

The course of the oolitic hills in the vicinity of Bath has already been sufficiently noticed in the preceding section, and it is now only necessary to add that, beneath the cap of the great oolite which crowns them, the series of strata now described occupy their middle and lower regions, occurring in the order indicated in the list inserted in the note on their chemical and external characters (p. 202), which may serve as a type of structure of all the escarpments surrounding Bath.* The inferior oolite generally forms lower terraces advanced in front of the higher table-land capped by the great oolite; and to the west of the general line of the escarpment, often constitutes detached summits or outliers (as may be particularly observed south of the line between Bath and Bristol): such are the ridge on which Newton park stands, the conspicuous hummock of Stantonbury hill (crowned with an extensive and perfect ancient British camp, connected with and strengthening the Belgic boundary line of Wansdike), the three conical summits of the Barrow hills and the adjacent ridge called the sleight in Timsbury parish; but Dundry hill (three miles south of Bristol) is the largest and most conspicuous of these detached outlying hills. This presents a long narrow ridge nearly four miles from east to west, and sending off a short branch from its western extremity towards the south-east; this ridge rises about 300 feet above the lias platform which supports it, and 700 feet above the level of the sea; it has a thick cap of the inferior oolite throughout, which has been very extensively quarried as a freestone near the western end; the eastern end exhibits a large camp corresponding with that on Stantonbury, and forming a part of the same defensive line.

The principal escarpment of the inferior oolite (ranging on the east of these outlying summits) proceeds from Bath to the south-south-east above English combe, Priston, and Paulton, being intersected however by several deep vallies of denudation which cut through the subjacent beds into the new red sandstone on which it rests. Clandown above Paulton is remarkable for the deep pits sunk through most of the intermediate beds into the regular coal measures; one of these exceeds 200 fathoms in depth, but this begins in the lias; another, just on the edge of the hill towards Paulton, commences in the inferior oolite: of this pit (peculiarly interesting as verifying the order of all the intermediate beds and exhibiting an instance unique, as far as this island is concerned, of any successful experiment

* Some interesting facts connected with the subsidences and slopes of the strata in this neighbourhood will be found under the head *inclination and stratification*.