

River southeast of Goldsboro, limestones belonging to this formation have been quarried and burned for lime. West of Goldsboro, near the junction of Falling Creek and the Neuse River, similar limestones occupy a few small depressions in the crystalline rocks. In the southern part of the county strata belonging to this formation have been exposed in marl pits in the vicinity of Mount Olive.

Eocene strata referred to the Trent formation are represented in the northern and western portions of Duplin County, especially near Faison. The somewhat calcareous sand exposed in the Natural Well near Magnolia has been thought by some to belong to the same horizon, though there seems to be no sufficient reason for such correlation.

In Sampson County this formation has furnished limestone used in the manufacture of lime. It occurs in isolated areas in the southeastern portion of the county along Six Runs River. In Bladen and Columbus counties there are a few doubtful exposures of Trent strata along the Cape Fear River.

The outliers of this formation in the Piedmont district indicate a much wider distribution at an earlier period. They are found in small patches near Auburn in Wake County, a few miles northeast of Spout Springs in Harnett County, and in the southeast corner of Moore County. In all probability these isolated areas were at one time connected with each other and also with the main mass of the same formation lying farther east. We have evidence to show that part of the missing Eocene strata were removed before Miocene time, as the Miocene strata in some places rest directly upon the Cretaceous, while similar evidence in the Wilmington region, where the Castle Hayne and Peedee formations are in contact, indicate that the Trent was probably extensively eroded before the deposition of the later Eocene. Of course it is possible that the Trent was never deposited there, though that seems unlikely, since there is no evidence of the existence of any land barrier shutting out the ocean waters such as would have existed if the coast region had been a land area during Trent time. Instead, the character of the fossils and the lithological materials constituting the formation indicate the place of deposition to have been the open ocean.

In South Carolina there are Eocene strata which are similar lithologically and perhaps faunally, though this has not yet been determined, to the Trent deposits. It seems probable that these areas were likewise continuous at one time, though now separated by a considerable distance. It seems less probable, however, that the Trent formation was ever continuous with any of the Eocene strata of Virginia, as they are so dissimilar both in faunal and lithologic characters. It is not unlikely that the Coastal Plain region of northern North Carolina and southern