



Significance of the correlation between the electrical conductivity dataset and lithology in Pleni-Lateglacial and Holocene alluvial archives. A case study: the Choisille catchment (SW Paris Basin, France)

Eymeric Morin, Florent Hinschberger, Jean-Jacques Macaire, Isabelle Gay-Ovejero, Caroline Chartin

► To cite this version:

Eymeric Morin, Florent Hinschberger, Jean-Jacques Macaire, Isabelle Gay-Ovejero, Caroline Chartin. Significance of the correlation between the electrical conductivity dataset and lithology in Pleni-Lateglacial and Holocene alluvial archives. A case study: the Choisille catchment (SW Paris Basin, France). *Archeosciences, revue d'Archéométrie*, 2009, 33 (suppl.), pp.191-194. 10.4000/archeosciences.1566 . hal-02310148

HAL Id: hal-02310148

<https://hal.science/hal-02310148v1>

Submitted on 31 Aug 2020

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



ArcheoSciences

Revue d'archéométrie

33 (suppl.) | 2009

Mémoire du sol, espace des hommes

Significance of the correlation between the electrical conductivity dataset and lithology in Pleni-Lateglacial and Holocene alluvial archives. A case study: the Choisille catchment (SW Paris Basin, France)

Eymeric Morin, Florent Hinschberger, Jean-Jacques Macaire, Isabelle Gay-Ovéjéro and Caroline Chartin



Electronic version

URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/archeosciences/1566>

DOI: 10.4000/archeosciences.1566

ISBN: 978-2-7535-1599-4

ISSN: 2104-3728

Publisher

Presses universitaires de Rennes

Printed version

Date of publication: 30 October 2009

Number of pages: 191-194

ISBN: 978-2-7535-0943-6

ISSN: 1960-1360

Electronic reference

Eymeric Morin, Florent Hinschberger, Jean-Jacques Macaire, Isabelle Gay-Ovéjéro and Caroline Chartin, « Significance of the correlation between the electrical conductivity dataset and lithology in Pleni-Lateglacial and Holocene alluvial archives.

A case study: the Choisille catchment (SW Paris Basin, France) », *ArcheoSciences* [Online], 33 (suppl.) | 2009, Online since 30 October 2011, connection on 04 May 2019. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/archeosciences/1566> ; DOI : 10.4000/archeosciences.1566

Significance of the correlation between the electrical conductivity dataset and lithology in Pleni-Lateglacial and Holocene alluvial archives. A case study: the Choisille catchment (SW Paris Basin, France)

Eymeric MORIN*, Florent HINSCHBERGER*, Jean-Jacques MACAIRE*,
Isabelle GAY-OVÉJÉRO* and Caroline CHARTIN*

Keywords: Alluvial sediment, Electromagnetic prospecting, Conductivity, Palaeoenvironment, Weathering.

INTRODUCTION

Alluvial floodplains constitute rapidly evolving sedimentary environments, registering both climate changes and human impact. In the Paris Basin, the floodplain filling is generally composed of two major units (Pastre *et al.*, 2003; Macaire *et al.*, 2006): coarse deposits (sands and gravels) from the Pleniglacial or Late Glacial in the lower part and fine deposits (clayey-silty to carbonated or peaty sediments) from the Late Glacial and Holocene in the upper part. Because of its high palaeoenvironmental significance, it is important to know precisely the border between these two units, a surface that is often irregular and corresponds to a lack of sedimentation or even erosion. This surface can be defined by boreholes, which give only limited information however. In most cases, electrical and electromagnetic surveys provide information on valley floor sedimentary filling features and thickness over large areas (Gourry *et al.*, 2003). The measured parameter is the electrical conductivity (in milli-Siemens per meter), closely depending on the litho-

logy, granularity and water content of superficial deposits, the latter related to sediment porosity (Tabbagh & Cosenza, 2006). In the case of a resistive substratum, low conductivities are usually associated with coarse overlying alluvial deposits (sands and/or gravels) or thin sedimentary filling, whereas high conductivities may indicate a thick layer of fine deposits (clays and/or silts).

For this purpose, boreholes and a geophysics (EM31 electromagnetic prospecting) dataset on Pleniglacial, Late Glacial and Holocene alluvial sediments were combined. The aim of this work is to characterize deposit geometry and to assess palaeoenvironmental significance of the correlation between electrical conductivity and lithology in recent fluvial archives.

STUDY AREA

The Choisille catchment (288 km²; elevation: 45-200 m) is located north of Tours in the southwest of the Paris Basin

* Institution: Université François-Rabelais de Tours/CNRS-INSU/Université d'Orléans (UMR 6113 ISTO). (eymeric.morin@etu.univ-tours.fr)

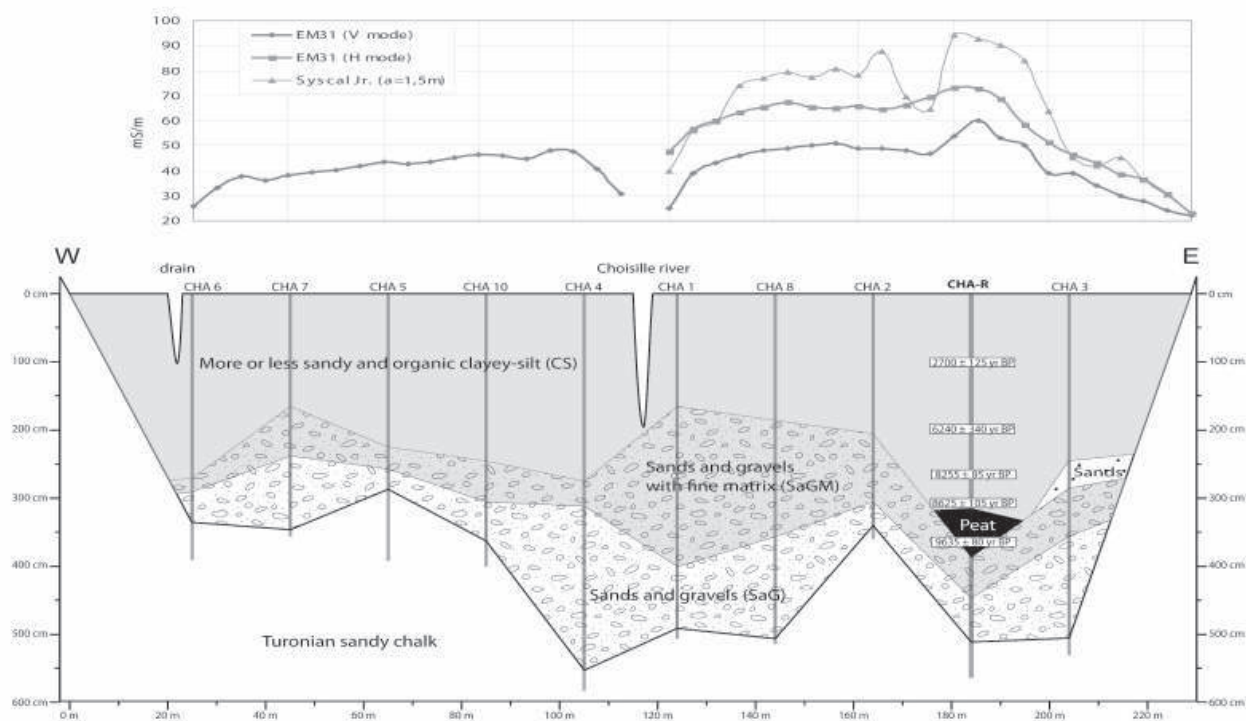


Figure 1

(France). 26 boreholes along three transects were performed with a percussion sampler through valley-floor fluvial sediments in the downstream stretch. These boreholes have shown that the Pleniglacial, Late Glacial and Holocene deposits overlying the Turonian sandy chalk have a maximum thickness of 5.8 m. General sediment features are, from bottom to top (Fig. 1): sands and gravels without matrix (SaG) with a maximum thickness of 2.4 m; sands and gravels with silty-clayey matrix (SaGM) with a maximum thickness of 2.4 m and interpreted as a weathering feature of SaG. SaG + SaGM thickness can reach 3.2 m and its very irregular surface presents depressions (palaeochannels) filled with peat, dating from the Alleröd (overlying SaG) or Preboreal (overlying SaGM). The upper part of the alluvial filling, between 0 and about 2.5 m depth, is homogeneous and composed of more or less sandy and organic clayey-silts (CS), deposited since the Boreal period.

METHODS

Electromagnetic prospection was performed using an EM31 conductivity meter (Geonics Ltd.[®]), which is described in detail by McNeill (1980). The instrument measu-

res the apparent electrical conductivity of the ground with an investigation depth of approximately 6 m, making it well appropriate for the Choisisse sedimentary filling study. We performed about 24 km of electromagnetic profiles within the Choisisse alluvial plain, representing 3500 measurement points (Fig. 2). An electrical survey was performed at 21 points in the Choisisse alluvial plain, using a Syscal Jr. resistivity meter (Iris Instrument[®]) to better define the vertical distribution of sediments and to help interpret electromagnetic mapping.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The electromagnetic profiling survey has enabled the construction of a large-scale map of shallow sub-surface apparent conductivity, covering about 37 ha (Fig. 2). The measured conductivity ranges from 10 mS/m at the edges of the valley to 70 mS/m in the more central parts. The EM31 survey highlights linear conductive (>50 mS/m) structures running parallel to the axis of the valley, clearly interpreted as palaeochannels filled with fine deposits. The alluvial floodplain is generally characterised by abrupt boundaries, where the measured apparent conductivity decreases from about

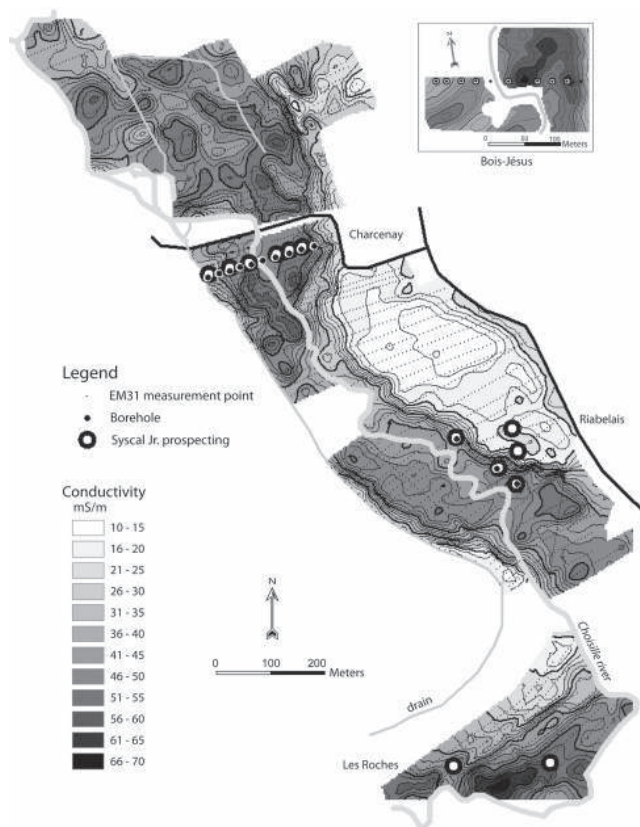


Figure 2

40 mS/m to less than 20 mS/m over a distance of 15-20 m, whereas no major topographic changes are observed. These resistive zones correspond to a low depth substrate (thin or no alluvial filling).

Results show that the increase in sediment thickness is related to an increase of conductivity measured with EM31. The best correlation ($R^2 = 0.93$) is obtained considering the thickness of all sediments except SaG (Fig. 3). This group of deposits is made of sands and gravels with a matrix of peat and more or less sandy/organic clayey-silts (SaGM/PCS). It is characterised by high conductivity values resulting from the fine granularity of sediment bulk or matrix (for coarse sediments). This good correlation between conductivity measured with EM31 and the thickness of SaGM/PCS deposits observed in boreholes enables a mapping of the predicted thickness to be established for the entire prospected area. These maps highlight the border between SaG and SaGM, which is the base of the weathered layer ("weathering front") in SaG. This border does not seem to be the result of initial deposition due to distinct lithology, but of post-

depositional evolution of the coarse unit, which indicates a lack of sedimentation and erosion and weathering, probably spatially diachronic, of SaG. Dating obtained for the peat

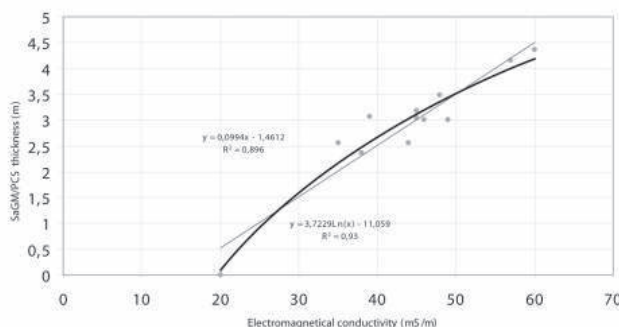


Figure 3

help to restrict this period to the Late Glacial and the Early Holocene. The end of this period can be said to correspond approximately to an increase in clayey-silty sedimentation in relation to human activities in the catchment area.

CONCLUSION

The geophysical electromagnetic method enables the border between sands and gravels without matrix and the overlying sands and gravels with matrix to be established. It is not a border due to depositional processes, but corresponds to the weathering front of the SaG deposit, developed during the Late Glacial, a period characterized by lack of sedimentation.

References

- GOURRY, J.C., VERMEERSCH, F., GARCIN, M., GIOT, D., 2003. Contribution of geophysics to the study of alluvial deposits: a case study in the Val d'Avaray area of the River Loire, France. *Journal of Applied Geophysics*, 54: 35-49.
- MACAIRE, J.J., BERNARD, J., DI GIOVANNI, C., HINSCHBERGER, F., LIMONDIN-LOZOUET, N., VISET, L., 2006. Quantification and regulation of organic and mineral sedimentation in a late- Holocene floodplain as a result of climatic and human impacts (Taligny marsh, Parisian basin, France). *The Holocene*, 16 (5): 647-660.
- MC NEILL, J.D., 1980. Electromagnetic terrain conductivity measurement at low induction numbers. Geonics limited, technical note TN-6.
- PASTRE, J.F., LIMONDIN-LOZOUET, N., LEROYER, C., PONEL, P., FONTUGUE, M., 2003. River system evolution and envi-

ronmental changes during the Lateglacial in the Paris Basin (France). *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 22: 2177-2188.

TABBAGH, A., COSENZA, P., 2006. Effect of microstructure on the electrical conductivity of clay-rich systems. *Physics and Chemistry of the Earth*, 32: 154-160.