

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

BRENTWOOD DISTRICT



BreG9 Millennium Stone, Navestock

Site location: Horseman Side hamlet, Navestock

Grid Reference: TQ 5461 9615

Status: publicly accessible

Summary of the geological interest:

A giant boulder of ferricrete that was placed on a concrete plinth in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium. It has a plaque describing the boulder, incorrectly, as a 'puddingstone'. The boulder was excavated from a neighbouring field and moved to the hamlet called Horseman Side. It measures 210cm x 150cm x 60cm.

Ferricrete is an iron-cemented gravel. In Ice Age gravels the movement of iron-rich groundwater has resulted in the formation of hard, solid masses of ferricrete which is an 'iron pan' at the level of the water table. It is extremely hard and durable. Good building stone is rare in Essex and East Anglia, but one exception is the rock ferricrete which has been used in the construction of several Essex churches.



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.



The Millennium Stone, Navestock. Photo © G. Lucy