

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

For the purposes of this review, 'Somerset' refers to pre-1974 Somerset, vice-counties 5 and 6, which include present-day Somerset and Avon as far as Bristol and the River Avon.

'Fifty Years of Research in Geology, Botany, Entomology and Zoology in the Bristol District' appeared as a series of papers in the Bristol Naturalists' Society' (BNS) *Proceedings* volume for 1913, providing a useful summary in these disciplines.

The geology of the area is covered somewhat sketchily in the British Regional Geological Surveys first published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) in 1935 and since up-dated. Unfortunately, Somerset is split between two books, the *South West England* and the *Bristol and Gloucester* volumes. The BNS *Proceedings* contain more detailed papers, many based on local mining and quarrying sites and the fossils and minerals to be found, as well as more straight-forward descriptions of geological formations. Useful references can be obtained from the 1928 volume of the BNS *Proceedings* where a paper entitled 'List of Geology Publications of Bristol District 1914-1928' is published. There have been many geological papers over the years, including a comprehensive illustrated account of 'Devonian rocks of the Brendon Hills, West Somerset' (1964). In 1987, volume 47 of the BNS *Proceedings* was a special 'thematic' edition on the Avon Gorge including its geology.

Exmoor and the Somerset Levels, have inspired more literature than other parts of Somerset. There are books valuable for their historical and ecological bases. One is *The Draining of the Somerset Levels* by Michael Williams (1970) which is an account of the history of the creation of the man-made system of drains, rhynes, and ditches, with maps of the various stages, and giving the background to the situation we find today. Other books contain large bibliographies which form a valuable source of references. One such is J.W. Gough's *The Mines of Mendip* (1967).

The Somerset Wildlife Trust itself has produced many books and leaflets. One book of general interest is *Quantock Wildlife, its Ecology and Conservation* (1980). Leaflets dealing with the Quantocks include geology.

SOME BOOKS AND REPORTS

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- The Somerset Wildlife Trust, the Exmoor National Park Authority, English Nature and the Forestry Commission produce pamphlets and guides to walks and trails which include geology.