

Bruc and Axe, from which they occasionally rise in low ridges, such as the Polden hills, and in one instance swell into a more lofty summit at Brent Knoll, an insulated hill rising from the marshes on the southern coast of the British channel—for although this hill has a thin cap of inferior oolite, yet its great mass is lias; thence they continue to skirt the coast to a few miles west of Watchett, near which place they exhibit cliffs occasionally rising to the height of one hundred feet, and extending to the greywacké chain of Quantock. The second coal basin to be mentioned as affecting the lias, is that of the forest of Dean, likewise encircled by an elevated border of mountain limestone and old red sandstone, prolonged chains of which proceeding from its western boundary, cross the Wye, producing the beautiful defile of that river, and forming the range of Pen cae Mawr, in Monmouthshire, between that river and the Uske. The interior of this coal basin is throughout too elevated to admit any up-filling of lias; but that rock is to be found abutting in horizontal strata against the southern edge of its exterior ridges in Gloucestershire, near the mouth of the Wye, and in Monmouthshire on the south-east of Newport; also at Godcliffe on the Bristol channel.

The third coal-field connected with the position of the lias, is the south-east portion of the great coal basin of South Wales, in Glamorganshire; where it is skirted on the south by two chains, or rather a double chain of mountain limestone, separated by the vale of the river Ely, in which the subjacent old red sandstone appears. This valley exhibits several lower ranges formed by up-fillings of lias, &c. commencing about five miles west of Landaff; whence with some interruptions they accompany the Ely, first on its left, and then on its right bank, to its junction with the channel near Pennarth Point; continuing thence to Lavernock point, where the lias is interrupted, but the inferior strata of red marle, &c. continue; and bending round the extremity of the southern chain of mountain lime, advance westwards along the coast. The lias again rises at Barry island, and continues to skirt the coast in a western direction for the distance of fifteen miles nearly to the mouth of the Ogmoré river, forming a range of bold cliffs, among which is the little harbour of Aberthaw, celebrated for the lime it exports. These cliffs stand directly opposite those of Watchett, on the Somerset coast.

In the valley of the Ogmoré, near Bridge end, is another up-filling of lias, which advances a little within the edge of the coal-field.

Leaving these intricate districts, and resuming the progress of the lias to the south, it advances regularly beneath the