

**Table 8.4** General features of glacial facies

*Deposition:* takes place in a variety of environments: beneath glaciers of various types, in glacial lakes, on glacial outwash plains and glaciomarine shelves and basins, and by a variety of processes including moving and melting glaciers, melt-water streams, melt-water density currents and icebergs.

*Lithologies:* polymictic conglomerates termed tillite, sandstones, muddy sediments with dispersed clasts (dropstones).

*Texture:* poorly-sorted, matrix-supported conglomerates (tillites), angular clasts possibly with striations and facets, and elongate clasts possibly showing preferred orientation.

*Structures:* tillites generally massive but some layering may occur; rhythmically laminated ('varved') muddy sediments common; fluvio-glacial sandstones show cross-bedding and lamination, flat bedding, scours and channels.

*Fossils:* generally absent (or derived), except in glaciomarine sediments.

*Geometry:* tillites laterally extensive.

*Facies sequences:* no typical sequence.