

***Interactive comment on “Soil archives of a
Fluvisol: subsurface analysis and soil history of
the medieval city centre of Vlaardingen, the
Netherlands – an integral approach” by
S. J. Kluiving et al.***

T. Beach

beacht@austin.utexas.edu

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This article is a welcome assessment of urban archaeology in a landscape of both dynamism and quiescence. The contexts show both today's town and its medieval and earlier past buried by flooding of the Meuse River and human infill.

The paper does well to use multiple proxies from its seventy-six cores to paint a picture of a mélange of anthropogenic, flood deposits, gullies, and soil stability and instability. The samples are backed by numerous XRF estimates of soil and sediment chemistry, many laser-diffraction particle sizer assessments, twenty-three AMS dates, shell identi-

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fications as fresh- or salt-water varieties, and numerous archaeological determinations. The soil stability occurred on top of System 1 as a flooding hiatus of a millennium but the flooding returned along with gully erosion and human infill.

The article provides evidence for a large change above System 1 (Roman/ Iron Age) because the elements P, Cu, and Pb increase above this level. The article presents these data with a clear set of illustrations and tables to show their excavations and interpretations of more than ten meters of strata. Overall, this article presents a complicated puzzle of the natural processes of sea level rise, 12th and 13th Century flooding, and human adaptation by raising the city's surface.

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