

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## SOUTHEND DISTRICT



### SoG1 St. Laurence & All Saints Church, Eastwood

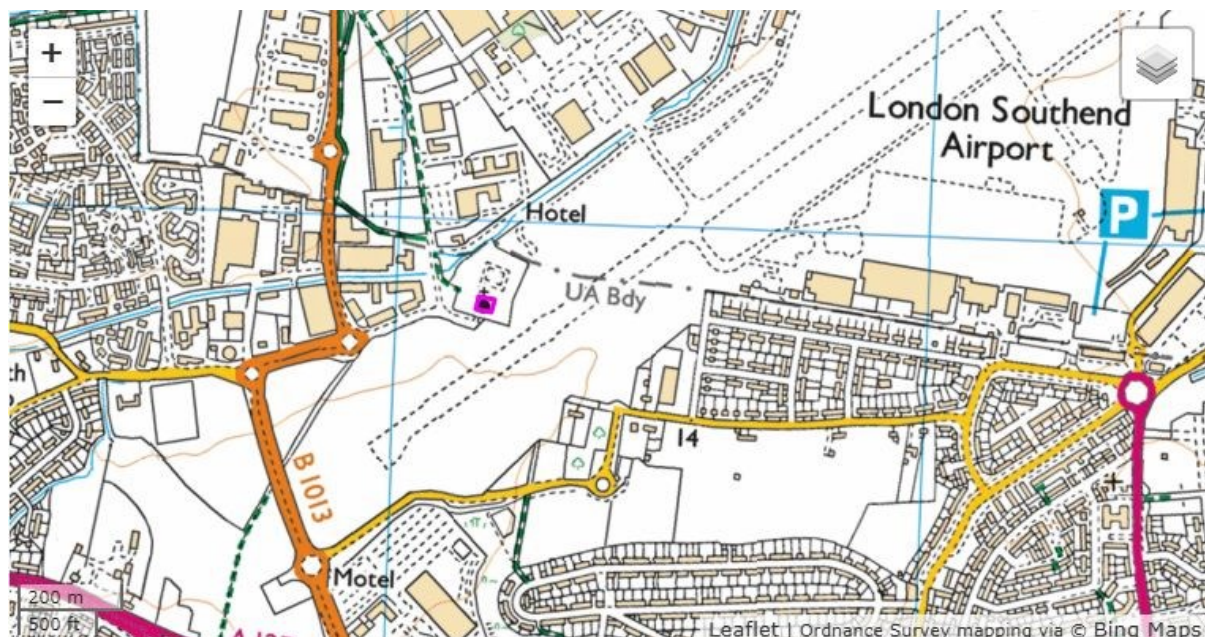
**Site location:** Eastwoodbury Lane, Southend-on-Sea

**Grid Reference:** TQ 8616 8884

**Status:** Proposed LoGS

#### **Summary of the geological interest:**

Grade I listed 11th century church with a large sarsen stone, 65 cm long, set in the floor at the base of the pillar where the south aisle meets the chancel. The church is normally locked, but visitors are currently welcomed on Tuesday mornings.



**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 formed around 55 million years ago when the climate of Britain was much hotter and a layer of sand beneath the surface of the ground became cemented with quartz. They are thus very resistant to erosion. This stone was likely derived from the Thames-Medway gravels that were deposited in the Southend district during the Ice Age.





*General view of the church*



*The sarsen boulder inside the church*

*Photos: Jeff Seward, July 2023*