

pores has never been treated in this country with the accuracy it requires; the superficial and external characters of this species have alone attracted attention, their internal structure and mode of increase have been scarcely noticed: and we have consequently little or no real and precise knowledge concerning them.

Fossil wood is often found in the calcareous grit of this formation.

(d) *Range and extent.* Considering it as yet doubtful whether the tract on the edge of the eastern moorlands of Yorkshire, coloured in the Geological Map of Mr. Greenough as belonging to this formation, does not rather belong to the great oolite, we shall add the few notes we possess concerning it as an appendix to the whole suite of oolites, without venturing decidedly to assign its geological place among them.

Passing then over this tract, we certainly do not find any traces of the coral rag formation in proceeding to the south-west, until we come to the middle of the island.

Its earliest appearance in this direction is on the east of Oxford, where it forms the elevated platform rising on the south-west of Otmoor, and occupying the interval between the confluence of the Charwell and Thame with the Isis. This platform supports the still higher ridge which (exhibiting the Portland beds and iron sand) constitutes the summit of Shotover hill. The whole of its surface, which extends about five miles from east to west, and seven from north to south, is covered with quarries of which the principal are those of Headington two miles east of Oxford, at the foot of the high ridge of Shotover, in which the junction of the beds of this formation and the Kimmeridge clay, which lies above them, is well displayed.\*

As the strata here dip nearly to the south, the platform occupied by them subsides in the same direction, Beckley on the north being its most lofty point, whence it sinks towards Sandford, being there very little above the level of the Isis. Near this last point, the sandy beds occupy its escarpment, the whole way, the basset of the coral rag crosses the river Isis, and the plane for the formation, rising northwards, occupies the middle of the range of hills on the west of that river,

\* The upper surface of the freestone beds was in the year 1812 laid open in one of the quarries to a considerable extent, by stripping off the superjacent clay; it had the appearance of having been marked by the action of water upon it before the deposition of the clay, and presented occasionally small round cup-shaped cavities which seemed to have been worn into it: the stony strata were traversed also by many perpendicular rents of various breadth, into which the clay had insinuated itself.