the gaps between the sides of the altar and the walls to the NW and SE and from then on the junction with the wall was plastered round continuously.

The enigmas of this corner extended to the junction of W796 and W797, where there was a vertical rectangular shaft with plastered sides. Within this 'box' a large wooden beam had stood upright, placed upon the IIa foundation stones of W796. This feature appears to be associated with another box-like feature within W797, slightly to the north-east, in which two beams had been placed parallel to one another, running east to west (Photo 5.27). The carbonized remains (sampled as J19/771) of these beams (0.25 m wide x 0.40 m long) could be seen to have rested upon the IIa foundation stones, but each one was set in an individual plastered channel. This plaster continued up the side of the box, above the level of the beams, clearly demonstrating that these beams had not extended across Room 4.

Access to Room 3 was possible from Room 2(W) to the north, Room 4 to the east, Room 10(W) to the south, and Room 1(S) to the west. Rooms 3 and 2(W) were separated by the wide, ca. 2.25 m, probably open threshold, described above for Room 2. The IIa threshold between Rooms 3 and 4 was located in the middle of the wall separating these rooms (W797), and was directly below the IIc form of this threshold. In Room 4 the IIa floor ran directly up to the foundations of W797 and the threshold was formed of the lowest course of the stone foundations of the wall. A similar situation was initially the case for Room 3, where the IIa floor and IIb.i floors had run up to the stone foundations of W797. Later, a more elaborate construction was installed. Constructed upon the final IIb.i floor, formed of the upper horizon of 81019=81604 (at +98.18–98.32 m), the final floor of Room 3 before the IIc phase, was a threshold formed of a step of flat, roughly-worked and irregularly shaped stones (ca. 0.10 m thick), extending ca. 0.40 m either side of the gap through the wall and projecting 0.60 m into the room (with its top at +98.47 m).

Access between Rooms 3 and 1(S) was through W122, to the north of Room 3. At this point the mud-brick levels of the wall were broken, for ca. 1 m, and the foundation stones of the wall formed the threshold between the two rooms (Photo 5.28). The original width of the point of access

between the two rooms had been equal in the east and west, but not long after the initial construction and before any prolonged use of the threshold, the western access had been purposefully narrowed by ca. 0.20 m, through the addition of some pisé material (96563=96500). The western access was clearly restricted for some reason! Use of this threshold was contemporary with the IIa and IIb.i floors of the rooms, albeit that the height of the original threshold at +98.24 m was above the IIa floor in Room 1 (+98.10 m), but lower than the IIa floor in Room 3. Overlying the threshold were numerous lenses of charcoal rich material (96564), eventually levelling the height of threshold with that of the IIa floor in Room 3 (Photo 5.29). Later, this threshold was completely blocked by 96563, prior to the pre-IIc packing of Room 3 and the construction of the IIc phase of W122 on top of the IIa phase.

Access to Room 10 from Room 3 was provided by a threshold directly south of that between Rooms 2 and 3, at the point where the mud-brick courses of the southern wall of the room (W624) would have run to meet the western (W122). The earliest phase of access was 1.25 m wide and was an impressive construction involving the use of wooden beams and uprights (Photos 5.30 and 5.31). Forming the base of the threshold at +98.15 m were three pisé-constructed narrow beam-slots (+98.26 m) laid upon the stone foundations of W624. At either end of the threshold, projecting ca. 0.20 m from the standing mud-brick levels of the walls, a rectangular pisé surround (+98.29 m) had been constructed over these beam-slots, perhaps providing support for two wooden uprights to run up the inside of the doorway, against the mud-brick walls on either side. Just to the east of this threshold close to the north face of W624, and resting upon the first IIb.i floor was a stone with a central depression (J19/661), which may have acted as a door-socket (Photo 5.32). The full sequence of pre-IIc floors of Room 3 ran up to and respected this threshold construction, but the door-socket was sealed under the final IIb.i floor. The continued rise of the IIb.i levels of Room 10(W) (described below), in comparison with the quite stable level of the floor of Room 3 meant, however, that the threshold between the rooms had to be raised, forming a step up from the Room 3 IIb.i levels to those of Room 10(W). Initially, this was achieved by the addition of a row of large (ca. 0.20 m wide x 0.30 m long x 0.20 m high) stones (upper surface at +98.56 m) above the beam-slots of the earlier phase (Photo 5.33). Eventually, the continued rise in the level of Room 10(W) meant that the Room 10(W) deposits overlay this row of stones and probably spilled over into Room 3. At this point, such spill-over was probably cut back, and on the latest IIb.i floor of Room 3 a mud-brick/pisé ramp (77045 at +98.63 m), was constructed, providing access and preventing further material spilling over from Room 10(W) into Room 3 (Photo 5.34). The direction of the crudely-fashioned steps cut into this structure suggests access westwards between Room 3 and Room 9 or Room 1(S). No threshold was observed at this height, however, and any access must have occurred, therefore, when the IIa walls had been cut down in preparation for the IIc construction. Overlying this ramp, indeed using it as its foundations, was a stone set of steps, the lowest of which was associated with the IIc occupation. These steps were oriented so as to provide access to the projected (but vanished) IIc levels of Room 10 from the IIc floor in Room 3, a reversion to the earlier pattern.

The IIb.i packing of Room 3 (77046=78037 at +98.79-98.87 m), which served to raise the level of the room to that of the IIc occupation, sealed the latest IIb.i floor and the mud-brick ramp, and was continuous over the threshold through W796 and into Room 2. Into this IIb.i packing material were let two IIc stone lined sockets, one (81034) associated with the doorway from Room 3 into Room 4, the other (77075) in an equivalent position against W122 on the opposite side of the room.

Room 3 units and finds
Phase IIa
Central platform for hearth FI 08/14: 81023, 81606

81023	K19/552	C14 sample	**^{14}CS6**
81606	J19/676	C14 sample	**^{14}CS5**

Surround for FI 08/14: 77070, 81021, 81603

Phase IIb.i
Occ. floor in the SW of Rm 3 overlying 81019=81604: 77048
Fill of P07/46, posthole cutting mud-brick ramp 77045: 77072
Construction material of step for threshold through W797: 81041
Red/ashy deposit within central depression of hearth of Room 3: 81022, 81602
Occ. deposit above 81023=81606 in Room 3: 81607
Rm 3 occ. deposit overlying 81607: 81025. 81605

81605	J19/661	Stone door socket	**725**

Rm 3 occ. deposit overlying 81025=81605: 77062, 78055, 81019, 81604

81604	J19/675	C14 sample	**^{14}CS17**

Occ. deposit over threshold between Rm 3 and Rm 1(S): 96564

96564	J19/784	Bone bead	**264**

Blocking of threshold between Rm 3 and Room 1(S): 96500, 96563

96500	J19/685	Ceramic flask	

Ramp in SW corner of Room 3: 77045
IIb.i Packing of Room 3: 77046, 78037

Phase IIc
Fill of socket 77075 in P07/39 in W of Rm 3: 77037
Material of socket in P08/65 in east of Rm 3: 81034
Construction material of IIc steps in SW of Rm 3: 77040
Construction material of IIc phase of W122 above threshold: 96565
Fill of P07/38 posthole in W122: 77047
Fill of P07/37 posthole in W122: 78041
Fill of P07/36, small posthole cutting packing 78037 in the NW of Rm 3: 78038
Fill of P07/35, small posthole cutting packing 78037 in the NW of Rm 3: 78039
Stone lined socket in west of Room 3: 77075
Stone lined socket in east of Room 3: 81034

Unstratified
General debris clearance: 77600, 77002, 81000, 96519

77600	K19/486	Clay bead	**290**
81000	K19/490	Stone bead	**291**
96519	J19/720	Flint blade	**676**

Debris from W122: 81601, 96569

96569	J19/741	Spindle whorl	**236**

Cleaning of W797, W622 and W624: 96571
Cleaning of channel at junction of W797, W622 and W624: 96575

Room 4

Pre-1998 excavations had cleared Room 4, in the NE of the building to its IIc floor (+99.05-98.96 m), with soundings below in the SW corner to remove a large jar, and at the north end to examine the earlier phases. Each sounding cut through both the occupation of the Level II Stele Building, and deposits pre-dating the initial IIa construction. The IIa walls bounding this room are W122 to the north, W5702 to the east (no IIa mud-brick levels were associated with this wall), W622 to the south, and W797 to the west). The IIa room measures ca. 5.75 m N-S x 2.5 m E-W (Photo 5.35).

Respecting the stone foundations of the IIa walls of the room was a single floor formed of the upper horizon of an initial IIa deposit of the room: 81403=81009 (+98.37-98.45 m), overlying the pre-Stele Building deposits 81015=81408, 81014=81407, and 81013=81405=81406. No plaster was observed on the internal faces of the walls, leaving the stone foundation and mud-brick

construction of the room visible above the height of the floor. The floor was associated with the IIa threshold through the room's western wall, i.e. between Rooms 3 and 4 (see description above on Room 3). In the north of Room 4, ca. 0.20 m from the eastern face of W797, sunk through the IIa floor, was a IIb.i pot emplacement P08/53, within which was the base of a large storage jar K19/501 (Photo 5.36). Along the east side of the room, the IIa floor had been cut by three further IIb.i pits (from north to south: P08/27, P08/26, P08/28) (Photo 5.35), which seem likely to be emplacements for large storage jars, as had been commonly found for the IIc incarnation of Room 4. The southernmost of these three pits (P08/28) also cut through an overlying thin IIb.i occupation deposit (81011) and is therefore later.

Overlying this IIa floor and the above-described features was ca. 0.60 m of IIb.i packing material, which raised the level of the room to that of the IIc occupation. The IIc stone foundations of W5702 could be seen to have partially overlain both this packing material and the earlier IIa stone foundations, while those of W797 and W120 were directly above the IIa walls. The IIa phase of W622 appeared to have remained standing and in use throughout the IIc phase, with no IIc additions recognisable.

Room 4 units and finds

IIa

Initial IIa deposit of Rm 4: 81009, 81403

81009	K19/504	Shell ring	**543**
81009	K19/551	C14 sample	**^{14}CS10**

IIb.i

Packing above IIa occupation: 81007, 81402

81007	K19/500	Obsidian core	**633**
81007	K19/525	Antler	
81007	K19/526	Greenstone axe	**729**
81007	K19/541	Iron slag	**452**
81007	K19/542	Ceramic tray	
81007	K19/559	Ceramic pot	
81007	K19/560	Ceramic jar	
81402	K20/253	C14 sample	**^{14}CS13**
81402	K20/254	C14 sample	**^{14}CS11**
81402	K20/255	C14 sample	**^{14}CS12**

Fill of pot K19/501: 81010
Occ. material in the SE of Rm 4: 81011
Fill of P08/26: 81016
Fill of P08/27: 81017
Fill of P08/28: 81018

Unstratified

Initial debris clearance: 81000, 81400

81400	K20/252	Copper pin	**357**
81400	K20/282	Reused potsherd	**64**

Eroded upper levels of room packing: 81008, 81401
Clearing of eroded wall W122: 96571

Room 5

In the IIc phase, Room 5, in the SE corner of the Stele Building, had the appearance of a later addition. The IIc walls to the north and west (W622 and W797) were suggested to be the exterior walls of a pre-existing form of the Stele Building, while the eastern wall (W619) was supplied by the western wall of the Eastern Building, and the southern wall (W628) was a very flimsy construction

giving onto the open space of Room 6. In the IIa building, however, Room 5 had solid mud-brick on stone foundations on all four sides: W5701 to the south, W5702 to the east, W797 to the west, and W622 to the north. It was thus very much part of the original design of the IIa Stele Building. The rather ad hoc construction apparent in IIc was not due to any absence of Room 5 in earlier phases. The IIa Room 5 measured ca. 3 m N-S x 2 m E-W (Photo 5.37).

The first and only IIa floor of Room 5 was formed of the upper horizon of the deposits upon which W622 had been built: 81029 and 81030 (+98.08 m). Unlike the IIc Room 5, which had accommodated a number of storage jars, no features were associated with the IIa floor, and no build-up of occupation material was observed, nor was there any plaster on the internal faces of the bounding walls. The possible 'chimney feature' at the junction of W797 and W622 and W624 has been described above in the section on Room 3. Access to this room was possible from Room 10, across W797, and will be discussed in the section on Room 10 (below).

The first deposit overlying the IIa floor was a thick layer of IIb.i packing material (81026 at +98.48 m) containing an unusual amount of potsherds, and also a well-preserved weaver's bone shuttle (K19/536). Above this major packing deposit, the walls of the room to the north and east were widened by a single row of IIb.ii mud-bricks laid on edge against the internal face of these walls (visible in Photo 5.37), a row which continued for the full remaining height of the walls. Constructed upon the same packing material and abutting the widened wall to the east and the original face of the wall to the west, was a IIb.ii wall, W5700 (Base: +98.40 m; Top: +98.68 m; plan P7). This wall was formed of mud-bricks (ca. 0.40 m wide, x 0.50 m long x 0.10 m deep), laid on bed and one row wide, by two courses deep. The wall divided the room into two roughly equal portions, Room 5(N) and Room 5(S), a much later division than seen elsewhere across the Stele Building where smaller rooms had been part of the initial IIa layout of the Stele Building. No sign of access across this wall was visible at the height at which it remained, and although small remnants of plaster were found on the faces of this cross-wall, no occupation deposits were associated with it, suggesting only a limited time of use. This intermediate phase is similar to the IIb.ii occupation phase of Room 1; both phases post-dated the packing of these rooms, but were prior to the final IIc preparation and construction.

Following the intermediate phase of Room 5, the IIa walls to the east and south were cut down and a smaller IIb.ii packing event (81001, 81002, 81003) was deposited. This packing sealed both the internal wall and the eastern wall of the room, W5702, and raised the level to that of the IIc occupation (+98.75-98.69 m). The new IIc eastern wall (W626) was constructed ca. 0.40 m to the east of W5702. This wall was excavated pre-2000, when Room 5 of the IIc building was excavated. In 2008 some of the heavily burnt mud-bricks of this wall were removed and given find numbers, as they were the best-preserved architectural material from the building (K19/511-522). The bricks were rectangular, with usually about 1 cm of greyish mortar between them. They were laid flat, with a height of 9-10 cm, a width of 36-40 cm and a length (in the one case where this was fully preserved) of 52 cm. The upper surface and sides were usually smoothed, with the underside left rough. Several of the bricks had parallel shallow grooves, probably made by fingers, running across the upper surface.

The new IIc wall to the south (W619) was constructed partially over both the IIb.ii packing deposit and the IIa south wall. Where this IIc wall remained *in situ* from the 1998 season, having suffered much erosion since this date, the lowest two courses were seen to be of mixed construction: semi-worked stone to the west and mud-brick to the east. No IIc stone foundations were found on top of the remaining IIa walls to the north and west, and the IIc floor had respected the pre-existing IIa walls of the building, which continued in use throughout the later phase.

Room 5 units and finds
Phase IIa
Material of initial IIa floor of Rm 5: 81029, 81030

81029	K19/556	Flint flake	**628**
81029	K19/557	Whetstone	**699**

Phase IIb.i
Packing material of Rm 5 overlying 81030 and 81029: 81026

81026	K19/536	Antler tool	**480**
81026	K19/537	Ceramic handle	
81026	K19/538	Fossilized shell	**567**
81026	K19/540	Copper object	**375**
81026	K19/548	Copper object	**376**
81026	K19/545	C14 sample	**^{14}CS9**

Phase IIb.ii
Construction material of W5700: 81027
Small packing event sealing W5700: 81001, 81002, 81003

81003	K19/496	Stone cylinder	**740**

Phase IIc
Construction material of W619: 81005

Unstratified
Initial debris clearance: 81000, 81006

81000	K19/511-522	Mud bricks

Room 7

Located in the south of the Stele Building, Room 7 was bounded by W5701 to the north, W436 to the east, W620 to the west, and W6400 to the south. The IIa Room 7 measured ca. 4.5 m N-S x 5.5 m E-W (Photo 5.38).

An examination of W6400 revealed that, whilst the eastern and western upper levels of this wall were constructed of the usual homogenised mud-brick, a central section of ca. 2.30 m, was constructed of a very shoddy pisé material (96007), overlying a single course of mud-brick laid on the stone foundations. Excavation of the pisé material revealed two beam slots cut into the initial course of mud-brick. The beam slots (P09/06 and P09/07) ran east-west, parallel to the line of the wall, and within them were the fragments of the original burnt beams (Photo 5.39).

These beams did not serve as an aid to bond the stone foundations and overlying mud-brick, for they were cut into the initial course of mud-brick. Instead, these beam slots suggest the presence of a threshold through W6400 at this point. Clearly, this threshold, and any associated threshold furniture, had been removed, and the gap blocked. The beam-slots do suggest, however, a possible entrance to the IIa building, albeit one that was removed and blocked prior to the IIb.i packing and IIc construction of the later incarnation of the building. Further evaluation of the possibility of an entrance to the building at this point has not been possible as investigation south of this wall was beyond the limits of our excavation.

Overlying the construction level of the building, formed of the upper horizon of 96016=96015=96507, and respecting the IIa phases of W6400, W620, W5701 and W436, was a sequence of pre-occupation packing deposits: 96509 overlain by 96017=96506, the latter extending across the entirety of the enclosed area. In the NW corner of Room 7, and built upon 96017=96506, there was a set of three poorly constructed stone steps (96573). These steps had provided access to Room 10 during the construction-phase of the building (Photo 5.40), and had been sealed by subsequent pre-occupation packing deposits (96012=96508 and 96014).

These initial packing events were overlain and sealed by deposit 96003=77035 (+97.85-97.55 m), a 1-2 cm band of purposefully laid compacted clay plaster, the upper horizon of which was the IIa floor, respecting the IIa phases of W6400, W620, W5701, and W436. The internal faces of these IIa walls had partially-remaining plaster which, in places, could be seen to be continuous with the IIa floor; in other places, the IIa floor respected the stone foundations of the walls. Overlying the IIa floor was a IIb.i occupation deposit (96004).

The relationship of the IIa floor and the IIa W436 was only visible where this phase of the wall survived. Apart from a few remaining foundation stones, seen at the bonded union of W436 and W6400 (Photo 5.41), the majority of the IIa phase of W436 had been destroyed, and the foundations removed, by a robber trench, P09/17. This robber trench had cut through the IIa floor, and the overlying IIb.i occupation deposit. A later IIb.i phase of W436, however, had been constructed over the fill of this robber trench, but this later phase of W436 had no stone foundations, and was formed only of mud-brick. No occupation levels of Room 7 respect this later phase of W436, although the original floor could have continued in use during the IIb.i phase of the wall. Considering the lack of stone foundations, the following construction sequence is suggested. The IIa phase of W436 was in use during the IIa and IIb.i phase of occupation, this wall was then mostly removed by the robber trench, perhaps after some form of collapse (deliberate or otherwise). Above the fill of the robber trench a new stretch of unfounded mud-bricks (a IIb.i phase of W436) was built serving as an eastern boundary for the future IIb.i packing of the room and later as a form of additional foundation for the overlying stone foundations of the IIc phase of wall W436. Interestingly, over a distance of ca. 1.10 m north of the J19/J18 square line, the construction material of the unfounded IIb.i phase of W436 changes from homogenized mud-brick to a shoddier, less compact material. This change may represent a blocking of a gap in this phase of wall: perhaps a point of access into the building when the IIb.i packing of the building was taking place.

Overlying the IIb.i occupation material, respecting the IIb.i phase of W436 and the blocking of the threshold through W6400, and respecting the remaining IIa walls of the room, was a ca. 0.75 m deep layer of homogenous IIb.i packing material (77030=81630=96001). From this packing came a copper arrowhead J19/454. Cutting this packing was a small shallow pit (P09/02, filled by 96000). The IIc walls of Room 7 had been built in line with, and on top of, the IIa/IIb.i walls of the room (albeit that the IIc wall, W437, was slightly north of W6400, and the IIc phase of W436 was slightly to the east). Sealing the IIb.i packing and pit was the IIc floor, which respected the IIc walls.

W122 separates Room 7 from Room 8; it is probable that there was a doorway crossing the stone foundation towards the north end of this stretch of wall, but no positive trace of a threshold survived.

Room 7 units and finds

Phase IIa

Pre-occupation packing deposits: 96012, 96014, 96017, 96506, 96508, 96509

96508	J19/726	Iron slag	**449**

Steps in NE corner of Rm 7: 96573

IIa floor of Rm 7: 77035, 9600

96003	J18/466	Copper fragments	**384**

Fill of P09/06, beam slot in W6400: 96010

Fill of P09/07, beam slot in W6400: 96011W6400

Phase IIb.i

Occupation material overlying IIa floor of Rm 7: 96004

Packing of Rm 7 overlying IIa floor and occ.: 77030, 81630, 96001

77030	J19/522	Limestone panels	**716**
1630	J19/673	Iron slag	**451**
96001	J18/450	Spindle whorl	**210**

96001	J18/454	Copper arrowhead	**306**
96001	J18/468	Bone bead	**258**
96001	J18/470	Worked astragalus	**506**

Pisé material blocking gap over beam slots in W6400: 96007
Fill of P09/17: 96013

Phase IIb.ii
Fill of P09/02: 96000

Phase IIc
Construction material of IIc W436: 77083, 77087, 96505

77083	J19/618	Grindstone	**766**

Construction material of IIc W5701: 77084, 77088

Unstratified
Initial debris clearance: 77003, 77006, 77029

77029	J19/606	Fossilized wood	**597**

Material cleared south of W6400: 96008, 96009
Fill of modern robber pit P07/17 in the N of Rm 7: 77032
Material cleared from P09/05: 96006

96006	J18/455	Clay disc	**32**

Room 8

The IIa form of this room, located in the SW of the Stele Building, was bounded by the IIa phases of W618 to the north, W620 to the east, W6400 to the south and W130 to the west. The IIa room is ca. 4 m N-S x 3 m E-W (Photo 5.42). The internal faces of the walls had partially-remaining plaster which, in places, could be seen to be continuous with the IIa floor; in other places, the IIa floor respected the stone foundations of the walls. The IIa floor was at +97.50-97.60 m and was formed of the upper horizon of a packing deposit of the room (77022=77028=81623=96510), which respected the walls; below this deposit was an earlier packing deposit (96511), again respecting the bounding walls of the room, which sealed the pre-construction deposits (96512, 96513, 96514, 96515), W6002 (Level IIIe) and the IIId architecture; Photo 5.43). Some patches of burning were noticed on this IIa floor, and a grinding stone (J19/680) had been set into the NE corner. In the south of the room, and resting on the same floor was a copper implement (J19/520), roughly crescent-shaped and with a curving blade on the inside and a small straight blade on the outside (Photo 5.44). It was broken but presumably meant to be hafted. Six cm to the south a complete tortoise shell (J19/521) was embedded in the floor so that its top may just have been showing (Photo 5.45). In the SW corner of the room, a collection of 168 very small (~2.5 mm diameter) frit beads, in varying shades of white, light grey, and light blue was found (J19/518 and J19/646). The beads appeared to have been purposefully included in the plaster of the floor and walls of this corner of the room (77027). A small pit (P09/21, filled by 96516) had been cut into the IIa floor in the NE of Room 8, and the point of a large stone (J19/704) protruded through the IIa floor in the NE of the Room (top: +97.80 m; Photo 5.46). The base of this stone stood upon the upper horizon of 96512, and the stone was on edge, and perfectly upright, in stark contrast to the tumbled stones from W6002, which lay flat upon 96512. The unnatural position of this stone, the fact that a further stone was found immediately behind it, almost as a support, and that such a stone was unlikely to have been left standing accidentally protruding through the IIa floor, suggests that this stone was purposefully placed in such a position at the time of the construction of the IIa Stele Building (Photo 5.47).

There is the possibility of some form of access between Room 8 and Room 9, through the east part of W618. The floor in the NE corner of Room 8 was seen to rise by ca. 0.15 m from the

level at the centre of the room, and a beam-slot was discovered within the upper levels of the wall's eastern foundations, perhaps forming part of a sill over a threshold.

Overlying the single IIa floor was ca. 0.70 m of IIb.i packing material (77021=77025), which was present across the full extent of the IIa room, and was bounded by the IIa walls. Two pits had been cut into this packing material, but were prior to the IIc occupation, and were thus phase IIb.ii. P07/12, in the SE of the room, truncated the IIa walls but lay beneath the IIc construction, while P07/06, in the centre of the room, lay beneath the IIc floor. The IIc stone foundations had been laid on top of the IIa walls of this room.

Room 8 units and finds

Phase IIa

Initial packing of Rm 8: 96511

96511	J19/703	Obsidian flake	**626**
96511	J19/704	Standing stone	
96511	J19/706	Spindle whorl	**209**

Packing of Rm 8 above 96511: 77022, 77028, 81623, 96510

77022	J19/506	Pottery disc	**23**
77022	J19/507	Flint flake	**624**
77022	J19/508	Flint core	**625**
77022	J19/510	Glass bead	**255**
77022	J19/680	Grindstone	**760**
77028	J19/520	Copper implement	**310**
77028	J19/521	Tortoise shell	
96510	J19/727	Plant fossils	**595**

Plaster of W6400 and W130 in SW corner of Room 8: 77027

77027	J19/518	163 beads of frit and shell	**257**
77027	J19/645	5 frit beads	**256**

Phase IIb.i

Packing material of Room 8 - overlying IIa floor: 77021, 77025

77021	J19/499	Flint blade	**631**
77021	J19/502	Fossilized shell	**568**
77021	J19/644	Fossil	**598**
77021	J19/788	Ceramic bowl sherd	
77025	J19/515	Flint flake	**634**

Fill of P09/21: 96516

Phase IIb.ii

Fill of P07/06: 77020, 77024

Fill of P07/12: 77026

77026	J19/545	Archaeobotanical sample	**S07/22**

Phase IIc

Construction material of IIc W130: 77081, 77085

Construction material of IIc W618: 77082, 77086

Unstratified

Initial debris clearance: 77001, 77019, 77023

Room 9

Located in the centre of the west side of the building, Room 9 measured ca. 2.75 m N-S x 3 m E-W (Photo 5.48). The IIa walls of Room 9 (W625 to the north, W122 to the east, W618 to the south, and W130 to the west) were respected by a single IIa floor, formed of the upper horizon of 77038=96517

(+98.24 m), at roughly the height of the union of the mud-brick and stone foundations. Only one patch of plaster was preserved on the internal faces of the room's walls. It was found against the mud-brick levels of the walls at the junction of the eastern and southern walls. To the north of this plastered section, the mud-bricks of the western face of W122 were visible: five courses of bricks 0.48 m long x 0.10 m deep, on bed, running north to south (the east face of this wall seen from Room 10 is shown in Photo 5.49; compare those seen in the west face of W797 at the east end of the room, and those of W622). Overlying the initial IIa floor was a thin layer of IIb.i occupation material (77007=77034 at +98.62 m), upon which, in the NE of the room, was lying a metal sickle J19/485 (Photo 5.50). Access to this room is suggested to have been across a threshold through the east of W618 from Room 8, as detailed above.

A 0.50 m thick layer of IIb.i packing (77031 at +98.95–98.59 m), overlay the IIa and IIb.i floors and occupation material, and was bounded by the IIa walls. The IIc foundation stones were very similarly aligned with, and partially overlay those of the IIa phase of the building, but also, in places, could be seen to have overlain the IIb.i packing of the room. Both phases of this room had been heavily truncated by two post-IIc intrusive pits (P97/68 to the SW, and P97/66 to the NE).

Room 9 units and finds
Phase IIa
Material forming IIa floor of Rm 9: 77038, 96517

Phase IIb.i
Occupation material of Rm 9 overlying 77038: 77007, 77034

77007	J19/485	Copper sickle blade	**311**

Packing of Rm 9 above 77007, 77034: 77031, 77033

77031	J19/532	Copper spatula	**319**
77031	J19/785	Ceramic bowl	
77031	J19/543	Archaeobotanical sample	**S07/40**

Unstratified
Initial debris clearance: 77005

77005	J19/487	Spindle whorl	**235**

Room 10

The IIc Room 10, in the central range of the building, was bounded by W624 to the north, W797 to the east, W5701 to the south, and W122 to the west, and the IIa walls were recorded along a similar layout and location to those of IIc. In IIa, however, there were two rooms instead of one in this space – Room 10(E) and Room 10(W), as a further wall (W6001) ran north to south between W5701 and W624, providing a boundary between two small rooms (Photos 5.1, 5.51). Room 10(E) measured 3.5 m E-W x 2 m N-S, while Room 10(W) was significantly smaller (1.6 m E-W x 1.75 m N-S). No plaster was noted for the internal faces of any of the walls of this room, and in places the floor respected the stone foundations leaving the stone foundations and mud-brick construction of the room visible above the height of the floor.

To the east of W6001, much of Room 10(E) had been truncated by an unusually large IIc pit (P97/73; Photo 5.52), but in places a single IIa floor, associated with the above-described walls, survived. This floor was formed of the upper horizon of a pre-occupation packing event (81621=77073 at +98.10 m). This packing had been deposited over the material pre-dating the IIa construction of the Stele Building and the foundation cuts for the walls, and was bounded by the walls of Room 10(E). From within the floor surface came two frit beads, reminiscent of the large collection recovered from the floor and wall plaster of the SW corner of Room 7. Upon this IIa floor of Room 10(E) had been built a poorly-constructed and now much truncated mud-brick/pisé wall

(W6000). 0.4 m wide, this wall ran diagonally SW across Room 10(E) from the NE corner, but its SW extent had been entirely taken out by the later pitting of the room. Although the construction material of this wall rests on the IIa floor, it is hard to believe that this wall was part of the original design, but it is too fragmentary to reach any conclusions about its function.

During the IIa and IIb.i phases of the building, access between Room 10(E) and Room 5 was possible through the southern end of W797. While the foundations of this wall abutted W5701, its mud-brick levels finished ca. 0.80 m from the northern face of W5701 (Photo 5.53). The stone foundations of W797 formed a threshold between the two rooms at +98.18 m, for a doorway through the gap in the mud-brick of the wall. This threshold was at the level of the IIa surfaces of both rooms, and a lens of charcoal-rich material (96566) ran over the threshold from Room 10(E) until it met a mud-brick sill in the east (96567), which formed the boundary into Room 5 (Photo 5.54). This threshold, like others across the building had been blocked (96568), probably just prior to the packing of the building and the overlying IIc construction.

Our view of the deposits overlying the single IIa floor of Room 10(E) was severely hindered by the truncation of the room by the large IIc pit P97/73. This pit had not been fully bottomed in the earlier series of excavations and two deposits were excavated in 2009, the basal fill 96574 and overlying it 96579. 96574 included the remains of a very large broken pot, and a large quantity of burnt seeds (J19/754-755). These are identified as barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), and a sample was submitted for ^{14}C analysis. They represent the largest volume of carbonized food remains from across all phases of the Stele Building, although smaller remnants of stored seeds and olive stones were present in Rooms 7 and 4 of the IIc phase. These seeds were either stored loose in the pit itself, or once contained within the jar, which may have fallen into the pit during the fire which destroyed the IIc Stele Building, breaking and releasing its contents. From their location inside the pit they constitute a good dating sample for phase IIc, but because the date must hover around 1200 BC the calibration curve is not able to give a close result (see §2).

Respecting the full height of the eastern face of W6001, and respecting both faces of W6000, was IIb.i packing (77053=81618=81619 at +98.25 m). In the west of Room 10(E), this packing was overlain by a sequence of IIb.i deposits which sealed W6001 and were continuous to the west (77044, 77042, 77041, 77096). These deposits, however, were truncated by P97/73, and to the east of this truncation, such a sequence of deposits did not reappear, instead a further layer of IIb.i packing (81617 at +99.10 m) overlay 77053=81618=81619, sealed W6000, and raised the height of the room to where a probable IIc curving feature of indistinguishable mud-brick (81632 at +98.18 m), had been constructed around the eastern lip of P97/73. The lack of continuity of deposits across the room may be the result of a now lost division between the west and east of the room, perhaps even present from the IIa phase of Room10 (E), but completely truncated by the intrusive pit, but this cannot be said for certain (Photo 5.55).

The SW corner of Room 10(E) was also problematic, but it transpired that a sequence of two IIb.i pits had been cut into 77053=81618=81619, before being sealed by 77044. The earlier pit (P08/59) was re-cut as P08/60, and the east side of both these pits had subsequently been truncated by P97/73. These pits had used the southern wall W5701 and the dividing wall W6001, as their southern and western faces.

To the west of the internal wall (W6001) an initial IIa floor of Room 10(W) was cleared at +97.87 m. This floor was formed of the upper horizon of material which ran beneath the walls of the IIa Stele Building (81613). Upon this floor was a thin IIb.i occupation deposit (81631), which respected the walls of the room. This floor was the first of a sequence to be associated with an initial phase of access through W624 to Room 3 (the construction of this initial phase of access is described above for Room 3). At the time of the initial floor of Room 10(W) the threshold was formed of a step up and onto the thin sequence of floor deposits of Room 3 (81023=81606 at +98.14-98.29 m, 81607 at +98.26 m, 81025=81605 at +98.19-98.29 m, and finally 81019=81604=77062=78055 at +98.18-98.30 m). Overlying the initial IIa deposits of Room 10(W) was a thin layer of IIb.i packing

material (81612 at +98.03 m). Upon this packing was a further deposit (81611=77074, at +98.17 m), the upper horizon of which formed the first IIb.i floor of Room 10(W). This floor respected the walls of the room, and was also associated with the initial phase of access between Rooms 10(W) and Room 3 and the sequence of floors in Room 3 (Photo 5.56).

Overlying the early IIb.i occupation of Room 10(W) was 77052 (+98.35 m). This was a band of very rapidly built-up floors and associated occupation deposits ca. 0.25 m deep. This material had accumulated in association with the initial beam-slot threshold between Room 10 and 3, but had risen to a height where it ran over these beams, so that additions to the threshold were required to maintain a distinction between Room 3 and Room 10. As described above, the Room 3 level was relatively constant during this time, with the accumulation of a thin sequence of floors. The increase in the height of the threshold between the two rooms was formed by a row of large stones (ca. 0.20 m wide by 0.30 m long by 0.20 m high) placed across the threshold (upper surface at +98.56 m). Overlying 77052 and respecting this latest addition to the threshold was 77044=81614 (+98.60 m). 77044 was a IIb.i deposit seen to respect the northern, southern, and western walls of the room but which overlay and sealed the cross wall to the east (W6001). It also sealed the IIb.i packing of Room 10(E) (77053=81618=81619), and the small pits in the SW of the room, and continued to the east until it was truncated by P97/73. Within the 77044 deposit was a rectangular slab (J19/549), placed face (or back) down on the floor against the south face of W624 just to the east of the doorway into Room 3 (Photo 5.57).

The same deposit was not recognised to the east of P97/73, suggesting again that there was once a further division between the west and east, perhaps even present from the IIa phase of Room10 (E), which has been completely removed by the intrusive pit, but this cannot be said for certain. In any case, with the deposition of 77044, the division into Room 10(E) and Room 10(W) was lost, and 77044 represents a pre-IIc use of the wider undivided space of Room 10. Room 10, therefore, is marked out as different to the rest of the Stele Building, for the smaller rooms Room 2(E) and Room 2(W) and Room 1(N) and Room 1(S) were maintained until the IIc phase. The upper horizon of 77044 formed the first IIb.i floor to be associated with the raised threshold between Rooms 10 and 3. During this time the relatively stable level of flooring continued in Room 3.

Overlying 77044 was a 5 cm thick band of charcoal-rich, finely stratified floors (77042 at +98.80 m) (Photo 5.58). These floors respected the IIa walls of the single open room, extended across the room until truncated by P97/73, and were associated with the second phase of the access between Rooms 10 and 3, i.e. the stone blocks (see above under Room 3). Above 77042 was 77041 (+99.00 m), the latest deposit associated with the IIa walls of the building. The latter two deposits were observed to have once probably spilled over into Room 3 and onto the initial floors still in use in this room. The spill-over had then been cut back and the mud-brick ramp, described above for Room 3, had been put in place, blocking access between the two rooms until the IIc phase.

The IIc floor and walls of Room 10 were not found, and it is assumed they were sliced away by the later IId phase of the building; the floor must have been at a level above +99.00 m, the highest level of IIc material surviving in Room 10. A IIc feature (77063), not noticed in the previous decade's excavations, was discovered in the IIa south wall of the room (W5701). It was an enigmatic feature cut into the IIa mud-brick at about the midpoint of the length of the wall (Photo 5.59). It was a plastered 'box', containing much burnt charcoal, which had been riddled with rodent activity, possibly suggesting the presence of timber, now lost. This feature could be seen to be aligned with the IIc plastered 'boxes', which also contained a great deal of charcoal, and had been cut into the IIa mud-brick, on the north and south sides of Room 3. The IIa mud-brick of W5701 was removed as 77055, 77084 and 77088.

The contrast between Room 10(W) and Room 10(E) is quite clear, and is parallel to that seen between Room 2(W) and Room 2(E). Although in the IIc phase, an open room was present to both the north and the south of the central Room 3 of the Stele Building, in the IIa phase there had initially been two rooms, a small square space at the west end and a longer rectangular space to the

east. These differed in their occupational sequence: as with Room 2 the eastern room had a single IIa floor, while the western room directly accessed from Room 3 was observed to have had substantial and regular deposition and re-flooring. Further, access into these IIa rooms each side of the central Room 3 had been similarly organised: wide thresholds with beam-slot sills were located opposite one another through the north and south walls of the central room. The clearest divergence between the two rooms is that whilst the distinction between Room 2(E) and Room 2(W) is maintained until IIc, Room 10(E) and Room 10(W) are unified into Room 10 in the late IIb phase, when W6001 falls out of use and is presumably cut down, and 77074 forms the first floor of the wider room.

Room 10 units and finds

Phase IIa

Construction material of W6000: 81620

Initial packing material of Rm10(E)=IIa floor surface:77073, 81621

77073	J19/613	Frit bead	**258**
77073	J19/635	Frit bead	**262**

Phase IIb.i

Area of threshold between Rm 10(E) and Rm 5: 96566, 96567, 96568

Packing of Rm 10(E) overlying IIa floor: 77053, 81618, 81619

Secondary layer of packing in W of Rm 10(E) overlying 77053=81618=81619: 81617

Occ. material of Rm 10 sealing W6001: 77044, 81614

77044	J19/549	Stone slab	**730**

Occ. debris in Rm 10, overlying 77044: 77041, 77042, 77043, 77090, 77096

77042	J19/543	Worked bone	**481**
77042	J19/546	Quartz artefact	**738**

Occ. deposit overlying 81613 in Rm 10(W): 81631

Packing material overlying 81631 in Rm 10 (W): 81612

Rm10(W), first IIb.i floor: 77074, 81611

Rm10(W), Occ. deposits overlying 77074, 81611: 77052

77052	J19/677	C14 sample	**^{14}CS7**
77052	J19/583	Flint core	**630**
77052	J19/586	Glass bead	**261**
77052	J19/786	Cooking pot	

Fill of P08/59: 77080, 81615

Fills of P08/60: 77054, 77071

77071	J19/611	Copper wire	**367**

Phase IIc

Construction material of W5701: 77084, 77088

Plastered feature in the IIa mud-brick of W5701: 81632

Stone lined post-socket in west of Rm 3: 77075

P97/73 fill: 77050, *96574, 96579*

96574	J19/779	Copper lump	**389**
96574	J19/780	Fossilized shell	**569**
96574	J19/755	C14 sample	**^{14}CS58**
96574	J19/754	Archaeobotanical sample	**S09/32, S09/85**

Curved mud-brick rim of P97/73: 77063

Unstratified

Initial debris clearance: 77006, 77036, 81600

81600	J19/646	Frit beads	**294**

Debris clearance Room 10(W): 96576

Conclusions

The work as a whole allows us to draw some general conclusions about the building's purpose and construction. One striking fact is the very uneven nature of the site on which it was constructed: the surface of the underlying layers sloped considerably and inconsistently in different parts of the site. Virtually all walls are of mud-brick resting on stone foundations but in different parts of the site the preparations for the laying of the stone foundations vary considerably. In some places they rest directly on the surface of the earlier building level, or are laid in cuts into that material, in others they are resting on fresh material brought onto the site and overlying the earlier level. At the intersection of Rooms 3, 4, 5 and 10 there seems to have been a large deep pit before the builders arrived: this was only partially filled in, leaving quite a steep depression, and in consequence the stone foundations of the rooms in question, though they cut into the fill of the pit also dip noticeably towards its centre. The western exterior wall of the Stele Building, W130, demonstrates the peculiar construction of the building. The southern end of this wall was founded much lower than the north, with a corresponding increase in the height of stone foundations at this southern end (Photo 5.60). Moreover, there appears to have been a varying construction method: the north section of this wall was laid directly upon the pre-existing surface, while the south appears to have been placed within a foundation cut. One aspect not fully explored is the use of timbers along the top of the stones and under the mud-brick masonry: wood impressions are conspicuous under some of the thresholds (e.g. between Room 3 and Rooms 2 and 10), but it remains unclear whether this is confined to the thresholds, or the timbers ran consistently under the rest of the walls, which were not dismantled to examine this point.

A more general issue regarding the initial construction concerns the orientation of the building: it has been noticeable from the start that the alignment of the Stele Building in all its phases is entirely different from the preceding Level III architecture. However, in J20 walls W118 and W119, belonging to a contemporary structure further north, matched the earlier Level III alignment, and to the west, some 5 m across the Western Courtyard, a IIb building was also constructed on this non-Stele Building alignment. This all suggests that it is the Stele Building alone (perhaps with the attached Eastern Building) which was given this new alignment, while the adjacent buildings retained their existing alignments and perhaps functions. At the same time the Stele Building was a new departure in another sense, since it occupies a space which had at least in part been an open area in Level III, while the site of the substantial Level III building became the Western Courtyard.

These considerations underline the uniqueness of the Stele Building, and its symbolic importance is reinforced by the sheep skeleton discovered in Room 2, agreeing with the evidence of the beads, and copper implements, recovered from the initial phase of construction of the western side of the building (see Postgate & Stone 2013). While there is some evident continuity of use through the consecutive phases of the Stele Building, e.g. the footprint and general layout of the building, the presence of a number of pot emplacements in Room 4 in both levels IIa/b and IIc, and the presence of a central hearth and altar in Room 3 for all phases of the building, there are some interesting differences. By comparison with the later IIc plan it is noticeable that no less than four of the rooms round the central space had been two smaller rooms in the earlier phases (Rooms 1, 2, and 10, and in IIb Room 5). In the case of Rooms 2 and 10 it is interesting that the earlier rooms reached directly from Room 3, that is Rooms 2(W) and 10(W), were accessed across a wide threshold and showed signs of continuous occupation, while in the eastern "back rooms" there was only a single occupation phase in evidence on the original IIa floor, which must reflect a difference in usage. In this respect Rooms 2(E) and 10(E) resemble Rooms 7 and 8 along the southern side of the building, where the initial IIa floors remained in use until a single episode of clean homogeneous fill was used to raise the level to immediately below the IIc floors. Room 3 was different again: here there was a well plastered second floor, but the intervening fill was clean material, with no sign of the finely

stratified accumulated occupation debris observed in Room 10(W) or in Rooms 1(N) and 2(W), for example. Accounting for these differences is inevitably speculative. Where a space does not display a succession of fine layers of occupation debris it is perhaps because it was kept rigorously clean, as might be the case with Room 3 with its altar, or because it was shielded from human traffic, as one might suppose applied to store rooms. There was however little evidence that in phase IIa Rooms 7 and 8, or Rooms 2(E) and 10(E) had served for storage (although in phase IIc Room 7 had storage vessels), and other explanations should perhaps be contemplated.

Outside the building in the Western Courtyard, the build up of successive occupation layers, strikingly evident against the SW corner of the building in I19d, provides an obvious explanation for the decision to reconstruct the building in phase IIc: the floor of some of the rooms, which had remained at their original level, would have become very much lower than the ground surface outside, and the new version of the building would have brought the interior of the building back to the level of the outside world, even though Room 3, for instance, still had to be reached by four steps down.

What remains clear, in any case, is that the IIc and subsequently the IId Stele Buildings were technically a reconstruction and institutionally a reincarnation of the original IIa building, and must have fulfilled the same functions. It is less certain that they are functionally the heirs of the North-West Building but from its location on the mound and some of its attributes this seems a distinct possibility.