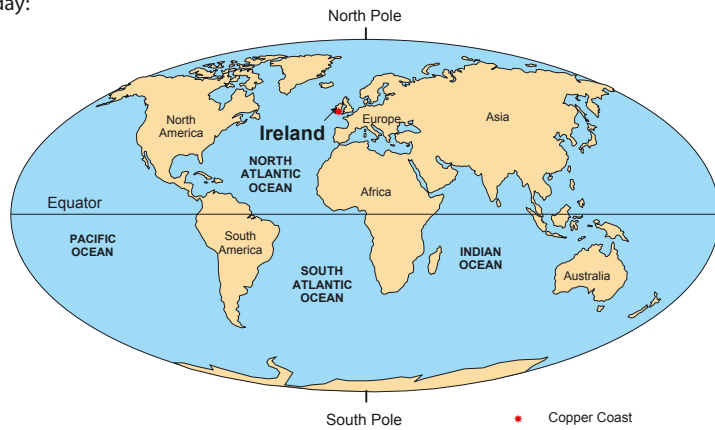
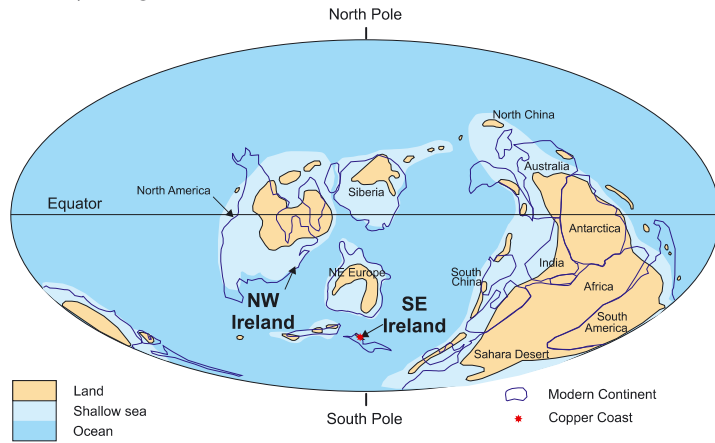


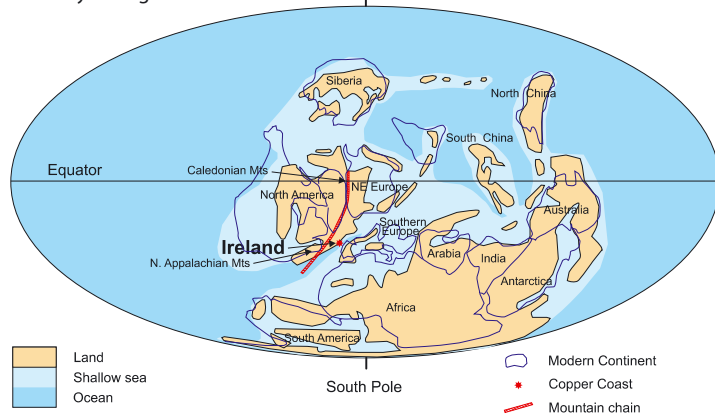
The world today:



The world 354 million years ago:



The world 460 million years ago:



The time scale to the left shows when the rocks of the Copper Coast formed through geological time. The above globe reconstructions indicate where Ireland was at the relevant periods.



> Boulder clay ("glacial till")

> Boulder clay (sedimentary rock)

Boulder clay ("glacial till") forms a very conspicuous layer across cliff tops all along the Copper Coast. It is composed of unconsolidated clay, sand and mud which forms the matrix to randomly oriented blocks and boulders of rocks of various sizes and shapes. All of this material was gouged from bedrock by glaciers and ice sheets, and then dumped where it is now as the glaciers melted away at the end of the last Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago.

→ Boulder clay is generally a pale brown to yellowish colour. It is the youngest of all rocks to be seen in the Geopark, immediately below the grass and soil level.

Cover photo: Columns of rhyolite, Knockmahon Strand

For Further Information

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The rocks of the Copper Coast



a story captured in stone