

STAGE COVE - GEOLOGICAL FEATURES



This site was also the centre of a flourishing copper mining industry (1825-1880). You can still see the vestiges of this activity:

1. green and blue copper stained surfaces, produced by interaction between copper ore minerals and rain water flowing through the and below the floor of the old copper storage yard,
2. remnants of the cobbled floor that was probably part of the original quayside,
3. adits in the cliff face where miners explored for copper veins [WARNING: DANGER – DO NOT ENTER]
4. walls of the storage yard.

Boulder rich clays, and layered sands and gravels are draped across the rocky foundation of the modern landscape. These were deposited here at the end of the last Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago.



Glaciers and ice sheets flowed across the region between 1.8 million and 50,000 years ago, ripping and scouring through the rocks underneath (e.g. the thin purple layer deriving from the erosion of the red sandstone).



Reddish brown coloured sandstones deposited about 380 million years ago by rivers which flowed south, through an ancient desert, from mountains a long way to the north.



Green coloured basalt erupted about 460 million years ago from submarine volcanoes onto an ancient sea floor. Ireland then did not exist as a land area: it was part of an ocean floor near the South Pole.

