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**High-resolution proglacial lake records of pre-Little Ice Age glacier advance, northeast Greenland**

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### Article

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1 High-resolution proglacial lake records of pre-Little Ice Age glacier advance,  
2 northeast Greenland

3

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5

6 Adamson, K., Lane, T.P., Carney, M., Bishop, T., & Delaney, C.: High-resolution proglacial lake records  
7 of pre-Little Ice Age glacier advance, northeast Greenland

8

9 Understanding Arctic glacier sensitivity is key to predicting future response to air temperature rise.  
10 Previous studies have used proglacial lake sediment records to reconstruct Holocene glacier advance-  
11 retreat patterns in South and West Greenland, but high-resolution glacier records from High Arctic  
12 Greenland are scarce, despite the sensitivity of this region to future climate change. Detailed  
13 geochemical analysis of proglacial lake sediments close to Zackenberg, northeast Greenland, provides  
14 the first high-resolution record of Late Holocene High Arctic glacier behaviour. Three phases of glacier  
15 advance have occurred in the last 2000 years. The first two phases (c. 1320-800 cal. a BP) occurred  
16 prior to the Little Ice Age (LIA), and correspond to the Dark Ages Cold Period and the Medieval Climate  
17 Anomaly. The third phase (c. 700 cal. a BP), representing a smaller scale glacier oscillation, is  
18 associated with the onset of the LIA. Our results are consistent with recent evidence of pre-LIA glacier  
19 advance in other parts of the Arctic, including South and West Greenland, Svalbard, and Canada. The  
20 sub-millennial glacier fluctuations identified in the Madsen Lake succession are not preserved in the  
21 moraine record. Importantly, coupled XRF and XRD analysis has effectively identified a phase of ice  
22 advance that is not visible by sedimentology alone. This highlights the value of high-resolution  
23 geochemical analysis of lake sediments to establish rapid glacier advance-retreat patterns, in regions  
24 where chronological and morphostratigraphical control is limited.

25

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30

31 Unprecedented Arctic air temperature rise is causing profound retreat of the Greenland Ice Sheet  
32 (GrIS) and its surrounding glaciers and ice caps (GIC). Recent mapping has shown that GICs cover 90000  
33 km<sup>2</sup>, an area 50% larger than previously estimated (Rastner *et al.* 2012). Although this represents only  
34 5% of Greenland's glaciated area (Wouters *et al.* 2017), it accounts for 15-20% of Greenland's eustatic  
35 sea level rise contribution ( $\sim 0.05$ - $1.10$  mm a<sup>-1</sup> from 2003-2008, Bolch *et al.* 2013). The small size of  
36 these ice masses means that they are more sensitive to climate change than the GrIS (Machguth *et al.*  
37 2013). This is especially significant in the High Arctic (north of the +6 °C July isotherm; Bliss 1997),  
38 which is expected to experience some of the most intense changes in response to climate warming by  
39 the end of the century, including enhanced glacier melt and increased precipitation (Lund *et al.* 2017).  
40 These changes are expected to be spatially and temporally non-uniform (e.g. Carr *et al.* 2013; Moon  
41 *et al.* 2014), so understanding the rate and pattern of sub-centennial glacier behaviour is important  
42 to reliably predict future changes.

43

44           Of the 20 available mass balance records from GICs, multi-decadal measurements are scarce.  
45 Where they do exist (see Machguth *et al.* 2016 for locations), they rarely extend to the present day or  
46 are not annually resolved. One record, from the Nuusuaq glaciers in West Greenland (1892-1993)  
47 spans 101 years, and data from Mittivakkat, southeast Greenland, spans 20 years (1996-present). In  
48 northeast Greenland, two detailed records exist (2008-present) at A. P. Olsen ice cap and Freya glacier,  
49 close to Zackenberg (Machguth *et al.* 2013, 2016), but these do not yet provide multi-decadal archives.  
50 In some locations, such as southeast Greenland, air photographs have been valuable in examining  
51 decadal changes in glacier fluctuations (e.g. Bjørk *et al.* 2012) and enhancing the resolution of the  
52 historical, monitored, record. Mass balance estimates generated from downscaled regional climate  
53 models can also be used to bridge gaps in the data (Noël *et al.* 2018). However, in both of these cases  
54 their spatial and temporal resolution often remains too low to reliably identify decadal and centennial  
55 GIC change. It is only through high-resolution analysis of Holocene glacier records that sub-millennial  
56 glacier variability can be robustly resolved.

57

58           The majority of Holocene GIC records are derived from West, South, and southeast Greenland  
59 (Table 1), and show asynchronous and asymmetrical glacier dynamics over the last few millennia in  
60 response to climatic and aclimatic forcing (e.g. Balascio *et al.* 2015; Böning *et al.* 2016; Abermann *et*  
61 *al.* 2017; Vieli *et al.* 2017). Reconstructions of Late Holocene ice cap and mountain glacier behaviour  
62 in Greenland are frequently based on terrestrial cosmogenic nuclide dating of moraines (e.g. Young *et*  
63 *al.* 2015; Jomelli *et al.* 2016). However, sub-millennial glacier advance-retreat patterns are rarely well-  
64 preserved in the moraine record, making it difficult to reliably identify the drivers of glacier behaviour  
65 (Balascio *et al.* 2015).

66

67           Unlike the geomorphological record, proglacial lakes can record continuous, high-frequency,  
68 sub-millennial, changes in glacier behaviour that can be radiocarbon dated, providing important  
69 context for present day and future glacier retreat. Glacier-fed lake basins record variations in fine  
70 grained (silt and clay) minerogenic sediment production resulting from glacier response to climate  
71 changes (Kárlén 1981; Carrivick & Tweed 2013). Increased glacier activity (sustained advance or  
72 retreat) leads to enhanced subglacial bedrock erosion, and a subsequent increase in sediment delivery  
73 to lake basins downstream (Leeman & Niessan 1994; Palmer *et al.* 2010; McGregor *et al.* 2011;  
74 Striberger *et al.* 2011). Depending on the bedrock mineralogical composition, increases or decreases  
75 in specific minerals in the lake record can therefore be used as a proxy for glacier activity.

76

77           High-resolution mineral analysis of proglacial lake sediments has been used to reconstruct  
78 sub-millennial Holocene glacier advance-retreat patterns and catchment change in Norway (Bakke *et*  
79 *al.* 2013), Svalbard (Gjerde *et al.* 2017; de Wet *et al.* 2018), and southeast Greenland (Balascio *et al.*  
80 2015), but highly resolved proglacial lake records are scarce in High Arctic Greenland. Instead, existing  
81 studies in this region focus on palaeoecological analysis of full Holocene sequences to reconstruct local  
82 and regional climate change (e.g. Wagner *et al.* 2000; Klug *et al.* 2009a, b; Schmidt *et al.* 2011; Bennike

83 & Wagner, 2012; Axford *et al.* 2017; Lasher *et al.* 2017;), and glacier and ice sheet fluctuations are not  
84 directly examined. Using detailed geochemical analysis of proglacial lake sediments, we present the  
85 first high-resolution record of Late Holocene glacier behaviour in this part of High Arctic Greenland  
86 (74° N).

87

88

## 89 Study setting

### 90 *Geological setting*

91 Zackenberg lies on Wollaston Foreland in High Arctic northeast Greenland (74 – 75° N), ~ 50 km east  
92 of the GrIS (Fig. 1A). The region is characterised by wide valleys and steep sided plateaux and is bound  
93 by Lindeman Fjord and Tyrolerfjord to the north and south, respectively. A geological flexure and  
94 thrust zone in Zackenbergdalen (74.47° N, 20.57° W) separates Cretaceous sandstones and Tertiary  
95 basalts to the east, and Caledonian gneiss to the west. The bedrock adjacent to, and likely underlying  
96 the study ice cap, Slettebreen (Fig. 1), is dominantly Proterozoic orthogneiss, with some Proterozoic  
97 or Ordovician pelitic, semi-pelitic, and psammitic metasediments (Pedersen *et al.* 2013). It is not  
98 currently possible to further resolve the spatial distribution of catchment geology, due to present-day  
99 ice coverage, but our analysis shows that local lithologies are rich in silica (Si), Iron (Fe), Potassium (K),  
100 Calcium (Ca), and Aluminium (Al) (see Results).

101

### 102 *Climatic setting*

103 The regional climate is conditioned by the cold East Greenland current. This part of Greenland has a  
104 typical High Arctic climate, with mean annual air temperature of -9 °C (annual range: ~ -24.5 to 6.6 °C),  
105 based on 1996-2015 values measured at Zackenberg Research Base, 19 km from the study site (Hobbie  
106 *et al.* 2017). Summer (JJA) air temperatures average 4.5 °C (Hobbie *et al.* 2017), and precipitation (~  
107 200 mm a<sup>-1</sup>) falls predominately as snow from September to May, and rain and/or snow from June to  
108 August (Hansen *et al.* 2008). Rivers close to Zackenberg typically flow from June-September, and sea

109 ice persists from October to May. The region is underlain by continuous permafrost with a 20-100 cm  
110 thick active layer (Christiansen *et al.* 2008, Christoffersen *et al.* 2008; Hansen *et al.* 2015).

111

### 112 *Glacial history and geomorphology*

113 High elevation erratics, trimlines, and moraines have been reported up to 500 m above sea level (a.s.l.)  
114 in the Store Søndal and Zackenberg valleys (Bretz 1935; Christiansen & Humlum 1993), suggesting that  
115 outlet glaciers from the GrIS and local ice caps previously extended into major valleys and fjords, and  
116 reached the shelf edge (Bennike & Weidick 2001; Ó Cofaigh *et al.* 2004; Evans *et al.* 2009). Regional  
117 deglaciation began after the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) and continued through the Holocene.  
118 Zackenberg valley became ice-free between 13000 and 11000 years ago (Gilbert *et al.* 2017), but the  
119 time by which glaciers reached their present position is currently unknown.

120

### 121 *Slettebreen ice cap and study catchment*

122 Slettebreen (~ 17 km<sup>2</sup>) is largely confined to an upland plateau (1200 m a.s.l.) and is drained by six  
123 outlet glaciers to the south and east, and one to the north that extends to 450 m a.s.l and displays  
124 evidence of surge activity (periodic increases in flow speeds unrelated to external triggers; Meier &  
125 Post 1969; Sharp 1988). Large, undated, moraines beyond the present-day ice margins indicate that  
126 Slettebreen's outlet glaciers previously extended radially, towards Slettedalen, Storesødal, and  
127 Lindeman Fjord. Based on the established area–altitude balance ratio (AABR) method (Rea 2009)  
128 Slettedalen's current equilibrium line altitude (ELA) is estimated at 1071 - 1081 m a.s.l. (AABRs of 1.67  
129 to 2.0).

130

131 The study lake (74.58° N, 21.07° W, 504 m a.s.l.), previously unnamed and hereafter referred  
132 to as Madsen Lake (area = 0.04 km<sup>2</sup>, depth = 2 m), occupies a steep sided over-deepened basin ~ 1.6  
133 km from the eastern margins of Slettebreen, and is fed by three small outlet glaciers (Figs 1A, B, 2)  
134 that currently terminate on the flanks of the plateau, ~ 0.8 – 1.5 km from the plateau edge. The lake

135 catchment contains ice moulded bedrock, unconsolidated glacial, glaciofluvial, and colluvial sediment,  
136 and sparse tundra vegetation. The small catchment area and proximity to the margins of Slettebreen,  
137 means that sediment storage between the glacier and lake is limited, non-glacial sediment input is  
138 minimised, and the basin provides a reliable record of glacier behaviour.

139

140           Based on morphostratigraphic similarities with other Greenlandic basins (Weidick 1968; Kelly  
141 & Lowell 2009), and the freshness of landforms, two moraine positions are identified in the Madsen  
142 Lake basin. Position 1 is a large, undated, moraine complex downstream of the lake, thought to  
143 correspond to a period of still-stand during retreat from the LGM position (Fig. 1B). Position 2,  
144 upstream of the lake, is a complex of moraine ridges thought to correspond to the most recent phase  
145 of glacier advance during the Late Holocene, possibly associated with the Little Ice Age (LIA), and  
146 suggests that the Madsen Lake basin was not overridden by ice at that time. Given the knowledge of  
147 Greenlandic glacier behaviour during this period (Kelly & Lowell 2009), it is likely that Position 2  
148 moraines formed during a regrowth of ice, following the Holocene Thermal Maximum. The  
149 reconstructed palaeo-ELAs (AABRs 1.67 to 2.0) at Moraine Positions 1 and 2 are 761 - 784 m a.s.l. and  
150 959 - 975 m a.s.l., respectively.

151

## 152 **Methods**

### 153 *Lake sediment coring*

154 Lake cores were taken in spring (May), when the surface of Madsen Lake was frozen. Suitable coring  
155 locations were established using aerial photographs, satellite imagery, and ArcticDEM data, which  
156 identified a deep central lake basin and shallower rim. Samples were taken from the deepest part of  
157 the central basin, to avoid reworked sediment or sediment gravity flows. Cores were obtained using a  
158 Russian-type corer, capturing the water-sediment interface and extending to a maximum sediment  
159 depth of 80 cm, before striking bedrock or boulders. The core was sub-sampled with a scalpel in the  
160 field at 1.0 and 0.5 cm resolution, depending on water content.

161

162 *Laboratory analysis*

163 Sediment grain size was measured using a Malvern Mastersizer 2000 and Hydro 2000G liquid handling  
164 unit, with triplicate measurements and bracketing cleaning cycles. Prior to analysis, organic matter  
165 was removed using 40% hydrogen peroxide, and samples were dispersed in sodium  
166 hexametaphosphate solution. Particle size distribution was modelled using a Mie Theory estimation  
167 model configured for silica sand, which is particularly effective for grains <10  $\mu\text{m}$ , such as the fine-  
168 grained Madsen Lake sediments. Particle size analysis (PSA) was used to calculate GSD90, the 90th  
169 percentile of grain size distribution.

170

171 Samples were freeze-dried prior to elemental, mineralogical, magnetic, and carbon analysis  
172 and pressed (at  $3.5 \text{ n kg}^{-1}$ ) into Chemplex 1330 sample holders with a 4  $\mu\text{m}$  Mylar film window.  
173 Sediment elemental composition (X-Ray Fluorescence, XRF) was analysed using a Rigaku NEX-CG with  
174 an RPF-SQX scattered ray FP method (Helium-purged). This system uses a 'Rigaku Profiling Fitting-  
175 Spectra Quant X' algorithm to provide elemental mass estimates. Sample mineralogy (X-ray powder  
176 diffraction data, XRD) was collected using a PANalytical X'Pert diffractometer fitted with a PixCEL 1-D  
177 detector using a Cu anode ( $k\alpha_1 \lambda = 0.5406 \text{ \AA}$ ) with the generator set at 40 mA, 40 kV. Samples were  
178 prepared as flat powder and collected in transmission geometry in the range  $5\text{-}120^\circ 2\theta$  with a step  
179 size of  $0.013^\circ 2\theta$  and a collection time of 118 sec.  $\text{step}^{-1}$  using automatic divergence and antiscatter  
180 slits with an observed length of 8.0 mm. Data were processed using HighScore Plus version 4.0.

181

182 Eight clasts from Slettedalen were crushed and analysed for elemental (XRF) and mineralogical  
183 (XRD) composition. Pebbles were selected in the field on the basis that they are representative of local  
184 bedrock lithologies, delivered from meltwater streams draining Slettebreen, and can be used to  
185 compare to lake sediment geochemical signatures.

186

187 A Bartington MS2B sensor and MS3 interface were used to measure sediment magnetic  
188 susceptibility (MS) at high frequency ( $\chi_{hf}$ ). Corrections for sample volume follow Dearing *et al.* (1999).  
189 MS is a relative measure of the magnetisation of minerals, and in a sedimentary sequence can be  
190 influenced by factors including changes in clastic sediment content, erosion of different source rocks,  
191 and time-dependent weathering.

192

193 Total organic carbon (TOC) was measured using a Shimadzu TOC-VSSI analyser, with ~ 40 mg  
194 of freeze-dried sediment in crucibles capped with inert glass wool. Samples were analysed according  
195 to machine standard protocols for sediment samples, and 10 mg glucose standard. 20 random samples  
196 from the core succession were tested for inorganic carbon, and all yielded results below detection  
197 limits.

198

### 199 *Statistical analysis*

200 Principle component analysis (PCA), which establishes the leading mode of data variability (expressed  
201 as the first component), was performed using 10 elements from the XRF data selected on the basis of  
202 abundance in the lake sediments and bedrock clast samples (Al, K, Ca, Rb, Ti, Fe, Si, Mg, Mn, and Sr).  
203 Data were centre-log-ratio transformed, and two outlier samples at (42.0-43.0 and 60.5-61.0 cm) were  
204 removed. Analysis was performed in R v.3.4.2 (R Core Team 2017) and transformed using the  
205 chemometrics v.0.1 package (Filzmoser & Varmuza 2017).

206

207 Cluster analysis of the XRD data was used to examine the mineralogical signatures of the  
208 sedimentary units, to provide additional detail to the elemental composition (XRF), and thus test for  
209 fundamental differences between depositional phases. HighScore Plus (v. 4.0) used diffraction peak  
210 position and profile as the data source, and position and intensity (as a measure of crystalline  
211 concentrations) as the comparison criteria. Cluster assignments were validated by Fuzzy Clustering,  
212 which assigns each dataset to a parent cluster based on a figure of merit, which is indicative of the

213 strength and reliability of cluster assignments. This method is especially beneficial as it enables  
214 datasets to be evaluated within multiple clusters to yield the most appropriate cluster assignments.  
215 Relative intensity of the diffraction peaks was used to calculate the relative abundance of dominant  
216 minerals within each cluster.

217

### 218 *Core chronology*

219 The lake core chronology is based on four radiocarbon ( $^{14}\text{C}$ ) ages of *in-situ* organic macrofossils  
220 (undifferentiated bryophytes) taken from individual laminae, avoiding sampling across multiple  
221 laminations; samples were analysed at Beta Analytic (Table 1). Calibration and age-depth modelling  
222 was performed in Bacon v.2.3.3 (Blaauw & Christen 2011) using the IntCal13 (Reimer *et al.* 2013)  
223 radiocarbon calibration curve. The Bacon algorithm is a Bayesian approach to accumulation rate  
224 modelling and the default parameters were used throughout.

225

## 226 Results

### 227 *Catchment lithology and geochemistry*

228 Eight clast samples represent five lithological categories: quartz, gneiss, granite, unakite, and  
229 sandstone. XRF data show that all clasts are rich in Si (typically 22.4-32.0 mass %) as well as Al, Ca, Fe,  
230 Na, Ti, and Mg (Table 4). The high concentrations of these minerals make them suitable for tracking  
231 glacial erosion, and they have therefore been selected for use in this study. Other elements such as  
232 Rh, P, Zr, Mn, Sr, Rb, and Ba are present in lower abundance (typically 0.5-0.02 mass %). XRD analysis  
233 indicates that the dominant mineral constituents include quartz, biotite, orthoclase, and epidote. The  
234 clast elemental composition and mineral signatures are reflected in the lake sedimentary succession,  
235 described below.

236

### 237 *Lake stratigraphy and sediment characteristics*

238 Five stratigraphic units have been identified based on sedimentology, physical characteristics (particle  
239 size, dry bulk density (DBD), TOC (indicator of organic matter), and MS (a relative indicator of clastic  
240 sediment composition), Table 3), and geochemistry (XRF and XRD). Figure 3 focuses on selected  
241 elements present in the lake sediments and local bedrock (Table 4), and their ratios, which fluctuate  
242 according to the sequence stratigraphy. On this basis, elemental signatures are used as proxies for  
243 glacier behaviour and lake basin conditions. Ti and Ti/Al ratios are indicators of detrital clastic  
244 sediment input and associated glacier activity, consistent with local lithologies and ratios, and used  
245 elsewhere (e.g. Bakke *et al.* 2009, 2013). Rb/Sr ratios are used as an indicator of chemical weathering  
246 within the lake catchment (e.g. Vasskog *et al.* 2011), as Sr, which has an affinity with Ca, is easily  
247 released during chemical weathering. Si/Ti ratios are commonly used as an indirect proxy of lake  
248 productivity, reflecting changes in biogenic silica input (e.g. Melles *et al.* 2012; Gjerde *et al.* 2017).  
249 Mn/Fe ratio indicate levels of anoxia, as Mn oxidises more rapidly than Fe leading to higher ratios  
250 under oxidising conditions (e.g. Naeher *et al.* 2013; Gjerde *et al.* 2017).

251

252 The first and second components of the PCA account for approximately 66% and 13% of the  
253 sample variance, respectively (Fig. 4). Component 1 scores accurately reproduce the stratigraphic  
254 units (Fig. 3).

255

#### 256 *Unit A (80-60 cm depth) – silty clay gyttja*

257 At the base of the core, bedrock or boulders are overlain by firm, grey clay (~ 80-76 cm), which grades  
258 upwards to more organic, crudely stratified brown silty clay gyttja (Fig. 3). The upper part of the unit  
259 is abundant in bryophytes. This unit has low DBD (0.78 - 1.36, mean 1.02 g cm<sup>-3</sup>) and MS (8.30 –  
260 47.10x10<sup>-5</sup>  $\chi_{hf}$ , mean 17.86x10<sup>-5</sup>  $\chi_{hf}$ ), and high TOC (1.49-6.05, mean 2.69%). Mean grain sizes range  
261 from 17.42-32.41  $\mu$ m (fine silt and clay). Fluctuations in elemental composition (e.g. Ca, Ti) likely  
262 reflect variations in minerogenic sediment content. Si/Ti and Rb/Sr ratios remain high throughout this  
263 unit, while Ti/Al and Mn/Fe are low.

264

265 *Unit B (60-51 cm depth) – laminated silt and clay*

266 Unit B has a sharp contact with unit A and contains laminated grey clays and silts, with negligible  
267 organic matter (Fig. 3). Laminations are <1-3 mm thick, with mean grain sizes of 11.53-30.57  $\mu\text{m}$ . DBD  
268 (1.07 – 1.52, mean 1.31  $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ) and MS (16.67 – 126.54  $\times 10^{-5} \chi_{\text{hf}}$ , mean 47.70  $\times 10^{-5} \chi_{\text{hf}}$ ) values increase  
269 sharply at the lower boundary, with the shift to minerogenic sediment. Ca and Ti concentrations are  
270 high compared to the underlying more organic unit and decrease markedly at the upper boundary.  
271 Low Si/Ti and Rb/Sr ratios and high Ti/Al and Mn/Fe ratios are consistent with low TOC values (0.43-  
272 0.67, mean 0.54%) and are indicative of high minerogenic sediment input and greatly reduced  
273 biological activity.

274

275 *Unit C (51-32 cm depth) – gyttja, silt, and clay*

276 This unit has a gradational lower contact, and grades upwards to faintly laminated brown gyttja, silt,  
277 and clay, with fluctuating organic and minerogenic components (mean grain sizes 17.87-42.60  $\mu\text{m}$ ).  
278 DBD (0.80 – 1.26, mean 0.96  $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ), MS (6.15 – 30.66  $\times 10^{-5} \chi_{\text{hf}}$ , mean 19.38  $\times 10^{-5} \chi_{\text{hf}}$ ), and elemental  
279 values (notably Ca, Al, Ti, and Si), are similar to Unit A (Fig. 3). High Si/Ti ratios and TOC (0.77-5.18,  
280 mean 3.66%), as well as high Rb/Sr ratios, and low Ti/Al and Mn/Fe ratios, suggest limited detrital  
281 sediment input and reduced bedrock weathering and erosion (Table 3).

282

283 *Unit D (32-23 cm depth) – laminated silt and clay*

284 The laminated grey silts and clays in Unit D record an abrupt shift in physical properties and elemental  
285 composition, despite the gradational sedimentological contacts (Fig. 3). The unit has high DBD (1.12 –  
286 1.73, mean 1.33  $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ) and low TOC (0.82-3.57, mean 1.47%). Ca, Ti, and MS (27.19-127.12  $\times 10^{-5} \chi_{\text{hf}}$ ,  
287 mean 86.17  $\times 10^{-5} \chi_{\text{hf}}$ ) increase markedly at the lower contact, and a decrease in Rb/Sr ratios, compared  
288 to unit C, suggests enhanced input of weathered, minerogenic sediment.

289

290 *Unit E (23-0 cm depth) – faintly laminated gyttja, silt, and clay*

291 Unit E contains faintly laminated brown gyttja, silt, and clay (8.46-41.97  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Despite uniform  
292 sedimentology, geochemical measurements and ordination results (Fig. 3) identify three depositional  
293 phases, divided into sub-units E1, E2, and E3.

294

295 Subunit E1 (23-16 cm) coarsens upwards, and has relatively high DBD (1.10 – 1.23, mean 1.16  
296  $\text{gcm}^{-3}$ ) and MS (51.89 – 136.28  $\times 10^{-5} \chi_{\text{hf}}$ , mean 97.34  $\times 10^{-5} \chi_{\text{hf}}$ ), and low TOC (0.94 – 1.77, mean 1.39%).  
297 Ca and Mn/Fe values decrease sharply at the lower boundary and remain low throughout. Ti/Al and  
298 Rb/Sr ratios, as well as PCA component 1 scores (PC1), increase rapidly at the lower contact, before  
299 gradually decreasing.

300

301 E2 (16-12 cm), which broadly fines upwards, has high DBD (1.21 – 1.39, mean 1.32  $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ), MS  
302 (82.08 – 229.33  $\times 10^{-5} \chi_{\text{hf}}$ , mean 171.94  $\times 10^{-5} \chi_{\text{hf}}$ ), and low TOC (0.78 – 1.22, mean 0.92%). Through this  
303 subunit, Ti values reduce, Ca values increase, and Rb/Sr decreases considerably before increasing  
304 towards the upper contact. These elemental profiles are reflected in an increase in PC1 scores towards  
305 the top of the subunit.

306

307 Subunit E3 (12-0 cm) has relatively high DBD (1.04 – 1.32, mean 1.22  $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ) and MS (52.23 –  
308 141.73  $\chi_{\text{hf}}$ , mean 86.60  $\chi_{\text{hf}}$ ). TOC (0.81 – 1.75, mean 1.24%) increases towards the top of the succession,  
309 while MS progressively decreases. Grain size, Ti, Ca, Si/Ti, and Rb/Sr values show little variation, but  
310 Ti/Al ratios gradually increase with height. These elemental profiles are also reflected in the stable  
311 PC1 scores.

312

313 *Lake sediment X-Ray Diffraction and cluster analysis*

314 The Madsen Lake sediments show a complex, but relatively uniform mineralogy throughout the  
315 succession, and a dominance of richterite, phlogopite, orthoclase, quartz, chamosite, and albite. The

316 samples share a common spectrum and clusters reflect variations in the relative abundance of the  
317 same suite of minerals. Cluster analysis identifies 14 different mineralogical clusters (Table 5; Fig. 3).  
318 When plotted against core stratigraphy, five distinct populations are apparent, which correspond to  
319 the sedimentary units A-E and to XRF data (Fig. 3). Importantly, clusters show that the mineralogical  
320 signatures of the laminated clay units (B and D) are distinct from the less minerogenic horizons (Units  
321 A and C). Unit E2 shares similar cluster assignments to the underlying clay units (B and D).

322

### 323 *Chronology*

324 The Madsen Lake chronology is constrained by four  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages from plant macrofossils. Some units have  
325 not been directly dated, due to unsuitable material for  $^{14}\text{C}$  analysis, and their age has been estimated  
326 using the age-depth model (Fig. 3). Dates are expressed as calibrated years before 1950 CE (Common  
327 Era; cal. a BP) unless otherwise stated. A sample from the base of Unit A (ZAC-4, 76.0-76.5 cm depth),  
328 close to the onset of lake sedimentation, is dated to 1740-1535 cal. a BP. Sample ZAC-3 from the base  
329 of Unit B (59.0-60.0 cm depth) yields an age of 1322-1276 cal. a BP, marking the onset of a laminated  
330 silt and clay depositional phase.

331

332 The presence of a sharp, potentially erosive, contact between Unit A and B (60 cm) is  
333 represented in the age-depth model as a hiatus. The inclusion of a hiatus increases the uncertainties  
334 for this section of the age-depth model, but age control provided by samples ZAC-4 and ZAC-3 means  
335 that palaeoenvironmental interpretations are unaffected. Two samples from Unit E yielded ages of  
336 603-557 cal. a BP (sample ZAC-1, 6.0-7.0 cm depth) and 658-550 cal. a BP (sample ZAC-2, 11.0-12.0 cm  
337 depth). The overlapping calibrated age range of ZAC-1 and ZAC-2 is a product of the  $^{14}\text{C}$  calibration  
338 curve plateau (Hallstatt plateau) and is not thought to reflect a true age inversion of the sample  
339 (Jacobsson *et al.* 2018). Above these dated horizons, the upper-most laminations remain horizontally  
340 bedded, but it cannot be ruled out that this part of the succession (i.e. 0.0-7.0 cm) has been truncated

341 due to poor recovery at the sediment-water interface. This cannot be tested with the current  
342 chronology, but it does not affect interpretations of the central portion of the core.

343

344           Modelled sediment accumulation rates for each unit, based on the age-depth model, are 0.29  
345 mm a<sup>-1</sup> (Unit A), 0.37 mm a<sup>-1</sup> (Unit B), 0.64 mm a<sup>-1</sup> (Unit C), 0.72 mm a<sup>-1</sup> (Unit D), and 0.28 mm a<sup>-1</sup> (Unit  
346 E). However, given the variations in grain size, minerogenic content, and changes in dry bulk density  
347 within the units, alongside the evidence for a possible erosive contact between Units A and B, it is  
348 likely that rate has varied.

349

## 350 Discussion

351

### 352 *Madsen Lake catchment history*

353 Three phases of enhanced glacial activity, indicated by increased minerogenic sediment input, are  
354 recorded in the Madsen Lake succession. Two of these are recorded by distinct intervals of laminated  
355 clay and silt (Units B and D; Fig. 3) and a corresponding shift in geochemical characteristics. We  
356 interpret these units as evidence for a phase of glacial advance and retreat (contained within Unit B)  
357 followed by a period of readvance (Unit D). These phases are separated by a unit of lower minerogenic  
358 sediment content, representing conditions of reduced glacial activity (Unit C). A less marked reduction  
359 in minerogenic input (Unit E1), coupled with continuing low TOC levels, may be due to ice recession  
360 and/or reduced glacial erosion and sediment excavation. A third, shorter phase of enhanced glacial  
361 activity is identified by the geochemical record of Unit E2, followed by a transition towards the top of  
362 the succession to conditions with lower glacial sediment input to the lake.

363

364           These shifts in minerogenic and geochemical characteristics are consistent with other  
365 proglacial lake sediment records in Svalbard (Gjerde *et al.* 2017; de Wet *et al.* 2018) and Greenland  
366 (van der Bilt *et al.* 2018), where minerogenic horizons are characterised by reduced total organic

367 carbon content, and an increase in dry bulk density, magnetic susceptibility, and elements such as Fe,  
368 Ti, and Ca. Variations in the degree of development and thickness of glacial lake sediment laminations  
369 are common and reflect changes in the depositional environment. This includes sediment inputs into  
370 the basin, fluctuations in lake water depth which in turn control distance from lake sediment inputs,  
371 the development of thermal and density stratification, and the likelihood of reworking and  
372 homogenization of sediments by bioturbation and wave action (e.g. Zillén *et al.* 2003; Zolitschka *et al.*  
373 2015).

374

375 The Madsen Lake depositional history is outlined below. Unit ages have been assigned as  
376 modelled ages from the age-depth model based on four <sup>14</sup>C ages (ZAC-1 to ZAC-4). It is important to  
377 note that, although three phases of enhanced glacier activity are recorded between 1322-1276 cal. a  
378 BP (ZAC-3, 59.0-60.0 cm) and 658-550 cal. a BP (ZAC-2, 11.0-12.0 cm), only the base of unit B has been  
379 directly dated, and modelled ages are discussed with appropriate caution.

380

381 Prior to 1740-1535 cal. a BP, outlet glaciers from the eastern margins of Slettebreen coalesced  
382 and advanced beyond the lake basin, depositing a large suite of moraines at the margins of Slettedalen  
383 (Moraine Position 1, Fig. 1). Following ice retreat and exposure of the lake basin, sedimentation began  
384 at c. 1740-1535 cal. a BP (Unit A). Low and fluctuating minerogenic sediment inputs, low DBD,  
385 relatively increased TOC and Si/Ti ratios suggest that glacial sediment supply was low and that the  
386 ice margin was situated up valley, possibly close to the present-day ice margins.

387

388 A period of glacial advance into the lower catchment (c. 1350-1190 cal. a BP) is recorded by a  
389 sharp contact into the laminated silts and clays of Unit B, together with an increase in DBD and a  
390 decrease in TOC%. This unit is enhanced in Fe, Ti, and Ca (Fig. 3), which corresponds to the elemental  
391 composition of the sandstone clast samples (Table 4) and may indicate that the glacier advanced over  
392 a sandstone-rich band within the pelitic metasedimentary bedrock. This may also explain the decrease

393 in Rb/Sr ratios. Despite the erosive contact at the base of Unit B, the excellent preservation of  
394 laminations, with no evidence of deformation, suggests that ice did not advance across the lake basin  
395 at that time. Whilst it is possible that sediment can be preserved following overrunning by cold-based  
396 ice, as seen in some High-Arctic lake settings (McFarlin *et al.* 2018), we see little evidence for this in  
397 the Madsen Lake catchment, and it is likely that during the deposition of Unit B, the ice margin lay  
398 around Moraine Position 2. It is not possible to ascertain whether Unit B was deposited during glacial  
399 advance, stillstand, or recession, but this unit provides clear evidence for an enhanced period of glacial  
400 activity and sediment erosion and downstream transfer. The timing of this phase of glacial activity,  
401 during the Dark Ages Cooling Period, is consistent with evidence from other Arctic proglacial lake and  
402 moraine records, which indicate an advance at approximately 1000 cal. a BP, prior to the LIA (Jomelli  
403 *et al.* 2016; van der Bilt *et al.* 2018).

404

405         Following the deposition of Unit B, the reduction in minerogenic sediment content and  
406 elemental values, together with a rise in TOC concentrations and the rich bryophyte content of Unit  
407 C, indicate that ice has receded and environmental conditions around the lake have returned to those  
408 recorded in Bed A. This part of the succession is not directly dated, but the 20 cm-thick unit suggests  
409 a prolonged period of ice-free conditions in the lower catchment, rather than a temporary quiescent  
410 phase during dynamic ice retreat. Our age-depth model suggests that these conditions lasted from c  
411 .1190 to 940 cal. a BP It is likely that the ice margins were located close to their present-day positions  
412 on the flanks of the plateau, or at higher elevations, but further modelling of palaeo-glaciological  
413 behaviour is required to resolve this further.

414

415         A second phase of enhanced glacial activity is recorded from 940-825 cal. a BP (modelled age;  
416 Unit D), indicated by renewed minerogenic sediment delivery, reduced TOC% and Si/Ti ratio, and  
417 increased DBD and MS values. We interpret this as a readvance of the glacier towards the lake basin.

418

419 This is followed by a short period of reduced minerogenic sediment input (Unit E1), which  
420 does not correspond to an increase in TOC% or the Si/Ti ratio, unlike the conditions recorded in units  
421 A and C. Low Mn/Fe ratios indicate anoxic bottom conditions and thus reduced lake water circulation,  
422 while shifts in Ca and Rb/Sr indicate reduced chemical weathering. We interpret this as most likely  
423 due to a reduction in meltwater input and associated generation of bottom flows in the lake, possibly  
424 as a result of glacier retreat.

425

426 A third phase of enhanced glacial activity is recorded by unit E2, close to the onset of the LIA  
427 (modelled age c. 700-550 cal. a BP). High DBD, MS, Mn/Fe, and GSD90 values, coupled with low TOC  
428 and Rb/Sr ratios are indicative of enhanced detrital sediment inputs, associated chemical weathering,  
429 and increased lake water circulation during this period. Unlike Units B and D, this phase is not visible  
430 in the sedimentary record. However, using XRD cluster analysis it is possible to identify similarities  
431 between the mineralogical signature of this unit and the preceding glacially-derived sediments (Units  
432 B and D). This unit may therefore represent a more muted or short-lived cold oscillation involving ice  
433 readvance that has not been clearly recorded in the sedimentary characteristics. Alternatively, it may  
434 mark a phase of enhanced meltwater input due to glacier retreat, but its modelled age at the onset of  
435 the Little Ice Age is more consistent with a period of glacier growth. This highlights that in the High  
436 Arctic, even relatively low amplitude geochemical changes can be indicative of pronounced  
437 environmental change and emphasises the value of detailed geochemical measurements to reliably  
438 reconstruct glacial history.

439

440 Unit E3, at the top of the succession, displays fluctuating mineral composition and consistent  
441 PCA scores. TOC% remains low until the top 2cm of the unit, as do Rb/Sr ratios. Laminations remain  
442 intact, but it cannot be ruled out that this part of the core has been truncated. If the core is intact,  
443 the age-depth model indicates that this unit coincides with the coldest part of the LIA, in which case

444 the very low accumulation ( $0.28 \text{ mm a}^{-1}$ ) rate may indicate a period of prolonged or perennial lake ice  
445 cover, and therefore reduced or non-deposition of sediment (e.g. Levy *et al.* 2014).

446

#### 447 *Sediment geochemistry and mineralogy*

448 Examination of the relationships between sediment characteristics, TOC, elemental and mineralogical  
449 composition (Fig. 3), provides detailed insights into glacier behaviour and downstream sediment  
450 transfer. The phases of glacially-derived sediment deposition are characterised by high DBD and MS, low  
451 TOC, and GSD90 values that are indicative of elevated clay content. Increased Ti and Ca content seen  
452 in the Madsen Lake succession have also been used elsewhere as indicators of enhanced glacial  
453 erosion of catchment bedrock (Bakke *et al.* 2009; de Wet *et al.* 2018). The Ti-TOC biplot (Fig. 5C),  
454 demonstrates that sediments with higher TOC concentrations are relatively depleted in Ti, while  
455 glacially-derived sediments contain negligible organic carbon.

456

457 During glacial depositional phases, low TOC values and Si/Ti ratios (Fig. 3) suggest a lake  
458 environment with high clastic sediment input and thus limited biological activity. This is likely due to  
459 an increase in the relative abundance of the finest sediment size fractions ( $<50 \mu\text{m}$ ), evidenced by the  
460 low GSD90 scores, which have been shown to inhibit sunlight penetration of the water column, and  
461 greatly reduce biological processes (Slemmons *et al.* 2017). During these phases, high Ti/Al ratios (Fig.  
462 5B) point to an increase in detrital sediment inputs. Low Rb/Sr ratios demonstrate that Rb is not  
463 profoundly influenced by glacier activity in the Madsen Lake catchment, even though in other  
464 catchments it has been associated with enhanced chemical weathering and detrital clays (Jin *et al.*  
465 2001; Vasskog *et al.* 2011). Instead, Sr levels increase during glacial advance phases, and its covariance  
466 with Ca (Fig. 5A) indicates the simultaneous glacially-driven bedrock weathering of these elements,  
467 and delivery to the lake downstream. This is consistent with monitored observations from Glacier de  
468 Tsanfleuron, Switzerland, where Sr and Ca concentrations become progressively concentrated in  
469 downstream meltwater systems (Fairchild *et al.* 1994). Glacially comminuted Ca-rich grains are easily

470 dissolved and transported by low temperature meltwater river systems (Fairchild *et al.* 1994, 1999;  
471 Anderson *et al.* 2000; Adamson *et al.* 2014), which may also partly explain their elevated  
472 concentrations in Madsen Lake during periods of glacier activity. MS values increase abruptly at the  
473 onset of glacial sediment depositional phases (Units B and D) and remain elevated but highly  
474 variable in the uppermost part of the succession (Units E1-E3). Together with fluctuating DBD values  
475 this may reflect short-term variations in glacier activity, meltwater flows, lake ice cover, and therefore  
476 sediment source and delivery into the lake basin. This highlights the intricacy of the sedimentary  
477 signature in this part of the succession and the complex ways in which glacier behaviour is recorded  
478 in lake sediments.

479

#### 480 *Drivers of Late Holocene Arctic glacier behaviour*

481 The first phase of glacial activity recorded in Madsen Lake (Unit B) is consistent with data from other  
482 parts of Greenland, which suggest a phase of enhanced glacier activity at c. 1000 cal. a BP, prior to the  
483 LIA, and broadly coincident with the Dark Ages Cold Period (e.g. Ljungqvist, 2010 and Table 1). Diatom  
484 assemblages from Raffles Sø, Scoresby Sund, suggest the onset of colder conditions and lake ice  
485 growth at 1800 cal. a BP (Cremer *et al.* 2001). This precedes the glacial signal recorded in Madsen  
486 Lake, but could represent the onset of Late Holocene climatic deterioration in east Greenland. In  
487 southeast Greenland, <sup>10</sup>Be ages suggest that the southernmost part of the GrlS reached a maximum  
488 at 1510 a (Winsor *et al.* 2014). Lake sediments proximal to the Kulusuk glacier in southeast Greenland  
489 record a major advance at 1300 cal. a BP (Balascio *et al.* 2015), and sediments from the nearby Ymer  
490 Lake, Ammassalik, also record glacier regrowth at c. 1200 cal. a BP (van der Bilt *et al.* 2018).

491

492 The second glacial advance recorded in Madsen Lake (Unit D: c. 940-825 cal. a BP) is  
493 synchronous with evidence of glacial advance in Greenland and further afield (Fig. 6H) during the  
494 Medieval Climate Anomaly (MCA). Lake sediments in east Greenland show that Istorvet ice cap  
495 reached its maximum at c. 865 cal. a BP, remaining at this position until at least 355 cal. a BP (Lowell

496 *et al.* 2013; Lusas *et al.* 2017). Surface exposure ages from moraines on Scoresby Sund have dated  
497 recent advances of the Bregne ice cap to 740 a (Levy, *et al.* 2014), and to 780 - 310 a in Gurreholm Dal  
498 (Kelly *et al.* 2008). In West Greenland and Baffin Island, moraine successions recently dated with both  
499  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^{36}\text{Cl}$  have provided compelling evidence for glacier advances at 975, 885, and 800 a (Young *et al.*  
500 *et al.* 2015; Jomelli, *et al.* 2016). As highlighted by Lowell *et al.* (2013), these pre-LIA advances are not  
501 unique to Greenland - records from Switzerland (Holzhauser *et al.* 2005), Canada (Luckman 1995) and  
502 Alaska (Wiles *et al.* 2008), also demonstrate pre-LIA and LIA glacier advances.

503

504         The continuation of low biological activity after this second advance indicates a prolonged  
505 climate downturn, similar to that recorded at Istorvet ice cap to the south (Lowell *et al.* 2013; Lusas *et al.*  
506 *et al.* 2017). A third phase of enhanced glacial activity after 700 a in the Madsen Lake catchment is  
507 evident only in the geochemical record, and not the visual stratigraphy, and likely reflects changes in  
508 regional climate associated with onset of the LIA. As stated above, the highest part of the succession,  
509 close to the sediment-water interface, may be incomplete, but it is not possible to test this due to  
510 chronological constraints. The sediments are horizontally laminated and undisturbed, and if  
511 considered an intact record, may represent a period of inferred extensive ice cover on the lake, and/or  
512 cold conditions, impeding sediment delivery to the lake basin. These conditions – the coldest recorded  
513 in the Madsen Lake succession – are concordant with widespread regional evidence of cooling into  
514 the LIA.

515

516         Over the last 2000 years, regional variations in Arctic climate (PAGES 2k Consortium 2013)  
517 have been manifest as complex spatial patterns of ice advance and retreat, and regional climate has  
518 been modulated by local factors (e.g. Lusas *et al.* 2017). Arctic glacier behaviour is driven by summer  
519 temperature (during ablation season), which accounts for up to 90% of interannual mass balance  
520 variations (Koerner 2005). Significant increases in precipitation at around 1000 cal. a BP could have  
521 helped to force glacier advance in Zackenberg, however ice core records suggest little variation in

522 accumulation rates over the last 1800 years (Fig. 6E; Andersen *et al.* 2006). The Late-Holocene  
523 advances recorded at Madsen Lake are coincident with reduced Arctic temperatures (0.4 °C below  
524 present), recorded in high-resolution proxy records (Fig. 6B, C; PAGES 2k Consortium 2013) and  
525 reconstructed temperature decreases at NGRIP (up to 2.5 °C cooling) (Fig. 6D), suggesting large-scale  
526 climatic cooling. At present, the mechanisms responsible for pre-LIA glacier expansions in Greenland  
527 (Fig. 6H) are disputed. Reductions in solar irradiance and a period of persistent tropical volcanism,  
528 thought to have caused the onset of the LIA (Miller *et al.* 2012; Swingedouw *et al.* 2015), have been  
529 invoked as forcing mechanisms for some Greenlandic glacial advances (Young *et al.* 2015; Jomelli *et*  
530 *al.* 2016). However, the Slettebreen glacier advances occurred before the periods of reduced  
531 irradiance (900 cal. a BP) and volcanic activity (650 cal. a BP). Sediments from the East Greenland shelf  
532 have provided evidence for strengthening of cold polar waters and reductions in primary productivity  
533 from 1400 cal. a BP (Fig. 6F, G; Perner *et al.* 2015, 2016), and periods of enhanced sea ice in Prinz Josef  
534 Fjord, ~ 150 km southwest of Madsen Lake (Kolling *et al.* 2017) throughout the Neoglacial. Van der  
535 Bilt *et al.* (2018) propose a mechanism by which weakening of the Sub Polar Gyre caused a change in  
536 North Atlantic Oscillation phasing, leading to climatic conditions conducive for glacier growth in  
537 Greenland, but not in western Europe. However, at present, the direct climatic forcing of these pre-  
538 LIA glacier expansion remains unsolved. Results from Madsen Lake are part of a growing body of  
539 evidence for pre-LIA glacier advances in this part of the Arctic. Together this suggests that the palaeo-  
540 behaviour of Slettebreen is not dependant on local conditions, but instead part of a regional response.  
541 Our results highlight the importance of high-resolution sediment geochemical analysis, to identify  
542 rapid glacier advance-retreat phases, where geomorphological and stratigraphical records are  
543 fragmentary.

544

## 545 Conclusions

546 Detailed geochemical analysis of proglacial lake sediments close to Zackenberg, northeast Greenland  
547 reveals three phases of enhanced glacial activity, including two distinct episodes of ice advance, in the

548 last 2000 years. The first two phases occurred prior to the Little Ice Age (c. 1320-800 cal. a BP) and are  
549 close in age to the Dark Ages Cold Period and the Medieval Climate Anomaly. The third phase (c. 700  
550 cal. a BP) representing a short-lived glacier oscillation is associated with the onset of the Little Ice Age.  
551 This is consistent with recent evidence of a period of Arctic glacier advance prior to the Little Ice Age.

552

553 The sub-millennial glacier fluctuations identified in the Madsen Lake succession are not  
554 preserved in the moraine record. Significantly, high-resolution, coupled XRF and XRD analysis has  
555 allowed us to identify a phase of glacial sediment input that cannot be distinguished by sedimentology  
556 alone. This highlights the importance of detailed geochemical analysis for reconstructing sub-  
557 millennial, Arctic glacier behaviour. In regions where dating control is scarce, geochemical analysis can  
558 be used to examine variations in glacially-driven sediment erosion and deposition patterns and  
559 develop meaningful interpretations in the context of regional climate proxy records.

560

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567

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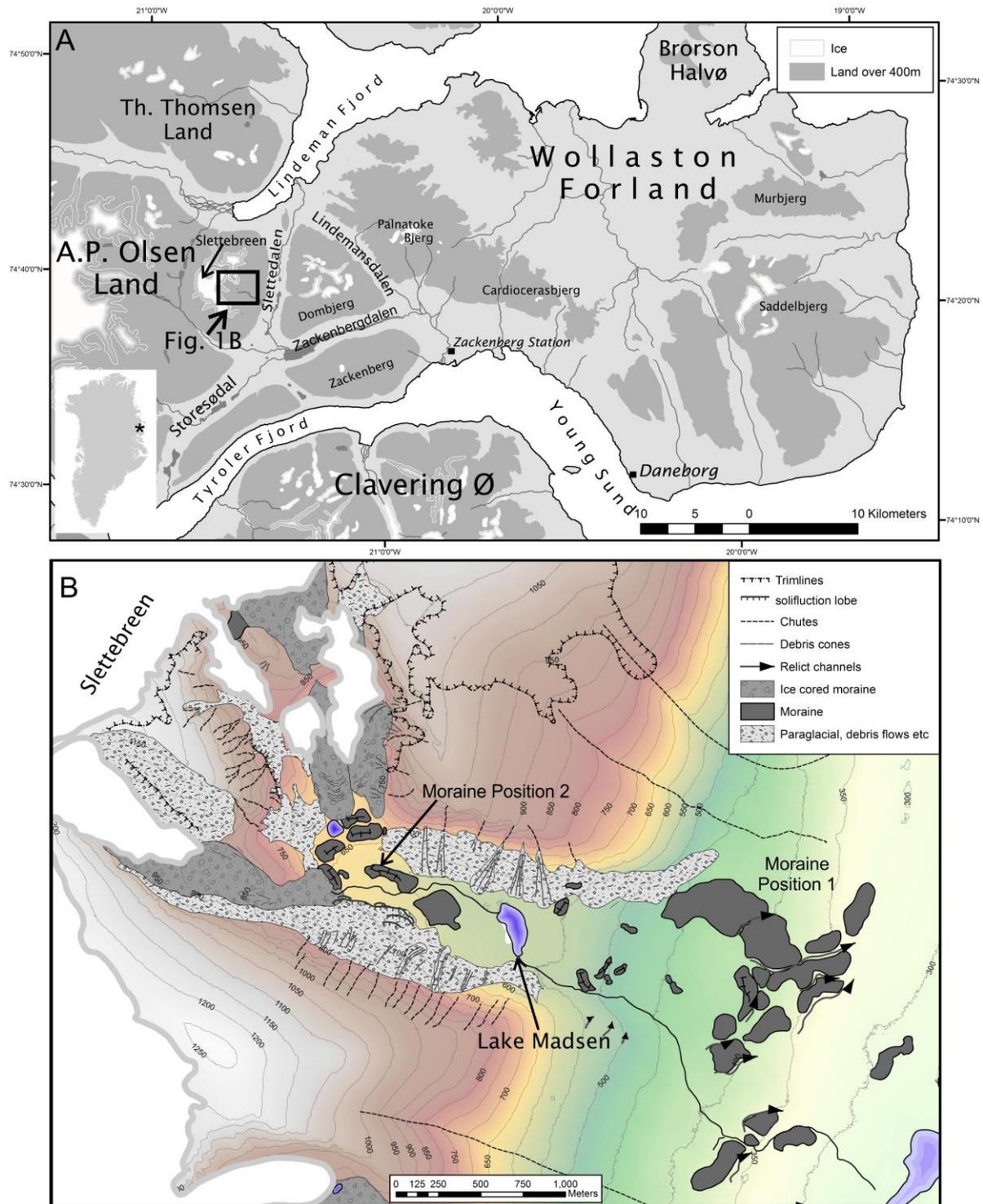
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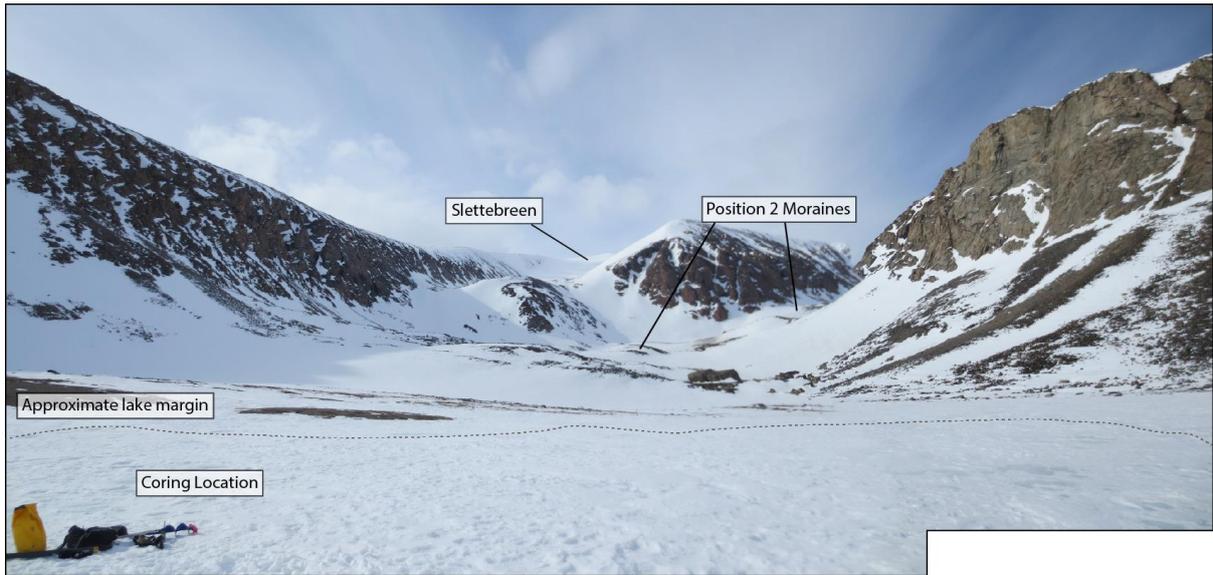
840 Figure 1. A. Map of A.P. Olsen Land and Wollaston Foreland areas, showing position of Slettebreen ice

841 cap. B. Map of the Madsen Lake catchment, showing position of outlet glaciers from Slettebreen ice

842 cap, moraines, and periglacial slope deposits. Moraine positions M1 and M2 are indicated – see text

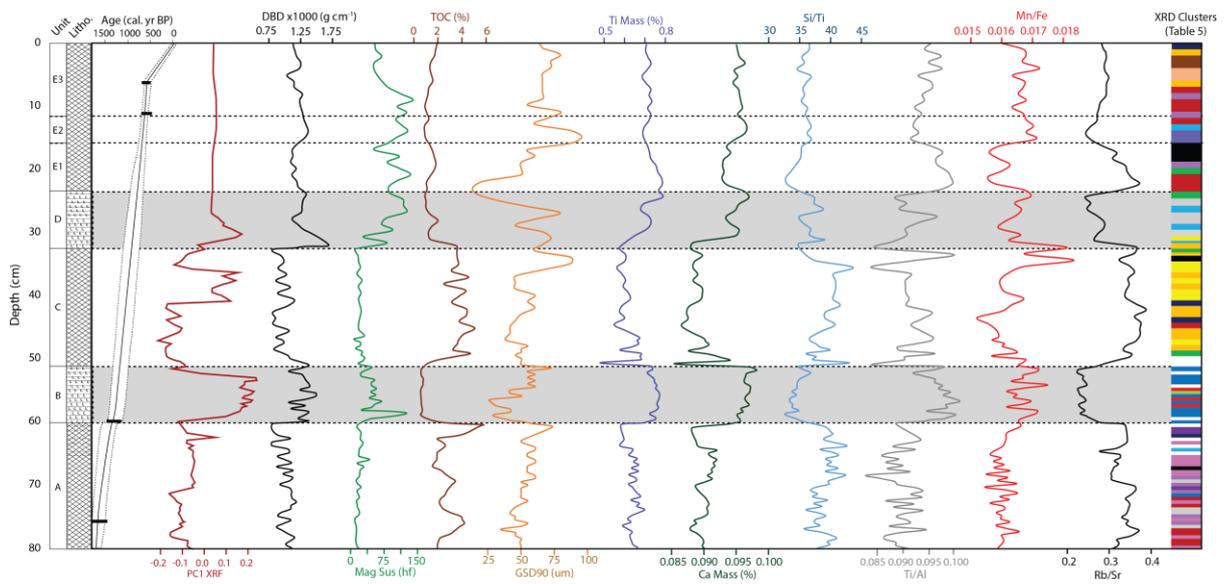
843 for discussion.

844



845

846 Figure 2. The Madsen Lake catchment. The margins of Slettebreen are out of view in the centre of the  
 847 image. The steep valley sides and debris-covered slopes are visible beneath the snow cover. Note the  
 848 ice drill and bag for scale.

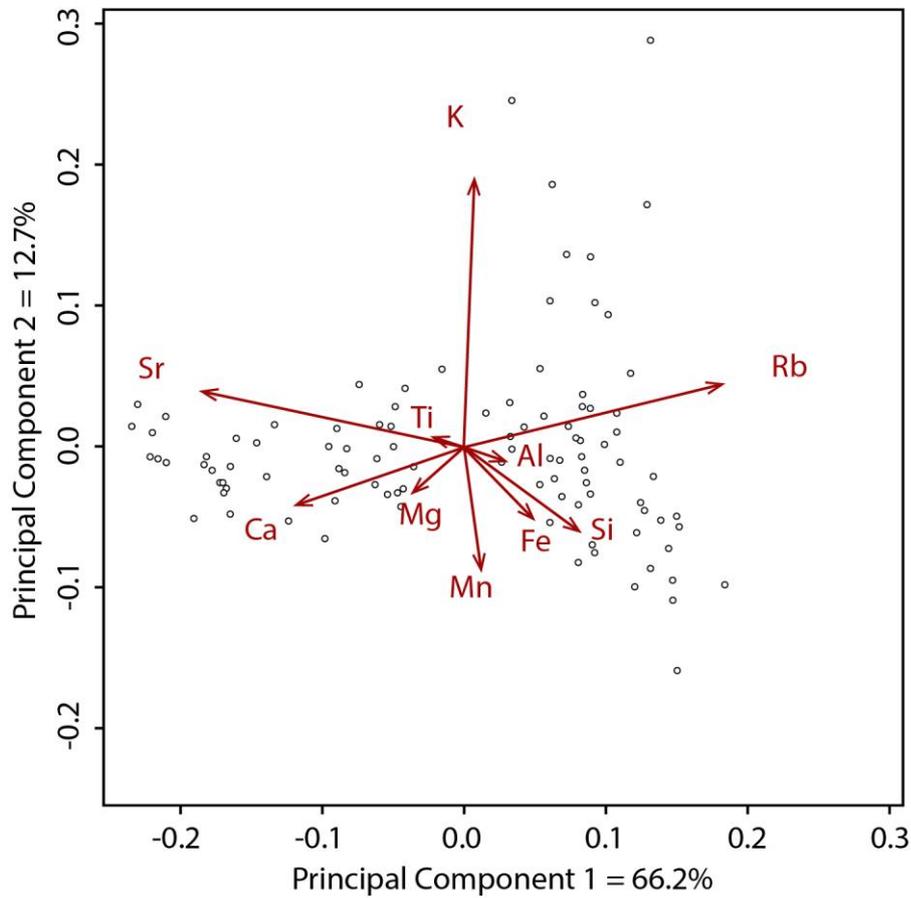


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850 Figure 3. Physical and geochemical plot of the Madsen Lake sediment succession, including unit  
 851 lithology following Troels Smith. Physical characteristics: Dry bulk density (DBD), Magnetic  
 852 Susceptibility (Mag Sus), Total Organic Carbon (%), GSD90, and selected elemental compositions: Ti,  
 853 Ca and ratios Si/Ti (an indirect indicator of lake productivity), Ti/Al (detrital sediment inputs), Mn/Fe  
 854 (oxic vs anoxic conditions), and Rb/Sr (weathering). XRF PC1 scores are shown. XRD cluster  
 855 assignments are indicated at the right of the geochemistry plot – see Table 5 for cluster composition

856 data. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure, the reader is referred to the web  
857 version of this article).

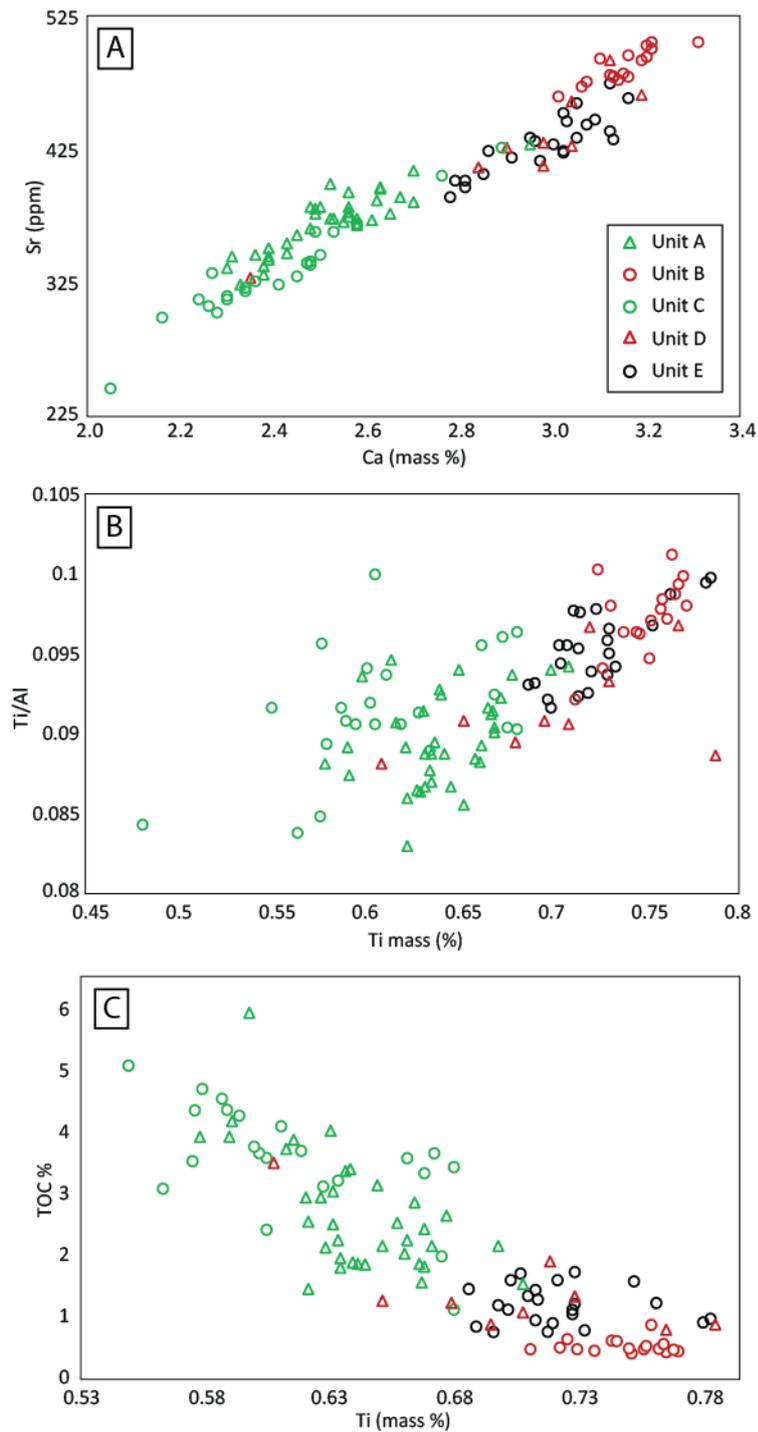
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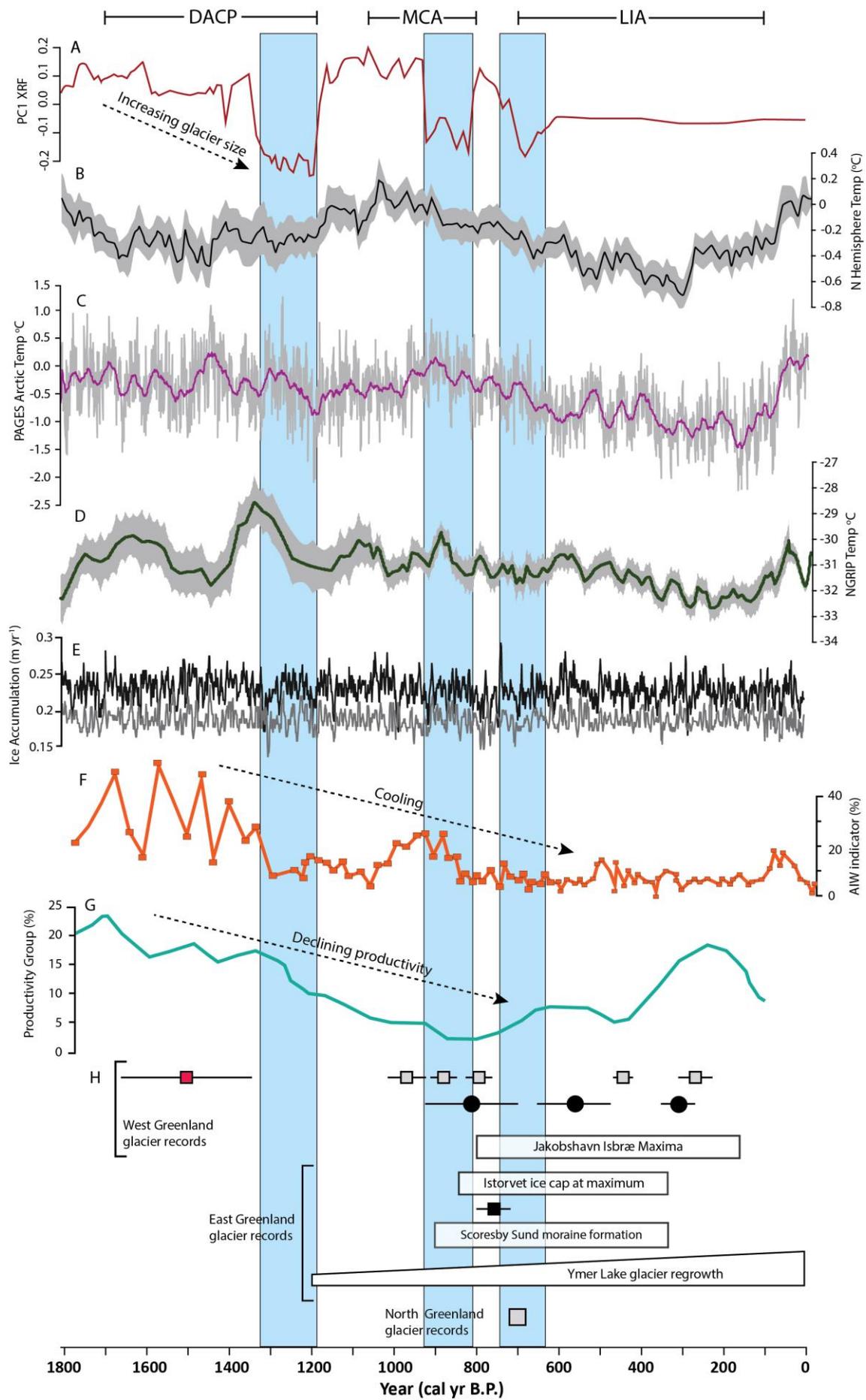
860 Figure 4. PCA plot of 10 elements (XRF analysis) selected on the basis of their abundance in the bedrock  
861 and lake sediments. Axis 1 accounts for approximately 66% of the sample variance. Axis 2 represents  
862 approximately 13% of the sample variance. Open circles represent each sampled horizon.

863



864

865 Figure 5. A. Scatterplot of Sr (ppm) vs Ca (mass %). More organic units, which represent reduced glacial  
 866 input from Slettebreen are in green (Units A and C). Minerogenic units, which represent enhanced  
 867 glacial activity are red (Units B and D). Unit E, which contains a complex minerogenic signal is in black;  
 868 B. Relationship between Ti/Al and Ti (mass %). Sedimentary unit symbols follow Fig 5A. C. Relationship  
 869 between TOC (%) and Ti (mass %). Sedimentary unit symbols follow Fig 5A (For interpretation of the  
 870 references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article).



872 Figure 6. A. PC1 Axis from the Madsen Lake record. B. Extra-tropical Northern Hemisphere decadal  
873 mean temperature relative to the 1961-1990 instrumental temperature, with 2 standard deviation  
874 error bars (grey shading). C. Mean northern Hemisphere reconstructed temperature (PAGES 2k  
875 Network 2013). D. NGRIP reconstructed temperature from argon and nitrogen isotopes, with  $2\sigma$  error  
876 bands (grey shading) (Kobashi *et al.* 2017). E. Ice accumulation records from GRIP (black line) and  
877 NGRIP (grey line) showing very limited variations in ice accumulation across the last 1800 years  
878 (Andersen *et al.*, 2011). F. Chilled Atlantic Water (AIW) foraminiferal assemblage % from East  
879 Greenland Shelf (Perner *et al.* 2015). G. Foraminiferal assemblage productivity group % (Perner *et al.*  
880 2016). H. Glacier records from West Greenland: Kiagtut Sermia, southwest Greenland (red square:  
881 Winsor *et al.* 2014), Uigordleq and Baffin Island (grey squares: Young *et al.* 2015), Disko Island (black  
882 circles: Jomelli *et al.* 2016), Jakobshavn Isbræ (Lloyd 2006; Briner *et al.* 2011; Young *et al.* 2011); East  
883 Greenland: Istorvet ice cap (Lowell *et al.* 2013; Lusas *et al.* 2017), Scoresby Sund (Kelly *et al.* 2008),  
884 Bregne Ice Cap (black square: Levy *et al.* 2014), Ymer Lake, Ammassalik (Van der Bilt *et al.* 2018); and  
885 North Greenland (Bennike 2002). Specific climatic periods/events are show at the top: Dark Ages Cold  
886 Period (DACP), Medieval Climate Anomaly (MCA) and Little Ice Age (LIA) (after Kolling *et al.* 2017).  
887 Periods of glacier advance inferred from PCA axis 1 are shown in vertical blue bars (For interpretation  
888 of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this  
889 article).

890

| Ice mass                | Sedimentary record        | Dating method                         | Age                                | Advance/<br>Max/Retreat | Author   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| West Greenland          |                           |                                       |                                    |                         |  |
| Uigordleq lake valley   | Moraine                   | <sup>10</sup> Be                      | 820 a                              | Maximum                 | Young <i>et al.</i> (2015)                                       |
| Jakobshavn Isbræ        | Marine core               | <sup>14</sup> C                       | 310-450 cal. a BP<br>100 cal. a BP | Advance<br>Maximum      | Briner <i>et al.</i> (2010, 2011);<br>Young <i>et al.</i> (2011) |
| Qamanaarssup Sermia     | Moraine                   | Historical                            | 250-350 a<br>150 a                 | Advance<br>Maximum      | Weidick <i>et al.</i> (2012)                                     |
| Kangiata Nunaata Sermia | Lake sediment             | <sup>14</sup> C                       | 1650 cal. a BP                     | Advance                 | Weidick <i>et al.</i> (2012)                                     |
| Kiagtut Sermia          | Moraine                   | <sup>10</sup> Be                      | 1460 ± 110 a                       | Maximum                 | Winsor <i>et al.</i> (2014)                                      |
| North Greenland         |                           |                                       |                                    |                         |  |
| Humboldt Glacier        | Moraine                   | <sup>14</sup> C                       | 650 cal. a BP                      | Advance                 | Bennike (2002)   |
| East Greenland          |                           |                                       |                                    |                         |  |
| Gurrenholm Dal glacier  | Moraine                   | <sup>10</sup> Be                      | 249-749 a                          | Maximum                 | Kelly <i>et al.</i> (2008)                                       |
| Bregne ice cap          | Moraine                   | <sup>10</sup> Be                      | 740–9,600 a                        | Maximum                 | Levy <i>et al.</i> (2014)  |
| Istorvet ice cap        | Moraine and lake sediment | <sup>14</sup> C                       | 800 cal. a BP<br>290 cal. a BP     | Advance<br>Retreat      | Lowell <i>et al.</i> (2013)                                      |
| South Greenland         |                           |                                       |                                    |                         |  |
| Kulusuk lake            | Lake sediment             | <sup>14</sup> C and <sup>210</sup> Pb | From 4100 cal. a BP                | Fluctuations            | Balascio <i>et al.</i> (2015)                                    |

Table 1. Records of Late Holocene (5 ka to present) glacier activity in Greenland, including proglacial lake and moraine sediment archives.

| Sample number | Beta code | Core depth (cm) | Sample material | Sample mass (mg) | <sup>14</sup> C age a BP | Error +/- (1 σ) | Age (cal. a BP, 2 σ)   | Calendar age (CE)          | Δ <sup>13</sup> C |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| ZAC-1         | 466979    | 6.0-7.0         | Plant           | 2.60             | 620                      | 30              | 658 - 550              | 1292 - 1400                | -26.3             |
| ZAC-2         | 469962    | 11.0-12.0       | Plant           | 0.93             | 660                      | 30              | 603 - 557<br>674 - 628 | 1347 - 1393<br>1276 - 1322 | -29.5             |
| ZAC-3         | 469963    | 59.0-60.0       | Plant           | 1.00             | 1390                     | 30              | 1348 - 1276            | 602 - 674                  | -25.1             |
| ZAC-4         | 480589    | 76.0-76.5       | Plant           | 0.52             | 1730                     | 50              | 1740 - 1535            | 210 - 415                  | -23.8             |

Table 2. Radiocarbon ages of plant macrofossil samples (ZAC-1 to ZAC-4), calibrated using the Intcal13 curve. Calendar ages are displayed for comparison with climate records. All samples were prepared and analysed at Beta Analytic.

| Unit      | Acc. Rate<br>(mm yr <sup>-1</sup> ) | Mean grain size (μm) |              |              |             | Total Organic Carbon (%) |             |             |             | Dry bulk density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> ) |             |             |             | Magnetic susceptibility (hf) |               |               |              |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|           |                                     | Min                  | Max          | Mean         | Std.        | Min                      | Max         | Mean        | Std.        | Min                                    | Max         | Mean        | Std.        | Min                          | Max           | Mean          | Std.         |
| E3        |                                     | 25.97                | 33.72        | 30.23        | 2.19        | 0.81                     | 1.75        | 1.24        | 0.28        | 1.04                                   | 1.32        | 1.22        | 0.07        | 52.23                        | 141.73        | 86.60         | 30.54        |
| <i>E2</i> | 0.28                                | <i>26.32</i>         | <i>41.97</i> | <i>26.32</i> | <i>5.75</i> | <i>0.78</i>              | <i>1.22</i> | <i>0.92</i> | <i>0.19</i> | <i>1.21</i>                            | <i>1.39</i> | <i>1.32</i> | <i>0.06</i> | <i>82.08</i>                 | <i>229.33</i> | <i>171.94</i> | <i>63.31</i> |
| E1        |                                     | 8.46                 | 26.45        | 21.54        | 6.33        | 0.94                     | 1.77        | 1.39        | 0.30        | 1.10                                   | 1.23        | 1.16        | 0.04        | 51.89                        | 136.28        | 97.34         | 24.85        |
| <i>D</i>  | <i>0.72</i>                         | <i>9.61</i>          | <i>38.17</i> | <i>25.11</i> | <i>8.97</i> | <i>0.82</i>              | <i>3.57</i> | <i>1.47</i> | <i>0.81</i> | <i>1.12</i>                            | <i>1.73</i> | <i>1.33</i> | <i>0.16</i> | <i>27.19</i>                 | <i>127.12</i> | <i>86.17</i>  | <i>28.78</i> |
| C         | 0.64                                | 17.87                | 42.60        | 23.59        | 6.15        | 0.77                     | 5.18        | 3.66        | 1.24        | 0.80                                   | 1.26        | 0.96        | 0.12        | 6.15                         | 30.66         | 19.38         | 6.01         |
| <i>B</i>  | <i>0.37</i>                         | <i>11.53</i>         | <i>30.57</i> | <i>21.74</i> | <i>5.67</i> | <i>0.43</i>              | <i>0.67</i> | <i>0.54</i> | <i>0.08</i> | <i>1.07</i>                            | <i>1.52</i> | <i>1.31</i> | <i>0.13</i> | <i>16.67</i>                 | <i>126.54</i> | <i>47.70</i>  | <i>24.16</i> |
| A         | 0.29                                | 17.42                | 32.41        | 23.21        | 2.98        | 1.49                     | 6.05        | 2.69        | 1.10        | 0.78                                   | 1.36        | 1.02        | 0.13        | 8.30                         | 47.10         | 17.86         | 8.16         |

Table 3. Sediment characteristics of the Madsen Lake sequence with minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation values. Horizons B, D, and E2, associated with enhanced glacier activity, are indicated in italics.

| Elemental composition (mass %) |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Lithology                      | Si    | Al   | Ca   | K    | Fe   | Na   | Mg   | Ti   |
| Sandstone                      | 22.40 | 7.22 | 7.35 | 0.21 | 9.74 | 2.60 | 1.72 | 1.28 |
| Gneiss                         | 27.30 | 5.99 | 1.46 | 3.24 | 2.65 | 2.89 | 0.73 | 0.32 |
| Gneiss                         | 26.80 | 6.70 | 2.82 | 3.20 | 3.12 | 2.43 | 0.89 | 0.49 |
| Unakite                        | 32.00 | 6.33 | 4.35 | 2.30 | 2.21 | 2.15 | 0.39 | 0.21 |
| Granite                        | 23.40 | 6.88 | 5.13 | 3.93 | 6.69 | 1.76 | 2.25 | 0.52 |
| Granite                        | 27.90 | 6.37 | 0.57 | 3.96 | 2.27 | 2.86 | 0.55 | 0.29 |
| Granite                        | 26.00 | 6.48 | 5.28 | 0.82 | 4.18 | 2.90 | 2.64 | 0.20 |
| Quartz                         | 27.30 | 7.77 | 0.13 | 8.83 | 0.03 | 1.61 | 0.05 | 0.01 |

Table 4. Lithology and elemental composition (XRF, eight most abundant elements, mass %) of clast samples from the study region around Madsen Lake and Slettedalen. See text for further details of less abundant elements.

| Cluster   |    | Composition of dominant minerals (%) |            |            |        |           |        |
|-----------|----|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Colour, # |    | Richterite                           | Phlogopite | Orthoclase | Quartz | Chamosite | Albite |
|           | 1  | 22.0                                 | 28.5       | 18.0       | 15.0   | 10.5      | 6.0    |
|           | 2  | 25.0                                 | 23.0       | 25.0       | 6.0    | 12.0      | 9.0    |
|           | 3  | 31.0                                 | 29.0       | 26.0       | 3.0    | 6.0       | 5.0    |
|           | 4  | 17.0                                 | 26.0       | 16.0       | 23.0   | 14.0      | 4.0    |
|           | 5  | 22.0                                 | 19.5       | 23.0       | 19.0   | 11.5      | 5.0    |
|           | 6  | 19.0                                 | 16.0       | 17.0       | 22.0   | 23.0      | 3.0    |
|           | 7  | 30.0                                 | 21.0       | 25.0       | 7.0    | 11.0      | 6.0    |
|           | 8  | 25.0                                 | 20.0       | 29.0       | 8.0    | 10.0      | 8.0    |
|           | 9  | 18.0                                 | 22.0       | 20.0       | 14.0   | 23.0      | 3.0    |
|           | 10 | 26.5                                 | 25.0       | 22.5       | 7.0    | 10.0      | 9.0    |
|           | 11 | 19.0                                 | 26.5       | 19.0       | 21.0   | 11.5      | 3.0    |
|           | 12 | 23.0                                 | 12.0       | 21.0       | 22.0   | 18.0      | 4.0    |
|           | 13 | 18.0                                 | 33.0       | 15.0       | 15.0   | 14.0      | 5.0    |
|           | 14 | 22.0                                 | 25.5       | 16.5       | 11.0   | 18.0      | 7.0    |

Table 5. Relative abundance of the dominant minerals present within the 14 Lake Madsen XRD clusters (see Fig. 3 for down-core cluster assignments) based on the relative intensity of diffraction peaks, which are indicative of crystalline concentrations.