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The evolution of catchment-depositional system relationships on the dip slopes of intra-rift basement highs: an example from the Frøya High, Mid Norwegian Rifted Margin

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9 Abstract

10 Basement highs form one of many potential sediment source areas during the evolution of continental 11 rifts and rifted margins and add to the topographic complexity typical of active rifts. Footwall basement 12 highs acting as a source area to sedimentary systems in the hangingwall of major faults has been 13 documented in many systems worldwide. However, the back-tilted footwall dip slopes of such highs 14 have received comparatively little attention. Here we investigate a subsurface case study from the 15 Norwegian continental shelf, where catchments and shallow marine syn-rift sedimentary systems on a 16 dip slope are preserved due to early transgression of an intra-rift high. At the onset of Late Jurassic 17 rifting, the Frøya High emerged as a prominent, N-S trending, 25 km wide basement high tilted towards 18 the east in response to several kilometers of displacement along the Klakk Fault Complex, a major 19 normal fault zone at the Frøya High's western edge. Using well-calibrated 3D seismic reflection data, 20 we observe a series of conspicuous Upper Jurassic wedges along the eastern edge of the Frøya High 21 along the margin of the Froan Basin. Internally, these wedges show sigmoidal geometries marking top-22 and foresets of clinoform packages with a maximum thickness of ca. 200 meters with foresets between 23 30 – 200 m high, dipping ca. 10 degrees towards the east, south east and north east. We interpret these 24 wedges to represent a series of eastward prograding deltas positioned along a constructional shoreline, 25 connected to E-W trending valleys and river catchments updip. The deltas show strong progradation, 26 interpreted to reflect the impact of continued uplift of their catchments. prior to abrupt termination of 27 sediment supply from drainage capture by footwall scarp drainages. The presence of a connected, 28 largely constructional shoreline has implications for Late Jurassic sediment distribution around the 29 Frøya High, providing primary sedimentary input for longshore driven sedimentary systems in the 30 Draugen Ridge to the north. Comparisons with other syn-rift dip slope systems highlights a broadly similar evolution but shows a distinct lack of the protracted backstepping observed in other dip slope systems. We postulate that different structural configurations of dip slope systems, being footwall uplift, or hangingwall subsidence driven, may drive the strongly progradational character of the deltaic systems on the Frøya High. The Frøya High example highlights the need to constrain primary sediment input points to aid interpretation of volumetrically significant, but short-lived and subtle depositional systems, especially within complex, tectonically active settings.

37 1 Introduction

38 The evolution of rift basins promotes a wide variety of sediment routing and depositional systems which 39 can vary considerably over relatively short temporal and spatial scales (e.g., Gawthorpe et al., 1994; 40 Ravnås & Steel, 1998; Gawthorpe & Leeder, 2000; Nøttvedt et al., 2000; Barrett et al., 2019). High 41 rates and magnitudes of subsidence in the hangingwall of active structures produce the greatest areas 42 of accommodation, with many studies focussing on the delivery of sediment from drainage catchments 43 on nearby footwall crests (e.g., Bilal et al., 2018; Barrett et al., 2021). However, uplift and rotation of the 44 back-tilted footwall dip slope also offers accommodation for sedimentary systems fed by drainage directed away from the footwall crest. (Ravnås & Steel., 1998; Gawthorpe & Leeder, 2000; Muravchik 45 et al., 2018; Smyrak-Sikora et al., 2018; 2021; Rapozo et al., 2021). The tectono-sedimentary setting 46 47 of dip slopes developed along the footwall of major faults is considerably different to that of immediate 48 hangingwall systems such as fault-scarp degradation related fans, or rift-margin deltas. Lower gradients 49 and subsidence rates, of backtilted slopes in the footwall of major normal faults, leads to a greatly enhanced sensitivity to eustatic changes across broader, shallower landscapes compared to 50 51 hangingwall depocentres and commonly host shoreline depositional systems (Gawthorpe et al., 1994; 52 Bell et al., 2018; Fernàndez-Blanco et al., 2020; Smyrak-Sikora et al., 2021). However, the controls 53 upon the spatial variability in depositional environment and resultant stratigraphic architecture of dip 54 slope shoreline systems in rift settings remains comparatively unclear, especially those flanking large 55 intra-rift basement highs (Nøttvedt et al., 2000; Muravchik et al., 2018). With the exception of few 56 localised outcrop (Jackson et al., 2005; Muravchik et al., 2018; Smyrak-Sikora et al., 2021) and 57 subsurface examples (Ravnås & Steel., 1998; Nøttvedt et al., 2000; Chiarella et al., 2020), there are 58 few studies which address the scales, along-strike variability and potential controls on such syn-rift 59 depositional systems.

60 Offshore Mid-Norway, at the necking domain of the Norwegian rifted margin, the Frøya High hosts a 61 number of fringing syn-rift depositional systems, formed on the footwall dip slope of a major active rift 62 margin bound by the Klakk and Vingleia fault complexes during the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous 63 (Figure 1; Blystad et al., 1995; Bell et al., 2014; Elliott et al., 2015; Muñoz-Barrera et al., 2020; Jones 64 et al., 2020). Except for stratigraphy at the northern end of the Frøya High, near the Draugen ridge (Chiarella et al., 2021), syn-rift sediment routing and depositional systems on the eastern flank of the 65 66 Frøya High have received little attention. The eastern flank of the Frøya High allows for a coherent 67 investigation into the link between sediment source area and down-dip deposition, partly due to partial 68 preservation of drainage catchments on the Frøya High following a prolonged period of flooding and 69 burial of the Frøya High at the end of the Jurassic (Jones et al., 2020). Excellent 3D seismic data 70 coverage and recent exploration drilling in 2022 has allowed for re-evaluation of stratigraphic 71 relationships between the Frøya High and basinal areas with improved constraints through newly 72 acquired biostratigraphic, wireline and sidewall core samples within the Upper Jurassic, Viking Group 73 stratigraphy. Here, we integrate this seismic and well data to investigate syn-rift sedimentation along a 74 footwall dip slope of a major rift-margin normal fault, the Klakk Fault Complex (Figure 1). 75 Biostratigraphically constrained deposits and surfaces permit the mapping and characterisation of 76 three-dimensional variability of syn--rift drainage catchments in the footwall of the Klakk Fault Complex 77 and dip slope the associated dip slope depositional systems at the southern and central part of the Frøya High. Finally, integration and comparison of observations from the Frøya High with other dip slopedip 78 79 slope systems from other rift basins demonstrate the variability and role of structural setting in 80 determining the architecture of dip slope sedmentary systems.

81 2 Geological setting

82

2.1 Major tectonic elements and structural evolution of the Frøya High

83 The Frøya High is situated on the Mid-Norwegian passive margin, between 63°N-64°30'N and 6°30'E-84 7°20'E (Figure 1) and comprises a granitic basement which delineates a strong positive magnetic and 85 gravity anomaly (Blystad et al., 1995; Olesen et al., 2010; Muñoz-Barrera et al., 2020). It is bounded to 86 the west by the Klakk Fault Complex (KFC) and is located in the necking domain between the 87 hyperextended Møre and Rås Basins (distal domain) and the Trøndelag Platform (proximal domain; Osmundsen and Ebbing, 2008; Mjelde et al., 2009). At the southern part of the Frøya High, the KFC is 88 89 defined by a 10 - 15 km wide, broad, west-dipping escarpment (Figure 1). The KFC offsets the 90 basement by more than 6 km (Blystad et al., 1995) and reaches the base of the lower crust (Osmundsen 91 & Péron-Pinvidic, 2018; Muñoz-Barrera et al., 2020). The Rås Basin, in the immediate hangingwall of 92 the KFC, has a broadly synformal geometry filled with a ~6-7 km thick Mesozoic-Cenozoic basin fill 93 (Blystad et al., 1995; Muñoz-Barrera et al., 2022).

94 East of the Frøya High lies the southern tip of the 50 km wide Froan Basin that extends for 250 km 95 north along the Trøndelag Platform (Blystad et al., 1995). The Froan Basin is underlain by thick 96 continental crust and contains a Palaeozoic to Cenozoic sedimentary successions. Unlike the western, 97 fault-controlled margin of the Frøya High, the south-eastern margin of the Frøya High passes into the 98 Froan Basin across a gently east-dipping basement-sediment contact cut by several minor, small-99 displacement normal faults (Figure 1). In the northern part of the Froan Basin this boundary becomes 100 more distinct where the Froan Basin is delimited by a narrow horst between the Vingleia Fault Complex 101 (VFC) and Froan Fault (Figure 1; Wilson et al., 2015; Elliot et al., 2015, 2017; Gernigon et al., 2019; 102 Osmundsen et al., 2021; Bunkholt et al., 2022).

103 The Mid-Norwegian margin evolved through several rift episodes following Devonian collapse of the 104 Caledonian mountain range (Coward et al., 2003; Bell et al., 2014). A major rift episode occurred during 105 the Late Permian – Early Triassic leading to crustal stretching and the formation of NE-SW-trending 106 rotated fault blocks on the mid-Norwegian margin (Brekke & Riis, 1987; Brekke, 2000; Coward et al., 107 2003; Halland et al., 2013; Péron-Pinvidic et al., 2013;). During this time, a smaller basin was generated 108 on the Frøya High informally known as the Almond Basin, a 2-5 km wide and 0.5 s TWT thick half

109 graben filled largely with, unconfirmed but likely, Permian to Middle Jurassic stratigraphy (Figure 1; 110 Blystad et al., 1995;). Following a period of relative tectonic guiescence from the Mid-Triassic through 111 to the Early Jurassic, extension resumed within the Middle Jurassic through to the Late Jurassic 112 (Færseth, 1996; Brekke, 2000; Coward et al., 2003; Roberts et al., 2009). During this Middle-Late 113 Jurassic phase, the main tectonic elements such as the Møre Basin, the Frøya High and the Halten 114 Terrace started to form as the rift reached a widely documented 'thinning' phase and deformation became localised (Osmundsen et al., 2002; Péron-Pinvidic et al., 2013; Osmundsen & Péron-Pinvidic, 115 116 2018; Muñoz-Barrera et al., 2020; Bunkholt et al., 2022). The Klakk, Vingleia and Bremmstein fault complexes accumulated substantial displacement at this time and became the location of crustal 117 118 necking leading to uplift of the Frøya High that emerged as a prominent high, during the latter part of 119 the Middle, and throughout the Late Jurassic - Early Cretaceous within a broader seaway 120 encompassing the approximately 250 km wide and 1500 km long Trøndelag Platform separating 121 Norway and Greenland (Figure 1; Coward et al., 2003; Nøttvedt et al., 2008; Osmundsen & Ebbing, 122 2008; Péron-Pinvidic et al., 2013; Chiarella et al., 2020; Jones et al., 2020; Bunkholt et al., 2022).

123 The Froan Basin itself was only moderately tectonically active duringthe Late Jurassic – Early 124 Cretaceous rift episode, with a minor component of uplift on its western margin on to the Frøya High in 125 response to uplift in the footwall of the KFC (Blystad et al., 1995). Following the Late Jurassic – Early 126 Cretaceous rift episode, deformation became focused on the distal domain of the Norwegian Margin, 127 west of the Frøya High (Brekke & Riis, 1987; Blystad et al., 1995; Brekke et al., 1999; Osmundsen et 128 al., 2002; Færseth, 2020).

Throughout the Early Cretaceous, the crust underneath the Møre Basin became hyperextended with substantial displacement accumulated on the KFC (Grunnaleite & Gabrielsen, 1995; Péron-Pinvidic et al., 2013; Osmundsen et al., 2016; Muñoz-Barrera et al., 2020, 2021; Bunkholt et al., 2022). During this time, uplift of the Frøya High began to decrease and it ultimately became buried during the Mid-Late Cretaceous (Bell et al., 2014; Bunkholt et al., 2022).

134 135

2.2 Stratigraphic framework of the Late Jurassic – Early Cretaceous rift episode: the Viking Group.

136 Depositional products of the sedimentary systems that were active on the eastern margin of the Frøya 137 High during the Jurassic – Early Cretaceous rift episode are part of the Middle-Upper Jurassic Viking 138 Group (Figure 2). In the study area the Viking Group either directly overlies the Middle Jurassic Fangst 139 Group, Triassic sediments (known as 'Red' and 'Grey' Beds in local stratigraphic terminology (Blystad 140 et al., 1995), or granitic basement (Figure 2b). The oldest formation of the Viking group is the Callovian-141 Oxfordian Melke Formation that is commonly interpreted to record the transition from pre-rift to rift 142 initiation in the area of the Frøya High (Blystad et al., 1995; Corfield et al., 2001; Jones et al., 2020; 143 Chiarella et al., 2020). The Melke Formation, where present, is overlain by the Spekk or Rogn 144 formations, that have been linked to 'rift-climax' and late rift phases (Jones et al., 2020). The Spekk 145 Formation is largely mud-prone, high in organic content and is widespread on and around the Frøya 146 High (Jones et al., 2020; Muñoz-Barrera et al., 2020, 2022, Bunkholt et al., 2022;). The Rogn Formation 147 is a distinct sand unit that commonly sits stratigraphically within the Spekk Formation on the eastern

flank of the Frøya High (Figure 2b,c, Chiarella et al., 2020). The Rogn Formation is typically interpreted 148 149 to represent Late Jurassic - Early Cretaceous deposits of shoreface to offshore-bar environments 150 (Jones et al., 2020; Chiarella et al., 2020) in a narrow seaway between footwall block islands and the 151 Late Jurassic coastline of the Norwegian mainland (Chiarella et al., 2020; Bunkholt et al., 2022; 152 Færseth, 2022). The Viking Group is capped by a regional unconformity, commonly referred to as the 153 Base Cretaceous Unconformity (BCU) which is overlain by deposits of the mud-prone Lyr and Lange 154 formations of the Cromer Knoll Group. In most parts of the study area the Cromer Knoll Group onlaps 155 the BCU. However, the BCU can have a conformable appearance picked out by a high amplitude negative reflector (Figure 2a). 156

- 157 3 Data and Methodology
- 158

3.1 3.1 Seismic and well data

This study makes use of a reprocessed 3D seismic reflection survey that covers most of the southern part of the Frøya High from the KFC in the west to the Froan Basin in the east (Figure 1a). Seismic data is in normal polarity, displayed in SEG normal convention (downward increase in acoustic impedance = positive amplitude). The wells 6306/6-1 and 6306/9-1 provide tie-points for the key seismic markers: Top basement, Base Viking Group, Top Viking Group (BCU) and base Upper Cretaceous, and Top Cromer Knoll Group (Figure 2a; Table 1)

Well 6306/6-1 is located on the eastern Frøya High and is used to identify the seismic expression of key stratigraphic events within the syn-rift interval (**Figure 1b**, **Figure 2**). The sonic and density logs of well 6306/6-1 provide a record of acoustic impedance contrasts within the stratigraphic interval of interest andgeneration of a synthetic seismogram that allows the characteristics of the key stratal surfaces to be constrained (**Figure 2 and Table 1**).

Well Top Name	Amplitude at 6306/6-1	Character	Variability	
Top Basement	High amplitude, hard-kick	Moderate lateral	Occasionally lower	
	(positive acoustic	continuity.	amplitude where	
	impedance).		basement is overlain	
			by Mesozoic	
			stratigraphy.	
Base Viking	Zero-crossing from positive to	Moderate-limited	Amplitude variability	
	negative from moderate	lateral continuity.	common.	
	positive amplitude to large			
	negative amplitude.			
Base Rogn	Zero-crossing from negative	Moderate lateral	Laterally consistent.	
Formation	to positive from weakly	continuity.		
	negative or noisy wavelet to			
	high positive amplitude.			
Top Rogn	Zero-crossing from moderate	Strong lateral	Laterally consistent.	
Formation	negative to high positive	continuity		

		amplitude often with merged		
		or weakly separated doublet.		
Тор	Viking	Strong-moderate soft-kick to	Strong lateral	Unconformable and
Group/'BCU' high r		high negative amplitude.	continuity to surface.	laterally variable
				amplitude character.
Тор	Cromer	Zero-crossing to high positive	Strong lateral	Laterally consistent.
Knoll		amplitude peak from low-	continuity	
		amplitude noisy data.		

170

Table 1: Amplitude characteristics of the key stratigraphic horizons in 6306/6-1 and surfacesused in this study.

173

3.2 Structural restoration

174 Two-way time structure maps (Figure 3) generated by detailed manual interpretation of 3D seismic 175 reflection data were depth converted using a velocity model that is based on stacking velocities 176 (Johnson & Hansen, 1987; Marsden, 1989; Ashcroft, 2011) . The accuracy of the resultant depth 177 converted surfaces is independently verified by wells 6306/6-1 and 6306/9-1: the difference between 178 the depth-converted seismic horizons and their actual depth in the wells is less than 20m. We apply a 179 crude structural restoration through a simple 'rigid body' rotation of a depth converted Top Viking Group 180 surface is applied to remove the westward, post-rift tilting associated with continued burial and post-rift 181 thermal subsidence throughout the latter part of the Cenozoic (Brekke, 2000; Bell et al., 2014). This 182 provides an approximation of thetopography as it existed during the Late Jurassic. Deformation effects 183 related to compaction and flexure during burial and post-rift thermal subsidence are expected to be 184 minimal and consistent across the study since the area of interest (15 x 20 km) is substantially smaller than the flexure of the Norwegian margin during post-rift subsidence (Brekke, 2000; Bell et al., 2014). 185

186 4 Seismic mapping

The seismic-to-well tie generated for 6306/6-1 (Figure 2) is used to characterise the seismic expression
of three key stratigraphic contacts: Basement, base Viking Group and top Viking Group/'BCU'. All three
reflectors are mapped with high confidence in the eastern part of the seismic reflection survey (Figure
3).

191

4.1 Top Basement TWT structure map

192 The contact between crystalline basement and sedimentary cover corresponds to a positive impedance 193 contrast and a high amplitude, peak (red) reflection where basement is overlain directly by Upper 194 Jurassic/Cretaceous strata (Table 1, Figure 2). Where it is overlain by older Mesozoic strata the contact 195 generates a reflection with lower amplitude (Figure 2, 3). The seismic expression of the top Basement 196 reflector can therefore be used to help distinguish whether basement is overlain by Upper 197 Jurassic/Cretaceous strata or older Mesozoic strata (Figure 2, 3). In the eastern part of the study area 198 the top Basement surface underlies the Late Palaeozoic - Mesozoic infill of the Froan Basin (Figure 199 1c, 4). There, the contact between basement and sedimentary cover is a non-conformity, relatively

smooth, and dips to the east (e.g. Figure 1c, 4). In the western part of the study area the basement surface is part of the footwall scarp of the KFC generating the Frøya High (Figure 3a). Here, the basement surface dips to the west, is strongly undulating, and is onlapped by Upper Jurassic (Viking Group) and Lower Cretaceous strata Figure 1c). Within the central part of Frøya High the basement surface dips to the east within a half-graben, which is informally known as the 'Almond Basin', and is overlain by pre-Upper Jurassic sedimentary strata.

206 4.2 Base Viking Group TWT structure map

The base Viking Group surface commonly represents a positive impedance contrast and is expressed mostly as a peak (red) event, but its seismic expression is variable, and it may be expressed as a trough (blue) event locally (Figure 2). This variable expression is related to the unconformable nature of this stratigraphic contact, juxtaposing different lithologies across the contact.

- 211 The base Viking Group surface is relatively smooth and dips to the northwest across much of the Frøya 212 High and margin of the Froan Basin where the Viking Group overlies the Middle Jurassic conformably. 213 However, with greater proximity to the Frøya High the base Viking Group is increasingly recognised as 214 an an angular unconformity (Figure 1c, 2, 4). Biostratigraphy from 6306/6-1 and 6306/9-1 records a 215 hiatus across this surface that may span the Bajocian (Statoil, 1994. In areas along the southern part 216 of the Frøya High, and underlying a N-S oriented concave-up trench on the western edge of the Froan 217 Basin, the Base Cretaceous Unconformity ('BCU') has eroded down to the pre-Upper Jurassic interval. 218 As a result, the Base Viking Group surface is coincident with the Top Basement surface where Middle 219 Jurassic stratigraphy is absent ("deeply eroded" areas on Figure 3b).
- 220 The distribution of the Viking Group is more complex on the Frøya High than in the Froan Basin. Where 221 the Viking Group is preserved it may rest either on crystalline basement, or on Lower Mesozoic 222 stratigraphy (e.g. Figure 4). The latter form is most common, especially overlying the Almond Basin 223 where the greatest areal extent of Viking Group stratigraphy is preserved on the Frøya High (Figure 5). 224 Where the Viking Group overlies the Permian and Middle Jurassic of the Almond Basin, the Base Viking 225 Group surface is an angular unconformity of around 15 degrees with older stratigraphy within the 226 Almond Basin (Figure 4). Upper Jurassic, Viking Group stratigraphy noticeably onlaps relative palaeo-227 highs on the central and western part of the Frøya High as well as three small (1 - 2.5 km wide) highs 228 on the eastern part of the Frøya High on the flank of the Froan Basin (Figure 3b)
- 229

4.3 Top Viking Group (BCU) TWT structure map

230 The top Viking Group/'BCU' surface marks a negative impedance contrast and corresponds to a trough 231 (blue) event at the intersection with 6306/6-1. However, it's amplitude changes spatially recording the 232 variable lithology of underlying and overlying stratigraphy (Figure 2). It represents an erosional surface 233 that is generally broadly parallel to the underlying strata across much of the Frøya High and margin of 234 the Froan Basin, but locally is a down-cutting surface, eroding deeply into the substrate, that has a 235 concave-up geometry with relief of 50-200 m in parts of the southern Frøya High and within the Froan 236 Basin (X on Figure 3c, 4). Overall, the surface deepens to the west with localised regions of steepening 237 gradient along the eastern edge of the Almond Basin, and along a N-S running ridge 2 - 3 km west of the western edge of the Almond Basin (D on Figure 3c). There are several regions of onlap onto relative
palaeo-highs, typically 1-5 km in diameter and ~40-50 m high on the eastern side of the Frøya High,
and a small cone shaped, 2 km wide region west of the Almond Basin across an area of steepening
gradient of the BCU (Figure 3c).

242

4.4 The Viking Group isopach map

243 The Viking Group isopach map reveals substantial spatial variability in thickness (Figure 3a) with a 244 relatively large, 20 km wide, depocentre overlying, and east of the previous Almond Basin (Depocentre 245 O; Figure 5a), with ca. 150 m of Viking Group stratigraphy. In the southern part of the Almond Basin these strata are truncated and deeply eroded by the BCU forming a ~15 km long, 10 km wide depression 246 247 that cuts down progressively deeper towards the south-west reducing the thickness of the Viking Group to <10 m and locally making it absent (Figure 3b, 3c, 4, 5a). A few kilometers to the east of the Almond 248 249 Basin are three accumulations of Viking Group strata up to 300 - 250 m thick each measuring ca. 5 km 250 in width (Depocentres A, B and C; Figure 5a). These accumulations show approximately fan-like 251 geometries in plan view, with radial thinning from their centrses and are separated by narrow (1-3 km) 252 wide regions of zero or very limited thickness (Areas I, II, and III Figure 5a). Immediately east of these 253 wedges angular truncations of Upper Jurassic (Viking Group) and Middle Jurassic stratigraphy and a 254 substantial decrease in Viking Group thickness suggest widespread erosion along a N-S trending 255 depression (Figure 4b, Figure 5). The N-S depression (Area E; Figure 4b) has a a jagged western edge, 256 approximately 25 km long and 3-5 km wide with a maximum relative depth of ~500 m (Area E; Figure 257 **5b**). Farther to the north-east, closer to the centre of the Froan Basin, the Viking Group is preserved 258 and exhibits a relatively uniform thickness between 30 - 40 m over a 5 x 5 km area (Depocentre D; 259 Figure 5a). Overall, the variable thickness patterns are interpreted to represent both non-uniform 260 deposition in Jurassic times and subsequent erosion during the Early Cretaceous.

261

4.5 The Cromer Knoll Group isopach map

262 The top of the Viking Group, commonly referred to as the BCU, marks the base of the Cromer Knoll 263 Group isopach. The BCU is marked by onlap by the lowest part of the Cromer Knoll Group in parts of 264 the crestal areas of the Frøya High (e.g., D in Figure 4c) and is conformable within areas on the eastern 265 margin of the Frøya High and in the Froan Basin (e.g. F in Figure 4). The Cromer Knoll Group is 266 relatively thin (25 m or less) or absent over the crestal and eastern part of the Frøya High (Area A, 267 Figure 4). . Conversely, in the Froan Basin to the east there are substantially thicker accumulations of 268 Cromer Knoll Group stratigraphy (Area E and F, Figure 4, 5b). The large, N-S trending erosional feature 269 hosts up to 500 m of Cromer Knoll stratigraphy which onlaps the BCU within Area E, becoming generally 270 thicker towards the south of and east of the feature (Figure 4, 5b). To the northeast within the Froan 271 Basin, thicknesses of up to 300 m of Cromer Knoll group are observed (Area F on Figure 5b).

This spatial pattern of thickness of the Cromer Knoll Group and onlap is interpreted to reflect the progressive flooding of the Frøya High, with the Frøya-Froan margin and the crestal part of the Frøya High being one of the last areas to be flooded during the early Cretaceous (Brekke et al., 2000; Bell et al., 2014; Jones et al., 2020). Unlike the Viking Group isopach map, the lateral variability in thickness of this interval is attributed mostly to non-uniform deposition on a variable underlying topography with the majority of the Lower Cretaceous deposits of the Cromer Knoll Group being non-erosional and internally conformable for the most part. The Froan Basin in the easternmost part of the study area continued to receive sediment since earliest Cretaceous times (Depocentre F; **Figure. 5b**; Skarbø et al., 1988). The large, N-S-trending erosional feature is interpreted to have been excavated during the early stages of the Early Cretaceous by the removal of Upper Jurassic and older strata had become filled by the end of the Early Cretaceous as evidenced by onlap of Cromer Knoll reflections onto the BCU on either side of the erosional depression (Depocentre E; **Figures. 5b**, **4**).

Seismic and wellbore stratigraphy and geomorphological characterization of the Viking Group on and around the Frøya High

286 Observations

287 The seismic stratigraphic architecture within the Viking Group fan-shaped, wedges (A, B and C; Figure 288 5a) is relatively complex in comparison to the expression of the Viking Group elsewhere (Figure 6). By 289 flattening the seismic on the Top Cretaceous horizon (Top Shetland Group) we can approximately 290 restore the orientation of the reflectors that make up the wedge to their original geometry before the 291 area became tilted towards the west (Figure 7). On the flattened data, the western and upper part of 292 the wedges consists of parallel, horizontal to sub-horizontal reflections that onlap the basement/base 293 Viking Group surface to the west. To the east, the wedges consist of east-dipping, inclined, sigmoidal 294 reflections that downlap the basement/base Viking Group (Figure. 4, 6, 7). The maximum (non-295 decompacted) thickness of the wedges amounts to ~250meters (Figure. 4, 7a) and the internal 296 sigmoidal reflectors dip ca. 10 degrees. Heights of inclined reflectors vary from ~30 - 200 m. When viewed in aNE-SW section u, reflections have apparent dips in opposing directions, away from the 297 298 approximate centre of each wedge and generate broadly convex-up internal morphology with internal 299 complexity and surfaces marked by downlaps (Figure 8).

300 Well 6306/9-1 penetrates Wedge B and recovers approximately 155 m of Middle to Upper Jurassic 301 which lies directly on crystalline basement (Figure 9). Biostratigraphic and sedimentological analysis of 302 sidewall cores are integrated with wireline and borehole image data into a summary log in Figure 9. The 303 Middle Jurassic stratigraphy comprises a sub-horizontally bedded basal section following bed 304 restoration, from ~941-967 m depth, of interbedded fine-medium-grained sandstone and siltstone rich 305 in carbonaceous material and root traces, which is capped by a coarser grained, upward fining gravely 306 sandstone rich in carbonaceous material but also calcareous shell fragments (Figure 9). Palynological 307 observations in this section show substantial presence of brackish water indicators typical of a marginal 308 marine assemblage and is dated as Callovian. The basal section transitions abruptly at ~940 m depth 309 into a clay-rich, non-bioturbated siltstone with low palynological diversity at the onset of a largely silt 310 and clay-prone, ~45 m thick Oxfordian section becoming increasingly bioturbated and sand-prone 311 upwards (Figure 9). This is overlain by an abrupt transition at 895 m into sand-prone sidewall core 312 samples and consistently low gamma-ray values with a marked reversal in neutron-density separation 313 (Figure 9). This section is dated as Kimmeridgian-Volgian with extensive reworking of Oxfordian palynomorphs and coincides with the position of well recognised eastward dipping, downlapping 314 315 reflections in the seismic data (Figure 6). In the well, this is recognised as a change of restored bedding

dips to steeper (c. 25°), exclusively eastward dips. The Kimmeridgian section can be split into three 316 317 subunits (Figure 9) comprising medium-very coarse sandstone-prone packages separated by the 318 shallower dipping (c. 10°) 1-2 m thick argillaceous sandstone beds. The three sub-units broadly 319 demonstrate a steepening to shallowing restored bedding trend punctuated by shallower restored 320 bedding within the intervening argillaceous sandstone intervals (Figure 9). Sandstone beds are typically 321 coarse-grained, granule-bearing and poorly sorted, with occasional development of cross-stratification 322 and abundant organic material. The section returns at 847 m depth to dominantly fine-to medium-323 grained sandstone that is still granule-bearing and displays planar to cross-stratification coincident with 324 a move into shallowly eastward dipping, planar reflectors in seismic section (Figures 6, 9). However, 325 this package ultimately becomes Ryazanian aged and increasingly rich in glauconite pellets and is more 326 intensely bioturbated (Chondrites and Palaeophycus). This is capped at 819 m depth by a relatively 327 thin, 7 m section of intensely bioturbated, coarse to very coarse, sub-horizontally bedded sandstone 328 (Figure 9). The sandstone itself is overlain by gravel- and pebble-rich sandstones (813 - 815 m) with 329 broken shell fragments and heavy minerals that account for extremely high gamma readings (Figure 330 9). This is overlain by a sub-horizontally bedded claystone with pervasive *Chondrites* at 812 m depth, 331 coinciding with the position of the strong negative amplitude associated with the Top of the Viking Group 332 in seismic (Figures 6, 9)

333 The Top Viking Group/BCU structure map and isopach maps show that the eastern edge of the wedges 334 has an irregular, jagged, erosional, appearance in plan view marking the edge of the N-S erosional 335 feature highlighted by the base of Depocentre E (X in Figure 3c, 10). The N-S erosional feature has 336 connection along its western edge to 0.5 - 1.5 km wide, smaller scale erosional features trending NW-337 SE or E-W, which shallow to the west onto the Frøya High. The irregular nature of the BCU at the 338 eastern edge of the wedges also hosts numerous, relatively small (ca. 100 m wide and 500 m long), 339 amphitheatre-shaped depressions that shallow westwards (Figure 10). Isopach maps reveal that the 340 Viking Group is thinner within these features (Figure 5a, 10) and that they are filled in with, younger, 341 Cromer Knoll stratigraphy, that onlaps this surface (Figure 5b, 10b).

342 Interpretations

343 We interpret the Viking Group wedges with their internal sigmoidal reflections as clinoforms. Based on 344 their fan-shaped plan view geometry of the three wedges (A, B, and C and D; Figure 5a, 7) and eastward 345 dipping and prograding foresets, the wedges are interpreted as eastward prograding deltaic packages. 346 Observations of carbonaceous, rooted heterolithic sandstones from 6306/9-1 suggest the deltaic 347 clinoforms are preceded by a Callovian-aged coastal plain containing occasional fluvial channels which 348 became transgressed in the Oxfordian establishing a largely dysoxic, mud-prone shelf and increasingly 349 sand-prone prograding shoreface rich in bioturbation. This backstepping is followed by the strongly 350 progradational deltaic clinoforms observed on seismic (Figure 6, 7b) which are seen to be that of a 351 coarse-grained sand-prone and poorly sorted, eastward prograding delta initiated during the 352 Kimmeridgian (Figure 9). The observed height and relatively steep (>10°) angle of the clinoform 353 foresets indicates progradation into a waterbody up to ~200 m deep towards the upper, later part of the 354 Viking Group section. Smaller foresets (from 30-50 m) during the onset of the clinoform packages

355 (Figure 6) indicate periods of less accommodation early in the history of the deltas increasing in height through younger clinoforms, with foreset height through the deltas depending on the interaction of sea-356 357 level and seafloor topography at a given time (Figure 7, 9). Argillaceous sandstones intersected in the 358 wells demonstrate similar thicknesses and characteristics to reactivation surfaces separating foreset 359 packages documented in fan deltas (e.g., Backert et al., 2010; Gawthorpe et al., 2017; Barrett et al., 360 2019). Similarly, the scales (10-30 metres thick) and lithology (coarse-grained, gravel-pebble prone sandstones) of the steeper cross-stratified sub-units are comparable to thatof Gilbert-type fan deltas 361 362 with steeply dipping delta fronts comprising a broad range of gravity flow deposits (Massari & Collela, 1988; Nemec, 1990; Rohais et al., 2008; Gobo et al., 2014; Barrett et al., 2019; Chiarella et al., 2020). 363

364 The arcuate, amphitheatre-shape of some of the erosional features (Figure 5, 10) resemble the scars 365 left by slumping of unconsolidated material observed on modern subaqueous depositional slopes (e.g., Biscara et al., 2012; Gales et al., 2019) and in outcrop (Postma 1984; Backert et al., 2010; Gobo et al., 366 367 2014; Rubi et al., 2018). Similarly, they could also represent longer lived tributaries into the larger N-S 368 directed erosional features. The current dataset is not sufficient to conclude whether the N-S-trending 369 erosional feature (Area E; Figure. 4, 5b, 5) formed concomitant with the clinoform package or if it is a 370 younger and distinct, separate feature. However, the main erosional surface of the BCU is locally underlain by slightly older, intra-Late Jurassic erosive features within the northern most part of 371 372 Depocentre E (Figure 5b, 7d) suggesting that the head of this feature may have initiated during the Late 373 Jurassic, with minor periods of filling, prior increased erosion as part of a larger, subaqueous drainage 374 system during the Cretaceous.

375 6 Structural restoration of the Late Jurassic rift terrain

The Upper Jurassic clinoform packages on the Frøya High, particularly their topsets that were deposited in a near-horizontal coastal plain or shallow marine platform setting, may provide constraints on the amount of tilting that has occurred since Late Jurassic times.

379 Figure 11 shows the depth-converted section rotated by 20 degrees on the basis the western flanks of 380 the clinoform packages are interpreted to be sub-horizontal topsets during the Late Jurassic. The 381 resultant section (Figure 11c) represents an approximation of the attitude of sedimentary rocks of the 382 Viking Group on the Frøya High at the time of deposition (Figure 12). Our simple approach does not 383 incorporate flexure and compaction and isless accurate away from the anchor point, Viking Group 384 wedge 'B' on Figure 5a, and especially where uplift would be greater, closer to the KFC. Additionally, 385 the Top Viking Group/BCU structure map is a composite surface which in places is conformable (e.g., 386 near 6306/6-1 and 6306/9-1), but in others reflects substantial erosion (e.g., areas marked '1', '2' and 387 '3' on **Figure 12**.). In areas where the Viking Group was partially removed during the post-rift phase the surface contains topographic elements that post-date the Jurassic and so may not reflect the Late 388 389 Jurassic configuration of the surface within those specific areas. Despite these shortcomings of our 390 simple approach, the restoration of Figure 11, 12 performs well in the eastern flank of the Frøya High 391 and within the clinoform packages where there is limited post-Late Jurassic erosion. The restoration suggests that a prominent irregularity on the basement contact immediately west of the Almond Basin 392 393 ('y' in **Figure. 11b**) formed a topographic high during late Jurassic times (**Figure 11c**). The thickness

maps of Figure 5 reveal that this topographic high corresponds to an area of non-deposition during the Late Jurassic (Figure 5a) and to some extent also during the Early Cretaceous (Figure 5b). Together, these observations suggest that this north-south trending basement ridge likely represented the apex of the Frøya High during the Late Jurassic seen in both the Viking Group thickness map and the restored Top Viking Group structure map (Figsures 5a and 12). We interpret this ridge to represent the drainage divide of the Frøya High as it existed during Late Jurassic- and possibly Early Cretaceous times (Figure 3).

401 7 Late Jurassic palaeo-drainage and palaeogeography of the Frøya High

402 The interpreted prograding shoreline-delta system developed east of, and parallel to, the eastern margin 403 of the Almond Basin. The structural restoration of Figure 12 suggests that the Almond basin was 404 positioned topographically higher than the clinoform packages during Late Jurassic times and was likely 405 subaerially exposed when the clinoform packages were prograding. In addition, the interpreted palaeo-406 drainage divide of the Late Jurassic was located parallel to and immediately west of the Almond Basin. 407 These interpretations together allow constraint on the position and geometry of the palaeo-catchments 408 which fed the clinoform packages, and broadly encompass the area 'O' in the Upper Jurassic thickness 409 map of Figure 5a.

410 Each of the distinct Upper Jurassic clinoform packages (A, B, C in Figure 5a, 13), are connected to to 411 the central portion of the Frøya High (Area O – Figure 5a) through three, substantially thinner, but 412 narrow corridors of Upper Jurassic deposits (Figure 5a). Each of these narrow corridors are separated 413 by areas where the Upper Jurassic stratigraphy is extremely thin (<20 m) or largely absent (I, II and III 414 on Figure 5a). In these areas (I, II and II on Figure 5a) the strong negative acoustic impedance, linked 415 to organic rich shales typical of the Top Viking Group is still preserved (e.g., intersection with Area II in 416 Figure 7b), and so indicates these areas do not simply represent enhanced Early Cretaceous erosion 417 unlike deeply eroded areas of Viking Group stratigraphy. We interpret the thickness patterns of the 418 Viking Group to reflect that the geometry of palaeo-catchment area 'O' (Figure 5a) was likely subdivided 419 into a series of parallel drainage catchments with SE-flowing river systems that debouched to the 420 southeast and supplied sediment to individual point-sourced fan deltas between areas I, II and III 421 (Figures 5a and 13). The area occupied by the palaeo-catchment on the restored structure map of 422 Figure 12 is affected by Early Cretaceous erosion, which renders it inadequate for mapping more subtle 423 features of Late Jurassic such as individual drainage profiles. However, the restoration does provide 424 some constraints on overall catchment geometries.

425 Measuring from the maximum eastern (basinward) extent of the Viking Group thickness anomalies to 426 the interpreted drainage divide provides an approximate maximum catchment length of 12.5 km, 16.9 km and 18.3 km for clinoform package A, B and C respectively with a mean catchment length of 15.9 427 428 km (Supplementary Information). The catchment for clinoform package D is only partly covered by the 429 dataset and so the length is difficult to constrain. The total basinward extent of the Viking Group 430 thickness anomaly probably overestimates the catchment length as it inclues a portion of subaerial 431 topset, subaqueous foreset and bottomset which is not part of the subaerial catchment (Hovius, 1996). 432 Alternatively, the location of catchment outlets can be estimated from the isopach map as the region

where there is an abrupt widening and onset of a fan-like geometry of the thickness anomalies. Using
the estimation of the catchment outlet provides a minimum estimate of the catchment length which are
8.0, 11.3, and 12.1 km for clinoform package A, B and C respectively, giving an average length of 10.5
km, and indicating an average clinoform package length of 5.2 km (Supplementary Information). These
dimensions are in keeping with ancient and modern deltaic clinoforms observed in the Corinth Rift (e.g.,
Barrett et al., 2019), and measurements in compiled database studies for sand-prone deltaic clinoforms

439 (Patruno et al., 2015).

440 The spacing between catchments can be roughly estimated using the small, 1-5 km long, ~100 m 441 high, relative highs (I, II and III on Figure 5a and Figure 13a) and assuming that the catchment outlets 442 were located centrally between them. This analysis gives catchment spacings of 5.7 km between C and 443 B, and 7.6 km between B and A, averaging 6.7 km, or 6.3 km if the Viking Group thickness anomaly 444 (Wedge D) north of Wedge A, to the west of 6306/6-1 is also included (Supplementary Information). 445 The spacing ratio of catchment length to spacing averages 1.69 using minimum length estimates, and 446 2.4 using maximum length estimates, in keeping with catchment area morphometrics for active basins 447 in other studies (2.07 – Hovius, 1996; 2.5 – Talling et al., 1997; 2.48 Sømme et al., 2010). The area of 448 the catchments ranges between 44 - 104 km², which is typical for small catchments common in active rift margins (e.g., Eliet & Gawthorpe, 1995). 449

450 Characterisation of the Frøya High bedrock stratigraphy highlights that Late Jurassic catchments 451 consisted of relatively easily erodible sedimentary rocks of Upper Palaeozoic - Lower Mesozoic age 452 within the Almond Basin, as opposed to the crystalline rocks elsewhere, outside the Almond Basin, on 453 the southern Frøya High (Jones et al., 2020; Munoz-Barrera et al., 2020, 2021). We conclude on the 454 basis of spatial patterns of Viking Group thickness, the position of a NE-SW trending ridge following restoration, and comparison with other rift system catchment morphometrics, that the interpreted Upper 455 456 Jurassic clastic shoreline system was supplied by at least four distinct drainage basins, each around 457 ~10 km, long spaced 5.5 - 7.5 km along the dip slope of the Frøya High. Each drainage basin was 458 preferentially located on exposed pre-Middle Jurassic sedimentary rocks of the Almond Basin which provided easily erodible material feed clinoform packages that prograded eastward into the Froan 459 460 Basin.

461 8 Early Cretaceous evolution of the Frøya High

The erosional features of the Top Viking Group/BCU surface removed substantial portions of the Upper 462 463 Jurassic stratigraphy (e.g. Area 1 - 5 on **Figure 12**, **Figure 13b**). The timing of this erosion is poorly 464 constrained and it is possible that it could have commenced during the end of the latest Jurassic (e.g. 465 sub-BCU erosive features on Figure 7d).. Areas 1 - 3 exhibit a broadly N-S-orientation, compared to E-W orientation of the Late Jurassic drainage catchments (Figure 12 Figure 13). Moreover, these areas 466 467 seem to represent catchments that drain towards the southwestern edge of the Frøya High. Areas 4 468 and 5, however, have the same location and orientation as their corresponding Late Jurassic erosional 469 features (Figure 12, 13). It thus follows that those catchments that drained westward into the Møre 470 Basin were not rearranged during the transition from the Late Jurassic to the Early Cretaceous. Those 471 Jurassic catchments (Areas 1 - 3) that used to be contained within the east-facing dip sloped slope, 472 however, underwent significant change. A clear indication of the mechanism behind this rearrangement 473 of drainage on the dip slopedip slope is suggested by Area 3 (Figure 13b), where headward erosion 474 from one of the fault scarp-bounded catchments (3 on Figure 12 and 13b) appears to have captured 475 a large portion of the catchment that was previously draining eastward. The final form of the erosive 476 features (e.g., 1-5 on Figure 13b) is interpreted to be of Early Cretaceous age as large portions of 477 Upper Jurassic stratigraphy that covered the Almond Basin, likely deposited during transgression of the 478 Jurassic drainage basin ('O' in **Figure 5**), were eroded by the younger, southward draining catchment. 479 We propose that this must have occurred as the footwall scarp catchments along the KFC continued to

480 grow by headward erosion.

481 Although the relatively deep, southward directed canyon immediately east of the clinoform package 482 (Area 2, in Figure 12) extends south beyond the study area it seems plausible to be the result of a similar drainage capture event that could have occurred farther to the southeast along the KFC fault 483 484 scarp. Observations of degradation of the delta foresets, and of sub-BCU erosion in the northern part 485 of this erosive feature (e.g., Figure 7d) indicate that the Area 2 canyon may have begun forming whilst 486 the clinoform packages were active during the Latest Jurassic. Here, degradation of the clinoform delta-487 front may have facilitated sediment transport into and along the basin floor in an axial channel system not dissimilar to axial channels observed in front of modern fan deltas (e.g. Prior & Bornhold, 1989; 488 489 McNeill et al., 2005; Beckers et al., 2018; Gales et al., 2019; Gawthorpe et al., 2018). However, the 490 data is not able to resolve how much of this erosion substantially post-dates the emplacement of the 491 clinoform packages (i.e during the Early Cretaceous), and is formed by more widespread, headward, 492 subaqueous erosion of the then submerged Frøya High flank. Nevertheless, the isolated positions of 493 Cromer Knoll Group thicknesses and onlap of the Cromer Knoll Group onto the BCU suggest that the 494 topography of Area 2 within the canyon was in place by the end of the Early Cretaceous (Figure 4, 7, 495 13).

496 The canyon at Area 2 likely formed a substantial topographic/bathymetric low within which the Cromer 497 Knoll Group was deposited (Figure 13) and may well have formed through a composite history of both Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous erosion. The Lower Cretaceous Cromer Knoll Group in the study 498 499 area consist of continuous, sub-parallel strata that onlaps the BCU with some minor concave-up 500 geometries within the broad N-S orientated erosional feature (Area E, Figure 4, 6, 7d). The lack of any 501 major constructional features along the flank of the Frøya High (cf. Upper Jurassic clinoform packages) 502 suggests that the Frøya High depositional systems which routed sediment towards the Froan Basin 503 likely shutdown and that sediment routing was largely focussed to the south and west of the Frøya High 504 through the Early Cretaceous. A termination of sediment supply from region O (Figure 5) is in 505 agreement with the gradual onlap of the Frøya High by the Cromer Knoll Group, recording a relatively 506 fast transgression of the Frøya high at the end of the Jurassic and into the Early Cretaceous (Figure 507 3c; 9; Brekke, 2000; Bell et al., 2014; Jones et al., 2020).

508 9 Discussion

509 510

9.1 Alternative interpretations of the studied clinoform packages: The Rogn Formation as a connected, constructional coastline on the Frøya High

511 Our interpretation of the Upper Jurassic packages on the southeastern part of the Frøya High as deltaic 512 clinoform packages is different from earlier interpretations. Chiarella et al. (2020) propose the same 513 sand-prone packages within the Rogn Formation to be interpreted as coastal sand ridges sourced and 514 constructed solely through longshore currents, using comparisons between core from the well 6306/6-515 1 and the Draugen field 100-125 km to the north-east (also described by Van der Zwaan, 1990). Deltaic 516 clinoforms are our preferred interpretation on account of the lobate, convex to the east plan view 517 geometry, eastward progradation, consistent with an overall upward coarsening, poorly sorted, coarse-518 grained foreset-dominated package in 6306/9-1 (Figure 9), typical of fan deltas (e.g., Nemec 1990; 519 Rohais et al., 2008). Furthermore, the location of the clinoform packages down-dip of a prominent, 520 erosional, drainage catchment-liked geometries, floored by highly erodible sedimentary deposits of the 521 Almond Basin implies the bulk of sediment was deposited within deltas at the coastline with only minor 522 reworking and northward transport of sediment within delta topset deposits (e.g., Figure 9, Figure 13, 523 14). The clinoform packages all exhibit a consistent progradational architecture from west to east, with 524 parallel topsets overlying or connected to generally east-dipping sigmoidal clinoforms when Upper 525 Mesozoic and Cenozoic rotation is removed by flattening onto a Top Shetland Group horizon (Figure 7). Chiarella et al. (2020) do refer to westward dipping foresets in the northernmost post of the dataset, 526 527 immediately west of 6306/6-1. However, we observe only a single westward dipping surface (Figure 528 7d) which ties downdip into the large N-S trending erosional feature (e.g. Depocentre E, Figure 5). We 529 therefore interpret this westward dipping reflector to be the margin of the up-dip head of this erosional 530 feature that post-dates the delta itself. The consistent eastward progradation is more compatible with 531 that of a radial fan delta than with an offshore sand-ridge, which would likely show coastline parallel 532 progradation. Whilst progradational clinoforms do form within offshore sand ridges (e.g., Berne et al., 533 1998) their angle is typically less than 10 degrees, and foreset heights rarely exceed 30 meters 534 (Chiarella et al., 2020), an order of magnitude smaller than the maximum height of those observed in 535 the Frøya High study area. The abundance of bioturbated, macro-fossiliferous, plant material-rich facies 536 of the Rogn Formation described in 6306/6-1 by Chiarella et al. (2020) and used to ascribe a sand-ridge 537 interpretation are not necessarily unique to that depositional environment. Bioturbation, macro-fossil 538 and plant-material rich sandstones are common in a broad range of shoreline and near-shoreline 539 depositional environments and are especially common in wave- or tide-modified delta fronts (Gustaldo 540 & Huc, 1992; Rossi & Steel, 2015; Annell et al., 2020)..

541 Our interpretation of the studied Upper Jurassic clinoform packages as a series of fan deltas has 542 implications for the overall depositional setting and sediment flux across the eastern flank of the Frøya 543 High during the Late Jurassic. Figures 13 and 14 illustrate a new, depositional model that shows a coastline along the eastern side of the Frøya High that is more constructive and dominated by 544 545 transverse sediment input, rather than axial reworking that has dominated previous models driven by 546 observations from the Draugen sand ridge (e.g. Van der Zwaan, 1989; Chiarella et al., 2020). 547 Palaeocurrent measurements from 6306/9-1 do suggest a component of longshore reworking near the 548 top of the Rogn Formation, however we interpret this to be limited to reworking within the topsets of 549 deltas, with the large thicknesses of sediment within the proposed deltas suggesting considerable 550 volumes of sediment are stored within the deltas rather than transported further northwards.

551 Whilst the existence of shallow marine systems flanking the transition between the Frøya High and 552 Froan Basin have long been speculated on the basis of observations from the Draugen Field (Van der 553 Zwaan, 1989: Chiarella et al., 2020), we speculate further that the Draugen sand ridge may be more 554 intimately related to the regressive, deltaic shoreline documented here. Existing interpretations for 555 sedimentation of the Draugen Ridge lacked a demonstrable sedimentary input for sediment reworked 556 axially from the southwest. The proto-Norwegian Sea existed as a narrow seaway located above 30 degrees latitude from the early through to the Late Jurassic. Palaeoclimate interpretations for the Late 557 558 Jurassic and Early Cretaceous of the North Sea and NW Europe (e.g. Abbink et al., 2001; Mutterlose 559 et al., 2003) highlight that the prevailing current direction was controlled by the northern hemisphere 560 westerlies, i.e. directed to the north east. These current directions are consistent with the dune migration direction proposed in Chiarella et al. (2020) for the asymmetry of the Kimmeridgian Rogn Formation at 561 562 the Draugen field, and with Early Jurassic Ilje Formation shallow-marine bar progradation, and long-563 shore sediment redistribution in the Halten Terrace (Martinius et al., 2001). As a result of these 564 westerlies, the northwestern margin of the Frøya High likely received a strong northeastern current as 565 the southern part of the Sklinna Ridge was submerged and formed an opening to the proto-Norwegian Sea to the west (Bell et al., 2014; Elliott et al., 2015, 2017). Similar currents along the eastern flank of 566 567 the Frøya High were also likely in operation due to the same prevailing current direction, which may 568 have been enhanced through interaction of the several exposed islands in the narrow seaway of the 569 proto-Norwegian sea (Figure 14). Petrographic information of the Kimmeridgian Rogn Formation at the Draugen ridge (Van der Zwaan, 1990; Chiarella et al., 2020) and broader Møre-Trøndelag area (Mørk 570 571 & Johnsen, 2005) indicate a provenance with minor reworking from local granitic and Mesozoic-572 sediment covered palaeohighs such as the Frøya High to the south and west of the Draugen Ridge and 573 Froan Basin (Jongpier et al., 1996; Mørk & Johnsen, 2005). This petrographic signature is consistent 574 with a redistribution of sediment along strike in the shoreline region of the Frøya High - Froan basin 575 margin, with the confluence of these currents meeting at the Draugen Ridge, on the eastern tip of the 576 Vingleia Fault (Figure 14). The deltaic clinoform systems recognised in this study in the southern part 577 of the Frøya High likely provide the primary sedimentary input for the more minor amount of sediment 578 which may bereworked along the Frøya High-Froan basin margin. The description of the Draugen ridge presented by Van der Zwaan (1989) and Chiarella et al. (2020) along with our model of redistribution is 579 580 consistent with the prediction by Nielsen & Johannessen (2009) of how spit systems will often locate at 581 the confluence of meteorological oceanic currents around a landmass, along-strike from major sediment 582 input points, where a majority of sediment remains. The stratigraphic architecture recognised in 583 Chiarella et al. (2020), with a large subaqueous, mud-dominated platform on which upward-coarsening 584 units from a subaerial, high-energy environments are deposited also bear similarities with modern and 585 recent spit environments documented in Nielsen & Johannesen (2009).

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587

9.2 Implications for models of clastic shoreline sedimentation on rift-related dip slopedip slopes

588 9.2.1 Impact of hinterland characteristics and source-to-sink configuration on depositional
 589 systems around intra-basinal highs
 590

591 In the case of the Frøya High, the nature of the bounding structures and resultant physiography of the 592 Late Jurassic landscape can produce substantial along strike variability in the nature of the coastline. 593 This case study demonstrates that if a relatively sizeable source for sediment is exhumed during the 594 evolution of a rift, even in an intra-basinal location, constructive coastal environments may develop 595 locally on dip slopedip slopes, especially downslope of easily erodible sedimentary bedrock. At the 596 southern edge of the Frøya High, a relatively broad, backtilted, footwall dip slope consisted of an easily 597 erodible exhumed sedimentary basin (the Almond Basin) that supplied sediment to a series of closely 598 spaced fan deltas and resulted in a regressive coastline. Less than 100 km to the north, where the 599 Frøya high is significantly narrower and consists of resistant, crystalline bedrock, sediment supply is 600 likely dependent on longshore drift (Van der Zwaan, 1989; Chiarella et al., 2020). The longshore drift 601 dominated coastlines in this region may be dominantly transgressive compared to more progradational 602 or aggradational time-equivalent systems along-strike to the southwest. Muravchik et al. (2018) 603 highlight the co-existence of sediment starved dip slopeand delta-fed dip slopes over strike distances 604 of 10-20 km-from the El-Qaa fault block of the Suez Rift. Muravchik et al. (2019) suggest that the 605 steepest structural gradients and greatest uplift, towards the centre of fault segments drive the location 606 of primary sediment input points on dip slopes, whereas shallower structural gradients around fault tips 607 are more likely to be easily transgressed by rising sea level and sediment starved. Our findings indicate that, in addition to structural changes, the width and bedrock composition of the dip slope are important 608 609 factors to consider in controlling sediment supply, the nature of the dip slope coastal plain, and shallow 610 marine regime. Narrow exposed zones of dip slopes, without the development of drainage catchments, 611 may not be able to contribute significant sediment yield in order to build constructive coastlines (Figure 612 15a). Broader dip slopes can develop larger catchments and potentially connect to greater altitudinal 613 differences from headwaters to drainage outlet, with consequently greater discharge and erosional 614 capability from steeper drainage profiles (Sømme et al., 2009; Romans et al., 2016; Nyberg et al., 2018). 615 dip slope Nevertheless, the sediment yield is likely to be relatively small given the shallow angle of dip 616 slopes (0-7°, Muravchik et al., 2018) compared to steeper catchment systems developed on the footwall 617 scarp of normal. Slower subsidence rates, shallower gradients and shallow water depths make dip 618 slope systems prone to be constructional depositional systems unlike steep, deep fault-attached systems in the immediate hanging wall of major normal faults (Gawthorpe et al., 1994; Ravnås & Steel, 619 620 1998; Rapozo et al., 2021; Smyrak-Sikora et al., 2021). For example, the Viking Group in the 621 hangingwall of the major faults (KFC and VFC) that bound the Frøya High are dominated by deep-water 622 fans and bypassed fault scarps with limited capacity for shelfal development or shoreline sediment 623 storage (Elliot et al., 2015, 2017; Jones et al., 2020). The tectonostratigraphic setting of constructive 624 shorelines on the low gradient, back-tilted footwall dip slopes may record substantially different 625 stratigraphic architecture and depositional stacking patterns due to their increased sensitivity to eustatic 626 base-level changes compared to depositional systems in the immediate hangingwall of a major normal 627 fault (Leeder & Jackson, 1993; Gawthorpe et al., 1994, 2017; Ravnås & Steel., 1998; Jackson et al., 628 2005; Henstra et al., 2017; Barrett et al., 2018; Smyrak-Sikora et al., 2021). dip slope

629 9.2.2 Impact of the structural configuration of dip slope systems

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631 Other dip slope systems (e.g. El-Qaa and Hammam Faraun Fault Blocks, Gulf of Suez (Jackson et al., 632 2005; Muravchik et al., 2018); Snorre-H area and, Central Graben of the North Sea (Nøttvedt et al., 633 2000); Upper Heather Member, Oseberg Fault Block (Ravnås et al., 1997; Ravnås & Steel., 1998)), all 634 exhibit a net-transgressive character from drowning of the dip slope similar to the capping of the deltas 635 here by a transgressive section (Figure 9). Large scale, terminal flooding occurs because of continued 636 rotation and net subsidence of the dip slope in response to either to background-subsidence of the margin and cessation of fault, or enhanced activity in the hangingwall of a nearby fault (e.g., Ravnås et 637 638 al., 1997; Ravnås & Steel., 1998). Unlike other published examples, all the clinoforms observed on the 639 Frøya High show strongly progradational character, and we observe no backstepping of deltaic units at 640 the seismic scale prior to their termination. Observations in 6306/9-1 demonstrate a well-developed 641 delta topset which is abruptly flooded with a thin transgressive-lag overlain by offshore mudstones of 642 the Spekk Formation, rather than more gradual backstepping (Figure 9). This lack of protracted, 643 terminal retrogradation suggests flooding occured abruptly due to rapid sea-level rise or drastic 644 sediment supply reduction, which would be counter intuitive against the ongoing uplift-induced 645 steepening of the catchment headwaters. The Abrupt transgression of the Frøya dip slope systems may 646 be at least partly explained through the drainage capture from headward erosion by catchments on the 647 Klakk Fault Complex footwall crest (Figure 15a). The Early Cretaceous timing of drainage capture to 648 south/southwest draining catchments is simultaneous with previously documented acceleration and 649 localisation of deformation on the Klakk Fault Complex due to its linkage to a major detachment in the 650 lower crust (Peron-Pinvidic et al., 2013; Bell et al., 2014; Muñoz-Barrera et al., 2020). The process of 651 drainage capture by footwall scarp drainage and reduction in dip slope catchment area may be a 652 common rearrangement where displacement on the controlling normal fault continues or accelerates 653 rather than transferring to other structures (Leeder et al., 2005; Privat et al., 2021).

654 To maintain progradational architectures without retrogradation during net subsidence however 655 requires substantial sediment flux. The balance of sediment supply to accommodation for dip slope 656 depositional systems will be influenced by rotation of the fault block, uplift of the catchment to steepen 657 drainage profiles, the gradient of the subsiding (depositional) part of the dip slope, and any changes in 658 sea-level (Gawthorpe et al., 1994; Ravnås et al., 1997; Ravnås & Steel., 1998). Dip slopes in rift basins 659 can occur through two relationships to an active normal fault; rotation in the footwall of a major active 660 fault (Figure 15a), or rotation in the hangingwall of a major active fault (Figure 15b). In a footwall uplift 661 driven system such as the Frøya High, we observe strongly progradational architectures on the dip slope prior to an abrupt termination of the system from drainage capture and flooding rather than the 662 663 preservation of a gradual retrogradation and transgression of the clinoform packages. The existence of deltaic systems on the Frøya High in a depocenter approximately 20 km from the drainage divide, and 664 665 30 km from the Klakk Fault Complex, is consistent with a change to net-subsidence, due to contributions 666 from background subsidence, at half the wavelength of flexure of most large normal faults (40-60 km; 667 Morley, 1995; Armijo et al., 1996; Fernàndez-Blanco et al., 2020). Given the decay of uplift to 668 subsidence away from a bounding fault across a dip slope, the uplift of a diplsope catchment closer to 669 the fault is likely to be greater than the subsidence experienced in the dip slope further from the fault. 670 The resultant uplift-induced steepening of the drainage profile in the upper reaches of catchments, is

671 therefore likely to allow an increase in sediment flux which can exceed the accommodation generated 672 by subsidence to produce the strongly aggradational to progradational character observed on the Frøya 673 High dip slope (Figure 15a). Conversely, in a hangingwall subsidence driven setting (e.g., Alkyonides 674 Gulf – Leeder et al., 2005; El-Qaa Fault Block – Muravchik et al., 2018) (Figure 15b), subsidence is 675 likely to be greater in the depocentre than uplift in the catchment feeding the dip slope depositional 676 systems and uplift and steepening of the catchments may be very minor, or the catchment may even 677 undergo net subsidence (Pechlivanidou et al., 2019). As a result, even coastal systems with a fluvial 678 input become accommodation-dominated and are easily transgressed by subsidence-induced sea-level 679 increases producing the retrograding stacking patterns observed in hangingwall subsidence driven dip 680 slope systems such as those seen in the dip slope systems of the Alkyonides Gulf (Leeder et al., 2005), 681 Oseberg Fault Block (Ravnås et al., 1997; Ravnås & Steel., 1998) and El-Qaa and Hammam Faraun 682 Fault Blocks (Jackson et al., 2005; Muravchik et al., 2018). Temporal changes in fault activity (similar 683 to the high and low 'tilt rates' of Ravnås & Steel., 1998), and interactions with non-tectonic changes in 684 sea-level or sediment flux have the capacity to alter this motif however the differences between 685 hangingwall and footwall driven dipslopse systems highlights that the location of synchronous fault 686 activity is a key controlling parameter on evolution and resultant stacking patterns.

687 10 Conclusions

Detailed seismic mapping and analysis of borehole data within the Viking Group in the footwall dip slopeof the Klakk Fault Complex has revealed a constructive, delta-dominated shoreline system on the eastern flank of the Frøya High. These sedimentary systems are sourced from eroded material from the eastern side of a drainage divide in the footwall of the Klakk Fault Complex that was transported eastwards down the back-tilted, footwall dip slope into the Froan Basin. This case study provides an example of the facies and stratigraphic architecture of dip slope depositional systems within rift settings and highlights spatial variations in dip slope sedimentation over 100 km along-strike.

695 The example on the Frøya High demonstrates the potential for intra-basinal highs to provide substantial 696 sediment sources not only into the hangingwall of major faults, but also across the back-tilted dip slope 697 in their footwall. Comparison with previous interpretations, and other examples of syn-rift dip slope 698 systems, highlight the likely transient nature of coarse-grained systems on dip slopes as they respond 699 to steepening of the headwaters of feeding catchments, which can drive high sediment flux and 700 progradation despite ongoing subsidence further down the dip slope. We hypothesise that footwall uplift 701 driven systems are likely to be more prone to progradation followed by abrupt shutdown resulting from 702 drainage capture by footwall scarp drainage networks. In contrast, hangingwall driven systems are more 703 prone to gradual transgression and form overall retrograding systems.

Integration with regional palaeogeography highlights that the deltaic packages may be important for determining the location, sediment budget and calibre of sediment supplied to longshore shallow marine systems such as spits and sand-ridges such as the Draugen Ridge. The study ultimately highlights major progradation of dip slope systems on the back-tilted footwall dip slopes of intra-basinal highs bound by high displacement normal faults, especially where bedrock is composed of easily erodible material. This is in contrast to shallower gradient low-displacement dip slope systems, or those

- generated in the hangingwall of large structures, which generally have more limited progradation, and
- 711 preserve strong retrogradational stacking patterns.

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Figure 1: A) Regional map of the key structural elements of the Norwegian Continental shelf offshore
Mid-Norway, After NPD (2022). SR – Sklinna Ridge, VFC – Vingleia Fault Complex, BFC – Bremmstein
Fault Complex. FF – Froan Fault B) Regional 2D seismic cross-section showing the location of the
Frøya High bound a high-displacement normal fault – the Klakk Fault Complex within the necking
domain of the Norwegian margin in this region. C) Inset of Frøya High regional section highlighting the
studied stratigraphy in the footwall of the Klakk Fault Complex.

Figure 2: A) Well-to-seismic tie for the stratigraphic interval of interest. A synthetic seismogram is
generated from the sonic and density logs of well 6306/6-1 (Location in Figure 1, 3). Key surfaces that
are recognised in the well are thus linked to their corresponding reflector in the seismic reflection survey
shown in (B). C) Stratigraphic chart highlighting the lithostratigraphic nomenclature for the Norwegian
Margin in the Southern Norwegian Sea (modified from Gradstein et al., 2010 and Gradstein, 2017).
"TVD – True Vertical Depth, TWT – Two-Way Time, FH- Frøya High, SR – Sklinna Ridge, GH – Gossa
High. Tectonic events summarised from Bunkholt et al. (2022).

- Figure 3: TWT structure maps of the three key surfaces; A) Top Basement, B) Base Viking Group and
 C) Top Viking Group (BCU)) used in this study for isopachs and depositional system reconstruction.
 Ticks on onlap extent lines point downdip towards deeper onlap.
- Figure 4: Uninterpreted (A) and Interpreted (B) NW-SE trending seismic line intersecting Area A, E and F highlighting the character of the Top Viking/BCU surface and Viking and Cromer Knoll Group character in the area. Key truncation relationships are marked with arrows highlighting downlap within the Viking Group in Area A, Onlap of the Cromer Knoll Group in Area F, and truncation of the Middle Jurassic and Mesozoic stratigraphy by the Base Viking Group surface. Location and Areas are demonstrated in Figure 4.
- **Figure 5:** Isopach maps of A) Late Jurassic, Viking Group, generated by depth-converting and combining the base and top Viking Group TWT structure maps shown in Figures 3b and 3c, respectively. B) Early Cretaceous, Cromer Knoll Group, generated by depth converting and combining the top Viking Group TWT structure map (Figure. 3c) and an autotracked TWT surface of the base Shetland Group reflector. Key depocenters referred to in the text are labelled A, B, C, O – G.
- Figure 6: Uninterpreted (A) and interpreted (B)detailed seismic image of Viking Gp. wedge B
 intersection with well 6306/9-1 (Figure. 5a). Location shown in Figure 4. K Cretaceous. J Jurassic.
 Log within 6306/9-1 is provided in Figure 9. Yellow dots relate to the Top and Base of the Rogn
 Formation. Seismic sections are plotted in time and are not flattened to preserve the the true well path
 and allow the well log to be anchored on Top Viking and Top Basement reflectors.

Figure 7: Non-flattened and Top Shetland Group flattened seismic sections through thickness anomalies of The Viking Group termed wedges B, C and C. All lines are west - left and east - right. A) Seismic line (unflattened and falttened) through Wedge A. B) Inset location map of cropped Viking Group thickness map, with seismic line locations (red lines). C) Seismic line (unflattened and flattened) through wedge C. D) Seismic line (unflattened and flattened) intersecting with 6306/6-1 through depocentre D. Erosional feature relates to Depocentre E in Figure 5b.

- Figure 8: Uninterpreted (A) and Interpreted (B) composite, approximately N-S oriented seismic lines
 with the three Viking Group wedges labelled. C, D) Insets of Wedge B and A respectively showing
 internal truncations and seismic character. Location shown in Figure 4.
- Figure 9: Summary well log for the Late Jurassic stratigraphy of 6306/9-1 compiled from wireline,
 sidewall core, biostratigraphic and borehole imaging observations. FMI Formation Microresistivity
 Image, UBI Ultrasonic Borehole Imager.
- Figure 10. A) Detail of Viking Group thickness map (Figure 4a) highlighting amphitheatre shaped
 depression bound by steep erosional scars within the eastern edge of Wedge A. Location on Figure 4.
 B) S (left) N (right) oriented seismic line highlighting concave depressions within The Viking Group on
 the eastern edge of Wedge A. Location in part A.
- Figure 11. Cross sections demonstrating a simple restoration of the Top Viking Group/BCU structure
 map. The surface of Figure 4c is depth converted and rotated so that the areas interpreted to represent
 horizontal topsets of the deltaic clinoform packages A, B C, and D (Figure 12). Location in Figure 1a.
- Figure 12. Restored, depth converted, BCU structure map is based on rotation (Figure 11) to horizontal
 of the best-fit plane through the palaeo-horizontal topsets of the Upper Jurassic clinoform package. The
 resultant surface represents an approximation of the topography of the Frøya High at the end of the
 Jurassic. A-D Deltaic clinoform packages. 1-4 Deeply eroded areas.
- 1034 Figure 13: Simplified and interpretive palaeogeographic maps based on the distribution of stratigraphic 1035 packages and depositional environments as interpreted in the present study A) Generalised 1036 palaeogeographic reconstruction of the south-eastern part of the Frøya High and Froan Basin during 1037 the Late Jurassic deposition of deltaic clinoform packages (A,B,C) fed by catchments eroding from 1038 Triassic-Middle Jurassic subcrop (a,b,c). B) Generalised palaeogeographic reconstruction of the south-1039 eastern part of the Frøya High and Froan Basin during the Early Cretaceous, forming substantial 1040 erosional systems, redirected to the south, compared to the eastern-draining systems during the Late 1041 Jurassic.
- Figure 14: A new, simple palaeogeographic model for the Late Jurassic deposition along the southeastern margin of the Frøya High. The shoreline is supplied with abundant clastic material in the south, and potentially in the middle, and a longshore current connects it to the Draugen ridge that may represent a spit system rather than a detached sand ridge.
- **Figure 15**: Conceptual cartoons for evolutionary models of dip slope shoreline systems in A) A footwall uplift driven dip slope shoreline system. Here, progressive uplift in the footwall of a major fault drives sediment flux (T1 – T2) but also induces headward erosion from other catchments which capture dip slope drainage (T3). B) A hangingwall subsidence driven dip slope shoreline systems. Here, progressive subsidence in the hangingwall of a major fault drives a structural gradient to produce drainage catchments which are gradually transgressed (T2) and recorded as protracted shutdowns of shoreline systems (T3).



















Image log interpretation 'tadpoles'	lchnology	Sedimentology	Lithology
 bed boundary lamination (mudstone) lamination (heterolithic) lamination (sandstone) inclined bedding (sandstone) conglomerate deformed bedding 	Ch: Chondrites Pa: Palaeophycus Ph: Phycosiphon Ne: Nereites	 Organic fragments λ Root traces √√ Intense burrowing ← Cross-lamination o O Granules, pebbles	mentsconglomerated beddingsandstoneementargilaceous sandstonetic pelletsheterolithicpelletsmudstone















Figure 14



