

bay above the sea. Across the counties of Peebles and Lanark, the edge of these uplands, though still well defined geologically, is sometimes not so marked in the landscape, owing to the rise of the ground in its front. But in Ayrshire it regains well-nigh all the boldness which marks its course through the eastern counties, and from the head of Nithsdale to the sea at Girvan, it is traceable in the long front of abrupt rocky hills which overlook the coalfields of Cumnock and Dalmellington, and rise so picturesquely out of the woods and cornfields of the vale of the Girvan Water. The south-eastern border of the district is less exactly defined, except to the west of the Nith, where they plunge into the sea, and in Berwickshire where they rise out of the Merse. Between these two districts there is an occasional gradation from the characteristic features of the great upland country into that mingling of wild moorland and cultivated valley which gives so peculiar a charm to the landscapes of the Borders. From the Solway to the Cheviot Hills they are fringed with a line of bold escarpments, which look away over the moors of Eskdale and the Ewes Water.

The Southern Uplands are remarkable for the uniformity of their geological structure, and this is accompanied as a consequence by a somewhat monotonous type of scenery. The whole region consists almost entirely of hard greywacke and shale, with occasional bands of limestone belonging to the older division of the Silurian system. There has been no general or regional metamorphism of these rocks, except of that feeble kind which is usually attendant upon great plication. But they have undergone enormous lateral compression. They have been crumpled up like piles of carpets, and thrown into a succession of folds, the axes of which run at right angles to the direction of compression, that is from south-west to north-east.