

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

BRAINTREE DISTRICT



BraG6 Edgar's Farm Boulders

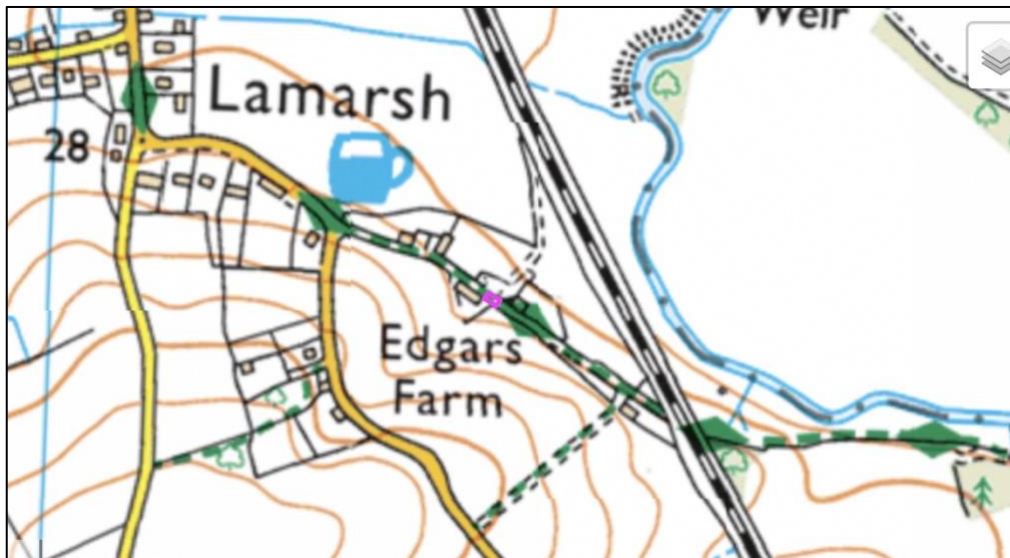
Site location: Two large sarsen stones outside Edgars Farm, Lamarsh.

Grid Reference: TL 8945 3540

Status: Publicly accessible at all times

Summary of the geological interest:

Two fine sarsen stones standing by the roadside at the farm entrance. They are at least one metre long.



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 that are often used as boundary or entrance markers having been dragged from nearby fields. They formed 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. Research has compared the conditions under which sarsens and puddingstones may have been formed with the present day climate in the Kalahari Desert and parts of Australia. They are thus very resistant to erosion and have survived the rigours of the Ice Age. They were transported from the geological strata where they were formed – the Lower Tertiary Upnor Formation, by large rivers swollen by ice melt, such as the ancestral Thames which once flowed across north Essex.



Photos: Derek Potts 2023