

angles to its course being not less than 15 miles; and this may be stated as its maximum of its superficial extent in this island.

It is here bounded by the low range of oolitic hills on which Lincoln stands on the west, and by the chalk hills on the east; the sands beneath the chalk appearing (from the absence of the two first divisions of oolites) to rest immediately on its upper edge; but the fenny state of this tract renders it difficult to speak with decision concerning its structure.

Proceeding to the south-west, a line drawn from Peterborough\* to Bedford, Buckingham, and Bicester, will nearly mark its inferior junction with the subjacent oolites—and another from Huntingdon to Oxford its superior junction. Near Huntingdon, its upper edge appears to be in immediate contact with the iron sand; but on entering Buckinghamshire,† the Aylesbury limestone becomes interposed, and on the borders of Oxfordshire the coral rag, the whole assemblage and suite of strata being here full and complete. The breadth of the tract occupied by this formation is greatly reduced in proceeding from the north; being at Huntingdon more than twelve miles, and between Bedford and Oxford not more on an average than five or six, and often still less. West of Oxford it ranges along the valley of the Isis westwards as far as Cricklade; thence bending on the east of Malmesbury, it traverses Wilts in a south direction, following the course of the Avon past Chippenham to Melksham, having a breadth of from five to eight miles, and being always bounded by the escarpment of the coral rag on the south and east; and by the rise of the hills formed by the subjacent oolites on the north and west.

From Melksham, its course continues south through Somersetshire and Dorsetshire passing by Wincanton and Sturminster, on the south of which it is overlaid by the great western extension of the chalk and green sand. In this part of its course it is not more than three miles across, and has always the subjacent oolites on the west, and the coral rag escarpment on the east, except near Wincanton, where the green sand (overlying the basset of the coral rag) advances upon this formation.

This formation reappears in the south of Dorsetshire, in the

\* In Mr. Greenough's Map the Oxford clay is carried a little too far to the west between Peterborough and Higham Ferrers, the escarpment which hangs over the right bank of the fen being really formed of the subjacent forest marble.

† Mr. Smith has divided this clay district between the Oak-tree clay (Kimmeridge) clay, and the Clunch (Oxford) clay, allowing the traces of the former to be obscure; the author of these remarks has however, by tracing the characteristic fossils of the latter only, to the very foot of the Aylesbury limestone hills, convinced himself, that the former is entirely wanting.