

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

COLCHESTER DISTRICT



CoG9 Mount Bures Boulders

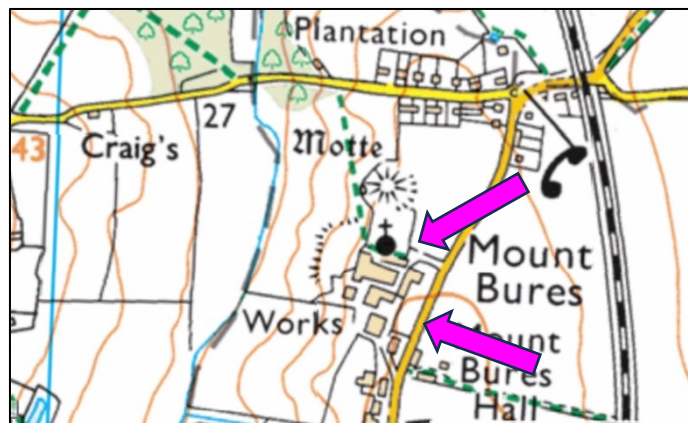
Site location: Outside the churchyard entrance

Grid Reference: TL 904325 and TL 904321

Status: Public access

Summary of the geological interest:

Boulders of Puddingstone and Sarsen have been used over the centuries as marker stones and are notable features in an area.



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

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.



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.

*Puddingstone outside
Mount Bures Church
Photos: B Clough 2022*