

1
2
3 **1 Quaternary interaction of cryospheric and oceanographic processes along the**
4
5 **2 central-east Greenland margin**
6
7 **3**
8

9 *Lara F. Pérez*¹; Tove Nielsen¹; Tine L. Rasmussen²; Monica Winsborrow²*

10
11 ¹ *Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS), Geophysical Department,*
12
13 *Øster Volgade 10, DK-1350 Copenhagen, Denmark (*lfp@geus.dk; tni@geus.dk)*
14

15 ² *Centre for Arctic Gas Hydrate, Environment and Climate & University of Tromsø*
16
17 *(UiT) – The Arctic University of Norway, Department of Geosciences, N-9037 Tromsø,*
18
19 *Norway (tine.rasmussen@uit.no; monica.winsborrow@uit.no)*
20
21

22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

The east Greenland margin has been influenced by oceanographic and cryospheric processes since the late Miocene, when the southwards flow of the East Greenland Current (EGC) initiated and ice sheets first advanced across the margin. However, the relative importance of these processes, and their influence on the sedimentation of the margin through time remains poorly understood. High-resolution single-channel seismic, chirp sub-bottom profiles and swath bathymetry data were acquired along the middle/lower slope and proximal basinal area off Liverpool Land, central-east Greenland margin. In this study, seismic-stratigraphic and morphological analyses have allowed us to distinguish between major sedimentary processes occurred during the Quaternary. The stratigraphic architecture reveals mass transport deposits (MTDs) related to glacially influenced down-slope sedimentation. These are intercalated with buried contourite systems associated with bottom-current controlling the along-slope sedimentation. The distribution of the MTDs suggests influence of two distinct ice stream systems. Initial phases of down-slope deposition during the early-middle

1
2
3 26 Quaternary appear to be related to distal deposition fed by an ice stream from the
4
5 27 Scoresby Sund area in the south. Whilst shallow sedimentary processes, together with
6
7 28 morphological analysis of the seafloor, show that the most recent activity of down-slope
8
9 29 processes during latest Quaternary has occurred in the north, linked to an ice stream
10
11 30 from the Kong Oscar Fjord area. These observations document a temporal shift in the
12
13 31 relative dominance of the Scoresby Sund and Kong Oscar Fjord ice stream systems. The
14
15 32 glacial influence on the margin has been interrupted by periods of stronger activity of
16
17 33 along-slope bottom current flow, demonstrating that the EGC periodically controlled
18
19 34 sedimentation on the continental margin.
20
21
22
23

24 36 **Key-words**

25
26 37 Central-east Greenland margin; Quaternary glacial evolution; glacigenic debris flow;
27
28 38 Scoresby Sund trough-mouth-fan; Kong Oscar Fjord glacial system; oceanographic
29
30 39 processes.
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

51 **1. Introduction**

52 Since the mid-Pliocene onset of large-scale Northern Hemisphere glaciation, the
53 cryospheric and oceanographic evolution of Greenland is considered to have followed
54 the glacial-interglacial cycles of the Quaternary (e.g. Sarnthein et al., 2009). The impact
55 of the Greenland Ice Sheet on the adjacent continental margins has been addressed in
56 several works (e.g. Larsen et al., 1994; Hubberten et al., 1995; Swift et al., 2007; Thiede
57 et al., 2010; Nielsen and Kuijpers, 2013; Knutz et al., 2015; Laberg et al., 2017); in
58 particular the evolution, at different scales, of the ice streams which flowed through the
59 major fjords and cross-shelf troughs (e.g. Stein et al., 1993; Solheim et al., 1998; Evans
60 et al., 2002; Ó Cofaigh et al., 2003; Berger and Jokat et al., 2009; Laberg et al., 2013).
61 However, most of the regional work relating to the Greenland Ice Sheet history has
62 focused on the late Quaternary (e.g. Stein et al., 1996; Håkansson et al., 2007; Thiede et
63 al., 2010; Zhuravleva et al., 2017).

64 The Quaternary oceanographic evolution of the northern North Atlantic is generally
65 understood (Fig. 1A), including the present oceanographic pattern of the Greenland Sea
66 (e.g. Wolf and Thiede, 1991; Våge et al., 2013; Håvik et al., 2017). The vertical water-
67 column structure of the Greenland Sea has experienced little variation over the
68 Quaternary, despite the dramatic climatic shifts (Raymo et al., 2004). However,
69 variations did occur in the northwards advection of oceanic heat, in the meltwater input
70 from the Greenland Ice Sheet and in the inflow and outflow waters through the
71 surrounding straits, which resulted in, among other effects, a drop in North Atlantic
72 Deep Water (NADW) formation during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) (Marchitto
73 et al., 2002; Raymo et al., 2004; Zachos et al., 2008; Zhuravleva et al., 2017).

74 Detailed investigation of the interaction between cryospheric and oceanographic
75 changes and their effect on the sedimentary processes has primarily been carried out

1
2
3 76 along the western (Nielsen and Kuijpers, 2013; Knutz et al., 2015) and southeastern
4
5 77 (Clausen, 1998; Rasmussen et al., 2003) Greenland margins, but so far the central and
6
7 78 northern East Greenland margins has not been investigated in detail. As a novelty, in
8
9 79 this study, offshore geophysical datasets from the central-east Greenland margin have
10
11 80 been used to investigate the influence of cryospheric and oceanographic events within
12
13 81 the long-term sedimentary record of the Quaternary. In particular, glacial-related
14
15 82 features have been mapped and analysed to elucidate the evolution of the Greenland Ice
16
17 83 Sheet along the margin, and the imprints of repeated advance-retreat cycles of local ice
18
19 84 streams on the stratigraphic architecture of the margin. In addition, current-related
20
21 85 features have been identified and related to variations in the regional oceanographic
22
23 86 pattern and its influence in the construction of the margin. Thus, the main aim of the
24
25 87 study is to reveal the cryospheric-oceanographic interactions influencing the
26
27 88 construction of the central-east Greenland margin.
28
29
30
31
32

33 90 **2. Regional framework**

34
35 91 The study area is located oceanwards of the continental shelf edge, in the slope and
36
37 92 proximal basinal area off Liverpool Land on the central-east Greenland margin (Fig. 1).
38
39 93 Although, the Liverpool Land margin constitutes a passive margin, uplift occurred more
40
41 94 recently during the early Pliocene influencing the ice sheet behaviour (Japsen et al.,
42
43 95 2014; Døssing et al., 2016). Glaciations have played an important role in the building of
44
45 96 the margin. Several major ice streams have operated on the continental shelf, carving
46
47 97 cross-shelf troughs and depositing large prograding wedges forming trough-mouth-fans
48
49 98 (TMFs) (e.g. Berger and Jokat et al., 2009), both common elements in high latitude
50
51 99 margins (e.g. Nielsen et al., 2005). The Greenland Ice Sheet history started during the
52
53 100 Eocene/Oligocene with a succession of cooling events before a major intensification of
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 101 glaciations during the Pliocene/Pleistocene (Larsen et al., 1994; Solheim et al., 1998;
4
5 102 Tripathi et al., 2008). Last major advances of the Greenland Ice Sheet across the eastern
6
7 103 shelf occurred during the Saalian Glaciation (0.20-0.13 Ma) (Vanneste et al., 1995;
8
9 104 Solheim et al., 1998; Hakånssoon et al., 2007) and the LGM, from which the last ice-
10
11 105 retreat began (Evans et al., 2002; ÓCofaigh et al., 2002, 2004). In addition to these
12
13 106 large-scale glaciations, several local glaciations have been documented along the
14
15 107 central-east Greenland margin, such as the Scoresby Sund glaciation from 0.24 to 0.13
16
17 108 Ma and the Flakkerhuk glaciation from 0.06 to 0.01 Ma (Funder et al., 1994, 1998).

19
20 109 The present-day oceanographic pattern of the study area is dominated by the
21
22 110 southwards flow of the East Greenland Current (EGC) (e.g. Våge et al., 2013). The
23
24 111 evolution of this current has mainly been determined by the tectonic formation of the
25
26 112 Fram and Denmark Straits (Fig. 1A). The Fram Strait represents the main connection
27
28 113 between the Arctic Ocean and the Greenland Sea, whereas the Denmark Strait connects
29
30 114 the Greenland Sea with the North Atlantic (Fig. 1A). The exact timing of the opening of
31
32 115 the Fram Strait, as well as the generation of the deep-water oceanic connection, remains
33
34 116 unresolved. Proposed opening time ranges from the Oligocene to the Miocene/Pliocene
35
36 117 boundary (e.g. Engen et al., 2008; Ehlers and Jokat, 2013; Mattingsdal et al., 2014). The
37
38 118 overflow of deep water from the Greenland Sea (mainly formed by Northern
39
40 119 Component Water) through the Denmark Strait began during the early Miocene (Wright
41
42 120 and Miller, 1996; Engen et al., 2008; Ehlers and Jokat, 2013), but it may periodically
43
44 121 have been restricted by tectonic pulses along the Greenland-Scotland Ridge (Wright and
45
46 122 Miller, 1996; Poore et al., 2006; Parnell-Turner et al., 2015). The onset of the flow of
47
48 123 the EGC along the east Greenland margin is suggested to have occurred around 8.3 Ma
49
50 124 (Wolf and Thiede, 1991; Våge et al., 2013). Since then, the flow of the EGC has been
51
52 125 influenced by the glacial-interglacial fluctuations, which changed the position of the
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 126 Arctic Front and, as a consequence, the areal distribution of the water masses involved
4
5 127 in the flow (e.g. Mokeddem and McManus, 2016). Thus, during southward advances of
6
7 128 the Arctic Front, convection increases enhancing polar heat transport and favouring
8
9 129 northern ice sheets growth (e.g. Mokeddem and McManus, 2016). At present, the EGC
10
11 130 flow off Liverpool Land comprises several water masses occupying distinct depths in
12
13 131 the water column. The Polar Water occupies the continental shelf shallower than 200 m
14
15 132 (Aagaard and Coachman, 1968); the Return Atlantic Current (RAC) carries Atlantic
16
17 133 Intermediate Water between 150 and 800 m (Hopkins, 1991); whilst the lower
18
19 134 continental slope and basinal area are influenced by the Greenland Sea Deep Water
20
21 135 (GSDW), generated by convection in the Greenland Sea (Hopkins, 1991; Jeansson et
22
23 136 al., 2008).

138 **3. Data and methods**

139 **3.1 Database**

140 The dataset used in this work consists of swath bathymetry, chirp sub-bottom profiles
141 and high-resolution single-channel seismic data (Fig. 1B). The data were obtained in
142 2013 onboard the *R/V Helmer Hanssen* led by the Department of Geosciences at
143 University of Tromsø (UiT) – the Arctic University of Norway – and the Centre for
144 Arctic Gas Hydrates, Environment and Climate (CAGE). The swath bathymetry was
145 acquired with a Kongsberg Maritime EM300 multi-beam and EK60 split-beam (18, 38
146 and 120 kHz) echo sounders covering both deep and shallow water depths over an area
147 of 1500 km². Sound velocity profiles of the water column were acquired for calibration.
148 Preliminary processing of the multi-beam data was performed using Neptune software,
149 while post-processing was done with Fledermaus software. DMagic software was used
150 to generate grids with 30 m cell-size. Visualization and interpretation of these data were

1
2
3 151 carried out using Fledermaus and ArcGIS software. Chirp sub-bottom profiles, with a
4
5 152 total length of 1004 km, were obtained simultaneously with the multi-beam data (Fig.
6
7 153 1B). The acquisition system was a hull-mounted EdgeTech 3300-HM sub-bottom
8
9 154 profiler operating at 3.5 kHz. Pulse mode and shot rate were varied depending on the
10
11 155 water depth. The maximum penetration is 35-40 ms two-way-travel-time (TWTT) and
12
13 156 was obtained in the southern part of the study area.

15 157 Four high-resolution single-channel seismic profiles, with a total length of 155 km
16
17 158 were acquired on the lower slope, and at the base of the slope within the study area (Fig.
18
19 159 1B). The seismic source was a single Sercel GI mini airgun of 45 cubic inches and the
20
21 160 receiver was a single-channel steamer of 6 m active section with 20 hydrophones. The
22
23 161 sampling rate was 0.5 ms. Post-processing of the seismic data followed a normal
24
25 162 sequence of single-channel processing. The seismic penetration allows a detailed
26
27 163 analysis down to 0.4 s TWTT below the seafloor and identification of major seismic
28
29 164 features to about 1 s TWTT below the seafloor. Interpretation of the sub-bottom and
30
31 165 seismic profiles was carried out using Petrel software, following conventional seismic
32
33 166 stratigraphic analysis (e.g. Payton, 1977).

37 167 **3.2 Age estimation**

38
39 168 The age model of the major seismic units identified in the present study is adapted
40
41 169 from a newly established stratigraphic framework for the central-east Greenland margin
42
43 170 (Pérez et al., 2018). This work presents a reconstruction of the central-east Greenland
44
45 171 margin since Miocene times, providing an estimated age of the mapped stratigraphic
46
47 172 discontinuities by correlation with Site 987 of ODP Leg 162 located in the basinal area
48
49 173 off Scoresby Sund (Jansen et al., 1996; Channell et al., 1999; Pérez et al., 2018). The
50
51 174 ODP 987 region is connected to the central-east Greenland margin by a network of
52
53 175 seismic profiles (Fig. 1B). A comparison of the large-scale seismic patterns of these
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 176 seismic lines with those of the present study, allows correlation of the two upper units
4
5 177 of the stratigraphic model presented in Perez et al. (2017) to the seismic network of this
6
7 178 work as shown in Fig. 2. Thus, according to the chronological model, the age of the
8
9 179 lower seismic unit of the present work, seismic unit U2 (see below), is assigned to the
10
11 180 middle Pleistocene. The base of U2 is formed by a regional stratigraphic discontinuity
12
13 181 Discontinuity-b of an estimated age of 2.05 Ma (Pérez et al., 2018). The age of the
14
15 182 upper seismic unit of the present study, seismic unit U1 (see below), is assigned to the
16
17 183 late Pleistocene-Holocene. The top of U1 is defined by the seafloor and therefore
18
19 184 considered as 0 Ma, and the base of the unit is formed by the seismic Discontinuity-a of
20
21 185 Pérez et al. (2018) (Fig. 2, 3). The age of Discontinuity-a was estimated to 1.6 Ma and
22
23 186 thus correlates to the age of seismic reflector R1 of earlier chronostratigraphic models
24
25 187 of the ODP site 987 (Jansen et al., 1996; Channell et al., 1999). In the present study, U1
26
27 188 was divided into subunits (see below), which could also be recognised, based on affinity
28
29 189 of seismic facies, on two seismic profiles of the former study area (GGUi82-12 and
30
31 190 11HH-GEO8144-022; Fig. 1B) and could thus be tied to ODP 987 for an approximate
32
33 191 age estimation using linear interpolation (Jansen et al., 1996; Butt et al., 2001; Laberg et
34
35 192 al., 2013; Perez et al., 2017) (Fig. 3).

36
37
38
39 193 During the 2013-expedition several gravity and piston cores were recovered in the
40
41 194 study area (Fig. 1B). Gravity core HH13-099GC is located over line CAGE-OA2013-
42
43 195 034, recovering 5.41 m of sediments at 1550 m water depth. The average sound velocity
44
45 196 in the sediments is 1579.17 m/s measured in the core (Rasmussen, *unpublished data*).
46
47 197 The magnetic susceptibility profile of this core is similar to the curves of gravity cores
48
49 198 HH13-093GC and HH13-092GC located in the basinal area to the SE of the study area
50
51 199 (Fig. 1B, 4). Core HH13-092GC recovered 3.1 m of sediments at 1595 m water depth
52
53 200 that have been AMS ^{14}C dated, calibrated to calendar years and correlated to isotope
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 201 stages (Fig. 4). An age of 46.8 cal ka is found at 2.05 m below the seafloor (Fig. 4).
4
5 202 These ages are in agreement with those previously published by Stein et al. (1996) off
6
7 203 central-east Greenland margin. Using the dating from these gravity cores (Fig. 1B, 4),
8
9 204 and assuming a relatively steady sedimentation rate in the study area during the late
10
11 205 Quaternary, the age of the base of the upper subunit can be estimated to *ca.* 0.4 Ma,
12
13 206 which agrees with the age estimated for this horizon from ODP 987 (Fig. 3, 4).
14
15

16 207 **3.3 Terminology**

17
18 208 The morpho-sedimentary nomenclature used in this paper is clarified below.
19
20 209 ‘Contourites’ refers to sediments deposited or substantially reworked by the persistent
21
22 210 action of bottom currents (e.g. Stow et al., 2002; Rebesco, 2005). This term thus
23
24 211 includes a large array of sediments affected to varying degrees by different types of
25
26 212 currents (Rebesco et al., 2014). Thick, extensive sedimentary accumulations are
27
28 213 considered ‘contourite drifts’ or ‘drifts’. We adopted the contourite drift classification
29
30 214 criteria from Faugères et al. (1999) and Rebesco (2005) identifying two main types of
31
32 215 drifts: (i) the mounded drifts, which are mounded and elongated; and (ii) the sheeted
33
34 216 drifts, which are represented by broad, tabular to slightly mounded geometries. A third
35
36 217 type, usually called plastered drifts, has a morphology that lies between the two other
37
38 218 types (e.g. Rebesco et al., 2014). Sediment waves are frequently associated with
39
40 219 contourite drifts, expressed as transverse, asymmetric bedforms of smaller dimensions.
41
42 220 The crests of contourite-related sediment waves are slightly sinuous, with rare
43
44 221 bifurcation and aligned perpendicular or oblique to the flow direction (Wynn and Stow,
45
46 222 2002). Contourite-related sediment waves represent deposition under long-term stable
47
48 223 current conditions at low flow-velocities (Stow et al., 2002; Rebesco et al., 2014). In
49
50 224 contrast, sediment waves related to across-slope flows present moderate sinuosity and
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 225 regular bifurcation and are commonly found parallel to the slope or rise between
4
5 226 channels or sedimentary lobes (Wynn and Stow, 2002).

6
7 227 Mass transport deposits (MTDs) have been identified as bodies having internal
8
9 228 seismic facies similar to that described by Reading (1996) as transparent or semi-
10
11 229 transparent seismic facies in which internal reflections may be locally observed. Among
12
13 230 the large variety of MTDs, glacial debris-flow (GDF) deposits are acoustically
14
15 231 transparent or semi-transparent bodies, that lack the chaotic and higher amplitude
16
17 232 acoustic character of the larger slope failures such as sediment slides (Pickering and
18
19 233 Hiscott, 2016). The term ‘GDF system’ is used in this work for the combination of
20
21 234 MTDs and channel-levees of glacial origin (e.g. Laberg and Vorren, 1995). Considering
22
23 235 the vertical resolution of the seismic data (~ 3 m), individual MTDs could comprise
24
25 236 several events undistinguishable at the seismic scale, and therefore, they could be
26
27 237 considered as mass transport complexes as defined by Pickering and Hiscott (2016).

28
29 238 Pockmarks are nearly circular depressions formed where fluids escape through the
30
31 239 seafloor sediment (Cathles et al., 2010). These imprints are common where gas is
32
33 240 present in the near seafloor sediments and are usually associated with other fluid
34
35 241 migration structures such as chimneys or polygonal faults (Cathles et al., 2010).

36
37 242 Pockmarks and fluid migration structures are identified in this work and mentioned as
38
39 243 part of the margin description, but otherwise not further discussed.

40
41
42
43
44 244

45 46 245 **4. Results and interpretation**

47 48 246 **4.1 Physiography**

49
50 247 The study area is located off northern Liverpool Land where the continental shelf
51
52 248 widens from 70 to 100 km from south to north (Fig. 1B). The wide continental shelf is
53
54 249 generally over 200 m deep, deepening to 400 m at the shelf edge. It presents an irregular
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 250 morphology marked by several cross-shelf troughs. The slope, about 30 km wide,
4
5 251 passes into the basinal area of the southern and shallowest part of the Greenland Sea
6
7 252 with water depths over 1700 m (Fig. 1B).
8

9 253 The upper slope extends from 400 to 700 m water depth with gradients between 5°
10
11 254 and 3°, being wider and gentler in the north. The swath bathymetry data extends from
12
13 255 the middle slope to the adjacent basinal area where the depth varies between 650 and
14
15 256 1770 m below sea level (Fig. 1B, 5). The middle slope is characterised by gradients
16
17 257 ranging from 4° in the south to 2° in the north, whilst the lower slope is gentler with
18
19 258 gradients of 2° in the south and 1° in the north. The middle and lower slopes show a
20
21 259 relatively smooth surface morphology in the south whereas they have an irregular
22
23 260 morphology in the northern area (Fig. 5). The base of the slope is located more proximal
24
25 261 in the south relative to the north of the study area. The gradient of the basinal area is
26
27 262 0.3°-0.2° and it has a smooth morphology, particularly in the northern part (Fig. 5).
28
29
30

31 263

32 33 264 ***4.2 Seafloor morphological features***

34
35 265 Several incisions are identified across the middle slope, particularly in the northern
36
37 266 part of the study area. These are referred to as middle-slope channels and trend 30°ESE
38
39 267 (Fig. 5). The middle-slope channels display a V-shaped cross-section about 200 km
40
41 268 wide and 2 m deep, reaching water depths of nearly 1580 m. Larger incisions, also V-
42
43 269 shaped and with the same orientation, are identified across the northern part of the lower
44
45 270 slope. These are referred to as lower-slope channels. The largest are 200 to 700 m wide
46
47 271 and about 5 m deep (Fig. 5). They run over a distance of 3000 to 8000 m, ending in
48
49 272 water depths of 1650 m. Both the middle- and lower-slope channels have an erosive
50
51 273 character and are interpreted to have been formed by downslope flows related to mass
52
53 274 transport of sediments. Some other incisions are identified in the southern basinal area.
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 275 These incisions are 350 m wide and 1.5 m deep and run over a distance of 2 km
4
5 276 between water depths of 1658 and 1665 m (Fig. 5). They are interpreted to be distal
6
7 277 channels, representing the most-oceanwards extent of downslope flows and connected
8
9 278 to distal transport of sediments.

10
11 279 Two of the lower-slope channels end in small monticules (300 m across slope x 1000
12
13 280 m along slope) that stretch parallel to the slope, but generally the channels are located
14
15 281 adjacent to vast lobe morphologies perpendicular to the margin at the base of the slope.
16
17 282 The depositional lobes are particularly well-developed in the northern part of the study
18
19 283 area where two major lobes are identified at the base of the slope (Fig. 5): the northern
20
21 284 lobe is 3014 m wide and 3760 m long, whereas the southern lobe is 2160 m wide and
22
23 285 3110 m long (Fig. 5). Both depositional features, i.e. monticules and lobes, are
24
25 286 interpreted to be associated with the deposition of sediments from downslope mass
26
27 287 transport. Considering the glacial nature of the study area, the erosive channels and
28
29 288 depositional features are interpreted as part of GDF systems.

30
31
32
33 289 Round-shaped depressions are identified on the southern lower slope. They show a
34
35 290 U-shaped profile of about 200 m wide and 5 m deep, and are concentrated in water
36
37 291 depths of about 1500 m (Fig. 5). These depressions are interpreted as pockmarks
38
39 292 according to Cathles et al. (2010) and related to fluid and/or gas escape at the seabed,
40
41 293 following migration through the sedimentary record.

42
43
44 294 Undulating seabed morphologies are identified at the base of the slope in the
45
46 295 northern part of the study area and in the proximal basinal area (Fig. 5A). They are
47
48 296 interpreted as sediment waves. The largest waves are 230 m wide and 4 m high, and
49
50 297 sinuously extend over 2 km (Fig. 5). They are roughly parallel to the slope and located
51
52 298 between the lower-slope channels and the depositional lobes. These sediment waves are
53
54 299 interpreted as related to an across-slope flow in agreement with the discrimination of
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 300 Wynn and Stow (2002). In the proximal basinal area, the sediment waves are less
4
5 301 pronounced, about 100 m wide and 1 m high and with straight or slightly sinuous crests.
6
7 302 They are oblique to the margin and particularly abundant along the southern part of the
8
9 303 study area, where the largest ones extend about 3 km (Fig. 5). These sediment waves are
10
11 304 interpreted to be related to the mobilisation of sediments by along-slope currents
12
13 305 according to Wynn and Stow (2002) and the classification of Stow et al. (2002).
14
15
16 306

17 307 *4.3 Shallow sub-bottom features*

18
19
20 308 Different acoustic facies are distinguished on the chirp sub-bottom profiles (Fig. 6).
21
22 309 The middle and lower slope is generally characterised by low-penetrative facies, with an
23
24 310 irregular seafloor reflection and few-to-no sub-bottom reflections (Fig. 7A, 8A). We
25
26 311 interpret these facies to be associated with MTDs (see section 3.3) and formed by
27
28 312 sediments running downslope from the continental shelf. The identified MTDs have a
29
30 313 relatively transparent acoustic response and therefore they are interpreted as GDF
31
32 314 deposits, formed by sediment instability generated by the oceanward advance of the ice
33
34 315 sheet over the continental shelf.
35
36

37 316 The base of the northern slope is characterized by internal chaotic facies overlain by
38
39 317 subparallel reflections with a wavy-irregular seafloor expression, defined as ridge and
40
41 318 valley topography (Fig. 6, 7A, 8A), following the morphological nomenclature of
42
43 319 García et al. (2012). Oceanwards, stratified and laterally continuous reflections are
44
45 320 slightly tilted, forming a laminated body at about 1700 m water depth (Fig. 6). The
46
47 321 laminated body is interpreted as a plastered contourite drift, according to the
48
49 322 classification established by Faugères et al. (1999) and Rebesco (2005). In the basinal
50
51 323 area the plastered drift onlap onto lateral continuous, undulating reflections that form a
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 324 mounded body between 1725 and 1740 m water depth (Fig. 6). This body is interpreted
4
5 325 to be a mounded contourite drift based on Faugères et al. (1999) classification.
6

7 326 The proximal area of the plastered drift displays an irregular surface over sub-bottom
8
9 327 vertical structures (Fig. 6). Farther south, at the base of the slope, a similar pattern with
10
11 328 horizontal and stratified reflections disrupted by scattered vertical fractures and
12
13 329 underlain by MTDs is identified (Fig. 8A). These structures are interpreted to have
14
15 330 formed due to the migration of fluids through the upper sedimentary record.
16
17

18 331 The southern base of the slope and basinal area is characterized by a generally
19
20 332 stratified sub-bottom pattern of laterally continuous reflections that are slightly
21
22 333 undulating (Fig. 6B, 7A, 8A). Locally small transparent bodies with lenticular shapes
23
24 334 (~800 m length and ~4 ms TWTT thick), considered to be small MTDs, are identified
25
26 335 both on the seafloor and deeper in the stratified sedimentary record (Fig. 6, 7A, 8A).
27

28 336 Two pronounced acoustic reflections, together with a strong reflectivity variation, allow
29
30 337 us to define three chirp units in the shallow sub-seabed section (Fig. 7A, 8A). The lower
31
32 338 chirp unit (c3) is characterised by high reflectivity that decreases downwards. The base
33
34 339 of c3 is not visible on the sub-bottom profiles. The middle chirp unit (c2) is
35
36 340 characterised by low reflectivity (Fig. 7A, 8A), and its thickness increases to the
37
38 341 southwest with a maximum along the proximal basinal area in the central and southern
39
40 342 part of the study area (more than 20 ms TWTT thick; Fig. 5B). The upper chirp unit (c1)
41
42 343 has high internal reflectivity and a maximum thickness (more than 20 ms TWTT) along
43
44 344 the base of the slope in the central study area, thinning to the south (Fig. 6B, 7A, 8A).
45
46
47

48 345 ***4.4 Seismic-stratigraphy***

49

50 346 Seismic-stratigraphic analysis of the high-resolution seismic profiles allows us to
51
52 347 distinguish major stratigraphic unconformities from the present seafloor down to 2.7 s
53
54 348 TWTT depth (Fig. 7B, 8B). Following the regional stratigraphic model published in
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 349 Pérez et al. (2018), the sedimentary record is divided into two major seismic units (U2
4
5 350 and U1 from bottom to top) that are separated by a major regional unconformity called
6
7 351 Discontinuity-a (Fig. 2). The seismic resolution of the lower seismic unit U2 is very low
8
9 352 forming a relatively homogeneous layer with few internal reflections; although to the
10
11 353 north of the study area, reflections of low lateral continuity can be identified in its upper
12
13 354 part (Fig. 7B, 8B). The thickness of U2 varies from 285 ms TWTT along the northern
14
15 355 lower slope to 200 ms TWTT along the base of the slope (Fig. 9A).

16
17
18 356 The distribution of the overlying seismic unit U1 is more heterogeneous, compared
19
20 357 with U2. The thickness of the unit decreases southeastwards from 410 ms TWTT on the
21
22 358 northern lower slope to 150 ms TWTT in the southern proximal basinal area, although
23
24 359 the maximum thickness of 490 ms TWTT is located on the southern middle slope (Fig.
25
26 360 9A). The seismic resolution of U1 allows us to identify several stratigraphic features
27
28 361 and to divide the unit into five minor subunits based on seismic facies variations. The
29
30 362 subunits are named SU5 to SU1 from bottom to top, and are bounded by less distinct
31
32 363 stratigraphic discontinuities that locally represent unconformities (Fig. 7B, 8B).

33
34
35 364 The lowermost subunit (SU5) increases in thickness downslope, from 32 ms TWTT
36
37 365 along the lower slope to 100 ms TWTT at the base of the slope (Fig. 9B). Internal
38
39 366 reflections within this subunit have relatively high lateral continuity and are organized
40
41 367 in a stratified pattern (Fig. 8B). The stratified pattern is locally interrupted by vertical
42
43 368 structures that indicate fluid migration through SU5 (Fig. 7B). Along the middle and
44
45 369 lower slope the stratification is also interrupted by several zones of chaotic facies. These
46
47 370 chaotic zones are formed by a strong erosion —marked by erosive truncation of the
48
49 371 reflections— that laterally continues into wavy reflections with low lateral continuity
50
51 372 forming mound-shape bodies (Fig. 7B). These morphologies are interpreted to represent
52
53 373 channel-levee complexes usually associated with turbidity currents (e.g. Mulder et al.,
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 374 2008; Nelson et al., 2011). Along the southern base of the slope and basinal area the
4
5 375 stratified pattern is replaced by sedimentary bodies with transparent to semi-transparent
6
7 376 seismic signatures interpreted as MTDs (Fig. 7B, 8B). The maximum thickness of these
8
9 377 bodies is 44.2 ms TWTT, located in the southeast basinal area (Fig. 8B). The
10
11 378 combination of turbidity current-related features and MTDs are associated with GDF
12
13 379 systems. However, in the southern part of the basinal area an erosive U-shaped zone
14
15 380 continues laterally in a slightly mounded body, which is interpreted as a buried drift-
16
17 381 moat system.

18
19
20 382 Above, subunit SU4 forms a thin layer the thickness which decreases from 62 ms
21
22 383 TWTT along the lower slope to 22 ms TWTT in the southeastern base of the slope area
23
24 384 (Fig. 9B). Internal reflections have a low lateral continuity and an undulating
25
26 385 morphology, indicating sediment waves (Fig. 7B, 8B). Several erosive areas marked by
27
28 386 erosive truncations are identified inside this subunit, particularly along the base of the
29
30 387 slope (Fig. 8B). As within SU5, the reflection pattern of SU4 is also interrupted by
31
32 388 MTDs. In the lower part of the unit they are interbedded within the generally stratified
33
34 389 reflection pattern; however, widespread MTDs dominate the upper part of SU4 (Fig.
35
36 390 7B, 8B). The maximum thickness of the MTDs is 50 ms TWTT. The stratified
37
38 391 reflections at the northern base of the slope form a mounded body with northward
39
40 392 progradation of the reflections, which resemble the morphology of a buried laminated or
41
42 393 plastered drift (Fig. 8B).

43
44
45 394 Subunit SU3 has a maximum thickness along the northern lower slope (92 ms
46
47 395 TWTT) (Fig. 9B), thinning towards the south (27 ms TWTT) and east, and disappearing
48
49 396 in the northern base of the slope. Internally, this unit is represented by mostly
50
51 397 transparent to semi-transparent facies with some areas of high amplitude reflections,
52
53 398 laterally discontinuous in the central part of the study area (Fig. 7B, 8B). MTDs are
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 399 identified in particular along the northern lower slope where their thickness reaches 90
4
5 400 ms TWTT (Fig. 7B).

6
7 401 Subunit SU2 has highly variable thickness. It is thickest along the middle and lower
8
9 402 slope, where it reaches 250 ms TWTT in the south and 151 ms TWTT in the north (Fig.
10
11 403 9B). Along the base of the slope it is only identified in the northern part, where its
12
13 404 thickness reaches 76 ms TWTT. Internally SU2 comprises several large MTDs of
14
15 405 highly variable thickness. These are bounded by a few high amplitude reflections with
16
17 406 low lateral continuity (Fig. 7B, 8B).

18
19
20 407 Subunit SU1 forms a thin upper layer. Its thickness increases from 20 to 200 ms
21
22 408 TWTT on the central and northern lower slope respectively (Fig. 9B), whereas it is
23
24 409 more uniform along the base of the slope (over 40 ms TWTT). In the south, it presents a
25
26 410 stratified pattern with slightly undulated, relatively lateral continuous internal
27
28 411 reflections. Several MTDs disrupt the stratified pattern of the unit in the northern lower
29
30 412 slope (Fig. 7B, 8B). The thickness of the MTDs is about 40 ms TWTT. Vertical
31
32 413 fractures and sediment mobilisation features associated with fluids migration can be
33
34 414 identified along the base of the slope (Fig. 7B).

35
36
37 415

38 39 416 **5. Discussion**

40
41 417 Most sedimentary processes identified off Liverpool Land, based on the results of
42
43 418 this study, are observed within seismic unit U1, i.e. between the Discontinuity-a and the
44
45 419 seafloor (Fig. 7B, 8B). According to previously proposed stratigraphic models (see
46
47 420 section 3.2) and the regional stratigraphic correlation (Fig. 2), this unit encompasses the
48
49 421 Quaternary stratigraphic record from 1.6 Ma to the Present (Fig. 3). In agreement, the
50
51 422 underlying seismic unit U2 potentially represents the early Quaternary period (2.05 - 1.6
52
53 423 Ma). Within the study area, the U1 sediment thickness increases northwards in contrast
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 424 with the U2 sediment thickness that increases southwards, indicating an overall change
4
5 425 in the sediment distribution during Quaternary (Fig. 9B), which is interpreted to be
6
7 426 related to a change in the prevalent sediment source. The sediments are mainly
8
9 427 delivered from the southern part of Liverpool Land during early Quaternary and from
10
11 428 the northern part of Liverpool Land during late Quaternary.
12

13 429

14 430 ***5.1 Cryospheric influence on the sedimentary processes***

15
16
17 431 North of our study area, and associated with the Kejser Franz Joseph fjord, four main
18
19 432 phases of Quaternary GDF systems formation have been identified previous to this
20
21 433 work (Wilken and Mienert, 2006). Despite a common formation process, the GDF
22
23 434 systems off Liverpool Land have a stratigraphic distribution that differs from those
24
25 435 described in the Kejser Franz Joseph fjord area, as discussed below.
26
27

28
29 436 In the lowermost identified seismic subunit off Liverpool Land, SU5 (early
30
31 437 Pleistocene age), the buried turbiditic-channel systems along the lower slope (Fig. 7B),
32
33 438 led to the formation of buried GDF deposits at the base of the slope predominantly
34
35 439 observed in the southern part of the study area. This configuration points to a distal
36
37 440 downslope input from a glacial system in the Scoresby Sund area (Fig. 7B, 8B, 9). The
38
39 441 resulting GDF systems off Liverpool Land are related to ice streams flowing along the
40
41 442 Scoresby Sund fjord and crossing the continental shelf; a scenario that is consistent with
42
43 443 the high sedimentation rates, dropstones and sandy turbidities identified in ODP 987
44
45 444 (Jansen et al., 1996) and the large sediment input to the northern part of the Scoresby
46
47 445 Sund TMF between 1.77 and 0.78 Ma (Laberg et al., 2013). The formation of the GDF
48
49 446 systems identified in SU5 off Liverpool Land must have been triggered by grounded ice
50
51 447 located on the outer shelf or at the shelf edge off Scoresby Sund. This is in contrast to
52
53 448 the early Pleistocene system north of Kejser Franz Joseph fjord described by Wilken
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 449 and Mienert (2006), where the sedimentary record is characterised by an extensive
4
5 450 deep-sea channel system and proximal formation of GDF deposits formed by an ice
6
7 451 sheet located landwards from the shelf edge. The reduced extension of the ice sheet off
8
9 452 Kejser Franz Joseph fjord occurred during relatively warm conditions (Zhuravleva et
10
11 453 al., 2017). The differences between the offshore sedimentary systems of Scoresby Sund
12
13 454 and Kejser Franz Joseph during early Pleistocene indicate a sedimentation pattern that
14
15 455 suggests that the Greenland Ice Sheet extended farther across the continental shelf in the
16
17 456 Scoresby Sund area compared to the northern East Greenland fjords (Fig. 10).

18
19
20 457 The number of GDF deposits off Liverpool Land increased during SU4
21
22 458 sedimentation in the mid-Pleistocene (Fig. 3, 7B, 8B). We speculate that this upwards
23
24 459 increase in GDF deposits occurred in line with the increase in global ice volume that
25
26 460 accompanied the mid-Pleistocene transition (also known as mid-Pleistocene revolution)
27
28 461 (Head and Gibbard, 2005; Laberg et al., 2017). This climatic shift took place between
29
30 462 0.9 and 0.92 Ma and represents the onset of the high amplitude 100-ka Milankovitch
31
32 463 cycles, when precession-driven variations became more important (Berger and Wefer,
33
34 464 1992; Raymo et al., 1997). The GDF deposits found in the southern part of subunit SU4
35
36 465 indicate an enhanced sedimentary input to the northern part of the Scoresby Sund TMF
37
38 466 prior to 0.78 Ma. Some GDF deposits are also identified within SU4 in the northern part
39
40 467 of the study area, pointing to the inception of an important ice stream through the
41
42 468 northern fjord, i.e. Kong Oscar Fjord (Fig. 10). This change in the glacial stage of the
43
44 469 central-east Greenland during the mid-Pleistocene is also reflected in the significant
45
46 470 change of the sedimentary pattern that occurred off Liverpool Land where the primary
47
48 471 depocentres migrated landwards to the northern lower slope during this period (Fig. 7B,
49
50 472 8B, 9B). The northern glacial advance could have caused the decrease in the input of
51
52 473 meltwater from the Greenland Ice Sheet to the east margin (Zhuravleva et al., 2017).
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 474 The extension of the ice sheet to the northern Liverpool Land occurred at the time of the
4
5 475 first identified GDF deposits on the North Sea Fan (1.1 Ma; Nygard et al., 2002)
6
7 476 suggesting a regional increase in the activity of ice streams around the North Atlantic.
8

9 477 The two overlying subunits, SU3 and SU2, are mainly formed by large MTDs
10
11 478 marking a dominant downslope control on sedimentation off Liverpool Land (Fig. 7B,
12
13 479 8B). We associate this downslope deposition with the glacial intensification at 0.8 Ma,
14
15 480 in agreement with grounded ice extending across the margin —tentatively to the shelf
16
17 481 edge— that launched ice rafting of sediments eroded from the shelf and the formation of
18
19 482 GDF deposits through sediment transport across the continental shelf and down the
20
21 483 slope (Alley et al., 1989; Berger and Jansen, 1994; Dowdeswell et al., 1997; Bart et al.,
22
23 484 2000; Stokes et al., 2016; Laberg et al., 2017). Farther north of the study area, MTDs
24
25 485 have likewise been related to full-glacial conditions and early stages of deglaciation
26
27 486 (García et al., 2012). The internal distribution of the GDF deposits within SU3 and SU2
28
29 487 points to a changing sediment source through time (Fig. 10). While the lowest lying
30
31 488 GDF deposits are more abundant in the southern part off Liverpool Land, and thus may
32
33 489 have been generated by a southern source, the upper lying GDF deposits are more
34
35 490 abundant in the northern study area, indicating a northern sediment source (Fig. 10).
36
37 491 This distribution of the GDF deposits suggests that the activity of the Scoresby Sund ice
38
39 492 stream system decreased as the Kong Oscar Fjord ice stream system activity increased,
40
41 493 indicating a northward advance of the east Greenland cross-shelf glaciation.
42
43
44

45 494 The youngest seismic subunit, SU1, indicates a major change in the sedimentary
46
47 495 pattern off Liverpool Land that occurred at about 0.4 Ma, according to the estimated age
48
49 496 of this subunit (Fig. 3, 4). The distribution of sediments, characterised by depocentres
50
51 497 on the northern lower slope, and the southern stratified pattern of SU1 are taken as
52
53 498 evidence of a lack of downslope transport processes from the Scoresby Sund ice stream
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 499 system (Fig. 7B, 8B, 9B). This is in agreement with the ice-rafted debris (IRD) trapped
4
5 500 in the Scoresby Sund fjord during the last 10 ka when only a minor amount of IRD
6
7 501 reached the open shelf (Stein et al., 1993). However, the MTDs identified in the
8
9 502 northern part of the study area indicate downslope processes across the lower slope
10
11 503 (Fig. 7B, 8B). They may be related to advance of ice through Kong Oscar Fjord and
12
13 504 across the continental shelf during the Saalian and Weichselian glacial periods
14
15 505 (Hubberten et al., 1995). Farther north, moraines related to the maximum extent of the
16
17 506 Greenland Ice Sheet during the LGM have also been identified on the mid-shelf off
18
19 507 Kejser Franz Joseph Fjord (Evans et al., 2002). In addition, SU1 includes the period of
20
21 508 maximum concentration of IRD in the upper continental slope in relation to the
22
23 509 glaciation of the Jameson Land (Funder et al., 1998), when the ice sheet reached the
24
25 510 mid-shelf (Funder et al., 1998; Evans et al., 2002); and the 0.2 Ma peak of GDF
26
27 511 deposits along the east Greenland margin when the ice sheet last extended to the shelf
28
29 512 edge (Wilken and Mienert, 2006).
30
31
32

33 513 In addition to the differences in sedimentary processes between the two zones within
34
35 514 SU1 distinguished off Liverpool Land, there are also clear morphological differences
36
37 515 distinguishable on the swath bathymetry data and sub-bottom profiles (Fig. 5, 6).
38
39 516 Although having occurred within the last 0.4 Ma, there is no evidence of recent
40
41 517 downslope transport across the lower slope in the southern part of the study area, as
42
43 518 reflected in the stratified pattern of the chirp units (c1, c2 and c3) identified in the
44
45 519 southern basinal area (Fig. 6B), i.e. at the northern Scoreby Sund TMF (Fig. 11),
46
47 520 which is in accordance with observations by O’Cofaigh et al., (2002). The differences in
48
49 521 the downslope sediment transport activity off Liverpool Land may relate to the slightly
50
51 522 steeper slope in the south compared with the northern part of the study area, which
52
53 523 would support longer run-out distances oceanwards in the south. Thus, the gradient of
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 524 the southern lower slope eases reworking of the MTDs into turbidity currents,
4
5 525 evidenced by the distal channels in the basinal area (Fig. 5) and resulting in an effective
6
7 526 by-passing across the slope (Pudsey and Camerlenghi, 1998; O’Cofaigh et al., 2003). In
8
9 527 contrast, the channels, monticules and depositional lobes that form the GDF systems
10
11 528 observed in the northern part of the study area, provide evidence of downslope sediment
12
13 529 transport processes controlling the sedimentation and morphology of the middle and
14
15 530 lower slopes (Fig. 5, 6, 11), as occurred during the SU1 formation. This difference
16
17 531 could denote a recent larger sediment input, or slope instability, in the northern part
18
19 532 compared to the southern part of the study area as discussed for SU1. The depocentres
20
21 533 of the chirp units c2 and c1 reflect a northward migration, as occurred in the general
22
23 534 trend on the discussed seismic units and subunits, supporting a northward relocation of
24
25 535 the main sediment source along the Liverpool Land margin. However, the physiography
26
27 536 of the slope is important since it determines the post-failure behaviour of the displaced
28
29 537 sediments (Migeon et al., 2011). The gentle slope in the northern study area, where the
30
31 538 continental shelf is also wider, makes it closer to the conceptual model of a classic TMF
32
33 539 system (e.g. Polar North Atlantic; Dowdeswell et al., 1997; King et al., 1996, 1998;
34
35 540 Vorren and Laberg, 1997) where the fan formation occurred during glacial maxima
36
37 541 (O’Cofaigh et al., 2003). In this case, the seafloor GDF systems observed off Liverpool
38
39 542 Land may be related to the glaciations known as Scoresby Sund and Flakkerhuk
40
41 543 (Funder et al., 1994, 1998), as are the depositional lobes described north of Kejsers Franz
42
43 544 Joseph fjord (Wilken and Miernert, 2006). In agreement with the GDF systems formed
44
45 545 off Liverpool Land during the Quaternary, and discussed in the previous section, the
46
47 546 TMFs would reach their maximum growth in the northern part of the study area during
48
49 547 the maximum oceanwards location of the grounded ice sheet, whereas the morphology
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 548 of the southern slope would favour a distal transport of sediments during ice sheet
4
5 549 stability periods.

6
7 550

8
9 551 ***5.2 Oceanographic influence on the sedimentary processes***

10
11 552 A variety of current-related deposits, i.e. different kind of drifts and sediment waves,
12
13 553 has been identified particularly along the base of slope and proximal basinal area off
14
15 554 Liverpool Land. These current-related features are common at the seafloor and within
16
17 555 the Quaternary sedimentary record, intercalated with the GDF systems. They may have
18
19 556 been locally masked or eroded by other dominant processes, e.g. in SU3 and SU2 where
20
21 557 the observed downslope sedimentation may have removed potential current-related
22
23 558 features (Fig. 7B, 8B). The identified current-related features vary from drifts to wavy
24
25 559 facies indicating action, to various degrees, of bottom currents over the seafloor at the
26
27 560 time of deposition (Stow et al., 2002). The coexistence of current-related and glacial-
28
29 561 related deposits identified in the geophysical data in this work reveal a cryospheric-
30
31 562 oceanographic interaction in the construction of the central-east Greenland margin.

32
33 563 A buried drift-moat system is identified in the SU5 in the southern basinal area of the
34
35 564 study area indicating active along-slope bottom currents during the formation of the
36
37 565 subunit. Based on location and morphology (Fig. 8B), the system is interpreted to have
38
39 566 been deposited by a bottom current similar to the present anti-clockwise flow of the
40
41 567 GSDW in the southern Greenland Sea (Jeansson et al., 2008). Thus, formation of this
42
43 568 drift-moat system is suggested to involve GSDW convection in the Greenland Sea
44
45 569 basinal area off Liverpool Land during middle Pleistocene.

46
47 570 The presence of sediment waves and buried drifts observed at the base and lower
48
49 571 slope slightly north in the study area within SU4 suggests an active bottom water
50
51 572 flowing southwards along the slope (Fig. 7B, 8B). The change in the character and
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 573 location of the drifts from SU5 to SU4 suggests an apparent increase in along-slope
4
5 574 current-related deposits, which could relate to the shift from intense, but zonal, oceanic
6
7 575 circulation at high latitudes prior to the mid-Pleistocene transition, to meridional deep
8
9 576 water flows and major water mass exchange with the North Atlantic, starting a strong
10
11 577 overflow of bottom water from the Greenland Sea to the North Atlantic (Berger and
12
13 578 Jansen, 1994; Baumann and Huber, 1999; Helmke et al., 2005). Even though there was
14
15 579 a suppression of formation of NADW in the Greenland Sea during the mid-Pleistocene,
16
17 580 this occurred together with an increased warm water advection and vigorous influx of
18
19 581 oceanic heat to the Greenland Sea due to the progressive northward migration of the
20
21 582 Arctic Front (Berger and Jansen, 1994; Raymo et al., 1997; Henrich et al., 2002; Wright
22
23 583 and Flower, 2002).

24
25
26 584 The distribution and configuration of SU1 off Liverpool Land seems determined by
27
28 585 the irregular morphology of the underlying unit. However, the undulating reflections
29
30 586 observed along the southern lower slope and proximal basinal area suggest a slight
31
32 587 influence of bottom current activity (Fig. 7B). It is also supported by the slightly
33
34 588 undulated signature of the reflections, which form the recent chirp units, c1, c2 and c3
35
36 589 (Fig. 7B). The influence of bottom current in these areas is also revealed by the
37
38 590 contourite drifts identified in the sub-bottom sedimentary records and the contourite-
39
40 591 related sediment waves in the seafloor morphology. The late Pleistocene onset of this
41
42 592 bottom current activity is in agreement with the reported increase in strength of glacial-
43
44 593 related NADW formation from 0.4 Ma, even though the reasons for the increased
45
46 594 production of NADW remain unclear (Raymo et al., 1997). The components of NADW
47
48 595 did not vary significantly on glacial-interglacial timescales for most of the Pleistocene,
49
50 596 thus deep-water formation north of the Denmark Strait continued although its
51
52 597 production decreased during the LGM (Marchitto et al., 2002, Raymo et al., 2004).
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 598 The sediment waves identified at the southern lower slope and proximal basinal area
4
5 599 off Liverpool Land are interpreted to be related to the activity of along-slope flows
6
7 600 during the recent past and present margin history based on their morphology and
8
9 601 distribution with respect to the margin (Fig. 5). However, the sediment waves identified
10
11 602 at the base of the slope in the northern part of the study area are interpreted as turbidity-
12
13 603 related features in agreement with the interpretation of the sediment waves off the
14
15 604 northeast Greenland margin (Garcia et al., 2012). Contourite drifts are identified in the
16
17 605 shallow sub-bottom and seafloor records, particularly in the northern basinal area (Fig.
18
19 606 6). Both types of current-related deposits, i.e. sediment waves and contourite drifts, off
20
21 607 Liverpool Land reveal relatively intense activity of along-slope bottom currents (Fig.
22
23 608 11). These bottom currents must be related to the EGC flowing southwards along the
24
25 609 margin, but in the depth-domain of the GSDW. The observed differences of these
26
27 610 features between the northern and southern parts off Liverpool Land could be associated
28
29 611 with a vertical mixture of the GSDW with the above-flowing RAC (Jeansson et al.,
30
31 612 2008), which would generate variations within the flow.
32
33
34
35
36

613

614 **6. Conclusions**

37
38
39 615 The sedimentary processes observed along the slope off Liverpool Land reveal
40
41 616 interaction between oceanographic and cryospheric processes in the construction of the
42
43 617 margin during the Quaternary. While the oceanographic processes are mainly related to
44
45 618 the southwards flow of the East Greenland Current and the formation of the Greenland
46
47 619 Sea Deep Water within the Greenland Sea, the glacial influence on the margin is
48
49 620 marked by the interaction between the various ice streams that originated from the main
50
51 621 fjord systems of central-east Greenland. The southern ice stream associated with the
52
53 622 Scoresby Sund glacial system was most active during the Pliocene and early-middle
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 623 Pleistocene, however from the middle Pleistocene to the present-day most of the
4
5 624 downslope sediment transport to the basinal area is related to the northern Kong Oscar
6
7 625 Fjord glacial system. The abundance of Glacial Debris Flow deposits between 0.8 and
8
9 626 0.4 Ma points to ice streams reaching the shelf edge off Liverpool Land, whereas the
10
11 627 northern ice streams reached the shelf edge off Kejser Franz Joseph fjord only during
12
13 628 the last 0.15 Ma according to Wilken and Mienert (2006). This northwards migration in
14
15 629 the formation of glacial debris-flow systems and the oceanward ice-edge position
16
17 630 confirm the northward migration of the glaciation along the central-east Greenland
18
19 631 margin since the early Pleistocene.
20
21

22 632

23 24 633 **Acknowledgements**

25
26 634 The research developed for this work has done under the GLANAM (GLAciated
27
28 635 North Atlantic Margins) Initial Training Network FP7/2007-2013/ under REA grant
29
30 636 agreement n° 317217. We thank the Department of Geosciences at University of
31
32 637 Tromsø (UiT) – the Arctic University of Norway – and Centre for Arctic Gas Hydrates,
33
34 638 Environment and Climate (CAGE) for the personal and technical support during the
35
36 639 initial development of the research, in particular Professor Karin Andreassen. T. L.
37
38 640 Rasmussen and M. Winsborrow were supported by the Research Council of Norway
39
40 641 through its Centres of Excellence funding scheme, project number 223259. We
41
42 642 acknowledge the suggestions of Dr. Dove and Dr. García that helped to improve the
43
44 643 first version of the manuscript.
45
46
47

48 644

49 50 645 **References**

51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3 646 Aagaard, K., Coachman, L. K. & Institute of North America 21, N. 1968: The East
4
5 647 Greenland Current II. ARCTIC, *Journal of the Arctic Institute of North America* 21,
6
7 648 267-290.
- 8
9 649 Alley, R. B., Blankenship, D. D., Rooney, S. T. & Bentley, C. R. 1989:
10
11 650 Sedimentation beneath ice shelves - the view from ice stream B. *Marine Geology* 85,
12
13 651 101-120.
- 14
15 652 Bart, P. J., Anderson, J. B., Trincardi, F. & Shipp, S. S. 2000: Seismic data from the
16
17 653 Northern basin, Ross Sea, record extreme expansions of the East Antarctic Ice Sheet
18
19 654 during the late Neogene. *Marine Geology* 166, 31-50.
- 20
21 655 Baumann, K. H. & Huber, R. 1999: Sea-surface gradients between the North Atlantic
22
23 656 and the Norwegian Sea during the last 3.1 m.y.: Comparison of Sites 982 and 985.
24
25 657 *Proceedings of the Ocean Drilling Program: Scientific Results* 162, 179-190.
- 26
27 658 Berger, D. & Jokat, W. 2009: Sediment deposition in the northern basins of the
28
29 659 North Atlantic and characteristic variations in shelf sedimentation along the East
30
31 660 Greenland margin. *Marine and Petroleum Geology* 26, 1321-1337.
- 32
33 661 Berger, W. H. & Jansen, E. 1994: Mid-Pleistocene Climate Shift - The Nansen
34
35 662 Connection. *The Polar Oceans and Their Role in Shaping the Global Environment*, 295-
36
37 663 311 pp. *American Geophysical Union*.
- 38
39 664 Berger, W. H. & Wefer, G. 1992: Neues vom Ontong-Java-Plateau (Westpazifik).
40
41 665 *Naturwissenschaften* 79, 541-550.
- 42
43 666 Butt, F. A., Elverhøi, A., Forsberg, C. F. & Solheim, A. 2001: Evolution of the
44
45 667 Scoresby Sund Fan, central East Greenland - Evidence from ODP Site 987. *Norsk*
46
47 668 *Geologisk Tidsskrift* 81, 3-15.
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 669 Cathles, L. M., Su, Z. & Chen, D. 2010: The physics of gas chimney and pockmark
4
5 670 formation, with implications for assessment of seafloor hazards and gas sequestration.
6
7 671 *Marine and Petroleum Geology* 27, 82-91.

8
9 672 Channell, J. E. T., Smelror, M., Jansen, E., Higgins, S. M., Lehman, B., Eidvin, T. &
10
11 673 Solheim, A. 1999: Age models for glacial fan deposits off East Greenland and Svalbard
12
13 674 (Sites 986 and 987). *Proceedings of the Ocean Drilling Program: Scientific Results*
14
15 675 162, 149-166.

16
17 676 Clausen, L. 1998: The Southeast Greenland glaciated margin: 3D stratal architecture
18
19 677 of shelf and deep sea. *Geological Society Special Publication* 129, 173-203.

20
21 678 Døssing, A., Japsen, P., Watts, A. B., Nielsen, T., Jokat, W., Thybo, H. & Dahl-
22
23 679 Jensen, T. 2016: Miocene uplift of the NE Greenland margin linked to plate tectonics:
24
25 680 Seismic evidence from the Greenland Fracture Zone, NE Atlantic. *Tectonics* 35, 257-
26
27 681 282.

28
29 682 Dowdeswell, J. A., Kenyon, N. H. & Laberg, J. S. 1997: The glacier-influenced
30
31 683 Scoresby Sund Fan, East Greenland continental margin: Evidence from GLORIA and
32
33 684 3.5 kHz records. *Marine Geology* 143, 207-221.

34
35 685 Ehlers, B.-M. & Jokat, W. 2013: Paleo-bathymetry of the northern North Atlantic
36
37 686 and consequences for the opening of the Fram Strait. *Marine Geophysical Research* 34,
38
39 687 25-43.

40
41 688 Engen, Ø., Faleide, J. I. & Dyreng, T. K. 2008: Opening of the Fram Strait gateway:
42
43 689 A review of plate tectonic constraints. *Tectonophysics* 450, 51-69.

44
45 690 Evans, J., Dowdeswell, J. A., Grobe, H., Niessen, F., Stein, R., Hubberten, H.-W. &
46
47 691 Whittington, R. J. 2002: Late Quaternary sedimentation in Kejsers Franz Joseph Fjord
48
49 692 and the continental margin of East Greenland. *Geological Society, London, Special*
50
51 693 *Publications* 203, 149-179.
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3 694 Faugères, J. C., Stow, D. A. V., Imbert, P. & Viana, A. 1999: Seismic features
4
5 695 diagnostic of contourite drifts. *Marine Geology* 162, 1-38.
6
7 696 Funder, S., Hjort, C. & Landvik, J. Y. 1994: The last glacial cycles in East
8
9 697 Greenland, an overview. *Boreas* 23, 283-293.
10
11 698 Funder, S., Hjort, C., Landvik, J. Y., Nam, S. I., Reeh, N. & Stein, R. 1998: History
12
13 699 of a stable ice margin - East Greenland during the middle and upper pleistocene.
14
15 700 *Quaternary Science Reviews* 17, 77-123.
16
17 701 García, M., Dowdeswell, J. A., Ercilla, G. & Jakobsson, M. 2012: Recent glacially
18
19 702 influenced sedimentary processes on the East Greenland continental slope and deep
20
21 703 Greenland Basin. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 49, 64-81.
22
23 704 Håkansson, L., Briner, J., Alexanderson, H., Aldahan, A. & Possnert, G. 2007: 10Be
24
25 705 ages from central east Greenland constrain the extent of the Greenland ice sheet during
26
27 706 the Last Glacial Maximum. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 26, 2316-2321.
28
29 707 Håvik, L., Pickart, R. S., Våge, K., Torres, D., Thurnherr, A. M., Beszczynska-
30
31 708 Möller, A., Walczowski, W. & von Appen, W. J. 2017: Evolution of the East Greenland
32
33 709 Current from Fram Strait to Denmark Strait: Synoptic measurements from summer
34
35 710 2012. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans* 122, 1974-1994.
36
37 711 Head, M. J. & Gibbard, P. L. 2005: Early-Middle Pleistocene transitions: An
38
39 712 overview and recommendation for the defining boundary. *Geological Society Special*
40
41 713 *Publication* 247, 1-18.
42
43 714 Helmke, J. P., Bauch, H. A., Röhl, U. & Mazaud, A. 2005: Changes in sedimentation
44
45 715 patterns of the Nordic seas region across the mid-Pleistocene. *Marine Geology* 215,
46
47 716 107-122.
48
49 717 Henrich, R., Baumann, K. H., Huber, R. & Meggers, H. 2002: Carbonate
50
51 718 preservation records of the past 3 Myr in the Norwegian-Greenland Sea and the
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3 719 northern North Atlantic: Implications for the history of NADW production. *Marine*
4
5 720 *Geology* 184, 17-39.
- 6
7 721 Hopkins, T. S. 1991: The GIN Sea-A synthesis of its physical oceanography and
8
9 722 literature review 1972-1985. *Earth Science Reviews* 30, 175-318.
- 10
11 723 Hubberten, H. W., Grobe, H., Jokat, W., Melles, M., Niessen, F. & Stein, R. 1995:
12
13 724 Glacial history of East Greenland explored. *Eos* 76.
- 14
15 725 Jakobsson, M., Mayer, L., Coakley, B., Dowdeswell, J. A., Forbes, S., Fridman, B.,
16
17 726 Hodnesdal, H., Noormets, R., Pedersen, R., Rebesco, M., Schenke, H. W., Zarayskaya,
18
19 727 Y., Accettella, D., Armstrong, A., Anderson, R. M., Bienhoff, P., Camerlenghi, A.,
20
21 728 Church, I., Edwards, M., Gardner, J. V., Hall, J. K., Hell, B., Hestvik, O., Kristoffersen,
22
23 729 Y., Marcussen, C., Mohammad, R., Mosher, D., Nghiem, S. V., Pedrosa, M. T.,
24
25 730 Travaglini, P. G. & Weatherall, P. 2012: The International Bathymetric Chart of the
26
27 731 Arctic Ocean (IBCAO) Version 3.0. *Geophysical Research Letters* 39, 6.
- 28
29 732 Jansen, E., Raymo, M. E. & Blum, P. 1996: Proceedings, initial reports, Ocean
30
31 733 Drilling Program, Leg 162, North Atlantic-Arctic gateways II. pp. ODP, Texas A and M
32
33 734 University, College Station.
- 34
35 735 Japsen, P., Green, P. F., Bonow, J. M., Nielsen, T. F. D. & Chalmers, J. A. 2014:
36
37 736 From volcanic plains to glaciated peaks: Burial, uplift and exhumation history of
38
39 737 southern East Greenland after opening of the NE Atlantic. *Global and Planetary*
40
41 738 *Change* 116, 91-114.
- 42
43 739 Jeansson, E., Jutterström, S., Rudels, B., Anderson, L. G., Anders Olsson, K., Jones,
44
45 740 E. P., Smethie, W. M. & Swift, J. H. 2008: Sources to the East Greenland Current and
46
47 741 its contribution to the Denmark Strait Overflow. *Progress in Oceanography* 78, 12-28.
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 742 King, E. L., Haflidason, H., Sejrup, H. P. & Løvlie, R. 1998: Glacigenic debris flows
4
5 743 on the North Sea Trough Mouth Fan during ice stream maxima. *Marine Geology* 152,
6
7 744 217-246.

8
9 745 King, E. L., Sejrup, H. P., Haflidason, H., Elverhøi, A. & Aarseth, I. 1996:
10
11 746 Quaternary seismic stratigraphy of the North Sea Fan: Glacially fed gravity flow aprons,
12
13 747 hemipelagic sediments, and large submarine slides. *Marine Geology* 130, 293-315.

14
15 748 Knutz, P. C., Hopper, J. R., Gregersen, U., Nielsen, T. & Japsen, P. 2015: A
16
17 749 contourite drift system on the Baffin Bay–West Greenland margin linking Pliocene
18
19 750 Arctic warming to poleward ocean circulation. *Geology* 43, 907-910.

20
21 751 Laberg, J. S., Forwick, M., Husum, K. & Nielsen, T. 2013: A re-evaluation of the
22
23 752 Pleistocene behavior of the Scoresby Sund sector of the Greenland Ice Sheet. *Geology*
24
25 753 41, 1231-1234.

26
27 754 Laberg, J. S., Rydningen, T. A., Forwick, M. & Husum, K. 2017: Depositional
28
29 755 processes on the distal Scoresby Trough Mouth Fan (ODP Site 987): Implications for
30
31 756 the Pleistocene evolution of the Scoresby Sund Sector of the Greenland Ice Sheet.
32
33 757 *Marine Geology*.

34
35 758 Laberg, J. S. & Vorren, T. O. 1995: Late Weichselian submarine debris flow deposits
36
37 759 on the Bear Island Trough Mouth Fan. *Marine Geology* 127, 45-72.

38
39 760 Larsen, H. C., Saunders, A. D., Clift, P. D., Ali, J., Begét, J., Cambray, H., Demant,
40
41 761 A., Fitton, G., Fram, M. S., Fukuma, K., Gieskes, J., Holmes, M. A., Hunt, J., Lacasse,
42
43 762 C., Larsen, L. M., Lykke-Anderson, H., Meltser, A., Morrison, M. L., Nemoto, N.,
44
45 763 Okay, N., Saito, S., Sinton, C., Spezzaferri, S., Stax, R., Vallier, T. L., Vandamme, D.,
46
47 764 Wei, W. & Werner, R. 1994: Seven million years of glaciation in Greenland. *Science*
48
49 765 264, 952-955.
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 766 Marchitto Jr, T. M., Oppo, D. W. & Curry, W. B. 2002: Paired benthic foraminiferal
4
5 767 Cd/Ca and Zn/Ca evidence for a greatly increased presence of Southern Ocean Water in
6
7 768 the glacial North Atlantic. *Paleoceanography* 17, 10-11.

8
9 769 Mattingsdal, R., Knies, J., Andreassen, K., Fabian, K., Husum, K., Grøsfjeld, K. &
10
11 770 De Schepper, S. 2014: A new 6Myr stratigraphic framework for the Atlantic-Arctic
12
13 771 Gateway. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 92, 170-178.

14
15 772 Migeon, S., Cattaneo, A., Hassoun, V., Larroque, C., Corradi, N., Fanucci, F., Dano,
16
17 773 A., de Lepinay, B. M., Sage, F. & Gorini, C. 2011: Morphology, distribution and origin
18
19 774 of recent submarine landslides of the Ligurian Margin (North-western Mediterranean):
20
21 775 Some insights into geohazard assessment. *Marine Geophysical Research* 32, 225-243.

22
23 776 Mokeddem, Z. & McManus, J. F. 2016: Persistent climatic and oceanographic
24
25 777 oscillations in the subpolar North Atlantic during the MIS 6 glaciation and MIS 5
26
27 778 interglacial. *Paleoceanography* 31, 758-778.

28
29 779 Mulder, T., Faugères, J. C. & Gonthier, E. 2008: Chapter 21 Mixed Turbidite-
30
31 780 Contourite Systems. In Rebesco, M. & Camerlenghi, A. (eds.): *Developments in*
32
33 781 *Sedimentology* 60, 435-456.

34
35 782 Nelson, C. H., Escutia, C., Damuth, J. E. & Twichell, D. C. 2011: Interplay of mass-
36
37 783 transport and turbidite-system deposits in different active tectonic and passive
38
39 784 continental margin settings: external and local controlling factors. In Shipp, R. C.,
40
41 785 Weimer, P. & Posamentier, H. W. (eds.): *Mass-transport Deposits in Deepwater*
42
43 786 *Settings*, 39-66 pp. SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology).

44
45 787 Nielsen, T., De Santis, L., Dahlgren, K. I. T., Kuijpers, A., Laberg, J. S., Nygård, A.,
46
47 788 Praeg, D. & Stoker, M. S. 2005: A comparison of the NW European glaciated margin
48
49 789 with other glaciated margins. *Marine and Petroleum Geology* 22, 1149-1183.
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 790 Nielsen, T. & Kuijpers, A. 2013: Only 5 southern Greenland shelf edge glaciations
4
5 791 since the early Pliocene. *Sci Rep* 3, 1875.

6
7 792 Nygard, A., Sejrup, H. P., Haflidason, H. & King, E. L. 2002: Geometry and genesis
8
9 793 of glacial debris flows on the North Sea Fan: TOBI imagery and deep-tow boomer
10
11 794 evidence. *Marine Geology* 188, 15-33.

12
13 795 Ó Cofaigh, C., Dowdeswell, J. A., Evans, J., Kenyon, N. H., Taylor, J., Mienert, J. &
14
15 796 Wilken, M. 2004: Timing and significance of glacially influenced mass-wasting in the
16
17 797 submarine channels of the Greenland Basin. *Marine Geology* 207, 39-54.

18
19 798 Ó Cofaigh, C., Taylor, J., Dowdeswell, J. A. & Pudsey, C. J. 2003: Palaeo-ice
20
21 799 streams, trough mouth fans and high-latitude continental slope sedimentation. *Boreas*
22
23 800 32, 37-55.

24
25 801 Ó Cofaigh, C., Taylor, J., Dowdeswell, J. A., Rosell-Melé, A., Kenyon, N. H., Evans,
26
27 802 J. & Mienert, J. 2002: Sediment reworking on high-latitude continental margins and its
28
29 803 implications for palaeoceanographic studies: Insights from the Norwegian-Greenland
30
31 804 Sea. *Geological Society Special Publication* 203, 325-348.

32
33 805 Parnell-Turner, R., White, N. J., McCave, I. N., Henstock, T. J., Murton, B. & Jones,
34
35 806 S. M. 2015: Architecture of North Atlantic contourite drifts modified by transient
36
37 807 circulation of the Icelandic mantle plume. *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems* 16,
38
39 808 3414-3435.

40
41 809 Payton, C. E. 1977: *Seismic Stratigraphy-Applications to Hydrocarbon Exploration*.
42
43 810 pp., Tulsa, Okla.

44
45 811 Pérez, L. F., Nielsen, T., Knutz, P. C., Kuijpers, A. & Damm, V. 2017: Large-scale
46
47 812 evolution of the central-east Greenland margin: New insights to the North Atlantic
48
49 813 glaciation history. *Global and Planetary Change*.

50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3 814 Pickering, K. T. & Hiscot, R. N. 2016: Deep Marine Systems. Processes, Deposits,
4
5 815 Environments, Tectonics and Sedimentation. In Wiley, A. (ed.). AGU & Wiley, Oxford.
6
7 816 Poore, H. R., Samworth, R., White, N. J., Jones, S. M. & McCave, I. N. 2006:
8
9 817 Neogene overflow of Northern Component Water at the Greenland-Scotland Ridge.
10
11 818 *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems* 7, n/a-n/a.
12
13 819 Pudsey, C. J. & Camerlenghi, A. 1998: Glacial-interglacial deposition on a sediment
14
15 820 drift on the Pacific margin of the Antarctic Peninsula. *Antarctic Science* 10, 286-308.
16
17 821 Raymo, M. E., Oppo, D. W. & Curry, W. 1997: The Mid-Pleistocene climate
18
19 822 transition: A deep sea carbon isotopic perspective. *Paleoceanography* 12, 546-559.
20
21 823 Raymo, M. E., Oppo, D. W., Flower, B. P., Hodell, D. A., McManus, J. F., Venz, K.
22
23 824 A., Kleiven, K. F. & McIntyre, K. 2004: Stability of North Atlantic water masses in
24
25 825 face of pronounced climate variability during the Pleistocene. *Paleoceanography* 19,
26
27 826 n/a-n/a.
28
29 827 Reading, H. G. 1996: Sedimentary Environments. Processes, Facies and
30
31 828 Stratigraphy. 3 ed. Blackwell Science.
32
33 829 Rebesco, M. 2005: Contourites. In Richard, C., Selley, R. C., Cocks, L. R. M. &
34
35 830 Plimer, I. R. (eds.): *Encyclopedia of Geology*, 513-527 pp. Elsevier, London.
36
37 831 Rebesco, M., Hernández-Molina, F. J., Van Rooij, D. & Wåhlin, A. 2014:
38
39 832 Contourites and associated sediments controlled by deep-water circulation processes:
40
41 833 state of the art and future considerations. *Marine Geology* 352, 111-154.
42
43 834 Sarnthein, M., Bartoli, G., Prange, M., Schmittner, A., Schneider, B., Weinelt, M.,
44
45 835 Andersen, N. & Garbe-Schönberg, D. 2009: Mid-Pliocene shifts in ocean overturning
46
47 836 circulation and the onset of Quaternary-style climates. *Climate of the Past Discussions*
48
49 837 5, 269-283.
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3 838 Solheim, A., Faleide, J. I., Andersen, E. S., Elverhøi, A., Forsberg, C. F., Vanneste,
4
5 839 K., Uenzelmann-Neben, G. & Channell, J. E. T. 1998: Late cenozoic seismic
6
7 840 stratigraphy and glacial geological development of the East Greenland and Svalbard-
8
9 841 Barents sea continental margins. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 17, 155-184.
10
11 842 Stein, R., Grobe, H., Hubberten, H., Marienfeld, P. & Nam, S. 1993: Latest
12
13 843 Pleistocene to Holocene changes in glaciomarine sedimentation in Scoresby Sund and
14
15 844 along the adjacent East Greenland Continental Margin: Preliminary results. *Geo-Marine*
16
17 845 *Letters* 13, 9-16.
18
19
20 846 Stein, R., Nam, S. I., Grobe, H. & Hubberten, H. 1996: Late Quaternary glacial
21
22 847 history and short-term ice-rafted debris fluctuations along the East Greenland
23
24 848 continental margin. *Geological Society Special Publication* 111, 135-151.
25
26 849 Stokes, C. R., Margold, M., Clark, C. D. & Tarasov, L. 2016: Ice stream activity
27
28 850 scaled to ice sheet volume during Laurentide Ice Sheet deglaciation. *Nature* 530, 322-
29
30 851 326.
31
32
33 852 Stow, D. A. V., Faugeres, J. C., Howe, J. A., Pudsey, C. J. & Viana, A. R. 2002:
34
35 853 Bottom currents, contourites and deep sea sediment drifts: current state-of-the-art. 7-20
36
37 854 pp. *Geological Society of London Memories* 22, 7-20.
38
39 855 Swift, D. A., Persano, C., Stuart, F. M., Gallagher, K. & Whitham, A. 2007: A
40
41 856 reassessment of the role of ice sheet glaciation in the long-term evolution of the East
42
43 857 Greenland fjord region. *Geomorphology* 97, 109-125.
44
45 858 Thiede, J., Jessen, C., Knutz, P., Kuijpers, A., Mikkelsen, N., Nørgaard-Pedersen, N.
46
47 859 & Spielhagen, R. F. 2010: Millions of years of Greenland ice sheet history recorded in
48
49 860 Ocean sediments. *Polarforschung* 80, 141-159.
50
51
52 861 Tripathi, A. K., Eagle, R. A., Morton, A., Dowdeswell, J. A., Atkinson, K. L., Bahé,
53
54 862 Y., Dawber, C. F., Khadun, E., Shaw, R. M. H., Shorttle, O. & Thanabalasundaram, L.
55
56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3 863 2008: Evidence for glaciation in the Northern Hemisphere back to 44 Ma from ice-
4
5 864 rafted debris in the Greenland Sea. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 265, 112-122.
6
7 865 Våge, K., Pickart, R. S., Spall, M. A., Moore, G. W. K., Valdimarsson, H., Torres, D.
8
9 866 J., Erofeeva, S. Y. & Nilsen, J. E. Ø. 2013: Revised circulation scheme north of the
10
11 867 Denmark Strait. *Deep Sea Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers* 79, 20-39.
12
13 868 Vanneste, K., Uenzelmann-Neben, G. & Miller, H. 1995: Seismic evidence for long-
14
15 869 term history of glaciation on central East Greenland shelf south of Scoresby Sund. *Geo-*
16
17 870 *Marine Letters* 15, 63-70.
18
19 871 Vorren, T. O. & Laberg, J. S. 1997: Trough mouth fans - Palaeoclimate and ice-sheet
20
21 872 monitors. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 16, 865-881.
22
23 873 Wilken, M. & Mienert, J. 2006: Submarine glacial debris flows, deep-sea
24
25 874 channels and past ice-stream behaviour of the East Greenland continental margin.
26
27 875 *Quaternary Science Reviews* 25, 784-810.
28
29 876 Wolf, T. C. W. & Thiede, J. 1991: History of terrigenous sedimentation during the
30
31 877 past 10 m.y. in the North Atlantic (ODP Legs 104 and 105 and DSDP Leg 81). *Marine*
32
33 878 *Geology* 101, 83-102.
34
35 879 Wright, A. K. & Flower, B. P. 2002: Surface and deep ocean circulation in the
36
37 880 subpolar North Atlantic during the mid-Pleistocene revolution. *Paleoceanography* 17,
38
39 881 20-21-20-16.
40
41 882 Wright, J. D. & Miller, K. G. 1996: Control of North Atlantic Deep Water
42
43 883 Circulation by the Greenland-Scotland Ridge. *Paleoceanography* 11, 157-170.
44
45 884 Wynn, R. B. & Stow, D. A. V. 2002: Classification and characterisation of deep-
46
47 885 water sediment waves. *Marine Geology* 192, 7-22.
48
49 886 Zachos, J. C., Dickens, G. R. & Zeebe, R. E. 2008: An early Cenozoic perspective on
50
51 887 greenhouse warming and carbon-cycle dynamics. *Nature* 451, 279-283.
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 888 Zhuravleva, A., Bauch, H. A. & Van Nieuwenhove, N. 2017: Last Interglacial
4
5 889 (MIS5e) hydrographic shifts linked to meltwater discharges from the East Greenland
6
7 890 margin. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 164, 95-109.
8

9 891

10
11 892

12
13 893 **Figure captions**

14
15 894 Figure 1.- Regional setting of the study area. A) Oceanographic framework of the North
16
17 895 Atlantic Ocean based on Wolf and Thiede (1991) and Våge et al. (2013). Major
18
19 896 boundary currents are represented, distinguishing between warm (red) and cold (blue)
20
21 897 flows: AT, Arctic Throughflow; EGC, East Greenland Current; GSDW, Greenland Sea
22
23 898 Deep Water; NAC, Norwegian Atlantic Current; and Deep Western Boundary Current
24
25 899 (DWBC) and North Icelandic Irminger Current (NIIC) as part of the Atlantic
26
27 900 Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). B) Bathymetric map of the study area
28
29 901 based on the International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO, Jacobsson et
30
31 902 al., 2012). Isobaths every 500 m. Location of the data used in this work: Red lines,
32
33 903 tracks of the chirp sub-bottom profiles; Black lines, single-channel seismic profiles
34
35 904 (Notice the location of profiles CAGEAO13_034 (034) and CAGE_OA2013-032 (032)
36
37 905 shown in figures 7 and 8 respectively). The white squares mark the location of the
38
39 906 seismic sections shown in Fig. 3 of profile CAGE_OA2013-032 and profiles GGU82-
40
41 907 12 and 11HH-GEO8144-022 south of the study area tie with ODP 987 (red dot) in the
42
43 908 age model (Perez et al., 2017), the location multi-channel seismic profiles connecting
44
45 909 both areas is shown in grey. The seismic correlation from the study area to the ODP 987
46
47 910 shown in Fig. 2 is marked in green as profile A-B. The location of the gravity cores
48
49 911 available in the study area is shown as purple dots.
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 912 Figure 2.- Seismic correlation between the study area off Liverpool Land, and the ODP
4
5 913 987 off Scoresby Sund. Discontinuities a, b and c (D-a, D-b, D-c, respectively) are
6
7 914 marked. Vertical scale in two-way-travel-time (TWTT). The location of the composite
8
9 915 line is shown in Fig. 1 as profile A-B.

10
11 916 Figure 3.- Minor discontinuities (doted black lines) in line CAGE_OA2013-032
12
13 917 correlated with the lines GGU82-12 and 11HH-GEO8144-022 tie to ODP 987 off
14
15 918 Scoresby Sund (for locations, see Fig. 1). Vertical scale in two-way-travel-time
16
17 919 (TWTT). D-a and D-b (black lines) correspond with the discontinuities described in
18
19 920 Pérez et al. (2018), and R1 (doted black line) corresponds with the local upper
20
21 921 discontinuity identified in Channell et al. (1999) and Jansen et al. (1996) in the ODP site
22
23 922 987. Ages in Ma.

24
25 923 Figure 4.- Magnetic susceptibility curve of gravity core HH13-099GC (1550 m water
26
27 924 depth) compared to the calibrated magnetic susceptibility curve of HH13-092GC (1595
28
29 925 m water depth) and correlated with the Marine Isotope Stages (MIS). Cal years,
30
31 926 Calibrated ^{14}C years; LGM, Last Glacial Maximum. Note the location of 46.8 cal ka age
32
33 927 at 2.05 m deep discussed in the text. Location of the cores HH92 and HH99 in Fig. 1.

34
35 928 Figure 5.- Seafloor features in the study area. A) Swath bathymetry map 30 x 30 m cell
36
37 929 grid overlaying the International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO,
38
39 930 Jacobsson et al., 2012) bathymetry, with black isobaths every 500 m and blue isobaths
40
41 931 every 100 m. Note the zoom over the pockmarks and the seafloor profile over the
42
43 932 sediment waves in the northern (i) and southern (ii) part of the study area. B) Swath
44
45 933 bathymetry data of the study area in a oblique view.

46
47 934 Figure 6.- Sub-bottom features. A) Chirp sub-bottom profile across the northern study
48
49 935 area, see location in b. Notice the plastered and mounded drifts in the basinal area.
50
51 936 Zoom over the mounded drift in the square. B) Distribution of the main features
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 937 identified in the chirp sub-bottom profiles which location is marked by the grey lines.

4
5 938 Location of the chirp sub-bottom profiles in Fig. 6a, 7a and 8a is shown. The purple and

6
7 939 pink dotted lines show the distribution of the chirp units c2 and c1 respectively,

8
9 940 thickness in ms two-way-travel-time (TWTT).

10
11 941 Figure 7.- Profile CAGE_OA2013-034 along the lower slope of the study area. See

12
13 942 location in Fig. 1 and 6. A) Chirp sub-bottom profile. The main identified features are

14
15 943 pointed. Detail of the chirp unit in the square. B) High-resolution single-channel seismic

16
17 944 profile: seismic signal (top) and interpretation (bottom). Discontinuities a and b are in

18
19 945 red and minor discontinuities in orange. Distinguished mass transport deposit (MTD)

20
21 946 bodies of SU2 are shadow in different colours. The location of the gravity core

22
23 947 HH2013_99GC is shown. TWTT; two-way-travel-time.

24
25 948 Figure 8.- Profile CAGE_OA2013-032 along the base of the slope of the study area. See

26
27 949 location in Fig. 1 and 6. A) Chirp sub-bottom profile. The main identified features are

28
29 950 pointed. Zoom over smooth wavy features in the square. B) High-resolution single-

30
31 951 channel seismic profile: seismic signal (top) and interpretation (bottom). Discontinuities

32
33 952 a and b are in red and minor discontinuities in orange. Distinguished mass transport

34
35 953 deposit (MTD) bodies of SU2 are shadow in different colours. TWTT; two-way-travel-

36
37 954 time.

38
39 955 Figure 9.- Regional map where the major depocentres of the units (A) and subunits (B)

40
41 956 are highlighted. Note that the lines represent the boundary of the depocentres.

42
43 957 Figure 10.- Location of the major mass transport deposits (MTDs) identified in the

44
45 958 sedimentary record as distinguished in the seismic profiles. The different MTD bodies

46
47 959 distinguished in SU2 have been highlighted in different colours following Fig. 7 and 8.

48
49 960 Figure 11.- 3D sketch of the central-east Greenland margin off Liverpool Land showing

50
51 961 the main morphological features and dominating sedimentary processes.

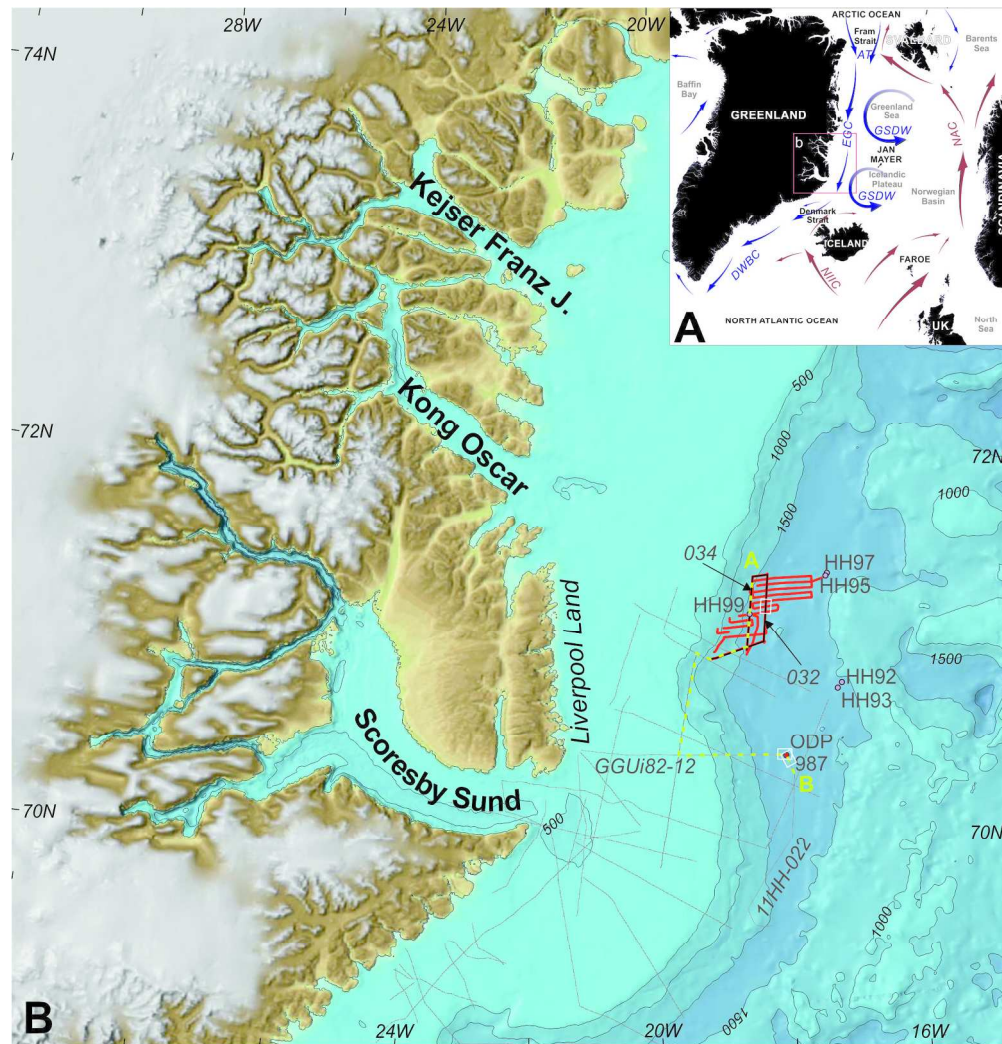


Figure 1.- Regional setting of the study area. A) Oceanographic framework of the North Atlantic Ocean based on Wolf and Thiede (1991) and Våge et al. (2013). Major boundary currents are represented, distinguishing between warm (red) and cold (blue) flows: AT, Arctic Throughflow; EGC, East Greenland Current; GSDW, Greenland Sea Deep Water; NAC, Norwegian Atlantic Current; and Deep Western Boundary Current (DWBC) and North Icelandic Irminger Current (NIIC) as part of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). B) Bathymetric map of the study area based on the International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO, Jacobsson et al., 2012). Isobaths every 500 m. Location of the data used in this work: Red lines, tracks of the chirp sub-bottom profiles; Black lines, single-channel seismic profiles (Notice the location of profiles CAGEAO13_034 (034) and CAGE_OA2013-032 (032) shown in figures 7 and 8 respectively). The white squares mark the location of the seismic sections shown in Fig. 3 of profile CAGE_OA2013-032 and profiles GGU82-12 and 11HH-GEO8144-022 south of the study area tie with ODP 987 (red dot) in the age model (Perez et al., 2017), the location multi-channel seismic profiles connecting both areas is shown in grey. The seismic correlation from the study area to the ODP 987 shown in Fig. 2 is marked in green as profile A-B. The location of the gravity cores available in the study area is shown as purple dots.

195x202mm (300 x 300 DPI)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

For Review Only

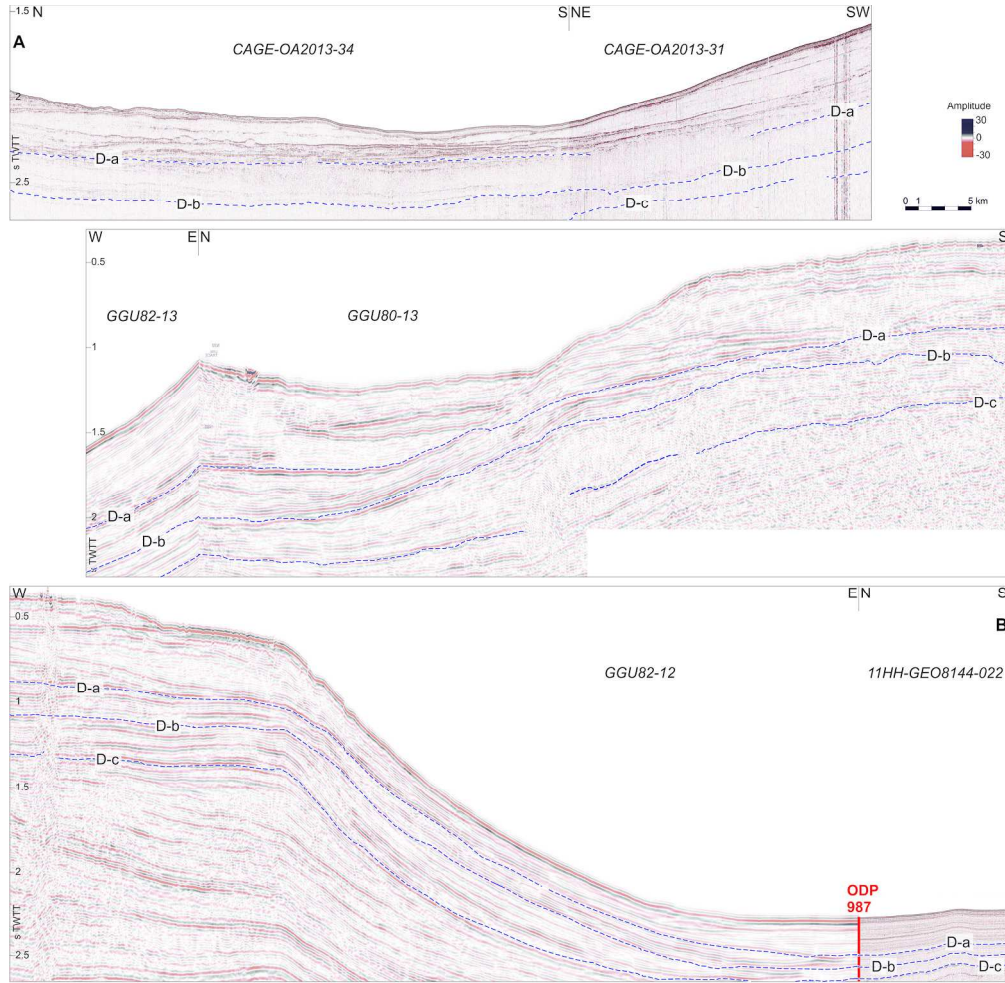


Figure 2.- Seismic correlation between the study area off Liverpool Land, and the ODP 987 off Scoresby Sund. Discontinuities a, b and c (D-a, D-b, D-c, respectively) are marked. Vertical scale in two-way-travel-time (TWTT). The location of the composite line is shown in Fig. 1 as profile A-B.

209x204mm (300 x 300 DPI)

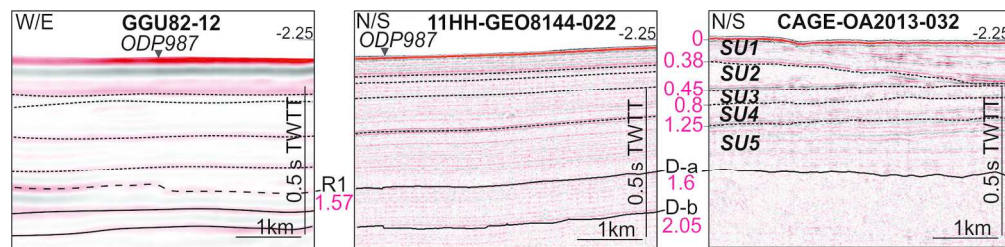


Figure 3.- Minor discontinuities (dotted black lines) in line CAGE_OA2013-032 correlated with the lines GGU82-12 and 11HH-GEO8144-022 tie to ODP 987 off Scoresby Sund (for locations, see Fig. 1). Vertical scale in two-way-travel-time (TWTT). D-a and D-b (black lines) correspond with the discontinuities described in Pérez et al. (2018), and R1 (dotted black line) corresponds with the local upper discontinuity identified in Channell et al. (1999) and Jansen et al. (1996) in the ODP site 987. Ages in Ma.

173x41mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Review Only

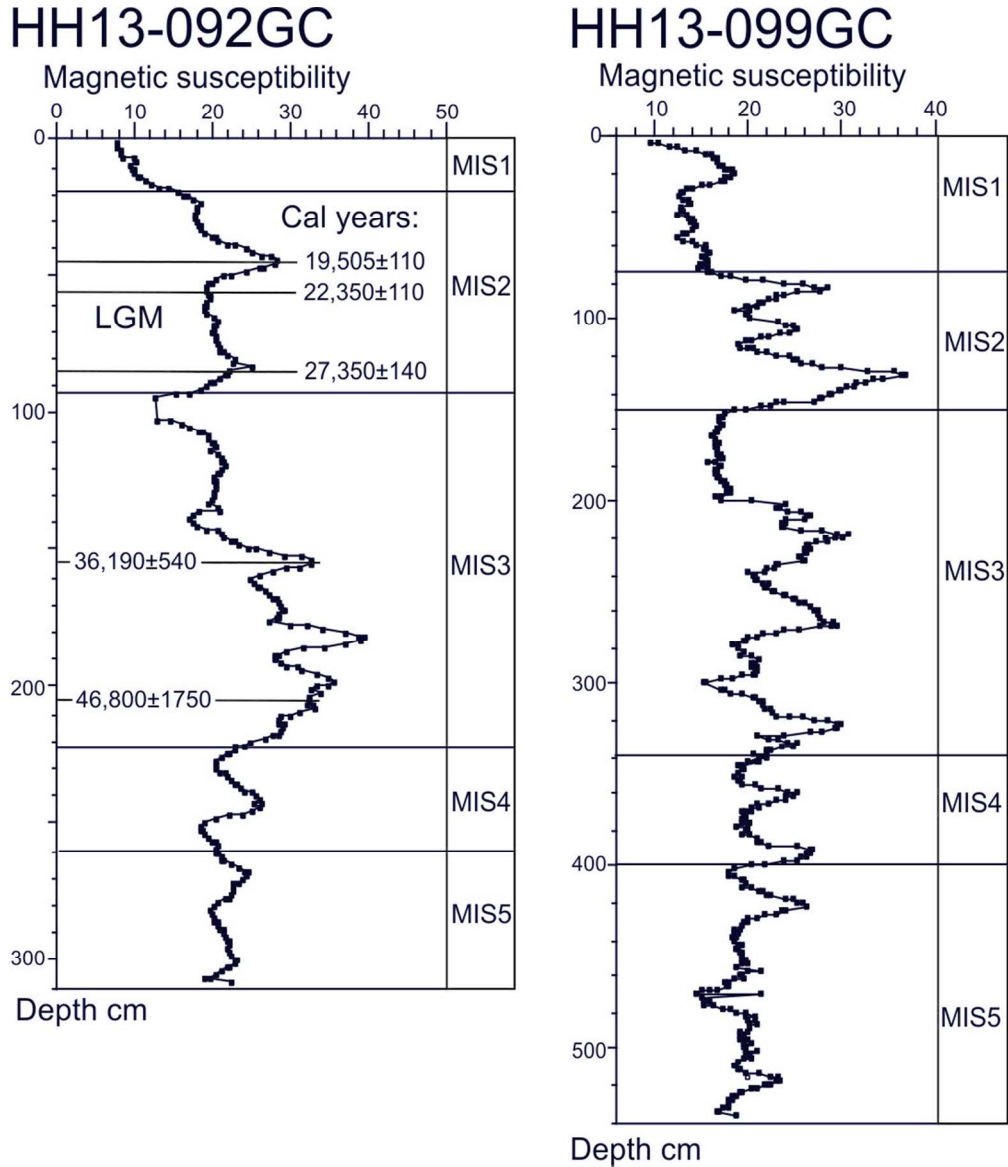


Figure 4.- Magnetic susceptibility curve of gravity core HH13-099GC (1550 m water depth) compared to the calibrated magnetic susceptibility curve of HH13-092GC (1595 m water depth) and correlated with the Marine Isotope Stages (MIS). Cal years, Calibrated ¹⁴C years; LGM, Last Glacial Maximum. Note the location of 46.8 cal ka age at 2.05 m deep discussed in the text. Location of the cores HH92 and HH99 in Fig. 1.

92x106mm (300 x 300 DPI)

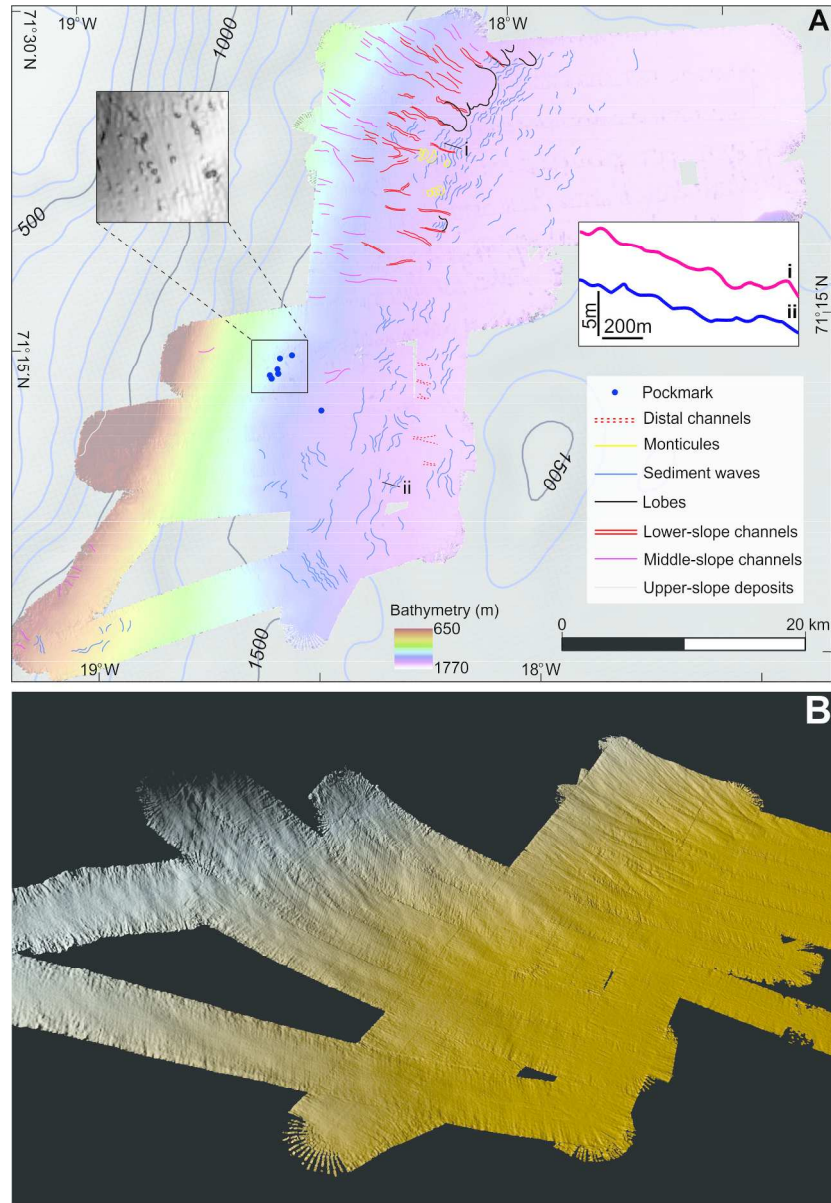


Figure 5.- Seafloor features in the study area. A) Swath bathymetry map 30 x 30 m cell grid overlaying the International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO, Jacobsson et al., 2012) bathymetry, with black isobaths every 500 m and blue isobaths every 100 m. Note the zoom over the pockmarks and the seafloor profile over the sediment waves in the northern (i) and southern (ii) part of the study area. B) Swath bathymetry data of the study area in oblique view.

182x266mm (300 x 300 DPI)

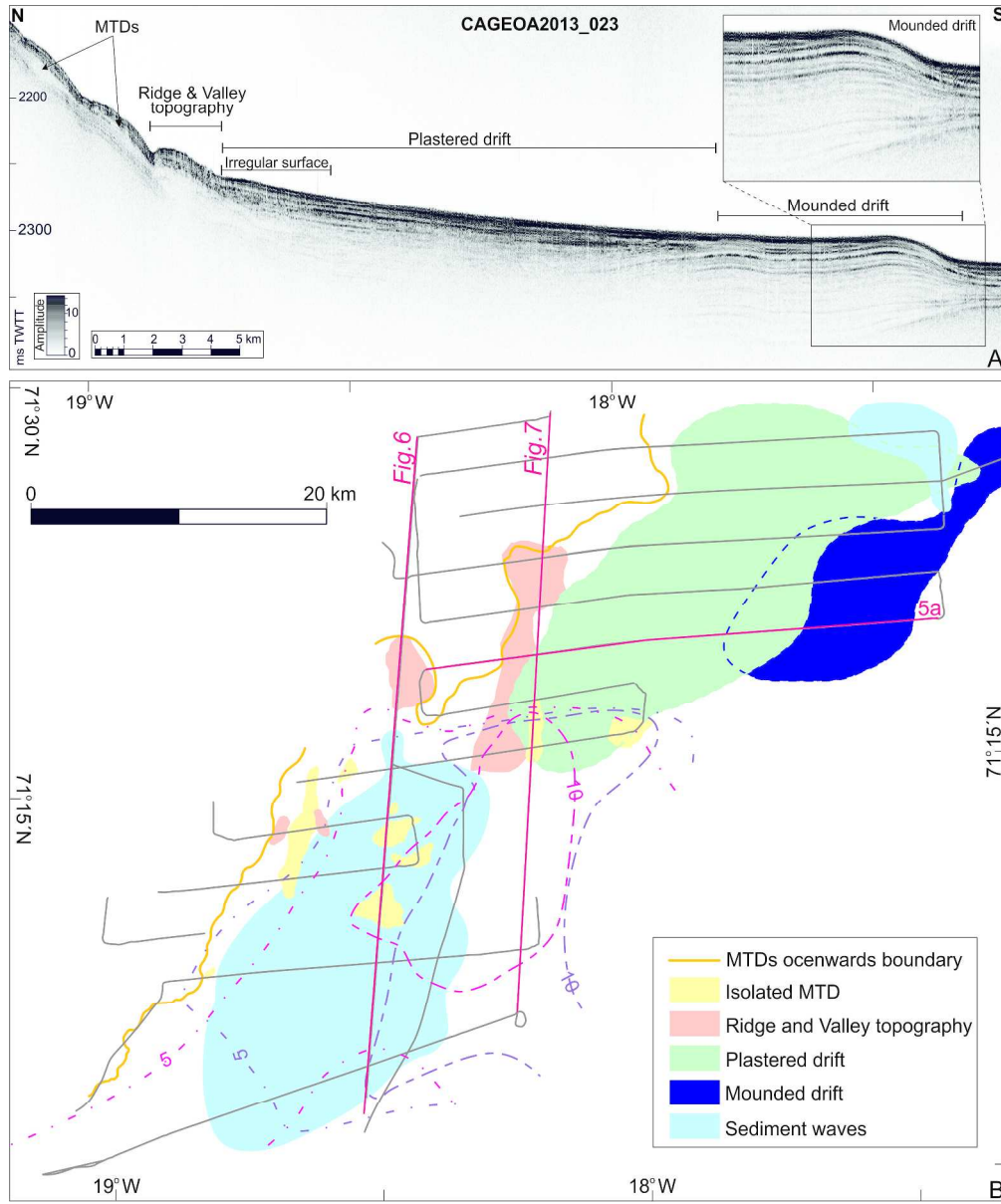


Figure 6.- Sub-bottom features. A) Chirp sub-bottom profile across the northern study area, see location in b. Notice the plastered and mounded drifts in the basinal area. Zoom over the mounded drift in the square. B) Distribution of the main features identified in the chirp sub-bottom profiles which location is marked by the grey lines. Location of the chirp sub-bottom profiles in Fig. 6a, 7a and 8a is shown. The purple and pink dotted lines show the distribution of the chirp units c2 and c1 respectively, thickness in ms two-way-travel-time (TWTT).

296x355mm (300 x 300 DPI)

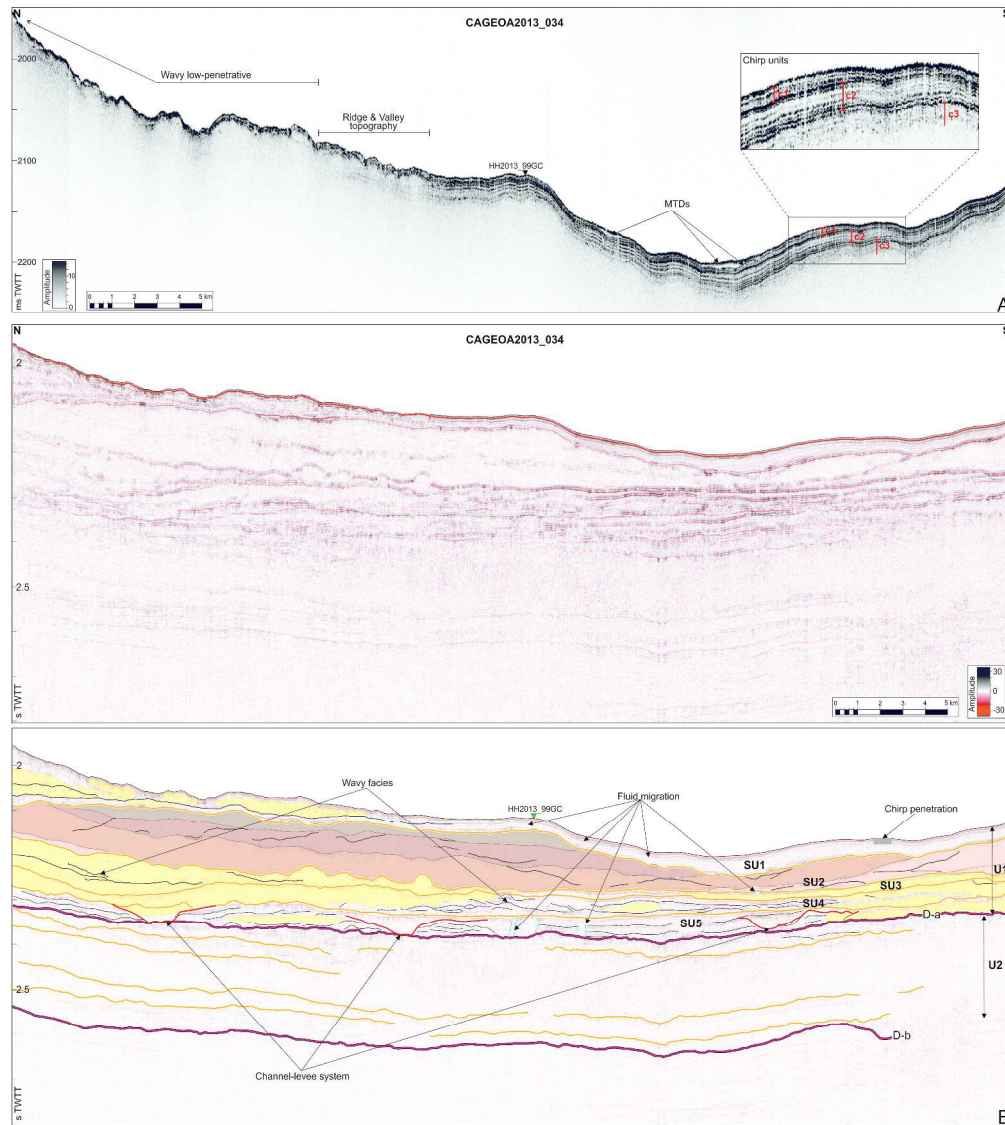


Figure 7.- Profile CAGE_OA2013-034 along the lower slope of the study area. See location in Fig. 1 and 6. A) Chirp sub-bottom profile. The main identified features are pointed. Detail of the chirp unit in the square. B) High-resolution single-channel seismic profile: seismic signal (top) and interpretation (bottom). Discontinuities a and b are in red and minor discontinuities in orange. Distinguished mass transport deposit (MTD) bodies of SU2 are shadow in different colours. The location of the gravity core HH2013_99GC is shown. TWTT; two-way-travel-time.

447x499mm (300 x 300 DPI)

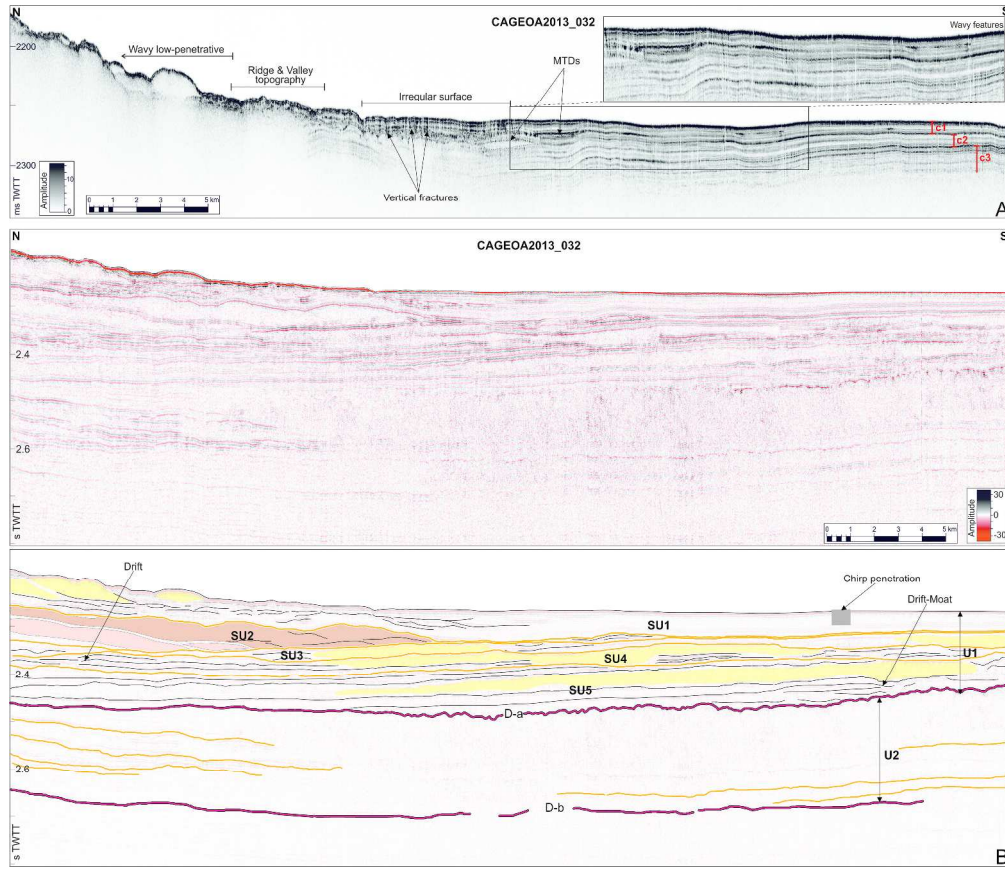


Figure 8.- Profile CAGE_OA2013-032 along the base of the slope of the study area. See location in Fig. 1 and 6. A) Chirp sub-bottom profile. The main identified features are pointed. Zoom over smooth wavy features in the square. B) High-resolution single-channel seismic profile: seismic signal (top) and interpretation (bottom). Discontinuities a and b are in red and minor discontinuities in orange. Distinguished mass transport deposit (MTD) bodies of SU2 are shadow in different colours. TWTT; two-way-travel-time.

422x363mm (300 x 300 DPI)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

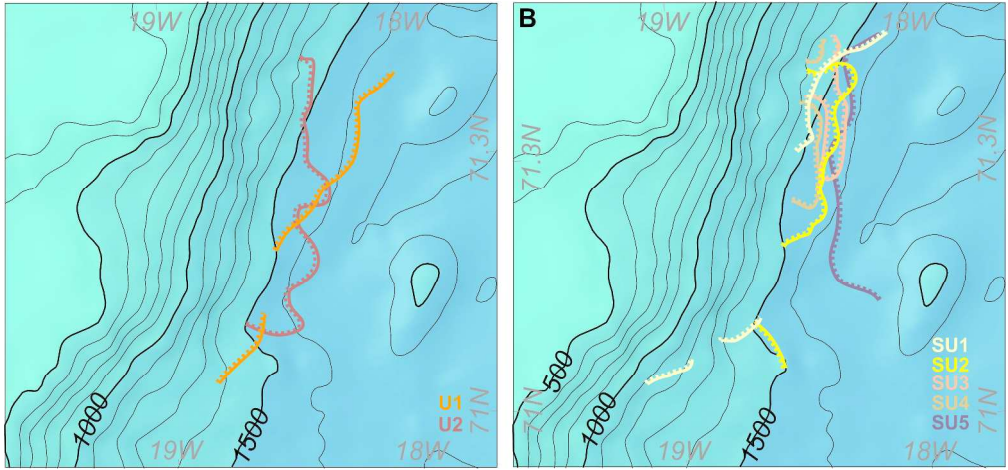


Figure 9.- Regional map where the major depocentres of the units (A) and subunits (B) are highlighted. Note that the lines represent the boundary of the depocentres.

328x153mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Review Only

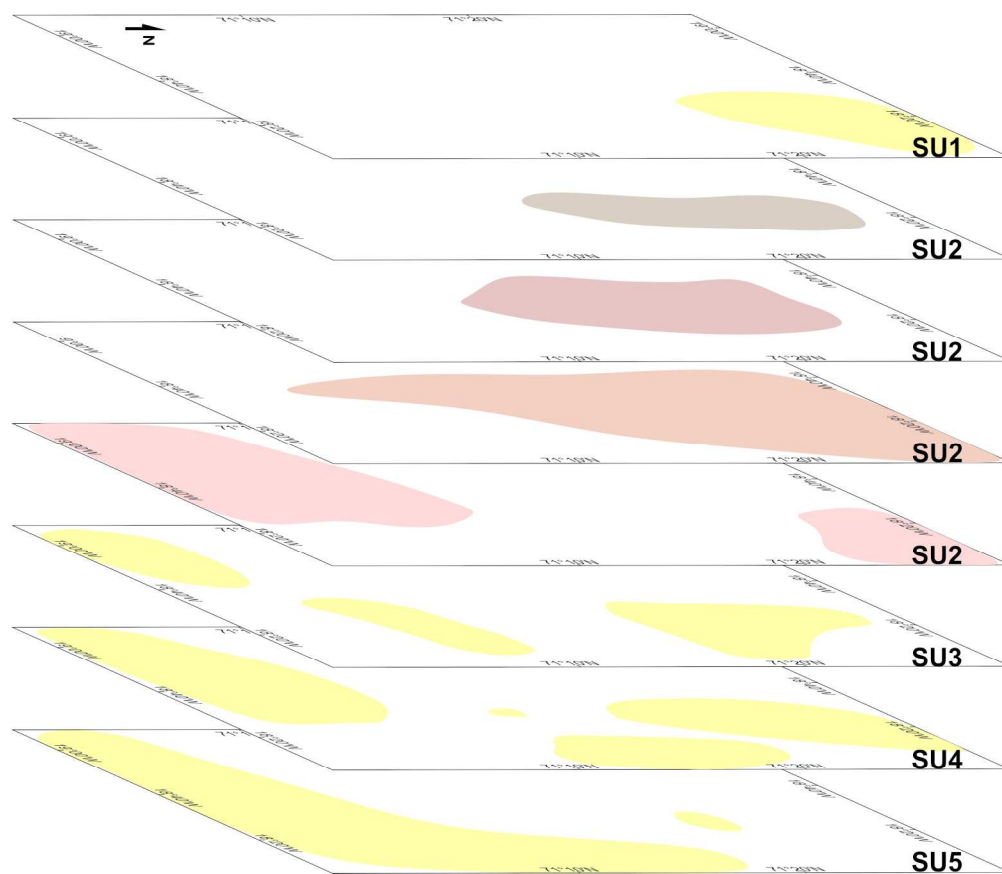


Figure 10.- Location of the major mass transport deposits (MTDs) identified in the sedimentary record as distinguished in the seismic profiles. The different MTD bodies distinguished in SU2 have been highlighted in different colours following Fig. 7 and 8.

189x163mm (300 x 300 DPI)

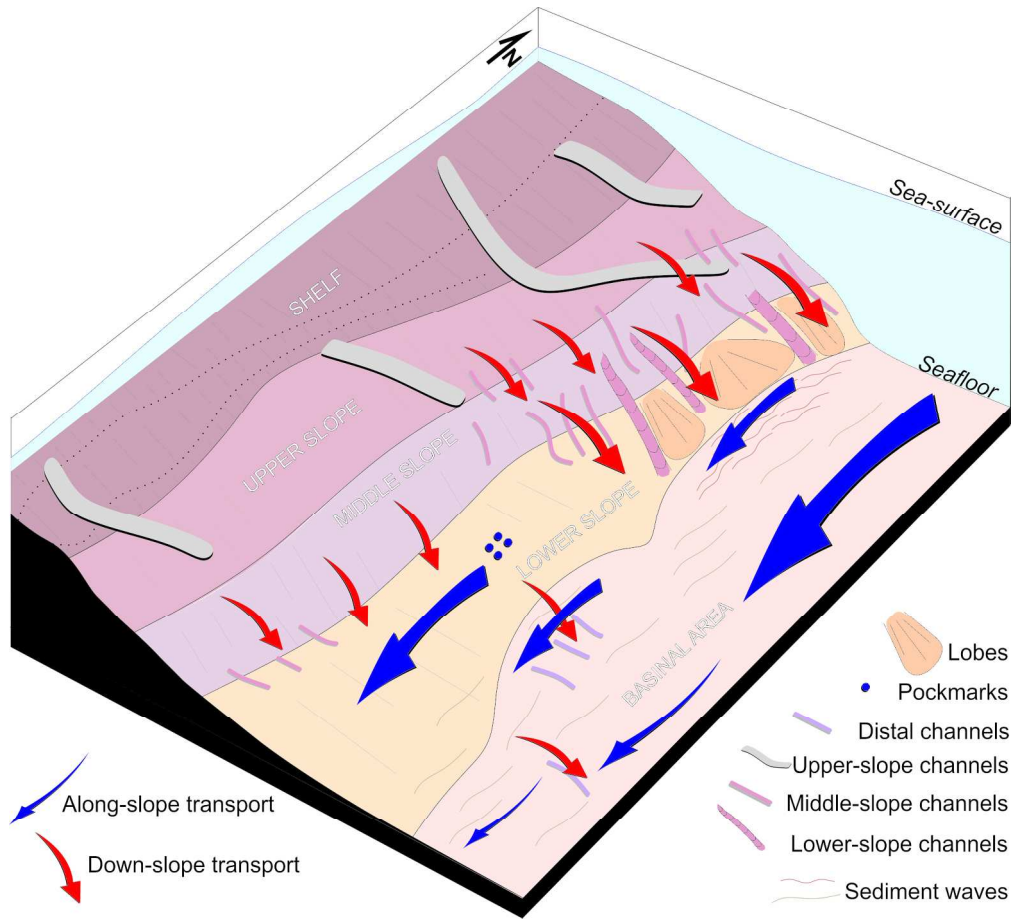


Figure 11.- 3D sketch of the central-east Greenland margin off Liverpool Land showing the main morphological features and dominating sedimentary processes.

189x173mm (300 x 300 DPI)