

## **Sary-Kaya**

The following description is given in Chabai (2004, 98-100). The section (his Fig. III-9) is reproduced from Kolosov et al. (1993), and was the one that we had to hand in the field.

Open air site on a cape-like promontory on the left side of Glubokaya Balka, which is cut into a limestone cuesta. Yu. G. Kolosov divided the almost 5 metres thick packet of loamy deposits into 8 lithological horizons (Kolosov et al., 1993, pages 100-105). He also succeeded in identifying 2 clearly marked soils, in the upper part of lithological horizon 4 and in horizon 5. Kolosov excavated the site in 4 field seasons in 1977-78 and 1985-86. In the first two seasons Sary-Kaya was dug as a one-layered site, but subsequently there was an attempt to subdivide the cultural layer into a number of archaeological horizons. Many flints and a few faunal remains were found in a relatively concentrated 20 cm thickness in the lower part of lithological horizon 5 (the fossil soil) and the upper part of horizon 6. This 20 cm thick packet was subdivided into 3 archaeological horizons (I-III). These horizons were not separated from each other by clear sterile lenses. The archaeological material also extended deeper, forming archaeological horizons IV-VII, although the concentration of flints was much less. No sterile lenses between these horizons were observed. Thus the cultural remains in the lower part of 5 and the upper part of 6 (undivided by sterile lenses) reach a total thickness of about 1.5 metres, the main concentration being in horizons I-III. The majority of the finds made in 1977-78 correlate with horizons I-III as distinguished in 1985-86.

In order to determine the processes which led to the formation of the archaeological horizons, detailed geo-archaeological investigations would be needed. At present, one can observe the homogeneous character of archaeological horizons I-III from the 1985-86 and 1977-78 excavations. Nonetheless it is likely that these collections are the result of many short term visits to the site.

In spite of the existence of two clearly defined fossil soils, the chronological position of the finds can presently only be guessed at. It is possible that the lower soil (lithological horizon 5) may correspond to the climatic conditions characteristic of the Hengelo interstadial.

First version 15 August 2004; revised 22 August 2005.