

## **BOX 3**

***2 boxes in Legend:***

**Early Carboniferous  
Grey Sandstones and Mudstones**

**Late Devonian  
Purple, grey and green Sandstones and Mudstones  
ORS Old Red Sandstone**

***Age:* Jurassic (about 208-144Ma)**

***Map:* Latitude of Mizen Head-about 40° North**

***Title:* Model of Southwest Ireland during the Jurassic showing the Surface Topography and Simplified Geological Cross-section of the Subsurface.**

***Text:* The Hercynian Mountains have been substantially weathered and reduced in height. The landscape was mainly erosional but sediment began to accumulate locally in lakes. However, there is no known sediment record of the Jurassic in the Mizen Head area.**

**Jurassic sediments have been recognised elsewhere in southern Ireland.**

**Over millions of years, during the Triassic (245-208Ma) and Jurassic (208-144Ma) Periods, relentless erosion weathered the land to very low relief until the rivers were unable to carry all the sediments and silts. In the Cretaceous Period (144-66Ma), seawater flooded over the land and the calcareous deposits from shellfish compressed to form hundreds of metres of Chalk. Only one small deposit of Chalk has been found in Ireland, near Farranfore, Co. Kerry.**

**Limestone was eroded in some areas to the point where it caused the land to collapse into great basins. Vegetal debris was overlain by silts and sands. In time, the sands compressed into sandstone and the vegetation transformed into oil and natural gas, trapped in the rock. It was at this time that the great basins, Celtic Sea and Porcupine, were formed off the south and west coasts.**