

# Tectonic Evolution of the Mardin Uplift, SE Turkey

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## Introduction

License blocks were acquired by TransAtlantic Petroleum Turkey on the Mardin High in SE Turkey over 460,000 acres (1862 sq km). Within this area, gravity measurements were taken by recording the vertical components of the gravitational attraction of the underlying formations. It is believed structures in this area are compressional and extensional fault related structures some of which have surface expression. If the anticlines are fault related and higher density sediments have been thrust upwards, then higher gravity readings will be recorded over these areas. After gravity measurements were collected over the Mardin High, several areas of interest were identified by Bouguer highs. Identifying these high gravity anomalies and correlating them with fault related surface anticlines will decrease the amount of seismic required in search of them. Interpretation of the residual gravity anomalies will allow for 2D cross-sections to be produced for the region. In order to correlate high gravity anomalies with fault related anticlines a residual gravity map was produced which displayed density contrasts with older lithologies. The correlation of nearby well data helped to identify the formations when producing the 2D cross-section. Imaging these subsurface structures with the production of 2D cross-sections and being able to reconstruct the evolutionary history of the region, along with identifying areas of exploration interest without the use of extensive seismic was the objective of this study.

## Methods

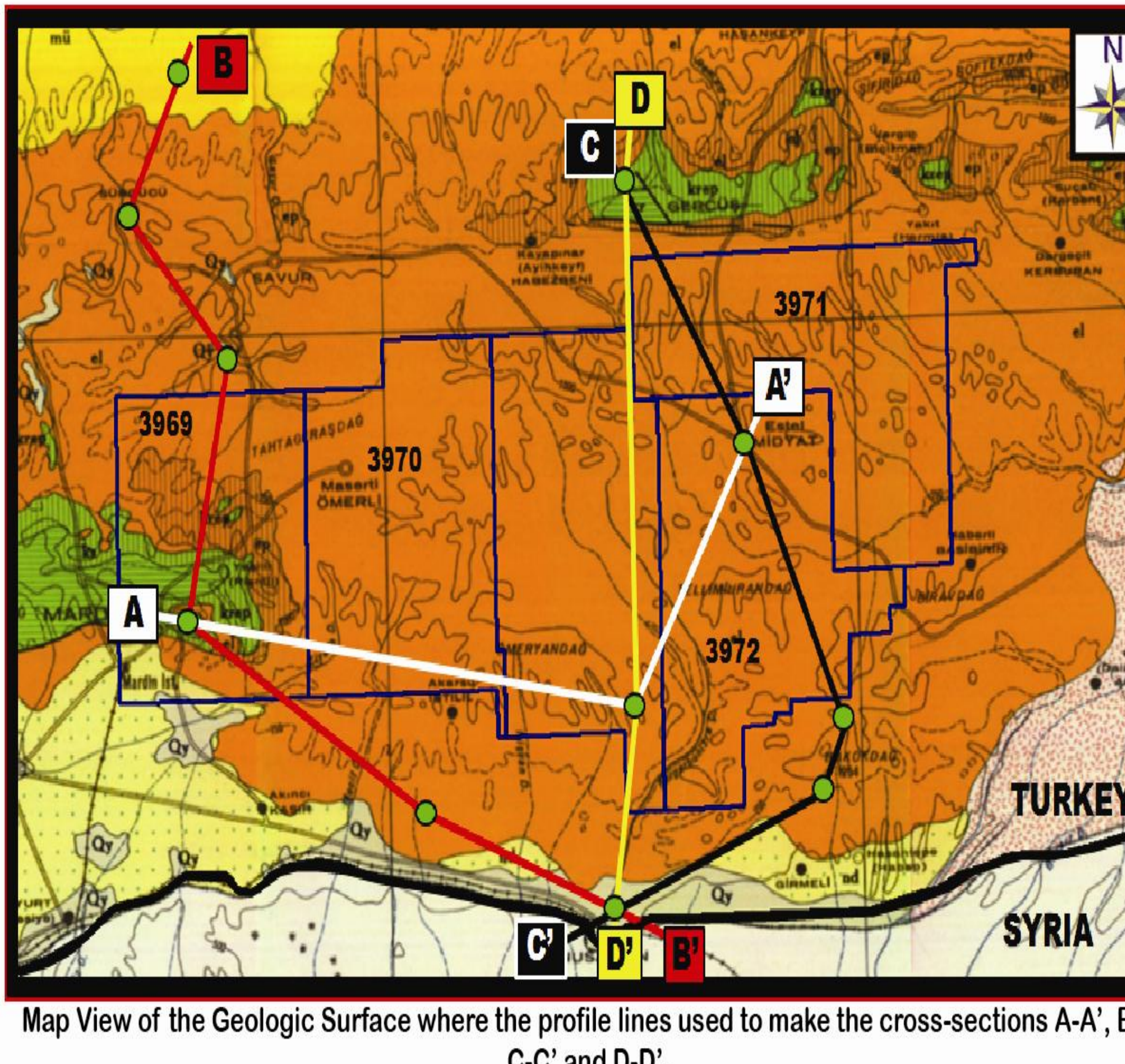
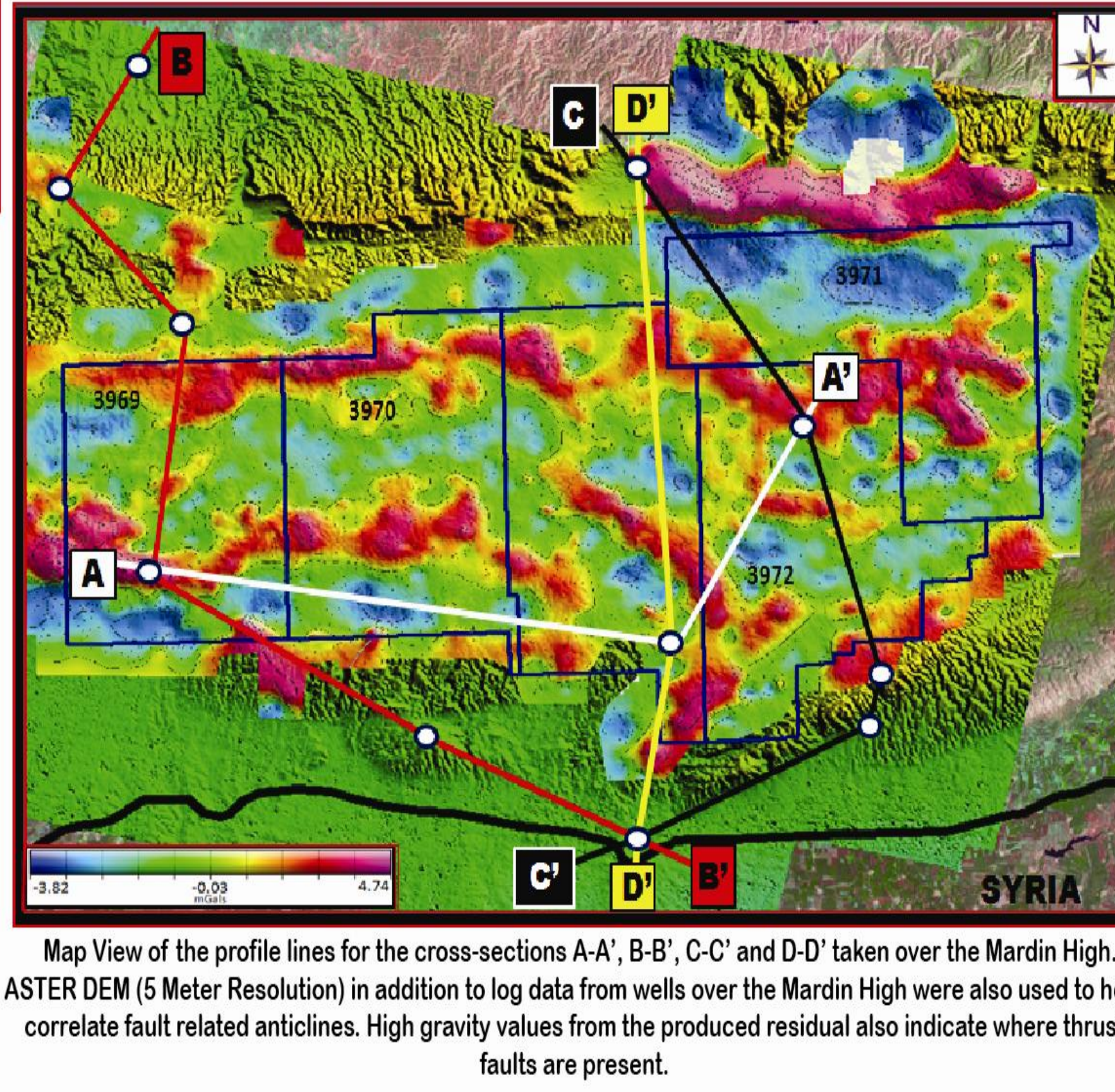
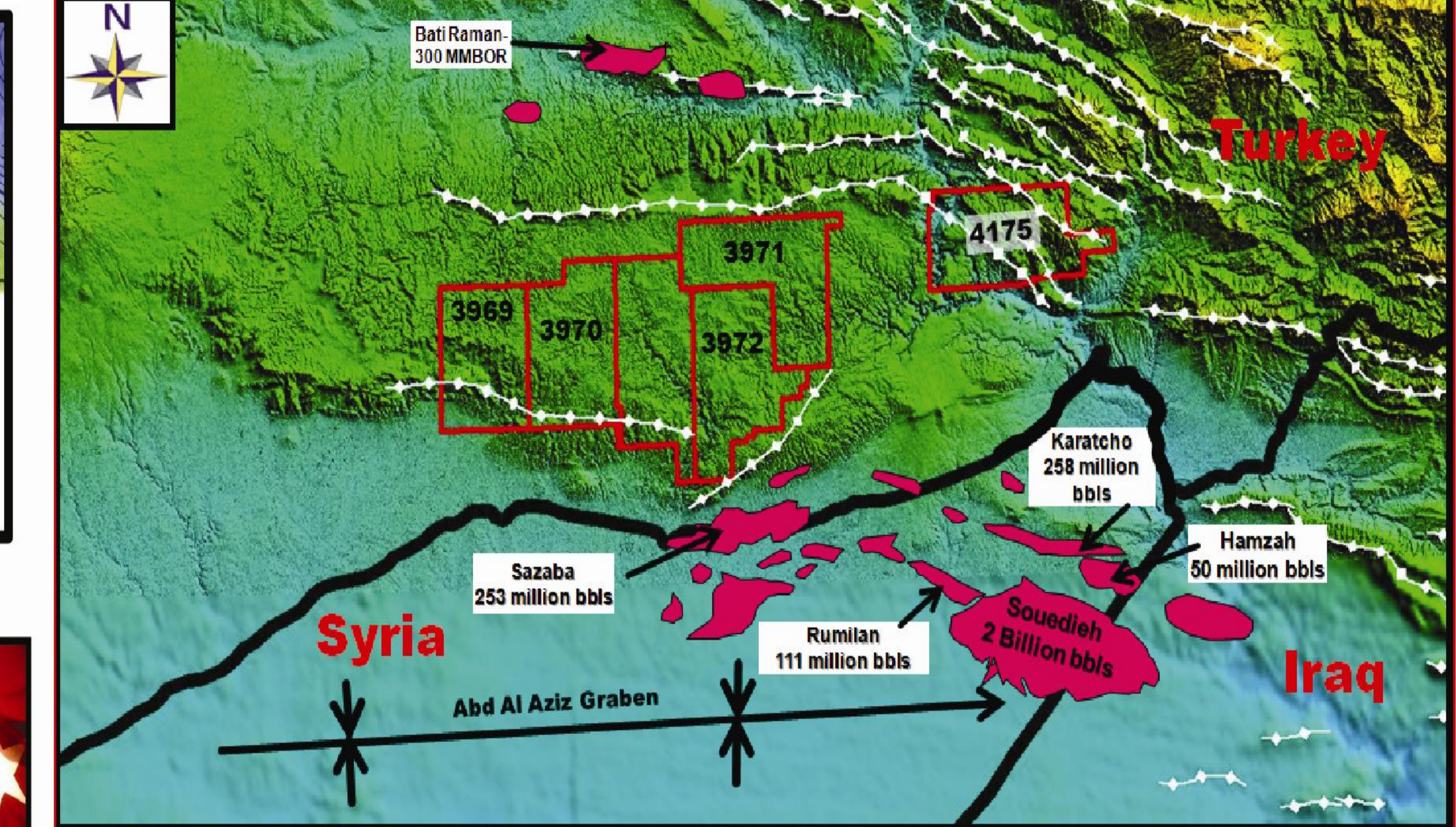
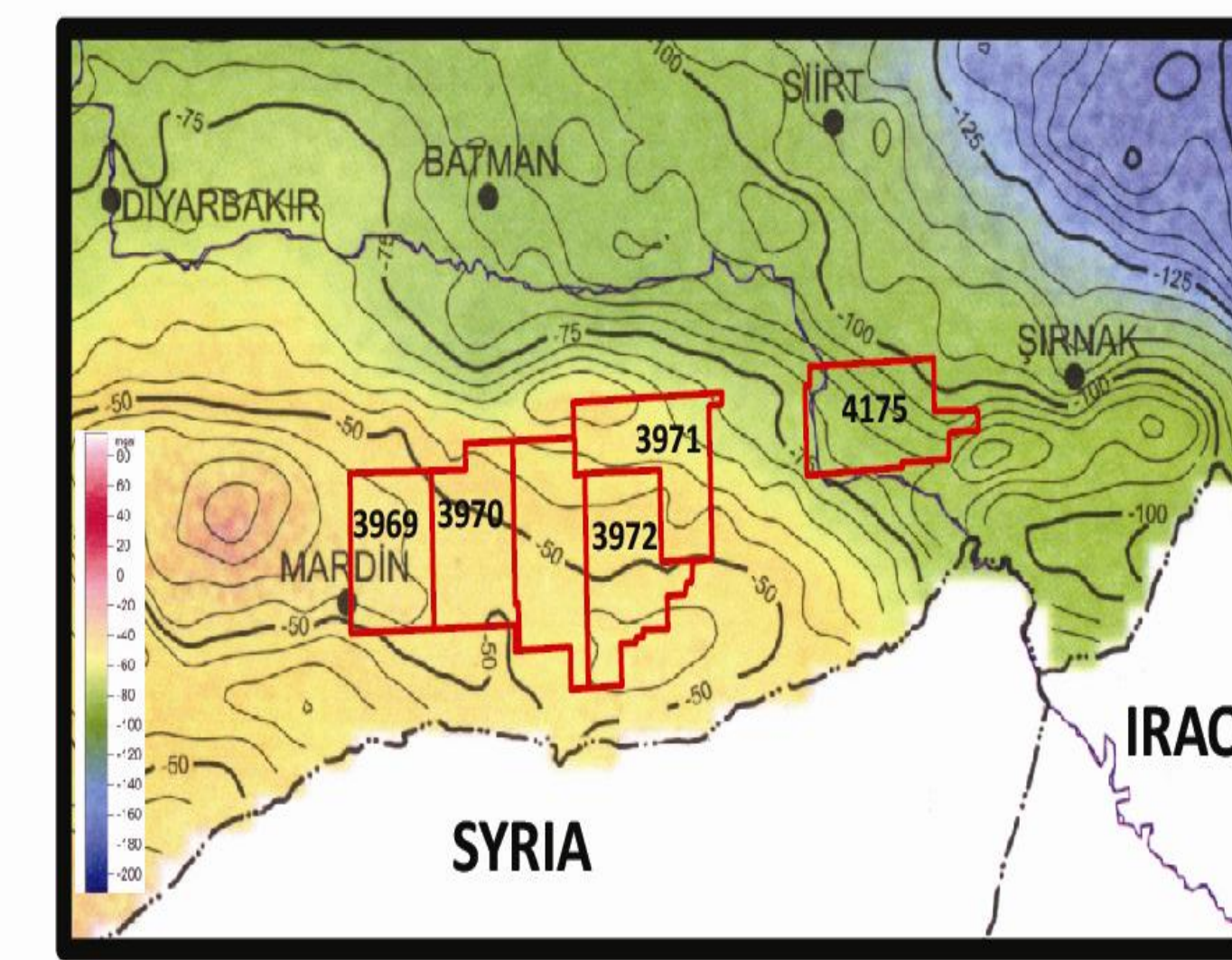
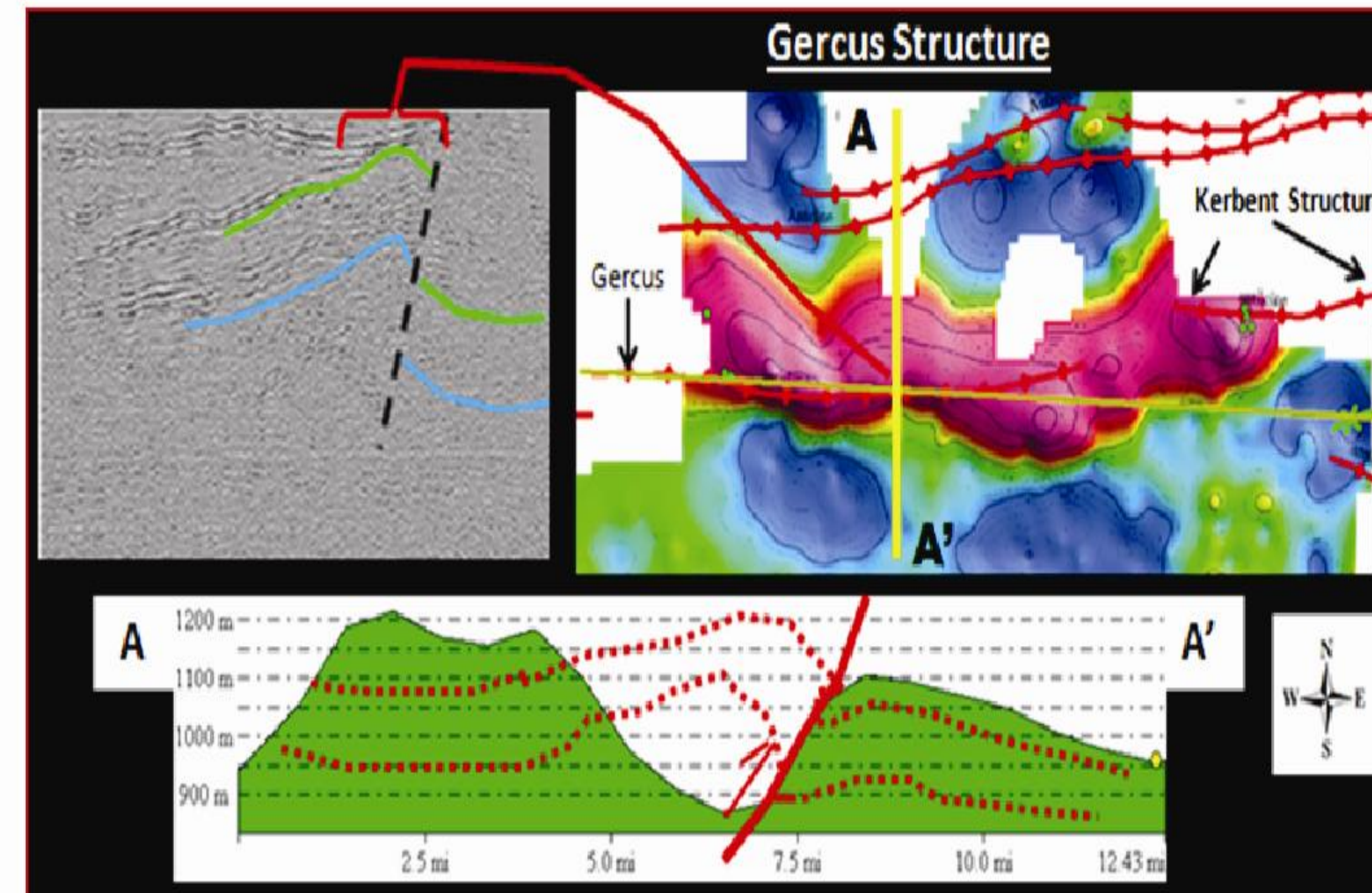
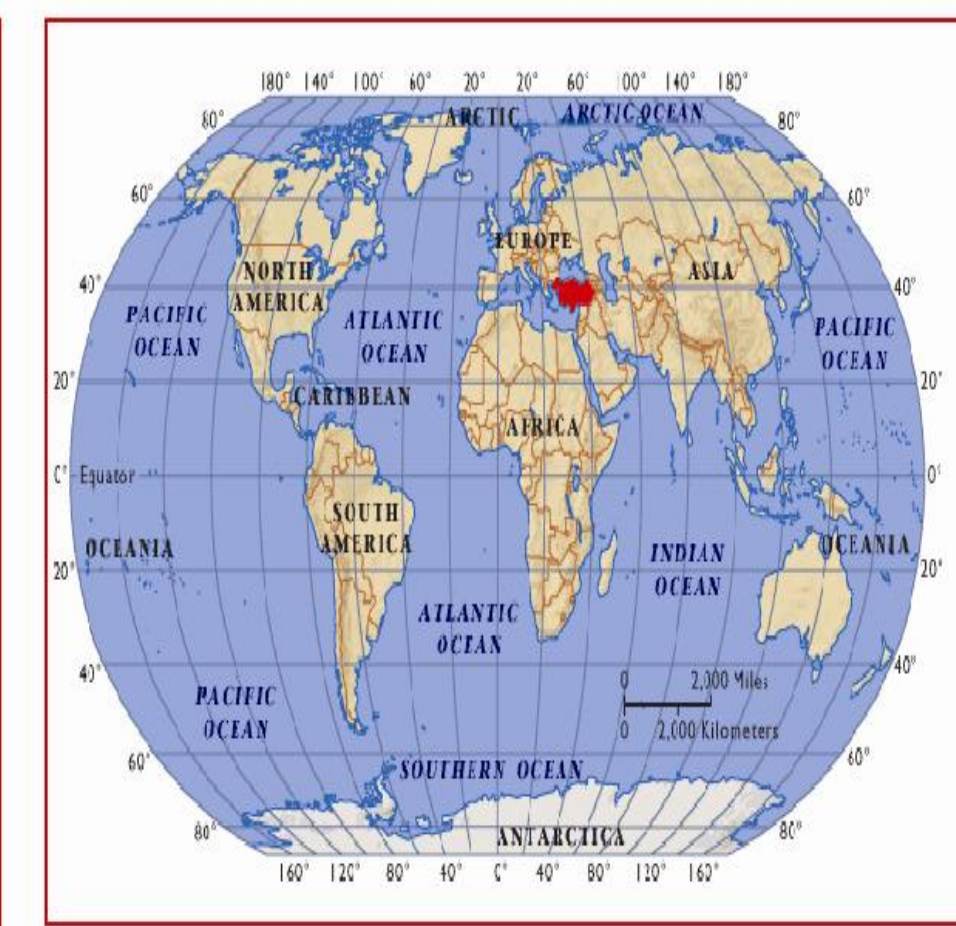
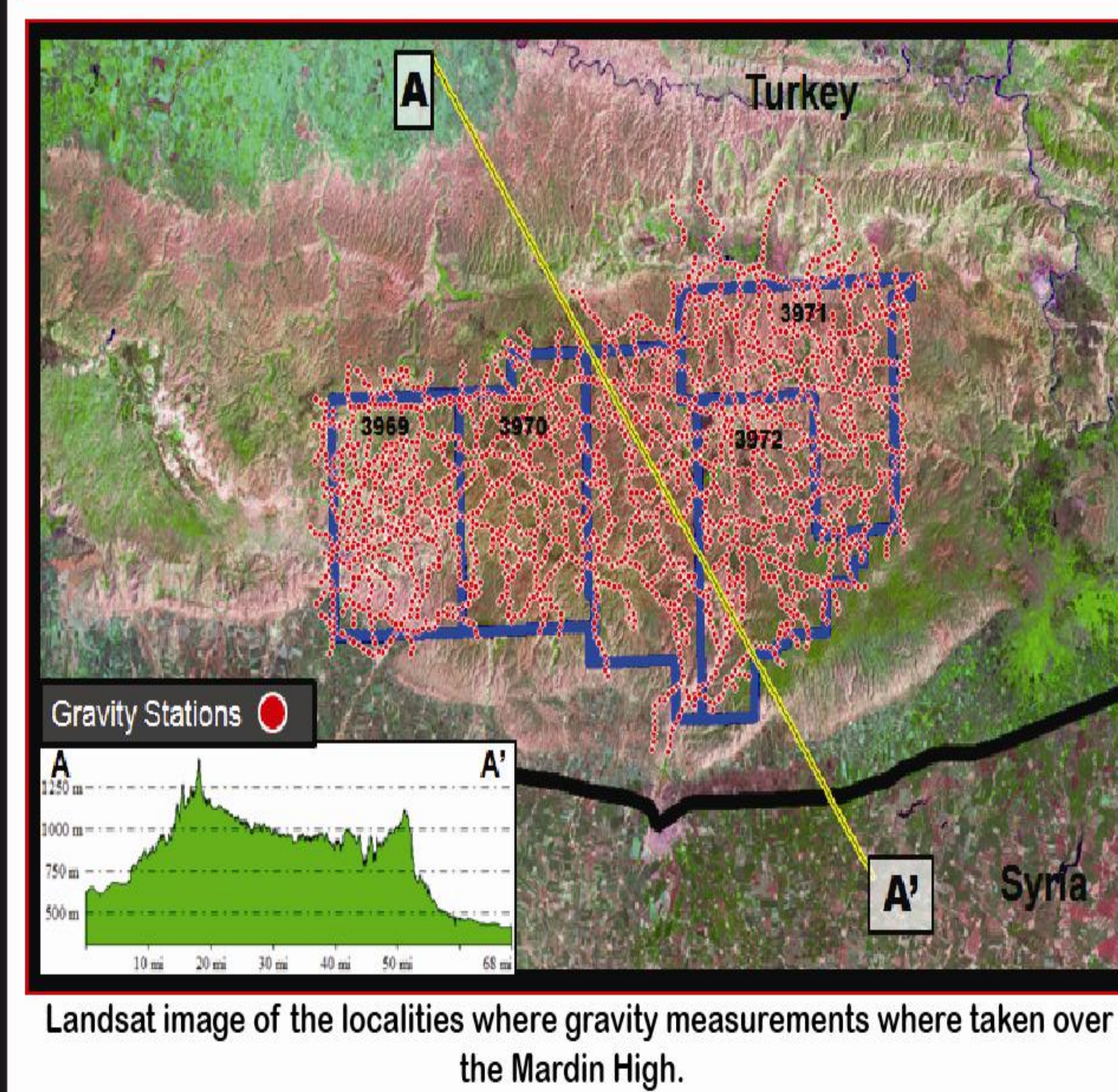
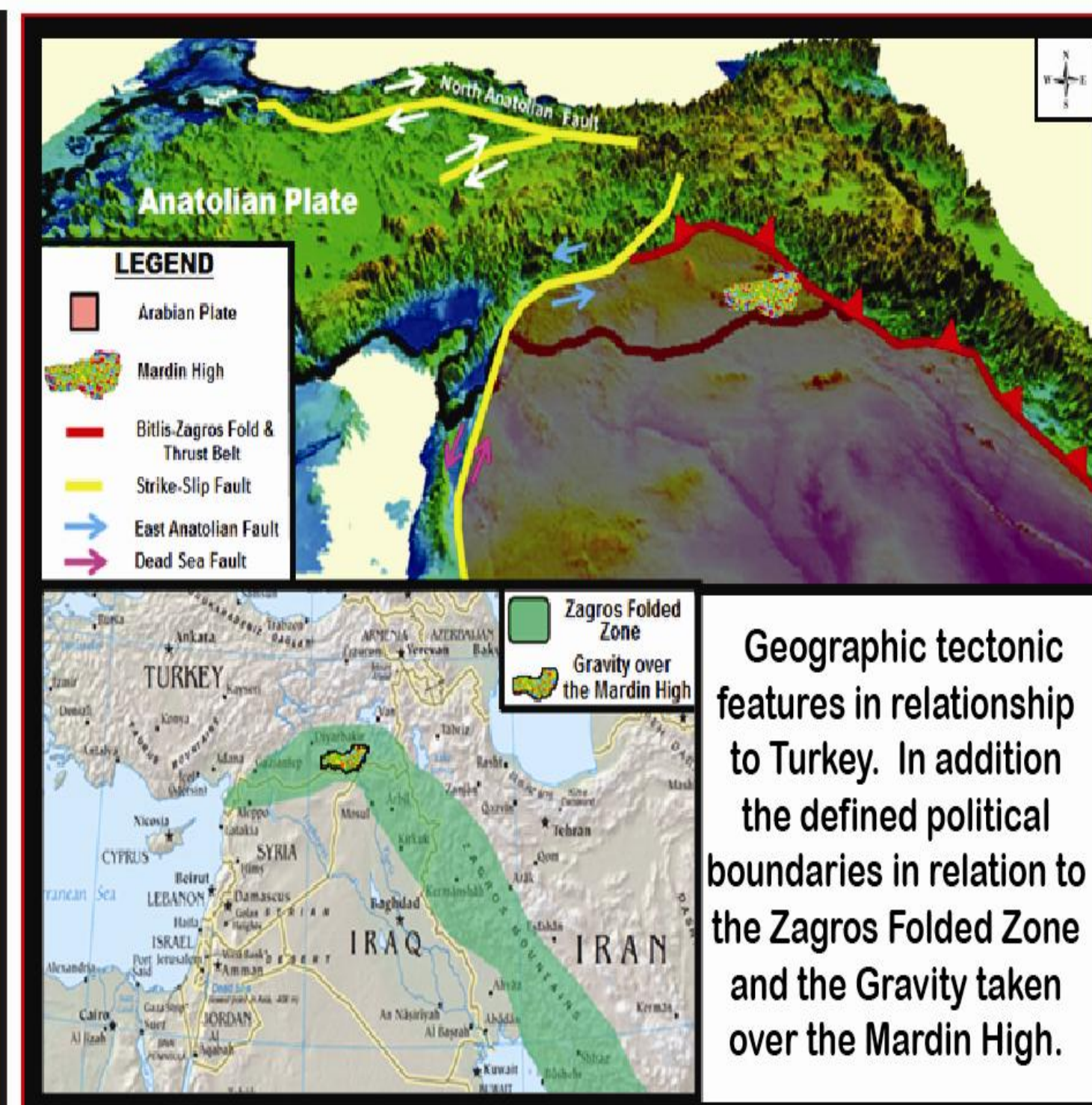
Residual gravity Maps helped to identify areas of high density rocks. Production of a residual map was required removing the upper most gravity highs from the regional field in order for the residual anomalies to be isolated. This process was completed using ArcGIS software by creating a 1st and 2nd order polynomial. After calculations of the two different interpolations, the 2nd order polynomial was subtracted from the first resulting in a residual anomaly. Average values from this operation were near the uppermost high gravity readings in the regional Bouguer gravity map. Logs from wells located on the Mardin High were used to analyze different lithologies and formation tops were transferred into the SMT Kingdom's cross-section module. Density logs were used to identify the lithology of the different formations. These data show that the deeper, older Jurassic and Triassic aged rocks were higher density, typical of carbonates and anhydrites. Above the L. Cretaceous (Paleocene sands and shale) and below the Jurassic/Triassic (Paleozoic sand, shale and possibly salt), lithology is correlated by different density values. The deeper high density Jurassic/Triassic rocks are thrust upward by reverse faults, creating a density contrast with the surrounding younger Paleocene rocks. Gravity data identifies these thrust fault related with higher gravity readings. These high gravity anomalies can then aid in the making of 2D cross-sections over the region.

## Results

Using density data, well logs, surface geological maps, satellite data and gravity readings allowed for a 2-D cross section to be generated. Older existing seismic data did not allow for reflectors to be continuously traced making for difficult interpretation. Comparing the 2-D cross section with vintage seismic helped confirm that high gravity anomalies are associated with southward verging thrust faults. The regional geology explains the different lateral variations that occur along the cross-sections. Most of the rock units become thicker towards the southeast of the Mardin High and are explained because this area was in a shelf environment during the closure of the Neo-Tethys Sea. North of Gercus well, Jurassic age sediments thin within the Cudi Group. The explanation of this thinning is partially due to an early Cretaceous regional uplift. During uplift in the Cretaceous, sedimentation ceased and erosion removed Jurassic age sediments along the northwestern part of the Mardin High. The lower Paleocene Germav shale thins to the southeast due to localized highs during the Maastrichtian stage of the Upper Cretaceous. A regression near the end of the Cretaceous resulted in restricted deposition related to presence of topographic highs that were fault related. Erosion of younger sediments exposed uplifted Upper Paleocene, Lower Paleocene and Cretaceous aged rocks near the Gercus well, which also explains the exceptionally high gravity anomaly present. Younger thrust faults near the Bakuk wells lead to an increased rate in erosion over the fault related anticlines, thus depositing the sediments in the Selmo formation.

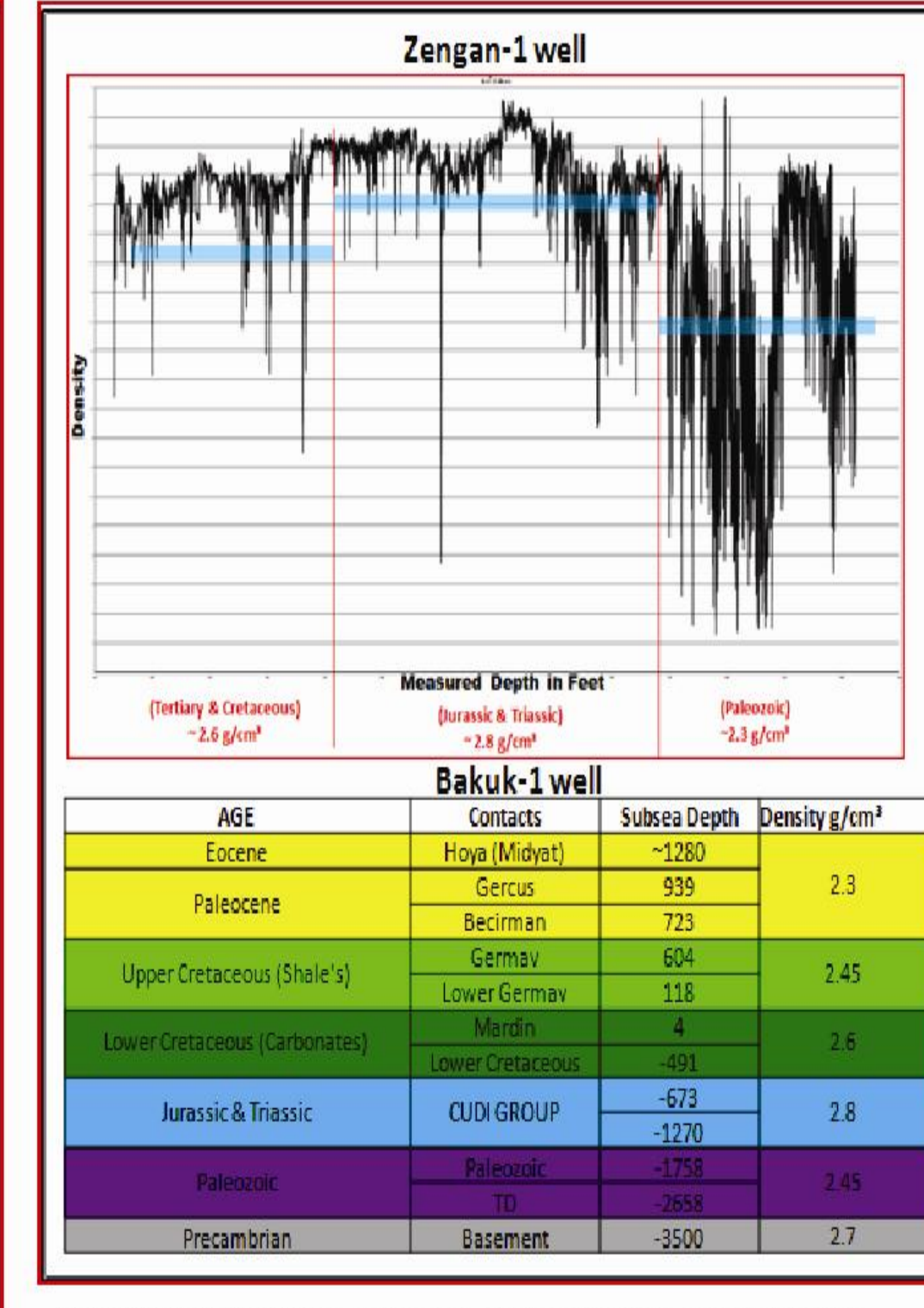
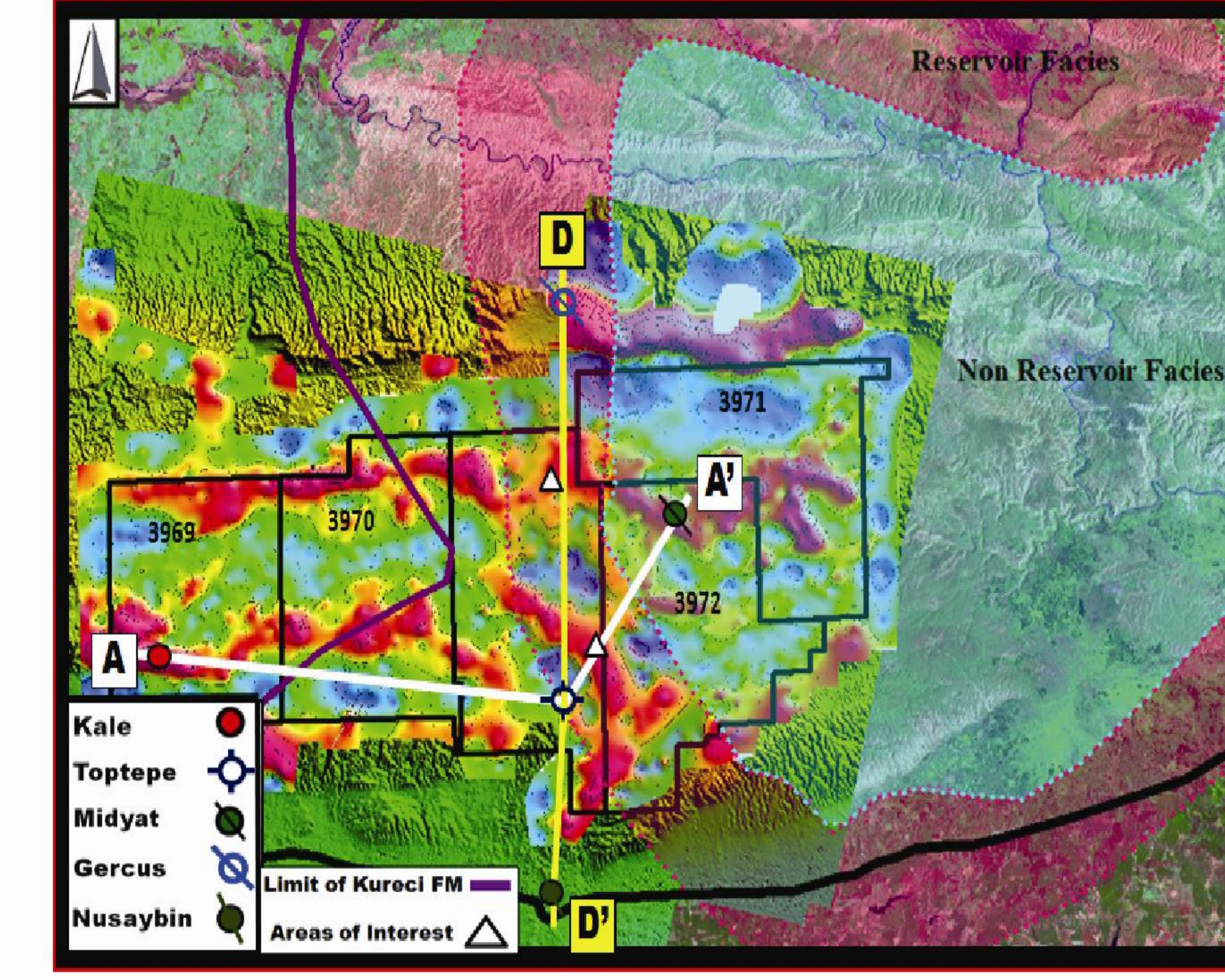
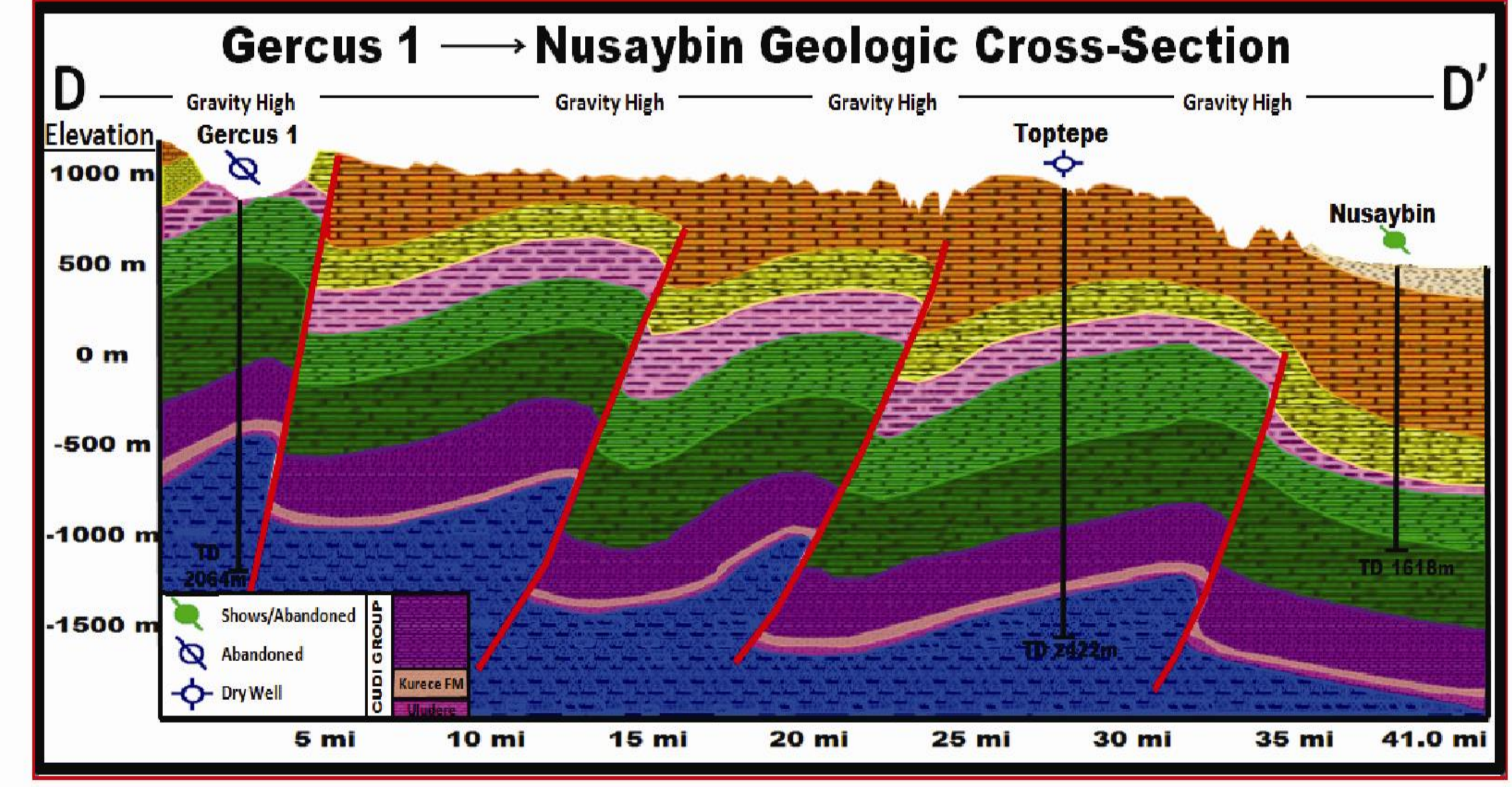
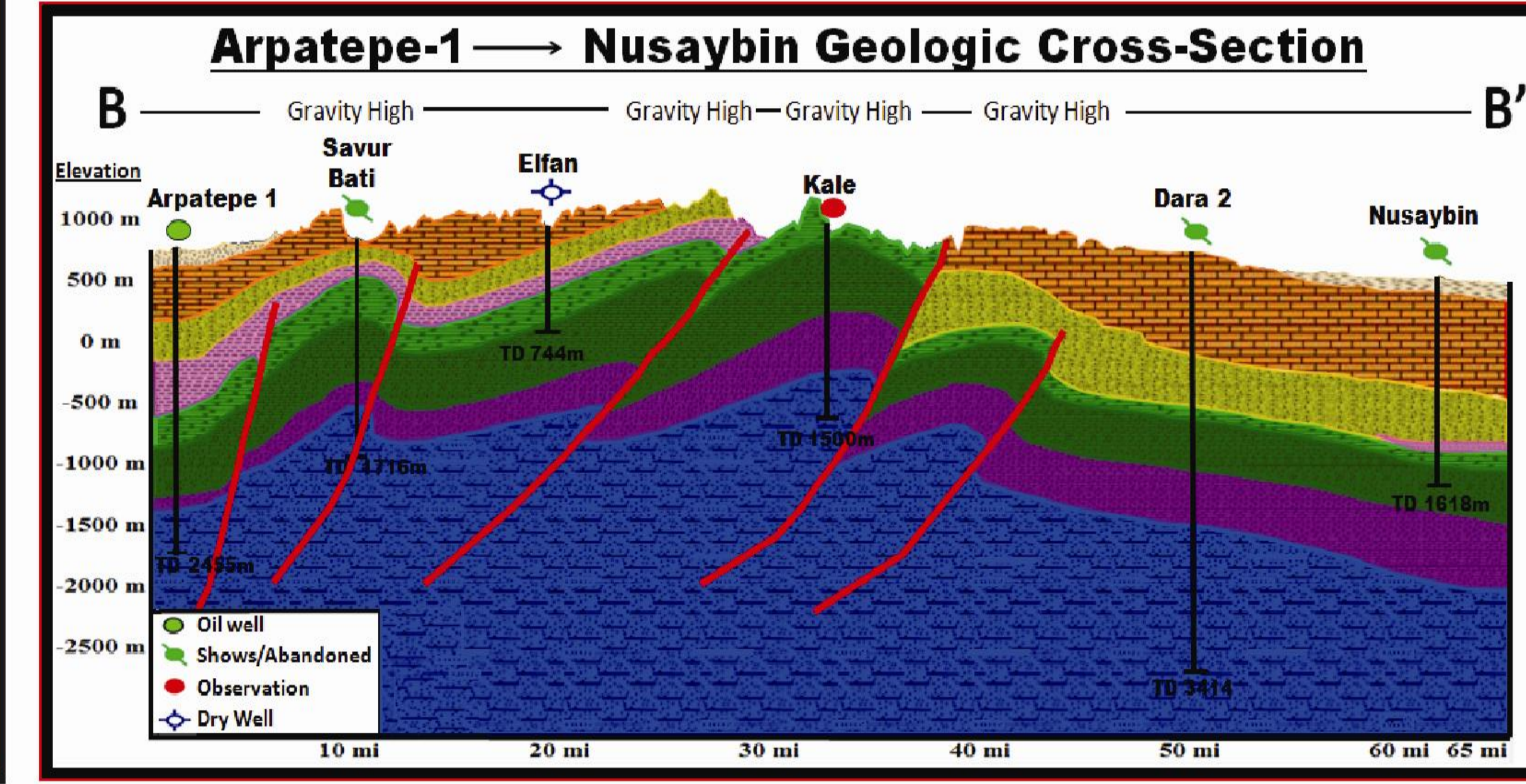
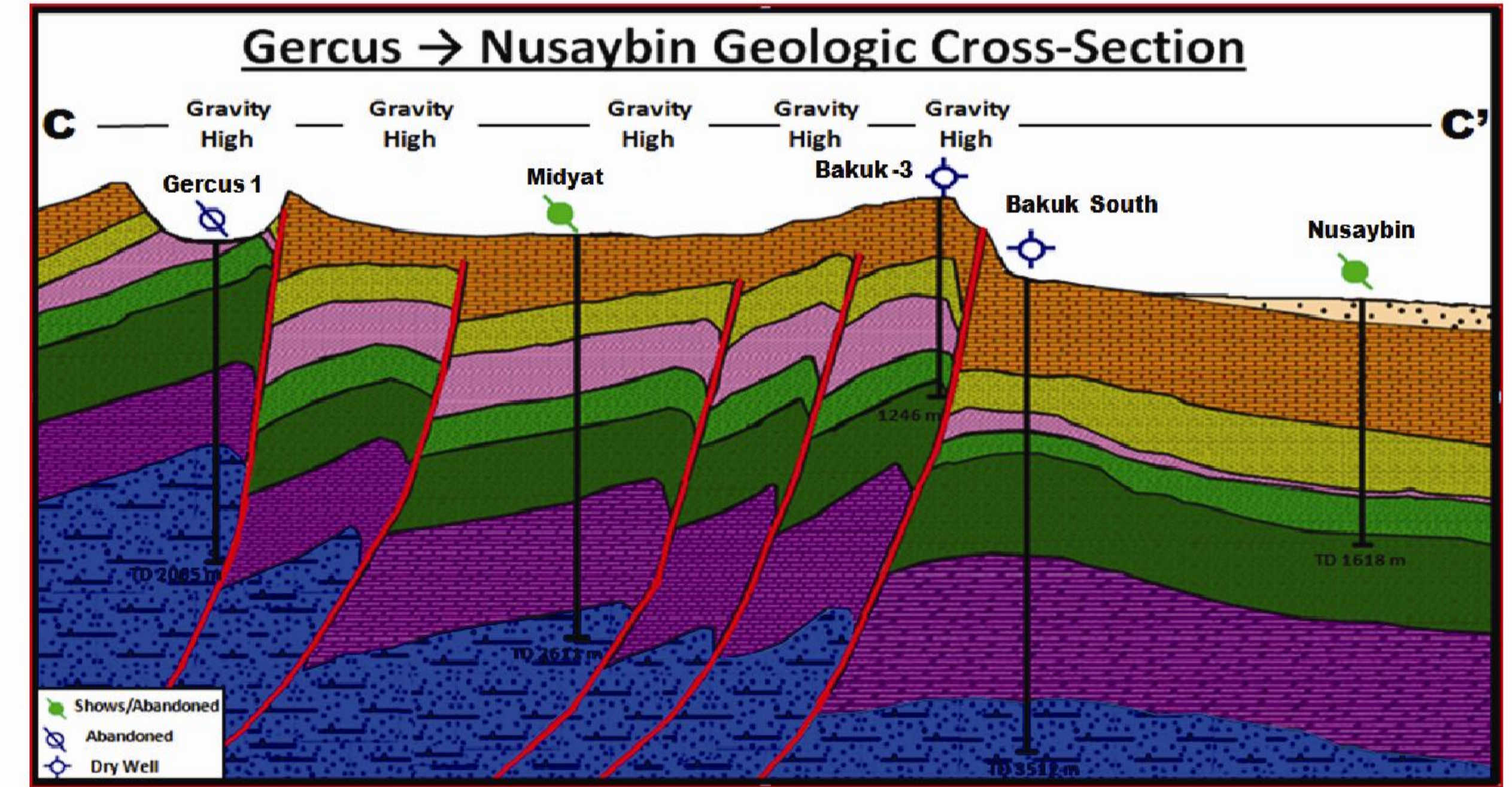
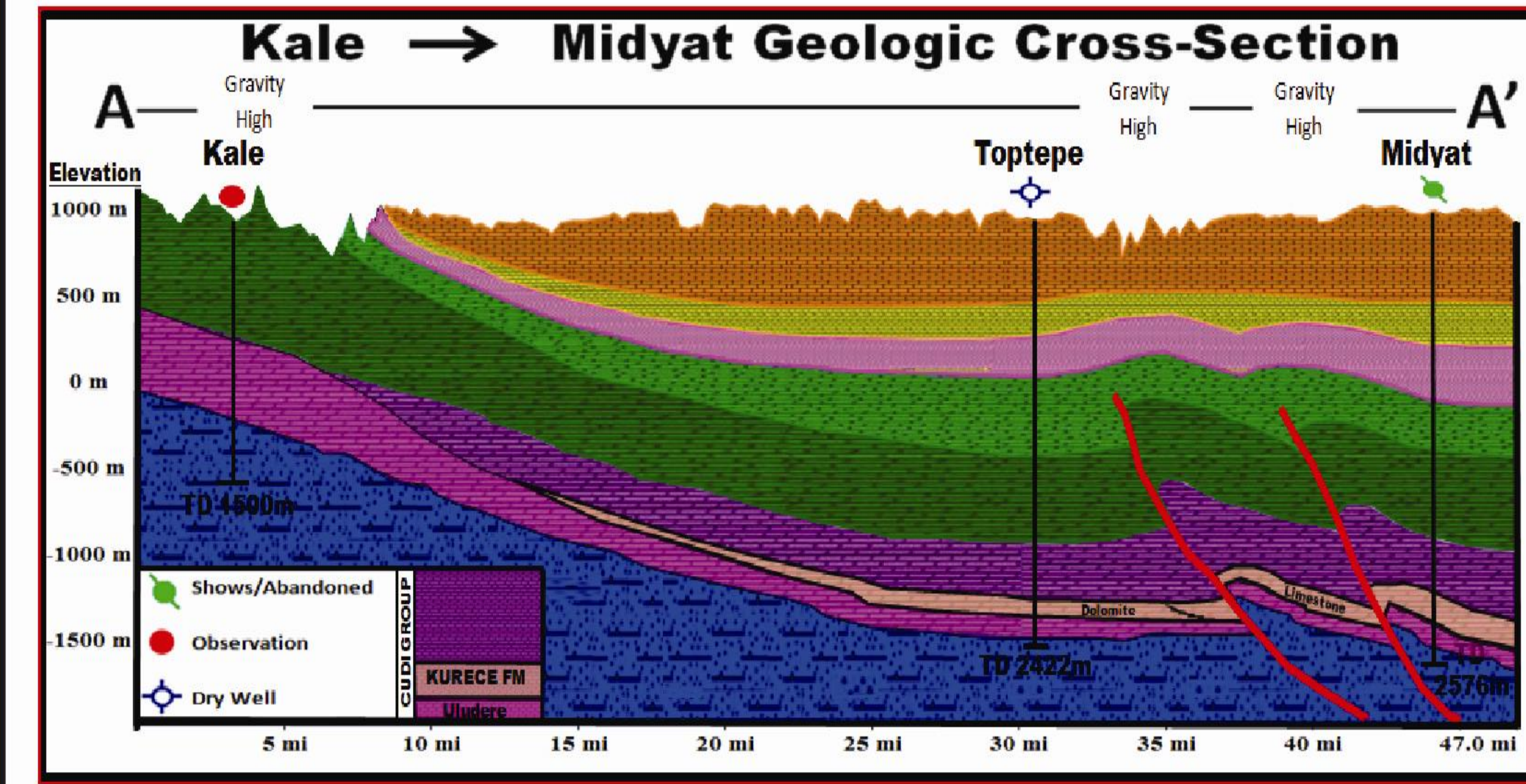
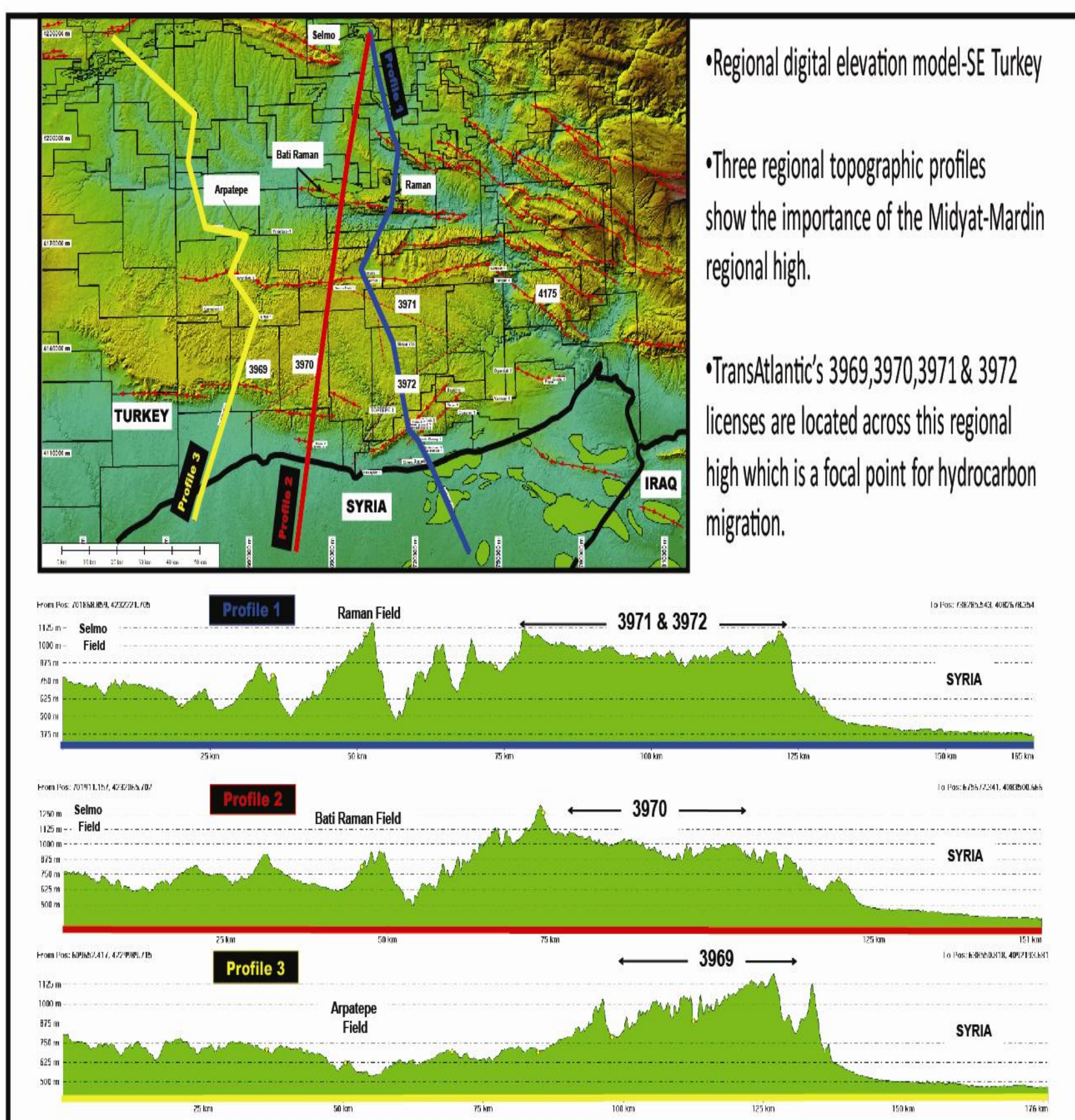
## Conclusions

The prospective areas of interest are identified by the high gravity anomalies produced in the residual gravity map over the Mardin High. Close inspection of these prospective areas can be analyzed without acquisition of new seismic, as seen in the created 2D cross-sections. Locations of gravity highs indicate a fault related anticline that provides potential structural traps for the Cretaceous, Jurassic and Triassic age carbonates. The overlying shale of the Germav formation provides an impermeable regional seal for the potential hydrocarbons. Paleozoic and Jurassic-Triassic age source rocks are within the oil and gas window in some areas of the Midyat high and are mature to the north and south of the Midyat-Mardin High. Potential exploration locations within the gravity highs should be considered when drilling new wells for oil and gas within the Mardin High. Existing seismic, well control and gravity data provides adequate information to create 2D cross-sections and structure maps, to better understand the evolutionary history of the Mardin High. The integration of different datasets has led to a better understanding of the region and prospective areas for hydrocarbon exploration. These integrated data sets can be used to identify trends and analogues in furthering an exploration program outside of the immediate study area. It will also allow the company to better plan and/or minimize future seismic acquisition saving millions of dollars in unnecessary speculative seismic programs.



Stratigraphy over the Mardin High with lithologies assigned to density and age.

AGE (Ma)	GEOLOGIC TIME	LITHOLOGY	ROCK UNITS	Density
0	Neogene		Selmo FM.	
23	Oligocene		Midyat Group	
55	Eocene		Gercus & Becirman	2.3
100	U. Paleocene		Germav FM.	
145	L. Paleocene		Germav FM.	
100	U. Cretaceous		Garzan FM.	2.45
145	L. Cretaceous		Mardin Group	2.6
251	Jurassic		Cudi Group	2.8
251	Triassic		Gomani FM	
542	Paleozoic		Bedinan FM	2.45

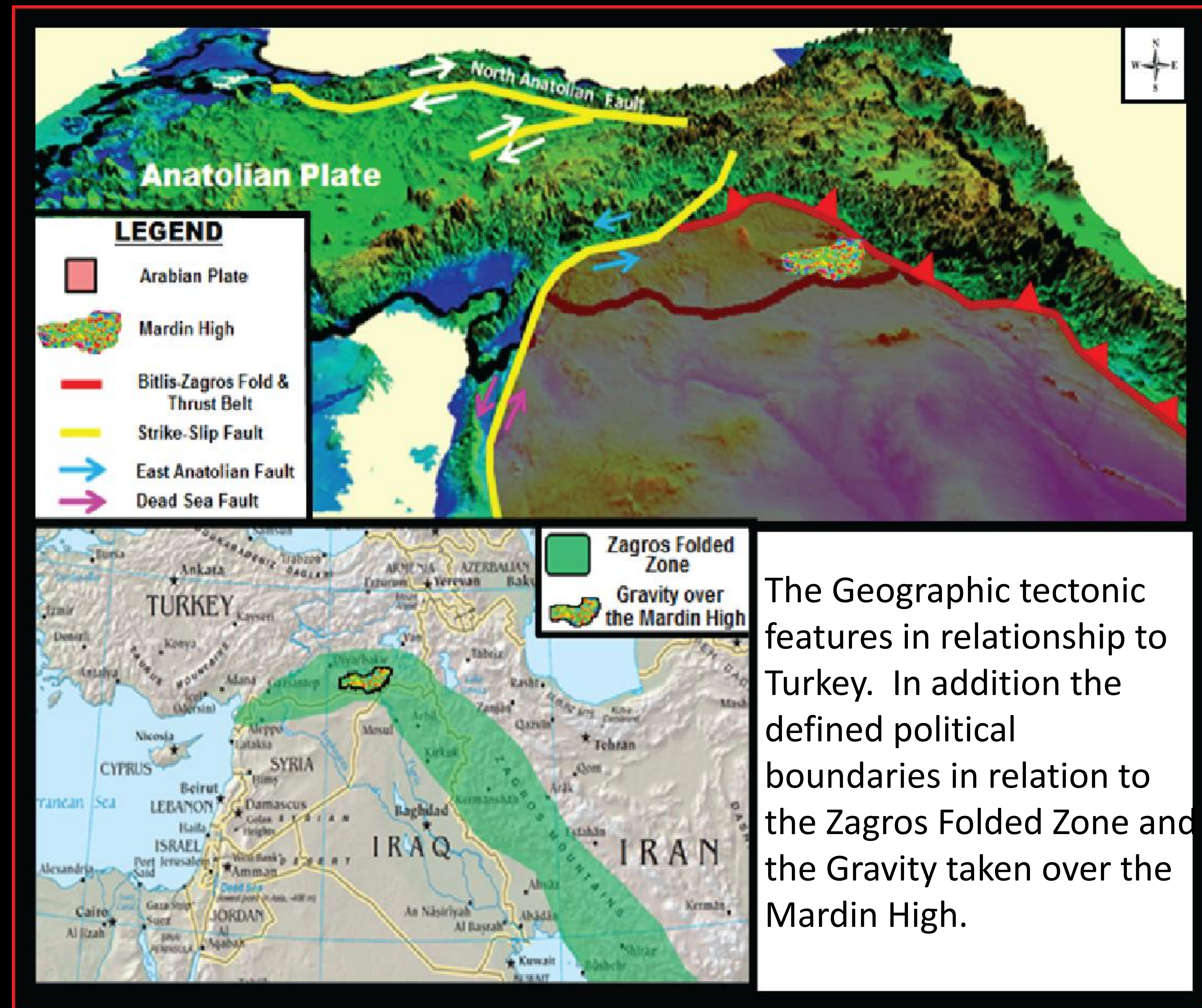


Density Data that was collected on two wells located over the Mardin High



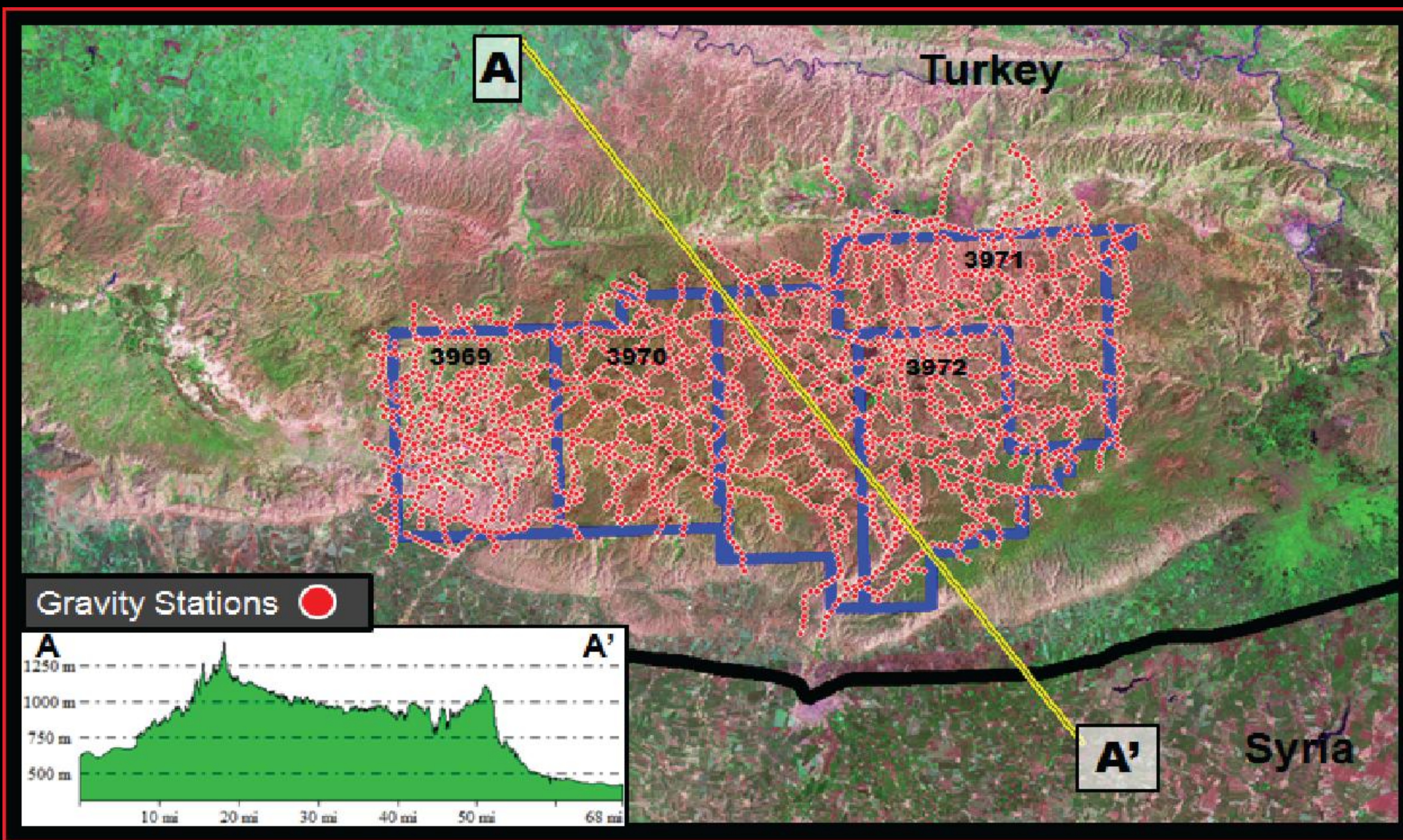


Location of Turkey in conjunction with surrounding continents. The bridge between Europe & Asia.



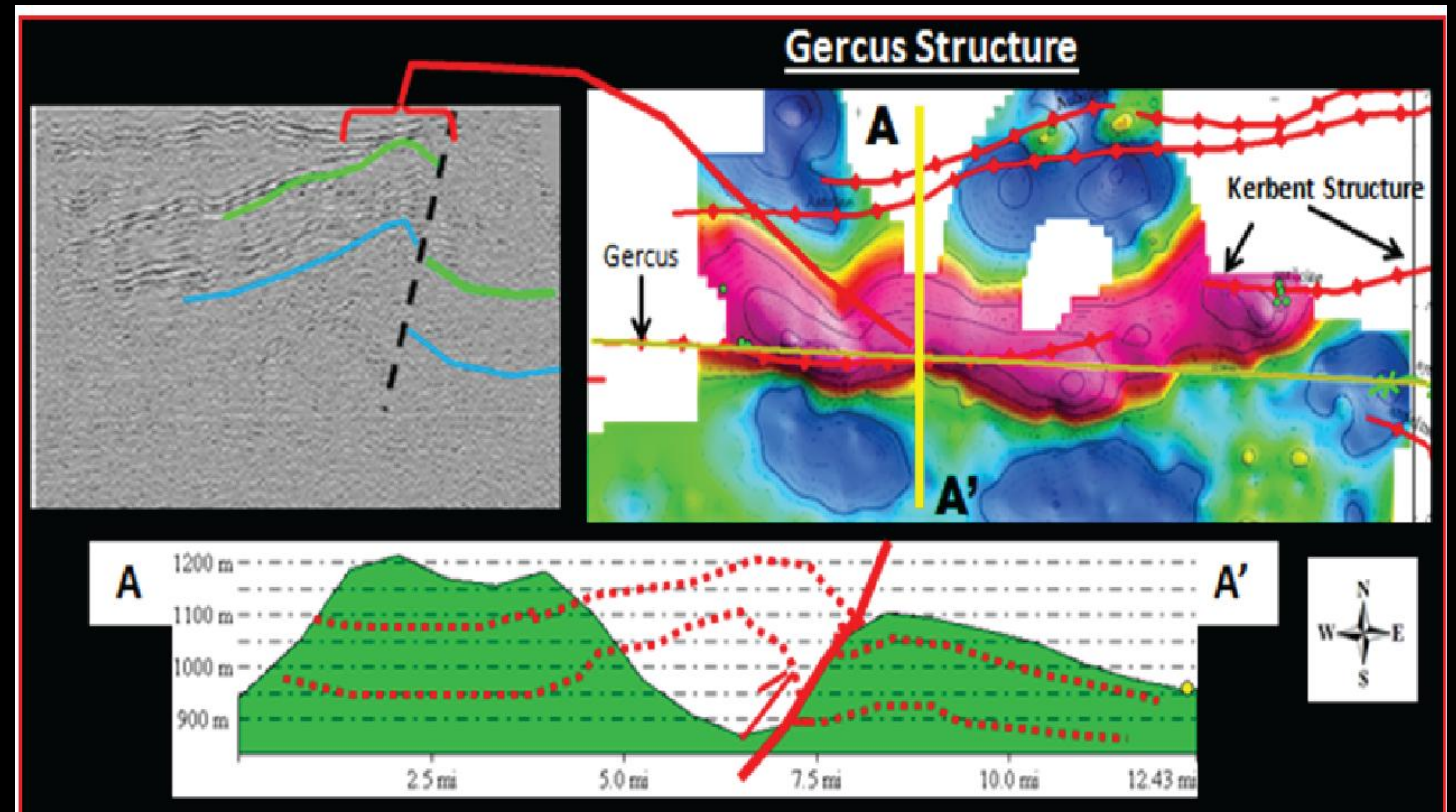
The Geographic tectonic features in relationship to Turkey. In addition the defined political boundaries in relation to the Zagros Folded Zone and the Gravity taken over the Mardin High.





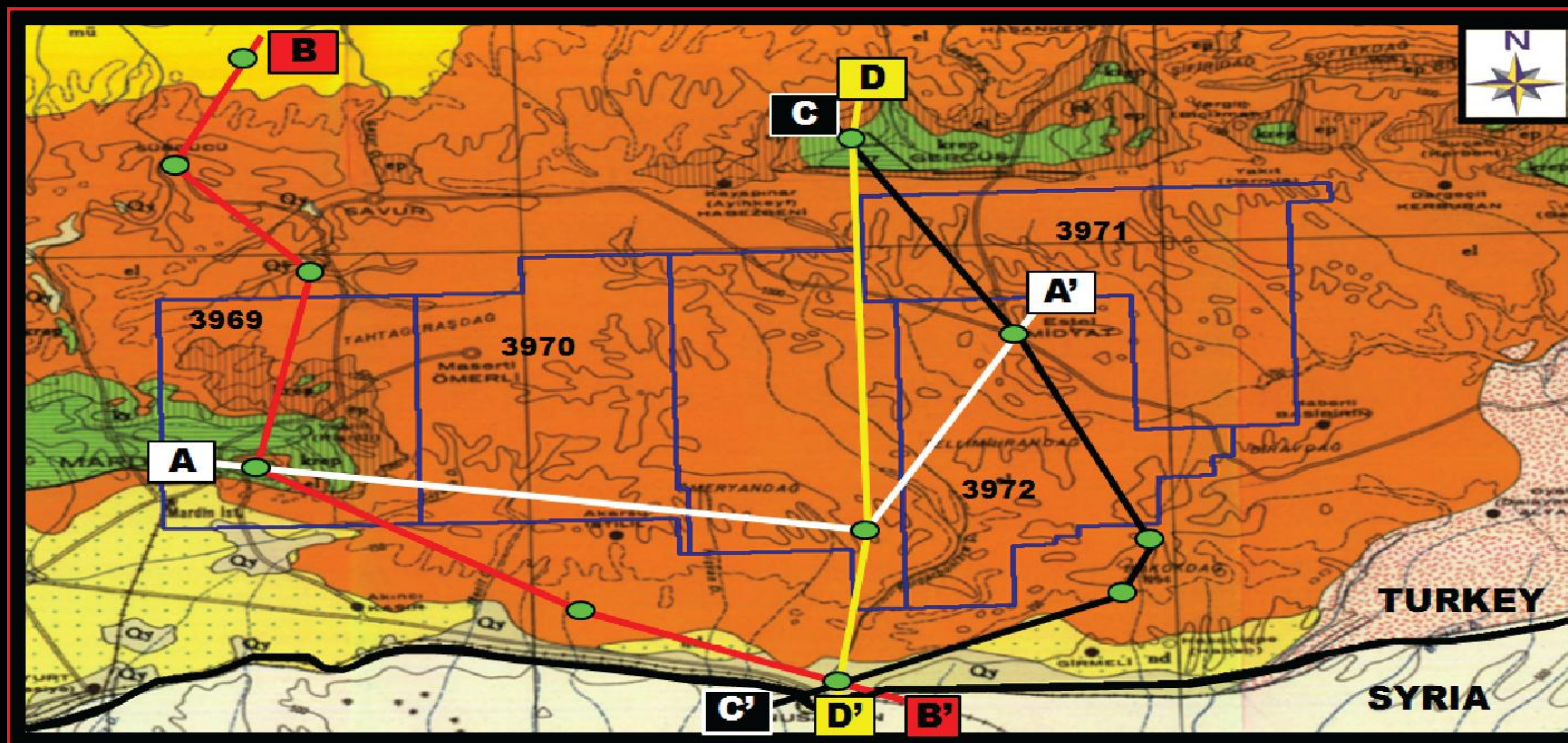
Landsat image of the localities where gravity measurements were taken over the Mardin High. Processing new seismic did not allow for continuous reflectors to be traced due to the carbonates near the surface that are fractured and karstified.

Vintage seismic was able to be used to correlate southward verging thrust faults with high gravity anomalies.



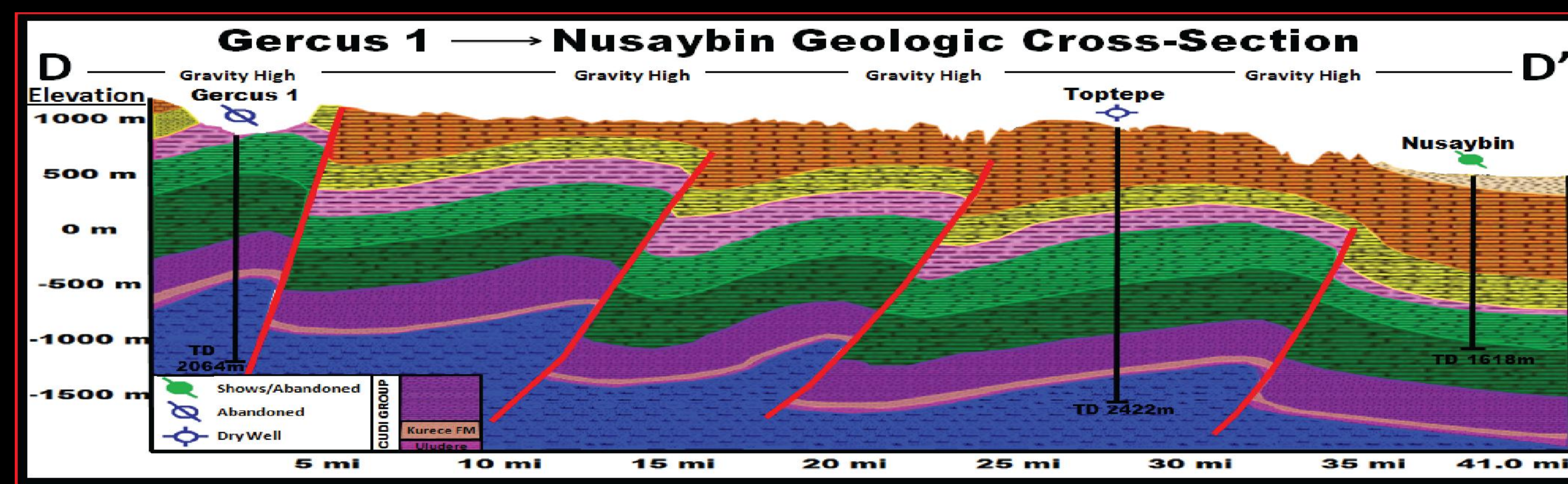
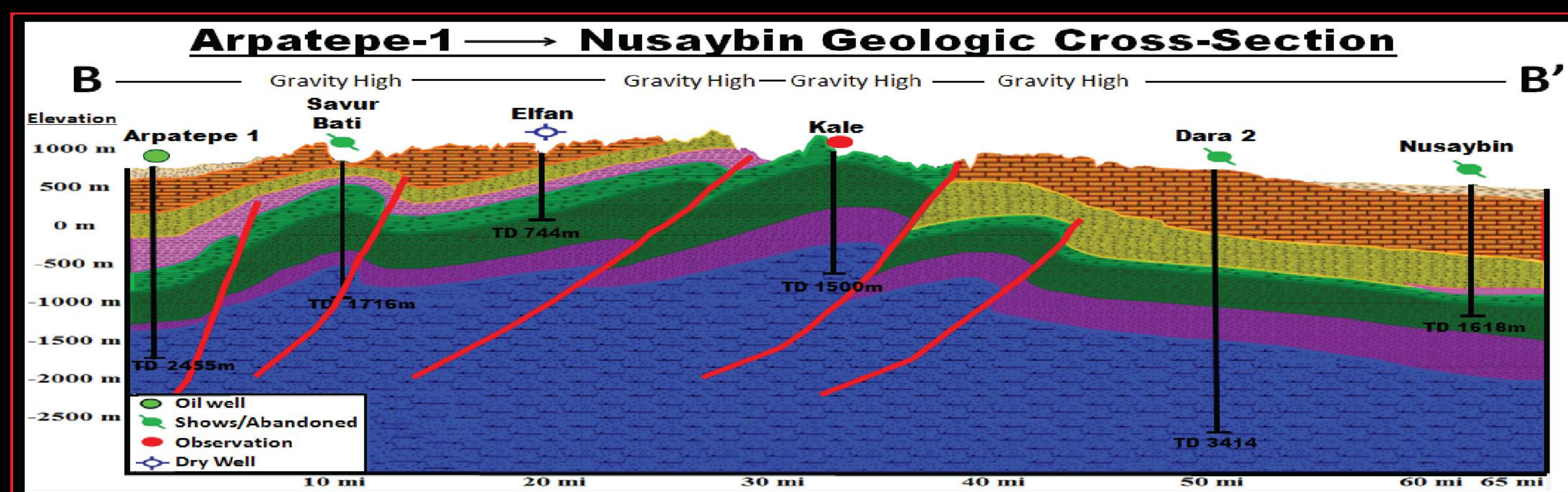
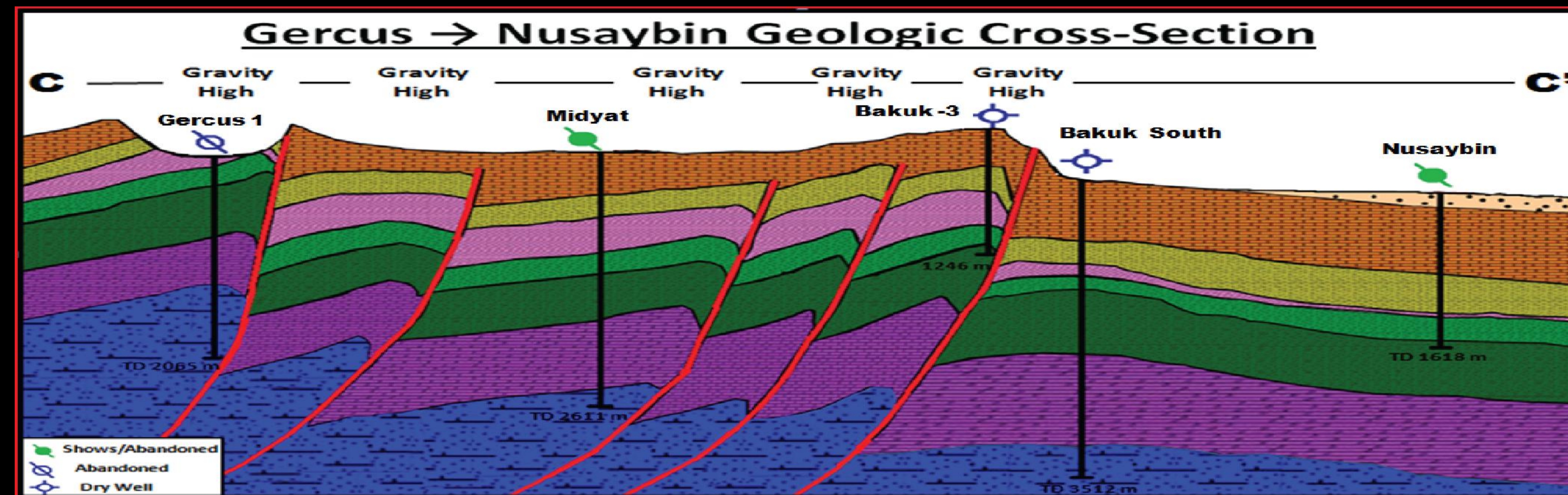
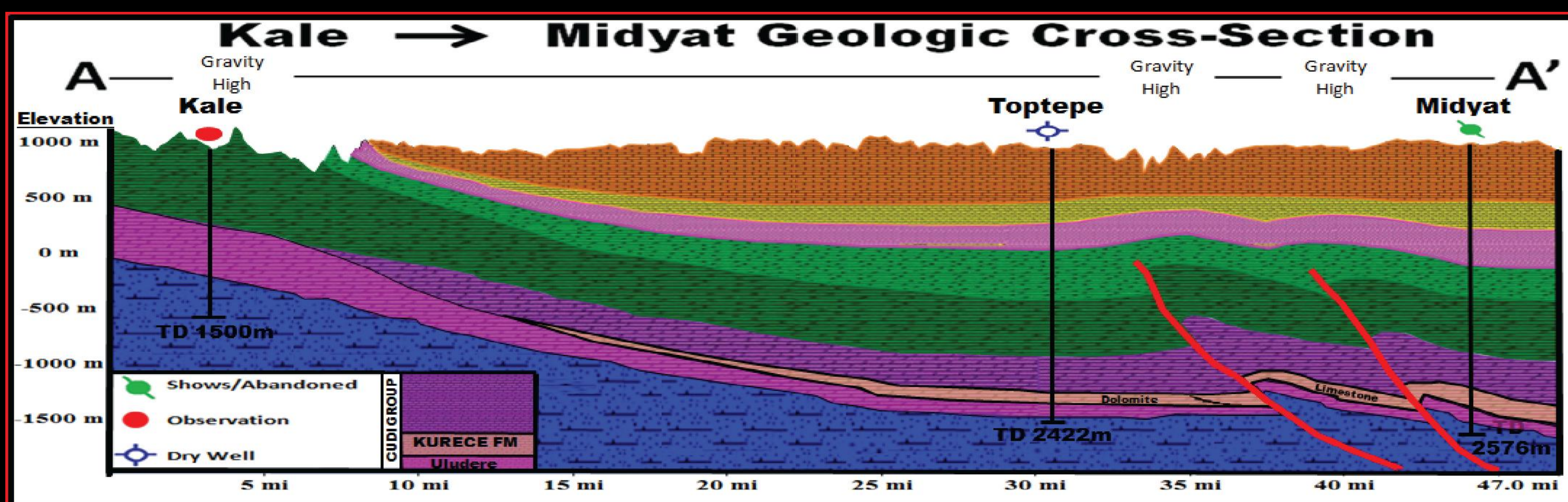


Map View of the Geologic Surface where the profile lines used to make the cross-sections A-A', B-B', C-C' and D-D'.



Stratigraphy over the Mardin High with lithologies assigned to density and age.

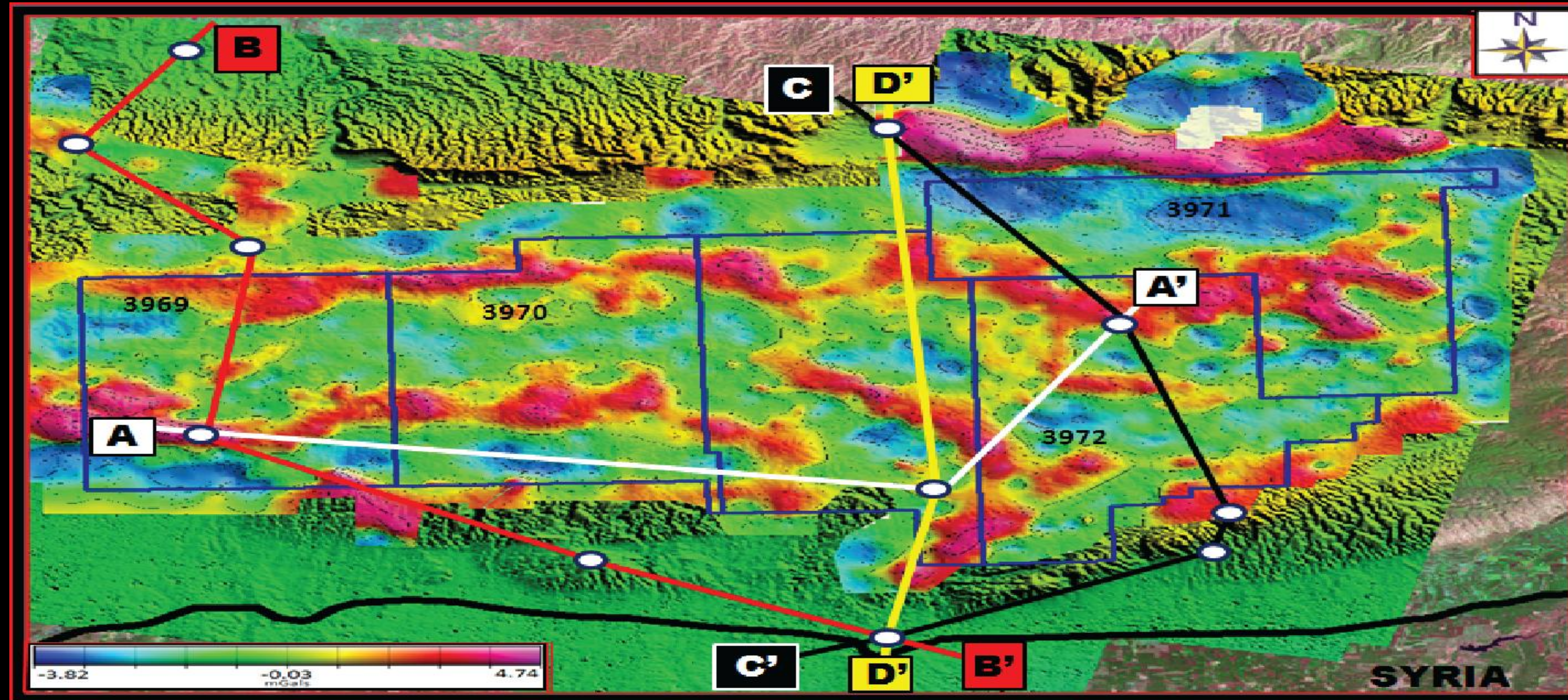
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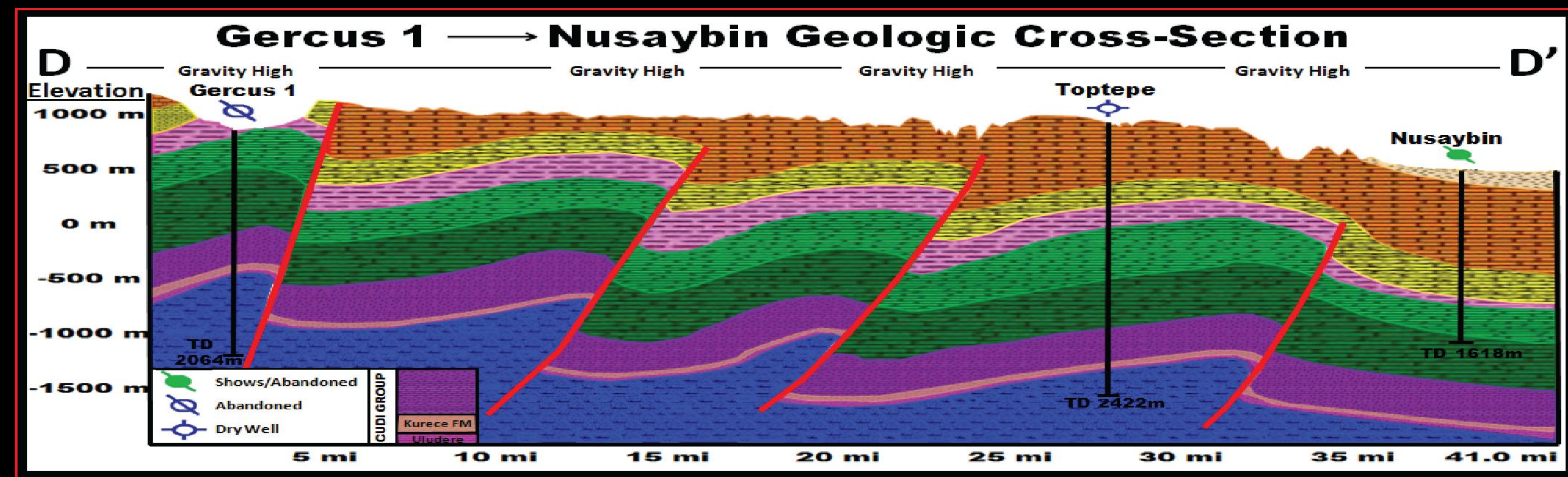
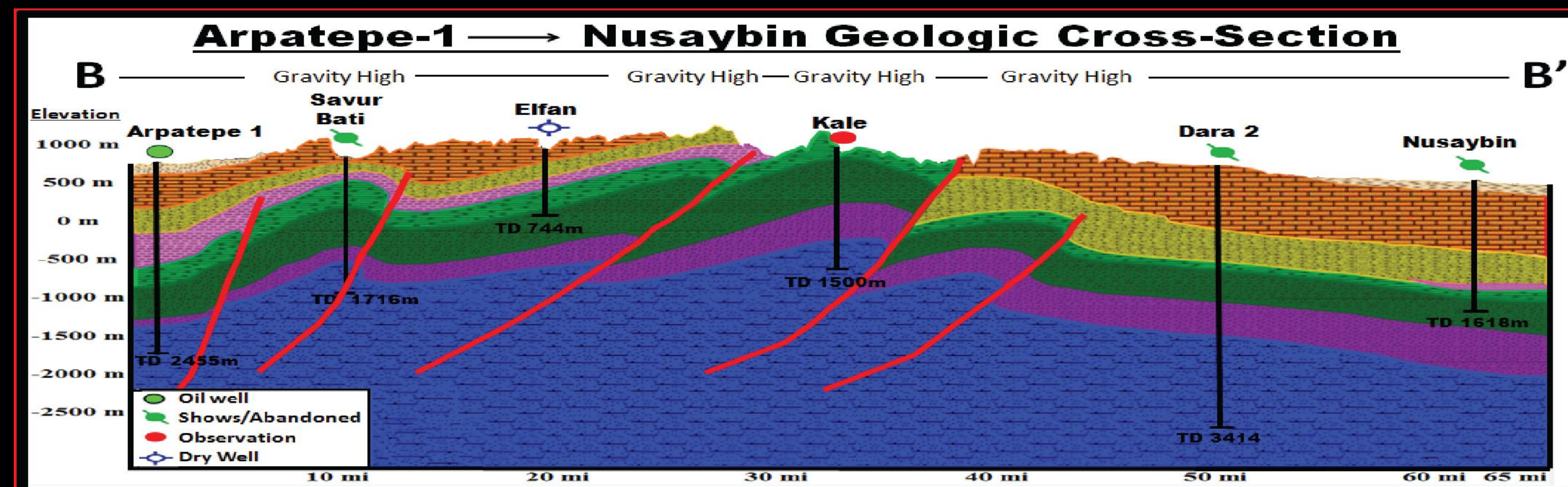
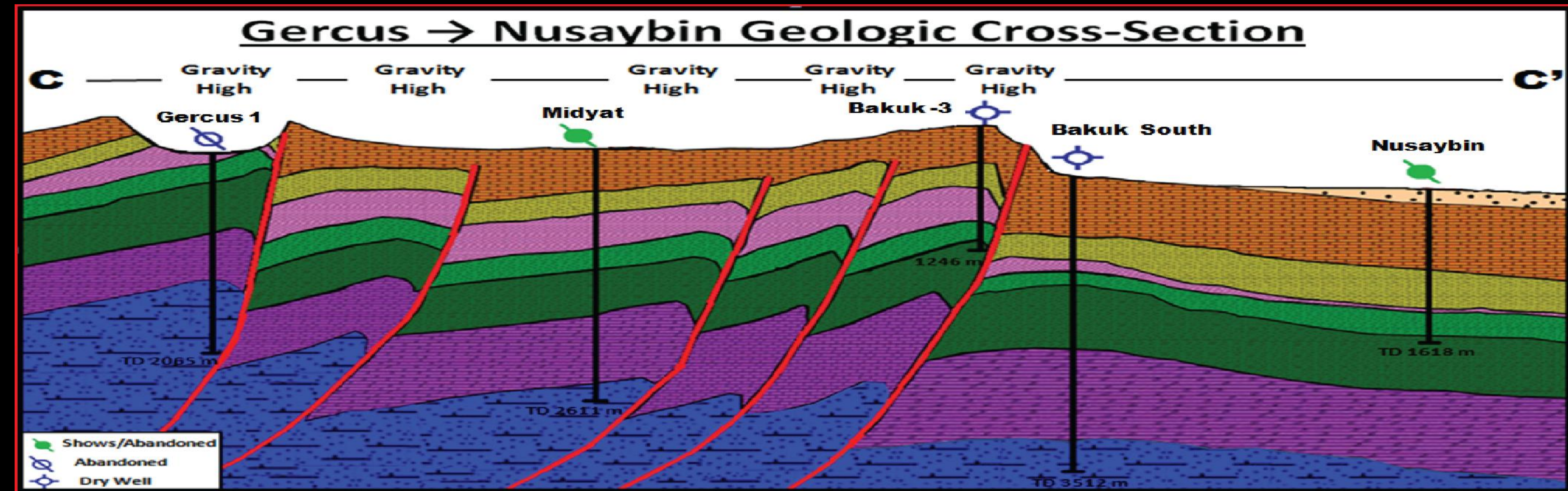
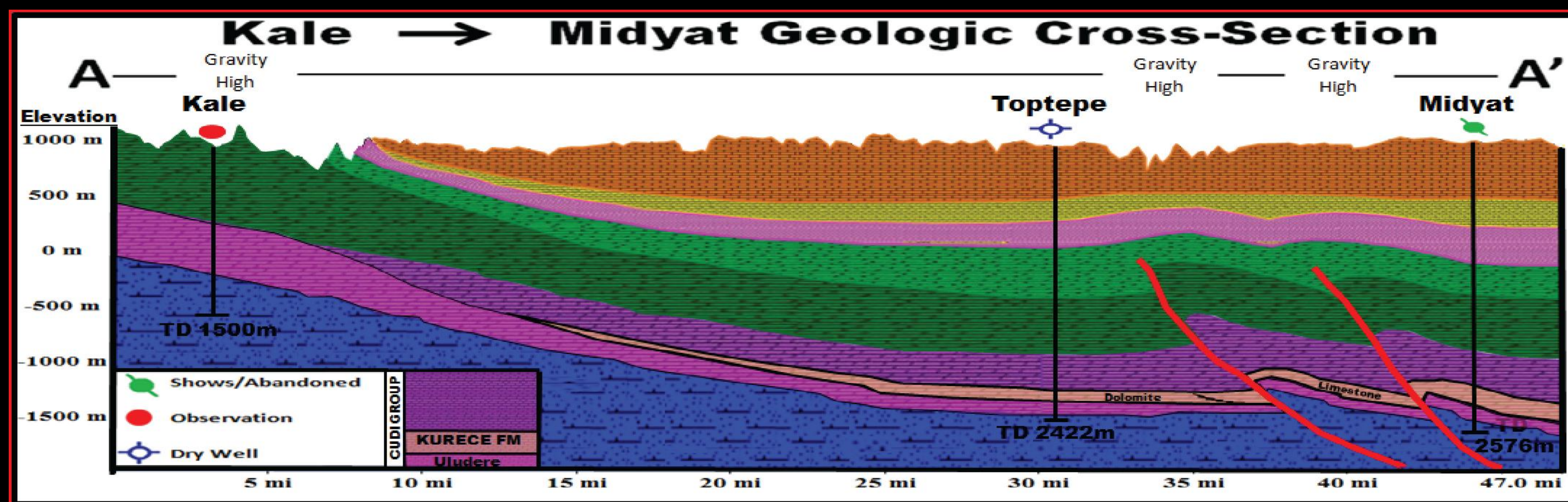


Map View of the profile lines for the cross-sections A-A', B-B', C-C' and D-D' taken over the Mardin High. ASTER DEM (5 Meter Resolution) in addition to log data from wells over the Mardin High were also used to help correlate fault related anticlines. High gravity values from the produced residual also indicate where thrust faults are present.

Stratigraphy over the Mardin High with lithologies assigned to density and age.

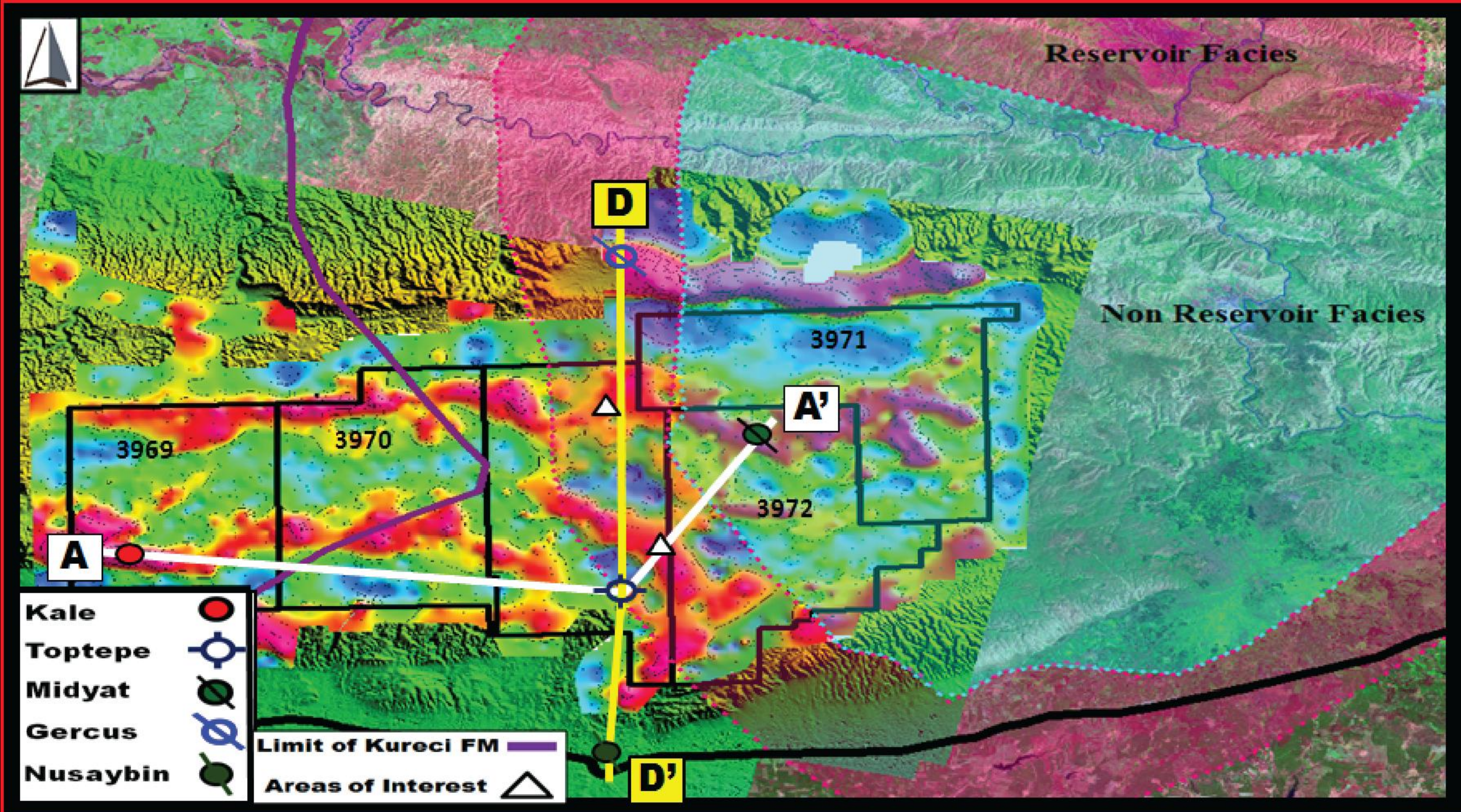


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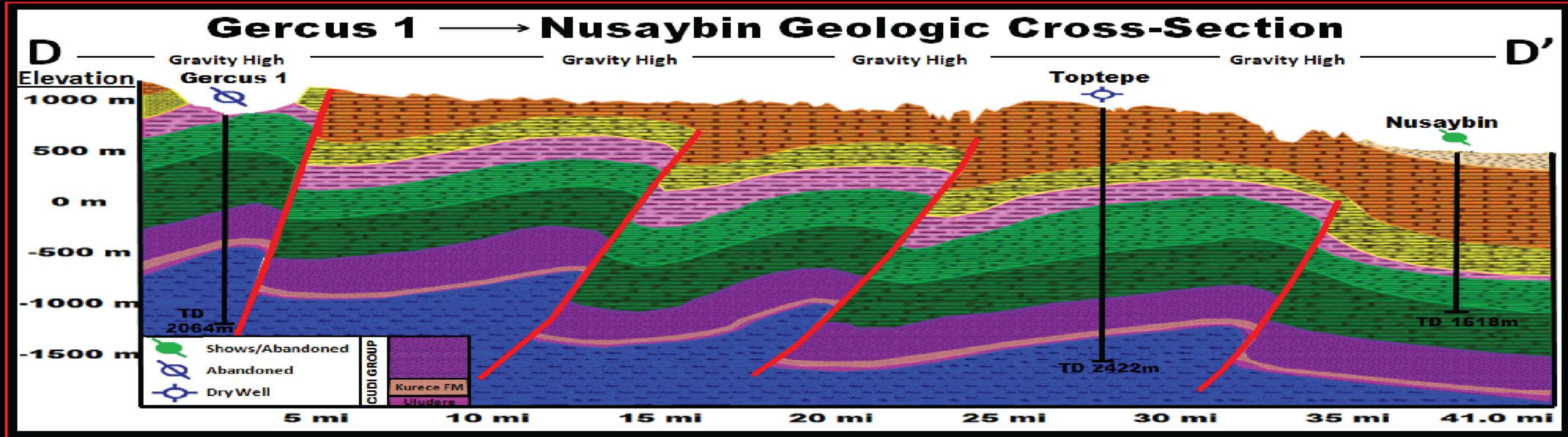
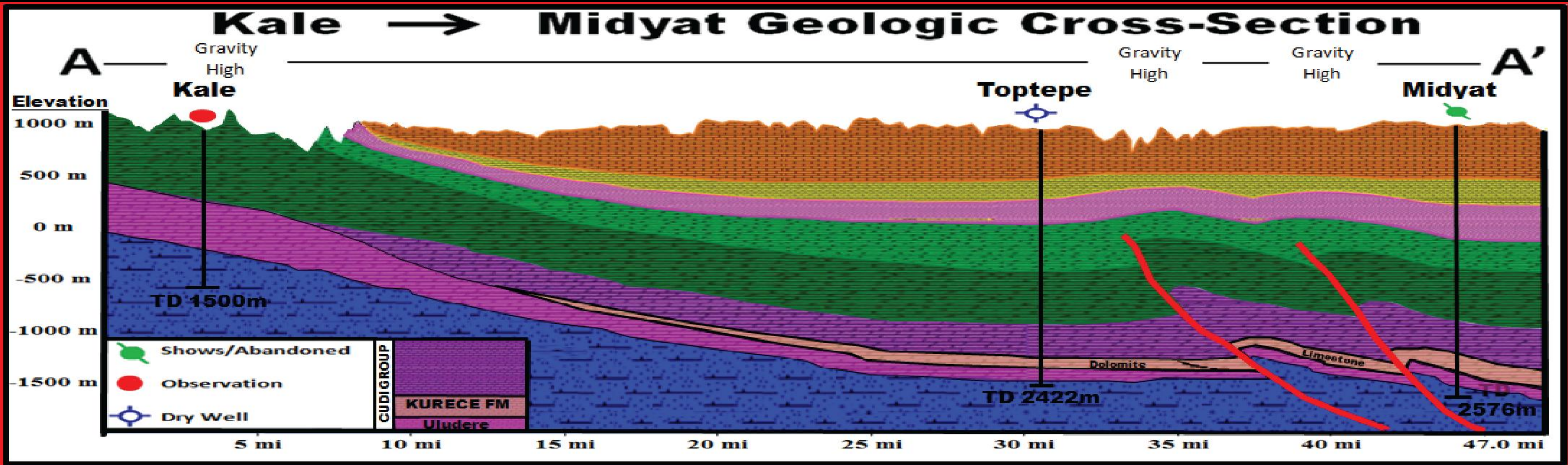


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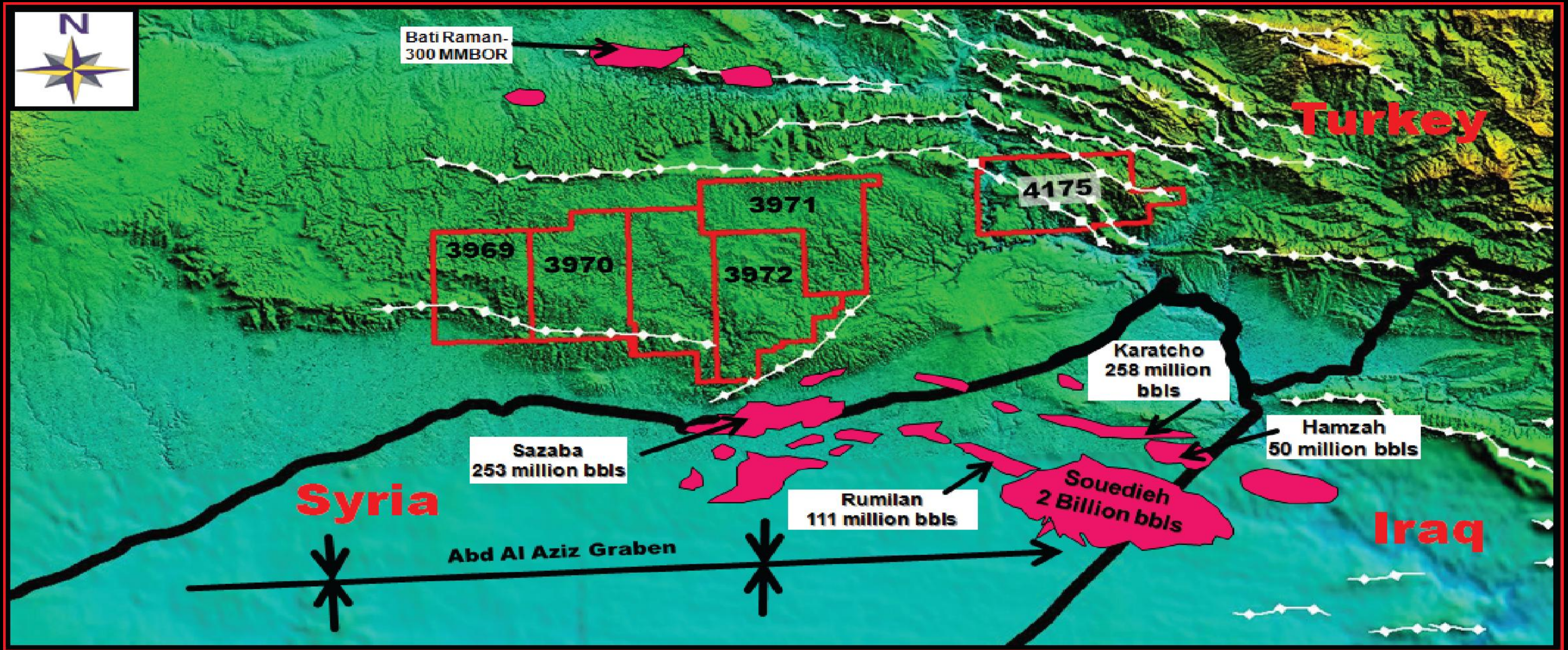


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	Triassic			
251	Paleozoic		Gomani FM ↓ Bedinan FM	2.45
542				

A Residual Bouguer gravity map was underlain by the Mardin licenses blocks and the transition zone between a reservoir facies and a non Reservoir Facies of lower Triassic formation. The Kureci FM is a zone of interest that was deposited in a subtidal marine environment. The lithology was mainly a limestone but in part it also includes reservoir quality facies which indicates a possible transition zone between sub-tidal to tidal environments at this location. This transition can be seen in the cross-sections A-A' and D-D'.

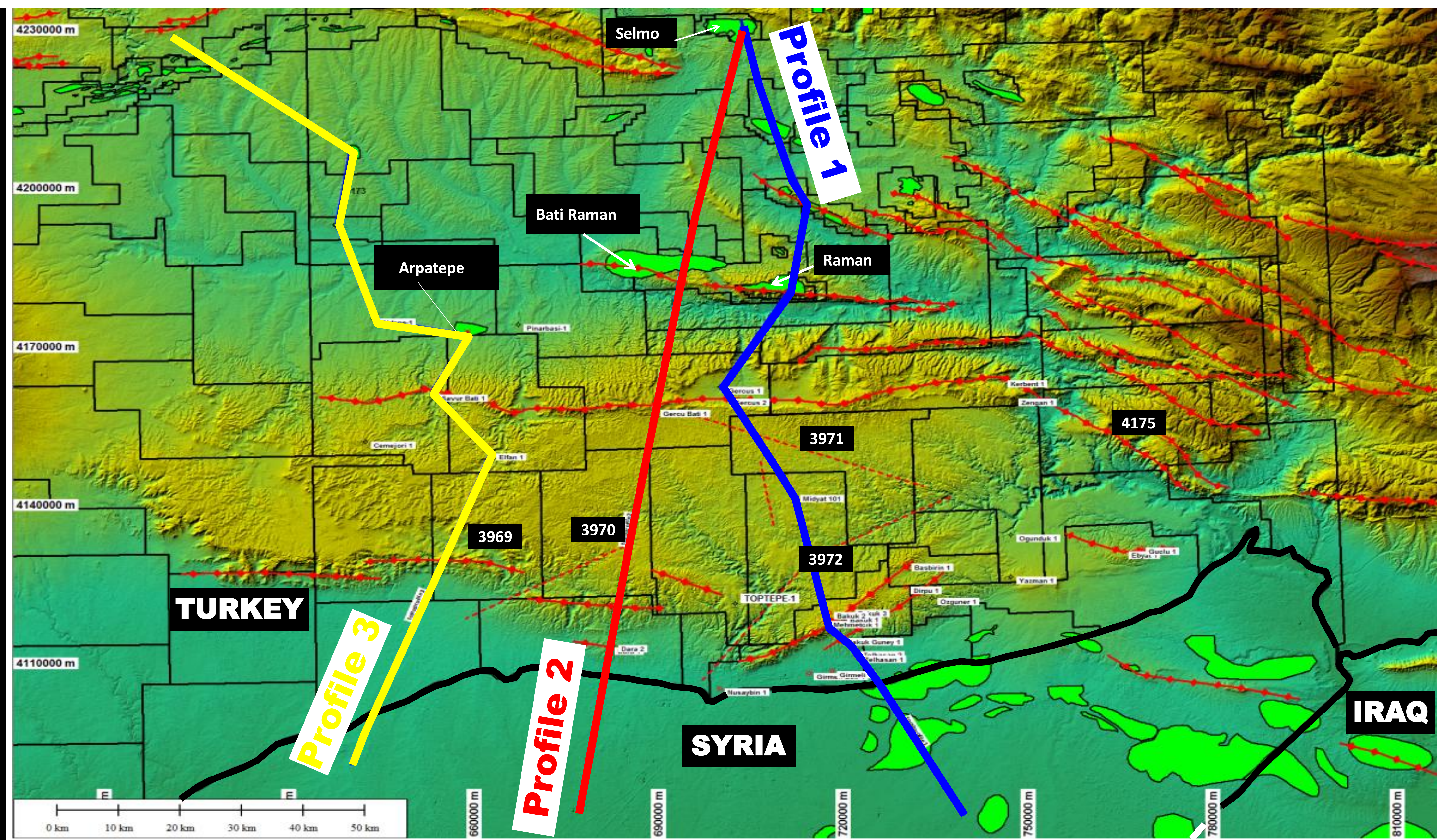




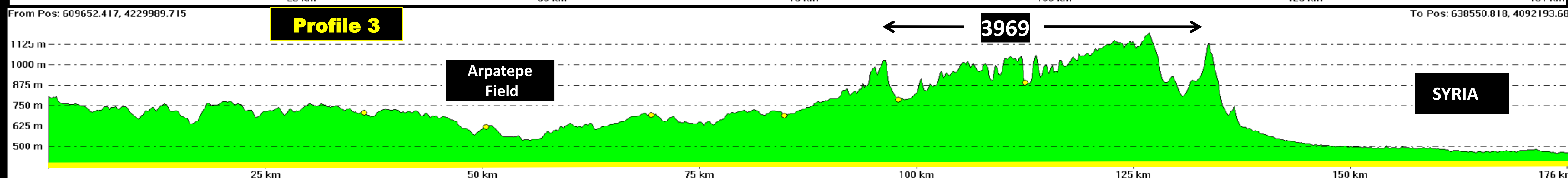
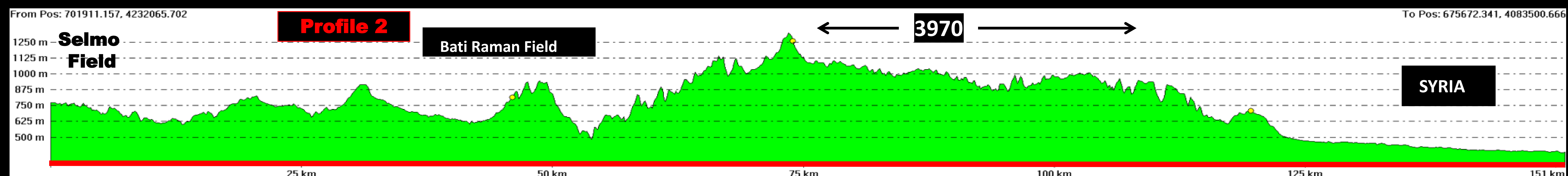
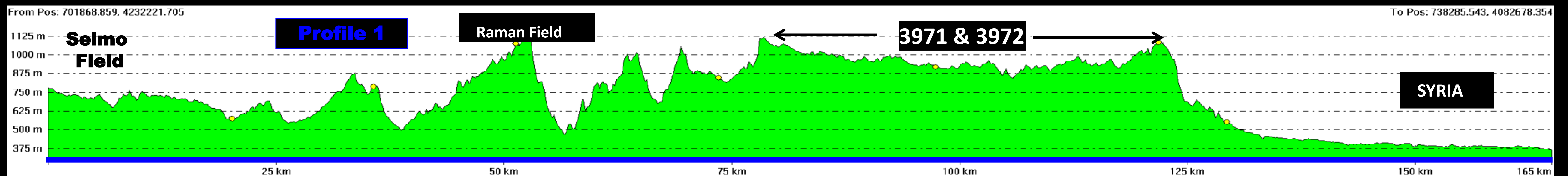


Mardin licenses on trend with the major oil and gas fields in the Zagros fold belt that extend into Iraq, Syria and Iran.





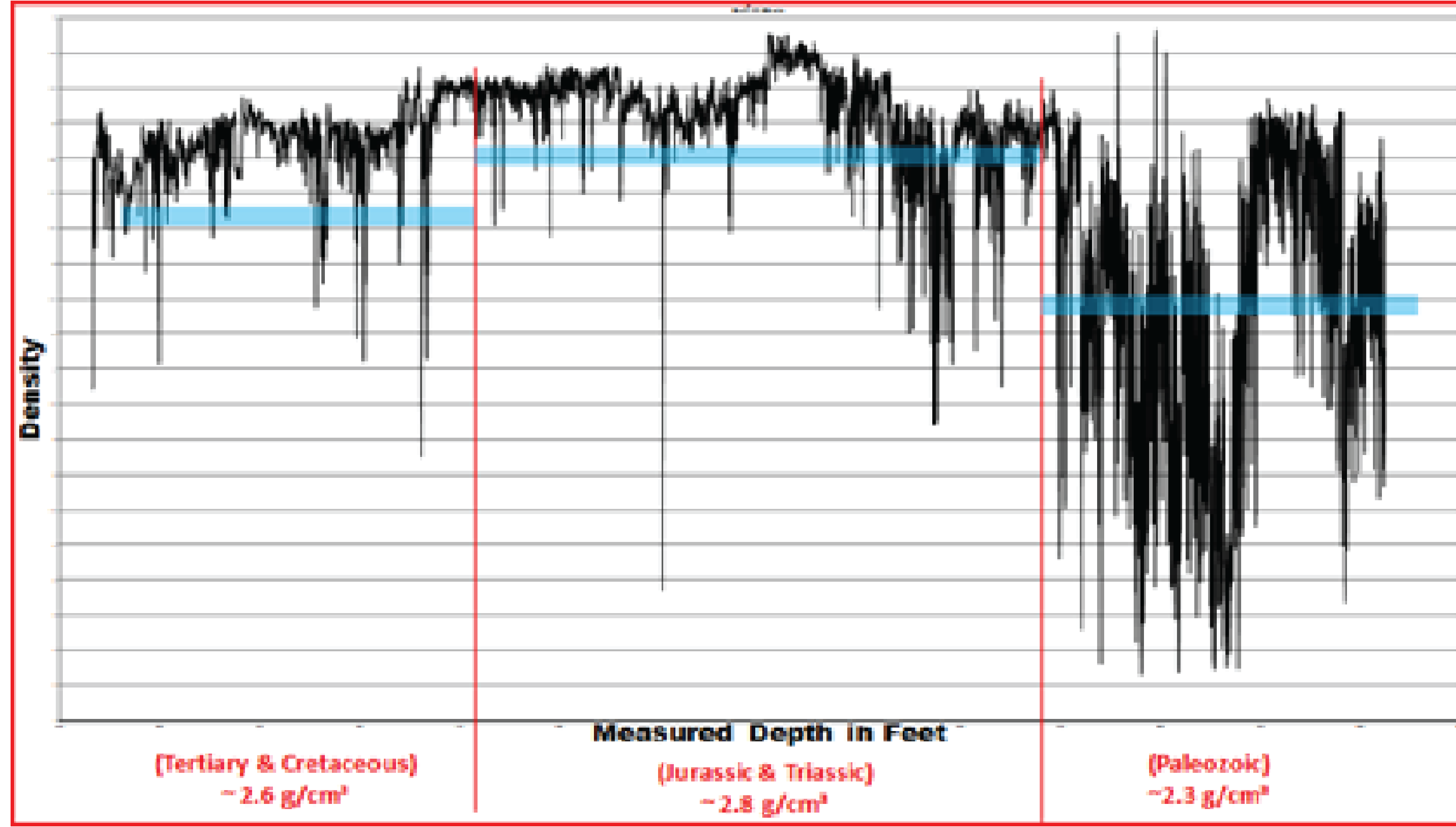
- Regional digital elevation model-SE Turkey
- Three regional topographic profiles show the importance of the Midyat-Mardin regional high.
- TransAtlantic’s 3969,3970,3971 & 3972 licenses are located across this regional high which is a focal point for hydrocarbon migration.





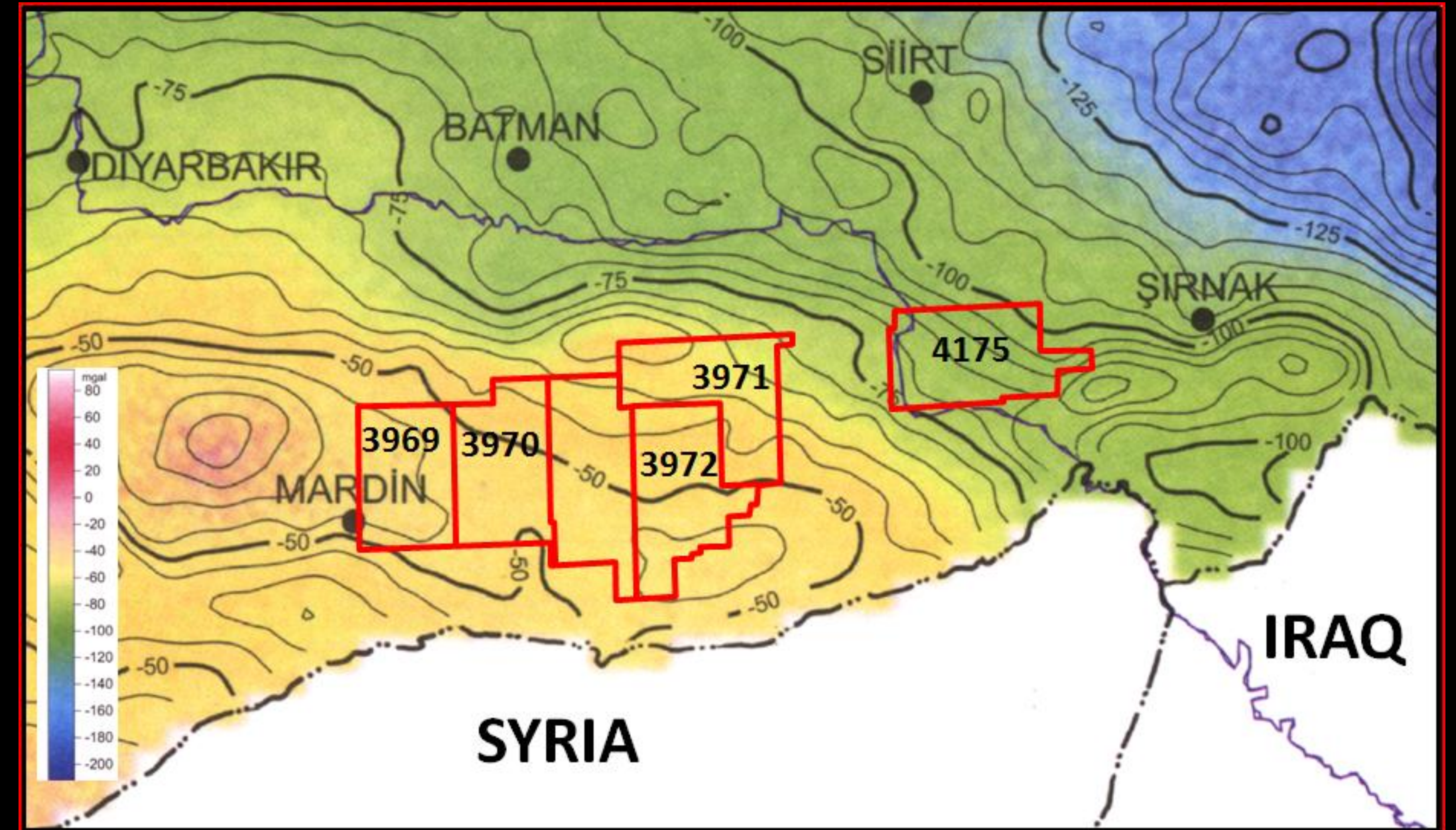
Density Data that was collected on two wells located over the Mardin High. Used to assign different densities to the correct formations when producing the Residual Bouguer

Zengan-1 well



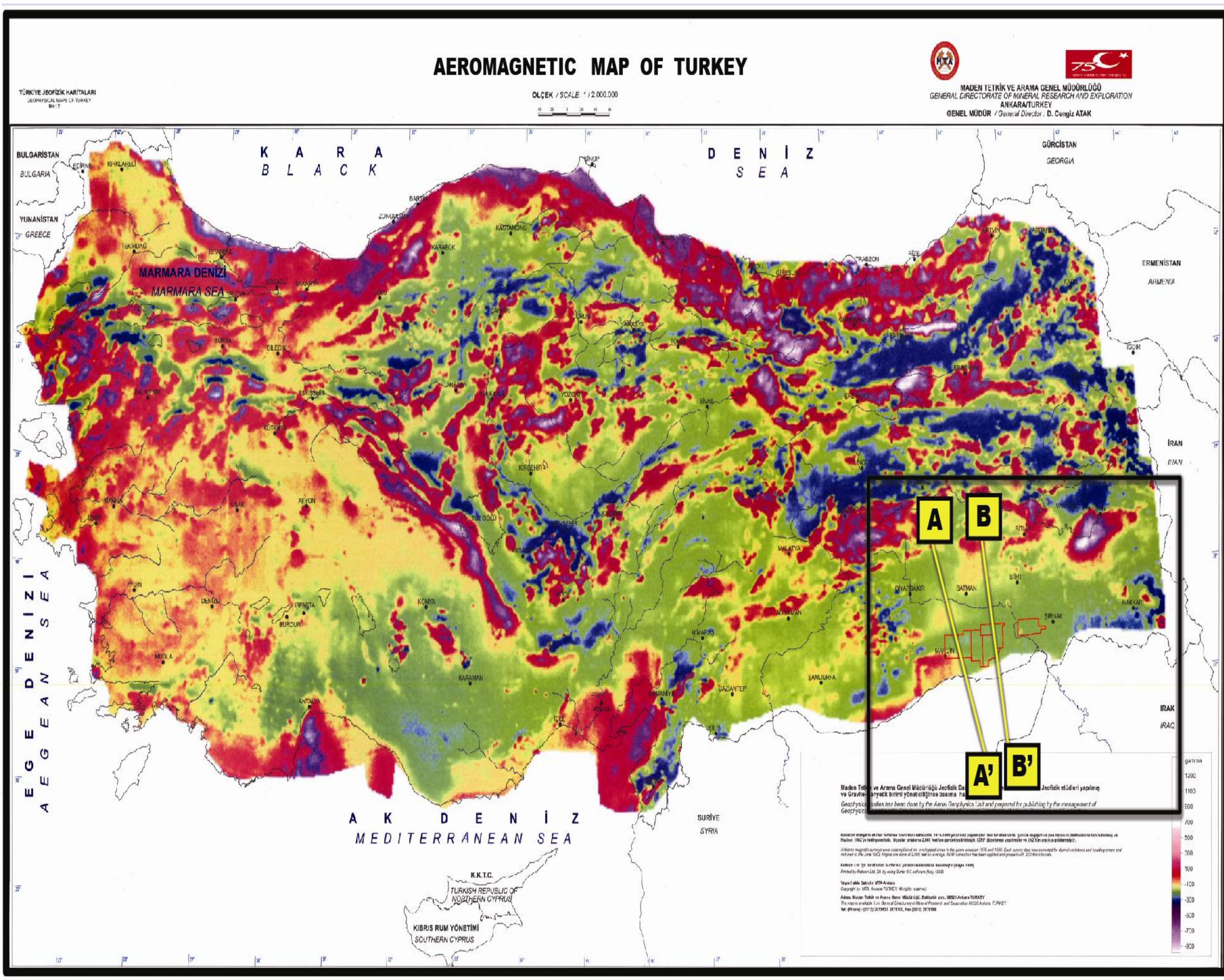
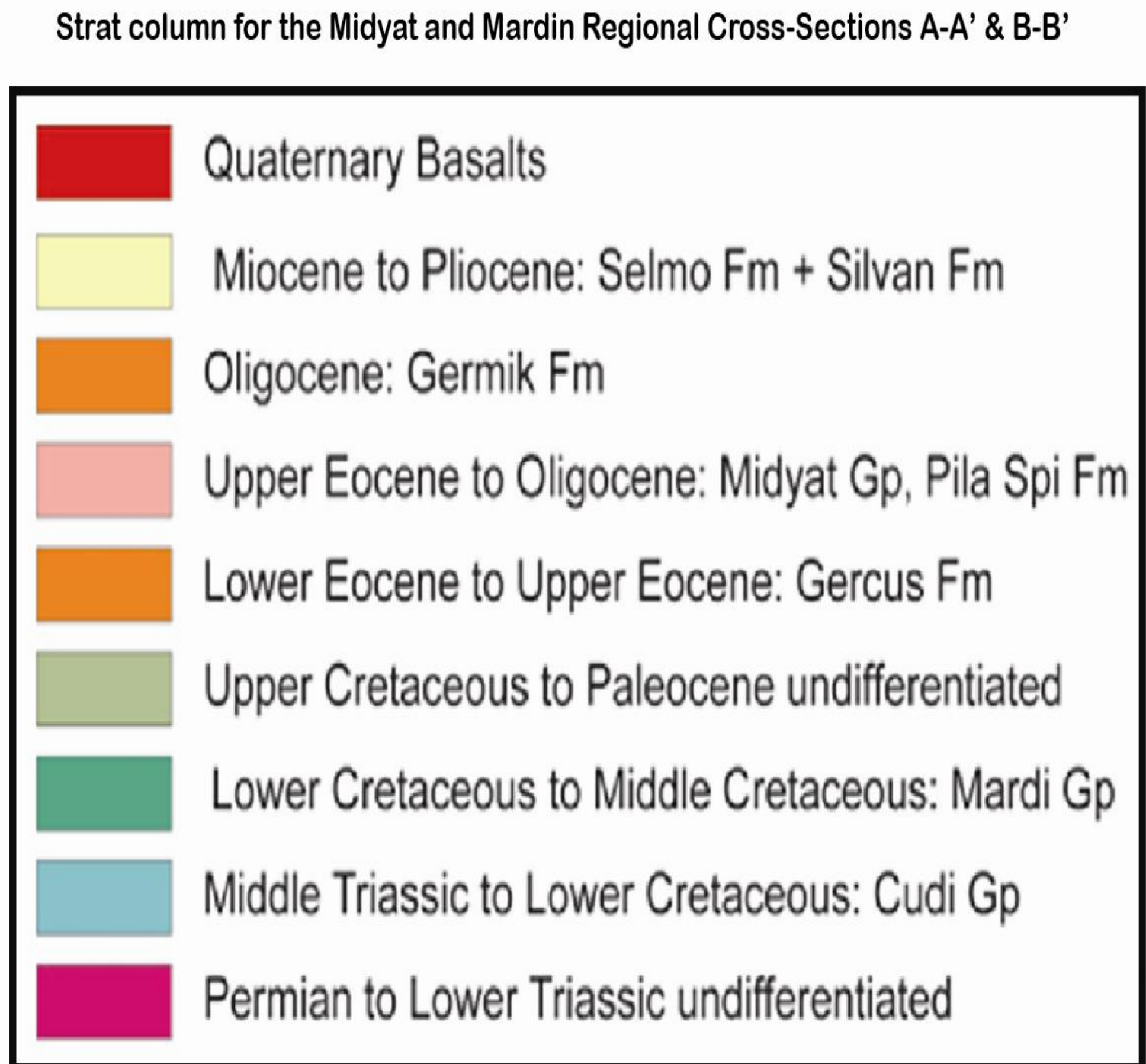
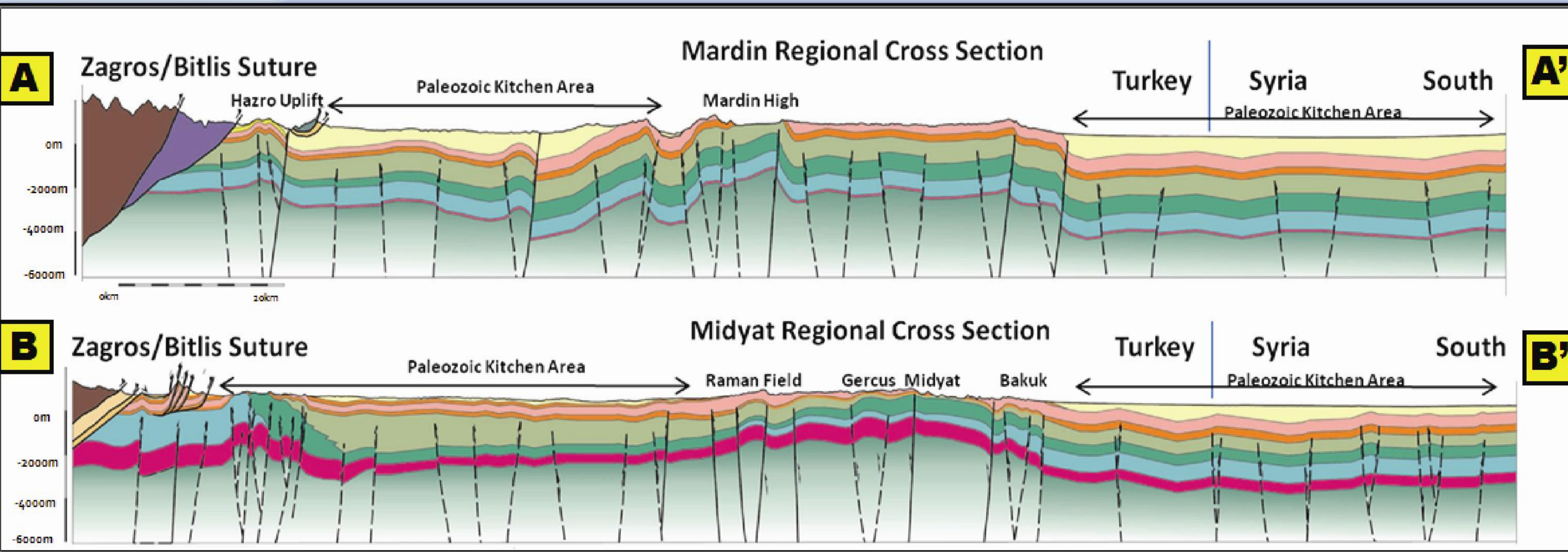
Bakuk-1 well

AGE	Contacts	Subsea Depth	Density g/cm <sup>3</sup>
Eocene	Hoya (Midyat)	~1280	2.3
Paleocene	Gercus	939	
	Becirman	723	
Upper Cretaceous (Shale's)	Germav	604	2.45
	Lower Germav	118	
Lower Cretaceous (Carbonates)	Mardin	4	2.6
	Lower Cretaceous	-491	
Jurassic & Triassic	CUDI GROUP	-673	2.8
		-1270	
Paleozoic	Paleozoic	-1758	2.45
	TD	-2658	
Precambrian	Basement	-3500	2.7

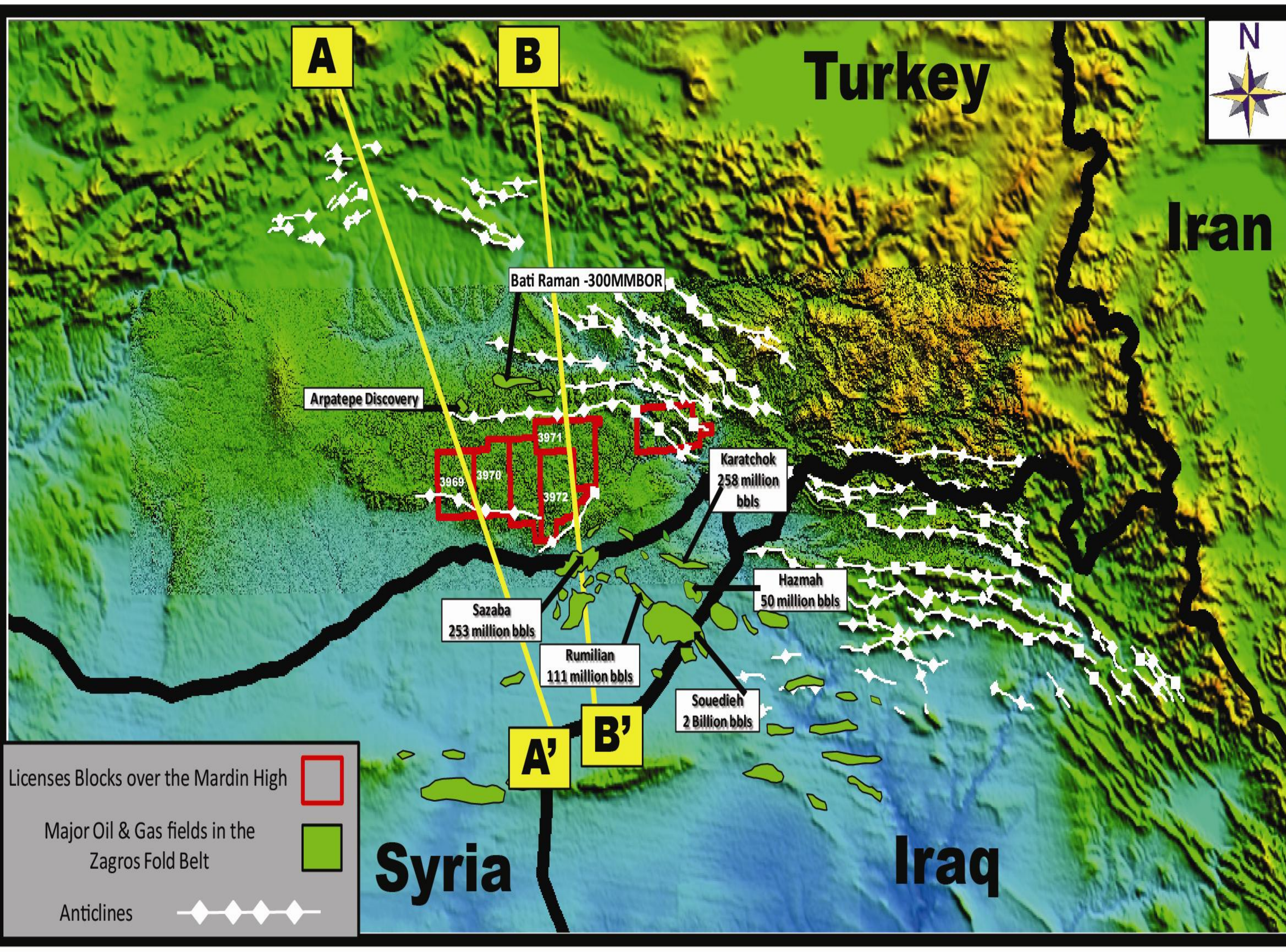


Midyat Licenses sit on a Regional Bouguer Gravity High that extends into NE Syria and Iraq.

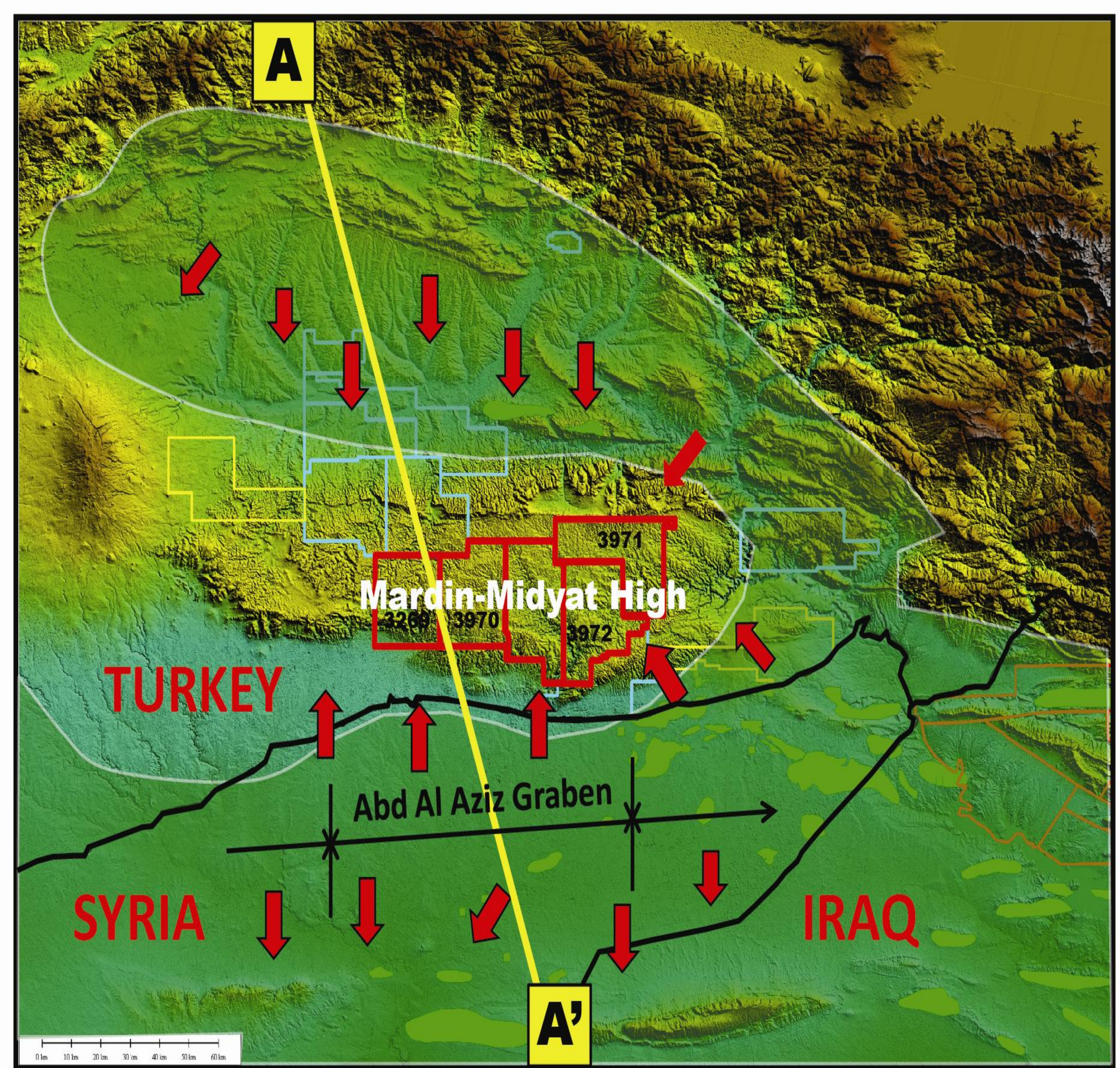




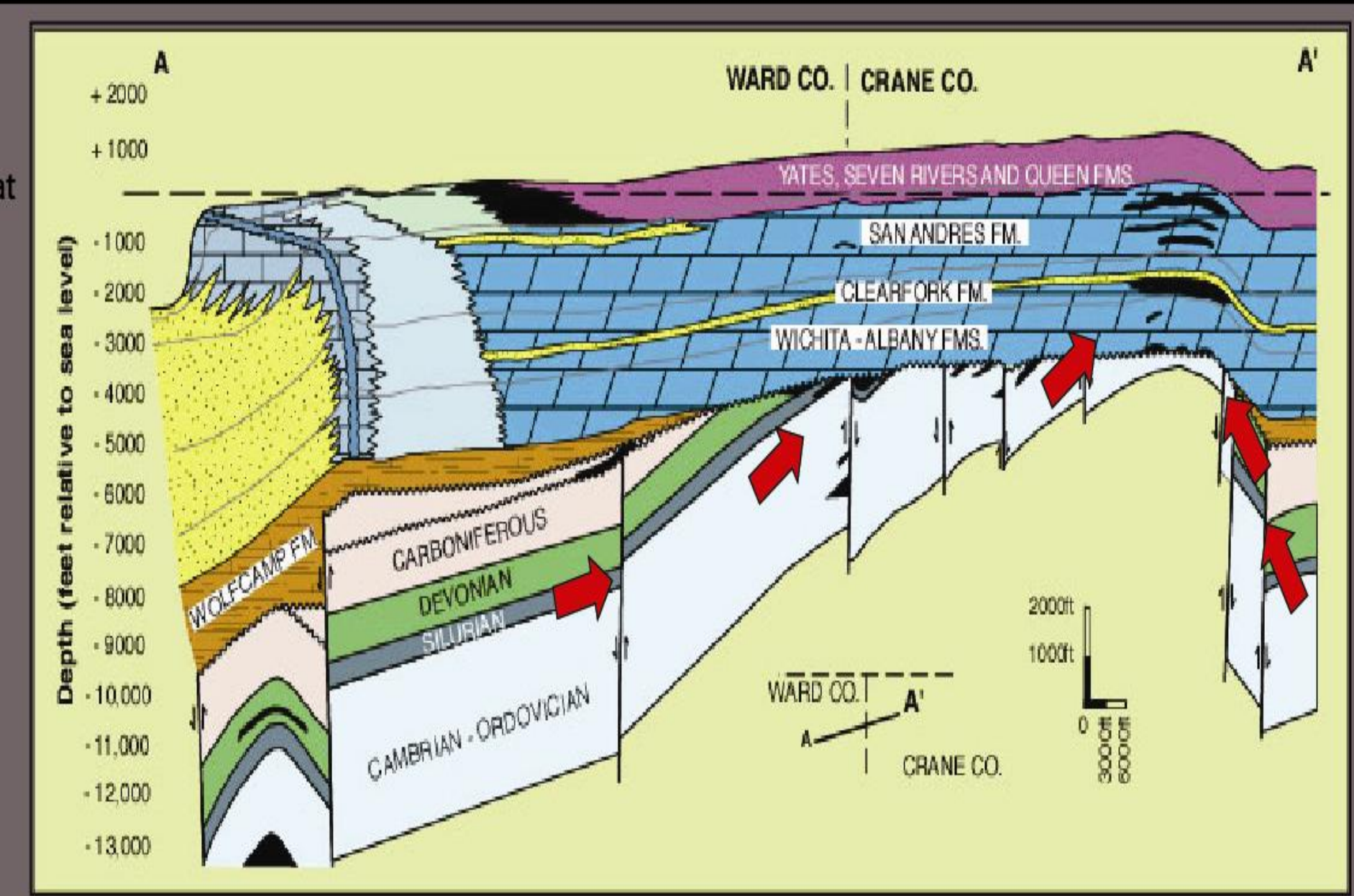
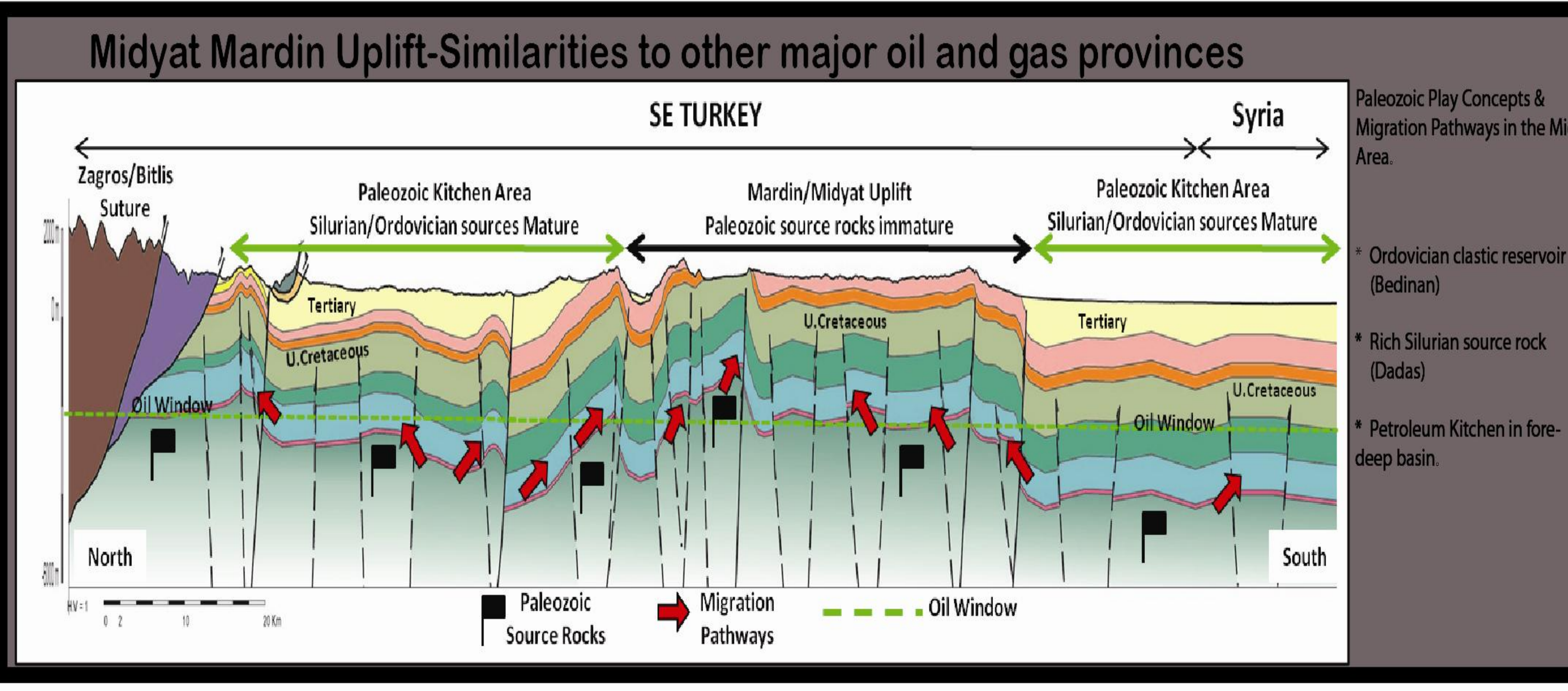
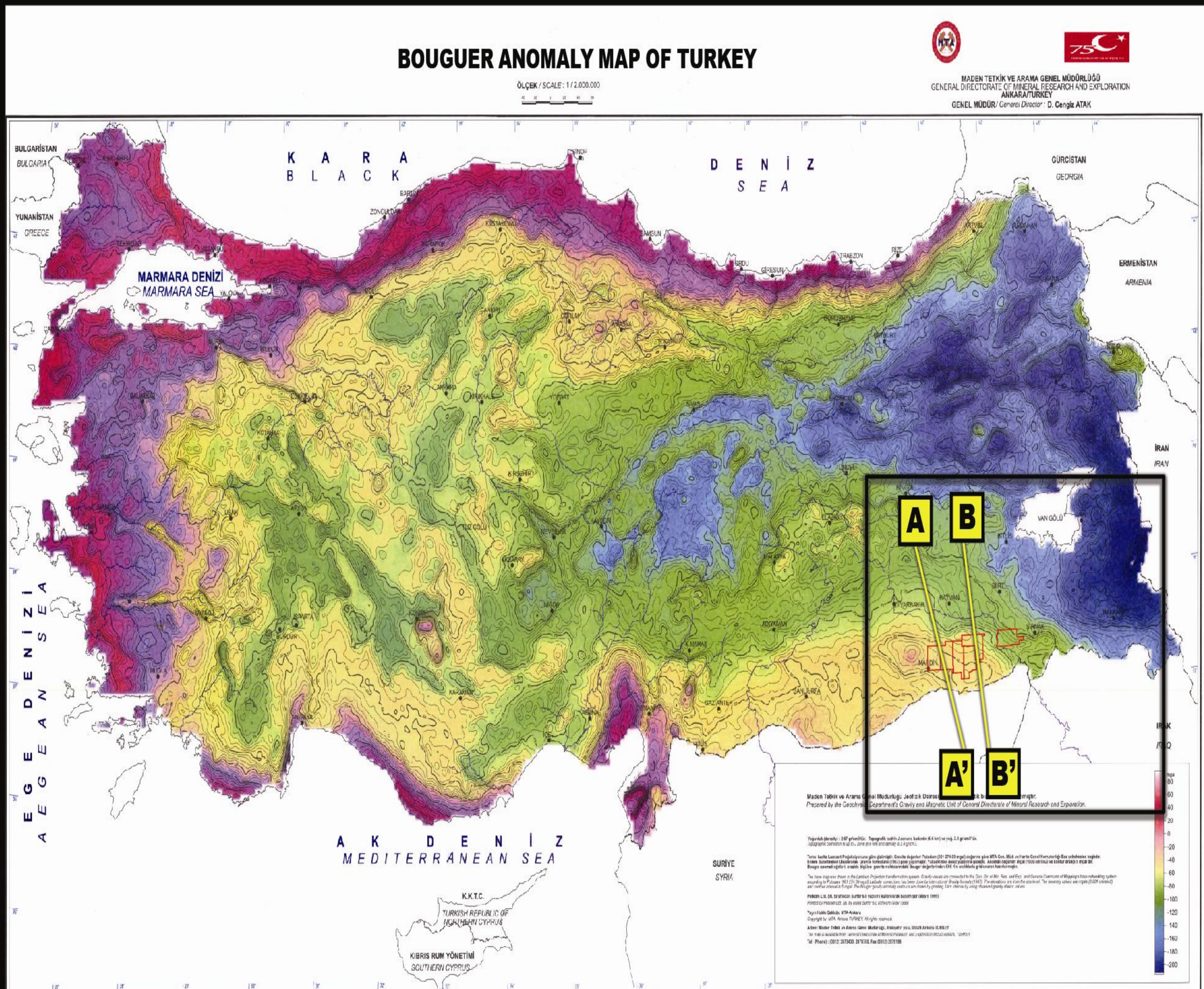
Midyat Licenses sit on a regional Bouguer Gravity high that extends into SE Syria and Iraq



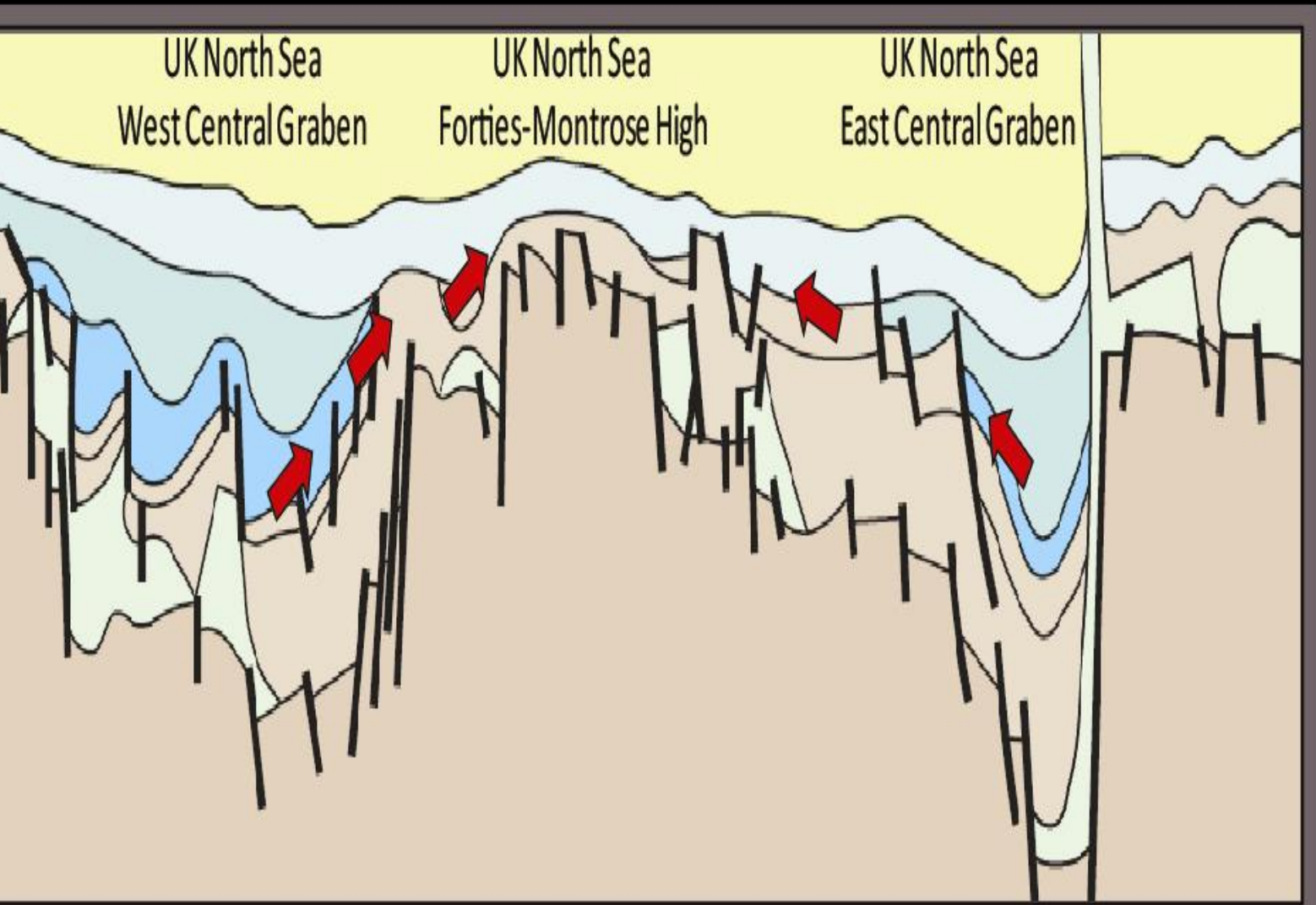
Location of Licenses 3969, 3970, 3971, 3972 in SE Turkey are on trend with the major oil



Paleozoic Triassic "kitchen" areas north and south of the Mardin Midyat High generate hydrocarbons that migrate up dip to the uplift.



West Texas Basin Central Platform. Paleozoic sources migrate into younger Permian Carbonates outside of the kitchen.



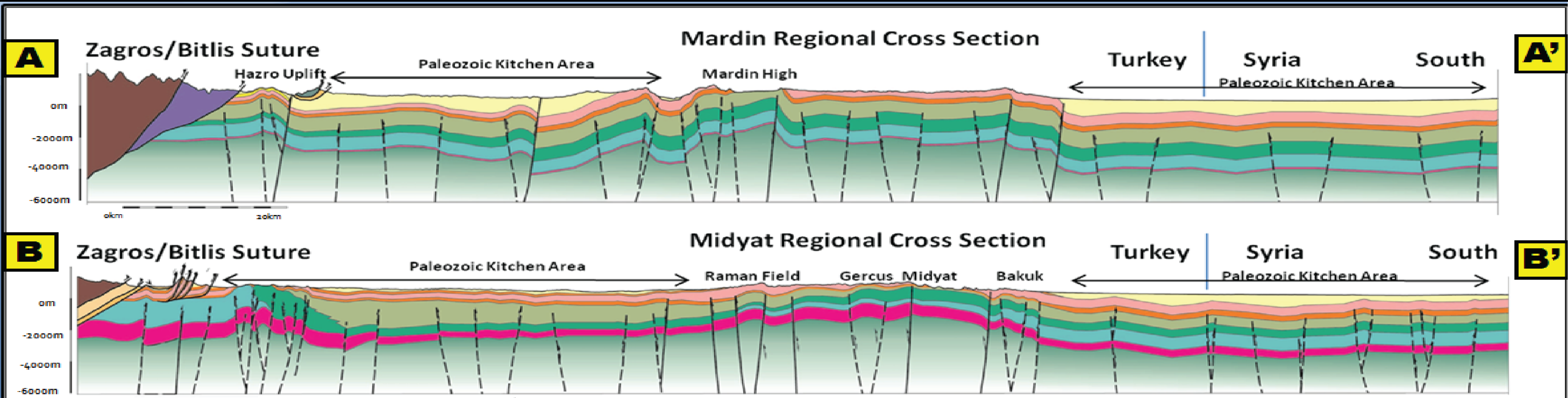
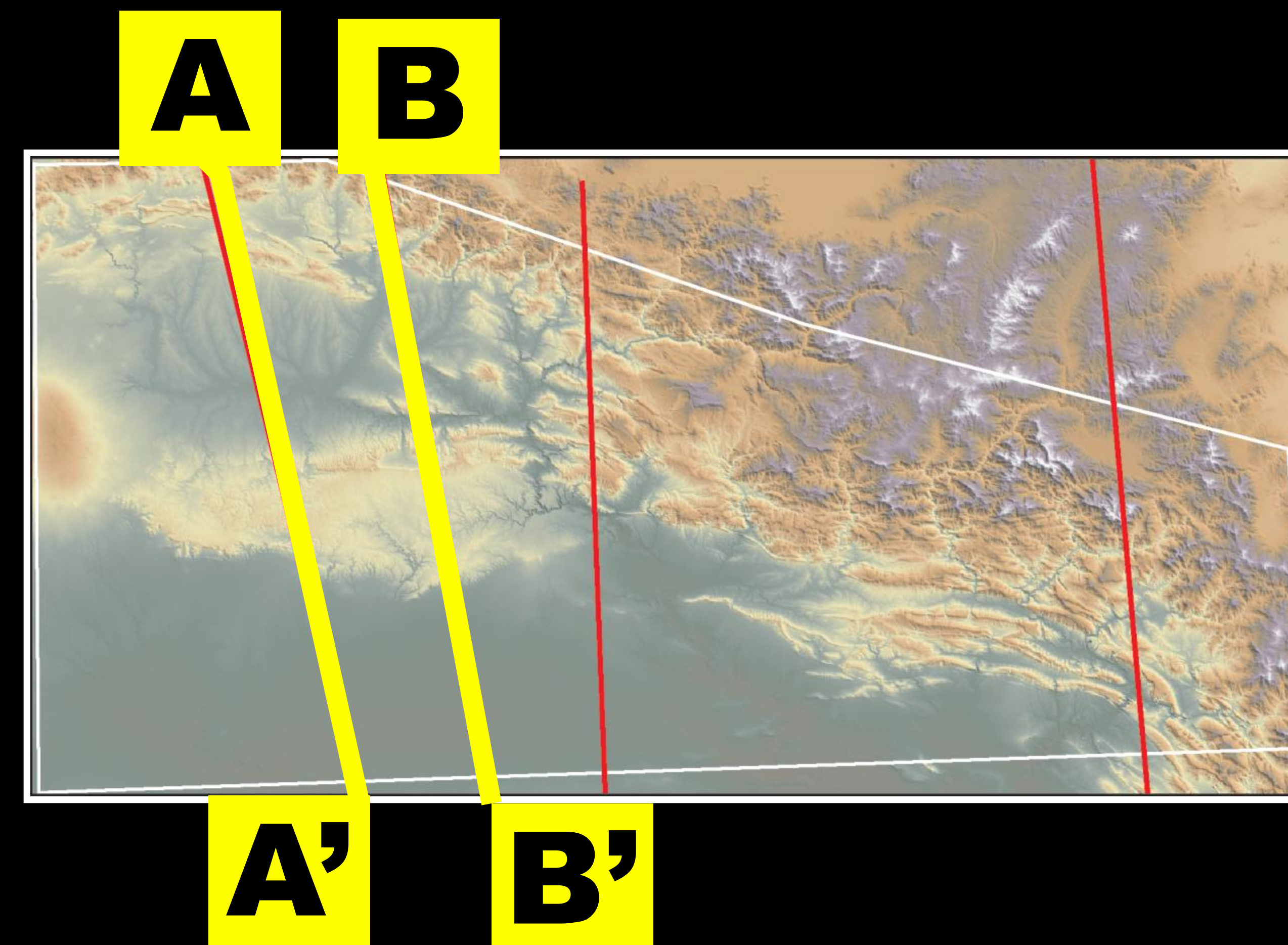
United Kingdom North Seas Forties-Montrose High. Upper Jurassic source rocks migrate from kitchen into younger Paleocene /Eocene sandstones.





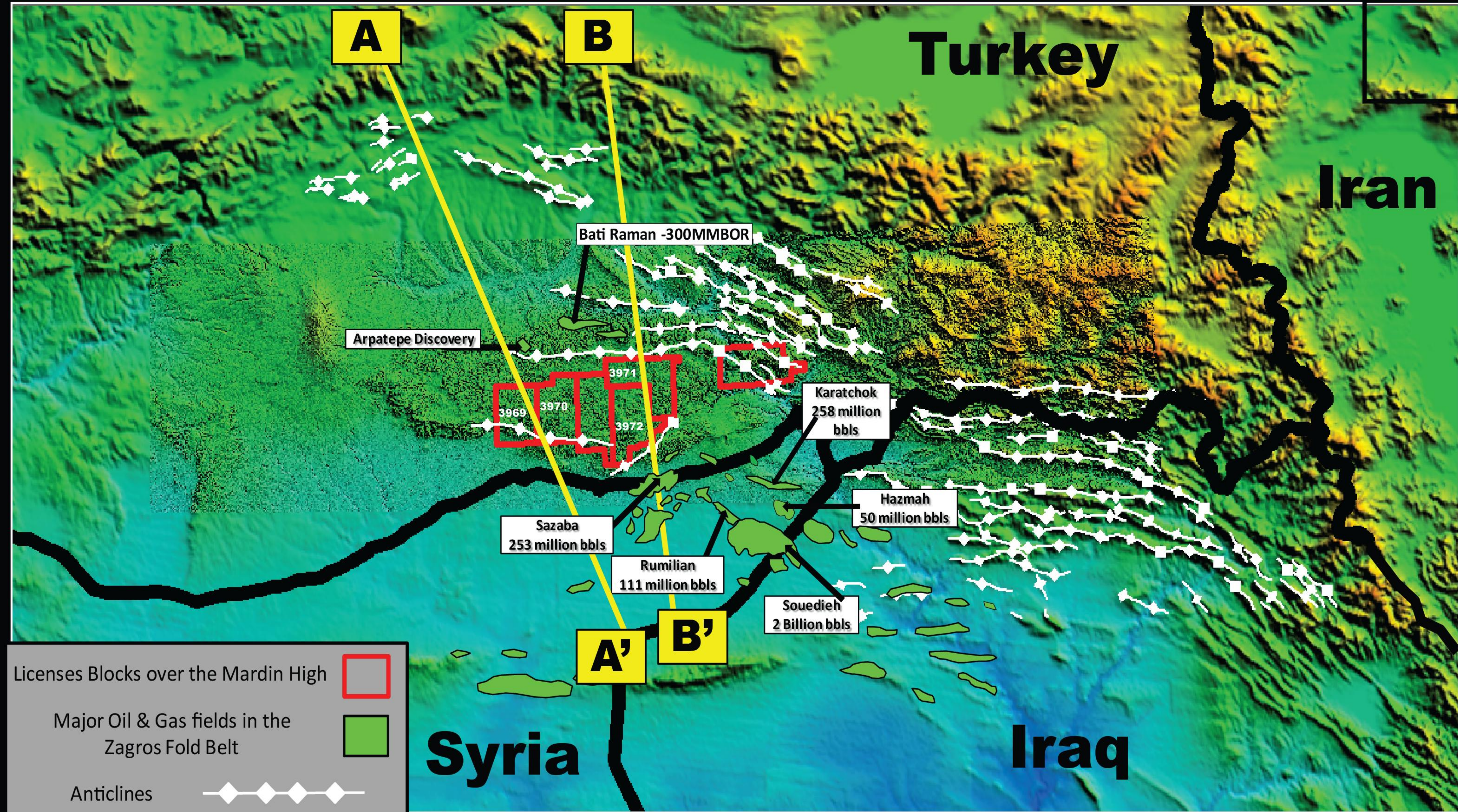
# Strat column for the Midyat and Mardin Regional Cross-Sections A-A' & B-B'

- Quaternary Basalts
- Miocene to Pliocene: Selmo Fm + Silvan Fm
- Oligocene: Germik Fm
- Upper Eocene to Oligocene: Midyat Gp, Pila Spi Fm
- Lower Eocene to Upper Eocene: Gercus Fm
- Upper Cretaceous to Paleocene undifferentiated
- Lower Cretaceous to Middle Cretaceous: Mardi Gp
- Middle Triassic to Lower Cretaceous: Cudi Gp
- Permian to Lower Triassic undifferentiated



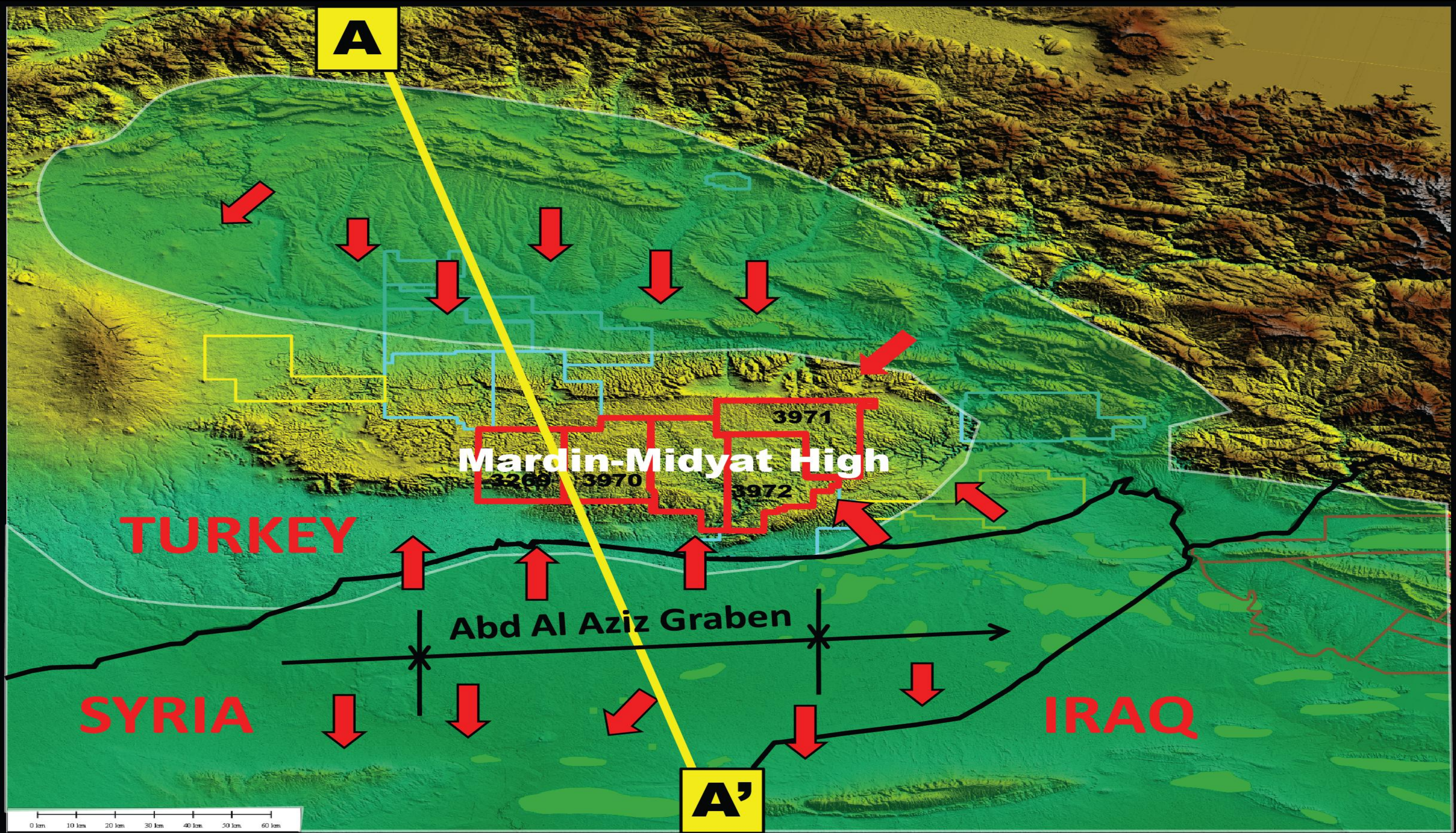


Location of Licenses 3969, 3970, 3971, 3972 in SE Turkey are on trend with the major oil and gas fields in the Zagros fold belt.



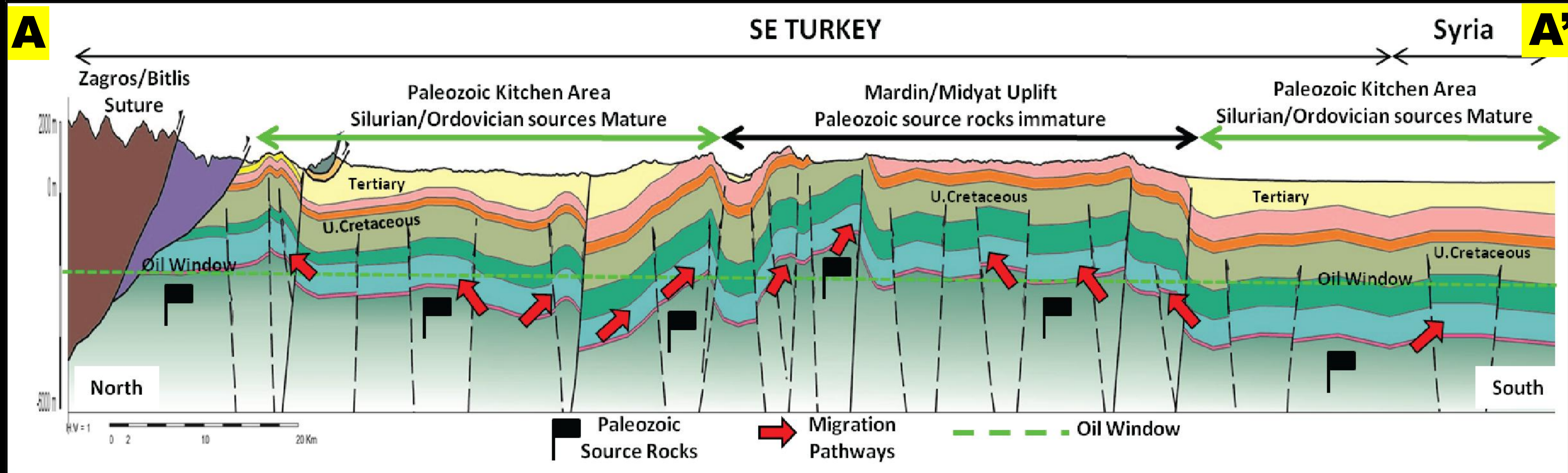


Paleozoic Triassic “kitchen” areas north and south of the Mardin Midyat High generate hydrocarbons that migrate up dip to the uplift.





# Midyat Mardin Uplift-Similarities to other major oil and gas provinces



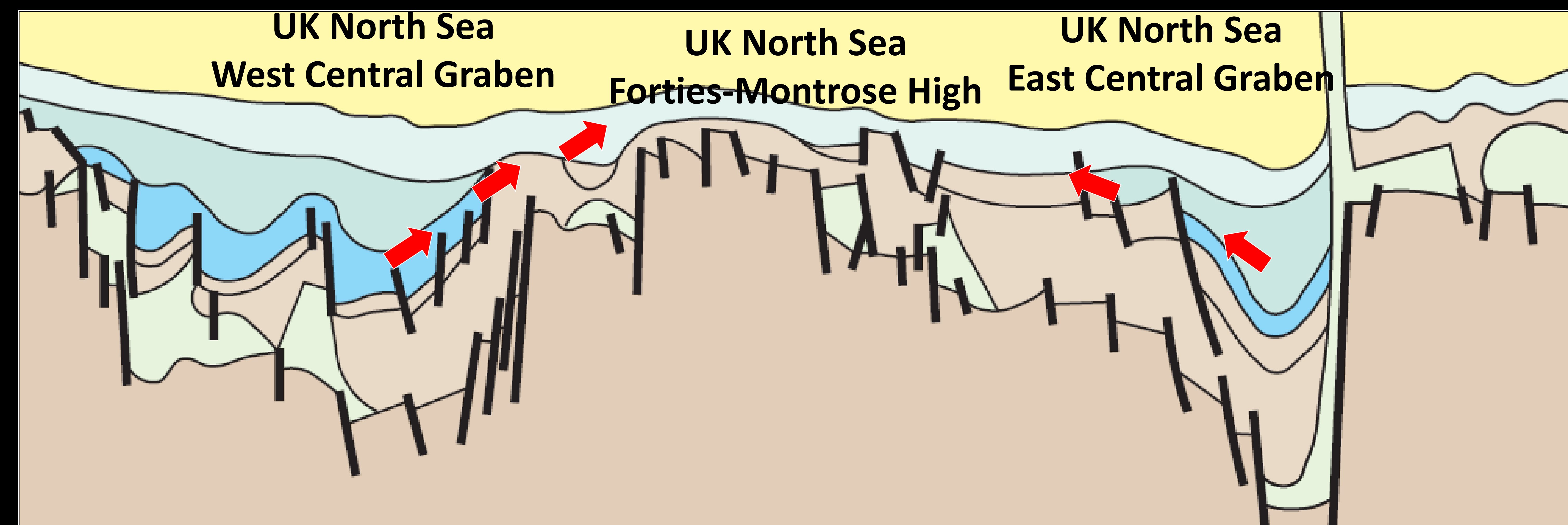
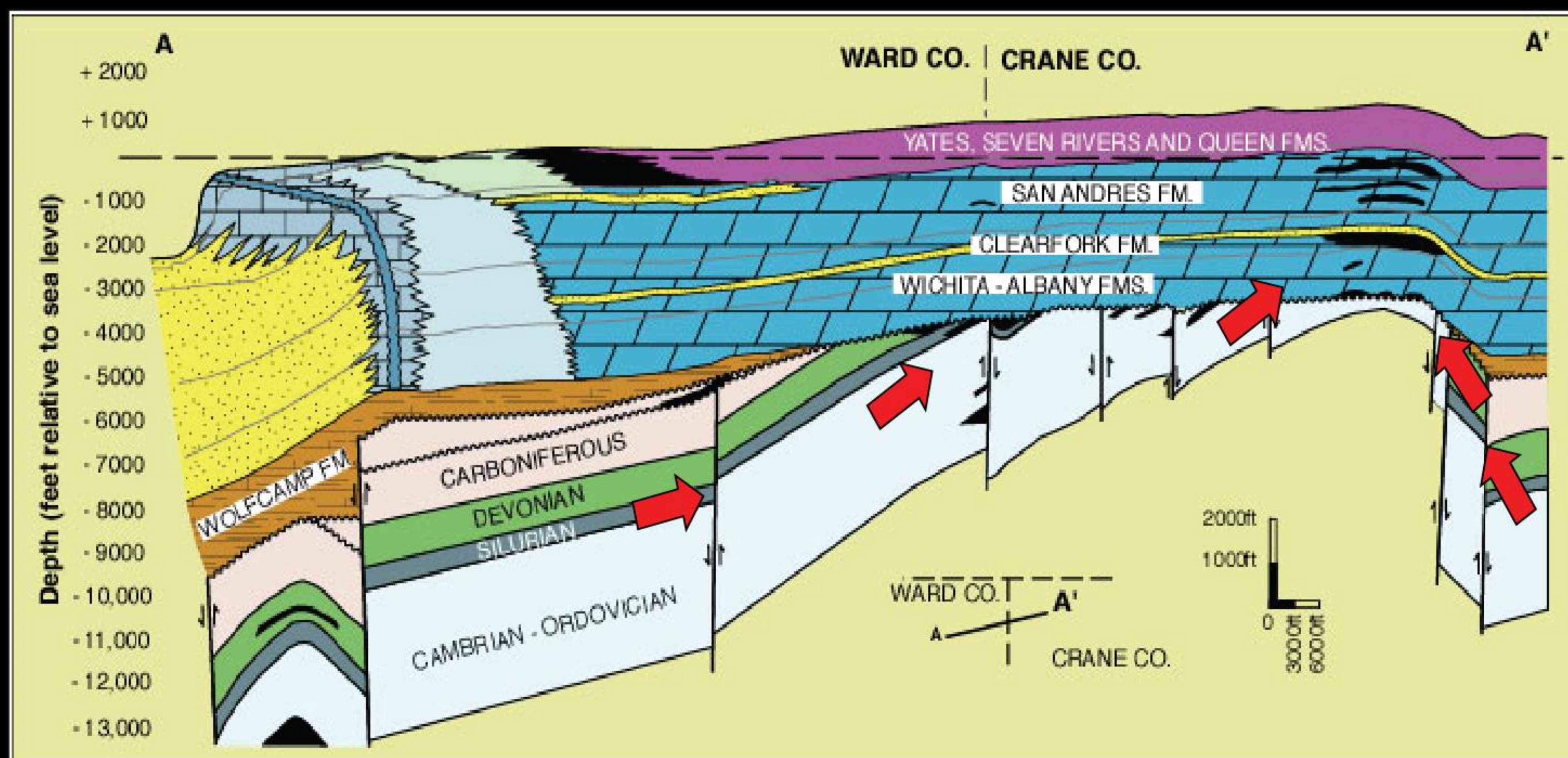
Ordovician clastic reservoir (Bedinan)

Rich Silurian source rock (Dadas)

Petroleum Kitchen in foredeep basin.

West Texas Basin Central Platform.  
Paleozoic sources migrate into younger Permian Carbonates outside of the kitchen.

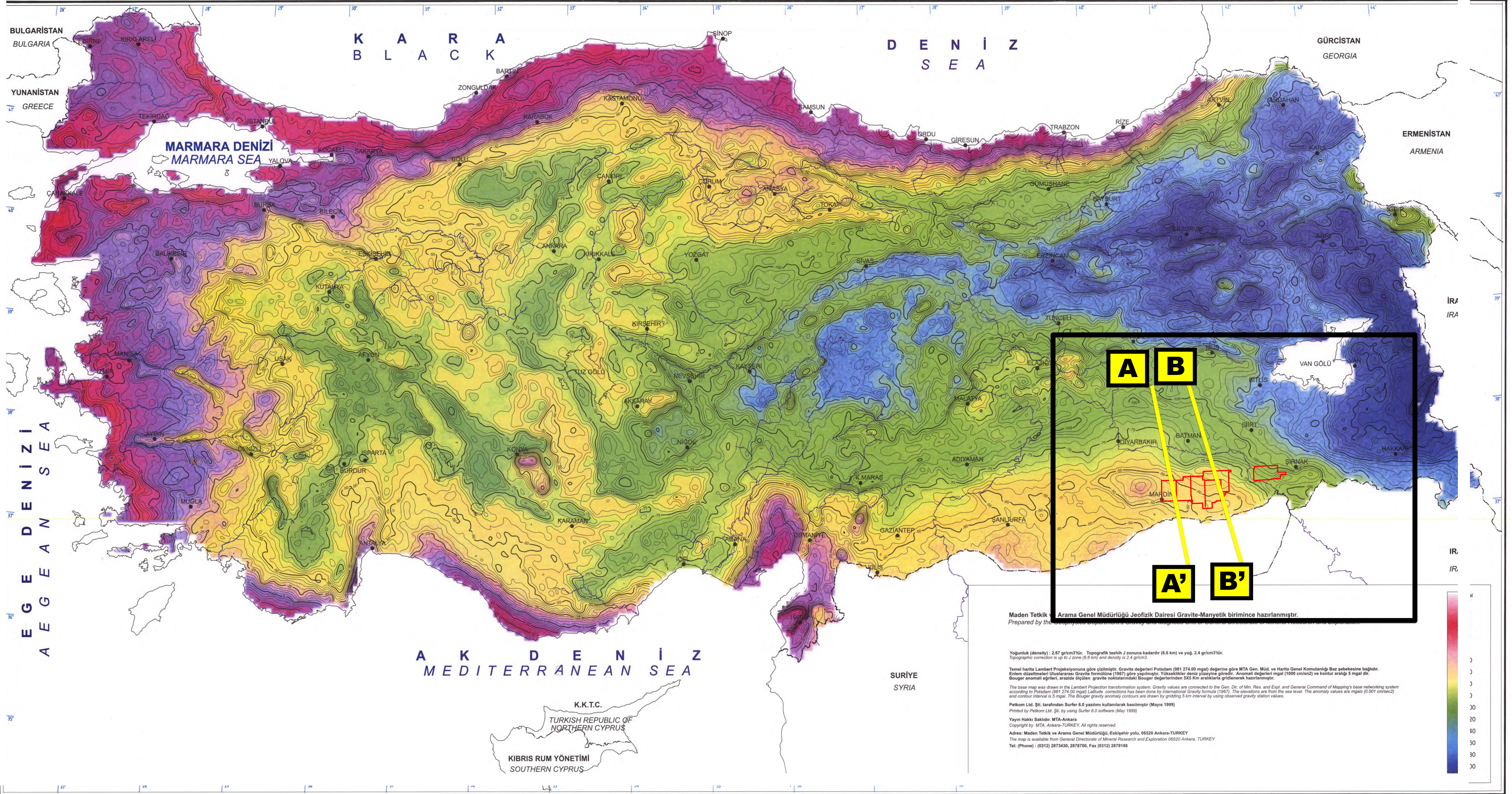
United Kingdom North Seas Forties-Montrose High.  
Upper Jurassic source rocks migrate from kitchen into younger Paleocene /Eocene sandstones.





# BOUGUER ANOMALY MAP OF TURKEY

ÖLÇEK / SCALE : 1 / 2.000.000



Maden Tetkik ve Arama Genel Müdürlüğü Jeofizik Dairesi Gravite-Manyetik birimince hazırlanmıştır.  
Prepared by the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration, Gravity and Magnetic Unit.

Yoğunluk (density) : 2,67 gr/cm<sup>3</sup>tür. Topografik taşhış J zonuna kadardır (6,6 km) ve yoğun. 2,4 gr/cm<sup>3</sup>tür.  
Topographic correction is up to J zone (6.6 km) and density is 2.4 gr/cm<sup>3</sup>.

Temel harita Lambert Projeksiyonuna göre çizilmiştir. Gravite değerleri Potsdam (981 274,00 mgal) değerine göre MTA Gen. Müd. ve Harita Genel Komutanlığı Baz şebekesine bağlıdır. Entlem düzeltmeleri Uluslararası Gravite formülüne (1967) göre yapılmıştır. Yükseklikler deniz yüzeyine göre dir. Anomali değerleri mgal (1000 cm/s<sup>2</sup>) ve kontur aralığı 5 mgal dir. Bouguer anomali eğrileri, araziye ölçülen gravite noktalarındaki Bouguer değerlerinden 535 Km aralıkta grüdenerek hazırlanmıştır.

The base map was drawn in the Lambert Projection transformation system. Gravity values are corrected to the Gen. Dir. of Min. Res. and Expl. and General Command of Mapping's base networking system according to Potsdam (981 274,00 mgal). Latitude corrections has been done by International Gravity formula (1967). The elevations are from the sea level. The anomaly values are mgals (0,001 cm/s<sup>2</sup>) and contour interval is 5 mgal. The Bouguer gravity anomaly contours are drawn by gridding 5 km interval by using observed gravity station values.

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