

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A PROGRESS REPORT ON A MEASURED
REFERENCE SECTION AT RED CREEK FOR THE
KANMANTOO GROUP IN THE KARINYA SYNCLINE.

REPORT BK NO. 91/27

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

by

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INTRODUCTION

Geological mapping of Cambrian strata on Tepko (Gatehouse, 1988) 1:50 000 sheet area required an understanding of the type sections of units of the Kanmantoo Group on Fleurieu Peninsula (Figs. 1, 2).

Detailed sections were measured at Myponga Creek, Carrickalinga Head, and along the south coast of Fleurieu Peninsula (Fig. 1). These sections were summarised in Gatehouse *et al.* (1990). Mapping on Angaston sheet area has shown that excellent exposures occur at Sedan Hill and Red Creek (Fig. 1).

The Sedan Hill section, on the east limb of the Karinya Syncline, (Cooper and Gatehouse, 1988) is significantly different from a similar stratigraphic interval on Fleurieu Peninsula. Subsequently, a section in Red Creek (Fig. 3) was found to expose an interval from Heatherdale Shale through to, and including the Backstairs Passage Formation.

Because of excellent exposures, the Red Creek section is here proposed as a reference section for the Heatherdale Shale, Truro Volcanics, Carrickalinga Head Formation and Backstairs Passage Formation for the Karinya Syncline area of the Kanmantoo Trough.

To date a total of 934 m has been measured (Fig. 3) which encompasses units referred to the Heatherdale Shale, Truro Volcanics and part of the Carrickalinga Head Formation. The upper sections of the Carrickalinga Head Formation and the Backstairs Passage Formation have yet to be measured although some data are available in McCulloch (1990). The whole sequence exhibits low-grade metamorphism.

Heatherdale Shale equivalent

The base of the section is not exposed and is cut off by the Palmer Fault. The interval between the base of the section (0 m) up to about 290-300 m (Fig. 4) is considered to comprise Heatherdale Shale equivalent with interbedded volcanics being referred to the Truro Volcanics of Forbes et al. (1972). The Heatherdale Shale equivalent is overlain gradationally by rocks referred to the Carrickalinga Head Formation.

Lithologically the interval between 220 m and 290 m in the Red Creek section largely is a dark blue-grey, partly pyritic, finely laminated non-micaceous unit comparable to the Heatherdale Shale as exposed in its type section at Sellick Hill (Daily, 1963). This interval also contains some thin cross-bedded sandstone beds. In the basal 220 m of the measured section is a grey, micaceous laminated siltstone with interbedded volcanics which are described in detail later in this paper.

At present the 0-300 m interval is taken to be equivalent to the Heatherdale Shale. However, it could be argued that only the blue-grey non-micaceous unit, as exposed between 220 m and 290-300 m, should be referred to the Heatherdale Shale. This blue-grey unit thins northwards. The micaceous unit may therefore represent a new unit which thickens as the Kanmantoo Trough shallows to the north. Recent mapping by CGG supports this hypothesis.

Truro Volcanics

The volcanics which occur interbedded within the Heatherdale Shale and also within the basal parts of the Carrickalinga Head Formation are referred to the Truro Volcanics of Forbes et al. (1972). At Red Creek they comprise lava flows, dykes, tuffs, and crystal tuffs. The presence of pillow lava indicates subaqueous extrusion.

McCulloch (1990) showed that tuffaceous units are interbedded with Heatherdale Shale and that they contain feldspar phenocrysts. Soft recessive thin beds of similar appearance in the basal Carrickalinga Head Formation may also be tuffaceous.

Elsewhere in the Stansbury Basin, green tuff beds in the Parara Limestone may be correlated with the Truro Volcanics of the Karinya Syncline (Alexander, 1990).

PETROLOGY

In hand specimen the volcanics in Red Creek are grey with distinctive large (approx. 0.5 mm diameter) phenocrysts of feldspar (up to approx. 25%) and minor iron staining. The rocks show variable intensities of tectonic foliation.

In thin section it appears that the phenocrysts are predominantly of zoned plagioclase although approximately 10% of the phenocrysts are of an alkali feldspar. The groundmass is predominantly of acicular feldspar laths producing an overall trachytic texture. The tectonic fabric of these rocks varies from slight to intense foliation in which the feldspar phenocrysts have rotated parallel to the foliation. Alteration is pervasive with sericitisation of the feldspars and chlorite/iron-oxide replacement of mafic minerals. Occasional veinlets of quartz and calcite cross-cut this rock. Petrologically the lavas classify as trachytic basalt.

GEOCHEMISTRY

Two samples (6728 RS 1632 and 6729 RS 1515) of massive pillow lava were taken from separate localities near Red Creek and geochemically analysed for a comprehensive suite of elements (Table 1). Several analytical methods were used, including:

IPC (acid digestion) - Major elements

XRF - As, Ba, Bi, Sb, Sn, V, Zr

Atomic Absorption Spectrography - Ag, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, Zn

Fire Assay - Au, Pt, Pd

ICP Mass Spectrography - Ce, Dy, Nd, Er, La, Eu, Lu, Yb, Y, Sm,
Gd, U, Th, Sr, W, Ta, Mo, Nb, Ga, Co, Cs, Rb.

The two geochemical analyses of the pillow lava reflect their described lithology, as basaltic lavas that have undergone greenschist facies metamorphism. Elevated loss on ignition (LOI) values (average 11.5%) attest to alteration effects resulting in hydration.

Obviously the present chemical composition of the Red Creek lavas is not primary, as the volatile content is significantly higher than in analagous fresh rocks. This is to be expected from the presence of hydrous secondary minerals in these lavas. Similar alteration of mafic lavas in the Victorian greenstone belts (Crawford and Keays, 1978) is considered to have caused hydration, along with slight addition of CO_2 and Na_2O accompanied by leaching of SiO_2 , CaO , Al_2O_3 and K_2O . However the degree of chemical change was considered to be minimal, and magmatic trends were clearly visible.

To minimise the effect of hydration related to chemical mobility, plots using elements considered immobile during alteration are used; analyses are recalculated to 100% volatile-free prior to plotting.

The lavas at Red Creek plot on the border between Phono-Tephrite and Tephrite-Basanite close to the Basaltic-Trachyandesite field in the SiO_2 versus $\text{Na}_2\text{O}+\text{K}_2\text{O}$ classification plot of Le Bas et al. (1986; Fig. 5). In the Nb/Y versus Zr/ TiO_2 classification plot (Winchester and Floyd, 1977; Fig. 6) using elements considered immobile during alteration, the lavas classify as Alkali Basalt.

To further define the alkaline basalt a classification scheme devised for the Tertiary alkaline volcanics of eastern Australia, (Johnson, 1989) based on CIPW norms was utilised (Fig. 7). Using this classification scheme the division between sub-alkaline and alkaline mafic lavas is that alkaline lavas have <10% normative hypersthene; on this basis the basalts in Red Creek classify as alkaline and plot within the field of Hawaiites. The presence of considerable levels (average 11.5%) of normative nepheline suggests a trend towards silica undersaturation. However plots using 'immobile elements' (Fig. 6) do not suggest that these rocks have attained silica undersaturation although they plot close to the nephelinite field.

The analyses agree with field evidence suggesting that the lava at Red Creek represents a single, relatively thin submarine flow, in that they plot close together on all classification plots.

The lavas plot outside the tectonic discrimination fields of Pearce and Cann (1973; Fig. 8), although close to the intraplate field. However on a MORB normalised spidergram (Fig. 9) the average of Red Creek analyses shows a distinctive trend of elemental enrichment relative to MORB values of the incompatible elements from Sr through to Ni, which is typical of the more silica undersaturated alkaline mafic lavas of such provinces as the Tertiary eastern Australian volcanic province (Johnson, 1989).

Other alkaline volcanic areas similar to Red Creek include the Yumali/Coonalpyn area, the MBT-1 drillhole into the northwestern termination of the magnetically defined Mt Stavely Belt (Rankin *et al.* in prep.), and the Truro Volcanics as defined in Mt Rufus 1 drillhole (Gatehouse *et al.* in prep; Fig. 9). Of the other volcanics the nearest are the Truro Volcanics that crop out on the west limb of the Karinya Syncline; the lavas at Red Creek represent a more evolved lava type than the Truro Volcanics of their type section, resulting in a line more distant from MORB in Fig. 9. This chemical difference is seen in the petrology where the lavas at Red Creek are distinctively porphyritic with phenocrysts of alkali feldspar.

When normalised to Karoo type basalts (Fig. 10) the basalts at Red Creek and the other Cambrian alkaline volcanics noted above exhibit enrichments relative to Karoo basalt of the elements Sr to Ti, with Red Creek being one of the most chemically evolved suites. This suggests that these lavas are not directly

analagous to the dominantly tholeiitic basalt fissure lavas of the Karoo Province, but rather are more closely analagous to the central complexes seen in intraplate alkaline volcanic complexes, (Johnson, 1989).

In summary, it is proposed that the lava at Red Creek represents a single flow of hawaiite composition from a central volcanic complex, closely analagous to that of the Truro Volcanics but not necessarily from the same centre or erupted at exactly the same time. However, both the lava at Red Creek and the Truro Volcanics undoubtedly belong to the same Early Cambrian alkaline 'within plate' volcanic province, which may be genetically linked to other Cambrian-mafic alkaline provinces such as the Yumali/Coonalpyn and MBT-1 areas (Rankin et al., in prep.). The closest tectonic analogue for these provinces is that of a rifted continental margin as proposed for the Tertiary intraplate volcanic province of eastern Australia, (Johnson, 1989); metadolerites which post date the volcanics indicate a change with time from intraplate to MORB type composition (Liu and Fleming, 1990) indicating an ensuing period of crustal thinning and major dyke emplacement associated rifting and crustal extension.

Carrickalinga Head Formation

The interval between 300 and 934 m is referred to the Carrickalinga Head Formation which at Sedan Hill, 5.5 km to the south, is divided into several members (Cooper and Gatehouse, 1988). The contact between the Heatherdale Shale Equivalent and the Carrickalinga Head Formation is gradational over several metres.

The basal 40 m comprises finely laminated sandstone with subordinate siltstone. The sandstone shows some low-angle cross-bedding, ripples and small-scale channelling. Above this is 8 metres of laminated calcareous siltstone exhibiting some slumping, cross-bedding, and small-scale channelling.

The interval from about 344 m to about 610 m comprises almost entirely siltstone and shale which are phyllitic in places. About 133 m above the base of the formation (at 433 m) is a 3 m deep, 5 m wide channel containing angular calcareous siltstone clasts up to 150 mm long set in a sandy matrix.

The remaining section measured to date between 610 m and 934 m comprises essentially fine sandstone and siltstone. Numerous trace fossils are found between 800 m and 880 m. This occurrence represents the most fossiliferous interval yet found in the Kanmantoo Group.

TABLE 1 GEOCHEMICAL ANALYSES AND CIPW NORMS

	MAJOR ELEMENTS IN PERCENT		CIPW WEIGHT % NORMS		
	6728 RS 1632	6729 RS 1515		6728 RS 1632	6729 RS 1515
SiO ₂	42.30	42.30	ab	18.85	19.92
TiO ₂	2.42	2.24	or	19.71	13.69
Al ₂ O ₃	15.80	14.40	an	18.47	15.31
Fe ₂ O ₃	8.75	8.05	ne	9.85	13.22
FeO	.	.	di	18.11	25.15
MnO	0.28	0.26	ol	4.67	3.21
MgO	2.64	3.32	mt	2.94	2.72
CaO	8.05	8.85	il	5.32	4.95
Na ₂ O	3.78	4.50	ap	2.09	1.73
K ₂ O	2.88	1.99			
P ₂ O ₅	0.78	0.66	Total	100.01	100.01
H ₂ O ⁺	.	.			
H ₂ O	.	.			
CO ₂	.	.			
LOI	10.80	12.30			
Total	98.48	98.87			

. = not analysed, B = ppb

TRACE ELEMENTS IN PPM

	6728 RS 1632	6729 RS 1515
Ag	<1.00	<1.00
As	64.00	72.00
Au	2.00B	7.00B
Ba	880	610
Bi	4.00	<4.00
Ce	82.00	78.00
Co	30.00	44.00
Cr	110	105
Cs	1.80	1.20
Cu	6.00	5.00
Dy	8.00	7.20
Er	3.90	3.30
Eu	2.80	2.50
Ga	26.00	20.00
Gd	9.00	8.60
La	38.00	36.00
Lu	0.60	0.50
Mo	4.00	3.60
Nb	76.00	66.00
Nd	44.00	42.00
Ni	52.00	54.00
Pb	12.00	12.00
Pd	1.00B	<1.00B
Pt	<5.00B	<5.00B
Rb	82.00	60.00
Sb	<4.00	4.00
Sm	9.60	8.80
Sn	<4.00	10.00
Sr	240	260
Ta	3.00	2.20
Th	4.80	3.60
U	2.60	2.20
V	<5.00	<5.00
W	3.00	3.00
Y	34.00	30.00
Yb	3.70	3.00
Zn	26.00	26.00
Zr	380	320

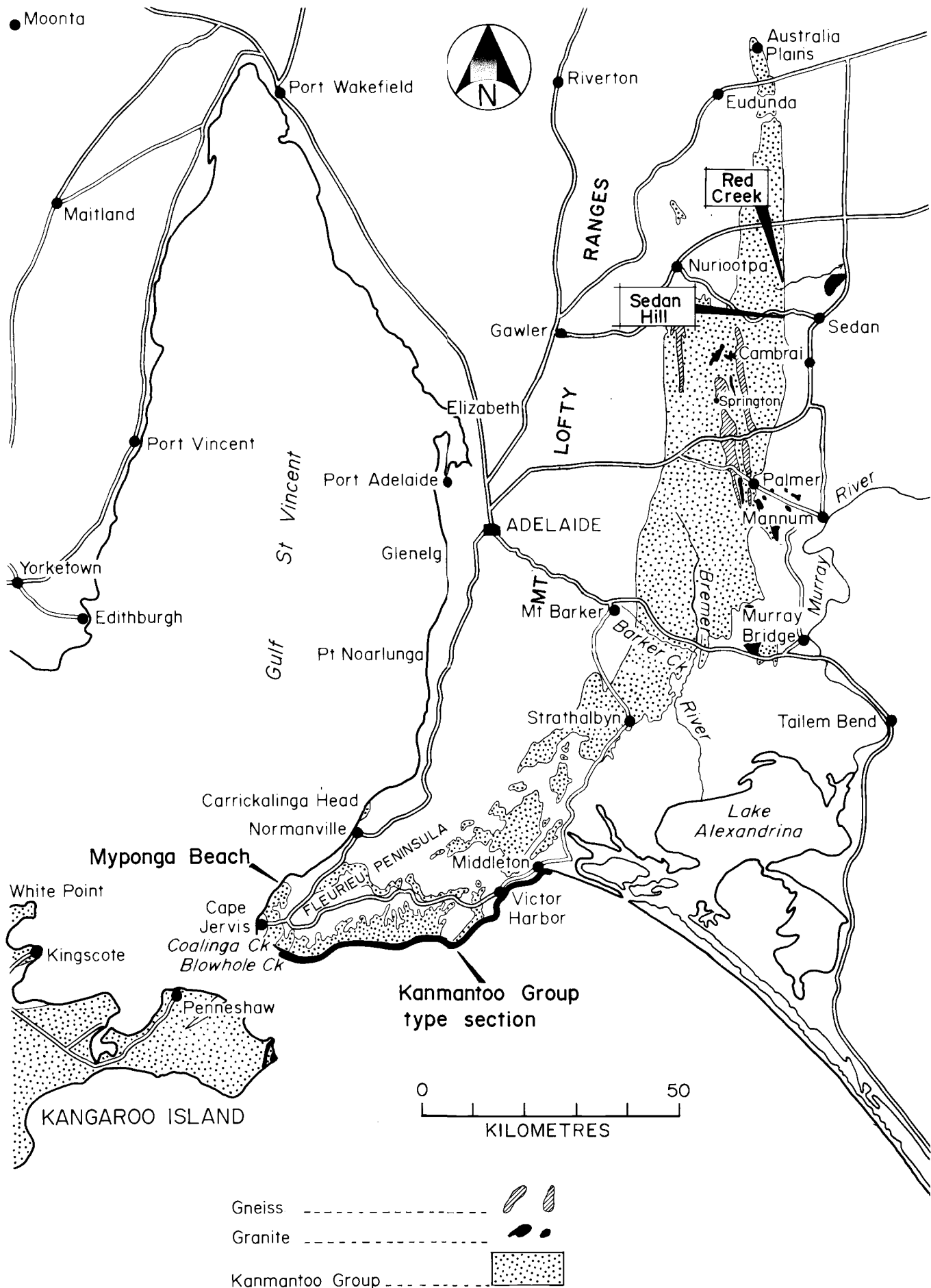
. = not analysed

B = ppb

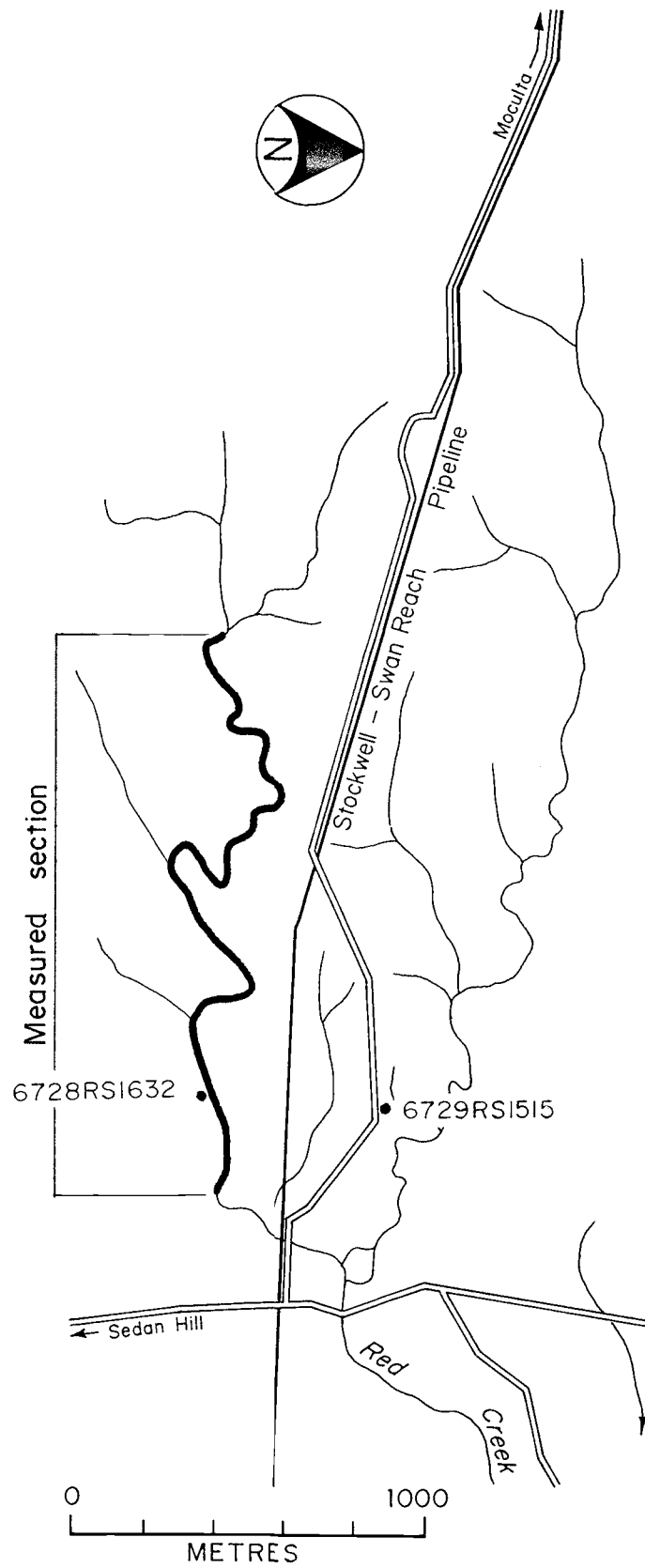
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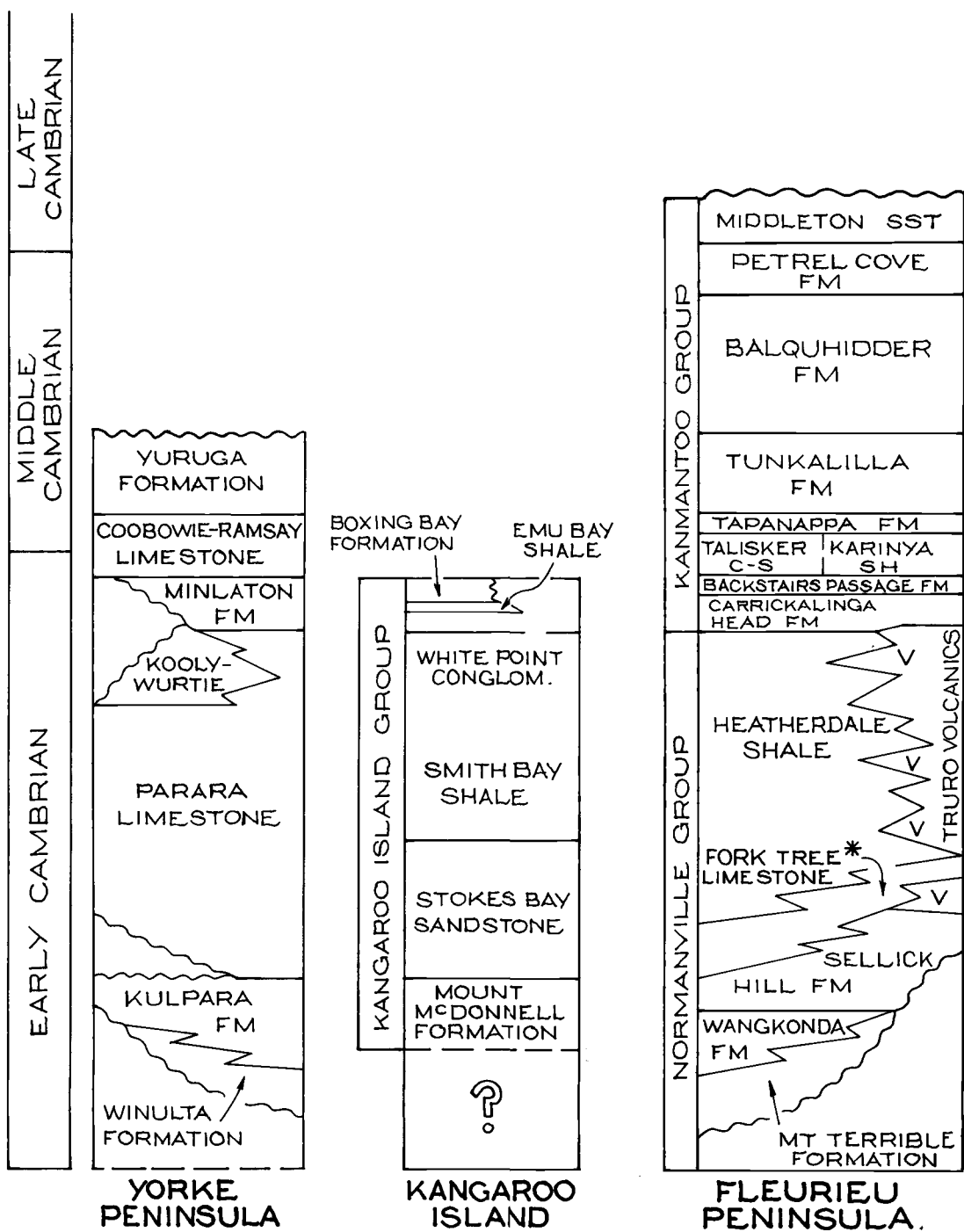
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Locality Plan



Location of the measured section



* Includes Angaston Marble
 Modified from Gravestock, in prep.

STANSBURY BASIN STRATIGRAPHY

Orientation _ _ _ _ _ Facing W

Strike / dip of beds _____



Fig. 4a

S21961 a

Orientation _____ Facing W

Facing W

Strike /dip of beds _____

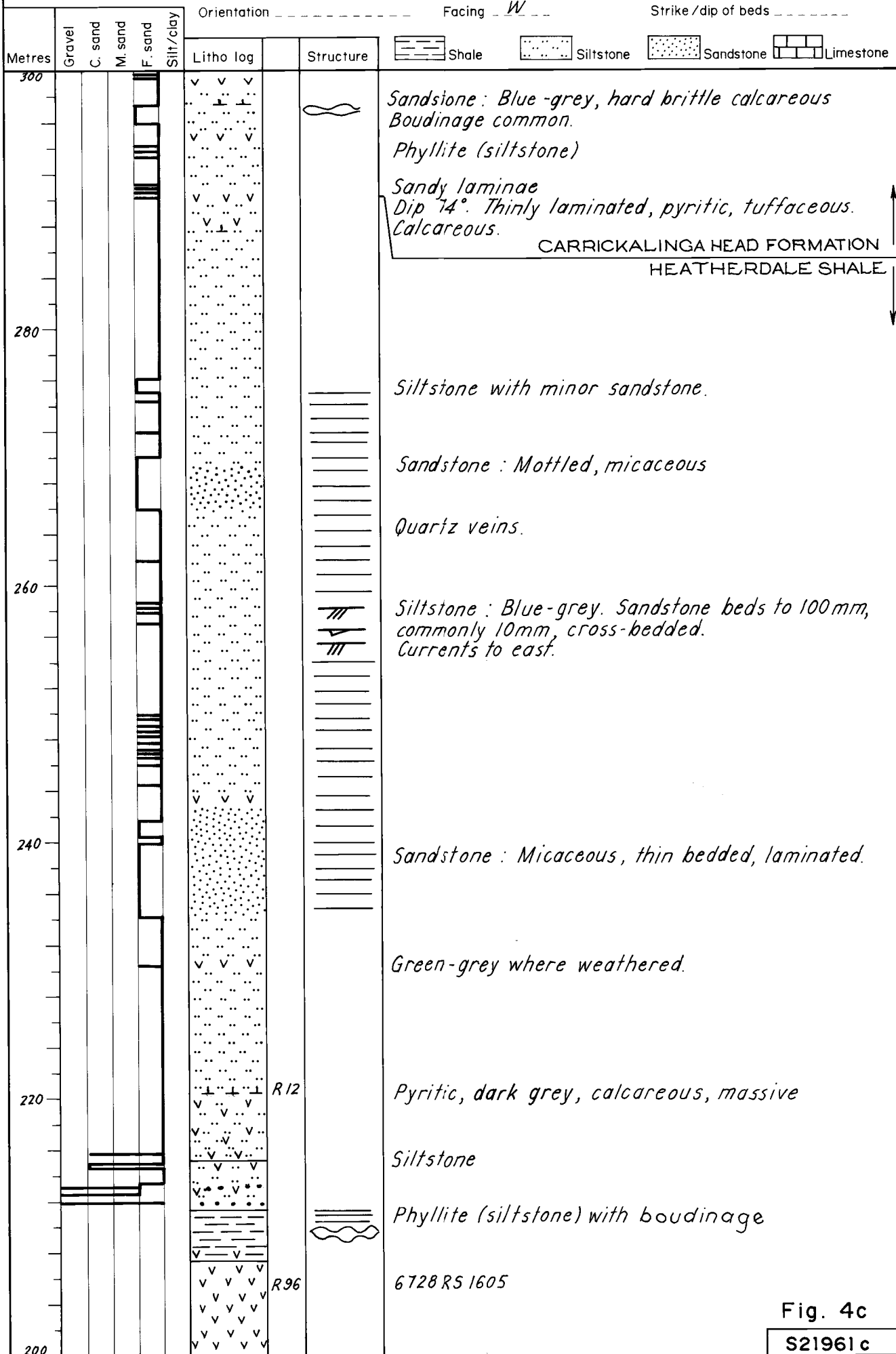


Fig. 4c

S21961 c

Orientation _____ Facing W

Facing W

Strike /dip of beds _____

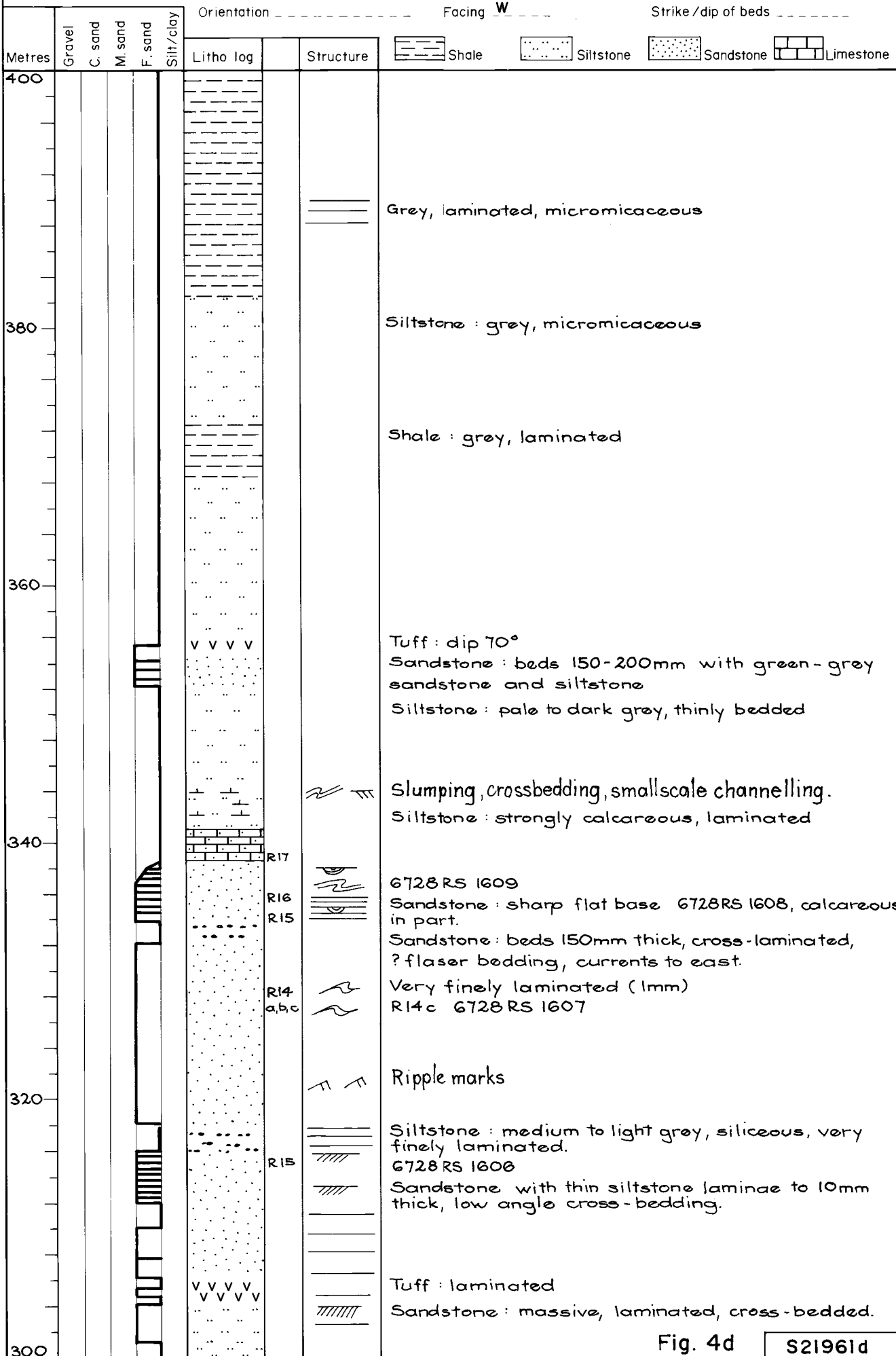


Fig. 4d

S21961d

STRATIGRAPHIC LOGGING SHEET

Sheet 5 of 10From 400 m to 500 mLocation RED CREEKMeasured by CGG/JBJ

Strike/dip of beds

Metres	Gravel	C. sand	M. sand	F. sand	Silt/clay	Orientation		Facing		Lithology			
						Litho log	Structure	Shale	Siltstone	Sandstone	Limestone		
500													
480													
460													
440													
420													
400													

Orientation: _____ Facing: W

Strike/dip of beds: _____

Dip 68° to 278° T

Quartz veins

Thinly laminated

Micromicaceous

Poorly exposed, micromicaceous, laminated

Tuffaceous?

Cleavage vertical

Siltstone: (phyllitic) with thin rippled brown sandstone.

Dip 75° to 276° T

Channel 433 to 436 m, 3 m deep, 5 m wide, steep sided. Sandstone with clasts to 100/150 mm. R20a: 6728RS 1613, R20b: 6728RS 1614, R21: 6728RS 1615 in channel floor. clasts calcareous, angular

6728RS 1612: Sandy in part, calcareous, up to 20 mm.

Shale (phyllitic) weathers soft, grey (possibly tuff)

6728 RS 1611

R22
R20a
R20b
R21

R19

R18

Fig. 4e

S21961e

Orientation _____ Facing W

Strike /dip of beds _ _ _ _ _

MF 182

STRATIGRAPHIC LOGGING SHEET

Sheet 7 of 10From 600 m to 700 mLocation RED CREEKMeasured by CGGOrientation _____ Facing W

Strike/dip of beds _____

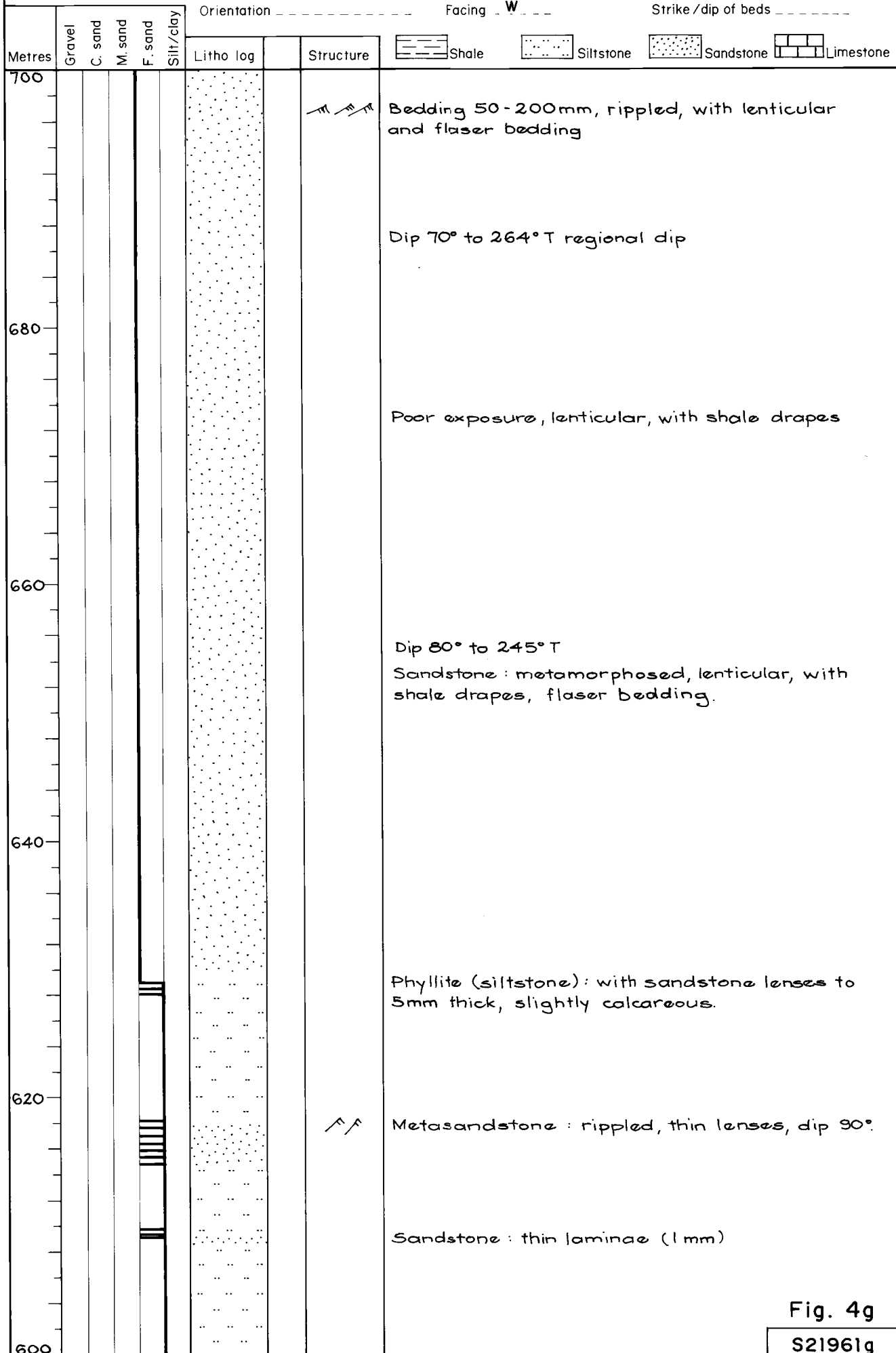


Fig. 4g

S21961g

STRATIGRAPHIC LOGGING SHEET

Sheet 8 of 10From 700 m to 800 mLocation RED CREEKMeasured by CGGOrientation _____ Facing W

Strike/dip of beds _____

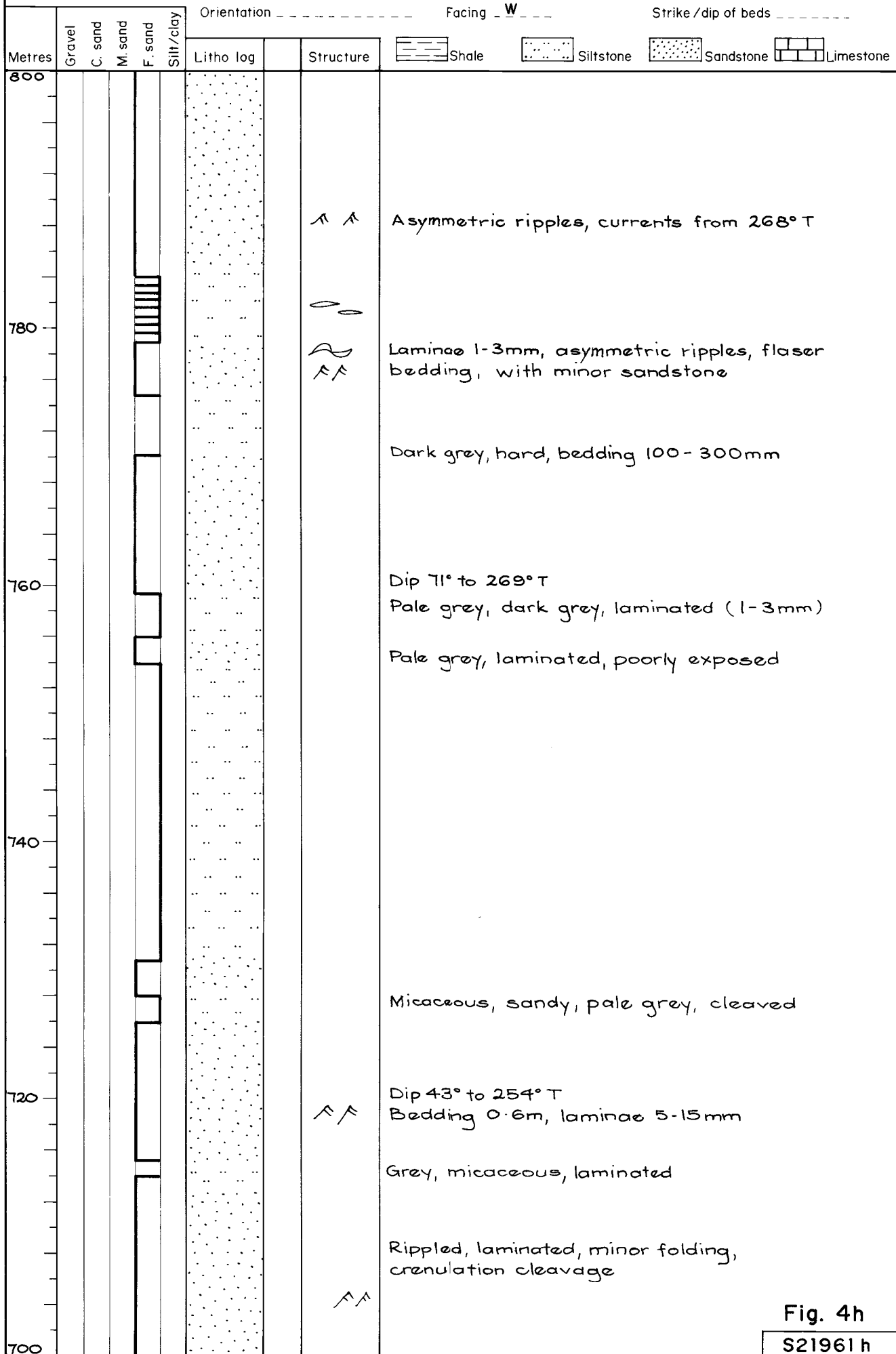


Fig. 4h

S21961 h

STRATIGRAPHIC LOGGING SHEET

Sheet 10 of 10From 900 m to 1000 mLocation RED CREEKMeasured by CGG / JBJOrientation _____ Facing W

Strike/dip of beds _____

Metres	Gravel	C. sand	M. sand	F. sand	Silt/clay	Litho log	Structure	Lithology Legend									
								Shale	Siltstone	Sandstone	Limestone						
1000																	
980																	
960																	
940																	
920																	
900																	

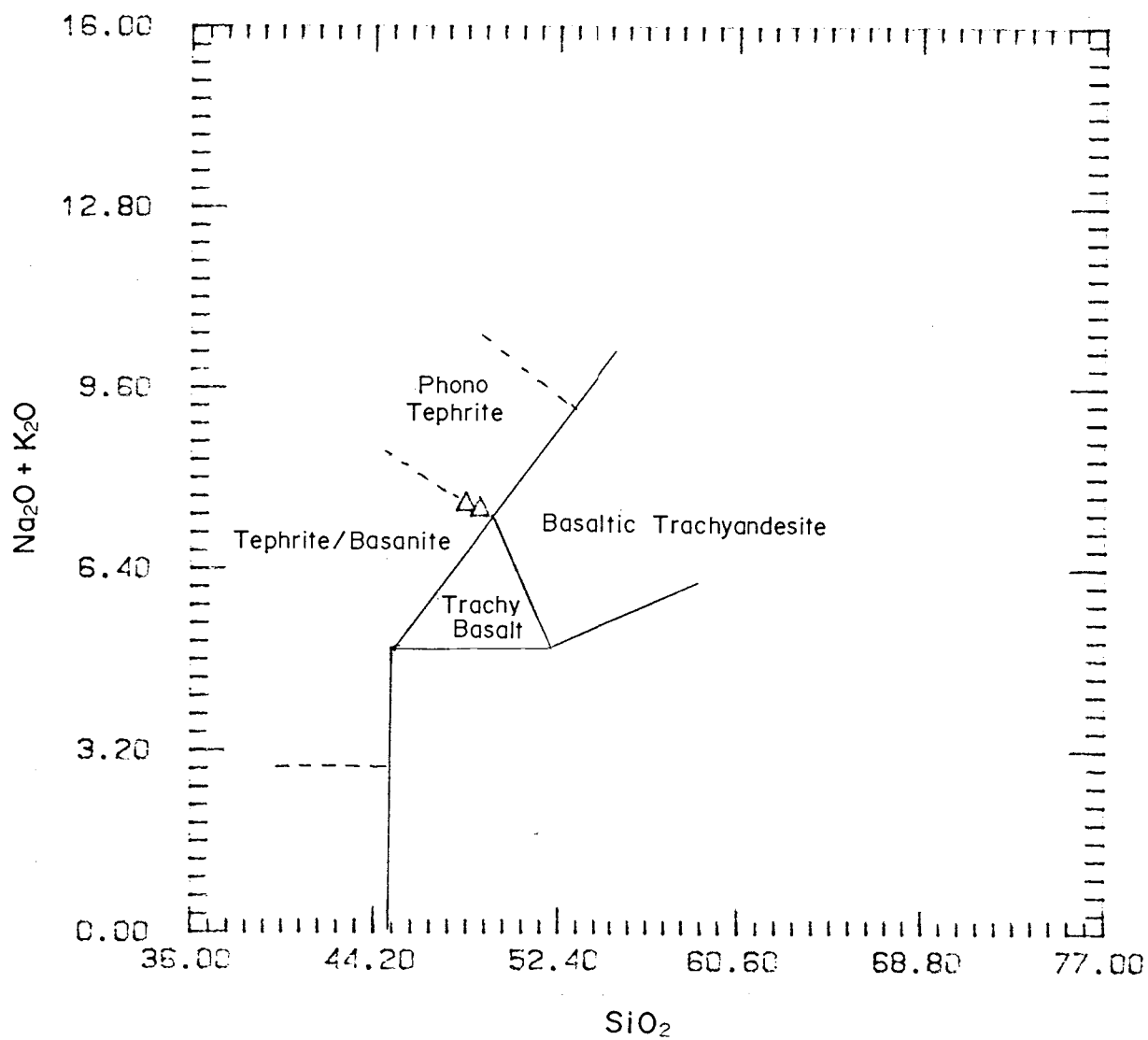
Fault : Low angle Southeast
 Lineation 52° Dip 91° 89° to 68° T
 STR 150°

Siltstone : with sand lenses up to 30mm with
 crossbedded lenticular ripples

Dip 75° to 261° T plunge 16° to north

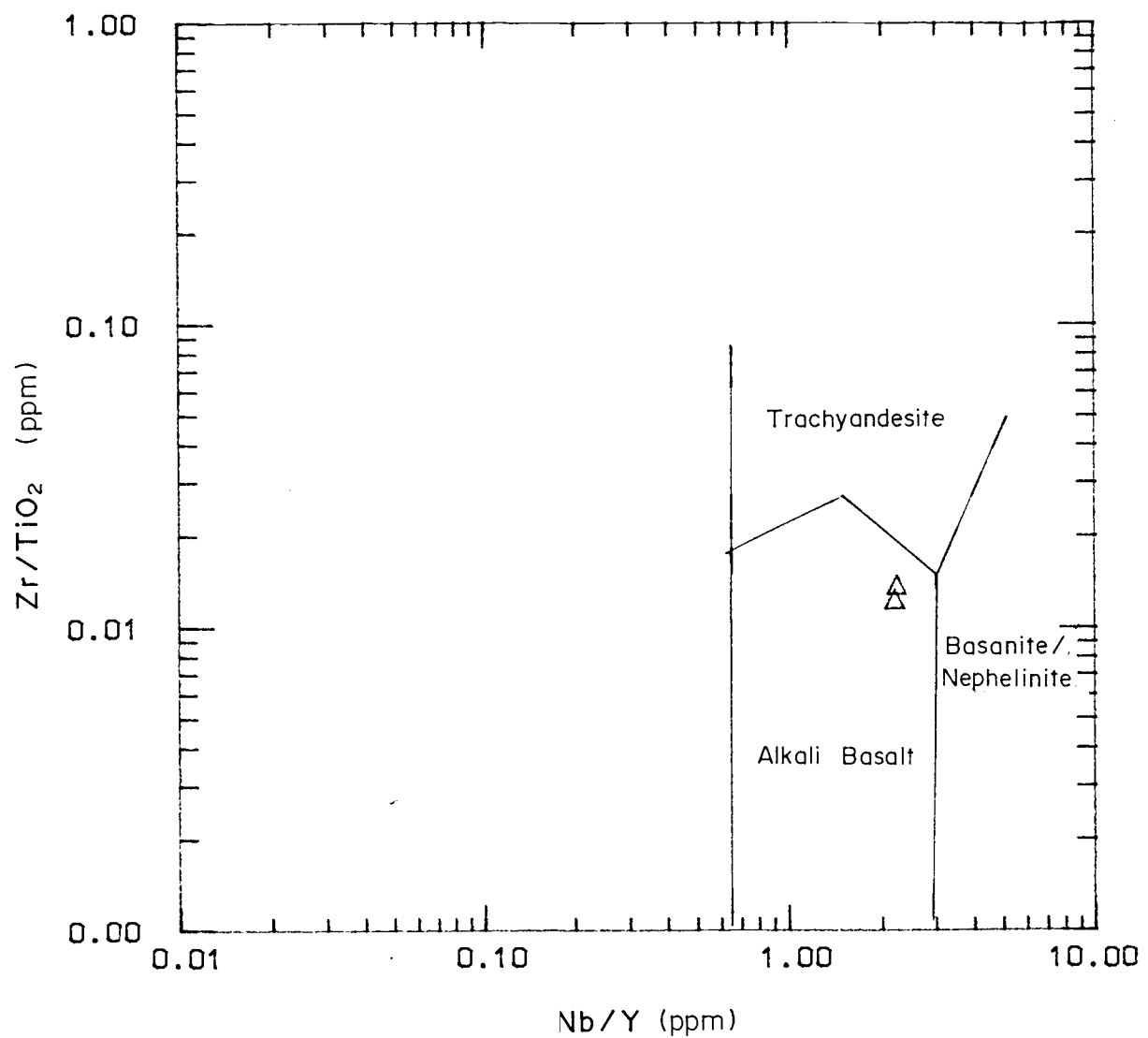
Fig. 4j

S21961j



Part of classification plot of Le Bas et al (1986)

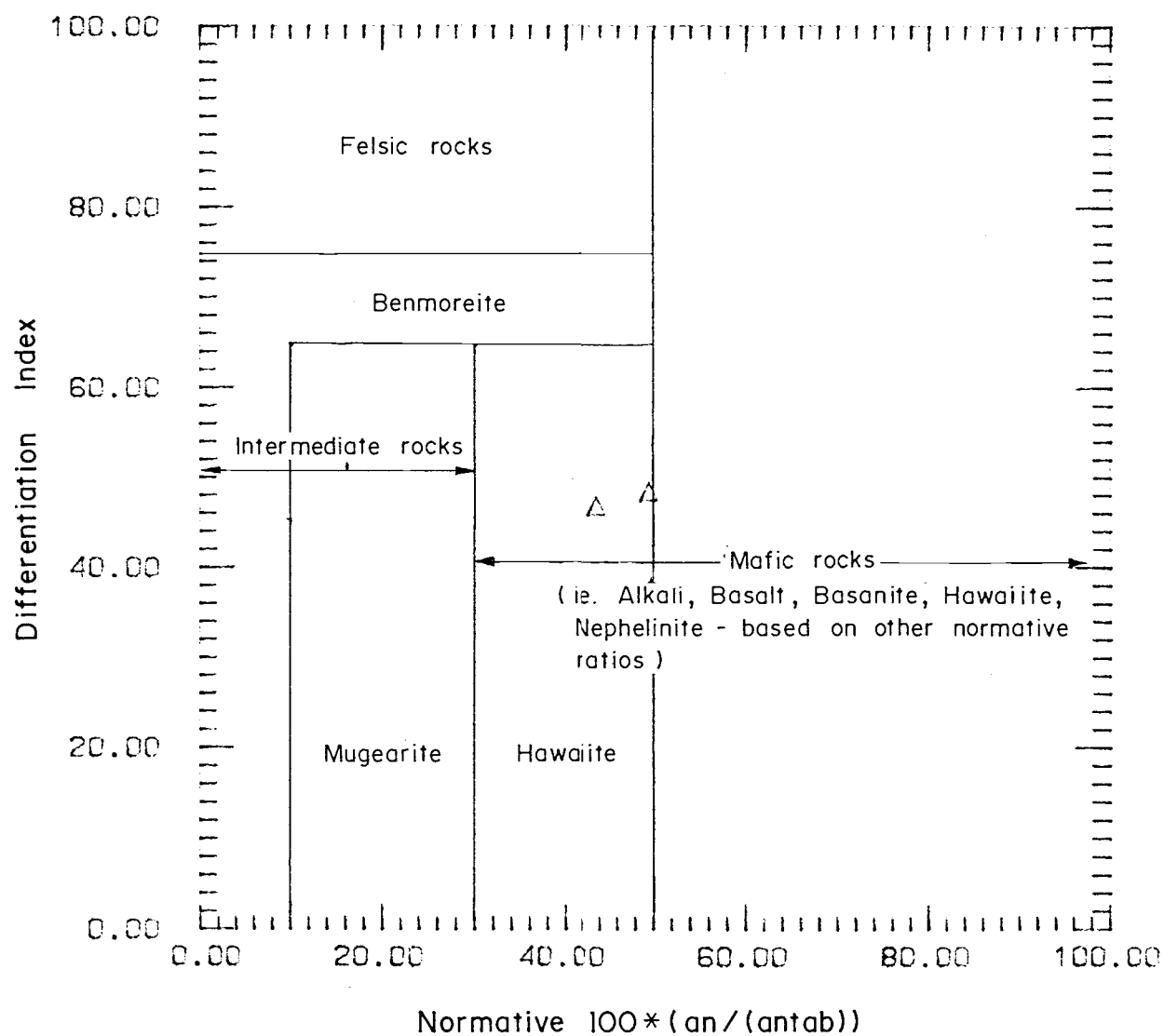
Figure 5



△ Red Creek mafic lava

Part of classification plot of Winchester and Floyd (1977)

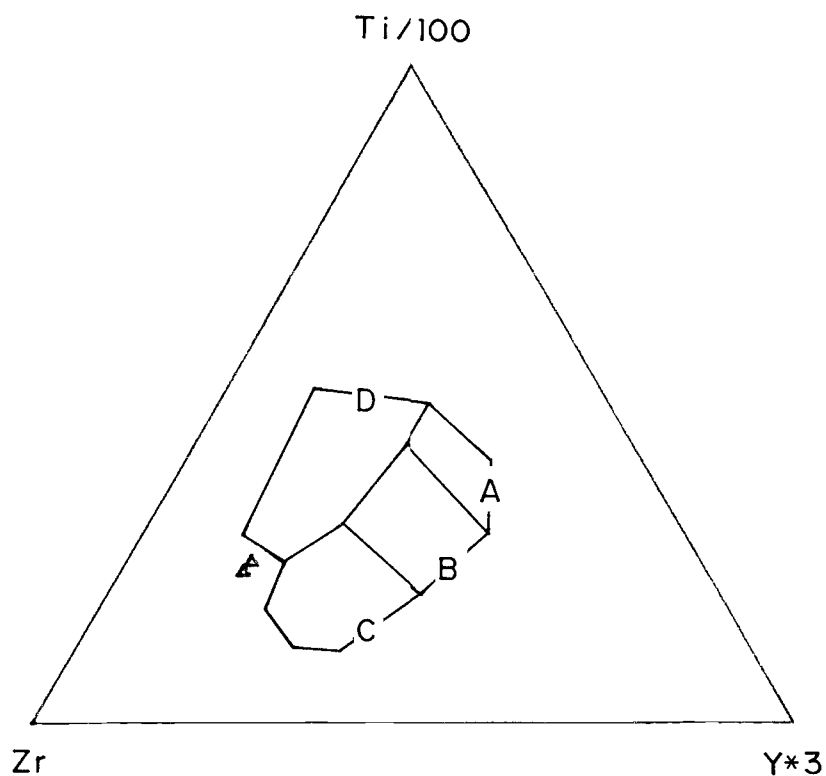
Figure 6



Δ Red Creek mafic lava

CIPW normative classification plot for sub-alkaline intraplate lavas (Johnson, 1989)

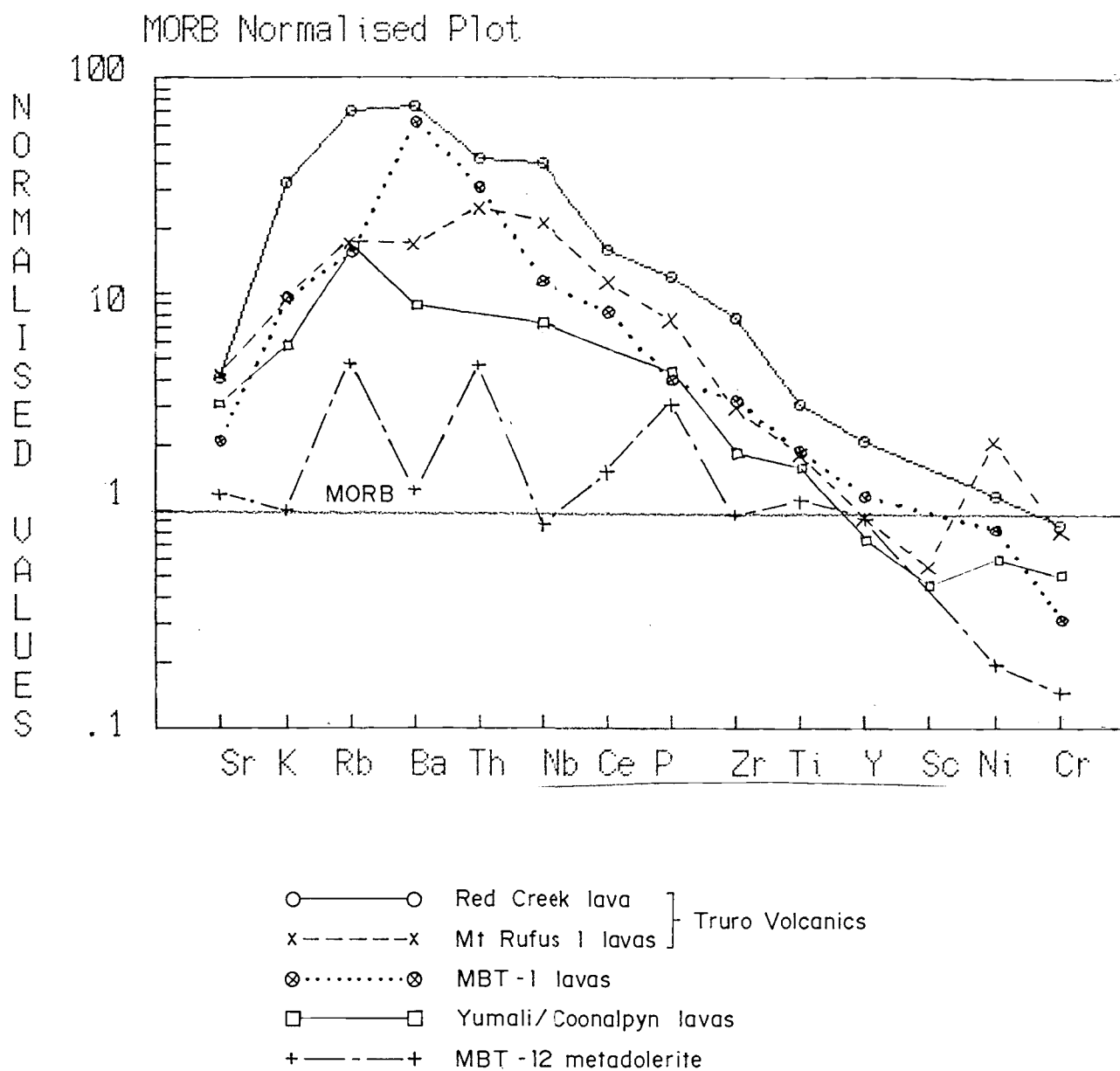
Figure 7



△ Red Creek mafic lava

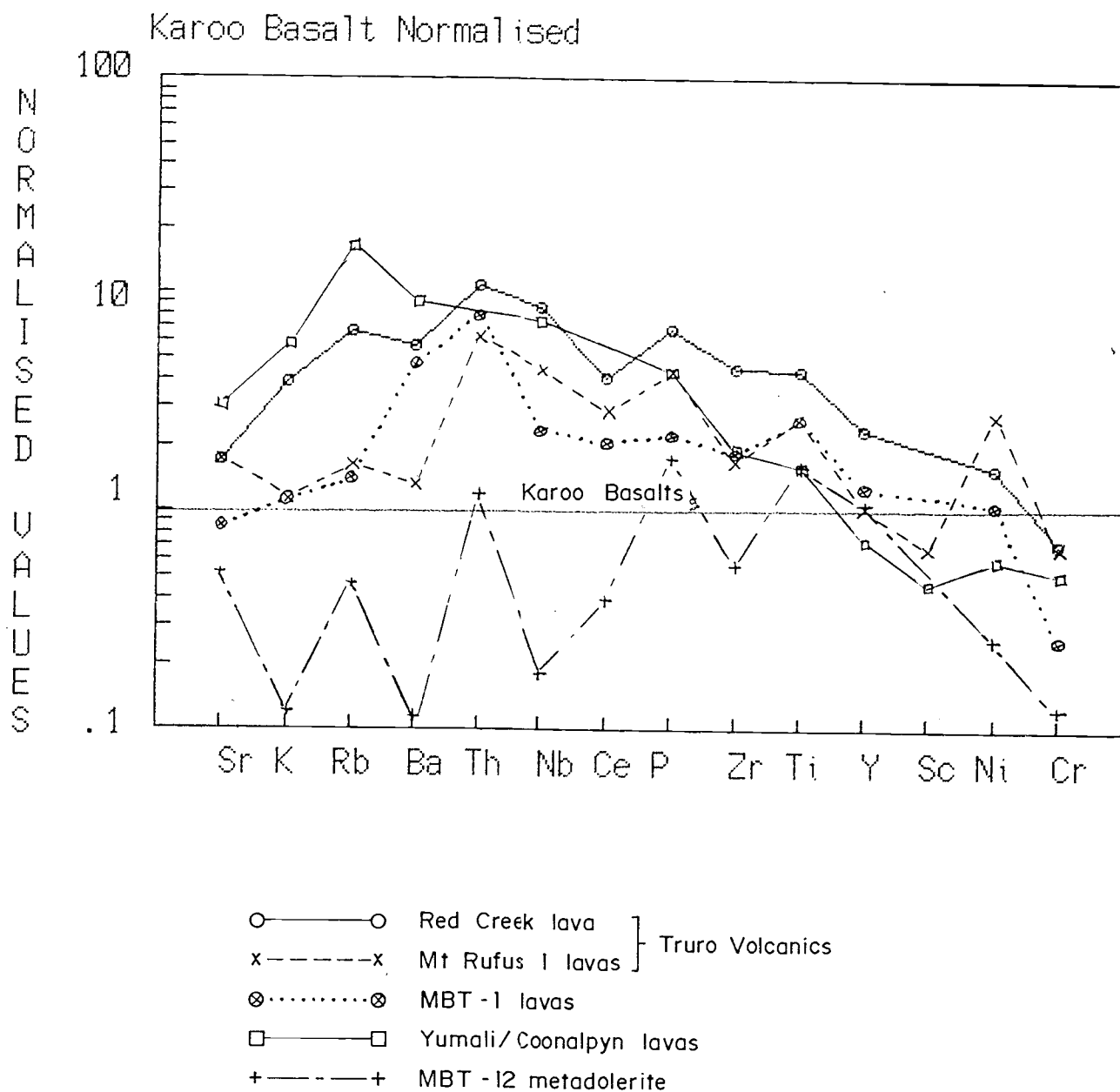
Tectonic discrimination plot of Pearce and Cann (1973).
 "Within-plate" basalts plot in field D, morb (ocean floor basalts) in field B, low K tholeiites in fields A and B, calc-alkaline basalts in fields C and B.

Figure 8



MORB normalised spidergram for averages of Murray Basin Basement and Mt Lofty Ranges ? Cambrian mafic suites.

Figure 9



Karoo Basalt normalised spidergram for averages of
Murray Basin Basement and Mt Lofty Ranges
? Cambrian mafic suites

Figure 10