

times the contact is marked by a breccia of fragments of the older, cemented by the newer rock, but this is by no means constant. On the north of Doultong hill, between West Cranmore and Shepton Mallet, the inferior oolite abuts against the old red sandstone which forms the nucleus of the Mendips, and here begins to display itself in considerable eminences at Downhead common. Doultong hill is celebrated for its quarries of the inferior oolite, which here affords a valuable free-stone. Between Doultong and Shepton Mallet, the inferior oolite and lias abut against the inclined strata of Mendip, under such circumstances and with such considerable variations from their usual aspect, that it is not easy to pronounce to which formation many of these anomalous beds belong: similar beds continue to hang on the southern slope of the Mendips, on the north of the line between Shepton Mallet and Wells.

It is only however where immediately in contact with the Mendip range, that this obscurity prevails; for, from Doultong, the general line of the inferior oolite is continued south by Cannard's grave towards Bruton, forming a conspicuous escarpment rising above the lias plains which extend westwards: over these some outlying hills of the same formation are scattered; viz. the long ridge of Pennard hills, and the more striking and far seen cone of Glastonbury Tor. Brent knoll, a lofty lias hill rising out of the marshes on the border of the Bristol channel to the height of between 400 and 500 feet, also exhibits on its summit a cap of inferior oolite nearly coextensive with the ancient encampment which crowns it.

But to return to the main escarpment; this ranges from Bruton south-west to Castle Cary, and thence south by the two Cadburys, near the most southerly of which a detached summit of this formation gives position to one of the boldest and strongest ancient encampments extant in the island, girding its sides with triple fosses and stupendous mounds. Near this point the range circles westwards round the vale of Marston Magna, pursuing a line between Ivelchester and Yeovil to Ilminster.

Between Ilminster and the coast, the junction of the inferior oolite and sands with the lias ranges due south, but is very generally concealed by overlying hills of the green sand formation supporting occasionally chalky summits, and connected with the great western extension of these beds towards the Blackdown hills.

On the coast, the series of beds of which we are now treating is finely displayed in the sections presented by the cliffs between Charmouth and the head of the Chesil bank.

Proceeding from west to east, we first find the inferior oolite