

D.6.3 Building phases of N12 (Fig. 39)

In the area of building unit N12, excavation was suspended at the layer of soil and pebble used to artificially level the natural surface. The natural gravel ground was thus not exposed and its altitude not measured. At various locations, the ancient backfill shows remains of a trampled and unevenly laid mud surface, designated Temporary Floor 1. Above this surface, the thin deposit layer (N12De1) may have developed in some places, before the construction of N12's perimeter and internal walls, and their corresponding bonded pilasters (with notable exception of N12Pil2 and N12Pil3). This first construction phase, N12-c (Fig. 34), also includes Installations N12B (front room, N12/1) and N12F (central room, N12/2).

Occupation of N12 began with stage N12-b (Fig. 35), as attested internally by Floors N12F12R1/R2/R3/SE abutting the footing course of the walls. Outside the structure, corresponding lipping is also seen at the footing course of the wall where remains of wall plaster are intact (*i.e.* on the outer face of the northern perimeter wall, see Pl. 19). Inside N12, the main occupation phase develops on top of Floors N12F12. This is attested in the central room by the pit N12D and at the rear of the building unit by Installations N12C and N12E, as well as the establishment of oven room N12A. Evidence of additional refreshed floored surface N12F12dR3 in rear room N12/3, against the eastern perimeter wall and Pilaster 1, may also belong to this occupational episode. Rear room N12/3 also preserves evidence for an occupation deposit succeeding this occupation sequence, (N12De3d); the remains of this deposit have developed over the earlier Floors N12F12, but pre-date the next phase of construction, N12-a.

The eastern end of southern perimeter wall 42S (IID.2.1) shows evidence for the subsequent construction phase, N12-a – perhaps after the accidental collapse of part of the wall, the upper courses of 42S were constructed in this stage. The corresponding bonded Pilaster N12Pil3 is clearly built upon the earlier occupation deposit (N12De2f) (Fig. 32), also placing it in this phase. Against the northern face of Wall 57, construction of Pilaster

2 over deposit (N12De3d) clearly places it within the later occupation layer. A corresponding later deposit, (N12De4a), was identified within the brickwork of the western part of Wall 42S, separating the lower courses from the upper courses of the masonry. The laying of the upper courses of Wall 42S thus also belongs to N12-a, the final building phase of Level 3, as does the additional segment of Wall 42S built west of N12Pil4 (Fig. 37).

E BUILDING UNIT N26

E.1 Introduction

Across a *c.* 1.05m wide east–west oriented lane separating the two compounds, the N26 building unit lies parallel to N12, with similar alignment on the short eastern sides (Pl. 24). Located in the southern part of SAV1 North, the outline of building unit N26 is comprised of four perimeter walls: 47S, 45E, 43N and 44W. These walls are all half-a-brick thick and were built using layers of staggered mud brick stretchers. Despite this generally used pattern, the masonry of N26's short sides is worth noting, having been enlarged in some places with additional wythes.²⁶⁶ The western perimeter side of N26 is one brick thick, but consists of two walls built side by side: 44W on the interior and 47W on the exterior. To the east, the northern section of perimeter wall 45E is as wide as one and half bricks thick (Fig. 44). Excavation of the internal southern and eastern sides of N26 was not completed to the footing course of the walls, nor was the external face of Wall 45E.

The ground plan of N26 is a trapezoid and encloses the large space N26/1, possibly a courtyard (3.30 × 4.37m), divided by north–south oriented Wall 43E, an inner partition to the east. On the western side of N26/1, internal walls 44S, 44E and 47E delineate two side rooms identical in surface area (*i.e.* 2.2m): N26/2 to the north and N26/3 to the south.²⁶⁷ In the southwestern corner of the building unit, N26/4 is a small room (slightly less than 1m) of the third building phase (N26-a), built over what was the southern section of the earlier room N26/3. The external surface area of N26 encompassed by the four perimeter walls covers 22.92m (see Fig. 14).

²⁶⁶ See TASSIE and OWENS 2010, 253.

²⁶⁷ The general groundplan with a main court and two western side rooms may, despite the different arrangement of

rooms, be compared to Type I of Bietak's Group B: BIETAK 1996, 24, fig. 2.

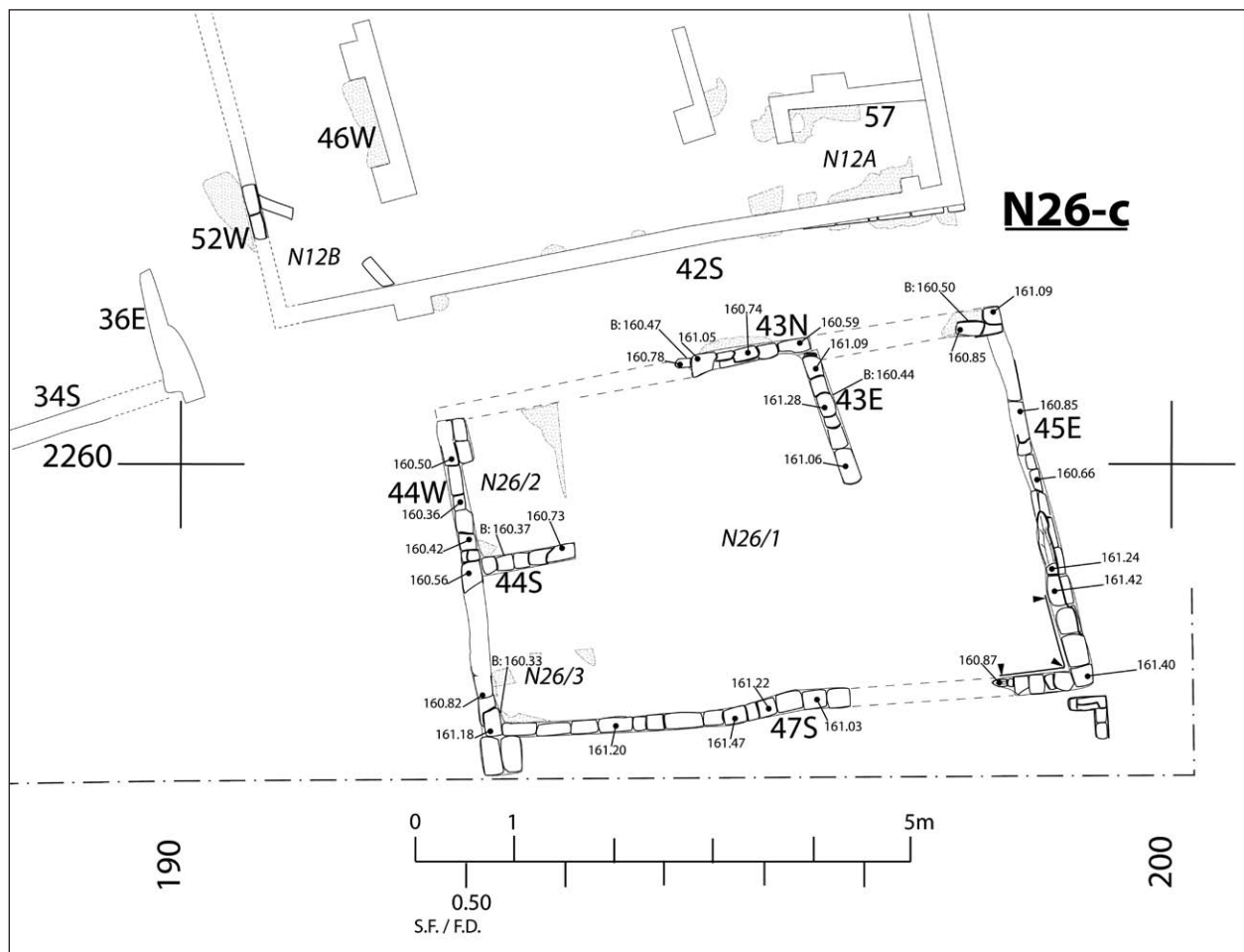


Fig. 40 Plan of Phase N26-c: levels of the perimeter and internal walls

E.2 Description of N26's perimeter walls (Fig. 40)

E.2.1 Wall 47S

The east–west oriented southern perimeter wall of building unit N26 is 6.15m long at the exterior and 5.70m at the interior. At its present state of preservation, Wall 47S is divided into two sections of masonry: the longer western part (3.71m long) and the shorter eastern part (1.00m long). Between these two segments is a 1.40m long gap with no visible brickwork above the ground. This truncated wall is half-a-brick thick and is made of mud bricks $36 \times 15 \times 10$ cm in size. To the west of the internal wall 47E, perpendicular to Wall

47S, one can observe that Wall 47S slightly bends northwards.

The eastern part of Wall 47S is presently preserved up to a height ranging from two to six brick courses above an occupational deposit.²⁶⁸ To the west, the longer part of Wall 47S has a maximum height of nine preserved brick courses and rises 1.09m above the gravelled ground. Evidence of bonding is seen at both of the original southern corners. The southwestern corner of building unit N26 features a bonded corner between Wall 47S and perpendicular Wall 44W. At the southeastern corner of N26, Walls 47S and 45E are likewise joined. The north–south internal wall 47E runs perpendicular to Wall 47S and abuts against its inner/

²⁶⁸ The top of the eastern part of Wall 47S is levelled at 161.40m and the base of the sixth course from the top at

160.65m. An occupational deposit conceals lower courses at this part of the wall.

northern face, though there is no evidence of bond in the preserved lower courses.

E.2.1.1 Facing plasters of Wall 47S

Situated at the southern limit of the excavated area, the outer/southern face of Wall 47S was not cleared during the campaign and is currently not visible (Pl. 24). On the inner side of Wall 47S, a smooth greyish sandy-silt wash with rare medium-size pebbles entirely covers a 2.20m long section of the wall, running eastward from the internal cross-wall, 47E. It is worth noting that a render similar to this facing wash was also applied on the eastern face of the adjacent Wall 47E. These two walls, 47S and 47E, are not structurally bonded but their render was probably applied at the same time. At the bottom end of Wall 47S's plastered section, the render curves out from the inner wall face.²⁶⁹ Moreover, a small schist fragment (c. 15 × 12cm) was found inserted into the facing plaster overlying the basal courses of the wall. This schist plate may indicate a stone paving technique used for the floor of N26.²⁷⁰

West of Wall 47E, the inner face of Wall 47S bears no trace of plaster. The internal face of the eastern segment of 47S also shows no plaster.

E.2.1.2 Pilaster of Wall 47S

There is no evidence of any pilaster associated with Wall 47S.

E.2.2 Wall 45E

The perimeter wall 45E runs north–south and designates the eastern side of building unit N26. It is 3.85m long and is composed of mud bricks that differ significantly in size from one part of the wall to the other: bricks in the southern part are 35 × 15/16 × 10cm, while bricks in the northern part are larger, at 45 × 18 × 9cm in size. Additional disparity is seen with respect to the thickness of Wall 45E. Over a distance 2.10m long, the southern part of Wall 45E is half-a-brick thick and was built using courses of staggered brick stretchers in the traditional running bond pattern. In contrast, the northern part of the wall has a more substantial

width over a distance of 1.65m. This part of the wall is one and half bricks thick – over 0.50m wide – and has a schist slab inserted into the top brick course, protruding 15cm from the external face of the wall.²⁷¹

Both ends of Wall 45E's outer wythe feature a bonded pattern with the adjacent east–west wall: 43N to the north and 47S to the south. Furthermore, the wider thickness at the northern part of Wall 45E results from an additional two brick wythes to the inner face of the outer wythe. At the southern end of these extra internal wythes, it is possible to observe that they are adjacent to westward-running brick courses, related to a brick structure. The construction of Wall 45E's internal wythes might be related to the building of a brick structure (IIE.3.1.2) in the space between the eastern perimeter wall and internal wall 43E, which runs south at a slight angle from the northern perimeter, Wall 43N.

The southern part of Wall 45E is preserved up to a height ranging from one to seven brick courses above an occupational deposit.²⁷² Levelled at 160.94m, the northern part of the wall is only preserved to four brick courses (0.44m) above a mud plaster surface, levelled at 160.50m. As seen from the inner face of the southern part of the wall,²⁷³ the third course from the top is made of headers that run perpendicular to the stretcher bricks of the upper courses.

E.2.2.1 Facing plasters of Wall 45E

Only the outer face of the southern part of Wall 45E bears a facing plaster, covering the uppermost two courses. Red burn marks on the inner face of the southern part of Wall 45E may be the result of fire activity in the southeastern corner.

E.2.2.2 Pilaster of Wall 45E

There is no evidence of any pilaster associated with Wall 45E.

E.2.3 Wall 43N

In the north of building unit N26, remains of Wall 43N consist of three mud brick masonry segments

²⁶⁹ The base of the lipped-out feature is levelled at 160.54m. This feature may indicate the level where the coated floor surface N26F12R1 (IIE.6.2.1) once connected the lower part of the facing plaster.

²⁷⁰ Cf. AZIM 1975, 113 and pl. X.

²⁷¹ The schist slab measures c. 45 × 20 × 3cm in size. The insertion of stone slabs within the bricklaying occasionally

occurs throughout the site (see Wall 35W, IIF.2.2). Such use is far too sporadic to infer a specific structural purpose.

²⁷² The top of Wall 45E's southern part is levelled at 161.42m and the base of the seventh course from the top at 160.60m. An occupational deposit conceals lower courses at this part of the wall.

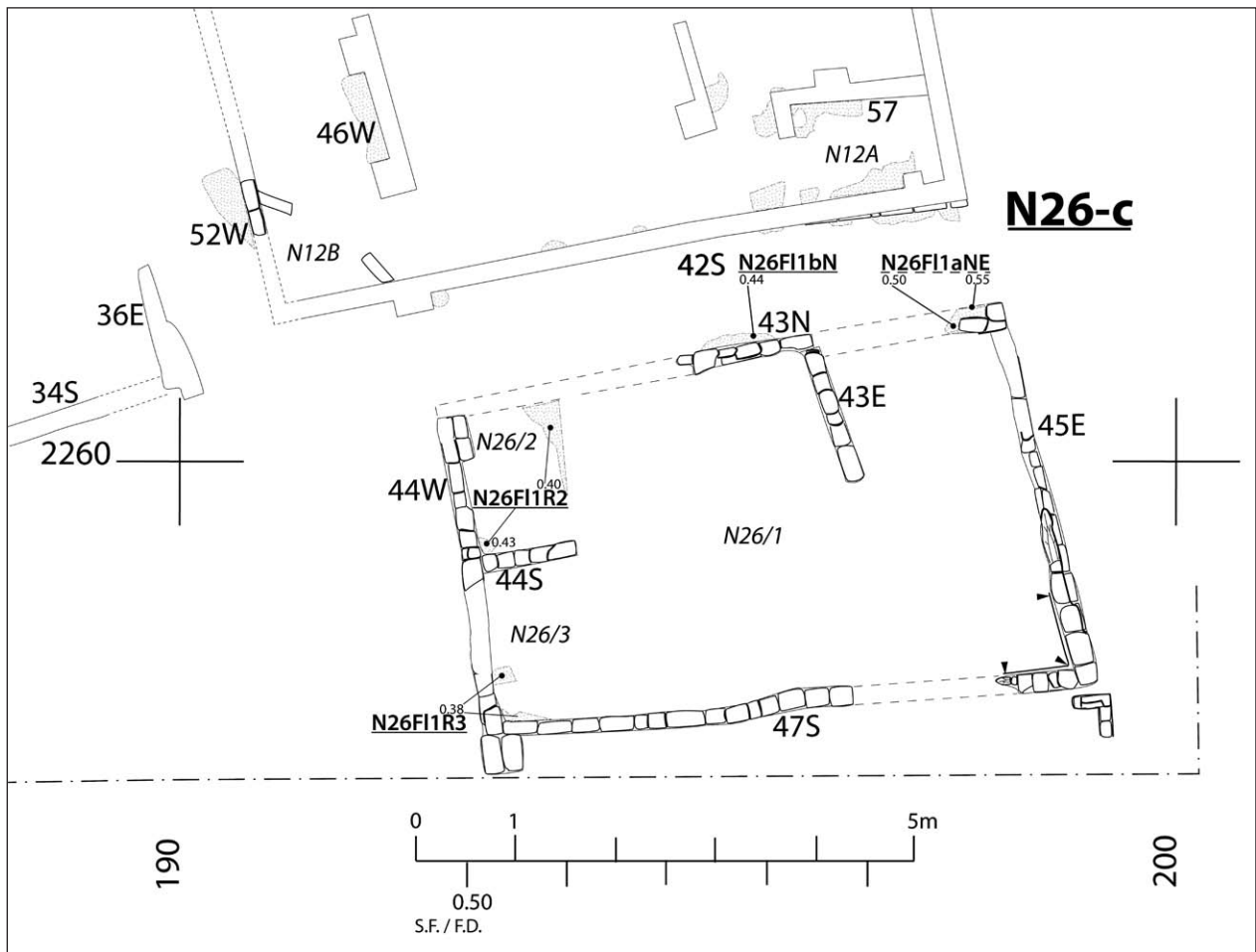


Fig. 41 Plan of Phase N26-c: levels of the floors

that are half-a-brick thick and run east–west (see Pl. 18). With a maximum height of five intact courses, the eastern segment of Wall 43N culminates at 161.09m, rising 0.59m above the mud-plaster surface N26F11aNE, levelled at 160.50m. The eastern segment of Wall 43N is less than 0.60m long, made of bricks that are 38 × 19 × 9cm in size, and was possibly bonded with Wall 45E.

The central segment of Wall 43N is separated by a 1.40m gap from the eastern segment of the wall. This central segment is 1.35m long and is also made of staggered stretcher bricks, 38 × 19 × 9cm in size. It is preserved up to a height ranging from one to five brick courses and has its high point at 161.05m.²⁷³ The north–south oriented internal wall 43E runs perpendicular to Wall 43N,

near the eastern end of its central segment. An exposed section of the north end of Wall 43E indicates that this internal wall was likely not bonded to perimeter wall 43N.

The footing course of the Wall 43N's central segment overlays a 3–7cm thick layer of occupational deposit. This deposit in turn lies over a mud-plaster surface. This deposit in turn lies over a mud-plaster surface, N26F11bN, levelled at 160.44m (see Fig. 41). Despite the gap in the masonry between its eastern and central portions, one might consider that both these segments belong to the same phase of building. In support of this, both the eastern and central segments 43N are made of similarly sized stretcher bricks and both have corresponding footing levels around 160.50m; this altitude is related to the first building phase of N26, N26-c.

²⁷³ The top of the third course from the top is levelled at 160.70m.

²⁷⁴ The top of the central segment's footing course is levelled at 160.59m and its base ranges from 160.51–160.47m.

This western segment of 43N (Fig. 44) is slightly less than 0.60m long and five brick courses high (Pl. 25),²⁷⁵ separated from the central segment by a 2m gap in the masonry. The western segment differs from the other parts of Wall 43N in that it consists of slightly smaller bricks, 32 × 15 × 8cm in size. At the northwestern corner of N26, bricks from the second and fourth courses from the top of 34N are headers that run perpendicular to the east–west oriented stretchers of the wall segment. These header bricks also belong to the contiguous segment of Wall 47W, attesting to the interlocking character between Walls 43N and 47W. Additionally, the western segment of Wall 43N was built on a 25–30cm thick layer of occupational deposit (N26De4a), which separates the base of the wall's footing course from the surface N26F12R2 (Fig. 43 and Pl. 26). The latter sequence may indicate a construction of the western segment at a later stage (N26-a) than the central and eastern parts of Wall 43N (N26-c).

Cumulating the span of wall segments and gaps in masonry, the outer total length of the northern perimeter of building unit N26 measures 5.85m. The interior measurement, corner to corner, is 5.35m (Fig. 14).

E.2.3.1 Facing plasters of Wall 43N

With the exception of some patches of wall coating covering the inner face of the central segment, there is no plaster addition remaining on either face of Wall 43N.

E.2.3.2 Pilaster of Wall 43N

There is no evidence of any pilaster associated with the segments of Wall 43N.

E.2.4 Walls 44W and 47W (Figs. 40 and 44)

At the western side of building unit N26, the sequence of construction is quite complex. The earlier Phase N26-c features the half-a-brick thick Wall 44W, while the construction of Wall 47W belongs to the later Phase N26-a. Both of these walls were built of one wythe of staggered stretcher bricks and, because of the juxtaposition of the two, N26's western perimeter ends up being one

brick thick (Pl. 25). The inner and outer walls, 44W and 47W respectively, run at a north–south orientation. Despite the difference in building phases, the bricks of each wall are nearly identical: 35 × 16 × 9cm in the earlier inner wall 44W and 36 × 15 × 10cm in the later Wall 47W. At the southwestern corner, Wall 44W is bonded to the southern perimeter wall 47S.²⁷⁶ At the opposite end of the western perimeter, there is evidence of bonding between the western segment of Wall 43N and the northern segment of Wall 47W (IIE.2.3). Two internal walls, 47N and 44S, run perpendicular to the western perimeter and abut against the inner face of Walls 47W and 44W respectively. The southern segment of Wall 47W is bonded to internal wall 47N, which is also assigned to the later phase of construction N26-a. Wall 44S is not bonded to Wall 44W.

The footing course of the inner wall 44W is intact over the entire length of the western perimeter of N26. This wall is 3.16m long and is preserved up to a height ranging from one to seven courses. At the southern end of Wall 44W, the top of the wall is levelled at 161.18m and its base above gravelled ground at 160.33m.

The outer wall 47W consists of two disconnected segments of brickwork. The northern segment of Wall 47W is three brick courses and 0.38m in height, while the southern segment is five courses high, or 0.65m tall. Like the northwestern corner, where Wall 47W joins 43N, the southern segment of Wall 47W was also built on a layer of occupational deposit; all belong to N26-a, the later phase of construction on the west side of N26 (IIE.6.3).

The total length of the exterior western perimeter of building unit N26 is 3.30m long. The interior distance is 3.05m (Fig. 14).

E.2.4.1 Facing plasters of the western perimeter walls

None of the wall faces belonging to 44W and 47W have been plastered with a surface addition.

E.2.4.2 Pilaster of the western perimeter walls

There is no evidence of any pilaster associated with Wall 44W or the preserved segments of Wall 47W.

²⁷⁵ The top of the western segment is levelled at 161.38m and its base ranges from 160.79–160.75m.

²⁷⁶ It is worth noting that both walls have bricks that bear the same finger mark, namely one central oblique groove (Type A category, IIA.3).

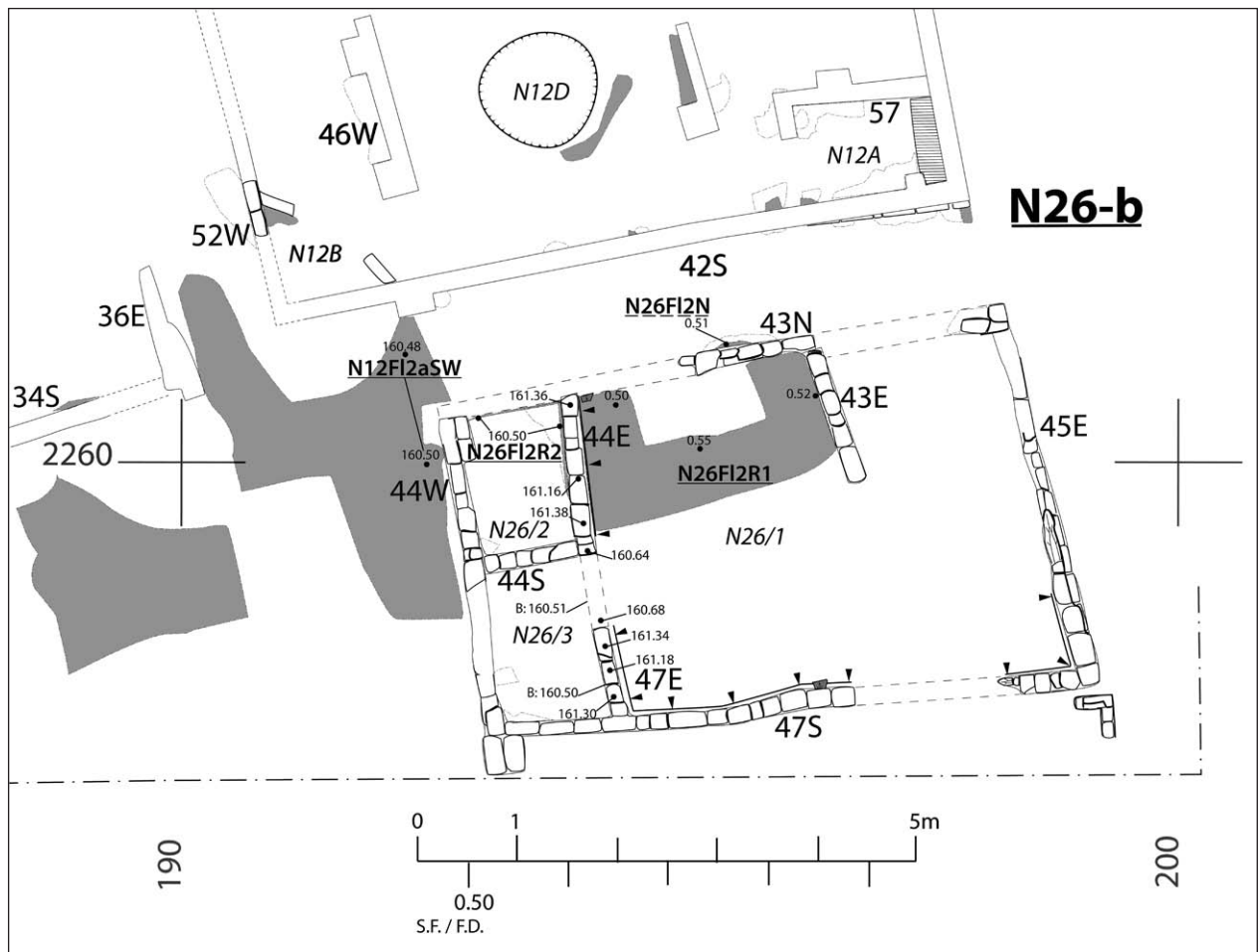


Fig. 42 Plan of Phase N26-b: levels of additional internal walls and floors

E.3 Description of N26's internal walls

E.3.1 Wall 43E (Fig. 40)

Internal Wall 43E is north–south oriented and 1.35m long. It runs perpendicular to the northern perimeter of N26, 1.85m from the outer northeastern corner. Made of running stretcher bricks that are $35 \times 15/16 \times 10$ cm in size, Wall 43E is thus half-a-brick thick. It is preserved up to a height ranging from five to seven brick courses and culminates at 161.28m.

At the northern end of Wall 43E, there is no evidence of bonding with the footing course of Wall 43N's central segment (IIE.2.3). Because the area south of Wall 43E was not exposed down to the footing courses, the relationship between the 43E's

lower brickwork and the eastward-running brick courses (IIE.3.1.2) was not determined. It was possible to document, however, that the latter course abuts against the eastern face of Wall 43E's southern end.²⁷⁷

E.3.1.1 Facing plaster of Wall 43E

On its eastern face, Wall 43E is nearly covered with a facing plaster consisting of a smooth greyish sandy-silt wash with rare small pebbles; only the northern half of the two lowest courses is denuded. The other face of this wall, the western face, is entirely plastered. At the base of the wall, there is evidence that the plastering curves westward above a coated surface N26FI2R1, levelled at 160.52m.

²⁷⁷ The top of the contiguous eastward-running brick course is levelled at 160.54m.

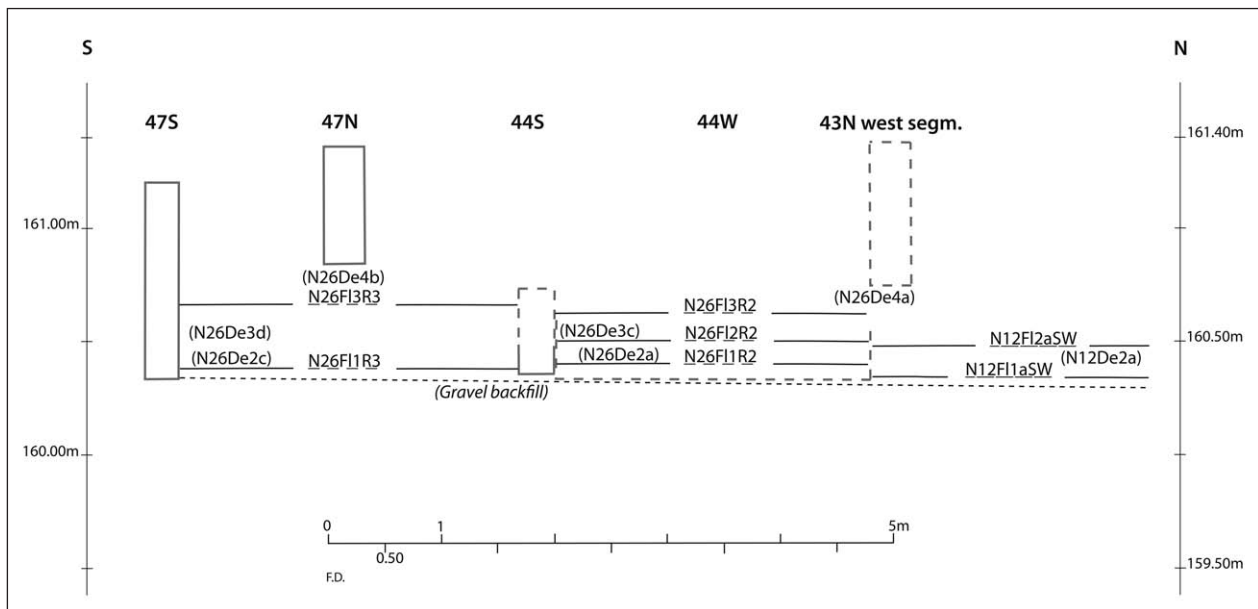


Fig. 43 Outline of the section west of N26

E.3.1.2 Brick structure associated with Wall 43E (Fig. 44)

As mentioned above, the gap between the southern end of Wall 43E and the northern segment of Wall 45E was closed by the construction of a crooked 1.35m long brick course structure. This possible dividing wall is preserved up to a height ranging from one to four brick courses, culminating at 160.95m at its central point. Without further excavation in the eastern area of N26, the purpose and context of this mud brick assemblage are unclear.

E.3.2 Wall 44E (Fig. 42)

Wall 44E is half-a-brick thick and north–south oriented. It runs parallel to – and 1.00m east of – western perimeter wall 44W, and is perpendicular to both Wall 44S and the exposed lane between building units N12 and N26. This internal wall outlines the eastern side of N26/2, the northwestern room of N26. Wall 44E is 2.33m long and made of running stretcher bricks, $35/37 \times 16/17 \times 9/10$ cm in size. Beyond the cross-wall 44S, Wall 44E is only preserved up to one footing course and abuts Wall 47E, the internal wall continuing to the south.

At its highest point of preservation, Wall 44E culminates at 161.38m and is six to seven intact brick courses high. It was built on occupational deposit (N26De2a).

The brickwork of Wall 44E does not bond with either of the adjacent walls, 44S and 47E. South of the intact segment of Wall 44E, beyond the cross-wall 44S, a sheet of wall masonry made of five courses of stretchers was found fallen to the west. The weakness of the masonry in Wall 44E's southern part, is likely caused by the absence of bonding between Walls 44E and 47E. The missing part of Wall 44E further indicates that it was a later addition, blocking a former passageway between central room N26/1 and the side room N26/3 (see Fig. 42).

E.3.2.1 Facing plaster of Wall 44E

The inner/western face of Wall 44E bears no trace of surface treatment while, the outer face is entirely covered with a smooth greyish sandy-silt wash with occasional medium-size pebbles. At the base of the eastern face, the facing plaster lips out from the wall and merges with the floor coating levelled at 160.50–160.55m. Another small schist plate, $c. 15 \times 20$ cm, is embedded in the plaster coating the northwestern corner of the room.²⁷⁸ Given that the stone plate is standing perpendicular to the course

²⁷⁸ The base of the schist plate is levelled at 160.52m, corresponding with the base of Wall 44E (IIE.3.2).

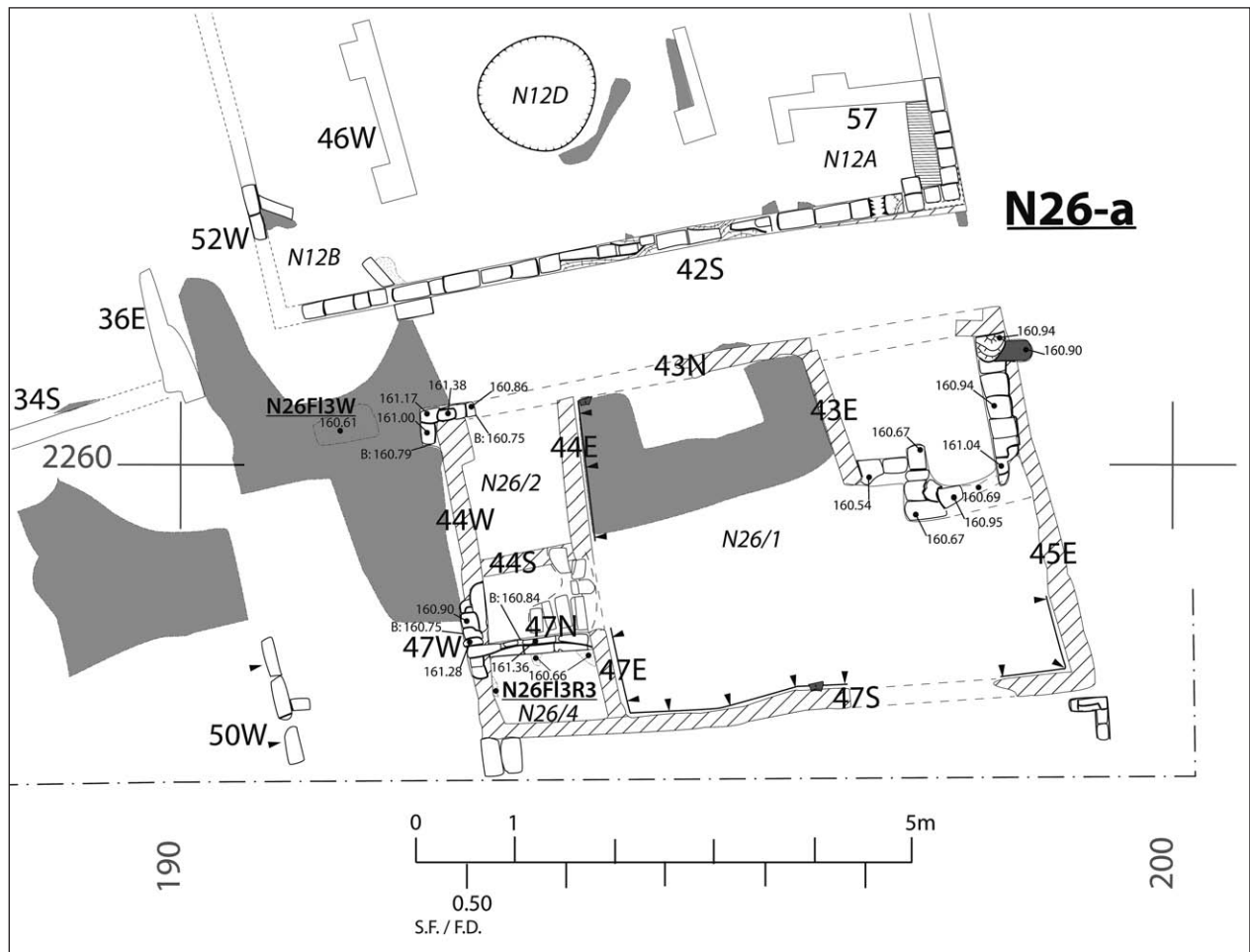


Fig. 44 Plan of Phase N26-a: levels of additional wall segments and floors

of the wall, it can be suggested that this mud and stone floor once coated the corner of the room, also abutting the bricks of N26's northern perimeter.

E.3.2.2 Pilaster of Wall 44E

There is no evidence of any pilaster associated with Wall 44E.

E.3.3 Wall 44S

(Fig. 40)

Wall 44S is a 0.95m dividing wall running perpendicular between Walls 44E and 44W. This wall is east–west oriented and delineates the southern side of the northwestern room, N26/2. Made of running stretcher bricks that are $33 \times 16 \times 8$ cm in size, Wall 44S is half-a-brick thick. It abuts the western face of Wall 44E to the east and the inner/eastern face of Wall 44W to the west, without showing any bonding pattern to the adjacent walls. This wall is preserved up to a height ranging from one to three stretcher courses and culminates at 160.73m, while its base is levelled at 160.37m.

E.3.3.1 Facing plaster of Wall 44S

The southern face of dividing wall 44S bears no trace of facing plaster. Its northern face is also denuded, except in the southwestern corner of the N26/2 side room. There a patch of wall coating is still intact, adhering to the inner faces of this corner between the basal courses of Walls 44S and 44W. The lower portion of the corner-plaster curves slightly toward the interior of the room (Fig. 41), levelled at 160.43m, suggesting the presence of a formerly coated floor surface, now truncated.

E.3.3.2 Pilaster of Wall 44S

There is no evidence of any pilaster associated with Wall 44S.

E.3.4 Wall 47E

(Fig. 42)

The internal wall 47E is north–south oriented, running perpendicular to the southern perimeter wall 47S against which it abuts, although unbonded.

Wall 47E is 0.90m long, made of staggered stretcher bricks that are $33/35 \times 18 \times 10$ cm in size, and thus half-a-brick thick. It runs in the same north-south alignment as the internal wall 44E and perpendicular to internal wall 47E, but bonds with neither.

Wall 47E is preserved up to seven courses and culminates at 161.34m. It was built on occupational deposit (N26De2c), which also lies below the footing course of the contiguous, northward-running Wall 44E (IIE.3.2). Thus, it can be concluded that both, Walls 47E and 44E, belong to the same phase of construction N26-b, built before the later dividing wall 47N (Phase 26-a) (IIE.3.5 and IIE.6.3).

E.3.4.1 Facing plaster of Wall 47E

The western face of Wall 47E bears no surface treatment. However, the eastern face is entirely covered by a smooth greyish sandy-silt wash with rare medium-size pebbles, the same render applied to the inner face of Wall 47S against which Wall 47E abuts at the southern end.

E.3.4.2 Pilaster of Wall 47E

There is no evidence of any pilaster associated with Wall 47E.

E.3.5 Wall 47N (Fig. 44)

Dividing Wall 47N is 1.25m long and runs perpendicularly east-west between Walls 47E and 47W. This half-a-brick thick wall is preserved up to four running stretcher brick courses, with bricks $35/37 \times 18 \times 10$ cm in size. The top of Wall 47N is levelled at 161.40m and the base of its footing brick at 160.84m.

The eastern end of Wall 47N abuts, without bonding, the western face of 47E's northern end. On the opposite end, bonding between Walls 47N and 47W has however been attested. The two walls therefore belong to a single construction phase, N26-a, postdating the building of the inner wythe of the western perimeter wall, 44W (Phase N26-c). Furthermore, Wall 47N was built over the deposit that once filled side room N26/3²⁷⁹ and delineates the northern side of the small southwestern room N26/4, added in stage N26-a.

E.3.5.1 Facing plaster of Wall 47N

Neither face of Wall 47N has been plastered with a surface addition.

E.3.5.2 Pilaster of Wall 47N

There is no evidence of any pilaster associated with Wall 47N.

E.4 Layout and dimensions of N26 building unit (Figs. 42 and 45)

Building unit N26 is an irregular quadrilateral structure, located across the alleyway from the southern side of building unit N12; two passageways also fringe the short eastern and western sides of N26. As far as can be observed within the limit of the excavated area, spans of other walls abutting the southern side of N26 indicate that this construction was not freestanding.

The external surface area of N26 is 22.92m ($6.15 \times 3.85 \times 5.85 \times 3.30$ m) while the internal surface area is 19.09m ($5.70 \times 3.38 \times 5.35 \times 3.05$ m) (see Fig. 14).

The layout of building unit N26 consists of one large courtyard and two bordering side rooms along the western perimeter. Means of access into the larger room N26/1 are not easily identifiable. The vicinity of other structures running along Wall 47S and the consequential absence of an alleyway at that same place, make an entrance to the building along the southern perimeter wall unlikely. It may be tentatively suggested that there was once some access through the northern or eastern perimeter walls of N26, although solid evidence is missing.

N26 contains two main areas: the west area was subdivided into two side rooms (N26/2 and N26/3), and the courtyard N26/1, which was in turn subdivided in the third building stage N26-a (Fig. 44). The central part of N26/1 measures 3.12×2.50 m (*c.* 7.80m). In the northeastern corner is the Phase N26-a cell, measuring 1.40×1.15 m (*c.* 1.60m) in internal surface area. South of this cell, at N26's southeastern corner, there is another roughly square space, 2.72m in surface area.

West of N26/1, at the northwestern corner of N26, the side room N26/2 measures 1.39×0.98 m (*c.* 1.36m) in internal surface area. To the south of N26/2, the contiguous side room N26/3 measures 1.54×1.00 m (*c.* 1.54m) in internal surface area.

²⁷⁹ After clearing the interior of Room N26/3, modern red bricks have been added under Wall 47N to prevent its collapse (Pl. 25).

Building Unit N26		Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Thickness (cm)	Total l + w + t	Format
Perimeter walls	47S finger mark Type A	36	15	10	61cm	<i>medium</i>
	45E (southern segment)	35	15/16	10	60.5cm	<i>medium</i>
	43N (eastern and central segments)	38	19	9	66cm	<i>large</i>
	44W finger mark Type A	35	16	9	60cm	<i>medium</i>
	45E (northern segment)	45	18	9	72cm	<i>large</i>
	43N (western segment)	32	15	8	55cm	<i>small</i>
	47W	36	15	10	61cm	<i>medium</i>
Internal walls	43E	35	15/16	10	60.5cm	<i>medium</i>
	44E	35/37	16/17	9/10	62cm	<i>medium</i>
	44S	33	16	8	57cm	<i>small</i>
	47E	33/35	18	10	62cm	<i>medium</i>
	47N	35/37	18	10	64cm	<i>medium</i>

Fig. 45 Walls of N26: brick sizes

Within the ten walls of building unit N26, ten different brick formats were identified (see Fig. 45). Firstly, only the bricks of internal wall 44S ($33 \times 16 \times 8$ cm) and the western segment of Wall 43N ($32 \times 15 \times 8$ cm) fall into the small format category. By contrast, larger bricks ($38 \times 19 \times 9$ cm) were used in the construction of 43N's central and eastern segments. This discrepancy supports the aforementioned theory (IIE.2.3) concerning the later constructional phase of the Wall 43N's western segment (Phase N26-a).

Secondly, the southern segment of 45E, Wall 44W, and Wall 47S are constructed of nearly identical bricks ($35 \times 15/16 \times 10$, $35 \times 16 \times 9$ cm or $36 \times 15 \times 10$ cm), falling into the medium format category. These three walls show clear evidence of bonding, and thus belong to the same phase of construction, N26-c. Moreover, this is confirmed by further common feature of Walls 47S and 44W – some of their bricks bear one central oblique finger groove (IIA.3).

Lastly, in the additional wythes of the northern part of Wall 45E (IIE.2.2), the bricks fall into the large format category ($45 \times 18 \times 9$ cm). This also demonstrates the distinctive construction phase of the brickwork enlargement of this part of Wall 45E (Phase N26-a). Finally, all other walls fall into the medium format category (see Fig. 6).

E.5 Description of N26 installations

No specific permanent installations were found associated with building unit N26.

E.6 Coated surfaces associated with N26

(Figs. 41, 42 and 44)

E.6.1 Outside N26

E.6.1.1 To the south of N26

The area to the south of building unit N26 has not been excavated.

E.6.1.2 To the east of N26

East of building unit N26, the area was not adequately exposed during the excavation campaigns and thus, the analysis of this area has not been completed.

E.6.1.3 To the north of N26

To the north of N26, the lane shared with N12 (ID.6.1.1) contains a number of features that contribute to the stratigraphic sequence of both building units.

Outside the northeastern corner of N26 is a pinkish trampled surface N26F11aNE, which may correspond to the surface N12F11bSE visible on the other side of the alleyway below Wall 42S (see Fig. 32). Surface N26F11aNE also bears distinct

pink stains and small patch of this surface is still visible below the eastern segment of Wall 43N, where the masonry is truncated. Levelled here at 160.50m, N26F11aNE covers the gravelled soil.²⁸⁰ Moving along the central segment of Wall 43N, surface N26F11bN also belongs to the earlier sequence of trampled surface that overlies the gravelled soil of the lane.²⁸¹ N26F11bN underlies a *c.* 7cm thick deposit (N26De1a),²⁸² which in turn lies beneath the footing stretcher bricks of Wall 43N's central segment (IIE.2.3). Atop Deposit (N26De1a) and levelled at 150.51m, the remains of coated material N26F12N abut the footing course of Wall 43N's central segment. At the northwestern corner of N26, a further floor surface N12F12aSW partly covers the width of the east–west oriented lane between building units N12 and N26 (Pl. 25). The *c.* 1.5–2m span of mud-plaster Floor N12F12aSW abuts the top of Pilaster N12Pil4's footing brick and is levelled at 160.48m (IID.6.1.1.). Below this surface, the occupational deposit (N12De2a) is 14cm thick and conceals the foundation course of N12Pil4.

E.6.1.4 To the west of N26

West of N26, up to three coated surfaces are represented: the lower N26F11W, the intermediate N12F12aSW, and the upper N26F13W. The lowest and earliest Floor N26F11W can only be seen through a section in the ground west of the western perimeter wall 44W. Given that the surface of this floor is damaged, no point of contact with the wall's outer face is identifiable. The top of Floor N26F11W is levelled at 160.34m and overlies the gravelled soil.

Between building units N12 and N26, coated surface N12F12aSW does have preserved points of contact with the outer face of Wall 44W.²⁸³ At this place, it can be seen that the underlying deposit (N12De2a) conceals the basal course of the western perimeter wall's inner wythe (IIE.2.4), as well as concealing the mud-plaster surface N26F11W. At this same place, Deposit (N26De3a) separates the top of surface N12F12aSW from the base of the western perimeter side's outer wythe and Wall 47W.²⁸⁴ As previously mentioned (IIE.2.4), the construction of Wall 47W belongs to a later stage than Wall 44W;

Wall 47W was built over deposit (N26De3a) that overlies Floor N12F12aSW (IIE.6.3).

The final floor surface of the western area, N26F13W, is levelled at 160.61m (Pl. 25). This floor was laid over Deposit (N26De3b), which in turn covers N12F12aSW.

E.6.2 Inside N26

E.6.2.1 Courtyard/larger room N26/1

East of Wall 43E, within the bounds of the associated brick structure (IIE.3.1.2), a single flooring material has been identified. Levelled at 160.50m, Floor N26F11R1 appears to underlie the footing courses of both the eastern segment of Wall 43N and the northern segment of Wall 45E. As mentioned above (IIE.6.1.3), exterior Floor N26F11aNE appears to run beneath the Wall 43N in the northeastern corner, so it is probable that interior Floor N26F11R1 was once also a part of the same floor-coating.

In the western portion of the courtyard, bounded by Walls 44E/47E, 43N, 43E and 47S, a large portion of a mud-coated surface is preserved, despite severe truncations (Pl. 24). The top of this floor, N26F12R1, varies from 160.50m to 160.55m. To the east, N26F12R1 abuts the top of the footing course of Wall 43E, where the facing plaster that covers the western face of the wall curves outward upon the floor (IIE.3.1.1). To the west, at the level of Wall 44E's footing course, this flooring surface connects to the lower part of the render that hides the eastern face of brickwork. Floor N26F12R1 overlies occupational deposit (N26De2b), which accumulated within the bounds of the central room. Deposit (N26De2b) may correspond to Deposit (N26De2a), identified within Room N26/2 against the footing course of Wall 44E, and later covered by floor layer N26F12R2 (IIE.6.2.3).

E.6.2.2 Side room N26/3

At the southwestern corner of building unit N26, the side room N26/3 is enclosed by Walls 47S, 47E/44E, 44S and 44W (to the south, east, north and west respectively). Walls 47S, 44S and 44W were built directly on the gravelled ground and the baseline of their

²⁸⁰ The 4–5cm thick surface N26F11aNE is levelled at 160.55m.

²⁸¹ The patch of Floor N26F11bN is 5cm thick, with its top levelled at 160.44m and its base at 160.39m.

²⁸² Deposit (N26De1a) might be similar to Deposit (N12De1a), which separates Floor N12F11bSE from Floor N12F12aSE, eastward across the lane (IID.6.1.1 and Fig. 39).

²⁸³ On the western side of N26, the coated surface N12F12aSW is levelled at 160.50m (Pl. 26).

footing courses ranges from 160.32m to 160.37m. In the southwestern corner of Room N26/3, two patches of the mud-coated Floor N26F11R3 overlie the gravelled ground and abut the inner faces of adjoined Walls 47S and 44W at their footing courses, levelled at 160.38m. These patches of floored surface correspond to the flooring material N26F11R2, identified along the interior eastern and southern sides of the nearby Room N26/2 (IIE.6.2.3). Overlying the surface N26F11R3 is a *c.* 10cm thick occupational deposit (N26De2c) on which, in the eastern side of room N26/3, Walls 47E and 44E were built.²⁸⁵

Within side room N26/3, no floor surface has been identified that may correspond to Floors N26F12R1 (Room N26/1), N26F12R2 (Room N26/2) or N12F12aSW (outside of building unit N26). Over Deposit (N26De2c), the *c.* 13cm thick Deposit (N26De3d) accumulated, banking up against the footing and basal courses of Wall 47E. Deposit (N26De3d) underlies the surface material N26F13R3, represented by three preserved portions and levelled at 160.66m. One fragment of Floor N26F13R3 lies in the middle of Room N26/3, while the others stick to Wall 44W (base of fourth course from the top) and Wall 47E (base of fifth course from the top). Subsequently, surface N26F13R3 was covered by Deposit (N26De4b), which is the *min.* 15cm thick layer upon which Wall 47N was built (IIE.6.2.4).

E.6.2.3 Side room N26/2 (Pl. 26 and Fig. 43)

At the northwestern corner of N26, Walls 44W and 44S belong to the first phase of construction of the building unit (N26-c) and were built directly on gravelled soil.²⁸⁶ Coated surface N26F11R2, which once floored the ground, is extensively truncated within N26/2 and is only preserved in two spots. The first spot is the southwestern corner of the room, where a patch of remaining wall-coating material on the inner faces of the corner lips out. Opposite this, in the northeastern corner, another patch of the coated surface N26F11R2 is preserved along the northern and western sides of the room. Levelled at 160.40m,

surface layer N26F11R2 is the earliest evidence of a floor inside Room N26/2 and corresponds to the lowest floors identified outside the room: N26F11W to the west and N12F11aSW to the north.

A *c.* 10cm layer of occupational deposit (N26De2a) succeeded the earliest coated surface N26F11R2, accumulating contemporaneously to Deposit (N12De2a) outside the northwestern corner of building unit N26 (see IIE.6.1.4 and IID.6.1.1). Deposit (N26De2a) is further identified to the west of Room N26/2, banked up against Wall 44E (IIE.3.2).

As seen from the section below Wall 44E (see Pl. 26), the north and east of the room contain evidence of another floor overlying Deposit (N26De2a), Floor N26F12R2. This floor is 3–5cm thick, with the top of the mud-plaster surface levelled at 160.50m. Heavily truncated throughout the side room, Floor N26F12R2 abuts both the footing course of Wall 44E²⁸⁷ and the top of Wall 44W's inner basal course. This floor corresponds to the exterior floor surface N12F12aSW, which also abuts the top of Wall 44W's basal course (IIE.6.1.4) and partly covers the alleyway between building units N12 and N26 (Pls. 25 and 26).

An informative sequence of alternating floors and deposits is preserved below the northwestern corner of building unit N26. As viewed from the exterior, the distinct *c.* 5–7cm thick deposit layer (N26De3c) separates the intermediate coated Floor N26F12R2 from the upper Floor N26F13R2, levelled at 160.62m. The latter, N26F13R2, likely corresponds to the small patch of flooring plaster visible west of Wall 47W, N26F13W (IIE.6.1.4). The sequence in the northern section of Room N26/2 [gravelled soil / N26F11R2 / (N26De2a) / N26F12R2 / (N26De3c) / N26F13R2] is identical to the sequence identified outside of the northwestern corner of N26 [gravelled soil / N26F11W / (N12De2a) / N12F12aSW / (N26De3b) / N26F13W].

Upper surface N26F13R2 in turn underlies (N26De4a), a *c.* 10cm thick dark brown deposit with charcoal content. Deposit (N26De4a) was banked up against basal courses of the eastern Wall 44E²⁸⁸

²⁸⁴ Deposit (N26De3a) is *c.* 25cm thick between the base of Wall 47W (levelled at 160.75m) and top of Floor N12F12aSW (levelled at 160.50m).

²⁸⁵ The base of Walls 47E and 44E's footing courses is levelled at 160.50–51m.

²⁸⁶ The gravelled soil in the area of the northwestern corner of N26 is levelled at *c.* 160.33m.

²⁸⁷ Floor N26F12R2 identified inside Room N26/2 may correspond to the floor N26F12R1, found in connection with the base of the facing plaster that covers the eastern face of Wall 44E (IIE.3.2.1 and IIE.6.2.1).

²⁸⁸ Deposit (N26De4a) may belong to N26-a, the same phase as Deposit (N12De4a) (see Fig. 46) identified inside building unit N12's central room, N12/2 (see IID.6.2.2 and IID.6.3).

and lies below the footing courses of 43N's western segment and 47W's northern segment (see IIE.2.3 and IIE.2.4).²⁸⁹ This deposit is situated within the upper part of the sequence and with the correspondence between the interior and exterior sequences, it is likely that the latter deposit is identified with the ash and charcoal deposit layer visible *c.* 1m north across the lane, between the lower and upper courses of Wall 42S's masonry ((N12De4a), IID.2.1).

E.6.2.4 Room N26/4 (Fig. 44)

Less than 1m in surface area, the small Room N26/4 opens to the west side of building unit N26 and results from the later addition of Wall 47N, built in Phase N26-a. At the southwestern corner of N26, this wall thus divides the space of Room N26/3, assigned to an earlier Phase N26-c. The base of Wall 47N's footing course was built upon the occupational deposit layer (N26De4b), already identified within N26/3 (IIE.6.2.2). Because the western end of Wall 47N bonds to the outer western perimeter wythe of Wall 47W (IIE.3.5), it can be concluded that the walls at both the northern and western sides of N26/4 belong to the same phase of construction (N26-a), a later stage than the eastern and southern Walls 47E (N26-b) and 47S (N26-c).

The preserved walls of N26/4 were found below surface Level 1, a heterogeneous surface layer of æolian sand mixed with a number of sherds that entirely covers the structures of SAV1 North and fills the upper part of them.²⁹⁰ Below this surface stratum, Level 2 was also identified within the upper part of Room N26/4, consisting of a sandy content mixed with particles of decayed mud bricks, brick piece rubble, and sherds.²⁹¹ The earlier deposit underlying Level 2 is (N26De4b),²⁹² *i.e.* the occupational deposit over which the Wall 47N was built (IIE.6.2.2) during the latest building phase of Level 3, N26-a.

E.6.3 Building phases of N26 (Figs. 43 and 46)

Despite the unfinished state of excavating N26 (IIE.1), it was possible to define distinct occupation and building phases of the unit, in particular thanks to the comparative analysis with the neighbouring building unit N12 (IID.6.3).²⁹³

In the northeastern corner of N26, Floor N26F11aNE corresponds to the muddy trampled surface overlying the pebble fill also identified across the street, below the footing course of the eastern end of Wall 42S. Subsequently, a thin deposit layer, (N12De1a), developed here on top of this unevenly laid surface (see IID.6.1.1. and Fig. 39). Within N26, evidence of a corresponding deposit layer (N26De1a)²⁹⁴ on top of Floor N26F11aNE is also preserved.

The construction of the perimeter walls of N26 marked the first building phase, N26-c. To the west, Walls 44W and 47S were built directly on the gravel soil, rather than the trampled surface and its (possible) subsequent deposit to the east. Internal Wall 43E also belongs to the first building phase. Additionally, various pieces of Floor N26F11 identified outside and inside N26 demonstrate the start of occupation related to the first building phase, N26-c.

Evidence of N26's progressive occupation is represented by subsequent Floors N26F12 laid on Deposit 2, which accumulated against the footing course of the walls. The lipping features that appear at the bottom of the facing plaster of Walls 44E and 43E clearly attest to flooring the area at this stage. This flooring phase is related to the second building phase (N26-b), when the internal walls 47E and 44E were built to demarcate the western side rooms N26/3 and N26/2. The sequence observed in the northwestern corner of N26 attests to a subsequent stage of deposit, (N26De3c) (Fig. 43 and Pl. 26).

Clearly built on top of Deposit (N26De4a), the bonded western and northern segments of Walls 43N and 47W belong to a third building phase of

²⁸⁹ The base of the western segment of Wall 43N is levelled at 160.75m and the base of the northern segment of 47W is levelled at 160.79m.

²⁹⁰ In the area of N26/4, at the northwestern corner of Square 190/2250, the surface layer called Level 1 is 44cm thick between 161.53m and 161.09m.

²⁹¹ Within the upper part of Room N26/4, Level 2 is 26cm thick and levelled between 161.10m and 160.84m.

²⁹² Below the footing course of Wall 47N, the top of Deposit (N26De4b) is levelled at 160.84m and its base, over Floor N26F13R3, at 160.66m.

²⁹³ To present some of the similarities between N26 and N12, columns displaying the sequence of floors and fills across N12's central room and to the southwest of N12 are introduced in Fig. 46.

²⁹⁴ There is evidence of Deposit (N26De1a) underlying the footing course of Walls 43N's central part and 43E.

Outside, north of N26	Outside, south-west of N12	Outside, west of N26	Across N12/2	Inside, across N26/R1	Inside, across N26/R2	Inside, across N26/R3	Inside, across N26/R4	Building phases of N26
							Level 1	
							Level 2	
		<u>N26F13W</u> 47W	(N12De4a) <u>N12F13R2</u>	45E 's northern internal wythes and brick structure	43N (west) (N26De4a) <u>N26F13R2</u>	(N26De4b) <u>N26F13R3</u>	47N (N26De4b)	N26-a Third building phase
		(N26De3a) (N26De3b)	(N12De3c)		(N26De3c)	(N26De3d)		
<u>N26F12N</u> <u>N12F12aSW</u>	<u>N12F12aSW</u>	<u>N12F12aSW</u>	<u>N12F12R2</u> N12D	<u>N26F12R1</u>	<u>N26F12R2</u> 44E	47E		N26-b Second building phase
	(N12De2a)	(N12De2a)	(N12De2e)	(N26De2b)	(N26De2a)	(N26De2c)		
43N (east) <u>N26F11aNE</u>	<u>N12F11aSW</u> 42S (west)	<u>N26F11W</u> 44W	<u>N12F11R2</u> 53E N12F	45E [<u>N26F11a</u> <u>NE</u> / <u>N26F11R1</u>	<u>N26F11R2</u> 44S	<u>N26F11R3</u> 47S		N26-c First building phase

Gravel backfill

Fig. 46 Floors, fills and building phases of N26

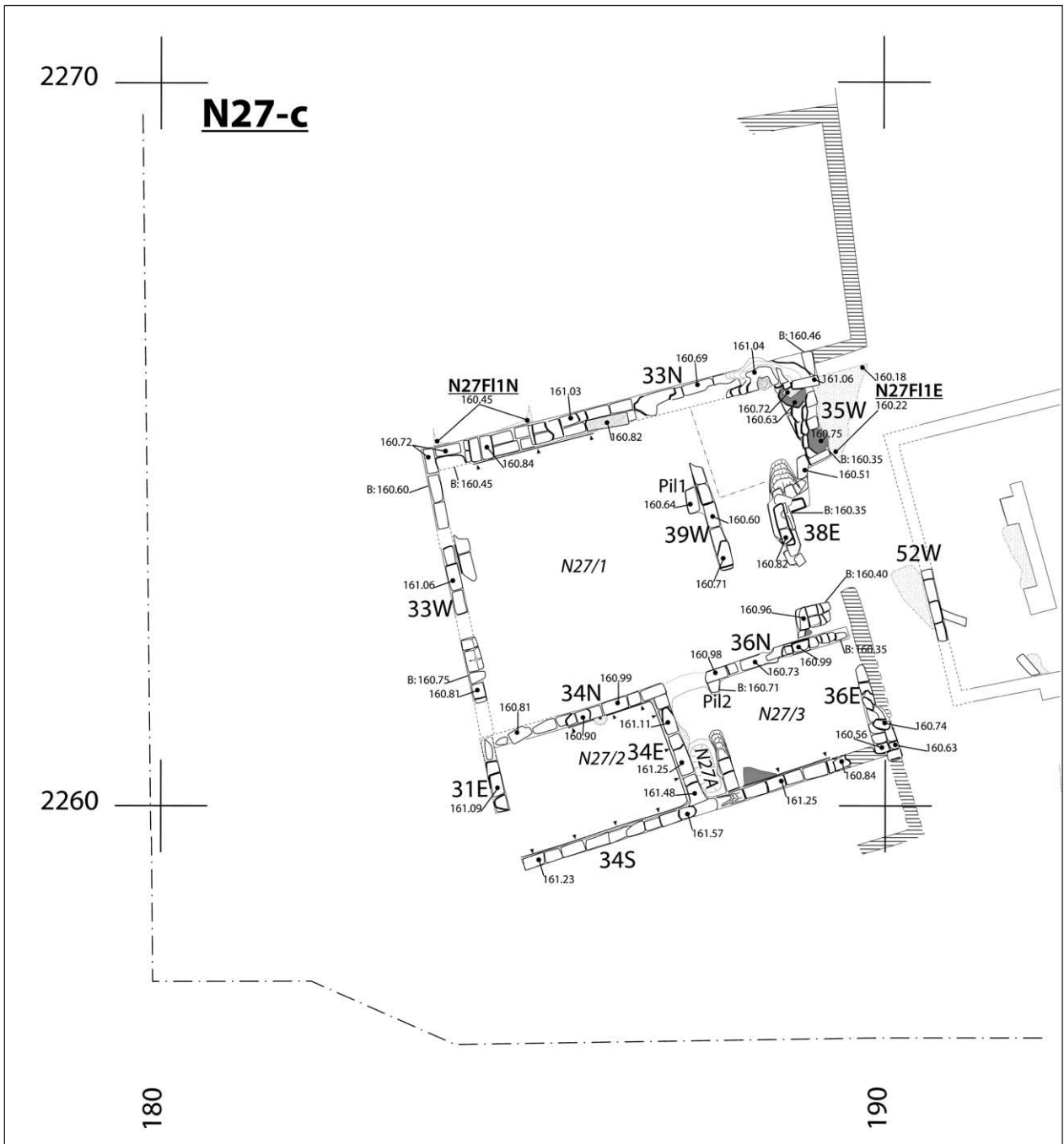


Fig. 47 Plan of Phase N27-c: levels of the perimeter/internal walls and floors 1

Level 3, N26-a. At the southwestern corner of N26, the construction of Walls 47W and 47N to enclose room N26/4 also pertain to Phase N26-a (Fig. 43).

F BUILDING UNIT N27

F.1 Introduction

To the west of building unit N12, walls of different thicknesses delineate building unit N27 (Fig. 47).

On the western and southern sides of N27, Walls 33W, 31E and 34S were built according to the standard running bond pattern with layers of staggered stretcher bricks and are only half-a-brick thick. The walls of the north and the east (33N, 35W and 36E) were built using layers of mud brick stretchers and headers and are thus one brick thick. Despite these differences, all the perimeter walls appear to belong to the same phase of construction.