



# Geologic and geomorphic controls on rockfall hazard: how well do past rockfalls predict future distributions?

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**Abstract.** To evaluate the geospatial hazard relationships between recent (contemporary) rockfalls and their prehistoric predecessors, we compare the locations, physical characteristics, and lithologies of rockfall boulders deposited during the 2010–2011 Canterbury earthquake sequence (CES) ( $n = 185$ ) with those deposited prior to the CES ( $n = 1093$ ). Population ratios of pre-CES to CES boulders at two study sites vary spatially from  $\sim 5 : 1$  to  $8.5 : 1$ . This is interpreted to reflect (i) variations in CES rockfall flux due to intra- and inter-event spatial differences in ground motions (e.g., directionality) and associated variations in source cliff responses; (ii) possible variations in the triggering mechanism(s), frequency, flux, record duration, boulder size distributions, and post-depositional mobilization of pre-CES rockfalls relative to CES rockfalls; and (iii) geological variations in the source cliffs of CES and pre-CES rockfalls. On interflutes, CES boulders traveled approximately 100 to 250 m further downslope than prehistoric (pre-CES) boulders. This is interpreted to reflect reduced resistance to CES rockfall transport due to preceding anthropogenic hillslope de-vegetation. Volcanic breccia boulders are more dimensionally equant and rounded, are larger, and traveled further downslope than coherent lava boulders, illustrating clear geological control on rockfall hazard. In valley bottoms, the furthest-traveled pre-CES boulders are situated further downslope than CES boulders due to (i) remobilization of pre-CES boulders by post-

depositional processes such as debris flows and (ii) reduction of CES boulder velocities and travel distances by collisional impacts with pre-CES boulders. A considered earth-systems approach is required when using preserved distributions of rockfall deposits to predict the severity and extents of future rockfall events.

## 1 Introduction

Rockfall deposits pervade many mountainous and hilly regions worldwide (Varnes, 1978; Evans and Hungr, 1993; Wieczorek, 2002; Dorren, 2003; Guzzetti et al., 2003) and can provide important data for assessing future rockfall hazards (Porter and Orombelli, 1981; Keefer, 1984; Dussauge-Peisser et al., 2002; Copons and Vilaplana, 2008; Wieczorek et al., 2008; Stock et al., 2014; Borella et al., 2016a). Their characteristics (e.g., location, size, and morphology) may be used to complement numerical rockfall modeling scenarios (Agliardi and Crosta, 2003; Dorren et al., 2004; Heron et al., 2014; Vick, 2015; Borella et al., 2016a) and inform engineering-design criteria for rockfall mitigation structures (e.g., impact fences, tiebacks, and protection forests) (e.g., Agliardi and Crosta, 2003; Dorren et al., 2004; Guzzetti et al., 2004). However, natural and anthropogenic changes to the landscape (including changes to the rockfall

source and slope areas) between successive rockfall events and the post-depositional history for rockfalls can be complex (e.g., Borella et al., 2016a, b). To better understand how past rockfalls provide suitable proxies for characterizing future hazard, comparisons between the geologic and geomorphic attributes of individual rockfall events and cumulative amalgamations of many events are valued. Critical evaluations of possible intervening changes to the landscape that may influence the mechanics of rockfall production and travel are an important component of these studies.

More than 7000 mapped individual rocks fell from cliffs in the Port Hills in southern Christchurch during the 2010–2011 Canterbury earthquake sequence (CES) in New Zealand's South Island (Massey et al., 2014). Most of the rockfalls (> 6000) occurred during the 22 February 2011 moment magnitude ( $M_w$ ) = 6.2 and 13 June 2011  $M_w$  = 6.0 Christchurch earthquakes (Massey et al., 2014). Approximately 200 houses were impacted, 100 houses were severely damaged, and five fatalities occurred due to falling rocks in the 2011 February earthquake (Massey et al., 2014; Grant et al., 2017). CES rockfalls were characterized by boulder-size distribution, runout distance (the distance a rock travels down a slope from its source), source-area dimensions, and boulder-production rates over a range of triggering peak ground accelerations (Massey et al., 2012a–e, 2014, 2017; Mackey and Quigley, 2014; Quigley et al., 2016).

Subsequent field investigations revealed an abundance of pre-CES rockfall deposits in CES rockfall areas (Townsend and Rosser, 2012; Mackey and Quigley, 2014; Borella et al., 2016a, b), suggesting multiple rockfall events had occurred at these sites in the past (Mackey and Quigley, 2014; Borella et al., 2016a, b; Sohbati et al., 2016). Retrospectively, these pre-CES deposits had the potential to contribute to hazard assessments during land planning and urban development in Christchurch prior to the CES; however, there is no evidence that they did so (Townsend and Rosser, 2012; Litchfield et al., 2016). At one well-studied location (Rapaki) in the Port Hills of southern Christchurch, CES and pre-CES boulder populations were shown to have similar volumetric size and morphology characteristics, but a significant population of CES boulders had longer maximum runout distances than their pre-CES counterparts (Borella et al., 2016a). Pre-CES rockfalls were dated using independent approaches to > 3–15 ka (Mackey and Quigley, 2014; Sohbati et al., 2016; Borella et al., 2016b). With the aid of numerical modeling of rockfall trajectories (using RAMMS – rapid mass movement simulation) these data were collectively interpreted to suggest that anthropogenic deforestation between pre-CES and CES rockfalls was the primary cause for the observed spatial distinctions in CES and pre-CES rockfall distributions (Borella et al., 2016a). Elsewhere in the Port Hills and greater Banks Peninsula, the causes for differences in the spatial distribution between CES and pre-CES rockfalls are less clear and in some locations the current positions of pre-CES boulders extend further distances from source cliffs than

their CES counterparts. A more integrated and regional understanding of the geologic, geomorphic, seismogenic, and anthropogenic controls on rockfall distributions has the potential to inform rockfall hazard analyses for land zoning and engineering considerations here and elsewhere (e.g., Lan et al., 2010).

In this study we document the location, volume, morphology, and lithology for individual ( $n = 1093$ ) pre-CES rockfall boulders at two sites (Rapaki and Purau) in the Banks Peninsula near Christchurch, New Zealand. The spatial distributions and physical attributes for pre-CES boulders are compared to rockfall boulders ( $n = 185$ ) deposited at the same sites during the 2010–2011 CES. The RAMMS's bare-earth and forested numerical modeling scenarios are conducted to help evaluate the influence of natural and anthropogenic factors on rockfall distributions, identify boulder sub-populations that have likely experienced post-emplacment mobility, determine the relative timing of pre-existing rockfalls (i.e., prehistoric or historic), and evaluate the efficacy of RAMMS in replicating empirical CES and prehistoric boulder spatial distributions. We highlight the complexity of interpreting future rockfall hazard based on former boulder distributions (particularly location) due to the following: (i) potential landscape changes including deforestation, (ii) changes in rockfall source (e.g., progressive emergence of bedrock sources from beneath sedimentary cover), (iii) remobilization of prior rockfalls by surface processes including debris flows (primarily in channels), (iv) lithological variability effects on the type of material liberated in successive events, (v) collisional impedance with pre-existing boulders (particularly in channels or valleys), and (vi) variations in the location, size, and strong ground motion characteristics of past rockfall-triggering earthquakes and their impact on rockfall flux and boulder mobility. We use an integrated earth-systems approach, which combines a consideration of geologic, geomorphic, seismogenic, and anthropogenic influences on rockfall distributions with high-quality field-based (i.e., prehistoric and contemporary rockfall data sets) and instrumentally recorded (seismic) data sets, and numerical modeling. Our results have broad implications for using rockfall distributions to forecast future rockfall hazard.

## 2 Geologic setting

### 2.1 Overview

Banks Peninsula, located on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island, is comprised of three main volcanoes (Lyttelton, Akaroa, and Mount Herbert) active between 11.0 and 5.8 Ma (Hampton and Cole, 2009) (Fig. 1). The two study sites (Rapaki and Purau) are located within the inner crater rim of the Lyttelton Volcanic Complex (Figs. 1–3), the oldest of the volcanic centers and thought to be active from

11.0 to 9.7 Ma (Hampton and Cole, 2009). Source rock at both sites is classified by Sewell (1988) and Sewell et al. (1992) as part of the Lyttelton Volcanic Group (LVG) and consists of basaltic to trachytic lava flows interbedded with breccia and tuff (Mvl). Numerous dikes and minor domes are observed within the LVG. Our field observations support the reported lithologic descriptions for the two study locales. The inferred strike and dip for lava flows nearest to the study sites indicates a shallow inclination in a predominantly northerly direction for measurements nearest the Rapaki and Purau study sites (Hampton and Cole, 2009). Sewell et al. (1992) report a similar shallow northerly to northwesterly dip of  $12^\circ$  for lava flows nearest Rapaki. The study areas were selected because both have abundant pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders (Fig. 4) derived from lithologically equivalent volcanic source rocks. Rapaki represents a case study location proximal to the source of the 2011 February and June Christchurch earthquakes (epicenters  $\sim 2.5$ – $5.0$  km; hypocenters  $\sim 5.6$ – $7.0$  km), while Purau is located more distally (epicenters  $\sim 6.6$ – $8.4$  km; hypocenters  $\sim 8.9$ – $10.3$  km). Estimated rockfall-generating peak horizontal ground velocities (PGV) at the Rapaki site in the February and June earthquakes were  $\geq 30 \text{ cm s}^{-2}$  (Mackey and Quigley, 2014).

## 2.2 Rapaki study site

The Rapaki study site is situated in the Port Hills of southern Christchurch (Figs. 1 and 2) on the southeastern slope of Mount Rapaki (*Te Poho o Tamatea*), which has a summit height of  $\sim 400$  m. The study hillslope is slightly concave to planar with a total area of  $\sim 0.21 \text{ km}^2$  and faces to the east-southeast. The source zone consists of steep to subvertical bedrock cliffs composed of stratified basaltic lava and indurated auto-breccia or pyroclastic flow deposits (Fig. 5a–c). Breccia layers are thicker ( $\sim 3$ – $10$  m) and jointing is more widely spaced (often  $> 10$  m). Coherent lava layers are comparably thin ( $< 3$  m) and joints are more closely spaced (generally  $< 1$ – $2$  m). Total height and length of the source rock are  $\sim 60$  and  $\sim 300$  m, respectively (Fig. 5a). Below the source area is a  $\sim 23^\circ$  grassy hillslope composed of wind-blown sediment deposits (loess), loess and volcanic colluvium, and overlying rockfall boulders (both CES and pre-CES) (Bell and Trangmar, 1987). Rapaki village (estimated population = 100 residents) lies at the hillslope base at elevations of  $\sim 70$  m a.s.l. to sea level (Fig. 2a and b). Anthropogenic deforestation has exposed a hillslope that is currently experiencing accelerated erosion (Borella et al., 2016a, b) in the form of mass wasting and tunnel gully formation. Shallow landslides, including debris and earth flows, are most prevalent in upper- to mid-slope positions, while rill and gully erosion predominate in lower-slope positions. Rockfall is a dominant surface feature at the Rapaki study site (Mackey and Quigley, 2014; Vick, 2015; Borella et al., 2016a, b). Pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders at the study site are

divided into two dominant lithology types: volcanic breccia (VB) and coherent lava (CL) basalt. During the 22 February and 13 June 2011 earthquakes, more than 650 individual CES boulders ranging in diameter from  $< 15$  cm to  $> 3$  m were dislodged from the volcanic source rock near the top of Mount Rapaki, many impacting and destroying residential homes (Massey et al., 2014; Mackey and Quigley, 2014).

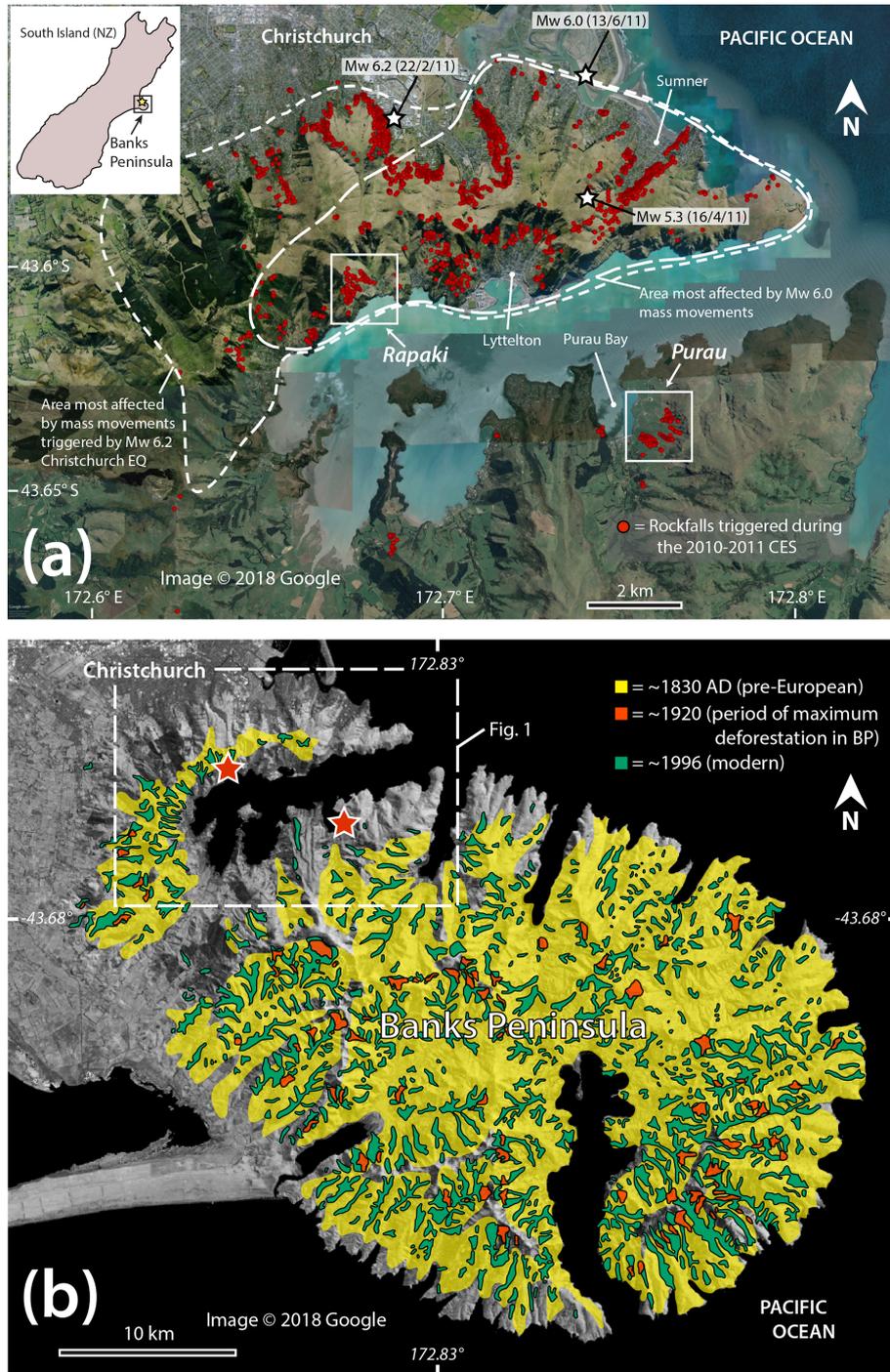
## 2.3 Purau study site

Purau is located on the southern side of Lyttelton Harbour, approximately 5 km southeast of Rapaki (Figs. 1 and 3). Slopes at Purau have a west-northwest aspect, the opposite of the Rapaki study hillslope. Mapping of pre-CES and CES rockfall was performed on and within several interfluvial (spurs) and bounding valleys, respectively (Fig. 3) and encompassed a total area of  $\sim 1.4 \text{ km}^2$ . The source rock geology at Purau, including lithology and structure, is equivalent to that observed at Rapaki (Fig. 5d and e). The ridgeline (i.e., volcanic source rock) to the east obtains a maximum elevation of  $\sim 440$  m. Locally, individual vertical to subvertical bluff faces are estimated to be  $\sim 20$ – $30$  m in height. From the base of the volcanic source rock, slopes extend downward toward Purau Bay at angles ranging from  $\sim 30$  to  $\sim 5^\circ$  near Camp Bay Road (Fig. 3). Field observations indicate the volcanic rock is overlain by loess, loess colluvium and volcanic colluvium, and pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders of small (e.g.,  $< 1 \text{ m}^3$ ) to extremely large sizes (e.g.,  $> 100 \text{ m}^3$ ). Deforestation of Purau slopes has left the hillside covered primarily in low-lying grass and bush. Shallow slips are abundant and are commonly observed on steep slopes, including valley flanks. Maximum landslide depth is typically  $\sim 1$ – $1.5$  m and often exposes volcanic bedrock at bottom, indicating the overlying sediment is relatively thin. Tunnel gully erosion predominates on canyon flanks and at lower elevations.

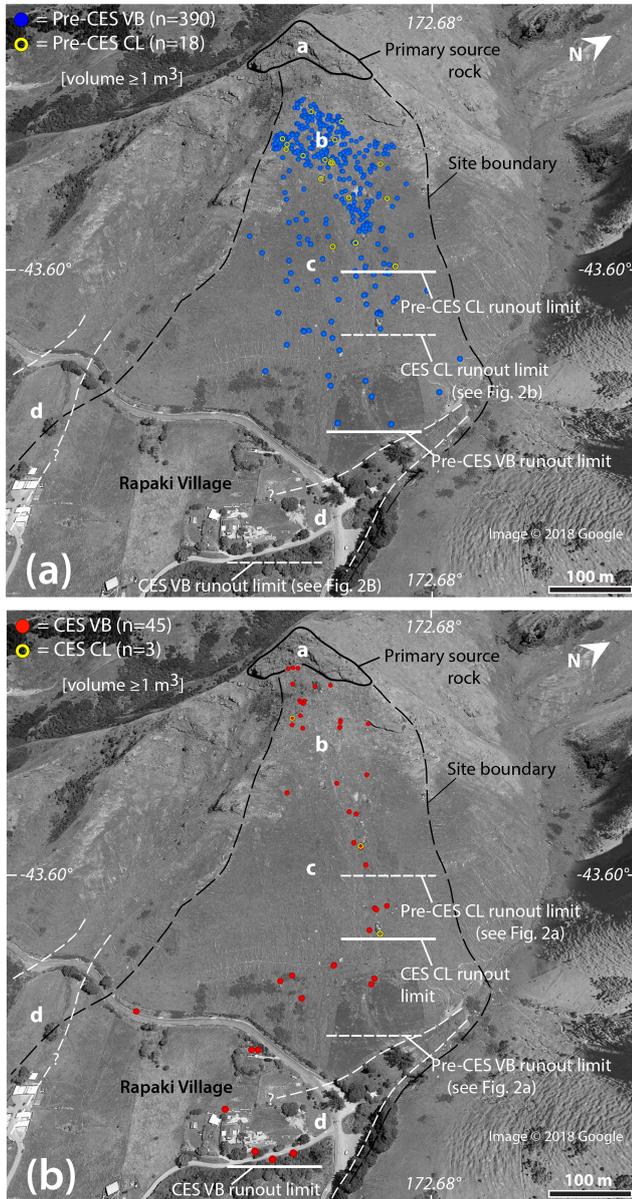
## 3 Methods

### 3.1 Field mapping and characterization of CES and pre-CES rockfall boulders

We mapped 1276 individual rockfall boulders at the Rapaki (pre-CES = 408; CES = 48) and Purau (pre-CES = 684; CES = 136) study sites for boulder volume  $\geq 1.0 \text{ m}^3$  (see Supplement, Tables S1–S4, <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.9km1t86>). Where safety conditions permitted, pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders were mapped to the base of the volcanic source rock. Location (latitude and longitude) and elevation (meters above sea level) were recorded for each rockfall deposit using a handheld Garmin GPSMap 62s device. Boulder dimensions (i.e., height, length, and width) were tape measured in the field. For pre-CES boulders partially buried to the degree that only 2 dimensions were adequately measurable, the



**Figure 1.** (a) © Google Earth image showing Rapaki and Purau study sites. CES rockfall locations as mapped by GNS Science and the authors (at Rapaki and Purau) are shown (red). Epicenter locations for 22 February, 13 June, and 16 April 2011 events are displayed (modified from Massey et al., 2014). Inset map of South Island (New Zealand) shows the Banks Peninsula and the approximate location for study site (yellow star). (b) Anthropogenic deforestation of Banks Peninsula (modified from Harding, 2003, and Wilson, 2013). Removal of native forest occurred rapidly in Banks Peninsula (BP) with the arrival of the Polynesians (1280 CE) then the Europeans (1830 CE). Before the Polynesian (Maori) arrival, extensive native forest was present throughout the BP. Prior to European settlement, minor to moderate removal of indigenous forest by Maori occurred, with burning being the primary tool for clearance (yellow). By 1920, Europeans had removed > 98 % of the BP native forest (red). Minor re-establishment of old-growth native forest has occurred (green), but slopes in the Port Hills and greater BP (including Rapaki and Purau) remain largely unvegetated.



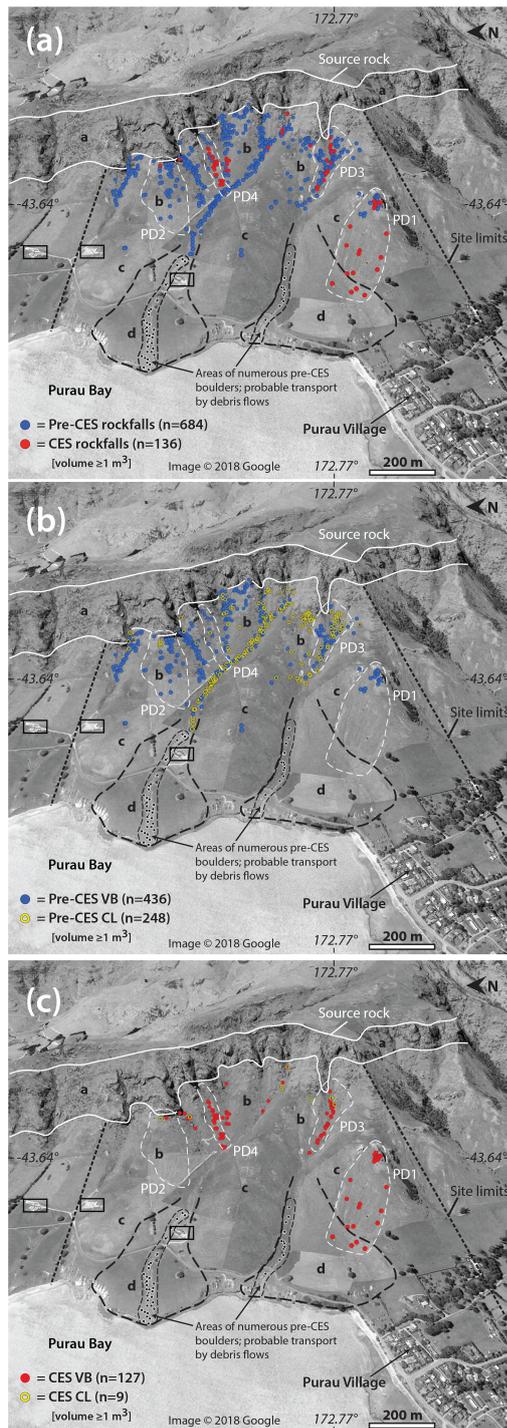
**Figure 2.** (a) Mapped pre-CES volcanic breccia (VB) and coherent lava (CL) boulders with volume  $\geq 1.0 \text{ m}^3$  at Rapaki. The largest boulders with the furthest runout distances are comprised exclusively of volcanic breccia. Ratio of pre-CES VB to CL boulders is  $\sim 22 : 1$ . (b) Mapped CES VB and CL boulders at Rapaki study site. Note the low number of CL rockfall boulders detached during the CES at Rapaki. Ratio of CES VB to CL boulders is  $15 : 1$  (a: volcanic source rock; b: dominated by volcanic boulder colluvium and volcanic loess colluvium; c: loess colluvium underlain by in situ loess and volcanic rock; d: alluvial sediments overlying loess and bedrock).

shorter of the two measured lengths was used for the 3rd dimension, thus insuring a conservative boulder size estimate. No rounding factor was applied to volumetric estimations of pre-CES boulders. The lithology type was determined for each pre-CES boulder and was based primarily upon the observed dominant rock “texture”. Boulder lithologies were rarely observed ( $< 1\%$  of total) and assigned as VB or CL based on the volumetrically predominant rock type.

### 3.2 Boulder runout distance

Boulder runout distance was determined by measuring the shortest horizontal and ground-length distances, perpendicular to slope contour lines, from the nearest potential bedrock source areas to mapped boulder locations using Google Earth Professional (Tables S5–S8, <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.9km1t86>). Runout distance was calculated for 409 pre-CES boulders and 48 CES boulders (for volume  $\geq 1.0 \text{ m}^3$ ) at Rapaki. Due to safety concerns we were unable to record locations for pre-CES boulders within  $\sim 100 \text{ m}$  (map length) of the volcanic source rock at this site. However, boulder frequency counts (for boulder volume  $\geq 0.1 \text{ m}^3$ ) were field measured within a  $300 \text{ m}^2$  area at distances of 0–10 m ( $n = 31$ ), 30–40 m ( $n = 35$ ), 60–70 m ( $n = 77$ ), and 100–110 m ( $n = 24$ ) from the volcanic source rock (see Fig. A1). The boulder frequency counts at these distances were used to extrapolate the number of boulders across remaining sections of the study site, consistent with visual inspection of air photos. At Purau, four separate geomorphic domains (PD1–PD4) were created to evaluate pre-CES and CES boulder runout distance (see Fig. 3; Tables S7 and S8, <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.9km1t86>). The domains include interfluvial and valley morphologies, target areas with both CES and pre-CES rockfall boulders, and cases where the pre-CES rockfalls were sourced from a single or limited number of rock exposures. We generally report map length runout distance within this paper.

We used the empirical shadow angle method (Lied, 1977; Evans and Hungr, 1993) to analyze the travel distance of rockfalls at Rapaki and Purau. The shadow angle is the arctangent of the relationship  $H_t/L_t$ , where  $H_t$  is the height of fall on the talus slope (elevation difference between the apex of the talus slope and final emplacement location of the rockfall block) and  $L_t$  is the travel distance on the talus slope (horizontal distance between the apex of the talus slope and the final emplacement location of the rockfall block) (see Copons et al., 2009; Lied, 1977; Evans and Hungr, 1993) (see Fig. A2). The shadow angle method is most suitable for our study (compared to the reach or “Fahrböschung” angle) because it does not require identifying the source release location for individual rockfall blocks, a parameter we are unable to determine for the pre-CES and CES rockfalls.



**Figure 3.** (a) Mapped pre-CES and CES rockfalls with volume  $\geq 1.0\text{ m}^3$  at Purau study site. Ratio of pre-CES to CES boulders is  $\sim 5 : 1$  (a: volcanic source rock; b: dominated by volcanic boulder colluvium and volcanic loess colluvium; c: loess colluvium underlain by in situ loess and volcanic rock; d: alluvial sediments overlying loess and bedrock). (b) Mapped pre-CES VB and CL boulders at Purau. Ratio of pre-CES VB to CL boulders is  $\sim 2 : 1$ . (c) Mapped CES VB and CL boulders at Purau study site. Note the low number of CL rockfall boulders detached during the CES at Purau. Ratio of CES VB to CL boulders is  $\sim 14 : 1$ . PD1–PD4 represent Purau rockfall domains.

### 3.3 RAMMS rockfall modeling

Three model scenarios were conducted using the Rapid Mass Movements System (RAMMS) software (Bartelt et al., 2013; Leine et al., 2014). RAMMS\_1 represents a bare-earth CES model and was performed to test the reliability of RAMMS in replicating the spatial distribution for CES rockfalls at Purau. RAMMS\_2 assumes a vegetated slope and simulates hillslope conditions prior to deforestation (i.e., prehistoric). RAMMS\_3 models the potential future rockfall hazard at Purau and assumes a bare-earth (deforested) hillslope and dry soil moisture conditions to insure a worst-case (conservative) outcome. Please see Supplement for more detail on the individual RAMMS modeling scenarios.

The Purau terrain was modeled using a 4 m DEM (digital elevation model) derived from LIDAR (light detection and ranging) surveys to model CES (bare-earth scenario) and pre-CES (prehistoric forested slope scenario) rockfall distributions. The rockfall boulders were modeled as rigid polyhedral. The source areas (i.e., volcanic rock) and remaining runoff terrain types (i.e., loess and loess–volcanic colluvium) (Table A1 Figs. A4–A6) for the RAMMS model scenarios (i.e., RAMMS\_1 to \_3) were chosen following the methods of Vick (2015) and Borella et al. (2016a) and delineated as polygon (Fig. A4) and polyline (Figs. A5 and A6) shapefiles in ArcGIS from field observations, desktop study of orthophotography, and satellite imagery.

Boulder shape and size are highly influential in the dynamics and runout of a rockfall event (e.g., Leine et al., 2014; Latham et al., 2008). Boulder shapes and sizes used in the model simulations were representative of the true boulder geometries observed at Purau and Rapaki (Borella et al., 2016a). Rock shapes were created using the RAMMS “rock builder” tool, which creates boulder point clouds based on a user-defined shape and size. All boulder shapes reflected “real” rock bodies that have been field scanned. For each size class of boulder, varying shapes were selected, which are simplified to equant, flat, and long. Please see Supplement for more detail on boulder shape and size distributions utilized in each of the RAMMS modeling scenarios.

Vegetation was modeled in RAMMS as forest drag, a resisting force acting on the rock’s center of mass when located below the drag layer height. The forest was parameterized by a drag coefficient, effective up to the input height of the vegetation layer. Typical values for the drag coefficient range between  $100$  and  $10\,000\text{ kg s}^{-1}$  (Bartelt et al., 2013; Leine et al., 2014). Vegetation was assigned an effective height of  $10\text{ m}$ . A variable forest density was applied to account for the presumed denser vegetation (on average) within drainage valleys at the Purau study site (Fig. A7). We assume more surface and subsurface water would be focused into topographic lows and would therefore promote denser tree growth. Within drainage valleys a uniform drag force of  $6000\text{ kg s}^{-1}$  was applied to each of the simulated boulders. Elsewhere at the study site, a drag force of  $3000\text{ kg s}^{-1}$  was

applied. These forest values are equivalent to those utilized in Borella et al. (2016a) at Rapaki in the Port Hills of southern Christchurch. We also simulated a uniform forest density increase of  $10\,000\text{ kg s}^{-1}$  (see Sect. 4). As evidenced by modern native forest analogs, tree growth was extended upward to the base of the source rock and was also applied to areas between outcropping volcanic source rock.

### 3.4 Strong ground motions near rockfall source cliffs

Strong ground motion accelerograms for stations LPCC, D13C, D15C, and GODS were obtained from GeoNet (<https://www.geonet.org.nz/>, last access: 11 May 2019, Fig. 6) to analyze the influence of ground motion on rockfalls. All these stations are Kinematics Etna instruments except LPCC, which is a CUSP-3 instrument. LPCC recorded both the  $M_w = 6.2$  event on 22 February 2011 and the  $M_w = 6$  event on 13 June 2011. The other stations were installed following the  $M_w = 6.2$  earthquake and thus recorded only the  $M_w = 6$  earthquake. The data were sampled at  $0.005\text{ s}$  (Nyquist frequency  $100\text{ Hz}$ ) and filtered with an effective passband having corners  $\sim 0.05$  and  $\sim 40\text{ Hz}$ . We integrated accelerograms to produce velocity seismograms and computed envelopes using  $ENV = \sqrt{[x(t) \cdot 2 + H(x(t)) \cdot 2]}$ , where  $x(t)$  are time points in the seismogram, and  $H$  is the Hilbert transform. The particle velocity hodograms are calculated in the horizontal plane by rotating the horizontal orthogonal components of the seismogram to a standard N–S E–W coordinate system. The time window of particle velocity hodograms is  $\pm 5\text{ s}$  around the peak of the envelope of the east component. This ensures that the most significant ground motion resulting from both phase and group velocity peaks is accurately captured. Following a similar procedure, we computed particle motion hodograms by integrating accelerograms twice. These are given in Fig. 7a–e. Additional methods were used to analyze D13C data following interpretation of initial results; these are described in Sect. 5.7.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Rockfall mapping and boulder frequencies

#### 4.1.1 Rapaki

A comparison of the spatial distributions for pre-CES and CES rockfalls at Rapaki (Fig. 2) indicates that pre-CES rockfalls are more concentrated near the source area and have shorter maximum runout distances ( $560 \pm 15\text{ m}$ ) than the furthest traveled CES rockfalls ( $700 \pm 15\text{ m}$ ) that impacted Rapaki village during the 2011 Christchurch earthquakes. The CES rockfalls represent a subset of the pre-CES rockfall data set; the ratio of pre-CES ( $n = 409$ ) to CES ( $n = 49$ ) rockfalls at Rapaki is  $\sim 8.5 : 1$  (Fig. 2). The pre-CES and CES rockfall data sets are separated into VB and CL boulders (Figs. 2 and 4) to understand the influence of vol-

canic lithology on rockfall runout and final resting location. Very few CL boulders with volume  $\geq 1.0\text{ m}^3$  exist for pre-CES ( $n = 18$ ) and CES ( $n = 3$ ) rockfalls at Rapaki. Pre-CES and CES VB boulders display longer average and maximum runout distances than their CL counterparts (Fig. 2), and CES CL and VB boulders display longer average and maximum runout distances compared with their pre-CES equivalents. The ratio of pre-CES VB to CL and CES VB to CL rockfall boulders is  $\sim 22 : 1$  and  $\sim 15 : 1$ , respectively (Fig. 2).

#### 4.1.2 Purau

Pre-CES and CES rockfalls are widely distributed at the Purau study location (Fig. 3). Rockfall boulders are deposited on interfluves but are predominantly concentrated within nearby canyons, highlighting the strong influence of topography at the site (Fig. 3). Seven CES detachment zones were identified in the field. CES rockfall boulders nearest to the Purau village display the longest runout distance ( $372\text{ m}$ ) and most distinct spatial contrast with similarly sourced pre-CES boulders (deposited within  $\sim 105\text{ m}$  of the local volcanic source rock) (Fig. 3a). Elsewhere, pre-CES boulders can be observed at further distances from the source rock than CES rockfalls. The ratio of pre-CES to CES rockfall boulders is  $\sim 5 : 1$  (Fig. 3a). Pre-CES VB boulders are deposited throughout the Purau location, while the deposition of CL pre-CES boulders is concentrated within the central and southern drainage canyons (Fig. 6a). The ratio of pre-CES VB to CL boulders is  $\sim 2 : 1$  (Fig. 3b). CES VB boulders ( $n = 127$ ) significantly outnumber CL boulders ( $n = 9$ ) at the Purau site (Fig. 3c), reflecting the lack of detachment within CL source rock lithologies during the CES. The ratio of CES VB to CL rockfall boulders is  $\sim 14 : 1$  and represents a significance difference compared with the corresponding pre-CES VB : CL ratio (Fig. 3c).

### 4.2 Boulder morphology and other characteristics

VB boulders (Fig. 4a–f) contain small to large porphyritic volcanic clasts that exhibit minor to moderate vesicularity (up to  $\sim 10\%$ ) and are embedded within a finer crystalline and ash-bearing matrix (see Fig. 4a, c, d and f). They are dominated by equant (all axes equal length) shapes (see Fig. 4c), although elongate (two short axes, one long) forms are observed. Flat (one short, two long axes) morphologies are rare. VB pre-CES boulder surfaces show a high degree of weathering and surface roughness (Fig. 4a–d and f). The surface roughness results from in situ differential weathering between the finer crystalline host matrix and more resistant embedded volcanic clasts (see Fig. 4d). Surfaces show deep pitting, with amplitudes often exceeding  $5\text{--}10\text{ cm}$  in height. CL boulders (Fig. 4g–k) are more texturally homogeneous, contain fewer vesicles (estimated  $\sim < 1\%$ ), and exhibit a higher relative density (Carey et al., 2014; Muktar, 2014). The pre-CES CL boulder surfaces exhibit low surface rough-



**Figure 4.** Pre-CES and CES VB boulders at Rapaki and Purau study sites. (a) Pre-CES boulder in footslope position with smaller CES boulder at right bottom. (b) Exploratory trenching exposes the colluvial sediment wedge at the backside (upslope) of the boulder. (c) Pre-CES boulder at Purau study site. Erosion of the surrounding hillslope sediments has exposed the boulder base and underlying loessic sediment. (d) Advanced surface roughness and abundant lichen growth on pre-CES boulder surface. (e) CES boulder ( $\sim 28 \text{ m}^3$ ) detached from Mount Rapaki and emplaced in the Rapaki village during the 22 February 2011 earthquake (photo courtesy of D. J. A. Barrell, GNS Science). (f) CES boulder showing 2011 detachment surface (1) and adjacent non-detached surface (2) with higher degree of surface roughness. (g–k) Representative CL boulders at Rapaki and Purau sites exhibit typical elongate and flat morphologies.

ness (i.e., smooth compared with VB boulders). Elongate and flat boulder morphologies predominate for CL boulder lithologies (Fig. 4g–k).

Both VB and CL pre-CES boulders can be observed partially to nearly completely buried by loess colluvium (see Fig. 4a, b, g). Instances do occur, however, where no sediment is built up at the boulder backside (Fig. 4c) due to

erosion (including tunnel gully formation). Burial in hillslope sediment is most common for boulders located on mid-slope and footslope positions, rather than those located on upper slope elevations, where erosion dominates. Pre-CES boulders located in drainage canyons are subject to rapid deposition and erosion, and therefore can be found without any sediment pileup or preserving large colluvial wedges.

VB boulders preserve the thickest colluvial wedge sediments (see Fig. 4b).

#### 4.3 Source rock characteristics

The volcanic source rock at Rapaki (Fig. 5a–c) and Purau (Fig. 5d and e) is comprised of interlayered VB and CL layers (Fig. 5a–e). The breccia layers comprise the bottom and top of discrete lava flows, while the coherent lava generally occupies the center of the lava flow where cooling was not as rapid, and there was less interaction with the substrate and/or cooling interface (Fig. 5c–g). Jointing is pervasive within the volcanic source rock, but to varying degrees depending upon layer composition and corresponding texture. Layers comprised of CL exhibit the highest fracture density (Fig. 5e and f) and were formed during primary cooling of the lava flow, producing a columnar-style pattern. The CL layers contain numerous intersecting sub-vertical to vertical, to curvilinear joint sets, with spacing rarely exceeding  $\sim 1$ – $2$  m. The small joint spacing imparts a first-order control on CL boulder size and is reflected in the small size range for pre-CES CL boulders. Layers comprised of VB exhibit a lower fracture density, with joints more widely spaced (and irregular in shape), often 5–10 m or greater apart (Fig. 5d and e). The wider spacing for joints within VB layers promotes greater rockfall boulder volume (see Sect. 4.4. below).

During the CES, rockfall detachment occurred within approximately 9 % (by area) of the volcanic source rock overlying the Rapaki study hillslope (Fig. 5a). The volcanic source rock is comprised of 86 % VB and 14 % CL (VB:CL ratio =  $\sim 6:1$ ). Approximately 69 % of the CES detachment areas occurred within VB and the remaining 31 % within CL (Fig. 5a). However, 20 % of the identified CL source rock detached during the CES, while only 7 % of the identified VB source rock detached during the CES, indicating the CL lithology was more susceptible to detachment.

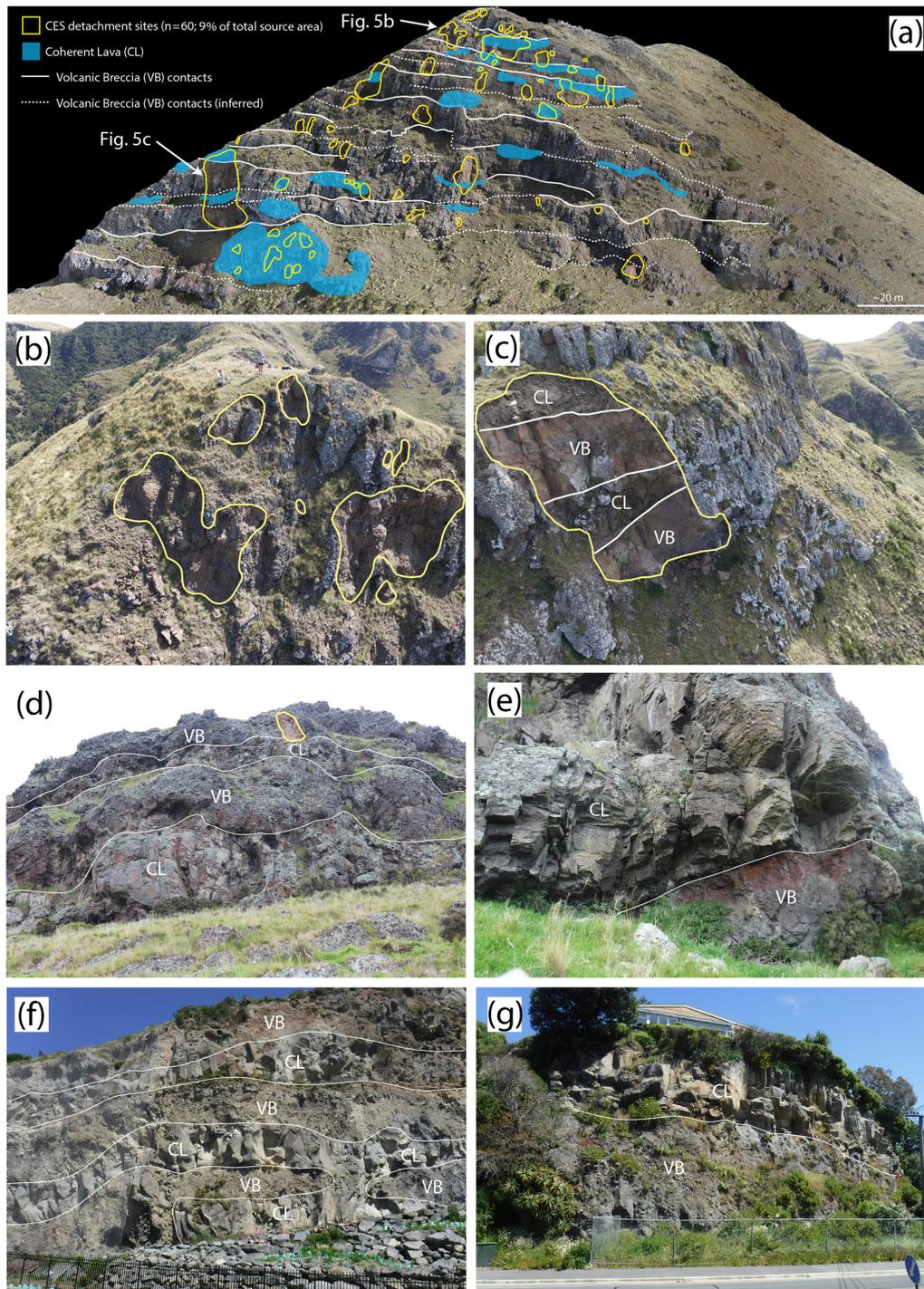
We were unable to conduct a source rock investigation at Purau with the same spatial resolution as Rapaki because we considered the areal extent of the bedrock source cliffs to be too large at Purau to address in this study and there were safety concerns relating to access and potential for further rockfalls. However, some observations were made for the Purau source rock (Fig. 5d and e) as well as other volcanic coastal cliff outcrops at Sumner (Fig. 5f) and Redcliffs (Fig. 5g). Field observations indicate that CL layers at Purau are not as prevalent as (and generally thinner than) VB layers, but in some cases may exceed a thickness of 5 m, which is thicker than CL layers observed at Rapaki (see Fig. 5b and c). At Sumner and Redcliffs, VB and CL layers display roughly equivalent thicknesses ( $\sim 2$ – $3$  m), a condition not apparent at Rapaki or Purau. The variability in layer thickness presumably reflects differences in proximity to source vents and differing conditions during primary cooling of the lava flows.

#### 4.4 Boulder volume

The size and frequency–volume distributions for pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders (for volume  $\geq 1.0$  m<sup>3</sup>) at Rapaki and Purau display similarity (Fig. 8a and c) and can be modeled using power law functions (Fig. 8b and d), with the number of rockfall boulders decreasing significantly as volume increases. Overall, statistical coherence is observed at the 25th, median, and 75th percentile boulder sizes; however, pre-CES rockfalls are consistently higher for each of the size categories at the two study locations (Table 1). Rapaki displays the highest pre-CES to CES variance for 25th, median, and 75th percentiles, while Purau records the biggest pre-CES to CES variance for the average, 95th percentile, and maximum boulder volumes (Table 1, Fig. 8a and c). An inter-site comparison of rockfall volumes indicates that pre-CES rockfalls at Rapaki are greater for the 25th, median, and 75th percentile sizes (Table 1) while Purau exhibits larger sizes for the 95th percentile, maximum, and mean boulder categories (Table 1). For CES boulders, the 25th, median, 75th, and 95th percentile Rapaki CES boulders are slightly larger compared with Purau CES boulders, while the maximum and mean boulder size categories are higher at Purau (Table 1). Although differences are evident, the overall size distributions are comparable (Table 1).

The volume for pre-CES and CES VB boulders is significantly larger than the corresponding CL boulders at Rapaki (Fig. 8e, Table 2) and Purau (Fig. 8f, Table 2). At Rapaki, pre-CES VB boulders display higher volumes (compared with CES VB boulders) in each of the size categories, particularly for median and maximum boulder sizes (Table 2). Pre-CES CL boulders display consistently higher values for each of the size categories with the exception of the 75th percentile (Fig. 8e, Table 2). At Purau, CES VB and CL boulders exhibit a smaller distribution of boulder sizes compared with their pre-CES equivalents (see Fig. 8f). Pre-CES VB and CL boulders are higher in each of the size categories (Table 2, Fig. 8f), with the exception of the median boulder size, where the CES CL median boulder volume is slightly more than the pre-CES CL value (Table 2). It is notable that the highest percent (%) variance in boulder volume between pre-CES and CES boulders is recorded for the Purau VB boulders (Table 2); the only exception is for maximum boulder size, where the percent (%) difference between Purau CL pre-CES and CES boulders is even greater (Table 2).

The volume and frequency ratios for pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders are plotted in Fig. 9a. The pre-CES to CES boulder volume ratios at Rapaki and Purau range from  $\sim 8$ – $12$  and  $\sim 7$ – $37$ , respectively (Table 3a, Fig. 9a). The corresponding frequency ratios are consistently lower, ranging from  $\sim 6$  to  $8.5$  and  $\sim 3.5$  to  $27.5$  (Table 3a, Fig. 9a). Overall, the boulder volume and frequency ratios are greater at Rapaki, with the exception of the CL lithology (Tables 3a and b, and Fig. 9a).



**Figure 5.** (a) Volcanic source rock at Rapaki study site. Sixty individual detachment zones were created during the CES (yellow) and represent  $\sim 9\%$  of the total source rock area. The source rock is comprised of  $\sim 86\%$  VB and  $\sim 14\%$  CL. Approximately  $\sim 69\%$  and  $\sim 31\%$  of the detachments occurred within the VB and CL lithologies, respectively. (b) Photo showing several irregularly shaped CES detachment zones near the top of Mount Rapaki. (c) Photo showing freshly exposed VB and CL layering within the Rapaki source rock. (d) Portion of volcanic source rock at Purau showing VB and CL layering. A single CES detachment site is shown at the top of the source rock. Seven individual CES detachment sites were identified at the Purau study site. (e) CL and VB layers at the Purau study site. Note the thickness of the CL layer ( $\sim 5\text{--}7\text{ m}$ ) and lack of any CES detachment sites despite the high degree of fracturing and overhanging condition. (f) VB and CL layering in Sumner (Christchurch) cliff exposure adjacent to Main Road. Extensive cliff collapse during the CES has revealed multiple lava flows and the distinctive textural differences between the VB and CL lithologies. Note the high density of vertical to subvertical fractures within the CL layers. (g) Exposed lava layers adjacent to Main Road in Redcliffs (Christchurch). Note the single-family living residence at top of photo.

**Table 1.** Volumetric comparison of pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders (for volume  $\geq 1.0 \text{ m}^3$ ) at Rapaki and Purau study sites.

	Rapaki pre-CES ( $n = 409$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	Rapaki CES ( $n = 48$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	Difference ( $\text{m}^3$ )	Difference (%)	Purau pre-CES ( $n = 684$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	Purau CES ( $n = 136$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	Difference ( $\text{m}^3$ )	Difference (%)
25th ( $Q_1$ )	1.60	1.36	0.24	17.65	1.42	1.34	0.08	5.97
Median	2.94	2.21	0.73	33.03	2.20	2.01	0.19	9.45
75th ( $Q_3$ )	6.59	4.83	1.76	36.44	5.08	4.46	0.62	13.90
95th	20.54	19.76	0.78	3.95	27.06	17.66	9.4	53.23
Maximum	200.56	28.35	172.21	607.44	616.00	79.97	536.03	670.29
Mean	6.81	4.84	1.97	40.70	8.10	5.32	2.78	52.26

**Table 2.** Comparison of boulder size statistics for Rapaki and Purau VB and CL pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders (volume  $\geq 1.0 \text{ m}^3$ ).

	Rapaki				Purau			
	Pre-CES	CES	Pre-CES	CES	Pre-CES	CES	Pre-CES	CES
	VB ( $n = 391$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	VB ( $n = 45$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	CL ( $n = 18$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	CL ( $n = 3$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	VB ( $n = 436$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	VB ( $n = 127$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	CL ( $n = 248$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )	CL ( $n = 9$ ) ( $\text{m}^3$ )
25th ( $Q_1$ )	1.68	1.39	1.22	1.03	1.70	1.36	1.20	1.13
Median	3.1	2.21	1.38	1.06	3.21	2.04	1.56	1.68
75th ( $Q_3$ )	6.78	5.7	1.54	1.67	7.65	4.87	2.30	2.14
95th	21.28	20.576	3.92	2.16	40.91	17.78	5.26	2.48
Maximum	200.56	28.35	9.99	2.28	616.00	79.97	26.21	2.64
Mean	7.03	5.06	1.96	1.45	11.43	5.58	2.24	1.67
Total volume	2749.07	227.80	35.29	4.34	4938.76	708.34	555.63	15.00
% of total volume	99	98	1	2	89	98	11	2
% of mapped boulders	96	94	4	6	64	93	36	7

The calculation of VB and CL boulder percentages at Rapaki for pre-CES and CES rockfalls indicates that VB boulders comprise  $\geq 98\%$  by volume and  $\geq 94\%$  by frequency ( $n$ ) for all Rapaki conditions, while at Purau the corresponding percentages are  $\geq 90\%$  (volume) and  $\geq 64\%$  (frequency), respectively (Table 3b). All of the lowest VB percentages exist at the Purau study location (see Table 3b, individual domain data).

#### 4.5 Boulder runout distance

The frequency–runout distance distribution for pre-CES boulders at Rapaki can be characterized by power and exponential laws (Fig. 9b), with the number of rockfall boulders with long runout distances decreasing dramatically with increasing distance from the volcanic source rock. The exponential regression is best fit to the entire data set (including extrapolated boulders within 100 m of source rock), while the power law displays the strongest fit for the mapped rockfall boulders (Fig. 9b). CES rockfalls display a poor exponential fit and do not indicate a similar inverse relationship between boulder frequency and runout distance (Fig. 9b). The frequency–runout distribution for CES rockfalls indicates that the number of boulders remains more or less consistent regardless of distance from the source rock. Using the shadow angle method, we plot travel distance on the talus

slope ( $L_t$ ) versus height on the talus slope ( $H_t$ ) with a fitted polynomial regression line (Fig. 9c). The correlation coefficient is 0.9699 for CES rockfalls and 0.9717 for pre-CES rockfalls (Fig. 9c). The minimum shadow angle for pre-CES is  $25^\circ$ , while the minimum shadow angle (for the furthest traveled CES rockfall boulders) is  $23^\circ$ . At Rapaki, the maximum runout distance for pre-CES and CES VB boulders exceeds the furthest travel distances for pre-CES and CES CL boulders, respectively (Table 4). The CES VB boulders exceed pre-CES VB runout by  $\sim 165$  m and CES CL boulders exceed CL pre-CES runout by  $\sim 138$  m (Fig. 2a and b; Table 4).

At Purau,  $L_t$  versus  $H_t$  is plotted for four separate geomorphic domains (PD1–PD4) to evaluate the distribution of pre-CES and CES boulder runout distances (Fig. 9d; see Fig. 3 for domain locations). The pre-CES and CES rockfalls for the individual domain data sets are characterized by a variety of regression functions with high correlation coefficients (Fig. 9d; S24 in the Supplement). CES rockfalls in PD1 and PD4 have significantly further maximum runout distances than their pre-CES counterparts, while the inverse is evident in PD2 and PD3. (We note that only two CES boulders were observed in PD2.) The minimum shadow angle for pre-CES rockfalls at Purau is  $25^\circ$ , while the corresponding minimum CES rockfall shadow angle is  $18^\circ$ . At Purau, the longest recorded runout distances occur for pre-CES CL and

**Table 3.** (a) Comparison of frequency ( $n$ ) and volume ( $m^3$ ) ratios for pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders at the Rapaki and Purau study sites. (b) Comparison of VB/CL frequency ( $n$ ) and volume ( $m^3$ ) ratios for pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders at the Rapaki and Purau study sites.

(a)						
	No. of pre-CES rockfalls : No. of CES rockfalls ( $n$ )	Pre-CES : CES ratio	Pre-CES : CES % : %	Volume of pre-CES rockfalls : volume of CES rockfalls ( $m^3$ )	Pre-CES : CES ratio	Pre-CES : CES % : %
Total (Rapaki + Purau)	1093 : 184	5.94	86 : 14	8323.76 : 955.48	8.71	90 : 10
Rapaki total	409 : 48	8.52	89 : 11	2784.37 : 232.14	11.99	92 : 8
Rapaki VB	391 : 45	8.69	90 : 10	2749.07 : 227.80	12.07	92 : 8
Rapaki CL	18 : 3	6.00	86 : 14	35.29 : 4.34	8.14	89 : 11
Purau total	684 : 136	5.03	83 : 17	5539.39 : 723.35	7.66	88 : 12
Purau VB	436 : 127	3.43	77 : 23	4983.76 : 708.34	7.04	88 : 12
Purau CL	248 : 9	27.56	96 : 4	555.63 : 15.00	37.04	97 : 3
(b)						
	No. of VB boulders : No. of CL boulders $n : n$	VB : CL ratio	VB : CL % : %	Volume of VB boulders : volume of CL boulders $m^3 : m^3$	VB : CL ratio	VB : CL % : %
Total (Rap + Purau)	999 : 278	3.59	78 : 22	8668.97 : 610.26	14.21	93 : 7
Rapaki Total (pre-CES + CES)	436 : 21	20.76	95 : 5	976.87 : 39.63	75.11	99 : 1
Rapaki pre-CES	391 : 18	21.72	96 : 4	2749.07 : 35.29	77.9	99 : 1
Rapaki CES	45 : 3	15	94 : 6	227.80 : 4.34	52.49	98 : 2
Purau Total (pre-CES + CES)	563 : 257	2.19	69 : 31	5692.1 : 570.63	9.98	91 : 9
Purau pre-CES	436 : 248	1.76	64 : 36	4983.76 : 555.63	8.97	90 : 10
Purau CES	127 : 9	14	93 : 7	708.34 : 15.00	47.22	98 : 2
Purau D1 pre-CES	17 : 0	not applicable	100 : 0	137.27 : 0	not applicable	100 : 0
Purau D1 CES	30 : 0	not applicable	100 : 0	125.86 : 0	not applicable	100 : 0
Purau D2 pre-CES	36 : 3	12	92 : 8	230.8 : 3.9	59.18	98 : 2
Purau D2 CES	1 : 1	1	50 : 50	14.78 : 1.08	13.69	93 : 7
Purau D3 pre-CES	54 : 43	1.26	56 : 44	203.79 : 142.62	1.43	59 : 41
Purau D3 CES	38 : 3	12.67	93 : 7	242.63 : 5.91	41.05	98 : 2
Purau D4 pre-CES	8 : 1	8	89 : 11	188.42 : 1.24	151.95	99 : 1
Purau D4 CES	36 : 0	not applicable	100 : 0	267.76 : 0	not applicable	100 : 0

VB boulders and CES VB rockfall boulders within PD3 (Table 4).

At Rapaki, no relationship has been obtained plotting individual boulder volumes and the tangent of the shadow angle (Fig. 9e). A wide range of boulder sizes are evident for the full spectrum of pre-CES and CES rockfall runout distances by means of the shadow angle. The same is largely true at Purau, where correlations for the individual domains (PD1–PD4) are poor and the data have a high degree of scatter (i.e., low correlation coefficients); although the data do show a slight negative relationship between block volume and  $H_t/L_t$  ratio value (that is, a slight increase in runout distance as boulder size increases) (Fig. 9f).

## 4.6 RAMMS rockfall modeling

### 4.6.1 RAMMS\_1

Final emplacement locations ( $Q_{95\%}$ ) are generated for simulated rockfalls released from the seven field-identified CES detachment zones at Purau (labeled CES-1 through CES-7) (Fig. 10a). Observed CES boulder locations are depicted as red circles. RAMMS\_1 (bare-earth CES model scenario) is successful in replicating the overall spatial pattern for de-

tached and distributed CES rockfalls at Purau for locations CES-3–7. Below the CES-7 source rock, RAMMS maximum runout distances ( $\sim 370$  m) are well matched to the maximum travel distance for mapped CES rockfalls ( $\sim 357$  m). Maximum runout distances for the RAMMS boulders are overestimated at CES-1 and CES-2 (Fig. 10a). We note that only two boulders were released at CES-1 during the CES and were deposited within  $\sim 12$  m of the source rock. RAMMS\_1 effectively captures the lateral dispersion for the mapped CES boulders at CES-2–CES-4, but overestimates this effect within the CES-5 and CES-6 valleys, and slightly underestimates the lateral dispersion of CES rockfalls beneath CES-7.

### 4.6.2 RAMMS\_2

The RAMMS\_2 model scenario (forested hillslope) is moderately successful (slight overprediction) in replicating the overall spatial distribution and maximum runout distances for the majority of mapped pre-CES rockfalls at Purau (Fig. 10b). The exception is area CES-7, where RAMMS predicts deposition of pre-CES boulders significantly farther ( $\sim 325$  m) from the source rock than is evident in the field ( $\sim 80$  m). Elsewhere, the greatest variance in maximum



**Figure 6.** Relative locations of stations LPCC, D13C, D15C, and GODS (yellow squares). Also shown are epicenters of the 22 February 2011  $M_w = 6.2$  and 13 June 2011  $M_w = 6$  earthquakes (yellow stars) along with Rapaki and Purau sites.

runout distance between RAMMS<sub>2</sub> and the mapped pre-CES boulders is  $\sim 75\text{--}100$  m (see Fig. 10b). An increase in forest density to  $10\,000\text{ kg s}^{-1}$ , spread uniformly across the study site, produces the best fit to the pre-CES boulder spatial distributions (in particular, maximum runout distance) (see Fig. 10b, white dashed line). RAMMS<sub>2</sub> successfully models the lateral dispersion for the mapped pre-CES boulders (with the exception of area CES-7) (Fig. 10b). The RAMMS<sub>2</sub> model scenarios identify pre-CES rockfall boulders that have likely experienced post-emplacment mobility (see Fig. 10b). Note the collection of pre-CES boulders within the central drainage canyon that exceeds the limit of simulated RAMMS boulders (Fig. 10b). Field observations confirm that boulder depositional patterns beyond the limits of the final resting locations for RAMMS simulated rockfall boulders are consistent with deposition by debris flow and other transport or deposition processes. This is further highlighted by the numerous and large pre-CES rafted boulders (maximum volume =  $20\text{ m}^3$ ) identified near the Purau coast-line (see Fig. 3). Finally, we observe no mapped pre-CES boulders outside of the valleys that exceed the RAMMS<sub>2</sub> simulated maximum runout distances.

### 4.6.3 RAMMS<sub>3</sub>

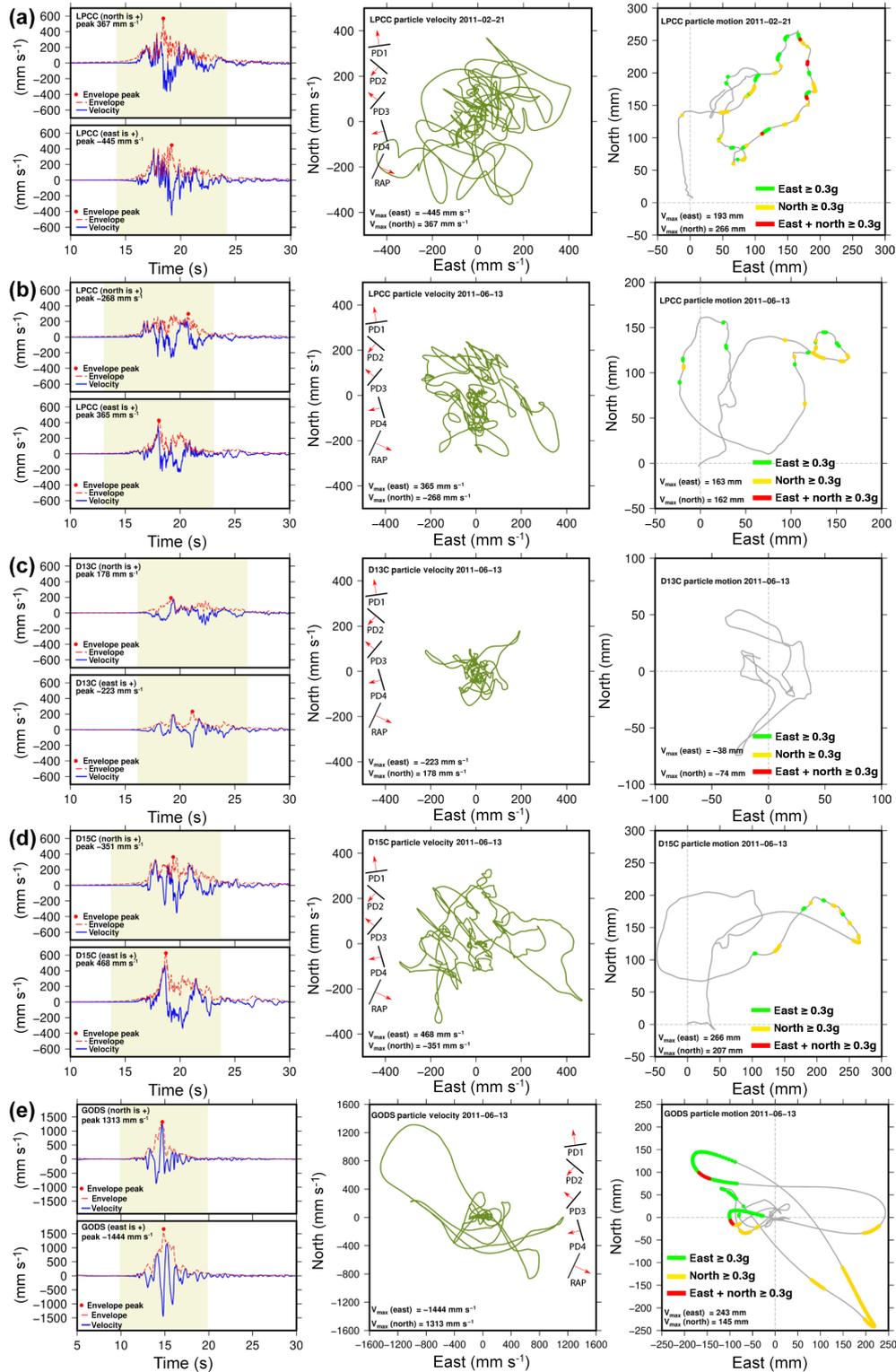
RAMMS<sub>3</sub> models the potential future rockfall hazard at Purau and assumes a bare-earth (deforested) hillslope and dry soil moisture conditions to insure a worst-case (conservative)

**Table 4.** Average and maximum runout distances for pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders (for volume  $\geq 1.0\text{ m}^3$ ) at Rapaki and Purau study sites.

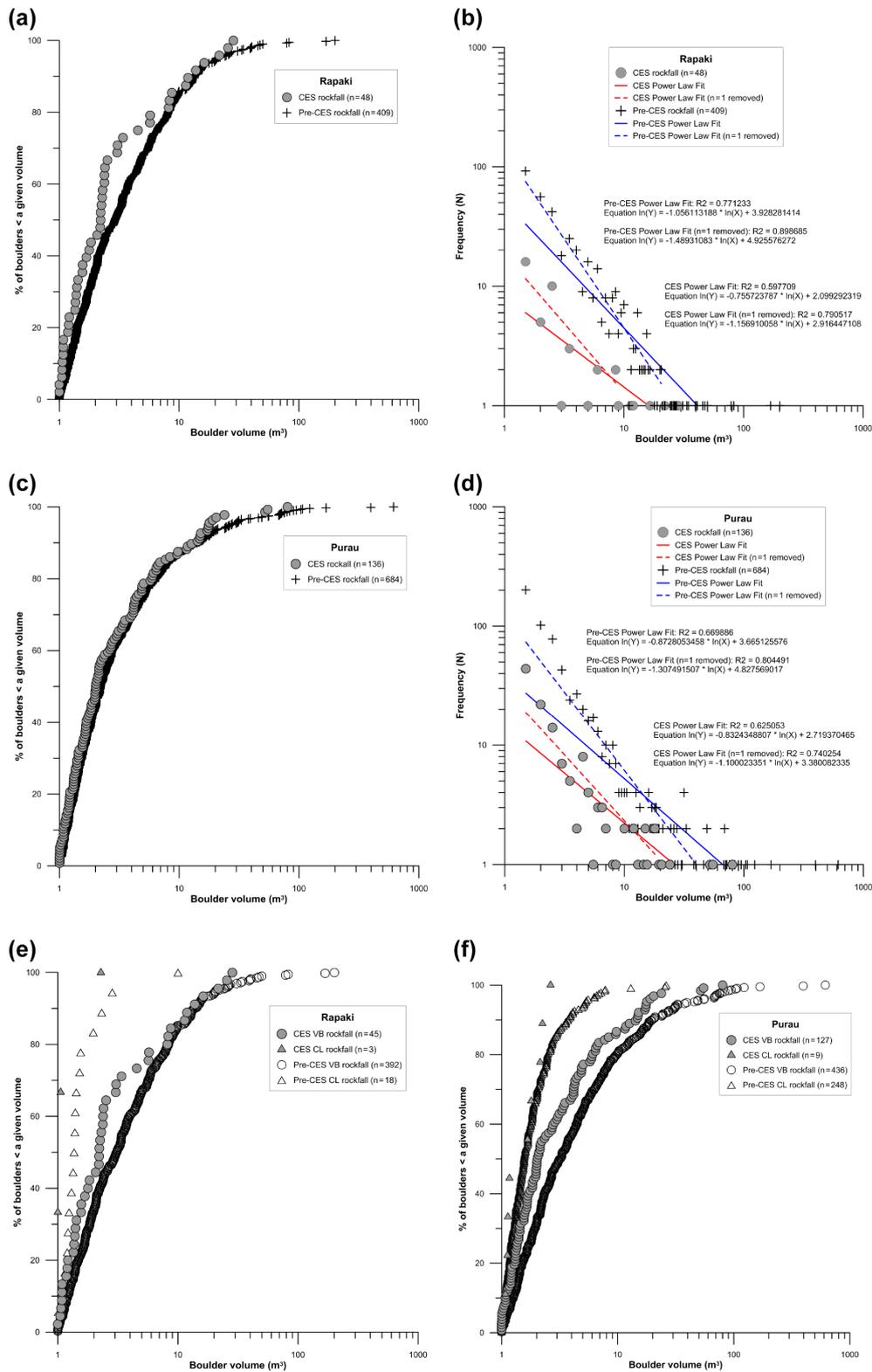
Runout distance (MLR)	Average (m)	Maximum (m)
<b>Rapaki</b>		
Pre-CES	184.30	567.51
CES	276.23	702.47
Pre-CES VB	184.65	567.51
Pre-CES CL	176.57	346.73
CES VB	276.91	702.47
CES CL	266.13	432.14
<b>Purau</b>		
PD1 Pre-CES	29.86	96.96
PD1 CES	119.63	348.4
PD2 Pre-CES	84.01	279.75
PD2 CES	14.11	15.91
PD3 Pre-CES	239.62	462.8
PD3 CES	237.24	413.35
PD4 Pre-CES	109.11	208.85
PD4 CES	181.75	304.56
PD1 Pre-CES VB	29.86	96.96
PD1 CES VB	119.63	348.4
PD1 Pre-CES CL	not applicable	not applicable
PD1 CES CL	not applicable	not applicable
PD2 Pre-CES VB	88.73	279.75
PD2 CES VB	12.3	12.3
PD2 Pre-CES CL	27.39	33.38
PD2 CES CL	15.91	15.91
PD3 Pre-CES VB	248.96	434.85
PD3 CES VB	243.21	413.35
PD3 Pre-CES CL	227.89	462.8
PD3 CES CL	161.68	178.53
PD4 Pre-CES VB	106.99	208.85
PD4 CES VB	181.75	304.56
PD4 Pre-CES CL	126.06	126.06
PD4 CES CL	not applicable	not applicable

MLR : Map length runout and PD1 : Purau Domain 1.

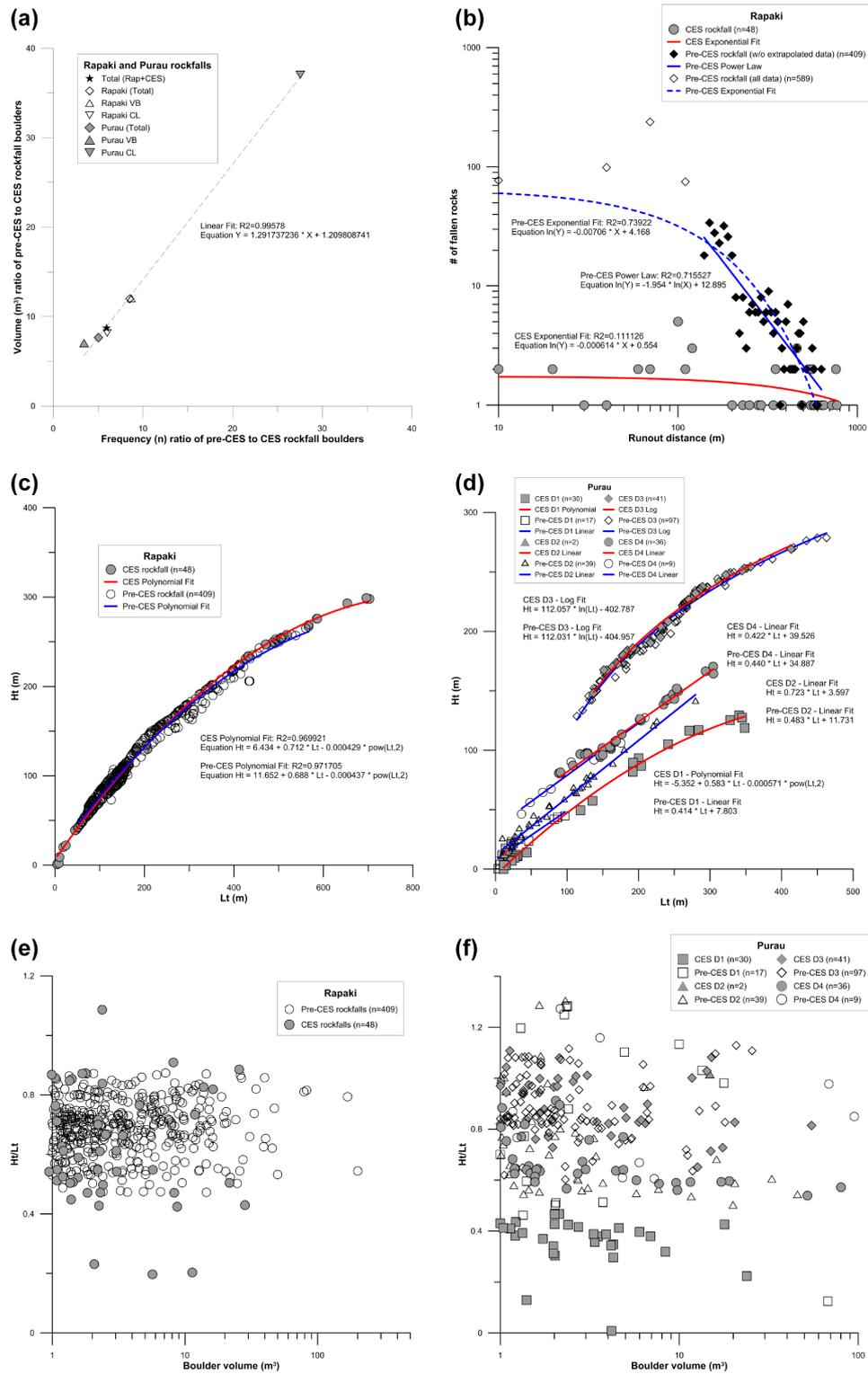
outcome (Fig. 10c). As expected, RAMMS<sub>3</sub> rockfalls obtain higher kinetic energy, velocity, and jump heights than RAMMS<sub>2</sub> boulders (see S18 and S19 in the Supplement), and as a result, runout is farther than that of the RAMMS<sub>2</sub> boulders (Fig. 10b). On average, maximum runout distance for RAMMS<sub>3</sub> boulders is  $\sim 450\text{--}500$  m, representing an increase of  $\sim 100\text{--}150$  m compared with RAMMS<sub>2</sub> boulders, a difference consistent with results from RAMMS numerical modeling at Rapaki (see Borella et al., 2016a). With the exception of area CES-7, RAMMS<sub>3</sub> maximum runout distances are well in exceedance of the mapped locations for the CES rockfall boulders (Fig. 10a and c).



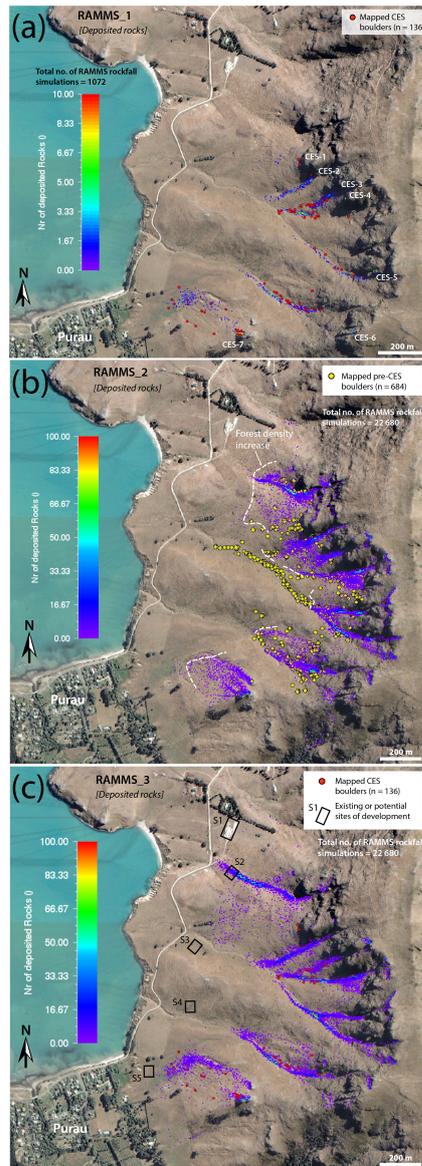
**Figure 7.** Each panel shows seismic data from LPCC (a, b), D13C (c), D15C (d), and GODS (e) stations. (a) and (b) compare ground motion, respectively, for 22 February 2011  $M_w = 6.2$  and 13 June 2011  $M_w = 6$  earthquakes at LPCC station. The left column shows east and north components of the velocity seismogram (blue line) and their respective envelopes (red dashed line). The particle velocity hodogram (middle column, green line) was determined for a time window  $\pm 5$  s (shaded region in the left column) around the peak (red circle) of the east component envelope. The strike of the rock face (black short line segments) and the direction of the free face (red arrows) for sites PD1–PD4 and RAP are also illustrated. The particle motion hodogram (gray line) is presented in the right column, where green, yellow, and red segments represent, respectively, time points at which the east component, the north component, or both components exceed an acceleration of 0.3 g. Note that scale of figure axes varies by station particularly for ground motion.



**Figure 8.** (a) Rockfall size distribution as a proportion of boulders less than a given size plotted in log space for CES and pre-CES rockfalls at Rapaki. (b) Rockfall frequency and size distribution for CES and pre-CES rockfalls at Rapaki. (c) Rockfall size distribution as a proportion of boulders less than a given size plotted in log space for CES and pre-CES rockfalls at Purau. (d) Rockfall frequency and size distribution for CES and pre-CES rockfalls at Purau. (e) Comparison of boulder size distributions for CES and pre-CES VB and CL rockfalls at Rapaki study site. (f) Comparison of boulder size distributions for CES and pre-CES VB and CL rockfalls at Purau.



**Figure 9.** (a) Frequency ratio versus volume ratio for pre-CES and CES rockfall boulders. (b) Frequency–runout distributions for Rapaki pre-CES and CES boulders. Both power law (without extrapolated data) and exponential (all data) fits are shown for the prehistoric boulder data set. A poor exponential fit is shown for CES rockfalls. (c) Plot of travel distance on talus slope ( $L_t$ ) versus height on talus slope ( $H_t$ ) with fitted polynomial regression lines for pre-CES and CES rockfalls at Rapaki. (d) Plot of  $L_t$  versus  $H_t$  with fitted linear, log, and polynomial regression lines for pre-CES and CES rockfalls at Purau. Four separated domains (here D1–D4) are defined at Purau to evaluate the shadow angle method. (e) Plot of rockfall size ( $m^3$ ) versus tangent of the shadow angle ( $H_t/L_t$ ) for Rapaki rockfalls. No tendency of the data is evident. (f) Plot of rockfall size ( $m^3$ ) versus tangent of the shadow angle ( $H_t/L_t$ ) for Purau rockfalls. The tendency for the domain data sets is poor. Values of correlation coefficients are below 0.3.



**Figure 10.** (a) RAMMS\_1 shows deposited rocks for simulated CES boulders. Mapped CES boulders (red circles) are shown for comparison. Boulder densities of 2500 and 3000 kg m<sup>-3</sup> are used for VB and CL boulders, respectively. (b) Final resting locations for RAMMS\_2 rockfalls. RAMMS\_2 assumes prehistoric rockfall conditions (i.e., forested hillslope). Mapped prehistoric rockfalls are depicted (yellow circles) for comparison. An increase in forest density to 10 000 kg s<sup>-1</sup> generates the best fit with maximum runout distance (see white dashed line) for mapped prehistoric boulders. (c) Final resting locations for RAMMS\_3 boulders. RAMMS\_3 assumes modern hillslope conditions (i.e., deforested hillslope). Note the increased maximum runout distance for RAMMS\_3 boulders compared with RAMMS\_2 and the potential future rockfall hazard to development sites S1 and S2. The provided development sites are modified from Eliot Sinclair and Partners Ltd. (2013). (All images are modified after Land Information New Zealand, <https://data.lin.govt.nz/data/category/aerial-photos>, last access: 6 March 2019.)

#### 4.7 Strong ground motion data

High-frequency data show complex velocity and displacement paths for any given site. The variations across the sites are significant, as reported previously (Van Houtte et al., 2012; Bradley, 2016). At the same site (LPCC, Fig. 7a and b), particle velocity and motion hodograms show different polarization characteristics for different earthquakes. Peak velocities and displacements recorded at LPCC site are higher for the  $M_w = 6.2$  than the smaller event  $M_w = 6.0$  (Fig. 7a and b). The observed inter-site and inter-event variations in polarization of peak velocities and displacements can be attributed to source radiation pattern (Lee, 2017) and complex wave propagation effects such as scattering. For instance, simulating high-frequency (> 1 Hz) 3-D wavefields, Take-mura et al. (2015) showed that near-station irregular topography amplifies scattering of seismic wavefield, producing long coda and distortions to  $P$  wave polarizations. This is not surprising given that Fresnel volume – the region to which a transmitting seismic wave is sensitive – is inversely related to wave frequency (Spetzler and Snieder, 2004), due to which near-station geological conditions modify wave characteristics at high frequencies. The control of near-station geology over polarization and amplification characteristics at high frequencies (Bouchon and Barker, 1996) reduces our ability to extrapolate these characteristics to distant sites.

## 5 Discussion

### 5.1 Rockfall spatial distributions and frequencies

At Rapaki, significant differences in the spatial distribution of pre-CES and CES boulder populations are observed (Fig. 2 and Table 4). The increased distance for the CES rockfall boulders is interpreted as an effect of anthropogenic deforestation on the hosting hillslope, which enabled CES boulders to travel further than their pre-CES counterparts due to reduced resistance from vegetation (Borella et al., 2016a). The increase in CES runout distance ( $\sim 165 \pm 15$  m) and corresponding reduction in minimum shadow angle resulted in significant impact and damage to homes and infrastructure in the Rapaki village, highlighting the importance of considering the effects that modifications to hillslopes may have on rockfall hazard. At Rapaki, pre-CES VB boulders are present in significantly greater number and have further average and maximum runout distances than the pre-CES CL boulder lithologies (Fig. 2a, Table 4). A similar relationship is evident between the CES VB and CL boulders, where CES boulders with the furthest runout distances are exclusively comprised of volcanic breccia (Fig. 2b). It is possible that the reduced runout distances for pre-CES and CES CL boulders are a statistical counting bias (i.e., low number of CL boulders for volume  $\geq 1.0$  m<sup>3</sup>), but a more plausible explanation is that the reduced runout distance for CL boulder lithologies

is a result of CL boulder shapes being dominated by elongate and flat morphologies (Fig. 4g–k), which would have more difficulty traveling downslope.

At Purau, discerning the differences in spatial distribution between pre-CES and CES rockfalls is more difficult, primarily due to the topographic forcing of rockfalls into nearby drainage valleys and post-emplacement mobilization (Fig. 3). The CES-7 site location (furthest southern rockfalls) shows a similar pre-CES : CES spatial scenario to Rapaki, with CES boulders traveling significantly further than their pre-CES equivalents (see Fig. 5); a discrepancy which could also be attributed to intervening deforestation on the hillslope. However, elsewhere at the Purau field site inverse spatial scenarios are evident, with pre-CES boulders deposited further from the source rock than their CES counterparts (see Fig. 2a, Table 4). This is primarily observed within drainage valleys where field observations suggest pre-CES boulders have been remobilized (debris flows, floods) and carried further from the source rock following their initial emplacement.

The CES rockfall boulders at both sites represent a subset of the larger pre-CES rockfall database, suggesting the preservation of multiple pre-CES rockfall events. The ratio for the number of pre-CES to CES rockfall boulders is higher at Rapaki ( $\sim 8.5 : 1$ ) than Purau ( $\sim 5 : 1$ ) (Table 3, Figs. 2 and 3). One cause of the observed difference may be the higher number of CL boulders with size  $\geq 1.0 \text{ m}^3$  at the Purau study site (Fig. 8e and f). At Rapaki, most of the detachment within the CL source rock generated boulder volumes below the  $1.0 \text{ m}^3$  threshold. As a result, the ratio of pre-CES VB : CL boulders is significantly higher at Rapaki ( $\sim 22 : 1$ ) (Table 3b, Fig. 2a) than Purau ( $\sim 2 : 1$ ) (Table 3b, Fig. 3b). This contrasts with the ratio of CES VB : CL boulders at Rapaki ( $\sim 15 : 1$ ) (Table 3b, Fig. 2b) which shows near equivalence to Purau ( $\sim 14 : 1$ ) (Fig. 3c). The CES VB : CL ratio at Purau is more consistent with our field observations where VB predominates in the source rock. Overall, the results indicate there is a high degree of variability for lithology and discontinuity spacing (e.g., joints) within the source rock and suggests the cumulative ratio of VB : CL boulders can be significantly different from that generated locally during a single rockfall event.

## 5.2 Boulder morphology and other characteristics

The shapes for the VB (Fig. 4a–e) and CL (Fig. 4g–k) boulders are primarily controlled by pre-existing discontinuities (primarily joints) in the source rock. We modeled the influence of boulder shape on spatial distribution for the VB and CL lithologies assuming detachment from the CES-7 site (under bare-earth conditions) using RAMMS (Fig. 11). To eliminate the effect of boulder size, a volume of  $1.0 \text{ m}^3$  was assumed for all rockfall boulders. The VB boulders were assigned a range of equant boulder shapes, while CL boulders were assigned only elongate and flat boulder morphologies.

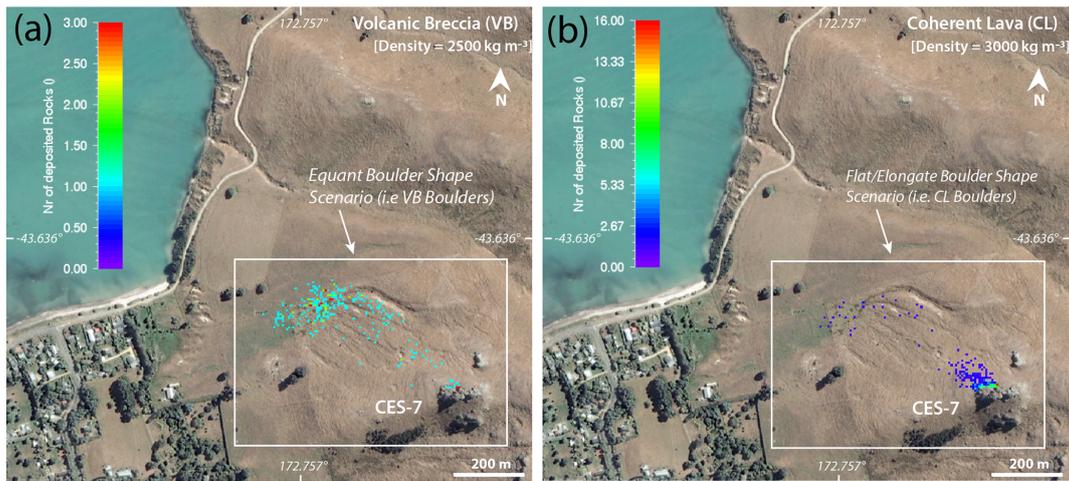
The model results highlight the differences in boulder spatial distribution resulting from differences in boulder shape, with equant (VB) boulder lithologies displaying a significantly higher relative percentage of longer runout distances (Fig. 11a) compared with the elongate/flat (CL) boulder morphologies (Fig. 11b). We recognize that the modeling represents an ideal scenario (i.e., other transition morphologies do exist for the VB and CL boulders) and was conducted primarily to provide a sense for the expected spatial patterns assuming the distinct VB and CL boulder shapes. Further work is required to verify coherence between field observations and model results.

## 5.3 Source rock characteristics

The VB and CL percentages in the Rapaki source rock (86 % VB and 14 % CL) are lower than the corresponding VB and CL percentages determined from rockfall frequency and volume for the pre-CES (96 % VB and 4 % CL) and CES (94 % VB and 6 % CL) rockfalls. We attribute the percent differences between source rock and rockfalls to the influence of the larger VB boulder sizes and the lower number of CL rockfalls meeting the  $\geq 1.0 \text{ m}^3$  size threshold. These two factors also explain detachment during the CES, where 69 % of the detachment areas occurred within VB and the remaining 31 % within CL (Fig. 5a–c), yielding a lower VB : CL ratio of  $\sim 2 : 1$  compared with the corresponding boulder volume and frequency ratios ( $\sim 15 : 1$  and  $\sim 52 : 1$ , respectively) (Table 3b).

## 5.4 Boulder volume

The size and frequency–volume distributions for pre-CES and CES rockfalls at the two study sites can be modeled using a power law (Fig. 8a–d): a relationship that is well-established (e.g., Dussauge-Peisser et al., 2002; Guzzetti et al., 2002) for rockfalls globally and has also been successfully applied for CES rockfalls in Banks Peninsula (Massey et al., 2014). The net increase in volume distribution for pre-CES boulders could represent a statistical effect and reflect the inclusion of more boulders into the rockfall data set through time (which would increase the likelihood of larger boulders) and/or could reflect higher shaking intensities and/or source rock vulnerability during pre-CES events. Variations in CES vs. pre-CES boulder volumetric distributions for the same lithologies could reflect structural and/or more subtle lithologic variability within the source cliffs from which boulders were derived, and/or post-detachment weathering during boulder transport or in situ. The significantly higher volumes for VB boulders (pre-CES and CES) at both study sites reflects the predominance of VB within the source rock and wider joint spacing within the thicker VB layers.



**Figure 11.** RAMMS simulated rockfall boulders showing differences in spatial distribution between VB (mostly equant shaped) and CL (predominantly elongate and flat shaped) boulder morphologies at Purau. All simulated boulders assume a volume of  $1.0\text{ m}^3$ . **(a)** Spatial distribution of simulated VB boulders at Purau CES-7 location. Note the high relative percentage of simulated boulders deposited at the base of the hillslope ( $\sim 500\text{--}600\text{ m}$  from source rock). **(b)** Spatial distribution of simulated CL boulders at CES-7 location. Note the higher relative percentage of rockfall boulders deposited near the source rock (within  $\sim 100\text{ m}$  from source rock). The simulation highlights the strong influence of boulder shape on runout distance. (All images are modified after Land Information New Zealand, <https://data.linz.govt.nz/data/category/aerial-photos>, last access: 6 March 2019.)

### 5.5 Boulder runout distance

The exponential law fit for pre-CES boulders (Fig. 9b, short dashed blue line) highlights the importance of slope and initial impact velocity at the cliff base, which causes more boulders to be deposited at greater distances and creates a deviation from the power law fit (Fig. 9b, solid blue line). The exponential fit for CES rockfall boulders is poor and indicates there is no discernable correlation between CES boulder frequency and runout distance (Fig. 9b, solid red line). Despite the low number of CES boulders ( $n = 48$ ), it is interesting that the CES runout distribution shows such a noticeable deviation from the pre-CES data set and could reflect the influence of deforestation on runout distance. This would imply that the incremental input of CES and future rockfalls at Rapaki (emplaced during bare-earth conditions) will modify the overall trend for the cumulative rockfall data set.

At Rapaki, the shadow-angle  $H_t/L_t$  relationship is fit best using a polynomial regression (Fig. 9c). The trend indicates a positive correlation between talus slope height ( $H_t$ ) and travel distance on the talus slope ( $L_t$ ), with a reduction in the rate of increase as rockfall runout ( $L_t$ ) increases. At Purau, CES and pre-CES rockfalls (within individual geomorphic domains) are modeled using a variety of data functions (e.g., linear, log, and polynomial), suggesting intra-site geomorphic and geologic factors affecting rockfall hazard are spatially variable (Fig. 9d). We note that Copons et al. (2009) reports linear regression lines for historical rockfalls in the Central Pyrenees using the shadow-angle method, and locally Massey et al. (2014) also show linear regression fits using the shadow-angle method for CES rockfalls in the Port

Hills of southern Christchurch. Our data indicate that non-linear regression functions (for the shadow-angle method) are more successful in capturing the  $H_t/L_t$  relationship as distance from the source rock increases. At both sites, a wide range of boulder sizes exist for the full spectrum of pre-CES and CES  $H_t/L_t$  ratios, suggesting that boulder size is not a primary driver for runout distance at the study sites; although it is possible that smaller boulders (e.g.,  $\sim 1\text{--}2\text{ m}^3$ ) exhibiting long runout distances (i.e., low  $H_t/L_t$  ratios) may represent smaller rock fragments detached from larger boulders during transport and eventual emplacement on the hillslopes and within valleys.

### 5.6 RAMMS rockfall modeling

#### 5.6.1 RAMMS\_1

A primary challenge in replicating the distribution of CES rockfalls was determining an appropriate set of terrain parameters for the drainage valleys (see Table A1). To match the RAMMS boulders with the field-mapped CES rockfalls (Fig. 10a) it was necessary to create separate valley terrain polygons and modify the terrain parameters to reflect the high degree of impedance and/or dampening (Vick et al., 2019) in the drainage gullies (see Table A1). Our field observations confirm the presence of abundant pre-existing boulders within drainage valleys (Fig. 12a–f) and many instances where CES boulders were stopped by pre-CES rockfalls (see Fig. 12a–c). The effect of pre-CES rockfall debris on boulder transport and final resting location needs to be further investigated in order to effectively model impediments within

drainage valleys. Further, a more refined understanding of the influence that substrate soil moisture content has on rockfall runout is required (Vick et al., 2019). We note that the DEM used for our study has a resolution of 4 m and may not adequately simulate the smaller scale surface roughness (e.g., clustering of boulders below this size threshold) observed during our field studies (Fig. 12a–g).

### 5.6.2 RAMMS\_2

The best RAMMS\_2 model fit occurs when the forest density is increased (to  $10\,000\text{ kg s}^{-1}$ ) and applied uniformly across the Purau hillslopes (see Fig. 10b, white dashed line). This represents an increase compared with the forest density used at Rapaki (i.e.,  $3000\text{ kg s}^{-1}$  for moderate vegetation (interfluves),  $6000\text{ kg s}^{-1}$  for dense vegetation (valleys) (see Borella et al., 2016a) and implies that vegetation may have been denser on the northwest-facing Purau hillslopes compared with the south-southeast-facing Rapaki hillslope.

We note the difference between maximum runout distance for RAMMS and empirical pre-CES boulders at the CES-7 site (Fig. 10b). Several possible explanations exist including the following: (1) pre-CES boulders were in fact deposited further from the source rock and were subsequently buried by loess and hillslope colluvium; (2) RAMMS underestimates the effect of hillslope vegetation at Purau during prehistoric times; (3) during pre-CES times less of the source rock was exposed (due to burial) and therefore the volcanic rock was less susceptible to detachment during shaking; and/or (4) during pre-CES shaking events the direction of strong ground motion was not favorable to rockfall detachment. Scenario 1 is possible but would need to be confirmed through subsurface trenching or ground penetrating radar (GPR) methods. Tunnel gully erosion has exposed sections of the subsurface on the CES-7 hillslope and no buried boulders are evident. Scenario 2 is probable based on our observations of forested hillslopes elsewhere in the Port Hills and greater Banks Peninsula area. It is common for dense native vegetation to grow up to, and in some cases, onto portions of the volcanic source rock. In these cases, a high volume of detached rockfalls are stopped adjacent to the source rock and never generate the required momentum to runout an appreciable distance. Scenario 3 is also a possibility and requires that the CES-7 source rock was partially buried during emplacement of the pre-CES rockfalls. The last phase of hillslope aggradation would have occurred during the last glacial maximum ( $\sim 18\text{--}24\text{ ka}$ ) and possibly up to  $\sim 12\text{--}13\text{ ka}$  (see Borella et al., 2016b). We assume the Purau hillslopes have been net erosional (i.e., downwasting) since the early Holocene; a condition that would have been significantly accelerated after deforestation in the Purau area. Scenario 4 is a final possibility but would require that the  $\sim$  north facing PD1 source rock is oriented in such a way that strong ground motions from multiple prehistoric shaking events were unable to create rockfall detachment to the

degree evident in the CES (see Sect. 5.7 for more discussion on strong ground motions).

RAMMS\_2 model scenarios effectively identify pre-CES rockfall boulders that have likely experienced post-emplacement mobility (Fig. 10b). This is shown by the collection of pre-CES boulders within the central drainage canyon that exceed the limit of simulated RAMMS boulders (Fig. 10b), indicating a transport mechanism other than rockfall. This result has implications for rockfall hazard studies because boulder locations not reflective of cliff detachment and subsequent downslope displacement by bouncing, sliding, and rolling (that is, rockfall) should be excluded from any data set before assessing the potential rockfall hazard and associated risk. Furthermore, paleoseismic studies attempting to determine the timing and recurrence interval of prehistoric rockfall events should avoid using boulders with complex post-emplacement mobility histories.

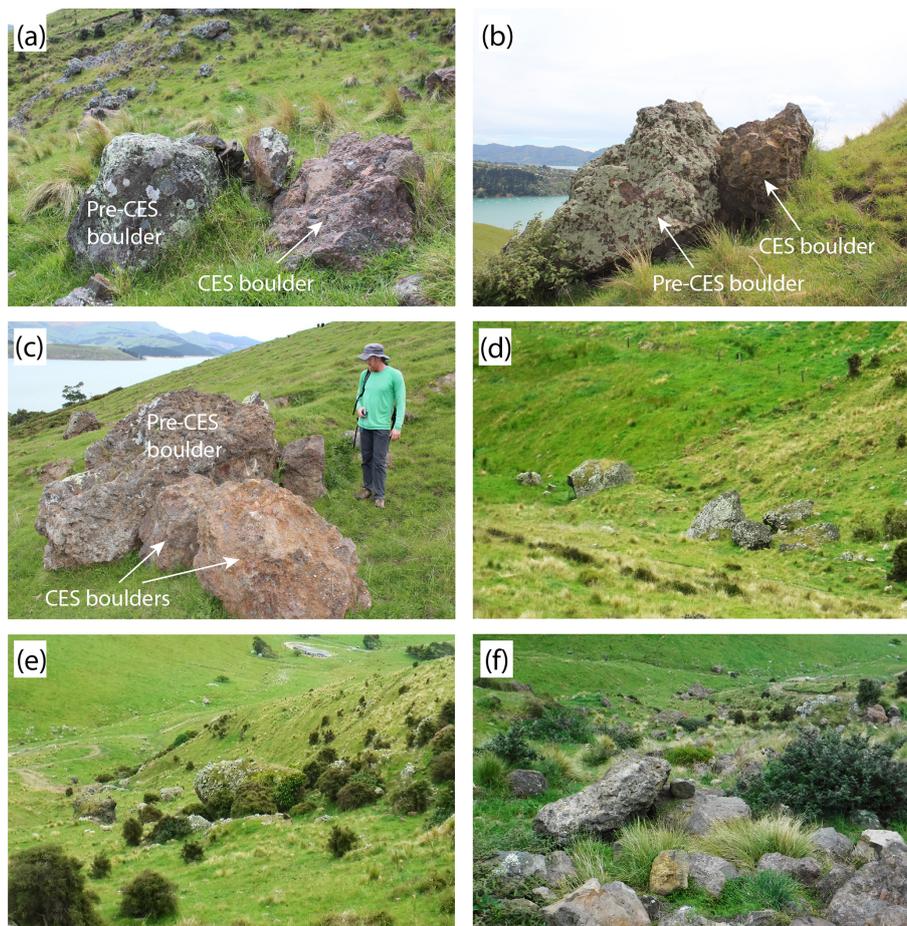
The absence of any pre-CES boulders exceeding the RAMMS\_2 maximum runout distance (with the exception of rockfalls within valleys) (Fig. 10b) implies that the mapped pre-existing boulders were deposited prior to deforestation of the Purau hillslopes and are prehistoric (i.e., deposited prior to European arrival) in age. This result is consistent with prehistoric boulder ages determined at the Rapaki study site where the youngest emplacement ages for pre-CES boulders are  $\sim 2\text{--}6\text{ ka}$  (Mackey and Quigley, 2014; Borella et al., 2016b).

### 5.6.3 RAMMS\_3

RAMMS\_3 highlights the increased spatial extent (including maximum runout distance) of rockfalls that could result from more widespread detachment within the Purau source rock, particularly for detachment sites overlying hillslopes where boulder trajectories are not as strongly influenced (i.e., captured) by nearby valleys. Although we caution against using RAMMS\_3 as a rockfall hazard map, the model results do provide a first-order indicator of low-lying areas that are most susceptible to future rockfall hazard and suggest that development at the S1 and S2 sites could be adversely impacted by future rockfall events (Fig. 10c). Assuming terrain characteristics remain similar, sites 3–5 are unlikely to be impacted by rockfall boulders in the future, although additional mapping and related structural studies of the volcanic source rock is required to determine the most vulnerable rockfall source areas.

## 5.7 Interpretations of strong ground motion data

Preceding studies provide some insight into possible strong ground motion characteristics at Rapaki and Purau during the  $M_w = 6.0$  and  $6.2$  earthquakes. The study by Kaiser et al. (2014) provided seismic array analysis of weak ground motion provides information regarding frequency-dependent amplification at Kinsey Terrace, Redcliffs, and Mount Pleas-



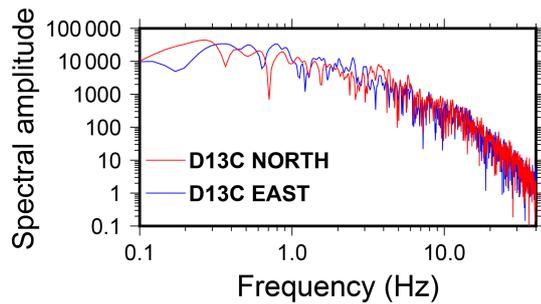
**Figure 12.** CES and pre-CES rockfall boulders within drainage valleys at Rapaki (a, c) and Purau (b, d–f) study locations. Drainage valleys contain a high amount of pre-CES rockfall boulders, which impacts the trajectory or path of CES rockfalls and reduces or stops runout distance.

ant (henceforth Ksites), all of which are north-facing slopes in the Port Hills. They found that both morphological features as well as properties of the wave propagation media control frequency-dependent amplification. Significant ground motion amplification was observed at 1–3 Hz frequency range on top of narrow, steep-sided ridges. At these low frequencies ( $f$ ), seismic wavelengths ( $\lambda$ ) are comparable to ridge width of Ksites. Therefore, seismic waves in the 1–3 Hz frequency band appear to excite natural resonance (or natural frequency;  $f_n$ ), optimizing ground motion.

It is interesting to evaluate the implications of the low-frequency observations of Kaiser et al. (2014) to the Rapaki and Purau rockfall sites. Both these sites are located at higher elevations than Ksites. Thus, their ridge width ( $\sim 400$ – $500$  m) is somewhat less than that at Ksites ( $\sim 600$ – $1000$  m). Using this information, we estimate  $f_n$  to be  $< 5$  Hz (see Supplement).

Whether ground motion with  $f_n$  was excited at these sites depends on the amount of energy carried by seismic waves in that frequency band. This information is contained in the

spectra of velocity seismograms – a proxy for kinetic energy distribution over frequency. We selected the D13C station for this preliminary analysis because the distance between this station and the Rapaki site is only about 2 km. They are also at similar elevations with ridge morphologies resembling each other. Rapid variations in geological conditions are unlikely over such short length scales, which allows us to extrapolate both high- and low-frequency wave characteristics observed at the D13C station to Rapaki with less uncertainty than the other stations. The nearest station to Purau is LPCC ( $\sim 5$  km). The two sites are vastly different as LPCC is located at the toe of a steep cliff in the Lyttelton Port, whereas Purau sites are high-elevation ridges. Thus, ground motion recorded at LPCC is not a reliable proxy for ground motion characteristics at Purau. The next nearest station, D15C, is  $\sim 7$  km from Purau and it suffers from morphological dissimilarities (variations in ridgeline orientation and morphology) that make extrapolating ground motion between the sites highly unreliable. Although the D13C station is located  $\sim 10$  km from Purau, the similarity of morphologi-



**Figure 13.** Velocity spectra for the 13 June 2011  $M_w = 6$  earthquake recorded at station D13C. No path corrections are applied.

cal features including elevation makes D13C a desirable station to understand ground motion at Purau.

We computed velocity spectra of east and north components of the station D13C (Fig. 13) to qualitatively assess seismic energy transmission through our rockfall sites. We find that the transition from the flat spectrum to a rapid fall off occurs at  $\sim 3$ –4 Hz. This means that the 13 June 2011  $M_w = 6$  earthquake carried most of its energy at frequencies less than  $\sim 3$ –4 Hz. Together with our estimates of  $f_n$  ( $< 5$  Hz), we can thus infer that the passage of seismic waves excited natural resonance at the Rapaki and Purau sites. The combined effects of natural resonance and wave focusing towards the ridge crest (Hartzell et al., 1994; Bouchon and Barker, 1996) in these hard rock sites have the potential to optimize shaking, promoting rockfalls.

It is interesting to note, however, that D13C recorded the lowest peak velocities (223 and 178  $\text{mm s}^{-1}$ ) and displacements (38 and 74 mm) of the four stations considered here (Fig. 7c). Out of these stations, it is also the only station that recorded no acceleration above 0.3 g on any component. These features of the wavefield are not surprising because distance from D13C to epicenter of the  $M_w = 6$  earthquake is twice ( $\sim 9$  km) as large as that from the other stations ( $\sim 4.5$  km). For this reason, it is likely that other possible effects (e.g., rock mass weakening by prior CES earthquakes), in addition to strong ground motions from the  $M_w = 6$  earthquake, were responsible for triggering major rockfalls at the study sites. Unfortunately, the D13C station was not in operation at the time of these previous larger earthquakes to assess severity of ground motion. Nonetheless, records from stations closest to D13C indicate that those sites have exceeded the 0.3 g peak ground acceleration (PGA) threshold important for engineering considerations. For instance, LPCC station located  $\sim 6$  km from D13C recorded 0.3 and 0.9 g PGA following the  $M_w = 7.1$  and  $M_w = 6.2$  events respectively (Bradley and Cubrinovski, 2011). Moreover, extrapolation of PGA contours of Bradley (2012) suggests that D13C and Rapaki sites experienced PGAs exceeding 0.25 and 0.45 g during  $M_w = 7.1$  and  $M_w = 6.2$  earthquakes respectively. Some of the rockfall sites investigated herein might have had

reached a critical failure threshold prior to being triggered by the 13 June 2011  $M_w = 6$  earthquake.

Particle velocity and motion hodograms (Fig. 7a–e) also carry directional information of particle behavior in addition to intensity. Past studies show that seismic wave polarizations are amplified in directions perpendicular to fracture surfaces, weakening the coherence between outer blocks of rock with bedrock during the passage of a seismic wave (Kleinbrod et al., 2017; Burjáněk et al., 2018). If blocks of rock are primed for failure by previous events, this effect can produce rockfalls in earthquakes as small as local magnitude 4.0 (Keefer, 1984). The velocity hodogram of D13C exhibits a strong ENE–WSW component. Note that this direction makes roughly  $\sim 30$  to  $\sim 60^\circ$  angle with rock faces at PD2–PD4, and RAP sites (Fig. 7c). Thus, it is reasonable to assume that particle velocities in this dominant direction are favorable for triggering rockfalls particularly if the rock faces were primed for failure. The angle between this dominant velocity component and the rock face at PD1 site, however, appears to be less than  $\sim 20^\circ$  and possibly is not as favorable for triggering rockfalls as for other sites. On the other hand, the particle motion hodogram has two dominant directions: WNW and WSW. Depending on the strike of the rock face, either one of these directions can orient particle motion favorably for rockfalls. For instance, site RAP has a rock face strike of  $25^\circ$ , which is sub-parallel to the WSW particle motion direction. However, the WNW particle motion direction makes a steep angle with the rock face and thus can promote rockfalls. Combining information from particle velocity and motion hodograms, we hypothesize that directional aspects were favorable to rockfall triggering at the Rapaki and Purau sites.

## 5.8 Pre-existing rockfalls as predictive database

Our study indicates that pre-existing rockfalls provide an accurate range of expected boulder volumes, shapes, and % lithologic variance (i.e., VB vs. CL), but their use as a spatial indicator for future rockfalls should be approached with caution because there are a variety of geologic and anthropogenic factors that influence the final resting location for rockfalls. These factors include changes to the rockfall source (i.e., emergence of bedrock sources from beneath sedimentary cover), remobilization of prior rockfalls by surface processes including debris flow transport, collisional impedance with pre-existing boulders, potential natural and human-induced landscape changes (including deforestation), and variations in the location, size, and strong ground motion characteristics of past rockfall-triggering earthquakes. Our study indicates that pre-CES rockfalls underestimated the expected average and maximum runout distances on interfluves, in part, because pre-CES rockfalls were probably emplaced on a forested hillslope. Conversely, the locations for pre-CES boulders in well-established drainage valleys or channels may overestimate the expected runout for future

rockfalls because the rockfalls have been remobilized after their initial emplacement.

Prior to the CES, rockfall hazard was not considered a major risk in Banks Peninsula and surrounding areas (Townsend and Rosser, 2012), including the Port Hills of southern Christchurch, where damage was most critical and five fatalities occurred (Massey et al., 2014). To date, we are aware of only four studies that have dated pre-CES rockfalls in Banks Peninsula (Mackey and Quigley, 2014; Borella et al., 2016b; Sohbaty et al., 2016; Litchfield et al., 2016), and all of these investigations were undertaken after the CES. We assume this was primarily because there were few records of historical rockfall occurrence, and of those described (Lundy, 1995), none hinted at the potential for future widespread cliff collapse and rockfall in the region. However, the geologic record (i.e., prehistoric rockfalls) provides evidence that rockfall events of similar magnitude (or greater) have occurred in the past. In regions devoid of historical or contemporary rockfalls, pre-existing rockfalls represent the only empirical proxy for evaluating local rockfall behavior and provide valuable input for rockfall modeling and risk assessment studies. Existing rockfalls provide important data for predicting rockfall volumetric, lithologic, and morphologic (i.e., boulder shape) characteristics, but a thorough consideration of landscape evolutionary chronologies (including deforestation) and post-emplacement mobility scenarios is required before pre-existing rockfalls can be confidently used as future spatial indicators.

## 6 Conclusions

The spatial distributions and physical–geological properties of individual ( $n = 1093$ ) rockfall boulders deposited at two sites in Banks Peninsula prior to the 2010–2011 Canterbury earthquake sequence (CES) are compared to boulders ( $n = 185$ ) deposited during the CES. Pre-CES to CES boulder ratios range between  $\sim 5 : 1$  and  $8.5 : 1$  respectively, suggesting preservation of multiple pre-CES rockfall events with a flux analogous to or smaller than CES events, and/or pre-CES event(s) of larger flux. Pre-CES and CES boulders at one site (Purau site) have statistically consistent power law frequency–volume distributions between  $1.0$  to  $> 100.0 \text{ m}^3$ . At the Rapaki site, CES boulders have smaller and more clustered volumetric distributions that are less well fit by power laws compared with the pre-CES data, interpreted to reflect variations in rockfall source characteristics through time. Boulders of volcanic breccia (VB) have a larger binned-percentage of large volume boulders and more equant boulder aspects relative to coherent lava (CL) boulder lithologies at both sites, revealing lithologic controls on rockfall physical properties. The maximum runout distances for Rapaki CES VB and CL boulders are greater than that of pre-CES boulders of equivalent lithologies, volumes, and morphologies. This is interpreted as an effect of anthropogenic defor-

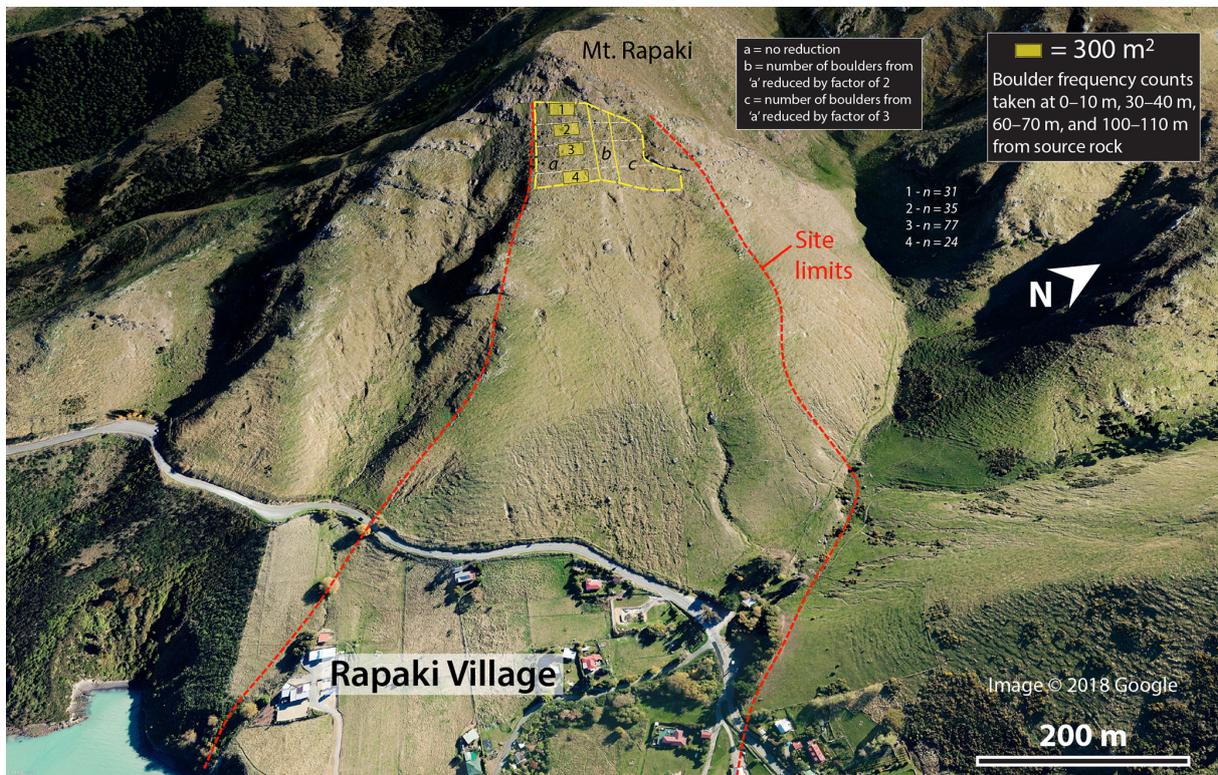
estation on the hosting hillslope, which enabled CES boulders to travel further than their pre-CES counterparts due to reduced resistance from vegetation. At Purau, isolated geomorphic domains exhibit this same effect, however in other intra-site locations, pre-CES boulder locations exceed runout distances of CES boulders. This is interpreted to reflect post-depositional mobility of prehistoric boulders via debris flows and other surface processes, reduction of CES boulder runouts in channels due to collisional impedance from pre-CES boulders, and heterogeneity in the CES boulder distributions, which reduced the likelihood of large runout boulders occurring due to smaller volumetric fluxes. The shadow angle method is a reliable predictor for pre-CES and CES rockfall runout at both sites. At Rapaki, the pre-CES and CES rockfall data are best fit using a 2nd order polynomial regression, while at Purau rockfalls require a variety of data fits (e.g., linear, log, and polynomial), suggesting intra-site geomorphic and geologic factors affecting rockfall hazard are spatially variable. Bare-earth and forested numerical modeling suggest that the majority of pre-CES rockfalls were emplaced before deforestation of the Purau hillslopes and enable identification of boulder sub-populations that have likely experienced post-emplacement mobility. The RAMMS\_3 model effectively shows the potential spatial extent of rockfalls that could result from more widespread detachment within the Purau source rock and provides a preliminary indicator of low-lying areas most susceptible to future rockfall hazard. More in-depth rockfall hazard analyses (including numerical rockfall modeling) are required at Purau and should consider the implementation of boulder morphologies, terrain parameters, and hillslope vegetation attributes developed in this study. Our research highlights the challenges of using rockfall distributions to characterize future rockfall hazards in the context of geologic and geomorphic variations, including natural and anthropogenically influenced landscape changes.

*Data availability.* The research data can be publicly accessed at <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.9km1t86> (Borella et al., 2019).

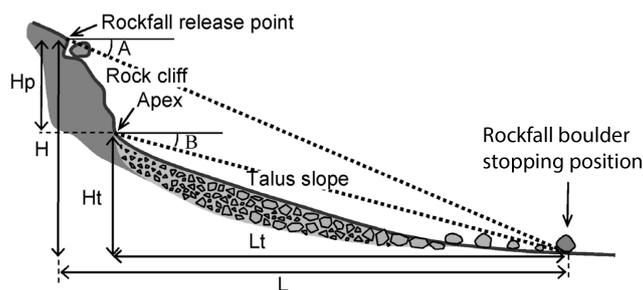
## Appendix A

Table A1. Friction parameters chosen for each terrain type in RAMMS.

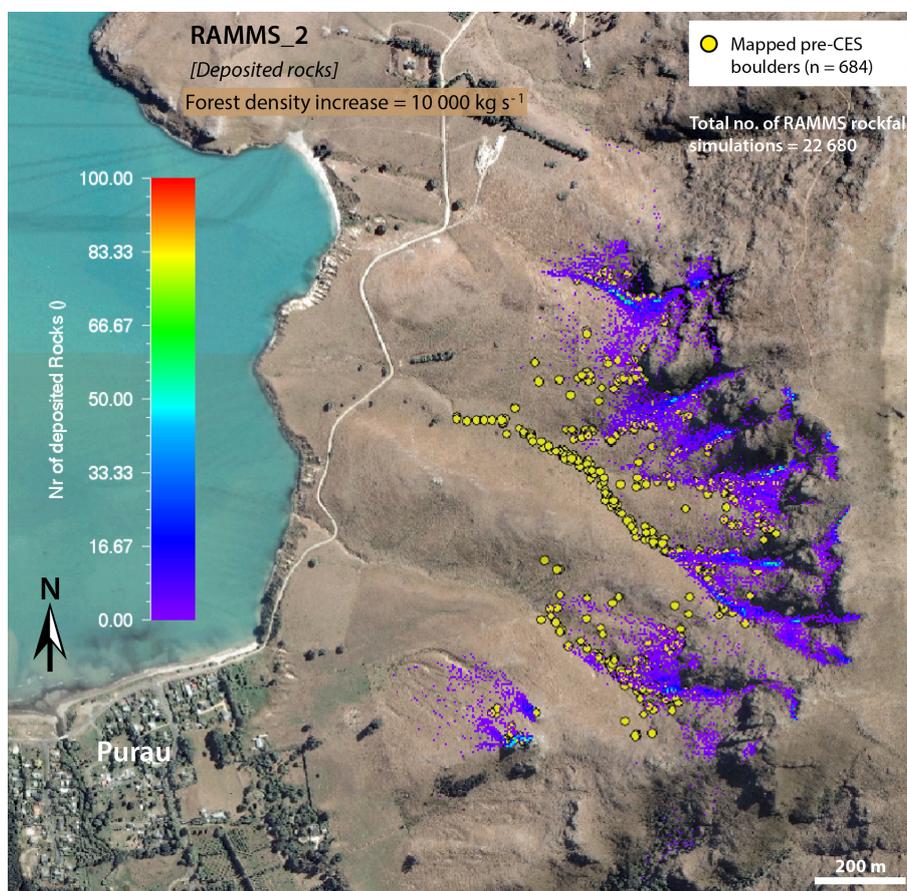
	$\mu_{\min}$	$\mu_{\max}$	$\varepsilon$	Drag layer coefficient	$\beta$	$\kappa$
Volcanic rock	0.7	2.0	0	0.3	50	0.5
Loess and volcanic colluvium	0.45	2.0	0	0.5	30	0.6
Loess	0.3	2.0	0	0.5	30	0.5
Valley terrain	0.2	2.0	0	0.9	25	0.5



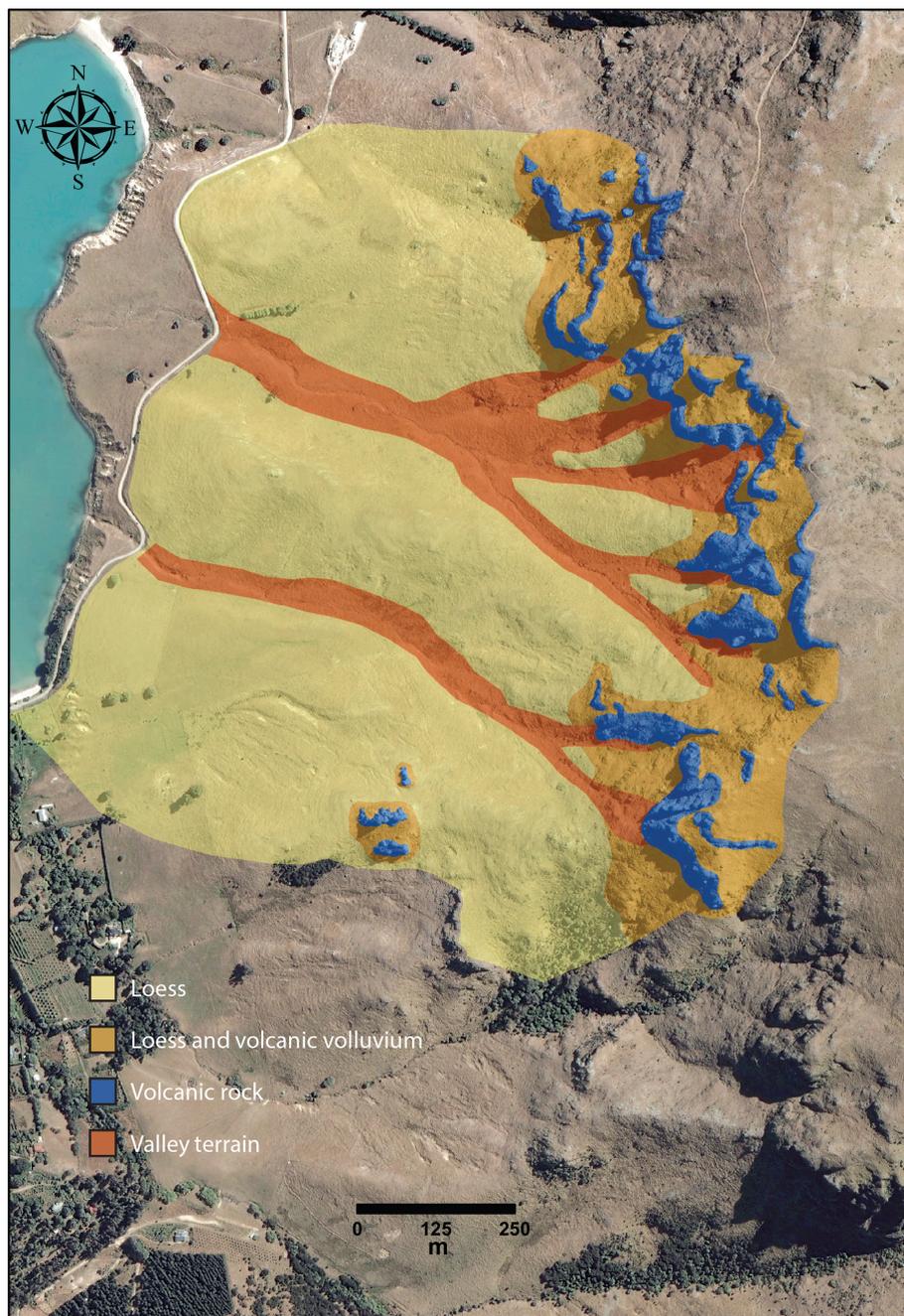
**Figure A1.** The total number of boulders with volume  $\geq 0.1 \text{ m}^3$  were taken at runout distances of 1–10 m (yellow polygon 1), 30–40 m (yellow polygon 2), 60–70 m (yellow polygon 3), and 100–110 m (yellow polygon 4) from the volcanic source rock to estimate the total number of boulders in areas near the source cliff where conditions were unsafe for continuous mapping. The number of boulders in areas “b” and “c” were reduced by factors of 2 and 3, respectively, based upon field observations. The total number of rockfall boulders for the area (yellow dashed line) was normalized to a boulder size of  $1.0 \text{ m}^3$  using a power law frequency–size distribution (as determined at the Rapaki study location).



**Figure A2.** Conceptual diagram of hillslope illustrating the source rock cliff and the talus slope. The reach angle (a) and shadow angle (b) are shown. Sketch modified from Evans and Hungr (1993), Wiczorek et al. (2008), and Copons et al. (2009).



**Figure A3.** Final resting locations for RAMMS\_2 rockfalls assuming uniform forest density increase of  $10\,000\text{ kg s}^{-1}$ . (Image is modified after Land Information New Zealand, <https://data.linz.govt.nz/data/category/aerial-photos>, last access: 6 March 2019.)



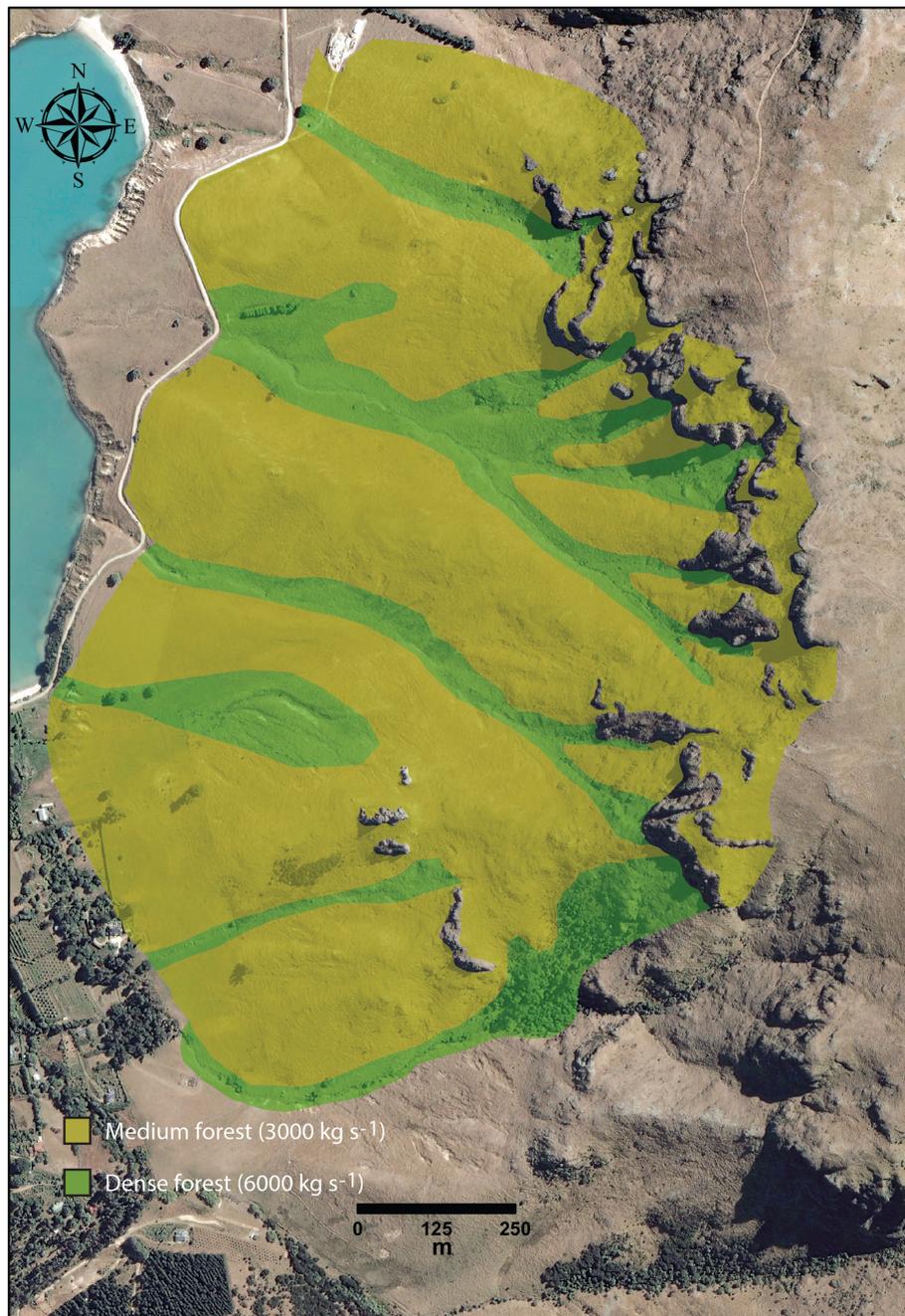
**Figure A4.** Polygon shapefiles for runoff terrain types. (Image is modified after Land Information New Zealand, <https://data.linz.govt.nz/data/category/aerial-photos>, last access: 6 March 2019.)



**Figure A5.** Polyline shapefiles for RAMMS\_1 rockfall source areas. (Image is modified after Land Information New Zealand, <https://data.linz.govt.nz/data/category/aerial-photos>, last access: 6 March 2019.)



**Figure A6.** Polyline shapefiles for RAMMS\_2 and RAMMS\_3 rockfall source areas. (Image is modified after Land Information New Zealand, <https://data.linz.govt.nz/data/category/aerial-photos>, last access: 6 March 2019.)



**Figure A7.** Polygon shapefiles for forest density. (Image is modified after Land Information New Zealand, <https://data.linz.govt.nz/data/category/aerial-photos>, last access: 6 March 2019.)

*Supplement.* The supplement related to this article is available online at: <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-19-2249-2019-supplement>.

*Author contributions.* JB performed the field mapping, RAMMS modeling, and was the primary contributor to the data interpretation and paper authorship. MQ contributed to study design, data interpretation, and paper authorship. ZK performed field mapping, RAMMS modeling, and contributed to the preparation of the paper. KL conducted the source rock characterization at Rapaki. JA performed the strong ground motion analysis and contributed to the preparation of the paper. LS, HL, and SL performed field mapping of rockfalls at Purau and/or Rapaki. SH and DG performed field work and contributed to the paper preparation.

*Competing interests.* The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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