

(N25F12WP, see IIC.6.2.1) and though the coatings were given different names due to their distinctive locations, they all belong to the same horizon.

The deposit below the Floor N25F12EPa is visible through the section. This deposit (N25De1d) mainly consists of pebbles and is *c.* 15cm thick. Under this deposit, there is another stratum of gravel, the top of which is covered by a superficial chalky crust. Such a crust below Deposit (N25De1d) may indicate the presence of the natural gravelled ground, levelled here at 160.51m.

C.6.2.3 The southern part

As previously mentioned (IIC.3), below the footing courses of Walls 04E and 04N, there is clear evidence of a deposit layer, (N25DeB). This 22–28cm thick deposit upon which the walls were built, may correspond to Deposit (N25DeA) identified in the eastern part of building unit N25. In the south-eastern quadrant of N25, there is no evidence of a coated surface underlying Deposit (N25DeB). The floors identified in the eastern part of the building unit (IIC.6.2.2), N25F12EPa and N25F12EPb, were truncated in the area of Walls 04E and 04N, which belong to later phases.

Nevertheless, in N25's southwestern quadrant, a patch of coated floor levelled at 160.67m is visible. This small piece of coated material N25F12SP most likely corresponds to the Floor N25F12WP laid across N25's northwestern part. Now truncated, Floor N25F12SP must have at some stage been connected to both the base of Wall 06E that was built upon the deposit, as well as to the top of the footing course of Wall 25W. Similar to Floors N25F12WP, N25F12EPa and N25F12EPb, the surface N25F12SP overlies a layer of gravel backfill (N25De1e)¹⁸⁰ This deposit layer buried the inner/eastern side of Wall 25W's footing course, much like layer (N25De1a) buried the outer/western side of the same wall's footing course (IIC.6.1.4).

C.6.3 Building phases of N25 (Figs. 27, 28 and 30)

Given that in most places one (or less) brick courses remain of building unit N25's walls,¹⁸¹ it is only pos-

sible to provide a tentative account of their building phases. Nevertheless, despite the walls' poor preservation, several intact patches of floors may provide information about the floor layer phasing and intervening deposits sequence.

Firstly, the remnants of Floor N25F11W are clearly associated with the bedding joint mortar below the footing course of Wall 25W, attributing the western perimeter wall of N25 to the first building phase, N25-b. This early phase was contemporaneous with the foundation of the enclosure wall (Phase N3-b) and the levelling of the uneven ground surface in the surrounding area. Following this levelling stage is the construction of N25's northeastern corner walls – the associated floors designated N25F12 lie on top of the gravel fill, placing them in the second building phase of Level 3, *i.e.* N25-a.¹⁸² Finally, the fireplace and its half-ring of stone pieces, as well as the short segments of Walls 04 and 06, post-date the building phases within N25 assigned to Level 3.

D BUILDING UNIT N12

D.1 Introduction

The outline of building unit N12 (Pl. 17) consists of four perimeter walls: 42S, 42E, 42N and 52W. In addition to these, two north–south oriented internal walls, 46W and 53E, divide the building unit into three areas. The layout of building unit N12 is thus related to the tripartite type¹⁸³ of Egyptian house plan with an entrance vestibule¹⁸⁴ (*i.e.* the front section N12/1 between Walls 52W and 46W, Fig. 33), a central room or court (N12/2, between Walls 46W and 53E) and a rear space (N12/3, between Walls 53E and 42E). The rear space is in turn also subdivided into a smaller space (N12A) in the southeastern corner of the structure, divided by the east–west running Wall 57. All of N12's perimeter and internal walls are half-a-brick thick and were built using layers of mud brick stretchers of a traditional running bond pattern. While both the eastern corners of building unit N12 are joined, these connections are formed by two distinct joining patterns; on the western side both corners are missing (Fig. 31). The

¹⁸⁰ In the southern part of N25, the top the *c.* 10cm thick gravel deposit layer (N25De1e) ranges from 160.77–160.64m.

¹⁸¹ It may be suggested that the dismantling of western perimeter wall 25W down to its foundation course is to be ascribed to a later phase, after Floor N25F12W was laid, and after the time of construction of the adjacent Structure N10.

¹⁸² The construction of the adjacent building enclosure N10 may also belong to this subsequent phase.

¹⁸³ BIETAK 1996, 24, fig. 2. For a detailed assessment of the tripartite layout, see VON PILGRIM 1996a, 190–196.

¹⁸⁴ BUDKA and DOYEN 2013, 176.

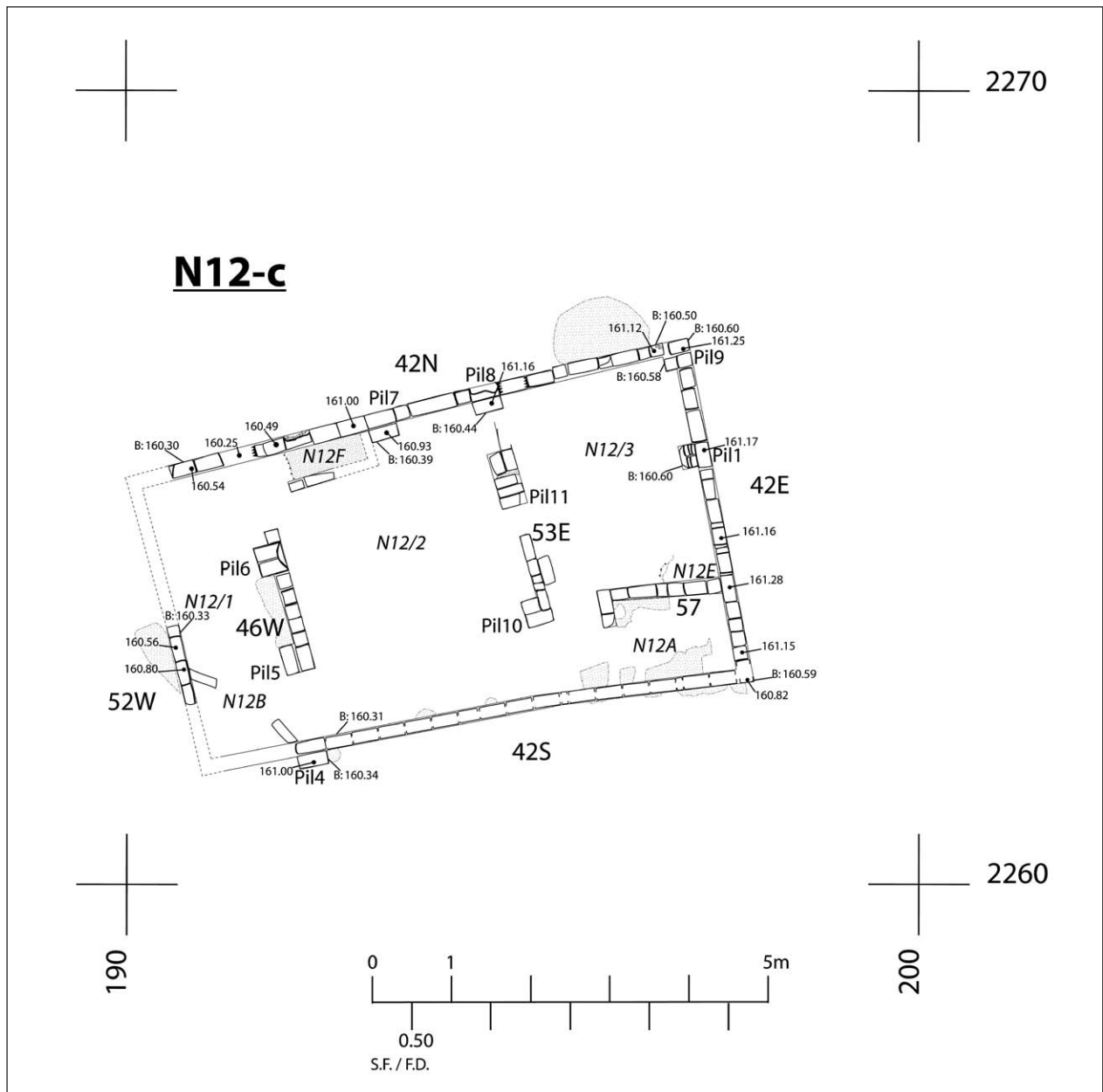


Fig. 31 Plan of Phase N12-c: levels of the perimeter walls

southern perimeter wall provides clear evidence for two distinct building phases: N12-c and N12-a.

Several pilasters have been identified with the perimeter and dividing walls of N12. Two pilasters stand along the inner face of Wall 42N: N12Pil7 and N12Pil8. Further east, N12Pil9 reinforces the northeastern corner, while N12Pil1 was erected along the inner face of the eastern Wall 42E and N12Pil2 against the northern side of the internal wall 57. Two further pilasters reinforce Wall 42S:

N12Pil3, set inside the structure, and N12Pil4, outside. Partition Wall 46W has a pilaster bonded to each end: N12Pil5 to the south and N12Pil6 to the north. The second partition wall, 53E, has two more pilasters: N12Pil10 to the south and N12Pil11 to the north.

Building unit N12 holds six installations, four of which are well preserved¹⁸⁵ and two others that are more difficult to identify. With the clear installations is N12C, a quern emplacement for a grind-

¹⁸⁵ BUDKA and DOYEN 2013, 177.

stone in rear section N12/3, abutting the southern face of 42N and the eastern edge of N12Pil8. Central section N12/2 is supplied with the mud-lined circular storage pit N12D, which was cut into the middle of the area. N12 also features two rectangular storage bins: N12E and N12F. N12E is set north of Wall 57 in rear section N12/3, and N12F lies against the northern wall of central room N12/2 and west of N12Pil7. Less clear are Installations N12B (in the entrance room) and N12A, though ashy deposits and traces of burning in the rear section's southeastern compartment suggest that Installation N12A may have served as an oven room.¹⁸⁶

Building unit N12 covers a total area of 30.69m. As noted above, the ground plan of N12 exhibits a layout with three successive spaces: a front, central and rear space, the latter divided by an inner partition. This layout can be assigned to Type II of Manfred Bietak's Group B.¹⁸⁷ The building unit is accessed through the west side and is surrounded by 1.00m wide lanes that separate N12 from the nearby building units N27 to the west and N26 to the south (see Fig. 3). To the north, N12 is bordered by an open space, *c.* 5.00m wide, extending to the southern side of the building unit N24. Despite the gap, these two structures are roughly parallel, with the eastern perimeter wall of each in alignment.

D.2 Description of N12's perimeter walls

(Figs. 31 and 37)

D.2.1 Wall 42S

The intact basal layer of Wall 42S is 6.66m long and comprises approximately 17 mud brick stretchers. The masonry courses occasionally feature short bricks (18/19 × 16 × 10cm) inserted between the more commonly used stretchers and even there the brick format varies, ranging from 30/32 × 16 × 10cm to 36/37 × 17 × 10cm in size.

At the eastern end of Wall 42S, the junction with Wall 42E is quite discernible. However, due to the

absence of preserved brickwork at the opposite end of Wall 42S, it is impossible to know the nature of the potential junction between the western end of 42S¹⁸⁸ and the perimeter wall 52W. The full extension of Wall 42S's southern/outer side is estimated to be 6.98m in length.¹⁸⁹

Made of mostly stretcher bricks laid on their broad side, Wall 42S is half-a-brick thick and is reinforced with two pilasters (IID.2.1.2 and IID.2.1.3). Its preserved height ranges from two to seven bricks, culminating at 161.23m at the wall's eastern end. The base level of Wall 42S varies from 160.59m at its east end to 160.31m at its west end, indicating the gentle slope of the ground.

Outside the building, it can be seen that the two lowest courses of the eastern segment of Wall 42S project outward (Fig. 32). Built out of alignment with the lower ones, the three upper courses create a 2–9cm recess. The fact that the masonry is not exactly vertical at this point reveals two distinct stages of construction. Moreover, a distinct layer¹⁹⁰ of deposit with a moderate proportion of charcoal flecks separates the two lower outward-projecting courses from the three upper brick layers.

To the east, the footing course of Wall 42S was built upon Deposit (N12De1a),¹⁹¹ which covered a mud surface with red colouration (IID.6.1.1). It is worth noting that the parallel internal wall 57 (IID.3.3) also lies on the same kind of deposit over the trampled surface, which continues across the southeastern room of N12 (IID.6.2.3).

Similar evidence demonstrating a rebuilding phase of Wall 42S subsequent to its foundation is apparent westward, next to the eastern side of Pilaster N12Pil4. From both sides of the wall, one can observe an ashy deposit layer mixed with charcoal flecks between the lower¹⁹² and upper¹⁹³ courses of the masonry. Unlike the eastern end of Wall 42S, the footing course of both the western section of the wall and buttress N12Pil4 (IID.2.1.3) were set directly upon the gravel soil.¹⁹⁴ The two lowest courses of the wall belong to the first building stage, N12-c. A subsequent collapse

¹⁸⁶ BUDKA and DOYEN 2013, 177.

¹⁸⁷ BIETAK 1996, 24, fig. 2.

¹⁸⁸ West of N12Pil4, the 0.9m long western end of Wall 42S is not bonded to the rest of the wall. This short wall segment may result from a later addition (IID.2.1.3, IID.4, IID.5.4.1 and Fig. 37).

¹⁸⁹ Estimated length of the northern/inner side of Wall 42S is 6.64m.

¹⁹⁰ This layer is 5–9cm thick, levelled between 160.91m and 160.82m.

¹⁹¹ Below the footing course, this deposit, equivalent to the deposit named (N12De1e), is 2–4cm thick.

¹⁹² The top of the lower course is levelled at 160.53m and its base at 160.31m.

¹⁹³ The top of the upper course is levelled at 161.06m and its base at 160.62m.

¹⁹⁴ At that point, the base of Wall 42S is levelled at 160.30m.

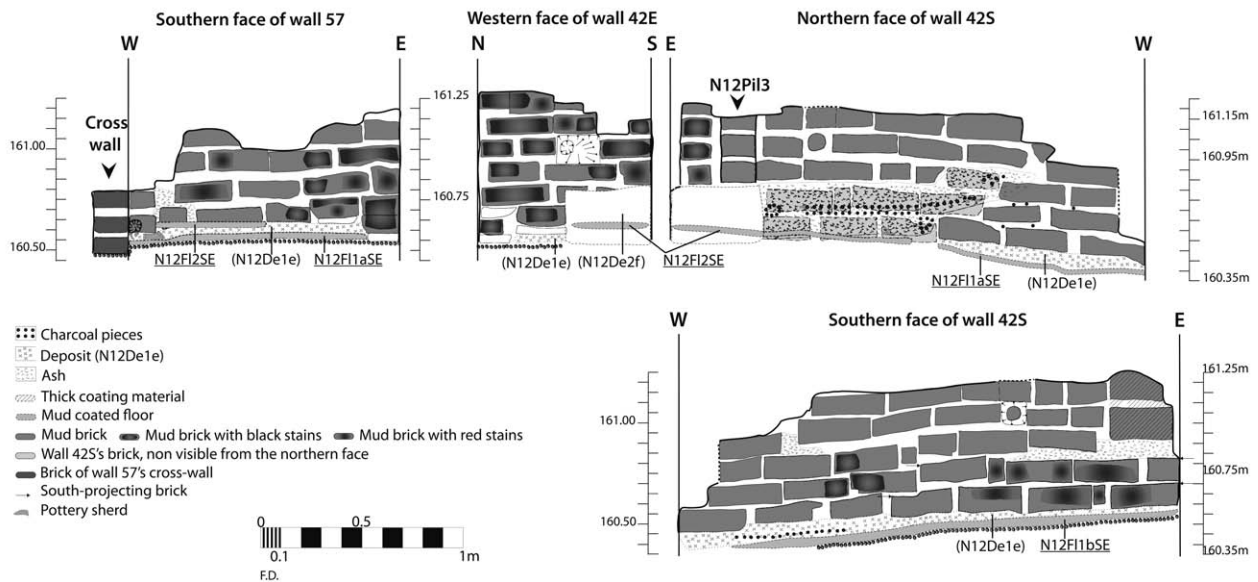


Fig. 32 Section drawing of Installation N12A

is indicated by the *c.* 1.55m long piece of wall fallen to the south and exposed in the southern lane (Pl. 18).¹⁹⁵ After some span of occupation of N12, new masonry must have been built using bricks of a slightly darker matrix, which were inserted into the wall's western section. The undamaged brickwork of this section is in turn partially bonded to the south-projecting pilaster.

D.2.1.1 Facing plasters of Wall 42S

Only a small part of Wall 42S's face bears a surface addition. At the southeastern corner, the three upper brick courses of Wall 42S, abutting the courses of 42E, bear two slab-like pieces of coating material on their outer face (Pl. 18), which conceal the upper masonry of the wall. Through this surface addition, the ancient builders were aiming to adjust the vertical alignment of the wall's outer facing.

Red burn marks left by fire activity in the area of N12's southeastern corner coloured the outer face of Wall 42S. Spread over a surface 1m long and 25cm high, these red marks are mainly found at the eastern end of the wall. Occasionally, similar red marks are visible on the outer face of some bricks located further west, *c.* 1.30m east of outer Pilaster N12Pil4. The northern/inner face of Wall

42S also features some dark stains in places and no other sign of surface addition.

D.2.1.2 Pilaster of Wall 42S: N12Pil3 (Figs. 32 and 37)

N12Pil3, 0.20m away from the inner corner of Walls 42S and 42E, is a pilaster made of layered mud brick headers, half-a-brick thick, protruding perpendicularly from the northern face of Wall 42S. With a height of 0.33m, this pilaster is partly bonded to the three upper courses of N12's southern wall. N12Pil3's footing brick runs over an ashy deposit in the rear part of Installation N12A (IID.5.1.1).¹⁹⁶ Pilaster 3 does not support the wall's two basal outward-projecting stretcher courses and is exclusively bonded to Wall 42S's upper courses.

As can be seen from the outer face of the wall, two distinct small header ends are in use in the masonry of the two last courses. Below these two small ends, the third course from the top contains a stretcher of the traditional bond pattern. From the pattern observed on the outer face of the wall, one may assume that the presently preserved top course of N12Pil3, levelled at 161.17m, had once been a brick header whose northern half is today lost. In the second course from the top,¹⁹⁷ there is a com-

¹⁹⁵ The top of the collapsed piece of wall is levelled at 160.63m and its base at 160.46m.

¹⁹⁶ The base of N12Pil3 (the top of the ashy layer) is levelled at 160.83m.

¹⁹⁷ The top of the second course is levelled between 161.07m and 161.04m.

plete header bonded to the wall, while in the third course from the top the footing brick¹⁹⁸ of Pilaster 3 is a half brick set against – not bonded to – the northern face of the wall.

D.2.1.3 Pilaster of Wall 42S: N12Pil4 (Fig. 31)

In alignment with dividing wall 46W, N12Pil4 stands along the outer face of Wall 42S, 1.20m from the possible southwestern corner of N12 and 5.37m away from the outer corner between Walls 42S and 42E. This pilaster is preserved up to six intact mud brick courses and measures¹⁹⁹ $0.39 \times 0.32 \times 0.66$ m in size.

The surface of N12Pil4's top brick shows distinct remains of bedding joint mortar, indicating the bonding pattern of the lost upper bricks – the lost upper layer was made of one western header, perpendicular through Wall 42S's masonry, and one eastern half brick, set against the southern face of the stretcher from the wall, not bonded to it. This lost upper layer was thus bonded to the wall by way of one header brick.

The six courses of N12Pil4 are constructed as follows:

- The presently preserved top course is made of one stretcher set against Wall 42S.
- The second course from the top is made of one western header running across the masonry of the wall. The small opposite end of this header brick is visible from the northern side of Wall 42S. The eastern part of this course is a half brick set against the wall, not bonded to it.
- The third, fourth and fifth courses from the top each consist of a stretcher set against staggered bricks of Wall 42S.
- The basal course of N12Pil4, sixth from the top, is made of one possible²⁰⁰ western header lying perpendicular across the wall's masonry, and one eastern half brick set against the stretcher of the wall, not bonded to it.

As can be seen from the running perpend joint west of Pilaster N12Pil4, the western segment of Wall 42S must have been added later. One can ob-

serve from the small western side of N12Pil4 that the corner between the extension of Wall 42S and the pilaster is plastered. There are remains of joint plaster still in place between every two courses. Only the three inferior courses of N12Pil4 show render covering the large, southern face of the pilaster. Between the southern face of Wall 42S and the eastern side of Pilaster 4, there is no evidence of corner plaster.

D.2.2 Wall 42E

At a right angle with Wall 42S, the north–south oriented Wall 42E is 4.28m long.²⁰¹ Half-a-brick thick, the eastern perimeter wall (Pl. 17 and Fig. 31) of N12 consists of approximately twelve running stretcher bricks whose size varies from $36 \times 16 \times 10$ cm to $38 \times 18 \times 10$ cm. Shorter mud bricks ($20/25 \times 16 \times 10$ cm) were irregularly used in the masonry of the wall. In contrast to the southern corner, where the bricks do not interlock (IID.2.1), the northern end of eastern Wall 42E is unquestionably bonded to Wall 42N (IID.2.2.3).

The eastern perimeter wall of N12 lies on a gravelled soil foundation. Culminating at 161.30m, Wall 42E is preserved up to a maximum height of seven courses of staggered stretchers lying on their broad side. The footing level of this wall appears to be consistent, with an altitude of 160.59m at its southern end and 160.60m at its northern end.

D.2.2.1 Facing plasters of Wall 42E

Between Pilasters N12Pil1 and N12Pil9, a fairly undamaged wall coating covers the masonry of 42E on both sides of the wall's northern segment (Pl. 17). At other places on the wall there are only patchy and scanty remains of facing plaster.

In contrast to the main part of the wall, Wall 42E's shorter section (between the dividing wall 57 and the southern perimeter wall 42S) does not show the same kind of surface treatment. Instead of facing plaster, the masonry's inner face bears distinct red and black burn marks indicative of fire activity in the southeastern room of building unit N12 (IID.5.1.1). Moreover, the two uppermost brick courses show traces of white wash, which give a pale coloured effect to the wall surface.

¹⁹⁸ The top of N12Pil3's bottom course is levelled at 160.94m.

¹⁹⁹ The top of the intact courses is levelled at 161.00m and base at 160.34m (the top of the brick's bedding joint mortar is at 160.37m).

²⁰⁰ The small northern end of this header is not visible from the opposite face of Wall 42S.

²⁰¹ The inner length of Wall 42E (corner to corner) is 3.86m.

D.2.2.2 Pilaster of Wall 42E: N12Pil1 (Fig. 31)

The badly degraded N12Pil1 stands alongside the inner face of Wall 42E, 1.14m from the northeastern inner corner, 0.90m from the northern edge of Installation N12E and 2.45m from the inner south-eastern corner of building unit N12. Pilaster 1 rises between two running perpend joints interrupting Wall 42E's brickwork, which otherwise consists of staggered stretcher bricks, half-a-brick thick. In other words, the pilaster's header bricks are not distinctly bonded to Wall 42E, since it was the pilaster's masonry itself that was inserted in one piece into the brickwork of the wall.

At its present state of preservation, N12Pil1 measures 0.53m in height²⁰² and its masonry consists of five brick courses, described as follows:

- The upper course is composed of two stretcher bricks running north–south. The eastern stretcher (32 × 17cm) is aligned with Wall 42E's masonry and is still in place, while the western brick is missing.
- As can be seen from the eastern side of the pilaster, both the second and third courses from the top are made of header bricks running perpendicular to the wall and projecting westward. These two courses secure the bonding of N12Pil1. None of these headers are preserved in full extension; headers from the second course are broken (21 × 14cm) while the headers in the western half of the third course are eroded (26 × 14cm).
- Two running stretchers compose the fourth course from the top. The brick to the west is eroded and measures 30 × 10cm. Both lie upon a bedding mortar 5cm thick.²⁰³
- It could be assumed that the footing course (fifth from the top) is also composed of two running stretchers. The eastern footing brick is hidden by the floor running over the outside lane to the east of N12 (N12F12aNE, see IID.6.1.2), while the western brick is in part eclipsed by a piece of floor joining to its southwestern corner (N12F12dR3, see IID.6.2.3).²⁰⁴

²⁰² The back of the pilaster's lacking upper course, represented by the top of Wall 42E, is levelled at 161.13m. The base of N12Pil1 is levelled at 160.60m.

D.2.2.3 Pilaster of Wall 42E: N12Pil9 (Fig. 31)

Pilaster N12Pil9 stands at the northeastern corner of building unit N12 and thus reinforces the junction between the east and north perimeter walls, 42E and 42N. The masonry of this pilaster is not bonded to Wall 42E, but is separated by a running perpend joint, as seen from the eastern/outer face of the corner pilaster. From this perspective, it can also be observed that the small ends of N12Pil9's bricks are in two separate columns, clearly not interlocked. In contrast, from the northern side of the pilaster, the bonding to the masonry of Wall 42N is distinctly visible.

At its maximum height, the corner pilaster culminates at 161.25m, rising 0.50m above the outside floor. Its upper course is severely eroded and was probably made of two parallel stretchers running east–west, *i.e.* aligned with northern Wall 42N and at a right angle to eastern Wall 42E. Each course of Pilaster 9 is composed of two mud bricks following the east–west orientation of the northern perimeter wall. This orientation results from bonding to Wall 42N and confirms the disjunction between the masonry of N12Pil9 and Wall 42E.

N12Pil9 consists of six brick courses, five courses of which are visible above the floor of the adjacent eastern lane outside N12. From Pilaster 9's northern/outer side, it can be seen that the sixth (footing) course runs over an occupational deposit (IID.6.1.3) on which Pilaster 9 and Wall 42N were built. N12Pil9's footing course is also partly visible inside the building unit. Taking into account the footing brick dimensions, the corner pilaster thus measures 0.67m in height.²⁰⁵ Each course is arranged as follows:

- The upper course is made of two possible stretchers running parallel east–west.
- The second course is also composed of two parallel stretchers.
- The third course from the top has a different pattern – its northernmost brick is a stretcher, while the southern half of the course consists of two half bricks running parallel to the stretcher.

²⁰³ The top of the bedding joint mortar is levelled at 160.64m.

²⁰⁴ This piece of floor is levelled at 160.68m.

²⁰⁵ The inferior limit of N12Pil9 is levelled at 160.58m.

- The fourth course from the top also presents an alternative pattern. The course's northern half is made of both a half brick and an adjoining stretcher. The southern half consists of two half bricks running parallel to the northern half.
- The fifth course from the top has the same pattern as the first and second courses, *i.e.* two parallel stretchers.
- The footing or sixth course from the top may follow a similar pattern to the fourth course's grouping. The northern half is made of a half brick and an adjoining stretcher. Hidden by the coated floor surface, it is impossible to determine the southern half's pattern.

There are no remains of facing plaster on the eastern face of N12Pil9, while on its northern face patches of coating partially cover the second and third courses from the top. From inside the north-east corner of N12, against the inner face of Wall 42N, one notes the presence of a joint plaster running down to the base of the footing course. The void between the pilaster's bricks of the fifth course was nevertheless left uncoated. Between Wall 42E's west face and the south side of N12Pil9, only a small plaster patch joins the pilaster's third course to the adjacent wall face.

D.2.3 Wall 42N (Pl. 19)

To the north of N12, the building unit is outlined by east–west oriented Wall 42N. As was previously noted, the northern wall is joined at a right angle to the perimeter wall 42E through the corner-pilaster, N12Pil9. Wall 42N is half-a-brick thick, with most of the running stretchers bricks $32/35 \times 17 \times 9$ cm in size and occasional smaller format bricks $34 \times 14 \times 9$ cm also used. Today, there is a gap in the western end of 42N, due to the loss of one stretcher. Assuming that the footing course of 42N was once uninterrupted, one can measure remaining length of 6.57m, or approximately 19 stretchers. With no information concerning the possible joint between the west perimeter wall 52W and the

west end of Wall 42N, one can only estimate the latter's original length, approximating the outer face at 7.12m long.²⁰⁶

Wall 42N has a preserved height of three to seven brick courses, culminating at 161.24m. The base-line of its foundation course varies from 160.50m (eastern end) to 160.30m (western end). To the east, the footing course of Wall 42N runs upon an occupational deposit²⁰⁷ that overlies a trampled surface (N12F11aN, IID.6.1.3, Pl. 19 and Fig. 34) on top of gravelled soil. At the opposite end of the wall, to the west, the foundation course has also been built over a layer of deposit, (N12De1d).²⁰⁸

D.2.3.1 Facing plasters of Wall 42N

A large piece of facing plaster – a thick greyish sandy-silt wash with occasional pebbles²⁰⁹ – covers the outer face of Wall 42N for 1.50m, on the eastern end of the wall delineating the rear part of N12 (Pl. 19). In contrast to the presence of this consistent render on the outside of the wall, the inner side of Wall 42N's eastern section shows insubstantial evidence of facing plaster. The lower end of the outer facing plaster shows a lipping feature levelled at 160.72m. This feature may be an indication that a corresponding flooring surface was once joined to the base of the wall surface, outside N12's north perimeter wall. Further evidence of this outside coated floor surface, levelled at 160.71m, is present alongside N12's east perimeter wall (IID.6.1.2).

Further west, corresponding to N12's middle section, a smooth greyish sandy-silt wash with occasional medium-size pebbles masks the masonry's bonding pattern on both sides of Wall 42N. An additional surface treatment worth noting features red and black stains on the inner face of this part of the wall, between N12Pil7 and N12Pil8.

D.2.3.2 Pilaster of Wall 42N: N12Pil7 (Fig. 31)

Against the inner face of Wall 42N and just east of Installation N12F (IID.5.3.2), N12Pil7 is plastered on most of its surface to a height of up to five courses. Similar to Wall 42N itself, the pilaster

²⁰⁶ Estimated length of the southern or inner side of Wall 42N is 6.70m.

²⁰⁷ This deposit is 6cm thick, between 160.50m and 160.44m. The occupation deposit underneath the foundation courses at the east end of Wall 42N is also visible from its southern/inner face.

²⁰⁸ The top of the deposit is levelled at 160.35m.

²⁰⁹ This piece of facing plaster is made of a similar matrix to the render covering the eastern face of Wall 08W's bricked-up passageway, in building unit N24.

is founded on an occupation deposit (IID.6.2.2). Erected 3.45m west of the inner northeastern corner of the building unit, N12Pil7 is 0.54m tall²¹⁰ and built of mud bricks $34 \times 16 \times 9$ cm in size. The pilaster's brickwork is bonded to Wall 42N one course below the top with two headers. The ends of these headers are visible from the north face of 42N, anomalies in the wall mostly composed of mud brick running stretchers.

The arrangement of the remaining courses of pilaster is quite simple:

- The top course – together with the third, fourth and fifth courses from the top – has one stretcher running along the corresponding staggered stretchers of the wall.
- The second course from the top consists of two headers running perpendicular to the east–west orientation of the wall. These headers project southwards into building unit N12.

As far as surface treatment is concerned, the broad southern face of N12Pil7 is fully coated with a smooth render. On the small eastern side of the pilaster, between the second and fourth courses from the top, patches of plaster cover the corner joining the pilaster and the inner face of Wall 42N. On the opposite small western side of N12Pil7, similar patches of render conceal the joint between pilaster's masonry and the northern perimeter wall.

D.2.3.3 Pilaster of Wall 42N: N12Pil8 (Fig. 31 and Pl. 20)

Pilaster N12Pil8 is situated 2.15m from the inner corner joining Walls 42N and 42E, and 0.96m east of N12Pil7. Just west of Installation N12C (IID.5.3.1), the western edge of the quern emplacement overlaps the eastern edge of the pilaster's lower courses. With a preserved height of 0.72m,²¹¹ Pilaster 8 consists of seven intact courses of mud bricks $34 \times 15/17 \times 9$ cm in size. The bonding of N12Pil8 to Wall 42N is demonstrated by header bricks running perpendicular to the northern perimeter wall of N12. At the second and fifth courses from the top of the pilaster, the small ends of these header bricks are to some extent visible from the northern face of the wall.

There is evidence of surface treatment on much of the pilaster's large southern face. The three visible uppermost courses of the small eastern side of N12Pil8 are also plastered. Opposite this, the western side of Pilaster 8 is similarly coated and a patch of plaster overlays the corner between the pilaster and the southern face of Wall 42N, at the level of the fifth and basal courses.²¹²

Pilaster 8 was built according to the following pattern:

- The top most preserved course of the pilaster is a stretcher running parallel to Wall 42N. The corresponding brick course of the wall is severely damaged, thus hampering understanding of the brickwork's arrangement. Nevertheless, it is possibly made of a running stretcher.
- The second course from the top reveals the bonding of Pilaster 8 to Wall 42N, through two header bricks.
- The third, fourth, sixth and seventh courses from the top consist of stretchers running parallel to the stretcher bricks in Wall 42N.
- The fifth course from the top is composed of two header bricks running perpendicular to Wall 42N's masonry. While the short ends of the western header are visible on either side, the ends of the eastern header are concealed; the western edge of Installation N12C hides the southern face of the eastern header and its northern edge is obscured by facing plaster remnants on the exterior of Wall 42N.

On either side of Pilaster 8's two upper courses are notable gaps in the brickwork of Wall 42N (Pl. 19). At these two places, because of running perpendicular joints to both sides of the buttress, the loss of masonry might result from the absence of bonding between brick courses.

Pilaster N12Pil8 was built on a layer of deposit (N12De2e). This deposit was later coated by a flooring surface N12F12R2, levelled at 160.44m, which joined to the base of the pilaster (IID.6.2.2).

D.2.4 Wall 52W

As already discussed with regards to the western ends of Walls 42N and 42S, the front part of build-

²¹⁰ The top of N12Pil7 is levelled at 160.93m and base at 160.39m.

²¹¹ The top of N12Pil8 is levelled at 161.16m and base at 160.44m.

²¹² The sixth layer has no coating over the corner.

ing unit N12 is in very bad condition. Indeed, Wall 52W is not preserved higher than 0.47m (four mud brick courses) and no longer than 1.00m. Wall 52W is half-a-brick thick and made of north–south oriented staggered stretchers, $32 \times 15 \times 8$ cm in size. Below Wall 52W's masonry, the mortar joint²¹³ overlies a deposit layer. This deposit (N12De1c) lies over a trampled surface²¹⁴ partly covering the gravelled soil (IID.6.1.4 and Fig. 34).

The lack of brickwork, resulting in gaps on both sides of Wall 52W, leaves the question of access pattern unresolved (IID.4). The remaining 1.00m segment of Wall 52W runs between two spaces that lack any masonry remains, with projected lengths to the enclosure's corners of 1.72m to the north and 0.70m to the south. It is thus possible to estimate an inner length of 3.42m for 52W, between the two putative western corners of N12.²¹⁵

D.2.4.1 Facing plasters of Wall 52W

No surface treatment can be identified over Wall 52W's faces.

D.2.4.2 Pilaster of Wall 52W

There is no evidence of any pilaster associated with the remaining wall segment of 52W. A possible installation (N12B, IID.5.4.1) runs against the eastern face, inside the front section of N12 (Fig. 33).

D.3 Description of N12's dividing walls

(Fig. 33)

D.3.1 Wall 46W

North–south oriented and running parallel to front Wall 52W, Wall 46W is half-a-brick thick and 1.75m long, corresponding to at least five stretcher bricks. At its maximum preserved height, culminating at 161.10m, Wall 46W consists of six courses of mud bricks preserved above the floor N12F11aR1,²¹⁶ $32/35 \times 17 \times 9$ cm in size. At either end of partition Wall 46W, a pilaster made of mud brick headers is bonded to the wall's masonry.

These northern and southern pilasters, N12Pil6 and N12Pil5 respectively, are positioned 0.92m apart and project westwards, as if the two pilasters reinforced both ends of Wall 46W with L-shaped masonry. N12Pil5 forms the southern end of Wall 46W, but at the opposite end of the wall it is possible to observe a different arrangement, where the wall masonry here exceeds the span of N12Pil6 and continues northward 0.16m in length.

Wall 46W divides the spaces defined as the entrance vestibule or front section (N12/1) and the central room or court (N12/2). This dividing wall is located fairly equidistant from the northern and southern perimeter walls of the building unit,²¹⁷ creating a pair of passageways 0.88m and 0.82m wide respectively, which give access to the northern Installation N12F and the central space N12/2.

Wall 46W was built on a thin layer of deposit (N12De1d), about 5cm thick, which covers a trampled surface over the gravelled soil (IID.6.2.1).

D.3.1.1 Facing plasters of Wall 46W

With the exception of a lump of wall coating on the back of N12Pil5 (IID.3.1.2), there is no plaster addition to either the east or west faces of Wall 46W.

D.3.1.2 Pilaster of Wall 46W: N12Pil5 (Fig. 33)

At the southern end of Wall 46W, the 0.27m high N12Pil5 is in a poor state with only the two lower courses remaining. The upper course is made of a stretcher running parallel to the damaged stretcher of the wall. The footing brick of Pilaster 5 is also a stretcher whose large western face is concealed by plaster. N12Pil5 would have most certainly been bonded to Wall 46W's masonry through its upper courses but the evidence of this has obviously been lost.

D.3.1.3 Pilaster of Wall 46W: N12Pil6 (Fig. 33)

At the north end of Wall 46W, N12Pil6 has six intact courses of bricks ($35 \times 17 \times 9$ cm in size),

²¹³ The top of the bedding joint mortar is levelled at 160.36m and its base at 160.33m.

²¹⁴ The trampled surface is levelled at 160.28m.

²¹⁵ The outer length of N12's western side is estimated to 3.78m.

²¹⁶ West of Wall 46W, the coated surface is levelled between 160.30m to the north and 160.33m to the south; see IID.6.2.1 and Fig. 34.

²¹⁷ The distance between the north end of Wall 46W and the south face of perimeter wall 42N is 0.90m. The distance between the south face of N12Pil5 (at the opposite end of Wall 46W) and the north face of perimeter wall 42S is 0.85m.

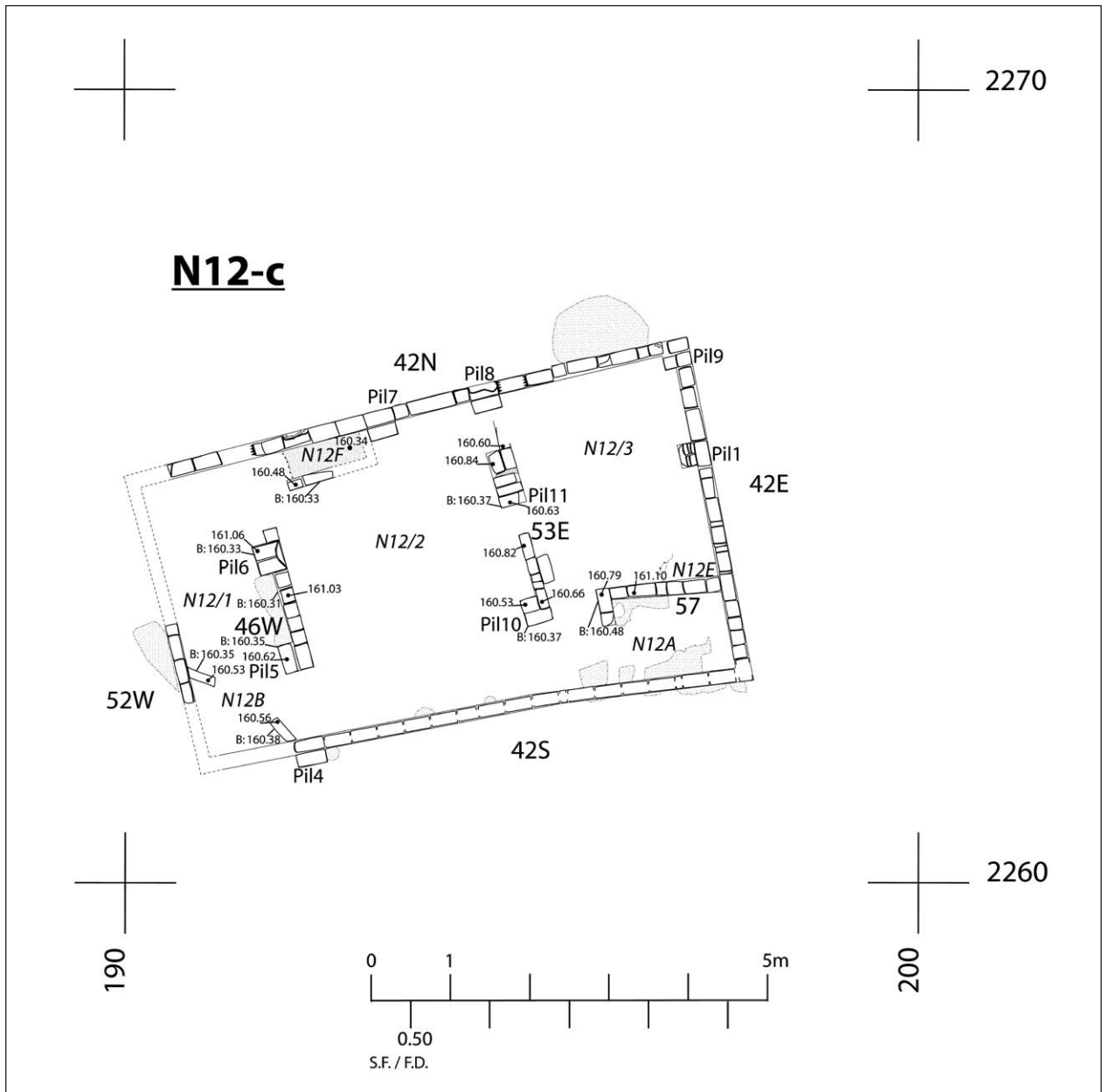


Fig. 33 Plan of Phase N12-c: levels of the internal walls

for a remaining height of 0.77m. The bonding of N12Pil6 to the north–south oriented Wall 46W is evidenced by two courses of header bricks running at the top remaining course and the fourth course below the top.

The courses of Pilaster 6 are arranged as follows:

- The upper course consists of two header bricks oriented east–west, running perpendicular to Wall 46W.
- The second, third, fifth and sixth/basal courses from the top are composed of one stretcher brick each, arranged parallel to the stretcher brickwork in the wall.

- The fourth course from the top comprises two headers, whose small ends are discernible from the northern face of the masonry. The western end of the northern header is damaged.

At the second, third, and sixth courses from the top, visible patches of joint plaster remain and cover the corner between the small north side of N12Pil6 and the west face of Wall 46W. At the opposite/southern side of the pilaster, joint plaster also hides the corner between the buttress and the wall at the second and third courses from the top. There are no plaster remains on the broad western face of N12Pil6.

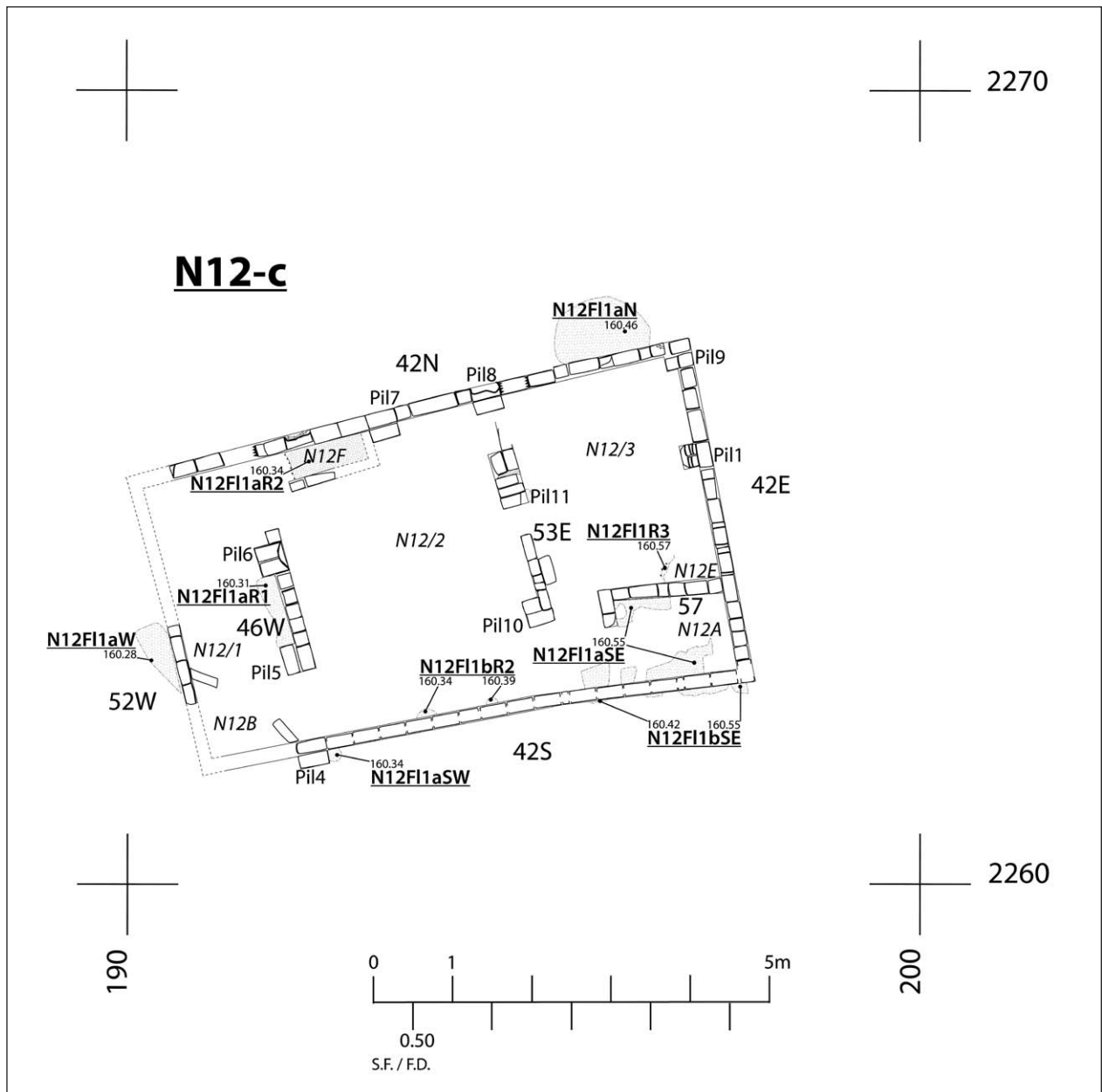


Fig. 34 Plan of Phase N12-c: levels of floors

Standing at each end of dividing wall 46W, the two buttresses N12Pil5 and N12Pil6 and the wall itself all lie upon the same deposit layer (IID.6.2.1).

D.3.2 Wall 53E

Wall 53E is a mud brick structure composed of two north–south wall segments that separate the central

space N12/2 from the rear section N12/3. 53E is positioned in a parallel manner roughly halfway between Wall 46W (to the west) and 42E, the eastern perimeter wall.²¹⁸

Whether the *c.* 0.35m long space between the two segments of Wall 53E results from the original design is difficult to determine. The northern segment is aligned with Pilaster N12Pil8 (IID.2.3.3).

²¹⁸ Wall 53E is situated 2.68m away from Wall 46W and 2.15–2.18m from Wall 42E.

D.3.2.1 Facing plasters of Wall 53E

In contrast to the fragmentary plaster on the western face of Wall 53E, there is evidence of a surface addition on the wall's eastern face. The eastern face of both segments of 53E feature a 2–3cm thick plaster of smooth greyish sandy-silt containing occasional medium-size pebbles.

D.3.2.2 Pilaster of Wall 53E's southern segment: N12Pil10 (Fig. 33)

Of the three remaining courses, only the footing course of N12Pil10 is intact and consists of one header brick ($34 \times 17 \times 9\text{cm}$), flanked on its southern side by two brick pieces. The L-shaped masonry of N12Pil10 runs east–west, perpendicular to Wall 53E's southern segment. The second course from the bottom has only one header; the western end of this brick is degraded while its eastern end is in much better condition, visible from the eastern face of Wall 53E. It may be concluded that the latter header bonds Pilaster 10 to the wall's masonry. The pilaster's third course from the bottom may have been made of one stretcher brick running north–south, parallel to the stretchers of the wall.

D.3.2.3 Pilaster of Wall 53E's northern segment: N12Pil11 (Fig. 33)

The masonry of Pilaster N12Pil11 appears rather substantial in size ($38 \times 32 \times 43\text{cm}$) when compared to the stretcher brickwork of Wall 53E's northern segment. The function of this thick buttress is thus quite puzzling. Constructed of three east-projecting brick courses, Pilaster 11 has a maximum height of 0.43m above the gravelled soil.

The three courses of N12Pil11 are organised as follows:

- The upper course consists of two bull headers and one header brick, running west–east. The longest bull header is $34 \times 10\text{cm}$ in size.
- The second course from the top is made of two stretchers running parallel to each other and aligned with the north–south orientation of the wall's segment. The southern edge of the pilaster is composed of a header brick lying

perpendicular to the wall below the upper course's header brick.

- From what is visible on the pilaster's western side, it is possible to assume that the footing course consists of stretchers belonging to the wall segment masonry. On the east side of the pilaster, the following pattern of the footing course is tentatively suggested: a brick piece below the second course's header and, next to that, a stretcher brick lying parallel to the wall.

Upper headers above footing stretchers confirm the bonding of Pilaster 11 to Wall 53's northern segment. A significant feature is the wood piece ($16 \times 8 \times 20\text{cm}$) separating the two upper courses of the wall segment from Pilaster 11 (see Fig. 35).

D.3.3 Wall 57

The east–west oriented Wall 57 divides N12's rear section into two unequal areas, partitioning Installation N12A in the southeastern corner from the main rear area N12/3 (IID.5.1.1). Made of small staggered stretcher bricks $32 \times 15 \times 10\text{cm}$ in size, Wall 57 is 1.56m long²¹⁹ and half-a-brick thick. Though it abuts the western face of Wall 42E, the masonry of Wall 57 shows no evidence of bonding to the eastern perimeter wall. Nor is there any bonding between the west end of Wall 57 and the cross-wall running north–south, which may have once served as a jamb of an entranceway to the oven room N12A. The potential jamb runs southward from the western end of Wall 57, is $30 \times 18\text{cm}$ in size and rises 0.31m above the gravelled soil (Fig. 35). It has three remaining brick courses (from the bottom up): one footing stretcher, one basal stretcher and two squarish brick pieces.

Wall 57 itself is preserved up to a height of five brick courses (Fig. 32).²²⁰ The base of the wall varies from 160.55m to the east and 160.48m at the western end, *i.e.* where one stretcher-long jamb runs southwards, perpendicular to Wall 57. To the east, against the inner side of perimeter wall 42E, a footing brick lies on a mortar joint running on the gravelled soil surface (IID.6.2.3);²²¹ both this footing brick²²² and its mortar joint slightly extend southwards over the footing brick of adjacent Wall 42E.

²¹⁹ Thickness of western perpendicular cross wall included.

²²⁰ The top of the upper brick course, at a right angle to eastern perimeter wall 42E, levelled at 161.18m.

²²¹ The top of the 4cm thick mortar joint is levelled at 160.59m. At that point, the mortar joint overlays the gravelled soil, levelled at 160.55m (Fig. 32).

²²² The top of the footing brick levelled at 160.67m.

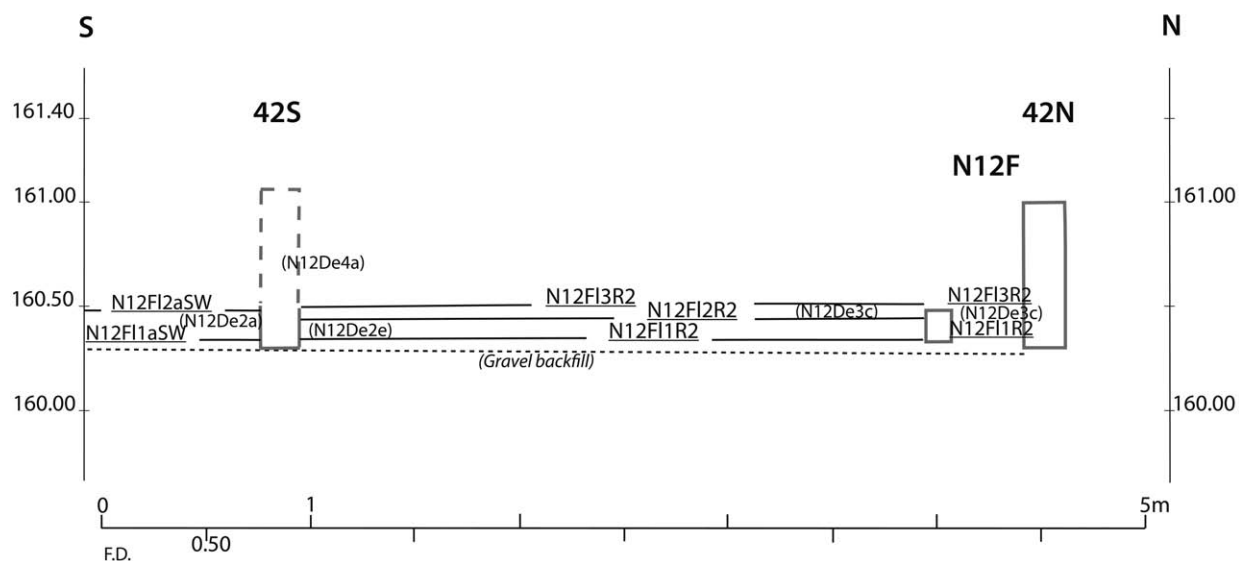


Fig. 36 Outline of the section west of N12

It should be noted that the interior wall 57 was constructed on the same kind of deposit that is found overlying the mud-plaster surface identified in the southeastern room of N12 ((N12De1e); IID.6.2.3).

D.3.3.1. Facing plasters of Wall 57

On the southern face of Wall 57, the surface addition is discoloured with red and black burn marks, left by fire activity within room N12A. The lower lipped end of the wall plaster (measured at 160.61m) corresponds to the level of the floor (Fig. 32).

On the opposite face of the same wall, facing plaster evenly covers the masonry across the surface east of Pilaster N12Pil2. This surface treatment consists of a smooth greyish sandy-silt wash with rare medium-size pebbles. West of Pilaster 2, the wall coating is more decayed, with only remains of its significant lipping feature at a point levelled at 160.59m, which coincides with the top of the footing course of Wall 57 and floor level N12F11R3 (IID.6.2.3).

D.3.3.2 Pilaster of Wall 57: N12Pil2 (Fig. 37)

N12Pil2 once stood 0.77m from the corner between the north face of dividing wall 57 and Wall 42E.²²³ Because the two remaining brick courses lack bonding with the northern face of Wall 57,

the buttress is presently detached from the wall. It is reasonable to assume that the bonding between the pilaster and the wall would have existed in the now lost upper courses. These courses have left a “negative” on the northern face of Wall 57, free of wall coating. Consequently, the plastering of this wall face took place subsequent to the erection of N12Pil2. The pilaster itself is not covered by any surface addition.

Above the two stretcher bricks of the basal courses, remains of squarish brick pieces may have formed the third course of N12Pil2. The base of N12Pil2 overlays a deposit layer,²²⁴ which filled bin N12E (IID.5.2.1).

D.4 Layout and dimensions of N12 building unit (Fig. 31)

Building unit N12 is a freestanding trapezoidal structure, surrounded by a wide space free of any constructions to the north and by alleyways along its other three sides. Its two longer sides run parallel to the neighbouring building units, N24 to the north and N26 to the south. Its eastern side runs parallel to the nearby building unit N10 and is slightly longer than the unit’s western side, which runs parallel to the nearby building unit N27. Like the other structures of SAV1 North discussed thus far, the layout of building unit N12 falls into the pattern of SAV1’s settlement grid. The external

²²³ N12Pil2 is c. 30cm high.

²²⁴ The top of the ashy deposit is levelled at 160.73m.

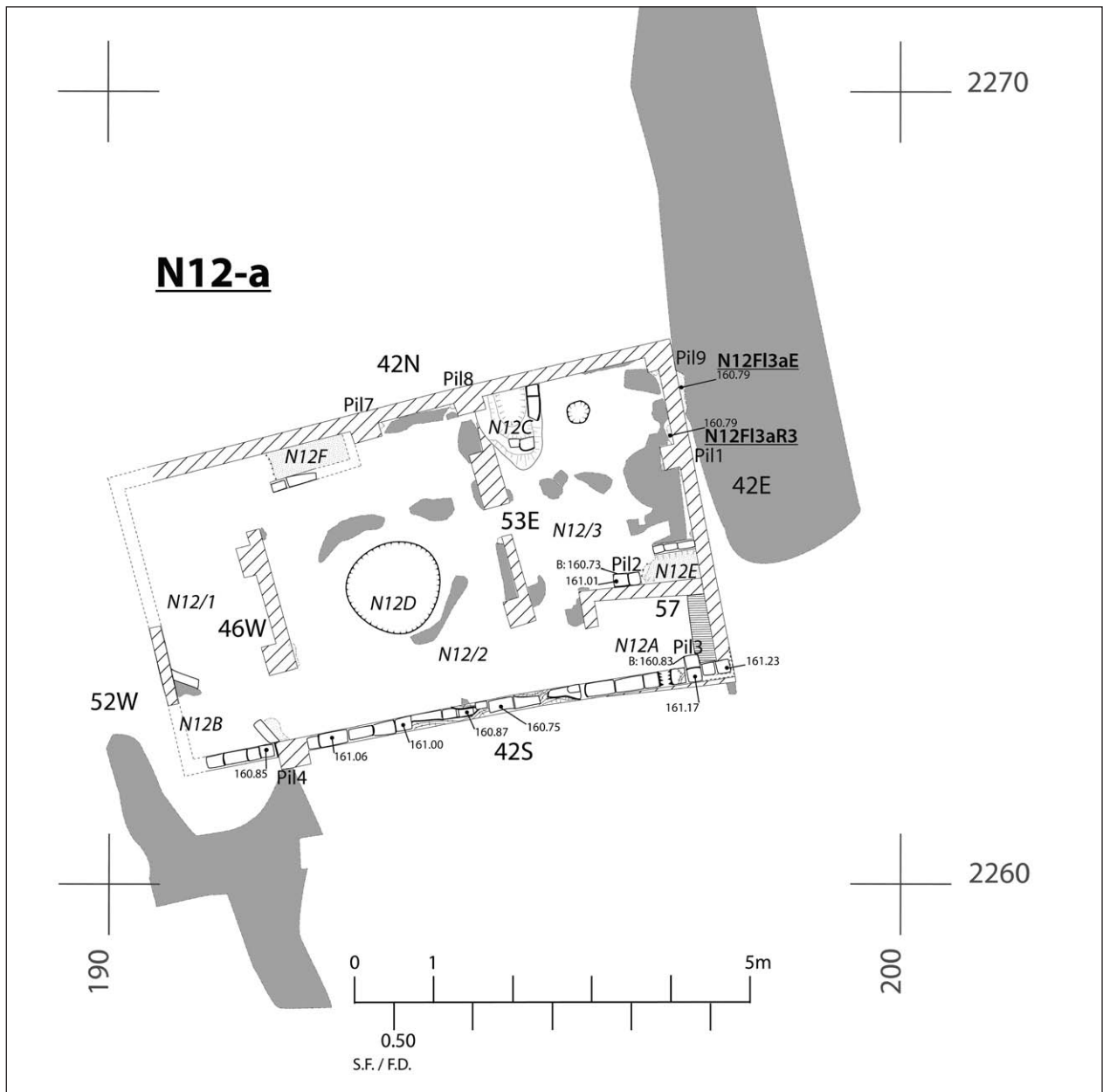


Fig. 37 Plan of Phase N12-a: levels of southern perimeter wall, additional pilasters, and floors

surface area of N12 is 30.69m ($6.98 \times 4.28 \times 7.12 \times 3.78\text{m}$) while the internal surface area is 26.57m ($6.64 \times 3.86 \times 6.70 \times 3.42\text{m}$) (see Fig. 14).

The layout of building unit N12 is tripartite. Accessed through the western side, this building unit is divided into three areas:

- The entrance vestibule or front room N12/1 includes Installation N12B and measures $3.40\text{--}3.45 \times 1.30\text{m}$ (c. 4.70m) in internal surface area.
- The central room or court N12/2, with storage bin N12F and storage pit N12D, measures $3.45\text{--}3.63 \times 2.71\text{--}2.85\text{m}$ (c. 9.80m) in internal surface area.

- The rear space N12/3 is further divided into two rooms. The larger northern room encompasses two installations – storage bin N12E and quern pedestal N12C – and measures $2.60\text{--}2.80 \times 2.10\text{--}2.17\text{m}$ (c. 5.70m) in internal surface area. The smaller southern room N12A is an oven room and measures approximately $1.35 \times 0.90\text{m}$ (c. 1.21m) in internal surface area.

Because the western perimeter wall is poorly preserved, the location of an entranceway can only be proposed. In the first construction phase, N12-c (Fig. 33), access to front room N12/1 may have been

through the southwestern corner of the building unit, next to the outer Pilaster 4. In this case, the bricks set at an angle against the inner sides of Walls 52W and 42S²²⁵ may be assumed part of a dedicated entrance to the building unit.²²⁶ While no constructional changes were conducted in phase N12-b, in the third building phase (N12-a) the construction of 0.90m in additional brickwork west of Pilaster 4 (see Fig. 37) has restricted this entranceway. Despite this partial blocking of the southwestern access, to determine keeping the entranceway to N12 at the same place or moving it to a different location on the building's west side is conjectural.

Building unit N12 is composed of seven different walls, both perimeter and internal, from which it is possible to document up to ten different brick

formats (see Fig. 38). Within a single wall, some were built with bricks of different sizes and/or of different format categories. The small brick format is predominant in building unit N12, both for the construction of perimeter walls and for internal walls.

D.5 Description of N12 installations

(Figs. 33 and 35)

D.5.1 Along the southern perimeter wall (42S)

D.5.1.1 N12A

(Fig. 32)

At the rear of the southeastern room of N12, a deposit of ash and charcoal flecks²²⁷ banked up

Building Unit N12		Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Thickness (cm)	Total l + w + t	Format
Perimeter walls	42S	32/33	16	10	58.5cm	<i>small</i>
	42S	36/37	17	10	63.5cm	<i>medium</i>
	N12Pil3	34	16	10	60cm	<i>medium</i>
	N12Pil4	37	15	10	62cm	<i>medium</i>
	42E	36	16	10	62cm	<i>medium</i>
	42E	38	18	10	66cm	<i>large</i>
	N12Pil1	32	17	9	58cm	<i>small</i>
	N12Pil9	34	15/17	9	59cm	<i>small</i>
	42N	34	14	9	57cm	<i>small</i>
	42N	33	17	9	59cm	<i>small</i>
	N12Pil7	34	16	9	59cm	<i>small</i>
	N12Pil8	35	17	9	61cm	<i>medium</i>
52W	32	15	8	55cm	<i>small</i>	
Internal walls	46W	32	17	9	58cm	<i>small</i>
	N12Pil5	34	16	9	59cm	<i>small</i>
	N12Pil6	35	17	9	61cm	<i>medium</i>
	53E	33	15/16	8	56.5cm	<i>small</i>
	N12Pil10	34	17	9	60cm	<i>medium</i>
	N12Pil11	34	15	10	59cm	<i>small</i>
	57	32	15	10	57cm	<i>small</i>
	N12Pil2	34	16	10	60cm	<i>medium</i>

Fig. 38 Walls and pilasters of N12: brick sizes

²²⁵ These bricks are below described as features of Installation N12B (IID.5.4.1).

²²⁶ See parallel with the oblique wall 4129 at the entrance of house E13.3-N in Amara West: SPENCER 2014b, 471 and fig. 7, pls. 10, 11.

²²⁷ The top of the ashy layer levelled at 160.79m and the base at 160.58m.

²²⁸ For parallels see BUDKA and DOYEN 2013, 177 with note 70.

against the wall indicate a firing process inside Installation N12A.²²⁸ As detailed above, the three inner faces of Walls 57, 42E and 42S around this area bear black and red stains certainly resulting from heat and smoke. Thus, it is suggested that N12A possibly functioned as an emplacement for heating and burning.

The heap of ash with occasional sherd content has two distinct layers: the top is a powdery deposit of ash 12cm deep, while the bottom, running over a trampled surface covering the gravelled soil (IID.6.2.3), is a 9cm deep compact, light grey coloured deposit.

Walls 42E and 42S, which delineate the south-eastern Installation N12A, each feature a hole with a diameter of 7–10cm perforating the brickwork through the fourth course from the bottom. The hole through Wall 42S was subsequently closed with a removable brick plug.²²⁹ Located on corresponding brick courses, these wall features may both represent air holes connected to firing activities within the room.

D.5.2 Along the eastern perimeter wall (42E)

D.5.2.1 N12E (Pl. 21)

Installation N12E is located alongside the northern face of dividing wall 57, in the corner with perimeter wall 42E in the rear room N12/3. The east-west oriented sub-rectangular mud-coated bin²³⁰ (inner dimensions 0.72 × 0.35m, depth 0.21m) runs parallel to Wall 57. The northern boundary of the storage bin²³¹ N12E is a low retaining wall, perpendicular to and abutting the eastern perimeter wall 42E. This retaining wall, 0.54m long and 0.16m high, consists of a single course of three bull header bricks.²³² Plastered on both faces, the northern brick boundary of N12E rises above mud-coated Floor N12F12aR3 (IID.6.2.3), levelled at 160.61m.²³³ The mud plaster evenly coating the

interior of storage bin N12E is about 3cm thick; it partly covers the basal courses of Wall 42E and extends to the base of Wall 57 which is also plastered.

At the eastern side of N12E, two holes (diameter 5cm) pierce the base of Wall 42E at its seventh course from the top. Outside the storage bin, near the north side of N12E's brick boundary, another hole of the same kind perforates a brick in the fifth course from the top of Wall 42E. Whether these holes were made to accommodate some device or as channels through the brickwork is unclear. A sherd found in the northern perforation and a doum nut in the southern are perhaps the remains of the deposit that filled the bottom of the installation.

The truncation of the western entranceway to bin N12E reveals that the western retaining wall stands on a coated floor, spreading to a great extent across the rear section N12/3. Inside the installation, the inner mud plaster liner overlies the trampled surface (IID.6.2.3) over the gravelled ground.

D.5.3 Along the northern perimeter wall (42N)

D.5.3.1 N12C (Pl. 21)

To the east of Pilaster N12Pil8, Installation N12C was probably used during the process of milling grain into flour.²³⁴ Constructed entirely of mud bricks, N12C served as a pedestal for grinding activities using a quern stone. This type of grindstone would originally have been set into the depression of the plastered upper surface,²³⁵ but none were found here *in situ*. N12C emplacement's footprint covers the ground with an irregular, trapezoid outline (outer height 1.04m, inner height 0.83m). The eastern edge culminates at 161.01m and rises 0.57m above the gravelled soil. On the opposite side, the mud plastered western rim of N12C is only 0.40m high. Both the orientation of the peak at the southern point of the installation²³⁶ and the

²²⁹ This hole is levelled between 160.97m and 161.16m; the hole through 42E is levelled between 160.97m and 161.03m.

²³⁰ The top of the northern boundary is levelled at 160.77m, while the coated bottom of the storage bin is levelled at 160.56m.

²³¹ For parallels see BUDKA and DOYEN 2013, 177 with note 68. See also the bin-like emplacement in Room 4, House N50.42 at Amarna: KEMP and STEVENS 2010a, 341, fig. 4.11, 345.

²³² From east to west, the bricks of the edge are respectively 23, 17 and 14cm long; each brick is 8/9cm wide and 15/16cm high.

²³³ Mud-coated floor N12F12aR3 overlays Deposit (N12De1f) (see Fig. 39).

²³⁴ See SAMUEL 2000, 561.

²³⁵ Inner dimensions of the depression are 38 × 47cm, the bottom of the concave trough is levelled at 160.59m.

²³⁶ The southern tip of the triangle is levelled at 160.83m.

lack of any attached bin to collect the milled cereals makes Installation N12C quite atypical.²³⁷ The place where the miller would have crouched to process grain could possibly have been the cramped corner southwest of N12C between Wall 53's north segment and N12Pil11.

Within the rear room N12/3, the raised quern emplacement²³⁸ N12C abuts the southern face of Wall 42N, and more particularly the eastern ridge of Pilaster N12Pil8. From the western side of N12C, one can observe that the top, levelled between 160.75m and 160.68m, corresponds to the fifth course from the top of Pilaster N12Pil8. To the east, a patch of plaster covers the corner between the base of the Installation N12C, levelled at 160.50m, and the bedding joint mortar of Wall 42N.

D.5.3.2 N12F (Pls. 21 and 22)

The bin-like emplacement N12F is located west of Pilaster N12Pil7 and runs east–west, parallel to the south face of Wall 42N. On entering the central section of N12, emplacement N12F lies immediately east of the northern access point, north of Wall 46W and its buttress N12Pil6.

Only a segment of the low southern retaining wall remains in place, 0.35m from the inner side of perimeter wall 42N. This segment, 0.15m in height and 0.56m in length, has survived as two bull headers, one that is half a brick (18cm long) and the other complete (37cm long).²³⁹ These two bricks form the western part of the southern edge of bin N12F, running along the access point to the west-facing bin.

Within the emplacement, a large part of the base is covered by a mud-plastered surface that overlays the gravelled soil.²⁴⁰ The truncation of the southern end of the structure reveals the broken edge of the deposit fill in the east part of N12F, below a dumped sandstone column base (h. 0.21m, diam. 0.40m).²⁴¹ From this section, an interesting

sequence can be observed (IID.6.2.2), showing evidence of further flooring overlaying the base liner of bin N12F.

D.5.4 In the southwest corner

D.5.4.1 N12B (Pl. 21)

At the southwestern corner of N12, within front room N12/1, Installation N12B is delineated by two bull header bricks set on edge (each 0.38 × 0.18m). The western brick is set at an acute angle to the inner/eastern face of Wall 52W. On the opposite side, 0.85m from the western brick, the eastern brick sits at an acute angle to the inner side of Wall 42S. In each case, the baseline altitude corresponds to the footing level of the adjacent wall, while the upper edges of these bricks coincide with the top of the wall's second course from the bottom.²⁴²

At the western end of Wall 42S, the location of N12B's eastern brick may be of some importance. In fact, this brick lies precisely against the running perpend joint that causes discontinuity in the perimeter wall's bonding pattern (IID.2.1, Wall 42S's western segment). Bonded to Wall 42S, the outward-projecting Pilaster N12Pil4 possibly marked, at some stage, the western end of the perimeter wall. At Phase N12-a, the latter was extended westward with additional brickwork. As suggested above (II.D.4), this brick feature N12B might be related to the entranceway of building unit N12.

D.5.5 The middle of N12's central section (N12/2)

D.5.5.1 N12D (Pl. 23)

One of the features surviving within Room N12/2 is a mostly circular central pit with almost vertical sides. Its diameter varies from 1.15–1.25m and, due to the gentle slope of the base, its maximum depth is 0.85m.²⁴³ The sides and base are lined with a thick mud plaster coating. Pit N12D cuts into the gravelled

²³⁷ See SAMUEL 2009, 467 and related bibliography.

²³⁸ For parallels see BUDKA and DOYEN 2013, 177 with notes 66 and 69.

²³⁹ The top of the retaining wall is levelled at 160.48m and its base at 160.33m.

²⁴⁰ The top of the surface is levelled between 160.37m against the basal courses of Wall 42N and 160.34m against the base of the southern retaining wall (Pl. 22 and Fig. 34).

²⁴¹ The top of the column base is levelled at 160.72m and its base at 160.51m.

²⁴² The eastern brick abuts the inner face of Wall 42S; its top is levelled at 160.56m and its base at 160.38m. The western brick abuts the inner face of 52W; its top is levelled 160.53m and its base at 160.35m.

²⁴³ Top edge is levelled at 160.36m and central point of the bottom at 159.51m. The level of the depression ranges from 159.60 to 159.51m.

soil that was used to level the surface before the walls of N12 were built and the coated floor was laid. The surfaces lining pit N12D bear no discolouration resulting from fire activities, implying probable use as a storage pit. This pit was filled with a loose deposit of the distinctive brown colour typical of the Level 3 horizon, composed of silt mixed with chaff remains, small charcoal pieces and potsherds.²⁴⁴

The storage pit²⁴⁵ is situated 0.75m from each of the dividing walls 46W and 53E. N12D's southern rim lies 1.00m from the southern perimeter wall, while its northern rim is 1.32m from Pilaster N12Pil7's southern face.

D.6 Coated surfaces associated with N12

(Figs. 34, 35, 37 and 41)

D.6.1 Outside N12

D.6.1.1 To the south of N12

As can be seen from outside building unit N12's southeastern corner, below the southern perimeter wall 42S is a pinkish trampled surface N12F11bSE (Fig. 32), which continues internally south of surface N12F11aSE (IID.6.2.3). The coated surface slopes downward, mirroring the gradual decline of the ground from east to west; at the external southeast corner of N12 it is levelled at 160.55m, while at nearly 2m from the east end of Wall 42S, the top of N12F11bSE is measured at 160.48m. Covering a gravelled soil beneath,²⁴⁶ the *c.* 5cm thick N12F11bSE bears clear pink stains. This floor underlies a 4–9cm thick brown coloured matrix deposit (N12De1a), occasionally including dark grey lens of ash and charcoal.

A distinct patch of coated surface N12F12aSE abuts the base of N12's south-projecting outer footing course. The top of this 4cm thick piece of material is levelled at 160.59m. This patch may correspond to Floor N12F12aSW, near the western end of Wall 42S, which covers the lane bordering the southern perimeter wall of N12. The latter surface, N12F12aSW, is a mud-plaster floor with a *c.* 1.5–2m large surviving span²⁴⁷ between outer Pilaster N12Pil4 and the southern building units N26 and N27. At some stage, an entire part of Wall 42S fell southwards in one piece

onto floored surface N12F12aSW (Pl. 18). Levelled at 160.48m, Floor N12F12aSW abuts the top of Pilaster 4's footing brick, so the underlying occupation deposit (N12De2a) thus conceals the foundation course of the pilaster.

Below (N12De2a), at the foot of Wall 42S and Pilaster N12Pil4, a patch of another intact mud-floor surface over the gravelled ground of the lane is designated N12F11aSW and levelled at 160.34m.

Next to the eastern side of Pilaster N12Pil4, an ashy deposit layer mixed with charcoal flecks (N12De4a) can be seen from both sides of Wall 42S, between the unaligned lower and upper courses of the masonry (IID.2.1). Against the eastern corner of N12Pil4 and from the south face of the wall, the top of this ashy layer is levelled at 160.75m and its base at 160.59m, while 1.10m away from N12Pil4 further to the east, the top of the same layer is levelled at 160.65m and its base at 160.55m.

D.6.1.2 To the east of N12

Subsequent to the construction of N12, a deposit (N12De2b) banked up across the bordering eastern lane, burying the footing brick course of the corner pilaster joining Walls 42E and 42N. This *c.* 20cm thick deposit layer densely mixed with pebbles was sealed beneath mud-coated Floor N12F12aNE, levelled at 160.71–160.69m. Floor N12F12aNE may correspond to Floor N25F12W, identified further north on the lane between the building units N24 and N25 (IIC.6.1.4 and Fig. 28).

Evidence for a second, upper Floor N12F13aE is found at the northern end of 42E, near Pillar 9. Here, the lower edge of the facing plaster on the eastern wall curves outward at 160.79m, corresponding to the top of the second brick from the bottom. Below N12F13aE, deposit lenses represent an upper deposit (N12De3a) between the two known floors, levelled at 160.71m.

D.6.1.3 To the north of N12

(Pl. 19)

North of Wall 42N, the trampled surface N12F11aN is levelled at 160.46m, over gravelled soil. Like N12F11bSE (IID.6.1.1), which it possibly shares a

²⁴⁴ For the ceramic material from N12D, see the analysis by Julia Budka in BUDKA and DOYEN 2013, 191–196 (*s.v.* N17, the former designation of N12D, see Fig. 4) and in this volume, Chapter III.5.2.

²⁴⁵ For parallels see BUDKA and DOYEN 2013, 177 with note 67.

²⁴⁶ Below N12's outer southeastern corner, the gravelled soil culminates at 160.53m.

²⁴⁷ N12F12aSW extends from the outer face of Wall 44W to the outer face of Wall 36S, see Fig. 49.

horizon with, N12F11aN underlies the occupational deposit (N12De1b)²⁴⁸ on top of which Wall 42N was constructed.²⁴⁹

The outside facing plaster of 42N (IID.2.3.1 and Pl. 19) shows clear evidence of a lipping feature levelled at 160.72m, the same altitude as Floor N12F12aNE running over the eastern lane (IID.6.1.2). This lipping may indicate that this flooring surface once extended westward to join the base of the exterior surface of the north perimeter wall. The underlying deposit (N12De2c) mixed with pebbles once buried the footing brick layers of Wall 42N, ranging from one course²⁵⁰ at the wall's east end to two or three courses further west, depending on the ground's slope. This deposit offers the same characteristics as Deposit (N12De2b) covered by Floor N12F12aNE along the eastern face of N12.

D.6.1.4 To the west of N12

Below and to the west of Wall 52W's masonry, a mortar joint (IID.2.4) overlies a deposit layer (N12De1c). This deposit extends over a trampled surface N12F11aW levelled at 160.28m, partly covering the gravelled soil. There is no distinct upper floor preserved in close connection with the outer face of Wall 52W.

D.6.1.5 Summary

To sum up the information gained from outside building unit N12, it appears that the footing courses of the perimeter walls are each built upon a thin layer of occupational deposit (see Fig. 39: (N12De1a), (N12De1b), (N12De1c)) that overlies a trampled layer surface (see Fig. 39: N12F11bSE, N12F11aN, N12F11aW), spread over the gravelled ground. A higher floor was also identified across the south and east lanes surrounding building unit N12 (see Fig. 39: N12F12aSW above (N12De2a), N12F12aNE above (N12De2b)).

D.6.2 Inside N12

D.6.2.1 Front section N12/1

N12's front section, between Walls 52W and 46W, yielded some evidence of coated floor surfaces,

though heavily truncated. The lowest of these, levelled at 160.31m, is a trampled surface N12F11aR1 whose patches cover the gravelled ground, mainly on the west side of Wall 46W. Floor N12F11aR1 underlies the layer of a 3–5cm thick occupational deposit (N12De1d)²⁵¹ on which Walls 46W and 52W were built, drawing close comparison with external Floor N12F11aW (IID.6.1.4).

A small patch of a coated Floor N12F12R1, preserved within the acute angle formed between Wall 52W's internal south end and the southern side of Installation N12B's western brick (IID.5.4.1), is likely the only remnant of the floor that overlaid a 6cm thick occupation layer (N12De2d). Levelled at 160.44m, this patch may also be related to other flooring surfaces: N12F12aR2 (levelled at 160.41m at the north end of Wall 46W or N12F12cR2 (ranging 160.45–160.42m) across central section N12/2 (IID.6.2.2).

A portion of another coated surface N12F13R1 runs between Installation N12B's eastern brick and the west-projecting corner of Pilaster N12Pil5, at the southern end of Wall 46W. Measured at an average level of 160.50m, Floor N12F13R1 overlies a deposit (N12De3b) that conceals the footing courses of both Wall 42S to the south and Pilaster N12Pil5 to the north. Within the southern part of N12/1, N12F13R1 most likely corresponds to Floor N12F12aSW on the southern lane outside N12 (IID.6.1.1).

D.6.2.2 Central section N12/2

Within the central Room N12/2, two pieces of a lower coated surface have been documented: N12F11aR2 covers the bottom of storage bin N12F (IID.5.3.2) where its top level ranges from 160.37–160.34m (Pl. 22). N12F11bR2 abuts the base of the inner face of Wall 42S, where the top level of this floored surface varies from 160.39–160.34m.

Another mud-plaster floor that extends across N12's mid-room is N12F12R. This floor is partly preserved and consists of several non-adjointing patches identified as the following subunits:

- N12F12aR2 at the north end of Wall 46W, levelled at 160.41m (Pl. 23)

²⁴⁸ Deposit (N12De1b) is 6cm thick, between 160.50m and 160.44m.

²⁴⁹ The occupation deposit (N12De1b) underneath the foundation courses at the east end of Wall 42N is also visible from its southern/inner face.

²⁵⁰ Between 160.72m and 160.50m.

²⁵¹ This is the same deposit as (N12De1c), which continues westward under the front wall 52W.

Outside, south-east of N12	Outside, south-west of N12	Outside, east of N12	Outside, north of N12	Outside, west of N12	Inside, across N12/1	Inside, across N12/2	Inside, across N12/3	Inside, across N12A	Building phases of N12
		<u>N12F13aE</u>					<u>N12F13aR3</u> N12PH2	N12PH3 42S	N12-a Third building phase
		(N12De3a)				(N12De4a)	(N12De3d)		
					<u>N12F13R1</u>	<u>N12F13R2</u>	<u>N12F12dR3</u>		
					(N12De3b)	(N12De3c)	(N12De2g)	(N12De2f)	
<u>N12F12aSE</u>	<u>N12F12aSW</u>	<u>N12F12aNE</u>	<u>N12F12aNE</u>		<u>N12F12R1</u>	<u>N12F12R2</u> N12D	<u>N12F12R3</u> N12C N12E	<u>N12F12SE</u> N12A	N12-b Second building phase
	(N12De2a)	(N12De2b)	(N12De2c)		(N12De2d)	(N12De2e)			
42S (east)	<u>N12F11aSW</u> 42S (west)	42E	42N	52W	46W N12B	<u>N12F11R2</u> 53E N12F		57	N12-c First building phase
(N12De1a)			(N12De1b)	(N12De1c)	(N12De1d)		(N12De1f)	(N12De1e)	
<u>N12F11bSE</u>			<u>N12F11aN</u>	<u>N12F11aW</u>	<u>N12F11aR1</u>		<u>N12F11R3</u>	<u>N12F11aSE</u>	
Gravel backfill									

Fig. 39 Floors, fills and building phases of N12

- N12F12bR2 between Pilasters N12Pil7 and N12Pil8 of Wall 42N, levelled at 160.43m (Pl. 20)
- N12F12cR2 around the northern and eastern rim of pit N12D (IID.5.5.1), at a level ranging from 160.45m to 160.38m (Pl. 23).

Coated surfaces N12F12aR2 and N12F12bR2 roughly coincide with the base of walls surrounding N12's central room. These surface patches, as well as N12F12cR2 around pit N12D, separate the occupational deposit (N12De2e)²⁵² from a subsequent occupational deposit (N12De3c). The latter concealed the footing courses of Walls 42S, 46W, 42N and 53E in N12/2. (N12De3c) corresponds to the fill (N12De3b), which partly remains within the front section N12/1 (IID.6.2.1).

Like N12F12R2, Floor N12F13R2 is represented by several patches of mud material, identified as the following subunits:

- N12F13aR2 between Pilasters N12Pil7 and N12Pil8 on the inner face of Wall 42N, levelled at 160.54m.
- N12F13bR2 between Pilasters N12Pil7 and N12Pil8 on the inner face of Wall 42N, levelled at 160.64m (Pl. 20).
- N12F13cR2, on the west face of Wall 53E's south segment, levelled at 160.61m (Fig. 35).
- N12F13dR2, on Wall 46W's eastern face, levelled at 160.47m (Pl. 23).

This floor might once have covered the fill across N12's central section but is now truncated throughout. N12F13R2 Subunits a, b, c and d may correspond to N12F13R1, in the front room N12/1. Additionally, west of N12Pil7, the area below a dislodged sandstone column base²⁵³ shows evidence of Flooring N12F13eR2 lying on the deposit layer (N12De3c), which fills the space east of N12F.²⁵⁴

As seen above (IID.6.1.1), a *c.* 10–16cm thick ashy deposit layer is evidenced between the unaligned lower and upper courses of Wall 42S's ma-

sonry. This layer (N12De4a) indicates the presence of the deposit that at some stage²⁵⁵ filled the area of building unit N12's central room, over Floor N12F13R2.

D.6.2.3 Rear section N12/3

The rear section of building unit N12 yields direct evidence of several floors, although none of them is entirely preserved.

The lowest, Floor N12F11aSE, is a trampled surface bearing pink stains due to heat exposure. Multiple patches of this floor span over 2m within the southeast room N12A (IID.5.1.1), visible below the east end of Wall 42S (IID.6.1.1) and dividing wall 57 (Pl. 18). Lying over the gravelled ground, N12F11aSE is about 5cm thick (Fig. 34). On the north side of Wall 57, another patch of trampled surface, N12F11R3, remains in place and actually corresponds to Floor N12F11aSE (see Fig. 34). The original trampled surface was covered by a *c.* 6cm thick occupational deposit (N12De1e), containing a mix of potsherds and a red-brown matrix with some ash, the result of heating or burning activities. The deposit (N12De1e) lying over the trampled surface N12F11aSE was already present at the time internal wall 57 and south perimeter wall 42S were built. Corresponding phasing is also observed below the footing courses of the eastern end of Wall 42N, where Deposit (N12De1b) and that underlying trampled surface N12F11aN both predate the wall.

Within installation N12A, Deposit (N12De1e) was at some stage concealed beneath another floor, N12F12SE. This partially truncated mud-plastered surface, at least 3cm thick, is now represented only by a few patches of mud material lipping out from the base of the facing plaster of Wall 57²⁵⁶ or abutting the inner face of Wall 42S (Fig. 32).²⁵⁷ A portion of N12F12SE occurs under (N12De2f), the 15cm deep section of the ashy deposit banked up against the southeastern corner of the room.²⁵⁸

Corresponding to N12F12SE, a larger proportion of Floor N12F12R3 is preserved within the

²⁵² North and west of central room N12/2, the top of remaining occupation deposit (N12De2e) is levelled at 160.30m.

²⁵³ See Pl. 22. At 160.51–160.54m, the baseline of the column base corresponds to the base of the penultimate course of Pilaster N12Pil7 and, more importantly, coincides with the top of the occupational deposit (N12De3c).

²⁵⁴ See Pl. 22 and Fig. 36. Inner coating N12F11aR2 plastering the bottom of N12F corresponds to the same phase as N12F11bR2.

²⁵⁵ This stage predates Phase N12-a, when Wall 42S was rebuilt.

²⁵⁶ The base of the facing plaster on Wall 57's southern face (160.64m) merges into the floor coating (top at 160.61m).

²⁵⁷ Along the inner face of Wall 42S, the top patches of N12F12SE are levelled at 160.61m and 160.53m.

²⁵⁸ The top of (N12De2f) is levelled at 160.79–160.81m and the base at 160.64m.

main room of N12's rear section (Fig. 35). As seen from the section west of the opening to bin N12E (IID.5.2.1), a lens of deposit (N12De1f) separates subunit N12F12aR3 from the lower trampled surface N12F11R3. Next to N12E, a small patch of the facing plaster lips out from Wall 42E's western face at 160.68m. There, the lipping plaster merges with floor subunit N12F12dR3, whose coating overlays a lens of deposit (N12De2g) that in turn conceals the footing courses of Wall 42E and Pilasters 1 and 9.

To the north, subunit N12F12bR3 is connected to the base of Wall 42E's sixth course from the top.²⁵⁹ This portion of the floor is *c.* 4–5cm thick and probably results from several coating episodes, likely with intervening deposits. Consistent with the gradual downward slope of the ground to the west, this plastered floor is levelled at a higher point²⁶⁰ across the eastern side of the room than the western side, where the shallow pit N12Pit1 is located.²⁶¹ This pit is a plaster-lined circular depression in floor N12F12bR3, *c.* 27cm in diameter and 9cm in depth, which probably served to support a round-bottomed vessel. Further west, at the foot of Wall 53E's northern segment, a patch of mud flooring material lipping at the footing course of Pilaster N12Pil11 (IID.3.2.3),²⁶² may correspond to Floor N12F12bR3.

Floor N12F12R3 is further identified in three other spots: collectively labelled as Subunit N12F12cR3, two patches are connected to the jamb/cross-wall running south of Wall 57, while the third is connected to the eastern face of Wall 53E's southern segment. The mud plaster feature that lips out from the north end of Wall 57's jamb is levelled at 160.59m. At this same altitude, the western face of the jamb shows a similar feature that here continues into a patch of flooring surface²⁶³ running westward over Deposit (N12De1f) and underlying the subsequent deposit (N12De2f).²⁶⁴

To the north of rear section N12/3, when looking toward the inner face of Wall 42N, the aforementioned occupation deposit (N12De1b) (IID.6.1.3)

is visible underneath the foundation course of Wall 42N's eastern end. Fill (N12De1b) shares the same horizon as both (N12De1f) elsewhere in rear room N12/3 and (N12De1e) within N12's southeastern room. Like the eastern perimeter wall, Floor N12F12bR3 is also represented at the base of Wall 42N by a lip of mud-plaster, indicating the point at which the floor once abutted the northern perimeter wall.

Finally, indication of another, higher, Floor N12F13aR3 is found on the western side of eastern perimeter wall 42E. North of Pilaster N12Pil1, between the wall's fourth and fifth courses from the top, the facing plaster lips out from the inner face of the wall. Levelled at 160.79m, this lipping feature corresponds to the piece of material adhering to the corner between the short southern side of Pilaster N12Pil1 and the inner face of adjacent Wall 42E. Moreover, a lipping feature confirmed on Wall 42E's exterior face also corresponds to altitude 160.79m (IID.6.1.2, N12F13aE). Between the later surface N12F13aR3 and its predecessor N12F12dR3, further depositional layers are attested for the rear room. Firstly, (N12De3d)²⁶⁵ an ashy deposit with small charcoal content – conceals the footing bricks of Wall 57's northern face, but is below the base of Pilaster N12Pil2. Considering this evidence for Pilaster 2's subsequent erection, it may be suggested that (N12De3d) is a remnant of the occupational deposit that covered floored surface N12F12R3 prior to both flooring the room with N12F13aR3 and constructing Pilaster 2. Secondly, within room N12A, the powdery and ashy deposit (N12De2f), banked up against the rear wall of building unit N12 and culminates at 160.79–160.82m. The construction of Pilaster N12Pil3 (IID.2.1.2 and Fig. 32) over (N12De2f), may suggest the deposit corresponds with the above-mentioned deposit, (N12De3d). Thus, by directly overlaying the depositional levels (N12De2f) and (N12De3d), it is likely that the construction of Pilasters 2 and 3 was contemporaneous with Floor N12F13aR3, *i.e.* Phase N12-a.

²⁵⁹ Between Pilasters N12Pil9 and N12Pil1, the point of connection between floor N12F12bR3 and the basal course of the wall is levelled at 160.61m.

²⁶⁰ Average level at 160.61m.

²⁶¹ The top of N12F12bR3, around the rim of N12Pit1, is levelled between 160.45m and 160.43m.

²⁶² Levelled at 160.46m.

²⁶³ At the foot of the jamb for Wall 57, N12F12cR3 is levelled at 160.54m.

²⁶⁴ At this spot against the jamb's short face, the top of (N12De2f) is levelled at 160.65m.

²⁶⁵ The top of Deposit (N12De3d) is levelled at 160.73m and the base at 160.65m. This layer of deposit filling bin N12E is light grey coloured, with ash and small pieces of charcoal.

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.