

IV. *Course through Gloucestershire, from the Evenlode to the Avon.* Having thus pursued these beds to the confines of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire, we find them, in the latter county, attaining their greatest thickness and most decided character, and the range of hills constituted by them assuming greater height and bolder features, and forming a more continuous chain: this is well known under the name of the Cotteswolds.

Following the *upper edge of the series* along the first rise of this chain, we find the junction of the Oxford clay and the highest beds, or Cornbrash, passing a little north of Lechlade and Cricklade, with a westerly course, and then turning southwards by Malmsbury, Chippenham, and west of Melksham: a little on the north and west of this line, the hills of Whichwood forest exhibit on their summits beds agreeing in aspect with the forest marble, which cross the Windrush a little north of Witney, and thence range immediately to the south of Tetbury. In this part of Gloucestershire, the clay separating the forest marble from the great oolite is stated (see Agricultural Survey) to be 80 feet thick. At Tetbury, the upper beds turn to the south, cross the London road from Bath on the west of Atford, and ranging on the inner slope of the hills which skirt the right bank of the Avon, reach that river immediately on the east of Bradford; where the clay covering the great oolite is well displayed, and its fossils most abundantly found.

The *inferior edge* of the great oolite, having crossed the Evenlode a little east of Shipton under Whichwood, follows the escarpment of the Whichwood hills on the right bank of the above river, following the branch of those hills which extends north towards Stow on the Wold, but is separated from the high ground crowned by that village, by a breach communicating with the valley of the Windrush; this valley, forming a deep denudation and cutting into the inferior beds, as far south as Burford, makes this branch of the Whichwood hills a long peninsulated ridge crowned by the great oolite, which as its junction with the inferior and sandy beds immediately above Rissington on the west, and Idbury on the east.

At Stow on the Wold, the continuous range of the Cotteswold commences, although the Whichwood groupe, already

of Overbrails hill, a very conspicuous outlier of the sandy beds, rising from the lias in the vale of Shipston upon Stour (marked with the letter *v* in Mr. Greenough's Map, but inadvertently coloured as lias) is a small patch of the oolite confined to a single field; but this is not a subsided mass, like those above described, but merely an instance of a part of the stratum catching the summit of an insulated hill in its regular plane.