

crowned with Bagley wood. This ridge corresponds with the opposite platform, and must have been originally continuous with it, the intervening valley of the Isis near Oxford appearing to be a breach in the chain of hills opened by subsequent denudation.

The Bagley wood hills are, like Shotover, crowned with iron sand, which constitutes the summits of Foxcombe hill and Cumnor clump; but the Portland beds do not extend so far north, although the Kimmeridge clay may be traced along the base of the iron sand of Foxcombe hill, interposed between it and the coral rag. This however also thins out before it gains Cumnor hill, in which the iron sand rests immediately on the coral rag. The same thing also happens on the opposite side near Shotover hill, where the clay likewise thins out beneath Forest hill, an insulated summit of iron sand just on the north of Shotover.

North of Cumnor hill is Whiteham hill, an insulated mass of the coral rag and its subjacent sand, hanging over Ensham, and constituting what is called an outlier. This is the highest point of the coral rag.\*

From Cumnor hill the platform of the coral rag, extending westwards, forms a range of hills about 200 feet high (skirting the north of Berkshire) between the rivers Isis and Ock. The escarpment of these hills, which exhibits the inferior sandy beds, is towards the former; the gradual slope on the back of the strata, towards the latter. The superficial breadth of the coral rag is here about four miles.

At Farringdon are two summits of iron sand, resting on the coral rag, one on the east of the town marked by a conspicuous clump of firs, the other on the south-west.

• The most interesting circumstance with regard to these hills remains to be mentioned. A large accumulation of alluvial pebbles and blocks, often of considerable size, and derived apparently from some transition district on the one hand and from chalk on the other (comprising quartz, sandstone like that of the Lickey, hard black flinty slate, porphyry, and in addition to these chalk flints), covers a great part of Bagley wood, and pebbles of the same kinds are scattered, though more sparingly, over the summit of Whiteham hill. Now since Bagley wood is considerably elevated above the neighbouring district, and Whiteham hill is completely insulated, steep, and at least 300 feet above the vallies which surround it, we have here a most decisive proof of the excavation of the vallies at a period long subsequent to the formation of those hills; since when these blocks and pebbles were transported hither, there must have been uniformly inclined planes from their native sites to their present locality. That they should have rolled up the present escarpments is a physical impossibility. The phenomenon is of exactly the same kind with that of the granitic blocks of the Alps, transported to the sides of the Jura chain; but the inferences are here more direct, in as much as it is impossible to call in the imaginary aid of ice-bergs to float the transported materials in this instance.