

LOWER or HARD CHALK,

Frequently called GREY CHALK.

SOIL.—*Colour*, Light brown, frequently grey, with small fragments of stoney Chalk, and in some places almost white.

In several places Chalk is exposed by cutting away the turf, in the form of a horse.*

On the White or Malm Land, at the foot of the hills, of a dirty grey, called *White Land*.

Consistence, Crumbly, with a mixture of whitish grey Flints:—Lower on the sides of steep hills, chiefly small rubble stoney Chalk, thinly interspersed with some browner fragments of soil—all very dry—at the foot of the hills mouldering when dry; smeary when wet.

SUBSOIL.—*Colour*, White, greyish white, or blue grey, small rubbly Chalk—pulverizable Malm, dry.

EXCAVATIONS, } Grey or bluish white, dry.
HOLLOW-WAYS, }

STRATUM, White, bluish white, or light grey; soft stone, which moulders with frost.

WATER, Bright, transparent.

THE bottom part of the Chalk, now under consideration, defines the boundary of that thick Stratum, which, though here divided into upper and under, has no distinct separation. It is the escarpment of this lower part of the Stratum, which forms in the west and midland counties the abrupt edge of the Chalk hills. Its course is the same as that of upper Chalk, before described. The chain of hills which extend in a north-easterly direction, from Dorsetshire to the fens, though they gradually diminish in height north-eastward, may be viewed distinctly from the similar and parallel escarpment of the Oolite rocks, as well from the heights near Sherborne, Bath, and Cheltenham, and the whole range of Cotswold hills; as also from the similar eminences in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire.

The more northern part of this chalky range is likewise conspicuous from the Lincolnshire ridge of Oolite.

In Yorkshire, the escarpment of Chalk seems to form the western limits of the great vale of York. In the vicinity of New Malton, its dry surface, as at Swaffham in Norfolk, and on the Downs of Wiltshire, is equally famed for coursing and the sports of the field.

* The original white horse, which gives name to the hill and rich vale adjoining, 5 miles from Wantage, is thought to have been cut in honour of Alfred the Great, who was born in the neighbourhood: a white horse being the arms of Saxony.

Two others have since been cut in the turf near Calne and Westbury, and one lately near Marlborough.