

## **5\_2\_1\_1\_House\_A9 (Chapman et al. 2015)**

In the earliest part of the 2009 geophysical investigations, parts of the two major house circuits defining the Nebelivka plan were revealed, enabling the early choice of a dwelling house (A9) for excavation during that season. The contours of the excavated house rubble coincided closely with the archaeo-magnetic plot, which showed a narrower Southern part and a wider Northern part of the dwelling. In some cases, a geophysical anomaly was registered even where parts of the house were totally destroyed by ploughing. The total excavated area was 236 m<sup>2</sup>, with a recording grid set to 2x2 m ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_6\\_PLANS\\_&\\_SECTIONS/5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_6\\_Plan\\_of\\_House\\_A9](#)). The remains of the building consisted of burnt daub found at depths of 0.25 - 0.4m. The investigated area was on a slope and the difference in height between the ends of the burnt daub was up to 1.3 m. The burnt daub scatter had a rectangular shape and was nearly 18m in length and 4.5 – 5.6m in width ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E1\\_house\\_after\\_excavation](#)). This area consisted of two rooms: a Northern, trapezoidal room measuring 10.5m (North - South) in length and 4.1m (Northern part) -7m (Southern part) in width; and a Southern, rectangular room, measuring 5 - 5.5m (North - South) in length and 4.3m in width. In the southwest part of the scatter, an area of daub was found that remained outside the area of compact rubble. The edges of the excavated area lay 1.5 – 3.5 m from the edge of the compact daub, allowing the investigation of the culture layer surrounding the building.

The density of artifacts in the culture layer was uneven; the fill contained small pieces of pottery ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E2\\_pottery\\_found\\_under\\_daub](#)), fragments of bones and several fragments from anthropomorphic figurines. In the Northern sector, two scatters of similar material were found located opposite the short side of the building at 1 – 1.5 m from its end. Most probably there were 2 pits (Pits 1 and 2) - 1.2 -1.5 m in diameter and up to 0.2 m deep as measured from the basal level of the rubble. The outlines of the pits were only traceable by the concentration of the material. They contained sherds of different sizes and types of vessels, animal bones - mostly domestic cattle - and three fragments of anthropomorphic figurines.

In the Eastern and the Western sectors, small sherds and fragmented bones from domestic animals prevail, ranging from 10 – 15 to 32 – 40 by grid square. There are some pottery

scatters in the Southwest sector right next to the building remains, where a fragment of an anthropomorphic figurine was found ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E3\\_figurine\\_SF23\\_in\\_situ](#)). It is possible that part of the pottery was spread from the house by ploughing, since in this particular area the depth of the culture layer was only 0.2 – 0.3 m. But these scatters may also represent pits (Pits 3 and 4).

The burnt daub was identified along its entire area ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E4\\_NW\\_sector](#)). The building remains consisted mainly of pieces of burnt daub mixed with the remains of threshed cereals/grasses. The surface and the cross-section of the daub contain visible traces of stubble, ears and grains of cereals and/or grasses. The smooth part of the daub faced up; some pieces have traces of smoothing by hand. On most pieces, the lower part of daub had the imprints of a wooden post, including longitudinally-cut beams of timber 15 – 25cm in diameter. In one area, matching pieces of daub with wood impressions were traced over 2 m in length ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E5\\_linear\\_impressions\\_in\\_daub](#)).

The direction of the most of the pieces with wood impressions was across the long axis of the building. This observation is valid for the whole rubble area, indicating the direction in which the timber ceiling fell. In some places outside the main rubble area, there were daub fragments with impressions that were parallel to the long axis of the building. Fragments with impressions of rods 2 – 2.5cm in diameter were also found there ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E6\\_wattle\\_impressions\\_in\\_daub](#)). It is possible that these fragments are the remains of walls that have fallen outside the house.

In addition, impressions of three vertical posts 8 to 12cm in diameter ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E7\\_beam\\_impressions\\_in\\_daub](#)) were also identified in the Northern room, which most probably supported some sort of a structure. In general, there were no traces of postholes, which suggests that the posts were inserted into sleeper beams. In one area of the Northern room, there were two layers of burnt daub without plant temper, forming a total thickness of 25-30 cm. This suggested that different walls had fallen in two layers. The lower layer (15 – 18 cm in thickness) had wood impressions on its lower side. Three pieces of daub from this layer had impressions from vertical poles. The upper layer consisted of thinner pieces – from 5 to 8 cm – and were smoothed on both sides. They were initially placed over a massive underlying layer.

Each room had its own platform. The Northern room had a larger platform, covering 2m x 2m. ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E8\\_larger\\_platform](#)). The Southern room had its own platform, measuring c.1m x 1m but with an indistinct outline, found under the rubble in a different part of the building ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E9\\_smaller\\_platform](#)). Both platforms consisted of three layers of clay mixed with sand (each 20-25 cm thick), the lowest of which had been laid directly on the ground surface ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E10layers\\_of\\_smaller\\_platform](#)). The next layers were laid during later repairs. The remains of a large vessel and a flask ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E11\\_flask\\_near\\_smaller\\_platform](#)), as well as some stones, including one grindstone ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E12\\_grindstone\\_near\\_smaller\\_platform](#)), were found next to the platform of the Northern room.

The remains of five large vessels of different shapes, five bowls, four small vessels and three binocular vessels were found within or right next to the rubble. The majority of the vessels were incomplete mainly due to ploughing. A total of 18 figurines was found within the house (e.g., [ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E14\\_figurine\\_SF25\\_in\\_situ](#)), all of which were fragmentary and none of which re-fitted with other pieces. Thus, fragments of one binocular vessel were found 3m apart ([ADS LINK TO 5\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1\\_EXCAVATION\\_PHOTOS/A9\\_E14\\_binocular\\_vase\\_in\\_situ](#)).

The investigation of the rubble suggests its reconstruction as a single-storey, two-roomed building. The ground floor had an earthen floor and each room was equipped with a platform. The Southern room had a smaller platform, with vessels and two small grinding stones nearby; the Northern room had a larger platform associated with a cluster of pottery. The construction of House A9 is typical for Trypillia settlements in this region. It was destroyed as a result of a massive fire as evident from the burnt daub, some of which was vitrified.