

# The Success (?) Story of the Northern France Palaeolithic Preventive Archaeology

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SOCIETY OF  
ANTIQUARIES  
OF LONDON

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**Before 1970**  
**« Gathering » Archaeology**



**1970-1980**  
**« Safety » Archaeology**



**Biache-Saint-Vaast 1976 A. Tuffreau**





# 1989 Railway TGV Nord Preventive Archaeology?



**Several sites discovered  
But...  
1 excavation**



# 1989-1991 Highway A5 Preventive Archaeology

**5 excavations**





## 1991-1992 Highway A16 South Preventive Archaeology

Nothing in deep test pits

But...

3 sites discovered during  
historic diagnostic or excavation

## 1994-1995 Highway A16 North Preventive Archaeology

54 deep test pits  
2 sites discovered

But...

1 excavation

3 excavations



Beauvais



Bettencourt



# Other tests...

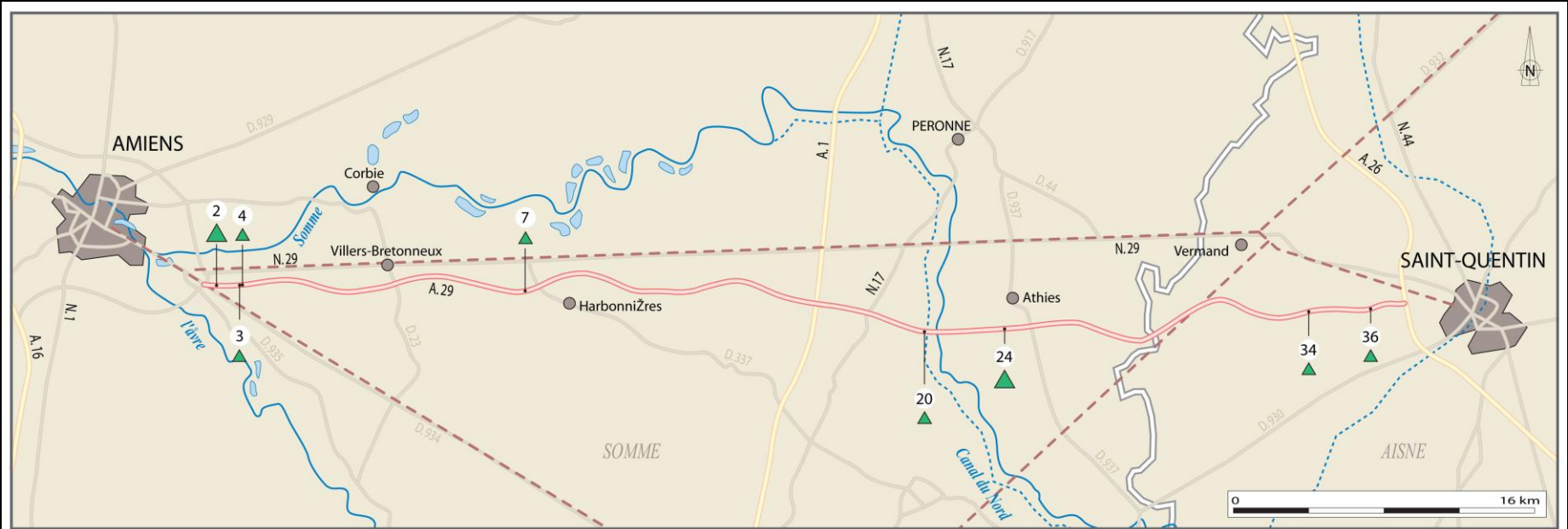




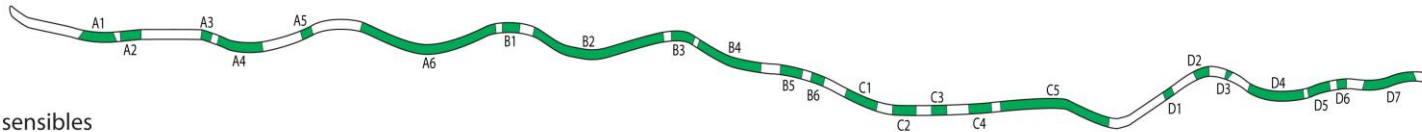
# 1998-2002 Highway A29 Preventive Archaeology

387 deep test pits  
15 sites discovered

78 days  
6 excavations



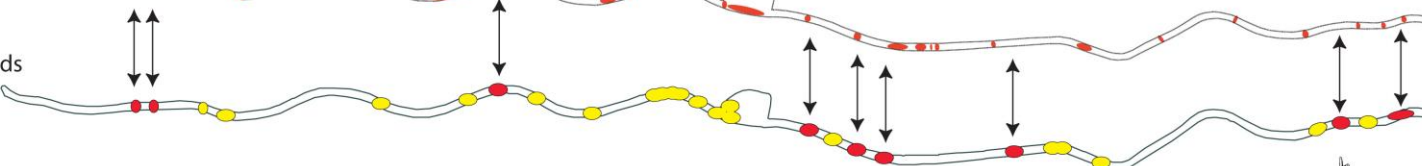
Zones  
faisant l'objet d'un décaissement



Zones  
géomorphologiques sensibles



Localisation  
des sondages profonds



● positifs  
● négatifs

# Current methodology: example of the CSNE project

Pre-diagnostic  
(2008)

Diagnostic  
(2008 and 2009)

Excavations  
(2010-2012)

Post-fouille  
(2013-2016)

Building of the Canal  
Seine-Nord Europe



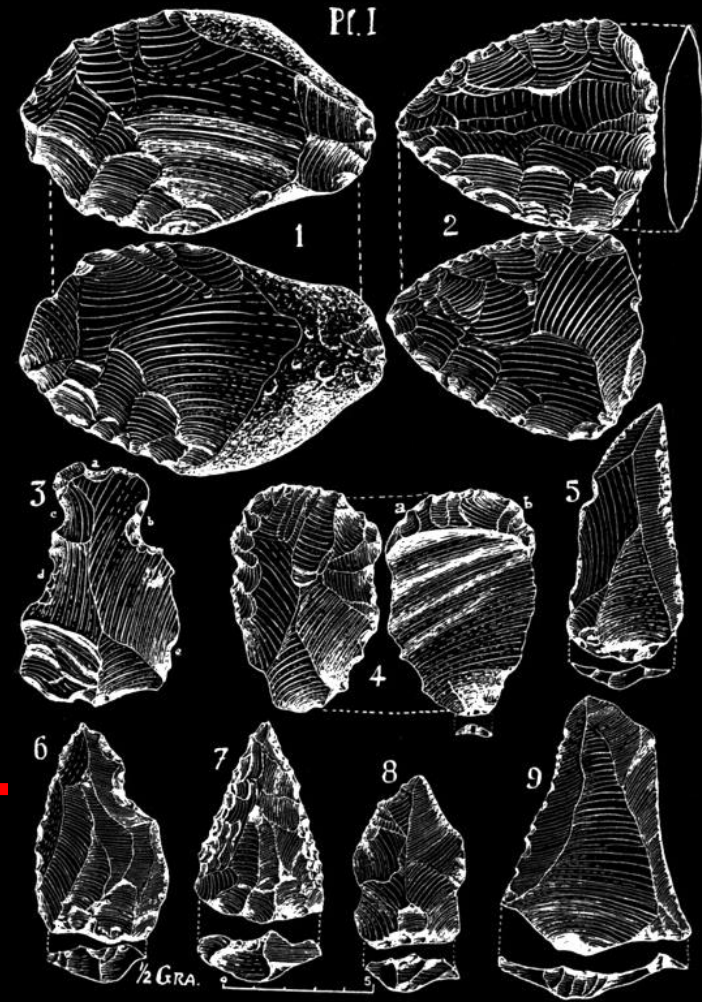
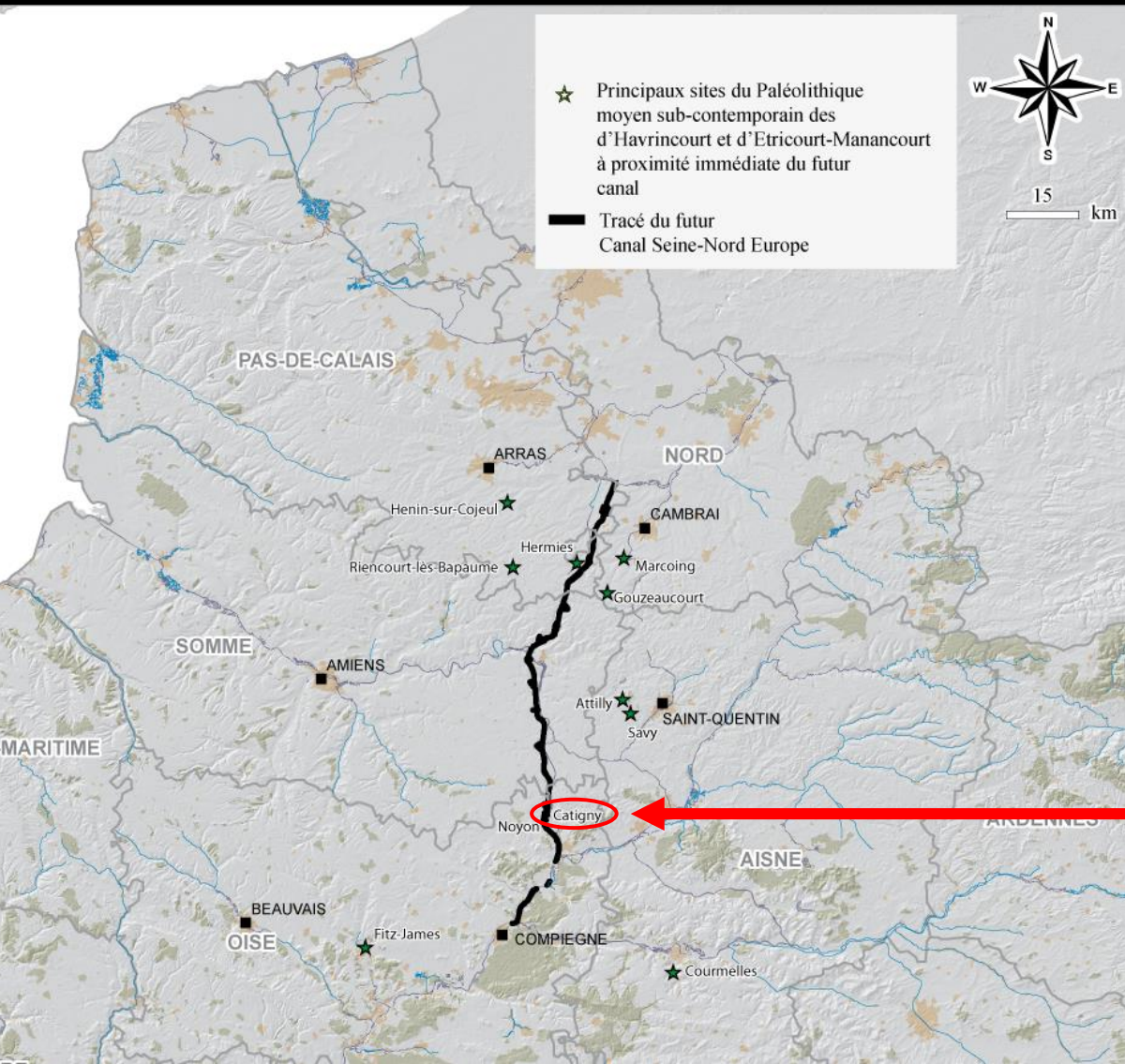
106 km

55 000 000 m<sup>3</sup> sediment to move

Until 30 m deep

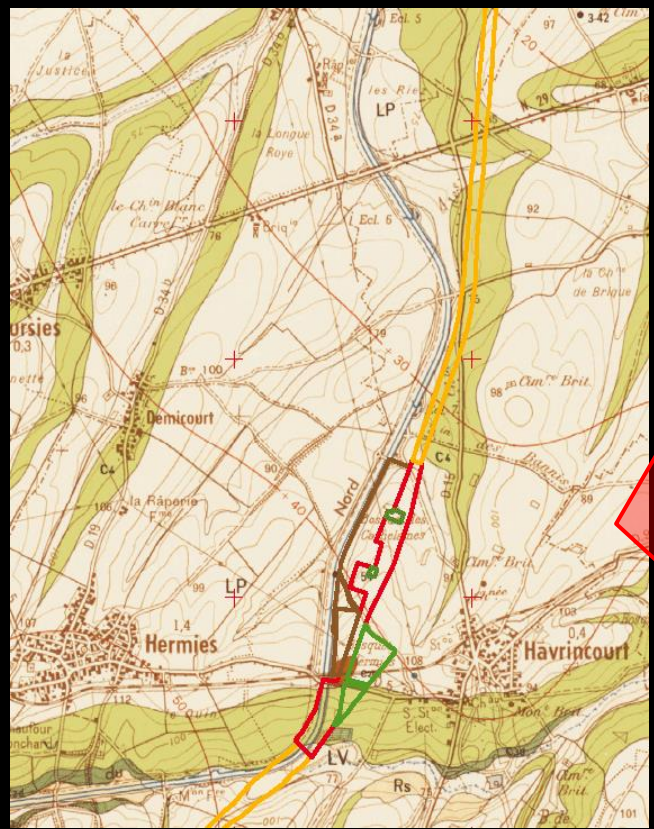


**Pre-diagnostic** → **Waited archeological potential**  
(references, carte archéologique and pedestrian prospect)





Pre-diagnostic  $\longrightarrow$  Geological favourable areas





Diagnostic → Team 1: superficial linear trenches for historic periods

Opening area = ~10%





Diagnostic



Team 2: trenches, test pits and enlarged windows for Mesolithic sites





Diagnostic



Team 3: deep test pits for Palaeolithic occupations





Diagnostic



Team 3: deep test pits for Palaeolithic occupations





Diagnostic



Team 3: deep test pits for Palaeolithic occupations

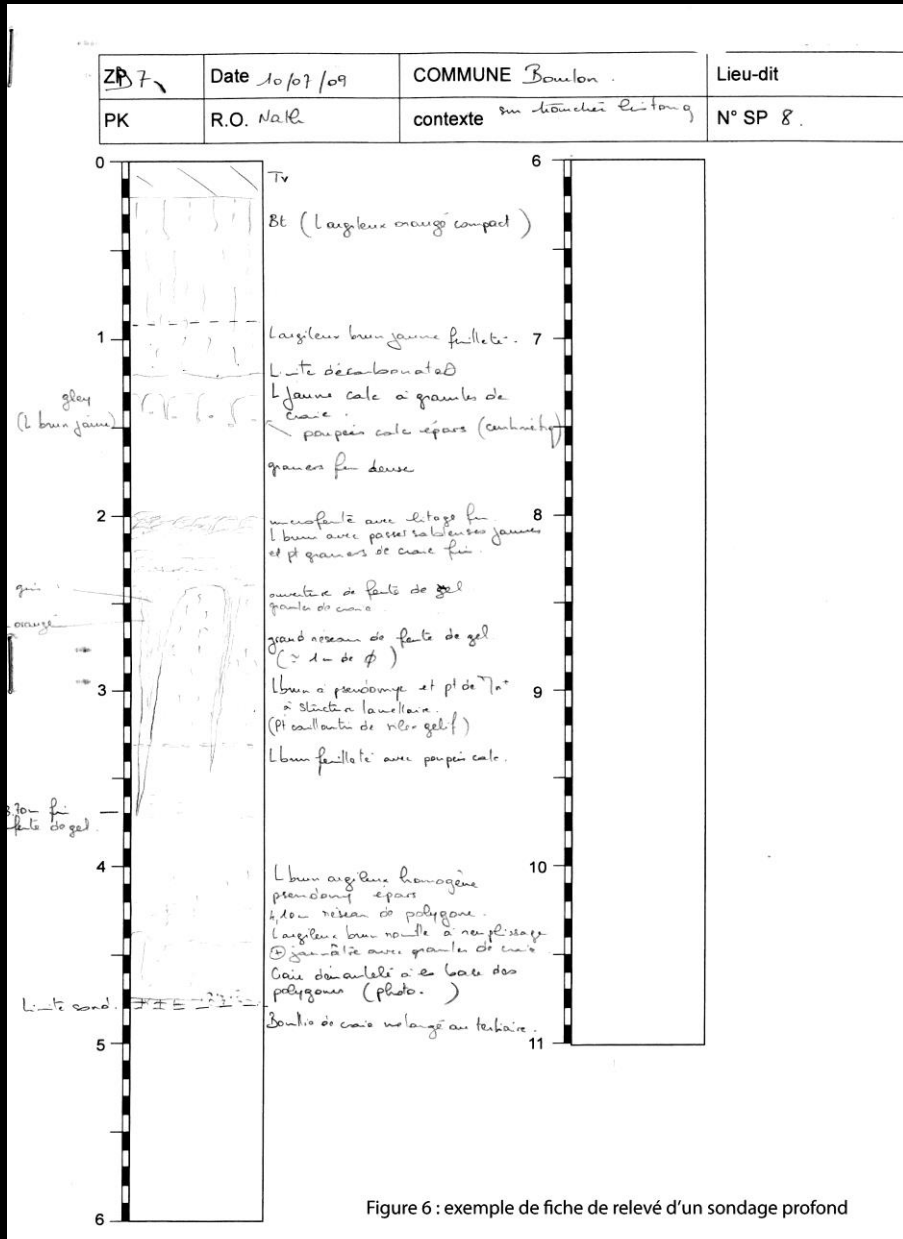


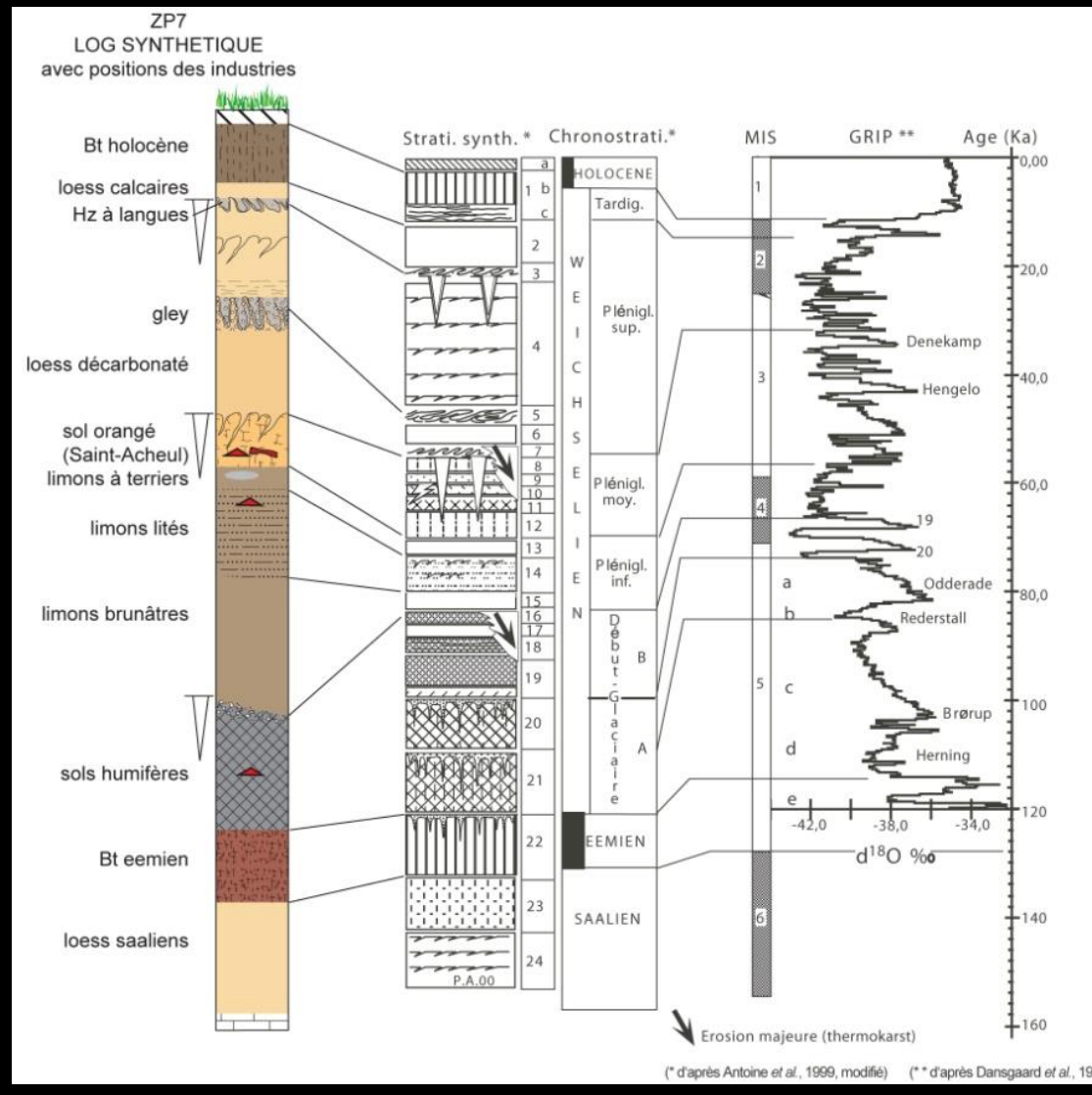
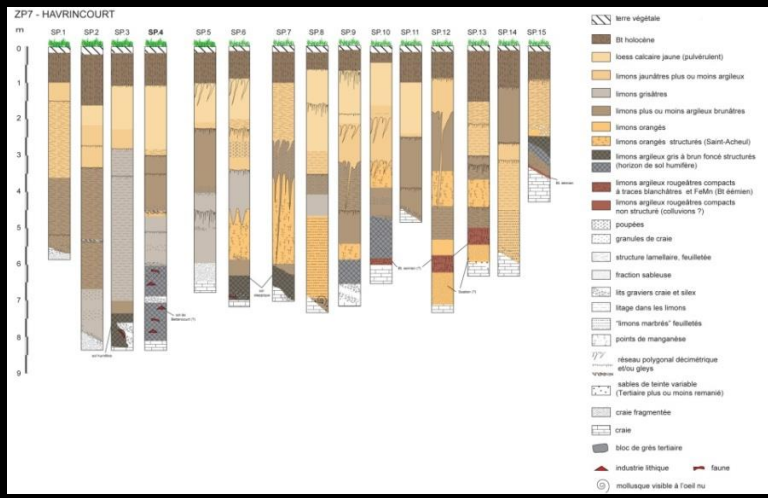
Figure 6 : exemple de fiche de relevé d'un sondage profond



Diagnostic



Team 3: deep test pits for Palaeolithic occupations

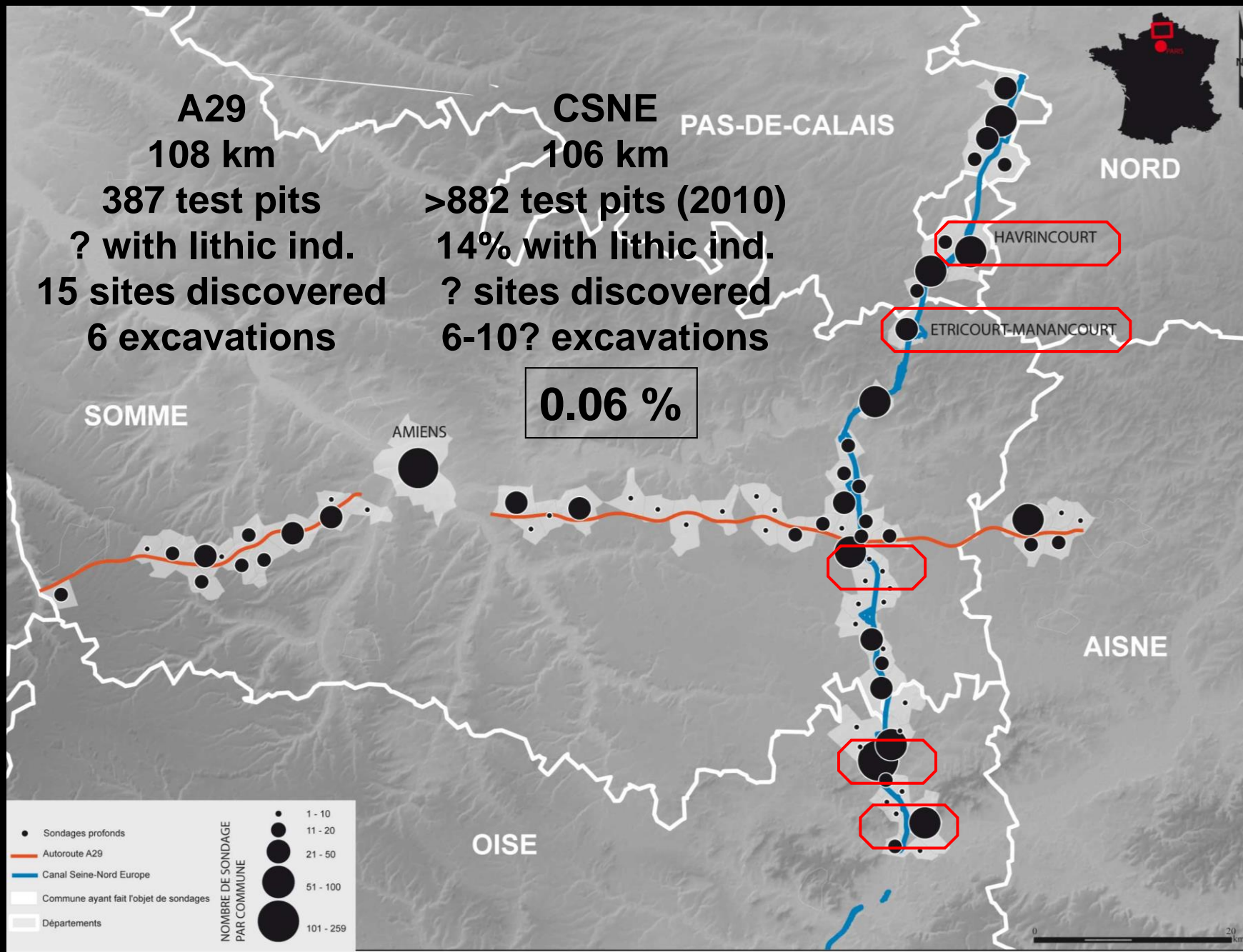




Diagnostic



Team 3: deep test pits for Palaeolithic occupations





**Excavations → 3 Palaeolithic excavations**



**Havrincourt - sector 1 – 2000 m<sup>2</sup>  
october - december 2010  
E. Goval dir.**



**Havrincourt - sector 2 - 4100 m<sup>2</sup>  
march - august 2011  
E. Goval dir.**



**Etricourt-Manancourt  
sector 2 - 4500 m<sup>2</sup>  
april - september 2012  
D. Hérison dir.**



# Is Northern France Noddy toys' world for Palaeolithic archaeology?



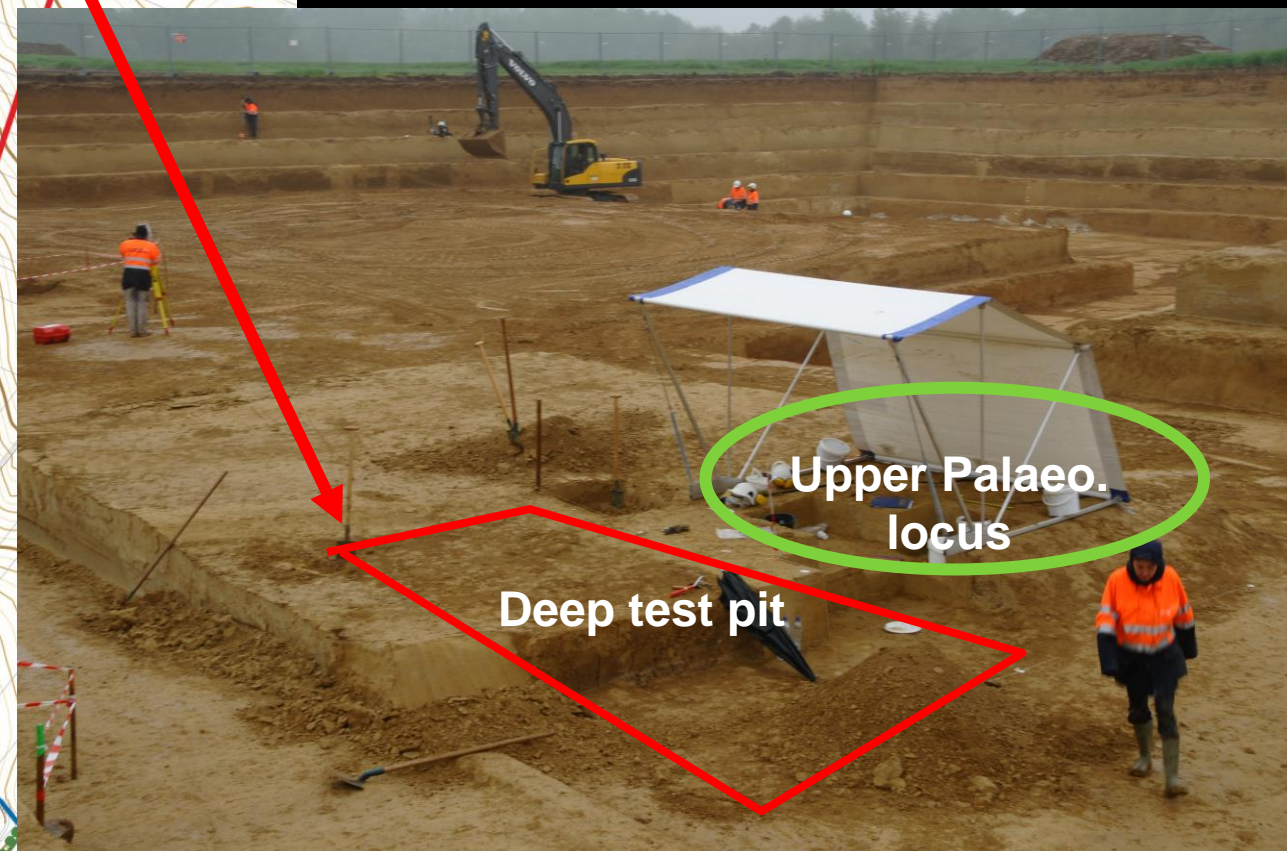
**376 340 m<sup>2</sup>**

**56 deep test pits**

**12 with lithic ind. from EGW**

**But...**

**Early Upper Palaeolithic site  
not detected during the diagnostic**

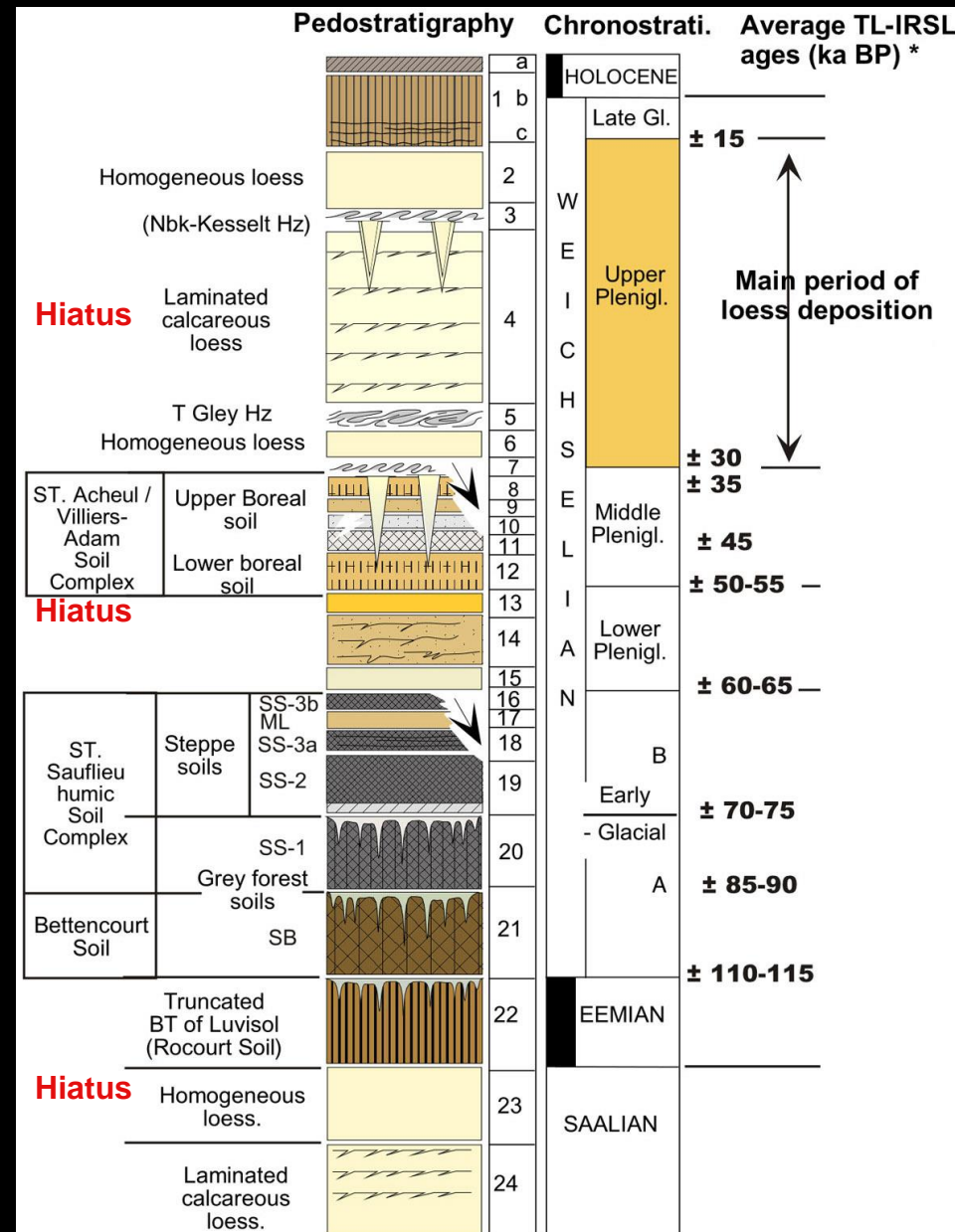
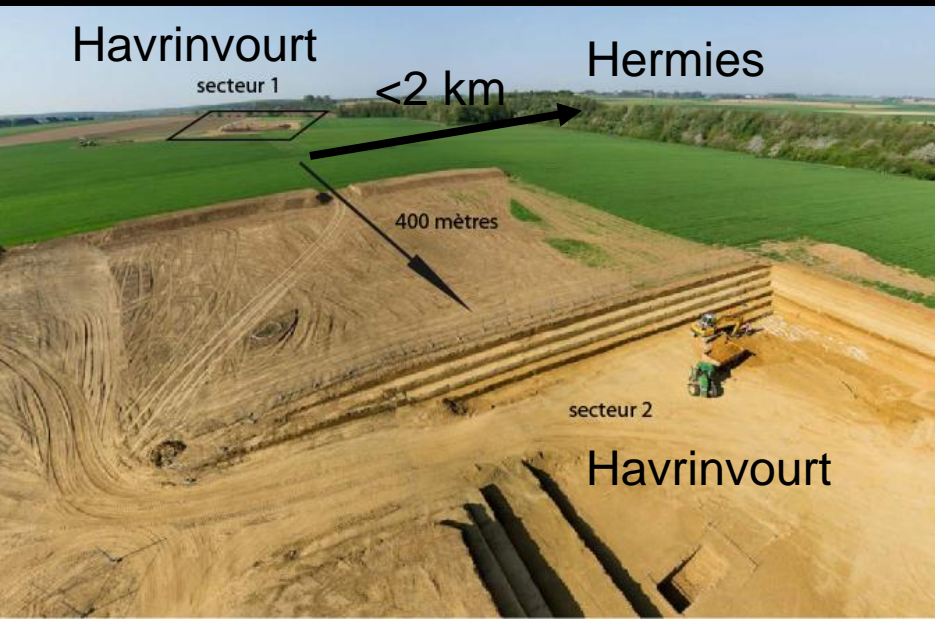




# The « Black hole » Archaeology, a perspective and future directions?

## Black hole in settlement dynamics

## Black hole in Palaeolithic landscape



(\* According to Antoine et al., 1999 & 2002 modified)

Major erosion (thermokarst)



# Thank you for your attention ...



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Aurélien BOLO

Sylvie COUTARD

Frank DEFAUX

Hélène DJEMA

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