

descends is another marine terrace, known as the Carse of Falkirk, 'carse' being the name applied in Scotland to such level tracts of alluvial land bordering an estuary. The carse at the head of the Forth marks a former sea-level about 50 feet above the present one. It has been cut out of the glacial drift deposits, and has a coating of dark mud and sand containing recent shells.

These two terraces, at the 100 feet and 50 feet levels, can be detected at many parts of the coast-line of the country. They were of course formed, for the most part, only in sheltered places, where sediment could accumulate, and they were, therefore, probably never continuous for long distances. They may be traced down the Clyde from above Glasgow. Even as far north as Tain, what is called the '100 feet terrace' (though there rather less in altitude) forms the marked platform on which that town has been built. The fifty feet raised beach is likewise a prominent object along many recesses of the west coast. Like the higher terrace, it, too, probably dates from the later part of the Glacial period, for Arctic shells have been found in it. It winds as a green platform round the heads of bays and the sides of sheltered inlets, along the dark rocky shores of Argyllshire and Inverness-shire.

But the most prominent of all the raised beaches is that which lies at a height of about twenty or twenty-five feet above high water. It runs down the more sheltered indentations of the coast-line as a flat selvage of sandy, gravelly, or clayey ground, varying in breadth from six or seven miles to not more than a few feet. It is composed of horizontal layers of sand, gravel, or clay, often full of littoral shells. As this is the freshest and most accessible of the Scottish raised beaches, a description of its features such as they appear along the margin of the Firth of Clyde and its