

described, must certainly be considered as an appendage to it. The inferior junction of the great oolite is on the brow of the hill about a mile east of Stow, but is indistinct; it thence follows the escarpment of the chain, which here forms a bold cape extending far to the north, into the confines of Worcestershire; the vale of Shipston on Stour lying at their foot as a broad bay included between this range on the west, and the lower range of Edge hill (whence as we before observed the oolite cap has been denuded) on the east. The Ilmingdon hills (almost separated from the main chain by the valley of Campden) form the northern point of this Cape, at the very extremity of which lies the insulated and lofty summit of Meon hill (marked *l* in Mr. Greenough's Map). This, standing in advance of the whole Cotteswold chain, and looking down on the great central plain of England, commands one of the most extensive prospects in the island. The sienitic summits of Charnwood forest may be faintly distinguished in the north-eastern horizon, and Caer Caradoc and Clee hills on the north-west; the long ridge of Abberley, marked by its three conical summits, and the nearer range of Malvern, illustrating by its abrupt forms and serrated outline the idea of a Spanish sierra, constitute the western boundary; while on the south-west the eye follows the escarpment of the Cotteswolds, and insulated and outlying groupes connected with it, among which Breedon stands pre-eminent, catching in the distance between them the high grounds of the forest of Dean: on the south-east, and east, the escarpment of the great chain of the oolite and subjacent sandy strata is seen circling round the vale of Shipston to Edge hill and Arbury hill.

The Ilmingdon hills and Meon hill have a cap of the great oolite; but the beds here displayed, being near their inferior limit, are coarse and sandy.

Hence the general outline of the Cotteswolds turns south* towards Winchcombe, the high platform between this place and Cheltenham being cut off by surrounding vallies from the main chain; their inferior junction of the great oolite always keeps near the brow of these hills. On the north of Winchcombe hill, the outlyers of Tredington † and Alderton, however, though lofty, appear only to exhibit the inferior oolite,

* Mr. Smith makes a long branch of the oolitic hills run off near this point from Aston Sub Edge in a north-westerly direction. He has been led into this error by an incorrect depth of shading in the great County Survey (which is old and very inaccurate), by which a low range of lias at the foot of the escarpment is represented as rivalling the main chain in height.

† Marked *i* in Mr. Greenough's Map, but erroneously covered with the colour denoting lias.