

*(a) ISLE OF THANET.**

Commencing our examination on the east, these natural displays of the interior of this formation will be found to commence in the Isle of Thanet, which is entirely composed of this rock, the section of which forms continuous lines of low cliffs along the northern and eastern borders, rapidly worn away by the action of the sea, and often in consequence presenting fantastic appearances of detached pillars. The north-eastern cape, called the North Foreland, forms the loftiest point; the cliffs here, however, are only between 100 and 200 feet in height: between this point and Margate, the lowest strata are exhibited, the chalk without flints making its appearance: hence the strata gradually decline, though under an imperceptible angle, towards the south-west, in which direction the upper beds of the chalk sink and disappear beneath the more recent formations, which intervene, and separate this chalky tract from the main chain of the North downs of Kent.

On the south of the Isle of Thanet, a flat tract of this character extends beyond Deal, to Walmer castle, where the cliffs of the South Foreland emerge and gradually gain an imposing height, through a tract of 15 miles to the south-west, ranging by Dover towards Folkstone.

These cliffs afford one of the best opportunities for studying the chalk formation which can any where be found; they have been particularly described in a memoir communicated to the Geological Society; and as the observations there given appear to contain a more minute examination of the several constituent strata than has been made elsewhere, a great part of it is here inserted.

(b) CLIFFS EAST AND WEST OF DOVER.†

A natural section of the chalk is presented by the cliffs extending from Dover about eight miles eastward towards Deal, and five miles westward towards Folkstone.

The highest point of the range is in the immediate neighbourhood of Folkstone, about a mile north of the town, and is, according to the survey published by the Board of Ordnance, 575 feet above the level of the sea. From the signal-house above Folkstone, the depression of the cliff towards Dover is very gentle. The hill on which Dover Castle stands, is, at its highest part near the Turnpike, 390 feet high:—and if we suppose the cliff, where the castle walls terminate, to be

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