



## MAPPING OF THE NORTH-EASTERN PART OF KOZŁOWICKA BURIED VALLEY BASED ON GEOELECTRICAL DATA

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### Abstract

The paper is aiming to determinate the extent of the northeastern arm of Kozłowska buried valley on the grounds of own research by means of electrical resistivity tomography – ERT and available archival researches. On the Hydrogeological map of Poland, Żyrardów sheet (Felter and Nowicki, 1998a, b) Kozłowska buried valley was differentiated as an individual hydrogeological unit. The results of the analysis show that the extent of the structure, defined by its upper boundary, differs significantly from the one suggested on the sheet of Hydrogeological map of Poland. Since there was no data available in the northeastern part of the discussed arm of Kozłowska buried valley, the northern boundary was defined only based on available geoelectrical sounding profiles (Czerwińska, 1988; Topolewska, 2015). In order to confirm suggested solution, geoelectrical research by means of electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) was conducted. The measurements were performed along 3 profiles located in the area of interest. The authors would like to point out the need of the usage of ERT in mapping and studying buried structures that might be groundwater reservoirs. As a result, one obtains quasi-continuous image of electrical resistivity of the subsurface. Due to the contrast of electrical properties of sediments, it is possible to determine upper and bottom surfaces of buried structures, formed within glacial deposits.

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**Key words:** buried valley, geoelectrical methods, electrical resistivity tomography, ERT

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### INTRODUCTION

Geoelectrical methods, based on a physical property of the subsurface – electrical resistivity, might be used successfully to determine the extent of buried structures (Black *et al.*, 1962; Smith, 1974; Ahmad and Schmitt, 2005; Topolewska, 2015). Electrical resistivity is a physical parameter that enables to distinguish lithologies within geological medium (Białostocki and Farbisz, 2007; Farbisz *et al.*, 2010; Palacký, 1987; Saleh and Samsudin, 2013). However, electrical resistivity obtained during measurements does not indicate unambiguously type of sediment or soil, because it depends on many different factors: inter aliamineral composition (especially, in the presence of clay minerals), structural and textural characteristics (porosity, particles cementation, compaction), water presence and its conductivity. Buried valleys are structures that were created during two phases. First, concave structure was created by river or stream, and then in the second phase, it was filled up with fluvial, glaciofluvial or lacustrine material in several sedimentation cycles during interglacials or after complete deglaciation, thereafter covered by younger sediments. In West Mazovian, area that is

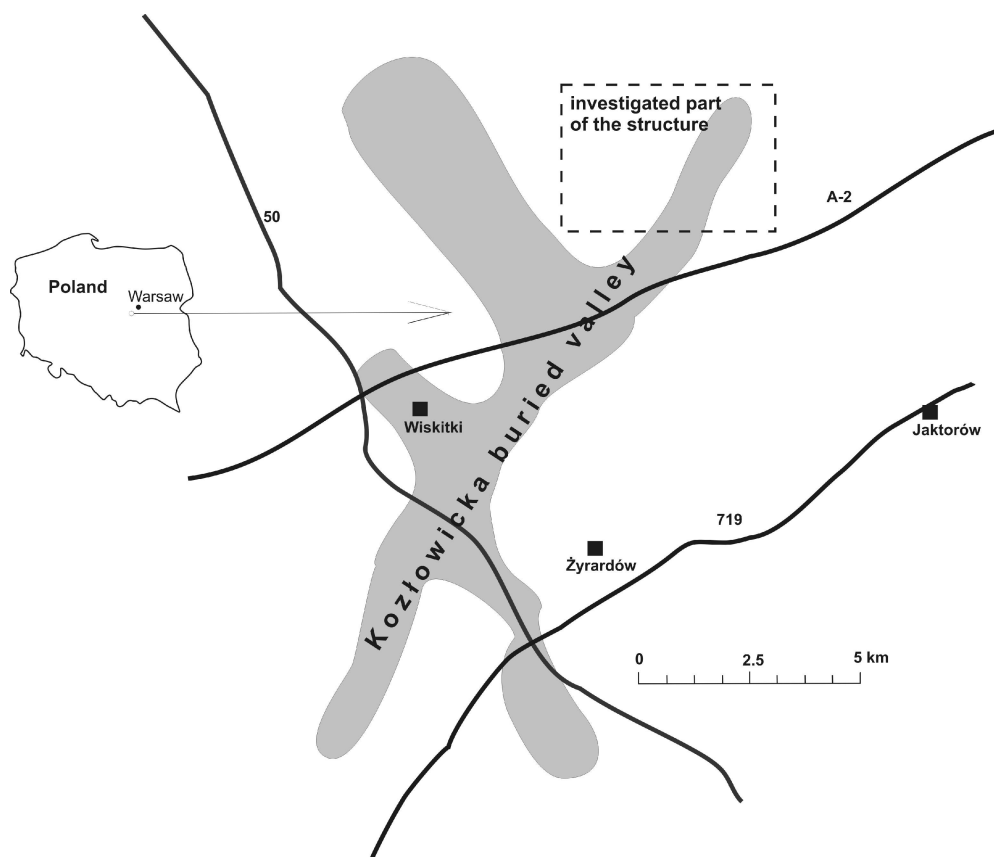
scarce in water of passable quality, this type of Quaternary structures might be potential source of water supply (Felter and Nowicki, 2003). Kozłowska buried valley is one of them. It was described and mapped for the first time by Felter and Nowicki (1998a, b) on Hydrogeological map of Poland (MhP), sheet Żyrardów. The aim of this paper is to verify by means of ERT the upper boundary of the northeastern arm of Kozłowska buried valley which was determined by Topolewska (2015) on the grounds of own and archival VES (vertical electrical sounding) studies (Czerwińska, 1988). As a result, resistivity maps were created. They show how the extent of the valley changes with depth.

### AREA DESCRIPTION

#### Location

The research area was limited to the northeastern arm of Kozłowska buried valley. It is located in the southwestern part of Mazovian Province (Fig.1) within Grodzisk County (circa 30 km west from Warsaw). Hydrogeologically, it is located entirely within groundwater body<sup>1</sup> number 65, accord-

<sup>1</sup> Polish – “jednolite części wód podziemnych – JCWPd”



**Fig. 1.** Location of the study area with Kozłowska buried valley according to Felter and Nowicki (1998b). Black lines – main roads; A-2, 50, 719 – numbering of main roads; black arrow – indication of the structure on the map of Poland, grey-colored area – Kozłowska buried valley, dashed-line polygon – investigated part of the structure, black squares – bigger cities in the area.

ing to division into 172 parts effective from 2016 and within another hydrogeological unit or groundwater basin<sup>2</sup> number 215a called Subniecka warszawska (Herbich *et al.*, 2007).

According to the physiographic regionalization of Poland (Kondracki, 2009), the research area is located within province Middle European Plain and subprovince Central European Lowlands. It is located in macroregion Central Mazovian Plain and in mezoregion Łowicko-Błońska Plain (Fig. 2). Locally, altitude differences reach few meters and are produced by fluvial erosion processes. Northern and northwestern parts of the sheet Żyrardów (research area included), Łowicko-Błońska Plain, are quite flat. The altitudes drop slightly towards the north and the northwest (Felter and Nowicki, 1998a, b). Kozłowska buried valley is not visible in the morphology.

## Geology

Kozłowska buried valley is located in the northwestern part of a geological structure called Mazovian Basin. It is a concave structure in the Cretaceous sediments basement that is overlain by thick layers of Paleogene–Neogene and Quaternary sediments. Few geological boreholes, located in Żyrardów and Sochaczew, documented upper boundary of Cretaceous sediments at 193–197.5 m below the surface. The

most crucial for this research are Pleistocene sediments. Geology will be described on the grounds of the geological cross-section presented in the figure 3. The location of the cross-section line is shown on a geological map of the north-eastern arm of Kozłowska buried valley in figure 4. Description of geology and geological map of the research area were based on information given by Geological detailed map of Poland Żyrardów sheet (Szalewicz, 1993). Stratigraphic division of Quaternary suggested by Różycki (1972) and used by Szalewicz was updated using the latest.

The oldest deposits on the cross-section are dated to Pliocene. They are lacustrine sediments, mainly clays and clays with silt (Fig. 3; layer 1). They were encountered at the bottom of three out of four boreholes that were used to make the cross-section – at around 60 m a.s.l. at the extremes of the line and at around 27 m a.s.l. in the central part of the sequence. As it is shown on the cross-section, they might have been once a continuous layer. Analysis of nearby boreholes showed that thickness of those sediments is 45–48 m. In one borehole, complex of sand, gravel and residual gravel dated to South Polish Glaciations was encountered at 66 m a.s.l. (layer 2a). It is 6 m thick. It has not been detected in other geological profiles. In two middle boreholes, at 48 and 54 m a.s.l. a complex composed of fluvial sands and gravels (2b) was encountered. Its maximum, documented thickness rea-

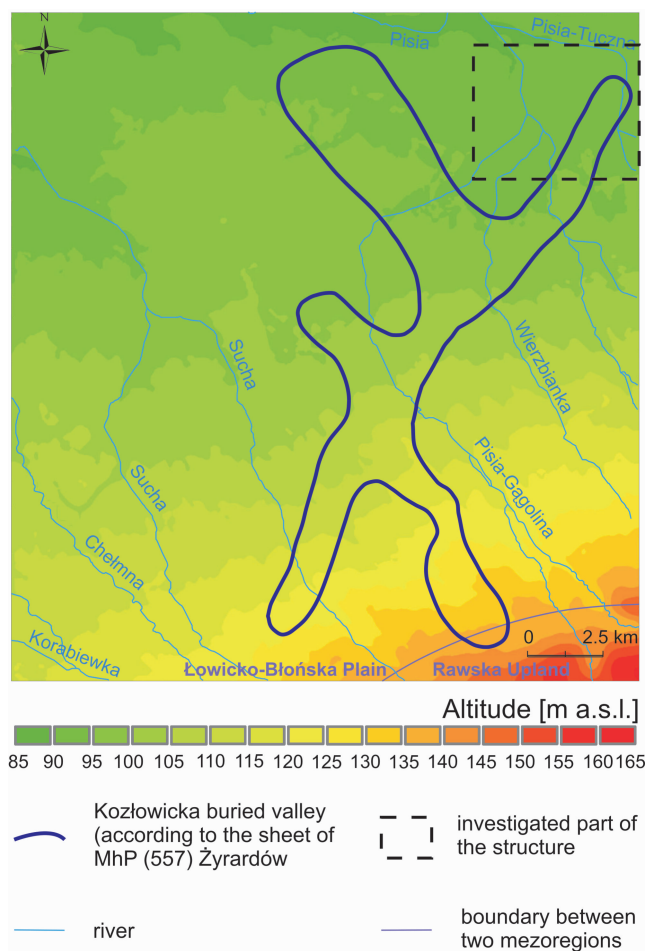
ches 26 m in a borehole no. 5570117. Those sediments constitute the filling of a buried valley (believed to be a part of Kozłowska buried valley), deeply cut into the Pliocene substrate, with axis direction SW–NE. It was dated to Podlasian Interglacial (or Małopolska Interglacial according to Różycki, 1972). In a borehole no. 5570118, varved clay (3a) was encountered at two levels, first at around 63 m and then at 71 m a.s.l. In the same borehole, till (3b) was encountered at 65.6 m, 75.6 m and 81.6 m a.s.l. Between youngest layers of till, 2-meters thick layer of clay and silt (3c) was detected. Their thickness varies between 2 and 6 m. In a borehole no. 5570108, till (3b) was encountered at 72.3 m a.s.l. and its thickness is 7 m. This deposit was thought to be a continuation of tills on the western part of the cross-section. The oldest sediments aged (4) to Middle Polish Glaciation, were encountered in all four boreholes. In the middle ones, they reach greater depths. Their maximum thickness is around 35 m. Bottom part (4a) is built of lacustrine fine sands. Top part (4b), in turn, seems to be of even finer fraction. They are clay and silt and silty sand. It is possible that top part of complex 4, clay and silt might be the same layer as clay and silt (3c) in the west. Then they could also have created a separate layer that has no relation to the buried valley. However, it appears that the top boundary of the buried valley on most resistivity models is encountered much closer to the surface. They were deposited during Odranian Glaciation (according to Różycki, 1980) or during Krznanian Glaciation (according to Lindner and Marks, 1999), which indicate more or less same age (Lindner and Marks, 2012). This lithologically diversified complex together with a complex of fluvial sediments (2b) is believed to constitute the filling of Kozłowska buried valley.

A continuous complex of tills (5), in WSW part, was encountered at around 88 m a.s.l. while in ENE part – at around 94 m a.s.l.. Its thickness varies from 6 to 16 m. In a borehole no. 5570117, thin layer of residual gravel and boulders (6) was encountered at 86 m a.s.l. Silt and clay (7a) were encountered in a borehole no. 5570144 at 92 m a.s.l. They constitute also a thin layer. Sediments common on the surface are tills (7b) that were found in most of the profiles. Their thickness maximally reaches 16 m. They were the last deposit dated to Middle Polish Glaciation (Warta Stage, according to Lindner and Marks 2012) that was determined in this area. Humic sands and peat (14) dated to Holocene were detected in one borehole. They are usually at bottom of river valleys or depressions. They are often encountered on tills (7b) and on lacustrine sediments (7a).

The genesis of the structure seems to be double. It was suggested by Topolewska (2015) that the structure involved two complexes, bottom one (2b) that consisted of fluvial deposits (sand and gravel) dated to Podlasian Interglacial and upper one (4a–b) composed of lacustrine deposits (clay, silty sand, fine sand) dated to Krznanian Glaciation. Though, it is not sure if these complexes are actually separated by sediments from Sanian1 Glaciation (layers 3a–c).

### Hydrogeology

Due to the capacity of sediments to store water, Kozłowska buried structure is one of the most important hydrogeological units in the area. Overlying tills seems to be good

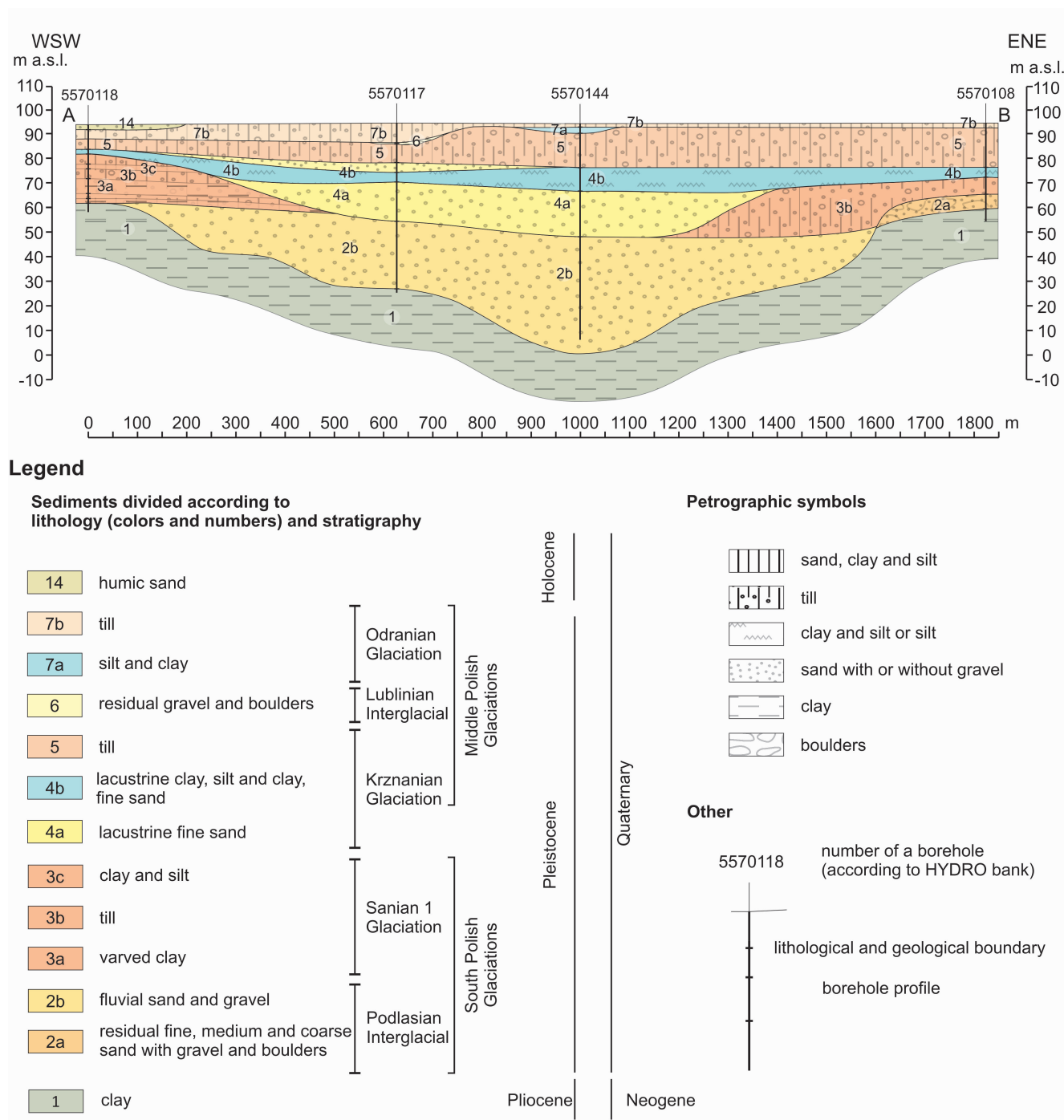


**Fig. 2.** Location of Kozłowska buried valley on the hypsometric map of the region (557) Żyrardów (Felter and Nowicki, 1998b).

enough to isolate the water-bearing structure underneath, still it is characterized by poor or no isolation. According to Balcerkiewicz (1989) and Wysocki (1996), hydrogeodynamic parameters determined for the whole complex of sediments of Kozłowska buried valley are following: hydraulic conductivity varies from 5 to 44 m/d (16 m/d on average), transmissivity locally is above 1000 m<sup>2</sup>/d, potential discharge of wells ranges from 70 to 120 m<sup>3</sup>/h and disposable resources are 280 m<sup>3</sup>/d per km<sup>2</sup>. It is one of the main aquifers in the area and was determined as a separate hydrogeological unit.

### FORMER STUDIES

Topolewska (2015) gathered all the relevant information on Kozłowska buried structure, having analyzed former researches and added results and conclusions from her own study. She based her research mainly on Czerwińska's geoelectrical (VES) studies (1988) which aimed to explore northeastern part of the structure that was believed to be a good groundwater resource. The results were reinterpreted and presented in the form of geoelectrical cross-sections that showed resistivity distribution in the subsurface. This way, it became possible to determinate the extent of the upper boundary of the buried valley. Hydrogeological map of Poland by Felter and Nowicki (1998a,b) was one of the main ar-



**Fig. 3.** Geological cross-section along profile line A–B (Topolewska, 2015; with slight changes).

chival studies that Topolewska (2015) used as a base for her own research. However, just at the beginning of the analysis she observed that the extent of Kozłowska buried structure proposed by the authors could not be correlated with the geoelectrical studies of Czerwińska (1988) that were believed to be the most essential base for this part of the map. Topolewska suggested the location of a new (upper) boundary of the structure where eastern and western boundaries were determined based on reinterpreted archival VES research (Czerwińska, 1988) and her own ERT measurements. Due to the lack of data, she could not determine the exact location of southern and northern boundaries. This paper de-

scribes the results from the study carried out at the site where northern and western boundaries of the northeastern arm of Kozłowska buried valley were supposed to be situated.

## METHODS

Since the aim of the research was to determine the location of the boundary of Kozłowska buried valley, structure filled up with highly resistive sediments within low resistive deposits, geoelectrical methods were most suitable. Electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) was used. Electrical resistivity tomography method (term used i.a. by Zhou *et al.*,

2001; Kemna *et al.*, 2002; Zhou *et al.*, 2002; Daily *et al.*, 2004) is also called electrical resistivity imaging (ERI) (term used i.a. by Van Schoor, 2002; Loke and Lane, 2004; Smith and Sjogren, 2006; Ratnakumari *et al.*, 2012) or continuous vertical electrical sounding (CVES) (term used i.a. Van Overmeeren and Ritsema, 1988; Chongoa *et al.*, 2011; Aning *et al.*, 2014). Principles of resistivity electrical methods, their application and foregoing development were described i.a. by Dahlin (1996), Loke *et al.* (2013), Samouëlian *et al.* (2005).

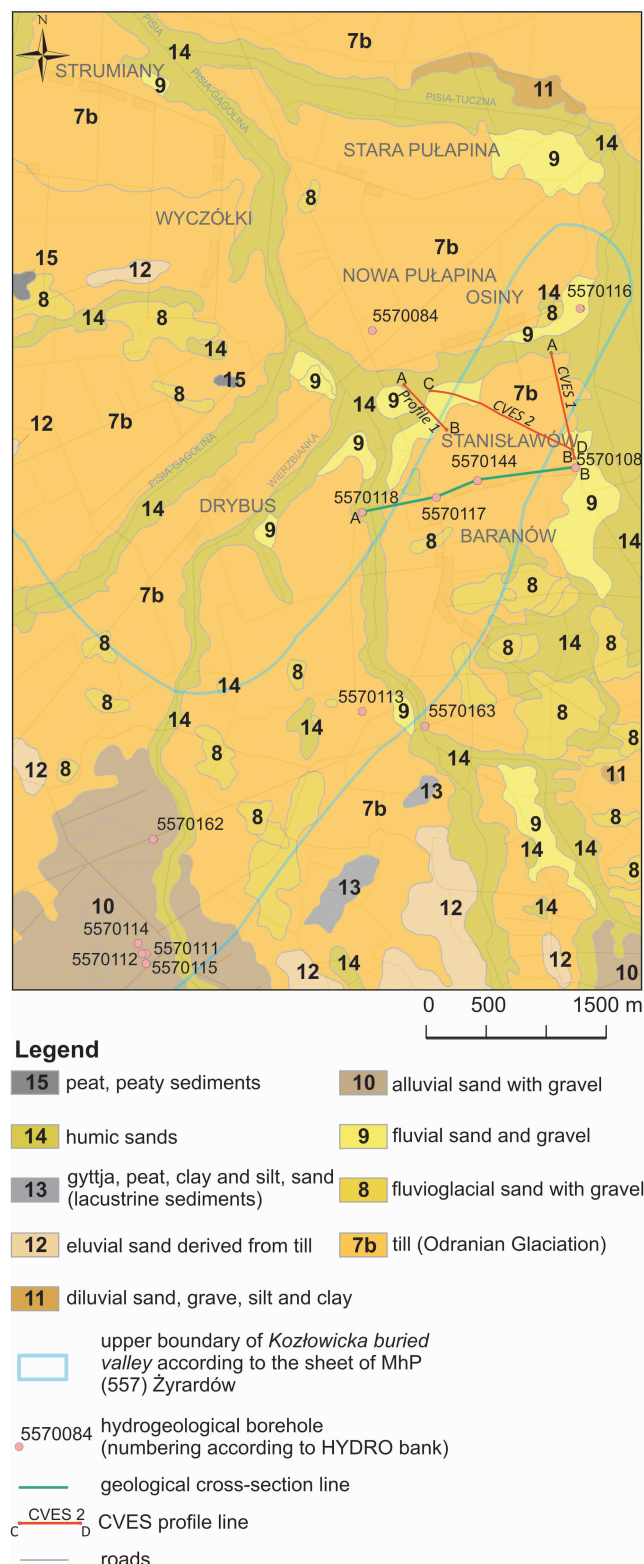
ERT measurement was performed by means of Terra-meter LS, product of Swedish company ABEM. Along 4 cables, 21 electrodes were placed with the spacing of 5 m at each cable. Since the profile lines were longer than 400 m, roll-along technic was applied with a gradient array, as described in detail by Dahlin and Zhou (2006). The usage of this array usually enables to notice changes in resistivity whenever horizontal or vertical lithological boundaries are crossed. In order to get closer to the target, which was determination of the extent of the valley, ERT was applied along three profiles. In contrast to VES, it gives a two-dimensional insight into the subsurface – in vertical and horizontal directions. The results were interpreted and presented in the form of resistivity models (Figs 6, 7). They were put together with archival results (achieved by the means of ERT and VES) and presented in the form of resistivity maps made at different altitudes (Fig. 8).

## RESULTS

Measurements were performed along 3 profiles. The location of the profiles is shown on a documentation map (Fig. 5). They are marked with black lines. In addition, profile 1 was also plotted on the geological map (Fig. 4). Others were unfortunately situated beyond its limits. The profiles were situated in a way so that the western (profile 1) and northeastern (profile 2 and 3) boundaries of the structure (determined on the grounds of archival ERT and VES studies; light brown line on the documentation map) could be crossed. Measurements along profiles CVES 1 and CVES 2, also present on the maps (Figs 4, 5), were done as a part of a different study (Topolewska, 2015) and were presented in this paper, since they were thought to bring essential information. The results are presented on 3 resistivity models (Fig. 6). Additionally, resistivity models along CVES 1 and CVES 2 were described (Fig. 7).

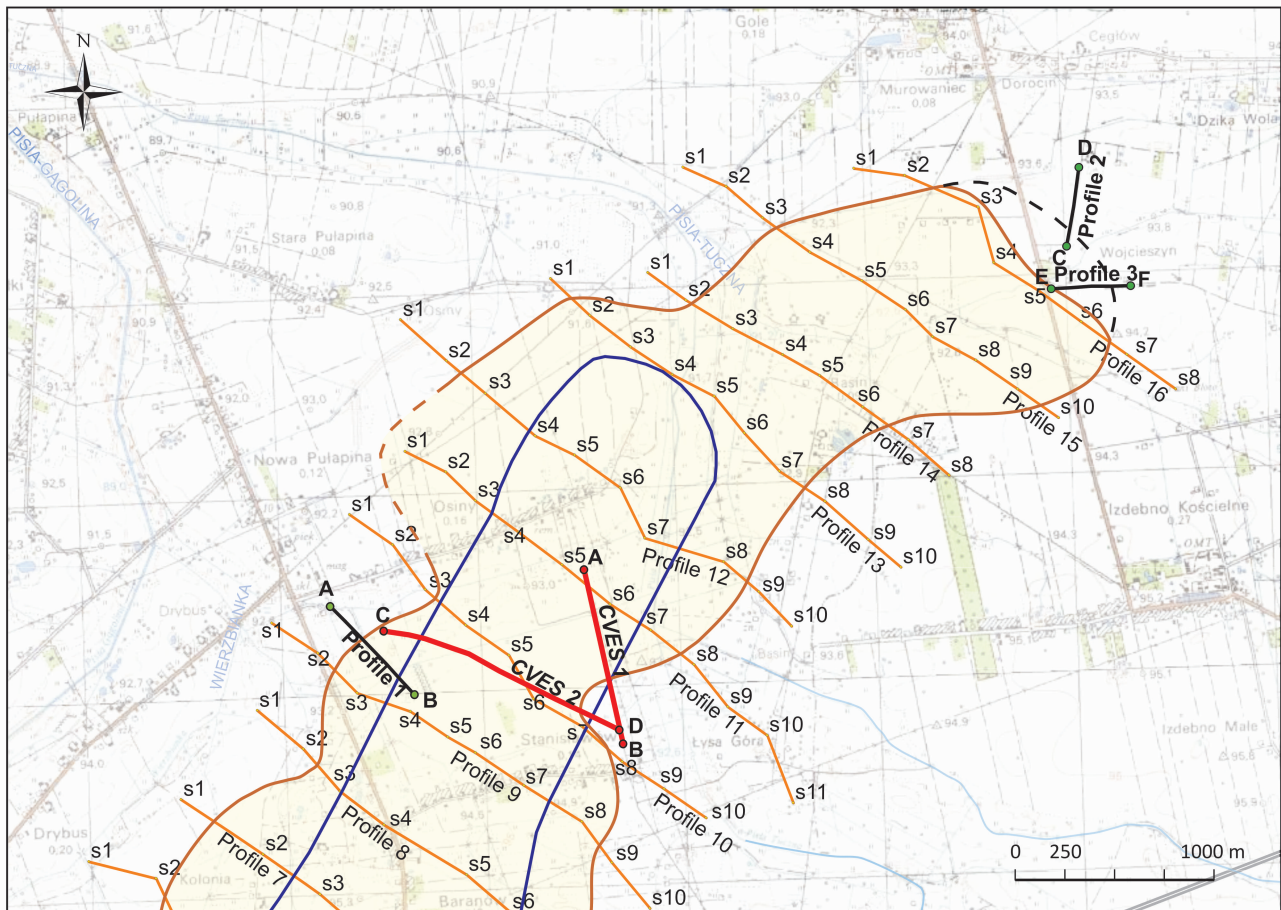
In figure 6, three resistivity models are presented. Measurement along profiles 1–3 were performed in June and July 2015. On models, three resistivity complexes were identified: highly resistive with higher than 75  $\Omega \cdot m$  (light green, yellow, orange, red), moderately resistive with resistivity range from 30 to 75  $\Omega \cdot m$  (blue/green) and low resistive with values lower than 30  $\Omega \cdot m$  (blue).

Along profile 1, highly resistive sediments (sands) constituting the filling of the valley were encountered in the southeastern part of the profile line reaching depths of around 50 meters all the way towards the border till approximately 250 meters from the starting point of the profile where their bottom boundary was found around 40 meters below the surface. Even though, some sediments with resistivity of



**Fig. 4.** Geological map of investigation area (Topolewska, 2015). Numbering corresponds to numbering on geological cross-section in figure 3.

around 70  $\Omega \cdot m$  (probably tills) appear at the northwestern extreme of the profile, it is believed that the valley does not continue westwards. There is a low resistive elongated area present at 250–550 m from the first electrode that is reaching



based on documentation map from Topolewska's research (2015)

#### Legend

-  upper boundary of Kozłowska buried valley (according to Felter and Nowicki, 1998b)
-  upper boundary of Kozłowska buried valley (according to ERT and VES researches)
-  probable route of upper boundary of Kozłowska buried valley (needs to be verified in the future)
-  incorrect route of upper boundary of Kozłowska buried valley (verified by new ERT measurements)
-  Profile 10  
s9 VES profile line and VES point (Czerwińska, 1988 with new numbering)
-  C CVES 2 ERT profile line (Topolewska, 2015)
-  A Profile 1 new ERT profile line
-  highway A2

**Fig. 5.** Documentation map of ERT and new ERT profiles with reinterpreted VES survey (Czerwińska, 1988) based on documentation map from Topolewska's research (2015).

depths of 5 meters. Based on information revealed by geological profiles, those are most likely tills. Underneath the valley, at around 60 m a.s.l. in the northwestern part and at around 45 m a.s.l. in the southeastern part, sediments with resistivities lower than 25  $\Omega$  m are located. They are believed to be Pliocene clays. If we look at geological cross-section (Fig. 3), upper boundary of Pliocene clays is also located at 60 m a.s.l. on both ends of the profile line.

Those results enabled to replace probable contour of the boundary (marked with a dashed line) in the western part of the structure (Fig. 5) with a confirmed one (marked with a

continuous line). Most of the sediments along profile 2 represent low resistivities ( $< 40 \Omega$  m). They might be either clays with additive of sediments with higher resistivities as tills or sands or more probably tills or tills with additive of clays. There is one spot with higher resistivity (40–60  $\Omega$  m) that stretches from 80 to 100 m (horizontally) and from 85 to 70 m a.s.l. (vertically). It might be a sand lens with lower than usual resistivity. It can be explained in a way that it was affected on edges by the sediments from the surroundings with lower resistivities.

The sediments along profile 3 represent mostly low

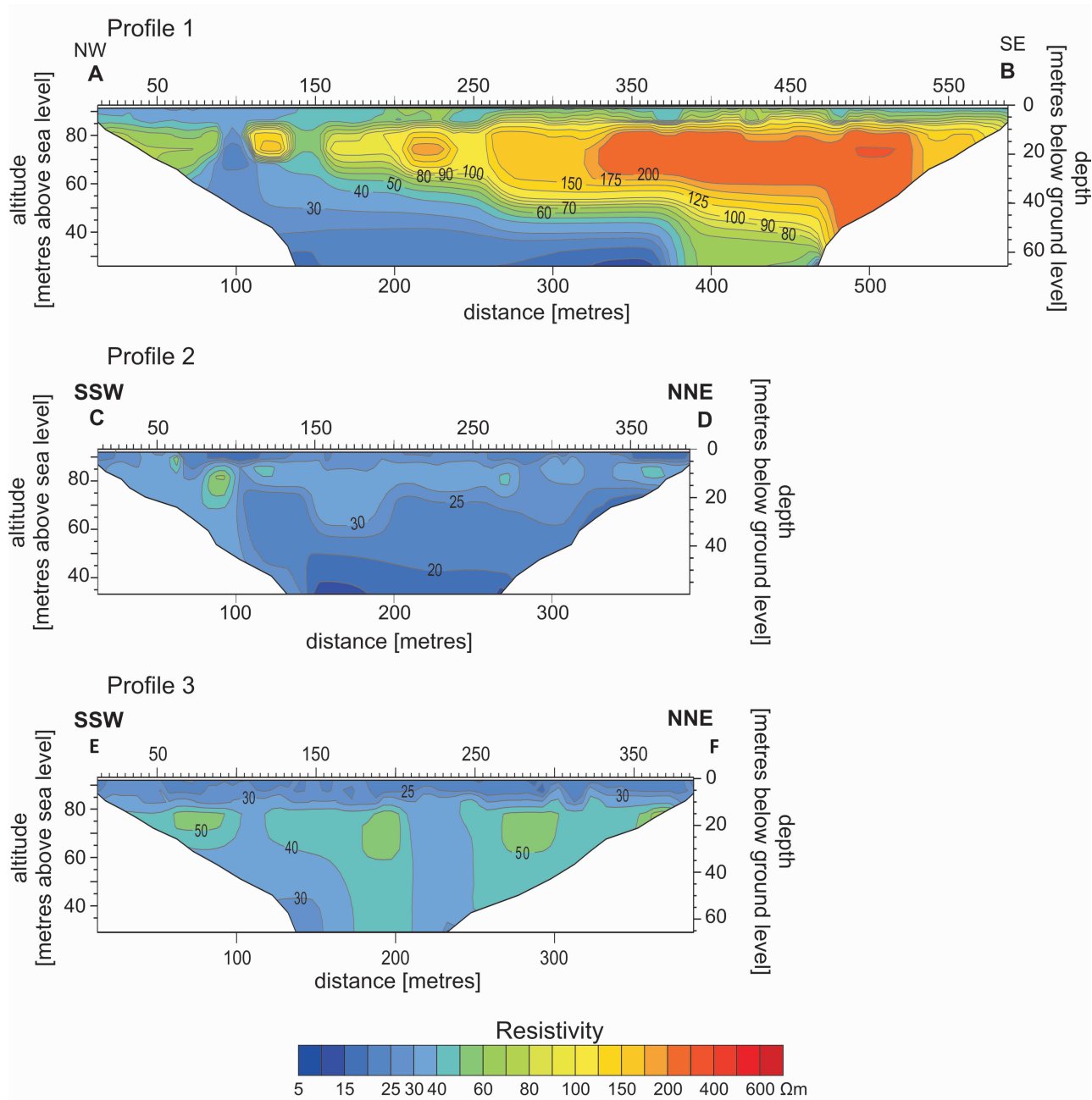


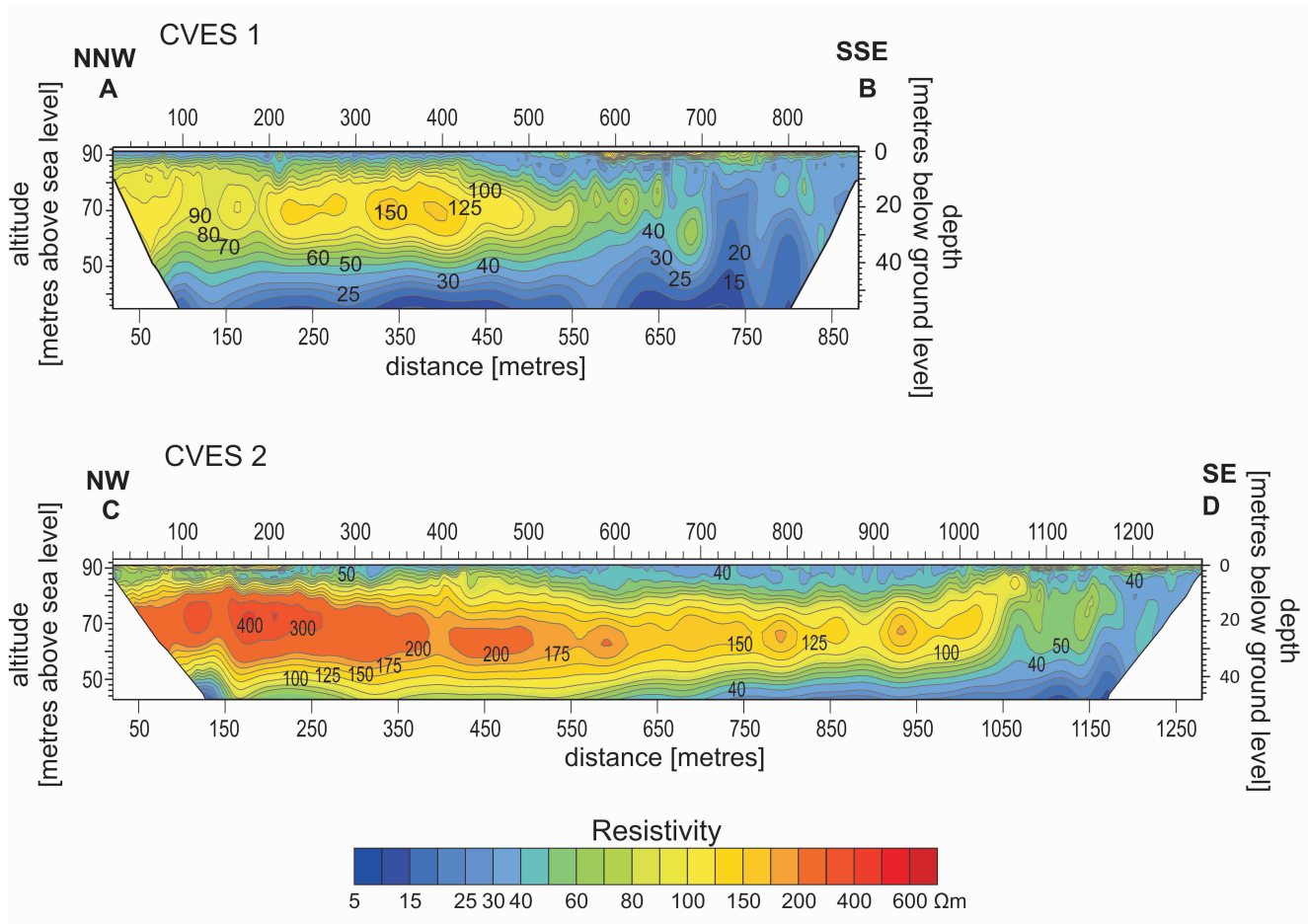
Fig. 6. Resistivity models along profile 1, 2, 3.

resistivities ( $< 40 \text{ } \Omega\text{m}$ ). The same as in profile 2, they might be either clays with additive of sediments with higher resistivities as tills or sands or more probably tills or tills with additive of clays. There are three quite wide spots of sediments with higher resistivities ( $> 40 \text{ } \Omega\text{m}$ ). Their upper boundary is located around 10 m below the surface. They would constitute a continuous layer, if it was not for two, low resistive ( $< 30 \text{ } \Omega\text{m}$ ) sites that stretch from 100 to 120 m and from 210 to 240 m and continue downwards. It might be the case that first they were one layer of tills that afterwards was deformed and torn by Pliocene clays due to glacial tectonic events. Those results enabled to close the boundary in north-eastern part of Kozłowska buried valley and, in this way, conclude that the valley does not continue northwards (Fig. 5).

Along the profile CVES 1 (Fig. 7), highly resistive com-

plex, interpreted as sands, spreads from the beginning of the profile to around 560 m that might be interpreted as SSE boundary of the buried valley. Unfortunately, the NNW boundary was not detected, neither was the trace of sediment with reduced resistivity which would suggest proximity of the boundary. The upper boundary of highly resistive complex was detected at around 80 m a.s.l. and its bottom boundary – at around 56 m a.s.l. Underneath, a moderately resistive complex ( $30\text{--}75 \text{ } \Omega\text{m}$ ) was encountered, interpreted either as tills. At around 44 m a.s.l., low resistive sediments ( $< 30 \text{ } \Omega\text{m}$ ) were detected. They might be interpreted as Pliocene clays.

Highly resistive sediments along the profile CVES 2 were found already around 10 metres below the surface with the bottom boundary around 44 m a.s.l. in the northwestern part of the profile and at around 50 m a.s.l. in the southeastern



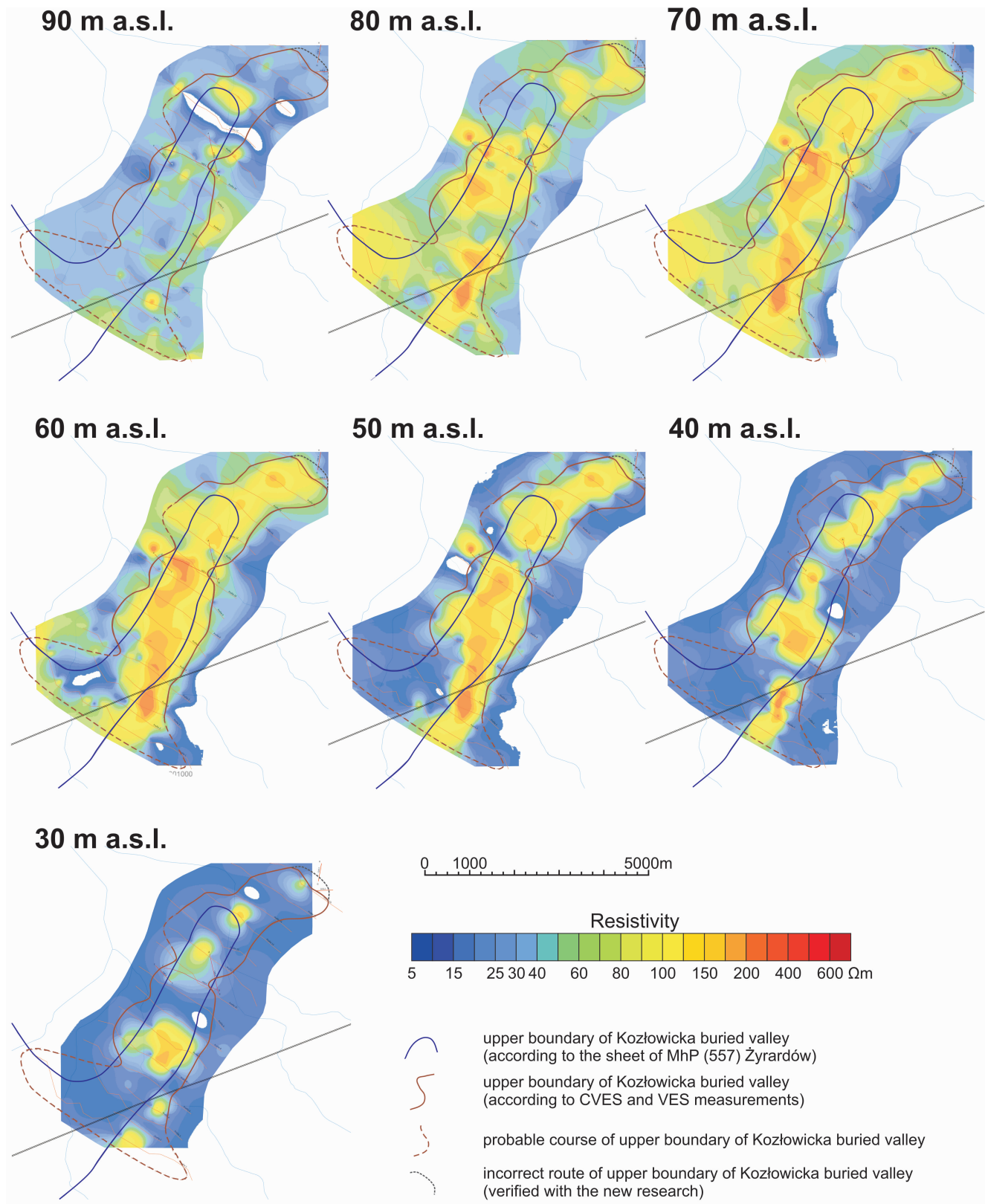
**Fig. 7.** Resistivity model along CVES 1 and CVES 2 (Topolewska, 2015). In figure 7, two archival resistivity models are presented. Measurements along profiles CVES 1 and CVES 2 were performed in June 2014 and in March 2015. Since they are archival profiles, their color scale does not fully correspond to the color scale of new profiles presented above in figure 6.

one. Their lateral southeastern border was located at 1080 meters of the profile line. They do not continue eastwards. Northwestern lateral border was not determined, therefore it seems that the valley continues westwards. In order to find out where the buried valley ends, measurement along profile 1 was performed as a part of the research which is described in this paper. Highly resistive sediments of the valley are covered and surrounded by sediments with lower resistivities ( $<70 \text{ m}$ ) which are believed to be tills.

As a result of the new survey, changes in the contour of the upper boundary were made (Fig. 5). In western part, between VES profile lines 9 and 10, the boundary previously was probable, since it could not be confirmed by the profile CVES 2. It was confirmed though by profile 1 and a dashed line (probable contour) was replaced by a continuous one. In northeastern, on the grounds of the results from profile 2 and profile 3, it was possible to close the structure. The valley does not continue northwards. There is still one part of the northeastern arm of Kozłowska buried valley where its upper boundary has an unconfirmed contour. In western part (Fig. 5), between VES profile lines 10 and 12, the boundary is conducted with an orange dashed line. It is advisable to perform more ERT measurements in that site in the future.

The results of the new research enabled also to update re-

sistivity maps introduced first by Topolewska (2015). The maps (Fig. 8) show how resistivity changes at different altitudes (meters above the sea level) within the northeastern arm of Kozłowska buried valley. Sections were made every 10 meters from 90 to 30 m a.s.l. in the form of horizontal planes which sliced the model of the subsurface in a way so that the resistivity distribution at different levels could be seen. They enable first to see changes in resistivity with depth, secondly, to determine location of the bottom of the valley and then to observe denivelation of the bottom. On the maps at 60 and 70 m a.s.l. continuous structure built of highly resistive sediments is visible. It is surrounded by moderately resistive sediments (around  $40 \text{ m}$ ), interpreted as tills. On the maps at 40 and 30 m a.s.l., under the valley one can see low resistive deposits with resistivities lower than  $25 \text{ m}$ . They might be interpreted as Neogene clays. Low resistive sites at altitudes 80 and 90 m a.s.l. seem not be Neogene clays, since they do not continue on maps at 70 and 60 m a.s.l. Nevertheless, they can be easily affected by glaciectonic events and then they are hardly distinguishable by resistivity from tills. As we can see, the broadest extent of the valley was captured at 70 m a.s.l.



**Fig. 8.** Resistivity maps at different altitudes above the sea level according to ERT and reinterpreted VES survey (Czerwińska, 1988, Topolewska, 2015) with changes

The maximum extent of the buried valley determined on the grounds of archival researches (Czerwińska, 1988; Topolewska, 2015) and presented results differs. It might be due to different criteria and ways in which it was determined.

In the article upper boundary of Kozłowska buried valley corresponds to its maximum extent and was determined based on resistivity maps at 70 m above sea level (Fig. 8).

## DISCUSSION

Geoelectrical measurements are highly recommended in any kind of geological or hydrogeological surveys as a starting point. They provide deeper insight into the substrate and, this way, rough estimation of the shape and extent of the underground structures. Importance of the methods can be seen on the example of MhP. Its quality is of such great relevance, because it is treated as a reference for many different researches. Unspotted mistake may be copied in every following study. The extent of the buried valley was determined by Felter and Nowicki (1998a, b) based on 144 wells situated within 325 km<sup>2</sup> of the sheet area. Statistically, there are 2.26 wells per 1 km<sup>2</sup>. In practice, though, wells were dispersed in a way that most of them were clustered around Żyrardów, located in central part of the sheet. However, such a small amount of wells, in the authors opinion, is not reliable to make further conclusions. In addition, it appears that no existing geoelectrical results were used, since the same geoelectrical researches were taken into account by Topolewska (2015) and completely different results were obtained. The extent of the valley differed. This conclusion was proved in the research described in this paper. That is why broader use of geoelectrical methods is recommended while mapping hydrogeological structures, especially in case of such an extended documentation as MhP. Though geoelectrical measurements in Quaternary sediments are mainly performed as a part of hydrogeological studies (e.g. Binley *et al.*, 2002; Ercoli *et al.*, 2012; Khaki *et al.*, 2016; Mastrocicco *et al.*, 2010), they can be effectively used in order to determine geometry of buried valleys and type of the sediments that fill them up.

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