

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT



EpG4 Copped Hall Green Sarsen Stone

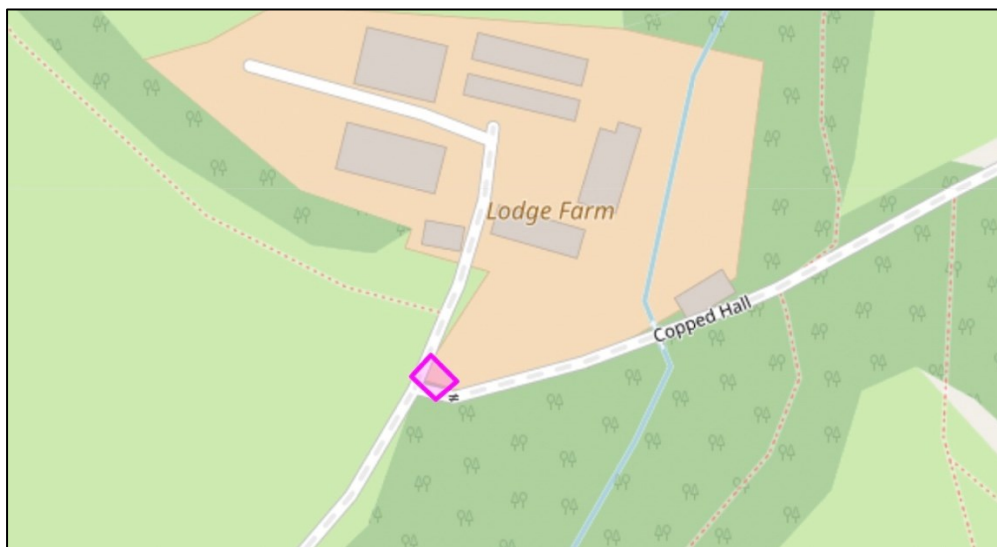
Site location: Copped Hall Green, near Upshire, Essex

Grid Reference: TL 4244 0161

Status: Public – accessible at all times

Summary of the geological interest:

A large sarsen stone near Lodge Farm at the junction of two farm tracks. Also known as the Upshire Stone.



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.*

Access

From Upshire, take Long Street northward. At Burgess Farm, Long Street forks right to Copped Hall Green, where the sarsen lies in a fork leading to Lodge Farm.

Scientific interest and site importance:

Sarsens are extremely hard boulders of sandstone formed around 55 million years ago when the climate of Britain was hot and a layer of sand 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. They originated on the chalk downland north and west of Essex and were carried here by rivers and glaciers. After retreat of the ice they became concentrated in river valleys.

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.

Condition report. 25 June 2025

The sarsen stone is in good order and the features described are visible but obscured by long grass.

References:

LUCY, G. 2003. Essex erratic boulders: a gazetteer. Essex Naturalist (New Series). 20. Pages 115-134.



The Copped Hall Green Sarsen Stone
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The Copped Hall Green Sarsen Stone
Photo P Allen June 2025