

# **British Geological Survey: The Tectonic Map of Britain, Ireland and Adjacent Areas**

1996, at a scale of 1: 1 500 000 scale

Review by **Christopher G. Kendall**

This magnificent map is a compilation of industrial and professional geological data derived from the surface and subsurface of the United Kingdom and Ireland and for the offshore areas surrounding the British Isles. It is an invaluable reference for both students of geology who need to gain an understanding of the structure of the British Isles, and to hydrocarbon and mineral explorationists who need an overview of the structural configuration of the particular area in which they are working. It is refreshing to see a geological map which crosses political borders, and this map includes portions of northern France, and extends into Norwegian and Danish waters and even up to the edge of the Faroe platform. The map records the effects of the major tectonic events experienced by the British Isles beginning with the Grampian events and ending with the Alpine Orogeny. It shows rocks ranging in age from the Cambro-Ordovician to the Neogene and also deals with Precambrian terranes including rocks of the Caledonides, Grampian and Acadian orogenic phases. The map shows the outcrops both onshore and offshore recording anticlines, synclines, monoclinal zones, etc.

I imagine this work is going to end up on the walls of many geologists' studying the British Isles geologic section, since it compiles so much information ranging from the stratigraphic to the structural. It is particularly valuable because it records information from the offshore and ties it to that of the onshore. The map encompasses such a large area it's hard to completely grasp the wealth of detail that it contains.

This map represents the gathered work of many of geologists describing many milieus and is an exhaustive compendium.