



The Maremane Dome and Fe Deposits in South Africa: Perspectives from Structural Evolution and 3D Geological Modelling

Dr Ian Basson

TECT Geological Consulting
Unit 3 Metrohm House Gardner Williams Avenue, Paardevlei, 7130
South Africa

Ouro Preto, 17 a 20 de maio de 2026

Sources

Overview of ore-structure relationships and Sishen and Kolomela Mines

Basson, I.J.1 (Northern Cape Exploration Conference, 2019)

The structural setting of mineralisation at Kolomela Mine, Northern Cape, South Africa, based on fully-constrained, implicit 3D modelling

Basson, I.J.1, Thomas, S.A.J.1, Stoch, B.1,4, Anthonissen, C.J.1,5, McCall, M-J.1, Britz, J.2, Mac Gregor, S.2, Viljoen, S.2, Nel, D.2, Vietze, M.2, Stander, C.2, Horn, J.2, Bezuidenhout, J.2, Sekoere, T.2, Gous, C.2, Boucher, H.2 (Ore Geology Reviews, 95, 306–324, 2018)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oregeorev.2018.02.032>

3D implicit modeling of the Sishen Mine: new resolution of the geometry and origin of Fe mineralization

Stoch, B.1,4, Anthonissen, C.J.1,5, McCall, M-J.1, Basson, I.J.1, Deacon, J.2, Cloete, E.2, Botha, J.2, Britz, J.2, Strydom, M.2, Nel, D.2, Bester, M.2

(Mineralium Deposita, 126, 1-19, 2017) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00126-017-0784-y>

Ore-structure relationships at Sishen Mine, Northern Cape, Republic of South Africa, based on fully-constrained implicit 3D modelling

Basson, I.J.1, Anthonissen, C.J.1,5, McCall, M.J.1, Stoch, B.1,4, Britz, J.2, Deacon, J.2, Strydom, M.2, Cloete, E.2, Botha, J.2, Bester, M.2, Nel, D.2

(Ore Geology Reviews 86, 825–838, 2017) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oregeorev.2017.04.007>

Structural framework of the Maremane Dome: Selective iron ore preservation

Basson, I.J.1, Wooldridge, A.M.3, King, J.3, Doyle, G.3, Nel, D.2, Mac Gregor, S.2 (35th IGC, Cape Town, 2016) [T18 71 Paper 1412](#)

1 Tect Geological Consulting, Unit 3 Metrohm House Gardner Williams Avenue, Paardevlei 7130, South Africa

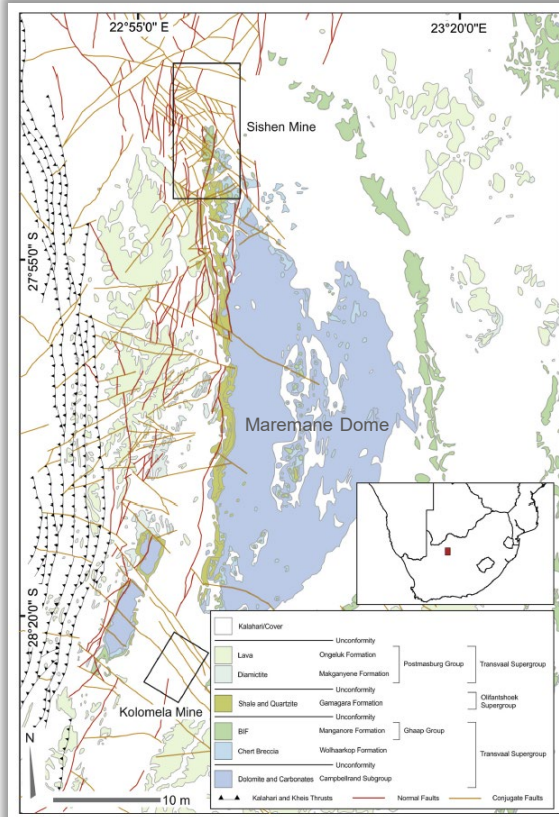
2 Kumba Iron Ore, 144 Oxford Road, Rosebank, Melrose, 2196, South Africa

3 Xpotential Geoscientific Services (now part of RES), Unit 14, Block B, M5 Park, Eastman Road, Maitland, Cape Town, 7405, South Africa

4 BHP Nickel West Geoscience, Level 43, 125 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA, 6000, Australia

5 Department of Earth Sciences, University of Southern California, 405 Hilgard Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90095, United States

Maremane Dome

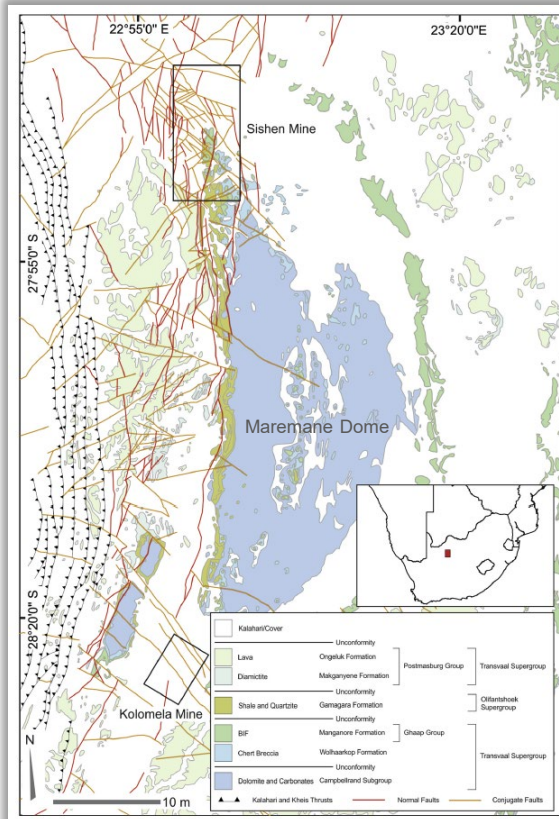


Basson et al. (2017)

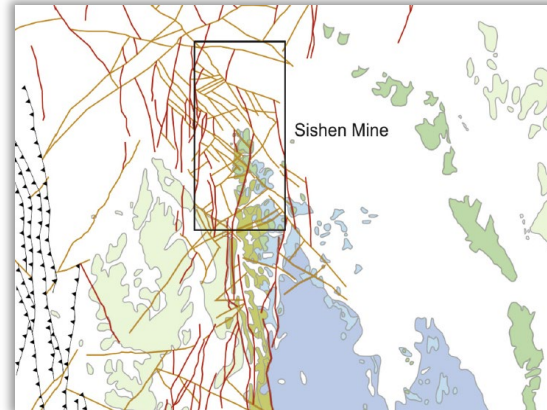
SOUTHWESTERN KAAPVAAL CRATON					MAREMANE DOME AREA							
SUPERGROUP	GROUP	SUBGROUP	FORMATION [AGE]	PERIOD	SISHEN thickness (m)	SISHEN SOUTH thickness (m)	LITHOLOGY	STRATIGRAPHIC UNIT	AGE			
Unconformity	Karoo	Kalahari		~65-0 Ma	50	50	Sand Calcrete & Clay Boulder beds	Kalahari Grp	Present-day ~20 Ma			
		Beaufort		~200-120 Ma	-	30	Varved shale	Dwyka Fm	~65 Ma ~280 Ma			
		Ecca	Volksrust Vryheid Dwyka	~280-200 Ma	-	30	Tillite	Intrusive	Karoo Supergroup	~310 Ma ~2060 Ma		
Unconformity	Olifantshoek	Volop	Grobliershoop Brulsand Matsap	~1930-1830 Ma	100	30	Andesitic lava	Ongeluk Fm	Transvaal Supergroup	~2220 Ma		
		Unconformity	Hartley [1928 - 4 Ma] Lucknow	~2050-1930 Ma	20	-	Diamictite	Makganyene Fm		~2350 Ma		
		Unconformity	Mapedi/Gamagara Beaumont Moodraai Hotazel	~2220-2100 Ma	30	6	Quartzite (Tech+lower) Flagstone (Tech+lower)	Gamagara/Mapedi Formation		~2350 Ma ~1930 Ma		
Unconformity	Transvaal (Griqualand West)	Postmasburg	Ongeluk Makganyene	~2350-2220 Ma	50	50	Shale Conglomerate Shale Grit	Olfantshoek Supergroup	~2220 Ma			
		Unconformity	Koegas	Heynskop Naragas	~2430-2400 Ma	10	5			Gritty ore Conglomeratic ore Brecciated ore Massive ore Laminated ore	Asbestos Hills Subgroup	~2050 Ma ~2430 Ma
		Unconformity	Asbestos Hills	Griqualtown Kuruman	~2430-2400 Ma	30	30			Mafic intrusion		
Unconformity	Ghaap	Campbellrand	Klein Naute Nauga Monteville	~2590-2520 Ma	2	30	Banded iron formation Thabazimbi-type ore	Transvaal Supergroup	~2465 Ma ~2520 Ma			
		Schmidtsdrif	Lokammona Boomplass Vryburg	~2640-2590 Ma	40	30	Banded iron formation			Campbellrand Subgroup	~2590 Ma	
			Unconformity	Ventersdorp	Pniel	Allanridge	~2720-2640 Ma					25

Fe mineralization occurs at an unconformity at the top of a banded iron formation, which is situated on a dolomite

Maremane Dome

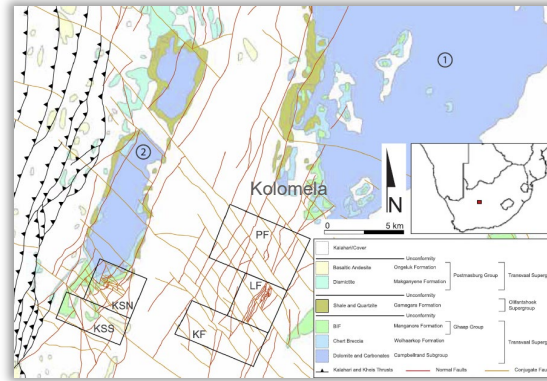


Basson *et al.* (2017)



Sishen Mine occurs on the northern end of a very gentle anticline (Maremane Dome), with mineralization locally preserved due to faulting (e.g. wedge-shaped orebodies due to fault drag against inverted normal faults and in small sub-basins) and in palaeosinkholes

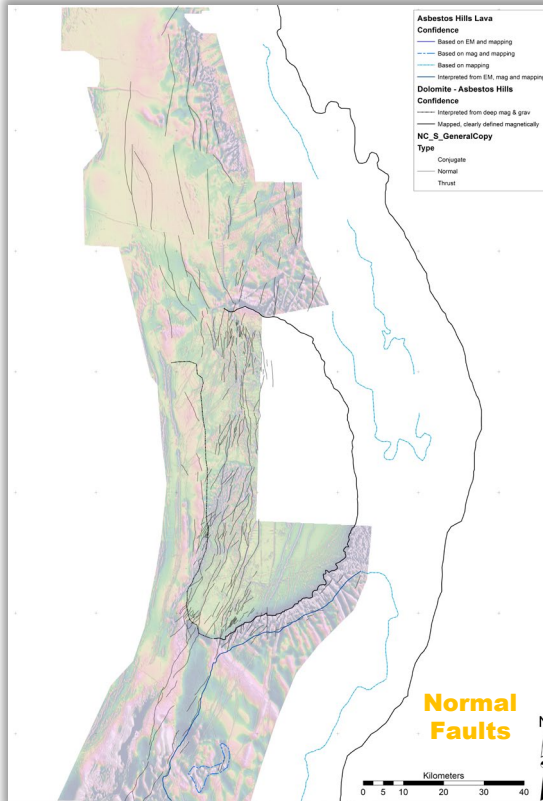
Basson *et al.* (2017)



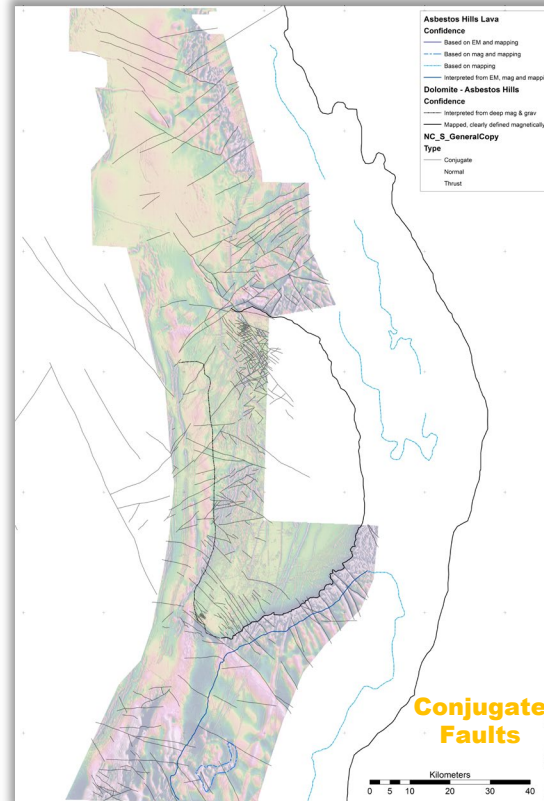
Kolomela Mine occurs on the southern end of the dome, and is closer to the thrust-dominated Kheiss Orogenic Front; mineralization is more structurally-controlled (e.g. tightened synclines in the case of Leeuwfontein - LF), or duplicated by low-angle thrusting and only occasionally occurs in palaeosinkholes

Basson *et al.* (2018)

Geophysical and Structural Interpretation



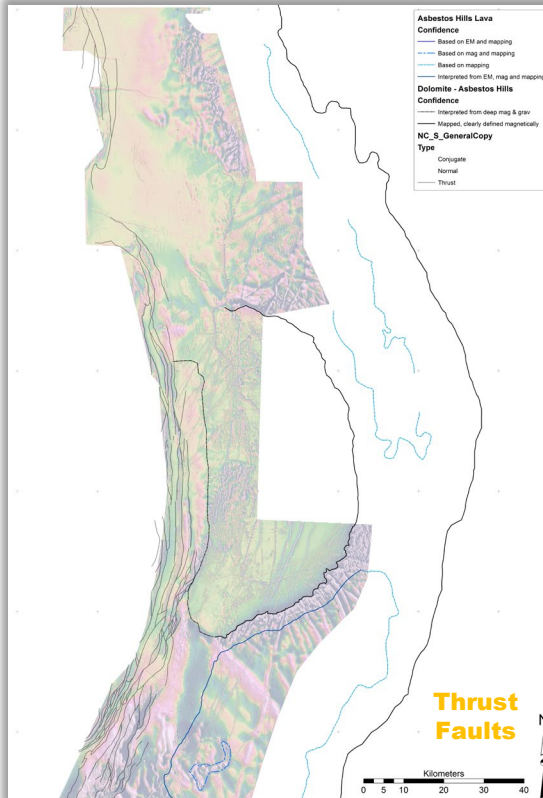
Basson et al. (2016)



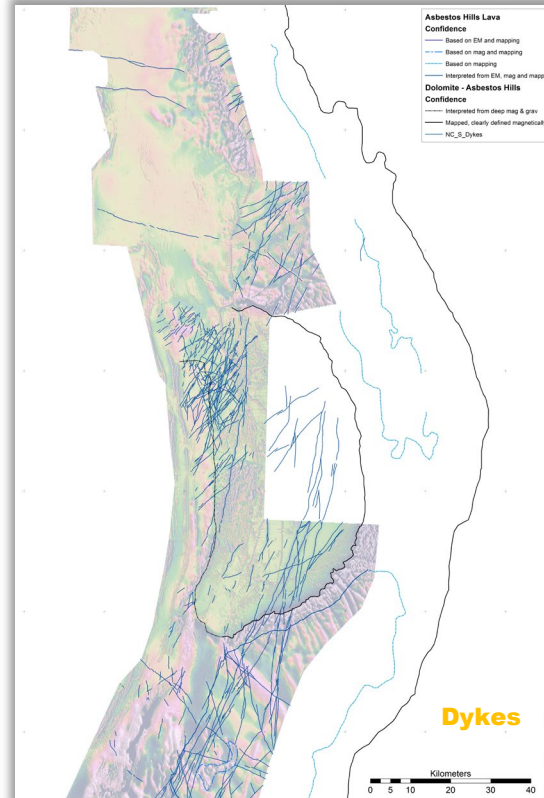
Basson et al. (2016)

Interpretation of regional datasets, generated for hydrological modelling, allow for several types of structures to be resolved

Geophysical and Structural Interpretation



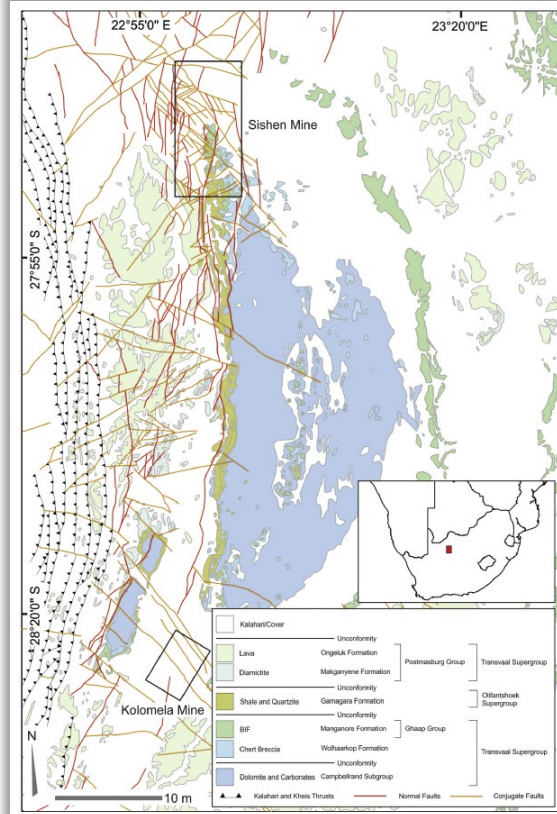
Basson *et al.* (2016)



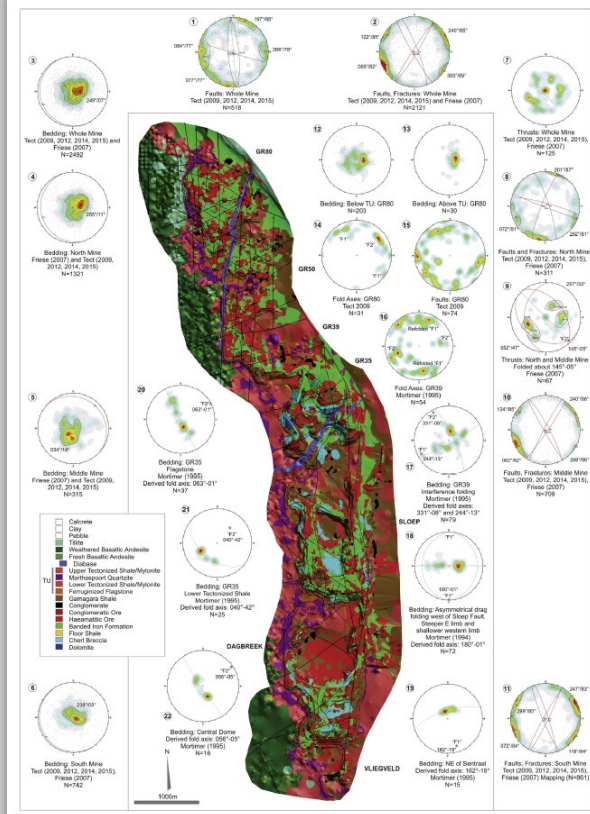
Basson *et al.* (2016)

Interpretation of regional datasets, generated for hydrological modelling, allow for several types of structures to be resolved

Sishen Mine



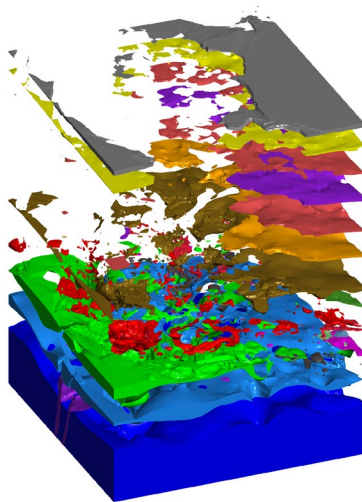
Basson *et al.* (2017)



Basson *et al.* (2017)

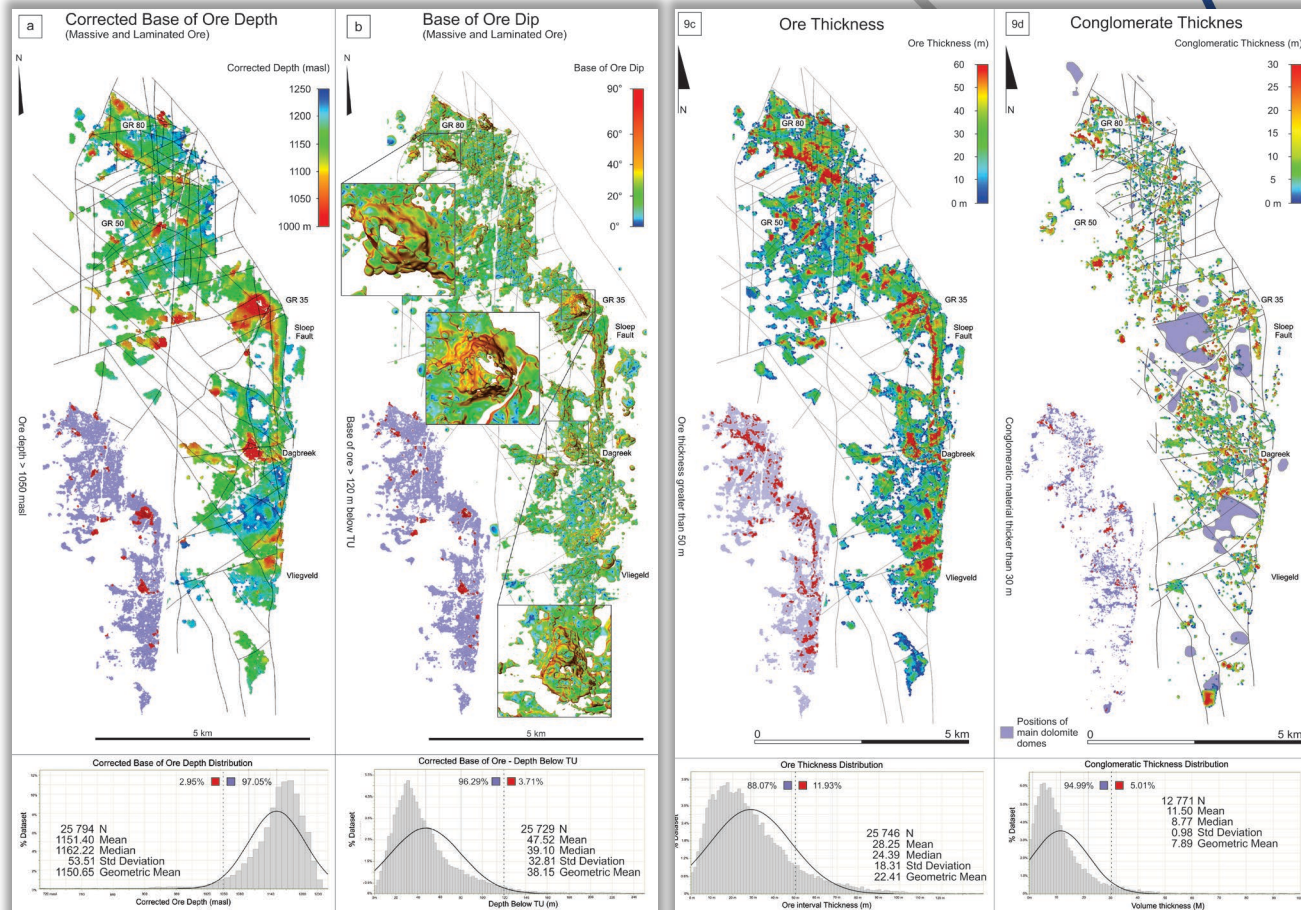
Pit mapping over approximately 15 years and implicit 3D geomodelling allow for several structural domains to be defined

Sishen Mine



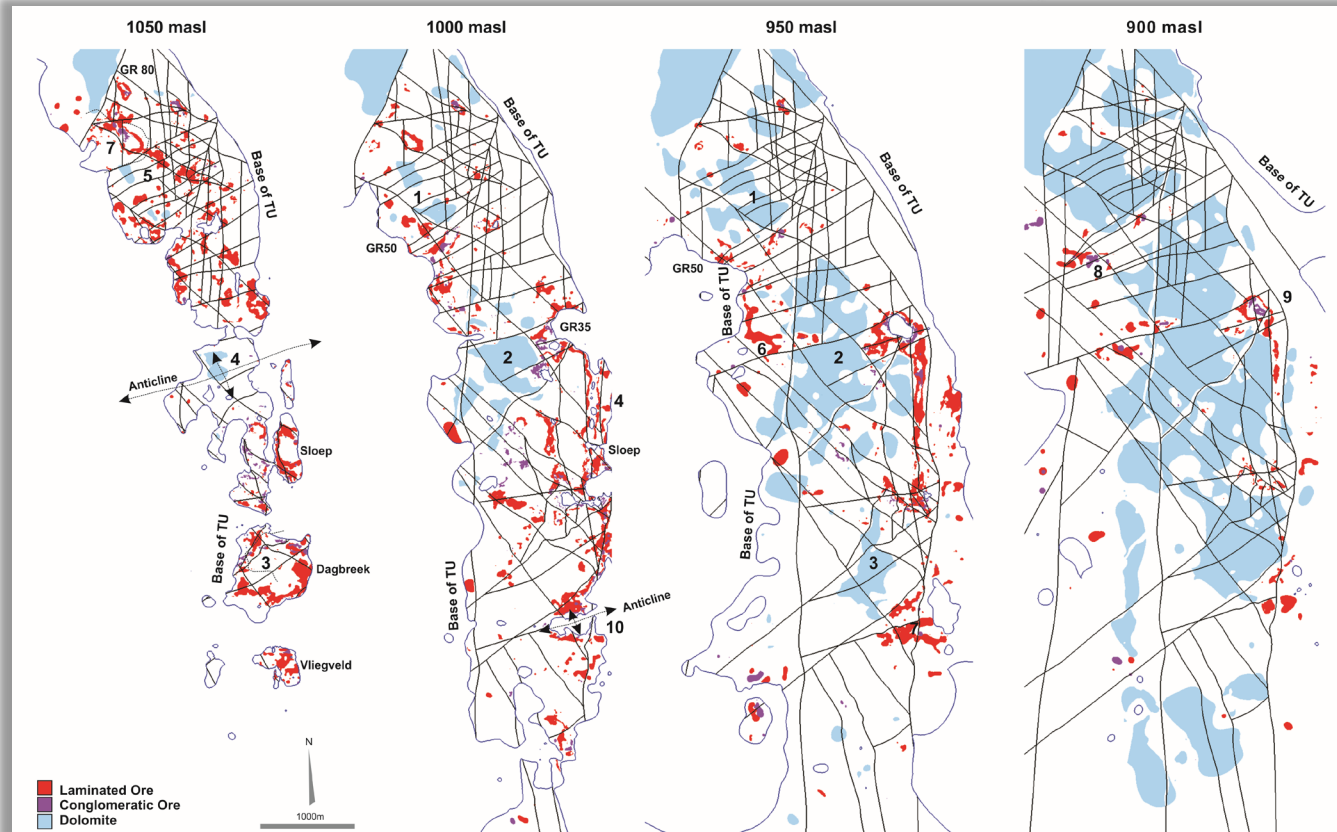
Implicit modelling and the production of smooth, lithologically- and structurally-constrained RBF surfaces provide the basis for interrogation of various aspects of the 3D model, particularly ore characteristics

Stoch *et al.* (2019)



Sishen Mine

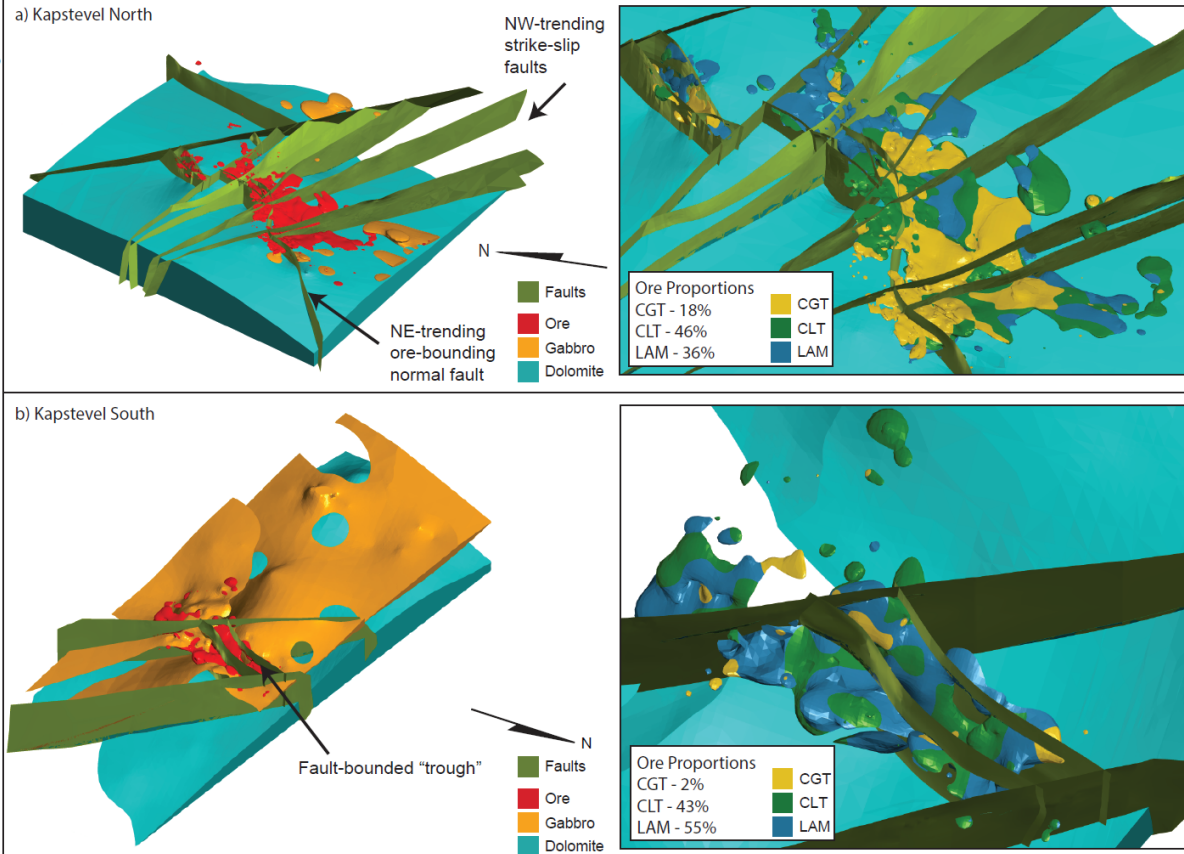
Near-horizontal slices through key modelled volumes highlight the combined control of fault-bounded blocks and palaeosinkholes



Kolomela Mine

Gabbro Sill Ore Types

Thick gabbro sills, which probably exploited low-angle or bedding sub-parallel thrusts, appear to play a key role in ore development: most of the deposits at Kolomela Mine are underlain by a gabbro sill

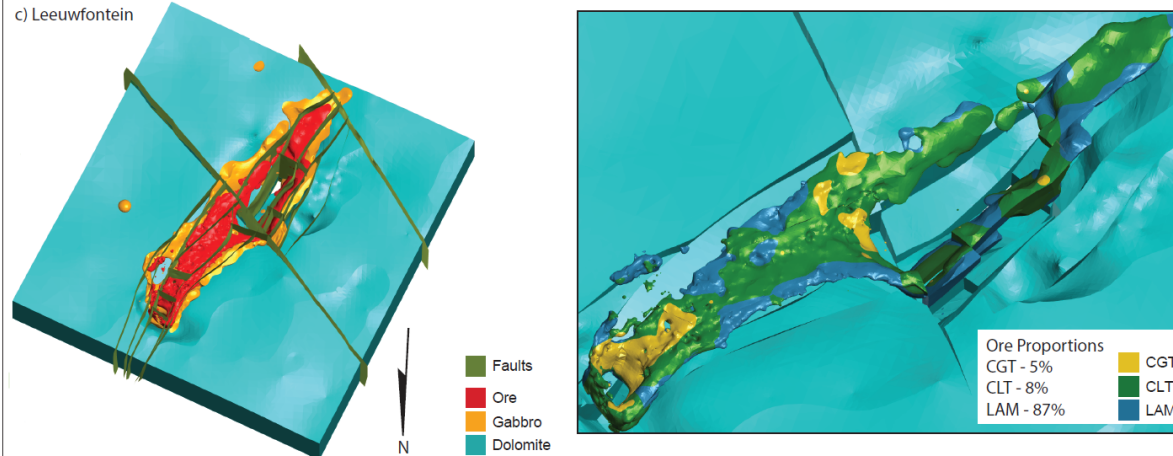


Kolomela Mine

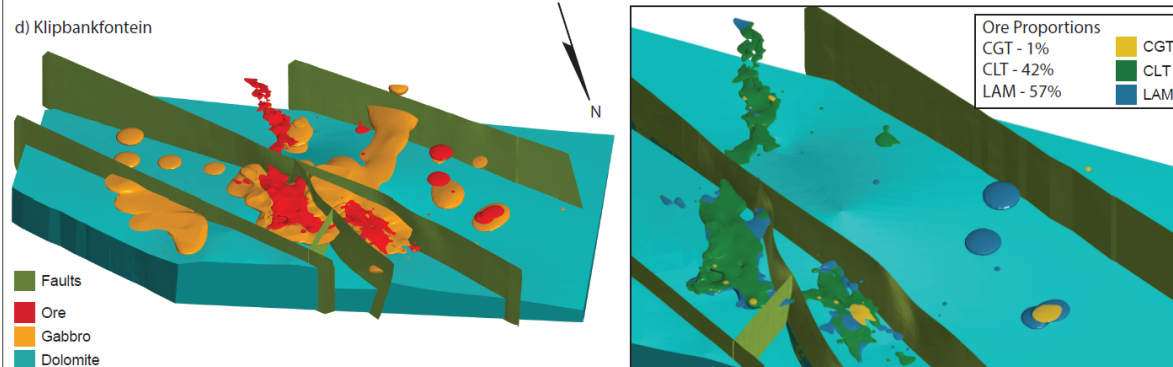
Gabbro Sill Ore Types

Thick gabbro sills, which probably exploited low-angle or bedding sub-parallel thrusts, appear to play a key role in ore development: most of the deposits at Kolomela Mine are underlain by a gabbro sill

c) Leeuwfontein



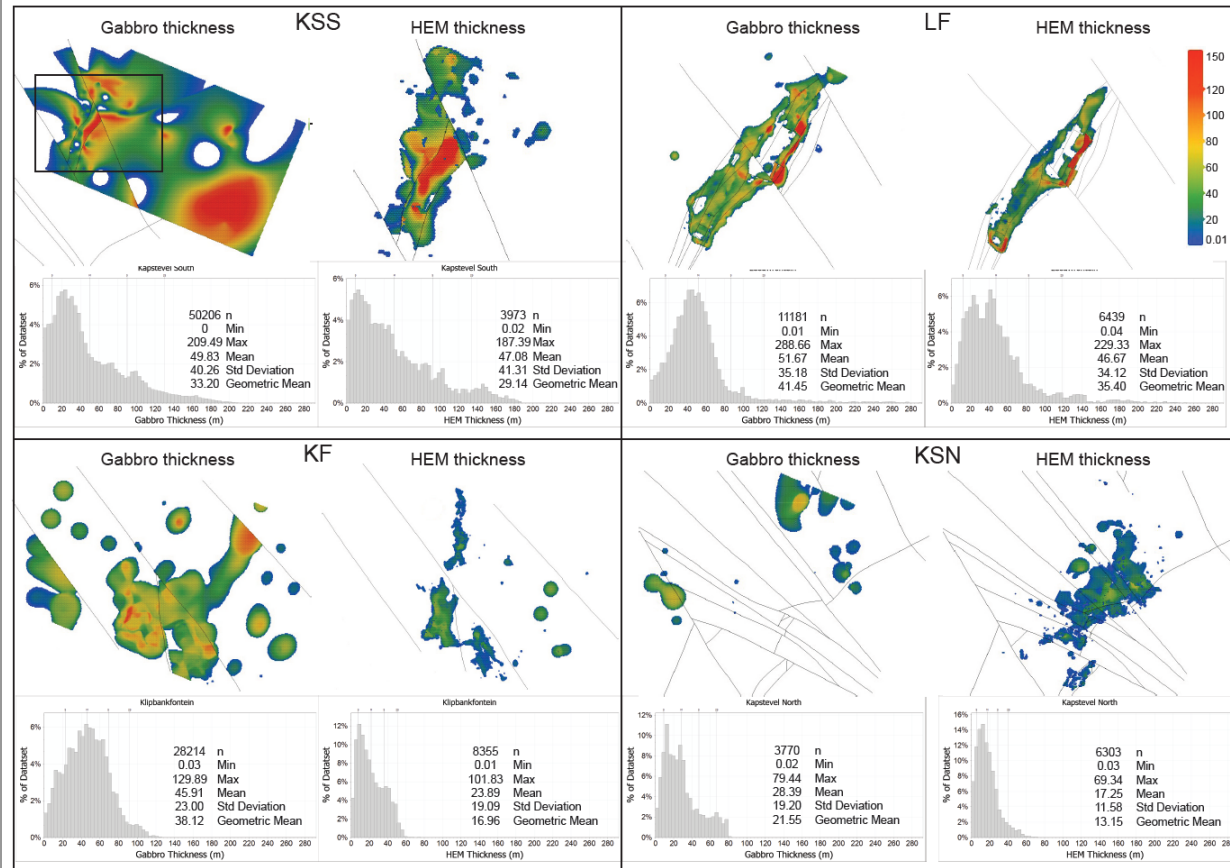
d) Klipbankfontein



Kolomela Mine

Gabbro vs Ore Thickness

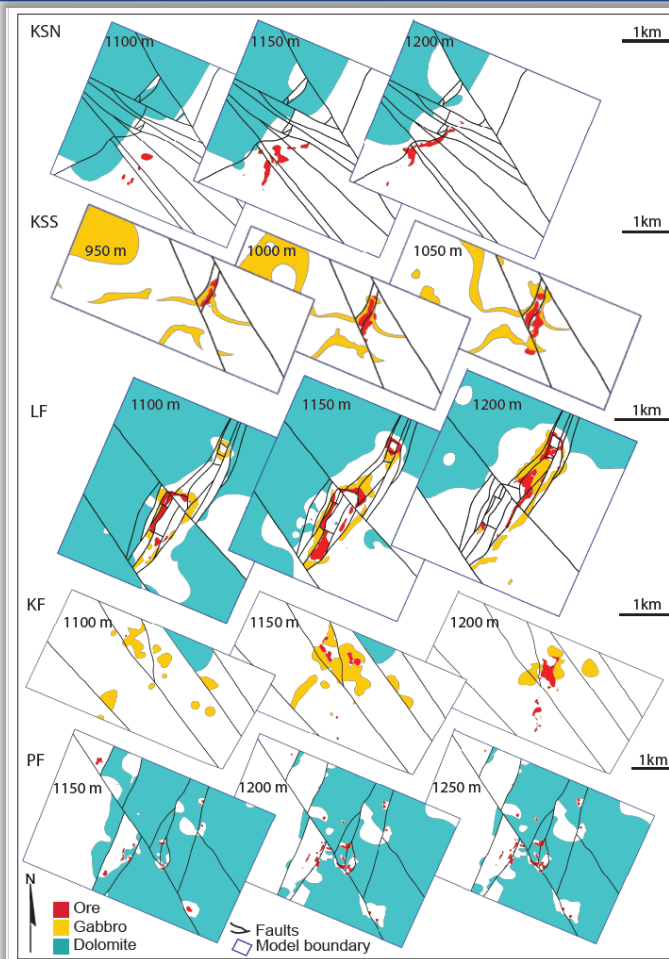
Gabbro sill thickness
correlates well with ore
thickness



Kolomela Mine

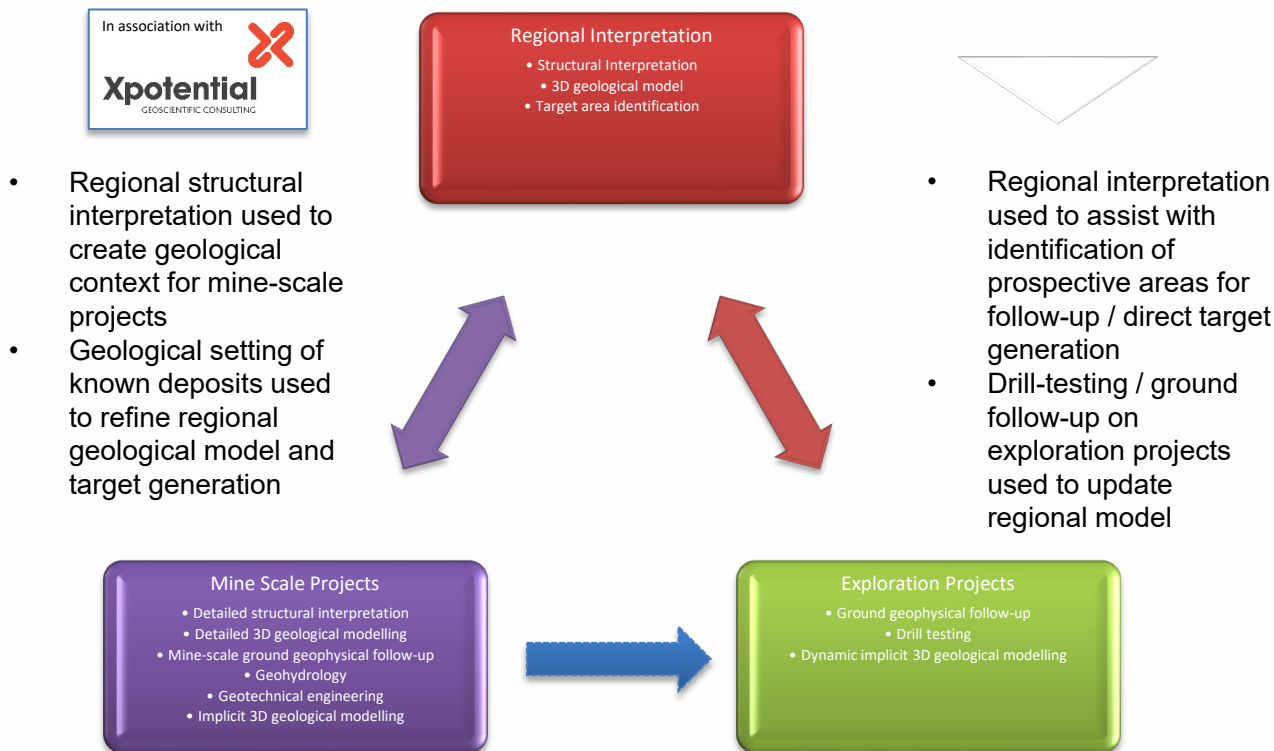
Depth Slices

Horizontal slices through modelled volumes show that gabbro sills, which probably exploited low-angle or bedding sub-parallel thrusts, appear to play a key role in ore development: most of the deposits at Kolomela Mine are underlain by a gabbro sill



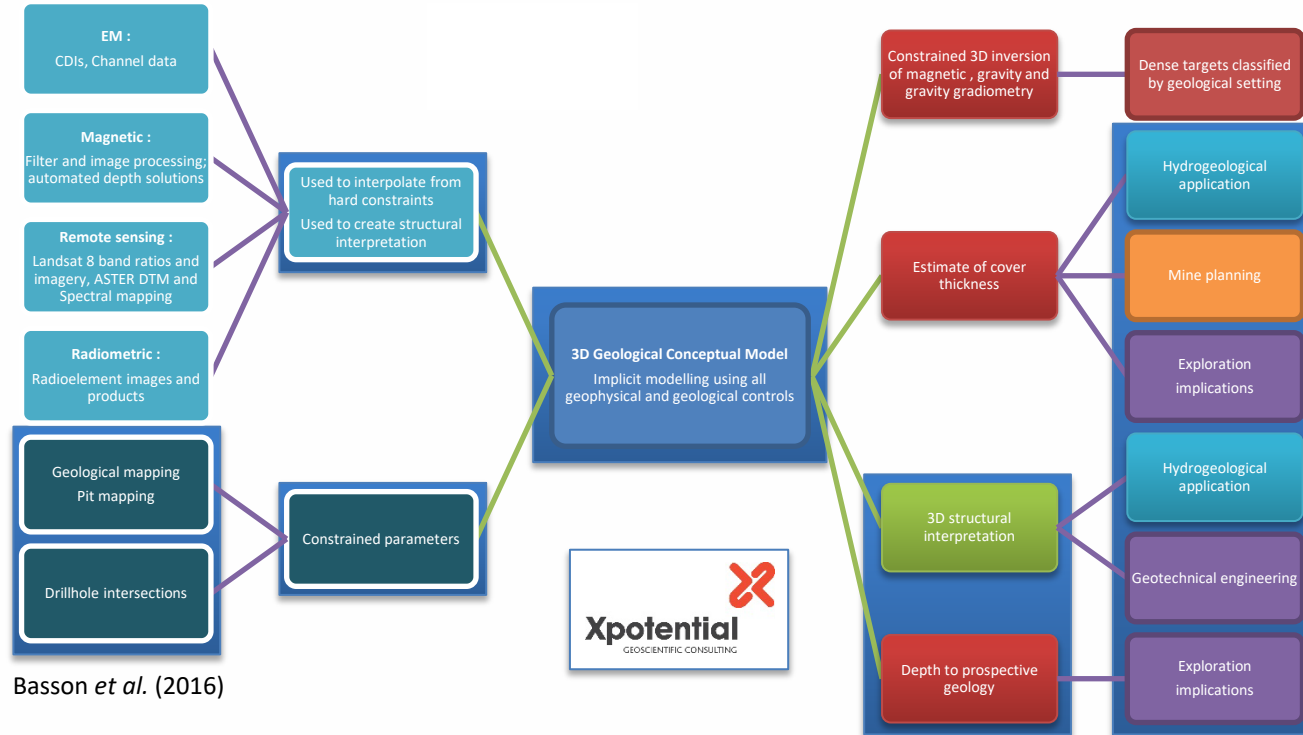
Regional Geophysical Data Interpretation

Integration of Major Structures, Geophysics and Implicit Modelling



Regional Geophysical Data Interpretation

Integration of Major Structures, Geophysics and Implicit Modelling

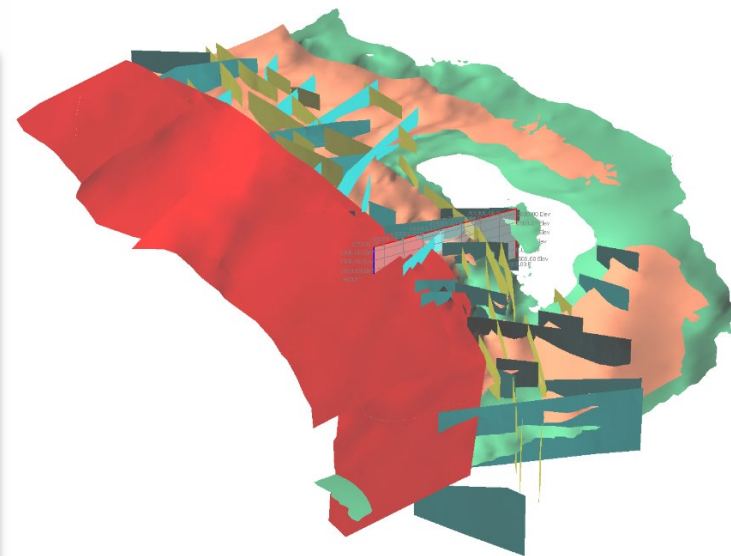
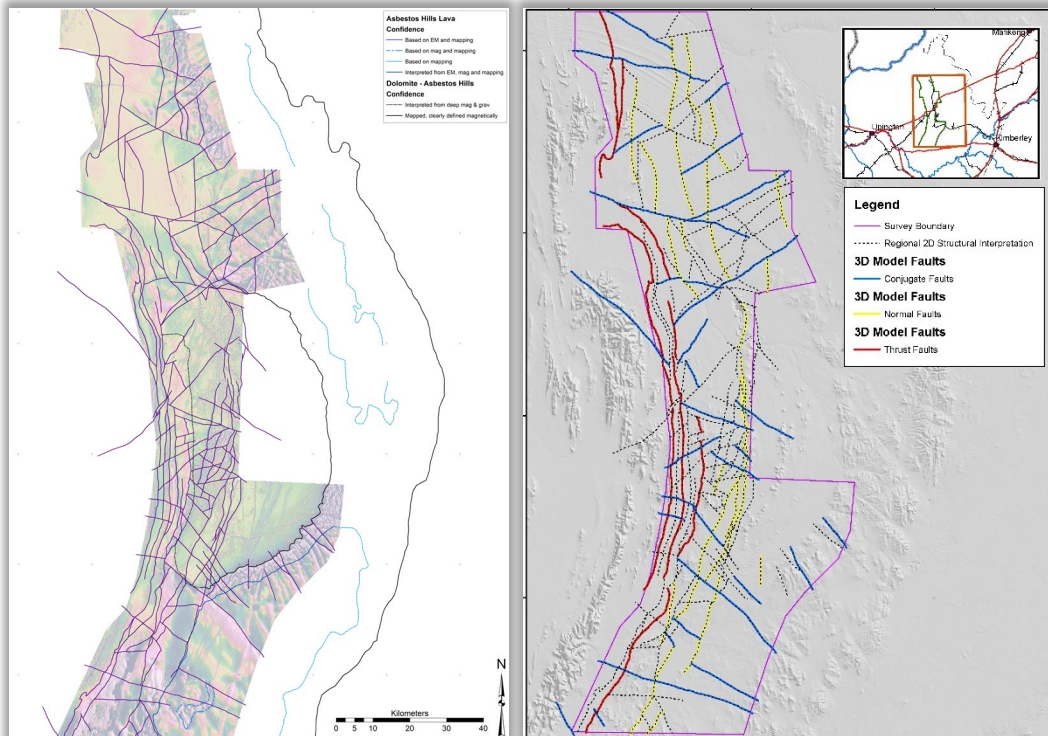


Basson *et al.* (2016)



Regional Geophysical Data Interpretation

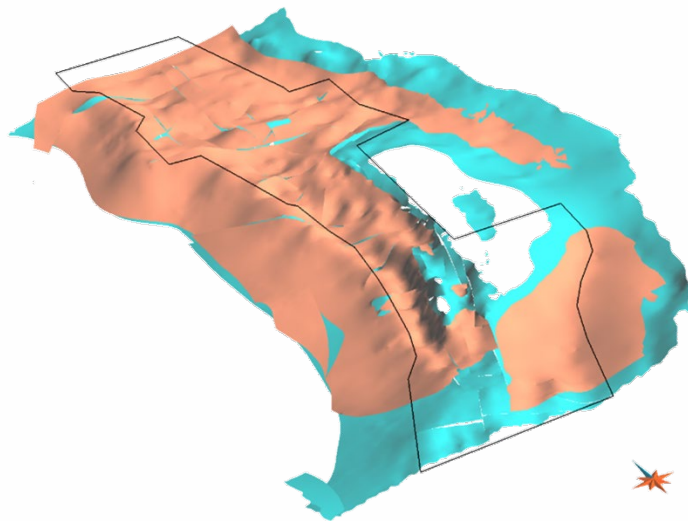
3D Surfaces and Structures



3D implicit model illustrating surfaces with 3D fault interpretation of selected major structures. Red – thrust faults, Blue – conjugate faults, Yellow – normal faults

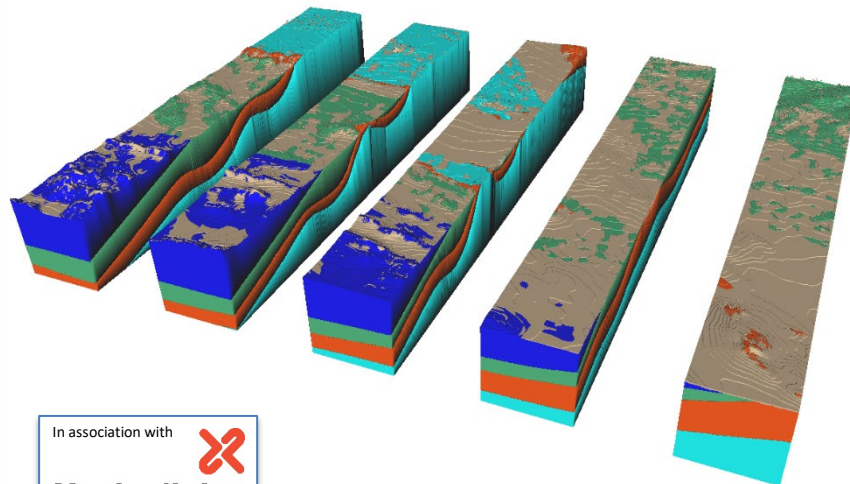
Regional Geophysical Data Interpretation

3D Major Contacts



3D implicit model illustrating top of prospective BIF unit (orange) and top of dolomite (blue)

3x vertical exaggeration



Basson *et al.* (2016)

Exploration

Model Slices with Dense Target Sources

In association with



Xpotential
GEOSCIENTIFIC CONSULTING

