

# *A hasty departure?*

## *Disentangling floor level assemblages at Tell Sabi Abyad*

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In archaeology, we often find house floors completely littered with objects. It is very tempting to interpret these as the remains of what happened on that floor. However, before we can interpret the finds, it is important to understand how they ended up there.

In my research, I am investigating the Late Bronze Age fortified settlement of Tell Sabi Abyad in modern Syria. By looking at the finds which have been left behind I try to reconstruct what happened there on a day to day basis. The settlement, a so-called *dunnu*, has been abandoned several times in the past. It seems that during abandonment people dumped masses of objects on the floors of the houses.

Why did people do this? And how do the objects relate to the houses they are found in? I try to answer these questions by modelling all processes which occurred between the activities in the past and the objects and architecture we find in the excavation.

The research is carried out using a 3-dimensional GIS model of the excavated architecture and objects. In this way, the 3D model is not just a visual reconstruction but it serves as an important tool for analysis.

Any questions? Email me!



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