

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

COLCHESTER DISTRICT



CoG3 Greenbank House Sarsen Stones, Boxted

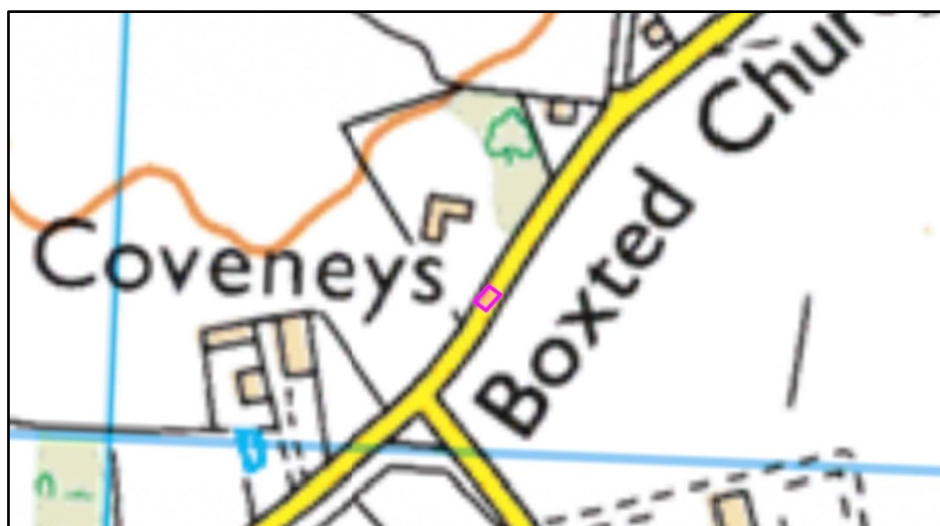
Site location: Four sarsen stones are situated by the entrance to Greenbank House in Boxted Church Road near the junction with Holly Lane.

Grid Reference: TL 981 321

Status: Greenbank House is a private residence, but the stones can be clearly seen from the roadside.

Summary of the geological interest:

Sarsens are extremely hard boulders of sandstone formed around 55 million years ago. The garden of the house contains over 20 sarsens, each is about 90 x 60 x 40 cm in size and were brought here by the owner from farmland in the nearby Stour Valley.



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:

They derive from Lower Palaeogene (Tertiary) deposits and have been exposed around the London Basin and to the west. They have been moved naturally by rivers and ice or, as in this case, by people as they are such prominent curiosities. Similar stones are in the outer circle at Stonehenge.

They were formed when the climate of Britain was hot and a layer of sand beneath the surface of the ground became cemented with quartz. 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.



Greenbanks Sarsen Stones