

in 1752 he betook himself to Norfolk, lived with a Norfolk farmer, and entered with all the zest of a young man of six-and-twenty into the rural sports and little adventures which, in the intervals of labour, formed the amusement of his host and his neighbours.

It appears to have been during this sojourn in East Anglia that Hutton's mind first definitely turned to mineralogy and geology. He made many journeys on foot into different parts of England. In Norfolk itself there was much to arouse his attention. Every here and there, the underlying White Chalk came to the surface, with its rows of fantastically-shaped black flints. To the east, lay the Crag with its heaps of sea-shells, stretching over many miles of the interior. To the north, the sea had cut a range of cliffs in the Boulder-clay which, with its masses of chalk and its foreign stones, presented endless puzzles to an inquirer. To the west, the shores of the Wash showed the well-marked strata of Red Chalk and Car-stone, emerging from underneath the White Chalk of the interior.

Hutton tells, in one of his letters written from Norfolk, that he had grown fond of studying the surface of the earth, and was looking with anxious curiosity into every pit or ditch or bed of a river that fell in his way.

After spending about two years in Norfolk, he took a tour into Flanders, with the view of comparing the husbandry there with that which he had been studying in England. But his eyes were now turned to what lay beneath the crops and their soils, and he took note of the rocks and minerals of the