

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## MALDON DISTRICT



### Chantry Wood Boulder, Wickham Bishops

**Site location:** in Chantry Wood, near Wickham Bishops. Situated in private woodland, in the SW corner of a part of the wood named Cornerstone Wood, at a junction between rides.

**Grid Reference:** TL 8432 1290

**Status:** Proposed LoGS

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

Sarsens are not uncommon in central Essex, but this is a fairly large example and one of the few known so far in the Maldon district. The boulder is 114 cm by 75 cm in size.



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

#### **Scientific interest and site importance**

Sarsens are extremely hard boulders of sandstone formed during the Eocene, around 55 million years ago, when the climate of Britain was hot and a layer of sand beneath the surface of the ground became cemented with quartz. They are very resistant to erosion. This sarsen would have originated in Eocene sands west of Essex and was likely carried into the county by the early Thames and subsequently moved to its current location by glacial outwash during the Ice Age.



Close up and wider view of the Chantry Wood Sarsen Stone.  
Photos: June 2023.

