

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

TENDRING DISTRICT



TeG6 Hill House Sarsen Stone, Ramsey

Site location: Next to the roadside wall of Hill House, Ramsey

Grid Reference: TM 2014 2964

Status: Publicly accessible

Summary of the geological interest:

Sarsens are boulders of extremely hard sandstone that were formed about 55 million years ago during the Palaeocene period and are rare in the Tendring District.



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

Against the boundary wall of Hill House is a sarsen stone about 1 metre high, 90 centimetres wide and just over 20 centimetres thick.

Sarsens are boulders of extremely hard sandstone that were formed about 56 million years ago during the Palaeocene period in sandy strata of the Upnor Formation, above of the Chalk. They were picked up and transported by the ancestral Thames that flowed across this area some 500,000 years ago. It is unusual to find one this far east. It is obvious that this stone has been moved by humans to its present position. The stone was probably ploughed up from a local field. A local resident apparently claimed that it was placed against the wall so that the wheel of a cart could be wedged against it to stop the cart from rolling down the hill.



Hill House Sarsen Stone. Photo: Jerry Bowdrey