

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

BRAINTREE DISTRICT



BraG7 Faulkbourne Church, St Germanus

Site location: Church at Faulkbourne near Witham

Grid Reference: TL 8003 1657

Status: Public – churchyard accessible at all reasonable times

Summary of the geological interest:

The church building makes extensive use of local tufa for dressings.



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:

The church building makes extensive use of local tufa (travertine) for dressings, including all nave and chancel quoins. The tufa was quarried from several sites nearby. It formed in the river Brain that obtained calcium carbonate from the Chalky Boulder Clay or Till left by the Anglian ice sheet. Stone suitable for building is extremely rare in Essex.

Reference: J.F. Potter (GA proceedings 2000, p.55-70)



Tufa quoins at St. Germanus Church (photo G Lucy)



Tufa block quoin close up. Photo I Mercer 2017