named fossils give the Forest-bed its chief geological interest. They include a few marine forms—seals, whales, walrus, and a large and varied assemblage of terrestrial and river-haunting forms, such as carnivores—Machairodus, Canis lupus, C. vulpes, Hyæna crocuta, Ursus spelæus, Mustela martes, Gulo luscus, Lutra vulgaris; ungulates—Bison bonasus, Ovibus moschatus, Alces latifrons, Cervus elaphus (and nine other species), Hippopotamus amphibius, Sus scrofa, Equus caballus, E. Stenonis, Rhinoceros etruscus, Elephas antiquus, E. meridionalis; rodents—Arvicola arvalis, Mus sylvaticus, Castor fiber, Trogontherium Cuvieri; insectivores—Talpa europæa, Sorex vulgaris, S. pygmæus, Myogale moschata. The contrast between this strange collection of animals and the familiar aspect of the plants associated with them was long ago remarked by Lyell.[102] The most abundant and conspicuous forms are the three species of elephant, while the hippopotamus and rhinoceros are of common occurrence. Of the two horses one is extinct, the bison and wild boar have survived, while the whole of the remarkably numerous species of deer have disappeared, with the single exception of the red-deer. The carnivores embraced also living and extinct forms, for the long-vanished machairodus haunted the same region with our still surviving fox, otter, and marten, and with other animals which, like the hyæna, wolf, and glutton, though no longer found in Britain, survive elsewhere. The total species of land mammals (exclusive of bats) found in the Forest-bed is 45, while the corresponding series of the living British fauna numbers only 29 species. Of the 30 large land mammals found in the Forest-bed only three are now living in Britain, or have died out there within the historic period, and only six species have survived in any part of the world.[103]

The Cromer Forest-bed is succeeded on the Norfolk coast by some sands and gravels of which the true position in the series of formations has not yet been definitely fixed. They include two distinct members, though their precise relations to the Crag below and the glacial materials above are still not satisfactorily settled. The lower band is known as the Leda myalis bed, and the upper as the Arctic freshwater bed. The former may be provisionally placed with

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[102] "Antiquity of Man," 1st edit. 1863, p. 216. See also C. Reid, "Pliocene Deposits of Britain," p. 182.

[103] C. Reid, op. cit.