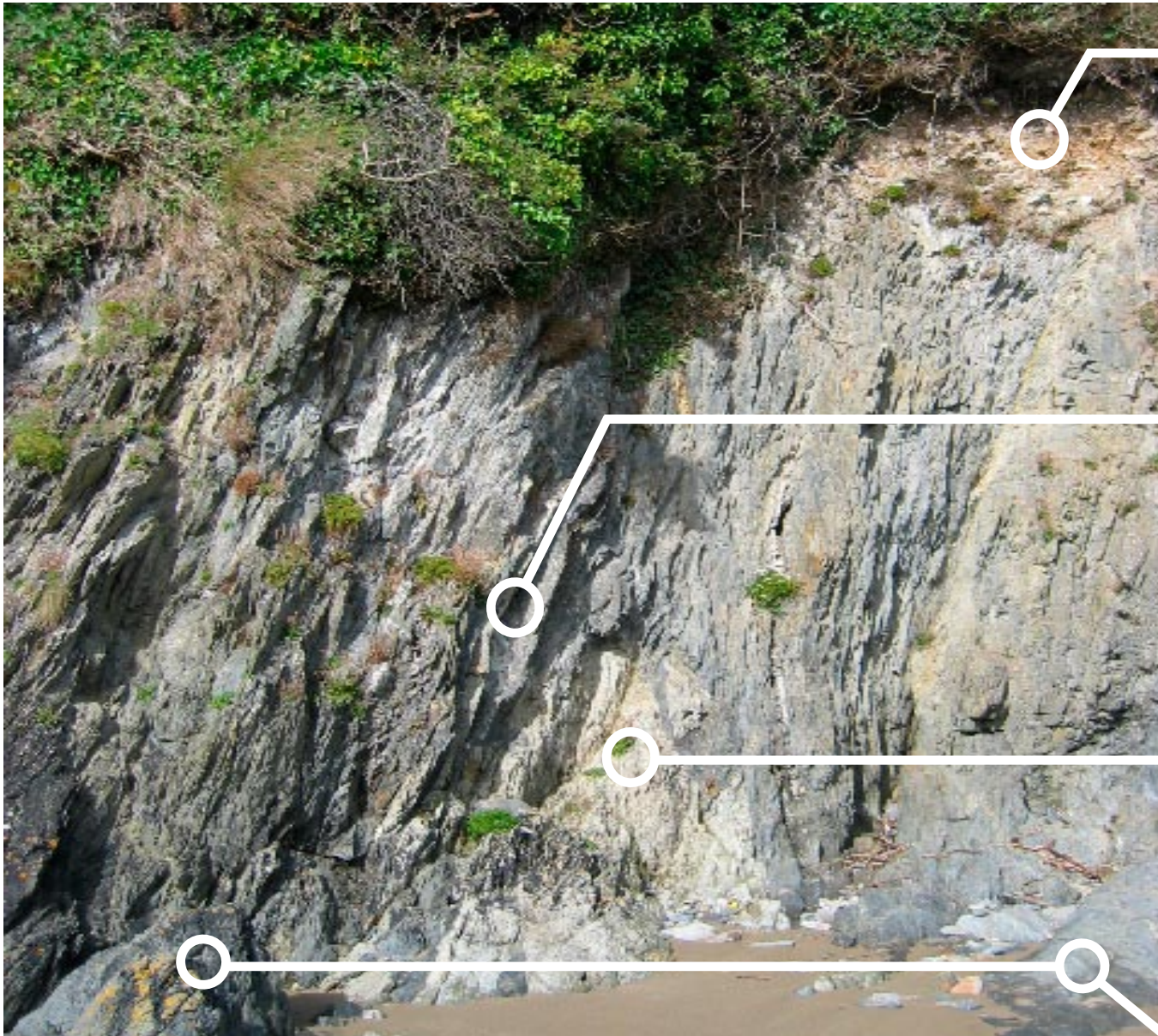


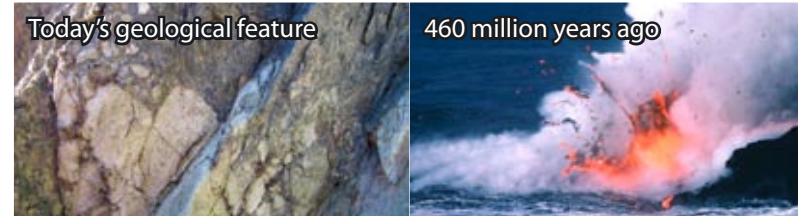
STRADBALLY COVE - GEOLOGICAL FEATURES



Boulder rich clays were deposited on top of the rocky formation by the glaciers when they melted at the end of the Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago.



When very hot magma interacted with cold water-saturated sediments, it cooled down very quickly and became brittle as the little broken pieces of green andesite within the dark mudstones illustrate.



Magma (molten rocks) slowly rose from the depths of the Earth and pierced the ocean floor to form this green andesite (basalt) reflecting the birth of a volcano on the ocean floor, 460 million years ago.



460 million years ago, Ireland did not exist as a land area. It was part of an ocean floor near the South Pole, close to a continent. Very fine mud and sand, resulting from the erosion of this continent, settled on the ocean floor, layer upon layer to form these dark mudstones.

