

lation however is improper, because it is not a grit; being here rubbly, it is not fit for any purpose, excepting for lime and the repair of the highways; but at Malmesbury (T. p. 267,) where it is thick and solid, it is much quarried for building. Its fragments, rounded at the edges, may be noticed as they are turned up by the plough, either round Atford, and at Wraxall, or at Chippenham, and the interjacent country. It may readily be discovered by the superincumbent red soil which constantly attends it. (T. 103.)

The joints of the rock are usually separated by clay, which makes it tenacious, and occasions the excavations formed in it to hold water.

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No. 3. The *clay* beneath is generally white near its junction with the cornbrash, and afterwards blue.

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No. 4, No. 5, and No. 6, are so intimately associated, that they require to be described together. This assemblage consists of beds of limestone generally fissile and divided by argillaceous partings, lying between two strata of calcareo-siliceous sand and gritstone; the lower of these is indeed generally insignificant, but often swells into greater thickness and importance: these sandy strata appear to contain about one-third of calcareous matter: the grit-stone contained in them is hard enough however to scratch glass, and forms irregular slate-like concretions. The limestone lying between these sands is that known by the name of *Forest marble*; its beds, generally speaking, are thin and slaty; sometimes however beds of two or three feet thick may be found. The colour of the stone is generally grey or bluish, externally brownish, appearing on examination to be frequently composed of a congeries of dark coloured shells, interspersed with white oolitic particles: bivalve shells are most common in the thick beds—univalve in the thin. Decomposed pyritical wood often gives a partial redness, and some of the joints have a reddish tinge: the texture of the stone is coarse-grained; the structure of its masses fissile, whence coarse roofing slates and flag stones are in general use in the villages on the course of this rock; the more solid beds have also been occasionally worked as a coarse marble, being susceptible of a tolerable polish, and variegated by the contour of its imbedded shells; from this circumstance, and the occurrence of these strata in Whichwood forest, Oxfordshire, it has derived its name.

The partings of clay between the beds of this rock vary in thickness from less than an inch to more than a foot. There can be little doubt that the *Calcareous slate of Stonesfield* near