Society invitation to join them on a trip to Dudley Canal and tunnels and workings in the Wenlock Limestone. He initially held the post of Research Advisor to the Society (1964–1974). From 1967 to 1970 he was Secretary, which embraced a vast array of activities including being the person to develop research projects, organising the collation and distribution of the journal, with the help of an excellent team of helpers, and many other tasks. He was relieved of some of these duties to a certain extent on his election as President (1970–1973). In its early days a few prominent geologists including Professors The Lord Energlyn, Swinnerton and Wills were elected Honorary Members of EMGS. In 1983 Frank was one of the last to be awarded such an accolade before it was discontinued. He continued his tremendous contribution to the society until his last few years.

Frank published well over fifty papers. Included in this impressive array were a large number in the *Mercian Geologist*, a chapter on Permian and Triassic formations in Sylvester-Bradley and Ford's *Geology of the East Midlands* and, more particularly, his important work, 'A lexicon of New Red Sandstone stratigraphy' (*Mercian Geologist*, Jan 1988).

Frank met his wife Mavis when they both studied at Sheffield. They married at St Cyprian's Church, Frecheville, Sheffield in 1955, before moving to the Nottingham area on his appointment to the University. Frank was devoted to his family of four daughters and later his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He doted on them, although there was a degree of strictness and his word was final, very much the same as with his university students. But with all he had their wellbeing at heart.

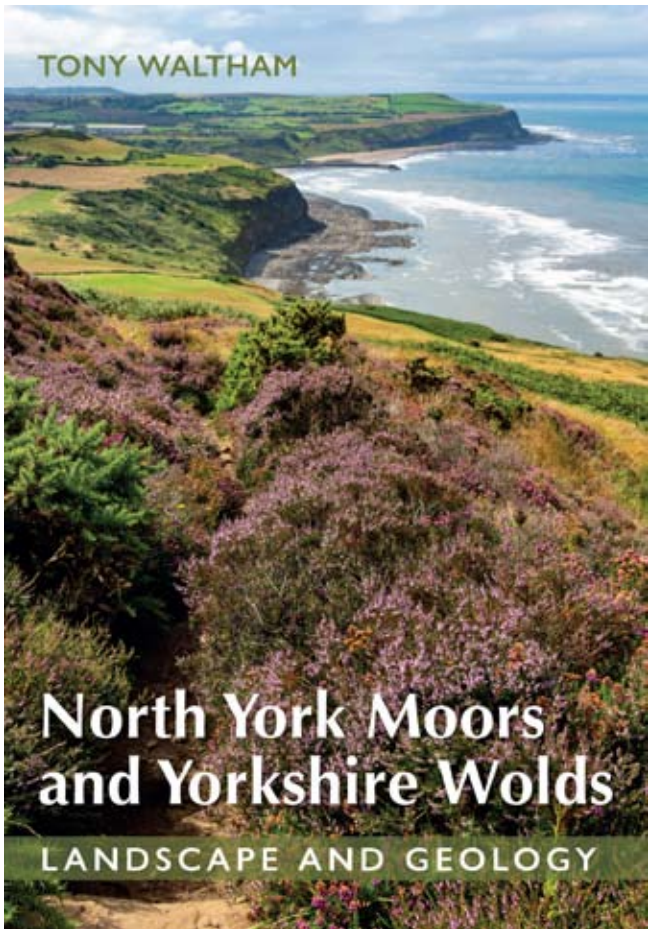
Frank quite surprisingly found time for many other activities. He had a huge stamp collection of over thirty thousand stamps, meticulously catalogued, he was an extremely capable handyman, particularly with electrics, a very keen gardener with a well-established vineyard from which he bottled wines of a very high quality. It is thus unsurprising that he and Mavis, a teacher of French, spent many happy times touring the wine regions across the Channel. Frank's expertise in wines culminated in him becoming a wine judge of national status.

Frank's love of geology never wavered and even when relying on a very robust motorised wheel chair his field activities continued in his typically determined fashion. Two grandchildren live in Kent and he revelled in his recent field activities there, both around the coast and inland. In my imagination I have a wonderful vision of a 90-plus-year-old stretching his wheelchair to the limit ascending the Chalk scarp.

A full and long life well spent leaving a great legacy for those who follow him.

Ian Sutton

BOOK REVIEW



North York Moors and Yorkshire Wolds – Landscape and Geology

By Tony Waltham, www.geophotos.co.uk

Published 2024 by The Crowood Press, Marlborough, Wiltshire, UK, www.crowood.com

Softback, Colour, 160 pp. ISBN: 978 0 7198 4374 7. Cover price: £18.99

This book is the latest of Tony Waltham's Landscape and Geology series, the others being *The Peak District* (published 2021) and *The Yorkshire Dales* (published 2007). While all these books offer a comprehensive tour of each region's geological sites and sights, they are far more than simply 'greatest hits' compilations. They present a coherent narrative of each region's geological history, the shaping of their landscapes and the impact on (and of) natural heritage, human industry and society.

Hot off the press, this latest book leads the reader steadily through a geological story hundreds of millions of years in the making, told in 3 main parts with 11 individual thematic chapters. Part 1 describes the region's most important rock formations and their fossils, where best to see them and the ancient processes of sedimentation, environmental change and tectonics that created them. Part 2 then describes the

more recent processes that have sculpted the geology into the landscape we see today, such as the flow of rivers and the growth of lakes, scouring by wind, the advance and melting of glaciers, karst formation, coastal erosion and landslides. Section 3 then looks at the finishing touches applied by the living world and by human civilisation including mining, industry and farming, coming full circle to show how they are guided and shaped by the geology. The three parts remain interwoven in the overall narrative so that their relationships are constantly explored and explained.

At 160 pages, the book can be binge-read in an afternoon, but can also serve longer term as a work of reference, aided by an easy-to-use index spread over 2 facing pages at the end of the book. The majority of index entries are specific place names, named geological features or stratigraphic units, which encourages planning of walks and visits. Geological summaries of some of the region's most frequented footpaths, longer distance walks and cycle routes are covered in a section towards the end of the book.

Every page has at least one illustration, most have 2, and a few have 3, with around 250 in total. Most of the illustrations are Tony's own photographs or diagrams, with a few from other acknowledged sources, notably some aerial shots and terrain models. The geological diagrams are attractively colourful and add valuable additional explanation to the text. Most are conventional geological maps, cross sections and stratigraphic tables – the geological map and cross-section of the region on page 8 is especially clear and useful, with just the right level of detail. There is no numbering of illustrations or direct cross-referencing with the text, they rely on co-location to reinforce and explain adjacent narrative.

Although the landscapes of the Moors and Wolds have a pleasing depth and colour to the eye, photography often fails to do them justice, especially if images are constrained to a specific size and aspect ratio. Photos in this book are cropped to sizes and shapes that match the detail and span of their subject matter, the objective being explanation rather than photographic art. So no two images are the same shape and size, and the layout of each page is unique. Together with the captions, this makes the book fun to flick through and discover some geology quickly, giving it extra bookshop appeal. And full marks for the front cover image of the coastal view northwards to Skinningrove and Hunt Cliff. It's a less commonly shown image of the coast and all the better for that. Just take a walk from Staithes to Skinningrove along the Cleveland Way coastal path to enjoy this splendid view for yourself.

Distributed throughout the narrative are a number of standalone exposition boxes that give more detailed description and explanation of notable geological or heritage features, for example the 'Rias in Miniature', 'Rievaulx Abbey' and 'Flint'. Of these, the description of the Holbeck Hall Landslide stands out, with some dramatic 'action' photos and simple illustrations showing progression of the landslide, its aftermath and remediation. This exposition is a highlight of an entire chapter on coastal erosion that is technically highly informative but also sensitive to the human consequences of these processes and hazards.

So who should buy this book? As an experienced geologist with a passion and fascination for this region, I probably wouldn't be considered a member of the target audience. Nevertheless, for individuals like me, this book is an essential purchase. Why? Because we have a duty to inform and educate, to explain the wonders of our science and why geological skills and knowledge have been important in the past, and will continue to be essential in the future. This book is an exemplar, even a tutorial, of how to communicate geology effectively, and comes with my highest recommendation. If you're an enthusiastic amateur geologist (as are many members of the East Midlands or Yorkshire Geological Societies), then this book is pitch perfect for you. Buy it, and impress field trip leaders and fellow participants with your knowledge! Finally, if you're a student, for example at A level geography or geology level, or an undergraduate, then this book is a fabulous introduction to the region.

What about the wider public? A general audience commonly struggles to grasp the concepts of palaeogeography, tectonics and the immense span of geological time. It's difficult for a professional geologist reviewer to comment on behalf of the general reader, but buyer reviews of the earlier books in the series uniformly praise their ease of comprehension and authority of content. Engineering Geologists work at the interface between geology and the built environment. It's their job to communicate with and advise professionals and decision-makers across a range of disciplines, applications and objectives, using straightforward and cogent explanation. As a practitioner for six decades, and with a vast amount of world travel under his belt, Tony is very good at it. Do read this book, and see for yourself.

Andy Howard