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WELLFILE

STATOIL 1/9-3 NORWEGIAN NORTH SEA WELL:

BIOSTRATIGRAPHY OF THE INTERVAL

180m - 2773m

TECHNICAL REPORT

ROBERTSON RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

REPORT NO. 2320

WELLFILE
N.8

STATOIL 1/9-3 NORWEGIAN NORTH SEA WELL:

BIOSTRATIGRAPHY OF THE INTERVAL

180m - 2773m

by

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PROJECT NO. RRI/11A/778/1146

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I

SUMMARY

1. The youngest deposits in this Well are of Recent - Pleistocene age.
2. A Pliocene to Eocene, Tertiary sequence is present.
3. The Well terminated at 2773m in deposits of Eocene age.

II

INTRODUCTION

The report summarises the results of micropalaeontological and stratigraphical analyses which have been carried out on material received from the interval 180m - 2773m from the Statoil 1/9-3 Norwegian North Sea Well under Project No. IIA/778/1146.

Under this project a total of 372 ditch cuttings samples was analysed utilising standard micropalaeontological techniques.

A summary of the determinations obtained by these analyses has already been communicated by telex and telephone and forms the framework of factual information on which this report is based. A summary of the sequence penetrated in this well can be seen in Table 1.

The prepared samples and recorded information are now filed and curated in the confidential records section of these laboratories.

We wish to acknowledge the continued co-operation and assistance received from the various members of Statoil with whom we have been associated during the course of this work.

The Well Co-ordinator, who was also responsible for the Caenozoic Foraminifera and Lithologies, was D. J. Harrison.

III

SUCCESSION

TABLE 1

<u>System/Subsystem</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Interval</u>
Recent - Pleistocene	-	180m - 460m
Pliocene	-	470m - 690m
?Pliocene - ?Upper Miocene	-	700m - 950m
Upper Miocene	-	960m - 1020m
Middle Miocene	-	1030m - 1720m
Lower Miocene	-	1730m - 1820m
Oligocene	-	1830m - 2515m
Eocene	-	2526m - 2773m

(Based on ditch cuttings samples only).

main forms being Elofsonella concinna and Aurila convexa.

ENVIRONMENT

The dominance of calcareous benthonic foraminifera within the microfaunas and the presence of shallow water species such as Quinqueloculina seminulum and Elphidium spp. suggest an inner shelf environment of deposition for this interval.

INTERVAL 470m - 690m; PLIOCENE

The age of this interval is based upon the following:-

- an increase in the numbers of Cassidulina laevigata and the occurrence of the foraminifera Cibicides lobatulus var. grossa at 470m.

LITHOLOGY

The lithology of this interval continues to be dominated by soft clays and claystones with subsidiary amounts of shell debris and fine to medium, occasionally coarse, subangular sand. The finer fraction of the latter contains greater proportions of yellow coloured quartz grains than in the overlying interval.

Between 530m and 600m light grey to olive-grey, slightly calcareous claystone becomes important. Throughout the remainder of the interval the small size of the washed sample residues indicates that soft clay is the dominant lithology and small amounts of light olive-grey clay are present in the samples.

In the two topmost samples contamination by cement and lost circulation material, in the form of large mica flakes, is evident and cement persists in the samples down to 540m. Traces of pyrite occur in several of the samples.

MICROPALAEONTOLOGY

A Pliocene age for this interval is suggested by a marked increase in

the abundance of the foraminifera Cassidulina laevigata at 470m and the appearance, in the same sample, of Cibicides lobatulus var. grossa.

The microfaunal assemblages are completely dominated by calcareous benthonic foraminifera with planktonic and agglutinating forms being totally absent. The most abundant species are Cassidulina laevigata, which dominates the foraminiferal assemblages, Elphidium clavatum, Elphidium incertum and Protelphidium orbiculare. Species of ostracoda such as Elofsonella concinna and Aurila convexa are present in the faunas.

ENVIRONMENT

The presence of restricted, inner shelf conditions throughout the Pliocene is suggested by the shallow water microfaunas and absence of agglutinating or planktonic foraminifera.

INTERVAL 700m - 950m; ? PLIOCENE - ? UPPER MIOCENE

A tentative age is proposed for this interval on the basis of the occurrence of the agglutinating foraminifera Sigmoilina celata at 700m.

LITHOLOGY

Soft, light olive-grey clay dominates the lithology of this interval with occasional thin beds of slightly harder, light grey, sandy, micaceous, very slightly calcareous claystone, which may be red-stained. Trace amounts of fine sand and pyrite occur in the upper half of the interval.

MICROPALAEONTOLOGY

The presence at 700m of the foraminifera Sigmoilina celata, which usually occurs in the Upper Miocene, suggests that sediments of a possible Upper Miocene age have been penetrated. Regional knowledge of the area indicates, however, that the top of the Upper Miocene occurs at a slightly lower level in the sequence. Therefore, only a tentative Upper Miocene to Pliocene age has been assigned to this interval.

Calcareous benthonic foraminifera continue to dominate the foraminiferal assemblages occurring with small numbers of agglutinating

foraminifera, the most important of which is Sigmoilina celata, and planktonic foraminifera in the form of Globigerina spp. Cibicides lobatulus var. grossa and Cassidulina laevigata continue to be the most abundant species within the faunas.

ENVIRONMENT

The microfaunas of this interval suggest a restricted, inner shelf environment. The more persistent occurrence of planktonic foraminifera may indicate slightly more open marine conditions.

INTERVAL 960m - 1020m; UPPER MIOCENE

The age assigned to this interval is based upon the following:-

- the occurrence of the foraminifera Bolivina beyrichi at 960m.
- the subsequent occurrence within the interval of Cibicides peelensis.

LITHOLOGY

Soft, light olive-grey clay completely dominates the lithology of this short interval with subordinate amounts of fine sand and pyrite.

MICROPALAEONTOLOGY

The occurrence of Bolivina beyrichi at 960m indicates that deposits of a definite Upper Miocene age have been penetrated. This is confirmed by the subsequent occurrence of Cibicides peelensis at and below 990m.

The microfaunas of this interval show a slight increase in diversity of species. They remain dominated by calcareous forms with smaller numbers of both planktonic and agglutinating foraminifera. The dominant species continue to be Cassidulina laevigata, Elphidium incertum and Cibicides lobatulus var. grossa, with a marked increase in the numbers of Bulimina spp.

ENVIRONMENT

Restricted, inner shelf conditions are indicated by the microfaunas with slightly more open marine conditions possibly being indicated by the small numbers of planktonic foraminifera which are present.

INTERVAL 1030m - 1720m; MIDDLE MIOCENE

The age of this interval is based upon the following:-

- the occurrence of the foraminifera Pullenia sphaeroides at 1030m.
- the subsequent occurrence of the foraminifera Loxostomum sinuosum within the interval.
- a marked change in the overall nature of the foraminiferal assemblages throughout the interval.

LITHOLOGY

Down to 1320m the lithology is comprised of soft, light grey clay with very small quantities of sand. Soft, light olive-grey, slightly calcareous claystone is present at 1050m and again below 1280m where thin bands of finely crystalline, pinkish grey, sandy limestone are also present in the lithology.

Between 1320m and 1360m the samples consist essentially of lost circulation material in the form of walnut shells.

Below 1360m claystone dominates the sequence which consists of a mixed argillaceous and calcareous sequence. Thin bands of finely crystalline, pink, dolomitic limestone are present between 1360m and 1460m. Light grey, finely crystalline, slightly sandy limestones are developed between 1440m and 1480m. Pale green, rounded grains of weathered glauconite occur at 1480m.

Between 1520m and 1610m, and again in the basal 30m of the interval fine to coarse, subangular to subrounded sand occurs. The quartz grains are generally clear or opaque, but contain a higher proportion of yellow and orange grains than in overlying units. Glauconite is present at 1530m and pyrite

at 1560m. Light grey, speckled, sandy limestone is developed between 1620m and 1640m with thinner units occurring towards the base of the interval.

MICROPALAEONTOLOGY

The top of the interval is marked by the first appearance of the foraminifera Pullenia sphaeroides at 1030m. The age determination is supported by the subsequent occurrence of Loxostomum sinuosum at 1070m.

The microfaunas of this interval are much more diverse and numerous. They show a significant change of character with the appearance of appreciable numbers of planktonic and agglutinating foraminifera producing much more mixed assemblages than in the overlying intervals. Other diagnostic fossils appearing over the interval include Sphaeroidina bulloides and Uvigerina hosiusi. The dominant components of the faunas are Cassidulina laevigata, Elphidium incertum, Nonion affine, Rotalia beccarii var. and Globigerina spp.

Sponge spicules type A and B first appear in this interval at 1190m and 1430m respectively. Below 1610m these become more abundant and there is a marked increase in the numbers of radiolaria present.

ENVIRONMENT

The increased diversity of the mixed microfaunas and presence of planktonic foraminifera and radiolaria in significant numbers suggest that more open marine influences were operating throughout this interval. On this basis an inner to outer shelf environment is proposed.

INTERVAL 1730m - 1820m; LOWER MIOCENE

The age of this interval is based upon the following:-

- an influx of pyritised Globigerinelloides triloba at and below 1730m.
- an increase in the abundance of planktonic foraminifera.
- the subsequent appearance of Asterigerina staeschei within the interval.

LITHOLOGY

The mixed sequence present at the base of the overlying unit continues through this interval with soft, olive-grey/buff shales and claystones dominating. Medium to dark grey, slightly silty limestones occur around 1750m and 1800m. Fine to coarse, subangular to subrounded sand is present between 1780m and 1810m.

MICROPALAEONTOLOGY

The top of this interval is based upon the first appearance of the planktonic foraminifera Globigerinoides triloba at 1730m. The age is supported by the later occurrence of Asterigerina staeschei at 1770m.

The microfaunas of this short interval show an increase in numbers of planktonic foraminifera with Globigerinoides triloba and Globorotalia scitula the dominant forms.

ENVIRONMENT

Inner to outer shelf conditions persist through this interval with strong open marine influences indicated by the abundance of planktonic foraminifera.

INTERVAL 1830m - 2515m; OLIGOCENE

The age of this interval is based upon the following:-

- the appearance of a characteristic form of Coscinodiscus together with radiolaria at 1830m.
- the subsequent occurrence of Asterigerina glirichi at 1840'.
- the increase within and eventual dominance of, the microfaunas by agglutinating foraminifera.

LITHOLOGY

Clays, claystones and shales dominate the mixed lithologies of this interval. The shales are generally reddish grey, micaceous and slightly

calcareous or light to medium grey and poorly calcareous. Softer clays are important between 2060m and 2350m. Limestones and dolomitic limestones are developed sporadically throughout the interval. The limestones are medium to dark grey and contain sand in varying quantities. Minor amounts of fine, subangular sand occur between 1970m and 2180m. Finely crystalline, dark red to buff siderite occurs sporadically below 2030m and this is often very similar to some of the dolomitic limestones in appearance.

MICROPALAEONTOLOGY

At 1830m the occurrence of a Coscinodiscus sp. with 5 projections on the under-surface and very finely pustulate radiolaria, which are both characteristic of the Oligocene, suggests that sediments of this age have been penetrated. This is supported by the occurrence of Asterigerina glirichi at 1840m and below.

Above 1950m the microfaunas continue to be of a mixed type with agglutinating, planktonic and calcareous benthonic forms all well represented. Below this, however, the faunas become dominated by agglutinating foraminifera such as Bathysiphon spp., Cyclammina spp. and Recurvoides spp.

ENVIRONMENT

An inner to outer shelf environment is proposed for the sediments above 1950m. Below this depth the complete dominance of the faunas by agglutinating foraminifera and presence of deep water forms such as Bathysiphon spp. suggest deeper, outer shelf to bathyal conditions.

INTERVAL 2526m - 2773m; EOCENE

The age of this interval is based on the following:-

- the occurrence of the foraminifera Trochammina globigeriniformis at 2526m.

LITHOLOGY

The lithology of this interval is very similar to that of the overlying interval and comprises a predominantly mixed, argillaceous and calcareous

sequence. Clays, shales and claystones are dominant with clay more important than in the overlying unit. Thin limestones and dolomitic limestones are developed throughout most of the interval. In the basal 10m of the interval fine to coarse, subangular sand is apparent. Siderite is abundant between 2560m and 2600m, and below 2700m. Lost circulation material is present in small amounts between 2610m and 2720m, and again in the bottom most sample of the section.

MICROPALAEONTOLOGY

A single specimen of the agglutinating foraminifera Trochammina globigeriniformis at 2526m indicates that deposits of Eocene age are present.

As in the overlying unit the faunas are completely dominated by agglutinating foraminifera with Ammodiscus incertus, Glomospira charoides and Bathysiphon spp. the most abundant forms.

ENVIRONMENT

The preponderance of agglutinating foraminifera within the foraminiferal assemblages suggests an outer shelf to bathyal environment of deposition for this interval.

PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

Throughout the Eocene present and the majority of the Oligocene restricted outer shelf to bathyal conditions operated with shale and clays representing the dominant lithologies. In the upper part of the Oligocene, above 1950m, the microfaunas indicate a transition to slightly shallower, inner to outer shelf conditions which persisted through the Lower and Middle Miocene.

Shales continued to dominate the lithologies of the Oligocene, Lower Miocene and lower part of the Middle Miocene. Above 1310m, however, these are superseded by clays which dominate the lithology to the top of the well. Fine to coarse sand becomes important in the top 175m of the sequence.

In the Upper Miocene shallowing of the environment continued with sediments being deposited under generally restricted inner shelf conditions. Similar conditions prevailed throughout the Pliocene and Pleistocene - Recent intervals.

VI

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LEGEND FOR STRATIGRAPHIC CHARTS

LITHOLOGY COLUMNS

Clay		
Shale/claystone/mudstone		
Silty/sandy clay		
Silty/sandy shale/claystone/mudstone		
Silt/siltstone		
Sand/sandstone {	very fine to medium	
	coarse sand to granules	
	pebbles	
Argillaceous sandstone		
Limestone		
Silty/sandy limestone		
Argillaceous limestone		
Dolomite		
Silty/sandy dolomite		
Chalk		

Calcareous sediments	
Dolomitic sediments	
Carbonaceous sediments	
Anhydrite	
Salt	
Coal/lignite	
Undifferentiated volcanics	
Basement (undifferentiated)	
Mudflakes	
Oolites	
Concretions	
Sample gap	

LITHOLOGICAL AND DRILLING ABBREVIATIONS

Red sedimentary rocks	red
Silica	Si
Chert	▼
Pyrite	P
Ironstone	Fe
Glaucinite	G
Kaolinite	K
Siderite/sphaerosiderite	S
Shell fragments	~
Cement	cmt
Lost circulation material	lcm
Turbid drilling or diamond drilling	tu
(Samples unsuitable for good stratigraphic analysis)	

PALAEONTOLOGICAL SYMBOLS

Present	o	
Common	●	
Abundant	■	
Diagnostic forms	*	
Caved forms	C	
Reworked forms	R	
Dominant Kerogen Components {	Inertinite	I
	Vitrinite	V
	Exinite	E
	Amorphous sapropel	s
Incoming of	↗	
Outgoing of	↘	

ENCLOSURE 1

C O N T E N T S

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Enclosures

Enclosure 1	Legend for Biostratigraphic Analysis Charts.
Enclosures 2 - 10	Biostratigraphic Analysis Charts Nos. 1 - 9.
Enclosure 11	Summary Log.









