



GOLD FIELDS



*Lithogeochemistry & Gold
Exploration
St Ives, Kambalda, WA*

**Kylie Prendergast
September 2005**



Lithogeochemistry & Gold Exploration St Ives

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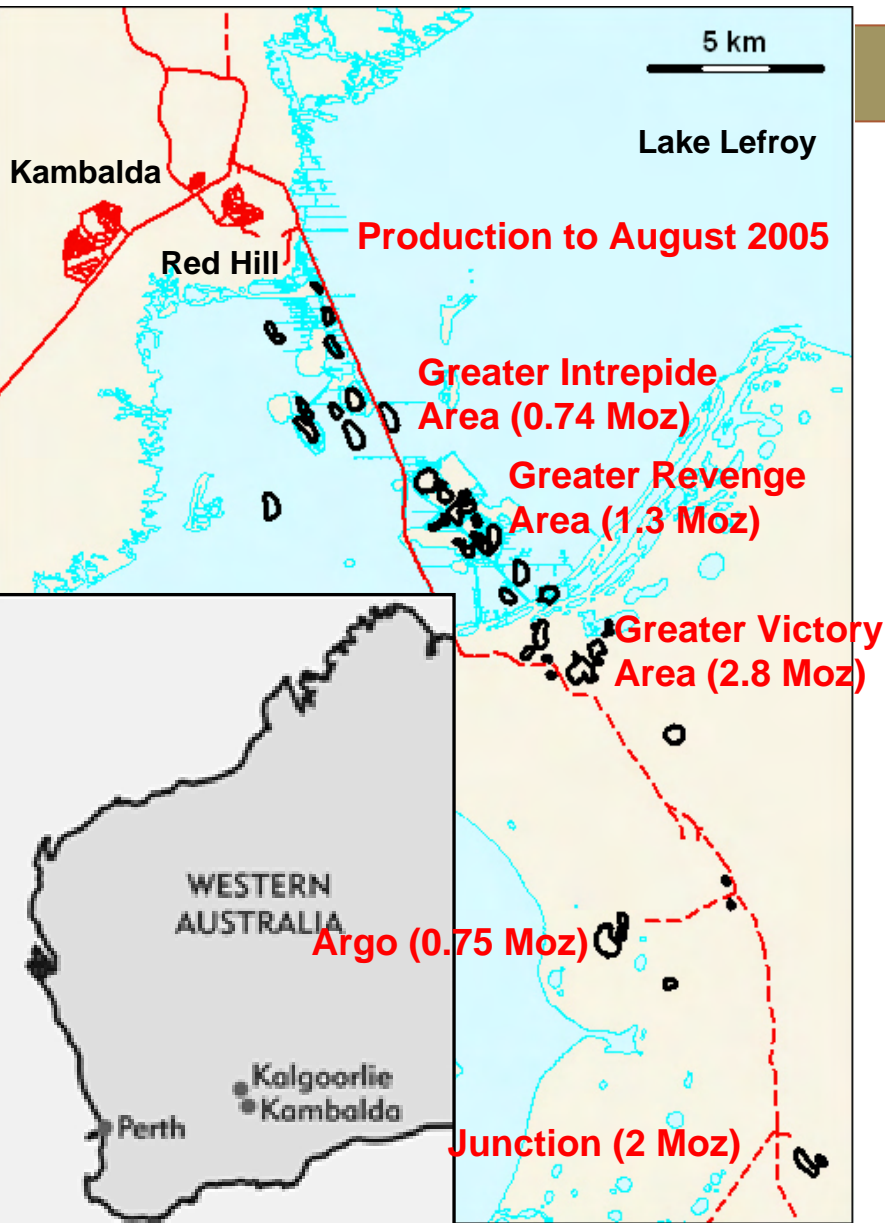
Outline

- Geological setting
- Classification of lithology, stratigraphy and alteration
- Chemical characterisation of existing St Ives deposits (alteration and pathfinders) - empirical exploration models
- Integration with architecture and geophysics in GoCad - testing conceptual exploration models



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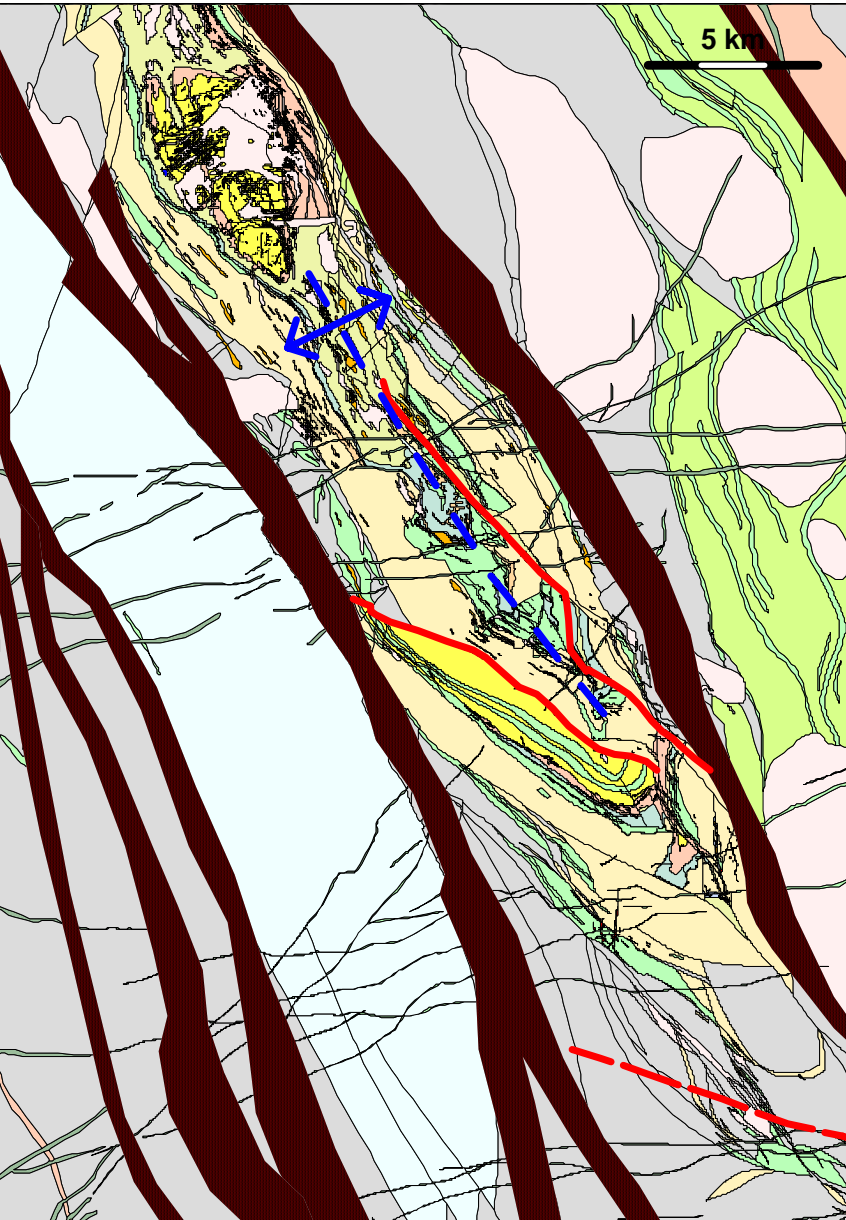
Location & History

- Gold first discovered at Red Hill 1897
- Mining intermittent, ceased in 1930s
- WMC discovered Ni in 1966
- Explored for gold at end 1970s
- Victory Mine discovered in 1980
- Endowment 12.5 moz Au



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Geological Setting

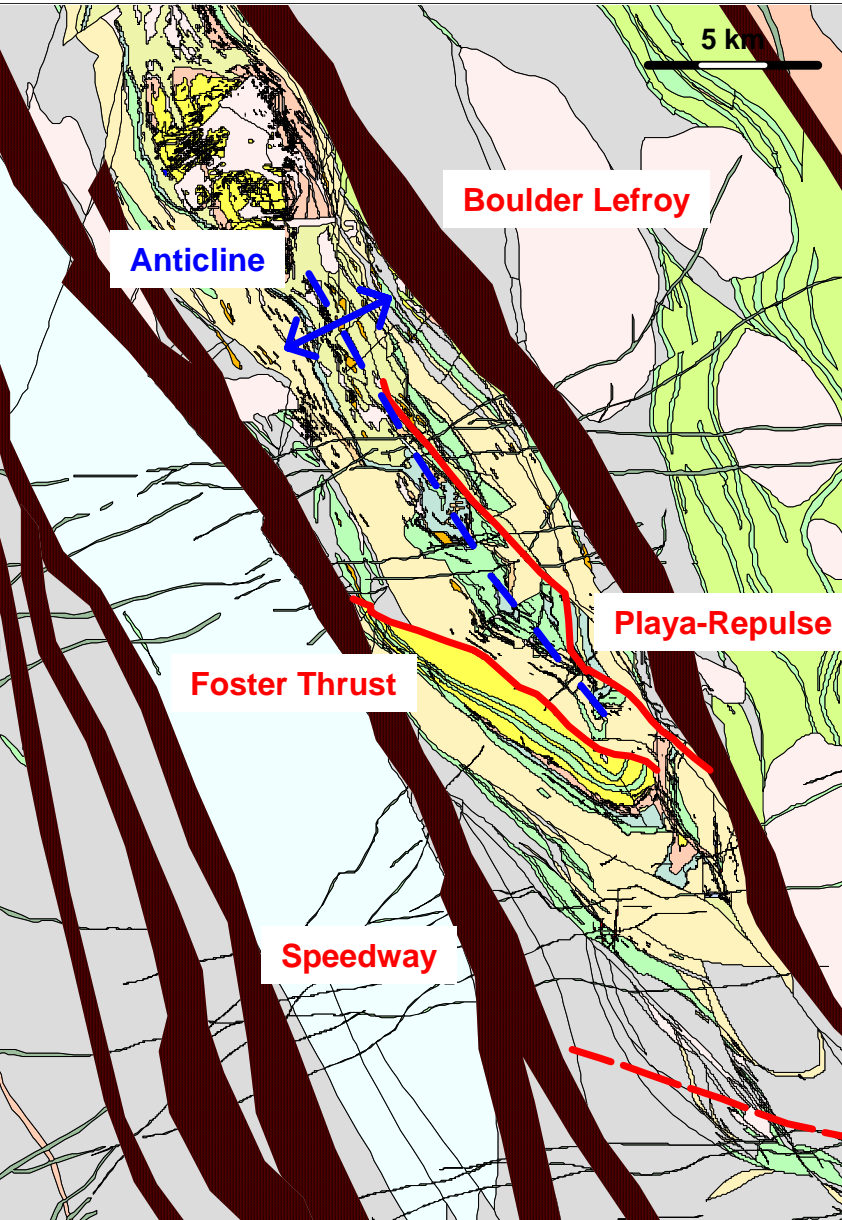
- Archaean greenstone package
- Gold hosted by dolerite, porphyry intrusions, interflow sediments and felsic sediments

Felsic Sediment
Felsic Sediment
Basalt/ Ultramafic
Dolerite
Basalt



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Geological Setting

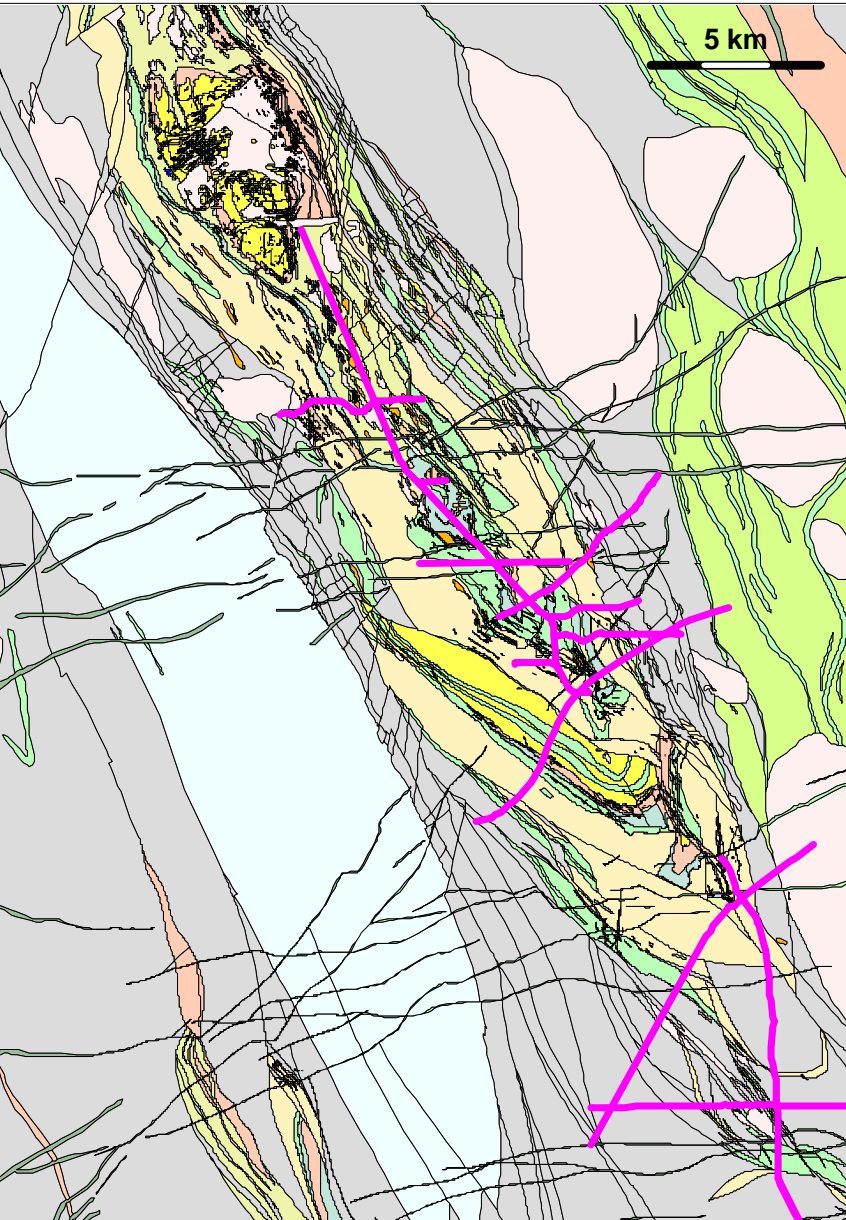
- Archaean greenstone package
- Gold hosted by dolerite, porphyry intrusions, interflow sediments and felsic sediments
- Folded in south plunging anticline
- Major faults

Felsic Sediment
Felsic Sediment
Basalt/ Ultramafic
Dolerite
Basalt



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Geological Setting

- Archaean greenstone package
- Gold hosted by dolerite, porphyry intrusions, interflow sediments and felsic sediments
- Folded in south plunging anticline
- Major faults
- Seismic constraint

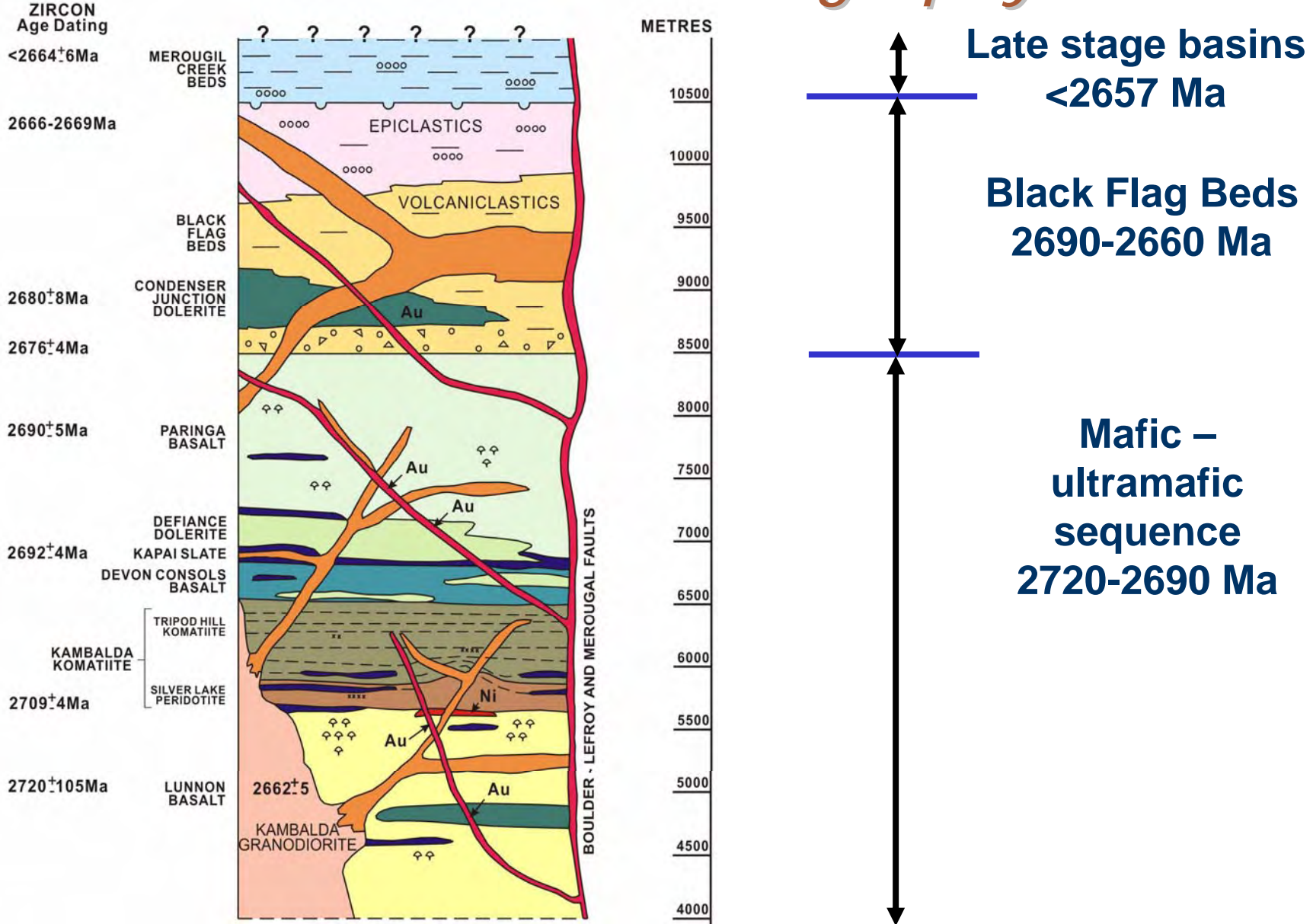
Felsic Sediment
Felsic Sediment
Basalt/ Ultramafic
Dolerite
Basalt



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St Ives Stratigraphy

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Multi element methodology – “top of fresh rock”

1. Analyse for 36 elements + Au to ppb level (Genalysis ICPMS/OES)
2. Use **trace elements** (less affected by alteration) to classify/domain lithology and stratigraphy
3. Use **major elements** to domain for alteration style
4. Check **pathfinder elements** for alteration style



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Benefits

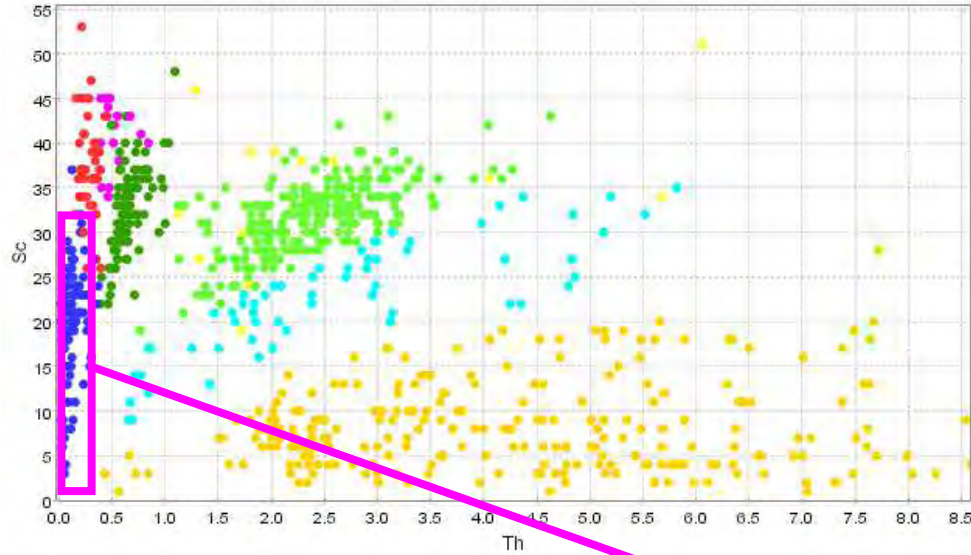
- Low cost exploration tool
- Constrain lithology and stratigraphy (strengthen geological interpretation)
- Chemically characterise existing St Ives deposits and improve empirical and conceptual exploration models
- Quantitatively compare and rank prospects on alteration and pathfinder features



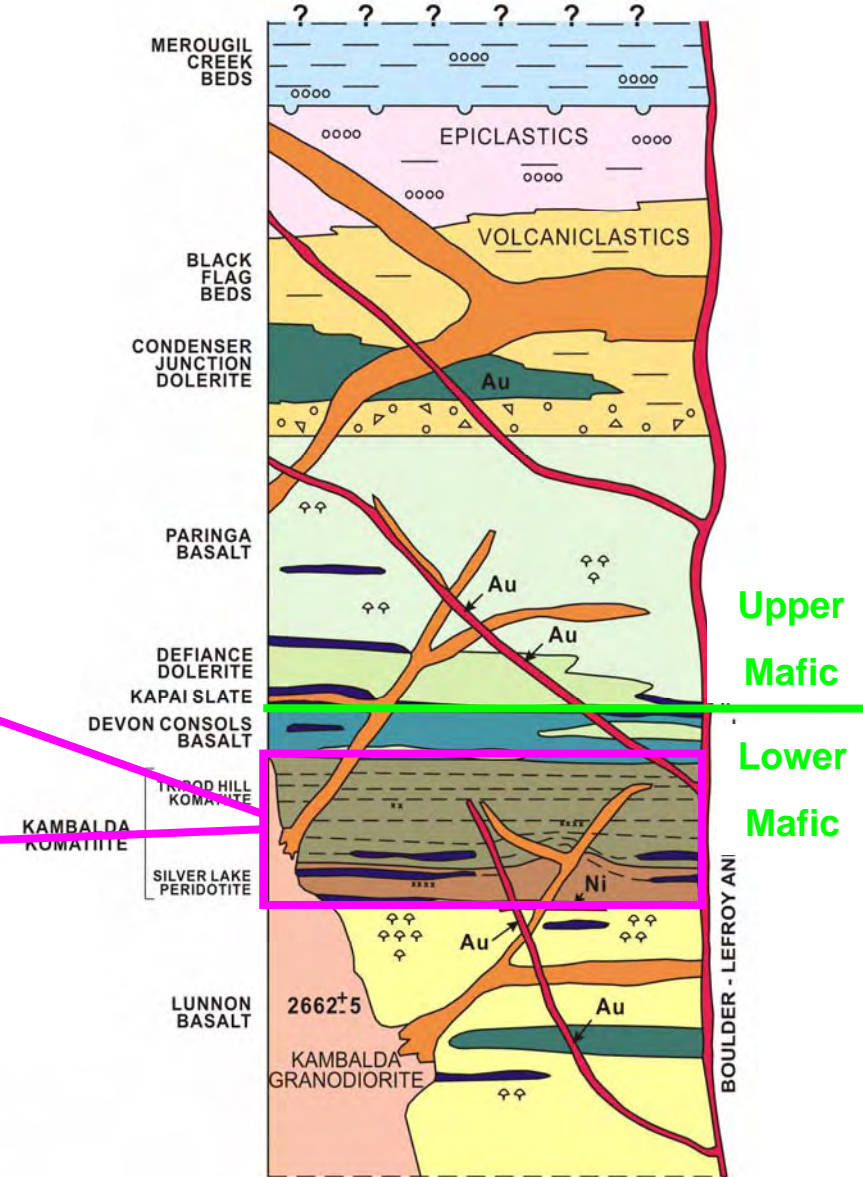
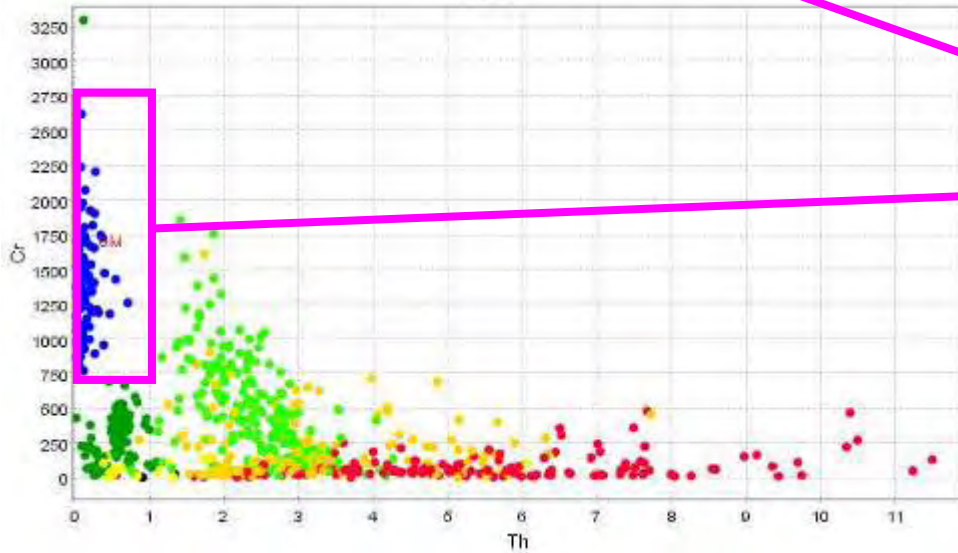
Trace Elements - St Ives Stratigraphy Ultramafic (Th: Sc, Cr)

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Th:Sc



Th:Cr



Upper
Mafic

Lower
Mafic

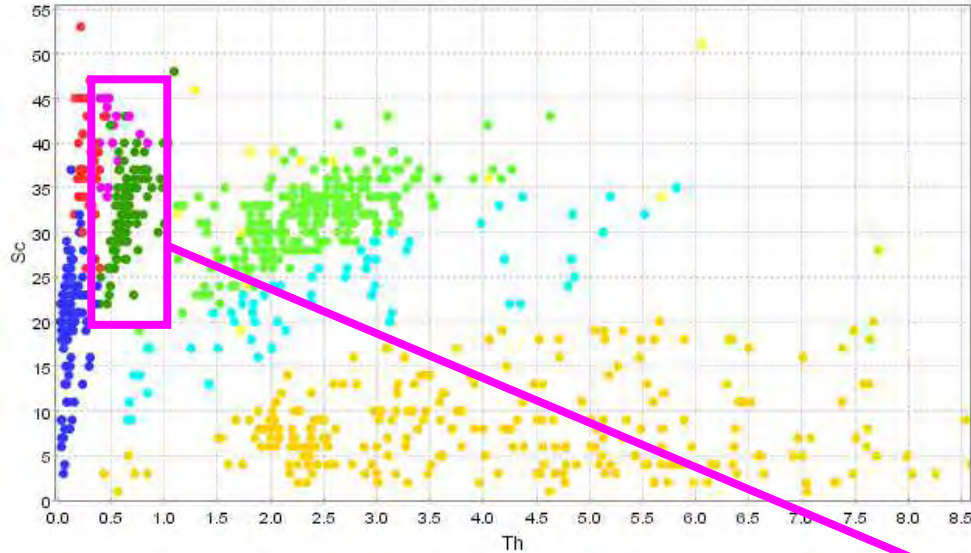


Trace Elements - St Ives Stratigraphy

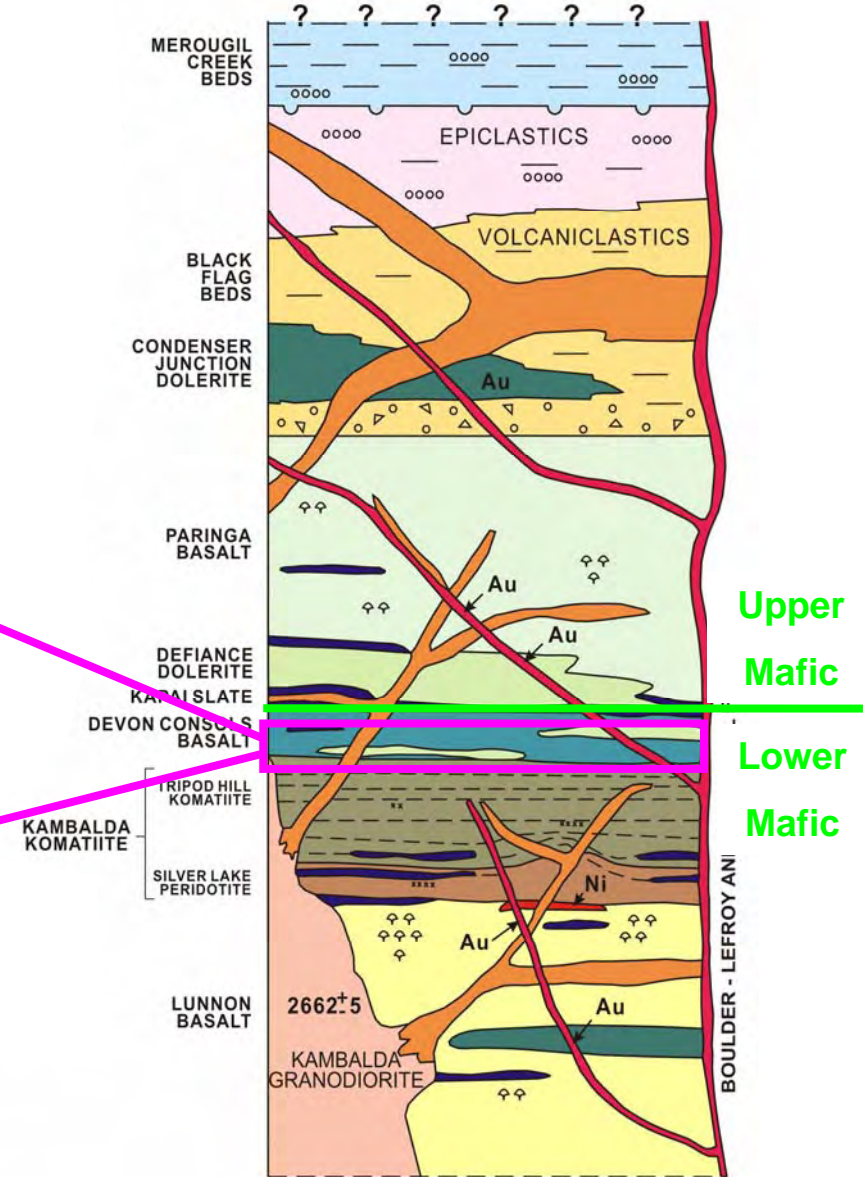
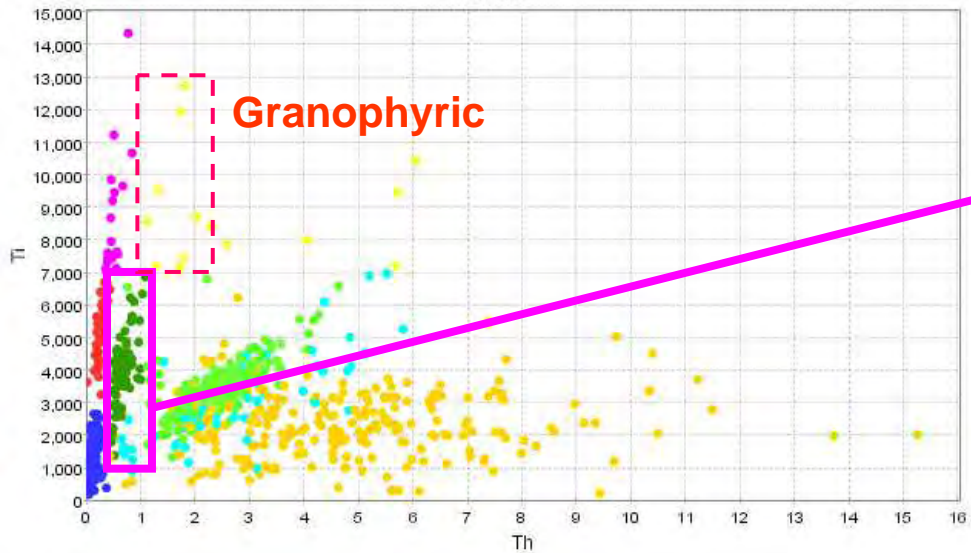
Devon Consols Basalt & Victory Dolerite (Th: Sc, Ti)

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Th:Sc



Th:Ti

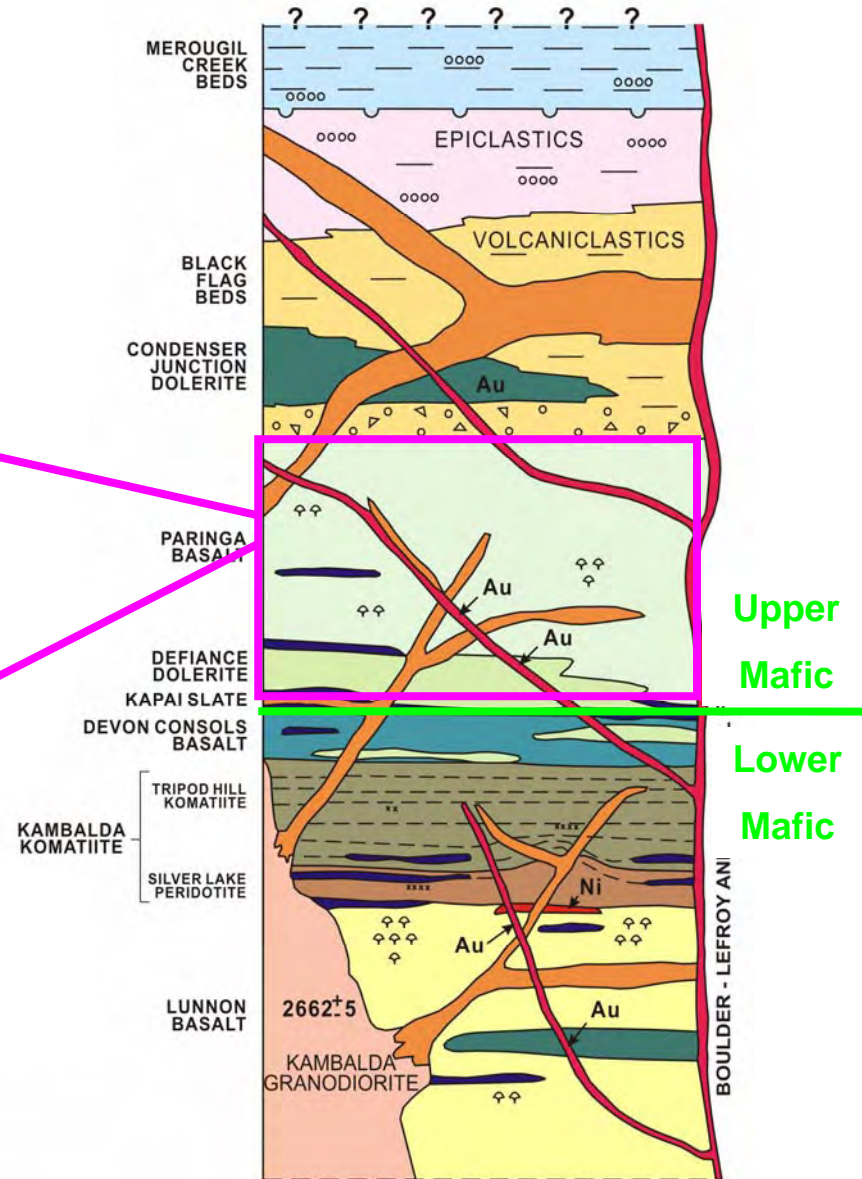
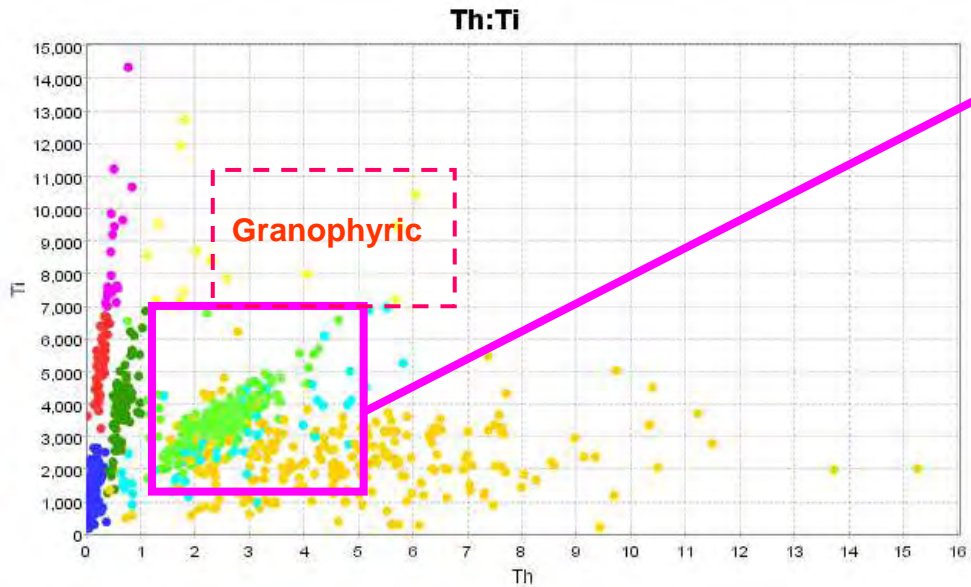
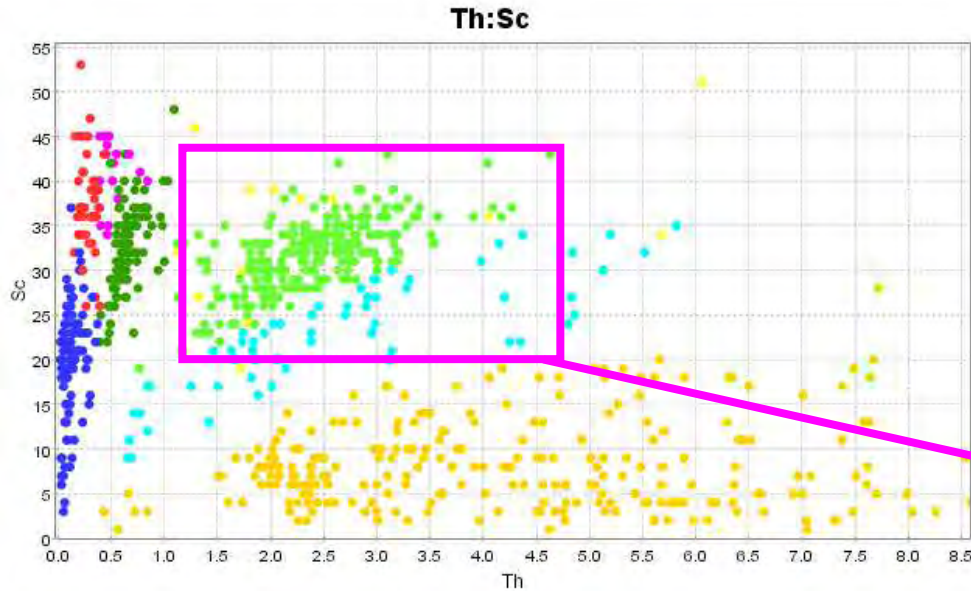




Trace Elements - St Ives Stratigraphy

Paringa Basalt & Defiance Dolerite (Th: Sc, Ti)

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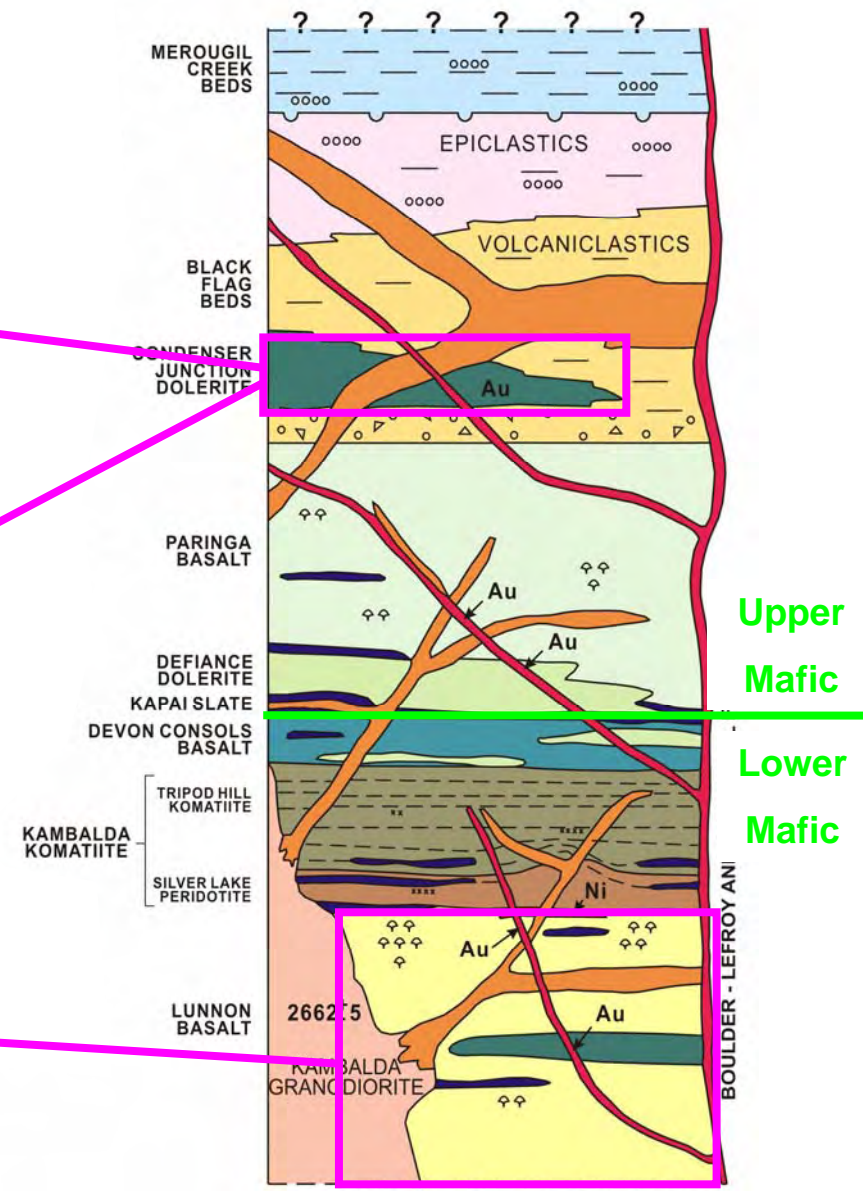
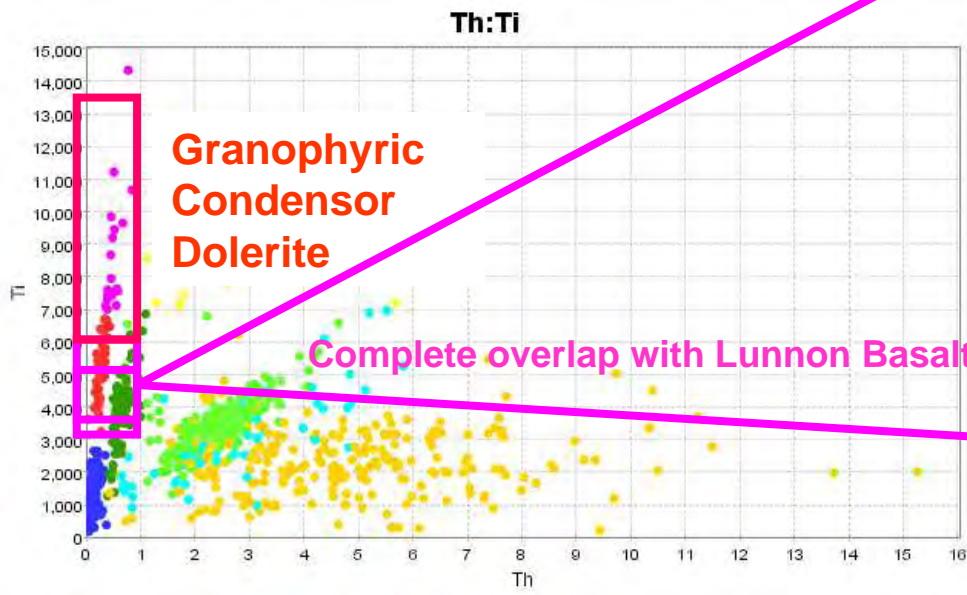
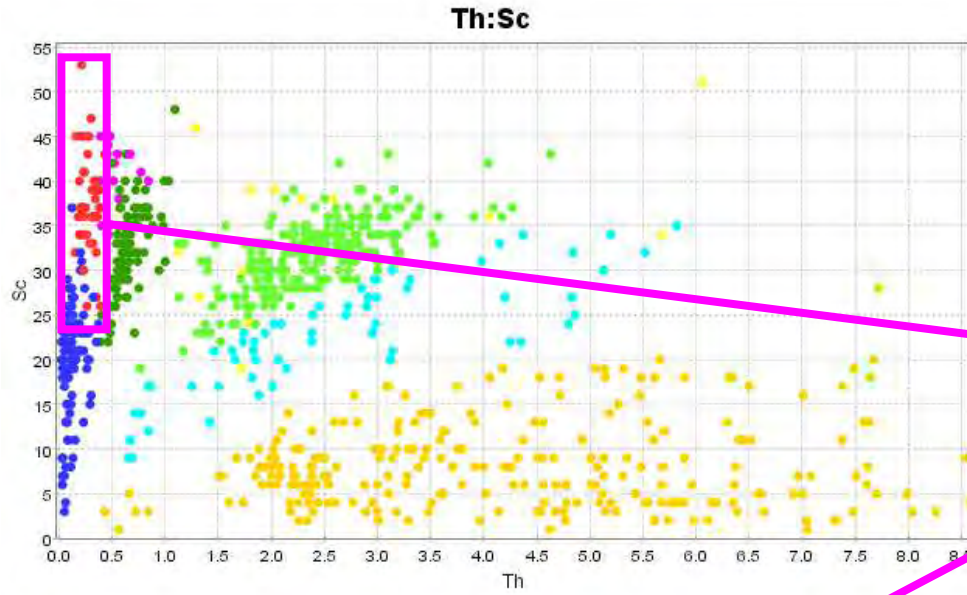




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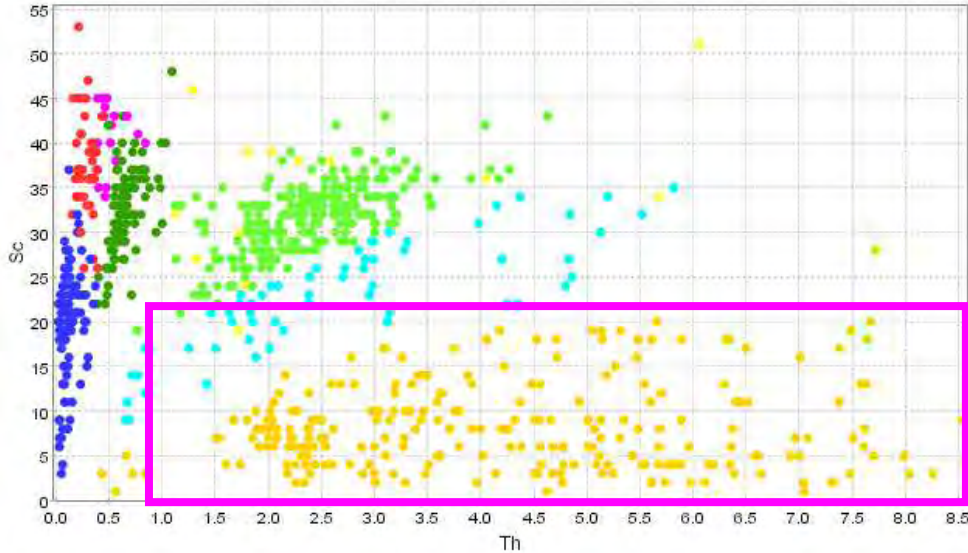
Trace Elements - St Ives Stratigraphy

Condenser Dolerite (Th: Sc, Ti)

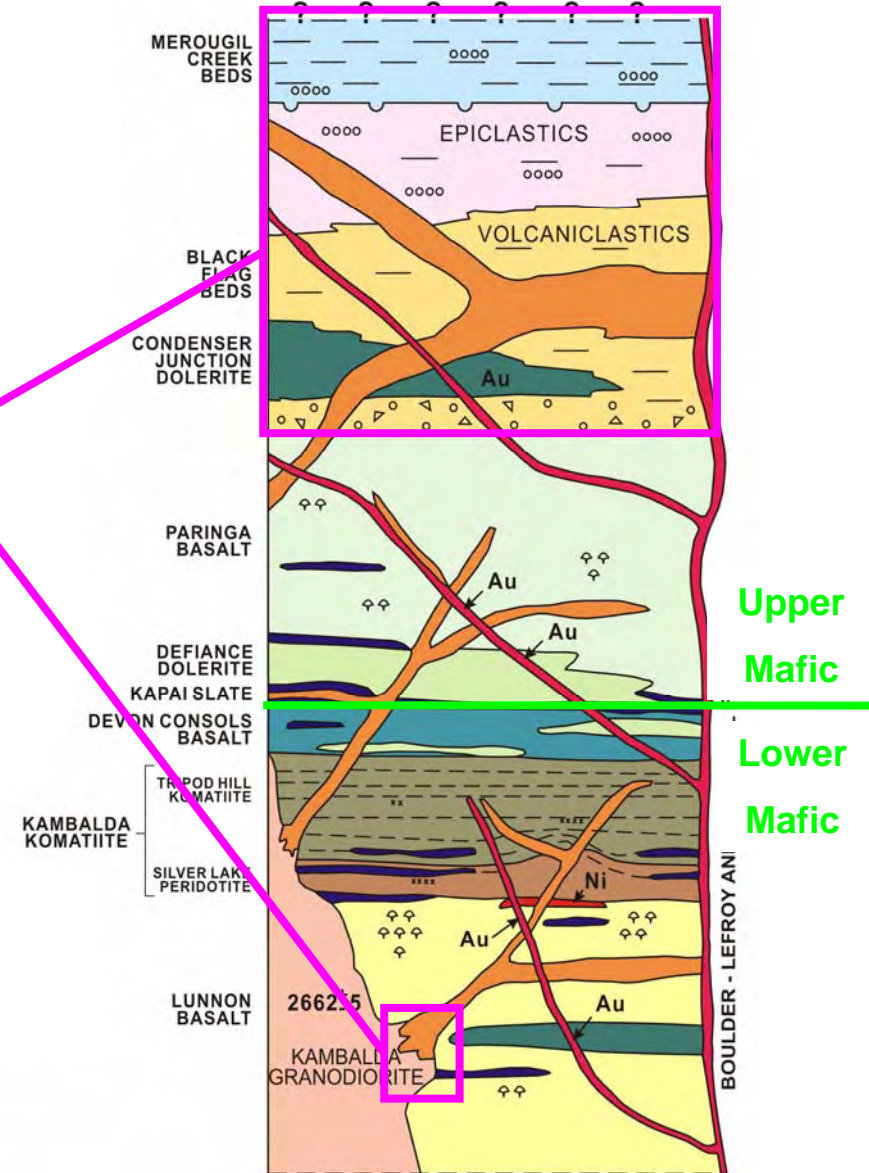
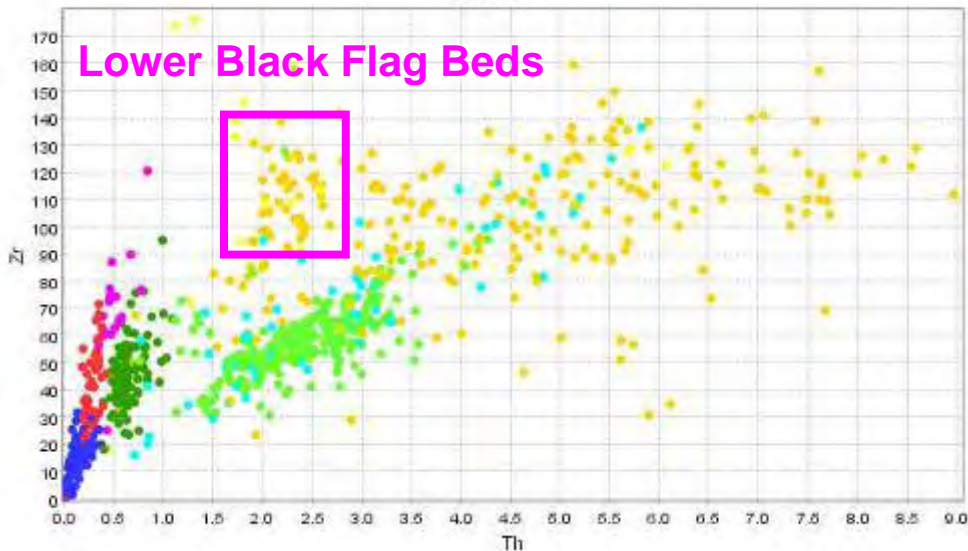


Trace Elements - St Ives Stratigraphy Sediments and intrusions (Th: Sc, Zr)

Th:Sc



Th:Zr

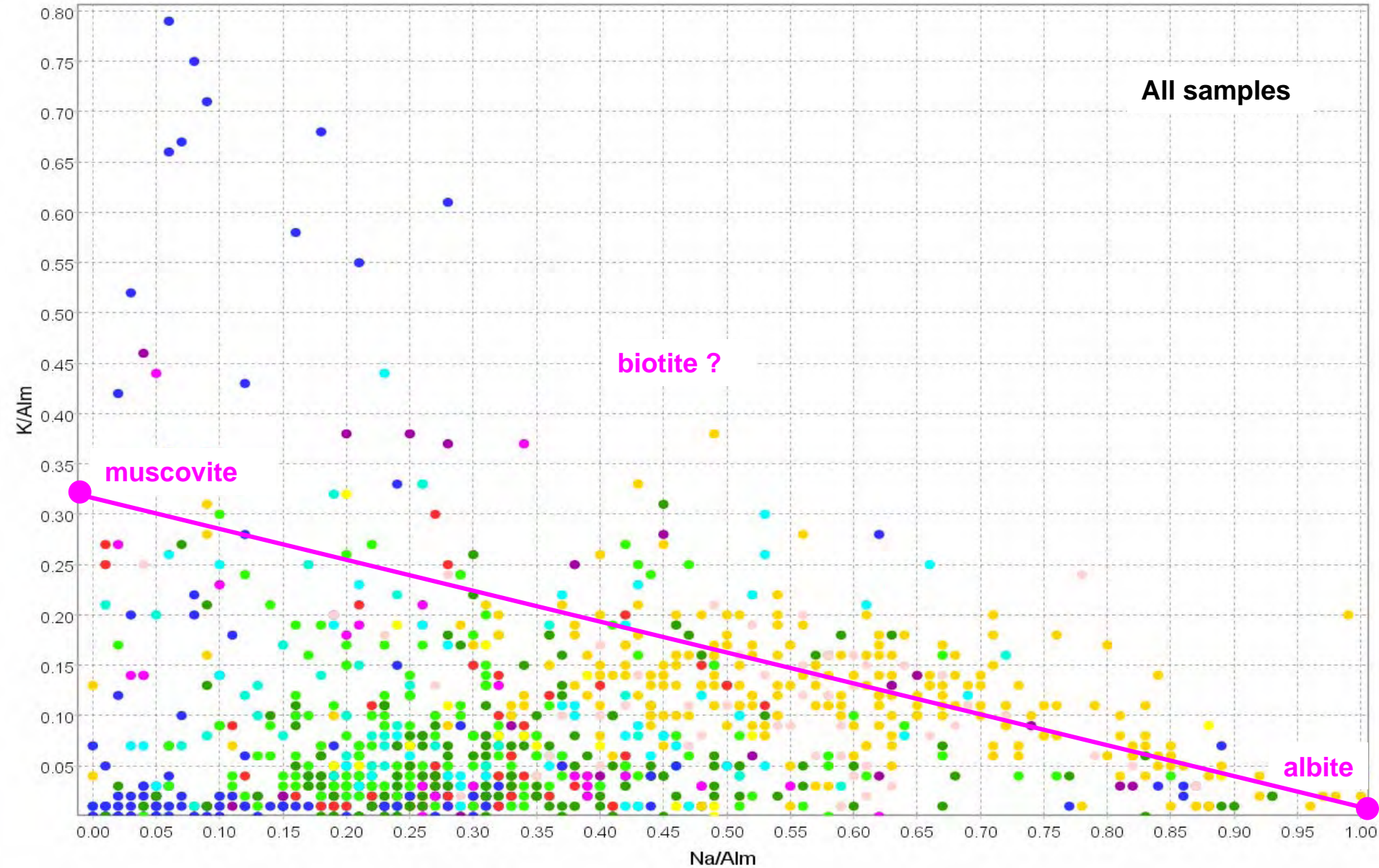




Classify Alteration - Alkali Index

molar Na/Al versus K/Al

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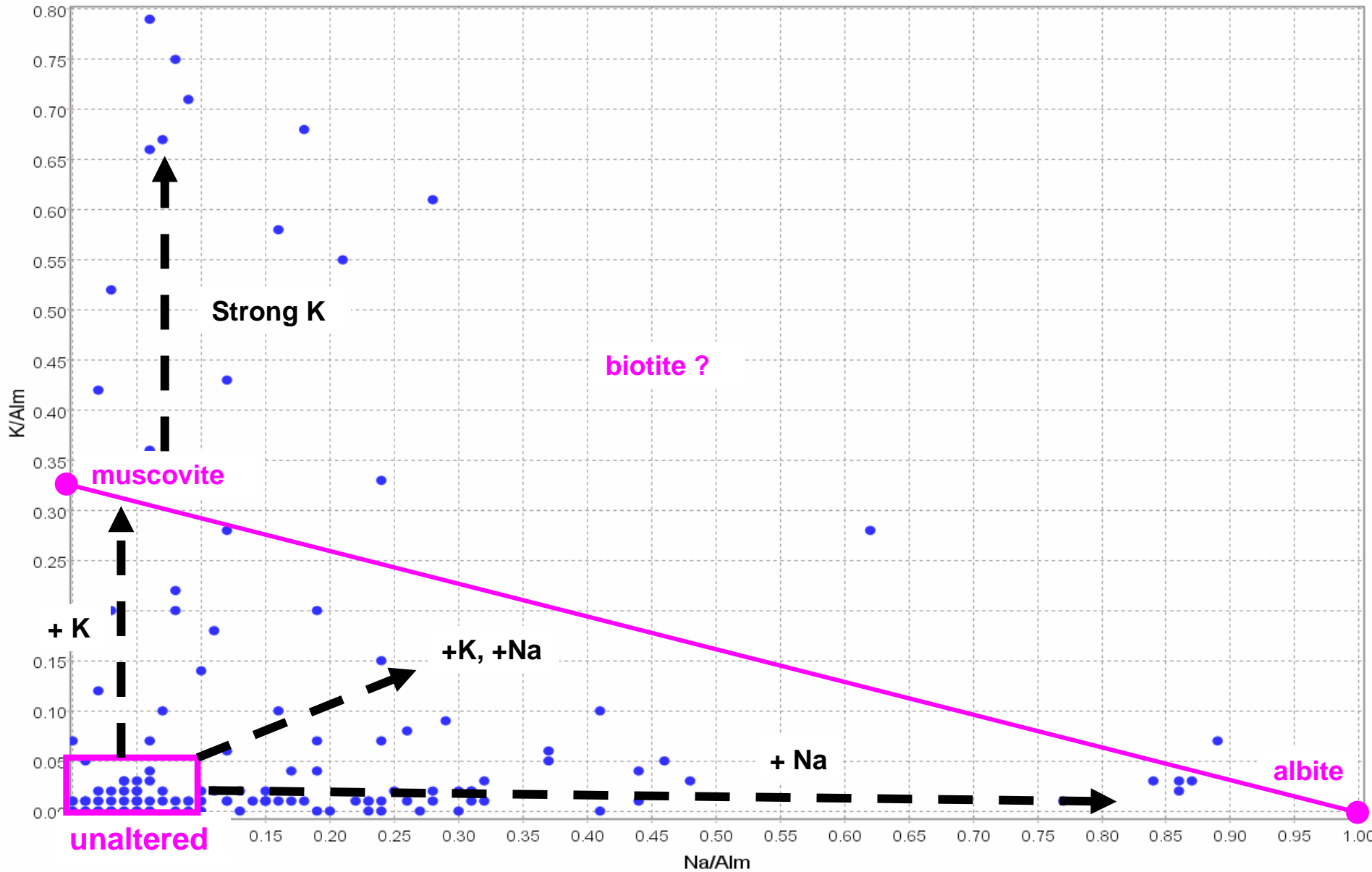




Ultramafic - Alteration fields

molar Na/Al versus K/Al

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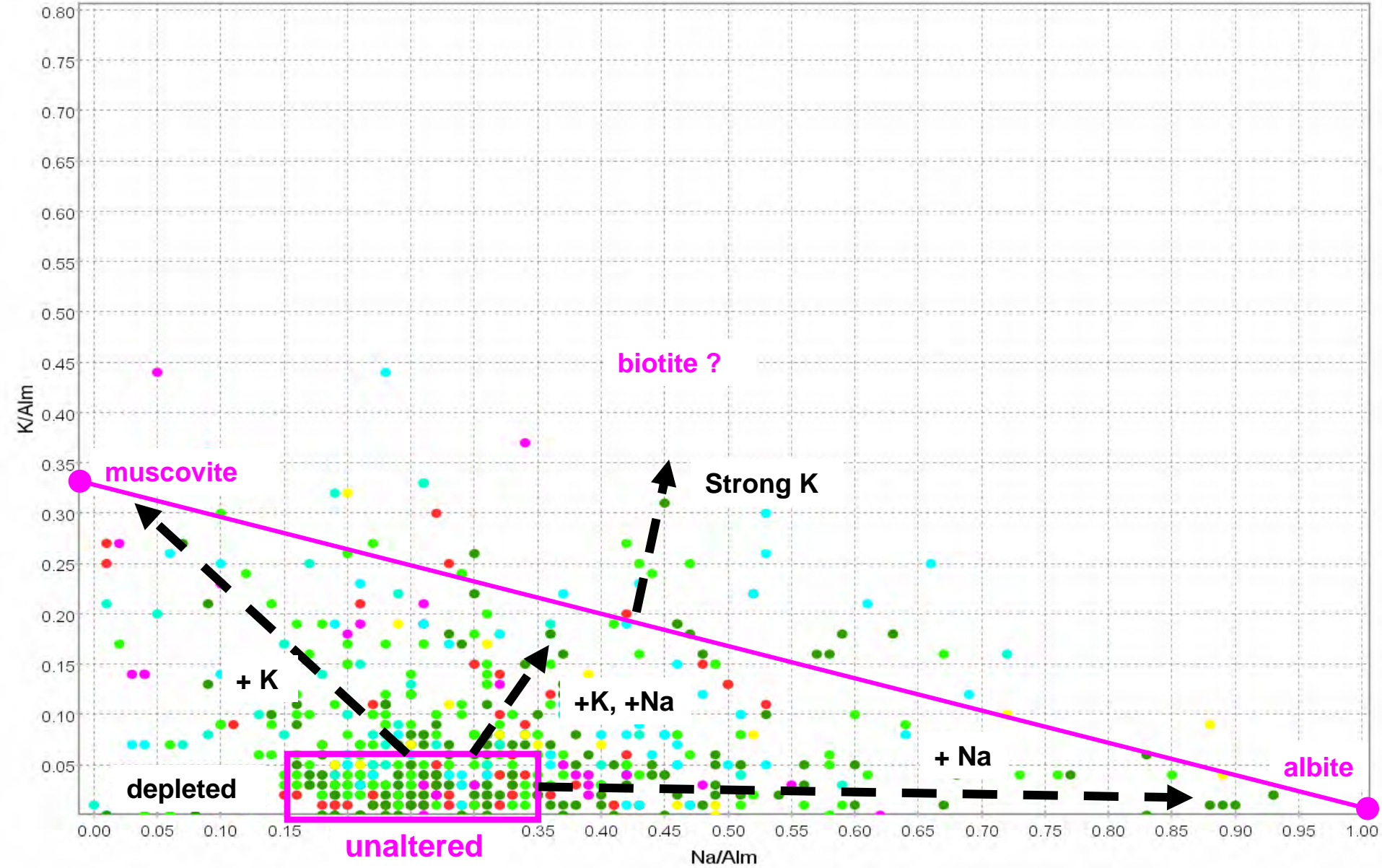




Mafic - Alteration Fields

molar Na/Al versus K/Al

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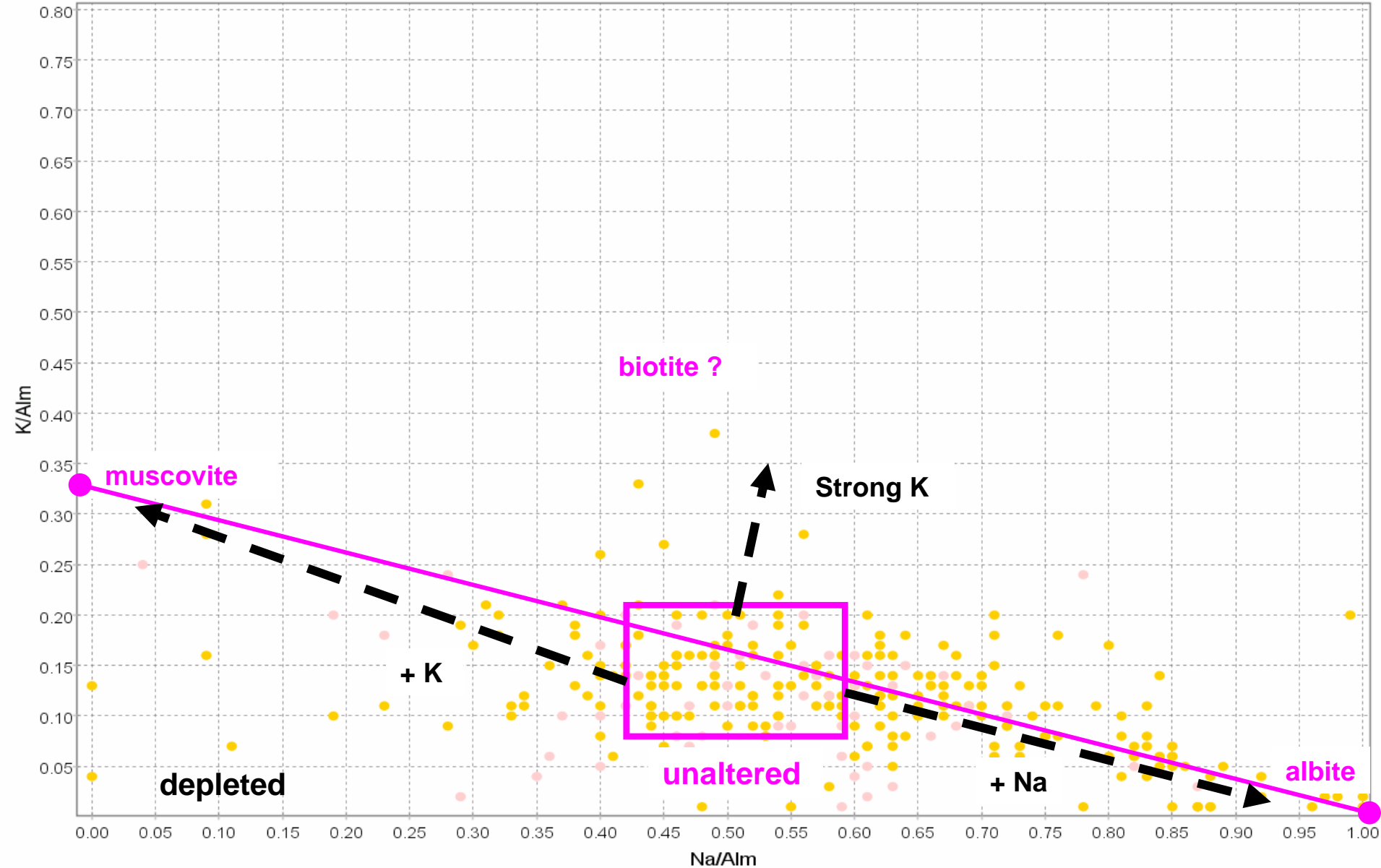




Felsic-Intermediate - Alteration Fields

molar Na/Al versus K/Al

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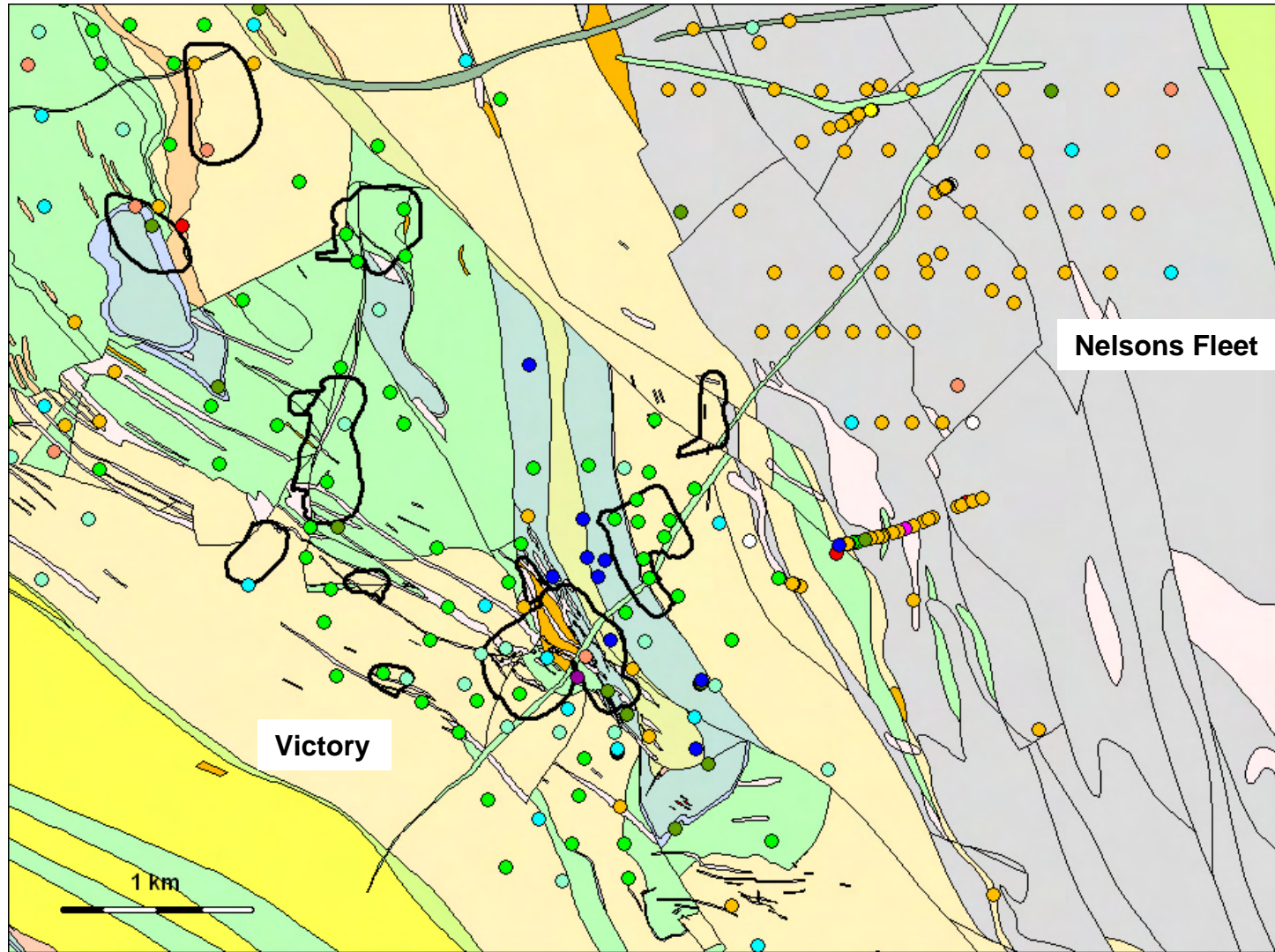




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Lithology/stratigraphy at known deposits



Nelsons Fleet:
(~200 koz),
hematite, silica,
albite, pyrite,
quartz veins in
Black Flag Beds

Victory: quartz
vein, pyrite, albite,
biotite, chlorite in
dolerite and
interflow sediment

Lithology

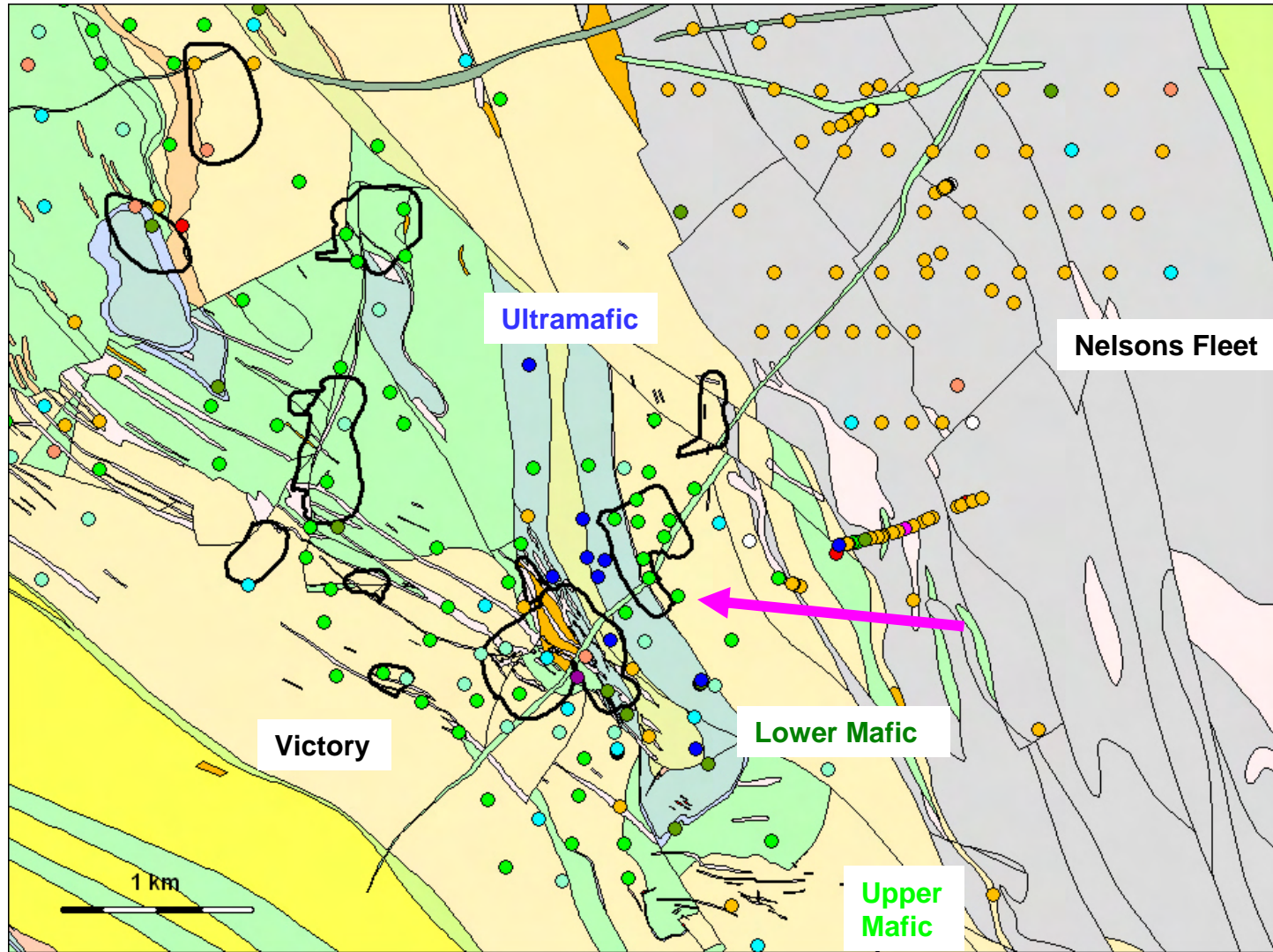
-  Felsic
-  Intermediate
-  Upper Mafic
-  Lower Mafic
-  Ultramafic



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Lithology/stratigraphy at known deposits



Multi element demonstrates Upper Mafic (Paringa Basalt) east of Victory is incorrectly mapped as Lower Mafic (Devon Consols Basalt)

Lithology

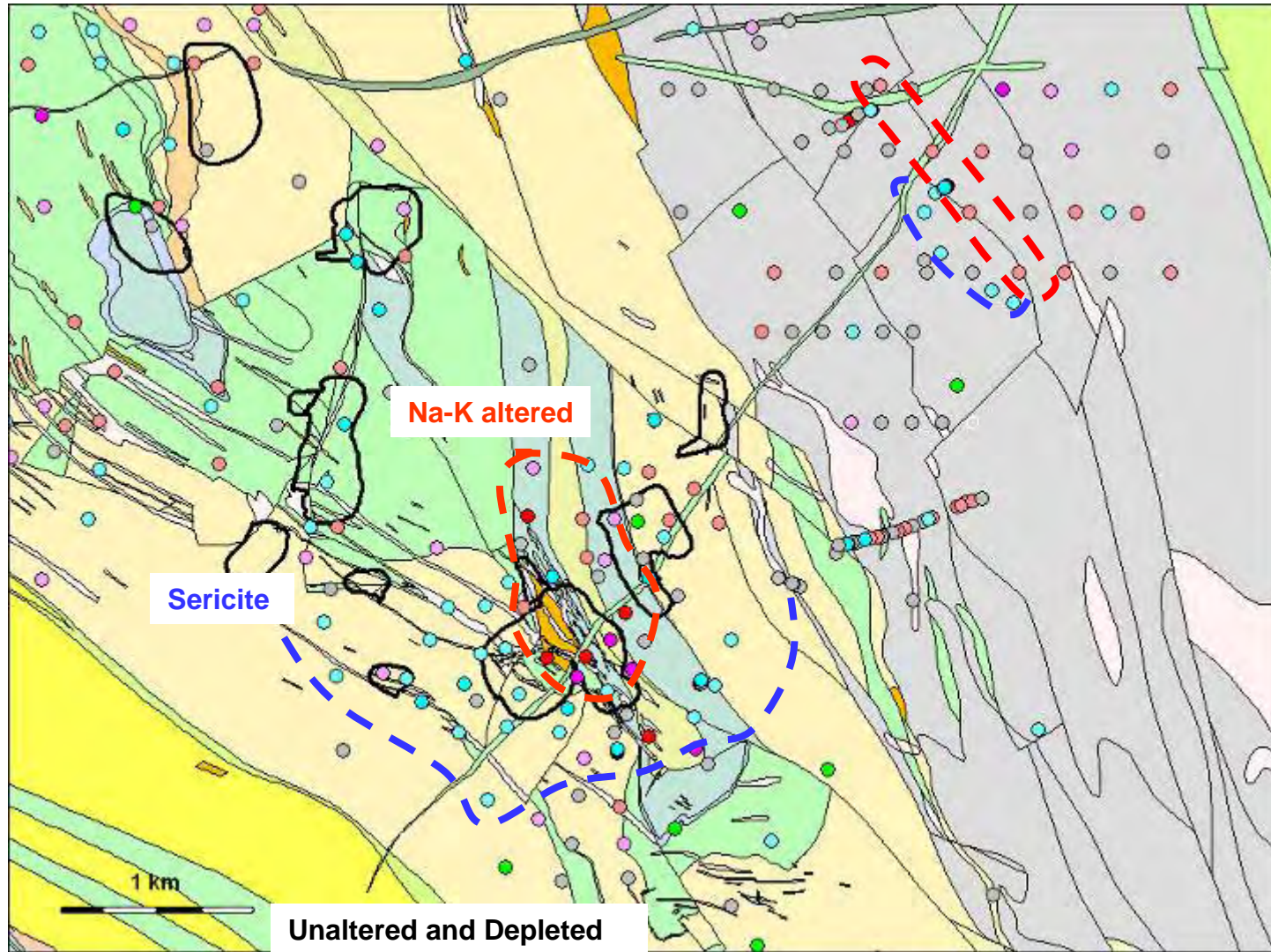
- Felsic
- Intermediate
- Upper Mafic
- Lower Mafic
- Ultramafic



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Alteration at known deposits



Proximal Na/Al &/or strong K (biotite) enrichment.

Outer sericitic alteration halo

Distal occurrence of samples with depleted Na-K

Alteration

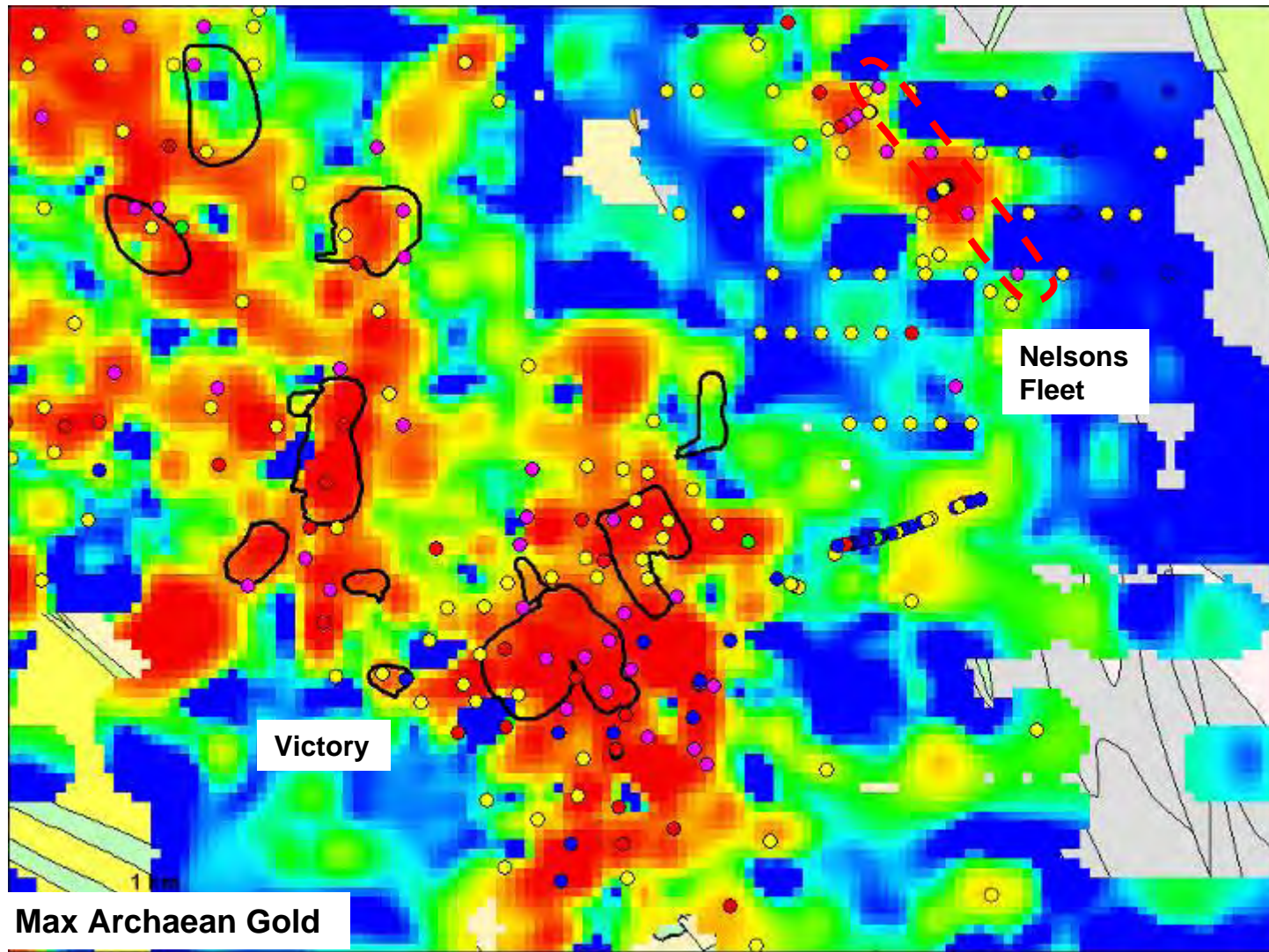
- Na (albite)
- Strong K (biotite ?)
- K (sericite)
- Depleted
- Unaltered



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W anomalism at known deposits



W anomalism (>5 ppm) spatially correlates with gold mineralisation (10g/t top cut on image)

W (ppm)

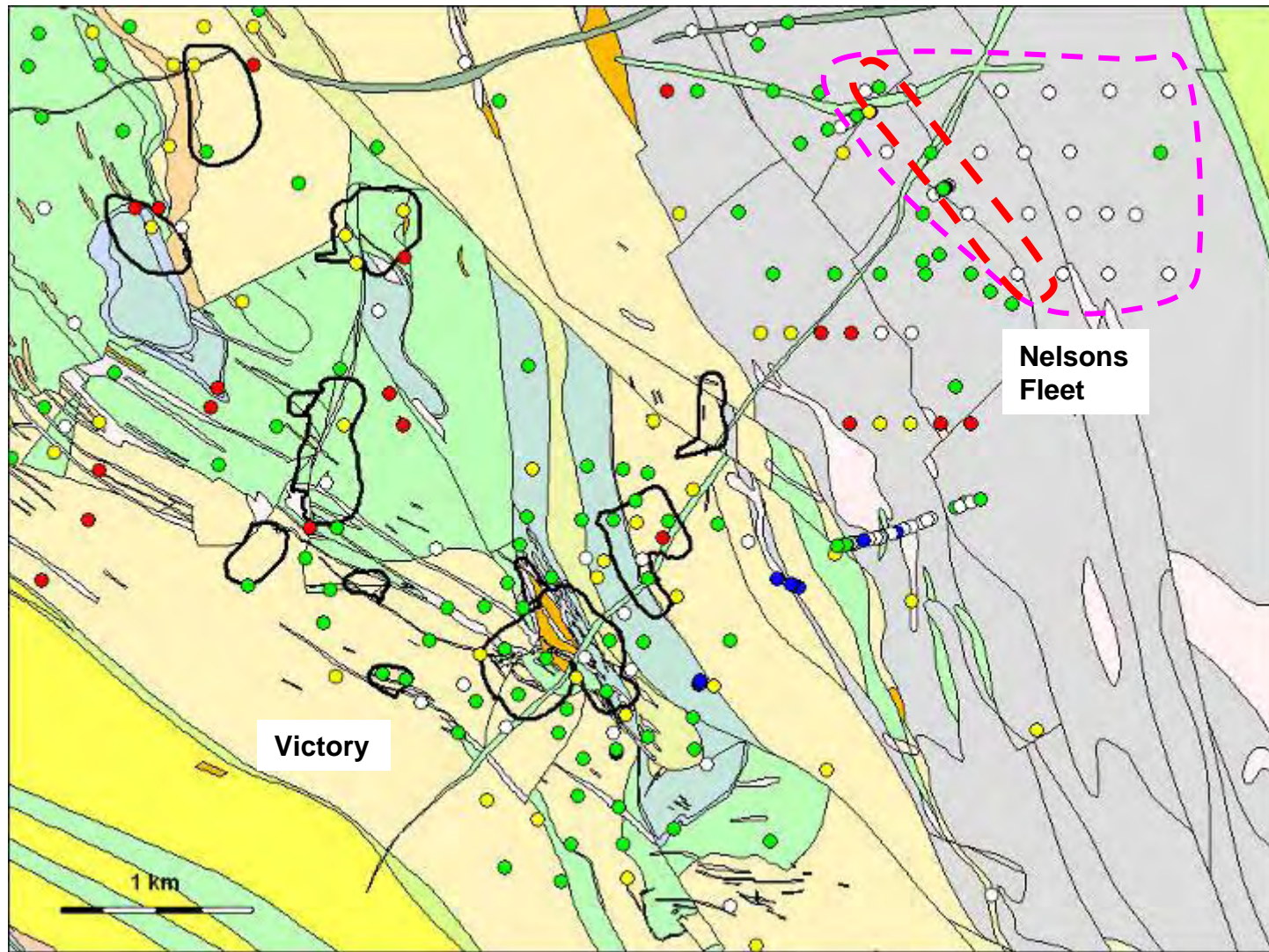
- 10 to 1122
- 5 to 10
- 1 to 5
- 0.1 to 1
- < detection 0.1 ppm



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As gradients at known deposits



As gradient
apparent at
Nelsons Fleet

As-depletion
(below detection
level 1ppm)
occurs east of
Nelsons Fleet

Patchy depleted
As samples occur
at Victory

As (ppm)

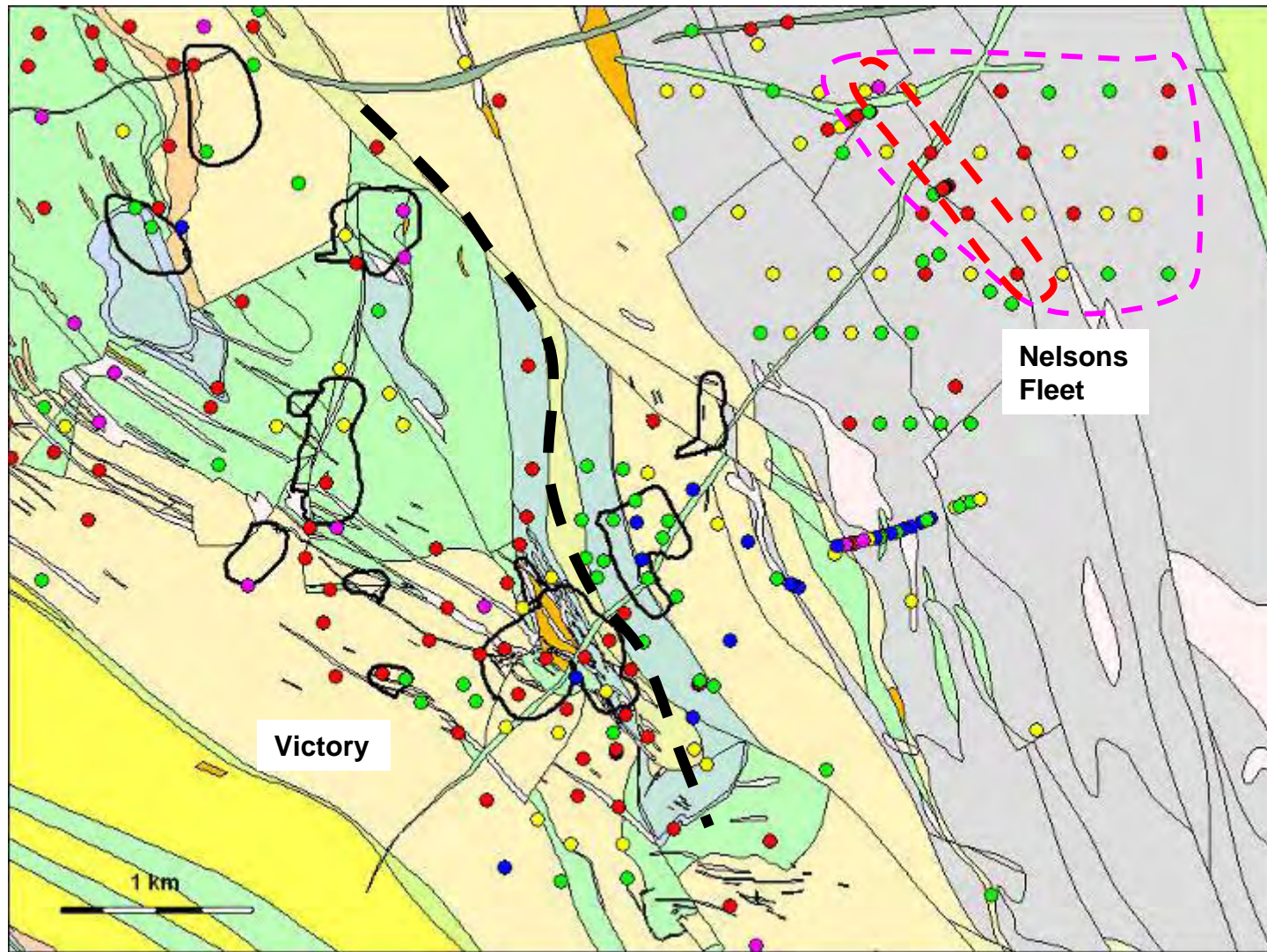
- 10 to 23
- 5 to 10
- 1 to 5
- 0.5 to 1
- < detection 1ppm



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Bi anomalism at known deposits



Bi anomalism (>0.2 ppm) occurs east of Nelsons Fleet coincident with As-depletion

No Bi anomalism east of Victory. Not a lithological control.

Bi (ppm)

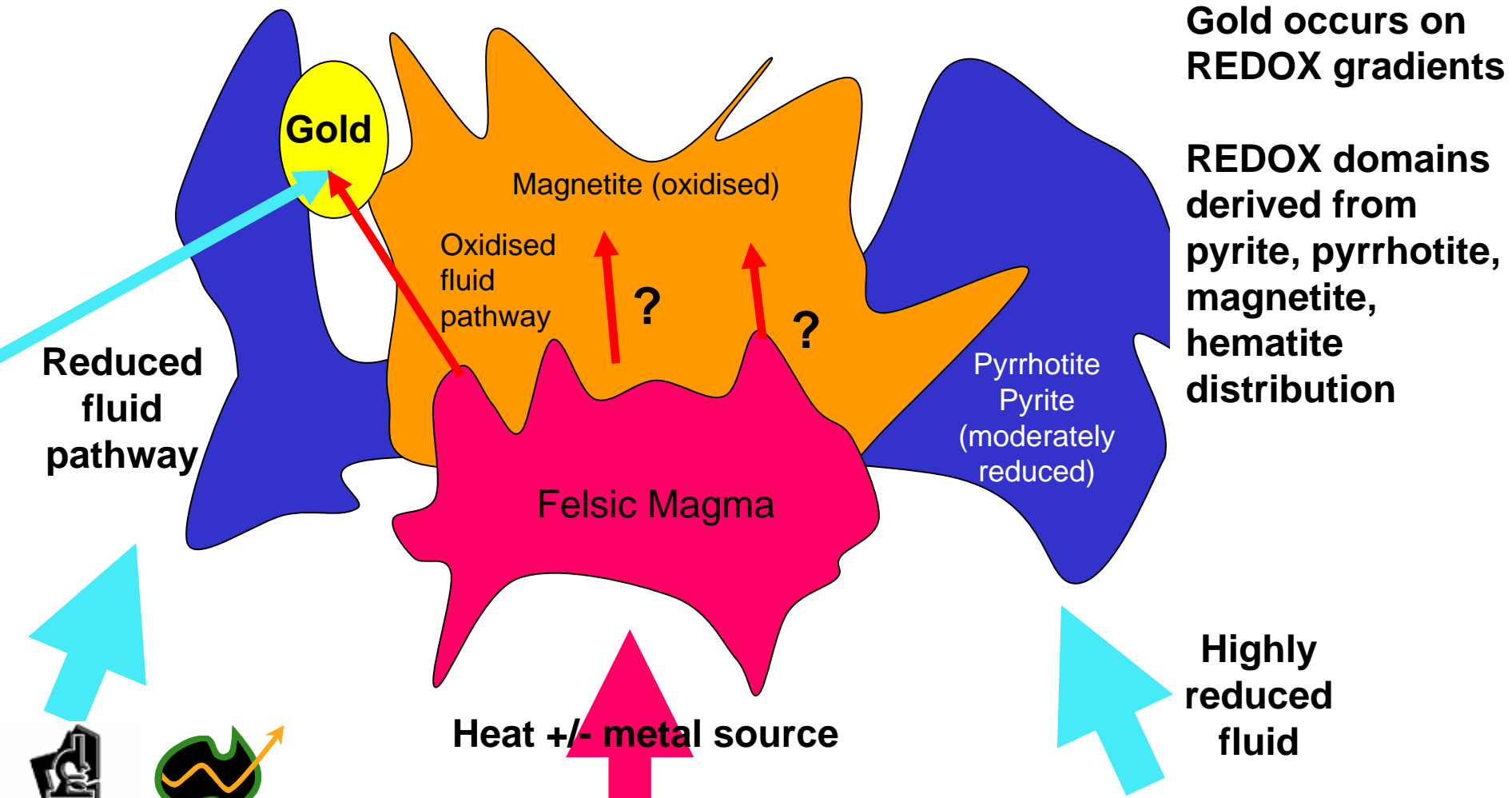
-  1 to 10
-  0.2 to 1
-  0.1 to 0.2
-  0.01 to 0.1
-  < detection 0.01 ppm



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Conceptual REDOX Model





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Exploration targeting

- Identification of REDOX gradients with multi element

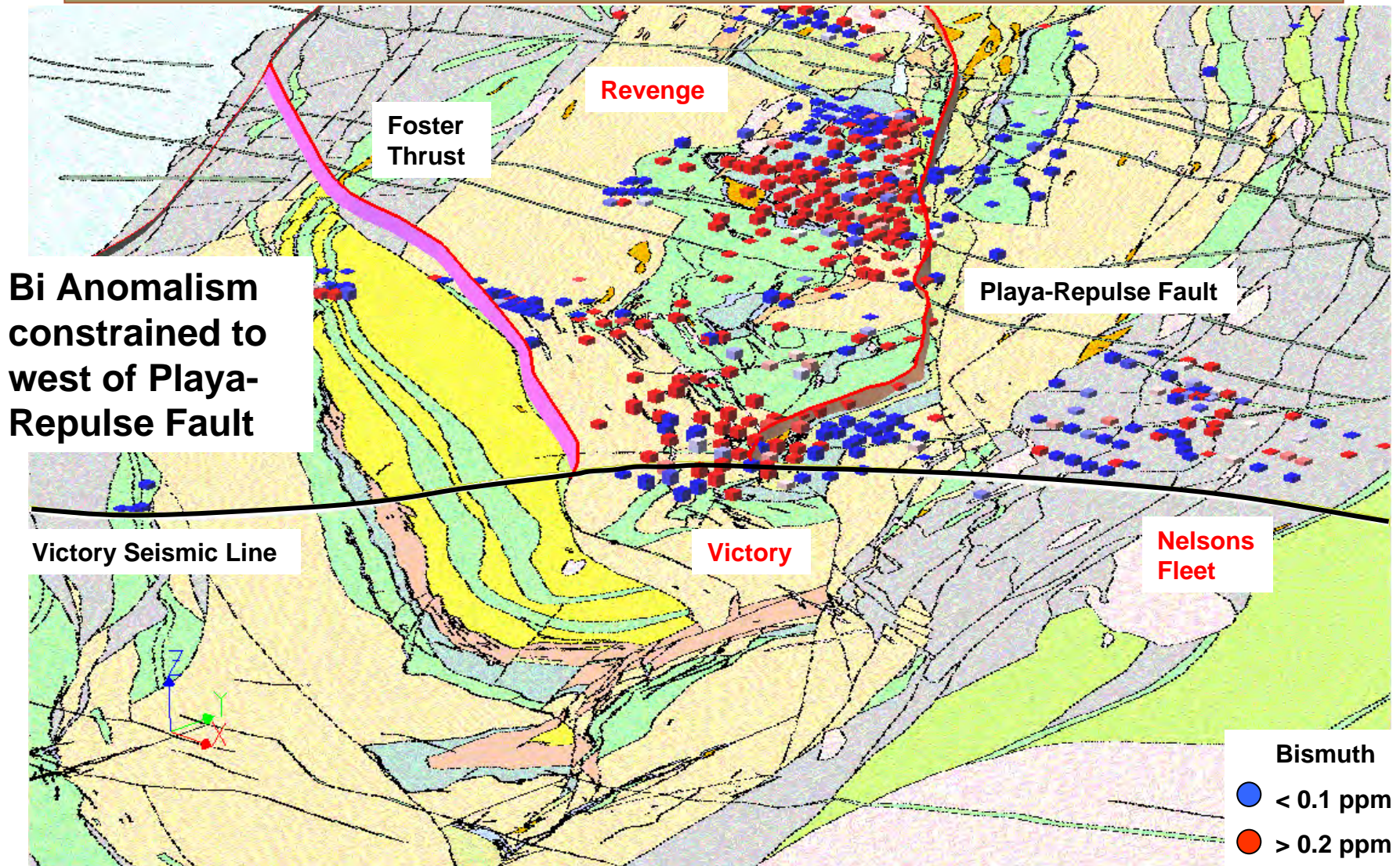
Oxidised Domains: gravity lows (felsic intrusions), Bi anomalism & As-depletion

Reduced Domains: As anomalism



Litho-geochemistry & Gold Exploration Conceptual REDOX Model

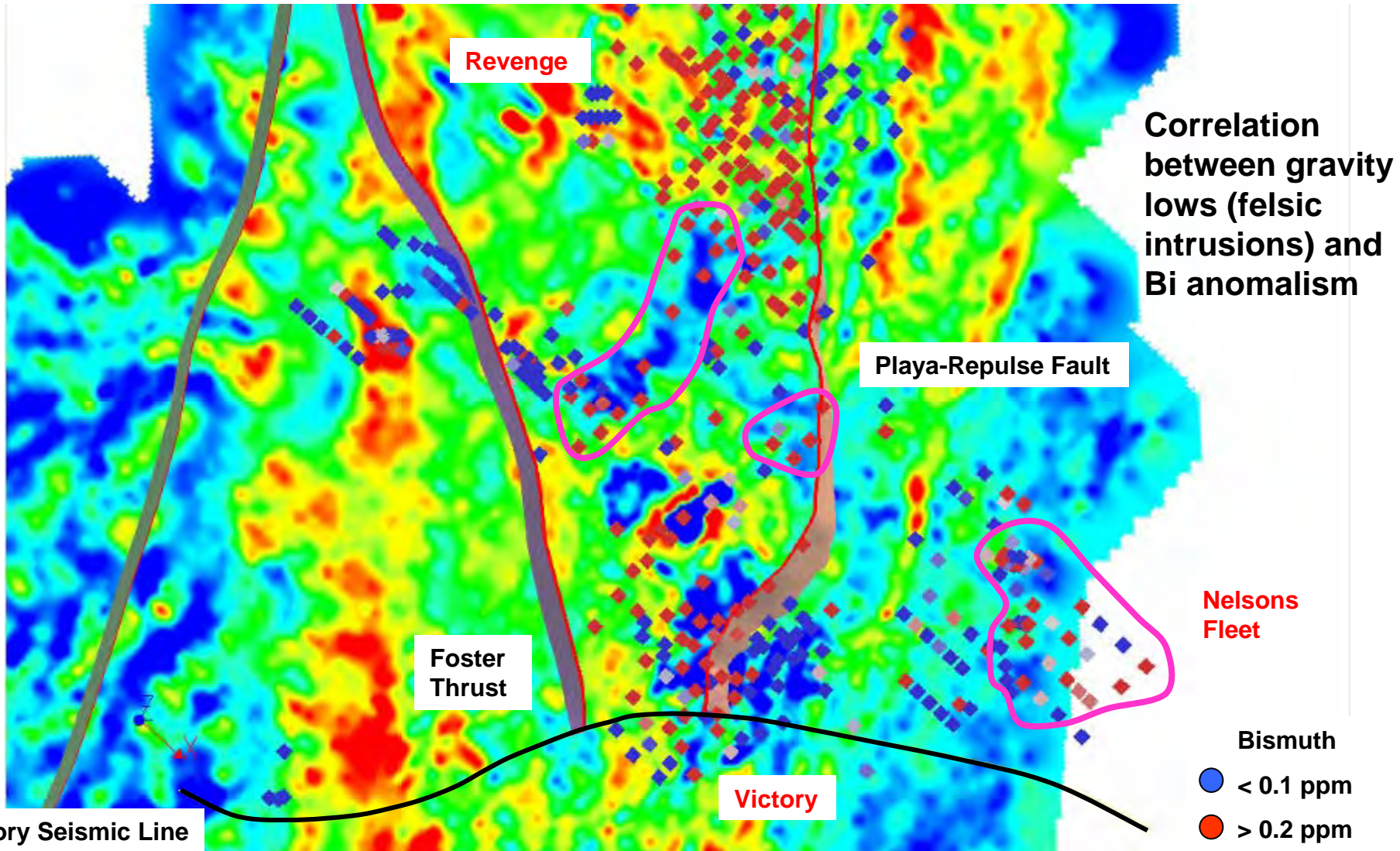
Oxidised domains (Bi) and architecture





Litho-geochemistry & Gold Exploration Conceptual REDOX Model

Oxidised domains, gravity and architecture

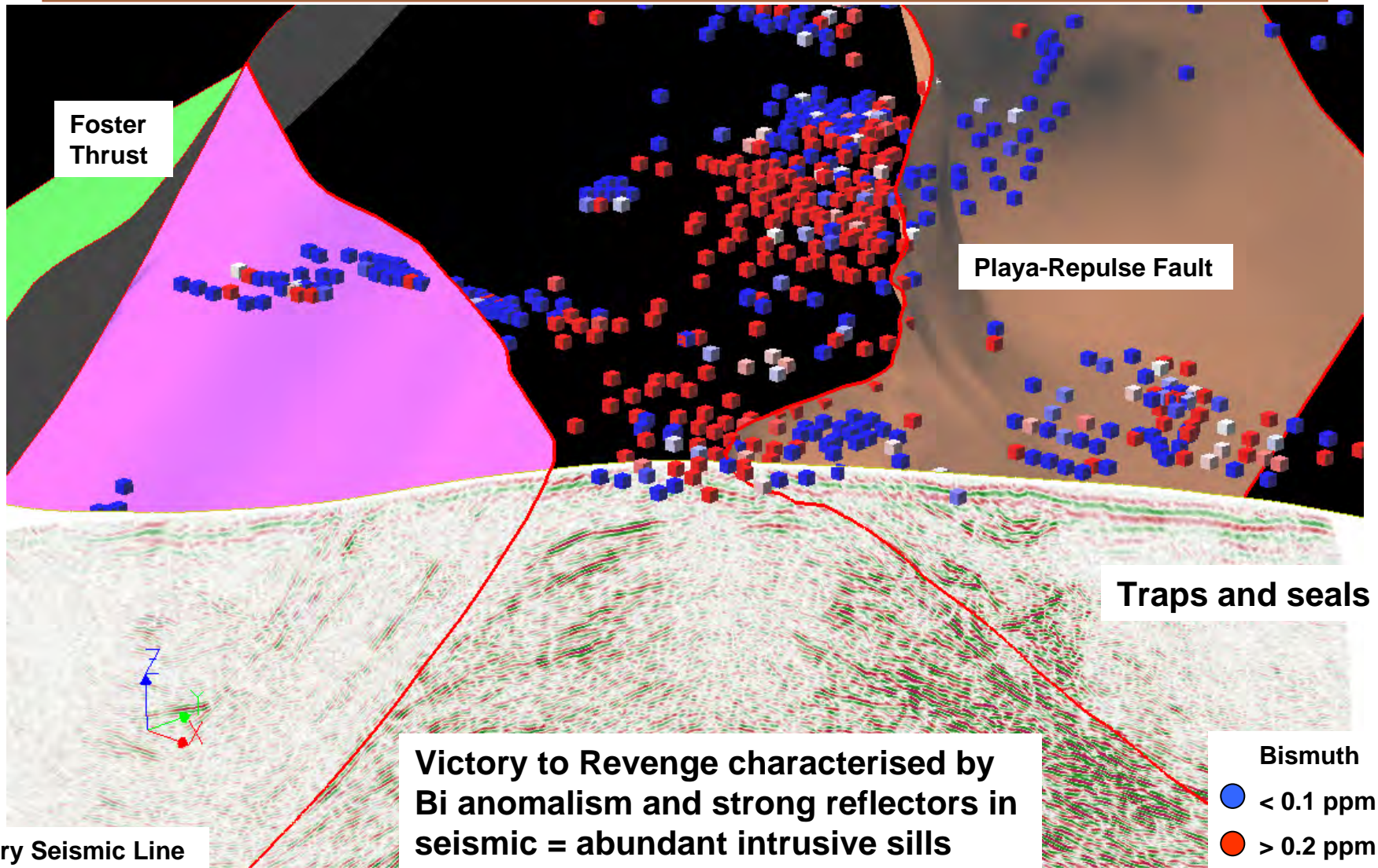




Lithogeochemistry & Gold Exploration Conceptual REDOX Model

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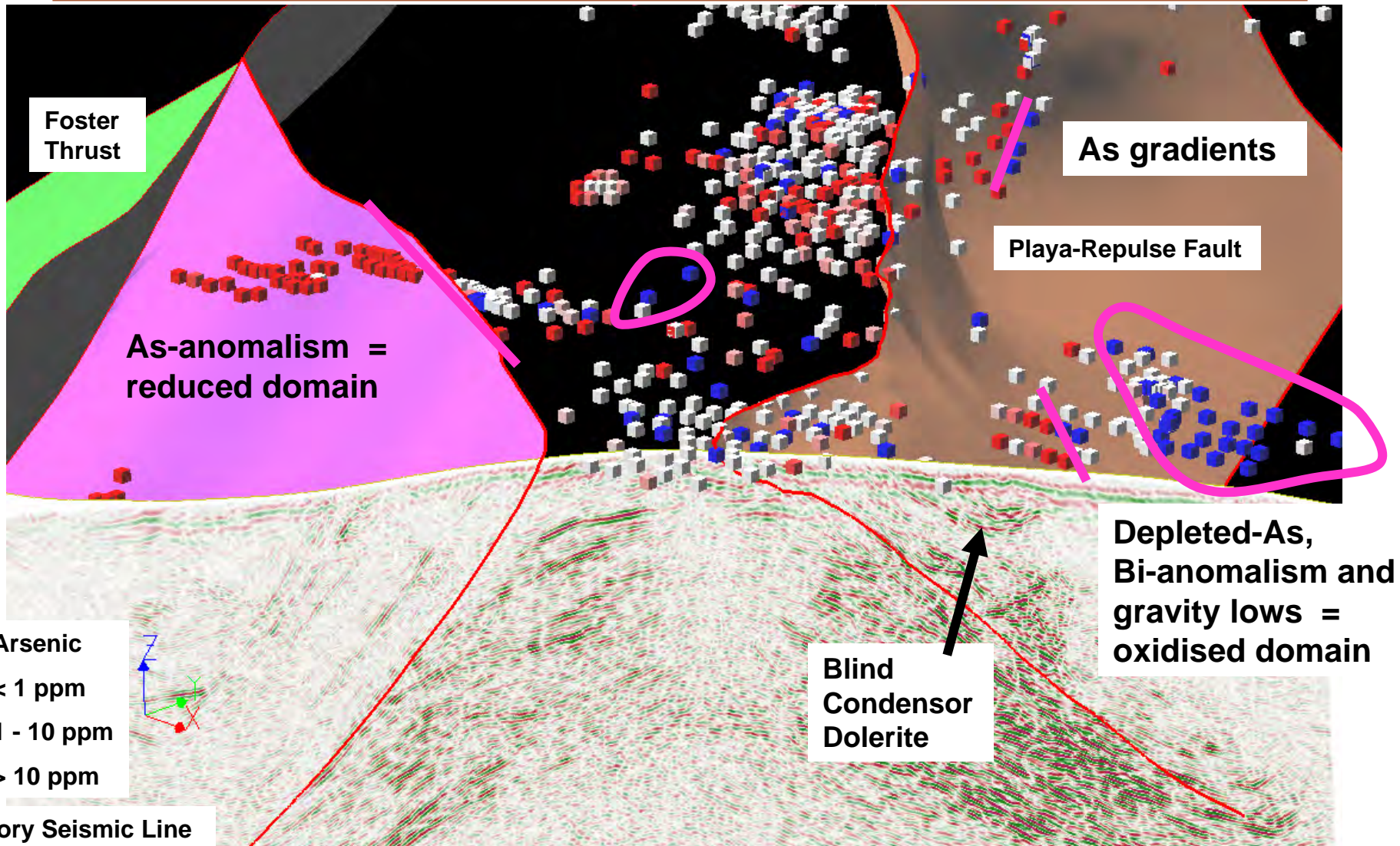
Oxidised domains (Bi) and architecture





Litho-geochemistry & Gold Exploration Conceptual REDOX Model

Reduced domains, As-gradients and architecture





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Conclusions

- Multi element is an effective low cost exploration tool (lithology, stratigraphy, alteration, pathfinders) - empirical exploration targets
- The next phase: conceptual exploration targeting and integration of geochemistry (e.g. alteration, chemical gradients) with geophysics and architecture in 3D GIS (GoCad)



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