

# PARITEA/CLAY CLIFFS

These Cliffs are impressive right! Ever imagine how they came to be? How did all these rocks, stones, pebbles and silts end up here forming these huge pillars?

Let's turn back time... Between 20 and 3.5 million years ago things looked very different ... there was a lake that was right at this spot - and that's where the finer sands and clay were deposited.

Sometime after the lake, an ancient river system took over here (the environment was changing back then much like it continues to change today!) and that's when the river deposits (gravel conglomerates and silts) were deposited.

These were laid down flat – on top of each other.....if you were to slice through the land like a cake you could see all the different layers – and that's exactly what we see at Clay Cliffs ... all because a fault has lifted the sediments up above the surrounding land! Now the uplift on the fault didn't all happen in one earthquake – but many earthquakes over a very long time. And now we can see all the layers exposed at Clay Cliffs – a record of an ancient environment!

There are lots of wee gully's in the cliffs – these are from rainwater washing some of the rocks, stone, pebbles, sands and silts away!

