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A model of ice-marginal sediment-landform development at Lake Tekapo, Southern Alps, New Zealand

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ABSTRACT

The extent of the Southern Alps icefield in New Zealand is well-constrained chronologically for the last glacial cycle. The sediment-landform imprint of this glacial system, however, offers insight into ice-marginal processes that chronological control cannot. We present the first detailed investigation of sediments along the southwestern shores of Lake Tekapo, South Island. We identify seven lithofacies, from which a five-stage palaeoglaciological reconstruction of depositional and glaciotectonic events is proposed: (i) ice-marginal advance and deposition of outwash gravels in lithofacies (LF) 1; (ii) ice-marginal recession and the development of an ice-contact lake, manifest in rhythmite deposition and iceberg rafting of dropstones (LF 2), followed by a depositional hiatus; (iii) ice-marginal recession recorded in ice-proximal aggradation of glaciofluvial hyperconcentrated flows (LFs 3, 4); (iv) ice-marginal advance documented by glaciotectonic disturbance and localized hydrofracturing, coeval with the deposition of delta foresets and a subglacial diamicton/till (LFs 5, 6); (v) final stages of ice-marginal recession and deposition of outwash gravels in LF 7. Two infrared stimulated luminescence ages were obtained from the glaciolacustrine sediments and, whilst the dating has some limitations, the sediments pre-date both the global and local Last Glacial Maximum. Overall, this sequence, consistent with sediment fills recorded elsewhere across South Island, suggests recurrence of processes from different glacial advances and the role of topographic constraints on maintaining lake positions.

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Introduction

Mountain glaciers are rapidly diminishing and causing widespread environmental and socio-economic concern (Hugonnet et al. 2021). Reconstructing the nature and behaviour of palaeo-glaciers enables a better understanding of the long-term (centennial to multi-millennial) character of glaciers within the Earth-atmosphere system (e.g. Clark 1997; Boulton et al. 2001; Clark et al., 2018; Evans et al. 2009; Hubbard et al. 2009; Ely et al. 2021). In particular, the relative sensitivity of mid-latitude glaciers to modern climate change makes them especially important to consider

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compared to other regions around the world. For example, the sediment-landform relationships of New Zealand valley glacier systems are important for understanding glacier behaviour in mountainous mid-latitude regions, including South America (e.g. Bentley 1996), parts of northwest Europe (e.g. Winkler and Nesje 1999), and the Pacific northwest of North America (e.g. Bennett et al. 2002; Wyshnytzky et al. 2019). New Zealand valley glacier systems are especially interesting due to high sediment supply driven by active tectonics, relatively friable bedrock, and a climate characterized by high annual temperatures and low seasonality. These factors combine to also generate significant year-round glaciofluvial activity (Hyatt et al. 2012) and consequently glacial landsystems that are dominated by thick sequences of glaciofluvial gravels (e.g. Soons 1963; Gage 1965; Suggate 1990) and proglacial lake sediments trapped behind outwash heads composed of these aggradational gravels (e.g. Kirkbride 1993; Evans et al. 2013; Sutherland et al. 2019a). This landsystem, therefore, differs significantly from those of high- and mid-latitude valley glaciers and continental ice sheet margins of the Northern Hemisphere, on which most of the palaeoglaciological literature has been previously focused (e.g. Benn and Evans 1998; Evans 2003, 2013a, 2013b).

There is a growing body of empirical evidence relating to the temporal evolution of the Southern Alps icefield throughout the Quaternary (see Darvill et al. 2016 for a review; Shulmeister et al. 2019). Constraining the timing of glacial fluctuations in New Zealand has been used to deduce climatological inferences on an interhemispheric scale (e.g. Putnam et al. 2013a, 2013b; Doughty et al. 2013). As a result, rather more is known about glacier moraine chronology than the sediment-landform imprint of New Zealand glacial systems, especially in terms of ice-marginal process-form regimes, and their palaeo-glaciological implications. Fundamentally, such insight relies upon high-resolution local studies of the stratigraphy and sedimentology of deposits from former glacier margins. The high-quality outcrops required for such work on Quaternary-age strata in the New Zealand Southern Alps are from discontinuous exposures in gully or valley walls, or vehicle-track cuttings, and exposures through the infills of the lower ends of glacial troughs. These sediment exposures commonly contain remnants of relatively old (pre-21 ka) sediments, such as those in the Rakaia (e.g. Shulmeister et al. 2010b; Hyatt et al. 2012), a valley with a 2372 km² catchment on the southeastern side of the Southern Alps (43°S, 171°E). Within the context of this study, we refer to the global Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) defined by Clark et al. (2009) from 26.5 to 19 ka, but with the local LGM in New Zealand occurring between c. 35 and 28 ka (Barrell 2011; Shulmeister et al. 2019).

Detailed, lithofacies-focused glacial sedimentological studies in New Zealand (e.g. Speight 1926; Hart 1996; Hambrey and Ehrmann 2004; Mager and Fitzsimons 2007; Carrivick and Rushmer 2009; Shulmeister et al. 2009; Evans et al. 2010, 2013; Rother et al. 2010; Hyatt et al. 2012) have demonstrated that the available outcrops contain a potentially valuable archive of glacial history and climatic change, as well as palaeo-seismic and tectonic activity over millennia. The Mackenzie basin in South Island has been a particular area of focused study for understanding Quaternary glacial oscillations, especially for the LGM (Schaefer et al. 2009; Kaplan et al. 2010, 2013; Putnam et al. 2010; Kelley et al. 2014; James et al. 2019; Strand et al. 2019) and the Little Ice Age (LIA; Carrivick et al. 2020a). However, these palaeo-glacier extents and local valley chronologies have been predominantly defined by geomorphological mapping and geochronology, limiting their applicability to assessing temporal evolution. The sedimentary exposures that exist within these valleys have been largely ignored but could be utilized to gain a better understanding of glacier behaviour and palaeo-glacier dynamics. The aim of this study is, therefore, to determine the depositional processes and relative event stratigraphy of sediments in cliff exposures along the eastern shores of Lake Tekapo.

Study area and previous research

Tekapo valley

The Tekapo valley is a southerly-draining catchment located east of the Southern Alps in the Mackenzie basin (southern Canterbury; Figure 1), a structurally controlled intra-montane basin occupied

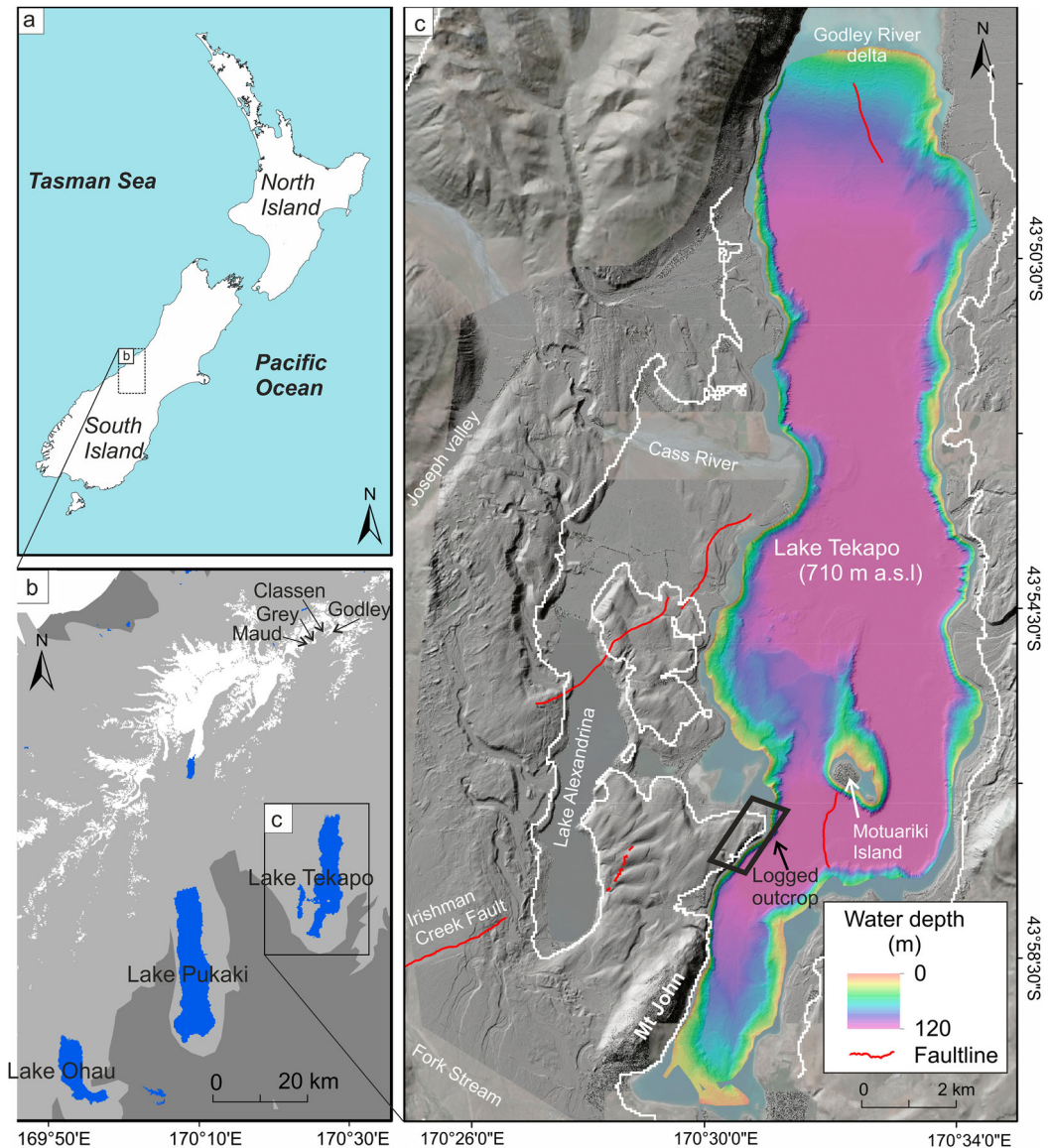


Figure 1. (a). Study area location: Mackenzie basin highlighted by dashed box. (b). Mackenzie basin: present-day ice is mapped in white; LGM ice extent is mapped in light grey. (c). 1 m hillshaded bathymetry of Lake Tekapo (from Mountjoy et al. 2019), overlain on a 1 m hillshaded DEM (from Land Information New Zealand; LINZ). The logged outcrop is highlighted by a black box and labelled. The palaeo-lake level at the LGM (Sutherland et al. 2019a, 2019b) is shown by the white contour (726 m a.s.l.). Major fault lines are mapped in red (from New Zealand Active Faults Database; NZAFD).

by a large river system (the Waitaki). The lithology of the region is mostly mid-late Triassic greywackes of the Torlesse Terrane, with Permian sequences occurring in the south and east (Gair 1967). A significant structural feature cutting through the Mackenzie basin is the Irishman Creek Fault (ICF; Figure 1(c)). This is a reverse fault, striking parallel to the Alpine Fault and dipping $\sim 55^\circ$ southeast (Fox 1987; Chetwin 1998; Kleffmann 1999). The ICF is likely the major structure within a broader zone of deformation, the Irishman Creek Fault Zone (Fox 1987; Cox and Barrel 2007). The fault zone is ~ 15 km wide, generally trends east – northeast, and is defined by a series of east-northeast trending fault traces to the southeast of Lake Tekapo. According to The

New Zealand Active Faults Database (NZAFD; Langridge et al. 2016), the fault recurrence interval is between 0 and 2000 years, the slip rate is low ($0.2\text{--}1\text{ mm yr}^{-1}$) and the single event displacement is moderate (1–5 m). Upton et al. (2004) suggested that it can sensibly be projected across Lake Tekapo into the zone of Forest Creek Faults (FCF), which strike northeast and extend at least as far as the Rangitata river (Upton and Osterberg 2007). A northeast extension of the ICF has also been proposed based on a series of uplifted basement blocks, including Mt John, Mt Hay, Wee McGregor and possibly Motuariki island, which run approximately along-strike of the ICF (Fox 1987).

The Mackenzie basin has been glaciated numerous times throughout the Quaternary period (Shulmeister et al. 2019) with piedmont glaciers reaching >50 km downstream of their present ice margins (Barrell et al. 2011). During previous glacial advances, the Godley Glacier coalesced with the nearby Maud, Grey and Classen Glaciers, as well as ice from the Fork and Cass tributaries, to form a large piedmont glacier lobe in the lower reaches of the Tekapo valley (Figure 1(b)). The Tekapo Glacier constructed a spectacular sequence of inset latero-frontal moraines and associated outwash fans, as reported by Sutherland et al. (2019b). The over-deepened glacially excavated trough is now occupied by the modern Lake Tekapo (Figure 1). The glacial trough has formed through multiple glaciations and is predominantly bound at its southern extent by moraine and glaciofluvial outwash deposits (Gage 1975; Cox and Barrel 2007). The lake is 27 km long and, at its widest, 6 km across with a surface area of approximately 87 km². Typical of intermontane lakes, Lake Tekapo is deep (~120 m southeast of Motuariki Island), with a flat-floored basin containing numerous subaqueous slumps (Mountjoy et al. 2019). In the early 1950s, the original lake outlet into the Tekapo River was dammed and the lake raised for hydroelectric storage. Lake Tekapo has a normal operating range from 702 m a.s.l to 711 m a.s.l.

Barrell and Read (2014) provide a review of the nomenclature on landform associations in the Mackenzie basin. The majority of palaeoglaciological investigations have focussed on the landforms in the Ohau and Pukaki valleys (Schaefer et al. 2009; Kaplan et al. 2010, 2013; Putnam et al. 2010, 2013a, 2013b; Kelley et al. 2014; Doughty et al. 2015; Strand et al. 2019). Sedimentary outcrops around Lake Pukaki have also been investigated and logged in detail (Hart 1996; Mager and Fitzsimons 2007; Evans et al. 2013) to reconstruct the depositional processes involved in moraine construction and associated glaciolacustrine deposition. In the Tekapo valley, previous research has largely been concerned with the modern-day lake. Pickrill and Irwin (1983) conducted an initial seismic reflection survey of Lake Tekapo and from gravity cores they described 'varved lower foreset sediments'. Upton and Osterberg (2007) later interpreted palaeoseismic events and mass flows from seismic reflection data of the lake. More recently, Mountjoy et al. (2019) investigated the tsunami hazard from lacustrine mass wasting in Lake Tekapo. The glacial geomorphology of the Tekapo valley was mapped by Barrell et al. (2011), who concentrated on identifying contiguous geochronological surfaces, and most recently and in more detail by Sutherland et al. (2019b), who produced a more process-focussed geomorphological map. In combination, this previous research has demonstrated that the landforms preserved in the Tekapo valley are potential sedimentary archives of both climatic and non-climatic geomorphological events during the LGM.

Stratigraphic exposures

Well-exposed sedimentary outcrops occur in the wave-cut cliff along the lakeshore of southwestern Lake Tekapo, South Island, New Zealand (Figure 1). Pale-coloured sediments form part of the cliff-line, locally known as the 'white cliffs' or 'white bluffs'. The main cliff exposure is located on the southwestern shore of Lake Tekapo, between 5.5 and 7 km north of the lake outlet (Figures 1 and 2). The cliffs lie at the margin of a broad glacier-sculpted plateau to the west, the bedrock massif of Mt John to the south, and a steep drop eastward into the axis of the trough from the former Tekapo Glacier (Figure 1). The Tekapo valley in this vicinity is broad (>10 km wide), but the present-day lake is at its narrowest at this location. To the north, the lake is shallow for ~1 km before

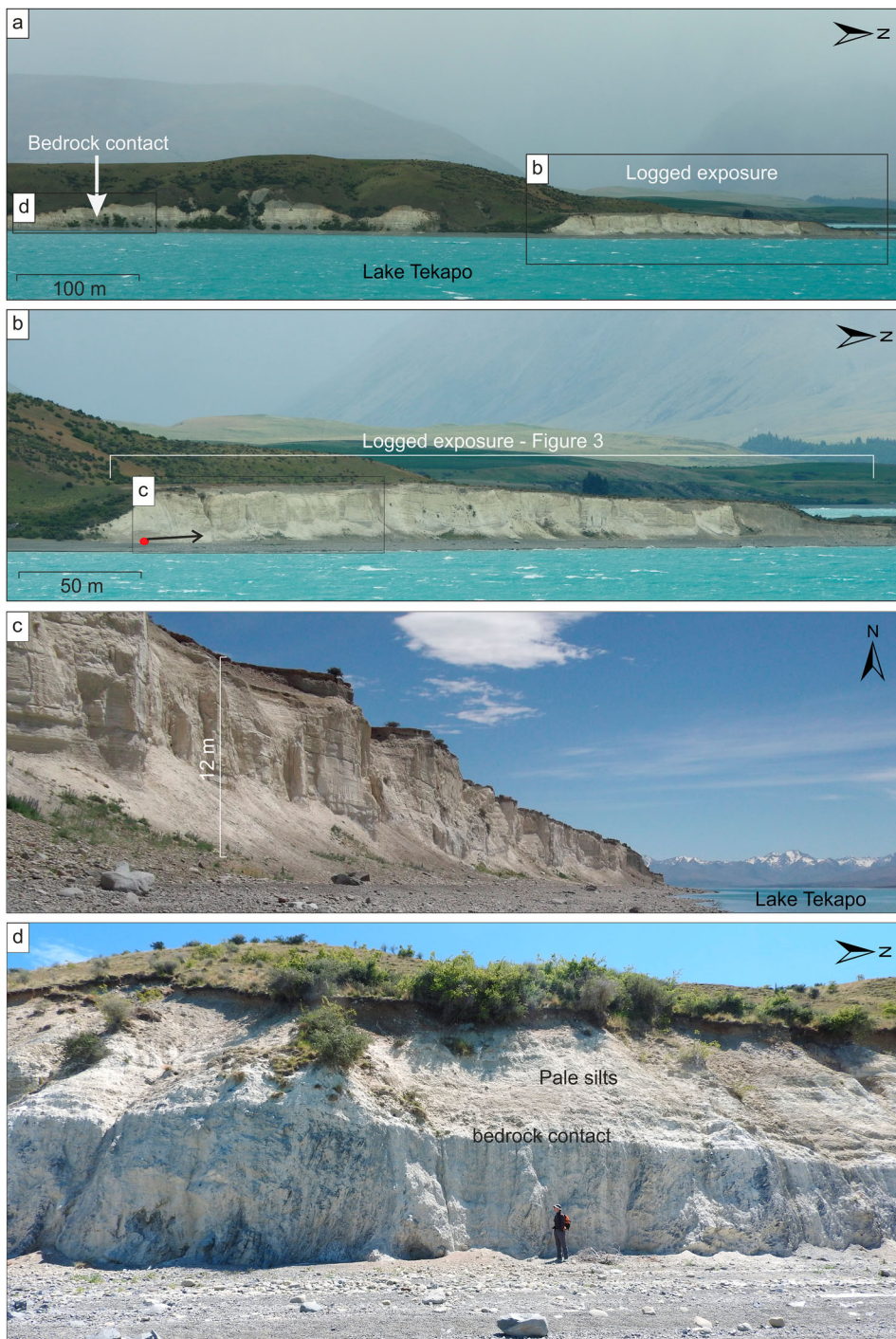


Figure 2. (a). The southwestern shoreline of Lake Tekapo, viewed from the eastern lakeshore, showing the location of the outcrop in panel b and the bedrock contact in panel d. (b). Extent of the logged outcrop, as viewed from the eastern lakeshore. Note that the surface of the cliff is relatively flat-lying, and the top of the outcrop is cut through a palaeo-lake level at 726 m a.s.l. (Sutherland et al. 2019a, 2019b) (c). Contextual photograph to show the vertical scale of the outcrop, viewed from the south. Circle and arrow in the box in panel b indicates the position of the photographer and view direction respectively in panel c. (d). Contact between bedrock and pale silts, location relative to logged exposure shown in panel a.

deepening rapidly. The lake trough is cut into basement greywacke as a result of multiple glaciations and pre-dates the deposition of the cliff sediments since they are located above the current lake levels (Upton and Osterberg 2007).

The sedimentary exposure documented in this study lies immediately adjacent to extensive drumlinized terrain (Sutherland et al. 2019b) and provides a window into what could underly this broad plateau to the west. The whole southern sector of the exposure is composed of pale lake silt, overlain on a horizontal contact by gravels. The cliff exposure has a representative range of sedimentological and structural elements within a small area, and therefore, is the focus of documentation in Figure 3 and succeeding figures. The artificial control over the current water levels of Lake Tekapo is, in part, responsible for the exposed outcrop.

Pickrill and Irwin (1983) first noted the presence of rhythmic bedding in outcrops along the shore of Lake Tekapo, which they interpreted as varves. Upton and Osterberg (2007) noted that sediment was presumably deposited soon after the last deglaciation, when the level of Lake Tekapo was considerably higher than today (Cox and Barrel 2007; Sutherland et al. 2019a). Upton and Osterberg (2007) further described two northern exposures as 'flat-lying' and observed deformation in the form of various low-amplitude, small-scale, folds and faults, which they attributed to deformation along the ICF (Figure 1(c)). However, they also raised the possibility that the small offset faults may have developed from drainage of the lake basin during deglaciation.

Methods

Stratigraphy and sedimentology

Our stratigraphical and sedimentological investigations focussed on ~350 m lateral outcrop between 43° 56'40.8" S, 170° 30'02.3" E and 43° 56'55.3" S, 170° 30'00.2" E (Figure 2(a,b)). The outcrop was logged using scaled section sketches made in the field and detailed photograph annotation. These logs were augmented by highlighting the stratigraphic architecture of the outcrop and with photographs and sketches of localized sedimentological and structural details of the most accessible parts of the cliff. We characterized individual lithofacies, classified according to the facies codes proposed by Eyles et al. (1983) and following the procedures reviewed by Evans and Benn (2004). Exposure logging recorded unit thickness, bedding, colour, primary sedimentary structures, bed contacts, sediment body geometry, as well as sorting and texture. Secondary sedimentary structures, such as faults, folds and clastic dykes were also recorded.

Clast morphology

Quantitative analyses of clast morphology, using clasts of similar lithology, can provide information on aspects of transport history prior to, and during, deposition. Clast morphological analysis is particularly useful for differentiating subglacial debris from englacially, supraglacially, or fluvially transported sediment. At selected sites from four of the clast-rich lithofacies (LFs 1, 3, 4, 7), a sample of 50 greywacke and schist clasts was picked from the outcrop from each lithofacies for clast-form analysis to help establish the depositional history of the sediment. The inaccessibility of two lithofacies (LFs 5 and 6) restricted the collection of clast form data. The measured parameters included clast shape (the relative dimensions of the long, intermediate, and short axes), Power's roundness (the overall smoothness of the clast outline), and texture (small-scale surface features) (cf. Evans and Benn 2004; Hubbard and Glasser 2005; Hambrey and Glasser 2012; Lukas et al. 2013). Roundness was assessed visually using histogram plots and statistically by calculating the percentage of clasts that are angular (A) and very angular (VA) providing a summary index for roundness (RA value), and the percentage of clasts in the rounded (R) and well-rounded (WR) categories (RWR value; Benn 2004; Lukas et al. 2013). Clast shape was analysed statistically by using clast shape triangles (Benn 2004) from which the percentage of clasts with a c:a (short:long axis) ratio

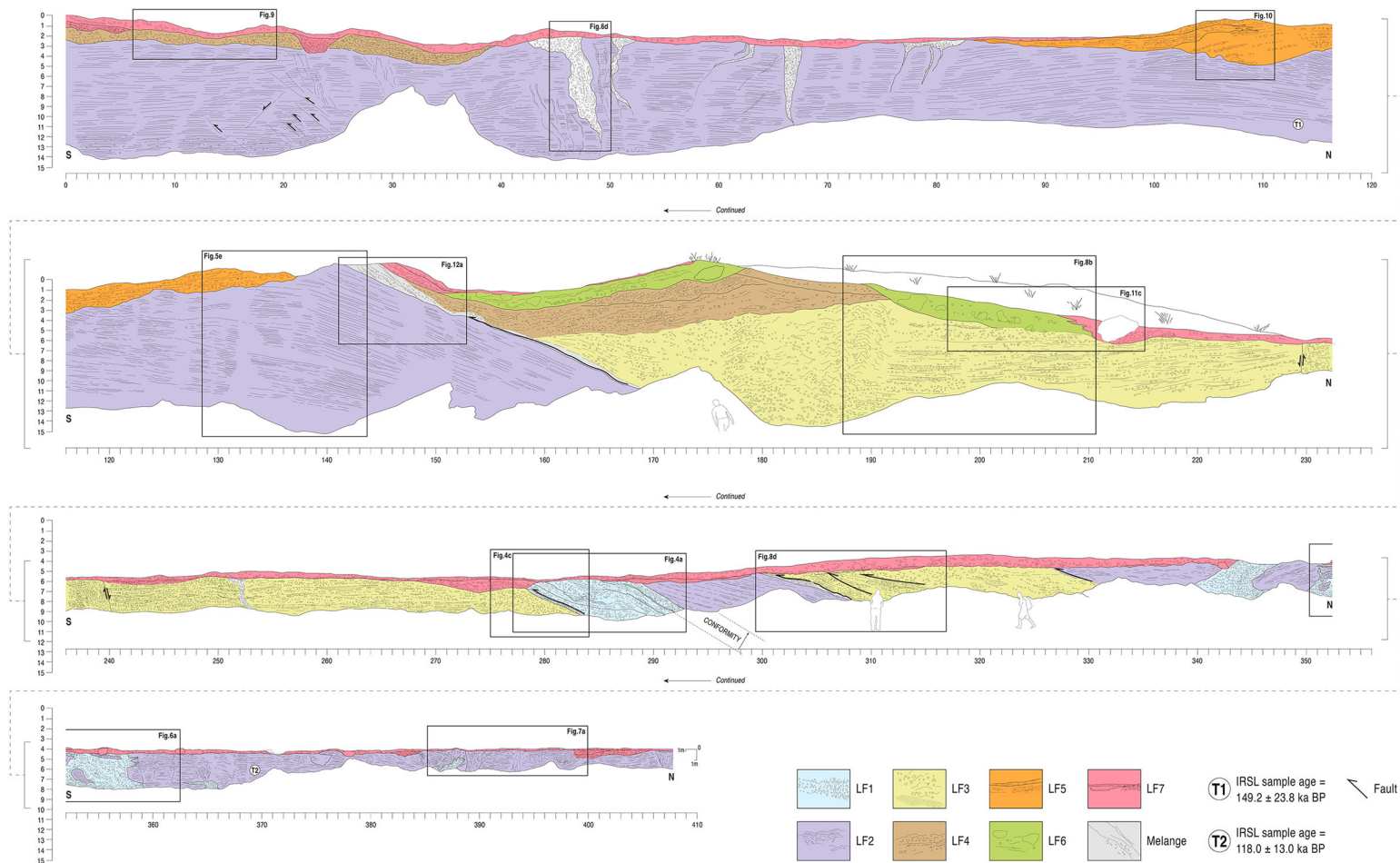


Figure 3. Scaled section sketch of the northern half of the stratigraphic outcrop on the west shoreline of Lake Tekapo, showing main lithofacies and their architectural characteristics. The white area at the base of the section is obscured by talus. Boxed areas are the locations of detailed studies of lithofacies and structures depicted in annotated photographs in [Figures 4–12](#). Readers are directed to the high-resolution online version of this figure for detail.

of ≤ 0.4 is calculated. This summary index for shape is known as a C_{40} index. C_{40} indices were compared to RA values in co-variance plots following procedures outlined in Benn and Ballantyne (1994). Data derived from different depositional environments in New Zealand (Evans et al. 2010; Brook and Lukas 2012; Lukas et al. 2013) were also plotted to aid assessments of inter-sample variability. The control samples were taken from Greywacke, Argillite and Schist clasts in latero-frontal moraine loops of Fox Glacier in Westland.

Infrared stimulated luminescence

Two luminescence samples were obtained from glaciolacustrine sediments (LF 2) in the outcrop by forcing a reinforced plastic tube (220 mm long, 75 mm diameter) into the compacted silt. Sample sites (T1 43°56'48.6 S, 170°30'02.3 E, T2 43°56'41.20"S 170°30'2.10"E) are labelled in Figure 3. Both samples were submitted to the Victoria University Dating Laboratory (Wellington, New Zealand), where their ages were determined using Infrared stimulated Luminescence (IRSL) on the silt fraction (4–11 μm). Samples were measured using the single aliquot regenerative (SAR) technique. Full details on the luminescence methods and results are provided in Supplementary Information.

Results

Overall stratigraphy and sedimentology

There is approximately 500 m of laterally accessible cliff exposure, with a maximum cliff height of 15 m gradually decreasing in height northwards from the toe of Mt John. The overall exposure has been examined in detail, and the northern ~410 m of the section is shown in Figure 3 to provide the spatial context for the sedimentological results. The broad stratigraphic architecture comprises horizontally arranged lithofacies packages in the southern part of the section, passing northwards into progressively deformed strata (Figure 3). Greywacke bedrock is observed in a southern outcrop of cliffs (43°57'10.75" S, 170°29'38.37" E; Figure 2(d)), protruding 4 m above the present shoreline and dipping northeast. In places, the sediments sub-crop the beach face and down into the shallow lake water.

Seven lithofacies were identified within the section (LFs 1–7; Table 1), together with several tectonic melanges and numerous prominent sub-vertical to vertical clastic dykes (Figure 3). The

Table 1. Descriptive information and depositional interpretation.

Lithofacies	Facies Code	Brief description	Interpretation	Event/stage
1	Gh (sh)	Horizontally-bedded gravel	Glaciofluvial outwash (bar aggradation)	(i) Ice-margin advance
2	Fl (d)	Laminated rhythmites	Glaciolacustrine varves	(ii) Ice-margin recession
3	St Suc	Cross-bedded sands, coarsening upwards into poorly sorted gravels	Glaciofluvial with hyperconcentrated flow deposits (aggradation in an ice-proximal setting)	(iii) Ice-margin recession
4	Dcs (s) Gms	Interbedded, stratified, and locally clast-supported diamicton and matrix-supported gravels	Sediment gravity flows/ hyperconcentrated flows	
5	Gfo	Gravel foreset bedding with repetitive grading	Delta foresets	(iv) Advance (Melange horizons developed and glaciotectonic deformation)
6	Dcm	Diamicton	Subglacial mass flow	
7	Gms	Poorly-sorted gravels and cross-stratified sands	Glaciofluvial outwash	(a) Ice-margin recession

Facies codes assigned according to Eyles et al. (1983) and Evans and Benn (2004).

lithofacies are described in superpositional order with numbering of LF 1 through LF 7 representing an interpreted relative age sequence, from oldest to youngest. The following sections provide a description of textural composition, clast-form morphology for gravelly units, nature of bedding and relationship to other units. Following this, an assessment of depositional genesis is made for each lithofacies.

Lithofacies descriptions and geometry

Lithofacies 1 (LF 1)

LF 1 occurs in the northern part of the outcrop (Figure 3). It is composed of steeply-dipping and locally heavily contorted beds of coarser (cobble to boulder) gravels; initial sub-horizontal emplacement is indicated by the bedding in the fine-grained laminae of lenses (see below). Bedding is dipping at angles up to 30°, largely dipping towards the north. These sediments range from well- to poorly-sorted and from matrix-supported to clast-supported and in places openwork in character (Figure 4(a,b)). Individual gravel packages are separated by discontinuous lenses to beds of laminated silty-sand and silt. Localized soft sediment deformation structures, especially in areas of thicker laminated silt units, are present and comprise convolute (polyclinal) folds and load structures (Figure 4(a,b)) in alternating fine- and coarse-grained facies. Gravel lag horizons occur in the upper beds of this lithofacies and comprise cobbles and boulders (Figure 4(c)), forming a conformable contact with overlying LF 2. Small-scale simple shear structures between the lower contact of LF 1 and the upper contact of LF 3 (Figure 4(a–c)) are characterized by well-developed overturned, isoclinal and sheath folds, associated with reverse faults (small thrust displacements; Figure 4(c)). At the boundary between LF 1 and LF 3 (Figure 4(a–c)), the otherwise highly contorted beds of poorly sorted cobble gravel of LF 1 and cross-bedded sands of LF 3 and an overlying matrix-supported gravel within LF 1 have been attenuated to form pseudo-laminated banding. Here, upper stratified gravels have been amalgamated with underlying matrix-supported gravels. Similarly, a well-developed, bed-parallel fissility is apparent at this point of contact. Clast form in LF 1 is characterized by an RA of 10%, RWR of 80% and a C_{40} of 32% (Figure 4(d)).

Lithofacies 2 (LF 2)

LF 2 is the most laterally extensive and thickest of the lithofacies at the site (Figures 3 and 5). It comprises ≤ 11 m of horizontally bedded rhythmites (cosets) comprising alternating fine units (sets) of clayey fine silt and coarser units (sets) of silty fine sand to medium sand laminae or beds. Individual sets vary in thickness, with finer-grained sets ranging from 2.5 to 5.0 cm and coarser grained sets ranging from 2.5 to 11.25 (rarely up to 80) cm thick; these coarse and fine grained rhythmite cosets alternate up sequence to form repeating couplets. Internally, the cosets also display strongly developed horizontal stratification or lamination (Figure 5(a)). The basal contacts of the coarser beds also appear in some places to have been scoured downwards into underlying beds. Bedforms are largely absent throughout LF 2 with the exception of features in the lowest 2 m of the outcrop above lake level. Here, thin and discontinuous lenses or horizontal laminae of coarse sandy silt with scoured infills at the base of the coarser sets. These horizontal laminae form coarsening upwards sequences at the top of the coarser sets, capped by rapidly fining laminae or beds of the fine sets which drape undulatory tops of the lenses (Figure 5(b)).

Generally, LF 2 outcrops intermittently except at the southern end where it is much more laterally continuous (Figure 3). At the northern end of the logged outcrop, the silts are not as well-laminated and are locally heavily disturbed by cross-cutting dykes (see below; Figure 6), open, asymmetric and polyclinal folds (Figure 7(a,b)), in contrast to the southern end. Rounded limestones or outsized clasts occur sporadically throughout the sequence but are most abundant in the lower 2–3 m at the southern end of the logged outcrop, where they

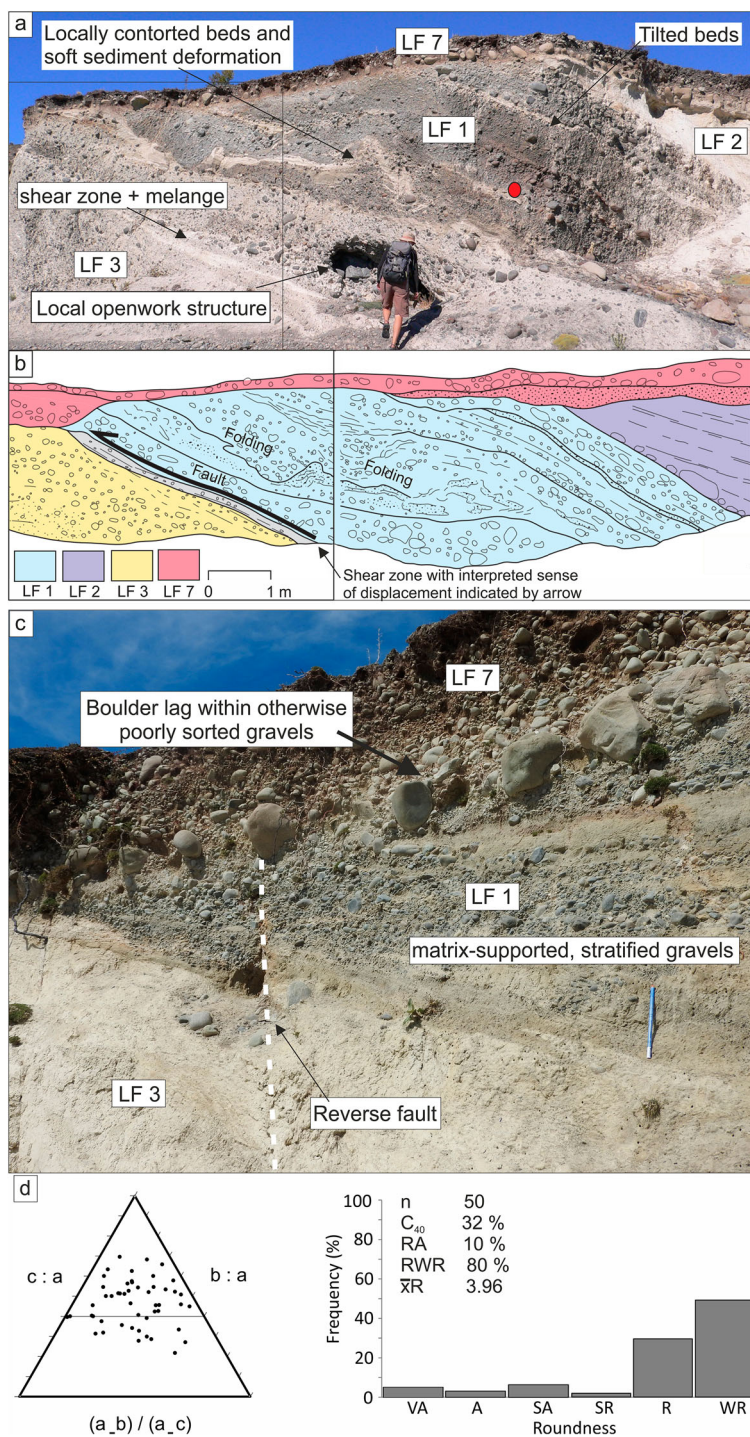


Figure 4. Characteristics of LF 1: (a) tilted bedding of well- to poorly-sorted and matrix-supported to clast-supported coarse gravels. Note that gravel packages are separated by discontinuous lenses/beds of laminated silty-sand and silt, displaying soft sediment deformation structures; (b) Stratigraphical and structural interpretation of panel a, location labelled on Figure 3. (c) shear zone/fault contact within LF 1 (outlined and descending from left to right) where upper stratified gravels have been amalgamated with underlying matrix-supported gravels. (d) Clast form for LF 1 collected from area marked by red circle in a.

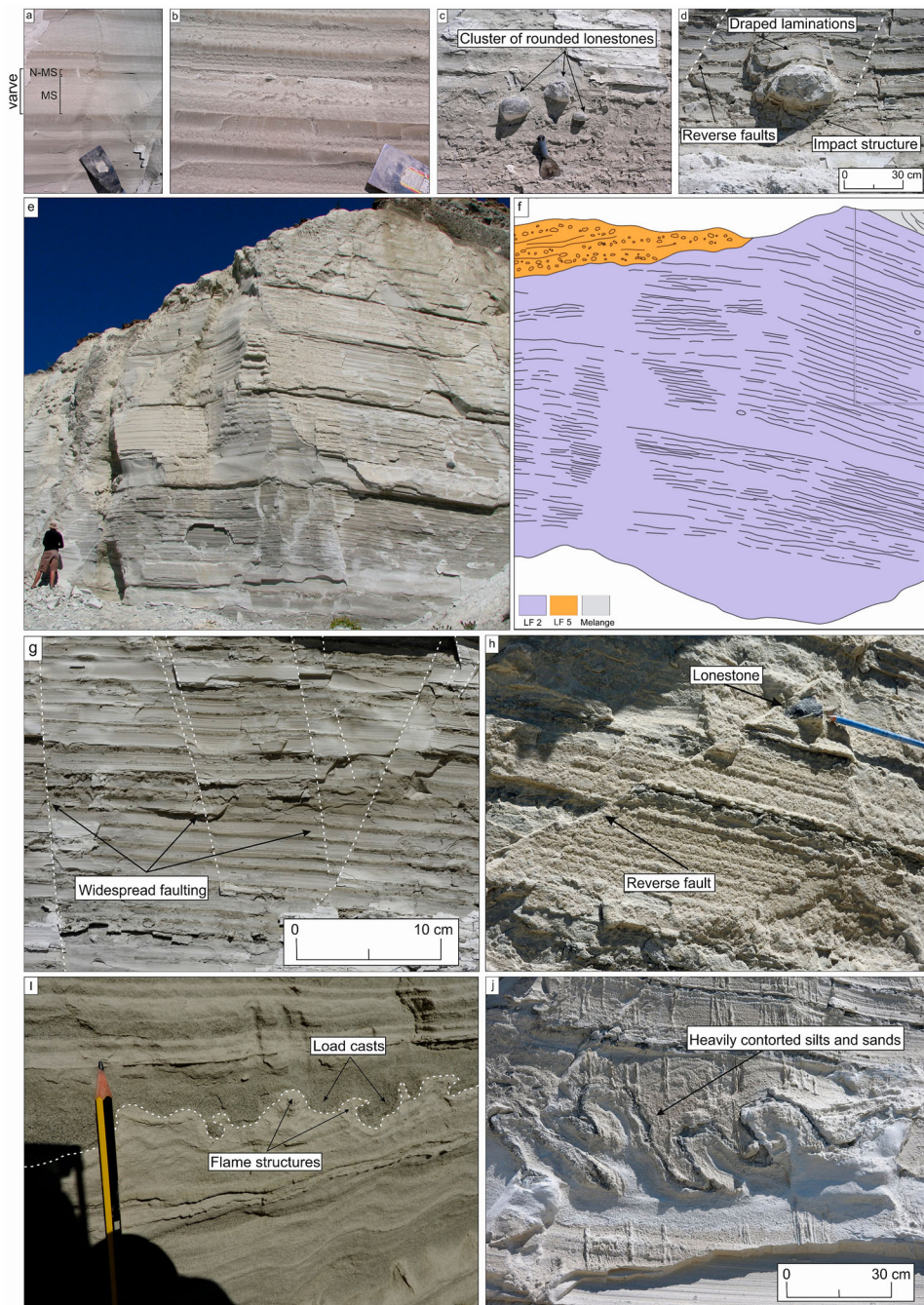


Figure 5. Characteristics of LF 2: (a) coarse and fine grained rhythmite cosets forming repeating couplets and showing strongly developed internal horizontal stratification or lamination (scraper blade = 15 cm long); MS notation = melt season, N-MS notation = non-melt season (b) thin and discontinuous horizontal laminae of coarse sandy silt, displaying rip up clasts and starved ripples, and capped by rapidly fining laminae; (c) limestome cluster; (d) limestome (e) rhythmic cycles forming couplets throughout LF 2 and showing the change from thin bedding at the base to the thickest bedding at the top of the sequence. Note the limestome on the right-hand side of exposure; (f) Stratigraphical and structural interpretation of panel d, location labelled on Figure 3. (g) Heavily faulted and fractured rhythmites (h) Reverse fault with limestome, note pencil for scale (i) Load and flame soft sediment deformation in sand and silts, note pencil for scale (j) Convolute and highly contorted sands and silts

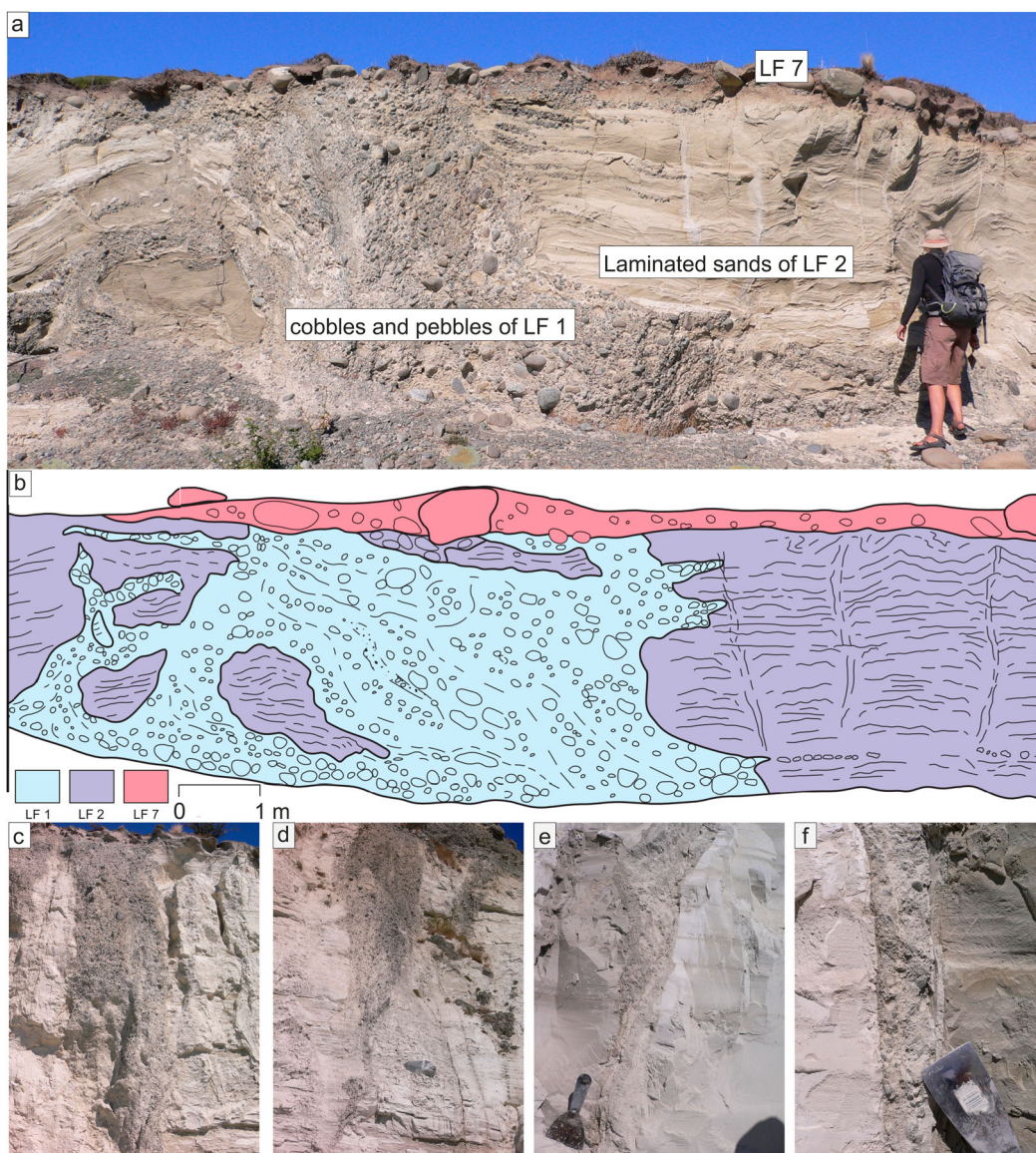


Figure 6. Clastic dykes developed in LF 2: (a) complex of upward-tapering form displaying anabranching gravel-filled necks that isolate blocks of LF 2 host material and end in numerous tapering offshoots and isolated elongate gravel pods or stringers; (b) Stratigraphical and structural interpretation of panel a, location labelled in Figure 3; (c & d) downward-tapering forms, showing also multiple vertical cracks that parallel the wedge sides; (e & f) examples of the bases of downward-tapering wedges, including finer poorly-sorted gravels (d) and finely-laminated rhythmites that parallel the dyke walls (e).

often occur in clusters (Figure 5(c)); above this in the sequence, lonestones are rare but can be up to cobble or even boulder size (Figure 5(d)). The lonestones puncture the delicate laminae below and exhibit both impact structures beneath them, and draping lamination overlying them (Figure 5(c,d)). Notwithstanding this variability in detail, at outcrop scale the whole of LF 2 displays remarkable consistency in rhythmic cycles to form couplets, but with the lower 3.5 m containing the thinnest bedding (often laminated) and the upper 7.5 m displaying the thickest (Figure 5(e,f)). In the highest and undeformed cliff exposure, the total sequence contains 77 couplets of coarse- and fine-grained cosets/couplets. Due to its fine-grained nature, LF 2

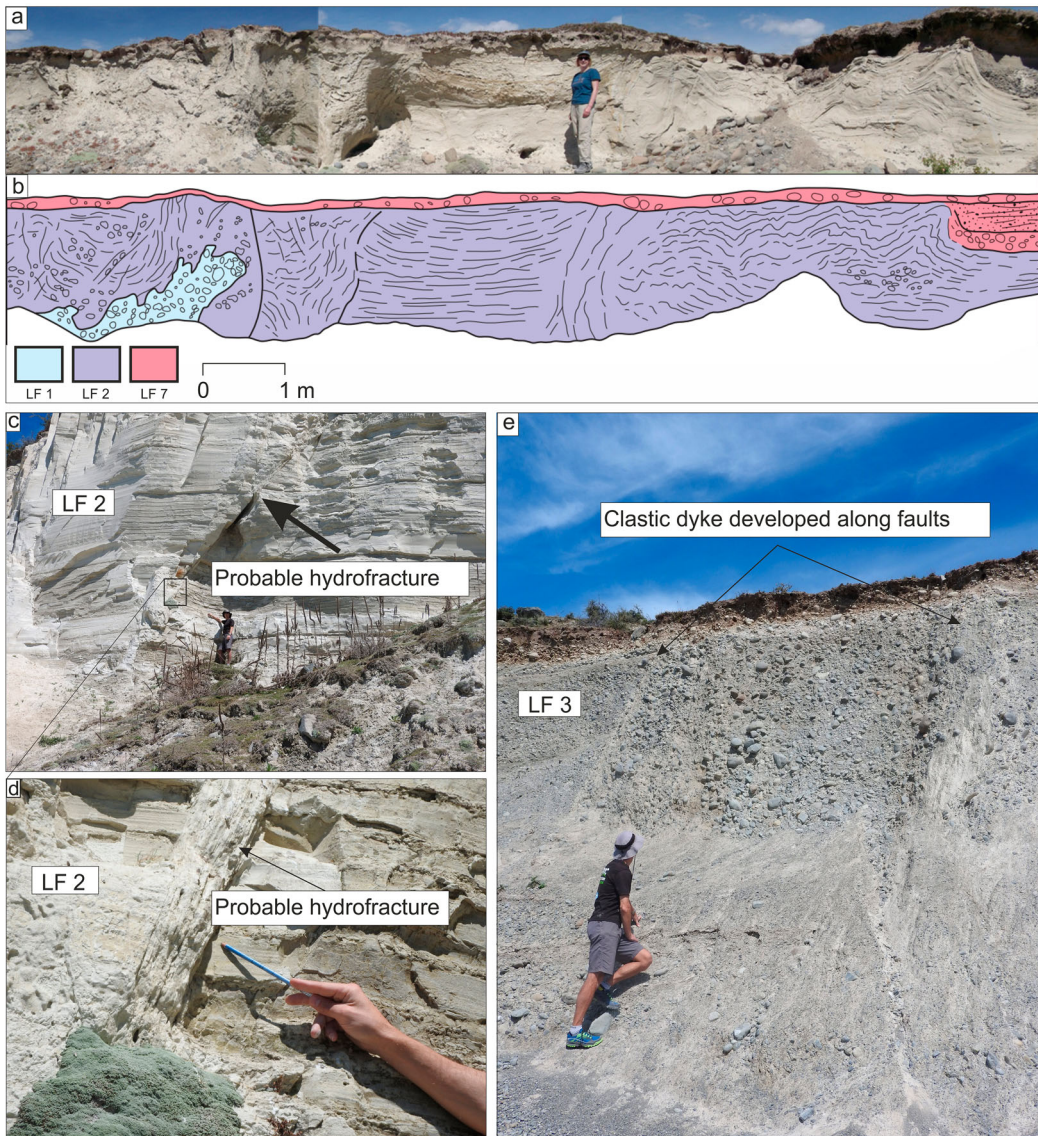


Figure 7. (a) Highly contorted bedding (tight polyclinal folding) displayed in upper LF 2 at the northernmost end of the outcrop. (b) Stratigraphical and structural interpretation of panel a, location labelled in Figure 3 (c) clastic dyke developed along a fault in LF 2, probable hydrofracture (d) close up of probable hydrofracture (e) clastic dyke developed between faults in LF 3

displays the most widespread internal fault structures (Figure 5(g,h)) which are difficult to observe in the coarser materials of the other lithofacies. Some steeper faults, dipping at 40° to 42° northwards also occur in LF 2 at the southern end of the exposure, where they are cross-cut by southerly dipping faults.

Other important characteristics which crosscut LF 2 are widespread clastic dykes (Figure 6). These dykes occur as either upwards- or downward-tapering forms, with the former being observed at the northern end of the exposure and the latter at the southern end (Figure 3). In detail, the upwards-tapering forms are complex and constitute wide anabranching necks filled with gravels that effectively isolate blocks of the host materials and end in numerous tapering offshoots and isolated elongate gravel pods or stringers that largely parallel the bedding in the

host materials (Figure 6(a,b)). Crude to well-developed stratification involving gravels and finer laminated sediments is displayed within the necks, in which the bedding parallels the neck walls, but the neck cores can also be composed of structureless gravel. Downward-tapering forms are less complex and constitute largely simple wedges containing crudely stratified gravels in which bedding is vertical and largely parallel to the dyke walls (Figure 6(c,d)). These forms have a sharp erosional contact with LF 7 above. Also prominent on either side of the downward-tapering wedges are multiple vertical cracks that parallel the wedge sides. These cracks are arranged in downward-tapering clusters and in some cases a cluster will grade upwards into a clastic dyke (Figure 6(c)). The bases of downward-tapering wedges are characterized by finer-grained dykes containing either finer poorly-sorted gravels and/or finely-laminated rhythmites that parallel the dyke walls (Figure 6(e,f)).

A narrow zone (≤ 1 m thick) at the top of LF 2 in the central part of the exposure is composed of highly compacted and massive silty sand derived from the underlying rhythmites. In some places, these sediments ascend at low angles into the overlying lithofacies as attenuated lenses or boudinaged folds, thereby resembling a Type IV melange of Cowan (1985). Highly contorted bedding representative of tight isoclinal folding occurs in the upper beds of LF 2 in an area of complex disturbance at the north end of the exposure (Figure 7(a,b)).

Lithofacies 3 (LF 3)

LF 3 occurs in the central part of the section (Figure 3) and is a layered ≤ 5.5 m thick sequence of predominantly poorly sorted pebble to cobble gravel, arranged in packages of massive to crudely horizontally bedded sheets and separated by discontinuous, lensate bodies of largely planar cross-bedded sands (Figure 8(a,b)). The lensate bodies infill scoured lower contacts and display

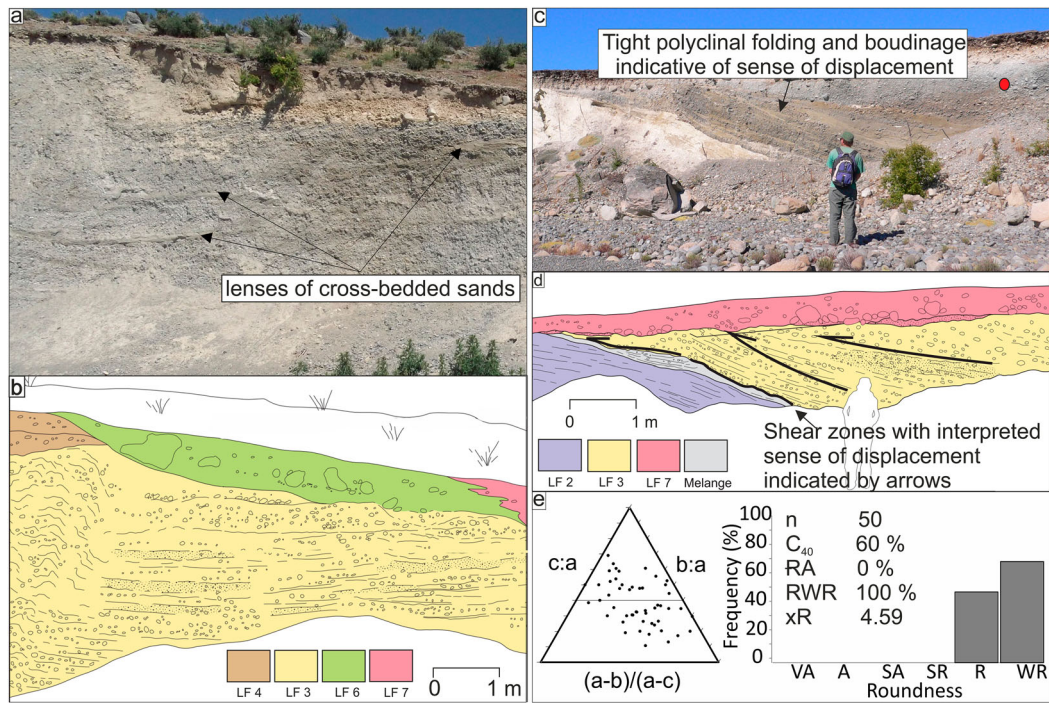


Figure 8. Characteristics of LF 3: (a) packages of massive to crudely horizontally bedded sheets of poorly sorted gravel, separated by discontinuous, lensate bodies of cross-bedded sands; (b) Stratigraphical and structural interpretation of panel a, location labelled on Figure 3; (c) tilted bedding with large concentrations of cross-bedded sands, in thrust fault contact with underlying LF 2 and containing a shallow internal thrust fault dipping northwards; (d) Stratigraphical and structural interpretation of panel c, location labelled on Figure 3; (e) Clast form data from LF 3 sampled from the area marked by the red circle in c.

flat upper contacts where they grade sharply into the overlying gravel sheets (Figure 8(c,d)). A clast form sample from LF 3 (Figure 8(e)) yielded an RA of 0%, an RWR of 100% and a C_{40} of 60%. Highly contorted bedding representative of tight isoclinal folding occurs in two conspicuous areas of LF 3 (Figure 4; shear zones in Figure 8(c,d)) in the centre of the logged exposure, otherwise fold structures are predominantly of shallow, open styles. Several large dykes occasionally crosscut LF 3 (Figure 7(e)).

Lithofacies 4 (LF 4)

LF 4 appears near the top of the logged exposure at its southern and central sections and has an erosional lower boundary with either LF 2 or LF 3 (Figure 3). LF 4 'oversteps' LF 2 and LF 3 i.e. the boundary is an unconformity/erosional surface. LF 4 is comprised of ≤ 3 m of multiple packages of horizontally bedded stratified and clast-dominated pebbles interbedded with matrix-supported gravels, containing and separated by relatively continuous beds of crudely horizontally bedded sand (Figure 9(a,b)). In the central section, the architecture of LF 4 changes abruptly up section from horizontal bedding into shallow clinoforms. A clast form sample from LF 4 is characterized by an RA value of 0%, an RWR of 100% and a C_{40} of 32% (Figure 9(c)).

Lithofacies 5 (LF 5)

LF 5 occurs in the southern part of the exposure (Figure 3). This lithofacies is a single package of clinoforms dipping consistently at $\sim 20^\circ$ towards the southeast and contains well-sorted, clast-supported pebble to cobble gravels with occasional boulders (Figure 10). LF 5 displays an erosional and scoured contact with the underlying LF 2 rhythmites. LF 5 interdigitates vertically and to the south with planar bedded gravelly sand and sandy pebble gravel with a southerly shallowing dip, resulting in a reduction from 20° in the clinoforms to horizontal over a distance of 5 m. Repetitive bedding is observed in the dipping beds.

Lithofacies 6 (LF 6)

LF 6 comprises a discontinuous massive matrix-supported diamicton (Dmm) that outcrops only in the central section of the logged exposures (Figure 3; Figure 11(a,b)). It directly overlies both LF 3 and LF 4 in different parts of the section. The lower half is clast-supported cobbles and pebbles which fine upwards into a matrix-supported silty-sand. LF 6 is significant at this location in that it lies immediately north (up flow) of the clinoforms of LF 5 and overlies the stratified and clast-supported diamictons and matrix-supported gravels of LF 4, which have been sheared and attenuated, together with LFs 2 and 3, beneath LF 6 (area of melange in Figure 3; see below). There is a sharp contrast in colour between the cream colour of LF 6 and the grey gravels of LF 3 beneath.

Lithofacies 7 (LF 7)

LF 7 occurs at the top of the logged exposure and displays significant lateral variability (Figure 12). LF 7 comprises a poorly sorted, matrix-supported boulder to cobble gravel with localized beds of cross-stratified sand. This passes upwards into a discontinuous layer of variable thickness that comprises clast-supported, poorly sorted gravel. In some places, lags of single-layered clasts lie unconformably at the junction between LF 7 and underlying lithofacies (Figures 4 and 8(c)). These gravels are massive to crudely horizontally bedded and locally occupy cut and fill channels in older lithofacies (Figure 12(a)). A clast form sample from LF 7 is characterized by an RA value of 2%, an RWR of 76% and a C_{40} of 28% (Figure 12(b)).

Geometry of contacts between lithofacies

In addition to the above seven lithofacies, sediments at the boundaries of some lithofacies have been modified to form melanges (*sensu* Cowan 1985; Evans 2018; cf. Hoffmann and Piotrowski 2001).

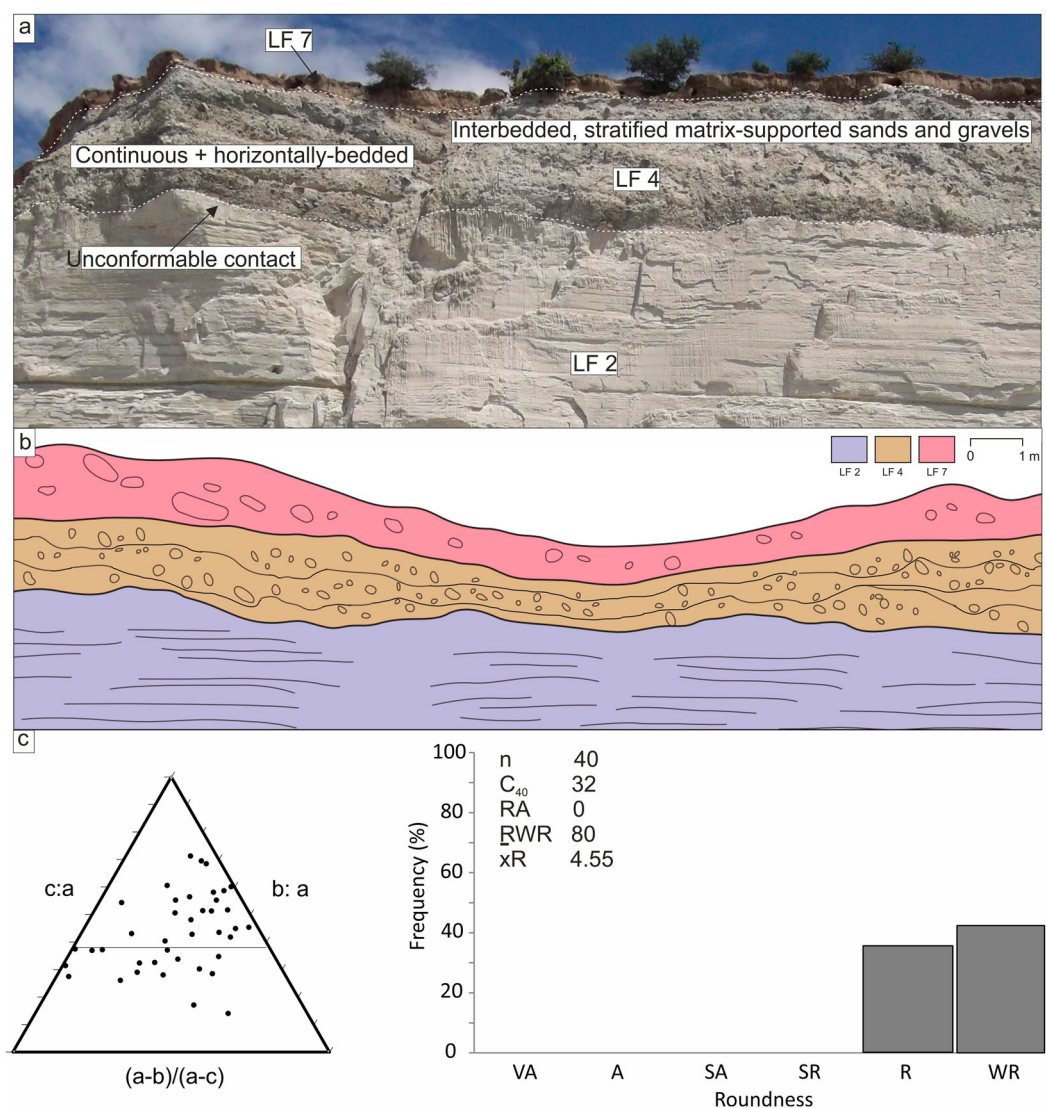


Figure 9. Characteristics of LF 4: (a) outcrop details showing interbedded stratified and locally clast-supported diamictos and matrix-supported gravels, here lying unconformably over LF 2; (b) Stratigraphical and structural interpretation of panel a, location labelled on Figure 3; (c) Clast form data from LF 4.

Primary horizontal sedimentation of LF 1–4 is apparent in both their bedding details and broad architecture, which has been locally modified, especially near lithofacies boundaries, to tilt towards the north at dip angles of between 20° and 33° (Figure 4). Melange horizons that occur at the boundaries between lithofacies (Figures 4(a) and 7(c,d)) have been developed in a deformation zone that also dips northwards at similar angles. These compressional features record small vertical displacement by stress directed from the northeast.

Lithofacies and geometric interpretation

Lithofacies 1 (LF 1)

The co-variance plot of the C₄₀/RA values (Figure 13) reveals that LF 1 is likely derived from glaciofluvial materials due to very few angular clasts. LF 1 is composed of abrupt vertical changes from

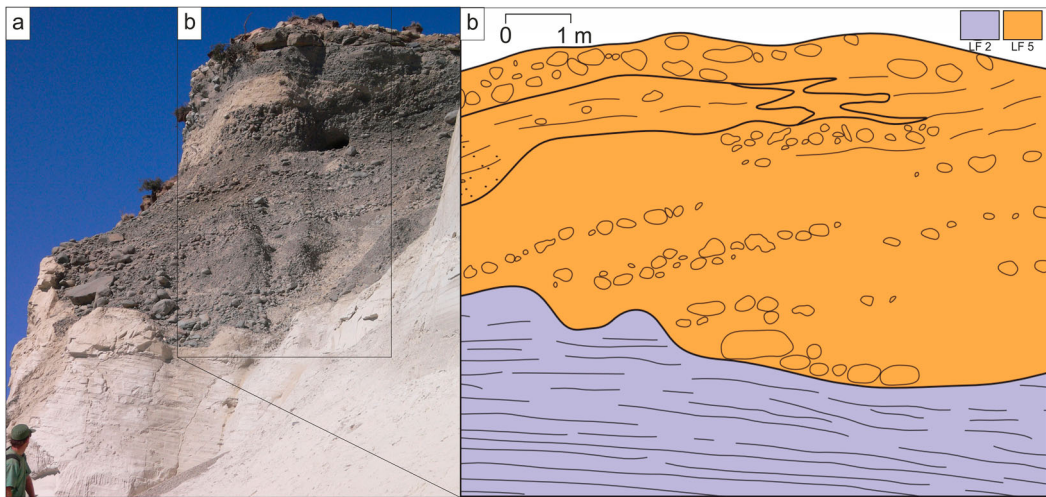


Figure 10. (a) Gravel clinoforms of LF 5 dipping at 20° from right to left and lying unconformably on LF 2 rhythmites and interdigitating vertically with planar bedded gravely sand and sandy pebble gravel. (b) Stratigraphical and structural interpretation of panel a, location labelled on Figure 3.

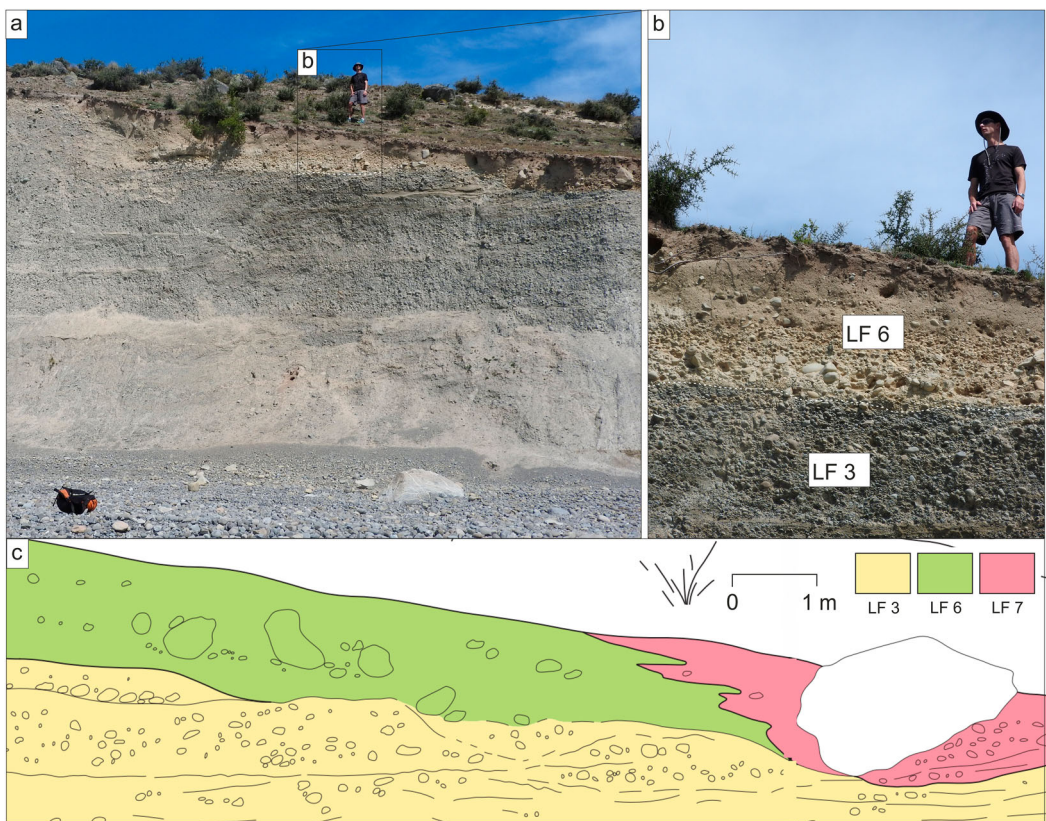


Figure 11. Characteristics of LFs 6 and 7: (a) Stratigraphic overview of LF 6, which is located immediately below the ground surface in this view (indicated above white dashed line) and comprises a massive matrix-supported diamicton (Dmm) overlying LF 3; (b) Nature of the contact between LF 3 and LF 6; (c) Stratigraphical and structural interpretation of panel a, location labelled on Figure 3.

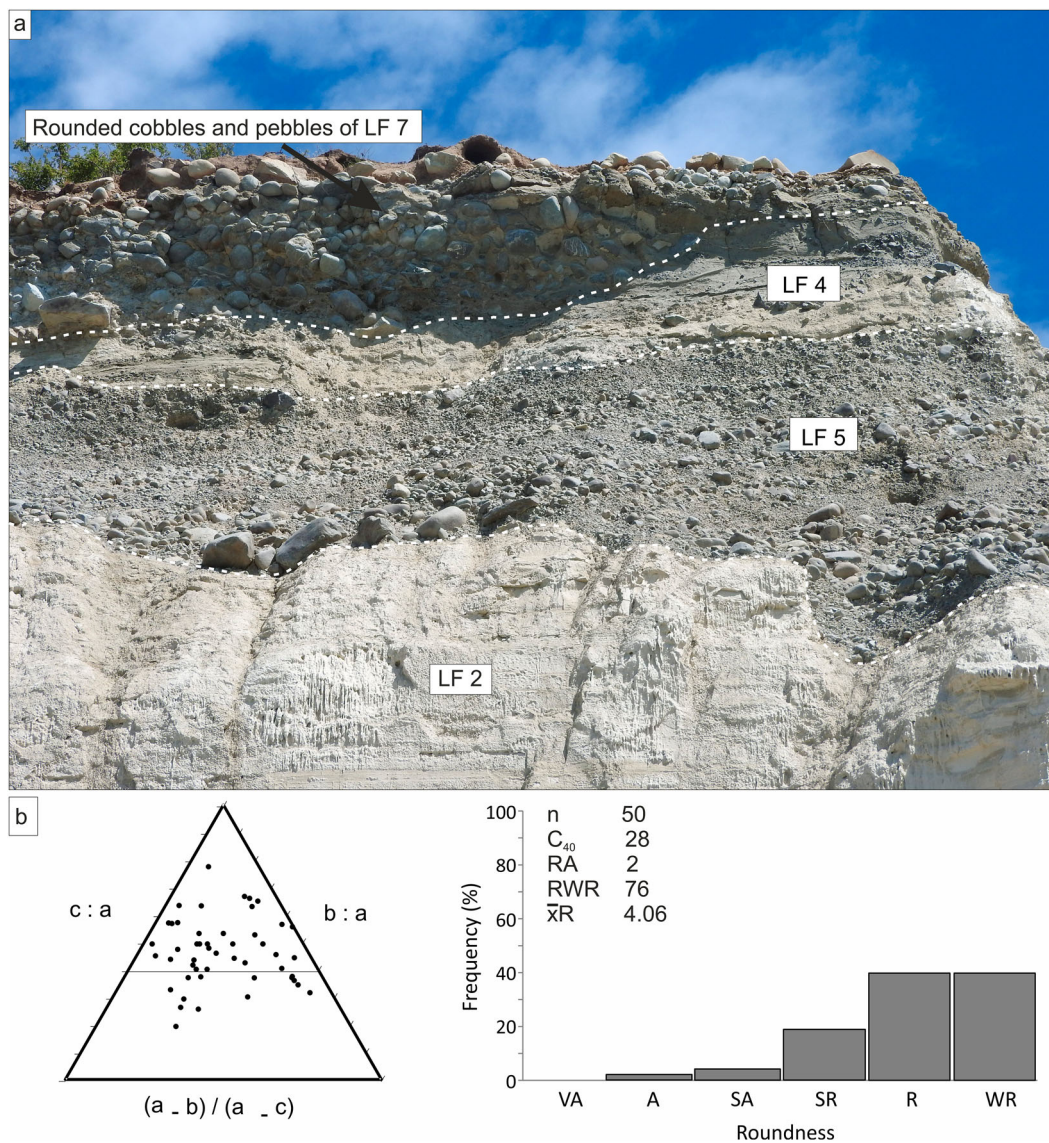


Figure 12. (a) Boulder to cobble gravel of LF 7 and its relationship to LFs 2 and 5; (b) Clast form data from LF 7.

boulder gravels to the laminated sediments typical of overbank fines or waning discharge drapes. These are interpreted to be the result of a rapidly accreting, horizontally bedded glaciofluvial outwash assemblage of gravel sheets, recording rapidly fluctuating discharges (c.f. Miall 1977, 1985; Collinson 1996). Matrix-supported gravels also record hyperconcentrated flows and intraformational soft sediment deformation structures are indicative of high porewater pressures in rapidly accreting deposits (c.f. Maizels 1989a, 1989b; Mulder and Alexander 2001; Carrivick et al. 2004). The localized soft sediment deformation structures appear to be related to loading and water escape.

Lithofacies 2 (LF 2)

The stratified gravel deposits of LF 1 have been winnowed to produce a clast lag and then draped by the thick rhythmite sequence of LF 2 (Figure 4(a,b)), indicating that a slackwater environment replaced that of a glaciofluvial outwash surface. The rhythmites provide evidence that this is

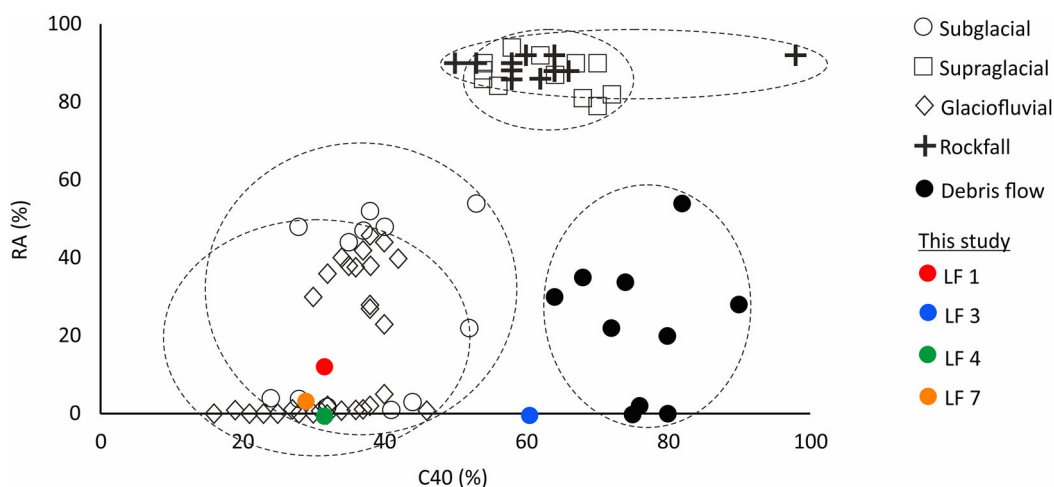


Figure 13. Co-variance graph for RA and C_{40} value incorporating modern samples from Fox Glacier, collected by Brook and Lukas (2012) and palaeo-data from formerly glaciated sites at the West Coast and Lake Pukaki (Evans et al. 2010, 2013). The C_{40} values appear unusually slabby compared to other glaciogenic sediments in New Zealand (e.g. Benn and Ballantyne 1994; Evans et al. 2010, 2013a, 2013b; Brook and Lukas, 2012; Lukas et al. 2013). The RWR values also appear elevated and the samples have exceedingly high roundness, indicating very rounded slabs.

glaciolacustrine in nature. The abundance of limestones or outsized clasts in the finer-grained rhythmites of LF 2 are interpreted as dropstones because the impact depressions beneath the clasts are evidence that they were not transported by the same water currents as the rhythmites but were dropped vertically through the water column. Similarly, the clast clusters, especially in the lower part of the rhythmite sequence, are interpreted as iceberg dump structures because the concentrated pockets of gravel indicate the break-up or overturning of sediment-laden icebergs and the consequent release of debris to the lake floor (Thomas and Connell 1985). These are indicative of an ice-marginal environment, or that ice was calving into this basin, although their rarity also suggests that icebergs were not numerous (Figure 5(c,d); Smith and Ashley 1985; Thomas and Connell 1985; Carrivick and Tweed 2013). The majority of dropstones observed are rounded (e.g. Figure 5(c)), which we interpret to indicate that they have been derived from material that was worked fluvially before incorporation in the glacial system, similar to those in the Tui Stream section in the Butler Downs of the Rangitata (Shulmeister et al. 2018). Alternations between relatively fine and coarse sets to form couplets is likely representative of cyclic sedimentation due to seasonal variability in glacier runoff, thereby likely constituting annual varves (Ashley 1975; Church and Gilbert 1975). Non-melt season (autumn/winter) and melt-season (spring/summer) laminae within a single varve are indicated as N-MS and MS respectively in Figure 5(a). Together, these two layers form a varve couplet representing one year of sedimentation (Ojala et al. 2012). Modern sequences in Lake Tekapo (Pickrill and Irwin 1983) and in adjacent Lake Ohau have also been interpreted as varves (e.g. Roop et al. 2015, 2016; Cossu et al. 2016; Levy et al. 2018; Vandergoes et al. 2018).

A minimum number of 77 couplets or years of lake sedimentation is recorded in LF 2. The appreciable thicknesses of both the fine (winter) and coarse (summer) components of the LF 2 varve sequence, which are up to 5 and 11.25 (rarely 80) cm respectively, indicate high sedimentation rates, especially in summer, with prominent internal lamination in both components recording continuous pulses of sediment-laden meltwater into a glacier-fed, and at times glacier contact, lake. For comparison, sediments collected from the floor of Lake Tekapo indicate that historical varves, interpreted by Pickrill and Irwin (1983) as deposited in the 1940s-1970s, are only 0.2-2.2 cm thick (LF 2 minima are 2.5 cm). Towards the northern end of the section, the lacustrine sediments are less well-developed as varves and there is also evidence of grading (fining upwards) and scouring, which may represent turbidite sequences. The thin, discontinuous, or horizontal laminae

of coarse sandy silt with scoured infills at the base of the coarser sets are interpreted as evidence of rip-up intraclasts of finer rhythmite material and display rare clinoforms (starved ripples). Most of the rhythmically bedded sediment of LF 2 was likely delivered as interflows, although the scour infills at the base of the coarser sets, as well as evidence of rip up intraclasts, starved ripples and coarsening-upwards sequences in the lower few metres of LF 2, suggest the operation of underflows. Greater numbers of dropstones and other ice-rafted debris (IRD) in these lower sediments also indicate glacier proximity (early phases of lake development) and an ice-contact lake setting that promoted iceberg calving. However, low background sedimentation rates are represented in the lowest 3.5 m of the outcrop where the couplets are thinnest. This observation is notable since sedimentation should be greatest closest to the glacier and the dropstone evidence is strong for an ice-contact lake. The dropstones are also more heavily concentrated towards the southern end of the exposure indicating that this is a preferential zone for icebergs to accumulate. Widespread normal faults with small downthrow could relate to the melt-out of buried glacier ice (i.e. grounded icebergs) but also may have been initiated by sediment loading and subaqueous slumping. Either mechanism, as well as seismic activity, may be a possibility due to the evidence of contemporaneous liquefaction (e.g. [Figure 5\(j\)](#)) and injection along fault planes (e.g. [Figure 7\(c,d\)](#)).

Lithofacies 3 (LF 3)

A glaciofluvial origin is preferred for LF 3 based upon its poorly sorted and coarse-grained characteristics, in addition to the evidence for abrupt discharge changes recorded in discontinuous, lenticular bodies of cross-bedded sands that grade upwards into the gravels. These packages of massive to crudely horizontally bedded sheets separated by lower discharge scour infills are typical of strongly episodic fluvial sedimentation, classified as gravel sheets by Miall (1977) and Maizels (1993). An abundance of rounded and well-rounded clasts represented by the very low RA values also support the interpretation that LF 3 is derived from glaciofluvial sediments ([Figure 13](#)). As such, LF 3 is similar in origin to much of LF 1. Whilst it is also possible these sediments could have been deposited as sheet gravels, the consistently poorly sorted gravel of LF 3 is more similar to the matrix-supported gravel of hyperconcentrated flow type sedimentation rather than bar or gravel sheet aggradation and hence is indicative of glaciofluvial aggradation in an ice-proximal setting (Maizels 1993, 2002; Carrivick and Rushmer 2009). No bedding structures are observed within LF 3, indicating a high-energy mass flow deposit, such as a minor outburst flood (Pierson 2005), rather than braided river-type sedimentation. Similar sediment packages of LF 3 (hyperconcentrated flows) are described in the Rakaia, Pukaki and Rangitata valleys across South Island (Hyatt et al. 2012; Evans et al. 2013; Shulmeister et al. 2018). Although the bedding of LF 3 is largely horizontal over much of its outcrop, it is likely not *in situ* in most places in the exposure, having been emplaced between shallow thrust faults and also displaying significant disturbance in the form of crumpled bedding and normal faulting ([Figure 7\(e\)](#)) where LF 3 has been thrust over LF 1. In at least one location (e.g. [Figure 7\(e\)](#)), a clastic dyke containing crudely vertically stratified material from the host gravels penetrates through the entire thickness of LF 3, recording the post-depositional release of pressurized groundwater through the sediments (cf. Rijdsdijk et al. 1999).

Lithofacies 4 (LF 4)

LF 4 records continued episodic fluvial sedimentation in interbedded stratified and locally clast-dominated diamictos and matrix-supported gravels. These sediments are indicative of sediment gravity flows and/or hyperconcentrated flows punctuated by the deposition of crudely horizontally bedded sand, typical of ice-proximal, episodic flooding (Miall 1978). Resulting hyperconcentrated flows scoured downwards into older lithofacies prior to sediment aggradation. Importantly, the abrupt change from horizontal bedding into shallow clinoforms in the central section of the logged exposure likely records a change from a braid plain to a more proximal fan setting (e.g. Krzyszkowski and Zieliński 2002) at a location where glaciotectonic disturbance becomes more intense

(see below). Similar deglacial deposits occur in the Rakaia river basin (Shulmeister et al. 2010b) and at Lake Pukaki (Evans et al. 2013).

Lithofacies 5 (LF 5)

LF 5 clinoforms prograde south-easterly and possess the characteristics of gravel foreset bedding (Martini 1990; Nemec 1990; Nemec et al. 1999). Very similar proglacial delta deposits have been described from the Rangitata River basin (Shulmeister et al. 2018). South-easterly shallowing of the foreset bedding records proximal to distal fining over a scoured, unconformable contact with underlying LF 2. Progradation of the foresets in LF 5 appear to have been initiated from the southern limit of the melange at the contact between LF 2 and overlying LFs 3 and 4 as well as LF 6. The Type IV characteristics of the melange at this location indicate that it has been produced as a shear zone between LF 2 and LFs 3 and 4, developed on the footwall of a shallow thrust fault dipping northwards (rising southwards and indicating shearing from the north).

Lithofacies 6 (LF 6)

The occurrence of LF 6 immediately above an area of intense deformation and shallow angled shear zone between LFs 2, 3 and 4 (see area of melange in Figure 3), strongly suggests that the deposits were constructed during glacier overriding, likely in a sub-marginal location, as the diagnostic subglacial deposits (melange; described below and Dmm/LF 6) do not extend any further south of this location; moreover, the deltaic foresets also prograde from the southerly extent of the subglacial deposits and hence are interpreted here as a grounding line fan, similar to deposits in the Acheron Bank outcrop in the Rakaia River basin (Shulmeister et al. 2010b). This juxtaposition indicates discharge directly into water when the lake was deep at the time of infilling. LF 6 is, therefore, interpreted as glacier sub-marginal in origin, although cannot be unequivocally classified as subglacial till (*sensu* Evans et al. 2006; Evans 2018).

Lithofacies 7 (LF 7)

The final sediments laid down within the logged outcrop were the poorly sorted to matrix-supported boulder to cobble gravels and localized cross-stratified sands of LF 7. Exposures are too restricted to be confident of genetic detail. They could constitute final glaciofluvial outwash deposits and postglacial winnowed lags but due to the considerable lateral variability within the deposit and the irregular drape of LF 7 at a variety of levels along the outcrop, LF 7 is more likely to be a beach deposit given that the logged exposure is entirely below the postglacial lake highstand (740 m a.s.l.; Sutherland et al. 2019a, 2019b). The palaeo-shoreline scarp shown in Figures 1 and 2 as well as an array of beach forms clearly visible immediately west of the logged cliffs, suggests a widespread distribution of locally wave-washed LF 7 material. We suggest, therefore, that the palaeo shoreline has modified the glaciofluvial outwash cobbles and pebbles into well sorted, well-rounded raised beach deposits at various locations along the outcrop.

Structural properties and deformation interpretation

The shallow northward tilting and open folding within LF 1–4 bedding north of the central section, together with laterally extensive sheared contacts, localized internal thrust faults and tight polyclinal fold structures, record large scale glaciotectonic deformation. Associated with this glaciotectonic deformation was the emplacement of clastic dykes. Upward-tapering styles of largely stratified dyke emplacement have been widely linked to the escape of pressurized groundwater by hydrofracturing and the creation of burst-out structures, where gravelly aquifers are injected into overlying deposits either post- or syn-depositionally (Rijsdijk et al. 1999). The occurrence of burst-out structures and dykes at the northern end of the exposure (Figure 6(a)) is compatible with an increase of water pressures in subglacial groundwater (Nichols et al. 1994; Boulton

and Caban 1995; Le Heron and Etienne 2005) and thereby strongly suggests glacier sub-marginal to proglacial (glaciotectonic) origins for the shallow angled shear zones. The crudely stratified gravelly or fine-grained rhythmite infills of the downward-tapering forms are also likely derived from hydrofracturing driven by the de-pressurizing of aquifers, especially as they occur beyond the southern extent of the subglacial deposits and their associated glaciotectonic structures (Phillips et al. 2013a).

Chronological control of sedimentary events

Dating yielded SAR IRSL ages of 149.2 ± 23.8 and 118.0 ± 13.0 ka BP for samples T1 and T2 respectively (Table 2; locations labelled on Figure 3). Both ages suggest that deposition of the glaciolacustrine sequence in the logged outcrop is likely to have occurred during the MIS-6 (Waimea) glaciation (known as Balmoral 1 in the Mackenzie basin). Given the age of the glaciolacustrine sediments, their subsequent deformation could be entirely MIS 6 as well or could relate to MIS 4 or the LGM advance.

Discussion

Reconstruction of glacial events in the Tekapo valley

The logged outcrop records an ice-marginal environment. Specifically, the sediments document a sequence of events from an advanced ice-margin position to recession, followed by a re-advance and recession. This sequence of events, summarized in Table 1, has been reconstructed using interpretations of LFs 1–7 and their internal structures as described above. Due to the nature of deformation, conformable contacts between lithofacies are mostly difficult to identify unequivocally. However, there is clearly a conformable contact between the boulder gravels of LF 1 and overlying LF 2 (glaciolacustrine rhythmites) and it is this that has been used to determine relative age in that part of the sequence. This contact is characterized by a clast lag that is draped by LF 2 rhythmites. Based on the very similar outcrops towards the south and to the north (Figures 1, 2 and 14), the same depositional environments were laterally extensive, at least on the western side of the Tekapo valley, for >10 km.

In detail, we propose that the logged sedimentary sequence was deposited in two main phases; (i) the undisturbed varves (LF 2) represent very low-energy glaciolacustrine deposition that was uninterrupted for at least 77 years, and (ii) the glaciofluvial sediments (LFs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) represent ice-contact and ice-proximal outwash and subaerial mass flows. These two phases of the sequence are likely to have been deposited during separate glacial advances because of the unconformable contacts between them. Additionally, the glaciotectonic structures developed in the varves and glaciofluvial sediments (e.g. Figure 6) illustrate that the whole outcrop was disrupted and glacially overridden during either the emplacement of the glaciofluvial sediments (LFs 5 and 6) or after glaciofluvial deposition. We propose a five-stage idealized reconstruction of depositional events and glacier dynamics in the Tekapo valley (Table 1; Figure 14). We extrapolate this event reconstruction across the valley and so Figure 14 does not directly correspond to the sediment sequence observed.

Stage 1: ice marginal advance

The glaciolacustrine sequence (LF 2) was deposited in an ice-contact proglacial lake due to the presence of dropstones and iceberg dump structures (Figure 5). Therefore, since the glaciofluvial

Table 2. Water contents and radionuclide contents.

Field code	Laboratory code	Depth below surface (m)	Water content (%)	²³⁸ U (ppm)	²³² Th (ppm)	K (%)
T1	WLL1285	15	17.3	2.53 ± 0.02	10.41 ± 0.04	1.31 ± 0.04
T2	WLL1286	0.57	8.7	1.74 ± 0.01	7.14 ± 0.03	1.42 ± 0.01

outwash gravels of LF 1 occur stratigraphically below LF 2, they record a glacier advance that preceded lake development (Figure 14). A glacial advance and/or stillstand origin for the LF 1 outwash gravels, as proposed in many settings in New Zealand (cf. Rother et al. 2010; Shulmeister 2017; Thackray et al. 2021) is consistent with the deposition of lake sediments (LF 2) immediately above LF 1 and separated by a conformable contact comprising draped laminations over a clast lag. The clast lag represents winnowing by lake floor traction currents prior to the accumulation of glaciolacustrine rhythmites. The Rangitata kame terrace record reported by Thackray et al. (2021) also documents this pattern of outwash timing. The folding within LF 1 could be a result of ice push shortly after deposition (i.e. in front of an advancing ice margin). However, we imply that LF 1 was completely overridden by ice during a later stage, evidenced by intense glacio-tectonic deformation and clastic dykes.

Stage 2: ice marginal recession and development of an ice-contact proglacial lake

Subsequent glacial recession was initiated down an adverse slope (Sutherland et al. 2019a). A substantial dam is required to have created a relatively large and deep proglacial lake with water levels at least 20 m higher than today. The ice-contact lake was present for an extended period of time, as evidenced by the thick sequence of LF 2 glaciolacustrine sediments, and this suggests that the dam/adverse slope was created by an outwash head and terminal moraine that accumulated during Stage 1. Although there is no sedimentary evidence for this since the most southerly point on the log is comprised of glaciolacustrine sediments (LF 2), there is an arc of moraine and outwash deposits at the townsite to the south (Figure 1; Sutherland et al. 2019a). Due to the over-deepened subglacial topography (Sutherland et al. 2019a), it follows that ice-proximal slopes of the outwash fan blocked proglacial drainage and produced a lacustrine sediment sink once the glacier terminus receded behind it (Figure 14). The topography also explains the increased occurrence of soft-sediment deformation structures (high porewater pressures) and/or ice melt-out features in LF 2 (high debris content at the ice margin) in a sediment pile that accumulated rapidly until the dam was breached by over spilling lake water. This style of combined outwash-head and terminal moraine damming is commonly observed in modern New Zealand and Icelandic proglacial lakes (e.g. Benn et al. 2003; Evans et al. 2013; Evans and Orton 2015; Sutherland et al. 2019a).

Critical to the subaqueous interpretation of LF 2 are the characteristics of the glaciolacustrine sediments, which reflect rhythmic sedimentation by suspension settling, iceberg rafting of drop-stones, and pulsed traction current activity. If the couplets observed in LF 2 are indeed varves, their numbers indicate that a minimum of 77 years of relatively distal lake sedimentation took place. In particular, the sedimentation rate was substantial and glaciolacustrine deposition was rapid, in an ice-proximal setting. Vertical and lateral variability in proximal versus distal glaciolacustrine sedimentation documents temporal and spatial changes in meltwater flux points and thereby ice-margin position. The changing landsystem imprint related to the recession of the modern Tasman Glacier since the Little Ice Age (Kirkbride and Warren 1999) provides an analogue of spatio-temporal landsystem change, whereby the glacier and its foreland have evolved from a coupled outwash head/moraine-dammed lake to an uncoupled landsystem (Benn et al. 2003; Evans et al. 2013).

Stage 3: continued ice marginal recession

After the drainage of the proglacial lake through a spillway incised into the outwash head, continued ice marginal recession resulted in the deposition of coarse-grained glaciofluvial deposits. There is no geomorphological imprint in the landscape for this spillway, however, evidence of iceberg meltout hollows (Sutherland et al. 2019b) immediately south of lake Alexandrina, reveal a possible drainage route. Some of these deposits were hyperconcentrated flows (LF 3) and sediment gravity flows (LF 4). These coarse-grained deposits can be envisaged to have been fed by meltwater emanating from subglacial portals on the receding ice margin. High-energy deposits

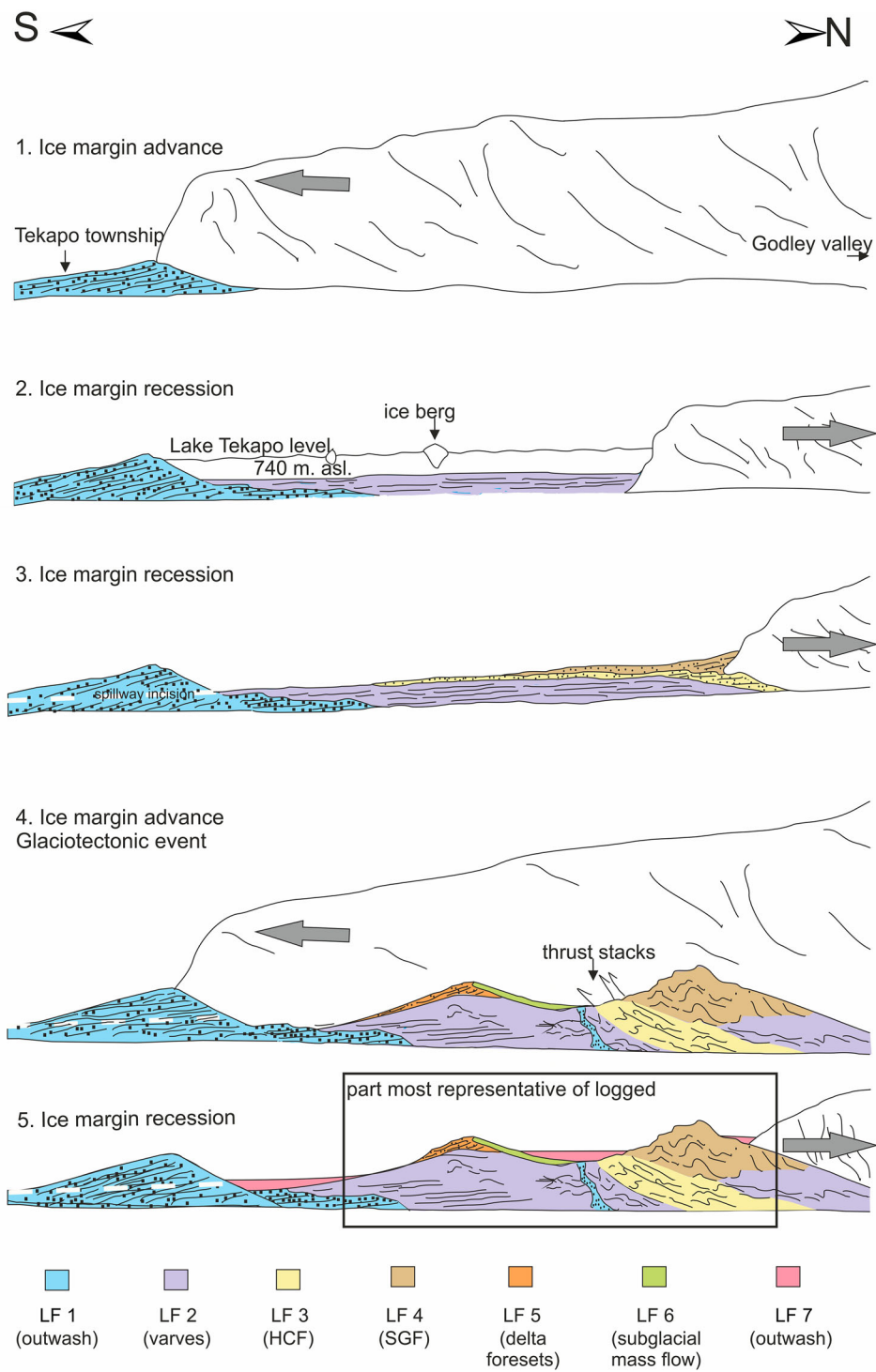


Figure 14. Conceptual model to illustrate event stratigraphy. (HCF in legend = hyper-concentrated flow, SGF = sediment gravity flow).

such as LF 4 indicate that glacier proximity increases vertically up the stratigraphic succession in the logged outcrop.

Stage 4: ice marginal advance

Widespread glaciotectonic disturbance, in the form of folds, shear horizons and melanges (glacio-tectonites), as well as the emplacement of clastic dykes (hydrofracture fills) all record a substantial glacier advance into the pre-existing LFs 1–4 (Figure 4(b); Figure 7(c); Figure 12). The shallow northward tilt and open folding of all bedding in LFs 1–4 north of the central section, together with sheared contacts and localized internal thrust faults and tight polyclinal fold structures, record thrust stacking by a glacier margin moving down the Lake Tekapo basin from the north. A genetic model to produce steeply inclined hydrofractures which ‘climb’ steeply and widen upwards through sediment piles has been proposed by Phillips et al. (2013b). They suggest that pressurized water and then aquifer and host material are mobilized upwards and away from the overriding glacier margin due to the marked decrease in the overburden pressure in that direction. Certainly, the location and architecture of the downward tapering dykes and their associated parallel fault systems are compatible with such a scenario.

The grounding line fan (LF 5) was emplaced syn-depositonally with the till (LF 6) that overlies its proximal slope, and both were overrun by the advancing glacier margin responsible for prograding the fan directly from a subglacial environment (Figure 14). A similar style of deposition during re-advances has been interpreted for the Rakaia basin (Shulmeister et al. 2010a).

Stage 5: final and sustained ice margin recession

The final and sustained recession of the Tekapo Glacier is recorded by the deposition of glaciofluvial outwash gravels (LF 7) that record the aggradation and subsequent terracing of glacier-fed outwash fans. These were fed by meltwater emanating from a glacier terminus occupying the Lake Tekapo valley to the north. Once recession was initiated, the ice surface level lowered and glaciofluvial gravels aggraded until they became abandoned and perched above the elevation of the still-receding meltwater portal (cf. Price 1969; Gustavson and Boothroyd 1987). Subsequently, glaciofluvial sediments partially filled the depressions between, and channels incised through, the surface expression (undulations or ridges) of the pre-existing glaciotectonic structures (cf. Phillips et al. 2002, 2008).

Geochronological implications

SAR IRSF yielded ages of 149.2 ± 23.8 and 118.0 ± 13.0 ka BP for samples T1 and T2 respectively (Figure 3; Table 3). Both ages suggest that deposition of the glaciolacustrine sequence in the logged outcrop is likely to have occurred during MIS-6 (the Waimea glaciation, known as Balmoral 1 in the Mackenzie basin). There is, however, considerable uncertainty in the absolute ages due to anomalous fading and unidentified incompletely bleached signals. It is clear, however, that the sediments pre-date the LGM and are more likely related to either MIS-6 or 4. In particular, with respect to MIS-4 possibilities, there are deposits that have been dated by terrestrial cosmogenic nuclide (TCN) analysis immediately to the south (Pukaki valley; Schaefer et al. 2015) and by optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) to the north (Rangitata drainage; Thackray et al. 2021) of the Tekapo basin recording the MIS-4 glacial maximum nearby. Given the age of the glaciolacustrine sediments, their subsequent deformation could have occurred entirely within MIS-6 as well or could

Table 3. Measured a-value and equivalent dose, total dose rate and luminescence age.

Field code	Laboratory code	a-value	Equivalent dose	Calculated cosmic dose rate	Dose rate (Gy/ka)	Luminescence Age (Ka)
T1	WLL1285	0.06 ± 0.02	443.80 ± 9.36	0.0467 ± 0.0023	2.98 ± 0.23	149.2 ± 23.8
T2	WLL1286	0.06 ± 0.02	345.74 ± 2.21	0.2199 ± 0.0110	2.93 ± 0.016	118.0 ± 13.0

relate to MIS-4 or the LGM advance. Therefore, since the glaciofluvial outwash gravels of LF 1 occur stratigraphically below LF 2, they record a glacier advance that preceded lake development, likely also during MIS-6 (Figure 14).

LGM landforms have been mapped in the Tekapo valley (Barrell et al. 2011; Sutherland et al. 2019b) based on relative morphostratigraphic correlations with landforms surrounding adjacent Lakes Pukaki and Ohau. However, the exposed sections do not include sediments that are represented by the surficial geomorphology. In particular, the glaciolacustrine sediments of LF 2 do not relate to the landforms stratigraphically above them. These sediments were not deposited by the ice advances that shaped the surficial landforms and by that inference, must be older. The sedimentary volume associated with LGM landforms must be comparatively small, as the last glacial deposits are draped over much thicker pre-LGM sediments which survived *in-situ* in the foreland valley. The key point is not the absolute ages but that LF 2, and therefore, the deposits stratigraphically higher, are pre-LGM, preserved in substantive volumes despite later LGM ice occupying the area. Hence it is clear that the LGM Tekapo Glacier did not completely remove older sediments beneath the most distal 5 km of its terminus, at least some of the sediment infill in the lower Tekapo valley was deposited during the penultimate glacial cycle (MIS-6). The study highlights the limited erosion of older glacial deposits, supported in part by MIS-6 ages for the glaciolacustrine deposits and the rare preservation of such thick sequence of varves with minimal weathering in the New Zealand glacial record.

Recognition of the *in-situ* survival of extensive pre-LGM glacial sediment does not represent a new feature in the Quaternary stratigraphy of the Southern Alps. Moreover, the findings from this study are consistent with sediment fills recorded elsewhere across South Island. Extensive suites of pre-LGM sediments dated by IRSL have also been recovered from moraines in the Takaka valley, northwest Nelson (Thackray et al. 2009), from the Cascade Plateau in Fiordland (Sutherland et al. 2007), and across north Canterbury, such as the Hope valley (Rother et al. 2010), the Rakaia river (Shulmeister et al. 2010b; Hyatt et al. 2012), and the Potts valley in the Rangitata River basin (Evans 2008). It is now widely accepted that pre-last glacial cycle advances extended further down-valley than LGM glaciers and Rother et al. (2010) also find that the older glacial sequences, in particular those of the MIS-6 glaciation, were considerably more voluminous than those deposited more recently. In the Hope valley (Rother et al. 2010) and in the Rakaia River basin (Shulmeister 2017; Shulmeister et al. 2019), ice did not excavate the underlying glaciolacustrine sediments and furthermore was not erosive enough to recycle its own outwash (cf. Rother et al. 2007).

Conclusion

The sedimentary outcrop along the southwestern shores of Late Tekapo has provided rare insight into the behaviour of a terrestrial outlet of the Southern Alps icefield over multiple glacial cycles. It has provided the opportunity to reconstruct the depositional environment and glacio-tectonic disturbance associated with advances of the former Tekapo Glacier. We have presented the first detailed sedimentological investigation of the sequence and we propose a five-stage palaeo-glaciological model in which 7 lithofacies were deposited; (i) ice-margin advance and deposition of outwash gravels (LF 1); (ii) ice-marginal recession and the development of an ice-contact lake, manifest in rhythmite deposition by suspension setting and iceberg rafting of dropstones (LF 2); (iii) continued ice-marginal recession after lake drainage, recorded in ice-proximal aggradation of glaciofluvial deposits (LFs 3 and 4); (iv) major ice-marginal advance documented by glaciotectionic disturbance and localized hydrofracturing, coeval with the deposition of delta foresets and till (LF 5 and 6); (v) final stages of ice-marginal recession and deposition of outwash gravels in LF 7.

Further independent age control is critical to robust palaeo-glaciological interpretations. However, given their stratigraphic position, the glaciolacustrine silts in LF 2 are likely to be older than the current lake and the most recent glacial advances. Although LGM landforms have been

documented in the Tekapo valley (Barrell et al. 2011; Sutherland et al. 2019b), our study shows that their sedimentary volume is relatively small in comparison to more substantial pre-LGM glacial deposits (e.g. LF 2) which survived *in-situ*, and largely unmodified, and thereby reduced the accommodation space in the valley overdeepening. Varves are deposited below wave depth and the bottom sediments preserved in this sequence lie well above the modern-day lake basin. This implies that; (i) lakes recur in the same location and (ii) there is significant landscape modification from successive glaciations which have dug out the sediments and allowed the outlet river from Lake Tekapo to incise further. The same assumptions hold true for other localities across South Island, particularly visible in the Rakaia, while the Rangitata shows that if the deposit is away from the thalweg of the valley, preservation is also likely.

Whilst the preservation and minimal weathering of such a thick sequence of rhythmites in the glacial record may be remarkable elsewhere, our sedimentological findings are not unique in the context of the glacial literature from New Zealand (e.g. Shulmeister et al. 2010b; Evans et al. 2013). Our study emphasizes and reiterates the uniqueness of the New Zealand glacial systems and the need to view those systems through a distinct lens. Glaciations were times of multiple, repeated advances, but the logged section in the Tekapo valley reveals limited erosion of older glacial deposits. This suggests that either (i) LGM deposition was minimal, or (ii) there was limited erosive capacity near maximum LGM glacial extents, perhaps because ice was thin and short-lived. Overall, our findings support the increasing evidence of the persistence of the extensive pre-LGM sediments in the Quaternary stratigraphy of the Southern Alps. These findings are important to consider when applying a landsystems approach to glacial reconstructions in New Zealand.

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