



**GEUS**

# Architecture and tectonic framework of the Triassic rift basin in East Greenland

**Pierpaolo Guarnieri**

Department of Petrology and Economic Geology

Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland  
Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Building



## Abstract

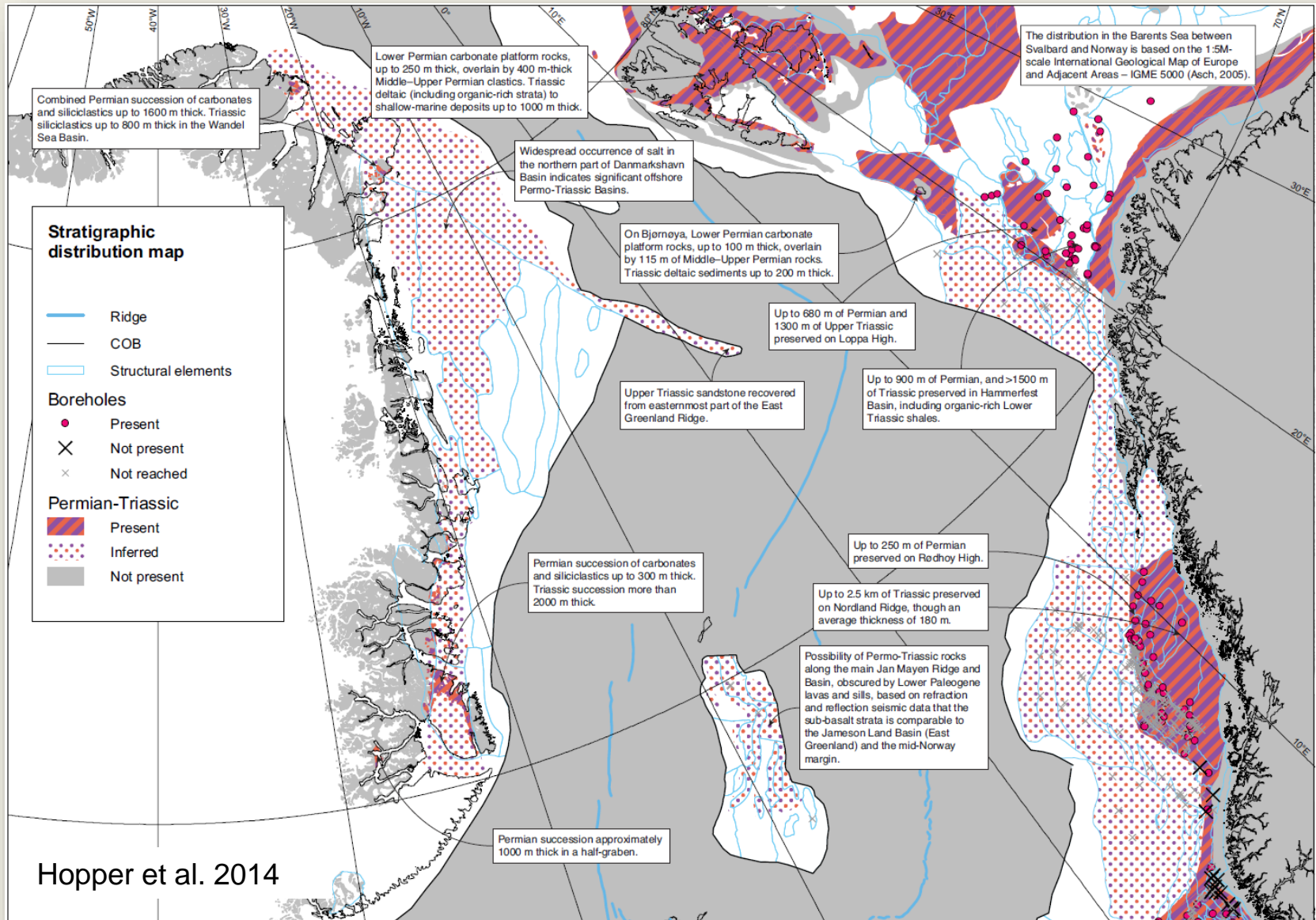
The Triassic rift basin along the East Greenland margin is represented by NE-SW trending basins and highs segmented by NW—SE trending transfer zones. The coarse-grained sediments along the eastern side of Jameson Land are shown to be hosted in half-graben structures belonging to the Carlsberg Fjord Basin that is bounded by NW-dipping normal faults mapped and described after fieldwork in the Klitdal area in Liverpool Land. New aeromagnetic and electromagnetic data together with new drill cores allow the re-interpretation of available seismic lines showing the continuation of the Triassic rift basin toward the SW where it is buried under the Upper Triassic post-rift sediments and the Jurassic successions of the Jameson Land Basin. The N—S trending Liverpool Land, interpreted as the boundary block of the Triassic basin represents a structural high inherited from the Late Carboniferous tectonics and faulted during the Triassic rifting. The Carlsberg Fjord Basin and the Klitdal Fault System in Jameson Land could represent the analogues of the Helgeland Basin in the Norwegian offshore that is bounded by the Ylvingen Fault Zone and the Papa and West of Shetlands Basins that are bounded by the Spine Fault. The Triassic rift zone and transfer faults on both conjugate margins shows a straightforward correlation with the trends of the initial spreading line and fracture zones of the North-East Atlantic indicating a possible inheritance of the Triassic rifting.

## content

- Onshore/offshore East Greenland margin
- Tectonostratigraphy of the East Greenland margin
- Jameson Land Basin
- Stratigraphy
- Late Carboniferous rift
- Triassic Rift
- Conclusions



## NAGTEC Stratigraphic distribution of Permian – Triassic

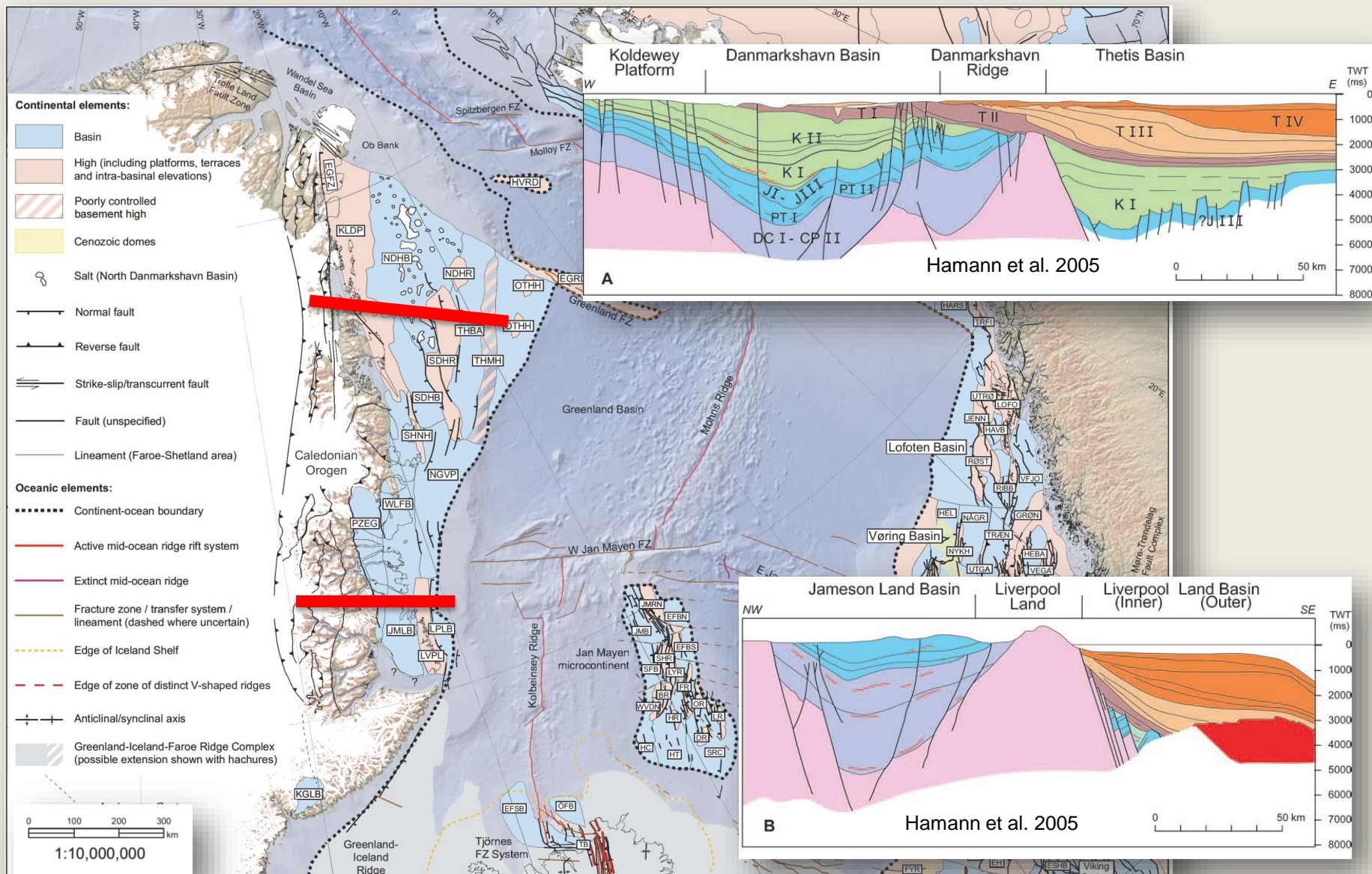


Hopper et al. 2014

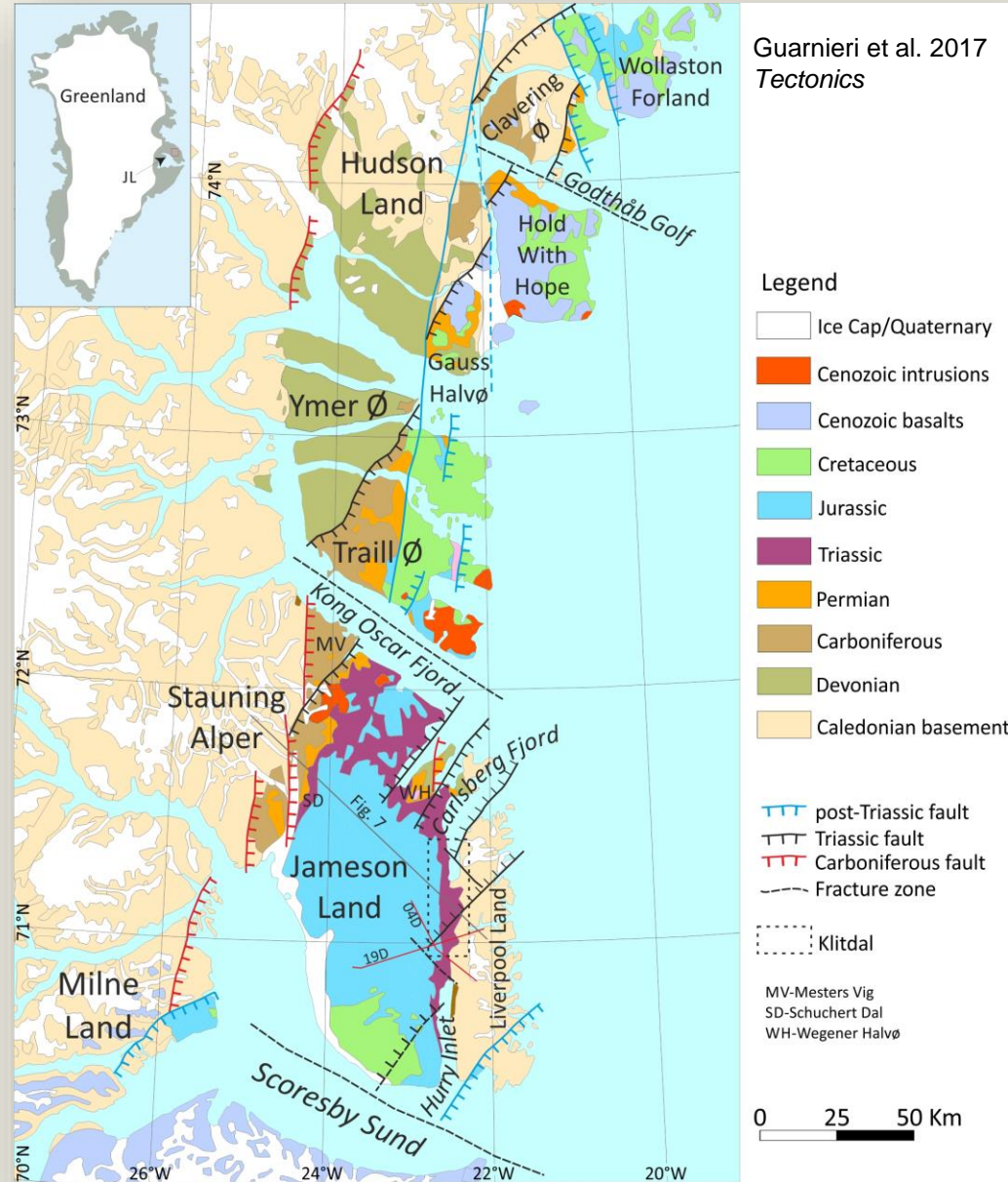
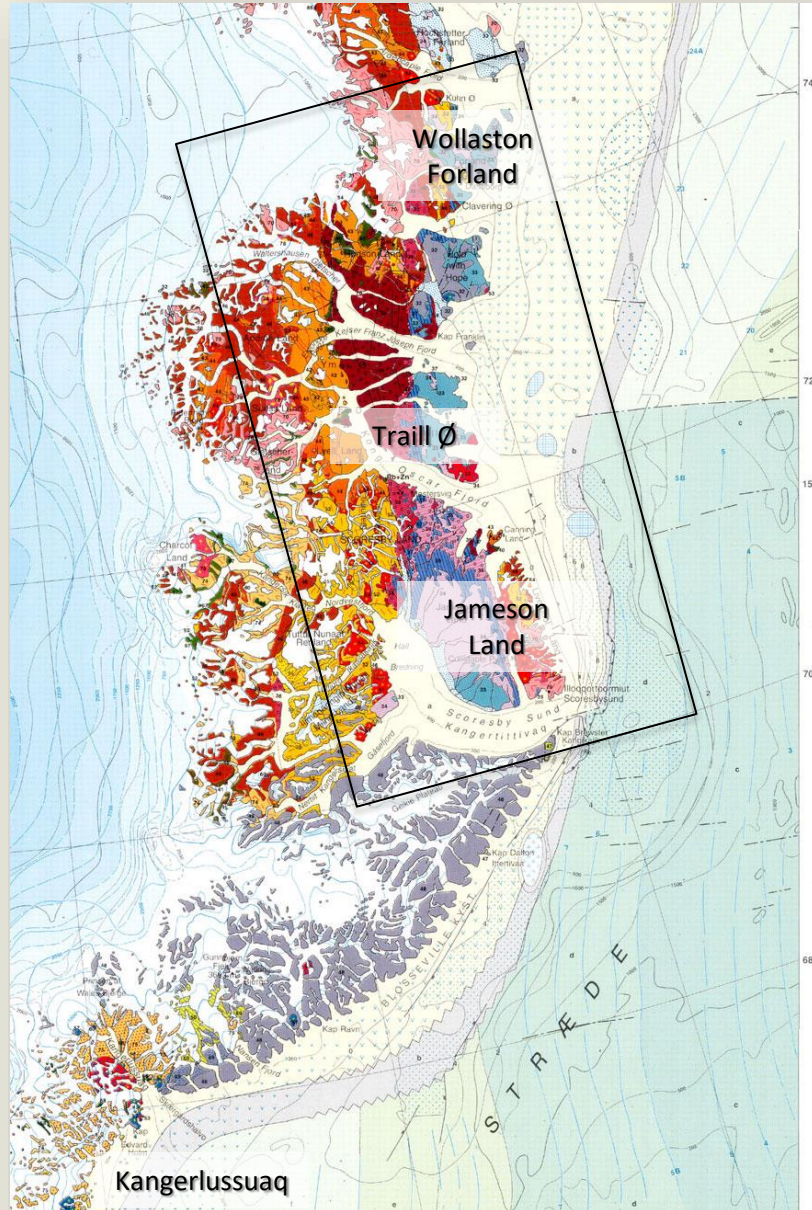




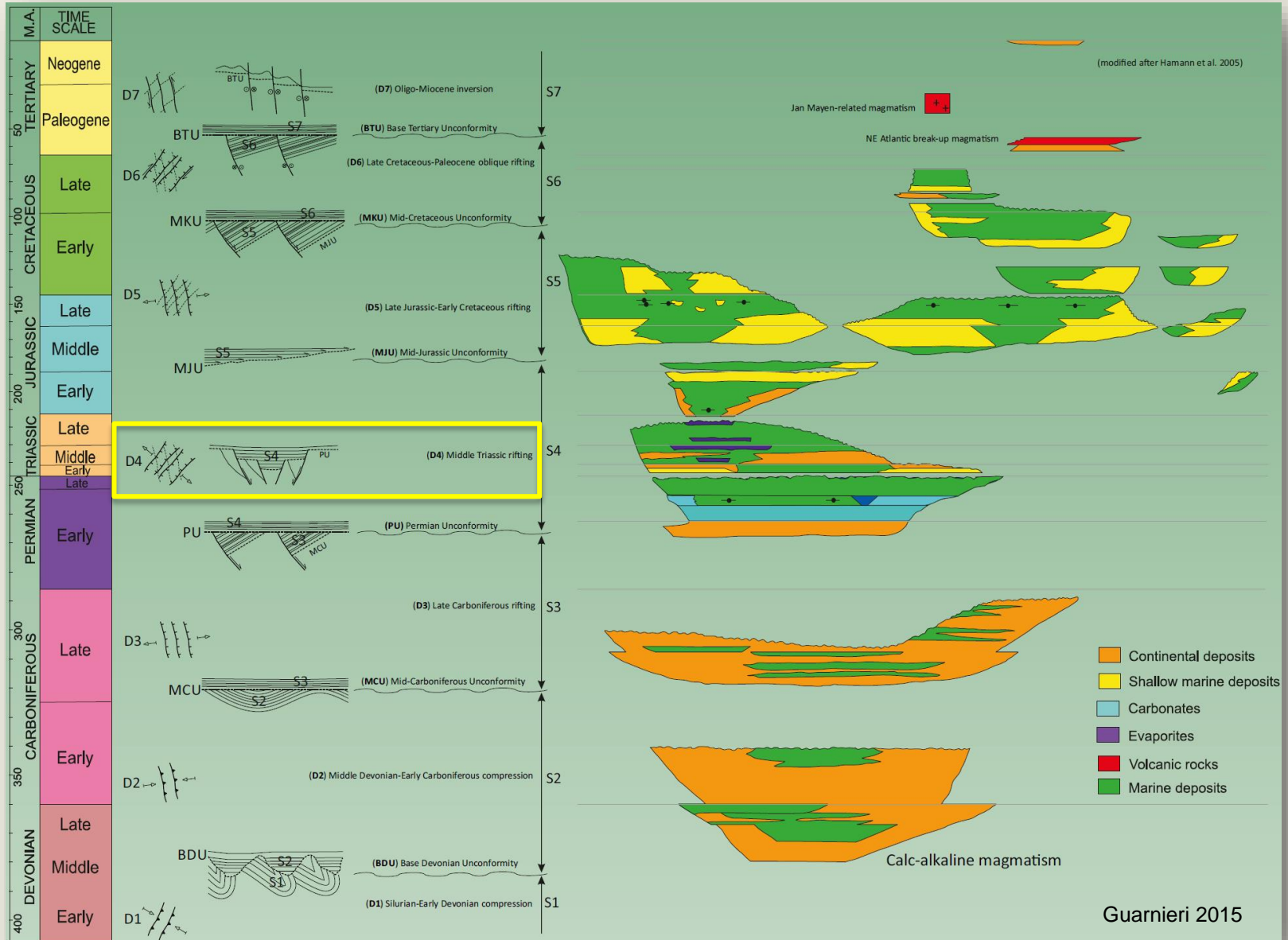
## NAGTEC Structural map (Hopper et al. 2014)





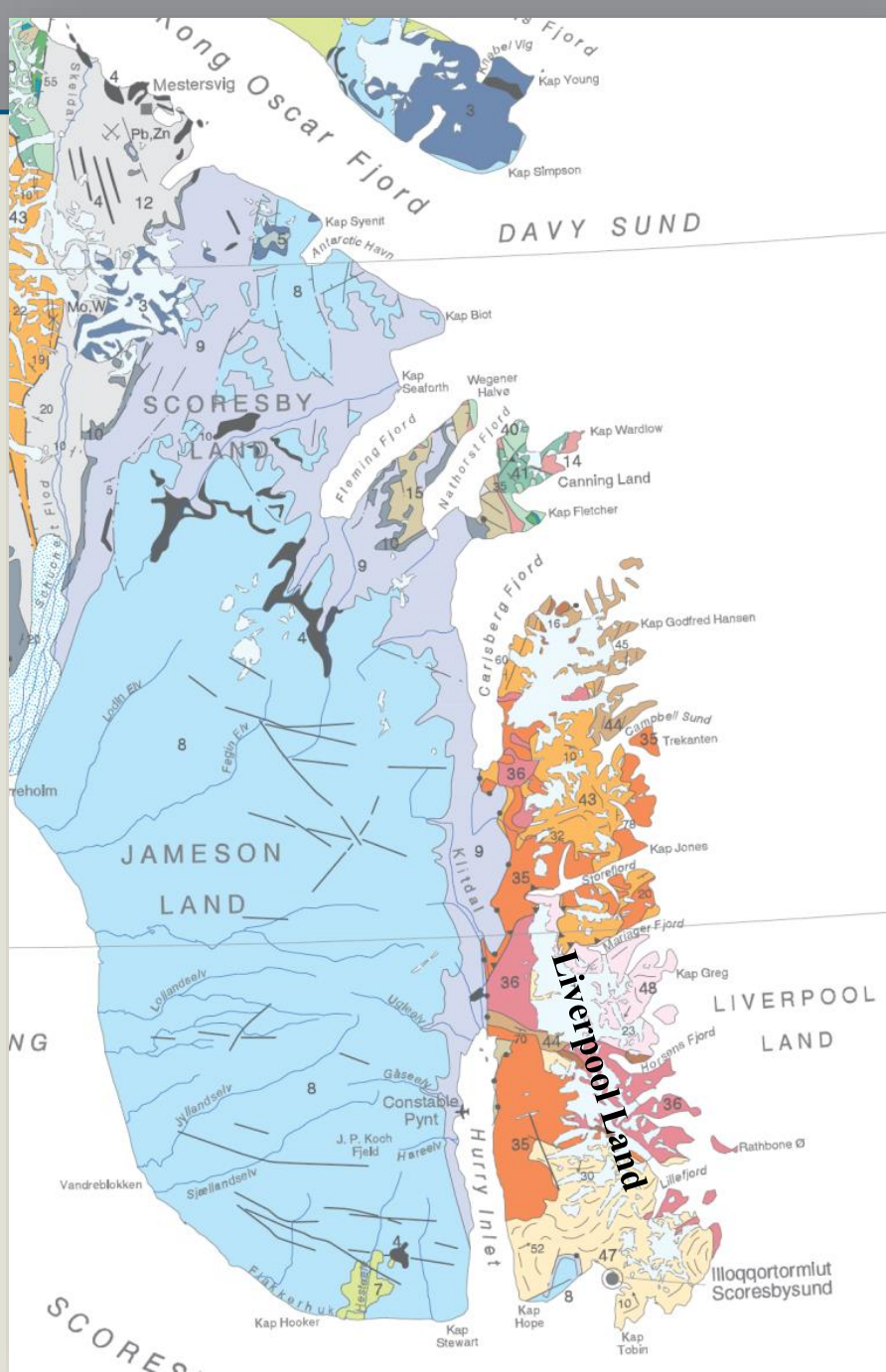


# Tectonostratigraphy of East Greenland



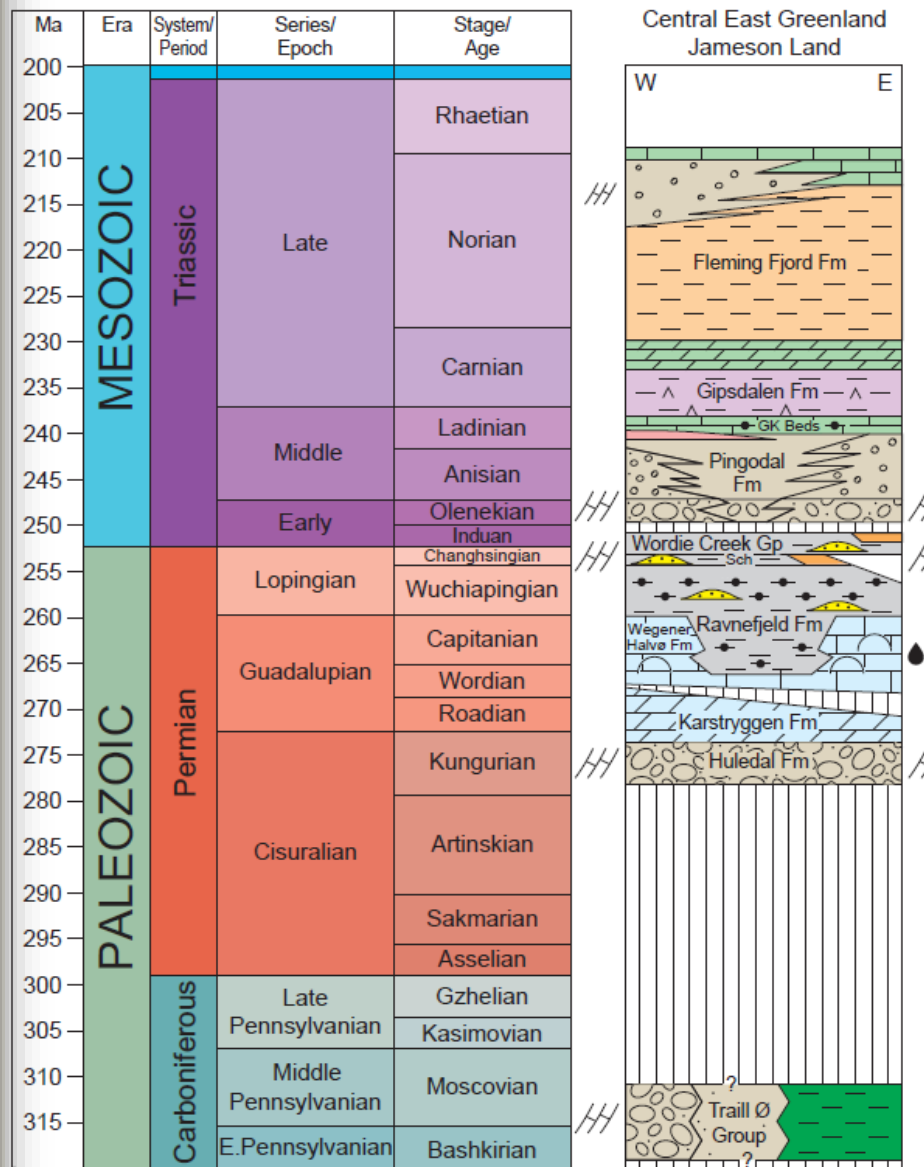
Guarnieri 2015



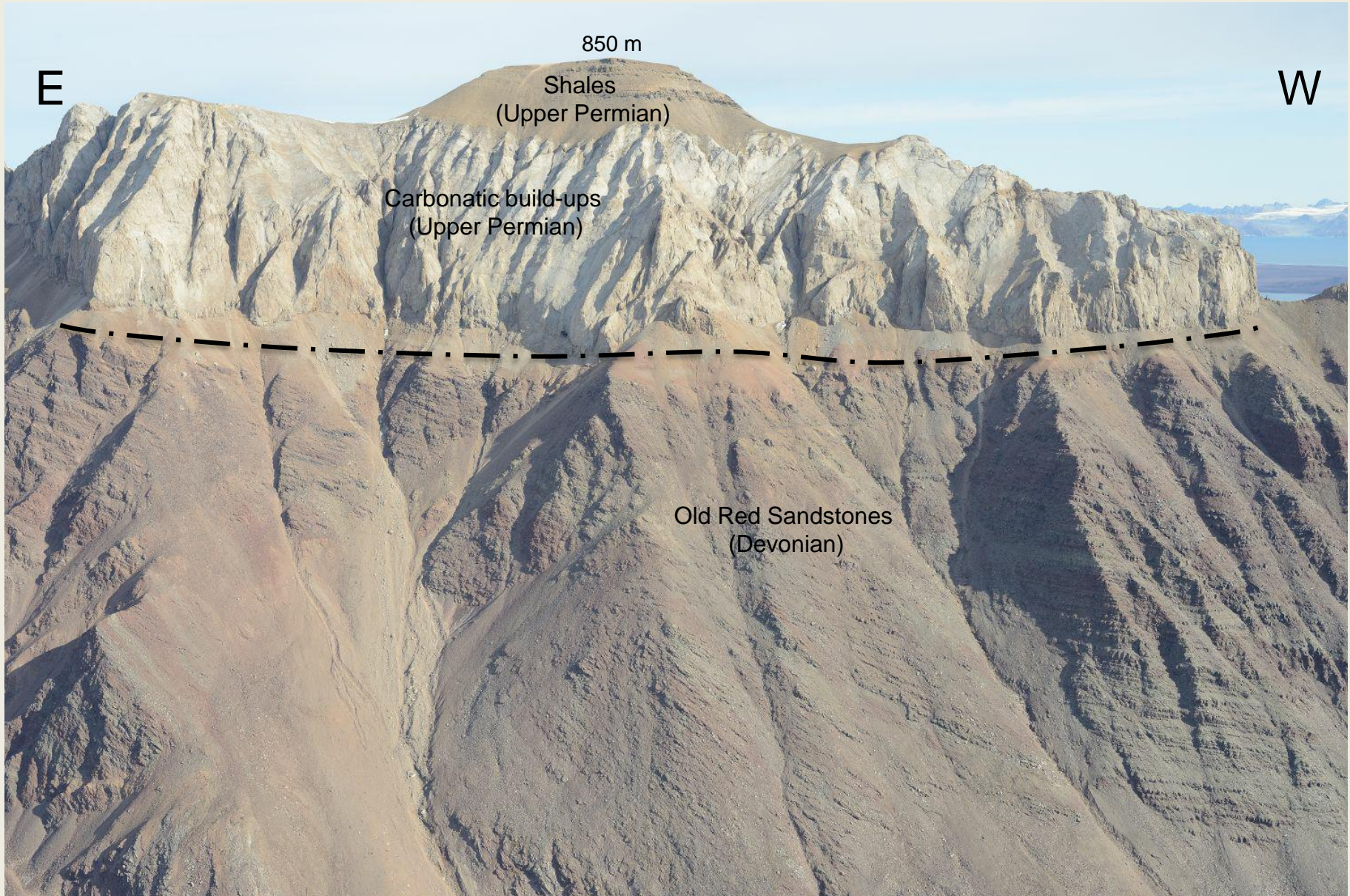


# The Jameson Land Basin

www.geus.dk







E

W

850 m

Shales  
(Upper Permian)

Carbonatic build-ups  
(Upper Permian)

Old Red Sandstones  
(Devonian)

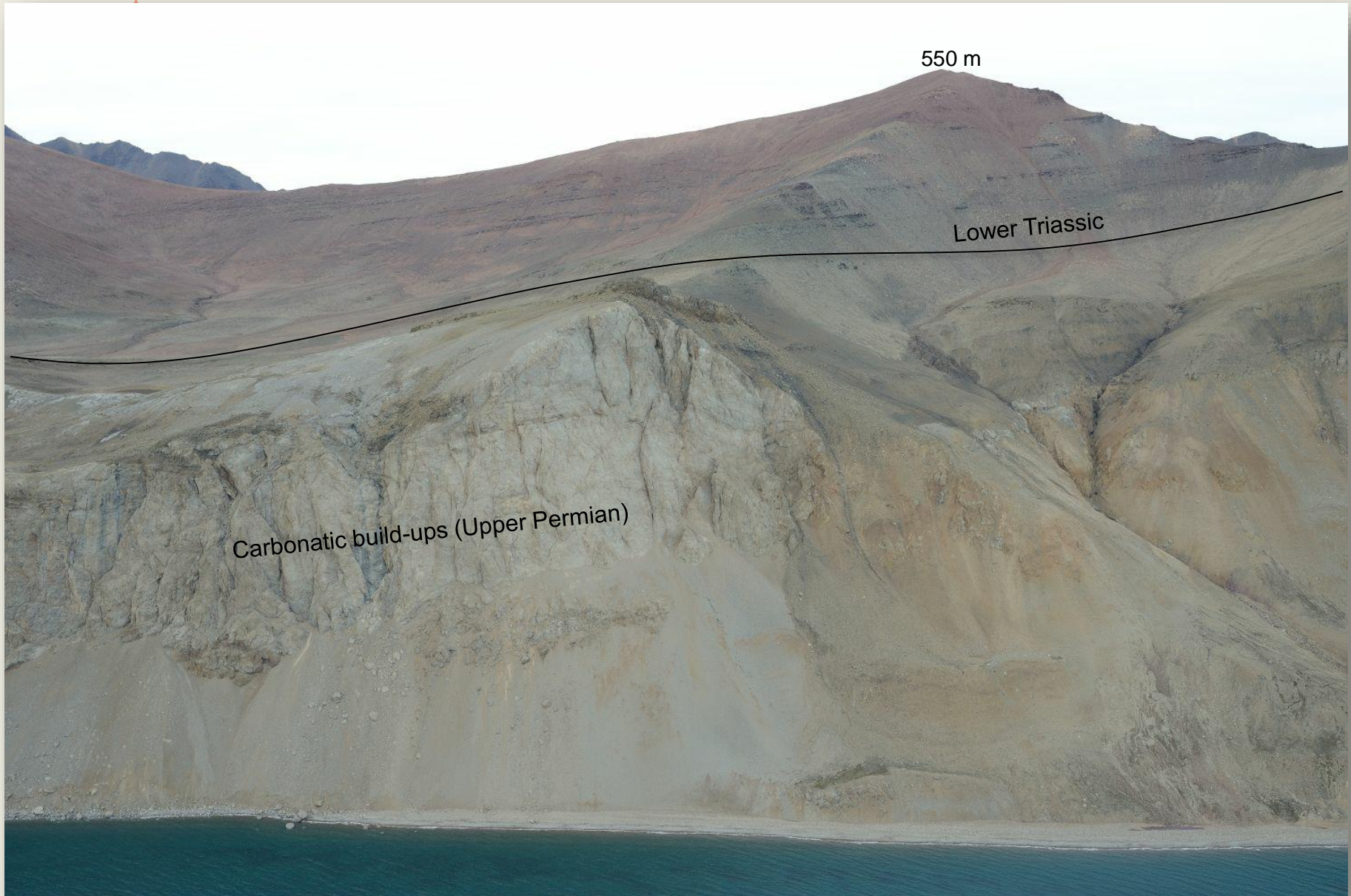




Carbonatic build-ups

Old Red Sandstones

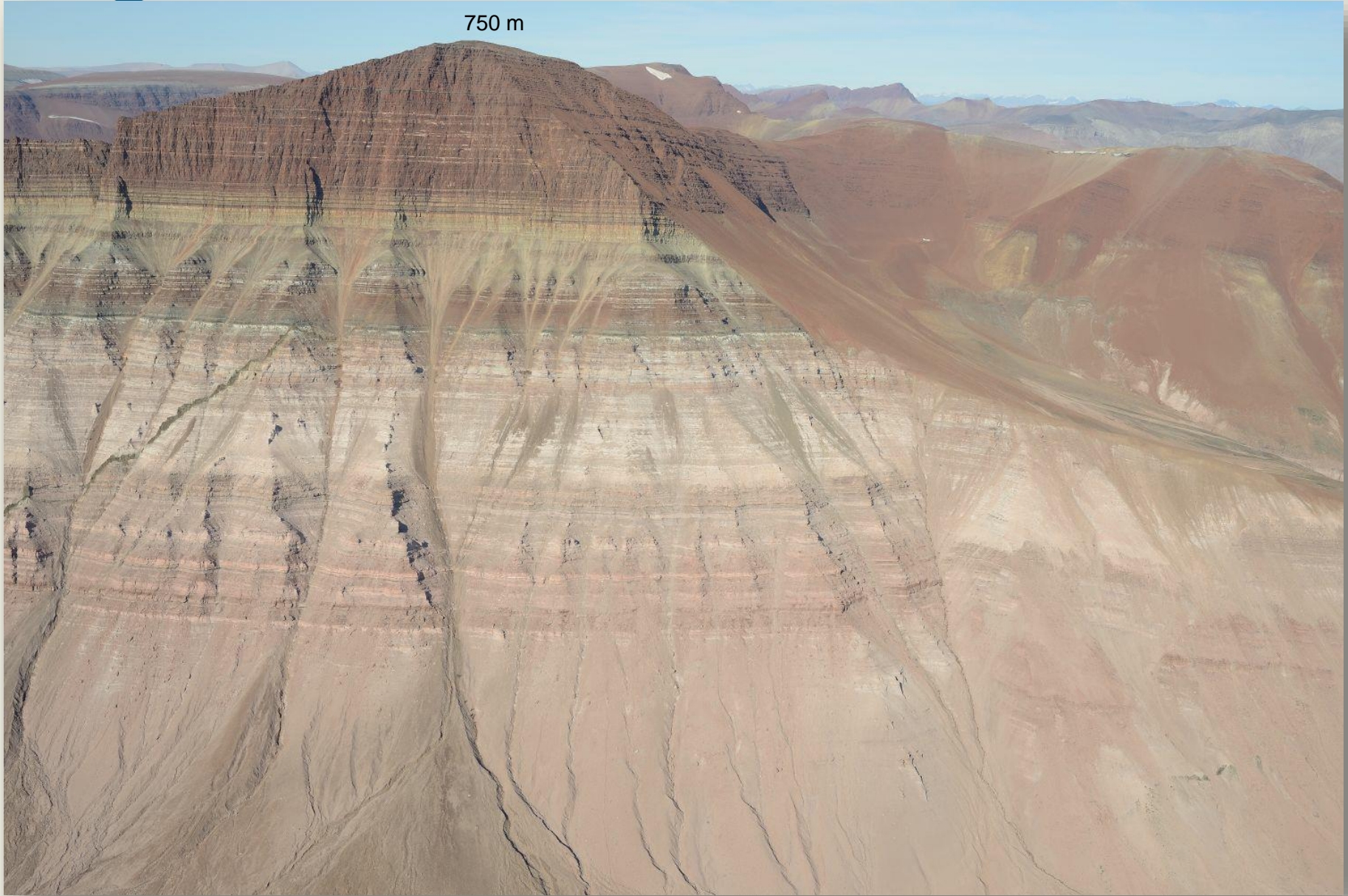




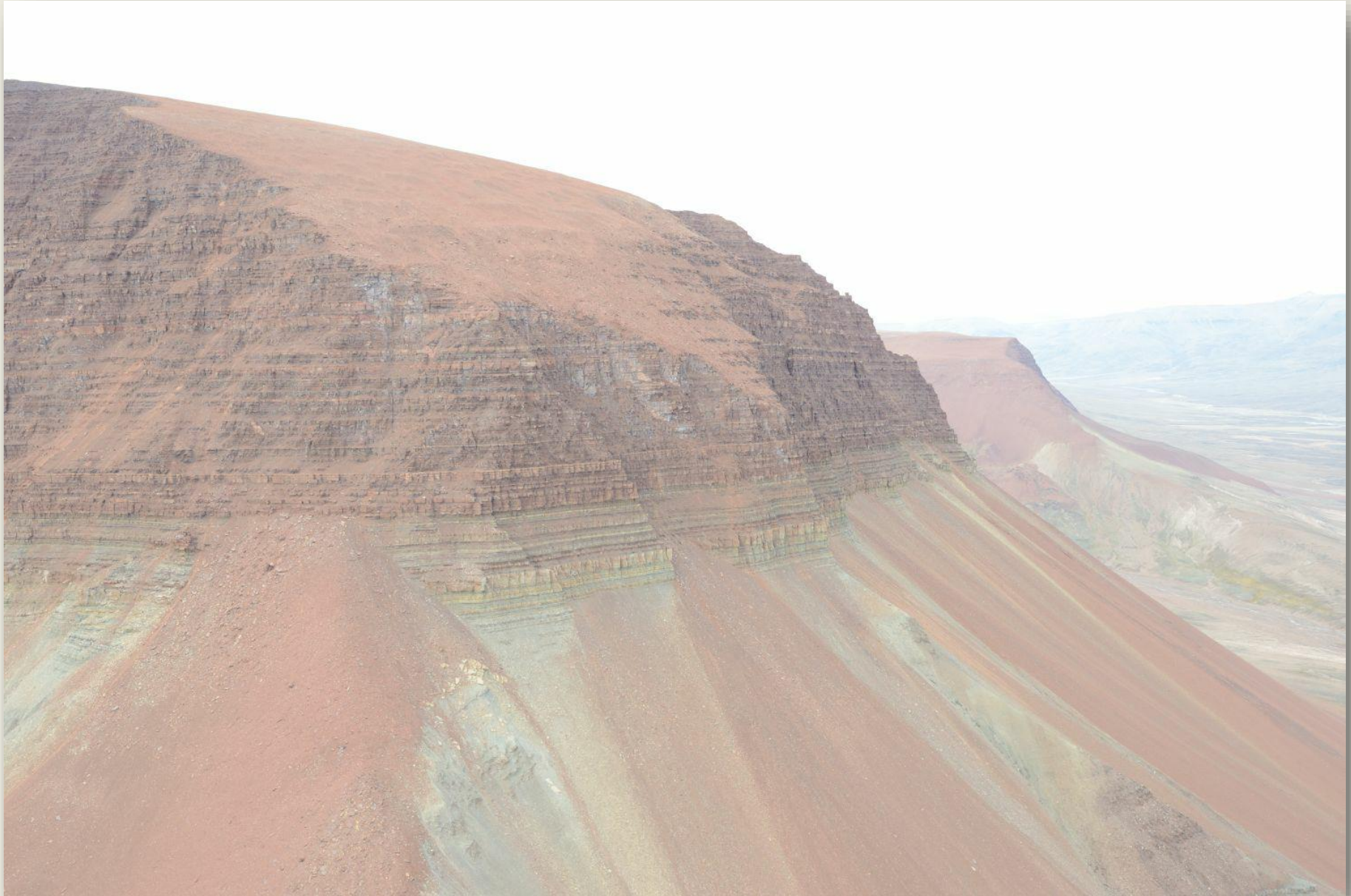




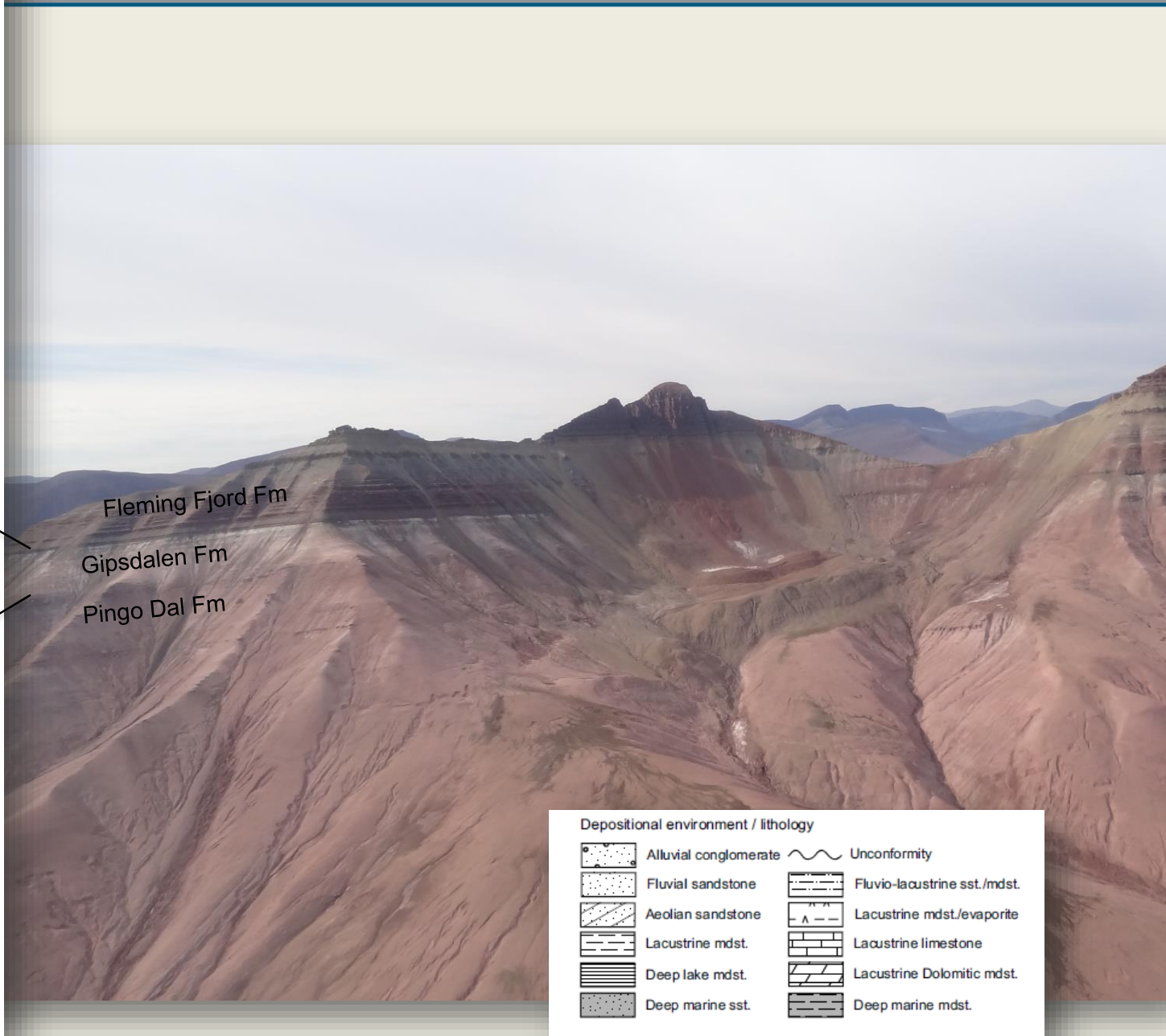
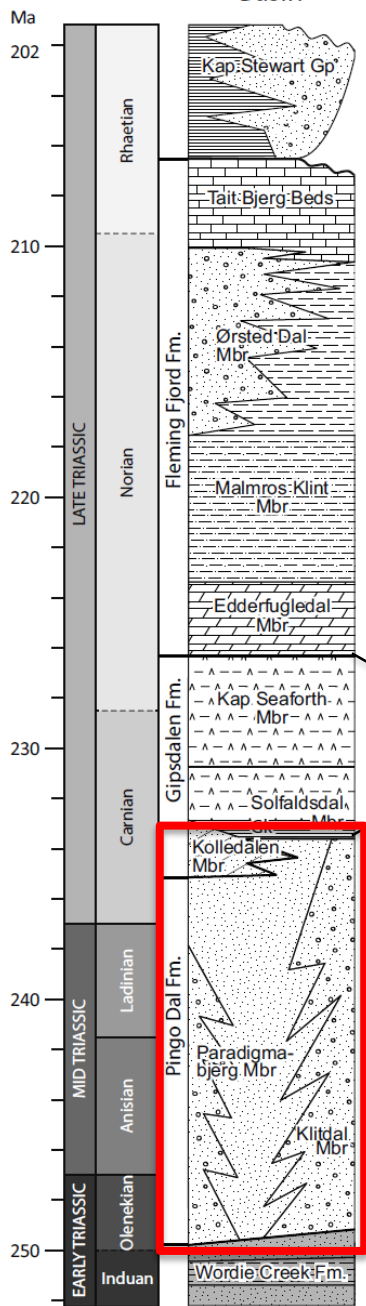
750 m



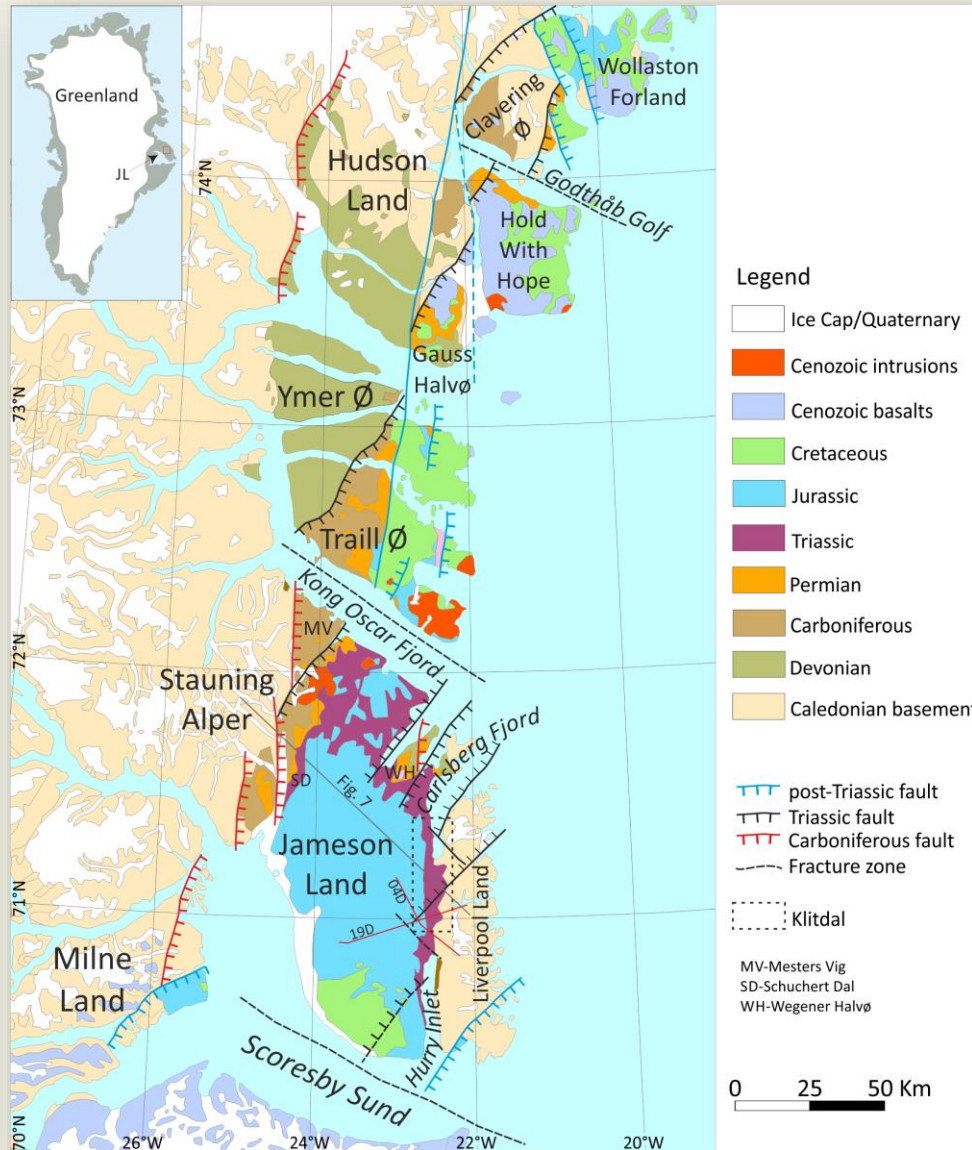




# Stratigraphy



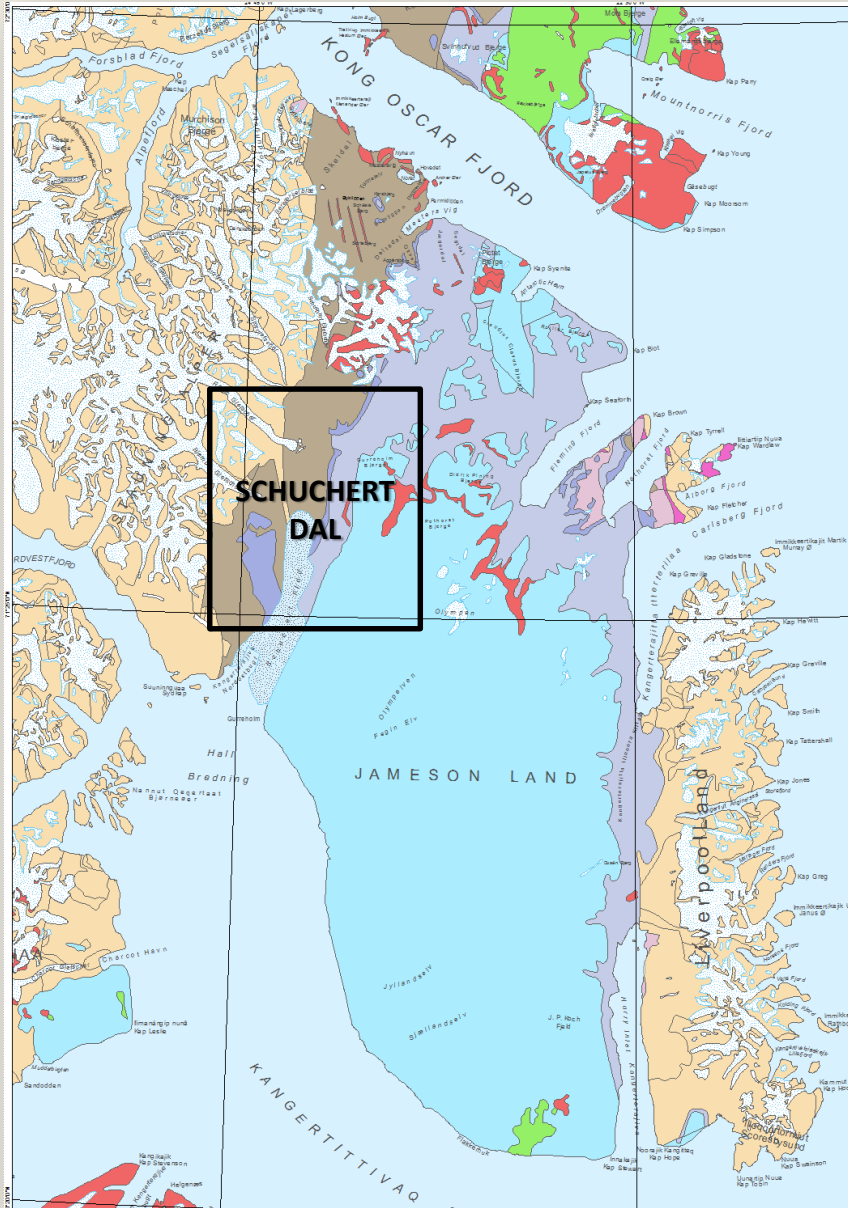




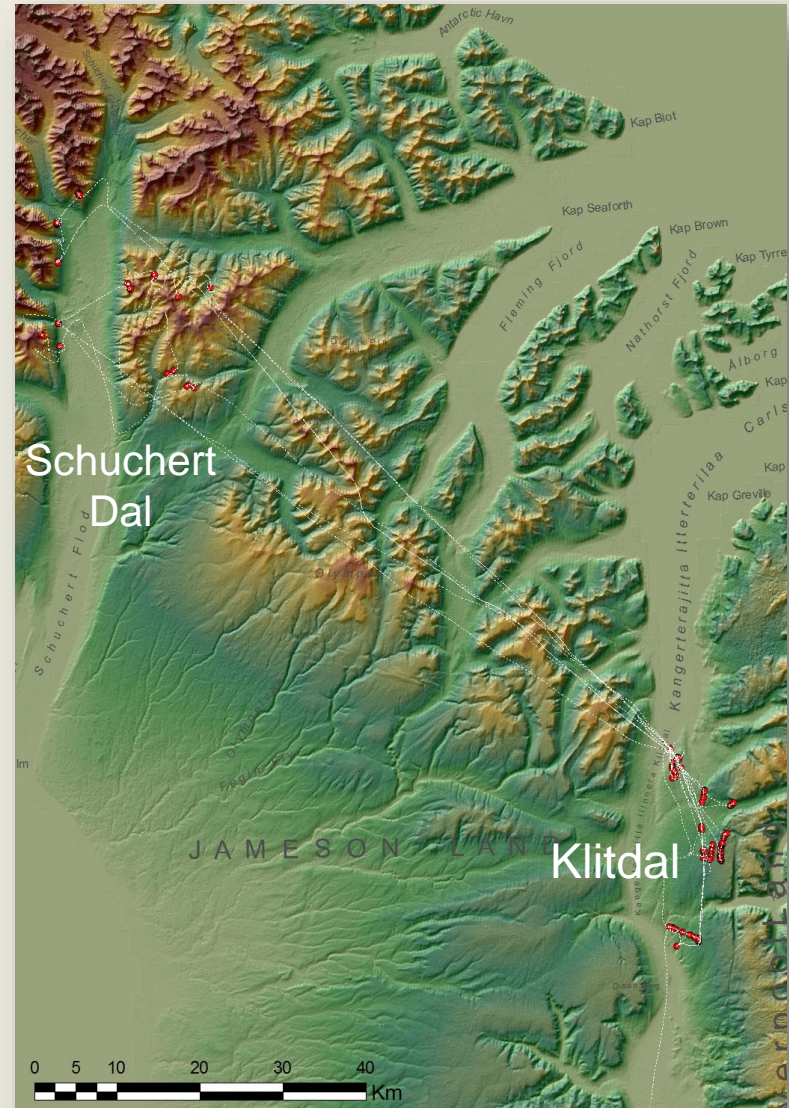
- N-S trending rift
- Westward-tilted blocks
- Half graben



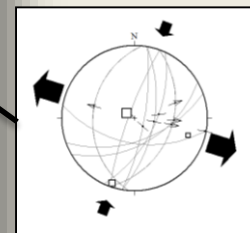
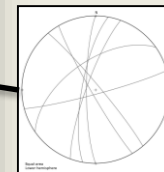
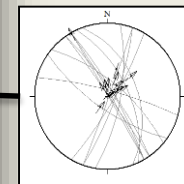
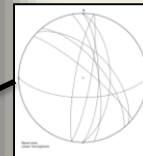
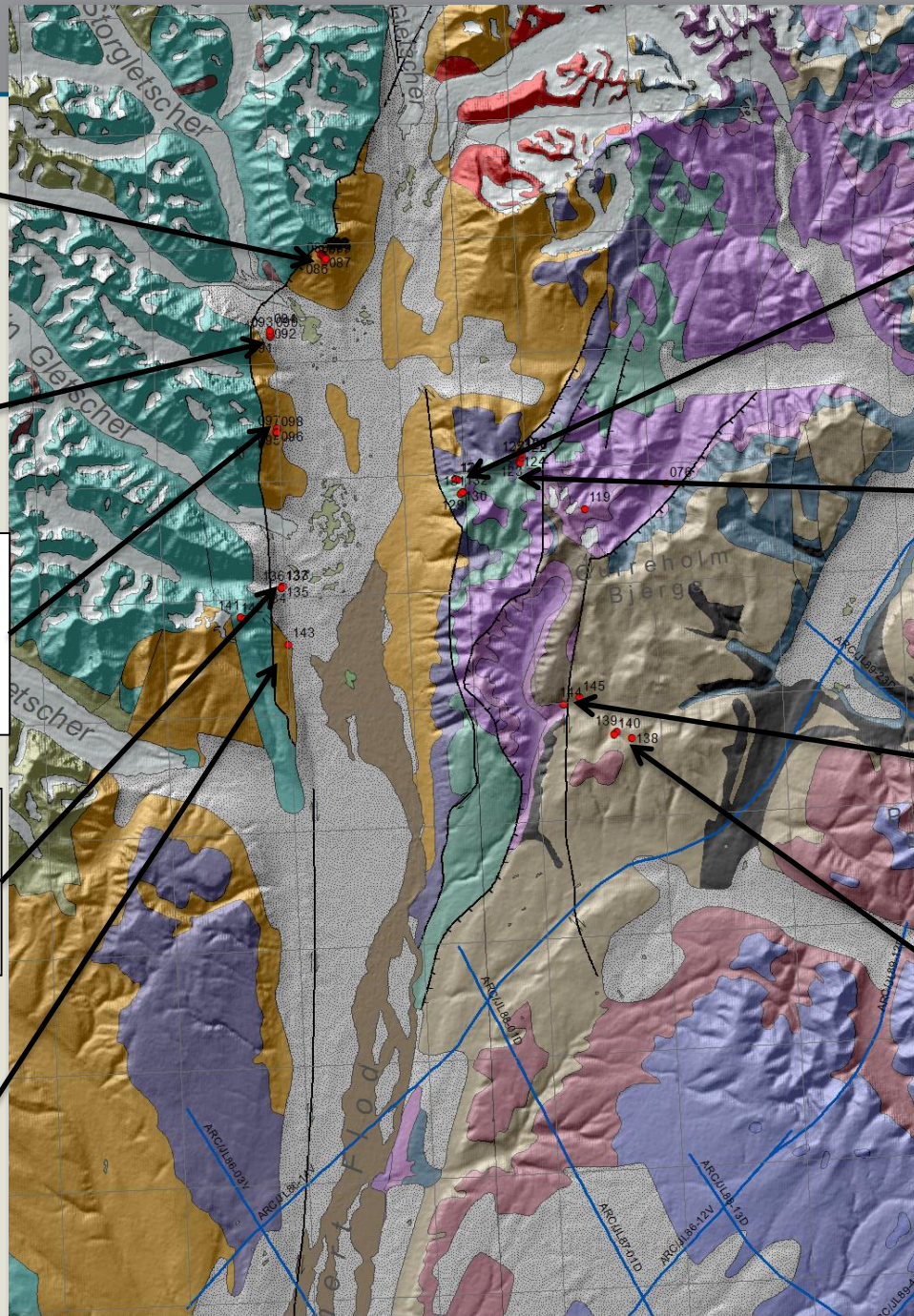
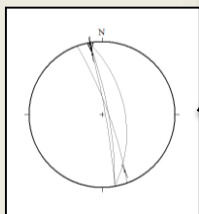
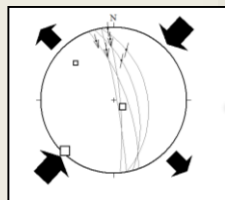
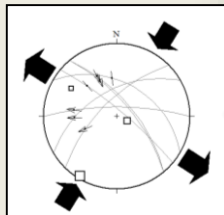
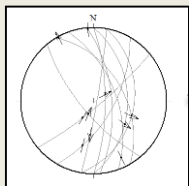
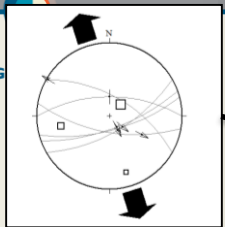
## Western margin

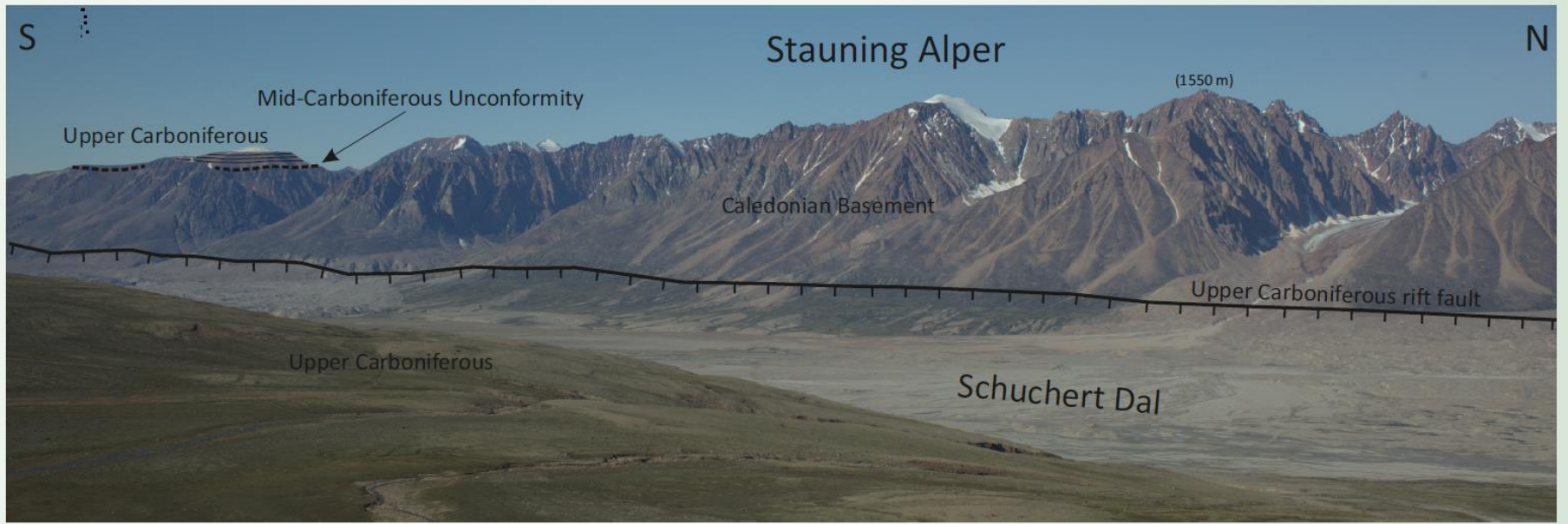


## Fieldwork 2014











W

E

Schuchert Dal

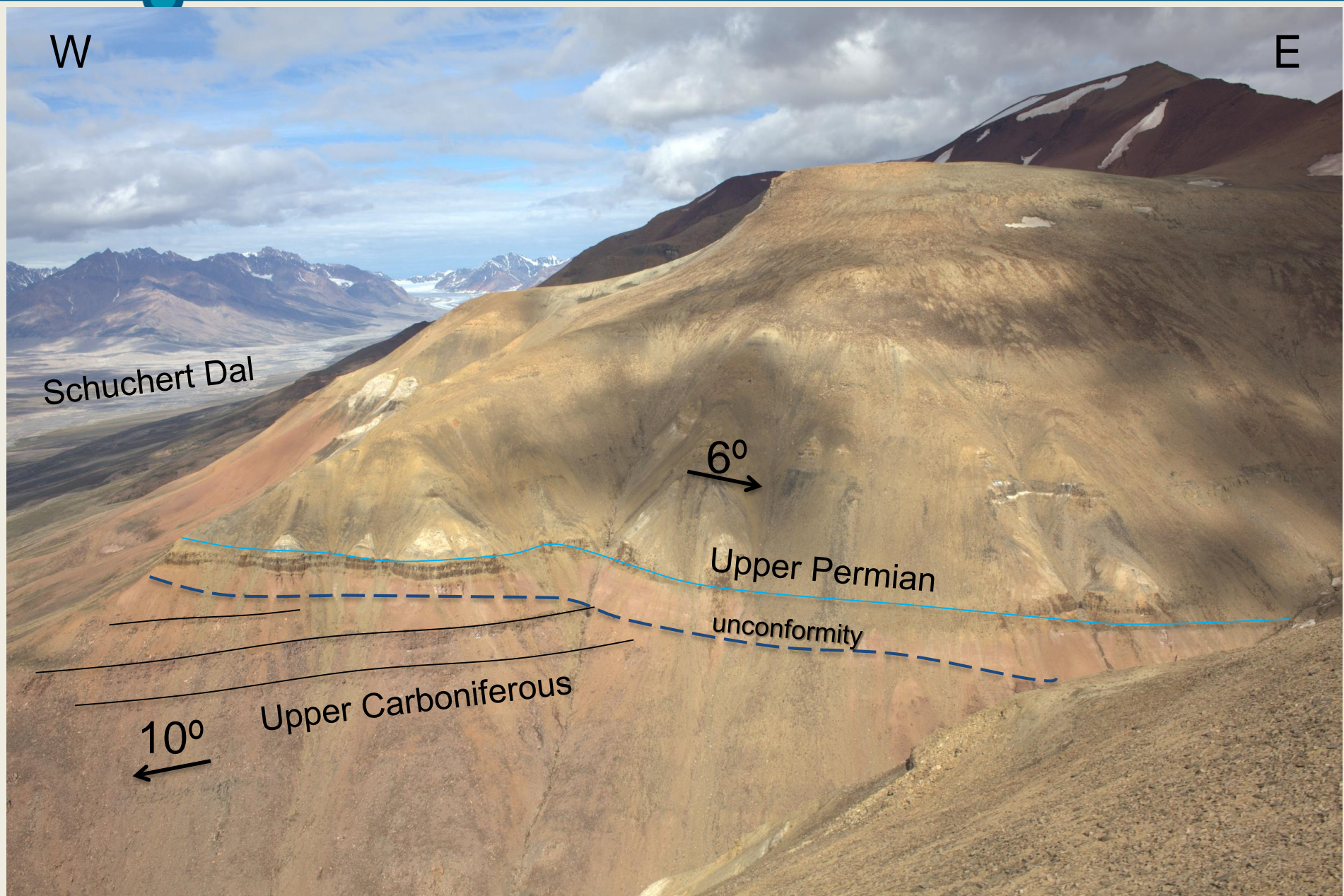
6°

Upper Permian

unconformity

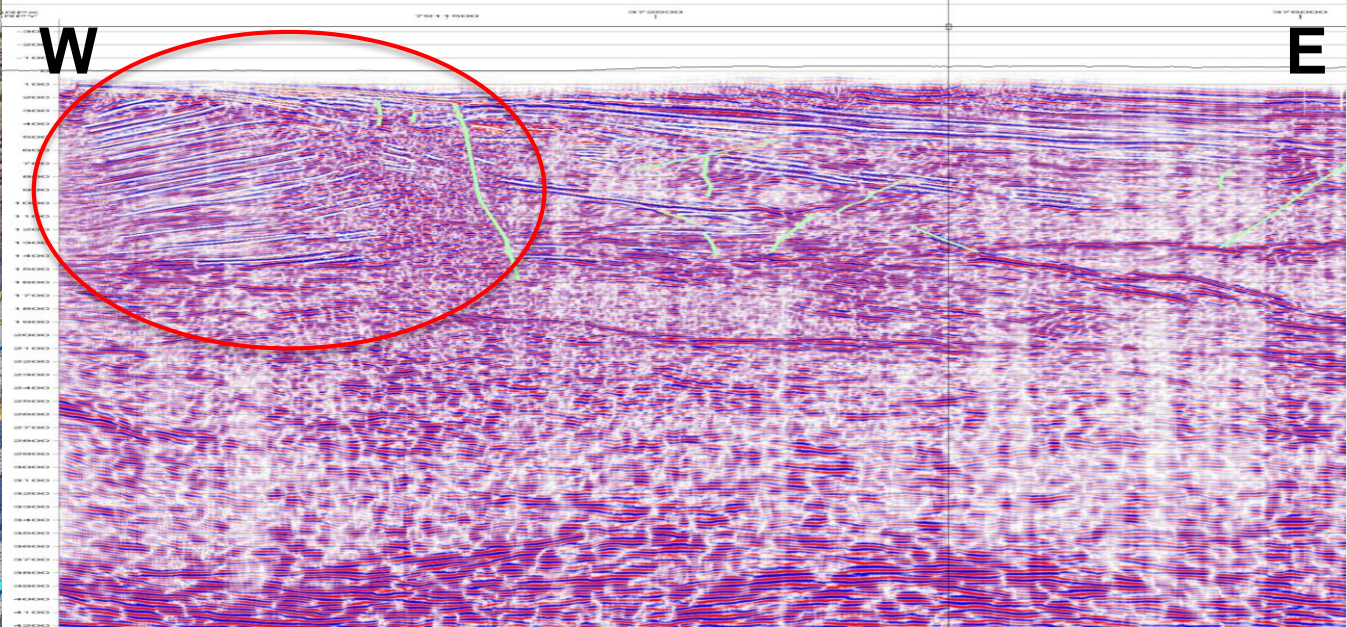
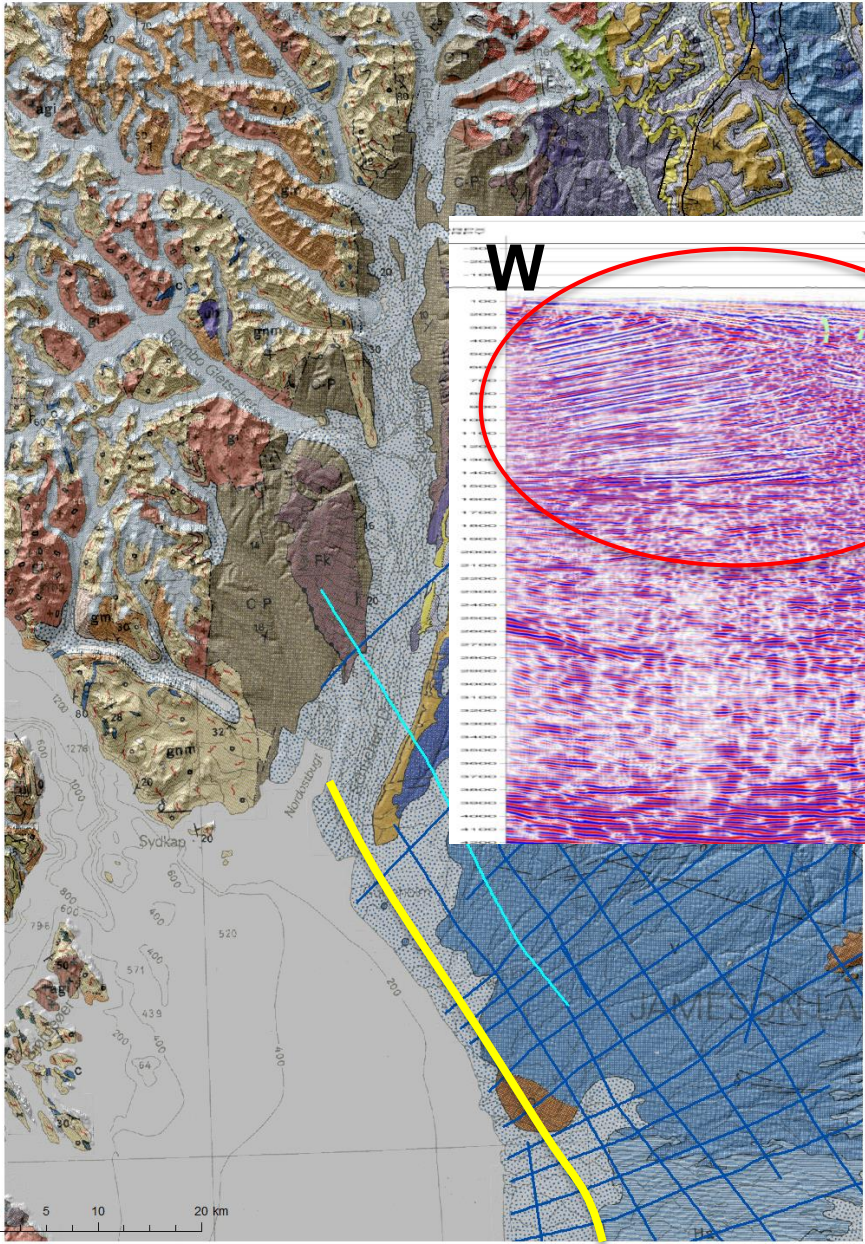
10°

Upper Carboniferous





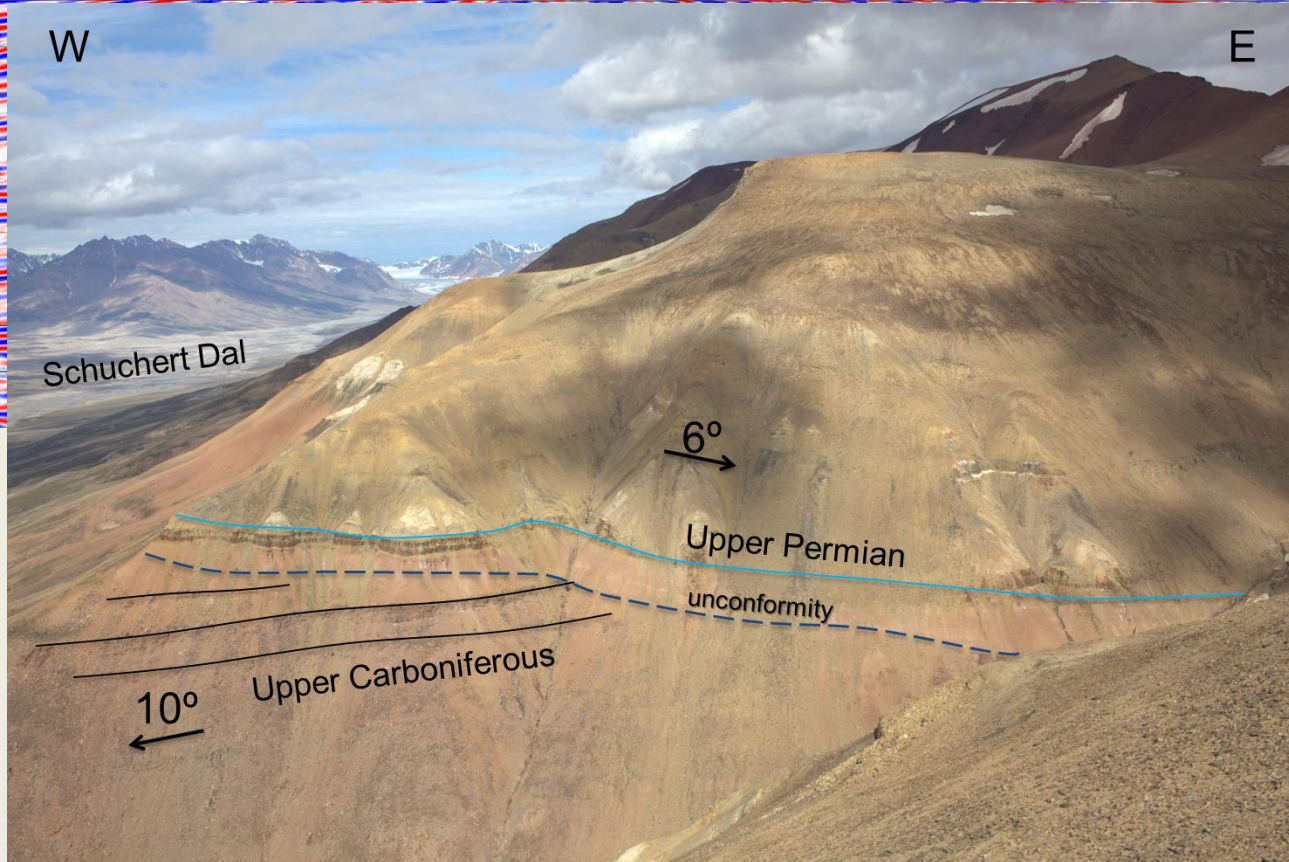
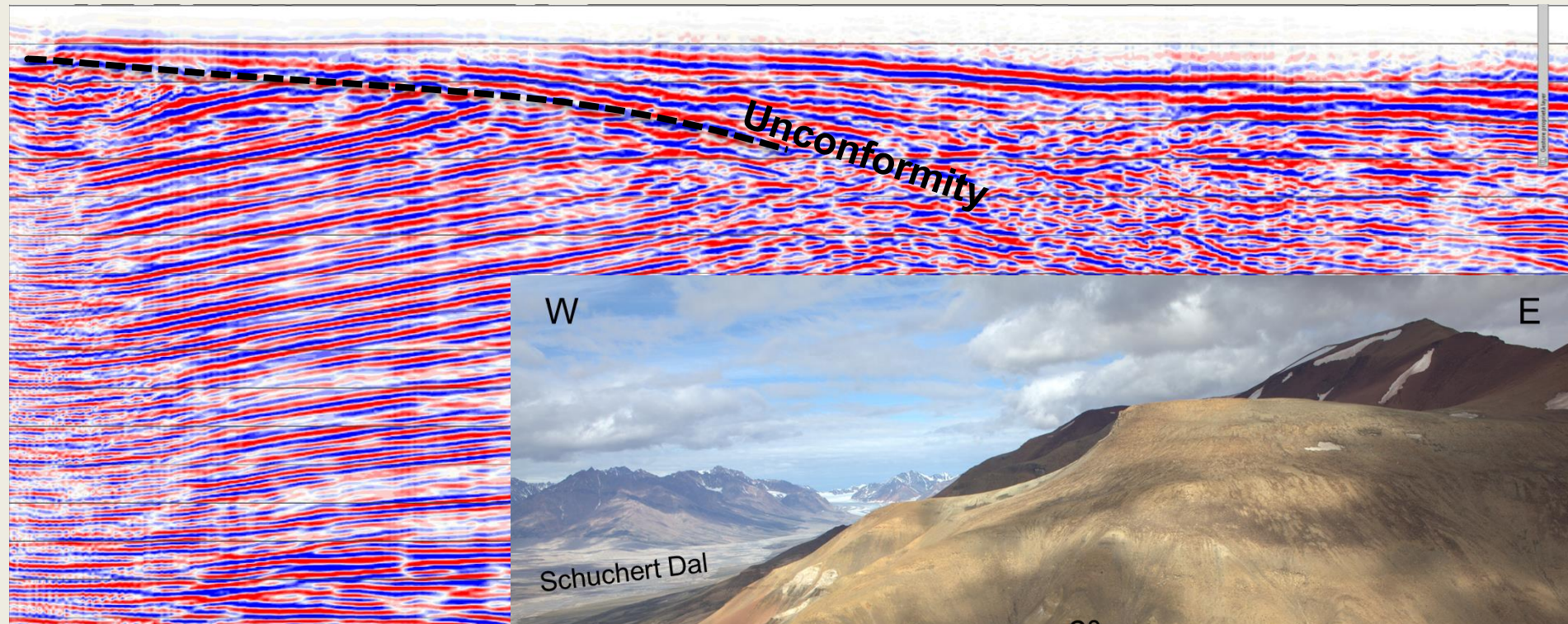
# Permian Unconformity



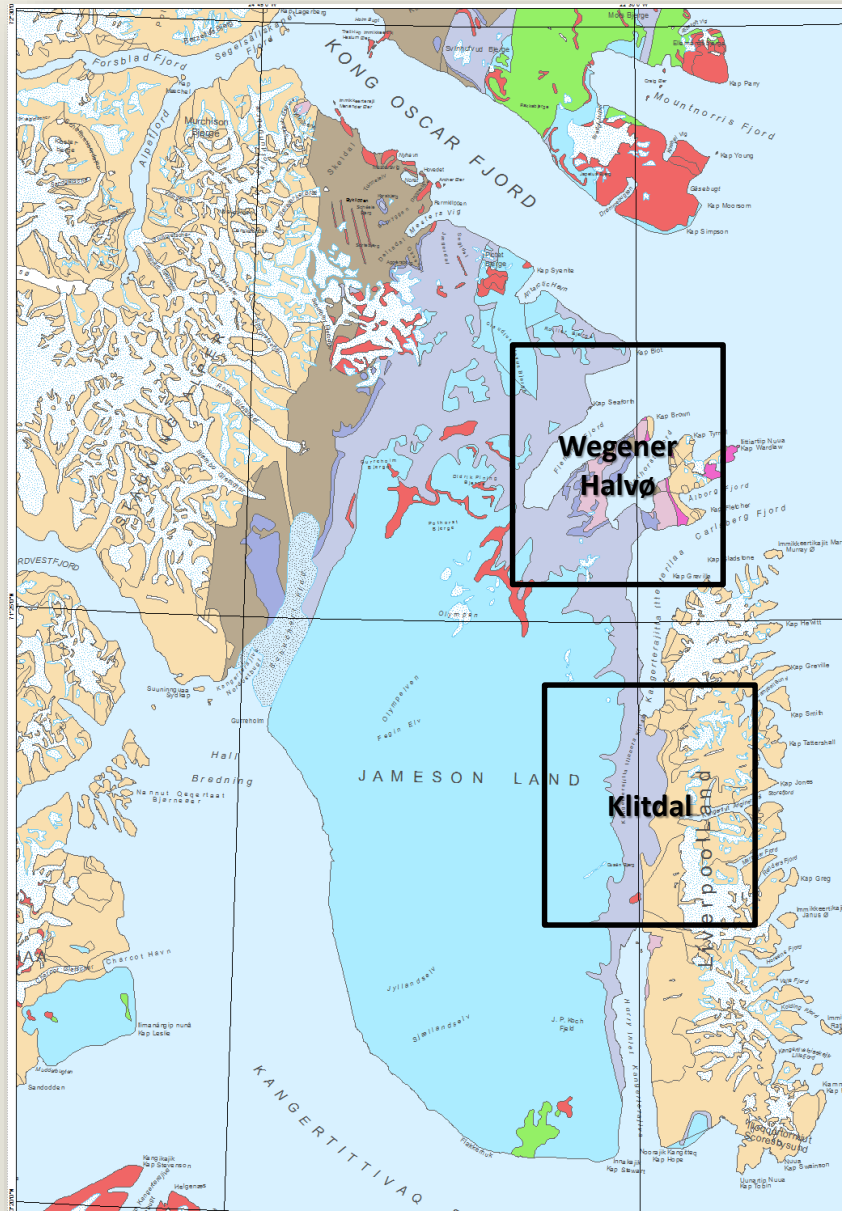
ARCO seismic line



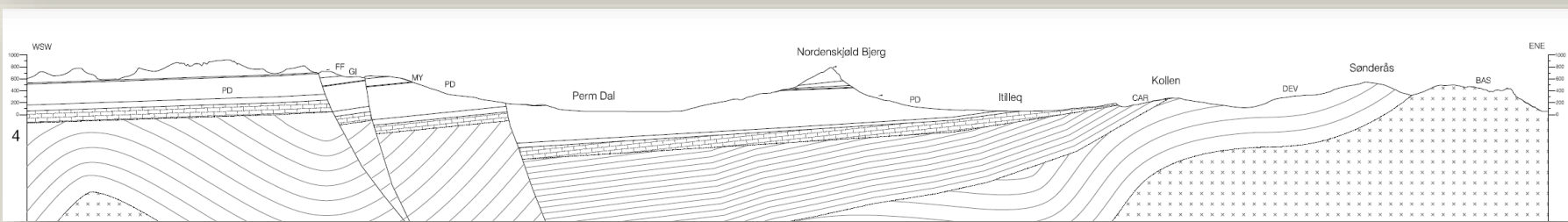
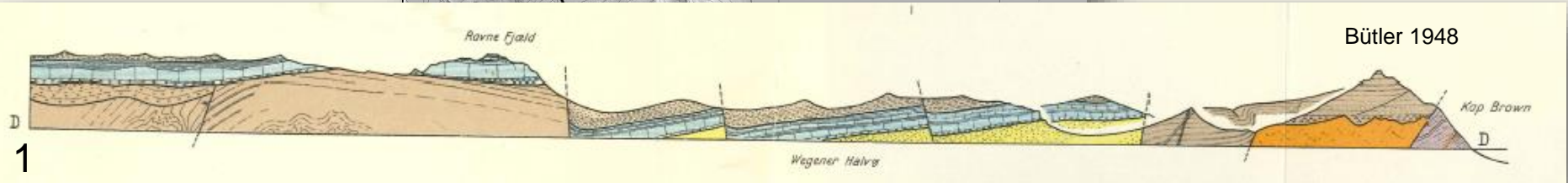
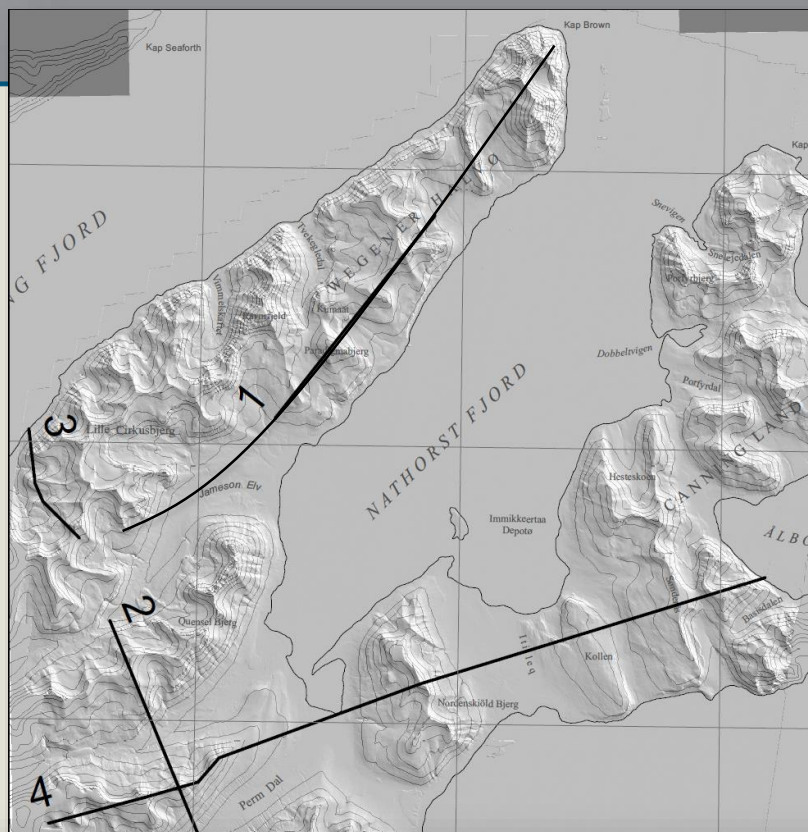
# Permian Unconformity



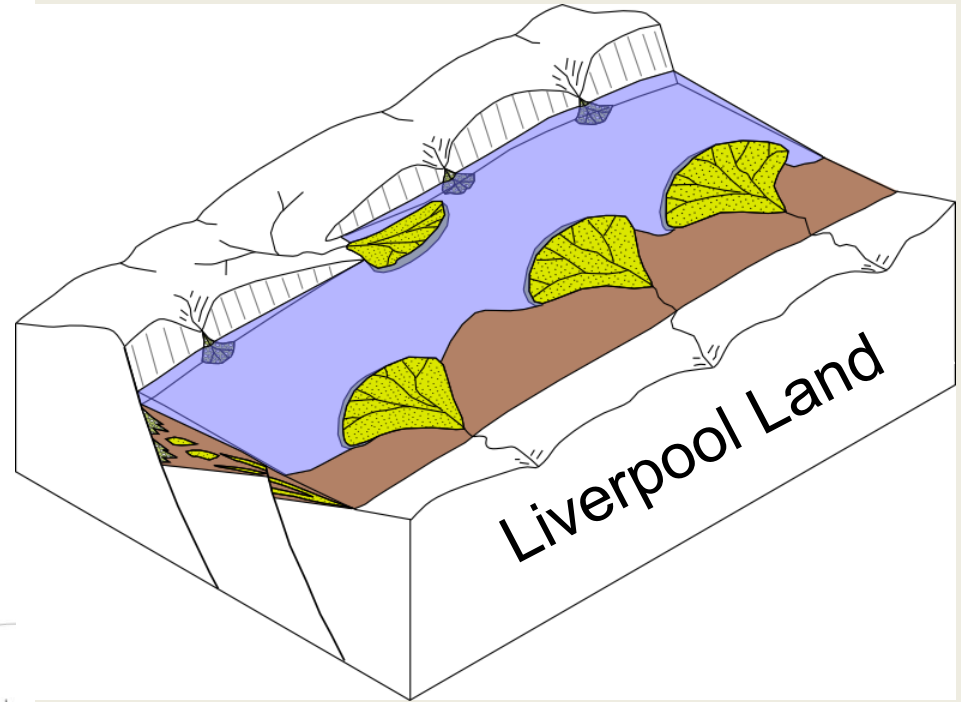
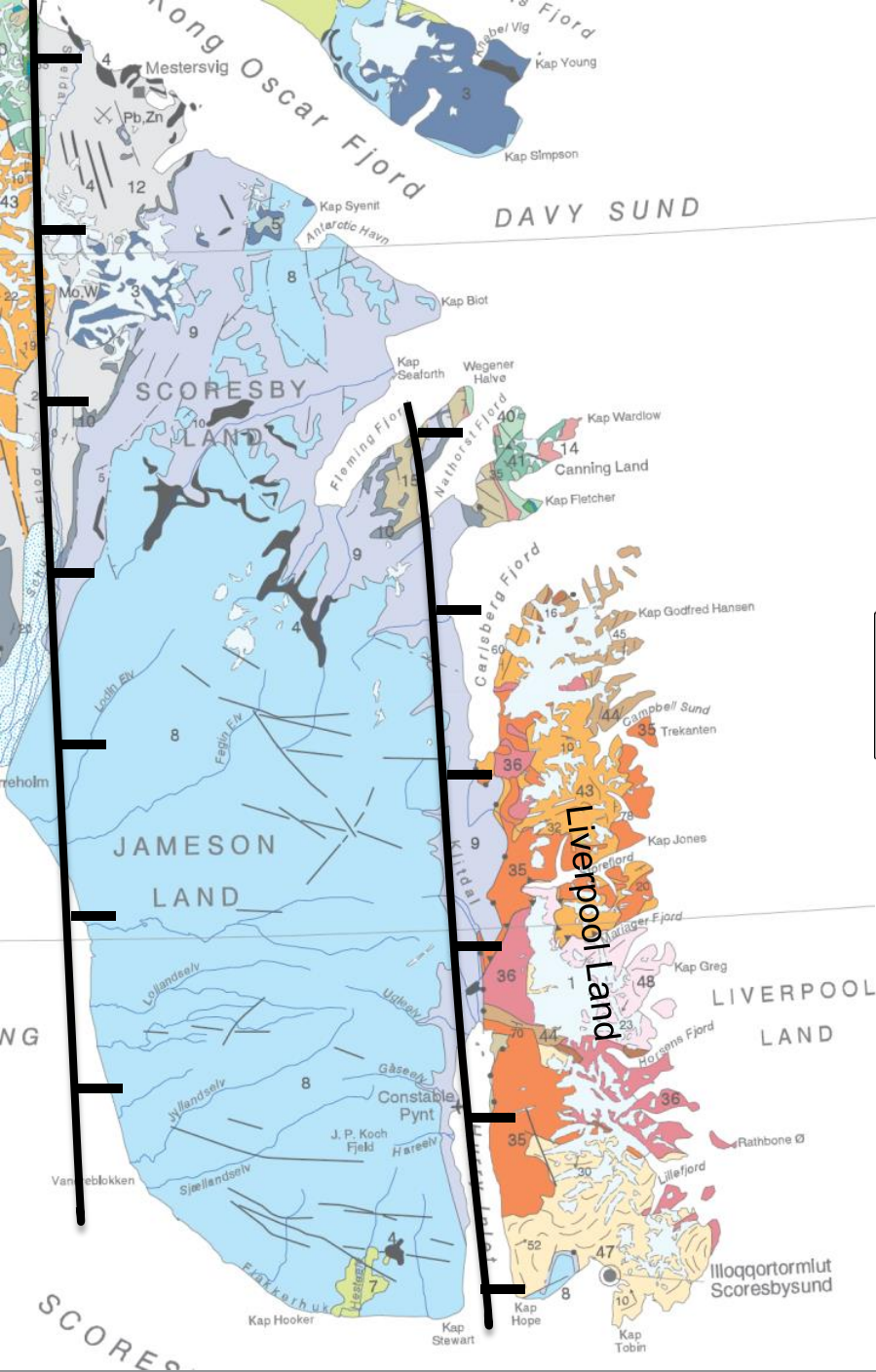
# Eastern margin





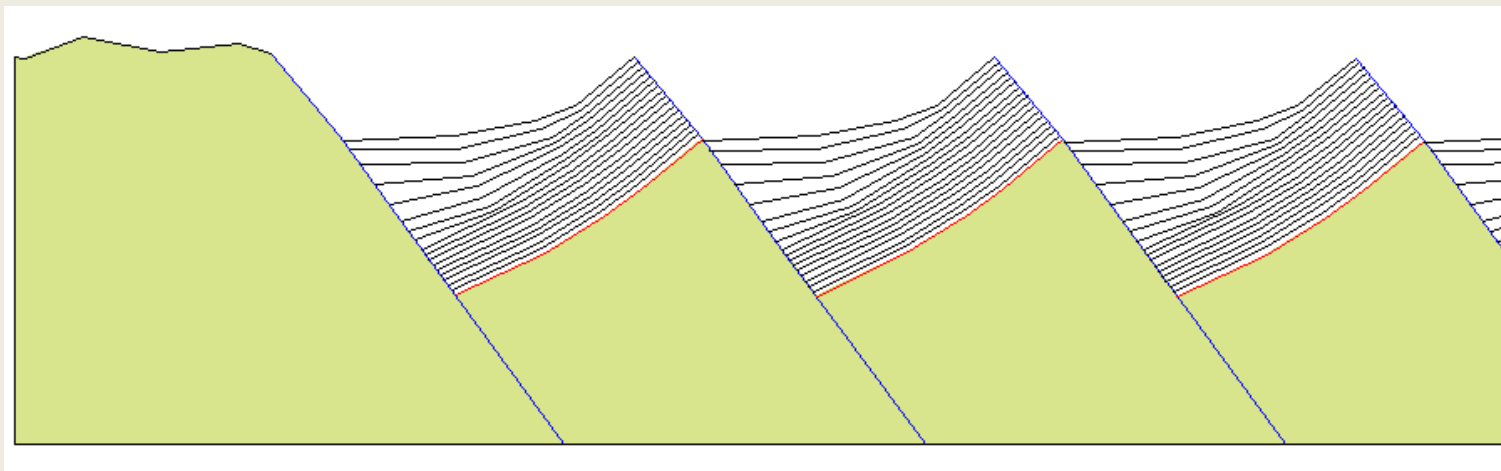


# Late Carboniferous half graben

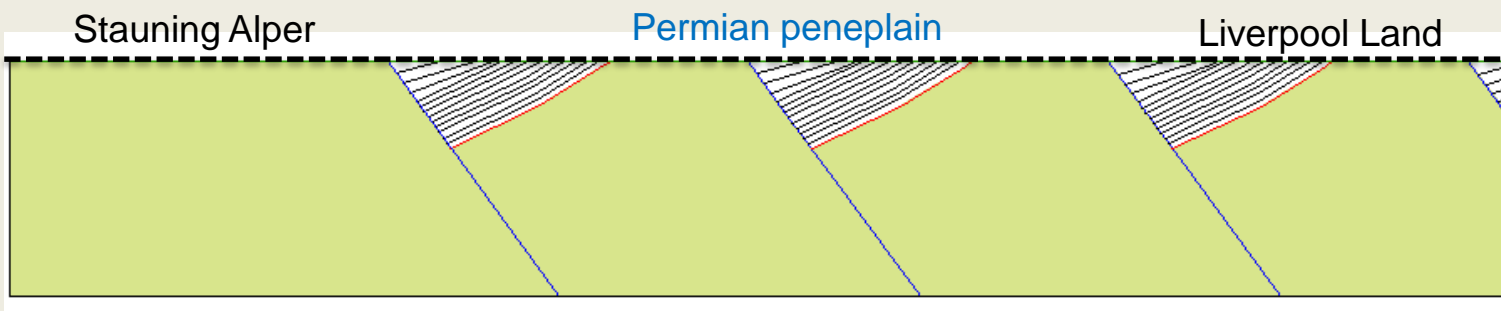




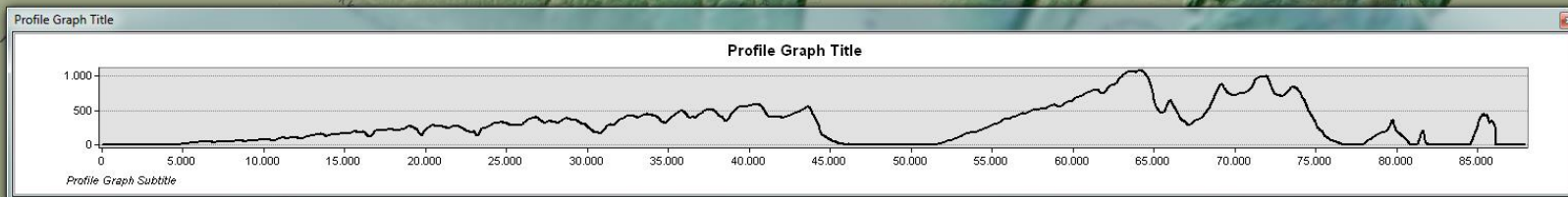
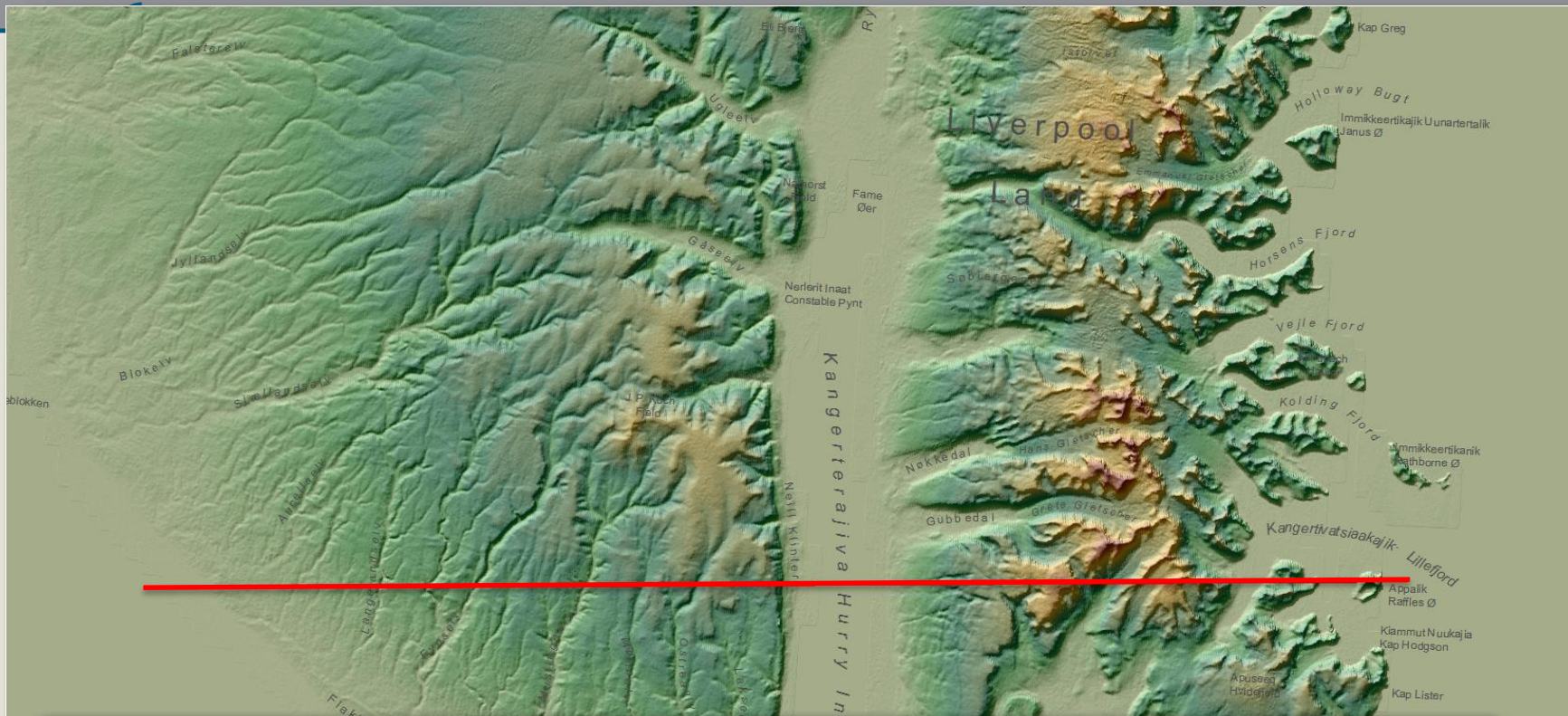
## W Westward-tilted blocks E

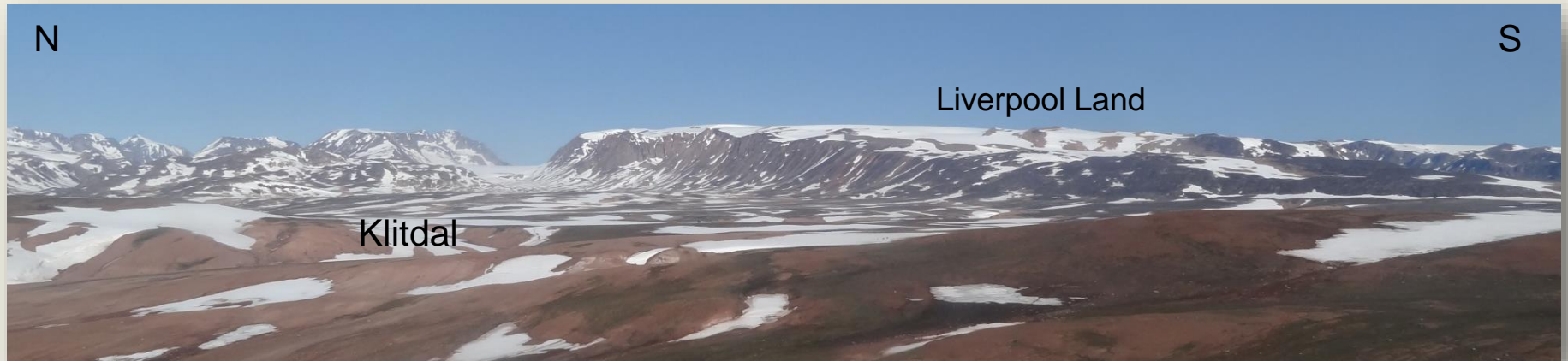


## Footwall crests eroded

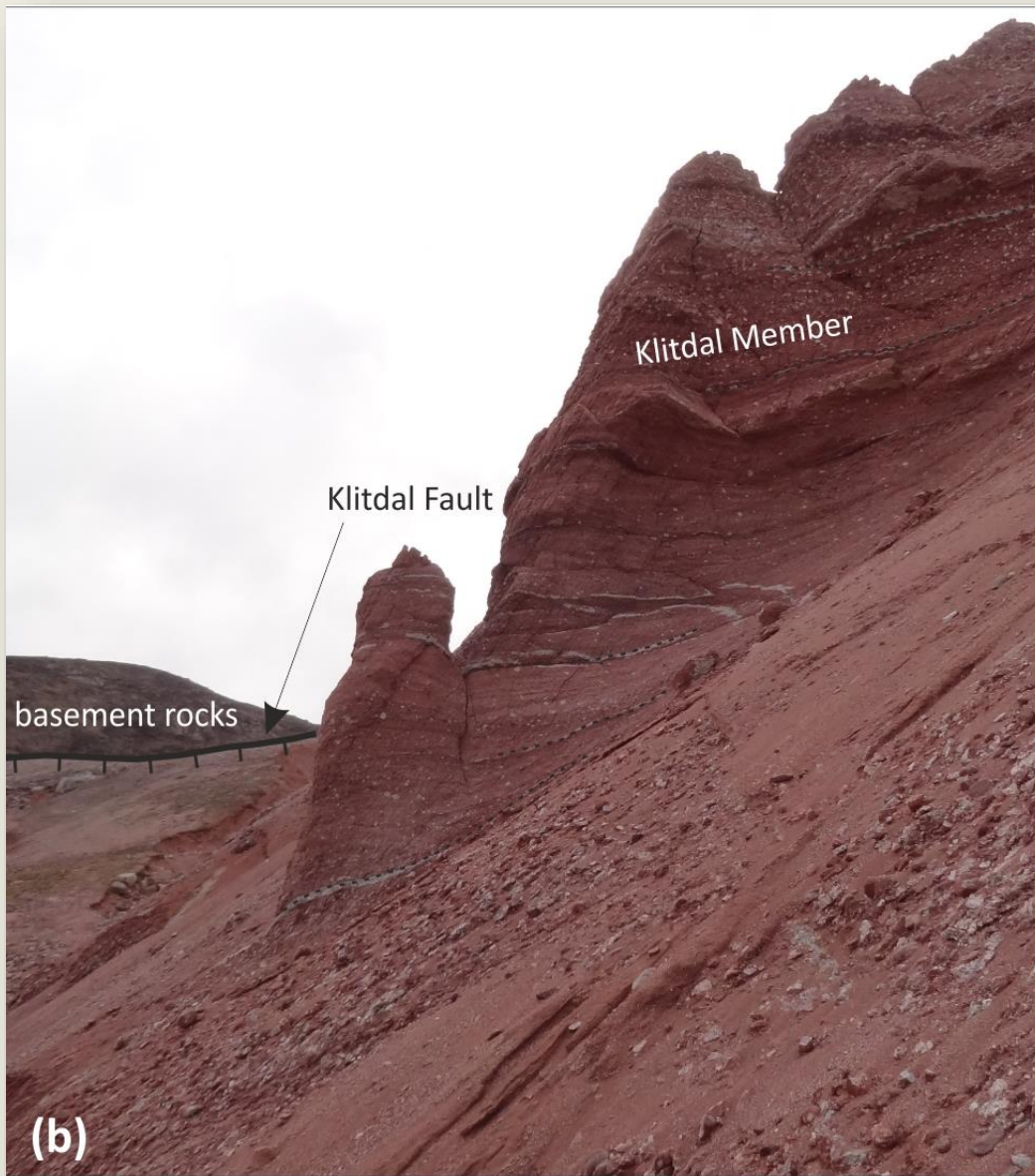








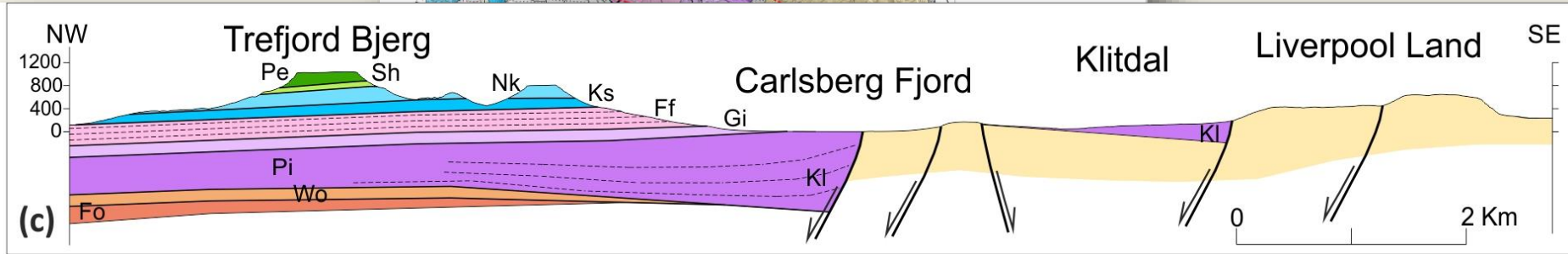
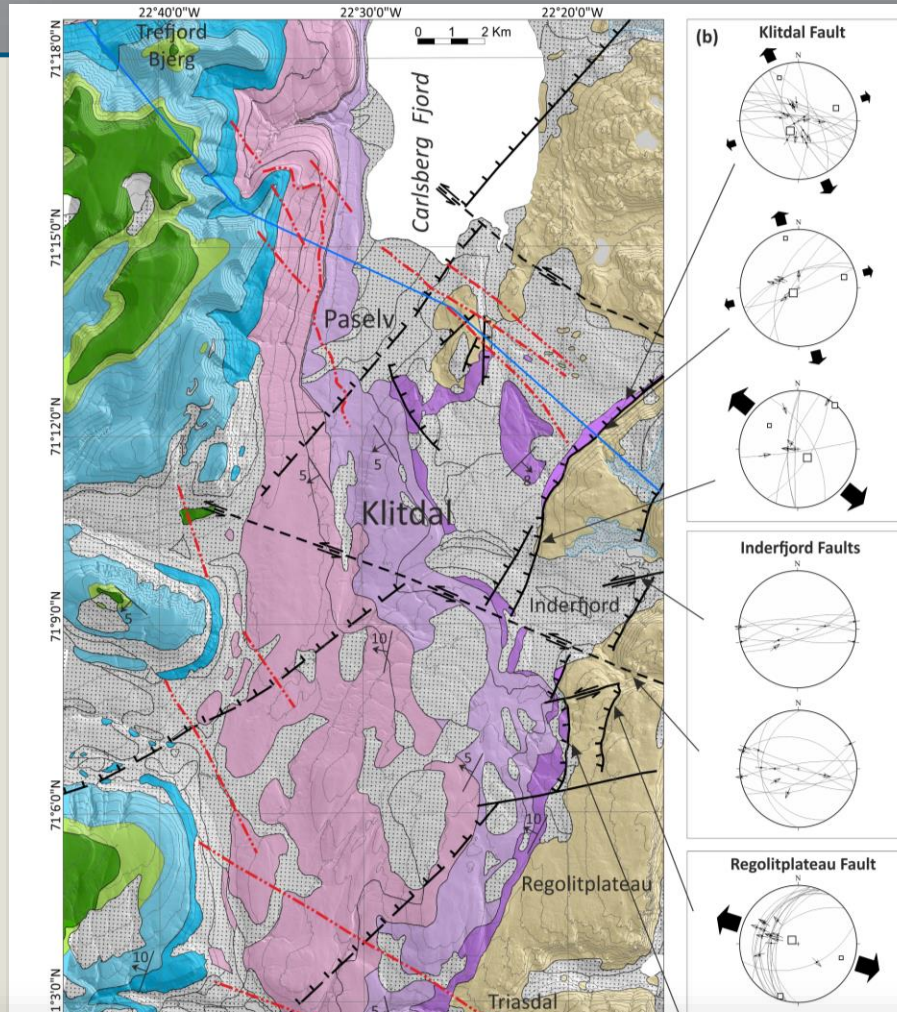








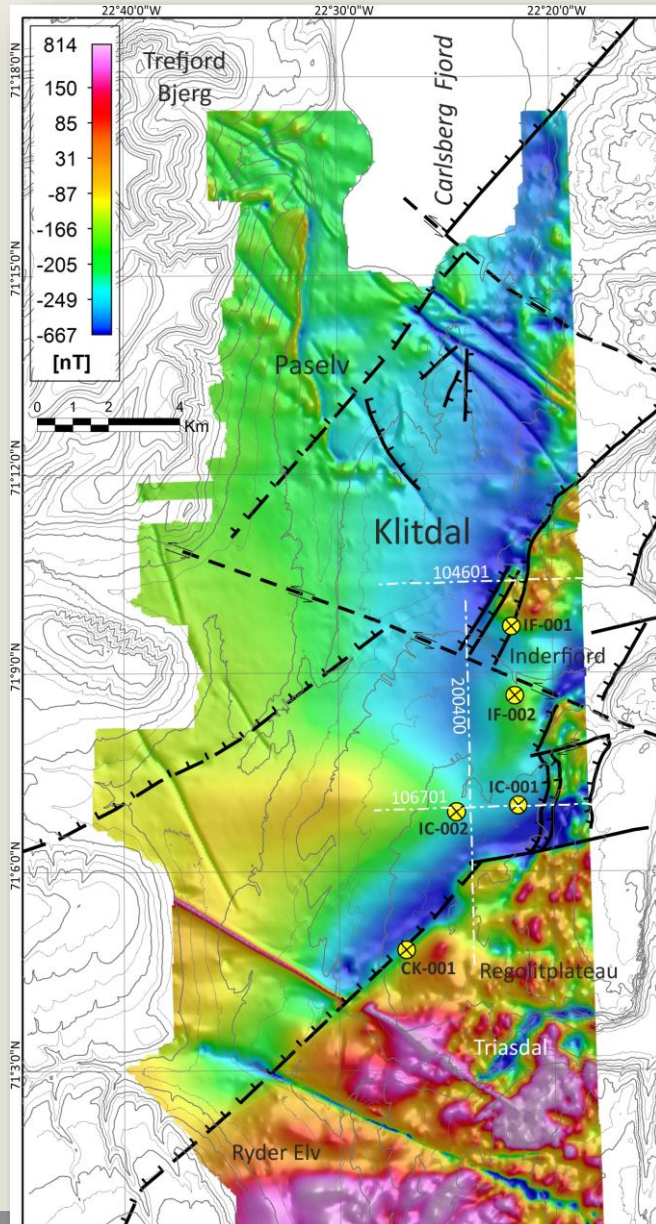




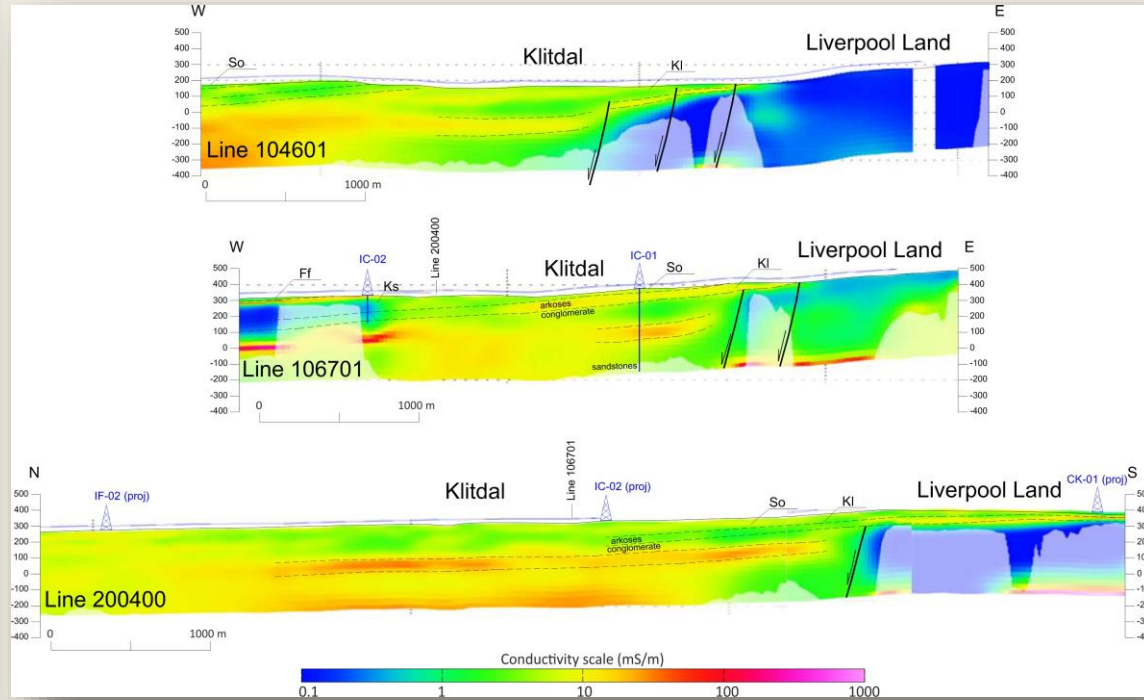


# Aeromag data

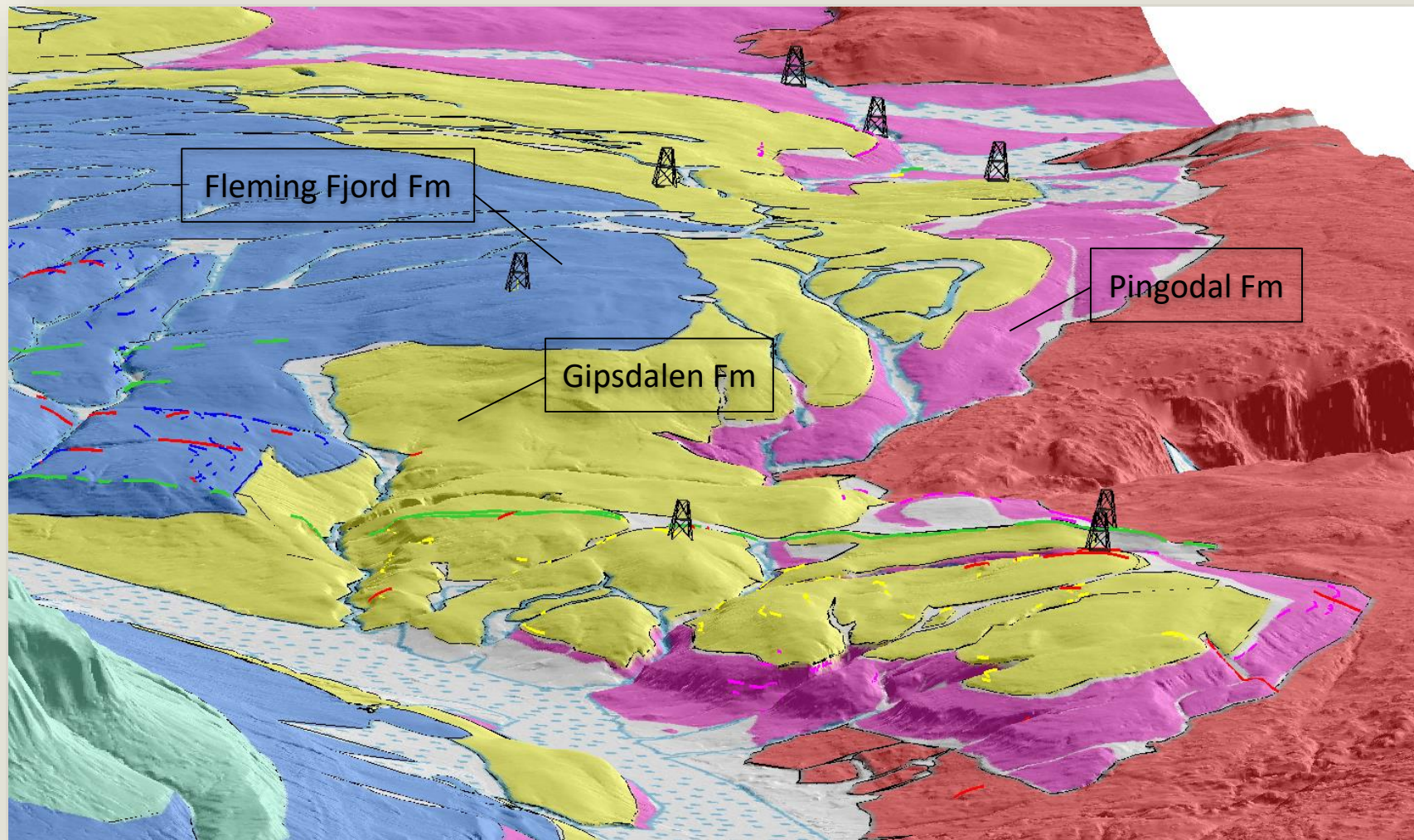
Guarnieri et al. 2017  
*Tectonics*



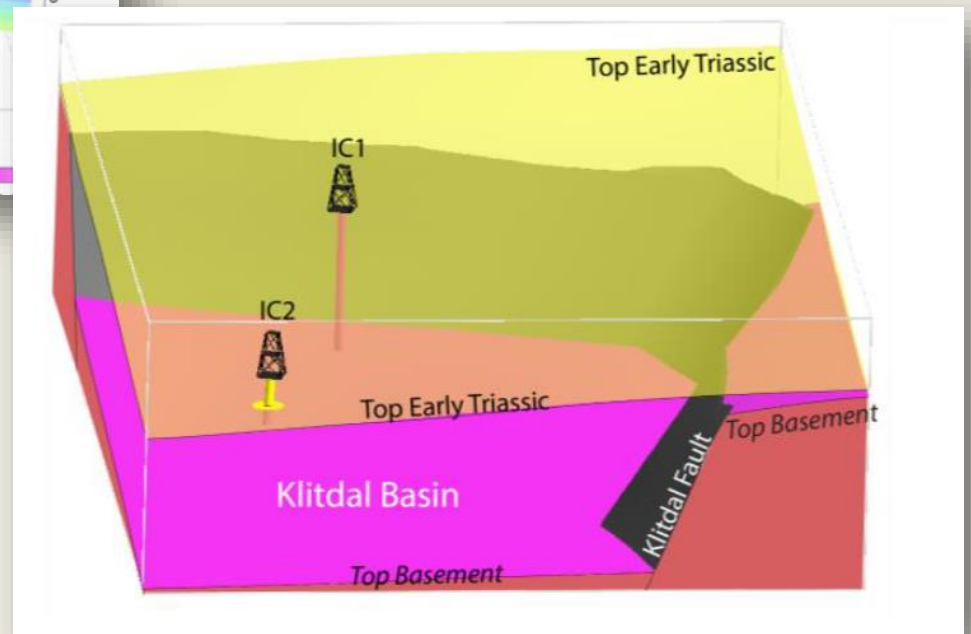
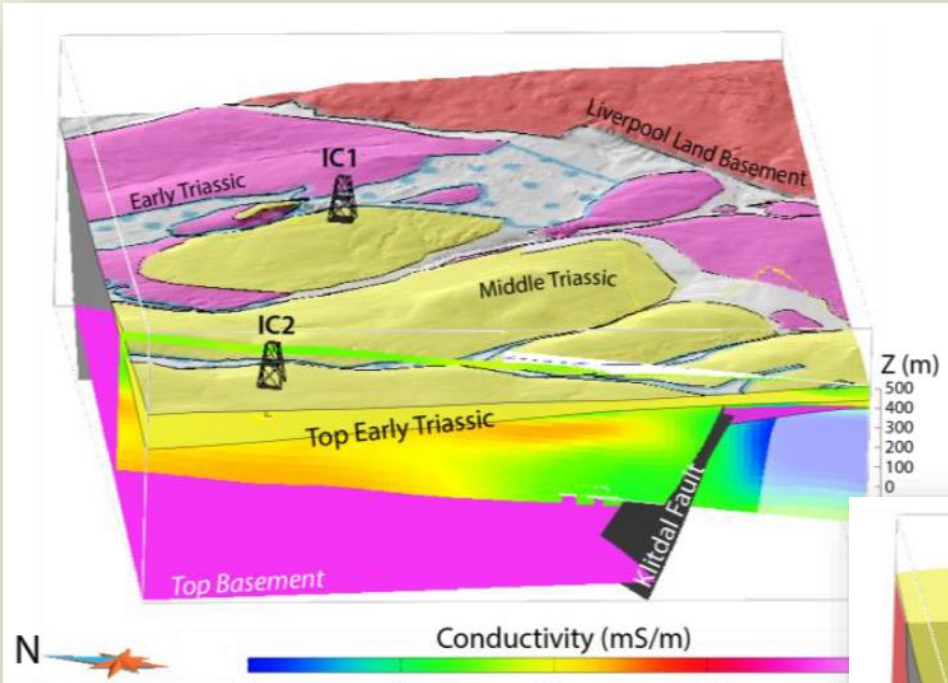
# SkyTEM data



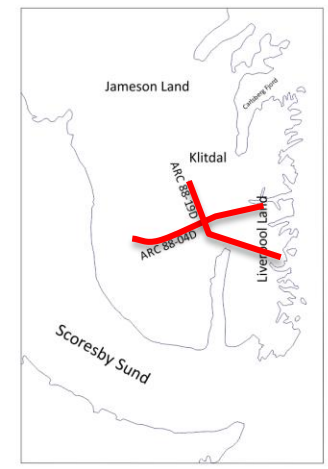
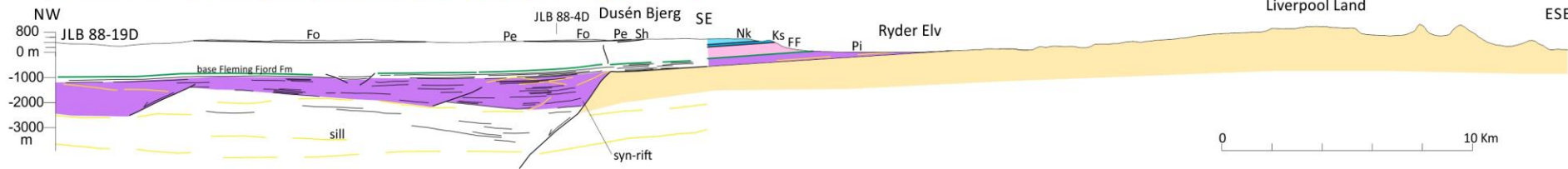
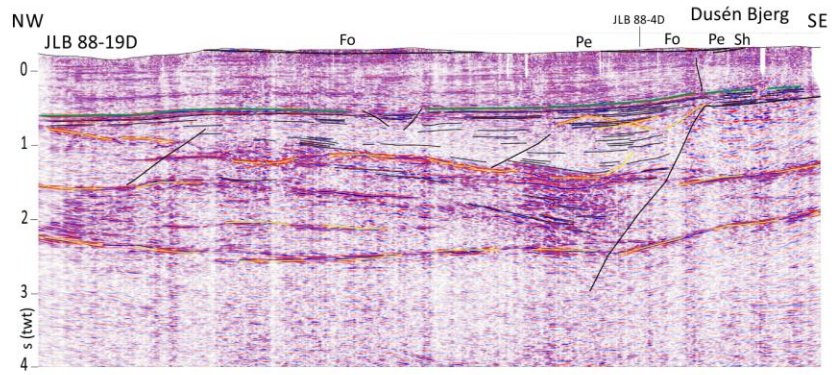
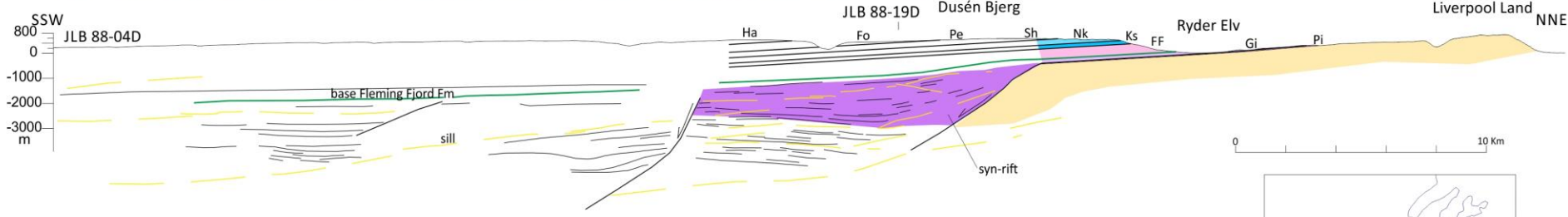
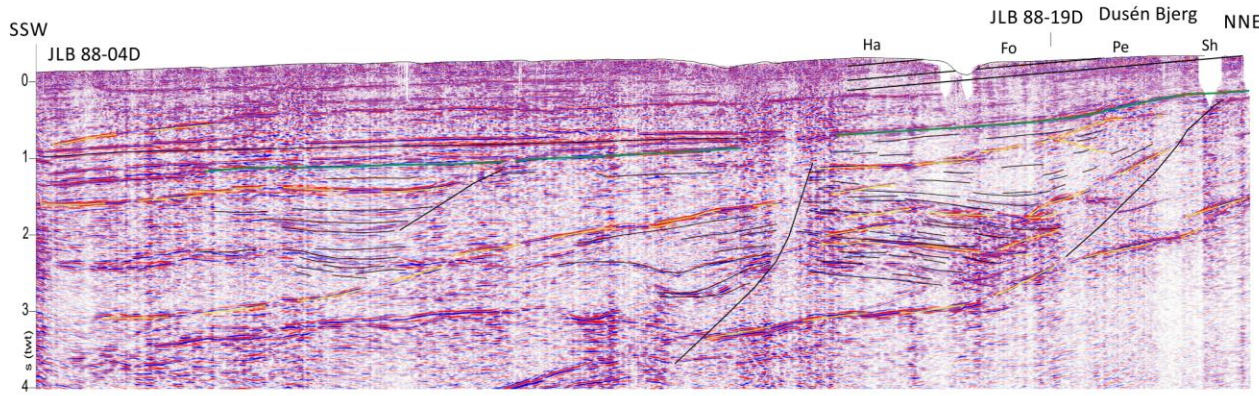




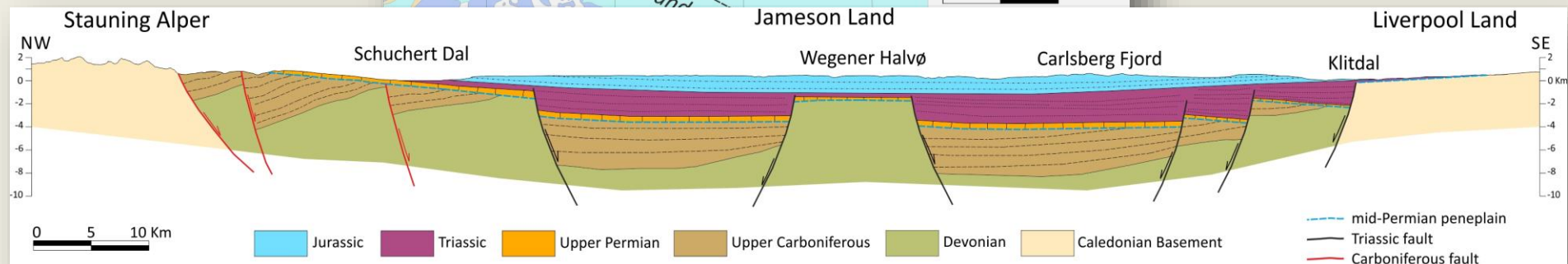
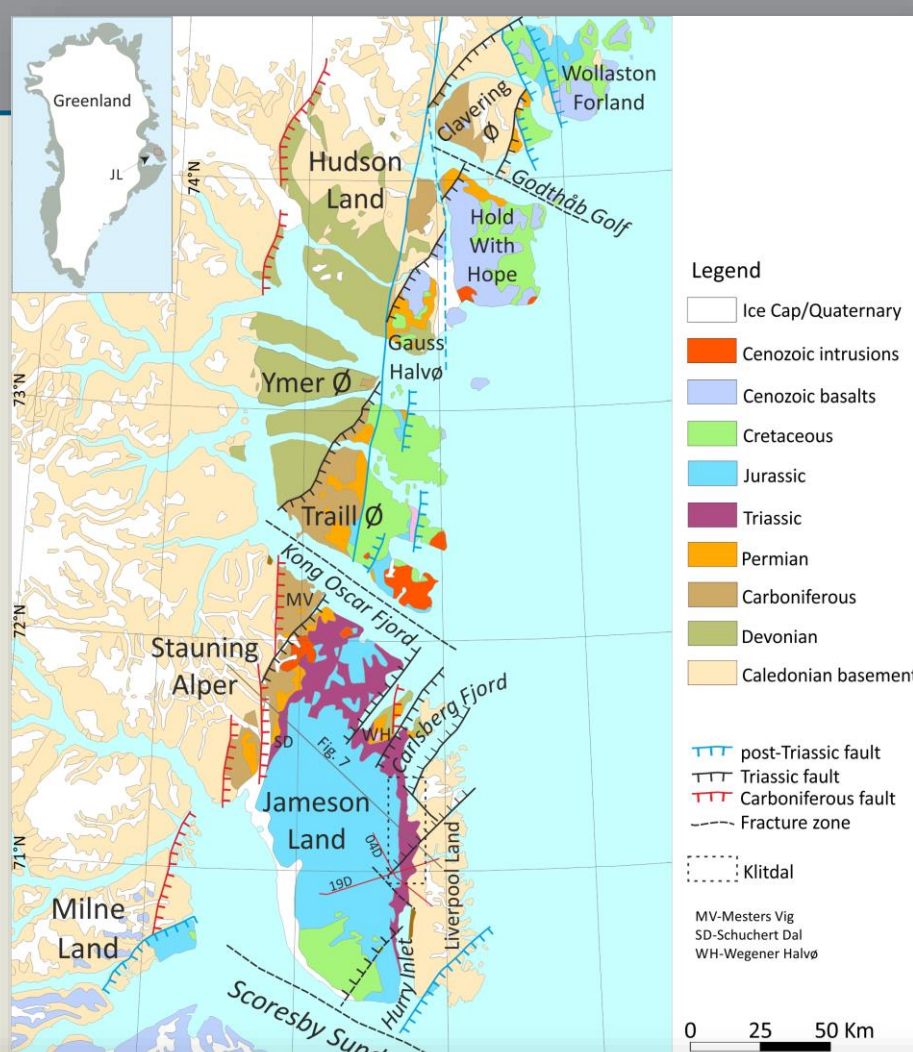


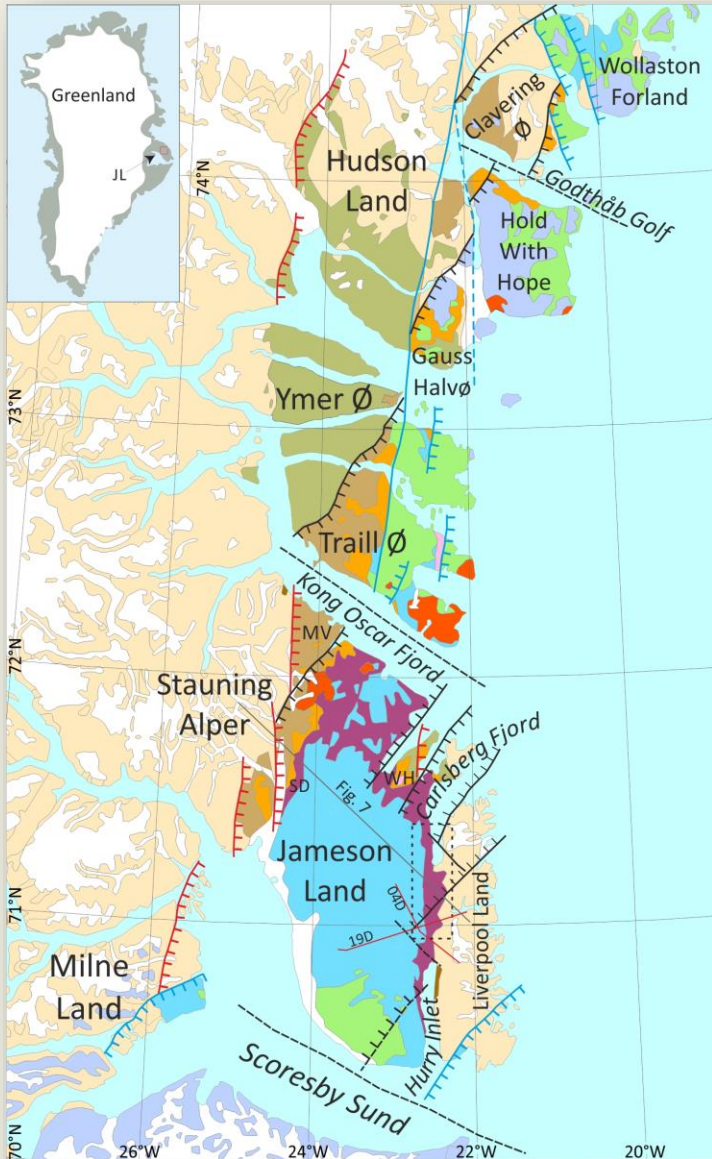


Guarnieri et al. 2017  
*Tectonics*





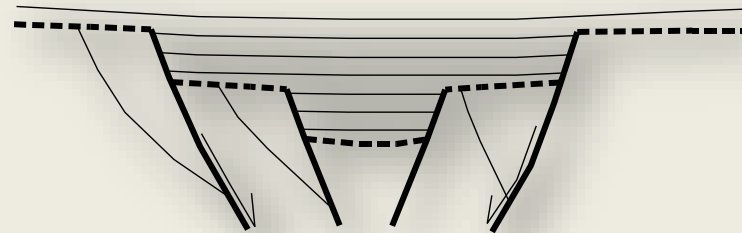




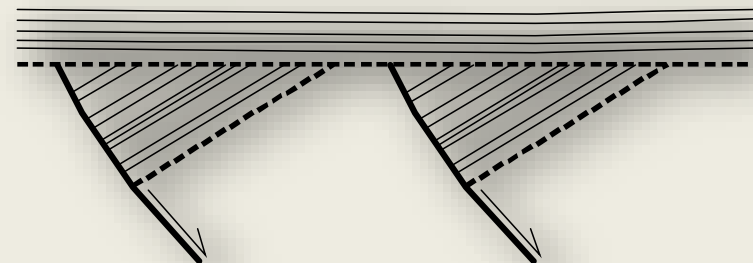
Neogene uplift (AFT)

Palaeogene magmatism

Triassic rift (NE-SW)



Late Carboniferous rift (N-S)





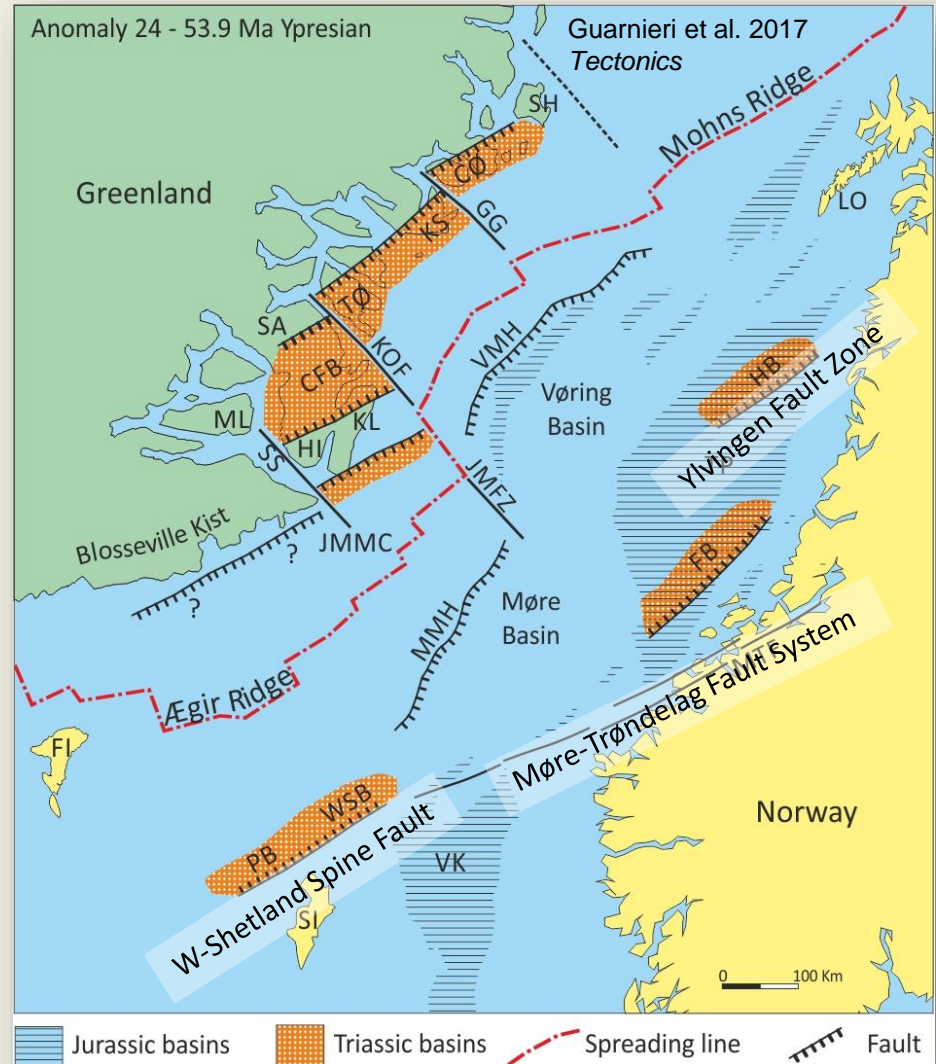


The inheritance of basement structural grain is widely considered to be an important factor in the structural development of the Northwest European Atlantic margin that is somehow considered to follow the old Caledonian suture line (Surlyk 1978; Coward, 1990; Doré *et al.*, 1999).

The lineament analysis of the Atlantic margin shows a predominance of NE—SW, N—S and NW—SE trends reflecting Mesozoic—Cenozoic extensional faulting (Doré *et al.*, 1999)

The initial line of break-up/spreading and the Early Eocene rift zone show a correlation with major Triassic fault trends and fracture zones, suggesting a possible inheritance from the Triassic rifting (Guarnieri *et al.* 2017).

Major trends of the Early Triassic rift basins in the northernmost part of the North Atlantic.



Froan Basin; Helgeland Basin; Papa Basin; West Shetland Basin

## References

- Brethes A., Guarnieri P., Rasmussen T. M. 2014. Integrating 3D photogeology with aeromagnetic data as a tool for base-metal exploration in East Greenland. Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland Bulletin 31, 71-74.
- Brethes, A., Guarnieri, P., Rasmussen, T. M., and Bauer, T. (2015), 3D-Modelling of the Early Triassic Base-Metal Mineralized Syn-Rift Sequence in the Jameson Land Basin (East Greenland), in MINERAL RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD -13th SGA Biennial Meeting 2015. Proceedings, Volume 5, pp. 1701–1704.
- Brethes, A., Rasmussen, T. M., Guarnieri, P., and Bauer, T. (2016), Mapping and characterization of Induced Polarization in airborne TEM data from central East Greenland – application of a Self-Organizing Map procedure, in IP 2016, 4th International Workshop on Induced Polarization, pp. 1–4, Aarhus, Denmark.
- Brethes A., Guarnieri P., Rasmussen T. M., Bauer T.E. 2017. Interpretation of aeromagnetic data in the Jameson Land Basin, central East Greenland: structures and related mineralized systems (submitted to Tectonophysics).
- Guarnieri, P. (2015), Pre-break-up palaeostress state along the East Greenland margin, J. Geol. Soc. London, 172, 727–739, doi:10.1144/jgs2015-053.
- Guarnieri P. (2015), Structural Map of the East Greenland basins: tool for petroleum exploration. Petroleum Geology of Northwest Europe Conference 2015. London, 28-30 September 2015.
- Guarnieri, P., Brethes, A., Rasmussen, T.M., 2017. Geometry and kinematics of the Triassic Rift basin in Jameson Land (East Greenland). Tectonics 36, 602-614.
- Guarnieri, P., Brethes, A., Rasmussen, T.M., Blischke, A., Erlendsson, Ö. & Bauer, T. 2017. CRUSMID-3D, Crustal Structure and Mineral Deposit Systems: 3D-modelling of base metal mineralization in Jameson Land (East Greenland). TemaNord, NordMin Copenhagen, 182 pp.



**Pierpaolo Guarnieri**

[pgua@geu.dk](mailto:pgua@geu.dk)

Department of Petrology and Economic Geology  
Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland  
Øster Voldgade 10, 1350 Copenhagen  
Denmark

