

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT



### UfdG34 Wenden Place Wall, Wendons Ambo

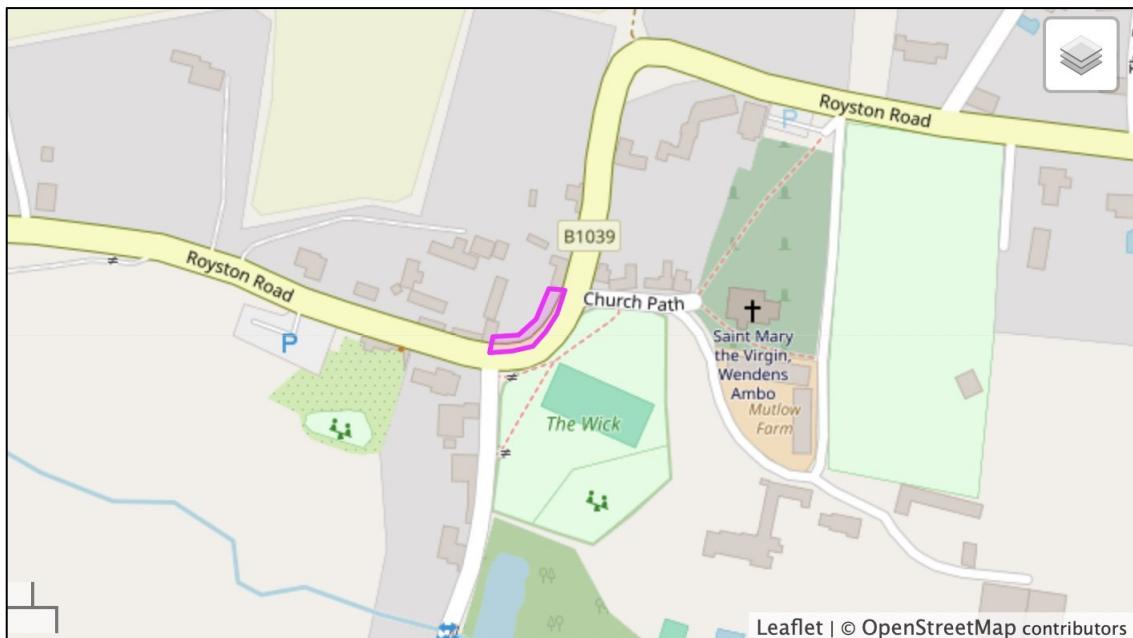
**Site location:** On the bend of the road opposite the church in Wendens Ambo.

**Grid Reference:** TL 5119 3637

**Status:** Publicly accessible

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

On the bend of the main road opposite the church is a high, ancient wall, which is remarkable for the variety of local rocks used in its construction, including many large boulders. The largest is a boulder of Hertfordshire puddingstone 1.4 metres long. The wall is a Grade 2 listed building.



**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 boundary wall to Wenden Place in Wendens Ambo is a very striking feature adorning the corner of Royston Road at the junction with Duck Street, opposite the church. The wall is a grade 2 listed feature. It is a red brick flint and stone wall, about 3.6m high with brick capping and panelled with brick piers. The wall extends in a quadrant from east end of Wenden Place to the south end of the Old Post Office. This ancient wall has a remarkable variety of local rocks used in its construction, including many large boulders. The largest is a boulder of puddingstone 1.4 metres long.

These boulders and cobbles, with the exception of flints, are glacial erratics; rocks carried to Essex by the Anglian ice sheet which covered almost the whole of Britain during the coldest period of the Ice Age, some 450,000 years ago. The boulders are likely to have been found in local fields or excavated from local gravel pits around Wendens Ambo and brought to the village.

Although the pavement is narrow the wall provides an excellent opportunity to learn to identify different rocks, to see different rates of weathering, and to guess where the stones might have come from. In the long grass on the opposite side of the road is another sarsen stone.



*The Wendon Place Boundary Wall. Photo: M. Ralph*