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Rift kinematics preserved in deep-time erosional landscape below the northern North Sea

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ABSTRACT

Our understanding of continental rifting is, in large parts, derived from the stratigraphic record. This record is, however, incomplete as it does not often capture the geomorphic and erosional signal of rifting. New 3D seismic reflection data reveals a Late Permian-Early Triassic landscape incised into the pre-rift basement of the northern North Sea. This landscape, which covers at least 542 km², preserves a drainage system bound by two major tectonic faults. A

quantitative geomorphic analysis of the drainage system reveals 68 catchments, with channel steepness and knickpoint analysis of catchment-hosted palaeo-rivers showing that the landscape preserved a >2 Myrs long period of transient tectonics. We interpret that this landscape records punctuated uplift of the footwall of a major rift-related normal fault (Vette Fault) at the onset of rifting. The landscape was preserved by a combination of relatively rapid subsidence in the hangingwall of a younger fault (Øygarden Fault) and burial by post-incision sediments. We show how and why erosional landscapes are preserved in the stratigraphic record, and how they can help us understand the tectono-stratigraphic evolution of ancient continental rifts.

INTRODUCTION

Tectonics, landscape evolution and stratigraphy are closely coupled in active continental rifts (e.g. Cowie et al., 2000; Gawthorpe and Leeder, 2000). Growing normal faults influence the geometry of drainage networks and incision rates within upland catchments, which in turn controls the location, magnitude, and routing of sediment supply to neighbouring depocenters (Cowie et al., 2006; Whittaker et al., 2010). This coupling means that the transient erosional response of fluvial landscapes to rifting can be used to record the timescales, throw rates and kinematics of active faulting over a range of spatial scales (e.g. Kirby and Whipple, 2012; Whittaker and Boulton, 2012). In modern rifts, we can analyse digital elevation models (DEMs), together with independent tectonic and stratigraphic constraints, to estimate the patterns and rates of fault evolution (e.g. Pechlivanidou et al., 2018; Watkins et al., 2020; Quye-Sawyer et al., 2021), but in many ancient rifts, similar rift-related palaeo-landscapes are absent. Consequently,

time-averaged patterns of faulting must be reconstructed indirectly from structural measurements and stratigraphic observations (e.g. Gawthorpe and Leeder, 2000, Kent et al., 2017). If palaeo-landscapes can be found in the stratigraphic record of ancient rifts, they may reveal important new information about fault behaviour.

To our knowledge, the oldest reported 3D buried palaeo-landscapes are 55-58 Ma seismically imaged drainage networks found off the coast of Scotland, UK, developed and preserved in response to Iceland plume-driven uplift and subsidence (Hartley et al., 2011; Stucky de Quay et al., 2017). Here, we present an even older mountainous landscape, defined by an erosional surface carved into the Palaeozoic basement of the northern North Sea rift, offshore Norway, imaged in 3D seismic reflection data. The surface covers at least 542 km² and reveals a drainage system that developed at the onset of Permian-Triassic rifting ($\sim 261 \pm 10$ Ma; Fossen & Dunlap, 1999). A quantitative geomorphic analysis of the surface shows that this drainage system contains an exceptional record of the transient landscape response to faulting, from which we deduce the history and timescales of rift-related normal faulting. Our work shows how palaeo-surfaces imaged in 3D seismic reflection data can provide crucial insights into the tectono-stratigraphic evolution of ancient continental rifts.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The study area is located in the northern North Sea rift, offshore Norway (Fig. 1A). An up to 12 km thick syn- and post-rift sedimentary succession was deposited on crystalline basement during and after Late Permian-Early Triassic and Middle Jurassic-Early Cretaceous

rifting (Færseth, 1996; Bell et al., 2014; Maystrenko et al., 2017). In the Late Permian-Early Triassic, E-W extension led to the development of large (>100 km long) normal faults, such as the W-dipping Tusse, Vette and Øygarden faults, which bound half-grabens and are the focus of this study (Fig. 1A,B). By the Triassic, these faults had developed large displacements (up to 4 km) and were associated with relatively high slip rates (0.1–0.15 mm/yr; Bell et al., 2014); however, the relative age of these faults remains unknown. The top of the basement in the footwall of the Vette Fault is capped by a distinct erosional surface (Fig. 1B), which we describe and analyse below. From seismic and well data, we know that the surface is capped by upper Permian rocks composed of unfossiliferous desert sandstones overlain by carbonates and evaporates formed under extreme climate conditions and Early Triassic rocks are comprised of continental redbed intervals deposited in alluvial-fan, fluvial, flood-basin and lacustrine environments (Evans, 2003), which we interpret as evidence that the surface was formed by subaerial erosion.

DATA AND METHODS

3D seismic reflection data

The seismic data (courtesy of CGG) used in this study were acquired with a G-Gun array consisting of 3 subarrays with a source array depth of 6-9 m; a source length of 16-18 m; a shot point interval of 18.75 m; source separation of 37.5 m; a volume of 0.07456 m³ and an air pressure of $1.379 \cdot 10^7$ Pa. The streamer consisted of 12 up to 8 km long cables with 636 channels each; a cable separation of 75 m and group spacing of 12.5 m; depths of 7-50 m covering offsets

of 150-8100 m. The data was recorded with a 2 ms sample interval; 9000 ms recording length; a low cut filter (2Hz-6db/oct) and high cut (200 Hz-370 db/oct) filter.

The seismic data were processed in 90 steps including: divergence compensation; low cut filter (1.5 Hz, 2.5 Hz); noise attenuation (e.g. swell, direct wave); spatial anti-aliasing filter (12.5 m group interval); direct wave attenuation; source de-signature; de-spike; time-variant high cut filter; receiver motion correction and de-ghosting; FK filter; cold water and tidal statics; multiple modelling with adaptive subtraction; Tau-P mute; Radon de-multiple; far angle destriping; multiple attenuation; binning (75 m interval, 107 offset planes); acquisition hole infill; 5-D regularization; 3D true amplitude Kirchhoff pre-stack depth migration; residual move-out correction; Linear FL Radon; full offset stack with time-variant inner and out mute; acquisition footprint removal; crossline K filter; residual de-striping and dynamic Q-compensation. The seismic volume was zero phase processed with SEG normal polarity.

Seismic interpretation

We map the top of the acoustic basement at a spatial resolution (i.e. bin size) of 12.5×18.5 m revealing a palaeo-landscape preserved in the footwall of the Vette Fault (Fig. 1). The top of the acoustic basement is a high-amplitude reflection originating from the impedance contrast between sedimentary rocks (above) and crystalline basement (below). The fault block into which the landscape is carved is bound by two major tectonic normal faults (the Øygarden and Vette faults), which we map using fault plane reflections and cut-offs of footwall and hanging wall strata (Fig. 1B, Sup. Fig. 1). We also map the two wedge-shaped, Permian-Triassic

units (Units 1 and 2) overlying the crystalline basement, which allows us to: (i) infer the timing of landscape formation and preservation; and (ii) better understand the processes leading to the preservation of the studied landscape. Unit 1 is defined by medium-to-low amplitude, continuous, sub-horizontal reflections in the hanging wall of the Vette Fault, whereas Unit 2 is composed of low-amplitude, discontinuous reflections in the hanging wall of the Vette Fault *and* the Øygarden Fault.

Surface restoration

To analyse the geomorphology of this surface, we create a DEM by restoring the seismic horizon to its original geometry (cf. Hartley et al., 2011; Stucky de Quay et al., 2017) (Fig. 2). First, we map the basement surface (Fig. 2A, B) and the first continuous onlap horizon overlying the surface (Fig. 2C, D). Because this onlap horizon shows almost no topography, we can assume that it once was a more-or-less horizontal palaeo-surface. By flattening the basement surface along this horizon, we can obtain the original basement morphology (Fig. 2E, F). Then, we rotate the surface by 3° to the West to remove the effect of eastward fault block rotation during subsequent rifting (Fig. 3D). Note that 3° rotation results in a realistic stream network (Fig. 3). Finally, we grid the restored basement surface, so it becomes a digital elevation model (DEM) with a cell size of 50×50 m.

Geomorphic analysis

Network extraction

We performed a quantitative analysis of the restored DEM using TopoToolbox 2 (Schwanghart and Scherler, 2014) and recovered stream networks and river long profiles using a D8 flow routing algorithm with a flow accumulation threshold of 0.25 km^2 typically used in modern systems (e.g. Whittaker and Boulton, 2012) (Fig. 4E). This threshold corresponds to the minimum area draining into one cell belonging to a river. If this value is too low, we introduce an unrealistically large number of first-order tributaries (Fig. 4A-C). As the derivation of a stream network requires a consistent hydrological surface, pits in the reconstructed DEM must be filled. To remove any erroneous elevation values, we use the seismic resolution (18 m i.e. quarter of the wavelength) as the maximum filling depth of the DEM (Fig. 5B). Our ancillary analysis of filling depth sensitivity shows that when this value is too high, river networks are straightened and begin to show unrealistic geometries (Fig. 5D, E).

Channel steepness calculation

River incision upstream of active fault is often well-described by a family of stream power erosion ‘laws’ (Tucker and Whipple, 2002; Whittaker et al., 2007; Kirby and Whipple, 2012; Whittaker and Walker, 2015). In these cases, channel slope (S) is related to the upstream drainage area (A) by a power law, which would imply that rivers in topographic steady-state exhibit a concave up profile that represents a balance between a downstream increase in discharge and the downstream decrease in channel gradient. For a classic stream power model, we can write:

$$S = \left(\frac{U}{K}\right)^{\frac{1}{n}} A^{\frac{-m}{n}} \quad (1)$$

where U represents an uplift rate (for example driven by faulting), K is a coefficient that includes bedrock erodibility and other factors, and m and n are positive exponents which are related to both the long term erosional dynamics of the system and its hydraulic geometry (e.g. Kirby and Whipple, 2012). The term $\left(\frac{U}{K}\right)^{\frac{1}{n}}$ is known as the channel steepness index, ks, and the ratio of m/n by the channel concavity, θ . A reference value of θ is often used to estimate a normalized channel steepness index, ksn, allowing comparisons between channels with different concavities (e.g. Snyder et al., 2000; Wobus et al., 2006). In this study, we assume that n is 1 to calculate our steepness index, as this is consistent with previous studies of rivers crossing normal faults (e.g. Whittaker and Boulton, 2012; Roda-Boluda and Whittaker, 2017). Using a global mean concavity index for channels of 0.45 (Schwanghart and Scherler, 2014), we calculate normalized channel steepness along our stream network.

Knickpoint extraction

Knickpoints upstream of active faults reflect the transient response of fluvial systems to relative base level change (such as a change in fault slip rate). The reach downstream of a knickpoint has steepened and incised in response to the perturbation, while upstream it has yet to respond geomorphically to the uplift event, and retains its pre-existing configuration (Kirby and Whipple, 2012). Knickpoints migrate upstream over time, eventually transmitting the initial perturbation throughout the catchment area over timescales of 10^6 years or more (Tucker and Whipple, 2002; Harkins et al., 2007; Whittaker et al., 2010). We identify knickpoints in the

palaeo-river long profiles of our stream network using the TopoToolbox 2 (Schwanghart and Scherler, 2017). The knickpoint finder reconstructs to the actual longitudinal profile by iteratively removing a curvature constraint at those locations that have a maximum vertical offset to the profile. After a few iterations, the vertical offset decreases to a minimum tolerance set by the user (Figs. 6, 7). Because this tolerance should reflect uncertainty in the data (Schwanghart and Scherler, 2017), we use 2.5 times the seismic resolution of our survey (45 m). This high tolerance assures that we extract only major knickpoints in the network (Figs. 6, 7, 8C, D).

After the extraction, we measure the elevation of these knickpoints relative to the Vette Fault (where it cuts the river) to a precision of ± 25 m, and their distance upstream with a precision of ± 100 m (Table 1). Knickpoint height relative to the fault is compared to geologic constraints on fault throw (cf. Bell et al., 2014) and knickpoint locations are compared to palaeo-catchment drainage area (Fig. 9).

Knickpoint migration time estimation

For any knickpoints located upstream of the footwall-bounding Vette Fault, we estimate a potential timescale for their propagation upstream, assuming they started from the fault, using an estimated propagation velocity V , derived from a unit stream power erosion law (Tucker and Whipple, 2002; Whittaker et al., 2012) given by $V = K \cdot A^{0.5}$, where K is a parameter that relates to a number of factors including bedrock strength and A is the drainage area of the catchment (e.g. Whittaker et al., 2008). This means that migration rates decrease as knickpoints migrate upstream and upstream drainage areas reduce (e.g. Whittaker et al., 2008). In our case, we can

capture this effect by computing the upstream drainage area of each knickpoint for each time-step. Next we estimate knickpoint migration times by stepwise summation of the product of the migration distance, the drainage-area normalized migration rate, and the upstream drainage area. We use $K = 5.0 \cdot 10^{-7}$ per year based on the average of a well-constrained compilation of modern systems upstream of active faults with similar drainage areas and slip rates < 0.5 mm/yr (Whittaker and Boulton, 2012) (Fig. 10).

RESULTS

Structural and seismic stratigraphic context of the palaeo-landscape

At present day, the landscape is situated in the hanging wall of the Øygarden Fault (to the west) and the footwall of the Vette Fault (to the east). These are two major bounding faults, which cut through almost the entire crust with several kilometres of displacement (Fig. 1B). The landscape is carved into ‘basement’ rocks, which are likely to consist of Devonian sedimentary rocks, Caledonian allochthons, and Proterozoic crystalline rocks based on the onshore geology and limited offshore boreholes penetrating acoustic basement (Fazlikhani et al., 2017). In cross-section, the surface is highly irregular, showing relatively steep slopes (up to 15°) and moderate relief (< 800 m) (Fig. 1B). Our DEM analysis of the surface reveals an intricate 3D landscape showing a small fault-bounded mountain range with relief up to 800 m, incised by a dendritic fluvial network, from which individual catchments can be identified with exceptional clarity (Fig. 2A). This seismically defined morphology, combined with our subsequent geomorphic analysis (Fig. 2) and the depositional setting of the overlying, non-marine Triassic

deposits (Evans, 2003) filling and preserving the unconformity surface, are very strong evidence that the surface represents a subaerial landscape.

The inferred subaerial landscape is covered by wedge-shaped, Early-Permian to Late Triassic strata, allowing us to broadly constrain the timing of faulting and landscape preservation. The oldest strata (Unit 1) only occurs in the hanging wall of the Vette Fault, thinning westwards from 2.2 km immediately adjacent to the Vette Fault to 0.3 km on the footwall crest of the Tusse Fault. Like Unit 1, the younger, overlying unit, Unit 2, is also present in the hanging wall of the Vette Fault, but it is also developed in the hanging wall of the Øygarden Fault (i.e., it caps the footwall of the Vette Fault). The wedge-shaped geometries of units 1 and 2 suggest they were deposited during active normal faulting, i.e., they are syn-tectonic.

Landscape response to active faulting at 250 Ma

From this unique palaeo-landscape, we extracted 68 palaeo-catchments with drainage areas up to 60 km² and longest trunk rivers of up to 20 km (Table 1). Many catchments show abrupt channel steepness index variations (Fig. 8B). For instance, high steepness index river segments (>50 m long) are mainly found in catchments that decrease in elevation and appear to drain westwards towards the Vette Fault, (Fig. 8B). Reconstructed palaeo-channel long profiles are *not* concave up, but show distinct convexities on a range of length scales (Fig. 8D). The channel geometries are remarkably similar to those observed in modern fluvial systems draining across active normal faults (cf. Whittaker, 2012). Consequently the sharp variations in channel

steepness suggest that the palaeo-landscape was not in a topographic steady state when preserved.

We extract 28 knickpoints from the palaeo-river long profiles (Fig. 8C, D; Table 2). Thirteen catchments have at least one significant knickpoint upstream of the Vette Fault and several have two. These knickpoints lie at distances between 0.44 and 10 km upstream of the Vette Fault, with elevations for the lower or single set of knickpoints varying between 45 and 300 m above the elevation where they cross the Vette Fault (Fig. 10). In terms of their size and scale, these catchments and knickpoints are comparable to modern fluvial systems crossing normal faults in Italy, Turkey, and Greece (Whittaker and Boulton, 2012; Whittaker and Walker, 2015; Roda-Boluda and Whittaker, 2017) (Fig. 9), where rivers have been shown to record changing fault slip rates over timescales of 1-5 million years.

When plotted along the strike of the Vette Fault, elevation of the knickpoints relative to the fault is an order of magnitude smaller than the fault throw between 0-40 km along strike, with these values being comparable for the northern part of the fault between 40-60 km (Fig. 10). Knickpoint elevations are smallest 25-40 km along strike, which is where throw is presently greatest (Fig. 10B,C). Given that knickpoint elevation, since formation, scales predictably with fault slip rate (cf. Whittaker and Walker, 2015), we infer that along-strike changes in elevation define two palaeo fault segments (south: 0-30 km and north: 30-60 km) that were active early in the evolution of the Vette Fault. The upper set of knickpoints also have elevations that are considerably less than the geologic throw. Although there is some scatter, single knickpoints on

palaeo-catchments with bigger drainage areas are located predictably further upstream, ($L \sim A^{0.38 \pm 0.12}$) (Fig. 9) which is consistent with them forming at a similar time. Consequently, we interpret these knickpoints to capture the transient response of the footwall landscape to the early growth of the Vette Fault near the onset of Permian-Triassic rifting. The palaeo-landscape was subsequently buried in the hanging wall of the Øygarden Fault before the transient tectonic signal had a chance to propagate fully through the fluvial system.

DISCUSSION

Preserved landscape – transient tectonics

Our study reveals a subaerial drainage system carved into the footwall of the Vette Fault, northern North Sea Rift (Fig. 1). The overlying stratigraphy indicates that this landscape developed during Permian-Triassic rifting (Bell et al., 2014). Our geomorphic analysis of the system reveals that many catchments draining across the Vette Fault have high (>60) steepness indices (Fig. 8B), and that 13 of the 68 catchments have knickpoints, which are indicative of an increase in tectonic uplift rates (Fig. 8C) (*sensu* Hartley et al., 2011; Stucky de Quay et al., 2017). The seismically imaged palaeo-rivers thus capture the landscape response to footwall uplift, generated by growth of the Vette Fault around 250 Ma. The presence of two sets of knickpoints suggests more than one change in fault slip rates during the early evolution of the fault. This likely reflects throw rate increases driven by fault growth and perhaps linkage, evidenced by the fact that the lower set of knickpoints appears to record two, presumably unlinked, palaeo segments.

Duration of faulting and knickpoint migration

Once formed, tectonically-driven knickpoints migrate upstream, as catchments progressively respond to the relative change in base level (Kirby and Whipple, 2012). We can thus use the duration of knickpoint migration upstream of the Vette Fault as a proxy for the time of fault activity. Knickpoint elevation upstream of interacting fault segments is known to scale with the relative difference in throw rates and the time since this has taken place (Whittaker & Boulton, 2012). The maximum elevation of the lower knickpoints is ~250 m. If we divide this by published time-averaged throw rates on the Vette Fault of 0.15 mm/yr (Bell et al., 2014) as a maximum, this would imply that the transient landscape represents a minimum of 1.7 Myrs, similar to faulted landscapes in Greece (e.g. Whittaker and Walker, 2015). Alternatively, if we calculate upstream migration of the knickpoints using bedrock erodibilities based on an average of a compilation of modern systems upstream of active faults with similar drainage areas and slip rates, we obtain a preferred median landscape response time of 2.1 Myrs and extremes of a 1.1 to 10.1 Myrs; this suggests that the palaeo-landscape records fault growth and interaction over periods of a few million years (Fig. 4C). Considering that dating of sedimentary rocks, fault rocks, and dykes suggest that Permian-Triassic rifting began around 261 ± 10 (Fossen & Dunlap, 1999) and lasted tens of millions of years (Ravnås et al., 2000; Fossen et al., 2021), our results indicate that the Vette Fault was only this active for a fraction of this episode.

Landscape preservation – strain migration

To understand the preservation of this landscape, we reconstruct the tectono-stratigraphic context and evolution of the system through time (Fig. 11). The landscape probably developed

during the onset of rifting in the northern North Sea, when the young Vette Fault initiated, and when Permian-Triassic strata (Unit 1) were being deposited in its immediate hanging wall (Fig. 4A). The knickpoints and overall landscape were probably created when segments of the Vette Fault were displacing palaeo-streams and rivers (Fig. 2C). Subsequently, the drainage system was rapidly subsided, buried and preserved beneath Permian-Triassic strata (Unit 2) (Figs. 1B, 4B). The rapid burial of the footwall of the Vette Fault, before the transient landscape had equilibrated, was likely driven by strain migration from the Vette Fault to the Øygarden Fault, with the hanging wall of the former producing subsidence that outpaced footwall uplift on the Vette Fault.

CONCLUSIONS

This study reveals a subaerial drainage system carved into the basement surface of the northern North Sea Rift. This system covers at least 542 km² and is bound by two major tectonic normal faults, the Øygarden Fault to the East and the Vette Fault to the West. A quantitative geomorphic analysis of the system reveals that many catchments draining across the Vette Fault have high (>60) steepness indices, and that 13 of the 68 catchments have knickpoints indicating that the landscape preserved a period of transient tectonics driven by footwall uplift of the Vette Fault at the onset of Late Permian-Early Triassic rifting (~250 Ma). Two independent estimates based on published fault slip and knickpoint migration rates suggest that the palaeo-landscape records fault growth and interaction over periods of a few million years. Finally, we interpret that this landscape was preserved by a shift of fault activity from the Vette (West) to the Øygarden

Fault (East), effectively subsiding and burying the landscape beneath Permian-Triassic strata (Unit 2) in the hanging wall of the Øygarden Fault.

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FIGURES

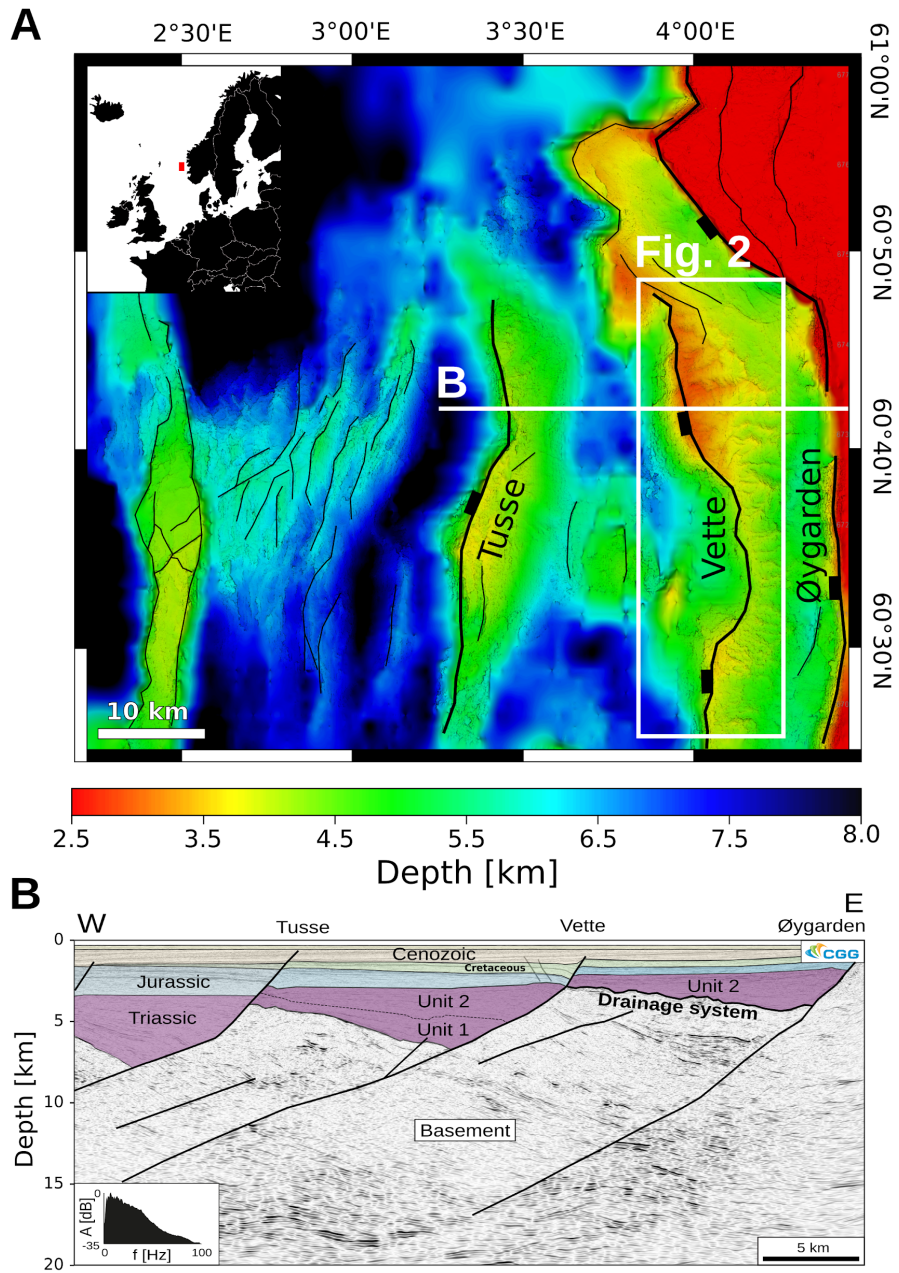


Figure 1. A Map view of the interpreted basement surface showing rift-related normal faults and drainage system in the northern North Sea. **B** Seismic section (depth-migrated) showing the drainage systems situated on top of the basement. Permian-Triassic strata overlying the surface consists of two wedge-shaped units. Seismic data courtesy of CCG.

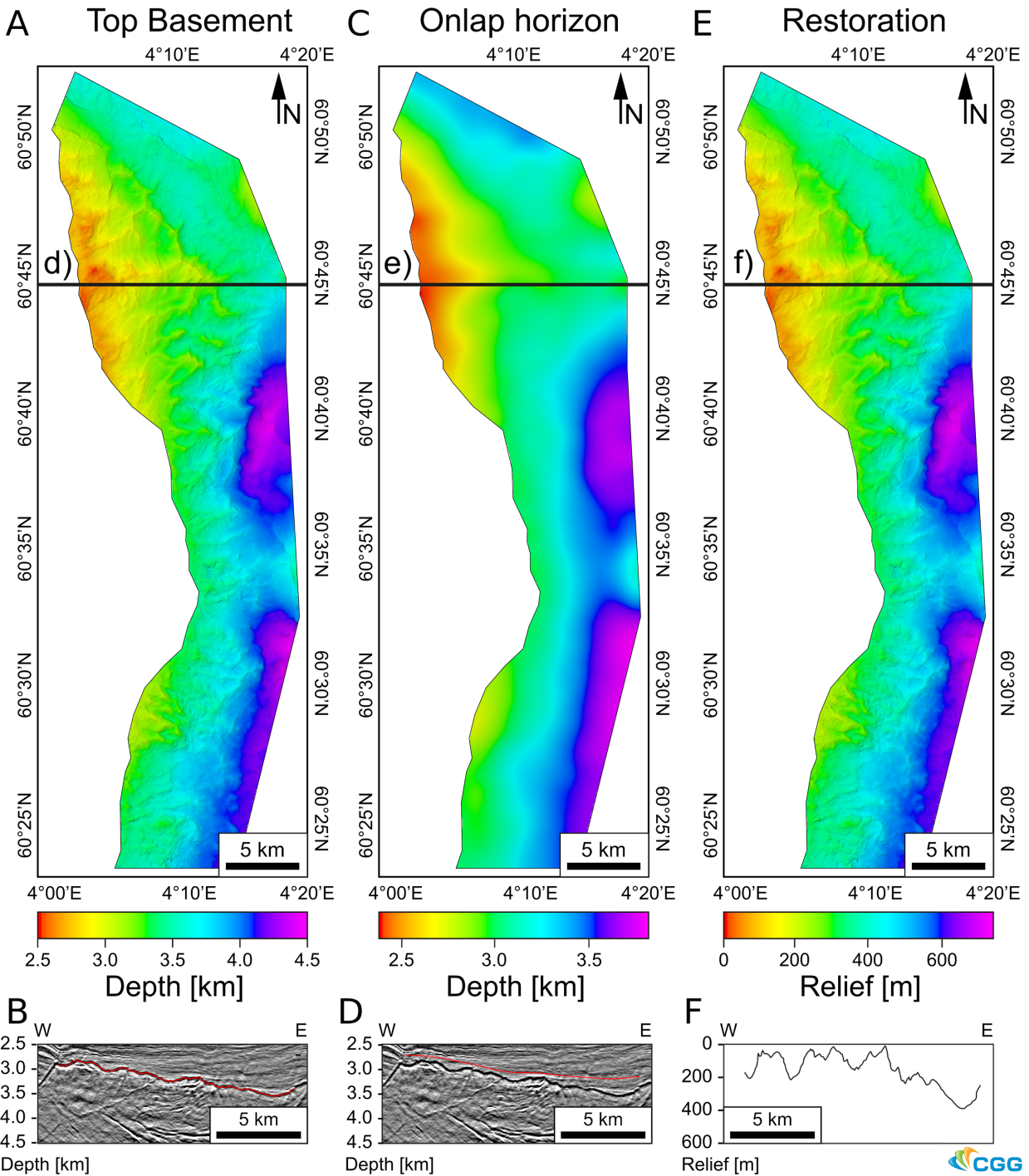


Figure 2. **A** Top Basement surface showing the drainage system. **B** Seismic section showing the surface interpretation. **C** Onlap horizon (smoothed). **D** Seismic section showing the horizon onlapping onto the Top Basement surface. **E** Top Basement surface flattened on the onlapping horizon to restore original morphology. **F** Profile of restored basement relief along seismic section. Seismic data courtesy CGG.

Structural restoration

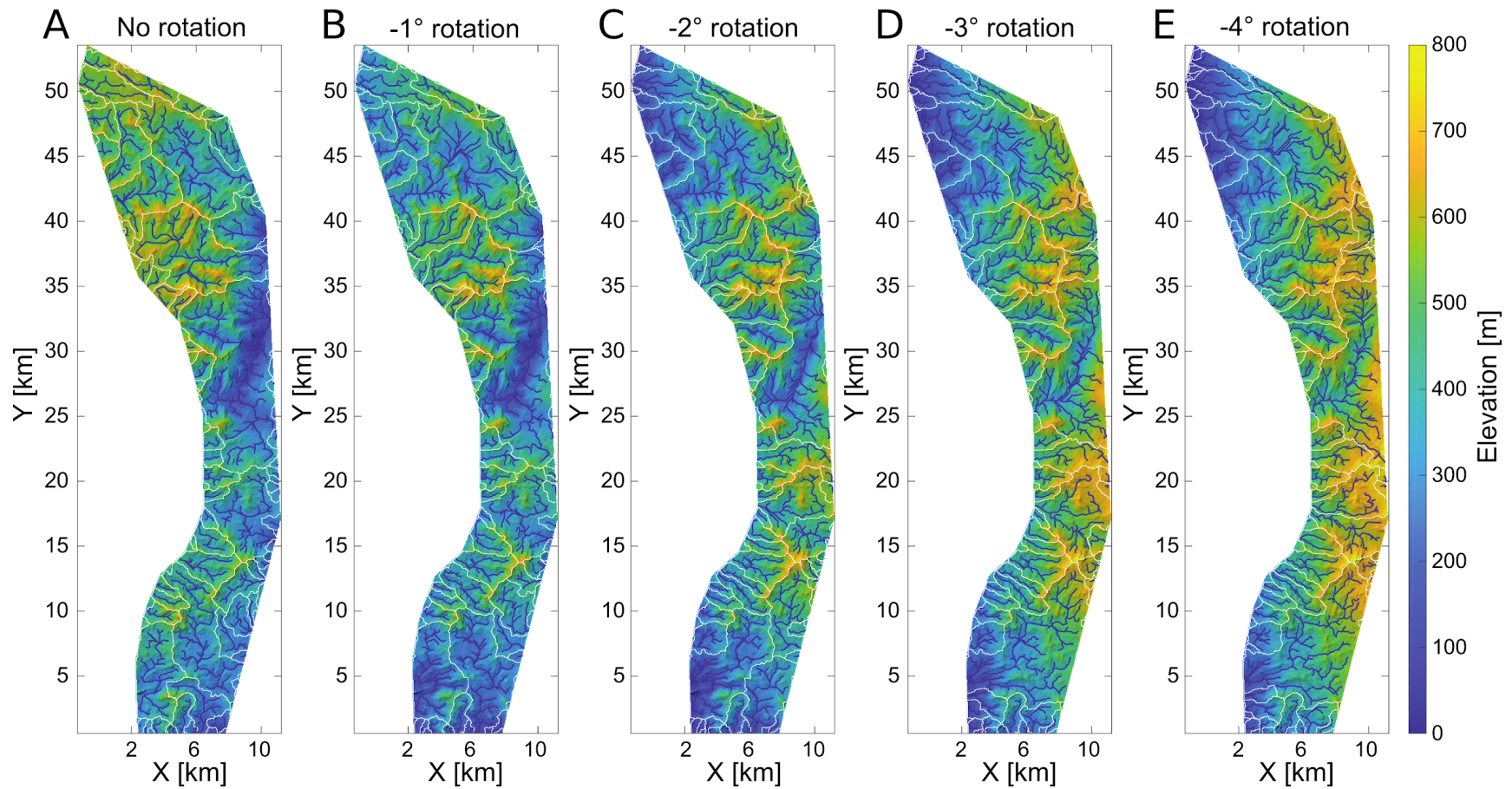


Figure 3. Basement surface with stream network and drainage divides restored for different degrees of fault block rotation (0-4°). A moderate rotation of 3° results in a realistic stream network (D).

Flow accumulation threshold

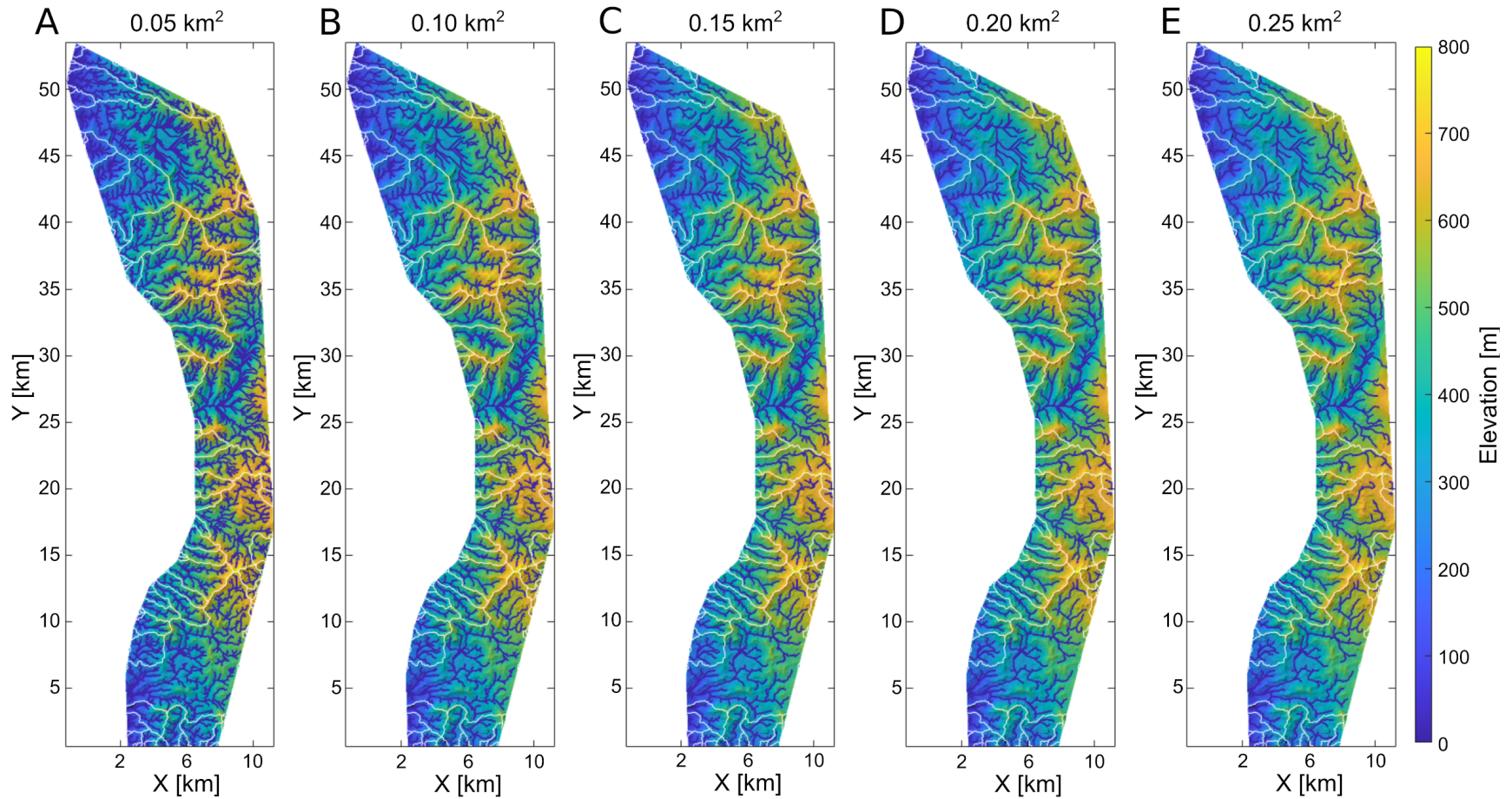


Figure 4. Basement surface with stream network and drainage divides for different flow accumulation cutoffs. Note that low cutoff values result in more tributaries. We chose a flow accumulation threshold of 0.25 km² (E) typically used in modern systems (e.g. Whittaker and Boulton, 2012).

Topographic filling

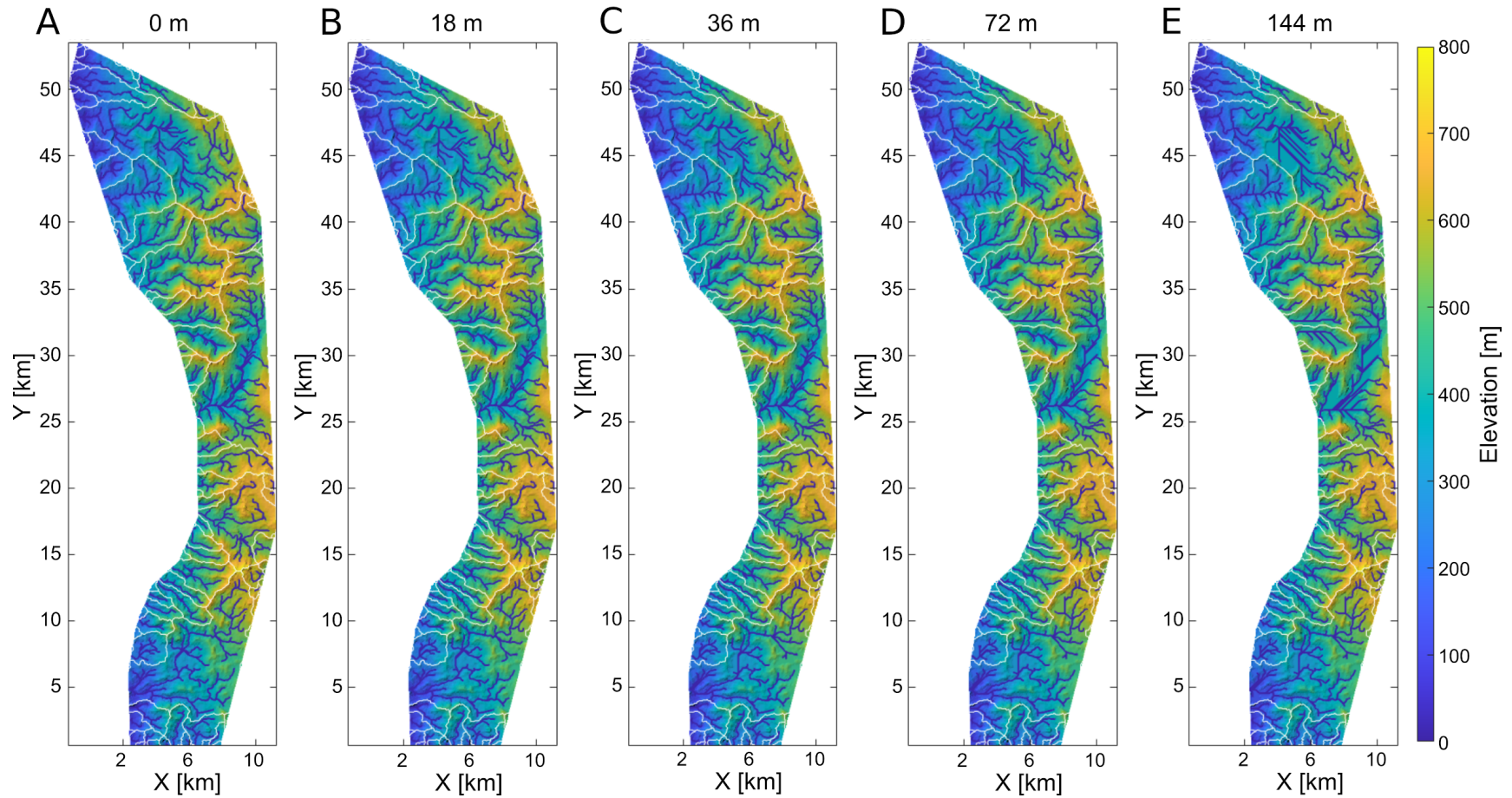


Figure 5. Basement surface with stream network and drainage divides for different amounts of topographic filling. Note that high filling values result in straightened streams and rivers. To remove erroneous elevation values, we use the seismic resolution of 18 m (B) as the maximum filling depth of the DEM.

Knickpoint finder tolerance

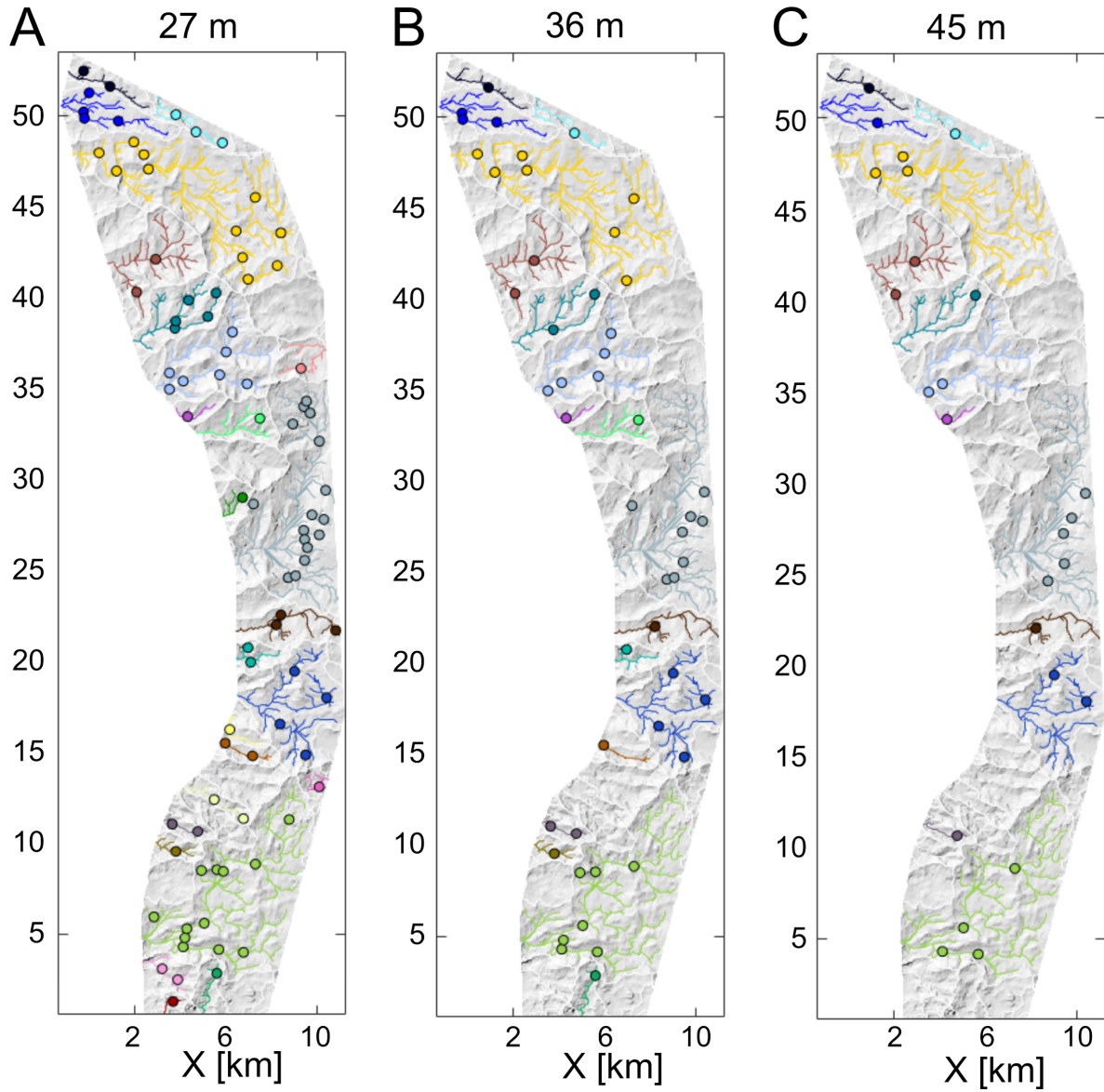


Figure 6. Knickpoints in map view extracted for different tolerance values of **A** 27, **B** 36 and **C** 45 m.

Knickpoint finder tolerance

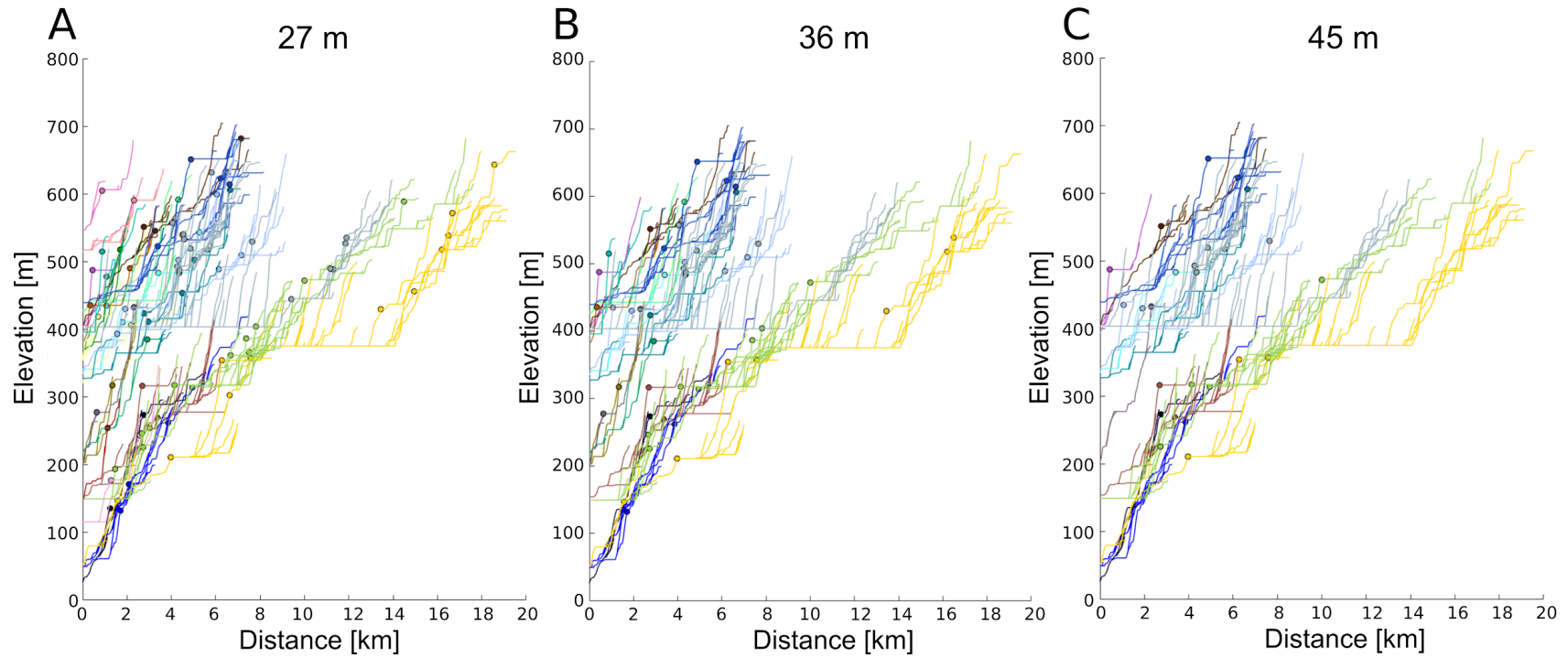


Figure 7. Knickpoints along elevation profiles extracted for different tolerance values of **A** 27, **B** 36 and **C** 45 m.

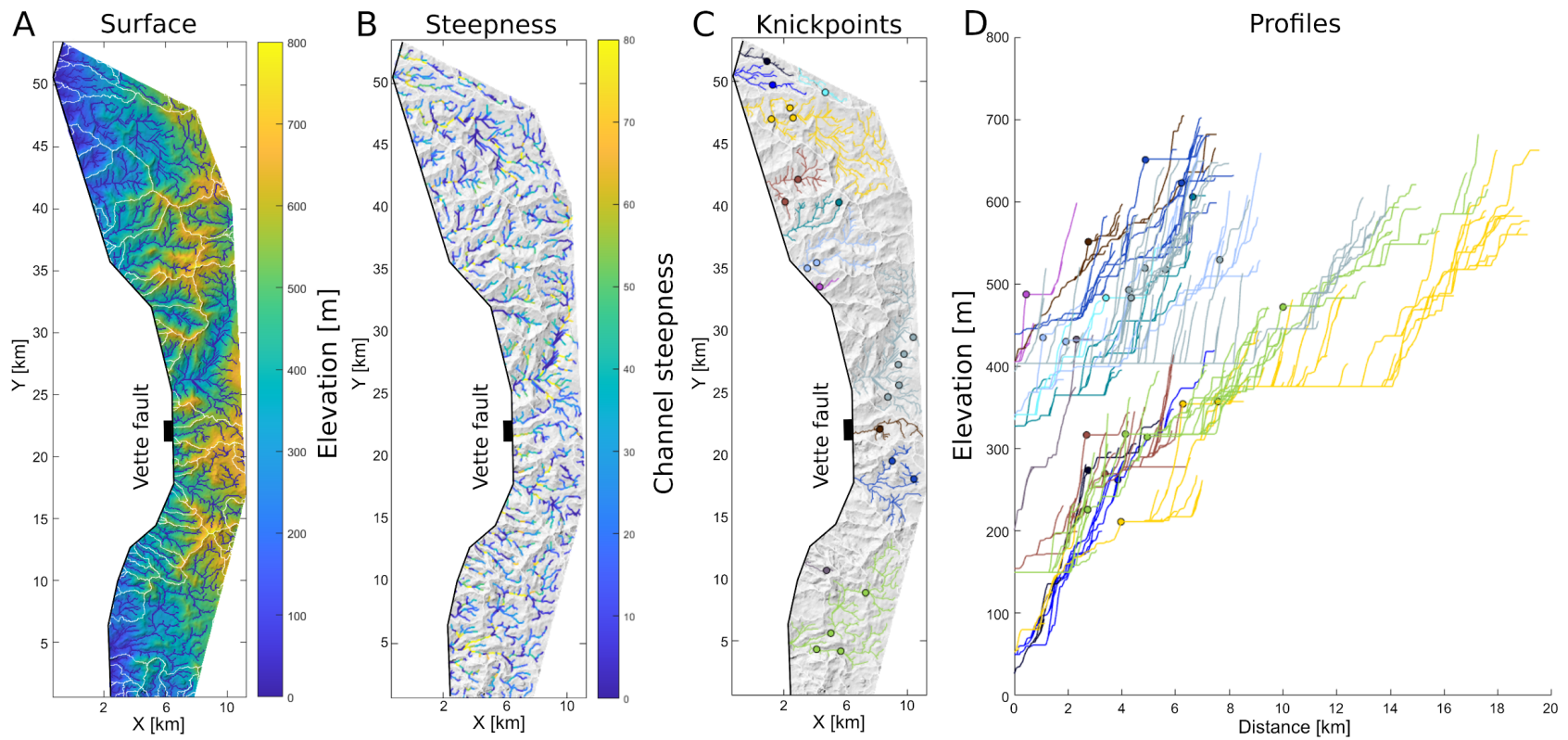


Figure 8. **A** Restored basement surface with stream network and drainage divides. **B** Normalized channel steepness index of stream network. **C** Knickpoints in map view extracted from stream network. **D** Knickpoints along profile extracted from stream network

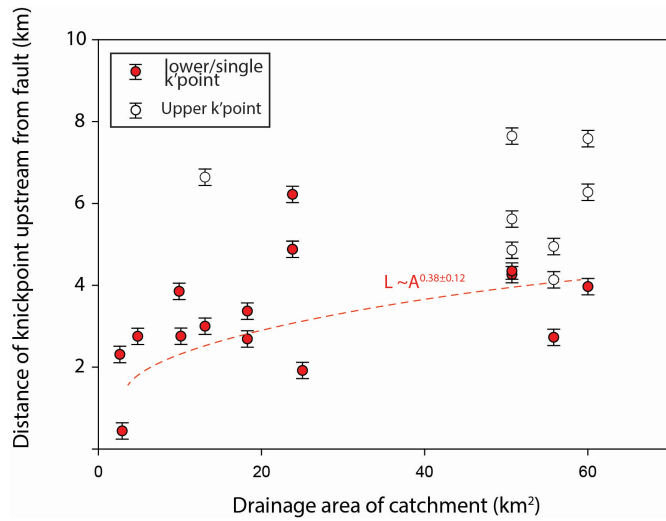


Figure 9. Upstream distance versus catchment plot.

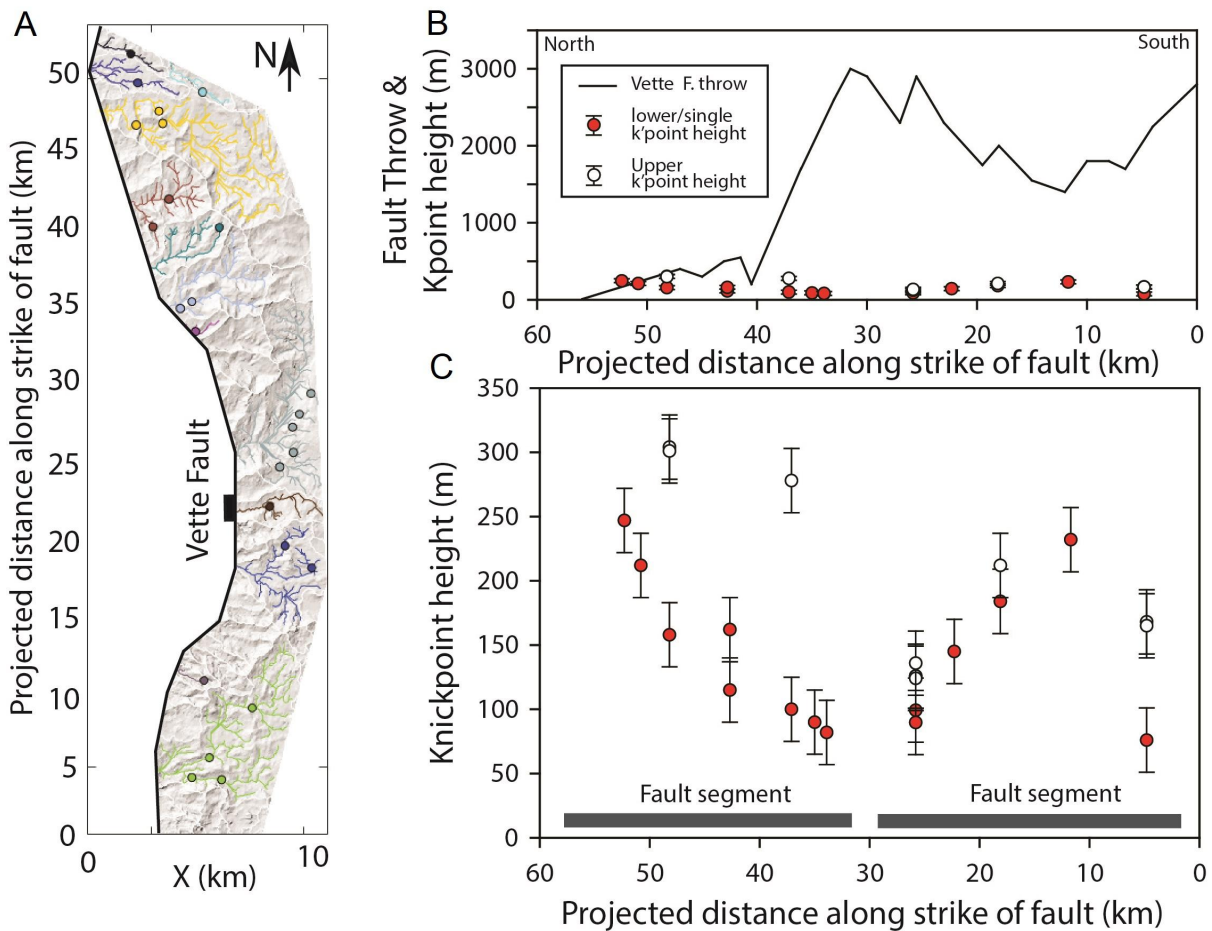


Figure 10: **A** Knickpoints extracted from stream network. **B** Knickpoint height and fault throw along strike (same scale). **C** Knickpoint height with error bar. Note the two populations of knickpoints (upper-white and lower-red).

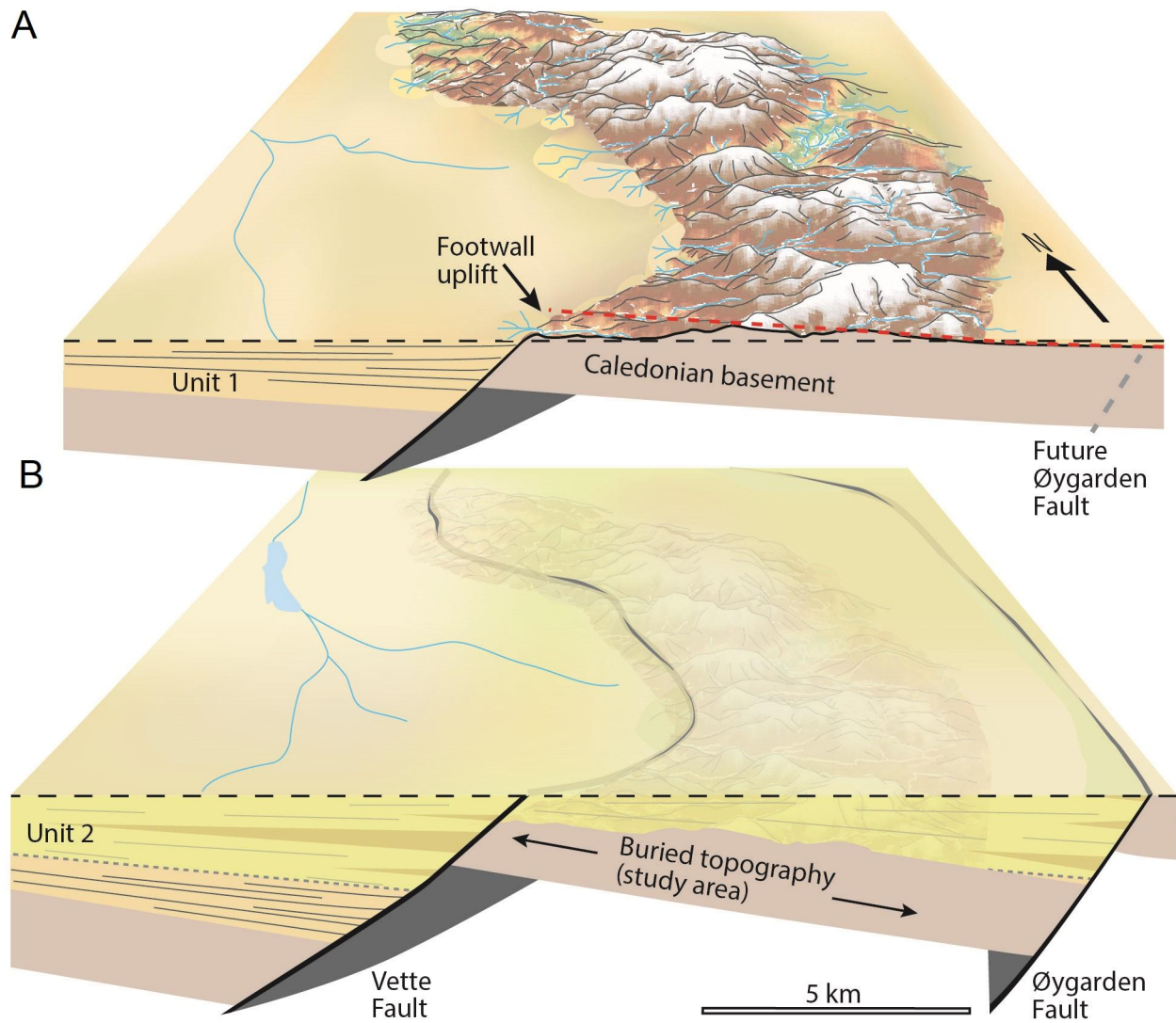


Figure 11: 3D diagram illustrating landscape evolution at the onset of rifting. **A** Landscape development at the onset of rifting in the northern North Sea, when the young Vette Fault initiated and Permian-Triassic strata (Unit 1) were being deposited in its immediate hanging wall. Knickpoints creation when segments of the Vette Fault were displacing palaeo-streams and rivers as they grew, interacted and built footwall relief. **B** Subsequent subsidence and rapid burial underneath Permian-Triassic strata (Unit 2) leading to landscape preservation.

TABLES

Table 1. Geomorphological data extracted from analyzed drainage network.

Number	River length [km]	Catchment area [km ²]
1	7.44	9.9
2	0.44	0.44
3	1.49	1.76
4	5.49	4.82
5	0.29	0.5
6	20.35	60.02
7	1.94	3.44
8	2.93	5.09
9	6.62	18.27
10	1.00	1.36
11	7.15	13.08
12	0.07	0.23
13	18.41	55.83
14	3.61	4.25
15	1.26	1.72
16	1.04	1.02
17	3.16	5.63
18	2.26	1.73
19	0.31	0.28
20	0.05	0.29
21	0.12	0.17
22	2.51	3.17
23	5.84	5.2
24	9.56	25.03
25	3.08	2.64
26	1.71	1.02

27	0.24	0.47
28	1.81	1.28
29	0.12	0.38
30	2.43	2.93
31	6.06	5.3
32	4.64	3.55
33	0.45	0.47
34	5.17	8.54
35	3.67	8.63
36	5.45	3.64
37	4.79	8.43
38	0.81	0.8
39	0.17	0.2
40	0.42	0.53
41	3.92	3.13
42	3.31	3.15
43	0.70	0.59
44	2.09	0.42
45	0.26	2.71
46	3.21	4.62
47	1.95	1.34
48	14.45	50.7
49	0.05	0.34
50	0.05	0.23
51	3.17	3.38
52	7.63	10.13
53	2.87	3.68
54	1.23	1.04
55	1.92	1.62
56	8.20	23.8

57	0.19	0.23
58	5.48	1.02
59	1.63	0.94
60	3.82	0.58
61	0.63	12.52
62	2.35	0.37
63	0.79	6.31
64	1.87	2.06
65	0.53	0.38
66	0.10	2.57
67	0.66	0.91
68	1.17	0.89

Table 2. Knickpoint migration distance extracted from drainage network. Migration times were calculated with rates from Whittaker and Boulton (2012).

Knickpoints	Height [m]	Downstream area [km²]	Distance from Vette fault [km]	Migration time [Myrs]	Error [Myrs]
1	158	3.71	6.27	14.31	0.14
2	51	1.89	3.85	12.36	0.12
3	96	3.94	2.75	11.01	0.11
4	59	1.81	3.97	12.48	0.12
5	85	11.02	2.69	10.92	0.11
6	52	4.27	6.64	14.54	0.15
7	108	2.91	4.13	12.64	0.13
8	50	0.28	3.41	11.87	0.12
9	56	1.33	1.07	7.18	0.07
10	60	0.05	2.31	10.31	0.10
11	64	5.90	0.44	3.65	0.04
12	75	1.90	4.86	13.29	0.13
13	45	5.95	2.76	11.02	0.11

14	89	0.62	4.88	13.31	0.13
15	74	2.84	1.57	8.78	0.09
16	55	14.37	3.37	11.83	0.12
17	49	6.12	7.58	15.07	0.15
18	65	0.92	4.95	13.36	0.13
19	50	25.00	1.92	9.57	0.10
20	73	7.89	10.00	16.18	0.16
21	59	9.67	5.62	13.87	0.14
22	48	2.32	6.22	14.28	0.14
23	72	1.86	3.05	11.42	0.11
24	45	4.54	2.73	10.98	0.11
25	58	0.68	4.26	12.76	0.13
26	54	14.61	1.64	8.96	0.09
27	48	4.73	7.64	15.10	0.15
28	46	0.00	4.35	12.85	0.13