

Porters Lodge Phases

Phase 1: Roman

Roman walls 5547 & 5245, made of large boulders and rubble, form west & north sides, subsequently become footings for 4610 & 5315 walls.

Phase 3: Brick kiln

Brick kiln cut into clay levelling layers 5524, 5538 & 5707. These layers contain Roman material. Layers similar to the layers on the west side of wall 4610 (FF/F?) and are likely to be part of the same series of deposits. The brick kiln also extends in to the area excavated as FF/G; presumably the clay layers will also be evident there.

The kiln was backfilled, (5778, 5644/5539, and 5775), the vault of the kiln collapsed and a clay layer placed over the remains.

Phase 4b: Corridor walls

The corridor walls were built. 4610 was built over the west wall of the brick kiln and became the western façade of this area. Wall 4976 was the eastern wall of the vaulted corridor and created the eastern corner of the Porters Lodge room.

Potentially the footings of wall 4610 were built as the western wall of an earlier atrium with wall 4610 then being built over to create the 'tunnel' (FF/F) leading from the monks' lower passage into the later atrium. Wall 4976 was built later than 4610 as the eastworks were built on as an extension to the façade of the church. (See trench G description.)

Phase 5a: 9thC room

Wall 5244 then joined walls 4610 and 4976 with wall 5315 forming the northern wall. Subsequent levelling layers were filled in and a partition wall 5601 was built N-S across the area. At this time there was no eastern wall, though perhaps there was a wattle & daub partition (no evidence for) or an arch spanning from wall 4976 to 5315.

Levelling make-up layers were laid with a rough *coccia pesto* floor making the surface. This surface is 50cm higher than the mortar surface outside the room showing there would have been a couple of steps to enter the room. 2 tile features 5246 & 5643 were located on this surface either side of the entrance as you walk in. Suggestions that these were fireplaces come from comparisons from the St Gall plan that show similar features as fireplaces, though it is a little odd to have 2 of them. Similarly if there was an arched entrance to this room here the position of these features would not be efficient for fireplaces, likewise if the partition was of wattle & daub, fireplaces would not be placed against it. Sheila Gibson suggested ornamental functions for these features, rather than fireplaces.

A posthole [5685] in the western half of this room shows perhaps there was a wooden staircase here, and the evidence of a fallen *coccia pesto* floor (5519) in the burning layers of the 881 attack shows there was a first floor to this room. A small partition wall was inserted 5606 N-S across the room from 5244 to 5315 walls, the eastern half of the room created by this division had frescoed walls (5541) & (5550) and the

coccia pesto floor (5486), the western half had no frescos and a rough floor surface (5534).

There was possibly a small window in the eastern half of the north wall 5315, suggested by the finding of a piece of moulded fresco at this end. A groove cut in a block in the western half of the north wall shows evidence for a door, though higher than floor level, perhaps at the level of the first landing of the staircase. Another door was located in the southern wall 5244 leading to the vaulted corridor (FF/G); this was also higher than the floor surface. It is converted into a cupboard with one shelf at a later stage.

To the north of wall 5315 two limestone blocks were uncovered running under the edge of excavation in a northerly direction. It is possible now that these represent one of the walls forming the passageway between San Vincenzo Maggiore and the rest of the monastery to the north. Layers 5333 and 5339 form the levelling clay and possible mortar floor to the east of these blocks and directly outside the doorway in wall 5315, these layers appear to be laid prior to the limestone blocks of the passageway wall being built showing there was an earlier function to this area, probably related to the temporary workshops in Phase 3/4a.

Phase 5b: 9thC re-modelled room

Wall 5508 is built creating the eastern extent of the room with a door in the SE corner. This doorstep was tiled and a thin stain of burning suggests a wooden lintel destroyed in the 881 attack.

Tile feature 5643 in the SE corner was removed and a new floor surface was laid (5609). The room was re-plastered in white (5551) & (5542). The door in the south wall was filled in by this time. On the first floor fine metal work must have been stored or displayed, found in the burnt destruction layers from the 881 attack.

Phase 5c: 881 attack

The room is filled with in-situ burning layers from this attack, (5528) (5522) etc. Floor (5519) from the first floor falls in with the collapse of the wooden staircase and the vault holding it up. A silver coin of Guaimarius (880-901) was found in the burning layer (5528) by the collapsed staircase (SF 1352), a Saracen arrowhead was also found in these burning layers, tying them tightly to the 881 attack. This shows then that the silver coin was only one year in circulation before being lost. Lots of fine metal work and a marble architrave were found in these destruction layers.

Phase 6a: post 9thC kiln

Another kiln (5509)/(5453) was found outside wall 5508, cut into the 881 demolition layers. Does this go with the 11thC re-occupation of the room?

Phase 6b: 11thC occupation

The area was re-modelled; new levelling layers were laid over the burnt destruction layers. A new east wall 5363 was built largely from the debris from the old wall and the north wall appeared to be partially re-built.

A new stairway 5271 was inserted, with a wardrobe, 5470 built beneath it.

Phase 8: Post 11thC abandonment & collapse

The structure collapses and is filled in with many tipped layers of rubble and demolition.