

## **GEOLOGY FOR SOCIETY**

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# NGU REPORT 2021.013

Helicopter-borne magnetic, electromagnetic and radiometric geophysical survey in Verdal and Snåsa area, Trøndelag County



### REPORT

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#### **Summary:**

NGU conducted an airborne geophysical survey in Verdal, Steinkjer and Snåsa municipalities, as part of NGU's general airborne mapping program. The data acquisition in the Verdal and Snåsa area started in June 2020 and was completed in August 2020.

This report describes and documents the acquisition, processing and visualization of the acquired datasets and presents them in maps. The geophysical survey consists of 8500 line-km data, covering an area of 1700 km<sup>2</sup>, with 4600 km (920 km<sup>2</sup>) flown in June from Stiklestad, Verdal, and 3900 km (780 km<sup>2</sup>) flown in August from the base in Gaulstad in Ogndalen.

NGU's modified Geotech Ltd. Hummingbird frequency domain EM system supplemented by an optically pumped Cesium magnetometer and the Radiation Solutions 1024 channels RSX-5 spectrometer mounted on a AS350-B3 helicopter was used for data acquisition.

The survey was flown with 200 meters line spacing, azimuth 100°, average speed was 116 km/h, average height clearance of the bird was 55m and 85m for the spectrometer.

Collected data were processed at NGU using Geosoft Oasis Montaj software. Raw total magnetic field data were corrected for diurnal variation and leveled using Geosoft microlevelling algorithm. Radiometric data were processed using standard procedures as recommended by International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA).

EM data were filtered and leveled using both automated and manual levelling procedures. Apparent resistivity was calculated from in-phase and quadrature data for three coplanar frequencies (880Hz, 6.6kHz and 34kHz), and for two coaxial frequencies (980Hz and 7kHz) separately using a homogeneous half space model.

All data were gridded using cell size of 50x50 meters and presented as 40% transparent grids with shaded relief on top of topographic maps.

Keywords:	Airborne	Geophysics
Magnetic	Gamma spectrometry	Radiometric
Electromagnetic	Technical report	

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#### INTRODUCTION

In 2020 NGU received government funds to acquire airborne geophysical data over Norway. The survey area presented in this report is from Trøndelag County, situated between Verdal in the south, Snåsa in the north, and the Swedish border in the east. The helicopter survey data amounts to 8500 line-km, covering a 1700 km² area shown inside the red lines in Figure 1.

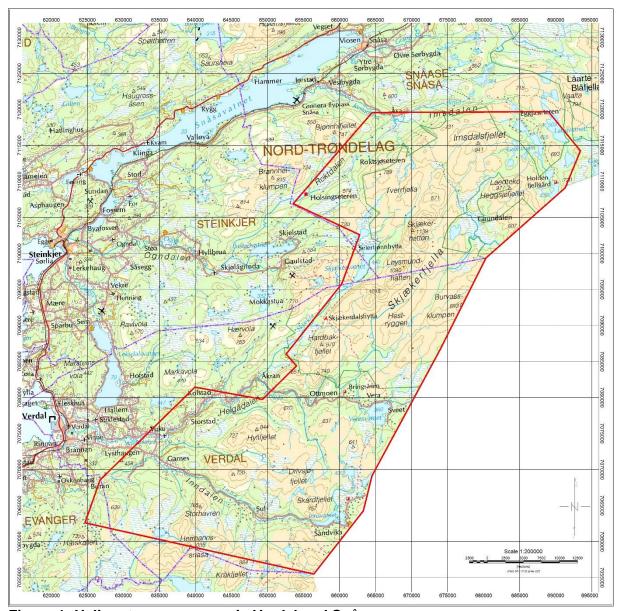


Figure 1: Helicopter survey area in Verdal and Snåsa area.

Table 1. Flight specifications

· water in a right opening	Juli 0 1 1 0			
Survey name	Surveyed	Surveyed	Line	Average
	lines (km)	area (Km²)	direction	speed (km/h)
Verdal-Snåsa 2020	8500	1700	100	116

The objective of the airborne geophysical survey was to obtain a dense high-resolution magnetic, electro-magnetic and radiometric data set over the survey area. These data are required for the enhancement of a general understanding of the regional geology of the area, with adjoining areas covered by earlier airborne surveys.

In this regard, the new data can be used to map contacts and structural features within the survey area. It also improves defining the potential of known zones of mineralization, their geological settings, and identifying new areas of interest, as the dataset fills a gap in the high-resolution geophysical surveys of the region.

The survey incorporated the use of a Hummingbird<sup>™</sup> 5-frequency electromagnetic (EM) system supplemented by a high-sensitivity cesium magnetometer, gamma-ray spectrometer, and radar altimeter. A GPS navigation computer system with flight path indicators ensured accurate positioning of the geophysical data with respect to the World Geodetic System 1984 geodetic datum (WGS-84).

#### 1. SURVEY SPECIFICATIONS

#### 1.1 Airborne survey parameters

NGU used a modified Hummingbird™ EM and magnetic helicopter survey system designed to obtain low level, slow speed, detailed airborne EM and magnetic data (Geotech 1997). The system was supplemented by a Radiation Solutions RSX-5, 1024 channel gamma-ray spectrometer, installed under the main body of the helicopter, used to map ground concentrations of U, Th and K, and radiation Total Counts.

The airborne survey initial phase was from June 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup> in the Verdal area, later continued in Snåsa area from August 14<sup>th</sup> and fully completed August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. A Eurocopter AS350-B3 (LN-OSD) from helicopter company Pegasus Helicopter AS was used during the survey. The survey lines were spaced 200 meters apart, with lines oriented at 100°. The magnetic and electromagnetic sensors are housed in a single 7 meters long bird, towed 30 meters below the helicopter, and flown at an average of about 55 meters above the topographic surface.

Rugged terrain and abrupt changes in topography affected the aircraft pilot's ability to 'drape' the terrain, meaning the average instrumental height was sometimes higher than the standard survey instrumental height, which is defined as 30 meters plus a height of obstacles (trees, power lines etc.) for EM and magnetic sensors.

The ground speed of the aircraft varied from 70 – 140 km/h depending on topography, wind direction and its magnitude. On average the ground speed during measurements is calculated to 116 km/h. Magnetic data were recorded at 0.2 second intervals resulting in approximately 6.4 meters average point spacing.

EM data were recorded at 0.1 second intervals resulting in data with a sample increment of 3.2 meters along the ground in average. Spectrometry data were recorded every 1 second giving a point spacing of approximately 32 meters. The above parameters allow recognizing sufficient detail in the data to detect subtle anomalies that may represent mineralization and/or rocks of different lithological and petrophysical composition.

A base magnetometer to monitor diurnal variations in the magnetic field was located at the base at Landfall, east of Stiklestad in Verdal, in June/July, and at the base near Gaulstad in Ogndalen in August. The GEM GSM-19 station magnetometer data were recorded once every 3 seconds. The CPU clock of the base magnetometer and the helicopter magnetometer were both synchronized to UTC (Universal Time Coordinates) through the built-in GPS receiver to allow correction of diurnals.

Navigation system uses GPS/GLONASS satellite tracking systems to provide real-time WGS-84 coordinate locations for every second. The accuracy achieved with no differential corrections is reported to be  $\pm$  5 meters in the horizontal directions. The GPS receiver antenna was mounted internally inside the canopy of the helicopter.

For quality control, the electromagnetic, magnetic, and radiometric, altitude and navigation data were monitored on four separate windows in the operator's display during flight while they were recorded in three data ASCII streams to the PC hard disk drive. Spectrometry data were also recorded to an internal hard drive of the spectrometer. The data files were transferred to the field workstation via USB flash drive. The raw data files were backed up onto USB flash drive in the field.

#### 1.2 Airborne survey instrumentation

Instrument specification is given in Table 2. Frequencies and coil configuration for the Hummingbird EM system is given in Table 3.

**Table 2. Instrument Specifications** 

Instrument	Producer/Model	Accuracy / Sensitivity	Sampling frequency / interval
Magnetometer	Scintrex Cs-2	<2.5nT throughout range / 0.0006nT √Hz rms	5 Hz
Base magnetometer	GEM GSM-19	0.1 nT	3 s
Electromagnetic	Geotech Hummingbird	1 – 2 ppm	10 Hz
Gamma spectrometer	Radiation Solutions RSX-5	1024 channels, 16 liters down, 4 liters up	1 Hz
Radar altimeter	Bendix/King KRA 10A	± 5 ft 40 – 100 feet ± 5 % 100 – 500 feet ± 7 % 500 – 2500 feet	1 Hz
Pressure/temperature	Honeywell PPT	± 0.03 % FS	1 Hz
Navigation	Topcon GPS-receiver	± 5 meters	1 Hz
Acquisition system	NGU custom software		



Figure 2: Pegasus helicopter, pilot, and NGU Hummingbird EM system

Table 3. Hummingbird EM system, frequency, and coil configurations

Coils	Frequency	Orientation	Separation
Α	7700 Hz	Coaxial	6.30 m
В	6600 Hz	Coplanar	6.30 m
С	980 Hz	Coaxial	6.025 m
D	880 Hz	Coplanar	6.025 m
E	34133 Hz	Coplanar	4.90 m

## 1.3 Airborne Survey Logistics Summary

A summary of the survey specifications is shown in Table 4.

**Table 4. Survey specifications summary** 

Parameter	Specifications	
Traverse (survey) line spacing	200 meters	
Traverse line direction	E-W (100°)	
Nominal aircraft ground speed	70 - 140 km/h	
Average aircraft ground speed	116 km/h	
Average sensor terrain clearance Mag	55 meters	
Average sensor terrain clearance Rad	85 meters	
Sampling rates:		
Magnetometer	0.2 seconds	
Electromagnetic system	0.1 seconds	
Spectrometer, GPS, altimeter	1.0 second	
Base Magnetometer	3.0 seconds	

#### 2. DATA PROCESSING AND PRESENTATION

Data acquisition was done by Georgios Tassis, Marie-Andrée Dumais, Ying Wang and Frode Ofstad. The magnetic, spectrometry and all resistivity data were processed by Frode Ofstad at NGU. The ASCII data files were loaded into three separate Oasis Montaj databases. The datasets were processed consequently according to processing flow charts shown in Appendix A1, A2 and A3.

#### 2.1 Total Field Magnetic Data

At the first stage the raw magnetic data was visually inspected, and spikes were removed manually. Non-linear filter was also applied to airborne raw data to eliminate short-period spikes. Typically, several corrections must be applied to magnetic data before gridding heading correction, lag correction and diurnal correction.

#### **Diurnal corrections**

The temporal fluctuations in the magnetic field of the earth affect the total magnetic field readings recorded during the airborne survey. This is commonly referred to as the magnetic diurnal variation. These fluctuations can be effectively removed from the airborne magnetic dataset by using a stationary reference magnetometer that records the magnetic field of the earth simultaneously with the airborne sensor at given short time interval.

Diurnal variation data was inspected for spikes, and spikes were removed manually if necessary. Magnetic diurnals that were recorded on the base station magnetometer were within the standard NGU specifications during the entire survey (Rønning 2013).

Diurnal variations were measured with GEM GSM-19 magnetometer. The base station computer clock was continuously synchronized with GPS clock. The recorded data are merged with the airborne data and the diurnal correction is applied according to equation (1).

$$\mathbf{B}_{Tc} = \mathbf{B}_T + \left(\overline{B}_B - \mathbf{B}_B\right),\tag{1}$$

Where:

 $\mathbf{B}_{Tc}$  = Corrected airborne total field readings

 $\mathbf{B}_T$  = Airborne total field readings

 $\overline{B}_{R}$  = Average datum base level

 $\mathbf{B}_{R}$  = Base station readings

The average datum base level ( $\overline{B}_{\rm B}$ ) was set to 51890 nT for the southern part of the survey, the flights flown in June from Landfall, and at 52300 nT for northern area, for the remaining flights, flown in August from the base near Gaulstad in Ogndalen.

#### Corrections for lag and heading

Neither a lag nor a cloverleaf test was performed before the survey. According to previous reports the lag between logged magnetic data and the corresponding navigational data was 1-2 fiducials. These values were observed to have a negligible effect on the processed results. A heading error for a towed system is usually either very small or non-existent. No lag and heading corrections were applied.

#### Magnetic data processing, gridding, and presentation

The total field magnetic anomaly data ( $\mathbf{B}_{TA}$ ) were calculated from the diurnal corrected data ( $\mathbf{B}_{Tc}$ ) after subtracting the IGRF for the surveyed area calculated for the data period (eq.2)

$$\mathbf{B}_{TA} = \mathbf{B}_{TC} - IGRF \tag{2}$$

IGRF 2020 model was employed in these calculations, to ensure that the Verdal and Snåsa data set would match the previously processed and earlier published surrounding data sets.

The total field anomaly data were split into lines and then were gridded using a minimum curvature method with a grid cell size of 50 meters. This cell size is exactly one quarter of the 200 meters average line spacing. To remove small line-to-line levelling errors that were detected on the gridded magnetic anomaly data, a micro-levelling technique was applied on the flight line based magnetic database. Finally, the micro-leveled data were gridded using minimum curvature method with 50 meters grid cell size.

The processing steps of magnetic data presented so far, were performed on point basis. The following steps are performed on grid basis.

The horizontal and vertical gradient along with the tilt derivative of the total magnetic anomaly were calculated from the stitched micro-leveled total magnetic anomaly grid. The magnitude of the horizontal gradient was calculated according to equation (3)

$$HG = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial(B_{TA})}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial(B_{TA})}{\partial y}\right)^2}$$
 (3)

where  $\mathbf{B}_{TA}$  is the micro-leveled total field anomaly field. The vertical gradient (VG) was calculated by applying a vertical derivative convolution filter to the micro-leveled  $\mathbf{B}_{TA}$  field. The tilt derivative (TD) was calculated according to the equation (4)

$$TD = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{VG}{HG} \right) \tag{4}$$

A 3x3 convolution filter was applied to smooth the resulted magnetic grids.

The results are presented in a series of colored shaded relief maps (1:200000). The maps are:

- Total field magnetic anomaly
- Horizontal gradient of total magnetic anomaly
- Vertical gradient of total magnetic anomaly
- Tilt derivative (or Tilt angle) of the total magnetic anomaly

These maps are representative of the distribution of magnetization over the surveyed areas. The list of the produced maps is shown in Table 6.

#### 2.2 Electromagnetic data

The EM system transmits five fixed frequencies and records an in-phase (IP) and a quadrature (Q) response for each of the five coil sets of the electromagnetic system. The received signals are processed and used for calculation of apparent resistivity.

IP and Q data were filtered with 15 fiducial non-linear filter to eliminate spherical spikes, which were represented as irregular noise of large amplitude in records and high frequency noise of bird electronics. Then, a 20-fiducial low-pass filter was applied to suppress instrumental and cultural noise. These filters were not able to suppress all the noise. Also, shifts in IP and Q data, with amplitude of 5-10 ppm, were observed in some flights. These shifts were edited manually where possible.

To remove the effects of instrument drift caused by gradual temperature variations in the transmitting and receiving circuits, background responses are recorded during each flight. To obtain a background level, the bird is raised to an altitude of at least 1000 ft above the topographic surface so that no electromagnetic responses from the ground are present in the recorded traces.

The EM traces observed at this altitude correspond to a background (zero) level of the system. If these background levels are recorded at 20-30 minutes interval, then the linear drift of the system can be removed on a flight-by-flight basis, before any further processing is carried out. Geosoft HEM module was used for applying drift correction. Residual instrumental drift, usually small, but non-linear, was manually removed manually on a line-to-line basis.

A 7 ppm amplitude-limited, 120 seconds low-pass (LP) filter was applied to the in-phase and quadrature signals. The LP filter result was then subtracted from each component before the inversion calculations. The LP filtering of the EM data produces more uniform data and clearer anomalies with fewer linear artifacts in the grids.

When LP levelling of the EM data was complete, apparent resistivity was calculated from in-phase and quadrature EM components using a homogeneous half space model of the earth (Geosoft HEM module) for 7000, 6600, 980, 880 and 34133 Hz. Threshold value of 2 ppm, starting value of 1000 ohm-m, and fractional error 1% were used for all apparent resistivity calculations.

Electromagnetic field decays rapidly with the distance (height of the sensors) – as  $z^{-2}$  –  $z^{-5}$  depending on the shape of the conductors and, at certain height, signals from the ground sources become comparable with instrumental noise. Levelling errors can lead to appearance of artificial resistivity anomalies when data were collected at high instrumental altitude.

Application of threshold allows excluding such data from an apparent resistivity calculation, though not completely. It is particularly noticeable in low frequencies datasets. Resistivity data were visually inspected; artificial anomalies associated with high altitude measurements were manually removed.

Data recorded at height larger than 150 meters were considered non-reliable and removed from presentation. Final Apparent resistivity were gridded with a cell size 50 meters. Power lines strongly affected low frequency data – 880 and 980 Hz frequencies, and the most prominent noise from power lines were filtered manually.

#### 2.3 Radiometric data

Airborne gamma-ray spectrometry measures the abundance of Potassium (K), Thorium (eTh), and Uranium (eU) in rocks and weathered materials by detecting gamma-rays emitted due to the natural radioelement decay of these elements. The data analysis method is based on the IAEA recommended method for U, Th and K (International Atomic Energy Agency, 1991; 2003). A short description of the individual processing steps of that methodology as adopted by NGU is given bellow.

#### **Energy windows**

The Gamma-ray spectra were initially reduced into standard energy windows corresponding to the individual radio-nuclides K, U and Th. Figure 3 shows an example of a Gamma-ray spectrum and the corresponding energy windows and radioisotopes (with peak energy in MeV) responsible for the radiation.

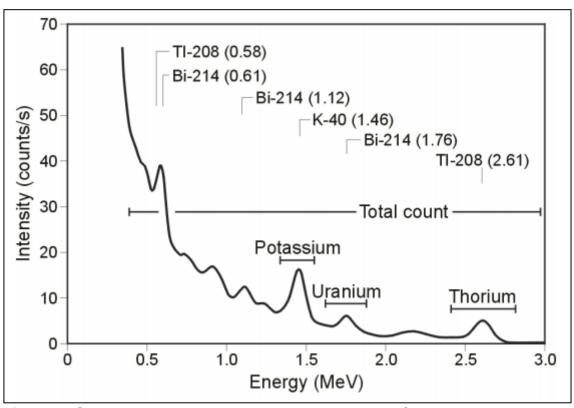


Figure 3: Gamma-ray spectrum with K, Th, U and Total Count windows.

Table 5. Specified channel windows for the 1024 RSX-5 system.

Gamma-ray	Cosmic	Total	K	U	Th
spectrum		count			
Down	1022	135-935	455-522	552-618	802-935
Up	1022			552-618	
Energy windows (MeV)	>3.07	0.4-2.8	1.36-1.56	1.65-1.85	2.4-2.8

The RSX-5 is a 1024 channel system with four downward and one upward looking detector, which means that the actual Gamma-ray spectrum is divided into 1024 channels. The first channel is reserved for the "Live Time" and the last for the Cosmic rays. Table 5 shows the windows that were used for the reduction of the spectrum.

#### **Live Time correction**

The data were corrected for live time. "Live time" is an expression of the relative length of time the instrument was able to register new pulses per sample interval. On the other hand, "dead time" is an expression of the relative length of time the system was unable to register new pulses per sample interval. The relation between "dead time" and "live time" is given by the equation (5)

where the "real time" or "acquisition time" is the elapsed time over which the spectrum is accumulated (about 1 second).

The live time correction is applied to the total count, Potassium, Uranium, Thorium, upward Uranium, and cosmic channels. The formula used to apply the correction is as follows:

$$C_{LT} = C_{RAW} \cdot \frac{Acquisition \ Time}{Live \ Time} \tag{6}$$

where C<sub>LT</sub> is the live time corrected window in counts per second, C<sub>RAW</sub> is the raw window data in counts per second, while Acquisition Time and Live Time are in microseconds.

#### Cosmic and aircraft correction

Background radiation resulting from cosmic rays and aircraft contamination was removed from the total count, Potassium, Uranium, Thorium, upward Uranium window using the following formula:

$$C_{CA} = C_{LT} - (a_c + b_c \cdot C_{Cos}) \tag{7}$$

where  $C_{CA}$  is the cosmic and aircraft corrected window,  $C_{LT}$  is the live time corrected window  $a_c$  is the aircraft background for this window,  $b_c$  is the cosmic stripping coefficient for this window and  $C_{Cos}$  is the low pass filtered cosmic window.

#### **Radon correction**

The upward detector method, as discussed in IAEA (1991), was applied to remove the effects of the atmospheric radon in the air below and around the helicopter. Using spectrometry data over-water, where there is no contribution from the ground sources, enables the calculation of the coefficients ( $a_C$  and  $b_C$ ) for the linear equations that relate the cosmic corrected counts per second of Uranium window with that of total count, Potassium, Thorium and Uranium upward window over water. Data over-land were used in conjunction with data over-water to calculate the  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  coefficients used in equation (8) for the determination of the Radon component in the downward Uranium window:

$$Radon_{U} = \frac{Uup_{CA} - a_{1} \cdot U_{CA} - a_{2} \cdot Th_{CA} + a_{2} \cdot b_{Th} - b_{U}}{a_{U} - a_{1} - a_{2} \cdot a_{Th}}$$
(8)

where  $Radon_u$  is the Radon component in the downward Uranium window,  $Uup_{CA}$  is the filtered upward uranium,  $U_{CA}$  is the filtered Uranium,  $Th_{CA}$  is the filtered Thorium,  $a_1$ ,  $a_2$ ,  $a_U$  and  $a_{Th}$  are proportional factors and  $b_U$  an  $b_{Th}$  are constants determined experimentally.

The effects of Radon in the downward Uranium are removed by simply subtracting Radon<sub>U</sub> from  $U_{CA}$ . The effects of radon in the other windows are removed using the following formula:

$$C_{RC} = C_{CA} - (a_C \cdot Radon_U + b_C) \tag{9}$$

where  $C_{RC}$  is the Radon corrected window,  $C_{CA}$  is the cosmic and aircraft corrected window, Radonu is the Radon component in the downward uranium window, ac is the proportionality factor and  $b_C$  is the constant determined experimentally for this window from over-water data.

#### Compton stripping

Radon corrected Potassium, Uranium and Thorium windows are subjected to spectral overlap correction. Compton scattered gamma rays in the radio-nuclides energy windows were corrected by window stripping using Compton stripping coefficients determined from measurements on calibrations pads (Grasty et al, 1991) at the Geological Survey of Norway in Trondheim (see values in Appendix A2).

The stripping corrections are given by the following formulas:

$$A_{1} = 1 - (g \cdot \gamma) - (a \cdot \alpha) + (a \cdot g \cdot \beta) - (b \cdot \beta) + (b \cdot \alpha \cdot \gamma)$$

$$\tag{10}$$

$$U_{ST} = \frac{Th_{RC} \cdot ((g \cdot \beta) - \alpha) + U_{RC} \cdot (1 - b \cdot \beta) + K_{RC} \cdot ((b \cdot \alpha) - g)}{A_1}$$
(11)

$$Th_{ST} = \frac{Th_{RC} \cdot (1 - (g \cdot \gamma)) + U_{RC} \cdot (b \cdot \gamma - a) + K_{RC} \cdot ((a \cdot g) - b)}{A_1}$$

$$K_{ST} = \frac{Th_{RC} \cdot ((\alpha \cdot \gamma) - \beta) + U_{RC} \cdot ((a \cdot \beta) - \gamma) + K_{RC} \cdot (1 - (a \cdot \alpha))}{A_1}$$

$$(12)$$

$$K_{ST} = \frac{Th_{RC} \cdot ((\alpha \cdot \gamma) - \beta) + U_{RC} \cdot ((a \cdot \beta) - \gamma) + K_{RC} \cdot (1 - (a \cdot \alpha))}{A}$$
(13)

where  $U_{RC}$ ,  $Th_{RC}$ ,  $K_{RC}$  are the Radon corrected Uranium, Thorium and Potassium and a, b, g,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  are Compton stripping coefficients.  $U_{ST}$ ,  $Th_{ST}$  and  $K_{ST}$  are stripped values of Uranium, Thorium and Potassium.

#### **Reduction to Standard Temperature and Pressure**

The radar altimeter data were converted to effective height ( $H_{STP}$ ) using the acquired temperature and pressure data, according to the expression:

$$H_{STP} = H \cdot \frac{273.15}{T + 273.15} \cdot \frac{P}{1013.25} \tag{14}$$

where H is the smoothed observed radar altitude in meters, T is the measured air temperature in degrees Celsius and P is the measured barometric pressure in millibars.

#### **Height correction**

Variations caused by changes in the aircraft altitude relative to the ground was corrected to a nominal height of 60 meters. Data recorded at height larger than 150 meters were considered as non-reliable and removed from processing. Total count, Uranium, Thorium and Potassium stripped windows were subjected to height correction according to the equation:

$$C_{60m} = C_{ST} \cdot e^{C_{ht} \cdot (60 - H_{STP})} \tag{15}$$

where C<sub>ST</sub> is the stripped corrected window, C<sub>ht</sub> is the height attenuation factor for that window and H<sub>STP</sub> is the effective height.

#### **Conversion to ground concentrations**

Finally, corrected count rates were converted to effective ground element concentrations using calibration values derived from calibration pads (Grasty et al, 1991) at the Geological Survey of Norway in Trondheim (see values in Appendix A2). The corrected data provide an estimate of the apparent surface concentrations of Potassium, Uranium and Thorium (K, eU and eTh). Potassium concentration is expressed as a percentage, equivalent Uranium and Thorium as parts per million (ppm). Uranium and Thorium are described as "equivalent" since their presence is inferred from gamma-ray radiation from daughter elements (<sup>214</sup>Bi for Uranium, <sup>208</sup>TI for Thorium). The concentration of the elements is calculated according to the following expressions:

$$C_{CONC} = C_{60m} / C_{SENS\_60m} \tag{16}$$

where C<sub>60m</sub> is the height corrected window, C<sub>SENS\_60m</sub> is experimentally determined sensitivity reduced to the nominal height (60m).

#### **Spectrometry data gridding and presentation**

Gamma-rays from Potassium, Thorium and Uranium emanate from the uppermost 30 to 40 centimeters of soil and rock in the crust (Minty, 1997). Variations in the concentrations of these radioactive elements are largely related to changes in the mineralogy and geochemistry of the Earth's surface.

The spectrometry data were stored in a database and the ground concentrations were calculated following the processing steps. A list of the parameters used in these steps is given in Appendix A3.

Then the data were split in lines and ground concentrations of the three main natural radio-elements Potassium, Thorium and Uranium and total gamma-ray flux (total count) were gridded using a minimum curvature method with a grid cell size of 50 meters. To remove small line-to-line levelling errors appeared on those grids, the data were microleveled as in the case of the magnetic data, and re-gridded with the same grid cell size.

Quality of the radiometric data was within standard NGU specifications (Rønning 2013). For further reading regarding standard processing of airborne radiometric data, we recommend the publications from Minty et al. (1997).

A 3x3 convolution filter was applied to smooth the concentration grids. A list of the produced maps is shown on Table 6.

#### 3. PRODUCTS

Processed digital data from the survey are presented as:

- Geosoft XYZ files: Verdal\_Snasa\_Mag.xyz, Verdal\_Snasa\_EM.xyz, Verdal\_Snasa\_Rad.xyz, Coloured maps at the scale 1:200000 available from NGU on request.
- Grid-files in Geo-TIFF format.

Table 6. Maps in scale 1:200000, available from NGU on request.

Table of Maha III acc	ale 1.200000, available from NGO on request.
Map #	Name
2021.013-00	Survey Flight Path
2021.013-01	Total magnetic field
2021.013-02	Magnetic Horizontal Gradient
2021.013-03	Magnetic Vertical Gradient
2021.013-04	Magnetic Tilt Derivative
2021.013-05	Apparent resistivity, Frequency 7000 Hz, coaxial coils
2021.013-06	Apparent resistivity, Frequency 6600 Hz, coplanar coils
2021.013-07	Apparent resistivity, Frequency 980 Hz, coaxial coils
2021.013-08	Apparent resistivity, Frequency 880 Hz, coplanar coils
2021.013-09	Apparent resistivity, Frequency 34133 Hz, coplanar coils
2021.013-10	Radiometric Total counts
2021.013-11	Potassium ground concentration
2021.013-12	Uranium ground concentration
2021.013-13	Thorium ground concentration
2021.013-14	Radiometric Ternary Image

Downscaled images of the maps are shown in figures 4 to 18.

#### 4. REFERENCES

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#### Appendix A1: Flow chart of magnetic processing

Meaning of parameters is described in the referenced literature.

#### Processing flow:

- Creation of database and quality control.
- Visual inspection of airborne data and manual spike removal
- Import of diurnal data from base magnetometer database.
- Correction of data for diurnal variation.
- IGRF 2020 removed.
- Splitting flight data by lines
- Gridding
- Microlevelling
- 3x3 convolution filter

#### Appendix A2: Flow chart of EM processing

Meaning of parameters is described in the referenced literature.

#### Processing flow:

- Automated leveling using Geosoft HEM module
- Filtering of in-phase and quadrature channels with non-linear and low-pass filters
- Quality control and visual inspection of data.
- Manual removal of remaining part of instrumental drift
- · Additional levelling using low-pass filter to reduce linear noise
- Calculation of an apparent resistivity using in-phase and quadrature channels.
- Splitting flight data by lines
- Gridding

#### Appendix A3: Flow chart of radiometry processing

Underlined processing stages are not only applied to the K, U and Th window, but also to the total count. Meaning of parameters is described in the referenced literature.

Airborne and cosmic correction (IAEA, 2003)
 Used parameters: determined by high altitude calibration flights (1500-9000 ft) at Langøya in 2013.

Window	Background	Cosmic
K	7.3314	0.0617
U	0.7369	0.0475
Th	0	0.0647
Uup	0.3927	0.0423
Total counts	36.291	1.0397

#### Radon correction using upward detector method (IAEA, 2003)

Used parameters determined from survey data over water and land at Verdal and Snåsa, June and August 2020:

Coefficient	Value	Coefficient	Value
a <sub>u</sub>	0.22397	<b>b</b> <sub>u</sub>	0.02703
$a_K$	1.06757	b <sub>K</sub>	0.63361
a <sub>Th</sub>	0.05286	<b>b</b> <sub>Th</sub>	0.30828
a <sub>TC</sub>	21.15117	<b>b</b> <sub>TC</sub>	0
a <sub>1</sub>	0.06914921	a <sub>2</sub>	0.02567392

#### Stripping corrections (IAEA, 2003)

Used parameters determined from measurements on calibrations pads at NGU, May 2020

Coefficient	Value
а	0.04786
b	0
С	0
α	0.30649
β	0.47097
γ	0.82207

#### • Height correction to a height of 60 m

Parameters determined by high altitude calibration flights (100 - 700 ft). The average values from tests performed at Beitostølen, 2015 were used. Attenuation factors in 1/m:

Window	Attenuation factor	
K	-0.010136	
U	-0.00842	
Th	-0.008348	
TC	-0.009431	

# • Converting counts at 60 m heights to element concentration on the ground Used parameters determined from measurements on calibrations pads at NGU, May 2020

Window	Sensitivity	
K (%/count)	0.007574	
U (ppm/count)	0.088361	
Th (ppm/count)	0.152853	

#### • Microlevelling using Geosoft menu and smoothening by a convolution filtering.

Microlevelling parameters	Value
De-corrugation cutoff wavelength (m)	1200
Cell size for gridding (m)	50
Naudy (1968) Filter length (m)	800

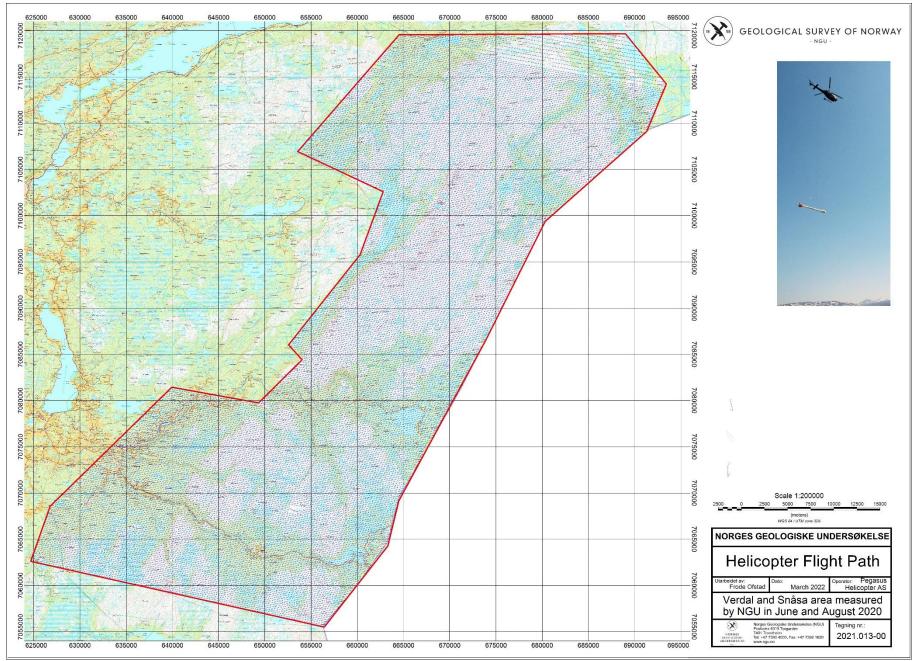
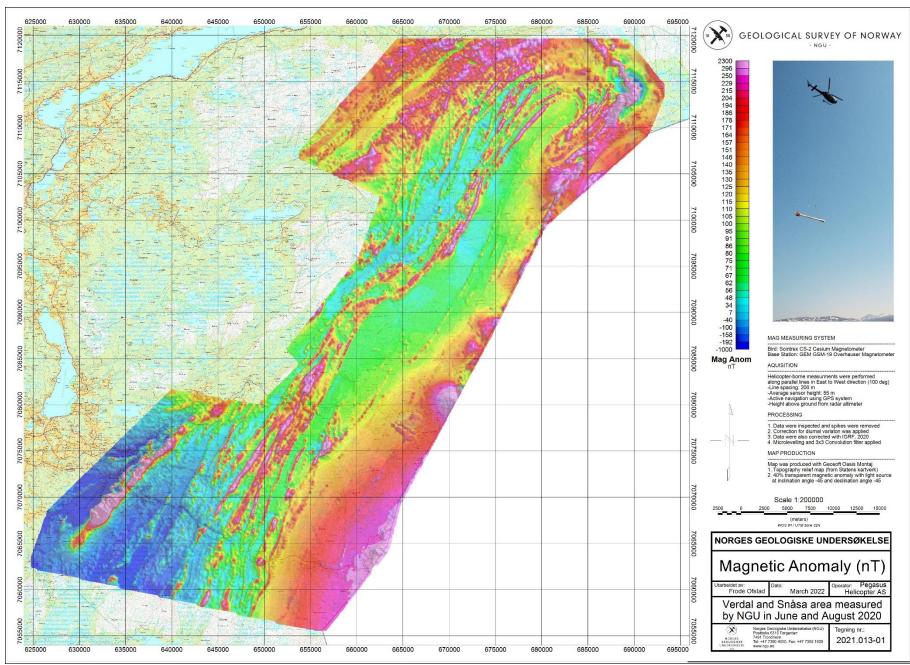
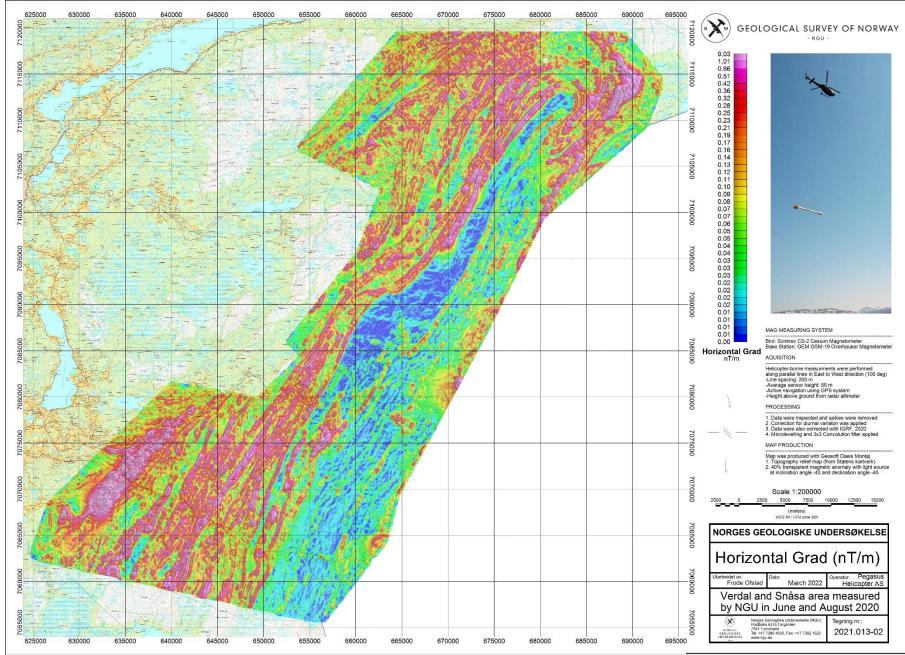


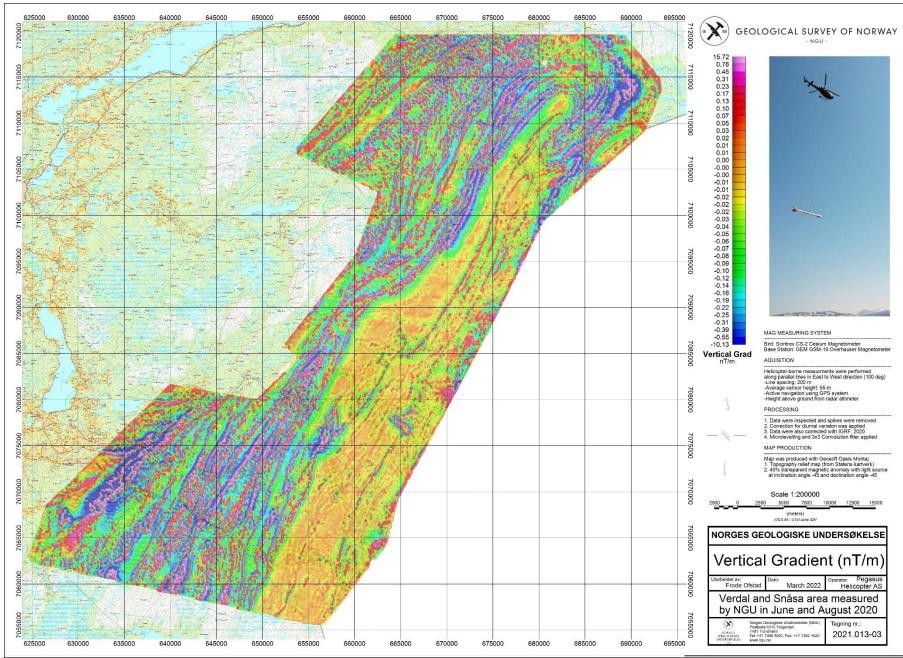
Figure 4: Verdal and Snåsa survey area with flight path



**Figure 5: Total Magnetic Field** 



**Figure 6: Magnetic Horizontal Gradient** 



**Figure 7: Magnetic Vertical Gradient** 

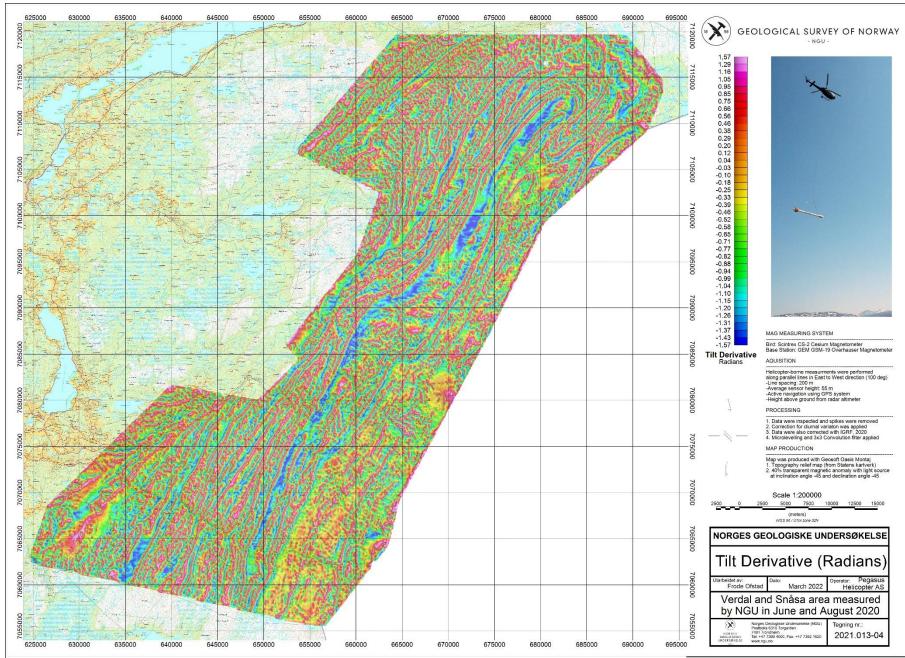


Figure 8: Magnetic Tilt Derivative

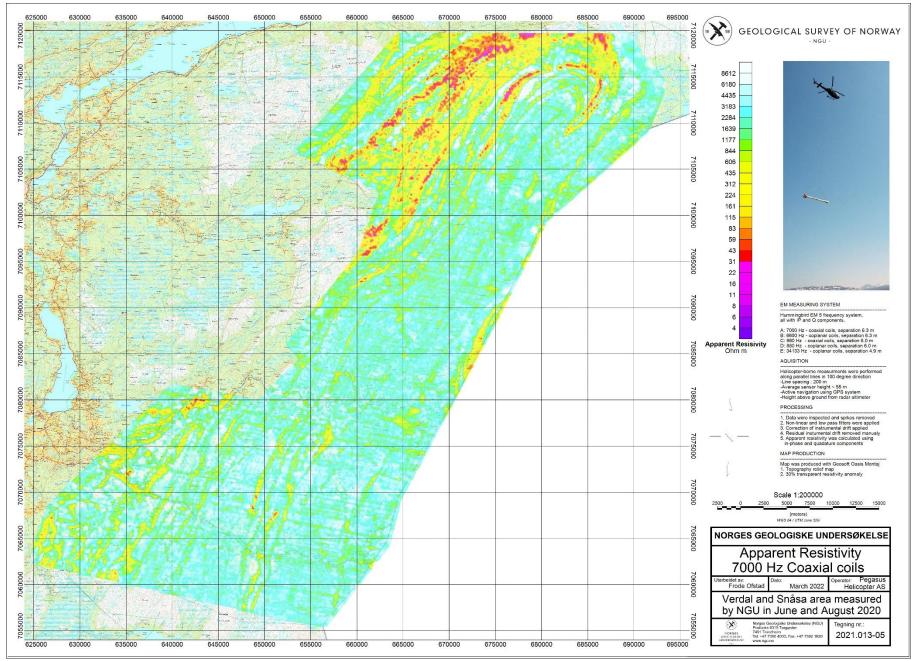


Figure 9: Apparent resistivity. Frequency 7000 Hz, Coaxial coils

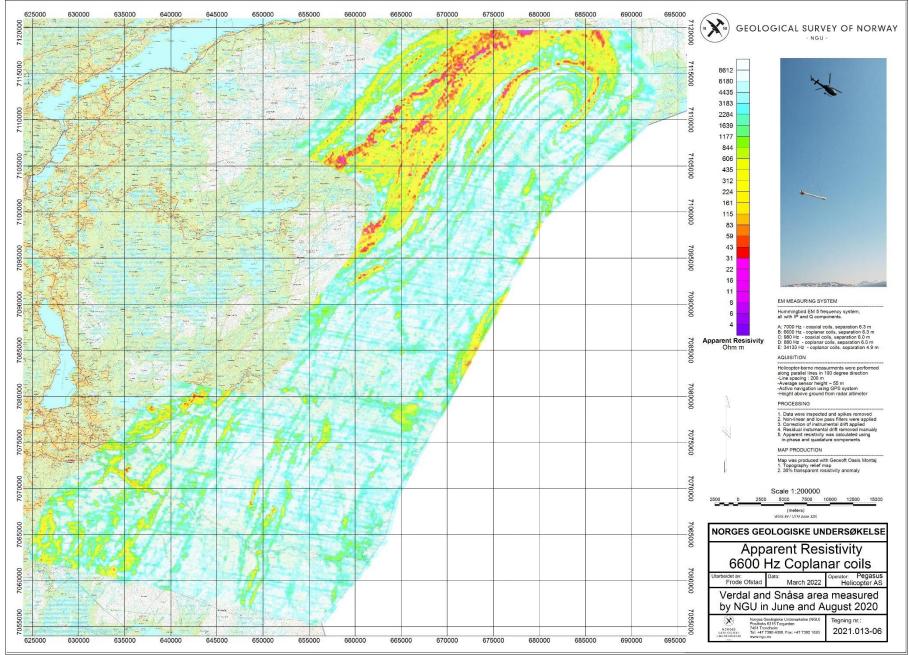


Figure 10: Apparent resistivity. Frequency 6600 Hz, Coplanar coils

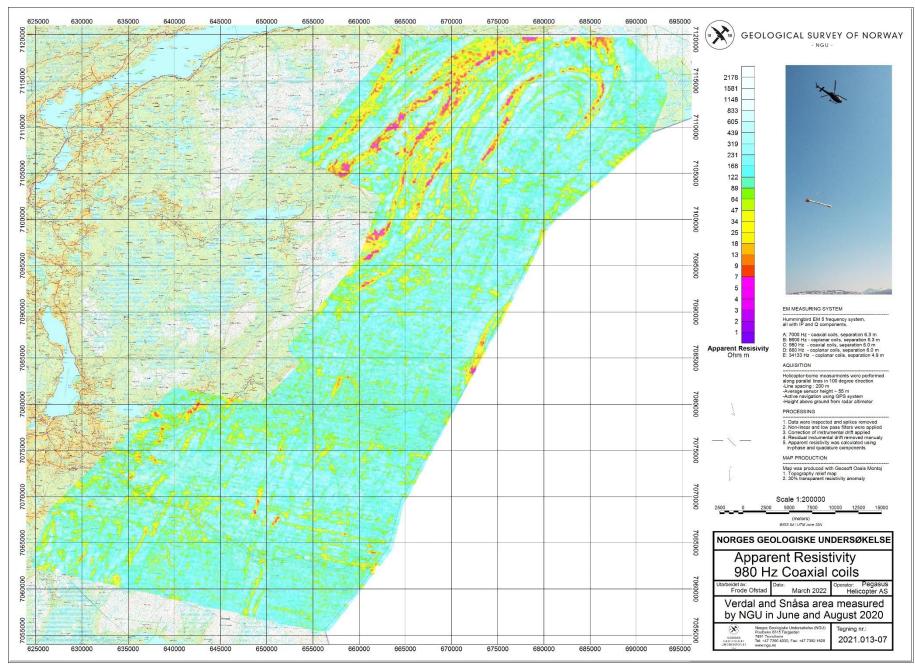


Figure 11: Apparent resistivity. Frequency 980 Hz, Coaxial coils

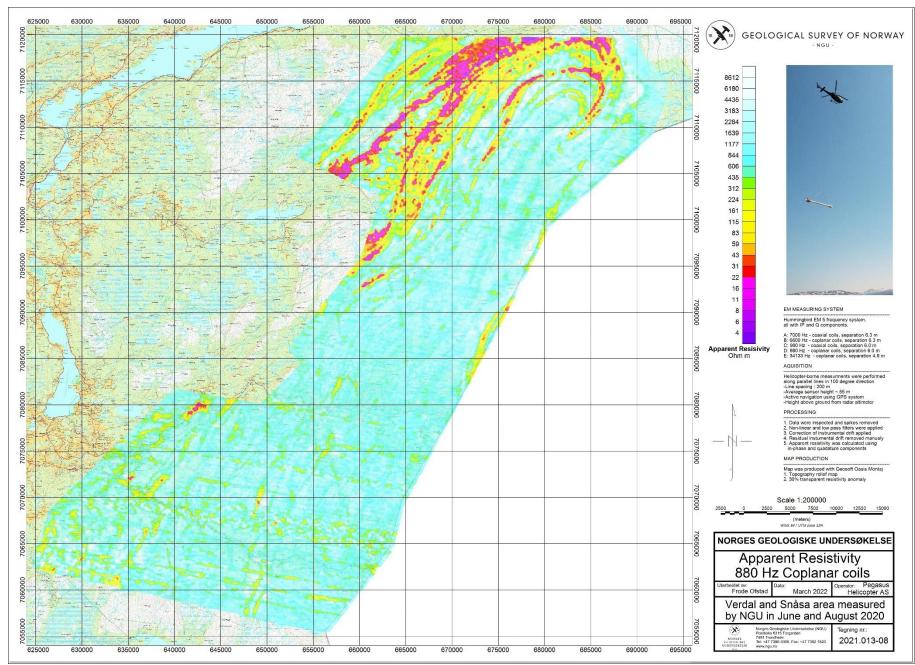


Figure 12: Apparent resistivity. Frequency 880 Hz, Coplanar coils

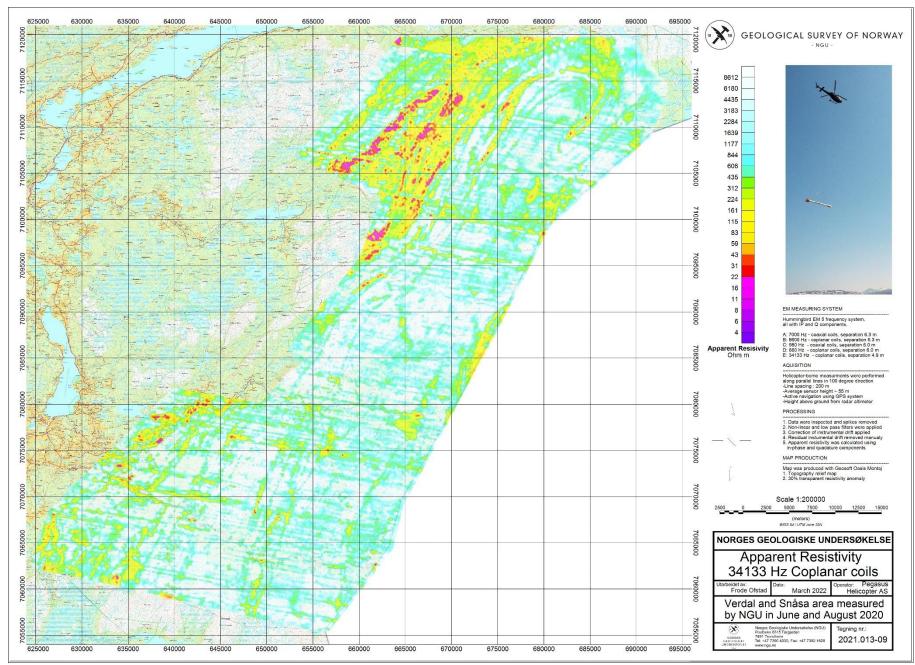
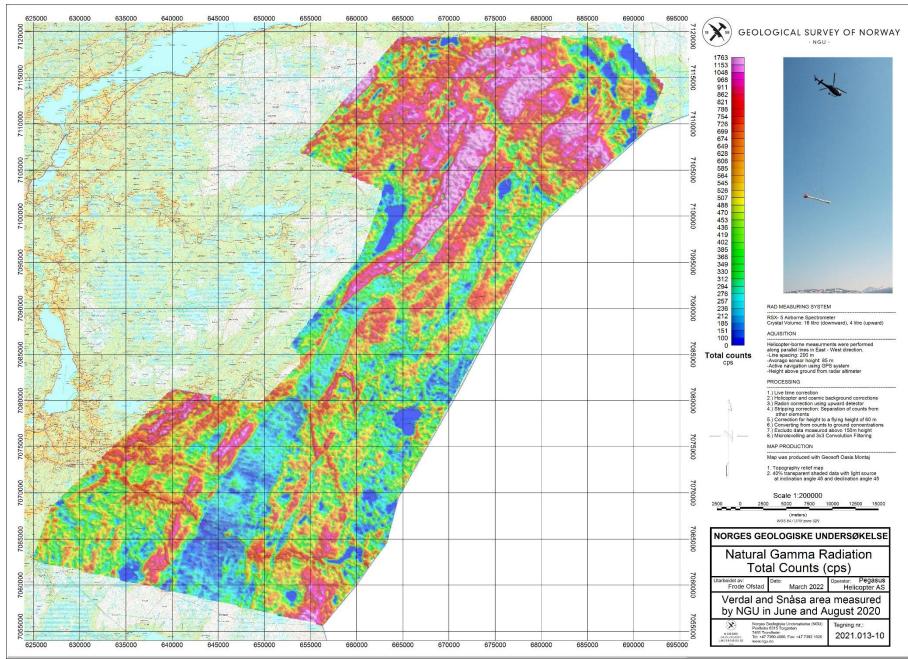


Figure 13: Apparent resistivity. Frequency 34133 Hz, Coplanar coils



**Figure 14: Radiometric Total Counts** 

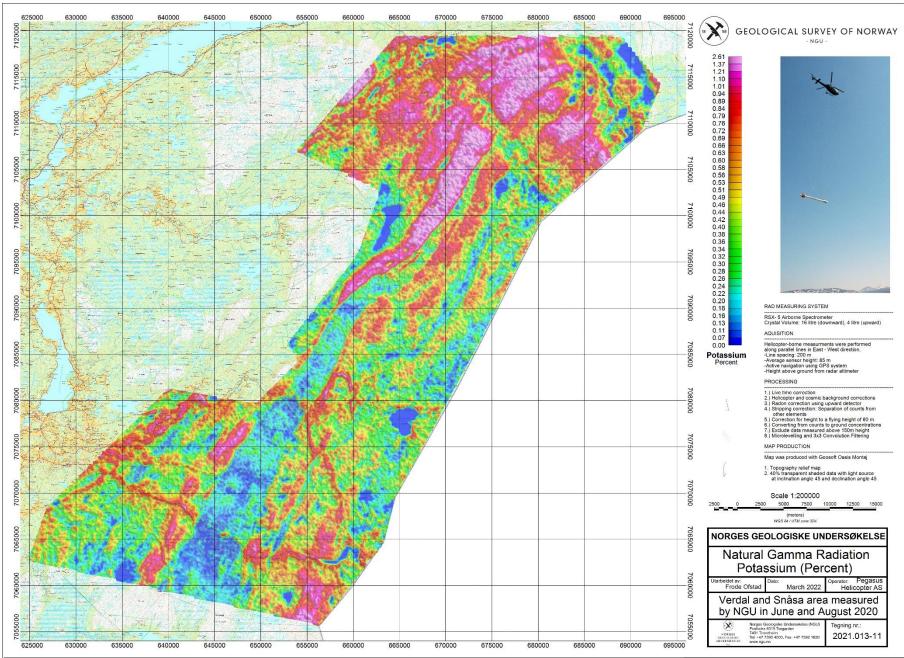


Figure 15: Potassium ground concentration

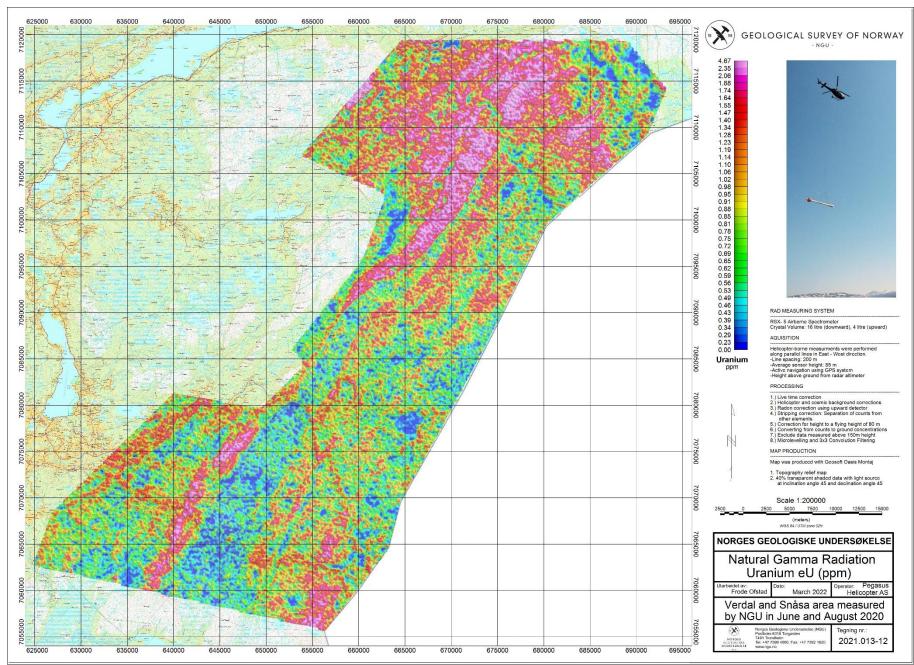


Figure 16: Uranium ground concentration

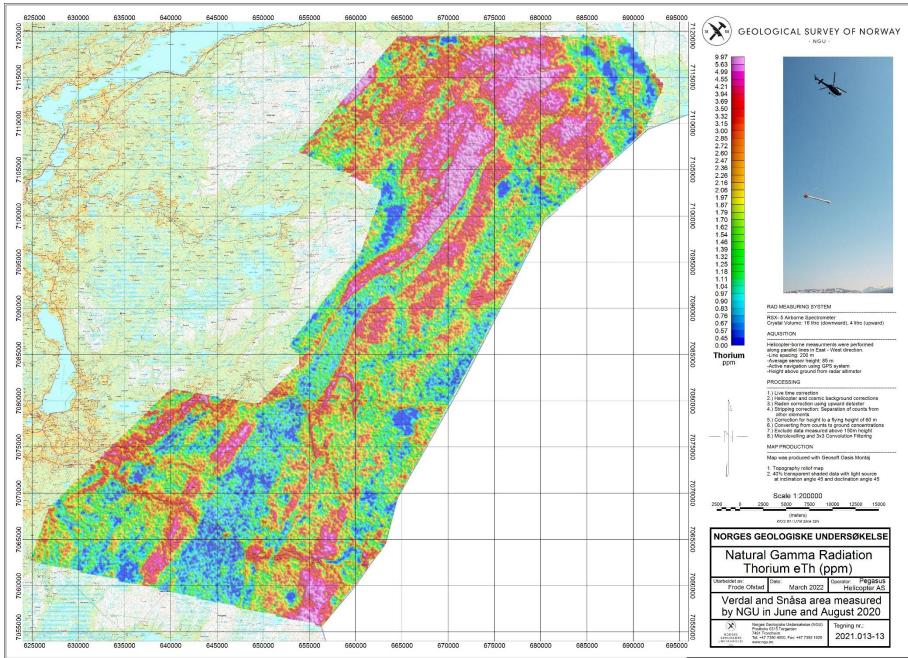


Figure 17: Thorium ground concentration

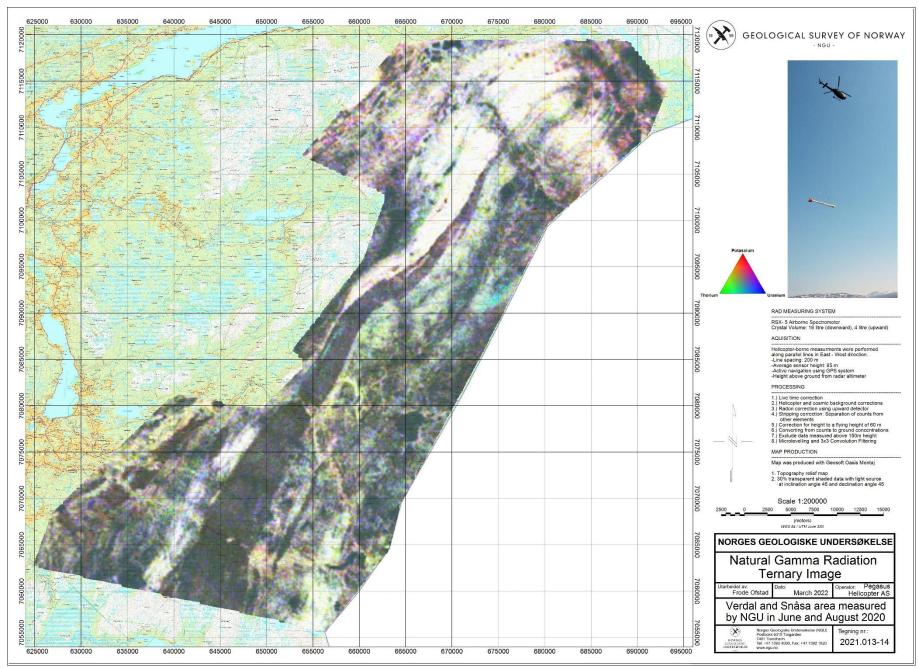
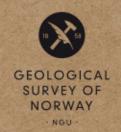


Figure 18: Radiometric Ternary Image



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