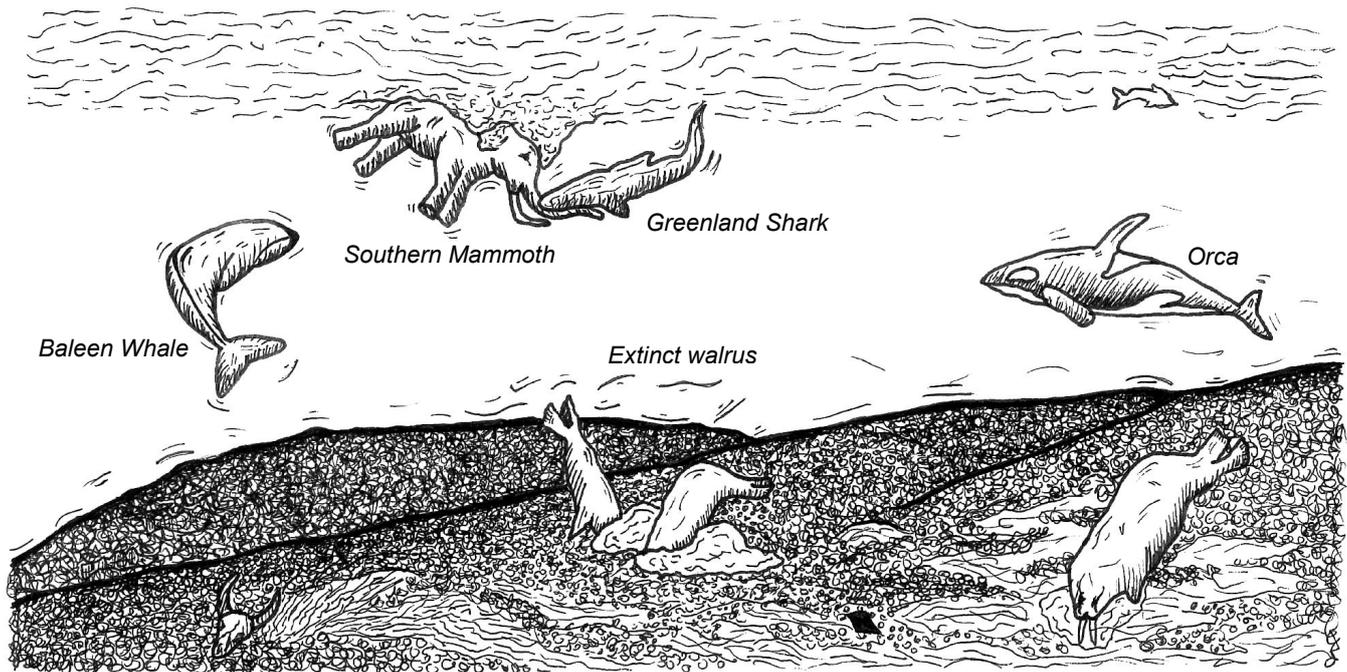
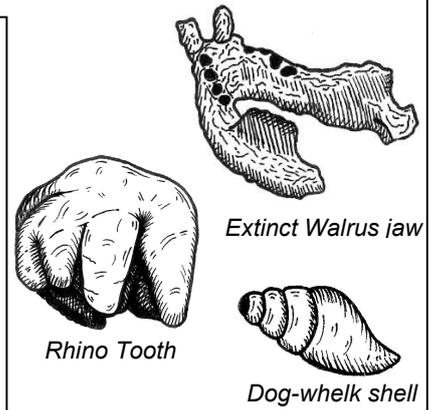


Geology fact sheet: The Crag

The Crag Formations cover much of East Anglia and their exact nature varies from place to place. They can consist of clays, muds, sands or gravels – or a mixture of these, often cemented together by rust-coloured iron oxides. Within them can be found the well-fossilised remains of sea-dwelling animals (molluscs, fish, and occasionally dolphin, walrus and whale) and also land-dwelling animals (such as horse, rhino, deer, and early mammoths). This is because the deposits generally represent shallow near-shore sea environments and estuaries, so the bodies of dead land animals swept out to sea by rivers were preserved as well as those of animals living in the sea.



The Crag Formations are between around 1.5 million and 5 million years old. The oldest layers represent an almost Mediterranean climate, followed by increasingly cooler conditions as the Ice Age approached. The deepest and oldest of the Crag deposits is the Coralline Crag which consists of pale sandy and marly beds with many fossils. Next in age is the Red Crag which contains the Nodule Bed (including re-worked Eocene fossils, about 50 million years old), then the Norwich Crag and finally the uppermost and therefore youngest deposit the Wroxham Crag, which is exposed along the North Norfolk Coast.

