

Trench K description

This trench was opened up in 1993, about 1.4m south of part of the trench FF/G. It measured 7m long E-W and 1.5m wide and was positioned either side of pilaster 5248. The trench was opened to reveal the front of the eastworks wall 4976.

Phase 3

The earliest deposits uncovered were represented by clay layers 5902, 5903 & 5940. These clay layers are either deliberate levelling deposits or represent the natural clay and are equal to 5662 in G, 5538/5707 in H & 5883/5924 in F. In these other areas early kiln activity was found to be cutting these clay layers, here though no kiln was located only waste deposits from the other kilns close by. The earliest construction in this area was boulder wall/foundations 5951, which presumably cuts the clay layers. This construction was possibly part of the foundations for wall 5263 though it is more likely to have been related to boulder wall 5589 in area G as the levels are the same. This relation would put this boulder wall/foundations in the same phase as the tile kiln found in areas G/H/F.

Two floor surfaces were then located abutting 5951 wall; 5952 a cobble and mortar surface, laid directly after the boulder wall was constructed and possibly the same as cobble & mortar surface 5274 in FF/G, and 5948 a degraded mortar & clay floor which was not excavated any further. These surfaces were perhaps the working surfaces relating to the early temporary workshops in use before the church was constructed. It is also likely that wall 5263 was then built, slightly later than these floor layers, perhaps related to the slightly later glass workshop uncovered in FF/F.

Phase 4a/b

The next layer of activity was a mortar floor surface 5829 that covered the whole trench area. This surface appears to be related to the construction of the church, as a series of postholes were seen to be cutting from this level. This floor surface is possibly equal to layer 5553 in FF/G which is also related to the construction of the church. The layers covering these postholes, 5804, 5901 and 5813, as well as the fill 5917 of a pit cutting the floor, all had kiln debris and waste inclusions such as bits of crucible, slag, iron and bronze waste and even some fragments of the flue construction, showing these layers to be levelling deposits covering the temporary workshops. Potentially these layers are the same phase of layers as 5578 and 5579 in FF/G which also were rich in glass kiln waste and bell-mould fragments.

Phase 4b/5a

After the construction of wall 4610 and the atrium in FF/F and FF/G another 2 clay levelling deposits were laid, 5803 and 5802 with a floor surface 5791 laid on top. This floor may well have been part of the surface outside the main façade of the church; it is then, along with layer 5579 in FF/G, cut by the construction cut 5956 for the eastworks wall 4976. After this wall was constructed the Porters Lodge room and bell tower (C-2) were built to complete the eastworks façade.

The sequence after the construction of the eastworks is just plain demolition debris 5742, a robber cut to remove the masonry and the final collapse of the terracing before it is all covered in **modern topsoil**.