

# FEEDBACK ON THE USE OF LIDAR BATHY-TOPO IN RIVER ENVIRONMENTS

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# Airborne Lidar bathymetry - general observations

## specific strengths

Continuity in data acquisition for environments comprehending land and water

Multi-target capability

As remote sensing method, ideally suited for non-navigable shallow water situations

Area coverage efficiency

## challenges and limitations

Water quality/Turbidity

Marine vegetation

Sea state – waves

Difficult predictability

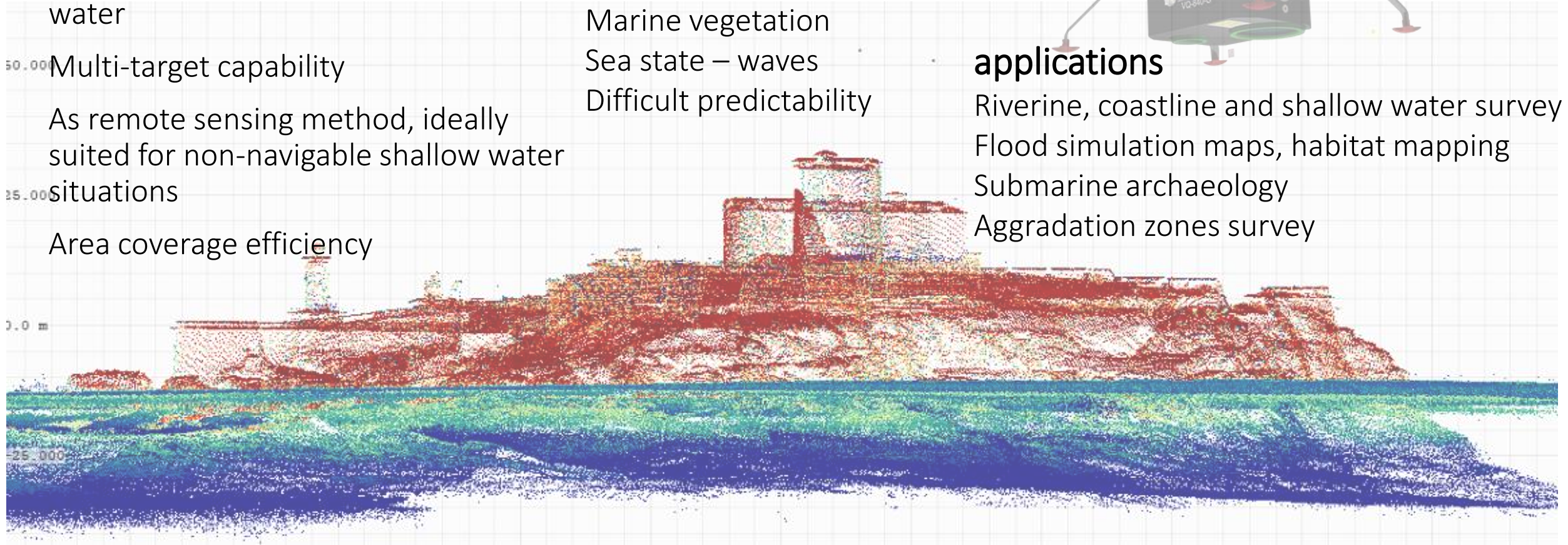
## applications

Riverine, coastline and shallow water survey

Flood simulation maps, habitat mapping

Submarine archaeology

Aggradation zones survey



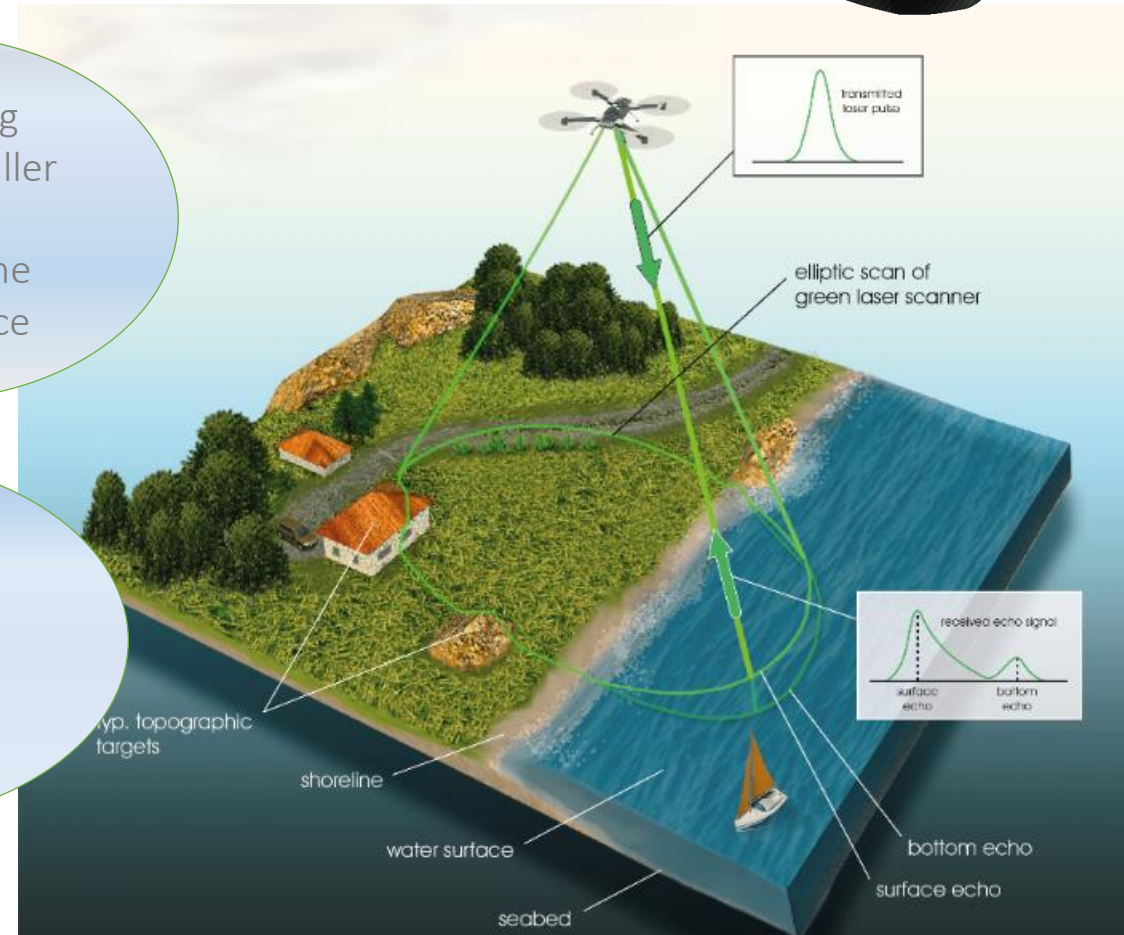
# RIEGL compact ALB systems: VQ-840-G/VQ-840-GL



- green laser scanner
  - nearly-elliptic scan pattern,  $\pm 20^\circ$  FOV (across track)
  - 2 Secchi depths water penetration
  - 50 kHz – 200 kHz laser PRR
  - online waveform processing **AND** full waveform recording
  - selectable laser beam divergence **AND** receiver FOV
- fully integrated system
  - INS (APX20)
  - 12 Mpix camera
- compact and flexible
- weight: 12 kg/9.8 kg total
  - dimensions: 360 x 285 x 200 mm<sup>3</sup>
  - interfaces for external IMU, camera, laser scanner
  - interface to *RIEGL* data recorder DR1560i **OR** CFAST storage card slot (up to 512 GBytes)

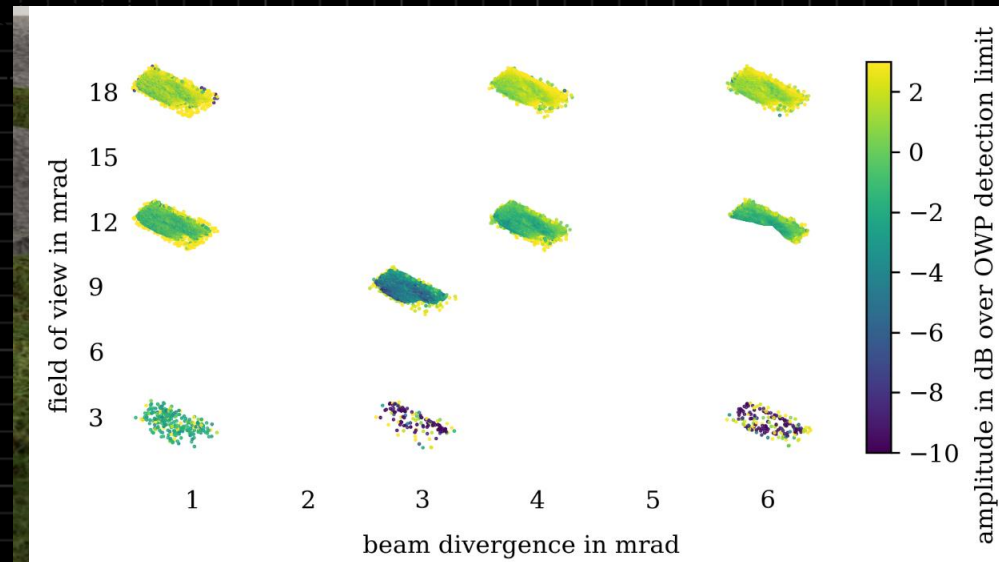
lower flying altitude, smaller aircraft, closer to the watersurface

High resolution, operational versatility, excellent depth penetration

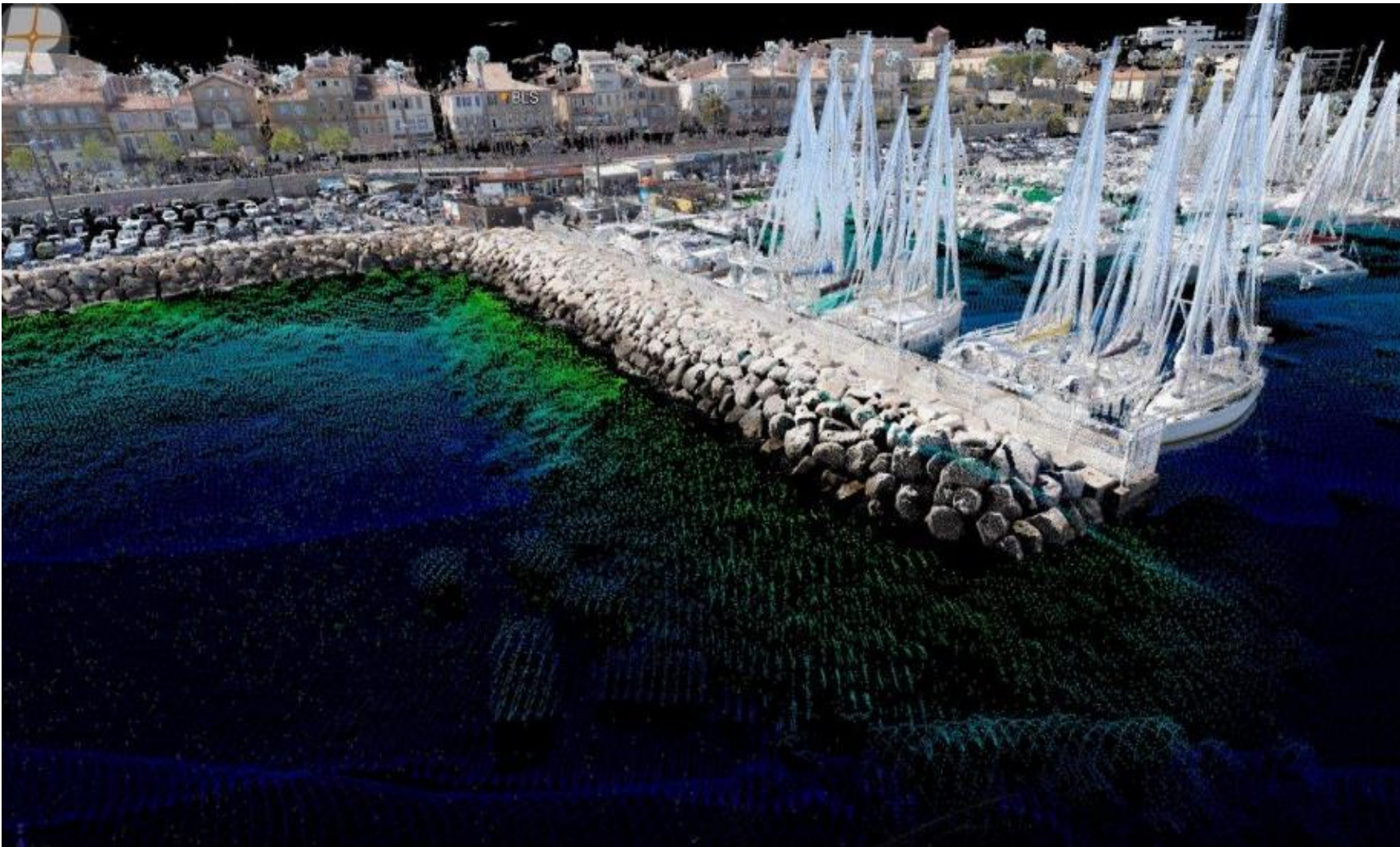




# Unique features of VQ-840-G and VQ-840-GL: selectable receiver FOV and Beam Divergence



## Special characteristics of low altitude - high resolution ALB



mission-tailored data acquisition  
Perspective on vertical features,  
aquatic vegetation and  
deadwood, submerged objects,  
and infrastructure

- invites for new applications in  
submarine or coastal  
infrastructure, close-up surveys  
of dynamic coastal or riverine  
areas, hydrographic applications  
in waterresources management,

potential in data fusion and  
complementary data acquisition



# Why CNR is interested in Lidar Bathymetry ?

Facilitate measurements on complicated access areas : old Rhône, small streams, small branches of Rhône

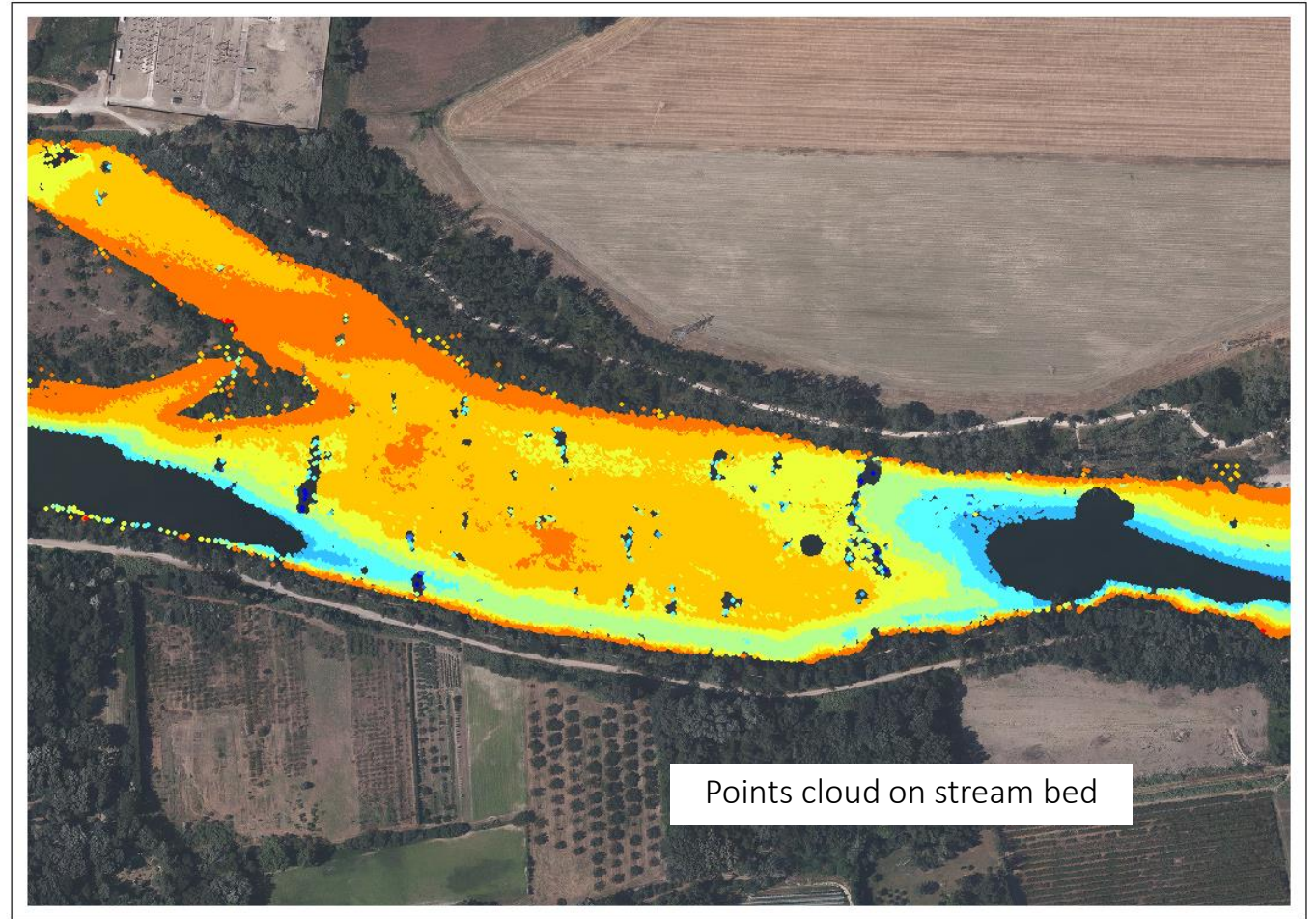


Cross section profiles

# Why CNR is interested in Lidar Bathy ?

Facilitate measurements on complicated access areas : old Rhône, small streams, small branches of Rhône

obtain a points cloud / DTM instead of cross profiles on small bottoms



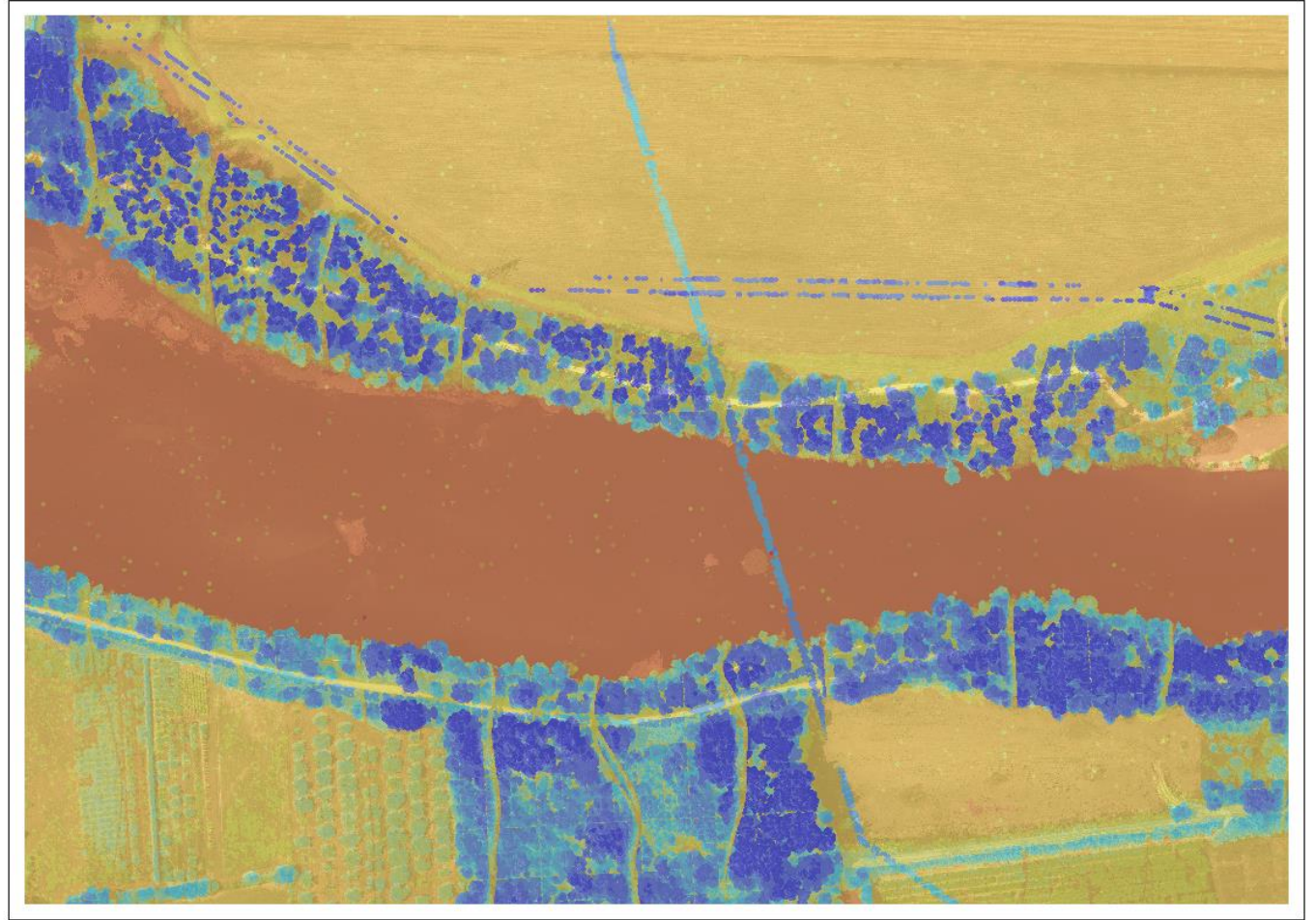


# Why CNR is interested in Lidar Bathymetry ?

Facilitate measurements on complicated access areas : old Rhône, small streams, small branches of Rhône

obtain a points cloud / DTM instead of cross profiles on small bottoms

**Obtain stream bottom AND terrestrial ground**



Stream bottom and terrestrial ground  
Avignon 2021



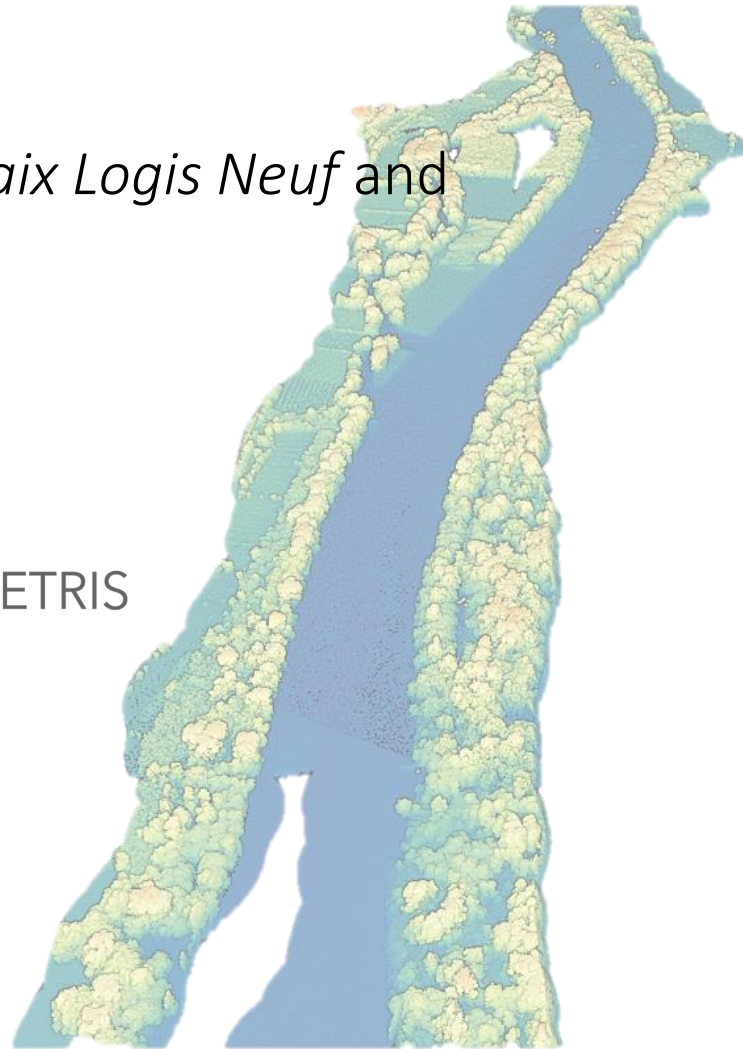
# 2022 test acquisitions

2022 : helicopter on 2 zones *Baix Logis Neuf* and *Chautagne*

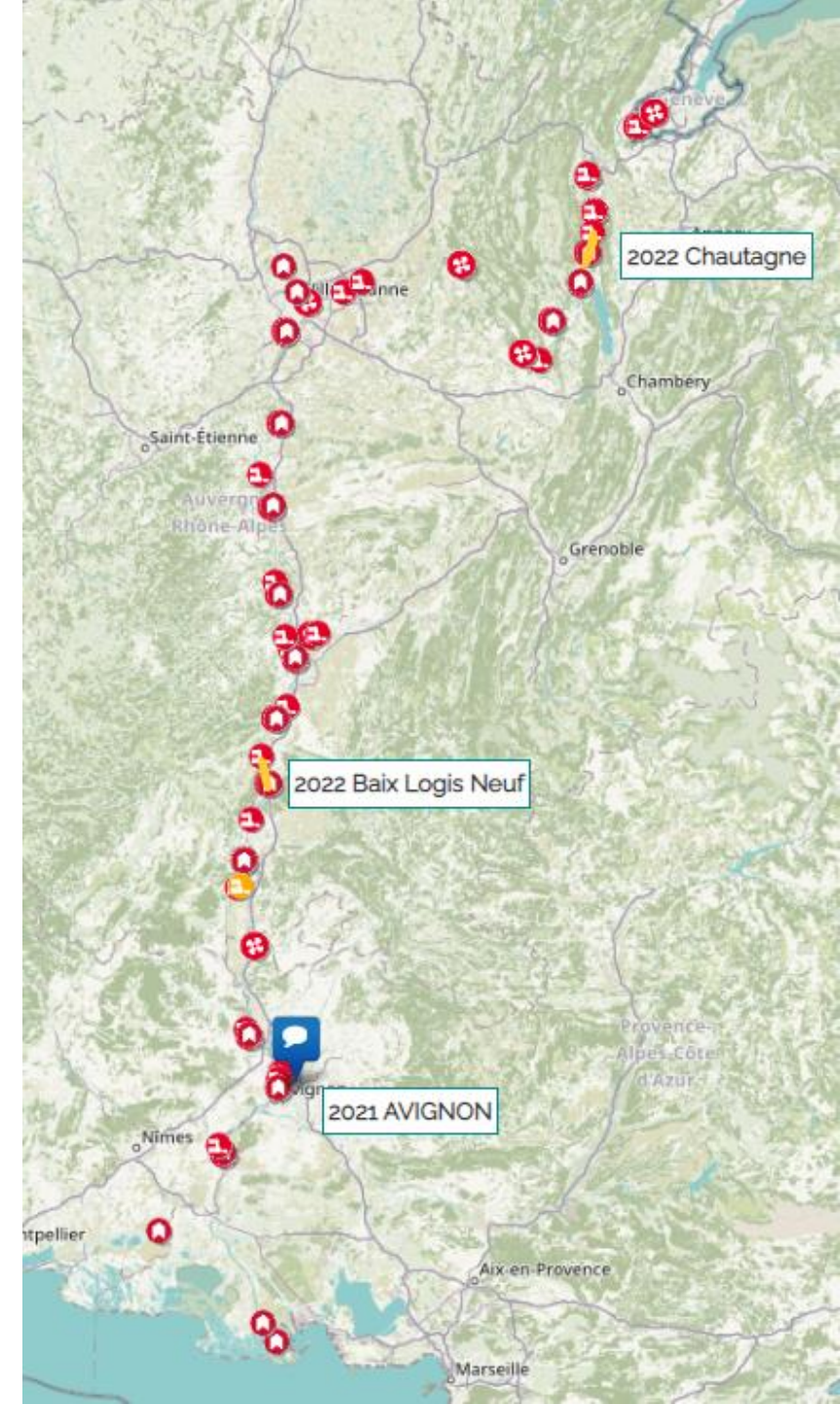
height of flight : 150 m

**Needs** : monitoring of gravel banks

acquisition and processing : [ALTA](#)METRIS

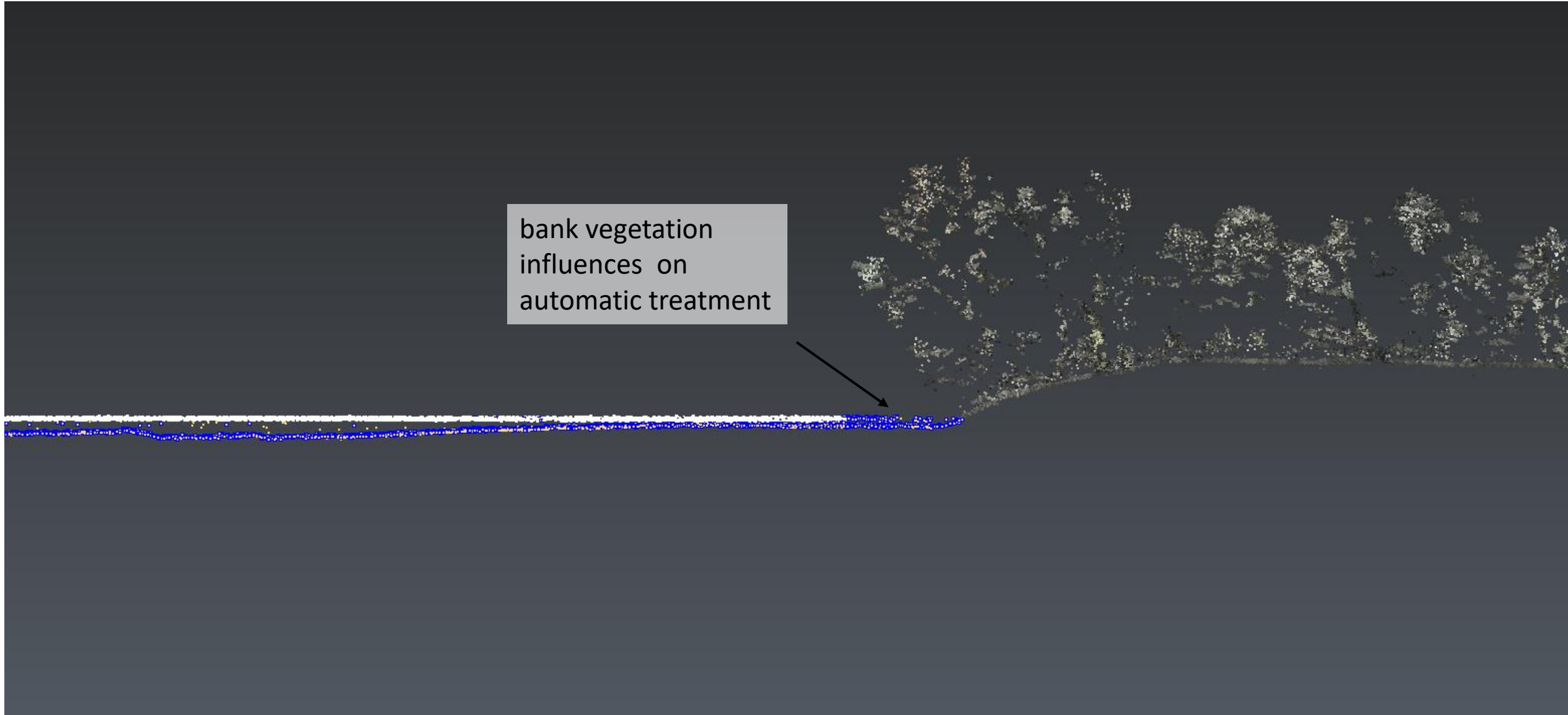


2022 Baix Logis Neuf

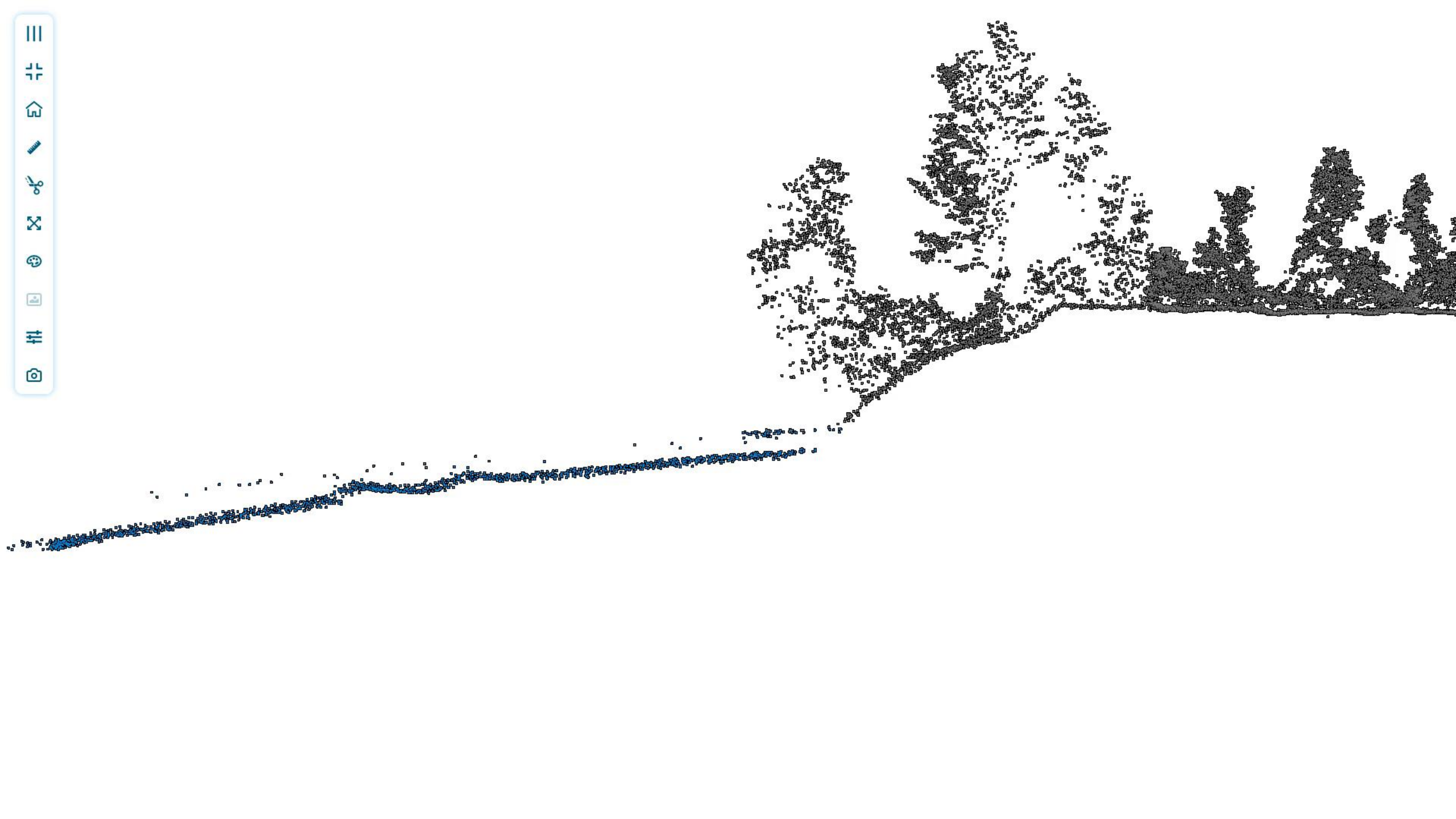


# Case of banks vegetation

bank vegetation  
influences on  
automatic treatment







# Data analysis

(Baix Logis Neuf 2022)





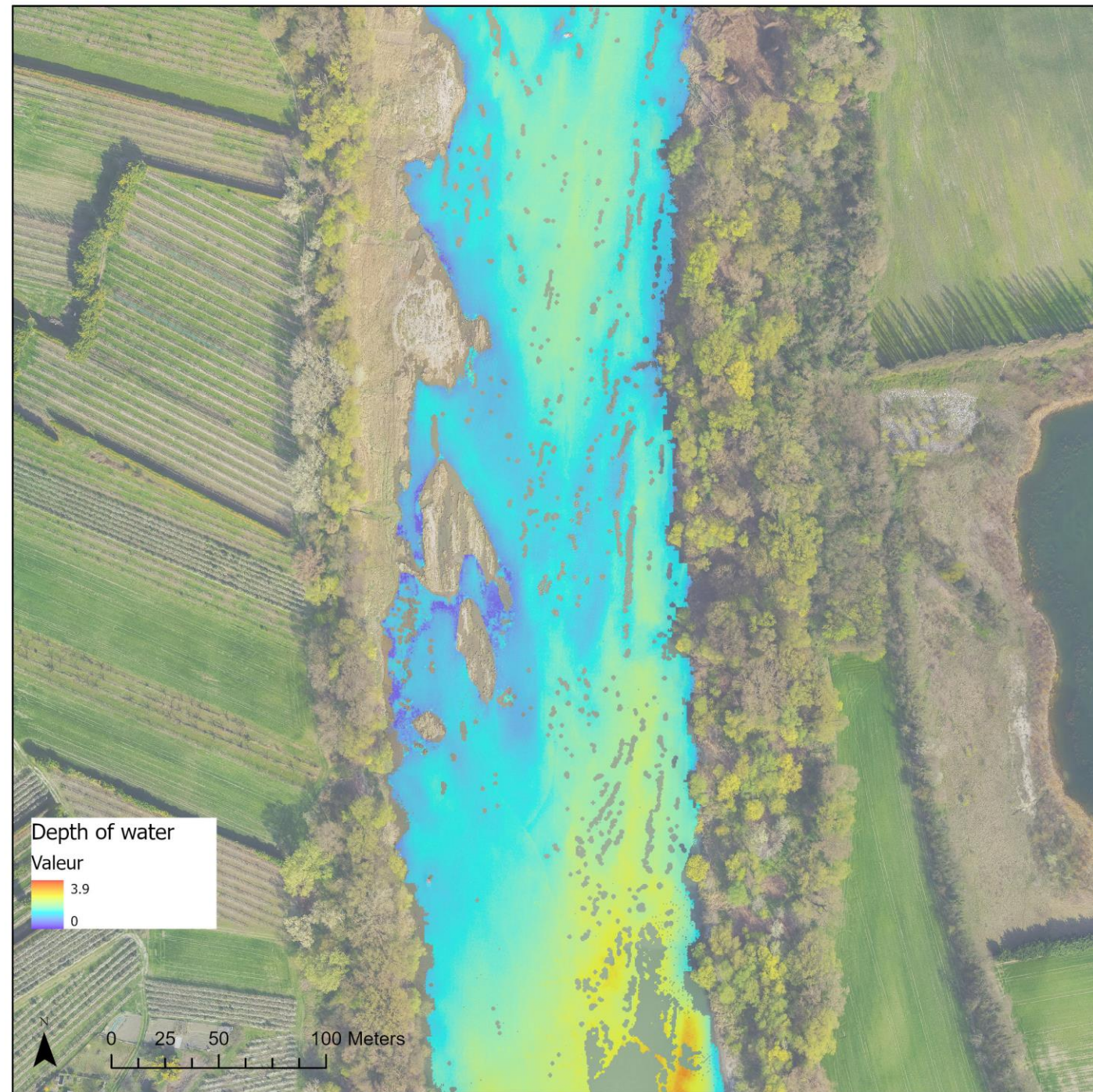
# Data analysis

(Baix Logis Neuf 2022)

Depths

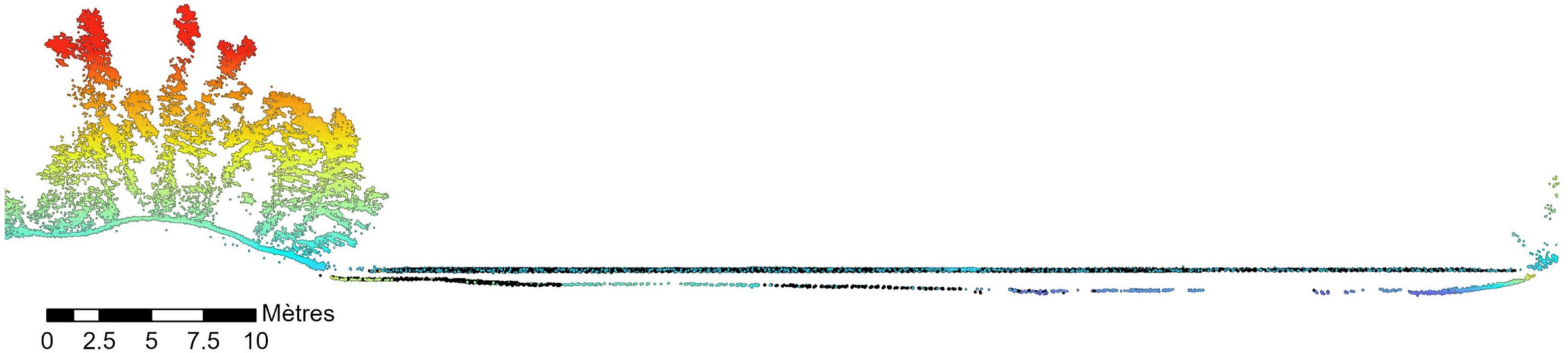
*Maximum 3.5 m*

*complies with the specifications*



# Data analysis

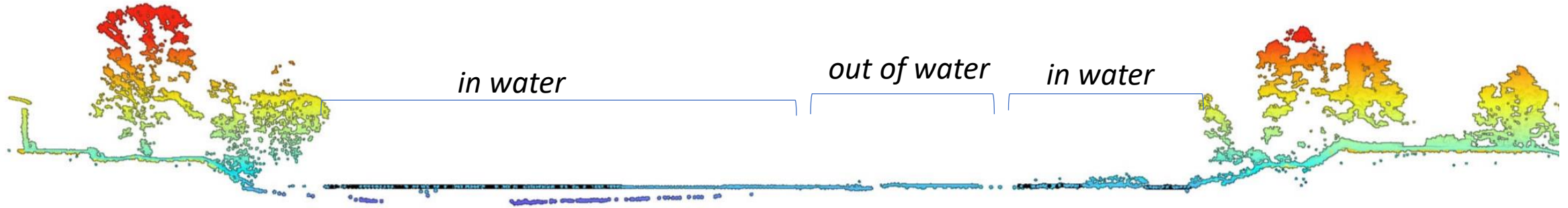
(Baix Logis Neuf 2022)





# Data analysis

(Baix Logis Neuf 2022)



*continuity of the data of the  
zones in water to the zones  
out of water*



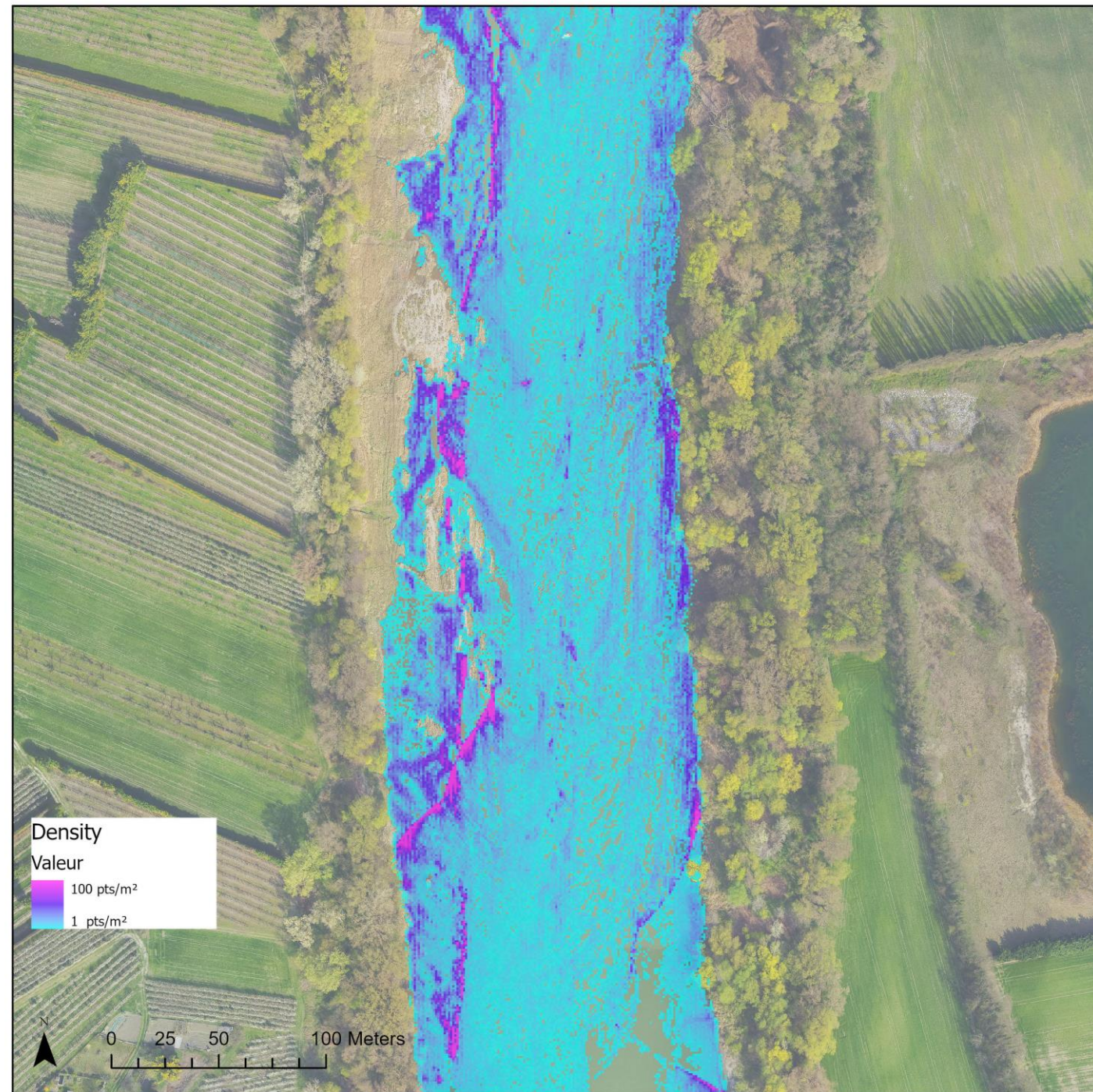
# Data analysis

(Baix Logis Neuf 2022)

Cloud density « bottom »

*Good density (more than enough for the needs)*

*Density decreasing with depth*

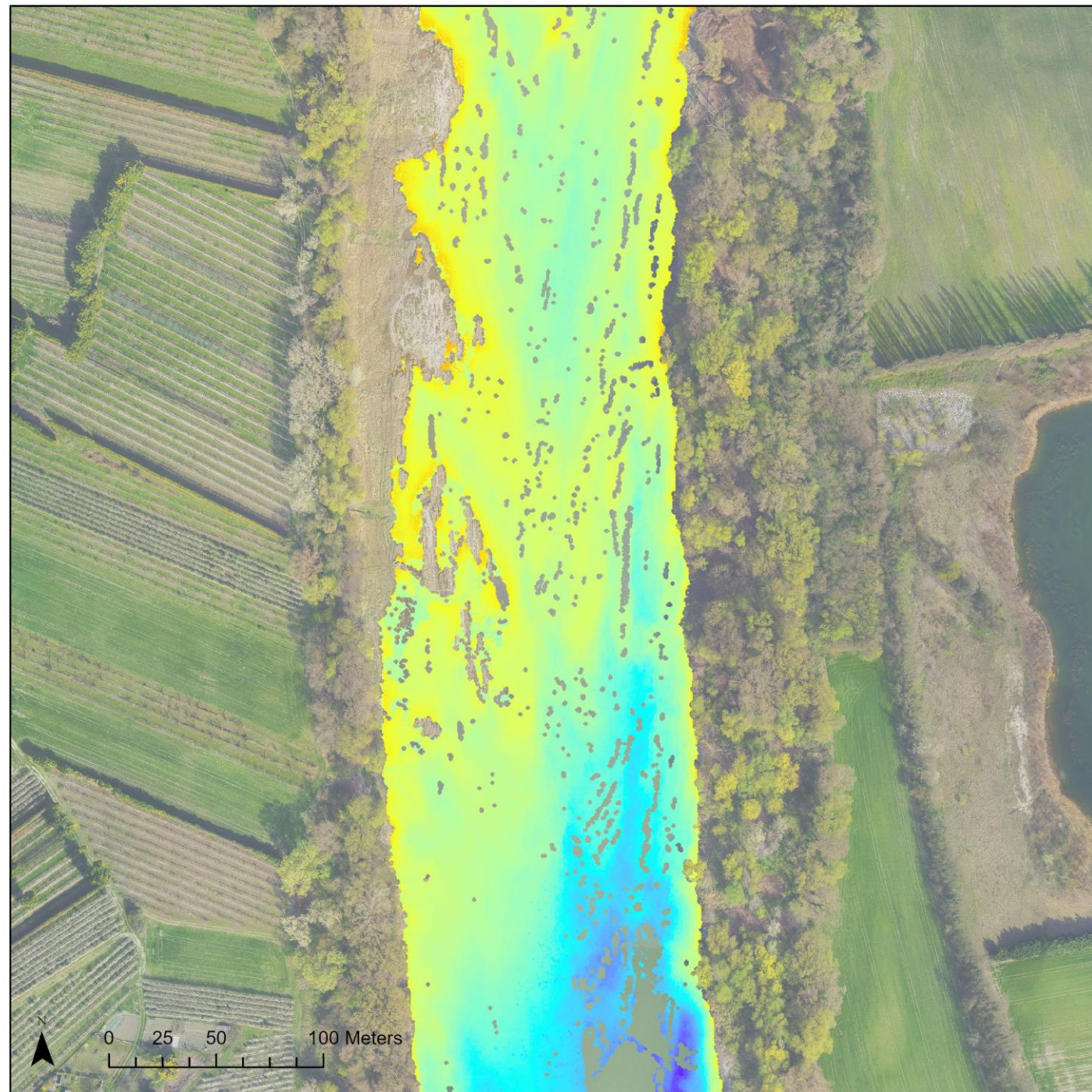




# Data analysis

(Baix Logis Neuf 2022)

Lidar (only bottom of the stream)



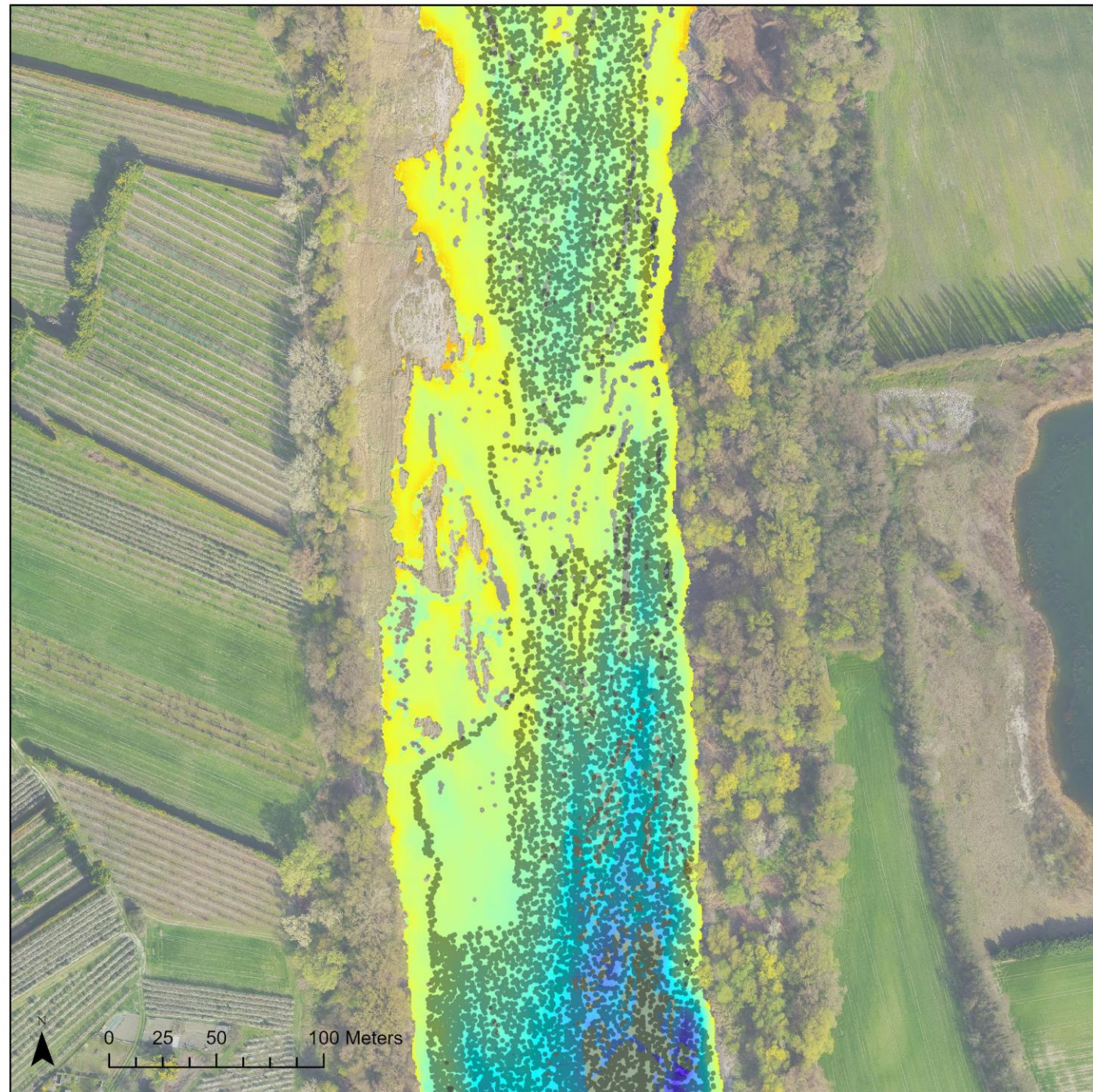


# Data analysis

(Baix Logis Neuf 2022)

Lidar & Multibeam

*in very small depths, the LiDAR  
allows a better cover*

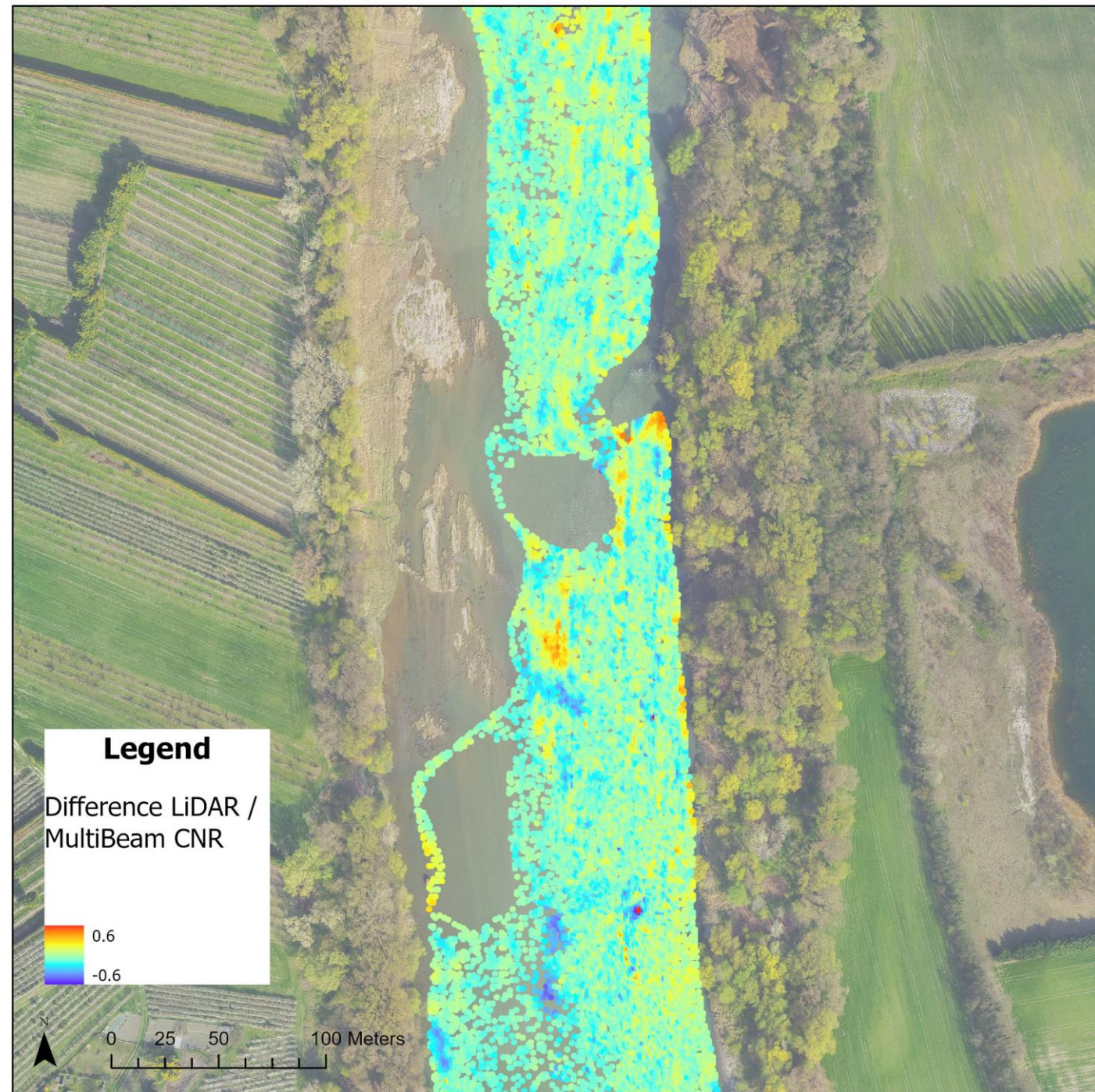
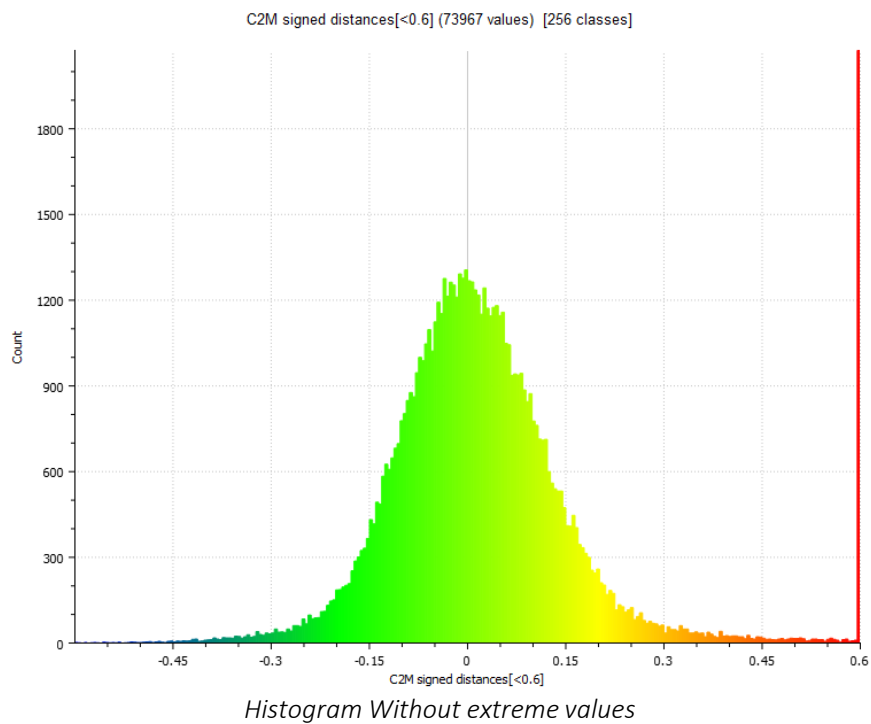




# Data analysis

(Baix Logis Neuf 2022)

$\pm 10$  cm with CNR reference data  
(multibeam)



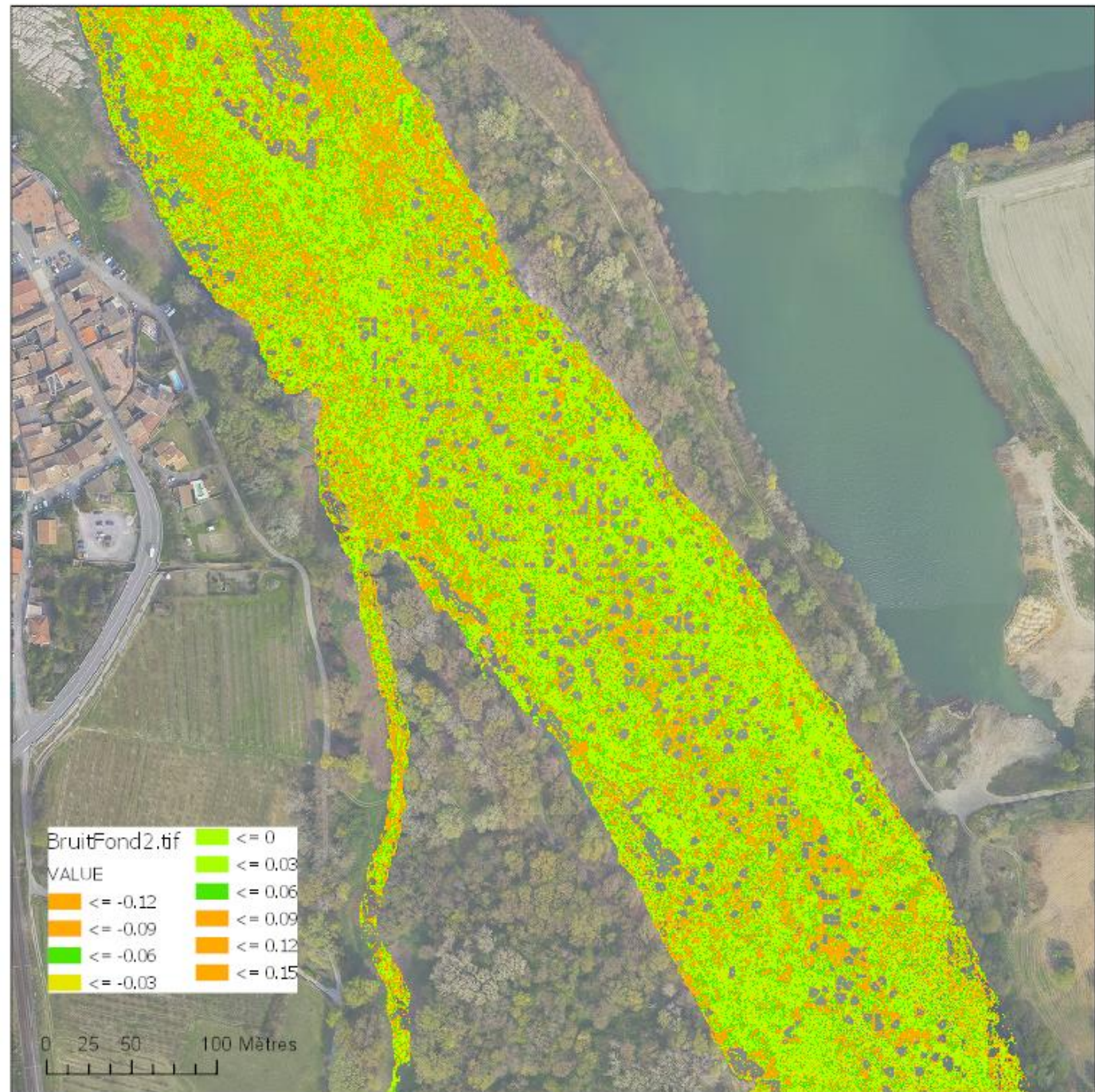


# Data analysis

(Baix Logis Neuf 2022)

measurement noise

*On water surface or on the bottom  
about  $\pm 5$  cm (10 cm thick points cloud)*



Profil de 20 cm de profondeur

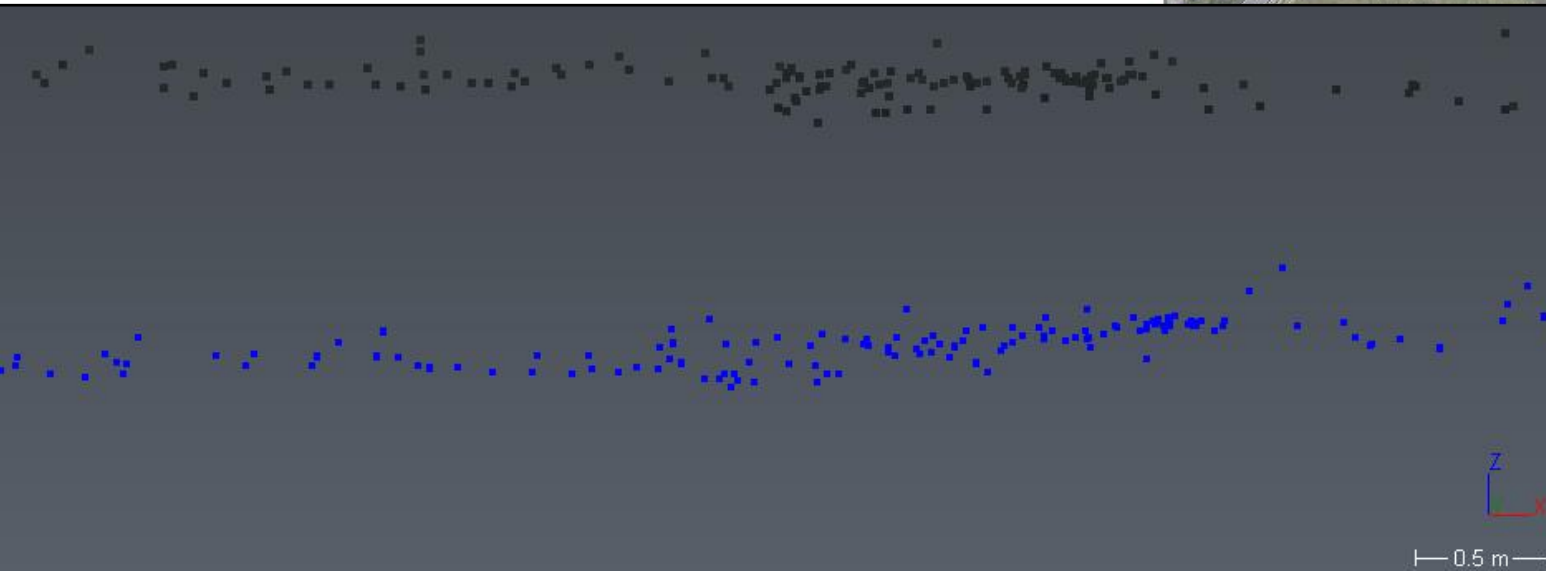
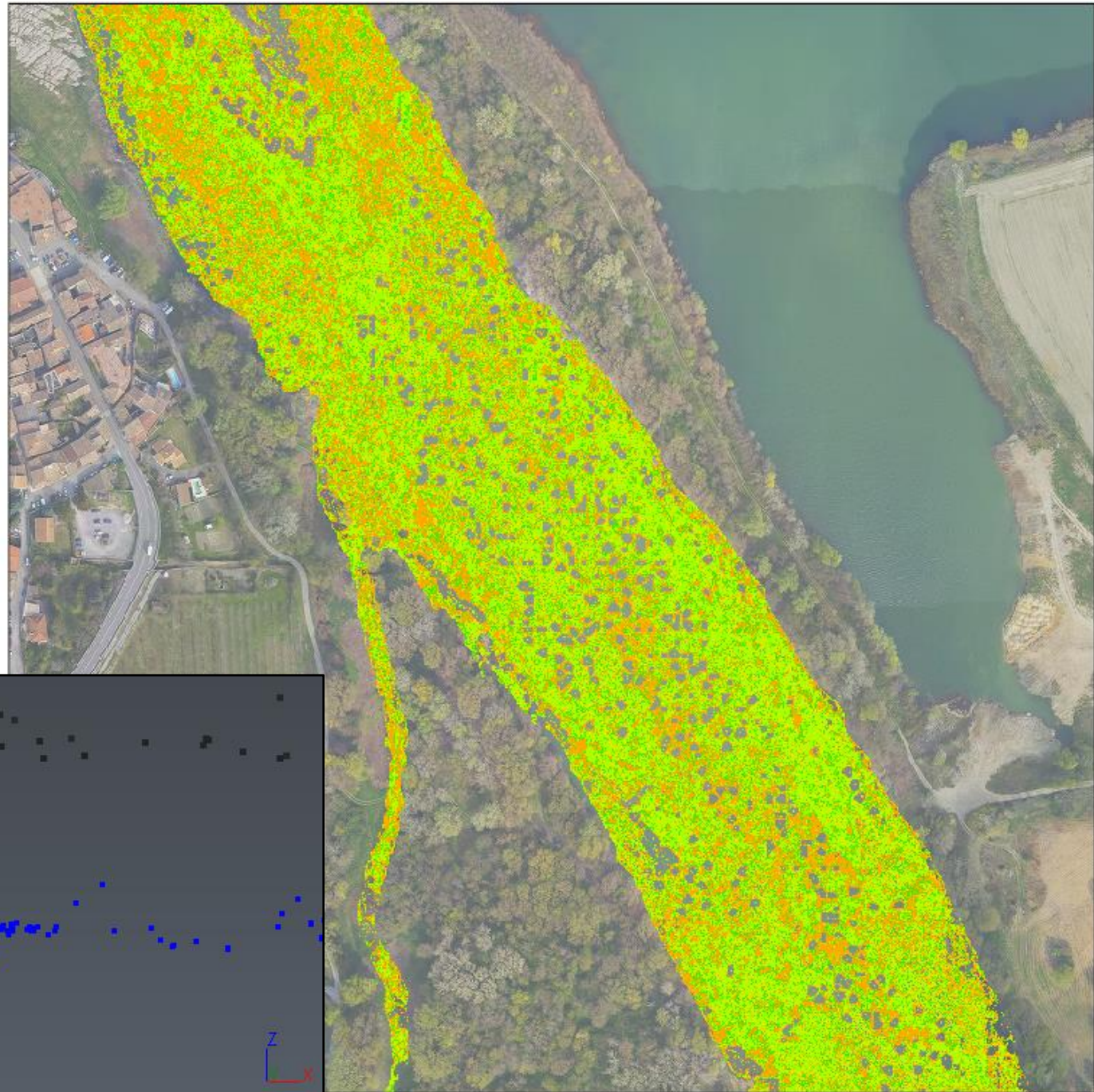


# Data analysis

(Baix Logis Neuf 2022)

measurement noise

*On water surface or on the bottom  
about  $\pm 5$  cm (10 cm thick points cloud)*





# Limits

(identified en 2022)

## Factors affecting the quality of the measurement

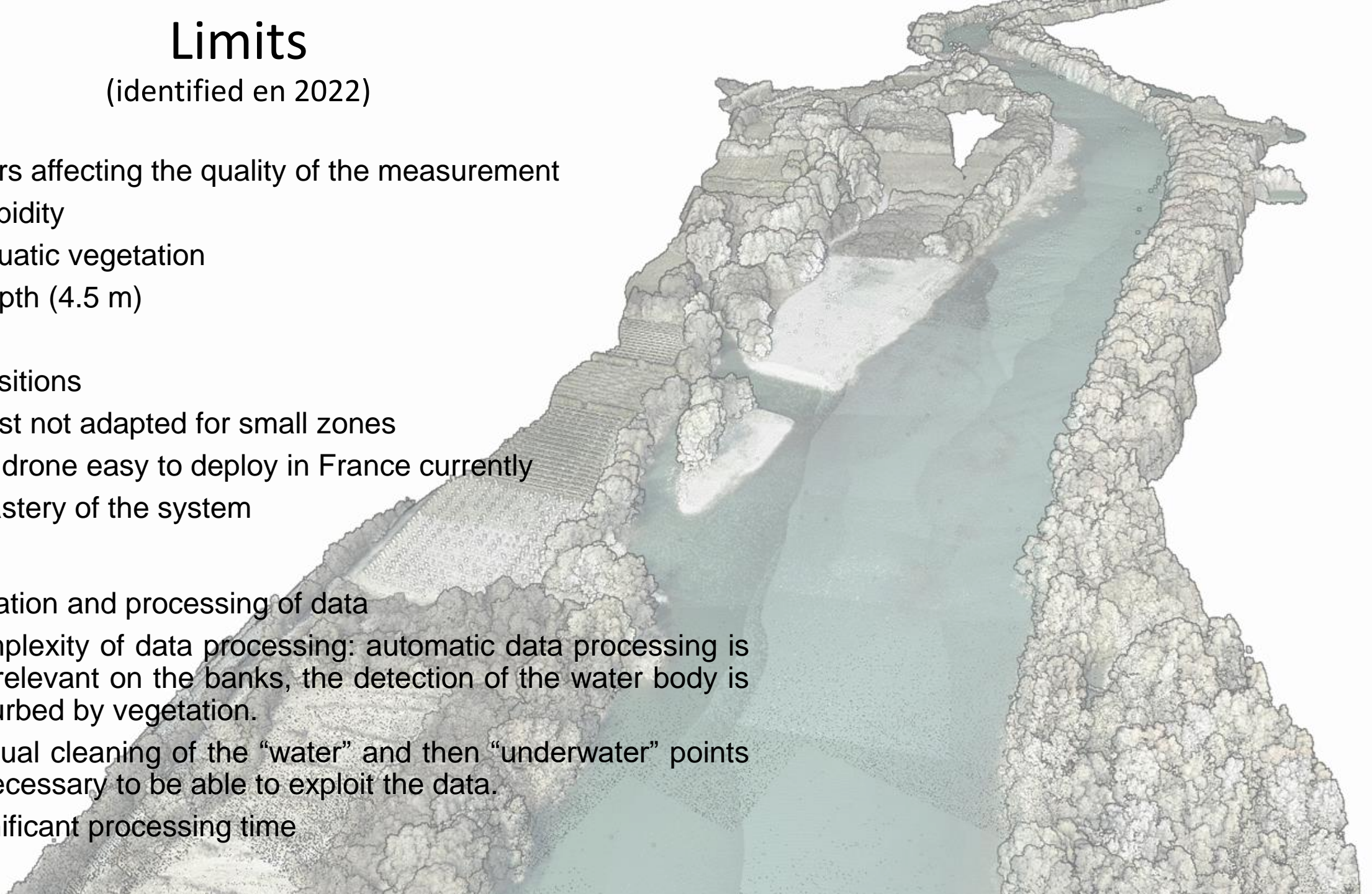
- turbidity
- Aquatic vegetation
- Depth (4.5 m)

## Acquisitions

- Cost not adapted for small zones
- no drone easy to deploy in France currently
- mastery of the system

## Exploitation and processing of data

- Complexity of data processing: automatic data processing is not relevant on the banks, the detection of the water body is disturbed by vegetation.
- Manual cleaning of the “water” and then “underwater” points is necessary to be able to exploit the data.
- Significant processing time





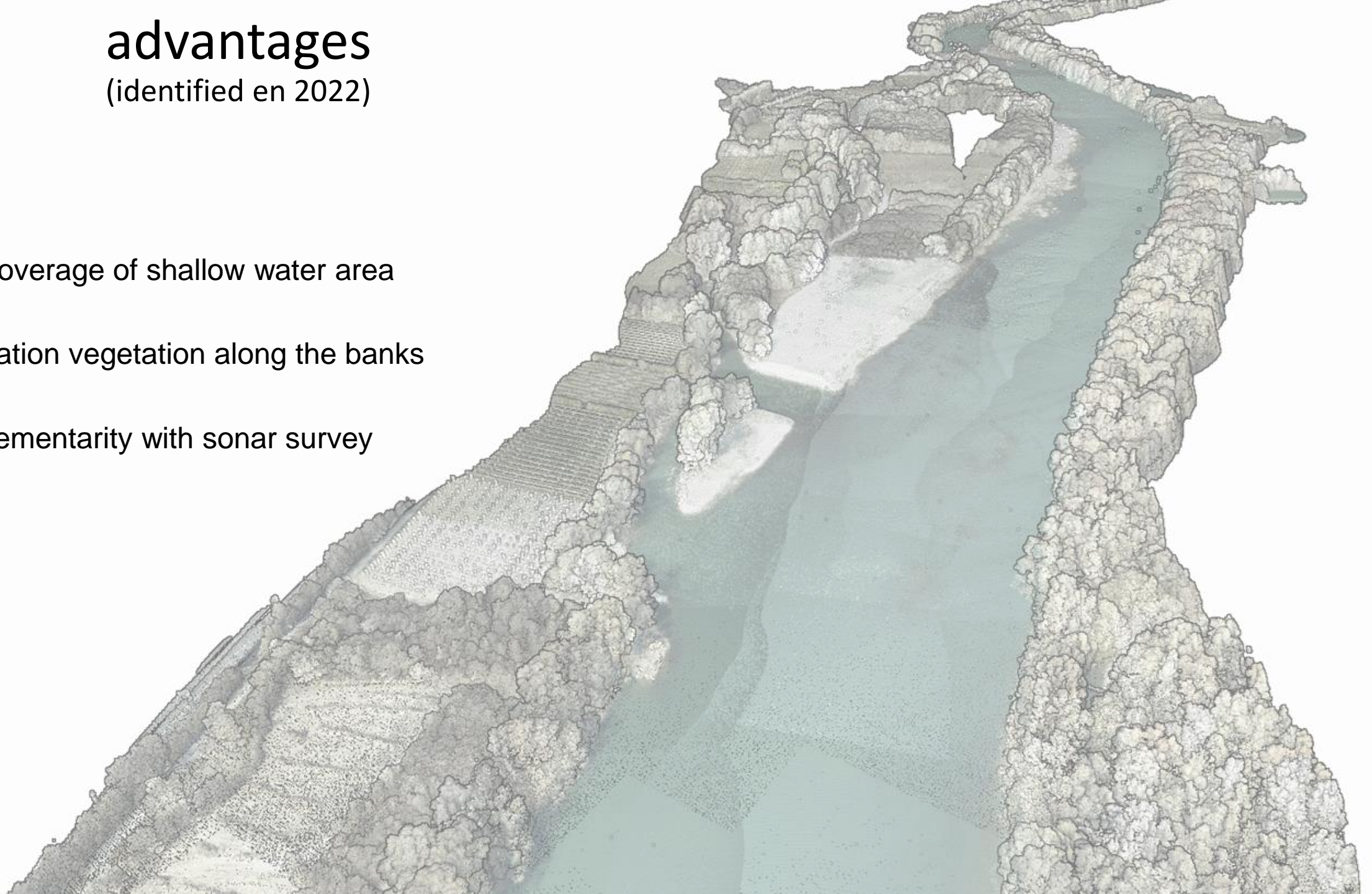
# advantages

(identified en 2022)

good coverage of shallow water area

Penetration vegetation along the banks

Complementarity with sonar survey





No complete river bed coverage in  
turbid situation  
No Replace CNR teams





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