

laid by the Permian rocks on the west. It contains six beds of workable coal, besides ironstone, and on the south, where the strata pass under the Lower Keuper Sandstones, several of these, as in South Staffordshire, coalesce to form two beds of coal. The lower part of the Coal-measures is traversed by several lines of intrusive dioritic greenstones running in the line of strike.

The Ashby-de-la-Zouch coal-field is overlaid by the New Red Sandstone, and partly underlaid by the Carboniferous Limestone, and partly, probably, by a continuation of the Cambrian rocks of Charnwood Forest. It is divided into two districts or minor basins—the eastern, containing 15 beds of coal, 11 of which are workable; and the western 11 beds. Nine are of superior quality. The Coalbrookdale, South Staffordshire, and Warwickshire coal-fields present so many points of resemblance, that undoubtedly they were all originally formed as one coal-field, and even now in great part may be continuous in the districts that lie between, concealed by Permian and New Red strata.

North of this coal-field the Carboniferous rocks are somewhat modified in details. Between Derbyshire and Berwick they stretch north and south without a break for 200 miles, by about 60 miles in width. At the southern end, near Derby, the New Red Sandstone overlies them. West of Cheadle, along the edge of the North Staffordshire coal-field, they are generally faulted against the Permian rocks, north of which lie the coal-fields of Cheshire and Lancashire. The Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone grit rise between these coal-fields, forming the hills of Derbyshire; and the Coal-measures are thrown off on either side of the anticlinal axis, forming, in the east, the Derbyshire and Yorkshire coal-field, and on the west those of North Staffordshire,