Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 10, EGU2008-A-03535, 2008 SRef-ID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU2008-A-03535 EGU General Assembly 2008 © Author(s) 2008



40Ar/39Ar age calibration against counted annual layers

M. Storey and O. Stecher

Quaternary Dating Laboratory, Department of Environmental, Social and Spatial Change, Roskilde University, Universitetsvej 1, PO Box 260, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark (storey@ruc.dk / www.quadlab.dk)

The 40Ar/39Ar method, based on the decay of the naturally occurring radioactive isotope 40K, is capable of producing ages with precision better than \pm 0.1 %. However, accuracy is limited to no better than 1 % mainly due to the relatively large uncertainty in the 40K decay constants. One approach worth exploring for an improved absolute age basis for the 40Ar/39Ar system is through cross-calibration with counted annual layers (e.g. tree rings, varves and ice cores). North Atlantic Ash Zone (NAAZ) II is found within the dated part of the annual Greenland ice core record. NAAZ II has been correlated to the Icelandic peralkaline rhyolitic Thorsmörk ignimbrite. We will present preliminary 40Ar/39Ar results on the age of this eruption.