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Eemian palaeoenvironmental evolution in the northern plains of France from the alluvial sequence of Waziers

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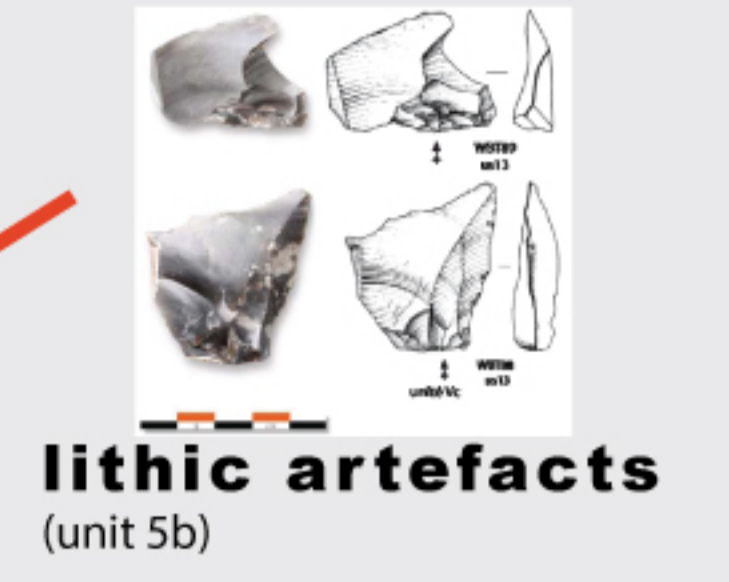
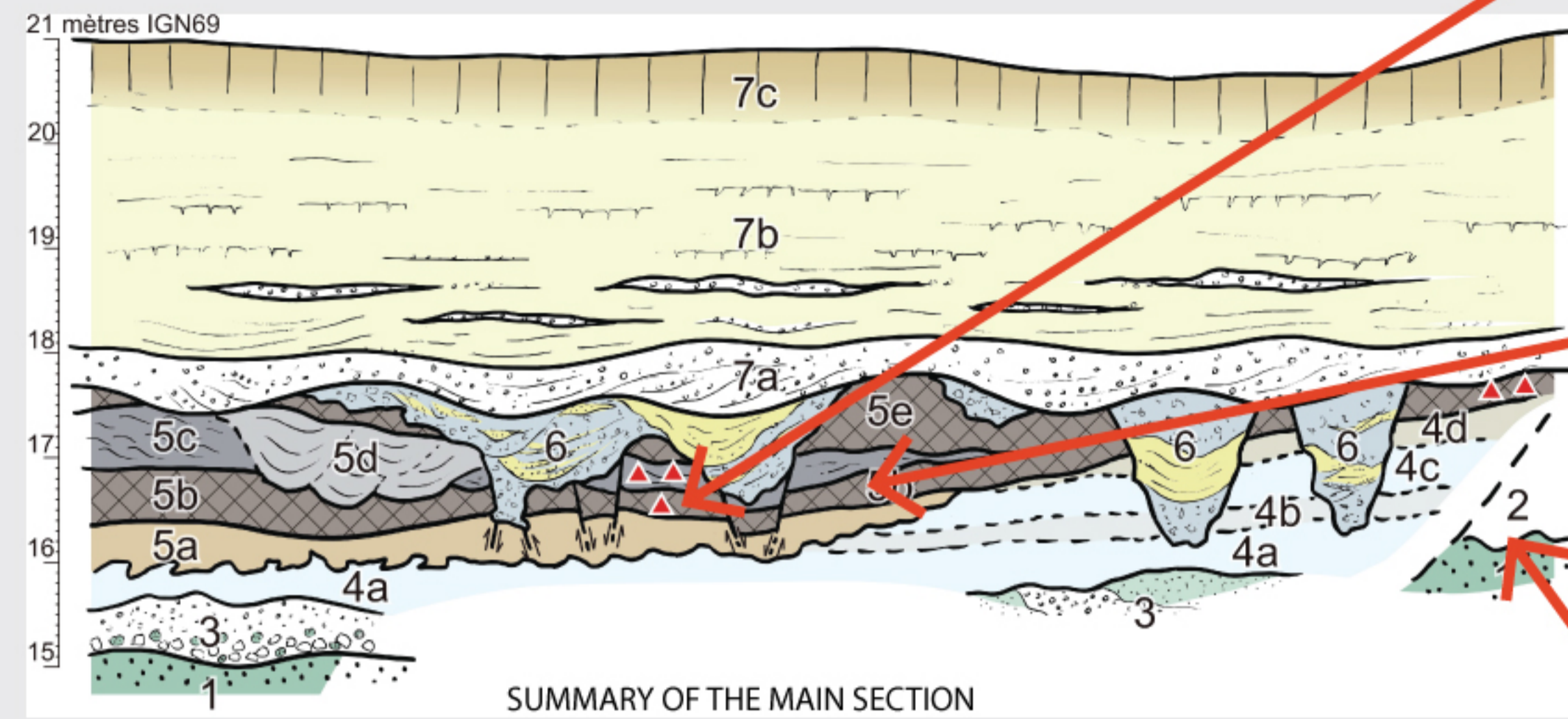
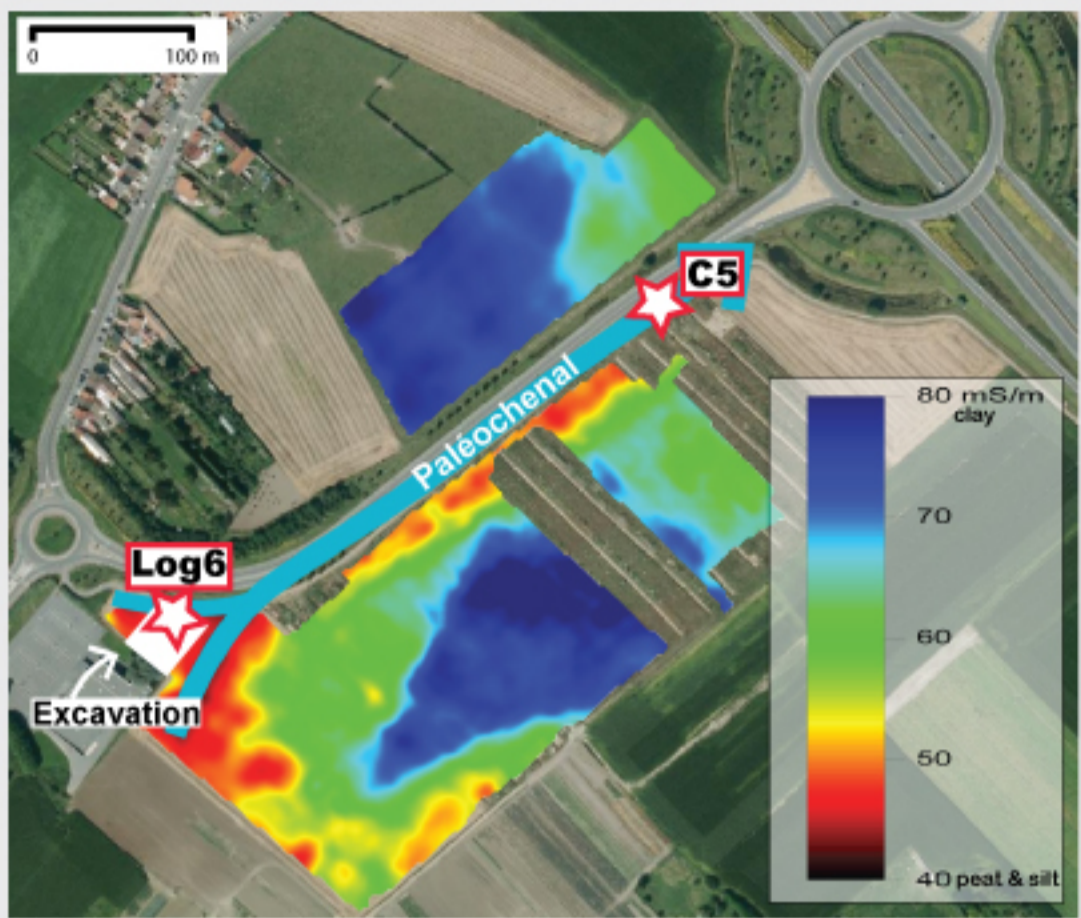


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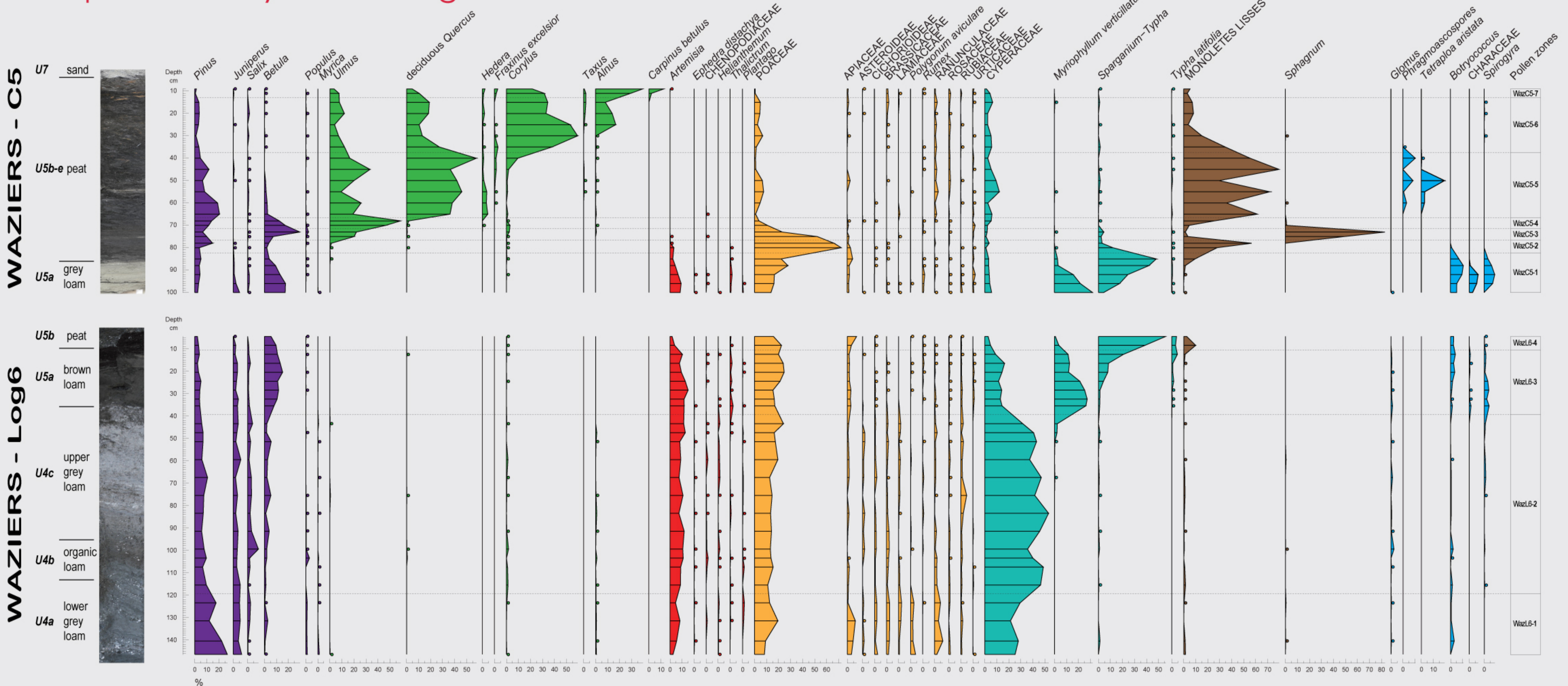
Gauthier A., Antoine P., Auguste P., Deschodt L., Ghaleb B., Hérisson D., Limondin-Lozouet N., Loch J.-L., Virmoux

WAZIERS : exceptional site in northern France a new Eemian sequence and a new middle Paleolithic site

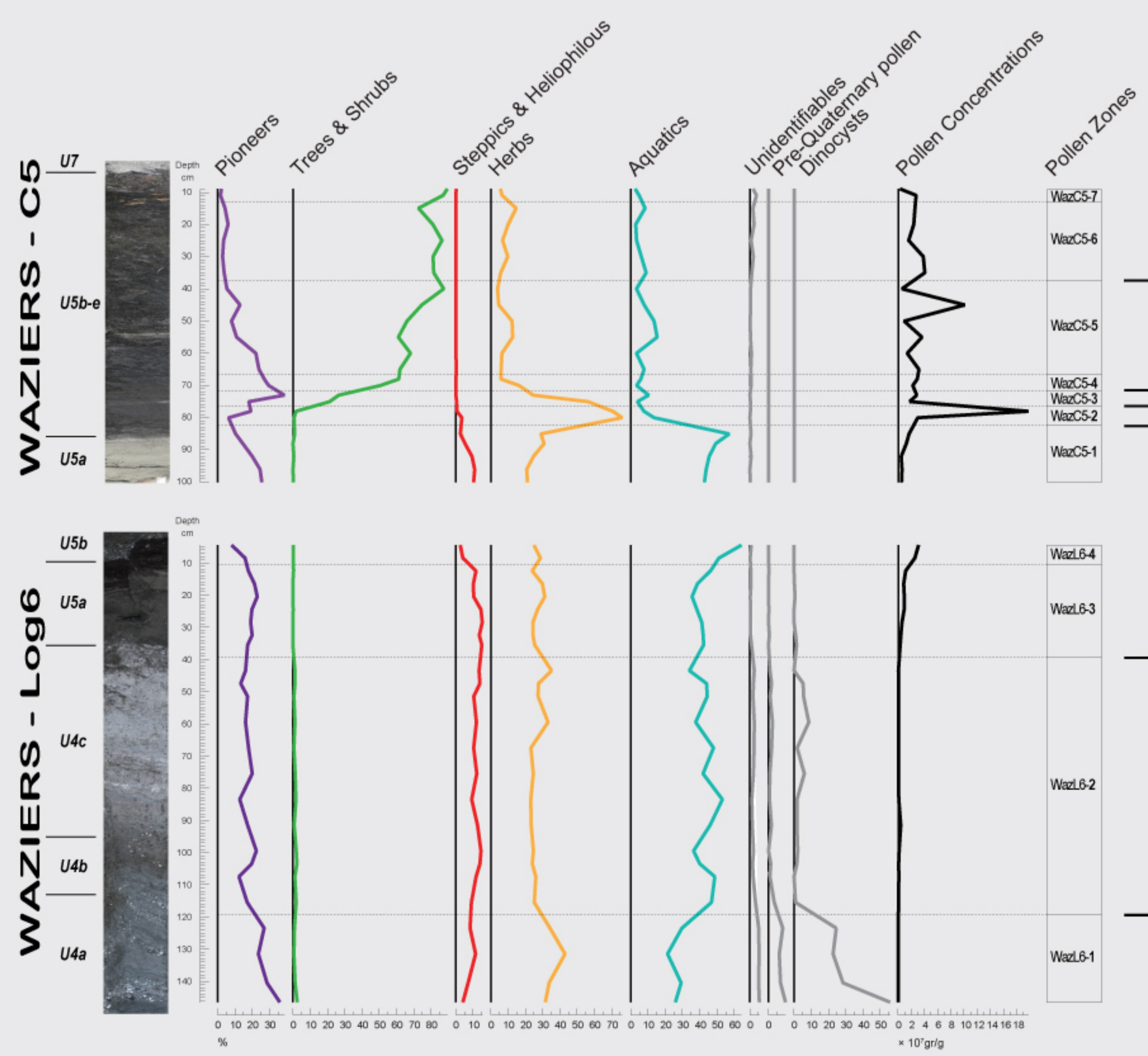


- * located in the Scarpe river valley
 - * thick alluvial sequence deposited in a large palaeo-meander
 - * correlation to the Eemian: minimum age of 103 + 3.5/-3.4 ka for unit 5c (U/Th date on Characeae oogon) occurrence of the typical Weichselian loess sequence overlying fluvial organic deposits.
- unit 4: mineral fluvial deposits (loam)
 - unit 5: organic fluvial deposits (peat)
 - units 6 & 7: reworked fluvial deposits & sand and loess

pollen analysis from Log6 and C5 sections



a classic succession of vegetation from glacial to interglacial conditions
a typical development of forests associated with the Eemian in Northern Europe
→ document Neanderthal landscape



LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL VEGETATION

- WazC5-7: alder swamp forest
- WazC5-6: Cyperaceae-dominated alkaline marsh abundant ferns in understorey
- WazC5-5: anaerobic more acidic Sphagnum peat fen
- WazC5-4, WazC5-3, WazC5-2: peat fen development dominated by grasses
- WazL6-4: slow flow of water and stabilization of banks: development of aquatic herbaceous plants
- WazL6-3: emergent wet meadow with sedges
- WazL6-2: erosion processes in unstable mineral soil not fully stabilized by a continuous plant cover
- WazL6-1: open arctic landscape dominated by herbs

eemian
late saalian