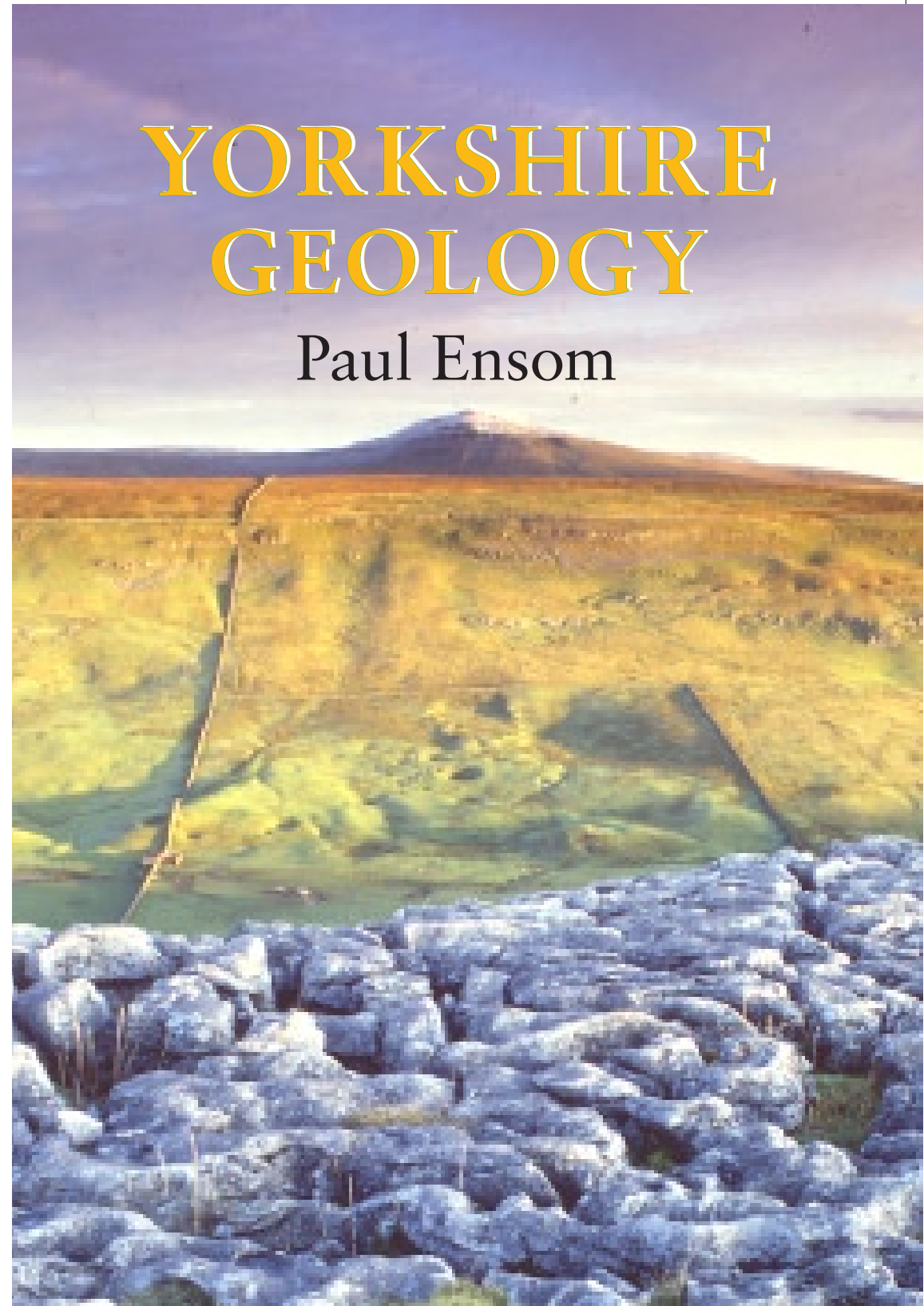


# YORKSHIRE GEOLOGY

Paul Ensom



**Y**ORKSHIRE'S geology is some of the most spectacular in the British Isles. An up-to-date illustrated account of the 540 million years of its known geological past has long been overdue, and the county is fortunate that Paul Ensom has been persuaded to take on the task. The author has the rare ability to breath new life into the past, and the result is a wide-ranging always readable account that sacrifices nothing to scholarship.

The rich variety of Yorkshire's landscapes – moorland across the Pennines and North York Moors, limestone Dales, rolling Chalk uplands of the Wolds, the vales of York and Mowbray, a wild and remote coast – owe their existence to natural forces of astonishing power. Granite intrusions and volcanic eruption played a role in Yorkshire's creation. Since then the county has been part of drifting continents, submerged beneath deep oceans and warm shallow seas, arid desert, coal-forming forest and swamp, and frozen waste. In turn, each of these has left a legacy of different rocks and a Pandora's box of fossils that ranges from sharks to tropical plants, dinosaurs to rhinoceros.

Except for a handful of historic black and white photographs, all *Yorkshire Geology's* 250 illustrations are in colour – and many have never been published before. They include photographs, reconstructions, maps, plans, paintings, engravings, and figures showing Yorkshire's position on the Earth through geological time. New maps of the county's bedrock and superficial geology were commissioned from the British Geological Survey who, like the York Museums Trust and Yorkshire Geological Society, have generously allowed the inclusion of many of the illustrations from their own collections, archives, and publications.

Much of the delight in *Yorkshire Geology* comes from Paul Ensom's enthusiasm and determination to leave as few stones unturned as possible. The first stirrings of the study of the county's geology in the early 19th century at the start of the industrial revolution is touched on, as is the debt owed to pioneers such as John Phillips and William Smith. The ways in which geology has shaped Yorkshire's industries are not neglected, from coal mining to jet working, drystone walling to scythe stones. As well as a glossary and extensive bibliography, a list of museums and relevant websites has been included.

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*Yorkshire Geology* will be a casebound hardback costing £22.50, but will be available in advance of publication at the special price of £20, inclusive of post and packing costs (except overseas, when please add £8).

All advance copies will be signed by Paul Ensom.

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