

# **Colchester Town Wall: Management Plan 2019-2024**



## **Colchester Borough Council**

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## **1.0 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This Management Plan provides the vision and overarching strategy for the management of Colchester's Town Wall – a nationally important heritage asset and a major symbol of community pride - and defines the roles and responsibilities of the Council and stakeholders involved in this work. The Plan sets out a framework for the maintenance, enhancement, interpretation, presentation and celebration of the Town Wall and its setting, as well as outlining the threats, for the next five years.

## **2.0 Town Wall Management Plan Vision**

- 2.1 Colchester is one England's major historic centres with a rich heritage that shapes the character of the modern town and its hinterland. The Town Wall is Colchester's defining characteristic, a significant visual reminder of town's historic importance and a major symbol of community pride. Colchester Borough Council will care for and safeguard this important heritage asset for this and future generations. The Council is committed to the maintenance and repair of the Town Wall, protecting it from the pressures of natural erosion, damage and commercial interest. Working with our partners, the Council is also committed to the enhancement, presentation and celebration of the Wall and its setting. This will allow present and future generations to explore and enjoy the monument and its setting and to realise social and economic benefits for the community.

## **3.0 Facts and figures**

- Originally the Wall formed a circuit 2.8km long and 2.4m thick, and enclosed a rectangular area of 48ha.
- The Wall was constructed in stone imported from an outcrop near Harwich, supplemented by courses of brick.
- The construction of the Wall is dated to c.AD 65-80.
- The highest surviving part is 2.6m above modern ground level. The original height was probably over 6m.
- Approximately 65% of the Wall is visible above ground, with the remainder surviving below-ground as archaeological remains.
- Six gates were built in the Wall and internal rectangular towers were constructed on the inside of the Wall.
- The Wall was built in short sections by a number of gangs.
- A large defensive ditch, over 5m wide and 3m deep, was dug around the outer foot of the Wall, around the same time as the construction of the Wall. This ditch was subsequently recut and enlarged in c.AD 275.
- An interior rampart was added to the Wall in the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.
- The Wall was repaired and refurbished in AD 917.
- A substantial ditch was cut along the south side of the Wall in the late 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> century.
- An extensive programme of repairs was carried out in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and eight bastions were added along the south-east circuit.
- The Civil War was the last military action seen by the Town Wall.

## **4.0 Purpose of the Management Plan**

- 4.1 The Management Plan provides the vision and overarching strategy for the management of the Town Wall (including the town gates) and defines the roles and responsibilities of the Council and stakeholders. The Plan sets out a

framework for the maintenance, enhancement, interpretation, presentation and celebration of the Town Wall and its setting for the next five years. The Plan will also inform stakeholders involved with the management of the Town Wall about how and why decisions are taken and describe their part in service delivery.

- 4.2 This Management Plan replaces the previous Management Plan (2011) and a number of outstanding actions have been brought forward. The Plan is a dynamic document and the actions may be adapted in response to changes in management context over the life of the Plan. Each year an action plan will be developed that outlines the actions to be delivered over the coming year by the relevant partners. This Management Plan will be reviewed and revised in 2024 as necessary.

## **5.0 Heritage Partnership Agreement**

- 5.1 The Management Plan builds on the [Heritage Partnership Agreement](#) (HPA) for Colchester Town Wall and the Balkerne Gate, agreed between Historic England and Colchester Borough Council in May 2015 (Appendix 1). The HPA allows for minor works (running repairs) relating to continued and ongoing maintenance, as specified in the terms of the agreement, for a five-year period; it reduces repetitive Scheduled Monument Applications that would be otherwise required for each new piece of work relating to the Wall, thereby increasing management efficiency for both parties.

- 5.2 The HPA is subject to annual review between Historic England and the Council and was last reviewed in May 2018. All other works to the Wall require Scheduled Monument Consent, administered by Historic England on behalf of the Secretary of State. Listed Building Consent will be required for sections of the Wall that are not scheduled, but these sections will be treated in accordance with the requirements of HPA.

## **6.0 Plan Objectives**

- 6.1 The objectives for the management of Town Wall for the five-year period 2019-2024 are:
- To maintain an up-to-date condition survey and maintenance / repair programme for the entire Wall, where there are upstanding remains and including publicly inaccessible parts, with adequate funding provided to ensure the delivery of the maintenance programme (i.e. to ensure the repairs are carried out appropriately). The condition survey will be supplemented by annual inspection of the Wall's condition.
  - To ensure all those involved in the management and maintenance of the Wall use the Management Plan effectively as a working document, and to ensure all parties are clear about their roles and responsibilities.
  - To respond promptly to the requirement for any unforeseen emergency repairs that pose a risk to health and safety and/or to the integrity of the Wall, e.g. due to rapid deterioration, and/or acts of vandalism, e.g. graffiti or removal of wall fabric.
  - To ensure that all works relating to the Wall are carried out in conformity with legal requirements of Scheduled Monument Consent or other relevant consent and/or in accordance with the Heritage Partnership Agreement.

- To ensure the particular significance and character of any part of the Wall to be repaired is established in advance and informed by an appropriate archaeological assessment and, where required, by full recording and analysis. The results of each assessment will be used to inform the method statement for repairs. Each assessment will be made publicly accessible in, and used to enhance, the Historic Environment Record<sup>1</sup>.
- To ensure the significance of the biodiversity (both flora and fauna) of any part of the Wall to be maintained/repared is established in advance and informed by appropriate up-to-date biodiversity assessments, to protect important species and to minimise and mitigate the disturbance to species that make a positive contribution to the Wall. Shrubs and trees posing a threat to the structure of the Wall will be expediently removed. An archive of this work will be maintained by the Council.
- To ensure that all repairs are carried out in accordance with an approved method statement (written scheme) and risk assessment, using appropriate materials and undertaken by appropriately qualified and experienced specialist conservation contractors. All works carried out will be monitored and recorded to ensure they meet agreed requirements. An archive of repairs will be maintained by the Council.
- To promote positive initiatives and seek partnerships and external funding opportunities, that enhance the local character and distinctiveness and which better reveal the significance of, and create better access to, the Wall (including the biodiversity of the Wall).
- To ensure that any new development that impacts upon the setting of the Wall is respectful to the sense of place, responds to the historic character of the surroundings and enhances the significance of the Wall, best sustains its heritage values and better reveals the significance of heritage asset.
- To enhance the public's understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the Wall and its history.
- To ensure that due consideration is given to issues of public safety on the Wall.

## 7.0 The Strategic Context of the Management Plan

7.1 The Town Wall Management Plan can contribute towards the Council's key priorities, as set in [Our Colchester. The Strategic Plan 2018-21](#). The four themes of the Strategy in which the Management Plan contributes are:

- **GROWTH** – Ensuring all residents benefit from the growth of the borough.
  - Help make sure Colchester is a welcoming place for all residents and visitors.
  - Work with partners to create a shared vision for a vibrant town centre.
- **RESPONSIBILITY** – Encouraging everyone to do their bit to making our borough event better.
  - Create new routes for walking or cycling and work with partners to make the borough more pedestrian-friendly.

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<sup>1</sup> The Council maintains the evidence base for the historic environment in the Historic Environment Record (HER, incorporating the Urban Archaeological Database). This is a detailed database of heritage assets recorded in the Borough. The HER is publicly accessible online at <https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/>

- **OPPORTUNITY** – Promoting and improving Colchester and its environment.
- Promote and enhance Colchester borough’s heritage and visitor attractions to increase visitor numbers and to support job creation
- **WELLBEING** – Making Colchester an even better place to live and supporting those who need help.
- Encourage belonging, involvement and responsibility in all the borough’s communities.
- Help residents adopt healthier lifestyles by enabling the provision of excellent leisure facilities and beautiful green spaces, countryside and beaches.

## 8.0 Statement of Significance

- 8.1 Colchester is one of the most important settlements in Roman Britain and is regarded as the first capital of Roman Britain. Colchester’s Town Wall is the earliest and one of the most complete town wall circuits surviving from Roman Britain (Figure 1). Nearly two thirds of the wall circuit still exists with the remainder surviving as buried archaeological remains.
- 8.2 The distinctive Roman character of the Wall is still very evident, defining the historic town centre and creating a distinctive sense of place. Unlike many other town walls, subsequent alterations have not altered the essential character of the circuit and it continues to define the historic centre of the town. It is one of the most important historic features and visual reminders of the Roman town, as most of the Roman evidence is buried deep underground.
- 8.3 The continued importance of the Wall for the town during the Medieval and Civil War periods is also evident, particularly along the south and east sections of the circuit, where eight semi-circular defensive bastions were added in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 8.4 The majority of the Town Wall is a designated heritage asset of national importance, recorded on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) and statutorily protected as a Scheduled Monument under the [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#) (NHLE no. 1003772, ‘Town Wall’)(Figure 2; Appendix 2).
- 8.5 The upstanding Wall is also a Grade I Listed Building (NHLE no. 1123664, ‘The Roman Town Wall’; Appendix 3) and protected under the [Planning Act \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) 1990](#). Consequently, upstanding sections of the Wall that are not currently Scheduled are Grade I Listed.<sup>2</sup>
- 8.6 In addition, the Balkerne Gate, which was the main (west) gate into the walled Roman town, is separately designated as a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1002187) and Grade I Listed Building (NHLE 1123668).
- 8.7 There are several sections of the wall line, where there are no upstanding remains, that are currently neither Scheduled nor Listed: along the north side, the majority of the section between North Hill and Maidenburgh Street, along the east side, to the rear of Roman Road and along the south side, the section from Head Street to the SW corner. It is assumed that the Wall survives as below-ground archaeological remains in these areas but, to date, there have been no investigations in these locations.

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<sup>2</sup> The extent of the Grade I Listing is unclear from the Listing description and it is assumed that the entirety of the upstanding remains are Listed.

- 8.8 A section of the Town Ditch and counter scarp, c.460m long, outside the north-east corner of the walled town, is separately designated as a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1002178).
- 8.9 Two other Scheduled Monuments border onto the Town Wall within the area of the walled town:
- Colchester Castle (NHLE 1002217), which incorporates the upper part of Castle Park. c.250m long section along the north (-east) part of the Wall.
  - SE Corner of Roman Town in East Hill House gardens (NHLE 1002153). c.200m-long section, which incorporates the south-east corner of the walled town.
- 8.10 In addition, there are a number of Listed Buildings that incorporate the Wall within their structure and/or the Wall forms part of the property boundary or curtilage (Figure 3):
- |  | Grade |
|--|-------|
| • The Hole in the Wall Public House (NHLE 1337683) | II    |
| • Church of St James and St Paul (NHLE 1307051)    | II*   |
| • Churchyard Wall of St James (NHLE 1123647)       | II    |
| • 89, East Hill (NHLE 1337718)                     | II    |
| • 1, Eld Lane (NHLE 1123636)                       | II    |
| • 1, Middleborough (NHLE 1169127)                  | II    |
| • Drinking Fountain (NHLE 1306665)                 | II    |
| • Colchester Castle (NHLE 1123674)                 | I     |
| • 1 and 2, Scheregate (NHLE 1169422)               | II    |
| • 3, Scheregate (NHLE 1123514)                     | II    |
| • 3A, Scheregate (NHLE 1337770)                    | II    |
| • 11, Sir Isaac's Walk (NHLE 1123516)              | II    |
- 8.11 A 290m-long section of the northern part of the Town Wall lies within or on the boundary of Colchester Castle Park, which is Grade II Listed within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens for its special historic interest and protected under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 (NHLE 1000208).
- 8.12 The whole circuit falls within the Town Centre Conservation Area, designated for the area's special architectural and historic interest.
- 8.13 The Wall also forms the property boundary to a large number of Locally Listed buildings within the town.<sup>3</sup>
- 8.14 The Town Wall is recorded as a Monument in the Colchester Historic Environment Record (HER), incorporating the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD):

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<sup>3</sup> Locally Listed heritage assets are not suitable for designation nationally as either Listed Buildings or Scheduled Monuments but they are nevertheless considered historically or architecturally important at a local level, are valued by the local community and make a significant contribution to the character and setting of Colchester and the surrounding villages. Colchester Local List is currently held on the websites of the Colchester Historic Buildings Forum:  
<http://www.colchesterhistoricbuildingsforum.org.uk/drupal/>

- HER no. MCC859 (UAD no. MON570).<sup>4</sup>

8.15 The Wall has been divided into 28 discrete sections for management purposes; these relate only to publicly accessible parts of the Wall and not to the entire circuit (Figure 4).<sup>5</sup>

## 9.0 History and archaeology

### 9.1 The location, description and setting of the Town Wall

9.1.1 The walled town of Colchester is situated on a prominent ridge of land on the south side of, and overlooking, the River Colne. It occupies an area of c.48 ha. within the dyke system that defined the late Iron Age tribal capital, or *oppidum*, of Camulodunum, which was the main target of the Roman Invasion.<sup>6</sup>

9.1.2 Following the Roman Conquest, the Twentieth Legion of the Roman army constructed a legionary fortress in AD 43<sup>7</sup>. After only six years, in AD 49, the Legion moved on and a town, or *colonia*, was founded at Colchester for retired veterans. The conversion of the fortress into the *colonia*, involved the partial demolition and reuse of military buildings, the slighting of the military defences (on all sides), the addition of a realigned street grid as well as the construction of public buildings, including the Temple of Claudius.<sup>8</sup>

9.1.3 In the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, the Roman historian Tacitus refers to the Boudican revolt in AD 60/61. He writes that it did not seem 'a difficult task to destroy a colony that was unprotected by any fortifications, something to which our commanders, putting comfort before necessity, had paid too little attention' (*Annals* XIV, 31). This event – the destruction of the town during the Boudican Revolt - appears to have led to the rebuilding of the town and the construction of the Roman Wall, making it the first of its kind in Britain. The Roman Wall has been dated to c.AD 65-80, possibly earlier in the post Boudican sequence (Crummy 1992, 62-64; 2003, 50-52).

9.1.4 The area of Roman occupation in Colchester was, however, significantly larger than the walled area. Suburbs soon developed outside the walled area during the Roman period, in particular, extending along the main roads out of the town. The Romans also buried their dead outside of the town to separate them from the living. The Roman Circus was located over 400m to the south of the walled town.

### 9.2 Roman Construction

9.2.1 The Wall formed a circuit c.2.8km long and c.2.6-2.7m thick, and enclosed a rectangular area 960m E to W and 530m N to S. The original height of the Wall

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<sup>4</sup> Particular attributes of the Wall (and associated features) have been assigned individual HER monument numbers.

<sup>5</sup> Colchester Archaeological Trust assigned the section numbers c.30 years ago, prior to recording and conservation.

<sup>6</sup> Iron Age Colchester was protected on its western edge by a series of defensive earthworks known as the Dykes. A dyke is a bank formed from the earth dug out of a defensive ditch.

<sup>7</sup> Although the site of the fortress and walled town is topographically favourable for early occupation, current evidence indicates it was not previously occupied prior to the foundation of the legionary fortress.

<sup>8</sup> The site of the legionary fortress is located under the western half of the walled town and covered an area of c.20ha., with a large annexe on its eastern side. The exact position and extent of the annexe remains unknown.

is not known; the highest surviving accessible part is south of the Balkerne Gate where the Wall reaches a height of 2.6m above modern ground level. It has been suggested that the top of the parapet would have been c.6.7m above ground level, based on the investigations at the NW corner of the Wall (Brooks et al 2009, Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 107)<sup>9</sup>.

- 9.2.2 A calcareous mudstone, septaria, was imported from an outcrop near Harwich and used as the main building material, because of the absence of local building stone. The septaria was supplemented by courses of brick. Describing the construction of the Wall in 1768, Morant states, '*They are built of Stone, such as is found on our Eastern Coast; with a mixture of Roman Bricks. The Cement is excellent, and incredibly strong; it suffers much in winter, especially in great rains, attended with sudden frosts and thaws*' (1768, Book I, p.5).
- 9.2.3 The Wall was constructed on a large foundation, c.3.0m wide and 1.2m deep, comprising alternate layers of lime mortar and septaria (Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 107). In response to the localised water-logged ground conditions at the base of North Hill, in the NW corner of the circuit (Sheepen Corner, TL9926825482), a substantial trench at least 6.0-7.0m wide and possibly as much as 2.0m deep was excavated for the foundation and vertical timber piles, each possibly up to c.2.0m long, were sunk into the ground<sup>10</sup> (only the upper parts of three piles were exposed during investigations in 2005-6; Brooks et al. 2009). These piles, in regular rows c.0.50m apart, were covered with a layer of sand and gravel which was divided by two layers of horizontal timber planks and branches. Into this layer, a mortar (*opus cementicum*) with hard quartz, flint, stone cobbles and boulders was poured, forming the Wall's foundation, c.1.10m thick. Above this foundation, the base of the Wall consisted of septaria blocks bonded with *opus signinum* mortar<sup>11</sup>. Several clay layers were then laid down adjacent to this part of the Wall, effectively sealing the sand, gravel and the ground water beneath.
- 9.2.4 The Wall itself was of ashlar construction, meaning the inner and outer faces were constructed with dressed (septaria) stone. The faces were raised, a few courses at a time, and then the space between the two faces (i.e. the wall core) was filled with layers of septaria and lime mortar laid alternately just as in the foundation. A small (c.30-40mm wide) offset was formed at the base of the Wall by making the lowest courses slightly wider than the rest. Both faces were made of neat horizontal courses or bands of pointed septaria and brick. These were laid in a repeating pattern of four courses, i.e. four courses of septaria (c.0.50-0.60m thick in total) capped by four courses of brick (c.0.15m thick in total).<sup>12</sup> The joints between blocks and bricks were picked out with the tip of a trowel to make incised lines. Hull states, 'The joints are thick owing to the poor stone, and were plastered level with the stones and then marked off with the point of the trowel. This marking remains wherever the surface has been protected from frost' (1958, 21). Traces of what appears to be a white coating on the internal face has been shown to be of natural origin; there is no evidence

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<sup>9</sup> No putlog holes have been identified, which indicates the scaffolding was free-standing; putlog holes are small holes made in the walls of structures to receive the ends of poles or beams, called putlogs, to support a scaffolding.

<sup>10</sup> CAT Report 347, 54-68.

<sup>11</sup> *Opus signinum* is a pink mortar containing crushed and powdered brick and tile mixed in which has special water-resistant properties.

<sup>12</sup> The Romans often interspersed the stonework at set intervals with thin courses of bricks, sometimes known as bonding tiles. This practice gave added stability, strengthening the cohesion of the structure by bonding the stone façade with the mortar core. It also had a secondary aesthetic and decorative effect of creating a polychromatic appearance.

to suggest the wall was lime-washed or rendered.

- 9.2.5 Approximately 65% (c.1.8km) of the Wall is visible above ground (Crummy 2003, 44). The most complete, and impressive, upstanding stretch of Wall with exposed faces showing the characteristic septaria and brick courses, is along the southern part of Balkerne Hill (to the south of the Balkerne Gate), where the external face survives up to 2.6m above modern ground level. For large parts of the circuit, all that can be seen of the Wall today is the (consolidated) core, and the outer face has been extensively robbed during the medieval and later periods. Much is obscured by post-medieval and modern repairs and patches.<sup>13</sup>
- 9.2.6 Sections of the lowest part of the Wall (particularly on the internal side) are well-preserved below-ground where there has been an accumulation of later deposits inside the walled town. For example, little of the outer, accessible side of the Wall survived at Culver Street, because of extensive robbing, but the buried inner face was well-preserved (TL9948725006; Crummy 1992, 63-64). Trial excavations in 1990 against the Wall in Queen Street Bus Depot revealed the wall's north face in an excellent state of preservation, over 1.0m below the current ground surface; there is at least c.2.60m of well-preserved Wall below the Bus Depot floor (TM 0001125048) (Colchester Archaeological Trust 1990). A small excavation against the inner face of the Wall in the grounds of the Sixth Form College, North Hill (TL9926825482) in 2005-6 exposed 6.84m of standing Roman masonry (Brooks *et al.* 2009).
- 9.2.7 This difference in preservation between inner and outer faces is because the present ground surface is much higher inside the wall than out, beginning with the construction of the rampart in the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century (Section 9.7, see below) and, more generally, by the steady rise in ground level from the accumulation of living material (up to 3.0m deep) that was not removed from the town. In contrast, on the outer side of the Wall, in places the base of the foundation is well above the ground level, where erosion has caused the ground level to be reduced.
- 9.2.8 The Wall was not raised as one unit all round its circuit, because there are discontinuities in the coursing and differences in the fabric of the wall (Crummy 2003, 48-50). Instead, the wall was built in short sections by a number of gangs, concurrently, each presumably working at their own speed and, to a limited degree, building them in their own way; the average length of each section seems to be c.40-60m. Detailed analysis of the Balkerne Gate and the wall to either side of it has identified five different sections of Wall, constructed by five different gangs – one for the gate and four for the stretches of Wall. Gang 3, who built the gate, favoured *opus signinum* while Gang 2, who built the section to the north of the Balkerne Gate, favoured the use of waste from the dressed facing stones as aggregate in their mortar mix.

### 9.3 Roman Interval Towers

- 9.3.1 Solid, internal rectangular towers were built on the inside of the Wall, with the same facing and core as the Wall and therefore integral to the original construction, at the ends of streets and in the angles of the circuit; eight have been identified but it has been estimated there could be another fifteen (Crummy 2001; 2003, 45-46; Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 110). Tower 1, along Balkerne Hill (HER Monument no. MCC8397, TL 9924025297) was

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<sup>13</sup> During the 1950s and 1960s a skin of septaria and cement mortar was added to various stretches of the Wall because it was believed, at the time, this would protect the Roman core.

investigated in 1938 (Hull 1958, 22 & Plate XLI no. 164). It measured c.1.85m wide (from the wall face) x 5.20m long x 2.15m high (from presumed ground level).

## 9.4 Roman Culverts

9.4.1 There were culverts – brick-turned arched passages - through the foundation of the Wall, at the end of streets and associated with the interval towers. These culverts were below the contemporary ground level, although the tiles forming their brick arches were not (Crummy 2003, 46-47; Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 110).

## 9.5 Roman Gates

9.5.1 Six gates were built into the Wall, although indirect evidence of a seventh (at 21 St Peter's Street) was discovered in 2008 (Figure 5). Today, there are upstanding remains of only two gates, the Balcerne Gate and Duncan's Gate.

9.5.2 Balcerne Gate (TL99235 25193)

9.5.2.1 The town's main entrance from the west, the Balcerne Gate (MCC555) incorporated a free-standing monumental arch (with two archways) built to celebrate the Claudian conquest of Britain, probably in the AD 50s, and faced with tufa stone brought from the Hampshire coast (MCCC718).

9.5.2.2 The free-standing arch was incorporated into the Town Wall, creating a double-arched gateway with flanking walkway arches and external guardrooms, c.30m wide in total N to S. The archways formed the main carriageways with the addition of a footway and a bastion on both sides to form the Balcerne Gate (MCC555).

9.5.2.3 In the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century, the Balcerne Gate was closed and the external defensive ditch (Section 9.6, see below) was extended to close off the road (i.e. the ditch was dug across the carriageways). The monumental arch and part of the rest of the gate was demolished and the rubble used to block the gap; the south pedestrian walkway, however, seems to have been left open.

9.5.2.4 The surviving (southern) pedestrian archway, still in use today, and southern bastion (and also part of the northern bastion) is only a small part of what was once an impressive entrance into Colchester, in keeping with the importance of the town. The base of the blocked carriageways are on display below the parapet of the Hole in the Wall public house.

9.5.3 There was a gate, East Gate, on the opposite side of town (and at the opposite end of the main E to W street, the *decumanus maximus*) East Gate (Figure 6). There were two gates on the north, North Gate and Duncan's Gate (MCC1831) and south sides, Head Gate and South (-East) Gate (MCC2332).

9.5.4 Duncan's Gate (MCC1831, TM 00015 25569)

9.5.4.1 The North-East or Duncan's Gate (named after Dr. P.M. Duncan, who first discovered and excavated the gate in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century) was small and of simple plan. The Gate had a single carriageway c.3.25m wide, with piers formed by returning the Wall inwards at right angles to each other. The structure consisted of a tower gateway supported on the piers; a large lump of masonry (MCC10068) to the south of the gate is the fallen remnants of the southern side of the tower.

9.5.4.2 Duncan's Gate was also effectively closed in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century, because the town ditch passed unbroken across the front of the gate.

- 9.5.6 North Gate (TL 99391 25499)  
 9.5.6.1 The North Gate, at the bottom of North Hill, was located at the north end of the main N to S street, the *cardo maximus*. The Gate was demolished in 1823. Part of this gate was uncovered (MCC2276) in 1944 and said to be excellently preserved, standing up to the level of the pavement.
- 9.5.7 Head Gate (TL 99410 25000)  
 9.5.7.1 The south-west gate, or Head Gate (MCC1760), located at the opposite end of the *cardo maximus*, increased in importance once the Balcerne Gate was blocked in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The location of the gateway has been confirmed by various small scale investigations; a watching brief in 2006 uncovered part of the central pier of the gate, which would have provided support for a double archway over two carriageways, close to the modern ground surface. The excavation enabled the width of the eastern carriageway (3.4m) to be ascertained.
- 9.5.8 East Gate (TM 00186 25260)  
 9.5.8.1 Part of a Roman guardhouse is supposed to have survived on the south side of (the site of) East Gate until 1813. In 1925 a piece of walling likely to be part of East Gate was recorded under the pavement on the south side of East Hill.
- 9.5.9 South Gate (TL 99896 25024)  
 9.5.9.1 South Gate, at the bottom of Queen Street, is the least certain of the Roman gates. A medieval gate was demolished in 1814 and William Wire recorded foundations he thought similar in construction to the town wall at the bottom of Queen Street in 1848. However, there has not been any more recent investigations of this gate and the exact location is uncertain.
- 9.5.10 St Peter's Gate (TL 99595 25534)  
 9.5.10.1 The presence of a seventh gate has been suggested at 21 St Peter's Street although no direct evidence was found (Wightman 2010). The various exposures of wall point to a single or double arch structure without provision for pedestrians.
- 9.6 Roman Exterior Defensive Ditch**
- 9.6.1 A large defensive ditch was dug following the Boudican destruction, c.AD60/1 to 80 (Period 3), c.5.5m wide x 3.3m deep. This ditch was backfilled in the area of Balcerne Gate at the start of Period 4 (c.AD 80), to allow for development along the main road (Crummy 1984, 110-111). However, it is assumed that the ditch survived elsewhere around the circuit (Philip Crummy pers. comm.). In the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century, the ditch was widened to convert its profile from a deep V-shape to a very wide truncated U-shape around the entire circuit, with the spoil piled up on the outside to create an outer bank or counter scarp. At Lion Walk (Site M) the ditch was c.20m wide x 3.0-6.0m deep (Crummy 1984, 70-73). At Balcerne Lane (Site D) the ditch was 15m wide x 3.75m deep (Crummy 1984, 154 & Sx65).
- 9.7 Roman Interior Rampart**
- 9.7.1 An interior rampart was added to the Wall in the Antonine Period, in the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, with evidence for later dumping of material onto the rampart continuing in to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The rampart survives most clearly to the west of Duncan's Gate and to the south of the Balcerne Gate (west of the Mercury Theatre) and north of St Marys Steps (MCC1170). Where it has been investigated, the rampart mainly contained daub debris from the demolition of wattle-and-daub buildings, with evidence to show distinct phases within the body of it.

## 9.8 The Anglo-Saxon Period

- 9.8.1 Little is known about the history of the Wall during the 5th-9th centuries AD. Considering the extensive survival of the Roman Wall into later periods, it is likely that the defences were sufficiently high to require little more than repairs during refurbishment of the defences in AD 917, and establishment of a *burh*, after the Danes were defeated by Edward the Elder.<sup>14</sup> The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* records, 'King Edward went with the army of the West Saxons to Colchester, and improved the stronghold and restored it where it was broken down earlier' (Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 189). No new defences appear to have been provided until the 11<sup>th</sup> century when a large ditch (MCC722), c.7.5m wide x 3.0m deep (defined during the Lion Walk excavations on Vineyard Street), was added to the base of the town wall along the south side of the circuit (Crummy 1981, 52-53 & Crummy 1984, 84 & LWC Site N Sx55; Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 193). The full extent of this ditch is not known but it has not been detected along the other sides of the Wall, where investigations have taken place.

## 9.9 The Medieval Town Wall

- 9.9.1 Knowledge of the town defences is limited in the Medieval period, and comes mainly from historic records. Major repairs are recorded in 1173-1174 at the time of the rebellion of Henry the Younger. The Court Rolls of the early 14<sup>th</sup> century record charges made on the whole community for repairs to the walls and gates.<sup>15</sup> They show that the bailiffs kept a close eye on the walls, summoning those who damaged the structure, built against it or dug pits too near the foundations (Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 220-221). Morant states, 'Such persons as beat off, or meddled with, any of the stones belonging thereto, or dug any holes under or near it, were constantly indicted' (1768, Book I, 6).
- 9.9.2 During the Medieval period, the authorities taxed the community for the maintenance of the Wall. The Court Rolls for 1312 record that a burgess was in arrears in his payment of a tallage (i.e. land tax) assessed 'throughout the whole community' for the repair of the walls and gates of the town (Britnell 1986, 28).
- 9.9.3 Britnell (1986, 121) records that the biggest civic building programme of the late 14<sup>th</sup> century was the restoration of the Town Walls (in response to threats from the French), 'an operation in which pride mingled with a concern for public security'. The scale of this task is shown by the fact that, in 1382, the burgesses of Colchester were exempted for five years from sending members to parliament in view of their expenses in enclosing the town. This exemption was extended in 1388 and in 1394, although only for a further three years.
- 9.9.4 Repair work on the Walls began in c.1382, when it was observed that 'of late the bailiffs and community have been continuously having the stone walls of the town repaired, as is sorely needed'; this might also indicate that repairs had lapsed up to this point. Britnell records that because John Hampstone and his wife had a house up against the walls by East Gate they were required to move it, and were given a building plot for the purpose. Provision was also made for the wall's future maintenance. In 1394 a plot next to the wall near North Bridge,

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<sup>14</sup> *Burh* was an Old English term for a fortification or fortified settlement.

<sup>15</sup> Court rolls are the records of the court which provided justice at the local level and they contain a wealth of information about, for example, property rights, occupation and enforcement of law and order.

at the end of St Peter's Street, was leased out by bailiffs and community 'with conditions respecting repair of the stone wall there' (Britnell suggests this is probably simply to ensure proper access). In a lease of a plot inside the Wall by North Gate in 1398 it was stipulated that the bailiffs and community should in perpetuity have access 'to inspect and repair the town wall whenever and as often as they please' (Britnell 1986, 121).

- 9.9.5 The 'Oath Book' or 'Red Parchment Book' of Colchester, relating to the local government of the town over a period of 400 years, records one of the Oaths administered in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century relating to the maintenance of the Town Wall:

*'Also of all tho that bere away any stones longyng to the town walle, or lokk, keys, or chenys (chains), longyng to the gats (gates) of Colchester'* (Benham 1907, 3)

- 9.9.6 That there was a specific oath relating to the maintenance of the Town Wall indicates the importance attached by the then town authorities to this defensive structure. It also indicates that Wall stones were liable to be taken from the Town Wall by townsfolk for new building work.

## **9.10 Medieval Gates**

- 9.10.1 There were four main gates in the Medieval period, on or close to their Roman predecessors, but little is known about their form (Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 221). No medieval gates survive above ground and no trace of medieval work has been found during examination of the Roman remains.

- 9.10.2 The principal gate was Head Gate (MCC1760), first recorded as 'Havedgate' in 1207, near the south-west corner of the Wall. South Gate was recorded in 1197. East Gate (MCC2113) was recorded as 'Estgate' in 1311 and North Gate (MCC2176), was first recorded during the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

- 9.10.3 Speed's map of 1610 shows that North Gate, Head Gate and South Gate each comprised a single large arched or square-headed gateway (Figure 7). Documentary records indicate that at least some of the gates were ornamented by statues paid for by wealthy burghesses.

- 9.10.4 There were also two or three pedestrian gates providing access to the suburbs. The gate at St Mary's Steps (TL 9924225083) in the west wall was probably of late medieval origin and had been formed from a Roman culvert, enlarged so that people could pass through it (MCC1839; Crummy 1992, 324-328). In 1768, Philip Morant records that 'part of the Wall was taken down in order to enlarge the passage, and stone steps made' (Morant 1768, Book 1, 7). Scheregate (MCC2335; TL 9962025009), along the south side, led to the southern suburbs and St John's Abbey and it also might have been a gap in the Wall made by enlarging a Roman culvert. Ryegate (MCC2336; TL 9971025537) is believed to have given access through the north wall to the river bank and Middle Mill. Morant records, '*Rye-gate, as it is vulgarly called; or rather Rhee or Rea-Gate, that is the River-Gate, as leading to the River. It was anciently named the North, or King's Scherde. 'Twas taken down in the year 1659'* (Book I, 7).

## **9.11 Medieval Bastions**

- 9.11.1 Colchester was refortified in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. A programme of repairs was carried out during the reign of Richard II (1379-1399) and the Wall was extensively refaced (Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 264-266). The most significant alteration was the addition of eight bastions (MCC2705 - MCC2711

and MCC2716) along the south-east circuit (Figure 8). Each bastion was semi-circular in shape, measuring over 6.0m wide and extending c.3m out from the outer face of the Wall. Speed's map of 1610 depicts the bastions - three between Scheregate and South Gate, and five between South Gate and East Gate.

- 9.11.2 Of these, four survive above ground level, three in Priory Street (nos. 1 : MCC2705, 2 : MCC2706 and 5 : MCC2709) and one in Vineyard Street (no. 6 : MCC2710). Investigations have been carried out on the site of Bastions 3, 4, 5 and 8; the investigation of Bastion 8 (Lion Walk, TL9969325009) demonstrated that the bastion was contemporary with the refacing of the wall (Crummy 1984, 84). The bastion was presumably demolished in 1648 or later. One section of Wall, west of Bastion 7, was completely rebuilt at this time. The Wall either side of North Gate may also have been rebuilt at this time.

## 9.12 The Civil War Siege and Later

- 9.12.1 The defences suffered significant damage during the Civil War Siege of 1648, when the town was occupied by Royalist supporters for 73 days (Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 287). A number of the bastions were destroyed in the Siege and part of the south-west angle was demolished to allow for the mounting of a Royalist gun battery. After the Siege, the Wall was further damaged by the Parliamentarian army, commanded by Sir Thomas Fairfax, to prevent it being defended in the future. Morant records, '*And, not satisfied with the Breaches his Batteries had made in our Walls, he [General Fairfax] ordered some parts of them to be further demolished, that the place might not hereafter be able to make any manner of defence*' (1768, Book I, 73).
- 9.12.2 The Civil War was the last military action seen by the Town Wall and, as it ceased to be looked on as a defensive asset, less care was taken of it (Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 287). Houses were allowed to be built up against the Wall on both sides, passages cut through, and extensive robbing occurred along exposed sections. Daniel Defoe records of his visit to Colchester in 1722 during his tour of Great Britain, '*the batter'd walls, the breaches in the turrets, and the ruin'd churches still remain*'.<sup>16</sup>
- 9.12.3 Morant records that part of the East Gate fell down in 1651, presumably having taken a battering in the Siege (Morant 1768, Book 1, 7). However, he suggests that it must have been rebuilt as there was an order to pull down in 1675. A 'Roman guardhouse' on the south side of this gate survived in 1813 (Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 287). Morant records that Ryegate was taken down in 1659. He also records that the main medieval gate, Head Gate, was 'now taken down' (1768, Book 1, 7). The South Gate was demolished by the improvement commissioners in 1814 (Gascoyne and Radford 2013, 287).
- 9.12.4 Hull records how the Wall has been undercut along the northern part of the Balkerne Hill, 'so that the remains of the wall now stand on the top of a bank of soft sand with the foundations fully exposed' (Hull 1958, 21). He notes how the private doorway through the Wall passes beneath the foundation altogether (without cutting the Wall) '*for the foundations are so high above the street outside*' (Hull 1958, 22). Indeed, he records how a section of this Wall collapsed outwards into the road in 1795, quoting a manuscript note by H. Laver in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Laver records that engineers from the garrison used gunpowder to break up the collapsed wall (Hull 1958, 22). Wire also records the collapse of a second section lower down the hill in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. It seems likely that the surviving section of collapsed wall towards the SW corner

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<sup>16</sup> [http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/text/chap\\_page.jsp?t\\_id=Defoe&c\\_id=2&p\\_id=893#pn\\_2](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/text/chap_page.jsp?t_id=Defoe&c_id=2&p_id=893#pn_2) [cited 29 October 2018]

of the circuit on Balkerne Hill, which has also clearly fallen outwards, is the result of a similar process – and not the result of Civil War damage. The base of the foundation in this area is pedestalled c.1.0m above the current street level.

- 9.12.5 In addition to several small breaches creating pedestrian access through the upstanding Wall (to the north of the Balkerne Gate, at the north end of Balkerne Hill and at the north end of Castle Road), two wider breaches were made in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century along the sought side of the Wall, to access for loading the retail premises within the Lion Walk and Culver Square precincts – at Vineyard Gate during the 1971-74 excavations (for the service basement for Lion Walk) and off St John's Street (for the service basement for Culver Square) during the 1981-85 excavations (Crummy 1984, 70-73 & Sx 54; 1992, 62-65). The investigations at Lion Walk showed that the outer face of the Wall had been re-faced in c.1400; the re-facing also extended c.0.80m below the base of the foundation, demonstrating by how much the ground surface had been truncated outside the Wall (i.e. by 0.80m) since construction (Crummy 1984, Sx 54). In comparison, c.200m to the west at Culver Square, the south face and most of the core and foundation of the Wall had been destroyed in post Roman times and the outer face was sealed by a 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century revetment wall.<sup>17</sup> The base of the foundation was level with the modern ground level on the outside of the Wall, as a result of the build up of deposits on the inner side, the Wall was tipping outwards at an angle of 15 degrees from vertical (Crummy 1984, Fig. 3.31).

## 10.0 Heritage Values

- 10.1 In terms of Historic England's [Conservation Principles](#) for the sustainable management of the historic environment (2008), Colchester's Town Wall can be seen to possess the full range of heritage values:
- Evidential value: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
  - Historical value: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present – it tends to be illustrative or associative.
  - Aesthetic value: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
  - Communal value: the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

## 11.0 Accessibility, Land use and Ownership

- 11.1 Ownership of the Town Wall is complex and the Wall is generally not recorded in the title deeds of individual properties. More often than not, private properties butt up to the base of the Wall and it is not included in the property deeds (and not within the ownership of that property), even where the only access to the Wall may be across the property.
- 11.2 The Wall falls within, or forms the boundary to, many different properties, both on the internal and external sides. Large sections of the surviving Town Wall are publicly accessible:
- The western outer side of the Wall, including the Balkerne Gate, is one of

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<sup>17</sup> A similar situation was observed along the north-eastern section of the Wall in 2006, where up to c.2.4m of the Wall has been lost from the outer side. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century (Orr *et al.* 2006).

the longest publicly accessible and impressive stretches of Wall, fronting onto the dual carriageway at Balkerne Way (the western section of the inner relief road, constructed in 1977). The inner side of this section is accessible at the Mercury Theatre and St Mary's Churchyard.

- Other upstanding and accessible sections of the Wall are located in Castle Park, including Duncan's Gate, where the Wall divides the upper and lower Park. The outer side of the north-east corner of the circuit is also accessible in the area of Land Lane public open space and, internally, along the northern part of Roman Road.
- The south-east outer part of the Wall, including Bastions 2 and 5, faces outwardly onto Priory Street car park (while Bastion 1 is adjacent to and visible from the car park).
- The southern section of the Wall fronts, outwardly, onto Vineyard Street car park.
- A short section of (the base of) the Wall is visible along the north side of Northgate Street, to the rear of Claudius Court.

11.3 Upstanding stretches are also visible in a private car park off St Peter's Street (rear of 1 North Hill), the Former Bus Depot east of Queen Street that is the subject of ongoing re-development proposals and in the grounds of Firstsite Art Gallery and the Mulberry Centre. These sections are not currently publicly accessible. Elsewhere, where the Wall survives as an upstanding monument, it is not readily accessible.

## **12.0 Management**

12.1 As one of the most important archaeological monuments within the Borough, the Council (and earlier iterations of the Council) has taken responsibility for, and managed, the Town Wall for many centuries, and this is historically documented for the last 600 years.

12. The Council adopted the following policy in 1973:

'That this Council recognise the historic value of the walls of Colchester and assume the responsibility of their ownership and maintenance in all cases where they adjoin Council property except where the walls support existing premises, in which case work will, as necessary, be carried out in consultation with and with the help of the owners' (Cultural Activities Committee, Minute 30, 5 December 1973).

This policy has not been formally reviewed or revised since then.

12.3 The maintenance and repair of the Wall is delegated to Colchester Borough Homes (formerly the Building Maintenance Service of the Council)<sup>18</sup> on behalf of Colchester Borough Council and under a general Service Level Agreement.; there is no specific SLA for the Town Wall and this Management Plan provides this purpose.

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<sup>18</sup> Colchester Borough Homes is an Arm's Length Management Organisation, set up in 2003, that looks after properties (including the Town Wall) for Colchester Borough Council.

## **13.0 The Town Wall and Planning**

### **13.1 Heritage-related Consent Regimes**

- 13.1.1 The majority of the Town Wall is a designated heritage asset of national importance, recorded on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) and statutorily protected as a Scheduled Monument under the [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#) (NHLE no. 1003772).
- 13.1.2 All works to a Scheduled Monument require Scheduled Monument Consent, administered by Historic England on behalf of the Secretary of State. Unauthorised work to a Scheduled Monument is a criminal offence under the 1979 Act. Alterations to the visual character of a monument are also a material consideration in the planning process.
- 13.1.3 The Heritage Partnership Agreement between the Council and Historic England allows for minor works related to maintenance. Major works will require separate Scheduled Monument Consent; if there is any doubt, when repairs are required, Historic England will be consulted as to the need for a separate application for Scheduled Monument Consent.
- 13.1.4 In terms of the heritage-related consent regimes, where the Wall has dual designation (i.e. it is both Scheduled and Listed), only Scheduled Monument Consent is required in advance of works to the Wall, in accordance with [Section 41 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1968](#).
- 13.1.5 For those parts of the Wall that are Listed but not Scheduled - principally short sections along the north side of Vineyard Street car park and a section to the rear of properties fronting the east side of Roman Road - Listed Building Consent will be required from the Local Planning Authority for works that affect the character or appearance of the Wall, which is a structure of special architectural or historic interest. Unauthorised works to a listed building is a criminal offence and individuals can be prosecuted.
- 13.1.6 For sections that are currently neither Scheduled nor Listed, any surviving archaeological remains of the wall are considered to be of equivalent significance to the Scheduled Monument and these areas will be considered as subject to the policies for designated heritage assets, in accordance with the NPPF (2018, footnote 63).
- 13.1.7 Within the Town Centre Conservation Area, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area in accordance with [Section 72 of the Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) Act 1990](#).

### **13.2 National Planning Policy Framework**

- 13.2.1 The conservation of heritage assets is one of the core planning principles of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF 2018). Conservation is defined as the process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and, where appropriate, enhances significance.
- 13.2.2 Policies concerning the historic environment are outlined in Section 16 of the NPPF (Paragraphs 184 to 202). The NPPF states in paragraph 193 that, when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's

conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). Paragraph 194 states, 'Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification.'

13.2.3 Setting is defined in the Glossary of the NPPF (p.71) as "the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced... elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset'. Further guidance in the [Planning Practice Guidance Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment](#) (2018) states that local planning authorities may need to consider the implications of cumulative change when assessing any application for development that may affect the setting of a heritage asset.

13.2.4 The NPPF also outlines the importance of good design in development proposals (Section 7). Paragraph 58 of the NPPF states:

*'Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments: c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities).'*

13.2.5 The Government's [Planning Practice Guidance Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment](#) (2018) expands upon the core policy principles of the NPPF and this is itself underpinned by Historic England's *Good Practice Advice on planning and the historic environment*:

- The Historic Environment in Local Plans Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 1 (2015).
- Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (2015).
- The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition) (2017).
- Listed Buildings and Curtilage Historic England Advice Note 10 (2018).

13.2.6 Historic England has a range of other relevant advice and guidance:

- Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance. For the sustainable management of the historic environment (2008).
- Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets Advice for Local Government (2017).
- Streets for All Advice for Highway and Public Realm Works in Historic Places (2018).
- Streets for All East of England (2018).
- Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management Historic England Advice Note 1 (2016).
- Scheduled Monuments A Guide for Owners and Occupiers (2013).

### 13.3 Local Plan Policy

13.3.1 The NPPF states (para 185), '*Local planning authorities should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.*'

- 13.3.2 The [Adopted Local Plan 2001-2021](#) for Colchester sets out the strategic policies to deliver conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. Policies are designed to ensure that change is managed in the interests of today's residents and those of future generations.
- 13.3.3 The Local Plan takes into account:
- The desirability of putting heritage assets to viable use, sustaining and enhancing their significance;
  - The contribution that the historic environment makes to wider sustainability aims;
  - The desirability of new development to contribute to local character;
  - The opportunities to draw on the contribution that the historic environment makes on the character of place.
- 13.3.4 Core Strategy UR2 relates to Built Design and Character.
- 13.3.5 Core strategy UR1 Regeneration Areas is also relevant to the management of the Town Wall, specifically the St Botolphs Regeneration Area.
- 13.3.6 Historic Environment Development Policy DP14 relates specifically to heritage assets in the planning process at a local strategic level (Appendix 4).
- 13.3.7 A number of other development control policies are also relevant to the historic environment, heritage assets and sustainable development:
- Policy DP1 Design and Amenity;
  - Policy DP5: Appropriate Employment Uses and Protection of Employment Land and Existing Businesses;
  - Policy DP6: Colchester Town Centre Uses;
  - Policy DP9: Employment Uses in the Countryside;
  - Policy DP10: Tourism, Leisure and Culture;
  - Policy DP13: Dwelling Alterations, Extensions and Replacement Dwelling.
- 13.3.8 The following documents are also relevant:
- Colchester Better Town Centre Plan SPD (2012)
  - Town Centre Public Realm Strategy SPD (2011)
  - Colchester Lighting Strategy (2011)
  - Managing Archaeology in Development (2015)
- 13.3.9 It is anticipated that the [Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033](#) will replace the current Local Plan. Policy DM16 in the Emerging Plan relates to the Historic Environment (Appendix 5).

## **14.0 Management Achievements 2011-2018**

### **14.1 Condition Survey 2013**

- 14.1.1 A Condition Survey was carried out by NPS Group in 2013 along publicly accessible parts of the Wall and not to the entire circuit, i.e. it excluded areas in private ownership or where access is through or on private property.

### **14.2 Repair work 2013-2018**

- 14.2.1 In response to the objectives identified in the previous Management Plan see also Strategy 5.3, 5.8.1 and 5.9.1) and also the recommendations of the 2013

Condition Survey, an extensive programme of repairs and maintenance has been completed (and funding providing by the Council in accordance with Objective 5.3 of the previous Management Plan)(Photographs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12). All major repairs identified have been satisfactorily completed (in accordance with the Heritage Partnership Agreement), along the publicly accessible parts of the Wall:

- 14.2.2 2013 – 2014 (Universal Stone)
  - Balkerne Gate (Section 1)
  - Balkerne Hill (Sections 25, 26 & 28)
  - Priory Street (Sections 10 – 9P & 10 – 10P)
  - St. James Rise (Section 12)
  - Roman Road (Section 13)
  
- 14.2.3 2016 – 2017 (Stone Technical Services Group Ltd)
  - Balkerne Hill (Sections 2, 25 & 27)
  - Vineyard Street (Sections 7A, 7B & 8)
  - Priory Street (Section 9)
  - Priory Lodge (Section 11)
  - Land Lane/Roman Road (Section 14)
  
  - Roman Road (Sections 15 & 16)
  - Duncan's Gate (Section 17)
  - Castle Park (Sections 17A, 18 & 19)
  - Claudius Court (Section 20)
  - Middleborough (Sections 23 & 24)
  
- 14.2.4 2018 (UK Restoration Services)
  - Rear of 1 North Hill/St. Peter's Street (Sections 21 & 22)
  
- 14.3 Specific objectives achieved 2011-2018 to improve the setting of the Roman Wall, improve public access and enhance public understanding and enjoyment of the wall**
  
- 14.3.1 New interpretation panels around the circuit**  
(Strategy 5.5.1 of the previous Management Plan)
  
- 14.3.1.1 Ten interpretation panels have been installed at the following locations around the circuit, by the Friends of Colchester Roman Wall in partnership with the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service:
  - Balkerne Gate
  - North-West Corner (Sheepen Corner)
  - North Gate
  - Duncan's Gate
  - North-East Corner
  - East Gate
  - Priory Street (Bastion 2)
  - Scheregate
  - Head Gate
  - South-West Corner
  
- 14.3.1.2 Three remaining three panels will be installed early in 2019:
  - Castle Park
  - Vineyard Street
  - St John's Wynd
  
- 14.3.1.3 A further panel, for Bastion 5 in Priory Street car park, is in preparation.

- 14.3.1.4 In addition to the installation of interpretation panels, Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service has launched a heritage app, 'Ancient Colchester', for mobile digital devices (smartphones and tablets). This provides an interactive walking tour with information about Balcerne Gate, Duncan's Gate, Scheregate and the bastions on the Town Wall: <https://cimuseums.org.uk/visit/venues/ancient-colchester-app/>
- 14.3.2 Marking the sites of the Roman and medieval town gates**  
(Strategy 5.4.5 of the previous Management Plan)
- 14.3.2.1 The sites of the Roman and medieval town gates, with the exception of Balcerne Gate, Duncan's Gate and Scheregate, have been marked out on the pavements and roads. An accompanying leaflet, *Colchester: A Walking Tour of the Roman and Medieval Gates*, has been produced.
- 14.3.3 Improve lighting to better reveal the significance of the Wall**  
(Strategy 5.4 of the previous Management Plan; lighting was not identified as a specific objective in the previous Plan)
- 14.3.3.1 Uplighters were installed at Balcerne Gate (Section 1) and along the outer side of the Wall in Priory Street Car Park (Sections 9 & 10) in 2017.
- 14.3.4 Improvements to the presentation of Duncan's Gate**  
(Strategy 5.4.2 of the previous Management Plan)
- 14.3.4.1 The remains of Duncan's Gate (and associated archaeological remains) were repaired in 2017 (Section 17), following a survey of the Wall and trial-excavation (both by Colchester Archaeological Trust). Following a survey of the flora and the identification of a rare species (Lesser Calamint) by Colchester Natural History Society, in advance of the repairs of maintenance, these plants were successfully relocated to a safe place close to (but not on) the Wall.
- 14.3.5 Enhancement of the setting of the Wall at Priory Street Car Park**  
(Strategy 5.4.3 of the previous Management Plan)
- 14.3.5.1 The refurbishment of Priory Street car park in 2016 included the creation of a narrow strip between the Wall (and bastions) and the parking bays, with the installation of a low wooden post and rail arrangement to provide a protective buffer from vehicles. The ground surface has been differentiated by the use of different materials and uplighters have been installed to illuminate the Wall. This enables the Wall to be better revealed and appreciated. An interpretation panel about Bastion 2 has been installed in the car park; a panel relating to Bastion 5 is currently in preparation. The locations of the missing medieval bastions within the area of the car park (Bastions 3 & 4) have been marked out on the ground in different materials and taken out of parking (Strategy 5.4.6 of the previous Management Plan). A temporary brick wall at the base of Bastion 5, to protect the Wall from vehicle damage, has been removed, thereby enhancing the setting of the bastion.
- 14.3.6 Integration of the preservation and enhancement of the Roman Wall into the local planning framework**  
(Strategy 5.6.1 of the previous Management Plan)
- 14.3.6.1 The preservation and enhancement of the Town Wall, and other heritage assets, is integral to the Council's aspirations and plans for Colchester's Town Centre, outlined in the Supplementary Planning Document *Better Town Centre Plan* (2012, see Sections 7.12 and 7.13).

#### **14.4 Objectives and strategies from the previous Management Plan (Appendix 6) not yet achieved:**

##### **14.4.1 Consideration of the establishment of a special fund** (Strategy 5.3.1 of the previous Management Plan)

14.4.1.1 A community heritage trust fund has not been created by the Council. However, adequate funding has been provided by the Council each year for repairs.

##### **14.4.2 Creation of a wall walk** (Strategy 5.4.1 of the previous Management Plan)

14.4.2.1 The opening of Firstsite in 2011 did not, unfortunately, provide the opportunity to create a wall walk in the south-east part of the circuit (Berryfields). The redevelopment of the Queen Street bus depot and bus station will, however, provide (subject to planning permission) the opportunity to better reveal and open to the public, as a wall walk, that part of the Wall within the redevelopment site, c.55m long (as well as removing the bus depot structure altogether, which is currently attached to the Wall).

14.4.2.2 If the proposals for the redevelopment of the bus depot and station are approved by the Local Planning Authority, and granted Scheduled Monument Consent, this will provide the first part of the wall walk in this area. The overall objective will be to open a wall walk, including interpretation, all the way round this section of the Wall to St James' Church, a 260m-long stretch of the Wall that currently has no public access (and lies in private ownership / leasehold).

14.4.2.2 A second section of the Wall identified for the creation of a wall walk lies between the NE corner and East Hill (via Land Lane), and it is the objective to create of a footpath to create better access to the Wall in this area, towards a wall walk around the entire circuit.

##### **14.4.3 Opening of access to Duncan's Gate and drain** (Strategy 5.4.2 of the previous Management Plan)

14.4.3.1 This objective has not been achieved, although Duncan's Gate has been repaired in 2017 and a new interpretation panel installed. This objective will be investigated as an action in the Castle Park Management Plan 2018-2022. The Castle Park Plan commits the Council to the preparation and submission of a HLF-bid to create public access through Duncan's Gate.

##### **14.4.4 Remove/Reduce car parking at Vineyard Street Car Park** (Strategy 5.4.3 of the previous Management Plan; Photograph 7)

14.4.4.1 Vineyard Street Car Park is the subject of ongoing discussion for removal and redevelopment and it is expected that a planning application will be developed during the period of this Management Plan, resulting in the removal of the car park and an opportunity for the enhancement of the setting, and promotion, of the Town Wall in this area.

#### **15.0 Management objectives and actions 2019-2024**

The following ongoing and specific objectives and actions relating to the Wall have been identified, including objectives carried forward from the previous Management Plan:

- 15.1 Ensure that all works carried out conform to the Heritage Partnership Agreement and/or Scheduled Monument Consent. Records of works
- 15.1.1 The Heritage Partnership Agreement between the Council and Historic England will be subject to annual review. The next review is scheduled for May 2019.
- 15.2 Initiate a review of the designation by Historic England to ensure that entirety of the Town Wall is Scheduled.
- 15.3 Ensure there is an up-to-date condition survey for the entire Wall, carried out every five years, and priorities and costings for the repairs and maintenance identified, based on the results of the survey.
- 15.3.1 A condition survey, which encompasses both accessible and inaccessible (i.e. where the permission of private landowners is required) parts of the Wall, will be carried out every five years and priorities and (estimated) costs for the forthcoming five-year period will be identified. The next condition survey is scheduled for 2019.
- 15.3.2 An annual review, based on a walkover survey of the circuit, will be carried out, and priorities and costs outlined in the five-year condition survey will be reviewed and, where necessary, revised.
- 15.4 Ensure that appropriate and proportionate assessments relating to archaeology, historic fabric, flora and fauna are carried out by appropriate specialists, where required, in advance of any proposed repairs, and to ensure that the reports (and the recommendations) inform the programme of repairs.<sup>19</sup>
- 15.4.1 A copy of each assessment report will be deposited with, and used to enhance, the Historic Environment Record. The archives (material culture and documentary records) resulting from any recording projects will be deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service, and they will be available for public consultation. Digital archives will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service<sup>20</sup>, or similar open access digital archive repository.
- 15.4.2 Ensure that all previous recording projects are properly archived and that the results of these projects are assessed, analysed and reported, and that these are publically accessible. The projects should be used for the benefit of future management and to further promote the significance of the Wall.
- 15.5 Ensure that all repair works identified by the condition survey, and including emergency works (subsequent to the condition survey) are monitored during and on completion by the Council, to ensure that the works are satisfactory and in accordance with the agreed scheme before sign-off.
- 15.5.1 Repair works to be carried out during the five-year period of this Management Plan will be identified from the new condition survey and the annual reviews, and in response to the need for emergency repairs.
- 15.5.2 Ensure that an adequate method statement is prepared for each stage of work, and that a specialist conservation contractor with appropriate expertise and experience is commissioned to undertake the work in accordance with the agreed methods statement.

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<sup>19</sup> Many sections of the Wall have been already recorded prior to previous repairs.

<sup>20</sup> The Archaeology Data Service (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>) is the only accredited digital repository in the UK for heritage data and for digital resources that are created as a product of archaeological research.

- 15.5.3 An archive of all repairs will be maintained by the Council. Records of all works are also copied to Historic England under the Heritage Partnership Agreement and Scheduled Monument Consent.
- 15.6 Ensure adequate resources are provided for routine/ongoing maintenance and also for unanticipated and emergency repairs, in addition to routine maintenance identified by the condition survey.
- 15.7 Ensure that all below-ground works, for example, by utility companies, within the areas of the (former) gateways, which survive only as below-ground archaeological remains, are the subject of adequate archaeological assessment and investigation before and/or during groundworks, to ensure preservation *in situ* of important remains and/or adequate archaeological recording, reporting and archiving.
- 15.8 Improve the setting of, and public access to, the Wall and enhance public enjoyment and appreciation of the Wall, including for example the installation of uplighters around the Wall in publicly accessible areas and the creation of a public walkway around the Wall.
- 15.8.1 Lighting of the Town Wall (and other heritage assets) is a Strategic Plan spending priority for 2018/20 (under the strategic theme 'Clean up and promote the Town Centre') and funding for this work was agreed by Cabinet on 11 July 2018.
- 15.8.2 Establish a programme of maintenance of the Town Wall display panels, including regular cleaning and replacement as necessary due to fading or other deterioration in condition.
- 15.9 Ensure any new development that impacts upon the setting of the Wall is respectful to the sense of place, responds to the historic character of their surroundings and enhances the significance of the Wall (and adjacent heritage assets).
- 15.9.1 The minimum acceptable distance for new development adjacent to the Wall is 8.5m, having regard to local context and precedence, scale and massing, layout and design.
- 15.9.2 Development proposals must be informed and supported by appropriate assessments to adequately assess the significance of the Wall (and adjacent heritage assets) and also to accurately identify the impact of proposals on the setting of the Wall. A detailed analysis of the Wall and surroundings must be undertaken where it might be affected by new development.
- 15.9.3 The use of space, scale, layout and design of new buildings must consider how the Wall influences and informs the buildings and space.
- 15.9.4 Early pre-application discussions with planning officers and their specialist advisors are strongly encouraged by the Council.
- 15.9.5 Section 106 developer contributions will be secured to mitigate and offset harm from new development schemes that have an impact on the Wall and its setting. The Council will require developers to underwrite the costs of any repairs and maintenance to the Wall for new development schemes that have an impact on the Wall and also to provide funding for future interpretation.
- 15.9.6 Major forthcoming and/or proposed development projects are located at the Mercury Theatre, St Botolphs (former Queen Street bus depot) and Vineyard

Gate (Vineyard Street car park).

- 15.10 Investigate new ways of recording and presenting the Wall, including digital laser scanning and digital photogrammetry, in accordance with Historic England good practice technical guidance.<sup>21</sup>
- 15.11 With the exception of 5.3.1, the outstanding objectives of the previous Management Plan (strategies 5.4.1, 5.4.2 and 5.4.3) will be all carried forward in the new Management Plan (see Section 14.4).
  - 15.11.1 Creation of a wall walk.
  - 15.11.2 Opening of access to Duncan's Gate and drain.
  - 15.11.3 Removal of car parking at Vineyard Street Car Park.

## **16.0 Biodiversity of the Town Wall**

- 16.1.1 The Town Wall is designated as a Local Wildlife site and is recorded on the Local Wildlife Site register (LoWS no. Co109). A wide variety of plants and invertebrates have been recorded and, in general, the Wall provides a relatively stable and undisturbed environment for both to colonise (Photographs 5 and 10). A list has been prepared by Colchester Natural History Society (CNHS) in 2018 (Appendix 7).
- 16.1.2 There is one particularly important plant species, Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*) that has been identified on the Wall. It is listed as Vulnerable in the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain.<sup>22</sup> Three plants were recorded on (or in close proximity to) Duncan's Gate in 2017 by CNHS in advance of repairs. In agreement with CNHS, these plants were successfully relocated to a location at the base of (and on the same section of) the Wall, close to where other plants of the species are growing. This collaborative approach will be extended to other sections of the Wall to ensure that important plant species on the Wall are protected; it is anticipated that Lesser Calamint will be encountered on sections 15, 17 and 18 of the Wall (in Castle Park, Duncan's Gate and along to the north-east corner of the circuit).
- 16.1.3 A number of shrubs and trees have established themselves on the Wall, including varieties such as Buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* aggregate), Forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). These risk damage to the structure and will be carefully removed from the Wall (Photographs 11, 12, 13 and 14).
- 16.1.4 A number of plants are relatively common, but they make a significant contribution to the aesthetic appeal of the wall, adding to the overall biodiversity and to its ecological value. In particular, they provide shelter and food resources for a wide range of pollinating insects. These include Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum* aggregate) and Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*). These plants will not be removed unless they represent a direct threat to the fabric of the Wall.
- 16.1.5 There is one significant bryophyte recorded on the Wall. The liverwort *Porella platyphylla* has been recorded in Sections 15, 17 and 18. As a community, a

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<sup>21</sup> 3D Laser Scanning for Heritage (2018); Photogrammetric applications for Cultural Heritage (2017)

<sup>22</sup> <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3354>

number of bryophytes, in particular *Porella platyphylla* and the moss *Homalothecium sericeum*, in combination perform an important function in Sections 15, 17 and 18 by creating a substrate on the Wall that supports numerous higher plants. These would otherwise struggle to maintain a significant presence. Such beneficiary plants include Rue-Leaved Saxifrage (*Saxifraga tridactylites*) and Common Whitlowgrass (*Erophila verna*). The layer of mosses and liverworts provides a substrate for these tiny, quick-growing annual plants, which complete their life-cycle in the course of just a few weeks in the spring, and also hosts their seed-bank.

- 16.1.6 Three important ferns have been recorded on the Wall. Black Spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*) is a scarce species in the County. The plant occurs in small numbers on Section 19 (the inner side of the Wall in Castle Park). Unfortunately, it has probably been lost from Section 18 as a result of recent repair works. The specimens present on the Wall are all small but appear to be individuals of a significant age. This would indicate that if they are lost, they are unlikely to recolonise with any speed. Hart's-Tongue Fern *Asplenium scolopendrium*, is not particularly common on the Wall and it is probably the most widespread of the ferns in the region. The third *Asplenium* fern, Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), has been lost entirely from Section 16 (the internal side of the Wall facing onto Roman Road/Castle Road in the north-east corner of the circuit), almost certainly as a result of recent repairs to this section. The only other place that Maidenhair Spleenwort occurs on the Wall is on an isolated damp patch in Section 7, in Vineyard Street car park along the southern section of the circuit.

## **16.2 Requirements for the treatment of fauna and flora on the wall**

- 16.2.1 The Council recognises the ecological value of the Town Wall and will work in partnership with CNHS and other specialists to establish the significance in advance of planned repairs, to protect important species and to minimise and mitigate the disturbance to species that make a positive contribution to the Wall.
- 16.2.2 Every reasonable effort will be made to eliminate or minimise adverse impacts on the flora and fauna of the Wall, unless causing specific damage to the Wall.
- 16.2.3 Every effort will be made to retain unusual species and the conditions which they require, unless causing substantial damage to the Wall. Special provision or mitigation will be required for species that are protected in law and restricted distribution status of Nationally Scarce.
- 16.2.4 The trunks and/or stems of shrubs and trees will be carefully cut flush with the Wall surface; their stumps will be spot treated with a herbicide (Photographs 11, 12 and 13). The use of herbicides will be avoided, however, except for the spot treatment of cut stumps of woody plants which cannot be removed, and only approved herbicides of low mammalian toxicity will be used for the control or prevention of insect or fungal attack.
- 16.2.5 Regular checks will be carried out (at least once a year) for plants that may damage the Wall (and smother the lichen flora). In the case of ivy, the stem will be cut at the base and growth will only be removed from the Wall once the plant has died back, so it can be easily removed without damaging the structure; physical removal before it has died back may damage mortar and stone.

- 16.2.6 Branches of trees in striking distance of the Wall will be also individually and carefully removed to avoid contact with the Wall (Photograph 14). CNHS will be consulted where there is any doubt.
- 16.2.7 The Wall will be closely monitored for signs of movement caused by root disturbance from trees on the inner side of and in close proximity to the Wall, for example along Balcerne Hill where the foundation of the Wall has been exposed. CNHS will be consulted where there is any doubt.
- 16.2.8 In the case of plants without deep and/or damaging roots, these will be left in place wherever possible to minimise disturbance to the flora and fauna on the Wall.
- 16.2.9 Bryophytes will be protected except where they represent a direct threat to the fabric of the Wall.
- 16.2.10 Entrances and voids used by animal life will be retained, wherever possible, unless causing harm to the fabric of the Wall.
- 16.2.11 Clear guidelines and training will be provided for contractors undertaking repairs on the Wall, in partnership with CNHS and other specialists, so that the biodiversity of the Wall is protected and disturbance is minimised.

## **17.0 Potential threats to the Wall**

The potential threats (excluding lack of routine maintenance and repairs) can be summarised as follows:

- 17.1 Poor adhesion of cement mortar mix in places.
  - 17.1.1 During the 1950s and 1960s a skin of septaria and cement mortar was added to various stretches of the Wall in order to protect the exposed Roman core. Modern cement (which is inappropriate to the Wall) will be left *in situ* where it is still forming a strong bond, to avoid unnecessary or further damage to the structure. Modern cement will be only removed and replaced - with an appropriate lime mortar mix in keeping with the section of the Wall (and where necessary informed by mortar analysis) - wherever the bond has failed, and the cement is loose (Photograph 2).
- 17.2 Damage from inappropriate repairs, e.g. inappropriate mortar mix, use of too much mortar and too little septaria (due to the difficulty of obtaining fresh supplies of septaria).
  - 17.2.1 All repairs will be monitored to ensure they are in accordance with the agreed Methods Statement.
  - 17.2.2 Every effort will be made to locate reliable sources of new septaria supplies for repairs to the Wall.
- 17.3 Damage from flora both on and adjacent to the Wall: Root damage (e.g. sycamore, buddleia, forsythia and ivy) from plants growing on the Wall and damage from branches of trees in striking distance of the Wall (Photographs 11, 13 and 14). In addition, damage to the Wall can be caused by roots of adjacent vegetation, especially where the foundations are pedestalled above modern ground level due to truncation around the outside of the Wall; this is exacerbated by the build up of deposits on the inner side of the Wall exerting outward pressure on it (Photograph 14).

- 17.3.1 The roots of large vegetation growing on the Wall can cause significant damage to the Wall if they are not removed. Vegetation clearance will be undertaken in accordance with Section 16.2 of this Management Plan and Section 4.6 of the Heritage Partnership Agreement.
- 17.3.2 The Wall will be closely monitored for any evidence of disturbance caused by the roots of adjacent vegetation and/or evidence of movement and advice from Historic England will be sought.
- 17.4 Damage to important flora and fauna by contractors.
- 17.4.1 Contractors will be given appropriate information and training before carrying out any repairs to the Walls.
- 17.5 Water run-off from poorly maintained guttering.
- 17.5.1 Minor problems have been encountered where adjacent rainwater gutters and drains have not been maintained and water has been allowed to run onto the wall. This issue requires regular monitoring.
- 17.6 Discrete acts of damage, particularly by private vehicles in car parks and also acts of graffiti (and other acts of vandalism).
- 17.6.1 Where the Wall is accessible to vehicles, particularly in car parks (Vineyard Street and St Peter's Street Car Parks), there is a risk of vehicle damage (Strategy 5.4.3 of the previous Management Plan)(Photograph 7). A low and unobtrusive timber railing was installed in front of the Wall in Priory Street when the car park was refurbished in 2017.
- 17.6.2 If and when the redesign of other spaces takes place, careful consideration should be given to the creation of protective buffers in front of the Wall to prevent damage from vehicles and which allow the Wall to be better revealed by creating an open space in front (by prevented parking against the Wall) and that are respectful of the sense of place (Photograph 8).
- 17.6.3 Graffiti will be expediently and carefully removed from the Wall in liaison with Historic England, and using a method statement agreed by Historic England (Photograph 15). Similarly, harm caused by other acts of vandalism will be promptly assessed and repairs instigated in agreement with Historic England.
- 17.7 Harm to the setting of the Town Wall caused by inappropriate new development.
- 17.7.1 Assessment will be required in accordance with National and Local policies to ensure that new development enhances the significance of the Wall and based on advice from Historic England and the Council's planning and historic environment specialists.
- 17.8 Budgetary challenges.
- 17.8.1 Major repairs to the Town Wall are generally very costly, because of the specialist requirements. In particular, there is a financial risk relating to repairs that might be required to sections of the Wall not surveyed in 2013, and whose condition is currently unknown (and therefore the cost of repairs is currently unquantified).
- 17.8.2 The condition survey will establish the level of repairs required along each part of the Wall, and this will enable a schedule of repairs to be agreed and the cost

of repairs to be established and into incorporated into the corporate budget plan.

- 17.8.3 The Council will require developers to underwrite the costs of any repairs and maintenance to the Wall for new development schemes that have an impact on the Wall (i.e. where the Wall lies within or forms the boundary to the development scheme).

## **18.0 Health and Safety overview and risk assessments**

- 18.1 The major health and safety issue to the general public relates to falling masonry and possible significant collapse of the Town Wall, which could potentially cause significant damage to life and limb. This can be minimised with routine maintenance and vegetation clearance, combined with regular monitoring for any (unforeseen) changes to, and deterioration of, the Wall. There is also a possibility that individuals might climb on, and fall from, the Wall – particularly where there is a considerable difference in ground level between the inner and outer sides of the Wall, i.e. where the Wall is low on the inside and high on the outside. This could also cause damage to the Wall, resulting in falling masonry.
- 18.2 Contractors, as well as Council staff, specialists and volunteers working on (or adjacent to) the Wall will be required to undertake individual risk assessments and demonstrate adequate safety precautions.

## **19.0 Management Responsibilities**

- 19.1 The Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture has the overall delegated responsibility for the Town Wall.
- 19.2 The Wall lies wholly within the Castle Ward of the Borough.
- 19.3 Colchester Borough Homes, under the general Service Level Agreement with the Council, are responsible for undertaking (and, where required, negotiating access for) the condition survey, annual review, maintenance and repairs on the Wall, including responsibility for preparing methods statements for repairs and maintenance, procurement and commissioning of specialist contractors, to undertake both assessments as well as repairs, as well as for ensuring adequate risk assessments have been undertaken, and health and safety procedures approved, for all investigations on the Walls.
- 19.4 Colchester Borough Homes, under the general SLA with the Council, will ensure the significance of the biodiversity (both flora and fauna) of any part of the Wall to be repaired is established in advance and informed by an appropriate biodiversity assessment.
- 19.5 For the Council, the Archaeological Advisor working in consultation with Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service (CIMS) Heritage Manager, has responsibility for overseeing the work of Colchester Borough Homes, in consultation with Historic England and other relevant stakeholders. The archaeological advisor will prepare each brief relating to specialist assessments and recording and will monitor the work to ensure it meets the requirement of the brief. The Archaeological Advisor has responsibility for maintaining the archive in the Historic Environment Record.

- 19.6 The senior responsible officer for the Council is the Assistant Director (Communities), and also the Development Manager for new development / planning applications affecting the Wall.
- 19.7 The CIMS Heritage Manager, in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor, is responsible for the interpretation and presentation of the Wall.
- 19.8 The Council's arboricultural officer will provide advice and expertise about tree management within close proximity to the Town Wall.
- 19.9 The Council's Zone 2 - the Town Centre (Castle Ward) Manager is responsible for improving and maintaining areas adjacent to the Wall, including grass-cutting, weeding, removal of leaf matter (which collects against the base of the Wall) and rubbish collection along the base of the Wall in public areas. In addition, the Parks Manager is responsible for vegetation management up to the Wall (and including Duncan's Gate) within Castle Park.
- 19.20 Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd<sup>23</sup>, on behalf of the Council, is responsible for management Councils' corporate property and issues relating to legal ownership.

## **20.0 Monitoring and Review of the Plan**

- 20.1 This Plan will be reviewed on a regular basis and amended over time to take account of future developments and opportunities. A key role for the Council's responsible officer will be to implement, review and update the plan to ensure that it remains a valid document throughout its lifespan for the effective management of the Town Wall.

### **List of Abbreviations**

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CAR	Colchester Archaeological Report
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBH	Colchester Borough Homes
CIMS	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
CMR	Colchester Museum Report
CNHS	Colchester Natural History Society
COLEM	Colchester Museum (unique identifier for museum collections)
ECC	Essex County Council
EH	English Heritage
ERO	Essex Record Office
HE	Historic England
HER	Historic Environment Record
TEAS	Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society

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<sup>23</sup> Colchester Amphora Trading is an Arm's Length Management Organisation, set up in 2017.

## Further Information

Further information about the Council's approach to Archaeological Heritage Assets is available in the adopted planning guidance, [Managing Archaeology in Development Colchester Local Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document](#) (Adopted 2015).

Further information can be found in [Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment](#) (English Heritage 2008).

The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) is the official and up-to-date database of all nationally designated heritage assets and contains a map and description of all designated assets. The List can be viewed at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/thelist/> Information on Scheduled Monuments, and the different consents required for carrying out works, can be obtained from Historic England at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/>

Information on Scheduled Monuments, and the different consents required for carrying out works, can be obtained from Historic England at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/>

Information about managing change within the setting of heritage assets can be found in [Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3. The Setting of Heritage Assets](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), 2017.

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Friends of Colchester Roman Wall

There is an active community group with the purpose of preserving and celebrating the Town Wall: <http://www.romanwall.org/>

Colchester Natural History Society

Sources of information about the ecology of the Wall can be obtained from the Colchester Natural History Society: <http://www.cnhs.uk/> Further information on lichens can be obtained from the British Lichen Society: <http://www.britishtichensociety.org.uk>

Archaeology Data Service

Department of Archaeology, University of York, The King's Manor, Exhibition Square, York, YO1 7EP: <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>

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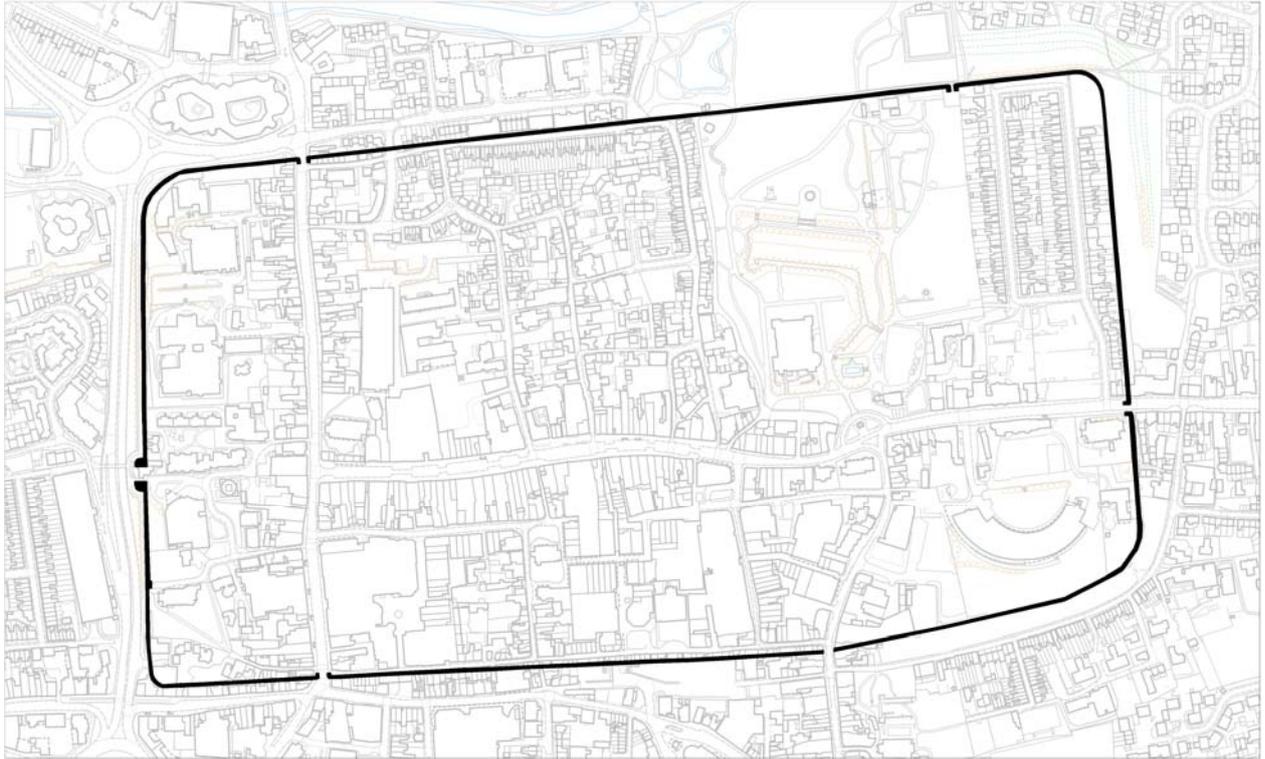


Figure 1: Location of the Town Wall

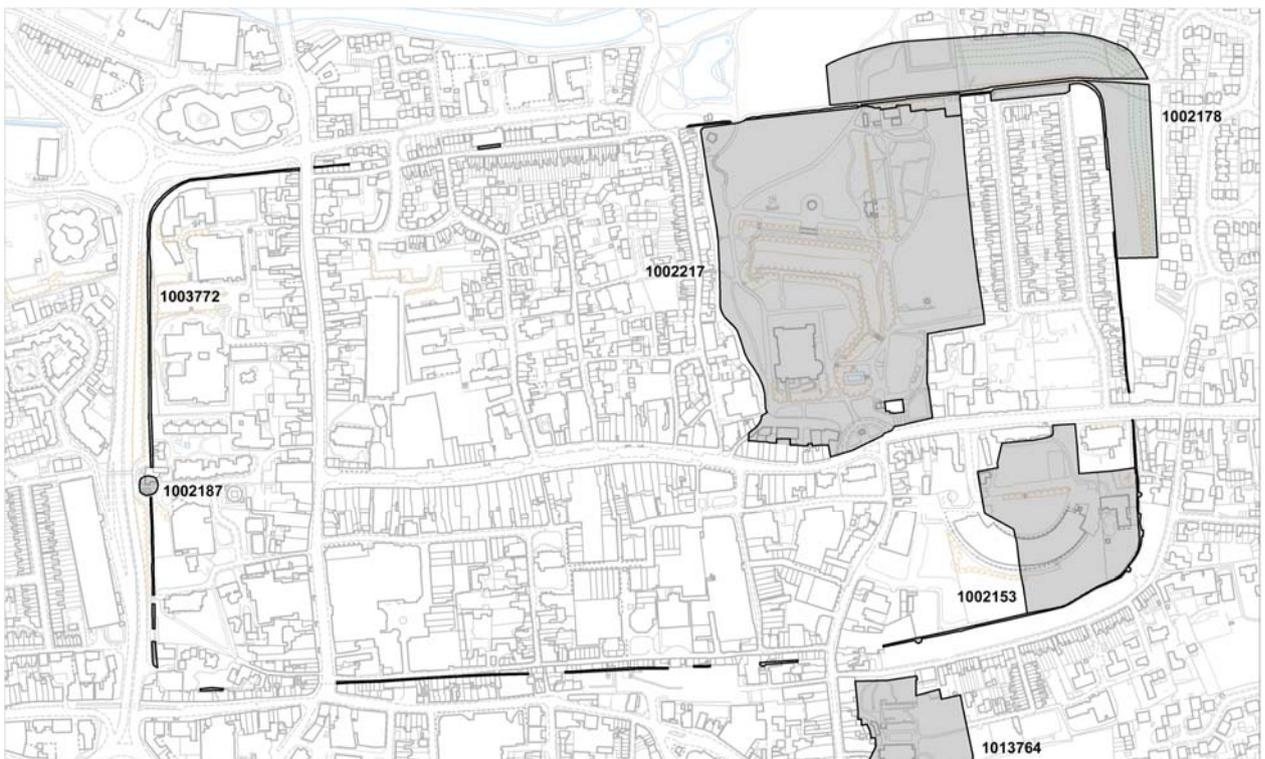


Figure 2: Location of Scheduled Town Wall in relation to all Scheduled Monuments in the town centre (National Heritage List Entry Numbers: 1003772 - Town Wall; 1002187 – Balcerne Gate; 1002217 – Colchester Castle and the Temple of Claudius; 1002178 – Town Ditch; 1002153 – SE corner of Roman Town in East Hill House; 1013764 – St Botolph’s Augustinian Priory)

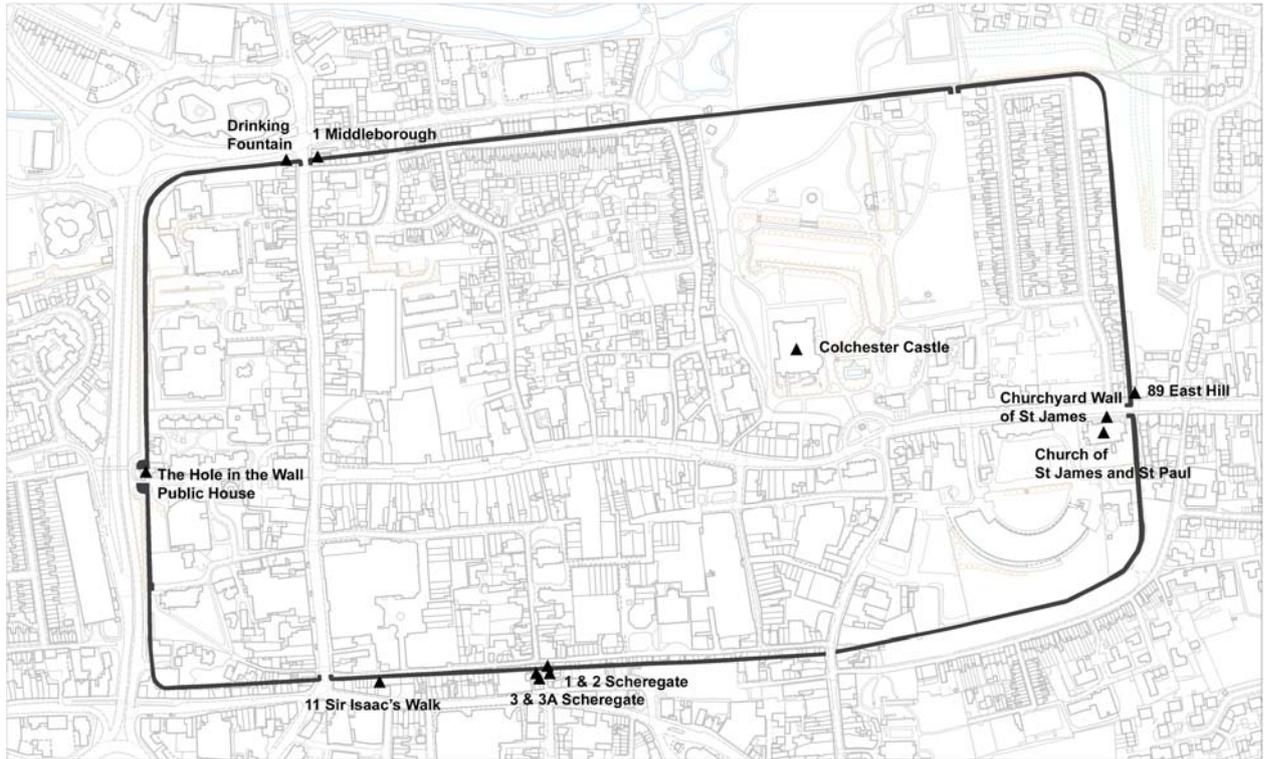


Figure 3. Location of Listed Buildings adjacent to the Town Wall

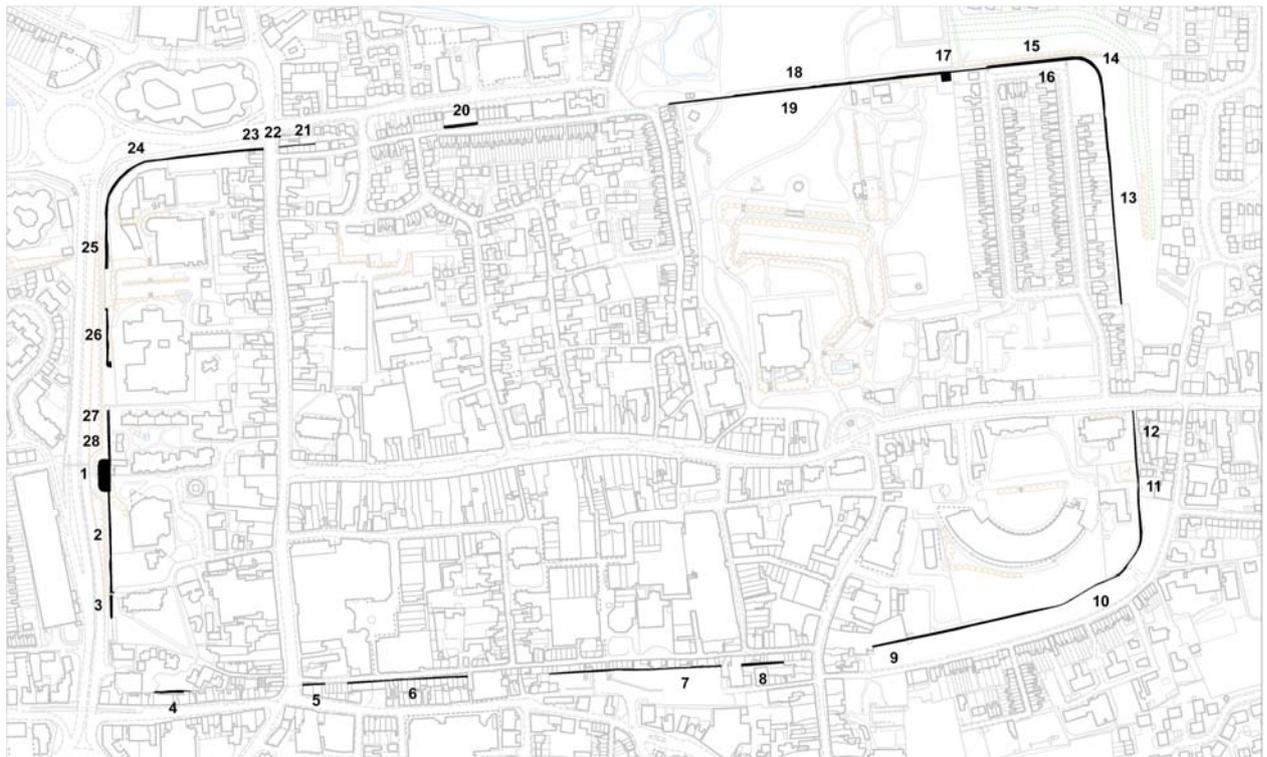


Figure 4: Management Sections of the Town Wall

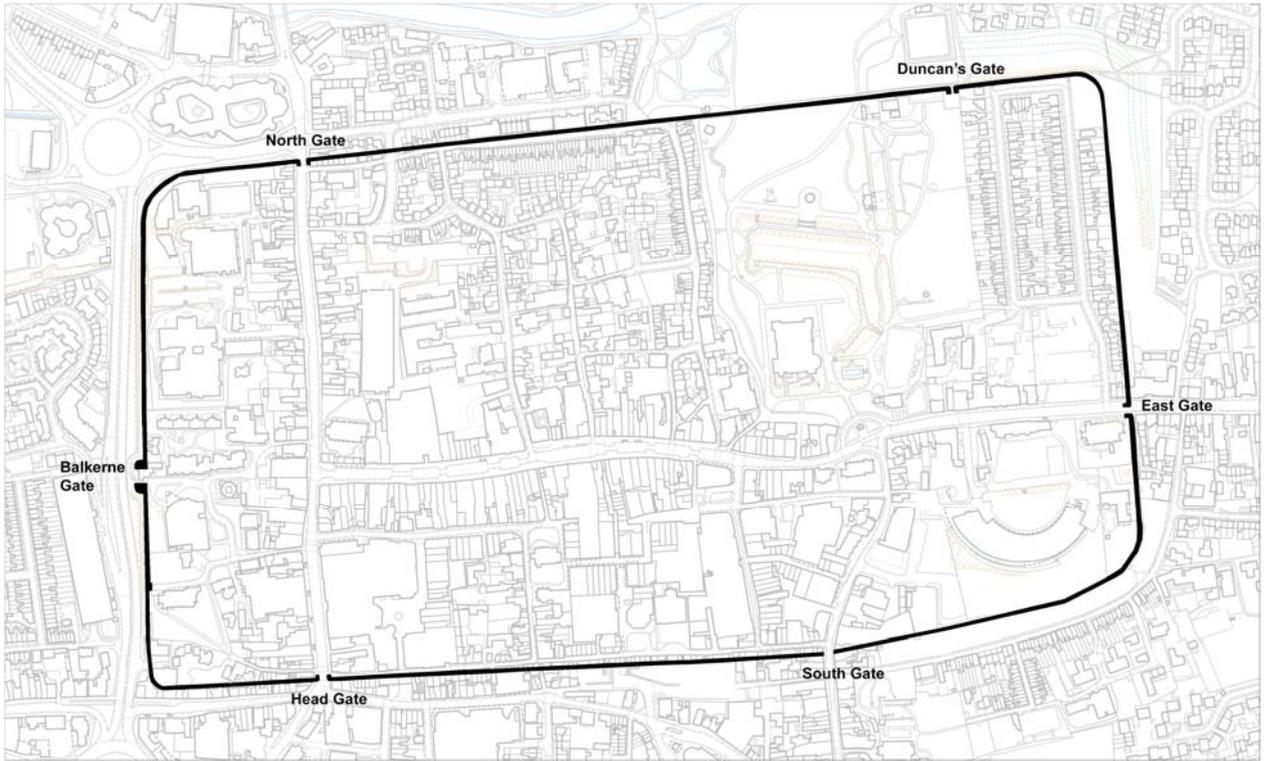


Figure 5. Location of the Roman gates

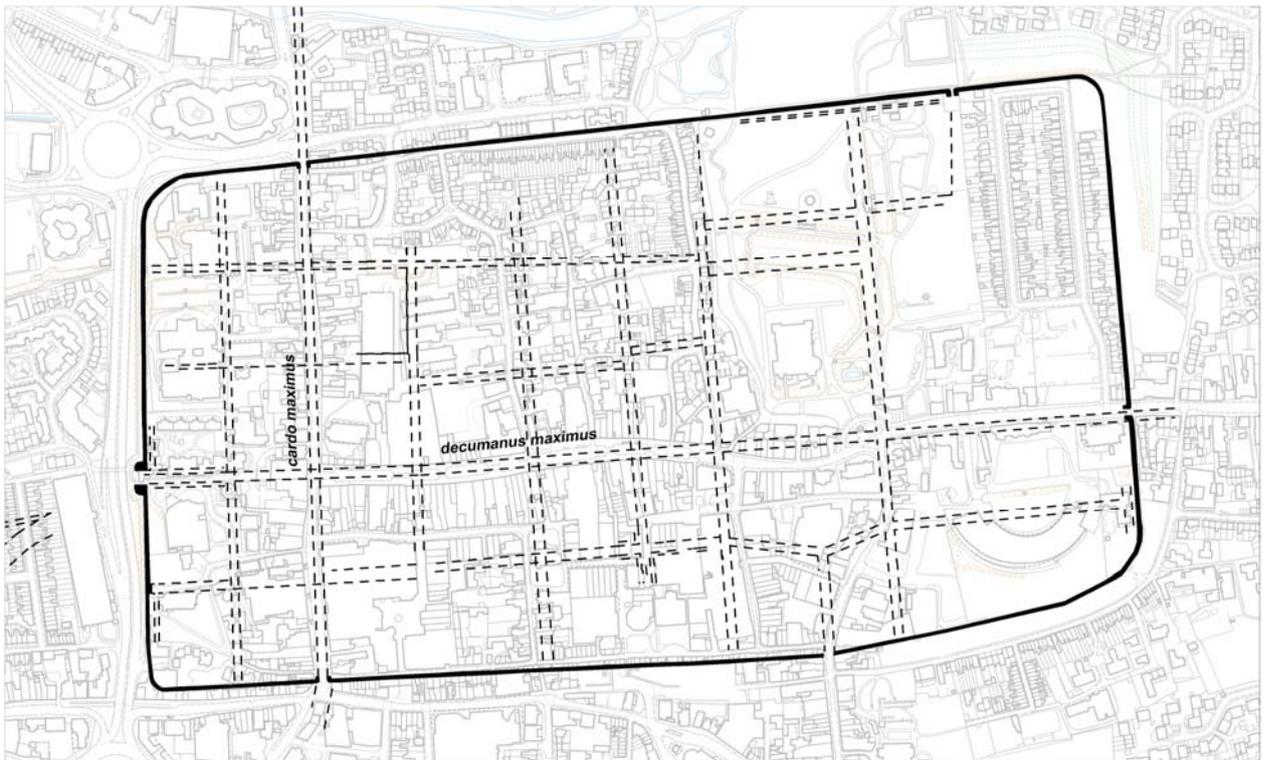


Figure 6: Location of (projected) Roman roads in relation to the Town Wall

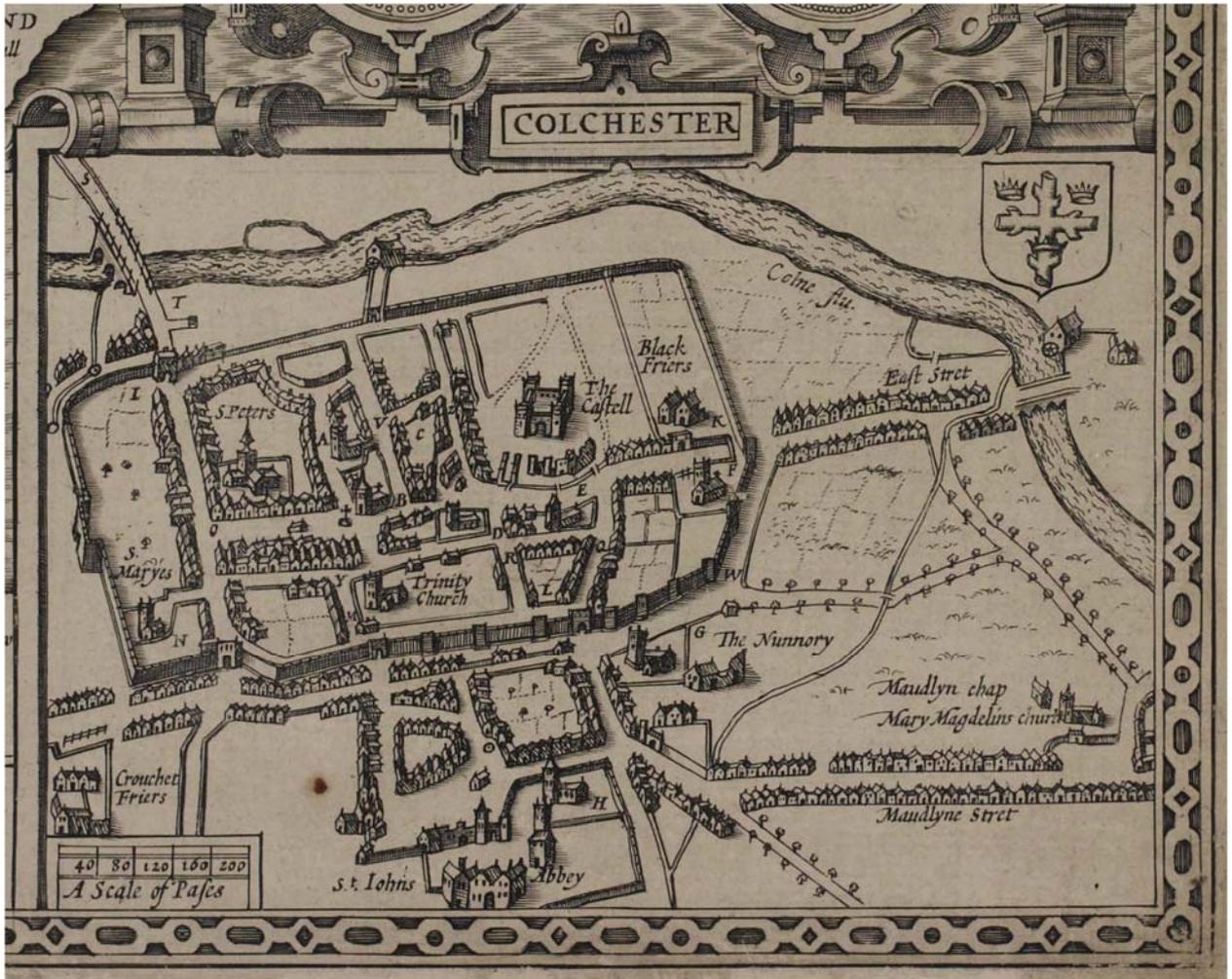
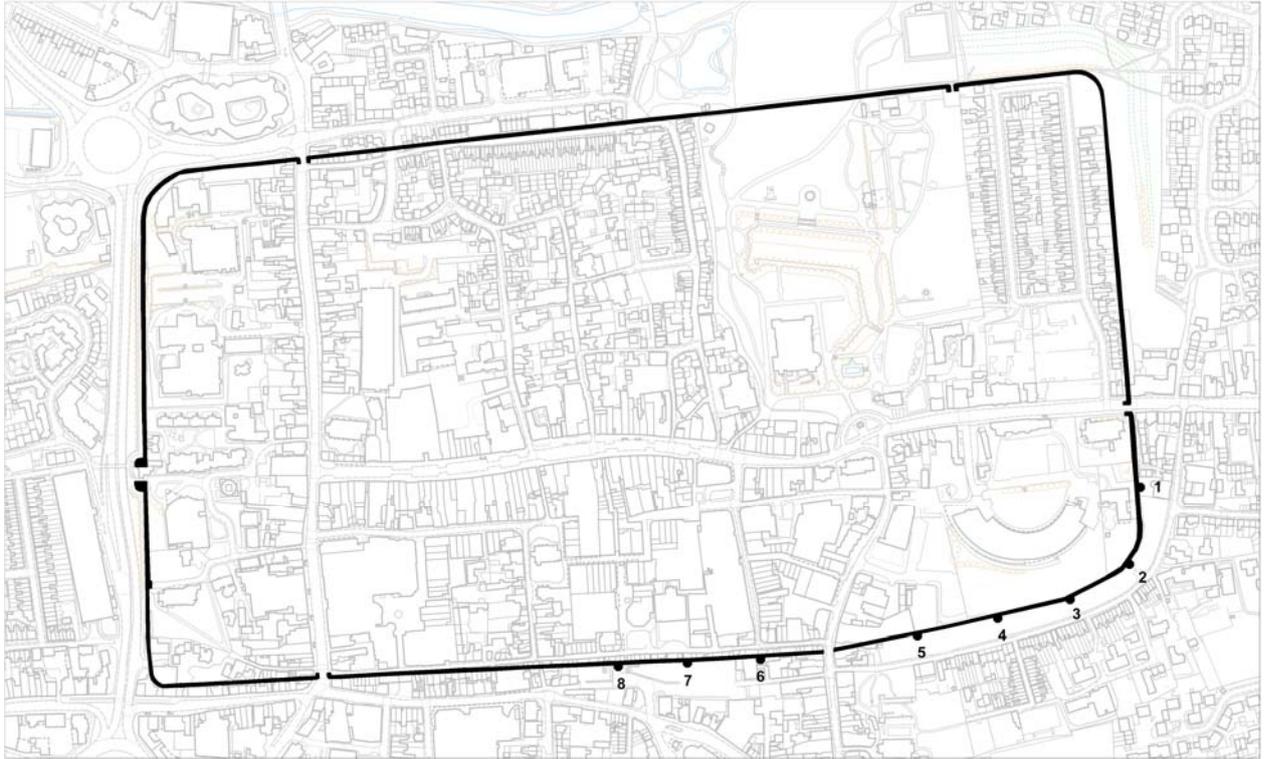


Figure 7: John Speed's 1610 Map showing the Town Wall with gates and bastions



*Figure 8: Location of the Medieval Bastions. Bastions 1, 2, 5 and 6 survive above ground level.*

## Photographs



*Photograph 1: Repairs in progress to Bastion 1 in 2017 (image taken in September 2017)*



*Photograph 2: Repairs in progress at the NW corner of the Town Wall (northern end of Balcerne Hill). Loose septaria and cement mortar (part of the protective skin added during the 1950s and 1960s) have been removed, prior to patching with septaria and lime mortar (May 2017)*



*Photograph 3: Town Wall along the southern part of Balkerne Hill (the Balkerne Gate is in the background) following repairs in 2016 (March 2017)*



*Photograph 4: Town Wall along the northern part of Balkerne Hill following repairs in 2017 (September 2017)*



*Photograph 5: Duncan's Gate before repairs, looking south through the gate (June 2016)*



*Photograph 6: Duncan's Gate after repairs in 2017, looking north (September 2017)*



*Photograph 7: Vineyard Street Car Park showing cars parked in front of the Wall. The Roman culvert under the Wall is in the foreground (September 2018)*



*Photograph 8: Priory Street car park and Bastion 5, following car park improvements in 2017. Car parking has been removed from the base of the Wall to better reveal the significance of the Wall and also to prevent damage from vehicles (March 2017)*



*Photograph 9: Priory Street Car Park. Leaves and other material (including rubbish) has accumulated along the base of the Wall. This needs to be monitored and material routinely collected to ensure the Wall is well presented and so the lighting is not obscured (May 2018)*



*Photograph 10: Wall flowers, which cause no damage to the historic fabric, growing on the Balcerne Gate. A wide variety of plants grown on the Wall, which is designated as Local Wildlife site (May 2018)*



*Photograph 11: Sycamore Tree growing on the surviving Wall at St Peter's Street Car Park, prior to removal in 2017. The tree would damage the structure if it was left to grow in this location (May 2017)*



*Photograph 12: Town Wall in St Peter's Street Car Park following removal of sycamore tree and repairs in 2018 (August 2018)*



*Photograph 13: Vegetation, including a sycamore tree, growing at the base of the Wall. This will cause damage to the Wall and should be removed (October 2018)*



*Photograph 14: Town Wall along the northern part of Balkerne Hill showing mature horse chestnut trees on the inside of, and overhanging, the Wall. Damage can be caused both from the roots of these trees and also from branches within striking distance of the Wall (May 2018)*



*Photograph 15: Graffiti to the Town Wall in the section through Castle Park in 2017. The graffiti was carefully and promptly removed following advice from Historic England (July 2017)*

# HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

COLCHESTER TOWN WALL  
BALKERNE GATE

HISTORIC ENGLAND  
COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

MAY 2015



COLCHESTER TOWN WALLS HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP DOCUMENT CONTROL GRID	
Monument or listed building	Scheduled Monument
LEN reference and name	Colchester Town Wall (LEN 1003772) Balkerne Gate (LEN 1002187)
Partners	Historic England  Colchester Borough Council
Length of Agreement	5 years
Review Period	Annually
Authors	Deborah Priddy Historic England  Philip Wise Colchester Borough Council
Date of Agreement	13 May 2015
Signed on behalf of Historic England  Name Position	  <i>Deborah Priddy</i>  <i>Inspector of Ancient Monuments</i>
Signed on behalf of Colchester Borough Council  Name Position	  <i>Philip J. White</i>  <i>Heritage Manager</i>



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  - 1.1 Background
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# HISTORIC ENGLAND HERITAGE PARTNERESHIP AGREEMENT

## COLCHESTER TOWN WALLS

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

The agreement is for the monuments known as the Town Wall and Balkerne Gate. These heritage assets are designated as scheduled monuments (List Entry Number: 1003772; Legacy ID number: Ex 7; LEN 1002187, Ex 8) and are protected under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

The walls formed the boundary of the Roman town of Colchester, situated on a spur of land overlooking the River Colne. It originated as a military fortress, which was subsequently re-planned as an undefended colony for retired veterans. Following the razing of the colony in the Boudiccan revolt of AD60, the settlement was rebuilt and walls constructed between AD 65/80-125, making Colchester the earliest walled town in the Roman Province.

The wall comprise a mortared rubble core, faced with coursed septaria blocks and brick bonding courses, some 2.4m wide and 00 high, forming a circuit of 1.45 miles. It incorporated six gates and between 12-24 towers, and was further protected by a ditch at its base.

The Balkerne Gate has its origin in a free-standing C1 AD monumental, triumphal arch, incorporated into the walls.

The defences were modified in the later Roman period and appear to have been maintained during the later Saxon and medieval periods, culminating in the addition of bastions in the fourteenth century. The walls played their final defensive role during the siege of Colchester in 1648, suffering significant damage, and beginning a period of post-medieval robbing and collapse. To-day the circuit is incomplete, but major stretches are still standing.

The extent of the scheduled monuments and the wall relating to this management agreement are shown on plan 1 (Appendix 1), and include all designated extant or buried sections of the walls and associated and adjoining structures such as towers in the ownership of Colchester Borough Council, and those parts where the Council has agreed to take responsibility for its repair.

This agreement has no exclusions.

The list description is an Old County Number (OCN) and has not been re-written to modern data standards; it is therefore not included in this document,

#### 1.2 Context

Following the scheduling of the walls in the 1920s, notable sections were bought by local benefactors for the Council to prevent demolition, a policy subsequently adopted by the council after the Second World War and continuing until the 1970s. Maintenance and repairs were undertaken by the Council, Museum staff, and the Colchester Archaeological Group at various times during the C20, culminating in a major six-phase programme of rolling repairs funded by the Borough Council and Historic England, beginning in 1988. The work was informed by a recording project undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust. Subsequent repairs (in part grant-aided by Historic England) have been undertaken within the framework of the scheduled monument consent process, informed by the Borough Council's Management Plan for the walls (1998: revised 2007, 2012) endorsed by Historic England.

In 2009 The Secretary of State granted a five year Scheduled Monument Consent for minor works (18 May 2009 HSD/9/2/14004). This allowed the development of a working methodology, and defined the scope and scale of works that could be undertaken. It was understood that if successful this could form the basis for a more extensive management agreement in the future. This agreement has been brought forward based on the success of the operation since 2009.

### 1.3 The Partners

Partner	Role	Contact
Colchester Borough Council	Site owner and local planning authority	Major Development Officer Vincent Pearce  Major Development and Projects Officer Simon Cairns  Archaeological Adviser Jess Tipper
Historic England	Statutory Consent and advice	Deborah Priddy Inspector of Ancient Monuments
Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service	CBC manager of HPA	Nominated Philip Wise

### 1.4 Benefits

A Heritage Partnership Agreement is considered the most appropriate way to manage the continued and ongoing maintenance of the wall. Much of this work is repetitive and is undertaken using a standard specification. A term Scheduled Monument Consent for these repairs is currently in place and the development of an HPA is a natural progression.

The HPA will reduce repetitive SMC applications and will lead to efficiency savings for all partners, reducing the amount of preparation time and documentation for the owners and will increase budgetary efficacy, and reducing the number of site meetings.

*'[Heritage Partnership Agreements]... have been demonstrated to offer significant advantages for both owners and local planning authorities, particularly when dealing with large heritage assets or groups of assets... [they] can also be useful for other substantial assets or groups of assets such as large or related scheduled monuments, parks and gardens, battlefields and historic landscapes or areas containing a mix of related assets. Reaching an agreed and fuller understanding of significance will reduce areas of doubt or confusion, aid better management and increase the prospect of success for a consent application where it is still required.'*

(PPS 5: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide, paragraph 67)

## **1.5 Legislation**

The Colchester Town Walls and Balkerne Gate are designated as a Scheduled Monument under the terms of the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (as amended). They were designated in the 1920s. The 1979 Act allows for the development of management agreements (S.17), whilst Heritage Partnership Agreements can be formulated through the scheduled monument consent process, mirroring those concluded for other heritage assets under the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (2013).

## **1.6 Terminology**

The 'town' is Colchester and 'the wall', 'town wall' or 'the site' in the context of the HPA is defined as the surviving section of the Roman or medieval town wall in the ownership, or control, of the Colchester Borough Council (see 1.1). The 'monument' or 'Scheduled Monument' is the area, footprint and upstanding sections of the wall designated under the 1979 Act (see Appendix 2). The 'partners' are those identified in 1.3.

## **2. Terms of the Agreement**

### **2.1 Period of the Agreement**

The HPA will be in operation for five years from the date on the agreement, with a formal provision for a five year extension on agreement by the partners.

### **2.2 Interim Review Timetable**

Annual meetings will be held by the partners both to discuss the progress and development of the HPA, to review repairs carried out in that year, proposed works for the following year and as a forum to discuss wider management issues.

The review meeting will take place in April at the beginning of the financial year. Colchester Borough Council will be responsible for convening and hosting the review meeting.

The HPA will be formally reviewed at the annual meeting and amended or updated as appropriate and as agreed between the partners. Review may also be triggered outside of the annual meeting by:

- Completion of works
- A change of personnel or ownership
- An incident e.g. vehicle strike, criminal damage etc
- A dispute or disagreement between partners or interested bodies
- A breach of the agreement
- A change in understanding of significance
- Expiry of the agreement

### **2.3 Variations**

Minor variations to the HPA can be agreed through the exchange of e-mails or letters with the partners. If a variation is thought to be outside of the scope of the agreement then this will be considered at a site meeting or an interim review meeting.

### **2.4 Recording**

Appropriate photographic recording is necessary to document change. Photographs will be taken before repair work commences and on completion of the works. Record shots of work in progress will also be undertaken. These will be sent to Historic England digitally or in hard copies within 4 weeks of completion of work to a section of wall, with a copy to the Historic Environment Record. The photographs are to be framed to be printed to A4 and will include the date, identification of the section and side of wall and the nature of the photograph, namely whether it was taken before, during or after the works.

Additional structural recording and assessment may be necessary where unseen issues are identified or where previously unknown or hidden architectural features are uncovered during works. This will need to be discussed with the partners before work can recommence.

Archaeological monitoring/recording may be required if repairs include excavation at the base of the wall. Any works which are likely to disturb archaeological deposits with evidential value will need to be discussed with the partners and an appropriate specification for recording agreed between partners prior to work commencing.

## **2.5 Notification periods**

Historic England shall be given at least 4 weeks' notice (or shorter period if mutually agreed) in writing or by e-mail of the commencement of work to ensure compliance with this agreement.

## **2.6 Breach**

There is no penalty for the breach of the agreement working under the present legislation unless it equates to a breach of consent. If a breach does occur the agreement will be reviewed as outlined within the Interim Review Timetable (2.2)

## **2.7 Dispute Resolution**

If a dispute can not be settled between the Partners then the agreement will be dissolved and agreements will revert back to statutory consent procedures. Dissolution of an agreement does not mean that a new HPA could not be negotiated in the future.

## **2.7 Termination**

The HPA may be terminated under the following circumstances:

- Immediate termination if all partners agree
- Termination by any partner to the agreement with one months written notice
- Termination if a breach of the notice has not been remedied/addressed within one month

## **2.9 Funding and Grants**

Costs, budgets and financial arrangements with contractors are at the discretion of the site owners and will not to be considered or discussed as a formal part of the HPA.

## **2.10 Works by External Organisations and Volunteer Groups**

The scope of the HPA does not include for any works undertaken by any external organisation or volunteer groups other than staff of, or contractors working directly for, and on behalf of, Colchester Borough Council. All work is to be under the direct supervision of Colchester Borough Council's nominated partner officer (see 1.3).

## **3. Conservation Statement**

### 3.1 History of the Walls

The town originated as a legionary fortress (located under the western half of the current town), following the conquest in AD 43. Soon after the legion was removed and the fortress became a colony for retired veterans, at which time its defences appear to have been levelled and attention was diverted towards the construction of public buildings, like the Temple of Claudius. The burning of the colony by Boudicca's forces in AD 60 appears to have led to the construction of the Wall, making it the first of its kind in Britain. The Roman historian Tacitus records of the revolt that it did not seem 'a difficult task to destroy a colony that was unprotected by any fortifications, something to which our commanders, putting comfort before necessity, had paid too little attention' (*Annals* XIV, 31).

The Wall was built over a number of years between AD 65/80 and AD 125 to protect the 108 acre (43 ha) town, which had by then begun to recover from the revolt and was experiencing considerable expansion and embellishment. Originally it formed a circuit 2,800m (1.45 miles) long and 2.4m thick, incorporating six gates and between 12 and 24 towers, with a V-shaped ditch dug along the foot of the wall to improve its defensive capabilities. The Wall is faced with alternating bands of coursed septaria blocks and tile bonding courses, with a rubble core.

The main west (Balkerne) gate was formed by incorporating an earlier, free-standing monumental gateway (built to commemorate the triumph of the Claudian invasion of Britain), by the addition of a footway and flanking bastions.

Subsequent modifications included the addition of an earthen rampart behind the wall (AD 150-200) and the re-profiling of the town ditch was widened to convert its profile from a deep V-shape to a very wide truncated U-shape c. AD275. At Balkerne Lane, the widening had been achieved by digging out the far side of the existing ditch and piling up the excavated material much further out to form an outer bank (counter scarp). Also at this time the number of gates was reduced; the Balkerne Gate was closed and the external ditch extended to close off the road. The monumental arch and part of the rest of the gate was demolished and the rubble used to block the gap; the south pedestrian walkway seems to have been left open. Duncan's Gate was treated in a similar way, the counter scarp bank added to the outside of the town ditch passed unbroken across the front of the gate.

Little is known of the history of the Wall during the 5th-9th centuries. The Saxons appear to have repaired the town after the Danes were defeated in the siege of 917. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records 'King Edward went with the army of the West Saxons to Colchester and repaired and restored the borough where it had been broken'. During the medieval period the walls were valued for their protection as various lords and kings besieged the town from time to time. The Court Rolls of the town show that the bailiffs kept a close eye on the walls, summoning those who damaged the structure, built against it or dug pits too near the foundations (Hull

1958, 15). Further repairs are recorded for the reign of Richard II (1379-1399) and it seems likely that the bastions were added at this point and the stretch along Vineyard Street refaced.

Significant damage was inflicted during the Civil War siege of 1648; the tops of the bastions were blown off and part of the south-west angle was demolished to allow for the mounting of a Royalist gun battery. After the Siege part of the Wall was breached in Priory Street on the orders of Parliament to prevent it being defended in the future. The Civil War was the last military action seen by the Roman Wall and as it ceased to be looked on as a defensive asset less care was taken of them. Houses were allowed to be built up against the Wall, passages cut through, and extensive robbing occurred along exposed sections, especially at The Folly in Castle Park and east of Roman Road. Some of the gates damaged during the siege were soon demolished; the East Gate was pulled down in 1651 and Ryegate in 1659. Antiquarian Philip Morant records that the main medieval gate, Head Gate, was gone by 1766. Furthermore in 1795 antiquarian records note that a large section of Wall along Balkerne Hill fell into the road.

### **3.2 The Character of the Town Wall and Balkerne Gate as a contributing factor to its significance**

The remains of the Roman Town walls and the Balkerne Gate are of national international importance. Even when taking into account the loss of part of the circuit and most of the gates, the survival of Roman fabric is exceptional. The extant wall on Balkerne Hill (incorporating the Balkerne Gate), and that on Priory Street, with its surviving C14 bastions, are among the best preserved in the country, whilst they make a defining contribution to the visual character of the historic townscape, expressed through its plan and built form.

The Walls and Gate have considerable evidential value, comprising the extant fabric and archaeological remains relating to other aspects of the defences: the associated gateways, defensive ditch and internal rampart; and additionally the associated archaeological deposits which shed light on life in the Roman town. This evidential value is further enhanced by their historical significance of their being the very earliest town defences in the province, and underlining, through the presence of the exceptionally rare Triumphal Arch (Balkerne Gate), the pre-eminence of Colchester as the first but short-lived provincial capital. Given these heritage values, it is unsurprising that the walls also embody communal values. They are seen to represent the long and proud history of the town, are reflected in cultural and artistic initiatives, and are supported in the community by a Friends Group which works with the Borough Council and in consultation with Historic England, to improve and enhance their management and interpretation.

## **4.0 Generic Work Specification**

### **4.1 Task Items**

It is envisaged that this application will apply to the following categories of work:

- repair of gates, locks, windows or other metalwork associated with openings in the wall which have been damaged, or require repainting.
- repair and painting of damaged fences and barriers.
- removal of sapling self-seeded trees and weeds.
- repair of local areas of core work and masonry which have become loose, including replacing masonry, work to repair and re-point the facing of the wall and protection of the rubble core,
- the construction, where appropriate, of a limecrete foundation to facilitate minor repairs to the face.
- repair of rough racking.
- repair of stone and brick arches and openings.
- removal of graffiti and fly posting.
- other minor types of work which Colchester Borough Council and Historic England jointly agree to fall within the scope of this agreement.

### **4.2 Statement of Intent**

For all repairs to the Town Wall a standard work method will be used. All stone/brick that have fallen from the wall, or are removed during remedial works will be reused on the walls. Likewise any lime mortar will be reworked and incorporated into new mortar. Any new stone/brick required for the walls will be locally sourced wherever possible. If a local source is not available then a match closely to the appearance of the existing will be sourced and approval on materials will be sought from Historic England before proceeding with work.

The approach generally is to only carry out work necessary to safeguard the historic fabric of the walls. Any capping of walls is to be carried out in a way that will improve water shedding to assist this. If at any time there are concerns about work, a change in methodology or materials then work will stop and Historic England will be consulted. Repairs will be honest and no attempt will be made to prematurely age the finish of any work. Repairs will be in keeping with the character of the wall and all repairs are to be undertaken under the control of Colchester Borough Council's nominated partner officer (see 1.3).

### **4.3 Mortar**

All mortar is to be a standard 1:3 mix of natural lime putty mixed with sharp sand. No colouring will be added to the mortar and the materials are mixed to be in keeping with existing mortars and are based on mortar analysis undertaken for the initial SMC. Once applied the mortar will be wetted down and rubbed with a wire brush the following day to remove the smoothed finish. Clean potable water will be used for wetting at all times in order to avoid streaking.

### **4.4 Masonry Repairs**

*Where piecing in work is required on the face of the wall then the work will match the existing pattern on the wall. Where major rebuild of the face is required because the core of the wall is exposed the flints will be coursed.*

*If any wall ties are required we will, wherever practicable, use large flints but on occasions modern ties may be required. These will be proprietary stainless steel twisted bars drilled approx. 150mm into the core and set in the standard lime mortar mix. The outer end will be turned to form a short anchor which shall be a min. 25mm behind the face. In large areas of rebuild the ties will be spaced every 300mm and staggered.*

Work to any architectural features such as windows, arrow slits, wall ends are infrequent but where required Historic England will be consulted and if necessary a site meeting will be held to discuss scope of work, repair and methodology. If the Historic England representative feels that the work falls outside the scope of the agreement then further information, recording or a consent application will be requested and no works will begin until agreed or additional consent has been granted. Other areas of the wall may be worked on at this time under the partnership agreement in order to utilise favourable weather conditions.

### **4.5 Supplementary recording and Archaeological Advice**

Colchester Borough Council can ask for additional advice on recording or archaeological issues from Colchester Borough Council Historic Environment Services nominated partner officer as required. Where agreed, additional archaeological work will be carried out under a brief supplied by the CBC Archaeological Adviser.

### **4.6 Vegetation Clearance**

A work method for the removal of weeds will be determined on site considering the type of growth and the plants involved. Generally any growth will be controlled and killed using a Glyphosate such as Barclay Gallup. In most circumstances ivy will be cut off at the main stem with a gap of at least 60mm between the rooted stem and the growth stem. Both stems will then be treated with herbicide with above ground growth being carefully removed from the wall once dead. A survey of the wall will then take place and any sections that require attention will be repaired as necessary.

Buddleia will be trimmed back flush with the face of the wall and then treated with herbicide. Generally the root growth will be left in-situ but a decision on this will be made on site depending on the amount of damage done to the wall. If the root system has started to blow the face of the wall and flints are dropping out then the roots may be grubbed out with a limited rebuild of the face taking place.

Japanese Knotweed will be cut back almost to ground level and the left growth will be treated with a Glyphosate either sprayed onto the stems or injected, depending on the severity of the growth. Because Japanese Knotweed is so hard to kill subsequent cuts and treatments will occur every 4 to 6 months until the growth has been eradicated. Sites where JKW has been removed will be resurveyed for a further 2 years following final eradication to ensure no further growth has occurred.

No mass clearance of vegetation or weeds will happen during the nesting season; this is generally between 1 March and 31 July inclusive. If at any time during the nesting season clearance work is urgently required a full inspection of the growth will happen before any work in order to ascertain whether or not any active nests exist. If they do then no work will take place until any young have fledged.

Trees that are within striking distance of the Town Walls will be individually climbed and section felled and hand held or lowering ropes used. All brushwood and timber sections will be placed downward of the slopes away from the Monument. Any trees that are too small or can not be climbed will have direction felling ropes placed into the crowns of the trees and felled downward on the slopes/banks directionally away from the walls. Stumps will not be "grubbed" out or winched out; instead these will be poisoned with Timbrel or equivalent and will be applied by paintbrush ensuring no run off. All felled trees will have the stumps poisoned.

#### **4.7 Scaffold**

Any scaffold required will be free standing of the walls and will not be tied in or rest against the walls in any way, shape or form. Historic England will be welcome to inspect all works, but if this means access to a scaffold then 24 hours notice will be required in order to ensure ladders are in place and an escort can be available. Appropriate PPE is to be worn at all times.

#### **4.8 Footings**

*Where the face of the wall requires a rebuild a Limecrete footing may be put in place. The Limecrete will be mixed in a pan mixer to obtain a good mix without over watering, a gauging box will be used for measuring volumes of lime and sand. Mix will be 1 part NHL 5, 1 part sharp sand, 2 parts 12-18mm aggregate. The final depth of the footing will be determined due to local conditions but the Limecrete will sit on top of a compacted rubble layer, depth also to be determined by local factors. The Limecrete will be laid on top of the compacted rubble in at least 2 layers that will be tampered with each layer being laid before the previous layer has set. Fly ash may be introduced*

*into the Limecrete mix if a stronger footing is required. If the footing has been installed during colder months it will be covered over with damp hessian and Rockwool and a tarpaulin to aid going off. Ventilation will be maintained to the Limecrete to allow carbonation to take place.*

**Appendix 1**

Plan 190101/12/HPA/FE

Extent of the scheduled monument relating to this management agreement.



## **Heritage Partnership Agreement**

### **Colchester Town Wall**

#### **Balkerne Gate**

#### **Annual review Meeting**

17 May 2017

Museum Resource Centre, Ryegate Road, Colchester

Attendees: Deborah Priddy (Historic England), Philip Wise, Jess Tipper and Simon Cairns (Colchester Borough Council), Mark Wicks (Colchester Borough Homes).

Agreed minor amendments and actions

#### **1.1 Background**

Amend third paragraph:

The wall is c.2.6m high (max.) above modern ground level.

#### **1.2 Context**

Add new sentence/paragraph to explain Colchester Borough Homes' role:

Suggested:

The maintenance contract for the Wall is administered by Colchester Borough Homes on behalf of Colchester Borough Council.

#### **1.3 The Partners**

Remove Vincent Pearce and add Tanya Szendeffy, Historic Buildings and Areas Officer to the list of CBC contacts.

Remove Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service and replace with Colchester Borough Homes, Contract Administrator, with Mark Wicks as contact.

Jess Tipper nominated as CBC manager of HPA.

## **2.4 Recording**

### **Action**

MW to send photographs documenting change to the Wall to DP and JT.

## **2.5 Notification periods**

Amend sentence:

Historic England will be given at least 4 weeks' notice (or shorted if mutually agreed) by Colchester Borough Homes, in writing or by email (nominated officer copied in) of the commencement of work to ensure compliance with this agreement. Photographs of the wall sections to be repaired will be attached to the correspondence.

## **3.1 History of the Walls**

Add the following sections:

Sections of the lowest part of the wall (particularly the internal side of the wall) are well-preserved below-ground where there has been an accumulation of later deposits inside the walled town. For example, trial excavations in 1990 against the wall in Queen Street Bus Depot revealed the wall's north face in an excellent state of preservation, over 1.0m below the current ground surface; there is at least c.2.60m of well-preserved wall below the Bus Depot floor (TM 0001125048).

The wall was not raised as one unit all round its circuit, because there are discontinuities in the coursing and differences in the fabric of the wall. Instead, the wall was built in short sections by a number of gangs, concurrently, each presumably working at their own speed and, to a limited degree, building them in their own way; the average length of each section seems to be c.40-60m. Detailed analysis of the Balkerne Gate and the wall to either side of it has identified five different sections of wall, constructed by five different gangs – one for the gate and four for the stretches of wall

## **4.3 Mortar**

Amend Typo:

'With existing mortars.'

Add final sentence:

The mortar mix on a trial panel will be approved by the nominated officer before repair works commence.

## **4.4 Masonry repairs**

Amend first sentence of first paragraph:

Where piecing in work is required on the face of the wall then the work will match the existing coursing on the wall.

Delete second sentence:

Amend first sentence of second paragraph:

Replace 'flints' with 'stones'.

New final paragraph created from the second sentence of the third paragraph, starting:

'If the Historic England representative feels that the work falls outside the scope of the agreement...'

#### **4.5 Supplementary recording and Archaeological Advice**

Amend first sentence of first paragraph:

Colchester Borough Homes should ask for additional advice on recording or archaeological issues from Colchester Borough Council's nominated officer as required.

#### **4.6 Vegetation Clearance**

Amend first paragraph:

Floral and faunal surveys will be carried out by appropriate specialists before repair work and the reports and the recommendations will inform the programme of repairs. Every reasonable effort will be made to eliminate or minimise adverse impacts on the flora and fauna of the Wall, unless causing specific damage or obscuring important features on the Wall. Special provision or mitigation will be required for species that are protected in law and restricted distribution status of Nationally Scarce.

Ivy and other plants climbing over the Walls will be actively discouraged by cutting at the root and allowing the dead plant to fall away naturally; physical removal may damage mortar and stone.

Regular checks will be carried out (at least once a year) for self-setting bramble, elder, ivy, and similar flora that may damage the Wall. Hand weeding will be undertaken or, when necessary, spot treatment with herbicide.

The use of herbicides will be avoided except for the spot treatment of cut stumps of woody plants which cannot be removed. Only approved insecticides or fungicides of low mammalian toxicity will be used for the control or prevention of insect or fungal attack.

#### **4.7 Scaffold**

New second/final paragraph created from the second sentence:

Historic England will be welcome to inspect all works.

## Appendix 2: Town Wall

### List Entry Summary

This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance. This entry is a copy, the original is held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Name: Town Wall

List entry Number: 1003772

### Location

Not currently available for this entry.

The monument may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Essex

District: Colchester

District Type: District Authority

Parish: Non Civil Parish

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

This record has been generated from an "old county number" (OCN) scheduling record. As these are some of our oldest designation records they do not have all the information held electronically that our modernised records contain. Therefore, the original date of scheduling is not available electronically. The date of scheduling may be noted in our paper records, please contact us for further information.

Date first scheduled: N/A

Date of most recent amendment: 20-Dec-2017

### Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: RSM - OCN

UID: EX 7

### Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

#### List entry Description

##### Summary of Monument

Not currently available for this entry.

##### Reasons for Designation

Not currently available for this entry.

##### History

Not currently available for this entry.

##### Details

This record has been generated from an "old county number" (OCN) scheduling record. These are monuments that were not reviewed under the Monuments Protection Programme and are some of our oldest designation records. As such they do not yet have the full descriptions of their modernised counterparts available. Please contact us if you would like further information.

##### Selected Sources

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details

National Grid Reference: TL 99241 25085, TL 99242 25063, TL 99243 25027, TL 99299 24992, TL 99310 25493, TL 99414 25503, TL 99512 25003, TL 99567 25522, TL 99690 25011, TL 99773 25015, TL 99779 25544, TL 99847 25018, TL 99869 25555, TM 00073 25062, TM 00178 25358, TM0004625543

## **Appendix 3. The Roman Town Wall**

### **List Entry Summary**

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: THE ROMAN TOWN WALL

List entry Number: 1123664

### **Location**

THE ROMAN TOWN WALL

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Essex

District: Colchester

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: I

Date first listed: 02-Dec-1971

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

### **Legacy System Information**

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 116851

### **Asset Groupings**

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

### **List entry Description**

#### **Summary of Building**

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

## Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

## History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

## Details

### 1. The Roman Town Wall 995

TL 9925 NW 1/1 TL 9925 NE 2/1 TL 9925 SW 4/1 TL 9925 SE 5/1 TM 0025 SW 6/1  
TL 9924 NW 8/1 TM 02 NW 17/1

I

2. Probably of the late C3. Originally some 3,100 yds in length, forming a rectangle of about 1,000 yds east-west, and 510 yds north-south with rounded corners. Traceable throughout except in the south-west corner where it was much damaged by the 1648 siege. The 3 most important visible lengths are on Balkerne Hill on the west including the Balkerne Gate (qv), in the Castle Park on the north including the north-east Postern Gate and the great vaulted drain under, and the south-east corner in Priory Street.

Built of layers of septaria, interspersed with 4-fold course of brick, the lowest course going right through the wall, with a core of rubble and cement. Considerable lengths of the wall still reach a height of 15 ft, and it is on average 8 ft thick.

The wall was strengthened in each corner and where it was met by the internal streets by an internal solid tower the base of one can be seen in the stretch on Balkerne Hill. The wall was extensively repaired during the reign of Richard II, 1389-1399 when it was strengthened by the addition of external semi-circular solid bastions, 4 of these remain in Priory Street. The wall was further considerably damaged in the 1648 seige, there is much brick patching in evidence in Priory Street, dating probably from the early C18.

There follows a detailed description of the wall's course and construction commencing at the Balkerne Gate (qv) in the centre of the west side and proceeding in a clockwise direction.

All measurements are approximate. All heights are of the outside face of the wall. The ground level on the inside is often considerably higher due to the bank of earth built as part of the fortifications.

### A. Palkerne Gate to North Hill

455 yds, condition good.

Beginning at the Balkerne Gate (qv) the wall runs due north down the east side of Balkerne Hill.

30 yds of Roman wall (for details of construction see previous notes), 12 ft high.

15 yds of mediaeval refacing, 12 ft high.

30 yd breach caused in the Civil War.

60 yds of Roman wall, 10 ft high, built on a bank. 40 yd breach filled by modern red brick wall.

Approximately 280 yds of Roman wall running to the rear of the old "Coach and Horses Inn" on North Hill, 10 ft high dropping to 8 ft, with considerable mediaeval repairs, particularly in the north-west angle.

#### B. North Hill to East Hill

1,100 yds, condition fragmentary. 80 yds of Roman wall considerably altered. Beginning between No 30 North Hill and No 1 Middleborough. 10 ft high dropping to 3 and 4 ft in yard of No 1. Behind Nos 2 and 4 Northgate Street (Northgate House) 3 ft high; then fading at the rear of Nos 8, 10 and 12 Northgate Street to the corner of Short Cut Road.

260 yds, no visible remains.

The row of houses, Nos 22A-32 (even) Northgate Street are built on the course of the wall, it then runs beside or under the road to the corner of Castle Park. 40 yds with a footpath on top of remains, only modern facing visible.

15 yds to the park gate, 3 ft high, Roman with much modern facing.

12 yd gap for park gate. 120 yds, Roman wall with much mediaeval and later facing, 8-12 ft high.

5 yd gap for park gate.

90 yds of Roman wall with later facing, 10 to 12 ft high.

Duncan's Gate (postern) with drain under and remains of fallen tower.

35 yds, Roman, 8 to 10 ft high, running beside No 40 Castle Road.

Modern arch through to Castle Road.

100 yds to the north-east angle, Roman, 8 to 10 ft high, buttressed at angle.

From the north-east angle to East Hill the wall forms the garden wall to all the houses on the east side of Roman Road (Nos 55-15 odd, Nos 14-2 consec) except for Nos 23, 21, 19, 17, 15, 14, 13, 12 and 11 where it has been largely destroyed, Thus:-

70 yds, Roman with mediaeval facing, 8 to 10 ft high; along the Private Burial Ground and Nos 55, 53, 51 and 49 Roman Road.

30 yds, Roman, 6 ft high, behind Nos 47, 45, 43, 41 and 39 Roman Road.

60 yds behind Nos 37, 35, 33, 31, 29, 27 and 25 Roman Road where it has been virtually destroyed, at first a low wall of a few old stones with modern brick, then higher but completely rebuilt.

65 yds behind Nos 23, 21, 19, 17, 15, 14, 13, 12 and 11 Roman Road, no visible remains.

80 yds to East Hill, no significant remains behind Nos 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, and 2 Roman Road and between Nos 89 and 90 East Hill.

#### C. From East Hill to Queen Street

490 yds, condition good.

80 yds, Roman, 12 ft high with mediaeval stone and modern brick facing along St James' Churchyard to the mediaeval Bastion (see previous notes). 70 yds, Roman with mediaeval stone repairs, 12 ft high, to smith-east angle and second mediaeval bastion. 50 yd breach (Civil War) rebuilt in C18 in red brick, 12 ft high.

200 yds to Bastion V. Roman with extension repairs. Height varies between 12 and 8 ft.

40 yds, Roman, 8 ft high, with red brick Bus Depot above.

25 yd gap through bus depot buildings.

25 yds to St Botolph's Street, between Nos 48 and 50, no visible remains.

#### D. Queen Street to Scheregate

285 yds to Scheregate, condition good.

60 yds to Bastion behind No 10 Short Wyre Street. Between Nos 1 and 1a St Botolph's Street and then behind Nos 1-10 (consec) Short Wyre Street. These houses have their rear walls built on the Roman wall, including the Bastion under No 10, but little remains of the original stonework.

225 yds from the Bastion to the Scheregate. Destroyed behind No 11 Short Wyre Street.

Roman, 6 to 8 ft high behind Nos 27-14 (consec) Eld Lane. Gap with modern filling behind No 13 Eld Lane.

Roman, 10 ft high to No 6A Eld Lane.

Breach between No 6A and No 5 Eld Lane. C18 red brick wall, 10 ft high.

Roman, 10 ft high, to Scheregate behind Nos 5-1 (consec) Eld Lane and between No 1 Eld Lane and No 2 Scheregate Steps. Incorporated in the buildings, partly destroyed and partly invisible.

Scheregate (qv) - mediaeval,

#### E. Scheregate to Head Street

225 yds, fragmentary to Head Street,

Between No 3 Scheregate Step and No 6A Sir Isaac's Walk, no visible remains.

20 yds beneath the car park. 6 ft high, but mostly rebuilt, some stonework.

Visible stonework behind No 6 Eld Lane.

Bottom garden wall behind Nos 36 to 48 (consec) St John's Street, running under the southern side of Eld Lane. Very fragmentary.

Running through buildings to Head Street. No visible remains, probably quite destroyed.

#### F. Head Street to the Balcerne Gate

400 yds, fragmentary. Running at rear of Nos 3-33 Crouch Street, and Nos 2, 3, 4 and 5 Church Walk, the rear walls of the latter being built above the Roman wall. No visible remains, probably largely destroyed. 30 yds, 10 ft high, behind Nos 35, 36 and 37 Crouch Street forming garden wall of St Mary's Cottage, Church Walk.

South-west angle destroyed. 20 yds, Roman, 6 ft high, behind No 8 Balcerne Lane, 25 yd gap.

20 yds Roman to postern gate behind, 10 ft high, behind Nos 14, 15 and 17 Balcerne Lane, No 17 is built into the postern gate.

From the postern gate to the Balcerne Gate, 100 yds, Roman, 12 ft high, in good condition, running behind Nos 18 and Nos 25 to 31 (consecutive).

The following buildings are connected with, and have possible ownership of, various portions of the Roman Wall.

#### A. Buildings structurally connected with visible remains

##### Balcerne Lane

No 17 The Hole in the Wall Public House.

##### Church Walk

Nos 2, 3, 4 & 5.

##### Eld Lane

Nos 1, 1b, 1c, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6a, 7, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27.

##### Middleborough

No 1

##### Northgate Street

Nos 2, 4, 10 and 12.

##### North Hill

Nos 30 and 31.

Queen Street

Eastern Counties Bus Depot.

Sir Isaac's Walk

No 6.

Short Wyre Street

Nos 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

B. Buildings with possible invisible remains incorporated in the foundations: nothing certain.

Crouch street.

Nos 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 25, 27, 31, 33 and 41.

East Hill

Nos 89 and 90

St Botolph's Street

Nos 1 and 1a.

Scheregate

Nos 2 and 3.

Short Wyre Street

Nos 1, 2, 3a, 3b and 11.

Sir Isaac's Walk

Nos 6a and 6b.

C. Buildings not directly connected with the wall but it forms part of the property boundary.

Balkerne Hill

Gilberd Lodge.

Balkerne Lane

Nos 8, 18, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

Castle Road

No 40.

Crouch Street

Nos 35 and 37.

East Hill

Church of St James. Nos 89 and 90.

Eld Lane Nos 1a, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15 and 19.

High Street

Easthill House.

Queen street

Eastern Counties Bus Depot.

Roman Road

Nos 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55 and the Private Burial Ground.

The following of the foregoing buildings are of merit in themselves, and can be found listed under their respective streets.

Balkerne Lane

No 17 The Hole in the Wall Public House.

Church Walk

St Mary's Cottage.

Crouch Street

Nos 17 and 19. No 37.

East Hill

Church of St James. No 89

Eld Lane

No 1 Nos 3 and 4 No 5.

High Street

Easthill House.

Middleborough

No 1.

Northgate Street

Nos 10 and 12.

Scheregate

No 2. No 3.

Sir Issac's Walk

No 6a. No 6b.

Listing NGR: TL9942125504

### **Selected Sources**

Other

Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, Part 15 Essex,

National Grid Reference: TL 99421 25504

## Appendix 4

### Adopted Local Plan 2001-2021

The [Adopted Local Plan 2001-2021](#) for Colchester sets out the strategic policies to deliver conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. Policies are designed to ensure that change is managed in the interests of today's residents and those of future generations.

Core Strategy UR2 relates to Built Design and Character:

*The Council is committed to enhancing Colchester's unique historic character which is highly valued by residents and an important tourist attraction. Buildings, Conservation Areas, archaeological sites, parklands, views, the river and other features that contribute positively to the character of the built environment shall be protected from demolition or inappropriate development. Archaeological assessments will be required on development sites that possess known archaeological deposits, or where it is considered that there is good reason for such remains to exist. Important archaeological sites and their settings will be preserved in situ.*

Historic Environment Development Policy DP14 relates specifically to heritage assets in the planning process at a local strategic level:

#### **Policy DP14: Historic Environment Assets**

*Development will not be permitted that will adversely affect a listed building, a conservation area, historic park or garden or important archaeological remains. Development affecting the historic environment should seek to preserve or enhance the heritage asset and any features of specific historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest. In all cases there will be an expectation that any new development will enhance the historic environment in the first instance, unless there are no identifiable opportunities available. In instances where existing features have a negative impact on the historic environment, as identified through character appraisals, the Local Planning Authority will request the removal of the features that undermine the historic environment as part of any proposed development. Support will be given to the provision of creative and accessible interpretations of heritage assets.*

Conservation of the historic environment will also be ensured by:

- (i) *Identifying, characterising, protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas;*
- (ii) *Protection and enhancement of existing buildings and built areas which do not have Listed Building or Conservation Area status but have a particular local importance or character which it is desirable to keep. Such buildings or groups of buildings will be identified through a Local List which will be adopted by the Council;*
- (iii) *Preserving or enhancing Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens, including their respective settings, and other features which contribute to the heritage of the Borough; and*
- (iv) *Known sites of archaeological importance will be clearly identified and protected, and sites that become known, whether through formal evaluation as part of a Planning Application or otherwise, will similarly be protected according to their importance.*
- (v) *Heritage Statements and/or Archaeological Evaluations will be required for proposals related to or impacting on the setting of heritage assets and/or known or possible archaeological sites, so that sufficient information is*

*provided to assess the impacts of development on historic environment assets together with any proposed mitigation measures.*

## **Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033**

It is anticipated that the [Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033](#) will replace the current Local Plan. Policy DM16 in the Emerging Plan relates to the Historic Environment:

### ***Policy DP16: Historic Environment***

*Development that will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a listed building, conservation area, historic park or garden or important archaeological remains (including development that adversely affects the setting of heritage assets) will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where the harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss. Where development will lead to less than substantial harm this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.*

*Development affecting the historic environment should seek to conserve and enhance the significance of the heritage asset and any features of specific historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest. In all cases there will be an expectation that any new development will enhance the historic environment or better reveal the significance of the heritage asset, in the first instance, unless there are no identifiable opportunities available. In instances where existing features have a negative impact on the historic environment, as identified through character appraisals, the Local Planning Authority will request the removal of the features that undermine the historic environment as part of any proposed development. The Local Planning Authority will request the provision of creative and accessible interpretations of heritage assets impacted by development. Conservation of the historic environment will also be ensured by: (i) Identifying, characterising, protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas; (ii) Protection and enhancement of existing buildings and built areas which do not have Listed Building or Conservation Area status but have a particular local importance or character which it is desirable to keep; (iii) Preserving and enhancing Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens, including their respective settings, and other features, which contribute to the heritage of the Borough; and (iv) Sites of archaeological interest will be clearly identified and protected, and sites that become known, whether through formal evaluation as part of a Planning Application or otherwise, will similarly be protected according to their importance. Heritage Statements and/or Archaeological Evaluations will be required for proposals related to or impacting on the setting of heritage assets and/or known or possible archaeological sites, and where there is potential for encountering archaeological sites so that sufficient information is provided to assess the significance of the heritage assets and to assess the impacts of development on historic assets together with any proposed mitigation measures.*

## **Appendix 5: 2011 Town Wall Management Plan Objectives and Strategies**

- 5.3.      **Objective: Ensure adequate future resources for repairs to the Roman Wall**
  - 5.3.1.      Strategy: Consideration of the establishment of a special fund.
  
- 5.4.      **Objective: Improve the setting of the Roman Wall, improve public access and enhance public enjoyment of the wall**
  - 5.4.1.      Strategy: Creation of a wall walk.
  - 5.4.2.      Strategy: Opening of access to Duncan's Gate and drain.
  - 5.4.3.      Strategy: Remove/Reduce car parking at Vineyard Street and Priory Street Car Parks.
  - 5.4.4.      Strategy: Enhance the setting of the Roman Wall at Middleborough following the removal of the billboards.
  - 5.4.5.      Strategy: Mark the sites of the Roman and medieval town gates.
  - 5.4.6      Strategy: Mark the sites of missing medieval bastions in Priory Street.
  
- 5.5.      **Objective: Improve and enhance the interpretation of the Roman Wall**
  - 5.5.1.      Strategy: Replace existing interpretation panels at the Balkerne Gate. and Duncan's Gate and introduce new panels elsewhere around the circuit.
  
- 5.6.      **Objective: Integration of the preservation and enhancement of the Roman Wall into the local planning framework**
  - 5.6.1.      Strategy: Include the Roman Wall in the forthcoming town centre Supplementary Planning Document.
  
- 5.7.      **Specific objectives: 1-5 years**
  - Capital works: Repair work at Middleborough/Balkerne Way.
  - Capital works; Repair work at Priory Street.
  
- 5.8.      **Objective: Repair work at Middleborough/Balkerne Way**
  - 5.8.1.      Strategy: Adopt a phased approach to the repairs.
  
- 5.9.      **Objective: Repair work at Priory Street**
  - 5.9.1.      Strategy: Seek resources to undertake the outstanding repairs at Priory Street.

## Appendix 6. All Plant Species Recorded by Colchester Natural History Society at Any Time on the Roman Wall

*Acer pseudoplatanus*, Sycamore (seedling/sapling)  
*Achillea millefolium*, Yarrow  
*Alliaria petiolata* Garlic Mustard  
*Anisantha sterilis*, Barren Brome  
*Anthriscus sylvestris*, Cow Parsley  
*Antirrhinum majus*, Snapdragon  
*Arrhenatherum elatius*, False-Oat  
*Antirrhinum majus*, Snapdragon  
*Arabidopsis thaliana*, Thale Cress  
*Arenaria leptocladus*, Slender Sandwort 10  
*Arenaria serpyllifolia* ssp *serpyllifolia*, Thyme-Leaved Sandwort  
*Artemisia vulgaris*, Mugwort  
*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*, Black Spleenwort (on Section 19; possibly lost from Section 18)  
*Asplenium scolopendrium*, Hart's-Tongue Fern  
*Asplenium trichomanes*, Maidenhair Spleenwort (lost from Section 16)  
*Atriplex patula*, Common Orache  
*Ballota nigra*, Black Horehound  
*Bellis perennis*, Common Daisy  
*Betula pubescens*, Downy Birch  
*Berberis thunbergii*, Thunberg's Barberry  
*Bromus hordeaceus*, Common Soft-Brome  
*Bryonia dioica*, White Bryony  
*Buddleja davidii*, Buddleia  
*Calystegia sepium*, Hedge Bindweed  
*Calystegia silvatica*, Large Bindweed  
*Capsella bursa-pastoris*, Shepherd's-Purse  
*Cardamine hirsuta*, Hairy Bittercress  
*Catapodium rigidum* ssp *majus*, Fern-Grass (on Sections 1 and 12)  
*Catapodium rigidum* ssp *rigidum*, Fern-Grass  
*Cedrus deodara*, Deodar (seedlings)  
*Centranthus ruber*, Red Valerian  
*Cerastium fontanum*, Common Mouse-Ear  
*Cerastium glomeratum*, Sticky Mouse-Ear  
*Cerastium tomentosum*, Snow-in-Summer  
*Chamerion angustifolium*, Rosebay Willowherb  
*Chelidonium majus*, Greater Celandine  
*Cirsium arvense*, Creeping Thistle 11  
*Cirsium vulgare*, Spear Thistle  
*Claytonia perfoliata*, Springbeauty  
*Clematis vitalba*, Traveller's-Joy  
*Clinopodium calamintha*, Lesser Calamint (TM00012556) (on Sections 15, 17 and 18)  
*Convolvulus arvensis*, Field Bindweed  
*Conyza canadensis*, Canadian Fleabane  
*Conyza sumatrensis*, Guensey Fleabane  
*Cornus sanguinea*, Dogwood  
*Corylus avellana*, Hazel (a sapling that has been cut back at least once already)  
*Cotoneaster horizontalis*, Wall Cotoneaster  
*Crataegus monogyna*, Hawthorn (sapling)  
*Crepis vesicaria*, Beaked Hawk's-Beard  
*Cymbalaria muralis*, Ivy-Leaved Toadflax

*Dactylis glomerata*, Cock's-Foot  
*Digitalis purpurea*, Foxglove  
*Diplotaxis muralis*, Annual Wall-Rocket  
*Dryopteris filix-mas*, Male-Fern  
*Elytrigia repens*, Couch Grass  
*Erigeron karvinskianus*, Mexican Fleabane  
*Epilobium hirsutum*, Great Willowherb  
*Epilobium montanum*, Broad-Leaved Willowherb  
*Epilobium tetragonum*, Square-Stalked Willowherb  
*Erigeron karvinskianus*, Mexican fleabane  
*Erophila verna*, Common Whitlowgrass  
*Erysimum cheiri*, Wallflower  
*Erysimum cheiranthoides*, Treacle mustard  
*Euphorbia helioscopia*, Sun spurge 12  
*Euphorbia lathyris*, Caper Spurge  
*Euphorbia peplus*, Petty Spurge  
*Fagus sylvatica*, Beech  
*Festuca rubra* aggregate, Red Fescue  
*Forsythia x intermedia*, Forsythia  
*Fraxinus excelsior*, Ash  
*Galium aparine*, Cleavers  
*Geranium molle*, Dove-foot Crane's-bill  
*Geranium robertianum*, Herb-Robert  
*Geum urbanum*, Wood Avens  
*Hedera helix*, Ivy  
*Helminthotheca echioides*, Bristly Ox-Tongue  
*Hordeum murinum*, Wall Barley  
*Humulus lupulus*, Hop  
*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Bluebell  
*Hypericum perforatum*, Perforate St-John's-Wort  
*Hypochaeris radicata*, Cat's-Ear  
*Ilex aquifolium*, Holly  
*Laburnum anagyroides*, Laburnum  
*Lactuca serriola* f. *integrifolia*, Prickly Lettuce  
*Lamium album*, White Dead-Nettle  
*Lamium purpureum*, Purple Dead-Nettle  
*Lapsana communis* ssp *communis*, Nipplewort  
*Leucanthemum vulgare*, Oxeye Daisy  
*Leycesteria Formosa*, Himalayan Honeysuckle  
*Ligustrum vulgare*, Wild Privet  
*Linaria vulgaris*, Common Toadflax 13  
*Lolium perrene*, Perennial Rye-Grass  
*Lunaria annua*, Honesty  
*Lycium barbarum*, Duke of Argyll's Tea Plant  
*Mahonia aquifolium*, Oregon Grape  
*Malva sylvestris*, Common Mallow  
*Medicago lupulina*, Black Medick  
*Mercurialis annua*, Annual mercury  
*Myosotis arvensis*, Field Forget-Me-Not  
*Papaver dubium*, Long-Headed Poppy  
*Papaver lecoqii*, Yellow-Juiced Poppy  
*Papaver rhoeas*, Common Poppy  
*Papaver Somniferum*, Opium Poppy  
*Parietaria judaica*, Pellitory-of-the-Wall  
*Pentaglottis sempervirens*, Green Alkanet

*Pilosella officinarum*, Mouse-Ear Hawkweed  
*Plantago lanceolata*, Ribwort Plantain  
*Plantago major* ssp *major*, Greater Plantain  
*Poa annua*, Annual Meadow-Grass  
*Poa trivialis*, Rough Meadow-Grass  
*Pseudofumaria lutea*, Yellow Corydalis  
*Quercus ilex*, Holm oak  
*Ranunculus bulbosus*, Bulbous Buttercup  
*Robinia pseudacacia*, False-Acacia  
*Rosa canina* aggregate, Dog-Rose  
*Rubus fruticosus* aggregate, Bramble  
*Rumex acetosa*, Common Sorrel  
*Rumex crispus*, Curled Dock 14  
*Sagina procumbens*, Procumbent Pearlwort  
*Sambucus nigra*, Elder  
*Saxifraga tridactylites*, Rue-Leaved Saxifrage  
*Scabiosa columbaria*, Small Scabious  
*Sedum acre*, Biting Stonecrop  
*Sedum rupestre*, Reflexed Stonecrop  
*Senecio jacobaea*, Common Ragwort  
*Senecio squalidus*, Oxford Ragwort  
*Senecio vulgaris*, Groundsel  
*Senecio viscosus*, Sticky Groundsel  
*Silene latifolia*, White Champion  
*Silybum marianum*, Milk Thistle  
*Sisymbrium officinale*, Hedge Mustard  
*Sisymbrium orientale*, Eastern Rocket  
*Solanum dulcamara*, Bittersweet  
*Sonchus asper*, Prickly Sow-Thistle  
*Sonchus oleraceus*, Smooth Sow-Thistle  
*Sorbus aucuparia*, Rowan  
*Stachys sylvatica*, Hedge Woundwort  
*Stellaria media*, Common Chickweed  
*Symphoricarpos albus*, Snowberry  
*Symphytum orientale*, White Comfrey  
*Syringa vulgaris*, Lilac  
*Tanacetum parthenium*, Feverfew  
*Taraxacum* aggregate, Dandelion  
*Trifolium dubium*, Lesser Trefoil  
*Trifolium repens*, White Clover 15  
*Tussilago farfara*, Colt's-Foot  
*Ulmus* species, Elm (not identifiable to species level at time of survey)  
*Urtica dioica*, Common Nettle  
*Verbascum thapsus*, Great Mullein  
*Veronica arvensis*, Wall Speedwell  
*Veronica hederifolia*, Ivy-Leaved Speedwell  
*Vicia sativa* ssp *nigra*, Common Vetch  
*Vinca major*, Greater Periwinkle  
*Vinca minor*, Lesser Periwinkle  
*Viola reichenbachiana*, Early Dog-Violet  
*Vitis vinifera*, Grape-Vine

The Main Bryophytes:

Mosses:

*Barbula unguiculata*  
*Bryum caespiticum*  
*Bryum capillare*  
*Didymodon vinealis*  
*Didymodon sinuosus*  
*Homalothecium sericeum*  
*Pseudocrossidium revolutum*  
*Schistidium crassipilum*  
*Tortula muralis*  
*Zygodon stirtonii*

Liverworts:

*Porella platyphylla* 16

**Pollinating insects noted by Ted Benton in the vicinity of Duncan's Gate during a brief visit on 18.05.2017**

*Bombus terrestris*, Buff-tailed bumblebee  
*Bombus lucorum*, White-tailed bumblebee  
*Bombus pascuorum*, Common carder bumblebee  
*Bombus pratorum*, Early-nesting bumblebee  
*Bombus lapidarius*, Red-tailed bumblebee  
*Osmia bicornis*, Red mason bee  
*Osmia caerulea*, Blue mason bee  
*Anthophora plumipes*, Hairy-footed flower bee  
*Apis mellifera*, Honey bee  
*Eristalis intricarius*, a bumblebee mimic hoverfly  
*Vanessa cardui*, Painted lady butterfly  
*Vanessa atalanta*, Red admiral butterfly  
*Celastrina argiolus*, Holly blue butterfly