

These inferior argillo-calcareous strata are covered by that great series of beds of ferruginous sand which constitute the mass of this central group of hills. In the general description of the formation before given, an account of the beds of iron ore worked in this part of the Weald will be found.

The great zone formed by the Weald clay, constituting a flat tract about five miles in average breadth, circles round this central group, ranging on the north from the Isle of Oxney by Tunbridge towards Haslemere, and thence returning south-east to Pevensey. It is generally characterised by its calcareous concretions containing the *Vivipara*, and forming what is called the Petworth marble. On this subject we have nothing to add to the statements given in the general account of these formations. It is of great importance, in order to correct all misapprehensions which have arisen concerning the structure of this district, to trace correctly the line of the next formation—that of the green sand; and this fortunately may be done without the possibility of error, by following its course continuously from its section on the coast between Folkestone and Lympne; for its upper limit being marked by the course of the argillaceous chalk marle of Folkestone through the vale of Holmesdale, and its lower limit by the great clay valley of the Weald, it is effectually cut off from the formations on either side, with which it may form occasional similarity of character, and has indeed been confounded by very able observers, who have examined it only partially and without a due attention to this circumstance.

From the sectional cliffs before described between Folkestone and Lympne, this formation may be uninterruptedly traced to the borders of Surrey, constituting a well marked ridge of hills from 600 to 800 feet in height, and about two miles broad, ranging immediately on the south of Maidstone, Sevenoaks, and Westerham, although occasionally broken through by transverse vallies, particularly that of the Medway. Although, however, the mass of this formation may be thus uninterruptedly traced, it undergoes some change in the composition and external characters of its constituent beds as it advances westwards. East of the Medway these present, as on the coast, sandstones of a loose texture, full of large green particles, alternating towards the lower part of the series with beds of limestone; but in proceeding towards Sevenoaks and Westerham, the green particles decrease in quantity; the prevailing aspect of the sandstone becomes more ferruginous, and its grain finer; cherty beds also appear more commonly dispersed through the mass.