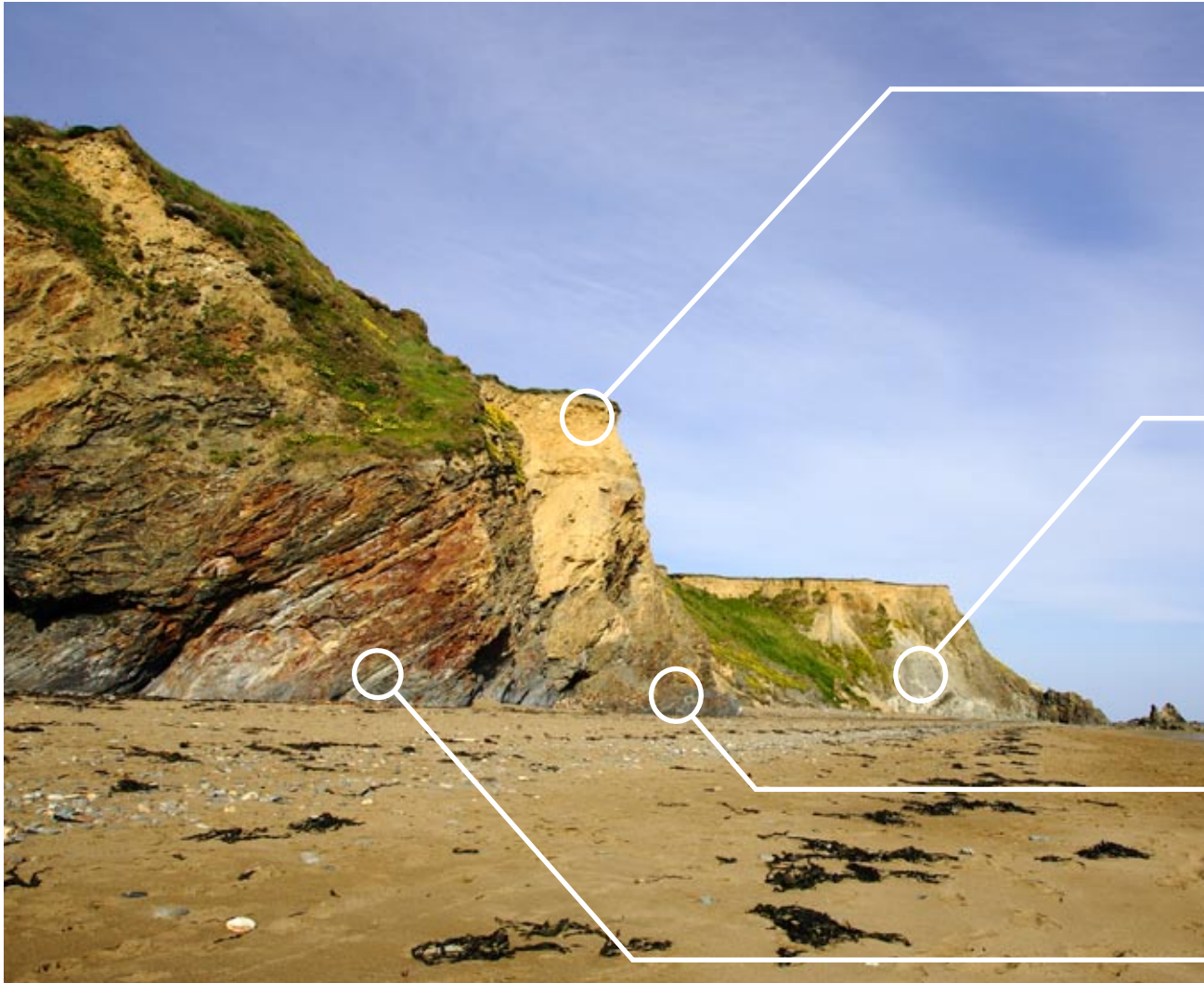


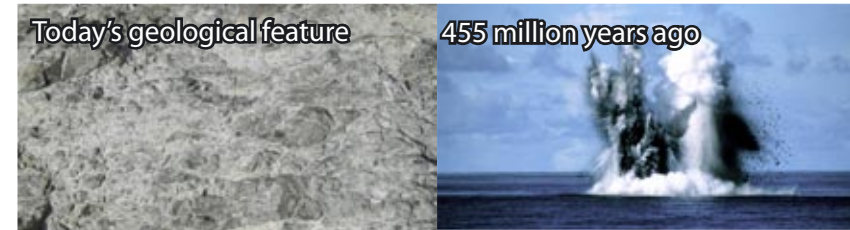
KILFARRASY STRAND - GEOLOGICAL FEATURES



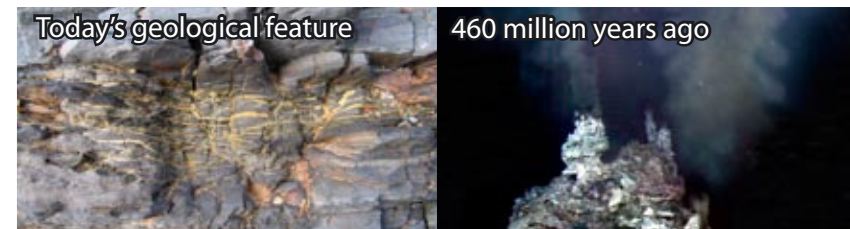
The yellow-brownish layer is made of clay, boulders and sand dumped by the glaciers when they finally melted away at the end of the last Ice Age, about 12 000 years ago.



These light grey intricate layers resulted from underwater explosive volcanic eruptions. A mixture of ashes, fragments and debris were exploded through the ocean floor into the depths of the ocean, from which they rained back on to the ocean floor, about 455 million years ago.



At the same time, magma (molten rock) was slowly rising up through the depths of the ocean floor. Superheated fluids and vapours dissolved minerals. They eventually broke through the ocean floor as "black smokers" - mini-geysers of sulphur and metal rich fluids, cooling rapidly, precipitating very thin layers of metal rich sediments.



Muds, silts and very fine sand deposited, layer, upon layer on the floor of a deep ocean, to create these mudstones about 460 million years ago.

