

# Spatial Data Modelling:

## The Search For Gold In Otago



Presented By Matthew Hill  
Kenex Knowledge Systems (NZ)

A graphic element consisting of several thin, curved lines in shades of grey and red, flowing from left to right and tapering off towards the right side of the slide.

**Kenex**

# Acknowledgements

Michelle Stokes & Greg Partington - Kenex Pty Ltd (Australia)

Paul Matthews, Charlene Wildman, & Lisa McCarthy  
– Kenex Knowledge Systems (NZ)

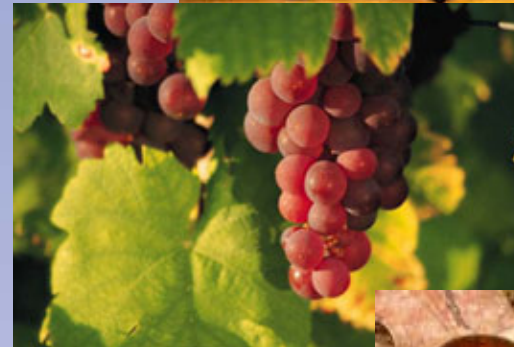
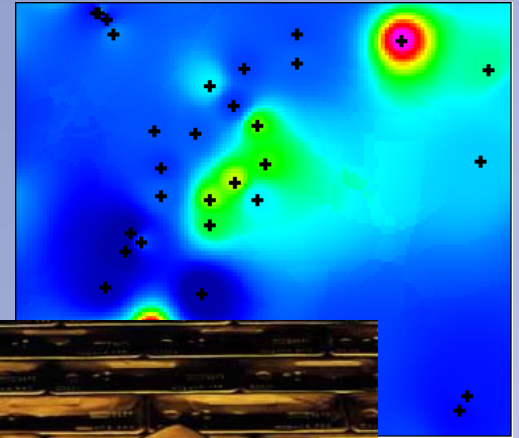
New Zealand Minerals Ltd

HPD Exploration Plc



# Outline

- What is spatial data modelling?
  - Why model?
  - Types of modelling
  - Probability modelling using WoE
- Prospectivity modelling for gold in Otago
  - The exploration model
  - The layers and testing
  - Running the model
  - The prospectivity map
  - The future.....
- Other examples:
  - Hawkes Bay Wine
  - West Coast *Powelliphanta* Land Snail



# Why undertake spatial modelling?

- Modelling can be a **non-bias view of data** which in some cases is an important process in moving forward and away from a companies preconceptions.
- Save time and money by putting resources into the most likely places the first time and **undertake value / risk assessment** of assets or facilities.
- You can create **predictive maps** from digital data and maximise the **knowledge** that can be obtained from spatial data sets.

- Take advantage of the wealth of digital data available in the industry today, modern computer power and storage.
- Deals with **data overload** and quality issues
- Companies can combine their spatial data and knowledge in a way that allows them to manage more effectively.

Kenex company mantra:

**"We don't make maps"**



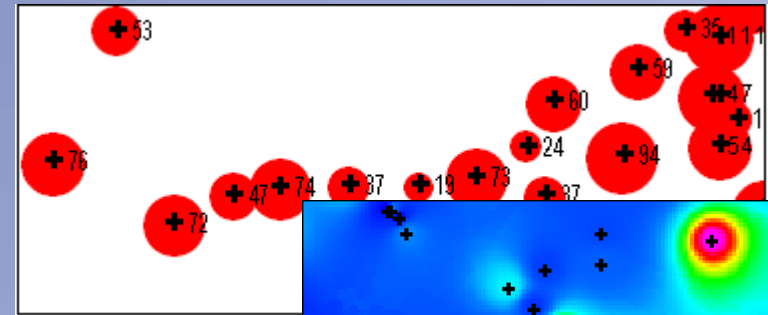
## Spatial data modelling allows large scale analysis of data for scoping studies



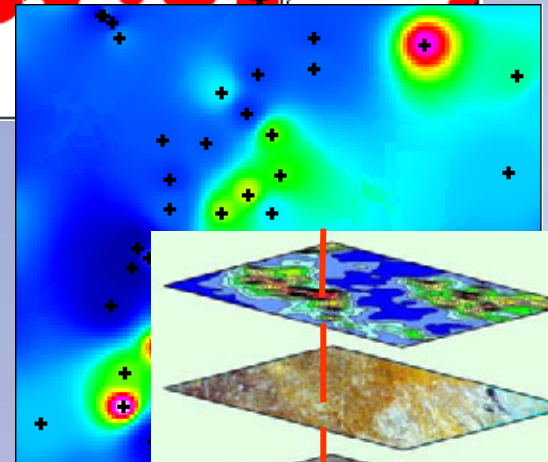
Mineral Discoveries Are Typically Made By The 5th-7th Person / Company Covering The Ground

# Types of modelling

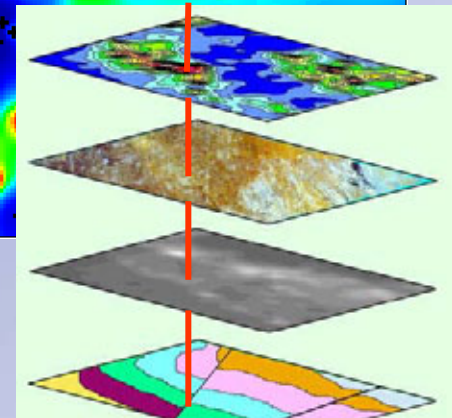
Illustrated maps that highlight important features or values.



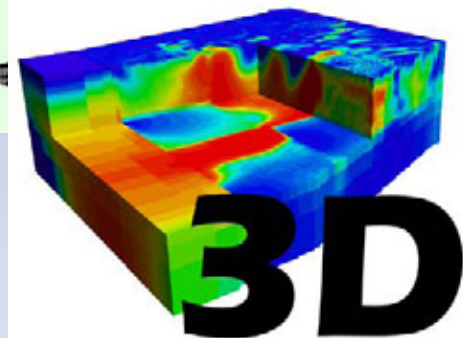
Basic single layer modelling using interpolation to estimate values between known point data.



Multi-variable models: Fuzzy logic, neural networking, and weights of evidence modelling.



3D modelling of underground structures or or 4D flow modelling of fluids & minerals.



# Weights of Evidence Modelling (WoE)

- Developed from the medical industry for use in mineral exploration by Graham Bonham-Carter at the Geological Survey of Canada.
- Prediction of a “disease” given a list of “symptoms”
- Can be applied spatially to many different types of industries, exploration, and data analyses.
  - E.g. Gold exploration, agriculture evaluation, environmental assessment, geotechnical risk etc.
- WoE is a probability based method that is a Bayesian statistical approach to predicting an occurrence.

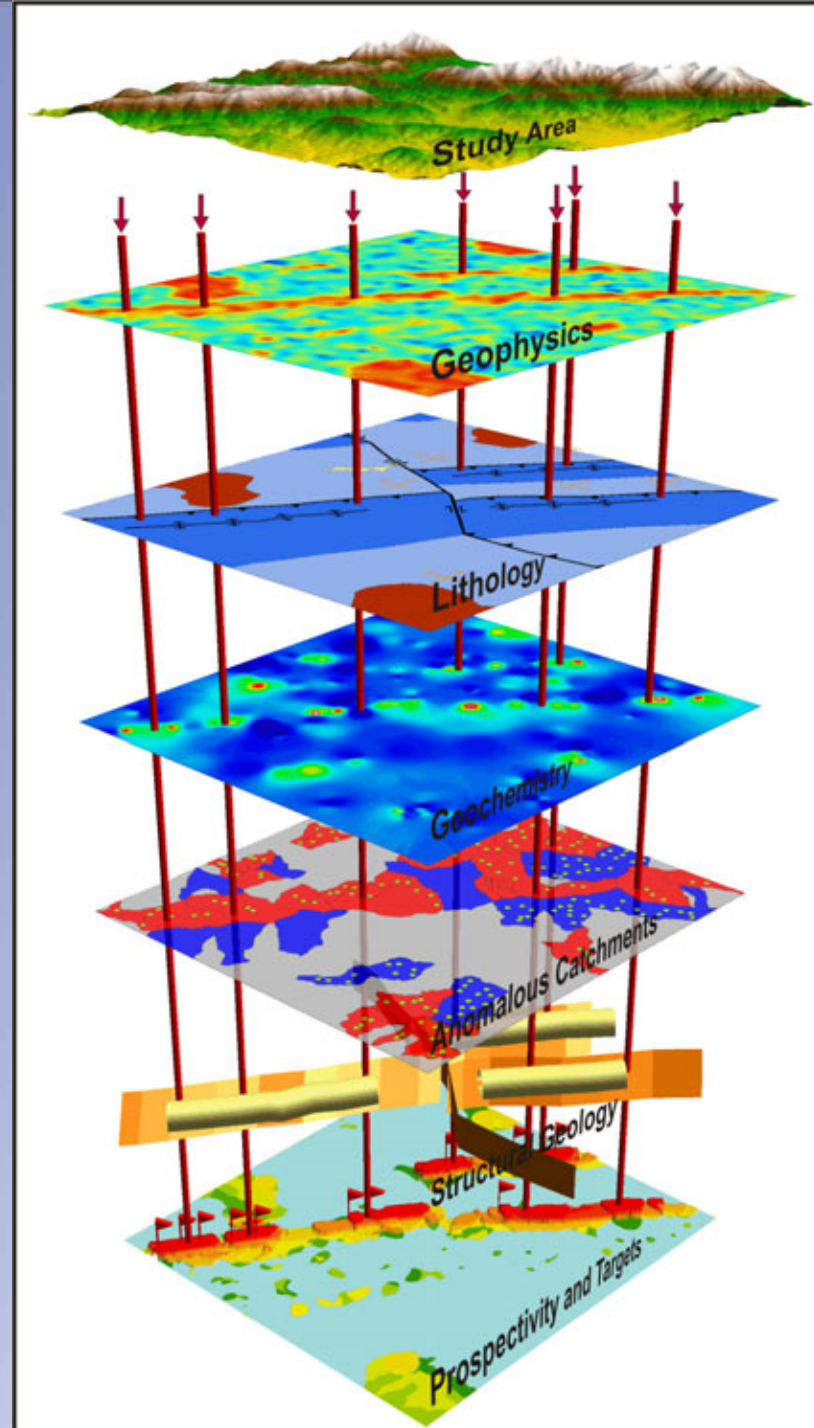


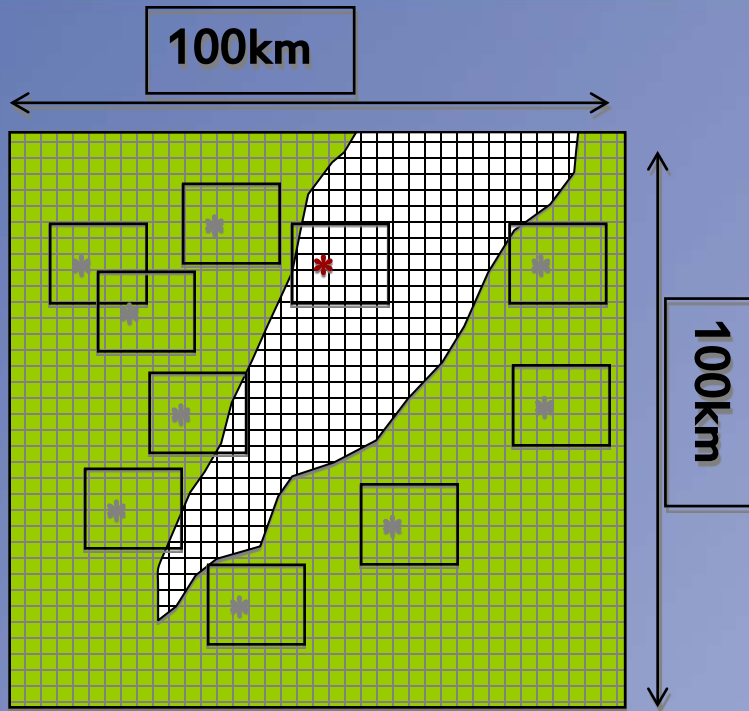


GOAL: To predict locations where there is a high probability of an occurrence (e.g. a gold deposit or good place to grow grapes)

### BASIC METHOD:

- Determine training points of locations where occurrences have been found in the past (e.g. known gold mines or good vineyards).
- Weight evidential themes in the model based on their spatial relationship to the training points.
- Combine evidential themes together to produce a "response theme" or predictive map.





- a = total study area (e.g. 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- A = Unit Cell = 1 km<sup>2</sup> cell
- N(D) = number of deposits
- P(D) = prior probability
- N(T) = total area of study region
- N(B) = area of binary theme
- N( $\bar{B}$ ) = area of binary theme not present
- N(T) = N(B) + N( $\bar{B}$ ) (as long as no missing data)

When unit cell inf. small

$$W_+ = \ln \frac{N(B \cap D) / N(D)}{N(B) / N(T)}$$

$$W_- = \ln \frac{N(\bar{B} \cap D) / N(D)}{N(\bar{B}) / N(T)}$$

$$C = (W_+) - (W_-)$$

$$W_+ = \ln \frac{P(B | D)}{P(B | \bar{D})} \quad W_- = \ln \frac{P(\bar{B} | D)}{P(\bar{B} | \bar{D})}$$

$$W_{s+} = \frac{1}{N(B \cap D)} + \frac{1}{N(B)} \quad W_{s-} = \frac{1}{N(\bar{B} \cap D)} + \frac{1}{N(\bar{B})}$$

$$C_s = \sqrt{(W_{s+}) + (W_{s-})} \quad StudC = C / C_s$$

# But basically.....

Correlations /  
Layer Weights

$$W^+ = \text{natural log} \frac{\text{Proportion of training points on theme}}{\text{Proportion of total area occupied by theme}}$$
$$W^- = \text{natural log} \frac{\text{Proportion of training points not on theme}}{\text{Proportion of total area not occupied by theme}}$$

$W^+ > 0$  indicates positive association with theme

$W^- < 0$  indicates negative association with non-theme

$$C = W^+ - W^-$$

Contrast

$C > 3.0$  Strong correlation

$C 1.0 - 3.0$  Moderate correlation

$C < 1.0$  Weak to poor correlation

# Example: Probability of a landslide

- Training points: 10 known landslide sites in study area
- Evidential themes:
  - Rock / soil type
  - Slope
  - Vegetation
  - Rain fall
  - Rabbit burrow density
  - Proximity to houses with value > \$1M

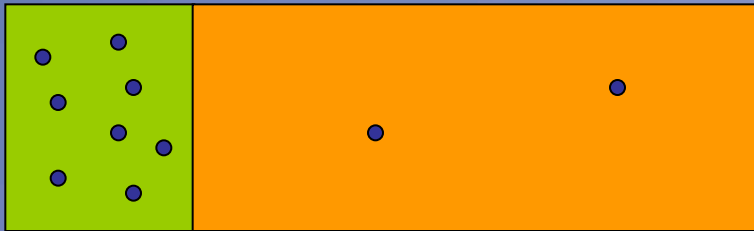


# Probabilities

Results from students sent out to investigate the slip sites

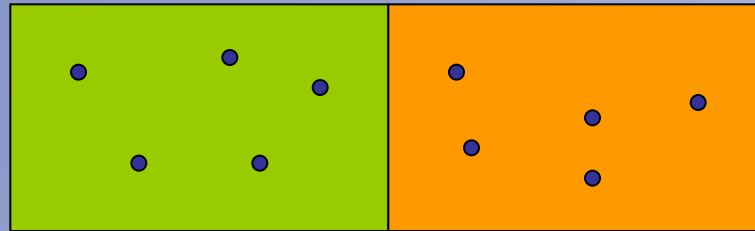
1. Vegetation ➤ 9/10 were grass land
2. Rock / soil type ➤ 8/10 were mudstone
3. Rabbit burrows ➤ 8/10 areas of high burrow density
4. Slope ➤ 7/10 were high slope
5. Rain fall ➤ 5/10 area of high rain fall
6. Houses > \$1M ➤ 3/10 near high priced houses

Rock Type



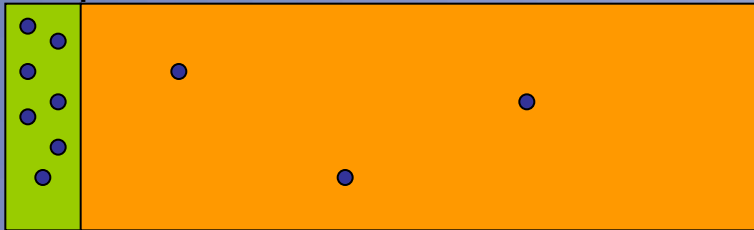
$W+ = 1.4 \mid W- = -1.3 \mid C = 2.7$

Rainfall



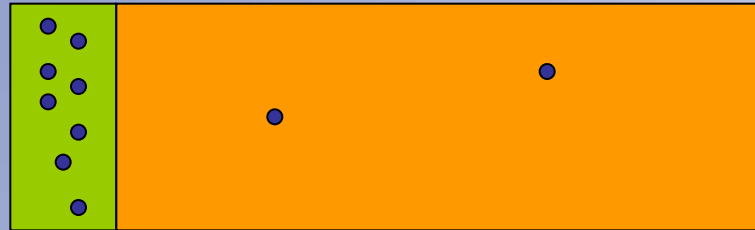
$W+ = 0 \mid W- = 0 \mid C = 0$

Slope



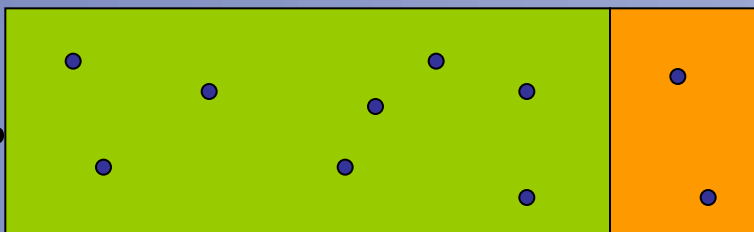
$W+ = 3.0 \mid W- = -1.2 \mid C = 4.2$

Rabbit burrows



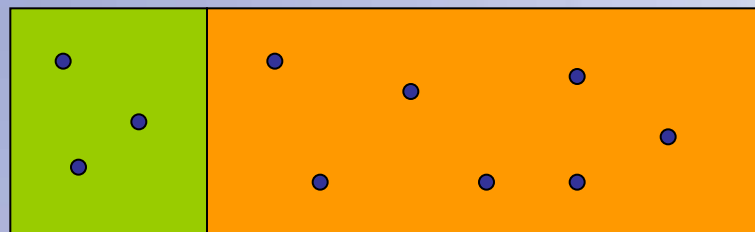
$W+ = 2.3 \mid W- = -1.5 \mid C = 3.8$

Vegetation



$W+ = 0.15 \mid W- = -0.44 \mid C = 0.59$

Houses > \$1M



$W+ = 0.2 \mid W- = -0.07 \mid C = 0.13$

# The Modelling Software

MI-SDM from:

*aVantra*  
geosystems



Arc-SDM from:



Free trial software from **Avantra**:  
[www.avantra.com.au](http://www.avantra.com.au)

# Gold in Otago

- We're searching for another million ounce gold mine similar to Macraes Mine in Otago.
- The Otago Goldfield has so much potential and has undergone such little modern exploration.
- No new hard-rock discoveries have been made in the last 30 years!
- Potential remains to discover more big gold mines and significant alluvial deposits.
- Millions of dollars worth of exploration funding and mine development would be spent in the Otago region and throughout New Zealand.



Newmont's Favona Mine - Waihi

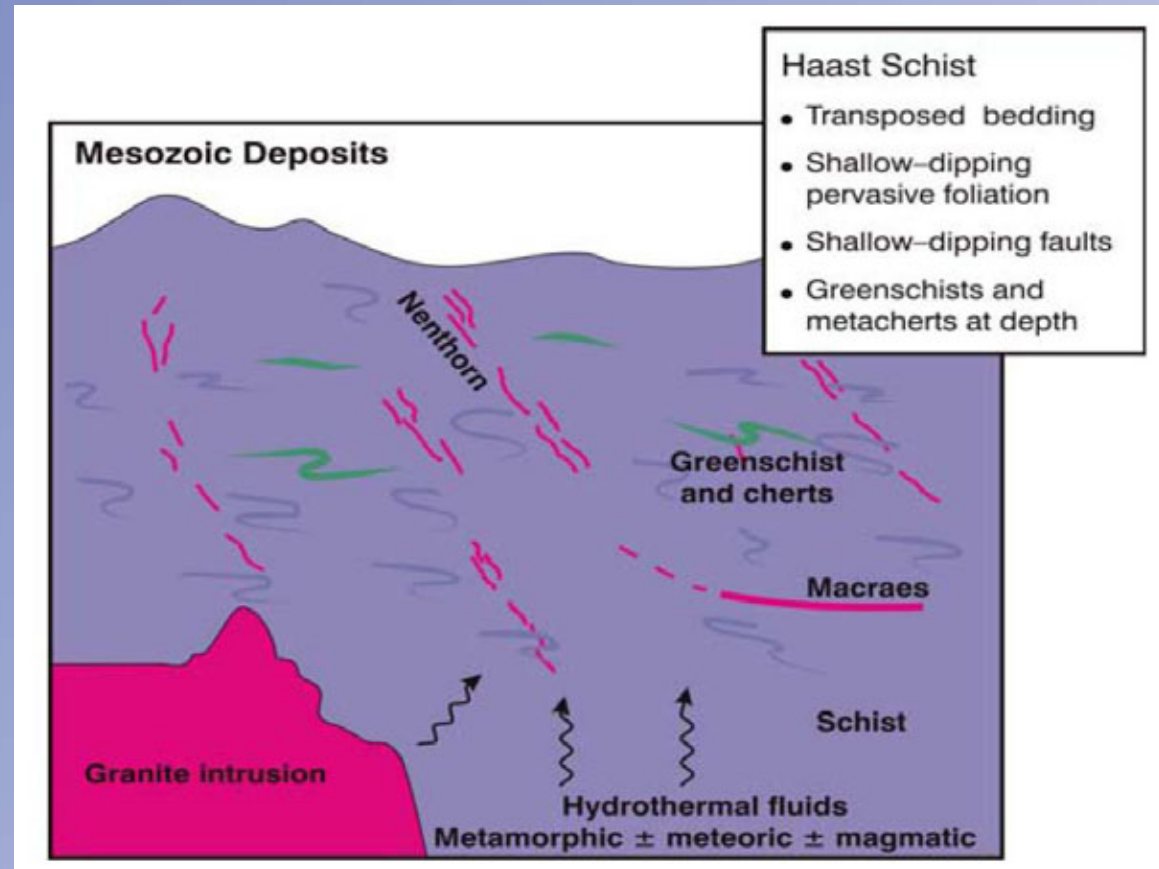




# Exploration model

## Mesothermal Gold Mineralisation

- Rock lithology
- Quartz veins
- Stream sediment geochemistry (As, Au, Pb, Ag and Cu)
- Rock chip geochemistry (Au, As, Pb, Zn, Ag, Sb and Cu)
- Soil geochemistry (Au, As, Ag, Sb and Cu)
- Faulting
  - Density
  - Jogs
  - Intersections
  - Orientation
  - Shear zones
- Folding
- Foliation style
- Textural grade
- Quartz reefs



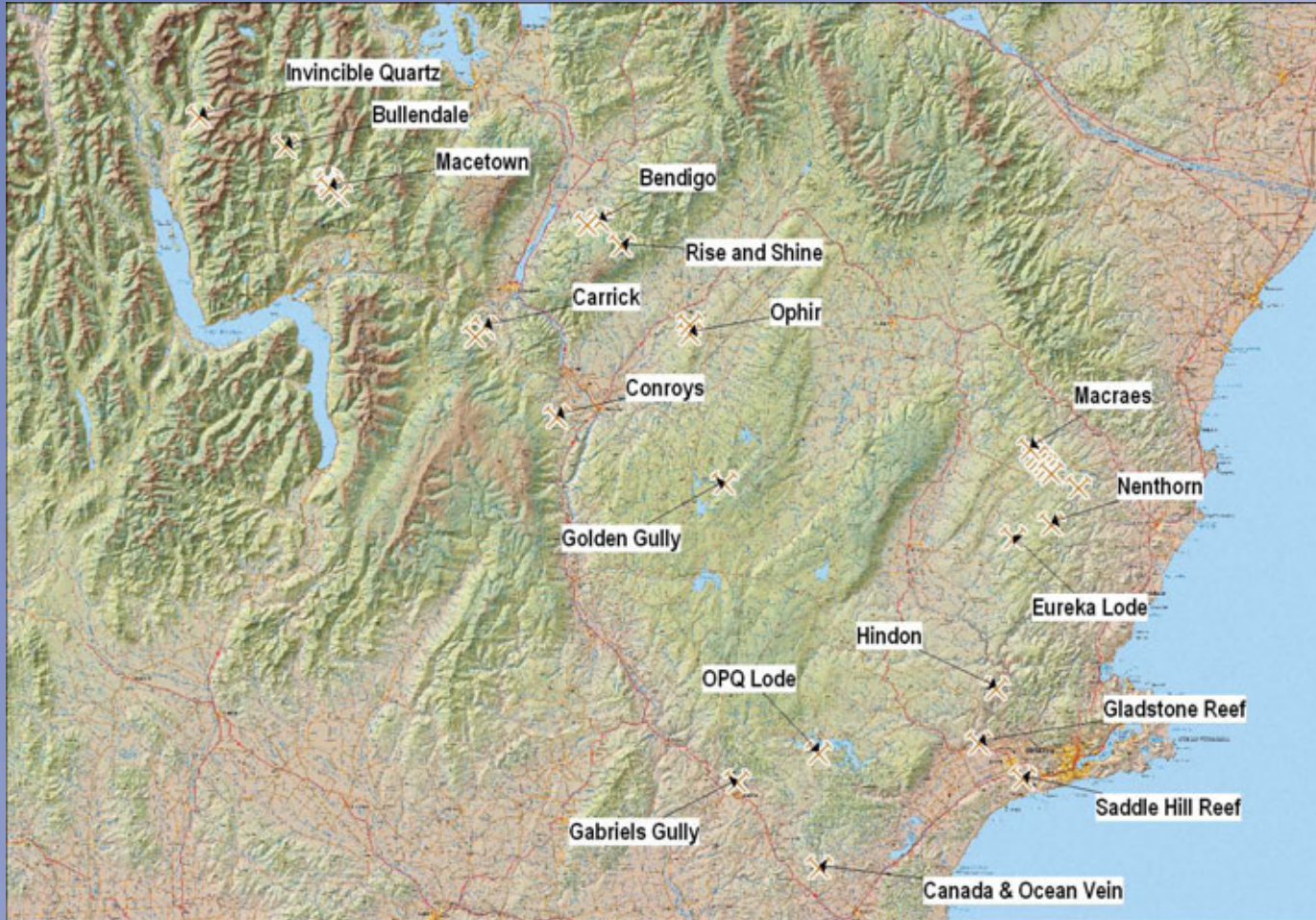
From: Christie, A. (2002) GNS Science

# Data sources

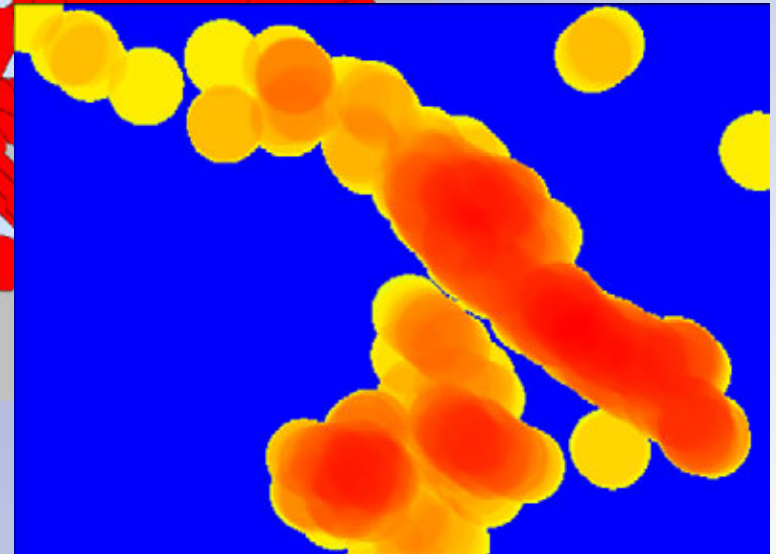
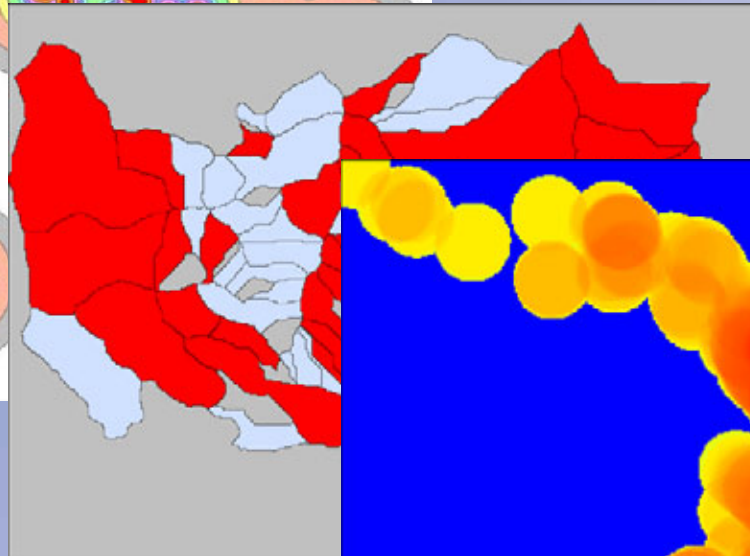
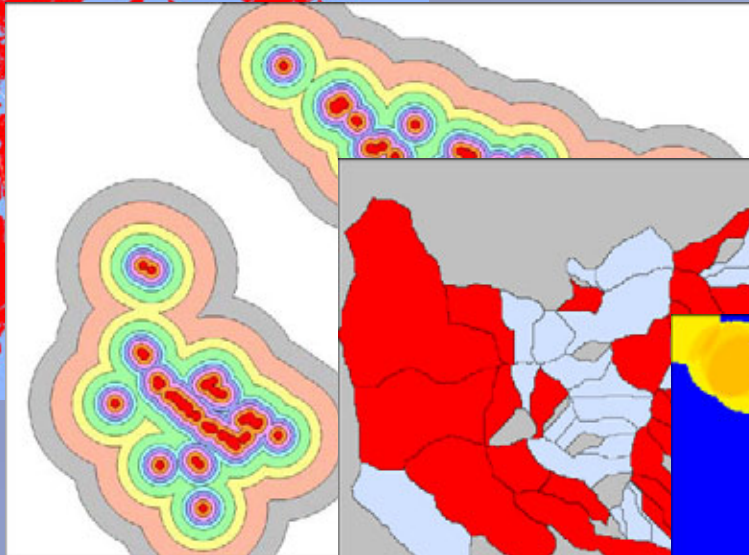
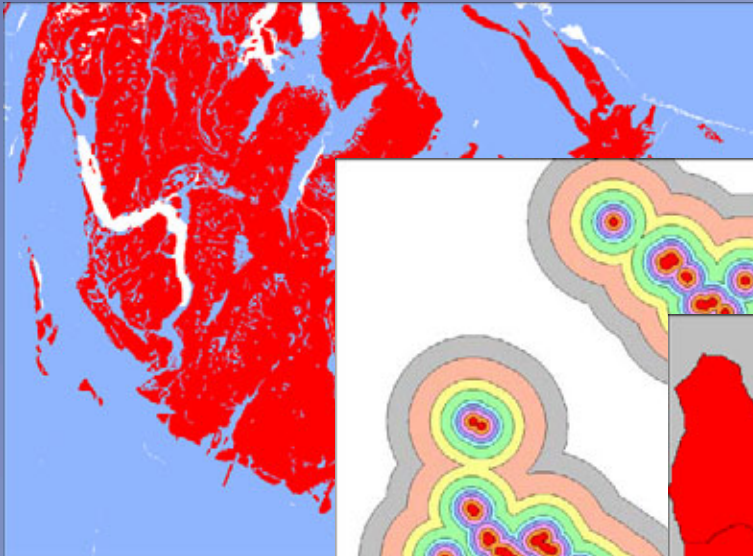
- GNS Science – QMAP geological mapping.
- Crown Minerals – Historical records of past exploration.
- Data entry – In-house at Kenex where possible.
- Experts – Research scientists, exploration managers.
- Company records and new work
  - e.g. mapping, sampling and drilling.



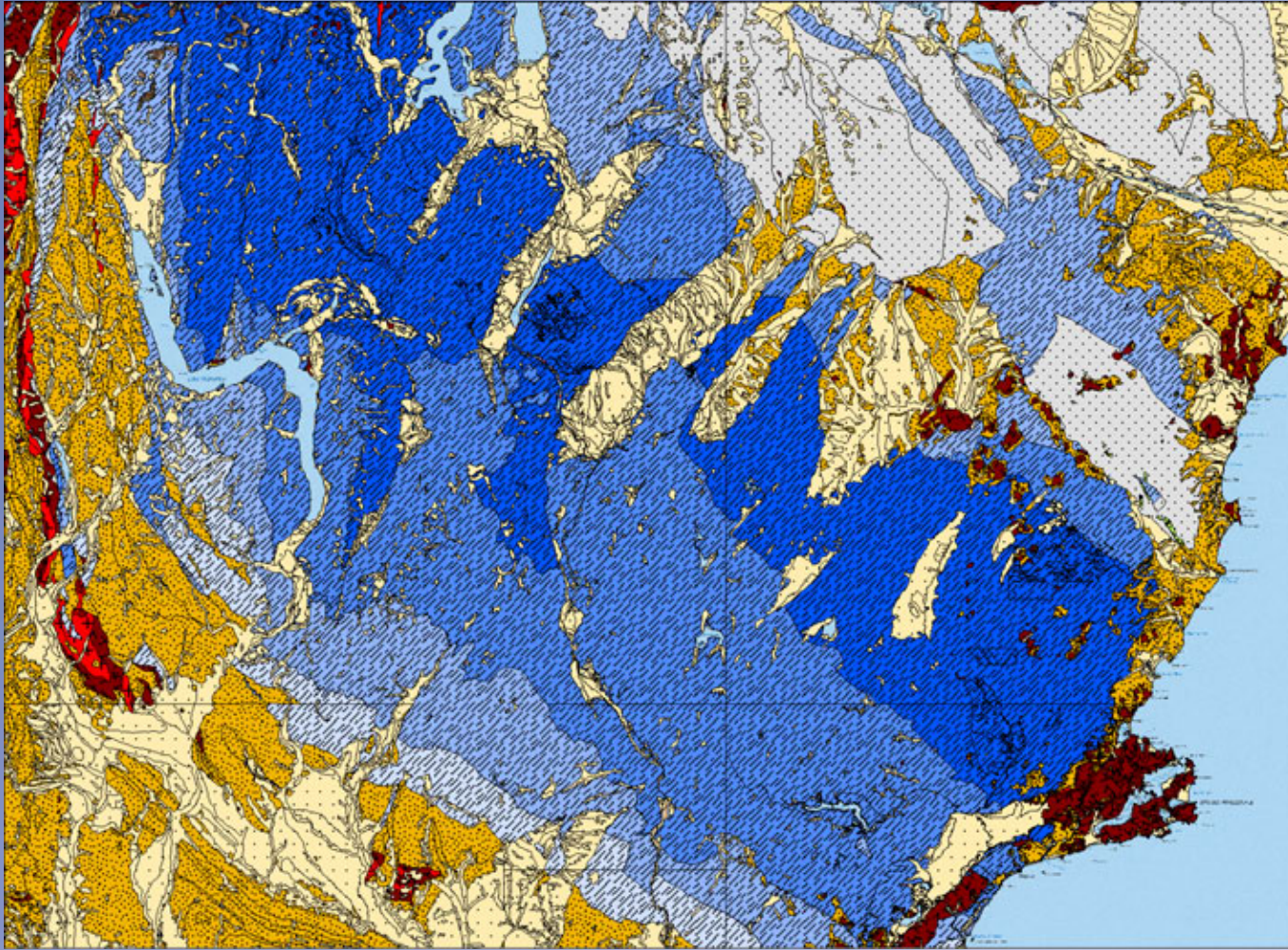
# Training Points & Study Area



# Four example layers.....



# Lithology



## Methods:

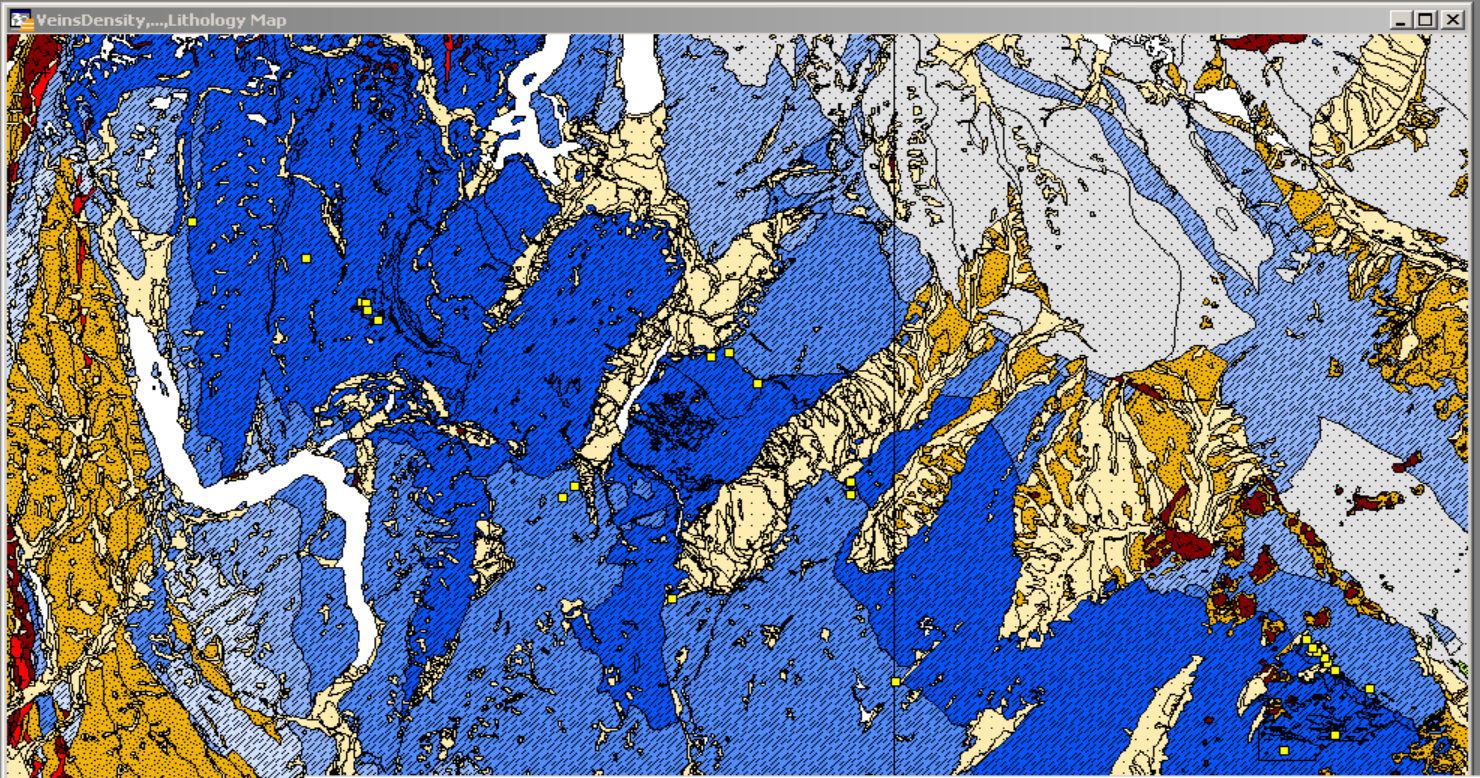
- Geology data is sourced from client or Kenex databases derived from publicly available maps, digitised from reports, or obtained from field mapping.
- Each geological unit is tested for correlation.
- Geological units are then combined into simplified themes and made into a grid.



**Enhanced Layer Control**

- VeinsDensity,....,Litholog...
- Cosmetic
- VeinsDensity
- TrainingPts
- StreamBasin\_As
- Soil\_Au
- ShearZones
- RockDrill\_Au
- NW\_Faults
- Lithology\_class
- FoliationAge
- FaultJogs
- Lithology
- Lithology\_Weights Browser
- TrainingPts Browser
- Soil\_Au Map

Apply Changes Options...

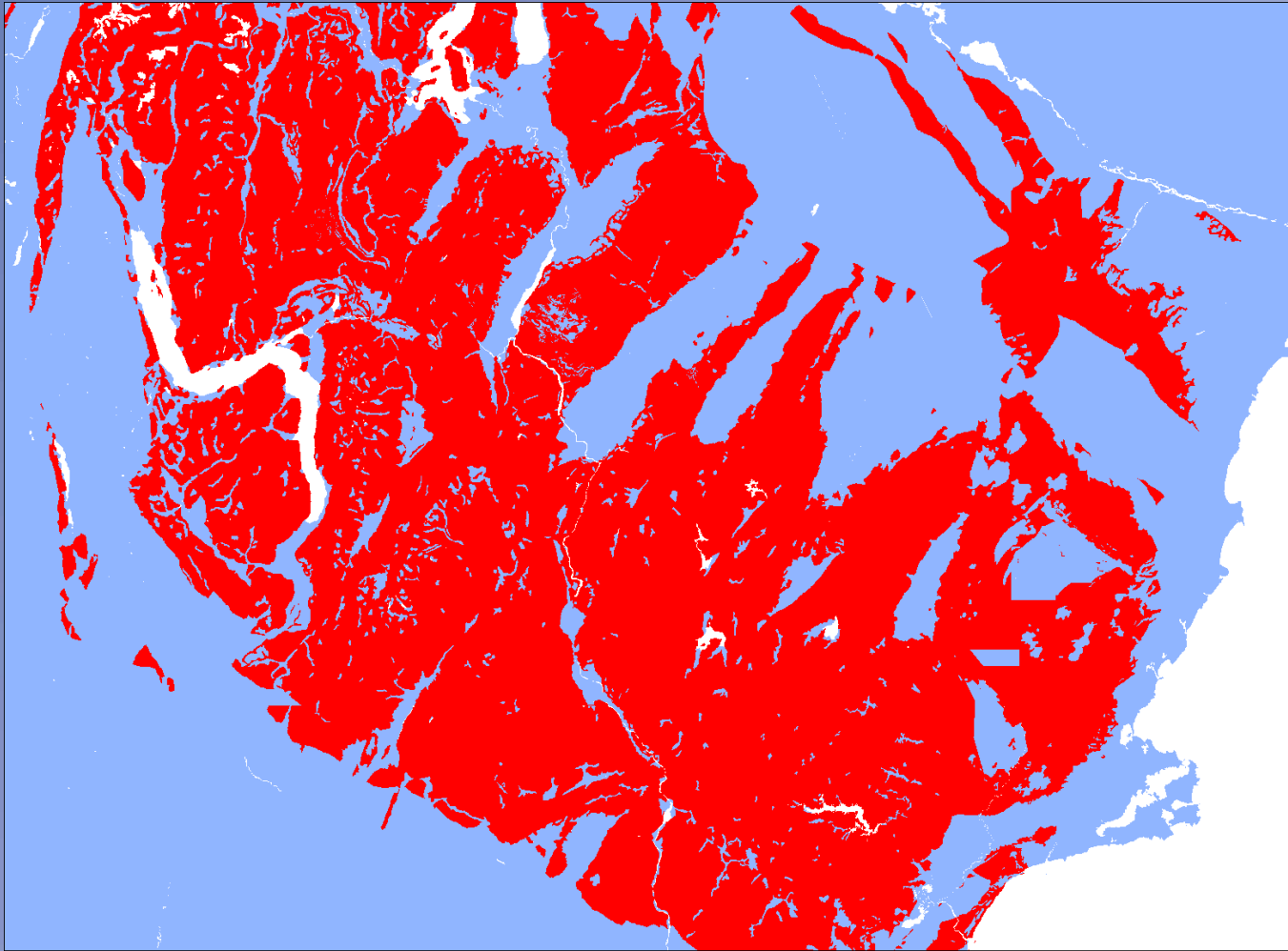


**Lithology\_Weights Browser**

Reclass2Num	Reclass2_ScType	Area_sq_km	Area_units	NumPoints	Wplus	Wminus	Contrast	Confidence
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Cover	8,598.1	12,283	0	0	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Gneiss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Green Schist	634.9	907	4	2.08344	-0.126361	2.2098	4.10642
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Grey Schist	17,821.3	25,459	23	0.49444	-0.824928	1.31937	3.05585
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Greywacke	3,705.8	5,294	0	0	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Igneous	254.8	364	0	0	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Interlayered Schist	17.5	25	1	4.32481	-0.03346	4.35827	4.20121
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Laminated Schist	172.2	246	1	2.00161	-0.029387	2.031	1.99291
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Marble	8.4	12	0	0	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Massive Schist	100.1	143	1	2.54704	-0.031288	2.57833	2.52638
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Metavolcanic Schist	189.7	271	0	0	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Sedimentary	5,611.2	8,016	0	0	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Volcanic	981.4	1,402	0	0	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Missing		3,384.5	4,835	0	0	0	0	0

**Main**

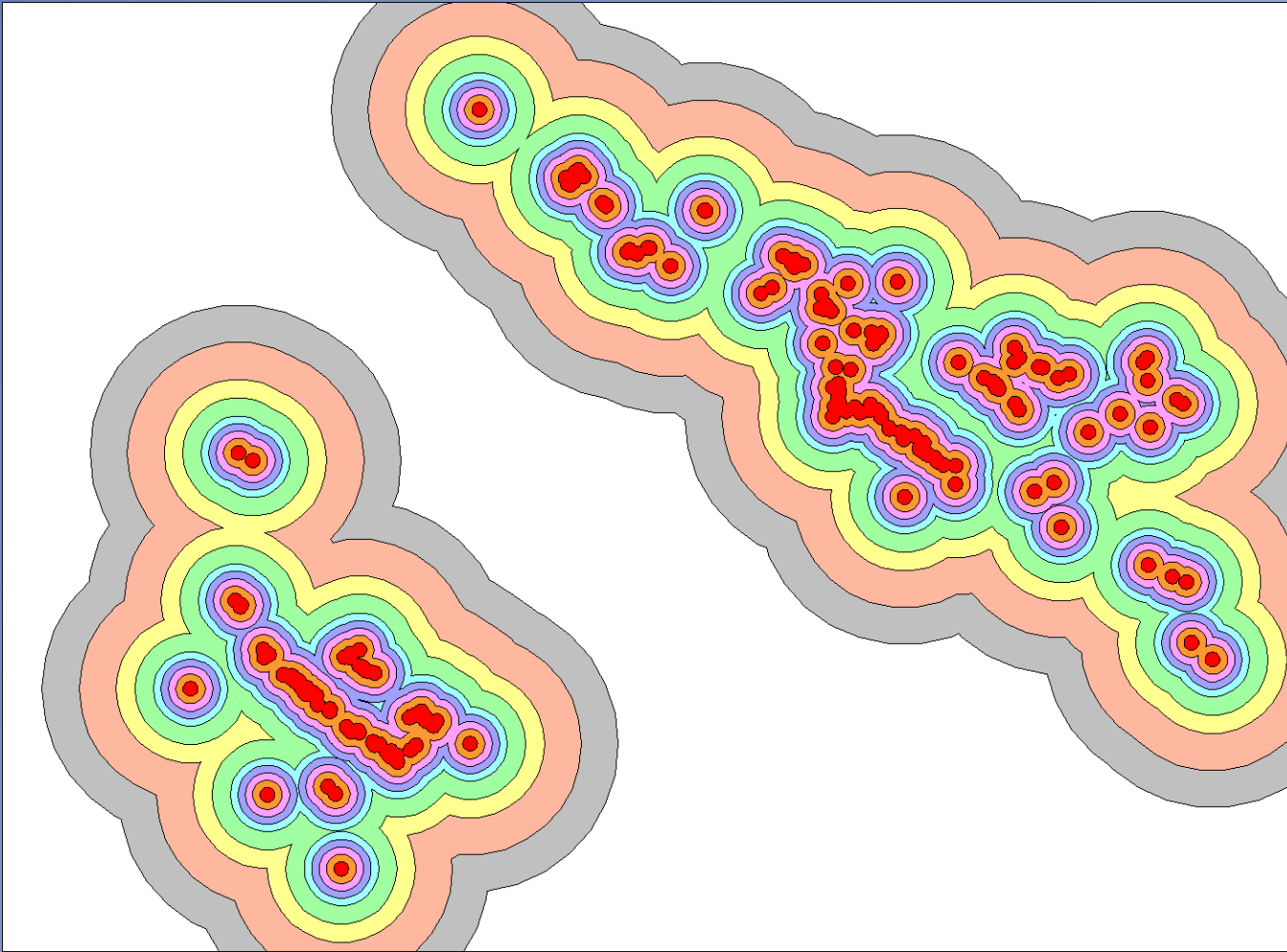
# Geology



## Methods:

- Geology data is sourced from client or Kenex databases derived from publicly available maps, digitised from reports, or obtained from field mapping.
- Each geological unit is tested for correlation.
- Geological units are then combined into simplified themes and made into a grid.

# Au in Rock Chips



## Methods:

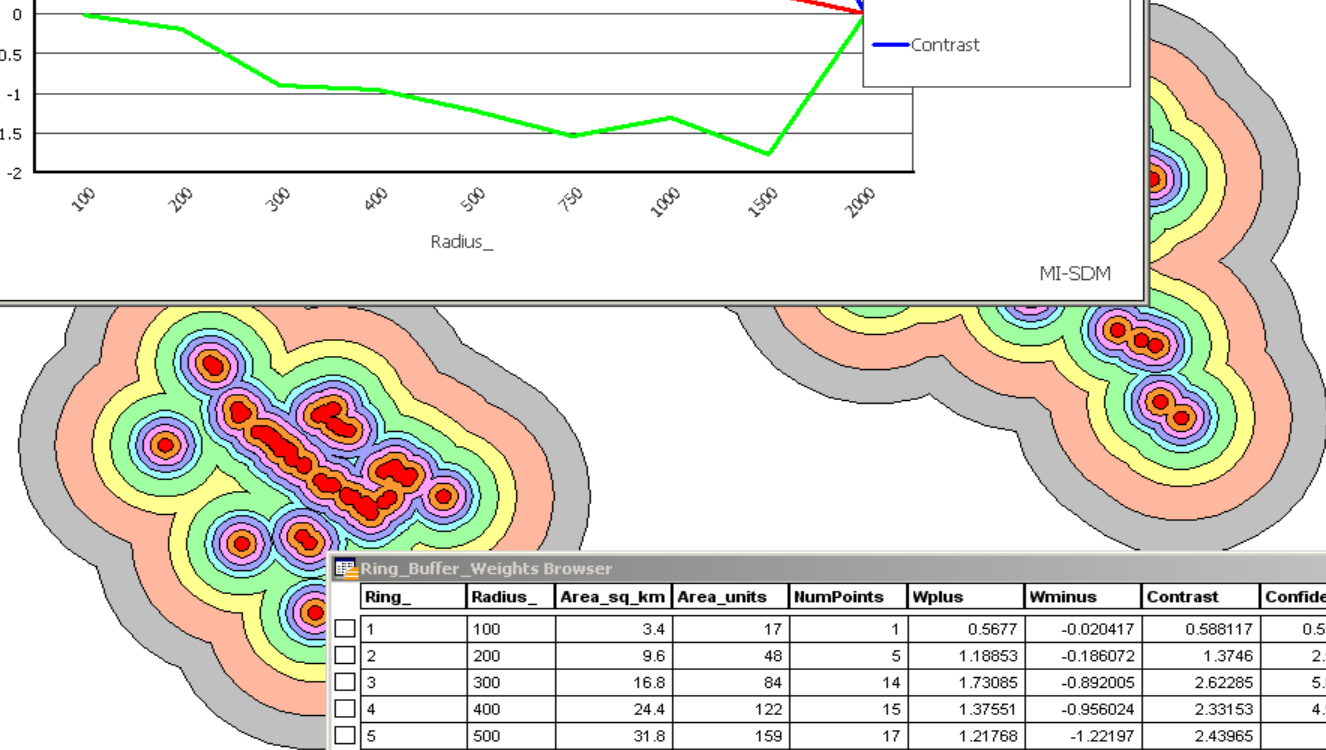
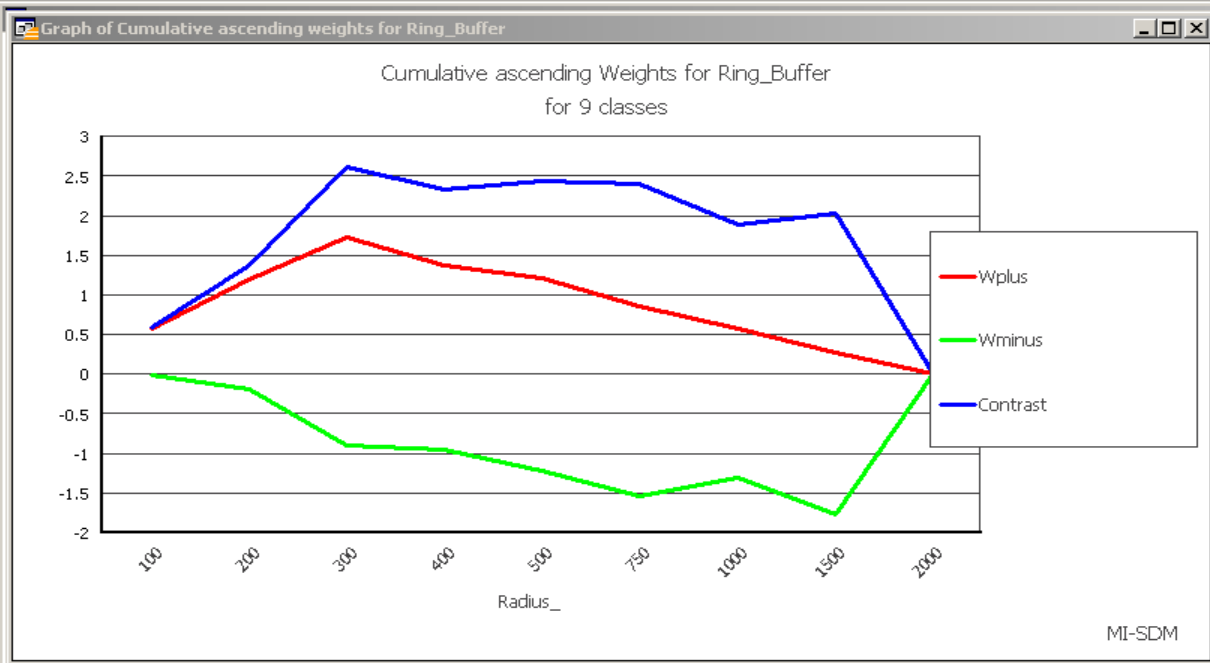
- Rock chip geochemistry is analysed statistically for anomalous levels.
- Anomalous levels are then buffered or gridded.
- Buffer distances are then tested for correlations.
- A binary layer is then created based on anomalous and non-anomalous rock chips and made into grid.





**Enhanced Layer Control**

- RingTPs, ..., Ringstudy Map
- Graph of Cumulative asc...
- Ring\_Buffer\_Weights Br...
- Ring\_Buffer, ..., FaultJog...
- Cosmetic
- Ring\_Buffer
- TrainingPts
- VeinsDensity
- StudyArea
- StreamBasin\_As
- Soil\_Au
- ShearZones
- RockDrill\_Au
- NW\_Faults
- Lithology\_class
- FoliationAge
- FaultJogs



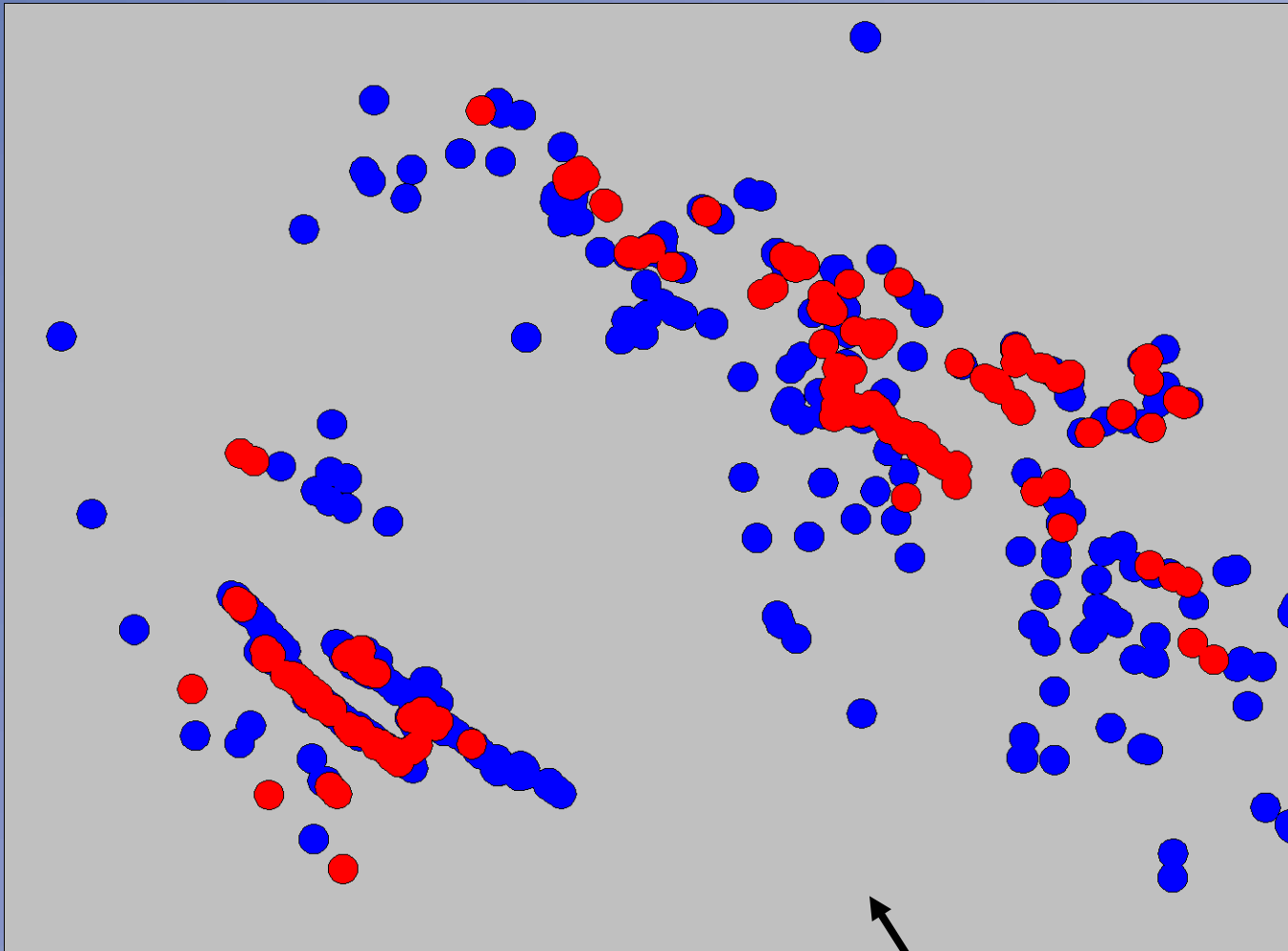
**Ring\_Buffer\_Weights Browser**

Ring_	Radius_	Area_sq_km	Area_units	NumPoints	Wplus	Wminus	Contrast	Confidence
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	100	3.4	17	1	0.5677	-0.020417	0.588117	0.557771
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	200	9.6	48	5	1.18853	-0.186072	1.3746	2.58025
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	300	16.8	84	14	1.73085	-0.892005	2.62285	5.68938
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	400	24.4	122	15	1.37551	-0.956024	2.33153	4.96167
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	500	31.8	159	17	1.21768	-1.22197	2.43965	4.713
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	750	49	245	19	0.864193	-1.53998	2.40418	3.83543
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	1000	64.8	324	19	0.564416	-1.31684	1.88126	3.00317
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	1500	95.4	477	21	0.262318	-1.76566	2.02798	1.97359
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	2000	128	640	22	0.004843	0	0	0

Apply Changes [Refresh] [Undo] [Redo] Options...

**Main**

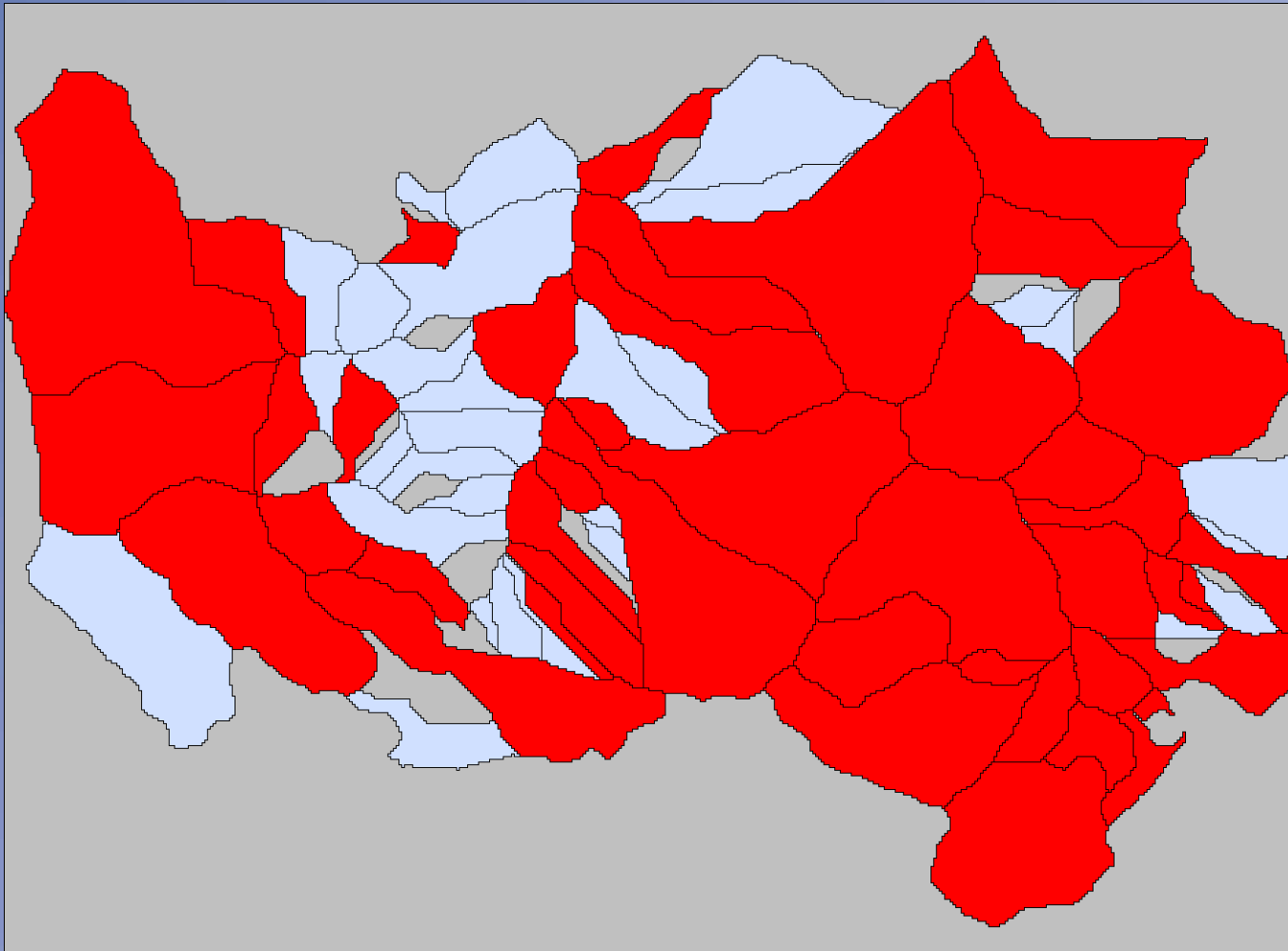
# Au in Rock Chips



## Methods:

- Rock chip geochemistry is analysed statistically for anomalous levels.
- Anomalous levels are then buffered or gridded.
- Buffer distances are then tested for correlations.
- A binary layer is then created based on anomalous and non-anomalous rock chips and made into grid.

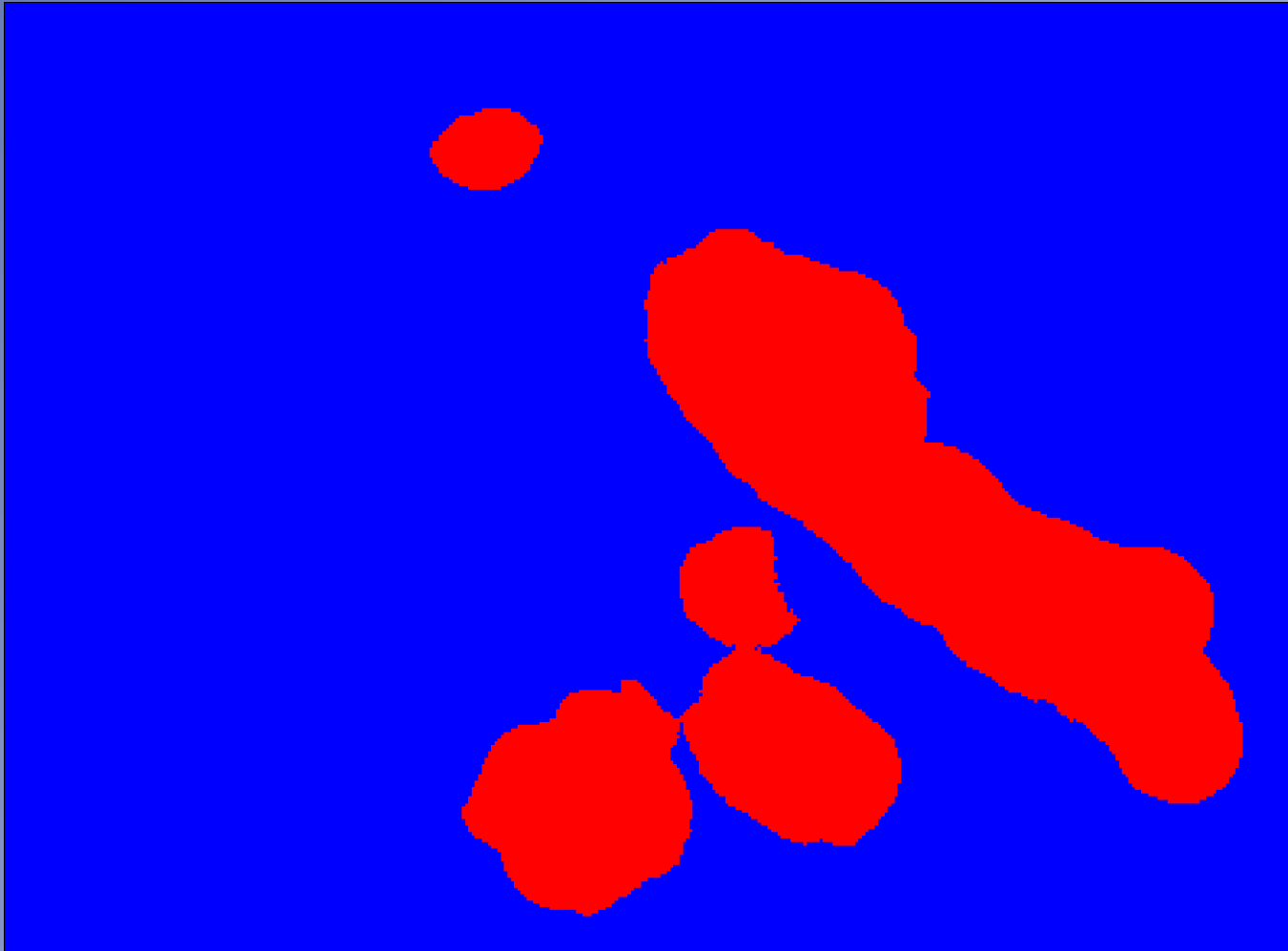
# As in Stream Sediment



## Methods:

- Locate and define anomalous stream sediment samples.
- Create basin boundaries from DTM using gridding tools.
- Apply maximum or average geochemistry to basins.
- Test basins for correlation with different geochemical anomalies.
- Create grid layer for basins with good geochemistry correlation.

# Quartz Vein Density



## Methods:

- Create density grid of known quartz vein locations.
- Test different density ranges for correlations.
- Create grid layer for best correlation with vein density.

# Layers included in the model

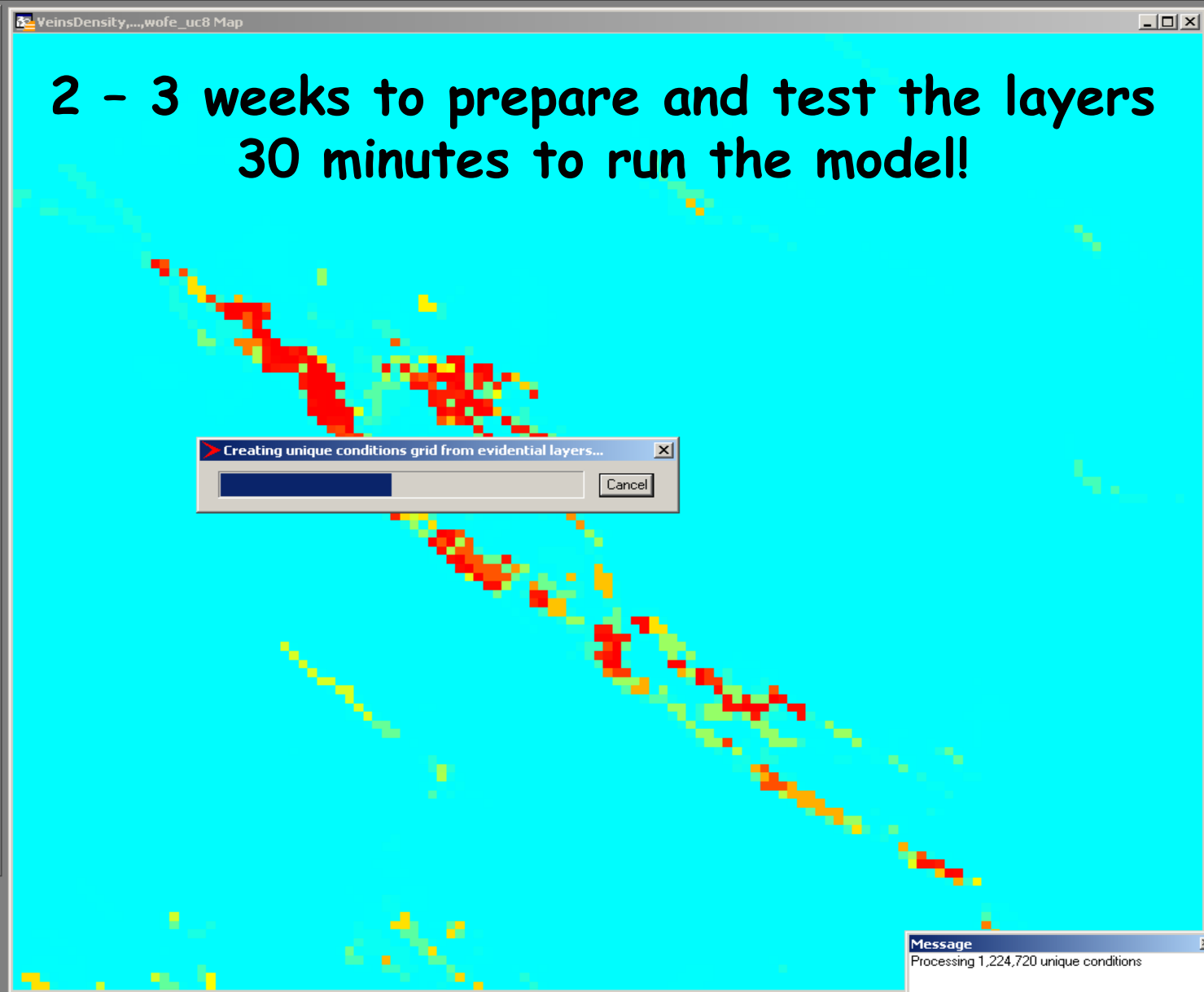
<u>Theme</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>W+</u>	<u>W-</u>	<u>C</u>
Lithology	Green and grey schists	0.62	-1.64	2.26
Faults	Distance from NW striking faults	3.78	-0.65	4.43
Fault Jogs	Distance from fault jogs	3.68	-0.21	3.89
Shear Zones	Distance from shear zones	4.37	-0.43	4.81
Rock Au	Anomalous Au	1.48	-2.70	4.19
Soil Au	Anomalous Au	2.08	-1.79	3.87
Stream As	Anomalous As	1.83	-1.10	2.94
Vein Density	Mod-high vein density	4.31	-1.03	5.34
Foliation Age	S2 developed foliation	0.95	-0.37	1.32



**Enhanced Layer Control**

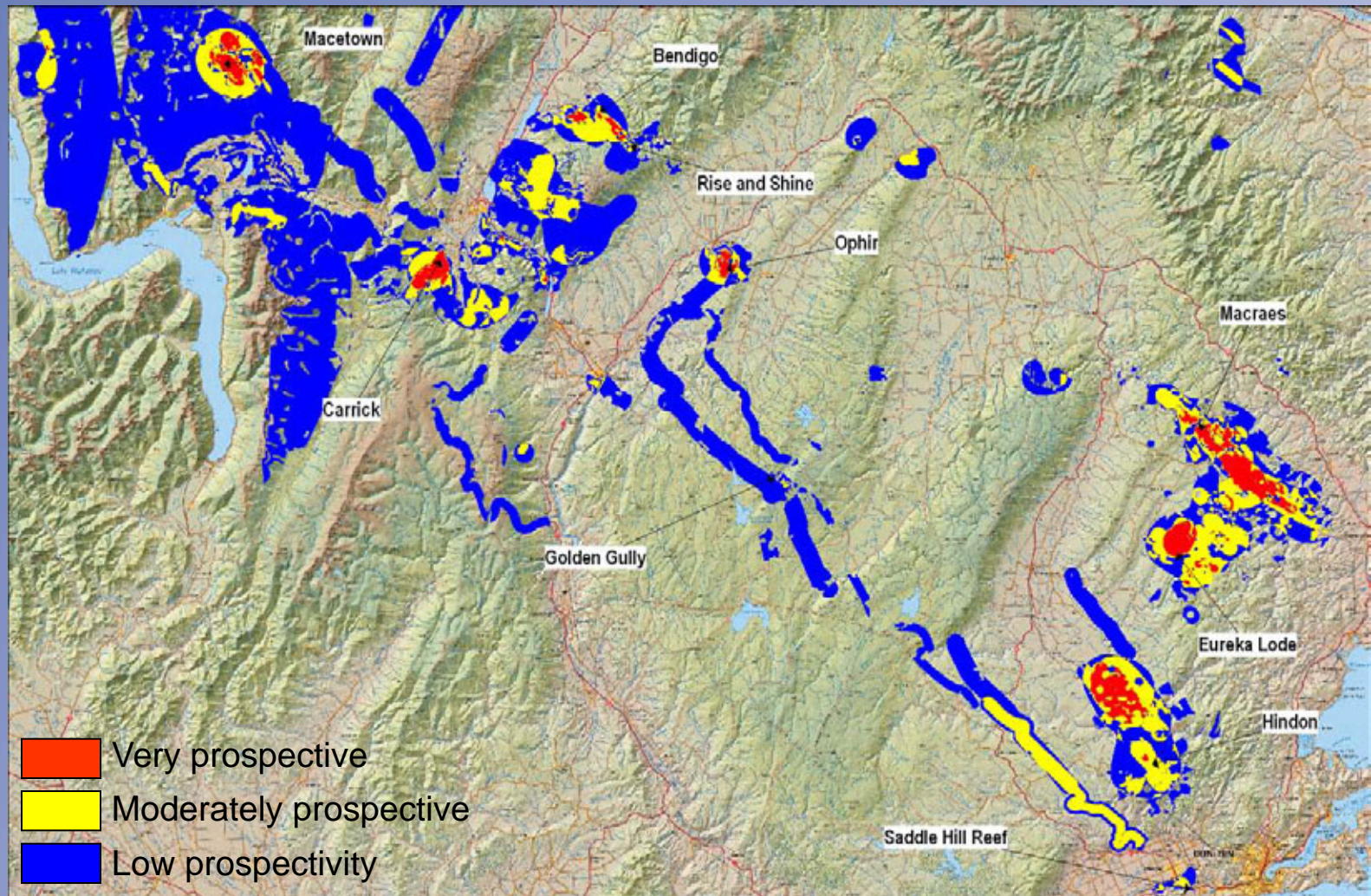
- VeinsDensity,....wofe\_u...
- Cosmetic
- VeinsDensity
- TrainingPts
- Soil\_Au
- StreamBasin\_As
- ShearZones
- RockDrill\_Au
- NW\_Faults
- Lithology\_class
- FoliationAge
- FaultJogs
- Lithology
- wofe\_uc8

Apply Changes Options...



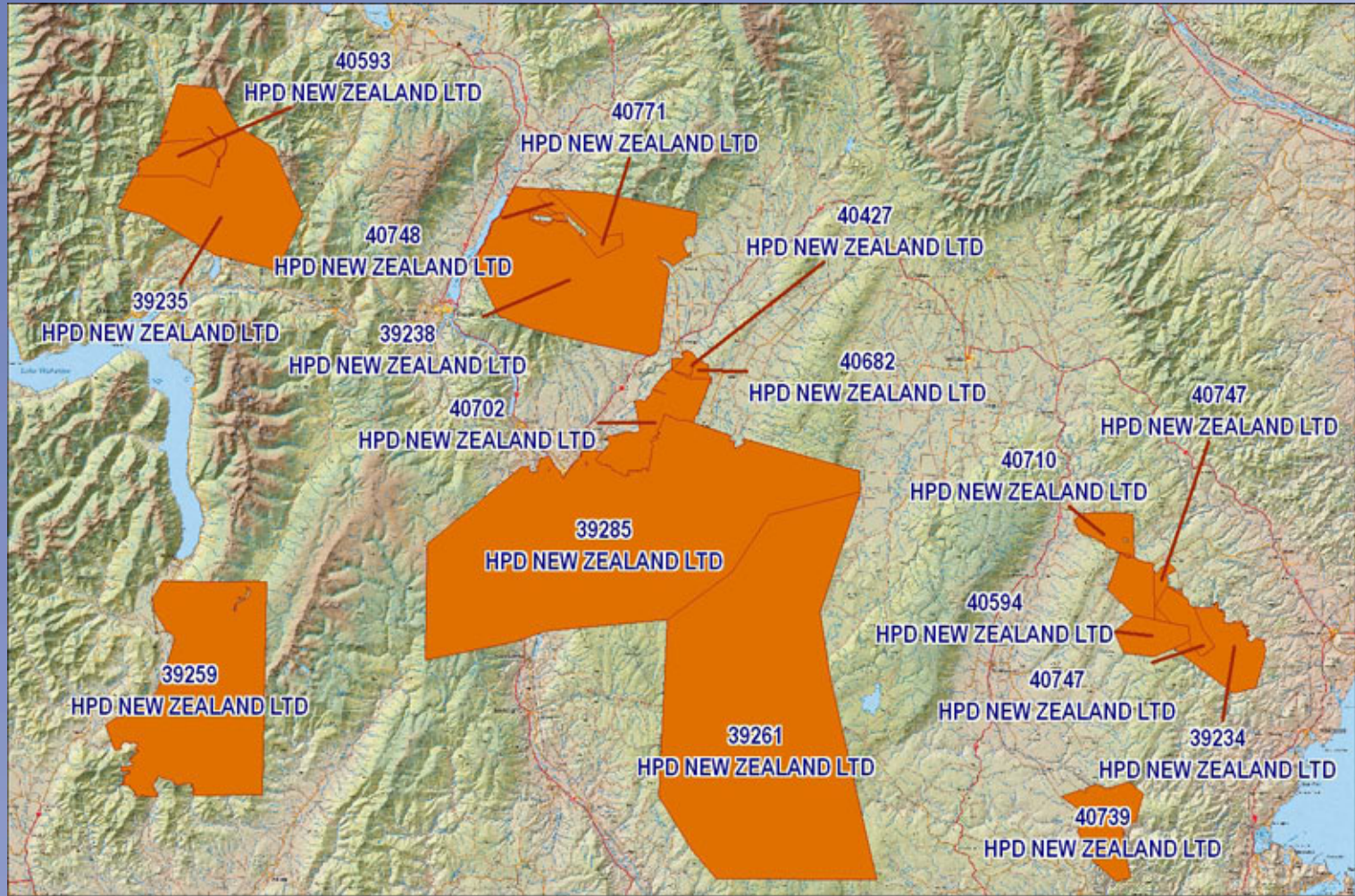
**Main**

# Prospectivity Map – Mesothermal Gold



Data from Partington and Sale (2004)

# Permitting / Pegging of Prospective Ground

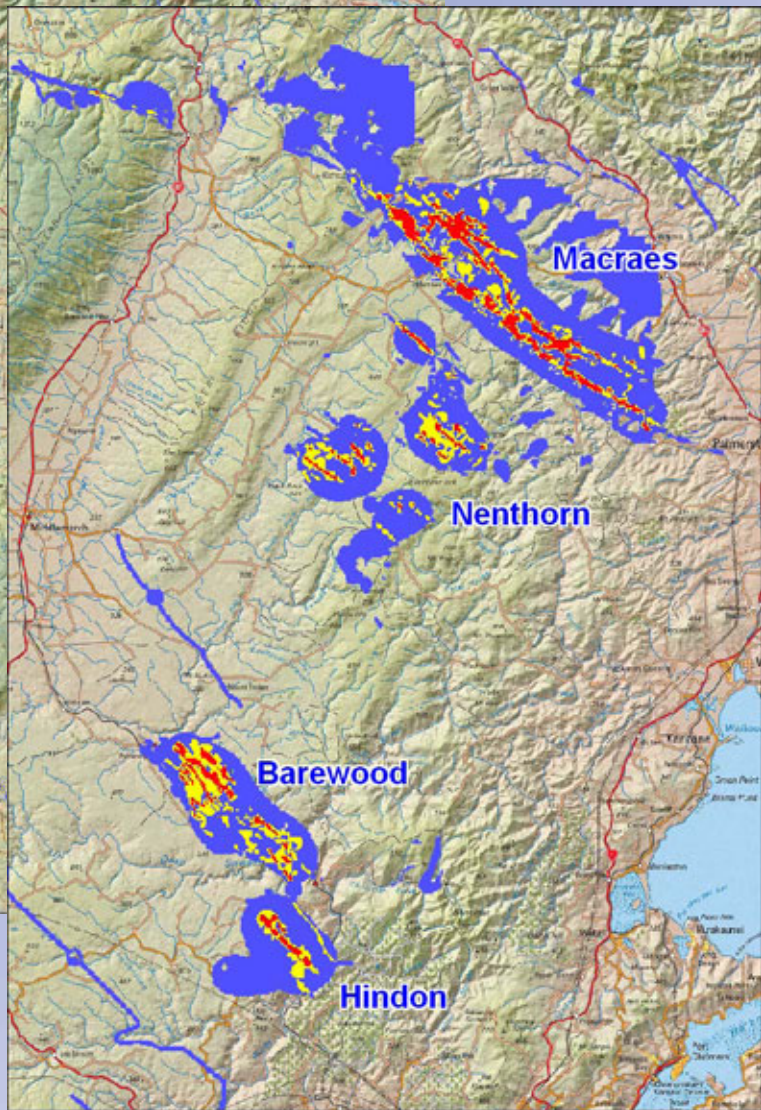
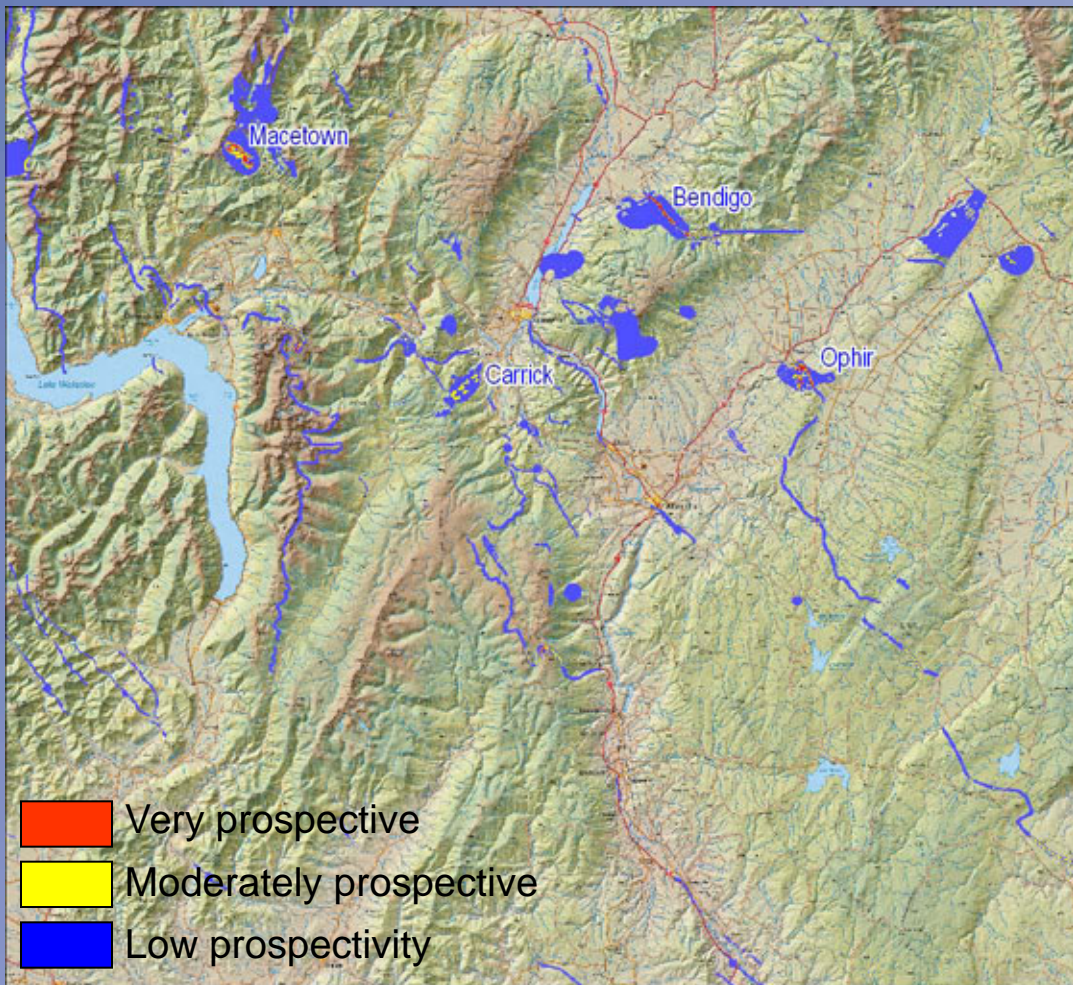




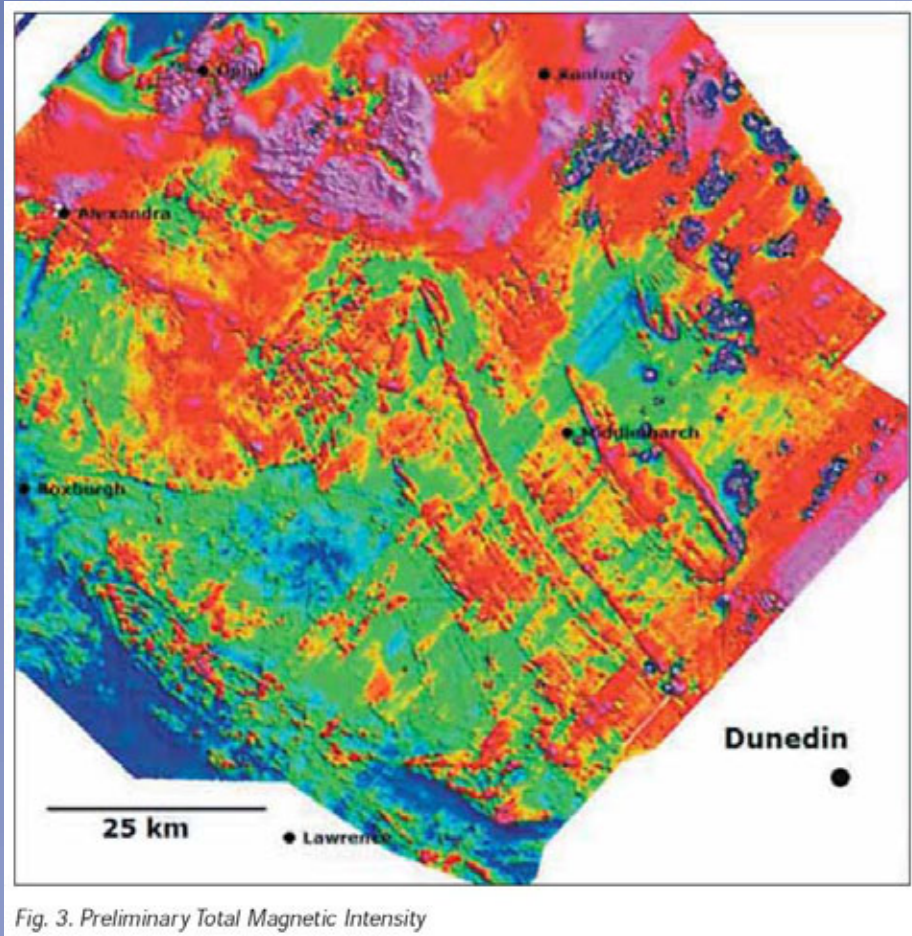
# Follow-up Field Work



# Remodelling with new data in 2006....



# The Future: Glass Earth (New Zealand) Limited



- Largest geophysical survey undertaken in Otago.
- Helicopter EM survey.
- Project cost: Over \$NZ 4M!
- \$NZ 1M invested into the project by Otago Regional Council in a bid to promote mineral exploration in the area.
- Will provide data on rock types, faults, shear zones, mineralisation.
- Allows geologists to see under the sediment that covers much of Otago and is limiting current exploration techniques.
- Preliminary results are looking to re-map the Otago schists and shear zones – Key indicators in the model shown today for mesothermal gold mineralisation.

Figure and data from: Henderson, S. (2007)  
AusIMM Bulletin No. 4



# Kenex

Creating opportunities in the spatial world