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# Ice margin oscillations during deglaciation of the northern Irish Sea Basin

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**ABSTRACT:** We present a new chronology to constrain ice-margin retreat in the northern Irish Sea Basin. Estimates on the timing of ice thinning derived from surface exposure ages for boulders from the summits of the Isle of Man and south-west Cumbria suggest that ice thinning was commensurate with the rapid retreat that followed the short-lived advance of the Irish Sea Ice Stream (ISIS) to maximum limits in the Celtic Sea. This ice retreat in the northern Irish Sea Basin was fastest at 20 ka in response to a wider calving margin, but slowed as ice stabilized and oscillated against the Isle of Man. We provide the first age constraints for the Scottish Readvance (19.2–18.2 ka) and demonstrate that it was a potentially regional event across the Isle of Man and Cumbrian lowlands not linked with Heinrich Event 1. After the Scottish Readvance, the ice front retreated northwards towards the Southern Uplands of Scotland at the same time as climate north of ~45°N warmed in response to summer insolation. This sequence demonstrates the importance of internal dynamics in controlling ice retreat rates in the Irish Sea, but also that deglaciation of the northern Irish Sea Basin was a response to climate warming.

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**KEYWORDS:** British–Irish Ice Sheet; cosmogenic nuclide dating; Heinrich Event 1; Irish Sea Ice Stream; luminescence dating.

## Introduction

During the Late Devensian (Marine Isotope Stage 2), ice flowed into the northern Irish Sea Basin (NISB) from Ireland, south-west Scotland and the English Lake District (Fig. 1). From the subglacial bedform record in the NISB and surrounding areas, Livingstone *et al.* (2012) identified flowsets that represent three phases of ice movement. The earliest (Phase I) flow of ice from south-west Scotland and the Lake District extended both southwards across the NISB and eastwards through the Tyne and Stainmore Gaps in northern England. The extensive subglacial bedforms of Phase II indicate north-eastwards migration of an ice divide across the Carlisle lowlands, and the development of convergent ice flows west and south-west into the NISB during draw-down of the Irish Sea Ice Stream (ISIS) (Livingstone *et al.*, 2012). This pattern conforms with evidence on the Isle of Man (Roberts *et al.*, 2007) and from the central Irish Sea (Van Landeghem *et al.*, 2009). The bedforms attributed to Phase III indicate that unconfined southerly flow of ice from south-west Scotland reached the Carlisle lowlands and deposited ice-marginal landforms (Livingstone *et al.*, 2010c) that have been attributed to the Scottish Readvance originally proposed by Trotter *et al.* (1937).

The NISB is bathymetrically asymmetrical, reaching depths of –145 m in the west but shallowing to –40 m in

the east (Fig. 1). In the Solway Firth, an east–west aligned basin descends gradually over ~100 km to a depth of –65 m, then steeply to –145 m in the western part of the main basin. Global isostatic adjustment (GIA) modelling by Bradley *et al.* (2011) suggests that between 24 and 16 ka relative sea levels were ~30 m below present, implying that the ISIS had a marine-terminating margin in the western part of the NISB, but may in part have had a terrestrial margin in the east. Smedley *et al.* (2017a) have shown that retreat of the ISIS margin from the southern Irish Sea Basin was complete by  $20.3 \pm 0.6$  ka; it follows that deglaciation of the NISB coincided with summer insolation-related warming at ~45°N (Bintanja *et al.*, 2005) and overlapped the timing of peaks in ice-rafted debris flux to the southern Celtic Sea associated with Heinrich Event 1 (H1) (Haapaniemi *et al.*, 2010).

The NISB was subjected to multiple standstills or minor (0.1–1 km) readvances of the ice margin during deglaciation of differing palaeoclimatic significance (e.g. Thomas *et al.*, 2004). This deglacial signature is recorded in extensive seafloor sediments (Pantin *et al.*, 1978) and in adjacent terrestrial sediments and landforms (Thomas, 1977; Merritt and Auton, 2000; Thomas *et al.*, 2004; Livingstone *et al.*, 2008, 2010a; McCabe, 2008; Livingstone *et al.*, 2010c, 2012). The eastern and western Irish Sea mud belts (Pantin *et al.*, 1978; Jackson *et al.*, 1995) are basins filled with substantial thicknesses (>10 m) of Holocene sediment and bury the glacial stratigraphy. The

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**Figure 1.** Location and context of the northern Irish Sea Basin plotted on NEXTMap and EMODnet topographic data ([www.emodnet-hydrography.eu/](http://www.emodnet-hydrography.eu/)). This shows inferred ice margins (red and white) including the possible extent of the calving margins. Triangles denote cores and geophysical survey lines (black dashed lines) taken on cruise JC106 and the locations of dating sites. The zones (1–7) and boundaries (BL1–7) used the chronological model are identified. [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

Holocene sediment fill in the Solway Firth is thinner, and there is a greater potential for the visibility of glacial landforms on the sea floor (Pantin *et al.*, 1978; Jackson *et al.*, 1995). The morpho-stratigraphical evidence for movements of the ice margins includes multiple advance–retreat cycles on the Isle of Man (Thomas, 1977, 1984; Thomas *et al.*, 2004, 2006), and the Gosforth and Scottish Readvances in north-west England (Huddart, 1971, 1977; Merritt and Auton, 2000; Huddart and Glasser, 2002; Livingstone *et al.*, 2008, 2010b, 2010c, 2012), but these events have not been dated. Radiocarbon dating of marine microfauna indicates an oscillatory ice-margin retreat into north-east Ireland in the period 20.5–16.5 ka BP, approximately coeval with the timing of H1 (McCabe *et al.*, 1998, 2007; McCabe, 2008). Attempts to correlate readvances across the NISB are hampered by limited dating of events in NW England and on the Isle of Man. Here we provide new geochronological, geophysical and stratigraphical data for the rates and style of deglaciation in the ISB, including multiple new surveys of the seafloor, 11 optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) ages and eight cosmogenic nuclide surface exposure ages.

This paper: (i) outlines the nature of the glacial sediment/landform imprint relating to the retreat and oscillation of the ISIS; (ii) provides chronology to test interpretations that multiple readvances occurred in the NISB during the last deglaciation; (iii) explores the synchrony between terrestrial and adjacent marine sectors of the ice mass; and (iv) considers the forcing factors controlling ice retreat and readvances.

## Methods

### Terrestrial sites and sampling

The style and timing of deglaciation in the NISB have been discerned from terrestrial evidence for changes in geomorphology, the sediment–landform assemblages and interpreted patterns of ice flow (Thomas, 1977; Merritt and Auton, 2000; Thomas *et al.*, 2006; Roberts *et al.*, 2007; Livingstone *et al.*, 2008, 2010a, 2012; McCabe, 2008; Knight, 2017). The ice retreat model is conceptualized here in terms of seven broad zones, with seven boundaries (Fig. 1). Eleven samples for OSL dating from eight sites were targeted at glaciofluvial and deltaic outwash sands associated with well-defined terrestrial ice-marginal positions. Surface exposure dating using *in situ*  $^{10}\text{Be}$  targeted both glacially modified bedrock and glacially faceted and transported boulders to provide eight samples from three locations (Fig. 1). A further eight published surface exposure ages (Ballantyne *et al.*, 2013) were recalibrated using a locally derived  $^{10}\text{Be}$  production rate (Fabel *et al.*, 2012). Exposures of the glacial sediments were investigated at coastal sections (Orrisdale, Jurby, Dog Mills and Gutterby), and at the Aldoth, Ballahara and Turkeyland quarries (Fig. 1). Exposures were photographed and logged using field sketches, vertical lithofacies logs and photo-montages following standard procedures (Evans and Benn, 2004; Thomas *et al.*, 2004). The information recorded included textural classification, sedimentary structures, sorting and grain size, palaeocurrents and lithofacies classification. For



OSL dating, opaque tubes were hammered into sedimentary sections to prevent exposure to sunlight during sampling and *in situ* gamma spectrometry measurements were taken from the tube hole. For surface exposure dating, the rock samples were chiselled from the uppermost boulder and bedrock surfaces. Topographic shielding was measured in the field and was corrected for using the CRONUS-Earth online calculator (Balco *et al.*, 2008).

### Offshore geomorphology and geophysics

Unlike other sectors of the ISB, there is a scarcity of palaeoenvironmental data for the waters to the north and east of the Isle of Man. Cruise JC106 of the RRS *James Cook* (July 2014; Fig. 1) addressed this issue by collecting 380 km of geophysical data and eight cores using the British Geological Survey 6-m vibrocorer and surveying across the seafloor extension of the Bride moraine, east of the Isle of Man (Thomas, 1984). Surveys also extended into the eastern Irish Sea mud-belt (Pantin *et al.*, 1978) and into the deeper waters of the Solway Firth to the north of the Isle of Man (Fig. 1). Geophysical data included multibeam imaging of the seafloor using a Kongsberg EM710 70–100-kHz frequency system, with the data processed using CARIS HIPS. An acoustic stratigraphy was also obtained using a hull-mounted Kongsberg SBP120 sub-bottom profiler (chirp frequency range of 2.5–6.5 kHz). Two-way travel times in seconds were converted to depth below sea level at the time of surveying using typical values of sound velocity ( $1500 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  through the water column and  $1600 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  through soft sediments). The sub-bottom profiler data were displayed in IHS Kingdom as 2D survey lines. The sediment cores were cut into 1-m-long sections, split, photographed and logged recording the sediment shear strength in kilopascals (Torvane), grain size, sedimentary and deformation structures, colour, sorting, bed contacts, clast abundance and shape, and macrofaunal content.

### OSL dating

External beta dose-rates were determined for OSL dating using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) and inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES), while the external gamma dose-rates were determined using *in situ* gamma spectrometry (Table 1).

OSL analysis was performed on single grains of quartz. The sample preparation and analysis methods used for OSL dating were identical to those employed by Smedley *et al.* (2017b). The single-grain  $D_e$  values determined for each sample (Fig. 2) are included in the supplementary material (Tables S1–S11). OSL analyses of all samples were performed on grain sizes of 212–250  $\mu\text{m}$ , except for sample T3DOGM01 which had a grain size of 150–180  $\mu\text{m}$  and so had up to four grains in each hole during single-grain analysis (i.e. micro-hole analyses). The finite mixture model (FMM) identified four components in the  $D_e$  distribution determined for sample T3DOGM01, where the lowest component ( $0.5 \pm 0.2 \text{ ka}$ ;  $n = 3$  grains) was inconsistent with the geological context of the sample, i.e. a 0 Gy dose population that was rejected by applying the screening criteria. However, there was a population of grains that gave an OSL age of  $6.0 \pm 1.2 \text{ ka}$  ( $n = 4$  grains) that was positioned approximately halfway between the 0 Gy dose population and the dominant population. Such populations have previously been suggested to be phantom dose populations caused by averaging the OSL signal from more than one grain during analysis (Arnold and Roberts, 2009). This was probably the case for sample T3DOGM01 as the  $D_e$  distribution was determined using microhole measurements rather than single grains; thus, we provide a maximum OSL age for sample T3DOGM01 using the central age model (CAM;  $22.5 \pm 2.2 \text{ ka}$ ; Table 2).  $D_e$  values were calculated using the CAM for  $D_e$  distributions that were symmetrical and therefore homogeneously bleached before burial, while the minimum age model (MAM) was used to determine  $D_e$  values for  $D_e$  distributions that were asymmetrically distributed and therefore heterogeneously bleached before burial (Table 2). The overdispersion determined from dose-recovery experiments estimated the scatter caused by intrinsic sources of uncertainty that is beyond measurement uncertainties. Intrinsic overdispersion was added in quadrature to the extrinsic scatter arising from external microdosimetry ( $\sim 20\%$ ) to determine  $\sigma_b$  for the MAM. The CAM or MAM  $D_e$  values were divided by the environmental dose-rates to determine an age for each sample (Table 2).

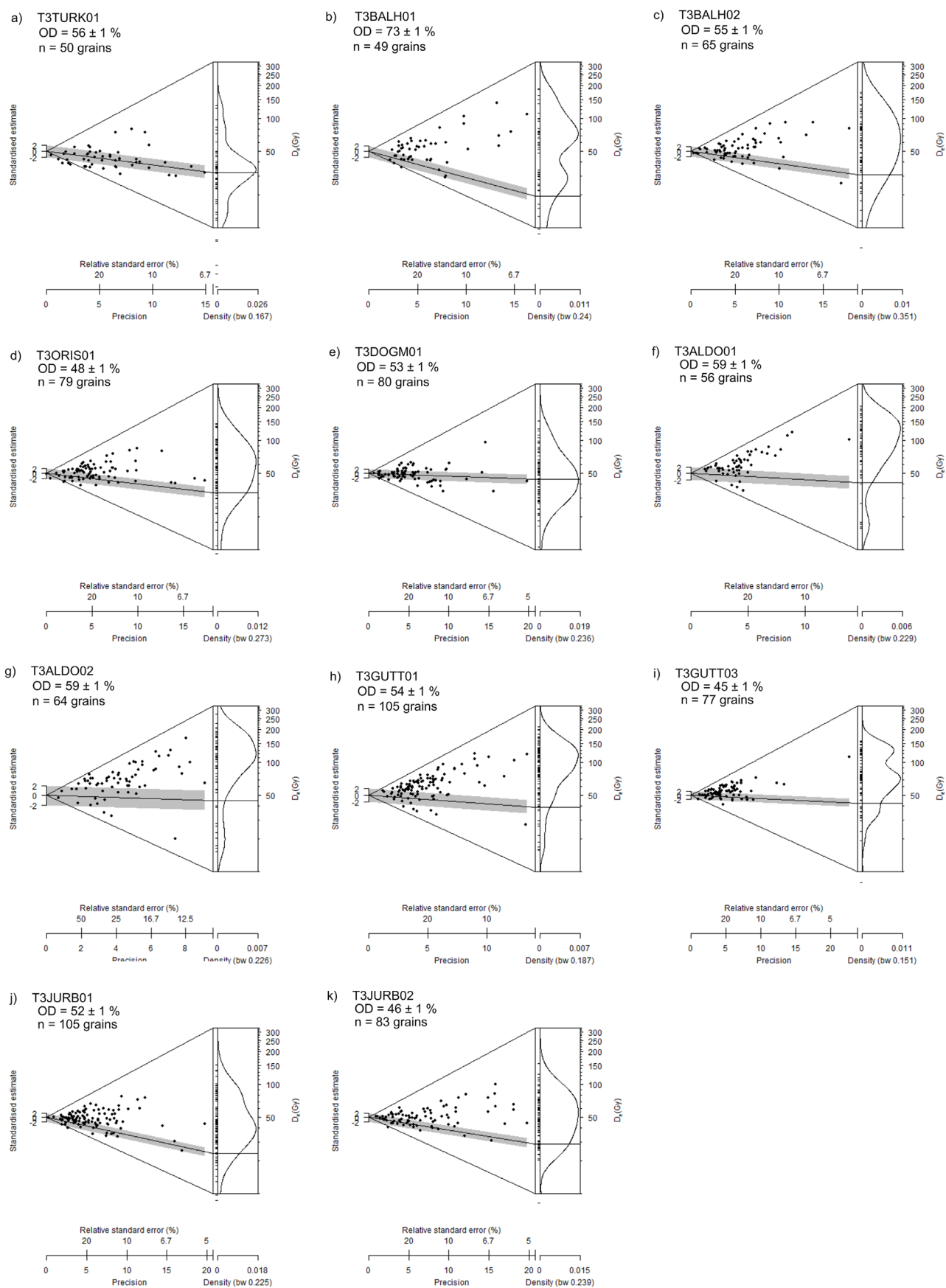
### $^{10}\text{Be}$ surface exposure dating

Eight rock samples were prepared to pure quartz at the University of Glasgow. Quartz was separated from the

**Table 1.** Environmental dose rates determined using ICP-MS and ICP-AES analysis and *in situ* gamma spectrometry. The chemical concentrations are presented to a precision relevant for the detection limit. The grain size diameter for all samples was 212–250  $\mu\text{m}$ , except for sample T3DOGM01 which was 150–180  $\mu\text{m}$ . The dose rates were calculated using the conversion factors of Guérin *et al.* (2011) and beta dose-rate attenuation factors of Guérin *et al.* (2012). Water contents were estimated considering the field and saturated water contents, and the environmental history for each sample; these values are expressed as a percentage of the mass of dry sediment. Cosmic dose rates were determined after Prescott and Hutton (1994). Dose rates were calculated using the Dose Rate and Age Calculator (DRAC: Durcan *et al.*, 2015).

Sample	Depth (m)	Water content (%)	K (%)	Rb (ppm)	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Beta dose rate (Gy ka <sup>-1</sup> )	Gamma dose rate (Gy ka <sup>-1</sup> )	Cosmic dose rate (Gy ka <sup>-1</sup> )	Total dose-rate (Gy ka <sup>-1</sup> )
T3TURK01	1.0	20 ± 5	1.1 ± 0.1	59.2 ± 5.9	1.44 ± 0.14	6.0 ± 0.6	0.87 ± 0.08	0.59 ± 0.04	0.18 ± 0.02	1.67 ± 0.09
T3BALH01	13.0	23 ± 5	0.9 ± 0.1	31.9 ± 3.2	0.76 ± 0.08	2.5 ± 0.3	0.62 ± 0.07	0.38 ± 0.02	0.05 ± 0.01	1.06 ± 0.07
T3BALH02	3.0	17 ± 5	0.8 ± 0.1	28.0 ± 2.8	0.59 ± 0.06	2.1 ± 0.2	0.57 ± 0.06	0.40 ± 0.03	0.14 ± 0.01	1.12 ± 0.07
T3ORIS01	5.0	17 ± 5	1.2 ± 0.1	30.1 ± 3.0	0.81 ± 0.08	2.5 ± 0.3	0.84 ± 0.09	0.44 ± 0.03	0.11 ± 0.01	1.40 ± 0.09
T3DOGM01	5.0	23 ± 5	1.5 ± 0.2	49.7 ± 5.0	1.53 ± 0.15	4.7 ± 0.5	1.10 ± 0.13	0.73 ± 0.05	0.11 ± 0.01	1.97 ± 0.14
T3JURB01	9.5	23 ± 5	1.0 ± 0.1	36.7 ± 3.7	0.85 ± 0.09	3.2 ± 0.3	0.69 ± 0.07	0.35 ± 0.02	0.07 ± 0.01	1.13 ± 0.07
T3JURB02	6.5	23 ± 5	1.1 ± 0.1	36.8 ± 3.7	0.72 ± 0.07	2.4 ± 0.2	0.73 ± 0.07	0.39 ± 0.03	0.09 ± 0.01	1.22 ± 0.08
T3GUTT01	20.0	30 ± 5	1.5 ± 0.2	61.5 ± 6.2	0.89 ± 0.09	3.0 ± 0.3	0.92 ± 0.09	0.49 ± 0.03	0.03 ± 0.00	1.44 ± 0.10
T3GUTT03	3.5	23 ± 5	1.5 ± 0.2	66.1 ± 6.6	0.96 ± 0.10	3.3 ± 0.3	0.99 ± 0.10	0.83 ± 0.05	0.13 ± 0.01	1.97 ± 0.11
T3ALDO01	1.0	20 ± 5	1.7 ± 0.2	53.5 ± 5.4	0.94 ± 0.09	3.5 ± 0.4	1.14 ± 0.13	0.71 ± 0.05	0.18 ± 0.02	2.04 ± 0.14
T3ALDO02	1.5	20 ± 5	1.1 ± 0.1	39.5 ± 4.0	0.88 ± 0.09	3.6 ± 0.4	0.78 ± 0.07	0.65 ± 0.04	0.17 ± 0.02	1.61 ± 0.09





**Figure 2.** Abanico plots of the  $D_e$  values determined for OSL dating. Note that sample T3DOGM01 was analysed using microhole analyses (i.e. up to four grains in each hole due to a grain size of 150–180  $\mu\text{m}$ ) rather than single grains and so the CAM provides a maximum OSL age for this sample. The abanico plots shown present the  $D_e$  distributions in two plots that share a common z-axis of  $D_e$  values: (i) a bivariate plot where each  $D_e$  value is presented in relation to its precision (shown on the x-axis, where those more precisely known have greater values of precision) – this is similar to the radial plot commonly used in luminescence dating; and (ii) a univariate plot showing the age frequency distribution of  $D_e$  values, which does not give any presentation of the precision of individual  $D_e$  values. The grey shading across both plots shows the CAM or MAM  $D_e$  for each distribution ( $\pm 2\sigma$  shown on the y-axis). The combination of these two plots aids interpretation of the scatter in the  $D_e$  distributions, where samples with a greater range of  $D_e$  values on the z-axis have larger amounts of scatter in the  $D_e$  distribution.

**Table 2.** OSL analytical results. The overdispersion calculated from a dose-recovery (DR OD) experiment is given, and has been used to inform the selection of the value of  $\sigma_b$  used for calculation of the minimum age model (MAM). The total number of grains analysed for dating are given, along with the number of grains ( $n$ ) yielding  $D_e$  values. The overdispersion (OD) of the  $D_e$  dataset measured for each sample is given along with the age model used to generate the final  $D_e$  and age.

Sample	Grain size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	DR OD (%)	Total analysed	$n$	OD (%)	Age model	$\sigma_b$	$D_e$ (Gy)	Age (ka)
T3TURK01	212–250	17	1600	50	56 $\pm$ 1	CAM	–	32.0 $\pm$ 2.8	19.2 $\pm$ 2.0
T3BALH01	212–250	14	1900	49	72 $\pm$ 1	MAM	0.25	19.6 $\pm$ 3.2	18.5 $\pm$ 3.3
T3BALH02	212–250	–	2000	65	55 $\pm$ 1	MAM	0.25	30.5 $\pm$ 3.9	27.1 $\pm$ 3.8
T3ORIS01	212–250	10	3800	94	48 $\pm$ 1	MAM	0.20	33.3 $\pm$ 3.7	23.8 $\pm$ 3.1
T3DOGM01	150–180	0	1800	80	53 $\pm$ 1	CAM	–	44.2 $\pm$ 2.9	22.5 $\pm$ 2.2
T3JURB01	212–250	8	4000	105	52 $\pm$ 1	MAM	0.20	23.5 $\pm$ 2.3	20.8 $\pm$ 2.4
T3JURB02	212–250	–	2800	83	46 $\pm$ 1	MAM	0.20	28.6 $\pm$ 2.9	23.4 $\pm$ 2.8
T3GUTT01	212–250	0	7300	105	54 $\pm$ 1	MAM	0.20	38.9 $\pm$ 4.0	27.0 $\pm$ 3.3
T3GUTT03	212–250	–	5600	77	45 $\pm$ 1	MAM	0.20	42.6 $\pm$ 4.5	21.7 $\pm$ 2.6
T3ALDO01	212–250	15	2400	56	59 $\pm$ 1	MAM	0.25	41.2 $\pm$ 6.6	20.2 $\pm$ 3.5
T3ALDO02	212–250	–	2800	64	59 $\pm$ 1	MAM	0.25	45.0 $\pm$ 7.1	27.9 $\pm$ 4.7

250–500  $\mu\text{m}$  fraction using standard mineral separation techniques (cf. Kohl and Nishiizumi, 1992) and purified by ultrasonication in 2% HF/HNO<sub>3</sub> to remove remaining contaminants and meteoric <sup>10</sup>Be. Be extraction was carried out at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), using procedures based on Child *et al.* (2000). The <sup>10</sup>Be/<sup>9</sup>Be ratios were measured by accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) at SUERC (Xu *et al.*, 2010) (Table 3). Eight previously published surface exposure ages determined for boulders from Glen Trool (McCarroll *et al.*, 2010) and Gadlach Brae (Ballantyne *et al.*, 2013) in the Galloway Hills of south-west Scotland were recalibrated here (Table 4). All new and existing surface exposure ages were calculated using an online calculator (version 2.3, <https://hess.ess.washington.edu/>; Balco *et al.*, 2008) with time-dependent Lm scaling (Lal, 1991; Stone, 2000) an erosion rate of 1 mm ka<sup>−1</sup>, and a local production rate, the Loch Lomond production rate (LLPR), which yields a reference sea-level high-latitude value of 4.00  $\pm$  0.17 atoms g<sup>−1</sup> a<sup>−1</sup> (Fabel *et al.*, 2012) time-dependent Lm scaling. For comparison, the default global production rate in the v2.3 calculator is c. 2.5% higher for our sample locations and yields slightly younger exposure ages (Table 3). Erosion rates on glaciated crystalline rocks are generally quite low at < 2 mm ka<sup>−1</sup> (André, 2002). Assuming erosion rates of 2 and 0 mm ka<sup>−1</sup> renders these ages

approximately 2% older and 1% younger, respectively. Given the small difference in ages our results and interpretation are not sensitive to choice of production rate and/or erosion rates.

### Bayesian age-sequence modelling

The geochronology presented here is distributed across the marginal retreat of the ISIS in the NISB. We also discuss parallel ages from higher altitude regions of coastal western Cumbria and the Isle of Man that potentially constrain ice thinning. The geochronological measurements were interrogated using a Bayesian temporal model (Bronk Ramsey, 2009a). This approach provides a basis for identifying data that may be outliers and enables integration of different forms of dating control (exposure and OSL ages). The approach uses the prior order of events (i.e. a prior model) to refine probability distributions when presented as a relative order of events. The prior model is determined independently of the geochronological data. Here the net ice marginal retreat is used as the prior model, ignoring small-scale readvances and still-stands of the ice margin. Where a landform is constrained using a single age, there is no method of assessing the influence of geological uncertainties on the accuracy of the age, such as partial bleaching of the OSL signal or inheritance

**Table 3.** Sample information and exposure ages for the new cosmogenic nuclide samples. Calculated using an online calculator (version 2.3 <https://hess.ess.washington.edu/>) (Balco *et al.*, 2008) with time-dependent Lm scaling (Lal, 1991; Stone, 2000) an erosion rate of 1 mm ka<sup>−1</sup>, and a local production rate, the Loch Lomond production rate (LLPR) of 4.00  $\pm$  0.17 atoms g<sup>−1</sup> a<sup>−1</sup> (Fabel *et al.*, 2012).

Sample	Lat.	Long.	Alt. (m)	Thickness (cm)	Shielding*	<sup>10</sup> Be conc. (at g <sup>−1</sup> )†	<sup>10</sup> Be conc. $\pm$	Exposure age (ka)‡	Exposure age (ka) –global§
T3CREG01	54.07156	−4.77349	155	2.5	0.998	97 761	2981	21.3 $\pm$ 1.2 (0.7)	20.8 $\pm$ 1.1 (0.6)
T3CREG02	54.07156	−4.77349	155	3.8	1.000	95 554	2523	20.9 $\pm$ 1.1 (0.6)	20.6 $\pm$ 1.1 (0.6)
T3BARR01	54.15090	−4.66770	475	0.9	0.989	156 338	4554	25.0 $\pm$ 1.3 (0.8)	24.5 $\pm$ 1.3 (0.7)
T3BARR02	54.15070	−4.65480	385	2.4	0.995	108 925	3040	18.9 $\pm$ 1.0 (0.6)	18.6 $\pm$ 1.0 (0.5)
T3BC02	54.25763	−3.35291	260	3.0	0.944	85 360	2978	17.7 $\pm$ 1.0 (0.6)	17.7 $\pm$ 1.0 (0.6)
T3BC03	54.25768	−3.35315	255	3.0	0.982	121 332	3582	24.4 $\pm$ 1.3 (0.7)	24.4 $\pm$ 1.3 (0.7)
T3BC05	54.25798	−3.35308	255	3.5	0.966	105 849	3260	21.7 $\pm$ 1.2 (0.7)	21.7 $\pm$ 1.2 (0.7)
T3BC06	54.25698	−3.35303	255	2.5	0.978	111 242	3766	22.4 $\pm$ 1.3 (0.8)	22.4 $\pm$ 1.3 (0.8)

\*Calculated using an online calculator ([hess.ess.washington.edu/](https://hess.ess.washington.edu/)) (Balco *et al.*, 2008).

†Be analyses were standardized to NIST27900 with <sup>10</sup>Be/<sup>9</sup>Be taken as 2.79  $\times$  10<sup>−11</sup>. A process blank correction of 1.6–3.6% (53 046–58 050 atoms) was applied to all samples.

‡Exposure ages calculated using an online calculator (version 2.3 <https://hess.ess.washington.edu/>) (Balco *et al.*, 2008) and Lm scaling, assuming a density of 2.6 g cm<sup>−3</sup>. Analytical uncertainties reported in parentheses. Ages calculated using the Loch Lomond production rate (Fabel *et al.*, 2012).

§Exposure ages calculated using default global production rates in the same online calculator.

**Table 4.** Surface exposure ages re-calculated using an online calculator (version 2.3 <https://hess.ess.washington.edu/>) (Balco *et al.*, 2008) with time-dependent Lm scaling (Lal, 1991; Stone, 2000), an erosion rate of 1 mm ka<sup>-1</sup>, and a local production rate, the Loch Lomond production rate (LLPR) of 4.00 ± 0.17 atoms g<sup>-1</sup> a<sup>-1</sup> (Fabel *et al.*, 2012). The highlighted samples (\*) were identified as outliers in the original studies. Note that in the original studies, Lm scaling factors were used by Ballantyne *et al.* (2013) while Du scaling factors were used by McCarroll *et al.* (2010).

Sample	Isotope	Published ages (ka)	Analytical uncertainty (ka)	Uncertainty (ka)	LLPR ages (ka)	Uncertainty (ka)	Original publication
GB-02	<sup>10</sup> Be	12.0*	1.1	1.2	12.0	1.2	Ballantyne <i>et al.</i> (2013)
GB-03	<sup>10</sup> Be	14.7	1.0	1.2	14.8	1.2	Ballantyne <i>et al.</i> (2013)
GB-04	<sup>10</sup> Be	15.0	0.6	0.9	15.1	0.9	Ballantyne <i>et al.</i> (2013)
GB-06	<sup>10</sup> Be	14.7	1.2	1.4	14.7	1.4	Ballantyne <i>et al.</i> (2013)
GT-01	<sup>10</sup> Be	14.1	0.6	1.8	15.1	0.9	McCarroll <i>et al.</i> (2010)
GT-2.1	<sup>10</sup> Be	14.3	0.3	1.7	15.5	0.8	McCarroll <i>et al.</i> (2010)
GT-2.2	<sup>10</sup> Be	14.3	0.5	1.8	15.3	0.8	McCarroll <i>et al.</i> (2010)
GT-03	<sup>10</sup> Be	13.0*	0.4	1.6	14.0	0.7	McCarroll <i>et al.</i> (2010)

of the cosmogenic nuclide signal. However, Bayesian analysis uses the prior model, which describes the relationship between depositional events sampled and the geochronological data to assess the possibility of outliers. Outlier ages identified by this approach are not automatically disregarded; an explanation is sought in terms of the context or the measurement. The approach uses the relationship between sites documenting the northwards passage of the Irish Sea ice margin to restrict the overlapping uncertainty distributions implicit in individual age estimates (Bronk Ramsey, 2009a). The Bayesian approach uses the prior model (i.e. the relative order of events) to model the probability distribution of each dating sample and reduces the uncertainty ranges for individual ages because a series of overlapping distributions occur. This modelled chronological framework highlights the time-frame for short-term dynamics of ice margin retreat, such as the oscillations of the ice margin and possible connections to adjacent equivalently modelled sectors of the ice sheet.

The morpho-stratigraphical model (*sensu* Chiverrell *et al.*, 2013) for the marginal retreat of Irish Sea ice in the NISB provided the prior model (i.e. hypothetical 'relative-order' of events), which was developed independently of the age information and conceptually underpinned the Bayesian age modelling (Buck *et al.*, 1996; Bronk Ramsey, 2009a,b). The prior model here is complex and integrates the relative distance reconstruction of marginal retreat of Irish Sea ice south to north across the Isle of Man, lowland Cumbria and into south-west Scotland. The surface exposure ages determined for boulders from South Barrule (Isle of Man) and Black Combe (north-west England) represent the timing of ice thinning rather than ice margin retreat, and so were run as outliers (100%) that do not influence the Bayesian model; this will allow us to explore their relationship to ice thicknesses and surface lowering: ages defined as 100% outliers in a Bayesian Sequence model do not influence the modelled outputs. Bayesian modelling was completed using OxCal 4.3 and comprised a uniform phase sequence model punctuated by boundaries (see Supporting Information). The approach uses Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sampling to build up a distribution of possible solutions, generating a probability called a posterior density estimate, which is the product of both the prior model and the likelihood probabilities for each sample. The approach generated modelled ages for boundaries between seven ice retreat zones (Zone 1–7: Fig. 1) and a final Zone 8 with complete deglaciation. Each retreat zone was coded as a Phase and grouped dating information for sites that share a common relationship with other items in the model. Phases were separated by the Boundary command, which delimited each Phase and generated the modelled output of ages (referred to as BL1–7: Fig. 1). The sequence model was run in an outlier mode

to assess outliers in time using a Student's *t*-distribution ( $p < 0.2$ ) to describe the distribution of outliers using an outlier scaling of 10<sup>0</sup>–10<sup>4</sup> years (Bronk Ramsey, 2009b).

## Results and interpretation

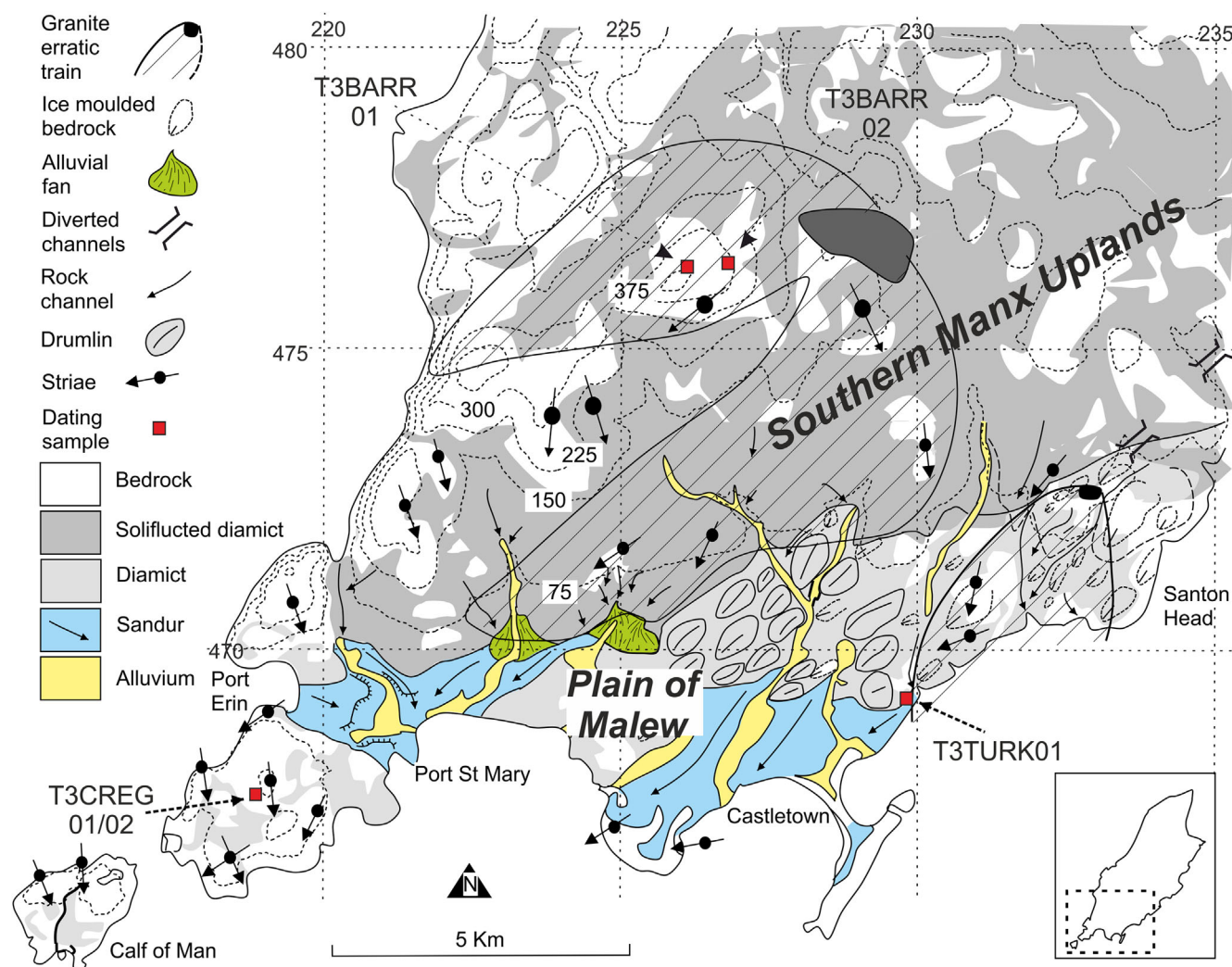
### Coastal lowlands of North Wales (Zone 1)

Zone 1 describes the retreat of ice margins from Anglesey and the Arfon lowlands towards the southern tip of the Isle of Man (Fig. 1). Bedforms from the seafloor between Anglesey and the Isle of Man show east-north-east to west-south-west ice flow directions (Van Landeghem *et al.*, 2009), which suggest an ice margin configuration aligned broadly north–south, and an ice-marginal retreat direction to the north-east. At Aber Ogwen (Edge *et al.*, 1990), coastal exposures show a basal glacial diamict of Welsh provenance overlain by a 2-m-thick sequence of laminated sands, silts and clays off-lapping west to east from a diamict high. This lacustrine and deltaic ice-marginal sequence is capped by glacial diamict of Irish Sea affinity. Smedley *et al.* (2017a) dated two OSL samples which targeted a 0.15-m-thick unit of horizontally stratified medium to coarse sand (Sh) above the basal diamict (T4ABER01; 18.1 ± 1.6 ka) and a 0.06-m-thick unit of horizontally stratified medium-to-coarse ice proximal bottom-set sands (T4ABER03; 20.2 ± 1.9 ka). These glacial sediments on the north Wales coast constrain the decoupling of Irish Sea ice from ice nourished in the mountains of North Wales (BL1: Fig. 1).

### The south of the Isle of Man (Zone 2)

The Plain of Malew (Fig. 3; Thomas *et al.*, 2006; Roberts *et al.*, 2007) records the initial step-back of ice margins in the south of the Isle of Man. Ice flow direction indicators (striae, erratic dispersal trains and glacial bedforms) show an early phase of south-southeast flows over the Southern Manx Uplands followed by a more south-westerly flow associated with bedrock streamlining and drumlins on the Plain of Malew (Fig. 3) (Roberts *et al.*, 2007). River channel diversions on the east coast suggest that coastal areas were occupied by ice longer than the Southern Manx Uplands. This suggests ice thinning on the Isle of Man, but the lack of landforms related to ice-marginal positions and dead ice suggests rapid deglaciation rather than *in situ*, ablation-driven downwasting (Roberts *et al.*, 2007). Two surface exposure samples were taken from the upper surface of a roche moutonnée (mid-stoss position), which targeted quartz-rich sandstone (T3CREG01) and a quartz vein in the sandstone (T3CREG02) at ~133 m OD on the Cregneash Peninsula, south-west Isle of Man. The striae in this ice-moulded terrain indicate overriding by ice flowing NNW–SSE over the peninsula (Lamplugh, 1903).





**Figure 3.** Glacial geomorphology of the south of the Isle of Man and a 5-km Ordnance Survey grid (Thomas *et al.*, 2006; Roberts *et al.*, 2007) showing the locations of samples T3CREG01 and T3CREG02, T3TURK01, and T3BARR01 and T3BARR02. [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

The surface exposure ages determined for T3CREG01 ( $21.3 \pm 1.2$  ka) and T3CREG02 ( $20.9 \pm 1.1$  ka) are consistent. The low-lying (<10 m OD) Plain of Malew comprises undulating terrain (<20 m OD) with drumlins in the east and deglacial outwash sand and gravel plains to the south (Lampugh, 1898, 1903; Thomas *et al.*, 2004, 2006; Roberts *et al.*, 2007). Exposures of these outwash deposits reveal a thin sequence (~2 m) of sand and gravel overlying the limestone on the south-east coast (Fig. 3), where a flat-topped outwash terrace yielded horizontally stratified coarse sands (Sh) with some granular gravel for OSL dating (T3TURK01), which overlies a unit of pebble gravels. The single-grain  $D_e$  distribution determined for T3TURK01 was symmetrical (Fig. 2a) and therefore was expected to have been well bleached before burial. T3TURK01 was taken from a thin sequence of glacial outwash sand and gravel and therefore probably was deposited in an environment with greater opportunity for sunlight bleaching before burial due to transportation in a shallow water column. The CAM age determined for T3TURK01 ( $19.2 \pm 2.0$  ka) is consistent with the surface exposure ages determined from Cregneash, and together they constrain the retreat of ice from the south of the Isle of Man (BL2: Fig. 1).

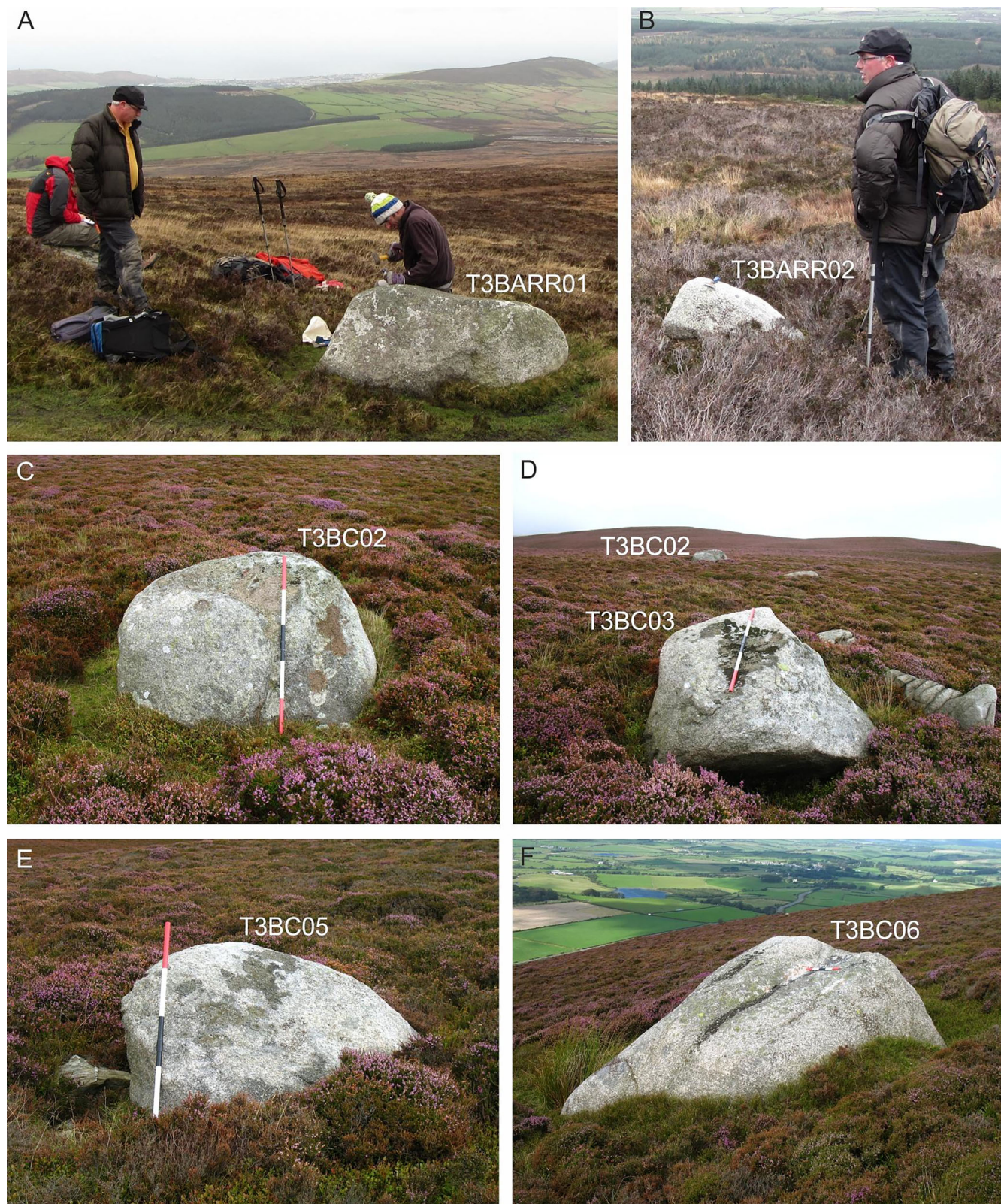
Samples for surface exposure dating were taken at higher altitudes on South Barrule, the highest peak (483 m) in the Manx Southern Uplands and targeted a train of granite erratic boulders (Darwin, 1848). These erratics were transported ~200 m uphill by ice from bedrock exposures at the head of

the Foxdale valley. Sample T3BARR01, from a large ( $2 \times 1.5 \times 1$  m) rounded quartz-rich granite boulder at 467 m near the summit of South Barrule, yielded an exposure age of  $25.0 \pm 1.3$  ka (Fig. 4A). Sample T3BARR02, from a smaller ( $1 \times 1 \times 1$  m) rounded quartz-rich granite boulder at 390 m, produced an exposure age of  $18.9 \pm 1.0$  ka (Fig. 4B). These boulders cannot be linked to specific configurations of the former ice margins, but potentially constrain the timing of ice sheet thinning in the centre of the ISB.

### Central Valley of the Isle of Man (Zone 3)

The Peel Embayment is located at the western end of the fault-bounded Central Valley of the Isle of Man and contains a complex geomorphology (Fig. 5A) that developed at the lateral margins of western Irish Sea ice (Thomas *et al.*, 2006). Moraine ridges and confined sandur arc south and south-west, and record ice penetration from the west coast of the Isle of Man (Fig. 5A). A small lake (~10 km<sup>2</sup>) trapped between the ice margin and the watershed of the Central Valley (at ~50 m OD) facilitated the development of an ice-contact delta. Quarry exposures in this delta at Ballaharra (Fig. 5B) display a sedimentary sequence of ice-proximal deltaic sands and gravels (Gt and St), which dip broadly south-east with an ice contact slope immediately to the north (maximum elevation ~50 m). The uppermost 2 m are planar cross-stratified sands and gravels representing a weakly developed



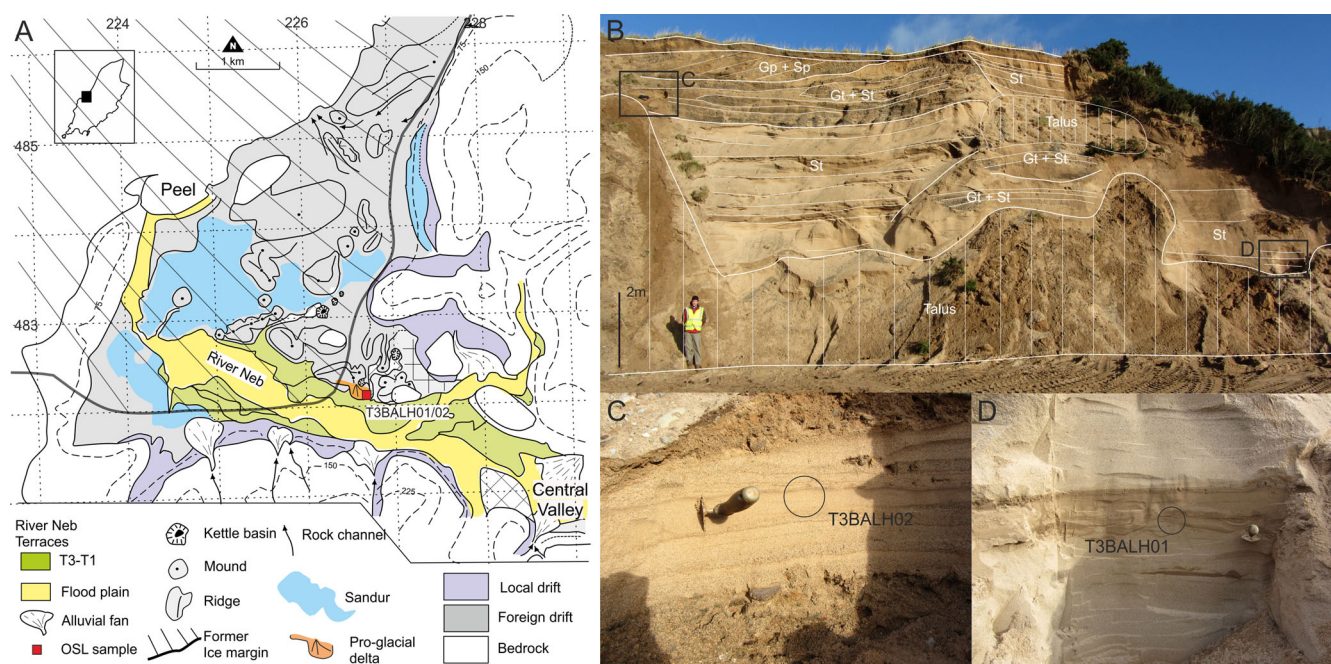


**Figure 4.** Cosmogenic nuclide samples: A, T3BARR01 from the summit of South Barrule; B, T3BARR02 from the flanks of South Barrule on the Isle of Man; C–F, samples T3BC02, T3BC03, T3BC05 and T3BC06 from Black Combe in western Cumbria, NW England. [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

delta top-set. Sample T3BALH01 (Fig. 5D) was taken low in the sequence from fine to medium sands (St and Sh) with fine laminations (Fl), which are representative of lower flow conditions in delta toe-sets. Sample T3BALH02 (Fig. 5C), from higher in the sequence, was taken from medium to coarse sands (Sr) within planar cross-stratified back-bar gravels (Gp), probably also deposited during declining river flows on the delta top-set. These OSL ages are age-inverted

with the upper sample being older (T3BALH02;  $27.1 \pm 3.8$  ka) than the lower (T3BALH01;  $18.5 \pm 3.3$  ka). The single-grain  $D_e$  distributions for the two samples suggest that the minimum dose population was characterized better for T3BALH01 than for T3BALH02 (Fig. 2b,c). This probably accounts for the age inversion, with T3BALH02 overestimating the true burial age by poorly constraining the well-bleached part of a partially bleached  $D_e$  distribution. This





**Figure 5.** (A) Glacial geomorphology of the Peel Embayment, central Isle of Man (after Thomas *et al.*, 2006) and a 1-km Ordnance Survey grid, showing the locations of samples T3BALH01 and T3BALH02. (B) Quarry section photographs, summary stratigraphy and lithofacies at Ballaharra quarry on 7/11/2013, and samples T3BALH01 (C) and T3BALH02 (D). [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

may be explained by the fact that the coarser-grained T3BALH02 (Sr, Gp) was deposited in a more energetic setting, potentially with less opportunity for bleaching than the finer-grained suspension rain-out deposits T3BALH01 (St, Sh, Fl). Thus, the OSL age for T3BALH01 is interpreted as constraining the timing of this ice margin (BL3: Fig. 1) and the establishment of an ice-dammed lake in the Central Valley (Fig. 5).

#### *Orrisdale ice-marginal oscillations (Zone 4)*

The Orrisdale formation is one of three major glacial formations (Shellag, Orrisdale and Jurby Formations) exposed on the northern coastal plain of the Isle of Man (Fig. 6) (Chadwick *et al.*, 2001; Thomas *et al.*, 2004). The terrain comprises a series of moraine ridges, moraine-confined sandur and lake basins on the north-west coast. Thomas *et al.* (1985) divided the thick accumulations of glaciofluvial outwash deposits (Bishop's Court Member) into: (i) a coarser gravel-dominated ice-proximal lithofacies assemblage (LFA1); and (ii) a finer sand-dominated ice-distal lithofacies assemblage (LFA2). Diamict ridges exposed in coastal cliff sections (Fig. 6; Orrisdale Head Member) separate the sandur deposits into six adjacent, ice-marginal and parallel troughs. These features record marginal retreat northwards when ice grounded in the Irish Sea pulled back from the bedrock core of the Isle of Man. Lapping-off the northernmost ridge structure at Orrisdale a trough comprising distal sandur deposits (trough 6) of medium-to-fine sands (Sp and Sh) with ripples (Sr) and fine laminations (Fl) of LFA2 was sampled for OSL dating (T3ORIS01) (Fig. 7A). Sample T3ORIS01 was taken from Sr lithofacies within the back-bar deposits of planar cross-stratified sands (Sp). Although the central value of the OSL age for Orrisdale (T3ORIS01;  $23.8 \pm 3.1$  ka) is older than the constraining OSL ages for Ballaharra (central Isle of Man, Zone 3) and Jurby (northernmost Isle of Man, Zone 5), it lies within uncertainties of these OSL ages and the minimum dose population in the single-grain  $D_e$  distribution appears to be

well characterized due to the large number of  $D_e$  values determined for this sample ( $n=79$  grains; Fig. 2d); thus, it is considered reliable.

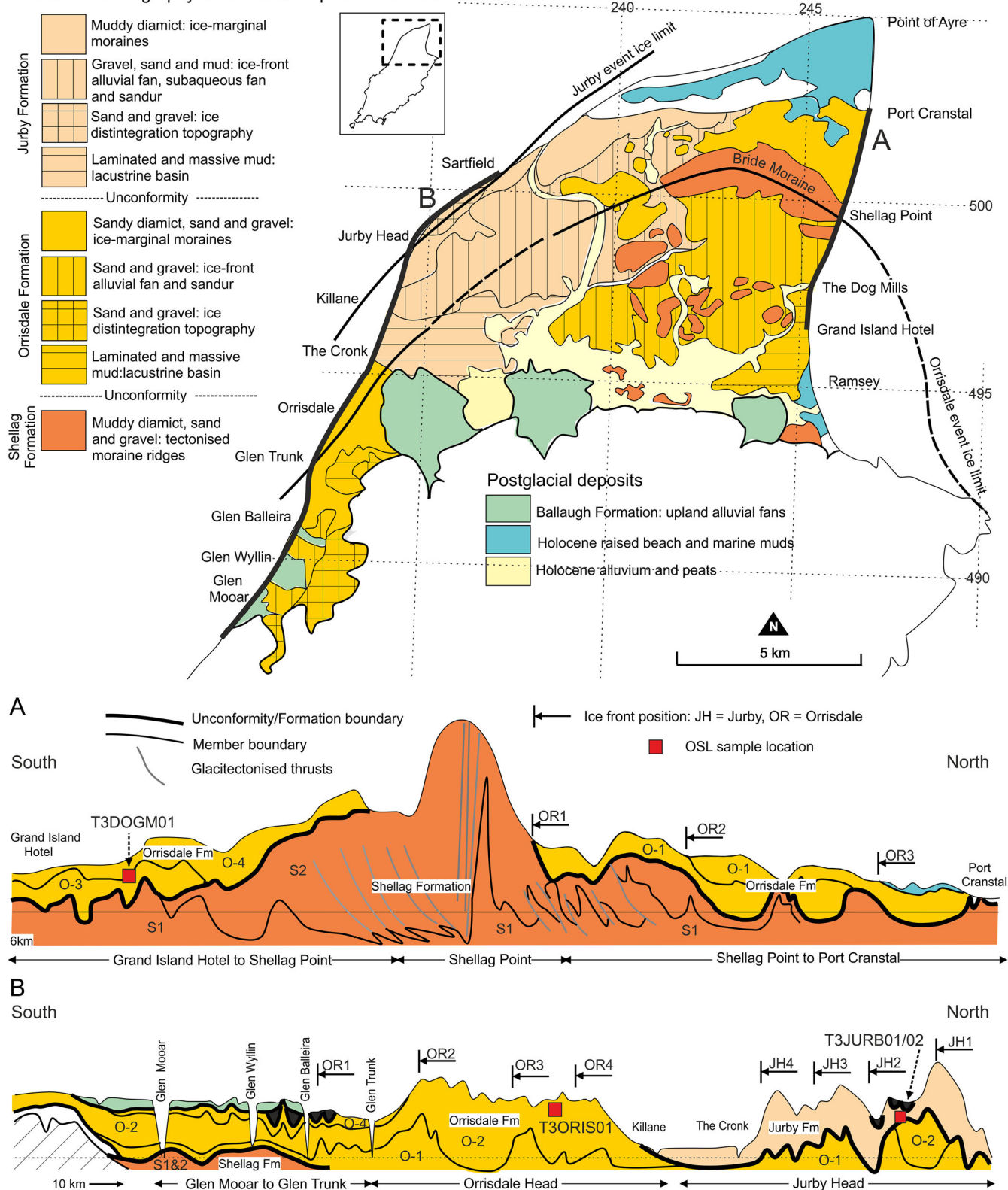
On the east coast of the northern plain, subglacial diamictons associated with the Orrisdale Formation are restricted to three off-lapping sequences entirely to the north of the Bride Moraine (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). South of the Bride Moraine, the Dog Mills member consists of laminated, occasionally massive, fine and silty sands deposited in a proglacial lagoon of lacustrine to shallow marine nature (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). These horizontally bedded fine to medium sands (Sh) were sampled for OSL dating (T3DOGM01) (Figs 6 and 7C). The sampled section was capped by a variable sequence of massive and bedded diamicts (supraglacial massive diamictos), which are intercalated and overlain by sands and gravels (the Kionlough Member) that thin southwards from the Bride Moraine (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). The OSL age for T3DOGM01 could only provide a maximum age for deglaciation at Dog Mills ( $<22.5 \pm 2.2$  ka) due to the presence of phantom dose populations discussed previously in the methods, but it is nevertheless consistent with the overall ice-retreat sequence. The Zone 4 ice margin crosses the Isle of Man and extends east towards England, and together the OSL ages from Orrisdale and Dog Mills constrain the timing of ice retreat from BL4 (Fig. 1).

#### *South-west Cumbria and northernmost Isle of Man (Zones 5 and 6)*

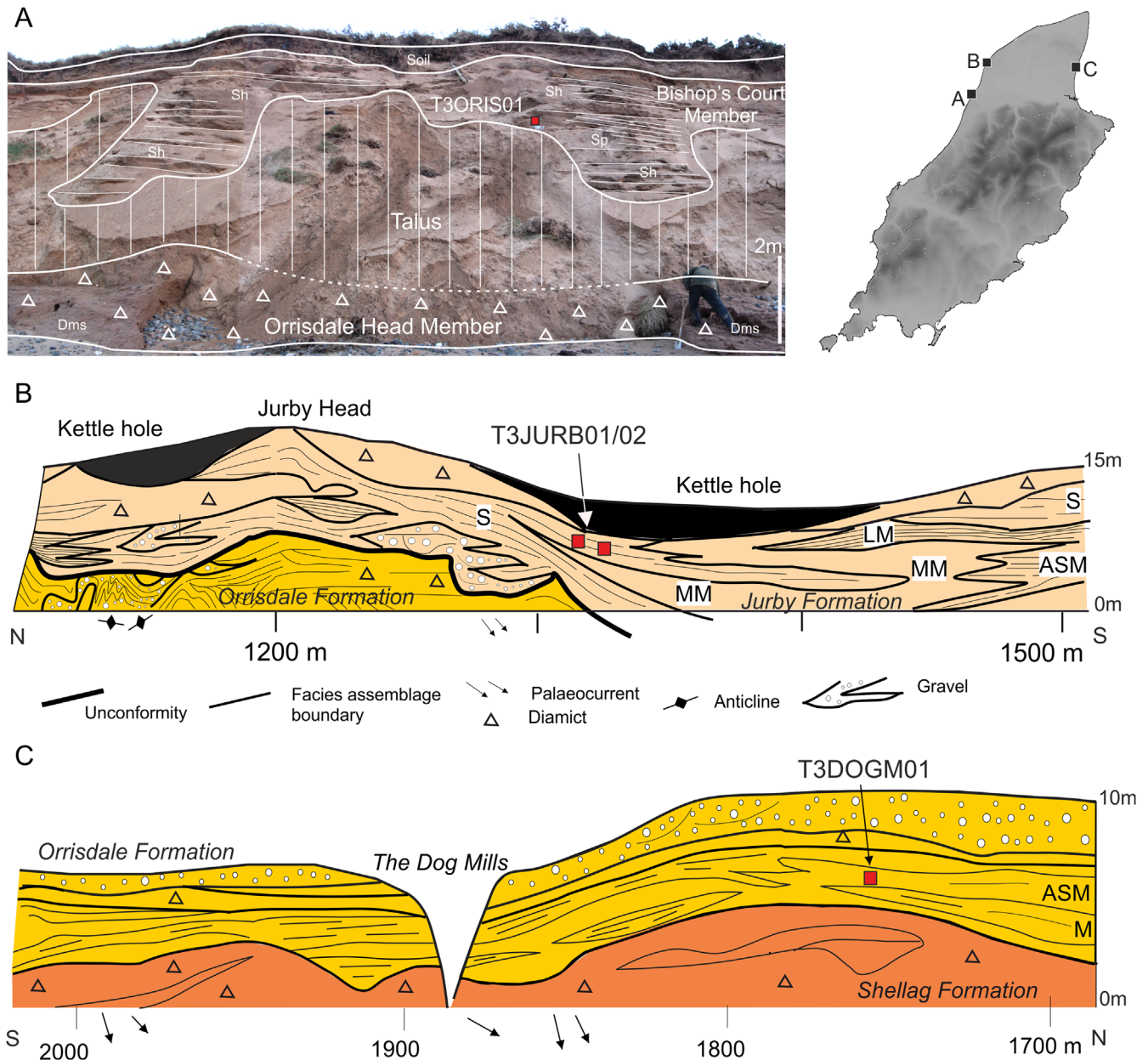
Terrestrial geomorphological data indicate more substantial ice -marginal readvances late during the deglaciation of the NISB. Prominent among these is the Scottish Readvance, which potentially involved  $>10$  km of ice margin retreat and readvance in northern England (Merritt and Auton, 2000; Livingstone *et al.*, 2010c) and a series of readvances in north-east Ireland, possibly linked to H1 (McCabe *et al.*, 1998). The Scottish Readvance ice margin is postulated to have extended across the lowlands of Cumbria (Fig. 1) and into the eastern



## Glacial lithostratigraphy of the northern plain of the Isle of Man



**Figure 6.** Lithostratigraphy of the Northern Plain of the Isle of Man (after Thomas *et al.*, 2004; Thomas *et al.*, 2006) with a 5-km Ordnance Survey grid. Summary stratigraphy and lithofacies assemblages on the east and west coasts of the Northern Plain of the Isle of Man, identifying the OSL sample locations from Orrisdale (T3ORIS01), Dog Mills (T3DOGM01) and Jurby (T3JURB01, T3JURB02). Stratigraphical sections show the three major glacial formations (from oldest to youngest: the Shellag, Orrisdale and Jurby Formations). Stratigraphic units in the Shellag Formation comprise: S1 basal diamict, and S2 ice front outwash fan deposits. In the Orrisdale Formation: O-1 basal diamict, O-2 outwash deposits, O-3 subaqueous sands and muds, and O-4 subaerial flow diamict. Subdivisions for the Jurby Formation are not shown. Vertical scale much exaggerated and minor detail removed for clarity. Ice margin still-stands in the Orrisdale Formation are marked OR1 to OR4. Transgressive off-lapping ice margin readvance positions in the Jurby Formation are marked JH1 to JH4. [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]



**Figure 7.** Detailed stratigraphy and lithofacies assemblages identifying the OSL samples from: (A) Orrisdale photographed 7/11/2013 (T3ORIS01), (B) Dog Mills (T3DOGM01) and (C) Jurby (T3JURB01, T3JURB02). Site stratigraphies (after Thomas *et al.*, 2004; Thomas *et al.*, 2006) using identical formation colours as Fig. 6. Lithofacies code annotations are as follows: S – sand, ASM – alternating sand and mud, LM – laminated mud, MM – massive mud. [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

ISB down the coast of Cumbria (Trotter *et al.*, 1937; Merritt and Auton, 2000; Livingstone *et al.*, 2010c). It has also been linked (Livingstone *et al.*, 2010c) with a series of readvances north of the Bride Moraine on the Isle of Man (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). The thin geometry of the associated till in the Solway Lowlands (Trotter and Hollingworth, 1932; Livingstone *et al.*, 2010d) and the glaciotectionized succession within the St Bees and Gutterby moraines (Williams *et al.*, 2001) led to suggestions that the Scottish Readvance was a short-lived event. The flow phases and ice-marginal positions are based on stratigraphy, rather than geochronological information. Connection of these ice margins across the north-east ISB is uncertain, and so the structure and timing of this readvance episode have yet to be resolved fully. Here we address this with a new geochronology for ice-marginal advances within the Jurby Formation on the Isle of Man (Thomas *et al.*, 2004), the Annaside-Gutterby coastal sections in the south-west

Lake District (Huddart, 1977, 1991) and for the Holme St Cuthbert delta complex in lowland Cumbria (Livingstone *et al.*, 2010c).

### Jurby, northern Isle of Man

The coastal sections at Jurby on the west coast of the Isle of Man were deposited during a phased 2–3 km readvance of the ISIS ice margin into a subaqueous fronting basin (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). The stratigraphy shows four similar off-lapping sediment packages that contain ice contact diamict and subaqueous fan sand-to-mud, grading to distal, laminated muds (Fig. 7B) (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). The Jurby Formation represents a series of readvances of relatively thin ice that extended ~400–500 m further than the previous advance, and unconformably overlies the diamictos of the Orrisdale Formation. These advances were followed by rapid retreat during which there was limited erosion or



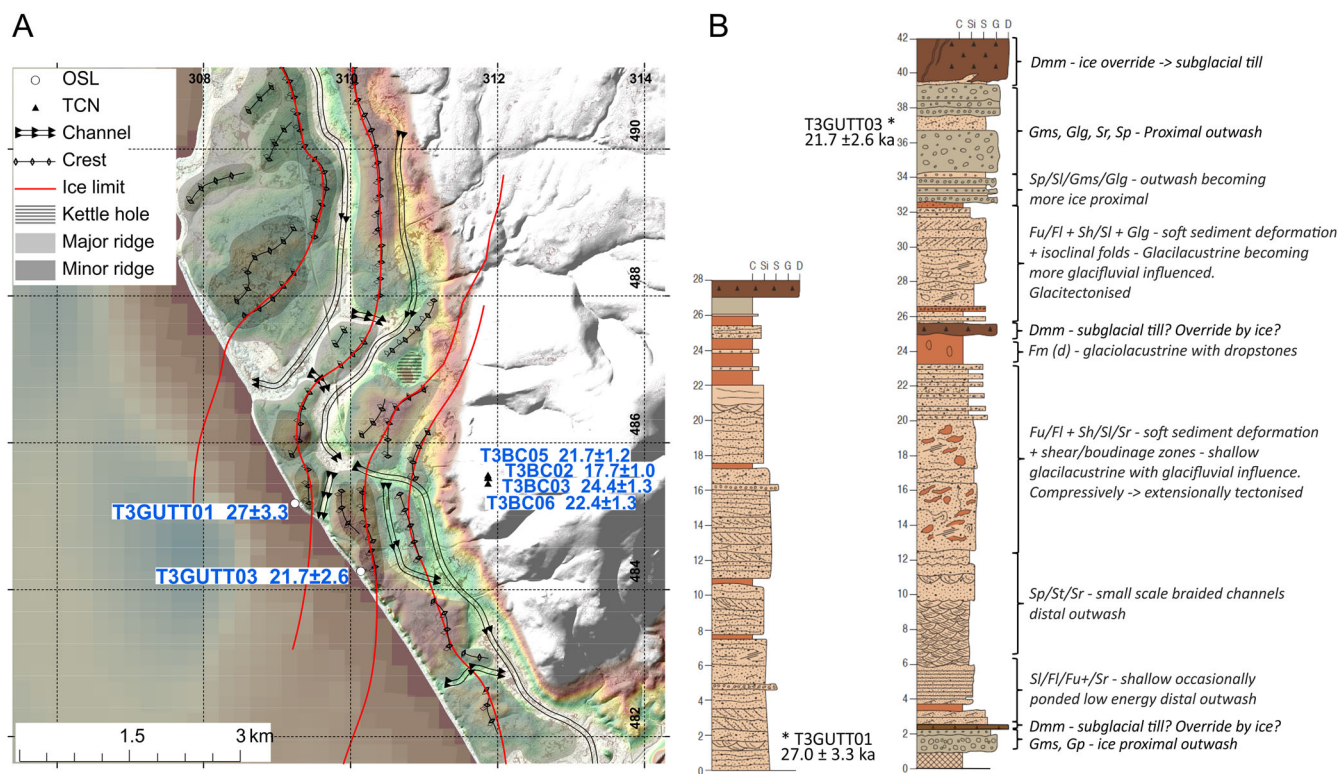
burial of the sediment succession. OSL sampling targeted the second of these sediment packages. The basal sediments are composed of diamict (Orrisdale Head Member) that is unconformably overlain by sands and the massive muds of the Jurby Formation (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). This sequence was then capped by a Lateglacial kettlehole infill (Fig. 7B). The sampled sands are interpreted as low-energy outwash from subglacial channels evacuating water and sediment either directly or via a short subaerial sandur into open water. OSL samples were taken from a unit of laminated medium to coarse sand (Sh) (T3JURB01) and fine to medium, upward-fining rippled sands (Sh and Sr) (T3JURB02). Both samples were taken from the middle of the cliff section, which is capped by massive muds (Fig. 7B). The OSL ages of  $20.8 \pm 2.4$  ka (T3JURB01) and  $23.4 \pm 2.8$  ka (T3JURB02) overlap within  $\pm 1\sigma$  uncertainties, but the central value of the age for T3JURB02 appears to be older. It is more likely that the age determined for sample T3JURB01 is more accurate than T3JURB02 as the  $D_e$  distributions for T3JURB01 (Fig. 2j;  $n=105$  grains) has a larger population of  $D_e$  values, which better characterized the minimum dose population in comparison to T3JURB02 (Fig. 2k,  $n=83$  grains).

## Western Lake District

The coastal plain of south-west Cumbria comprises a low <50 m OD undulating terrain of mounds, ridges and basins dissected by outwash channels that formed between the Irish Sea ice mass and Cumbrian Fells (Merritt and Auton, 2000). Samples for surface exposure dating were collected from four glacially transported boulders of Eskdale granite from 255 m OD on the western slopes of Black Combe, approximately 2 km east of and 250 m higher than Gutterby-Annaside (Fig. 1). The boulders were originally sourced from the southern margin of a granite outcrop located 3 km to the

north of Black Combe, and protrude at least 0.75 m in height above the present ground surface and located within 150 m of one another (Fig. 4C–F). We infer that the suite of boulders was deposited as the ice was downwasting and retreating. Current water depths in the adjacent ISB suggest that ice thicknesses >300 m were required to deposit the boulders on this lateral margin. This therefore corresponded to the lowering of the ice surface during deglaciation. The four samples yielded surface exposure ages of  $17.7 \pm 1.0$ ,  $24.4 \pm 1.3$ ,  $21.7 \pm 1.2$  and  $22.4 \pm 1.3$  ka (Table 3), and show significant variation for an individual site. Of these ages, three (T3BC03, 05 and 06) overlap within  $\pm 1\sigma$  uncertainties, and provided a weighted mean age of  $22.9 \pm 1.1$  ka that represents the best estimate of the timing of ice surface lowering to ~260 m in the south-west Lake District.

The Annaside–Gutterby complex is composed of north–south aligned ice-marginal ridges that have been associated with readvances of Irish Sea ice down the Cumbrian coastline (Fig. 8). These ridges have been linked with both the Scottish and the Gosforth readvances (Huddart, 1977, 1991; Merritt and Auton, 2000), but this has not been supported by any robust chronology. Coastal exposures through the ridges of the Annaside–Gutterby complex show a sequence of glacial diamictons, outwash sands and gravels, and glaciolacustrine sediments (Fig. 8). The basal sediments near Annaside Banks are composed of horizontally stratified, planar cross stratified and rippled sands (Sh; Sp and Sr) with occasional fine drapes (Fl) that were deposited in a shallow lacustrine setting (Huddart, 1991); these sands were sampled for OSL dating (T3GUTT01). Thick sequences of glaciolacustrine silts/clays interbedded with outwash sands bury these basal sands and reflect a readvance of ice. A second coastal section, 1.2 km to the south of T3GUTT01, also shows lower outwash sands overlain by shallow glaciolacustrine silts/clays with occasional dropstones and these are interbedded with glacialfluvial rippled and sub-horizontally bedded sands. These sediments



**Figure 8.** (A) Geomorphology and sampling around Gutterby–Annaside Banks and Black Combe. (B) Stratigraphical logs from the Gutterby sections T3GUTT01 and T3GUTT03. [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)] [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

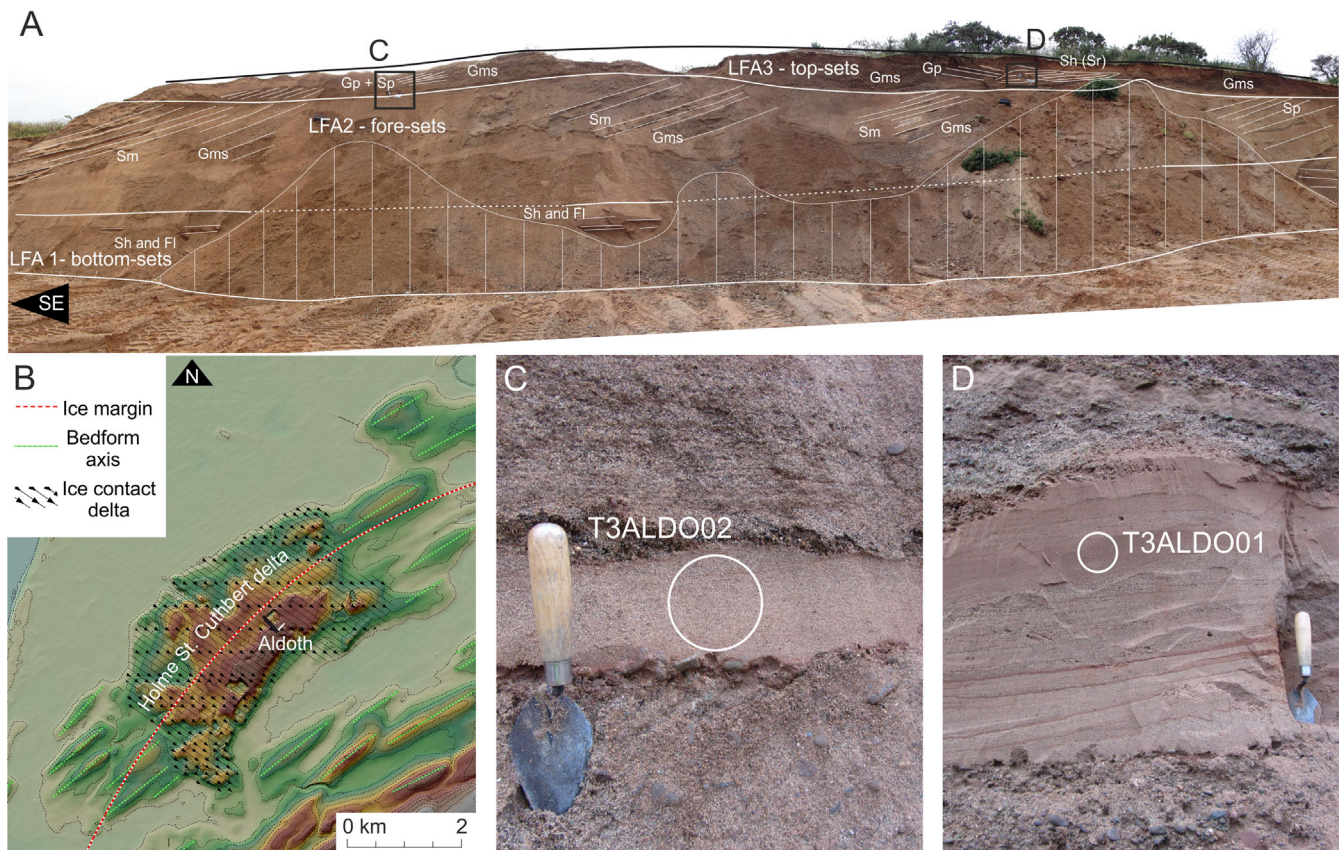


are heavily deformed due to soft sediment deformation suggesting rapid accretion but are also crosscut by sheared and boudinaged zones related to ice readvance and compressive glaciotectionism of the sediment pile. A clear readvance signal is also supported by the coarsening upwards of glaciofluvial sands and gravels and the emplacement of subglacial diamicts into the upper parts of the glacial sequence. The uppermost 5–10 m of the cliff section is composed of massive stratified gravels (Gms) and horizontally stratified and rippled sands (Sh and Sr). An OSL sample (T3GUTT03) was taken from the rippled sands between two gravel units in the upper 3.5 m of the sequence. As a pair of samples, T3GUTT01 provides a constraint on outwash deposition to  $27.0 \pm 3.3$  ka that pre-dated the readvance responsible for the Annaside–Gutterby ice-marginal, glaci-tectonized complex and sample T3GUTT03 constrains the ultimate retreat of the ice from this ice-marginal ridge to  $21.7 \pm 2.6$  ka (Fig. 8).

### Holme St Cuthbert (Aldoth Quarry)

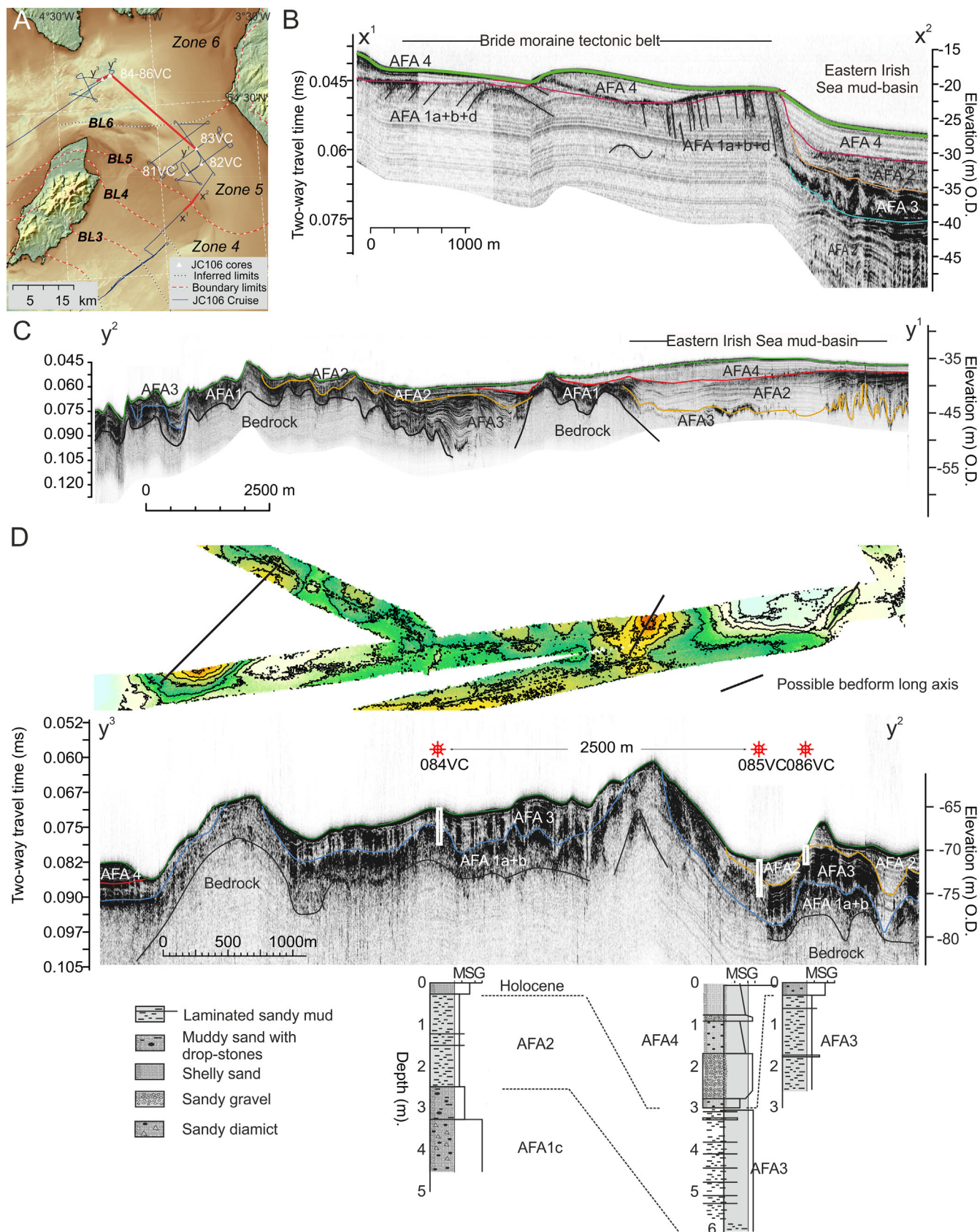
The Holme St Cuthbert delta is a 2 km by 4 km lowland (45 m OD) flat-topped ridge composed of sand and gravel, which overlies predominantly NE–SW aligned drumlinized terrain (Fig. 9B) (Livingstone *et al.*, 2008). This superimposition requires that the ice that produced the drumlins must have withdrawn, to be followed by a readvance of ice necessarily from a different direction to impound the lake in which the delta accumulated. The delta developed during a late-stage south-eastward readvance of ice into the NISB and provides evidence for a lake in the Solway Lowlands dammed by readvance of ice from south-west Scotland (Huddart, 1970; Livingstone *et al.*, 2010c), indicating that withdrawal of

Cumbrian ice was succeeded by readvance of Scottish ice. During December 2013, the sections at Aldoth Quarry showed the classic components of an ice contact Gilbert-style delta (Fig. 9A), with three broad lithofacies assemblages (LFA1–3). LFA1 is a 5-m-thick sequence of sub-horizontal sands and granule gravels, typical of delta-proximal toe-sets, in addition to horizontal muds and sands that were deposited as more distal bottom-sets in a low-energy environment (Jopling and Walker, 1968; Gustavson *et al.*, 1975; Cohen, 1979; Clemmensen and Houmark-Nielsen, 1981). LFA2 comprises a thick (8–9 m) sequence of steeply (30–40°) south-east-dipping planar beds of stratified medium to coarse sand with granule to pebble gravels, typical of delta foreset beds deposited as cohesionless subaqueous debris-flows (Smith and Ashley, 1985; Nemec *et al.*, 1999; Nemec, 2009). LFA3 is an ~2-m sequence of glaciofluvial bar-form planar cross-stratified sands and gravels, rippled sands and massive stratified gravels, interpreted as delta topsets. LFA3 caps the section and was probably deposited by migratory proglacial rivers on the delta surface (Nemec *et al.*, 1999). Sands in the delta topsets (LFA3) were sampled for OSL dating, specifically from: (i) medium to coarse sand (Sr) from a channel fill (T3ALDO01: Fig. 9D); and (ii) a thin (<0.1 m) unit of horizontally stratified coarse sand (Sh) (T3ALDO02) bound by units of coarser outwash sand and gravel (Fig. 9C). These two OSL samples yielded ages of  $20.2 \pm 3.5$  ka (Fig. 2f; T3ALDO01) and  $27.9 \pm 4.7$  ka (Fig. 2g; T3ALDO02). The discrepancy between these two ages probably reflects the different depositional settings of the two samples, whereby T3ALDO01 (Fig. 2f; Fig. 9D) was deposited under lower-energy conditions than T3ALDO02 (Fig. 2g; Fig. 9C), which facilitated a greater opportunity for



**Figure 9.** The Holme St Cuthbert ice contact delta on the Scottish Readvance limit. (A) NW–SE Quarry face at Aldoth Quarry in December 2013. (B) Aldoth Quarry in the Holme St Cuthbert ice contact delta complex. OSL samples T3ALDO02 (C) and T3ALDO01 (D). [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]





**Figure 10.** Sea floor acoustic and stratigraphical data from east and north of the Isle of Man. (A) The location, zones and boundary limits, the JC106 cruise track (green), cores and transect lines  $x^1$ – $x^2$ ,  $y^1$ – $y^2$  and  $y^2$ – $y^3$ . (B) East of the Isle of Man line  $x^1$ – $x^2$  the sub-bottom profiler data traverse the glaciotectionic axis of the Bride Moraine. (C) Line  $y^1$ – $y^2$  the sub-bottom profiler data extend from the eastern Irish Sea mud basin to the Solway Firth. (D) Planform multi-beam data with 2-m contour intervals, sub-bottom profiler data and the vibrocore stratigraphy from line  $y^2$ – $y^3$  in the Solway Firth. The sub-bottom profiler data are annotated with acoustic facies (Table 6), boundaries and core locations. [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

sunlight exposure before burial; thus, the well bleached part of the partially bleached  $D_e$  distribution was characterized using fewer grains.

## Offshore stratigraphy

Shallow geophysical and geotechnical data were collected during Cruise JC106 of the RRS *James Cook* (Fig. 10) and provide information on the environments, continuity of ice-marginal positions and relationships in zones 5–6 in the adjacent offshore sector (Fig. 10). The broad stratigraphy and acoustic facies assemblages (AFA1–5; Table 5) are visible in sub-bottom profiler data and corroborated in part by photographs, visual logs and the physical properties from seven vibrocores (Table 5). Retrieved foraminifera from the cores were insufficient in number for  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating. Traversing BL5 40 km east of the Isle of Man acoustic survey line  $x^1$ – $x^2$  is parallel to exposures of the glaciotectionic axis of the Bride Moraine at Shellag Point (Fig. 6). Line  $x^1$ – $x^2$  (Fig. 10A) shows a thick basin fill of stratified stronger reflectors probably dense glaciomarine muds (AFA2–4) lapping-off to the north of acoustically more opaque, chaotic, tectonically deformed higher terrain (Fig. 10B). The glaciogenic sequence AFA1–3 (Fig. 10B) is truncated and buried by less dense Holocene marine sands (AFA4) as confirmed by vibrocore data. The higher terrain in line  $x^1$ – $x^2$  (Fig. 10B) shows a basal opaque and probably dense stratigraphy (AFA1a–d), in which upright structures and lower angle dipping reflectors are similar in character to the diapiric folds and thrusts exposed in coastal sections at Shellag Point (Thomas, 1984). Darker more dense reflectors probably reflect glaciotectionized diamictos (AFA1a), but these are interbedded with less dark units probably coarse and fine-grained outwash deposits (AFA1b+d). AFA1a, b and d are all probably similar to components of the glaciotectionized exposures at Shellag Point (Thomas, 1984). In the basin fill (Fig. 10B) extensive folding and deformation of the stratified muds is attributed to a probable readvance of the ice margin and marginal stresses acting against the bedrock slope of the wider Manx platform (Lamplugh, 1903; Pantin *et al.*, 1978). Line  $x^1$ – $x^2$  contains evidence for a more extensive Bride Moraine kinotectonic zone, which formed probably spanning the ice dynamics and marginal readvances attributed to BL4 and BL5 (Fig. 10A). The uppermost undeformed, less dense stratified muds (AFA2) were then deposited under glaciomarine conditions during subsequent ice-marginal retreat,

with the lighter reflectors showing stratified Holocene muds (AFA4) capping the sequence.

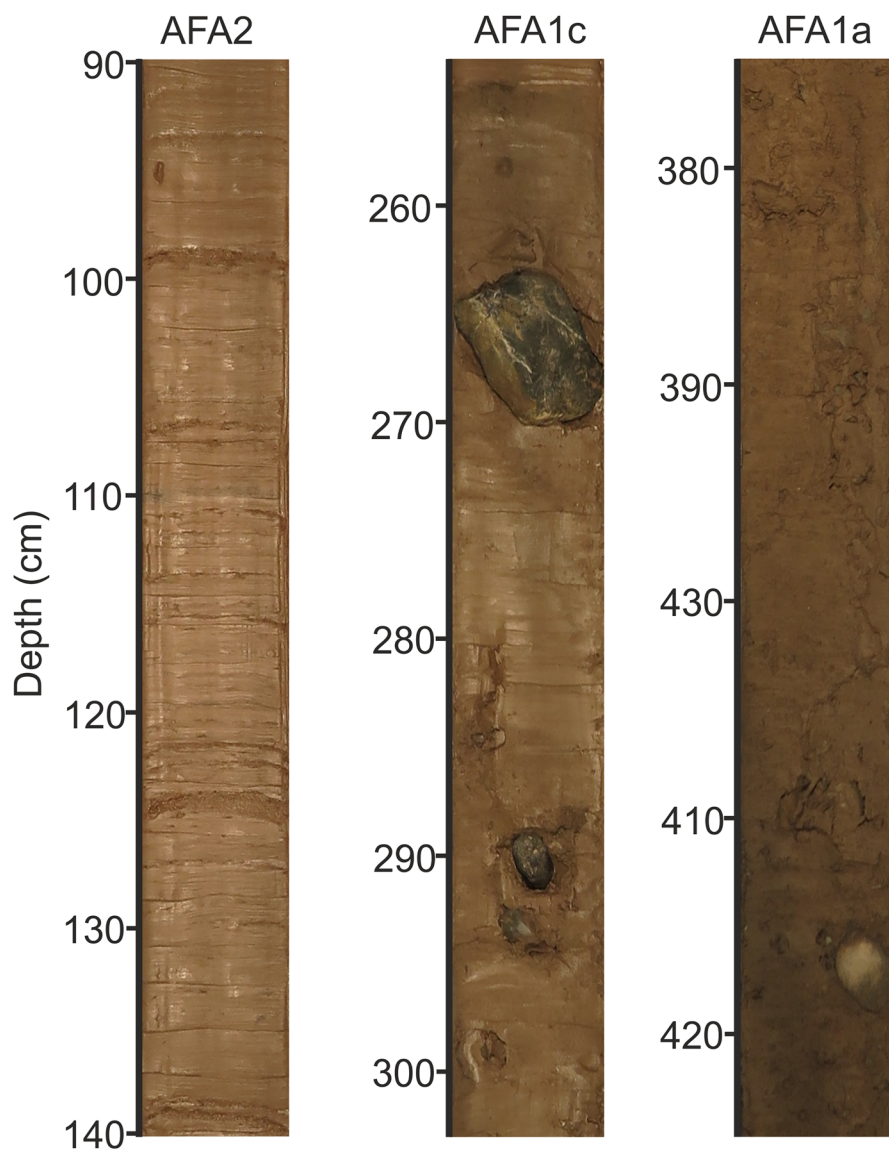
Acoustic line  $y^1$ – $y^2$  (Fig. 10A) extends 7 km from the eastern Irish Sea mud-belt (Pantin *et al.*, 1978) into the Solway Firth (Zone 6) and crosses BL6. Line  $y^1$ – $y^2$  confirms the broad distribution of acoustic facies with a drape of Holocene marine sands and gravels (AFA4) capping darker laminated glaciomarine muds (AFA2–3) that in turn fill an undulating bedrock topography (Fig. 10C). In the south, AFA2–3 are thicker as part of the eastern Irish Sea mud basin (Pantin *et al.*, 1978). Descending into the Solway Firth, the laminated muds (AFA2–3) are restricted to smaller basins between a series of ridges. The ridges are in part acoustically opaque bedrock, but also composed of or capped by darker acoustic units similar to AFA1 as seen on line  $x^1$ – $x^2$  (Fig. 10B). Including examples from depth in the mud basin, these ridges probably represent a series of moraines formed as the ice retreated northwards across BL6. The numerous nature of these ridges (Fig. 10C) appears to reflect still-stand and oscillation of the ice-margin during the retreat of ice margins into Zone 6 (Fig. 10A).

The location of survey line  $y^2$ – $y^3$  was designed to assess the stratigraphy and environments north of BL6 in the middle of the Solway Firth (Fig. 10D). The restricted planform multibeam dataset (Fig. 10D) suggest sculpting by subglacial processes that produced moulded and possible drumlinoid forms. The acoustic stratigraphy reveals darker chaotic reflectors at depth (AFA1: Fig. 10D) overlying an acoustically opaque bedrock surface. Relatively thin shelly sands and gravels of Holocene age cap the sequence (AFA4). Vibrocore JC106-084VC confirms that AFA1 includes an over-consolidated Irish Sea-type (Thomas *et al.*, 2004) diamicton (AFA1a: Fig. 11) that is probably interspersed locally with outwash deposits (AFA1b). This is then capped by an over-consolidated laminated glaciomarine mud with numerous drop-stones (AFA1c: Fig. 11) that reflects deglaciation at a calving ice margin and subsequent override by ice readvance. This in turn is overlain by normally consolidated glaciomarine muds (AFA2) that vibrocore samples suggest are devoid of dropstones (Fig. 11). Both AFA1c and AFA2 contain sparse foraminifera indicative of glaciomarine conditions. The parallel stratified dark reflectors (AFA1c) appear to have been moulded into mounds, for example beneath 084VC and 086VC on line  $y^2$ – $y^3$  (Fig. 10D). The combined sequence of AFA1–3 records the deposition of a subglacial diamicton, followed by ice margin retreat via calving into a marine basin before a readvance consolidated, deformed and moulded the

**Table 5.** Acoustic facies associations (AFA) and the supporting lithostratigraphy from vibrocores for seismic lines in the northern ISB (Fig. 10A). These AFAs are used as annotation on seismic lines on Fig. 10, and examples of the deposits associated with AFAs 1a, 1c and 2 from vibrocore JC106-084VC are shown on Fig. 11.

Acoustic facies	Lithostratigraphy	Environment and processes
AFA 1a	Over-consolidated sandy matrix-supported pebbly diamicton (Dmm)	Irish Sea Till, subglacial diamict
AFA 1b	Over-consolidated sands (Sh) and gravels (Gm, Gms), including planar and trough cross-stratified units (Gp, Sp, Gt, St)	Glaciofluvial outwash, occasionally tectonized and over-consolidated
AFA 1c	Over-consolidated occasionally laminated muds with dropstones (Dml)	Ice-proximal outwash, affected by iceberg calving, overridden by ice
AFA 1d	Sands and silts (Sh and Fl), normally consolidated, often bedded (1–10 mm) occasionally massive (Sm)	Ice-proximal outwash, either subaerial or efflux jet discharge from the ice margin, occasionally tectonized and over-consolidated
AFA 2	Normally consolidated, laminated muds, silts and clays (Fl)	Ice-distal suspension rain-out in a subaqueous basin
AFA 3	Glacitected (AFA 3), laminated muds, silts and clays (Fl)	Ice-distal suspension deformed and glacitected by advancing ice
AFA 4	Unconsolidated shelly sands and gravels	Holocene shell-hash, sands and gravels worked by marine currents





**Figure 11.** Lithofacies examples from key acoustic facies sampled from vibrocore JC106-084VC from line  $\gamma^2$ – $\gamma^3$  (Fig. 10D). [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

glaciomarine muds into what are probably subglacial bed-forms. More extensive multibeam data are required to confirm this, but if the moulded forms are drumlins then the alignment reflects a flow direction  $162$ – $158^\circ$  (SSE) and is consistent with the inferred flow direction of the Scottish Readvance (BL6) (Livingstone *et al.*, 2010d) and possibly later ice marginal oscillations of ice fed from south-west Scotland.

#### *The Galloway Hills, SW Scotland (Zone 7)*

During the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), the Galloway Hills in SW Scotland formed a major centre of ice dispersal in southern Scotland (Geikie, 1894; Charlesworth, 1927). Ice flowed radially out to the north-east, to the east across northern England, to the north-west and west to the Firth of Clyde, and to the south into the Solway Firth, feeding the ISIS (Finlayson *et al.*, 2010). Eight surface exposure ages have previously been obtained from granite boulders at two sites near the former ice divide: four from Glen Trool (McCarroll *et al.*, 2010) and four from Gadlach Brae (Ballantyne *et al.*, 2013). These ages have been recalibrated here using a locally derived  $^{10}\text{Be}$  production rate (LLPR; Table 4). Two ages (GT-03 and GB-02) represent statistically distinct outliers, attributed by Ballantyne *et al.* (2013) to former sediment cover over the sampled boulders. The remaining three

samples for Glen Trool (GT-01, GT-2.1 and GT-2.2) produced an uncertainty-weighted mean age of  $15.4 \pm 0.7$  ka, and those for Gadlach Brae yielded an uncertainty-weighted mean age of  $15.2 \pm 0.8$  ka. As these sampled boulders were obtained near the former ice divide, they indicate the timing of deglaciation shortly before the final disappearance of ice from this centre of ice dispersion. These surface exposure ages therefore constrain the ultimate retreat of the ice margin (BL7: Fig. 1) in SW Scotland after deglaciation of the NISB (Zone 6).

#### *Bayesian age modelling of the deglaciation of the NISB*

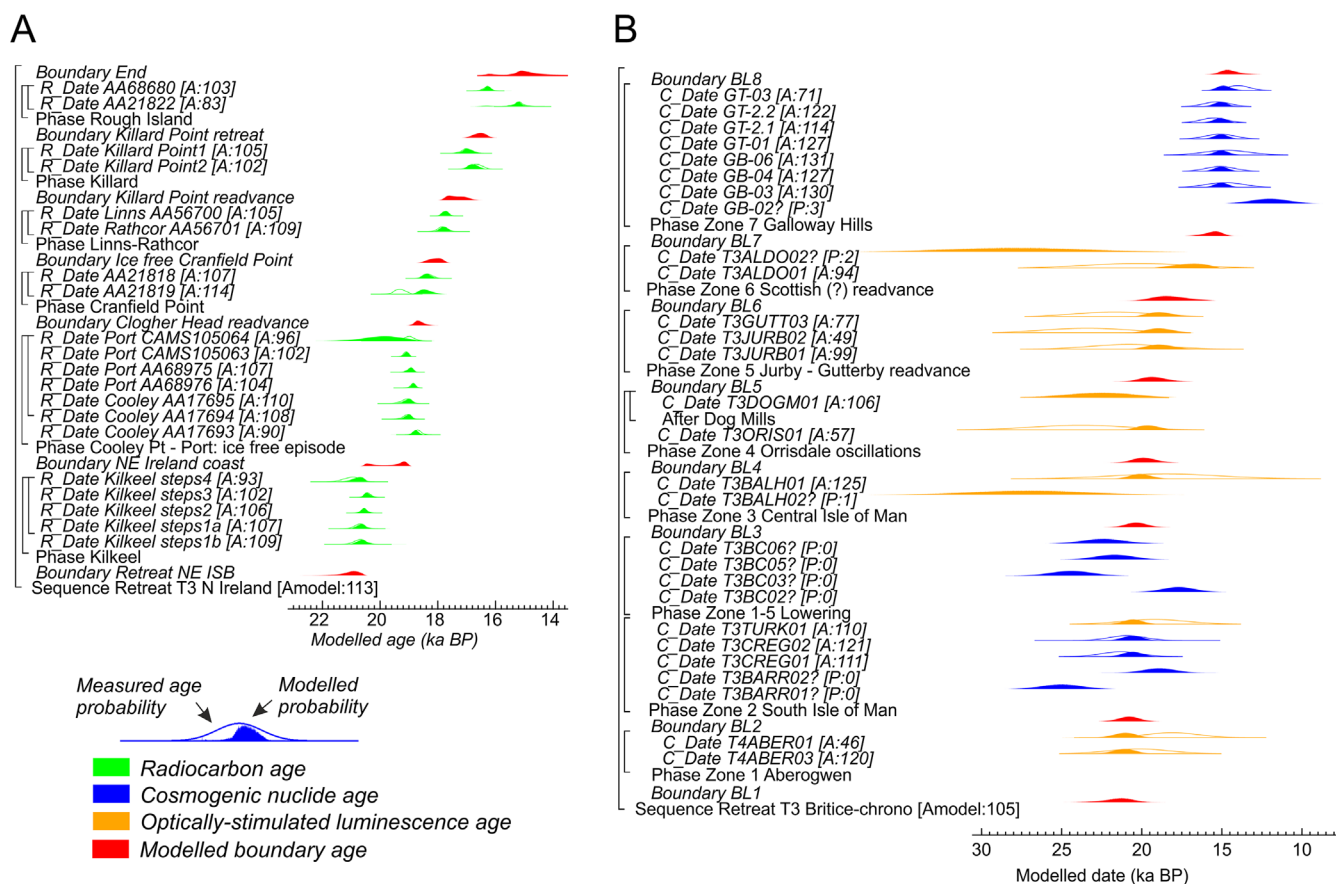
Bayesian modelling (Bronk Ramsey, 2009a) of the age control for sites recording the northwards retreat of the ISIS margin uses the geochronological measurements and the relative order of events to model the probability distribution of each sample. This process integrates information from multiple dating methods, identifies outliers and uses the series of overlapping distributions to establish posterior density estimates (PDEs:  $1\sigma$  age ranges italicized below) with smaller uncertainty ranges than the individual age measurements (Bronk Ramsey, 2009a). Boundary limits (BL1 to BL8) inserted within the sequence model also return modelled PDEs that

provide a temporal framework for the dynamics of ISIS marginal retreat (Table 6). Using these boundary limits to frame understanding of ice marginal dynamics provides a more robust approach than considering the individual age measurements. Surface exposure ages from the uplands of coastal Cumbria and the Isle of Man do not explicitly relate to well-defined ISIS marginal positions, and they were

excluded from the modelling. They are, however shown in Fig. 12 and Table 6 to explore linkages between the marginal retreat sequence and possible lowering of the ice surface. The Bayesian analysis produced a conformable age model for the ISIS marginal retreat sequence (Fig. 12B; Table 6) with an overall agreement index of 105%, thus exceeding the >60% threshold advocated by Bronk Ramsey (2009a). Four

**Table 6.** The original, modelled and boundary limit ages for each stage, all as  $\pm 1$  sigma. \*Ages identified as outliers that did not influence the modelled outputs. On the left boundary ages with Zone 5/6 grouped as single-phase and on the right boundary ages with Zones 5 and 6 defined as separate phases.

Prior	Age (ka)	Modelled age (ka)	Prior	Age (ka)	Modelled age (ka)	Interpretation
Boundary Limit 1		<b>21.4 <math>\pm</math> 1.0</b>	Boundary Limit 1		<b>21.4 <math>\pm</math> 1.0</b>	Retreat northwards from NW Wales
Zone 1 North Wales			Zone 1 North Wales			Ice margins moving northwards from the north Wales coast towards the Isle of Man
T4ABER01	18.1 $\pm$ 1.6	21.0 $\pm$ 0.8	T4ABER01	18.1 $\pm$ 1.6	21.1 $\pm$ 0.7	
T4ABER03	20.2 $\pm$ 1.9	21.0 $\pm$ 0.8	T4ABER03	20.2 $\pm$ 1.9	21.1 $\pm$ 0.7	
Boundary Limit 2		<b>20.7 <math>\pm</math> 0.7</b>	Boundary Limit 2		<b>20.8 <math>\pm</math> 0.7</b>	Retreat to the southern Isle of Man
Zone 2 South Isle of Man	25.0 $\pm$ 1.3		Zone 2 South Isle of Man	25.0 $\pm$ 1.3		
T3BARR01*	18.9 $\pm$ 1.0	*	T3BARR01*	18.9 $\pm$ 1.0	*	High-altitude boulders on the summits of the Isle of Man
T3BARR02*	21.3 $\pm$ 1.2	*	T3BARR02*	21.3 $\pm$ 1.2	*	
T3CREG01	20.9 $\pm$ 1.1	20.5 $\pm$ 0.7	T3CREG01	20.9 $\pm$ 1.1	20.6 $\pm$ 0.6	Landfall of ice margins on the southern lowlands of the Isle of Man
T3CREG02	19.2 $\pm$ 2.0	20.5 $\pm$ 0.7	T3CREG02	19.2 $\pm$ 2.0	20.6 $\pm$ 0.6	
T3TURK01	17.7 $\pm$ 1.0	20.4 $\pm$ 0.7	T3TURK01	17.7 $\pm$ 1.0	20.6 $\pm$ 0.7	High-altitude boulders in coastal western Cumbria
T3BC02*	24.4 $\pm$ 1.3		T3BC02*	24.4 $\pm$ 1.3	*	
T3BC03*	21.7 $\pm$ 1.2	*	T3BC03*	21.7 $\pm$ 1.2	*	
T3BC05*	22.4 $\pm$ 1.3	*	T3BC05*	22.4 $\pm$ 1.3	*	
T3BC06*		*	T3BC06*		*	
Boundary Limit 3		<b>20.2 <math>\pm</math> 0.7</b>	Boundary Limit 3		<b>20.3 <math>\pm</math> 0.7</b>	Retreat to the Central Valley, Isle of Man
Zone 3 Central Isle of Man			Zone 3 Central Isle of Man			Ice impinging on the Peel embayment, central Isle of Man
T3BALH01	18.5 $\pm$ 3.3	19.9 $\pm$ 0.7	T3BALH01	18.5 $\pm$ 3.3	20.1 $\pm$ 0.7	
T3BALH02*	27.1 $\pm$ 3.8	*	T3BALH02*	27.1 $\pm$ 3.8	*	
Boundary Limit 4		<b>19.6 <math>\pm</math> 0.8</b>	Boundary Limit 4		<b>19.9 <math>\pm</math> 0.7</b>	Retreat to Orrisdale
Zone 4 Orrisdale			Zone 4 Orrisdale			Ice margins within the Orrisdale Formation, a series of still-stands in the retreat sequence
T3ORIS01	23.8 $\pm$ 3.1	19.3 $\pm$ 0.9	T3ORIS01	23.8 $\pm$ 3.1	19.6 $\pm$ 0.8	
T3DOGM01	22.5 $\pm$ 2.2	22.7 $\pm$ 2.1	T3DOGM01	22.5 $\pm$ 2.2	22.8 $\pm$ 2	
Boundary Limit 5		<b>18.9 <math>\pm</math> 1.0</b>	Boundary Limit 5		<b>19.3 <math>\pm</math> 0.8</b>	Pre-dating the Jurby–Gutterby readvance
Zone 5/6 Scottish Readvance	20.8 $\pm$ 2.4	17.8 $\pm$ 1.1	Zone 5 Jurby–Gutterby	20.8 $\pm$ 2.4	18.8 $\pm$ 0.9	A substantial readvance episode, on the Isle of Man laying down an on-lapping contiguous transgressive sequence of four limit positions
T3JURB01	23.4 $\pm$ 2.8	17.9 $\pm$ 1.1	T3JURB01	23.4 $\pm$ 2.8	18.9 $\pm$ 0.9	
T3JURB02	21.7 $\pm$ 2.6	17.9 $\pm$ 1.1	T3JURB02	21.7 $\pm$ 2.6	18.9 $\pm$ 0.9	
T3GUTT03	20.2 $\pm$ 3.5	17.6 $\pm$ 1.2	T3GUTT03			
T3ALDO01	27.9 $\pm$ 4.7	*				
T3ALDO02*			Boundary Limit 6		<b>18.3 <math>\pm</math> 1.1</b>	Pre-dating the Scottish readvance
			Zone 6 Scottish Readvance			Readvance of Scottish ice an unknown distance from the Solway Firth into lowland Cumbria
			T3ALDO01	20.2 $\pm$ 3.5	17.1 $\pm$ 1.1	
			T3ALDO02*	27.9 $\pm$ 4.7	*	
Boundary Limit 7		<b>15.9 <math>\pm</math> 0.7</b>	Boundary Limit 7		<b>15.5 <math>\pm</math> 0.6</b>	Retreat to the Galloway Hills
Zone 7 Galloway Hills	12.0 $\pm$ 1.2	*	Zone 7 Galloway Hills	12.0 $\pm$ 1.2	*	Deglaciation of an ice dome over the Galloway Hills ice and a key interior source for Irish Sea ice
GB-02*	14.8 $\pm$ 1.2	15.1 $\pm$ 0.6	GB-02*	14.8 $\pm$ 1.2	15.0 $\pm$ 0.5	
GB-03	15.1 $\pm$ 0.9	15.2 $\pm$ 0.5	GB-03	15.1 $\pm$ 0.9	15.1 $\pm$ 0.5	
GB-04	14.7 $\pm$ 1.4	15.1 $\pm$ 0.6	GB-04	14.7 $\pm$ 1.4	15.0 $\pm$ 0.5	
GB-06	15.1 $\pm$ 0.9	15.2 $\pm$ 0.5	GB-06	15.1 $\pm$ 0.9	15.1 $\pm$ 0.5	
GT-01	15.5 $\pm$ 0.8	15.2 $\pm$ 0.5	GT-01	15.5 $\pm$ 0.8	15.1 $\pm$ 0.5	
GT-2.1	15.3 $\pm$ 0.8	15.2 $\pm$ 0.5	GT-2.1	15.3 $\pm$ 0.8	15.1 $\pm$ 0.5	
GT-2.2	14.0 $\pm$ 0.7	14.9 $\pm$ 0.5	GT-2.2	14.0 $\pm$ 0.7	14.9 $\pm$ 0.5	
GT-03			GT-03			
Boundary Limit 8		<b>14.5 <math>\pm</math> 0.6</b>	Boundary Limit 8		<b>14.6 <math>\pm</math> 0.6</b>	Deglaciated Galloway Hills ice dome



**Figure 12.** Bayesian models for the dating of ice retreat across (A) north-east Ireland and (B) the north-east Irish Sea Basin. The model structure shown uses OxCal brackets (left) and keywords that define the relative order of events (Bronk Ramsey, 2009a). Each original distribution (hollow) represents the relative probability of each age estimate with posterior density estimate (solid) generated by the modelling. Shown are  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages (green), OSL ages (orange), CN ages (blue) and modelled boundary ages (Red). Outliers are denoted by '?' and their probably (P) of being an outlier indicated by low values <5 (95% confidence). Model agreement indices for individual ages show their fit to the model with >60% the widely used threshold for 'good' fit (Bronk Ramsey, 2009a). [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

measurements that potentially constrain ISIS marginal retreat were identified and handled as outliers in the modelling according to uncertainties identified in the prior model or measurement data. At Annaside–Gutterby, OSL sample T3GUTT01 potentially represents deposits pre-dating the advance of the ISIS to its maximum limits in the Celtic Sea and was excluded from the model. The OSL ages obtained for samples T4BALH02 and T3ALDO02 were, as discussed above, regarded as anomalously old due to poor characterization of the  $D_e$  distribution and treated as 100% outliers. The recalibrated surface exposure age of sample GB-02, previously regarded as resulting from shielding (Ballantyne *et al.*, 2013), was handled as a 100% outlier.

Three other OSL age determinations produce a poor fit to the Bayesian model ( $A < 60\%$ ): at Aberogwen (T3ABER01), Orrisdale (T3ORIS01) and Jurby (T3JURB02), with all other age determinations exceeding the 60% threshold. The agreement indices for these three measurements are  $A = 46$ , 57 and 49%, respectively, which are close to the  $A = 60\%$  threshold, but slightly too old relative to the overall Bayesian model. Hence the modelled ages are young relative to the unmodelled age determination. The modelled ages (Table 6) suggest that ice in the NISB retreated 150–200 km from the coast of North Wales (BL1:  $21.4 \pm 1.0$  ka) to the Galloway Hills (BL7:  $15.5 \pm 0.6$  ka) in  $\sim 4$  ka. The OSL ages from Aber Ogwen provide the older constraint on the NISB morpho-stratigraphic model (Zone 1). Low-altitude sites on the Isle of Man (Cregneash and Turkeyland) constrain the deglaciation of the south of the island (Zone 2), and form the basis for the

modelled boundary limit 2 (BL2) of  $20.8 \pm 0.7$  ka. In the central valley of the Isle of Man, T3BALH02 was rejected as an outlier; thus, T3BALH01 provides the chronological control for the establishment of an ice-dammed lake (Zone 3) constraining BL3 ( $20.3 \pm 0.7$  ka). The OSL ages for an Orrisdale sandur (T3ORIS01) and Dog Mills proglacial basin (T3DOGM01) constrain the timing of ice margins at the Bride moraine and the Orrisdale Formation (Zone 4) to  $19.9 \pm 0.7$  ka (BL4). This BL4 age is younger than the age measurements T3ORIS01 and T3DOGM01 but this outcome is guided by the bracketing chronology in Zones 2 and 5/6. Tightly-clustered OSL measurements on feldspars in 45 rock slices obtained from three cobble-sized clasts sampled 1–2 km further south at Orrisdale within Zone 4 have yielded ages of  $20.8 \pm 1.2$ ,  $20.6 \pm 0.5$  and  $21.2 \pm 1.2$  ka (Jenkins *et al.*, 2018), which overlap within uncertainties to the modelled BL4 age of  $19.9 \pm 0.7$  ka.

Zones 5 and 6 contain more complicated parts of the prior model used in the Bayesian analysis (Fig. 12B), because the precise association and relative order of geochronology from Jurby, Gutterby–Annaside and Holme St Cuthbert (Aldoth) is uncertain. Several iterations of the modelling were undertaken varying the order and grouping of the age information from those three locations (Table 6). For example, grouping the chronological data from the three sites as a single Phase, essentially in Oxcal nomenclature an unordered group of ages, produced a conformable (71.7%) Bayesian model (not shown here) with a single boundary age of  $18.9 \pm 1.0$  ka for Zone 5/6 (Table 6), the Scottish Readvance (Livingstone *et al.*,



2010c). However, a higher agreement index (105%; Fig. 12B; Table 6) was achieved by grouping Jurby and Gutterby-Annaside (Zone 5) as a Phase that pre-dated the dating information from Holme St Cuthbert (Aldoth: Zone 6) (Fig. 12B). This model experiment suggests that Zone 5, constrained by OSL dating at Gutterby-Annaside and Jurby, represents the ice margin (BL5) at  $19.3 \pm 0.8$  ka and was associated with readvances of 2–3 km on the Isle of Man. In this model, Zone 6 is constrained by OSL dating at Holme St Cuthbert (Aldoth) and represents an ice margin (BL6) at  $18.3 \pm 1.1$  ka, providing an alternative age estimate for the Scottish Readvance (Livingstone *et al.*, 2010c). There is very little difference between these two model scenarios: one links the three locations around a boundary age of  $18.9 \pm 1.0$  ka and the other identifies two boundaries ages that overlap within uncertainties at  $19.3 \pm 0.8$  and  $18.3 \pm 1.1$  ka. The offshore sector north of the Isle of Man in the Solway Firth (Zone 6) shows evidence of probable moraines, former ice margins and possible readvances, but failed to yield any dateable materials and so the surface exposure ages from the Galloway Hills in south-west Scotland constrain the ultimate deglaciation of the NISB to before  $15.5 \pm 0.6$  ka (BL7).

## Discussion

Here we constrain the chronology for ice retreat in the central and eastern sector of the NISB. The new chronology provides timings for a series of readvances of the ice margin, including sites representing the Scottish Readvance limit. It reveals the pace of ice margin retreat in the NISB stepping on to land and into SW Scotland. Bayesian modelling of the geochronology indicates that ice margins retreated in the NISB along an axial distance of 190 km at an average net rate of  $54 \text{ a}^{-1}$  between  $21.4 \pm 1.0$  and  $15.5 \pm 0.6$  ka. The distances advanced by the ice margin can in part be assessed, but the precise distances covered during preceding retreat phases is impossible to gauge, and thus the distances discussed are net rates. Net ice retreat was faster from the coast of North Wales to the central Isle of Man, constrained here at rates of  $80\text{--}180 \text{ m a}^{-1}$ , and then slowed to  $20 \text{ m a}^{-1}$  across the northern Isle of Man (BL3–4) before stabilizing at net retreat rates around  $15\text{--}20 \text{ m a}^{-1}$  towards the terrestrial hinterlands of southern Scotland. The faster net retreat rates ( $80\text{--}180 \text{ m a}^{-1}$ ) were similar to the faster rates on the northern Llŷn Peninsula where the ice front was less constrained by trough geometry ( $84\text{--}139 \text{ m a}^{-1}$ ) (Smedley *et al.*, 2017a). The slower net retreat rates ( $13\text{--}20 \text{ m a}^{-1}$ ) experienced in the NISB were similar to those reconstructed for the southern Llŷn Peninsula ( $8\text{--}41 \text{ m a}^{-1}$ ) (Smedley *et al.*, 2017a) and southern Irish coast ( $26 \text{ m a}^{-1}$ ) (Small *et al.*, 2018). Slowing of net ice-margin retreat appears to have occurred when the ice was pinned against the bedrock obstruction of the Isle of Man, and was characterized by a series of ice-marginal oscillations within the interval  $19.9 \pm 0.7$  and  $18.3 \pm 1.1$  ka; these are recorded in stratigraphical evidence for a series of standstill events and limited ( $<1$  km) readvances of the ice margin (Thomas *et al.*, 2004).

The surface exposure ages obtained for upland settings on the Isle of Man and Cumbria potentially constrain the thinning of ice in the ISB during overall ice-margin retreat. Taken at face value, the boulder surface exposure ages from the Isle of Man suggest ice thinning on the Isle of Man at some time between  $\sim 25$  and  $19$  ka to an elevation of  $385$  m, although it is difficult to assess uncertainties (e.g. nuclide inheritance) using only individual surface exposure ages; thus, this should be treated with some caution. A combined age for the overlapping pair of boulder surface exposure ages

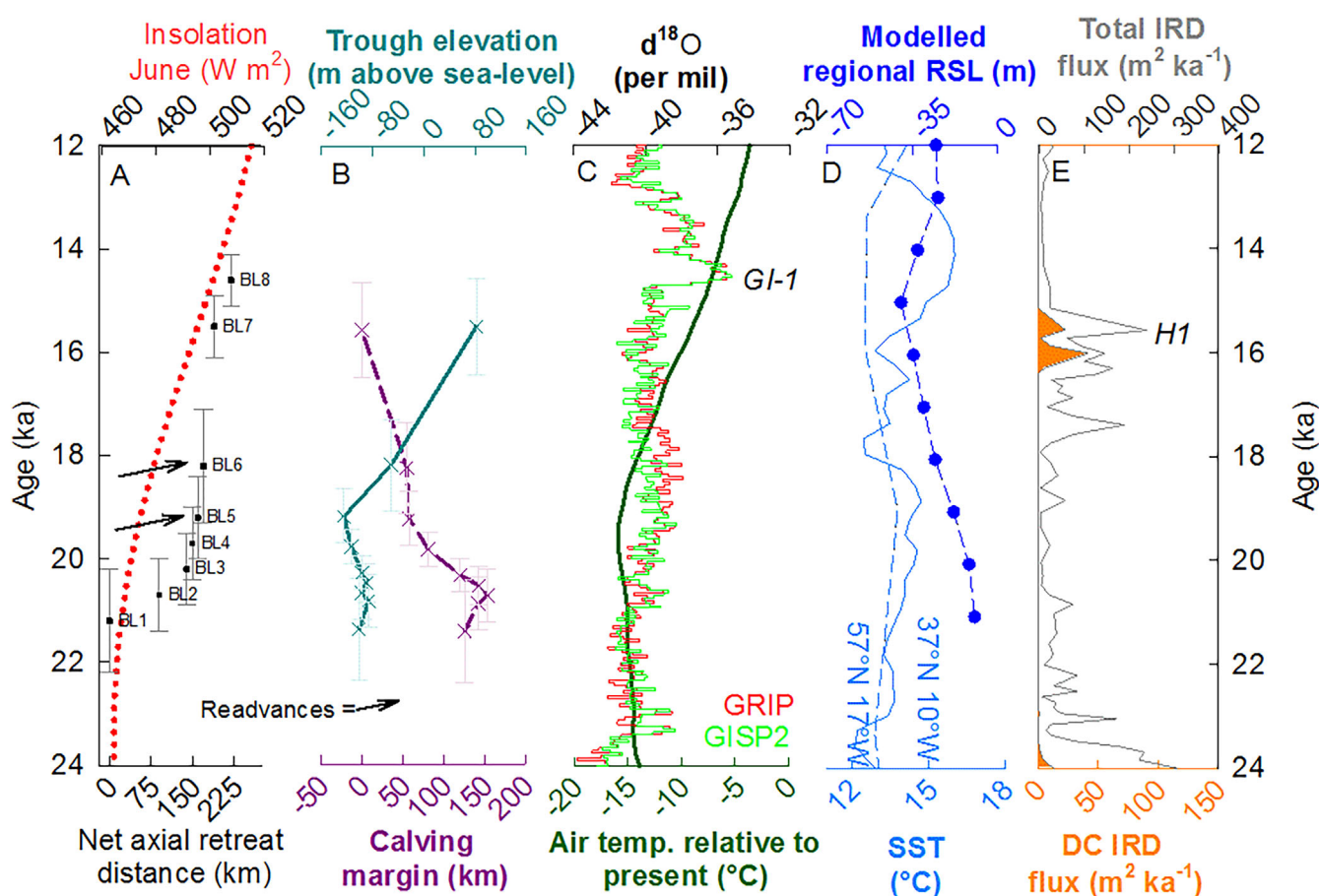
at Black Combe constrains ice thinning to  $260$  m in western Cumbria at  $21.5 \pm 0.8$  ka. Assuming that Irish Sea ice was streaming at this time (Van Landeghem *et al.*, 2009) then ice thinning to  $385\text{--}260$  m in the NISB requires the associated ice margins, using typical ice stream surface gradients ( $0.3\text{--}0.5^\circ$ ) (Raymond, 2005), to be north of the Llŷn Peninsula. Retreat of ice margins across the Llŷn Peninsula have been dated to between  $23.9 \pm 1.6$  and  $21.1 \pm 0.6$  ka (Smedley *et al.*, 2017a). The Celtic Sea advance of the ISIS has been suggested to have been a rapid and short-lived event (Chiverrell *et al.*, 2013) and was followed by rapid retreat (Smedley *et al.*, 2017a; Small *et al.*, 2018). Advance and rapid retreat of this nature is likely to have been accompanied by significant drawdown of the ice stream surface and was invoked to explain changes in the retreat of the western lateral margin of the ISIS (Small *et al.*, 2018). The ages for ice thinning in the mountains of the Isle of Man and Cumbria are older than previously published ages in the range  $18\text{--}16$  ka for ice-free conditions in the Cumbrian Mountains (Ballantyne *et al.*, 2009; Ballantyne, 2010; Wilson *et al.*, 2013; Wilson and Lord, 2014), where a locally nourished ice field persisted after deglaciation of the NISB. They are fairly similar, however, to surface exposure ages indicating the timing of emergence of higher ground in SE Ireland ( $\sim 24\text{--}21$  ka), the Wicklow Mountains of eastern Ireland ( $\sim 22\text{--}21$  ka) and North Wales ( $\sim 20\text{--}19$  ka) (Ballantyne *et al.*, 2006; Glasser *et al.*, 2012; Ballantyne and Stone, 2015; Hughes *et al.*, 2016).

The late-stage readvances in the Solway Lowlands, Isle of Man and the coastal lowlands of Cumbria were accompanied by realignment of ice flow directions (Livingstone *et al.*, 2010d). Geomorphological and stratigraphical investigations (Merritt and Auton, 2000; Livingstone *et al.*, 2010d) have suggested that an ice limit (the Scottish Readvance) linked the evidence at Jurby, Gutterby-Annaside and Holme St Cuthbert, but hitherto this limit has lacked chronological control. The new OSL and surface exposure ages provided here address this in part by confirming the relationship between ice-marginal positions at these three sites. Given some overlap in the uncertainties for the ages at these three sites, there is synchrony between the Jurby, Gutterby-Annaside and Holme St Cuthbert (Aldoth) positions with boundary limit modelled ages of  $19.3 \pm 0.8$  ka (BL5) and  $18.3 \pm 1.1$  ka (BL6) (Fig. 12A). One solution to the dating evidence from Jurby, Gutterby-Annaside and Holme St Cuthbert (Aldoth) is that they represent a single event dated to  $18.9 \pm 1.0$  ka, thus constraining for the first time the age of the Scottish Readvance. It is equally possible that the deposition of the Holme St Cuthbert delta (Aldoth) and BL6 post-date the Jurby – Gutterby-Annaside cluster with a Boundary Limit age of  $18.3 \pm 1.1$  ka (BL6), so linking of ice-marginal positions between Cumbria and the Isle of Man must remain tentative. On the Isle of Man there is stratigraphical evidence for repeated still-stands and oscillations of the ice margin that range in scale from a few tens of metres at Orrisdale (BL4 to BL5) to more substantial ( $2\text{--}3$  km) readvances at Jurby and Gutterby-Annaside during decline of the ISIS (Huddart, 1977; Thomas *et al.*, 2004). The stratigraphy at Jurby shows they were each substantial ( $>1$  km) advances of the ice margin within a relatively short period ( $1\text{--}2$  ka) (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). The retreat/readvance distances associated with the Scottish Readvance are impossible to gauge without the degree of coastal exposure that is available at Jurby, and even there the distance of retreat before its subsequent readvance cannot be identified. The proposed timing of the Scottish Readvance ( $\sim 19.3\text{--}18.3$  ka) is nevertheless interesting with respect to the chronology for ice margin retreat in adjacent regions. South

of the Lake District, retreat of ice margins into north Lancashire has been constrained to  $18.4 \pm 0.8$  ka (Telfer *et al.*, 2009; Wilson *et al.*, 2013; Chiverrell *et al.*, 2016). East of the Carlisle Lowlands, the Tyne Gap Ice Stream draining east to the North Sea has a deglacial chronology for the Tyne headwaters that suggests progressive retreat from 18.7 to 17.1 ka (Livingstone *et al.*, 2015). On the Lune and Eden watershed, surface exposure ages from the Shap granite erratic train suggest deglaciation of the Vale of Eden by  $17.3 \pm 0.5$  ka (Wilson *et al.*, 2013). Thus, the Scottish Readvance appears to have occurred either slightly before or early during the final deglaciation of much of the eastern Lake District and Tyne Gap.

The readvances and oscillations in the north-east ISB have been compared previously with the series of ice margin advances recorded on the north-east coast of Ireland (McCabe, 2008). These were constrained by  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating of marine microfauna (McCabe, 2008; Ballantyne and Ó Co-faigh, 2017) and comprise: (i) deglaciation of the north-west ISB inferred from ice-free conditions at Kilkeel Steps and Cooley Point (Fig. 1); (ii) the Clogher Head Readvance (radiocarbon dated to  $\sim 18.4$  ka), constrained by readvance stratigraphical evidence and ages determined for Port, and subsequent retreat ages at Cranfield Point, Linns and Rathcor (Fig. 1); and (iii) the Killard Point Readvance (radiocarbon

dated to  $\sim 17.3$ – $16.6$  ka), dated directly at Killard Point (Fig. 1) and bracketed by the  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating at Linns and Rathcor and deglacial chronology from Rough Island (Fig. 1). This sequence of events forms a logical prior model for the Bayesian modelling of the retreat chronology in north-east Ireland. This model (Fig. 12A) is conformable, contains no outlier ages and produces an overall agreement index of 113%. The retreat sequence of the north-west ISB (Fig. 12A) constrains deglaciation to shortly after  $19.8 \pm 0.8$  ka, the Clogher Head Readvance to  $18.7 \pm 0.2$  ka and the Killard Point Readvance to  $17.4 \pm 0.3$  ka. Comparing the two Bayesian models (Fig. 12) suggests that BL5 at  $19.3 \pm 0.8$  ka (BL5) broadly corresponds to the Clogher Head Readvance (McCabe, 2008). The Killard Point Readvance at  $17.4 \pm 0.3$  ka appears to lack an equivalent dated margin in the north-east ISB, but does overlap with the Scottish Readvance (BL6) age range of  $18.3 \pm 1.1$  ka when Aldoth is treated as a separate Phase in the Bayesian modelling. A series of moraine ridges present on the seafloor of the Solway Firth are also potentially equivalent to the Killard Point Readvance moraine, but currently lack dating control. Contrasting the western and eastern sectors of the NISB, the deeper western basin was clearly deglaciated earlier. In the eastern ISB the deglaciation appears to be topographically controlled with retreat rate a function of the extent of the calving margin and



**Figure 13.** (A) The boundary ages (square  $\pm 1$  sigma whisker plots) from the Bayesian model against net axial retreat distance plotted with summer insolation (red dots) for 60°N (Berger and Loutre, 1991). Arrows denote more substantial readvances of the ice margin associated with BL5 (Jurby–Gutterby readvance) and BL6 (Scottish Readvance) in the overall dated retreat sequence. (B) Likely calving margin widths (pecked) and average trough elevation (solid) estimated as mean of 10% deepest depths from the EMODnet bathymetry ([www.emodnet-hydrography.eu/](http://www.emodnet-hydrography.eu/)) plotted against the boundary ages. (C)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  concentrations and Greenland Interstadials (GI) from the Greenland ice cores (Rasmussen *et al.*, 2014) and modelled surface air temperatures relative to the present for land masses north of  $\sim 45^\circ\text{N}$  (Bintanja *et al.*, 2005). (D) Sea surface temperature records determined for the North Atlantic using alkenones at 37°N, 10°W (Bard, 2002) plotted using an updated age model (Bard *et al.*, 2004) and from Ocean Drilling Project (ODP) site 982 at 57°N, 17°W (Lawrence *et al.*, 2009). Modelled relative sea level for Anglesey (blue dots) derived from the glacial isostatic adjustment (GIA) model of Bradley *et al.* (2011). (E) The dolomitic carbon (DC – solid orange) and total ice rafted debris (IRD – grey outline) flux records from the OMEX2K marine core (Haapaniemi *et al.*, 2010). Heinrich Event H1 is highlighted (Bond *et al.*, 1992). [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

the ice margin displayed oscillatory behaviour against the pinning point of the Isle of Man. If this behaviour is independent of regional forcing, perhaps similar dynamics in the western ISB reflect the transition from a calving margin approaching the coast of Ireland.

Comparing the dynamics of ice retreat in the ISB with forcing or conditioning factors (Fig. 13) shows a broad match between retreat and increasing summer insolation (Berger and Loutre, 1991). Following the short-lived advance of the ISIS into the Celtic Sea, overall ice-marginal retreat in the southern ISB was punctuated by still-stands and oscillations, recorded from south to north along the coastlines of Ireland and Wales (Smedley *et al.*, 2017a; Small *et al.*, 2018). Faster (e.g. 84–118 m a<sup>-1</sup>) and shorter-lived phases of retreat (over centennial timeframes) occurred across the Llŷn Peninsula during periods of relatively stable climate driven by internal dynamics as the ISIS experienced a widening of the calving margin and a deepening of the trough (Smedley *et al.*, 2017a). The new data presented here suggest that calving margin width continued to produce faster retreat rates (80–180 m a<sup>-1</sup>) from North Wales (BL1: 21.2 ± 1.0 ka) to the Central Valley of the Isle of Man (BL2: 20.7 ± 0.7 ka), at a time when external forcing factors (e.g. climate, relative sea level and sea surface temperatures) were relatively stable (Fig. 13). The calving width then narrowed as the ISIS wrapped around the Isle of Man. This phase corresponded to a reduction in net margin retreat rate in the interval from 20.3 ± 0.7 ka (BL3) to 19.3 ± 0.8 ka (BL5), with evidence for at least 10 ice-marginal oscillations (Thomas *et al.*, 2004) in relatively quick succession (within 1 ka) as sectors on and to the east of the Isle of Man developed a terrestrially terminating ice margin. These still-stands and readvances (BL5–6) are similar in character to the centennial-scale oscillations recorded on the Llŷn Peninsula (Smedley *et al.*, 2017a). This period of ice stability coincided with both stable climatic and oceanic conditions (Fig. 13) and the later stages of ice thinning in the mountains of the Isle of Man and North Wales (Hughes *et al.*, 2016), Lake District and southern Ireland (Ballantyne and Stone, 2015). The ice front then retreated from the NISB and towards SW Scotland as air temperatures north of ~45°N increased in response to increasing summer insolation (Fig. 13). The responses of ice in this north-east sector of the ISB during H1 at ~17.4 ka may be reflected in BL6, but also in the form of moraine ridges on the seafloor north of the Isle of Man, but these landforms remain undated.

Overall, the new chronology presented here suggests that ice-marginal retreat in the NISB was driven by a loss or reduction of a calving margin as the ice front became pinned by the Isle of Man. The numerous and substantial ice-marginal oscillations experienced before this were probably driven by internal readjustments of the ice mass, which emphasizes the importance of hypsometry on ice margin stability and oscillations. Once the air temperatures north of ~45°N began to increase substantially in response to summer insolation (Fig. 13) (Bintanja *et al.*, 2005) ice margins retreated from the ISB and into south-west Scotland.

## Conclusions

The retreat of the ISIS in the northern ISB was more rapid (80–180 m a<sup>-1</sup>) in southern sectors when ice margins retreated northwards from the Llŷn Peninsula to the Central Valley on the Isle of Man at ca. 20 ka. Average retreat rates then slowed to 13–20 m a<sup>-1</sup> when the ice margin oscillated northwards across the northern Isle of Man and lowland Cumbria and experienced both limited and large-scale (>1–2 km) retreat–

readvance cycles before retreating northwards into the Galloway Hills in south-west Scotland. Surface exposure ages obtained for high ground on the Isle of Man (18.9 ± 1.0 ka) and western Cumbrian Mountains (21.5 ± 0.8 ka) overlap with the rapid retreat of ice from maximum limits in the Celtic Sea (Praeg *et al.*, 2015; Smedley *et al.*, 2017b) with ice margins retreating across the Llŷn Peninsula from 23.9 ± 1.6 to 21.1 ± 0.6 ka (Smedley *et al.*, 2017a) and the Isle of Man from 20.8 ± 0.7 to 18.3 ka. The rapid advance of the ISIS to and subsequent retreat from maximum limits when associated with unambiguous evidence for ice streaming in the central ISB (Van Landeghem *et al.*, 2009) provides a context for significant drawdown of the ice stream surface.

New ages from multiple positions along ice limits (Livingstone *et al.*, 2010c) attributed to the Scottish Readvance (Trotter *et al.*, 1937) constrain it to the period 19.3 ± 0.8 to 18.3 ± 1.1 ka. The evidence for >1–2 km readvances of the ice margin at Jurby, Gutterby-Annaside and Holme St Cuthbert (Aldoth) is unequivocal (Huddart, 1977; Thomas *et al.*, 2004; Livingstone *et al.*, 2010c), but was accompanied by numerous other smaller-scale oscillations and standstills of the ice margin, for example those elsewhere on the Cumbrian coast (Trotter *et al.*, 1937) and those within the Orrisdale complex on the Isle of Man (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). The new chronology suggests that it is possible that the Scottish Readvance was a regionally penecontemporaneous event in the Cumbrian lowlands and the northern Isle of Man, and pre-dated advance limits (possibly linked with H1) in the north of Ireland. Our chronology provides no evidence for ice margin readvances synchronous with H1, but may be reflected in ridges shown in geophysical data from the sea floor north of the Scottish Readvance limit in the Solway Firth.

Overprinting a general retreat sequence probably driven by increased summer insolation, there are variations in ice retreat rates in the NISB that support suggestions that internal ice dynamics responding to a wider calving margin and deeper trough coincide with faster ice retreat. The feasibility of the timing and scale of marginal oscillations during deglaciation in response to internal and external forcing could be tested using ice sheet modelling experiments. The slowing of ice-marginal retreat across the Isle of Man coincided with a reduced calving front, a normal bedslope and a pinning point, in addition to the development of a terrestrially terminating ice margin. Comparison of the regional ice retreat chronologies show that as ice marginal retreat slowed around the Isle of Man, there was a regional asynchrony as the deeper western ISB had deglaciated more rapidly and completely. Retreat and readvance dynamics near the present coast of eastern Ireland in the interval 20–18 ka could also represent a response to a transition from an extensive calving margin. Ultimately, the rapid deglaciation of the NISB from the Solway Firth into the Galloway Hills coincided with climate warming, driven by increased summer insolation. Overall, this new retreat sequence highlights the importance of internal dynamics in controlling ice retreat rates in the Irish Sea, but also documents the final demise of the ice in the NISB which occurs at the same time as climate warming north of ~45°N.

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## Supporting Information

- Table S1.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3TURK01.  
**Table S2.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3BALH01.  
**Table S3.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3BALH02.  
**Table S4.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3ORIS01.  
**Table S5.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3DOGM01.  
**Table S6.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3JURB01.  
**Table S7.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3JURB02.  
**Table S8.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3GUTT01.  
**Table S9.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3GUTT03.  
**Table S10.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3ALDO01.  
**Table S11.** De values from OSL dating of sample T3ALDO02.

**Abbreviations.** AFA, acoustic facies association; AMS, accelerator mass spectrometry; BL, boundary limit; CAM, central age model; Fl, fine laminations; FMM, finite mixture model; GI, Greenland Interstadial; GIA, glacial isostatic adjustment; ICP-AES, inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy; ICP-MS, inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry; ISIS, Irish Sea Ice Stream; LLPR, Loch Lomond production rate; MAM, minimum age model; MCMC, Markov chain Monte Carlo; NISB, Northern Irish Sea Basin; OD, over-dispersion; ODP, Ocean Drilling Project; OSL, optically stimulated luminescence; SUERC, Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre.

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