



Seismic interpretation at Triton, Offshore Sweden

Interpretation of Sub-Bottom-Profiler single and multi-channel seismic data

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1 Introduction

Prior to the potential development of a new Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) in the southern Baltic Sea named Triton, at request of OX2 AB (OX2), Geo has carried out a seismic interpretation. The aim of this study is to gain insight into the subsurface stratigraphy at the Triton site based on previously acquired seismic data. OX2 retrieved the seismic data from SGU (Geological Survey of Sweden) and passed it on to Geo. The seismic data consist of two datasets. The first is a single-channel dataset with a Sparker as a seismic source. The second is a multi-channel (i.e. 6-channels) dataset with a Sleevegun as a seismic source. According to the trace headers, all seismic lines were acquired during 1994. Due to time constraints, the multi-channel dataset was interpreted as a single-channel dataset.

2 Geological overview

The Triton site is located in the southern Baltic Ocean approximately 28 km south of the Swedish town of Ystad (Annex A.1, page 1). The Triton site is divided into two segments, a smaller eastern segment (corner coordinates C, D, E, F) and a larger western segment (corner coordinates A, B, G, H, I, J, K, L).

2.1 Bathymetry

The water depth at Triton ranges from (43 - 48) m bsl deepening towards SE based on multibeam data. The seabed is quite flat and appears without any significant features (Geo project 204136, report 1, Appendix A.1, page 14).

2.2 Quaternary Deposits

The seabed soils consist mainly of mud to muddy sand (Geo project 204136, report 1, Enclosure 1.2). Due to the lack of proximate BH data, the Quaternary deposits are not well known in this area. The closest available BH according to GEUS (DGU 551430.3) is located approximately 19 km SE of the eastern segment of Triton. Here, the Quaternary deposits are 15 m thick and consists of sandy calcareous clay.

2.3 Pre-Quaternary deposits

The expected Pre-Quaternary deposits at the Triton site are Paleocene Limestone (Geo project 204136, report 1, Enclosure 1.3).

3 Survey line overview

3.1 Sparker lines

A survey line overview for the Sparker lines are shown in Appendix A.1, page 1. Nineteen (19) Sparker lines where used for interpretation, nine (9) trending north-south and ten (10) trending east-west. Please note that lines sp_01D_0013, sp_01D_0014 and sp_01D_0015 have been divided into two separate line segments by SGU. The second part of the line segment is followed by a " 2" in the filename.

3.2 Sleevegun lines

A survey line overview for the Sleevegun lines are shown in Appendix A.1, page 2. Seventeen (17) Sleevegun lines where used for interpretation, eight (8) trending north-south and nine (9) trending east-west. Please note that lines 01D_0013, 01D_0014 and 01D_0015 have been divided into two separate line segments by SGU. The second part of the line segment is followed by a "_2" in the filename.





4 Processing sequence

The received seismic lines were pre-processed and ready for interpretation. However, in order to enhance the reflectors of interest a standardized processing sequence was established. The processing sequence was as follows:

- 1. Normalizer
- 2. Median filter
- Trace equalizer
- 4. Trace mixer

5 Seismic horizons

The Seabed Horizon and four (4) separate sub-seabed Horizons were identified on all the Sparker and Sleevegun lines. The Seabed Horizon and Horizons 1-3 were interpreted mainly on the Sparker lines. Horizon 4 was predominantly interpreted on the Sleevegun lines where it was more pronounced. An example of an interpreted Sparker line (sp_D01_0013_2) is shown in appendix A.1, page 3, along with a marking of the seismic Horizons. An example of an interpreted Sleevegun line (D01_0013_2) is shown in appendix A.1, page 4, along with markings of seismic Horizon 4.

5.1 Seabed

The Seabed Horizon was interpreted on all Sparker lines in Two-Way Time. A conversion v_p of 1500 m/s was used in the water column, due to the lack of a vertical velocity profile, to derive the depth below sealevel in meters. A contour map is shown in Appendix B.1, page 1, showing the interpolated depth to Seabed below sea level, produced from Seabed interpretations on all Sparker lines. The seabed appears relatively featureless and flat, dipping slightly downwards towards SE (approximately 43 (NW) to 46 (SE) m bsl). The converted depth below Seabed in meters is generally in accordance with the values derived from the high-resolution multibeam bathymetric surveys previously performed in the area (Geo project 204136, report 1, Appendix A.1, page 14).

5.2 Horizon 1

Horizon 1 was interpreted on all Sparker lines. Horizon 1 is characterized by a pronounced change in reflectivity. High amplitude plan parallel reflections are observed above Horizon 1 and low amplitude complex diffuse to mounded discontinuous reflections are observed below Horizon 1 (Appendix A.1, page 3). Seismic Layer 1 is bounded by the Seabed at the top and Horizon 1 at the base. Horizon 1 was interpreted on all Sparker lines in Two-Way time. A fixed conversion v_p of 1600 m/s was for Seismic Layer 1, due to the lack of a vertical velocity profile, to derive the total depth below sea-level in meters. A contour map showing the interpolated depth below sea level in meters to Horizon 1 is shown in Appendix B.1, page 2 that ranges from 43 to 54 m bsl.

5.3 Horizon 2

Horizon 2 was interpreted on all Sparker lines. Horizon 2 is characterized by an isolated zone of high amplitude more continuous semi to sub parallel reflectors (Appendix A.1, page 3). Seismic Layer 2 is bounded by Horizon 1 at the top and Horizon 2 at the base. Horizon 2 was interpreted on all Sparker lines in Two-Way time. A fixed conversion v_p of 1600 m/s was used in Seismic Layer 2, due to the lack of a vertical velocity





profile, to derive the total depth below sea-level in meters. A contour map showing the interpolated depth below sea level in meters to Horizon 2 is shown in Appendix B.1, page 3 that ranges from 46 to 66 m bsl.

5.4 Horizon 3

Horizon 3 was interpreted on all Sparker lines. Horizon 3 is characterized by an isolated zone of high amplitude more continuous semi to sub parallel reflectors, similar to Horizon 2 (Appendix A.1, page 3). Seismic Layer 3 is bounded by Horizon 2 at the top and Horizon 3 at the base. Horizon 3 was interpreted on all Sparker lines in Two-Way time. A fixed conversion v_p of 1600 m/s was used in Seismic Layer 3, due to the lack of a vertical velocity profile, to derive the total depth below sea-level in meters. A contour map showing the interpolated depth below sea level in meters to Horizon 3 is shown in Appendix B.1, page 4 that ranges from 45 to 73 m bsl.

5.5 Horizon 4

Horizon 4 was interpreted on most Sparker lines and all Sleevegun lines. Horizon 4 is characterized by an isolated zone of high amplitude more continuous semi to sub parallel reflectors followed by high amplitude continuous plan-parallel reflectors (Appendix A.1, page 4). Seismic Layer 4 is bounded by Horizon 3 at the top and Horizon 4 at the base. Horizon 4 was interpreted on all Sleevegun lines in Two-Way time. A fixed conversion v_p of 1600 m/s was used in Seismic Layer 4, due to the lack of a vertical velocity profile, to derive the total depth below sea-level in meters. A contour map showing the interpolated depth below sea level in meters to Horizon 4 is shown in Appendix B.1, page 5 that ranges from 46 to 82 m bsl.

6 Geological interpretation

Due to the lack of proximate borehole data, the geological interpretation of the seismic data is based solely on a priori information and on the Desk Study Report 1 from Geo project 204136.

6.1 Quaternary deposits

Seismic Layer 1 (between Seabed and Horizon 1) is interpreted to be consisting of Mud to Muddy Sand based on the known seabed soils in the area (Geo project 204136, report 1). Seismic Layers 2, 3 and 4 is interpreted to be sequences consisting of Quaternary deposits with varying compositions. Horizons 2 and 3 are interpreted to be internal reflectors within the Quaternary deposits.

6.2 Pre-Quaternary deposits

Horizon 4 is interpreted to be the base of the Quaternary sequence. This horizon truncates the plan-parallel reflectors dipping downwards towards east that is expected to be consisting of Paleocene Limestone. The interpreted Limestone is observed until the first seafloor multiple at approximately 122 ms or 98 m bsl. The thickness of the complete Quaternary unit (i.e. seismic layers 1, 2, 3 and 4) is shown as an interpolated contour map in Appendix C.1, page 1. The thickness of the Quaternary deposits show great variability ranging from 2 to 40 m across the Triton site. The Quaternary deposits are thickest towards the northern and eastern parts of the Triton area and thinnest towards the west. In the central part of the Triton area, the Quaternary deposits are around 16 m thick. Also shown in Appendix C.1, page 2, are a geological profile showing the interpreted Horizons and the related geological interpretation along lines D01_0014 and D01_0014_2.





7 Conclusion

A total of nineteen (19) Sparker lines and seventeen (17) Sleevegun lines where used to identify the Seabed Horizon and four (4) sub-seabed seismic Horizons at the Triton site. A site overview is given in Appendix A.1, pages 1-2. Examples complete with Horizon interpretations are given in Appendix A.1, pages 3-4. The depth below sea level in meters to all the four seismic Horizons are shown on interpolated contour maps in Appendix B.1, pages 1-5.

The top 1 to 3 meters below seabed is expected to be Mud to Muddy sand based on a priori seabed soil information from the area. Below the Muddy Sand, a sequence of Quaternary deposits varying greatly in thickness is present. The combined thickness of the Quaternary deposits and the Muddy Sand is shown in Appendix C.1, page 1. The average thickness of the Quaternary deposits is around 16 m. However, in the northern and eastern parts of the Triton site it can be as thick as 40 m. The presence of Paleozoic Limestone is interpreted to be below the Quaternary deposits. The top of the Paleozoic Limestone is correlating with Horizon 4. The depth below sea level in meters to the top of the Paleozoic Limestone (i.e. Horizon 4) is shown in Appendix B.1, page 5.

The Sparker lines where mainly used to identify the Seabed Horizon and Horizons 1-3. The Sleevegun lines (with a lower relative frequency content than the Sparker lines), where used to identify Horizon 4 due to its greater vertical penetration. The typical sub-seabed penetration for Sparker lines is 30 – 35 m below seabed. For Sleevegun lines the deepest reflections were observable until the first seafloor multiple at approximately 50 m below seabed. With more advanced processing and the use of multi-channel data, reflectors residing even deeper will be resolvable on the Sleevegun lines. However, this is outside the scope of this report.





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- P. 2/5 Depth to Horizon 1 Interpolated
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Appendix C.1

- P. 1/2 Thickness of Quaternary deposits Interpolated
- P. 2/2 Geological Profile D01_0014 and D01_0014_2

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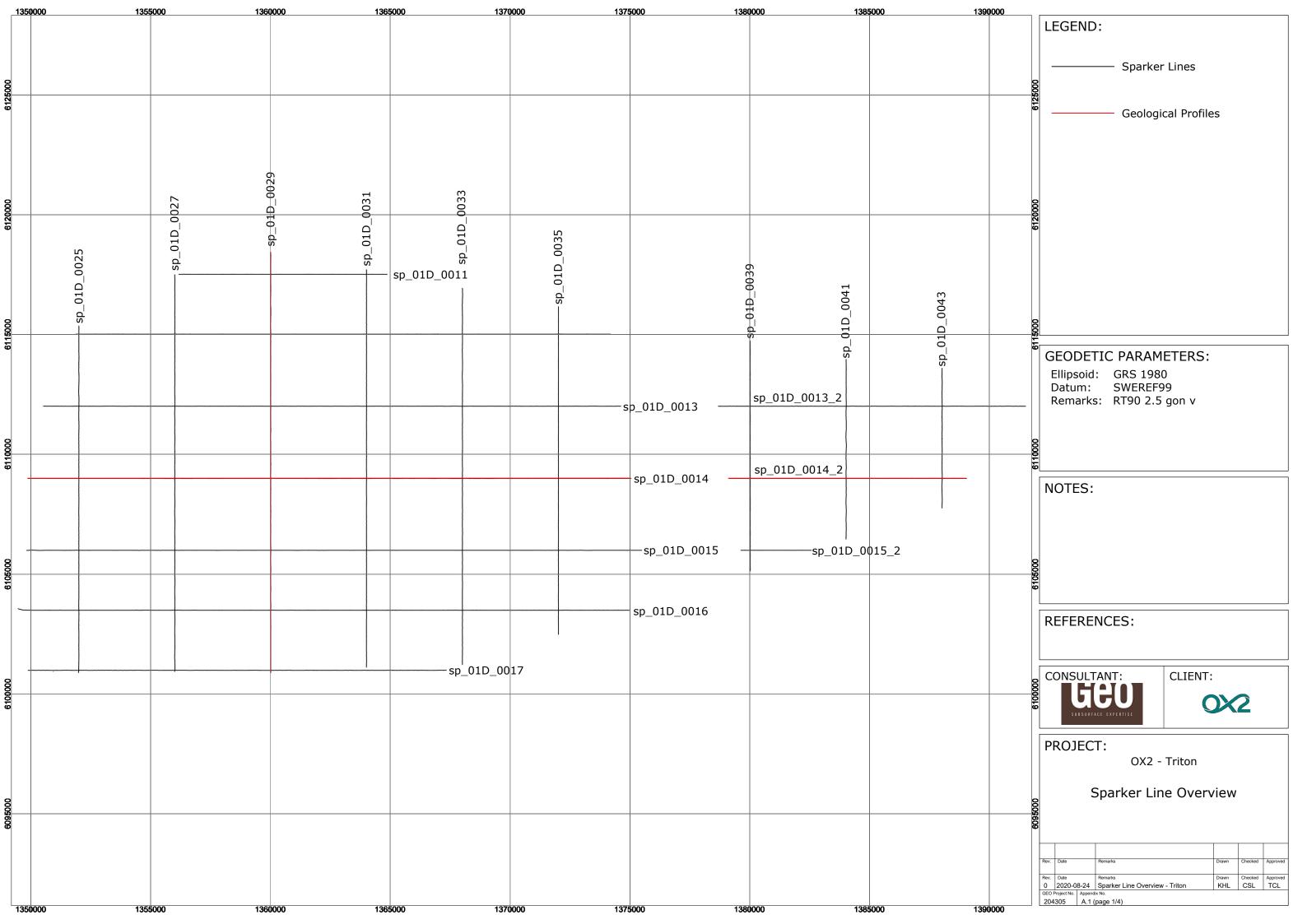
A.1 Triton site overview with corner coordinates as provided by OX2

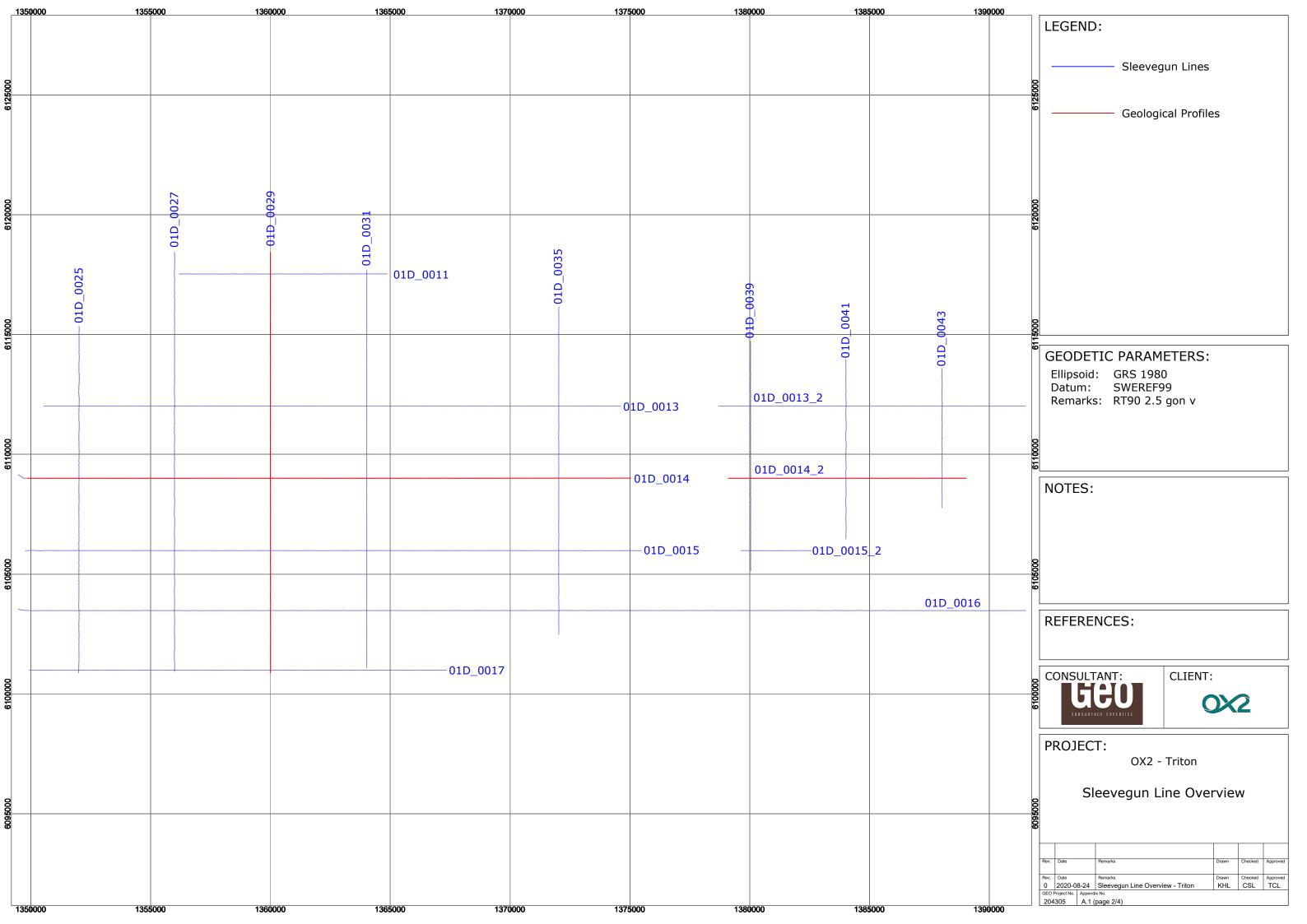


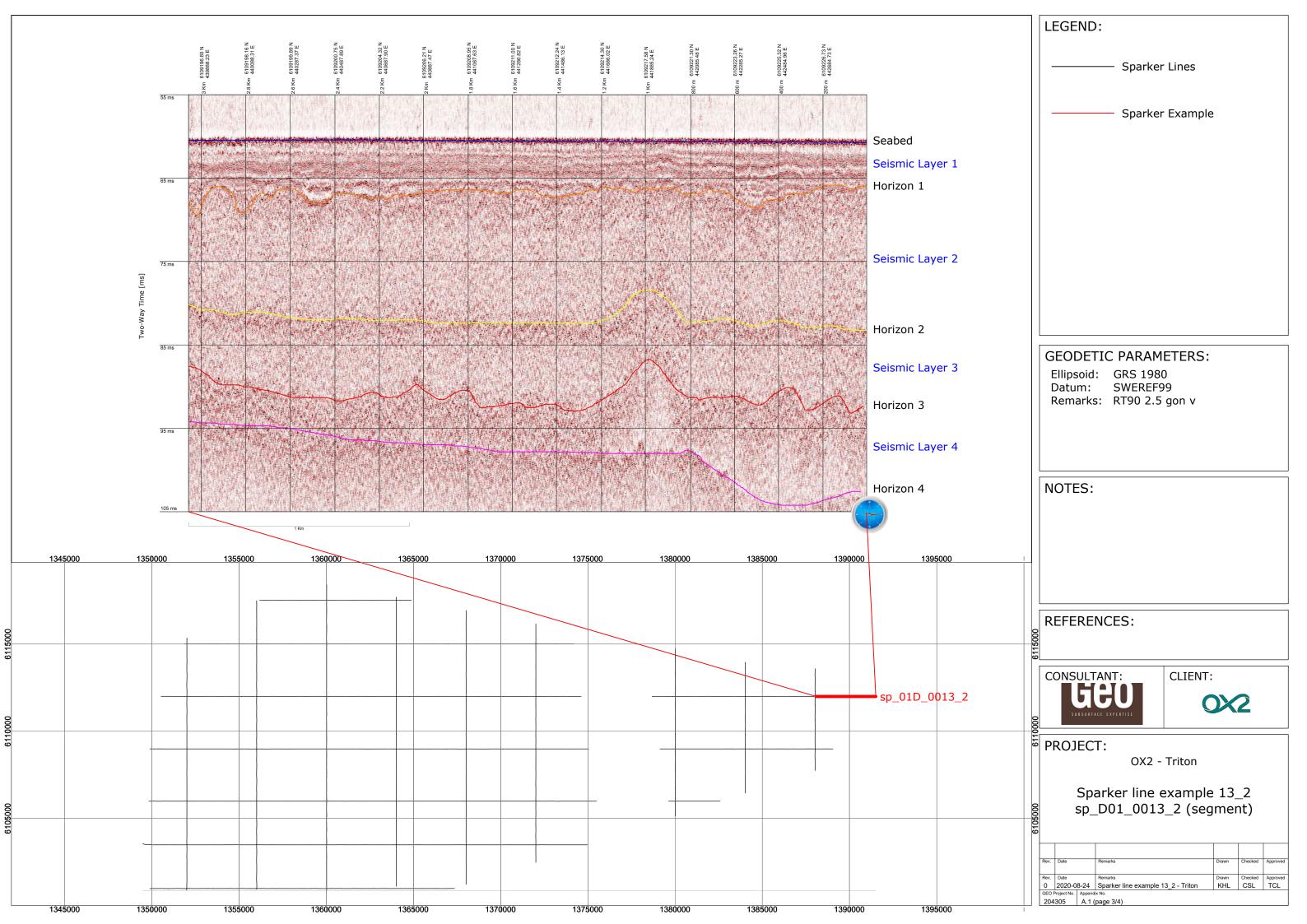
Appendix A.1

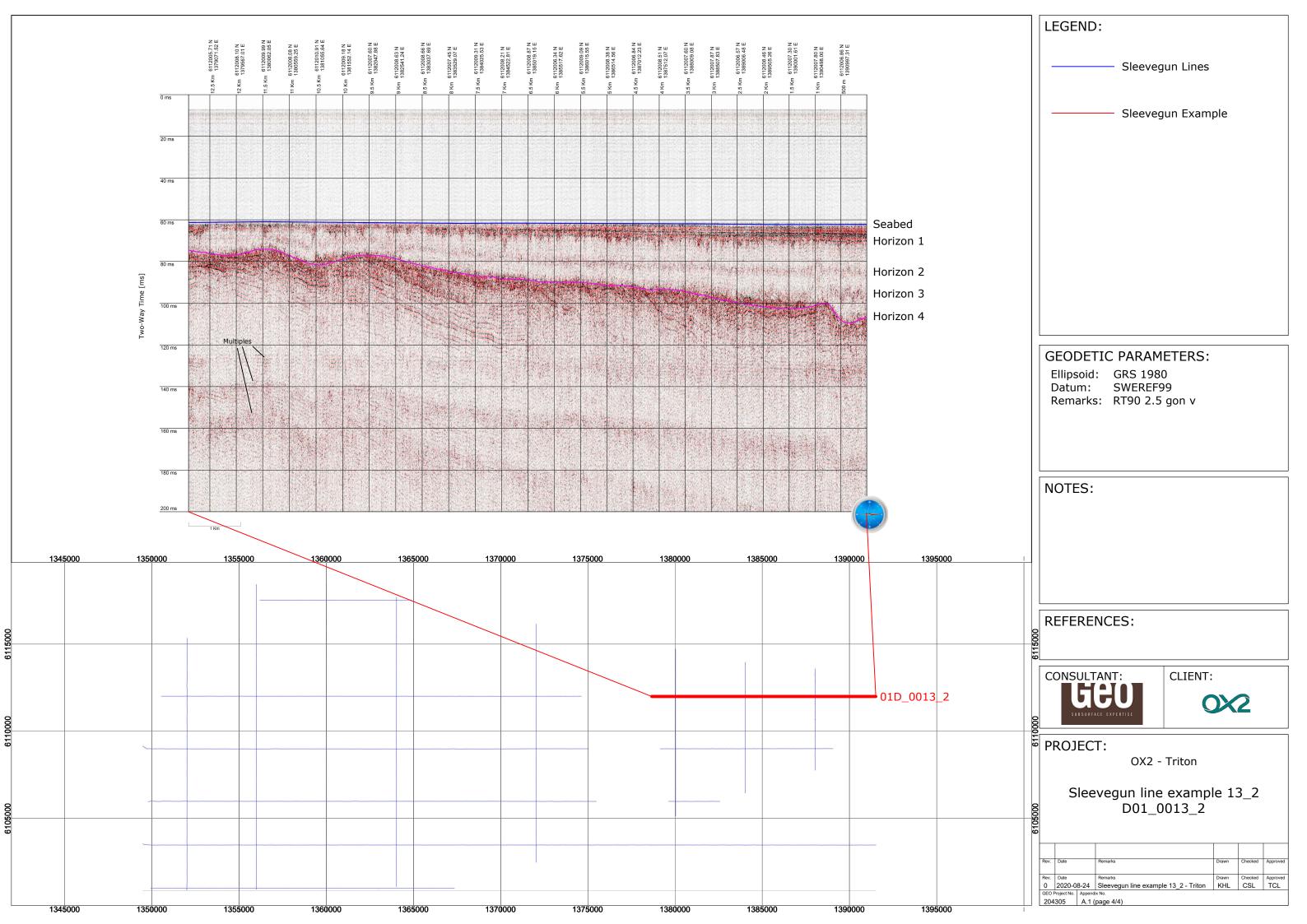
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- P. 3/4 Sparker line example 13_2 (sp_D01_0013_2)
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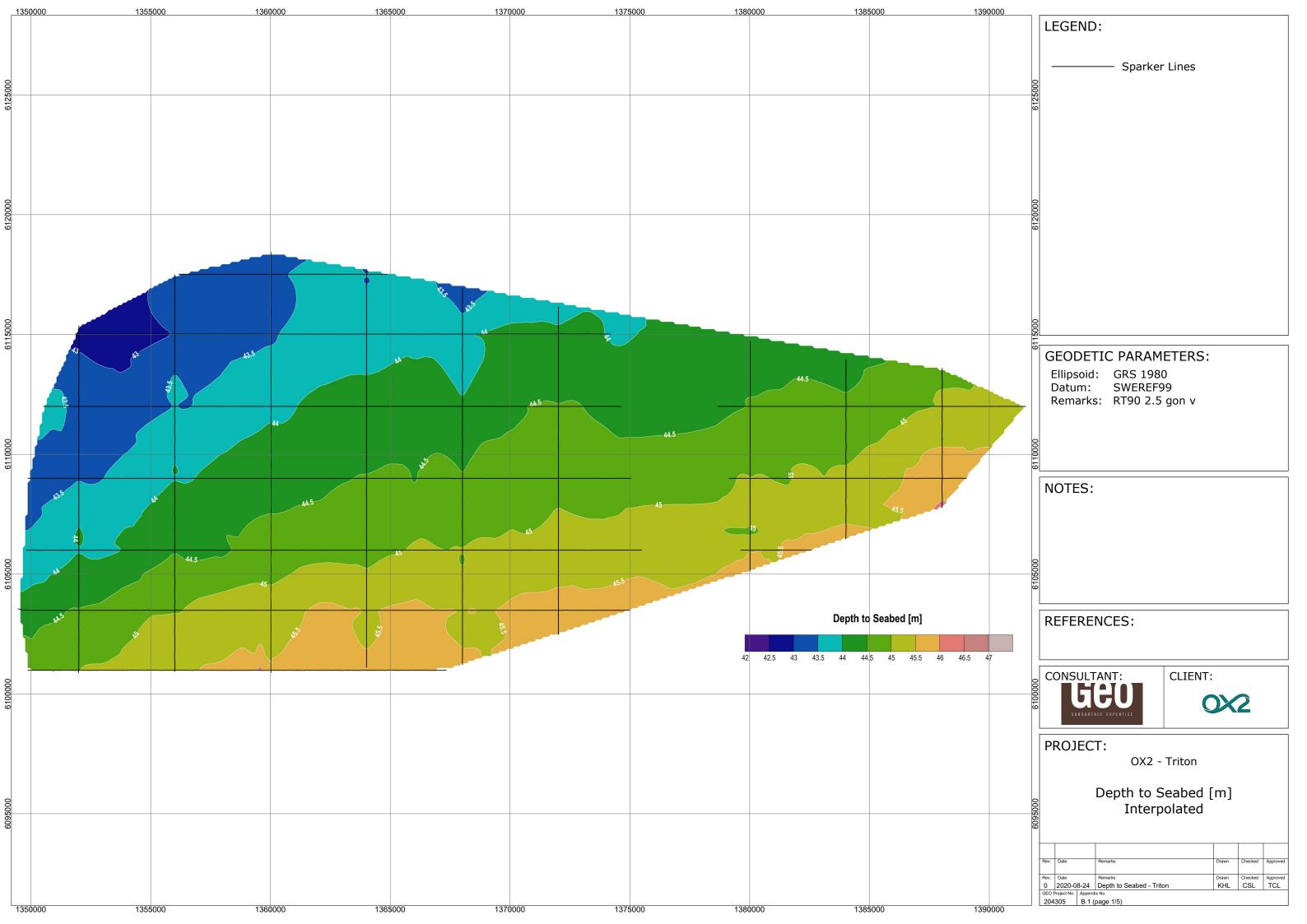


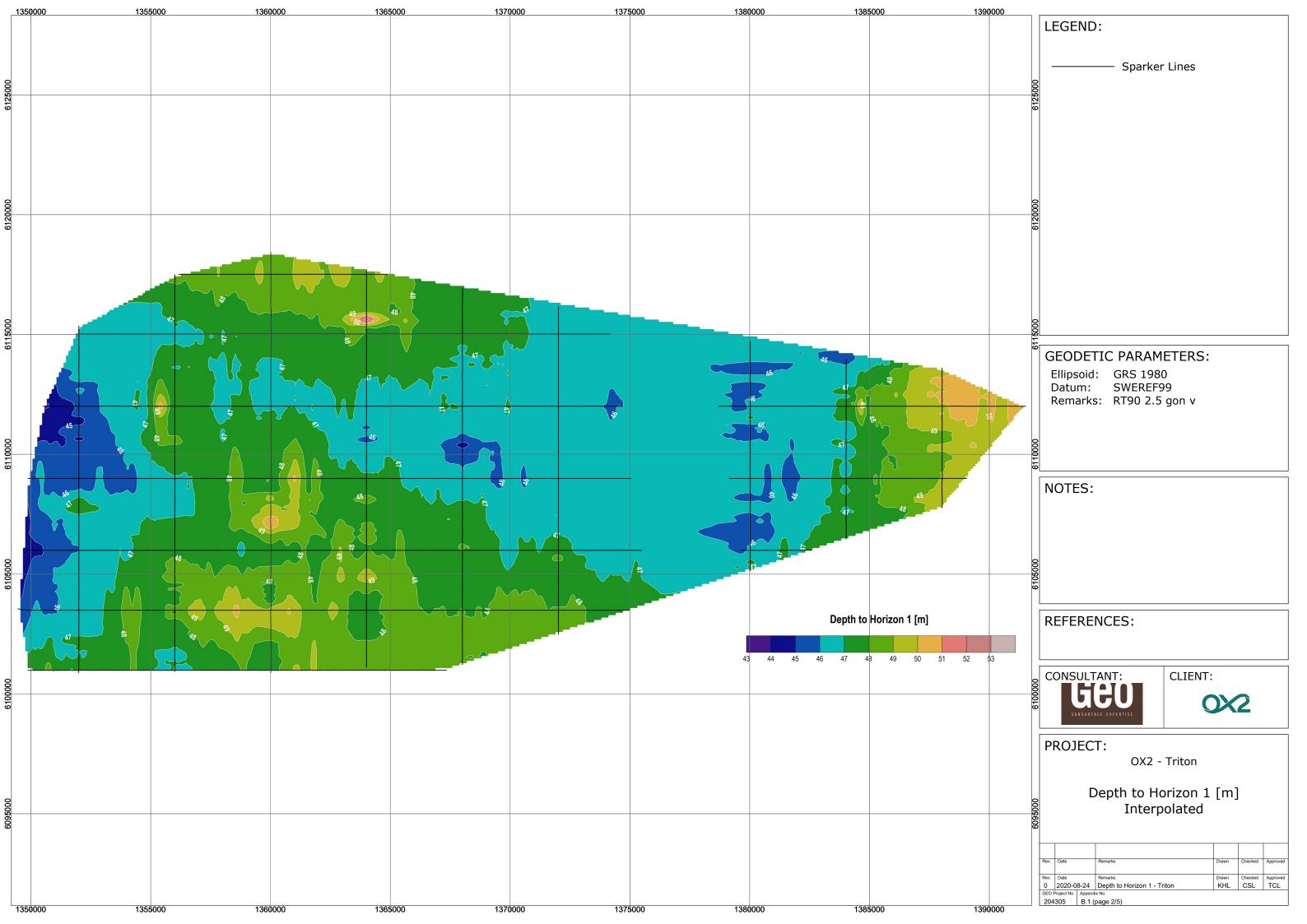


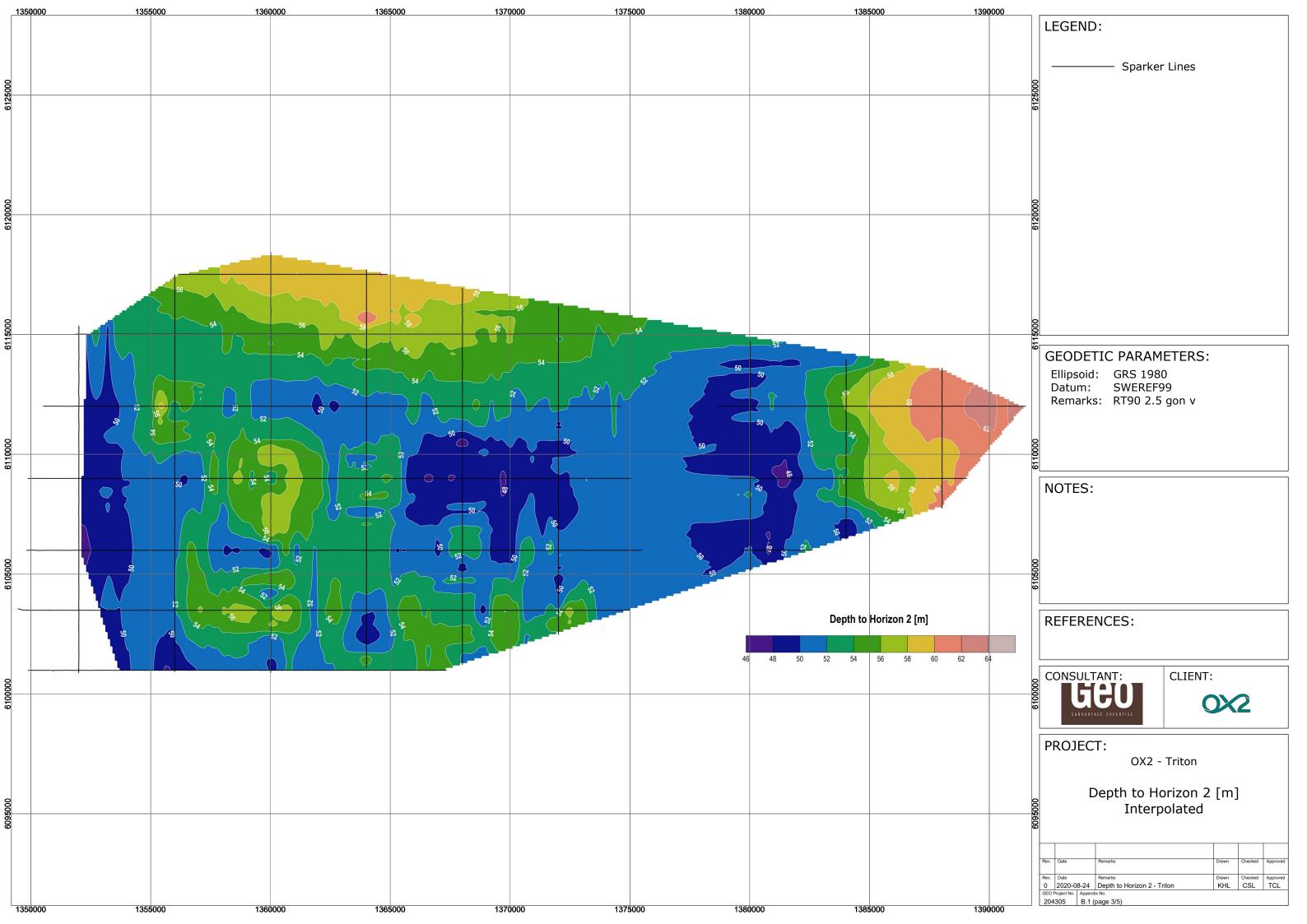
Appendix B.1

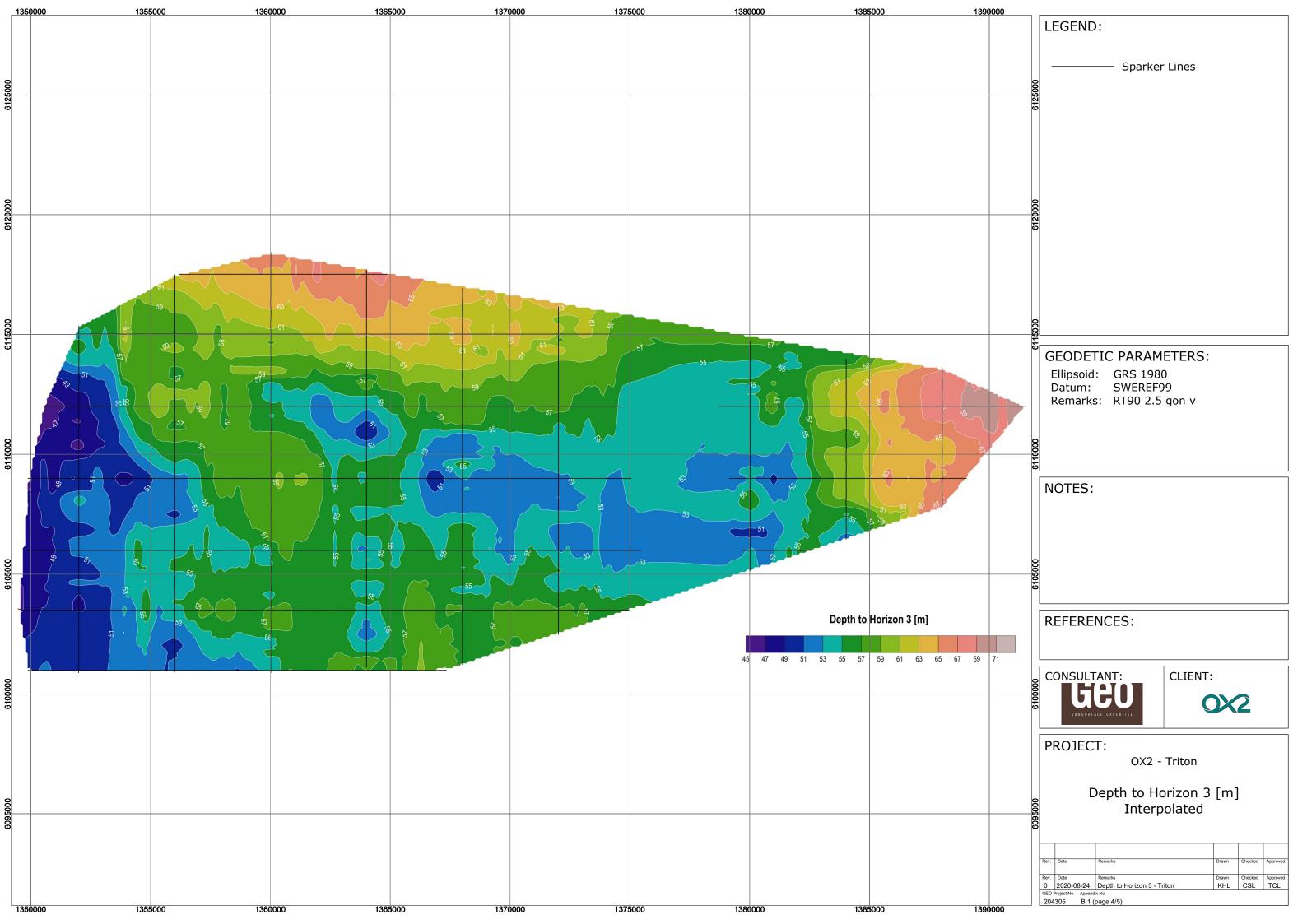
- P. 1/5 Depth to Seabed Interpolated
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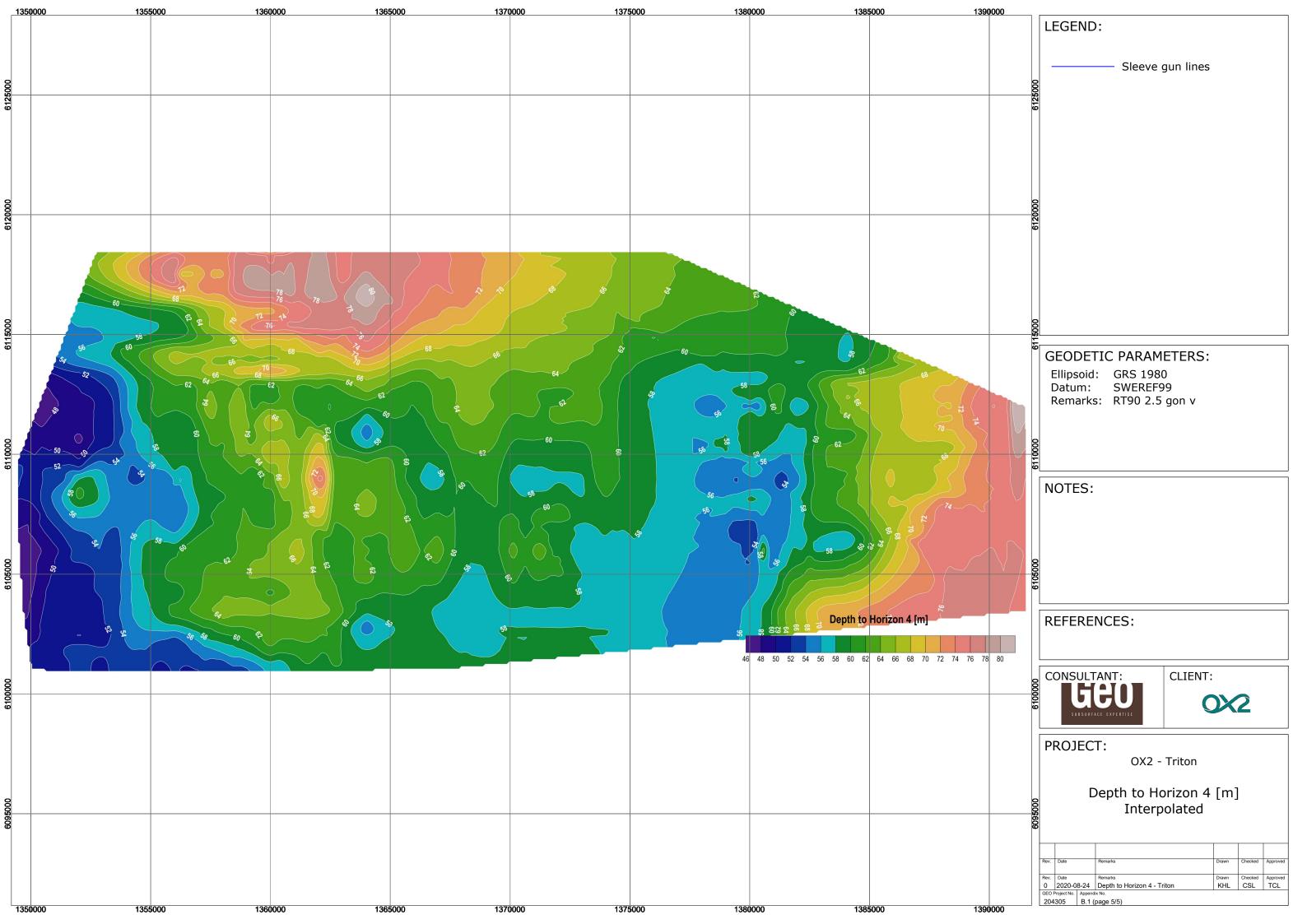
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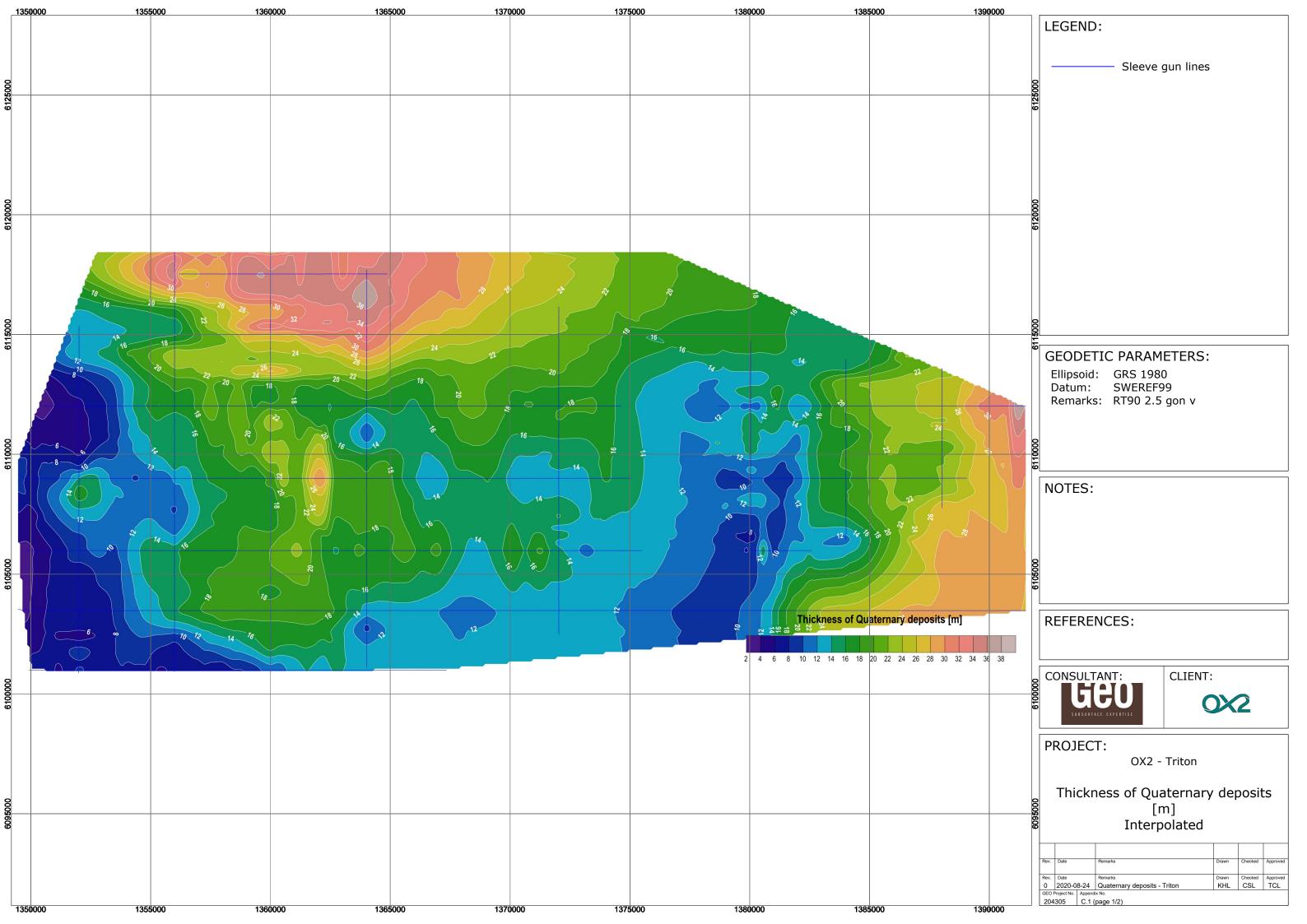


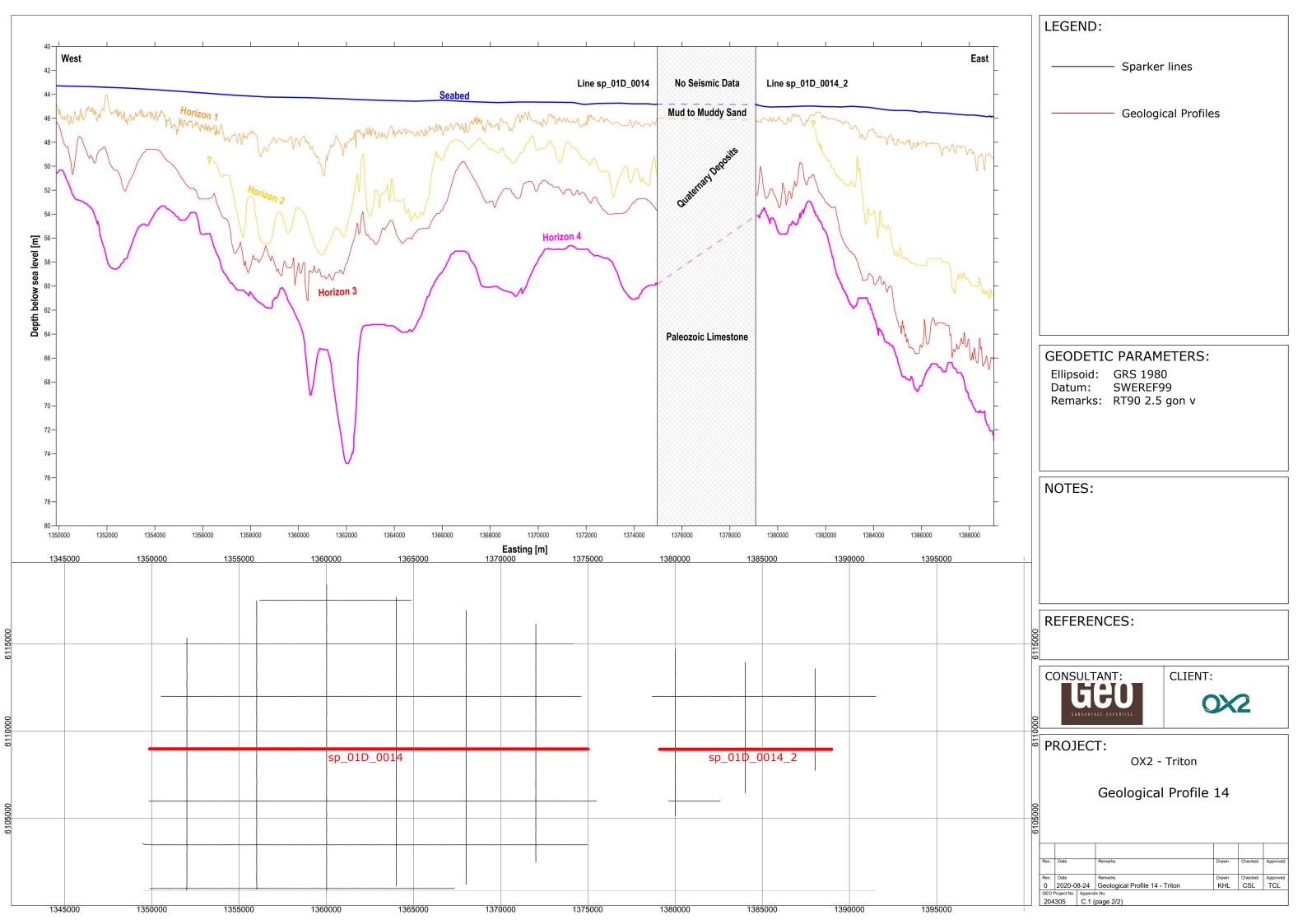
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P. 1/2 Thickness of Quaternary deposits - Interpolated

P. 2/2 Geological Profile D01_0014 and D01_0014_2

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Annex A.1

P. 1/1 Triton site overview with corner coordinates as provided by OX2

1 Page

