

**MEMOIRS OF THE GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY. ENGLAND AND WALES.
THE GEOLOGY OF THE COUNTRY
AROUND FAKENHAM, WELLS,
AND HOLT**

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Memoirs of the Geological Survey. England and Wales. The Geology of the Country Around Fakenham, Wells, and Holt by Horace B. Woodward

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HORACE B. WOODWARD

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MEMOIRS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE GEOLOGY OF
THE COUNTRY AROUND FAKENHAM,
WELLS, AND HOLT.

(EXPLANATION OF QUARTER-SHEETS 68 N.W. AND S.W.)

BY

HORACE B. WOODWARD, F.G.S.

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NOTICE.

The part of Norfolk described in the following Memoir is contained in the two Quarter-Sheets 68 N.W. and S.W. It presents no remarkable geological features, being essentially an agricultural district, which owes its fertility to the marls and loams that cover the greater part of its surface. So widespread are these superficial deposits that the underlying platform of Chalk comes to the surface only here and there. One edition of the maps—that on which the drifts are coloured—is therefore sufficient to show the geology, since it is quite impossible to trace any lines under these overlying accumulations, or to be certain how far Pliocene or other deposits may not occasionally intervene between them and the Chalk.

Owing to the difficulty in correlating the Glacial marls and clays, it has been thought advisable to colour the Boulder Clay in one tint, and to express by one colour also all the Glacial Sands and Gravels, although more than one sub-division may in each case be thus united. These deposits are mainly a prolongation of the Contorted Drifts of Cromer, like which, though their grouping and structure seem simple on the map, they are subject to considerable variation and to local, and doubtless glacial, disturbance.

Much detail necessarily of an uninteresting nature is given in this Memoir; but it is here put on record, as it may prove of value in regard to local questions of drainage, water-supply, lime-burning, brick-making, and the supply of road-metal.

ARCH. GEIKIE,
Director General.

Geological Survey Office,
28, Jernyn Street,
December 15th, 1884.

NOTICE.

The north-eastern corner of the area, east of the River Glaven, and as far south as Holt and Bodham, and the eastern margin to a little south of Barningham Park, were surveyed geologically by Mr. Clement Reid, in the years 1876-77 and 1879-80. The remaining and chief portion of the area was surveyed by Mr. H. B. Woodward during the years 1880-83.

The fossils from the Chalk have been named by Messrs. G. Sharman and E. T. Newton.

The eastern part of the Coast is published in *Horizontal Section*, Sheet 127, by Mr. C. Reid.

H. W. BRISTOW,
Senior Director.

Geological Survey Office.
28, Jermyn Street, London, S.W.
November 1884.

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THE GEOLOGY

OF THE

COUNTRY AROUND FAKENHAM, WELLS, AND HOLT.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

Area.

The two Quarter-Sheets 68 N.W. and S.W. of the Geological Survey Map represent an area of about 237 square miles in Norfolk, and contain the towns of Fakenham and Holt, the large villages of Cawston, Foulsham, and Walsingham, and the port of Wells.

Physical Features.

This portion of country is drained by (1) The *Wensum*, which partly originates from streams rising in the parishes of Colkirk and Horningtoft; (2) the *Bure*, whose sources are entirely in the area, rising in the parishes of Edgefield, Briston, and Melton Constable; (3) the *Glaven*, whose entire course is in the area, commencing at Bodham and flowing by Glandford into Blakeney Harbour; (4) the *Stiffkey Stream* or "*Stew*," which rises at Fulmodeston and, flowing through Walsingham, enters Blakeney Harbour to the east of Stiffkey Meale, having also a course entirely in the area; and (5) the stream which rises at Creake, and then leaves the area for Burnham Harbour. In wet weather, owing to the saturation of the Chalk, this stream (5) rises at a higher level and forms pools and sheets of water south of Compton House.

The form of the ground is gently diversified, and the highest elevations probably do not exceed 300 feet.*

The coast from Holkham to Salthouse is flat, being made up of salt marshes, protected from the sea by hillocks of blown sand. East of Weybourn the land terminates abruptly in cliffs, which continue thence to Eccles.

* The highest point in Norfolk levelled to by the Ordnance Survey, is 6,723 links N.E. of Ayimerton Church, and 321 4 feet above Ordnance datum. This is in the adjoining area of Map 68 E. See T. M. Reade, *Geol. Mag.*, dec. II, vol. 1, p. 140