

The maximum extent of the Odranian Glaciation (Saalian, MIS 6) in the South Podlasie Lowland (SE Poland) in the light of sites with lacustrine deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial

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ABSTRACT:

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Based on the analysis of the geological context and palynological studies performed on lake and bog sediments in the Southern Podlasie Lowland, a new concept of the maximum extent of the Odranian Glaciation (Saalian, MIS 6) is presented for the study area. It is depicted by the Siedlce–Łosice–Kornica zone of end moraines, which so far was considered as stadial-rank or as the Wartanian ice sheet limit. To the south of this zone, near Biała Podlaska and in the Łuków Plain, there occur numerous sites with fossil deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c). Sites with new documentation, i.e., Wólka Domaszewska, Kolonia Bystrzycka, Przytulín, Hermanów, and Skrzyńka are located about 30 km to the south and 60 km to the west of the Biała Podlaska area. Palynological analysis unequivocally indicates the presence of a vegetation succession characteristic of the Mazovian Interglacial. In all sites, deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial are covered by lacustrine sediments of the Liviecian Glaciation (Fuhne, MIS 11b–MIS 10) or mineral sediments of the Vistulian Glaciation (Weichselian, MIS 2) and the Holocene. The sediments infill paleolakes carved in glacial tills of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (MIS 12). The lake sediments of the Mazovian Interglacial and the overlying biogenic and mineral deposits occur in the analysed sites directly below the surface. They are never covered by glacial deposits, which suggests that the Odranian ice sheet did not cover the study area. The location of the lake and bog sites with their geological analysis allow for the precise depiction of the eastern limit of the Odranian ice sheet lobe, which in the study area correlates with the limit suggested in the late 19th century. The Odranian ice sheet did not cover Southern Podlasie.

Key words: Odranian Glaciation (MIS 6) maximum extent; Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c); Palaeolakelands; Sanian 2 Glaciation (MIS 12); SE Poland.





Text-fig. 1. Maximum extents of glaciations in south-eastern Poland in historical terms (based on Małek 2011). A – Odranian Glaciation (Saalian, MIS 8); 1 – Siemiradzki 1889; 2 – Zaborski 1927, Mojski 1972a, b, Różycki 1972, 1980; 3 – Buraczyński and Wojtanowicz 1980/1981; 4 – Buraczyński 1986 (simplified). B – Warta Stadial /Podlasiac /Middle Polish Glaciation or Warta Glaciation (MIS 6); 5 – Zaborski 1927, Terpiłowski 2001, Harasimiuk *et al.* 2004a, b, Żarski 2004, Godlewska 2014, Marks *et al.* 2018; 6 – Rühle 1970; 7 – Różycki 1972, 1980; 8 – Lindner 1988.

INTRODUCTION

The last Pleistocene glaciation in the Polish Lowlands was the Odranian Glaciation (Saalian, MIS 6). Discussion on the maximum limit of its ice sheet has continued since the late 19th century. According to Siemiradzki (1889, p. 55) the extent of the “upper glacial till of the second glacial period” covered the Żelechów Heights (SE Poland) across to the Wieprz valley and the northern part of the Łuków Plain (Text-fig. 1).

According to Sawicki (1922), the maximum extent of the “Middle Polish glacier” was depicted by a line from the vicinity of Józefów in the Vistula valley in the south-west, through Chodel and Lublin, through Rejowiec to Dubienka upon Bug to the south-east.

The maximum extent of the Middle Polish ice sheet was depicted as sub-parallel till Chelme and in the Vistula valley till Zawichost by Zaborski (1927),

based on detailed analyses of glacial forms and sediments representing the “youngest glaciation”, as it was considered in those times (Text-fig. 1).

According to Zaborski (1927), the Lublin Upland was not covered by this glaciation, contrary to Sawicki (1922), who considered that the northern part of the Lublin Upland was covered by the Middle Polish ice sheet.

Zaborski’s (1927) concept on the extent of the Middle Polish Glaciation has persisted with minor modifications of its course in numerous publications (e.g., Jahn 1956; Mojski and Rühle 1965; Mojski 1971, 1972a, b; Różycki 1972). According to Buraczyński and Wojtanowicz (1980/1981) and Buraczyński (1986), the ice sheet of the Odranian Glaciation covered the study area to the south of Chelme and Lublin, as far as Biłgoraj, thus expanding over most of the Lublin Upland (Text-fig. 1). However, according to most researchers, the maximal extent of the

Zaborski (1927)	Różycki (1972)	Jersak (1973)	Ber et al. (2007)	Lindner and Marks (2012)	Stratigraphy in this paper	MIS
Eemian	Eemian	Eemian	Eemian	Eemian	Eemian	5e
Podlasie St.	Warta St.	Wartanian Gl.	Wartanian–Odranian Gl.	Wartanian St. Odranian Gl.	Odranian Gl. s.s. with Wartanian St.	6
Middle Polish Gl. Maximum St.	Pilica Int.	Lublinian Int.	Lublinian Int.	Lublinian Int.	Lublinian Int.	7
	Middle Polish Gl. Odra St.	Odranian Gl.	Krznanian Gl.	Krznanian Gl.	Krznanian Gl.	8
			Zbójnian Int.	Zbójnian Int.	Zbójnian Int.	9
			Liviecian Gl.	Liviecian Gl.	Liviecian Gl.	10
			–	–	Early Liviecian Gl.	11a–11b
Mazovian	Mazovian	Mazovian	Mazovian	Mazovian	11c	

Table 1. Stratigraphy of the Quaternary in Poland between MIS 11 and MIS 5e according to different authors.

Odranian ice sheet conforms with that presented by Zaborski (1927) (e.g., Lindner and Marks 1995, 1999; Marks 2004a, b, 2011; Marks and Pavlovskaya 2006; Lindner *et al.* 2013).

Increasing recognition of Quaternary deposits in the Polish Lowlands has resulted in the sub-division of the Odranian Glaciation into two separate glaciations: the Odranian Glaciation *sensu stricto* correlated with MIS 8 and the Wartanian Glaciation correlated with MIS 6 (Jersak 1973; Różycki 1980; Lindner 1984; Table 1). Correlatives of these glaciations in the Central European Lowland in Germany were the Drenthe (MIS 8) and Warthe (MIS 6) glaciations (Litt *et al.* 2007; Head and Gibbart 2015; Table 2). A warm climatostratigraphic unit, i.e., the Lublinian/Lubavian Interglacial (MIS 7) was recognized between the Odranian Glaciation *s.s.* (MIS 8) and the Wartanian Glaciation (MIS 6).

In continental areas, the maximum ice sheet extent is usually marked by accumulated and piled-up end moraines, outwash fans, or terminal depressions (Schomacker and Benediktsson 2018). A very distinct end moraine zone occurs in the northern and eastern part of the Southern Podlasie Lowland, in the Siedlce Heights between Siedlce, Łosice and Kornica (Harasimiuk *et al.* 2004a, b). The maximum limits of the stadial-rank or Wartanian ice sheet were considered to occur in this area by numerous authors (e.g., Zaborski 1927; Różycki 1972; Mojski 1972a, b; Lindner *et al.* 1985, 1988, 1991; Lindner and Marks 1995; Marks *et al.* 1995; Albrycht 2001a, b, 2004, 2005; Terpiłowski 2001, 2021; Harasimiuk *et al.* 2004a, b; Małek 2004a, b, 2011; Marks 2004a, b; Żarski 2004; Godlewska 2014, 2015).

The earlier concept of one Odranian (Saalian) Glaciation reappeared in later studies on the palaeogeography of the study area, but it was then correlated with MIS 6 and not MIS 8 (Marks *et al.* 1995; Ber *et al.* 2007; Lindner and Marks 2012; see Table 1).

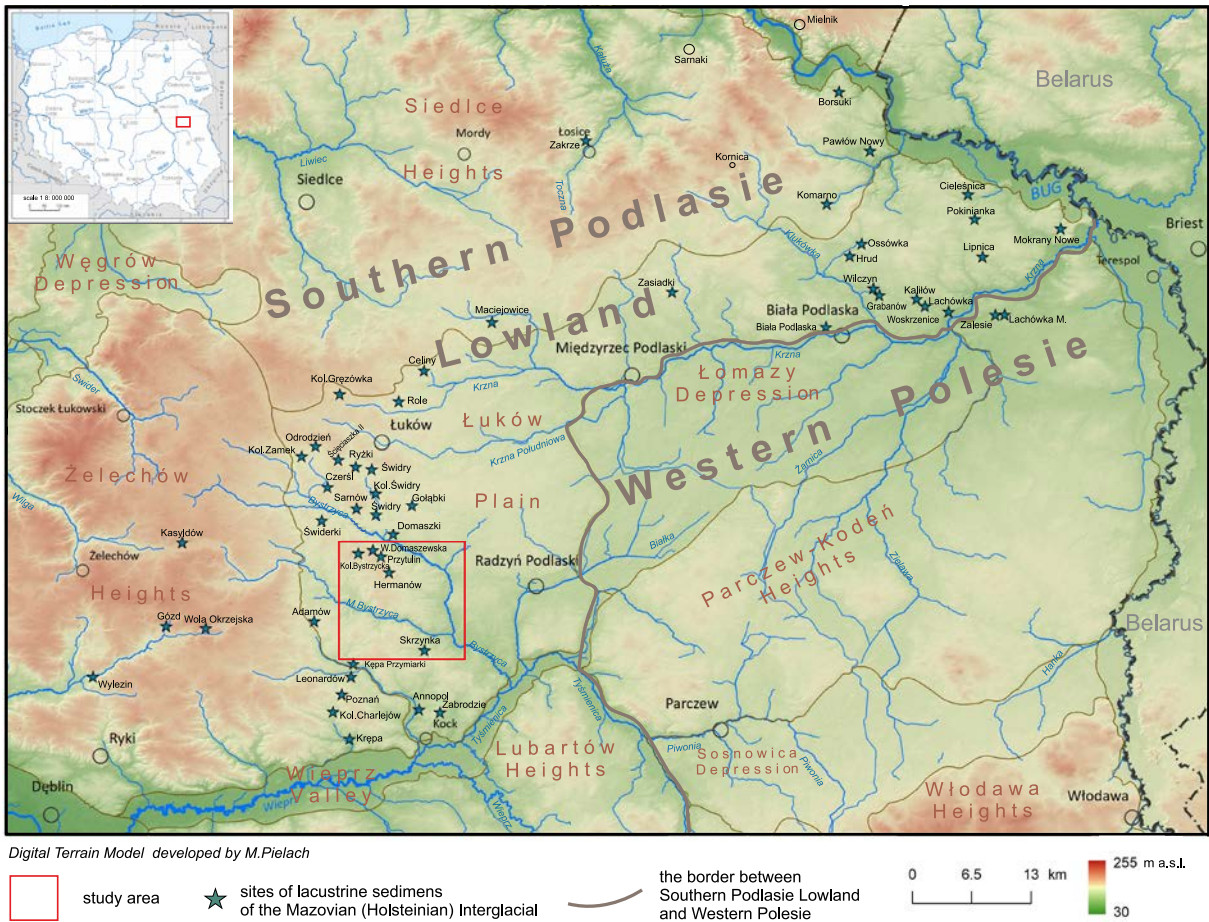
The Siedlce–Łosice–Kornica end moraine zone

was considered to be the record of the recession phase of the Odranian ice sheet (Saalian, MIS 6), and the concept of the maximum extent of the Odranian ice sheet conformed with the idea of Zaborski (1927), i.e., as far as the vicinity of Chełm (Text-fig. 1).

Żarski (2006) was the first to formulate a hypothesis that southern Podlasie and Polesie were not covered by the Odranian Glaciation. Glacial tills of the Saalian 2 (Elsterian, MIS 12) Glaciation were recognized in the sub-surface of the area located to the south-west of Siedlce and Łosice, which was covered by the Adamów sheet of the Detailed Geological Map of Poland at the scale of 1:50 000 (Żarski *et al.* 2005a, b, 2009a; Żarski 2008, 2009). The concept of the maximum extent of the Odranian ice sheet near Siedlce was sustained by Marks *et al.* (2016), who revised some previous ideas. Such an interpretation of the maximum extent of the Odranian ice sheet was presented on the Geological Map of Poland at the scale of 1:500 000 (Marks *et al.* 2022). The maximum extent of the Odranian Glaciation near Siedlce was similarly presented on the Siedlce sheet of the map at the scale of 1:200 000 (Kucharska *et al.* 2019; Żarski and Kucharska 2019).

The course of the maximum extent of the Odranian Glaciation to the southwest of Siedlce is more problematic to depict due to the lack of distinct end moraine zones. Evidence critical for determining this limit in the area is the presence of sites with Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c) lake sediments that are not overlain by glacial deposits (Text-fig. 2).

This study aims to present the maximum extent of the Odranian (Saalian, MIS 6) ice sheet in the south-western part of the Łuków Plain being part of the Southern Podlasie Lowland (SE Poland) based on documented sites with lacustrine deposits recording the Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c) succession coupled with the geological context of the analysed strata. The basis for determining the age of the interglacial deposits was the results of palynologic



Text-fig. 2. Location of the sites of palaeobotanic studies of a Mazovian/Holsteinian paleolake in South Podlasie Lowland (Krupiński 2000; Nitychoruk *et al.* 2003, 2006; Nitychoruk and Gałązka 2006a, b, 2008, 2009; Żarski *et al.* 2009a; Marks and Karabanov 2017, 2018).

studies performed in five sites: Przytulín, Wólka Domaszewska, Kolonia Bystrzycka, Hermanów, and Skrzyńka (Text-fig. 2).

LAKE DEPOSITS OF THE MAZOVIAN INTERGLACIAL (HOLSTEINIAN, MIS 11C) IN THE STUDY AREA – STATE OF RECOGNITION

Sites with lake and bog deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial are of key significance for Pleistocene stratigraphy. They represent a benchmark horizon in the climatostratigraphic scheme for south-eastern Poland. Numerous sites with lacustrine and bog deposits (gyttja, peats, silts and peat shales) representing MIS 11c have been encountered directly below the surface in the area to the south of the Siedlce–Łosice–Kornica end moraine zone (Text-figs 1 and 2), and

documented with geological, palaeobotanic and palaeofaunal studies.

Sites with Mazovian Interglacial sediments record the presence of paleolakes that developed after the Saanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12; Żarski 2008, 2009; Żarski *et al.* 2009a) in depressions formed after melted-out dead-ice blocks (Małek and Pidek 2007; Pidek *et al.* 2011; Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019; Górecki *et al.* 2022). In south-eastern Poland, most Mazovian Interglacial deposits accumulated in small basins located on the surface of fossil moraine plateaus or glaciofluvial plains from the Saanian 2 Glaciation. Their thickness does not exceed 12 m.

Palaeolakelands from the Mazovian Interglacial occur in south-eastern Poland in three regions (Text-fig. 2). Two of them are situated in the Southern Podlasie Lowland (Żarski *et al.* 2009), and the third – in Western Polesie (Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2014; Pochocka-Szwarc *et al.* 2024). In the first one, near Biała Podlaska (Siedlce

Aga ka BP	Stratigraphy		Poland		W Europe Germany	E Europe		MIS	
						Belarus	Ukraine		
11.7	Holocene							1	
130	Quaternary	Pleistocene	Late	North Polish Complex	Vistulian*	Weichselian	Poozerian	Valdy	2–5d
			Middle	Middle Polish Complex	Odranian s.l.	Eemian	Eemian	Muravinian	Pryluky (Horokhiv)
Odranian s.s. with Wartanian stadial	Drenthe+ Warthe	Dnieperian II (Pripjatian)				Dnieper 2 (Tysmyń)	6		
Lublinian (Lubavian)	Schöningen	Shklovian				Kaydaky	7		
Krznanian*	?	?				Dnieper 1	8		
Zbójnian	Reinsdorf	Smolenskiian				Potagaylivka	9		
Liviecian*	Fuhne	Cooling				Orel	10		
Early Liviecian*				11a–11b					
Mazovian	Holsteinian	Alexandrian		Zavadivka (Likhvin)	11c				
South Polish Complex	Sanian 2	Elsterian		Berezinian	Tiligul (Krukienice)	12			

Table 2. Chronostratigraphic correlation of Middle and Upper Pleistocene in: north-eastern Europe (Lit *et al.* 2007, Head and Gibbard 2015), south-eastern Poland (Lindner *et al.* 2006 (modified)), Marks *et al.* 2016 (modified)), Belarus (Velichkevich *et al.* (2001)), Ukraine (Lindner *et al.* 2004a, b, 2006, 2007, Lindner and Marks 2008); and marine isotope stages (MIS). * area not covered by ice sheets.

Heights, Łuków Plain, and Łomazy Depression), geological and palaeobotanic studies of lake and bog deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial have been performed by numerous authors (e.g., Krupiński 1988, 1995, 1996a, b, 1997, 2000; Lindner 1988, 1996, 2005; Lindner *et al.* 1990, 1991a, b; Skompski 1991; Nitychoruk 1994, 2000; Bińka and Nitychoruk 1995, 1996; Lindner and Wyrwicki 1996; Albrycht *et al.* 1997; Bińka *et al.* 1997; Lindner and Marciniak 1997, 1998; Nitychoruk *et al.* 2005; Szymanek 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013; Pochocka-Szwarc *et al.* 2017).

The second region in the Southern Podlasie Lowland with a documented Mazovian palaeolakeland is located in its south-western part – in the vicinity of Łuków, Kock and Wola Okrzejska within the Łuków Plain and in the western part of the Żelechów Heights (Żarski *et al.* 2005a, b, 2009a; Małek and Pidek 2007; Pidek *et al.* 2011; Terpiłowski *et al.* 2014; Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019; Górecki *et al.* 2022).

In the frame of the Adamów sheet of the Detailed Geological Map of Poland at the scale of 1: 50 000, the Kolonia Domaszewska, Kolonia Bystrzycka, Przytulim and Hermanów sites have been subject to expert palaeobotanic analyses of lake deposits, whose age was attributed to the Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c) (Krupiński 2004a, b, 2009; Żarski and Krupiński 2005; Winter 2006, 2008; Żarski *et al.* 2009b). A complete palaeobotanic expertise was prepared for Hermanów and Skrzyńka (Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019; Górecki *et al.* 2022).

The third region occurs in Western Polesie (Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2014; Pochocka-Szwarc *et al.* 2021; Pochocka-Szwarc *et al.* 2024). Single sites with lacustrine deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial have

been documented in the Żelechów Heights: Wylezin (Dyakowska 1956; Rühle 1968; Krupiński and Żarski 2004; Krupiński *et al.* 2004; Żarski *et al.* 2005), Krępa (Jesionkiewicz 1982), Poznań (Winter 1991), Gózd and Adamów (Żarski 2008, 2009).

Of crucial significance for the Middle Pleistocene palaeogeographic reconstructions are studies focused on the Mazovian Interglacial sediments from the border areas with Belarus and Ukraine, as well as those devoted to the extent of the Odranian Glaciation and the Quaternary stratigraphy in the study area (Lindner *et al.* 1990, 1991, 2004a, b, 2006, 2007; Marks and Pavlowskaya 2006; Marks and Karabanow 2017; Marks *et al.* 2018; Marks 2023a,b; Pochocka-Szwarc and Żarski 2023; Żarski *et al.* 2023). Authors of the particular sheets of the Detailed Geological Map of Poland at the scale of 1:50 000 have greatly contributed to the geological recognition of sites with lake deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial in the study area (e.g., Albrycht *et al.* 1995, 1997; Brzezina 2000a, b; Albrycht 2001a, b, 2004, 2005; Małek 2004a, b; Wodyk 2004a, b; Nitychoruk and Gałazka 2006a, b, 2007, 2008; Żarski 2007a, b, 2008, 2009, 2012a, b; Małek and Buczek 2008, 2009). These mapping surveys included palaeobotanic and geological analyses of 39 sites with fossil lake deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial (Żarski *et al.* 2009a).

The Mazovian Interglacial corresponds to MIS 11c (Nitychoruk *et al.* 2005; Rohling *et al.* 2010; Cohen and Gibbard 2011, 2019), the Holsteinian Interglacial in the stratigraphic scheme for Western Europe, the Aleksandrian in the scheme for Belarus (Velichkevich *et al.* 2001), and the Likhwynian in the scheme for Ukraine (Lindner *et al.* 2007) (Table 2).

The Mazovian Interglacial is located in a climatostratigraphic position between the Sanian 2 (Elsterian, MIS 12) and the Liviecian (Fuhne, MIS 11b–MIS 10) glaciations (Ber *et al.* 2007; Lindner and Marks 2012; Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019; Table 2).

Beside the Liviecian Glaciation (Fuhne, MIS 11b–MIS 10), the Saalian complex (Mid-Polish Glaciation, Odranian Glaciation *s.l.*) also includes the Krznanian Glaciation (Drenthe, MIS 8; Lindner and Marks 2012), during these intervals, however, south-eastern Poland was probably not covered by the Scandinavian ice sheet (Hughes *et al.* 2020). Therefore, post-glacial lakes which in later interglacials would become places of lacustrine and bog accumulation were not formed in the area. This hypothesis is confirmed by geological and palynologic studies, because lacustrine sediments documenting the climate warming during MIS 7 and MIS 9 with a record of the vegetation succession documenting these climatostratigraphic units have so far not been recognized in Poland.

Climatic changes between MIS 11 and MIS 6 are preserved in loess successions, in which interglacial intervals are represented by well-developed paleosols (Lindner *et al.* 2004a, b; Marks *et al.* 2018; Bogucki and Łanczont 2018; Valde-Nowak and Łanczont 2021).

A paleosol correlated with MIS 7 was also documented in glaciofluvial sands within the Łuków Plain in the Wólka Zagórna site (Terpiłowski *et al.* 2021). This is, however, the only site with such documentation.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The study area with sites recording the Mazovian Interglacial is situated in the southern part of the Łuków Plain which is part of the Southern Podlasie Lowland (Richling 2021; Text-fig. 2). It extends between the Vistula valley in the west and the Bug valley in the east. The southern boundary of the Southern Podlasie Lowland is the margin of the Lublin Upland and the Krzna valley flowing to the Bug valley (Text-fig. 2). The main morphological features of the southern part of the Łuków Plain developed during the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12). They are usually represented by denuded and flat post-glacial plateaus with numerous drainless basins. Their surface is elevated at 145–165 m a.s.l. (Pochocka-Szwarc and Żarski 2023).

To the south, the Łuków Plain bounds with the Żelechów Heights, whose surface is elevated at 175–185 m a.s.l., i.e., about 20 m higher than the

Łuków Plain. The plateau surface gradually decreases from the west to the east. From the north, the Łuków Plain bounds with the Siedlce Heights, where the tops of end moraines reach 190 m a.s.l., and from the east it bounds with the Łomazy Depression and the Parczew-Kodeń Heights, whose surface reaches about 150–155 m a.s.l. (Text-fig. 2).

Wólka Domaszewska

The site is located about 1 km from Przytulín and 250 m from Kolonia Bystrzycka (Text-figs 2, 3A, 4A). It is situated in a small melt-out basin on a post-glacial plateau composed of glacial tills from the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian; Text-fig. 5A). The surface of the drainless basin in Wólka Domaszewska lies at about 164 m a.s.l., i.e., about 0.5–1 m lower than the surface of the surrounding post-glacial plateau. The longer N-S axis of the basin has 103 m and the shorter axis has 33 m.

Kolonia Bystrzycka

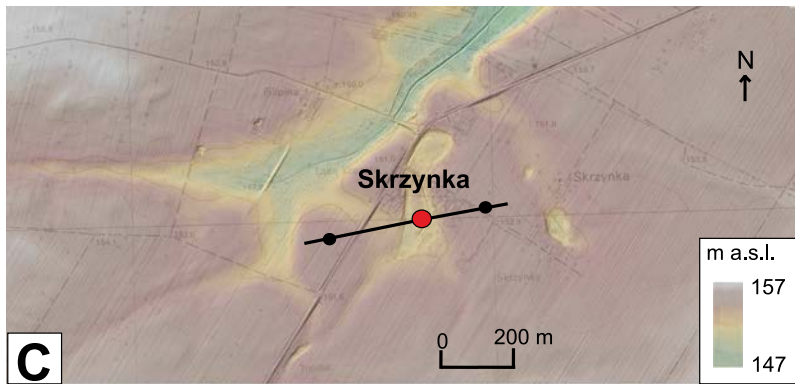
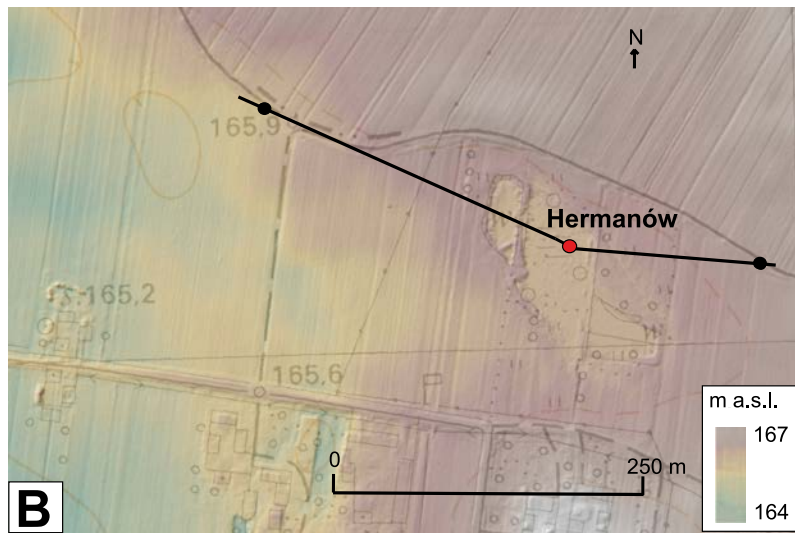
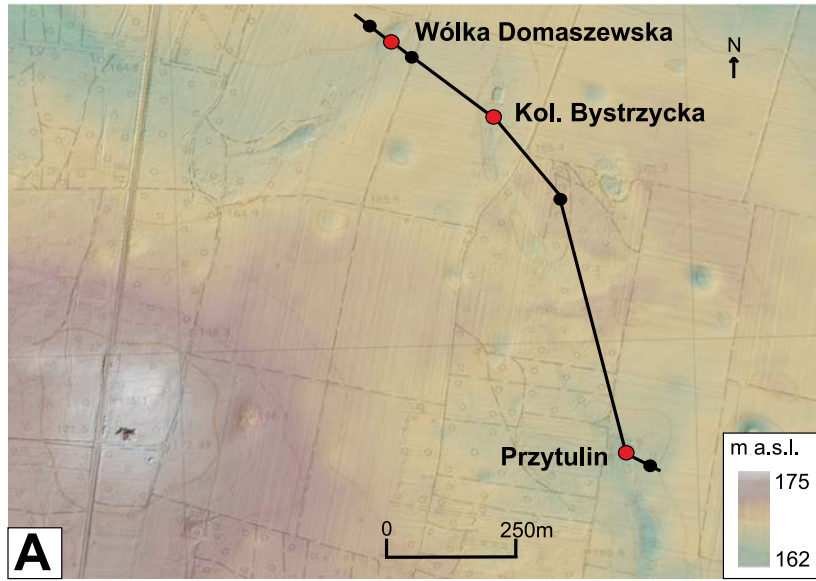
The site is located about 750 m to the north-west of Przytulín (Text-figs 2, 3A, 4B), on the surface of a post-glacial plateau built of glacial tills from the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian), i.e., the same as in Przytulín and Wólka Domaszewska (Text-fig. 5A). The N-S-oriented drainless basin in Kolonia Bystrzycka is 250 m long and about 30 m wide. It is located at about 164.5 m a.s.l., i.e., about 0.5 m below the plateau surface. In the central part of the depression occurs a lake 20 × 12 m in size, in the wall of which are exposed lake deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial.

Przytulín

The site is located in the Łuków Plain between Bystrzycka and Mała Bystrzycka, 12 km to the south of Łuków (Text-fig. 2, 3A, 4C). It is situated on a post-glacial plateau in a small depression. The surface lies at about 165 m a.s.l., while the depression lies at about 164 m a.s.l. The depression is carved in glacial tills of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian; Text-fig. 5A).

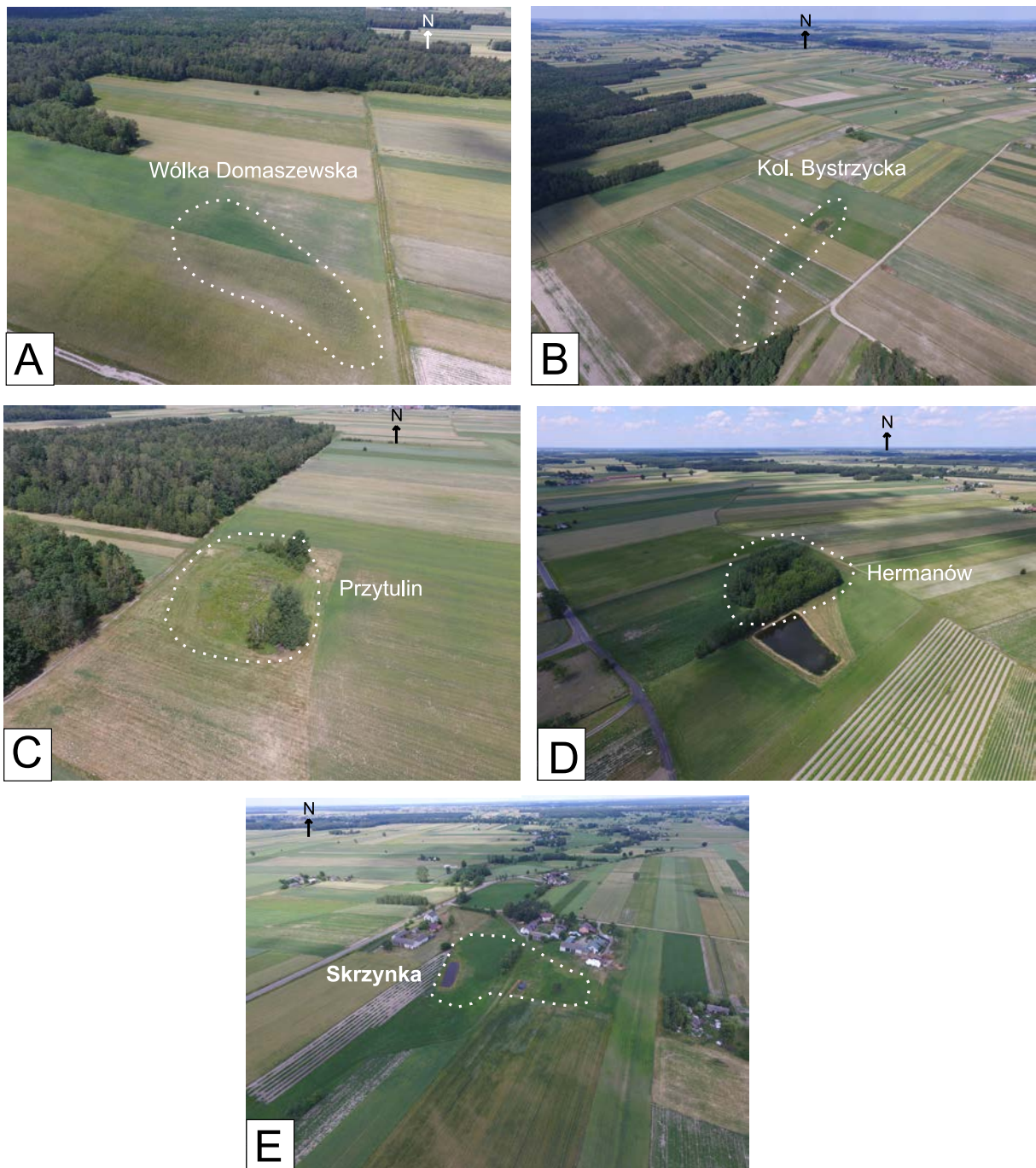
Hermanów

The site is located about 2 km to the south-east of Przytulín (Text-fig. 2). It is situated on a post-glacial plateau composed of glacial tills of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12) and their sandy-silty eluvia. The thickness of glacial tills is from several to



● mazovian site (borehole)
 ● borehole
 — line of geological cross-section

Text-fig. 3. Location of geological cross-sections: A – Wólka Domaszewska-Przytulín, B – Hermanów, C – Skrzyńka.

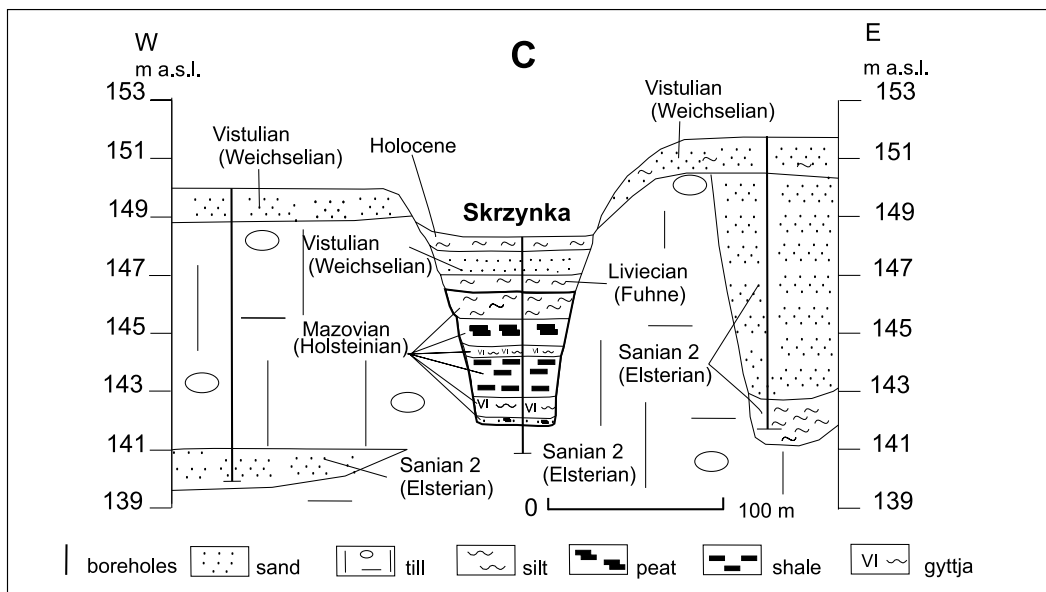
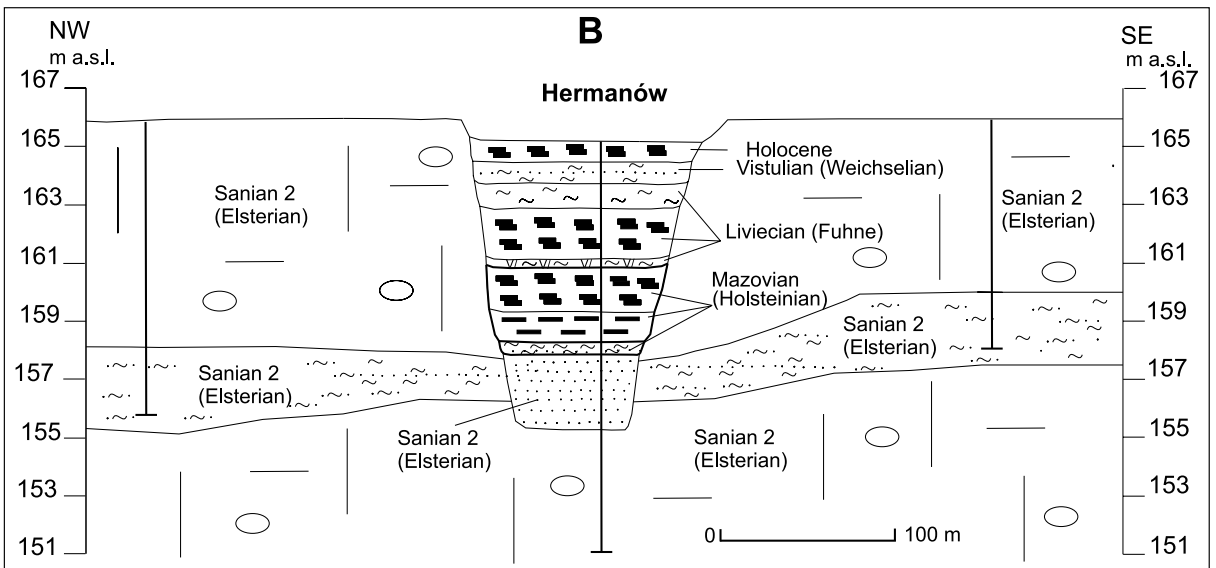
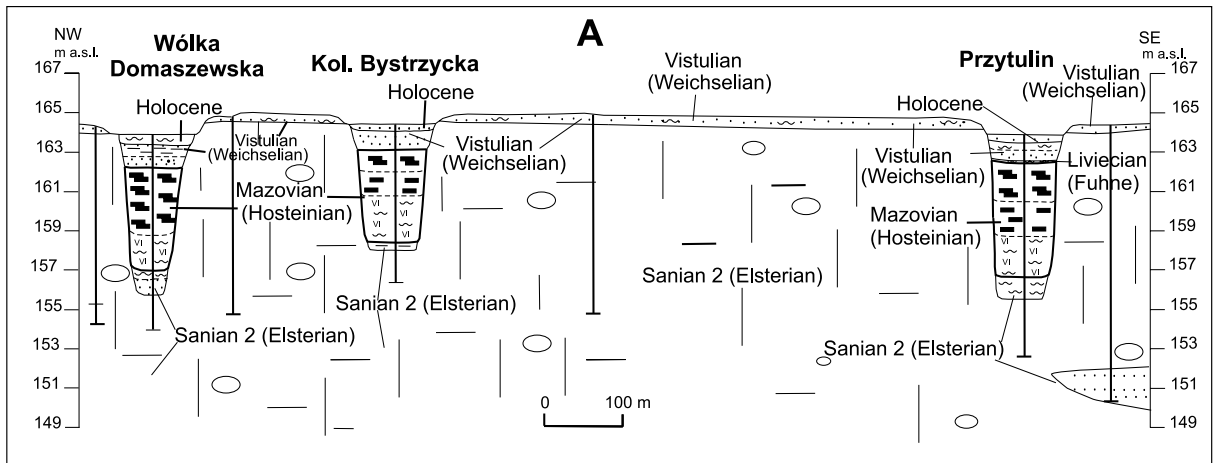


Text-fig. 4. Aerial photographs of the studied sites: A – Wólka Domaszewska, B – Kol. Bystrzycka, C – Przytulín, D – Hermanów, E – Skrzyńka. All photographs by M. Żarski.

over a dozen metres (Text-fig. 5B). The site is located in a modern drainless basin, whose longer axis (meridional) reaches about 190 m and the shorter (parallel) – about 90 m (Text-figs 3B and 4D). The surface lies at about 165 m a.s.l.

Skrzyńka

The site is located about 12 km to the southeast of Hermanów and about 5 km to the north of Kock (Text-figs 2, 3C and 4E). It is situated in a small drain-



boreholes
 sand
 till
 silt
 peat
 shale
 gyttja

Text-fig. 5. Geological cross-section: A – Wólka Domaszewska-Przytulín, B – Hermanów, C – Skrzyńka.

less basin, occurring on the surface of a post-glacial plateau. The longer axis of this basin (meridional) is about 200 m, and the shorter (parallel) is 140 m. The surface of the basin lies at about 149 m a.s.l. The surface of the plateau is built of glacial tills of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian; Żarski 2008, 2009) and their weathering covers (Text-fig. 5C).

Several WH and geoprobe drillings were made on the site in 2005, 2006 and 2012 (Żarski and Krupiński 2005; Żarski 2008, 2009; Żarski *et al.* 2009a). The first palynologic expertise from the WH probe was made by Krupiński (2004c). In 2013, two rotary drillings were made, resulting in successions with intact core structure SKI and SKII. The SKII succession was subject to palynologic analysis (Górecki *et al.* 2022).

METHODOLOGY

Drillings

The drillings from which material for palaeobotanical analysis was collected have been made in the frame of the mapping surveys for the Adamów sheet of the Detailed Geological Map of Poland at the scale of 1:50 000 (Żarski 2008, 2009), and the research project “Palaeoclimate and palaeoenvironment changes in the Mazovian Interglacial (Holstenian) in E Poland based on multiproxy palaeobotanic, sedimentological and isotope analyses”. Drillings were made in 2004 using a hydraulic drill WH with a spiral auger, on average to the depth of 10 m. In 2005, two fully cored drillings using the Power Probe hammer drill were made in Przytulín and Hermanów to depths of 8 and 8.4 m, respectively.

Samples for petrographic and lithological studies of the mineral sediments were collected from the WH and manual Edelman augers (Żarski 2009). In 2012, surveys in Wólka Domaszewska, Kolonia Bystrzycka, and Hermanów included fully cored geoprobe drillings in the analysed sediments. Samples collected from lacustrine and bog sediments were subject to palynologic analyses; the obtained results are presented herein. In 2013, two rotary drillings were made in Skrzynka; the obtained cores had an intact structure.

Palaeobotanical analysis

The procedure of sampling for palynological analysis was identical for all analysed successions. 1 cm³ samples were collected from peat and gytja,

while 3 cm³ samples were taken from mineral deposits (tills, silts, sands) due to the expected low frequencies of pollen grains. Most profiles were studied with a standard resolution of 10 cm; in the case of Skrzynka and Wólka Domaszewska part of the profile corresponding to the climate optimum was analysed with a resolution of 2 and 1 cm, respectively (Table 3). The only exception is the Przytulín profile, where depending on the type of sediment the resolution was from 0.5 cm (organic deposits) to 70 cm (mineral deposits). All samples are stored in the Polish Geological Institute-National Research Institute.

Each sample was subject to acetolysis according to Erdtmann (1960) and modified using HF (Berglund and Ralska-Jasiewiczowa 1986). Before laboratory treatment, one pill of the *Lycopodium* index was added to each sample to determine the concentration of palynomorphs (Stockmar 1971). Palynological samples were counted under a light microscope supported by using POLPAL software (Nalepka and Walanus 2003). In most samples, the counting was up to 500 pollen grains of trees and herbaceous plants (excluding aquatic and mire plants).

Profiles	Depth [m]	Sampling resolution [cm]	Number of analysed samples
Wólka Domaszewska	5.56	1–10	117
Kolonia Bystrzycka	2.75	10	29
Przytulín	7.45	0.5–70	41
Hermanów	5.50	10	56
Skrzynka	4.30	2/10	161

Table 3. List of samples collected for palynologic analysis.

In the case of low pollen concentrations (glacial deposits) the counting was restricted to 100–300 pollen grains. Percentage counts are constructed on the basic sum, which includes tree and shrub pollen (AP), herbaceous plants and dwarf plants (NAP). The diagrams were prepared with the application of R Studio software (R Studio Team 2020) using the riojaPlot package (Juggins 2022).

Lithological-petrographic methods

The petrographic composition of gravels washed out from glacial tills was analysed in the 0.5–1 cm fraction following the methodology of Krygowski (1956, 1967), Rzechowski (1977), Kenig (1998), and Lisicki (2003). Indexes O/K–K/W–A/B were used for the lithostratigraphic comparison of glacial till horizons (where: O/K – ratio of the content of Scandinavian sedimentary rocks to the Scandinavian

crystalline rocks together with quartz, K/W – ratio of Scandinavian crystalline rocks together with quartz to Scandinavian limestones and dolomites, and A/B – ratio of Scandinavian rocks susceptible to destruction to rocks resistant to destruction). Studies of the petrographic composition of glacial tills are important for lithostratigraphic correlation (Lisicki 2003). The analysis of the petrographic composition was performed for Przytulín, Wólka Domaszewska, and Hermanów (Żarski *et al.* 2009b, c; Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019).

Analysis of grain-size composition

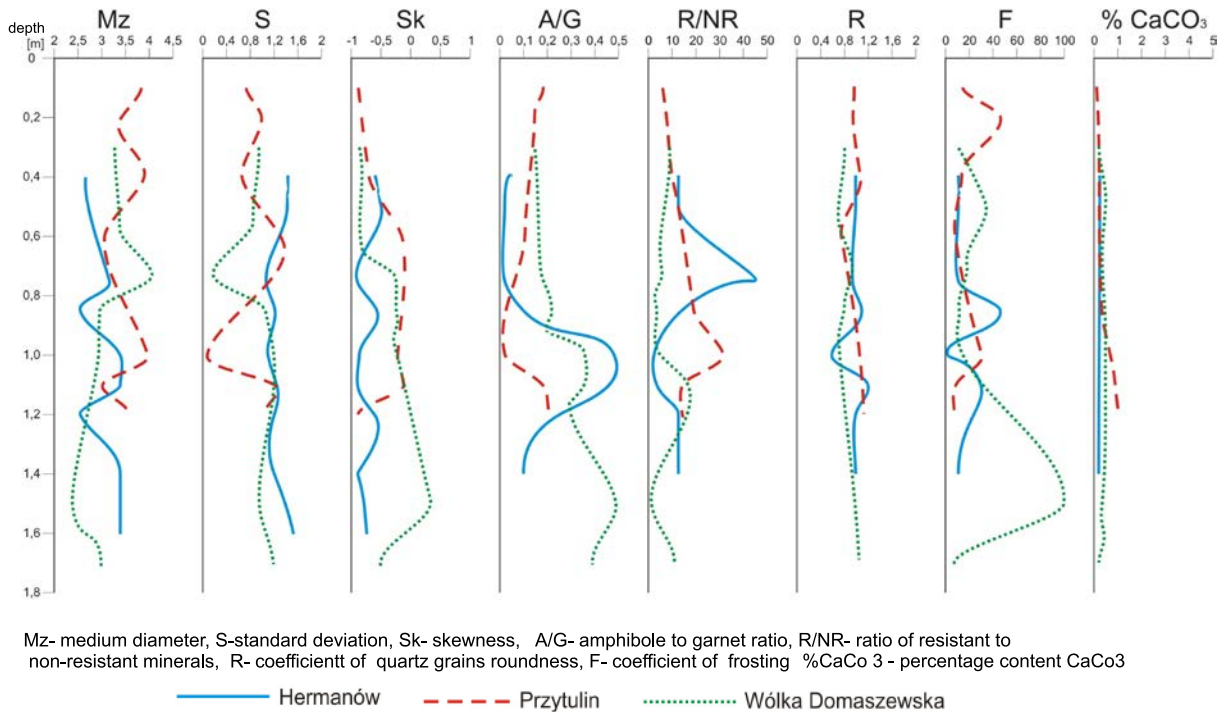
The grain-size composition using the sieve method (Racinowski 1973) was tested for sand-silt deposits covering the lake series in Hermanów, Przytulín, and Wólka Domaszewska. A set of sieves with mesh sizes 0.06–2.5 mm was used in the analysis. Statistic parameters of the grain-size distribution were calculated based on the formulae by Folk and Ward (1957), supplemented with rounding (R) and matting coefficients of quartz grains. Analysis of the grain size composition is aimed to characterize the basic lithological and genetic features. The analyses were made in sediments covering the interglacial deposits with a resolution of 10 cm, in places also 20 cm (Text-fig. 6).

Heavy mineral analysis

Heavy mineral (density exceeding 3 g/cm³) analysis was made for the 0.25–0.1 mm fraction. The heavy fraction was extracted from 10 g samples using bromoform, according to the methodology of Mycielska-Dowgiało and Rutkowski (1995), Racinowski (1995), Barczuk and Nejbort (2007), and Marcinkowski and Mycielska-Dowgiało (2013). Transparent and opaque heavy minerals were distinguished. Transparent minerals include those that are resistant to destruction, e.g., zircon, tourmaline, sillimanite, staurolite, garnet, as well as susceptible to destruction, e.g., amphiboles, pyrite, biotite, and olivine. Mutual relationships between these mineral groups have high significance in tracing the sediment origin. Opaque minerals include most oxides and sulphides of iron, sulphur, chromium, manganese, tungsten, and native and precious metals. Analysis of the composition of heavy minerals was performed for Przytulín, Wólka Domaszewska, and Hermanów (Żarski *et al.* 2009b, c).

Rounding and matting of quartz grains

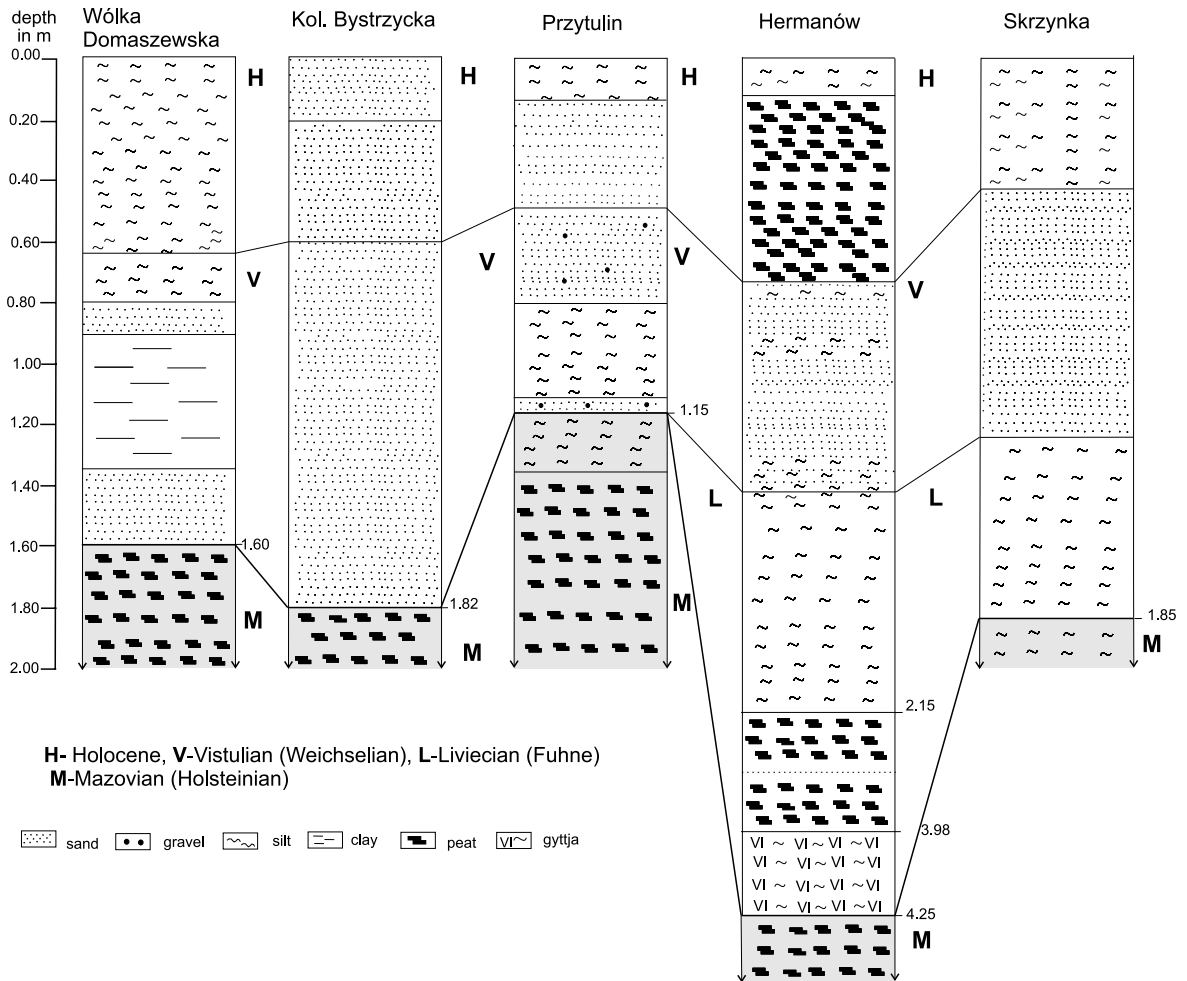
Analysis of the rounding, matting and surface of quartz grains is usually performed for the 0.5–1.0 mm fraction, following the methodology of Cailleux (1942, 1961), Morawski (1955), Krygowski



Text-fig. 6. Results of lithological analyses of sediments covering lacustrine deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial and early Liviecian (based on Żarski *et al.* 2009b).

Name of site (coordinates)	Depth	Lithology	Origin	Stratigraphy	MIS	
Wólka Domaszewska (51°49'42.3"N 22°20'6.6"E)	0.0–0.65	Silt, black-brown	li	Holocene	1	
	0.65–0.80 0.80–0.90 0.90–1.35 1.35–1.60	Silt, light grey Poorly sorted sand, grey Clay, grey-rusty Medium and fine-grained sand with rare gravels (Ø 0.25 cm), grey	li d li d	Vistulian	2	
	1.60–2.10	Peaty silt with clay, dark brown	bio	Early Liviecian	11b	
	2.10–4.75 4.75–6.75	Peat, brown-black Gyttja, olive-green	bio li	Mazovian	11c	
	6.90–7.20	Fine-grained sand with plant macroremains, grey	li	Sanian 2	12	
	Kolonja Bystrzycka (51°49'33.6"N 22°20'17.1"E)	0.0–0.20 0.20–0.60	Humus sand, black Fine-grained sand, beige	d-li d	Holocene	1
0.60–1.82		Fine-grained sand, grey	d	Vistulian	2	
1.82–2.15 2.15–2.40 2.40–2.90 2.90–4.35		Peat, brown-black Peat shale, brown-black Peat, brown-black Gyttja, olive-green	bio bio bio li	Mazovian	11c	
4.35–4.40 4.40–5.10		Gyttja, olive-green Fine-grained sand with intercalations of silt and plant macroremains, grey	li li	Sanian 2	12	
5.10–6.20		Fine-grained sand, grey	gf			
Przytulim (51°49'14.6"N 22°20'28.6"E)		0.0–0.15 0.15–0.50	Humus silt, dark grey Fine-grained and silty sand, brown	li d	Holocene	1
	0.50–0.80 0.80–1.10 1.10–1.15	Fine-grained sand with single gravels, grey Silt, light brown Fine-grained sand with single gravels, grey	d li d	Vistulian	2	
	1.15–1.25 1.25–1.35 1.50–3.20 3.20–4.70 4.70–5.20 5.20–7.35	Silt, dark grey-brown Silt, dark grey-brown Peat, brown Peat shale, black Gyttja, dark grey Gyttja, olive-green	li li bio bio li li	Mazovian	11c	
	7.35–8.7 8.7–11.7	Clay silt, grey Glacial till	li-g g	Sanian 2	12	
	Hermanów (51°48'19.2"N 22°22'9.8"E)	0.0–0.75	Peat, brown-black	li	Holocene	1
		0.75–1.42	Fine-grained sand with silt intercalations, brown	d-li	Vistulian	2
		1.42–2.15	Laminated silt	li	Liviecian	10
2.15–3.98 3.98–4.25		Peat, brown-black Gyttja, olive-green	bio li	Early Liviecian	11a 11b	
4.25–5.72 5.72–6.70 6.70–6.98 6.98–7.32		Peat, brown-black Peat shales Silt, dark grey Sand	bio bio li d-li	Mazovian	11c	
7.32–7.75		Fine-grained sand	gf	Sanian 2	12	
Skrzynka (51°43'21.5"N 22°26'21.4"E)		0.0–0.45	Silt, brown	li	Holocene	1
	0.45–1.25	Fine-grained sand, brown	d	Vistulian	2	
	1.25–1.85	Clay silt, grey-olive-green	li	Early Liviecian	11b	
	1.85–2.10 2.10–2.63 2.63–3.50 3.50–3.82 3.82–5.40 5.40–5.92 5.92–6.15	Silt, grey-olive-green Silt, grey-black Peat, brown-black Gyttja, olive-green Gyttja shales, olive-green Peat gyttja, brown-black Humus sand with peat intercalations	li li bio li li li bio-d	Mazovian	11c	
	6.15–7.45	Glacial till, grey	g	Sanian 2	12	

Table 4. Lithological and stratigraphic characteristics of the analysed successions. Abbreviations: li – limnic; bio – biogenic; d – deluvial; gf – glaciofluvial; g – glacial.



Text-fig. 7. Stratigraphic correlation of sediments covering lacustrine formations of the Mazovian Interglacial and early Livician (based on Źarski *et al.* 2009b, modified).

(1964), and Mycielska-Dowgiało (1995). Of high significance are three-grain groups: non-rounded (NU), shining rounded (EL) and round matted (RM), as well as transitional groups.

Analysis of the CaCO₃ content

The analysis was performed on samples in the <0.1 mm fraction. The analysed sediment was floated in distilled water on a sieve with a 0.1 mm mesh size. Next, the CaCO₃ content was determined using the volumetric method with application of the Scheibler apparatus (Myślińska 2016). This apparatus registers the volume of carbon dioxide emitted from carbonate decomposition. The volume is calculated using the formula for the percentage content of calcium carbonate in the sediment.

RESULTS

Lithological analysis

The interval with the Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c) in *Wólka Domaszewska* reaches a thickness of 5.15 m. It begins with gyttja, followed by peat and silts (Table 4). The gyttja is underlain by lacustrine sands of the late Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12; Table 4) and glaciofluvial sands of the Sanian 2 Glaciation occurring below; the drilling terminated in the glacial till of the Sanian 2 Glaciation. The topmost part of the Mazovian Interglacial is overlain by 0.95 m of diluvial sands and 0.95 m of lake silts and clays correlated with the Vistulian Glaciation (MIS 2), while Holocene (MIS 1) lake silts, 0.65 m thick, occur above (Text-fig. 7).

In Kolonia Bystrzycka, lake deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c) reach 2.53 m, and begin with lake gyttja overlain by peat shales and peats (Text-fig. 5A, Table 4). The Mazovian interval is underlain by lake gyttja and lacustrine sands of the late Sanian 2 Glaciation, and glaciofluvial sands lying on glacial tills of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12; Text-fig. 5A). The Mazovian series is covered by a Vistulian (MIS 2) series of diluvial sands, 1.22 m thick, overlain by Holocene sands (0.60 m thick, MIS 1, Text-fig. 7).

The thickness of the Mazovian lake series in Przytulín reaches 6.2 m and comprises lake gyttja, followed by peat and lake silts. The lacustrine series is underlain by ice-dammed silts lying on the glacial till of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12; Table 4). The lacustrine series is overlain by a 0.65 m series of sands and silts correlated with the Vistulian Glaciation (MIS 2), and covered by a 50 cm bed of Holocene sands and silts (MIS 1; Table 4 and Text-fig. 7).

In Hermanów, the interval corresponding to the Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c) reaches 3.07 m and begins with lake sands and silts, overlain by peat shales and peat (Table 4, Text-fig. 5B; Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019). Below occur glaciofluvial sands located on glacial till of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12; Text-fig. 5). The Mazovian series is overlain by a lake series with gyttja, peats and silts, 2.83 m thick, from the early Liviecian Glaciation (MIS 11b–a; Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019), overlain by diluvial sands (0.67 m) of the Vistulian Glaciation (MIS 5d–2), and covered by 0.75 m of Holocene peat (Table 4, Text-fig. 7; Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019).

In Skrzynka, the Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c) series is 4.3 m thick and begins with sands with peat intercalations, passing into gyttja, overlain by lake peat and silts (Górecki *et al.* 2022). Below the lacustrine series occur glacial tills of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12; Table 4, Text-fig. 5C). The series is covered by lacustrine silts of the Liviecian Glaciation MIS 10 (0.6 m thick), overlain by diluvial sands correlated with the Vistulian Glaciation (MIS 2), and Holocene Lake silts (MIS 1; Table 4; Text-fig. 7).

Petrographic analysis

Petrographic analysis of gravels in the 0.5–1 cm fraction was made for WH profiles from Przytulín, Hermanów, and Wólka Domaszewska in the depth interval 1.3–10 m. Samples were collected from the following intervals: 2–4, 4–6 and 8–10 m (Table 5). An additional sample was collected in Przytulín from a depth interval of 1.3–2 m.

To the depth of 8.0 m occur strongly weathered gravels with a petrographic composition pointing to intense weathering processes that the topmost parts of the till were subject to. In Przytulín to the depth of 8.0 m occur exclusively gravels composed of rocks very resistant to weathering (Table 5). These include mainly Scandinavian crystalline rocks, very compact quartzitic sandstones, subject to strong diagenesis, with a siliceous matrix and smooth transitions to quartzites, and flints (representing local rocks). The weathering process is documented by strongly weathered gravels. Their petrographic identification is difficult. From the depth of 8.0 m the gravels from glacial tills contain also Scandinavian limestones and dolomites in amounts comparable with the number of crystalline rocks. The weathering of glacial till and gravel at this depth is insignificant. The sum of sedimentary rocks equals the sum of crystalline rocks. Only the petrographic coefficients obtained from 8.0–10.0 m can be used for determining the glacial till lithotype, and at the same time for determining the age of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12; Żarski *et al.* 2009b).

Grain-size analysis

The analysed fraction is dominated by fine and medium-grained sands, moderately, moderately well to poorly sorted. The most diverse proportions of the sand and silt fractions occur in Przytulín. The site is characterised by sandy silts and silty sands with diverse contents of the particular fractions. In extreme

Depth [m]	Scandinavian rocks					Local rocks				
	Cr	Lp	Dp	Sp	Qp	L	S	F	M	I
Przytulín										
1.3–2.0	42	–	–	22	15	–	–	4	–	8
2.0–4.0	54	–	–	15	25	–	–	20	–	14
4.0–6.0	43	–	–	13	14	–	–	2	–	4
8.0–10.0	53	41	16	9	10	5	1	1	–	–
Hermanów										
2.0–4.0	37	–	1	14	10	–	–	–	–	7
4.0–6.0	20	2	–	15	5	–	–	2	–	4
8.0–10.0	28	14	3	4	4	1	2	2	3	–
Wólka Domaszewska										
2.0–4.0	36	2	1	12	11	2	–	4	–	6
4.0–6.0	42	2	–	7	5	1	1	2	–	3
8.0–10.0	32	27	6	4	4	–	2	–	3	–

Table 5. Petrographic composition of gravels in Przytulín, Hermanów and Wólka Domaszewska (Żarski *et al.* 2009b; Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019). Abbreviations: Cr – crystalline rocks; Lp – Palaeozoic limestones; Dp – Palaeozoic dolomites; Sp – Palaeozoic sandstones; Qp – quartz; L – limestones; S – sandstones; F – flints; M – mudstones; I – weathered crystalline rocks.

cases in Przytulim the proportions reach 92.94% of the silt fraction and 7.06% of the sand fraction. In Wólka Domaszewska, the content of the sand fraction is 87.93% and of the silt fraction – 12.07% (Text-fig. 6). The domination of one or two fractions in a sample point to good sorting of the sediment.

In the remaining samples collected from the analysed successions the proportions of sand and silt fractions are variable, both horizontally as well as in section. Variable quantities of particular fractions reflect the change in transportation dynamics preceding the sedimentation. Studies of the quartz grain surfaces have shown that most of them (70–80%) have a matted surface and are indirectly rounded (Text-fig. 6). It may be assumed that the studied sediments are the effect of weathering of

glacial deposits, which were sorted in water with a diverse transport energy, and subject to later aeolization processes (Text-fig. 6).

Heavy minerals

Studies on the presence of heavy minerals were made on the same samples that were subject to grain-size analysis. The heavy minerals include mainly minerals resistant to mechanical destruction, which were subject to selection, and are medium and well-rounded (round, oval, ellipsoidal and rounded sides). The selection of heavy minerals is caused by specific conditions of the sedimentary environment. At first they were transported in water and then were subject to aeolization processes. The analysed samples are

Marine Isotope Stage	Hermanów	Ossówka	Nowiny Żukowskie	Wólka Domaszewska	Skrzynka	Germany	Przytulim	Kolonia Bysztycka 2	Mazovian Interglacial palynostratigraphy (POL)
MIS 11a	HE-21 HE-20								
MIS 11b	HE-19	OS-14							
	HE-18 HE-17	OS-13							
	HE-16	OS-12							
		OS-11							
	HE-15	OS-10	NŻ-14						
	HE-14	OS-9	NŻ-13	WD-11					
MIS 11c	HE-11	OS-7	NŻ-11	WD-9	SK-13	XIV	PRZ-9		<i>Pinus</i>
			NŻ-10	WD-8	SK-12				BHO
			NŻ-9	WD-7	SK-11 SK-10				<i>Pinus</i>
	HE-10	NŻ-8e	SK-8		XIII	<i>Carpinus–Abies</i>			
	HE-9	OS-6	NŻ-8d	WD-6	SK-8	XII	PRZ-8	KB2-6	YHO
	HE-8		NŻ-8c		SK-7	XI			<i>Carpinus–Abies</i>
	HE-7		NŻ-8b		SK-6	X			KB2-5
	HE-6	NŻ-8a	IX	<i>Picea–Alnus–Taxus</i>					
	HE-4	OS-4	NŻ-7	WD-5	SK-5	VIII	PRZ-7	KB2-4	
			NŻ-6		VII				
	HE-3	OS-3	NŻ-5	WD-4	SK-4	VI	PRZ-6	KB2-3	
			NŻ-4		V				
	HE-2	OS-2	NŻ-3	WD-3	SK-3	IV	PRZ-5	KB2-2	<i>Picea–Alnus</i>
	HE-1		NŻ-2		WD-2	SK-2			III
MIS 12		OS-1	NŻ-1	WD-1		II	PRZ-2	KB2-1	<i>Betula</i>
						I	PRZ-1		Late Sanian 2 Glaciation

Table 6. Stratigraphic correlation of the studied successions with the records at Ossówka (OS; Nitychoruk *et al.* 2005), Hermanów (HE; Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019), and Nowiny Żukowskie (NŻ; Hrynowiecka-Czmielewska 2010), the German scheme (Meyer 1974; Koutsodendris *et al.* 2012), and the Mazovian Interglacial scheme in Poland (POL; Krupiński 1995; Janczyk-Kopikowa 1996; Winter 2008). MIS – Marine Isotope Stages after Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) and Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019; OHO – Older Holsteinian Oscillation; YHO – Younger Holsteinian Oscillation; BHO – Birch Holsteinian Oscillation.

dominated by minerals that are resistant or very resistant to mechanical destruction, with densities between 3 g/cm³ to slightly over 4 g/cm³ (garnets, tourmaline, zircon, staurolite, topaz, ilmenite, dystene), which in most samples contribute to over 90% of the fraction, whereas minerals susceptible to destruction (amphiboles, pyroxenes) occur in quantities below 10%. Based on the analysed minerals it can be assumed that the sediments were transported in water, and then were subject to aeolization in periglacial conditions, to be finally deposited in a drainless basin.

Calcium carbonate content

The analysed sand-silt deposits are characterized by a stable, low content of calcium carbonate, and in all samples (Text-fig. 6) reach from a tenth to 1%. This content is typical for sediments transported in water.

Palynologic analysis

Pollen analysis of the studied profiles has confirmed the Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c, Holsteinian) age of the sediments. High contents of NAP in the bottom part of the Wólka Domaszewska (Text-fig. 8) and Przytulín (Text-fig. 10) sections suggest the formation of the basin already at the end of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (MIS 12). At that time climatic conditions that were harsh and unfavourable for a dense vegetation cover prevailed. This generated surface flow and redeposition of mineral deposits in the basins. The area was mainly overgrown by herbaceous plants forming a mosaic of steppe-like plant communities with Poaceae and Amaranthaceae. Trees appeared sporadically.

The sections in Przytulín (Text-fig. 10), Skrzyńska (Text-fig. 12), Wólka Domaszewska, and Hermanów (Text-figs 8 and 11) represent a complete or almost complete plant succession characteristic of MIS 11c in eastern Poland (Table 6). It begins with the *Betula* (*–Pinus*) phase, followed by the older part of the climatic optimum – the *Alnus–Picea* phase – and the intra- interglacial cooling known as the Older Holsteinian Oscillation (OHO; Koutsodendris *et al.* 2010).

Sedimentation of biogenic deposits in Kolonia Bystrzycka (Text-fig. 9) ended after the OHO. In the remaining sites the record encompasses also the younger part of the climate optimum – the *Abies–Carpinus* phase and the terminal *Pinus* phase. The vegetation success pattern in all the described sites conforms with data from other sites in this part of

Europe (Krupiński 1995; Janczyk-Kopikowa 1996; Winter 2008). Elaborate comparisons for Skrzyńska and Hermanów are presented in separate publications (Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019; Górecki *et al.* 2022). Palynologic data from Hermanów and Wólka Domaszewska suggest functioning of the basin during climatic changes of stadial/interstadial rank (Table 6; HE 12-21 LPAZs; WD 10-11 LPAZs), which in the case of Hermanów may be correlated already with the early Liviecian Glaciation (MIS 11b-a; Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019).

DISCUSSION

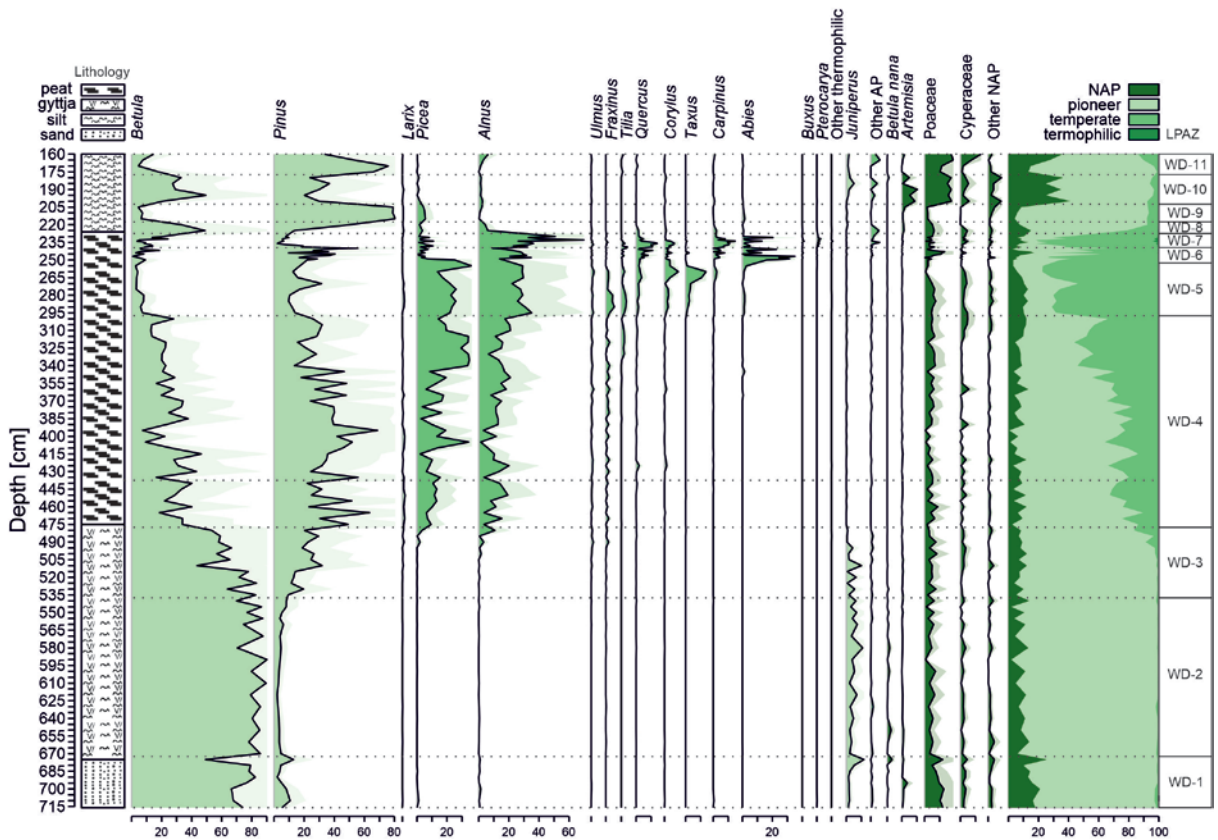
Detailed geological studies including palynological data have allowed us to state that the ice sheet of the Odranian Glaciation did not cover the southern part of the Łuków Plain. The youngest glaciation which covered the study area was the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12).

The evidence for this assumption is the occurrence of fossil lake deposits with a documented Mazovian Interglacial (Holsteinian, MIS 11c) pollen succession directly below the surface, i.e., in-depth interval 1.3–2.2 m. Fossil lake deposits were not covered by glacial deposits, which is evidence that the area was not covered by the ice sheet of the Odranian Glaciation (MIS 6) (Text-fig. 7).

In most sites, the top of lake deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial or the early Liviecian Glaciation occurs at a depth of about 1.5 m (Table 4, Text-figs 5B, C and 7).

Geological studies indicate that the fossil lake basins are carved in glacial tills of the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12; Text-fig. 5A–C). The till is moderately weathered and its petrographic composition in the 0.5–1 cm fraction is dominated by gravels of Scandinavian crystalline rocks and sandstones. Only in Przytulín in the depth interval 8–10 m petrographic indices point to a lithotype correlated with the Sanian 2 Glaciation (Elsterian, MIS 12; Lisicki 2003). Similar results were obtained for Domaszki located in the Łuków Plain (Terpiłowski *et al.* 2014), as well as other sites in the southern part of the Southern Podlasie Lowland (Czubła *et al.* 2013, 2019).

The lake deposits infill basins that were formed due to the uneven erosional activity of the Sanian 2 (MIS 12) ice sheet and later, during deglaciation, were infilled with dead ice. Lakes were formed due to favourable local hydrological conditions after the melting of dead ice blocks. The lakes can be referred to as small waterholes, often elongated



Text-fig. 8. Pollen diagram for Wólka Domaszewska (A. Hrynowiecka and A. Górecki).

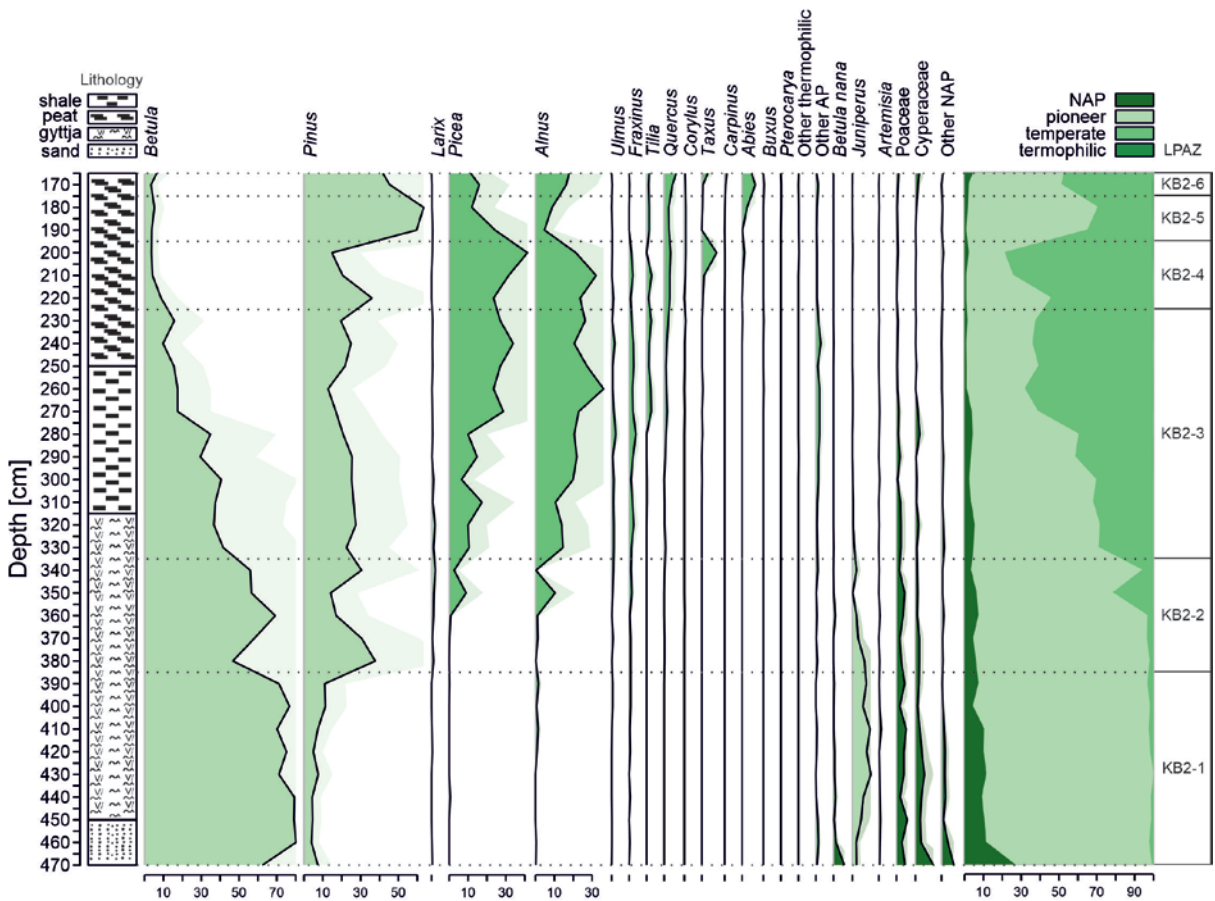
in shape. Similar small melt-out lakes occur presently in the young glacial relief of northern Poland (Błaszczewicz 2005, 2008, 2011), which was covered by the Vistulian Glaciation (Weichselian, MIS 2).

Key arguments in the discussion on the lack of an ice sheet cover in the study area during the Odranian Glaciation (Saalian, MIS 6) are the origin and age of the sediments overlying the lake deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial. In Hermanów and Skrzyńka (Text-fig. 7), the lake deposits are overlain by mineral lacustrine deposits representing the early Liviecian Glaciation (MIS 11b–10). They are best developed in Hermanów (Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019), where lake deposits of the Liviecian Glaciation are covered by a sandy-silty series of diluvial-lake sediments representing the Vistulian Glaciation (MIS 2). In Wólka Domaszewska, Kolonia Bystrzycka, and Przytulín (Text-fig. 7), sediments of the Vistulian occur directly on deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial. Detailed lithological-petrographic studies of the Vistulian were conducted in three sites: Przytulín, Wólka Domaszewska, and Hermanów. The results

clearly indicate the presence of sandy-silty sediments that were subject to multiple reworking, which took place in aqueous and eolian settings typical of the periglacial climate.

The source material of these sediments was glacial deposits subject to intense weathering. In general, the sediments infilled depressions on the surface due to washing out, thus their origin can be determined as diluvial and their age can be connected with the Vistulian (MIS 2). Above the diluvial sediments occur Holocene peats (Hermanów), peaty silts (Wólka Domaszewska) or humus sands (Przytulín). The character and origin of these sediments preclude their glacial origin.

Palaeobotanical studies clearly show that the analysed sites contain lake deposits representing the entire Mazovian Interglacial and that these were not destroyed by later erosional processes. The characteristic development of the Mazovian succession of vegetation includes the subsequent colonization of forest communities by tree taxa: *Betula*, *Pinus*, *Alnus* and *Picea*, *Taxus*, *Abies* and *Carpinus*



Text-fig. 9. Pollen diagram for Kol. Bystrzycka 2 (A. Górecki).

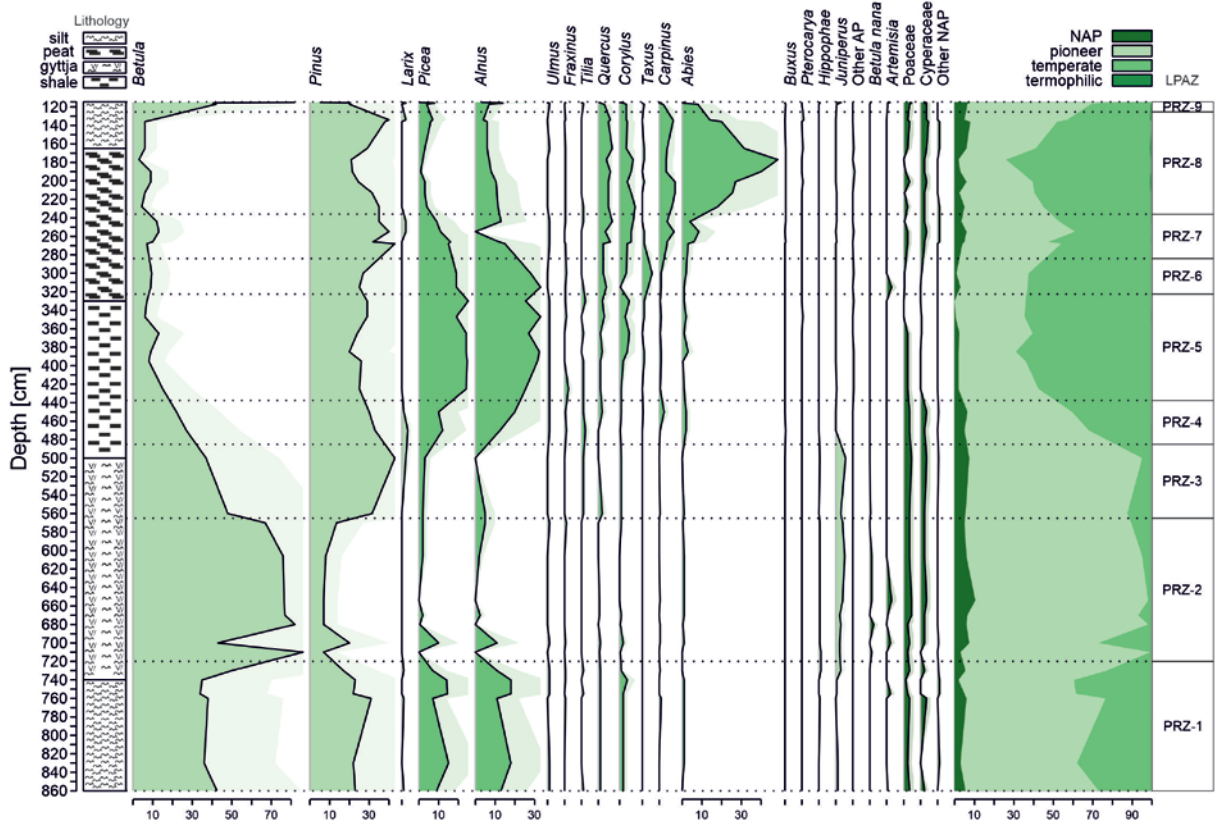
(Janczyk-Kopikowa 1996; Winter 2008). The last vegetation phase of the interglacial is linked with the presence of boreal forests dominated by *Pinus*. *Taxus* pollen is present also in other interglacials (Pidek 2013; Kupryjanowicz *et al.* 2018), but it is only in the Mazovian Interglacial that a characteristic horizon is formed with *Taxus* abundance averagely reaching 30–40%. In central and southern Poland reaching exceptionally high values, up to 62% (Nita 1999). In most analysed successions, the percentage content of *Taxus* was <10%, with the exception of Skrzynka, where it reached values up to 25%. These values, although lower than in southern and central Poland, conform with those characteristics for eastern Poland (Winter 2008).

Another key feature of the Mazovian Interglacial plant succession is the presence of the intra-interglacial OHO cooling (Koutsodendris *et al.* 2010; Hrynowiecka and Winter 2016; Hrynowiecka and Pidek 2017; Górecki *et al.* 2022). It is visible in the record of all analysed profiles except Wólka Doma-

szewska, where even a sampling resolution of 1 cm did not allow us to obtain a clear record of vegetation change within the climatic optimum. In the remaining profiles the OHO is typically developed, which is reflected in the rapid decline of trees of temperate climate and a recurring domination of pioneer plants – mainly *PINUS* and *Betula* (Koutsodendris *et al.* 2010).

The next feature confirming the Mazovian Interglacial age of the sediments is the presence of pollen of thermophilous taxa such as *Pterocarya*, *Buxus*, *Parrotia*, *Celtis* and *Carya* during the climatic optimum (*Carpinus*–*Abies* phase). The presence of *Pterocarya* is particularly important, especially in the last phase of the optimum when the pollen of this taxon is exceptionally abundant (Winter 2008).

A less significant climatic event from the stratigraphic point of view is the record of the Younger Holsteinian Oscillation (YHO), which is known from a much lower number of sites than the OHO (Koutsodendris *et al.* 2010; Hrynowiecka and Winter 2016; Hrynowiecka and Pidek 2017; Hrynowiecka



Text-fig. 10. Pollen diagram for Przytulín (H. Winter).

et al. 2019; Górecki *et al.* 2022). Among the analysed sites, only the pollen record from Skrzyńka and Hermanów reveals an interval corresponding to YHO (Younger Holsteinian Oscillation), which is related to the decline of *Carpinus* forests and their replacement by *Abies* forests (Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019; Górecki *et al.* 2022).

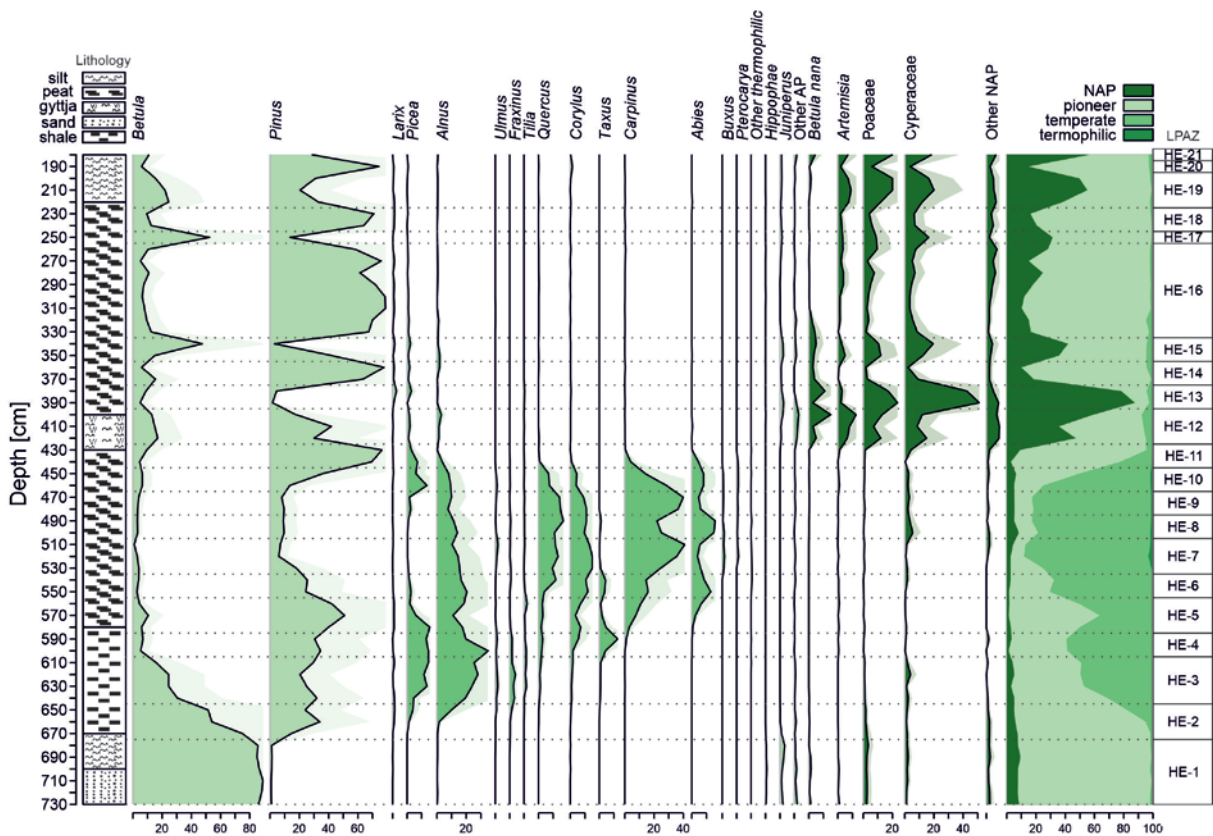
The last oscillation-type event is the birch oscillation (BHO – Birch Holsteinian Oscillation) firstly recorded in Nowiny Żukowskie (Hrynowiecka-Czmielewska 2010), and later confirmed also in Skrzyńka (Górecki *et al.* 2022). Among the studied profiles, it is probably recorded in Wólka Domaszewska (WD-8). The oscillation is linked with a rapid decline of *Pinus* forests replaced by sparse *Betula* forests within *Pinus* phase.

The pollen record from Skrzyńka, Wólka Domaszewska, and Hermanów exceeds the classical concept of the Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c). Zones after the *Pinus*-phase conform with the record of the early Livician Glaciation (Bińka and Nitychoruk 1995; Hrynowiecka-Czmielewska 2010).

Historically, this interval was correlated with MIS 10 (Lindner *et al.* 2013), but studies in Hermanów (Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019) coupled with new stratigraphic subdivisions of the Pleistocene in Poland (Bińka and Marks 2018) have pointed to the correspondence of this interval with MIS 11b and MIS 11a (Table 6). Based on this comparison, the basin in Hermanów still existed during MIS 11a, whereas the basins in Wólka Domaszewska and Skrzyńka were restricted to MIS 11b.

Geological and geomorphological arguments supported by pollen data allow the drawing of the conclusion that the maximum extent of the Odranian Glaciation (Saalian, MIS 6) is marked in the north of the area by the Siedlce–Łosice–Kornica end moraine zone (Text-fig. 13). Further to the south, the limit is marked by a zone at the boundary between the Łuków Plain and the Żelechów Heights, covered by deposits of the Odranian Glaciation (Saalian, MIS 6) and about 20 m thick.

Palaeogeographic analysis of the studied palaeobasins with evidence from the palynologically doc-



Text-fig. 11. Pollen diagram for Hermanów (A. Hrynowiecka, modified after Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019).

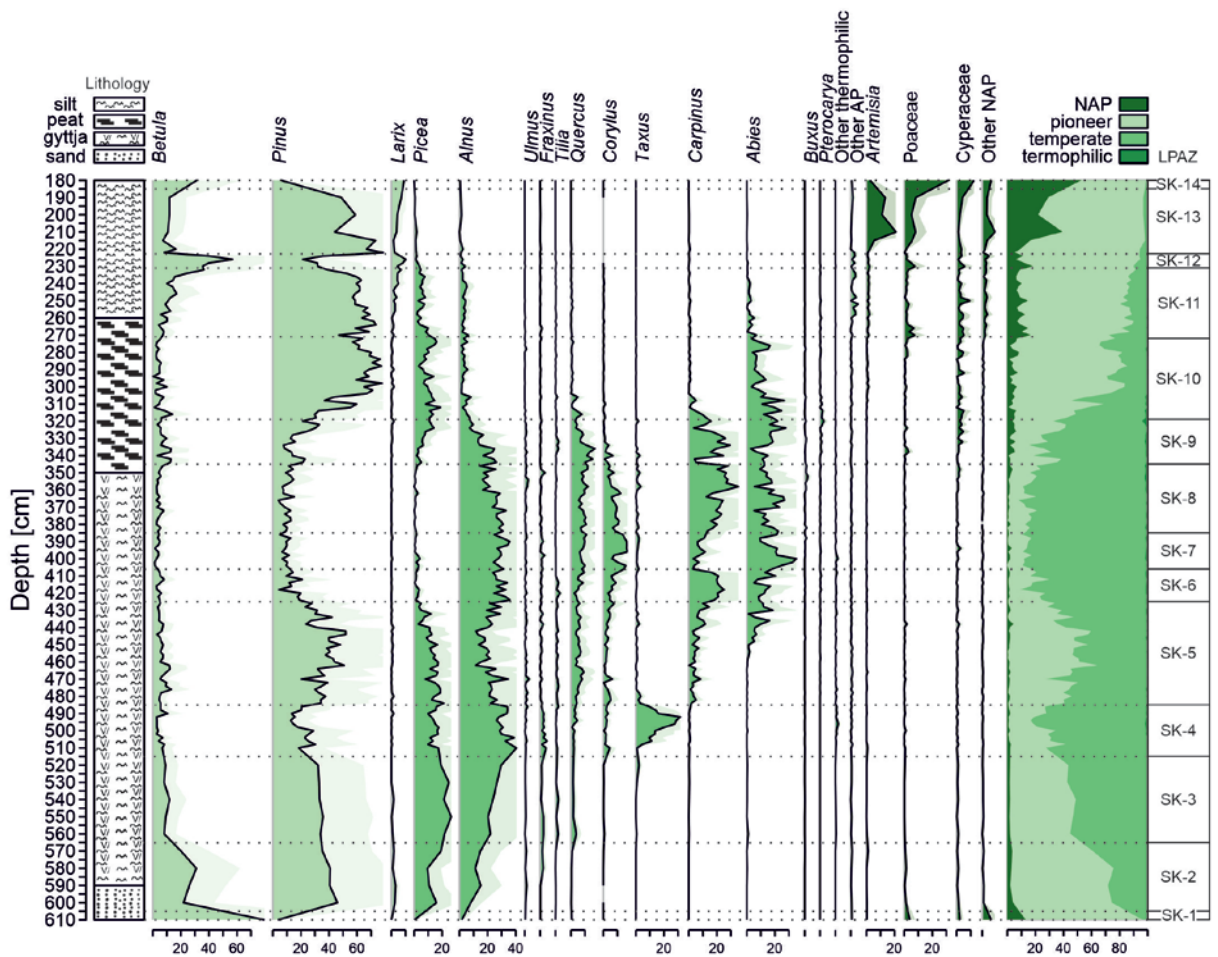
umented deposits of the Mazovian demonstrates the lobe-like character of the Odranian ice sheet margin between Łuków and Kock, with a meridional eastern limit (Text-fig. 13). The Żelechów Heights were covered by the Odranian ice sheet, whereas the western part of the Łuków Plain was situated on the eastern side of the lobe of the Odranian ice sheet (MIS 6), in the extraglacial zone, therefore it is not characterized by a distinct end moraine zone.

In the south-eastern part of the Łuków Plain occurs a vast outwash plain (Pochocka-Szwarc and Żarski 2023), which developed beyond the zone of the maximum Odranian (MIS 6) ice sheet limit along the Siedlce–Łosice–Kornica line. Dominating morphological features are the Wieprz and Krzna ice-marginal valleys, along which meltwater from the Odranian ice sheet was transported to the east towards Pripyat (Text-fig. 13). Valleys of smaller rivers: Wilga, Okrzejka, Bystrzyca, Mała Bystrzyca, Krzna Południowa and Krzna Północna incise the post-glacial plateaus of the Łuków Plain and attain a parallel orientation. Meltwater from the ice sheet in

its maximum extent was also transported along these valleys (Text-fig. 13).

The fact that the Łuków Plain is covered by palaeolakelands from the Mazovian Interglacial is proof that the study area was not covered by the Odranian ice sheet (Text-fig. 13) and above lacustrine sediments there are no glacial deposits in the entire succession. The described interglacial sites are part of this palaeolakeland.

An unsolved issue is the very large stratigraphic gap between the Mazovian Interglacial (MIS 11c, Holsteinian), the early part of the Liviecian Glaciation (MIS 11b–a) and the Vistulian (Weichselian, MIS 5d–2). Climate cooling related to MIS 11b–a (Liviecian Glaciation) is recorded in lake and bog deposits at Hermanów and Skrzyńka (Text-fig. 7). We assume that south-eastern Poland was not covered by the ice sheets of the Liviecian (MIS 10) and Krznanian glaciations (MIS 8) (see Table 2). It should, however, not be excluded that only northern Poland was covered by the ice sheets of these glaciations (MIS 10, MIS 8).



Text-fig. 12. Pollen diagram for Skrzyńka (A. Górecki modified after Górecki *et al.* 2022).

During the Zbójnian (Wacken, MIS 9), Lublinian/Lubavian (Schöningen, MIS 7) and Eemian (MIS 5e) interglacials, there were no lake basins of glacial origin in the study area where fossil lake deposits could have accumulated.

The Odranian ice sheet (MIS 6) did not cover the study area, as also testified by the lack of lake basins with Eemian deposits. The ice sheet front was located 30–40 km to the north of the study area, and its eastern part was situated over a dozen kilometres to the west of the analysed sites (Text-fig. 13). During the Vistulian, in the anaglacial period (MIS 5e–MIS 2), the study area was in the periglacial zone in the presence of permafrost (Dobrowolski 2006).

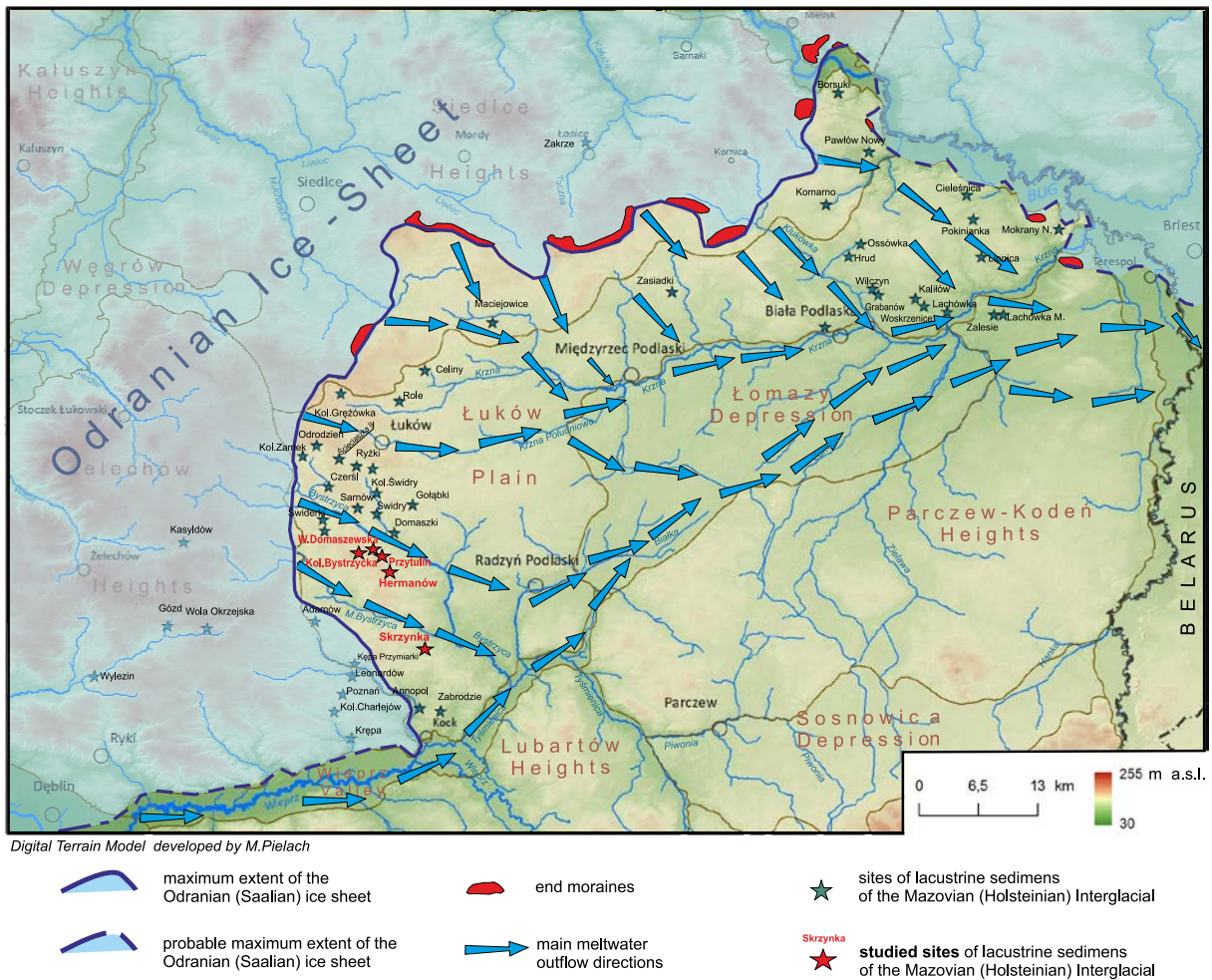
In the late Vistulian, probably during the Bøling and Alerød warmings, degradation of permafrost caused a slight deflection (from 1.3 to 2 m) of the area within the analysed palaeobasins. This deflection was

the consequence of the compaction of biogenic sediments. By the end of the Vistulian, the depressions were filled with sandy-silty sediments (Text-fig. 7).

Later in the Holocene, in the Atlantic period, i.e., in a warmer climate, peatlands developed in some depressions (Hermanów); these peatlands persist till the present. Sites with biogenic interglacial sediments occurring in the subsurface zone are of crucial significance in reconstructing the palaeogeography of a given area, including the determination of the Odranian ice sheet limits (Saalian, MIS 6).

CONCLUSIONS

- Palynological studies of sites with lake deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial have allowed the depiction of the maximal extent of the Odranian ice



Text-fig. 13. Maximum extent of the Saalian ice-sheet in South Podlasie Lowland; based on: Żarski 2004, Harasimiuk *et al.* 2004a, b, Godlewska 2015, Marks *et al.* 2018, Żarski and Kucharska 2019, Kucharska *et al.* 2019, Hrynowiecka *et al.* 2019, Górecki *et al.* 2022.

sheet along the Łuck–Kock line; this extent has a meridional (lobe-like) extent.

- Distribution of palaeobasins with deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial enabled the determination of the eastern margin of the Odranian (Saalian, MIS 6) ice sheet lobe, which was situated from several to over a dozen kilometres from the analysed sites.
- The maximum extent of the Odranian ice sheet is marked by the Siedlce–Łosice–Kornica end moraine zone, which has been so far considered as a stadial-rank limit of the Odranian Glaciation or the maximum limit of the Wartanian Glaciation.
- The area of the Łuków Plain was not covered by the ice sheet of the Odranian Glaciation. This is demonstrated by the fact that lacustrine deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial infilling the palaeo-

basins occur directly below the surface and are not covered by glacial deposits.

- Lake deposits occur in post-glacial palaeobasins, which developed after the melting of dead-ice blocks by the end of the Saanian 2 (Elsterian, MIS 2) Glaciation. These palaeobasins are carved in Saanian 2 glacial tills.
- Lake deposits in the analysed sites represent the Mazovian Interglacial vegetation succession with all its typical features.
- Lake deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial (Przytulín, Kolonia Bystrzycka, Wólka Domaszewska sites) or the early Liviecian Glaciation (MIS 11b and a – Hermanów, Skrzynka) are covered by a thin layer (up to 1.82 m) of diluvial, lacustrine and peat mineral deposits from the Vistulian and Holocene.

- The distribution of palaeobasins with deposits of the Mazovian Interglacial has allowed us to determine the eastern limit of the lobe of the Odranian Glaciation (MIS 6), which occurred from several to over a dozen kilometres from the studied sites.

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