

## **Comment on the southern Profile A25 / A28**

The combined southern profile of A28 and A25 is of high importance, beside other reasons, because it is the only well documented east-west profile in the northwestern part of the tell. Unfortunately natural soil has not been reached here, but from the evidence of the eastern profile of Trench A80, which abuts to Trench A25 directly in the southwest, it can be supposed that natural soil should be encountered at max. – 4.80 m or at a slightly higher level.

Three graves [M8 of A28 and M 13/M17 of A25] and the correlation of the layers in Trench A80 (eastern profile) prove the early Holocene age of most layers, except for layer 1 and 3 which probably correlate with the walls W1 and W2 in Trench A80. These walls were built of moulded clay bricks. Given that no moulded clay bricks of early Holocene age were found on the tell, this construction, and thus layers 1 and 3 too, should be attributed to (pre-) modern times.

The upper part of Trench A28 and A25 is characterized by many clay floors and constructional details thus indicating an intense settlement activity in this area during the early Holocene. Three graves have been dug down through the floors. Interestingly, east of M17, A25, a sand layer was observed which seems to belong to the preparation of the floor for the grave. Such sand layers have been encountered beneath and beside several graves. In a similar vein, the accumulation of charcoal (13) might be in relation with burial activities for M8.

Layer 27 can be correlated with the pit of Phase IV' in the east profile of Trench A80. It thus represents a transitional phase which might either be of Younger Dryas Age or early Holocene Age. Neither the character of the layers (dark silt with only very thin clay and pure sand layers) nor the radiocarbon dates allow for a clear attribution.

The isolated block (30) with thin anthropogenic layers between two huge depressions filled with dark brown loamy-to-sandy silt (28/29) is rather strange and indicates major destructions during or towards the end of the Younger Dryas occupation.