Körtik Tepe 2012

Part 2

Internal Stratigraphic Report

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Preliminary Notes

This stratigraphic documentation is based on the drawings and descriptions of Filiz Doğan. Two profiles (A135) were drawn and documented by Corinna Rößner. Eveline Zimmermann took measurements of the profiles and Marion Benz digitalized the drawings (see photo documentation KTK 12-Vol. 2) and wrote the English translation of the descriptions, the comments and constructed the Harris Matrixes. The two lines in the matrixes indicate the border the Early Holocene and to the Younger Dryas layers, respectively.
This documentation should be considered a basis for a discussion of the stratigraphy of the tell. Without knowing the findings, it is actually impossible to provide secure chronological attributions, especially for the most upper parts of the site. So, we are aware, that this report probably does need major revisions and additional information, without which it will not be possible to gain a conclusive model of the stratigraphy.
References refer to the figures in the photo documentation KTK 12-Vol.2. Scans of the original drawings are stored on the CD.

A 5 North Profile [Fig. 1]

(Description on the original drawing FD 22/8/12):

M1- probably Middle Age; covering stones are inclined (~30° NW-SE); M1 cuts through Layer 2.
1: Filling of M1, brown sandy silt
2: compact clay, yellow-ochre, without inclusions
3: black-brown silty sand (Su3)
4: compact clay possibly = eastern part of Layer 6
5: =P 1; brown, slightly sandy silt, cuts through Layer 8; with bones (animal?)
6: grey-ochre clay possibly = western part of Layer 4
7: brown-grey silt, with some thin clay layers / lenses
8: = F1; compact clay, yellow-ochre, cut through by 5
9: compact clay, yellow-ochre, possibly eastern part of 8, destroyed by 7
10: = P2; grey-brown silt, sandy, with small gravel and pebbles
11: = F2; compact clay, yellow-ochre
12: light-grey sediment, cut through by 10 (P2), above 11
13: multi-layered light-to-dark-grey sediment with clay layers and charcoal
14: = F3; compact clay, yellow-ochre.
15: Charcoal, burnt layer, sunk into F3
16: Grey-brown, sandy silt with a high amount of charcoal and clay lenses.
17: =F4; yellow/ochre clay less compact than F1/F3; no inclusions except for some bone fragments.
18: Concentration of up-to-fist sized pebbles; there is a lot of charcoal abutting on the eastern and western side to them → remains of a wall “W1”?
19: = F5; compact clay, yellow-ochre
20:= P3 with several filling layers and a lot of charcoal at the bottom
21:=P4 grey brown silty sand with concentrations of charcoal. Western border and bottom clearly distinguishable, less clear in the eastern part; cuts through: 24-25; 28 and27-28.
22:=P5; middle-grey loose sediment, depth 36 cm; cuts through 16
23:=F6; multi-layered clay floor with sandy silt and a charcoal layer beneath the first clay layer.
24: sandy filling with bone fragments; dug into 25, cut through by 21.
25: = F7; decaying clay floor, cut through by 28, 24, and 21. Possibly western part of 23.
26: beneath F7, charcoal layer, more massive than in 23, possibly the western part of 23, cut through by 28.
27: no description recorded

28: grey-brown sediment with clay lenses , stones and charcoal.
29: lensis of ochre and very sandy sediment below
30: =P6; silt filling with clay layers
31: concentration of pebbles, clearly different from the surrounding sediment 28.
32: charcoal
33: multi-layered dark-brown silty sediment.
34: brown clayey silt, some clay lenses.
35: clayey silt, with some pebbles and gravel.
36: multi-layered filling of a huge pit/slope from the eastern part to the middle of the trench. The clay content of the sediments increases until the bottom of the pit/slope.
37: natural soil: pure yellow-orange clay.

Comment: Layer 1-13 are probably of Middle Age (s. East Profile A5-A15). Down to -360 cm the layers are fairly horizontal. The multi-layered dark-brown silt layer (33) separates the Holocene layers with clay floors, remains of a stone wall, and other anthropological disturbances (pits, patches of charcoal etc.), from the Younger Dryas silt sediments. The YD homogenous silt layer (34) with some gravel and patches of clay starts at -310 cm in the East, slightly sloping downwards to the middle (-330 cm), rising again on the western border to -320 cm. At – 360 cm a huge pit or slope inclines downwards from E-W in a 30° angle. At – 440 cm first remains of the natural soil were encountered in the eastern part. Four clay floors are probably of Early Holocene Age, of which F6/F7 was renovated at least once.

For the Harris Matrix see the combined Harris Matrix of A20, A05, A15 East and A05 North (Appendix I).

A 5 East Profile [Fig. 2]
(Dairy FD page 27-30; 2/09/12)

1: compact clay, yellow-ochre, without inclusions
2: = P2: brown to ochre coloured clay-sand sediment, with some gravel and bone fragments.
3: = P1: brown, very loose sandy silt, fairly any inclusions
4: clay, very hard, except for some middle-sized gravel no inclusions
5: yellow-ochre clay, getting thinner to the north.
6: brown-grey sandy sediment, very crumbly, some charcoal. (Pit?)
7: sandy silt with layers of clay and some flints.
8: multi-layered sediment of sandy clay and sandy silt, some burnt clay.
9: ash, sand sediment with some burnt clay.
10: = P3 black-grey, very sandy silt; some charcoal, clay lenses, bone fragments.
11: Sequence of fine clay layers.
12: light-green, loamy layer
13: clay layer with many crumbles of lime inclusions.
14: Multi-layered sequence of clay, silt, ash.
15: Layer with many charcoal fragments, some flints and ash layers
16: Filling layers of round ditch structure (multi-layered)
17: compact clay, very hard
18: black-grey layer; sandy, some burnt clay.
19: multi-layered sediment thinning out to the north: From the top to the bottom:
I - very hard, yellow clay; II - grey-brown loamy sediment, some charcoal; III - charcoal layer; IV - similar to II; V fine, sandy clay; VI Ash-charcoal sediment with burnt clay, VII - clay, VIII – similar to II; IX – silt with a lot of lime
20: very compact, clayey, sandy grey-brown sediment with a lot of lime pieces, 1 obsidian.
21: compact, ochre-greyish silt with large lenses of lime; gravel and pebbles, and some charcoal.

22: charcoal layer with middle sized pieces of charcoal, ash and some burnt clay.
23: fine, light grey-whitish thin ash layer, fluffy, fibrous.
24: clay layer, separated by a thin sand layer
25: Ditch which is covered (like in A71/A83/A101) with a fibrous light-grey-white ash layer (23).The border of the ditch is clearly separated off the older sediments by washed out lime bands. The ditch was excavated only partly. The filling of the ditch consists of different brown-grey silt sediments, with clay lenses and a lot of charcoal and lime inclusions.
26: clayey-silty layer with a lot of charcoal, clay lenses and some bone fragments
27: dark grey sandy silt with a lot of charcoal
28: similar to 27, but lighter coloured.
29: clay, with grey, sandy silt sediments; some lime and charcoal.
30: silt, light-brown; some gravel and charcoal.
31: light-brown, alternating sandy silt, in the lowest part there is a thin layer of charcoal
32: brown-to-dark-brown, compact, sandy silt, with some fine gravel and inclusions of charcoal, lime, thin layers and patches of clay.
33: multilayered dark-brown silty sediment (= probably 47 of A20 and 33 of A5 North Profile).
34: similar to 32.
35: dark-brown, mealy, slightly loamy silt, noticeable share of gravel and fine gravel
36: similar to 35, but less gavel.
37: dark-brown-sandy silt.
38: like 37, but lighter and slightly loamy
39: sandy, loamy silt
40: sandy loamy silt with thin clay layers
41: dark grey-brown, very mealy, loamy silt
42: dark-brown, loamy silt
43: light-brown, silty clay, a little charcoal and some gravel
44: natural soil: compact plain orange-yellow clay.
Comment: The southern part of the east profile of Trench A5 is dominated by a ditch, which cuts through all Holocene and Younger Dryas layers, and by the younger fillings probably of middle age or younger (Layers: 1-17; 22-23; 25-26). The northern part comprises several mutli-layered floors alternating with filling and trash layers. Beneath layer 29, the sediments become more and more silty and dark. Like in the northern profile, the multi-layered dark-brown silt layer (33) probably separates the Holocene layers from the Younger Dryas silt sediments. Below the homogenous silt layer (36), several layers of charcoal, clay and cultural debris alternate down to the natural soil at - 442 cm.
The ditch structure is astonishingly similar to the round ditch structure of Trench A71/A83. The thin charcoal/ash layer (23) which was also observed in A71/83, covers the whole inner space of the ditch, here too. It is encountered at a similar height (between -250cm sloping slightly down above the ditch to -270 cm). If the ditch structure is round, it must have been cut through by the eastern profile at its most western part, so that in the profile, there is only one ditch visible. Given the measurements in the profile and the drawings of stone structures in A5/A15, the reconstructed diameter of this structure is about 3,60-4 m for the outer border. So it would be about 2 m smaller than the diameter of the ditch in A71/A83.
In contrast to A 71/A 83, no surrounding clay construction was recorded, but it might be that layer 17, a massive clay layer, is the decayed remain of such a structure. The upper filling layers of the ditch continue into the northern profile, where they are cut through be M1.
Unfortunately, this grave is of very recent age, so it does not give any clue for the dating of the round-ditch-structure.

For the Harris Matrix see the combined Harris Matrix of A20, A05, A15 East and A05 North (Appendix I)

A 15 East Profile [Fig. 3]

(Information on original drawing FD 1/09/12)

1: pit with filling of brown, very crumbly, silty sand.
2: clay= 4 (A5, Eastern profile)
3: multi-layered sediment, mainly silt, some thin clay layers
4: loamy silt sediment = 26 (A5, Eastern profile)
5: clay, with alternating layers of sand, silt, charcoal and lime
6: compact clay, very hard
7: grey-brown, sandy silt with a lot of charcoal.

Comment: In the northern part of the eastern profile of A15, which abuts directly to the eastern profile of A5, the southern border of the modern/or pre-modern ditch is clearly discernible (3-4). A pit, filled with silty sand, abuts to it on the southern edge, but again no remains of a surrounding clay structure are clearly visible in the profile, although layer 26 might represent a decaying clay wall. The ditch cuts through a sequence of clay, silt, and charcoal layers, which seem to contain very few artifacts and bones and thus probably indicate the edge - or at least an outside part - of the settlement. A massive clay intrusion dominates the southern part of the profile from -1.80-2.70 m. Below it, layer 7 probably corresponds to layer 27 of the eastern profile of Trench A5. Neither the YD-layers, nor the natural soil were reached in Trench A15.

For the Harris Matrix see the combined Harris Matrix of A20, A05, A15 East and A05 North (Appendix I).

A 19 South Profile [Fig.4]

(description on the original drawing FD 04/09/12):

1: Clay with cracks.
2: compact clay, yellow-ochre, without cracks
3: light-coloured clay, compact.
4: compact clay dark- ochre-coloured.
5: compact clay, light-coloured
6: = 4
7: yellow clay
8: gray sand
9: sandy silt with pieces of burnt clay and charcoal.
10: very compact clay with lime precipitations
11: dark-grey silt (Su3), a lot of charcoal, some burnt clay
12: clay
13: dark clay
14: dark brown silt-sand
15: brown silt, crumbly, with inclusions of lime and charcoal.
16: compact, light grey, sandy silt, some charcoal.
17: dark brown , charcoal, burnt clay
18: multilayered filling layer with very fine layers of charcoal, silt (Su), lime, sandy clay, ash and compact clay.
19: light-coloured clay
20: dark clay
21: filling with silty clay, concentration of charcoal at the bottom
22: clay
23: clay
24: silty sand
25: clay with fissures.

26: silty sand
27: compact but crumbly silty clay with charcoal, a lot of gravel and small pebbles, burnt clay.
28: clay
29: sandy silt, charcoal
30: very crumbly sediment
31: clay
32: sandy silt with charcoal, thin layer of burnt clay at the top.
33: compact clay
34: clay
35: very sandy, yellow clay.
36: clay-silt sediment, charcoal, precipitations of lime.
37: like 36 but with a lot of charcoal.
38: clay
39: multi-layered sediment (from top to bottom: lime, red-brown sand, clayey sand, ash, dark-grey sediment and a crumbly sand layer).
40 clay with some charcoal
41: compact silt
42: loamy silt, with a compact clay patch, charcoal
43: grey silt with some charcoal
44: sediment with a lot of clay lenses.
45: brown, loamy silt, stones.
46: clay
47: very fine sandy layer
48: pit with several filling layers (from top to bottom): fine sand, silt, loamy sediment, silty with some ash, sand, loamy silt, precipitations of lime.
49: dark clay; the border on the eastern side is not very clear (to layer 21)
50: clay mixed with pebbles (floor), bending slightly upwards at the western border.
51: fine sand layer with charcoal.
52: very compact, dark clay, bending upwards at its western border in a 90°-angle.
53: below 52, clay lumps pressed into the sandy sediment below 52.
54: silty clay, L4, charcoal.
55: soft, dark-brown; loamy silt, charcoal, lime, fine layers of clay in the western part.

A 19a (continuation in the west of A19) (Description on the original drawing by FD 12.09.12). In the digital picture both drawings were fused and layers were relabeled in order to avoid the doubling of numbers. The original numbers of the drawing are given in square brackets.

22/23 [3]: clay, crumbly
24 [4]: sandy silt [24]
25 [5]: clay
26 [6]: =24
27 [7]: silty clay
34 [8]: clay
35 [12]: clay
56 [1]: sandy filling
57 [2]: pit [filling of the pre-modern ditch s. eastern profile A20], sandy silt with some crumbly clay.
58 [10]: clay (wall?)
59 [9]: dark-grey-to-black, very sandy silt with some thin layers of burnt clay
60 [11]: clay

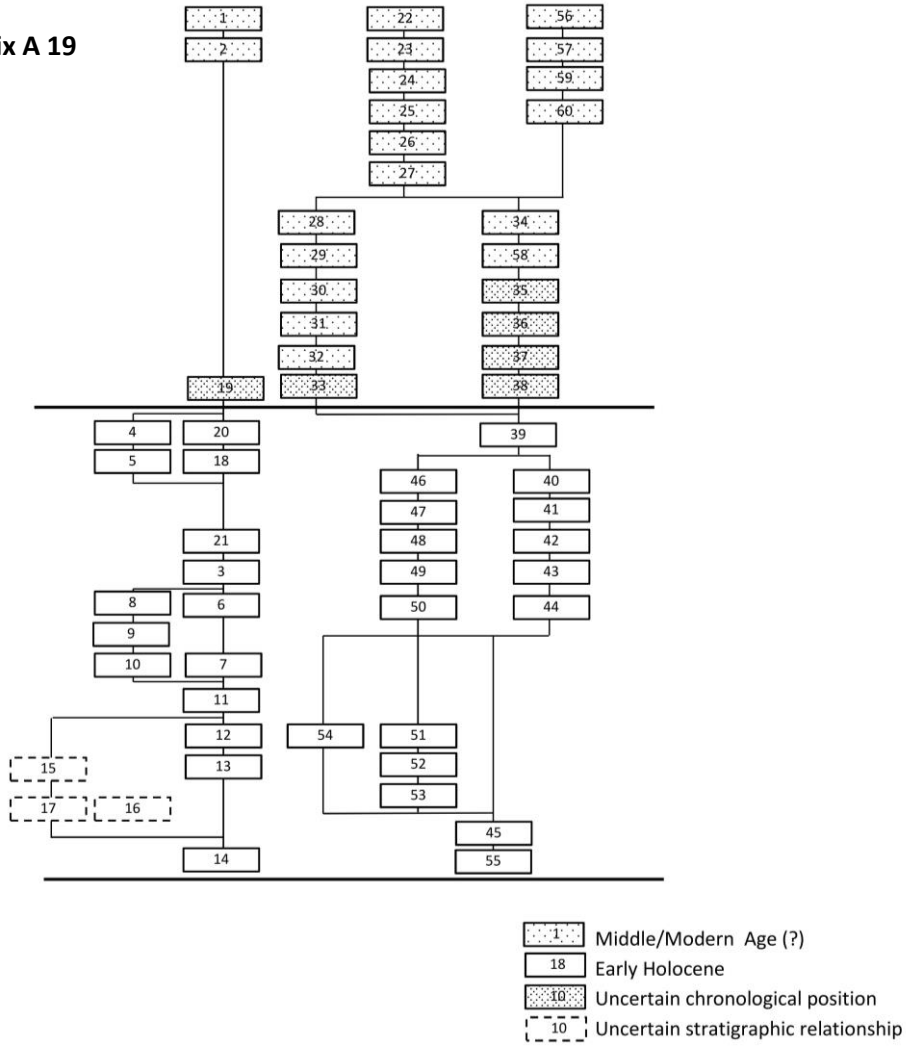
Comment: In Trench A 19, the amount of clay is unusually high and the clay layers are very massive. Most of them seem to be of (pre-)modern age. This holds definitely true for the layers

1-2; 22-27; 34, 58-60. Layers 56-57 are identical to the filling of the ditch construction well-visible in the eastern profile of A20 and are thus definitely of (pre-)modern age.
It is highly probable that the building construction with the eastern clay wall [3] and the multilayered filling [18-20] and the floor [51/52] and wall constructions [49, 52] belong to an early Holocene building, but without knowing the findings it cannot be excluded that they date to the Middle Age or to a more recent epoch.
The house is dug into earlier sediments and constructed by a massive clay floor mixed with a layer of pebbles and with massive clay walls, up to 70 cm high. Interestingly, the multilayered filling is only in the eastern part, whereas the western part is filled with dislocated clay. At the bottom, east of wall 49 there must have been a clay construction which hindered layers to be accumulated. Given the high amount of charcoal and burnt clay in that area, it might be suggested that this was a built hearth or oven.

In the lower part of the eastern section, the stratigraphic sequence is less clear. Especially the course of Layer 4 is difficult to explain, but its shape is proven in the photo [ID: 2662]. Possibly there was a massive clay wall [Layer 3] and a clay floor [Layer 5] in between which an organic obstacle caused an open space when it was decaying. Layer 4 filled this space and intruded even into the softer sediment below the floor [5]. When the wall [Layer 3] was decaying, its upper parts softened and deposited over Layer 4, by that causing an inversed stratigraphic order. Layers 10 and 7 probably belong to the same decaying clay floor.

The stratigraphic position of the unexcavated bloc is not clear. Unfortunately it has not been taken away. The extension of the early phase of the building (layers 12-13, 50-52) is therefore difficult to discern.

Harris Matrix A 19



A 20 East Profile [Fig. 5]

(Dairy FD page 9-19; 2/09/12)

NB: numbers in square brackets indicate the number of possible corresponding layers in the eastern profile of Trench A5 which abuts to A20 in the south separated only by a walking path.

1: dark-brown silty sand
2: horizontal alignment of pebbles
3: =1
4: yellow-ochre very crumbly clay
5: =1
6: very hard, light-grey layer
7: hard, grey-yellow sediment with gravel, red clay inclusions, a little charcoal
8: middle-grey, very hard sediment, some middle-sized pebbles
9: ochre-grey coloured sediment with large clay lumps, with sandy silt and charcoal in between.
10: = fine, light grey-whitish ash layer, fluffy, fibrous, sloping down above the ditch structure.
11: very thin carbonate/lime layer below 10
12: ochre-coloured thin clay layer
13: brown-ochre-coloured, very sandy clay without any inclusions
14: brown silty clay.
15: filling of the ditch; very soft and sand sediment
16: layer of ash and charcoal with middle sized pebbles in the sediment
17: brown-grey, sandy ash and charcoal layer with whole pieces of charcoal and baubles of lime.
18: multi-layered sediment with very thin layers of ash and charcoal. The upper layers contain more ash and charcoal whereas to the bottom of the layer the content of sand increases. The layers are thinning out to the north and disappear. 28 is cut through by 17.
19: ochre-coloured clay, very hard and compact, separated from 20 by a fine horizontal grey-brown sand layer [probably =1].
20: ochre-coloured clay, about 50 cm thick, very hard and compact, a thin horizontal sand layer segments it in two layers; some charcoal inclusions; destroyed in the north by a huge pit for the ditch construction (s. comment; [=5]).
21: middle-grey-brown layer of silty sand (Su2). Very thin, but clearly distinguishable of Layers 20 and 22 [= the upper layer of 8]. → above the ditch → of recent age
22: thin, horizontal, ochre-coloured clay layer separating 21 from 23, very hard and compact.
23: middle-grey, silty sand (Su3), crumbly, but compact with some small clay lenses, a lot of charcoal, isolated pieces of red clay, some pebbles and tiny crumbles of lime [=middle part of 8].
24: ochre-coloured clay layer, max. 20 cm thick, very hard and compact, thinning out in southern direction, destroyed by the (excavation-) pit of the grave M1. [=9]→ chronological position unclear, possibly of Middle Age or more recent age, but it could also be of early Holocene age.
25: isolated compact clay patches either of layer 19 or 20.
26: = P1, pit, depth 40 cm; width ~ 60 cm; nearly rectangular. Horizontal bottom, both borders are nearly orthogonal to the bottom but slighty bending to the south; dug into 31, cuts through 24, 29 and 30. Filling of grey-brown crumbly silt (Su 2), with a lot of charcoal and clay lenses, lime particles at the bottom and some fine gravel.
27: grey-brown silty sand (Su 2) with a lot of charcoal and some ash lenses, short layers of clay and some lime particles, some fragments of bones [=upper part of 19].
28: grey-yellow-greenish silty sand, slightly crumbly with some clay lenses; charcoal particles at the bottom (the consistence of the sediments indicates the impact of heat/fire) [=upper part of 19].
29: multi-layered sediment with alternating ash and charcoal layers, some pieces of red clay.
30: multi-layered sediment of sand, charcoal and ash. In the middle of that level there is a fist

sized pebble around which is an ash layer. The sediment is intersected by ochre-coloured clay lenses; some small pebbles and short thin lime layers. The layers are bending slightly downwards from the north to the south. The curse of the layers becomes less clear in the southern part, where it is destroyed by M1.
31: silty sand (Su2) with some clay lenses; not clearly separable from the surrounding sediment; possibly dislocated remains. In the northern part: bones with some lime of either a cut through grave or a dislocated layer with human bones; a lot of middle-sized gravel.
32/33: sediment of large clay lumps with grey-brown silty sand (Su2); inclusions in the silty sand of charcoal, lime particles, middle sized gravel, some flints. The lower border to Layer 36 is not very clear [=21/24].
34: =M3, pit comprises at the bottom a very thin layer of lime. Beneath that layer is an even thinner layer of fine red-ochre coloured sand.
35: concentration of up-to-fist-sized pebbles. No structure discernible; two of the larger pebbles abut to the grave pit of M3. M2 abuts to it in the south. The smaller pebbles are in a layer with a lot of lime particles and some burnt clay.
36: grey-brown silty sand with a lot of clay lenses and charcoal, spaced regularly, horizontal layers with a lot of lime and some bone fragments [=27].
37: horizontal layer with large hard clay lumps, intersected by silty sand (Su3), crumbly, some charcoal inclusions in that sediment but not in the clay. The border to 46 consists of a thin layer of grey sand, which continues beneath M2, whereas the clay lumps stop at the bottom of M2. [≈ 29]
38: probably western part of Layer 36, cut through by M2; grey-brown silty sand with inclusions of lime particles, charcoal and bone fragments [=27]
39: very fine, multi-layered sediment with alternating sand and ash, fine ribbons of charcoal, thinning out to the south [no correspondence in A5], cut through in the north by the pre-modern ditch.
40: crumbly, soft clay layer with some gravel and lime particles, possibly identical with 37.
41: grey, sandy silt, crumbly with gravel, some charcoal and lime particles.
42: hard clay lumps with sandy crumbly intersections
43: 6-8 cm thick charcoal layer, cut through in its northern part by the (pre-)modern ditch, thinning out to the south, paralleling layer 42.
44: =P2=second filling phase of P1; probably continued in the north by layer 17; depth: 60 cm, width: 3,70m, cut through by the (pre-)modern ditch. Filling of dark-brown, sandy silt, many inclusions of regularly spaced lime particles and charcoal; clay lenses, the bottom of P2 is characterized by a thin but not continuous layer of lime.
45: = P1= first filling phase; depth: ~ 20 cm; width: in the south a little smaller than P2, the northern border is cut through by the (pre-) modern ditch. The filling is similar to 44, with less pieces of clay, but more charcoal and lime particles, thin layers of sand intersect the filling; the bottom of P2 is characterized by thin layers of lime.
46: very hard and compact, 40-cm-thick clay layer (width: 1,50m), dark-ochre-coloured, at its bottom is a thin about 4 cm thick clay layer, which is more sandy and softer than the upper part. It is neither continued in the northern nor in the eastern profile of A5.
47: multi-layered silt sediment with alternating intersected sand and charcoal layers [33]
48: = PL1 (posthole), depth: 32cm, width: 16 cm; filled with brown silt, some gravel, charcoal and pieces of clay.
49: dark-brown clayey silt, crumbly with some gravel and charcoal [36].
50: charcoal layer; some gravel, forming a shallow pit, south of 51; it is not clear, whether the charcoal layer covers 51.
51: =PL2 (posthole), depth: 50 cm; width: at least 16, but originally possibly larger; narrowing down to 6 cm at the bottom; cut through by layer 45, filled with clayey silt, crumbly, with some charcoal, some clay on the northern border.
52: patch of charcoal

53: clayey silt with thin layers of clay, some charcoal , a lot of flints, border to layer 49 is not clear [37-40]
54: very dark, clayey, very compact layer.
55: very dark-brown, clayey sediment with a lot of charcoal, gravel, some thin intersecting layers.
56: = P4; clayey silt, with some charcoal, some burnt clay lumps and thin clay layers, cut through by the (pre-) modern ditch.
57/58: dark-brown, clay sediment, a little charcoal, some clay lenses [43]

Findings: ULH: Obsidian, Flint: depth -330cm (of PL 1; layer 48)
UKN: Flint: depth -350 cm (layer 49)
UKO: Flint: depth -380 cm (layer 50)

Comment: 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).

For the Harris Matrix see the combined Harris Matrix of A20, A05, A15 East and A05 North (Appendix I)

A 25_A28 South Profile [Fig. 6]
(drawn by FD; 4/09/12; 10/09/12)

NB: Due to time constraints it was not possible to write a detailed description during the excavation, but the colour codes allow reconstructing the composition of most layers. Layer labels were attributed only after the excavation by MB; correspondence to layers and radiocarbon dates in the eastern profile of Trench A80 are given in square brackets (s. excavation report 2009; Benz et al. Radiocarbon 3-4, 54, 2012, 291-304).

1: clay
2: clay
3: sandy silt
4: sandy silt
5: clay [~ F3/ Phase III; ETH 39511: 10100± 60=10050-9400 calBC 2σ]
6: clay [~ F5/4 or F6]
7: multi-layered sediment with thin layers of silt and clay; [= F7/ Phase IV; ETH 38853: 10015 ± 45= 9770-9330 calBC 2σ)
8: filling layer with clay lumps, middle sized stones, a thin ash lens and charcoal, thin clay layer at the bottom.
9: grey-brown silt with charcoal
10: unclear, probably mixture of silt and clay, at the bottom a thin patch of compact clay
11: clay
12: multi-layered sediment; grey sand, yellow-green sand, ash, clay, lime and sand [=F7; Phase IV].
13: pit with ashy filling and charcoal
14: multi-layered sediment with layers of clay, charcoal, ash and silt
15: clay floor with two phases, separated by a sand layer from which M17 has been dug down; [= F8 Phase IV'].
16: ashy filling layer with stones, flint and charcoal, thin lime layer at the bottom
17: Pit with silt filling including bones, charcoal and stones.
18: multi layered sediment
19: ashy silt filling with charcoal and bones; including a 50 cm deep and narrow (15 cm) pit, which possibly represents a posthole.
20: clay floor
21: bloc of several thin layers of clay, ashy silt, silt, charcoal and red ochre; inclusions of some bones.
22: sandy silt with a lot of charcoal, a slight depression with animal bones
23: charcoal
24: upper part of a v-shaped (?) pit filled with alternating layers of clay and silt with charcoal. Width at the top (at -3.10m): 3.80 m; at -3.40m: 3 m
25: grey ashy silt with a lot of charcoal
26: clay floor
27: Pit with a filling of a thin sand layer atop a clay layer in the uppermost part, followed by a silt layer, then layers of charcoal, clay and silt with a lot of bones, and alternating silt-ash layers at the border/bottom. The bottom of the pit was not reached [=F 12 and F13/ Phase V; ETH 39512: 9955 ± 45= 9660-9320 calBC 2σ; ETH 38848: 9985±40= 9740-9310 calBC 2σ].
28: dark brown sandy silt with charcoal and clay lenses; middle to small sized pebbles, bones and patches of ash [= Phase VI]
29: dark brown loamy silt fairly homogeneous with some few flints and stones [Phase VI]
30: bloc of several clay, ash, and silt layers; isolated between two deep pits of layers 28/29 east and west (layer 28) [~ F 17 / F 18; Phase VII].

Comment: 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.

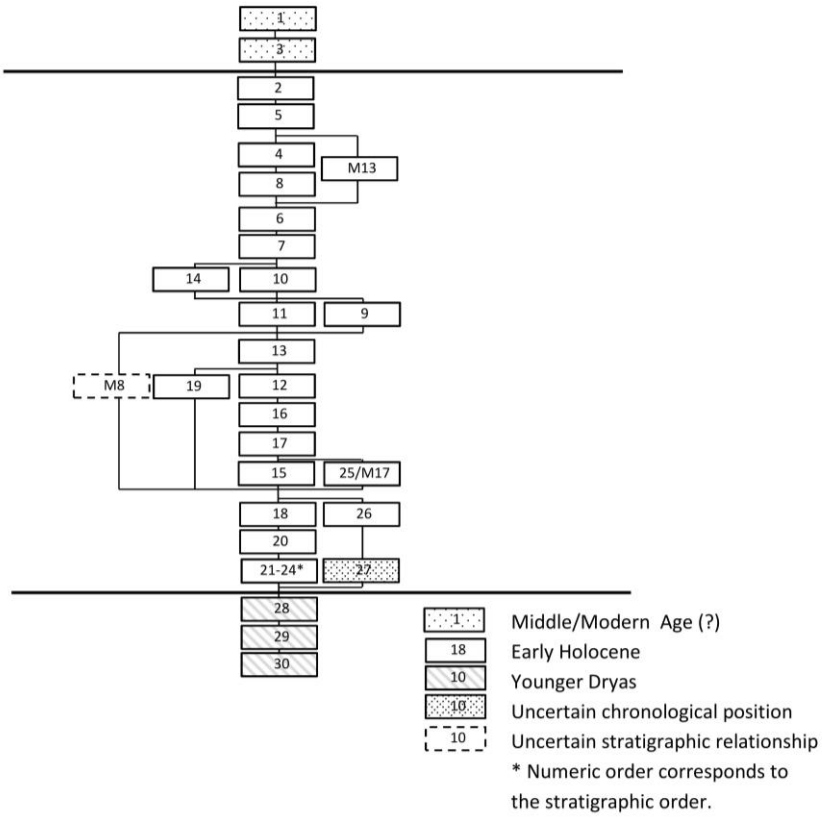
Three graves [M8 of A28 and M 13/M17 of A25] and the correlation of the layers in Trench A80 (eastern profile) prove the early Holocene age of most layers, except for layer 1 and 3 which probably correlate with the walls W1 and W2 in Trench A80. These walls were built of moulded clay bricks. Given that 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.

Harris Matrix A25_A28

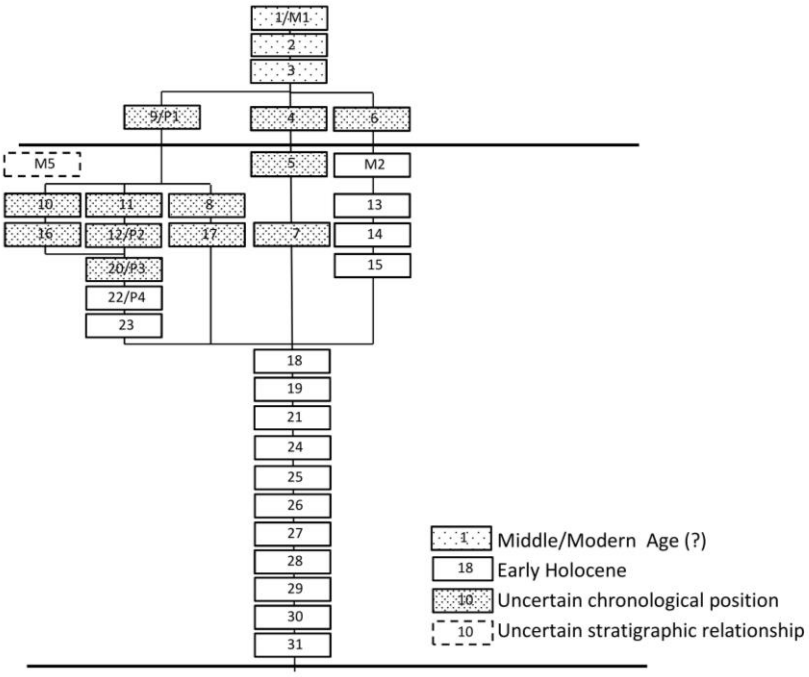


A 43 South Profile [Fig. 7]
(description in the original drawing by FD; 2/09/12)

1: = M1; human bones
2: sandy, loamy, very crumbly sediment with uncertain borders in the western and eastern part
3: sandy, very loose silt
4: thin clay layer
5: reddish, ochre-coloured burnt clay
6: grey-brown sandy silt
7: soft, crumbly clay layer
8: very compact clay
9: = P1; grey-brown sandy silt, some charcoal
10: very compact clay (probably = 8)
11: clay, very crumbly and not compact, might belong to 8 or 10.
12: = P2; dark-grey very sandy sediment, with some middle sized pebbles and lenses of clay.
13: clay, in the upper part crumbly getting more compact and darker in the lower part.
14: two thin lime layers with a fine, slightly loamy sand layer in between.
15: compact clay, which is transected by a thin sand-silt layer.
16: pit, brown silt, a few charcoals.
17: Sequence of thin layers: at the bottom burnt clay, on top very crumbly sandy grey-brown silt, with a lot of charcoal and clay lenses.
18: grey-brown sediment, with a lot of charcoal, flint stone, and some middle sized pebbles.
19: thin layer of charcoal.
20: = P3; compact-to-loose sandy silt with some charcoal and clay lenses.
21: similar to 18, but with clay lenses and thin clay layers.
22: = P4; clay, slightly sandy with some flint stones.
23: layer of charcoal with some pieces of lime.
24: brown-grey sediment with a lot of middle sized pebbles/gravel, flint stones and bone fragments; precipitations of lime at the bottom and partly on the bones.
25: clay layer with bone fragments and burnt clay.
26: brown-to-dark-brown sediment with large lumps of clay and some lime.
27: grey, sandy-crumbly sediment with a lot of charcoal, some clay and lime; middle sized pebbles.
28: = 21.
29: similar to 26.
30: similar to 26.
31: brown […no information given] with small sized pebbles, some lime and lenses of clay.

Comment: In the upper part of A 43 (-1.22-1.80m) are two thick clay remains: a massive floor [13] (22cm thick) in the western part and decaying remains [7-8; 10-11] in the eastern part. Two scenarios are possible: 1) both entities once belonged to the same construction or 2) Layers 5, 7-8, 10-11 belong to a later phase and were built on top of the early Holocene remains. As grave M2 is of Neolithic Age and cuts through Layer 13, this layer must be older than M2. The stratigraphic position of grave M5 is not really clear. If the destruction of the clay layers on top of it, result from the digging of the grave, then scenario 1 is correct.
In the lower eastern part a pit was dug through layer 27/28 for 40 cm from -2 to -2.40 m. Its east-west-extension is 1.60m but the eastern border was not uncovered. The pit is filled with a mixture of silty and sandy sediments with a lot of charcoal, bones and burnt clay fragments. No postholes, no multi-layered surfaces, or other constructional details were observed in the lower layers, so the function of this pit remains questionable. Layer 28 might be the remains of a fireplace, but it could also just be a patch of ash and charcoal resulting from a dumping activity. The high amount of clay lumps, animal bones, flints and charcoal underscores the suggestion of a dumping area.

Harris Matrix A 43



A 90 South Profile [Fig. 8]

(description in the original drawing by FD; 5/09/12)

1: sandy clay with some charcoal
2: brown sandy silt, with a lot of clay lumps in the upper part; in the eastern part many ash-layers and charcoal that make the sediment greyer.
3: sequence of thin clay layers
4: = P1; dislocated layers of clay, detritus, sand and silt. The borders of P1 are not clearly distinguishable.
5: charcoal and ash layer
6: similar to 5 / separated by a non-described layer of brown sediment
7: brown-grey, very crumbly, slightly sandy silt
8: multi-layered layer of ash/charcoal, very crumbly silt, and loamy silt
9: dark-brown, loamy silt, with thin layers of clay, some charcoal and pebbles/gravel
10: similar to 9, but with fine lime precipitations between the layers
11: charcoal
12: similar to 7, but with lumps of clay and charcoal.

Comment: The southern profile of Trench A90 has been excavated down to – 216 cm with only a small insignificant bloc of 40 cm width remaining in the western part. So the description only starts at – 2.20m.

In the upper part no building structure were observed, except for a large pit in the most western part with a width of at least 1 m and a preserved depth of 40 cm. The sediments in the eastern area are sloping up and down and so probably do not represent an ancient walking surface, but rather an outside area. A huge grinder and lumps of clay rather suggest the dislocation of material (possibly by water?).
As in many other trenches too, at about -3 m, there is a multilayered horizontal layer with alternating layers of charcoal, silt and loamy silt [8]. Below that layer [9-11] the sediment is very

homogeneous dark-brown loamy silt with some patches of clay, charcoal and small-to-middle-sized pebbles. Layer 9-11 are characteristic for the Younger Dryas (YD) occupation, but no building activities of the YD could be observed in this area.

Harris Matrix A90

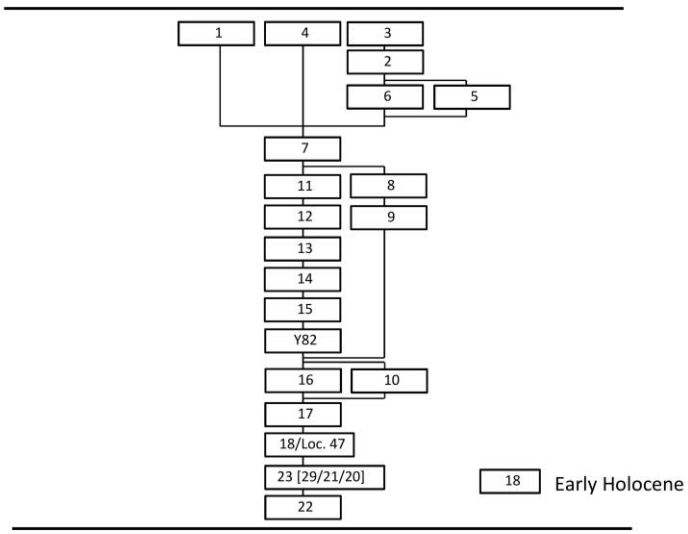
A 91 South Profile [Fig. 9]
(description in the original drawing by FD; 3/09/12)

1: grey, sandy silt (Su2), small pebbles with some gravel, some patches of clay (remains of Y78).
2: similar to 1
3: ochre-coloured, crumbly clay layer, not compact
4: similar to 3.
5: ochre-coloured, crumbly clay layer with some charcoal, small bone fragments
6: similar to 2, but with patches of clay and more compact. Border to 2 is not clear.
7: grey, sandy silt (Su3), with a lot of clay lenses, the western and eastern border are not clearly discernible; covering the stone wall of Y82 (possibly decaying roof or wall construction of Y82).
8: dark ochre-coloured clay; compact, crumbly, some charcoal and patches of burnt clay.
9: middle-grey, very loose and sandy silt, some isolated clay lenses, a lime stone pebble.
10: compact, sandy, loamy silt, grey-brown, charcoal, small pieces of clay and middle sized gravel; the eastern and western borders of the layer are not clearly discernible.
11: ochre-coloured compact clay, but a little crumbly; it abuts to the inner side of the stone wall of Y82.
12: grey-brown, very loose, sandy sediment
13: very crumbly clay layer
14: very sandy layer with some pieces of clay
15: grey, sandy layer with some middle sized clay lumps.
16: middle-brown layer with a lot of clay pieces and charcoal, middle sized gravel
17: grey-ochre-coloured sandy clay; small pieces of lime; charcoal and small-to-middle-sized pebbles.
18: brown, sandy, slightly loamy silt; with a lot of charcoal and clay lenses, pieces of burnt clay [includes = Loc. 47 = 5 up-right standing stones, put into a pure clay sediment; probably an earlier/older phase of Y82]
19: charcoal [part of Loc. 36 of AW description]
20: burnt layer
21: several thin clay layers
22: burnt layer/charcoal/clay layer
23: multilayered sequence [19-20] of compact clay and charcoal layers, thinning out in the western part, with some small and middle-sized pebbles, very few lime particles [upper part= Loc. 36 AW].

Comment: In the southern profile of A91 three possible phases of a building were recorded. The oldest phase (Loc. 47) is badly preserved with only 5 up-right standing stones, paralleling the course of the stone wall of Y82, though shifted a little to the northwest. The best preserved phase is Y82 with up-right standing stones in the lowest layer and 4 layers of large, unworked lime stones on top (totally preserved height = 64 cm). Y82 was dug into the older sediment [17-16] for about 50 cm. The upper row of stones was thus about 15 cm higher than the outside sediment. Inside (to the east) of the building a clay floor and several filling layers were recorded [14-12]. Layers 16 and 7 might be the remains of the wall or roof construction. The youngest building phase on the same spot is Y78, which was very badly preserved. It was described in the 2010-report.
Outside Y82 and Loc. 47 a multilayered sequence of charcoal, clay, and silt sediments accumulated and represents the remains of several built fireplaces in the same area, which were observed in the planum in Squares C-E. These fireplaces consist of patches of flat round-to-oval river pebbles covered by a clay layer. A similar sequence was observed in the northern part of the eastern profile in A20. It can thus be suggested that the sequence there can be interpreted in a similar way.

Due to time constraints, we were not able to continue the excavation down to the Younger Dryas layers. This would have been a very promising task for all typological studies.

Harris Matrix A91, southern profile



A 95-116-121 South Profile [Fig. 10]

(description in the original drawing FD 04/09/12):

1: ochre-coloured clay layers, some clay lenses, horizontal; the border to layer 2 is not clearly discernible. Layer 1 continues in the eastern profile.
2: grey-brown (sandy?) silt with some charcoal inclusions and short layers of clay; slightly sloping downwards in the western direction. Sharp border to layer 3.
3: lumps of clay, surrounding a grey-brown layer of sandy silt (Su2?); some inclusions in the grey-brown sediment of charcoal, small gravel, particles of lime, horizontal layout, getting thinner to the west but continuing in the eastern profile for about 2.10 m. (Layer 3 might belong to the layers 36-38).
4: middle-grey-brown silt, sandy; with inclusions of charcoal, middle-sized gravel, and lime particles; the border to layer 5 is unclear; slightly sloping to the west, continuing in the eastern profile. Thin lime layers separate it from Layer 5.
5: middle-grey sediment, similar to layer 4, but with a lot of charcoal inclusions; almost horizontal, but slightly sloping downwards to the west; distinct border to Layers 6 and 7.
6: clay, sunk into layer 7; charcoal accumulation at the bottom.
7: an about 40 cm deep pit with a horizontal bottom; extending from the eastern border to the west for about 2 m; continuing in the eastern profile. The wall of the pit is nearly vertical in the west, in the east the wall has not been uncovered; thin layers of lime at the bottom. The filling of the pit is of grey-brown silty sand with some inclusions of clay, charcoal, and lime particles.
8: compact clay layer, irregular, with middle-to-large-sized pebbles, cut through in the west by the grave M2 and in the east by the pit [layer 9].
9: pit, bowl shaped with sandy filling; depth: ~ 40 cm, width: ~ 40 cm.
10: pit with very diffuse borders, cut through layer 11. At the bottom it contains a clay layer and a grey-brown sandy layer below.
11: grey-brown sediment with a lot of charcoal, cut through by layer 10 in the west and east.

12: multilayered rather horizontal level with grey-brown-to-dark-brown and ochre-coloured layers of lime, clay, charcoal, and ash. Interrupted in the west by an animal furrow and a pit; sloping slightly down and thinning out in the eastern part.
13: brown, sandy silt, including thin layers of lime, a lot of lime particles, some charcoal, some gravel; cut through by Layer 14 (pit).
14: a pear-shaped pit, filling of middle-grey sandy-silty sediment with some lumps of clay and charcoal inclusions.
15: loamy, crumbly silt layer, with lumps of clay and some middle-sized gravel.
16: brown, very sandy layer, with thin layers of clay and ash, cuts through layer 13.
17: compact clay layer, slightly convex (floor?), fairly any inclusions except for some gravel.
18: grey-brown, thin layer, separated by concentrations of charcoal from layer 19.
19: filling with diffuse borders, separated from the lower layer by thin charcoal, lime and sand layers. Layer 7 was sunk into layer 19; inclusions of clay, charcoal and lime particles.
20: grey-brown, silty horizontal layer similar to layer 19, with large clay lenses and lime precipitations. In the eastern part is a shallow pit. The border to the lower layer is clear, whereas the border to Layer 19 is more diffuse.
21: filling of a shallow pit with brown, loamy silt, no inclusions except for some charcoal.
22: grey layer with a lot of charcoal.
23: red or burnt clay, without inclusions, belongs to the filling of the pit together with the layers 21-22.
24: charcoal layer sloping downward.
25: block of several thin layers of clay and charcoal; in the eastern part, the layers are dislocated and replaced by a mixture of clay lumps, bones, and flint stones; all the layers are sloping downwards (~30°) to the east.
26: middle-brown-grey silt, slightly sandy, inclusions of charcoal and thin charcoal layers at the bottom. Layers 25 and 20 are sunk into layer 26. The lower border of layer 26 is discernible only by the charcoal layers.
27: bowl-shaped pit (width: 20cm; depth: 14 cm) dug into the clay layer 28.
28: compact horizontal clay layer. Clay floor (?)
29: silt with concentrations of small pebbles
30: V-shaped pit (width: 3.40 m at the top, 55 cm at the bottom); the upper filling layer (40-50 cm) consists of grey silt, with very few inclusions, except for some charcoal; a compact clay layer is sloping in the pit from the eastern border separating the upper from the lower filling. The lower filling consists of grey-brown sediment (probably silt) with some charcoal. The bottom of the pit has not been reached.
31: brown-to-ochre-coloured clay with some pebbles and charcoal. The lower border to the natural soil is undulating.
32: loamy silt
33: loamy silt
34: grey silt
35: brown-grey layer thinning out to the west, with some charcoal.
36: compact clay layer with some concentrations of gravel
37: silty sediment slightly sloping downwards to the east, alternating with layers of (partly crumbly) clay; some charcoal inclusions.
38: clay
39: grey-brown sediment with concentrations of pebbles and charcoal layers. Some clay lenses clay lumps, and bones.
40: grey sediment, fairly any inclusions except for some charcoal
41: loamy silt
42: homogeneous grey-brown sediment, very few inclusions.
43: loamy silt

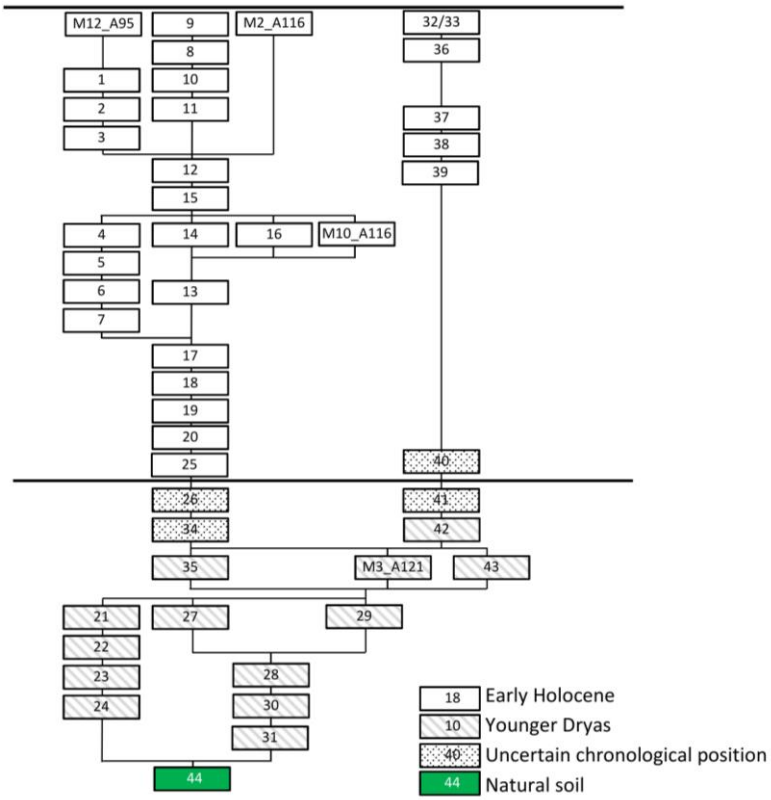
44: natural soil (clay)

Comment: The southern profile of the Trenches A95, A116, and A121 provides important evidence for the level of the natural soil in the north-western part of the site.
Here, it reaches nearly up to -4.00 m. Several unstructured fillings with brown, partly sandy silt suggest perhaps flooding events. Layer 30 reminds of an old river channel. On top of it are the Younger Dryas layers which comprise one clay floor with a shallow pit (maybe the preserved bottom of a posthole [27]?).

The Grave M3 in Trench A121 is most probably of Younger Dryas Age. It has been dug down from Layer 35. The other graves were all dug down from the early Holocene layers. Unfortunately, the latter are rather disturbed by several pits. Layer 25 and 12 are multilayered walking/living surfaces, but we could not record any clear building structure, except for two rather short pieces of clay floor [17 and 15] which might indicate buildings. Layer 39 possibly represents the remains of a stone wall, which once belonged to the occupational layers 25 or 12/15.
The border to the Younger Dryas layers is rather diffuse, especially in the western part, where Layers 26, 34, 40, and 41 might either date to the early Holocene or to the Younger Dryas. However, given the analogies from other trenches it might be suggested that it starts at about -4.00 m in the east (Trench A95) and then slopes stepwise upwards until -2.70 m (Trench A121).

Because all graves are of early Holocene Age, the massive clay layers between - 2 and -3 m in the west must also date to the early Holocene.

Harris Matrix A 95-116-121



A 118 South Profile [Fig. 11]
(description in the diary by FD; 8/09/12, pages 41-42)

1: filling with dislocated layers of clay, charcoal, lime and burnt clay; the main matrix is sandy silt.
2: silt intersected by sand layers, including pieces of lime and charcoal.
3: brown, sandy silt; bone fragments
4: two clay floors separated by a layer of brown sandy silt.
5: dark-brown sediment with a lot of middle-sized pebbles, charcoal and clay lenses.
6: very sandy silt, with a lot of lime particles, charcoal and clay lenses
7: alternating thin layers of sandy silt, charcoal and clay
8: dark-brown silt with inclusions of charcoal and burnt clay
9: dark-brown loamy-to-very-sandy sediment.
10: very sandy layer of small-to-middle sized pebbles, flint stones and burnt clay
11: clay
12: brown silt with concentrations of charcoal and brunt clay, a lot of pebbles
13: sediment with a lot of charcoal
14: sandy clay, some charcoal
15: dark-brown, very sandy silt with a lot of charcoal; a burnt layer at the bottom.
16: natural soil (clay).

Findings: VBT; flint; -400-420 cm; Layer 10.

Comment: The southern profile of Trench A118 abuts to the northerwestern corner of Trench A134. Interestingly, here too, major events of dislocation (probably by water) can be observed. Layers 1-8 and 9-10 are characterized by unstructured sandy silt sediments with a lot of small-to-middle sized pebbles, charcoal, clay lumps and particles of lime.
The only layers which seem to be in situ are the layers 11-16 and 7-8. It is therefore very difficult to discern the chronological position of the layers without knowing the findings. Layer 9 is very homogeneous sandy sediment, separated from layer 6 by a nearly continuous plain sand layer. Thus it seems most probable that layers 7-10 date to the YD, but it cannot be excluded that they are of younger age.
The massive, but not plain clay layer [14] seems to parallel the massive clay layer 36, which was observed in the southern profile of Trench A 134. In Trench A 134 it was encountered at – 3.92/ -4.00 m) and in Trench A 118 at -3.62/-3.66 m.
A similar difference of about 40 cm can be observed for the top of the natural soil, thus suggesting a slightly southward sloping natural surface in that part of the tell.

Harris Matrix A 118

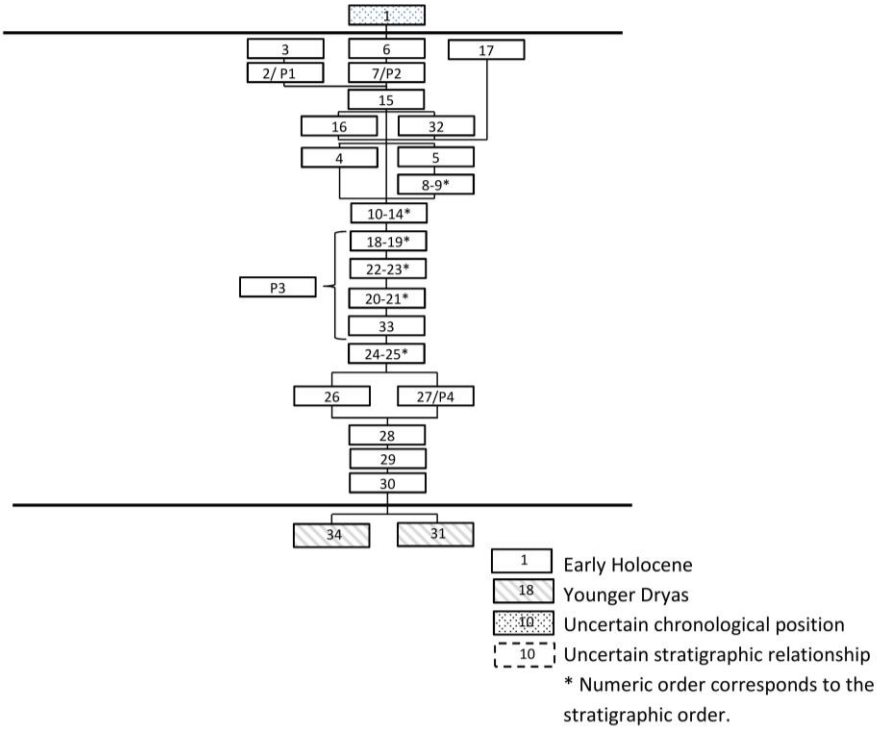
A 126 South Profile [Fig. 12]

(description in the original drawing FD 05/09/12):

1: grey-brown, compact, sandy silt with large stones.
2: =P1; very sandy filling with some middle-sized pebbles
3: clay very compact
4: stone wall (?) (preservation of 3 layers height).
5: stones in conjunction (possible wall)
6: crumbly clay
7: P2; probable filling of the house with compact, grey-brown sediment (U2)
8: clay with some pebbles
9: very sandy, black-grey sediment with bones
10: clay
11: loamy sand with charcoal, burnt clay and clay lenses
12: clay with precipitations of lime
13: sandy sediment with a high content of ash, grey, some charcoal
14: thin layer of lime
15: crumbly clay
16: clay, with inclusions of sandy silt, lime particles, charcoal, and some pebbles (evidence of a clay floor made with impure clay).
17: clay
18: Ashy grey sediment with a lot of charcoal, clay lenses, some burnt clay, and small pebbles.
19: sediment with thin layers of ash and concentrations of small pebbles and bone fragments
20: + 19 = the filling of a large pit. Layer 20 is discernible by its higher content of bone fragments, but the borders to 19 are flue.
21: clay
22: grey-brown silt (U4)
23: the borders of the layer are defined by thin ash-layers, but the sediment is similar to 19; it contains some charcoal, burnt clay and bone fragments.
24: clay
25: grey sediment with a lot of charcoal
26: several layers of clay
27: = P4; very sandy filling, with some clay lenses, charcoal, and lime particles
28: = PL 1 (Posthole?); very sandy crumbly filling, some small pebbles and some charcoal
29: several clay layers
30: charcoal
31: brown loamy silt, with lenses of charcoal and middle sized pebbles
32: clay ("although more compact than 16 probably belongs to 16 and forms one floor" diary entry FD page 37, 5.9.12)
33: brown-grey sediment, charcoal and thin layers of ash of limited length
34: like 31.

Comment: The southern profile of A 126 is characterized by a building construction in its top layers, a dumping area with a lot of animal bones at about 3-m depth and older clay floors in the western part. The lower layers are characterized by the same dark-brown loamy silt as in many other trenches, typical for the Younger Dryas occupation.
The building of the top layers, which is probably of early Holocene age, comprises two stone walls which were both built on a clay socket similar to the building Y52 in A71. The clay floor [16/31] extends to the west from -1.20 m (from the eastern profile) for at least 2.5 m, where it stops at a pit, which might be a younger destruction or an ancient posthole. West of this pit the clay becomes more massive and might either be the continuation of the floor or the remains of the building wall. An upright standing stone at about 2/3 distance from the eastern wall might indicate some internal division or it might be the remains of a younger stone wall.

Harris Matrix A 126



A 134 South Profile [Fig. 13]

(Description in diary FD 6.9.12/pages 38-40):

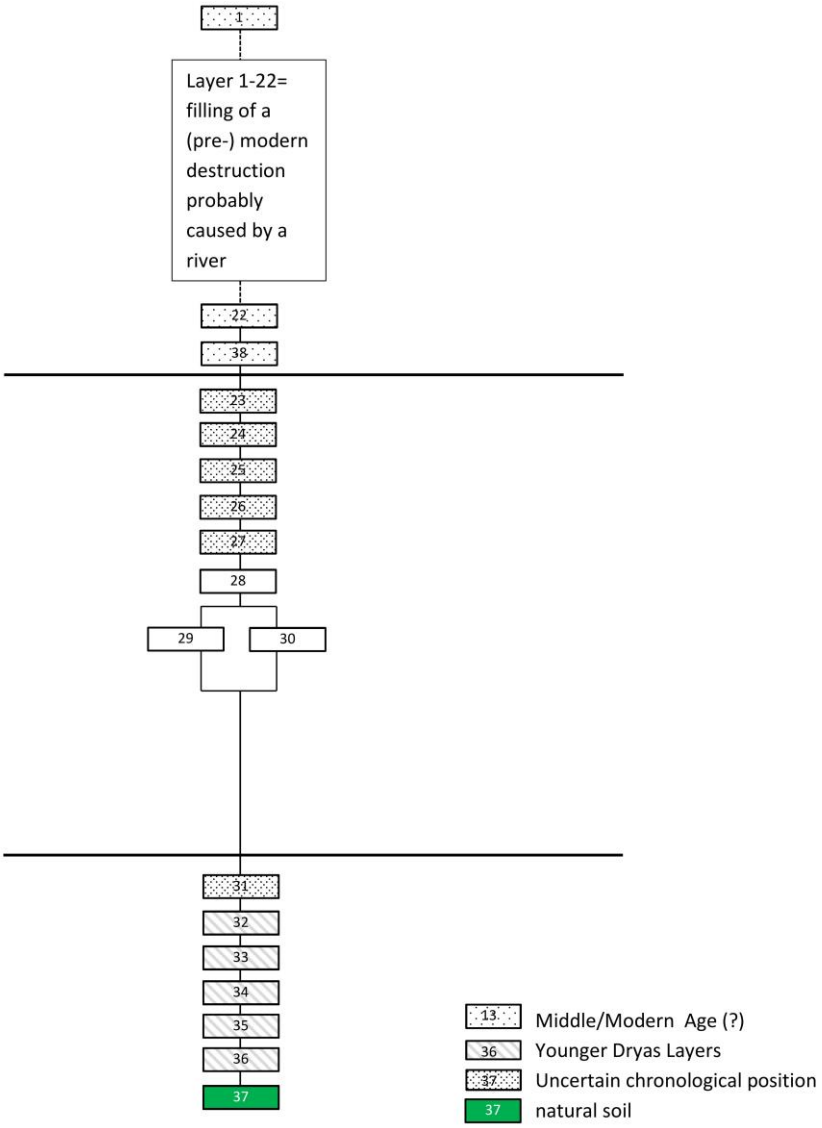
1: = M1; silty sand, grey, of a similar colour as Layer 2 but the sediment is looser [filling of pit M1 with bone fragments].
2: very sandy, grey, a lot of small gravel, except for a little amount of charcoal and some burnt clay, no other inclusions observable.
3: middle grey, very loose and sandy sediment, some clay patches but rather no inclusions
4: grey-brown, very crumbly, some burnt clay, some clay patches, ceramic sherds.
5: light-grey, compact with some gravel, thin clay layers, ceramic sherds.
6: ochre coloured, brown, sandy clay.
7: grey, loose sand, with patches of clay, some charcoal.
8: reddish, ochre colored, very crumbly to sandy; some burnt clay.
9: white-yellow sediment, fine crumbly, very soft, no inclusions.
10: reddish-orange sandy sediment, on the bottom concentrations of burnt clay.
11: brown sandy silt.
12: sandy crumbly clay, grey-to-ochre-coloured, some lime and burnt clay
13: sandy crumbly clay with a lot of lime
14: burnt clay

15: brown, very sandy silt
16: pit, very inhomogeneous filling with loam, sand, silt and some gravel
17: brown silt, including a ochre-coloured clay layer, at the bottom with burnt clay
18: brown, very sandy and crumbly silt, ceramic sherds.
19: brown, very sandy silt with pebbles
20: compact, reddish ochre-coloured sediment with small pebbles and lumps of clay.
21: very compact, grey, sandy crumbly silt, some thin lime layers.
22: grey-white, very compact, loamy sediment.
23: sandy silt with lumps of clay.
24: clay
25: clay
26: brown silt
27: clay
28: thin layers of clay within a brown sandy silt sediment.
29: clay with flints
30: light ochre-coloured clay
31: dark-brown, sandy clay, with patches of burnt clay, some thin clay layers, charcoal, flints and bones.
32: a layer of charcoal with a clay layer on top.
33: a layer of charcoal with clay in between.
34: = P1; orange-brown sandy silt; burnt clay at the bottom.
35: = P2; brown, soft, sandy silt, pit
36: very compact clay with charcoal
37: natural soil (clay)
38: layer of reddish burnt clay

Comment: The southern profile of A134 gives valuable information about the post-Neolithic history of the tell. There is strong evidence for a major flooding event, which cutted through all the Younger Dryas and early Holocene settlement layers, down to natural soil. The filling of this huge ditch / river channel is exclusively of middle- to modern Age.

The ancient settlement layers are preserved only in the western half of that Trench, where the upper layers are marked by an unusually high amount of clay. At about -3.20 m to -3.40 m starts the very homogeneous filling of brown silt, which is typical for the Younger Dryas layers. It is intersected only by two thin clay floors [32 and 33] and by a large pit P2. The horizontal bottom of that pit suggests that it might have been used as a living space.
Below that, a zone of decaying clay with charcoal inclusions and stones represents the transition to the natural soil.

Harris Matrix A 134



A 135 East Profile [Fig. 14]

(drawn by CR; 12/09/12; description CR 14.9.12)

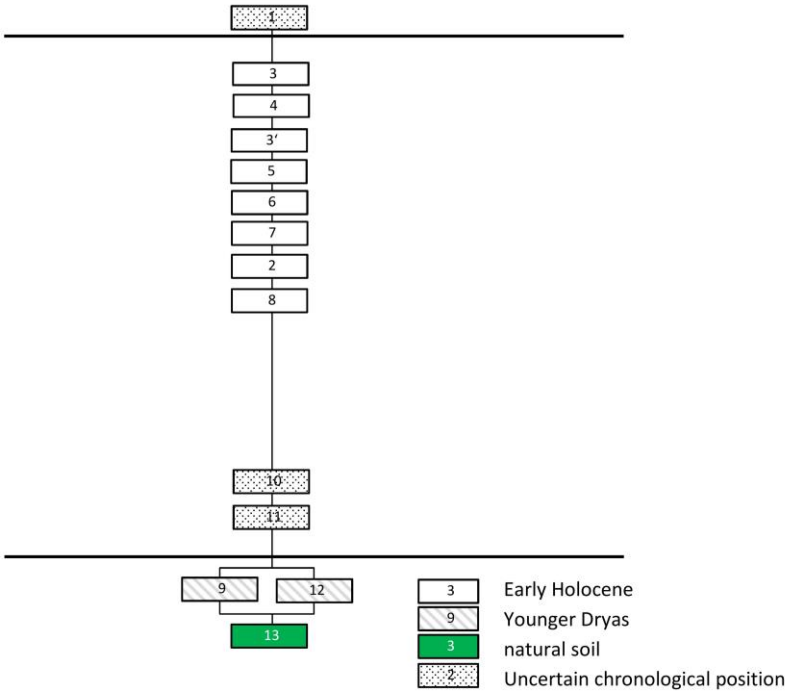
1: Homogeneous, grey-brown sediment, the border to the modern soil is very flue; Layer 1 starts in about the middle of the profile and continues in the southern profile; a few stones and roots.
2: Layer 2 corresponds to Layer 7 of the southern profile, but it is of slightly lighter colour; homogeneous, grey brown sediment; the borders to Layers 9 and 10 are hardly discernible. Some stones und bones.
3: Compact sediment with a high content of layered clay, ochre-to-grey-brown; some stones and roots; Layer 4 is hardly distinguishable from Layer 3.
3': not described during the excavation, but if Layer 4 exists there must be a division between Layer 3 and 3'.
4: sandy, grey-brown layer, between Layers 3 and 3', max. 18 cm thick.
5: sandy layer with a low content of clay, some organic fraction; horizontal; it traverses the whole profile and continues in the southern profile. (= Layer 5)
6: sandy, loamy, very inhomogeneous layer, with ochre-grey-brown layers; similar to Layer 7, but darker and with a higher content of charcoal.
7: sandy, loamy grey-brown layer, inhomogeneous; layered; the bottom is horizontal, thinning to the southern profile.
8: reddish-to-ochre-coloured clay, very compact and plain; fairly horizontal; with a posthole at its northern edge. (=layer 8 of the southern profile).
9: dark-brown layer with a high organic content, slightly sandy, probably identical to Layer 12. (=layer 9 of the southern profile).
10: shallow depression below the clay surface (Layer 8); width: 2.20 m, depth: 0.56 m; grey-brown filling, some stones and quite a lot of charcoal increasing in quantity at the bottom of the depression; lime precipitations.
11: shallow depression; width: ~ 3.0 m, max. depth: 0.60 cm, grey-brown filling with some clay inclusions (ochre-coloured). In the southern part accumulation of up-to-fist sized rounded pebbles at the bottom (about 0.40 m high); some pieces and particles of charcoal.
12: dark-brown homogeneous sediment with a fraction of organic material; in its lower part preservation of a 5-cm-thick sequence of anthropogenic layers from the top to the bottom: brown, black and red sediments; some particles of charcoal. At least two, possible 3 postholes were dug into the natural soil (Layer 13). From north to south they measure: PL 1: depth = 38 cm; width: 14 cm; PL 2: depth: 14 cm; width: 14-16 cm; PL 3 (?): depth: 12 cm; width: 22cm.
13: natural soil, plain clay (loess?) with precipitations of carbonates (analysed by Alexander Alexandrovskiy).

Comment: The eastern profile of Trench A135 is very similar to the southern profile. In its upper parts traces of human activities are rather inexistent, except for the horizontal compact clay floor (Layer 8). The posthole at its northern edge suggests human activities.

Below this clay layer two depressions (10/11) might indicate an ancient water course. The accumulation of rounded pebbles without any structure at the southern border of the pit (Layer 11) is characteristic of a water course, whereby the overarching border of its northern edge is typical for the outside bend (Prallhang). Both characteristics hint to a small ancient water course coming from the north bending in southern direction.
The chronological attribution of these two layers is quite difficult. They might indicate an increased fresh-water input at the beginning of the early Holocene, but they could also just evidence shifting meanders of a YD water course. The loamy dark-brown silt sediment (9/12), in which both depressions were sunk, is characteristic of the Younger Dryas. So a very early Holocene date seems probable, but a Younger Dryas date cannot be excluded either.

Just on top of the natural soil a thin layer of anthropogenic origin is preserved with three pits. The width and depth of the two northern pits indicate that these were probably postholes; the function of the southernmost pit remains ambiguous.

Harris Matrix A 135, east profile



A135 South Profile [Fig. 15]

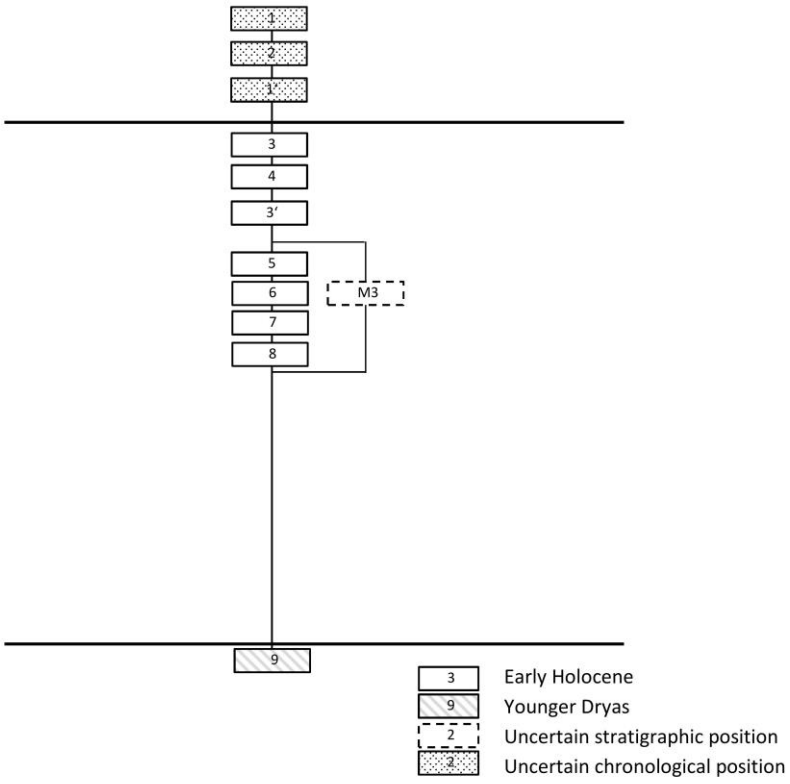
A 135 South Profile (drawn by CR; 12/09/12; description CR 14.9.12)

1: sandy loamy sediment, grey-brown with some stones; becoming lighter to the bottom, rather flue transition from the modern soil to layer 1. Slightly sloping to the west; just above layer 2 are some animal bones.
1': not identified during the excavation; borders to Layer 1 are not clear.
2: sandy to loamy sediment similar to Layer 1, but ochre-coloured. Borders to Layer 1 are not well discernible. Layer 2 might be just a clayey inclusion of Layer 1.
3: loamy, very compact layer, ochre-to-light-grey, sloping to the west; some stones animal bones and pieces of charcoal.
4: sandy, grey-brown sediment; in the eastern part it is about 70 cm thick, thinning out to the West to max. 13 cm.
3': so similar to layer 3 that both layers have not been distinguished during the excavation (s. also description of the eastern profile.

5: very sandy, less loamy sediment than 1-4. The upper border slopes in an angle similar to layers 1-4 towards the west, whereas the bottom of layer 5 is rather horizontal similar to the lower layers. It stops at the middle of the trench; inclusions of charcoal and some stones.
6: sandy, loamy, very inhomogeneous layer, comprising several thin layers; ochre, grey-to-dark-grey. Alternating thin layers of clay and charcoal; small pebbles.
7: sandy, loamy layer (possibly part of layer 6); grey-brown with some ochre-coloured clay lumps; a few small-sized stones, in the western part inclusions of animal bones.
8: reddish-to-ochre-coloured clay, very compact and plain; fairly horizontal with only some grey-brown depressions in the upper part.
9: dark-brown, sandy sediment, organic fraction, with two small clay lenses in the eastern part; very homogeneous with only a few stones.

Comment: The southern profile of Trench A135 is dominated by very pure and homogeneous layers, without any indication of building activities and only little evidence for human activities. The only clear anthropogenic structure is grave M3.
This little evidence for human impact is puzzling, because the location of the trench is approximately in the northern center of the settlement.
Yet, it might be suggested – given the evidence of the eastern profile in this trench – that layer 8 was a huge clay plastered open (public?) space. Building activities just on top of the natural soil are attested in the eastern profile, too.
Without knowing the findings, it is impossible to decide where the modern sediments stop. Layer 1 and 2 might be both of modern age.

Harris Matrix A 135, south profile



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For personal reasons and because of the high amount of gathered information in 2012, this report is much delayed. We apologize if this caused any inconveniences.

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We left Körtik with a sad feeling, knowing that it was the last time, we were excavating on that extraordinary site. Körtik Tepe is a treasure. Together we tried to rescue some of its invaluable cultural heritage, but it will keep many secrets buried in the deep layers of the earth.

Appendix I:
Combined Harris Matrix of Trenches A20 East, A 5 North and East, A15 East.