

“From the intermixture of species undistinguishable from those now existing, with others decidedly extinct, this deposit may be considered as an important link in the history of the earth’s structure; indicating an intimate connection between the ancient state of nature, and that which now prevails.

“The deposit differs essentially in its organic remains, from any other freshwater formation, either in France or in the adjacent regions of Germany: from its superposition over tertiary sandstone (molasse,) this formation must be regarded as one of the most recent. Yet recent as must have been the (geological) epoch of this formation, the basin in which it was deposited has subsequently been re-excavated to a considerable depth: the proof of which is, that horizontal beds still present escarpments several hundred feet above the Rhine, without any barrier between them and that river.”

As no bones of elephants or mastodons have been discovered in the strata of Æningen, and as the plants and animals, for the most part, resemble existing species, it is reasonable to believe that the mean temperature of this part of the globe had considerably decreased, and that the country round Æningen could no longer, support the plants and animals of tropical climates.

The strata of Æningen may be regarded as posterior to many of the beds or accumulations of clay, sand, and gravel, in England and other countries, that contain the remains of elephants, hippopotami, and other inhabitants of warm regions. These beds (called diluvial and alluvial,) together with vast tracts of movable sand, cover no small portion of our present continents: they may be regarded as the loose vestments of the globe. Their description will be deferred till we complete the account of the fixed and solid parts, presented to observation by volcanoes, and the repositories of metallic ores.

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The county of Norfolk appears to be the *Ultima Thule* of English geologists, who know less of the crag of that county and of Suffolk than would probably have been the case, had its locality been beyond the Carpathian mountains. I have never had an opportunity of examining this singular formation, and scarcely any thing was known respecting it before Mr. Taylor’s account was published in 1827. We may, however, soon expect a more full and satisfactory description of the crag, in Mr. Samuel Woodward’s forthcoming volume on the Geology of Norfolk. While the present sheet was passing through the press, I received from that gentleman the following account of the extent of the crag:—Its western boundary may be traced from near Weyborn, on the northern coast, to Norwich, and from thence to Bungay; and from this place a line drawn along the map of Suffolk to Halesworth, Wickham-market, Woodbridge, and Ipswich, gives its western outline in that county. The eastern boundary of the crag trends off to the sea.