

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

BRENTWOOD DISTRICT



BreG11 Woodcock Lodge Boundary Stone, Ingatestone

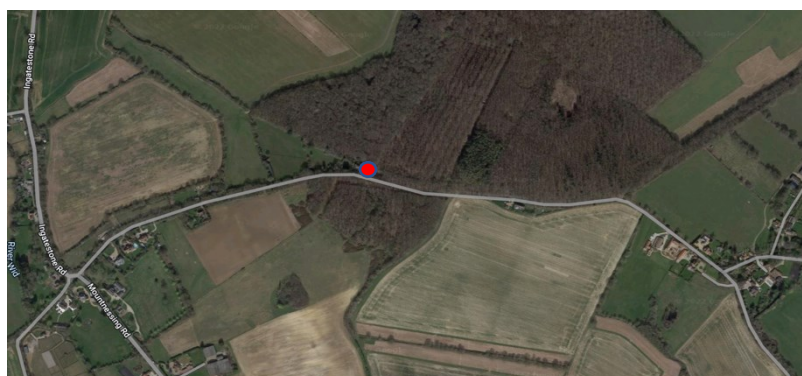
Site location: on the verge of Blackmore Road adjacent to Woodcock Lodge

Grid Reference: TL 6126 0100

Status: Publicly accessible

Summary of the geological interest:

This sarsen stone lies partly hidden by a hedge, on the roadside verge next to a gate adjacent to Woodcock Lodge on Blackmore Road. It stands approximately 70cm out of the ground and probably extends into the ground by at least 20 cm as it is firmly fixed into the soil. It is significantly located at the old boundary between Fryerning Parish and a detached part of Ingatestone Parish.



It was probably a glacial erratic boulder ploughed up from a local field or more likely excavated from the local gravel pits around Fryerning and brought to mark the boundary. Many such stones were used as boundary markers.



Photos: I. F. Mercer 2021



Sarsens are extremely hard boulders of sandstone formed around 56 million years ago when the climate of Britain was hot similar to the present-day climate in the Kalahari Desert and parts the interior of Australia. Lenses of sand beneath the surface became cemented with quartz making them very resistant to erosion. They were transported from their original rock outcrop in the north and west of Essex by rivers and glaciers.

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.*