

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## CHELMSFORD DISTRICT



### ChG14 Chelmsford City Museum Puddingstone

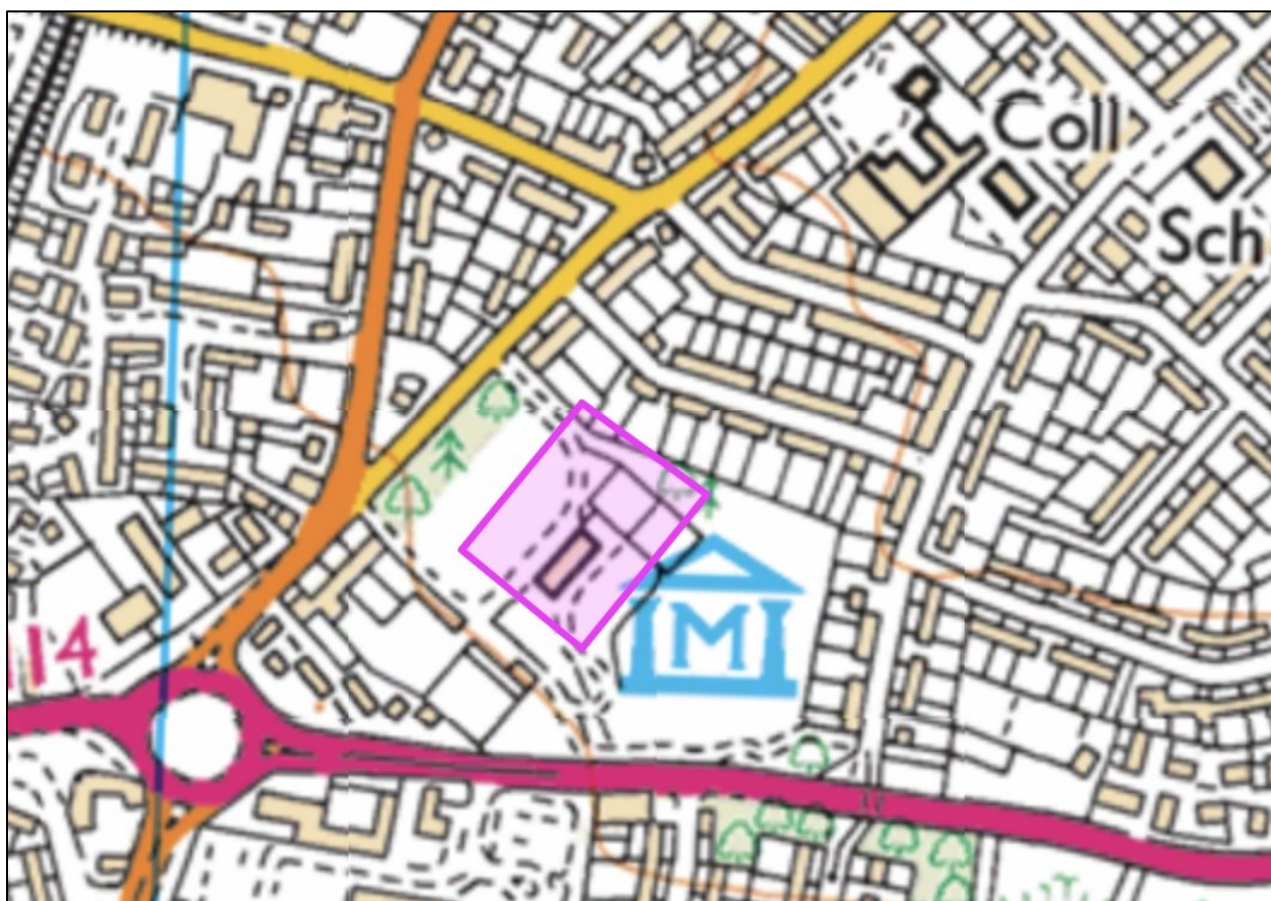
**Site location:** At the entrance to Chelmsford City Museum in Oaklands Park.

**Grid Reference:** TL 7025 0555

**Status:** Publicly accessible

**Summary of the geological interest:**

A publicly viewable boulder of puddingstone 70cm x 60cm x 30cm with a signboard by the entrance to Chelmsford City Museum in Oaklands Park.



**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.

### ***Scientific interest and site importance:***

Puddingstone was formed around 55 million years ago when the climate of Britain was hot and a layer of pebbles beneath the surface of the ground became cemented with quartz. They are thus very resistant to erosion and have survived the rigours of the Ice Age. They were carried to Essex by the River Thames when it flowed north of its present course. This particular specimen was found in the Moulsham gravel pits nearby.

The formation of silcretes (which includes sarsens and puddingstones) has been the subject of recent scientific debate. 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.



Photo R Mercer 2022