

SGI 44 The Coronation Stone, Kingston-upon-Thames

Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames

Grid reference: TQ 1786 6907, Postcode: KT1 1LB, What3Words: ridge.good.rating.



The Grade I listed Coronation Stone is a sarsen block, situated outside the Guildhall off the High Street where it crosses the Hogsmill River. The heptagonal plinth displays the names of the Saxon kings said to have been crowned at Kingston along with the dates of their coronations. The monument was constructed in 1850 for display originally in the Market Place. The black colour may be due to soot and/or mould. Photos: Allan Wheeler, 24 January 2023.

The Coronation Stone is in the medieval core of Kingston which grew on the right bank of the River Thames on a 'gravel island' then bounded by that river (on the W), two channels of the Hogsmill River (on the S and E) and the E-W aligned Downhall/Latchmere Ditch/Stream (on the N). The latter was filled in when the railway was built in the 1860s. The gravel is most likely the Kempton Park Gravel, which from borehole records is hereabouts concealed beneath Langley Silt and alluvium. Both the gravel and Langley Silt are of late Pleistocene (Devensian) age). The bedrock is the Eocene London Clay Formation.

Kingston Museum refers to the sarsen block as being 'probably from Wiltshire' where sarsen boulders are common on the chalk downlands, but it is more likely to be of local origin and may have been transported from NW Surrey or East Berkshire where silcrete formed here and there in the sands of the Bagshot and younger formations of the Eocene Bracklesham Group. Transport may have been during the deposition of the Kempton Park or other gravels and was likely moved either by high volumes of water of a braided R. Thames (or a tributary) during meltwater seasons or brought on an ice floe. Another source could be sandy beds in the Lambeth Group in the Slough/Maidenhead area or remnants of Paleogene beds on the chalk dip-slopes edging the London Basin. Finally, it could be more locally derived from post-London Clay strata, if it existed, now eroded away.

Also called the 'Kings Stone', it is traditionally associated with a legend that seven Saxon kings were crowned upon it in Kingston in the 10thC. The stone is set into a heptagonal plinth enclosed by railings and piers of 1850. As already mentioned, the plinth displays the kings' names and their coronation dates. It is thought that the stone may have come from the fabric of, or lay beneath, the late 11thC St Mary's Chapel which adjoined the S wall of All Saints Church until the 18thC. Its whereabouts before the existence of the chapel is unknown. The chapel collapsed in 1730 during the digging of new graves which undermined the foundations. The stone was removed from the churchyard in c.1825 to the door of the Old Guildhall for use as a mounting block, then to the courtyard of the Assize Courts. When the building was demolished in 1840 the stone was removed to the corporation yard until 1850 when it was set up in the Market Place. It was from then that

Kingston was claimed to be the crowning place of the seven kings. The traditional belief that the block was used as a 'throne' is not proven.

In the 1920s, the stone became a traffic obstruction, so it was removed to the present site in 1

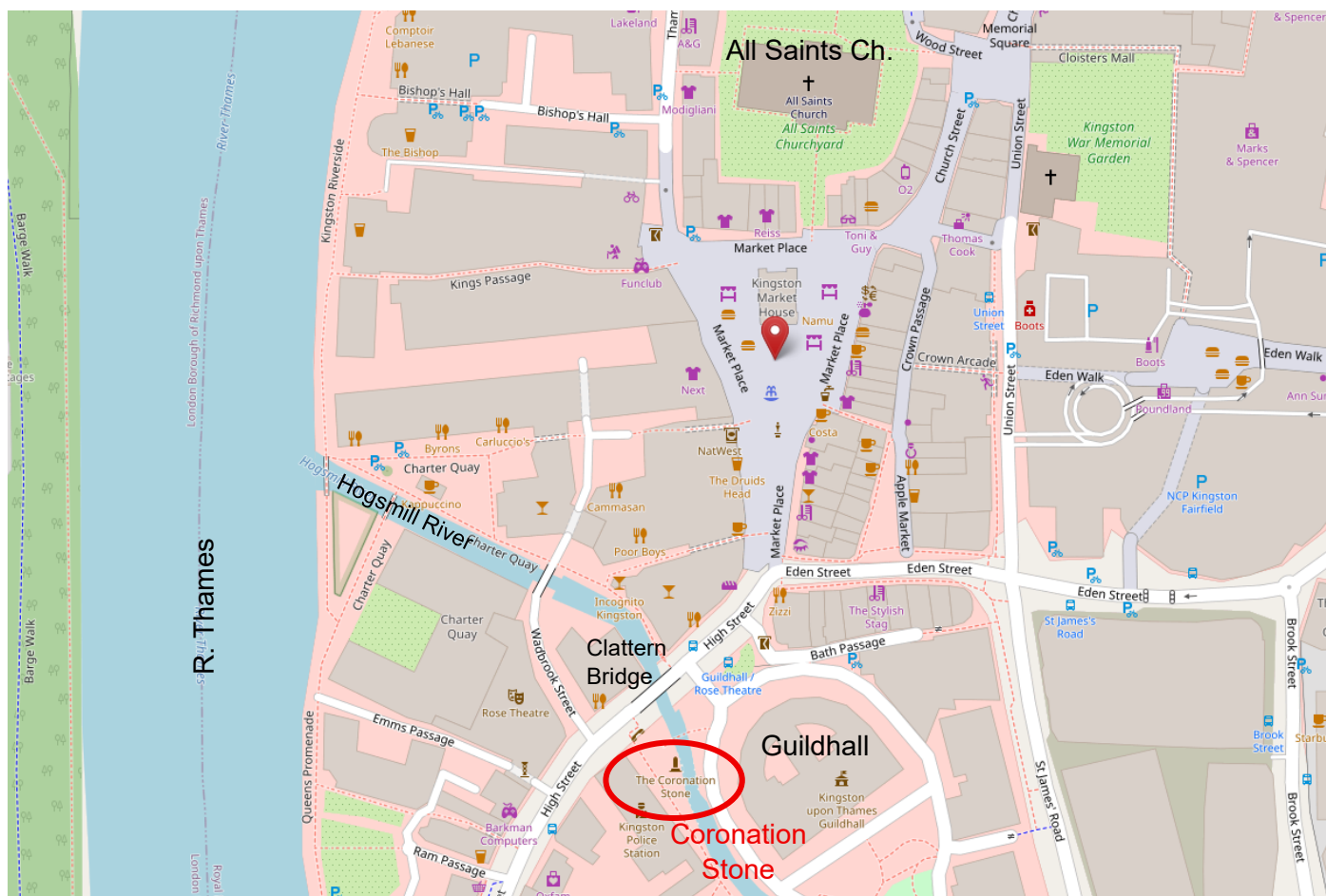
Access

The Coronation Stone is c. 800-900m from both Kingston railway station and the Cromwell Road Bus Station via Fife Road, Clarence Street, Church Street, the Market Place and the High Street. It is situated on the Hogsmill River off the High St outside the Guildhall. The historic lowest bridging point on the existing branch of the river, the Clattern Bridge, is nearby, as are bus stops served by many routes.

The Stone, the Clattern Bridge, which has some medieval stonework, and the nearby confluence of the Hogsmill River with the Thames, together form an interesting group of sites.

References (links accessed Oct-Dec 2025)

- [Historic England list entry](#)
- [Hawkins, D., 1998. Anglo-Saxon Kingston: A shifting pattern of settlement. London Archaeologist Vol 8:10, 271-278.](#)
- [Hawkins, D., 2007. A product of its environment: Revising Roman Kingston. London Archaeologist Vol 11:8, 199-203](#)
- <https://surreymedieval.wordpress.com/2018/12/23/kingston-the-coronation-stone-and-digging-a-bit-deeper/>



OpenStreetMap extract

Text and photos by Allan Wheeler