



Paleocene–Eocene age glendonites from the Mid-Norwegian Margin – indicators of cold snaps in the hothouse?

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Received: 18 July 2023 – Discussion started: 3 August 2023

Accepted: 8 November 2023 – Published: 3 January 2024

Abstract. The International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) Expedition 396 to the mid-Norwegian margin recovered > 1300 m of pristinely preserved, volcanic-ash-rich sediments deposited during the late Paleocene and early Eocene from close to the centre of the North Atlantic Igneous Province (NAIP). Remarkably, many of these cores contain glendonites, pseudomorphs after the purported cold-water mineral ikaite, from sediments dated to the late Paleocene and early Eocene. These time intervals span some of the hottest climates of the Cenozoic, including the Paleocene–Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM). Global deep-ocean temperatures are not thought to have dropped below 10 °C at any point during this time, making the occurrence of supposedly cold-water (near-freezing temperature) glendonite pseudomorphs seemingly paradoxical. This study presents a detailed sedimentological, geochemical, and microscopic study of the IODP Exp. 396 glendonites and presents an updated model for the ikaite-to-calcite transformation for these glendonites. Specifically, we show that early diagenesis of

basaltic ashes of the NAIP appear to have chemically promoted ikaite growth in the sediments in this region. Together with existing knowledge of late Paleocene and early Eocene glendonites from Svalbard to the north and early Eocene glendonites from Denmark to the south, these new glendonite finds possibly imply episodic, short-duration, and likely localized cooling in the Nordic Seas region, which may have been directly or indirectly linked to the emplacement of the NAIP.

1 Introduction

Glendonites are pseudomorphs after the mineral ikaite, a metastable, hydrated form of calcium carbonate ($\text{CaCO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$), which is found today growing in a range of environments (alkaline lakes, sea ice, concrete, in estuarine settings, deep marine sediments, and more; Council and Bennet, 1993; Buchardt et al., 2001; Dieckmann et

al., 2008; Boch et al., 2015; Zhou et al., 2015; Schultz et al., 2022, 2023a). Certain physical and chemical conditions are necessary in order for ikaite to precipitate preferentially over the more stable anhydrous CaCO_3 polymorphs (calcite, aragonite, vaterite). These parameters may include low temperatures, high alkalinity, and a range of possible chemical inhibitors of the anhydrous polymorphs (e.g. high aqueous Mg, phosphate, and/or sulfate concentrations and certain dissolved organic compounds) (Council and Bennett, 1993; Buchardt et al., 2001; Zhou et al., 2015; Purgstaller et al., 2017; Stockmann et al., 2018; Whiticar et al., 2022). Whilst laboratory studies have successfully, if fleetingly, precipitated ikaite at warm temperatures ($\leq 35^\circ\text{C}$), cold water temperatures ($< 10^\circ\text{C}$) are much more favourable for the precipitation, growth, and longevity of this mineral (Purgstaller et al., 2017; Stockmann et al., 2018; Tollefse et al., 2020; Vickers et al., 2022). In nature, ikaite has not been discovered growing above 7°C (Suess et al., 1982; Dieckmann et al., 2008; Zhou et al., 2015; Boch et al., 2015; Stockmann et al., 2022).

Glendonites are found throughout the geological record in marine sedimentary settings, sometimes associated with glacial deposits (e.g. Kemper, 1987; Alley et al., 2020), in sediments deposited during periods of both icehouse and greenhouse climate (Rogov et al., 2021, 2023). The occurrence of glendonites in Mesozoic marine sediments has fuelled the debate about whether ephemeral polar ice sheets waxed and waned during this long-term global greenhouse climate (e.g. Kemper, 1987; de Lurio and Frakes, 1999; Rogov et al., 2017; Vickers et al., 2019; Merkel and Munnecke, 2023). Across the Cenozoic sedimentary record, glendonites are found at increasingly broader latitude ranges through time, coincident with the growth of polar ice caps and global climate cooling (Rogov et al., 2021). However, reports of glendonites – including the largest ever discovered on Earth – from successions deposited in the Nordic Seas region during the early Paleogene greenhouse have been a topic of controversy in the paleoclimate community due to the apparent mismatch with concurrent paleotemperature proxies (Huggett et al., 2005; Spielhagen and Tripati, 2009). Deep-ocean bottom water temperatures were $> 10^\circ\text{C}$ across the globe, including the North Atlantic, during much of the Paleocene and early Eocene (Zachos et al., 2008; Dunkley-Jones et al., 2013; Westerhold et al., 2020; Meckler et al., 2022), such that the presence of glendonites in marine sedimentary sequences during this time appears paradoxical. Whilst the successful synthesis of ikaite at warm ($\leq 35^\circ\text{C}$) temperatures in laboratory conditions raises the possibility of ikaite and glendonite formation at much warmer temperatures than modern-day natural ikaites (Purgstaller et al., 2017; Tollefse et al., 2020), the conditions under which this was achieved in the laboratory are unlike marine natural settings (e.g. compared to modern marine ikaite-bearing sites those precipitation experiments were characterized by dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) concentrations at least an order of magnitude

higher than typical pore water profiles and $\Omega_{\text{calcite}} > 100$, far in excess of that typically found in natural settings; Zhou et al., 2015).

In addition, clumped isotope temperature reconstructions for ikaite precipitation or transformation temperatures from a Danish early Eocene succession suggest cold formation (or perhaps transformation) conditions ($0\text{--}9^\circ\text{C}$) for the parent ikaite (Vickers et al., 2020). Given that the ikaite minerals grew from pore waters in the shallow subsurface (e.g. Zhou et al., 2015; Schultz et al., 2022), this suggests that local bottom water temperatures must have been at least this cold (Vickers et al., 2020) since temperature increases with burial depth. Reconstructed sea surface temperatures from biomarkers for the North Sea area (Denmark) also suggest that short-term cooling events of magnitude ca. $5\text{--}7^\circ\text{C}$ (down to sea surface temperatures (SSTs) of 15°C or lower) may have punctuated the late Paleocene to early Eocene (Stokke et al., 2020a; Vickers et al., 2020; summarized by Jones et al., 2023). While the potential drivers of intermittent cooling episodes have been touched upon by previous studies (Schoon et al., 2015; Stokke et al., 2020a; Vickers et al., 2020), the causes, spatial extent, and recurrence times of such events remains unresolved.

The International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) Expedition 396 to the Norwegian continental margin (August–September 2021) recovered numerous glendonites in ash-bearing deposits dated as latest Paleocene and earliest Eocene, including within those sediments deposited during the Paleocene–Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) hyperthermal event (Berndt et al., 2023; Planke et al., 2023a). Deep-ocean bottom water temperatures may have reached 15°C or more during the 150–200 kyr PETM hyperthermal (Röhl et al., 2007; Zachos et al., 2008; Murphy et al., 2010; Dunkley Jones et al., 2013; Westerhold et al., 2020). This makes the discovery of pseudomorphs after a mineral favoured by near-freezing conditions in shallow epicontinental seas truly remarkable if the age of their formation and recrystallization coincided with the depositional age of the host sediments. If the parent ikaite grew during the PETM or the hothouse earliest Eocene climate (as was the case for the well-studied Fur Formation glendonites; Vickers et al., 2020), this raises questions about regional seaway connectivity and stratification in the Nordic Seas, as an extreme thermocline within these shallow seas is one way to reconcile cold bottom water and warm surface water proxies. The presence of glendonites in Nordic Seas strata could imply that current global and regional temperature reconstructions based on biogenic carbonates and lipid biomarkers do not represent the full spectrum of climate variability in the early Paleogene Northern Hemisphere.

This study documents and describes the glendonites recovered from IODP Exp. 396 cores and their stratigraphic distribution using microscopic and geochemical analyses along with sedimentological data to elucidate the timing, climate, and chemical regimes that facilitated their formation.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Geological setting and sampling

IODP Expedition 396 drilled 21 boreholes along the mid-Norwegian continental margin during August and September 2021, recovering igneous and sedimentary rocks ranging from lava flow fields to hydrothermal vent complexes, including thick successions of upper Paleocene and lower Eocene strata (Fig. 1a). Shipboard sedimentary logging was followed by a more detailed high-resolution study of recovered cores stored at MARUM, Bremen, under refrigerated conditions (ca. 4 °C). Paleocene–Eocene sedimentary successions were cored along the Modgunn and Mimir transects (Fig. 1b and c).

Boreholes from the Modgunn transect (Sites U1567–U1568) span the crater of a Paleogene hydrothermal vent complex close to the Vøring transform margin (Fig. 1b; Planke et al., 2023a, b). These vents formed due to the violent expulsion of volatiles generated by contact metamorphism of organic-rich sediments around igneous intrusions and from magmatic degassing (e.g. Svensen et al., 2004). The Modgunn crater is approximately 80 m deep compared to the paleo-seafloor, with a 200–240 m wide feeder system that is rooted in a series of nested sill intrusions (Berndt et al., 2023). The vent infill predominantly consists of laminated diatom-rich mud, mudstones, and ash layers that rapidly accumulated to fill the bathymetric depression. The strata exhibit a negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion and the first and last occurrence of the biostratigraphic marker taxa *Apectodinium augustum* and *Hemiaulus proteus* (Fig. 2). Based on these biostratigraphic and chemostratigraphic constraints, Berndt et al. (2023) showed the vent formed just before the PETM onset and was completely filled within the duration of the PETM carbon isotope excursion (CIE).

The Mimir High (Sites U1569–U1570) is a borehole transect through a marginal high on the Vøring Transform Margin (Fig. 1c; Planke et al., 2023a, c). Uplift and erosion of the marginal high has removed any basalt cover (Berndt et al., 2001), providing a window to access stratigraphic successions below the breakup volcanism. The strata dip to the north, and thus a transect of boreholes was designed to provide a composite late Paleocene–early Eocene section with overlap between each hole. These strata consist of a mix of mud, mudstones, carbonates, igneous units, and ash layers (Planke et al., 2023a, c). For three holes (U1569A, U1570A and U1570D), on-board biostratigraphy showed the presence of the PETM-marker taxon *Apectodinium augustum* (Planke et al., 2023c) (Fig. 2).

Core sampling, including the collection of glendonites, was undertaken in April 2022, and high-resolution sediment logging of the glendonite-bearing core sections was undertaken in August 2022 at MARUM, University of Bremen, Germany.

At each hole, interstitial water (IW) samples were taken at intervals of ~3 m of sediment in the upper 50 m, i.e. ~1 sample every 9.5 m for the lower parts of the cored sediment. Standard IODP methods for IW extraction were used at all sites. Following whole-core recovery to the catwalk, full round samples were collected, sealed, and transferred to the shipboard chemistry lab, where sediment exteriors were carefully removed to reduce potential contamination from drilling fluids. The samples were individually “squeezed” – placed into a Carver press and subjected to 35 000 lb (15 875 kg) force. Squeezed fluid was then filtered through a Whatman no. 1 filter (11 µm), and 0.5 mL was discarded. The remaining fluids were collected in acid-cleaned syringes after filtering through 0.45 µm polyethersulfone membranes and split into aliquots. All analyses of the collected IWs were completed following the standard shipboard methods of the R/V *JOIDES Resolution* (Planke et al., 2023d) and are published in Planke et al. (2023a, b).

2.2 Carbon isotope analysis

A selection of bulk rock sub-samples were selected for carbon isotope analysis in order to provide new chemostratigraphic data for certain areas of the Mimir transect and to complement the existing $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ dataset for the Modgunn transect (Berndt et al., 2023). Dried bulk rock samples were powdered and decarbonated using 1 M HCl for 72 h, including a brief (ca. 1 h) heating step at 50 °C during the acidification process to remove any siderite that has been identified as occasionally present in these sediments. The samples were then cleaned using deionized water and were oven dried at 50 °C before being re-homogenized. Analyses of squeeze cake samples from the IW extraction procedure were performed using a Thermo Fisher Scientific FlashSmart Elemental Analyzer, coupled to a Thermo Fisher Scientific DeltaV Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer at the CLIP Lab, University of Oslo. An expanded dataset from the samples collected in Bremen were analysed using a Thermo Fisher DeltaV Advantage Mass Spectrometer at the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Each sample was run in duplicate to test reproducibility, which was < 0.06 ‰ for both sample sets.

2.3 Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD)

Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) was carried out on dried, powdered bulk sub-samples of five glendonites from the Exp. 396 cores, using a Stoe StadiP transmission (thin-foil) diffractometer with a copper anode at 30 mA and 40 kV and a germanium 111 monochromator to produce $\text{K}\alpha_1$ X-rays. The diffracted beam was collected by an 18° 2θ Dectris Mythen1K silicon strip detector. Samples were sandwiched between two thin cellulose acetate discs and mounted in a holder set to spin continuously during data collection.

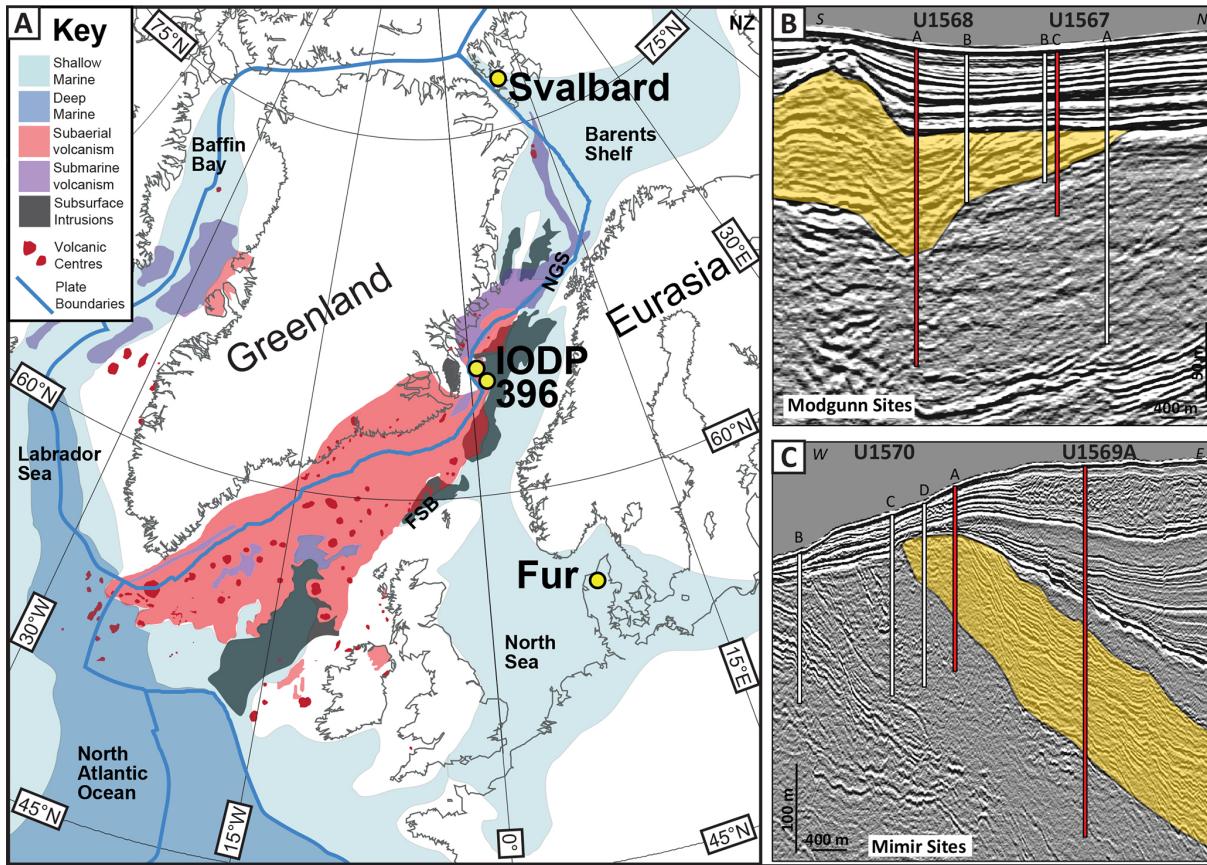


Figure 1. (a) Paleogeographic map of the Nordic Seas region with North Atlantic Igneous Province volcanism shown, after Jones et al. (2023). Location of all known Paleocene–Eocene glendonite-bearing sites marked – Exp. 396 Modgunn and Mimir cores (this study), Paleogene–Eocene sediments of Svalbard (Spielhagen and Tripati, 2009), and early Eocene Fur Formation of northern Denmark (Vickers et al., 2020). (b) High-resolution 3-D seismic data for holes 1568 and 1567 along the Modgunn transect (from Planke et al., 2023b). (c) High-resolution 3-D seismic data for holes 1569 and 1570 along the Mimir transect (from Planke et al., 2023c). Holes from which glendonites were recovered are shown in red. PETM intervals are shown in yellow.

Datasets were scanned from 5 to $65^\circ 2\theta$ stepping at 0.5° and 20 s per step. The resultant raw data has a step of $0.015^\circ 2\theta$. Machine alignment was monitored using an NBS silicon standard. Phase analysis was undertaken using Bruker’s “Eva” program (Gates-Rector and Blanton, 2019) interfaced with the Powder Diffraction File provided by the International Centre for Diffraction Data.

2.4 Microscopy

Four polished thin sections were made from three glendonites (those in Cores U1569A-19R-2, U1570A-15R-1, and U1567C-11X-1), and examined using a light microscope to compare to published data on glendonite microfabrics and look for different carbonate growth phases. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) backscattered-electron (BSE) imaging and energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) was undertaken using a Hitachi SU5000 FE-SEM equipped with a

Bruker EDS was used to examine porosity and spatial chemical variation across the sub-samples.

2.5 Laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA ICP-MS)

Laser ablation trace element analyses were performed on polished thin sections of glendonites from Cores U1569A-19R-2, U1570A-15R-1, and U1567C-11X-1 at the Frankfurt Isotope and Element Research Center (FIERCE) in the Institute of Geosciences at Goethe University Frankfurt. Different carbonate phases were targeted. The system features a 193 nm resolution M-50 laser ablation (LA) system with two-volume LaurinTechnic ablation cell connected to a Thermo Scientific Element XR sector field inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS). All analyses were performed as “spot” measurements, utilizing relatively low repetition rates to ablate through the thin sections analysed here. Ablation took place with He in the outer cell (400 mL min^{-1}) and Ar

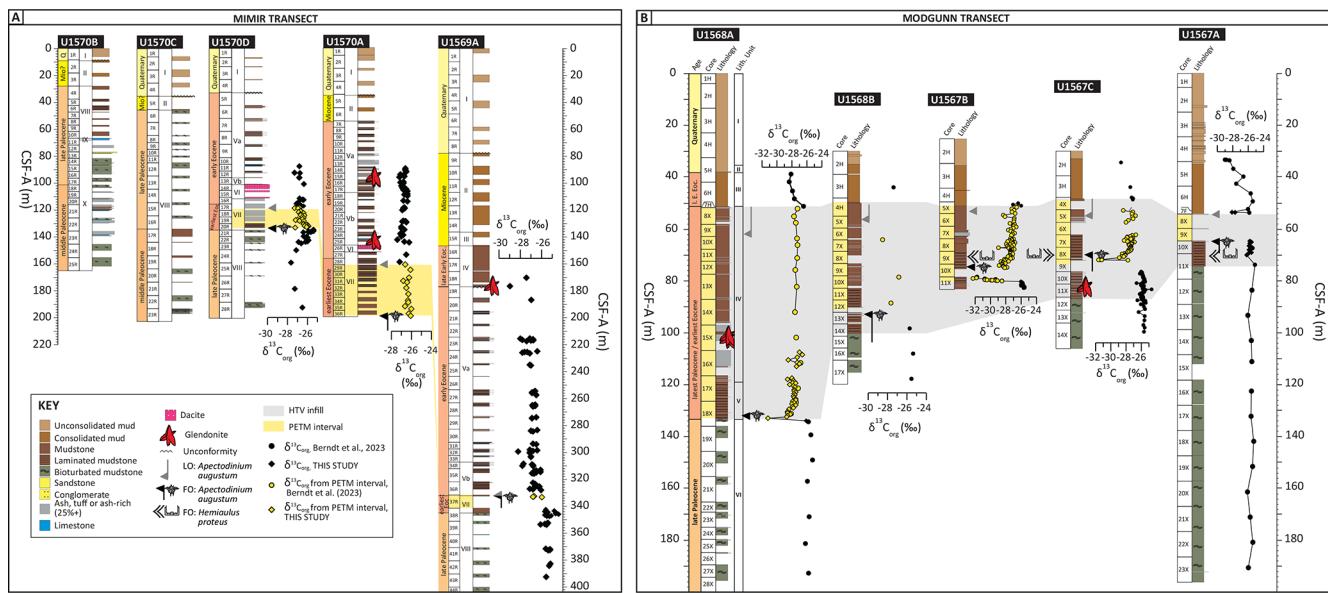


Figure 2. Overview logs of the cores with glendonite horizons marked by the red glendonite cartoon. **(a)** The Mimir (U1569–U1570) transect, from Planke et al. (2023c). The PETM interval (pale yellow) is identified by biostratigraphy (Planke et al., 2023c) and carbon isotope stratigraphy (this study). **(b)** The Modgunn (U1567–U1568) transect, from Planke et al. (2023b) and Berndt et al. (2023). Core sections of PETM age are highlighted in yellow, and the hydrothermal vent infill (e.g. Fig. 1b) is shown in grey. All correlations between cores are supported by lithologic change, biostratigraphic zonation (Planke et al., 2023b; Berndt et al., 2023), and carbon isotope stratigraphy (Berndt et al., 2023; this study).

sample gas from the ICP-MS (1.025 L min^{-1}) mixed into the lower-volume inner cell. N_2 was admixed downstream of the ablation cell (4.5 mL min^{-1}) to improve sensitivity (e.g. Durant, 1994). The ICP-MS was fitted with a Ni jet sample cone and Ni H skimmer cone and operated in medium-resolution mode. Tuning of the system was performed to maximize sensitivity ($\sim 6 \text{ M cps } ^{238}\text{U}$ in low-resolution mode; NIST SRM612 $60 \mu\text{m}$, 6 Hz , 6 J cm^{-2}) while maintaining the oxide and doubly charged production rate below 0.5 % and 2 %, respectively. Monitored masses included ^{11}B , ^{23}Na , ^{24}Mg , ^{25}Mg , ^{27}Al , ^{39}K , ^{55}Mn , ^{56}Fe , ^{88}Sr , ^{138}Ba , ^{208}Pb , and ^{238}U .

Samples were ablated using a $50 \mu\text{m}$ diameter laser beam at 4 Hz with an on-sample fluence of 5 J cm^{-2} . Quantification was performed using ^{43}Ca as the internal standard and NIST SRM610 as the external standard. Data processing was performed using an in-house MATLAB script following established procedures (Heinrich et al., 2003), described in detail elsewhere (Evans and Müller, 2018). Briefly, all analyses were baseline corrected by subtracting the mean of the two adjacent gas-blank datasets, normalized to ^{43}Ca and standardized into element/Ca molar ratios using the analyte/ ^{43}Ca count/concentration ratio from NIST SRM610. No significant drift in this count ratio was observed for any relevant analyte for the session reported here such that standardization was based on the mean of all available NIST analyses. Down-hole elemental fractionation relative to Ca was corrected by calculating least-squares third-order polynomials through the NIST SRM610 element/ ^{43}Ca depth

data, which were then used as the sweep-time-specific ratios for sample quantification. The NIST SRM610 values of Jochum et al. (2011) were used in all cases except Mg, for which we use that of Pearce et al. (1997) following the data analysis of Evans and Müller (2018).

Data quality was assessed via repeat analysis of the “nanopellet” version of the CaCO_3 standards JCp-1 and MACS-3 (Garbe-Schönberg and Müller, 2014; Jochum et al., 2019), ablated in an identical manner to the samples. Pooling together all analyses on both standards ($n = 20$) and comparing to the reported values of Jochum et al. (2019) yields an accuracy of $< 5\%$ for ^{11}B , ^{56}Fe , and ^{88}Sr ; $< 10\%$ for ^{23}Na , $^{24+25}\text{Mg}$, ^{138}Ba , and ^{238}U ; 25% for ^{27}Al ; 30% for ^{39}K ; and 70% in the case of ^{55}Mn , comparable to the achievable long-term data quality from a similar system (Evans and Müller, 2018, albeit using a quadrupole ICP-MS). Precision (repeatability), defined as the 2 SD of all individual analyses normalized to the reported value was better than 10% in the case of ^{11}B , ^{23}Na , ^{88}Sr , and ^{238}U ; $< 15\%$ for $^{24+25}\text{Mg}$, ^{39}K , ^{56}Fe , and ^{138}Ba ; 45% for ^{27}Al ; and 130% for ^{55}Mn . We stress that all of these values are strongly concentration dependent and may underestimate or overestimate sample data quality depending on the analyte concentration of a given sample analysis.

2.6 Inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES)

Minor element analyses for Mg, Sr, Na, Mn, Fe, S, P, Al, and Rb were undertaken on selected subsamples of dried, powdered, bulk glendonites using an Agilent 5110 VDV ICP-OES at the Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter, following the method detailed in Ullmann et al. (2020). The minor element data are expressed as ratios to Ca and calibrated using certified single-element standards mixed to match the chemical composition of the analysed samples. Precision and accuracy of the analyses were measured and controlled by interspersing multiple measurements of international reference materials, JLS-1 and quality control solutions (BCQ2 and BCQ3). Analytical uncertainty of element/Ca ratios in these reference materials is less than 1 % (2 RSD, relative standard deviation) at concentrations > 100 times the quantification limit (measured as 6 SD of the variability of blank solutions in a batch run, $n = 5$). For lower concentrations, the uncertainty of individual measurements is similar to the quantification limit, i.e. $6 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ for Mg/Ca, $0.2 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ for Sr/Ca, $0.02 \text{ mmol mol}^{-1}$ for Na/Ca, $5 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ for Mn/Ca, $5 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ for Fe/Ca, $0.2 \text{ mmol mol}^{-1}$ for S/Ca, $0.08 \text{ mmol mol}^{-1}$ for P/Ca, $0.06 \text{ mmol mol}^{-1}$ for Al/Ca, and $0.04 \text{ mmol mol}^{-1}$ for Rb/Ca.

2.7 Microprobe data, IODP Exp. 396 ashes

A representative selection ($n = 13$) of Exp. 396 ashes from Holes U1567A, U1567C, U1568A, U1568B, U1569A, and U1570D were analysed for their major element composition. Individual silicate glass grains were picked and mounted in epoxy for matrix glass analysis. Polished and carbon-coated grain mounts were analysed on a Cameca SX100 electron microprobe with five wavelength dispersive spectrometers (WDSs) at the University of Oslo. Analyses were conducted with an accelerating voltage of 15 kV and a 10 nA beam current using a defocused beam size of 10 μm . Counting times were 10 s for Na, Si, Cl, K, S, Fe, Al, Mg, and Mn and 20 for Ca and Ti.

2.8 PHREEQC modelling

The PHREEQC model (version 3; Parkhurst and Appelo, 2013, using the phreeqc.dat database) was used to calculate pore water chemical speciation and saturation indices for Hole U1568A, based on multiple shipboard analyses of interstitial water (Planke et al., 2023a, b). The model input values were those from the inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES) for consistency. The in situ pressures (in atm; 1 atm = 101 kPa) were estimated using the measured water depth of 1707.4 m below surface (mbsf) and a pressure gradient of 0.1 atm m^{-1} in the water column. In the subsurface, a pressure gradient of 0.2 atm m^{-1} was assumed, giving a pressure of 209 atm at the deepest intersti-

tial water sample depth (192.4 m). The PHREEQC model was run as a batch reactor for each solution using a table input into SOLUTION_SPREAD, and then a second simulation (RUN_CELLS) was performed to recalibrate the pE and pH from the ionic balance of the shipboard measurements of cation and anion contents (Planke et al., 2023b, c).

3 Results

3.1 Sedimentological context

The glendonites discovered by IODP Expedition 396 are found within two holes of the Modgunn transect, U1567C ($65^{\circ}21.785' \text{ N}, 3^{\circ}3.219' \text{ E}$) and U1568A ($65^{\circ}21.594' \text{ N}, 3^{\circ}3.109' \text{ E}$), and within two holes of the Mimir transect, U1569A ($65^{\circ}49.878' \text{ N}, 2^{\circ}1.608' \text{ E}$) and U1570A ($65^{\circ}49.890' \text{ N}, 1^{\circ}59.623' \text{ E}$) (Fig. 2 and Table 1). For the Modgunn transect, the glendonites are all found within the latest Paleocene and PETM-aged hydrothermal vent infilling deposits (Unit IV, Fig. 2), in horizons with the most numerous and thickest ash intervals (Fig. 2). Lithological Unit IV is described as “dark greenish grey to very dark grey claystone to siltstone, with common volcanic ash beds and light bioturbation” (Planke et al., 2023b, p. 10). The glendonites in the Mimir cores are found in early Eocene parts of the succession, in Unit Va and Vb of Hole U1570A, also in close association with numerous and thick ash layers. In Hole U1569A the glendonites are found at the very top of Unit Va, some 17 m above the thickest and most numerous ash horizons, although notably in an interval with limited core recovery (Fig. 2), which implies that these sediments may be extremely rich with unconsolidated ash horizons. The deposits of Lithological Unit Va are described as “very dark grey mudstone with sparse parallel lamination and slight bioturbation, with rare limestone intervals and common ash beds”, and those of Vb are described as “very dark grey mudstone with sparse parallel lamination and slight bioturbation, with common ash beds and diagenetic pyrite.” (Planke et al., 2023c, p10 Sites U1569 and U1570). High-resolution logs (5 cm scale) of the glendonite-bearing core sections and photographs of the in situ glendonites can be found in the Supplement.

3.2 Organic carbon isotopes

Organic carbon isotope data for the Mimir High (Holes U1570D, U1570A and U1569A) are shown in Fig. 2a. The carbon isotope data for the Modgunn hydrothermal vent complex is shown in Fig. 2b, which includes new data from Hole U1568A and published data from Holes U1568B, U1567B, and U1567C (Berndt et al., 2023). In the Modgunn boreholes, the PETM CIE is manifested as a negative CIE of over 5 ‰ in Holes U1568A, U1567B, and U1567C, followed by a relaxation of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values back to ca. -1 ‰ compared to pre-PETM conditions for the rest of the vent infill.

Table 1. Glendonites of the Exp. 396 cores, PXRD data from bulk glendonite analysis, and element/Ca ratios.

Site	Hole	Core	Core type	Section	Top depth (cm)	Bottom depth (cm)	mbsf top	PXRD mineralogy	Remarks
1567	C	10	X	3	40	45			Displaced (in drill mud)
1567	C	11	X	1	83	93	82.03	Calcite, minor halite, Qz	Not cemented
1568	A	15	X	1	29	31	97.3		Porous calcite in cement
1568	A	15	X	4	49	51	102.0		Not cemented
1568	A	15	X	4	55	58	102.1	Calcite, minor Qz, rhodochrosite	Not cemented
1569	A	19	R	2	54	62	177.3	Calcite, Mg-calcite, minor Qz, gypsum, halite	Partially cemented
1570	A	15	R	1	22	25	93.6		Not cemented, small fragment
1570	A	15	R	1	108	112	94.5	Calcite, minor Qz + halite	Not cemented, half glendonite
1570	A	22	R	2	89	91	129.3		Cemented glendonite fragment (tip of crystal)
1570	A	24	R	1	96	98	138.1		Uncemented glendonite fragments
1570	A	25	R	1	50	55	142.5	Calcite, minor Mg-calcite, Qz	Cemented (in limestone)

Hole U1568B currently has too low data resolution, and Hole U1567A had extremely poor core recovery across the vent interval (Fig. 2b). The unusual PETM CIE shape at these localities is attributed to a change in the dominant carbon source from terrestrial- to marine-dominated organic matter into the extreme excursion and back to terrestrial-dominated organic matter for the minor excursion (Berndt et al., 2023). A similar CIE shape has been observed nearby in the Grane field in the northern North Sea (Jones et al., 2019), suggesting comparable paleoenvironmental conditions across the central part of the Nordic Seas area at this time. The Mimir $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ data spans the PETM interval in the three cores, identified by the first and last occurrences of *A. augustum* (Planke et al., 2023c). There is only a slight (1‰–2‰) $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ excursion present in these holes, and it is difficult to differentiate between PETM and pre- or post-PETM strata on carbon isotopic evidence alone. The marine organic-matter-rich CIE (~5‰) observed at Modgunn and Grane has not been identified at Mimir from this dataset, but for Hole U1569A this may be because there was poor core recovery over the critical PETM onset interval and the most negative part of the CIE may be missing (Fig. 2a).

3.3 Glendonite morphology

The glendonites are variable in size and appearance, with some being cemented or partially cemented (Fig. 3c, e, h and i), some presenting as an uncemented amalgam of smaller crystals (Fig. 3b, d, f, g), and some retaining their structure but as a porous mesh of calcite (Fig. 3a and j). In size, they range from small fragments (2–5 mm across, Fig. 3a, d, f, i, j) to crystals up to or beyond the than the entire width of the core (Fig. 3b, c). In some cases, the crystal appears to have grown over and incorporated parts of the host sediment (Fig. 3e, h), yet in others it appears to have either displaced the sediment it was growing in (Fig. 3g) or grown up into the water column with later sedimentation burying it (Fig. 3c). Nearly all the recorded glendonite specimens can be ascribed to a single rosette morphotype (Fig. 3) (following terminology proposed by Frank et al., 2008), except for specimens from Fig. 3d, f, i, and j, in which the morphol-

ogy is unclear due to the fragmented nature or disturbance of the structure during drilling. They are generally pale beige to brown in colour, although cemented examples show distinct areas within a cut “crystal” of grey or white–pale brown carbonate (Fig. 3c, h). Some samples are only small fragments of glendonite, identified by their characteristic bladed shape (e.g. Fig. 3a, e) and/or the open, porous texture of the carbonate (e.g. Fig. 3f, i, j). Most of the glendonites are found in situ, with the exception of sample U1567C-10X-3 40–45, where glendonite fragments were identified entrained in the drill mud (Fig. 3a). Therefore, these fragments could have originated from some short distance away from their final position within the core, likely the large glendonite found in the core below (sample U1567C-11X-1 83–93; Fig. 3b).

3.4 PXRD

The PXRD analysis of the bulk composition of five different glendonites reveals that the glendonites are mostly composed of calcite with a major to minor magnesian calcite component. Minor amounts of quartz, halite, rhodochrosite (MnCO_3) and gypsum were also identified (Table 1 and Fig. S11).

3.5 Microscopy

Polished thin sections were examined by light microscopy and revealed several different carbonate phases (Figs. 4 and 5). These have been grouped by appearance (colour, texture, relationship to other phases) and geochemistry and are described in detail in Table 2. Where possible, these phase names are in keeping with previous studies’ description of ikaite carbonate phases (e.g. Huggett et al., 2005; Grasby et al., 2017; Vickers et al., 2018; Mikhailova et al., 2021; Scheller et al., 2022; Schultz et al., 2023a; Counts et al., 2023), with the main phase type assigned based on colour and sub-types based on microstructure and geochemical data.

3.6 LA ICP-MS

The LA ICP-MS trace element data shows that Mg/Ca ratios are distinct on average between the carbonate phases,

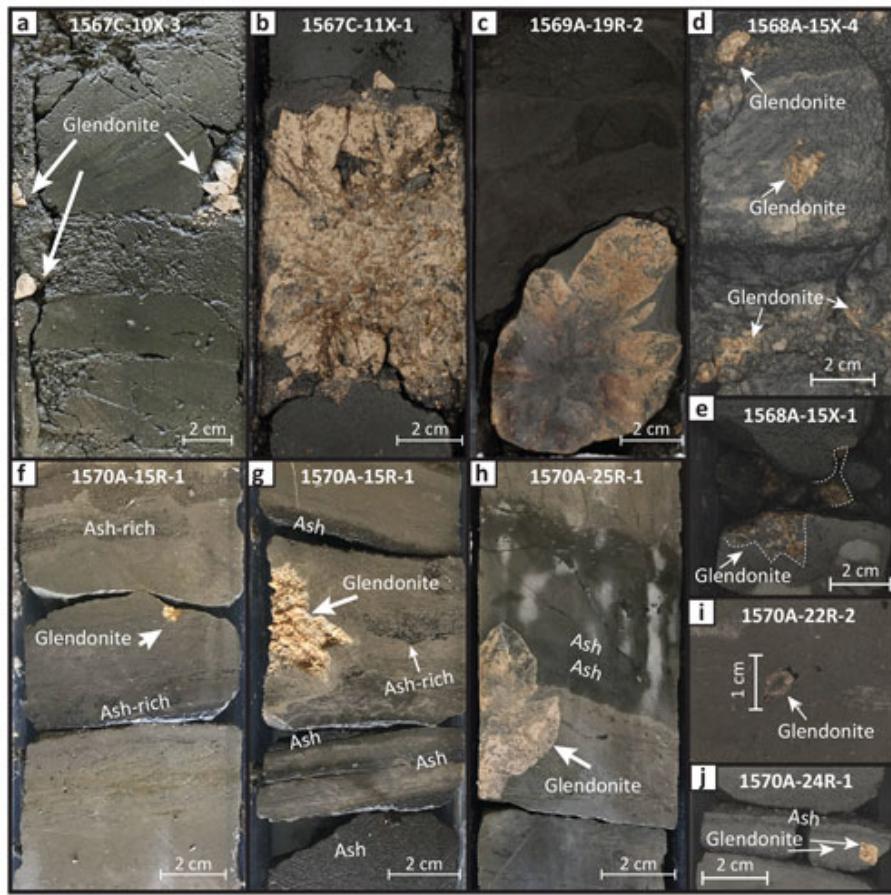


Figure 3. Photographs of glendonites in situ in the cores from the Modgunn and Mimir transects. (a) Glendonite fragments in drill mud from 1567C-10X-3 40–45 (MLV 86). (b) Glendonite from section 1567C-11X-1 94–95 (MLV 57, 97). (c) Cemented glendonite from section 1569A-19R-2 54–62 (MLV 90). (d) Porous carbonate mush interpreted as glendonite from section 1568A-15X-4 (MLV 88). (e) Porous cemented glendonite incorporating host sediment from section 1568A-15X-1. (f) Glendonite from section 1570A-15R-1 108–112 (MLV 92). (g) Glendonite fragment in 1570A-15R-1 22–25 (MLV 91). (h) Glendonite from section 1570A-25R-1 (MLV 93). (i) Small cemented glendonite fragment from section 1570A-22R-2. (j) In situ fragment of glendonite from section 1570A-24R-1.

with Type 1A \leq 1B \leq 2A = 2B \leq 0, albeit with substantial heterogeneity within a phase such that the ranges overlap in most cases (Fig. 6). There is also substantial overlap between types 1 and 2 for all other measured elemental ratios (Fe/Ca, Mn/Ca, Sr/Ca, P/Ca, S/Ca; Fig. 6). The measurements made from the outer hard crust of the glendonite sample from core U1569A-19R-2 show the highest Mg/Ca contents of all and distinctly higher S/Ca than all other carbonate phases. Type 0 has significantly higher Mn/Ca and P/Ca than all other measured calcite phases and significantly lower S/Ca than other measured carbonate phases (Fig. 6).

3.7 ICP-OES

Bulk drill-sampled ICP-OES results find that the Exp. 396 glendonites have Mg/Ca ratios in the range of ca. 20–50 mmol mol $^{-1}$, comparable to the Fur Formation carbonates (Fig. 7). Sr/Ca range from 1.5–1.8 mmol mol $^{-1}$.

Fe/Ca range from 1.6–38 mmol mol $^{-1}$, with an outlier of 165 mmol mol $^{-1}$ (1568A 15X 4 55–58). Mn/Ca ratios range from 0.4–8.4, P/Ca ratios range from 1.5–12.8 mmol mol $^{-1}$, and S/Ca ratios range from 0.8–5.5 mmol mol $^{-1}$ (Fig. 7).

3.8 Microprobe data, 396 ashes

The Exp. 396 ashes all have a basaltic tholeiitic composition, similar to the Fur positive series ashes (Fig. 8). However, they have relatively high MgO content ranging from 4.3 wt % to 9.6 wt %, which is generally higher than that of the Fur positive series (3.3 wt %–7.1 wt %; Larsen et al., 2003; Stokke et al., 2020b).

3.9 IW analysis and PHREEQC modelling

The shipboard analyses of IW samples showed non-typical behaviour within units IV and V (the vent infill) at Site

Table 2. Descriptions of the different carbonate phases observed within the glendonites through thin-section microscopic and geochemical analysis (light microscopy, SEM, EDS, and LA-ICP-MS).

Carbonate phase	Description
Type 0	Green brown, microcrystalline, granular carbonate phase, not observed in all glendonites (Fig. 4). Heterogeneous colour distribution from browner to greener areas, not visibly zoned under plane polarized light (Fig. 4b and f). Commonly shows black dendritic surface patterns. SEM imaging revealed Type 0 to be composed of micro-grains of carbonate, rather than being a single crystal (Fig. 5).
Type 1A	Forms dark- and light-brown-zoned, rounded anhedral patches known as “blebs” (Figs. 4e, f, h and 5a). The BSE SEM shows it has higher porosity than the calcite overgrowths (Fig. 5b), and EDS mapping shows some chemical zoning defined by its Mg concentration (Fig. 5f). Equivalent to Type 1 (I) of Huggett et al. (2005), Vickers et al. (2018), Schultz et al. (2023), and Counts et al. (2023).
Type 1B	Unevenly coloured anhedral brown to dark brown calcite. May radially overgrow, or inter-grow with, pale, non-porous Type 2A. Type 1B is indistinguishable from Type 1A except that it grows over Type 2A rather than the other way around, and generally has slightly higher Mg than 1A. Type 1B is not visibly zoned and makes up larger patches or areas (Figs. 4c–f and 5). May show cracking along cleavage planes (Fig. 4c).
Type 2A	White to pale brown, concentrically zoned calcite (under plane-polarized light) that directly overgrows Type 1A, showing Mg zoning (Fig. 4), and generally higher Mg than Type 1A (Fig. 5). Low to no porosity compared to types 1A and 1B (Fig. 5). Equivalent to Type 2 (II) of Huggett et al. (2005), Vickers et al. (2018) and Schultz et al. (2023) and Type 2A of Counts et al. (2023).
Type 2B	Very similar to Type 2A. Clear or white crystalline calcite with no porosity zoning. Unlike 2A it also lacks chemical zoning and may show cracks along cleavage (Fig. 5). Type 2B calcite is generally characterized by a higher Mg than types 1A and 1B calcite phases (Fig. 5).
Type 3	Isopachous sparry or fibrous epitaxial calcite overgrowths to Types 1 and 2; higher (Mg) than types 1 and 2 (Figs. 4h and 5).

1568A, with lower alkalinity (2–3 mM) and higher pH (~ 8.2) compared to both underlying and overlying strata (Planke et al., 2023b). Many IW profiles in ocean sediments above igneous basement show a marked reduction in dissolved Mg/Ca ratios with depth (e.g. Sites U1403–1405; Norris et al., 2014), and two of the four holes where IW profiles were conducted at Modgunn and Mimir (U1567A, U1569A). At Holes U1568A and U1570A, the two with observed glendonites within the cored strata, the Mg/Ca profiles show an inversion to increasing ratios with depth between around 60–100 mbsf (Fig. 9c).

Results from the PHREEQC modelling for the IW are shown in Fig. 9 and in the supplementary data. Dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) speciation is shifted towards CO_3^{2-} across the HTV infill, and as a result the saturation index of the CaCO_3 minerals increases in these horizons; in the case of calcite this is to values greater than zero. This indicates that while the measured IW samples reflect a complex diagenetic history, the zones with confirmed glendonite occurrences also have anomalous IW chemistries and carbonate saturation states in present-day pore waters.

4 Discussion

4.1 Ikaite formation and transformation to glendonite

The general microfabric of the glendonites is similar to that observed in previous work on glendonite and transformed ikaite. Notably, areas of calcite blebs (bubble-like mineral inclusions) with Type 1A cores with 2A overgrowths are also observed in glendonites from Cretaceous to Recent in age and in modern transformed ikaites (Huggett et al., 2005; Grasby et al., 2016; Vickers et al., 2018; Mikhailova et al., 2021; Scheller et al., 2021; Schultz et al., 2023). The presence of a hardened carbonate rim is also a common feature of glendonites (Fig. 4) (Grasby et al., 2017; Scheller et al., 2022; Schultz et al., 2023a; Counts et al., 2023). However, the green Type 0 calcite identified in this study has not been observed in other glendonite thin sections and appears to be both visually and chemically distinct from the other calcite phases measured in the Exp. 396 glendonites (Fig. 6).

Based on the geochemical data, we suggest the following model for the sequential formation of the various calcite phases, as illustrated in Fig. 10.

- *Stage 1.* The ikaite grew in the sediments at or just below the sediment–water interface. The Type 0 phase appears to have grown directly onto or against the surface

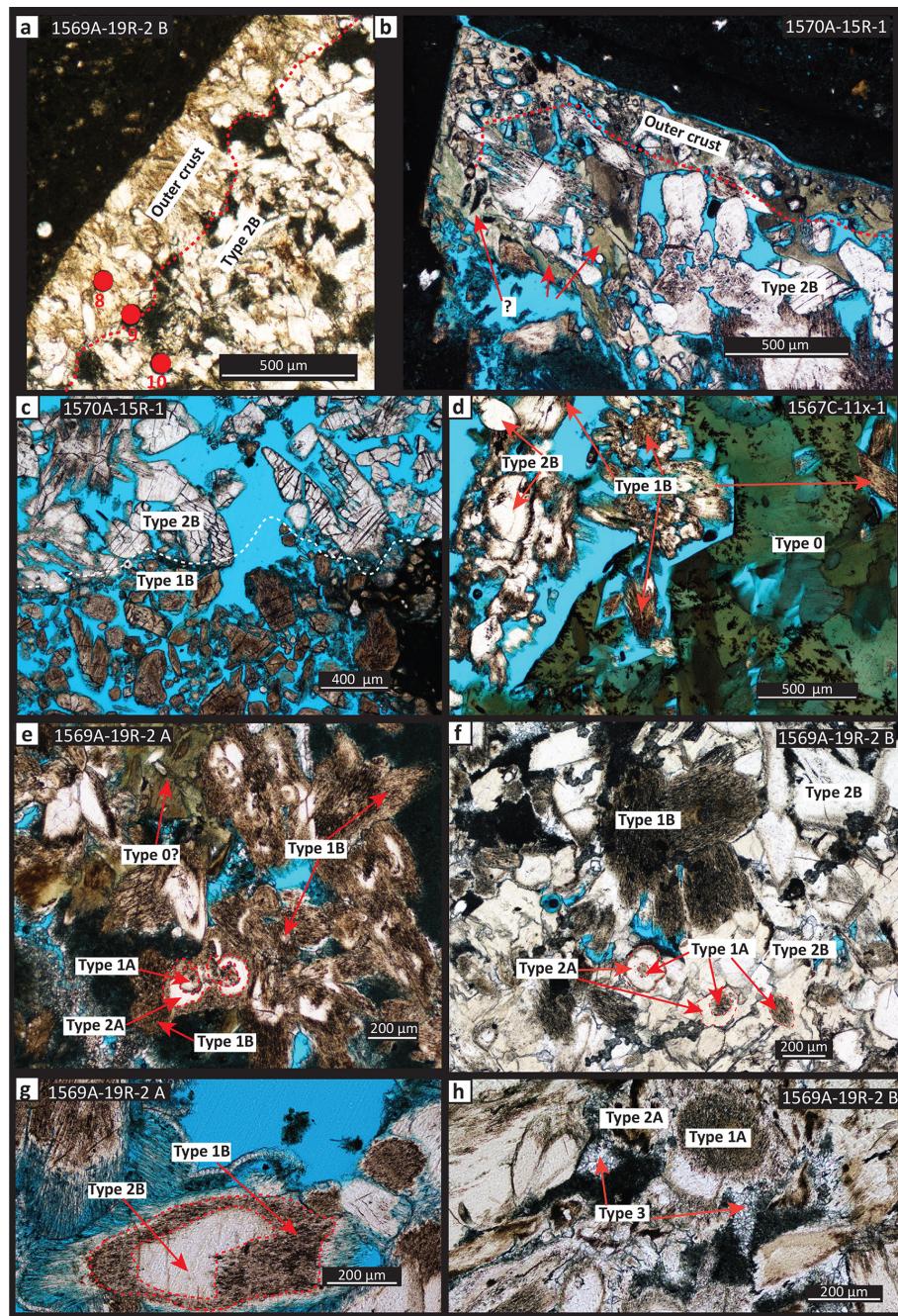


Figure 4. Photomicrographs of polished thin sections from selected Exp. 396 glendonites. The blue background colour is derived from the resin rather than the glendonite. Panels (a) and (b) show the typical harder outer rim with more porous centre characteristic of transformed ikaite (e.g. Schultz et al., 2023a). Red dots labelled 8, 9, and 10 are spots where LA ICP-MS analysis was performed. The glendonites commonly show areas of different calcite types defined by colour, which are often hard to place into the “traditional” carbonate phase types seen in other glendonites (e.g. Huggett et al., 2005; Vickers et al., 2018). Panel (c) shows a distinct boundary between white Type 2B calcite and brown Type 1B calcite, neither of which show zoning defined by colour or porosity. Panel (d) shows the sharp boundary between green Type 0 carbonate, with black dendritic surface growth, and other calcite phases. The shape of the sharp boundary that Type 0 defines on one side suggests that Type 0 grew on the surface of and out from an ikaite crystal, which later broke down to leave void space and patches of Type 1B with 2B overgrowths. Panels (e) and (f) show patches of more typical zoned calcite blebs, here labelled 1A and 2A, which appear to fit into the traditional categories of “Type I” (zoned brown calcite forming the centre of the blebs) and “Type II” (zoned pale overgrowths on Type I; e.g. Vickers et al., 2018; Schultz et al., 2023a). (g) Apparent reversal of the “typical” glendonite fabric, whereby the central area of the calcite blebs is pale or white Type 2B and the overgrowth brown Type 1B calcite. This contrasts with (h), which shows dark Type 1A with white Type 2A overgrowths.

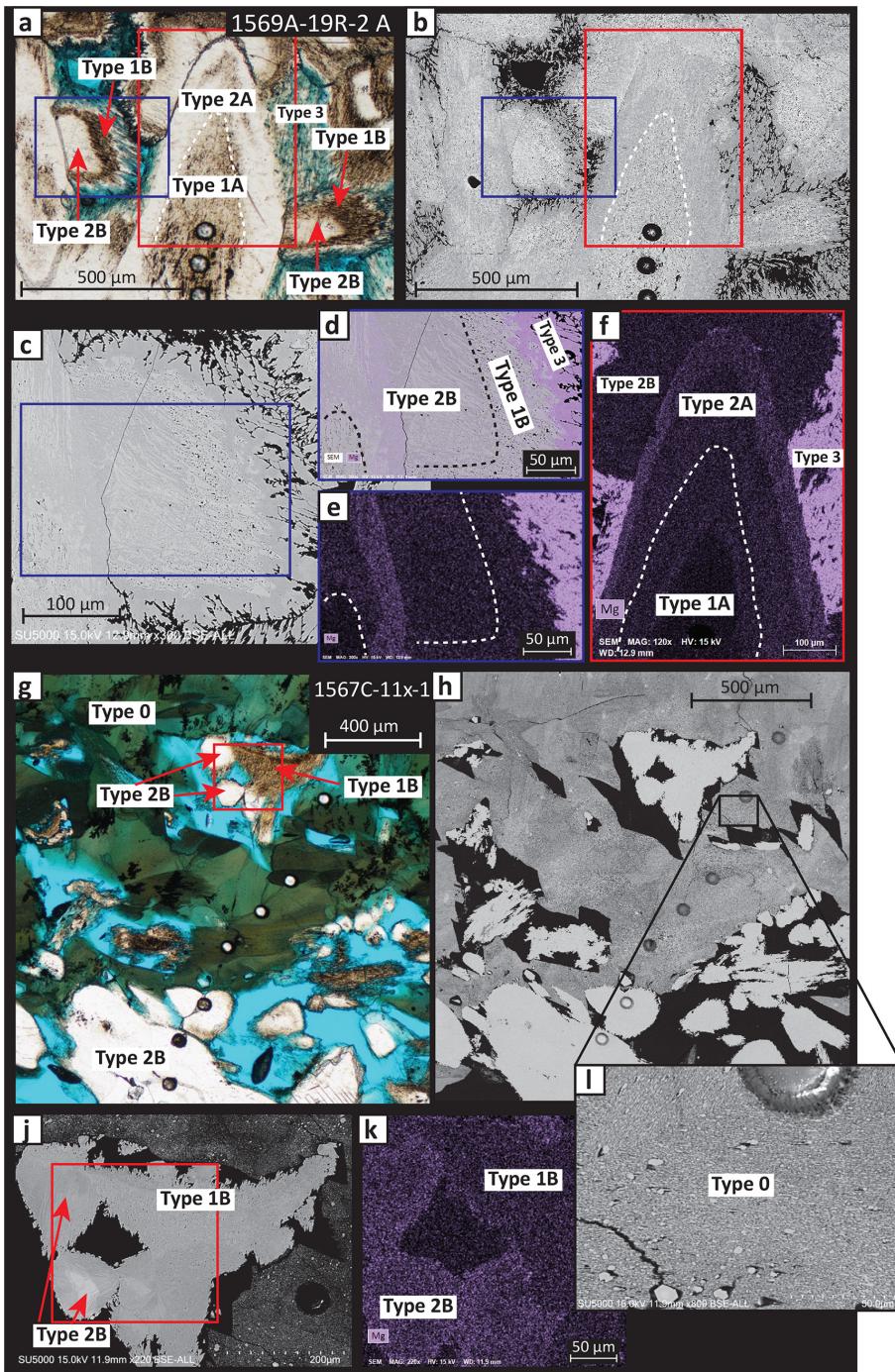


Figure 5. Light microscopy, SEM photomicrographs, and EDS element maps from thin sections of glendonites at 1569A-19R-2 and 1567C-11X-1. (a) Overview under plane-polarized light of the area examined for glendonite at 1569A-19R-2, with the carbonate phases labelled. (b) BSE image of the same area. Higher porosity in the Type 1 can be seen. (c) BSE image of zoomed in area of Type 2B with Type 1B overgrowth. Higher porosity of Type 1 is again clear. (d) EDS map showing Mg distribution across calcite types 1B and 2B, overlaid on the BSE photomicrograph. (e) The same map without the BSE photomicrograph (f) EDS map showing Mg distribution across calcite types 1A, 2A, and 2B. (g) Overview under plane-polarized light of the area examined for glendonite at 1567C-11X-1. (h) BSE image of the same area, with pop-out (i) showing the microcrystalline nature of Type 0. (j) Magnification of the same area with types 1B and 2B calcite under BSE. (k) EDS element map showing the Mg distribution across the same area.

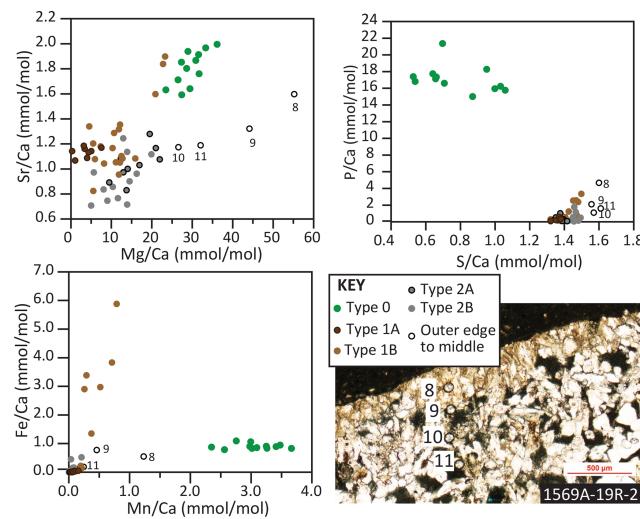


Figure 6. LA ICP-MS element/Ca data for points across the Exp. 396 glendonite polished thin sections. The data have been grouped according to the calcite types described in the main text and in the preceding figures. Photomicrograph showing the location points 8–11 from outer edge inwards are shown on the bottom right and also in Fig. 4a. Photomicrographs showing the location of all the individual points measured may be found in the Supplement.

of an ikaite crystal prior to its decomposition, suggesting it may represent the earliest preserved phase present (Fig. 10).

– *Stage 2.* Chemical and thermal conditions changed as burial continued, and the ikaite started to break down (Fig. 10). The formation of 1A blebs began during the recrystallization reaction, preferentially excluding Mg from the crystal structure, leading to a highly localized increase of Mg^{2+} in the pore waters. This may have taken place over timescales of years (Schultz et al., 2023b). Where breakdown was rapid, larger areas of Type 1B formed (also observed in ikaite transformed on timescales of hours; Schultz et al., 2023b). The faster mineralization rate of 1A compared to 1B is believed to have caused less discrimination against Mg in the crystal structure, as evidenced by the higher Mg content of 1B compared to 1A (Fig. 6). Then, Types 2A and 2B grew, incorporating more Mg into the calcite structure than the Types 1 due to its now higher concentration in the local waters.

– *Stage 3.* An undetermined length of time later, after continued burial, Type 3 fibrous syntaxial and/or isopachous sparry calcite forms in some of the pore spaces in the ikaite, growing from the surface of Types 1 and/or 2 calcite phases (Fig. 10). Note that all phases grouped as Types 1 and 2 are believed to have formed directly from ikaite (i.e. the $CaCO_3$ is believed to have been entirely or dominantly sourced directly from the ikaite), whereas

we propose that the Type 3 calcite formed from a later diagenetic fluid (e.g. Vickers et al., 2020; Counts et al., 2023). This is based on microfabric and geochemical (elemental and isotopic) data that suggests a very different source fluid. There is very little Type 3 calcite in the Exp. 396 glendonites; much less than is observed in those of the Fur Formation (Vickers et al., 2020). The variable proportion of Type 3 calcite in glendonite is likely responsible for the observed higher bulk Mg/Ca, Mn/Ca and P/Ca ratios than in transformed modern ikaite (Fig. 7).

4.2 Relationship to North Atlantic volcanism and timing of ikaite formation

The glendonites of the Exp. 396 cores are found in latest Paleocene, PETM, and (post-PETM) early Eocene-aged sediments, within or just above the intervals containing the most numerous and thickest ash layers (Figs. 2 and 11). The only other reported glendonites from this time interval (Paleocene and early Eocene) are also found in the Nordic Seas region, close to the eruptive sites of the North Atlantic Igneous Province (NAIP). Glendonites have been identified in both Paleocene and Eocene strata in Svalbard (Spielhagen and Tripati, 2009; Cui et al., 2021) and in early Eocene strata in northern Denmark (Huggett et al., 2005; Vickers et al., 2020; Fig. 1). In the Danish Paleogene successions, glendonites are only found within the early Eocene Fur Formation that contains over 140 macroscopic ash layers of dominantly tholeiitic basalt composition (Fig. 11; Stokke et al., 2020b; Vickers et al., 2020). The Fur Formation corresponds to the ash-rich Balder and Tare formations offshore in the North Sea and Norwegian margin, respectively (King, 2016). The close stratigraphic association with ash layers within the Nordic basins suggests that ash deposition and/or diagenesis may play a critical role in ikaite precipitation, in contrast to ikaites found in most modern settings. The breakdown of sedimentary C_{org} via sulfate reduction and/or the anaerobic oxidation of methane (AOM) are thought to play a key role in ikaite precipitation, largely because the low $\delta^{13}C$ values measured in ikaites and glendonites suggest an organic or methanogenic source of carbon (e.g. Rogov et al., 2023, and references therein) and also because these organic matter decomposition processes generate DIC (Hiruta and Matsumoto, 2022; Whiticar et al., 2022). Methane has been linked to ikaite and glendonite formation due to their frequent proximity to methane seeps (Greinert and Derkachev, 2004; Teichert and Lippold, 2013; Hiruta and Matsumoto, 2022) and gas inclusions containing methane and other hydrocarbons in glendonite specimens from the Jurassic of Siberia (Morales et al., 2017). However, other studies which examined sedimentary biomarker evidence for AOM in Oligocene and Eocene-aged glendonite-bearing strata did not find evidence for significantly elevated rates of AOM and support an organic matter

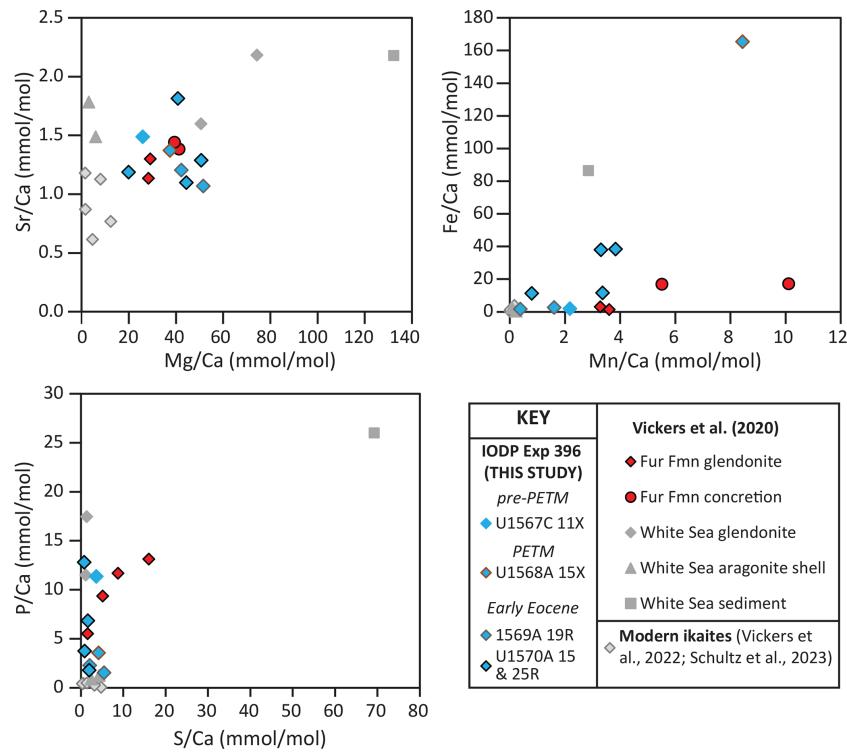


Figure 7. Element/Ca ratios of the Exp. 396 glendonites and associated calcites compared to published ICP-OES data for other glendonite-bearing sites.

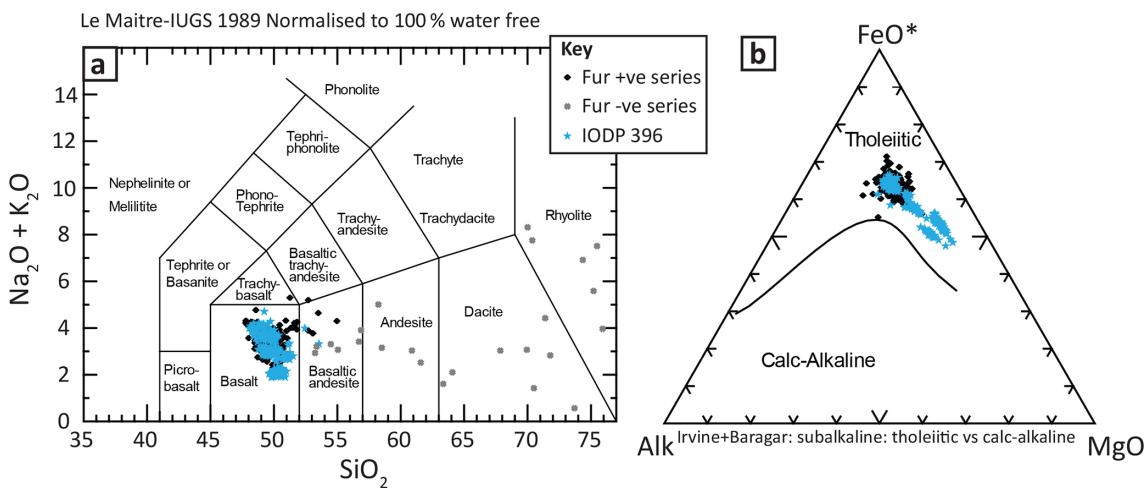


Figure 8. (a) A total alkali silica (TAS) plot comparing the Exp. 396 ashes (this study) to published data for both positive (Stokke et al., 2020b) and negative (Larsen et al., 2003) ash series of the Fur Formation in northern Denmark. The Exp. 396 ashes and Fur positive series fall into the basaltic fields, whereas the Fur negative series show much more variation and have overall more felsic compositions. Note that while the Fur positive series data are microprobe analyses of matrix glass, the Fur negative series data are whole rock data. However, the whole rock samples were leached of clay prior to analysis and no significant dilution is expected. (b) Ternary alkali-iron-magnesium (AFM) diagram showing that the basaltic ashes from both the Exp. 396 sites and the Fur positive series are tholeiitic basalts. Note that many of the Exp. 396 ashes have higher MgO content than the Fur positive ashes.

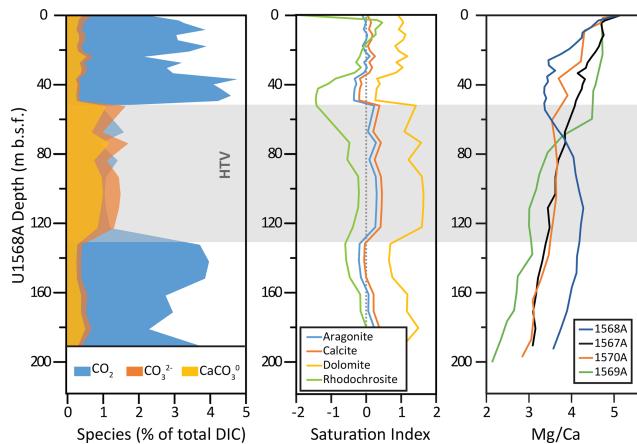


Figure 9. (a) PHREEQC simulation results for carbonate speciation in the U1568A core, which spans the hydrothermal vent infill (grey highlight labelled “HTV”). Note that HCO_3^- (the major species) is not shown. (b) PHREEQC simulation saturation indices for several carbonate polymorphs. (c) IW Mg/Ca profiles for all glendonite-bearing cores (Planke et al., 2023b, c).

source for the examined glendonites (Qu et al., 2017; Vickers et al., 2020).

For ikaite to be precipitated over the more stable CaCO_3 polymorphs, factors inhibiting calcite and promoting ikaite precipitation are also required. These may include high alkalinity, high concentrations of phosphate and/or Mg^{2+} and low temperatures (Rickaby et al., 2006; Zhou et al., 2015; Purgstaller et al., 2017; Stockmann et al., 2018). The NAIP may have played a key role in generating just such conditions for CaCO_3 precipitation and the precipitated polymorph being ikaite. Hydrothermal venting of methane and other gases occurred at sites proximal to the NAIP (Svensen et al., 2004; Frieling et al., 2016; Jones et al., 2019; Berndt et al., 2023), and the explosive nature of the NAIP eruptive volcanism could have driven short-term climate cooling (“volcanic winters”, e.g. Robock, 2000; Schmidt et al., 2016; Stokke et al., 2020a). Furthermore, the large amounts of volcanic ash in the sediments likely underwent rapid diagenesis, generating the chemical conditions in the pore waters that could have inhibited calcite precipitation and therefore promoted ikaite precipitation (e.g. Gislason and Oelkers, 2011; Olsson et al., 2014; Murray et al., 2018). Indeed, ikaite and other carbonates were discovered as travertine in the Hvanná river in the vicinity of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano shortly after eruptive activity began in spring of 2010 (Olsson et al., 2014).

Compositional data from Exp. 396 shows that the ashes, like those from the Fur positive series (Stokke et al., 2020b), are tholeiitic (Fig. 8). Basaltic volcanic material undergoes rapid chemical weathering (e.g. Gislason and Oelkers, 2011), and thus we suggest that the chemical alteration of these tholeiitic ashes could have generated the chemical conditions which promoted ikaite formation, which may include increasing alkalinity and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$, driving changes in aque-

ous Mg/Ca (e.g. Gislason and Oelkers, 2011; Olsson et al., 2014; Purgstaller et al., 2017; Murray et al., 2018; Tollefson et al., 2020). The interstitial water measurements from the cores reflect the conditions in the core interstitial waters today, some ca. 55 million years since deposition, and therefore do not reflect conditions immediately prior to ikaite precipitation. Nonetheless, these pore water profiles may provide remnant signatures of post-depositional processes and therefore shed light on how ash diagenesis may have altered local pore water chemistry, promoting ikaite precipitation.

The pore water profiles show a strong, sharp change in pH and carbon speciation across the ash-bearing intervals (Fig. 11; Planke et al., 2023b, c), likely a retained signal of the dissolution and leaching of the ashes themselves. While pore water chemistry certainly continued to evolve over the last 55 million years, the signature of ash diagenesis on early Paleogene pore waters may have been effectively retained, being buffered against later fluid flow and associated later overprinting reactions by the overlying and underlying clay-rich strata (Planke et al., 2023b, c; Fig. 2). High smectite contents formed from the weathering of silicate material, such as basaltic ash both in situ and in terrestrial catchment areas, can result in “aquitard” deposits characterized by very low permeability and low effective porosity (Hendry et al., 2015). This allows large concentration gradients to develop within the sediment pile, as documented along ash-rich margins globally (Torres et al., 1995, and references therein). The major fluctuations in pH, alkalinity, and Mg/Ca ratios across these ash-rich intervals at Modgunn and Mimir (Planke et al., 2023b, c) suggest that these pore waters are likely to have evolved in semi-isolation from overlying and underlying strata. Therefore, if the pore water system is closed, the evolution of the pore water chemistry may be limited. Alternatively, long-term diagenesis of ash minerals may be continually altering pore water chemistry across these intervals with some diffusive exchange across the low-permeability clay boundaries but still providing an indication of the degree to which ash alteration may impact fluid composition. Pore water measurements through selected cores show that the glendonite-bearing levels associated with volcanic ash are coincident with relatively elevated pH and lower alkalinity, although alkalinity change across ash-rich intervals is less abrupt (Fig. 11). The carbonate chemistry of these pore waters is controlled by a complex balance between CaCO_3 dissolution and precipitation, respiration of organic carbon, and at these sites probably by alkalinity generation from the dissolution of ash (Longman et al., 2021). As such, it is difficult to ascribe the observed pore water carbonate chemistry changes (Fig. 11) to any one process. However, the relatively high pH and low alkalinity relative to the overlying and underlying mud-rich sediments is consistent with alkalinity generation via ash dissolution, resulting in increased total alkalinity (TALK) and pH being counteracted by CaCO_3 precipitation and drawing down carbonate alkalinity. Our observation of abundant CaCO_3 in the form of ikaite and later

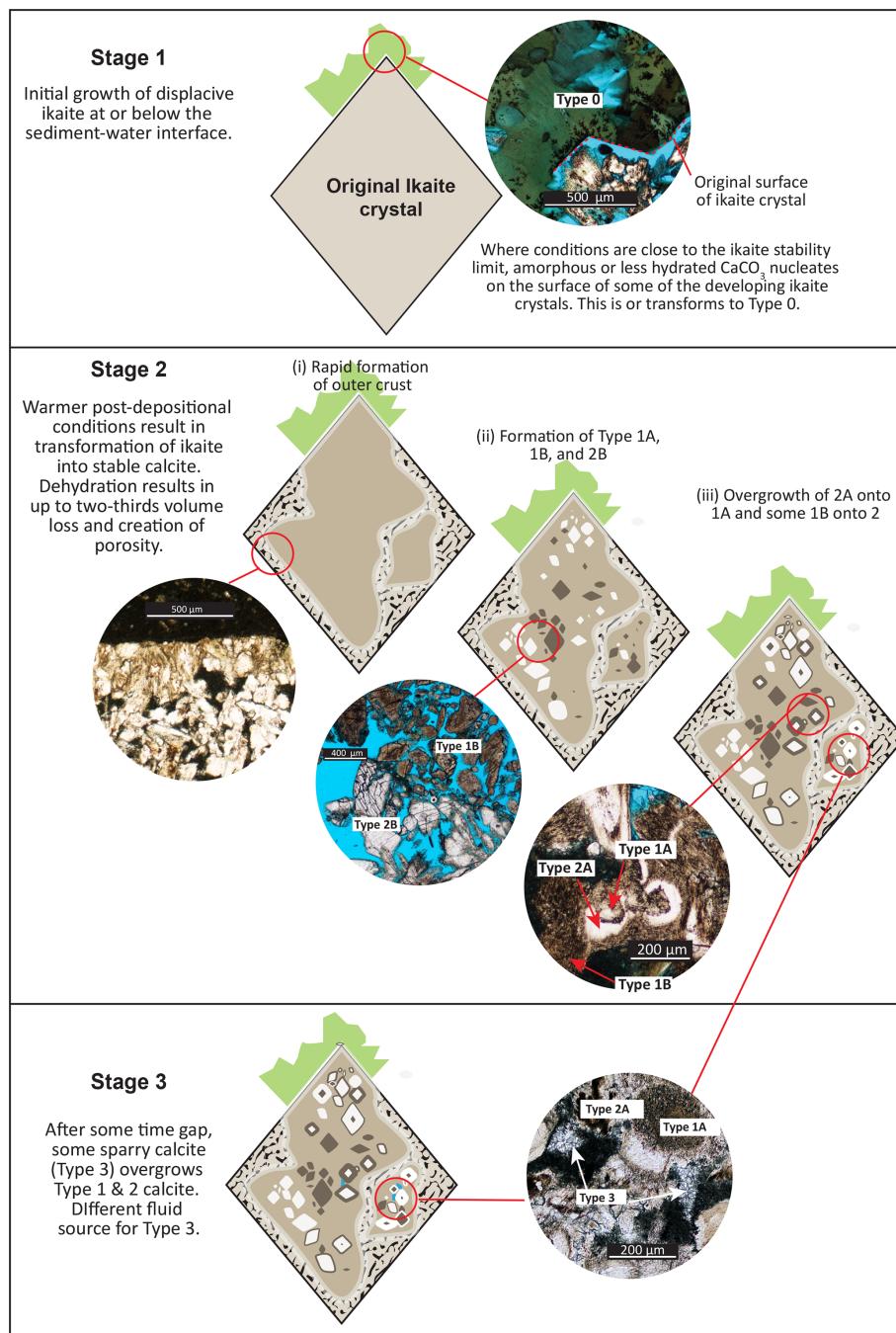


Figure 10. Schematic of ikaite transformation in the Exp. 396 cores, adapted from Counts et al. (2023) based on observed textural relationships and geochemistry of the calcite phases in the Exp. 396 glendonites.

diagenetic phases in these ash-rich sediments is consistent with this hypothesis. Further, PHREEQC simulations indicate a clear difference in carbonate speciation across ash-rich, glendonite-bearing intervals with lower $[\text{CO}_2]_{\text{aq}}$ and higher $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ and $[\text{CaCO}_3^0]$ (Fig. 9) compared with surrounding intervals. Aragonite and calcite saturation indices go from undersaturated to oversaturated, and dolomite shows

enhanced oversaturation across these intervals (Fig. 9). Overall, while this indicates that the conditions necessary for ikaite formation prevailed in the hydrothermal vent infill (Fig. 9), we note that the carbonate chemistry of the remnant pore water profiles is characterized by conditions that are far less saturated with respect to CaCO_3 minerals than those necessary to form ikaite in the laboratory, especially at

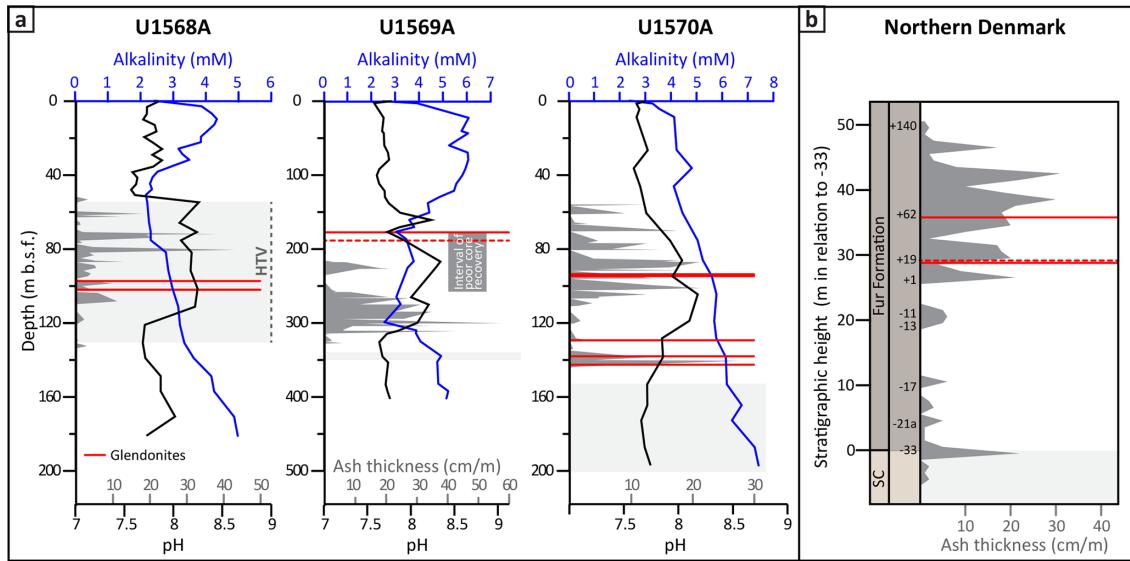


Figure 11. (a) Relative position of glendonites in the Paleocene–Eocene sediments of selected cores from the mid-Norwegian Margin, Exp. 396, compared to measured ash thicknesses. Pore water alkalinity and pH data (Planke et al., 2023b, c) are also shown. Pale grey indicates the PETM-aged intervals in the stratigraphy. Note that for U1569A, core recovery was poor, particularly in the bottom, ash-bearing part (see Fig. 2). High ash contents lead to lower core recovery as they are coarse-grained and unlithified; therefore, it is likely that there were much more numerous and thicker ash horizons in the interval between 18R and 37R (ca. 180–340 mbsf). (b) Relative position of glendonites in the Paleocene–Eocene sediments of northern Denmark, compared to ash thicknesses per metre (Jones et al., 2023). Glendonite horizons for the Fur Formation are from Vickers et al. (2020) (solid lines) and dashed line as identified by Henrik Friis (personal communication, 2022). Pale grey indicates the end of the body of the PETM carbon isotope excursion (Jones et al., 2023). The recovery phase is between ashes –33 and –21a. SC stands for Stolleklin clay.

higher temperatures (Purgstaller et al., 2017; Tollefsen et al., 2020).

4.3 Timing and conceptual model for ikaite growth

Zhou et al. (2015) examined modern marine sedimentary ikaite-bearing sites and identified “ikaite formation zones” (IFZs) based on where the decreasing $[Ca^{2+}]$ downcore profile intersects the increasing DIC profile (calculated by maximum $[Ca^{2+}] \times DIC$). The IFZ is thus highly variable, as it depends on the amount of organic matter (carbon source) present, which in turn is linked to processes such as sedimentation rate and primary productivity. In modern settings, this is generally between 2–15 m within the sediment pile (Zhou et al., 2015). In the early Paleogene Norwegian Margin, infill sedimentation rates of hydrothermal vent complex craters were very high. Taking the very conservative estimate of a hydrothermal vent infill duration of 43 kyr for the Modgunn crater (Berndt et al., 2023), the glendonite-bearing horizons for the vent infill cores would have been at depths of below 15 m within 8 kyr for Hole U1568A and 16.5 kyr for Hole U1567C. For sediments such as those encountered in Modgunn and Mimir, the primary driver of DIC was likely AOM, since there was significant methane venting around the NAIP at the time (Svensen et al., 2004; Frieling et al., 2016), and TOC in the sediments is relatively low (generally < 1.5 wt %;

Planke et al., 2023b, c), which suggests that bacterial sulfate reduction of organic matter could not have been the main source of carbon .The source of $[Ca^{2+}]$ is believed to result from diagenesis of the ashes (e.g. Gislason and Oelkers, 2011). Given that the diagenesis of fresh volcanic material occurs very rapidly after deposition (on timescales of shorter than a month; Hembury et al., 2012; Olsson et al., 2014), the ikaite formation zones are likely to have been much shallower than 15 m at the time of ikaite precipitation, possibly near the sediment–water interface. Observations on the relationship between the Exp. 396 glendonites and the host sediments support this theory of very shallow ikaite formation depths. For example, it can be seen that the pale grey sediment is displaced immediately around the glendonite shown in Fig. 3g, yet an ash layer 2 cm above shows no displacement. In Fig. 3h, the pale grey sediment that the glendonite has grown in is displaced, yet the ash that is deposited on top, two-thirds up the height of the glendonite, shows no displacement at the top, suggesting the top of the ikaite crystal was potentially protruding into the water column from the seafloor at the time of the ash fall. Therefore, it can be deduced that these parent ikaites grew in the soft sediment prior to compaction, possibly just centimetres below the sediment–water interface. In the Danish succession, similar “boudinage” textures are observed around both glendonites and tree branch fossils in the Fur Formation (Schultz et al.,

2022). This indicates that the ikaites grew at or close to the sediment–water interface, as they exhibit the same relationship to the host sediment as tree branches that came to rest on top of or sticking into the top few centimetres or decimetres of sediment. In case of the Exp. 396 glendonites, which occur in rapidly deposited sediments, the parent ikaites must have grown quickly, on timescales of years, for these relationships to be observed. Modern ikaites have been known to grow to centimetre-scale crystals on timescales of months to years (Boch et al., 2015; Schultz et al., 2022, 2023a), suggesting that this is indeed possible. In one case, 1 month after final construction of a concrete riverbed in Alpine Austria, centimetre-thick ikaite crystal aggregates were discovered to have formed (Boch et al., 2015); in another instance, ikaite crystals 3 cm long were found growing next to a reservoir causeway in Utqiāġvik, Alaska, some 3 years after its construction (Schultz et al., 2022, 2023a).

Thus, we argue that the parent ikaites to Exp. 396 glendonites grew on geologically synchronous timescales to the sediments in which they are found. Their occurrence and rapid growth during the Paleocene–Eocene greenhouse climate was likely facilitated by the unique conditions near the active NAIP. We propose a scenario in which the chemical environment that stabilized ikaite was provided by the NAIP hydrothermal vent formation and early and rapid diagenesis of the (frequent) ashes deposited from this LIP. The explosive NAIP volcanism may have also may also have played a critical role in driving short-term (ca. sub-decadal scale) cooling, which additionally helped promote the formation of ikaite.

Paleotemperature estimates for the PETM and early Eocene from both biomarkers and stable and clumped isotope thermometry for the North Atlantic and Nordic Seas region (e.g. Schoon et al., 2015; Stokke et al., 2020; Vickers et al., 2020; Meckler et al., 2022; Rush et al., 2023, show variable temperatures and intervals of cooling which are apparently at odds with global records, e.g. Westerhold et al., 2020). This has led to speculation that short, sharp, transient cooling events occurred, possibly only on a regional scale (Stokke et al., 2020a; Vickers et al., 2020), as evidence for sudden and short-duration cooling is absent from some nearby and other northern Hemisphere sites from similar time periods (e.g. Belgian/Paris basin, Evans et al., 2018; West Siberian Sea and the Arctic, Frieling et al., 2014, and references therein), all of which were characterized by SSTs of $\sim 20\text{--}30^{\circ}\text{C}$ during this time. Alternatively, however, these discrepancies may reflect changes in sourcing, production depth, or seasonal biases in the specific proxies used (e.g. Jia et al., 2017; Udo et al., 2022; de Winter et al., 2021), or, in the case of carbonate clumped isotopes, solid-state re-ordering pushing the apparent temperature up (Henkes et al., 2014) or kinetic disequilibrium during the carbonate precipitation (Daëron et al., 2019), meaning that these signals may be challenging to interpret as reflecting true aquatic temperatures at the time of formation in some settings.

Regional-scale cooling episodes may result from, for example, a series of short-lived volcanic “winters” caused by sulfur degassing during effusive and explosive eruptions (Robock et al., 2000; Schmidt et al., 2016; Stokke et al., 2020a). Given the sub-decadal residence time of sulfur in the atmosphere, this climate forcing would require many closely spaced eruptions to maintain its cooling effect on timescales of centuries to millennia (Jones et al., 2016). However, since ikaite appears to have grown very rapidly in some of the successions in the Nordic Seas, a growth rate of this magnitude does not seem implausible.

In addition to possible volcanically driven regional climatic events, the unique paleogeography of the region was likely critical for providing the conditions required for ikaite formation. The Nordic Seas were a series of hydrographically and/or geographically semi-restricted, relatively shallow basins with varying connectivity to the Atlantic, Tethys, and Arctic oceans across the Paleocene–Eocene interval (Fig. 1), with several lines of evidence suggesting that maximum restriction occurred in the post-PETM early Eocene (Zacke et al., 2009; Hovikoski et al., 2021; Jones et al., 2023). Such restricted conditions could imply bottom waters in individual basins (simultaneously or at different times) may have been effectively isolated from the global ocean. Without sufficient exchange with the global ocean, bottom waters colder than the global deep ocean that may have formed during transient cool conditions such as anomalously long and cold (e.g. volcanic-driven) winters could have led to the formation of a cold bottom layer in a heavily stratified water column in the Nordic Sea basins for a prolonged period. Finally, the thermal uplift and emplacement of a continental flood basalt province created an extensive high-altitude plateau to the west of the shallow seaways that marked the region, which is likely to have altered the positioning, oscillation, and intensity of the Paleogene Northern Hemisphere jet stream (Jones et al., 2023). While no studies have investigated this potential effect, it is reasonable to assume that a regional microclimate was likely present in the Nordic Seas region at this time. It is possible that a combination of factors led to a bias towards the recording of winter temperatures in the bottom waters of the basin (Vickers et al., 2020). If a long, severe cooling forcing such as a sustained volcanic winter occurred, cooling of the surface waters could eventually have triggered a dense water cascade, bringing these cold, dense waters to the bottom of the basin system. Being restricted and stratified, these cold waters could potentially have remained at the bottom of the basin system for a long time (years) (e.g. Vickers et al., 2020), such that, together with ample volcanic ash supply, it seems plausible that the local conditions coincided to create the necessary conditions for ikaite growth in a hothouse climate.

5 Conclusions

Glendonites are found throughout the late Paleocene and early Eocene sediments from the IODP Exp. 396 cores, including those deposited during the PETM, and closely associated with the volcanic ashes from the nearby NAIP. High-resolution examination and sedimentary logging of these cores reveals 10 glendonite horizons, 6 in the post-PETM sections recovered from the Mimir transect, 3 from the PETM interval of the hydrothermal vent infill collected in the Modgunn transect, and 1 from the pre-PETM interval of this hydrothermal vent infill. Observations of their relationship to their host sediments suggest they grew within centimetres of the sediment–water interface, sometimes even protruding into the water column. Based on known timescales of ash diagenesis and ikaite growth, we argue that the parent ikaites grew rapidly, within timescales of years to decades after ash deposition. Examination of thin sections of the glendonites via a number of geochemical methods reveals that the Exp. 396 glendonites show a range of carbonate phases, including fabrics not previously observed in other glendonites nor transformed natural ikaite. These features suggest that their parent ikaite growth environment was unusual even for ikaite, and the leaching and rapid early diagenesis of the NAIP volcanic ashes likely generated the required pore water conditions that stabilized ikaite over other calcium carbonate polymorphs. Paleothermometry studies for the Nordic Seas region during this time suggest that seawater temperatures were punctuated by remarkably cold, short-term events, although no such temperature deviations have been found outside of this region. Glendonites are also found in the Paleocene and Eocene succession of Svalbard and in the early Eocene (post-PETM) succession of Denmark but nowhere outside of this semi-enclosed shallow basin.

The close association of glendonites to ash in the Exp. 396 succession, and likewise in the early Eocene of Denmark, along with biomarker and clumped isotope thermometry evidence of episodic transient cooling events, supports our theory that the eruptive phases of the NAIP led to ikaite precipitation in the Nordic Seas region. This was both a chemical and thermal effect: the early diagenesis of the ashes likely drove pore water conditions chemically favourable to ikaite, and the eruptions could have caused transient volcanic winters that were much colder than the prevailing background climate of the time. The unique paleogeography of the region may have led to the basin bottom waters being biased towards these anomalously cold temperatures for years or even decades, allowing the ikaites to grow to the centimetre to greater than decimetre sizes we observe. Further work is required to test this hypothesis, including detailed, high-resolution multi-proxy temperature reconstructions, e.g. via clumped isotope thermometry of the glendonites themselves, and biomarker and palynological assemblage-based temperature reconstructions for the sediments of these cores.

Data availability. The data are published in the Supplement and are also available to download from Zenodo <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10405891> (Vickers et al., 2023).

Supplement. The supplement related to this article is available online at: <https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-20-1-2024-supplement>.

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Author contributions. MLV designed the study, undertook sampling and high-resolution logging, photographed and examined thin sections under a light microscope and SEM, co-ran LA-ICPMS analysis, and led the writing of the manuscript. MTJ undertook PHREEQC modelling, assisted in the interpretation of the data, and co-wrote the manuscript. JL undertook the ash thickness measurements, assisted in the interpretation of the data, co-wrote the manuscript, and assisted with the logging and sampling. DE ran the LA-ICPMS and assisted in the interpretation of the data and writing of the manuscript. CVU undertook the ICP-OES analysis. ES carried out microprobe analysis of the ashes and plotting of this data. MV undertook the PXRD analysis. JF assisted in the interpretation of the data and co-wrote the manuscript. DTH assisted in the interpretation of the data and co-wrote the manuscript. VJC assisted in the interpretation of the pore-water data and co-wrote the manuscript. The IODP Expedition 396 scientists listed above undertook drilling of the cores, all shipboard analysis, and sampling.

Competing interests. The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing interests.

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Acknowledgements. This research used samples and/or data provided by the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP). IODP is funded by the US National Science Foundation (NSF); Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD); China's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST); the Australian–New Zealand IODP Consortium (ANZIC), and India's Ministry of Earth Science (MoES). We thank the master, crew, and technical support staff of the *JOIDES Resolution* during IODP Expedition 396. We personally thank Ray Leadbitter and Independent Petrographic Services Ltd. for making the thin sections used in this study and Siri Simonsen for the use and running of the SEM at the University of Oslo. This is FIERCE contribution no. 136. We thank John W. Counts for his input on discussions of ikaite–glendonite transformation. We thank our reviewers, Mikhail Rogov, Niels de Winter, Gerilyn Soreghan, William Rush, and one anonymous reviewer for their insightful constructive comments and feedback.

Financial support. This research has been supported by the European Commission, Horizon 2020 (ICECAP; grant no. 101024218 to Madeleine L. Vickers), the Research Council of Norway through the Centres of Excellence funding scheme (project nos. 223272, CEED, and 332523, PHAB), and the Goldschmidt Laboratory national infrastructure (project no. 295894). Joost Frieling was funded by UK IODP (grant no. NE/W007142/1). Vincent J. Clementi was supported by NSF (grant no. OCE-2205921). FIERCE is finan-

cially supported by the Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation and by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, grant nos. INST 161/921-1 FUGG, INST 161/923-1 FUGG, and INST 161/1073-1 FUGG).

Review statement. This paper was edited by Gerilyn (Lynn) Soreghan and reviewed by Mikhail Rogov, William Rush, and one anonymous referee.

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