

British Tertiary Volcanic Province

By **C.H. Emeleus and M.C. Gyopari**, 1992. ISBN 0-412-47980-X. Chapman & Hall for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 259 pgs.

Review by **Christopher G. Kendall**

This volume was compiled and initiated by the Nature Conservancy Council of Great Britain in 1977 and has been in the works to this date. The text documents the occurrence of Tertiary of volcanism in the northwest British Isles, focusing on northwestern Scotland and its offshore islands, where evidence of Tertiary volcanism is common.

The book is extremely well illustrated by sharp field photos and extremely well drawn maps, and in some cases, cross-sections. The book is intended to describe the field occurrence of these geological phenomena, particularly if they are in danger of destruction and are in need of preservation. The book deals in general with the effects of volcanism to be found on the Isle of Sky and the small islands Rum, Eigg, Muck, Canna-sanday, Ardnamurchan, the Isle of Mull, the Isle of Arran, the Shiant Isles, Langbaurgh Ridge and Clift Ridge.

The book is not intended as a guidebook, but rather as a record of the occurrence of these geological phenomenon. The authors go to some lengths to point out that many of the outcrops described in the book are on private property and permission needs to be sought by the landowner before the area can be visited. Nevertheless, the descriptions are complete and will serve the geological visitor as well as the armchair geologist sitting in comfort away from the inclement weather of the western Isles.

Each volcanic area is described in terms of its highlights, an introductory description, a general description, interpretation and conclusion. There are references within the text, with their listing at the end of the book. In some ways, this book is somewhat similar to the handbook on volcanoes from North America, but provides more detailed description than in the former text.

In contrast to the American book, this text is not intended as a guidebook, but rather to provide a formal geological description of these different volcanic areas. I would guess that this book will end up as being a major source text for this reason and though it was long in its production, it was worth the wait. The book will definitely be a source book to geologists who need to have information on these different geological areas.