

Hence, the same platform and ridge continue to extend to the west-south-west, traversing Wiltshire on the north of Highworth and Wooton Bassett, as far as the hills of Bow-wood and Bromham near Chippenham. They here acquire a southern direction. Near Seend there is a breach in the chain, through which the Berks and Wilts canal passes; but further south it again rises and becomes conspicuous at Steeple Ashton. Here, however, the extension of the green sand and chalk westwards, which has before been noticed as overlying the Kimmeridge clay, covers up the basset of this formation likewise.

To the south of this projecting cape of green sand, near the place where Alfred's tower marks its highest point, a range of low oolitic hills may be traced running east of Wincanton, in a southern direction, to Stourminster, and continuing the line of the coral rag hills. These are indeed coloured in Mr. Greenough's Map as a part of the great oolite, but we believe they are in reality separated from that formation by a valley of clay following the line of the intended Dorset and Somerset canal. Mr. Smith has assigned this range, both in his map and sections, to the coral rag; and we are inclined in this respect to follow his authority, confirmed as it appears to be by the general line of bearing of the formation in question.

On the south of Stourminster, the western projection of the green sand and chalk through Dorsetshire again conceals the basset of this, and indeed of all the oolitic formations; but on the south of this projection, where the inferior strata reappear skirting the coast, the coral rag again comes in exactly where, pursuing the same line of bearing, we might expect it—at Abbotsbury.

In order to understand its course from this point, it will be necessary to repeat the observation which has been before made when treating of the Portland beds; namely, that the country between the chalk hills and Weymouth forms, geologically speaking, a saddle, the axis of which (consisting of a nucleus of our third division of oolites) ranges east and west, having successive collateral zones of the second and first division of oolites on either side. Hence the coral rag of Abbotsbury (forming one of the northern collateral zones), ranges thence in a western direction, near Broadway to the coast, between Weymouth and Ringstead bays\*, forming a well marked ridge

\* All this part of Mr. Greenough's Map requires correction, having been founded on a supposed identification of the ferruginous sandy beds above the coral rag in this part of its course, with those of the inferior oolite, which has since proved to be erroneous; the line there assigned to the inferior oolite is really that of the coral rag.