

BOOK REVIEWS

Peak District guides

DALTON, R., FOX H. and JONES, P., 1999. *Classical Landforms of the White Peak and Classical Landforms of the Dark Peak*. Geographical Association, Sheffield. £8.95 each, 52 pp each. ISBNs 1 899085 60 2 and 1 899085 61 0.

COPE, F. W., 1999. *The Peak District*. Geologist's Association, London, Guide 26. £12. 78 pp. ISBN 0 900717 11 4.

These three rather expensive booklets complement each other in providing a geological and geomorphological overview of the Peak District's geological environment. All three booklets are in fact updated versions of older guides by the same authors improved with the addition of colour photographs.

Dalton, Fox and Jones are lecturers at the University of Derby, with the Peak District conveniently situated for local field work. Their booklet on the White Peak is not a guide in the sense of laying out itineraries, but it does suggest appropriate vantage points. It looks at the character of the limestone plateau, the superimposed drainage pattern with the incised meanders of many of the dales, the dry valley network, the Brassington sand pocket deposits and their former extent, the limited extent of the glacial deposits and the periglacial loessic soils, and it makes a few comments on the cave systems and the underground drainage. Mineral deposits and mines are not discussed. While recognising the probability of a long pre-glacial history of denudation, followed by the multiple Pleistocene glaciations, the authors have, perhaps wisely, made little attempt to correlate the features with the standard series of glacial and interglacial episodes of the Pleistocene period elsewhere. There is a short bibliography but, surprisingly, the authors have made no reference to Tony Waltham *et al's*

"Karst and Caves of Great Britain" (published in the Geological Conservation Review series by Chapman & Hall in 1997) or to your reviewer's "Evolution of the Derwent Gorge at Matlock" (published in *Cave and Karst Science* in the same year). Some diagrams have been "borrowed" from your reviewer's own publications.

Dalton *et al's* "Dark Peak" describes the Millstone Grit moorlands and dales that frame the White Peak. It covers the Staffordshire moorlands including the Roaches, the High Peak including Edale and Kinderscout, the eastern moors and the Ashover inlier. The evolution of the Derwent Valley is discussed, with special reference to the drainage diversion away from Bakewell to the area around Chatsworth. There is a separate chapter on the gritstone tors which cap so many hills. While the Millstone Grit country has little significance in connection with mineral mining, there was widespread small-scale mining west of Buxton and on the Ringinglow moors near Sheffield for coal seams in the Millstone Grit Series, but these sites are not mentioned. Both the booklets on the White and Dark Peaks have good coloured maps and diagrams but some of the colour photographs are rather dark.

Professor Cope's "Peak District" reflects the author's long-standing interest in the stratigraphy of the limestone beds and their correlation from dale to dale (he was Professor of Geology at Keele University for 26 years). The various groups of limestone beds and the intervening lavas (toadstones) are noted in the itineraries, but he has used local stratigraphic names for the limestone formations, in contrast to the "official" British Geological Survey's maps and memoirs. No correlation chart is offered, so the reader may sometimes get a little lost. Professor Cope only makes passing reference to the mineral deposits and the only diagram relevant to mines is a sketch of the Magpie Mine buildings. The main Millstone Grit features are described in more detail. Itineraries are given for the Wye Valley, Castleton (partly duplicating your reviewer's Geologists' Association guide to Castleton published in 1996), Dovedale, the Manifold Valley, Eyam and Stony Middleton, Matlock, Edale, the Roaches and the Goyt Valley. However, some of the directions for finding specific localities are difficult to follow. Some of the black and white maps are simple geological maps, but others are merely line sketches of roads with localities marked. Dovedale's gorge did not merit either! Thor's Cave is marked on the wrong side of the Manifold Valley. Surprisingly, there is no itinerary for the Wirksworth area where the limestone "reef knolls" are so well displayed in the old quarries around the National Stone Centre. Nor is there an itinerary for the Brassington area with its dolomite crags and tors and its silica sand pocket deposits. The guide includes a bibliography. The only photographs are on the cover, and that on the front is rather dark and gloomy; illustrations inside are entirely line drawings.

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