

lias, and becomes, in the western part of Blackdown, immediately incumbent on the newer red sandstone.

Still farther westwards, and beyond Exeter, we have another outlying mass of this formation capping the long range of Haldon hill, which is divided only by an intermediate valley from the granite of Dartmoor; a singular instance (in this island) of the near juxtaposition of primitive and very modern rocks.

In the south and centre of Dorsetshire, the green sand follows the curve which the chalk has been described as making through that district, and constitutes outlying conical summits which form well characterised land-marks near Abbotsbury.

Through the Isles of Purbeck and Wight it accompanies the elevated strata of the chalk, assuming itself a conformable inclination. We shall have occasion to return to this part of its course in a more particular manner, at the close of this chapter; as also to its range through the Weald of Kent and Sussex, where it forms as it were a ring of hills ranging parallel to those of the chalk, and forming an inner band circling round the centre of the denudation,

Besides its general range as above shortly sketched, Professor Buckland has noticed a singular and insulated occurrence of this rock near the south-west angle of the London basin; where the chalk, which borders that basin on the south, crops out and exhibits rather unexpectedly (from the low character of the ground between this and the general area of the London basin) this substratum at Kingsclere, and again near the northern foot of Inkpen beacon. It is seen, however, only through a very small space, sinking on all sides beneath the chalk.

(e) *Height of hills, &c.* In the Northern and Midland counties this formation occupies tracts comparatively low. In Wilts, the hills near Warminster, and those of Stourhead, masked by the conspicuous building called Alfred's Tower, rise to about 800 feet. In Devon, Blackdown rises 817, and Haldon 818 feet. In the Weald the greatest height of this formation is at Leith hill in Surrey, 993 feet.

(f) *Thickness, &c.* No natural section of this bed, affording a satisfactory opportunity of ascertaining its thickness, is known. It certainly however differs in different places. Through Yorkshire, Lincolshire, Norfolk, and from Cambridge through Bedfordshire, along which counties it appears on the west of the chalk escarpment, this bed is but thin.

In the vale of Pewsey in Wiltshire and near Warminster, it occupies a greater breadth on the surface; whence it may be assumed as being thicker than it is higher north. At Pottern Parsonage near Devizes the well is 126 feet deep chiefly in the grey sand (T. 115), and one at Hagworthingham in Lincol-