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# 1 **Glacial erosion and history of Inglefield Land, northwest**  2 **Greenland**

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13 **Abstract:** 

 We used mapping of bedrock lithology, bedrock fractures, and lake density in Inglefield Land, 15 northwest Greenland, combined with cosmogenic nuclide  $(^{10}Be$  and  $^{26}Al$ ) measurements in bedrock surfaces, to investigate glacial erosion and the ice-sheet history of the northwestern Greenland Ice Sheet. The pattern of eroded versus weathered bedrock surfaces and other glacial erosion indicators reveal temporally and spatially varying erosion under cold- and warm-based ice. All of the bedrock surfaces that we measured in Inglefield Land contain cosmogenic nuclide 20 inheritance with apparent <sup>10</sup>Be ages ranging from  $24.9 \pm 0.5$  to  $215.8 \pm 7.4$  ka. The <sup>26</sup>Al<sup>/10</sup>Be ratios 21 require minimum surface histories of  $\sim$ 150 to 2000 kyr. Because our sample sites span a relatively small area that experienced a similar ice-sheet history, we attribute differences in nuclide concentrations and ratios to varying erosion during the Quaternary. We show that an ice sheet history with ~900 kyr of exposure and ~1800 kyr of ice cover throughout the Quaternary is consistent with the measured nuclide concentrations in most samples when sample-specific 26 subaerial erosion rates are between 0 and 2 x  $10^{-2}$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup> and subglacial erosion rates are between 27 0 and 2 x  $10^{-3}$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup>. These erosion rates help to characterize arctic landscape evolution in crystalline bedrock terrains in areas away from focused ice flow.





#### **1. Introduction**

 The Greenland Ice Sheet is presently the largest single contributor to sea-level rise and is predicted to continue to melt at an accelerated rate throughout the next century (e.g., Aschwanden and Brinkerhoff, 2022; Goelzer et al., 2020). Ice streams play a large role in modulating the volume of the modern Greenland Ice Sheet, and their stability is directly linked to overall ice sheet mass balance (e.g., Khan et al., 2022; Mouginot et al., 2015). These features are large areas of fast- moving ice, with onset zones that feed into main channels, which eventually calve into the ocean and are constrained by topography or slow-moving ice (Benn and Evans, 2010).

 Ice sheet models used to predict future ice sheet evolution are aided by the knowledge of long-term ice sheet history and patterns of past ice flow variability, as these play a large role in modulating ice sheet mass balance (e.g., Hubbard et al., 2009). Uncertainty in ice-sheet model parameters can be narrowed when paleo-ice-sheet simulations are performed alongside geologic constraints (e.g., Briner et al., 2020; Cuzzone et al., 2016; Patton et al., 2017). Observations of many ice-sheet processes are sparse because it is difficult to access the bed of modern ice sheets; thus, investigating the beds of former ice sheets (i.e., previously glaciated landscapes) provides information on past ice sheet dynamics and basal processes.

 The distribution of glacial erosional features across formerly glaciated landscapes has been used to map past basal thermal conditions and relative ice velocities delineating zones of warm- bedded and/or fast flowing ice where erosional features are abundant, from areas of cold-based ice and ancient landscape preservation where these features are absent (Andrews et al., 1985; Daly, 1902; Flint, 1943; Margold et al., 2015; Sugden, 1978). Identifying areas of differential erosion in formerly glaciated landscapes is particularly useful for mapping paleo-ice streams, as knowing their extent is helpful for understanding the mass balance of former ice sheets through ice sheet





 models. Paleo-ice stream onset zones are found at the transitions between warm-and cold-based ice, which can be delineated via mapping of erosion imprints on a landscape and cosmogenic nuclide analysis (Briner et al., 2008; Margold et al., 2015, 2018)

 Cosmogenic nuclides are produced mostly in the upper few meters of the Earth's surface when it is exposed to the cosmic ray flux and are routinely used in formerly glaciated landscapes to quantify erosion rates and the timing of past ice sheet fluctuations (Gosse and Phillips, 2001). In areas covered by warm-based, highly erosive glaciers, nuclides that have accumulated in the upper 2-3 meters of bedrock are often removed through efficient glacial erosion. In areas of minimal-to-no glacial erosion (i.e., covered by cold-bedded glaciers or short-lived erosive ice), bedrock surfaces contain inventories of cosmogenic nuclides from multiple periods of exposure (known as cosmogenic nuclide inheritance; Bierman et al., 1999). Patterns of inheritance (or lack thereof) across a landscape can be used to delineate ice streaming where faster flowing, erosive ice depleted nuclide inventories (Briner et al., 2006; Corbett et al., 2013; Roberts et al., 2013).

 Cosmogenic nuclide inheritance resulting from minimal glacial erosion can pose an issue for single nuclide surface exposure dating, where the apparent exposure age will be anomalously old (Ivy-Ochs and Briner, 2014). However, some cosmogenic nuclides are radioactive and decay 69 when they are shielded from the cosmic ray flux by ice (e.g., <sup>10</sup>Be, <sup>26</sup>Al, and *in-situ* <sup>14</sup>C). The 70 production ratio of  $^{26}$ Al/<sup>10</sup>Be is 7.3:1 in quartz at the Earth's surface across Greenland (Corbett et 71 al., 2017). Because <sup>26</sup>Al has a shorter half-life (705 kyr) than <sup>10</sup>Be (1388 kyr), departure from this ratio indicates surface burial (Korschinek et al., 2010; Nishiizumi, 2004). By measuring multiple nuclides in bedrock surfaces near the modern Greenland Ice Sheet margin, researchers have exploited cosmogenic nuclide inheritance to investigate periods of ice sheet minima, glacial





 erosion, and longer-term ice sheet history (e.g., Corbett et al., 2013; Skov et al., 2020; Young et al., 2021).

 Recently, attention has been drawn to retrieving samples from the bed of extant ice sheets (Briner et al., 2022; Johnson et al., 2024; Spector et al., 2018). The information contained at the contemporary ice-bed interface provides valuable, and rare, terrestrial constraints on previous ice sheet minima and long-term ice sheet history. Cosmogenic nuclide and luminescence analysis of sediment and bedrock samples collected from this key transition zone under ice sheets have provided insight into the stability of the ice sheet throughout the Quaternary (Balco et al., 2023; Bierman et al., 2023; Christ et al., 2020; Christ et al., 2021; Christ et al., 2023; Schaefer et al., 2016). Studying the landscape at the fringes of the Greenland Ice Sheet allows us to systematically investigate large areas of the former ice sheet bed, without the need to drill through the ice sheet, providing complementary results for efforts focused on obtaining material from under the ice.

 We mapped bedrock features and used cosmogenic nuclide analysis to determine the extent and magnitude of erosion and the ice sheet history across Inglefield Land, northwest Greenland over the Quaternary. We established that while most of Inglefield Land was covered by cold-based ice during the last glacial cycle, there were areas of ice streaming in incised valleys near the modern coastline. Finally, we modeled cosmogenic nuclide accumulation through the Quaternary glacial cycles and find that our measurements are consistent with an ice-sheet history with 900 kyr of cumulative exposure and 1800 kyr of cumulative ice cover when we allowed subaerial and subglacial erosion rates to vary for each sample.





#### **2. Inglefield Land**

 Inglefield Land is an ice-free area in northwest Greenland situated between the Greenland Ice Sheet and the coastline 30 km to the northwest. It is bounded by Smith Sound to the west, Kane Basin to the north, Prudhoe Dome and the main body of the northern Greenland Ice Sheet to the south, and the Hiawatha Glacier sector of the Greenland Ice Sheet to the east (Fig. 1). Today, much of the ice bordering Inglefield Land is cold based (MacGregor et al., 2022). Inglefield Land is characterized by relatively low-relief uplands that reach 700 m asl near the ice margin with valleys incised along the northern coast. Ice sheet meltwater drains into through these valleys and into four embayments (from west to east): Force Bay, Rensselaer Bay, Dallas Bay, and Marshall Bay (henceforth the unnamed valleys crossing Inglefield Land will be referred to by the bays into which 108 they drain).

 During the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM; 26 – 19 ka), the northern Greenland Ice Sheet covered Inglefield Land completely as it advanced into Kane Basin, where it coalesced with the Innuitian Ice Sheet and flowed southward, eventually terminating in an iceshelf spanning northern Baffin Bay (Fig. 1; England, 1999; Couette et al., 2022; Batchelor et al., 2024). Although the timing and duration of the LGM ice advance remains unknown, retreat onto the modern coast of 114 Inglefield Land is constrained to  $\sim 8.6 - 7.9$  ka based on radiocarbon dating of organic material in 115 raised beach deposits and *in-situ* <sup>14</sup>C ages from erratic boulders (Blake et al., 1992; Mason, 2010; Nichols, 1969; Søndergaard et al., 2020). The ice sheet continued to decay, arriving at the modern 117 margin by  $\sim$ 7 ka and maintaining to a smaller-than-modern position between  $\sim$ 5.8 and 0.3 ka, an estimate based on radiocarbon ages from reworked wood fragments at the modern ice margin (Søndergaard et al., 2020).











#### **3 Methods**



## *3.1 Geologic mapping – GIS and field observations*

*3.1.1 Bedrock lithology*

 The relatively simple bedrock geology of Inglefield Land allowed us to investigate the long-term pattern of erosion and landscape evolution of the area using pre-existing geologic maps. Inglefield Land is underlain by crystalline paragneiss and capped with near-horizontally bedded sedimentary rocks; therefore, generally speaking, outcrops of basement rock indicate areas where cap rocks have been removed by erosion (Fig. 2). Some of this cap rock removal likely took place prior to Quaternary glaciation (e.g., Krabbendam and Bradwell, 2014), but the patterns seen in the geologic map – with crystalline lithologies in glacial troughs – hints at the role of past glacial erosion in shaping the landscape. To identify the removal of sedimentary cap rocks, we created a simplified geologic map of Inglefield Land using the 1:500,000 Greenland-wide geologic map in ArcGIS Pro (Kokfelt et al., 2023) and classified units as crystalline, sedimentary, Quaternary sediments or lakes. In the field, we noted the lithology at each of our sample sites and the relative amount of weathering or ice sculpting (Figs. 2, 3).





#### *3.3.2 Mapping bedrock fractures*

 Bedrock fractures in glaciated terranes are exposed through the removal of regolith by glacial erosion (Gordon, 1981; Skyttä et al., 2023; Sugden, 1974, 1978). Areas with a high density of exposed bedrock fractures within crystalline bedrock terranes have been used to identify intense glacial erosion (e.g., Sugden, 1978). This is in contrast to areas where bedrock fractures are obscured by sediment cover, a regolith mantle, or in some cases, sub-horizontal sedimentary bedrock units. Our field area has a heterogenous pattern of mappable fractures that are easily identifiable at the landscape-level, indicative of areas where regolith has been stripped via glacial erosion. We outlined zones of bedrock fractures at the landscape scale in ArcGIS Pro using a 25 m resolution digital elevation model (Korsgaard et al., 2016). We created hillshade images with a three-times vertical exaggeration for our mapping (Fig. 4). Our digital elevation model resolution of 25 m was fine enough to capture areas of obvious bedrock fractures on a landscape scale, but coarse enough to avoid issues with differentiating fractures from other features.

*3.3.3 Mapping lake density*

 Lake density has also been used as a proxy for glacial erosion (e.g., Andrews et al., 1985; Briner et al., 2008; Sugden, 1978). Areas of regolith cover are generally smooth on the landscape-scale and contain few lakes. Meanwhile, erosive ice sheets can remove this overlying regolith and expose the underlying bedrock, after which the bedrock is susceptible to ice sheet scouring and erosion. These bedrock basins then fill with water following glacial retreat forming lakes across previously-glaciated areas and thus, the density of lakes can be used as an indicator of past ice sheet erosion. We created an inventory of lakes in Inglefield Land to calculate lake density (Fig. 5). While the 1:500,000 geologic map of Greenland shows larger lakes, smaller lakes are not





 included due to the relatively coarse map resolution (Kokfelt et al., 2023). Therefore, we used a semi-automated process in ArcGIS Pro to map all lakes in the study area. First, we used cloud-free LANDSAT8 images to visualize surface water (Band 1; visible blue-green). We explored a range of threshold values to extract cells with surface water from this image (i.e., cells with a value higher than the threshold were water) and evaluated these against the original LANDSAT8 images to determine a suitable threshold value that adequately captured lakes and streams. We converted this raster to polygons of lake and river extents. Finally, we conducted manual quality control by removing rivers and any lakes that were either dammed by sediments or the ice sheet and then merged our new lake polygons with those from the geologic map. To calculate lake density across Inglefield Land, we determined the percentage of each cell in a 1 x 1 km grid covered by lake polygons.

#### *3.4 Cosmogenic nuclide measurements*

*3.4.1 Sampling approach*

 We collected samples for cosmogenic nuclide measurements from bedrock surfaces along two 208 SSE – NNW transects from the ice margin to the coast in Inglefield Land (Figs.  $1 - 5$ ). We sampled roughly one kg of crystalline rock from 15 bedrock surfaces and one boulder using a handheld angle grinder, hammer, and chisel during summer 2022. We collected nine samples along our western transect (beginning at the mouth of Rensselaer Valley): two from bedrock surfaces and one from a boulder (2.5 m long x 1.6 m wide x 1.1 m tall) close to the ice margin, one bedrock sample from each of three separate inland sites, one bedrock sample from a higher-elevation 214 coastal site (255 m asl), and two bedrock samples from a lower-elevation coastal site  $(\sim 100 \text{ m as}$ ). Along our eastern transect (beginning at the mouth of western Marshall Valley), we collected





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220 *3.4.2 Lab procedures*

221 We measured <sup>10</sup>Be and <sup>26</sup>Al in all 16 of our samples. We isolated quartz and extracted <sup>10</sup>Be and 222 <sup>26</sup>Al at the University at Buffalo Cosmogenic Isotope Laboratory ( $n = 12$ ) and the Lamont-Doherty 223 Earth Observatory (LDEO) cosmogenic dating laboratory (n = 4) using well-established 224 procedures (Corbett et al., 2016b; Kohl and Nishiizumi, 1992). We spiked our dissolved samples 225 with precisely weighed <sup>9</sup>Be carrier (PRIME Lab 2017.11.17-Be #3/#4 – <sup>9</sup>Be concentration of 1074  $226 \pm 8$  ppm – at the University at Buffalo and LDEO carrier –  ${}^{9}$ Be concentration of 1038.8 ppm – at 227 LDEO). We measured the amount of native  $27$ Al in our dissolved quartz and added varying 228 amounts of <sup>27</sup>Al carrier to ensure each sample had  $\sim$  2000 mg of <sup>27</sup>Al. We measured the total amount 229 of <sup>27</sup>Al in aliquots removed after sample digestion with inductively coupled plasma optical 230 emission spectrometry. We sent  ${}^{10}$ Be samples processed at the University at Buffalo and all  ${}^{26}$ Al 231 samples to PRIME Lab and <sup>10</sup>Be samples processed at Lamont-Doherty to Lawrence-Livermore 232 National Laboratory, where the  ${}^{10}Be/{}^{9}Be$  and  ${}^{26}Al/{}^{27}Al$  ratios were measured by accelerator mass 233 spectrometry.

234 <sup>10</sup>Be/<sup>9</sup>Be ratios were measured relative to the 07KNSTD standard (<sup>10</sup>Be/<sup>9</sup>Be ratio: 2.85 x 235 10<sup>-12</sup>; Nishiizumi et al., 2007) at both facilities and <sup>26</sup>Al samples relative to the KNSTD standard 236 (<sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>27</sup>Al ratio: 1.82 x 10<sup>-12</sup>; Nishiizumi, 2004). Analytical uncertainties (1 $\sigma$ ) of <sup>10</sup>Be 237 measurements at Lawrence Livermore were between 1.8% and 1.9% and ranged from 1.5% to 238 6.0%, with an average of  $2.6 \pm 1.3$ % at PRIME lab. <sup>26</sup>Al measurement uncertainties ranged from







- 260 ice retreat across Inglefield Land to between  $\sim$ 9 and 7 ka, apparent <sup>10</sup>Be ages date from boulders
- 261 date to between 8.3  $\pm$  1.2 and 92.7  $\pm$  1.5 ka, indicating the presence of nuclide inheritance





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 (Søndergaard et al., 2020). Inglefield Land bedrock also is likely to contain nuclide inheritance and therefore yield information about ice sheet history and erosion prior to the last glacial cycle. Given the relatively small distance from the modern ice margin to coast and the speed at which 265 Inglefield Land deglaciated following the LGM, we hypothesize that, within  $^{10}$ Be and  $^{26}$ Al measurement uncertainties, the 15 bedrock samples should have similar ice-cover histories on 267 glacial-interglacial timescales. Therefore, differences in <sup>10</sup>Be and <sup>26</sup>Al concentrations across the landscape likely relate to varying sample-to-sample sub-glacial and sub-aerial erosion rates and not differences in ice-sheet history at each sample location..

270 To explore this hypothesis, we simulate complex Pleistocene exposure histories using a 271 forward model that calculates cosmogenic  ${}^{10}$ Be and  ${}^{26}$ Al accumulation in rock brought to the 272 Earth's surface by subaerial and subglacial erosion. Because little is known about the ice-margin 273 history in Inglefield Land prior to the Holocene, we define the pre-Holocene exposure/burial 274 history by applying a threshold value on the benthic  $\delta^{18}O$  LR04 stack (Lisiecki and Raymo, 275 2005)to define a range of plausible exposure/burial scenarios for the last 2.7 Myr, following the 276 approach adopted in prior studies (Balter-Kennedy et al., 2021; Knudsen et al., 2015). Exposure 277 and burial take place at  $\delta^{18}O$  values below and above the threshold, respectively. We use a 30 kyr 278 running mean to smooth the  $\delta^{18}O$  curve (Knudsen et al., 2015). . Given the prevalence of nuclide 279 inheritance across Inglefield Land (Søndergaard et al., 2020), we do not expect  $10Be$  to give post-280 LGM deglaciation ages at each sample location, but deglaciation ages from *in situ* <sup>14</sup>C in boulders 281 at the coast and ice margin are provided by Søndergaard et al. (2020). We therefore estimate site-282 specific Holocene exposure durations by scaling the deglaciation ages from Søndergaard et al. 283 (2020) to each of our sites based on their relative distance between the coast and ice margin, as 284 calculated along our sample transects.





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304 We determine the misfit between the modeled and measured nuclide concentrations for 305 each sample, *d*, using the error-weighted sum of squares (EWSS):

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EWSS = \left(\frac{N_{10,p,d} - N_{10,m,d}}{\sigma_{10,m,d}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{N_{26,p,d} - N_{26,m,d}}{\sigma_{26,m,d}}\right)^2
$$





308 where  $N_{i,p,d}$  is the predicted nuclide concentration,  $N_{i,m,d}$  is the measured nuclide concentration, and *σi,m,d* is the 1σ measurement uncertainty. An error-weighted sum of squares close to two indicates that the difference between the modeled and measured concentrations can be explained by the measurement uncertainty. We consider model runs with an error-weighted sum of squares less than 2.5 to be acceptable fits.

313 We created 2.7-Myr exposure histories using  $\delta^{18}$ O threshold values ranging from 3.60 to 4.00‰ (corresponding to 0.7–1.9 Myr cumulative exposure and 0.8–2 Myr cumulative burial over the last 2.7 Myr) at 0.02‰ spacing. For each exposure history, we ran the forward model with 316 subaerial and subglacial erosion rates ranging from 0 to 2.5 x  $10^{-1}$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup> on a log scale (coarse 317 spacing from 0 to 1 x 10<sup>-5</sup> mm yr<sup>-1</sup> and finer spacing from 1 x 10<sup>-5</sup> to 2.5 x 10<sup>-1</sup> mm yr<sup>-1</sup>) to capture the potential range in erosion rates for cold-bedded glaciers and polar environments (e.g., Cook et al., 2020; Koppes et al., 2015; Portenga and Bierman, 2015). Subglacial and subaerial erosion rates are each held constant for all periods of ice cover and exposure, respectively, and therefore we do not consider changes in erosion within glacial cycles or from one glacial cycle to the next. If total (subaerial + subglacial) erosion through a model run is high, a higher proportion of modeled  $^{10}Be$  and  $26$ Al accumulates deep in the rock column where production is low, while less erosion results in a larger fraction of the nuclide production near the surface where production is higher. The two erosion rates may therefore trade-off. For example, an exposure history may yield a good fit to the data with a higher sub-aerial erosion rate and lower sub-glacial erosion rate for a certain sample, as well as with a lower sub-glacial erosion rate and a higher sub-aerial erosion rate. Nevertheless, this model allows us to investigate potential Quaternary erosion and ice cover scenarios across Inglefield Land to test the hypothesis that the variability in our cosmogenic nuclide measurements







- the four main valleys. North of Hiawatha Glacier, crystalline basement outcrops from the ice margin to the coastline. In total, 48.2% of the surface of Inglefield Land is crystalline basement,
- 29.4% is sedimentary cap rocks, and 17.4% is Quaternary sediments, with the remaining 5% made
- up of various minor rock units and lakes.





 The low-elevation coastal (~100 m asl) sites exhibit ice-sculpted bedrock with primary glacial erosional features, including striations (Fig. 3). Smoothed bedrock is also present at the higher-elevation coastal site (255 m asl), though it lacked primary glacial erosional features. Inland, highly weathered bedrock outcrops, often with abundant gruss, rose only a few meters above the surrounding landscape, which is covered by Quaternary sediments composed of weathered, angular boulders. Near the ice margin sites, we also found highly weathered bedrock outcrops exhibiting lots of gruss and weathering pits on rock surfaces.

 Exposed bedrock fractures are sparse across Inglefield Land, except for the areas west and north of Hiawatha glacier where bedrock fractures are clearly visible at the kilometer-scale (Fig. 4). There are sizable fracture zones along Rensselaer Valley and both Marshall valleys; in 363 particular, the fracture zone of the western Marshall Valley extends  $\sim$  25 km inland. Finally, there are some limited fracture areas in the central inland sector towards the ice sheet.

365 Lakes are abundant across much of Inglefield Land, covering 161 km<sup>2</sup>, (2% of the surface area), but are concentrated in certain sectors (Fig. 5). Regions to the west and north of Hiawatha 367 Glacier have the highest lake densities, with some  $1 \text{ km}^2$  cells 87% covered by lakes. There are also areas of high lake densities towards the coast, particularly near the coastal valleys. Inland, the highest density of lakes is found in central Inglefield Land. Many grid cells do not contain lakes (grid cells not filled in on Fig. 5), or host very small lakes (<1% of grid cell is lake-covered).

 Taken together, there are clear areas of overlap between exposed crystalline basement rock, bedrock fractures, and high lake densities north of Hiawatha Glacier and in the valleys draining into Rensselaer and Marshall bays (Fig. 6). West of Hiawatha Glacier and in western Inglefield Land, there are large areas of exposed basement rocks with lakes, but no large-scale fractures.





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- 375 There are also a few areas of sedimentary cap rock with high lake densities, most notably between
- 376 Rensselaer, Marshall, and Dallas bays.
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### 378 *4.2 Cosmogenic nuclide analysis*

 $379$  Apparent <sup>10</sup>Be ages are generally youngest at our coastal sites and oldest at inland sites. <sup>10</sup>Be 380 concentrations are lowest at our ~100 m asl coastal sites, corresponding to apparent exposure ages 381 between  $24.9 \pm 0.5$  and  $36.5 \pm 1.7$  ka (Figs. 6 & 7; Table S1). These sites exhibit ice-sculpting, 382 suggesting short-lived wet-based ice. At the higher elevation coastal site on the western transect 383 (255 m asl), the apparent <sup>10</sup>Be age is slightly older –  $62.2 \pm 1.7$  ka. Our oldest apparent exposure 384 ages come from the inland sites on both transects, dating from  $99.1 \pm 2.4$  ka to  $213.7 \pm 3.5$  ka on 385 the western and  $87.9 \pm 3.8$  ka to  $215.8 \pm 7.4$  ka on the eastern transects. We do not observe any 386 relationship between the apparent  ${}^{10}$ Be exposure age of our inland sites and their elevation or 387 distance along the transect. Ages from the ice margin sites generally fall between those from the 388 coast and inland sites. Apparent  ${}^{10}$ Be exposure ages from the western ice margin site range from  $50.2 \pm 0.9$  ka to  $133.7 \pm 2.6$  ka. At the eastern ice margin site, <sup>10</sup>Be ages are between 49.2  $\pm$  0.9 ka 390 and  $62.6 \pm 1.2$  ka.

 $^{26}$ Al<sup>/10</sup>Be ratios follow a general inverse pattern to the apparent <sup>10</sup>Be ages, with the highest 392 ratios (closest to the production ratio) at the coast, lowest ratios inland, and ratios from the ice 393 margin in the middle. At the coastal sites, the three samples taken from  $\sim$ 100 m asl have ratios of  $394$  6.38  $\pm$  0.44, 7.58  $\pm$  0.42, 8.41  $\pm$  0.81 and overlap with the constant exposure isochron with 95% 395 confidence (Fig. 8). The 255 m asl coastal site has a ratio of  $5.68 \pm 0.30$  requiring a minimum 396 burial duration of 500 kyr and at least  $25-100$  kyr of exposure. In contrast, <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>10</sup>Be ratios at our 397 inland sites range from  $2.19 \pm 0.16$  to  $5.28 \pm 0.30$ , with the majority falling between the 500 and





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398 1500 kyr burial isochrones and between the 100 and 500 kyr exposure isochrones for total 399 minimum exposure and burial durations of between  $\sim 600$  and  $\sim 2000$  kyr. There is one apparent 400 outlier below the 2000 kyr burial isochron with a ratio of 2.19± 0.16 (22GRO-03). At the western 401 ice margin site, <sup>26</sup>Al<sup>/10</sup>Be ratios in our three samples range between  $4.00 \pm 0.18$  and  $5.14 \pm 0.21$ , 402 corresponding to a minimum glacial history with  $\sim$ 100 and  $\sim$ 250 kyr of cumulative exposure and 403  $\sim$  250 – ~1250 kyr of cumulative burial. The boulder has a <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>10</sup>Be ratio of 5.15  $\pm$  0.21, which is 404 the highest ratio at the western ice margin site. At the eastern ice margin site,  $^{26}$ Al/<sup>10</sup>Be ratios are 405 between 5.11  $\pm$  0.21 and 5.53  $\pm$  0.26 and represent minimum glacial histories with cumulative 406 exposure durations of  $\sim$  50–125 kyr and cumulative burial durations of  $\sim$  500–750 kyr. From both 407 transects,<sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>10</sup>Be ratios from samples at the ice margin (5.14  $\pm$  0.26; mean  $\pm$  1 $\sigma$ ) are slightly 408 higher than those from the inland sites (4.47  $\pm$  0.86; excluding the apparent outlier of 2.19  $\pm$  0.16; 409 22GRO-03), though these overlap at 1σ uncertainty.

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#### 411 *4.3 Constraints on Quaternary ice cover history and erosion*

412 We modeled cosmogenic-nuclide accumulation through the Quaternary to determine whether the 413 measured <sup>10</sup>Be and <sup>26</sup>Al concentrations across Inglefield Land can be explained by a common 414 exposure history and differential erosion. We tested exposure histories derived from  $\delta^{18}O$ 415 thresholds between 3.6 and 4.0‰, corresponding to 0.7–1.9 Myr of cumulative exposure and 0.8– 416 2 Myr of cumulative burial over the last 2.7 Myr. For each of these exposure histories, modeled 417 nuclide concentrations yielded a good fit to those we measured for at least one sample. Yet only 418 the exposure history constructed with a  $\delta^{18}$ O threshold value of 3.74‰ yields <sup>10</sup>Be and <sup>26</sup>Al 419 concentrations with a good fit to the data in all bedrock samples except those with  $^{26}$ Al/<sup>10</sup>Be ratios 420 above the production ratio (22GRO-01 and 22GRD-CR04-SURF) and the sample previously







## **5 Discussion**

## *5.1 Differential erosion, ice streams, and ancient landscapes across Inglefield Land*

436 We identified an ancient landscape with our oldest sites retaining at least a  $\sim$ 1.5 Myr history. However, the nuclide concentrations vary throughout the landscape despite the fact that the long- term ice-margin history should be similar across sites, as evidenced by recent retreat and advance. After the LGM, the ice sheet retreated over Inglefield Land from its maximum extent in Kane Basin following saddle collapse over Nares Strait. The modern coast deglaciated ~8.5 ka, and ice retreated behind the present margin by 6.7 ka (Søndergaard et al., 2020) corresponding to our entire <50 km transects becoming ice free within 2 kyr. Advance across Inglefield Land was likely similarly swift – for example, Bennike (2002) suggested that the Petermann Glacier advanced at







 Our combined mapping of bedrock lithology, landscape-scale fractures, and lake density as evidence for past glacial erosion, along with field observations of bedrock surface weathering 451 provide a first hint that erosion is responsible for differing  $^{26}$ Al and  $^{10}$ Be concentrations. Though some of the cap rock removal likely occurred before the Quaternary (e.g., Krabbendam and Bradwell, 2014)., our other mapping reveals a clear imprint of differential erosion by the ice sheet. Regions of crystalline bedrock and high lake density inland (with the exception of the areas fronting Hiawatha Glacier) and near the ice margin exhibit weathered bedrock surfaces, diagnostic of cold-based ice cover during the last glacial cycle. Overlapping areas of crystalline bedrock, fractures, and high lake densities in the four valleys leading into Force, Rensselaer, and Dallas bays and in front of Hiawatha Glacier, however, contain fresh, unweathered bedrock outcrops with primary surface features intact. The prevalence of erosion indicators in these areas suggests a role for erosive ice with higher velocities than experienced by the surrounding landscape for at least a portion of the last glacial cycle. We posit that these areas were ice stream onset zones during the last glacial cycle and likely earlier glacial cycles as well.

 The <sup>26</sup>Al<sup>/10</sup>Be ratios and lower levels of cosmogenic nuclide inheritance support more erosion at the coastal sites versus the inland and ice margin areas. The samples at 100 m asl in 465 Rensselaer and Marshall valleys have the youngest apparent exposure ages and  $^{26}$ Al/ $^{10}$ Be ratios close to the production ratio, suggesting removal of the longer burial signal preserved at the upland





 sites via erosion. Furthermore, the 255 m asl coastal site in Rensselaer Valley has more inheritance 468 and lower <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>10</sup>Be ratios compared to the 100 m asl elevation site, which may reflect differential erosion by an ice stream in the Rensselaer Valley as it increased velocity and erosion down flow. Previous studies on Baffin Island and in Scandinavia used mapping and cosmogenic nuclide measurements to identify areas as ice stream onset zones (Andersen et al., 2018; Briner et al., 2006; Briner et al., 2008; Brook et al., 1996). Ice at these onset zones transitioned from cold-based to 473 warm-based ice and did not erode  $>3$  m during the last glacial cycle, though it is thought that velocities increased downstream from these areas. We find similar cosmogenic nuclide evidence of ice stream onset zones at the mouths of Rensselaer and Marshall bays, suggesting that ice streams may have initiated in these areas during glacial maxima.

 Cosmogenic nuclide concentrations in weathered bedrock surfaces at our inland and ice margin sites retain combined minimum exposure and burial signals of 500 kyr to 1500 kyr, demonstrating the antiquity of Inglefield Land. The preservation of these inland and ice margin landscapes implies past cold-based ice conditions and, in turn, low erosion across Inglefield Land through multiple glacial cycles. This also suggests the erosional landscapes seen in mapping across the interior of Inglefield Land (i.e., lack of cap rocks and exposed crystalline basement, high lake densities, and bedrock fractures) were created prior to the last glaciation.

 Such old, low-erosion landscapes have been preserved in other glaciated parts of the Arctic. Our results are similar to studies from southern, western, northwestern, and northeastern Greenland and Baffin Island that identify long-preserved (often > 1000 kyr), ancient landscapes with low amounts of erosion and high amounts of cosmogenic nuclide inheritance (Andersen et al., 2020; Beel et al., 2016; Bierman et al., 1999; Briner et al., 2006; Ceperley et al., 2020; Corbett et al., 2016a; Miller et al., 2006; Roberts et al., 2013; Sbarra et al., 2022; Skov et al., 2020; Søndergaard







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 We tested our hypothesis that the disparate nuclide concentrations across Inglefield Land could have resulted from a shared Quaternary exposure history and differential erosion. Indeed, we found 507 that the  ${}^{10}$ Be and  ${}^{26}$ Al concentrations in most of our bedrock samples can be explained through a Pleistocene ice-cover history with 0.9 Myr cumulative exposure and 1.8 Myr cumulative burial, and sample-varying subglacial and subaerial erosion rates.

510 The range of sub-aerial erosion rates (0 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> and 2 x  $10^{-2}$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup>) that provide good fits to the measured nuclide concentrations for our preferred exposure history are broadly consistent with sub-aerial erosion rates measured in other cold, arid, polar environments. A global





513 synthesis found mean subaerial erosion rates at rock outcrops are 13 x 10<sup>-3</sup>, 8 x 10<sup>-3</sup>, and 4 x 10<sup>-3</sup> mm yr<sup>-1</sup> in cold, arid, and polar environments, respectively (Portenga and Bierman 2011). A cosmogenic nuclide-based study from the southern Ellsworth Mountains, Antarctica found longer-516 term subaerial erosion rates of 5.52 x  $10^{-3} \pm 0.26$  x  $10^{-3}$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup> for gneiss (Marrero et al., 2018), 517 similar to those derived from Baffin Island gneiss of  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  mm/yr (Margreth et al., 2016). Furthermore, subaerial erosion of gneiss in the polar regions is thought to occur primarily through mineral- and granular-scale processes, including abrasion and disintegration, and are accelerated by wind-blown sediments (Margreth et al., 2016). We noted abundant gruss around our inland and ice-margin sites and near constant winds with wind-transported sediments, suggesting that these processes may be responsible for subaerial erosion in Inglefield Land.

523 Subglacial erosion rates that yield good model-data fits are between 0 and  $\sim$  2 x 10<sup>-2</sup> mm  $524$   $yr^{-1}$  and are generally lower than those measured elsewhere in Greenland. Many of these previous 525 estimates, however, come from warm-based glaciers, while Inglefield Land was covered primarily 526 by cold-based ice. The upper range of our modeled sub-glacial erosion rates agree with those from 527 east Greenland derived from sediment flux data of  $1 - 4 \times 10^{-2}$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup> (Andrews et al., 1994), 528 though this was later updated by Cowton et al. (2012) to 3 x  $10^{-1}$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup> to account for sediment 529 entrained in icebergs (Syvitski et al., 1996). In central-west Greenland, suspended sediment 530 measurements from the Watson River yielded average subglacial erosion rates of 5 x  $10^{-1}$  mm 531 yr<sup>-1</sup>, with annual erosion rates as high as 4.5 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> and  $4.8 \pm 2.6$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup>, all higher than our 532 modeled rates (Cowton et al., 2012; Hasholt et al., 2018; Hogan et al., 2020). Glaciomarine 533 deposits near Petermann Glacier, northwest Greenland and at the mouth of Jakobshavn Isfjord 534 constrain erosion rates during the last deglaciation to  $0.29 - 0.34$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup> and  $0.52$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup>, 535 respectively (Hogan et al., 2012; Hogan et al., 2020). Finally, Balter-Kennedy et al. (2021)





536 determined centennial-scale subglacial erosion rates of  $3-8 \times 10^{-1}$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup> and orbital-scale rates 537 of  $1-3 \times 10^{-1}$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup> near Jakobshavn Isbræ. While these previously derived subglacial erosion rates are likely higher than what we report because they come from places with different ice sheet thermal states, these estimates of subglacial erosion reflect periods when temperatures were generally warmer or periods of warming, which can lead to higher subglacial erosion rates because of increased basal temperatures and subglacial sliding (Alley et al., 2019).

 Cold-bedded glaciers are commonly considered non-erosive, yet glacial erosional features (striae, scrapes, grooves, and isolated blocks) in landscapes otherwise protected by cold-based ice demonstrate their erosional capacity (Atkins et al., 2002; Cuffey et al., 2000; Sugden, 1978; Sugden et al., 2005; Ugelvig and Egholm, 2018). Our modeled sub-glacial erosion rates between 546 0 and  $\sim$  2 x 10<sup>-2</sup> mm yr<sup>-1</sup> in mapped areas of cold-based ice cover point to the erosive nature of cold- based glaciers and are consistent with previous estimates of erosion. Syntheses found modern sub-548 glacial erosion rates under frozen-bedded glaciers on the Antarctic Peninsula to be between  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  $2^2$  and  $1 \times 10^{-1}$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup>, (Koppes et al., 2015), while on the Meserve Glacier, a cold-based alpine 550 glacier in Victoria Land, Antarctica, subglacial erosion rates have been estimated to be 2 x  $10^{-3}$ 551 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> (Cuffey et al., 2000). Studies of tors in the Cairngorm Mountains, Scotland, yield 552 subglacial erosion estimates of  $\sim$ 4.4 x 10<sup>-3</sup> mm yr<sup>-1</sup> during cover by a cold-based Celtic Ice Sheet (Phillips et al., 2006). Various mechanisms have been proposed for erosion by cold-bedded glaciers. Frozen bedded glaciers entrain debris at their bed and can minorly abrade and pluck bedrock surfaces (Atkins et al., 2002; Cuffey et al., 2000; Sugden, 1978; Sugden et al., 2005; Ugelvig and Egholm, 2018). Extensive studies from the Cairngorm Mountains in Scotland using cosmogenic nuclides and geomorphic models of tor formation and erosion found cold-based ice





 erosion was potentially capable of significantly modifying pre-existing landforms (Goodfellow et al., 2014; Hall and Glasser, 2003; Hall and Phillips, 2006; Phillips et al., 2006).

 In sum, we find that the disparate nuclide concentrations across Inglefield Land can be explained by a common Quaternary exposure/burial history if differential erosion is invoked. Erosion rates consistent with the cosmogenic data are consistent with others found in polar areas covered by cold-based glaciers. Variability in erosion rates across the landscape likely reflect differences in lithology, as well as subglacial conditions. Spatial variability in erosion is captured in our model, and may be due to local differences in lithology (e.g., mineralogy and crystal size) and landscape position. However, our model does not account for temporal variability in sub- glacial erosion. Temporal variability (abrasion versus quarrying) should be diminished when averaged across many glacial cycles, but the imprint of variable glacial erosion during the last glacial cycle (e.g., a site of cobble-sized block of bedrock removed beneath mostly frozen ice; Atkins et al., 2002; Hall and Phillips, 2006) may lead to differences in the resulting sub-glacial erosion rates. Furthermore, the basal zone across Inglefield Land may have transitioned from less- erosive to more-erosive and back to less-erosive during switches between warm- and cold-bedded conditions through the thickening and thinning of the ice sheet during a glacial cycle. This could lead to time-varying sub-glacial erosion rates and shorter periods of increased glacial erosion, as evidenced by the glacial sculpting at our coastal sites.

## *5.4 Long-term ice sheet fluctuations across Inglefield Land*

 $26A1/10Be$  ratios from our oldest bedrock surfaces suggest that, at a minimum, the Greenland Ice Sheet covered Inglefield Land for 1200 kyr and was smaller than today for 400 kyr over the last 1600 kyr. We determined that a Quaternary exposure history with ~0.9 Myr of cumulative





581 exposure and ~1.8 Myr of cumulative burial (constructed using a  $\delta^{18}$ O threshold of 3.74‰) is consistent with the measured cosmogenic-nuclide concentrations in nearly all of our bedrock surfaces when erosion rates are allowed to vary for each sample. In this preferred exposure scenario, much of the exposure takes place between 2.7 and 1.2 Ma before the mid-Pleistocene transition, but still requires ice-free conditions (and exposure) within the last ~1.2 Myr during major interglacials.. These periods of exposure are of particular interest as they indicate times when the Greenland Ice Sheet was at its present extent or smaller.

 Our results complement limited other terrestrial studies of Greenland Ice Sheet stability 589 throughout the Quaternary. <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>10</sup>Be measurements from the GISP2 bedrock core from under the center of the Greenland Ice Sheet revealed that the ice sheet was present for most of the Quaternary but was nearly completely absent at least once in the last 1.1 Myr (Schaefer et al., 2016). Studies of basal material from Camp Century show similar results, supporting that the northwestern Greenland Ice Sheet was present through most of the Pleistocene (Christ et al., 2021). Additionally, when compared to studies these of material from under the modern Greenland Ice Sheet, our results suggest that Inglefield Land was ice-free throughout much more of the Quaternary than interior sectors (i.e., currently covered by the modern ice sheet), logical given that Inglefield Land would be completely covered only during glacial maxima. When taken at face-value, our preferred 598 exposure history corresponding to a  $\delta^{18}$ O threshold of 3.74‰ indicates that the northwestern Greenland Ice Sheet persisted at an extent larger-than-today throughout some Pleistocene interglacials, further supported by similar findings from the Laurentide Ice Sheet (Leblanc et al., 2023).





#### **6 Conclusions**

- Geologic mapping partitions Inglefield Land into zones of glacial erosion and protection revealing restricted zones of erosion in lower Force, Rensselaer, and Marshall valleys and in front of Hiawatha Glacier as ice-velocity increased coastward into ice streams; elsewhere landscapes were likely covered by low erosion (e.g., frozen-bedded) regimes.
- Patterns of glacial erosion are confirmed with cosmogenic nuclide measurements, revealing an ancient landscape. This implies widespread cold-based ice cover across much of Inglefield Land during Quaternary glacial cycles, even during transitions between interglacial and glacial periods. These measurements also indicate that, despite cosmogenic nuclide inheritance, there was perhaps temporarily warm-based ice at coastal sites during the last glacial cycle when the Greenland Ice Sheet extended well beyond Inglefield Land, and ice streams originated near the mouths of the modern Force, Rensselaer, and Marshall bays. Mapping and cosmogenic nuclide measurements allow us to differentiate between areas of cold- and warm-based ice offering a clear look into the polythermal nature of former ice sheets.

 ● Differential subglacial and subaerial erosion explains disparate cosmogenic nuclide concentrations found at our inland and ice margin sites. Modeled subaerial erosion rates match those found in other polar regions for similar lithologies. Our modeled subglacial erosion rates are lower than those previously calculated for Greenland, as other studies focused on warm-based parts of the Greenland Ice Sheet. We provide estimates of subglacial erosion under cold-bedded conditions.

  $\bullet$  Ice cover durations derived from <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>10</sup>Be ratios and cosmogenic nuclide modeling reveal a common ice sheet history, and variable erosion rates indicate that the ice sheet













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### **Author contributions**

- All authors designed the study and conducted fieldwork. CKW undertook GIS mapping and lab
- work. ABK led modeling of cosmogenic nuclide results. CKW, JPB, and ABK wrote the first draft
- of the manuscript and created all figures. All authors edited and contributed to subsequent
- manuscript drafts.
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#### **Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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## **Figures**





*Figure 1: Overview map of Inglefield Land and key geographic locations.*

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- *Figure 2: simplified geologic map of Inglefield Land.*
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- *Figure 3: representative images of bedrock surfaces at sample sites in Inglefield Land.*
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- *Figure 4: mapped fracture zones in Inglefield Land.*
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*Figure 5: map of lake densities across Inglefield Land. Grid cells are 1 km2 .*

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 *Figure 6: combined map of bedrock lithology, fracture zones, and lake densities with cosmogenic nuclide results. Semi-transparent arrows show zones of increasing erosion as indicated by mapping proxies.*









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- *Figure 7: subset of bedrock sample photos and resultant cosmogenic nuclide results.*
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*Figure 8: <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>10</sup>Be two-nuclide diagram. Concentrations normalized to Arctic high latitude, sea level <sup>10</sup>Be production*  $773$  *<i>rate of 3.96 atoms g yr<sup>1</sup> using Greenland-specific* <sup>26</sup>*Al/*<sup>10</sup>Be *surface production r rate of 3.96 atoms g yr<sup>-1</sup> using Greenland-specific <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>10</sup>Be surface production ratio of 7.3 (Corbett et al., 2016; <sup>774</sup> <i>Young et al., 2013). Young et al., 2013).*

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*Figure 9: Model-data fits for exposure histories constructed with δ<sup>18</sup>O thresholds of 3.60-4.00‰. For each δ<sup>18</sup>O <i>threshold, we modeled cosmogenic nuclide concentrations for each sample using subaerial and subglacial e* 786 *threshold, we modeled cosmogenic nuclide concentrations for each sample using subaerial and subglacial erosion rates ranging from 0 to 2.5 x 10<sup>-1</sup> mm yr<sup>-1</sup> mm/yr. Colored tiles show the best/lowest error-weighted sums of squares <br>788 <i>(EWSS) for each sample and*  $\delta^{18}O$  *threshold across all tested erosion rate combinations. We (EWSS) for each sample and*  $\delta^{18}O$  *threshold across all tested erosion rate combinations. We consider an EWSS <2.5 189 to be an acceptable model-data fit. White tiles indicate that no combination of erosion rates yi* 789 *to be an acceptable model-data fit. White tiles indicate that no combination of erosion rates yielded an EWSS <2.5.*<br>790 *An exposure history constructed with a*  $\delta^{18}O$  *threshold of 3.74%, outlined in black box, wa An exposure history constructed with a δ<sup>18</sup>O threshold of 3.74‰, outlined in black box, was the only exposure history 791* we tested that gave an acceptable fit for all non-outlier bedrock samples. "outlier samples iden 791 we tested that gave an acceptable fit for all non-outlier bedrock samples. "outlier samples identified with  $^{26}Al/^{10}Be$ *ratios. <sup>b</sup>* 792 *boulder sample.*

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*Figure 10: Exposure history constructed with a 3.74‰*  $\delta^{18}O$  *threshold (teal line) on the LR04 stack (Lisiecki and 800 Raymo, 2005), below which we considered the site is exercied. The Raymo, 2005), below which we considered the site ice-free and above which we considered the site ice-covered. The resulting exposure history is shown in the top panel, where periods of exposure are red, and periods of burial are blue. This is the only exposure history we tested that, even when considering site-specific subaerial and subglacial erosion rates, yielded an acceptable fit for all non-outlier bedrock samples.*

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