



Geoarchaeology of the Moselle valley : palaeoenvironments and human occupation since the Middle Pleistocene

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The River Moselle and its main tributaries the Rivers Meurthe and Sarre present a succession of alluvial basins in the Paris basin and the Rhenish Massif (France, Luxembourg and Germany). Several years of multidisciplinary research in these valleys made it possible to propose a new reconstruction of the middle and lower terrace system. These terraces have been correlated from the Vosges Massif to the Rhenish Massif based on morphological and sedimentological evidences.

To confirm these correlations, an intensive programme of absolute datings of fluvial sediments from the Moselle and its tributaries (based on ESR and OSL methods) has begun.

The aim of the presentation is to expose the preliminary chronostratigraphical results, which constitute a major tool to understand the human occupation (evidenced by numerous Pleistocene artefacts) in the basin