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TNO report

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Central Offshore Platform and Vlieland Basin Mapping and modelling - Area 2E

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Conclusions and management summary

To serve future and current operators in the oil industry and governmental and non-governmental organisations a comprehensive subsurface model of the Dutch offshore is being created. The Netherlands Continental Shelf area is divided into seven sub-areas that represent more or less structural entities during Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous time. In this report the results of sub-area NCP-2E, including the Central Offshore Platform, Noord-Holland Platform, Texel-IJsselmeer High and part of the Vlieland Basin, are described.

The structural framework of the area is outlined by major fault zones that delimit the Texel-IJsselmeer High and the Vlieland Basin and outline the transition with the Central Offshore Platform. Fault-associated salt structures (walls and domes) predominently occur on the north-western part of the Central Offshore Platform. Different phases of fault activation and reactivation have played a crucial role in the creation of hydrocarbon traps, which are mainly located in the Rotliegend. Zechstein salt is providing an excellent seal.

The main source rocks for gas are the coal measures of the Limburg Group. Next to proven Rotliegend reservoirs and to a lesser extend Zechstein reservoirs in the platform areas, the Triassic, Upper-Jurassic to Lower Cretaceous in the Vlieland Basin may offer other hydrocarbon opportunities.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Mapping of the deep subsurface of the Netherlands offshore (NCP-2 project)

The detailed mapping of seven offshore areas on the Netherlands Continental Shelf was initiated in late 2005 and will be finalised in 2010. It builds on and goes one step beyond the previous regional mapping of the Netherlands onshore and offshore. In 2004 the publication of the Geological Atlas of the Subsurface of the Netherlands – *onshore* rounded off the onshore regional mapping project and a 'quick and dirty' offshore mapping (NCP-1 project) was completed in 2006 (viz. http://www.nlog.nl; Duin et al. 2006).

The main aim of the detailed mapping of seven sub-areas is to present a more comprehensive model of the subsurface to future and current operators in the oil industry and to governmental and non-governmental organisations for, amongst other things, the spatial planning of the Dutch subsurface. The deliverables include:

3D geological framework (depth and thickness grids)

Rock and fluid parameters (petrophysical parameters)

3D burial histories

Petroleum system analysis

All deliverables, such as maps, grids and graphs, can be downloaded at the http://www.nlog.nl site. When applicable, regular updates will be made available on the site.

The petroleum systems analysis will be reported separately (Verweij et. al, 2010, report nr. TNO-034-UT-2010-01298/A

1.2 Definition of mapping areas.

Based on consultation with the exploration departments of the oil companies operating in the Netherlands it was decided to divide the offshore area into seven sub-areas (fig. 1.1). These areas represent more or less structural entities at the Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous times (fig. 1.2). The detailed mapping project started with sub-area NCP-2A: Terschelling Basin and the southern part of the Dutch Central Graben and was continued with area 2E, which comprises the Central Offshore Platform, Vlieland Basin, the northwestern part of the Texel IJsselmeer High and the offshore extension of the Noord-Holland Platform. Detailed mapping

The detailed mapping was focussed on the assessment of the present-day stratigraphic and structural framework of the sedimentary fill of the area as well as on the properties of rocks and fluids it contains, such as reservoir porosities, pressures, salinities, source rock maturity, characteristics of oil and gas. Special attention was paid to provide new porosity data for the main reservoir units in the Upper Rotliegend Group. This report concerns the present-day setting and characteristics of the study area.

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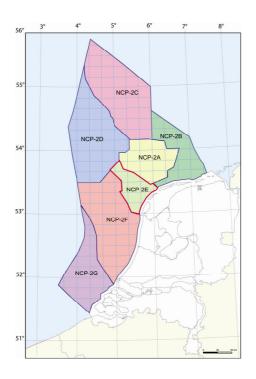


Figure 1.1 NCP-2 areas; Location of the project area NCP-2A: Terschelling Basin and the southern part of the Dutch Central Graben

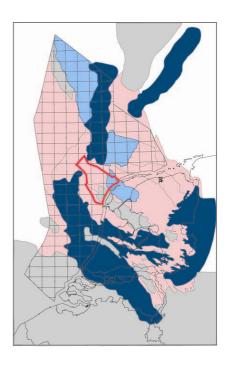


Figure 1.2 Structural setting at Late Jurassic-Early Cretaceous.

Grey: highs, Pink: platforms, Dark blue: basins with Lower Jurassic, Light blue: basins without Lower Jurassic

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2 Database

Most data used in the project are publicly released seismic and borehole data that were acquired by various oil companies. In addition we used published information and research results and laboratory analyses from previous in-house studies. Also reports from third parties on wells or regional studies were consulted

2.1 Stratigraphic data/Dino database

The basic information for the mapping project was derived from the released data of 48 boreholes available in the DINO database (see annex 5.1). The selection criteria for these boreholes include: the presence of a specific stratigraphic interval of interest, the presence of complete stratigraphic intervals, the total depth of the borehole, geographic spacing, the presence of hydrocarbons, the availability of a representative set of well logs, the availability of cores in stratigraphic intervals of interest. At the start of the project stratigraphic information of the different boreholes in the DINO database varied both in quality and in detail of the stratigraphic subdivision (Group, Formation, Member).

2.2 Seismic data

The available regional seismic framework for the entire offshore area was used as the groundwork for the detailed mapping using released 3D seismic surveys (in two areas 2D surveys were used in the project, viz. annex 5.2). The inlines of most surveys have an E-W orientation and intersect the dominant geological structures at high angles. The quality of the seismic signal is generally good to fair from the ground surface to the Top Zechstein horizon, enabling a reliable interpretation for this interval. Below the Zechstein Group the quality of the signal is mostly too poor to allow a reliable regional interpolation. Mapping the deeper levels depended on available well data (see also 2.1.4).

In general, every 10th inline and every 25th xline was interpreted for each seismic survey. In structurally less complicated areas a wider spaced grid consisting of every 20th inline and every 50th xline, was sufficient to map the surfaces within confidence levels.

2.3 Borehole data

2.3.1 Well logs

The available well logs for the 48 selected wells include gamma-ray, sonic and sometimes also neutron-density logs.

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2.3.2 Cores and cuttings

In 33 wells within the area core measurements were available for petrophysical analyses. If necessary we used additional measurements on cores from wells bordering the area (TNO report 2007). Furthermore, cuttings of 3 wells were analysed for biostratigraphic studies in the Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous.

2.4 Information from literature

Apart from the references listed under chapter 5, consultancy reports and reports from operators concerning the wells or the study area were used for reference. These reports contain information about the geological and stratigraphic subdivision, biostratigraphy, core descriptions and analyses, geochemical data, pressure and temperature data.

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3 Approach

Lithostratigraphic (re)-interpretation of well logs, the incorporation of the lithostratigraphic information into the seismic interpretation, time-to-depth conversion of the seismic velocity and the construction of depth and thickness maps of the eight major lithostratigraphic units constitute the basic methods used in the mapping process. Additional units of importance for the petroleum system were identified by lithostratigraphic well correlation (reservoir and source rock units). Biostratigraphic analyses were applied to improve the lithostratigraphic sub-division of Tertiary and Upper Cretacous strata. Petrophysical analysis provided new porosity and permeability data for the Upper Rotliegend reservoir units.

The hydrodynamic analysis, which is reported in Verweij et al. (TNO report 034-UT-2010-01298/A) resulted in the characterisation of the pressure and fluid flow system, and maturity analysis on samples increased the quantitative knowledge on the present-day source rock maturities.1D, 2D and 3D basin modelling of the entire study area was used to highlight the relation between the 3D burial history of the basin and the history of important components of the petroleum system, such as the temperature and maturation history of its source rocks, timing of hydrocarbon generation.

3.1 Construction 3D geological model

3.1.1 Well log correlation

The gamma-ray, sonic and, if available also the neutron-density, logs were combined into a digital composite well log for each of the 48 selected wells. The composite logs of all 48 wells were loaded into the Petrel programme and lithostratigraphically (re-) interpreted on member level. The construction of 9 cross sections, some on group level allowed a detailed lithostratigraphic interpretation. Additional cross-sections were set up with a good spatial distribution to create a more regional view. The interpretation of the composite well logs resulted in a more detailed lithostratigraphic subdivision of the area. The new detailed stratigraphic information at well locations was incorporated in the interpretation of the seismic data. The thicknesses of the main reservoir units that were identified at well level were implemented in the grids of the 3D-depth model.

3.1.2 Seismic interpretation

The stratigraphic interpretation of the 3D seismic surveys was focussed on identification of the lower boundaries of the Upper North Sea Group, Lower North Sea Group, Chalk Group, Rijnland Group, Schieland Group, (the Altena Group is not present in this area), Upper and Lower Germanic Trias groups and the Zechstein Group. No separate reservoir units were seismically interpreted due to their limited thickness and/or distribution.

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For constructing the structural model the interpretation was focussed on identifying the major faults i.e. faults with large (vertical) offsets and faults that are important for the definition of the structural elements. The faults were labelled according to the lithostratigraphic groups which they offset, because such information is a prerequisite for the construction of the 3D model. The interpreted faults are stored a Fault Database (FDB), on which queries can be performed such that faults can be analysed and grouped according to several age, geographic or dimensional criteria. The lithostratigraphic interpretations of wells were converted to the time domain using available check shot data, and used to support the seismic interpretation.

3.1.3 3D time model

For the 3D-modeling and the time-depth conversion the program Petrel, version 2007, was used. The horizon and fault interpretations formed the base to construct the 3D-time model. The fault interpretations were converted to fault pillars, which were edited to fit the fault planes into the horizon interpretations.

The study area is characterised by numerous salt structures in the northwestern part. The faults above and below those structures are decoupled, leading to two independent fault systems. In the Petrel fault modeling module, modeled fault planes run throughout the entire model, which consequently can lead to crossing fault planes. Petrel uses the fault pillars to construct the 3D time model, which is the main input for the time-depth conversion, in which those crossing faults are not allowed. Therefore, one model was constructed for the faults displacing the base Zechstein and a second model with the faults not displacing the Zechstein as a result of salt movement. A complication in this work flow is that at many places the salt is completely absent. At those places several faults displace not only the Zechstein, but also the Triassic deposits. For this reason a third model was constructed with for faults displacing the Triassic sediments.

Time-depth conversion

The interpreted seismic data were converted from time to depth using a slightly modified version of the seismic velocity model of Van Dalfsen, et al. (2007). This model consists of V_0 -grids and a constant k for all groups except for the Zechstein, for which a V_{int} -grid was created based on borehole information from the entire Dutch on-and offshore. There are no velocity data available for the salt intrusions and therefore a constant halite velocity of 4450 m/s was assumed.

The depth surface at base Zechstein often showed a velocity pull-up under salt domes. These anomalies were clipped in the depth model, honouring the adjacent faults, resulting in a corrected base Zechstein and underlying formations. All depth surfaces were re-calculated to time grids. This procedure will be standard for all mapped areas, including the already published time grids for are 2A.

The nine depth surfaces corresponding to the bases of the major stratigraphic (sub-)groups were fitted together and, if needed slightly edited, to form the 3D-depth model. Finally the reservoir units which were derived from the wells were incorporated in the model.

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3.2 Assessment rock and fluid properties and conditions

3.2.1 Petrophysical analysis

In the study area the analysis of petrophysical parameters focussed on the Upper and Lower Slochteren Sandstone of the Upper Rotliegend Group. Porosity and permeability data were derived from core data and well log data (report 2008-U-R0605B). Seventeen wells – of which most has core data – were selected (Table 3.2.1).

ROSLL Well **ROSLU** m, TVDss m, MD m, TVDss m, MD 3832.92 3894.11 3761.67 3822.20 L04-07 3644.00 3705.00 3617.53 3678.37 3796.00 3871.34 3769.06 3844.03 L07-01 3912.00 3879.29 4097.52 4177.00 4064.61 4144.04 L07-04 3982.00 3949.22 3876.00 3954.75 3841.72 3920.27 4062.26 4130.00 4027.62 4095.15 L07-06 3952.53 4018.52 3925.02 3990.96 4139.99 4213.00 4112.38 4185.33 L08-01-S1 L08-P-01 4084.93 4145.93 4019.27 4070.97 4278.00 4346.00 4181.77 4239.84 4858.50 4934.00 4530.67 4602.33 L08-P-03 3851.50 3958.50 3818.69 3925.66 4003.00 4089.00 3970.14 4056.11 L10-01 3778.50 3885.00 3739.23 3845.32 3927.00 4017.50 3887.16 3977.32 L10-10 L10-A-01 3804.00 3948.00 3643.07 3781.05 3994.00 4073.00 3825.17 3900.97 3735.00 3774.50 3857.00 3741.47 3823.87 3594.00 3561.18 3702.01 L10-D-01-S1 L11B-A-01 3524.00 3604.00 3494.26 3574.25 3696.00 3758.00 3666.23 3728.22 2912.00 2996.00 2884.49 2968.26 3068.30 3120.30 3040.433 3092.38 L12-03 3260.00 3279.00 3220.06 3239.04 3430.00 3438.00 3389.92 3397.91 L12-05 3336.44 3180.68 3305.07 3364.00 3422.00 3332.67 3212.00 3390.67 L14-A-01 3090.00 3099.00 3056.99 2865.00 2989.00 2832.02 2956.00 3065.99 L15-01 2787.00 2904.00 2677.52 2792.16 M10-02

Table 3.2.1 Reservoir intervals in the analysed wells

The petrophysical analysis itself was executed in the program Interactive Petrophysics (IP). The composite logs and the petrophysical results (clay volume, porosity, saturation and permeability) were exported as curves and loaded into Petrel for property modeling. Interpretation of the gamma-ray logs was applied to assess the net-to-gross ratio of the reservoir units. A cutoff of 50% of the clay volume and a porosity cut-off 5% were applied.

Permeability data is calculated from the available core data. In other cases the permeability was calculated from the log porosity.

The results can be found in Annex G. The report can be downloaded from the <u>nlog site</u>.

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3.3 Construction 2D maps and cross-sections

The depth and thickness surfaces in Petrel are converted to 2D grids and imported into ArcGIS. Maps of the nine major stratigraphic units (Upper North Sea, Middle and Lower North Sea, Chalk, Rijnland, and Schieland groups, Upper and Lower Germanic Trias subgroups and the Zechstein Group) are presented here. Additionally, the depth and thickness maps of the Upper Rotliegend Group were constructed from well data. The reservoir units of the Lower Detfurth Sandstone and Lower Volpriehausen Sandstone members as well as the Upper and Lower Slochteren Sandstone Members were integrated in the 3D-model and are shown in the three cross sections. All maps and cross sections are provided in PDF format for presentation purposes (Annex B, C, F). Ascii-gridfiles (ZMAP- and ARCGIS-format) of the surfaces and ZMAP lines files of the faults can be downloaded from the nlog site. A composite model of the time horizons in NCP-2A, 2B and 2E is also available.

The reservoir units of the Lower Detfurth Sandstone and Lower Volpriehausen Sandstone members as well as the Upper and Lower Slochteren Sandstone members were integrated in the 3D-model and are shown in the three cross sections.

These structural cross sections of the major stratigraphic units (2 NE-SW and 1 W-E direction) are generated from the 3D model (Annex F). The cross sections are provided in PDF-format only.

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4 Present-day 'setting'

4.1 Geological framework

The dominant features of the present-day structural and geological framework are of Mesozoic origin: the Central Offshore Platform, the Noord-Holland Platform, which both were affected by Mid- and Late Jurassic uplift and subsequent erosion. The Vlieland Basin in the northeast has Upper Jurassic deposits overlain by Lower Cretaceous sediments. In the southeastern part of the study area the Texel-IJsselmeer High presents itself as a high up until the Late Jurassic Kimmerian phase. After this the high was covered by Cretaceous and Tertiary sediments with thicknesses comparable to the other structural elements.

The Cenozoic sedimentary fill of the Southern North Sea Basin covers the Mesozoic structural elements that rest on the Southern Permian Basin which in turn overlies the Variscan Basin. The associated tectono-stratigraphic sequences are separated by four major phases of tectonic activity and erosion (Annex F), namely the Saalian, Tubantian, Mid-Kimmerian and Subhercynian/Laramide tectonic phases.

4.1.1 Structural framework

The structural framework of the area is outlined by major boundary fault zones that delimit the Texel-IJsselmeer High and the Vlieland Basin and outline the transition with the Central Offshore Platform. Fault-associated salt structures (walls and domes) predominantly occur on the Central Offshore Platform.

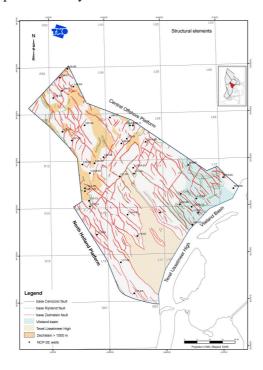


Figure 4.1.1 Main structural elements (see also Annex D)

The major boundary fault zones that are interpreted from seismic data include (Annex E, Figure 4.1.1)

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a NW-SE trending boundary fault zone between Texel-IJsselmeer High and the Vlieland Basin.

a NW-SE trending boundary fault zone between Texel-IJsselmeer High and the North Holland Platform.

a NE-SW trending boundary fault zone between Texel-IJsselmeer High and the Central Offshore Platform.

Next to these, throughout the area a large number of shorter, NNE- to N-trending faults show an oblique interrelationship with the NW-SE-trending faults; together these fault groups define oblique rift geometries.

Faults

A total of 404 interpreted faults are stored in the FDB and are grouped according their activity during one or more of the three major (post Saalian) phases of tectonic activity and erosion, namely the, Tubantian, Mid-Kimmerian and Subhercynian/Laramide tectonic phases. Fault groups are listed in Table 4.1.1 and explained in Figure 4.1.2.

Table 4.1.1 Fault groups

Subgroup		Base unit	Top unit	Remark
1) Tubantian		PreZE or	ZE	Faults that terminate upward in
		RO or ZE		ZE salt (where salt is thick).
				Might also include reactivated
				faults from the Saalian tectonic
				phase ¹
	2) Pre	ZE or RB	KN or CK	(Normal) faults that detach in ZE
Post Zechstein faults	Subhercynian/			(or RB) or RN salt and active
	Laramide			during the Kimmerian phases and
	(soft- +			that may have experienced
	unlinked faults)			inversion.
	3) Hard-linked	PreZE or	All units	Faults originating below salt (as
	faults	RO or ZE	above ZE	group 1) but also affecting
	Tubantian -			youngest units (where salt is thin
	subRecent			or absent) and show multiple
				reactivation.
	4) Post	CK	NU or N	Faults after inversion,
	Laramide			predominantly affecting Noordzee
				Group and Cretaceous, un- or
				poorly related to salt tectonics

¹note that stratigraphy below the Zechtstein Group was not interpreted, but that numerous faults cross-cut Carboniferous and Permian (Upper Rotliegend Group) units.

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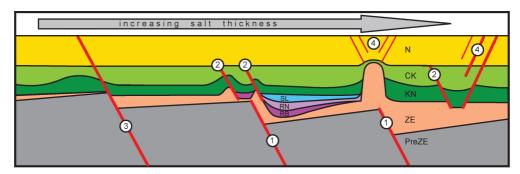


Figure 4.1.2 Identified fault groups of Area 2E (as listed in Table 4.1.1) and their relation with salt thickness. Stratigraphic abbreviations (from old to young): PreZE = pre Zechstein Group, ZE = Zechstein Group, Z

Group 1 – Tubantian faults

Description

This group includes faults that originated in pre Zechstein or Zechstein time and show differences in thickness distribution of the Zechstein anhydrite and salt. Faults terminate upward in the Zechstein salt. The faults occur throughout the entire area and represent long and branching NW-SE trending fault zone delimiting tilt-block (half)graben basins below the Zechstein salt. At the TIJH and the COP the NW-SE faults show a enechelon arrangement with NNW-trending faults that together form small pull-apart type basins (oblique rifts) where Zechstein deposits are thickly preserved. In the Vlieland Basin such oblique rifts are absent. Instead, here the NE-SW faults, together with NE-trending faults form an orthogonal fault pattern. Both types of cross-cut relations exist. The NE-SW-trending faults also demarcate the transition with the Central Offshore Platform.

In the absence of recognisable fault offsets above the Zechstein formation (e.g. Rotliegend) it is assumed that main fault activity was contemporaneous with Zechstein deposition, i.e. during the Tubantian tectonic phase 1 (Geluk, 1999). Reactivation features associated with these faults are not observed.

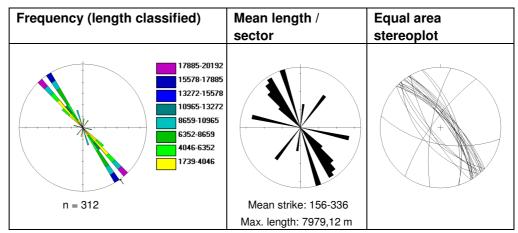


Figure 4.1.3. Group 1 fault statistics

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Group 2 - Pre Subhercynian/ Laramide faults

Faults belonging to this group occur throughout the entire area, are relatively short and predominantly NW-SE trending. Especially in the NW part of the area some NE-SW trending faults follow the grain of the major salt walls All faults are bracketed between the Zechstein Group and the Noordzee Group. They affect and cut the Triassic Jurassic and Cretaceous stratigraphy and and therefore may have experienced a long period of activity and reactivation from Triassic till Cretaceous time. The larger faults of this group detach in the Zechstein salt that acted as a major decollement. Mostly, these faults are located above or in close vicinity of subsalt faults and are referred to as soft-linked faults. If no correlation exists, faults are inferred to be unlinked. Some smaller faults terminate in Lower Triassic Röt salt. Where associated with folds and pop-up structures these faults may have been reactivated as (minor) reverse slip faults sense.

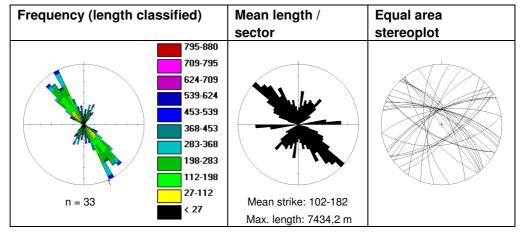


Figure 4.1.4. Group 2 fault statistics

Group 3 - Tubantian - subRecent hard-linked faults

Faults in this group originate in pre-Zechstein or Zechstein time and relate to pronounced differences in thickness distribution of Zechstein anhydrite and salt. Faults cut most of the units above the Zechstein Group and may even affect the Noordzee Group. These faults constitute a broad NW-SE trending fault zone at the transition between the Texel IJsselmeer High and the Vlieland Basin. In the latter structure the distribution of Triassic and Upper Jurassic units is influenced by these faults. Longest faults follow this NW-SE trend. Some shorter NE-SW-trending fault segments delineate the northernmost extension of the Texel IJsselmeer High and form the transition with the Central Offshore Platform. In the absence of recognizable fault offsets below the Zechstein formation (e.g. Rotliegend) it is assumed that main fault activity was contemporaneous with Zechstein deposition, i.e. during the Tubantian tectonic phases 1 (and maybe 2). Later reactivation occurred during Triassic and Jurassic (Kimmerian) rifting phases and a small number of faults are utilized during inversion.

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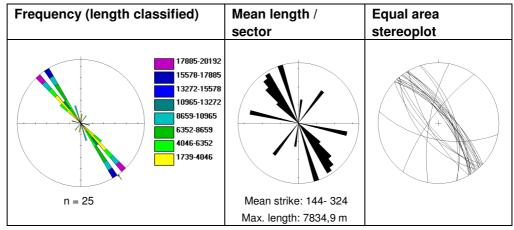


Figure 4.1.5. Group 3 fault statistics

Group 4 - Post Laramide faults

This group includes faults that almost exclusively occur in association with salt domes, but which are not affected by Subhercynian inversion tectonics. The relatively short faults are rather randomly distributed and most of them detach on the Cretaceous-Tertiary unconformity or terminate in the Upper Cretaceaous Chalk Group. A large number of smaller NE-SW trending conjugate normal faults within the Lower North Sea Group (not interpreted) belong to this group as well. These particular faults detach on the Mid-Miocene Unconformity and are not associated with salt domes.

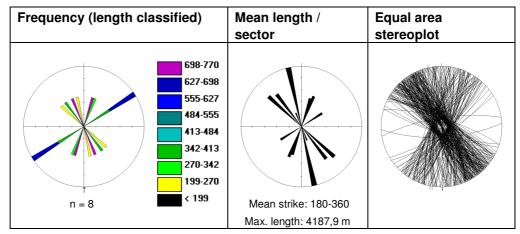


Figure 4.1.6. Group 4 fault statistics

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Interpretation and Age

The Zechstein salt acts as a major detachment zone because of its great thickness and visco-plastic behaviour and often separates sub-salt fault systems (Group 1) from the faults in the overburden (soft-linked fault systems). Instead, Group 3 represents deep reaching (hard-linked) basin boundary faults that occur mainly were on either side of the fault is thin or absence. It is likely that the Group 3 faults are already established in the Early Permian and rejuvenated later. Thickness changes in the Zechtstein Z1 Formation are related to formation of tilt-block (half) grabens during the Tubantian 1 tectonic phase (Geluk, 1999). This might be due to erosion of fault blocks that are uplifted during Tubantian 1 tilt-block faulting. These blocks are covered by the Zechstein Upper Claystone Member and fault activity can thus be confined to the Late Permian period. Complete absence/removal of the Zechstein Group can also be related to the Hardegsen Unconformity that represents a younger Early Triassic erosion phase. Post Zechstein tectonic activity is driven by basement faulting and salt deformation and resulted in new formation of (Group 2) faults in the Zechstein overburden or reactivation of the Group 3 faults. Reactivation of Group 1 faults and formation of new faults below base Zechstein is probable during the post-Zechstein tectonic phases, although evidence is absent.

The NW-SE to NNW-SSE-trending faults of Group 2 represent soft- and unlinked faults that were initiated as dip slip normal (or oblique) faults during the early Kimmerian ~E-W extensional phase (Late Triassic) that split up the Southern Permian Basin. Mid-Kimmerian (Middle - Late Jurassic) thermal uplift of the Central North Sea Dome and related rifting led to removal of the Lower Jurassic sequence. Subsequently, contemporaneous activity of NW-SE and NE-SW oblique slip faults during the Late Kimmerian phases (Late Jurassic) can be explained by a trans-tensional stress field (Wong, 2007).

Fault offsets recognised in the post-Zechstein sequence are mainly related to active salt deformation during the Cenozoic. The close relationship between fault intersections in the basement and geometry of salt structures (Remmelts, 1996) suggests a genetic link. From Early Triassic onward, mobilization of Zechstein salt triggered by basement faulting was the main driving mechanism for generation of fault-block tilting and soft-linked faulting in the post Zechstein cover. These subsidiary faults delineate the salt domes and walls in the northwestern sector. The occurrence of scattered unlinked faults in the post Zechstein units can be regarded subordinate to salt flow and -withdrawal. Minor reverse faults in the overburden occur in the northwestern part of the area and are associated with 7-10 km scale open folds. Reactivation as minor reverse faults occurred during the Subhercynian phase (Late Cretaceous) in a transpressional stress field (tectonic inversion). The compressive stresses acting on the sub salt basement led to tectonic inversion of existing structures and enhanced salt flow.

The youngest faults in the area belong to Group 4 and are related to a youngest phase of salt flow after tectonic inversion. These salt structures remained active during the Late Tertiary until recent times. The smaller conjugate sets of NE-SW faults below the Mid Miocene Unconformity might be related to a Late Paleocene - Eocene extension phase associated with development of the North Sea Rift System (de Lugt et al., 2003; Wong et al., 2007).

Salt structures

Salt deposits occur in the Late Permian Zechstein Group and in the Triassic Röt, Muschelkalk and Keuper formations. The presence of Zechstein salts greatly influenced the post-Permian structural and sedimentary development of the area. The original estimated depositional thickness of the Zechstein Group was 650 m (ZE1 to ZE4 formations), a thickness extrapolated from wells in undisturbed areas, like Uithuizermeeden-01 (Van Adrichem Boogaert & Kouwe, 1992-1997) while its present-day thickness varies from approximately 5000 m to only a few metres in withdrawal

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areas. The larger part of the area is regarded as a salt depletion area, where salt has moved away laterally and vertically into salt structures, which predominantly occur in the northwestern part of the area. Identified salt structures include salt pillows, salt walls and diapirs and salt tongues, with greatly varying dimensions (length between 5-30 km, width up to 8 km, height up to 5 km).

Timing of salt movement is related to phases of active fault movement (see also Remmelts 2006). Halokinesis started already in the Early and Middle Triassic during differentiation of the Texel Ijsselmeer High. The salt movement during the Late Triassic occurred mainly on the Central Offshore Platform where salt thickness due to positive salt flow was greatest. A subsequent major phase of salt movement took place during the Late Jurassic and resulted in piercing of many of the salt structures and furthered compartmentalisation of the Vlieland Basin. A Late Cretaceous-Early Tertiary phase of reactivation of the salt structures led to formation of salt pillows underneath most folds throughout the area.

4.1.2 Stratigraphy

The well logs of 48 selected wells were loaded into Petrel and lithostratigraphically (re-) interpreted on member level. For this purpose several correlation panels have been constructed, some on group level to facilitate detailed interpretation. Others were set up with a spatial distribution to create a more regional view. A tectono-stratigraphic chart for this specific area was constructed (Annex E, Figure 4.1.11). Furthermore, other sources such as biostratigraphy, core descriptions, consultancy reports and specific literature have been used to enhance and improve the litho- stratigraphic interpretation. The main characteristics of the stratigraphic buildup is described per stratigraphic group. Annex B and C present the depth and thickness maps of the groups.

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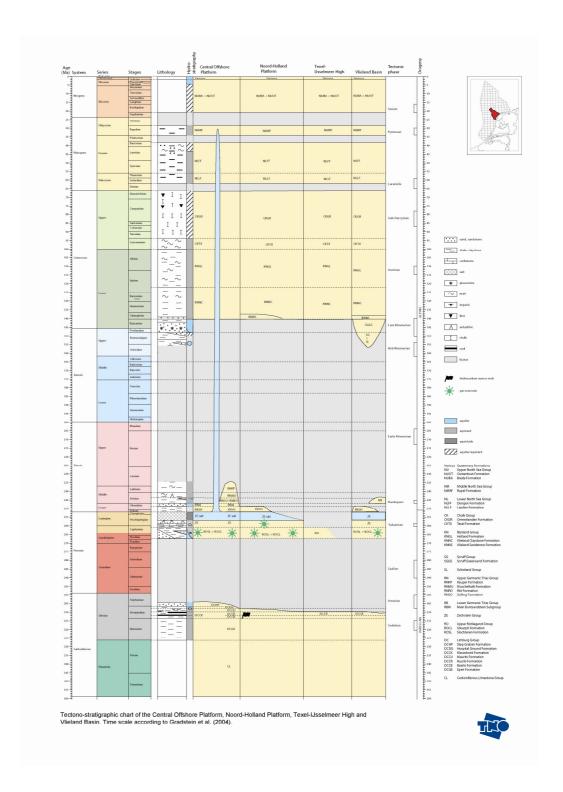


Figure 4.1.7 Tectono-stratigraphic chart of the Dutch Central Graben and Terschelling Basin (see also Annex E).

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Limburg Group

About 45 of the newly interpreted wells reached the Limburg Group. The burial depth of the top of the Limburg Group increases from SE towards NW and reaches depths between 3000 and greater than 5000 m. The base of the Limburg Group is assumed to be at depths of 6-7 km (pers. comm. H. Kombrink). Most information on the lithostratigraphy of this group was deduced from regional mapping studies.

The sediments of the Limburg Group were deposited during the Silesian in an E-W oriented flexural foreland basin. This basin formed under the influence of the northward migrating Variscan thrust front and is bounded by the London Brabant Massif to the south and the Mid North Sea – Ringkøbing-Fyn High to the north (Van Buggenum and Den Hartog Jager 2007; Ziegler 1990).

At the largest scale, the Limburg Group shows an overall regressive cycle associated with the filling of the Variscan foredeep basin. The lower part is defined by the largely marine claystones of the Geul subgroup (Namurian to Earliest Westphalian A). On top of that are the Caumer, Dinkel and Hunze subgroups which show a transition towards more continental and finally arid conditions. The Caumer subgroup (Namurian B – Westphalian C) marks the onset of peat (coal) deposition in a deltaplain / swamp environment. In this subgroup the Klaverbank Formation represents the proximal, coarser-grained fluvial and deltaic sandstones, whereas the Baarlo and Ruurlo formations comprise the more distal delta fines, including coal layers. The Maurits Formation of the Caumer subgroup represents the lacustrine and floodplain fines with prolific coal formation. The transition to more fluvial conditions during the Westphalian C/D resulted in the deposition of the sandstone dominated Dinkel subgroup (Hospital Ground Formation). Finally the conditions become arid with the occurrence of red beds in the Hunze subgroup (Step Graben Formation).

The Asturian tectonic phase (Westphalian C/D to Stephanian) resulted in differential movements. The Carboniferous deposits underwent strong uplift and subsequent erosion during the Saalian thermal uplift (Early to Middle Permian) the effect of which is displayed in the Pre-Permian subcrop map (Figure 4.1.8). In the SE the Ruurlo Fm subcrops under the overlying Upper Rotliegend and to the NW the younger deposits of the Step Graben Formation have been preserved.



Figure 4.1.8 Top Carboniferous (based on Mijnlieff 2002)

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Upper Rotliegend Group

In the mapped area the Rotliegend sandstones are the main target for hydrocarbons. Therefore most wells penetrate the Upper Rotliegend Group. The Saalian Unconformity separates the sediments of the Upper Rotliegend Group from the Limburg Group. The hiatus spans some 50 Ma in the study area.

Following the Saalian phase of uplift and erosion, clastic deposition in the Netherlands started in the latest Middle Permian and lasted until the earliest Late Permian. Sediments were deposited under arid conditions into a large E-W trending complex of continental sedimentary basins known as the Southern Permian Basin and stretching from the British Isles into Poland. The Dutch on- and offshore primarily received their sediments from the Variscan mountain belt to the south.

The Upper Rotliegend Group is subdivided into the Slochteren Formation comprising mainly fluvial and eolian sandstones and conglomerates, and the further to the north the Silverpit Formation which is composed of claystones, siltstones and evaporites deposited in a playa / lake environment. Both formations are each other's lateral equivalent.

The study area is located in the transition zone between both formations and the deposits in the northern part mainly comprise the fine grained sediments of the Silverpit Formation with the basal sand of the Lower Slochteren Member. In the central part of the area the occurrences of the Upper and Lower Slochteren members were encountered. Along the southern margin (L17) only the sandy deposits of the Slochteren Formation are present (see Annex F).

Figure 4.1.9 shows that the thickness of the Upper Rotliegend Group increases in northwesternly direction towards the centre of the Southern Permian Basin.

The Upper Rotliegend is conformably overlain by Late Permian marine carbonates and evaporites of the Zechstein Group.

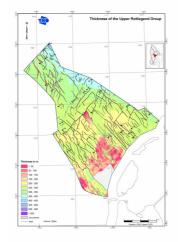


Figure 4.1.9 Thickness of the Upper Rotliegend Group

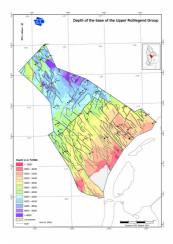


Figure 4.1.10 Depth base of the Upper Rotliegend Group

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Zechstein Group

The Zechstein Group deposits result from a series of marine transgressions into the Southern Permian Basin, each transgression followed by an evaporation phase. The Zechstein Group consists of four to five evaporite cycles. The Zechstein Upper Claystone Formation covers these cycles unconformably. In the northwestern part of the mapped area only the Z1 Formation has its regular succession. Most of the Z2, Z3 and Z4 cycles have been deformed by halokinese. In the central part much of the Zechstein has been removed by later erosion. In the southeastern part, on and around the Texel-IJsselmeer High the Zechstein deposits are thin or have been completely eroded (Annex B and C).

The Z1 cycle is composed of the Kupferschiefer, a thin organic-rich shale at the base, followed by the Z1 Carbonates Member and the Werra Anhydrite. The Z2 consists of a basal carbonate followed by anhydrite and salt. Z3 and Z4 cycles are deposited with claystone and/or carbonate at the base, followed by the deposition of anhydrite and salt and sometimes overlain by a roof anhydrite. In the northwestern part of the mapped area their internal succession is deformed by salt movements. The various members are concentrated in deformed state in the salt domes and salt walls. In between the salt structures the sequences are squeezed out. The Zechstein Upper Claystone Member is generally present between salt structures and absent above the structures.

In the northwestern area the present-day thickness is affected by salt deformation and varies from approximately 3000 m to only a few metres in withdrawal areas (Figure 4.1.11). In the area around the Texel-IJsselmeer High the thickness of the Zechstein Group is generally between 100 and 200 m. The burial depth of the base of the Zechstein Group increases from less than 3000 m in the Vlieland Basin to more than 4000 m in the northwestern part (Figure 4.1.12).

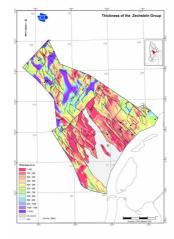


Figure 4.1.11 Thickness of the Zechstein Group

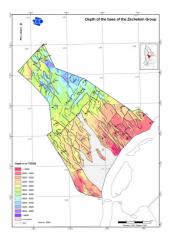


Figure 4.1.12 Depth base Zechstein Group

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Lower and Upper Germanic Trias groups

After the deposition of the Zechstein Group the sedimentation of the Triassic rocks took place in a similar basinal setting but under continental conditions during Early Triassic times. The depositional environment in the mapped area is interpretated as lake to lakemargin (Geluk, 2007a). Restricted marine conditions returned during Middle and Late Triassic times.

Two major groups of sediments are recognised in the Triassic rocks: the Lower and Upper Germanic Trias groups. The boundary between these two groups is formed by the Hardegsen or base Solling Unconformity.

The Lower Germanic Trias Group (Indian to Olenekian age) is mainly a clastic succession. It consists of fine-grained siliclastic deposits with oolite intercalations in the lower part of the succession and more sandbodies alternating with claystones and siltstones in the higher parts of the succession. It is subdivided from bottom to top in the Main Claystone, the Rogenstein, the Volpriehausen, Detfurth and Hardegsen formations.

The Lower Germanic Trias Group is present in the northwestern part of the area and (as a very thin erosional remnant) in the Vlieland Basin. The most complete succession can be found in between salt structures.

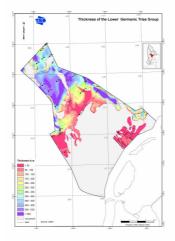


Figure 4.1.13 Thickness of the Lower Germanic Trias Group

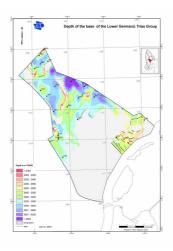


Figure 4.1.14 Depth base Lower Germanic Trias Group

The Upper Germanic Trias Group (Anisian – Norian age) consists of 4 formations: the Solling, Röt, Muschelkalk and Keuper formations. The sediments were deposited under continental to restricted marine conditions. All formations are present in the mapped area

The Solling Formation consists of fine-grained silt- and claystones often with a thin sandstone unit at the base. The Röt Formation has at its base a halite sequence followed by silt- and claystones often with anhydrite layers.

The present-day distribution of the sediments of Muschelkalk and Keuper formations is restricted to rim-synclines in between salt domes. Erosional remnants of the

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Muschelkalk Formation are also present in the Vlieland Basin. The sediments of the Muschelkalk and Keuper formations consist of halite, anhydrite, some carbonates and silt- and claystones.

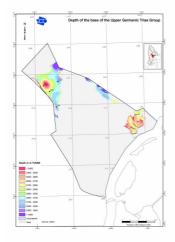


Figure 4.1.15 Thickness of the Upper Germanic Trias Group

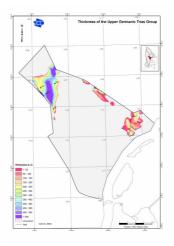


Figure 4.1.16 Depth base Upper Germanic Trias Group

Altena and Schieland groups

The present-day distribution of the Altena Group lies outside the mapped area and is discarded. The Upper Jurassic Schieland Group is only present in the Vlieland Basin. The depositional environment varies from continental to restricted marine.

After the Early Kimmerian phase the structuration of the area changed from having a position in the Southern Permian Basin into fault bounded basins and highs. Early in the Middle Jurassic the thermal Central North Sea Dome developed, resulting in the Mid-Kimmerian uplift. In the mapped area these movements caused deep erosion and complete removal of the Lower to Middle Jurassic sediments.

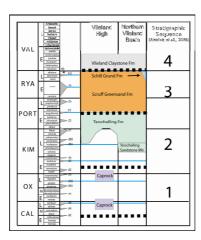
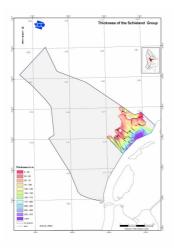


Figure 4.1.17 Tectono-stratigraphic diagram for the Schieland Group on the Vlieland High and in the northern Vlieland Basin.

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The Upper Jurassic sediments were deposited in the Vlieland Basin. Biostratigraphic study (internal TNO report 2006-U-R0049/B) shows that probably all three tectonostratigraphic sequences (viz. Abbink et al. 2006) are present in this area. The sediments of tectono-sequence 1 have been found in well L12-05 as "caprock" on a salt dome. Their age is Early-Oxfordian - Early Kimmeridgian and they can be interpretated as Rifgronden Member and Friese Front Formation. In well L12-03 and L15-03 the Terschelling Formation and the Scruff Greensand Formation have been encountered, which can be placed in respectively tectono-sequence 2 and 3. The greatest thickness of the "Upper- Jurassic" sediments in the Vlieland Basin is 178 m and the depth of the base of the Schieland Group lies in between 2400 and 2850 m.



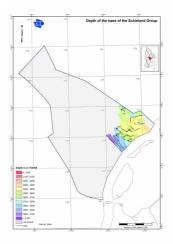


Figure 4.1.18 Thickness of the Schieland Group

Figure 4.1.19 Depth base Schieland Group

Rijnland and Chalk groups

The Rijnland Group is deposited in the entire 2E area. The greatest depths can be found in between saltdomes and on the platform area NW of the Texel-IJsselmeer High. The greatest thicknesses occur along the flanks of salt domes and walls, indicating that the salt movements partly controlled the sedimentation.

The Chalk Group in its present-day setting shows the greatest depth and thicknesses on the former platforms, such as Central Offshore Platform, Noord-Holland Platform and even on the NW extension of the Texel-IJsselmeer High.

After the Kimmerian rifting phases a period with regional subsidence commenced. In the Early Cretaceous sedimentation took place not only in the former basins but also on platforms and highs due to global sea-level rise. This overall transgression resulted in area 2E for a large succession of mainly clay- and siltstones. During Aptian times deeper marine conditions dominated and calcareous claystones were deposited. In the Late Cretaceous the hinterland had been flooded almost completely and hardly any clastic influx occurred in the deposition of limestones and chalk.

The Vlieland Claystone Formation of the Rijnland Group comprises fine-grained sediments like clay- and siltstones. In the 2E area the top of the Vlieland Claystone is calcareous and if very pronounced, this interval can be placed in the Vlieland Marl Member. The Vlieland Claystone Formation has an average thickness of 200 m.

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At the base of the sequence the Friesland Sandstone Member of the Rijnland Group has has a distribution in the Vlieland Basin and in the southern part of the 2E area on the Noord-Holland Platform. The thickness of the Friesland Sandstone Member is average 20 to 50 m. The Holland Formation is represented by the Lower and Upper Holland Marl members separated by the Middle Holland Claystone Member and can be found in the entire area.

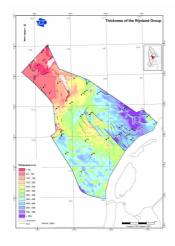
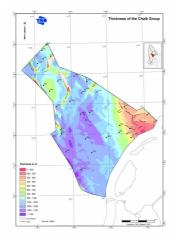


Figure 4.1.20 Thickness of the Rijnland Group

Figure 4.1.21 Depth base Rijnland Group

The Chalk Group is present with the Ekofisk, Ommelanden, Plenus and Texel formations. The deposits consist of a thick succession of carbonate rocks. The bulk of the group comprises bioclastic limestones and marly limestones. Originally, these limestones had a more chalky nature, but as a result of deep burial they were compacted strongly and became denser. Chert concretions are particularly present at the top. Chalk Group can reach thicknesses of over 1500 m in the southern part of the area. In Vlieland Basin early pulses leading to the Subhercynian erosion phase resulted in erosion and non-deposition in the Turonian and Santonian (Van der Molen , 2004). Thicknesses average from 100 to 400 m in the central part of the basin.





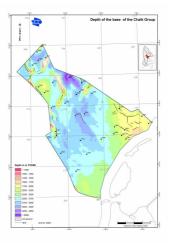


Figure 4.1.23 Depth base Chalk Group

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Lower, Middle and Upper North Sea groups

The Lower, Middle and Upper North Sea groups are present in the entire area. The deposits of the Lower, Middle and Upper North Sea Group have their greatest thickness in the northwest. Salt movement greatly influenced the depositional thickness of the Lower and Middle North Sea groups, while the base of the Upper North Sea Group is only on top of the salt domes. The depth of the base of the Lower and Middle North Sea groups increases from south with depths at 800 m to the north with depths greater than 1600 m. In the rim-synclines the base can be found at depths greater than 2000 m. The Upper North Se Group shows the same variation with depths from 300 – 800 m from south to north and depths less than 350 m over salt domes.

After the Mesozoic rifting phases and the Subhercynian and Laramide inversion phases the siliclastic sediments of the Lower, Middle and Upper North Sea groups were deposited in a large rapidly subsiding epicontinental basin, the North Sea Basin, which formed after the movements of the Laramide tectonic phase by thermal relaxation, isostatic adjustment and sea level rise. In the mapped area the sediments were deposited in a marine environment. The present-day deposits of the North Sea Supergroup have been effected by salt movements.

The North Sea Super Group consists of three groups, viz. the Lower, Middle and Upper North Sea Group. The Lower North Sea Group is divided into the Landen and Dongen formations. At the base of the Dongen Formation a mixture of clay, silt and volcanic ash form the Basal Dongen tuffite. The Lower North Sea Group consists mosly of clay(stone) with a marly deposits in the Brussels Marl Member. The Middle North Sea Group consists of clay(-stone) of the Rupel Formation. Sandy deposits prevail in the Upper North Sea Group. The overlying Quaternary deposits are incorporated in the Upper North Sea Group.

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Figure 4.1.24 Thickness of the Lower and Middle North Sea groups

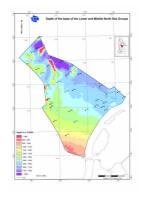


Figure 4.1.25 Depth base Lower North Sea Group

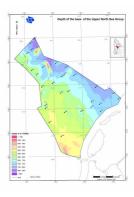


Figure 4.1.26 Depth base Upper North Sea Group

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6 Appendices

6.1 List of wells

SHORT_NAME	X_UTM31	Y_UTM_31	TD	OPERATOR	END_DATE
L04-01	570877	5956460	3991	PET	31-8-1974
L04-03	567473	5953668	3830	PET	21-2-1981
L04-04	575390	5958169	3975	PET	3-2-1985
L04-05	583844	5960545	4155	NAM	30-5-1992
L04-06	573062	5965151	4335	PET	2-8-1994
L04-07	570132	5961694	4124	PET	22-11-1995
L07-01	571092	5940328	3934	PET	28-6-1971
L07-04	579792	5942872	4182	PET	23-12-1973
L07-05	572355	5932054	3886	PET	3-3-1974
L07-06	587298	5930269	4150	PET	3-8-1974
L07-08	574795	5936886	4060	PET	30-7-1975
L08-01	596436	5937585	4229	PEN	12-7-1972
L08-02	594273	5935702	4307	PEN	31-12-1973
L08-03	597701	5942833	4429	PEN	21-3-1974
L08-07	589791	5945953	4700	AMC	26-8-1985
L08-H-01	603857	5936333	4250	PEN	7-2-1986
L08-P-01	603399	5944828	4450	WIN	12-4-1992
L08-P-03	603399	5944828	5075	WIN	27-11-1995
L09-01	614266	5935405	3856,7	PHL	22-6-1973
L10-01	578922	5927393	4122	PLA	22-2-1970
L10-06	576648	5922552	4119	PLA	8-3-1972
L10-13	581601	5913123	3967,6	PLA	17-9-1973
L10-14	581938	5910832	3814	PLA	16-3-1974
L10-C-01	579955	5916888	3909	PLA	3-8-1974
L11-02	593624	5922712	3993	PLA	12-7-1974
L11-04	599285	5923844	3745	PLA	14-8-1978
L11-05	603586	5920415	3619	CHE	1-10-1978
L11-A-01	591726	5910705	3642	PLA	9-10-1984
L12-01	617692	5915850	3451	SIG	20-1-1969
L12-02	617306	5911682	3276	NAM	2-5-1976
L12-03	623808	5913999	3150	NAM	11-7-1979
L12-05	620604	5927230	3708	NAM	1-2-1988
L13-02	578536	5903211	3635	NAM	1-11-1975
L13-03	568565	5903503	3435	NAM	9-11-1976
L13-09	584713	5899735	3739	NAM	5-5-1986
L14-02	600611	5899172	3366,5	PLA	21-10-1976
L14-05	609503	5908422	3517	PLA	8-2-1985
L14-A-01	596744	5907624	3438,1	PLA	1-11-1975
L15-01	624602	5908457	3202	NAM	16-7-1978
L15-FA-101	622023	5910693	3143	NAM	30-4-1980
L16-01	579593	5881506	3695	PET	1-3-1973
L16-12	579122	5890647	3525	CON	16-12-1991

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SHORT_NAME	X_UTM31	Y_UTM_31	TD	OPERATOR	END_DATE
L17-01	590107	5879293	3332	CHE	9-10-1976
L17-02	594101	5888776	3300	CHE	14-7-1979
L17-03	599384	5876567	3299,3	ARC	14-12-1988
M10-02	638409	5918069	3070	NAM	31-1-1982
M10-04	634423	5922386	3873	PLA	15-12-1988
Q02-01	600906	5857531	2817	AMC	31-7-1987
Q02-02	600752	5865596	3573	PLA	6-8-1989
Q02-03	600073	5860891	3588	PLA	19-9-1991

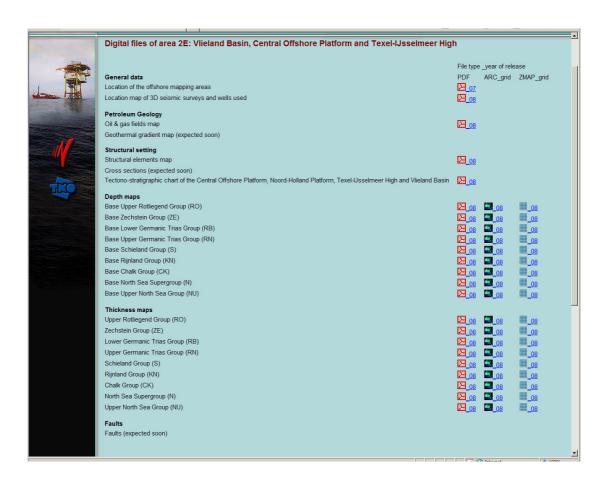
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6.2 List of 3D seismic surveys

Block	Survey code TNO
L11,L12,M10,L14,L15	Z3NAM1988A
L09,L08	Z3NAM1988D
L04,L05	Z3NAM1990B
L13	Z3NAM1991F
L08	Z3PEN1985A
K03,K06,L01,L04,L05,K09,L07,L08,L10	Z3PET1992A
L10	Z3PLA1989C
L07,L08,L10,L11	Z3PLA1991D
L10,L11,L13,L14,L16,L17	Z3PLA1992B
L11	Z3UNC1987A
L08,L07	Z3WIN1995A

For the location of the 2D seismic lines see Appendix A

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- H. Reservoir thickness (H1-H5)
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8 Signature

Utrecht, August 2010

TNO Built Environment and Geosciences

J.C. Doornenbal Head of Department N. Witmans Author

5°0'0"E

Projection UTM3, Ellipsoid ED50

5°0'0"E

4°40'0"E

800 - 850

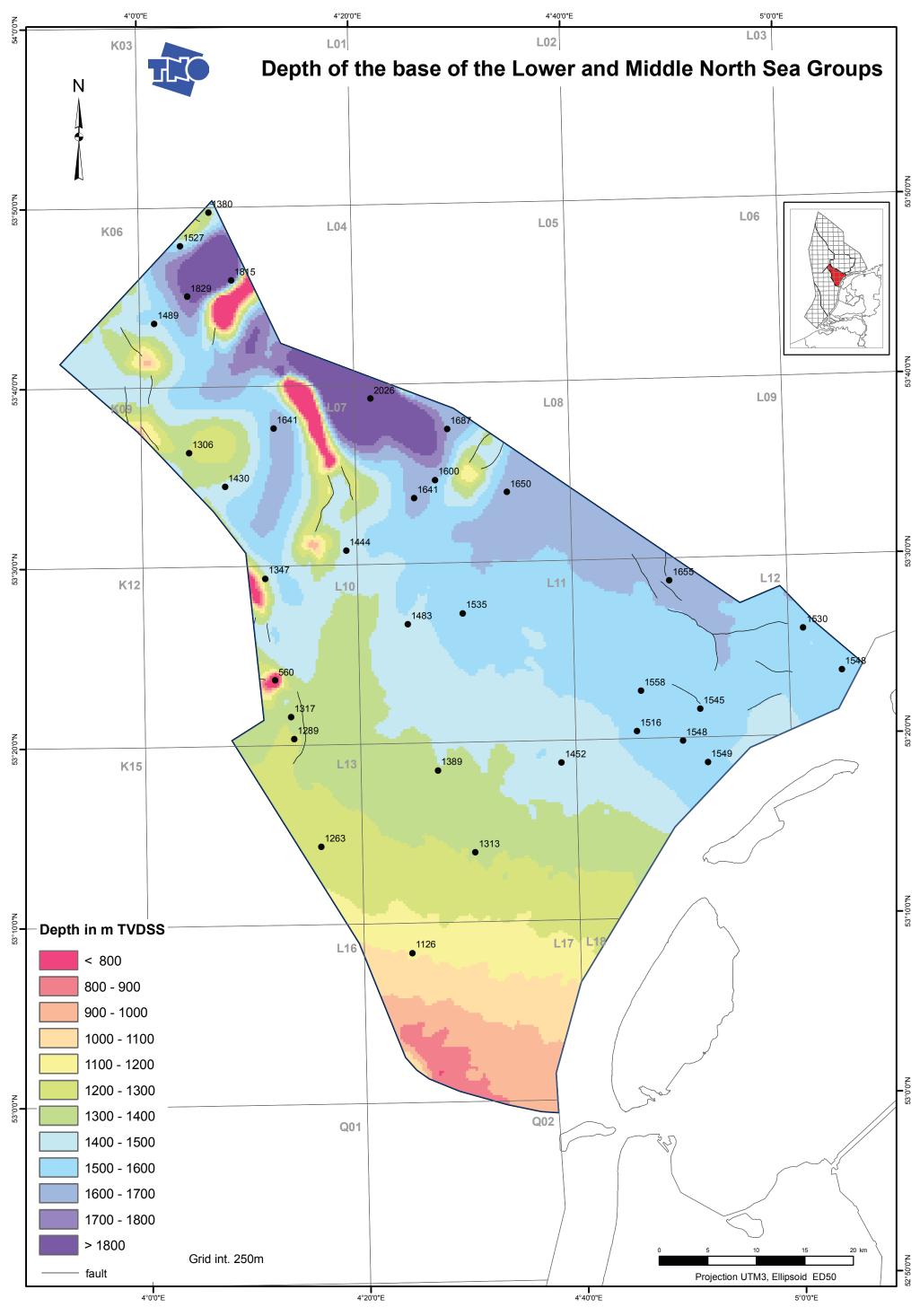
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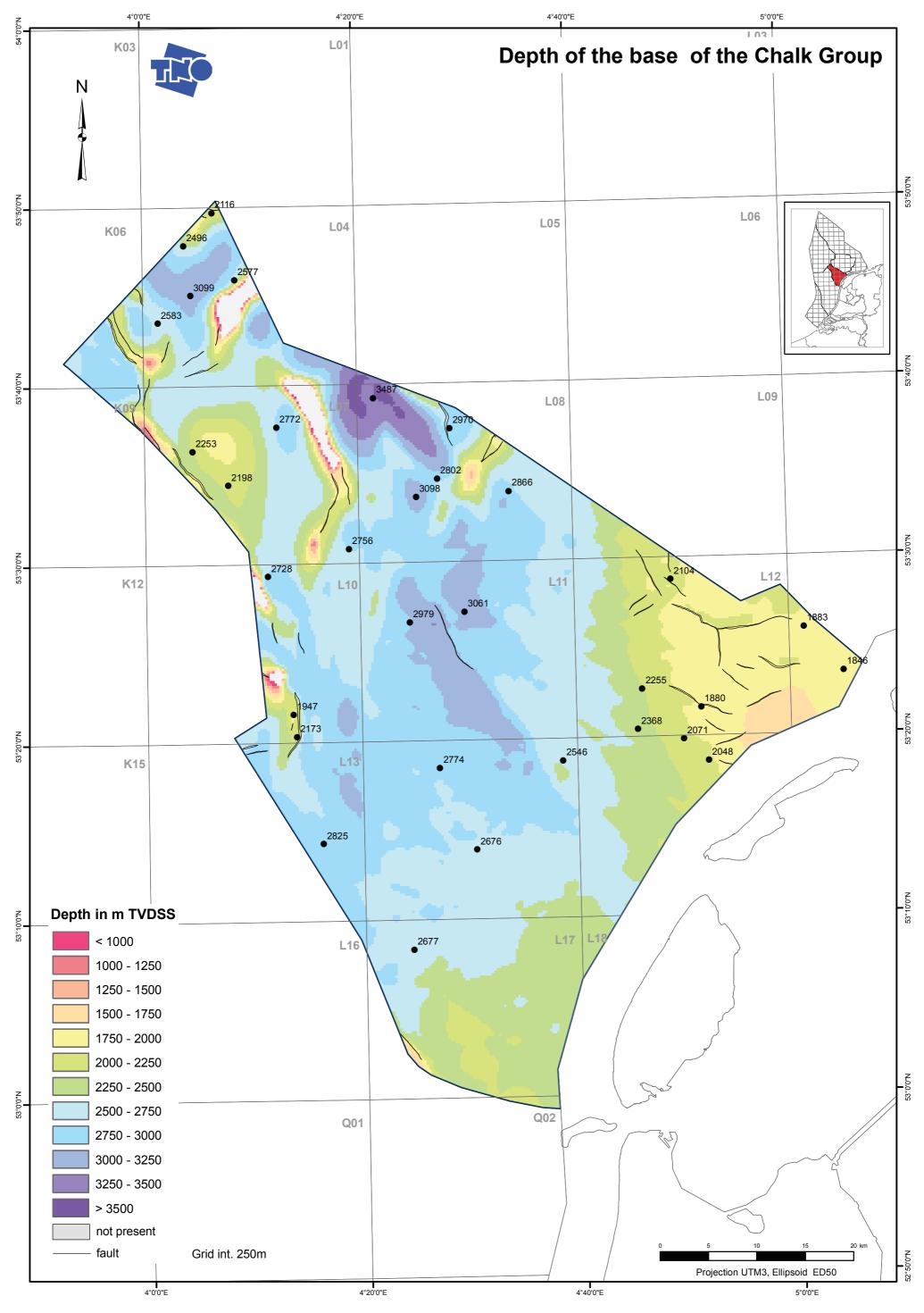
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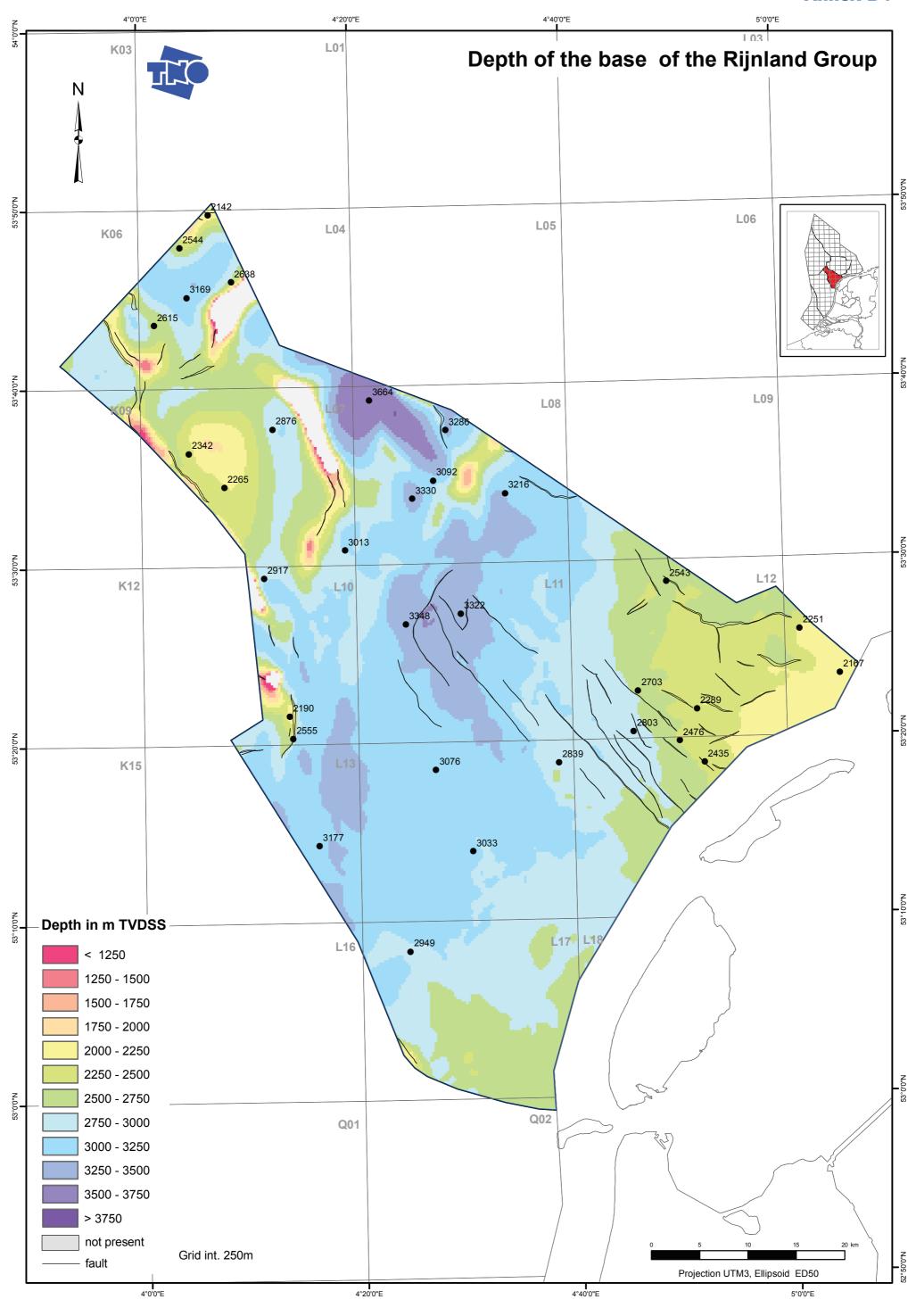
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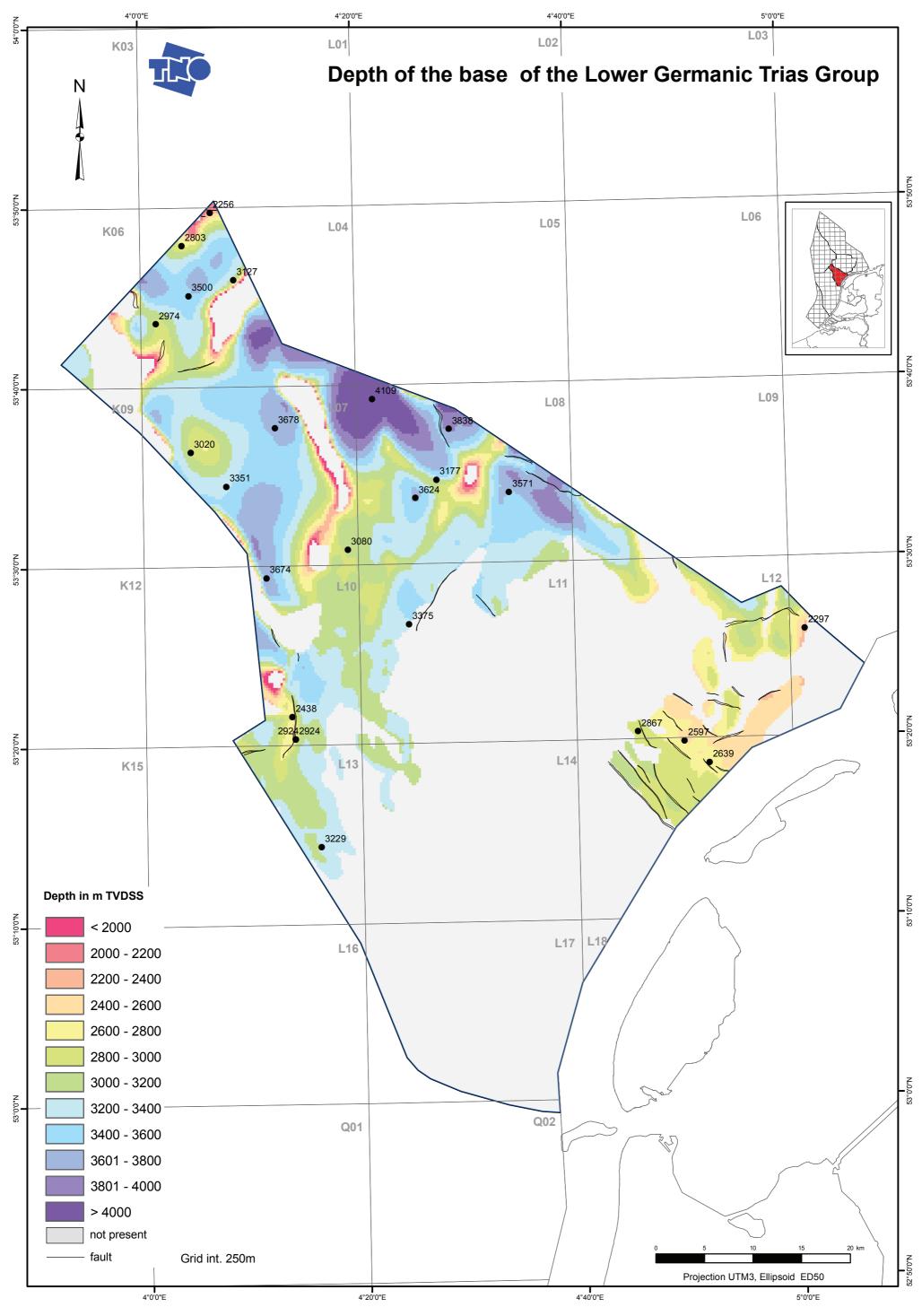
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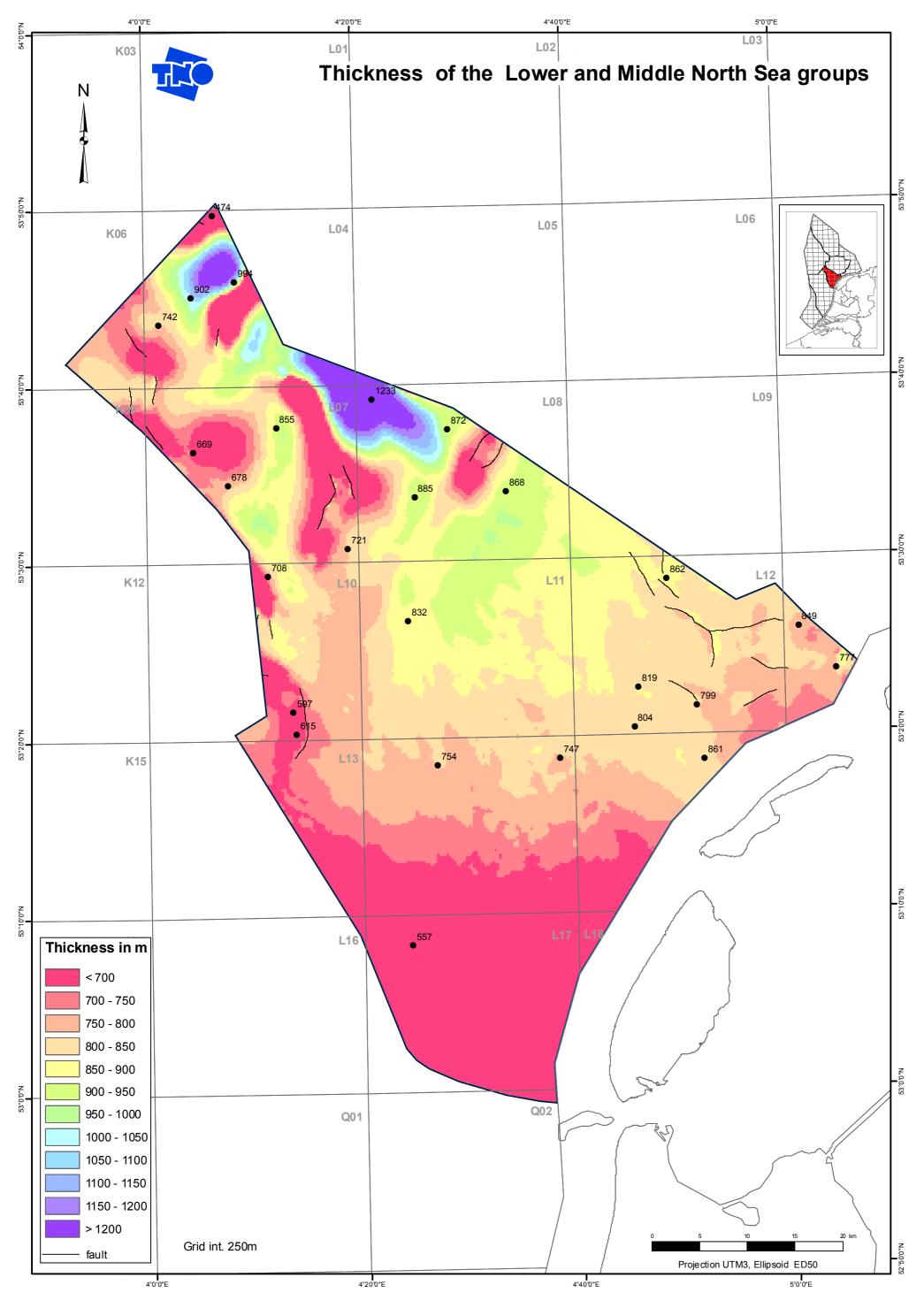
fault

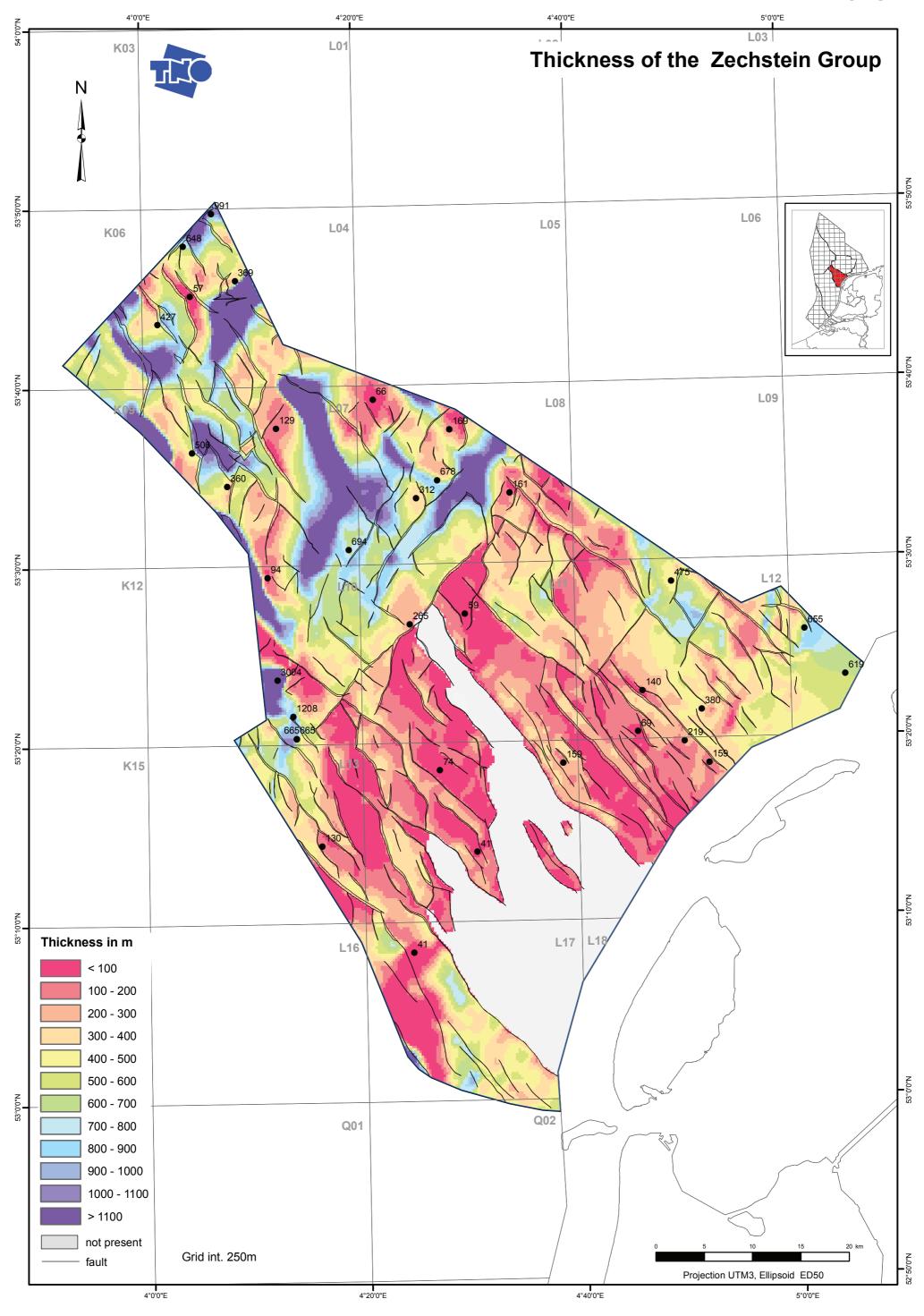










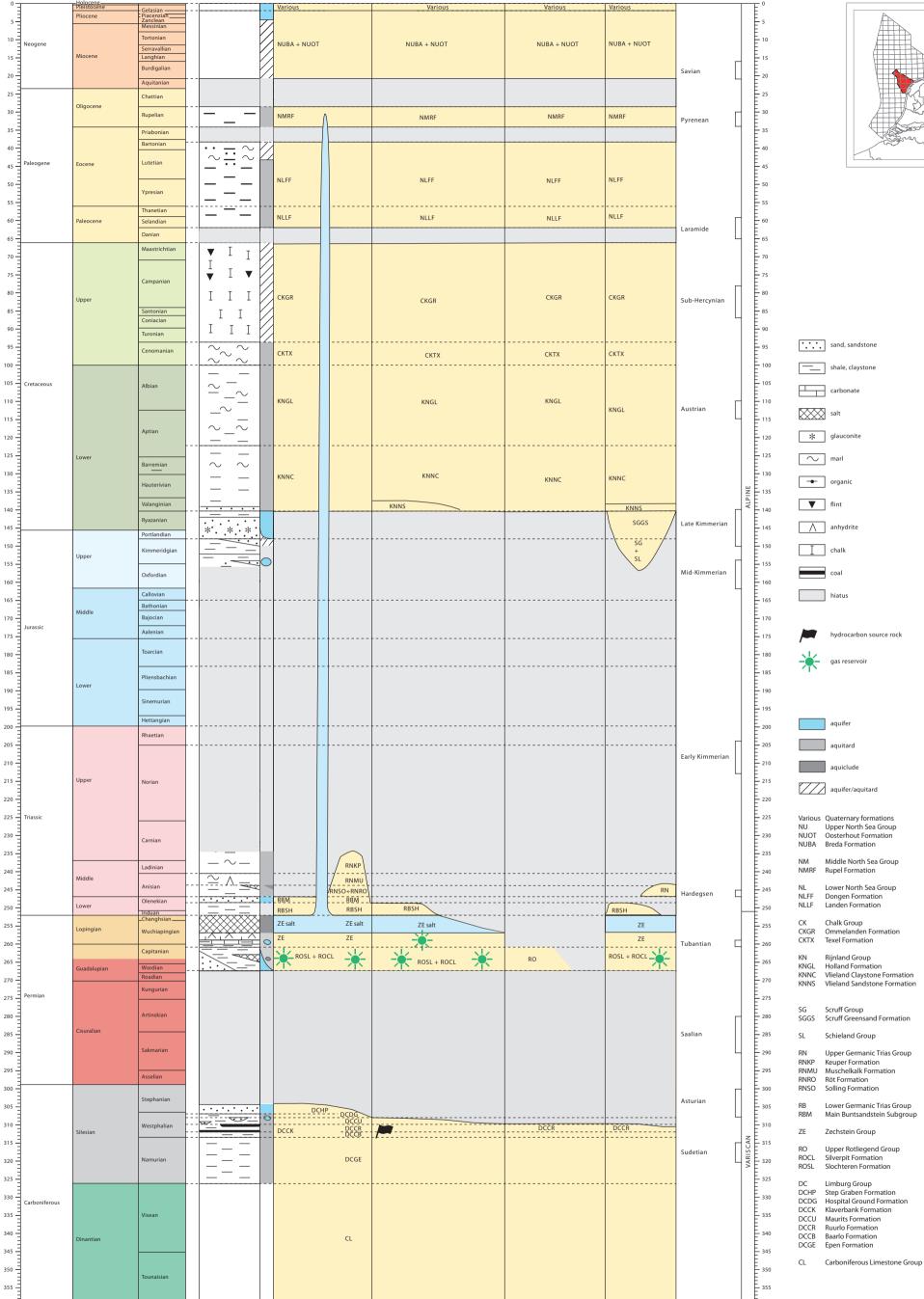




Tectonic

Vlieland Basin





Noord-Holland

IJsselmeer High

Platform

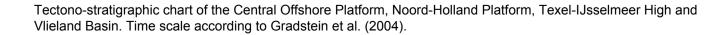
Central Offshore

Platform

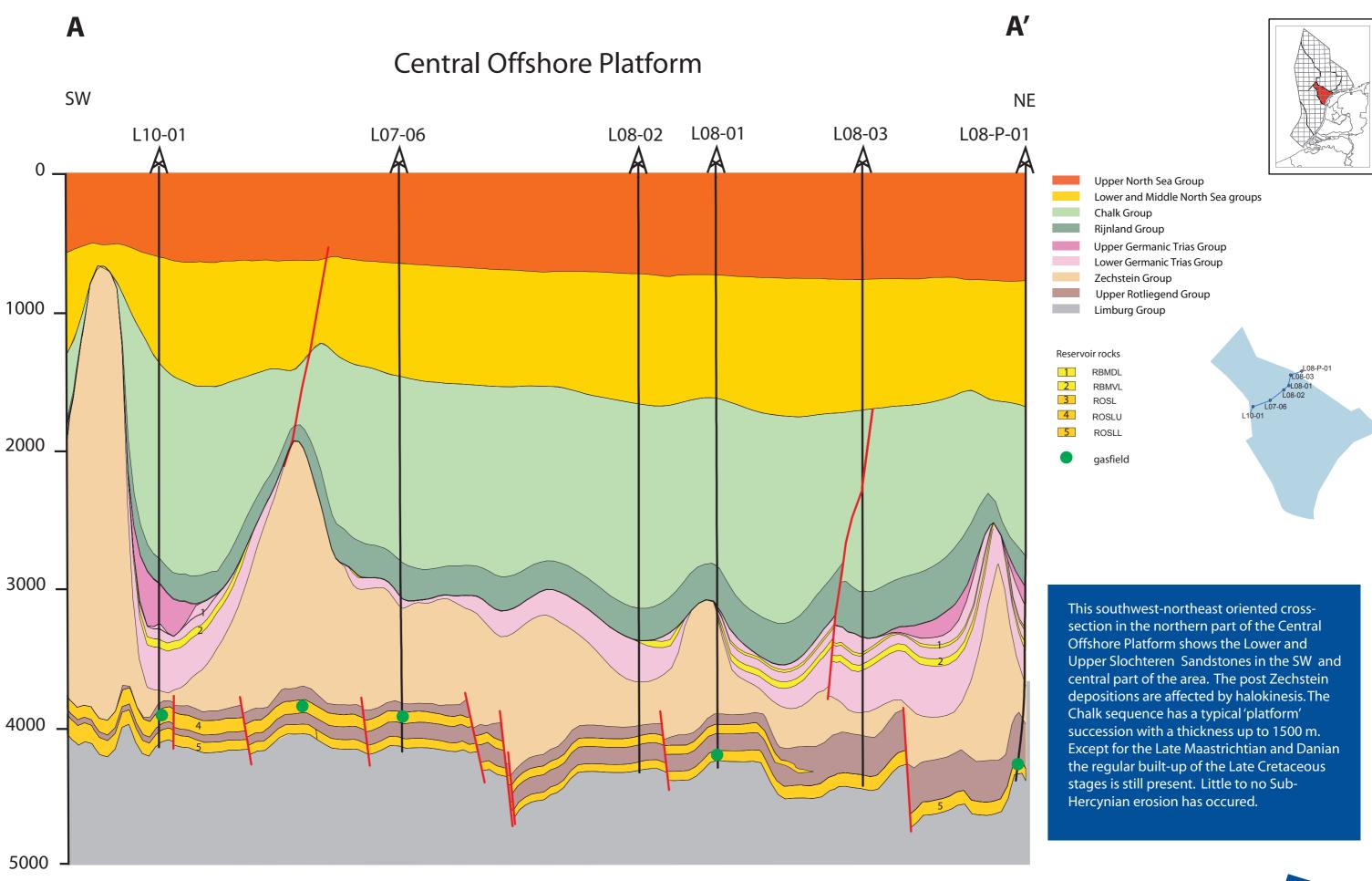
Age (Ma) System

Stages

Lithology

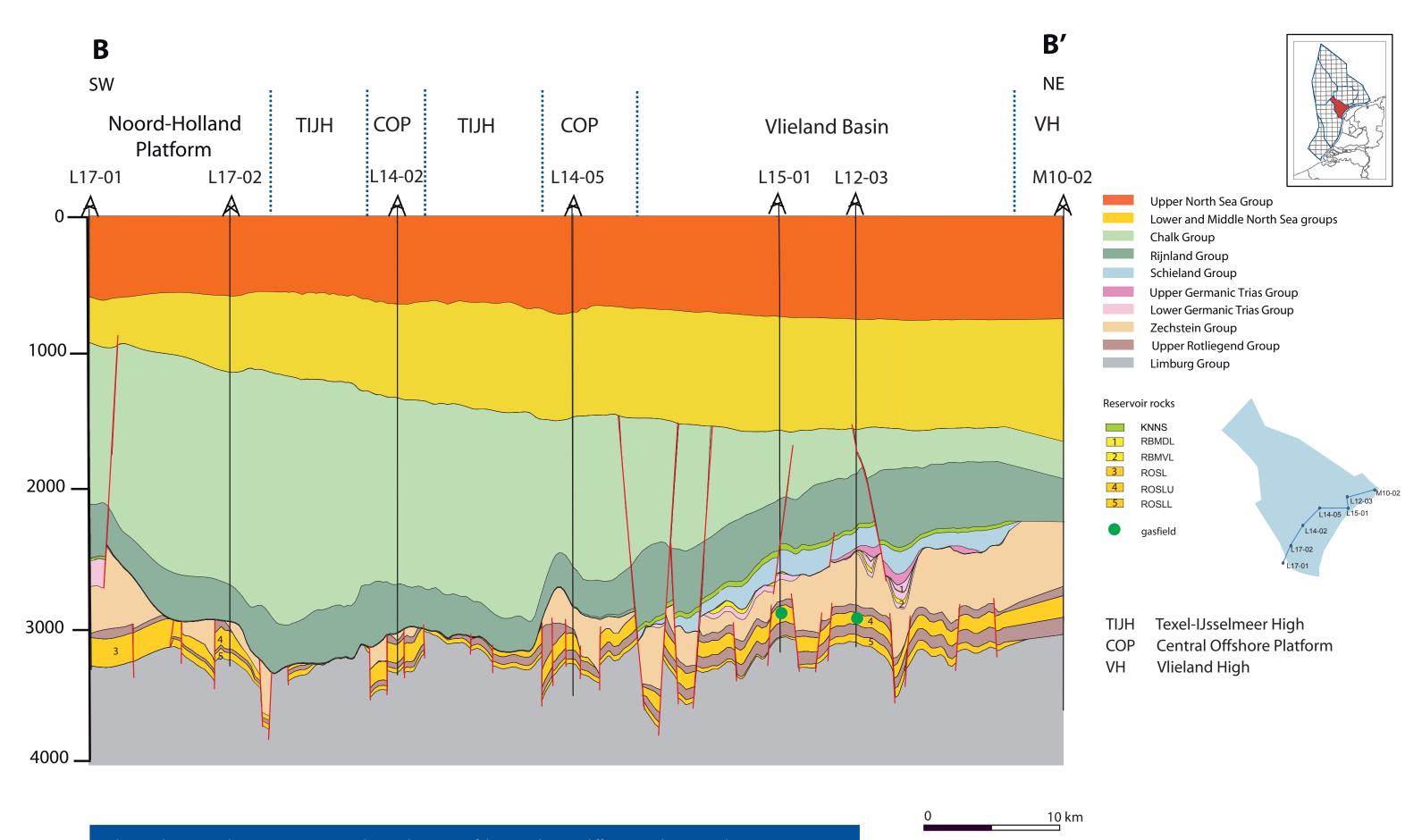






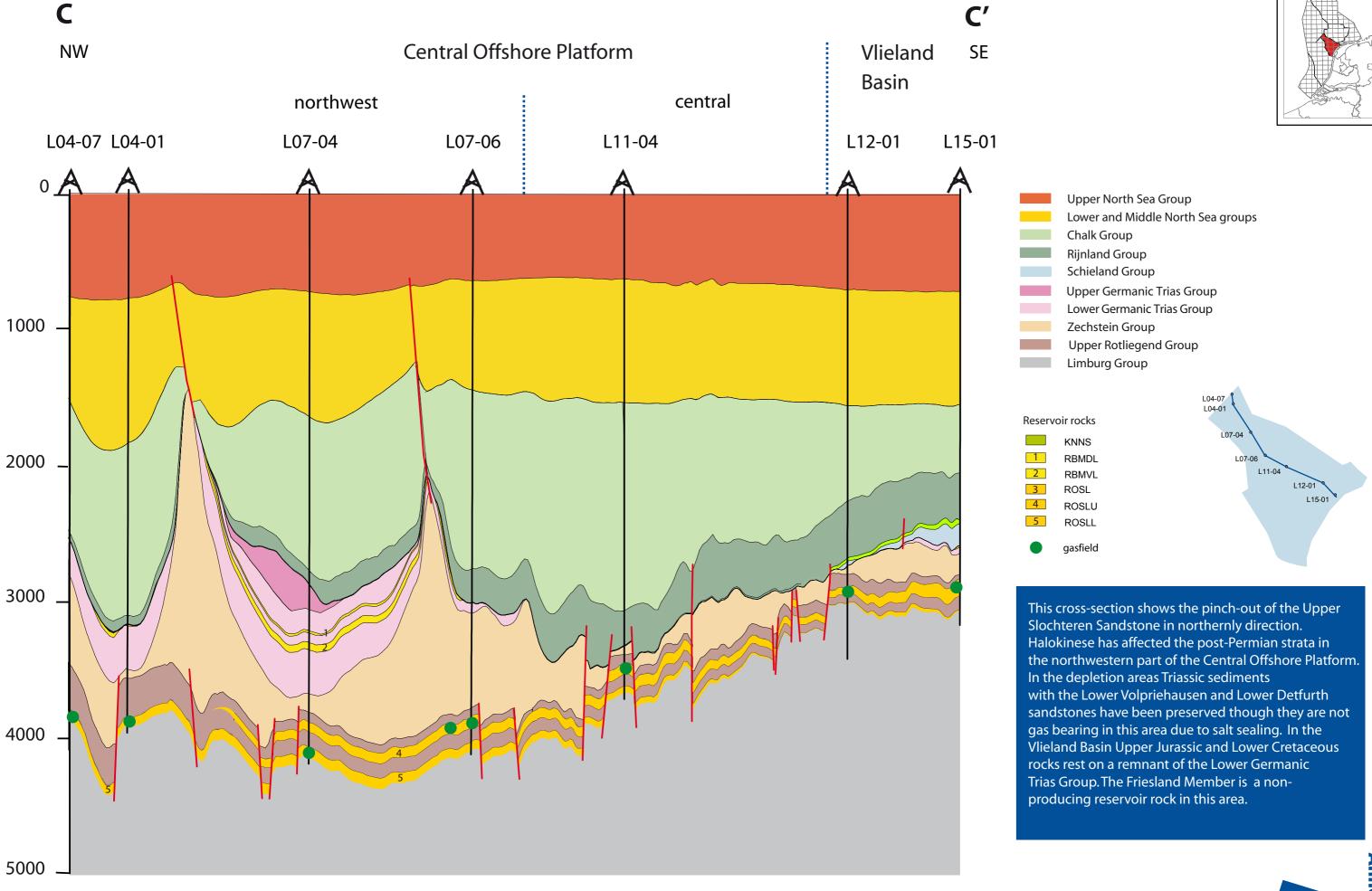


10 km



This southwest-northeast cross-section in the southern part of the area shows a differentiated stratigraphic succession. The Texel-IJsselmeer High typically has no Zechstein and locally no Rotliegend present. The platform areas are characterized by thin or absent Triassic deposits. A very thick Chalk sequence has been deposited with most stages present. In the Vlieland Basin however, the Upper Jurassic sediments have been preserved and are overlain by the Lower Cretaceous Friesland Member. The Chalk deposits have been affected by Sub-Hercynian erosion. There's a slight increase in thickness from the southwest to the northeast of the Tertiary are Quaternary deposits.



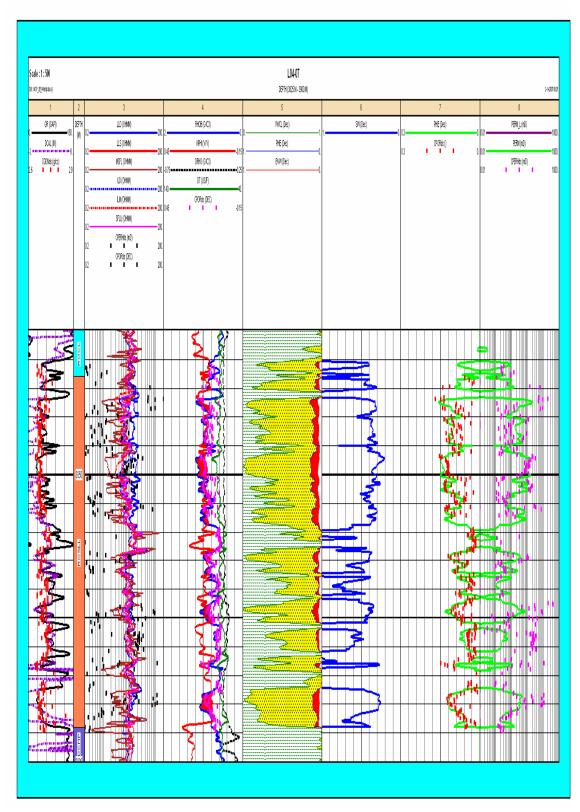


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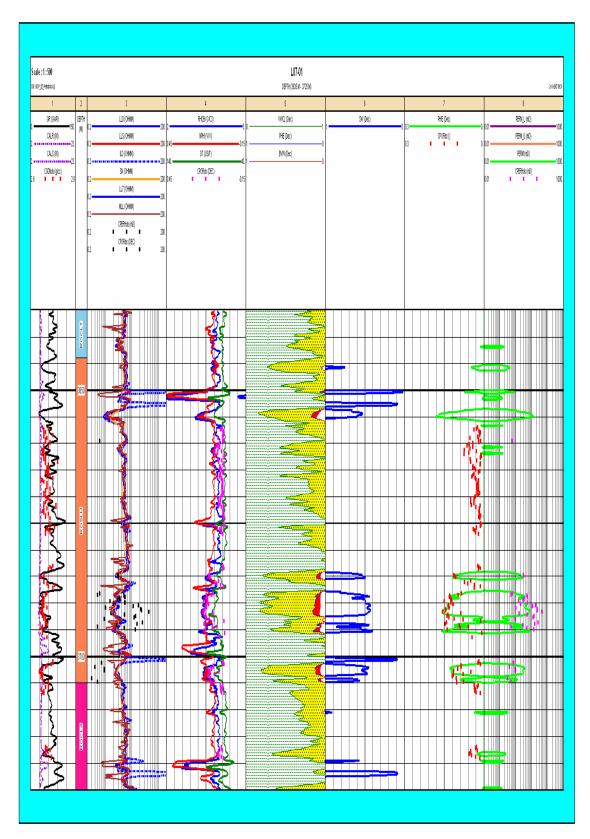
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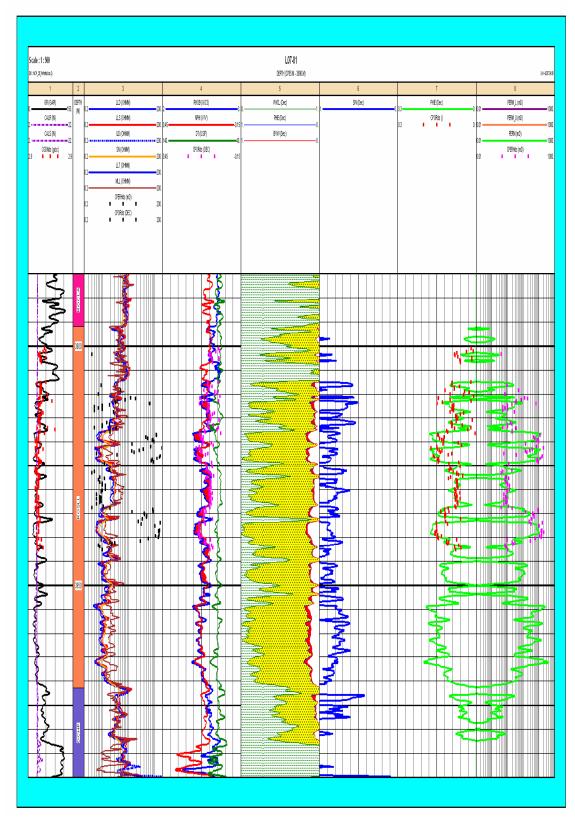
Playbacks



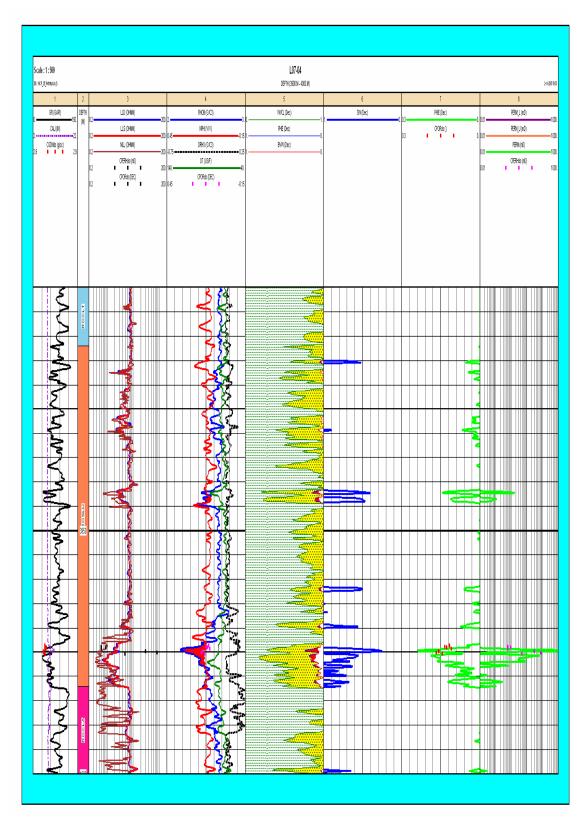
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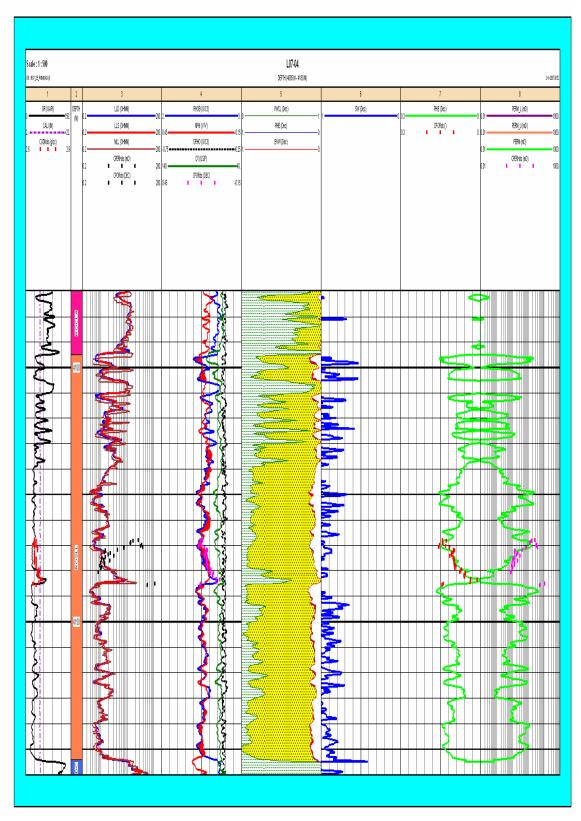
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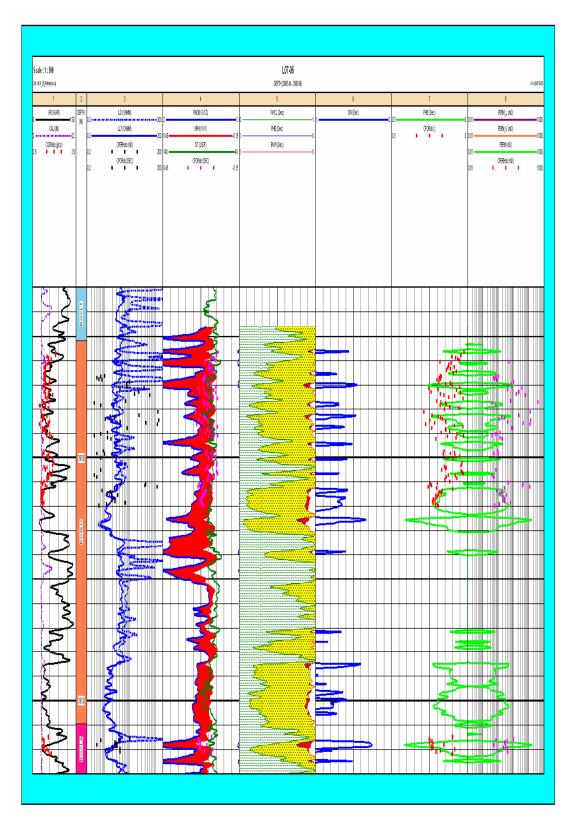
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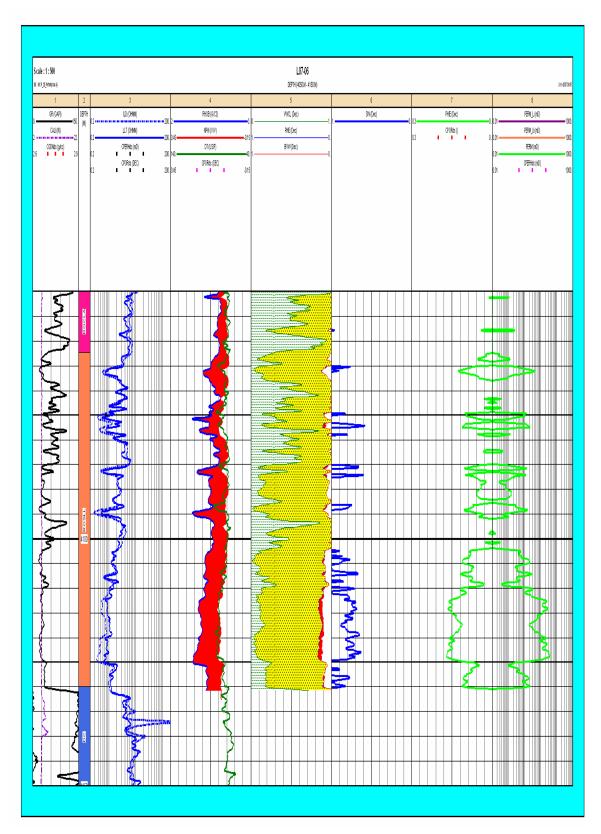
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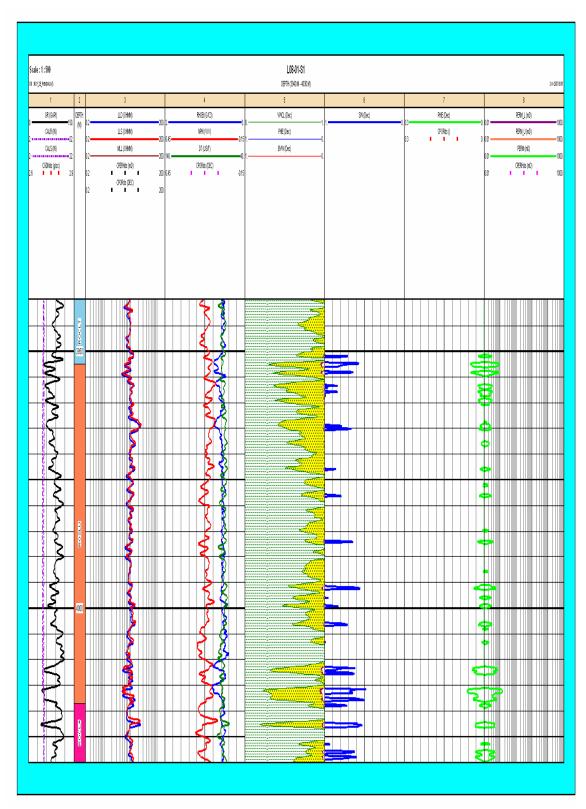
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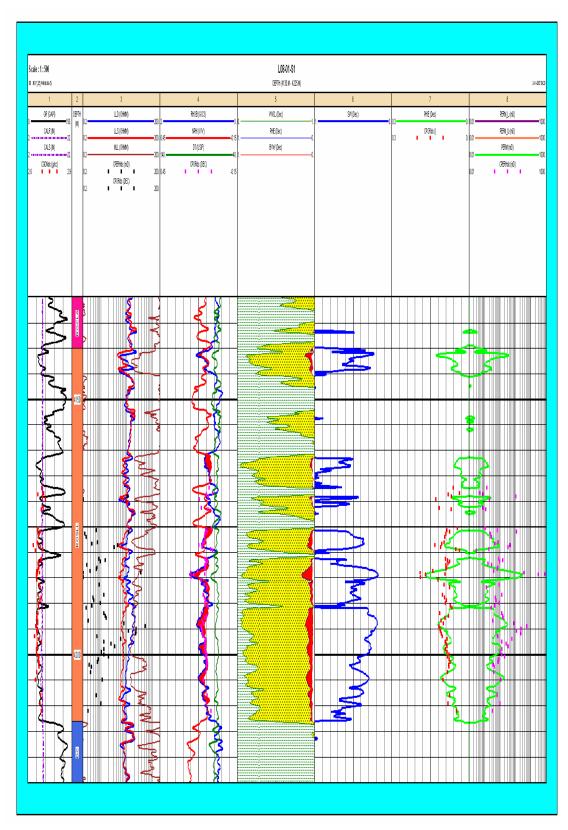
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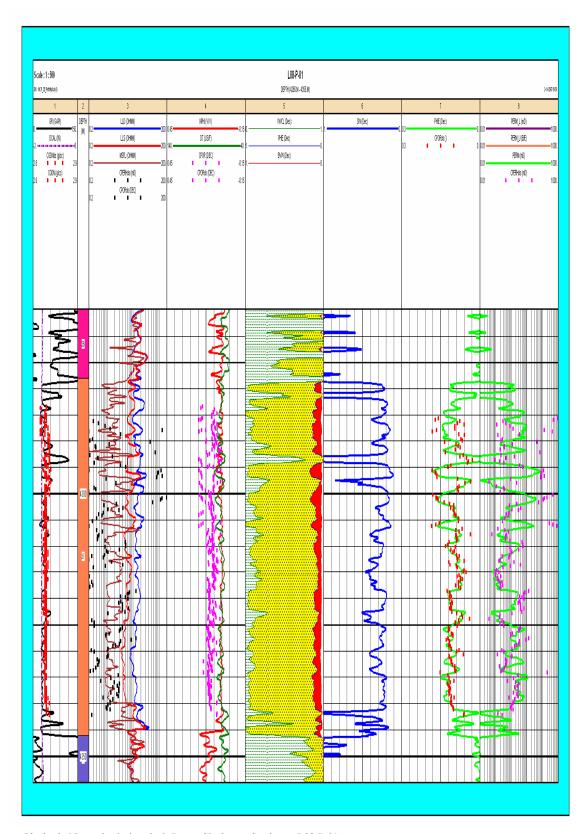
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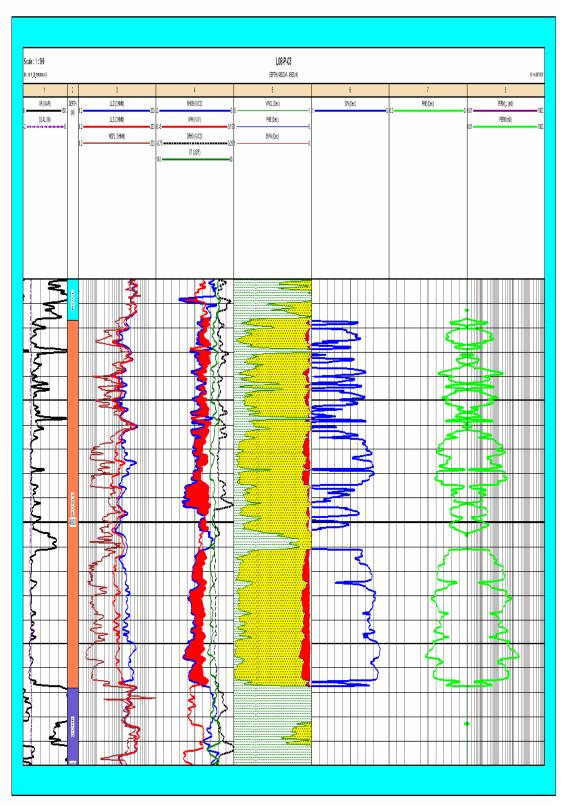
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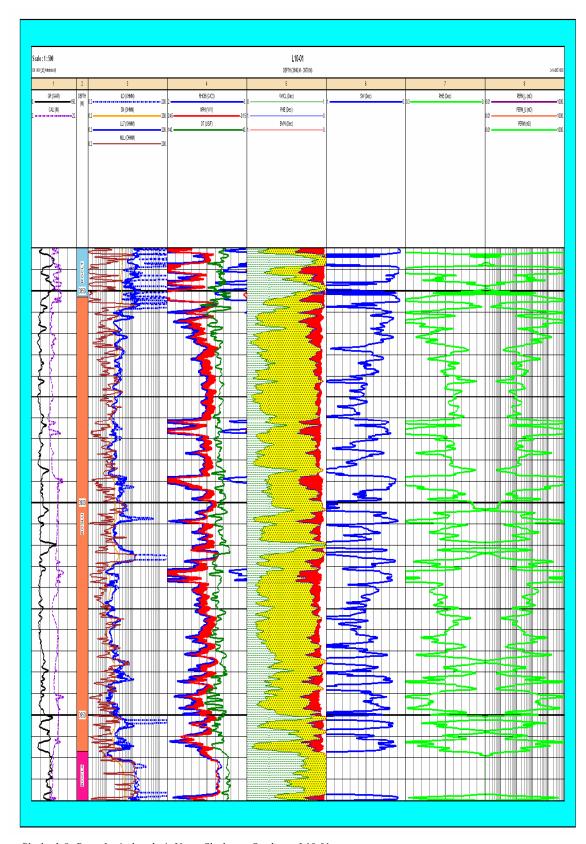
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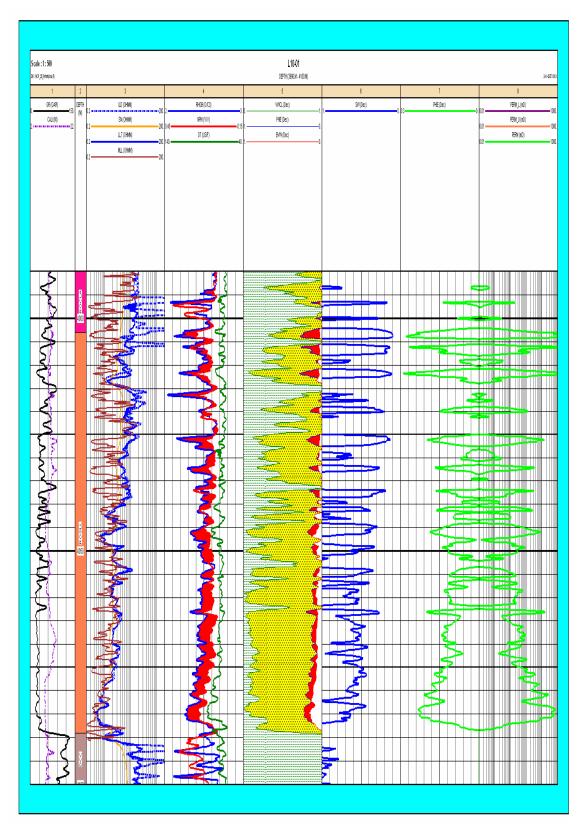
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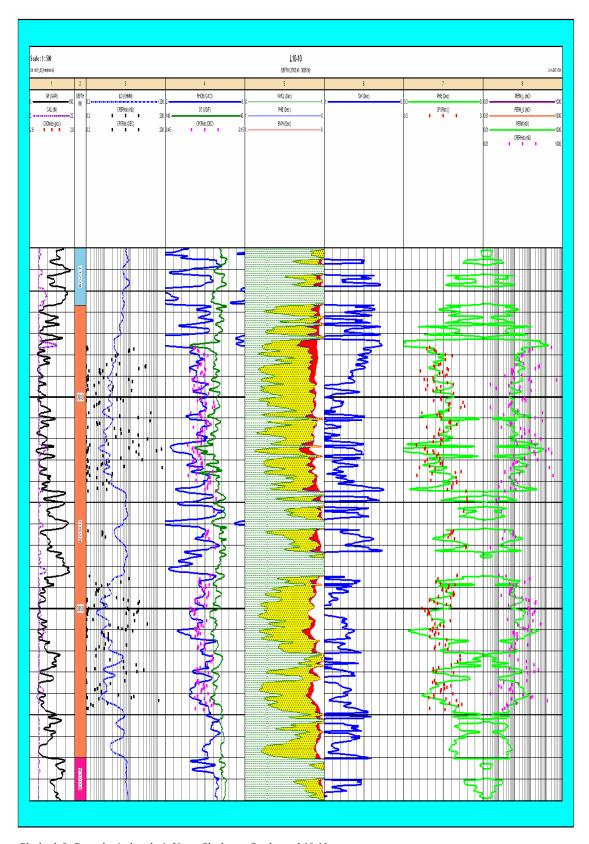
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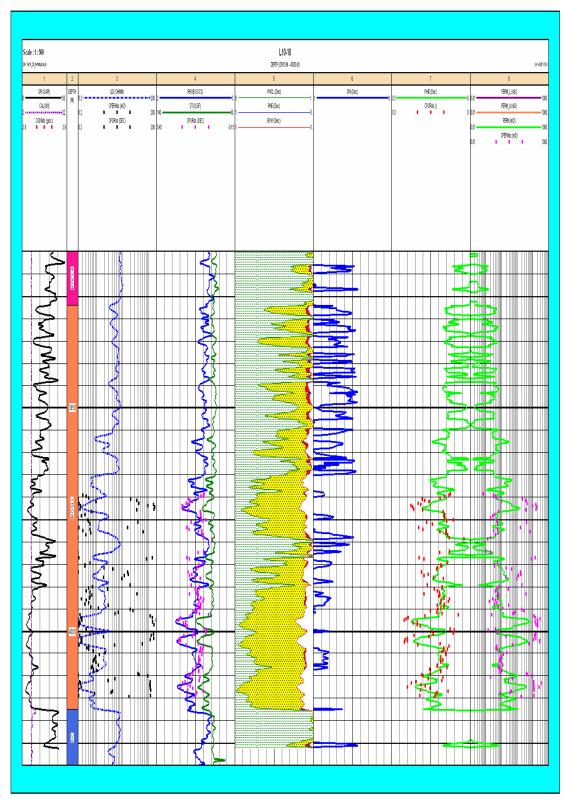
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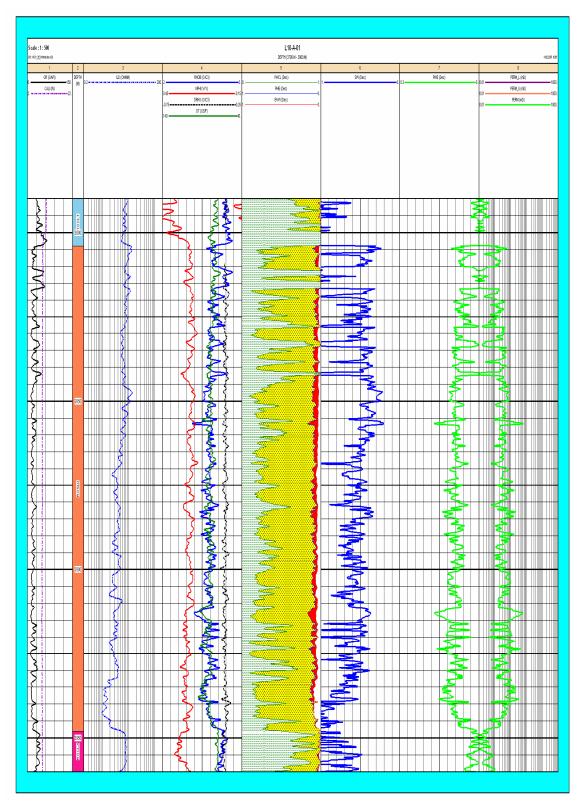
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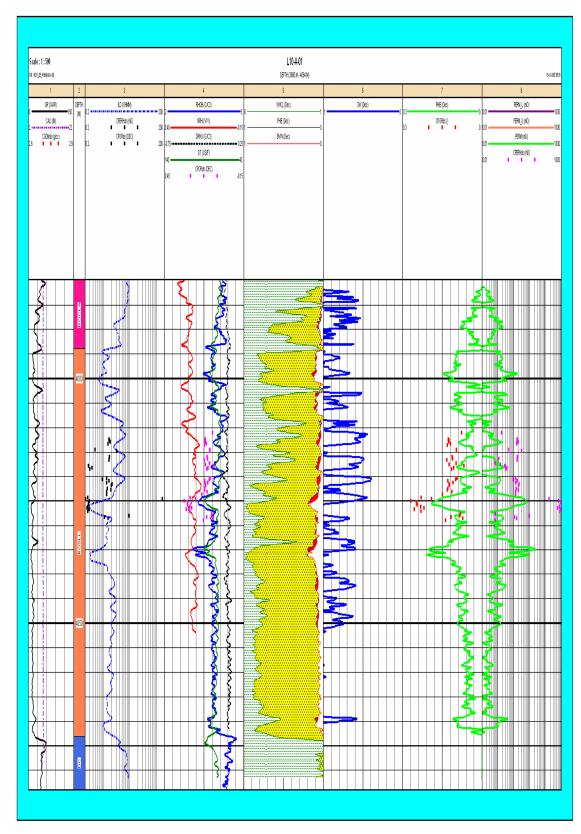
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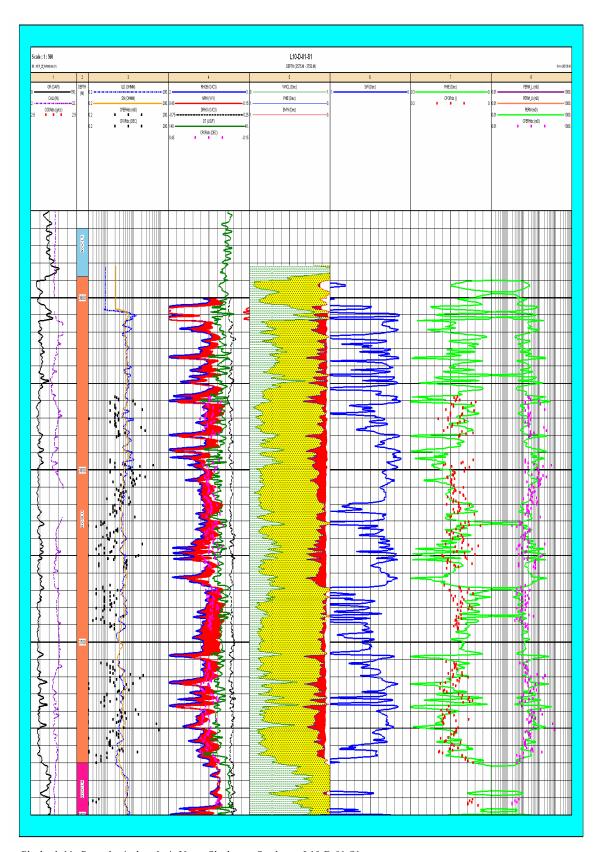
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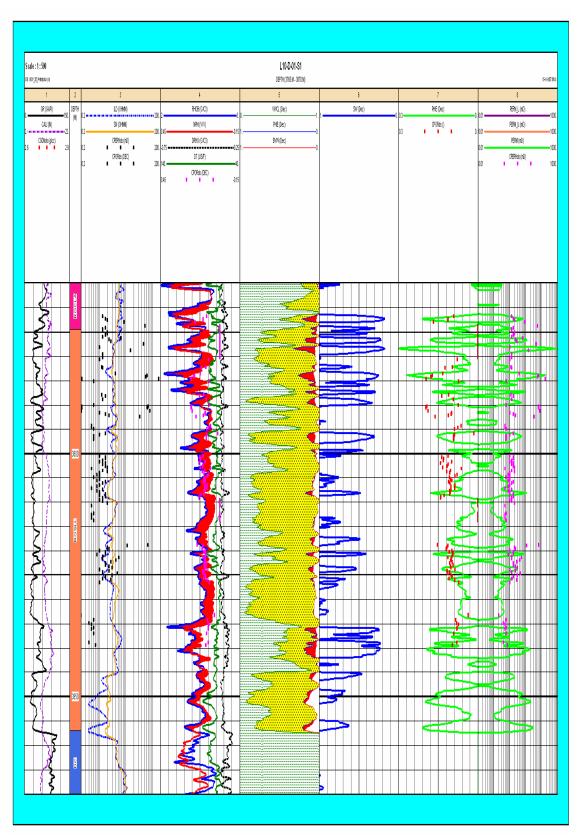
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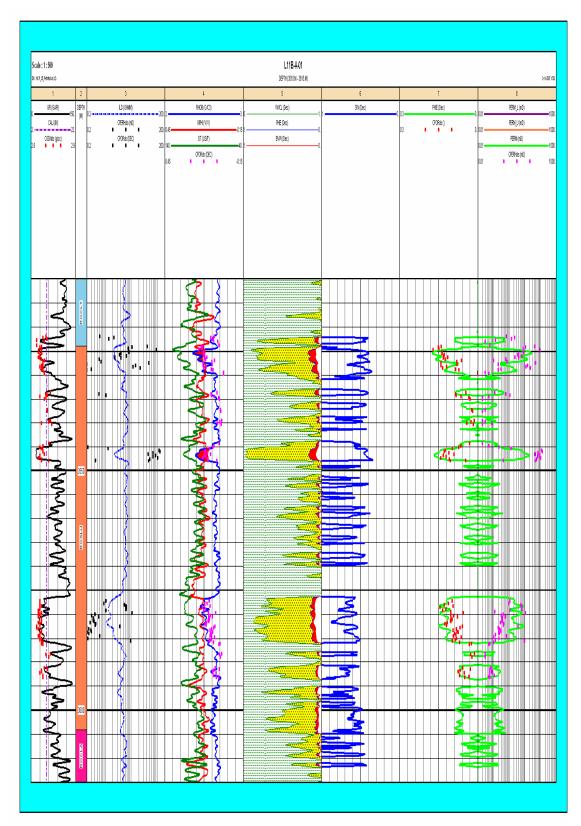
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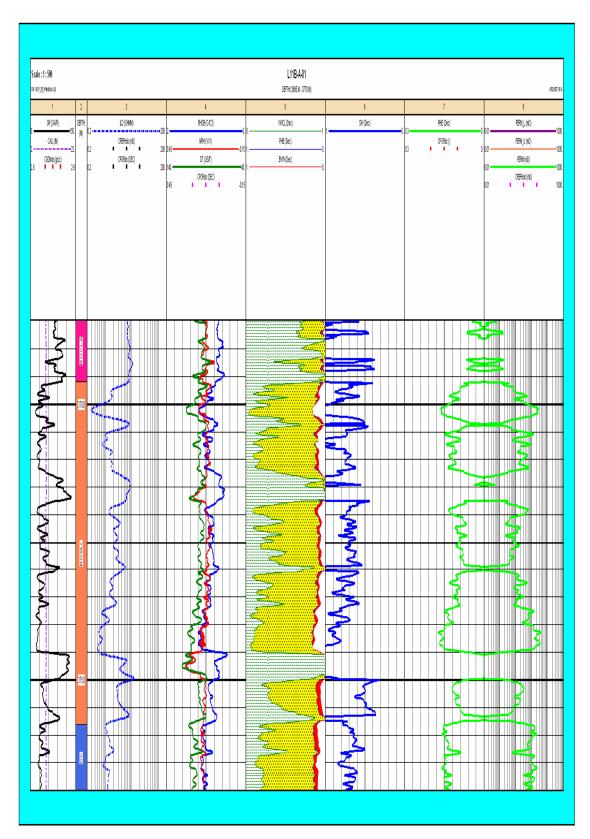
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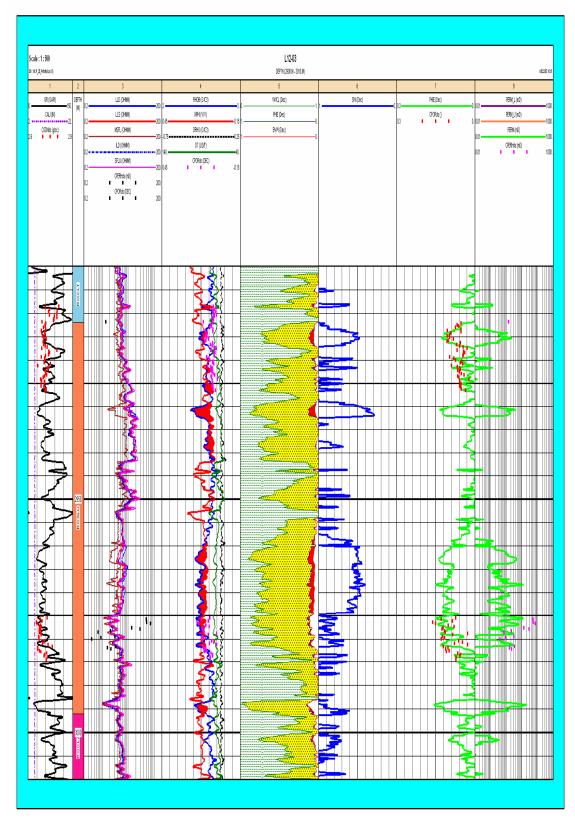
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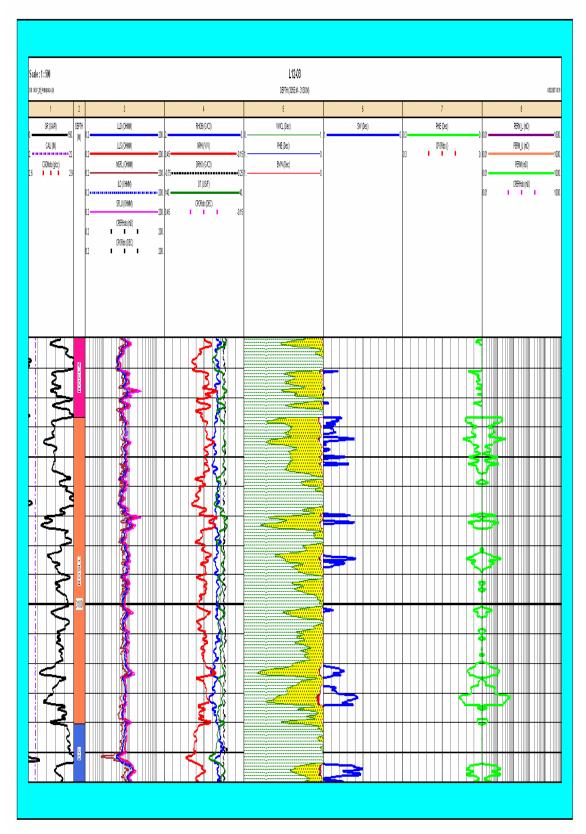
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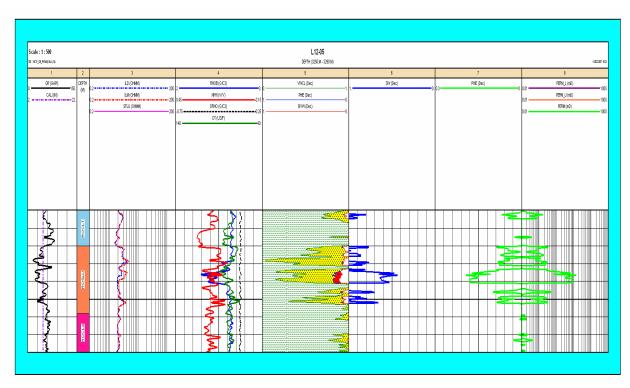
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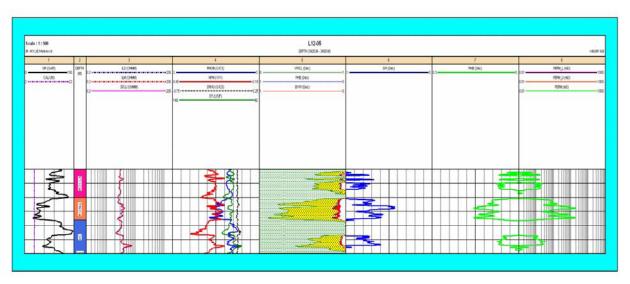
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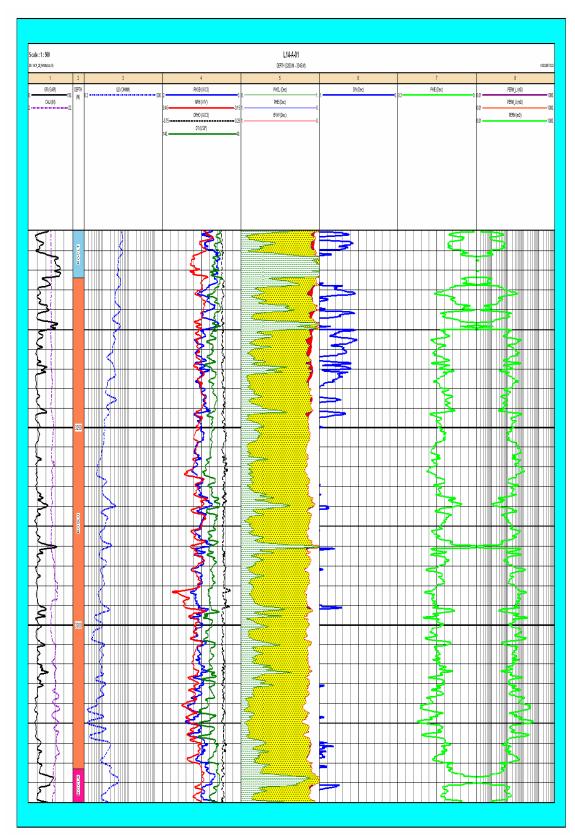
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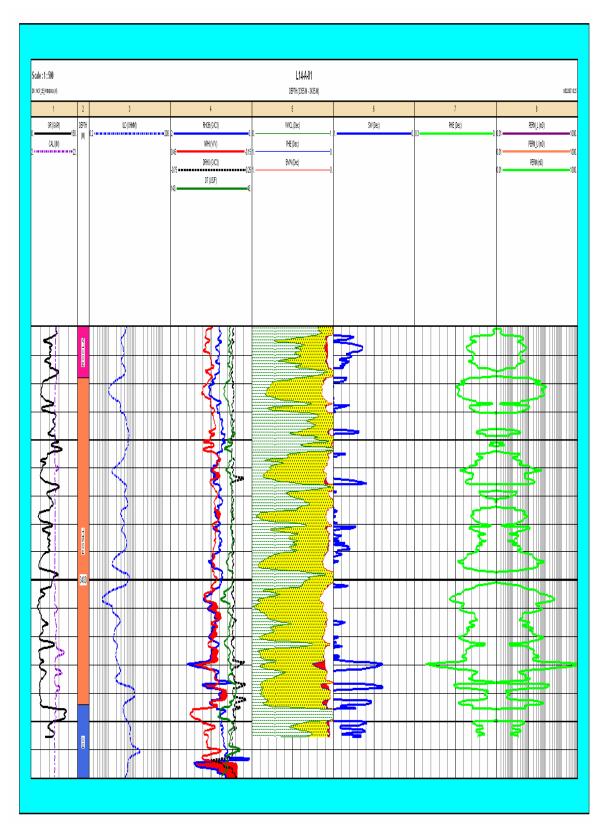
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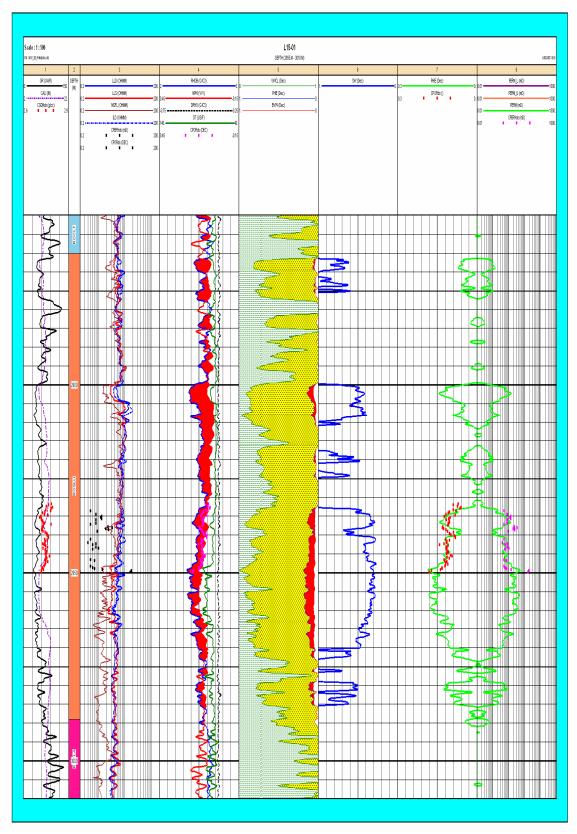
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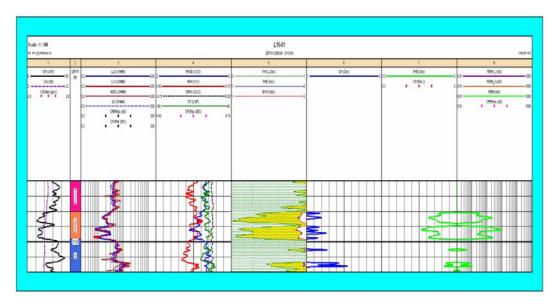
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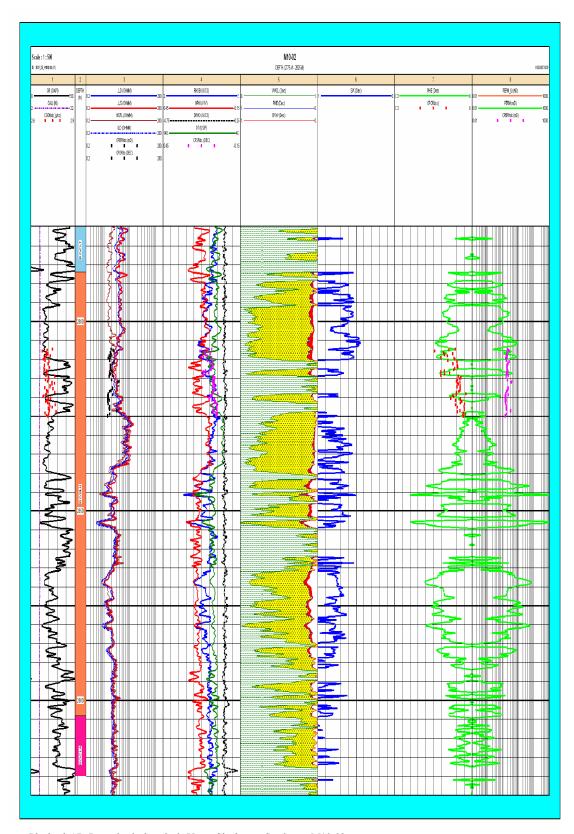
Playback 15b Petrophysical analysis Lower Slochteren Sandstone L14-A-01



Playback 16a Petrophysical analysis Upper Slochteren Sandstone L15-01



Playback 16b Petrophysical analysis Lower Slochteren Sandstone L15-01



Playback 17a Petrophysical analysis Upper Slochteren Sandstone M10-02 $\,$

