

1 **Evolution of deep-sea sediments across the Paleocene-**
2 **Eocene and Eocene-Oligocene boundaries**

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17
18 **ABSTRACT**

19 The composition and distribution of deep-sea sediments is the result of a multitude of climatic,
20 biotic and oceanic conditions relating to biogeochemical cycles and environmental change.
21 Here we utilize the extensive sediment archives of the International Ocean Discovery Program
22 (IODP) and its predecessors to construct maps of deep-sea sediment type across two critical
23 but contrasting boundaries in the Paleogene, one characterised by an interval of extreme
24 warmth (Paleocene/Eocene) and the other by global cooling (Eocene/Oligocene). Ocean

25 sediment distribution shows significant divergence both between the latest Paleocene and
26 Paleocene Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM), across the Eocene-Oligocene Transition
27 (EOT), and in comparison to modern sediment distributions. Carbonate sedimentation in the
28 latest Paleocene extends to high southern latitudes. Disappearance of carbonate sediments at
29 the PETM is well documented and can be attributed to dissolution caused by significant ocean
30 acidification as a result of carbon-cycle perturbation. Biosiliceous sediments are rare and it is
31 posited that the reduced biogenic silica deposition at the equator is commensurate with an
32 overall lack of equatorial upwelling in the early Paleogene ocean. In the Southern Ocean, we
33 attribute the low in biosiliceous burial, to the warm deep water temperatures which would have
34 impacted biogenic silica preservation. In the late Eocene, our sediment depositional maps
35 record a tongue of radiolarian ooze in the eastern equatorial Pacific. Enhanced biosiliceous
36 deposits in the late Eocene equatorial Pacific and Southern Ocean are due to increased
37 productivity and the spin-up of the oceans. Our compilation documents the enhanced global
38 carbonate sedimentation in the early Oligocene, confirming that the drop in the carbonate
39 compensation depth was global.

40

41 **Keywords:** Sediments; carbonate compensation depth; PETM; Eocene/Oligocene boundary;
42 silica; dissolution

43

44 **1. Introduction**

45 Deep-sea sediments represent the most widespread and complete record of Cenozoic
46 oceanic and climatic state. The pattern and composition of seafloor sediments seaward of the
47 continental shelf is a reflection of biological, geochemical, terrestrial and climatic conditions
48 on Earth at the time of deposition (Chester and Jickells, 2012). Sedimentary changes through
49 the geological record are an essential tool in reconstructing past conditions on Earth,

50 constraining key changes in the atmosphere-ocean system and facilitating the characterization
51 of significant climatic perturbations. As such, the study of paleo-sediment records facilitates
52 the examination of broad scale oceanic and climatic changes including but not limited to ocean
53 productivity, carbonate chemistry, and glacial processes.

54 The overall purpose of this study was to examine the distribution of seafloor sediments
55 as the Earth transitioned from the warm conditions of the late Paleocene to the icehouse
56 conditions of the early Oligocene. We created a compilation of all major deep sea sediments
57 across two major climate transitions, the PETM and EOT. We aimed to determine how
58 palaeoceanographic phenomena were reflected in the sediment pattern of these two critical and
59 contrasting climate intervals, and explore how and why the distribution in the Paleogene differs
60 to the modern.

61 Over the past half century, the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) and its
62 predecessors have cored deep-sea sediments throughout the oceans, resulting in an ever
63 growing archive of paleoclimatological data. Here we collate and synthesize data from deep-
64 sea archives from over 175 DSDP/ODP/IODP sites (up to IODP Expedition 362) and present
65 a compilation of global ocean sediment distribution maps. We concentrate on four time
66 intervals; latest Paleocene (~57-56 Ma), PETM (~55.9 Ma), latest Eocene (~34 Ma) and earliest
67 Oligocene (~33.5 Ma). The tables provide a catalogue of all existing ocean drilling sites
68 covering these intervals drilled to date. In mapping ocean sediment distribution for the upper
69 Paleocene, PETM, upper Eocene and lower Oligocene, this study has produced a functional
70 visual resource in understanding the biogeochemical change and oceanic response to climate
71 perturbations. These maps provide a record of sedimentary changes on a global scale across
72 major climate transitions to compare with the sediment distribution in the modern oceans, and
73 contribute to the understanding of environmental change across two critical intervals in the

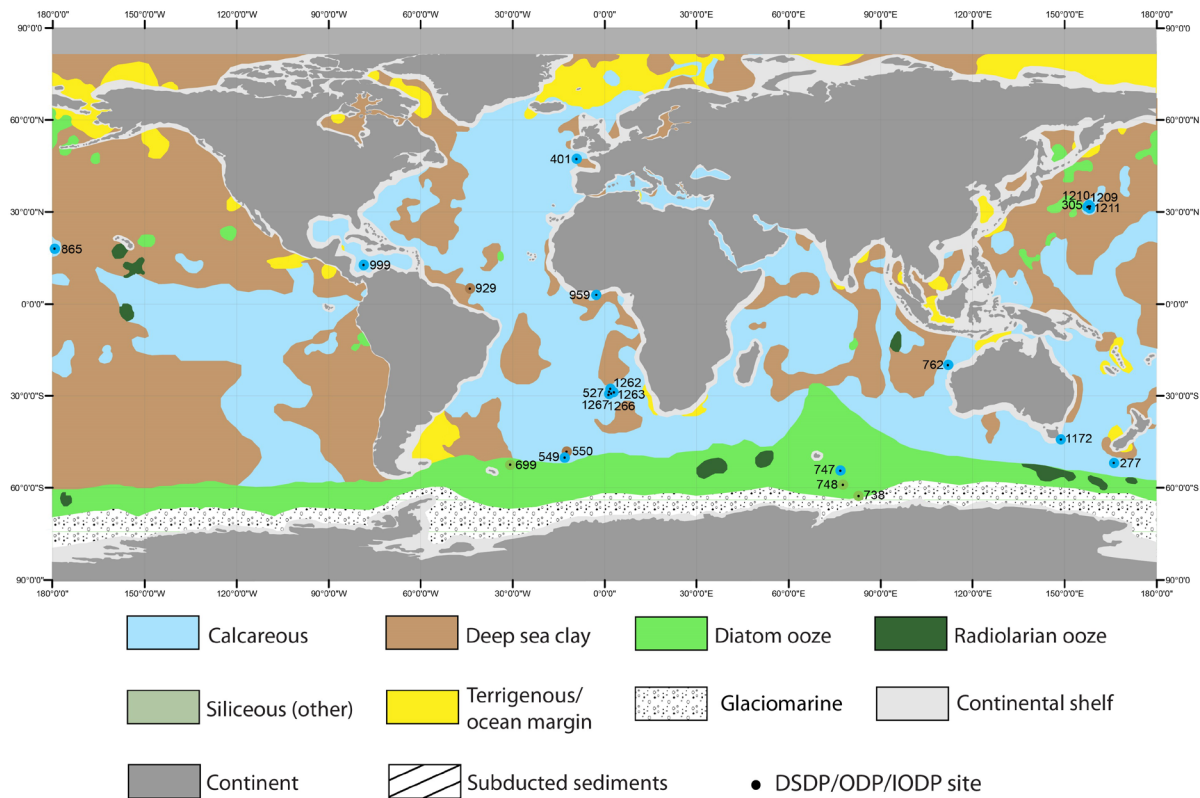
74 Paleogene. We review the global implications of paleoclimate on ocean sedimentation and the
75 impact of changes in ocean dissolution and productivity.

76

77 **1.1 Modern global distribution of marine sediments**

78 Knowledge of modern sediment distribution in the global ocean and its controls provide
79 a better understanding of global biogeochemical cycles and response of marine sediment to
80 environmental and climatic changes. Oceanography and marine geology textbooks generally
81 contain a map of the global oceanic sediment distribution (e.g., Davies and Gorsline, 1976;
82 Barron and Whitman, 1981; Hüneke and Mulder, 2011), which normally illustrates five or six
83 main types of sediments in the ocean basins based on their primary composition and
84 provenance. Modern sediment distribution in the ocean is determined by the sediment sources,
85 as well as the physical and chemical factors that control deposition.

86 Marine sediments can be divided into two main categories, lithogenous and biogenous
87 (Lyle, 2014). Lithogenous sediments derive from weathering and erosional processes on land
88 and underwater, including submarine volcanoes and consist of terrigenous sediments, glacial
89 sediments and deep-sea/red clays. Most prominent are river-borne sediments that form
90 voluminous deposits near land. Glaciomarine sediments include glacially transported
91 sediments, such as ice-rafted debris. In the modern oceans, glaciomarine sediments occupy
92 high latitude areas, especially the margins around Antarctica and in the North Atlantic (Fig. 1).
93 Aeolian sediments/deep-sea clays generally accumulate below a depth of ~5,000 m in the
94 modern ocean (Chester and Jickells, 2012). They cover large areas of the ocean where
95 sedimentation rates are low and where only windblown dust can accumulate. Volcanic ash can
96 be locally important near island arcs.



97

98 **Figure 1.** Modern distribution of ocean sediment (based on Davies and Gorsline, 1976; Leinen
 99 et al., 1989; Chester and Jickells, 2012; Dutkiewicz, et al., 2015). For reference we include
 100 DSDP/ODP/IODP sites that also have both a Paleocene/Eocene and Eocene/Oligocene
 101 boundary.

102

103 Biogenous sediments, often referred as oozes, are produced from biotic processes and
 104 composed of calcareous and siliceous microfossils. A primary control on biogenic
 105 sedimentation is ocean productivity which impacts the types and distribution of marine
 106 organisms, and the rate of fossil test production and deposition. Biogenic sediments are also
 107 subject to dissolution, which affects carbonate and silica preservation and further shapes the
 108 areal coverage of the deposit. Major climate changes can have a crucial impact on marine
 109 biodiversity and dissolution, resulting in different oceanic sediment patterns.

110

111 Calcareous oozes are a major component of deep-sea sediments which originate from
 calcareous micro-organisms, mainly from planktonic foraminifera and calcareous

112 nanofossils. The distribution of calcareous sediments in the ocean is principally controlled by
113 the depth of the lysocline and carbonate compensation depth (CCD), which reflects the
114 chemistry of the ocean carbonate system (Chester and Jickells, 2012). Maximum dissolution
115 occurs below the lysocline, and beneath the CCD sediments are carbonate free (Takahashi and
116 Broecker, 1977). The CCD varies in each ocean basin; the modern CCD in the Pacific is
117 ~3,500-5,000 m, and in the Atlantic and Indian ocean is 4,500-5,000 m (Berger et al., 1976;
118 Chester and Jickells, 2012).

119 Siliceous oozes are composed of siliceous skeletal remains derived mainly from
120 diatoms and radiolarians. In the modern ocean, biosiliceous dominated sediments are mainly
121 focused in a few distinct areas, particularly in the Southern Ocean (diatom oozes), and
122 equatorial Pacific (mixed carbonate-opal biogenic sediments) (Fig. 1). The distribution of
123 siliceous sediments is primarily controlled by productivity and dissolution (Chester and
124 Jickells, 2012; Ragueneau et al., 2000). A positive relationship has been shown between areas
125 of high productivity and siliceous sediment accumulation (Calvert, 1974; Garcia et al., 2010;
126 Barron and Baldauf, 1989). It has also been shown that aluminium concentrations also impact
127 the degree of biogenic silica preservation (DeMaster, 2014). Preservation of siliceous
128 organisms in modern ocean sediments is very low (1-5%) compared to the production rate in
129 surface waters as the oceans are undersaturated in silica at all depths (Siever, 1957; Calvert,
130 1974; Ragueneau et al., 2000; Barron et al., 2015).

131 Sediment deposition on the ocean floor is not a simple reflection of productivity in
132 surface waters as it involves many factors (Hüneke and Henrich, 2011). Dutkiewicz et al.
133 (2015) produced the first digital map of modern oceanic sediments showing that distribution
134 of seafloor sediment lithology is more complicated than the earlier hand-drawn maps and
135 biogenic sediments show a strong relationship with sea surface nutrients, salinity and
136 temperature.

137

138 **1.2 Paleocene Eocene Thermal Maximum**

139 The PETM (55.93–55.71 Ma; Westerhold et al., 2017) represents a short-lived but
140 dramatic hyperthermal event, characterised by a >2‰ negative carbon isotope excursion in
141 marine and terrestrial sections (Kennett and Stott, 1991; Koch et al., 1992; Dickens et al., 1995;
142 Zachos et al., 2005; Dickens, 2011). Although the mechanism is still debated, the PETM is
143 thought to have resulted from a multi-pulsed release of ¹³C depleted carbon into Earth's
144 exogenic carbon reservoir (Zeebe et al., 2009; Bowen et al., 2015; Frieling et al., 2016). The
145 addition of thousands of petagrams of carbon (Meissener et al, 2014) to the ocean-atmosphere
146 system had a profound effect on physical, geochemical and biotic processes on Earth. Ocean
147 temperatures increased significantly, with average SSTs increasing by ~4°C or more (Dunkley
148 Jones et al., 2013; Frieling et al., 2017) and deep ocean temperatures increasing by ~6°C
149 (Kennett and Stott, 1991). Surface ocean pH decreased by 0.3 pH units whilst the lysocline and
150 CCD shoaled by >2 km (Zachos et al., 2005; Penman et al., 2014; Bralower et al., 2018).
151 Increased atmospheric warming, against a late Paleocene world with atmospheric CO₂
152 concentrations hundreds of ppmv greater than today and ice-free poles, resulted in a reduced
153 latitudinal temperature gradient, weakening of the trade winds, significant alteration to the rate
154 and nature of meridional overturning circulation and an overall decrease in ocean ventilation
155 and nutrient availability (Winguth et al., 2012; Pälike et al., 2014; Heinze and Ilyina, 2015).
156 On the seafloor benthic foraminifera suffered a major extinction, with 35-50% of species
157 affected (Kennett and Stott, 1991; Thomas and Shackleton, 1996).

158

159 **1.3 Eocene-Oligocene Transition**

160 The Eocene-Oligocene Transition (EOT; ca. 34–33Ma) is one of the most significant
161 episodes of climatic change in the Cenozoic. Through the Eocene the global climate developed

162 from a warm, ice-free “greenhouse” world to the glacial Antarctic “icehouse” of the Oligocene.
163 Benthic foraminiferal oxygen isotope records show a rapid positive excursion across the EOT
164 (e.g., Kennett and Shackleton, 1976; Miller et al., 1991; Zachos et al., 1996; Coxall et al., 2005;
165 Katz et al., 2008), reflecting the establishment of continental-scale Antarctic ice sheets.
166 Increased ice volume is additionally indicated by ice-rafted debris in the Southern Ocean and
167 a major drop in global sea level (Kennett and Shackleton, 1976; Miller et al., 1991, 2008a, b;
168 Zachos et al., 1996; Schulte et al., 2009). Across the EOT there was a rapid and permanent
169 deepening of the CCD (van Andel and Moore, 1974; Heath et al., 1977; Lyle et al., 2002;
170 Coxall et al., 2005; Pälike et al., 2012), terrestrial and marine cooling (Zanazzi et al., 2007;
171 Wade et al., 2012), and biotic turnover (Prothero and Berggren, 1992; Dunkley Jones et al.,
172 2008; Pearson et al., 2008; Wade and Pearson, 2008; Wade et al., 2018; Houben et al., 2019a).
173 The causal mechanisms are a decrease in atmospheric CO₂ below a critical threshold (Pearson
174 et al., 2009), coupled with orbital forcing (Pälike et al., 2006).

175

176 **2. Methodology**

177 **2.1 Data Compilation**

178 Sediment data (Tables 1-3) were sourced from the archives of the International Ocean
179 Discovery Program (IODP) and its predecessors (Deep Sea Drilling Project, DSDP; Ocean
180 Drilling Program, ODP; Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, IODP) representing over 50 years
181 of ocean sediment core sampling and a significant repository of primary geological data. To
182 identify DSDP/ODP/IODP sites with a sedimentological record covering the study intervals
183 (late Paleocene / early Eocene and late Eocene / early Oligocene), a review of literature was
184 performed, with shipboard data for sites referenced therein compiled. To identify the target
185 intervals, we used all geochronological information available, including calcareous and

186 siliceous biostratigraphy, magnetostratigraphy and stable isotope stratigraphy, though there are
187 very few sites where all information is available.

188 The PETM was identified at sites either by the Shipboard Scientific Party or by referral
189 to post cruise literature (e.g., Kelly et al., 2012; Hollis et al., 2015; Frieling et al., 2019; Penman
190 et al., 2019; Witkowski et al., 2020a). To detect the PETM interval in cruise reports predating
191 its recognition as a significant global climatic perturbation (chiefly DSDP/ODP sites cored
192 prior to 1991), the Paleocene/Eocene boundary was identified through plankton
193 biostratigraphy, and/or the benthic foraminiferal extinction. In a number of sites cored before
194 1991, subsequent investigations have re-examined core samples to obtain $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values and
195 established the position of the negative carbon isotope excursion (CIE). Such sites are also
196 included in our dataset. For the late Paleocene, we targeted the interval from 57 to 56 Ma. At
197 sites with a carbon isotope stratigraphy, we selected the interval prior to the CIE (~56 Ma),
198 providing that stratigraphic control indicated that sedimentation was continuous.

199 The DSDP, ODP and IODP sites that contain sedimentary records of EOT are primarily
200 identified based on the scientific literature. Only sites that contain complete sections spanning
201 the Eocene-Oligocene boundary without hiatuses are used, as confirmed by age-depth models
202 (e.g., Firth et al., 2013; Houben et al., 2019b; Witkowski et al., 2020a). Several ocean cores
203 covering the Eocene-Oligocene boundary are incomplete or condensed, for example DSDP
204 sites 216, 217, 460, and ODP sites 689, 742, 752, 758 and 1172 (Houben et al., 2019b).
205 Hiatuses across the EOT have been attributed to an increase in ocean circulation vigour and
206 glacioeustatic sea-level fall associated with the climate shift (Kennett and Shackleton, 1976;
207 Zachos et al., 1996; Miller et al., 2008a, b, 2009; Houben et al., 2019a). However, it is possible
208 that some hiatuses were not detected due to poor geochronological records. As the Eocene-
209 Oligocene boundary was formally defined in 1993, the Eocene-Oligocene boundary in the
210 ocean drilling site reports prior to 1993 is identified from the biostratigraphy (e.g., Wade et al.,

211 2011). There are uncertainties about the boundary in some sites owing to lack of marker fossils.
212 For the late Eocene, we targeted the calcareous nannofossil CP15/CP16 (NP19-20/NP21) zonal
213 boundary (~34 Ma), within Chron C13r. For the early Oligocene at sites with an oxygen isotope
214 stratigraphy, we selected the interval at the start of the early Oligocene glacial maximum (~33.5
215 Ma), corresponding to Chron C13n, and low latitude radiolarian RP19/RP20 zonal boundary.

216 Sections that are condensed were included in our data set (e.g., EOT at ODP Site 1217),
217 but incomplete sections due to hiatuses, core gaps, significant drilling disturbance and poor
218 recovery are excluded (e.g., PETM at DSDP sites 152, 215, 259, 313, 316, 464, 524, 528, 529,
219 530, 576, 577, 596, ODP sites 634, 698, 699, 738, 807, 869, 1050, 1183, 1217, 1257 and IODP
220 Site U1407). Site 1051 is retained, although it should be noted that previous studies have
221 suggested that the PETM at this site is incomplete (Farley and Eltgroth, 2003; Röhl et al., 2003;
222 Nicolo et al., 2007). Site 327 was also retained in this study, though siliceous sedimentation
223 ceased ~56.3 Ma (Witkowski et al., 2020a). These data from DSDP, ODP and IODP drilling
224 sites were collected and organized using spreadsheets (Tables 2 and 3) in order to produce
225 comprehensive ocean sediment maps. Our data set provides an inventory of all ocean drilling
226 sites covering these two critical boundaries. The ocean sediment distribution maps are based
227 on 46 sites for the PETM and 175 sites for the EOT (Tables 2 and 3).

228

229 **2.2 Sediment Classification**

230 To determine the dominant sediment type, the lithologies were examined using barrel
231 sheets, visual core descriptions and smear slide data reported by shipboard scientists. These
232 were compared and corroborated to ensure correct identification of major sediment
233 components for each site across the PETM and EOT interval. The sediment classification in
234 this study adopts a simplified version of the scheme proposed by Mazzullo et al. (1988), which
235 is the standard classification used by the DSDP, ODP and IODP. Sediments are classified based

236 on their major component as recorded in shipboard data archives. Where sediments are
237 described with modifiers they are classified based on the major modifier. An example of this
238 would be ‘nannofossil chalk’, wherein ‘nannofossil’ acts as the major modifier, indicating
239 nannofossils as the dominant sediment component, before the principle name, chalk, indicating
240 calcareous composition and degree of consolidation (Mazzullo et al., 1988).

241 Five main types of sediments are classified and used in sedimentary maps in this study.
242 The sediments are classified as calcareous, siliceous, clay, siliciclastic and glaciomarine
243 sediments. Calcareous sediments include foraminiferal and nannofossil oozes/chalk/limestone.
244 Siliceous sediments include radiolarian and diatom oozes, chert and porcellanite which
245 represent dense siliceous sediments. Clay consists of sediment ($<2 \mu\text{m}$), including claystone.
246 Siliciclastic sediments generally consist of sand, silt and mud. Diamictite represents the
247 glaciomarine sediments. The details of sediment classification can be found in Tables 1-3.

248 Where carbonate sediments are reported as indurated, such as chalk or limestone, these
249 are mapped as oozes if a major biogenic sediment component is indicated. This is a reflection
250 of the notion that lithification occurred largely as a post-depositional process, and that when
251 they were deposited, they would have been poorly consolidated calcareous sediments(oozes)
252 (Chester and Jickells, 2012). Similarly, where the suffix ‘stone’ is used in shipboard rock
253 descriptions to indicate lithified siliclastic sediments (Mazzullo et al., 1988), this is disregarded
254 on the sediment maps and claystone becomes clay. Porcellanite and chert are derived from
255 biogenic opal, and are considered to be the diagenetic transformation of biosiliceous oozes.
256 However, we continued to distinguish radiolarian and diatom ooze from porcellanite and chert
257 on the maps and tables, as the nature of the original biosiliceous deposition (diatom versus
258 radiolarian ooze) is unknown.

259

260 **2.3 Mapping sediment distributions across critical Paleogene climate transitions**

261 The sediment distribution maps are produced based on sedimentary records from ocean
262 drilling sites. To accurately reconstruct paleogeographies of tectonic plates and locations of
263 drilling sites, GPlates (<http://www.gplates.org>; Boyden et al., 2011) open source plate
264 reconstruction software was used in conjunction with a dynamic plate reconstruction model
265 (Seton et al., 2012 and references therein). Ocean drilling sites were created as individual
266 features in GPlates and positioned based on present-day longitude and latitude. Specific plate
267 IDs were assigned in line with the defined topology in Seton et al. (2012). A reconstruction
268 was then performed from 56 and 34 Ma to produce a base map onto which sediment distribution
269 could be mapped. The ArcGIS software was used to create site labels and graticules, and the
270 sedimentary maps were drawn using Adobe Illustrator CS4 vector based graphics software. In
271 our paleogeographic maps for the late Eocene and early Oligocene, the Drake Passage is open.

272

273 **2.4 Sediment extrapolation**

274 As well as mapping sediments based on recorded lithologies for individual drilling
275 sites, some sediment types are extrapolated. The paleobathymetry of the ocean basin model
276 from Muller et al. (2008) (<http://www.earthbyte.org>), early Paleogene reconstructions of
277 paleobathymetry (He et al., 2019), and the CCD records from literature are used to infer the
278 calcareous depositional areas. This was achieved by comparison with reconstructed positions
279 of mid-ocean ridges, as these by their nature represent areas of significant elevation above the
280 seafloor. As the primary control of carbonate sediment distribution is deposition above the
281 CCD, sediments of this type could be extrapolated along mid ocean ridges with medium
282 confidence for the late Paleocene. For the PETM sediment map, carbonate sediments are not
283 extrapolated to reflect PETM dissolution. Conversely, as clays dominate sediments deposited
284 below the CCD, clays are inferred as the major sediment type on abyssal plains.

285 Carbonate sedimentation is extrapolated for the EOT based on a CCD depth in the late
286 Eocene of approximately 3,700 m in the Pacific Ocean (Pälike et al., 2012), with the magnitude
287 of deepening across the EOT of more than 1 km (van Andel, 1975; Rea and Lyle, 2005; Pälike
288 et al., 2012). Specifically, the Pacific CCD deepened to 5,000 m in Pacific equatorial regions
289 (van Andel, 1975; Heath et al., 1977), in the Indian Ocean from ~3,600 to 4,000 m (Rea and
290 Lyle, 2005), and in the South Atlantic, evidence from DSDP Legs 73 (Hsü et al., 1984) and 74
291 (Moore et al., 1984) indicates the CCD dropped from ~3,300 m to 4,300 m. Siliciclastic
292 sediments are extrapolated in the areas near the continents.

293 A hindrance to complete characterization of sediment distribution arises from biases in
294 the locations and distribution of ocean drilling sites, because paleoceanographic drilling
295 expeditions preferentially target carbonate rich sediments. Large areas of the Southern Ocean,
296 South Pacific, central North Pacific and Arctic Oceans remain virtually un-sampled. In
297 addition, the paleobathymetry map for extrapolation in the Paleogene is of poor resolution. In
298 the context of the limited data available however, this study was designed to present a picture
299 of Paleogene sediment distribution. The pattern of sediment distribution in our maps is a
300 simplified version based on primary controls and data availability, and inevitably under-
301 represents the complexity of sediment deposition, as shown in the modern seafloor map of
302 Dutkiewicz et al. (2015). Many locations show a different lithology to a nearby site, due to the
303 scale of maps and heterogeneous ocean floor conditions (such as varying topography).

304

305 **3. Results**

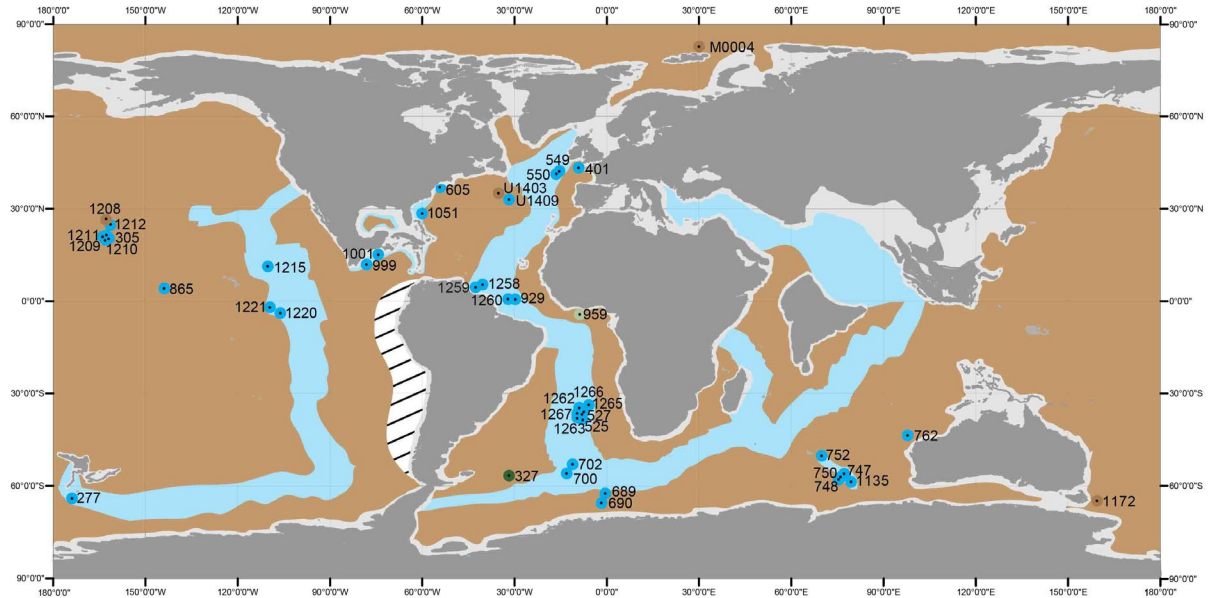
306 **3.1 Upper Paleocene sediment distribution**

307 On upper Paleocene sediment map (Fig. 2) carbonate sediments dominate the sites
308 sampled, which are predominately on topographic highs, and clay is the principal sediment
309 elsewhere. Of the 46 DSDP, ODP and IODP drilling sites for which the PETM was recovered,

310 only six sites (sites 327, 959, 1171, 1208, M0004, U1403), have non-carbonate dominated
311 sediment immediately prior to the onset of the PETM. With the exception of the Arctic basin,
312 all major ocean basins show evidence of regional carbonate deposition. The majority of
313 carbonate sediments are dominated by nannofossil oozes, with generic calcareous oozes the
314 second most abundant carbonate sediments, and a minor component of foraminiferal oozes
315 recorded. Siliceous sediments are rare; radiolarian ooze is recorded only at Site 327,
316 porcellanite at Site 959, and no diatomaceous oozes are present in the sampled data. In terms
317 of southern hemisphere carbonate sedimentation, there appears to be no latitudinal constraints
318 on sediment deposition, with nannofossil oozes recorded as far south as Site 690 in the Weddell
319 Sea, although, Site 1172 on the East Tasman rise, is dominated by clayey siltstone. The only
320 ocean basin lacking in carbonate sedimentation in the late Paleocene is the Arctic, though with
321 only one site sampled (Site M0004), it is difficult to conclusively say whether the clay sediment
322 at this site represents a regional feature or an anomalous data point. Site U1403, located in the
323 central North Atlantic Ocean, is also dominated by clay across the interval of study. In the
324 western Pacific Ocean Site 1208, located near the modern-day Shatsky rise, displayed a
325 dominant sediment fraction of clay just prior to the PETM. Other western Pacific sites located
326 near the modern-day Shatsky rise (Sites 305, 1209, 1210, 1211 and 1212) are nannofossil ooze
327 dominated in the late Paleocene. Sites 1215, 1220 and 1221 in the equatorial eastern Pacific
328 are all carbonate dominated, as are the sediments at sites 1001 and 999 in the Caribbean Sea.
329 Seafloor sediments at sites 929, 1258, 1259, 1260 in the equatorial to tropical Atlantic Ocean
330 are chiefly nannofossil oozes in the late Paleocene. In the north east Atlantic Ocean, sites 549
331 and 550, on the western edge of the Goban spur are dominated by nannofossil ooze; whilst Site
332 401, located in the Bay of Biscay in the early Paleogene, had a sedimentary cover of calcareous
333 ooze in the late Paleocene. Carbonate deposits were added to the maps across parts of the peri-

334 Tethys region for the late Paleocene (Ouda et al., 2016; Luciani et al., 2007; Alegret et al.,
335 2009; Zhang et al., 2013; Heinze and Ilyina, 2015).

336



337

338 **Figure 2.** Ocean sediment distribution for the late Paleocene (key as in Figure 1). Carbonate
339 sediments (blues) were abundant across all latitudinal ranges in the late Paleocene, and have
340 been inferred to extend along submarine relief features including mid ocean ridges and
341 Tethys regions (Ouda et al., 2016). In the late Paleocene only one site (Site 327) has a
342 dominant biosiliceous sediment component. Paleobathymetry and the locations of ocean
343 ridges were constrained using Muller et al. (2008) and He et al. (2019).

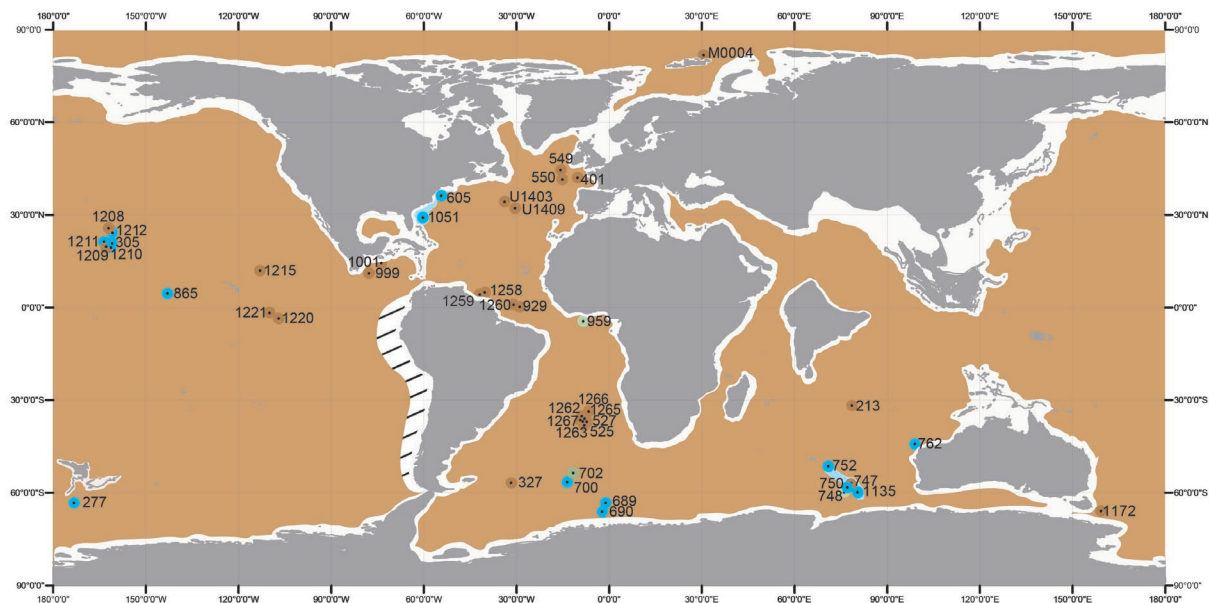
344

345 3.2 PETM sediment distribution

346 The PETM map (Fig. 3) represents a major shift in sediment component from upper
347 Paleocene nannofossil ooze to PETM clay. This is clearly shown in southern Atlantic sites 525,
348 527, 1262, 1263, 1265, 1266 and 1267. Sites 689, 690 and 700 in the South Atlantic and Site
349 605 in the North Atlantic however, remain nannofossil ooze. Siliceous sedimentation
350 (radiolarian ooze) ceased at ~56.3 Ma at Site 327 (Witkowski et al., 2020a) and was overlain
351 by clay. In the tropical to equatorial Atlantic Ocean, sites 929, 1258, 1259 and 1260 also record

352 a transition from nannofossil oozes in the late Paleocene to clay and, in the Caribbean Sea, sites
353 999 and 1001 record diminished carbonate deposition and a switch to clay as the dominant
354 sediment fraction. Equatorial Pacific sites 1215, 1220 and 1221 record a comparable reduction
355 in carbonate deposition, with clays deposited during the PETM. However, at Site 865, to the
356 northwest of sites 1220 and 1221, deposition of foraminiferal oozes persisted across the PETM,
357 and at sites 305, 1210, 1211 and 1212, a major change in sediment type is not recorded, with
358 these sites remaining nannofossil ooze-dominated. Shatsky Rise (Site 1209) changes from
359 nannofossil ooze-dominated to clay-dominated, whilst the predominance of clays as the major
360 lithology at Site 1208 persisted across the PETM. North Atlantic Site 1051 consists of siliceous
361 carbonate chalk in both the upper Paleocene and PETM, and in the northeast Atlantic Ocean,
362 sediments at sites 401, 549, 550 and U1409 consist predominately of clay throughout this
363 interval; Site U1403, like Site 1208, remains clay-dominated. At site M0004 in the Arctic
364 Basin, clays persisted as the major sediment component across the PETM. The southern Indian
365 Ocean and proto-Southern Ocean sites 750, 752, 762 and 1135 appear to be least affected in
366 terms of carbonate dissolution, and all remained nannofossil ooze-dominated across the PETM,
367 though nearby Site 747 shifted from nannofossil chalk to claystone. Site 1172 on the East
368 Tasman rise remained silt-dominated across the PETM, whilst Site 277 in the southwestern
369 Pacific records majority carbonate deposition at the PETM. High southern latitude sites 702
370 and 748 transition from chalk to chert across the PETM, and Site 959, in the east Atlantic
371 remains porcellanite.

372



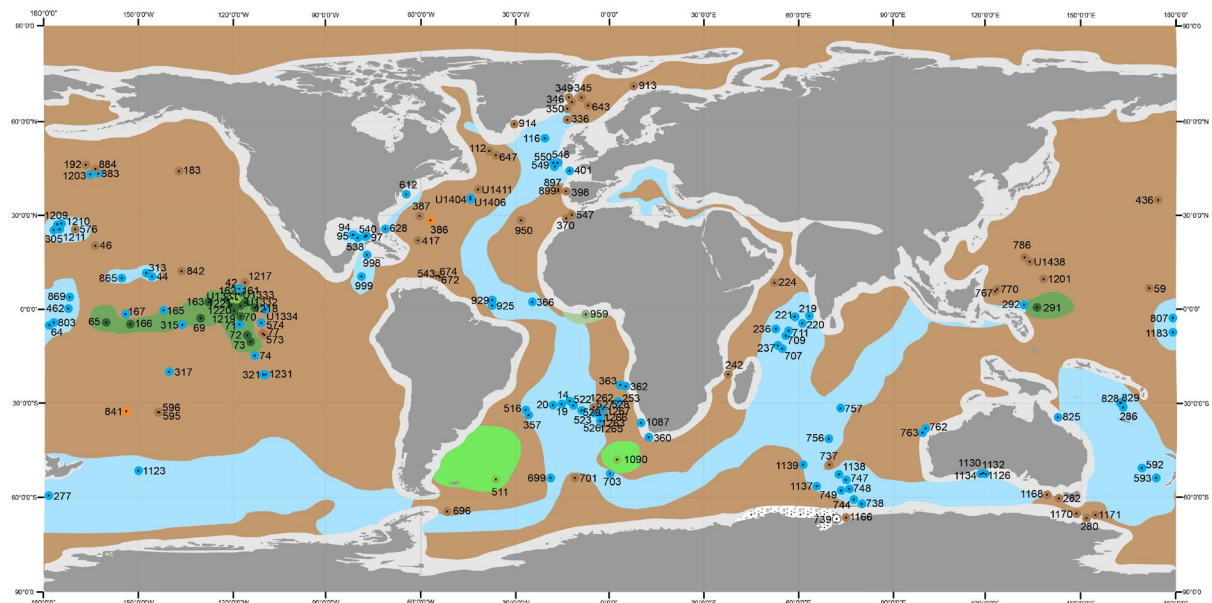
373

374 **Figure 3.** Ocean sediment distribution at the PETM (key as in Figure 1). Carbonate sediment
 375 distribution is greatly reduced globally. Clay is inferred at sites to reflect a lack of biogenic
 376 component, though sedimentation was probably negligible in areas such as the southwest
 377 Pacific (Rea et al., 2006). At the PETM, three sites record a dominant biosiliceous sediment
 378 component.

379

380 3.3 Upper Eocene sediment distribution

381 The ocean sediment core data indicate that the sediments deposited in the late Eocene
 382 were dominantly calcareous (Table 3). Approximately 100 sites show carbonate sediments
 383 distributed in all major ocean basins (Fig. 4), and a high concentration of calcareous-dominated
 384 sediment sites are located in the South Atlantic, Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.
 385 However, the calcareous sediments are not restricted to the low-latitude areas; sites in the
 386 Southern Ocean and North Atlantic also have carbonate sediments in the upper Eocene.



387

388 **Figure 4.** Ocean sediment distribution of the late Eocene (key as in Figure 1). Radiolarian
 389 oozes are found in the equatorial Pacific. Diatom oozes are located in the South Atlantic.

390 Diamictite is documented in the late Eocene at Site 739. Paleobathymetry and the locations of
 391 ocean ridges were constrained using Muller et al. (2008) and He et al. (2019).

392

393 Siliceous sediments were recovered from ~15 late Eocene sites and consist mainly of
 394 radiolarian ooze with some diatom ooze. Radiolarian oozes are highly concentrated in the
 395 eastern equatorial Pacific (Fig. 5); only one site (Site 291) with radiolarian ooze is located in
 396 the western equatorial Pacific (Figs. 4, 7). Sites 511 and 1090, situated in southern part of the
 397 South Atlantic Ocean are diatom oozes. Porcellanite is recorded at Site 959, located in the
 398 eastern equatorial Atlantic.



399

400 **Figure 5.** Image of the >63 μm size fraction from upper Eocene Hole U1334A, 27X6, 43-45
401 cm (equatorial Pacific), showing the high abundance of radiolarian tests.

402

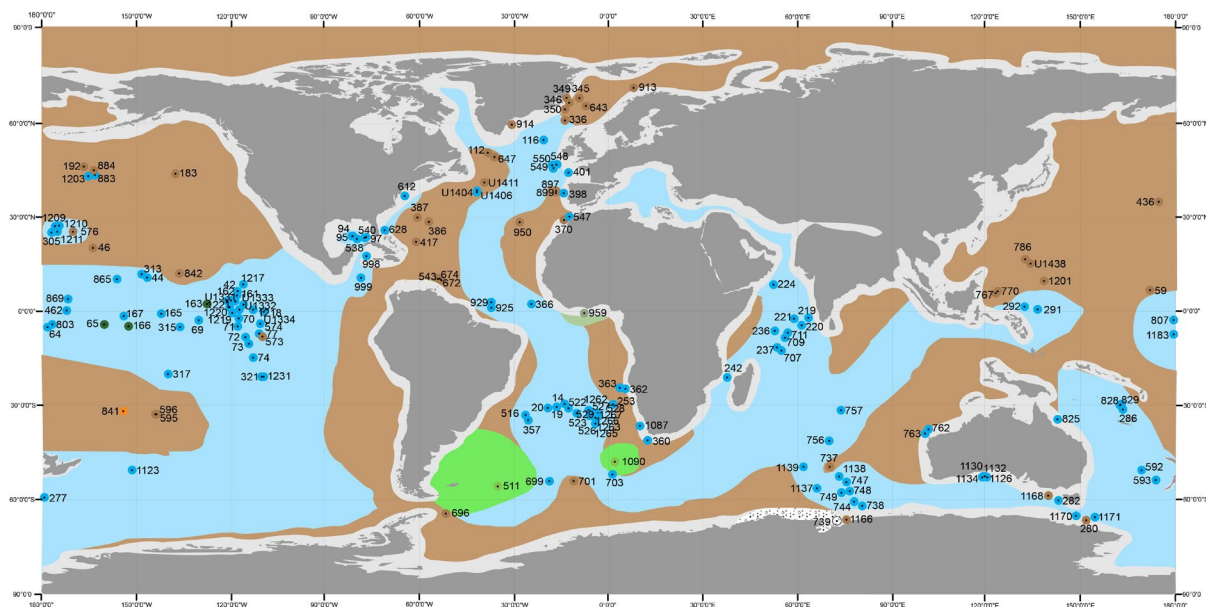
403 Siliciclastic sediments are generally found in sites that were situated near the
404 continents, however, they are also found in the ocean basins. Turbidite-derived silty sand and
405 clayey siltstone are recorded at Site 386, and volcanic sandstone at Site 841 (Fig. 4).

406 Clay was present in all the major oceans (Fig. 4), but mainly concentrated in the North
407 Pacific and South Pacific oligotrophic gyres. Site 913, on the present day East Greenland
408 margin, is the northernmost location in the EOT sediment distribution map and records clay
409 sediments from the upper Eocene. Site 739, near Antarctica, has diatomite sediments of late
410 Eocene age, but nearby, Site 1166 has only clay-dominated sediments.

411

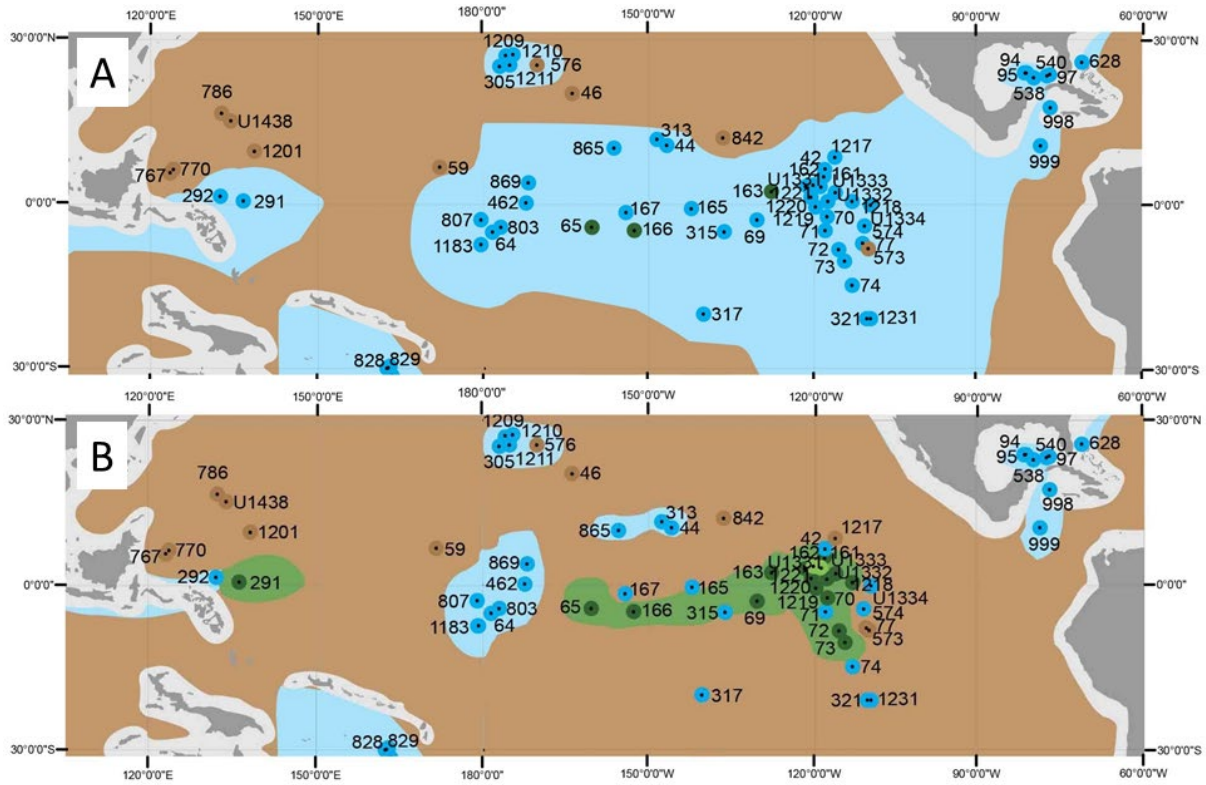
412 **3.4 Lower Oligocene sediment distribution**

413 The lower Oligocene map (Fig. 6) shows a significant change from upper Eocene non-
414 calcareous sediments including siliceous oozes, clay and siliciclastic sediment, to lower
415 Oligocene calcareous sediments. The majority of late Eocene sites accumulating radiolarian
416 sediments shifted to calcareous oozes in the early Oligocene. In the equatorial Pacific, most
417 sites containing siliceous sediment transition from radiolarian-dominated sediment to
418 nannofossil oozes as the major sediment component in the early Oligocene (Fig. 7). Only Sites
419 163 and 166 continued to see deposition of radiolarian dominated sediments. Apart from the
420 significant change of radiolarian dominated sediments, some clay dominated sediments and
421 siliciclastic sediments also changed to calcareous sediments through the EOT. Site 77 in the
422 Pacific Ocean, Site 224 in Arabian sea and eastern Atlantic Ocean Site 547 showed a major
423 component shift from clay to calcareous deposition at this time interval. Sites 1170 and 1171
424 in the Southern Ocean also record the change from siliciclastic to carbonate sediments during
425 the EOT. Sites that recorded calcareous sedimentation during the late Eocene continued to see
426 calcareous sedimentation across the EOT. The diatom oozes at Site 1090 and Site 511 in the
427 South Atlantic Ocean and porcellanite at Site 959 in the eastern equatorial Atlantic persisted
428 across the transition.



429

430 **Figure 6.** Ocean sediment distribution of the early Oligocene (key as in Figure 1). Diatom
 431 oozes are located in the South Atlantic. Carbonate ooze becomes the major modifier in the
 432 early Oligocene due to the fall in the CCD. Diamictite is documented at Site 739, with clayey
 433 mudstone with ice rafted debris recorded at Site 696. Paleobathymetry and the locations of
 434 ocean ridges were constrained using Muller et al. (2008) and He et al. (2019).



435
 436 **Figure 7.** Close up of equatorial Pacific sediment distribution of the early Oligocene (A) and
 437 late Eocene (B), showing the shift in deposition from radiolarian to carbonate ooze (key as in
 438 Figure 1).

439

440 **4. Discussion**

441 **4.1 Sediment distribution in the late Paleocene, and comparison to modern**

442 Whilst it is well established that shoaling of the CCD occurred during the PETM
443 resulted in a shoaling of the CCD, our compilation indicates the extent of carbonate distribution
444 before and during the PETM. Comparative analysis of the maps produced herein (Figs. 2 and
445 3), both to one another and to those showing modern ocean sediment distributions (Fig. 1),
446 demonstrates how key oceanic and climatic parameters are altered by this perturbation in
447 Earth's climate state.

448 Upper Paleocene deep-sea sediments are dominated by carbonates and clay. The
449 distribution of carbonate sediments for the upper Paleocene (Fig. 2) shows marked differences
450 compared to that of the modern, particularly in the Southern Ocean. In the modern Southern
451 Ocean, diatomaceous oozes represent the dominant sediment type (Fig. 1), with only minor
452 and isolated regions of carbonate sediment deposition (Dutkiewicz et al., 2015). Conversely,
453 the upper Paleocene sediment map (Fig. 2) shows broad regions of carbonate ooze around the
454 Antarctic continent, reflecting differences in the late Paleocene ocean state compared to the
455 modern. A primary control on carbonate sediment distribution in the open ocean is deposition
456 above the CCD (van Andel, 1975). Paleobathymetry data for sites recording carbonate
457 sediment deposition in the upper Paleocene show that all are located on relief features on the
458 seafloor or along shallow continental margins. The broad region of nannofossil ooze to the
459 west of Australia is inferred from sites located on-top or on-flank of the Kerguelen Plateau,
460 and would have been significantly shallower than the surrounding seafloor (Frey et al., 2000).
461 Similarly, the remainder of upper Paleocene carbonate sites sampled sediments deposited on
462 submarine rises, ridges, plateaus, guyots and continental margins. The paucity of upper
463 Paleocene siliceous sediments in the deep-sea realm has been taken to signify the confinement
464 of biogenic siliceous sedimentation to the shelves, especially considering the extensive
465 distribution of late Paleocene through early Eocene diatomite on the Eurasian Platform. On the

466 other hand, however, the apparent scarcity of siliceous sediments in the deep-sea before the
467 PETM could be due to non-preservation rather than non-deposition. For a discussion on the
468 spatial and temporal trends in the distribution of the biosiliceous component in early Paleogene
469 sediments of the Atlantic Ocean, albeit based on a different classification scheme, see
470 Witkowski et al. (2020a).

471

472 **4.2 Carbonate sediment distribution at the PETM**

473 Sediment distribution at the PETM is dominated by clays (Fig. 3), reflecting wide-scale
474 carbonate dissolution and CCD shoaling associated with significant carbon input to the
475 atmosphere and oceans (Zachos et al., 2005). Diffusion of atmospheric CO₂ into the oceans
476 resulted in lowered pH and a concomitant increase in the rate of CaCO₃ dissolution,
477 temporarily ceasing carbonate deposition at many sites (Penman et al., 2014). The
478 predominance of clay at the PETM also reflects a degree of ‘carbonate burndown’ (Griffith et
479 al., 2015), wherein CaCO₃ in the upper ~10-40 cm of the pelagic sedimentary cover underwent
480 dissolution as more acidic deep ocean water percolated down through seafloor sediments
481 (Kelly et al., 2010). Though carbonate ooze persists at some sites at the PETM (Fig. 3), this is
482 largely an artefact of the broad sediment classification used herein, which conceals partial
483 dissolution observed at all PETM carbonate sites, such as Site 690 where wt% CaCO₃
484 decreased from >76 to ~61% (Bralower et al., 2014).

485 Comparison of Pacific Ocean (Shatsky Rise) and Atlantic Ocean (Walvis Ridge)
486 sediment changes across the PETM reveals significant divergence in the dissolution response
487 of each basin to C input. In the western Pacific, Shatsky Rise sites with paleodepths between
488 2,000 and 3,000 m maintain nannofossil ooze (Table 2) with CaCO₃ wt% of >75% (Colosimo
489 et al., 2006). Conversely, Walvis Ridge sites with paleodepths in the range of 1,500-3,600 m
490 have clay as the major lithology (Table 2) and contained virtually no carbonate at the PETM

491 (Zachos et al., 2005). The divergent dissolution responses of the two major ocean basins reflect
492 more extensive CCD shoaling in the Atlantic, where the PETM CCD occupied depths of
493 ~1,500 m, compared to ~3,000 m in the Pacific (Zeebe and Zachos, 2007; Panchuk et al., 2008).
494 Indeed, Atlantic CCD shoaling was so extensive that it extended up onto the shelf (Self-Trail
495 et al., 2017; Bralower et al., 2018). This suggests an Atlantic source of PETM carbon, either
496 from North Atlantic Igneous Province volcanism (Saunders, 2016), extensive methane hydrate
497 destabilization or a combination of both, though circulation change has also been proposed to
498 explain the variance between the Atlantic and Pacific CCD shoal (Zeebe and Zachos, 2007;
499 Zeebe et al., 2009).

500 There is an indication of meridional gradients in carbonate chemistry in the southern
501 Atlantic. Comparison of Site 1263 (Walvis Ridge; 2,717 m water depth) and Site 690 (Weddell
502 Sea; 2,914 m water depth) record markedly different dissolution responses to the PETM,
503 despite their comparable paleodepths. The CCD shoaled by around 2,000 m at Site 1263,
504 causing dissolution of CaCO₃ and a resultant clay layer with CaCO₃ wt% of <1% (Zachos et
505 al., 2005); whilst the CCD remained below 2,000 m at Site 690 with nannofossil ooze recorded
506 in both the late Paleocene and PETM (Figs. 2 and 3, Table 2). The suggested gradient in
507 carbonate saturation from south to north is also evident in the comparatively expanded PETM
508 section at Site 690, indicative of higher sediment input in the form of carbonate material and
509 therefore less extensive dissolution at the PETM (Kelly et al., 2010). The presence of a
510 latitudinal carbonate saturation gradient undermines the assertion that Atlantic meridional
511 overturning temporarily reversed at the PETM (e.g., Bice and Maroatzke, 2002; Nunes and
512 Norris, 2006). Had deep water formation switched from the Southern Ocean to the North
513 Atlantic, waters with higher dissolved CO₂ (a result of longer exposure to respiring biota)
514 would have bathed Site 690, whilst less corrosive waters would be expected at the more
515 northerly Walvis Ridge.

516

517 **4.3 Biosiliceous sediment distribution at the PETM**

518 Penman (2016) suggested that increased weathering across the PETM would lead to
519 enhanced silica availability and that porcellanite and chert are exceptionally common in the
520 Eocene Atlantic Ocean (Penman et al., 2019). However, this is not reflected in our data set
521 (Figs. 2 and 3). Chert is present at sites 702 and 748, with porcellanite at Site 959. Sites with
522 poor recovery (which could be due to chert, e.g., sites 698, U1407) have not been included in
523 our compilation, which most likely results in an underestimation of chert occurrences. While
524 the low biosiliceous deposition may, to some extent, be an artefact of the classification scheme,
525 we do not find extensive siliceous sedimentation as seen in the modern and late Eocene
526 sediment maps (Figs. 1 and 4), and the major modifier is predominately carbonate or clay (Figs.
527 2 and 3). Our study does not prohibit the enhanced silica burial as suggested by Penman et al.
528 (2019) but does show that even with enhanced weathering and increased Si input, siliceous
529 ooze is not the major modifier in most PETM sites. Enhanced biosiliceous sedimentation does
530 appear to be linked to PETM at Eurasian Platform sites, where extensive deposition of
531 diatomite and diatom clays took place through much of the early Paleogene (e.g., Oreshkina,
532 2012; Oreshkina and Radionova, 2014).

533 Site 959, located in the eastern equatorial Atlantic records porcellanite in all four time
534 slices from the late Paleocene (~56.5 Ma) to early Oligocene (~33.5 Ma) (Figs. 2, 3, 4 and 6).
535 Sediments are also elevated in total organic carbon (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1996). As
536 porcellanite is derived from recrystallization of biosiliceous opal-A to opal-CT, it suggests that
537 there was a sustained source of nutrients to this region throughout the early Paleogene, leading
538 to high biosiliceous deposition. Nutrients may have been derived from upwelling or terrestrial
539 influx. Cramwinckel et al. (2018) proposed that upwelling occurred in the middle and late
540 Eocene at Site 959, based on the presence of *Protoperidiniaceae* cysts. However, our work

541 suggests that upwelling/nutrient influx started before the late Paleocene, and continued into the
542 Oligocene.

543 In the modern ocean, biosiliceous sediments are a major constituent with diatomaceous
544 ooze surrounding much of Antarctica (Dutkiewicz et al., 2015). One of the major findings of
545 this paper is the documentation of the global paucity of biosiliceous sediments as the major
546 modifier, compared to the modern ocean, despite both diatoms and radiolarians being
547 ubiquitous in the early Paleogene (Witkowski et al., 2020a). There is no major turnover in
548 radiolarians at the PETM, though Sanfilippo and Blome (2001) record a decrease in
549 preservation and abundance. Does the absence of biosiliceous sedimentation as the major
550 modifier, reflect a deficiency in biogenic silica production (e.g., a more diffuse nutrient
551 regime), warm deep waters impacting biogenic silica preservation and burial, or a mixture of
552 other mechanisms?

553 The availability of macronutrients (nitrate and phosphate) and micronutrients (iron) is
554 a major control on the distribution and abundance of diatoms. The low meridional gradient,
555 and lack of vertical mixing would have left limiting nutrients locked in the subsurface (Moore
556 et al., 2008). Productivity proxies for the late Paleocene are rare and controversial, with most
557 studies concentrating on the potential role of export productivity in the early Eocene as a
558 mechanism of CO₂ drawdown (e.g., Paytan et al., 2007). Fontorbe et al. (2016, 2020) showed
559 that oceanic dissolved silica is depleted throughout the water column in the North Atlantic
560 during the PETM (see also Witkowski et al., 2000b for revised age model). Moore et al. (2008)
561 also documented that siliceous deposits of the Eocene are less common than modern,
562 suggesting that silica input in the Eocene was lower. The deficiency of biogenic silica
563 deposition around Antarctica at the PETM could, in part, be attributable to the sluggish
564 circulation and inhibition of nutrient-rich upwelling across this interval (Heinze and Ilyina,
565 2015), and, on a more regional level, by the absence of a strong circumpolar current (Hill et

566 al., 2013; Katz et al., 2011). Changes occurred soon after the PETM with cherts and siliceous
567 microfossils preserved in the South Atlantic in the Eocene (Witkowski et al., 2020a).

568 Equatorial divergence brings nutrient-rich waters to the surface where they are readily
569 utilised by plankton. At the equator, the apparent absence of biosiliceous sediments can also
570 be linked to reduced upwelling and lack of nutrient supply associated with comparatively
571 weaker trade winds resulting from diminished latitudinal temperature gradients (Moore et al.,
572 2002, 2004; Lyle et al., 2008; Heinze and Ilyina, 2015). This effect would have been further
573 compounded by warming across the PETM (Winguth et al., 2012).

574 Diatom abundance and diversification through the Cenozoic can also explain the
575 absence of biogenic silica-dominated sites across the PETM. It has been shown that, over
576 geological timescales, diatom species diversity correlates with net biosiliceous sediment export
577 productivity (Lazarus, 2011). Though species turnover increased in response to the PETM
578 (Oreshkina, 2012), enhanced diversity at this time was largely the result of greater endemism,
579 particularly at high latitudes and in epicontinental seas (Lazarus et al., 2014; Barron et al.,
580 2015). In the open oceans, diminished latitudinal temperature gradients would have suppressed
581 oceanic heterogeneity and therefore diatom species proliferation, precluding large-scale
582 biogenic silica deposition (Lazarus et al., 2014). Sims et al. (2006) proposed that diatoms
583 transferred to the open ocean from the shelf through the Cenozoic. This view reconciles the
584 rich fossil record from early Paleogene onshore sites, especially on the Eurasian Platform
585 (Barron et al., 2015), with the scarcity of early Cenozoic diatoms in the deep-sea (Lazarus et
586 al., 2014; Renaudie, 2016).

587 The scarcity of biosiliceous sediments in the early Paleogene may be attributed to
588 dissolution. In the modern ocean, diatomaceous sediment deposition correlates with areas of
589 low SSTs (<6°C) (Dutkiewicz et al., 2015). The solubility of biogenic silica is positively
590 correlated with ocean temperature (Kamatani, 1982), and thus would more rapidly dissolve in

591 the warmer ocean waters of the early Paleogene. Moreover, optimal diatom growth occurs
592 where SSTs are significantly lower than those inferred for any sites during the late
593 Paleocene/early Eocene (Neori and Holm-Hansen, 1982; Hollis et al., 2019). Further to this,
594 recent studies have shown that diatom silicification is inhibited with high CO₂ and thus lower
595 pH (Petrou et al., 2019). The environmental conditions of the early Paleogene would have
596 therefore influenced the distribution and preservation of siliceous organisms in the deep-sea
597 realm.

598 Finally, during diagenesis, biosilica may be mobilized and redeposited as chert nodules
599 and beds, transferring the siliceous sediments to different horizons. Witkowski et al. (2020a)
600 show that the geographic distribution of lower Paleocene through upper Eocene chert and
601 porcellanite in the Atlantic Ocean closely matches that of the biogenic siliceous sediments,
602 which suggests that the picture of biogenic silica deposition in the early Cenozoic oceans is
603 strongly biased due to diagenetic alteration.

604

605 **4.4 Sedimentary changes across the Eocene-Oligocene transition**

606 Global climate change across the EOT affects the sediment deposition pattern and is
607 mainly characterized by the shift in the CCD. Calcareous sediments are dominant in both late
608 Eocene and early Oligocene, however, the distribution in the early Oligocene is more extensive
609 due to the change from non-carbonate to carbonate deposition. The late Eocene CCD was
610 relatively shallow at approximately 3,300 m and varies between ocean basins (van Andel, 1975,
611 Rea and Lyle, 2005; Pälike et al., 2012). The Pacific Ocean experienced the most dramatic
612 CCD deepening (>1,000 m) (van Andel, 1975, Heath et al., 1977; Lyle et al., 2002; Rea and
613 Lyle, 2005; Pälike et al., 2012) across the EOT.

614

615 **4.4.1 Carbonate compensation depth**

616 A prominent feature of the upper Eocene sediment map is the occurrence of radiolarian
617 oozes in the eastern equatorial Pacific, which indicate the upwelling and advection of silicic
618 acid and nutrients to surface waters in equatorial regions (Figs. 4 and 7b). This feature is
619 referred to as the ‘equatorial tongue of high productivity’ (Moore et al., 2004). The distribution
620 of siliceous sedimentation in the equatorial Pacific Ocean suggests that upwelling was initiated
621 in the Eocene as latitudinal gradients increased. Radiolarian accumulation rates in the eastern
622 equatorial Pacific decreased at the EOT (Moore et al., 2014), related to changes in ocean
623 circulation (e.g., the source of the upwelled water at the equatorial divergence) impacting the
624 nutrient concentration of advected subsurface waters (Funakawa et al., 2006; Moore et al.,
625 2014).

626 The signal of deepening of the CCD across the EOT is shown in the sediment
627 distribution changes in most sites in the equatorial Pacific (ODP Leg 198, 199, IODP Leg 320)
628 with the disappearance of siliceous sediments (Fig. 7). Radiolarian ooze in the eastern
629 equatorial Pacific is surrounded by isolated areas of carbonate ooze, on the topographic highs,
630 above the CCD. For example, Site 167 was drilled on the Magellan Rise, and Site 317 is located
631 on the Manihiki Plateau, at water depths of 3,200 m and 2,600 m, respectively. The deepening
632 of the CCD at the EOT allowed carbonate to be deposited at greater depth and caused a major
633 composition change from radiolarian-dominated to calcareous-dominated sediments in the
634 early Oligocene. Consequently, the distribution of siliceous sediments decreased. The early
635 Oligocene equatorial Pacific sediments still contain a high abundance of siliceous organisms,
636 however, silica is no longer the major modifier. Indeed, diatom deposition in the equatorial
637 Pacific actually increases across the EOT (Moore et al., 2014), but the signal is masked by
638 enhanced carbonate deposition.

639 Apart from the CCD drop at the EOT, which changed the major modifier from
640 radiolarian to carbonate ooze in the equatorial Pacific (Fig. 7), the disappearance of radiolarian

641 oozes and decrease in radiolarian accumulation rates could be in part due to radiolarian faunal
642 turnover related to the ocean cooling (Funakawa et al., 2006). Many species of radiolarians
643 became extinct in a series of events during the middle and late Eocene and the EOT (Kamikuri
644 and Wade, 2012; Moore and Kamikuri, 2012).

645 Evidence of CCD deepening is not restricted to the equatorial Pacific Ocean. In the
646 Atlantic and Indian oceans, the CCD also shows evidence of decline, but less severe than the
647 Pacific (van Andel, 1975, Rea and Lyle, 2005 and references therein). The sedimentary change
648 across the EOT in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean is relatively minor, as most sites are
649 persistently located above the CCD through the transition. In the Atlantic (e.g., sites 1262 and
650 1267) and Indian oceans (sites 224 and 242) there is a change in sedimentation from non-
651 carbonate to carbonate-dominated across the EOT. Changes from non-carbonate to carbonate
652 dominated deposition is recorded at sites 282, 1170 and 1171 in the Tasman Sea. Our
653 depositional maps confirm that the CCD deepening occurred on a global scale (van Andel,
654 1975, Peterson et al., 1992; Rea and Lyle, 2005). Some adjacent sites indicate no change owing
655 to a greater paleodepth which was deeper than the CCD.

656 The distribution of clay-dominated sediments during the EOT (as today) is generally
657 dependent on ocean conditions that do not favour other types of sediment deposition, i.e., areas
658 which are below the CCD and low productivity. Clay distribution at the EOT and in the modern
659 ocean show a comparable distribution, though it is larger in the upper Eocene sediment map
660 due to the shallower CCD, especially in the Atlantic Ocean.

661

662 **4.4.2 South Atlantic diatom ooze**

663 In the late Eocene and early Oligocene, the South Atlantic becomes an area for biogenic
664 silica burial (Renaudie, 2016), with diatom-dominated sediments found at sites 1090 and 511
665 (Figs. 4 and 6). Our sedimentary maps indicate that the conditions changed from the early

666 Paleogene (Figs. 2 and 3) to the EOT (Figs. 4 and 6) to be more favourable to enhanced
667 biosiliceous deposition in the South Atlantic (Fig. 3 and 4).

668 Diatom deposition is generally considered to be an indicator of high surface water
669 productivity (phosphorous, nitrogen, silica) (Barron and Baldauf, 1989), though Dutkiewicz et
670 al. (2015) have recently questioned this. The presence of diatom oozes does not solely reflect
671 diatom productivity as measured by opal accumulation rates, and sedimentation rates have a
672 significant effect on diatom preservation. It has previously been suggested (e.g., Renaudie,
673 2016), that enhanced weathering would have increased diatom deposition, due to higher silica
674 availability. However, changes in ocean circulation likely drove divergence and wind driven
675 upwelling in the South Atlantic, redistributing nutrient supplies from the subsurface to the
676 surface ocean, particularly silica, nitrate and phosphate and allowing the development of
677 siliceous oozes. The diatomaceous sediments potentially represent greater vertical mixing and
678 intensified oceanic circulation (Miller et al., 2009; Houben et al., 2019b; Witkowski et al., in
679 prep.), and the onset of an upwelling front (Plancq et al., 2014). A study from Site 1090 shows
680 the occurrence of ‘opal pulse’ between late Eocene and earliest Oligocene which records the
681 development of upwelling cells along topographic highs (Diekmann et al., 2004).

682 Stickley et al. (2004) suggested that biogenic silica deposition began around 45 Ma
683 along the Antarctic margin, and Egan et al. (2013) indicated through silicon isotope ($\delta^{30}\text{Si}$)
684 measurements, increased utilization of silicic acid occurring from the late Eocene. Antarctic
685 weathering would have enhanced terrestrial-sourced micronutrients, i.e. iron, and relaxed iron
686 limitation, allowing diatoms to thrive. Enhanced diatom abundance in the South Atlantic may
687 be a potential mechanism for atmospheric CO_2 drawdown in the middle and late Eocene
688 through an increased biological pump (Rabosky and Sorhannus, 2009; Salamy and Zachos,
689 1999; Scher and Martin, 2006; Egan et al., 2013). New views on the relationship between

690 climate and terrestrial silicate weathering are emerging (see Caves et al. 2016), and it remains
691 to be verified how siliceous plankton production may have responded to these new scenarios.

692 The distribution of diatom ooze does not significantly change across the EOT (Figs. 4
693 and 6), despite several studies indicating increased productivity in high southern latitudes (e.g.
694 Site 744 and Site 689) (Diester-Haass, 1995; Diester-Haass et al., 1996; Salamy and Zachos,
695 1999; Latimer and Filippelli, 2002; Diester-Haass and Zahn, 2001; Diekmann et al., 2004;
696 Anderson and Delaney, 2005; Plancq et al., 2014). There is evidence of increased abundance
697 of diatoms (e.g., Site 744, Salamy and Zachos, 1999), however, carbonate remains the major
698 modifier. We do not see the enhancement in productivity reflected in biosiliceous sediment
699 deposition. Sediments close to Antarctica in the early Oligocene (e.g., Kerguelen Plateau and
700 Tasman Sea) are carbonate, not siliceous oozes.

701 Surface water circulation patterns were altered by tectonic evolution and the opening
702 and closing of gateways. The opening of the Drake Passage and the initiation of the Antarctic
703 Circumpolar Current (ACC) is controversial, with estimates ranging from the middle Eocene
704 to late Oligocene (Scher and Martin, 2006; Pfuhl and McCave, 2005; Katz et al., 2011; Scher
705 et al., 2015). Recent modelling studies have suggested that productivity changes in response to
706 the Drake Passage opening would have varied spatially (Ladant et al., 2018), with diatoms
707 predominating at high latitudes. The sediment distribution in the late Eocene and early
708 Oligocene does not change and thus does not support that the Drake Passage opened, or that
709 the proto-ACC was initiated across the Eocene/Oligocene boundary.

710 We do not see any change or expansion biosiliceous depositional patterns across the
711 EOT, indicating that the mechanisms to allow enhanced diatom deposition in the South Atlantic
712 were in place before the end of the Eocene. The small number of early Oligocene diatomaceous
713 dominated sites may also be an artefact of the distribution of ocean drilling sites. Of course,
714 carbon export can increase without a change in biosiliceous sediment distribution, and recent

715 modelling investigations by Ladant et al. (2018) indicate an increase in export production in
716 the South Atlantic whilst diatom primary production decreases. The remineralization of organic
717 matter through the water column is temperature dependent (John et al., 2013; Boscolo-Galazzo
718 et al., in review), thus providing a mechanism to resolve the conflict here between sediment
719 and productivity records.

720 The sediment distribution pattern of diatom-dominated sediments during the EOT is
721 markedly different from modern oceans (Figs. 1, 4 and 6). Diatom oozes are not abundant at
722 the EOT, and are only found in the South Atlantic (Figs. 4 and 6). Sites 1090 and 511 were
723 located 47°S and 54°S, respectively, at the EOT (Table 3), very different to the current area of
724 diatomaceous sediment accumulation in the modern ocean, where diatom-dominated
725 sediments are highly concentrated in the circum-Antarctic belt (Dutkiewicz et al., 2015). At
726 higher latitudes (>55°S), deposition at the EOT is predominately carbonate e.g., Site 277, 738,
727 744, 748, 749, 1137, 1170, 1171 with a few clay dominated sites. We do not see find the
728 extensive diatom oozes that are seen in the modern ocean (Fig. 1). Increased global cooling
729 during the Eocene developed the strong differentiation between the high and low latitudes
730 which invigorated oceanic circulation and enhanced biosiliceous sedimentation in the South
731 Atlantic (Baldauf and Barron, 1990; Miller et al., 2009). Progressive climatic deterioration in
732 the Neogene increased the thermal gradient, resulting in the geographically restricted upwelling
733 regions observed today and development of the opal belt around Antarctica (Baldauf and
734 Barron, 1990; Cortese et al., 2004).

735

736 **4.6 Glaciomarine deposition at the EOT**

737 The most significant event of the EOT is the appearance of a continental-scale ice sheet
738 on Antarctica and glaciomarine sediments are the most direct evidence. Some cores indicate
739 the onset of glaciation on Antarctica during the EOT, through the presence of ice-rafted debris

740 (IRD) and glacial diamictites (Wise et al., 1991, 1992; Breza and Wise, 1992; Zachos et al.,
741 1992; Ehrmann and Mackensen, 1992; Ivany et al., 2006; Scher et al., 2014). Sites 696, 738,
742 742, 744 and 748 contain IRD but as a minor component (Carter et al., 2017; Barron et al.,
743 1991); Site 742 is not complete and thus has been excluded from our compilation. In the ocean
744 sediment distribution maps of the late Eocene and early Oligocene (Figs. 4 and 6), diamictite
745 occurs near the Antarctic continent at Site 739, located in Prydz Bay, East Antarctica, implying
746 that glaciers in this area reached sea level during late Eocene. In the earliest Oligocene, despite
747 widespread evidence of an Antarctic ice sheet, we do not find glaciomarine sediments as the
748 major modifier at any other DSDP, ODP or IODP site.

749

750 **5. Conclusions**

751 We compiled ocean sedimentary maps of the late Paleocene, PETM, late Eocene and
752 early Oligocene, based on sediment lithology records from DSDP, ODP and IODP, to
753 document the sedimentary changes across two of the most significant climate events in the
754 Cenozoic. Our tables provide a catalogue of all existing ocean drilling sites covering these
755 intervals drilled to date. In mapping sediment distribution and composition, we provide a
756 graphic synthesis of the extent of climatic change as recorded in the ocean sediment cores.
757 Sedimentary changes across the PETM, chiefly the emergence of clays as the major sediment
758 type and the dissolution of carbonates are evidence of widespread shoaling of the CCD. Our
759 study also illustrates how the deposition of siliceous sediments altered through the early
760 Paleogene. During the latest Paleocene and PETM, biogenic silica deposition was low in
761 comparison to the modern. Diminished biosiliceous deposition is explained in the context of a
762 more diffuse upwelling regime which persisted across the interval of study, coupled with
763 reduced diatom abundance and dissolution of silica in the warm early Paleogene oceans. For
764 the late Paleocene, carbonate sediments are shown to have been pervasive, extending to far

765 southerly latitudes and this is commensurate with the warm, oligotrophic ocean state. Across
766 the EOT, the CCD dramatically deepened, manifesting in a shift at many locations, from non-
767 calcareous to calcareous dominated sediments. The prominent feature of the late Eocene map
768 is the tongue of radiolarian oozes in the eastern equatorial Pacific which relate to shallower
769 CCD and equatorial divergence. Our depositional maps confirm the global scale deepening of
770 the CCD across the EOT. In the Eocene South Atlantic, diatom dominated sediments develop
771 but the pattern differs from the modern distribution, with carbonate rich sediments bordering
772 Antarctica, unlike the glacial and siliceous rich sediments seen today.

773 The maps of sediment data help to indicate and visualise past ocean conditions and
774 contribute to the understanding of biogeochemical cycles in the ocean in response to the climate
775 change. Undoubtedly, as more ocean drilling data becomes available, more accurate mapping
776 of the seafloor sediment can be achieved with improved resolution and coverage.

777

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1283 **TABLE CAPTIONS**

1284 **Table 1.** Modern deep-sea sediment lithologies.

1285 **Table 2.** Upper Paleocene and PETM deep-sea sediment lithologies from DSDP, ODP and
1286 IODP sites.

1287 **Table 3.** Upper Eocene and lower Oligocene deep-sea sediment lithologies from DSDP, ODP
1288 and IODP sites.