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Landscape preservation under Fennoscandian ice sheets determined from in situ produced ¹⁰Be and ²⁶Al

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Abstract

Some areas within ice sheet boundaries retain pre-existing landforms and thus either remained as ice free islands (nunataks) during glaciation, or were preserved under ice. Differentiating between these alternatives has significant implications for paleoenvironment, ice sheet surface elevation, and ice volume reconstructions. In the northern Swedish mountains, in situ cosmogenic ¹⁰Be and ²⁶Al concentrations from glacial erratics on relict surfaces as well as glacially eroded bedrock adjacent to these surfaces, provide consistent last deglaciation exposure ages (~8–13 kyr), confirming ice sheet overriding as opposed to ice free conditions. However, these ages contrast with exposure ages of 34–61 kyr on bedrock surfaces in these same relict areas, demonstrating that relict areas were preserved with little erosion through multiple glacial cycles. Based on the difference in radioactive decay between ²⁶Al and ¹⁰Be, the measured nuclide concentration in one of these bedrock surfaces suggests that it remained largely unmodified for a minimum period of 845^{+461}_{-418} kyr. These results indicate that relict areas need to be accounted for as frozen bed patches in basal boundary conditions for ice sheet models, and in landscape development models. Subglacial preservation also implies that source areas for glacial sediments in ocean cores are considerably smaller than the total area covered by ice sheets. These relict areas also have significance as potential long-term subglacial biologic refugia. © 2002 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: cosmogenic elements; Sweden; ice sheets; erosion; glacial features

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1. Introduction

After initial fierce debate over whether ice would preserve or erode underlying rocks and sediments [1,2], conventional wisdom since the early 1900s has been that glaciers and ice sheets are effective agents of erosion and landscape change [3]. Subsequent advances in understanding

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ice sheet dynamics and glacial erosion processes have renewed interest in the thermal conditions beneath ice sheets, differentiating pressure melting conditions, when water at the bed facilitates erosion of the substrate, from conditions so cold that the ice is frozen to the substrate, resulting in preservation [4,5]. Identification of preserved areas can be complicated because alternate interpretations would be that these areas were ice free (nunataks), and thus that their edges were former ice margins. This is critical in all areas formerly covered by ice sheets, including the North Atlantic continental margin mountains where it is widely recognized that the geomorphology consists of a patchwork of ice scoured terrain and relict upland surfaces [6-9] (e.g. Fig. 1). Distinguishing between areas that were ice free from those covered by ice frozen to its bed can alter inferred ice surface elevations and volumes, and associated paleoclimatic reconstructions [5,10,11], and also has important implications for the basal boundary conditions of ice sheet models.

Recognition of patches of relict landforms in the northern Swedish mountains (Fig. 2) has been based on the presence of nonglacial features [8] within areas that are known to have been ice covered because of the presence of erratics (boulders with a lithology different from that locally available; Fig. 3), and from their positions relative to ice sheet terminal positions [11]. Well within the ice margins, and adjacent to relatively low-



Fig. 1. Patchwork of landscape types typical of the northern Swedish mountains with glacially eroded valleys juxtaposed to rounded relict surfaces, tors, and V-shaped fluvial valleys. Elevations are approximate.

lying areas with clear evidence of extensive glacial erosion, are upland landscape patches with nonglacial features such as rounded symmetrical summits with weathering mantles and protruding bedrock outcrops (tors), V-shaped valleys, and abundant periglacial features (Figs. 1 and 3). However, this area has been covered repeatedly by ice sheets, as indicated by onshore mapping and dating of glacial landforms [12], ice surface reconstructions based on glaciological constraints [13], and patterns of isostatic rebound [14]. This patchwork of glacially scoured and relict surfaces (Fig. 2) led Kleman and Stroeven [8] to conclude that the average subglacial thermal regime of the ice sheets since the late Tertiary was frozen on the uplands and melting in the main valleys. The interpretation of these patches as relicts is based on qualitative analyses of landforms [8] and inferences from soil chemistry [15].

The goal of the work presented here was to provide an independent, quantitative test of the hypothesis that relict landform patches represent areas preserved under ice, rather than nunataks. A field campaign was mounted in northern Sweden to determine the surface exposure ages of relict surfaces, bedrock exposures where these relict surfaces have been glacially plucked, and erratics lying on relict surfaces, using cosmogenic nuclide techniques.

2. Methodology

The accumulation of in situ produced cosmogenic ¹⁰Be (half-life = $1.51 \pm 0.05 \times 10^6$ yr [16]) and ²⁶A1 (half-life = $7.1 \pm 0.2 \times 10^5$ yr [16]) in quartz exposed to cosmic radiation provides a means of determining the amount of time the rock has been at or near the ground surface [17–19]. Because nuclide production decreases with depth, removal of 2 m or more of irradiated rock during one glacial event will create a zero age surface [20]. In this context, areas known to have been ice covered should have exposure ages equivalent to deglaciation if they were significantly eroded by ice and older exposure ages if they suffered limited erosion or were completely protected. Further, nunataks should have exposure ages older than the last glaciation (unless there was significant subaerial erosion [18]). Ice cover of 10 m or more shields the underlying rock surface from most cosmic radiation, so areas that undergo multiple cycles of ice sheet overriding but no erosion should accumulate ¹⁰Be and ²⁶Al concentrations equivalent to the sum of the ice free periods, minus decay during periods of ice shielding [19,21, 22].

Patches of relict landform assemblages, representing 20–25% of an area believed to have been covered by ice at the last glacial maximum, were identified in the northern Swedish mountains through extensive field and air photo mapping (Fig. 2). Quartz-rich samples for cosmogenic radionuclide analysis were collected from bedrock outcrops and erratics in mapped relict patches (Fig. 3) and from transverse lee-side scarps [23]. Erratics confirm that the sites were overridden by ice and were dated to determine whether they were deposited during the last glaciation. Bedrock in relict areas was sampled to determine whether these sites were in fact extensively eroded during the last glaciation (to give a deglacial exposure age) or whether they were moderately eroded or are relict (exposure ages reflect both postglacial time and cosmogenic nuclide inheritance from one or more previous ice free periods). Transverse lee-side scarps, a common landform at the transition between an up-ice frozen bed relict patch and a distal thawed zone, are thought to result from the entrainment of debris sheets in a zone of extending ice flow [24], and like erratics are indicators of ice overriding. The till scarps indicate that the full weathering mantle or till thickness and possibly some bedrock was removed.



Fig. 2. Relict surfaces (black) in a portion of the northern Swedish mountains. The black line and dashed national boundaries bound the area where relict surfaces have been mapped in detail. Relict surfaces occupy 22% of this mapped area. Dots indicate the sample sites in Table 1: a, Alddasčorru; O, Olmáčohkka; F, Fávrratčohkka; A, Áilladis; U, Urttičohkka; T, Tjuolmma; B, Bálddavárri. The Aldasčorru site is shown in Fig. 3. The location of the map is shown by the black box in the inset.



Fig. 3. Alddasorru field site. (a) Rounded symmetrical ridges and summits typical of a relict surface. (b) Light-colored, rounded quartzite erratics contrast with blocky, angular bedrock outcrops of fine-grained shist. (c) The apparent exposure age of the erratic $(12.5 \pm 1.7)^{10}$ Be kyr) demonstrates deposition by the last Fennoscandian ice sheet. The inherited cosmogenic nuclide concentration from previous exposure periods results in a much greater apparent exposure age for the bedrock sample $(43.6 \pm 1.2)^{10}$ Be kyr) indicating that it is a relict surface.

Samples from bedrock immediately downstream of the transverse lee-side scarps should provide deglaciation ages provided the combined weathering mantle, till, or bedrock thickness removed was in excess of 2 m and the transverse lee-side scarp was created during the last glaciation.

Approximately 30 g of pure quartz was separated from each sample using magnetic and heavy liquid separation followed by selective chemical dissolution [25]. The quartz was spiked with ~ 0.6 mg ⁹Be carrier and dissolved. Total Al concentrations in aliquots of the dissolved quartz were quantified by ICP and assigned a 5% uncertainty. Al and Be were purified and separated by ion chromatography, selectively precipitated as hydroxides, and oxidized. A now corrected problem in the chemical extraction process resulted in unrecoverable loss of Al from 12 of the 15 samples processed and only ¹⁰Be could be quantified for these.

To calculate cosmogenic surface exposure ages we used the standard models of [17] with sea level, high latitude (>60°) nuclide production rates scaled to altitude and latitude using [26] (Table 1). Adopting the scaling factors of [27] would increase calculated ages by no more than 5%. Uncertainties in single nuclide exposure ages (Table 1) are reported as one standard error of analytical uncertainty calculated from AMS counting statistics and uncertainty in total Al measurement by ICP (5%). The uncertainty shown in parentheses includes random (8%) and systematic uncertainties (10%) and should be used when comparing data to calendar ages [16].

3. Results

The Alddasčorru site north of Lake Torneträsk (Figs. 2 and 3), a typical relict area, has blocky, angular bedrock outcrops and loose mantle, with no evidence of glacial erosion (e.g. striae or polish), but frequent, rounded erratics. The large erratic (Fig. 3c) has an apparent exposure age of 12.5 ± 1.7 ¹⁰Be kyr (Table 1). In contrast, the bedrock apparent exposure ages of 43.6 ± 1.2 ¹⁰Be kyr at Alddasčorru (Fig. 3c) and 60.7 ± 1.2 ¹⁰Be kyr from a nearby relict patch at Olmáčohkka (Fig. 2) are considerably older than this. Results from three samples collected approximately 35 km fur-

| Table 1 | | | | | | |
|------------|---------|------|-----|----------|----------|------|
| Cosmogenic | nuclide | data | and | apparent | exposure | ages |

ther south at Fávrratčohkka (Fig. 2) provide almost identical results. A bedrock sample from the transverse lee-side scarp at the distal end of Fávrratčohkka hill yielded deglaciation ages of 11.0 ± 1.8 ¹⁰Be kyr and 8.8 ± 1.5 ²⁶Al kyr. There was no bedrock exposed in the relict patch upstream of this transverse lee-side scarp, however, a bedrock sample from the relict patch at Áilladis (Fig. 2), a setting very similar and close to Fávrratčohkka, provided an apparent age of 51.1 ± 1.5 ¹⁰Be kyr. Bedrock collected from a tor exposed in a relict patch at Urttičohkka, ~450 m higher and 10 km west of Áilladis, yielded an apparent age of 40.3 ± 1.3 ¹⁰Be kyr.

Similar results were obtained at Tjuolmma, a gently sloping relict surface rising about 100 m above the surrounding Ultevis Plateau. The relict surface at Tjuolmma is truncated on the distal side by a transverse lee-side scarp. Bedrock exposed at the transverse lee-side scarp and an erratic deposited on the relict surface at the summit of Tjuolmma gave deglaciation ages of 9.7 ± 1.5

| U | 11 1 | U | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sample location and | Sample type | Correction | ¹⁰ Be | ²⁶ Al | Apparent exposu | ire age |
| (masl) | | factor | $	imes 10^5$ atom g ⁻¹ | $	imes 10^5$ atom g ⁻¹ | ¹⁰ Be kyr | ²⁶ Al kyr |
| Alddasčorru (1380) | erratic | 0.98 | 0.63 ± 0.09 | | 12.5±1.7 (2.3) | |
| Alddasčorru (1380) | bedrock in relict patch | 0.98 | 2.20 ± 0.06 | | 43.6±1.2 (5.8) | |
| Olmáčohkka (1355) | bedrock in relict patch | 0.98 | 3.05 ± 0.06 | | 60.7±1.2 (8.0) | |
| Fávrratčohkka (850) | transverse lee-side scarp | 0.96 | 0.56 ± 0.09 | 2.71 ± 0.46 | 11.0±1.8 (2.3) | 8.8±1.5 (2.4) |
| Áilladis (910) | bedrock in relict patch | 0.98 | 2.58 ± 0.08 | | 51.1±1.5 (6.8) | |
| Urttičohkka (1360) | bedrock in relict patch | 0.95 | 2.04 ± 0.07 | | 40.3 ± 1.3 (5.4) | |
| Tjuolmma (945) | erratic | 0.99 | 0.39 ± 0.05 | | 7.6±1.0 (1.4) | |
| Tjuolmma (930) | transverse lee-side scarp | 0.98 | 0.49 ± 0.07 | | 9.7±1.5 (1.9) | |
| Tjuolmma (920) | bedrock in relict patch | 0.96 | 1.70 ± 0.07 | 7.64 ± 0.84 | 33.6±1.5 (4.6) | 24.9 ± 2.7 (5.9) |
| Tjuolmma-R (920) | bedrock in relict patch | 0.96 | 1.83 ± 0.06 | | 36.1±1.3 (4.9) | |
| Bálddavárri (900) | erratic | 0.97 | 0.61 ± 0.05 | | 12.0±0.9 (1.8) | |
| Bálddavárri (810) | erratic | 0.94 | $0.66\pm0.06^{\rm A}$ | | 12.9±1.2 (2.1) | |
| Bálddavárri (890) | bedrock | 0.97 | $2.44\pm0.06^{\rm A}$ | | 48.4±1.1 (6.4) | |

All latitudes >67°N. Site locations as in Fig. 2. Correction factor includes geometric shielding [44] and sample thickness using an attenuation coefficient of 160 ± 10 g cm⁻² and rock density of 2.8 g cm⁻³. 26 Al/²⁷Al and 10 Be/⁹Be measured by accelerator mass spectrometry at the Purdue Rare Isotope Measurement Laboratory (PRIME Lab) and the Australian National Tandem Accelerator for Applied Research (ANTARES) at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)^A. Procedural blanks were used to correct measured ratios. Total Al measured by ICP-AES and assigned 5% uncertainty. ¹⁰Be and ²⁶Al concentrations normalized to sea level and high latitude (>60°) using [26] with standard 15°C sea level temperature. Apparent ages calculated assuming zero erosion and sea level and high latitude ¹⁰Be and ²⁶Al production rates of 5.1 ± 0.3 atom g⁻¹ yr⁻¹ and 31.1 ± 1.9 atom g⁻¹ yr⁻¹ respectively [26]. Uncertainties represent one standard error measurement uncertainty, with random (8%) and systematic uncertainties (10%) added in quadrature and shown in parentheses [16]. ¹⁰Be kyr and 7.6 ± 1.0 ¹⁰Be kyr. Two separate aliquots of the quartz derived from bedrock sampled in the relict area were processed and yielded apparent ages of 33.6 ± 1.5 ¹⁰Be kyr and 36.1 ± 1.3 ¹⁰Be kyr with a weighted mean of 35.1 ± 1.0 ¹⁰Be kyr (Table 1). The ²⁶Al apparent age for the first aliquot is 24.9 ± 2.7 ²⁶Al kyr providing a ²⁶Al/¹⁰Be ratio of 4.5 ± 0.5 .

The final three samples were collected at Bálddavárri, an area previously described as having been extensively scoured by ice (see fig. 6 in [8]). Two erratics yielded deglaciation ages of 12.0 ± 0.9 ¹⁰Be kyr and 12.9 ± 1.2 ¹⁰Be kyr, while the apparent age of the bedrock sample was 48.4 ± 1.1 ¹⁰Be kyr.

4. Discussion

Erratics and transverse lee-side scarps were sampled to determine deglaciation ages. The ages range from 7.6 ± 1.0^{-10} Be kyr to 12.9 ± 1.2 ¹⁰Be kyr with a weighted mean of 10.7 ± 0.5 ¹⁰Be kyr. This is consistent with the accepted deglaciation age of ~ 10 ¹⁴C kyr for this region [28], however, the age range suggests temporal variations in deglaciation between different sites. For example, at Tjuolmma and Bálddavárri the independent samples collected at each site are internally consistent (Table 1) with weighted mean ages 8.2 ± 0.8^{-10} Be kyr and 12.3 ± 0.7^{-10} Be kyr respectively, suggesting that Bálddavárri was ice free before Tjuolmma. Although determining the detailed pattern of deglaciation warrants further work, for the purpose of this paper the deglaciation ages clearly indicate that our sample sites were covered by ice during the last glacial cycle.

The apparent exposure ages from bedrock in relict patches are significantly older than the adjacent exposure ages from transverse lee-side scarps and overlying or nearby erratics. Given that the relict surfaces with ages of $\sim 35-61$ kyr have erratics on them with ages of $\sim 8-13$ kyr it is not possible that the apparent ages of the relict patches represent actual time elapsed since deglaciation. This therefore indicates that the ice sheet during last glaciation eroded an insufficient thickness of bedrock, weathering mantle, or till to re-

move the cosmogenic nuclide inventory accumulated during previous exposure periods. The duration of these previous exposure periods is difficult to ascertain because we do not know how much erosion and/or shielding the sample sites experienced. Erosion reduces the cosmogenic nuclide concentration through removal of material from the surface. Likewise, decay of ¹⁰Be and ²⁶Al during periods of shielding by ice or till reduces the existing ¹⁰Be and ²⁶Al inventory [19,21]. Although the range of apparent exposure ages from relict patches reflects site-specific differences in erosion or shielding, our data do not permit quantification of either. Therefore, the apparent ages, calculated assuming no erosion and/or shielding, are minimum estimates of the total exposure experienced by individual relict patches and clearly demonstrate that every sampled relict area has survived at least the last glacial maximum.

By adopting the reconstructed glacial history of the region [8,29-31] it is possible to broadly determine if relict patches have survived more than one glacial cycle. The ice occupation history of northern Sweden has been divided into periods of Mountain ice sheet and Fennoscandian ice sheet configurations [8,29], with the duration of each period broadly determined from the DSDP 607 marine benthic foraminifer oxygen isotope record of global ice volume [32-34]. All our sample sites are located in the region covered by ice during Mountain ice sheet periods. Therefore we adopt the δ^{18} O limits used by [8] for this style of ice sheet to divide the DSDP 607 record into periods of ice cover and ice free conditions for our sites (Fig. 4). According to this time scale, the youngest relict patch at Tjuolmma, with a weighted mean apparent age of 35.1 ± 1.0^{-10} Be kyr, was first exposed at ~ 200 kyr during marine isotope stage (MIS) 7 (Fig. 4). Thus relict areas have survived at least two complete glacial cycles with minimal alteration (Fig. 4). Although the validity of slicing the DSDP 607 record in this fashion could be debated for periods extending beyond the last glacial cycle (the time for which there has been good temporal and spatial control on ice sheet extent), the measured cosmogenic nuclide concentrations for all the relict patches re-

Fig. 4. Marine benthic oxygen isotope record for the last 250 kyr from DSDP 607 [34] with marine oxygen isotope stages (MIS) labelled in italics. In the reconstructed ice occupation history for the northern Swedish mountains ice sheets occur when $\delta^{18}O > 3.7\%$ [8]. Surface exposure only occurs during individual ice free periods (black-shaded areas above the dashed line). Durations of the ice free periods and cumulative exposure times are shown along the top of the figure. Exposure ages greater than 10.7 ± 0.5 kyr (weighted mean of youngest values in Table 1) represent cumulative exposure over multiple ice free periods. For example, to accumulate the measured minimum 43.6 ± 1.2 ¹⁰Be kyr at the Alddasčorru site (Fig. 3) requires a minimum total history of ~ 210 kyr. The bedrock age indicates survival during the growth and decay of the Fennoscandian ice sheet even if this site was only covered during times of greatest ice sheet extent $(\delta^{18}O > 4.5\% [8]).$

quire their preservation at least since before the development of the most recent Fennoscandian ice sheet at about 65 kyr (MIS 4). Additional evidence for preservation through multiple rather than just the last glaciation comes from lowland tor–summit surface samples collected further east in the Parkajoki area. These samples yielded ²⁶Al/¹⁰Be ratios indicating minimum total exposure and shielding histories in excess of 600 kyr [22]. Preservation of this area is attributed primarily to cold-based conditions, though recognizing that its location was beneath or close to the last glacial maximum ice divide, preservation may also have been due to negligible horizontal ice flow, and hence erosive capacity, over the area during this

and previous maximum positions of Fennoscandian ice sheets [35]. The results reported in this study come from samples collected in areas located beneath the ice divide during Mountain ice sheet glaciations and distant from the ice divide during Fennoscandian glaciation. Therefore it is likely that the sample sites experienced increased ice velocity regimes during the growth and decay phases of Fennoscandian ice sheets. Nevertheless, the single nuclide data from the relict patches indicate that glacial erosion was limited, suggesting frozen bed conditions. Furthermore, using the measured ¹⁰Be and ²⁶Al concentrations for the Tjuolmma sample and a simple cosmogenic nuclide accumulation and decay model that assumes exposure prior to a single shielding period under thick ice with subsequent re-exposure since the last deglaciation, constrains the complex history for this site to 845 kyr (Table 2). This is a minimum total history since it does not take into account the multiple periods of exposure and shielding by ice which have affected this area throughout the Quaternary [22]. Our result corroborates the hypothesis that relict patches have survived multiple glaciations even in these areas.

Surprisingly, the bedrock result from Bálddavárri, where glacial scouring has obliterated any characteristic preglacial morphology and left behind rock basins and steep glacial facets (see fig. 6 in [8]), also shows cosmogenic nuclide inheritance. Thus even in an area that appears to have been severely scoured the last glaciations did not significantly modify the landscape. This has important implications for regional reconstructions of erosion patterns (e.g. Sugden, 1977) because the total area of glacial scouring in any one region may be the cumulative result of several cycles of glacial erosion, where each cycle only eroded spatially restricted areas. Hence it may be difficult to morphologically discern 'young' (last glacial cycle) scouring from scouring related to older glacial events, and care needs to be taken when trying to interpret subglacial temperature conditions and deglaciation patterns of the last Fennoscandian and other paleo ice sheets on the basis of landforms alone. Another implication of this pattern and extent of landscape preservation is a potentially significant reduction of effective sediment

| | ²⁶ Al | ¹⁰ Be | ²⁶ Al/ ¹⁰ Be | Exposure prior to shielding | Shielding | Exposure since deglaciation | Total history |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| | $	imes 10^5$ atom g ⁻¹ | $	imes 10^5$ atom g ⁻¹ | | (kyr) | (kyr) | (kyr) | (kyr) |
| Mean ratio | 7.64 | 1.70 | 4.5 | 36.7 | 800 | 8.2 | 845 |
| Minimum ratio | 6.81 | 1.78 | 3.8 | 47.8 | 1250 | 8.2 | 1306 |
| Maximum ratio | 8.48 | 1.63 | 5.2 | 28.6 | 390 | 8.2 | 427 |

 Table 2

 Complex history model results for bedrock from the relict area at Tjuolmma

Exposure time prior to shielding (T) and shielding time (B) were inferred by solving:

$$\frac{N_{26}}{N_{10}} = \frac{\frac{P_{26}}{\lambda_{26}} \cdot (1 - e^{-\lambda_{26}T}) \cdot e^{-\lambda_{26}(B+t)} + \frac{P_{26}}{\lambda_{26}} \cdot (1 - e^{-\lambda_{26}t})}{\frac{P_{10}}{\lambda_{10}} \cdot (1 - e^{-\lambda_{10}T}) \cdot e^{-\lambda_{10}(B+t)} + \frac{P_{10}}{\lambda_{10}} \cdot (1 - e^{-\lambda_{10}t})}$$
(1)

where the subscripts denote ²⁶Al and ¹⁰Be, N is the measured nuclide concentration and t is the exposure time since deglaciation. The production rates P_{26} and P_{10} are given in Table 1. The decay constants λ_{26} and λ_{10} are 4.56×10^{-7} yr⁻¹ and 9.76×10^{-7} yr⁻¹ respectively.

source areas used in estimates of landscape change from sediment delivery records in ocean and lake cores [36], and in interpreting offshore sediment records such as provenance studies related to Heinrich events [37,38]. Additionally, given previous work indicating that viable seeds might survive beneath an ice sheet [39–41], the presence of persistent preserved patches raises the possibility that some of these acted as subglacial refugia [41] and thus could have been source areas for postglacial biologic re-colonization.

Cosmogenic radionuclide exposure ages from palimpsest landscapes in the northern Swedish mountains indicate that ice sheet basal thermal conditions throughout two or more glacial cycles resulted in areas of extensive glacial erosion juxtaposed to areas with landscape preservation. The quantitative demonstration that relict landscapes were preserved subglacially, requires that boundaries between glacially sculpted and preserved landscapes in other areas should not automatically be interpreted as former ice limits in paleoclimatic and paleoglaciological reconstructions (e.g. [42] and references therein). The areas of relict landscapes that can be mapped today represent a minimum estimate of the extent of frozen patches [43]. Surprisingly, relict areas persisted through multiple ice sheet growth and decay phases despite expected changes in flow patterns and basal thermal regimes [11]. The persistence of cold-based conditions and related landscape preservation, which likely applies to other large paleo ice sheets such as the Laurentide ice sheet [6,42], indicates the need to incorporate frozen bed patches into basal boundary conditions for ice sheet models [5].

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