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Antarctic palaeo-ice streams

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ABSTRACT

We review the geomorphological, sedimentological and chronological evidence for palaeo-ice streams on the continental shelf of Antarctica and use this information to investigate basal conditions and processes, and to identify factors controlling grounding-line retreat. A comprehensive circum-Antarctic inventory of known palaeo-ice streams, their basal characteristics and minimum ages for their retreat following the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) is also provided. Antarctic palaeo-ice streams are identified by a set of diagnostic landforms that, nonetheless, display considerable spatial variability due to the influence of substrate, flow velocity and subglacial processes. During the LGM, palaeo-ice streams extended, via bathymetric troughs, to the shelf edge of the Antarctic Peninsula and West Antarctica, and typically, to the mid-outer shelf of East Antarctica. The retreat history of the Antarctic Ice Sheet since the LGM is characterised by considerable asynchronicity, with individual ice streams exhibiting different retreat histories. This variability allows Antarctic palaeo-ice streams to be classified into discrete retreat styles and the controls on grounding-line retreat to be investigated. Such analysis highlights the important impact of internal factors on ice stream dynamics, such as bed characteristics and slope, and drainage basin size. Whilst grounding-line retreat may be triggered, and to some extent paced, by external (atmospheric and oceanic) forcing, the individual characteristics of each ice stream will modulate the precise timing and rate of retreat through time.

Antarctica; ice stream; grounding-line retreat; glacial geomorphology; deglacial history

1. INTRODUCTION

Ice streams are corridors of fast-flowing ice within an ice-sheet and are typically hundreds of kilometres long and tens of kilometres wide (Bennett, 2003). Their high velocities enable them to drain a disproportionate volume of ice and they exert an important influence on the geometry, mass balance and stability of ice sheets (e.g. Bamber et al. 2000; Stokes & Clark, 2001). Recent observations of ice streams in Antarctica and Greenland have highlighted their considerable spatial and temporal variability at short (sub-decadal) time-scales and include

37 acceleration and thinning, deceleration, lateral migration and stagnation (Stephenson &
38 Bindshadler, 1988; Retzlaff & Bentley, 1993; Anandakrishnan & Alley, 1997; Conway et al.
39 2002; Joughin et al. 2003; Shepherd et al. 2004; Truffer & Fahnestock, 2007; Rignot, 2008;
40 Wingham et al. 2009). The mechanisms controlling the fast and variable flow of ice streams
41 and the advance and retreat of their grounding lines are, however, complex (Vaughan and
42 Arthern, 2007) and a number of potential forcings and factors have been proposed. These
43 include: (i) oceanic temperature (Payne et al. 2004; Shepherd et al. 2004; Holland et al. 2008;
44 Jenkins et al. 2010); (ii) sea-level changes (e.g. Hollin, 1962); (iii) air temperatures (Sohn et
45 al. 1998; Zwally et al. 2002; Parizek & Alley, 2004; Howat et al. 2007; Joughin et al. 2008);
46 (iv) ocean tides (Gudmundsson, 2007; Griffiths & Peltier, 2008, 2009); (v) subglacial
47 bathymetry (Schoof, 2007); (vi) the formation of grounding zone wedges (Alley et al. 2007);
48 (vii) the availability of topographic pinning points (Echelmeyer et al. 1991); (viii) the routing
49 of water at the base of the ice sheet (Anandakrishnan and Alley, 1997; Fricker et al. 2007;
50 Stearns et al. 2008; Fricker & Scambos, 2009); (ix) the ice stream's thermodynamics
51 (Christoffersen and Tulaczyk, 2003a; b); and (x) the size of the drainage basin (Ó Cofaigh et
52 al. 2008). Resolving the influence of each of these controls on any given ice stream
53 represents a major scientific challenge and it is for this reason that there are inherent
54 uncertainties in predictions of future ice sheet mass balance (IPCC, 2007; Vaughan and
55 Arthern, 2007).

56 An important context for assessing recent and future changes in ice streams and the controls
57 on their behaviour is provided by reconstructions of past ice stream activity. It has been
58 recognised that ice streams leave behind a diagnostic geomorphic signature in the geologic
59 record (cf. Dyke & Morris, 1988; Stokes & Clark, 1999) and this has resulted in a large
60 number of palaeo-ice streams being identified, mostly dating from the last glacial cycle and
61 from both marine (e.g. Shipp et al. 1999; Canals et al. 2000; Evans et al. 2005, 2006; Ó
62 Cofaigh et al. 2002, 2005a; Ottesen et al. 2005; Mosola & Anderson, 2006; Dowdeswell et al.
63 2008a; Graham et al. 2009) and terrestrial settings (e.g. Clark & Stokes, 2001; Stokes &
64 Clark, 2003; Winsborrow et al. 2004; De Angelis & Kleman, 2005, 2007; Ó Cofaigh et al.
65 2010a). The ability to directly observe the beds of palaeo-ice streams has also allowed
66 scientists to glean important spatial and temporal information on the processes that occurred
67 at the ice-bed interface and on the evolution of palaeo-ice streams throughout their glacial
68 history.

69 Over the last two decades, there has been a burgeoning interest in marine palaeo-ice streams,
70 particularly off the coast of West Antarctica and around the Antarctic Peninsula. This has
71 focused primarily on identifying individual ice stream tracks in the geologic record and
72 deciphering their geomorphic and sedimentary signatures to reconstruct their ice-flow history
73 and the timing and rate of deglaciation (e.g. Wellner et al. 2001; Canals et al., 2000; Lowe &
74 Anderson, 2002; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002; Graham et al. 2009). In this paper, we aim to collate
75 this information and provide a new and complete inventory of published accounts of
76 Antarctic palaeo-ice streams. In synthesising the literature, we present an up-to-date
77 chronology of the retreat histories of various ice streams and use the geomorphic evidence to
78 elucidate the various 'styles' of ice-stream retreat (e.g. Dowdeswell et al. 2008; Ó Cofaigh et

79 al. 2008). The processes that trigger and control the retreat of marine palaeo-ice streams
80 remains a key research question in glaciology and one that has important implications for
81 constraining future modelling predictions of contemporary ice-stream retreat and
82 contributions to sea-level. By summarising the key characteristics of each Antarctic palaeo-
83 ice stream, including their bathymetry and drainage basin area, geology and geomorphology,
84 relationships between the inferred/dated retreat styles and the factors that control ice stream
85 retreat are investigated. A further aim, therefore, is to provide a long term context for many
86 present-day ice streams, which previously extended onto the outer continental shelf (e.g.
87 Conway et al. 1999) and, crucially, provide spatial and temporal information on ice stream
88 history for initialising and/or testing ice sheet modelling experiments (cf. Stokes & Tarasov,
89 2010).

90

91 2. PALAEO ICE-STREAM INVENTORY

92 Ice streams can be simply classified according to their terminus environment. Terrestrial ice
93 streams terminate on land and typically result in a large lobate ice margin whereas marine-
94 terminating ice streams flow into ice shelves or terminate in open water, where calving results
95 in the rapid removal of ice and the maintenance of rapid velocities (cf. Stokes and Clark,
96 2001). With this classification in mind, all palaeo-ice streams in Antarctica (and, indeed, their
97 contemporary cousins) were marine-terminating and, at the LGM, extended across the
98 continental shelf with most of their main trunks below present sea level. Therefore, Antarctic
99 palaeo-ice streams could be viewed as a sub-population of ice streams with specific
100 characteristics.

101 Evidence for such marine palaeo-ice streams is based on the geomorphology of glacial
102 landforms preserved in bathymetric troughs on the modern Antarctic shelf, which are
103 identified from multibeam swath bathymetry and side-scan sonar data. This seafloor
104 geomorphological data has been complemented by high resolution seismic studies of acoustic
105 stratigraphy as well as sediment cores from which subglacial and glaci-marine lithofacies have
106 been both identified and dated. These techniques have enabled diagnostic geomorphological,
107 sedimentological and geotechnical criteria of ice streaming to be identified (see Stokes &
108 Clark, 1999, 2001). They include the presence of mega-scale glacial lineations (MSGL),
109 abrupt lateral margins, evidence of extensively deformed till, focused sediment delivery to
110 the ice stream terminus and characteristic shape and dimensions. Antarctic marine palaeo-ice
111 streams are also located in cross-shelf bathymetric troughs (Wellner et al. 2006), often
112 associated with grounding zone wedges (GZW) within the troughs (e.g. Mosola & Anderson,
113 2006) and occasionally associated with voluminous sediment accumulations, i.e. trough
114 mouth fans (TMF), on the adjacent continental slope (e.g. Ó Cofaigh et al. 2003; Dowdeswell
115 et al. 2008b).

116 The first glaci-marine investigations in Antarctica utilised echosounder data, till petrographic
117 studies and seismic data to reconstruct the expansion of grounded ice across the continental
118 shelf during the last glaciation (e.g. Kellogg et al. 1979; Anderson et al. 1980; Orheim &
119 Elverhøi, 1981; Domack, 1982; Haase, 1986; Kennedy & Anderson, 1989). The advent of

120 hull-mounted and deep-tow side-scan sonar and especially multibeam swath bathymetry was
121 a critical development for reconstructing palaeo-ice sheets because, for the first time, marine
122 glacial geomorphic features could be easily observed and palaeo-ice streams identified
123 (Pudsey et al. 1994; Larter & Vanneste, 1995; O'Brien et al. 1999; Shipp et al. 1999; Canals
124 et al. 2000, 2002, 2003; Anderson & Shipp, 2001; Wellner et al. 2001; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002,
125 2003, 2005a,b; Lowe & Anderson, 2003; Dowdeswell et al. 2004a,b; Evans et al. 2004, 2005;
126 Heroy & Anderson, 2005). More recently, these datasets have culminated in the release of
127 regional, high resolution (~1 km) bathymetric grids aggregated from existing depth soundings
128 along the continental shelf (Nitsche et al. 2007; Bolmer, 2008; Graham et al. 2009, in press;
129 Beaman et al. 2010). They provide an important morphological context and can be utilised as
130 boundary conditions in numerical modelling experiments. Additionally, in order to improve
131 and augment existing databases, a novel method of using mammal dive-depth data has
132 recently been demonstrated (Padman et al., 2010).

133 In Table 1, we present the first comprehensive inventory of Antarctic palaeo-ice streams and
134 the main lines of evidence that have been used in their identification. Figure 1 shows the
135 location of each of these ice streams. This inventory includes palaeo-ice streams whose
136 existence has been proposed in the literature on the basis of several lines of evidence, and
137 which are fairly robust, but also more speculative palaeo-ice streams where there are
138 distinctive cross-shelf bathymetric troughs. The majority of palaeo-ice streams are located in
139 West Antarctica and the Antarctic Peninsula region, where most research on this topic has
140 been conducted; and the associated geological evidence suggests that the ice sheet extended
141 at least close to the continental shelf edge at the LGM (cf. Heroy & Anderson, 2005; Sugden
142 et al. 2006) (Fig. 1). The western Ross Sea may be considered as an exception to this,
143 because here the geological evidence indicates that the grounding lines of the former
144 Drygalski and JOIDES-Central Basin ice streams only reached the outer shelf (Licht, 1999;
145 Shipp et al. 1999; Anderson et al. 2002). It has to be kept in mind, however, that ice feeding
146 into these two palaeo-ice streams was mainly derived from the East Antarctic Ice Sheet (e.g.,
147 Farmer et al. 2006). A paucity of marine geological data, from the southern Weddell Sea shelf
148 specifically, means the ice extent at the LGM in that region is poorly-defined (e.g. Bentley &
149 Anderson 1998). Diamictons recovered from cores and interpreted as tills (Fütterer & Melles,
150 1990; Anderson & Andrews 1999), in conjunction with terrestrial data constraining palaeo-
151 ice-sheet elevation (Bentley et al. 2010), suggest that grounded ice extended locally onto the
152 outer Weddell Sea shelf during the last glacial cycle. However, it is unclear whether the
153 WAIS grounded in Ronne Trough at the LGM (Anderson et al. 2002), and there are
154 conflicting conclusions about grounding of ice in Crary Trough (Fütterer & Melles, 1990;
155 Anderson et al. 2002; Bentley et al. 2010).

156 The picture in East Antarctica is less clear, although from current evidence it is thought that
157 ice expanded only as far as the mid to outer shelf (see Anderson et al. 2002 for a detailed
158 overview). This is best demonstrated in Prydz Channel, where sea-floor topography in
159 conjunction with sediment core stratigraphy constrain the maximum extent of the grounding
160 line of the Lambert Glacier during the last glaciation to ca. 130 km landward of the shelf edge
161 (Table 1) (Domack et al. 1998; O'Brien et al. 1999, 2007).

162

163 3. BASAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ANTARCTIC PALAEO ICE STREAMS

164 The basal conditions beneath ice streams are critical in controlling both the location and the
165 flow variability of ice streams. By studying the former flow paths of ice streams, we can
166 directly observe the ice stream bed at a variety of scales and can therefore acquire important
167 information on basal conditions of the ice sheet, such as basal topography, bed roughness,
168 geological substrate and sediment erosion, transport and deposition. In this section, we
169 review the basal characteristics of Antarctic palaeo-ice streams in order to investigate
170 possible substrate controls on ice stream flow and grounding line retreat. The following
171 section then assesses the timing and rate of palaeo-ice stream retreat, using a new compilation
172 of deglacial dates from around the Antarctic continental shelf.

173

174 3.1 Bathymetry and Drainage Basin

175 3.1.1 Theoretical and modelling studies

176 In the 1970s, the paradigm of marine ice sheet instability emerged with a number of
177 theoretical studies. These studies identified the ‘buttressing’ effect of ice shelves as a critical
178 control on the stability of ice-stream grounding lines. It was argued that removal of ice
179 shelves from around the largely marine-based West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) could trigger
180 catastrophic grounding-line retreat (Mercer, 1978; Thomas, 1979). Further retreat might,
181 theoretically, be irreversible because the bed of the WAIS deepens inland (Weertman, 1974;
182 Thomas & Bentley, 1978; Thomas, 1979). There are two elements to this theory and it is
183 therefore useful to distinguish between the roles of: (i) ice-shelf buttressing as a
184 (de)stabilizing mechanism; and (ii) marine ice-sheet instability *sensu stricto*. Supporting
185 evidence for both the ‘marine ice-sheet instability hypothesis’ and the critical importance of
186 ice-shelf buttressing has been reported from the Amundsen Sea sector of the West Antarctic
187 Ice Sheet (Shepherd et al. 2004), smaller glaciers on the Antarctic Peninsula (De Angelis &
188 Skvarca, 2003; Rignot et al. 2004) and Jakobshavns Isbrae in the Greenland Ice Sheet
189 (Joughin et al. 2004), all of which have accelerated and/or thinned following significant
190 melting or collapse of buttressing ice shelves. Recent numerical ice-sheet modelling studies
191 have also suggested that ice streams on reverse slopes are inherently unstable and can
192 propagate the rapid collapse of an ice sheet (e.g. Schoof, 2007; Nick et al. 2009; Katz &
193 Worster, 2010). Basal topography is, therefore, thought to exert a fundamental control on ice-
194 stream and tidewater glacier stability (Viellet et al. 2001; Schoof, 2007; Nick et al. 2009; Katz
195 & Worster, 2010). However, well-documented examples from the palaeo-record indicate that
196 rapid grounding-line retreat does not necessarily occur on reverse slopes (Shipp et al. 2002; Ó
197 Cofaigh et al. 2008; Dowdeswell et al. 2008a). This dichotomy indicates that existing models
198 of ice stream retreat may be failing to capture the full complexity of grounding line
199 behaviour, perhaps as a result of oversimplified boundary conditions (e.g. basal or lateral
200 geometry), or as a result of limitations in the physical processes incorporated in the models
201 (e.g. ice shelf buttressing or lateral and longitudinal stress components). One suggestion is

202 that in the case of some ice streams that are grounded on reverse-sloping beds, resistive ‘back
203 stresses’ afforded by pinning points, and ‘side drag’ by trough width and relief may exert a
204 supplementary modulating effect on ice-stream stability (Echelmeyer et al. 1991, 1994;
205 Whillans & van der Veen, 1997; Joughin et al. 2004). Indeed, modelling studies have
206 demonstrated that ice shelves can act to stabilise the grounding line on a reverse slope
207 (Weertman, 1974; Dupont, 2005; Walker, 2008; Goldberg, 2009). In addition, Gomez et al.
208 (2010) demonstrate that gravity and deformation-induced sea-level changes local to the
209 grounding-line can act to stabilize ice sheets grounded on reverse bed slopes. Basal friction is
210 also an important component in the force balance of an ice stream (Alley, 1993a; MacAyeal et
211 al. 1995; Siegert et al. 2004; Rippin et al. 2006) and bed roughness and the presence of
212 ‘sticky-spots’, such as bedrock bumps, can exert a strong influence on ice-sheet dynamics
213 (see Stokes et al. 2007 for a review).

214 3.1.2 Empirical evidence

215 Table 2 provides a synthesis of the key physiographic data of each palaeo-ice stream in our
216 new inventory (see Fig. 1 and Table 1). All of the Antarctic palaeo-ice streams identified in
217 the literature are topographically controlled, with landforms pertaining to fast-flow restricted
218 to cross-shelf bathymetric troughs (e.g. Evans et al. 2005). This ‘control’ on ice stream
219 location exposes a classic ‘chicken-and-egg’ situation, whereby it is hard to discern whether
220 the palaeo-ice streams preferentially occupied pre-existing troughs, or whether the troughs
221 formed as a consequence of focused erosion during streaming (cf. Winsborrow et al. 2010).
222 Certainly, some palaeo-ice streams exhibit a strong tectonic control, such as the Gerlache-
223 Boyd palaeo-ice stream, which flowed SW-NE along the Bransfield rift through the Gerlache
224 Strait before turning sharply west into the Hero Fracture Zone across Boyd Strait (cf. Canals
225 et al. 2000). However, it is clear that the cross-shelf bathymetric troughs were repeatedly
226 occupied by ice streams over multiple glacial cycles (e.g. Larter & Barker, 1989, 1991;
227 Barker, 1995; Bart et al. 2005) and would certainly have predisposed ice stream location in
228 more recent glacial periods (ten Brink & Schneider, 1995).

229 It is also apparent from Table 2 that there is considerable spatial variation in physiography
230 between Antarctic palaeo-ice streams. Lengths range between 70 and 400 km, widths from 5
231 to 240 km and drainage basin areas from 23,000 km² to 1.6 million km². This variability is
232 demonstrated by the difference between the eastern Ross Sea palaeo-ice streams, which
233 occupy very broad troughs (100-240 km) with low-relief intervening ridges (>500 m deep)
234 (Mosola & Anderson, 2006) and the Gerlache-Boyd palaeo-ice stream, which is controlled by
235 a deep (up to 1200 m) and narrow (5-40 km) trough, heavily influenced by the underlying
236 geological structure (Canals et al. 2000, 2003; Evans et al. 2004; Heroy & Anderson, 2005).
237 Thus, the Gerlache-Boyd palaeo-ice stream may expect to be influenced more by ‘drag’ from
238 its lateral margins and topographic ‘pinning points’. Indeed, this is supported by the
239 geomorphic evidence, with Smith Island on the outer-shelf interpreted to have acted as a
240 barrier to ice flow (Canals et al. 2003), while large bedrock fault scarps and changes of relief
241 within the main trough are associated with thick wedges of till, which are therefore thought to
242 have acted as pinning points (Heroy & Anderson, 2005). On the Pacific margin of the
243 Antarctic Peninsula, Biscoe (Amblas et al. 2006), Anvers-Hugo Island (Pudsey et al. 1994;

244 Domack et al. 2006) and Smith (Pudsey et al. 1994) troughs are also disrupted by a narrow,
245 elongate structural ridge (at ~300 m water depth) known as the “Mid-Shelf High” (Larter &
246 Barker, 1991). A number of East Antarctic troughs, such as Astrolabe-Français, Mertz-Ninnes
247 and Mertz troughs along Adelié Land, are also characterised by a shallower sill at the
248 continental shelf edge (Beaman et al. 2010).

249 The majority of the Antarctic palaeo-ice streams retreated across reverse slopes (Table 2; Fig.
250 2) probably created by repeated overdeepening of the inner shelf by glacial erosion over
251 successive glacial cycles (ten Brink & Schneider, 1995). The obvious exceptions to this are
252 the central Bransfield Basin palaeo-ice streams (Lafond, Laclavere and Mott Snowfield),
253 which exhibit steep normal slopes on the inner shelf and then dip gently towards the shelf-
254 break (650-900 m) (Canals et al. 2002), whilst a number of the troughs have a seaward
255 dipping outer shelf, such as Belgica Trough (Fig. 2c) (Hillenbrand et al. 2005; Graham et al.
256 in press). On the outer shelf in Pine Island Bay, Graham et al. (2010) correlated phases of
257 rapid retreat with steeper reverse bed-slopes (local average of -0.149°), while lower angled
258 slopes (local average of -0.015°) have been associated with temporary still-stands and GZW
259 formation. This observation lends credence to model experiments proposing sensitivity of ice
260 streams to bed gradients (e.g. Schoof, 2007). However, and as noted above, the inferred slow
261 retreat of some of the ice-streams since the LGM (e.g. JOIDES-Central Basin: Shipp et al.
262 1999; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2008) suggests that additional complexity exists.

263 In a comparison of four Antarctic palaeo-ice streams, Ó Cofaigh et al. (2008) proposed that
264 drainage basin size could be a key control on ice-stream dynamics. Geomorphic evidence for
265 slow retreat from the outer shelf of JOIDES-Central Basin is reconciled with two large
266 drainage basins (1.6 million km² and 265,000 km²) (Table 2) feeding the palaeo-ice stream
267 from East Antarctica (Farmer et al. 2006; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2008). In contrast, rapid retreat of
268 the Marguerite Bay palaeo-ice stream (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002, 2005b, 2008; Kilfeather et al.
269 2010) is suggested to relate to the much smaller size of its drainage basin (10,000-100,000
270 km²), which is likely to have been much more sensitive to external and internal forcing.
271 Additionally, it is also likely that basal conditions, such as basal melting and freezing rates
272 (e.g. Tulaczyk & Hossainzadeh, 2011), and climatic conditions, such as precipitation (e.g.
273 Werner et al. 2001), were quite different between the Antarctic Peninsula and Ross Sea
274 sectors, and therefore may have contributed to the different retreat histories.

275 While some palaeo-ice streams consist of just one central trunk (e.g. Lafond, Laclavere and
276 Mott Snowfield: Canals et al. 2002), others have multiple tributaries (in an onset zone) that
277 converge into a central trough on the mid-outer shelf (e.g. Robertson palaeo-ice stream:
278 Evans et al. 2005; Getz-Dotson Trough: Graham et al. 2009, Larter et al. 2009; Gerlache-
279 Boyd palaeo-ice stream: Canals et al. 2000, 2003; Evans et al. 2004; Biscoe palaeo-ice
280 stream: Canals et al. 2003) (see Fig. 1; Table 2). In Robertson Trough, competing ice-flows
281 from multiple tributaries (Prince Gustav channel, Greenpeace trough, Larsen-A & -B and
282 BDE trough) have left behind a palimpsest geomorphic signature of up to four generations of
283 cross-cutting MSGL, indicating switches in ice-flow direction (Camerlenghi et al. 2001;
284 Gilbert et al. 2003; Evans et al. 2005; Heroy & Anderson 2005). Clearly, the characteristics of
285 the ice stream’s catchment area are likely to influence its behaviour in that an ice stream with

286 several tributaries with different characteristics (e.g. bathymetry) might retreat in a
287 fundamentally different way from one which has a single tributary. Such differences are an
288 important consideration when attempting to predict the future behaviour of ice streams in
289 Greenland and Antarctica and, undoubtedly, add considerable complexity when attempting to
290 model the behaviour of ice streams and resolve subglacial topography in ice sheet models.

291 3.2 Geology/Substrate

292 Many contemporary ice streams have been shown to be underlain by a soft, dilatant
293 deformable sediment layer (Alley et al. 1987; Blankenship et al. 1987; Engelhardt et al. 1990;
294 Smith, 1997; Anandkrishnan et al. 1998; Engelhardt & Kamb, 1998; Kamb, 2001; Studinger
295 et al. 2001; Bamber et al. 2006; King et al., 2009). However, there is still uncertainty
296 surrounding the exact contribution of the deforming layer to ice stream motion (i.e. basal
297 sliding vs. sediment deformation), the thickness of the deforming layer, and the till rheology
298 (i.e. viscous or plastic) (Alley et al. 2001). This is complicated by the spatial and temporal
299 variability in bed properties that can characterise ice stream beds and has led both palaeo and
300 contemporary scientists to propose a ‘mosaic’ of basal sliding and deformation to reconcile
301 the often conflicting sedimentary evidence (Alley, 1993b; Piotrowski & Kraus, 1997; Clark et
302 al. 2003; Piotrowski, 2004; D.J.A. Evans et al. 2006; Smith & Murray, 2008; King et al.
303 2009; Reinardy et al. 2011b). Crucially, Antarctic palaeo-ice streams present a useful
304 opportunity to integrate bed properties over large spatial scales, enabling more complete
305 descriptions of substrate characteristics beneath ice streams and its importance in controlling
306 ice stream flow and landform development.

307 The majority of palaeo-ice streams in West Antarctica are characterised by a transition from
308 crystalline bedrock on the inner shelf to unconsolidated sedimentary strata on the middle and
309 outer shelf (Shipp et al. 1999; Wellner et al. 2001, 2006; Lowe & Anderson, 2002, 2003; Ó
310 Cofaigh et al. 2002, 2005a; Canals et al. 2002, 2003; Evans et al. 2004, 2005, 2006; Anderson
311 & Oakes-Fretwell, 2008; Graham et al. 2009; Weigelt et al. 2009). It has been suggested that
312 this transition is crucial in modulating the inland extent of ice streams (Anandkrishnan et al.
313 1998; Bell et al. 1998; Studinger et al. 2001; Peters et al. 2006) and this is supported by
314 palaeo-landform models that show a geomorphic transition from inferred slow flow over
315 bedrock, to drumlins at the zone of acceleration (corresponding to the crystalline bedrock-
316 unconsolidated sediment transition) and then into the high velocities of the main ice stream
317 trunk, as recorded by MSGL (Canals et al. 2002; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002, 2005a; Shipp et al.
318 1999; Wellner et al. 2001; Evans et al. 2006; and see section 3.3.8). However, this
319 relationship between substrate and ice velocities is complicated by observations of highly
320 elongate bedforms within the zone of crystalline bedrock in the Marguerite Bay and Getz-
321 Dotson troughs (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002; Graham et al. 2009). Furthermore, the substrates of
322 the palaeo-ice streams offshore of the Sulzberger Coast, in Smith Trough and in the upstream
323 section of the Gerlache-Boyd palaeo-ice stream are primarily composed of crystalline
324 bedrock, and spectacular parallel grooves (up to 40 km long) are incised into the bedrock
325 (Canals et al. 2000; Wellner et al. 2001, 2006; Heroy & Anderson 2005). Indeed, a transition
326 from stiff till on the inner shelf to deformation till on the outer shelf in Robertson Trough,
327 East Antarctic Peninsula, has also been associated with a change in basal processes (from

328 basal sliding to deformation) and an increase in ice velocity (Reinardy et al. 2011b). The
329 time-dependent changes in freezing-melting and thermo-mechanical coupling between the ice
330 and the underlying sediment will play an important role in modulating ice flow, bedform
331 genesis and retreat rates and yet we only see a time-integrated subglacial imprint. Thus, given
332 the limited information about subglacial sediments (i.e. in sediment cores), we can only really
333 speculate about these processes from the palaeo-ice stream records.

334 Clearly, the underlying geology exerts an important control on the macro-scale roughness of
335 an ice-stream bed, which influences the frictional resistance to ice flow, with rougher areas
336 likely to act as ‘sticky-spots’ and reduce flow velocities. As a result, bed roughness of
337 Antarctic palaeo-ice streams tends to increase inland, i.e. upstream towards the onset zone
338 (Fig. 2; and also see Graham et al. 2009, 2010), and is therefore in accordance with radio-
339 echo sounding evidence from below contemporary ice streams (Siegert et al. 2004). This
340 change in roughness is typically driven by a transition from bedrock (inner shelf) to
341 unconsolidated sediment (outer shelf) and therefore supports the notion that ice stream flow
342 may be controlled by underlying geology and its roughness (Siegert et al. 2004, 2005;
343 Bingham & Siegert, 2009; Smith & Murray, 2009; Winsborrow et al. 2010). Incidentally, it is
344 surprising that so few studies have taken advantage of the now-exposed palaeo-ice stream
345 beds to provide a more detailed assessment of subglacial roughness, similar to those that have
346 been undertaken from sparse radio-echo-sounding flight-lines and localised studies from
347 beneath the ice (e.g. Siegert et al., 2004).

348 3.2.1. Till characteristics and associated deposits

349 One of the recurrent features identified from geophysical investigations on the Antarctic
350 continental shelf is an acoustically transparent sedimentary unit (Fig. 3) that is confined to
351 cross-shelf troughs previously occupied by palaeo-ice streams and that underlies the post-
352 glacial sedimentary drape (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002, 2005a,b, 2007; Dowdeswell et al. 2004;
353 Evans et al. 2005, 2006; Mosola & Anderson, 2006; Graham et al. 2009). This unit is
354 underlain by a prominent subbottom reflector that ranges in thickness from 1-30 m, is
355 typically associated with MSGL, and consists of soft (shear strengths typically <20 kPa),
356 massive, matrix-supported diamicton (cf. Ó Cofaigh et al. 2007). The acoustically transparent
357 unit comprises diamicton that has been interpreted as both a subglacial deformation till
358 (Anderson et al. 1999; Shipp et al. 2002; Dowdeswell et al. 2004; Hillenbrand et al. 2005,
359 2009, 2010a; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005a,b; Evans et al. 2005, 2006; Heroy & Anderson, 2005;
360 Mosola & Anderson 2006; Graham et al. 2009; Smith et al. 2011) and as a “hybrid” till
361 formed by a combination of subglacial sediment deformation and lodgement (Ó Cofaigh et al.
362 2007).

363 The geometry of the basal reflector underlying the acoustically transparent unit ranges from
364 smooth and flat to irregular and undulating (Fig. 3) (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005b, 2007; Evans et
365 al. 2005, 2006). It has been hypothesised that an undulating basal reflector is indicative of an
366 origin by grooving (Evans et al. 2006; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2007), whereby keels at the ice-sheet
367 base (consisting of ice or rock) mobilise, erode and deform the underlying sediment (cf.
368 Canals et al. 2000; Tulaczyk et al. 2001; Clark et al. 2003). In contrast, a smooth, flat, basal

369 reflector is thought to result from the mobilization of underlying stiff till into a traction carpet
370 of soft till and its advection downstream (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005b, 2007). Penetration of the
371 subbottom reflector by sediment cores reveals a much stiffer (>98 kPa in Marguerite Bay)
372 and less porous, massive and matrix-supported diamicton (Shipp et al. 2002; Dowdeswell et
373 al. 2004; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005b, 2007; Evans et al. 2005, 2006; Mosola & Anderson, 2006;
374 Graham et al. 2009), which has been either interpreted as a lodgement till (Wellner et al.
375 2001; Shipp et al. 2002) or a ‘hybrid’ lodgement-deformation till (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005b,
376 2007; Evans J. et al. 2005; Evans D.J.A. et al. 2006; Reinardy et al. 2011a). The genesis of
377 the overlying soft till is thought to result from reworking of underlying stiff till and pre-
378 existing sediments (Evans et al. 2005; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005b, 2007; Hillenbrand et al. 2009;
379 Reinardy et al. 2009, 2011a).

380 Geotechnical and micromorphological evidence (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005b, 2007; Reinardy et
381 al. 2011a) from troughs on the shelf east and west of the Antarctic Peninsula indicates that
382 shear is concentrated within discrete zones between the stiff and soft till, up to 1.0 m thick.
383 This implies that deformation is not pervasive throughout the soft till (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005b,
384 2007; Reinardy et al. 2011a). Nonetheless, geophysical evidence for large-scale advection of
385 the soft till implies that these localised shear zones can integrate to transport significant
386 volumes of sediment beneath palaeo-ice streams (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2007; cf. Hindmarsh, 1997,
387 1998). Such transport is also manifest in the formation of substantial depocentres, both in the
388 form of grounding-zone wedges on the shelf and trough mouth fans on the continental slope
389 (Larter & Vanneste, 1995; Bart et al. 1999; Shipp et al. 2002; Canals et al. 2003; Ó Cofaigh et
390 al. 2003; Mosola & Anderson, 2006; Dowdeswell et al. 2008b).

391 Deglacial sediment facies can provide important information on the style of retreat and
392 depositional processes occurring at the grounding line. The thickness of the deglacial
393 sediment unit has been used as a crude proxy for the retreat rate, with its absence or thin
394 units, such as those from Marguerite Trough (typically <0.7 m) and troughs in the central and
395 eastern Ross Sea (<1.0 m), suggesting rapid retreat of the palaeo-ice streams (Ó Cofaigh et al.
396 2005b, 2008; Mosola & Anderson, 2008). However, these authors acknowledge that sediment
397 supply and bathymetric configuration also play important roles in controlling the deposition
398 of deglacial sediments (cf. Leventer et al. 2006). Thus, a ‘deglacial unit’ may appear thick in
399 a trough area, where an ice-shelf could be sustained for a long time (e.g. because of available
400 pinning points or in an embayment) which may be completely unrelated to the retreat rate of
401 the grounding-line. Conversely, deglacial (and open-marine) sediments in Belgica Trough are
402 extremely thin, suggesting a rapid retreat, but this is contradicted by the bedform evidence
403 and radiocarbon chronology (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005a; Hillenbrand et al. 2010a). There,
404 current-induced winnowing is apparently responsible for a relatively thin postglacial
405 sediment drape on the outer shelf (Hillenbrand et al. 2010a).

406 Many Antarctic palaeo-ice streams may have terminated in ice shelves during deglaciation
407 (e.g. Pope & Anderson, 1992; Domack et al. 1999; Pudsey et al. 1994, 2006; Kilfeather et al.
408 2010). These include the Gerlache-Boyd system, Marguerite Trough, Belgica Trough, the
409 Ross Sea troughs, Robertson Trough, Anvers Trough, Nielsen Basin and Prydz Channel (e.g.
410 see Willmott et al. 2003). The corresponding sediments comprise glacial marine diamictos

411 and/or a granulated facies (consisting of pelletized sandy-muddy gravel) typically overlain by
412 mud (sometimes laminated), interpreted to record rainout of sediment from the base of an ice-
413 shelf (Pudsey et al. 1994, 2006; Licht et al. 1996, 1998, 1999; Domack et al. 1998, 1999,
414 2005; Harris & O'Brien, 1998; Evans & Pudsey, 2002; Brachfeld et al. 2003; Evans et al.
415 2005; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005, Hillenbrand et al. 2005, 2009, 2010a,b; Kilfeather et al. 2010;
416 Smith et al. 2011). Ice shelves may play an important role in buttressing and therefore
417 stabilizing the flow of marine palaeo-ice streams on a foredeepened bed (e.g. Dupont &
418 Alley, 2005, 2006; Goldberg et al. 2009), with their reduction or loss capable of inducing
419 rapid acceleration and collapse of the grounded ice (e.g. Rignot et al. 2004; Scambos et al.
420 2004). It is, therefore, important to identify the former presence of ice shelves when
421 reconstructing the history of palaeo-ice streams and constraining modelling experiments. In
422 Gerlache-Boyd Strait, for example, Willmott et al. (2003) used the great thickness (6-70 m)
423 of deglacial and post-glacial sediment to infer the retreat history of the ice stream. They
424 assumed that sedimentation rates are uniform along the trough and argued that the thickest
425 deposits in Western Bransfield Basin are thought to record the earliest decoupling of ice. In
426 contrast, the confined setting of the Gerlache Strait, where the postglacial sediment drape is
427 negligible, is thought to have helped sustain the presence of an ice stream for a longer period
428 (Willmott et al. 2003). This reconstruction was based on the assumption that sedimentation
429 rates are uniform along the trough.

430

431 3.3 Geomorphology

432 As noted above, Antarctic palaeo-ice streams exhibit a number of characteristic landforms,
433 some of which have recently been observed beneath a modern-day West Antarctic ice stream
434 (e.g. Smith & Murray, 2008; King et al. 2009). These features are summarised in Table 3 and
435 described in detail below in order to illustrate the range of landforms that are associated with
436 ice stream flow and their implications for subglacial processes.

437 3.3.1 *Mega-scale glacial lineations*

438 Mega-scale glacial lineations (MSGs) are present on all Antarctic palaeo-ice stream beds
439 with the exception of Smith Trough and Sulzberger Bay Trough, which are dominated by
440 parallel bedrock grooves (see Tables 1 and 3) (e.g. Shipp et al. 1999, 2002; Canals et al. 2000,
441 2002, 2003; Anderson et al. 2001; Wellner et al. 2001; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002, 2005a,b; Lowe
442 & Anderson, 2002, 2003; Dowdeswell et al. 2004; Evans et al. 2004, 2005, 2006; Graham et
443 al. 2009, 2010). It is hard to discern whether MSGs are diagnostic of ice streams or whether
444 they are only preserved in the troughs and overprinted on the shallower shelf beyond the
445 trough margins by iceberg scours. MSGs comprise parallel sets of grooves and ridges, with
446 elongation ratios $>10:1$ (and up to $\sim 90:1$), formed in soft, dilatant till (Fig. 4a) (cf. Wellner et
447 al. 2006 for a review). Crest-to-crest spacings are typically 200-600 m (mode: 300 m), with
448 widths and lengths up to 500 m and 100 km respectively and amplitudes of 2-20 m (cf. Heroy
449 & Anderson, 2005; Wellner et al. 2006), although considerable intra-ice stream variability
450 exists and a 'single' set of MSGL may have individual lineations of varying sizes, although it

451 is often not clear whether lineations of different age are preserved. Heroy & Anderson (2005)
452 discuss two outliers, which do not fit this morphometric categorisation of MSGs: Biscoe
453 Trough has MSGs with crest spacings of >1 km and the ‘bundle structures’ in the Gerlache-
454 Boyd palaeo-ice stream have crest spacings of 1-5 km and amplitudes of up to 75 m (Canals
455 et al. 2000, 2003; Heroy & Anderson, 2005). According to Heroy & Anderson (2005), the
456 unusual size of the Gerlache-Boyd palaeo-ice stream MSGs are thought to have resulted
457 from groove-ploughing (Clark et al. 2003) associated with the bedrock structure of the trough
458 and large changes in relief. Although primarily associated with a soft sedimentary substrate
459 typically found on the outer West Antarctic continental shelf, MSGs from the Gerlache-
460 Boyd palaeo-ice stream emanate from bedrock highs, and upstream portions (~9 km) of the
461 lineations are composed of bedrock (Canals et al. 2000; Clark et al. 2003; Heroy & Anderson,
462 2005). This link between MSG initiation and bedrock highs has similarly been observed in
463 Biscoe Trough (Amblas et al. 2006) and also on the northern Norwegian shelf (Ottesen et al.
464 2008).

465

466 3.3.2 *Grooved, gouged and streamlined bedrock*

467 Where the inner and mid shelf is composed of rugged crystalline bedrock, palaeo-ice streams
468 often preferentially erode the underlying strata and create a gouged, grooved and streamlined
469 submarine landscape (Fig. 4b) (Anderson et al. 2001; Wellner et al. 2001, 2006; Lowe &
470 Anderson, 2002, 2003; Gilbert et al. 2003; Evans et al. 2004, 2005; Heroy & Anderson, 2005;
471 Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005a,b; Amblas et al. 2006; Domack et al. 2006; Anderson & Oakes-
472 Fretwell, 2008; Graham et al. 2009; Larter et al. 2009). Grooves and gouges tend to be
473 concentrated along the axis of glacial troughs and reach lengths of >40 km with spacing of
474 less than 10 m to over 1 km and amplitudes of a few metres up to >100 m (Wellner et al.
475 2006). Grooves with similar dimensions have been infrequently observed in terrestrial
476 settings in the northern hemisphere (e.g. Jansson et al. 2003; Bradwell, et al. 2007, 2008) and
477 these have typically been linked to the onset of streaming flow (cf. Bradwell et al. 2008). A
478 genetic distinction must be applied between MSGs formed in soft sediment and bedrock
479 grooves, which can also exhibit elongation ratios >10:1. Grooved, gouged and streamlined
480 bedrock are erosional landforms probably controlled, at least in part, by the underlying
481 structural geology, as illustrated by the way the grooves often follow bedrock structures.
482 Their association with palaeo-ice streams implies fast, wet-based ice flow (promoting high
483 erosion rates) as a prerequisite for their genesis. Graham et al (2009) also suggest that, given
484 typical erosion rates cited in the literature (e.g. Hallet et al. 1996; Koppes & Hallet, 2006;
485 Laberg et al. 2009), the larger bedrock features would require high erosion rates over a
486 sustained period of time. Thus, heavily eroded bedrock exhibiting grooving and streamlining
487 could potentially indicate a legacy of repeated ice streaming over several glacial cycles or
488 persistent ice-streaming during a single glacial cycle.

489 3.3.3 *Drumlinoid bedforms*

490 ‘Drumlinoid’ bedforms, which in this paper encompass both bedrock (including roches
491 moutonnées and whalebacks) and sediment cored structures (though see Stokes et al., 2011),
492 are commonly found clustered on the inner shelf in crystalline bedrock and at the transition
493 between this bedrock and unconsolidated sediment further out on the shelf (Fig. 4c and Table
494 3) (Anderson et al. 2001; Camerlenghi et al. 2001; Wellner et al. 2001, 2006; Canals et al.
495 2002; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002, 2005a,b; Lowe & Anderson, 2002; Gilbert et al. 2003; Evans et
496 al. 2004, 2005; Heroy & Anderson, 2005; Domack et al. 2006; Mosola & Anderson, 2006;
497 Graham et al. 2009; Larter et al. 2009). Drumlins observed on the inner Antarctic continental
498 shelf are principally formed in bedrock, although not ubiquitously as demonstrated by
499 sediment cored drumlins in Eltanin Bay (upstream section of Belgica Trough) and the central
500 Ross Sea troughs (Wellner et al. 2001, 2006). At the bedrock-sediment transition, crag-and-
501 tail bedforms are also prevalent (e.g. directly offshore from the Getz Ice Shelf and in
502 Marguerite Bay) with their stoss ends formed in bedrock and their attenuated tails grading
503 into sediment (Wellner et al. 2001, 2006; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002; Heroy & Anderson, 2005;
504 Graham et al. 2009).

505 The formation of drumlins and crag-and-tail landforms at this substrate transition has been
506 related to accelerating/extensional flow at the onset of an ice stream (Wellner et al. 2001,
507 2006; Mosola & Anderson, 2006). Many drumlins are associated with crescentric
508 overdeepenings around their stoss sides (e.g. Wellner et al. 2001, 2006; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002,
509 2005a,b; Lowe & Anderson, 2002; Gilbert et al. 2003; Heroy & Anderson, 2005; Graham et
510 al. 2009) and these are generally thought to result from localised meltwater production,
511 possibly due to pressure melting (cf. Wellner et al. 2001; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002, 2005a,b,
512 2010b). The role of meltwater in the formation of drumlins is, however, contentious (e.g. see
513 Shaw et al. 2008; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2010b), with the geomorphic evidence failing to reconcile
514 whether crescentric overdeepenings formed synchronously with, or subsequent to, drumlin
515 genesis (cf. Ó Cofaigh et al. 2010b).

516 3.3.4 *Grounding Zone Wedges*

517 Grounding zone wedges (‘till deltas’), characterised by a steep distal sea-floor ramp and
518 shallow back-slope are common features of Antarctic palaeo-ice stream troughs (Table 3 and
519 Fig. 4d) (Larter & Vanneste, 1995; Vanneste & Larter, 1995; Anderson, 1997, 1999; Bart &
520 Anderson, 1997; Domack et al. 1999; O’Brien et al. 1999; Shipp et al. 1999, 2002; Lowe &
521 Anderson, 2002; Canals et al. 2003; Howat & Domack, 2003; Evans et al. 2005; Heroy &
522 Anderson, 2005; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005a,b, 2007; McMullen et al. 2006; Mosola & Anderson,
523 2006; Graham et al. 2009, 2010). They are composed of diamicton and are typically tens of
524 kilometres long and tens of meters high (with GZWs in the Ross Sea up to 100 m high) with
525 an acoustic signature which often includes inclined structures truncated by a gently dipping
526 overlying reflector and capped by an acoustically transparent sedimentary unit, similar in
527 geometry to Gilbert-style deltas (e.g. Alley et al. 1989; Domack et al. 1999; Shipp et al. 1999;
528 Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005a). These features are interpreted as grounding zone wedges (GZWs)
529 that are generally thought to have formed by the subglacial transport and then deposition of
530 deformation till at the grounding-line during ice stream still-stands (Alley et al. 1989;
531 O’Brien et al. 1999; Anandakrishnan et al. 2007). Whilst the capping unit reflects the direct

532 emplacement of basal till at the ice stream bed, the inclined structures may relate to
533 glacialine sedimentation proximal to the grounding line, in particular deposition from
534 sediment gravity flows.

535 An alternative interpretation presented by Christoffersen et al. (2010) highlights the role of
536 basal freezing in the entrainment of sediment into basal ice layers (cf. Christoffersen &
537 Tulaczyk, 2003). During stagnant phases of ice stream cycles, sediment is accreted in the ice
538 via basal freezing, while during subsequent phases of fast ice-stream flow the sediment is
539 transported to the grounding line and GZWs formed by melt-out of this basal debris
540 (Christoffersen et al. 2010). MSGLs are commonly formed on the GZW surface, thereby
541 demonstrating the persistence of streaming flow during the last phase of their formation (e.g.
542 Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005a; Graham et al. 2010). Where MSGLs terminate at the wedge crest, the
543 GZW is interpreted to have formed during episodic retreat of the ice stream (e.g. Ó Cofaigh
544 et al. 2008). In contrast, GZWs completely overridden by MSGL, such as in outer Marguerite
545 Trough, obviously document an advance of the ice stream over the wedge (Ó Cofaigh et al.
546 2005b). A paucity of MSGLs across the surface of a prominent GZW in Trough 5 of the Ross
547 Sea combined with the presence of intervening morainal ridges gives evidence for a slow
548 phase of ice-stream retreat (Mosola & Anderson, 2006).

549 The formation and size of GZWs is likely to be a function of sediment supply vs. duration of
550 time the ice was grounded at the same position (Alley et al. 2007). Calculated subglacial
551 sediment fluxes from modelled, palaeo- and contemporary ice streams generally range
552 between 100 and 1000 m³ yr⁻¹ per meter wide (Alley et al. 1987, 1989; Hooke & Elverhøi,
553 1996; Tulaczyk et al. 2001; Shipp et al. 2002; Bougamont & Tulaczyk, 2003; Dowdeswell et
554 al. 2004a; Anandakrishnan et al. 2007; Laberg et al. 2009; Christoffersen et al. 2010),
555 although fluxes as high as 8000 m³ yr⁻¹ per meter wide have been estimated for the
556 Norwegian Channel Ice Stream (Nygård et al. 2007) and several 10s of thousands m³ yr⁻¹ per
557 meter width for the M'Clintock Channel Ice Stream in the Canadian Arctic (Clark and
558 Stokes, 2001). In order to generate and sustain this magnitude of sediment flux, subglacial
559 transport must be dominated by till deformation distributed over a considerable thickness
560 (>10 cm) (e.g. Alley et al. 1989; Bougamont & Tulaczyk, 2003; Anandakrishnan et al. 2007)
561 or via debris-rich basal ice layers (Christoffersen et al. 2010). Given these likely range of
562 estimates, GZWs tens of km's long and tens of metres thick would typically take ~100-
563 10,000 years to form (e.g. Alley et al. 1987, 1989; Anandakrishnan et al. 2007; Larter &
564 Vanneste 1995; Graham et al. 2010).

565 Significantly, it has also been proposed that sedimentation at the grounding line and resultant
566 GZW formation could cause temporary ice stream stabilization against small sea-level rises
567 (Alley et al. 2007) similar to processes observed at tidewater glacier termini (Powell et al.
568 1991). This could act as a positive feedback mechanism with the proto-formation of a GZW
569 stabilising the grounding line and therefore promoting further sediment deposition.

570 3.3.5 *Moraines*

571 In contrast to large GZWs, relatively small transverse ridges composed of soft till, with
572 amplitudes of 1-10 m, spacings of a few tens to hundreds of metres, and overprinted by
573 MSGs have been identified in the JOIDES-Central Basin and troughs of the eastern Ross
574 Sea (Table 3) (Shipp et al. 2002; Mosola & Anderson, 2006; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2008;
575 Dowdeswell et al. 2008). In JOIDES-Central Basin, the ridges are found everywhere except
576 the inner-most shelf and are typically 1-2 m high, symmetrical, closely spaced and straight
577 crested (Shipp et al. 2002). In the eastern Ross Sea, the ridges are larger, straight to sinuous in
578 plan form, and with orientations that are oblique or transverse to ice flow (Fig. 4e) (Mosola &
579 Anderson, 2006). These smaller transverse ridges presumably reflect lower volumes of
580 sediment transported to the grounding line and/or, possibly, lower ice velocities (i.e. slow
581 retreat recessional moraines).

582 These ridges are interpreted as time-transgressive features formed at the grounding line by
583 deposition and/or sediment pushing during minor grounding-line re-advances and stillstands,
584 possibly on an annual cycle (Shipp et al. 2002). Their formation is thus consistent with De
585 Geer moraine formation as identified in other marine-ice sheet settings (e.g. Ottesen &
586 Dowdeswell, 2006; Todd et al. 2007). If the ridges were annually deposited, the retreat rate of
587 the ice stream in JOIDES-Central Basin would have been ca. 40-100 m yr⁻¹, which is
588 consistent with independent dating controls (Domack et al. 1999; Shipp et al. 2002). In
589 Lambert Deep, transverse ridges with scalloped edges have also been identified as push
590 moraines formed during minor re-advances (O'Brien et al. 1999). Similar ridges have been
591 identified in Prydz Channel (Table 3), although these features wedge out against the sides of
592 flutes, are parallel between flutes, and display a convex geometry landward (O'Brien et al.
593 1999). These features are interpreted as sediment waves formed by ocean circulation in a sub-
594 ice shelf cavity that had formed immediately after the floating of the formerly grounded ice
595 sheet (O'Brien et al. 1999). In Pine Island Trough, transverse ridges are observed along the
596 entire width of the trough, with amplitudes of 1-2 m and wavelengths of 60-200 m
597 (Jakobsson et al. 2011). These bedforms are referred to as 'fishbone moraine' and are
598 interpreted to have formed during the disintegration of an ice shelf. Each ridge is thought to
599 represent one tidal cycle in which the remnant ice shelf lifted, moved seaward and then
600 subsided onto the sea floor, squeezing sediment out to form a ridge (Jakobsson et al. 2011). A
601 similar tidal mechanism has been proposed for ridges formed within iceberg scours in the
602 Ross Sea (Wellner et al. 2006).

603 3.3.6 *Subglacial meltwater drainage networks*

604 The distribution and flow of water beneath an ice sheet is an important control on ice
605 dynamics. This is demonstrated by observations that the water pressure beneath Whillans Ice
606 Stream, West Antarctica, is almost at flotation point (Engelhardt & Kamb, 1997; Kamb,
607 2001). Basal lubrication can promote fast ice streaming by lowering the effective pressure,
608 either within a soft, dilatant till layer, thus permitting deformation and/or sliding along the
609 surface (e.g. Alley et al. 1986, 1987, 1989b; Engelhardt et al. 1990; Engelhardt & Kamb,
610 1997; Tulaczyk et al. 2000); or in association with a spatially extensive subglacial hydraulic
611 network, which can develop on both hard and soft beds. The form of this drainage network
612 has been variously described as a thin film (Weertman, 1972), a linked-cavity system (Kamb,

613 1987) and a channelized system of conduits incised either into the ice, sediment or bedrock
614 (Rothlisberger, 1972; Nye, 1976; Alley, 1989; Hooke, 1989; Clark & Walder, 1994; Walder &
615 Fowler, 1994; Fountain & Walder, 1998; Ng, 2000; Domack et al. 2006). In Antarctica, the
616 drainage network is likely to be further modulated by the routing of water from active
617 subglacial lakes beneath the ice sheet (Fricker et al. 2007; Stearns, 2008; Carter et al. 2009;
618 Smith et al. 2009). There has been a growing recognition that the subglacial hydrodynamics
619 of the ice sheet system exhibits considerable spatial and temporal variability (Kamb, 2001;
620 Wingham et al. 2006; Fricker et al. 2007), which is also consistent with recent observations
621 from beneath Rutford Ice Stream (Smith et al. 2007; Murray et al. 2008; Smith & Murray,
622 2008). Palaeo-ice stream beds provide a useful opportunity to describe the form, type and size
623 of subglacial meltwater networks and to examine their evolution both downflow, and over
624 both soft and hard substrates.

625 Extensive networks of relict subglacial meltwater channels and basins incised into crystalline
626 bedrock have been identified on the inner shelf sections of Anvers-Hugo Island Trough,
627 Marguerite Trough, Pine Island Trough and Dotson-Getz Trough (Anderson & Shipp, 2001;
628 Anderson et al. 2001; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002, 2005b; Lowe & Anderson, 2003, 2003; Domack
629 et al. 2006; Anderson & Oakes-Fretwell, 2008; Graham et al. 2009; Nitsche & Jacobs 2010).
630 There is also evidence of localised water flow from crescentric overdeepenings around the
631 stoss ends of drumlins (section 3.3.3). Relict hydrological networks associated with palaeo-
632 ice streams are shown to exhibit variable forms, with the rugged bedrock of the innermost
633 shelf characterised by large isolated basins (e.g. Marguerite Bay, Anderson & Oakes-Fretwell,
634 2008), some of which have been interpreted as former subglacial lakes (e.g. Palmer Deep,
635 Anvers-Hugo Island Trough, Domack et al. 2006).

636 Also present on the inner shelf of Marguerite and Pine Island troughs are tunnel valleys and
637 anastomosing channel-cavity systems (Fig. 4f), which tend to follow the deepest portions of
638 the bed, possibly along structural weaknesses and indicate a well organised subglacial
639 drainage network (Lowe & Anderson, 2002, 2003; Domack et al. 2006; Anderson & Oakes-
640 Fretwell, 2008; Graham et al. 2009). The largest tunnel valleys are up to 25 km long, 4.5 km
641 wide and incise up to 450 m into the underlying substrate (Graham et al. 2009). Lowe &
642 Anderson (2002, 2003) show that the anastomosing network in Pine Island Bay breaks down
643 seaward into a dendritic channel system more aligned to the inferred former ice-flow
644 direction. This progressive evolution and organisation in subglacial meltwater flow seems to
645 be analogous to channel networks along palaeo-ice stream beds elsewhere in West Antarctica
646 (Domack et al. 2006; Anderson & Oakes-Fretwell, 2008). Isolated straight and radial
647 channels also occur across bedrock highs and along the flanks of basins (e.g. Anderson &
648 Oakes-Fretwell, 2008). It has been suggested that, similar to the erosional bedforms on the
649 inner shelf (section 3.3.2), the subglacial meltwater channel networks may have formed over
650 multiple glacial cycles, possibly since the Mid-Miocene (Lowe & Anderson 2003; Smith et
651 al. 2009).

652 In contrast to the discrete subglacial meltwater channel networks incised into the crystalline
653 bedrock of the inner shelf, evidence of meltwater flow across the sedimentary substrate of the
654 middle to outer shelf is largely absent or undetectable. Possible exceptions include a

655 meltwater channel and small braided channels at the mouth of Belgica Trough (Noormets et
656 al. 2009) and a large tunnel valley in Pennell Trough, western Ross Sea (Wellner et al. 2006).
657 Gullies and channels on the continental slope in-front of the glacial troughs (Table 3) were
658 interpreted to have formed by the drainage of sediment-laden meltwater from ice grounded at
659 the shelf break (Wellner et al. 2001, 2006; Canals et al. 2002; Dowdeswell, et al. 2004b,
660 2006, 2008b; Evans et al. 2005; Heroy & Anderson, 2005; Amblas et al. 2006; Noormets et
661 al. 2009) and therefore may demonstrate the evacuation of meltwater from the substrate.
662 However, erosion of these gullies and channels solely by turbidity current activity and/or the
663 down-slope cascading of dense shelf water masses has also been proposed (e.g., Michels et
664 al. 2002; Dowdeswell et al. 2006, 2008b; Hillenbrand et al. 2009; Muench et al. 2009), whilst
665 the role of groundwater outflow at the continental slope may also be significant (Uemura et
666 al. 2011).

667 3.3.7 *Trough Mouth Fans*

668 Trough Mouth Fans (TMFs) are large sedimentary depo-centres on the continental slope and
669 rise, located directly offshore of the mouth of palaeo-ice stream troughs (Vorren & Laberg et
670 al. 1997). They form over repeated glacial cycles due to the delivery of large volumes of
671 glacial sediment from the termini of fast flowing ice streams grounded at the shelf-break.
672 TMFs on the Antarctic continental margin have been identified from seaward bulging
673 bathymetric contours, large glacial debris-flow deposits, and pronounced shelf
674 progradation observed in seismic profiles (e.g. Bart et al. 1999; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2003;
675 Dowdeswell et al. 2008b; O'Brien et al. 2007).

676 Compared to the northern hemisphere (e.g. Dowdeswell et al. 1996; Vorren et al. 1989, 1998;
677 Vorren & Laberg, 1997), TMFs are relatively rare around the continental margin of Antarctica
678 and, to date, have only been recognized at four localities (Table 3): Northern Basin TMF in
679 the western Ross Sea (Bart et al. 2000), Belgica TMF in the southern Bellingshausen Sea (Ó
680 Cofaigh et al. 2005a; Dowdeswell et al. 2008b), Crary TMF in the southern Weddell Sea
681 (Kuvaas & Kristoffersen, 1991; Moons et al. 1992; Bart et al. 1999) and Prydz Channel Fan
682 (Kuvaas & Leitchenkov, 1992; O'Brien 1994, 2007). In contrast, most sections of the
683 Antarctic margin are dominated by gullies and channels eroded either by meltwater and/or
684 dense shelf water flowing down-slope (see section 3.3.6), or by turbidity currents originating
685 in debris flows (e.g. Dowdeswell et al. 2004b, 2006; Hillenbrand et al. 2009, Noormets et al.
686 2009), with debris-flow frequency depending on glacial sediment supply, shelf width and,
687 crucially, the gradient of the continental slope (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2003). One explanation
688 proposed to explain the absence of TMFs along many areas of the Antarctic margin is that the
689 relatively steep slopes promote rapid down-slope sediment transfer by turbidity currents
690 resulting in sediment bypass of the upper slope, thereby precluding formation of debris flow
691 dominated TMFs by facilitating development of a gully/channel system (Ó Cofaigh et al.
692 2003). However, there is a 'chicken and egg' problem to this interpretation with TMFs
693 typically creating shallow slopes, whereas the surrounding continental margin may have
694 much steeper slopes.

695 3.3.8 *Impact of contrasting retreat rates on ice stream geomorphology*

696 The genetic association between subglacial bedforms and processes (see Section 3.3) has
697 allowed the rate of palaeo-ice stream retreat to be inferred from their geomorphic imprint.
698 Three distinctive suites of landform assemblage, each of which represents a characteristic
699 retreat style (rapid, episodic and slow) have been proposed, see Fig. 5 (Dowdeswell et al.
700 2008a; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2008).

701 Palaeo-ice streams characterised by the preservation of unmodified MSGs that have not
702 been overprinted by other glacial features and with a relatively thin deglacial sedimentary
703 unit (Fig. 5) (e.g. Marguerite Trough) are consistent with rapid deglaciation. In contrast, a
704 series of transverse recessional moraines and GZWs on the palaeo-ice stream bed indicate
705 slow and episodic retreat, respectively (Fig. 5). In particular, De Geer-style moraines are
706 diagnostic of slow retreat, with each ridge possibly representing an annual stillstand, such as
707 in the JOIDES-Central Basin (Shipp et al. 2002; Dowdeswell et al. 2008a; Ó Cofaigh et al.
708 2008). When grounding-line retreat was slow, it is likely that a thick deglacial sequence,
709 including sub-ice shelf sediments, would have been deposited, although this is dependent on
710 sedimentation rates (e.g. Domack et al. 1999; Willmott et al. 2003; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2008).

711 3.3.9 *Marine palaeo-ice stream landsystem model*

712 The general distribution of glacial landforms associated with a typical palaeo-ice stream on
713 the Antarctic continental shelf (discussed throughout Section 3.3) is summarised in Fig. 6.
714 This landsystem model (cf. Graham et al. 2009) illustrates the different glacial bedforms
715 associated with crystalline bedrock and unconsolidated sediments and the seaward transition
716 of glacial features and their inferred relative velocities (see also models presented by Canals
717 et al. 2002; Wellner et al. 2001, 2006). Models initially highlighted the general down-flow
718 evolution of bedforms associated with a corresponding increase in velocity (Ó Cofaigh et al.
719 2002), especially marked at the boundary between crystalline bedrock and sedimentary
720 substrate (e.g. Wellner et al. 2001). More recent attempts to produce a conceptual model of
721 the palaeo-ice stream landsystem have acknowledged the role of substrate in landform
722 genesis. Graham et al. (2009) try to distinguish between a sedimentary substrate on the outer
723 shelf where landforms are dominated by MSGs and record the final imprint of ice streaming,
724 and the rugged bedrock-dominated inner-shelf where landforms, such as meltwater channels,
725 bedrock-cored drumlins, and streamlined, gouged and grooved bedrock could have formed
726 time-transgressively over multiple glaciations and therefore represent an inherited signal (Fig.
727 6). These authors also highlight the bedform complexity, especially on the inner shelf, with
728 rough, bare rock zones (i.e. potential sticky spots) interspersed with patches of lineations
729 composed of unconsolidated sediment (i.e. enhanced sliding/deformation), which collectively
730 indicates a complicated mosaic of palaeo-flow processes.

731 Antarctic palaeo-ice stream beds also exhibit less variation in landform type and distribution
732 when compared to northern hemisphere palaeo-ice sheet beds. For example, eskers have not
733 been reported anywhere on the Antarctic shelf and ice stagnation features, such as kames,
734 also appear to be absent, presumably because of the general lack of surface melting in
735 Antarctica. Drumlin fields are also uncommon on Antarctic palaeo-ice stream beds, apart
736 from bedrock influenced features at the transition from hard to soft substrate (e.g. Wellner et

737 al. 2001, 2006). Drumlinoid forms cut into bedrock are also apparent over the inner Antarctic
738 shelf (e.g. Ó Cofaigh et al. 2002). In comparison, on terrestrial ice stream beds in the northern
739 hemisphere, drumlins have been mapped in the onset zone and towards the termini (e.g. Dyke
740 & Morris, 1988; Stokes & Clark, 2003). Finally, ribbed moraine, which have been found in
741 some ice stream onset zones in terrestrial settings of the northern hemisphere (Dyke &
742 Morris, 1988) and as sticky spots further downstream (Stokes et al. 2008), have not been
743 observed to date on the Antarctic shelf. These differences may, in part, be due to the likely
744 lesser knowledge of Antarctic palaeo-ice streams and the scale of observations and data
745 acquisition. Indeed, higher resolution datasets are beginning to uncover new bedforms that
746 have hitherto gone unrecognised (e.g. Jakobsson et al. 2011).

747

748 4 AGE CONSTRAINTS ON RATES OF ICE-STREAM RETREAT AND 749 DEGLACIATION

750 Accurately constraining the timing and rate of ice-stream retreat in Antarctica is crucial for:
751 (i) identifying external drivers, which could have triggered deglaciation; (ii) assessing the
752 sensitivity of individual ice streams to different forcing mechanisms; (iii) identifying regional
753 differences in retreat histories; and (iv) determining the phasing between northern and
754 southern hemispheric retreat and their relative contributions to sea-level change. The
755 following section discusses some of the difficulties encountered when attempting to date
756 palaeo-ice stream retreat from Antarctic shelf sediments. We then present a compilation of
757 radiocarbon ages constraining the minimum age and rate of retreat from the Antarctic
758 continental shelf since the LGM in order to investigate regional and inter-ice stream trends in
759 their behaviour during deglaciation.

760 4.1 Problems in determining the age of grounding-line retreat from the Antarctic shelf by 761 dating marine sediment cores

762 Providing constraints on the timing and rate of ice sheet retreat on the Antarctic continental
763 shelf from marine radiocarbon dates is notoriously difficult (cf. Andrews et al. 1999;
764 Anderson et al. 2002; Heroy & Anderson, 2007; Hillenbrand et al. 2010b for detailed
765 reviews). Because of the scarcity of calcareous (micro-)fossils in Antarctic shelf sediments,
766 ^{14}C dates are usually obtained from the acid-insoluble fraction of the organic matter (AIO).
767 The corresponding AIO ^{14}C dates are, however, often affected by contamination with
768 reworked fossil organic carbon resulting in extremely old ^{14}C ages (e.g. up to $13,525 \pm 97$
769 uncorrected ^{14}C yrs BP for modern seafloor sediments on the eastern Antarctic Peninsula
770 shelf: see Pudsey et al. 2006). To try and counter this effect, downcore AIO ^{14}C dates in
771 Antarctic shelf cores are usually corrected by subtracting the uncorrected AIO ^{14}C age of
772 sediment at the seafloor. This approach assumes that both the degree of contamination with
773 fossil organic carbon and the ^{14}C age of the contaminating carbon have remained constant
774 through time. This assumption, however, is probably invalid for dating sediments from the
775 base of the deglacial unit, which is required for obtaining an accurate age of grounding-line
776 retreat. These sediments are dominated by terrigenous components and therefore contain only

777 small amounts of organic matter, i.e. even a small contribution of fossil organic carbon can
778 cause a large offset between the ^{14}C age obtained from the sediment horizon and the true time
779 of its deposition. In addition, the supply of fossil organic matter was probably higher, and the
780 ^{14}C age of the contaminating carbon different, from the modern contamination, because the
781 grounding line of the ice sheet (and therefore the source of the contaminating carbon) was
782 located closer to the core site. This problem results in a drastic down-core increase of ^{14}C
783 ages in the deglacial unit (e.g. Pudsey et al. 2006) and is evident from a so-called ‘dog leg’ in
784 age-depth plots for the sediment cores (e.g. Heroy & Anderson 2007).

785 Despite uncertainties regarding absolute deglaciation chronologies, the approach of AIO ^{14}C
786 dating often produces meaningful results for dating ice-sheet retreat, particularly when AIO
787 ^{14}C dates can be calibrated against more reliable ^{14}C ages derived from carbonate or diatom-
788 rich sediments (Licht et al. 1996, 1998; Domack et al. 1998, 1999, 2005; Cunningham et al.
789 1999; Andrews et al. 1999; Heroy & Anderson, 2005, 2007; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005b; Leventer
790 et al. 2006; McKay et al. 2008; Hillenbrand et al. 2010a,b; Smith et al. 2011). Additionally,
791 carbonate ^{14}C dates, although much more dependable than the AIO dates, still need to be
792 corrected for the marine reservoir effect (MRE) (^{14}C offset between oceanic and atmospheric
793 carbon reservoirs).

794 In this paper, for consistency and ease of comparison, we use a uniform MRE of 1,300 (± 100)
795 years (see Table 4), as suggested by Berkman & Forman (1996) for the Southern Ocean and
796 in agreement with most other studies (Table 4), thereby assuming that the MRE has remained
797 unchanged since the end of the LGM. Ideally, in order to obtain the best possible age on
798 grounding-line retreat, calcareous (micro-)fossils from the transitional glaciomarine
799 sediments lying directly above the till (i.e. the deglacial facies) should be radiocarbon-dated.
800 Where carbonate ^{14}C dates cannot be obtained from this terrigenous sediment facies, the
801 chronology for ice-sheet retreat is often constrained only from ^{14}C dates on calcareous
802 (micro-)fossils in the overlying postglacial glaciomarine muds or AIO ^{14}C dates from
803 diatom-rich sediments. These ages actually record the onset of open marine conditions and
804 thus provide only minimum ages for grounding-line retreat (Anderson et al. 2002; Smith et al.
805 2011). Wherever available, we also used core chronologies based on palaeomagnetic intensity
806 dating (Brachfeld et al. 2003; Willmott et al. 2007; Hillenbrand et al. 2010b) to constrain the
807 age of grounding-line retreat (Table 4). All deglaciation dates are reported as calibrated ages
808 (Table 4).

809 4.2 Database of (minimum) ages for post-LGM ice-stream retreat

810 Heroy and Anderson (2007) compiled a database of radiocarbon dates related to the retreat of
811 grounded ice from the Antarctic Peninsula shelf following the LGM. Since then, a number of
812 additional dates have been published for the Antarctic Peninsula shelf (e.g. Heroy et al. 2008;
813 Michalchuk et al. 2009; Milliken et al. 2009; Kilfeather et al. 2010) and here we present an
814 updated synthesis of deglacial ages that record the retreat of grounded ice from the entire
815 Antarctic continental shelf (Table 4 and Fig. 7). This is the most complete compilation of
816 published deglacial dates recording the retreat of the Antarctic ice sheets since the LGM. A
817 number of dates, despite being sampled from transitional glaciomarine sediments directly

818 above the diamicton, give ^{14}C ages of >25,000 cal. yrs BP, such as those from JOIDES Basin,
819 the eastern Ross Sea and the south-eastern Weddell Sea (cf. Anderson & Andrews, 1999;
820 Licht & Andrews, 2002; Mosola & Anderson, 2006; Melis & Salvi, 2009). The anomalously
821 old deglaciation ages probably indicated that, in these regions, grounded ice did not extend to
822 the core sites since the LGM defined as the time interval from 23,000-19,000 cal yrs BP in
823 the Southern Hemisphere (Gersonde et al. 2005).

824 4.3 Regional trends in ice-stream retreat

825 The deglaciation of Antarctica is generally thought to have begun around 18 ka BP, in
826 response to atmospheric warming (Jouzel et al. 2001). However, dates from the continental
827 shelf show that ice streams exhibited considerable variation in the timing of initial retreat
828 (Table 4; Fig. 8a,b). This is also supported by peaks in ice-rafted debris (IRD) in the central
829 Scotia Sea at 19.5, 16.5, 14.5 and 12 ka which appear to indicate independent evidence for
830 multiple phases of ice-sheet retreat (Weber et al. 2010). Ages for the onset of deglaciation
831 range from 31-8 cal. ka BP, with the majority of ages bracketed between 18 and 8 cal. ka BP
832 (Fig. 8a,b). This pattern is broadly consistent with results by Heroy & Anderson (2007) for
833 the Antarctic Peninsula, who constrained the onset of deglaciation from the shelf edge from
834 ~18-14 cal. ka BP.

835 The chronology of ice sheet retreat from the shelf in East Antarctica is less well constrained,
836 although the general consensus was of a much earlier deglaciation than in West Antarctica
837 and the Antarctic Peninsula (cf. Anderson et al. 2002). Sparse dates from outside palaeo-ice
838 stream troughs in the south-eastern Weddell Sea provide some support for ice recession from
839 its maximum position prior to the LGM (Elverhøi, 1981; Bentley & Anderson, 1998;
840 Anderson & Andrews, 1999; Anderson et al. 2002). However, our new compilation of
841 deglacial ages (Table 4) favours a much later deglaciation of the East Antarctic palaeo-ice
842 streams, with Fig. 8a and 8b illustrating that initial retreat occurred within a time frame
843 coincident with elsewhere in Antarctica. In Mac. Robertson Land, for example, Nielsen
844 Palaeo-Ice Stream started to retreat from the outer shelf at ~14 cal. ka BP (Mackintosh et al.
845 2011), with Iceberg Alley and Prydz Channel ice streams subsequently receding at ~12 cal. ka
846 BP (Domack et al. 1998; Mackintosh et al. 2011).

847 By comparing ages of the initial phase of retreat with global climate records and local
848 bathymetric conditions it is possible to investigate the triggers and drivers of ice stream
849 retreat. Fig. 8b indicates a good match between the onset of circum-Antarctic deglaciation
850 (~18 cal. ka BP) and atmospheric warming (Jouzel et al. 2001). This cluster of dates also
851 occurred just after a period of rapid eustatic sea-level rise: the 19 cal. ka BP meltwater pulse
852 (Yokoyama et al. 2000; Clark et al. 2004). Another cluster of palaeo-ice stream deglacial ages
853 are coincident with meltwater pulse 1a, suggesting that sea-level rise may have been an
854 important factor during that period, whilst palaeo-ice streams that underwent initial retreat
855 between 12-10 cal. ka BP have, in contrast, been related to oceanic warming (e.g. Mackintosh
856 et al. 2011).

857 Given the asynchronous retreat history (Figs. 8 & 9), internal factors are likely to have
858 modulated the initial (and subsequent) response of palaeo-ice streams to external drivers. We
859 have indicated on Fig. 8c the initial geometry and gradient of the troughs on the outer shelf;
860 and also correlated the (isostatically adjusted) trough depth and trough width against the
861 minimum age of deglaciation. Our results show poor correlations, with high scatter (low R^2)
862 for both depth and width (Fig. 8c). There is, however, a weak positive trend between the
863 minimum age of deglaciation and both trough width and trough depth; with wider/deeper
864 troughs associated with earlier retreat (Fig. 8c). However, this weak trend is heavily
865 influenced by the Belgica Trough outlier. Nonetheless, these general trends mirror what we
866 might expect, with deeper troughs more sensitive to changes in sea-level, whilst wider
867 troughs are less sensitive to the effects of lateral drag, which can modulate retreat. In contrast,
868 trough geometry and bed gradient seem to have little influence on the initial timing of retreat
869 (Fig. 8b).

870 The overall pattern of palaeo-ice stream retreat to their current grounding-line positions is
871 also highly variable, reflected by the large scatter of deglaciation ages throughout all regions
872 of the Antarctic shelf (Fig. 9). This scatter is attributed to the variable behaviour of individual
873 ice streams as opposed to errors inherent within the data. However, in the Antarctic
874 Peninsula, Heroy & Anderson (2007) identified two steps in the chronology at ~14 cal. ka BP
875 and ~11 cal. ka BP that corresponded to meltwater pulses 1a and 1b, respectively (Fairbanks,
876 1989; Bard et al. 1990, 1996). In summary, it can be concluded that palaeo-ice stream retreat
877 was markedly asynchronous, with a number of internal factors likely responsible for
878 modulating the response of ice streams to external forcing.

879 4.4 Palaeo-ice stream retreat histories

880 Given the variability in palaeo-ice stream retreat histories (Figs. 8 & 9), it is useful to produce
881 high-resolution reconstructions of individual palaeo-ice streams to better understand the
882 controls driving and modulating grounding-line retreat. Of the palaeo-ice streams identified
883 in this paper, only those from Anvers Trough, Marguerite Trough, Belgica Trough, Getz-
884 Dotson Trough and Drygalski Basin have well-constrained retreat histories supported by
885 glacial geomorphic data (Fig. 10). In addition, ice-stream retreat in JOIDES-Central Basin is
886 well constrained by De Geer-style moraines which allow the calculation of annual retreat
887 rates (Shipp et al. 2002). Note that the retreat rates calculated for these palaeo-ice streams are
888 maximum retreat rates because they are based on minimum deglacial ages and because they
889 are averaged, over shorter timescales they are likely to have undergone faster and slower
890 phases of retreat.

891 Anvers palaeo-ice stream (Antarctic Peninsula) retreated at a mean rate of 24 m yr^{-1} (based
892 on carbonate and AIO ^{14}C dates) (Table 5), with retreat from the outer shelf commencing at
893 ~16.0 cal. ka BP (Fig. 10a) (Pudsey et al. 1994; Heroy & Anderson, 2007) and Gerlache
894 Strait on the innermost shelf becoming ice free by ~8.4 cal. ka BP (Harden et al. 1992) (Fig.
895 10a). Deglaciation of the inner fjords is corroborated by cosmogenic exposure ages from the
896 surrounding terrestrial areas suggesting that final retreat occurred between 10.1 and 6.5 cal.
897 ka BP (Bentley et al. in press). According to the most reliable deglacial ages (^{14}C dates on

898 carbonate material), retreat accelerated towards the deep inner shelf of Palmer Deep (Fig.
899 10a), in accordance with an increase in the reverse slope gradient (Fig. 2d) (Heroy &
900 Anderson, 2007). This retreat pattern is supported by the identification of GZWs on the outer
901 shelf (Table 1) that are indicative of a punctuated retreat (Larter & Vanneste, 1995).

902 Getz-Dotson Trough palaeo-ice stream was characterised by a two-step pattern of ice stream
903 retreat back to the current ice-shelf front. Initial retreat was underway by ~ 22.4 cal. ka BP
904 (Fig. 10b) and was slow (average retreat rate: 18 m yr^{-1}), with ice finally reaching the mid-
905 shelf by ~ 13.8 cal. ka BP (Smith et al. 2011). Conversely, grounding-line retreat accelerated
906 towards the inner shelf (retreat rates ca. $30\text{-}70 \text{ m yr}^{-1}$). The three inner-shelf basins directly
907 north of the Dotson and Getz ice shelves deglaciated rapidly, with ice free conditions
908 commencing between 10.2 and 12.5 cal. ka BP (Fig. 10b) (Hillenbrand et al. 2010a; Smith et
909 al. 2011). The increase in the rate of retreat through the three tributary troughs is
910 characterised by a corresponding steepening in sea-floor gradient into the deep basins (up to
911 1600 m) on the inner shelf (Graham et al. 2009; Smith et al. 2011). Contrary to the retreat
912 chronology of Getz-Dotson palaeo-ice stream, the associated geomorphology displays
913 uninterrupted MSGL on the outer shelf, in the zone of slow retreat, with a number of GZWs
914 on the inner shelf, where the fastest rates of retreat are observed (Table 1) (Graham et al.
915 2009). The position of the GZWs in this zone of rapid retreat implies episodic, yet rapid
916 retreat, with the GZWs formed over relatively short (sub-millennial) time scales (Smith et al.
917 2011).

918 Drygalski Basin palaeo-ice stream (western Ross Sea) is thought to have receded from its
919 maximum position, just north of Coulman Island on the mid-outer shelf, by ~ 14.0 cal. ka BP
920 (Fig. 10c) (Frignani et al. 1998; Domack et al. 1999; Brambati et al. 2002). An additional
921 carbonate-based deglaciation date of ~ 16.8 cal. ka BP from the outer-shelf of the
922 neighbouring Pennell Trough (Licht & Andrews, 2002) provides an additional constraint on
923 deglaciation in the western Ross Sea (Fig. 10c). However, Mosola & Anderson (2006)
924 suggest that the core may have sampled an iceberg turbate and therefore could be less reliable
925 than initially reported.

926 Development of open marine conditions in the vicinity of Drygalski Ice Tongue was complete
927 by ~ 10.5 cal. ka BP (Finocchiaro et al. 2007), with grounded-ice reaching south of Ross
928 Island by 11.6 cal. ka BP (hot water drill core taken through Ross Ice Shelf [HWD03-2] –
929 McKay et al. 2008) and open marine conditions established by 10.1 cal. ka BP (Fig. 10c)
930 (McKay et al. 2008). This new date for the development of ice-free conditions in the vicinity
931 of Ross Island is earlier than previously reported (7.4 cal. ka BP) (Licht et al. 1996;
932 Cunningham et al. 1999; Domack et al. 1999; Conway et al. 1999). Mean rates of retreat
933 towards Ross Island were calculated to be $\sim 50 \text{ m yr}^{-1}$ (Shipp et al. 1999), with retreat towards
934 its present grounding-line position thought to have been much faster ($\sim 140 \text{ m yr}^{-1}$) (Shipp et
935 al. 1999). This chronology suggests that ice retreated rapidly from its maximum position
936 (mean retreat rate: 76 m yr^{-1}) with retreat accelerating south of Dryglaski Ice Tongue
937 (average: 317 m yr^{-1}) (Fig. 10c) (McKay et al. 2008). Further recession to the current
938 grounding line position proceeded at $\sim 90 \text{ m yr}^{-1}$, with the Ross Ice Shelf becoming pinned
939 against Ross Island during this period (McKay et al. 2008). Although geomorphological data

940 of the sub-ice shelf section of Drygalski palaeo-ice stream is not available, the bedform
941 evidence north of Ross Island is dominated by MSGs, with a large GZW marking its LGM
942 limit (Shipp et al. 1999; Anderson et al. 2002).

943 The neighbouring JOIDES-Central Basin palaeo-ice stream, which also reached a maximum
944 position on the mid-outer shelf during the LGM (Licht et al. 1996; Domack et al. 1999; Shipp
945 et al. 1999, 2002), is floored by a series of transverse ridges that overprint all other landforms
946 (Shipp et al. 2002). These features are interpreted as annually deposited De Geer moraines,
947 formed at the grounding line during ice stream recession (see section 3.3.5) and have been
948 used to estimate a retreat rate of 40-100 m yr⁻¹ (Table 5) (Shipp et al. 2002). Open marine
949 conditions in outer JOIDES Basin were established by 13.0 cal. ka BP (Domack et al. 1999).
950 Thus, the rates of recession calculated from both the transverse moraines and the timing of
951 retreat inferred from radiocarbon ages in JOIDES-Central Basin are broadly consistent with
952 those from Drygalski Basin (Domack et al. 1999), even though the geomorphic signatures are
953 different.

954 The Marguerite Trough palaeo-ice stream (western Antarctic Peninsula) underwent a stepped
955 pattern of retreat, with rapid retreat across the outer 140 km of the shelf at ~14.0 cal. ka BP
956 (Fig. 10d) (Kilfeather et al. 2010). This rapid phase of retreat is consistent with well-
957 preserved and uninterrupted MSGs on the very outer shelf of the trough (Ó Cofaigh et al.
958 2008), whilst a number of GZWs further inland suggest that retreat became increasingly
959 punctuated (Livingstone et al. 2010). However, as in Getz-Dotson Trough, the rapid retreat
960 rates (i.e. within the error of the dates) suggest that GZW formation must have occurred over
961 a relatively short (sub-millennial) time-scale (Livingstone et al. 2010). This was followed by
962 a slower phase of retreat on the mid-shelf, which was also associated with the break-up of an
963 ice-shelf. Thereafter, the ice stream rapidly retreated to the inner shelf at ~9.0 cal. ka BP (Fig.
964 10d) (Kilfeather et al. 2010). This latter phase of rapid retreat is supported by cosmogenic
965 exposure ages at Pourquoi-Pas Island that indicate rapid thinning (350 m) at 9.6 cal. ka BP
966 (Bentley et al., in press). George VI Sound is thought to have become ice free between ~6.6-
967 9.6 cal. ka BP (Fig. 10d), based on ages from foraminifera and shells (Sugden and
968 Clapperton, 1981; Hjort et al. 2001; Smith et al. 2007). The drivers for these two phases of
969 rapid grounding-line retreat at 14.0 cal. ka BP and 9.0 cal. ka BP have been suggested as
970 meltwater pulse 1a and the advection of relatively warm Circumpolar Deep Water (CDW)
971 onto the continental shelf (Kilfeather et al. 2010). The mean retreat rate of the palaeo-ice
972 stream along the whole trough was ~80 m yr⁻¹ (Table 5) (and ranged between 36-150 m yr⁻¹;
973 Figure 10d) which is noticeably faster than Anvers palaeo-ice stream. Crucially, the two
974 phases of rapid retreat (outer-mid shelf and mid-inner shelf (see above)) are associated with
975 even greater rates of recession and actually within the error of the radiocarbon dates.

976 The deglacial chronology of Belgica Trough (southern Bellinghousen Sea) is significantly
977 different to that experienced by other West Antarctic palaeo-ice streams because the ice
978 stream in Belgica Trough had receded from its maximum position on the shelf edge as early
979 as ~30.0 cal. ka BP (Fig. 10e) (Hillenbrand et al. 2010a). Grounding-line retreat towards the
980 mid-shelf proceeded slowly, and the middle shelf eventually became free of grounded ice by
981 ~24.0 cal. ka BP (Fig. 10e). The inner shelf had deglaciaded by ~14.0 cal. ka BP in Eltanin

982 Bay and by ~ 4.5 cal. ka BP in Ronne Entrance (Fig. 10e) (Hillenbrand et al. 2010a). Mean
983 retreat rates varied between 7-55 m yr⁻¹ (Table 5), with deglaciation thought to be prolonged
984 and continuous (Hillenbrand et al. 2010a). However, a series of GZWs on the inner shelf of
985 Belgica Trough suggests that retreat was characterised by episodic still-stands (Ó Cofaigh et
986 al. 2005a).

987

988 5 DISCUSSION

989 Given the advantages of conducting research on palaeo-ice streams (see Section 1), and the
990 information that has been obtained from their beds, it is important to contextualise
991 observations within the broader themes of (palaeo)glaciology to inform discussions on how
992 Antarctic ice streams may respond to future external forcings. The aim of this section,
993 therefore, is to critically discuss the geological evidence for palaeo-ice streaming in terms of
994 its implications for understanding ice-stream processes and its relevance to predictions of
995 future Antarctic Ice Sheet behaviour.

996

997 5.1 Examples of contrasting Antarctic ice-stream retreat styles

998 Where detailed glacial geomorphic data exists along the length of palaeo-ice stream flow path
999 and/or a deglacial chronology can be used to constrain the retreat rate (see Table 4), we have
1000 categorised Antarctic palaeo-ice streams into discrete retreat styles (Table 6). To discriminate
1001 between different asynchronous, multi-modal retreat patterns, Table 6 differentiates between
1002 palaeo-ice streams that exhibit slow/episodic retreat from the outer and middle shelf followed
1003 by rapid retreat from the inner shelf, and *vice-versa*. A good example of a palaeo-ice stream
1004 that underwent accelerated retreat from the inner shelf is Pine Island Trough. Five GZWs on
1005 the mid-outer shelf demarcate still-stand positions (Graham et al. 2010), whilst the deep,
1006 rugged inner shelf is characterised by a thin carapace of deglacial sediment with no evidence
1007 of morainal features (Lowe & Anderson 2002). In contrast, the Robertson Trough palaeo-ice
1008 stream has deposited no morainal features on the outer shelf (lineations which exhibit
1009 localised cross-cutting), whereas the mid-shelf is interrupted by a series of GZWs up to 20 m
1010 high (Gilbert et al. 2003; Evans et al. 2005). This is consistent with a switch from continuous
1011 and rapid retreat across the outer shelf to episodic retreat on the middle shelf (cf. Evans et al.
1012 2005).

1013 The range of retreat rates and variability in the timing of deglaciation around the Antarctic
1014 shelf highlights that local factors such as drainage-basin size, bathymetry, bed roughness and
1015 ice-stream geometry are important in modulating grounding-line retreat. Even neighbouring
1016 palaeo-ice streams can exhibit strikingly different retreat styles, as exemplified by the
1017 different frequency, localities and sizes of GZWs in adjacent troughs in the eastern Ross Sea
1018 (Mosola & Anderson, 2006). A paucity of deglacial sediment within this region (<1 m) has
1019 been used to infer rapid collapse of the palaeo-ice streams (Mosola & Anderson, 2006),
1020 although the large and multiple GZWs point towards repeated still-stands and thus episodic

1021 retreat (Table 6). This apparent contradiction between the formation of large GZWs (up to
1022 180 m thick) and an apparent lack of deglacial sediment highlights current deficiencies in the
1023 understanding of: (i) rates of sub-, marginal- and pro-glacial sediment supply and deposition;
1024 (ii) speed of GZW formation; and (iii) depositional processes at the grounding line and
1025 beneath ice shelves.

1026 5.2 Controls on the retreat rate of palaeo-ice streams

1027 A number of general observations can be made regarding characteristics which tend to be
1028 symptomatic of distinctive retreat styles (Table 6). Firstly, there appears to be a correlation
1029 between bathymetric gradient of the trough floor and the rate of grounding-line retreat, as
1030 predicted by theoretical modelling (e.g. Schoof, 2007). This is demonstrated by the
1031 acceleration in grounding-line retreat on the reverse-slope, inner-shelves of the Anvers-Hugo
1032 Island and Getz-Dotson palaeo-ice streams (Figs. 2d; 10a,b; Table 6) (also see Smith et al.
1033 2011). On a local scale, a link between lower gradients (average slope: 0.015°) and GZW
1034 development for Pine Island Trough has also been demonstrated (Graham et al. 2010).
1035 However, it is apparent that bed slope is not the only factor controlling grounding-line retreat
1036 and, indeed, can be modulated or in some circumstances suppressed by other factors. For
1037 example, GZWs, which have been linked with stable grounding-line positions, are commonly
1038 observed along reverse gradients, such as in Marguerite Trough, Belgica Trough, Pine Island
1039 Trough, Getz-Dotson Trough and all of the Ross-Sea palaeo-ice stream beds (Tables 2 & 6).
1040 Significantly, slow retreat rates have also been described within some troughs with reverse
1041 bed slopes (Shipp et al. 2002; Table 6). Belgica Trough is characterised by multiple GZWs on
1042 the inner shelf, where the trough dips steeply into Eltanin Bay (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005a).
1043 Moreover, despite being characterised by a relative acceleration in grounding-line retreat
1044 towards Palmer Deep, the absolute retreat rates within Anvers-Hugo Island Trough are low
1045 (Fig. 10a; Table 6).

1046 The retreat of palaeo-ice streams over rugged bedrock-dominated inner shelves, which
1047 exhibit large variations in relief and well-defined banks (e.g. Gerlache Strait, Marguerite Bay,
1048 Anvers-Hugo Island and Pine Island Bay), was not universally slow. This is again contrary to
1049 theoretical studies, which propose slower rates of grounding-line retreat where lateral and
1050 basal drag is greatest (Echelmeyer et al. 1991, 1994; Alley, 1993a; MacAyeal et al. 1995;
1051 Whillans & van der Veen, 1997; Joughin et al. 2004; Siegert et al. 2004; Rippin et al. 2006;
1052 Stokes et al. 2007). Possible reasons for this discrepancy include the preferential flow of
1053 relatively warm oceanic waters to the grounding line due to the large changes in relief (high
1054 roughness) via pre-existing meltwater drainage routes and deep basins (Jenkins et al. 2010),
1055 or increased lubrication generated as water starts to penetrate, and fill, deep ‘hollows’ in the
1056 rough bed (e.g. Bindschadler & Choi, 2007) as the ice reaches flotation.

1057 The palaeo-ice streams characterised by the highest retreat rates tend to be the smallest
1058 glacial systems, whilst those that underwent episodic/slow retreat are typically associated
1059 with large drainage basins and/or broad troughs (Tables 2 & 6) (also see Ó Cofaigh et al.
1060 2008). This relationship is what you might expect, with the response times of large drainage

1061 systems less sensitive to perturbations than a small drainage basin that can quickly re-adjust
1062 to a new state of equilibrium (e.g. thickness divided by mass balance rate).

1063 Our review of the retreat styles of Antarctic palaeo-ice streams highlights the potential for
1064 using glacial landform signatures to investigate grounding-line retreat and reinforces the
1065 notion that local factors, such as trough width, drainage basin size, bed gradient, bed
1066 roughness, and substrate, play a critical role in modulating ice-stream retreat. It is also likely
1067 that subglacial meltwater (e.g. Bell, 2008) and the thermo-mechanical coupling between the
1068 ice and the underlying sediments (e.g. Tulaczyk & Hossainzadeh, 2011) also plays a major
1069 role in modulating ice-stream speed and retreat. However, these processes are harder to
1070 quantify from the palaeo-record. Our attempt to categorise palaeo-ice streams into discrete
1071 retreat styles has revealed the importance of drainage basin area and reverse slope gradient as
1072 potentially key controls governing the sensitivity of ice streams to grounding-line retreat.

1073

1074 5.3 Influence of underlying bedrock characteristics on ice-stream dynamics

1075 The role of substrate (i.e. underlying bedrock geology and roughness) in controlling ice-
1076 stream dynamics is hard to quantify due to the lack of process understanding regarding how
1077 and over what time-period glacial landforms actually form in bedrock and, to an extent, in
1078 sediments as well (see Sections 3.2 & 3.3.8). Thus, although the generally ‘higher’ roughness
1079 and hardness of bedrock will almost certainly impact upon flow velocities, it is hard to
1080 unequivocally determine this relationship. Determining the role of substrate on ice velocity is
1081 therefore problematic for areas of bedrock, such as the inner Antarctic shelf. Indeed, the
1082 morphological signature of ice streaming over bedrock remains largely unresolved despite
1083 recent attempts to relate mega-grooves, roché moutonees and whalebacks to palaeo-ice
1084 streams (Roberts & Long, 2005; Bradwell et al. 2008). This is best exemplified by the
1085 downflow evolution of bedforms across the bedrock-sedimentary substrate transition in the
1086 Antarctic palaeo-ice stream troughs, which is mirrored by an increase in their elongation ratio
1087 (Fig. 6), and generally attributed to acceleration at the onset of streaming flow (Shipp et al.
1088 1999; Wellner, et al. 2001, 2006; Canals et al. 2002; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005a; Evans et al.
1089 2006). However, it is unclear, whether this elongation change is caused by a genuine
1090 transition in ice velocity (i.e. zone of acceleration) or whether it simply reflects a change in
1091 underlying geological substrate and its potential for subglacial landform formation (Graham
1092 et al., 2009).

1093 The strong substrate control on ice streaming implied by Antarctic geophysical observations
1094 (e.g. Anandakrishnan et al. 1991; Bell et al. 1998; Bamber et al. 2008) does support a genuine
1095 velocity transition. However, there are contemporary examples where streaming is thought to
1096 have occurred over a predominantly hard bedrock, e.g. Thwaites Glacier, West Antarctica
1097 (Joughin et al. 2009). In addition, the ‘bundle structures’ on the inner shelf of the Gerlache-
1098 Boyd palaeo-ice stream and the highly elongate grooves in Smith Trough and Sulzberger Bay
1099 Trough, which are eroded into bedrock and perhaps overconsolidated glacial till, may result

1100 from fast ice-stream flow. These examples suggest that thermo-mechanical feedbacks can
1101 cause fast flow in deep troughs irrespective of roughness or substrate.

1102 The role of rougher bedrock areas in the transition zone are also likely to be important in
1103 generating (and retaining) meltwater through strain heating to lubricate the bed and initiate
1104 and maintain streaming flow (Bell, et al. 2007; Bindshadler & Choi, 2007). This is
1105 supported by the widespread presence of large meltwater channels, basins and even
1106 subglacial lakes on the rugged inner shelf (see Section 3.3.6). Bed roughness evolves as
1107 substrate is eroded or buried by sediment deposition. This is especially relevant in the
1108 bedrock dominated onset zone regions, where we hypothesise that changes in roughness
1109 could influence ice stream dynamics and potentially lead to upstream migration of the onset
1110 zone. Given typical erosion rates cited for temperate valley glaciers (Bogen et al. 1996; Hallet
1111 et al. 1996) it is feasible that large-scale (potentially 100s meters amplitude) bedrock
1112 landforms can be smoothed over sub-Quaternary time scales (e.g. Jamieson et al. 2008).
1113 Furthermore, it is likely that as bed roughness evolves in response to glacial erosion and
1114 deposition, the behaviour of the ice stream will also evolve. However, the spatial and
1115 temporal scale and significance of such a potential feedback mechanism has not been
1116 systematically investigated in the context of ice streams.

1117

1118 5.4 Atmospheric circulation and precipitation patterns

1119 The interaction between the cryosphere and atmosphere is fundamental in controlling ice
1120 sheet and glacier dynamics. Indeed shifting ice-dispersal centres and complex ice-flow in
1121 response to changing patterns of accumulation has been widely reported in former ice sheets
1122 of the northern hemisphere (e.g. Kleman et al. 2006).

1123 The first order control on Antarctic precipitation is topography, which differs significantly
1124 between East and West Antarctica. East Antarctica has a steep coastal escarpment, a relatively
1125 small area of ice shelves and a high, large inland plateau, while West Antarctica has extensive
1126 ice shelves and gentler slopes (van de Berg et al. 2006). In the steep coastal margins
1127 precipitation is dominated by orographic lifting of relatively moist, warm air associated with
1128 transient cyclones that encircle the continent. The steep ice-topography acts as a barrier to the
1129 inland propagation of storm tracks and thus inland accumulation rates are very low, especially
1130 on the interior plateau of East Antarctica, which is effectively a polar desert (Vaughan et al.
1131 1999; Arthern et al. 2006; van de Berg et al. 2006; Monaghan et al. 2006a,b). During times of
1132 ice expansion the zone of orographic precipitation will also move seawards, leading to further
1133 starvation of the interior of the ice sheet and consequently little thickening. Thus, given the
1134 general mass balance distribution over Antarctica, it is perhaps, not surprising that the most
1135 prominent and largest concentration of palaeo-ice stream troughs occur where precipitation is
1136 highest, in the West Antarctic and Antarctic Peninsula ice sheets. Indeed, reduced
1137 precipitation in the interior of East Antarctica may have affected the ability of ice streams to
1138 reach the shelf edge in the late Pleistocene (O'Brien et al. 2007). For example, during the
1139 LGM, Prydz Channel Ice Stream became dominated by ice-flow out of Ingrid Christensen

1140 Coast rather than along the axis of the Amery Ice Shelf, and this has been attributed to the
1141 topography setting of the Amery drainage basin relative to the circum-polar trough and
1142 associated storm tracks (O'Brien et al. 2007).

1143 A further control on the pattern of accumulation is the Southern Annular Mode (SAM),
1144 whereby the synoptic-scale circum-polar vortex of cyclones oscillates between the Antarctic
1145 Coast and the mid-latitudes on week to millennial timescales. Typically, when the cyclones
1146 track across the Antarctic coastal slopes higher snow accumulation rates are observed
1147 (Goodwin et al. 2003, 2004). Precipitation is also affected by the regional variability in sea-
1148 ice extent around Antarctica. For example, according to Gersonde et al. (2005), LGM
1149 precipitation over the EAIS sector, between 90°E and 120°E, would have been much higher
1150 than over the EAIS sector, between 10°E and 30°W, because in the former sector the LGM
1151 summer sea-ice edge (and thus open water) was much closer to the continent than in the latter
1152 sector.

1153

1154 5.5 Landform-process interactions and subglacial sediment transport

1155 The central tenet behind reconstructing palaeo-ice sheets from geological evidence is the
1156 causal link between subglacial processes and landform genesis. Success in using landforms
1157 and subglacial sediments to extract information on bed properties, and therefore in
1158 reconstructing the evolution of the ice sheet, relies upon a thorough comprehension of the
1159 genesis of landforms and sediments used in the 'inversion model' (cf. Kleman & Borgström,
1160 1996; Kleman et al. 2006). This section investigates these linkages in reconstructing palaeo-
1161 ice streams by discussing the characteristics of palaeo-ice streams and, in particular, the two-
1162 tiered till structure and the formation of MSGL and GZWs in soft sediment. A further issue is
1163 that ice dynamics during ice sheet build up is not well constrained and, as such, some of the
1164 tills/landforms observed may be wholly or partially inherited from earlier ice flow events.

1165

1166 5.5.1 *Origin of the upper soft and lower stiff tills*

1167 Three hypotheses were proposed by Ó Cofaigh et al. (2007) to account for the upward
1168 transition from stiff to soft till exhibited by palaeo-ice stream beds (Section 3.2): (1) till
1169 deposition during separate glacial advances, with the soft till associated with the development
1170 of an ice stream during the most recent phase; (2) a process transition from lodgement to
1171 deformation, with the deformation till associated with the onset of streaming flow; and (3) an
1172 upwards increase in dilatancy related to A/B horizons in a deformation till, a characteristic
1173 that has been previously observed beneath and in front of contemporary Icelandic glaciers (cf.
1174 Sharp, 1984; Boulton & Hindmarsh, 1987). Ó Cofaigh et al. (2007) view these hypotheses as
1175 'end members', with aspects of each mechanism exhibiting some compatibility with the field
1176 evidence. They concluded that the soft till was a 'hybrid', formed by a combination of
1177 subglacial sediment deformation and lodgement. Reinardy et al. (2011a) identify significant
1178 (micro-scale) differences between the two till-types, which they also attribute to a deforming

1179 bed continuum. Initial deposition of till as ice advanced across the shelf produced ductile
1180 structures, with brittle structures produced subsequently following compaction and
1181 dewatering. The soft till was produced by a switch to streaming flow that resulted in
1182 deformation of the upper part of the stiff till (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2007; Reinardy et al. 2011a).
1183 The origin of the lower stiff and upper soft tills has important implications for understanding
1184 the behaviour of ice streams over the last glacial cycle. Whereas hypotheses (1) and (2) imply
1185 that ice streams switched on at a late stage in the glacial cycle, subsequent to ice expansion
1186 onto the outer continental shelf, and possibly associated with the onset of deglaciation,
1187 hypothesis (3) could imply continuous streaming during both ice sheet advance and retreat. A
1188 lack of buried MSGL on top of the stiff till support the interpretation that it is not associated
1189 with streaming conditions.

1190 5.5.2 *MSGL formation*

1191 Despite the use of MSGLs as a diagnostic landform for identifying palaeo-ice streams in the
1192 geologic record (Section 3.3.1), understanding of the genesis of this landform remains
1193 incomplete. There are four main hypotheses for their genesis: (1) as a product of subglacial
1194 erosion by high-discharge, turbulent meltwater floods (Shaw et al. 2000, 2008; Munro-
1195 Stasiuk & Shaw, 2002); (2) groove-ploughing of soft-sediment by ice keels formed at the
1196 base of an ice stream (Tulaczyk et al. 2001; Clark et al. 2003); (3) subglacial deformation of
1197 soft sediment from a point source, such as a bedrock obstacle or zone of stiff till beneath an
1198 ice-stream (Clark, 1993; Hindmarsh, 1998); and (4) the instability theory, which can be
1199 extended to include lineation genesis when a local subglacial drainage system is included in
1200 the calculations (Fowler, 2010). Hypothesis (3) has significant overlap with the groove-
1201 ploughing mechanism (hypothesis 2) reinforcing the idea that MSGL were formed by
1202 deformed sediment, in this case as the ice keels plough through the sediment (Clark et al.
1203 2003).

1204 The mega-flood hypothesis is contentious (e.g. Clarke et al. 2005; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2010),
1205 especially given recent observations of actively forming MSGL beneath Rutford Ice Stream,
1206 West Antarctica, in the absence of large discharges of meltwater (King et al. 2009). In
1207 Marguerite Trough, individual lineations show evidence for bifurcation or merging along
1208 their lengths, gradual increases in width and amplitude downflow, and also subtle ‘seeding
1209 points’ comprising flat areas devoid of lineations at their point of initiation (Ó Cofaigh et al.
1210 2005b). These observations do not fit the expected landform outcome for the groove-
1211 ploughing mechanism (cf. Clark et al. 2003). Indeed, there does not appear to be a consistent
1212 correlation between bedrock roughness elements upstream and MSGL distribution
1213 downstream, but there are locations where the formation of MSGL is obviously linked to
1214 bedrock roughness. This suggests that groove-ploughing was not the only mechanism for
1215 MSGL formation on the Antarctic continental shelf despite supporting evidence. For
1216 example, the influence of bedrock roughness in Biscoe Trough and Gerlache-Boyd palaeo-ice
1217 stream coupled with some observations of an undulating subbottom reflector (marking the
1218 boundary between the stiff lodgement till and the soft deformation till) indicates localised
1219 ploughing (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2007).

1220 The palaeo-ice stream landsystem model associates MSGs with rapid ice-flow (Clark &
1221 Stokes, 2003) and they are often thought to record the final imprint of streaming (Graham et
1222 al. 2009). However, the preceding discussion highlights our lack of understanding regarding
1223 their formative mechanisms (cf. Ó Cofaigh et al. 2007), their relation to flow velocity (i.e. the
1224 potential interplay between velocity, ice-flow duration and sediment supply) and their
1225 implication for sediment transport and deposition at the ice-sheet bed. For example, is the
1226 evolution in elongation ratios along-flow related to their synchronous formation, with
1227 increased velocities towards the terminus, or a time-integrated signature related to changes in
1228 velocity as a function of grounding-line retreat? Are lineations transient features constantly
1229 (and rapidly?) being created and destroyed (depending on the prevalent bed conditions) or
1230 stable features capable of withstanding changes in basal processes? Resolving these genetic
1231 problems has implications for how ice flows, the bed properties and subglacial processes. For
1232 example, if we understand how MSGs form, we will better understand ice stream flow
1233 mechanisms and how to parameterize flow laws in numerical models.

1234 5.5.3 *GZW formation*

1235 There are two main hypotheses to explain GZW formation that are not mutually exclusive:
1236 (1) subglacial transport and then deposition of till at the grounding-line during still stands
1237 (e.g. Alley et al. 1989); and (2) the melt-out of basal debris at the grounding-line, with the
1238 debris entrained by basal freeze-on (e.g. Christoffersen & Tulaczyk, 2003). Each of these
1239 mechanisms has important implications for our understanding of bed properties and the mode
1240 and rate of sediment transport to the grounding line. The few available sediment supply
1241 calculations (and assuming hypothesis 1) suggest that GZWs can form between 1,000 to
1242 10,000 years with typical sediment fluxes ranging from $100 \text{ m}^3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ per meter width to $1,000$
1243 $\text{m}^3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ per meter width (Section 3.3.4). Despite these gross calculations, little is known about
1244 sediment transport beneath ice streams.

1245 Recently, four 10-40 m thick, 5-10 km long and up to 8 km wide GZWs have been observed
1246 on the mid-outer shelf of Marguerite Trough (Livingstone et al. 2010). What is interesting is
1247 that these GZWs are situated within a zone of the trough where radiocarbon dates indicate ice
1248 stream retreat was rapid (i.e. within the error of the dates: Kilfeather et al. 2010). Thus, their
1249 occurrence hints at the potential for high sediment fluxes in GZW formation, with the quoted
1250 range of sediment fluxes suggesting that the GZWs would have taken between 500-5,000
1251 years to form. High sediment fluxes of up to $8,000 \text{ m}^3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ per meter width have also been
1252 estimated for the Norwegian Channel (Nygård et al. 2007). Indeed, deglacial ages on the
1253 inner shelf of the Getz-Dotson Trough constrain GZW genesis to a ca. 1,650 year period
1254 (Smith et al. 2011). However, fluxes are dependent upon the large-scale mobilization of
1255 sediment, which is limited by the rate of subglacial erosion and the depth of deformation
1256 below the ice-stream base. For example, Anandkrishnan et al. (2007) estimated that the
1257 calculated sediment flux at the grounding line of Whillans Ice Stream ($\sim 150 \text{ m}^3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ per meter
1258 width) would require distributed upstream deformation of the subglacial sediment (hypothesis
1259 1) over a considerable thickness (several tens of cm's).

1260 A viscous till rheology could theoretically account for these large fluxes, but doubt has been
1261 cast on this particular assumption from both *in situ* borehole measurements (e.g. Engelhardt
1262 & Kamb, 1998; Fischer & Clarke, 1994; Hooke et al. 1997; Kavanaugh & Clarke, 2006) and
1263 laboratory experiments (e.g. Kamb, 1991; Iverson et al. 1998; Tulaczyk, 2000; Larsen et al.
1264 2006). The plastic bed model is also potentially problematic as deformation can collapse to a
1265 single shear plane and thus limit sediment fluxes (Christoffersen et al. 2010). However, it has
1266 been shown that, over large scales, multiple failures can integrate to transport large volumes
1267 of sediment subglacially (e.g. Hindmarsh et al. 1997, 1998; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2007). Moreover,
1268 a change in basal thermal conditions from melting to freezing can cause a short-term
1269 movement of the shear plane into the till layer (Bougamont & Tulaczyk, 2003; Bougamont et
1270 al. 2003; Christoffersen & Tulaczyk, 2003a,b; Rempel, 2008). This change in thermal
1271 conditions is associated with basal freeze-on (hypothesis 2) and has resulted in the
1272 entrainment of large volumes of sediment within Kamb Ice Stream (Christoffersen et al.
1273 2010). Subglacial sediment advection caused by changes in basal thermomechanical
1274 conditions also implies asynchronous erosion and transport and punctuated sediment delivery
1275 to the grounding line (cf. Christoffersen et al. 2010). Till ploughing by ice/clast keels offers
1276 an additional mechanism for mobilizing and transporting sediment (Tulaczyk et al. 2001).

1277 A further potential mechanism for delivering pulses of increased sediment delivery is
1278 subglacial meltwater transport, especially given observations of major drainage events
1279 associated with active subglacial lakes beneath modern day ice masses (Fricker et al. 2007;
1280 Stearns et al. 2008; Carter et al. 2009; Smith et al. 2009). Jökulhlaups in Iceland, which may
1281 transport on the order of 10^7 - 10^8 tons of sediment, provides some support for this mechanism
1282 (Björnsson, 2002) and it is entirely plausible that meltwater may contribute to sediment being
1283 deposited at ice stream grounding lines.

1284 The locally high rates of subglacial erosion (1 m yr^{-1}) monitored beneath Rutford Ice Stream
1285 (Smith et al. 2007) are up to four orders of magnitude greater than measured and interpreted
1286 values for subglacial environments (0.1 - 100 mm yr^{-1}) (e.g. Hallet et al. 1996; Alley et al.
1287 2003) and indicate that sediment can be mobilized rapidly for subsequent redistribution.
1288 Indeed, these locally high erosion rates are much greater than published sediment fluxes for
1289 the formation of GZWs. This spatial variability is a common attribute from beneath active ice
1290 streams and reveals a dynamic sedimentary system that is characterised by spatial and
1291 temporal evolution in bed properties and the ability to undergo significant changes in erosion
1292 and deposition on decadal timescales (Smith, 1997; Smith et al. 2007; King et al. 2009). This
1293 conclusion is supported by the geological evidence, because many GZWs occupy discrete
1294 locations on ice stream beds, rather than spanning entire trough widths (e.g. Ó Cofaigh et al.
1295 2005b; Graham et al. 2010), implying that sediment advected at the ice-stream bed can vary
1296 spatially at the macro-scale (tens of kms).

1297

1298 5.6 Sub-ice stream hydrological system

1299 Catastrophic meltwater drainage (hypothesis 1) and/or sequential meltwater erosion over
1300 multiple glacial cycles (hypothesis 2) have been suggested to account for the large, deeply
1301 eroded subglacial meltwater channels and tunnel valleys incised into the bedrock-floored,
1302 inner continental shelf (Section 3.3.6). Tunnel valleys have been used as evidence for
1303 catastrophic meltwater discharge of water stored beneath ice sheets, with drainage occurring
1304 under bankfull conditions (Shaw et al. 2008). Recent observations show that active subglacial
1305 lake systems, intimately associated with outlet glaciers and ice streams, are characterised by
1306 periodic drainage along discrete flow-paths and thus provide some support for this hypothesis
1307 (Fricker et al. 2007; Stearns et al. 2008; Carter et al. 2009; Smith et al. 2009). However, it is
1308 equally plausible that the meltwater channels reflect an inherited signal of sequential erosion
1309 over multiple glaciations (hypothesis 2) (Lowe & Anderson 2003; Smith et al. 2009), with
1310 meltwater drainage pathways routing and re-routing along channel networks (Ó Cofaigh et al.
1311 2010). Hypothesis 2 implies that meltwater streams across bedrock form stable well-
1312 organised drainage systems that become progressively more ‘fixed’ over time as the geometry
1313 of the channel becomes increasingly important relative to the geometry of the overlying ice
1314 mass.

1315 The scarcity of meltwater channels on the outer shelf (apart from the shelf break) likely
1316 results from a soft, mobile bed, which precludes formation of a stable meltwater system and
1317 instead adjusts transiently to fluctuations in subglacial water pressure (cf. Noormets et al.
1318 2009). Meltwater transfer by Darcian flow through the uppermost sediment layer is generally
1319 considered the primary mode of drainage under ice streams underlain by sedimentary
1320 substrate (e.g. Tulaczyk et al. 1998) and shallow “canals” may form temporarily, where
1321 excess water occurs (e.g. Walder & Fowler, 1994). These shallow canals have been both
1322 predicted from theoretical studies (Walder & Fowler, 1994; Ng, 2000) and also observed on
1323 geophysical records from beneath the modern Rutford Ice Stream (King et al. 2004). Hence,
1324 it cannot be ruled out that these networks are present on the outer shelf parts of the Antarctic
1325 palaeo-ice stream troughs but that their dimensions lie below the spatial resolution of the
1326 swath bathymetry data and have therefore not been detected.

1327 The paucity of eskers on the Antarctic continental shelf can be attributed to the polar climate,
1328 with cold temperatures preventing supra-glacial meltwater production. This additional input
1329 of meltwater, penetrating from the surface to the ice sheet bed, is thought to be critical in
1330 forming an esker (Hooke & Fastook, 2007). Furthermore, Clark & Walder (1994) have
1331 theorised that eskers should be rare in regions with subglacial deformation, because drainage
1332 should be dominated by many wide, shallow canals as opposed to relatively few, stable
1333 channels (see Section 3.3.6). The unconsolidated sedimentary substrate that floors the mid-
1334 outer continental shelf of Antarctic palaeo-ice stream troughs and the lack of meltwater
1335 channels within this soft bed supports this theory. However, it might also be that case that the
1336 lack of eskers reflects limits in the observable resolution of our instruments and is therefore
1337 merely a scale problem.

1338

1339 6. FUTURE WORK

1340 Numerical ice-sheet and ice-stream models, developed for the prediction of the future
1341 contribution of Antarctic Ice Sheet dynamics to sea-level change, are only as good as our
1342 current level of understanding regarding the mechanics of ice drainage, the processes and
1343 feedbacks operating within the system and also the scale and spatial extent at which we make
1344 observations and collect data. This review has highlighted recent advances, but now also
1345 considers some key areas for further work, which we summarise as follows:

- 1346 • The need for a better understanding of subglacial sediment erosion, transport and
1347 deposition. For example, what do GZWs actually tell us about grounding-line
1348 stability, and how quickly do they form?
- 1349 • An improved understanding of the timescales over which basal roughness is changed
1350 by glacial erosion and deposition and the consequent feedbacks with ice dynamics;
1351 i.e. if rough onset zones can prevent headward migration of ice streams, then over
1352 what timescales may this be overcome and is there a threshold roughness scale
1353 beyond which streaming is not possible?
- 1354 • Further work examining how ice stream flow influences erosion of hard bedrock. This
1355 includes distinguishing between the relative influences of ice-stream substrate,
1356 changes in slope gradient/steepness and ice-flow velocity on bedform genesis.
- 1357 • Resolving genetic links between landforms and subglacial processes, thereby allowing
1358 better parameterisation of the bed properties in numerical ice-stream and ice-sheet
1359 models.
- 1360 • Further work on subglacial meltwater flow and its role in ice-stream dynamics. For
1361 example, how does water flow over or through unconsolidated sediment, and can
1362 ‘outburst floods’ deliver large pulses of sediment to the grounding line?
- 1363 • Identifying the sensitivity of grounding-line retreat to external triggers and
1364 quantifying the influence of internal characteristics in either accelerating or reducing
1365 retreat rates.

1366 The following paragraphs briefly detail two approaches that may provide some scope for
1367 investigating these problems.

1368 Glacial-geomorphological mapping has been widely applied to palaeo-ice sheets in the
1369 northern hemisphere in order to reconstruct complex ice-flow dynamics and bed properties.
1370 So far, however, this detailed mapping has only been replicated in Antarctica for the Getz-
1371 Dotson Trough (see Graham et al. 2009). There is an urgent need for a more comprehensive
1372 analysis of the bed properties and their spatial and temporal variations for Antarctic palaeo-
1373 ice streams, especially given the fine-scale at which we can now identify glacial bedforms
1374 (e.g. Jakobssen et al. 2011). Detailed mapping must be augmented by further age constraints
1375 on the deglacial history. These are crucial to building up a database of individual palaeo-ice
1376 stream retreat styles, rates and timings, directly comparing against modern observations

1377 beneath contemporary ice streams (e.g. King et al. 2009) and investigating external and
1378 internal controls on grounding-line retreat.

1379 Reconstructing the behaviour of palaeo-ice streams has typically involved examination of
1380 empirical data from individual ice stream beds or numerical/theoretical treatments. However,
1381 there has been little attempt to integrate, compare and validate numerical modelling
1382 experiments against the observational record of ice-stream retreat (e.g. Stokes & Tarasov,
1383 2010). A combined observational and modelling approach to investigate palaeo-ice streams
1384 would provide a powerful tool for identifying the controlling factors governing grounding-
1385 line retreat, as model simulations could be compared against distinctive retreat styles. This
1386 approach could also be used to compare relict meltwater channel networks to modelled
1387 drainage routeways (e.g. Wright et al. 2008; Le Brocq et al. 2009) and to investigate
1388 subglacial hydrological systems. Incorporation of basal sediment transport within ice stream
1389 simulations (e.g. Bougamont & Tulaczyk, 2003) could provide invaluable information into
1390 the subglacial mobilisation, transport and deposition of sediment.

1391

1392 7. CONCLUSIONS

1393 The importance of ice streams is reflected in the fact that they act as regulators of ice sheet
1394 stability and thus the contribution of ice sheets to sea level. From recent changes we know
1395 that ice streams are characterised by significant variability over short (decadal) timescales. In
1396 order to extend the record of their behaviour back into the geological past and to glean
1397 important information on their bed properties, investigations have turned to palaeo-ice
1398 streams. In this paper we have compiled an inventory of all known circum Antarctica palaeo-
1399 ice streams, their basal characteristics, and their minimum ages for retreat from the LGM.

1400 At the LGM, palaeo-ice streams in West Antarctica and the Antarctic Peninsula extended to
1401 the shelf edge, whereas in East Antarctica ice was typically (although not universally)
1402 restricted to the mid-outer shelf. All of the known palaeo-ice streams occupied cross-shelf
1403 bathymetric troughs of variable size, dimension and gradient, and were distinguished by a
1404 range of glacial bedforms (see Tables 3 & Fig. 5). Typically, the outer shelf zone of Antarctic
1405 palaeo-ice streams is characterised by unconsolidated sediment, which can often be further
1406 sub-divided into soft (upper) and stiff (lower) till units. Where unconsolidated sediment is
1407 present, and this is sometimes as patches of till on the inner shelf, MSGs and GZWs are
1408 commonly observed. The inner shelf, by contrast, is generally characterised by crystalline
1409 bedrock and higher bed roughness. It is on this more rigid substrate that drumlins, gouged
1410 and grooved bedrock and meltwater channels are commonly observed.

1411 The retreat history of the Antarctic Ice Sheet since the LGM has been characterised by
1412 significant variability, with palaeo-ice stream systems responding asynchronously to both
1413 external and internal forcings (cf. Fig. 10). This includes both the response of palaeo-ice
1414 streams to initial triggers of atmospheric warming, oceanic warming and sea-level rise, and
1415 the subsequent pattern of retreat back to their current grounding-line positions. Thus, the
1416 recent spatial and temporal variability exhibited by ice streams over short (decadal) time-

1417 scales (e.g. Truffer & Fahnestock, 2007) can actually be placed within a much longer record
1418 of asynchronous retreat. Whilst grounding line retreat may be triggered, and to some extent
1419 paced, by external factors, the individual characteristics of each ice stream will, nonetheless,
1420 modulate this retreat. Consequently, some ice streams will retreat rapidly, whereas others will
1421 retreat more slowly, even under the same climate forcing. It is therefore imperative that ice
1422 stream behaviour and grounding-line retreat is treated as unique to each ice stream and this
1423 highlights the importance of obtaining knowledge of their subglacial bed properties and bed
1424 geometry for constraining future ice stream behaviour.

1425 The inherent association linking subglacial bedform genesis with subglacial processes
1426 permits the geomorphological signature to be used as a proxy for reconstructing ice stream
1427 retreat behaviour. Based on preliminary research into the retreat styles and characteristics of
1428 individual ice streams (Section 5.2), it seems that ice streams with small drainage basins and
1429 steep reverse slopes are most sensitive to rapid deglaciation. In contrast, palaeo-ice streams
1430 with large drainage basins were generally the slowest to deglacialate.

1431

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1437

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2307

2308 **Figures:**

2309 Fig. 1: Locations of the main palaeo-ice streams known on the Antarctic continental shelf.
2310 Approximate locations of ice streams are depicted by a black arrow and the numbers refer to
2311 the corresponding citation and evidence outlined in Table 1.

2312 Fig. 2: Typical bathymetric long profiles taken along the axial length of: A: Pine Island
2313 (Eastern Trough) palaeo-ice stream (from modern ice-front); B: Marguerite Bay palaeo-ice
2314 stream (from ice-shelf front); C: Belgica Trough (Eltanin Bay palaeo-ice stream (from ice-
2315 shelf front); and D: Anvers-Hugo Island palaeo-ice stream (from modern ice front). Vertical
2316 exaggeration 90:1.

2317 Fig. 3: TOPAS sub-bottom profiler records showing acoustic sedimentary units from outer
2318 Marguerite Bay: A: cross-line showing MSGL formed in acoustically transparent sediment;
2319 B: cross-line showing MSGL formed in acoustically transparent sediment, with a locally
2320 grooved sub-bottom reflector and sediment drape; and C: line parallel to trough long axis
2321 showing MSGL formed in acoustically transparent sediment (Reprinted from Ó Cofaigh et al.
2322 2005b, with permission from Elsevier).

2323 Fig. 4: Examples of glacial geomorphic landforms identified at the beds of marine-based
2324 Antarctic palaeo-ice streams: A: MSGLs from the outer shelf of Marguerite Bay (Reprinted
2325 from Ó Cofaigh et al. 2008, with permission from Wiley); B: Grooved and gouged bedrock
2326 on the mid-shelf of Marguerite Bay (light direction from the NE; x8 vertical exaggeration);
2327 C: Drumlins from Belgica Trough showing crescentic overdeepenings (light direction from
2328 the E; x8 vertical exaggeration); D: Grounding zone wedges in Marguerite Trough (note the
2329 subtle change in lineation direction across the GZW) (light direction from the N; x8 vertical
2330 exaggeration); E: morainal ridges in the Eastern Basin of the Ross Sea, orientated oblique to
2331 ice-flow direction (modified from Mosola & Anderson, 2006); F: Channel network cut into
2332 bedrock of the Palmer Deep Outlet Sill (Reprinted from Domack et al. 2006, with permission
2333 from Elsevier).

2334 Fig. 5: A landsystem model of palaeo-ice stream retreat, Antarctica. The three panels
2335 represent different retreat styles: rapid (A), episodic (B) and slow (C) (Reprinted from Ó
2336 Cofaigh et al. 2008, with permission from Wiley).

2337 Fig. 6: A landsystem model (based on Canals et al. 2002; Wellner et al. 2001, 2006) showing
2338 the general distribution of glacial landforms associated with a typical (Getz-Dotson) marine
2339 palaeo-ice stream on the continental shelf of Antarctica (Reprinted from Graham et al. 2009,
2340 with permission from Elsevier).

2341 Fig. 7: Sediment core locations of (minimum) ages for post-LGM ice sheet retreat (see Table
2342 4 for corresponding details): A: Antarctica; B: Antarctic Peninsula; and C: Ross Sea.

2343 Fig. 8: Chronology of initial deglaciation for Antarctic palaeo-ice streams and comparison
2344 with climate proxy records and bathymetric conditions for the period 32-5 ka BP: A: Colour
2345 coded map illustrating initial timing of retreat from the Antarctic continental shelf since the
2346 LGM (dates in black refer to the dots and represent initial retreat of the palaeo-ice streams;
2347 dates in grey refer to initial retreat of the ice sheet). The black line shows the reconstructed
2348 position of grounded ice at the LGM. The dotted line indicates approximate grounding-line
2349 positions due to a paucity of data. B: Timing of deglaciation for marine palaeo-ice streams
2350 around the Antarctic shelf are distinguished by region with one sigma error. The grey line is
2351 the EPICA Dome C δD ice core record which is used as a proxy for temperature, whilst the
2352 grey bands refer to periods of rapid eustatic sea-level rise. Bed gradient of the outer shelf (–
2353 gradient = negative gradient; + gradient = positive gradient); Width geometry of the outer
2354 shelf (= geometry = a constant trough width; > geometry = narrowing trough; < = widening
2355 trough). C: Plot of trough width and trough depth against timing of initial deglaciation for
2356 circum-Antarctic palaeo-ice streams. Trough depth has been adjusted to account for the effect
2357 of isostasy at the LGM (Whitehouse et al. in prep).

2358 Fig. 9: Deglacial history of Antarctic palaeo-ice streams by sediment facies and carbon source
2359 (Hollow circles: AIO; Filled-in circles: Carbonate; red: Antarctic Peninsula; blue: East
2360 Antarctica; and green: West Antarctica; TGM = transitional glaciomarine).

2361 Fig. 10: Retreat chronologies of: A: Anvers palaeo-ice stream (the core at 0 km [DF86-83]
2362 indicates when Gerlache Strait was ice free); B: Getz-Dotson Trough; C: Drygalski Basin
2363 palaeo-ice stream. The oldest date is a carbonate age from the outer shelf of Pennell Trough;
2364 HWD03-2 is a hot-water drill core taken from Ross Ice Shelf [Mckay et al. 2008]; The
2365 terrestrial date is from algal remains at Hatherton Glacier [Bockheim et al. 1989]; D:
2366 Marguerite Bay palaeo-ice stream (terrestrial dates are from shells and foraminifera along the
2367 margin of George VI Ice Shelf [Sugden & Clapperton, 1981; Hjort et al. 2001; Smith et al.
2368 2007]); and E: Belgica Trough palaeo-ice stream. Hollow circles refer to AIO carbon; filled-
2369 in circles indicate a carbonate source; and squares are additional terrestrial dating constraints.
2370 Red = Transitional Glaciomarine; Green = Iceberg Turbate; Blue = Diatomaceous Ooze;
2371 Diamict = Black; and Purple = glaciomarine. The dotted line is the predicted retreat history as
2372 based on the most reliable dates. Reliable ages are determined by the carbon source and the
2373 sediment sampled.

2374

Fig. 1a

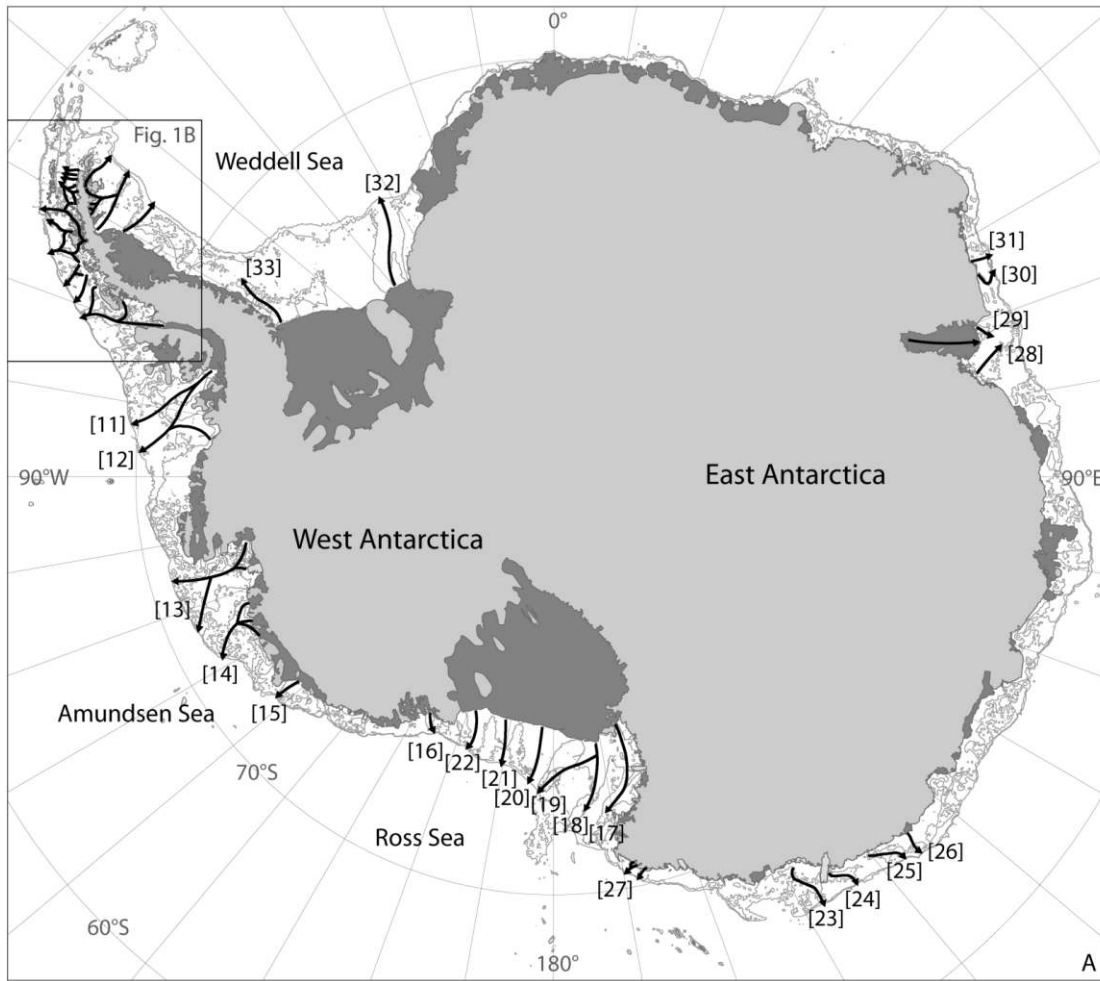


Fig. 1b

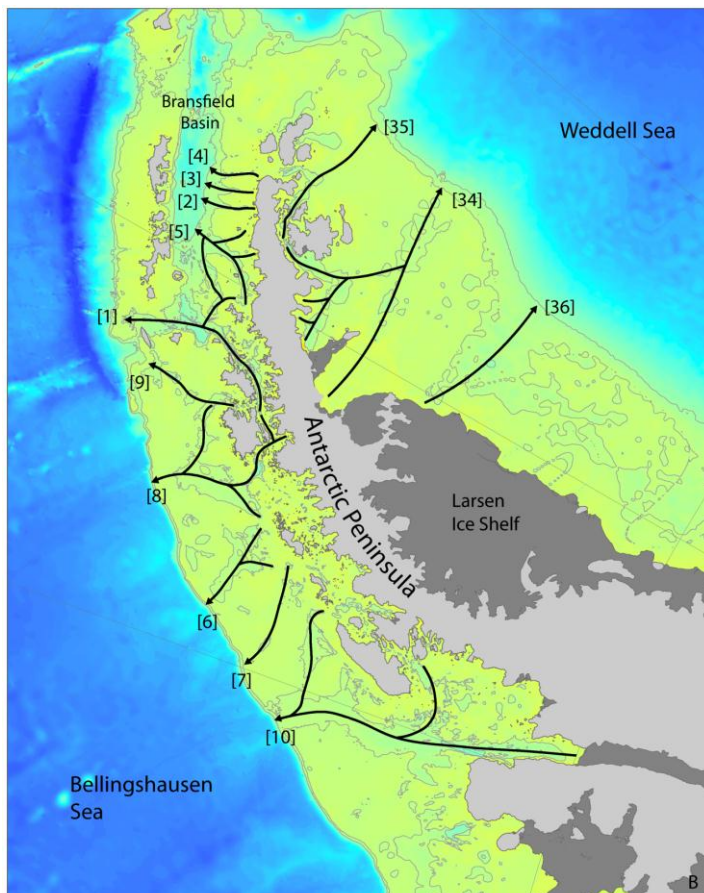


Fig. 2

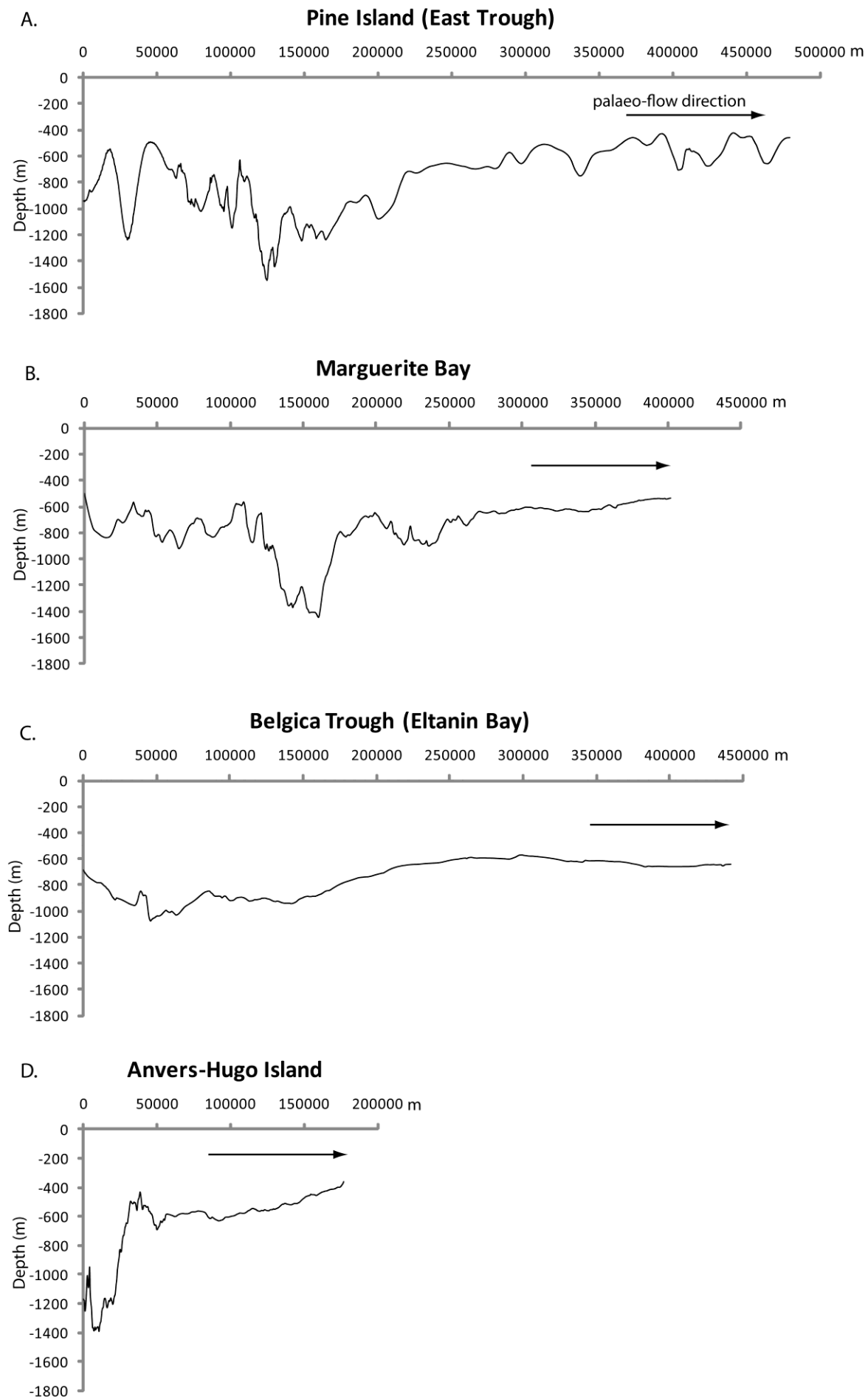


Fig. 3

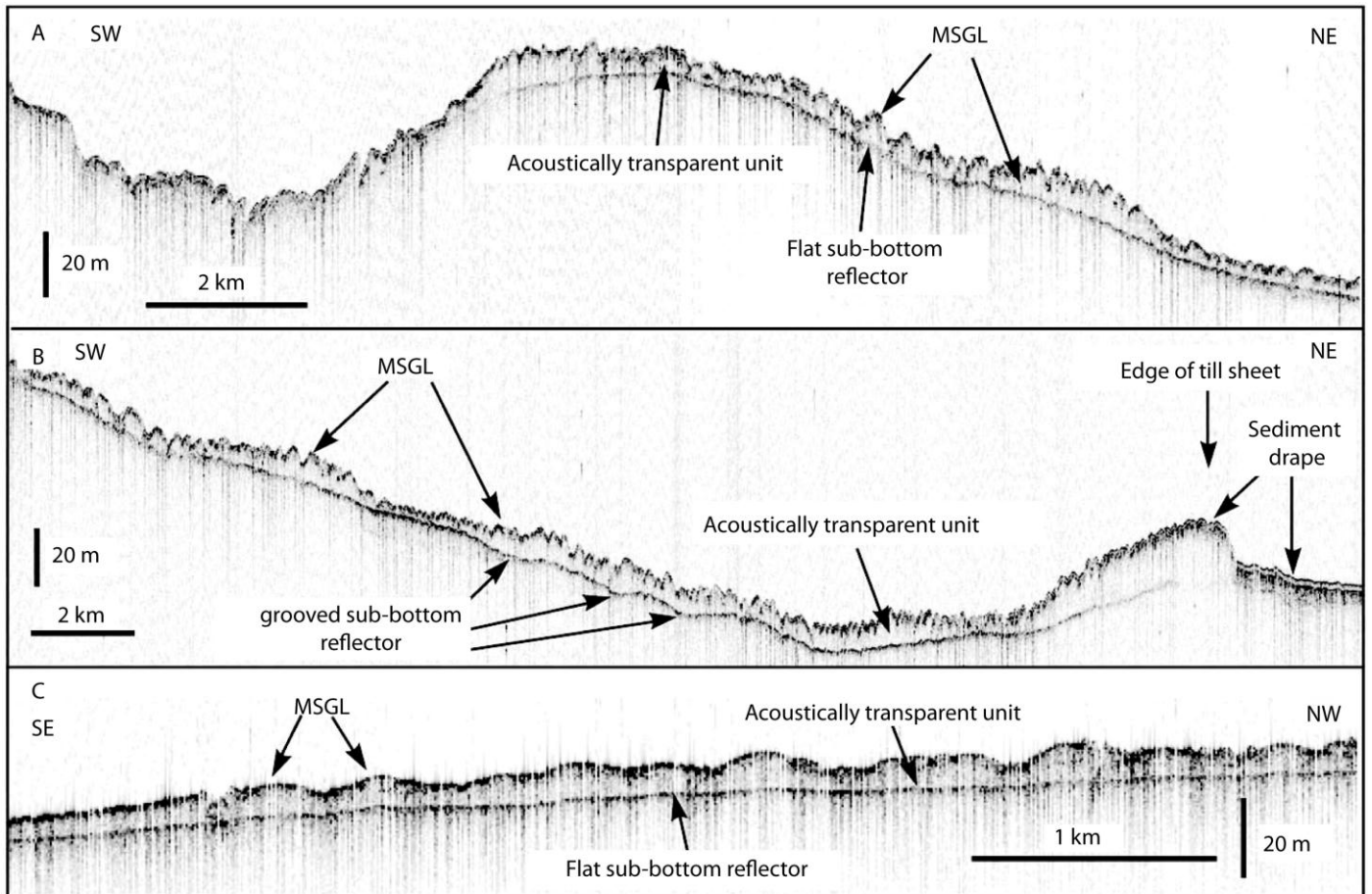


Fig. 4a-b

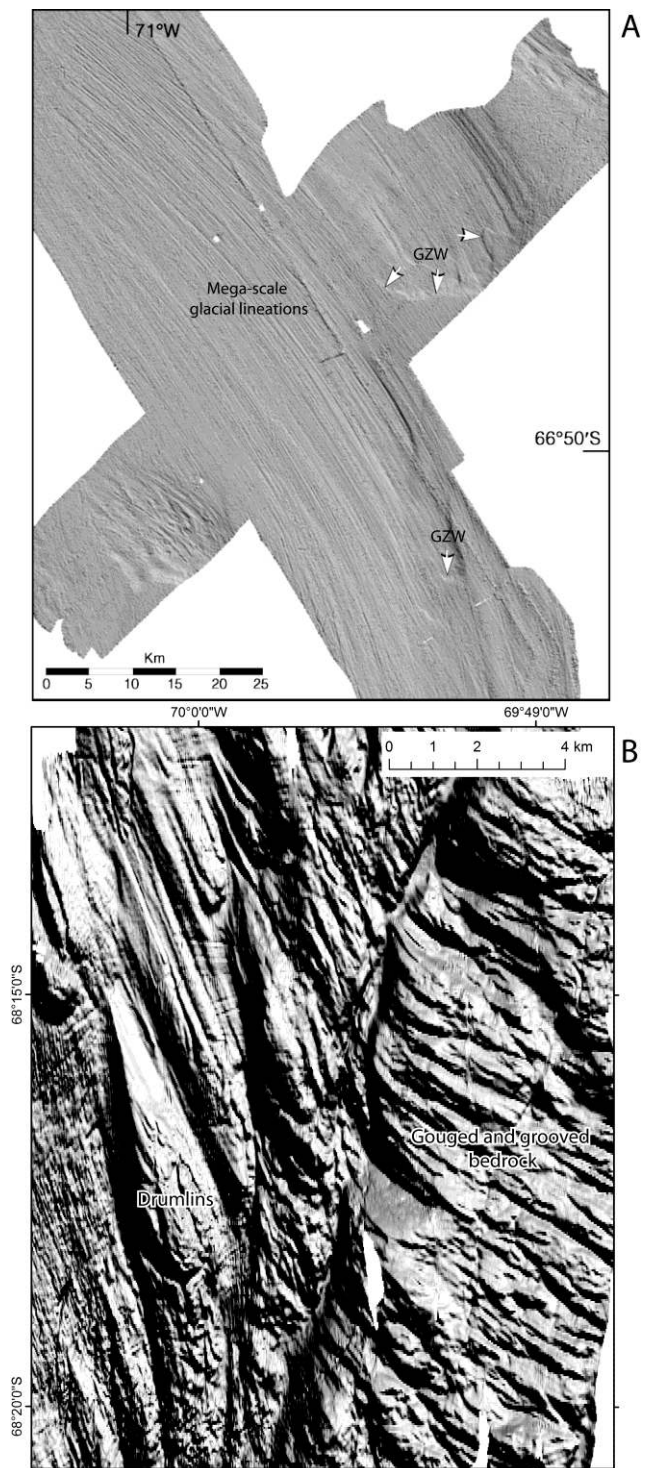


Fig. 4c-d

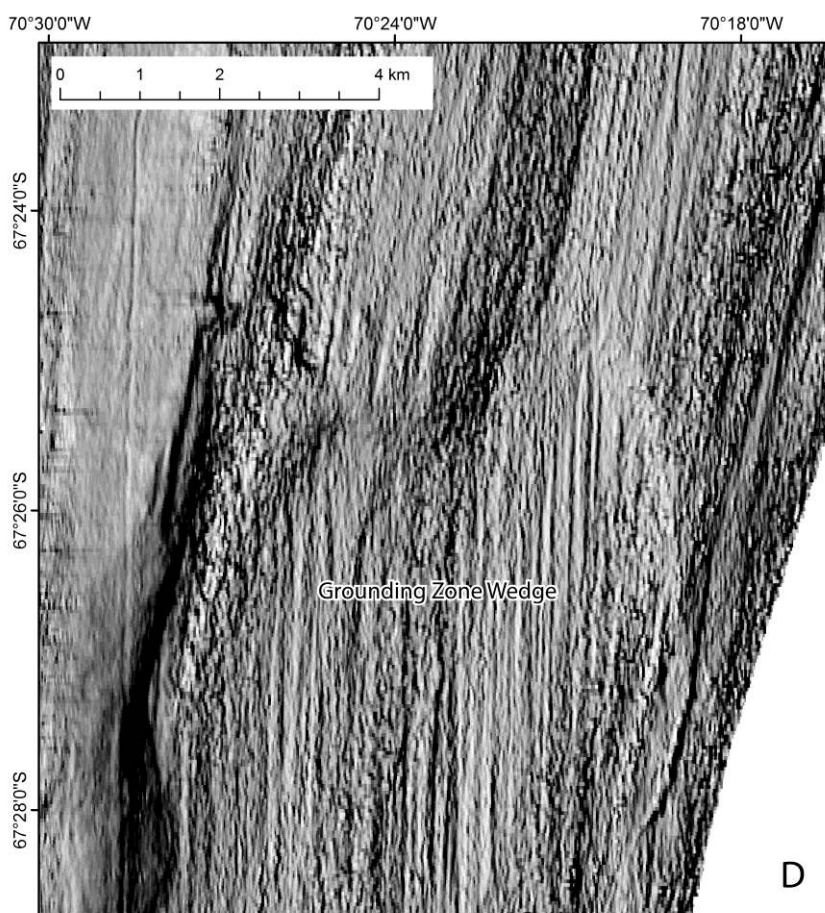
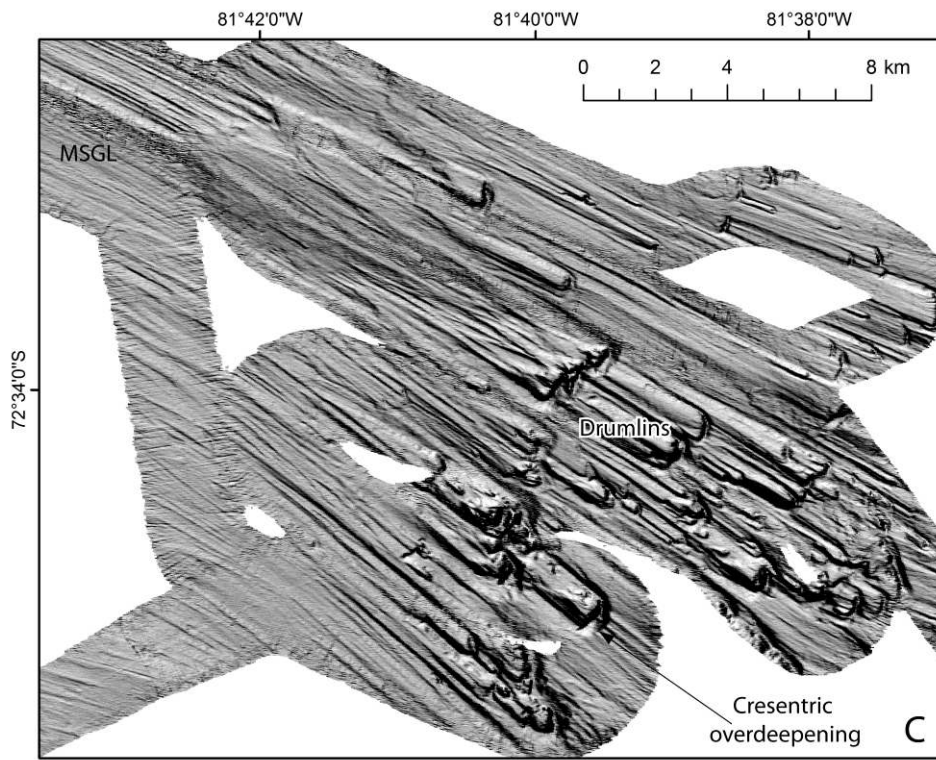


Fig. 4e-f

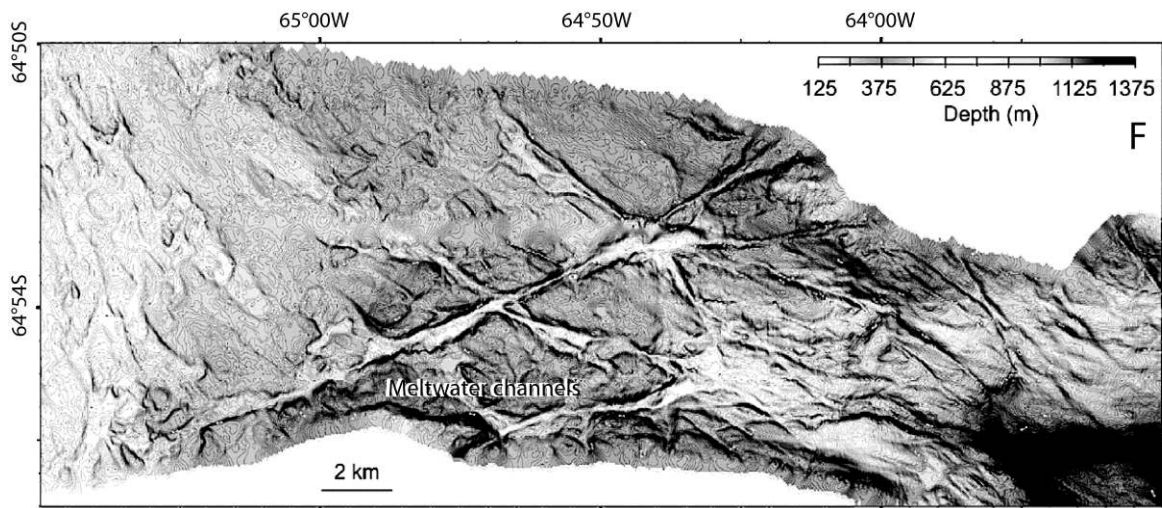


Fig. 5

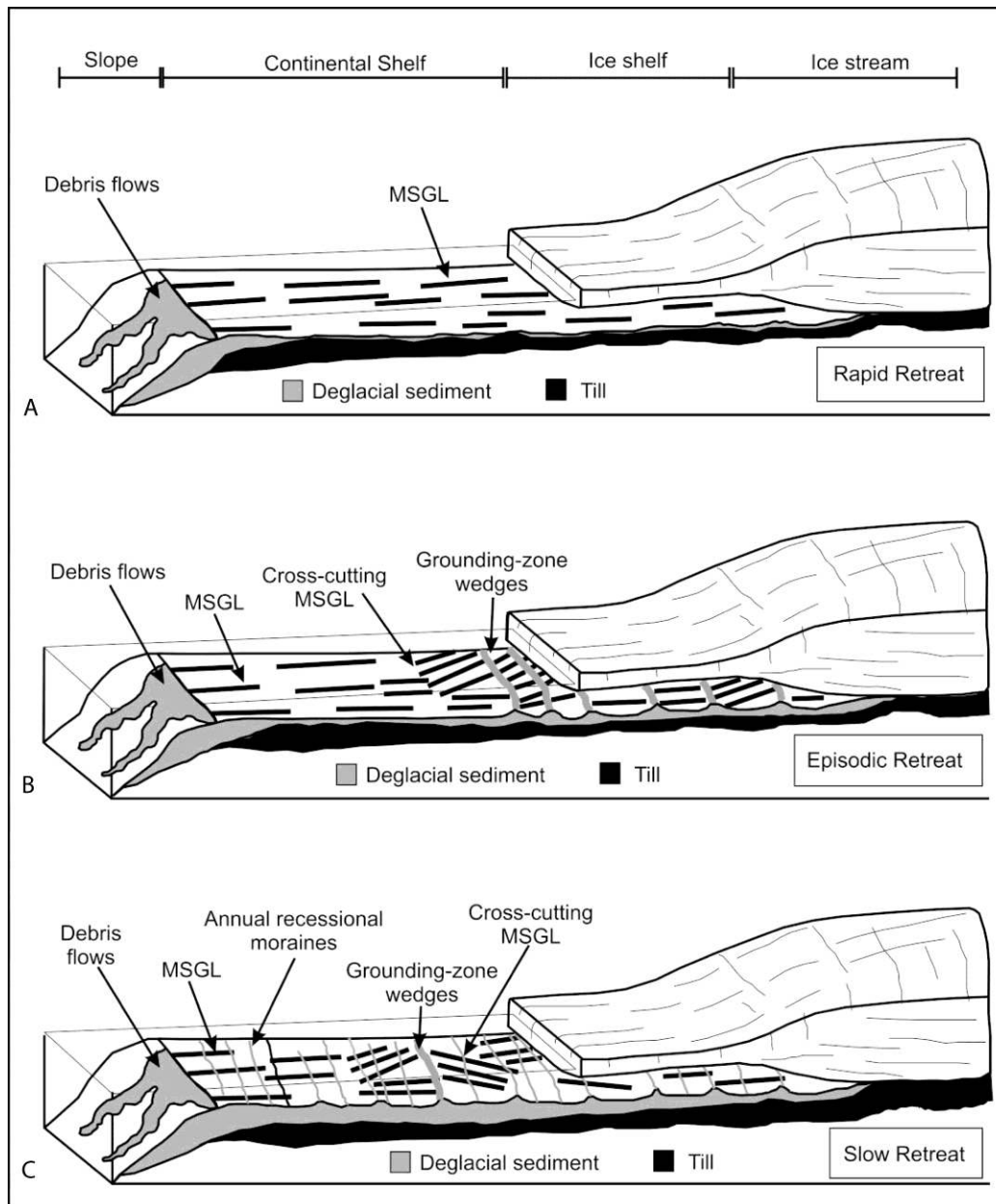


Fig. 6

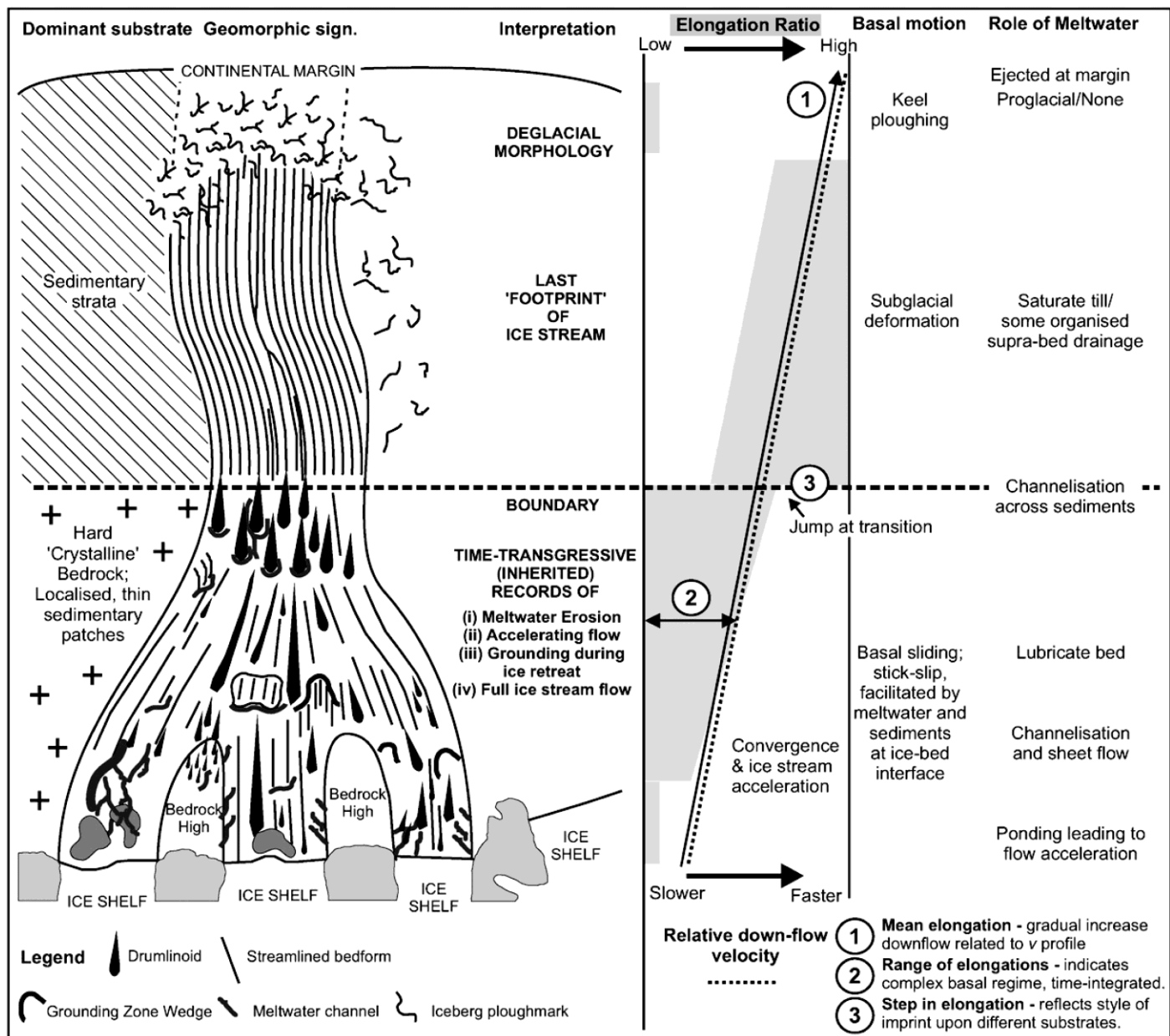


Fig. 7

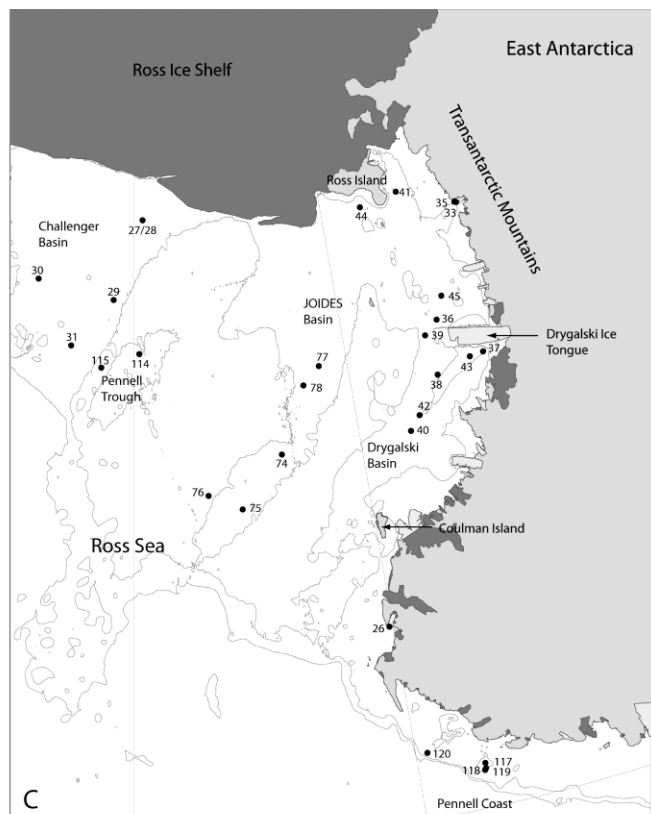
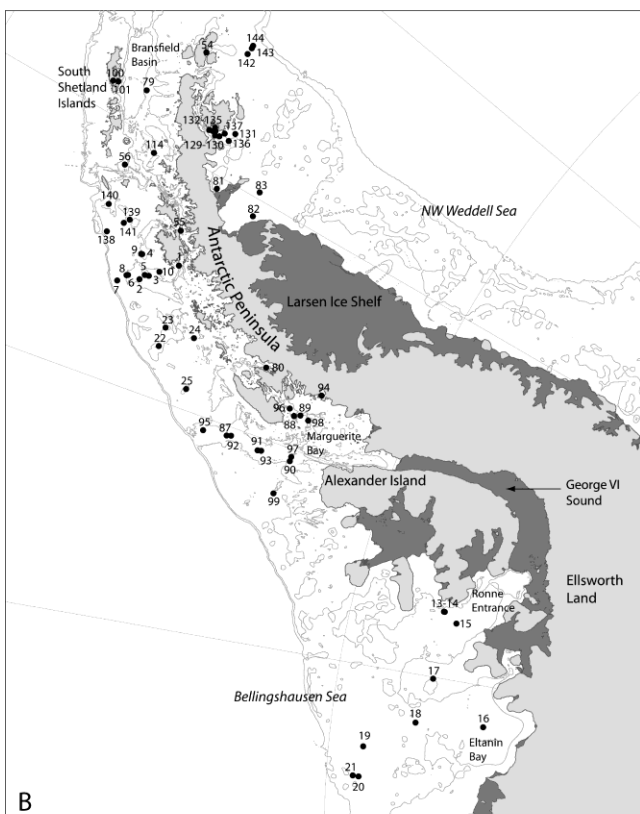
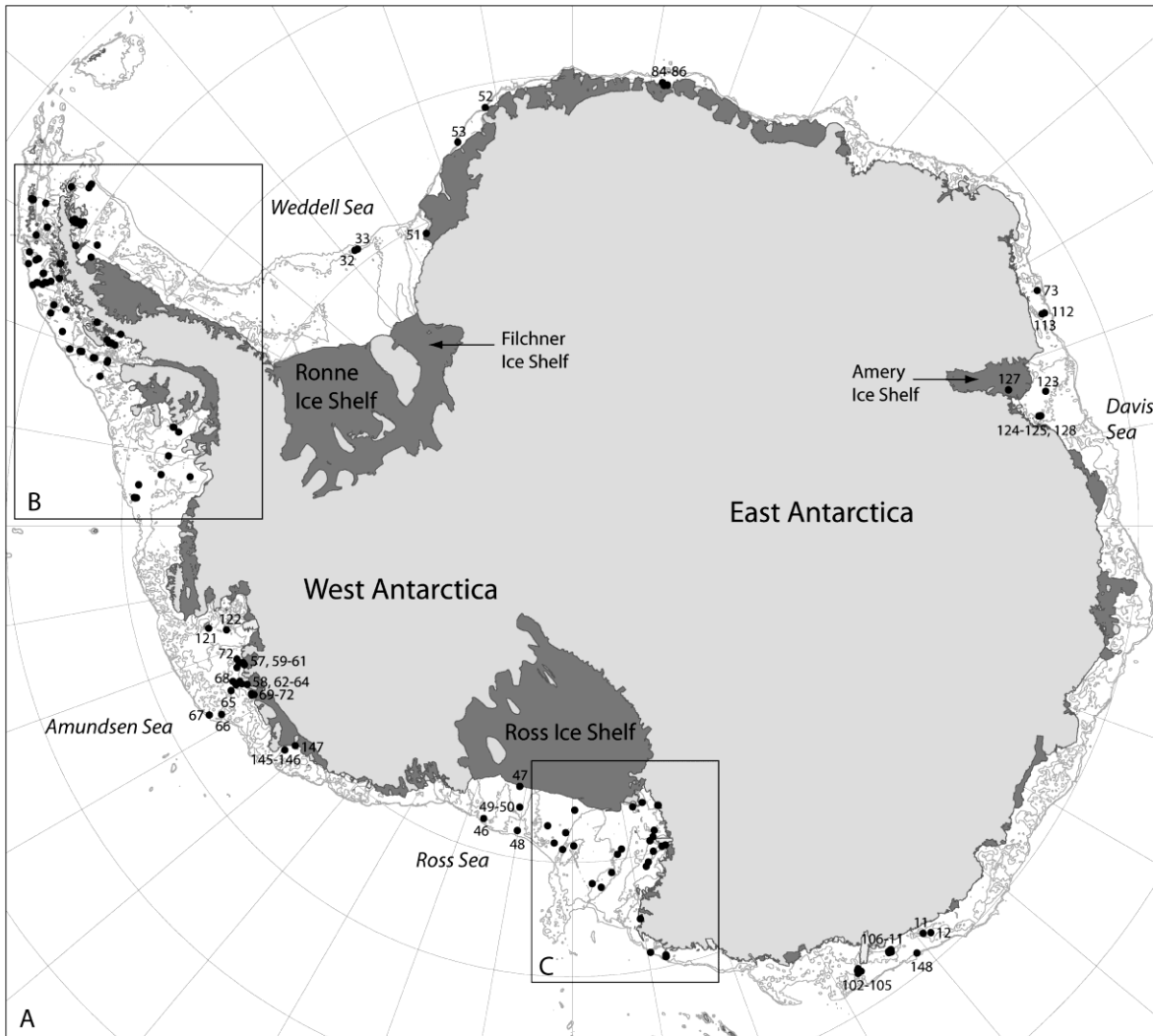


Fig. 8

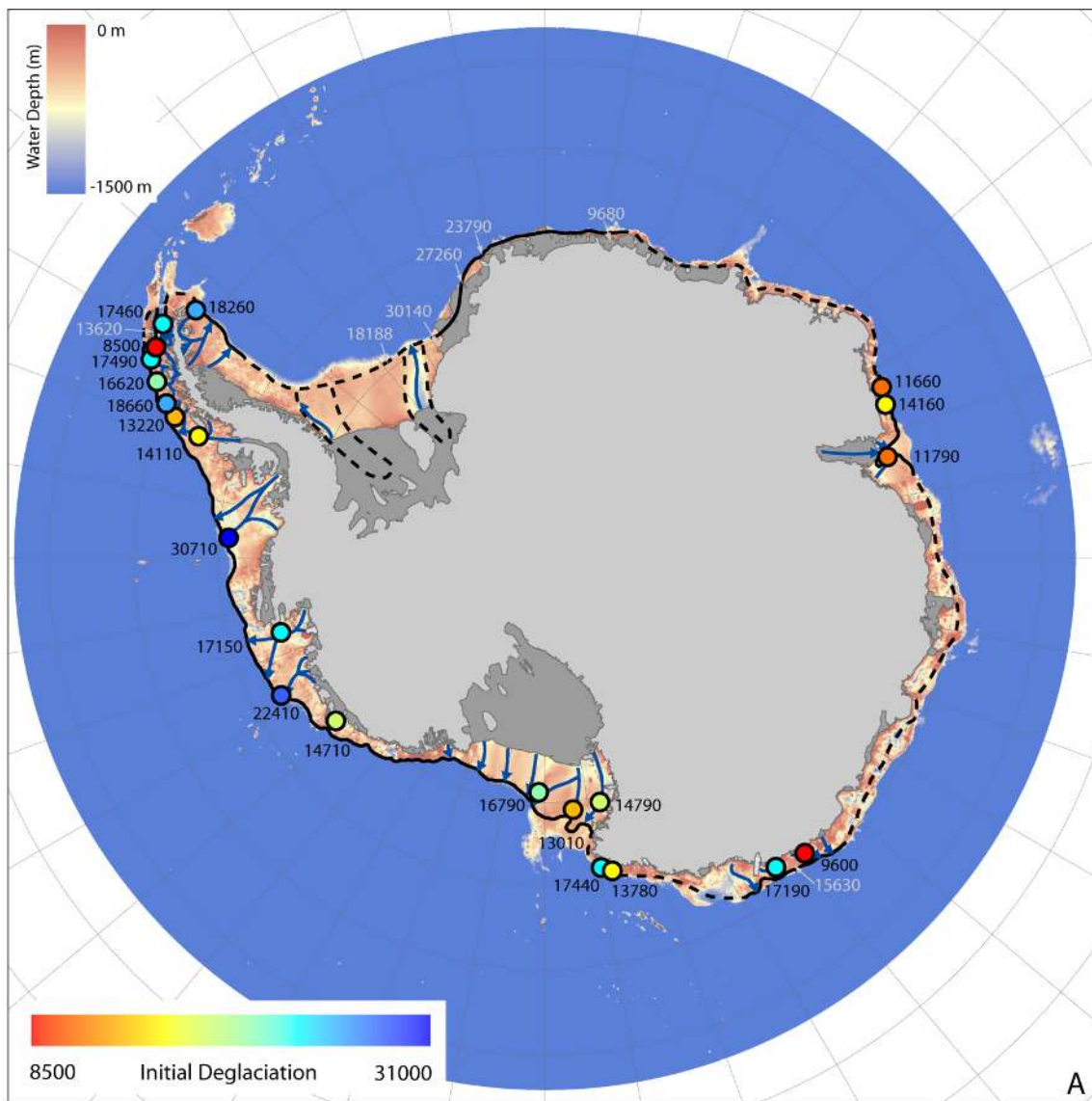


Fig. 8b-c

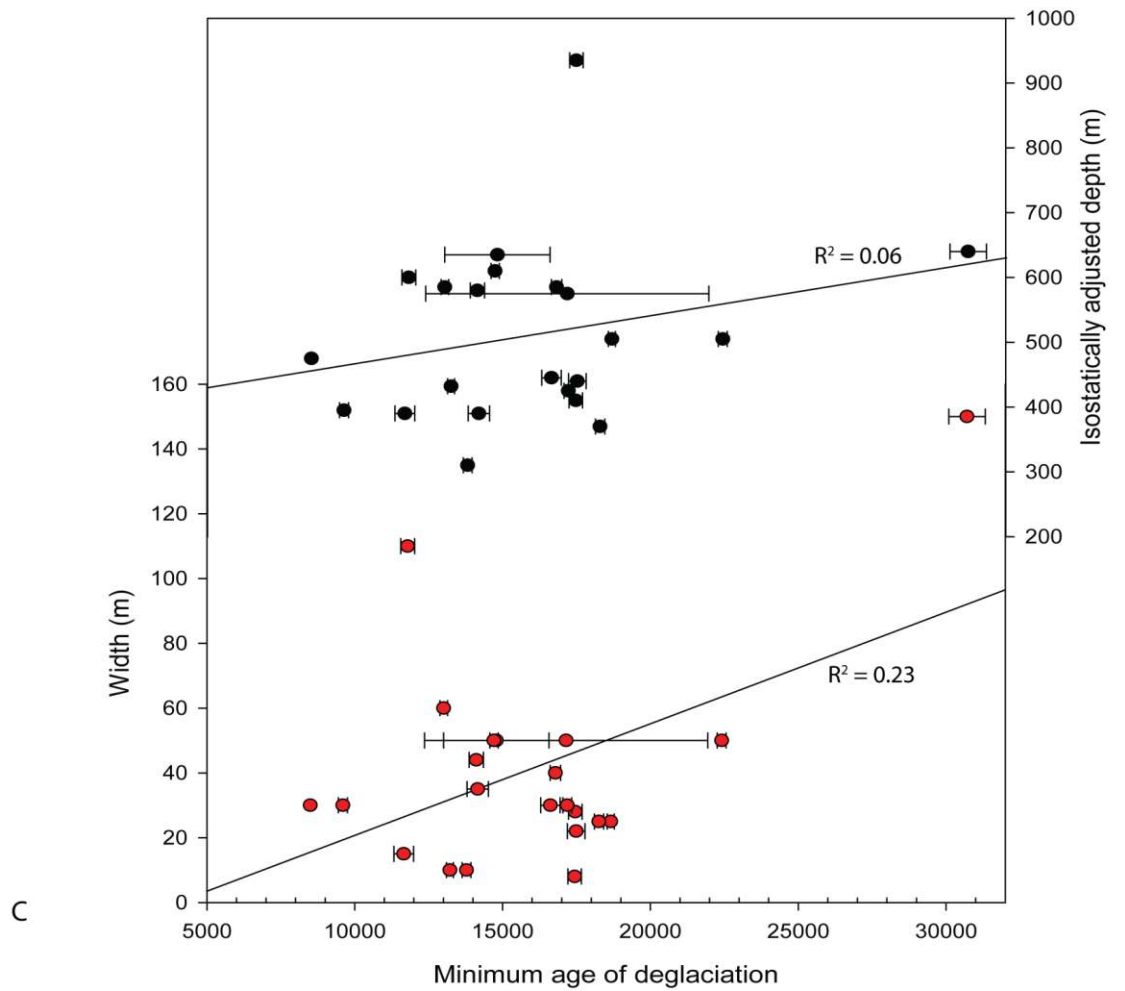
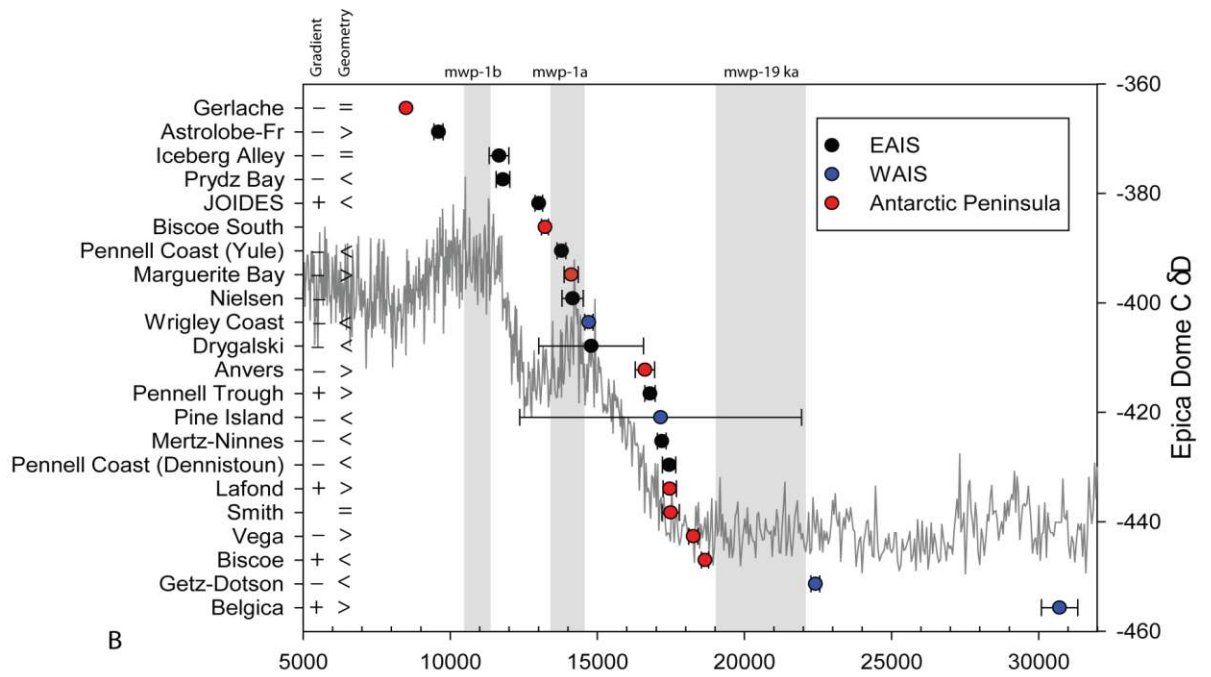


Fig. 9

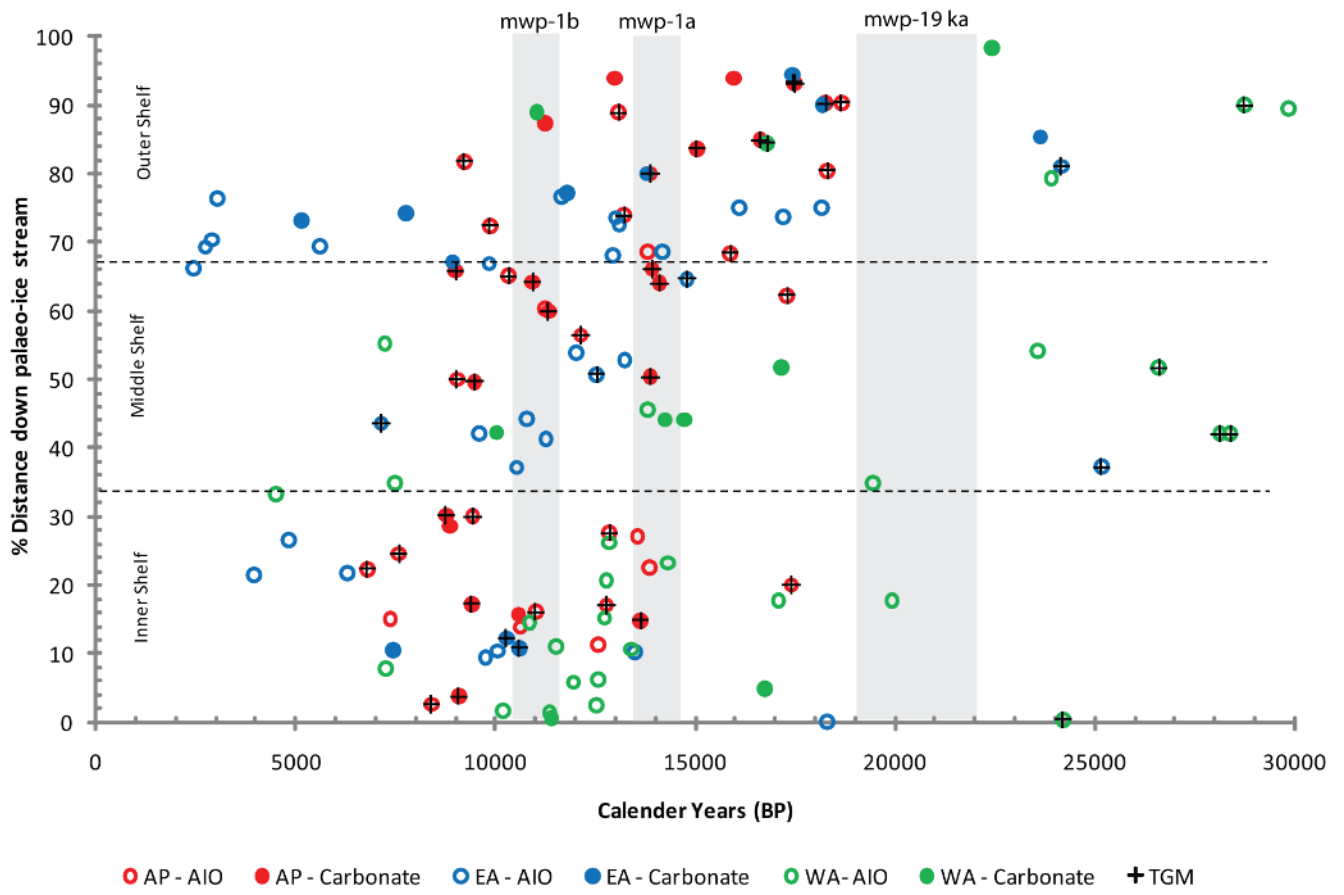
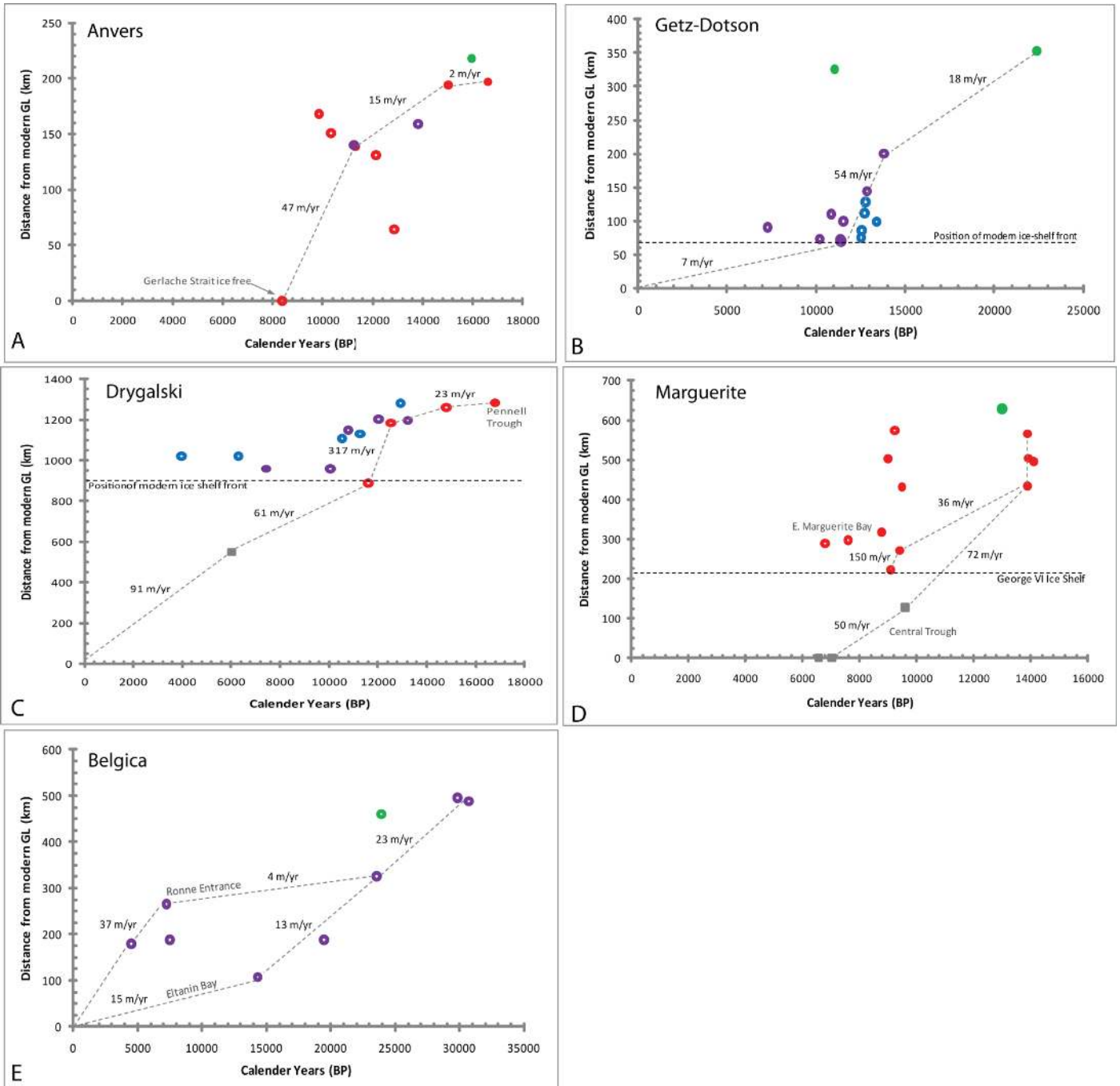


Fig. 10



2375 **Tables:**

2376 Table 1: Proposed palaeo-ice streams of the Antarctic Ice Sheet during the last glacial and
2377 main lines of evidence used in their identification (numbers in square brackets refer to their
2378 location in Fig. 1).

2379 Table 2: Physiography of the identified Antarctic palaeo-ice streams (collated from the
2380 literature: Table 1).

2381 Table 3: Geomorphic features observed at the former beds of Antarctic marine ice streams.

2382 Table 4: Compiled uncorrected and calibrated marine radiocarbon ages representing
2383 minimum estimates of glacial retreat.

2384 Table 5: Retreat rates of palaeo-ice streams

2385 Table 6: Palaeo-ice streams, their inferred style of retreat and the evidence for this.

2386

Table 1: Proposed palaeo-ice streams of the Antarctic Ice Sheet during the last glacial period and the main lines of evidence used in their identification (numbers in square brackets refer to their location in Fig. 1, whilst those palaeo-ice streams with a question mark are less certain).

REFERENCES	ICE STREAM	DRAINAGE BASIN	EXTENT AT LGM	PRINCIPLE EVIDENCE FOR ICE STREAM ACTIVITY
Canals et al. (2000, 2003); Willmott et al. (2003) Evans et al. (2004); Heroy & Anderson (2005).	[1] Gerlache-Boyd	Western Bransfield Basin	Shelf-break	A convex-up elongate sediment body comprising parallel to sub parallel ridges and grooves (bundles) up to 100 km long; a convergent ice-flow pattern exhibiting a progressive increase in elongation into the main trough; and an outer-shelf sediment lobe seaward of the main trough.
Banfield & Anderson (1995); Canals et al. (2002); Heroy & Anderson (2005).	[2] Lafond	Central Bransfield Basin	Shelf-break	Deeply incised U-shaped trough with a drumlinised bed on the inner shelf and elongate grooves and ridges on the outer shelf; and a well developed shelf-edge lobe and slope debris apron.
Banfield & Anderson (1995); Canals et al. (2002); Heroy & Anderson (2005).	[3] Laclavere		Shelf-break	Deeply incised U-shaped trough with a drumlinised bed on the inner shelf and elongate grooves and ridges on the outer shelf; and a well developed shelf-edge lobe and slope debris apron.
Banfield & Anderson (1995); Canals et al. (2002); Heroy & Anderson (2005).	[4] Mott Snowfield		Shelf-break	Deeply incised U-shaped trough with a drumlinised bed on the inner shelf and elongate grooves and ridges on the outer shelf; and a well developed shelf-edge lobe and slope debris apron.
Bentley & Anderson (1998); Heroy et al. (2008)	[5] Orleans Trough		?	A large cross-shelf trough. Streamlined bedforms including drumlins and scalloped features.
Canals et al. (2003); Amblas et al. (2006).	[6] Biscoe Trough	Antarctic Peninsula	Shelf-break	Biscoe Trough exhibits a convergent flow pattern at the head of the ice stream, with well-developed MSGL observed throughout. These bedforms show a progressive elongation towards the shelf edge, with the less elongate landforms on the inner shelf formed in bedrock and interpreted as <i>roche moutonnées</i> .
Heroy & Anderson (2005); Wellner et al. (2006).	[7] Biscoe South Trough (= Adelaide Trough)		?	A distinctive cross-shelf bathymetric trough characterised by rock cored drumlins on the inner shelf and MSGL on the outer shelf.
Pudsey et al. (1994); Larter & Vannester (1995); Vanneste & Larter (1995); Domack et al. (2006).	[8] Anvers-Hugo Island Trough		Shelf-break	Comprised of three tributaries which converge on a central trough. The inner-shelf is characterised by streamlined bedrock, and meltwater channels which cut across the mid-shelf high. The outer trough is floored by sediment and dominated by MSGL, with grounding zone wedges also identified in this zone.
Heroy & Anderson (2005).	[9] Smith Trough		?	A cross shelf bathymetric trough containing streamlined bedrock features such as grooves and drumlins, with elongations ratios of up to 20:1.
Kennedy & Anderson (1989); Anderson et al. (2001); Wellner et al. (2001); Oakes & Anderson (2002); Ó Cofaigh et al. (2002, 2005b, 2007, 2008); Dowdeswell et al. (2004a, b); Anderson & Oakes-Fretwell (2008); Noormets et al. (2009); Kilfeather et al. (2010).	[10] Marguerite Trough	Marguerite Bay	Shelf-break	Streamlined subglacial bedforms occur in a cross-shelf bathymetric trough; the bedforms show a progressive down-flow evolution from bedrock drumlins and ice-moulded bedrock on the inner shelf to MSGL on the outer shelf in soft sediment; and the MSGL are formed in subglacial deformation till which is not present on the adjacent banks.

Ó Cofaigh et al. (2005a); Graham et al. (2010).	[11] Latady Trough	Ronne Entrance	?	MSGSL located in a cross-shelf bathymetric trough.
Ó Cofaigh et al. (2005a); Dowdeswell et al. (2008b); Noormets et al. (2009); Hillenbrand et al. (2009, 2010a); Graham et al. (2010b).	[12] Belgica Trough	Eltanin Bay & Ronne Entrance	Shelf-break	Elongate bedforms are located in a cross-shelf bathymetric trough; the head of the ice stream is characterised by a strongly convergent flow pattern; the trough exhibits a down-flow transition from drumlins to MSGSL, with the MSGSL formed in subglacial deformation till; and large sediment accumulations have been observed including a TMF in front of Belgica Trough and a series of GZWs on the mid and inner shelf.
Anderson et al. (2001); Wellner et al. (2001); Lowe & Anderson (2002, 2003); Dowdeswell et al. (2006); Evans et al. (2006); Ó Cofaigh et al. (2007); Noormets et al. (2009); Graham et al. (2010a).	[13] Pine Island Trough	Pine Island Trough	Shelf-break	MSGSL with elongation ratios of >10:1 in the middle/outer shelf composed of soft till formed by subglacial deformation; the bedforms are concentrated in a cross-shelf bathymetric trough; and a bulge in the bathymetric contours in-front of the trough indicates progradation of the continental slope.
Anderson et al. (2001); Wellner et al. (2001); Larter et al. (2009); Graham et al. (2009); Hillenbrand et al. (2010b); Smith et al. (in press).	[14] Getz-Dotson	Bakutis Coast	Shelf-break	Bedforms converge into a central trough from three main tributaries; the bedforms which occupy the trough have elongation ratios up to 40:1 and comprise drumlins, crag-and-tails and MSGSL; MSGSL on the outer shelf are formed in soft till; and the inner and mid-shelf contain a series of GZWs.
Wellner et al. (2001, 2006); Anderson et al. (2002).	[15] Wrigley Gulf	Wrigley Gulf	Outer-shelf/shelf break	A cross-shelf bathymetric trough containing drumlins and grooves on the inner shelf and MSGSL on the outer shelf.
Wellner et al. (2001, 2006).	[16] Sulzberger	Sulzberger Bay	?	A prominent trough aligned with the structural grain of the coast. The bedrock floored trough is characterised by roche moutonnées and erosional grooves which are concentrated along the axis of the trough; MSGSL occupy the trough on the outer shelf.
Anderson (1999); Domack et al. (1999); Shipp et al. (1999); Bart et al. (2000); Licht et al. (2005); Melis & Salvi (2009).	[17] Drygalski Basin (Trough 1)	Western Ross Sea	Outer shelf	A narrow trough containing MSGSL formed in deformation till, a distinctive dispersal train and a GZW on the outer shelf.
Anderson (1999); Domack et al. (1999); Shipp et al. (1999, 2002); Bart et al. (2000); Anderson et al. (2001); Howat & Domack (2003); Licht et al. (2005); Farmer et al. (2006); Melis & Salvi (2009).	[18] JOIDES-Central Basin (Trough 2)		Outer shelf	JOIDES-Central Basin forms a narrow trough characterised by MSGSL along its axial length. The trough also exhibits a distinctive dispersal train, and has a GZW on the outer shelf.
Domack et al. (1999); Shipp et al. (1999); Howat & Domack (2003); Licht et al. (2005); Mosola & Anderson (2006); Salvi et al. (2006).	[19] Pennell Trough (Trough 3)	Central Ross Sea	Shelf-break	A narrow cross-shelf trough characterised by a drumlinised inner shelf, with MSGSL extending across the mid and outer shelf. The MSGSL are formed in deformation till, with gullies on the continental shelf in-front of the trough. The trough also exhibits a distinctive dispersal train.
Domack et al. (1999); Shipp et al. (1999); Licht et al. (2005); Mosola & Anderson (2006).	[20] Eastern Basin (Trough 4)		Shelf-break	Cross-cutting MSGSL, formed in deformation till, extend along the entire axis of the trough, with gullies on the continental slope in-front of the broad trough. GZWs have also been identified along the length of the trough. The trough is also characterised by a distinctive dispersal train.
Licht et al. (2005); Mosola & Anderson (2006).	[21] Eastern Basin (Trough 5)	Eastern Ross Sea	Shelf-break	The broad trough that hosted this ice stream is characterised by MSGSL and multiple GZWs and terminates in gullies on the continental slope. The MSGSL are formed in deformation till. The trough is also characterised by a distinctive dispersal train.

Licht et al. (2005); Mosola & Anderson (2006).	[22] Eastern Basin (Trough 6)		Shelf-break	Trough 6 is a broad depression comprising MSGL and 3 GZWs. The MSGL are formed in a deformation till and there is sharp lateral boundary into non-deformed till. The continental slope is dominated by gullies. The trough is also characterised by a distinctive dispersal train.
Barnes (1987); Domack (1987); Eittreim et al. (1995); Escutia et al. (2003); McCullen et al. (2006); Crosta et al. (2007).	[23] Mertz Trough	Wilkes Land Coast	?	A broad cross-shelf trough floored by deformation till and characterised by MSGL and GZWs. The outer shelf is characterised by prograding wedges, with steep foresets composed of diamict.
Barnes (1987); Domack (1987); Eittreim et al. (1995); Beaman & Harris (2003, 2005); Escutia et al. (2003); Presti et al. (2005); Leventer et al. (2006); McCullen et al. (2006); Crosta et al. (2007); Denis et al. (2009).	[24] Mertz-Ninnes Trough		?	A broad cross-shelf trough floored by deformation till and characterised by MSGL and GZWs. The outer shelf is characterised by a number of GZWs, with steep foresets composed of diamict. Further evidence is provided by the presence of lateral moraines on the adjacent banks.
Eittreim et al. (1995); Escutia et al. (2003); Crosta et al. (2007); Denis et al. (2009).	[25] Astrolabe-Français		?	A broad cross-shelf trough. Steeply prograded GZW on the outer shelf and MSGL on the inner and mid shelf.
Eittreim et al. (1995); Escutia et al. (2003); Crosta et al. (2007).	[26] Dibble Trough		?	A broad cross-shelf trough. The outer shelf is characterised by GZWs, with steep foresets composed of diamict.
Wellner et al. (2006).	[27] Pennell Coast (?)	Pennell Coast	?	The shelf offshore of Pennell Coast has two prominent troughs which merge on the inner shelf; the troughs are characterised by erosional grooves (amplitudes of over 100 m and wavelengths of 10 m to 1 km).
O'Brien (1994); O'Brien et al. (1999, 2007); O'Brien & Harris (1996); Domack et al. (1998); Taylor & McMinn (2002); Leventer et al. (2006).	[28] Prydz Channel	Prydz Bay	Inner-shelf/mid-shelf	The shelf is bisected by a large trough with elongate bedforms (flutes) along its floor. The flutes are overprinted by a series of transverse moraines; in front of the trough there is a bulge in the bathymetric contours, typical of a TMF; and GZWs have been observed on the inner shelf.
O'Brien (1994); O'Brien et al. (1999, 2007); O'Brien & Harris (1996); Domack et al. (1998); Taylor & McMinn (2002); Leventer et al. (2006).	[29] Amery		Inner-shelf/mid-shelf	The shelf is bisected by a large trough with elongate bedforms (flutes) along its floor. The flutes are overprinted by a series of transverse moraines; in front of the trough there is a bulge in the bathymetric contours, typical of a TMF; and GZWs have been observed on the inner shelf.
Harris & O'Brien (1996, 1998); Leventer et al. (2006); Mackintosh et al. (2011).	[30] Nielsen	Mac.Robertson Land	Outer shelf/shelf break	A deep trough that strikes across the shelf. The trough contains GZWs, MSGL and parallel grooves.
O'Brien et al. (1994); Harris & O'Brien (1996); Stickley et al. (2005); Leventer et al. (2006); Mackintosh et al. (2011).	[31] Iceberg Alley		Outer shelf/shelf break	A narrow trough containing a GZW and MSGL.
Melles et al. (1994); Bentley & Anderson (1998); Bart et al. (1999); Anderson & Andrews (1999); Anderson et al. (2002); Bentley et al. (2010).	[32] Crary Trough (?)	Southern Weddell Sea	?	A broad trough on the continental shelf of SE Weddell Sea and an oceanward-convex bulge in the bathymetric contours in front of the trough (TMF).
Haase (1986); Bentley & Anderson (1998).	[33] Ronne Trough (?)		?	Shallow trough on the inner shelf

Gilbert et al. (2003); Evans et al. (2005); Brachfeld et al. (2003); Domack et al. (2005); Pudsey et al. (2006); Curry & Pudsey (2007); Ó Cofaigh et al. (2007); Reinardy et al. (2009, 2011a,b).	[34] Robertson Trough (Prince Gustav channel; Larsen-A, -B, BDE, Greenpeace)	NW Weddell Sea	Shelf-break	A strong convergence of multiple tributaries (and bedforms) into a large central trough on the outer shelf; bedforms which range from short bedrock drumlins, grooves and lineations on the inner shelf to MSGL on the outer shelf are confined to the cross-shelf troughs; bedforms show a progressive elongation down-flow and where formed in sediment are associated with soft till; prominent GZWs on the inner shelf document still-stand positions.
Anderson et al. (1992); Bentley & Anderson, (1998); Carmelenghi et al. (2001); Heroy & Anderson (2005).	[34] North Prince Gustav channel-Vega Trough		Outer shelf/shelf-break	Subglacial bedforms, including mega-flutes, drumlins, crag-and-tails have been identified within a deep trough which broadens towards the shelf edge. On the outer shelf MSGL are common and there is a prominent GZW.
Bentley & Anderson (1998).	[35] Jason Trough (?)		?	A large cross-shelf trough.

Table 2: Physiography of the palaeo-ice stream troughs collated from the literature (see Table 1). * Derived from GEBCO; ¹ the gradient (degrees) is averaged from a long profile extracted along the axial length of the trough (from the shelf edge to the modern ice-front) using the GEBCO data. ² From Graham et al. (2010). ³ Grounding of ice in Ronne Trough and Crary Trough at the LGM is disputed. ⁴ Crary Trough =Thiel Trough =Filchner Trough. EB = Eltanin Bay; RE = Ronne Entrance; PG = Prince Gustav channel; R = Robertson Trough.

Palaeo-ice stream trough	Length (km)	Width (km)	Major tributaries	Drainage Basin (km ²)	Water depth (m)				Gradient ¹ (main trough)
					Shelf-break	Mid-outer shelf	Inner shelf	banks	
[1] Gerlache-Boyd	340	5-40	2	23,000	400-500	500-800	1200	300-400	-0.0001
[2] Lafond	75*	10-28	1		650-900	700	200-610	100-200*	0.0048
[3] Laclavere	70*	10-28	1		650-900	700	200-610	100-200*	0.0067
[4] Mott Snowfield	70*	10-28	1		650-900	700	200-610	100-200*	0.0028
[5] Orleans*	150	10-35	3		750-800	500-800	550-800	100-300	0.0019
[6] Biscoe	170	23-70	1		450-500	300-450	600-800	200-350*	-0.0007
[7] Biscoe South (Adelaide)*	180	15-30	1		450-500	450-600	450-550	300-350	0.00005
[8] Anvers-Hugo Island	240	15-30	3		400-430	300-800	500-1400*	200-350	-0.0036 (outer: -0.0018)
[9] Smith*	190*	5-22	1		800	400-900	200-800	300-400	0.0003
[10] Marguerite	445	6-80	2	10,000-100,000	500-600	500-600	1000-1600	400-500	-0.0007 (outer: -0.0009)
[11] Latady	510	up to 80	1		400	600-800	600-1000	400-500	0.0001
[12] Belgica	490(EB) 540 (RE)	75-150	2	217,000-256,000	600-680	560-700	500-1200	400-500	-0.0009 (EB) -0.0003(RE)
[13] Pine Island	450	50-95	2	330,000	480-540	490-640	1000-1700	400-500	-0.0012 (west) -0.0008 (east) (outer: 0.015) ²
[14] Getz-Dotson	290	17-65	3		500	600	1100-1600	350-450*	-0.0015
[15] Wrigley Gulf*	145	50-70	1		500-600	600-800	600-1000	200-450	-0.0015
[16] Sulzberger*	130	25	1		500	500-1300	600-900	200-400	-0.0033 (outer: -0.0089)
[17] Drygalski (1)	560*	45-65	1		500	600	800-1000	250	-0.0003
[18] JOIDES-Central (2)	470*	45-65	1	1.6 million & 265,000	450-550	500-620	800-1000	250	-0.0001
[19] Pennell (3)	400	100	1		500-600	600-700	600-800	500	-0.0006
[20] Eastern Basin (4)	300*	150-240	1		500-600	600-700	600-800	500	-0.0003
[21] Eastern Basin (5)	240*	100-200	1		500-600	600-700	600-800	500	-0.0001
[22] Eastern Basin (6)	200*	125	1		500-600	600-700	600-800	500	-0.0008
[23] Mertz	≤280	50-100	1		450-500	450-500	450-1000	<400	-0.0004
[24] Mertz-Ninnes	≤160	50	1		450-500	450-500	450-1000	<400	-0.0027
[25] Astrolabe-Français	230	40-80	1		300	600-850	600-1100	200-350	-0.0014
[26] Dibble	130	50-80	1		450-550	400-1000	300-500	200-350	0.0016
[27] Pennell Coast*	≤70	10-15	2		350	400-1200	600-1100	200-300	-0.0082
[28] Prydz Channel	220-350	150	1		500-600	600-800	700-800	100-400	-0.0015

[29] Amery	>450	150	2	1.48 million (present)	500-600	600-800	800-2200	100-400	-0.003
[30] Nielsen	≤140	30-40	1		250-350*	550-800*	600-1200	<200	-0.0053
[31] Iceberg Alley	103*	15*	1		300*	450-550	450-500	<150	0.0003
[32] Crary ⁴	≤460	120-170*	1		630	550-800	650-1140	350-400*	-0.0017
[33] Ronne	≤300	50-140*	1		400-500*	400-600	500-600	350-400*	-0.0006 ³
[34] Robertson	310	25-100	5		450	400-550	500-1200	300-400	-0.001 (PG) 0.0004 (R)
[35] North Prince Gustav-Vega	≤300	5-25*	2		300-400*	400-500	350-1240	300	-0.0026
[36] Jason*	≤220	20-120	1		750-800	550-900	450-600	300-400	0.0013

Table 3: Geomorphic features observed at the beds of Antarctic marine palaeo-ice streams.

Landform	Defining characteristics	Palaeo-ice streams
Mega-scale glacial lineations (MSGL)/'bundle structures'	>10:1 elongation, parallel bedform sets formed in the acoustically transparent seismic unit.	All palaeo-ice streams except Smith Trough and Sulzberger Bay Trough
Drumlinoid bedforms	Lobate/teardrop/ovoid-shaped bedforms formed either wholly or partially in bedrock and occasionally with overdeepenings around their upstream heads.	Anver-Hugo Island Trough, Bakutis Coast, Belgica Trough, Biscoe South Trough, Bransfield Basin, Central Ross Sea, Gerlache-Boyd Strait, Getz-Dotson Trough, Marguerite Trough, Pine Island Trough, Robertson Trough, Sulzberger Bay Trough, Vega Trough
Crudely streamlined and grooved bedrock	Elongate grooves/ridges formed in bedrock.	Anver-Hugo Island Trough, Belgica Trough, Biscoe Trough, Getz Ice Shelf, Getz-Dotson, Marguerite Trough, Pennell Coast, Pine Island Trough, Robertson Trough, Smith Trough, Sulzberger Bay Trough
Crag-and-tails	Large bedrock heads with tails aligned in a downflow direction.	Getz-Dotson Trough, Marguerite Bay
Subglacial meltwater channel systems	Straight to sinuous channels with undulating long-axis thalwegs and abrupt initiation and termination points.	Anvers-Hugo Island Trough, Central Ross Sea, Getz-Dotson, Marguerite Trough, Pine Island Bay,
GZW (Grounding Zone Wedges)	Steep sea-floor ramps with shallow backslopes and wedge-like profiles. Formed within till and often associated with lineations, which frequently terminate at the wedge crests.	Anvers-Hugo Island Trough, Belgica Trough, Gerlache-Boyd Strait, Getz-Dotson, Iceberg Alley, Laclavere Trough, Lafond Trough, Marguerite Trough, Mertz Trough, Nielsen Trough, Pine Island Trough, Prydz Channel; Robertson Trough, Ross Sea troughs, Vega Trough
Transverse moraines	Transverse ridges, 1-10 m high with spacings of a few tens to hundreds of metres. Straight to sinuous in plan-form.	Eastern Ross Sea, JOIDES-Central Basin, Prydz Channel
TMF (Trough Mouth Fan)	Seaward bulging bathymetric contours, large glacial debris-flow deposits and prominent shelf progradation (prograding sequences in seismic profiles).	Belgica Trough, Crary Trough, Prydz Channel, western Ross Sea troughs
Gully/channel systems	Straight or slightly sinuous erosional features on the continental slope, which occasionally incise back into the shelf edge. The gully networks on the upper slope show a progressive organisation into larger and fewer channels down-slope.	Anvers-Hugo Island Trough, Belgica Trough, Biscoe Trough, Biscoe Trough South, Bransfield Basin, Gerlache-Boyd Strait, Marguerite Trough, Pine Island Trough, Robertson Trough, Smith Trough, Weddell Sea trough, western Ross Sea troughs
Iceberg scours	Straight to sinuous furrows, uniform scour depths, cross-cutting and seemingly random orientation.	All palaeo-ice streams

Table 4: Compiled uncorrected and calibrated marine radiocarbon ages representing minimum estimates of glacial retreat.

Astrolobe-Fr = Astrolabe-Français Trough

^aFor core locations see Fig. 7.

^bDist. (%) = (Distance of core along palaeo-ice stream flow line/Total length of ice stream) x 100.

^cTGM = transitional glaciomarine ; IT = iceberg turbate; DO = diatomaceous ooze; GM = glaciomarine.

^dAIO = acid insoluble organic carbon; F = foraminifera; (m) = mixed benthic and planktic; (b) = benthics; Geomag. = geomagnetic palaeointensity.

^eR = reservoir correction ($\Delta R = 400 - R$ for CALIB program). For all carbonate samples, a marine reservoir correction of 1300 (± 100) years was applied (Berkman & Forman, 1996). For AIO samples we used the reported core-top ages. DO samples in the Getz-Dotson Trough were corrected by 1300 (± 100) years (Berkman & Forman, 1996) as discussed in Hillenbrand et al. 2010b.

^fCalibrated using the CALIB program v 6.0 (Stuiver et al. 2005), reported in calendar years before present (cal. yr BP). Ages rounded to the nearest ten years.

Dates in bold are inferred to be the most reliable minimum ages constraining initial palaeo-ice stream retreat.

Reference	Core	Location	^a Map No.	^b Dist. (%)	^c Sediment Facies	^d Carbon Source	Conventional ¹⁴ C age	Error (\pm years)	^e R (yrs)	Corrected age (yrs)	^f Median cal. age (yrs)	1 σ error	2 σ error
Domack et al. (2001)	ODP-1098C	Anvers	1	27.6	TGM	AIO	12250	60	1260	10990	12850	120	207
Pudsey et al. (1994)	GC51	Anvers	2	72.4	TGM	AIO	12730	130	4020	8710	9860	219	371
Pudsey et al. (1994)	GC49	Anvers	3	65.1	TGM	AIO	13110	120	4020	9090	10340	153	365
Yoon et al. (2002)	GC-02	Anvers	4	60.3	GM (above till)	AIO	12840	85	3000	9840	11250	115	320
Nishimura et al. (1999)	GC1702	Anvers	5	68.5	GM	AIO	14320	50	2340	11980	13810	78	179
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-24	Anvers	6	83.6	TGM	F(m)	14020	110	1300	12720	15030	334	775
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-25	Anvers	7	94.0	IT	F(m)	14450	120	1300	13150	15960	449	732
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	KC-26	Anvers	8	84.9	TGM	F(m)	14880	200	1300	13580	16620	330	803
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-23	Anvers	9	59.9	TGM	Shell	11168	81	1300	9868	11320	146	429
Pudsey et al. (1994)	GC47	Anvers	10	56.5	TGM	AIO	12280	150	1870	10410	12140	373	730
Domack et al. (1991)	302	Astrolabe-Fr	11	26.5	DO	AIO	5515	132	1300	4215	4840	234	434
Crosta et al. (2007)	MD03-2601	Astrolabe-Fr	12	42.2	DO	AIO	10855	45	2350	8505	9600	154	331
Hillenbrand et al. (2010a)	JR104-GC358	Belgica	13	34.8	GM	AIO	21433	168	5131	16302	19450	163	488
Hillenbrand et al. (2010a)	JR104-GC359	Belgica	14	34.8	GM	AIO	11736	120	5131	6605	7500	114	241
Hillenbrand et al. (2010a)	JR104-GC360	Belgica	15	33.3	GM	AIO	8415	95	4450	3965	4520	167	309
Hillenbrand et al. (2010a)	JR104-GC366	Belgica	16	23.3	GM	AIO	16193	196	3914	12279	14320	384	659
Hillenbrand et al. (2010a)	JR104-GC357	Belgica	17	55.2	GM	AIO	12140	191	5810	6330	7230	210	419
Hillenbrand et al. (2010a)	JR104-GC368	Belgica	18	54.1	GM	AIO	25240	565	5484	19756	23560	668	1342
Hillenbrand et al. (2010a)	JR104-GC371	Belgica	19	79.3	IT	AIO	22507	436	2464	20043	23910	536	1033
Hillenbrand et al. (2010a)	JR104-GC372	Belgica	20	87.2	GM	AIO	27900	797	1731	26169	30710	618	1451
Hillenbrand et al. (2010a)	JR104-GC374	Belgica	21	89.6	GM	AIO	27512	721	2464	25048	29830	714	1316
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-55	Biscoe	22	90.4	TGM	AIO	18420	130	2999	15421	18660	120	224
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-57	Biscoe	23	62.2	TGM	AIO	19132	87	4913	14219	17300	203	371
Pope & Anderson (1992)	PD88-42	Biscoe	24	14.8	TGM	F(m)	13120	100	1300	11820	13630	150	289
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-30	Biscoe S	25	73.9	TGM	AIO	17660	110	6300	11360	13220	118	283
Finocchiaro et al. (2005)	ANTA02-CH41	Cape Hallett	26	N/A	DO (varved)	AIO	10920	50	1790	9130	10380	110	194
Licht & Andrews (2002)	NBP9501-18tc	Central Ross Sea	27	17.7	GM	AIO	20490	260	3735	16755	19920	297	565
Licht & Andrews (2002)	NBP9501-18pc	Central Ross Sea	28	17.7	GM	AIO	17760	115	3735	14025	17090	170	337
Licht & Andrews (2002)	NBP9501-11	Central Ross Sea	29	51.7	TGM	AIO	25870	245	3735	22135	26600	406	830
Licht & Andrews (2002)	NBP9501-24	Central Ross Sea	30	79.0	TGM	AIO	30635	445	3735	26900	31280	270	768
Licht & Andrews (2002)	NBP9401-36	Central Ross Sea	31	56.0	TGM	AIO	30220	420	3735	26485	31010	274	562

Anderson & Andrews (1999)	IWSOE70_2-19-1	Crary Trough	32	90.0	IT	F(b)	16190	70	1300	14890	18188	114	381
Elverhøi (1981)	212	Crary Trough	33	N/A	IT?	Shell	31290	1700	1300	29990	34460	1831	3461
Domack et al. (1999)	NBP95-01_PC26	Drygalski	34	21.8	DO	AIO	7690	65	2210	5480	6300	87	191
Domack et al. (1999)	NBP95-01_PC29*	Drygalski	35	21.4	DO	AIO	5770	75	2210	3560	3960	128	263
Domack et al. (1999)	NBP95-01_KC31	Drygalski	36	41.3	DO	AIO	12280	95	2430	9850	11270	136	339
Licht et al. (1996)	DF80-102	Drygalski	37	52.9	GM	AIO	12640	80	1270	11370	13230	81	163
Licht et al. (1996)	DF80-108	Drygalski	38	53.9	GM	AIO	11545	95	1270	10275	12020	201	394
Licht et al. (1996)	DF80-132	Drygalski	39	44.3	GM	AIO	10730	80	1270	9460	10790	154	259
Domack et al. (1999)	NBP95-01_KC37	Drygalski	40	68.0	DO	AIO	13840	95	2780	11060	12930	138	239
Licht et al. (1996)	DF80-57	Dryglaski	41	10.5	GM	Bivalve	7830	60	1300	6530	7440	105	209
Frignani et al. (1998)	ANTA91-28	Dryglaski	42	64.6	TGM	AIO	17490	930	5090	12400	14790	1780	3430
Frignani et al. (1998)	ANTA91-29	Dryglaski	43	50.7	TGM	AIO	17370	60	6710	10660	12530	173	395
McKay et al. (2008)	DF80-189	Dryglaski	44	10.4	GM	AIO	11331	45	2470	8861	10060	126	268
Finocchiaro et al. (2007)	ANTA99-CD38	Dryglaski	45	37.1	DO	AIO	12270	40	3000	9270	10530	50	127
Mosola & Anderson (2006)	NBP99-02_PC15	Eastern Ross Sea	46	91.7	TGM	AIO	30620	400	4590	26030	30730	297	565
Mosola & Anderson (2006)	NBP99-02_PC04	Eastern Ross Sea	47	0.4	TGM	AIO	23950	230	3663	20287	24200	287	640
Mosola & Anderson (2006)	NBP99-02_PC13	Eastern Ross Sea	48	90.0	TGM	AIO	28520	300	4613	23907	28740	390	699
Mosola & Anderson (2006)	NBP9902_PC06	Eastern Ross Sea	49	42.1	TGM	AIO	27330	290	3704	23626	28380	349	705
Mosola & Anderson (2006)	NBP99-02_TC05	Eastern Ross Sea	50	42.1	TGM	AIO	27000	260	3663	23337	28120	266	580
Anderson & Andrews (1999)	IWSOE70_3-7-1	SE Weddell Sea	51	N/A	TGM	F	26660	490	1300	25360	30140	482	898
Anderson & Andrews (1999)	IWSOE70_3-17-1	SE Weddell Sea	52	N/A	TGM	F	23870	160	1300	22570	27260	338	624
Elverhøi (1981)	234	SE Weddell Sea	53	N/A	TGM	Bryozoan	21240	760	1300	19940	23790	834	1915
Michalchuk et al. (2009)	NBP0602-8B	Firth of Tay	54		TGM	Shell	8700	40	1300	7400	8260	107	228
Harden et al. (1992)	DF86-83	Gerlache	55	2.6	TGM	AIO	10240	250	2760	7480	8390	383	751
Willmott et al. (2007)	JPC-33	Gerlache	56	73.8	GM	N/A					8500		
Smith et al. (in press)	VC408	Getz-Dotson	57	14.5	GM	AIO	14646	63	5135	9511	10850	126	253
Smith et al. (in press)	VC415	Getz-Dotson	58	1.7	GM	AIO	13677	57	4723	8954	10200	96	234
Smith et al. (in press)	VC417	Getz-Dotson	59	1.4	GM	AIO	16307	76	6405	9902	11350	124	319
Smith et al. (in press)	VC418	Getz-Dotson	60	7.9	GM	AIO	11469	47	5135	6334	7270	72	132
Smith et al. (in press)	VC419	Getz-Dotson	61	0.7	Gravity flow	Benthics	11237	40	1300	9937	11410	113	307
Hillenbrand et al. (2010b)	VC424	Getz-Dotson	62	20.7	DO	AIO	12183	51	1300	10883	12770	119	201
Hillenbrand et al. (2010b)	VC425	Getz-Dotson	63	10.7	DO	AIO	12868	54	1300	11568	13400	106	246
Smith et al. (in press)	VC427	Getz-Dotson	64	15.2	DO	AIO	12139	55	1300	10839	12730	114	210
Smith et al. (in press)	VC428	Getz-Dotson	65	45.5	GM	AIO	15841	72	3865	11976	13810	112	223
Smith et al. (in press)	VC430	Getz-Dotson	66	89.0	IT	Benthics	10979	40	1300	9679	11040	143	280
Smith et al. (in press)	VC436	Getz-Dotson	67	98.3	IT	Benthics	20115	71	1300	18815	22410	150	307
Smith et al. (in press)	PS69/267-2	Getz-Dotson	68	26.2	GM	AIO	15108	66	4124	10984	12850	128	216
Hillenbrand et al. (2010b)	PS69/273-2	Getz-Dotson	69	2.4	DO	AIO	11945	38	1300	10645	12540	71	265
Hillenbrand et al. (2010b)	PS69/274-1	Getz-Dotson	70	6.2	DO	AIO	11967	49	1300	10667	12570	80	284
Hillenbrand et al. (2010b)	PS69/275-1	Getz-Dotson	71	5.9	DO	AIO	11543	47	1300	10243	11950	233	478
Smith et al. (in press)	PS69/280-1	Getz-Dotson	72	11.0	GM	AIO	17021	80	7019	10002	11520	206	360
Leventer et al. (2006)	JPC43B	Iceberg Alley	73	76.7	AIO	AIO	11770	45	1700	10070	11660	335	623
Domack et al. (1999)	NBP95-01_KC39	JOIDES	74	73.6	DO	AIO	14290	95	3140	11150	13010	131	254
Frignani et al. (1998)	ANTA91-14	JOIDES	75	81.1	TGM	AIO	24000	620	3800	20200	24160	1607	3217
Melis & Salvi (2009)	ANTA91-13	JOIDES	76	85.3	TGM	F	21100	75	1300	19800	23640	189	415
Finocchiaro et al. (2000)	ANTA99-8	JOIDES	77	37.2	TGM	AIO	24830	110	3800	21030	25160	794	1634
Finocchiaro et al. (2000)	ANTA96-9	JOIDES	78	43.6	TGM	AIO	10100	60	3800	6300	7150	585	1178
Banfield & Anderson (1995)	DF82-48	Lafond	79	93.3	TGM	F(m)	15665	95	1300	14365	17460	230	414
Shevenell et al. (1996)	GC-01	Lallemand	80	N/A	TGM	Shell	9358	70	1300	8058	9080	169	343
Brachfeld et al. (2003)	KC-23	Larsen-A	81	3.5	TGM	Geomag.	10700	500	n/a	n/a	10700	500	
Domack et al. (2005)	KC-02	Larsen-B	82	15.7	GM	F	10600	55	1300	9300	10571	147	340
Domack et al. (2005)	KC-05	Larsen-B	83	28.6	GM	F	9210	45	1300	7910	8857	158	311
Gingele et al. (1997)	PS2028-4	Lazarev Sea shelf	84	N/A	GM	Bryozoan	9850	130	1300	8550	9680	211	416
Gingele et al. (1997)	PS2226-3	Lazarev Sea shelf	85	N/A	GM	Bryozoan	8430	95	1300	7130	7800	144	290
Gingele et al. (1997)	PS2058-1	Lazarev Sea shelf	86	N/A	GM	Bryozoan	6530	95	1300	5230	6030	150	300
Ó Cofaigh et al. (2005b)	VC304	Marguerite Bay	87	81.3	TGM	AIO	11670	250	3473	8197	9220	311	664

Harden et al. (1992)	DF86-111	Marguerite Bay	88	22.3	TGM	AIO	10180	170	4260	5920	6790	272	501
Harden et al. (1992)	DF86-112	Marguerite Bay	89	24.6	TGM	AIO	10800	160	4100	6700	7590	204	418
Kilfeather et al. (2010)	GC002	Marguerite Bay	90	50.0	TGM	F	13340	57	1300	12040	13870	117	271
Kilfeather et al. (2010)	GC005	Marguerite Bay	91	65.6	TGM	F	13390	56	1300	12090	13920	119	314
Pope & Anderson (1992)	PD88-85	Marguerite Bay	92	79.5	TGM	F(m)	13335	105	1300	12035	13870	156	405
Pope & Anderson (1992)	PD88-99	Marguerite Bay	93	63.6	TGM	F(m)	13490	140	1300	12190	14110	240	631
Allen et al. (2010)	JPC-43	Marguerite Bay	94	3.8	TGM	F(m)	9360	50	1300	8060	9080	152	321
Pope & Anderson (1992)	PD88-76	Marguerite Bay	95	93.3	IT	F(m)	12425	110	1300	11125	12990	166	290
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-48	Marguerite Bay	96	17.2	TGM	Shell	9640	60	1300	8340	9400	123	287
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	KC-51	Marguerite Bay	97	49.3	TGM	Shell	9640	n/a	1300	8340	9480		
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-49	Marguerite Bay	98	30.2	TGM	Shell	9126	95	1300	7826	8760	183	351
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-52	Marguerite Bay	99	65.4	TGM	Shell	9320	220	1300	8020	9000	310	558
Kim et al. (1999)	A10-01	Marian Cove	100	N/A	TGM	AIO	13461	98	5200	8261	9310	259	317
Milliken et al. (2009)	NBP0502-1B	Maxwell Bay	101	N/A	TGM	Shell	13100	65	1300	11800	13620	132	248
McMullen et al. (2006)	KC-1	Mertz	102	73.2	DO	Molluscs	5755	35	1300	4455	5140	145	280
McMullen et al. (2006)	KC-2	Mertz	103	76.4	DO	AIO	6240	50	3410	2830	3050	140	260
McMullen et al. (2006)	KC-13	Mertz	104	69.3	DO	AIO	5980	40	3410	2570	2750	106	243
McMullen et al. (2006)	KC-12	Mertz	105	70.4	DO	AIO	6110	40	3410	2700	2890	109	211
Domack et al. (1991)	DF79-12	Mertz-Ninnes	106	66.3	DO	AIO	7350	80	5020	2330	2450	327	668
Maddison et al. (2006)	JPC10	Mertz-Ninnes	107	72.5	DO	AIO	13550	50	2340	11210	13100	71	192
Harris et al. (2001)	26PC12	Mertz-Ninnes	108	75.0	GM	AIO	15469	70	2241	13228	16100	366	731
Harris et al. (2001)	17PC02	Mertz-Ninnes	109	69.4	GM	AIO	7294	60	2431	4863	5620	298	618
Harris et al. (2001)	24PC10	Mertz-Ninnes	110	73.8	GM	AIO	16807	80	2700	14107	17190	149	387
Harris et al. (2001)	27PC13	Mertz-Ninnes	111	66.9	GM	AIO	11148	60	2453	8695	9840	210	342
Harris & O'Brien (1998)	149/12/GC12	Nielsen	112	75.0	GM	AIO	17150	280	2170	14980	18150	472	961
Mackintosh et al. (2011)	JPC40	Nielsen	113	68.6	GM	AIO	13895	40	1700	12195	14160	363	694
Heroy et al. (2008)	PC-61	Orleans	114	50.0	TGM	AIO	10859	53	2833	8026	9040	139	287
Salvi et al. (2006)	ANTA96-5BIS	Pennell Trough	115	72.8	TGM	AIO	37000	1400	3820	33180	37940	2037	4087
Licht & Andrews (2002)	NBP9501-7	Pennell Trough	116	84.5	TGM or IT	F	14970	135	1300	13670	16790	175	516
Anderson et al. (2002)	NBP9801-22	Pennell Coast	117	67.1	GM	Algae	9260	70	1300	7960	8930	185	343
Anderson et al. (2002)	NBP9801-17	Pennell Coast	118	74.3	GM (above till)	Algae	8200	90	1300	6900	7770	129	254
Anderson et al. (2002)	NBP9801-19	Pennell Coast	119	80.0	GM (above till)	Bryozoan	13260	80	1300	11960	13780	147	291
Anderson et al. (2002)	NBP9801-26	Pennell Coast	120	94.4	GM	F	15645	95	1300	14345	17440	227	415
Lowe & Anderson (2002)	NBP9902_PC39	Pine Island	121	51.8	GM	F	15800	3900	1300	14500	17150	4789	9422
Lowe & Anderson (2002)	NBP9902_PC41	Pine Island	122	42.2	GM	F	10150	370	1300	8850	10030	460	962
Domack et al. (1998)	KROCK 24	Prydz Channel	123	77.3	GM	AIO	12680	110	2510	10170	11790	233	495
Leventer et al. (2006)	JPC25	Prydz Channel	124	10.9	TGM	Scaphopod	10625	35	1300	9325	10600	137	308
Barbara et al. (2010)	JPC24	Prydz Channel	125	12.3	TGM	Shell	10315	35	1300	9015	10280	117	254
Domack et al. (1991)	740A-3R1	Prydz Channel	126	9.4	GM	AIO	11140	75	2510	8630	9750	155	287
Hemer & Harris (2003)	AM02	Prydz Channel	127	0.0	DO	AIO	21680	160	6548	15132	18290	285	567
Taylor & McMinn (2002)	GC29	Prydz Channel	128	10.3	GM	AIO	14140	120	2493	11647	13500	209	426
Pudsey et al. (2006)	VC242	Robertson	129	20.0	TGM	AIO	20300	160	6000	14300	17410	312	562
Pudsey & Evans (2001)	VC244	Robertson	130	17.1	TGM	AIO	17450	60	6550	10900	12770	96	73
Pudsey & Evans (2001)	VC275	Robertson	131	30.0	TGM	AIO	14810	50	6450	8360	9430	60	126
Pudsey et al. (2006)	VC238	Robertson	132	11.3	GM	AIO	16700	120	6000	10700	12570	250	523
Pudsey & Evans (2001)	VC236	Robertson	133	16.1	TGM	AIO	15660	50	6030	9630	11010	114	214
Pudsey et al. (2006)	VC243	Robertson	134	15.2	GM	AIO	12450	40	6000	6450	7370	82	168
Pudsey et al. (2006)	VC237	Robertson	135	13.9	GM	AIO	15330	80	6000	9330	10630	197	393
Pudsey et al. (2006)	VC277	Robertson	136	27.1	GM	AIO	17714	96	6000	11714	13550	163	313
Pudsey et al. (2006)	VC276	Robertson	137	22.6	GM	AIO	18006	98	6000	12006	13840	196	432
Yoon et al. (2002)	GC-03	Smith	138	88.9	TGM	AIO	14210	90	3000	11210	13080	127	251
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-20	Smith	139	64.2	TGM	F(b)	10870	270	1300	9570	10930	354	772
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-22	Smith	140	93.2	TGM	F(m)	15680	200	1300	14380	17490	298	538
Nishimura et al. (1999)	GC1705	Smith	141	68.4	TGM	AIO	16110	60	3000	13110	15880	389	645
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-04	Vega	142	80.5	TGM	AIO	21170	140	6000	15170	18300	104	314
Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-05	Vega	143	87.4	IT	F(b)	11121	67	1300	9821	11240	161	416

Heroy & Anderson (2007)	PC-06	Vega	144	90.2	TGM	F(m)	16340	120	1300	15040	18260	157	364
Anderson et al. (2002)	NBP9902-23	Wrigley Gulf	145	44.1	GM	Bryozoan	13873	86	1300	12573	14710	312	553
Anderson et al. (2002)	NBP9902-22	Wrigley Gulf	146	44.1	GM	Shell	13576	74	1300	12276	14250	284	547
Anderson et al. (2002)	NBP9902-26	Wrigley Gulf	147	4.8	GM	Shell	14194	82	1300	12894	16750	141	365
Domack et al. (1989)	4	Adelie Bank	148	N/A	Sand	Benthics	14260	140	1300	12960	15630	416	800

Table 5: Mean retreat rates of palaeo-ice stream grounding lines.

Palaeo-ice stream	Mean retreat rate along the whole trough (Range in mean retreat rates)	Deglaciation chronology (and reference)	Reference for retreat rate
Anvers Trough	~24 m yr ⁻¹ (7-54 m yr ⁻¹)	Carbonate and AIO ¹⁴ C dates (Pudsey et al. 1994; Nishimura et al. 1999; Heroy & Anderson 2007)	This paper
Belgica Trough	~15 m yr ⁻¹ (7-55 m yr ⁻¹)	AIO ¹⁴ C dates (Hillenbrand et al., 2010a)	This paper (Hillenbrand et al., 2010a)
Drygalski Basin	~76 m yr ⁻¹ (23-317 m yr ⁻¹)	Carbonate and AIO ¹⁴ C dates (Licht et al. 1996; Frignani et al. 1998; Domack et al. 1999; Finocchiaro et al. 2007; McKay et al. 2008)	This paper
	~50 m yr ⁻¹ to Ross Island ~140 m yr ⁻¹ to current grounding line position from Ross Island		Shipp et al. (1999)
Getz-Dotson Trough	(18-70 m yr ⁻¹)	Carbonate and AIO ¹⁴ C dates, palaeomagnetic intensity dating (Hillenbrand et al. 2010b; Smith et al. in press)	Smith et al. (in press)
JOIDES Basin	(40-100 m yr ⁻¹)	Annual De Geer moraine	Shipp et al. (2002)
Marguerite Trough	~80 m yr ⁻¹ (36-150 m yr ⁻¹)	Carbonate and AIO ¹⁴ C dates (Harden et al. 1992; Pope & Anderson 1992; Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005b; Heroy & Anderson 2007; Kilfeather et al. 2010)	This paper

Table 6: Inferred retreat styles of Antarctic marine palaeo-ice streams since the LGM based on available geomorphic and chronological evidence.

Mode of Retreat	Palaeo-ice stream	Evidence	Defining characteristics of palaeo-ice stream
Rapid	[3/4] Central Bransfield Basin (Laclavere & Mott Snowfield)	Lineations that are not overprinted by GZWs or moraines (Canals et al. 2002).	Small troughs and drainage basin area. Normal slope and well defined, deeply incised U-shaped troughs and shallow banks.
	[7] Biscoe Trough	Lineations that are not overprinted by GZWs or moraine (Amblas et al. 2006).	Small glacial system, shallow outer trough.
	[10] Marguerite Trough	Dates suggest a catastrophic retreat (over a distance of >140 km) from the outer shelf followed by a pause and then further rapid retreat (Ó Cofaigh et al. 2005b; Kilfeather et al. 2010). The outer shelf is characterised by pristine MSGL. Mean retreat rates are ~80 m yr ⁻¹ , although during rapid collapse of the outer and inner shelf they must have been significantly greater (i.e. within the error of the radiocarbon dates).	Deep, rugged inner shelf with well-developed meltwater network; drainage area: 10,000-100,000 km ² .
	[16] Sulzberger Bay Trough	Erosional grooves that are not overprinted. Thin deglacial sediment.	Small trough and drainage basin. Steep reverse slope.
Episodic (fast then slow)	[34] Robertson Trough	Inner and mid-shelf – lineations overprinted by GZWs (up to 20 m thick). 3-4 m of deglacial sediment and pelletized facies. Four generations of cross-cutting lineations on the outer shelf.	Large, shallow and wide outer trough which splits into a series of tributary troughs on the inner-shelf.
Episodic (slow then fast)	[1] Gerlache-Boyd Strait	Thick layer of deglacial sediment (7-60 m) on the outer shelf. Thick morainal wedge south of sill at end of Gerlache Strait. <2 m deglacial sediment in the bedrock scoured inner shelf.	Narrow inner shelf trough with large changes in relief. Small drainage basin.
	[13] Pine Island Trough	Five GZWs on mid and outer shelf associated with changes in subglacial bed gradient (Graham et al. 2010). The inner shelf is dominated by bedrock with a thin carapace (<2.5 m) of deglacial sediment.	Drainage area ~330,000 km ² . Rugged, bedrock dominated inner shelf with a major meltwater drainage network.
	[14] Getz-Dotson Trough	Deglacial dates suggest that initial retreat from the outer to the mid shelf was extremely slow (about 18 m yr ⁻¹). Further retreat back into the three tributary troughs was characterised by faster rates of retreat (54 m yr ⁻¹ on average & up to 70 m yr ⁻¹).	Small tributary troughs with very deep inner basins and a high reverse slope.
	[17] Drygalski Basin	Dates suggest a mean retreat rate of 76 m yr ⁻¹ (based on dates from McKay et al. (2008)). Similar calculations by Shipp et al. (1999) gave a retreat rate of ~50 m yr ⁻¹ . Further rates of retreat to the current grounding line position (900 km further inshore) may have been considerably faster 89-140 m yr ⁻¹ , whilst grounding line retreat from Drygalski Ice Tongue to Ross Island was also thought to be rapid (317 m yr ⁻¹). Large GZW on the outer shelf and MSGL preserved along entire length of mapped trough (Shipp et al. 1999).	Long, narrow trough with shallow banks. Fed by ice from East Antarctica and floored predominantly by unconsolidated strata.
Episodic	[2] Lafond Trough	Three morainal ridges on the mid-shelf (Bentley & Anderson, 1998).	Small trough and drainage basin area. Normal slope and well defined, deeply incised U-shaped trough and shallow banks.
	[19] Central Ross Sea	One GZW on inner shelf (25 m) & one on outer shelf (50 m). Series of back-stepping ridges on outer shelf (Shipp et al. 1999).	Narrow trough.

	[20] Central Ross Sea	One GZW on inner shelf (c. 50 m thick), one on mid-shelf (40 m) & two on outer shelf (50 m & 70 m).	Large trough with deep banks.
	[21] Eastern Ross Sea	Three GZWs on inner (50 m), mid & outer shelves (180 m). Some moraine ridges.	Large trough with deep banks. Predominantly unconsolidated strata.
	[22] Eastern Ross Sea	Two GZWs on inner shelf (both 100 m); one on outer shelf (50-100 m).	Large trough with deep banks. Predominantly unconsolidated strata.
	[23] Mertz Trough	Up to 7 m of deglacial sediment and two prominent GZWs on the outer shelf (up to 80 m high).	Broad (50-100 km) trough.
	[28] Prydz Channel	Multiple GZWs and small transverse ridges on the mid and inner shelf (O'Brien et al. 1999). >3 m of deglacial and sub-ice shelf sediments (Domack et al. 1998).	Convergent flow with Amery palaeo-ice stream, which has a large drainage basin (currently drains ~20% of ice from East Antarctica) and deep inner shelf (>1,000 m). Ice only reached mid-shelf at LGM.
Slow	[8] Anvers-Hugo Island Trough	Very slow retreat, with mean retreat rates on the outer and mid-shelf of 2-15 m yr ⁻¹ . However, the inner-most shelf was subject to slightly faster rates (~47 m yr ⁻¹), with Gerlache Strait ice free by ~8.4 cal. ka BP. GZW and up to 12 m of deglacial sediment on the outer shelf is consistent with a slow overall rate of retreat (Larter & Vanneste, 1995; Vanneste & Larter, 1995).	Small trough with a very deep inner basin (Palmer's Deep: >1400 m). Mid shelf high at ~300 m. Three tributaries.
	[12] Belgica Trough	Mean retreat rate of 7-55 m yr ⁻¹ , with the outer shelf deglaciating slightly faster (~23 m yr ⁻¹) than the inner shelf (Hillenbrand et al. 2010). Multiple small GZWs on the inner shelf. The outer shelf is heavily iceberg scoured so the geomorphic evidence is limited.	Large glacial trough, with drainage area of >200,000 km ² . Seaward dipping middle-outer shelf profile (angle: ~0.08°). Primarily composed of unconsolidated strata.
	[18] JOIDES-Central Basin	GZWs (3-80 m high) & corrugation moraine (De Geer?). De Geer moraine suggests a retreat rate of 40-100 m yr ⁻¹ (Shipp et al. 2002).	Long, quite narrow trough with shallow banks. Nourished by ice from East Antarctica (drainage area: >1.8 million km ²). Predominantly unconsolidated strata.