

# West Runton Geology Walks

## The Pleistocene

In the Pleistocene period the earth's climate cooled and began to oscillate. In cold periods ice sheets expanded and reached Norfolk about 450,000 years ago, leaving behind glacial drift. In warm periods forests and wildlife returned. Sea levels fluctuated as the ice sheet waxed and waned.

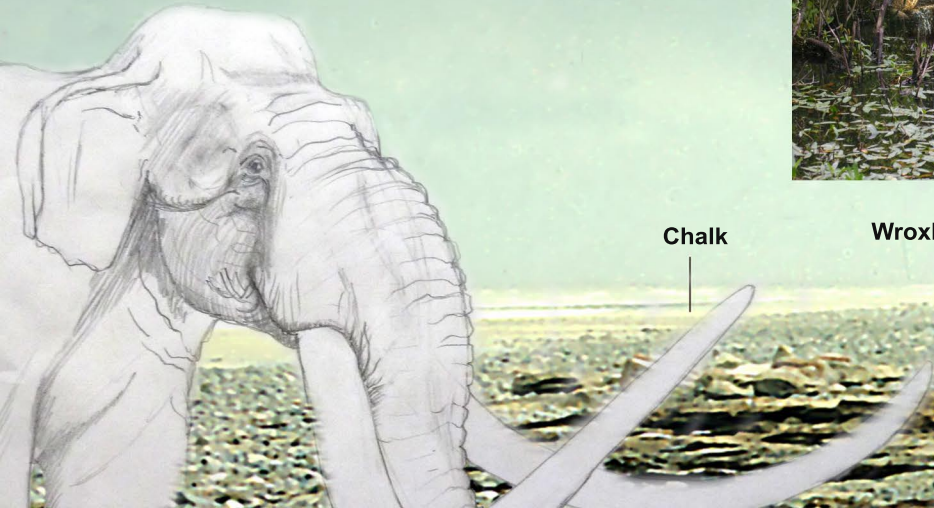
### Wroxham Crag

A flint stone bed almost 2 million years old sits on the Chalk. Above it are younger fossiliferous marine gravels, sands, clays and mudflake conglomerates of the Wroxham Crag.



Wroxham Crag (Cromer Stone Bed)

### Steppe Mammoth (*Mammuthus trogontherii*)



### The West Runton Freshwater Bed

In the warm Cromerian period about 700,000 years ago a river flowed through here and left dark fossiliferous deposits. It is a time capsule of the rich fauna and flora of those times. Norfolk was big game country and the climate was similar to the present.



In 1990 the well preserved remains of a large bull Steppe Mammoth were discovered and excavated in 1992 and 1995. It was about 39 years old and had a very bad injury to its right hind knee, which may have led to its premature death. Hyaenas scavenged the carcass, leaving toothmarks on the bones and droppings which have fossilised.



Chalk

Wroxham Crag

### Glacial drift



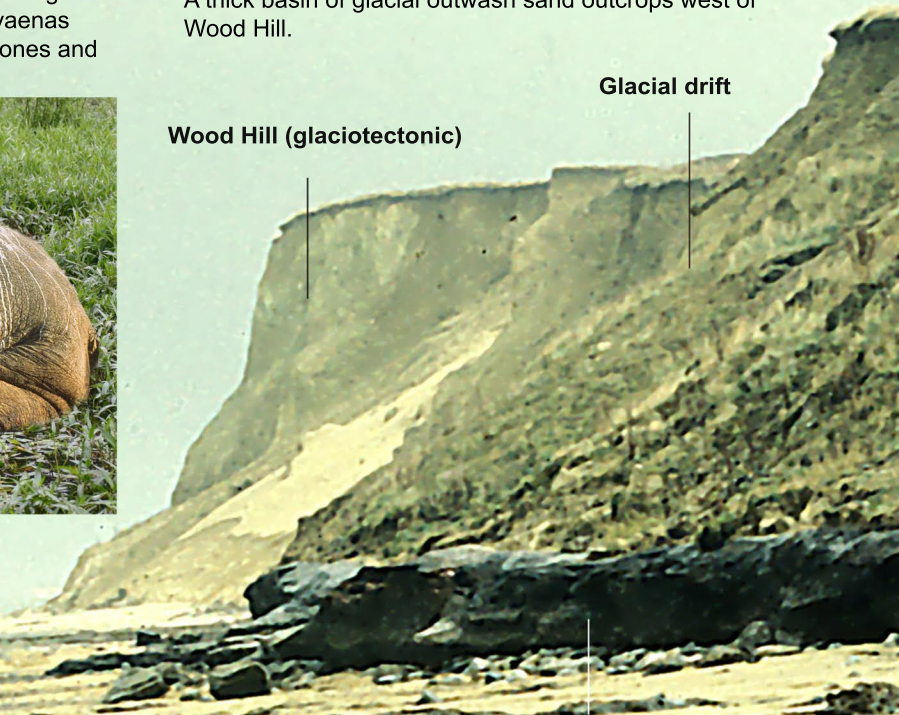
Around 425,000 years ago, near the end of the Anglian glaciation West Runton was close to the edge of an ice sheet. Thick deposits and glacial landforms abound in this area.

Rafts of Chalk and Wroxham Crag have been pushed a short distance by ice, folded and uplifted to form Wood Hill. Glacial till is found above and below the Chalk.

A thick basin of glacial outwash sand outcrops west of Wood Hill.

Wood Hill (glaciotectionic)

Glacial drift



West Runton Freshwater Bed