

Report on Research Excavation of the Stables Building at Solms Delta Farm, Groot Drakenstein, Western Cape

Conducted as Component of Masters of Philosophy (Archaeology)

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Executive Summary

Excavation of the stables building at Solms Delta, Farm 1460, was undertaken as a component of the fieldwork portion of my MPhil in historical archaeology. Excavations aimed to establish the age of the building and its relative placement in the development of the historic farm *werf*.

While the building was built in stone with clay mortar and sun-baked and fired clay brick, the structure had concrete lintels above its earliest apertures and all below-floor artefacts retrieved dated to the late nineteenth/early twentieth century.

While the possibility exists that the building predates this time, all evidence points to the building having been constructed in the first decades of the twentieth century and purpose-built as stabling, with a wagon house at the southern end, a tack room, stables and accommodation for the groom and his family at the northern end. This was probably done under Pickstone and relates to a time when the farm was planted under fruit trees.

The significance of the building lies in its method of construction – it represents a different worldview in its conceptualisation as a single building, as opposed to the gradual, organic development of the Cape Dutch buildings on the farm. Nevertheless, with the exception of the concrete lintels, the fabric of the building is no different from that of the earliest surviving standing building on the farm, Phase I of the wine cellar (Pinto, Smuts and Hart, in prep).

It is recommended that redevelopment of the building as a music centre and museum proceed.

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Introduction

In partial fulfilment of the fieldwork component of a Masters of Philosophy in Historical Archaeology, I conducted excavation of the stables building at Solms Delta Farm (Farm number 1460). Although this work was undertaken as a research excavation, it has been proposed to convert the building into a music learning and performance centre as well as museum. The plans for this redevelopment have been drawn up by heritage architect Mr Trevor Thorold and have been submitted for approval.

The farm Solms Delta is located on the Delta Road off the R45 in the Groot Drakenstein, 15km west of Franschhoek. The farm lies at 33°51'47.41"S 18°59'24.60"E. The current farm is 78 hectares in size and comprises portions of the four historical properties Zandvliet (granted in 1690), Lekkerwyn (1690), Lubeck (1695) and Deltameer (a recent amalgamation of portions of several adjacent properties) (Figure 1).

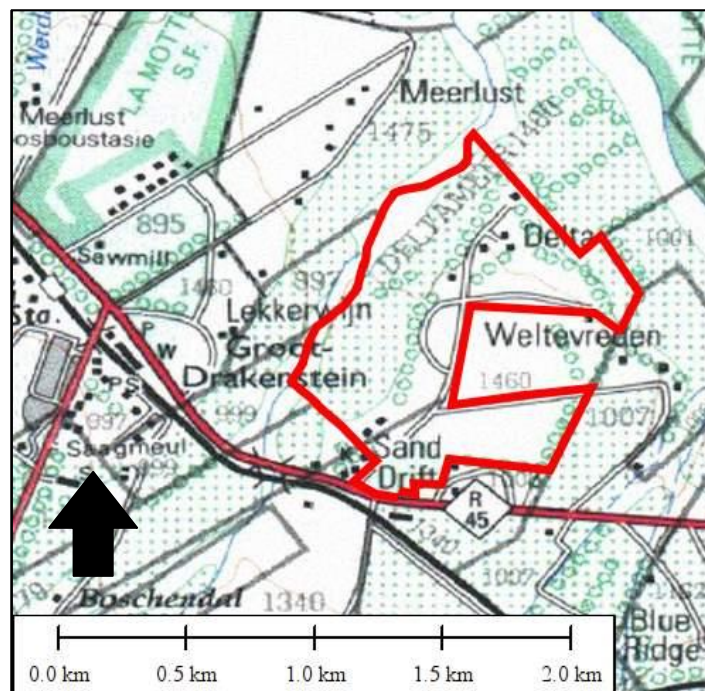


Figure 1: Map showing position of Delta Farm, boundaries approximate. **3318DDStellenbosch** (© Directorate of Surveys and Mapping)

The *werf* consists of a 50m T-shaped house and a 50m I-shaped cellar that share a linear alignment that runs north northeast-south southwest, overlooking the Dwars River to the west (Figure 2). Between the two buildings are the ruined foundations of an earlier dwelling that is currently still under investigation but appears to be three rooms north-south and two rooms east-west. To the east of this *werf* and angling away from the alignment shared by the

cellar and house, is a building known on the farm as the stables building (Figure 2). This 30m building, which still accommodated hay and horse tack in the early 1990's is the focus of this excavation report.

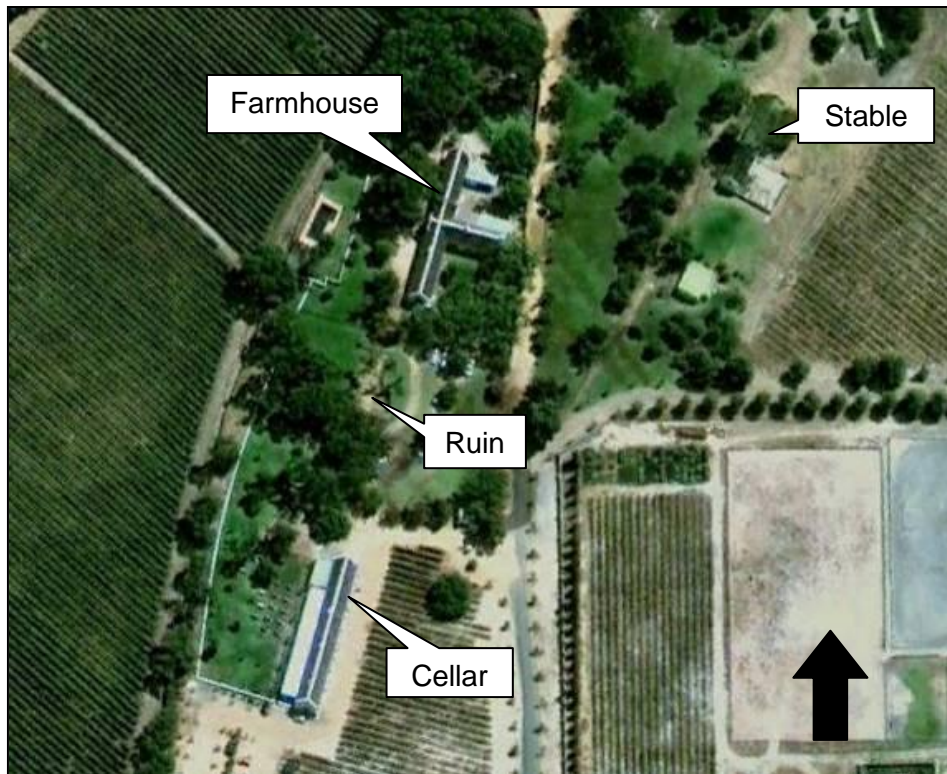


Figure 2: Google Map showing layout of structures on Delta werf (Image accessed 30/05/2011).

Stables are first mentioned in connection with the farm in the Insolvency Inventory of Cornelis Brink in 1835, which lists “stables for sixteen horses” (CA MOIB 2/426 No. 15), however the differing alignment and length of the stable building to the main house and cellar, as well as its physical distance from the other two buildings, indicates a conceptual break between the linear *werf* and this building. The stable building was investigated in order to ascertain where it fits into the rest of the *werf*, and whether this was the building mentioned in the inventory.

Historical Context

The 60 morgen farm, originally known as Zandvliet was granted in 1690 to two German burghers, Hans Silverbach and Callus Louw (OFS 1:272). In 1692, Silverbach is listed as living at the Drakenstein, presumably at Zandvliet, with fourteen cattle, 240 sheep, 3 000 vine stocks as well as 30 muids of reaped wheat, ten muids of reaped rye and six muids of

reaped barley. Louw is also listed in the Drakenstein in that year, and owned a flintlock rifle. Neither man was married while in possession of the farm.

Zandvliet was sold in 1693 to Christoffel Snijman (Snyman) (TD 332), the illegitimate child of the Cape's first female convict, Catharina van Palicatte. In 1670, Catharina, known as Groote Catrijn, married Anthonij Jansz van Bengale, a fairly wealthy free black who owned a house on Zeestraat in Cape Town. Anthonij, his wife and daughter died in 1682, and Christoffel went into the care of his godmother, "Mooi Ansela", and her husband, Arnoldus Willemsz Basson who had bought up much of Anthonij's estate. The Basson family already owned land in Drakenstein: in 1682 Arnoldus was granted Meererust while the adjacent farm, Eensaamheid, was granted to his stepson Jacobus van As. With the purchase of Zandvliet, Christoffel acquired the farm directly to the east of these properties.

Snijman married Marguerite Therese de Savoye, daughter of Jacques de Savoye, one of the wealthiest Huguenots in the Valley, owner of Vrede en Lust and socially prominent, serving as *Heemraad* in 1682 (Boom, 2011: 12). Marguerite and Christoffel had nine children and were probably responsible for building the original dwelling on the farm (now the ruin located between the main house and the cellar).

Christoffel died in either 1706 or 1707, and Marguerite remarried before 1708. Her second husband, Henning Viljoen died in 1713 and the inventory drawn up at his death shows that the farm was producing wine by this point. It is likely then, that the earliest portion of the cellar (Phase I) was built in this time (Smuts, 2012; Pinto, Smuts & Hart, in prep). In 1735, after 42 years at Delta, Marguerite sold the farm to Bernardus van Nieuwkerken (TD2268) who sold it on to his brother, Johannes van Niekerk in 1743 (TD2538). The van Niekerks probably did not live on the farm, but might have been responsible for the early expansion of the cellar building (Phase II) (Smuts, 2012).

Johannes' widow, Anna van Staden married Jurgen Heinrich Engela in 1746 and he continued to farm at Zandvliet after her death in 1753. If the cellar had not been extended by the van Niekerks, it is likely that Engela was responsible for the extension (Smuts, 2012).

When Engela sold the farm in 1771, it passed, for the first time, into the hands of the de Villiers family: Jan de Villiers, son of the Huguenot settler Jacques de Villiers. Jan had inherited many properties from his uncle, Abraham, including Boschendal, Lekkerwyn, and Meererust making it likely that Zandvliet was run by a manager, rather than being his primary residence. Jan's second wife, Gertruida, outlived him and passed the farm onto Jan Pieter

de Villiers, the husband of her daughter Anna Susanna de Villiers (TD7716). Jan Pieter sold the farm to his wife's nephew Jan Stephanus de Villiers within four years of taking possession of it, in 1803 (TD56). At the time of this transfer, the farm took on new dimensions – it now measured 70 morgen and 420 square roods, incorporating parts of Lekkerwyn and “Zandvloet”.

Jan Stephanus de Villiers, grandson of Jan de Villiers, owned Meererust and Eensaamheid, both near Zandvliet, as well as other properties in the Dwars River Valley. His wife was Catharina Vermeulen, whose father, Willem Pieter van Niekerk, son of Johannes, farmed at Lekkerwyn. It is possible that Jan Stephanus was responsible for the second cellar expansion (Cellar Phase III), possibly to house a farm manager; this expansion increased the cellar to its current footprint (Smuts, 2012). It is likely that Jan Stephanus built the northern portion of the current house (House Phase I) then too, as it is the same distance north of the ruin as the Phase III cellar is to the south. It follows that Snijman's original house (Ruin Phase I) still stood as the main residence, centrally located between these two outbuildings. Jan Stephanus kept Zandvliet for 11 years before finally selling it to his cousin, Isaac Cornelis de Villiers (TD91) in 1814.

Isaac Cornelis probably oversaw several significant changes to the *werf*, including the rebuilding of the cellar (Phase IV) with the arched windows that were popular at the time, following a fire that gutted it in the early 1800's. Isaac Cornelis probably also built the southern portion of the current house (House Phase II) and demolished the original dwelling (Ruin Phase II) which no longer fitted with his designs for a linear *werf* (Smuts, 2012). He possibly also extended the southern part of the house (House Phase III) and unified the facade (Phase IV).

Isaac sold to Cornelis Brink in 1823 who was married to Johanna Maria de Wet whose sister, Elizabeth Sophia de Wet, was married to Jacob Stephanus de Villiers, Isaac's brother. At the time of the transfer, the farm is described as comprising parts of Lubeck, Lekkerwyn and Zandvloet as well as a piece of perpetual quitrent land, measuring some 151 morgen and 530 square roods. While Brink acquired the farm through his wife's connections, Brink's family were also in an excellent position to ensure the success of this venture as three of his cousins were wine merchants in Cape Town and Brink himself sat on the Cape Wine Trade Committee (Van Zyl, 1987: 81).

Brink was declared insolvent in 1835, although the insolvency was to create less upheaval than might be imagined. Brink sold the farm to his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Sophia de Wet

who remained at Lekkerwyn while her sister and Cornelis retained occupation, if not ownership, of Zandvliet (TD199). The inventory prepared at the time of Brink's insolvency describes the house as having a hall, passage, four rooms, a pantry and a kitchen with two outrooms annex and two slave apartments. A large wine store and a stable for 16 horses completed the *werf*, which had 125 000 vines. This transfer was clearly intended only as a temporary measure to keep the farm in the family and in 1837 Cornelis bought Zandvliet back from her. The farmhouse gable, which reads 1831, marks the date of the Phase V overhaul and Anglicisation of the farmhouse, which took place under Brink (Smuts, 2012). Brink kept the farm until 1849 when he transferred it to his son.

At this transfer, the farm was split into two portions, the smaller part going to Daniel Brink (TD1255) and the larger part to Johannes Jeremias du Plessis (TD1256) who renamed his portion Delta. Du Plessis retained the wine cellar and undertook necessary repairs and alterations (Phase V) (Smuts, 2012).

Du Plessis sold the farm in 1879 to Willem Adolph Joubert (TD637) who stayed at Delta for 13 years. He was to sell the farm following the outbreak of the *phylloxera* epidemic for just more than half of what he had paid. The purchasers (TD6268) were two businessmen, Frans Kuffner and Louis Malzer who increased the size with the purchase of an additional piece of perpetual quitrent land. With *phylloxera* decimating the wine industry, Kuffner and Malzer could not make the farm profitable and the farm was sold on to Harry Ernst Victor Pickstone in 1898 (TD7839).

Pickstone, backed by Cecil John Rhodes, bought up the devastated wine farms of the Franschhoek Valley and transformed them into fruit farms and nurseries. With the sale of Delta to Pickstone in 1898, the era of wine farming at Delta came to an end, and the cellar was transformed into a fruit packing shed (Cellar Phase VI) (Smuts, 2012). Pickstone bought back Daniel Brink's portion of the farm and consolidated the property in 1905. Both the cellar and stable buildings were redeveloped to accommodate farm workers in the 1930s and 1950s under Pickstone and his family (Smuts, 2012).

Past Archaeological Research

The farm was first investigated by Mr Hans Fransen, who conducted a structural analysis of the main house in 2004. Based on an analysis of apertures, ceiling beams, wall thickness and other architectural features, Mr Fransen deduced that the building had been built in

several stages and predated the 1831 date inscribed on the gable (Fransen, 2004). These findings were made available to the author.

Archaeological investigation was first conducted in 2005 when the Archaeology Contracts Office was invited to investigate the *werf* and, particularly the area between the main house and the cellar (Orton, Halkett & Hart, 2005). The great distance between these buildings suggested the presence of an earlier building, which was located and exposed in 2006. Fairly extensive trenches were opened in the 2005 season and these exposed a well to the west of the cellar building (Orton, 2005) as well as a dense scatter of LSA microlithic tools south of the ruin (Orton, n.d.).

The author and Mr Hugo Pinto conducted further investigations for the ACO in 2008 (Pinto, Smuts & Hart, in prep). These took place in the cellar building which was undergoing redevelopment into a restaurant. Seven phases of construction were identified and the excavations are on public display below a glass floor.

Research excavations were conducted within the ruin exposed in 2005, as part of my masters research (Smuts, 2012). These excavations investigated floor surfaces and the fabric and construction methods of the walls. Excavations are continuing beyond the footprint initially exposed and further walls have been located. The building appears to be two rooms deep and three rooms long, although this will be clarified with further excavation.

All of these excavations as well as those of the stables formed one component of my masters research programme (Smuts, 2012). All materials from these excavations are curated by the Huguenot Museum in Franschoek and a sample is on display in the onsite Museum Van De Caab at Solms Delta.

Methodology

All modern concrete flooring was removed before excavation commenced. Excavation was conducted by hand with trowels and shovels. Single context recording was used throughout all excavations with each individual stratigraphic unit (whether a deposit, cut or structure) exposed, partially or wholly excavated, assigned an individual context number from a running register.

Data for each context, as well as possible interpretations of each, were recorded as they were encountered and excavated. The relationship between each context and all those it

had a physical interface with was also recorded in order to create a Stratigraphic Matrix which shows each deposit, cut and structure in the sequence in which they were created or deposited. Interpretation of the features represented by these contexts allows for them to be grouped in phases. Where possible, absolute dates were assigned to phases based on datable artefacts recovered from secure contexts.

All excavation was conducted stratigraphically, whereby the uppermost deposit was exposed and recorded before excavation. Excavation was halted either when continuous deposits, such as floor surfaces, or the natural substrate were encountered. Cut features, such as post-holes or pits, were half-sectioned before complete excavation in order to record a section through their fills, while linear and large area features, such as pillar structures or floor deposits, were investigated by means of transects or trenches to expose their vertical relationship in section. Structures were exposed in order to record their dimensions, fabric and method of construction; the structures themselves were left intact wherever possible. Where it was deemed necessary to excavate a structure, single context recording methods were retained and the structure was excavated in reverse stratigraphic sequence before underlying deposits were removed.

Exposed layers were recorded in plan and levels were taken across the area. All plans were hand drawn at a scale of 1:20, and all sections at 1:10. All sections were drawn from a horizontal datum line, the height of which was determined by a dumpy level and related to a Temporary Bench Mark. All photographs were taken using a 1m or 0.5m scale.

All artefacts were retained, with the exception of building material such as brick and plaster fragments, of which only a sample was kept. Due to the small ceramic assemblage recovered from the site, analysis was only performed to establish chronological markers; no further analysis of form, function and style was necessary because this would have been statistically meaningless.

Although the stables building is aligned northeast-southwest, for simplicity, its alignment is described as north-south below; the true position of north is indicated on all plans.

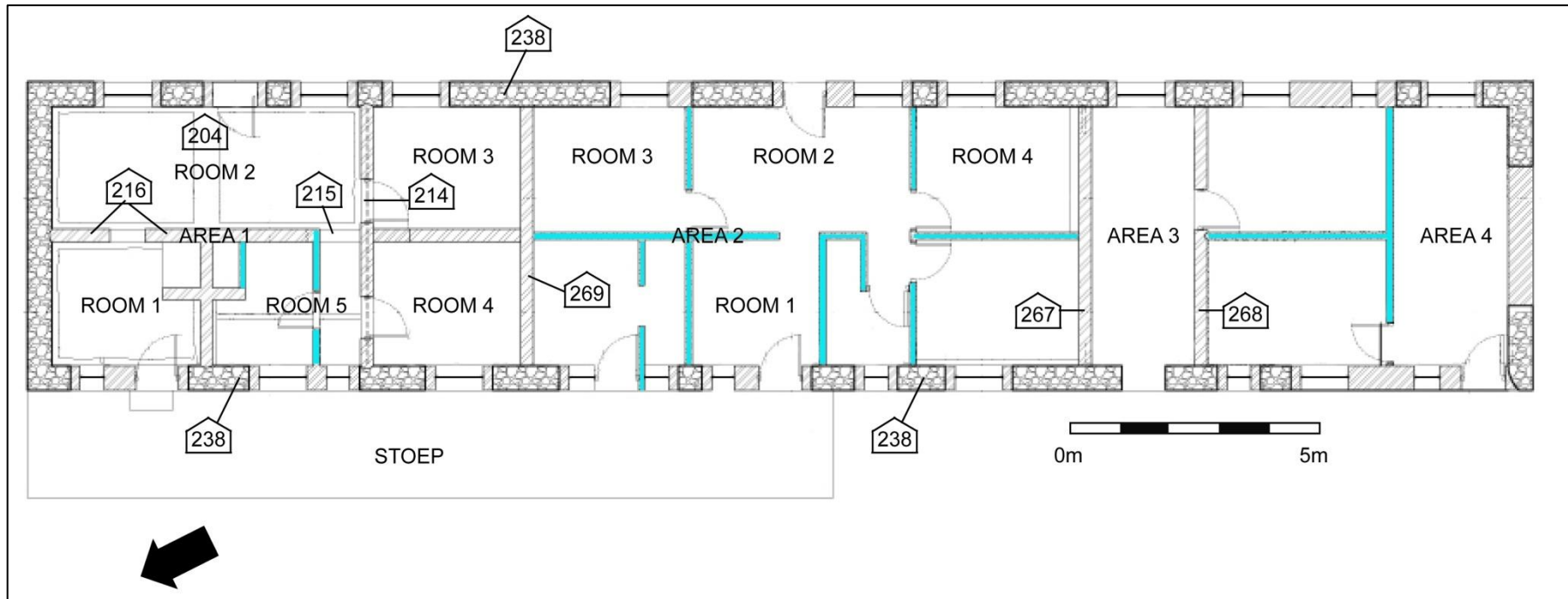


Figure 3: Plan of layout of Delta stable building prior to excavation. New walls indicated in blue. (Adapted from plans provided by Thorold Architects)

Excavation

Before excavation commenced, the plaster was stripped from all internal walls and the upper concrete flooring (200) was removed. The plaster stripping allowed us to determine which of the walls related to the conversion into workers' accommodation and which were original. There were three east-west original internal walls, dividing the building into four rooms (Figure 3). These four rooms were labelled Areas 1 to 4, from north to south, with the rooms created by original and modern dividing walls designated as numbered rooms within each Area. The northernmost room (Area 1) was divided into two three-roomed apartments. The central room (Area 2) was accessed through a doorway in the west façade and was a large open space. South of this was a narrow room (Area 3), also with access through a door in the western façade. The southernmost room (Area 4) was cobbled and had a large double doorway in the south gable wall that had subsequently been bricked up.

A trench was opened up to the west of the building to investigate a linear alignment of stones that possibly represented an earlier wall. The stones were found to be laid on a cement surface that in turn overlay a deposit with late twentieth century debris and consequently the trench was not considered as part of the evaluation of the building.

Area 1

Area 1, the northernmost area, was divided into five rooms, two of which contained back-to-back fireplaces. Trenches were opened in all five rooms to investigate the floor levels in the Area. An interesting feature of Area 1 was the level, very regular footings of the walls in Rooms 1 and 5 (Figures 4, 6 and 8). The implications of these footings are discussed below.

In Room 1 (Figure 4), the upper concrete floor (200) was lifted to reveal a yellow sandy levelling layer (201) containing modern debris. This layer was laid over a dark silt with a high frequency of organic material including degraded twigs, bark, acorns and pine needles (202). This thick deposit overlay a coarse, gritty surface of compacted orange and white silty sand (209). This surface comprised rammed crushed brick and mortar, accounting for the colour and texture. This floor surface was laid over a brownish yellow sandy silt deposit that contained several small to medium sized sub angular sandstone pieces (248) (Figure 5). This layer (248) was thickest in the north-east of the Room and seemed to thin out to the south-west. Below 248 was a mid-brown silty sand levelling layer (210). The lowest context was the river cobbles in white sand matrix (211), the fluvial deposit of the palaeo-Dwars River terrace.

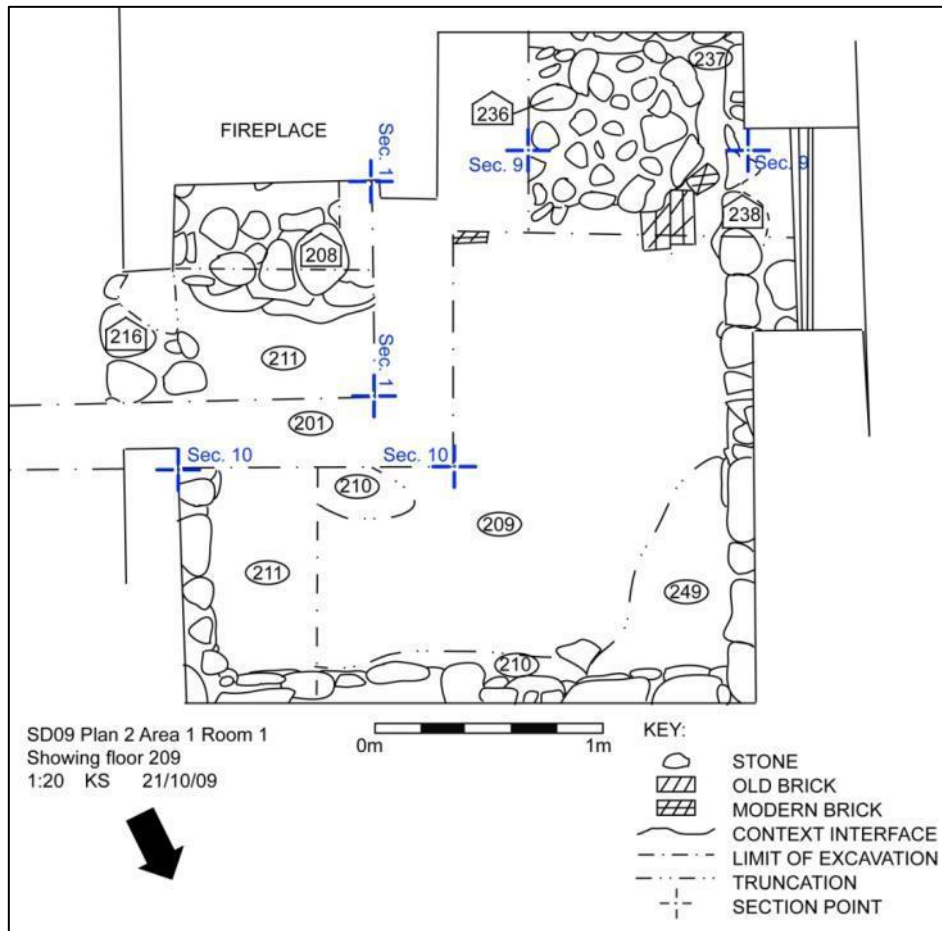


Figure 4: Plan of Area 1 Room 1 showing floor 209 and cobble layers 208 and 236. Location of sections indicated in blue

This sequence differed in two areas. Immediately north of the fireplace, 201 cleaned off onto a compacted crushed brick surface (207) that measured 0.90m east-west by 0.40m north-south that was rammed on top of a laid cobbled surface (208) (Figure 5, Sec. 1). These cobbles were laid on the upper levelling layer (248). The second area was the south-west of the room, adjacent to the fireplace, where upper deposit 201 cleaned off onto packed cobbles bonded with a yellow sifted mud mortar (236) (Figure 5, Sec. 9). This deposit contained several modern bricks, which seemed deliberately laid; these were recorded in plan (Figure 4).

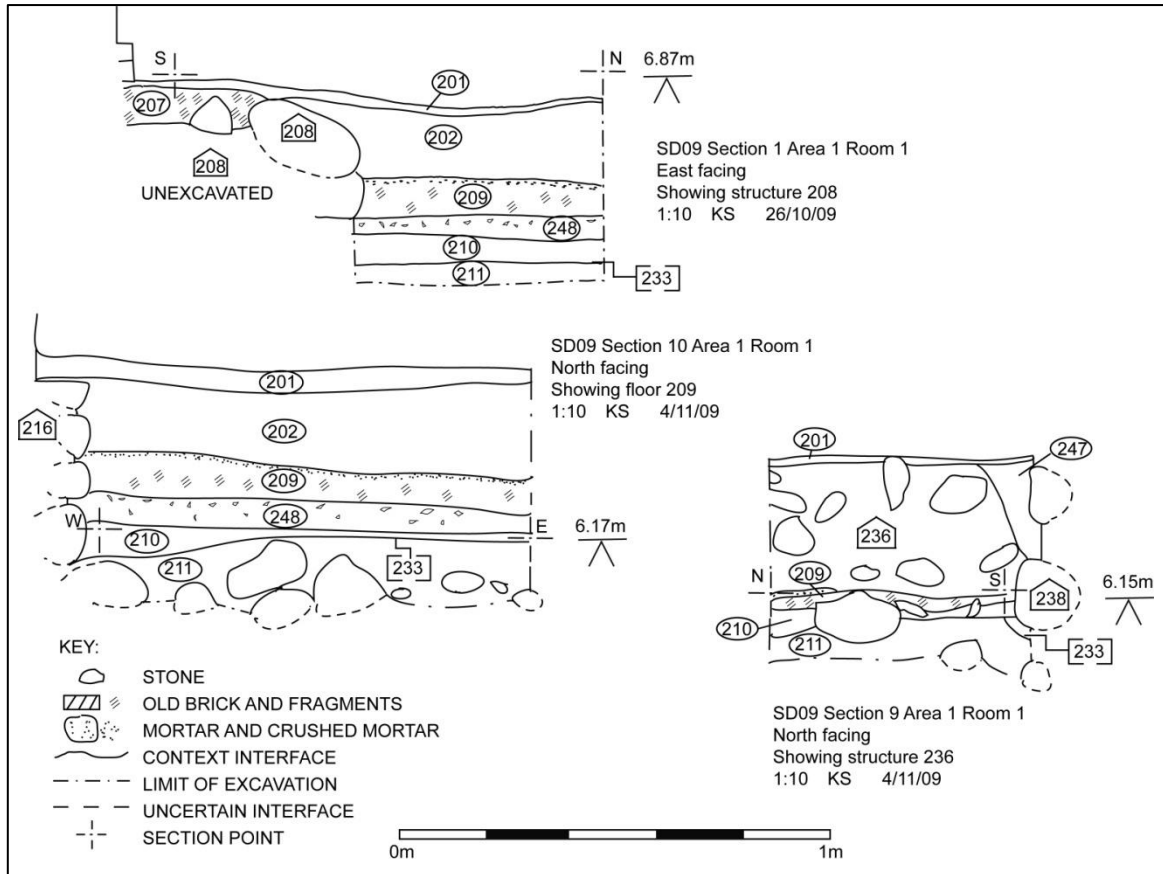


Figure 5: Sections through Room 1 deposits

Between cobbled layer 236 and the threshold of Room 1 (238), the cobbles had either been removed, or simply sloped away from the laid stones of the threshold. This lacuna had filled with a mottled silty material (247). The cobbles were laid above the floor surface (209) seen elsewhere in the room. Below this floor was levelling layer 210, which overlay the white sand and cobble substrate (211). The cut (233) for the foundation of the threshold (238) was visible in section, and had been cut from below levelling layer (210) and through natural layer 211. This cut (233) also truncated the topsoil in this area of site.

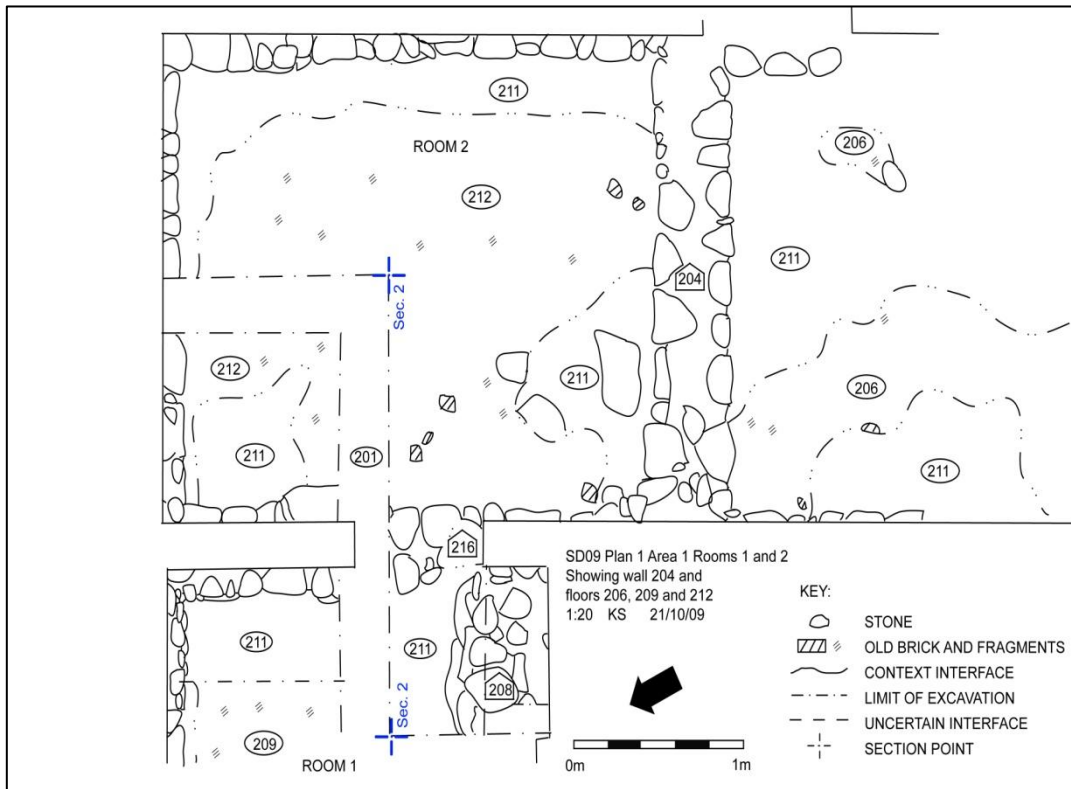


Figure 6: Plan of Area 1 Room 2. Location of section indicated in blue.

In Room 2 an L-shaped baulk was retained that continued from Room 1 through the doorway between the rooms and turning left to meet the northern end wall of the building (Figure 6). Excavations revealed the threshold (216) between Rooms 1 and 2 as well as the foundations of a demolished east-west wall (204) bisecting Room 2. This wall was the continuation of the wall between the back-to-back fireplaces of Rooms 1 and 5. Wall 204 would have divided Room 2, creating the two L-shaped three roomed apartments of the original layout. It was clear from the plaster stripping that entrance to each room was gained through the fireplace rooms (Room 1 and 5), with two further interleading rooms off each of those rooms.

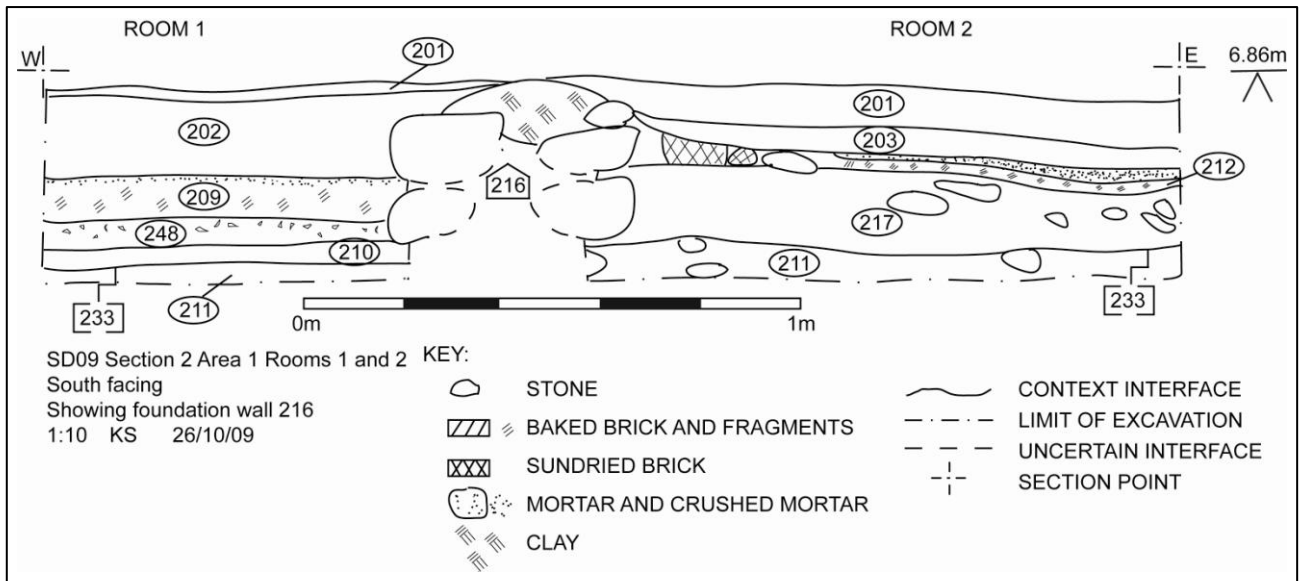


Figure 7: South facing section across threshold 216 showing floors 209 and 212

In Room 2, the yellow sandy bedding layer (201) was encountered again below the concrete floor (200) (Figure 7). Below this deposit, to the north of wall 204, was a dark silt layer (203) with a high concentration of organic materials –twigs, acorns and pine needles as in Room 1. South of wall (204) this deposit was numbered 205. In Room 2, these deposits contained several short wooden beams. The deposits, both north and south of wall (204), cleaned off onto an orange and white compacted gritty sand floor surface which was similar to 209, and was labelled (212) and (206) respectively. In section it appeared that the mortar component might have served as a repair to the crushed brick floor. Below the floor, a second dark silty layer (217) was encountered. This levelling layer (217) was the fill of cut 233 that truncated the topsoil layer and exposed the underlying natural river cobble stratum (211).

Only a small trench, measuring 0.80m east-west by 0.60m north-south, was opened in Room 3 in order to establish that the deposits corresponded with those already encountered (8). The trench was located in the very north-east of the room, adjacent to the threshold (214) in the east-west wall between Rooms 2 and 3. This threshold was exposed by a later demolition episode (269). The deposits were again given unique context numbers. Here the makeup layer (201) for concrete floor (200) cleaned off onto the dark silt layer with high organic component (226). Below this layer was the orange-white floor surface (227) and below this a dark humic silt levelling layer (228), fill of truncation 233 which cut the topsoil and exposed white sand and river cobble natural deposit (211).

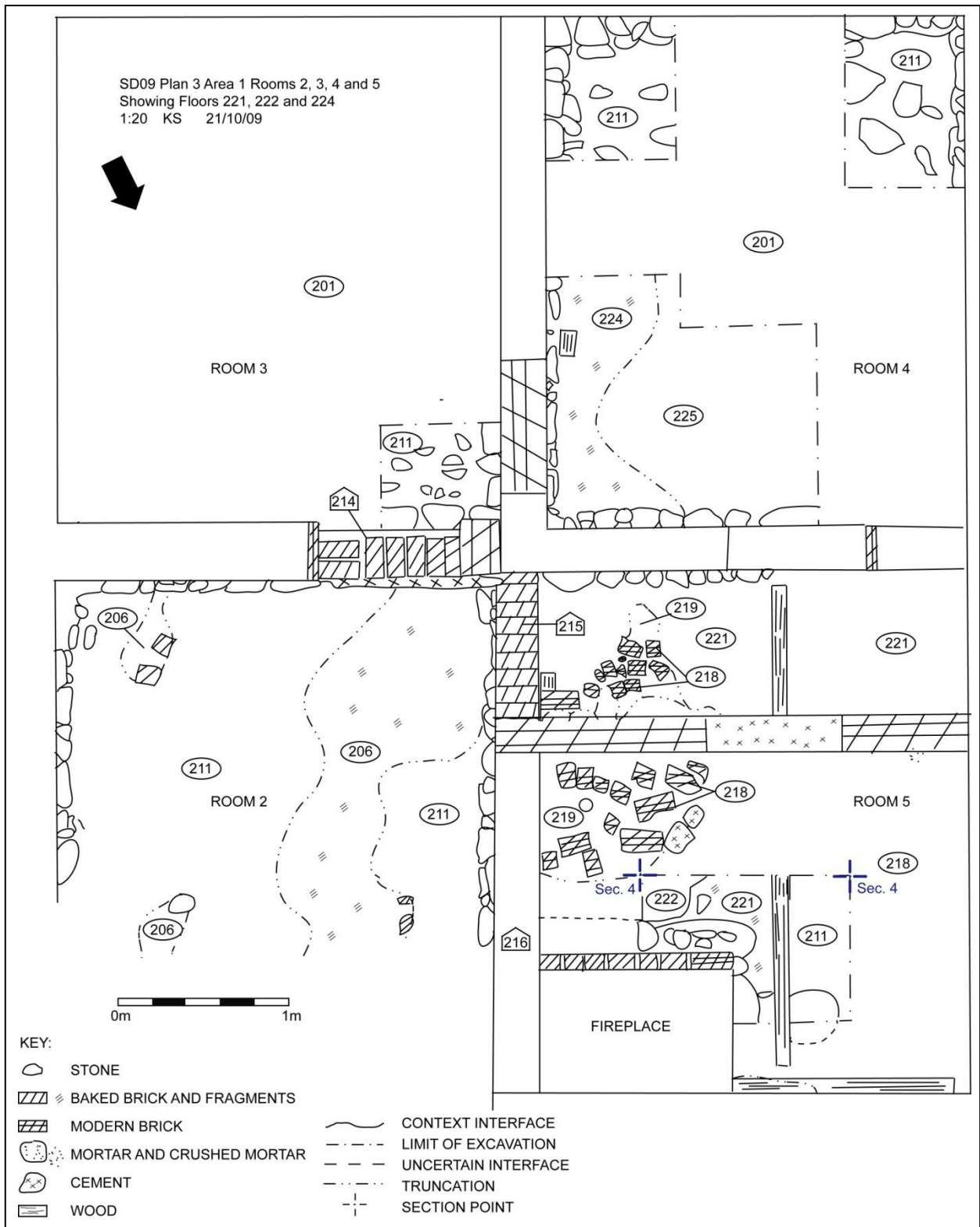


Figure 8: Plan showing Rooms 2, 3, 4 and 5. Location of sections indicated in blue.

A larger trench was opened in Room 4 (Figure 8), the south-western room in Area 1, where the upper bedding layer (201) for the concrete floor (200) overlay a layer of sandy silt with abundant straw (235). This layer was above the floor surface (224) of compacted white mortar and crushed red brick, equivalent to that found elsewhere. Below the floor layer was

a levelling layer of red brown sand (225) which in turn overlay the natural deposit of white sand and river cobbles (211). The interface of these two deposits was cut 233.

Room 5 was the second fireplace room, and the entrance room of the second of the two apartments that made up Area 1 (Figure 8). This room had originally been accessed through a door in the western facade and had then led into Room 4, which in turn led into Room 3. When the rooms were altered to accommodate workers, an east-west wall was built in the south of Room 5 and a portion of wall 216 was demolished (274) to create a doorway (215) in that wall (Figure 8). This effectively created a passage leading from Room 2 to Rooms 4 and 5. A shower and toilet were installed in Room 5 severely truncating the deposits. As the deposits in Room 5 and the passage were continuous, these were assigned the same numbers.

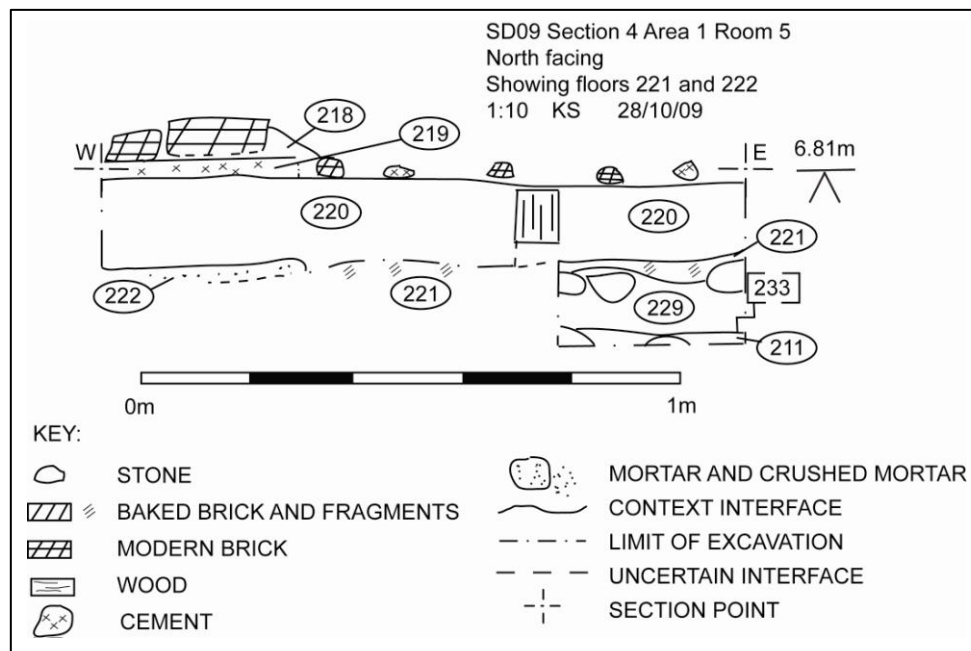


Figure 9: North facing section showing floor 221 with mortar repair 222

Room 5 had clearly had a wooden floor before the concrete flooring was laid. This was evident in the north of the room against the wall where a wooden joist and partial floorboard survived against the northern wall of the room (Figures 8 and 9). Concrete floor 200 had been laid over deposit of collapsed, high fired modern bricks (218) which had accumulated above a cement floor (219). This had been badly truncated both in Room 5 and the passageway, and it was not possible to determine its full extent in plan. Below this floor (219), was a layer of humic silt (220) with the organic debris component seen elsewhere in the Area. Within this deposit was a 2.80m long wooden beam that extended from 0.16m

south of the north wall of Room 5 and into the passage between Rooms 5 and 4. Below 220 was the floor surface (222) evident elsewhere. Here in Room 5, it seemed most apparent that the white mortar component of the floor had been a later repair to the original crushed brick surface, and here the mortar was given an individual context number (221). The floor (221/222) was laid on a levelling deposit of brown silt (229), which itself overlay the white sand and cobble matrix of the natural substrate (211). Again cut 233 served as the interface between these contexts. It is worth noting that in Room 5 there was no equivalent deposit to the cobbles found either north (208) or west (236) of the fireplace in Room 1, indicating that these two deposits were not foundations for the fireplace.

Area 2

Area 2 was the largest of the areas excavated, and had been divided into smaller spaces by modern apartment walls. There was no evidence for original internal divisions, making this space 11m long. The first two trenches were excavated in the northeast and southeast corners of the area, in Rooms 3 and 4 respectively (Figure 10). Neither of these trenches revealed any anthropogenic deposits, and the upper deposit beneath concrete floor 200 was the white sand and cobble natural substrate 234. Investigation of natural deposit 234 in Rooms 2, 3 and 4 did, however, reveal a series of features in the form of ephemeral post-holes (256, 254, 255 and 257 from north to south) against the eastern north-south wall. Three of the post-holes (254, 255 and 257) had chunks of mortared stone with evidence of fire blackening, while all four had traces of degraded wood in the base of the hole. These inclusions (270, 271, 272 and 273, respectively) would have served as post packing. Each hole measured between 0.20m and 0.40m in diameter and all were regularly spaced: 254 and 255 each 1.40m apart, with 256 and 257 each 2.20m beyond them to the north and south respectively. While the holes were barely recognisable as individual features, their shared characteristics as well as their uniform size, positioning and fill indicated that they were indeed anthropogenic.



Figure 10: Composite plan of Area 2 showing floor 231 and post-holes 254, 255, 256 and 257.

A third trench was opened in Room 1 of Area 2 where the deposit was clearly higher than elsewhere in this Area (Figure 11). The upper deposit of loose, grey sand (230) that had constituted the bedding layer for concrete floor 200 overlay a yellow brown clay floor (231) that had failed across much of the room, but was still present in parts. This floor surface was laid directly above the natural substrate (234). The floor also capped the mid-brown silty sand backfill (232) of foundation trench 233 of the western wall of the building.

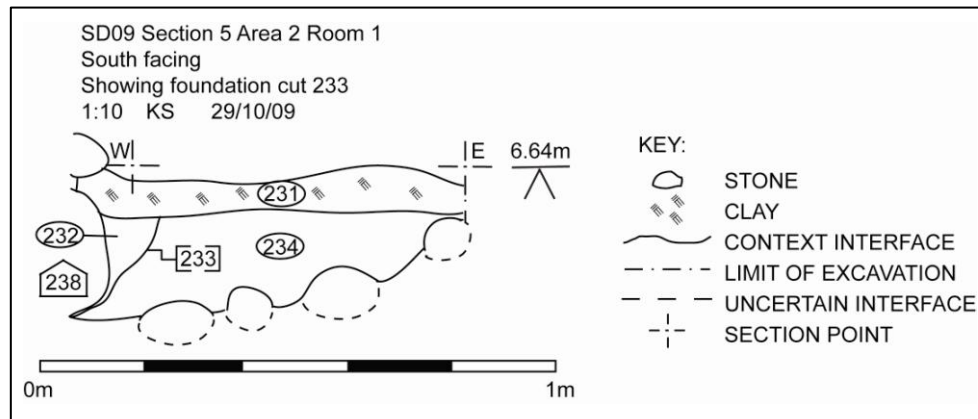


Figure 11: South facing section showing foundation trench 233

Further features were visible in the elevations of the north and south end walls of this Area (267 and 269 respectively). In both end walls, against the eastern north-south wall of the building were two recesses in the brick work (Figures 12 and 13). The hole in 269 had been filled in with modern brick, while the one in 267 had been left open. While the two holes were not of equal size, their position on the wall was clearly in alignment with each other and they probably relate to a feature that had been built into them and removed at a later date. Another interesting feature of wall 267 was the materials with which it was constructed. While, as stated, all the internal walls in the building were built of brick, this wall showed a portion constructed in stone. It was not possible to deduce whether this was the remnants of an earlier stone built wall that had been repaired in brick, or whether the stone itself represents the repair. As unlikely as it seems from appearances, it is probable that the stone is indeed a repair to the brick work as there is no other evidence for surviving stone work in this wall or any of the other internal ones.



Figure 12: Recess in brickwork of wall 269, Area 2, view to north

Figure 13: Recess in brickwork of wall 267 and anomalous stone infill, Area 2, view to south

Area 3

Area three was a narrow room only 2.10m wide. Two trenches were opened in this Area, one spanning the room's width at its eastern end and measuring 1m east-west, the other in the northwest corner of the room, measuring 1.60m east-west by 0.70m north-south (Figure 14). In Area 3, removal of the upper concrete (200) again revealed a bedding layer (250). This layer (250) overlay a crushed brick floor surface (251), which was laid on a bedding layer (252) (Figure 15). This was laid directly onto the natural substrate (253).

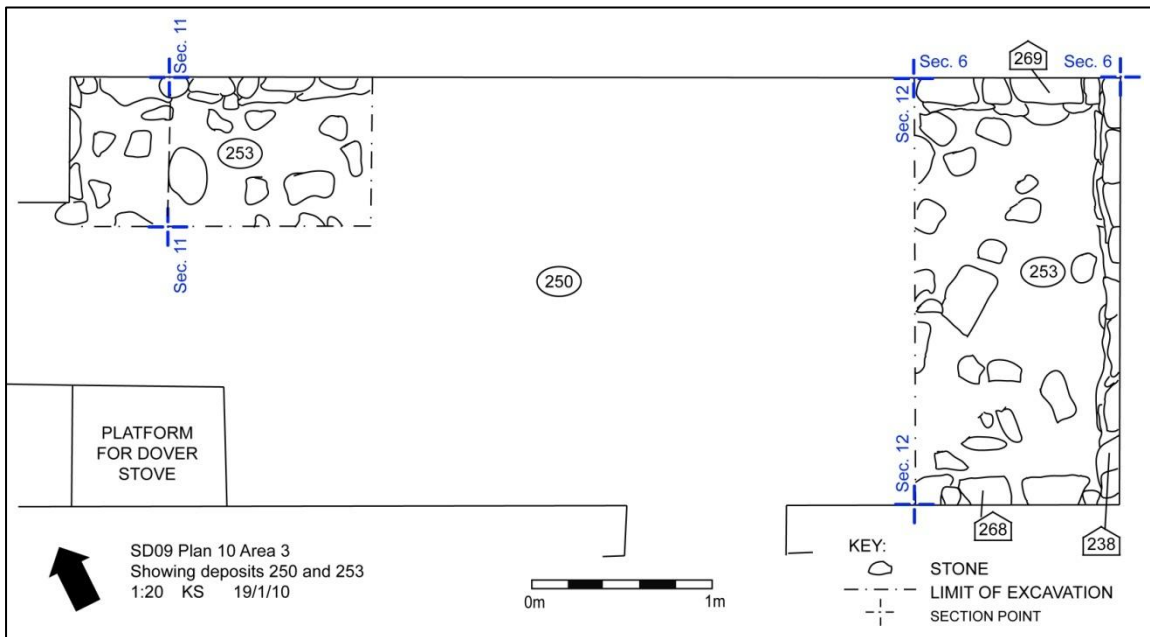


Figure 14: Plan of Area 3. Location of sections indicated in blue.

The foundations of wall 269 were investigated as the building shows a change in floor levels between Area 2 and 3. These foundations were not keyed into the external eastern wall 238 (Figure 14, Sect. 6), showing that wall 269 had been built as an internal dividing wall and was not the end wall of an earlier component of the structure.

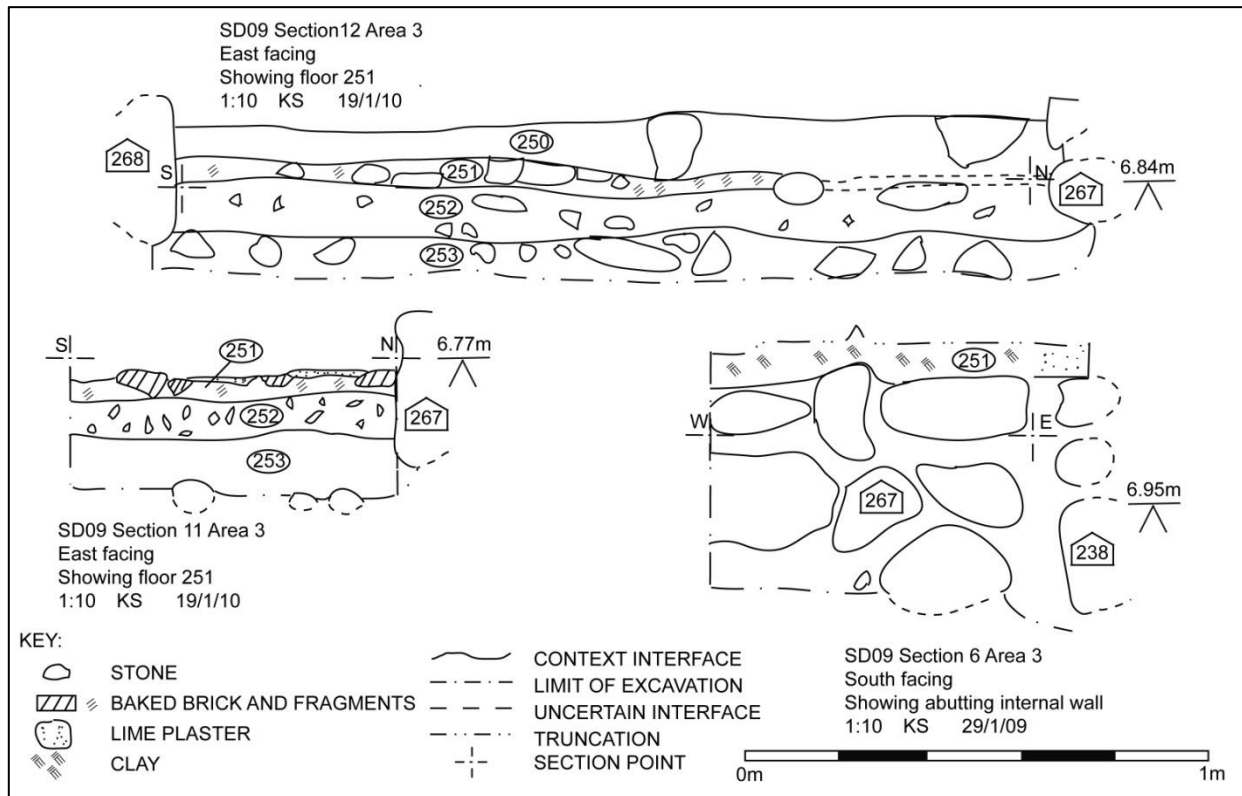


Figure 15: Sections through Area 3 deposits.

Area 4

In Area 4, the upper concrete 200 cleaned off onto a cobbled surface (240) (Figure 17, Sect. 8). Although there were two rooms in this Area, only Room 1 was investigated. The two trenches opened were irregularly shaped, respecting the positioning of individual cobbles in order to disturb as little of the floor surface as possible (Figure 16). The cobbles were packed in with crushed brick (241) and laid on a dark matrix (243) that had the appearance of animal dung, rather than a dirt floor (Figure 17, Sect. 7). The cobble floor 240 had been repaired in patches with cement (242). Below bedding layer 243 for the cobbles (240) was a compacted yellow sand layer (244) that was above a second compacted layer of pale sand with dark silt flecks (245). This layer was the final layer above the natural substrate 246.

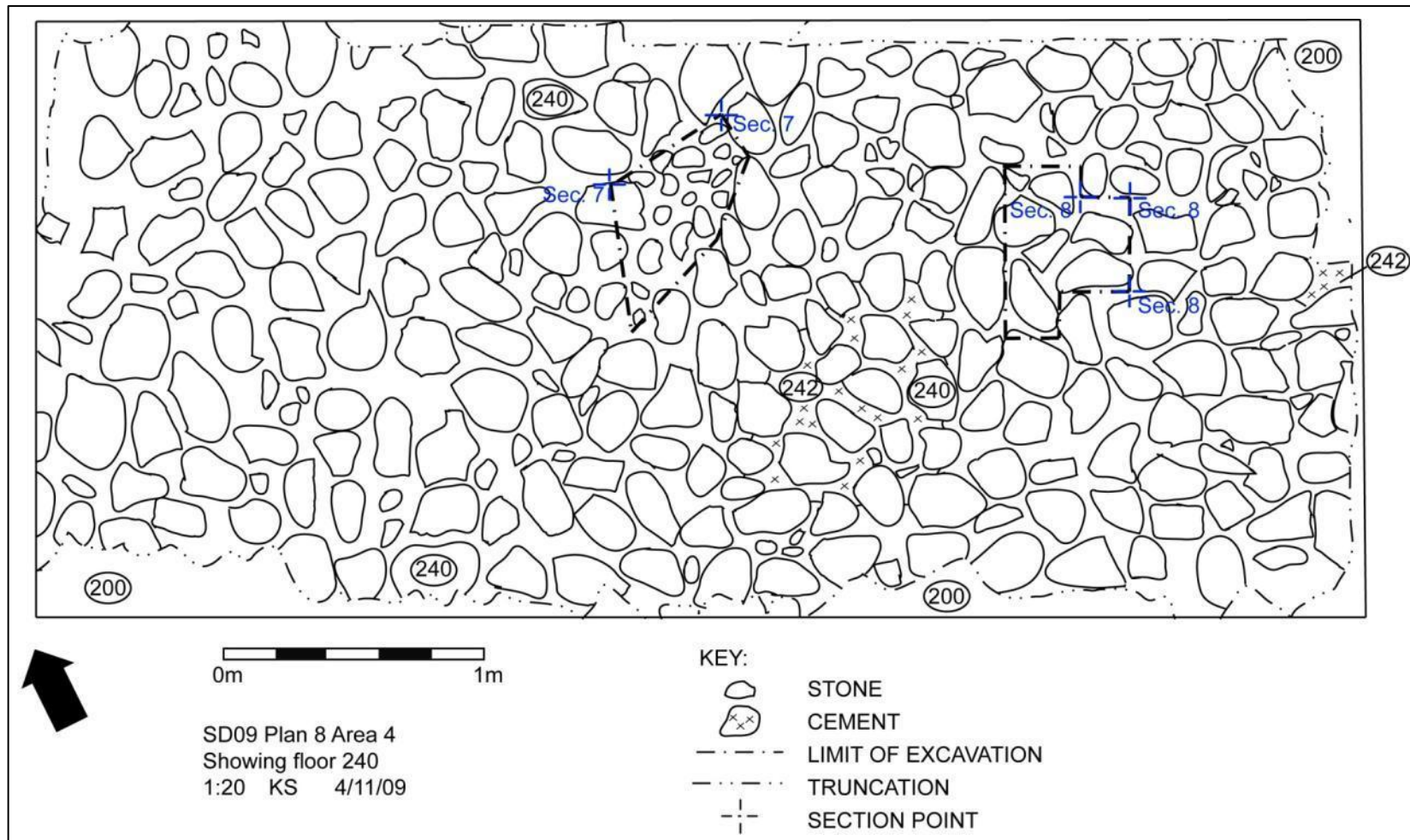


Figure 16: Plan of Area 4 showing cobbled floor surface 240. Location of sections is indicated in blue.

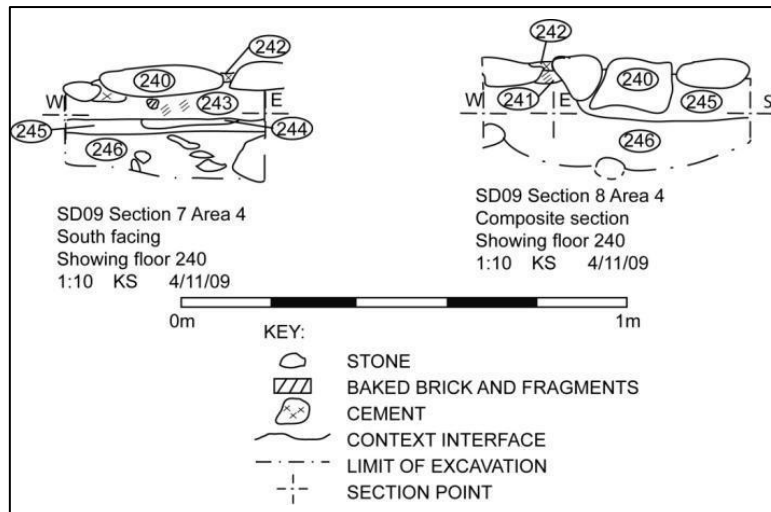


Figure 17: Sections through deposits in Area 4.

Phasing

Three phases of construction were identified in addition to the underlying geological deposits (Figure 18).

Phase I

Phase I represented the construction of the entire building, which was designed and built as a single phase structure, unlike the cellar and house. This phase began with the digging of foundation trench 233 which truncated the topsoil from across the site and cut into the underlying geological deposits 211, 234, 253 and 246 (Figure 18). The external walls of the building (238) were built in stone to below rafter level. The rafters were built into two courses of red brick. The internal dividing walls 267, 268 and 269 were built abutting the external walls, dividing the building into four areas, with the northernmost area divided into two three-roomed apartments, as mentioned previously (Figure 3). These walls were built on stone foundations with brick superstructures. Fired and sundried bricks were used in the construction of the walls. Their fine-grained composition is similar to the local topsoil, suggests local quarrying and on site manufacture. In Area 1, internal dividing walls 216 and 204 were keyed into wall 238 and to each other. In Rooms 1 and 5 of Area 1, these walls were constructed with very regular footings, probably to accommodate wooden floorboards.

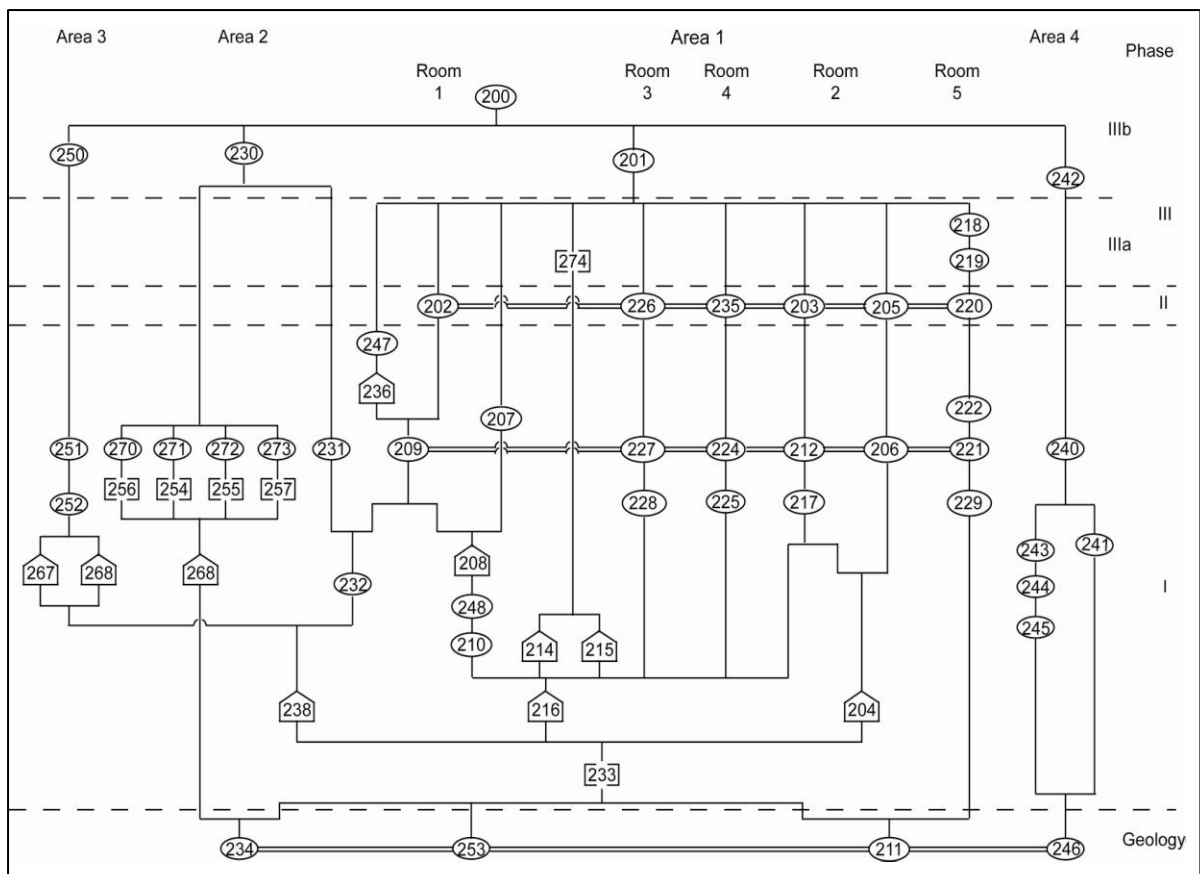


Figure 18: Matrix showing phasing of contexts in the stable building

Levelling layers 210, 217, 228, 225 and 229 were overlain by a crushed red brick surface (209, 212, 206, 227, 224 and 221) that was patched in places by crushed white mortar 222. In Room 1 of Area 1, deposit 248 lay between levelling layer 210 and floor 209 and possibly represents accumulated debris from stone dressing in preparation for construction. It is likely that Area 1 was fitted with wooden floors, at least in Rooms 1 and 5. A single partial floorboard was still present in Room 5 at the time of excavation. This would mean that all subsequent deposits accumulated after the removal of the floorboards. The crushed brick surfaces described above would then have acted as a capping for the underlying deposits to prevent dust rising from below the floorboards.

A stone platform (208) was created in front of the fireplace in Room 1. This platform was overlain by a dense deposit of crushed brick (207) and floor 209 was laid against it. After floor 209 had been laid in Room 1, a stone plinth (236) was constructed adjacent to the fireplace in that room, with deposit 247 serving to level it against western wall 238. This structure was possibly related to food preparation.

In Area 2, the only apparent Phase I floor was a compacted clay surface 231 that was laid directly over the geological deposits (234) and this surface only partially survived in Room 1 (Figure 10). Other Phase I features in this area included four post-holes (256, 254, 255 and 257), forming an evenly spaced line some 0.20m from the eastern wall of the building. The fabric of the north and south end walls of Area 2 (269 and 267, respectively) retained the impressions of recesses in the brickwork at their eastern ends. These were interpreted as being related to the post-holes and were possibly vestigial traces of a feeding trough or tethering post that had run the length of the eastern wall.

Phase I in Area 3 was represented by a crushed brick floor surface 251 that was laid over a levelling layer 252, itself laid on the geological layer 253 below. In Area 4, Phase I was represented by the levelling layer 245, and cobbled floor surface 240 which was bedded in crushed brick 241 and laid on a substrate of dark humic silt (243) with patches of yellow sand (244).

Artefacts from Phase I were recovered in Areas 1, 3 and 4. These artefacts were recovered from below the floor levels 209, 212, 206, 227, 224 and 221 in Area 1 and included transfer printed refined earthenware, two pieces of underglaze blue and white export porcelain and a penny whistle (248); gilded European porcelain with a shamrock pattern (237); moulded whiteware (210); decorated floor tile, European stoneware, transfer printed and sponge decorated refined earthenware and a quantity of opaque blue glass (217) and three conjoining fragments of red transfer printed refined earthenware (229). In Phase I, Area 3 artefacts included two conjoining fragments of refined industrial ware and two pieces of European porcelain (250). Area 4 yielded a single piece of black and white Rhine pattern printed refined earthenware (245). Despite the presence of the Asian porcelain, which is likely to be residual, the bulk of the assemblage is clearly late nineteenth/early twentieth century in date – Rhine pattern wares were popular between 1840 and 1880 (Klose 2007: 146). The shamrock patterned bone china and moulded edged whiteware are both late nineteenth/early twentieth century in date (Klose 2007: 113; 158). The presence of these late ceramics in the sub-floor layers indicates that this building was probably built around the turn of the twentieth century at the earliest. Deposit 247 contained a high quantity of animal bone, possibly indicating the use of stone plinth 236 as a food preparation area.

The layout of the building clearly indicates that it was conceived of and built as a stable with a wagon house and accommodation. The cobbled southern room, Area 4, with its large double doorway, would have housed the wagon. This room had two regularly spaced rectangular windows in the west and east façades. Area 3 would have served as a tack room

and was accessed through a door in the western façade, with a single window in the opposite wall. Area 2 has been interpreted as the stabling portion of the building and was accessed through a central doorway. It had two rectangular windows in the western façade and two or three high placed windows in the eastern wall. The apartments in Area 1 would have housed the grooms and their families. These apartments were arranged in interlocking L-shapes, with access to each gained through the respective fireplace rooms with two interleading rooms off each. Each fireplace room, Rooms 1 and 5, had a doorway and narrow window, while the other rooms had a single window each. These original apertures, doorways and windows, were constructed with cast concrete lintels. Wadded newspaper retrieved from these lintels yielded a date of 1918. As cement only became readily available and affordable in the Western Cape after the opening of the Cape PPC factory near Piketberg in 1921 (PPC, 2011), this shows early use of cement at Delta. While it remains possible that the cement lintels are a later repair to the building, this could not be proved and was not supported by the artefactual remains.

Phase II

Evidence for Phase II is only present in Area 1, and is represented by deposits 202, 203, 205, 226, 235 and 220. These deposits all consisted of brown silty sand with high concentrations of organic debris in the form of twigs, bark, acorns and pine needles; in Room 4, this deposit (235) contained an abundance of straw, rather than the debris found elsewhere. In Room 1, from deposit 202, a large quantity of forks and spoons and teaspoons indicated domestic, specifically kitchen-related use, was recovered, in keeping with the presence of the fireplace there. A large quantity of animal bone (sheep and cow) was also found. Room 2 deposits 203 and 205 contained marbles, slate pencils and bottles of *rooi lavental* from Heynes Matthew Chemist – red lavender, a folk remedy for calming restless babies. In Room 2 several lengths of beam were recovered, possibly remnants of wooden floors. Layer 220 in Room 5 contained a fragment of a European porcelain tea cup as well as a sherd of refined earthenware decorated with Rhine pattern and a piece of Industrial slipware. This deposit, like Room 1, had some kitchen utensils and a high concentration of animal bone, mostly sheep and cow as well as some chicken.

The composition and thickness of these deposits would seem to indicate a substantial period of dereliction and it is likely that the building, or certainly the northern apartments, stood unused for a considerable length of time and that the roof above this area had failed. The straw in Room 4 probably originated from the loft which, as mentioned previously, would have been used for storage. The floorboards, of which a remnant remained in Room 5 in the

form of a partial plank against the northern wall of that room, had presumably been in use in Phase I and were probably stripped in Phase II. The kitchen waste in the Phase II deposits probably accumulated when these floorboards were removed.

Phase III

Phase III is divided into two sub-phases. Phase IIIa is represented by a thin cement floor 219 that was only found in Area 1, Room 5. In Phase IIIb, this deposit was overlain by levelling layer 201 for the upper concrete floor 200. In Areas 2 and 3, the floor levels, 231 and 251 respectively, were directly overlain by levelling layers 230 and 250 over which the upper concrete floor 200 was laid. In Area 4, the Phase I cobble floor was patched or levelled with a friable cement capping (242) and the upper concrete floor 200 was laid over this. The original windows were altered to accommodate steel framed windows with new lintels, while other openings were closed and new ones created. The most recent deposit (249) in the stables building relates to damage to the deposits in the north-west of Room 1 that occurred after the upper concrete was lifted in 2009.

Most artefacts recovered from Phase II deposits dated to the second half of the twentieth century, particularly from layer 201, including metal bottle tops, plastic children's toy figures and a gaming token reading 1996, providing a secure date for the upper concrete floor 200. Phase III reflects the redevelopment of the building as workers' accommodation. The artefactual evidence from below the upper cement floor firmly dates Phase IIIc to the mid to late 1990s.

Discussion

The use of concrete in the lintels of the building, and the artefactual material considered with the newspaper fragment indicate that the construction of this building probably occurred in the second decade of the twentieth century, circa 1918. This shows that the stables were constructed by Henry Pickstone who owned the farm then.

It is likely that the building became derelict (Phase II) in the 1930's and 1940's. It is possible that the increasing popularity of motorised vehicles from the 1920's onward rendered the stables and wagon house obsolete and that the building stood empty until it was transformed into accommodation in Phase III. This event probably took place in the 1950s when the cellar was refurbished. The stables were finally modernised in the 1990s, with new floors being laid and plumbing installed.

Unlike the other, older buildings on the farm, this structure was purpose built and conceived of as a whole and did not grow from an original unit as the need arose. This represents an important difference in world view between a successful, modern farmer such as Pickstone and the pioneer farmers of the early Cape settlement.

In a case such as this, the archaeological investigations were vital in showing the relative recent date for the building. Both the archival records and the fabric of the building pointed to much greater antiquity. Additionally, the archaeological investigations of the remaining buildings on the *werf* have allowed us to create an integrated, holistic plan of the development of the *werf* and locate each of the buildings within that.

Field Rating

This building should be accorded a Grade IIIb rating. Mitigation has taken place and sensitive redevelopment should be allowed to proceed. As with all historic farms, the buildings cannot be seen in isolation and, despite its relative recent age, the stables forms an integral part of the Solms Delta *werf*. The building should be retained as a heritage site, while appropriate redevelopment will enhance its social and practical value not only to the workers and residents on the farm, but more widely to those interested in the origins and culture of Cape music.

Statement of Significance

In terms of the NHRA Sect. 3.3, this building is significant for its association with the current and past farm workers, some of whom were born and raised in the building. This connection is all the more tangible due to the high quantities of domestic items in the artefactual assemblage which made the people who lived there readily visible. Its historical connection with Henry Pickstone is also of importance as Pickstone, with Cecil John Rhodes, was responsible for much of the regeneration of the Franschhoek Valley following the phylloxera outbreak.

Recommendations

It is proposed that the building be renovated in keeping with the early twentieth century date established through these excavations. This is entirely appropriate and redevelopment is being coordinated by a suitably qualified and experienced heritage architect, Trevor Thorold who was also responsible for the redevelopment of several buildings on the farm, including the cellar building which now houses a restaurant. The stables building will be redeveloped as a music centre and museum, which, given the fortuitous recovery of a penny whistle from the archaeological deposits seems a sensitive and appropriate reuse of the building.

As extensive archaeological testing was conducted throughout the building and its fabric and construction and stratigraphic deposits were characterised, no further archaeological monitoring is proposed. Furthermore, the renovations are being well managed by Mr Thorold. Any landscaping of the area around the building should be monitored for any middens or dumps that may be associated with the building, although again, with the involvement of Mr Thorold, I am satisfied that we would be notified should such a situation arise.

Conclusion

The stables building is not the structure listed in the 1835 insolvency inventory of Cornelis Brink, but was rather constructed by Henry Ernst Pickstone in c. 1918. This late date is evidenced by the ceramics recovered from the subfloor deposits as well as a piece of newspaper retrieved from a concrete lintel. The building probably fell into disuse in the 1930s and 1940s and was refitted to accommodate farm workers in the 1950s. It remained in use as accommodation until the 1990s.

The building should receive a Grade IIIb rating as it is significant and should be retained as a heritage site. Mitigation has taken place and I am confident that the redevelopment, under Mr Trevor Thorold, into a music centre and museum will not only be sensitively achieved, but will add to the cultural and social significance of the building.

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Appendix 1: Site Photographs



Figure 19: Structure 208 north of fireplace Area1Rm1; view to south (left)

Figure 20: West facing section 1 showing floor 209 Area1Rm1; view to west (right)



Figure 21: North facing Section 9 showing structure 236 Area1Rm1; view to south



Figure 22: Wall 204 Area1Rm2, view to north



Figure 23: South facing Section 2 showing floor 209 Area1Rm1; view to north (left)



Figure 24: South facing Section 2 showing floor 212 Area1Rm2; view to north (right)



Figure 25: Trench showing floor 224 Area1Rm4; view to east



Figure 26: Deposit 235, floor 224 and red brown sand 225 Area1Rm4; view to north



Figure 27: North facing Section 4 showing floor 222/221 Area1Rm5; view to south



Figure 28: Plan view of remnant floor 231 Area2Rm1; view to north



Figure 29: South facing Section 5 showing floor 231 and foundation cut 233 Area2Rm1; view to north



Figure 30: Post-holes 254 and 255 Area2Rm2; view to east



Figure 31: Detail of Post-hole 255 Area2Rm2; view to north



Figure 32: Detail of Post-hole 254 Area2Rm2; view to north



Figure 33: Plan view of Trench in northwest Area3; view to north



Figure 34: East facing Section 11 through floor 251 Area3; view to west



Figure 35: East facing Section 12 through floor 251 Area 3; view to west (left)

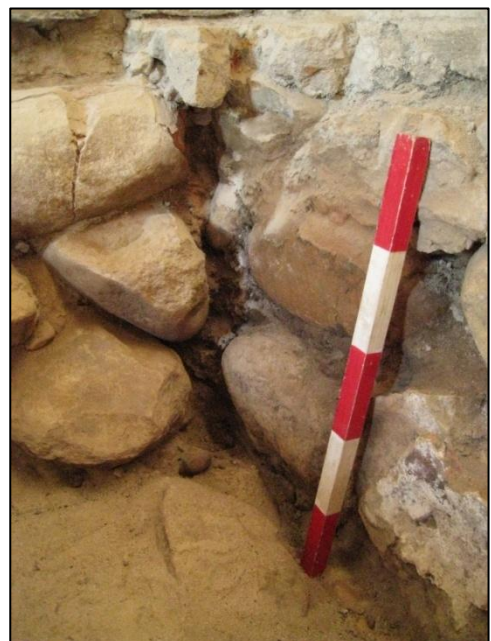


Figure 36: Eastern extent of Section 6 showing wall 267 abutting wall 238; view to northeast (right)



Figure 37: Plan view of cobbled floor 240 Area4; view to east (left)



Figure 38: Bricked up double doorway in southern end gable wall Area4; view to southeast (right)



Figure 39: South facing Section 7 through cobbled floor 240 Area4; view to north (left)



Figure 40: Composite Section 8 through cobbled floor 240 Area4; view to northeast (right)

Appendix 2: Site Photograph Register

Complete list of all site photos taken. These are provided on the accompanying disc.

Photo number	Description	View to
2903	Southern gable end	North
2904	Southern portion of western facade	East
2905	Western facade	East
2906	Northern gable end	South
2908	Eastern facade	West
2909	Northern portion of eastern facade	West
2910	Eastern facade	Southwest
3981-3984	Northern end of Trench Area1Rm2	West
3985	Trench Area1Rm2	South
3986-3997	Trench Area1Rm2	North
3988-3990	Wall 204 Area1Rm2	North
3991-3992	Structure 208 Area1Rm1	East
3993	Fireplace Area1Rm1	East
3994-3995	Wall 204 Area1Rm2	South
3996	Southern portion of Trench Area1Rm2	West
3997-3998	Northern portion of Trench Area1Rm2	West
4001-4002	Structure 208 Area1Rm1	South
4003	Structure 208 Area1Rm1	East
4004-4006	Trench in northeast Area1Rm1	East
4110	Trench Area1Rm2	North
4111	Northern portion of Trench Area1Rm2	West
4112	Trench in southwest of Area1Rm1	North
4113	Trench in northwest of Area1Rm1	North
4521-4524	Area1Rm4	East
4524-4528	Area1Rm4	North
4529-4534	Area1Rm4	Northeast
4535-4537	Area1Rm4	North
4538-4545	Area1Rm2	North
4546-4548	Section 2 Area1Rm2	North
4549, 4551	Area1Rm2	North
4552-4557	Area1Rm2	South
4558-4564	Area1Rm2	North
4790-4792	Area1Rm1	North
4793	Area1Rm1	East
4794-4796	Structure 208 Area1Rm1	South
4797	Structure 208 Area1Rm1	East
4798-4799	Modern brick 218 Area1Rm5	East
4803-4805	Floorboard Area1Rm5	North
4806-4809	Trench Area1Rm5	North
4811-4812	Corridor Area1Rm4/Rm5	East
4813	Corridor Area1Rm4/Rm5	North
4815-4816	Deposits 218 and 219	East
4819	Deposits 218 and 219	North
4822-4823	Threshold 215 Area1Rm4/Rm5	Southeast
4824-4825	Threshold 215 Area1Rm4/Rm5	East

4826-4827	Corridor Area1Rm4/Rm5	East
4828	Trench in southwest of Area1Rm4	Southwest
4829-4831	Trench in southwest of Area1Rm4	Southeast
4832	Trench in southwest of Area1Rm4	Southwest
4833	Trench in southwest of Area1Rm4	Southeast
4834-4835	Section through deposits 235 and 224, Area1Rm4	North
4836	Elevation of walls 269 and 238, Area1Rm4	West
4837	Fabric of southwest corner of Area1Rm4	Southwest
4838	Trench at east of Area3	West
4839-4840	Section 2 Area1Rm2	South
4841-4842	Baulk Area1Rm1	North
4843-4845	Section 1 Area1Rm1	West
4962-4963	High fired brick Area1Rm1	South
4964-4966	Section 4 Area1Rm5	South
4967-4968	Area2Rm1	West
4969-4970	Area2Rm1	North
4971-4972	Trench in northwest of Area2Rm1	West
4973-4976	Walls 269 and 238 Area3	Northeast
4977-4979	Section 5 Area2Rm1	North
4981-4982	Structure 236 Area1Rm1	South
4983-4984	Cobbled floor 240 Area4	East
4858-4985	Bricked up double door Area4	Southeast
4986-4995	Detail of cobbles 240 showing deposit 243 Area4	East
5010-5011	Detail of failed portion of 240	North
5012-5016	Section 7 Area 4	North
5017-5022	Section 8 Area 4	Northeast
5023-5026	Section 9 Area1Rm1	South
5029-5031	Section 10 Area1Rm1	South
5038-5042	Trench in east of Area3	East
5048	Trench in northwest of Area3	North
5049-5050	Section 11 Area3	West
5051	Trench in east of Area3	East
5053	Section 12 Area3	West
5054-5058	Wall 269 Area2Rm3	North
5059-5065	Wall 267 Area2Rm4	South
5066-5070	Wall 269 Area2Rm3	North
5071-5072	Post-holes 255 and 254 Area2Rm2	East
5073-5074	Post-hole 254 Area2Rm2	East
5075, 5077	Post-hole 255 Area2Rm2	East
5078-5079	Post-hole 255 Area2Rm2	North
5080-5081	Post-hole 254 Area2Rm2	North
5082-5085	Post-hole 257 Area2Rm4	East
5086	Post-hole 257 Area2Rm4	North
5087-5088	Post-hole 257 Area2Rm4	East
5089-5090	Post-hole 257 Area2Rm4	North
5091-5092	Post-hole 256 Area2Rm3	East
5093-5094	Post-hole 256 Area2Rm3	South
5095-5067	Post-hole 256 Area2Rm3	North
5098-5101	Post-hole 256 Area2Rm3	East