



## **Geological landforms: Dorset and The Isle of Skye**

*The Island of Skye: The North side*

### **Iain Gilmour:**

Another flat area of rock in Skye produces the layer cake-like formations of the plateau lavas in the north of the island. Two mountains -known as Macleod's Tables -show layer upon layer of ancient lava flows. In places the processes of erosion are spectacularly displayed. On the Trotternish Peninsula of north Skye the plateau lavas overlie Jurassic sediments and huge landslips have occurred -such as those of the Quirang and Storr. Several of Skye's main rock types are exposed in the Strathaird Peninsula which stretches southwards from the Cuillins and Red Hills. It's geology -like that of Skye -is dominated by volcanic activity that occurred in the Early Tertiary producing the gabbros of the Cuillins and the granites of the Red Hills. The peninsula it'self has high ground in the west on the hills of Ben Meabost and Ben Cleat and lower ground in the east. Both the Jurassic sedimentary rocks and the tertiary plateau lavas dip gently to the north-west resulting in prominent scarp slopes between the lavas and the underlying sedimentary rocks.