

CALIBRATION OF YPRESIAN SEA-LEVEL CYCLES IN THE SOUTHERN NORTH SEA BASIN

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Magnetostratigraphic studies of surface exposures and borehole cores through the lower Palaeogene successions of the UK, Belgium, France and Denmark have delineated a sequence of magnetic polarity zones which can be correlated with the standard geomagnetic polarity timescale (GPTS). Combination of these magnetostratigraphic data with biostratigraphic and lithostratigraphic data allows the definition of an "event-stratigraphy" with bed-level resolution across the eastern and southern margins of the North Sea basin.

Date from the Ypresian record of England and Belgium will be presented. The sedimentary cycles recognised in these deposits are calibrated with the GPTS, allowing the timing of a number of the transgression events, marking the base of each of the cycles, across the region to be quantitatively assessed. Additionally, these data are compared with the "global sea-level cycle curve" (Haq, Vail and Hardenbol, 1987).

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