

Queen Mica's Scintillant Palace:

North Wing, Level 5

These notes concern details for the locations in the fifth and lowest subterranean Level of the North Wing to Queen Mica's Scintillant Palace. Information regarding the Palace as a whole, including aspects of its physical features and the overall map layout and creation mechanisms not discussed here, can be found in the notes with the Queen Mica's Scintillant Palace Level 1 map elsewhere in the Atlas.

The passages and most chambers on this Level can be assumed as roughly 10 feet, 3 metres, high, with floors and ceilings of similarly irregular character to the mapped walls, where not noted otherwise. The passages can be considered as loosely circular in cross-section, so about as high as they are wide, where that may be important. Each level in the Palace complex is vertically separated from the next by an average of 50 ft, 15 m, from the floor of the higher level to the ceiling of the lower. The angle shown on the map for the tunnel that connects between levels here is based on this assumed separation distance, and is approximate only, especially given the irregular form of all the interior surfaces. Chambers on a given Level are not all at the same depth as one another. Places with warmer air will often be higher than the average, for instance.

GMs wishing to continue the illusory nature of the Palace complex as outlined in the main Palace Level 1 discussions, where the whole is a hilltop Faerie castle with high towers, should continue to invert the general nature of the floorplan here - so this Level would be the highest above ground-level, with appropriate window and balcony views out over the surrounding countryside north of the Palace's hilltop site and parts of the neighbouring Palace - and adapt the content of the chambers accordingly, much as was done among the Level 1 "Illusory" comments.

The four Palace Wings are each separate complexes to the main Palace, which is central to all. Only Level 1 of this North Wing connects directly with the main Palace.

Most of the Wings are not used regularly by the colony, although sometimes a large part of the colony's activities may be moved into one or other Wing for a time (usually a season or so). Consequently, there is often less likelihood of meeting any of the colony's inhabitants in such little-used Wings, for which very few notes have been added on the potential uses the chambers may be put to.

Regarding the North Wing particularly, the layout here is very vertical across five separate Levels, much like the main Palace itself, so if retaining part of the illusory nature of the Palace, this Wing might be best imagined as containing some of the tallest towers in the whole complex, and this Level represents their topmost parts.

Features of Level N5

* **Tunnel N5.1:** The oval tunnel from N4.15 descends vertically through the ceiling here into a minor widening of a north-south aligned tunnel. An approximately 5 ft high, 1.5 m, pile of dirt and debris forms an arrival mound-ramp below the chute's exit. A humming noise is often heard nearby.

* **Chamber N5.2:** An especially large, irregular Chamber, probably the largest in the whole North Wing complex, if one that seems to be still under construction, when any

ants are here at all, judging by the scattered debris across the floor, and in the adjoining Chamber N 5.3 to the east. The air here is very dry. Aside from the short passage east into N5.3, another, much longer, tunnel, leads off to the south past the ceiling exit to Tunnel N5.1, eventually to Chamber N5.5.

* **Chamber N5.3:** Another irregular, larger, unfinished Chamber, just east of the near-adjacent N5.2, and with a similar scatter of rubble and debris across parts of its floor. There is a strong smell of corrupted wounds in here.

* **Chamber N5.4:** Opening directly off the east side of the southern part of the tunnel between N5.2 and N5.5, a short way south of the exit to Tunnel N5.1, this is a fairly regularly-cut area, with iridescent patches across its floor, walls and parts of the ceiling, visible in any light brought into it. These were perhaps deposited here by mineralised water seeping down from somewhere above, for all the Chamber seems ordinarily dry.

* **Chamber N5.5:** A hot, east-west elongated oval Chamber, towards the south end of the Level's primary, long, passageway south from N5.2, with only Chamber N5.6, which immediately connects with its southern side, lying further south. As this Chamber is on roughly the same horizontal plane as the rest of the southern end of this Level, why it should be quite so hot is most unclear.

* **Chamber N5.6:** Another oval Chamber, slightly smaller than N5.5, and aligned north-south on its long axis, although it links directly into that Chamber on its southern side. Unlike N5.5, its temperature is quite normal. There are a number of stalagmites rising from the floor, with stalactites above, although there is a substantial separation between each pair.