

On the Results of the Subcommittee on European Stratigraphy: "Cromer Symposium" (Report SEQS 9)

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Abstract: This paper reports on the Symposium "Cromer" in England, 3.—7. September 1990. The proceedings of the meeting in Norwich, 3.—4. 09. 1990, are being prepared for publication (Balkema). Finally, informations on further plans of the SEQS are given.

[Arbeitsergebnisse der Subkommission
für Europäische Quartärstratigraphie: "Cromer-Symposium"
(Berichte der SEQS 9)]

Kurzfassung: Es wird über das Cromer-Symposium der SEQS vom 3. bis 7. September 1990 in England berichtet. Die Vorträge der Arbeitssitzung am 3. und 4. 09. 1990 in Norwich sind in Druck (Balkema). Abschließend wird über die weiteren Pläne der SEQS informiert.

A conference to consider stratigraphic problems of the Lower Middle Pleistocene, the "Cromer Symposium", took place at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England. The meeting was organised by Charles Turner, President of the SEQS, and Philip Gibbard, with much assistance from the Subdepartment of Quaternary Research, the University of Cambridge and the Department of Earth Sciences, the Open University, Milton Keynes.

The conference was attended by sixty-five scientists from fifteen countries, among them fifteen full members and corresponding members of the SEQS.

The first part of the Symposium consisted of two days of formal presentations (3—4/09/90) during which twenty eight lectures were given. The topics ranged from detailed accounts of the stratigraphy, palaeo-

botany and palaeontology of the Cromer Forest Bed Formation of the Norfolk coast, the type area for the Cromerian Interglacial, to other new Early Middle Pleistocene sites in Britain (including archaeological sites) and across to Continental Europe, where the latest correlation hypotheses between north and south and east and west Europe were set out and a number of new sites were reported publicly for the first time. Further new information was given at an evening poster session.

This part of the programme ended with two informal discussion groups chaired by W. H. ZAGWIJN and A. AZZAROLI. It is clear that there are still difficulties in the correlation of the type Cromerian with any of the interglacials of the "Cromer Complex" of the Netherlands, despite their relative geographical proximity. The possible correlation of the Cromerian with 'Cromer IV' of the Netherlands on palaeobotanical grounds appears to be firmly negated by the faunal evidence. Ironically the better palaeobotanical and palaeontological correlation seems to be between Voigtstedt (Germany) and the type locality at West Runton. The underlying Pastonian interglacial, however now appears to be of Early Pleistocene age. It also emerged that there is a problem with the correlation of vertebrate faunas between northern and southern Europe. Now that this problem is clearly defined, it can be investigated more closely.

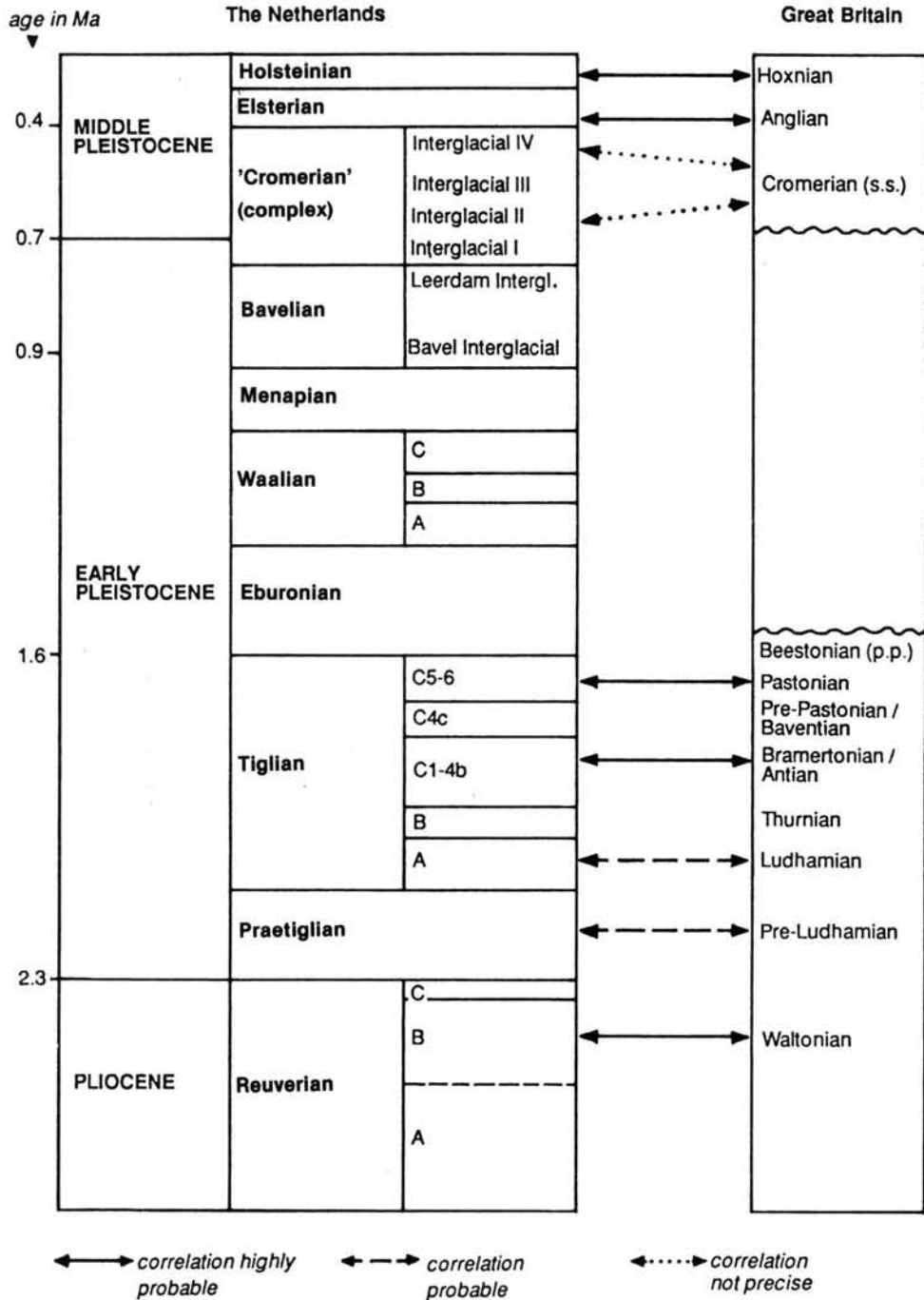
The second part of the programme consisted of three days of field excursions (5-7/09/90):

On the first day the group visited the North Norfolk coast at Sidestrand and West Runton to inspect the Cromer Forest Bed Formation, including the Cromerian stratotype, and the impressive cliffs of Anglian glacial deposits. The guides were R. G. WEST (Cambridge), C. TURNER (The Open University & Cambridge), P. L. GIBBARD (Cambridge), B. M. FUNNELL (University of East Anglia), A. LISTER (Cambridge), R. C. PREECE (Cambridge) and J. P. LUNKA (Cambridge).

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Tab. 1: Correlation of Early and Middle Pleistocene beds in East Anglia and the Netherlands
(from GIBBARD, P. L. et al. (1991))



The second day was devoted to the study of the Kesgrave Formation of Suffolk and Essex, fluvial deposits of the Early Middle Pleistocene River Thames and its tributaries. P. ALLEN (City of London Polytechnic) and R. A. KEMP (Royal Holloway & Bedford New College, University of London) demonstrated Early Pleistocene/Pliocene Crag sand deposits and younger Kesgrave Formation sands, gravels and palaeosols at Great Blakenham, Suffolk.

R. C. PREECE, P. L. GIBBARD, D. R. BRIDGLAND (City of London Polytechnic) and A. LISTER described the re-investigation of the interglacial deposits within the Kesgrave Formation at Little Oakley, Essex, and specially dug pits exposed these rarely seen but very fossiliferous sediments, which are tentatively correlated with the Cromerian.

Finally D. R. BRIDGLAND and C. TURNER demonstrated fossiliferous, organic interglacial and cold climate horizons within the Kesgrave Formation at Ardleigh, Essex, and also impressive ice-wedge casts.

About thirty participants travelled on to spend the night at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College and proceed the next day to the archaeological excavation site at Boxgrove, near Chichester Sussex, on the southern coast of Britain. The Director of the excavation M. B. ROBERTS demonstrated the extensive Early Middle Pleistocene raised beach and coastal deposits which are yielding both a rich collection of vertebrate

and other fossils, but also an *in situ* Lower Palaeolithic industry with well defined occupation horizons and flint-knapping scatters.

Possible venues for meetings of SEQS during the next Inter-Congress period (1991—1995) include eastern Germany (stratigraphy and typification of Elsterian and Saalian deposits), Poland (Warthe stratigraphy) and Italy (correlation of Quaternary stratigraphy in northern and southern Europe).

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