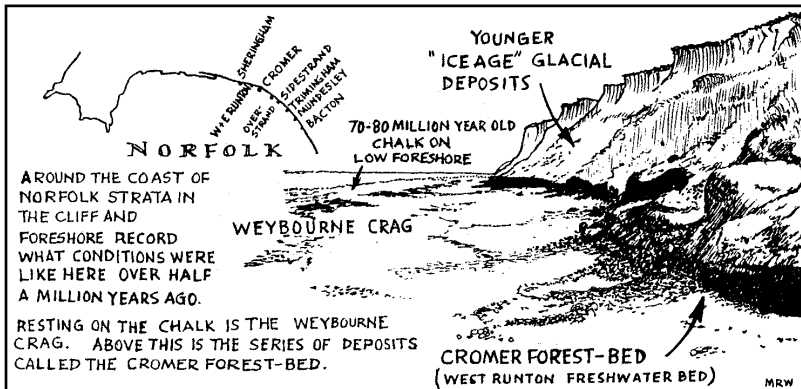


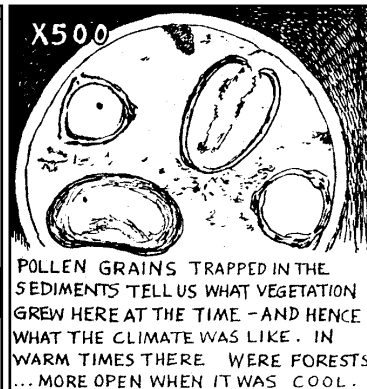
Geology around Cromer:

# CROMER FOREST-BED



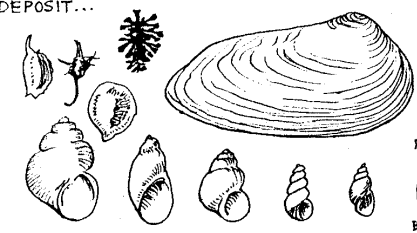
AROUND THE COAST OF NORFOLK STRATA IN THE CLIFF AND FORESHORE RECORD WHAT CONDITIONS WERE LIKE HERE OVER HALF A MILLION YEARS AGO.

RESTING ON THE CHALK IS THE WEYBOURNE CRAG. ABOVE THIS IS THE SERIES OF DEPOSITS CALLED THE CROMER FOREST-BED.



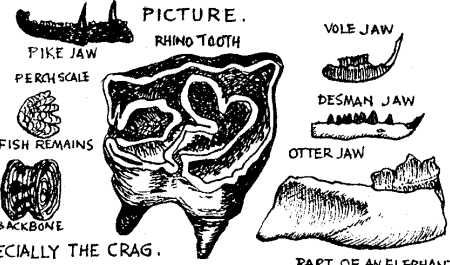
POLLEN GRAINS TRAPPED IN THE SEDIMENTS TELL US WHAT VEGETATION GREW HERE AT THE TIME - AND HENCE WHAT THE CLIMATE WAS LIKE. IN WARM TIMES THERE WERE FORESTS ... MORE OPEN WHEN IT WAS COOL.

A GREAT VARIETY OF SHELLS AND SEEDS TELL US EXACTLY WHAT THE HABITAT WAS LIKE CLOSE TO THE SPOT WHERE THE SEDIMENTS ACCUMULATED. THESE ARE FRESHWATER SHELLS FROM A RIVER-DEPOSIT...

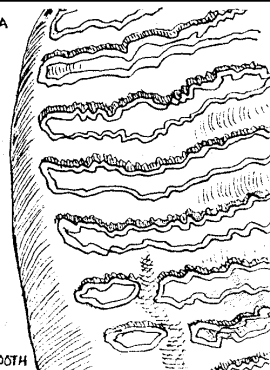


SOME OF THE DEPOSITS ARE MARINE ... ESPECIALLY THE CRAG.

THE REMAINS OF A REMARKABLE FAUNA OF VERTEBRATES, FROM SHREWS TO ELEPHANTS, AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES FISH AND BIRDS COMPLETE THE PICTURE.



PART OF AN ELEPHANT TOOTH



CYCLIC CHANGES IN WORLD CLIMATE ARE RECORDED IN THESE SEDIMENTS: COLD - WARM - COLD - WARM.

SEA-LEVEL ROSE AS THE POLAR ICE CAPS SHRANK IN WARMER TIMES AND FELL WHEN THEY GREW IN COLD PERIODS.

OPEN GRASSY AND HEATHY HABITATS IN COLD PERIODS GAVE WAY TO FOREST WHEN WARMER TIMES RETURNED.

THE WEST RUNTON FRESHWATER BED IS THE TYPE SECTION OF A WARM PERIOD CALLED THE CROMERIAN.

NORFOLK WAS BIG GAME COUNTRY. A LOWLAND RIVER MEANDERED PAST BANKS FRINGED BY RANK VEGETATION. MIXED OAK FOREST CLOAKED THE LAND WITH OPEN AREAS MAINTAINED BY HERDS OF GRAZING ANIMALS. CARNIVORES HUNTED AND SCAVANGED THEIR CARCASSES.

