

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

ROCHFORD DISTRICT



RoG4 Paglesham Boulder

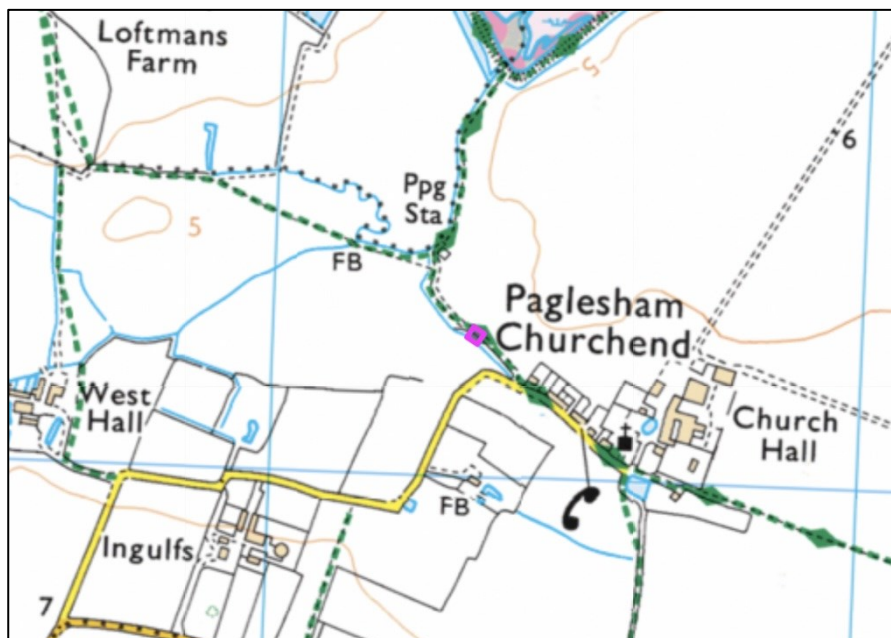
Site location: On the verge on the south side of a surfaced farm track.

Grid reference: TQ 9235 9323

Status: Publicly accessible at all times

Summary of the geological interest:

A large boulder of ferricrete (approx. 120 x 60 cm) sits on the verge on the south side of a surfaced farm track (public footpath) that runs northwest from Paglesham Churchend, under some Poplars. Ferricrete is an iron-cemented flint gravel, formed from the evaporation of groundwater that contains dissolved iron compounds.



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

Good building stone is rare in Essex and East Anglia but one exception is the rock ferricrete. 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 basically an iron-cemented gravel but it can be extremely hard and durable. Ferricrete has been used in the construction of several Essex churches.



The Paglesham Ferricrete Boulder. Photo: Jeff Seward, September 2025