

thin off in this direction, the Portland beds are no longer to be seen, and the clay itself soon terminates, the iron sand overlying its outgoing and coming into contact with the subjacent coral rag belonging to the next division.

Immediately on the south of Abingdon the Kimmeridge clay pursues its course westwards through the vale of Berkshire, following the line of the Berks and Wilts canal as far as Wotton Bassett, where it turns more to the south, and ranges on the east of Calne and of Seend,* reposing all the way on the inner edge of the coral rag. Near Seend, the chalk and subjacent green sand overlies and conceal it, advancing in a sort of projecting cape even into the district of the great oolite. In the interval above mentioned (from Abingdon to Seend) the Portland beds, reposing on the Kimmeridge clay, are only seen at one point; namely, at Swindon, where they are extensively quarried: elsewhere they are either concealed by the alluvial debris scattered over this valley, or have their basinal edge overlaid and hidden by the superior strata.

On the south of the projecting cape of chalk and green sand before mentioned, which extends from Seend to Stourhead, a wide valley, opening in the ranges of these formations between Stourhead and Shaftesbury, again exposes the subjacent strata. This denudation, which extends on the east nearly to Wilton (being traversed by the river Nadder and occupying the vale of that name, also known by that of the Vale of Wardour) is skirted by an escarpment of green sand, ranging from Mere by Chilmark towards Wilton on the north, and along the right bank of the Nadder on the south. The iron sand being here wanting, the green sand reposes towards the south of Chilmark, on a zone of argilleo-calcareous beds belonging to the Purbeck series (which we here notice for the first time) ranging thence to Ladydown. The thin slabs of this formation are here raised for tile stones. Within this zone, the subjacent strata of the Portland series occupy the interior of the denudation, being extensively quarried at Fonthill, Tisbury, and Chicks Grove. On the west of Fonthill (along what may be termed the mouth of this denudation) a clay appears beneath these beds (probably that of Kimmeridge, although coloured in the Geological Map as the Oxford clay.)

Much disturbance seems to have been experienced by the strata within this denudation; since, although nearly horizontal at Chicks Grove, yet at Chilmark, Fonthill, and Tisbury, they are inclined nearly 40 degrees, dipping towards the north and east.

* Mr. Greenough's Map represents its course accurately as far as Calne, but errs in terminating it abruptly at that point.