

EXCAVATION OF THE TP AREA

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This year was the fourth season of excavation in the trench 10 by 10 meters located on top of the East Mound, next to the area excavated by James Mellaart in the 1960s. Additionally, work continued in an extension trench of 10 by 4 meters which was opened up last year which will link our trench to Mellaart's Area A to the east.

This season began with the exploration of the stratigraphic sequence placed directly underneath two small late Neolithic buildings (Buildings 33 and 34) excavated in the 2003 season. We also explored a heavily sloped compact layer, which is tentatively regarded to be a fallen 'roof'. It is about 0.17m thick and slopes down towards the east (Fig. 26). However, closer examination of this structure has questioned this interpretation.



Figure 26. Possible 'roof' fragment

But considering the structure has not yet been completely excavated, it remains to be tentatively called 'the roof'. Work in the main trench focused on excavating deposits placed on top of this 'roof'. Last season revealed three major deposits located directly underneath Buildings 33 and 34. Above the 'roof', there was a bricky layer created to level the surface before the construction of these buildings. It was followed by a brown midden mixed with fragments of destroyed bricks, mortar, and plaster. Large ashy middens were located on both sides of the bricky layer (2003 archive report). The next stratigraphic sequence excavated this year comprised sloping deposits placed between the above mentioned layers and double mudbrick wall located against the S edge of the trench.

Excavation in the extension trench revealed a new room of the Late Roman house in the NW corner. It was placed directly on top of a room, probably late Neolithic in date, composed of lower parts of walls with plaster. Remains of yet another house were revealed (older than the one mentioned above) in the form of plastered floors, a plastered bench and two walls. A large number of late Neolithic pottery was also excavated from this area.