

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LITHOLOGIC DESCRIPTION OF SEDIMENT CORES FROM
WOCUS MARSH, KLAMATH COUNTY, OREGON

David P. Adam¹
Hugh J. Rieck²
Mary McGann¹
Karen Schiller¹
Andrei M. Sarna-Wojcicki¹
Deborah A. Trimble¹

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¹Menlo Park, CA 94025

²Denver, CO 80225

Introduction

As part of a series of investigations designed to study the Quaternary climatic histories of the western U.S. and the adjacent northeastern Pacific Ocean, two sediment cores were collected from Wocus Marsh, Klamath County, Oregon, in the fall of 1991. This report presents basic data concerning the Wocus Marsh site, as well as lithologic descriptions of the recovered sediments. The drilling methods and core sampling and curation techniques used are described by Adam (1993).

Acknowledgement

Coring at Wocus Marsh was made possible by the gracious cooperation of the owners and staff of the Running Y Ranch. We particularly thank the manager, Mr. Don Hagglund.

Site description

Wocus Marsh is a broad open valley about 3 km wide and 7.7 km long that lies just west of the southern end of Upper Klamath Lake, Oregon (Figure 1), at an elevation of about 1261 meters. The name is derived from the local Indian name for the yellow pond lily, *Nuphar polysepalum*, which was abundant in the marsh and was an important food source.

The basin was an isolated arm of Upper Klamath Lake until about 1900, when reclamation efforts began. The floor of the basin has been farmed for several decades; a series of roads and drainage ditches in a grid pattern allow easy access. The core location (Figure 1) was selected to be close to the geographical center of the basin, well away from any edge effects.

Regional bedrock consists of basalt and basaltic andesites of Pliocene and upper Miocene age (Walker and McLeod, 1991; Sherrod and Pickthorn, 1992). The eastern rim of the basin consists of low faulted blocks oriented NNW-SSE; the western side of the basin is formed by steep, normal fault scarps that extend up to 430 m above the present basin floor. The region is tectonically active; a series of earthquakes with Richter magnitudes up to 5.5 occurred within a few km of Wocus Marsh in the fall of 1993, causing extensive damage in Klamath Falls.

Portions of the Upper Klamath Lake drainage were heavily glaciated at times during the Pleistocene (Crandell, 1965). The Mountain Lakes Wilderness Area, just west of Upper Klamath Lake, was glaciated during at least the most recent Pleistocene glacial interval (Carver, 1972), with the glaciers mostly confined to the north side of the peaks. Further north, the crest of the Cascades between Mt. McLaughlin and Mt. Mazama (now Crater Lake) was extensively glaciated. None of these glaciers reached as far as Upper Klamath Lake, but glacial runoff from both the Mountain Lakes and southern Cascade glaciers flowed into the basin.

Core descriptions

Two cores, designated here as Core 1 and Core 2, were taken at Wocus Marsh between September 17th and 20th, 1991.

Core 1 reached a maximum depth of 23.65 meters, at which depth drilling mud circulation was lost. Shelby tubes were used to sample the top 8.4 meters of the core. Below 8.4 meters, cores were taken using a conventional rotary drill rig and drilling mud, as described by Adam (1993).

Core 2 was taken about 20 meters east of Core 1 to attempt deeper core recovery. Because Core 1 produced excellent core recovery of the top part of the section, no Shelby tubes were taken at the top of Core 2; rotary drilling began at a depth of 3.96 meters. Core 2 reached

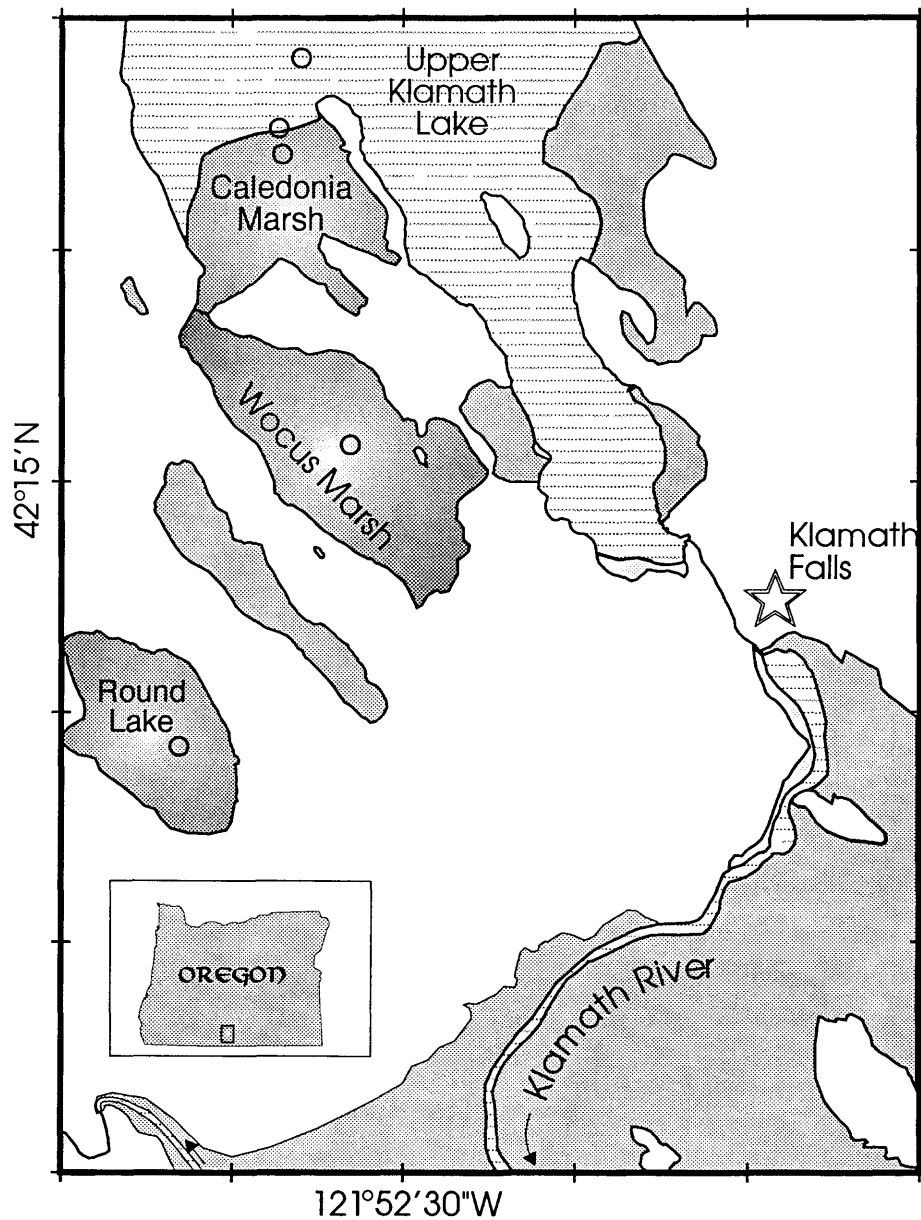


Figure 1.--Map of the southern Cascades region, showing locations of drill sites (circles). Light shaded pattern represents marshland. Map ticks represent 7.5'. Inset shows location of main map.

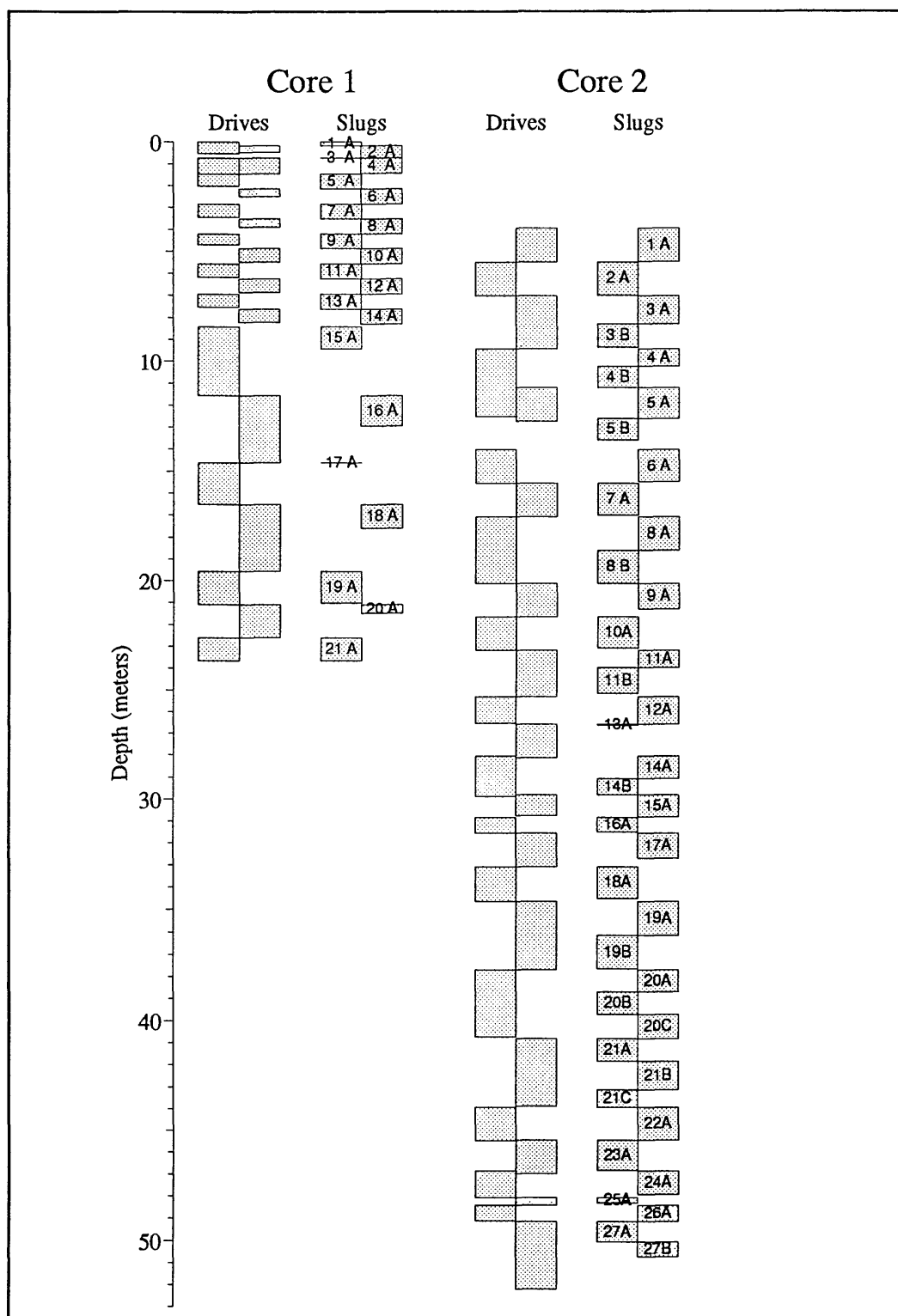


Figure 2.--Graphical representation of core recovery for Wocus Marsh cores 1 and 2. See text for explanation.

a maximum depth of 52.1 meters. Drilling was stopped when a target depth was reached, in order to move on to other sites.

Core recovery

The depth interval drilled for each drive and the percent recovery are shown in Figure 2 and in Tables 1 (Core 1) and 2 (Core 2). For each core, the Figure 2 column labeled "Drives" shows an unlabeled, shaded box for each drive recovered. The upper boundary represents the depth at which drilling began for that drive as reported by the driller plus a possible adjustment to account for >100% recovery. These boxes are offset in an alternating pattern to facilitate comparison of the bottom of one drive with the top of the next drive. Immediately to the right of the "Drives" column, the "Slugs" column displays similar but labeled boxes that identify the drive, the slugs (A, and sometimes B and C) into which the drive was divided for storage, and the thickness of sediment actually recovered. In addition, some drives are plotted using a vertical offset that compensates for apparent overlap between drives (see example below). The data used are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

As an example, consider Core 2, Drives 4 and 5. Drive 4 extended from a starting depth of 9.45 m to a bottom depth of 12.5 meters, recovering 1.76 meters of sediment from an interval 3.05 m thick, for a recovery of 57.7% (Table 2). Drive 5 extended from 12.50 to 14.02 m and recovered 2.35 m of sediment from a 1.52-m-thick interval, for a recovery of 154.2%. The "extra" recovery for drive 5 is assumed to represent material left in the hole when drive 4 was recovered. Similar overlaps are found between drives 15 and 16, 20 and 21, and 21 and 22. However, the total amount of sediment recovered from the hole, as shown in the "Slugs" column, can be accommodated within the total depth drilled if a few adjustments are made to the top depths of selected drives. The adjustment for drive 5 is -1.29 m, as shown in the column labeled "Offset" (Table 2). The offset is added to the driller's depth for the top of the drive to produce a calculated depth for the top of the drive. The depths shown on the lithologic logs in Appendices B and C are based on the calculated depths for the tops of the drives.

Dating

Age control for the cores is derived from tephra layers identified in Core 2 (Table 3) and from four radiocarbon age estimates (Table 4). The section is of middle and upper Pleistocene and Holocene age. An additional tephra, not listed in Table 3, was recovered from an apparent depth of 23 m in core 1, and was identified as the Trego Hot Springs ash layer, which has been radiocarbon dated as about 21,800 years old (Negrini and Davis, 1992). If both the recorded depth and the ash identification are correct, the implied changes in sedimentation rates through time are difficult to explain. A more likely explanation is that the recorded depth of the tephra layer is much deeper than the actual depth. The sample in question came from an apparent depth of 22.66-22.67 m in drive 21 of core 1. Core recovery was very poor below a depth of 9 m in core 1 (Fig. 2), and it seems likely that the tephra recovered in drive 21 originated much higher in the section than the driller's depths for the drive would indicate. The absence of the Trego Hot Springs bed in core 2 suggests that either the ash bed is discontinuous at Wocus Marsh or the bed corresponds to one of the gaps in the core 2 record.

Table 1.--Drive data for Wocus Marsh core 1						
Drive number	Driller's Depth (m)		Recovery		Offset	Calculated depth for top of drive (m)
	Top	Bottom	meters	Percent		
1	0.00	0.53	0.19	35.6	0.00	0.00
2	1.19	1.50	0.54	177.1	-1.00	0.19
3	1.50	2.21	0.00	0.0	-0.77	0.73
4	2.21	2.92	0.70	97.7	-1.48	0.73
5	2.92	3.51	0.71	121.5	-1.48	1.44
6	3.51	3.86	0.69	194.0	-1.36	2.15
7	3.86	4.47	0.68	111.5	-1.03	2.84
8	4.47	4.88	0.69	169.7	-0.96	3.51
9	4.88	5.39	0.68	133.8	-0.68	4.20
10	5.39	6.00	0.68	111.5	-0.50	4.88
11	6.00	6.61	0.69	113.2	-0.43	5.56
12	6.61	7.22	0.68	111.5	-0.35	6.25
13	7.22	7.83	0.69	113.2	-0.28	6.93
14	7.83	8.43	0.67	109.9	-0.20	7.62
15	8.43	11.56	1.00	32.0	0.00	8.43
16	11.56	14.61	1.39	45.6	0.00	11.56
17	14.61	16.51	0.00	0.0	0.00	14.61
18	16.51	19.56	1.09	35.8	0.00	16.51
19	19.56	21.09	1.46	95.8	0.00	19.56
20	21.09	22.61	0.41	26.9	0.00	21.09
21	22.61	23.65	1.04	99.8	0.00	22.61

Table 2.--Drive data for Wocus Marsh core 2						
Drive Number	Driller's depths		Recovery		Offset	Calculated depth for top of drive (m)
	Top	Bottom	meters	percent		
1	3.96	5.49	1.50	98.4	0.00	3.96
2	5.49	7.01	1.49	97.7	0.00	5.49
3	7.01	9.45	2.35	96.4	0.00	7.01
4	9.45	12.50	1.76	57.7	0.00	9.45
5	12.50	14.02	2.35	154.2	-1.29	11.21
6	14.02	15.55	1.46	95.8	0.00	14.02
7	15.55	17.07	1.44	94.5	0.00	15.55
8	17.07	20.12	3.04	99.7	0.00	17.07
9	20.12	21.65	1.16	76.1	0.00	20.12
10	21.65	23.17	1.43	93.8	0.00	21.65
11	23.17	25.30	1.98	92.8	0.00	23.17
12	25.30	26.52	1.28	105.0	0.00	25.30
13	26.52	28.05	0.04	2.6	0.06	26.59
14	28.05	29.88	1.75	95.7	0.00	28.05
15	29.88	30.82	0.99	105.3	-0.08	29.80
16	30.82	31.53	0.67	94.2	0.00	30.82
17	31.53	33.08	1.16	74.8	0.00	31.53
18	33.08	34.63	1.42	91.6	0.00	33.08
19	34.63	37.68	3.00	98.4	0.00	34.63
20	37.68	40.73	3.13	102.7	0.00	37.68
21	40.73	43.78	3.10	101.7	0.08	40.81
22	43.78	45.30	1.51	99.1	0.13	43.91

23	45.30	46.82	1.39	91.2	0.13	45.43
24	46.82	48.04	1.07	87.7	0.00	46.82
25	48.04	48.37	0.24	72.7	0.00	48.04
26	48.37	49.09	0.75	105.4	0.00	48.37
27	49.09	52.13	1.58	51.8	0.04	49.12

Table 3.--Tephra from Wocus marsh core 2

<u>Tephra layer</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Age (kyr)</u>
Rockland ash bed	26.58-28.11	400-470
previously undescribed	33.80-33.81	?
previously undescribed	41.81-41.83	?
previously undescribed, also found at base of Round Lake core	49.38-49.42	<1.45 Ma

Table 4.--Radiocarbon dates from Wocus Marsh core 2

<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Radiocarbon age</u>	<u>Lab number</u>
11.21 - 11.25	bulk sediment	31,720 \pm 860	USGS-3341
14.47 - 14.52	bulk sediment	27,550 \pm 780	USGS-3328
20.42 - 20.47	bulk sediment	>48,000	USGS-3331
20.98 - 21.02	bulk sediment	>49,000	USGS-3340

Lithology

A very generalized lithology of the section is shown in Figure 3; detailed lithologic logs for cores 1 and 2 are shown in Appendices B and C, using the patterns shown in Appendix A. Depths are shown in meters from the ground surface. Each stratigraphic unit is described to the right of the stratigraphic column. Most descriptions were taken from the fresh cores in the field, but some further descriptions were done in the laboratory. Color codes are taken from the Rock Color Chart distributed by the Geological Society of America (Rock Color Chart Committee, 1948).

The record indicates that the Wocus Marsh basin has existed for at least the past several hundred thousand years, with alternating intervals of highly organic vs. inorganic sedimentation. Study of the climatic record preserved in the cores will help to separate the effects of climate on sediment type from possible tectonic effects on the connection between the Wocus Marsh sub-basin and the rest of Upper Klamath Lake.

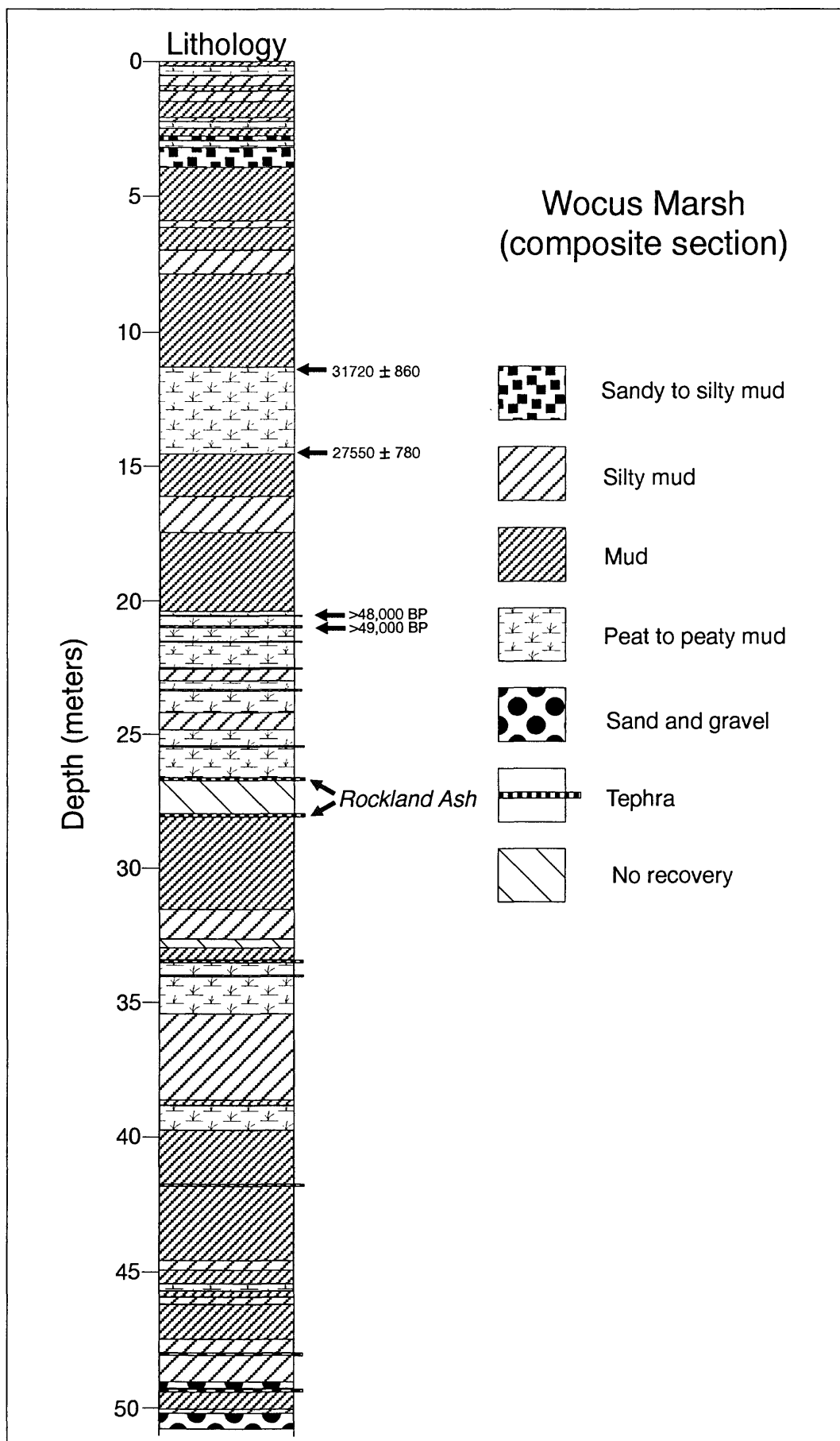


Figure 3.-- Generalized lithology of the Wocus Marsh section. See appendices for more detail.

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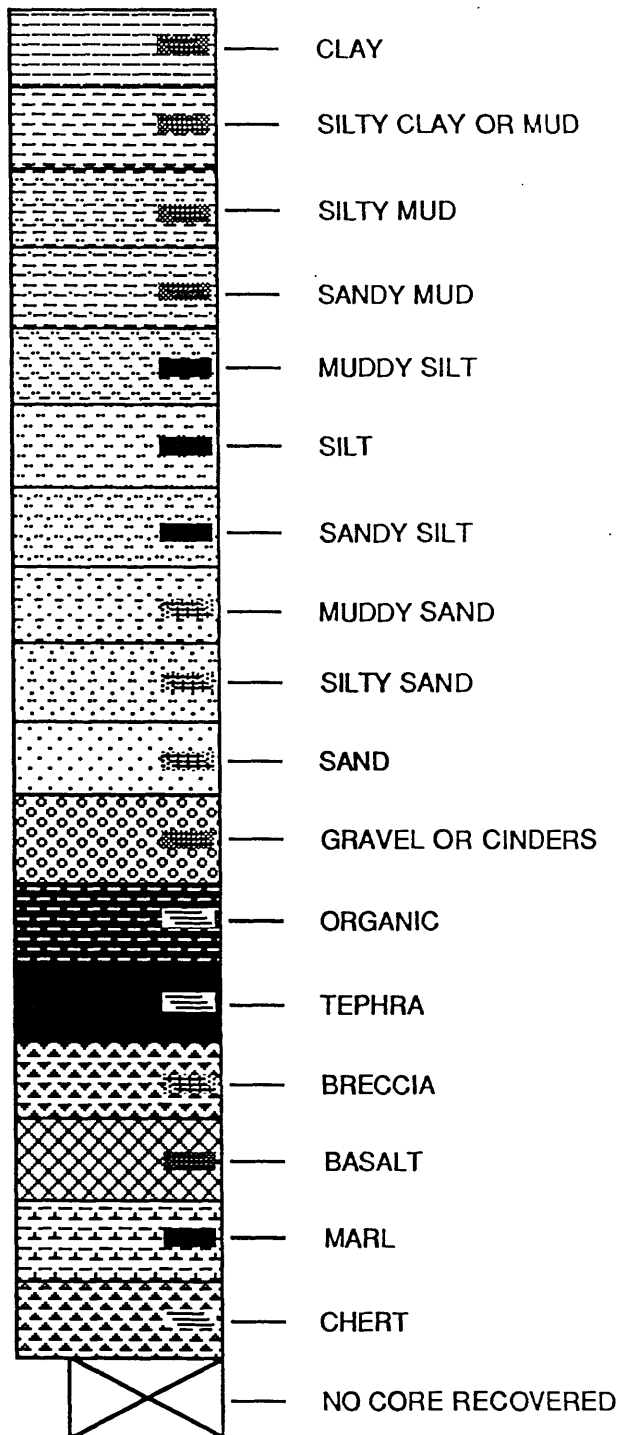
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Appendix A

Legend showing patterns used for Lithologic Logs

Small box inset within each pattern is used to indicate laminations within the unit (see written descriptions for more detail).

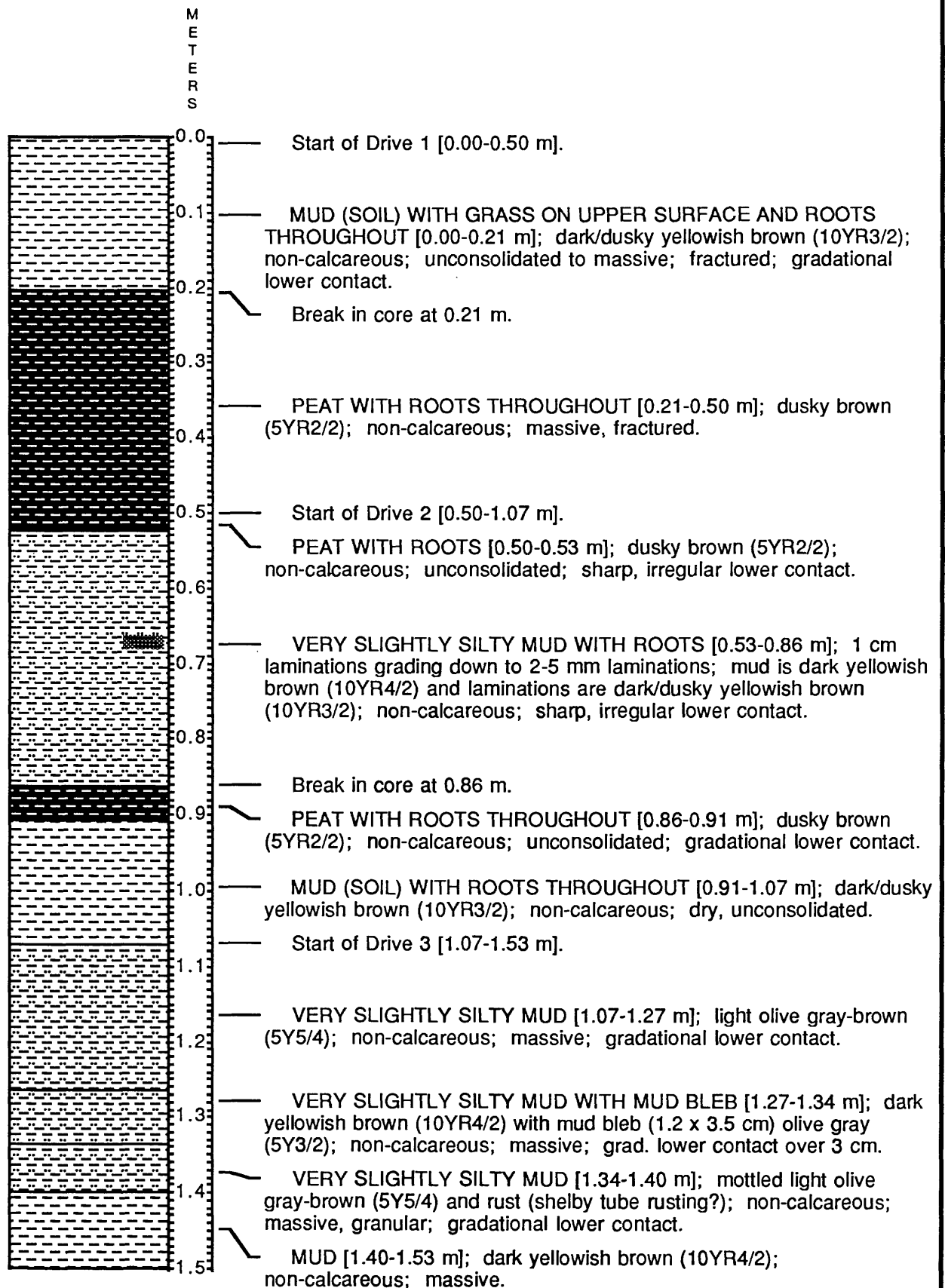
KEY TO LITHOLOGIES AND LAMINATION SYMBOL



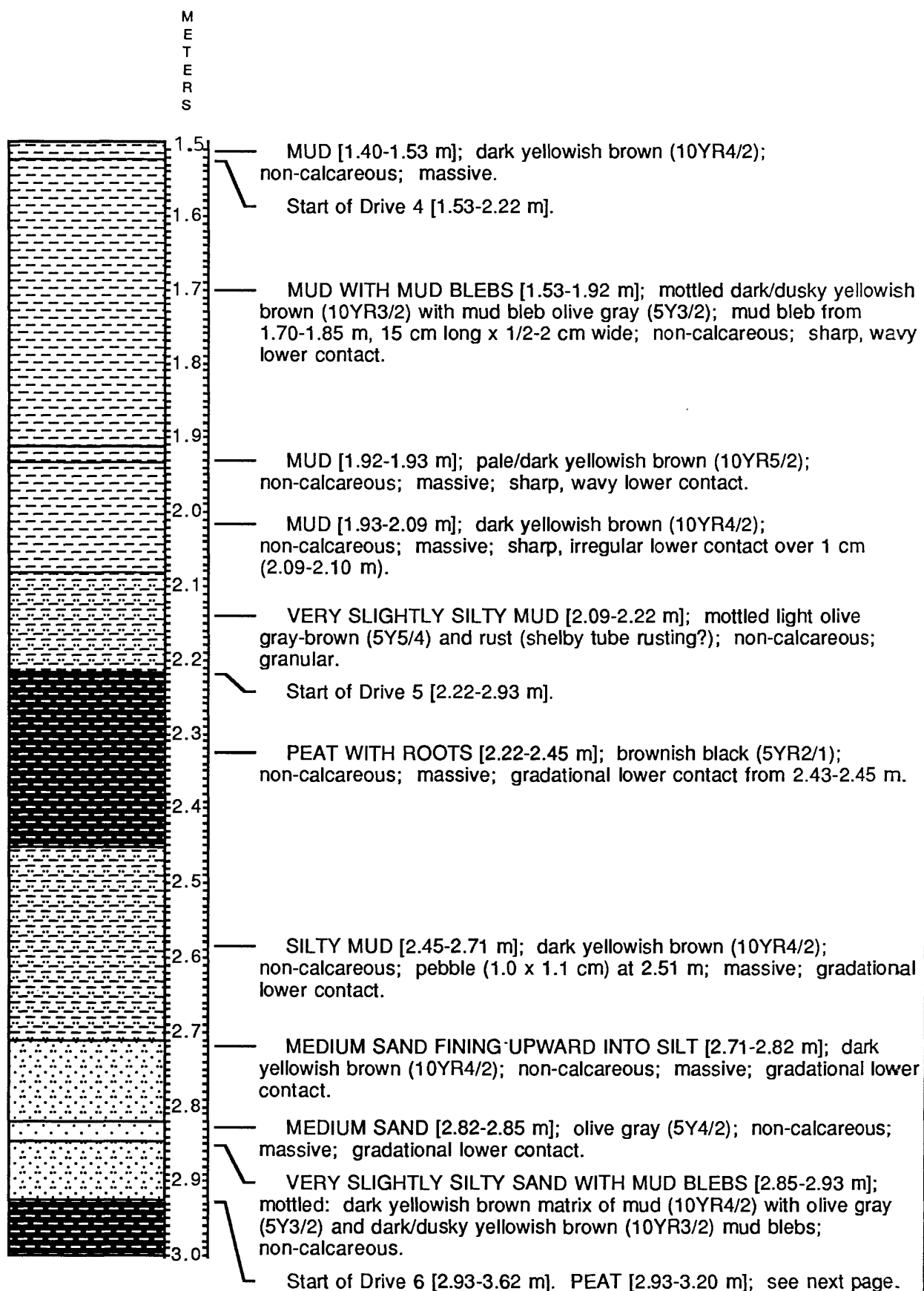
Appendix B

Core 1 Lithologic Log

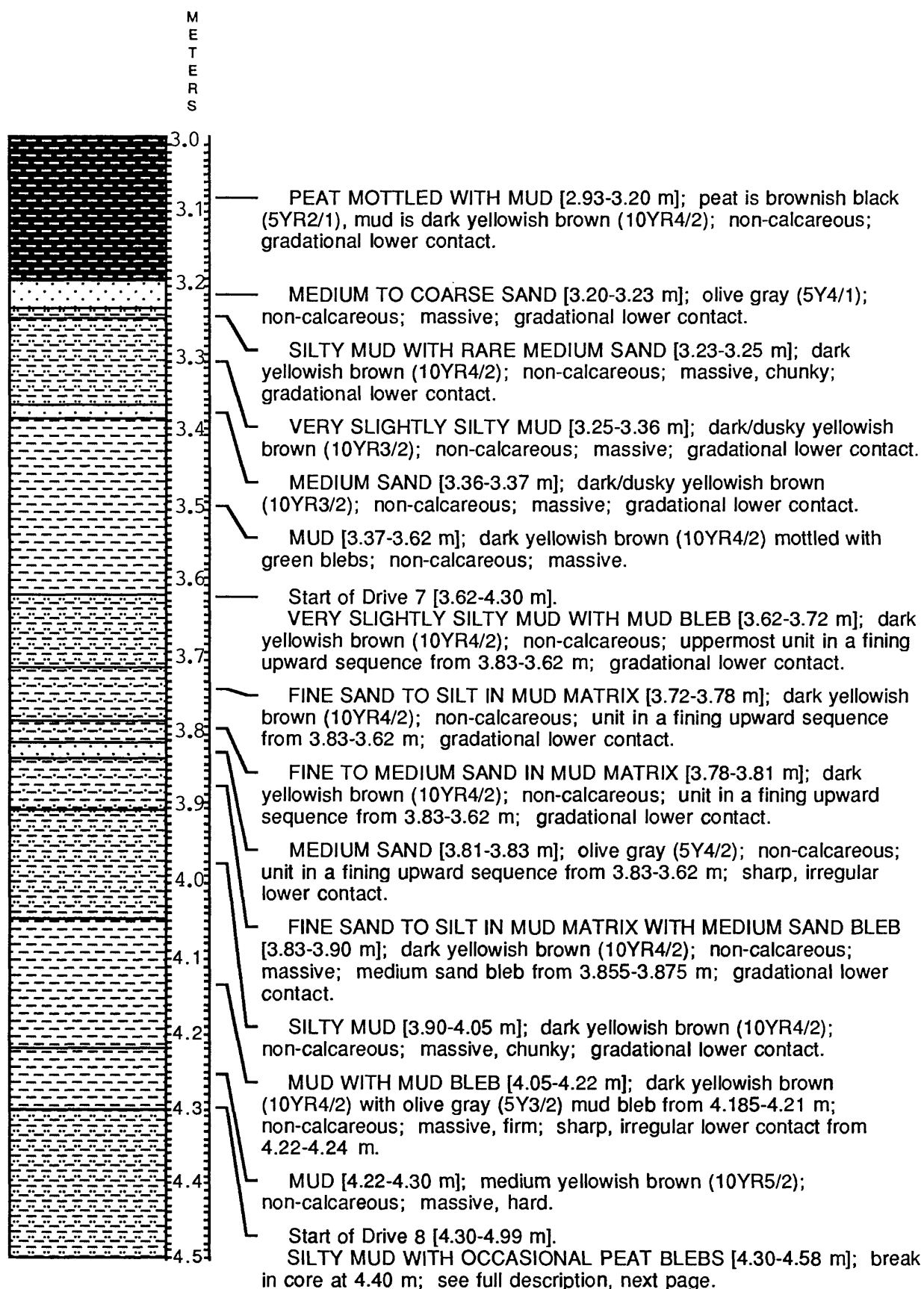
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Klamath County, Oregon**



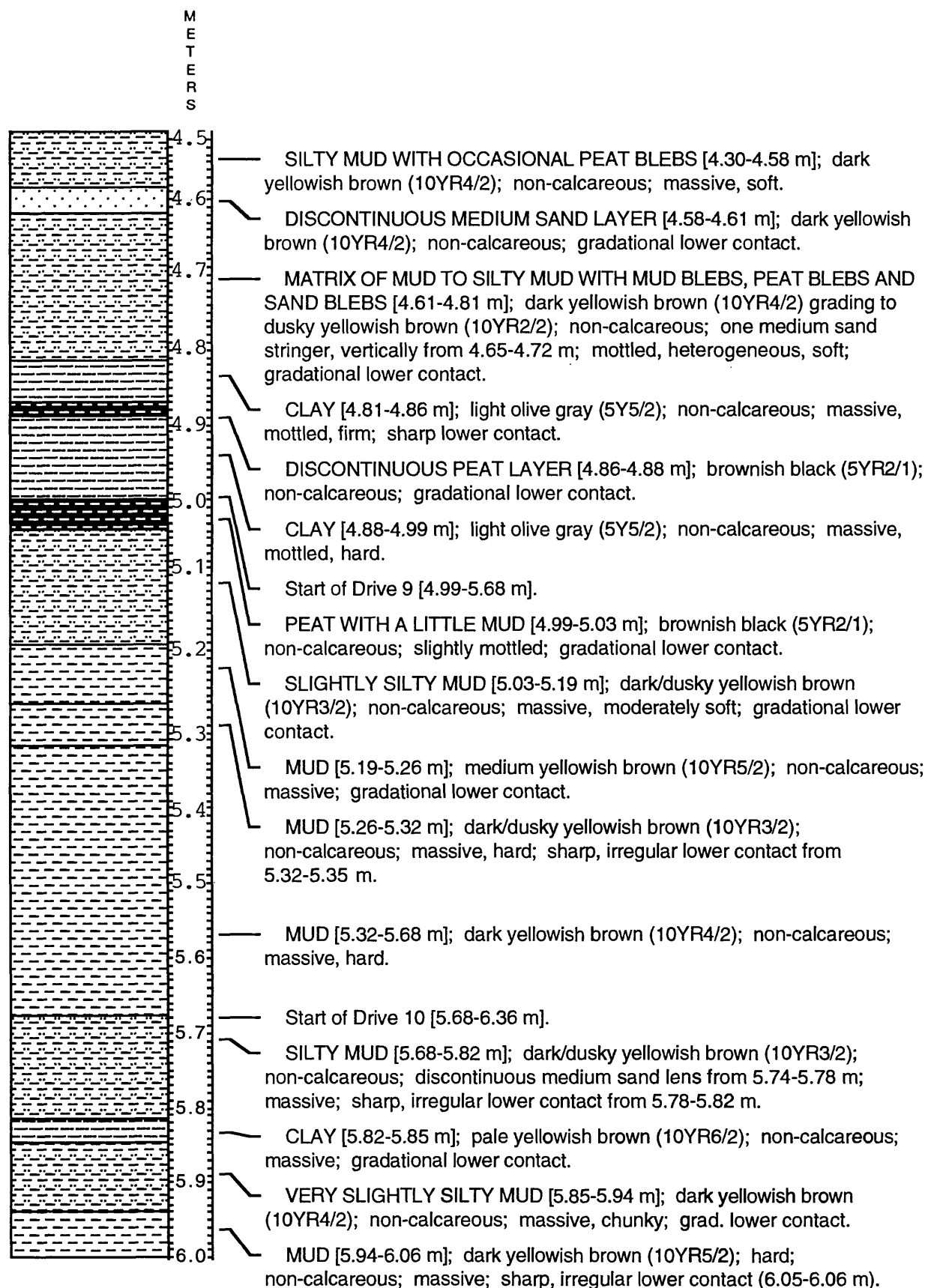
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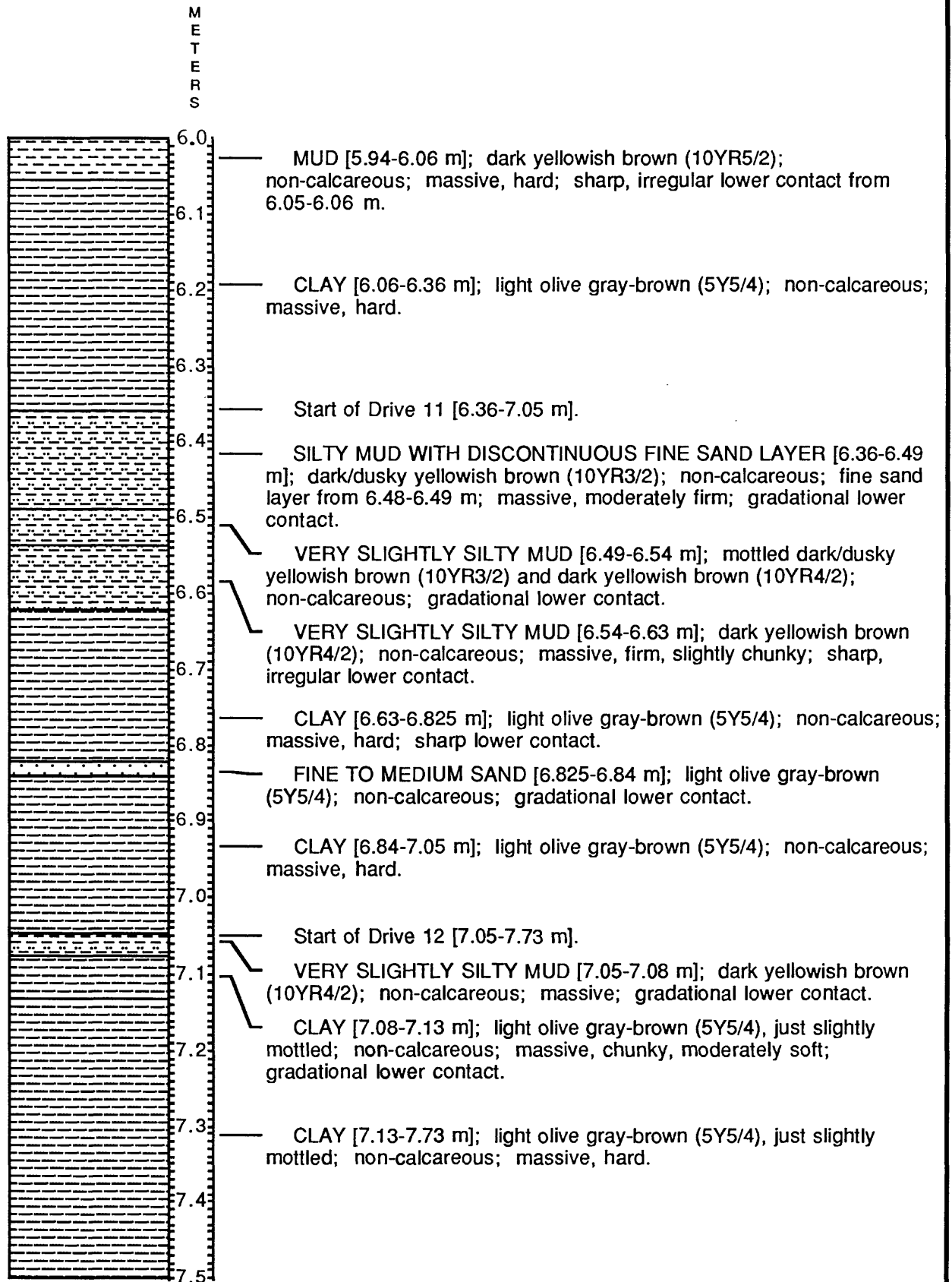
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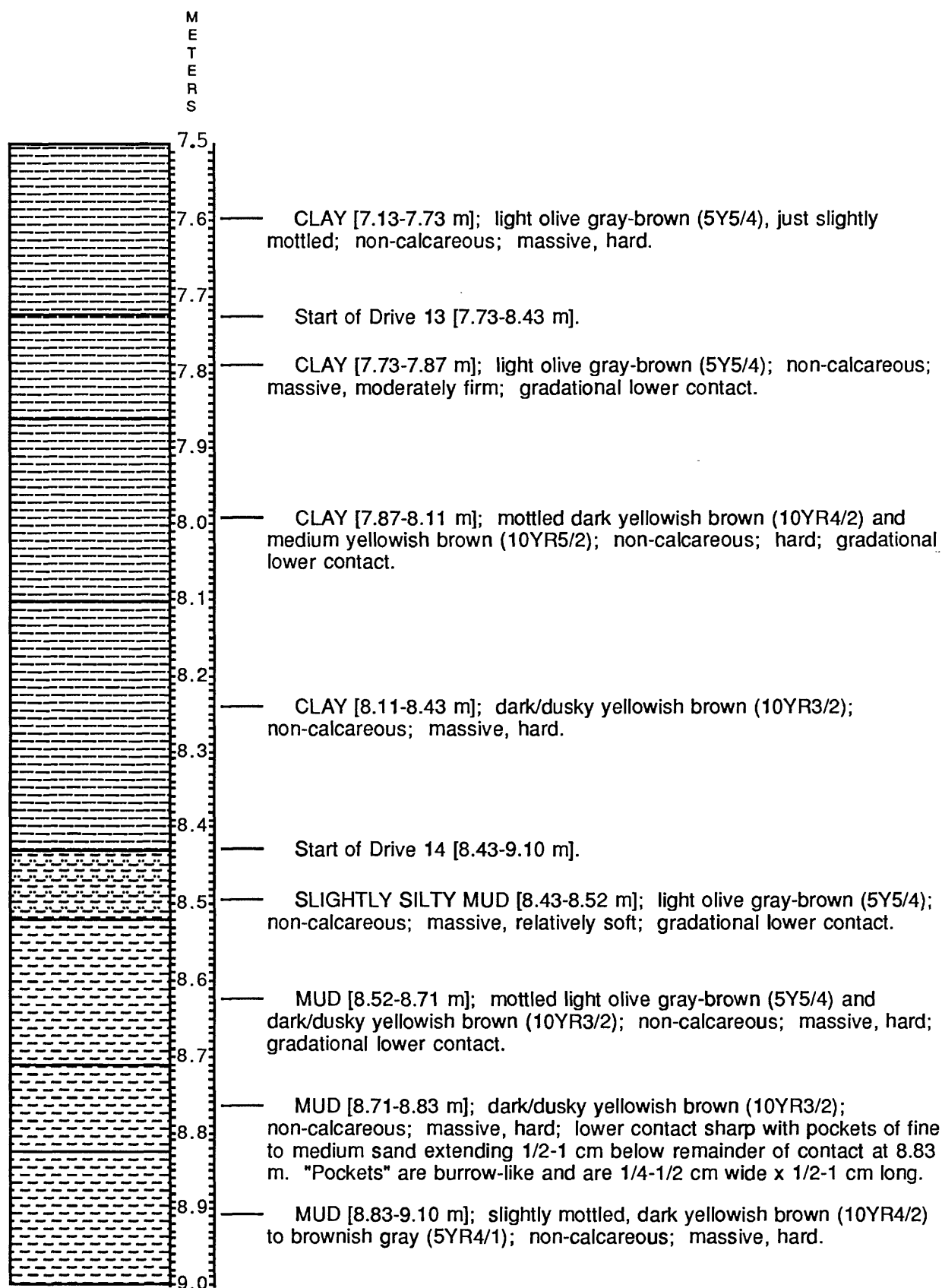
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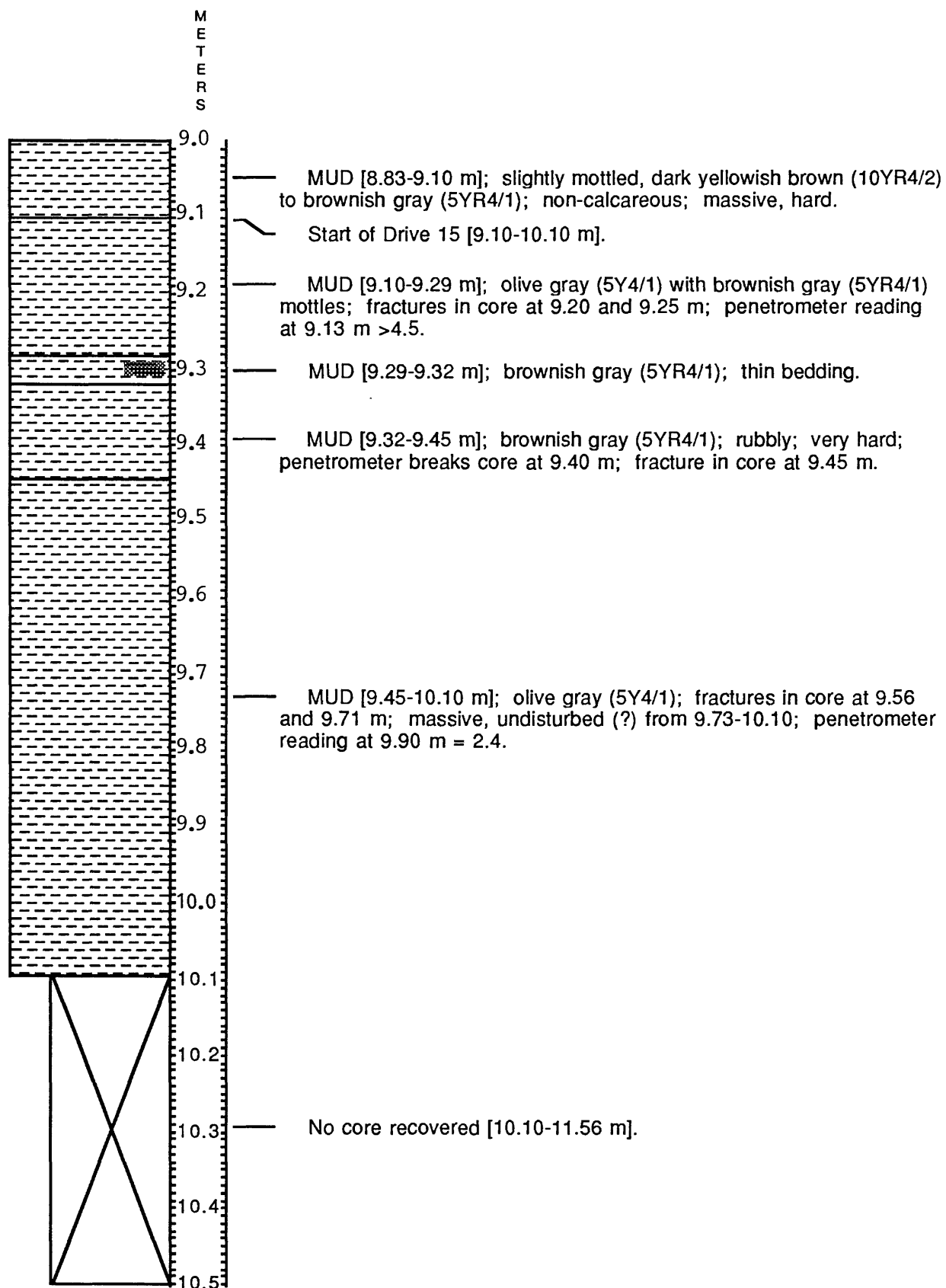
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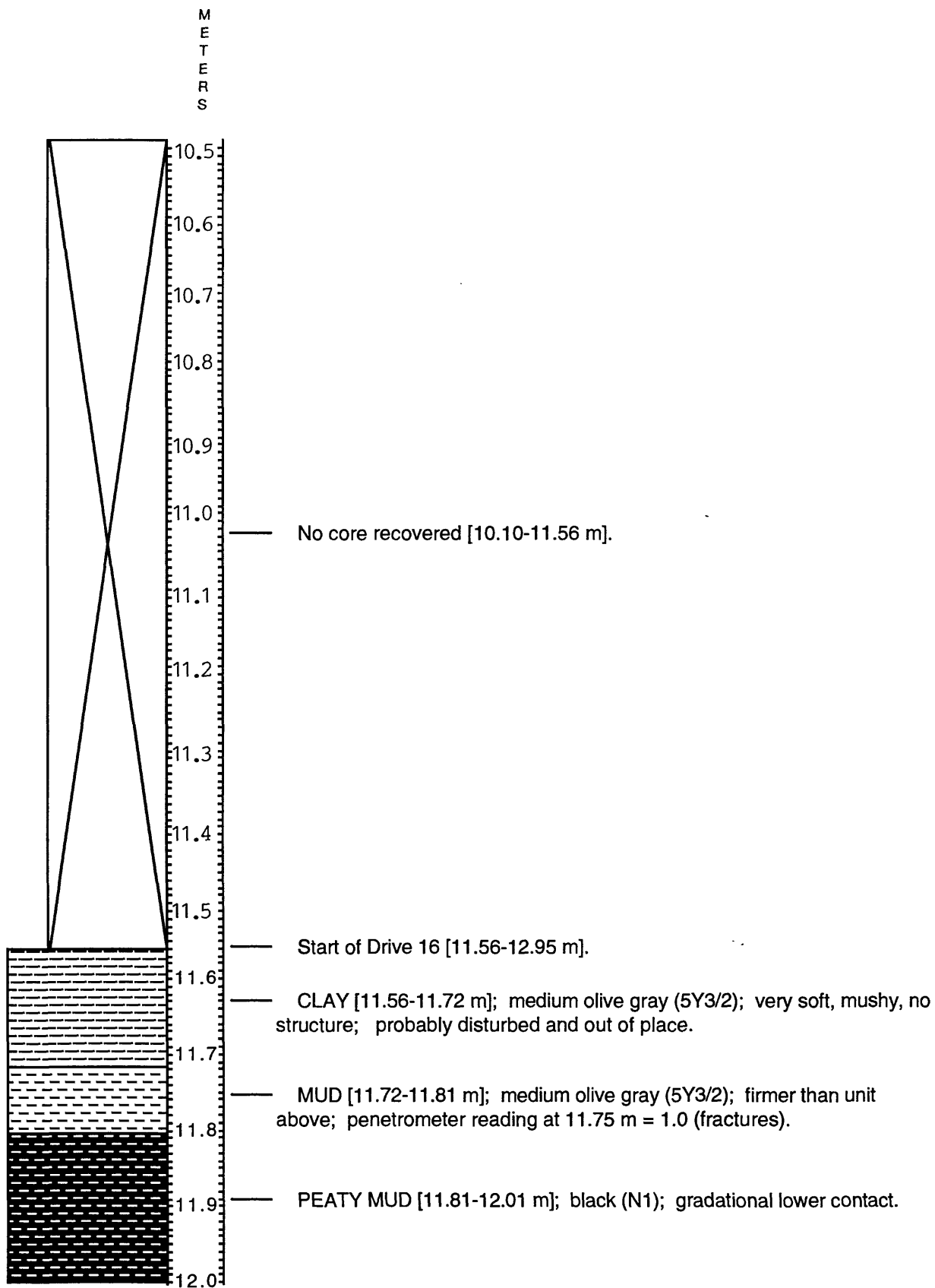
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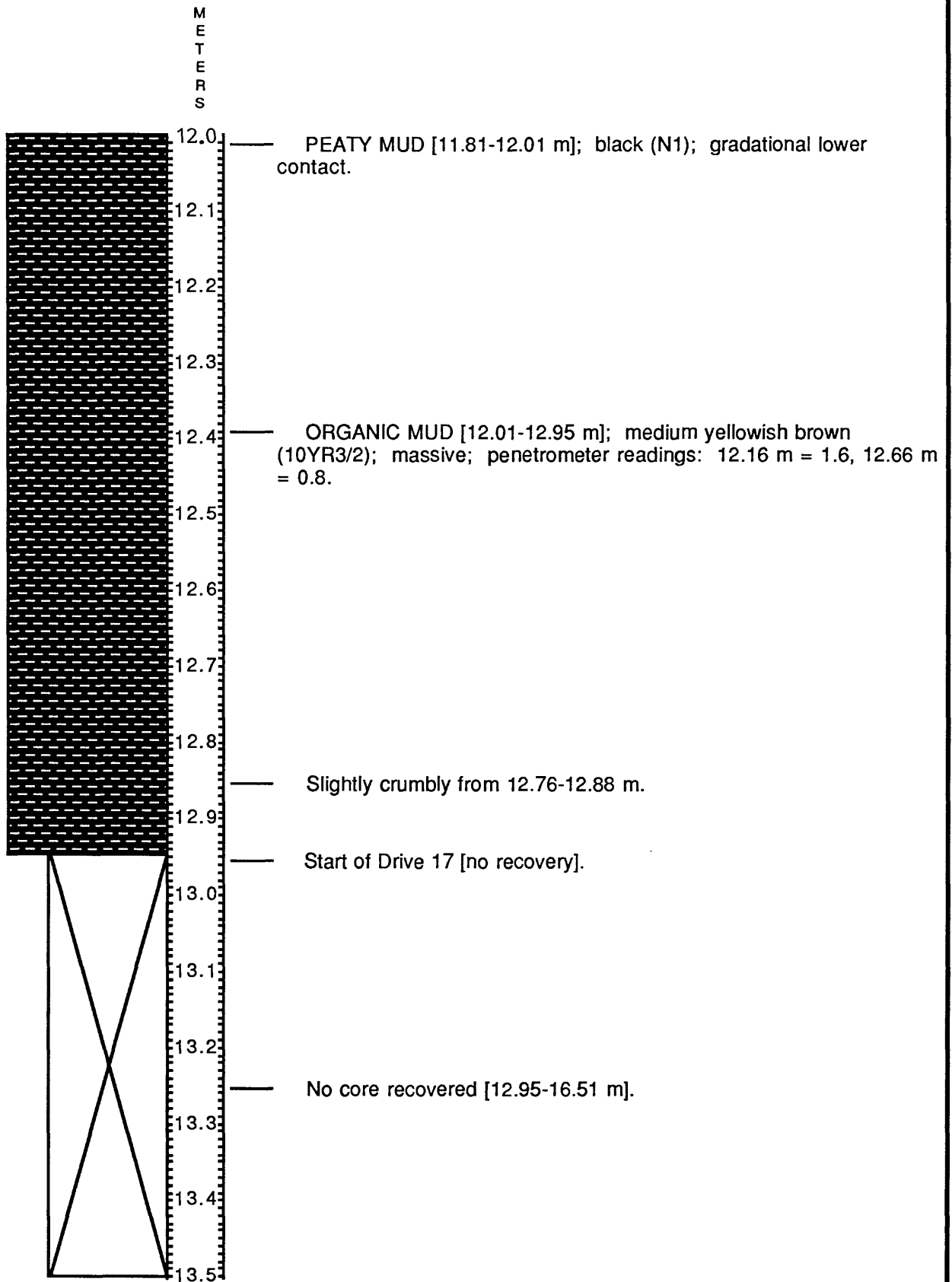
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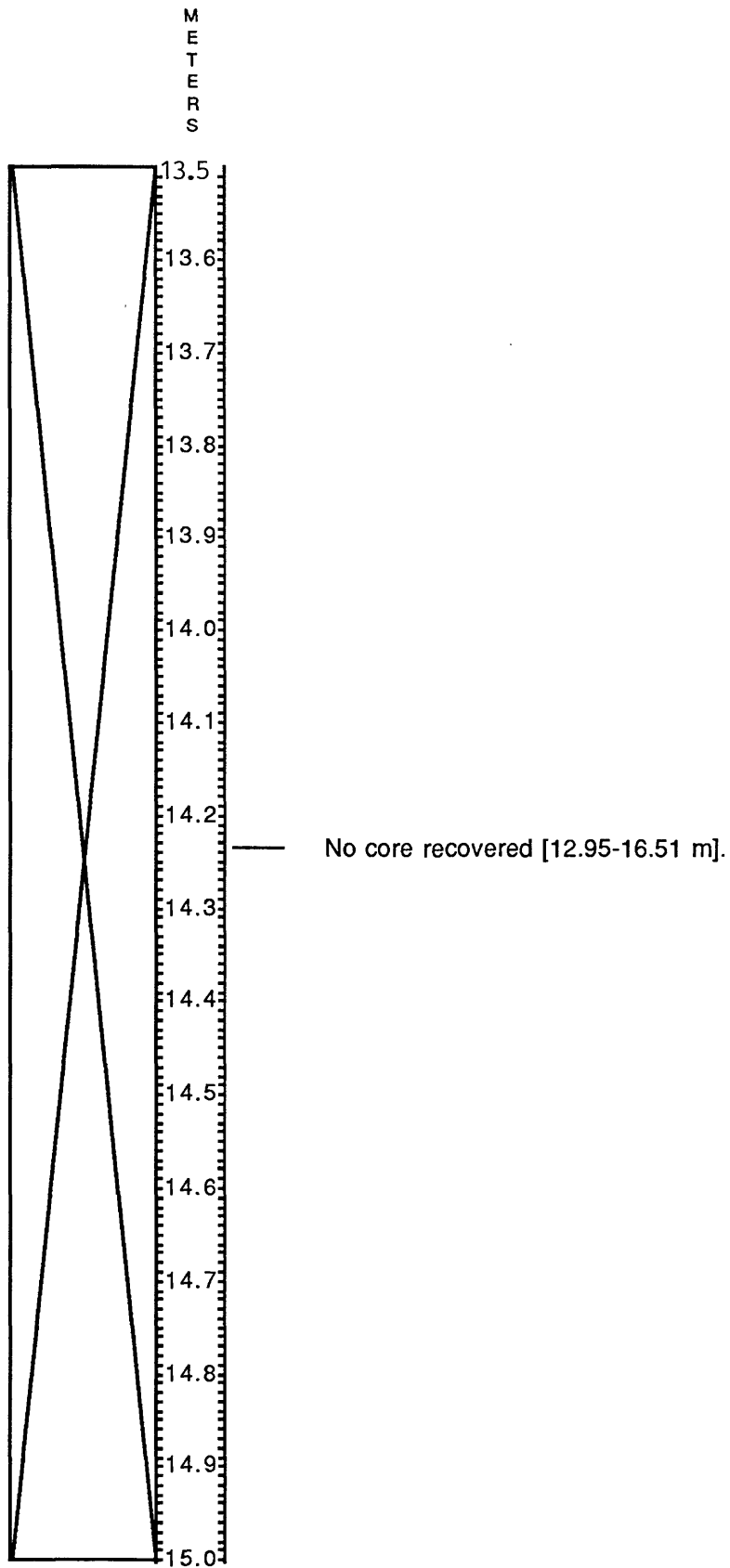
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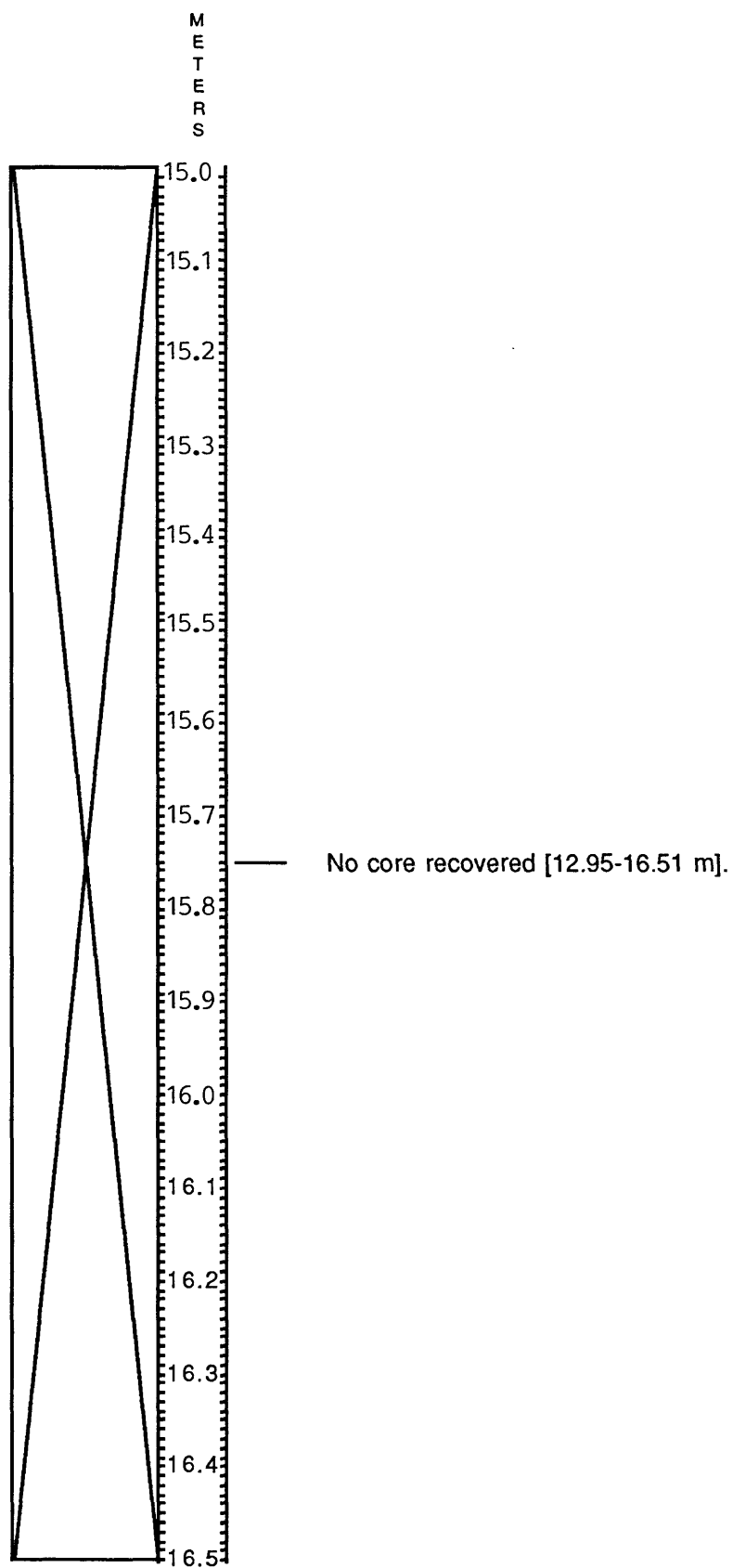
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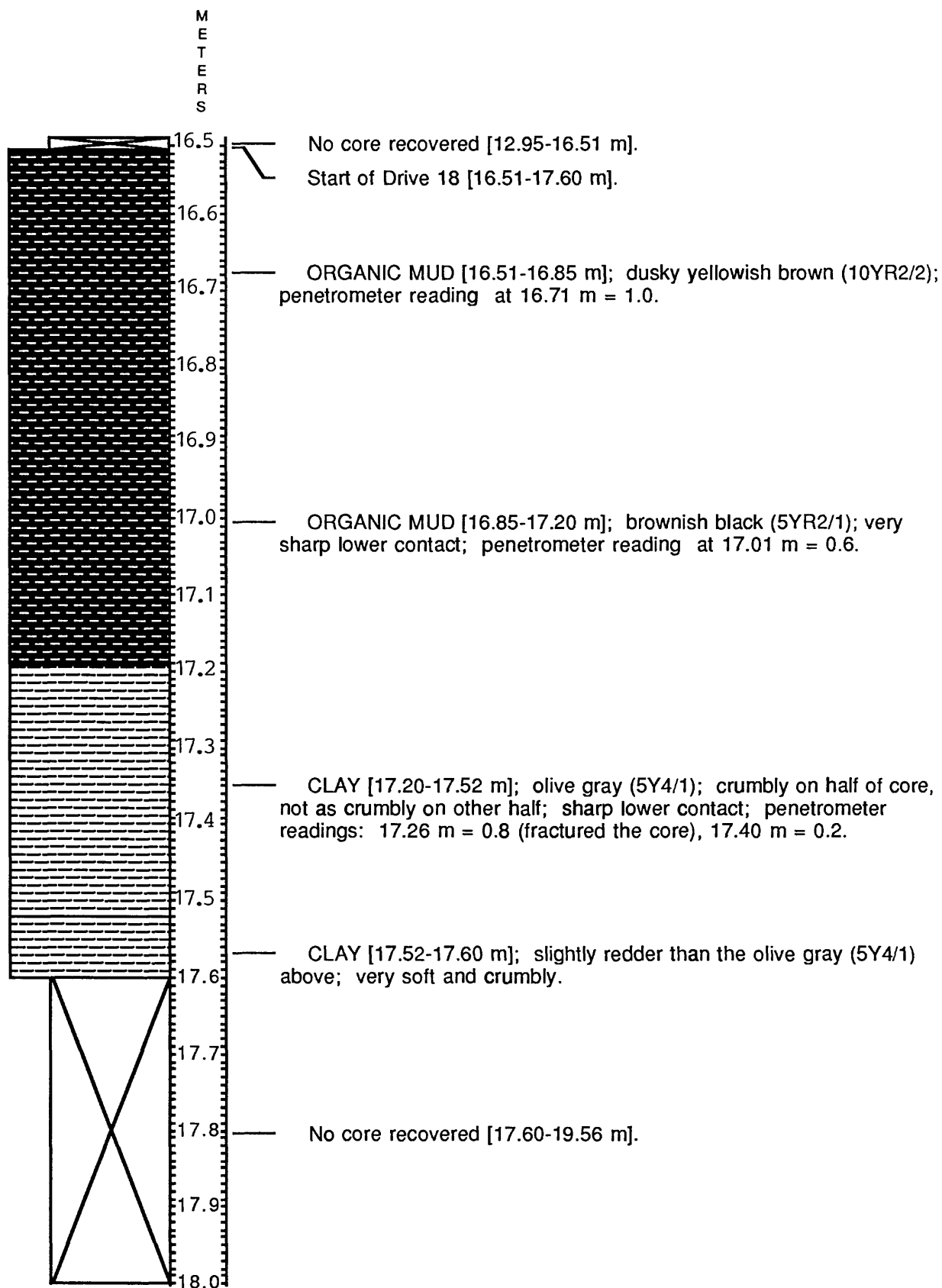
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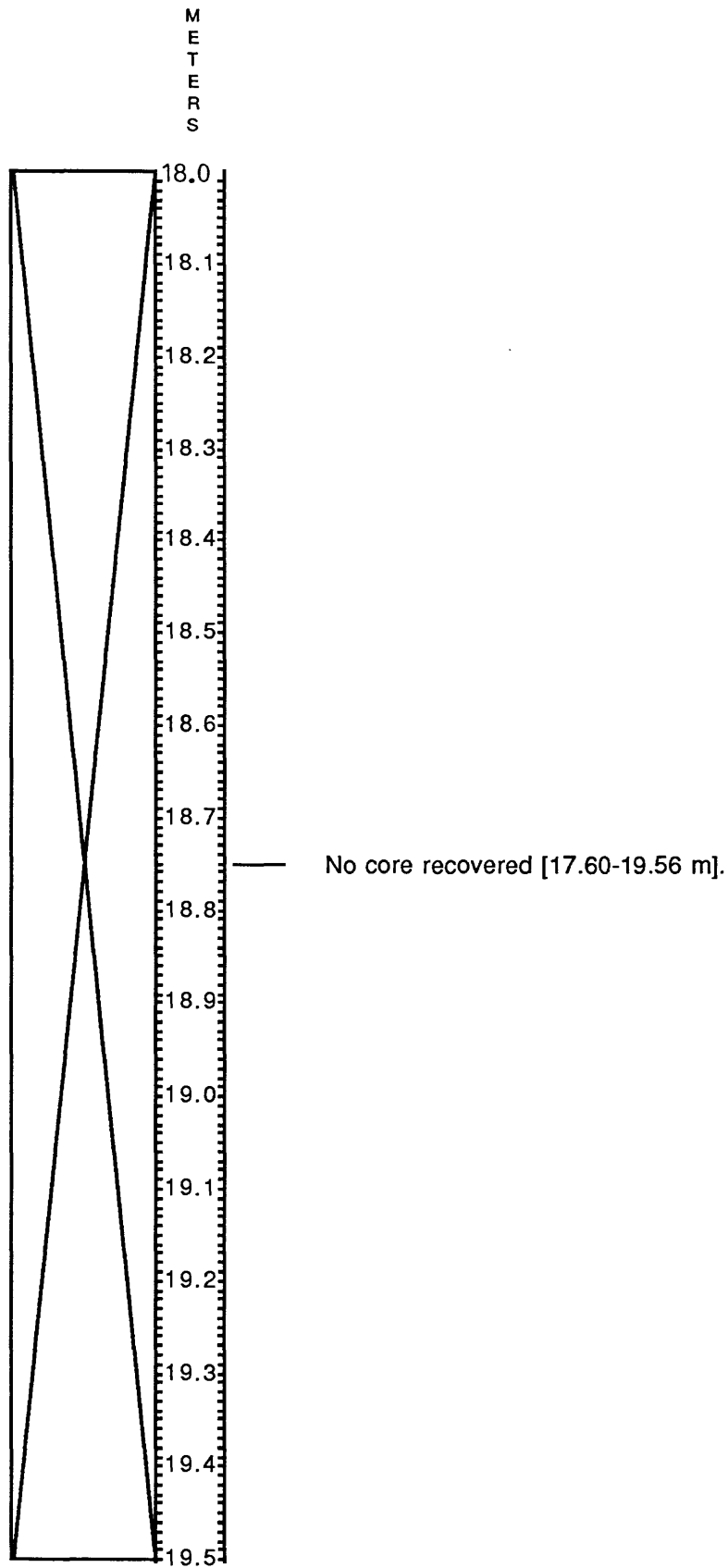
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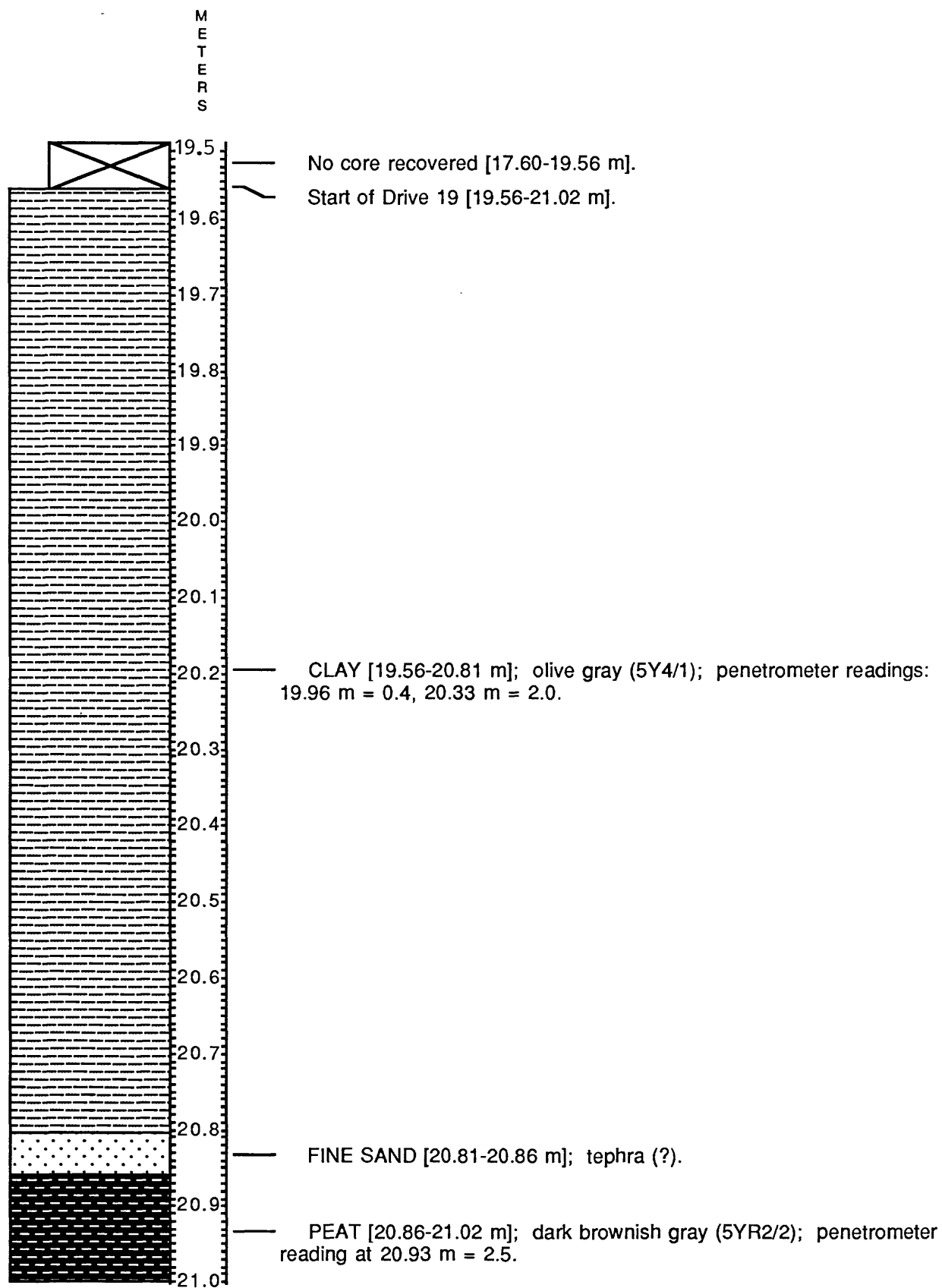
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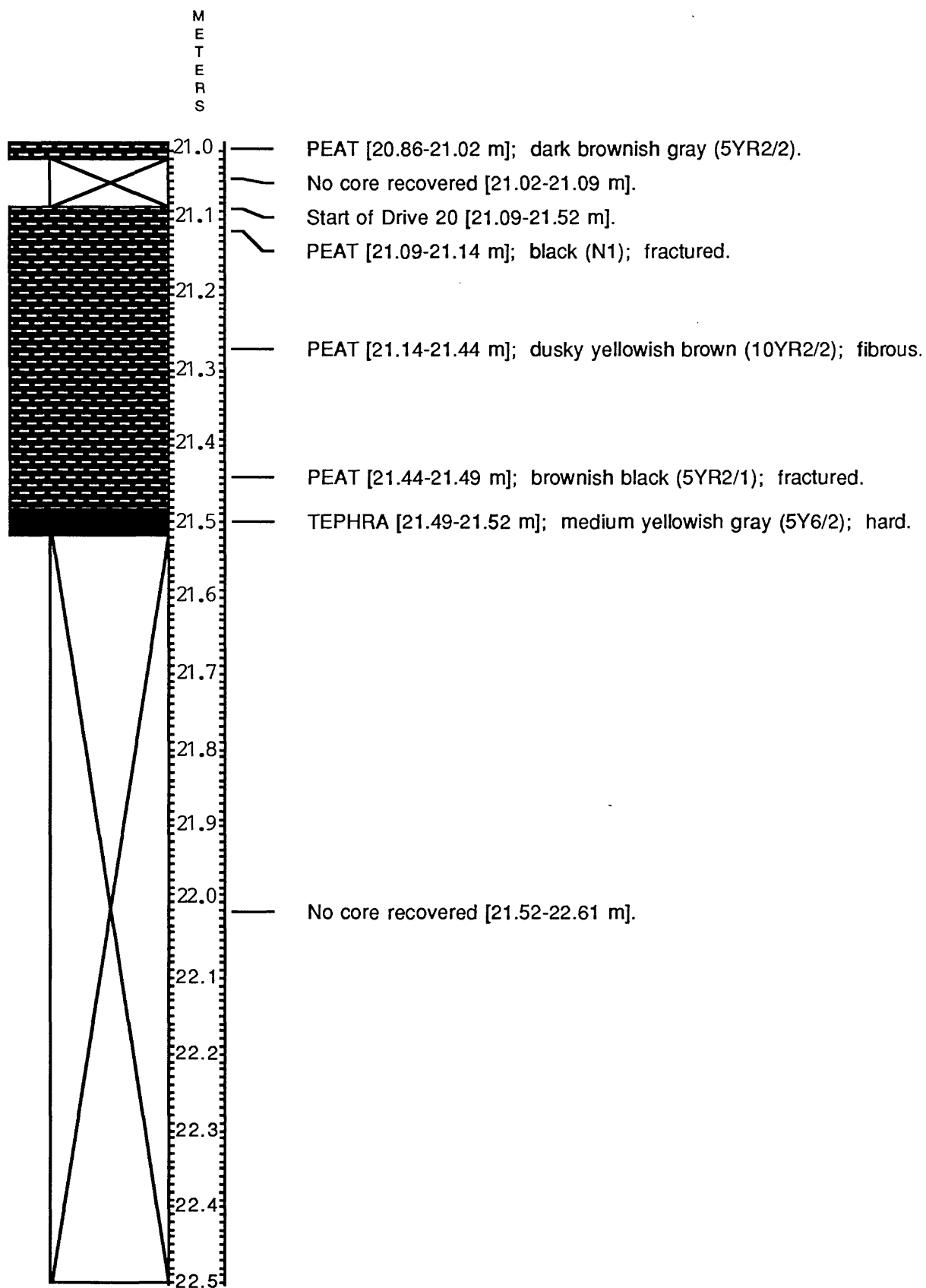
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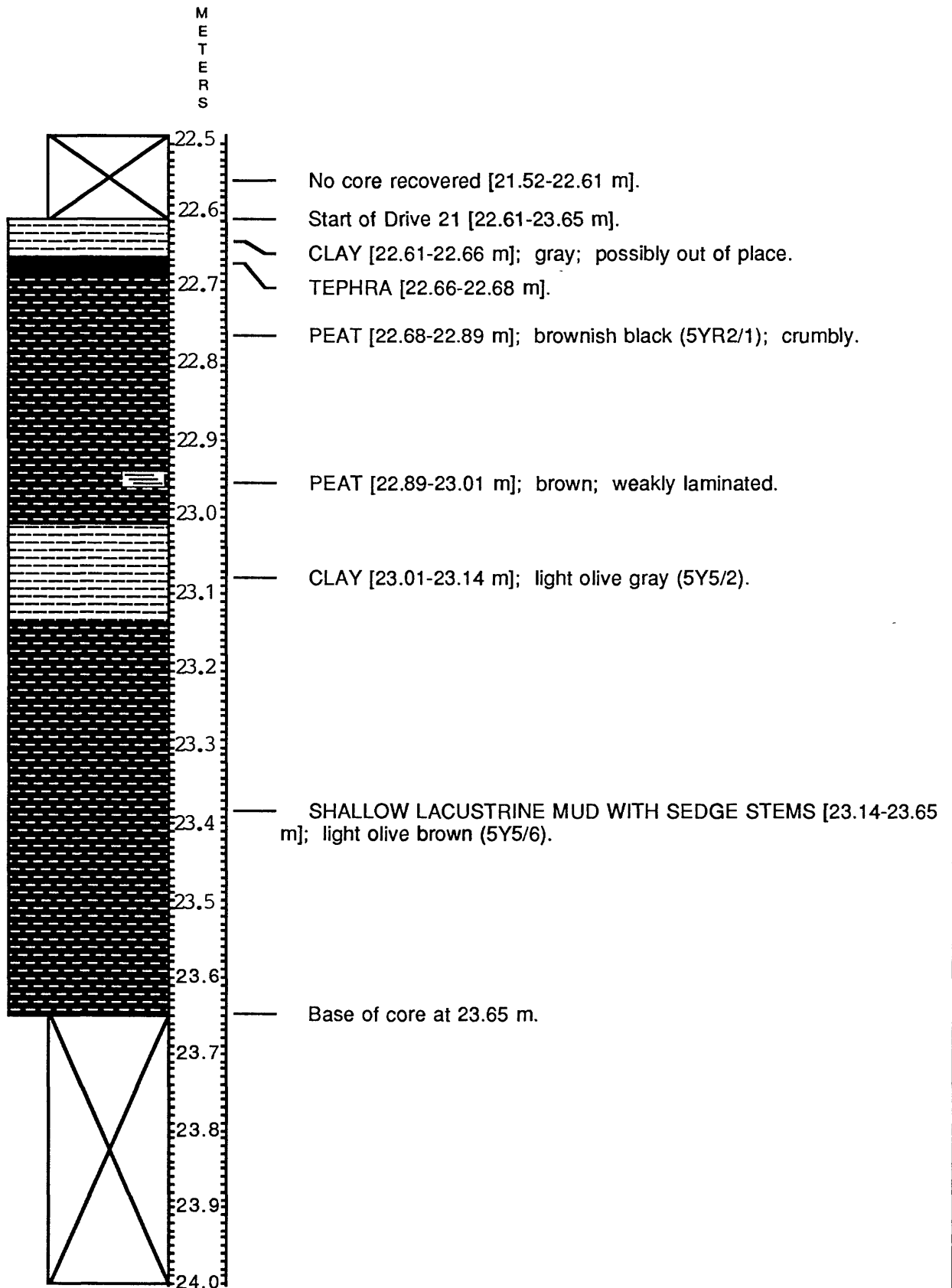
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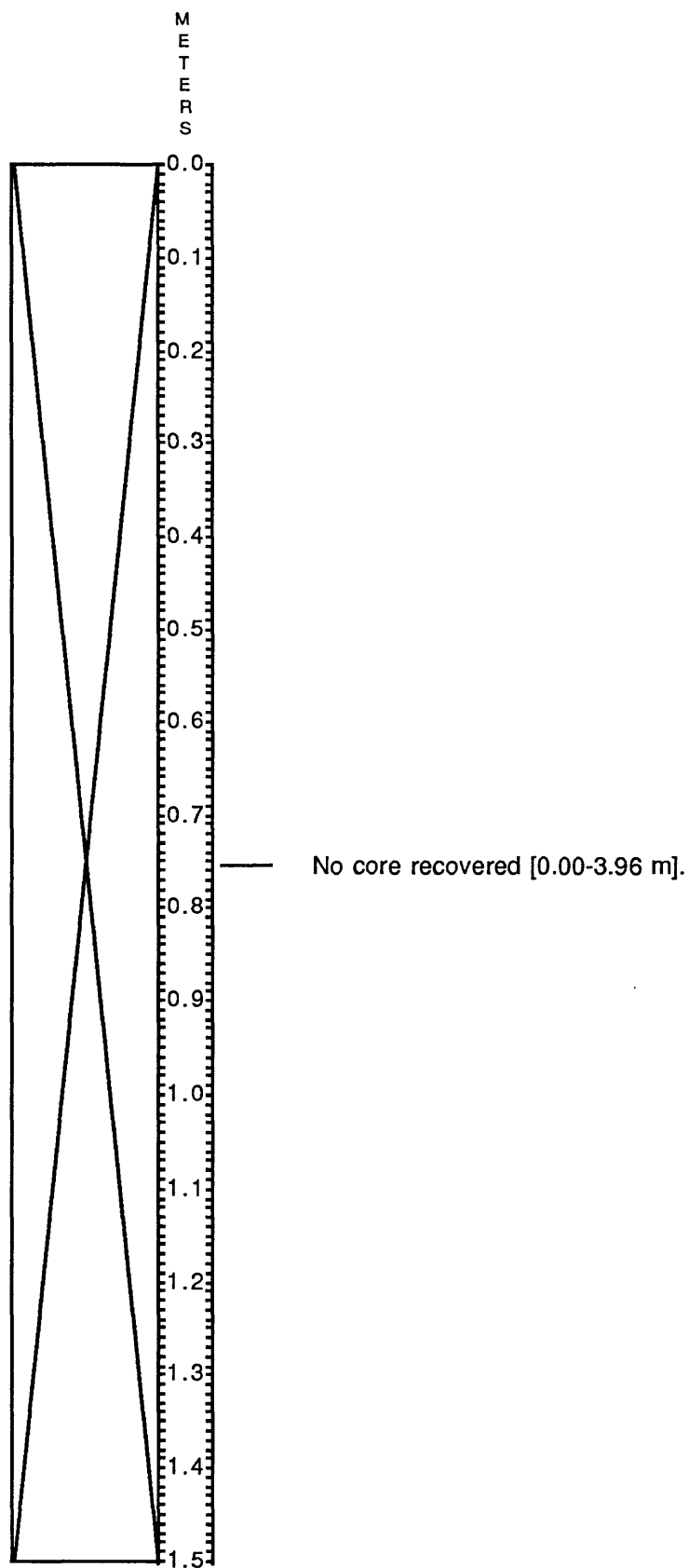
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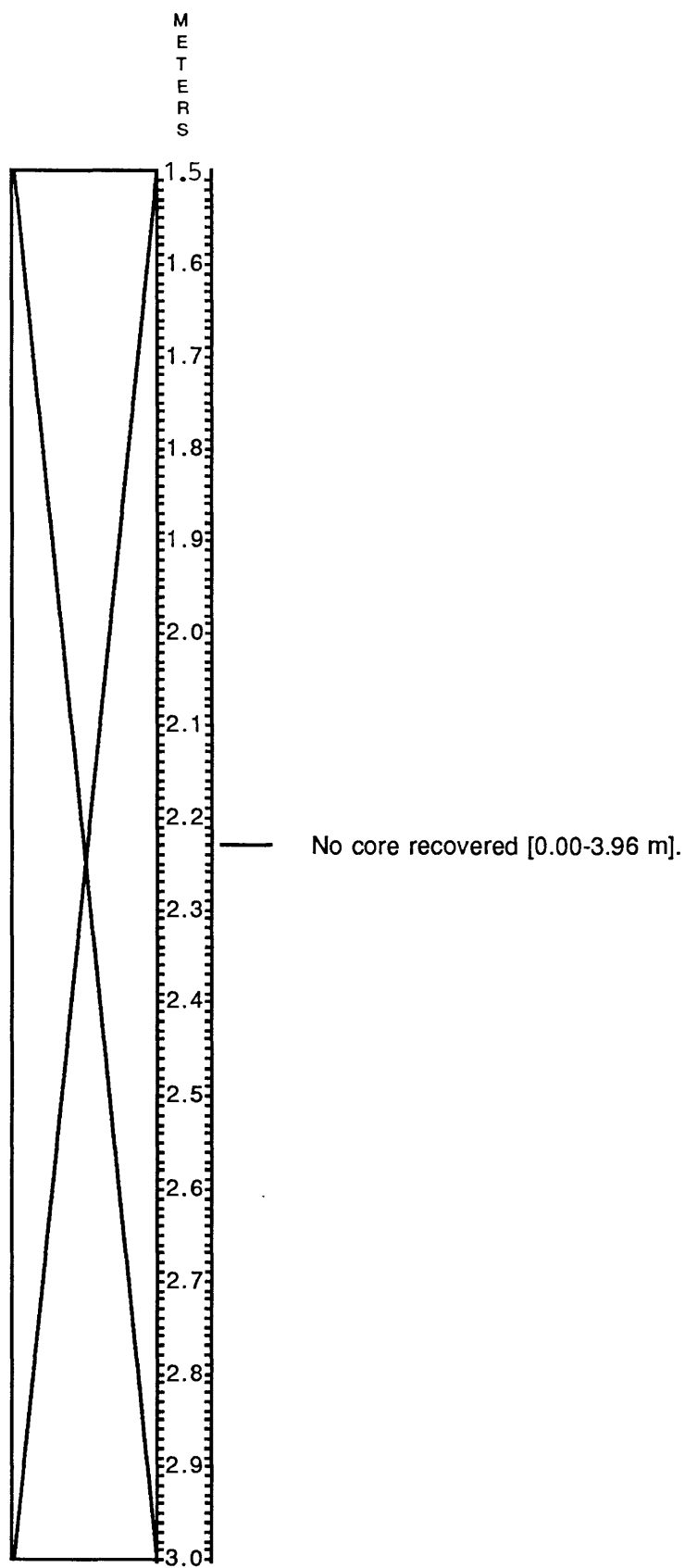
Appendix C

Core 2 Lithologic Log

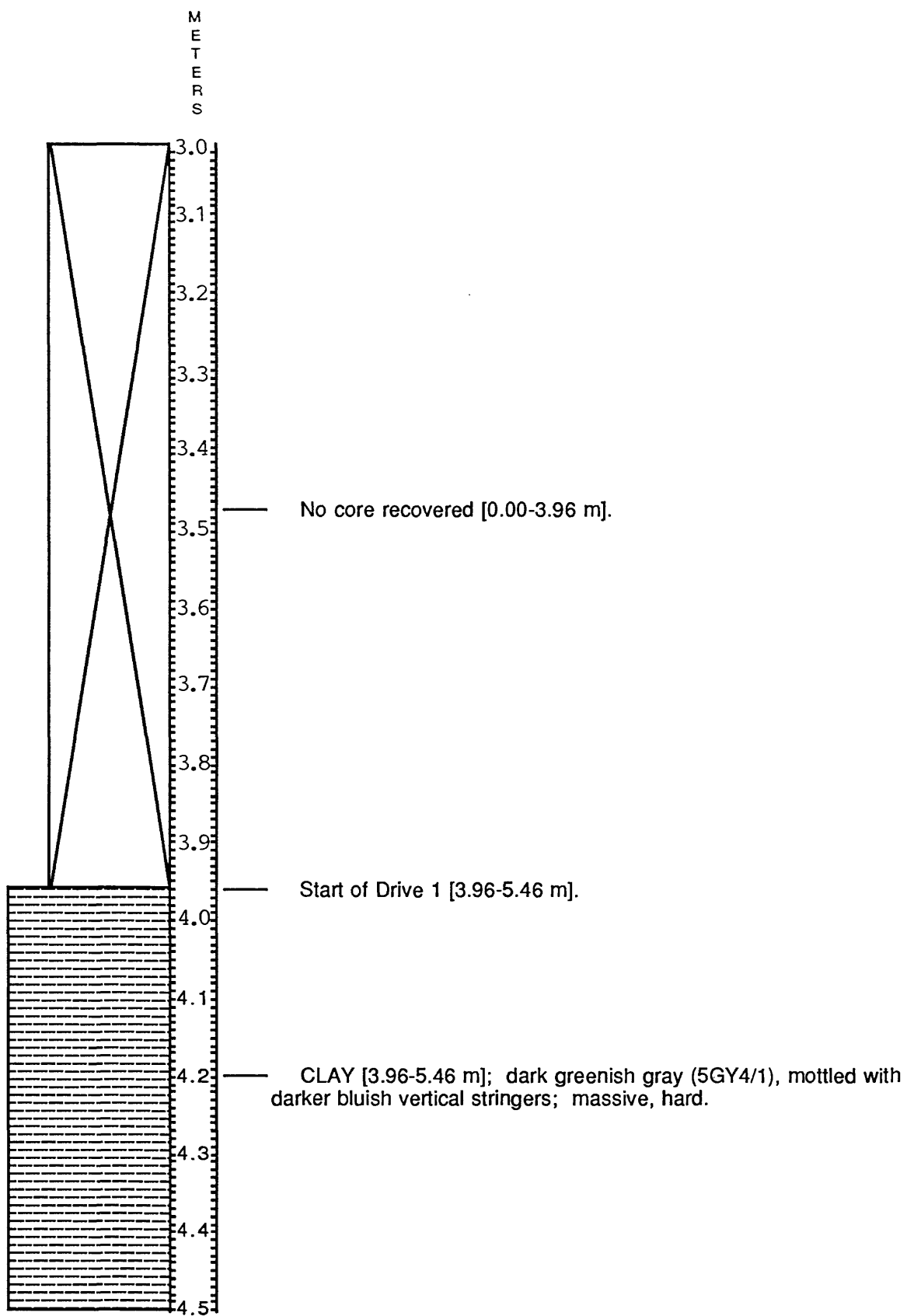
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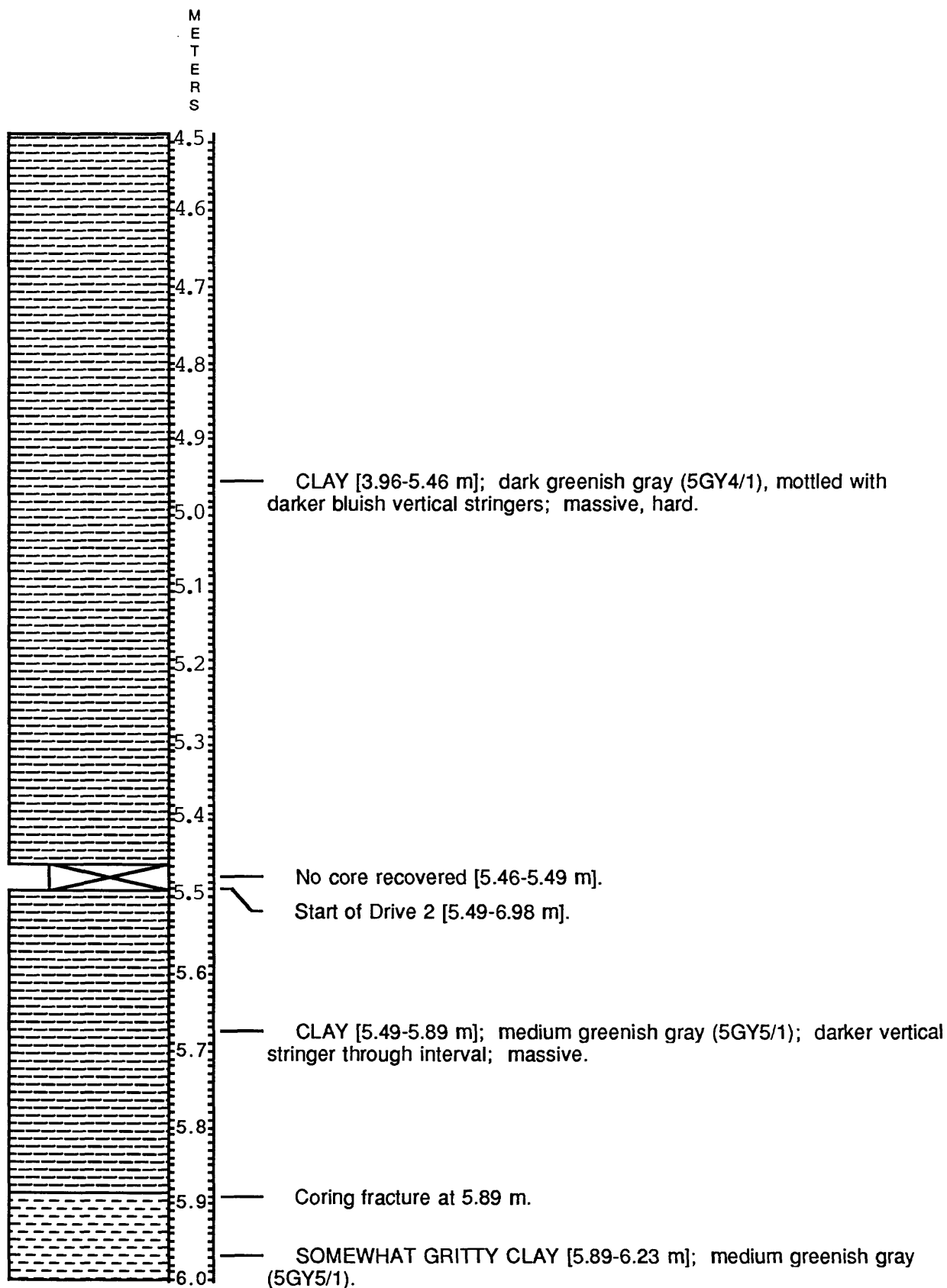
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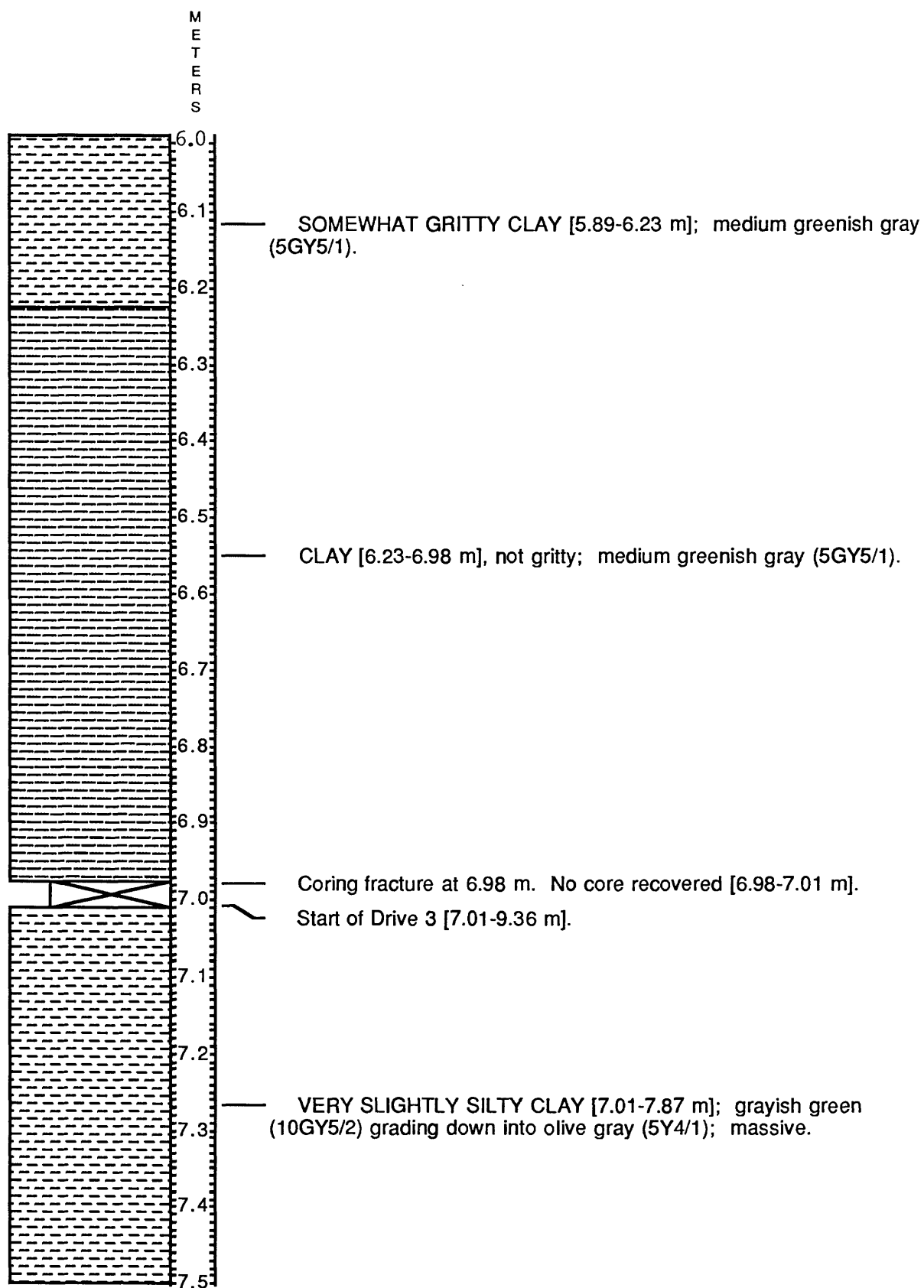
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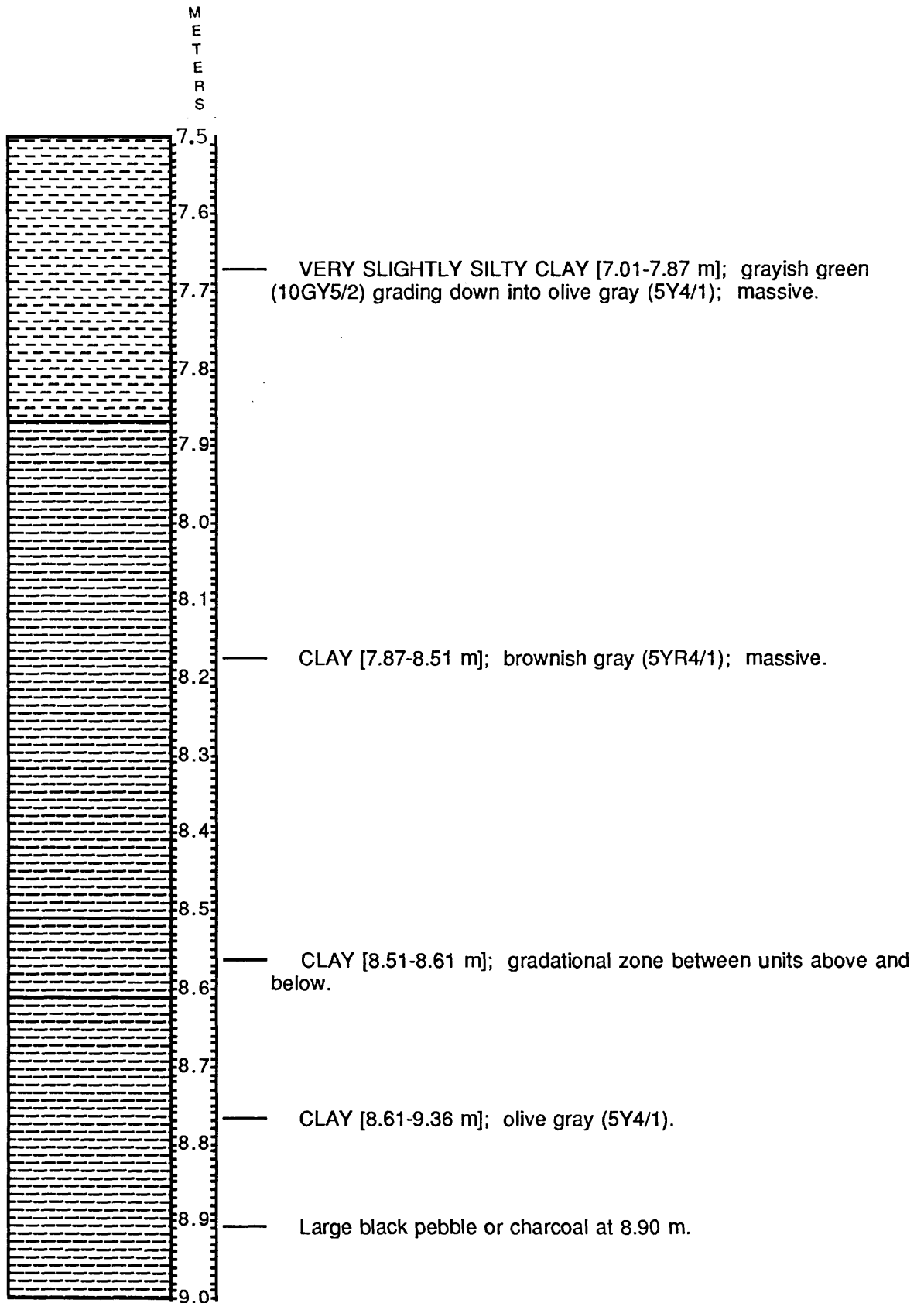
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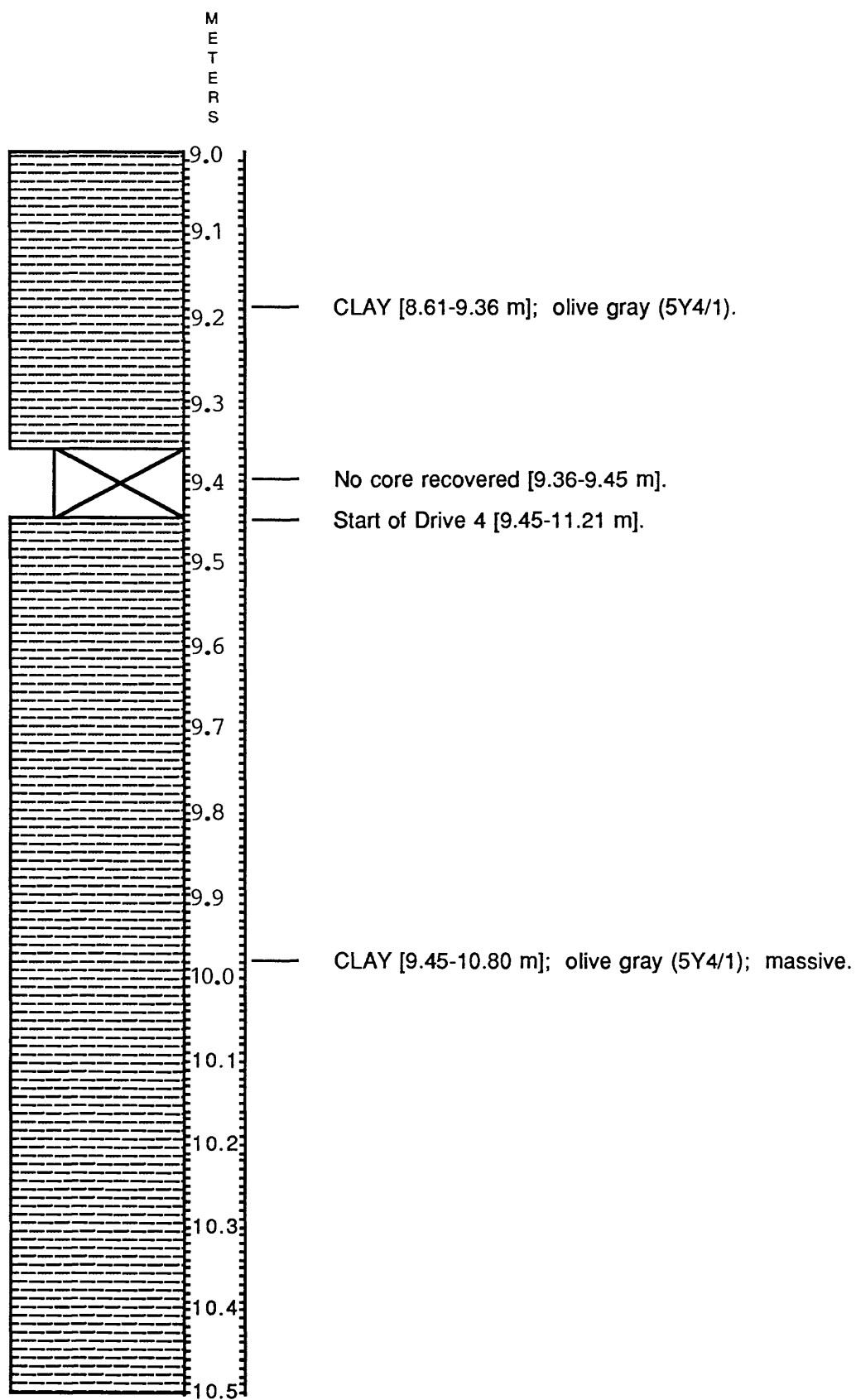
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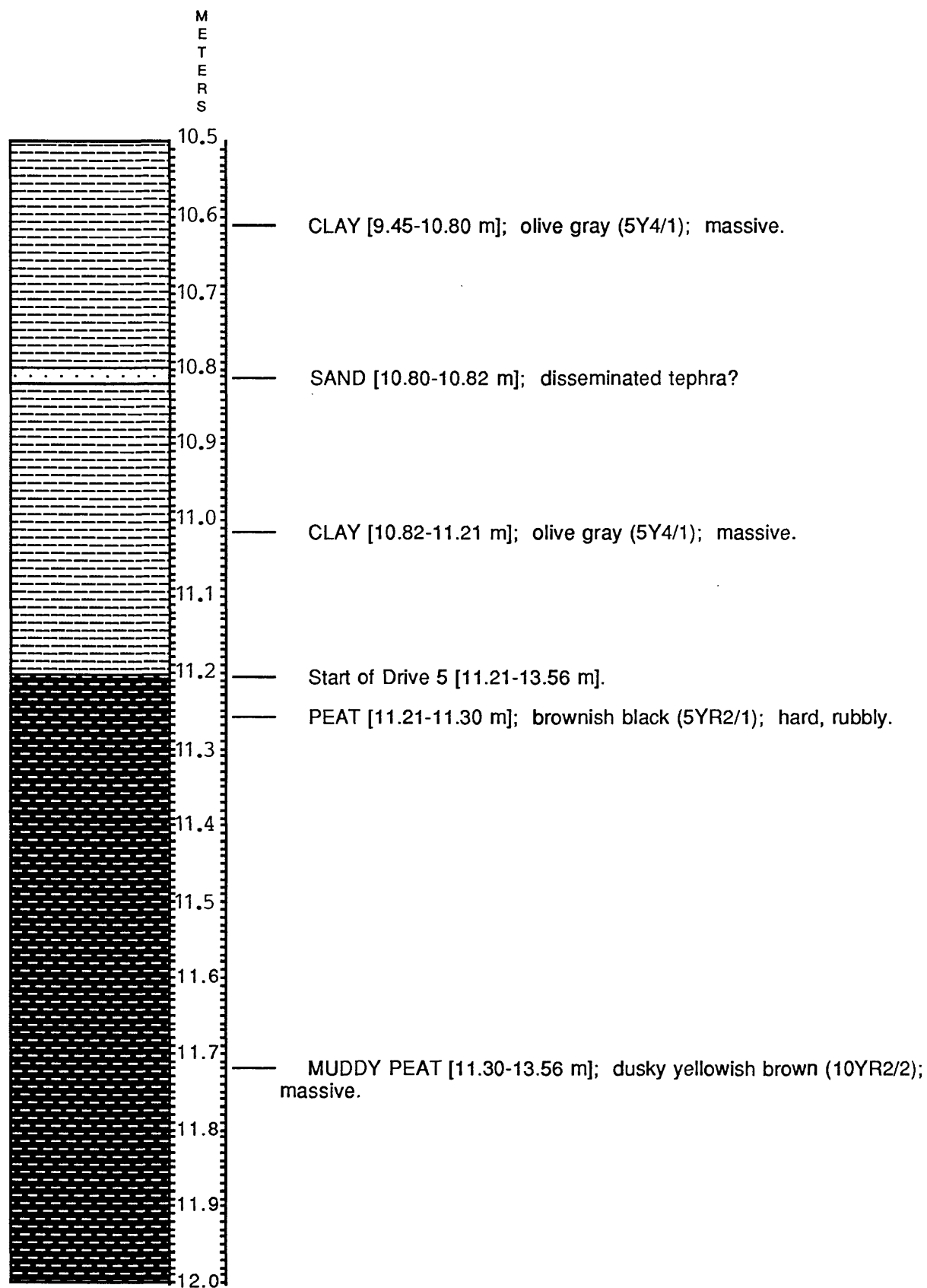
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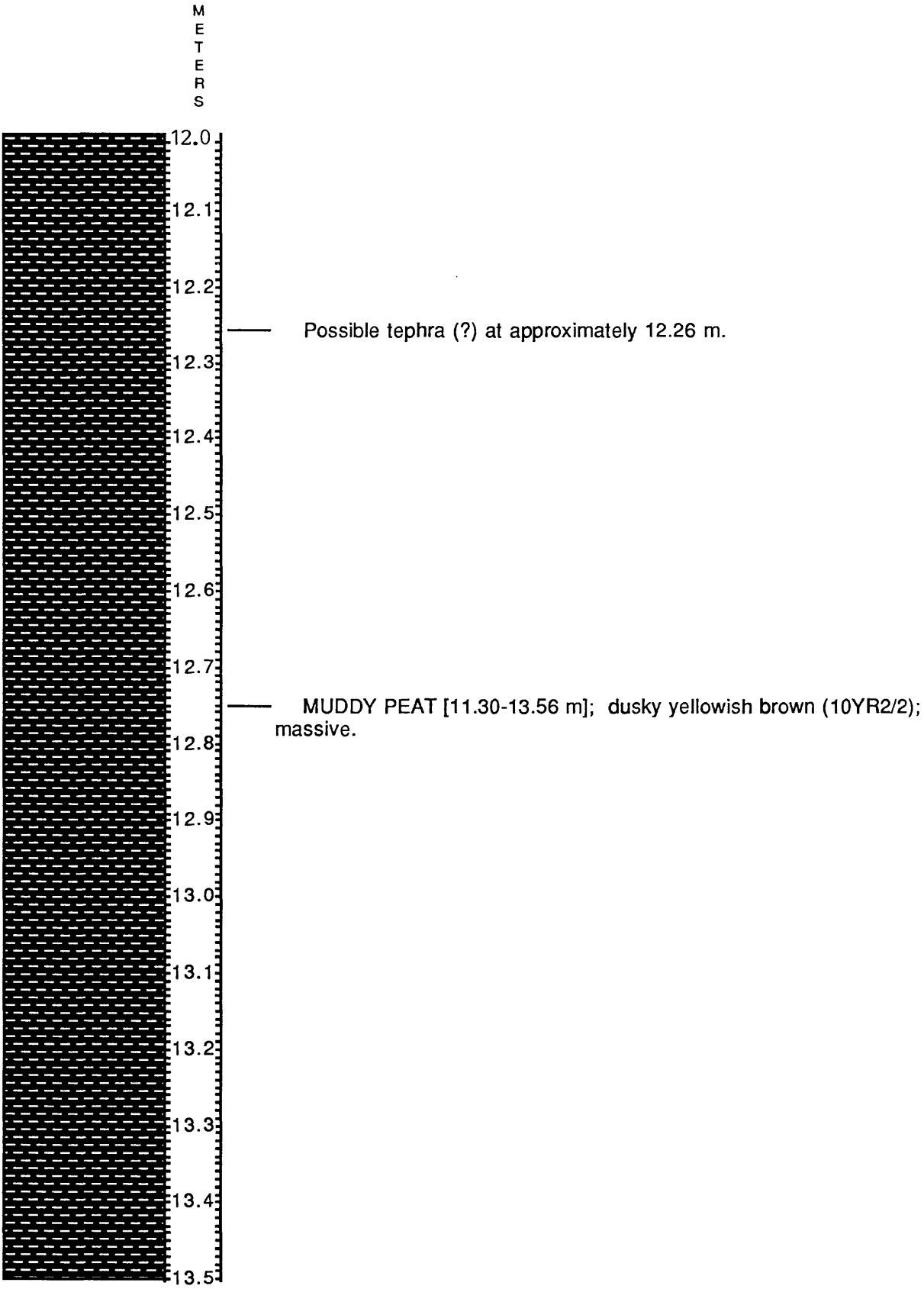
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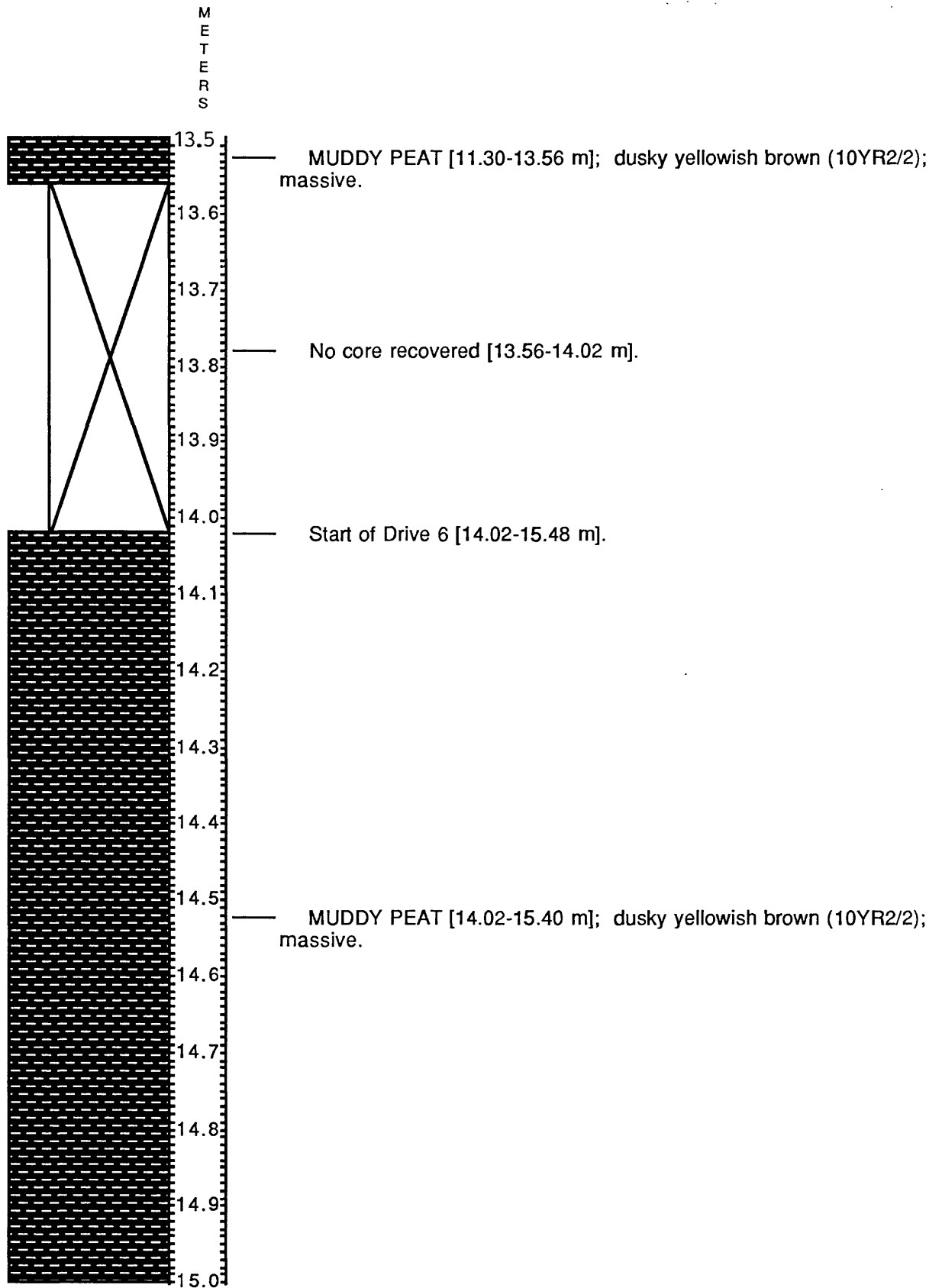
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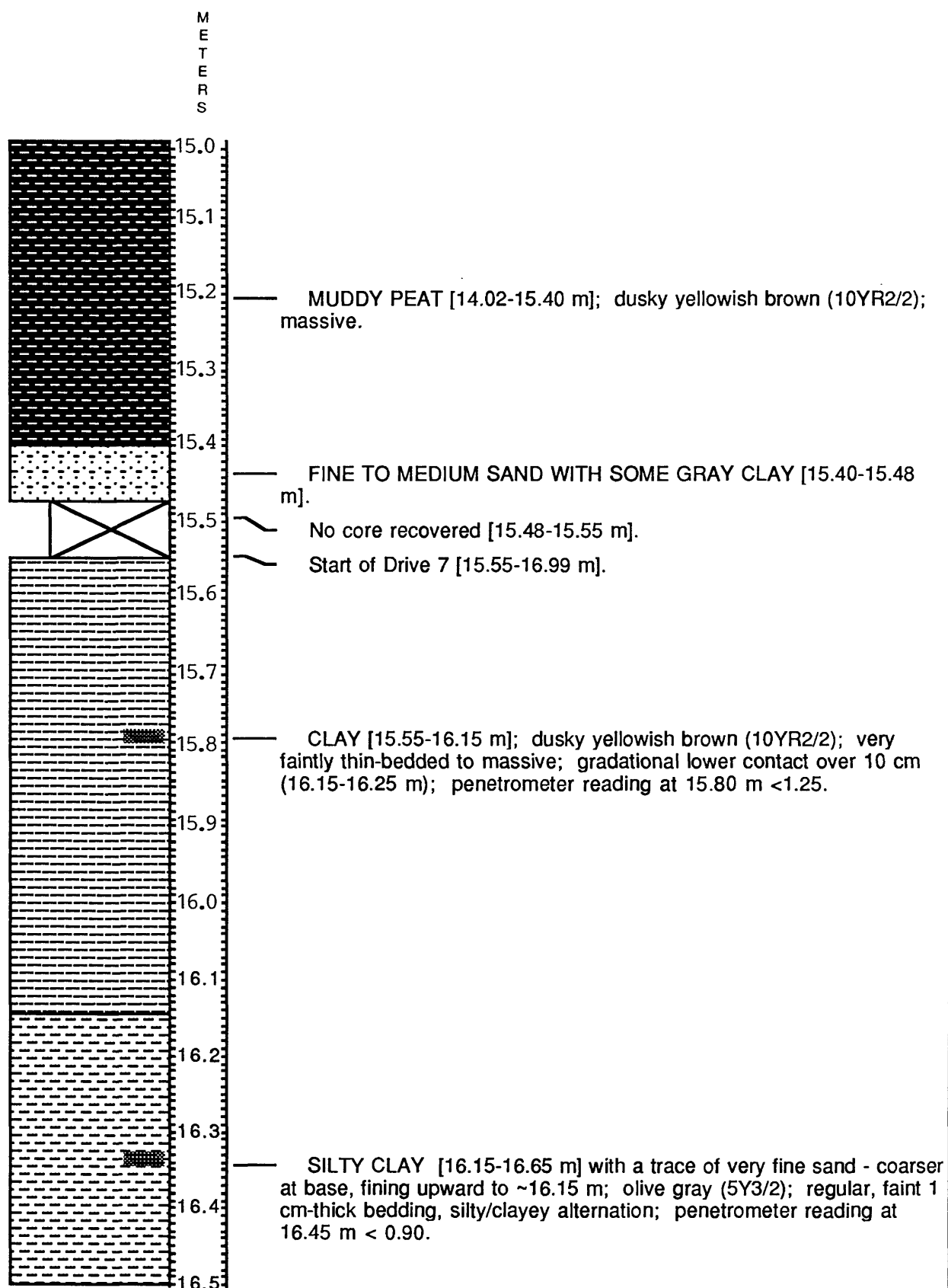
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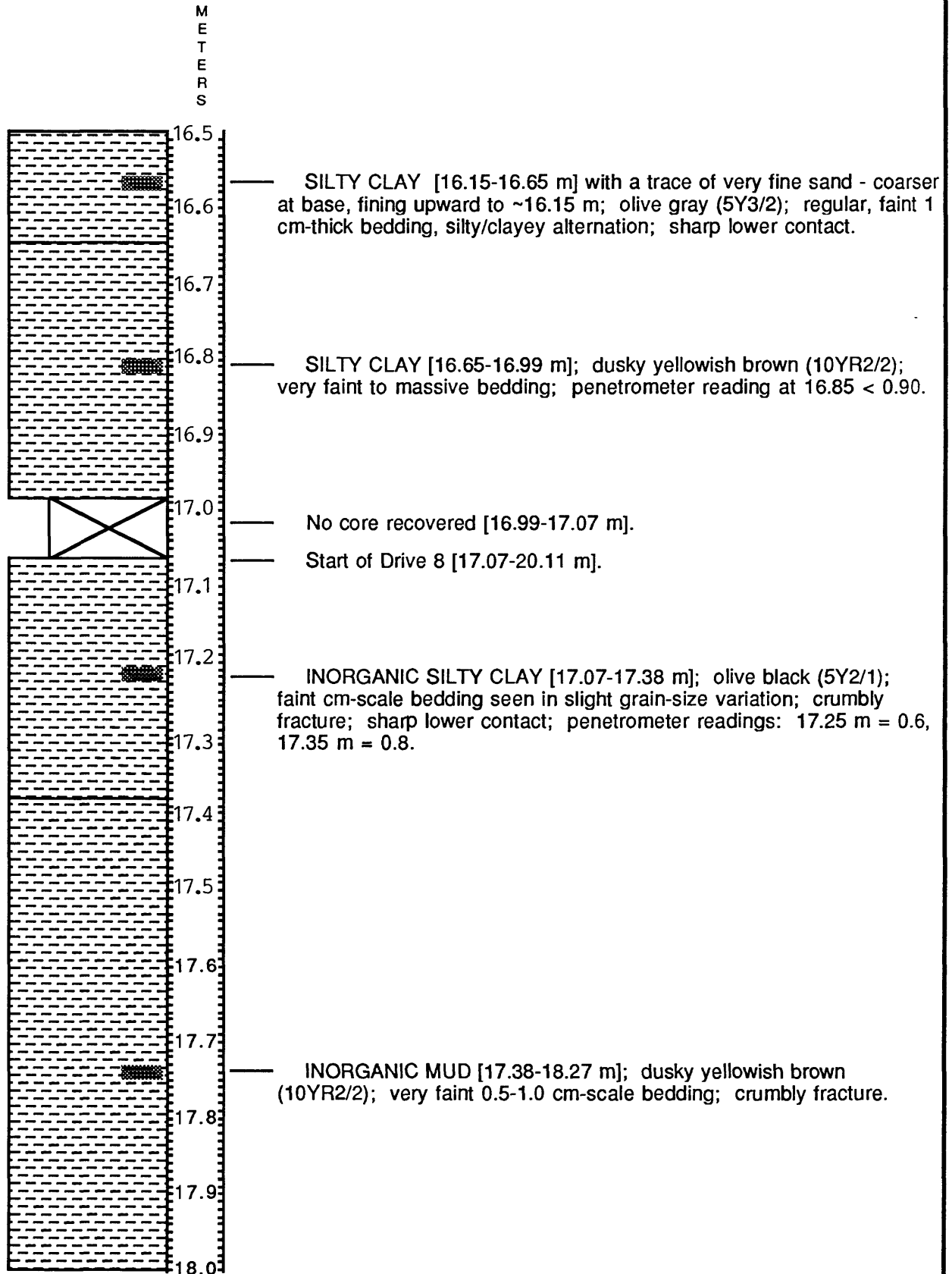
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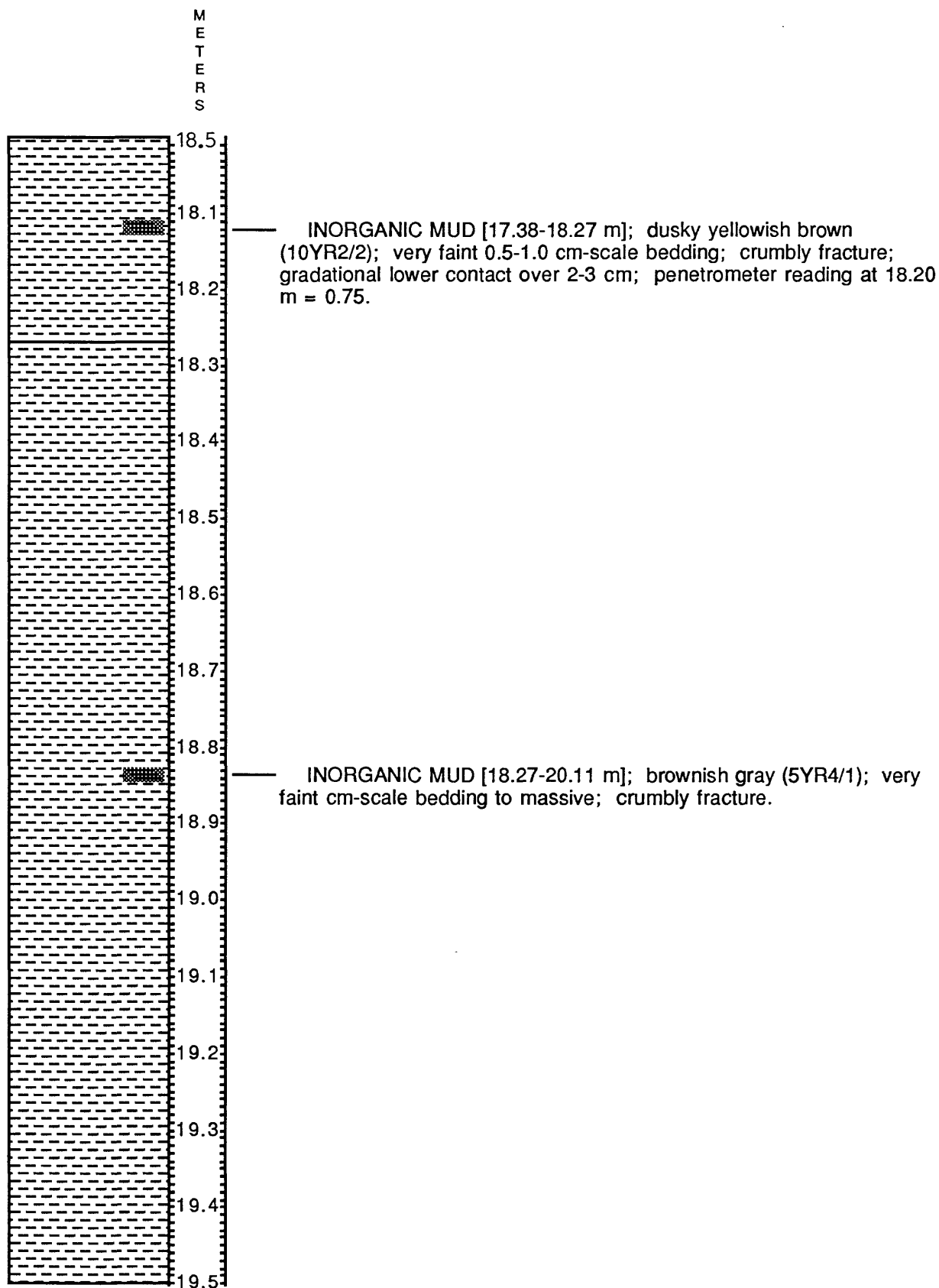
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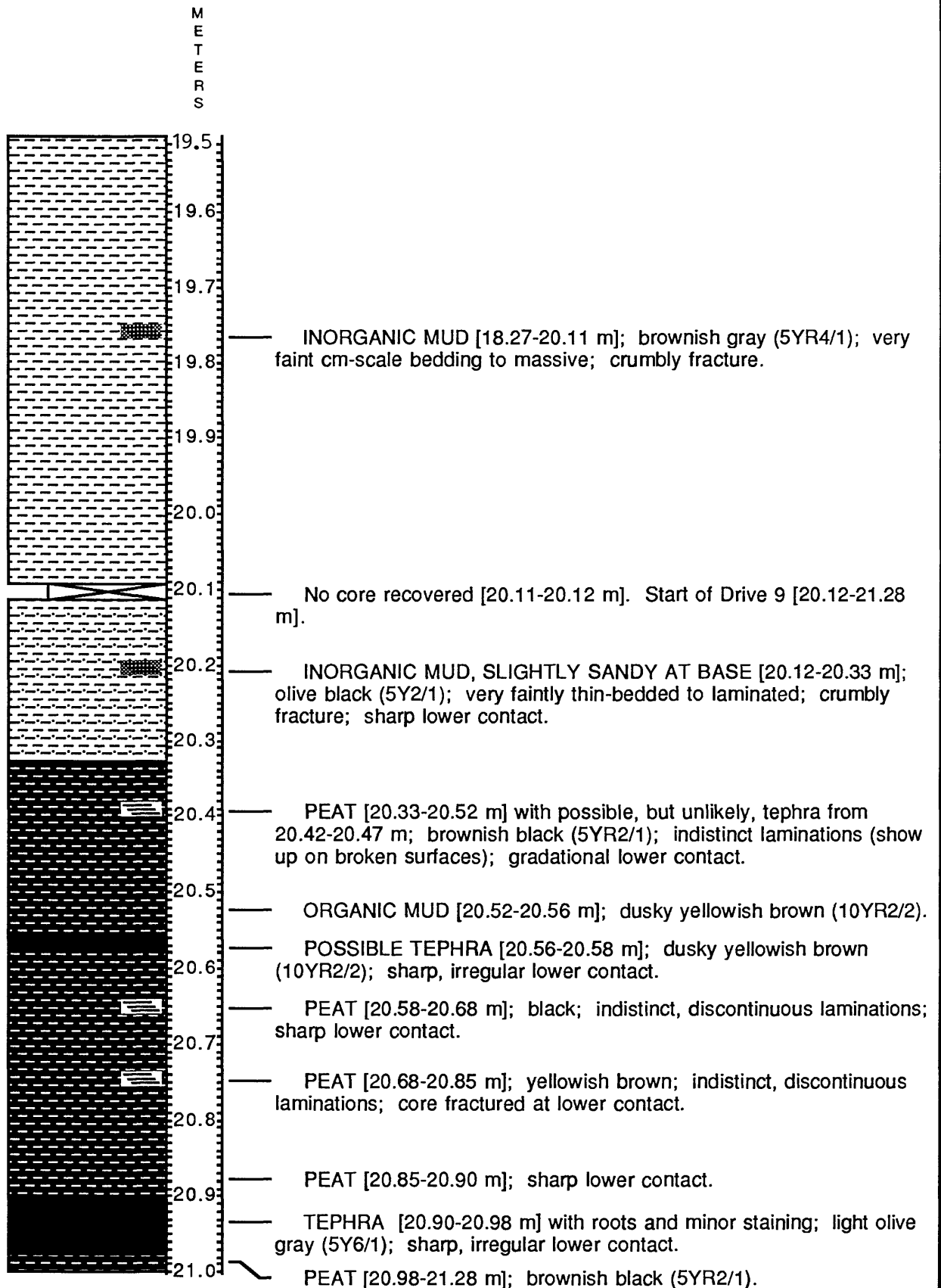
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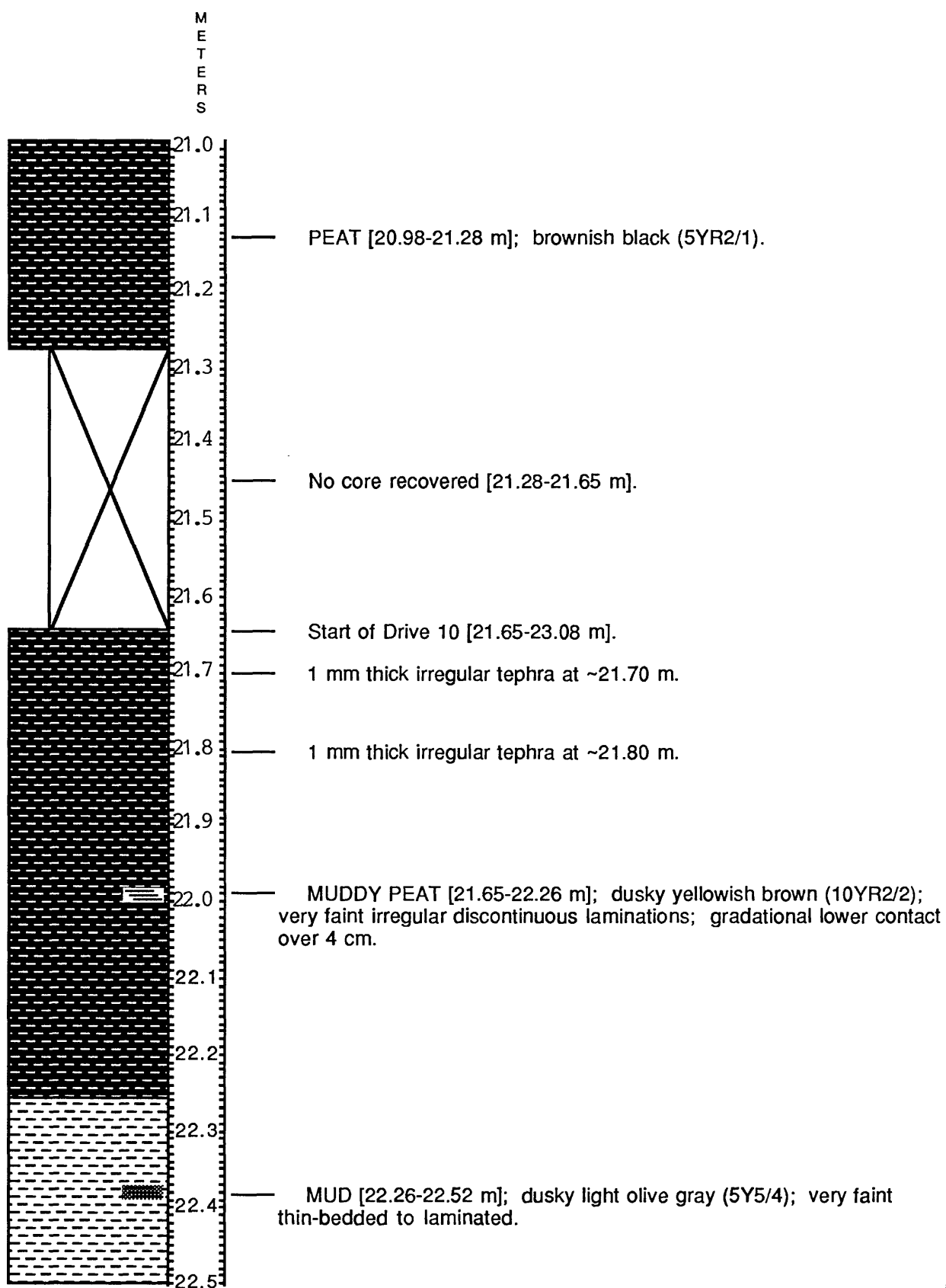
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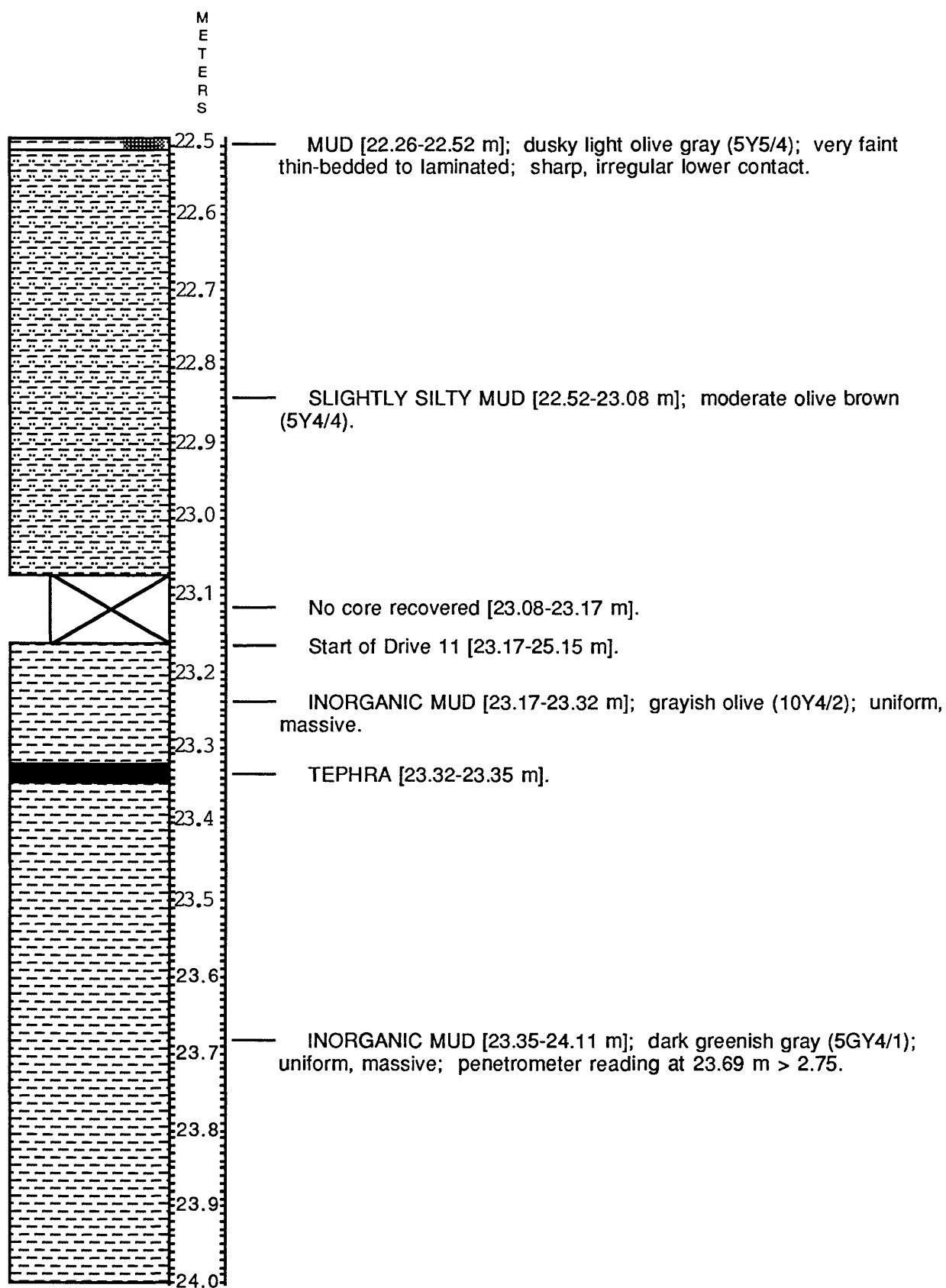
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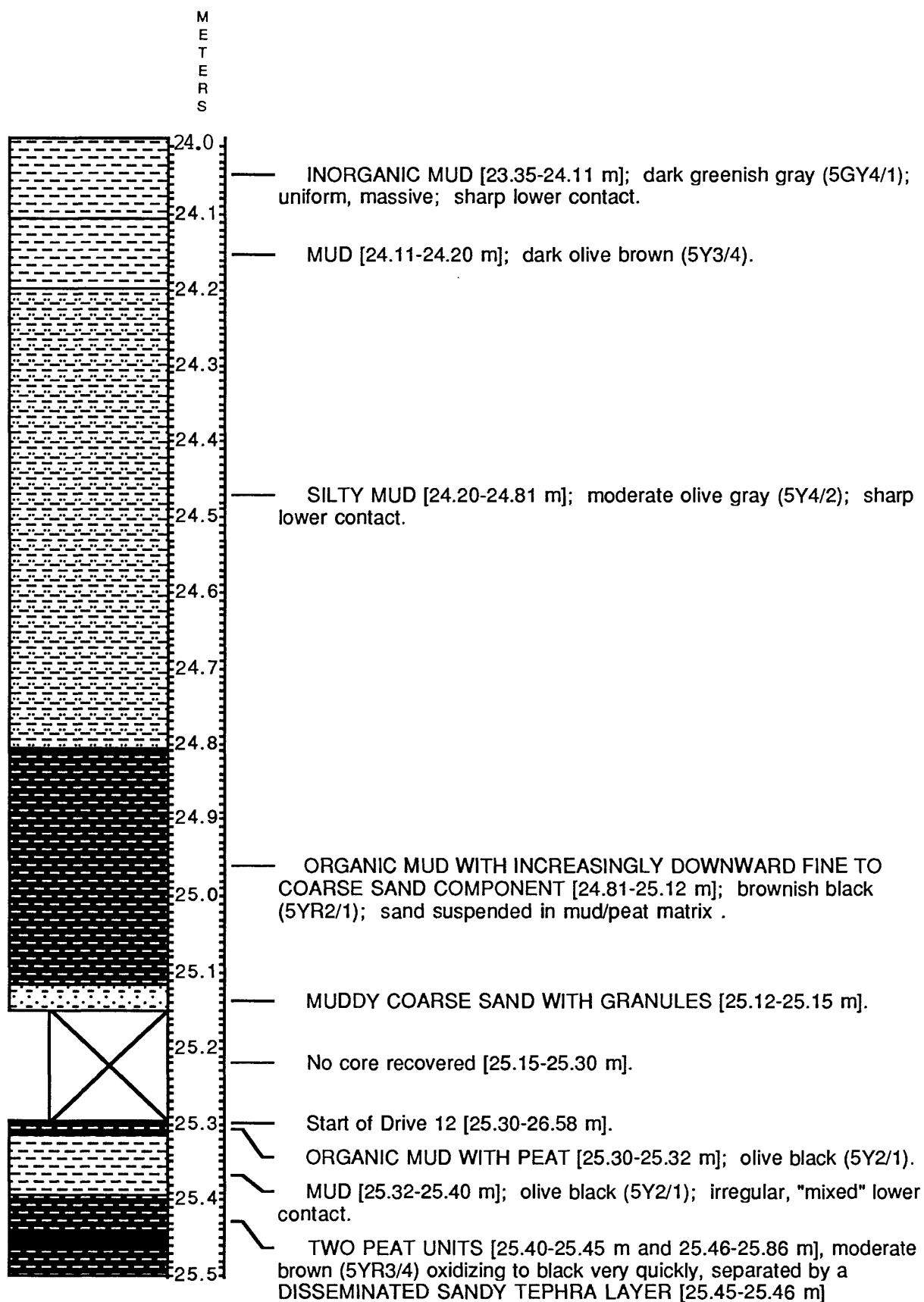
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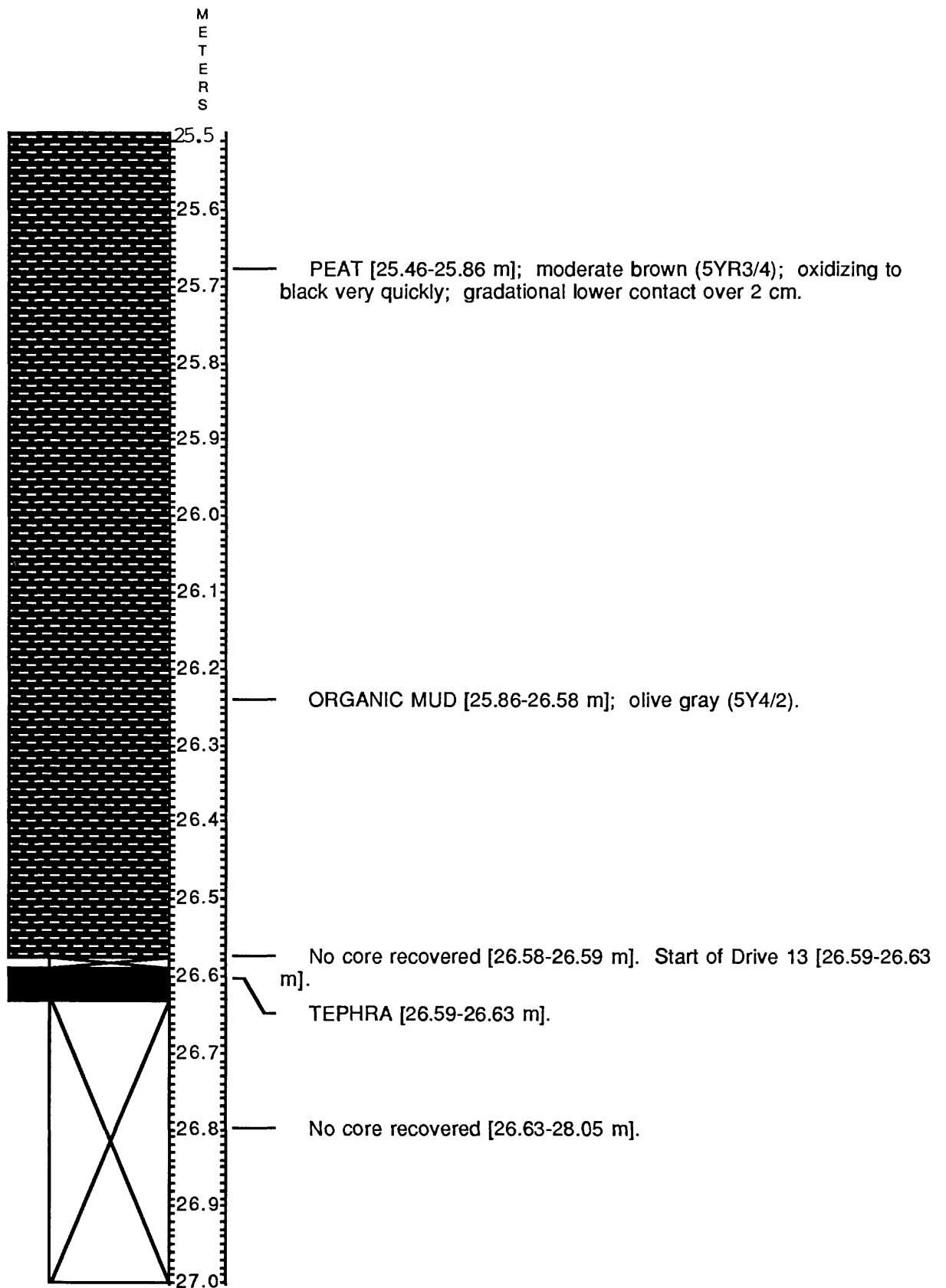
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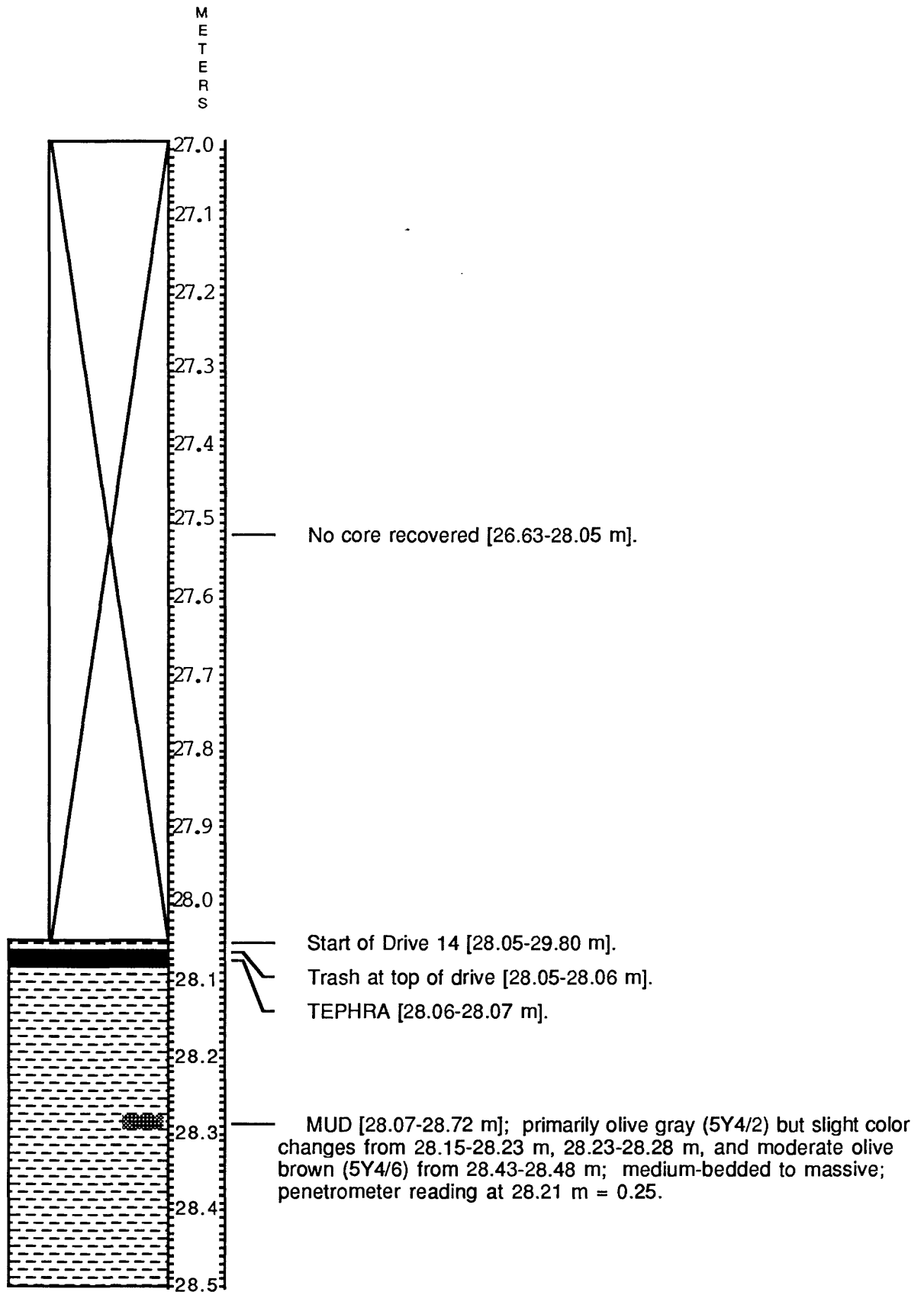
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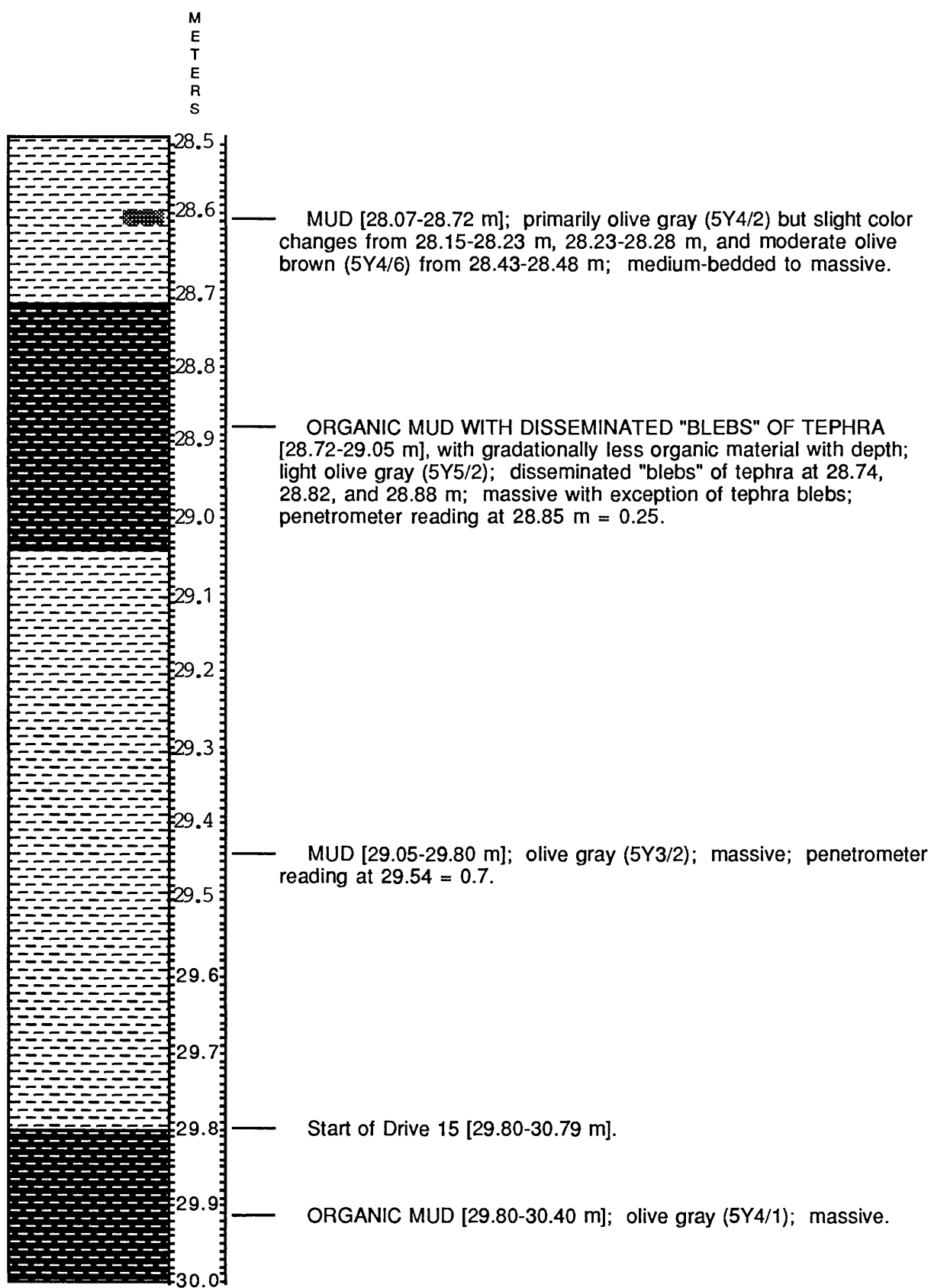
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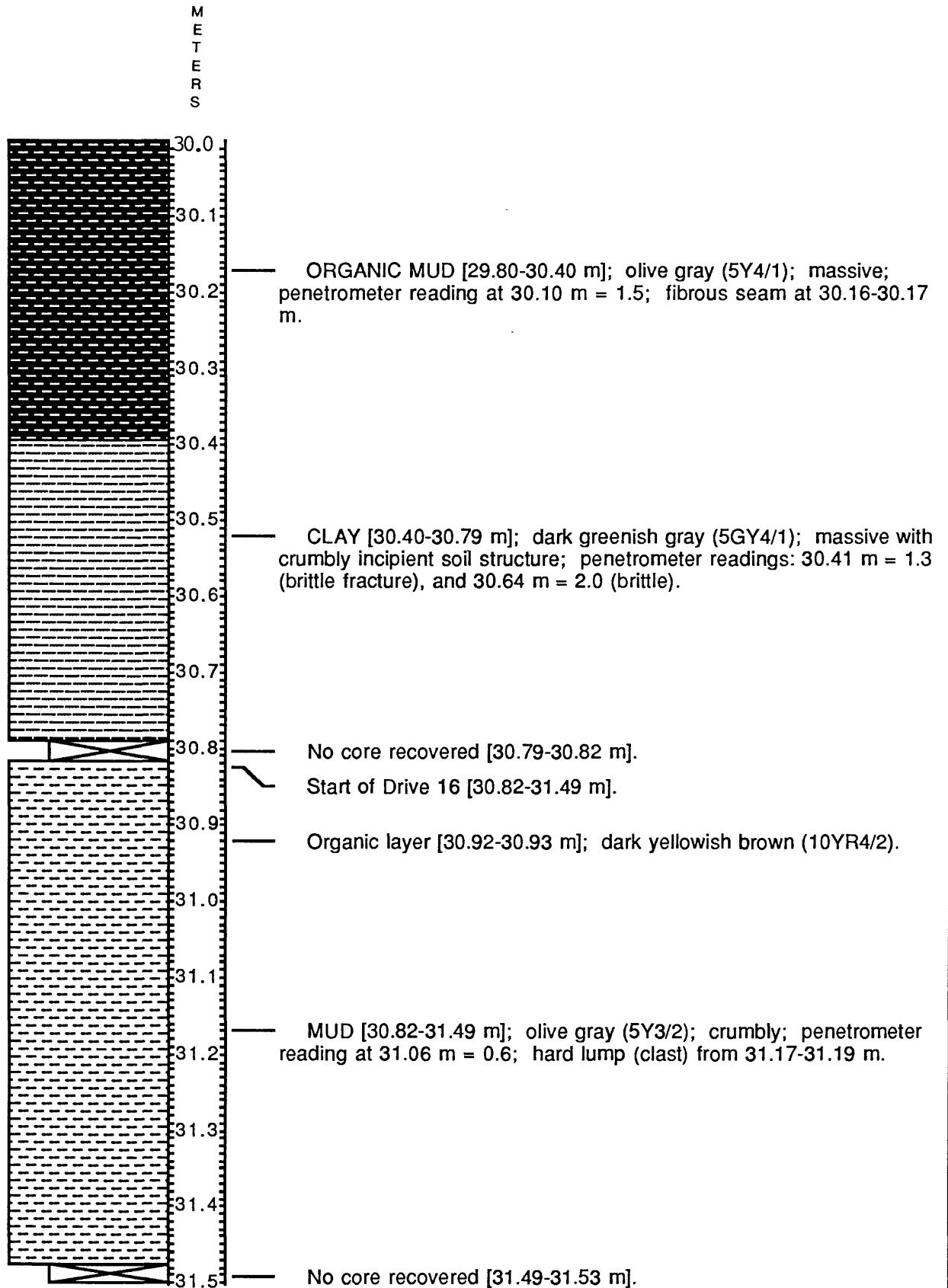
Wocus Marsh, Core 2 Klamath County, Oregon



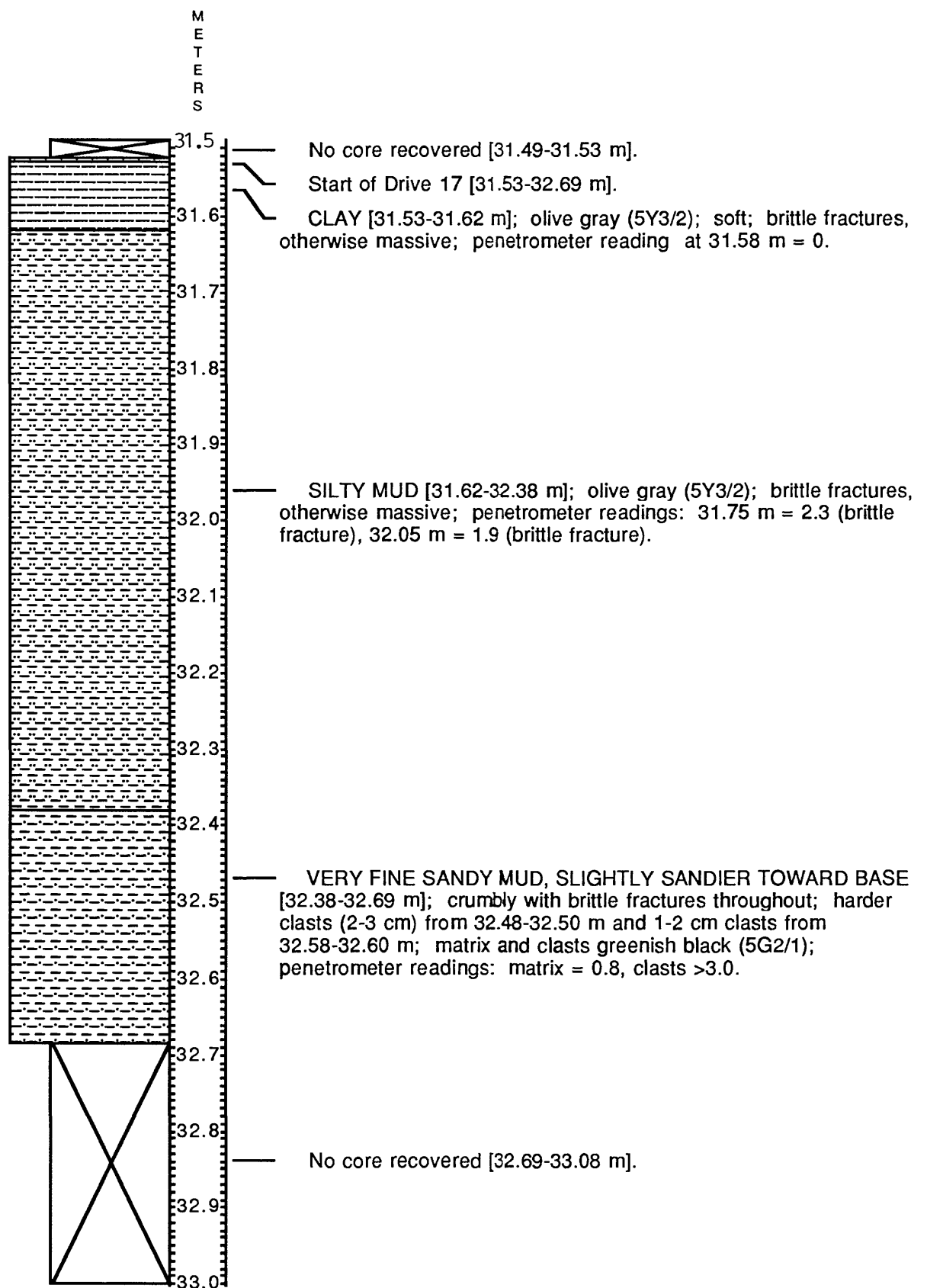
Wocus Marsh, Core 2 **Klamath County, Oregon**



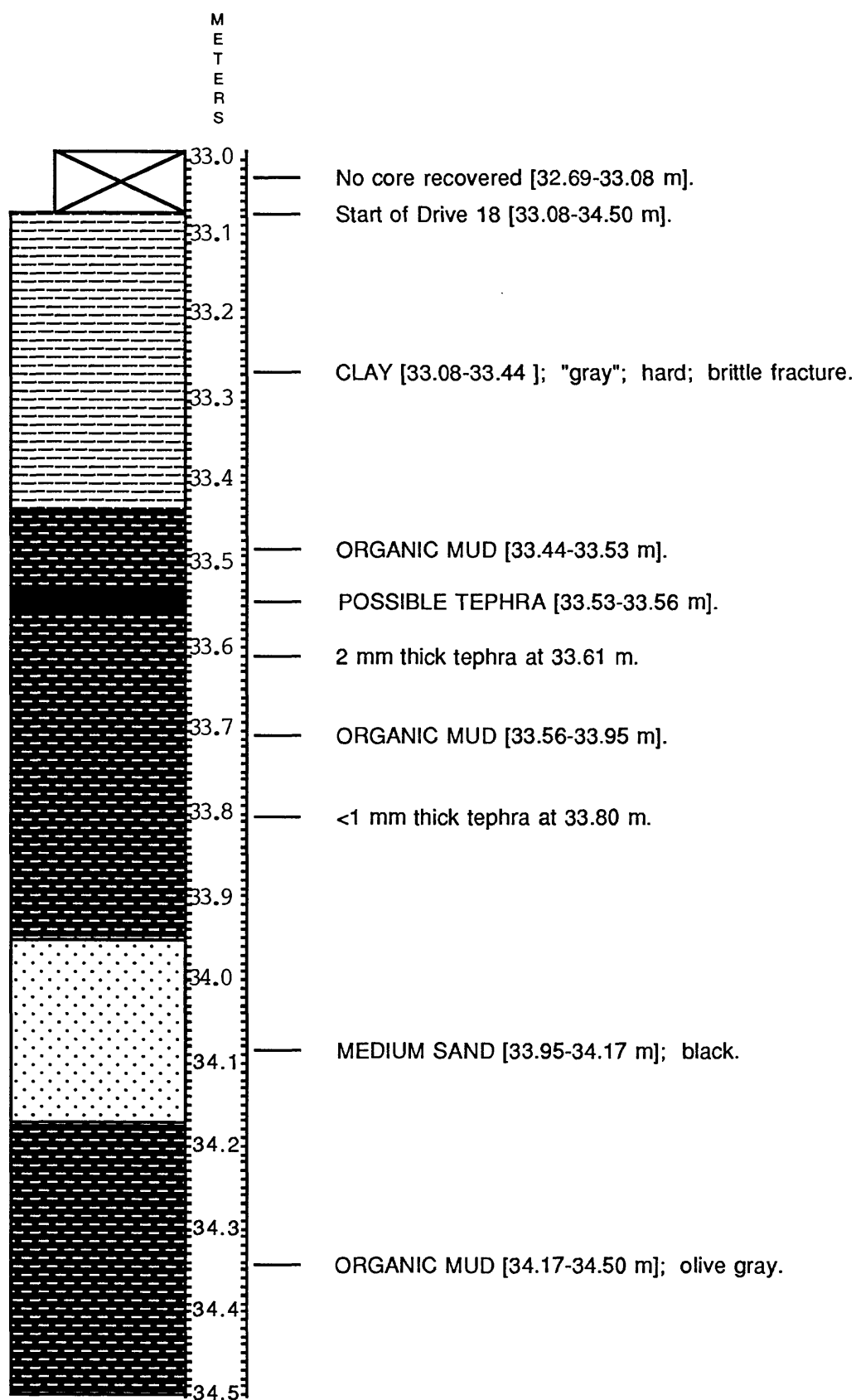
Wocus Marsh, Core 2 **Klamath County, Oregon**



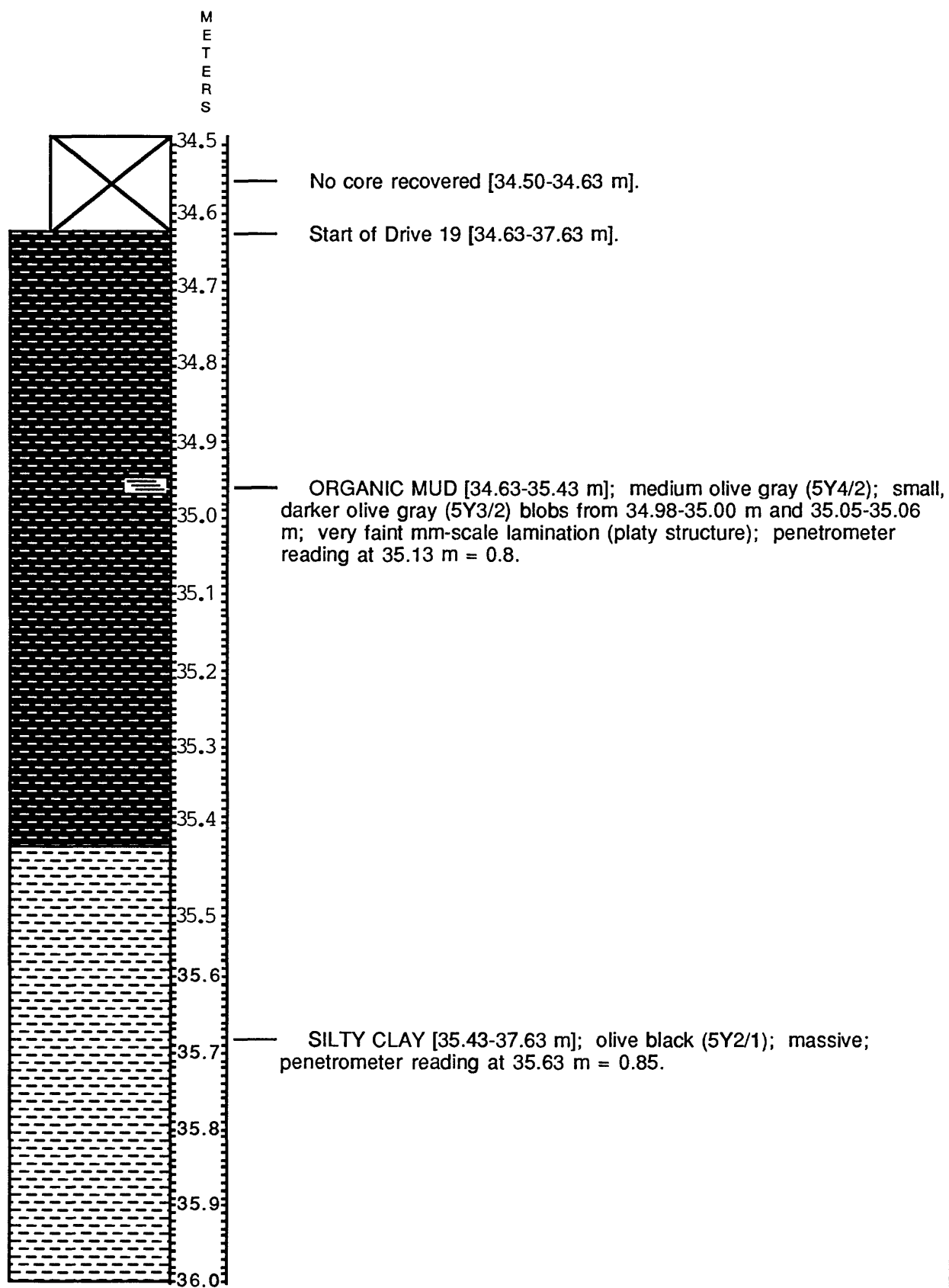
Wocus Marsh, Core 2 **Klamath County, Oregon**



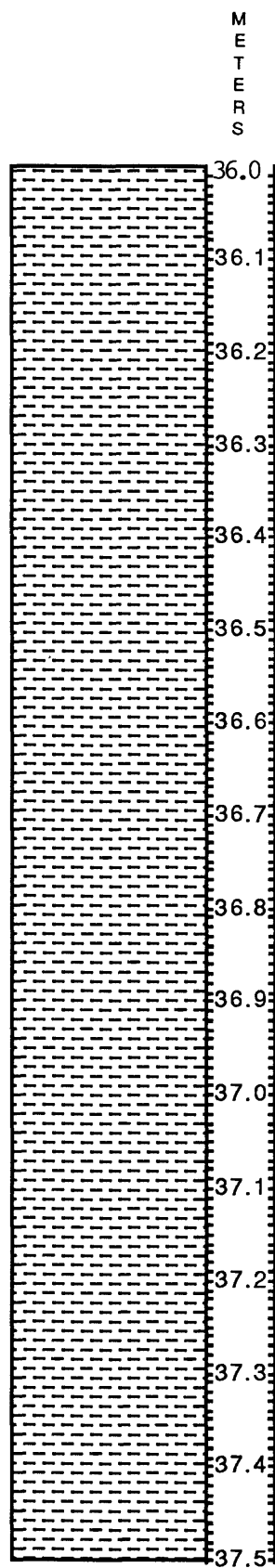
Wocus Marsh, Core 2 **Klamath County, Oregon**



Wocus Marsh, Core 2 **Klamath County, Oregon**

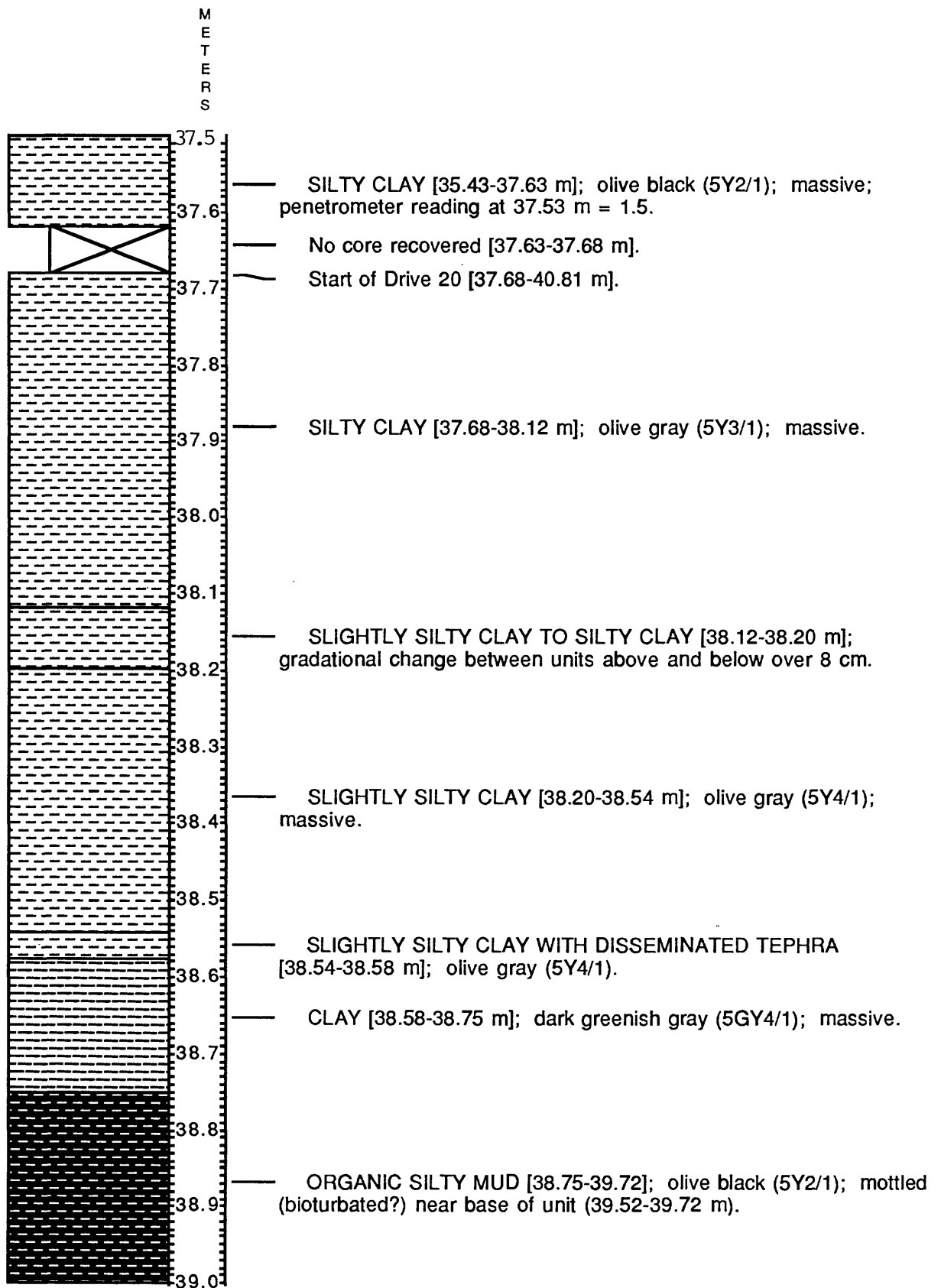


Wocus Marsh, Core 2
Klamath County, Oregon

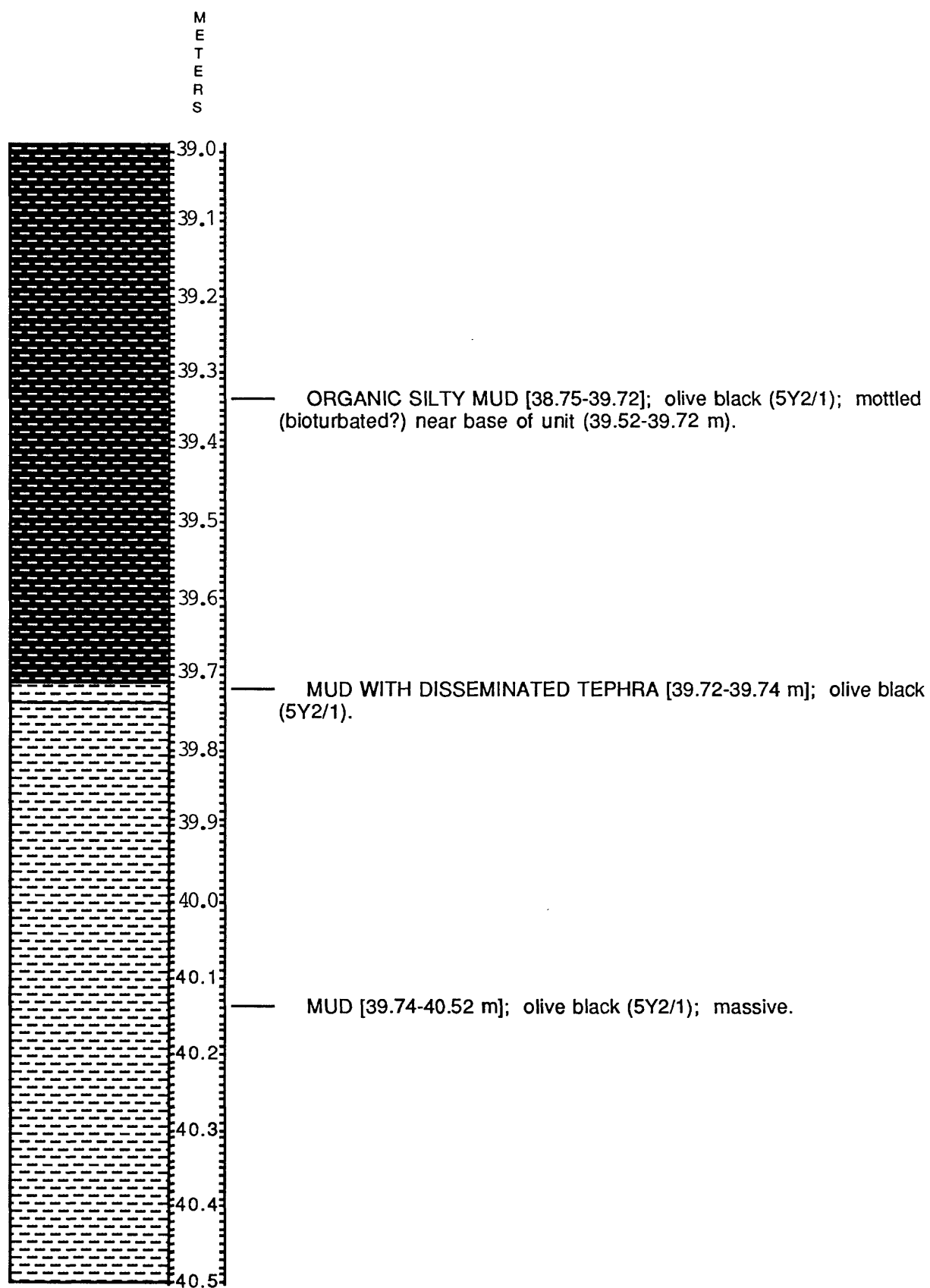


— SILTY CLAY [35.43-37.63 m]; olive black (5Y2/1); massive;
penetrometer readings: 36.08 m = 1.3, 36.63 m = 0.9, 37.13 m = 1.5;
floating granule at 37.03 m.

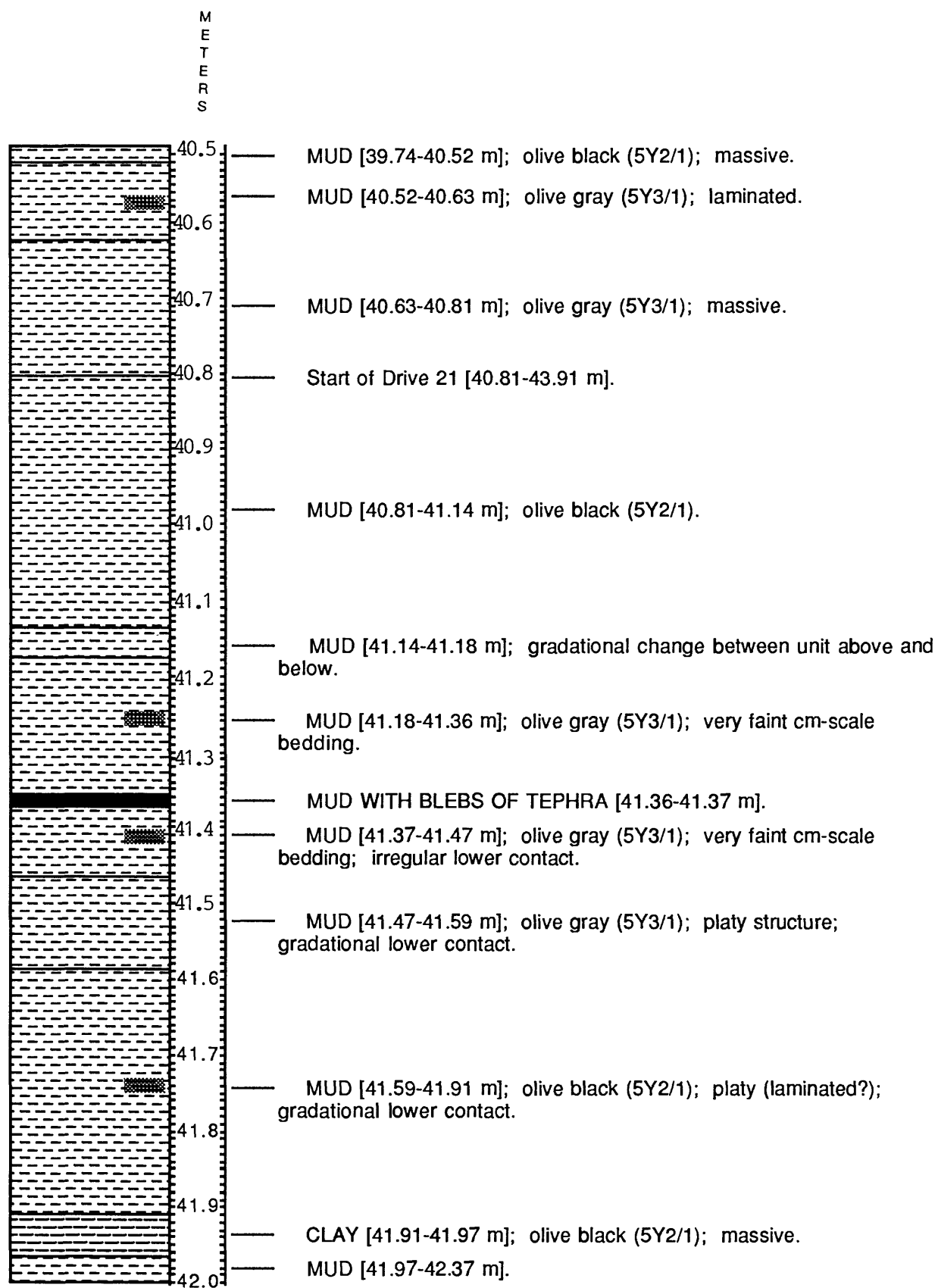
Wocus Marsh, Core 2
Klamath County, Oregon



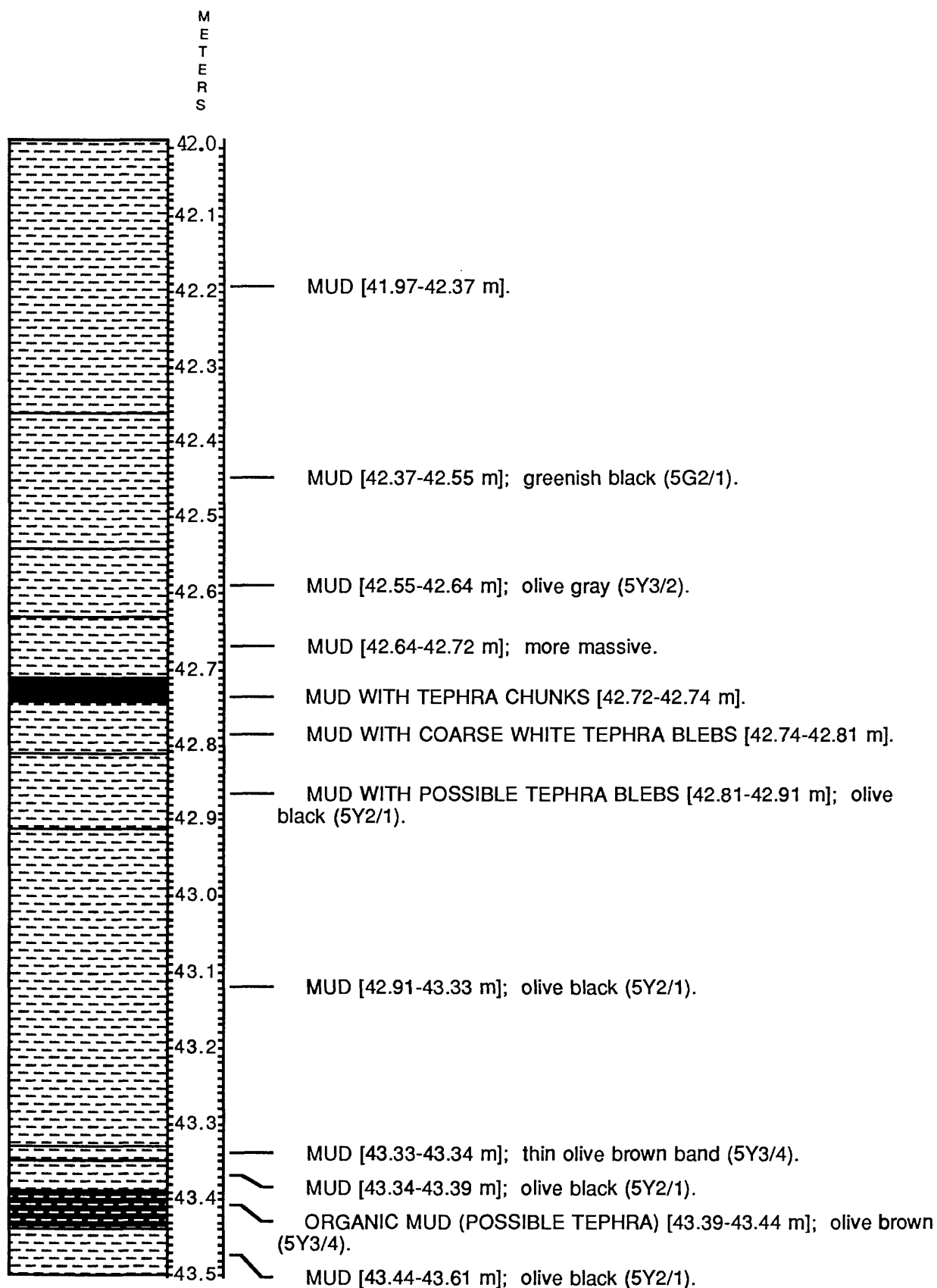
Wocus Marsh, Core 2
Klamath County, Oregon



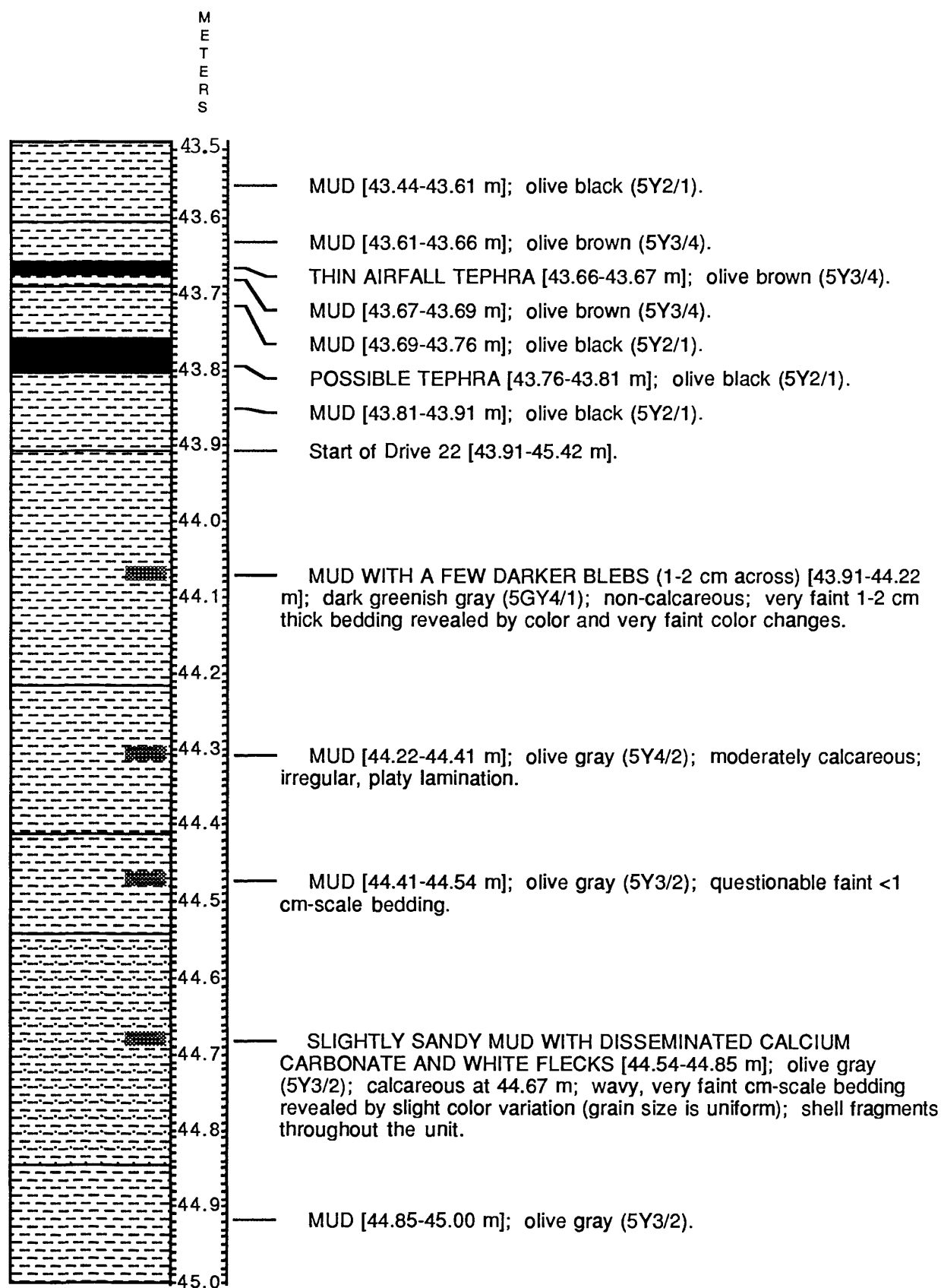
Wocus Marsh, Core 2 **Klamath County, Oregon**



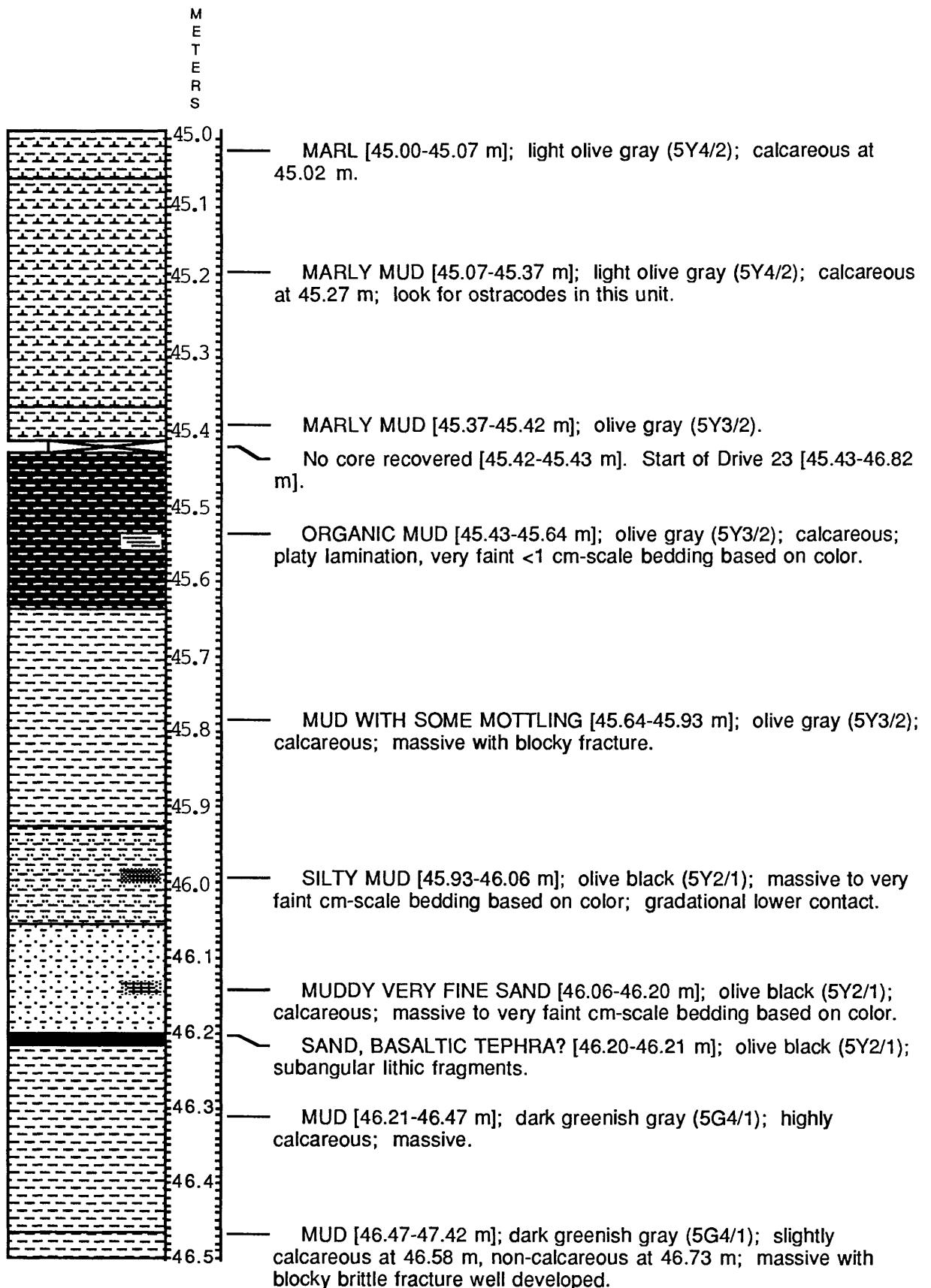
Wocus Marsh, Core 2 **Klamath County, Oregon**



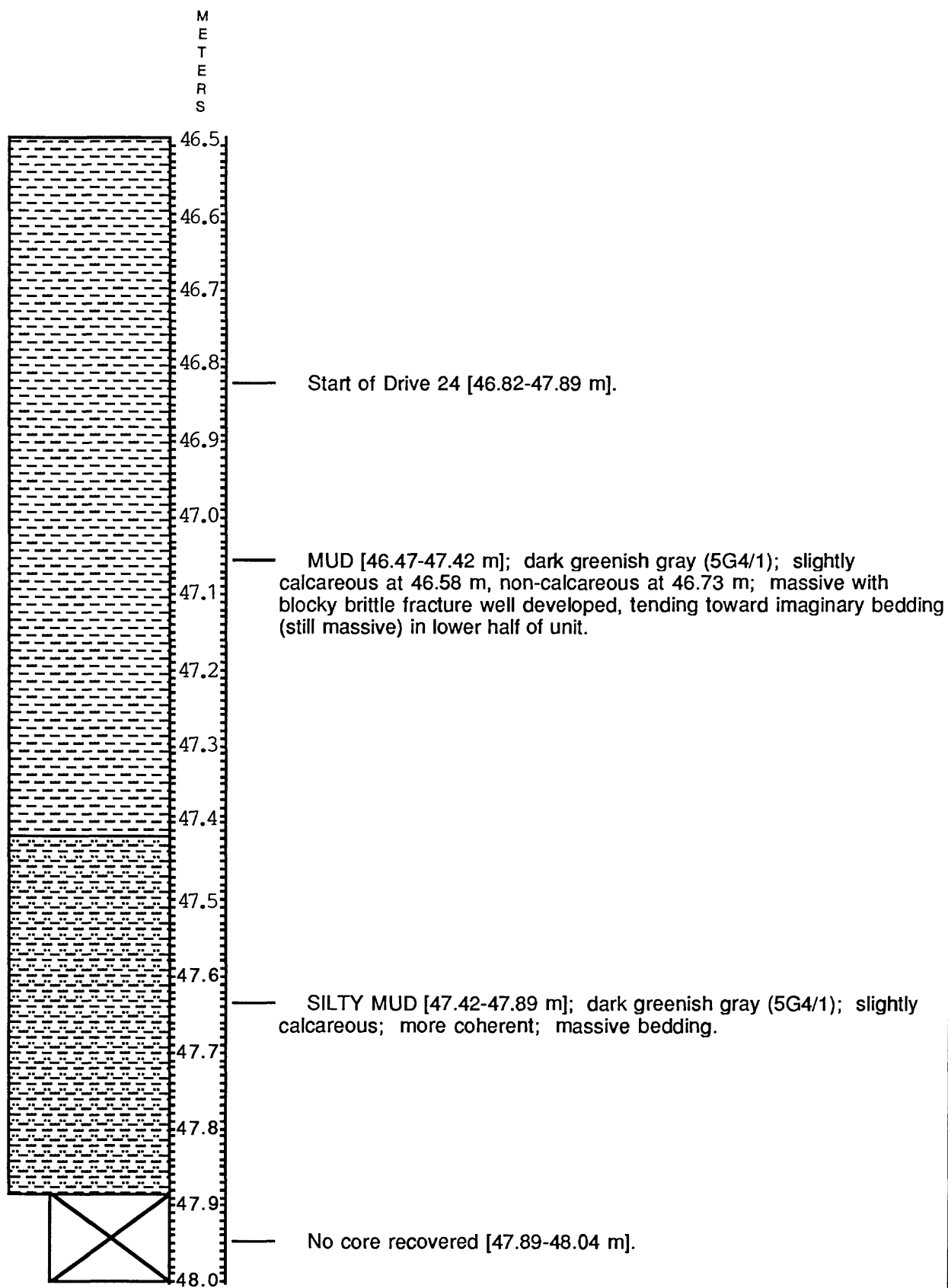
Wocus Marsh, Core 2 **Klamath County, Oregon**



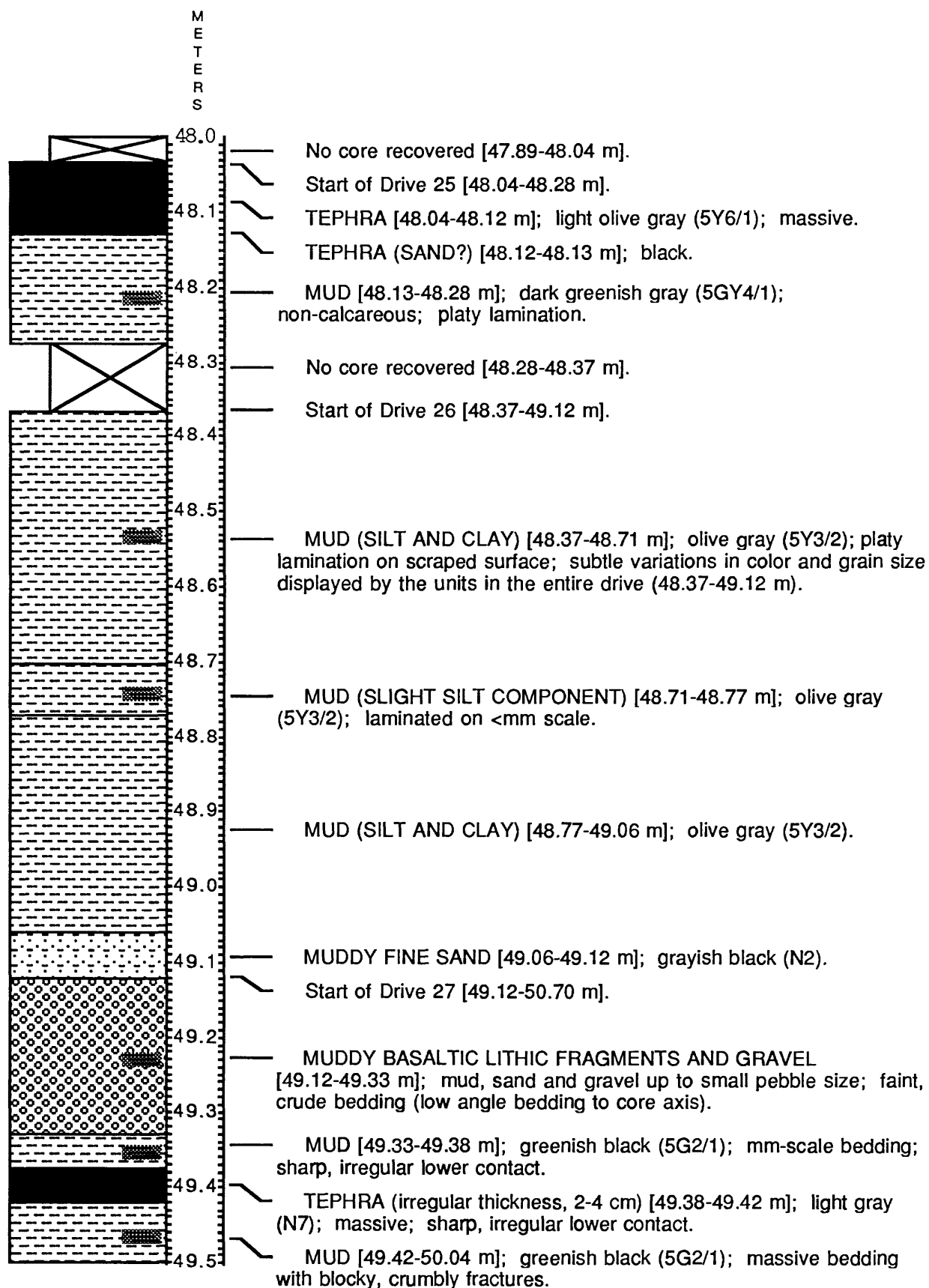
Wocus Marsh, Core 2 **Klamath County, Oregon**



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