

Comment on the Eastern Profile A20

The stratigraphic evidence in the eastern profile of Trench A20 is very complex. The northern part of the trench is dominated by a (pre-) modern ditch construction which cuts through the early Holocene layers down to – 2.40/-2.50 m on a width of at least 3m (the northern end is not recorded). Like in A71/A83 and in A5 the pit then narrows to an about 1 m large ditch which cuts through all layers down to the bottom of the excavated levels (-4.00). The bottom of the ditch has not been reached. Interestingly, akin to Trench A71, in the middle part of the ditch-construction a bloc of early Holocene layers remained.

The second important construction is a huge pit, probably of early Holocene age, which is dug down to ~ 3.50 m. It comprises two main filling phases and thus probably was a semi-subterranean building with two building phases. Many anthropogenic layers cover this building, including two burials.

South of that building massive remains of clay (46) were observed in the southern part of the profile. Though most layers continue in the eastern profile of Trench A5 this layer is neither encountered in that profile nor in the northern profile of Trench A5. So, given its thickness and massiveness, it possibly represents a cut-through wall. Below that compact clay, a multi-layered sediment (47) separates the Younger Dryas layers from the Early Holocene ones.

Within the mostly homogeneous Younger Dryas layers two postholes indicate settlement activities during that phase, but no complete structures of that age were discernible in the profile. The charcoal patches and clay lenses rather suggest an outside area with some fireplaces.

The Layers 12-13, 16, 20-25, 31 are of uncertain chronological position. They might either be of (pre-) modern/Middle Age or of early Holocene Age. The layers 17-18, 54 and 56 might either be of early Holocene Age or of Younger Dryas Age. The natural soil has not been reached in this profile. The transition from the early Holocene layers to the Younger Dryas layers is marked by a multi-layered silt sediment (47 and probably the upper parts of layer 18).

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