

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## BRENTWOOD DISTRICT



### Ingatestone Boulders

**Site location:** at the Junction of the High Street and Fryerning Lane and in the churchyard.

**Grid Reference:** TQ 6511 9967

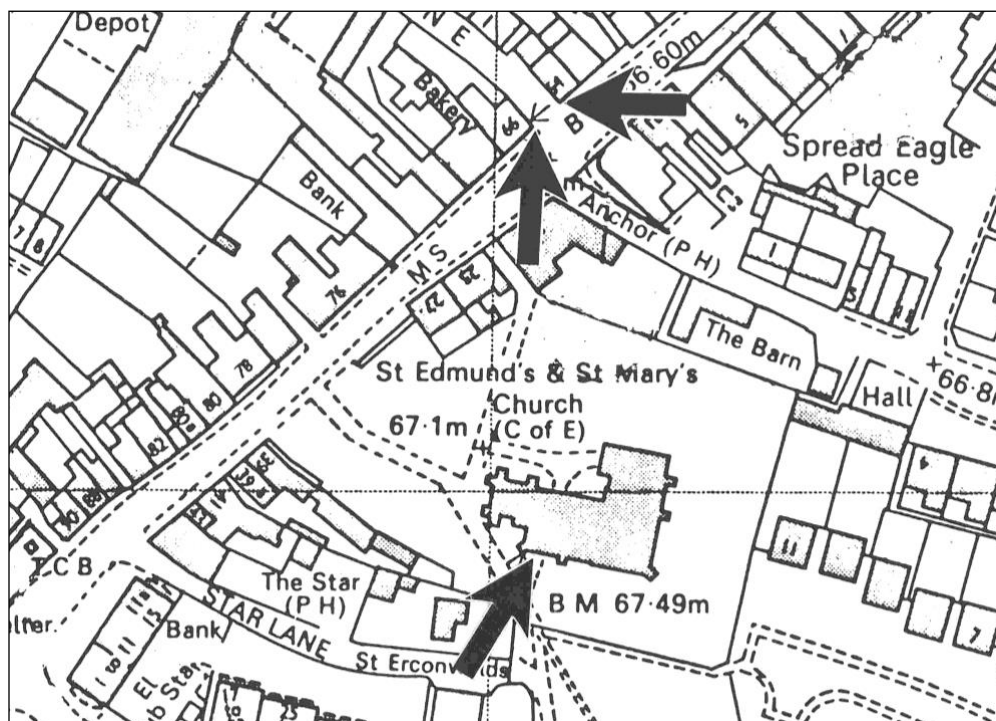
**Status:** publicly accessible

#### **Summary of the geological interest:**

Three glacial erratic boulders (sarsen stones) are at two locations in Ingatestone town centre. Two of the sarsens can be seen at the junction of the High Street and Fryerning Lane (TQ 6511 9967), the largest one standing one metre (3'3") above ground. Another stone is situated a short distance away adjacent to the south door of St. Edmund and St. Mary Parish Church in the High Street (TQ 6511 9959). The latter stone stands 90 centimetres (3 feet) above the ground..

They are probably glacial erratic boulders ploughed up from local fields or more likely excavated from the local gravel pits around Fryerning and brought to the town centre for practical or religious reasons. The stones are water-worn and typical of sarsens elsewhere in Essex.

The stone by the church door is reported to originally have been found beneath the north wall, which suggests that the church is built on a former pagan site. It has been suggested that these stones may have been responsible for the 'stone' in the name of the town.



**Site Assessment.** Local Geological Sites (LoGS) in Essex are assessed using criteria based on DEFRA guidance. This site has been assessed and qualifies under these criteria. An assessment form is used which asks key questions under four value categories: scientific, educational, historical and aesthetic.



Sarsen boulders either side of Fryerning Lane at the junction with the High Street.



Sarsen next to the south wall of Ingatestone church.