

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

MALDON DISTRICT



Steeple Bay Foreshore, Steeple

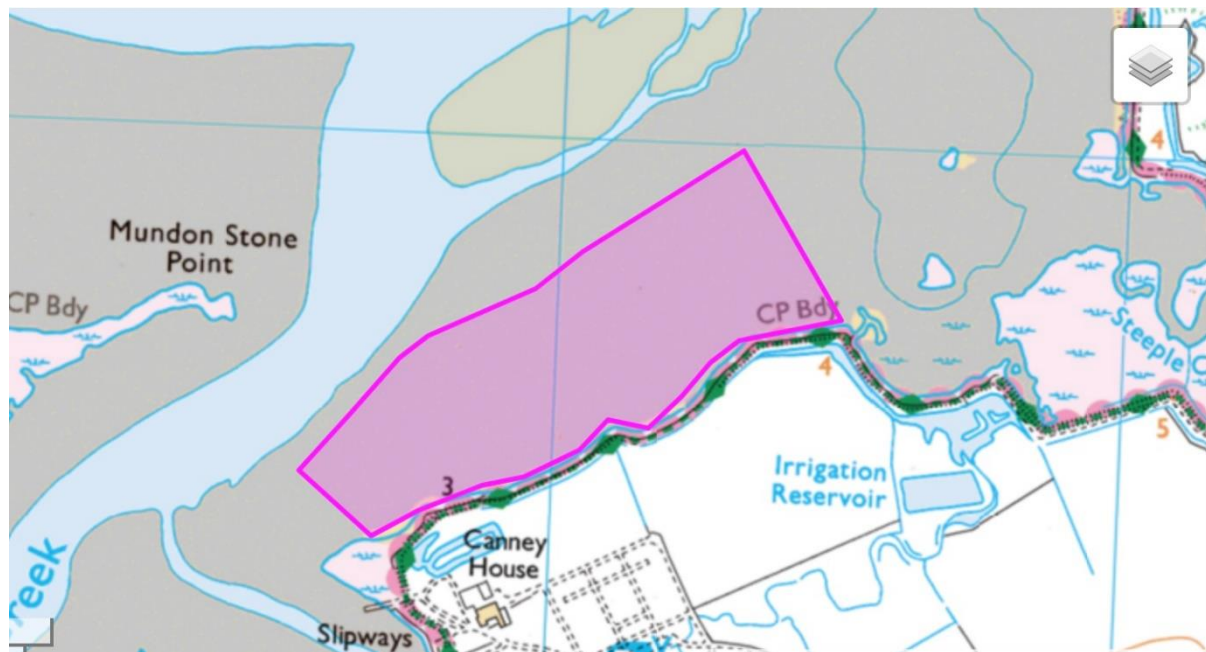
Site location: foreshore adjacent to Steeple Bay Holiday Park

Grid Reference: TL 916 043 to 924 047

Status: Proposed LoGS

Summary of the geological interest:

At Steeple Bay an impressive platform of London Clay is revealed at low tide containing fossils of various species of crustacea, crinoids, molluscs, shark teeth and occasional fish and marine vertebrates. The site is also of historical interest as a document exists in the Essex Record Office recording the sale, in 1828, of London Clay nodules (cement stones) from the shore for the purpose of manufacturing cement at Sheerness.



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

An extensive exposure of London Clay, revealing the deeper water Division B deposits laid down during the Eocene period, around 53 million years ago. Although prone to silting, gradual erosion of the foreshore has allowed numerous fossils to be recovered, especially lobsters and crabs. Neolithic and Bronze Age flint tools also occasionally weather out of the mash clay at the western end of the site.



The London Clay exposure on the foreshore at Steeple Bay, with Mundon Stone Point In the background. Photo: January 2023.



A fossil *Hoploparia gammaroides* lobster in situ in the clay foreshore. Photo: December 2022.