

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## HARLOW DISTRICT



### HaG1 Harlow Puddingstone

**Site location:** Outside gates of ICON Industrial area off Peldon Road

**Grid reference:** TL 4319 0897

**Status:** Publicly accessible but beyond a road barrier.

#### **Summary of the geological interest:**

A giant puddingstone boulder outside the main industrial complex. It was discovered in 1966 during construction of the BP building formerly on the site, subsequently demolished. Relocated in 2018, it is now situated on the southern edge of the “Green Wedge” in the north-western part of the Icon Harlow industrial estate, on the north side of Peldon Road, surrounded by a low fence with a signboard. The site is private property, but access is possible via a footpath, with limited parking at the adjacent church.



**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 is an extremely hard rock with an interesting history. About 60 million years ago, this boulder was part of a beach of flint pebbles on the coast of a subtropical sea. About 56 million years ago the sea had retreated and the layer of pebbles was situated beneath the soil in a hot, dry climate similar to that of the Kalahari Desert today. During this time the pebbles were cemented together by quartz, forming an incredibly tough rock called a silcrete – nature’s concrete.





*The Harlow Puddingstone when it was found during the construction of BP House in 1966. Archive photo from Gerald Lucy*



*The Harlow Puddingstone in its original position in the internal courtyard of BP House. Photo: G. Lucy, c.1995*



*The Harlow Puddingstone relocated, 2018. Photo: Linda Hamling*



*Location of Harlow Puddingstone, October 2024. Photo: R. Mercer*



*The Harlow Puddingstone and signboard.  
Photo: Derek Potts,  
December 2025*