

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT



### UfdG18 Freewood Lane Boulder, Elmdon

**Site location:** At the entrance to Freewood Lane, Elmdon

**Grid Reference:** TL 4638 3912

**Status:** Publicly accessible

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

At the entrance to Freewood Lane is a glacial erratic boulder (80 x 60 x 50 centimetres in size). It is unusual as it consists of Spilsby Sandstone and originates in Lincolnshire. It was brought here by the great Anglian Ice Sheet when it covered almost the whole of Britain 450,000 years ago.



**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**

The Spilsby Sandstone Formation is found at the junction of the Jurassic and Cretaceous rocks in the southern part of Lincolnshire. It is mainly sandy with some silt layers. Some is very friable, but it also contains irregular lumps hardened by a calcareous cement. It is these lumps which would have survived transport in the ice sheet moving south to Essex and were dumped here when the ice melted. They contain distinctive ammonites and casts of boring bivalves.