

1           **Geology of the 5/22-1 (Errigal) exploration borehole, NE Rockall Basin, offshore**  
2 **western Ireland: the role of North Atlantic break-up magmatism on petroleum systems**  
3           **development**

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13  
14 **ABSTRACT**

15  
16 Large quantities of hydrocarbons reside in volcanically influenced sedimentary basins, many  
17 of which occur along continental margins. Despite the common assumption that magmatism  
18 negatively impacts petroleum system development, we actually have a poor understanding of  
19 its true role, largely due to a lack of studies utilising integrated subsurface datasets. In this paper  
20 we combine 3D seismic reflection, borehole, petrographic and paleothermometric data to  
21 document the geology of borehole 5/22-1, which drilled the Errigal prospect, NE Rockall Basin,  
22 offshore western Ireland. This borehole tested a large four-way dip closure (i.e. a forced fold)  
23 that formed to accommodate forcible emplacement of a Paleogene igneous sill-complex during  
24 North Atlantic continental breakup. The borehole was unsuccessful, with only very minor  
25 traces of dead hydrocarbons discovered in Upper Paleocene deep-water siltstones. Two water-  
26 wet turbidite sandstone-bearing intervals occur in the Upper Paleocene. The lower interval  
27 contains two *c.* 5 m thick, quartzose-feldspathic sandstones of good reservoir quality, and  
28 several thin (<4 m), very poor-quality volcanoclastic sandstones containing abundant pore-  
29 filling and pore throat-bridging clay minerals. In contrast, the upper interval is dominated by  
30 the very poor-quality volcanoclastic sandstones, derived from a volcanic terrain genetically  
31 related to the magmatism driving forced folding and trap formation; the poor reservoir quality  
32 in this interval reflects diagenetic degradation of the abundant volcanic grains.  
33 Paleothermometric data, although of modest quality and quantity, provide equivocal evidence  
34 for magmatism-related elevated temperatures in the Paleocene-to-Eocene succession,  
35 suggesting sill-induced contact metamorphism and fluid flow were not solely responsible for  
36 the poor quality of the contained reservoirs; petrographic analysis suggests the poor reservoir  
37 quality likely reflects the abundance of volcanic grains and related clays derived from the

38 igneous rock-dominated, sediment source area. The reason for failure of the Errigal, which is  
39 located only *c.* 42 km NNW of the Dooish gas discovery, is unclear, but we speculate the low  
40 bulk permeability of the heavily intruded Cretaceous mudstone succession impeded vertical  
41 migration of sub-Cretaceous sourced hydrocarbons into supra-Cretaceous reservoirs. Although  
42 the failure of Errigal casts doubt on the prospectivity of this play type in this particular part of  
43 the NE Rockall Basin, breakup-related magmatism clearly drove formation of a large structural  
44 closure, with data from 5/22-1 at least providing evidence for the local development of  
45 reservoir-quality, Upper Paleocene, deep-water reservoirs and thick, Eocene topseals. Post-  
46 Cretaceous deep-water stratigraphic traps on the flanks of intrusion-induced forced folds  
47 represent potential future exploration targets, in addition to more conventional, rotated fault-  
48 block traps containing Mesozoic reservoirs.

49

## 50 INTRODUCTION

51

52 Stretching and thinning of the lithosphere during continental breakup drives upwelling and  
53 decompression melting of asthenospheric mantle (e.g. Allen & Allen, 2013). Magma formed  
54 during continental breakup may stall during its ascent to the Earth's surface, intruding the crust  
55 in the form of igneous sills and dykes. Because continental stretching precedes breakup,  
56 igneous intrusions are particularly common in some of the world's most prolific hydrocarbon  
57 provinces (e.g. offshore circum-Atlantic, e.g. Smallwood and Maresh, 2002; Rohrmann, 2007;  
58 Thomson & Hutton, 2004; Archer et al., 2005; Magee et al., 2014; Schofield et al., 2017; NW  
59 Shelf of Australia, Rohrmann, 2015; Magee et al., 2013; 2017, Reeckman and Mebberson,  
60 1988; McClay et al., 2013). Petroleum systems in these provinces can and are commonly  
61 assumed to be negatively impacted by breakup-related magmatism. For example, sill and dyke  
62 intrusion can cause: (i) physical compartmentalization of stratigraphy, leading to dissection of  
63 reservoirs, or separation of source and reservoir rocks by impermeable sills and dykes; (ii)  
64 initiation of hydrothermal systems, with the local flow of anomalously hot fluids driving  
65 diagenesis at shallow depths and causing a reduction in reservoir quality; and (iii)  
66 overmaturation of source rocks (e.g. Rohrmann, 2003; Schutter, 2003; Holford et al., 2013;  
67 Eide et al., 2017). However, the discovery and production of hydrocarbons from igneous rocks  
68 demonstrate breakup-related magmatism may positively impact petroleum system development  
69 by: (i) causing the formation of structural and stratigraphic traps due to forced folding; (ii)  
70 creating a network of interconnected, potentially high-permeability intrusions that may act as  
71 either reservoirs (e.g. Reeckmann and Mebberson, 1988; Smallwood and Maresh, 2002;  
72 Schutter, 2003; Rohrmann, 2007; Witte et al., 2012; Magee et al., 2013; Egbeni et al., 2014;  
73 Bischoff et al., 2017), or as conduits that allow hydrocarbons to migrate from source rocks to  
74 reservoir rocks (e.g. Rateau et al., 2013; Rodriguez Monreal et al., 2009); (iii) driving the

75 development of reservoir in surrounding host rock (e.g. by dolomitization; see Jacquemyn et  
76 al., 2014); or (iv) forming low-permeability seals (e.g. Schutter, 2003; Rodriguez Monreal et  
77 al., 2009). Despite being ubiquitous along petroliferous continental margins, there are  
78 surprisingly few studies detailing the impact breakup-related magmatism can have on  
79 petroleum systems development (see Schutter, 2003 and Rohrman, 2007 for general reviews).  
80 We therefore have a limited conceptual framework within which to risk prospects and devise  
81 development plans in volcanically influenced basins.

82 To help improve our understanding of how breakup-related magmatism impacts  
83 petroleum systems development along continental margins, we here provide a detailed ‘post-  
84 mortem’ of exploration borehole 5/22-1, which tested the Errigal prospect, NE Rockall Basin  
85 (PEL 6/97), offshore western Ireland (Fig. 1). This borehole was drilled by Enterprise Energy  
86 Island Ltd and partners in 2001, targeting a large (c. 70 km<sup>2</sup>) dome (i.e. four-way dip closure)  
87 situated c. 42 km NNW of the Dooish discovery (12/2-1), which was drilled in 2003 and  
88 represents the first commercial hydrocarbon discovery in the NE Rockall Basin (Figs 1 and 2).  
89 Borehole 5/22-1 took 26 days to drill to a total depth of 4070 m, in water depths >1500 m. The  
90 primary and secondary objectives were Upper and Lower Paleocene deep-water sandstones,  
91 respectively, sealed by latest Paleocene and Eocene shales (Fig. 1C). The prognosed trap and  
92 reservoir are underlain by an extensive, breakup-related, igneous sill-complex primarily  
93 intruded into Cretaceous strata (Figs 2 and 3) (Magee et al., 2014). Oil was predicted to be the  
94 main hydrocarbon phase, sourced from Lower Jurassic (pre-rift) or Upper Jurassic (syn-rift)  
95 marine mudstone. The well reached Upper Cretaceous rocks (Figs 1C and 2) and, despite  
96 penetrating a sandstone-bearing Eocene and Paleocene sequence, was plugged and abandoned  
97 as a dry hole, with only very minor traces of hydrocarbons being recorded in the target interval.

98 Although the failure of Errigal seemingly cast doubt on the prospectivity of this play  
99 type in at least this particular part of the NE Rockall Basin, data acquired during drilling provide  
100 an excellent opportunity to assess the role breakup magmatism had on petroleum systems  
101 development in this and possibly other volcanically influenced basins. We begin by briefly  
102 summarizing the tectono-magmatic and petroleum systems framework of the NE Rockall  
103 Basin, before using 3D seismic reflection and borehole data to constrain the structural and  
104 magmatic context of Errigal. We place particular emphasis on the origin and timing of the trap,  
105 and how this relates to breakup magmatism. We then use a range of predominantly pre-2004,  
106 now-released data, generously provided by the Department of Communications, Energy and  
107 Natural Resources (Petroleum Affairs Division), Ireland to: (i) describe and interpret spatial  
108 and temporal changes in the thickness and quality of the main Paleocene reservoir target (e.g.  
109 via final well reports, petrographic analysis); and (ii) constrain the paleothermometric evolution  
110 via fluid inclusion microthermometry (FI), vitrinite reflectance (VR) and apatite fission track  
111 analysis (AFTA) data of the basin, with a view to how this might relate to the inferred magmatic

112 events and the observed reservoir quality. In addition to improving our understanding of  
113 petroleum systems development along the deep-water margin of western Ireland, the results of  
114 our study can also help us better understand the challenges associated similar prospects  
115 identified in other volcanically influenced basins.

116

## 117 **GEOLOGICAL SETTING AND PETROLEUM SYSTEM ELEMENTS**

118

119 The Rockall Basin is located along the NE Atlantic continental margin (Fig. 1). It is one of  
120 several deepwater (i.e. water depth of up to 1800 m) rifts that formed during initial opening of  
121 the North Atlantic (e.g. Doré et al. 1999; Naylor & Shannon 2005; Hansen et al. 2009). The  
122 earliest phase of breakup related extension occurred in the Permo-Triassic ('syn-rift I' of Magee  
123 et al., 2014; Figs 1C and 2), with a second phase of extension occurring in the Late Jurassic  
124 ('syn-rift II' of Magee et al., 2014; Figs 1C and 2) (e.g. Doré et al. 1999; Naylor & Shannon  
125 2005; Tyrell et al. 2010). Crustal extension and fault-driven subsidence instigated a relative rise  
126 in sea-level and basin deepening, resulting in the deposition of a marginal-to-deep marine syn-  
127 rift succession, which is capped by a seismically mappable Hauterivian horizon (KH; Fig. 2)  
128 (e.g. Doré et al. 1999; Tyrell et al. 2010). Upper Jurassic marine shales were deposited during  
129 this transgression.

130         Northwards propagation of North Atlantic seafloor spreading during the late Early  
131 Cretaceous (Aptian-to-Albian) led to NW-SE-oriented extension and a third phase of rifting in  
132 the Rockall Basin (Doré et al. 1999). A deep marine, mudstone-dominated succession was  
133 deposited during this period of Early Cretaceous stretching ('syn-rift III' of Magee et al., 2014;  
134 Figs 1C and 2) (Naylor & Shannon 2005). Early Cretaceous extension was superseded by Late  
135 Cretaceous-to-Paleogene post-rift thermal subsidence; during this time, the deposition of deep-  
136 marine mudstones was intermittently interrupted in the Paleocene and Eocene by deposition of  
137 deep-water sandstones derived from a volcanic terrain that formed during the preceding period  
138 of breakup-related magmatism (see also Naylor & Shannon 2005; Haughton et al. 2005).

139         Paleocene deep-water sandstones and Eocene claystones represented the prognosed  
140 reservoir and seal, respectively, for the Errigal prospect. Upper Jurassic marine shales, in  
141 addition to underlying Carboniferous coals, represent two of the key source rocks in the Rockall  
142 Basin. The discovery of the Dooish gas condensate accumulation (c. 69 MMBOE), which  
143 contains a Mesozoic (Triassic-to-Middle-Jurassic), marginal marine-to-shallow marine  
144 sandstone located in a normal fault-bound, Late Jurassic rift-related structural trap,  
145 demonstrates the presence of a working petroleum system within the NE Rockall Basin (Fig.  
146 1C and 2).

147

## 148 **BREAKUP RELATED MAGMATISM AND ASSOCIATED DEFORMATION**



149

150 Late Cretaceous-to-Early Eocene, breakup-related magmatism is common along the NE  
151 Atlantic Margin, manifesting as flood basalt lava flows, sill-complexes and volcanic centers  
152 (North Atlantic Igneous Province; Fig. 1A). The products of this magmatism have been  
153 identified and described using seismic reflection and borehole data from the North Rockall  
154 (Thomson & Hutton, 2004; Archer et al. 2005) and Irish Rockall basins (Fernandes, 2011;  
155 Magee et al., 2014). Igneous intrusions, in particular sills, are particularly common in the NE  
156 Irish Rockall Basin, being expressed in seismic reflection data as very high amplitude, typically  
157 strata-discordant reflections (Fig. 2) (Magee et al., 2014). The presence of intrusive igneous  
158 material in the NE Rockall Basin is confirmed by well 12/2-1, which penetrates a *c.* 14 m thick  
159 dolerite sill in Upper Paleocene mudstones overlying the Dooish discovery (e.g. Figs 1C and  
160 4).

161 An extensive network of large, interconnected, saucer-shaped and inclined sills, which  
162 individually are up to 12.4 km long and cross-cut 1.8 km of stratigraphy, are developed north  
163 of Dooish (Fig. 2) (Magee et al., 2014). These intrusions are most densely stacked directly  
164 beneath the dome drilled by 5/22-1 and are largely hosted within Upper Cretaceous mudstone,  
165 although a few extend upwards into the Paleocene succession (Fig. 5). Based on the fact that  
166 sills are most densely stacked below the dome apex, and the observation that the Paleocene to  
167 Lower Eocene succession onlaps onto and thins across the dome (Figs 2 and 5), Magee et al.  
168 (2014) argue the dome represents a ‘forced fold’ that formed to accommodate incremental  
169 emplacement of magma over a *ca.* 15 Myr period during the Paleocene to Eocene. Thus, in  
170 common with many other volcanically influenced continental margins, the main period of  
171 magmatism in the NE Rockall Basin was broadly coeval with the acme of Late Cretaceous-to-  
172 Early Eocene continental breakup (Fig. 1C).

173

## 174 **DATASET**

175

176 Our dataset comprises: (i) digital seismic reflection and borehole data, much of which was  
177 presented by Magee et al. (2014) in their study of the tectono-magmatic history of the NE  
178 Rockall Basin; and (ii) ‘analogue’ data derived from now-released reports detailing previously  
179 confidential analyses undertaken immediately after drilling of 5/22-1 (Errigal) in 2001 and  
180 12/2-1 (Dooish) in 2003 (see Supplemental Items 1-6, which are available upon request from  
181 the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (Petroleum Affairs  
182 Division), Ireland via <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx>).

184

## 185 **Seismic reflection data**

186

187 The seismic dataset comprises a zero-phase, time-migrated, 3D seismic reflection survey that  
188 covers 2400 km<sup>2</sup>. Inline (N-S) and crossline (E-W) spacing are 12.5 m (Fig. 1B). These data  
189 are displayed with a normal polarity, whereby a downward increase and decrease in acoustic  
190 impedance corresponds to a positive (red) and negative (blue) reflection, respectively (Fig. 2).  
191 We mapped four horizons: (i) Top Hauterivian (KH) (intra-syn rift III); (ii) Top Cretaceous (K)  
192 (near base reservoir); (iii) Top Paleocene (P) (near top reservoir); and (iv) Top Lower Eocene  
193 (E) (intra-post rift). Where data quality allows, we locally define and map an additional seismic  
194 horizon that corresponds to the intra-Cenomanian (KC) and likely demarcates the boundary  
195 between syn-rift III and younger post-rift rocks (Fig. 2). Interval velocities of 2250 m s<sup>-1</sup> (seabed  
196 to E), 3220 m s<sup>-1</sup> (E to K), and 4000 m s<sup>-1</sup> (below K) were also calculated from the well data.  
197 Given that the dominant seismic frequency is *c.* 25 Hz in the stratigraphic interval of interest,  
198 interval velocities of 3220–4000 m s<sup>-1</sup> suggest that the vertical resolution of the seismic data  
199 ranges from *c.* 32–40 m for the host rock succession (see Magee et al., 2014).

200

#### 201 **Borehole data**

202

203 We use data from two boreholes (5/22-1; Errigal, and 12/2-1; Dooish) to constrain the age and  
204 lithology of the seismically mapped stratigraphic units (Figs 2 and 5). Both boreholes contain  
205 a full suite of well-log data, including gamma-ray (GR), density (RHOB), and velocity (DT)  
206 logs. A final well report was available for 5/22-1 (Supplemental Item 1), whereas composite  
207 logs (Supplemental items 2 and 6) and cuttings data (see information provided in Supplemental  
208 items 1, 2 and 6) were available for 5/22-1 and 12/2-1.

209

#### 210 **Petrographic data**

211

212 Thin section descriptions and SEM analyses are provided in Supplementary Item 1.

213

#### 214 **Paleothermometric data**

215

216 Paleothermometric data are provided in the form of several reports documenting the methods  
217 and analyses undertaken by the operator company and contractors soon after completion of the  
218 5/22-1 (Errigal) in 2001. The paleothermometric analysis presented here includes the results of  
219 fluid inclusion microthermometric (Supplementary Item 3), and vitrinite reflection (VR) and  
220 apatite fission track (AFTA) analysis (Supplementary Item 4).

221

222 **PALEOCENE RESERVOIR DISTRIBUTION, QUALITY AND PROVENANCE**

223

224 Boreholes 5/22-1 (Errigal) and 12/2-1 (Dooish) encountered Upper Paleocene and Eocene  
225 deep-water sandstones (Fig. 4; see also Supplementary items 1-3). We here describe and  
226 interpret the distribution and quality, and infer the possible provenance of the Upper Paleocene  
227 sandstones.

228

## 229 **Errigal**

230

231 *Description.* 5/22-1 penetrated two deep-water turbidite sandstone-bearing intervals (Upper  
232 Paleocene 1 and 2) in the primary, Upper Paleocene objective; no sandstones were developed  
233 in the secondary, Lower Paleocene objective (Fig. 4; see also Supplementary items 1 and 2).

234 The upper sandstone-bearing interval (3505-3619 m; labelled 'Pal. 1' in Fig. 4) is c.  
235 114 m thick and contains 1-4 m thick beds of generally well-sorted, subangular-to-subrounded,  
236 very fine-to-locally medium-grained volcanoclastic sandstones that contain "mafic" and "FeMg  
237 grains" (Fig. 6A and B; see also Supplementary items 1 and 2). Petrophysical analysis of the  
238 upper interval, using a Vcl cut-off of 50% (i.e. Vcl >50% is non-net) and a 10% porosity cut-  
239 off for net-sand, indicates that the net sand content (1.4 m) and net-to-gross (N:G) (<1%) of the  
240 upper interval is very low (Supplementary Items 1 and 2; see also Fig. 4). Thin section (Fig.  
241 6B) and SEM analysis (Supplementary Item 1) reveals that chlorite and chlorite smectite (46%  
242 of the bulk rock volume), smectite and zeolites (analcime; 18% of the bulk rock volume) are  
243 the main cement phases, filling pores and clogging pore throats. Pyrite, gypsum and small  
244 amounts of carbonate and authigenic feldspar are also observed, in addition to volcanic glass  
245 fragments and tuffaceous material. Authigenic quartz is lacking, reflecting the lack of primary  
246 detrital quartz or inhibition of quartz precipitation due to the presence of chlorites  
247 (Supplementary items 1 and 2). Despite locally having a relatively high porosity (21%),  
248 reservoir quality in the upper interval is rather poor, with porosity being dominated by  
249 intercrystalline and grain dissolution-related microporosity (Supplementary Item 1).

250 The lower sandstone-bearing interval (3619-3930 m; labelled 'Pal. 2' in Fig. 4) is c.  
251 311 m thick and contains scattered, generally thinner (<4 m and more commonly 1-2 m thick),  
252 volcanoclastic sandstones, of similar composition to the upper interval (see also Supplementary  
253 items 1 and 2). However, towards its base, this interval contains two c. 5 m thick, quartzose-  
254 feldspathic sandstones (3916-3926 m; Fig. 4). These sandstones are fine-to-medium-grained  
255 and moderately sorted, with individual grains being subangular. Thin-section (Fig. 6C) and  
256 SEM (Supplementary Item 1) analysis indicate that the quartzose-feldspathic sandstones have  
257 distinctly different cement phases and porosity systems to the immediately overlying  
258 sandstones or those within Upper Paleocene 1. First, they lack pore-filling and pore throat-  
259 bridging chlorite, chlorite smectite and zeolite, instead containing relatively limited amounts of

260 illite and kaolinite, in addition to some carbonate cements (Fig. 6C); volcanic glass fragments  
261 are also absent. Second, well-connected interparticle macroporosity, instead of poorly  
262 developed intercrystalline and grain dissolution-related microporosity, is present in these  
263 sandstones (cf. Figs 6B and C; see also Supplementary Item 1). Petrophysical analysis of the  
264 entire lower interval, using the same criteria as the upper interval, indicates that the net sand  
265 content (8.1 m) and net-to-gross (N:G) (c. 3%) is very low (see Fig. 4), although the porosity  
266 of the basal quartzose-feldspathic sandstones is generally quite good (up to 16%)  
267 (Supplementary Item 1).

268

269 *Interpretation.* The volcanic sandstones and quartzose-feldspathic sandstones described above  
270 are petrologically distinct (Fig. 6). We interpret that the clay-rich nature of the volcanic  
271 sandstones dominating the Upper Paleocene succession likely reflects diagenetic degradation  
272 of the abundant volcanic grains forming the bulk of the primary depositional unit (Primmer et  
273 al, 1997). The volcanic clast- and volcanic glass-rich nature of these sandstones suggests that  
274 they were sourced from an onshore volcanic terrain dominated by basaltic igneous rocks, most  
275 likely within the British and Irish Paleogene Igneous Province, elements of which lay to the  
276 north of the NE Rockall Basin (Fig. 1A). In contrast to the volcanic terrain-derived sandstones,  
277 the quartzose-feldspathic composition of the sandstones at the base of Paleocene 2 is more  
278 consistent with derivation from a meta-sedimentary source area. We can interpret these  
279 compositional differences in one of two ways: (i) the sandstones were sourced from different  
280 locations; i.e. the majority of the sandstones were derived from a regionally extensive, volcanic  
281 source area, whereas the basal, quartzose-feldspathic sandstones were derived from a more  
282 local, meta-sedimentary source area; or (ii) the amount of contemporary volcanism changed  
283 through time; i.e. the basal, quartzose-feldspathic sandstones were deposited prior to  
284 emplacement of the widespread volcanic terrain that now dominates the northern basin margin,  
285 whereas most sandstones was deposited during later, and after widespread volcanism.

286

## 287 **Dooish**

288

289 *Description.* Because the Triassic and Jurassic, rather than Paleocene succession was the target  
290 of the well 12/2-1, only a completion log is available for the latter (Supplementary Item 5).  
291 These data indicate that the >500 m thick Upper Paleocene succession is mudstone-dominated;  
292 however, in its lower c. 150 m, it contains several 1.5-12 m thick sandstone beds in an overall  
293 silty, relatively low N:G interval (c. 20%) (Fig. 4; see also Supplementary Item 5). Texturally,  
294 these sandstones are fine-to-coarse-grained, angular to subrounded, and very well-sorted;  
295 compositionally they are composed of quartz, volcanic lithics and volcanic glass  
296 (Supplementary Item 5), similar to volcanic sandstone described in 5/22-1. In the upper part of

297 the Upper Paleocene succession, a few 1-3 m thick beds of medium-to-coarse-grained, very  
298 well-sorted, subangular-to-subrounded sandstones occur (Fig. 4; see also Supplementary Item  
299 5). These sandstones are compositionally very different to those encountered lower in the  
300 succession, being quartz-rich and lacking volcanic lithics or volcanic glass, similar to  
301 quartzose-feldspathic beds at the base of 5/22-1.

302

303 *Interpretation.* The Upper Paleocene succession encountered in 12/2-1 is markedly different to  
304 that in 5/22-1; i.e. quartzose sandstones occur near its base in 5/22-1 but near its top in 12/2-1,  
305 whereas volcanoclastic sandstones occur near its top in 5/22-1 but near its base in 12/2-1 (Fig.  
306 4). The reason for this variability is unclear, although it might point to temporal and spatial  
307 changes in the provenance of the Paleocene deep-water sandstones, with time-equivalent sands  
308 being sourced from either a meta-sedimentary or a volcanic source area (see discussion above).  
309 However, due to a lack of biostratigraphic data we are unable to directly correlate Upper  
310 Paleocene sandstones between 5/22-1 and 12/2-1, and because the sandstones are relatively thin  
311 (<5 m) we are unable to directly map them in seismic reflection data. Nonetheless, seismic data  
312 clearly indicate that the Paleocene interval thins across the Errigal forced fold (see Magee et  
313 al., 2014), suggesting the structure grew during and may thus have influenced reservoir  
314 deposition (Smallwood & Maresh, 2002; Egbeni et al., 2014).

315

## 316 **THERMAL HISTORY**

317

318 Only traces of hydrocarbons are reported in 5/22-1, with the main Upper Paleocene sandstone-  
319 bearing intervals being water-wet (Supplementary items 1 and 6). However, dead oil was noted  
320 in intervening siltstones, which, along with the relatively nearby Dooish discovery, clearly  
321 indicates the presence of a working petroleum system in the NE Rockall Basin. As a corollary,  
322 these observations imply that source rocks are present in the basin, and that the thermal history  
323 of the basin led to maturation of these source rocks (see below). Given the basins tectono-  
324 stratigraphic development, its thermal history likely reflects: (i) regional (i.e. basin-scale)  
325 heating due to rifting; (ii) regional cooling due to post-rift shortening and uplift; and (iii) local  
326 heating driven by the emplacement of igneous intrusions, some of which extend upwards into  
327 the reservoir-bearing Paleocene succession (Fig. 2). It is likely that the former drove source  
328 rock maturation of Carboniferous coals for Dooish, which, although overlain by a single, 15 m  
329 thick intrusion, does not appear spatially related to a very large intrusion complex, unlike  
330 Errigal (Fig. 2). However, a key question is whether the latter (i.e. local intrusion-induced  
331 heating) was responsible for the poor reservoir quality observed within the Upper Paleocene  
332 succession in Errigal. More specifically, did contact metamorphism and/or intrusion-induced  
333 fluid circulation result in the degradation of volcanic grain assemblages, the clogging of pore

334 space, blocking of pore throats and therefore the overall poor reservoir quality? To try and  
335 answer this question we examine fluid inclusion microthermometry (FI), vitrinite reflectance  
336 (VR) and apatite fission track analysis (AFTA) data obtained from sidewall core samples from  
337 the reservoir-bearing, Upper Paleocene succession (Supplementary items 3 and 4, which are  
338 synthesized in Figs 7-9). Taken together, data from these analyses could, at least conceptually,  
339 help determine the timing and magnitude of elevated palaeotemperatures that had been  
340 experienced by the reservoir. In this regard, we are particularly interested in whether  
341 emplacement of Paleocene-to-Early Eocene sills in Upper Cretaceous mudstones (Fig. 2),  
342 which was broadly coeval with but continued until after reservoir deposition, left a FI and/or  
343 VR or AFTA 'signal' in the reservoir-bearing, supra-sill succession.

344

### 345 **Fluid Inclusion Microthermometry and fluorescence petrography**

346

347 Microthermometry and fluorescence petrography was performed on fluid inclusions by the  
348 operator on samples from 12 sidewall cores taken from the Paleocene succession (Fig. 7; see  
349 also Supplementary Item 3). The aims of these analyses were two-fold: (i) to determine if  
350 chlorite-related cements in the upper sandstones were hydrothermal in origin or the product of  
351 low-temperature diagenesis; and (ii) to investigate if fluid inclusions contained any evidence  
352 for hydrocarbon migration into and subsequently out of the mapped structural closure.

353

354 *Results.* Primary aqueous fluid inclusions were found in analcime cement and authigenic  
355 quartz. The majority (91%; 31 of 34) of analcime-hosted primary inclusions were monophasic,  
356 indicating formation below 60°C. However, some two-phase inclusions (9%, 3 of 34) are  
357 present that exhibit homogenization temperatures of 108°C to 119°C. (Fig. 7). Homogenisation  
358 temperatures recorded in primary inclusions of quartz overgrowths in the lowermost sandstones  
359 (3916 and 3925 m) range from 66°C to 82°C. Salinity of all primary inclusions is brackish (1.1-  
360 2.3% NaCl eq.) to low (0.1-0.5% NaCl eq.) for analcime and authigenic quartz, respectively.

361

362 *Interpretation.* Given that the present bottom hole temperature is 76°C, and based on the  
363 assumption that the rocks are, at present, at their maximum burial depth, most homogenization  
364 temperatures indicate trapping and/or resetting at temperatures consistent with their present  
365 burial depth. Some elevated homogenization temperatures suggest local resetting during a  
366 transient episode of elevated temperatures, likely related to a very brief period of localised hot  
367 fluid flow (see Supplementary items 3 and 4). This interpretation is supported by the  
368 observation that the majority of samples show no evidence for these locally elevated  
369 temperatures, and that generally low salinity indicates a fresh water influence in the diagenetic  
370 fluids. In an exclusively marine sequence, this fresh water component is either expelled from

371 non-marine sequences or the result of hydrous phases undergoing diagenesis. Chloritization or  
372 illitization of smectite lead to total loss of sodium and would thus increase formation water  
373 salinity (McKinley et al, 2003). Therefore, input from an external fresh water source is more  
374 likely to cause the observed salinity reduction.

375 One healed microfracture in a quartz grain contained petroleum- and associated water-  
376 bearing fluid inclusions (Supplementary Item 3). Precipitation and trapping occurred at higher  
377 temperatures (120-125°C) from a more saline (3.4% NaCl eq.) fluid than the observed analcime  
378 and authigenic quartz. Given the microfracture is present within a detrital grain, and that it  
379 contains evidence for a greatly different, more specifically warmer thermal history than other  
380 primary inclusions, we interpret that the microfracture contains inclusions trapping water  
381 transported with its host grain (i.e. the fluid was not trapped *in situ* but was rather ‘inherited’  
382 from the grain source area; it does not therefore record the burial-related history of the  
383 sedimentary succession penetrated by 5/22-1).

384

### 385 **Vitrinite Reflectance (VR)**

386

387 *Results.* Vitrinite Reflectance was analysed for 26 cutting samples. Confidence levels for  
388 individual determinations is moderate to low, but no significant difference exist between the  
389 most and least reliable results. Despite confidence levels and scatter around the overall trend,  
390 comparison to AFTA results suggests a reliable VR assessment of maturity levels  
391 (Supplementary item 4). Reflectance values vary from 0.27% to 0.48%, corresponding to  
392 temperatures of <50C to 80°C (Fig. 8). Temperatures values increase, possibly non-linearly,  
393 with depth. The maturity of all samples, except for second shallowest sample at 0.27%, are  
394 higher than the calculated default thermal history (Supplementary item 4), determined by  
395 combining samples’ burial history with present-day thermal gradient of 26.5°C/km.

396

397 *Interpretation.* VR maturity indicates that the sampled units have experienced hotter  
398 temperatures than their present-day temperatures. This temperature differential is on average  
399 20°C higher. Due to scatter of the data, the non-linear trend of temperatures cannot be  
400 considered with confidence and could be confirmed or rejected by further detailed analyses.  
401 Non-linear temperature trend could indicate localized heating effect as a result of hot fluid  
402 movement or intrusive bodies.

403

### 404 **Apatite Fission Track Analysis (AFTA)**

405

406 *Results.* AFTA was performed on seven cutting samples (Supplementary item 4). In general,  
407 the high apatite yields and results are deemed to be of very high quality, providing reliable

408 constraints on thermal history. Results are shown in Fig. 9. Apatites from all samples contain a  
409 large proportion of fission tracks formed prior to deposition. This will impact thermal history  
410 interpretation. For one of the samples, collected between 3575 and 3800 m, the mean length is  
411 1.4  $\mu\text{m}$  shorter than predicted, and cannot be explained as being inherited from the sediment  
412 source. Therefore this short mean length must represent the effects of higher temperatures after  
413 deposition. Lack of significant age reduction suggests heating was only moderate. In five out  
414 of 7 samples, fission track length is  $\sim 1.4\text{-}2$   $\mu\text{m}$  shorter than what is expected from default  
415 thermal history. This can be explained by either inherited signal from the sediment source  
416 terrain, or by the effect of elevated paleotemperatures after deposition or a combination of both.  
417 Maximum paleotemperatures would be between  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $45^{\circ}\text{C}$  above the present  
418 temperatures. For one sample only two track lengths were measured, and cannot be used to  
419 assess its thermal history.

420

421 *Interpretation.* Data from AFTA and VR give very consistent results. One AFTA sample  
422 unequivocally indicates it has cooled from temperatures around  $80\text{-}100^{\circ}\text{C}$ , prior to 10Ma.  
423 Overall the combination of AFTA and VR analyses suggest the onset of cooling of the studied  
424 samples from paleotemperatures  $15\text{-}30^{\circ}\text{C}$  above the present-day temperature sometime  
425 between 40 and 10Ma (conservative estimate).

426

## 427 **DISCUSSION**

428

### 429 **Forced folds as hydrocarbon traps**

430

431 The trap targeted by 5/22-1 is a forced fold, formed due to forcible emplacement of magma  
432 within an igneous sill-complex (Magee et al., 2014). Although this borehole was unsuccessful,  
433 similar structures have been targeted in other volcanically influenced basins, with varying  
434 degrees of success. For example, in 1983, exploration well Perindi-1, which is located in the  
435 NW Canning Basin, offshore NW Australia targeted one of several, relatively small ( $3\text{-}16$   $\text{km}^2$   
436 in areal extent; vertical closures of up to 120 m) forced folds developed above a suite of Permian  
437 saucer-shaped sills (Reeckmann and Mebberson, 1984). Although the well penetrated thick (i.e.  
438 several hundred meters), high-quality ( $>25\%$  porosity) reservoirs, capped by a thick (50-90 m),  
439 the borehole was dry. However, the presence of oil shows indicates a working petroleum  
440 system, suggesting hydrocarbons migrated into and out of the structure. Reeckmann and  
441 Mebberson (1984) speculate Perindi-1 failed due to breaching of the seal by and loss of  
442 hydrocarbons along numerous normal faults developed at the dome crest. Because they are  
443 spatially restricted to the dome crest and because they die-out downwards, we infer that these  
444 faults formed due to outer-arc stretching of the fold during sill emplacement (cf. Hansen and



445 Cartwright, 2006; Magee et al., 2013; Magee et al., 2017). Sill emplacement may, therefore,  
446 drive growth of relatively large and therefore attractive forced fold-related traps, although a key  
447 risk is seal breaching by outer-arc stretching-related normal faults.

448 The Wichian Buri oil field, Phetchabun Basin, Thailand is an excellent example of a  
449 hydrocarbon accumulation associated with the emplacement of igneous rocks. In this location,  
450 emplacement of a dolerite laccolith caused forced folding of a lacustrine-fluvial clastic  
451 succession and formation of a large trap (Schutter, 2003 and references therein). Emplacement  
452 of a ‘parasitic’ intrusion, that was sourced from and which overlies the lower, main laccolith,  
453 forms the top seal to the accumulation. Hydrocarbons also occur within the intrusions  
454 themselves, presumably within emplacement-related fractures, with estimated recoverable  
455 reserves thought to be *c.* 30 MMbbl (Schutter, 2003). Wichian Buri is also notable in that  
456 emplacement of the laccolith is thought to be responsible for local maturation of otherwise  
457 immature source rocks. A similar situation arises in the Altiplanicie del Payún area of the  
458 Neuquen Basin, Argentina where otherwise immature source rock sections are intruded by a  
459 series of Tertiary laccoliths that are up to 600 m thick. The intruded clastic and carbonate rocks,  
460 in addition to the fractured igneous intrusions themselves, contain commercial oil  
461 accumulations (20–33°API) (Rodriguez Monreal et al., 2009). These examples highlight that  
462 sill emplacement and forced folding can generate viable hydrocarbon traps (Schmeidal et al.,  
463 2017).

464 In addition, it should be noted that uplift generated to accommodate the emplacement  
465 of an entire sill-complex can result in the amalgamation of forced folds, producing broad four-  
466 way dip closures that have greater amplitudes than individual forced folds developed above  
467 single intrusions (Magee et al., 2014). For example, whilst 5/22-1 targeted a *c.* 70 km<sup>2</sup> four-  
468 way dip closure (i.e. a forced fold), the structure forms part of a much broader area of uplift,  
469 termed a ‘compound fold’, which covers *c.* 224 km<sup>2</sup> and has a maximum amplitude of *c.* 385  
470 m (Magee et al., 2014).

471

#### 472 **Why did Errigal fail?**

473

474 No direct geochemical assessment of potential source rock intervals was undertaken in 5/22-1  
475 and no significant oil shows were discovered, although traces were reported at 3420 m (Lower  
476 Eocene), 3690 m (Upper Paleocene) and 3900 m (Lower Paleocene) (Supplementary Item 6).  
477 However, based on a combination of spore fluorescence colors established during VR analysis,  
478 and despite the majority of the post-Cretaceous mudstones being determined to be no more than  
479 early mature (<0.6% *R*<sub>o</sub>), extrapolation of this trend suggests Lower Paleocene and older strata  
480 may be just entering the oil window. Headspace and cuttings gas data provide only weak  
481 evidence for migrated hydrocarbons in the deeper, Cretaceous-to-Paleocene succession, in the

482 form of thermogenic, relatively dry gas (Supplementary Item 6). In summary, high-quality  
483 source rocks are likely absent in the rather shallowly buried, largely post-Cretaceous  
484 succession, although there is some evidence that mature gas- and potentially oil-generating  
485 source rocks are present in the rift basin underlying Errigal. As such, it is not yet clear if 5/22-  
486 1 failed due to lack of source rock.

487 Although volcanoclastic deep-water sandstones are of generally poor-quality  
488 throughout the mudstone-dominated Upper Paleocene succession, thin intervals of good-  
489 quality reservoir occur (Fig. 4). As such, we do not consider that Errigal failed due to lack of  
490 reservoir. Despite seismic data presenting evidence for the direct, albeit only local juxtaposition  
491 of igneous sills and Upper Paleocene reservoirs, paleothermometric and mineralogical data,  
492 more specifically the smectite rather than illite-dominated nature of the preserved clays, do not  
493 present conclusive, evidence for widespread elevated paleotemperatures coeval with intrusion  
494 emplacement. Despite being based on different sample spacing within different parts of the  
495 Paleocene, paleothermometric data all suggest that, at some point in the past and to varying  
496 degrees, this succession experienced temperatures higher than encountered at present. This  
497 suggests that Paleocene-to-Early Eocene sill emplacement in Upper Cretaceous mudstones,  
498 predominantly below but locally at the same stratigraphic level as the reservoir intervals, did  
499 not trigger the initiation of a hydrothermal system in the Paleocene succession, or at least a  
500 system that was of sufficient areal extent and/or magnitude (in terms of maximum temperature)  
501 to be detected by any of the analytical techniques on the available samples as outlined above.  
502 An alternative interpretation is that the sill-induced hydrothermal system was hydraulically  
503 isolated and thus failed to connect to all reservoir intervals; this may account for the very rare  
504 occurrence of samples with evidence for relatively high temperatures and low salinities (Fig.  
505 7). The Late Eocene timing of some elevated paleotemperatures inferred from AFTA data  
506 could, at least conceivably, partly overlap with the absolute latest phase of sill emplacement  
507 (Magee et al., 2014). Our interpretation that sill emplacement did not lead to establishment of  
508 a major hydrothermal system means that magma emplacement similarly did not play a role in  
509 the degradation of reservoir quality in the Upper Paleocene sandstones. From this we can infer  
510 that the poor-quality reservoir encountered in the well 5/22-1 was instead provenance- and  
511 diagenesis-controlled, occurring as a direct result of the volcanoclastic-dominated nature of the  
512 primary sediment. Low-salinity inclusions suggest input of low salinity fluids, either of  
513 meteoric origin or potentially from metamorphic fluids (Yardley & Graham, 2002) related to  
514 sill intrusion.

515 As we discussed above, intrusion-induced forced folds can be deformed by normal  
516 faults (Hansen & Cartwright, 2006; Magee et al., 2013; 2017), which may facilitate vertical  
517 leakage of hydrocarbons from otherwise valid traps (Reeckmann & Mebberson, 1984). Our  
518 seismic data present limited evidence for the widespread development of seismic-scale normal

519 faults across the Errigal dome (Fig. 2). This implies outer-arc stretching-induced normal  
520 faulting probably did not cause the Errigal borehole to fail. Our interpretation is supported by  
521 the observation that one tentative hydrocarbon show was detected within the Errigal structure,  
522 implying hydrocarbons did not migrate into and then out of the trap; this contrasts with the  
523 Perindi borehole, offshore NW Australia described above (Reeckmann & Mebberson, 1984).

524 The Errigal trap is underlain by and genetically related to a geometrically complex,  
525 areally extensive network of largely interconnected sills (Fig. 2). In addition to our 82  
526 seismically resolved and mapped sills, it is likely that additional, sub-seismic sills, in addition  
527 to sub-vertical and thus poorly imaged dykes, are present. Although we cannot constrain the  
528 permeability of individual sills or the sill-complex as a whole, and despite recent evidence that  
529 intrusions may be permeable to at least gas if not oil, due to the presence of cooling-induced  
530 fractures, it is likely that the bulk permeability of the sub-reservoir sill-complex is relatively  
531 low, especially when also considering potential contact metamorphism within surrounding  
532 Cretaceous mudstone. We therefore suggest that hydrocarbons expelled from pre-Cretaceous  
533 source rocks, and which filled the Dooish accumulation only *c.* 42 km to the south, were unable  
534 to migrate into the Errigal trap due to the baffling effects of the heavily intruded Cretaceous  
535 succession. These hydrocarbons may then have been diverted southwards, up structural dip,  
536 towards the fault-block trap penetrated by 12/2-1 (Dooish) (Fig. 2).

537

### 538 **How might breakup-related magmatism influence future prospectivity in the NE Irish** 539 **Rockall Basin?**

540

541 Breakup-related magmatism in the NE Rockall Basin appears to have positively and negatively  
542 impacted on petroleum system development in this frontier basin. For example, emplacement  
543 of the igneous sill-complex drove Late Paleocene-to-Eocene growth of a dome-shaped forced  
544 fold, which represents a large, attractive, four-way dip closure (Fig. 5A). However, the  
545 extensive, largely impermeable sill-complex (Fig. 2) may have impeded vertical migration of  
546 hydrocarbons from deeper, pre-Cretaceous source rocks into shallower Paleocene reservoirs  
547 intervals. Furthermore, poor-quality reservoir within the target Paleocene interval (Fig. 6A and  
548 B) reflects sandstone derivation from a breakup-related volcanic source terrain that was  
549 genetically related to the offshore sill-complex.

550 Although Errigal failed, data collected during drilling are very useful, indicating  
551 reservoir-quality deep-water sandstones were at least locally deposited in the region during the  
552 Late Paleocene and Eocene, and that the Upper Paleocene, reservoir-bearing succession is  
553 capped by a thick, post-Eocene seal (Figs 1C and 4). As such, we consider that the post-  
554 Cretaceous succession of the NE Rockall Basin remains prospective. For example, although  
555 the intrusion-induced structural trap failed, additional prospectivity may remain in stratigraphic

556 traps on the forced fold limbs. Intrusion-induced forced folding can drive syn-depositional  
557 deformation of the seabed, causing deflection and controlling the routing of sediment gravity-  
558 currents (Smallwood and Maresh, 2002; Egbeni et al., 2014). Turbidites may thin and onlap  
559 towards, and thus be absent at, the fold crest, a stratigraphic architecture that provides the  
560 opportunity for the development of stratigraphic traps. Charging such traps remains challenging  
561 due to the presence of the underlying, largely impermeable sill-complex, which may act to  
562 divert ascending hydrocarbons away from overlying traps.

563

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568

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702

703 **Figure captions**

704

705 **Fig. 1.** Fig. 1. (A) Location map of the Irish Rockall Basin (IRB) highlighting the distribution  
706 of igneous intrusions and extrusions (offshore central complexes, red circles; onshore central  
707 complexes and lavas, green ornament; offshore lavas, light grey ornament; seaward-dipping  
708 reflectors, dark grey ornament; hydrothermal vents, black triangles) associated with the North  
709 Atlantic Igneous Province (modified from Emeleus & Bell, 2005; Hansen, 2006). The  
710 bathymetric contours (grey lines; spacing=500 m) delineate the boundaries of the Northern  
711 Rockall Basin (NRB), Porcupine (PB), Hatton (HB), Faroe-Shetland (FSB), Møre (MB) and  
712 Vøring (VB) basins, as well as the Hatton (H) and Rockall (R) banks, and the Vøring Plateau.  
713 The Anton-Dohrn Lineament Complex (ADLC) is also labelled. (B) Bathymetry map of the  
714 Irish Rockall Basin, illustrating the location of the 3D seismic reflection survey and positions  
715 of boreholes 12/2-1 (Dooish) and 5/22-1 (Errigal). Note the proximity of the study area to the  
716 Hebridean Terrace Igneous Complex (HTIC). (C) Simplified stratigraphic column for the  
717 interval of interest depicting the key lithologies identified in boreholes 12/2-1 and 5/22-1 and  
718 our seismic-stratigraphic framework. Proven or postulated petroleum system elements are  
719 shown; So=source rock; R=reservoir rock; Se=seal rock.

720

721 **Fig. 2.** Arbitrary geoseismic section intersecting 12/2-1 (Dooish) and 5/22-1 (Errigal),  
722 illustrating the overall geometry of the Irish Rockall Basin, and the seismic expression,  
723 geometry and distribution of igneous sills. Note the broad, low-relief dome penetrated by 5/22-  
724 1 and its spatial relationship to the underlying igneous sill-complex, which is largely hosted in  
725 Upper Cretaceous rocks. See Fig. 1B for location. Vertical scale in two-way time in seconds  
726 (TWT s). Vertical exaggeration (VE) = *c.* x4.

727

728 **Fig. 3.** Interpreted seismic sections and 3D time-structure maps showing the geometry of  
729 igneous sills in the Irish Rockall Basin. See Fig. 6c and d in Magee et al. (2014) for location of  
730 sills. White lines show position of the seismic lines.

731

732 **Fig. 4.** Simplified stratigraphic correlation between 12/2-1 (Dooish) and 5/22-1 (Errigal)  
733 showing the principal lithologies encountered in the Upper Cretaceous to Lower Eocene  
734 succession. Lithological interpretation is based largely on cuttings and sparse sidewall cores.  
735 Pal. 1=Paleocene 1; Pal. 2=Paleocene 2. See Supplementary Material Item 1 and 5 for  
736 additional details. For location of boreholes see Figs 1B and 2.

737

738 **Fig. 5.** (A) Top Paleocene time-structure map (see Fig. 1C). Contour spacing = 50 m. Note the  
739 location of 5/22-1 on the crest of a broad, low-relief dome. (B) Eocene isochron (time-



740 thickness) map (see Fig. 1C). Note thinning of this succession across the broad, low-relief dome  
741 defined at top Paleocene level (see (A)). (C) Map depicting the geometries and stacking pattern  
742 of the 82, largely Upper Cretaceous-hosted igneous sills (see Figs 2 and 3). Note that sill  
743 stacking density is greatest immediately below the broad, low-relief dome identified at top  
744 Paleocene level (see (A)).

745

746 **Fig. 6.** (A) QFL (quartz-feldspar-lithics) derived from petrographic analysis of the Paleocene  
747 succession in 5/22-1 (Errigal). Location of samples is shown in Fig. 4. Raw data is shown in  
748 Supplementary Item 1. (B) Thin-section micrograph from sidewall core #38 (3587 m; Upper  
749 Paleocene). Note the dominance of volcanic rock fragments (lithics), and the subordinate quartz  
750 and feldspar. (C) Thin-section micrograph from sidewall core #18 (3916 m; Upper Paleocene).  
751 Note the dominance of detrital quartz and feldspar; rock fragments (lithics) and volcanic glass  
752 are rare. See Supplementary Material Item 1 for additional petrographic data.

753

754 **Fig. 7.** Plot showing fluid inclusion microthermometry data from 5/22-1 (Errigal). Note the  
755 overall low homogenisation temperatures ( $<90^{\circ}$ ) for all samples. See text for full discussion.  
756 See Supplementary Material Item 3 for additional fluid inclusion-derived, microthermometric  
757 data.

758

759 **Fig. 8.** (A) Table showing vitrinite reflectance (VR) and paleotemperature analysis  
760 interpretation of VR data from 5/22-1 (Errigal). 'Measured VR' values are mean random  
761 reflectance values for each sample. Estimates of maximum paleotemperature were determined  
762 using assumed heating rates  $1^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{Ma}$  and a cooling rates of  $10^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{Ma}$ . (B) Plot of VR vs. depth  
763 for 5/22-1 (Errigal). See text for full discussion. See Supplementary Material Item 3 for  
764 additional details on paleothermal modelling parameters.

765

766 **Fig. 9.** (A) Table showing Apatite Fission Track Analysis (AFTA) data for 5/22-1 (Errigal).  
767 Note that present temperature estimates based on an assumed mean seabed temperature of  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$   
768 and a present-day thermal gradient of  $26.5^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{km}$ . Thermal history interpretation of AFTA data  
769 is based on an assumed heating rate of  $1^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{Ma}$  and a cooling rate of  $10^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{Ma}$ . Quoted ranges  
770 for paleotemperature and onset of cooling correspond to  $\pm 95\%$  confidence limits. Values  
771 represents paleo-thermal effects that are allowed but not definitely required by available data.  
772 See Supplementary Item 3 for additional details on paleothermal modelling parameters and  
773 uncertainties. (B) AFTA data (left) and present temperature (right) plotted against sample depth  
774 (and stratigraphic age). The dashed black line on the left-hand panel indicates the stratigraphic  
775 age of the penetrated succession. Note that in all cases, fission track ages are significantly  
776 higher than the respective stratigraphic ages, suggesting: (i) these apatites contains a large

777 proportion of fission tracks formed prior to deposition of the host sediments; and (ii) post-  
778 depositional heating effects were modest. (C) Preferred thermal history interpretation of AFTA  
779 and VR data from 5/22-1 (Errigal).

780

781 **Supplementary Item 1.** Well IRE 5/22-1 “Errigal Deepwater Exploration” Final Well Report.  
782 Volume 1: Geological and Petrophysical Evaluation. Republic of Ireland Continental Shelf Oil  
783 Well Records. Prepared by Toby Lenehan. Published in 2001. Report provided by the  
784 Petroleum Affairs Division (PAD). Curated by IHS Energy. Available for download from:  
785 [https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx)  
786 [Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx).

787

788 **Supplementary Item 2.** Wellsite litholog for ERRIGAL IRE 5/22-1. Wellsite geologists:  
789 James Hollands and Alastair Flood. Provided by the Petroleum Affairs Division (PAD).  
790 Available for download from: [https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx)  
791 [Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx).

792

793 **Supplementary Item 3.** Evidence for the conditions of cementation and petroleum  
794 emplacement from fluid inclusions, Eastern Rockall Basin, Eire. Republic of Ireland  
795 Continental Shelf Oil Well Records. Prepared by FIA. Report provided by the Petroleum  
796 Affairs Division (PAD). Curated by IHS Energy. Available for download from:  
797 [https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx)  
798 [Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx).

799

800 **Supplementary Item 4.** Thermal history reconstruction in Errigal deepwater exploration well  
801 5/22-1, using AFTA and vitrinite reflectance. Republic of Ireland Continental Shelf Oil Well  
802 Records. Published in 2001. Geotrack report #807. Prepared by P.F.Green (Geotrack). Report  
803 provided by the Petroleum Affairs Division (PAD). Curated by IHS Energy. Available for  
804 download from: [https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx)  
805 [Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx).

806

807 **Supplementary Item 5.** IRE 12/2-1 Dooish composite log. Wellsite geologists: Peter Geerlings  
808 and Nick O’Neill. Log compiled by Peter Geerlings and Toby Lenehan. Report provided by the  
809 Petroleum Affairs Division (PAD). Available for download from:  
810 [https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx)  
811 [Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx).

812

813 **Supplementary Item 6.** Geochemical report on well 5/22-1. Republic of Ireland Continental  
814 Shelf Oil Well Records. Published in 2001. Authored by Peter B. Hall (GeoLab Nor A/S).  
815 Report provided by the Petroleum Affairs Division (PAD). Curated by IHS Energy. Available  
816 for download from: [https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-  
817 Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/natural-resources/topics/Oil-Gas-Exploration-Production/data/Pages/Data.aspx).

Fig. 1

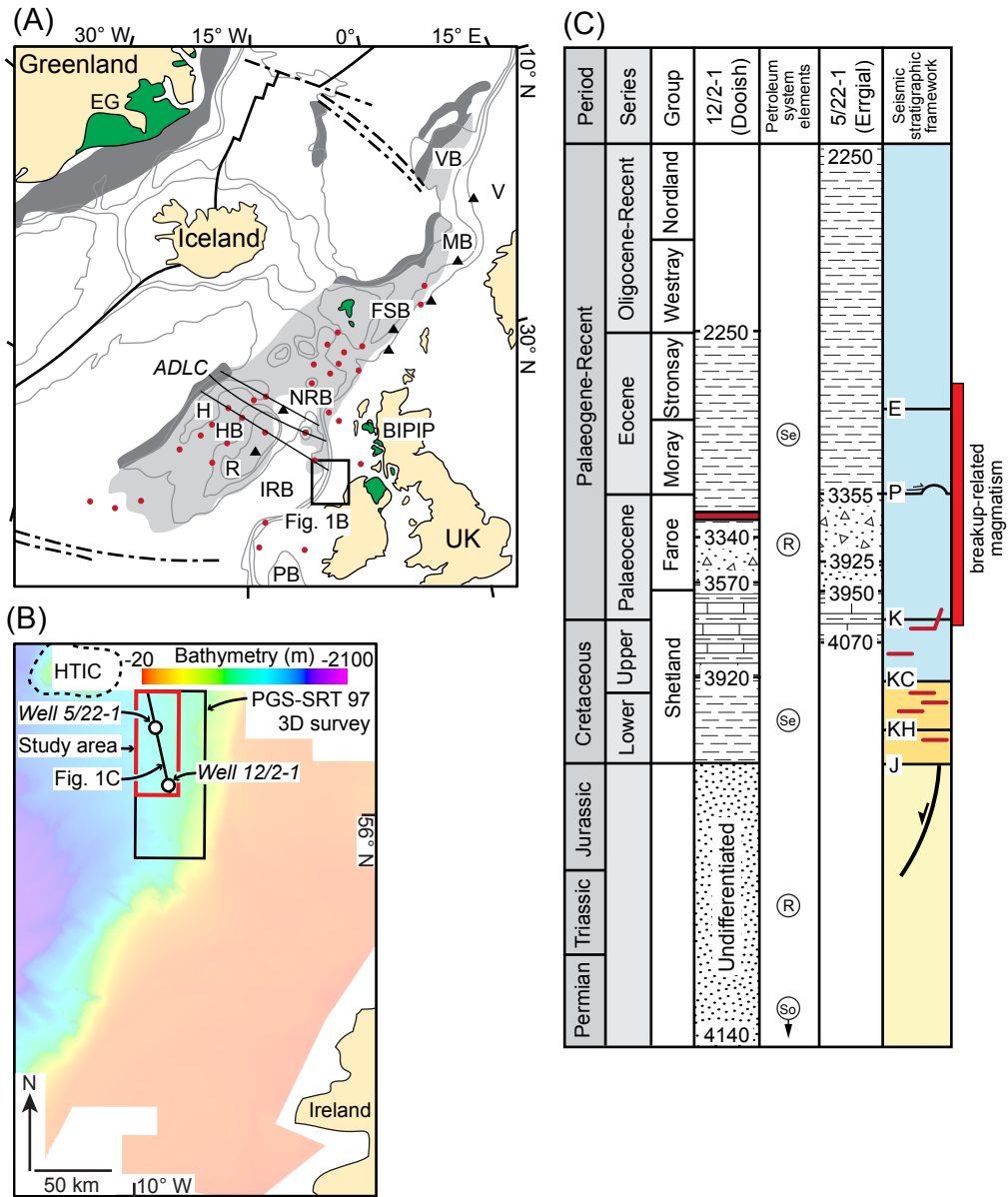


Fig. 2

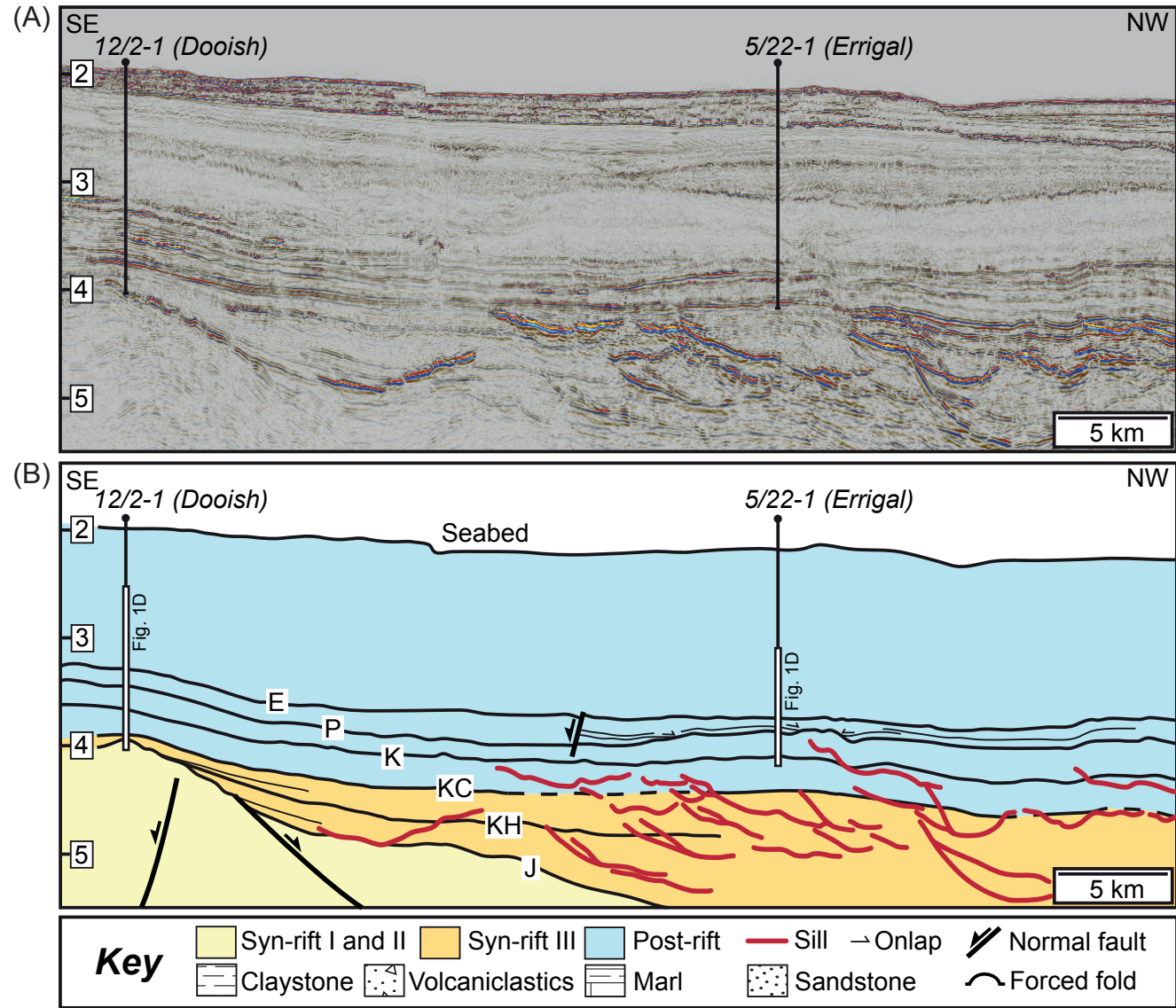




Fig. 3

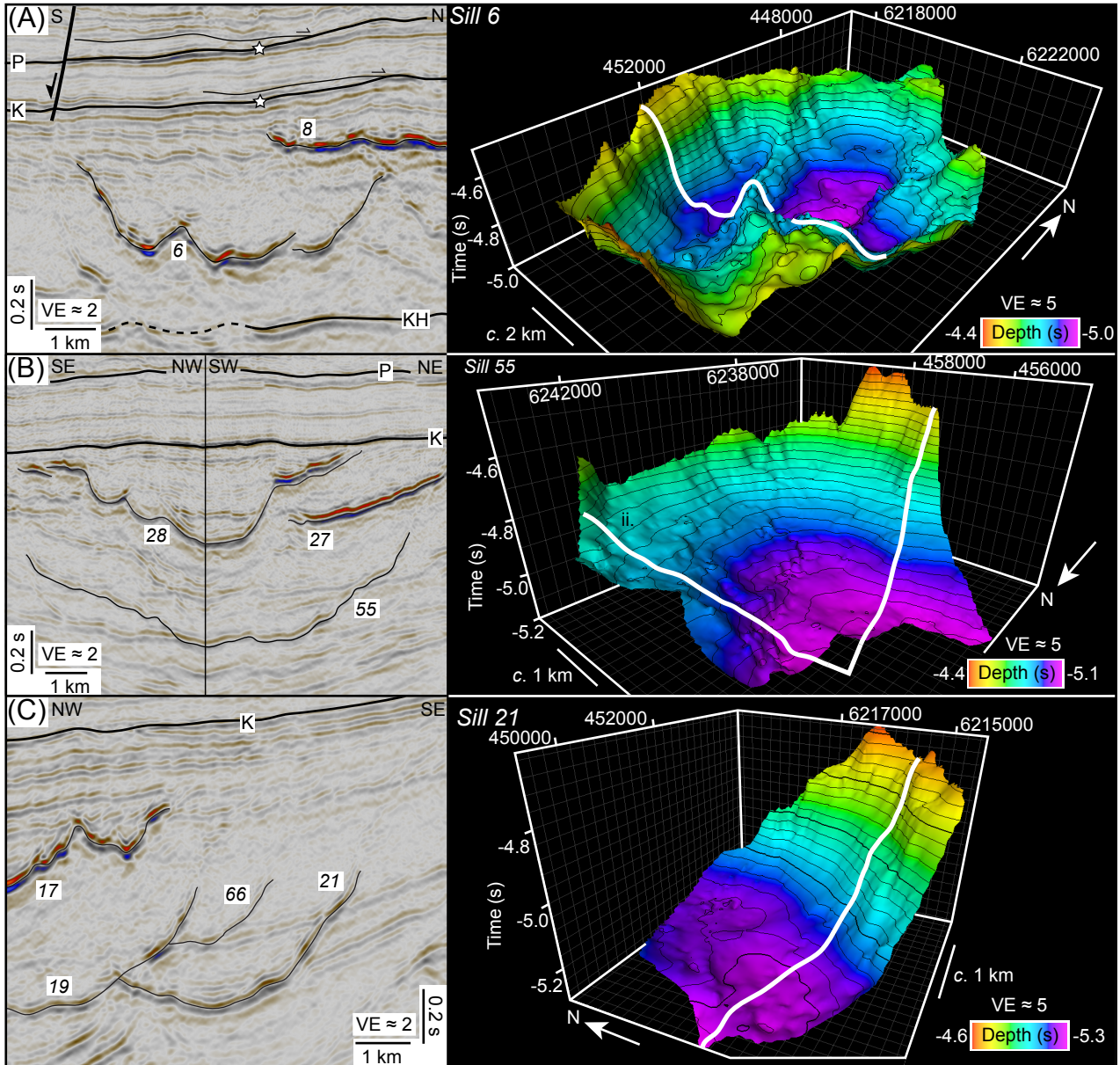


Fig. 4

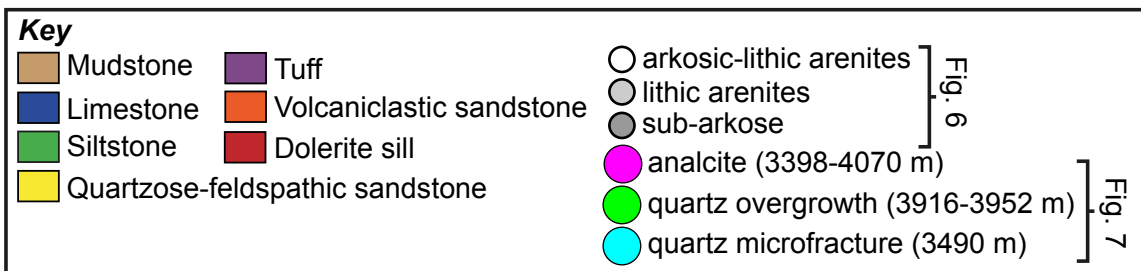
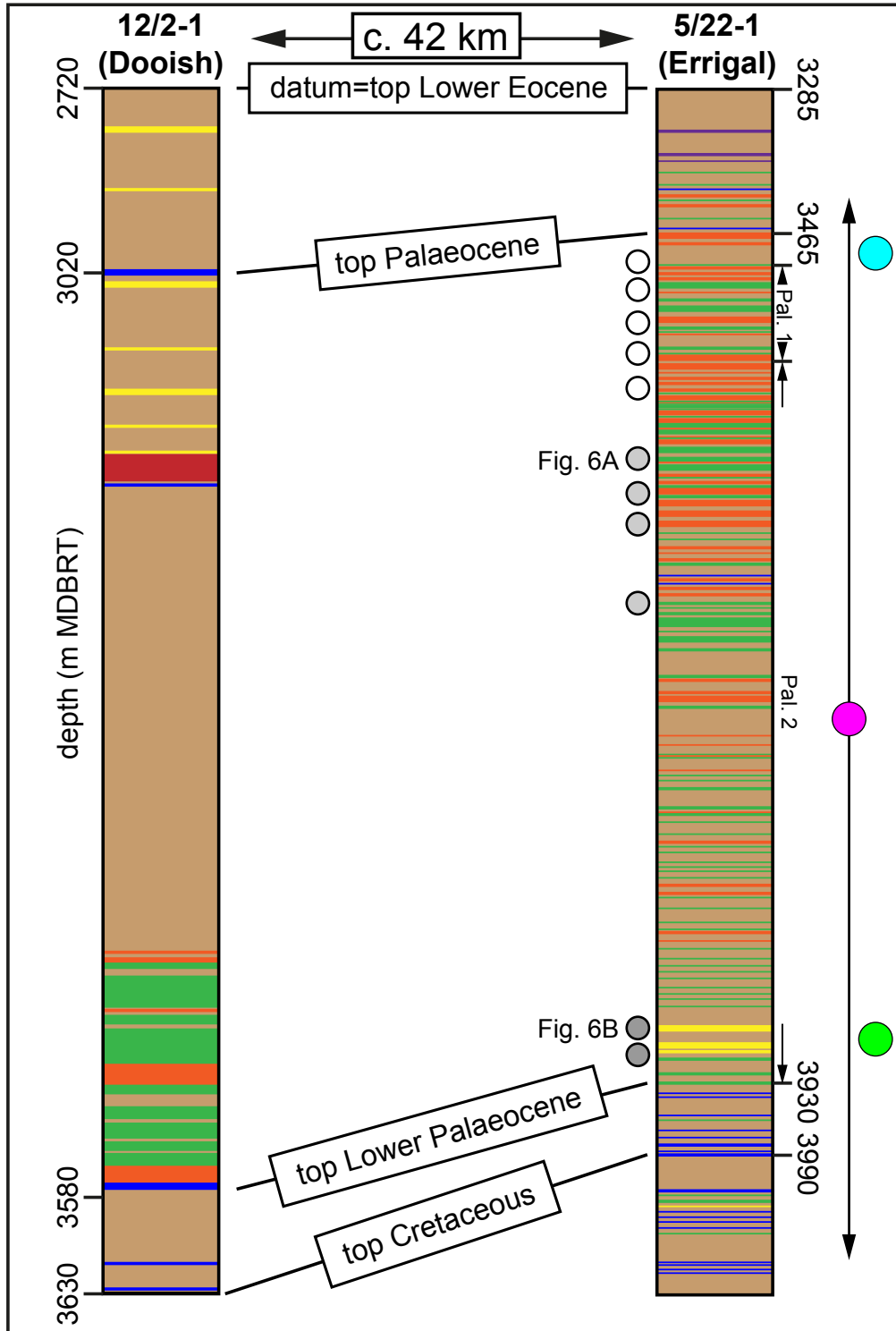


Fig. 5

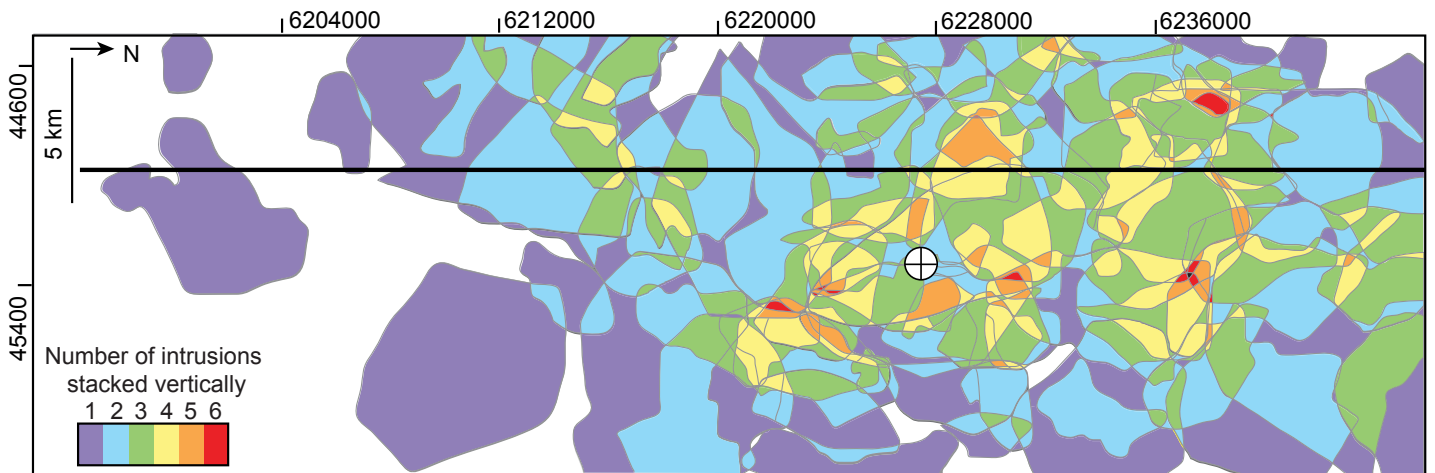
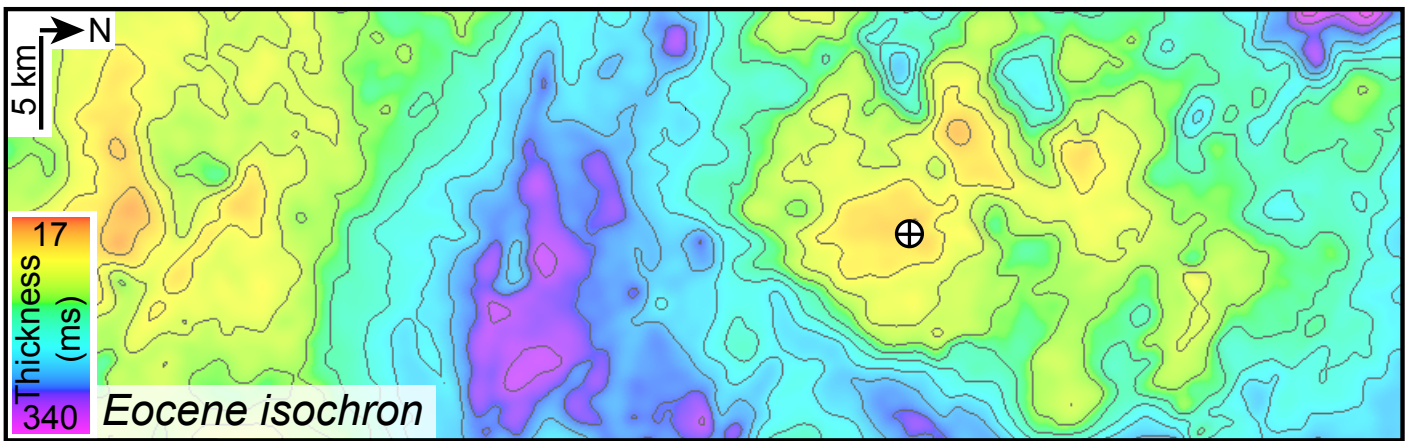
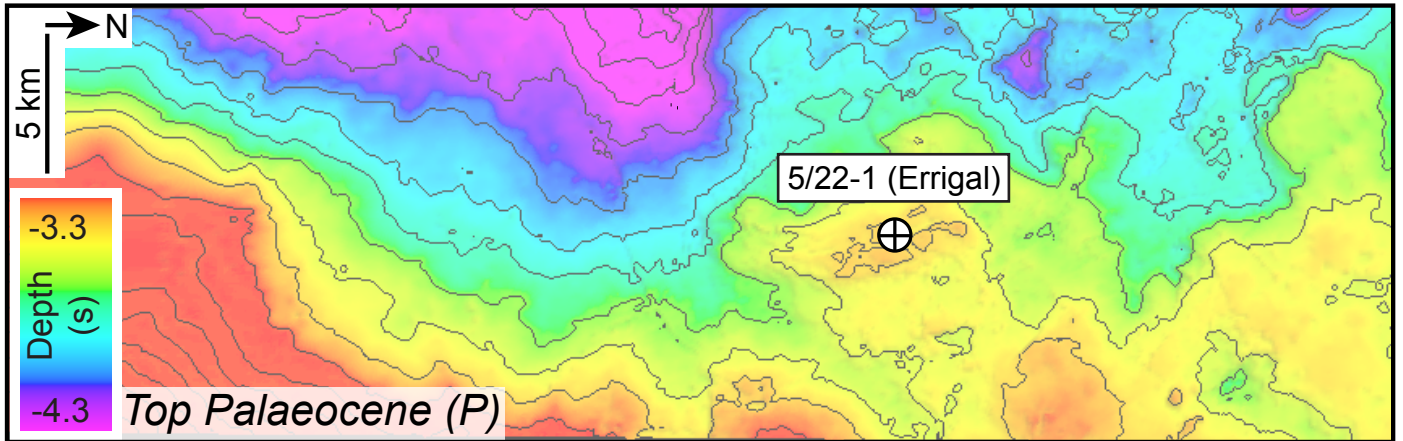




Fig. 6

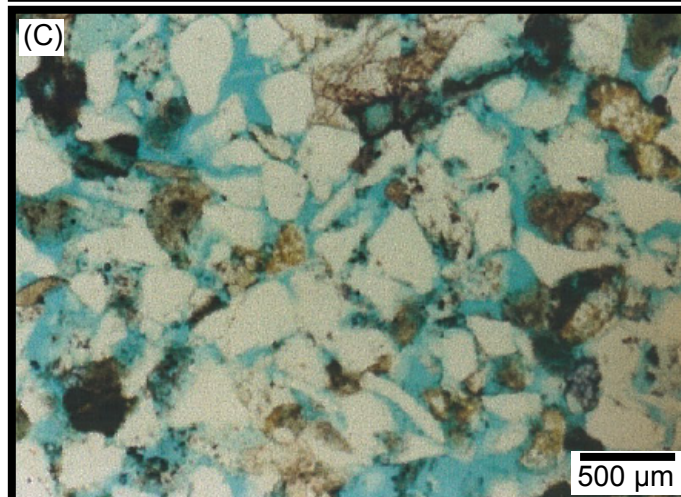
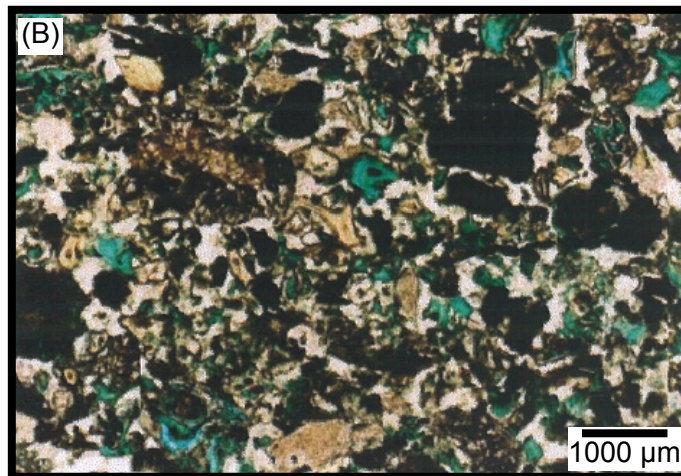
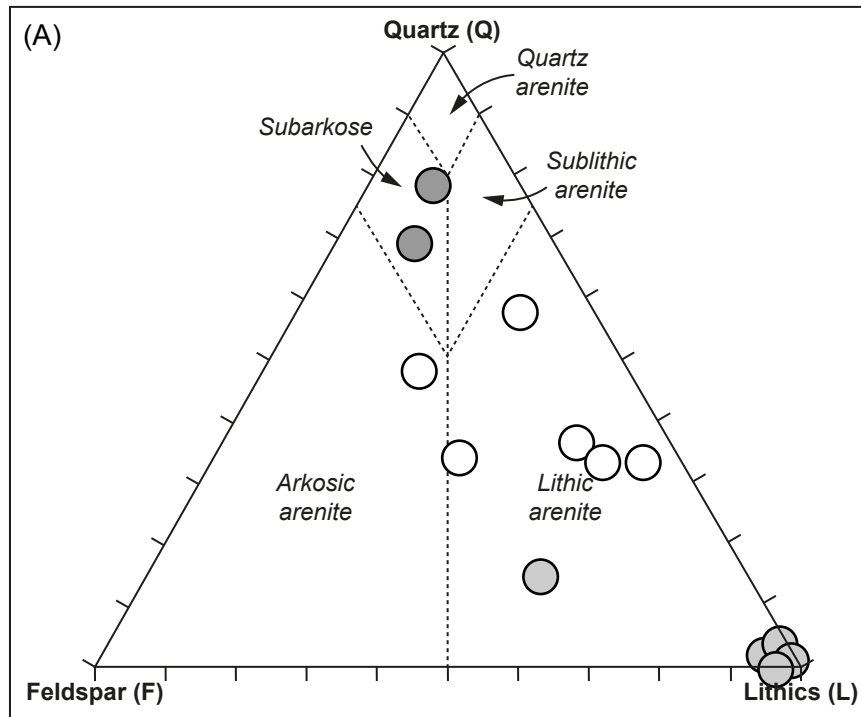


Fig. 7

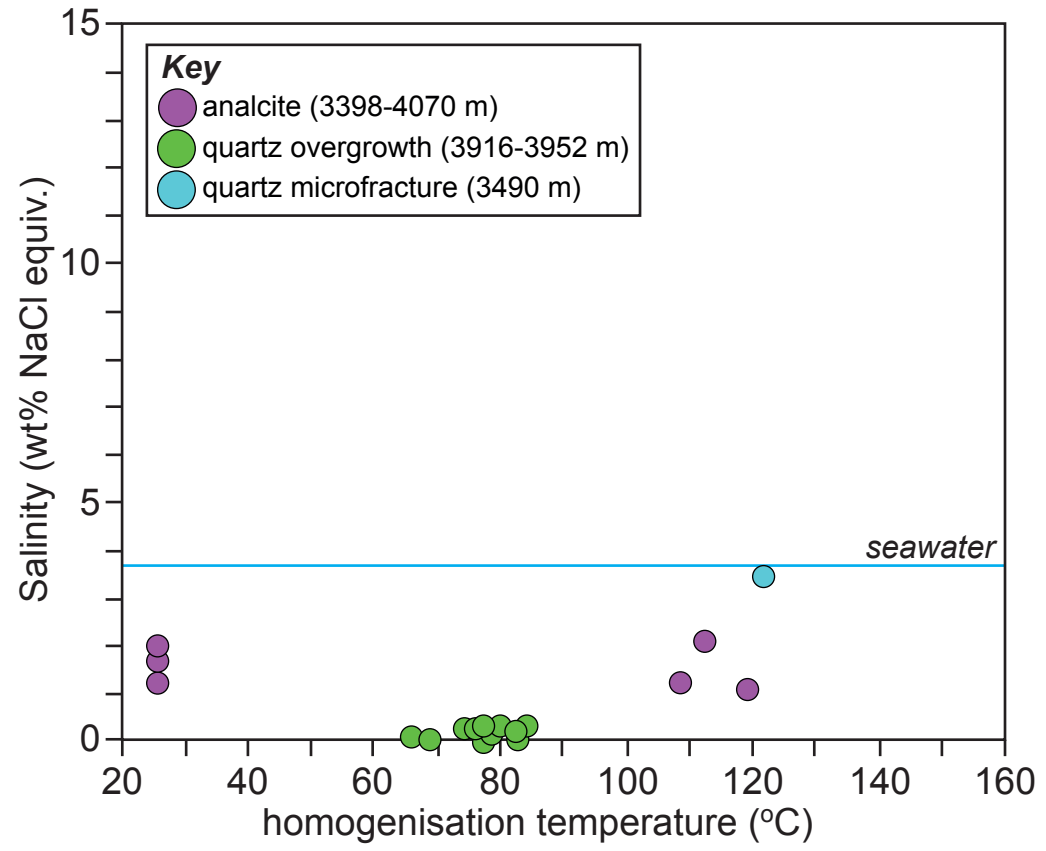
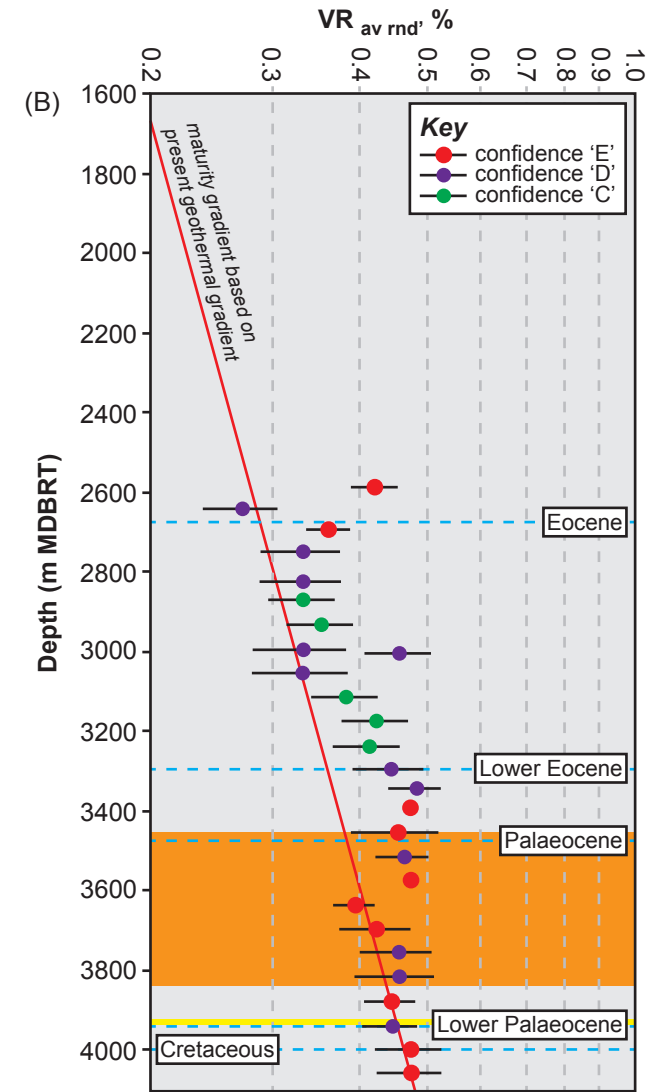


Fig. 8

(A)

| Average Depth (m) | Present temperature (°C) | Stratigraphic age (Ma) | Measured VR (%) | Number of readings | Maximum paleotemperature (°C) |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2589              | 29                       | 35-16                  | 0.42            | 3                  | 70                            |
| 2643              | 31                       | 35-16                  | 0.27            | 7                  | <50                           |
| 2697              | 32                       | 35-16                  | 0.36            | 4                  | 59                            |
| 2751              | 34                       | 35-16                  | 0.33            | 8                  | 50                            |
| 2823              | 36                       | 42-35                  | 0.33            | 20                 | 50                            |
| 2871              | 37                       | 42-35                  | 0.33            | 20                 | 50                            |
| 2931              | 38                       | 42-35                  | 0.35            | 20                 | 56                            |
| 2991              | 40                       | 42-35                  | 0.33            | 20                 | 50                            |
| 3051              | 42                       | 42-35                  | 0.33            | 20                 | 50                            |
| 3111              | 43                       | 42-35                  | 0.38            | 20                 | 63                            |
| 3171              | 45                       | 42-35                  | 0.42            | 20                 | 70                            |
| 3231              | 46                       | 42-35                  | 0.41            | 20                 | 69                            |
| 3291              | 48                       | 42-35                  | 0.44            | 20                 | 74                            |
| 3339              | 49                       | 42-35                  | 0.48            | 20                 | 80                            |
| 3387              | 50                       | 42-35                  | 0.47            | 1                  | 79                            |
| 3450              | 52                       | 56-42                  | 0.45            | 13                 | 76                            |
| 3510              | 54                       | 56-42                  | 0.46            | 14                 | 78                            |
| 3570              | 55                       | 56-42                  | 0.47            | 1                  | 79                            |
| 3630              | 57                       | 60-56                  | 0.39            | 3                  | 65                            |
| 3690              | 59                       | 60-56                  | 0.42            | 4                  | 70                            |
| 3750              | 60                       | 60-56                  | 0.45            | 13                 | 76                            |
| 3810              | 62                       | 60-56                  | 0.45            | 17                 | 76                            |
| 3870              | 63                       | 60-56                  | 0.44            | 4                  | 74                            |
| 3930              | 65                       | 65-60                  | 0.44            | 11                 | 74                            |
| 3990              | 66                       | 65-60                  | 0.47            | 3                  | 79                            |
| 4050              | 68                       | 74-65                  | 0.47            | 2                  | 79                            |



N.B. error bars=one standard deviation

Fig. 9

| (A) Sample number | Mean depth (mkb) | Stratigraphic age (Ma) | Present temperature (°C) | Maximum paleotemperature (°C) | Onset of cooling (Ma) |       |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| GC807-1           | 2671             | 42-16                  | 31                       | <100                          | post-depositional     |       |
| GC807-2           | 2925             | 42-35                  | 38                       | <110                          | post-depositional     |       |
| GC807-3           | 3175             | 42-35                  | 45                       | 60-90                         | post-depositional     |       |
| GC807-4           | 3438             | 60-35                  | 52                       | 80-100                        | post-depositional     |       |
| GC807-5           | 3688             | 60-56                  | 58                       | 75-90                         | 40-0                  |       |
| GC807-6           | 3936             | 74-56                  | 65                       | 75-100                        | post-depositional     |       |
| GC807-7           | 3936             | 74-56                  | 65                       | 80-100                        | >10                   |       |
|                   |                  |                        |                          |                               | <b>Overlap:</b>       | 40-10 |

