

*Highlights (for review)

1. Earliest onset of deglaciation at 28830 cal yr BP
2. Ice sheet in inner Marguerite Bay < 140 m from 21110 cal yr BP
3. Holocene deglaciation from 10610 cal yr BP.
4. Relative sea level high stands at 40.79 and 40.55m after 9000 cal yr BP
5. Warming 6200-2030; Neoglacial from 2630; Late Holocene warming from 410 cal yr BP

1 **Late Quaternary environmental changes in Marguerite Bay,**
2 **Antarctic Peninsula, inferred from lake sediments and raised**
3 **beaches**

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29 Bird and seal occupation, Holocene

1 **Abstract**

2 The Antarctic Peninsula is one of the fastest-warming regions on Earth, but its
3 palaeoenvironmental history south of 63° latitude is relatively poorly documented,
4 relying principally on the marine geological record and short ice cores. In this paper,
5 we present evidence of late-Quaternary environmental change from the Marguerite
6 Bay region combining data from lake sediment records on Horseshoe Island and
7 Pourquoi-Pas Island, and raised beaches at Horseshoe Island, Pourquoi-Pas Island and
8 Calmette Bay. Lake sediments were radiocarbon dated and analysed using a
9 combination of sedimentological, geochemical and microfossil methods. Raised
10 beaches were surveyed and analysed for changes in clast composition, size and
11 roundness. Results suggest a non-erosive glacial regime existed on Horseshoe Island
12 from 35780 (38650-33380) or 32910 (34630-31370) cal yr BP onwards. There is
13 radiocarbon and macrofossil evidence for possible local deglaciation events at 28830
14 (29370-28320) cal yr BP, immediately postdating Antarctic Isotopic Maximum 4, and
15 21110 (21510-20730 interpolated) cal yr BP coinciding with, or immediately
16 postdating, Antarctic Isotopic Maximum 2. The Holocene deglaciation of Horseshoe
17 Island commenced from 10610 (11000-10300) cal yr BP at the same time as the early
18 Holocene temperature maximum recorded in Antarctic ice cores. This was followed
19 by the onset of marine sedimentation in The Narrows, Pourquoi-Pas Island, before
20 8850 (8480-9260) cal yr BP. Relative sea level high stands of 40.79 m above present
21 at Pourquoi-Pas Island and 40.55 m above present at Calmette Bay occurred
22 sometime after 9000 cal yr BP and suggest that a thicker ice sheet, including
23 grounded ice streams, was present in this region of the Antarctic Peninsula than that
24 recorded at sites further north. Isolation of the Narrows Lake basin on Pourquoi-Pas
25 Island shows relative sea level in this region had fallen rapidly to 19.41 m by 7270
26 (7385-7155) cal yr BP. *Chaetoceros* resting spores suggest high productivity and
27 stratified surface waters in The Narrows after 8850 (9260-8480) cal yr BP and beach
28 clasts provide evidence of a period of increased wave energy at approximately 8000
29 yr BP. Lake sediment and beach data suggest an extended period of regional warming
30 sometime between 6200-2030 cal yr BP followed by the onset of Neoglacial
31 conditions from 2630 and 2030 cal yr BP in Narrows Lake and Col Lake 1,
32 respectively. Diatom and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ vs C/N and macrofossil evidence suggest a potential
33 increase in the number of birds and seals visiting the Narrows Lake catchment

1 sometime after 2100 (2250-2000) cal yr BP, with enhanced nutrient enrichment
2 evident after 1150 (1230-1080) cal yr BP, and particularly from c. 460 (540-380) cal
3 yr BP. A very recent increase in *Gomphonema* species and organic carbon in the top
4 centimetre of the Narrows Lake sediment core after c. 410 (490-320) cal yr BP, and
5 increased sedimentation rates in the Col Lake 1 sediment core, after c. 400 (490-310)
6 cal yr BP may be a response to the regional late-Holocene warming of the Antarctic
7 Peninsula.

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10 **1) Introduction**

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12 The Antarctic Peninsula is one of the fastest-warming regions on Earth. With a rate of
13 temperature increase of $3.7 \pm 1.6^\circ\text{C century}^{-1}$, it is warming at several times the global
14 mean of $0.6 \pm 0.2^\circ\text{C century}^{-1}$ (Vaughan et al., 2003). This has resulted in shifts in
15 species distributions, changes in lake ecology (Quayle et al., 2002), catastrophic
16 disintegration of seven ice shelves (Hodgson et al., 2006; Cook and Vaughan, 2010;
17 Hodgson 2011) and accelerated discharge of 87 % of continental glaciers (Cook et al.,
18 2005). These processes look set to accelerate given IPCC predictions that future
19 anthropogenic increases in greenhouse gas emissions will lead to a 1.4-5.8°C rise in
20 global temperatures by 2100 (IPCC, 2007), and climate modeling studies that show
21 anthropogenic forcing of the Southern Hemisphere Annular Mode has played a key
22 role in driving the local summer warming (Marshall et al., 2006). Warming is set to
23 accelerate further once the buffering effect of the ‘ozone hole’ declines (Turner et al.,
24 2009; Marshall et al., 2010).

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26 Palaeoenvironmental records from this region are therefore urgently required to
27 understand (1) the degree to which these recent changes fall outside of the range of
28 natural variability, (2) how the ice sheets, relative sea level and ecosystems in the
29 region have developed to their present status, and (3) how they might respond to the
30 effects of continued increases in temperature. The key palaeoenvironmental datasets
31 from the southern Antarctic Peninsula (South of 63° latitude) are those from ice cores,
32 marine and lake sediments coupled with cosmogenic isotope exposure age dating of
33 glacially-emplaced boulders and scoured bedrock, which, combined, constrain the

1 retreat of the last glacial ice sheet (Bentley et al., 2006; Bentley et al., 2009; Bentley
2 et al., 2011).

3
4 Ice cores from the Antarctic Peninsula have been limited in length due to the
5 relatively rapid flow of ice from its mountainous spine (see Mosley-Thompson and
6 Thompson, 2003, and references therein). New ice cores collected from more stable
7 ice accumulation sites on the north-eastern Peninsula, for example at James Ross
8 Island (64.21°S, 57.63°W) (Mulvaney et al., 2012), partially address this issue, but
9 most ice cores from central and southern parts of the Peninsula typically span periods
10 of only 1-2000 years. Some of these contain evidence of the rapid temperature
11 changes seen in instrumental data over the last two decades (Thomas et al., 2009).

12
13 There is a reasonable distribution of marine sediment records from the region which
14 document the deglaciation of the continental shelf (Ó Cofaigh et al., 2005; Kilfeather
15 et al., 2011; Graham and Smith, 2012), bays and fjords (Taylor et al., 2001) and, in
16 some cases changes in sea ice extent, ocean circulation, biological production and
17 ecology (Domack, 2002; Allen et al., 2010). Some of these are reliably dated using
18 radiocarbon ages from discrete calcareous macrofossils whose marine reservoir
19 effects are well-constrained by modern specimens (e.g., Domack et al., 2001; Allen et
20 al., 2010).

21
22 On land, cosmogenic isotope exposure dating is beginning to constrain the onset of
23 deglaciation (Bentley et al., 2006; Bentley et al., 2011) (Fig. 1e). Epishelf lake
24 sediments have provided records of ice shelf retreat (Bentley et al., 2005b; Hodgson
25 et al., 2006; Smith et al., 2007a; Roberts et al., 2008), and geomorphological and
26 palaeolimnological studies, evidence of the deglaciation and emergence of a former
27 subglacial lake (Hodgson et al., 2009a; Hodgson et al., 2009b). However, to date, lake
28 sediment records documenting environmental changes in the region between 63-70°
29 South are limited (e.g., Wasell and Håkansson, 1992), and lake sediment proxies that
30 reveal important information about changes in temperature (as a result of its influence
31 on lake ice cover and within lake production), deglaciation, and sea level change
32 (Hodgson et al., 2004; Hodgson and Smol, 2008) have been under exploited.

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1 To address this, we present detailed multi-proxy analyses of two lake sediment cores
2 from islands within a small archipelago in northern Marguerite Bay on the southern
3 Antarctic Peninsula; one from a freshwater lake on Horseshoe Island and one from a
4 coastal isolation basin on Pourquoi-Pas Island. This is supplemented by information
5 on relative sea level change and marine conditions from surveys of raised beaches at
6 three different locations within Marguerite Bay.

9 **2) Site descriptions**

11 All field sites are located in Marguerite Bay (68°30' S, 068°30' W), which is the most
12 extensive embayment on the west side of the Antarctic Peninsula, bounded to the
13 north by Adelaide Island and the Arrowsmith Peninsula and to the south by Alexander
14 Island and George VI Sound (Fig. 1). From north to south it measures approximately
15 270 km and from east to west, 150 km. Outlet glaciers from the Antarctic Peninsula
16 and Alexander Island drain into the northern, eastern and south-western parts of the
17 bay. In the southern part of Marguerite Bay, George VI Ice Shelf, which occupies
18 George VI Sound, discharges north into Marguerite Bay and south into the
19 Bellingshausen Sea. The submarine Marguerite Trough, formed by the earlier
20 grounded ice stream in this location, extends from the George VI Sound, to the edge
21 of the continental shelf. This trough is between 50-80 km in width and roughly 370
22 km in length (Fig. 1c). It is over-deepened from approximately 500 m at the shelf
23 edge to 1500 m in inner Marguerite Bay (Ó Cofaigh et al., 2005; Graham et al., 2011).

25 **2.1 Horseshoe Island**

26 Horseshoe Island (67°51' S, 67°12' W), one of the larger islands in northern
27 Marguerite Bay, is situated at the entrance to Bourgeois Fjord (Figs. 1c, 1d). The
28 underlying bedrock consists of foliated granitic gneisses of the Antarctic Peninsula
29 Metamorphic Complex and undifferentiated volcanic rocks of the Antarctic Peninsula
30 Volcanic Group (Matthews, 1983b). There are marked topographic differences
31 between the northern part of the island which consists of low lying topography
32 dominated by Mount Searle (537 m) and the more mountainous southern part
33 dominated by Mt Breaker (879 m) and the Shoosmith Glacier that discharges into
34 Gaul Cove. Between these is a narrow, largely ice-free elevated central col (Figs. 1d,

1 2a, 2b), the remnant of a major shear zone of uncertain age (Matthews, 1983b). There
2 are four small lakes located on this central col at altitudes of between c. 80-140 m
3 a.s.l. The lake studied, 'Col Lake 1' (unofficial name), (67°49.870' S, 67°13.937' W;
4 Fig. 2b), is an elongate, shallow clear water lake, 162 m long, 64 m wide and 3.2 m
5 deep situated at an altitude of c. 80 m above sea level

6 7 2.2 Pourquoi-Pas Island

8 Pourquoi-Pas Island (67°41' S, 67°30' W) is a mountainous and heavily glaciated
9 island situated to the north of Horseshoe Island (Fig 1c). Its topography is dominated
10 by Mt Verne 1635 m and Mt. Arronax 1540 m (Fig. 1e). The underlying bedrock
11 consists of undifferentiated volcanic rocks of the Antarctic Peninsula Volcanic Group
12 (Matthews, 1983a). Lower altitude ice-free areas are covered in a thick silty diamict
13 with frost-sorted polygons, whilst bedrock is exposed on the higher ridges. Glacial
14 striations run south-east to north-west, sub-parallel with the topographic axis of The
15 Narrows. The study lake 'Narrows Lake' (unofficial name) is located on the north-
16 eastern ice free coast adjacent to The Narrows (67° 36.054' S, 67° 12.449'W) (Figs.
17 1e, 2c, 2d). The lake is 125 m long, and 6.2 m deep with a sill height of at 19.41 m
18 above the present high water mark in The Narrows.

19 20 2.3 Raised beaches

21 Raised beaches were first identified by aerial reconnaissance by the author and in
22 Field Reports from early surveying expeditions, stored in the British Antarctic Survey
23 Archives. The main raised beach sections surveyed were at Gaul Cove on Horseshoe
24 Island (Fig. 2e; 67° 49.563' S, 67° 12.869' W to 67° 49.613' S, 67° 13.166'W);
25 Pourquoi-Pas Island (Fig 2d; c. 67° 35.52' S to 67° 11.51' W to c. 67° 36.02' S); and
26 at Calmette Bay (Fig. 2f; 68°03.848' S, 67°10.419 W to 68°04.040'S, 067°10.532'
27 W).

28 29 30 **3) Methods**

31 32 3.1 Limnology and sediment coring

1 The limnology of the study sites was described following Hodgson et al. (2009b).
2 Surface sediment cores were collected from the deepest part of the lakes using a
3 UWITEC (1.2 m) gravity corer fitted with a steel ‘orange-peel’ core catcher and
4 deeper sediments were collected with a 1 m Livingstone corer with overlaps of c. 10-
5 15 cm between core drives. The sediment cores were unconsolidated and were
6 therefore sectioned at 0.5 (top 20 cm) or 1 cm intervals (20 cm onwards) in the field
7 and transported frozen in Whirlpak bags.

9 3.2 Lithology and chronology

10 The sediment cores were analysed for sediment colour (Troels-Smith, 1955), wet
11 density, dry mass, and organic matter (by % weight loss on ignition (LOI), following
12 standard methods (Dean, 1974)), and divided into stratigraphic zones.

13
14 Chronologies for the sediment cores were established by AMS radiocarbon (^{14}C)
15 dating of macrofossils including microbial mats, fragments of the moss *Warnstofia*
16 *foutinaliopsis* sp. and preserved eggs of the fairy shrimp *Branchinecta gaini*. Bulk
17 glaciolacustrine and marine sediments were dated in samples where macrofossils were
18 absent. Paired and/or triplicate macrofossil and bulk samples were measured at
19 selected depths in both cores to check for any systematic offsets between the age of
20 the carbon incorporated in different macrofossil and bulk sediment fractions.

21
22 Macrofossils were hand-picked from frozen bulk material, after overnight defrosting
23 at 5°C, immersed in ultra-pure (18.2 m. Ohm) water, sealed and placed in an ultrasonic
24 bath for an hour and refrozen. Samples were sent frozen to the Scottish Universities
25 Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) and Beta Analytic (Miami, Florida) for
26 accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon dating. Moss samples analysed by
27 SUERC were soaked overnight in cold 0.5M HCl, filtered and rinsed free of mineral
28 acid with deionised water. As samples were small, they were placed directly into
29 quartz tube inserts containing quartz wool and dried by freeze drying. Microbial mat
30 samples were digested in 2 M HCl (80°C for 8 hours), washed free from mineral acid
31 with distilled water then dried and homogenised. All other SUERC-samples were
32 heated in 2M HCl (80°C for 8 hours), rinsed in deionised water, until all traces of acid
33 had been removed, and dried in a vacuum oven. The total carbon in a known weight
34 of all pre-treated samples was recovered as CO₂ by heating with CuO in a sealed

1 quartz tube. The CO₂ was converted to graphite by Fe/Zn reduction. Samples dated by
2 Beta Analytic were leached with a 0.5M to 1.0M HCl bath to remove carbonates,
3 heated to 70°C for 4 hours. Leaching was repeated until no carbonate remained,
4 followed by rinsing to neutral 20 times with deionised water, then placed in 0.5% to
5 2% solution of NaOH for 4 hrs at 70°C and rinsed to neutral 20 times with deionised
6 water. The process was repeated until no additional reaction (typically indicated by a
7 colour change in the NaOH liquid) was observed. Samples were then leached again in
8 a 0.5M to 1.0M HCl bath to remove any CO₂ absorbed from the atmosphere by the
9 NaOH soakings and to ensure initial carbonate removal was complete, and then dried
10 at 70°C in a gravity oven for 8-12 hours.

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12 Calibration of ¹⁴C ages was carried out in OXCAL v. 4.1 (Bronk Ramsey, 2009) using
13 the SHCal04. ¹⁴C Southern Hemisphere atmosphere dataset (McCormac et al., 2004;
14 Reimer et al., 2004) for freshwater samples. Freshwater ages older than 11,500 cal yrs
15 BP were calibrated using the INTCAL09 Northern Hemisphere atmosphere dataset
16 (Reimer et al., 2009). Absolute percentage of modern carbon (pMC) data were
17 corrected according to ¹³C/¹²C isotopic ratios from measured pMC, where a “modern”
18 pMC value is defined as 100 % (AD 1950), and the ‘present day’ pMC value is
19 defined as 107.5 % (AD 2010). In the marine-influenced sections of the Pourquoi-Pas
20 sediment core, a mixed MARINE09/SHCal04. ¹⁴C (50% marine) (Reimer et al., 2009)
21 calibration curve was used, and the Antarctic marine reservoir effect for this locality
22 constrained by using a ΔR value of 664±10 years (1064 ±10 years minus the global
23 marine reservoir of 400 years). This marine reservoir effect is based on the ages of
24 contemporary water samples reported by Milliken et al. (2009) from Maxwell Bay (cf.
25 Watcham et al., 2011), which has a similar coastal setting in the west Antarctic
26 Peninsula region and is also subject to seasonal meltwater from tidewater glaciers.

27

28 Radiocarbon age data are reported as conventional radiocarbon years BP (¹⁴C yr BP)
29 ±1σ, and as as two-sigma (95.4%) calibrated age ranges, mean±1σ, and median
30 calibrated ages (cal yr BP relative to AD 1950) (Tables 2, 3). Calibrated ages are
31 rounded to the nearest 5 years where measured radiocarbon age errors were less than
32 ±50 ¹⁴C years and to the nearest 10 years where measured radiocarbon age errors were
33 greater than ±50 ¹⁴C years. Classical age-depth modelling was undertaken using
34 CLAM v2 software (Blaauw, 2010). Interpolated ages in the text were rounded to the

1 nearest 10 years and derived from the ‘best-fit’ age of the CLAM age-depth model,
2 with interpolated 2- σ (95%) calibrated age ranges shown in brackets, also rounded to
3 the nearest 10 years.

4 5 3.3 Siliceous microfossils and macrofossils

6 Diatoms and stomatocysts were analysed in the Narrows Lake core, but were absent
7 from Col Lake 1 on Horseshoe Island; a likely result of silica limitation (Table 1).

8 Diatom preparation followed a slightly modified version of Renberg (1990).

9 Naphrax® was used as the slide mountant. At least 400 valves and stomatocysts were
10 counted in each sample. Taxonomy was mainly based on Sabbe et al. (2003), Van de
11 Vijver et al. (2002) and Cremer et al. (2003). The diatom stratigraphy was divided
12 into zones using stratigraphically constrained cluster analysis of the diatom data
13 following squared root transformation (CONISS, Grimm, 1987). The significance of
14 the zones was assessed using the broken stick model (Bennett, 1996) in the Rioja
15 package for R (Juggins, 2009). Changes in the diatom communities were interpreted
16 following previously published ecological preferences of indicator taxa.

17
18 Sediment samples for macrofossil analysis were prepared by washing bulk sediment
19 samples (2 cm³) through a 125 μ m sieve using deionised water to remove fine
20 inorganic particles. The remaining material was placed in a perspex counting chamber
21 and macrofossils were systematically enumerated using a low-powered dissection
22 microscope. Macrofossils included Anostracan eggs (Fairy Shrimp, *Branchinecta*
23 *gaini*) and moss fragments (*Warnstofia foutinaliopsis* sp.).

24 25 3.4 Geochemical analyses

26 Geochemical analyses included measurements of carbon (TC) and nitrogen (TN)
27 concentrations (%) from which C/N is derived, and bulk organic carbon isotopic
28 ratios ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$) by combustion on a Carlo Erba 1500 on-line to a VG Triple Trap and
29 Optima dual-inlet mass spectrometer. $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ values were calculated to the VPDB
30 scale using a within-run laboratory standard calibrated against NBS-19 and NBS-22.
31 Total organic carbon (TOC) and total organic nitrogen (TON) values were determined
32 simultaneously when measuring the isotope ratio. Replicate analyses of sample
33 material gave a precision of $\pm 0.1\%$ (1 sigma).

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3.5 Raised beach surveys

Raised beaches at Pourquoi-Pas Island, Horseshoe Island and at Calmette Bay (Figs. 2d, 2e, 2f, respectively) were surveyed up to their marine limits. Surveys were carried out using a Leica NA720 autotest level. Periods of changing coastal conditions were determined from changes in clast size and roundness (which provides an indication of past wave energy and/or sea ice cover) of raised beach material, the latter using the standard ordered scale of Powers (1953). Measurements of the a-axis (the longest axis of the rock) and b-axis (the intermediate axis, perpendicular to the a-axis) were also undertaken where time permitted. The beach survey and age constraint data were compared with previously published data from Ginger Islands, Lagoon Island, Anchorage Island and Rothera Point in the north and west of Marguerite Bay (Bentley et al., 2005a).

4) Results

4.1 Horseshoe Island, Col Lake 1

Being only 3.2 m deep, light penetrates to the bottom of Col Lake 1, resulting in well-developed benthic and epilithic mats of cyanobacteria, and a grazing zooplankton community including *Branchinecta gaini* and *Boeckella poppei*. Patchy moss beds are present, particularly towards the edges of the lake. The water chemistry is typical of a polar freshwater oligotrophic lake (Table 1). Profiles of the water column (measured on 17 Jan 2003) show a marginally warmer surface layer to 1.6 m followed by steady cooling through the lower water column. The water column is otherwise well mixed with little change in conductivity, and no evidence of oxygen depletion with depth (Fig. 3).

The 111 cm sediment core consisted of three lithological units (Fig. 4). The lowest unit (Lithological Unit 1, 111-72 cm) consisted of glaciolacustrine greenish grey silt with clay and sand overlain by a transition zone (Lithology Unit 2, 72-64 cm) and laminated microbial mats (Lithological Unit 3, 64-0 cm). Zone 3 was divided into 3 sub-zones based on changes in the colour and texture of the microbial mats from dark-

1 olive grey (Lithological Unit 3.1, 64-30 cm) to black (Lithological Unit 3.2, 30-2.5
2 cm) to grey-brown mats with small 'flake-mats' (Lithological Unit 3.3, 2.5 – 0 cm).

3

4 Radiocarbon dating of the core shows that, with one exception at 94-95 cm, the ages
5 were in stratigraphic order (Table 2, Fig. 5). The living surface of the benthic

6 microbial mat had a measured radiocarbon age of 693 ± 26 ^{14}C yr BP. This was

7 interpreted as a local carbon reservoir effect and was subtracted (prior to calibration)

8 from the radiocarbon ages obtained from the top 61 cm (Lithological Unit 3) of the

9 core; above the transition from glaciolacustrine sediments to laminated microbial

10 mats to . In preliminary age-depth modelling experiments undertaken in Oxcal and

11 CLAM, retention of the reservoir correction into glaciolacustrine sediments below 61

12 cm resulted in an age reversal. A simple interpolated age-depth model undertaken in

13 CLAM was chosen as best representing the most probable sequence of calibrated

14 ages, with the fewest age-depth reversals, and the lowest log fit values (indicating a

15 better fit to data). More complex models produced similar age-depth profiles.

16

17 Paired dates on microbial mats and the >125 μm microbial mat fraction at 2-3 cm

18 yielded calibrated ages within error (Table 2). Triplicate dates on moss macrofossils,

19 *Branchinecta gaini* and bulk sediments in the 65-66 cm sample also yielded calibrated

20 ages within error. The oldest date from the bulk glaciolacustrine material at 94-95 cm

21 in Lithology Unit 1 was 30964 ± 1115 ^{14}C yr BP; 35780 (38650-33380) cal yr BP. The

22 age range of 34630-31370 cal yr BP at 110-111 cm is overlapping, suggesting an

23 elevated sedimentation rate and/or reworking of sediments near the base on the core

24 (Fig. 5).

25

26 The oldest macrofossil dated was a moss fragment at 73-74 cm deposited at 10610

27 (11000-10300) cal yr BP. The Lithological Unit 1 to 2 transition was complete just

28 after 10490 (10660-10270) cal yr BP, and the Lithological Unit 2 to Unit 3 transition

29 after 9090 (9270-8990) cal yr BP. Sediment accumulation rates were relatively rapid

30 between 111-86 cm (mean 0.06 mm yr^{-1}), low between 86-73 cm (mean 0.013 mm yr^{-1})

31 1) and then increased from 73-46 cm (mean 0.057 mm yr^{-1}) reaching maximum levels

32 between 46-8.5cm (mean 0.186 mm yr^{-1}) then declining between 8.5-2 cm (mean

33 0.063 mm yr^{-1}), with a further decline between 2-1 cm (0.006 mm yr^{-1}) before

34 increasing again in the top 1 cm (0.025 mm yr^{-1}) (Fig. 5).

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In Lithological Unit 1, the sediment dry mass was between 88 and 48 %, and the organic content, measured as TC and LOI₅₅₀, was below 0.4 % and 1.7 % respectively (Fig. 4). At c. 85 cm, 28830 (29370-28320) cal yr BP there is a small increase in carbonate content, and the first appearance of aquatic mosses which peak at 73 cm. At 81 cm, 21110 (21500-20730 interpolated) cal yr BP *Branchinecta* eggs were present for the first time. In Lithological Unit 2 a lithological transition from glaciolacustrine to lacustrine sediments occurred and was marked, in particular, by increased relative abundances of aquatic mosses, and *Branchinecta* eggs, reaching their peak abundances at 73 cm, 10550 (10690-10400) cal yr BP and 65 cm, 9100 (9200-9000 interpolated) cal yr BP respectively. The transition could be seen in most parameters including decreases in dry mass, increases in organic content, and continuing positive shifts in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and C/N. Through Lithological Unit 3.1 there were continued decreases in dry mass, increases in TC, LOI₅₅₀, carbonate, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and C/N. Organic carbon generally exceeded 7.5% between 45-30 cm (5700-4970 interpolated best fit ages), 19-18 cm (4310, 4400-4220 interpolated) and 14-2 cm (4070-2030 interpolated best fit ages). Most of these proxies were relatively stable in Lithological Unit 3.2 although there were 2 samples at 7 and 11 cm which had lower $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and higher C/N. The uppermost samples (Zone 3.3) showed a decline in organic content.

Through the core the trajectory of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and C/N (Fig. 6) shows a shift from values of around -20 to -25 ‰; associated elsewhere on the Antarctic Peninsula with glaciolacustrine material including gravels and fine grained sediments (Hodgson et al., 2009b, Fig. 6) to values more typical of a cyanobacteria-dominated environment (-10 to -17 ‰ $\delta^{13}\text{C}$; 7-12 C/N) (e.g. Smith et al., 2006).

4.2 Pourquoi-Pas Island, Narrows Lake

The Narrows Lake occupies a classic isolation basin setting below the Holocene marine limit at 40.79 m above the present high water mark in The Narrows. The altitude of the sill is 19.41 m above the present high water mark (BAS survey point 31, Hodgson et al., 2003)). The lake is seasonally ice free, 125 m long, and 6.2 m deep with benthic and epilithic mats of cyanobacteria and zooplankton including *Branchinecta gainii* and *Daphniopsis* sp. Small moss beds are present in the littoral zone. The water chemistry is typical of a polar freshwater oligotrophic lake

1 with little chemical influence from the nearby marine water (Table 1). Profiles of the
2 water column (measured on 21 Jan 2003) showed near stable temperature and
3 conductivity profiles, and increasing oxygen saturation with depth (Fig. 3). At the
4 time of sampling inflow streams were supplying the lake with fresh snow-melt and
5 the lake was discharging over the sill into The Narrows.

6
7 The 1.3 m sediment core from the Narrows Lake was divided into five lithological
8 units (Fig. 7), and four significant diatom zones based on a stratigraphically
9 constrained clustering and broken stick analysis (Fig. 8). Lithological Unit 1 (130-98
10 cm) consisted of dark olive grey fine marine mud coarse sands and fine gravel
11 phasing upwards into black sediments with a coarse sands-silt-clay matrix and
12 sporadic clasts in Lithological Unit 2, (98-91 cm) and olive grey fine marine muds
13 and coarse sand in Zone 3 (91-81 cm). This was overlain by a marked transition to
14 olive grey mud, fine sands and the decayed remains of microbial mats (Lithological
15 Unit 4, 81-61 cm). Above the transition the core consisted of partially layered
16 microbial mats (Lithological Unit 5, 61-0 cm) with a number of sub-zones based on
17 minor changes in lithology.

18
19 Radiocarbon dates were in stratigraphic order with the exception of minor reversals at
20 20-21 cm and 102-103 cm, the latter of which is within calibrated error (Fig. 9, Table
21 3). As with Coll Lake, due to a general lack of age-reversals, a simple interpolated
22 age-depth model was chosen as best representing the most probable sequence of
23 calibrated ages.

24
25 The living surface of the benthic microbial mat had a radiocarbon age of 270 ± 40 ^{14}C
26 yr BP. This was interpreted as a small local carbon reservoir effect and was
27 subtracted, prior to calibration, from the radiocarbon ages in the top 65 cm of the core
28 which consisted of similarly laminated freshwater sediments. Paired moss
29 macrofossils and *Branchinecta gaini* eggs at 56-57 cm yielded calibrated ages within
30 error. Paired microbial mat and *Branchinecta gaini* eggs at 64-65 cm also yielded
31 calibrated ages within error. The oldest dated material in Lithological Unit 1 was
32 8489 ± 51 ^{14}C yr BP or 8850 (9260-8480) cal yr BP. The transition to microbial mats
33 (Lithology Units 4-5) was complete by 64 cm or 7165 (7280-7030) cal yr BP.

34

1 Sediment accumulation rates in the Narrows Lake record were relatively high for
2 most of Lithological Units 1-4, with a stepped decreases from a mean of 0.67 mm yr⁻¹
3 in Units 1 and 2 (130-91 cm), to 0.37 mm yr⁻¹ in Unit 3 (91-81 cm), to 0.12 mm yr⁻¹ in
4 the top half (70-65 cm) of Unit 4. Values decline slightly further in between 65-38 cm
5 (mean 0.07 mm yr⁻¹), before increasing between 38-21 cm (mean 0.16 mm yr⁻¹),
6 decreasing between 20-10 cm (0.08 mm yr⁻¹) then increasing again in the top 10 cm
7 (0.17 mm yr⁻¹) (Fig. 9).

8
9 In Lithological Units 1-3 (130-81 cm) the mean dry mass was 41 %, organic content,
10 measured as TC and LOI₅₅₀ remained below 3% and 5% respectively and carbonate
11 (LOI₉₅₀) was relatively stable around 2.5% (Fig. 7). $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values were generally below
12 -18 ‰ and C/N ratios remained between 6-10 (Fig. 6). In the early phases of the
13 transition to microbial mats in Lithological Unit 4 (81-61 cm) most parameters
14 showed marked shifts including peaks in organic carbon (17 %), carbonate content (4
15 %), positive shifts in C/N, and the first appearance of aquatic mosses and
16 *Branchinecta* eggs. During the transition there was a brief decline in organic carbon,
17 carbonate and nitrogen. Above the transition, in Lithological Unit 5.1 (60-57 cm;
18 6450-6100 cal yr BP interpolated best fit age), organic content again increased to
19 above 10 %. In Lithological Units 5.2-5.3, and part of Lithological Unit 5.4 (57-27
20 cm; 6200-2630 interpolated best-fit age) organic content continued to exceed 5%.
21 Lithological Unit 5.2 also had a number of thick moss layers, and related high C/N
22 ratios, a peak in the concentration of *Branchinecta gaini* eggs, and a positive shift in
23 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. Through Lithological Units 5.4-5.5 (33-0 cm; 3010-14 cal yr BP interpolated
24 best fit age) TOC values declined to a mean of 3.5%, there was a steady decrease in
25 the concentration of *Branchinecta* eggs, a near absence of mosses above 20 cm (2100,
26 2250-2000 cal yr BP interpolated) and a slight negative shift in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. The trajectory of
27 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and C/N (Fig. 6) showed a separation of the carbon sources in Lithology Units 1-
28 3 from those in Lithological Unit 4 and in Lithological Unit 5.

29
30 Diatoms recorded a transition from marine to brackish, then lacustrine taxa (Fig. 8).
31 Diatom Zone 1 (127-68 cm) was dominated by *Chaetoceros* resting spores,
32 *Nanofrustulum shiloi*, and a *Pseudostaurosira* species. Within Diatom Zone 2 (68-54
33 cm) the transition from marine sea ice sub-surface communities to freshwater taxa
34 was complete by 65-64 cm, 7165 (7280-7030) cal yr BP. *Navicula phyllepta* was

1 relatively abundant in this transition zone and has been recorded in similar isolation
2 basin transitions in east Antarctica (Verleyen et al., 2004; Verleyen et al., 2005). The
3 freshwater diatom community was highly variable between 65 and 54 cm with a
4 succession from communities dominated by *Pinnularia microstauron*, to assemblages
5 dominated by *Navicula veneta* and *Planothidium quadripunctatum*, culminating in a
6 flora in which *Gomphonema* cf. *Parvulum* and *P. microstauron* are abundant. Diatom
7 Zone 3 (54-22 cm) was dominated by an unknown Naviculoid species, as yet not
8 reported from other Antarctic lakes (Van de Vijver et al., 2002; Verleyen et al., 2003;
9 Sterken et al., subm). From 42 cm upwards (3890, 4000-3790 interpolated) the
10 relative abundance of *Psammothidium subatomoides* gradually increased.
11 *Gomphonema* spp. decreased in Diatom Zone 4 (22-0 cm). Somatocysts reached a
12 maximum relative abundance at 18 cm and *Naviculadicta elorantana* appeared for the
13 first time in the core. *Diademesmis langebertalotii*, which was also present in the
14 transition zone, became subdominant in the most recent sediments. *Gomphonema* spp.
15 increased in the top 1 cm of the core.

16

17 4.3 Raised beaches

18 Raised beach surveys at Horseshoe Island, Pourquoi-Pas Island and Calmette Bay
19 (Fig. 10) showed remarkably similar profiles (Fig. 10), but with an offset at Pourquoi-
20 Pas Island where the survey incorporated the Narrows Lake isolation basin. The
21 surveys identified the highest marine limits at Pourquoi-Pas Island (40.79 m above the
22 present high water mark) and Calmette Bay (40.55 m). The beach surveyed at Gaul
23 Cove on Horseshoe Island was present up to a height of 22.11 m, above which there
24 was an indistinct rock shoreline which was not surveyed.

25

26 At Pourquoi-Pas Island, the raised shoreline included a number of steps or terraces,
27 presumably built up by wave action, and outcrops of local bedrock which have
28 undergone significant coastal erosion. The first prominent step occurs between 32.68
29 m and 39.28 m, and is present in some areas as a smoothed rock platform at 32.68 m
30 and in others as the vertical limit of large (c. 150 mm) rounded boulders. The second
31 is a platform at 21.49 m which extends around the immediate lake catchment, at ca.
32 2.69 m above the maximum lake water level. Both can be traced as continuous
33 features around the immediate coastline. In contrast, the raised beaches at Calmette
34 Bay consisted of a vertical sequence of beaches with much larger (45-65 cm diameter)

1 and more rounded large beach clasts. Although survey time was limited, the largest
2 clasts were observed between 30.6 and 32.6 m above the high water mark. At
3 Horseshoe Island beach clast composition and roundness were measured up to 22.11
4 m above the high water mark. Both clast size and roundness were at maxima between
5 c.4-10 m above the present high water mark (Fig. 11).

6 7 8 **5) Discussion**

9
10 The data presented provide a number of new constraints on the glacial and
11 environmental history of the Marguerite Bay region.

12
13 First, the radiocarbon dates suggest that glacial sediments in the Col Lake1 sediment
14 core from Horseshoe Island were mostly deposited in stratigraphic order through the
15 Last Glacial Maximum (with one exception). If no natural ‘contamination’ by an old
16 carbon reservoir, such as glacial melt water or geological sources (e.g., Roberts et al.,
17 2008), was present at this site when the glacial sediments were deposited, this would
18 suggest that the Col area was subject to a non-erosive glacial regime from 35780
19 (38650-33380) or 32910 (34630-31370) cal yr BP onwards. Analysis of aerial
20 photographs shows that in its current configuration local glaciers are diverted away
21 from the Col 1 site via the deep glacial trough occupied by the Shoemith Glacier
22 (Fig. 1d; 2a), and the archipelago is positioned between major ice stream outlets in
23 northern Marguerite Bay (Fig. 1c); so this conclusion is not unreasonable from a
24 glaciological perspective.

25
26 Second, the earliest onset of deglaciation, or a deglaciation event, on the raised central
27 area on Horseshoe Island is suggested by the presence of moss fragments embedded
28 within the sediment matrix at 28830 (29370-28320) cal yr BP. These radiocarbon
29 dates are amongst the earliest reported for the region; hence, we cannot completely
30 rule out that the bulk sediment dates in this zone are influenced by a carbon reservoir
31 from glacial melt water or geological sources (e.g., Roberts et al., 2008). However,
32 the consistent stratigraphic order of the ages, at least after 28830 (29370-28320) cal yr
33 BP (Table 2) and the lack of old carbon in the predominately volcanic bedrock
34 possibly argues against this. The dates are also of terrestrial origin and therefore

1 presumably not influenced by marine radiocarbon reservoir effects. Because a cluster
2 of similar bulk glacial sediment radiocarbon ages have been reported elsewhere in the
3 region the spatial and temporal pattern of their occurrence requires further
4 examination. For example, in the Bellingshausen Sea (Fig.1) there are a series of
5 radiocarbon dates that suggest that initial ice retreat from the shelf edge may have
6 started as early as c. 30000 cal yr BP, (Hillenbrand et al., 2010), which is in broad
7 agreement with cosmogenic isotope evidence from Moutonnée Valley (340 km to the
8 south) which suggests ice thinning commenced there after c. 30000 years BP (Bentley
9 et al., 2006). These events immediately post-date Antarctic Isotopic Maximum 4 seen
10 in the EPICA Dronning Maud Land and EPICA Dome C and other Antarctic ice cores
11 at c. 35000-30000 yr BP (EPICA, 2006).

12

13 The next potential evidence of onset of deglaciation, or a deglaciation event is the
14 colonisation of the Col 1 site by *Branchinecta gaini* which is present (as eggs) in the
15 sediment matrix from 81 cm, 21110 (21510-20730 interpolated) cal yr BP. The latter
16 indicate the existence of a perennial water body. If correct, this would require at least
17 one part of the ice sheet in inner Marguerite Bay to be less than 140 m thick (relative
18 to present sea level) at this time. This event coincides with continued ice thinning at
19 Moutonnée Valley (Bentley et al., 2006), and occurs shortly after the retreat of ice in
20 the Bellingshausen Sea which reached the mid shelf by 23600 cal yr BP (Hillenbrand
21 et al., 2010). On land, cosmogenic isotope exposure ages from NW Alexander Island
22 and Rothschild Island shows progressive ice thinning since at least 22000 yr BP,
23 reaching an elevation of c. 440 m by 10200-11700 yr BP (Johnson et al., in press).

24

25 Further evidence of warming and deglaciation at this time comes from further north in
26 the Scotia Sea (Collins et al., 2012) which shows that both the winter sea ice and
27 summer sea ice edges experienced a rapid melt back event between 23500 and 22900
28 cal yr BP. South, in the western Amundsen Sea Embayment deglaciation was
29 probably underway as early as 22351 cal yr BP (Smith et al., 2011). These events
30 coincide with, or immediately postdate Antarctic Isotopic Maximum 2 (~23500 cal yr
31 BP) seen in Antarctic ice cores (EPICA, 2006) and Southern Ocean SST records
32 (Kaiser et al., 2005). A radiocarbon age of 24943 ± 180 recalibrated here as 25260
33 (24960-25560) cal yr BP has been reported from marine sediment core GC514
34 (SUERC-31778) in outer Marguerite Bay, but despite being in stratigraphic order, is

1 currently discounted from the regional deglacial chronology (Graham and Smith,
2 2012) because it was considered to be contaminated with an old carbon reservoir.
3
4 All of these radiocarbon dates pre-date ice core evidence which show the onset of post
5 Last Glacial Maximum deglaciation from c. 18000 yr BP (Masson-Delmotte et al.,
6 2011) and marine geological evidence which show the onset of ice retreat in the
7 northern Antarctic Peninsula ~18000 cal yr BP (e.g. 17340 cal yr BP in Bransfield
8 Basin (Heroy and Anderson, 2005)). Further south in outer Marguerite Bay the
9 earliest deglaciation of Rothschild Trough (site GC514) was at 14430 cal yr BP
10 (16537 ¹⁴C yr BP) and Charcot Trough (site GC471) occurred at 13490 cal yr BP
11 (15564 ¹⁴C yr BP) (Graham and Smith, 2012). In the Bellingshausen Sea, the ice had
12 reached the inner shelf by 14300 cal yr BP (Hillenbrand et al., 2010). Studies of
13 marine sediment cores within Marguerite Trough document a two-stage retreat of the
14 Last Glacial Maximum Ice Stream across the continental shelf (Ó Cofaigh et al.,
15 2005; Kilfeather et al., 2011). The first stage of retreat began shortly before 14210 cal
16 yr BP and 13090 cal yr BP (Heroy and Anderson, 2007; Bentley et al., 2011) at the
17 outer shelf with the ice retreating approximately 200 km before stabilising. This
18 retreat event has been linked to the rapidly rising sea levels of Meltwater Pulse 1A
19 destabilising the grounding line.
20
21 Unequivocal evidence of the onset of Holocene deglaciation on land is provided by
22 the presence of an aquatic moss fragment with sufficient carbon for AMS radiocarbon
23 dating at 73-74 cm which grew in the Col Lake 1 at 10610 (11000-10300) cal yr BP.
24 The establishment of moss is followed by a peak abundance of *Branchinecta* eggs
25 from 69 cm, 9830 (9940-9720 cal yr BP interpolated). This is accompanied by an
26 increase in sediment water content (i.e. decrease in dry mass) and positive shift in
27 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ suggesting a freshwater biota was well established at this time. These latter
28 deglaciation ages are reasonably consistent with the Narrows Lake core, situated at a
29 lower altitude and closer to the Antarctic Peninsula Ice Sheet, where the onset of
30 marine sedimentation was at or before 8850 (9260-8480) cal yr BP (Table 2).
31
32 The onset of marine sedimentation at the Narrows Lake site date provides a lower ice
33 thickness constraint at 19.41 m a.s.l. for the rapid deglaciation of the nearby ridge at
34 Parvenu Point which, based on cosmogenic isotope dating (Bentley et al., 2011) had

1 been exposed down to 75 m above present sea level at 9600 yr BP. Collectively, these
2 data support the inference of a rapid thinning of the Marguerite Trough Ice Stream
3 within the Marguerite Bay archipelago (Bentley et al., 2011) at this time.
4 Furthermore, the transition from glaciolacustrine to full lacustrine conditions at Col
5 Lake 1 on Horseshoe Island between 10490 (10660-10270) to 9090 (9270-8990) cal
6 yr BP provides further evidence that the same rapid ice thinning and deglaciation
7 occurred throughout the northern Marguerite Bay archipelago supporting the
8 interpretation that this ice thinning at the margins of Marguerite Bay records the
9 regional thinning and retreat of the Marguerite Trough Ice Stream (Bentley et al.,
10 2011). This interpretation is also consistent with marine geological evidence for the
11 deglaciation of Neny Fjord in inner Marguerite Bay at, or prior to, 9040 cal yr BP
12 (Allen et al., 2010). These events have been collectively linked to the influx of warm
13 circumpolar deep water onto the continental shelf (Allen et al., 2010; Kilfeather et al.,
14 2011) and possibly the end of the early Holocene temperature maximum in ice cores
15 triggering the second stage of deglaciation (Bentley et al., 2011) and the early
16 Holocene retreat of the George VI Ice Shelf southwards past Ablation Point after c.
17 9600 cal yr BP (Bentley et al., 2005b; Smith et al., 2007b; Roberts et al., 2008).
18
19 Third, because deglaciation was accompanied by relative sea level change we can
20 indirectly infer the relative thickness of the Antarctic Peninsula Ice Sheet from the
21 altitude of the early Holocene relative sea level maximum. In the northern Antarctic
22 Peninsula at Beak Island the relative sea level maximum was 14.91 m above present
23 at c. 8000 cal yr BP (Roberts et al., 2011), in the South Shetland Islands (adjacent to
24 the Antarctic Peninsula Ice Sheet) the relative sea level was c. 20 m above present at
25 7360-7000 cal yr BP (Fretwell et al., 2010; Watcham et al., 2011), whilst in
26 Marguerite Bay it was between 40.79 m (Pourquoi-Pas Island) and 40.55m (Calmette
27 Bay) sometime after 9000 cal yr BP. This is significant for two reasons: first, it
28 implies that the late glacial ice mass was thicker along the margins of Marguerite Bay
29 compared with the more northerly sites (above); second, that the rapid thinning of this
30 ice mass resulted in a relatively fast isostatic recovery, outpacing eustatic sea level
31 rise sometime after 9000 cal yr BP. Recent optically simulated luminescence data on
32 beach cobbles in Calmette Bay (Simkins pers. comm.) suggest that the upper terraces
33 may pre-date the Last Glacial Maximum which would be consistent with the pre- Last

1 Glacial Maximum thinning events that our data suggest during Antarctic Isotopic
2 Maxima 1 and 2.

3
4 The transition from marine sediments to freshwater lake sediments, identified by
5 diatom analysis was complete by 65-64 cm, in the Narrows Lake provides a relative
6 sea level constraint of 19.41 m at 7270 (7385-7155) cal yr BP (based on 6705 ± 42 ^{14}C
7 yr BP with Local Reservoir Correction (LRC) of 270 ± 40 ^{14}C yr BP included, Table
8 3). This is a minor revision to the provisional radiocarbon age (Beta-180801; Table 3)
9 of the most prominent moss layer at a stratigraphic depth of 59-60 cm in the
10 Livingston core, first published in Bentley et al. (2005a), which produced minimum
11 isolation age of 7000 (7150-6840) cal yr BP (6420 ± 50 ^{14}C yr BP calibrated using
12 calibration model 'D', Table 3, with a LRC of 270 ± 40 ^{14}C yr BP included). We have
13 subsequently revised the stratigraphic depth of this sample to 62-63 cm based on more
14 precise alignment of proxy data, rather than preliminary field depths and
15 identification of the transition, which was based on changes in sediment lithology
16 alone (Bentley et al., 2005a). The revised age results in a slightly faster mean early
17 Holocene/pre-isolation uplift rate of 12.5 mm yr^{-1} (assuming the 9000 cal yr BP
18 extrapolated age of the 41 m relative sea level maximum on Pourquoi-Pas Island in
19 Bentley et al (2005a) is correct), and a mean post isolation rate of 2.7 mm yr^{-1} . A
20 nearby relative sea level constraint showing an uplift rate of 3.1 mm yr^{-1} (14.4 m fall
21 in RSL in the last c. 4.6 ± 0.4 ka) on Alexander Island (Roberts et al., 2009) is also
22 broadly consistent with these data, as are some glacial isostatic adjustment models
23 (e.g. Peltier, 2004; Bassett et al., 2007; Whitehouse et al., 2012).

24
25 Fourth, collectively the raised beach data and the lake sediment core data give
26 information on Holocene climate change. Observations of increased clast sizes and
27 clast roundness on the surveyed beaches provide evidence of periods of increased
28 wave energy, likely related to reductions in summer sea-ice extent (e.g. Bentley et al.,
29 2005a). At Calmette Bay the marked occurrence of the largest (c. <130 cm, long axis)
30 and most rounded clasts between 30.6 and 32.6 m above the high water mark can be
31 dated (via cross reference to the regional relative sea level curve (Bentley et al.,
32 2005a) to approximately 8000 corrected ^{14}C yr BP (c. 8250 – 8742 cal yr BP). This
33 coincides with early Holocene evidence from Neny Fjord (c. 45 km distant from Col

1 Lake 1) which shows a maximum in the abundance of warm open-ocean and
2 meltwater-related diatoms between c. 9000 to 7000 cal yr BP (Allen et al., 2010).
3
4 Because of the widespread ecological changes in the Narrows Lake sediment core
5 following isolation from the sea (Lithological Zones 4-5.1), and the likely utilisation
6 of the marine nutrient pool by the newly established freshwater flora following
7 isolation (Tavernier et al., 0000), its sensitivity to Holocene temperature-related
8 changes is only considered in Lithological Zones 5.2-5.5 and Diatom Zones 3-4. It is
9 likely that the increase in organic carbon, which exceeds 5% between 6200-2630 cal
10 yr BP is a response to climate warming. This encompasses three periods in the Col
11 Lake1 sediment core where organic carbon is generally > 7.5% (5700-4970, 4370-
12 4310 and 4070-2030 interpolated best fit ages). These are likely related to periods of
13 reduced summer lake ice cover stimulating production in the lake, and collectively
14 suggest regional warming occurred sometime between 6200-2030 cal yr BP (Narrows
15 Lake and Col Lake 1 age constraints respectively). The onset of this warming predates
16 the onset of mid-Holocene warming in some other terrestrial records in the northern
17 Antarctic Peninsula (Hodgson et al., 2004; Bentley et al., 2009; Sterken et al., 2012),
18 but ends at a similar time. In the marine geological record from nearby Neny Fjord
19 less pervasive sea-ice cover and long diatom growing seasons are inferred from c.
20 7000-4000 cal yr BP and increased meltwater discharge from c. 4000-2800 cal yr BP;
21 both consistent with climate warming at this time. However, there is a mismatch in
22 Col Lake1 between the *Branchinecta* concentrations (which elsewhere in the region
23 have matched other production indicators (Jones et al., 2000)) and the TOC content.
24 Instead, in these lakes the presence of *Branchinecta* seems to have been most closely
25 associated with the presence of mosses during the transition from glaciolacustrine to
26 lacustrine conditions.
27
28 Further evidence of mid- to late-Holocene warming is provided by a period of
29 increased clast sizes (2.5 – 8.5 cm) and roundness at Horseshoe Island between c.4-10
30 m asl which can be approximately dated via cross reference to the regional relative
31 sea level curve (see Bentley et al., 2005a) to a period between 5500-2500 ¹⁴C yr BP
32 (c. 6010-5720 to 2300-2010 cal yr BP). This is likely the same event that is recorded
33 in beaches on Rothera Point and Anchorage Island which show more rounded beach
34 material between c. 4.5–8 m asl (Bentley et al., 2005a), estimated from the RSL curve

1 as between c. 3500 and c. 2400 ¹⁴C yr BP (c. 3530-3250 to 2190-1870 cal yr BP),
2 suggesting that there was a period of greater wave activity in the mid Holocene during
3 the formation of these intermediate beaches. The increased wave activity is likely
4 related to reduced summer sea-ice cover. Evidence from Neny Fjord suggests that
5 between c. 4000–2800 cal yr BP there was a period of more intense or more proximal
6 glacier discharge events (Allen et al., 2010). Both events are broadly synchronous
7 with the warm, humid mid to late Holocene conditions inferred from records
8 elsewhere in the Antarctic Peninsula region (Ingólfsson and Hjort, 2002; Hodgson et
9 al., 2004; Bentley et al., 2009), for example at Beak Island between c. 3169-2120 cal
10 yr BP (Sterken et al., 2012) and in the maritime Antarctic at Signy Island between c.
11 3800–1400 cal yr BP (Hodgson and Convey, 2005).

12

13 The decline in organic carbon from 2630 and 2030 cal yr BP (Narrows Lake and Col
14 Lake 1 age constraints respectively) is interpreted as evidence of the onset of
15 Neoglacial conditions. This corresponds to a return to smaller sub-angular clasts on
16 the Horseshoe Island raised beach after c. 2190-1870 cal yr BP (2400 ¹⁴C yr BP;
17 estimated from the RSL curve (see above)), and is consistent with cooler conditions
18 reported in Neny Fjord after c. 2800 cal yr BP (Allen et al., 2010), based on a shorter
19 growing season indicated by diatoms and reduction in the overall biogenic content of
20 the sediment. In the Col Lake 1 record from Horseshoe Island, there is a marked
21 decline in organic carbon and in sediment accumulation rates, or absence of
22 sedimentation, sometime after 2030 (2110-1970) cal yr BP. This may be a result of
23 the nearby snow bank expanding across the lake during the Neoglacial.

24

25 The diatoms in the Narrows Lake core provide further information on
26 palaeoenvironmental conditions, in addition to identifying the marine to freshwater
27 transition. The dominance of *Chaetoceros* resting spores, which are amongst the most
28 abundant siliceous microfossils in coastal Antarctica (Armand et al., 2005), in Diatom
29 Zone 1 is considered an indicator of high productivity and stratified surface waters
30 resulting from sea ice melt (Leventer et al., 1996). The other dominant species in this
31 zone are *Nanofrustulum shiloi*, a cosmopolitan euryhaline taxon and found in coastal
32 and littoral environments (Round et al., 1999), including saline and brackish lakes in
33 the Prydz Bay region of east Antarctica (Sabbe et al., 2003) and a *Pseudostaurosira*
34 species for which there is little autoecological information in Antarctica. Following

1 isolation in Diatom Zone 2, freshwater taxa dominate. However, *Diadesmis*
2 *langebertalotii*, which was also present in Diatom Zone 2, as well as *Naviculadicta*
3 *elorantana*, increase from 12 cm, 1150 (1230-1080) interpolated cal yr BP, and
4 become subdominant in the most recent sediments from c. 460 (540-380) interpolated
5 cal yr BP. *D. langebertalotii* is currently found in slightly acidic soils which are often
6 influenced by marine animal input (Van de Vijver et al., 2002), which leads to higher
7 nutrient concentrations. *N. elorantana* appears slightly earlier in the core (from 20 cm
8 onwards, after 2100, 2250-2000 interpolated cal yr BP) and is a dominant diatom in
9 seal wallows in the Prince Edward Islands (Van de Vijver et al., 2008). This might
10 suggest an increase in the number of birds and seals visiting the catchment, which is
11 consistent with a marked deviation back towards marine sediment values in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
12 C/N biplot (Fig 6).

13

14 This evidence is consistent with the occurrence of a radiocarbon dated seal hair
15 embedded in the beach at the Narrows Lake which has a conventional radiocarbon
16 age of 2970 ± 40 ^{14}C yrs BP (Beta-178164, Bentley et al., 2005a) (calibrated median
17 age 1640 cal yr BP, 95.4% range 1890-1380 cal yr BP using Oxcal v. 4.1,
18 MARINE09 (100% marine) and a ΔR value of 900 ± 100 , which is equivalent to the
19 1300 ± 100 yr correction applied in Bentley et al., 2005a), a radiocarbon dated penguin
20 feather embedded in the raised beach at Horseshoe Island with a conventional
21 radiocarbon age of 2310 ± 40 ^{14}C yrs BP (Beta-178162, Bentley et al., 2005a)
22 (calibrated median age 1130 cal yr BP, 95.4% range 1400-830 cal yr BP using Oxcal
23 v. 4.1, MARINE09 (100% marine) and a ΔR value of 730 ± 130 , equivalent to the
24 1130 ± 134 yr correction applied in Bentley et al., 2005a; note: calibrating these two
25 ages using the ΔR smaller value of 664 ± 10 used in this paper produces a maximum
26 likely calibrated median age and 95.4% age range for the seal hair (Beta-178164) of
27 1920 and 2040-1810 cal yrs BP, and, for the penguin feather (Beta-178164), 1205 and
28 1290-1100 cal yr BP), and microfossil evidence that nearby Ginger Island (60 km
29 distant) and Rothera Point (40 km distant) were colonised by Adélie penguins from
30 2430 and 3170 cal yr BP respectively; although the earliest colonies had been
31 established in Marguerite Bay (Lagoon Island, 42 km distant) from 5380 cal yr BP
32 (Emslie, 2001).

33

1 Another finding of note is that a *Gomphonema* species complex becomes abundant in
2 the top centimetre of the Narrows Lake sediment core, sometime after 410 (490-320)
3 interpolated cal yr BP. This may be, together with the increase in LOI and TOC,
4 related to a response to the earliest onset of late Holocene warming of the Antarctic
5 Peninsula, documented as starting at c. 500-600 cal yr BP by Sterken et al., (2012)
6 and later confirmed by Mulvaney et al., (2012); superimposed on this is the recent
7 rapid instrumental warming. This is consistent with the renewed onset of
8 sedimentation in the Col Lake1 sediment core at or after c. 400 (490-310) interpolated
9 cal yr BP, and evidence of an increase in sea-ice, open ocean and autumn bloom
10 diatom species (similar to that experienced during the early-Holocene climate
11 optimum) in the Neny Fjord marine sediment record sometime after 200 cal yr BP
12 (Allen et al., 2010).

13

14

15 **6) Conclusions**

16

17 This paper provides a new terrestrial perspective on the glacial, sea level, climate and
18 environmental history of Marguerite Bay. The key findings are:

19

20 1. The occurrence of a non-erosive glacial regime on Horseshoe Island from 35780
21 (38650-33380) or 32910 (34630-31370) cal yr BP onwards.

22

23 2. The presence of moss fragments embedded within the sediment matrix at 28830
24 (29370-28320) cal yr BP suggests the earliest onset of deglaciation, or a deglaciation
25 event, on the raised central area on Horseshoe Island immediately post-dating
26 Antarctic Isotopic Maximum 4.

27

28 3. The colonisation of the Col 1 site by the fairy shrimp *Branchinecta gaini* from
29 21110 (21510-20730) interpolated cal yr BP. This required the existence of a
30 perennial water body and implies that at least one part of the ice sheet in inner
31 Marguerite Bay was less than 140 m thick (relative to present sea level) at this time.
32 This coincides with, or immediately postdates Antarctic Isotopic Maximum 2.

33

1 4. Robust radiocarbon dated moss macrofossil evidence of Holocene deglaciation at
2 Horseshoe Island from 10610 (11000-10300) cal yr BP during the early Holocene
3 temperature maximum seen in Antarctic ice cores. This was followed by the onset of
4 marine sedimentation in The Narrows, Pourquoi-Pas Island, before 8850 (9260-8480)
5 cal yr BP.
6
7 5. A detailed survey of marine relative sea level high stands at 40.79m (Pourquoi-Pas
8 Island) and 40.55m (Calmette Bay) sometime after 9000 cal yr BP, suggesting a
9 thicker ice sheet in this region of the Antarctic Peninsula than that recorded
10 elsewhere.
11
12 6. The transition from marine sediments to freshwater lake sediments in the Narrows
13 Lake provides a relative sea level constraint of 19.41 m at 7270 (7385-7155) cal yr
14 BP, a mean early Holocene/ pre-isolation uplift rate of 12.5 mm yr⁻¹, and a mean post
15 isolation rate of 2.7 mm yr⁻¹.
16
17 7. Beach clast survey evidence of a period of increased wave energy, likely related to
18 reductions in summer sea-ice extent at Calmette Bay from approximately 8000 yr BP
19 and a dominance of *Chaetoceros* resting spores in The Narrows after 8850 (9260-
20 8480) cal yr BP. This indicates high productivity and stratified surface waters
21 resulting from sea ice melt and coincides with marine geological evidence of a
22 maximum in warm open-ocean and meltwater-related diatoms between c. 9000 to
23 7000 cal yr BP.
24
25 8. Lake sediment evidence of regional warming sometime between 6200-2030 cal yr
26 BP which predates the onset of mid- to late-Holocene warming in terrestrial records in
27 the northern Antarctic Peninsula but ends at a similar time. This is supported by raised
28 beach evidence of open water and increased wave energy in the marine environment
29 c. 6010-5720 to 2300-2010 cal yr BP (Horseshoe Island), and local marine geological
30 evidence (Neny Fjord) of reduced sea ice and productive ocean conditions from c.
31 7000-4000 cal yr BP and increased meltwater discharge from c. 4000-2800 cal yr BP.
32
33 9. A decline in organic carbon from 2630 and 2030 (Narrows Lake and Col Lake 1
34 respectively) is interpreted as evidence of the onset of Neoglacial conditions. This

1 corresponds to a return to smaller sub-angular clasts on the Horseshoe Island raised
2 beach after c. 2190-1870 cal yr BP, and is broadly consistent with cooler conditions
3 reported in Neny Fjord from c. 2800 cal yr BP.

4
5 10. Diatom and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ vs C/N evidence of a possible increase in the number of birds
6 and seals visiting the catchment of the Narrows Lake after 2100 (2250-2000) cal yr
7 BP, with enhanced nutrient enrichment evident after 1150 (1230-1080) cal yr BP, and
8 particularly from c. 460 (540-380) cal yr BP, the timing of which postdates the known
9 occupation of the region by penguins, and is broadly consistent with macrofossil
10 evidence of seals (hairs) and penguins (feathers) embedded in local raised beaches.

11
12 11. A very recent increase in a diatom from the *Gomphonema* species complex and
13 organic carbon in the top centimetre of the Narrows Lake sediment core after 410
14 (490-320) cal yr BP, and the renewed onset of sedimentation in the Col Lake 1
15 sediment core, after c. 400 (490-310) cal yr BP interpreted as a response to the
16 regional late Holocene warming of the Antarctic Peninsula. This is perhaps
17 marginally later than, but still consistent with, the initial onset of late Holocene
18 warming recorded in lake and ice core records from other areas of the Peninsula c.
19 600-500 years ago, as well as a renewed phase of warming in the local marine
20 geological record sometime after 200 cal yr BP.

21

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14
15

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1 **Tables**

2

3 Table 1. Water chemistry of the study lakes, Col Lake 1 on Horseshoe Island and the
4 Narrows Lake on Pourquoi-Pas Island. Additional data from nearby lakes (Col Lake 2
5 and a pond at Parvenu Point), and a marine sample from The Narrows are provided
6 for comparison. Analyses followed the protocols described in Hodgson et al (2009b).

7

8 Table 2. Radiocarbon dates for the Col Lake 1 sediment core from Horseshoe Island,
9 including conventional ^{14}C ages, local reservoir corrected ages, and 2-sigma
10 calibrated age data. L-Unit is lithological unit. Calibration of ^{14}C ages was carried out
11 in OXCAL v. 4.1 (Bronk Ramsey, 2009) using the SHCal04. ^{14}C atmosphere dataset
12 (McCormac et al., 2004; Reimer et al., 2004). A Local Reservoir Correction (LRC) of
13 693 ± 26 ^{14}C years was applied before calibration to sediments in Unit 3 (Model A).
14 This LRC is based on the youngest age obtained from active microbial mats that
15 constitute the surface sediment in this core and which should return a zero age if no
16 in-lake reservoir effect existed. No LRC and SHCal04. ^{14}C was applied before
17 calibration for Model B. Radiocarbon ages that extended beyond the SHCal04. ^{14}C
18 dataset were calibrated using INTCAL09 (Model C). Absolute percentage of modern
19 carbon (pMC) data were corrected according to $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ isotopic ratios; * indicates an
20 estimated isotopic values where samples were too small to be measured directly;
21 samples marked with an 'x' were considered to be reworked or outliers and not
22 included in the age-depth modelling runs. pMC = percentage modern carbon.

23

24

25 Table 3. Radiocarbon dates for the Narrows Lake sediment core from Pourquoi-Pas
26 Island, including conventional ^{14}C ages, marine reservoir corrected ages and 2-sigma
27 calibrated age data. All symbols/abbreviations are as described in Table 2.

28 Additionally, D-Zone is diatom zone (see Fig. 8); L or M indicates Lake (L) or
29 Marine (M) sediment. Calibration Model D is as described in Table 2, but with a
30 Local Reservoir Correction (LRC) of 270 ± 40 ^{14}C yrs applied prior to calibration. In
31 the marine-influenced sections of this core, a mixed MARINE09-SHCal04. ^{14}C (50%
32 marine) (Reimer et al., 2009) calibration curve was used, with a ΔR value of 664 ± 10
33 years (1064 ± 10 years minus the global marine reservoir of 400 years) (Model E) (see
34 text for further explanation).

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Figures

Figure 1. Location maps of the Antarctic (a) Antarctic Peninsula; (b) Marguerite Bay; (c) Location of Pourquoi-Pas Island in Marguerite Bay (red boxes) and SO GLOBEC bathymetry of Marguerite Bay (from The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Antarctic Multibeam Bathymetric Synthesis Database (<http://data.ldeo.columbia.edu/antarctic/>); (Bolmer, 2008); arrowed white lines are approximate positions of flow lines of major palaeo-ice streams which grounded on the shelf at the LGM (after, Bentley et al., 2011; Kilfeather et al., 2011; Graham and Smith, 2012; Livingstone et al., 2012); land profile is from the LIMA dataset (Bindschadler et al., 2008); (d) Horseshoe Island showing the position of Col Lake 1 (e) and Pourquoi-Pas Island showing the position of the Narrows Lake, and the transect of cosmogenic samples taken from Parvenu Point (Bentley et al., 2011).

Figure 2. (a) Oblique aerial view of the northern part of Horseshoe Island looking approx. east towards Mount Searle and the raised ice free central area; (b) Aerial view of the ice free central area of Horseshoe Island and Col Lake 1 looking east; (c) Aerial view of Pourquoi-Pas Island looking approx. south east along The Narrows; (d) Aerial view of the Narrows Lake showing the raised beach platform and the marine limit; (e) Raised beaches in Gaul Cove Horseshoe Island; (f) Raised beaches in Calmette Bay.

Figure 3. Water column profiles of temperature, oxygen saturation and conductivity in the study lakes. Measurements collected with a SOLOMAT water quality meter using the methods described in Smith et al. (2006). The oxygen measurements should be interpreted with caution due to freezing of the probe membrane during the field campaign.

Figure 4. Stratigraphic analyses of the 1.11 m lake sediment core from Col Lake 1, Horseshoe Island including sedimentary logs, physical properties and the presence of moss macrofossils and eggs of the fairy shrimp *Branchinecta gaini*.

Figure 5. Radiocarbon age depth models and sediment accumulation rates for the Col Lake 1 sediment core from Horseshoe Island. One outlier is excluded from age depth

1 Model 1. The radiocarbon dates at 94-95 cm and 110-111 cm are both in a poorly
2 defined area of the radiocarbon calibration curve and their two age ranges overlap -
3 this means that although their mean ages create an age reversal, they could still be in
4 sequence. Model 2 shows this alternative scenario.

5

6 Figure 6. $\delta^{13}C$, C/N biplot, Col Lake 1, Horseshoe Island and the Narrows Lake,
7 Pourquoi-Pas Island (reference data fields from Hodgson et al., 2009a, and references
8 therein).

9

10 Figure 7. Stratigraphic analyses of the 1.3 m lake sediment core from the Narrows
11 Lake, Pourquoi-Pas Island including sedimentary logs, physical properties and the
12 presence of moss macrofossils and eggs of the fairy shrimp *Branchinecta gaini*.

13

14 Figure 8. Diatom stratigraphy of the Narrows Lake sediment core including
15 statistically significant diatom zones. Marine diatom taxa are grouped to the right of
16 the diagram, and freshwater to the left. Only species with a relative abundance
17 exceeding 2% are shown.

18

19 Figure 9. Radiocarbon age depth model for the Narrows Lake sediment core from
20 Pourquoi-Pas Island, with sediment accumulation rates for Narrows Lake and Coll
21 Lake.

22

23 Figure 10. Raised beach profiles from (a) Horseshoe Island, showing raised beaches
24 in Gaul Cove which were surveyed from $67^{\circ} 49.563' S$, $67^{\circ} 12.869' W$ to $67^{\circ} 49.613' S$,
25 $67^{\circ} 13.166' W$ (b) Pourquoi-Pas Island, where raised beaches and terraces were
26 surveyed from c. $67^{\circ} 35.52' S$ to $67^{\circ} 11.51' W$ to c. $67^{\circ} 36.02' S$ to $67^{\circ} 12.36' W$ at a
27 bearing of 194° , from the coast to the Holocene marine limit across the long axis of
28 the Narrows Lake and (c) Calmette Bay, which was surveyed from $68^{\circ} 03.848' S$,
29 $67^{\circ} 10.419' W$ to $68^{\circ} 04.040' S$, $67^{\circ} 10.532' W$.

30

31 Figure 11. (a) Clast size and (b) clast roundness data from the surveyed raised beaches
32 in Gaul Cove, Horseshoe Island.

33

Table 1

		Horseshoe Island		Pourquoi Pas Island		Marine
				Parvenu		
				Narrows	Point	
		Col Lake 1	Col Lake 2	Lake	Pond	The Narrows
Temperature	°C	3.7	5.6	6.4		4.8
Oxygen sat.	%	96.2	122	69		157.8
Conductivity	µS cm ⁻¹	131.2	166.8	113.2		40872
Anions						
Cl	mg/l	28	41.4	34	29.7	14700
SO ₄ -S	mg/l	13.1	20.1	11.8	1.3	664
Cations inc. Si						
Al	mg/l	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	0.021	0.309
Fe	mg/l	0.016	0.003	<0.001	0.002	0.143
Mg	mg/l	2	3.03	2.26	2.08	1050
Ca	mg/l	1.43	2.08	1.63	2.07	240
K	mg/l	0.72	0.894	0.758	0.768	330
Na	mg/l	14.6	21.8	17.2	16.9	8760
Si	mg/l	0.054	0.054	0.136	0.246	1.22
Nutrients						
NO ₃ -N	mg/l	<0.100	<0.100	<0.100	<0.100	<0.100
NH ₄ -N	mg/l	0.036	0.015	0.018	0.023	1.05
PO ₄ -P	mg/l	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	0.008
Total N, TOC & DOC						
DOC	mg/l	1.06	0.91	0.58	0.96	1.51
TN	mg/l	0.14	0.07	0.04	0.14	0.14
TOC	mg/l	1.1	0.78	0.43	0.8	0.95

Table 2

Lab ID -Publication code	Core ID ^a	Strat Depth (cm)	L-Unit Material dated & C source	Carbon		Measured pMC (%±1σ)	Absolute pMC (%±1σ)	Conventional ¹⁴ C age (CRA) (yr BP ± 1σ)	OXCAL 95.4% calibration data Curve A: LRC=693±26 ¹⁴ C yrs; (cal yr BP)					
				content (wt %)	δ ¹³ C _{VPDB} (‰)				Max-Min	Mean±1σ	Median	Curve		
Coll Lake, Horeshoe Island														
SUERC-6259	COL1-0/1U-B	0-1	3.3 Microbial mat (TOC)	18.2	-15.1	91.73 ± 0.29	91.14 ± 0.29	693 ± 26	55 - modern	15 ± 20	10	A		
BETA-297498	COL1: 0-1	0-1	3.3 >125 μm microbial mat	-	-14.2	87.50 ± 0.50	86.89 ± 0.89	1070 ± 40	405 - 225	310 ± 45	310	A		
SUERC-5041	COL1-2U-B	2-3	3.3 Microbial mat (TOC)	5.9	-12.4	62.90 ± 0.19	62.49 ± 0.19	3724 ± 25	3430 - 3220	3325 ± 50	3325	A-x		
BETA-297499	COL1: 2-3	2-3	3.3 >125 μm microbial mat	-	-12.6	64.70 ± 0.30	64.21 ± 0.24	3500 ± 30	3165 - 2930	3050 ± 60	3050	A		
SUERC-5042	COL1-8.5U-B	8.5-9	3.2 Microbial mat (TOC)	6.2	-12.5	59.10 ± 0.20	58.71 ± 0.20	4225 ± 27	4100 - 3860	3985 ± 60	3985	A		
BETA-297500	COL1: 8.5-9	8.5-9	3.2 >125 μm microbial mat	-	-11.0	59.10 ± 0.30	58.63 ± 0.29	4230 ± 40	4130 - 3845	3990 ± 70	3990	A		
SUERC-5043	COL1-24U-B	24-25	3.2 Microbial mat (TOC)	7.2	-11.1	54.19 ± 0.20	53.83 ± 0.20	4922 ± 30	4995 - 4765	4875 ± 55	4875	A		
SUERC-5044	COL1-1L-B	46-47	3.1 Microbial mat (TOC)	4.7	-13.7	48.74 ± 0.21	48.43 ± 0.21	5772 ± 35	5945 - 5715	5830 ± 55	5830	A		
SUERC-5047	COL1-20L-B	65-66	2 Moss (single sp.)	1.0	-15.7	36.04 ± 0.22	35.80 ± 0.22	8199 ± 50	9270 - 8990	9110 ± 80	9090	B		
SUERC-5587	COL1-20L-E	65-66	2 <i>Branchinecta</i> sp. eggs	12.0	-15.3	35.30 ± 0.23	35.07 ± 0.23	8364 ± 51	9460 - 9130	9310 ± 90	9320	B		
SUERC-5585	COL1-20L-M	65-66	2 Bulk sediment - sandy silt (TOC)	18.8	-15.3 *	35.85 ± 0.23	35.61 ± 0.23	8242 ± 51	9310 - 9000	9150 ± 90	9140	B		
SUERC-6257	COL1-27L-B	72-73	1 Bulk sediment - silty clay (TOC)	0.3	-18.0 *	31.22 ± 0.23	31.01 ± 0.23	9352 ± 59	10660 - 10270	10480 ± 100	10490	B		
SUERC-5588	COL1-28L-M	73-74	1 <i>Warnstoftia foutinaliopsis</i> sp. moss	24.3	-17.0 *	30.88 ± 0.26	30.67 ± 0.26	9441 ± 66	11000 - 10300	10610 ± 100	10610	B		
SUERC-20899	COL1-30L-B	75-76	1 Bulk sediment - silty clay (TOC)	0.2	-22.3	20.44 ± 0.13	20.29 ± 0.13	12756 ± 53	15600 - 14760	15170 ± 200	15140	C		
SUERC-20900	COL1-32L-B	77-78	1 Bulk sediment - silty clay (TOC)	0.2	-22.5	20.36 ± 0.13	20.22 ± 0.13	12786 ± 53	15660 - 14880	15230 ± 210	15190	C		
SUERC-20901	COL1-34L-B	79-80	1 Bulk sediment - silty clay (TOC)	0.1	-21.9	12.79 ± 0.12	12.71 ± 0.12	16518 ± 77	20010 - 19420	19670 ± 150	19690	C		
SUERC-5048	COL1-37L-B	82-83	1 Bulk sediment - silty clay (TOC)	0.1	-20.7	9.59 ± 0.28	9.53 ± 0.28	18833 ± 231	23330 - 21850	22540 ± 370	22490	C		
SUERC-20902	COL1-40L-B	85-86	1 Bulk sediment - silty clay (TOC)	0.2	-24.9 *	5.06 ± 0.12	5.02 ± 0.12	23970 ± 193	29370 - 28320	28830 ± 280	28830	C		
-	COL1-40L-F	85-86	1 Organic-residue	Insufficient for ¹⁴ C measurement										
SUERC-5049	COL1-49L-B	94-95	1 Bulk sediment - silty clay (TOC)	0.1	-21.2	2.12 ± 0.29	2.10 ± 0.29	30964 ± 1115	38650 - 33380	35890 ± 1300	35780	C-x		
SUERC-5050	COL1-65L-B	110-111	1 Bulk sediment - silty clay (TOC)	0.1	-21.5 *	2.91 ± 0.29	2.89 ± 0.29	28422 ± 807	34630 - 31370	32970 ± 930	32910	C		

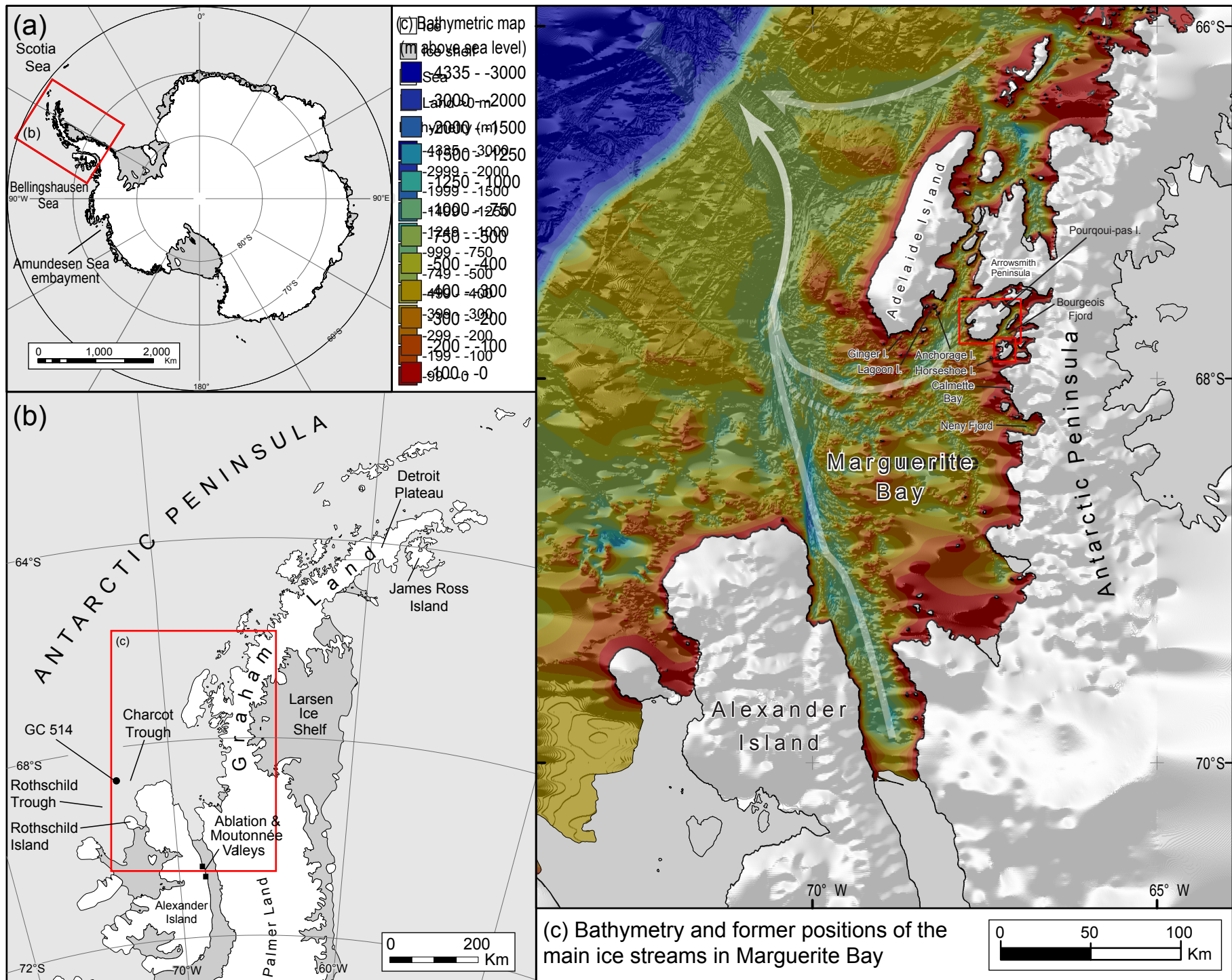
Table 2

Table 3

Lab ID -Publication code	Core ID ^a	Strat Depth (cm)	L-Unit	D-Zone	Material dated & C source	Carbon content (wt %)	$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{VPDB}}$ (‰)	Measured modern carbon (% $\pm 1\sigma$)	Absolute modern carbon (% $\pm 1\sigma$)	Conventional ¹⁴ C age (yr BP $\pm 1\sigma$)	OXCAL 95.4% calibration data			
											Max. - Min.	Mean $\pm 1\sigma$	Median	Model
Narrows Lake, Pourquoi-pas Island														
BETA-297501	PQP-0-1	0-1	5.5	4	L >125 μm microbial mat	-	-15.7	96.70 \pm 0.50	95.98 \pm 0.48	270 \pm 40	120 - modern	40 \pm 40	35	D
SUERC-5052	PQP-0/1U-B	0-2	5.5	4	L Microbial mat (TOC)	1.0	-18.3	92.07 \pm 0.28	91.47 \pm 0.28	663 \pm 25	440 - 265	350 \pm 45	355	D
SUERC-5053	PQP-9U-B	9-10	5.5	4	L Microbial mat (TOC)	1.2	-18.5	85.38 \pm 0.24	84.83 \pm 0.24	1270 \pm 22	955 - 765	865 \pm 50	865	D
SUERC-5720	PQP-20U-M*	20-21	5.4	4	L <i>Warnstofia foutinaliopsis</i> sp. moss	9.0	-17.5 *	68.79 \pm 0.33	68.35 \pm 0.18	3005 \pm 38	2980 - 2710	2840 \pm 70	2840	D-x
SUERC-5054	PQP-21U-B	21-22	5.4	4	L Microbial mat (TOC)	2.2	-14.7	72.15 \pm 0.21	71.68 \pm 0.21	2622 \pm 24	2525 - 2270	2390 \pm 65	2385	D
SUERC-5589	PQP-38U-M	38-39	5.3	3	L <i>Warnstofia foutinaliopsis</i> sp. moss	30.0	-19.9	64.95 \pm 0.22	64.53 \pm 0.22	3467 \pm 27	3530 - 3295	3410 \pm 60	3405	D
SUERC-8331	PQP-39U-B	39-40	5.3	3	L Microbial mat (TOC)	6.9*	-14.1	64.02 \pm 0.26	63.60 \pm 0.26	3583 \pm 32	3680 - 3420	3550 \pm 65	3550	D
SUERC-5590	PQP-56U-M	56-57	5.2	2	L <i>Warnstofia foutinaliopsis</i> sp. moss	37.7	-20.3	48.79 \pm 0.22	48.47 \pm 0.22	5765 \pm 37	6375 - 6130	6250 \pm 60	6250	D
SUERC-5593	PQP-56U-E	56-57	5.2	2	L <i>Branchinecta</i> sp. eggs	20.0	-12.4	49.24 \pm 0.22	48.92 \pm 0.22	5690 \pm 37	6290 - 6045	6170 \pm 60	6175	D
SUERC-8332	PQP-57U-B	57-58	5.2	2	L Microbial mat (TOC)	5.5*	-14.1	48.79 \pm 0.23	48.47 \pm 0.23	5765 \pm 37	6375 - 6130	6250 \pm 60	6250	D
BETA-180801	PQP-11L-B	62-63	5.1	2	L <i>Warnstofia foutinaliopsis</i> sp. moss	-	-17.4	44.95 \pm 0.30	44.68 \pm 0.28	6420 \pm 50	7150 - 6840	7000 \pm 80	7000	D
SUERC-5059	PQP-64U-B	64-65	5.1	2	L Microbial mat (TOC)	6.4	-13.8	44.07 \pm 0.21	43.78 \pm 0.21	6582 \pm 39	7280 - 7030	7160 \pm 60	7165	D
SUERC-5594	PQP-64U-E	64-65	5.1	2	L <i>Branchinecta</i> sp. eggs	25.2	-13.8	43.40 \pm 0.23	43.12 \pm 0.23	6705 \pm 42	7385 - 7155	7270 \pm 60	7270	D
SUERC-5060	PQP-70U-B	70-71	4	1	M Olive/black organic mud (TOC)	7.0	-20.7	39.74 \pm 0.22	39.48 \pm 0.22	7413 \pm 44	7970 - 7495	7740 \pm 120	7730	E
SUERC-5061	PQP-30L-B	81-82	3	1	M Olive grey fine silty mud (TOC)	0.8	-19.7	38.30 \pm 0.22	38.05 \pm 0.22	7709 \pm 46	8310 - 7740	8020 \pm 140	8010	E
SUERC-5063	PQP-41L-B	92-93	2	1	M Olive/black organic mud (TOC)	0.9	-19.6	36.31 \pm 0.25	36.07 \pm 0.25	8138 \pm 56	8890 - 8070	8450 \pm 180	8440	E
SUERC-5064	PQP-51L-B	102-103	1	1	M Olive grey fine silty mud (TOC)	1.3	-20.7	36.50 \pm 0.22	36.26 \pm 0.22	8097 \pm 48	8700 - 8050	8390 \pm 160	8390	E
SUERC-5067	PQP-78L-B	129-130	1	1	M Olive grey fine silty mud (TOC)	1.4	-19.7	34.76 \pm 0.22	34.53 \pm 0.22	8489 \pm 51	9260 - 8480	8860 \pm 190	8850	E

Table 3

*Figure 1a-c



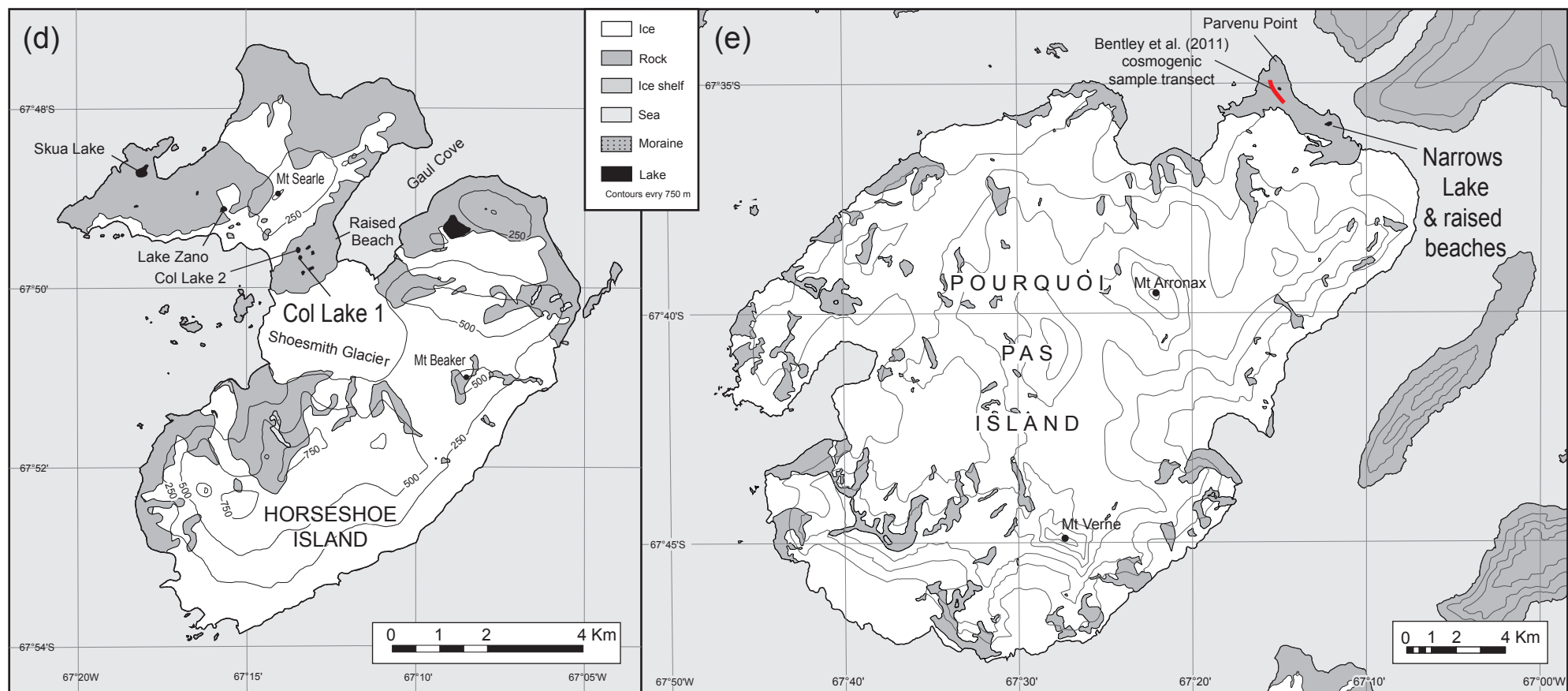
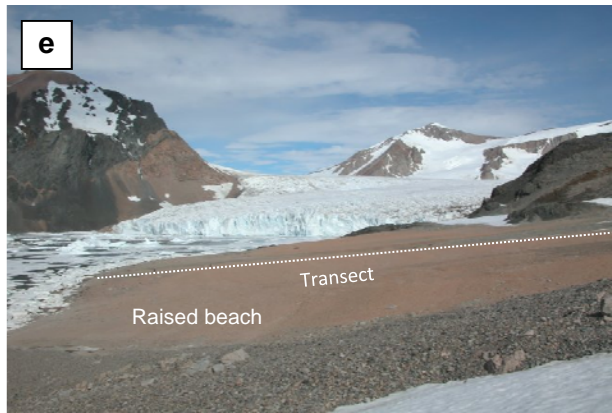
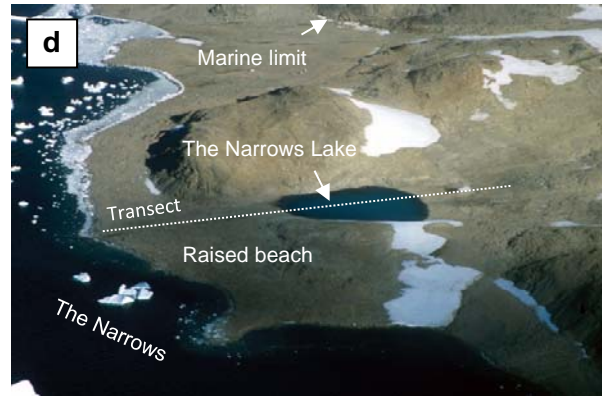
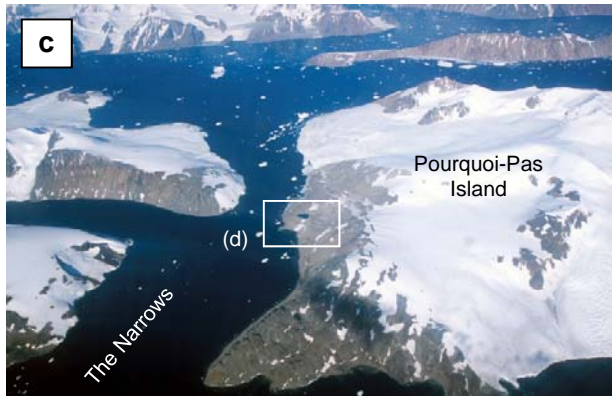
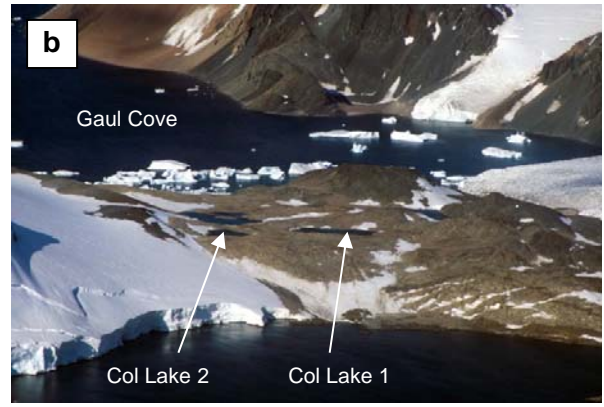
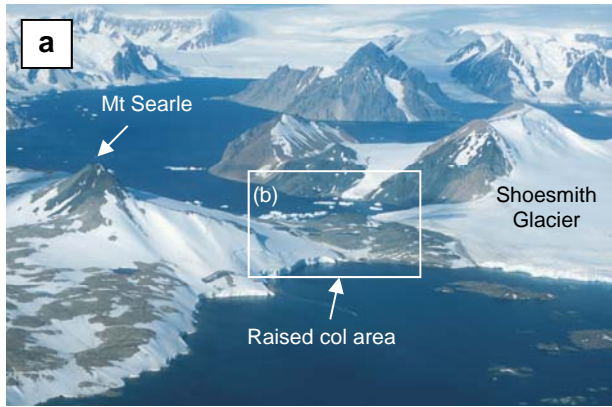


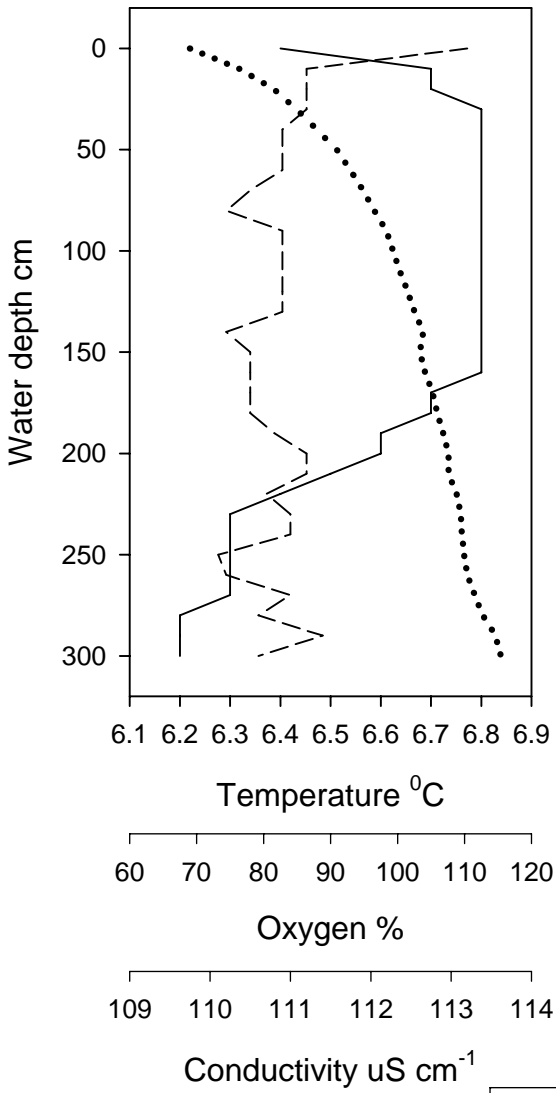
Fig 1 d-e

*Figure 2

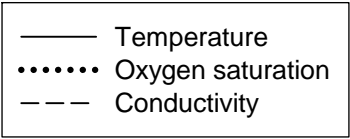
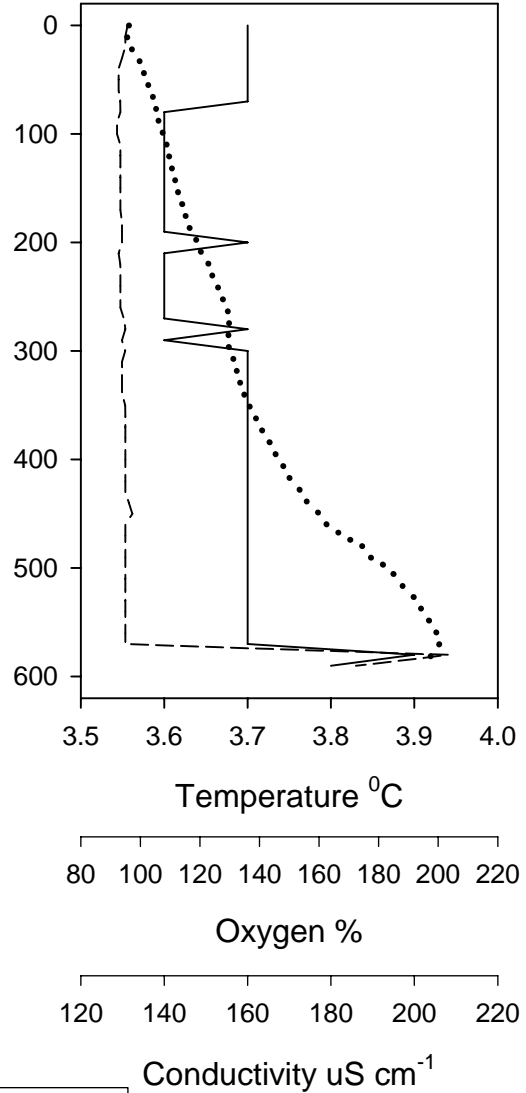


*Figure 3

Horseshoe Island
Col Lake 1



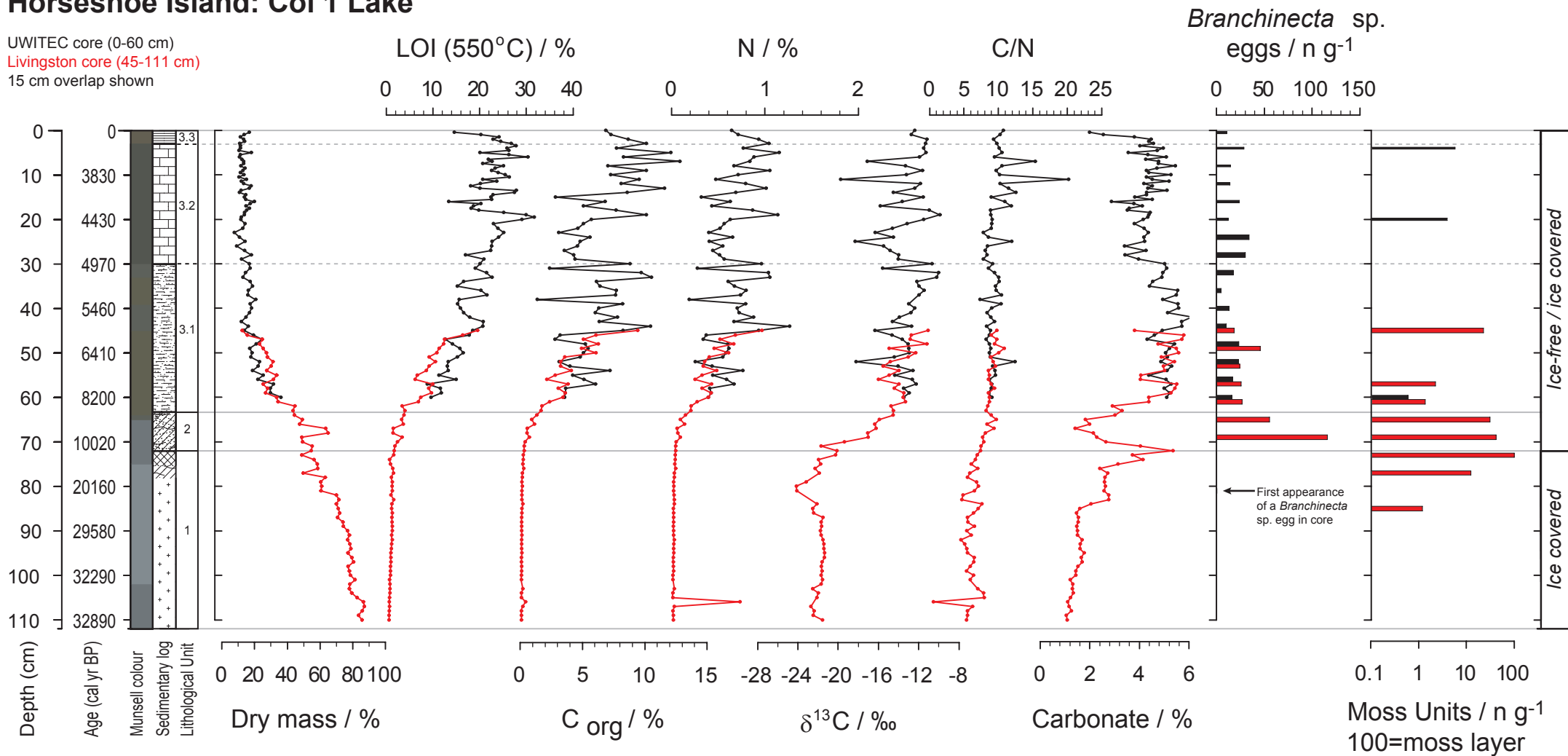
Pourquoi Pas Island
Narrows Lake



*Figure 4

Horseshoe Island: Col 1 Lake

UWITEC core (0-60 cm)
 Livingston core (45-111 cm)
 15 cm overlap shown



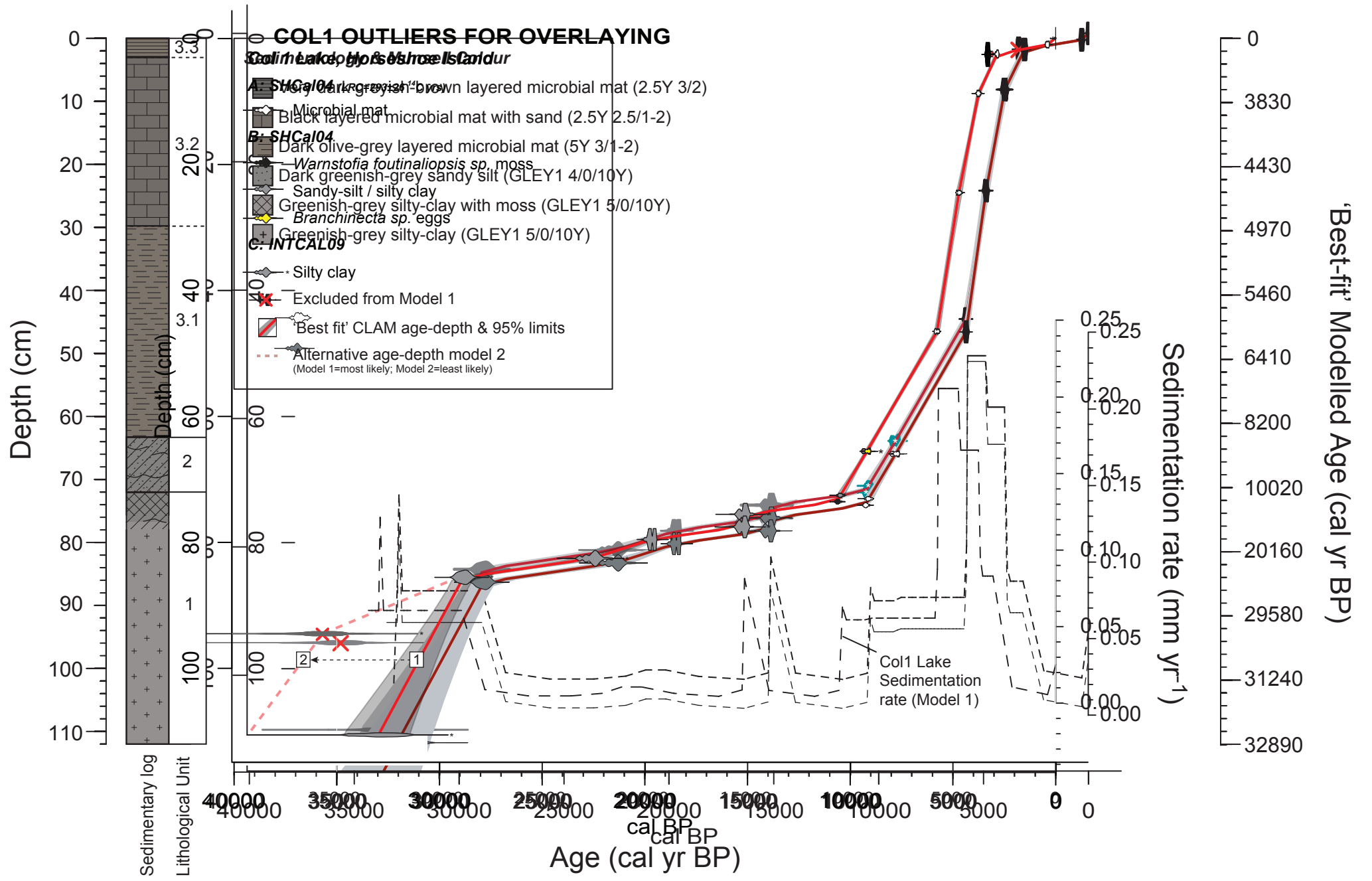
Sedimentology

- Layered microbial mat
- Layered microbial mat with silt-sand
- Partially layered microbial mat
- Partially layered microbial mat with silt-sand
- Clay
- Silt
- Sand
- Silty-clay / clayey-silt
- Fine sand
- Coarse sand
- Fine gravel
- Sporadic clasts in sand-silt-clay matrix
- Dense moss layer (=100 moss units)
- Plant fragments/filaments/fibres

Munsell Colour

- 10Y 5/0 Greenish-grey
- 10Y 4/0 Dark greenish-grey
- 5Y 4/1 Dark grey
- 5Y 3/2 Dark olive-grey
- 5Y 3/1 Dark olive-grey
- 5Y 3/2 Very dark greyish-brown
- 2.5Y 3/1 Very dark grey
- 2.5Y 2.5/1 Black

*Figure 5



*Figure 6

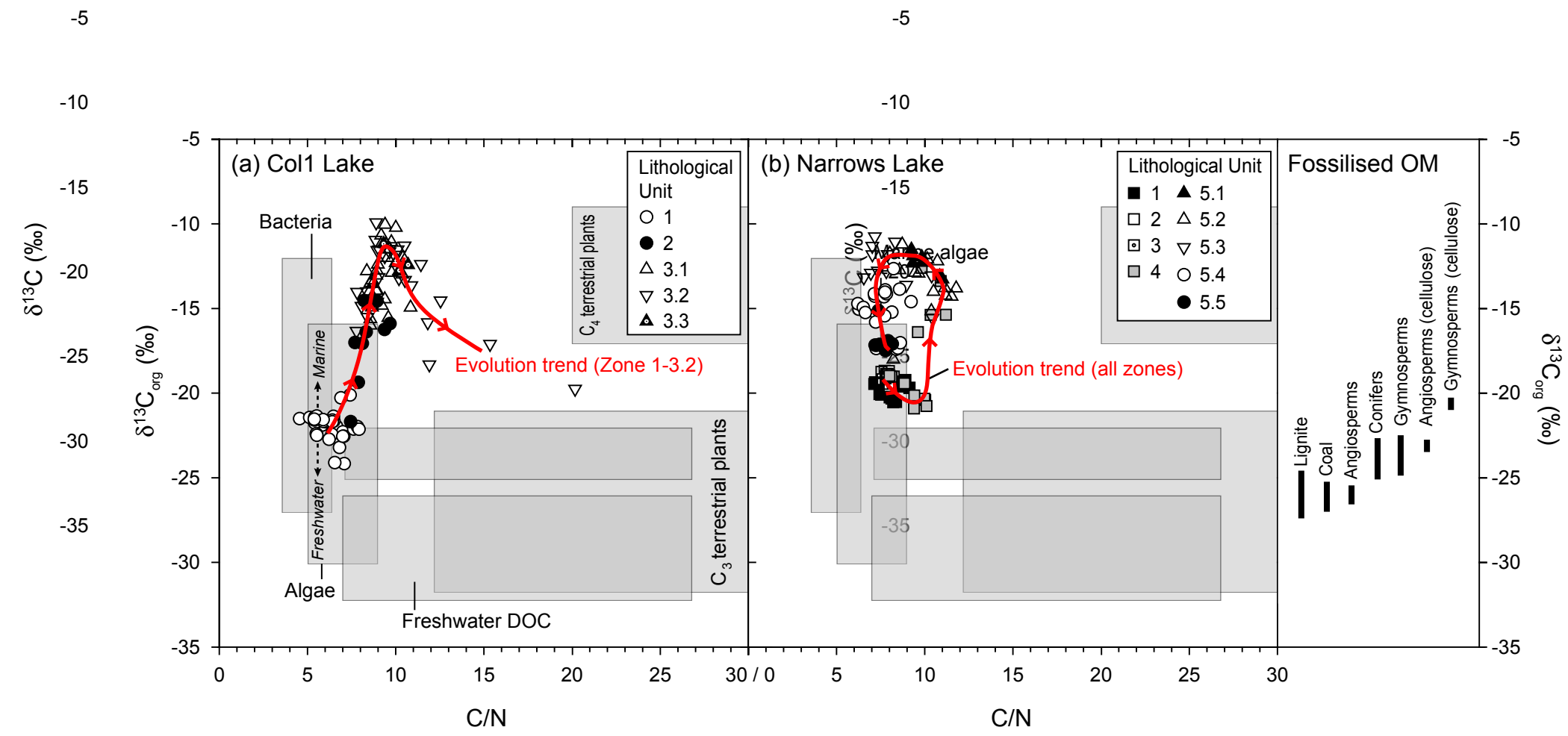


Fig. 6

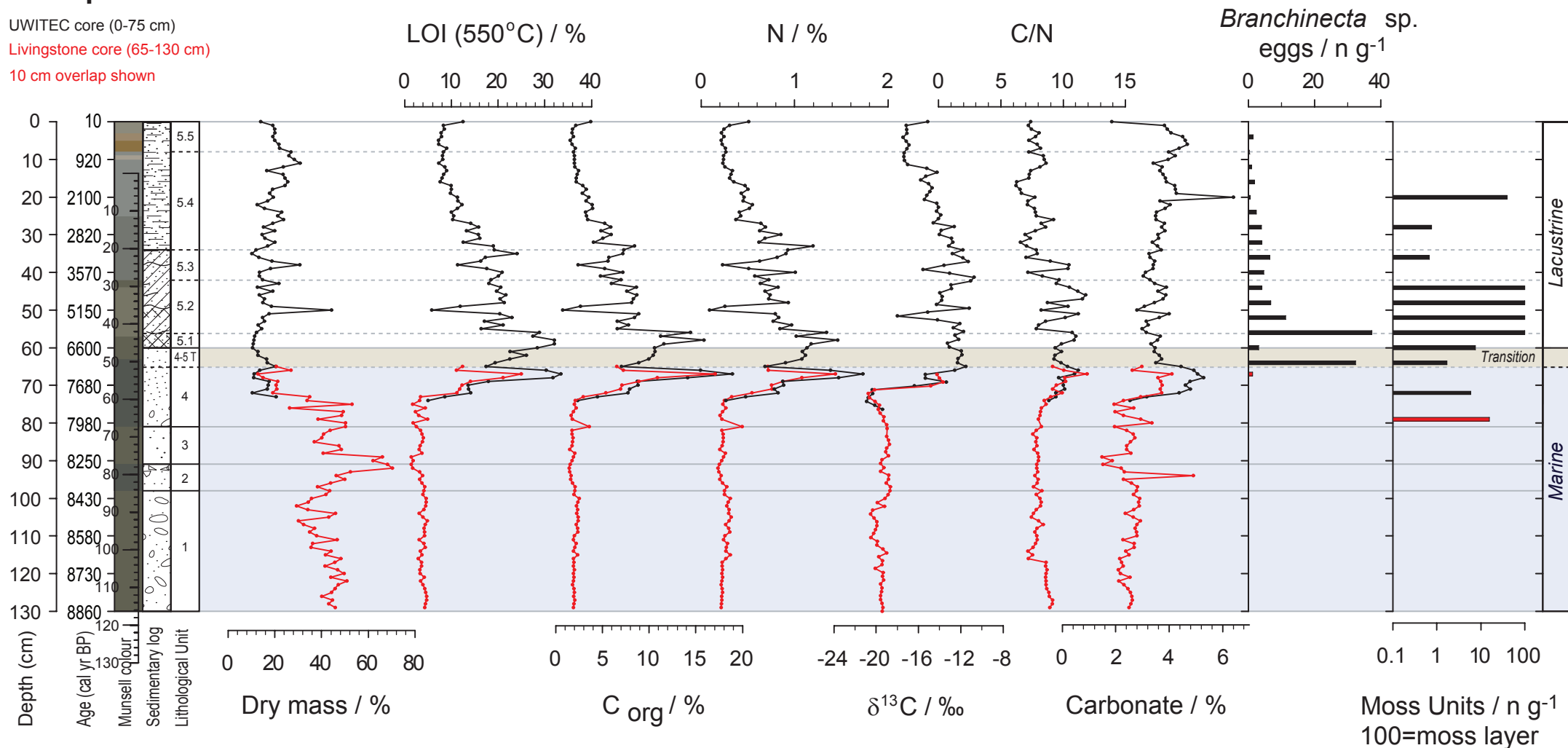
*Figure 7

Pourquoi-Pas Island: Narrows Lake

UWITEC core (0-75 cm)

Livingstone core (65-130 cm)

10 cm overlap shown



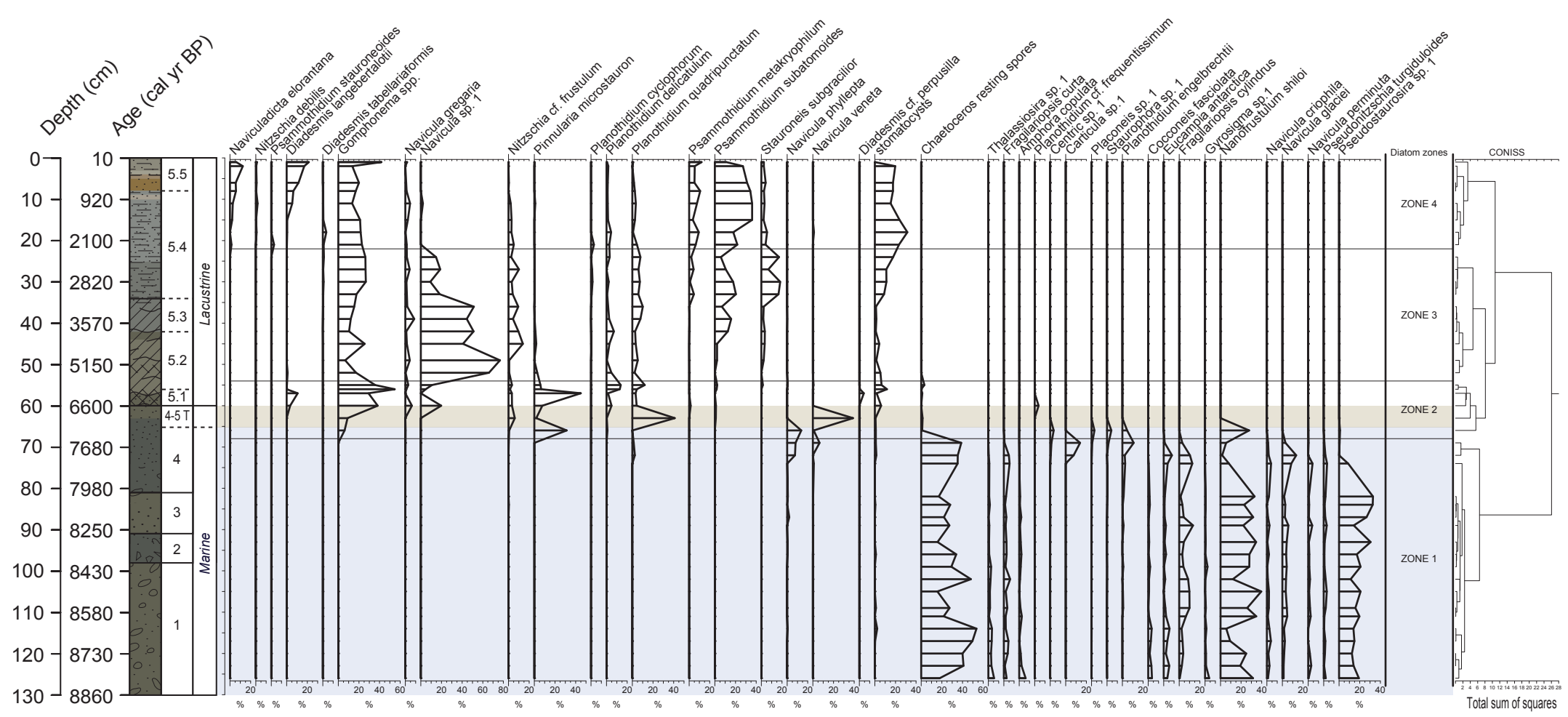
Sedimentology

- Layered microbial mat
- Layered microbial mat with silt-sand
- Partially layered microbial mat
- Partially layered microbial mat with silt-sand
- Clay Silt Sand
- Silty-clay / clayey-silt
- Fine sand
- Coarse sand
- Fine gravel
- Sporadic clasts in sand-silt-clay matrix
- Dense moss layer (=100 moss units)
- Plant fragments/filaments/fibres

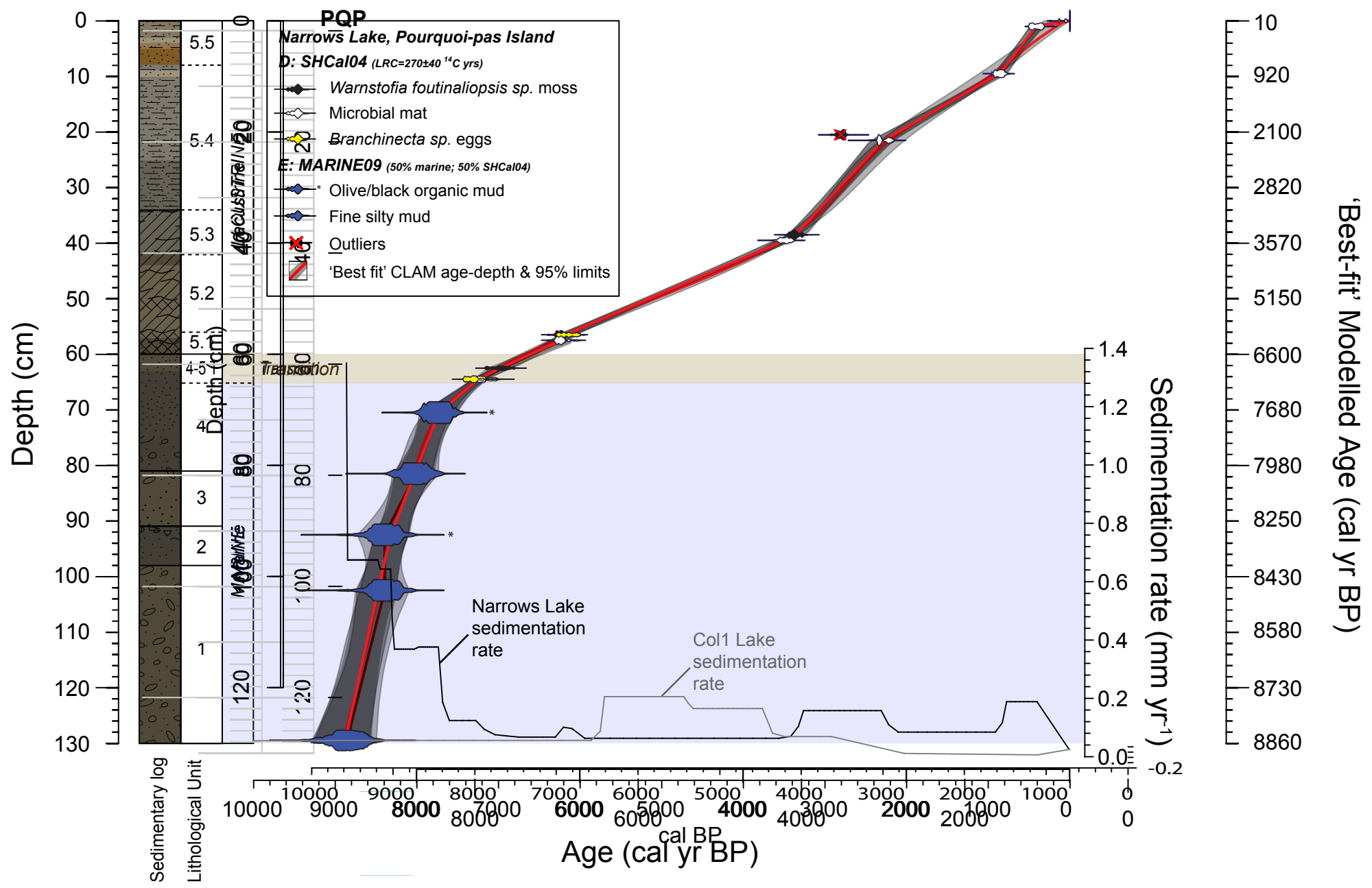
Munsell Colour

- 10YR 5/4 Yellowish-brown
- 10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish-brown
- 2.5Y 6/2 Light brownish-grey
- 5Y 6/2 Light olive grey
- 5Y 5/2 Olive grey
- 5Y 4/2 Olive grey
- 5Y 3/2 Dark olive grey
- 5Y 5/1 Grey
- 10Y 4/1 Dark greenish-grey
- 5Y 4/1 Dark grey
- 5Y 2.5/1-2 Black

*Figure 8



*Figure 9



*Figure 10

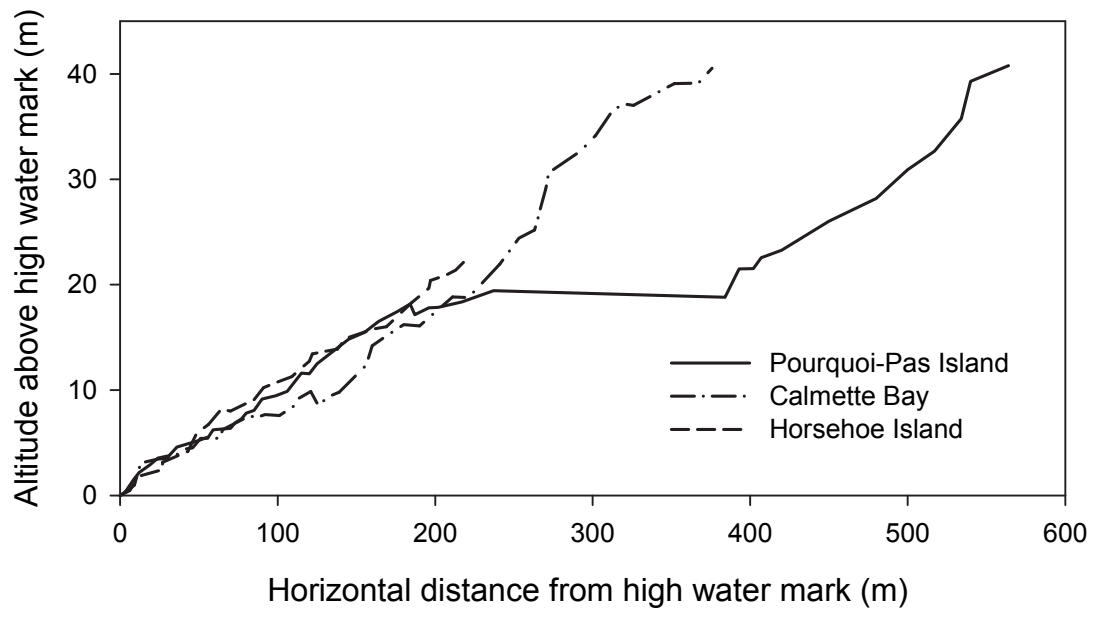


Fig. 10

*Figure 11

