

Section 17 Introduction to the structural analysis

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Cross-references to Digital Sections and illustrations in red
Cross-references to Printed Sections and illustrations in brown

As stated in the acknowledgements, I am indebted to those archaeologists who undertook preliminary structural analysis which enabled me to take matters further. The form of the report, descriptions, and the interpretation are my responsibility. All structural evidence is highly structured to maximise information in minimum space. This has allowed effective cross-referencing to take place between the various structural sections and other evidence. A notable addition is the application of spatial analysis which has allowed some of the early stratigraphic time zones to be subdivided, and has had a substantial effect on reconstructions of ground plans and superstructures. Where there are viable alternative interpretations both are provided with the preference indicated and the reason why.

It will rapidly become apparent that some contexts have been allotted flexible phasing; this applies to deposits which had been open or viable for more than one phase. It is important to note that the convention of using the last phase has not been adhered to in the structural report. Finds from such linked contexts retain the full time span allotted to them, and could have derived from the beginning, middle, or end of that span. This is reflected in the Dating and Material Culture Sequences (D&MCS) [13.01–13.12] which are summaries of all finds from stratified buildings, including environmental material; they are sorted by building and phase including linked phases. Finds assemblages can be read without imposed date restrictions. While the report is anchored by **Structures**, the labelling of contexts and finds indicate whether they relate directly to structures and their interiors, or whether they were outside/associated with the building, in which case they have the suffix [A]; if they relate to destruction levels they have the suffix [D]. They are cross referenced with the specialists' catalogues, which they are expected to complement, and may stimulate further research.

Structures were numbered in date order of construction; however, spatial analysis undertaken late in the post-excavation programme clarified 'new' individual structures which were given the next available numbers [19–28]. Buildings are in numerical order, but 'new' buildings are noted at the appropriate time-slot for phasing. Two charts are provided: [1.08=13.16] gives structures in their number order; [18.09] arranges them by construction date. Structures thus displaced can easily be recombined. Some structures eg **S103** and **S73** lack stratigraphic and/or finds evidence, though structural comparisons and their apparent position within the initial organised layout of the site would most probably place them in the mid-11th century or the early part of the 12th.

All structure descriptions follow a set order for ease of comparison and include a table showing stratigraphic phasing and duration and a mini matrix for structural context. Location, duration, construction evidence, and underlying and sealing deposits are indicated. Construction and repair techniques (CT and RT) for erecting a building refer to methods used at La Grava [18]. Other structural elements quoted within the descriptions are also colour coded: subsidiary structures such as ovens, kilns, and hearths (**SS**) and cut features such as ditches, drains, and pits (**CF**). These features can be found in separate sections as can yards, floors, roofs, and walling. Trenches are prefixed T, Yards Y, and Routes Rt.

Simple matrices show relationships with other buildings. They are cross-referenced to Dating and Material Culture Sequences. It was impracticable to show all contexts in text or on drawings, but listings should meet the needs of specialist research, especially when combined with the expert reports.

Key Finds Contexts (finds selected by the specialists for their significance) are listed where appropriate at the head of the structure description; finds are shown in selective tables by date and type, divided into ceramic and non-ceramic items, providing information about type of context, phase, and date of object. Not all are catalogued finds, but have been selected to give optimum information regarding date and activity. Catalogue numbers for both are listed together with the principal structural illustrations; Structure numbers and building artefacts in **purple**, activity artefacts in **green**. Cross-references to the printed volume are in **brown**; cross-references to the digital supplement are **red**.

A hierarchy of terms describes the location of individual structures. Trench numbers and/or mechanical stripping codes are given. During the later stages of post-excavation, Sector numbers representing landscape and building groupings were given to major discrete areas of the complex; broadly the northern court is Sector 1, the southern court Sector 2, and the complex to the north-east is Sector 3. These are different from the Areas into which the site was divided areas for analysis, as described in [68 Methods, especially Key to terminology, and see also 14.03] . See also the sections on enclosures, routes, and yards [14, 15, 16]. The further sub-division of areas and Sectors into Yards or open spaces directly related to associated buildings allows structures to be seen in context, and discarded finds associated. This is particularly important where buildings were cleaned in antiquity or did not generate material.