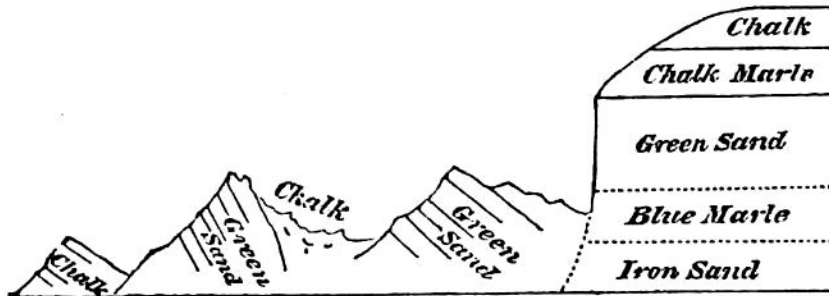


the green sand formation, about half a mile from the coast, exhibits this section in a continued line of precipice; beneath which the whole space intervening, down to the beach, is occupied by a series of terraces formed by masses of strata (chalk and green sand) which have subsided from above, and generally settled in an highly inclined position dipping towards the interior. A wild scene of irregular confusion is thus produced; masses of the sandstone project in striking crags, combined in a thousand pleasing forms with the luxuriant foliage to which the deep dingles between the terraces afford a shelter. By these subsidences, vast masses of chalk have been brought down from their parent stratum, whose lower limit is between 500 and 600 feet above the beach, to the very edge of the sea; and near Ventnor a considerable cliff of chalk is thus seen on the coast, nearly adjoining to one of the iron sand on the same level.



The preceding wood cuts exhibits a sectional profile of this singular tract.

Proceeding towards the western extremity of the island, we again meet with a section of the central ridge of inclined chalk, corresponding to that which has been before noticed at its opposite extremity in Culver cliffs.

This section commences in the cliffs on the east of Freshwater bay, where the junction of the chalk and inferior strata affords appearances which are an exact repetition of those in Sandown bay. At Freshwater Gate, the whole range of this chain is broken through by a valley which separates the western extremity of the island into a distinct peninsula, and presents the remarkable phænomenon of a spring rising almost within a stone's throw of the southern coast, and but little above the level of the sea, and yet flowing towards the opposite coast. This seeming paradox admits an easy explanation, by considering that the deep æstuary of the Yar in fact brings the tidal level almost as near this point, on the one side, as the other; the spring has its source in a diluvial deposit of clay and gravel, which partially occupies the lower part of this