

The Neolithic Transition in the Northern Adriatic: A Palaeoecological Perspective

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Introduction

The geography of the Northern Adriatic [fig.1] would have changed significantly during postglacial sea level rise. Yet, the impact of such changes on human societies is still unknown, especially in the context of the spread of farming. How did the palaeolandscape evolution influence these processes?

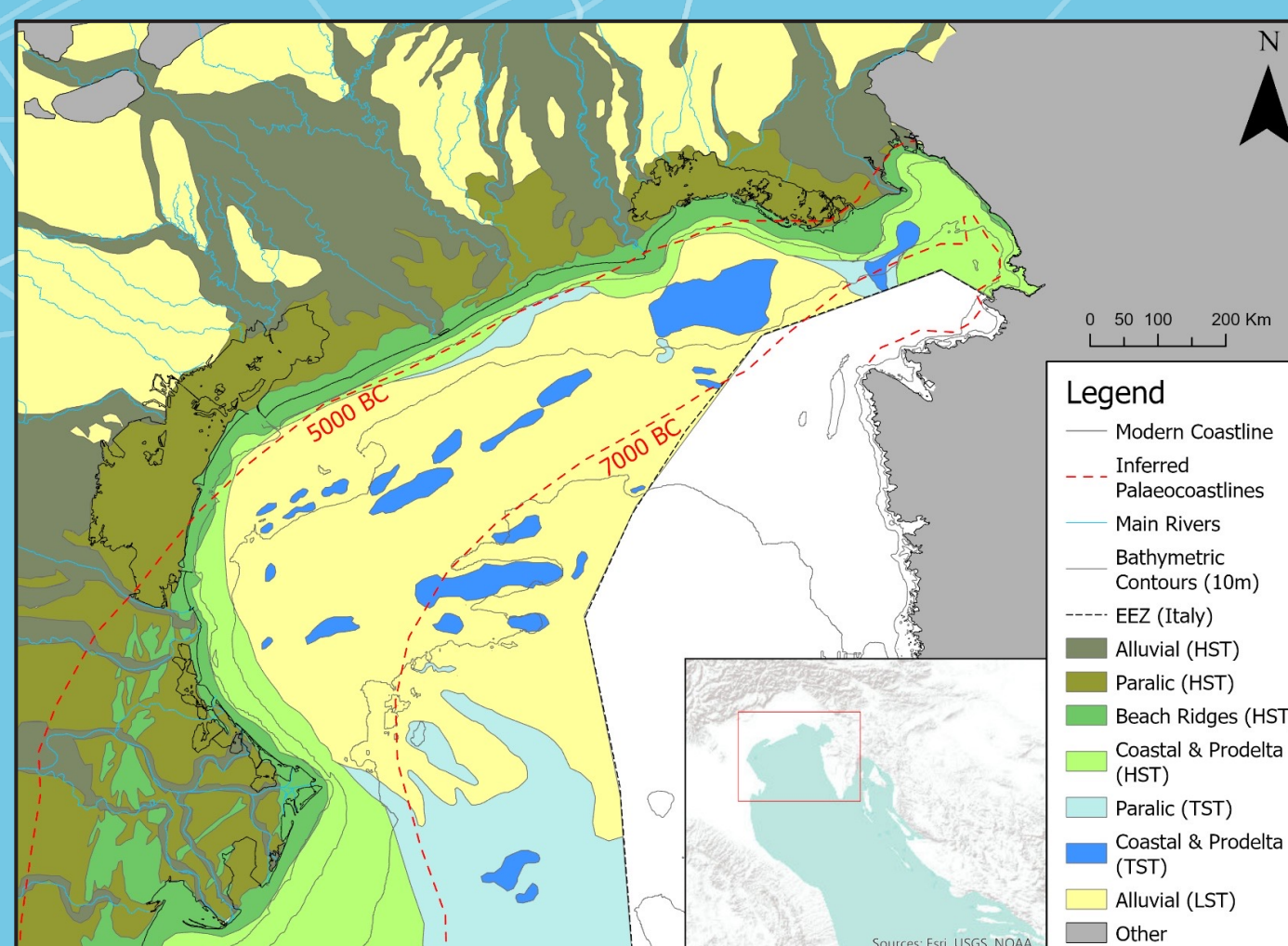
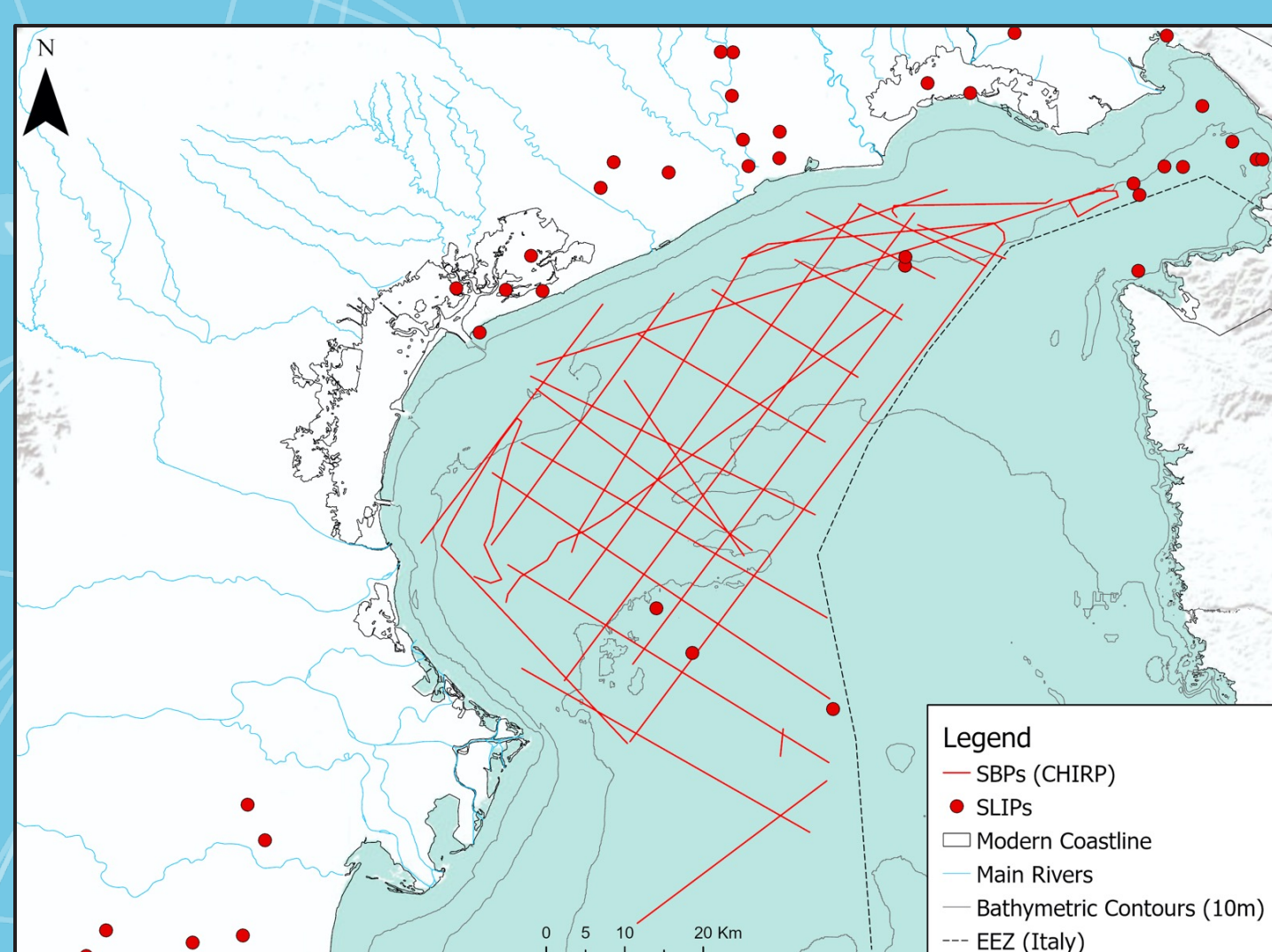


Fig.1. Surface geology of the Northern Adriatic and palaeolandscape features (©S.Ongaro)

Initial Results

An Inundation Surface has been produced [fig.3] which will be integrated with dated cores to reconstruct the paleogeography of the region. Different paralic and coastal environments have also been detected [fig.4], confirming the development and subsequent drowning of lagoon systems.



Materials and Methods

Sub bottom profiles and dated cores [fig.2] will be used to model the ancient coastline and past environments. The paleogeographic reconstructions will be used to build palaeoecological models of Neolithization.

Fig.2. Available data (©S.Ongaro, OGS)

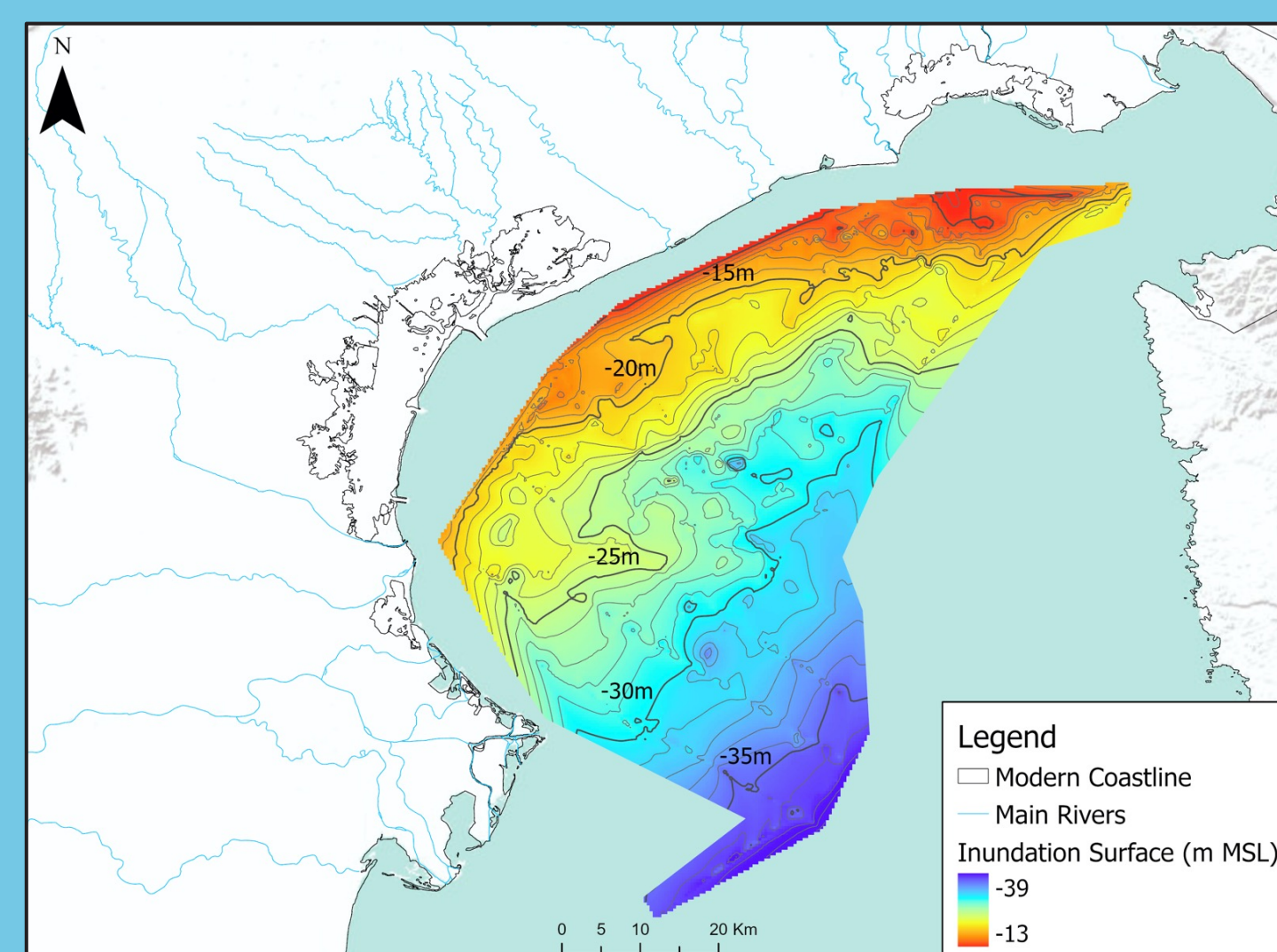
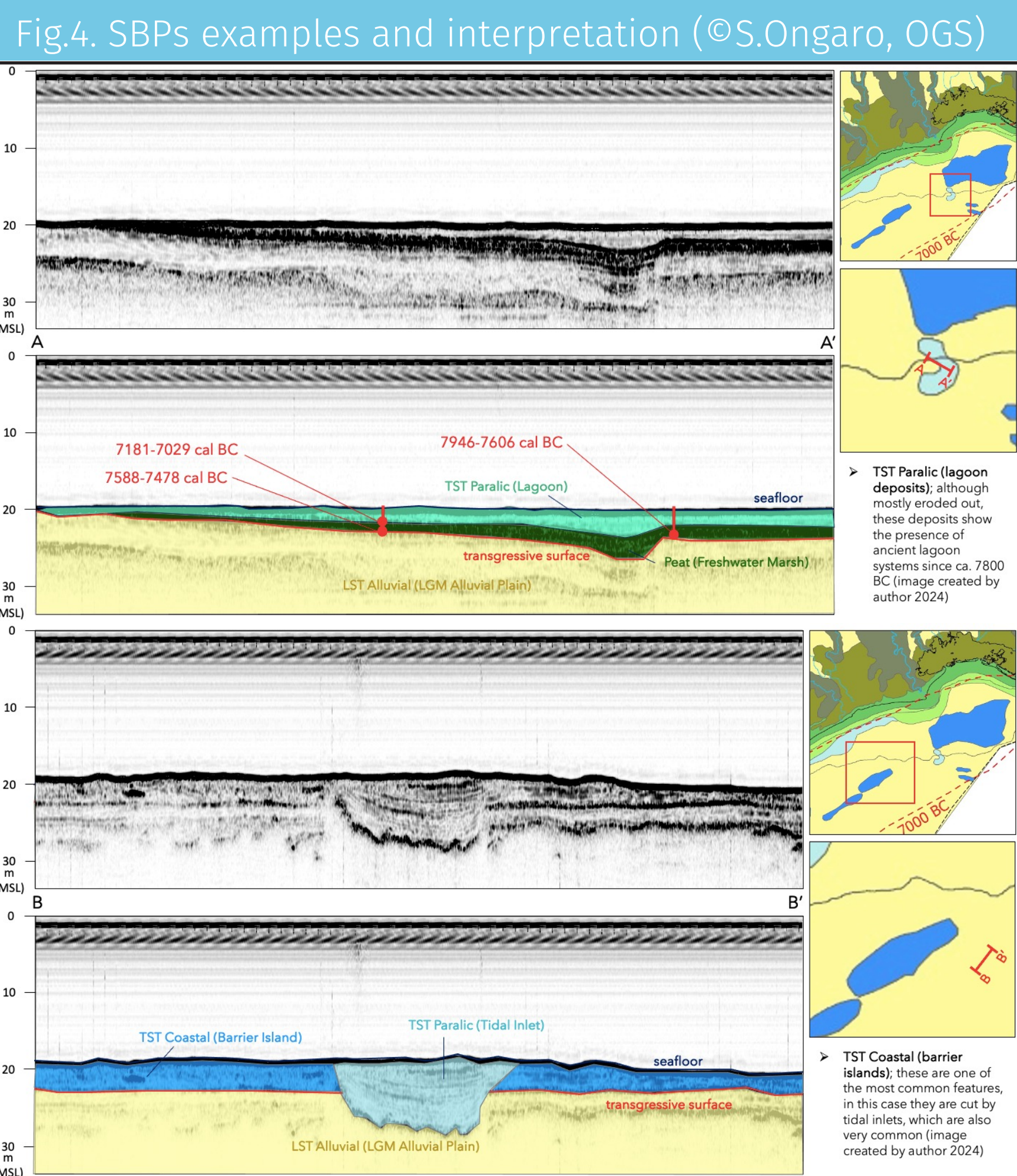
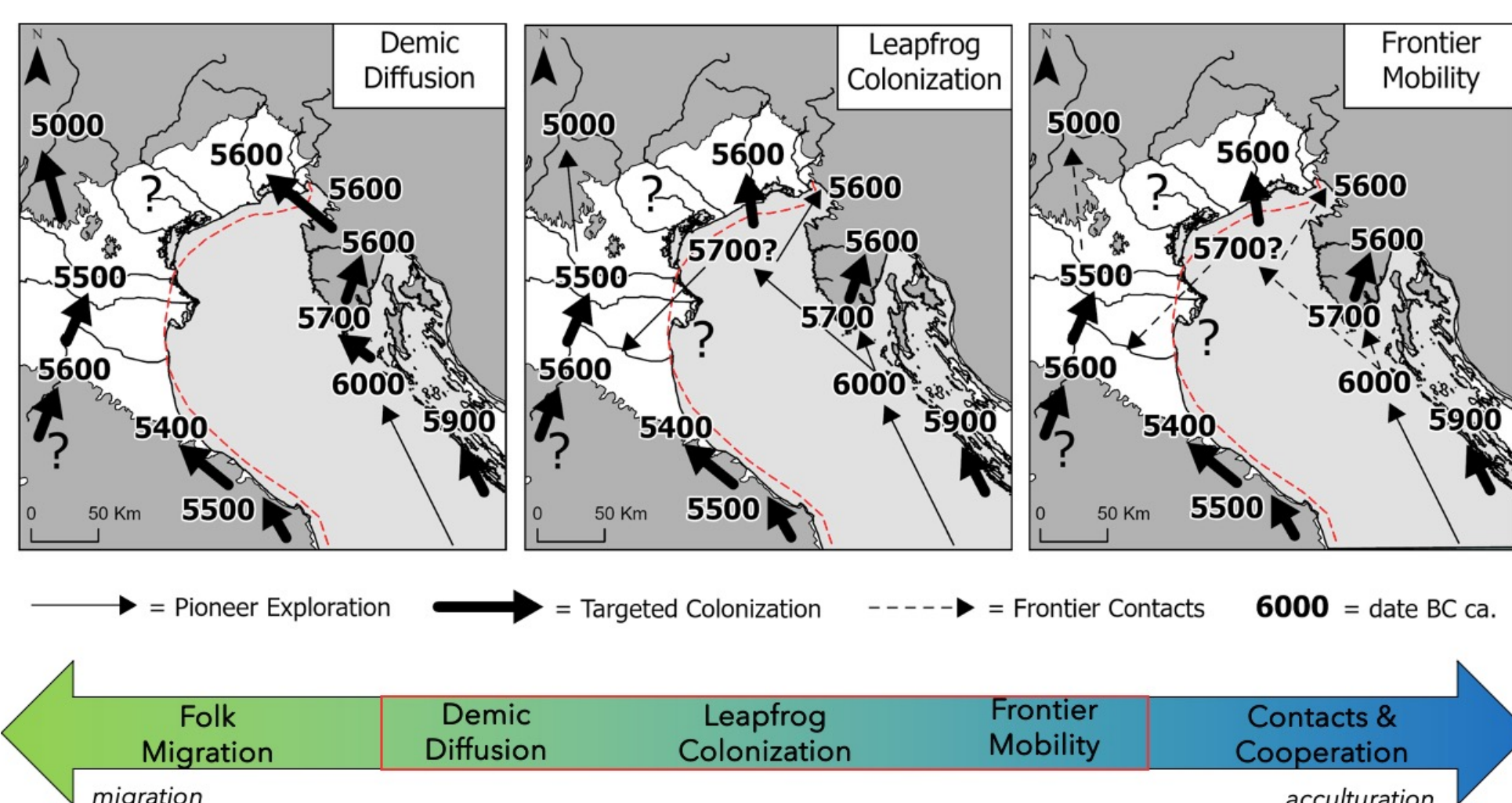


Fig.3. Modelled Inundation Surface (©S.Ongaro)

The Spread of Farming in the Northern Adriatic

We know that farmers would have spread along the Adriatic coastlines through a maritime exploration phase, followed by targeted colonization [1]. Yet the role of local foragers and the exact dynamics in the North remain unknown [2, 3]. We thus built different models of Neolithization based on the available RC dates in the region (see image below), which integrated with palaeolandscape reconstructions will allow us to build palaeoecological models.



Acknowledgements

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References

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