

**Historic building recording at
Town Wall Sections 6-8,
St Johns Street, Osborne Street
and Vineyard Street,
Colchester, Essex, CO2 7DL**

May 2021



**report prepared by
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**fieldwork by
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**commissioned by
Colchester Borough Council**

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CHER event number: ECC4642
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CAT Report 1692
July 2021

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- Fig 4 Section 7 of wall (continued on Fig 5).
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1 Summary

A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Sections 6-8 of Colchester's town wall, at St John Street, Osborne Street and Vineyard Street, in May 2021.

The three sections of wall surveyed for this report vary significantly in size and preservation. Section 6 is almost entirely obscured by modern brickwork, with very little of original Roman or even later medieval fabric visible. Section 7 survives in much better condition, almost all of what is now visible is the result of medieval refacing, with some late modern repairs. At the very eastern end of section 7 there is an exposed area of original Roman core. Section 8 is entirely covered with medieval refacing, and also contains one of the eight medieval bastions added to the south-east of the wall circuit in the late 14th-early 15th century.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on a historic building recording of sections 6-8 of the Roman town wall at Colchester, in advance of proposed conservation work. The recording work was commissioned by Colchester Borough Council, and carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in May 2021. Sections 6-8 are located on the southern side of Colchester's town wall (scheduled monument NHLE no. 1003772), specifically at NGR TL 966 250 (Figs 1 and 2).

As the wall is a scheduled monument, Historic England (HE) advised Colchester Borough Council that a Historic England Level 3 building survey of this section of wall would be required prior to any conservation work taking place. This recommendation is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014b), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (Historic England 2015), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24). In addition, the guidelines contained in *Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016) were followed.

3 Aims

The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of the structure prior to its conversion. The building recording was carried out to Level 3 (Historic England 2016) which is defined as:

“Level 3 is an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building’s origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building’s appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.

The information contained in the record will for the most part have been obtained through an examination of the building itself. The documentary sources used are likely to be those which are most readily accessible, such as historic Ordnance Survey maps, trade directories and other published sources. The record may contain some discussion the building’s broader stylistic or historical context and importance. It may form part of a wider survey of a number of buildings which will aim at an overall synthesis, such as a thematic or regional publication, when the use of additional source material may be necessary as well as a broader historical and architectural discussion of the buildings as a group.”

In particular the record considered the:

- Plan form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structure.
- Original function and layout.
- Original and later fixtures and fittings.
- Significance of the site in its immediate local context.

4 Methodology

The following are included in this report:

- A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of sections 6-8 of the town wall.
- A large-scale block plan of the site.
- Annotated elevations of the remains at a scale of 1:100.
- A detailed description of the wall. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction and phasing.
- A photographic record, comprising digital photographs of both general shots and individual features. Selected examples of the photographic record are clearly tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text. The photographic record is accompanied by a photographic register detailing location and direction of shot (Appendix 1).

5 Historical and archaeological background (Figs 1 and 2)

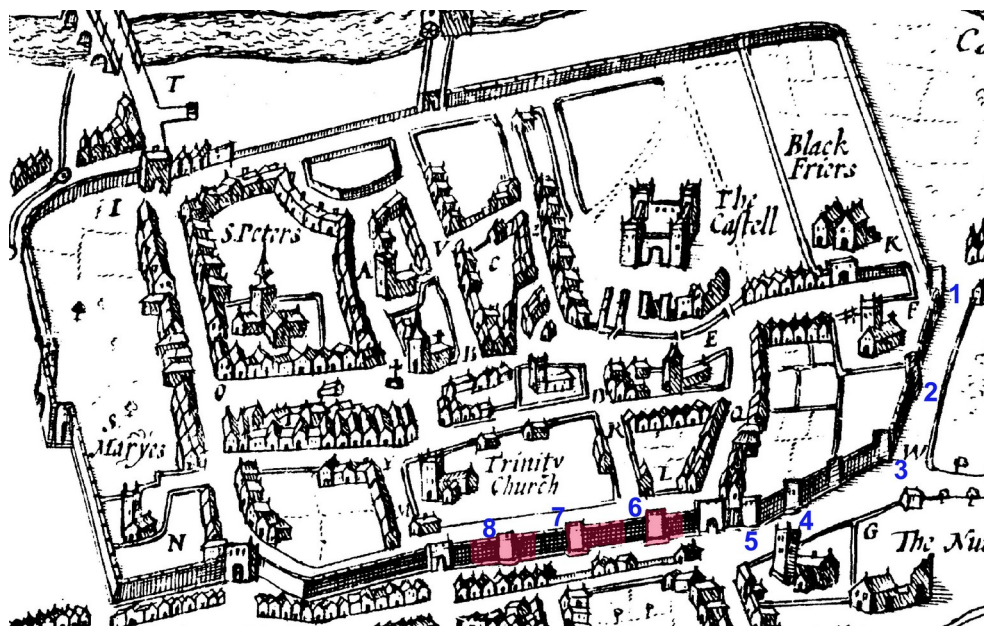
The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway.

Sections 6-8 are located on the southern side of Colchester's Roman town wall (NHLE no. 1003772, CHER MCC859). The section numbers originate from a drawing project of the standing town wall undertaken in 1989-90 during restoration and conservation work (CAT Report forthcoming). The sections are numbered from 1 to 28, starting from Balkerne Gate and going anti-clockwise around the wall circuit (Fig 2). Section 8 includes the remains of one of the eight bastions on the south-east corner of the wall, numbered as Bastion 6 in Roman Colchester (although Hull seems to incorrectly suggest the bastion does not survive - Hull 1958, 59).

The wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar with coursed septaria and tile on each face (Crummy 2003).

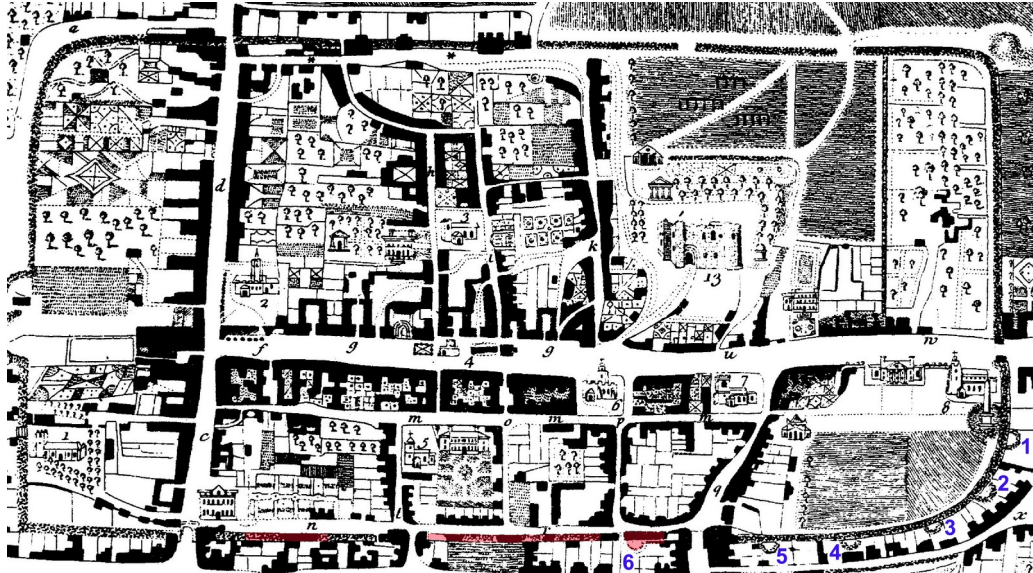
A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 1997). Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 exposed 1.2m deep stone foundations with wooden piles below (CAT Report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes have confirmed that survival of the foundations around the wall circuit varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation.

Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Some sections are in relatively good condition, with large areas of intact facing surviving (such as around Balkerne Gate to the west of the town). The section of the wall to the north of the town is in far worse condition, with long stretches not surviving above ground. The wall to the south-east and south of the town has been much repaired and altered in the medieval period, most notably with the large-scale refacing of the wall and the addition of the bastions. The section of wall between Vineyard Street and the south-west corner of the wall circuit is almost entirely obscured beneath or behind modern buildings, or does not survive above ground at all.



Map 1 John Speed's map of Colchester, 1610. Approximate location of sections 6-8 highlighted in red. Bastions numbered in blue (after Hull 1958).

The earliest known map of Colchester, by John Speed in 1610 (Map 1), shows the town walls as largely intact. Sections 6-8 are free-standing with no buildings visible built up against them. The eight bastions supporting the south-east and south of the town wall are all extant at this point.



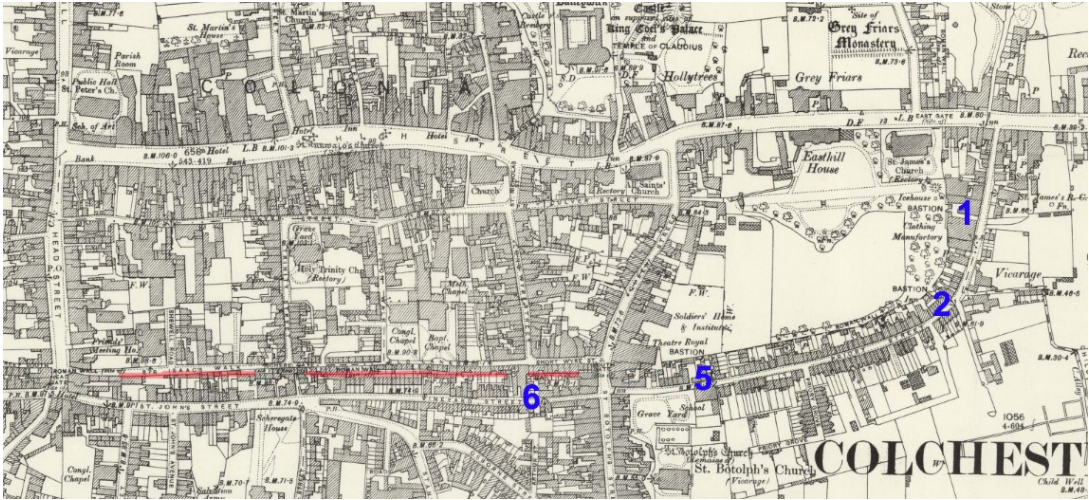
Map 2 Philip Morant's map of Colchester, 1748. Location of sections 6-8 highlighted in red. Surviving bastions numbered in blue.

Philip Morant's map of Colchester from 1748 (Map 2) depicts the town in more detail and clearly shows that parts of the town wall are starting to be built upon or demolished to make way for new construction, particularly to the north and south of the town. Only six of the original eight bastions are still standing.



Map 3 Monson's map of Colchester, 1848. Location of sections 6-8 highlighted in red. Surviving bastions numbered (5 and 6 missing from map).

Monson's Map of Colchester from 1848 (Map 3) shows a substantial increase in the number of buildings along the walls to the south of the town. Bastions 5 and 6, despite still standing today, were both omitted from the map and are not depicted at all.



Map 3 1896 25-inch OS map. Location of sections 6-8 highlighted in red. Bastions numbered in blue.

The 1896 OS map shows only 4 bastions surviving (as is still the case). Sections 6-8 have had several structures built up against them, as has the entire south side of the wall.



Photograph 1 1988 photograph showing the western side of bastion 6, with modern brick-built structure on top. Photograph taken facing south-east.

A modern plan of the site (Fig 1) shows that a large number of the buildings constructed against the wall in Vineyard Street have been demolished and replaced with a car-park, re-exposing the wall.

In 1988 the trust carried out an investigation immediately to the west of section 8 and bastion 6 during the redevelopment of 11 Short Wyre Street (CAT Report 113). The Roman internal wall facing was well preserved in the cellar of the building, and a Roman tile-built arched drain was discovered. Additionally, evidence of late medieval refacing was observed on the wall's outer (southern) face, and the western side of Bastion 6 (CHER MCC2710) was able to be closely examined (something not possible during the fieldwork for this report; Photographs 1 and 2).



Photograph 2 1988 photograph of western side of bastion six during work on adjacent property. Section 8 of wall visible obliquely to right of frame. Photograph taken facing north-east.

Further work was carried out by CAT in 1991 at section 8 of the wall (site code 91/11c; detailed in CAT Reports 144 and 1000). Two small test-pits were excavated in close proximity to the surviving wall (Photographs 3 and 4). One pit immediately adjacent to the wall uncovered a battered face identical to that found at Lion Walk (some 150m to the west), where it was shown to be part of the late medieval refacing dating to c. 1382-1421 (CAR 3, 84-5). The other pit failed to show any part of the wall.



Photograph 3 Site shot showing excavation of test-pits adjacent to section 8 of town wall in 1991. Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph 4 Detail of test-pit from 1991 showing battered medieval face of town wall. Photograph taken facing east.

The drawing project undertaken of the town wall in 1989-90 recorded section 7a and 7b (excluding the very westernmost property on Vineyard Street, which is added in this report). Sections 6 and 8, however, were not recorded due to problems with access, as they both lie behind private properties.

6 Building recording descriptive record (Figs 3-6)



Photograph 5 Oblique shot of section 6 behind St John's Street, showing re-used septaria and wall to the east. Photograph taken facing north-east.

Section 6 is entirely hidden behind the row of shops fronting onto St John's Street and the properties forming Culver Square above. The part of section 6 recorded for this report begins in the rear of 35 St John's Street and is 57.5m in length, projecting to the east (Photograph 5).

It transpired that only the eastern 20.5m of this recorded section forms part of 'section 6', the remaining 37m of wall recorded to the east has no assigned section number (Figs 2-3).

The wall in this area survives to a height of approximately 2.8-3.5m above modern ground-level (although what is visible is almost entirely modern in origin). The original height of the wall would have been at least 6m (Crummy 1997, 89), although it should be noted that at other sections (such as section 10 to the east) modern ground-level outside the walls appears to be below the base of the wall foundation.

This section of wall is constructed almost entirely of modern brickwork, which has very clearly been patched and repaired on several occasions. In addition, in three locations along the wall there are sections of re-used septaria interspersed within the brickwork (Photograph 6 and Fig 3). The majority of the brickwork and septaria is bonded in cement mortar, although there is lime mortar present in areas, perhaps suggesting that some of the brickwork is earlier in origin, perhaps 19th-century. To the east the wall has an 800mm high concrete buffer at its base, providing further support.



Photograph 6 Detail of section 6, showing modern brickwork alongside re-used septaria. Photograph taken facing north.

The only evidence for any *in situ* Roman fabric in this section is at the western end, behind 36 St Johns Street, where a small patch of brick facing has collapsed, exposing what appears to be a segment of original septaria and lime mortar core (Photograph 8).



Photograph 7 Detail of section 6 behind 35-36 St John's Street, showing multiple phases of brickwork. Visible in bottom right of frame is exposed septaria and mortar core. Photograph taken facing north.



Photograph 8 Detail of exposed area of septaria and mortar core in section 6. Photograph taken facing north.

Section 7 of the wall starts to the rear of 34 Osborne Street and continues eastwards for 170.5m, ending at the eastern end of Vineyard Street carpark (Figs 4-5). The wall section is only interrupted by the entrance into the service basement beneath Lion Walk shopping precinct, which necessitated the removal of a section of the wall in the early 1970s (detailed in CAR 3, 70).

The wall at section 7 survives to a height of approximately 4.5m, and is constructed largely of a mix of septaria and Roman tile, interspersed with large areas of brickwork (Photographs 9-10). Several sections of the wall have been the subject of modern repairs, and these are noted on the plans (Fig 4). Also of note is that some of these repairs are not visible on the survey of the wall in the 1980s-90s, and so must have been carried out in the last 30 years. Most of these modern repairs re-use Roman

septaria and tiles, but some other stones are present, including ragstone and some apparent pieces of worked limestone.



Photograph 9 Western end of section 7, showing medieval refacing along with modern brickwork. Photograph taken facing north-west.



Photograph 10 Detail of medieval refacing behind 32 Osborne Street. Photograph taken facing north-west.

The brickwork on this section of the wall is quite varied, with several clearly distinct phases of repair. Apart from the most modern areas, all the brickwork is quite badly degraded. Dating any of this brickwork with any accuracy is a difficult prospect, but some of the thinner bricks may date from the 16th or 17th century, although whether they have been re-used from other structures and added to the wall at a later date is impossible to say.

The majority of this section of wall (disregarding the brickwork) is the result of medieval repair work, and has been refaced re-using Roman tile and septaria (Fig 4). The exception to this is the eastern end (approximately 45m), where several large areas of Roman core, consisting of septaria, lime mortar and occasional tile fragments, is exposed (Fig 5). This area of exposed core is probably the result of a collapse of the medieval facing, and indeed, the modern repairs to this section of wall are focused in this area. Also surviving in this section of wall is an original Roman culvert, although it appears that this too has been refaced (Photograph 11).

Also present along this section of wall are several medieval 'putlog' holes (Photograph 11).



Photograph 11 Detail of section 7, showing medieval 'putlog' holes and refaced Roman culvert. Photograph taken facing north.

The western end of section 8 of the town wall is to rear of 18 Vineyard Street, and extends eastwards for approximately 34m (Fig 6, Photograph 12). The western half of the section survives to a significantly higher height than the eastern, with the western end approximately 3.5m-4.1m tall and the eastern only 1.9m-2.2m tall. At the western end of the wall section is Bastion 6, one of the eight medieval bastions added to the town wall in the late 14th-early 15th century (see historical background above).



Photograph 12 Section 8 of wall, projecting to the east. Photograph taken facing north-east.

This wall section has been extensively built upon, and in particular bastion 6 is topped, and has been repaired, by substantial amounts of modern brickwork (Photograph 14). Only the eastern side of bastion 6 was accessible during the survey for this report, but the western side was exposed during an excavation carried out on the adjacent property in 1988 (see CAT Report 113 and historical background above).

The entire face of the wall at section 8 is the result of medieval repair work, with several 'putlog' holes. No Roman core was observed at any point along this section, and work carried out in 1991 (CAT Report 144) shows that this medieval facing

continues below the current ground-level. As with the medieval facing elsewhere on the wall, at section 8 it is largely constructed of re-used Roman septaria and tile, although in places other materials have been used (Photograph 13).



Photograph 13 Section 8 of wall, with Bastion 6 visible at rear. Photograph taken facing north-west.



Photograph 14 Detail of eastern side of bastion 6, showing modern additions. Photograph taken facing north-west.

As with the other medieval bastions, Bastion 6 is constructed of re-used Roman septaria and tile (disregarding the masking modern brickwork at its apex). The bastions were added to the wall sometime in the late 14th-early 15th century during extensive restoration works (as detailed by Morant 1748, 6). Its facing appears entirely contemporary with the medieval facing (Photograph 14), which again is in keeping with the other bastions along the wall (see discussion below).

7 Discussion

After the end of the Roman period, the town wall would have been a valuable source of building material, and there is evidence from various sites around the town that the outer face was extensively robbed (such as at Culver Street; CAR 6, 63). This would have exposed the core of the wall, which at sections 7 and 8 on Vineyard Street was subsequently refaced in the medieval period with re-used Roman tile and septaria.

Medieval refacing of the wall has been observed in several other locations around the town, including around the site of North Gate (CAT Report 1183), at Priory Street (CAT Report 1184) and most notably during the excavations at Lion Walk (CAR 3). The medieval refacing of the wall at section 8 would have coincided with the construction of bastion 6. This was also the case with bastion 8 at Lion Walk, the construction of which was found to be entirely “contiguous and contemporary with a refacing of the Roman wall” (CAR 3, 84).

Because these sections of the town wall have been the subject of so much repair work, both in the medieval period and later, identifying any *in situ* Roman fabric is challenging. In fact, the wall has been altered so much that accurately identifying the medieval repairs can sometimes be equally as problematic. This problem is only compounded due to most of medieval and later repairs re-using Roman materials.

However, even given these constraints it seems clearly that essentially nothing in the way of original Roman facing remains at any of the sections examined in this report. Section 6 is clearly the most heavily altered, being almost entirely constructed of modern brickwork, with only some re-used septaria and a small section of exposed core suggesting an earlier origin.

Section 7 has been extensively refaced and altered, and although it contains much in the way of Roman material, it all seems to be the result of medieval and later repairs. There is some exposed core at the eastern extent of this section, but no evidence of original Roman face is visible.

Section 8, again, is entirely covered by medieval facing, which previous excavation work shows projects below the current ground-level.

Whether some original Roman facing survives behind the medieval and later repairs of these sections is uncertain, but probably unlikely. In other locations around the town wall that have been subject to extensive medieval repairs, the wall has lost a significant proportion of its width, to the extent that in some locations the back of the inner tile course is visible (such as at Priory Street to the east). It seems likely that this has also occurred at these wall sections, and this reduction in width (presumably due to excessive robbing of material) is one of the primary reasons that bastions were built up against this corner of the wall circuit in the late 14th-early 15th century.

It has been observed elsewhere, particularly on the south-east side of the town, that the base of the town wall’s foundation is on occasion higher than the modern ground level outside the wall circuit (CAR 6, 63). In Hull’s description of the 1923 excavation within bastion 1, he notes that the bottom the bastion’s masonry was 1ft (0.3m) below the base of the town wall foundation. A recent CAT survey of bastion 1 and surrounding wall found areas of apparent underpinning, suggesting the ground level had dropped significantly (CAT Report 1184). This lowering of the ground-level probably also contributed to the need for bastions, and the extensive medieval repair of this corner of the wall circuit.

However, no clear evidence of underpinning in any of the sections was observed during the survey for this report. Given the sizeable amount of modern repairs to the base of the wall this is not entirely surprising. The presence of a visible Roman culvert in section 7 could suggest that the ground-level has been lowered; in other parts of the wall (such as at Duncan’s Gate to the north) the culverts are entirely subterranean.

Although not as in poor of a condition as some other parts of the wall, the sections recorded during the survey for this report all require regular maintenance to maintain their stability. In particular, in areas where later repairs have failed and the original core of the wall is exposed, it will deteriorate without further consolidation.

8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Colchester Borough Council for commissioning and funding the historic building recording.

The recording was carried out by Mark Baister and Ziya Eksen.

Figures are by Mark Baister, with some adapted from the elevations of the town wall in Vineyard Street from CAT archives (Figs 4 and 5 - drawn in 1989-90).

The project was monitored by Dr Simon Wood for Colchester Borough Council.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at

<http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

CAR 3	1984	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 3: Excavations at Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane, and Middleborough, Colchester, Essex</i>
CAT Report 113	2001	<i>Excavation and recording at 11 Short Wyre Street, Colchester, Essex, in 1988</i>
CAT Report 144	2000	<i>Colchester town wall: miscellaneous sites from 1987 to 2000</i>
CAT Report 1000	2020	<i>A miscellany of Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</i>
CAT Report 1022	2016	<i>Historic building recording and test-pit evaluation at Duncan's Gate, Colchester, CO1 1UN, July 2016</i>
CAT Report 1183	2017	<i>Historic building recording at Town Wall Section 21, Rear of 1 Middleborough, Colchester, CO1 1WD, August 2017</i>
CAT Report 1184	2017	<i>Historic building recording at Town Wall Section 11, rear of 62 Priory Street (Priory Lodge), Colchester, CO1 2QE, August 2017</i>
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex April 2005-March 2006</i>
CAT Report 356	2006	<i>An archaeological investigation of the Roman town wall at Roman Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2004 and February 2006</i>
CAT Report 955	2016	<i>A survey of the Town Wall in the Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
Crummy, P	2003	'Colchester's Roman Town Wall' p44-52 in <i>The Archaeology of Roman Towns</i> , ed by Wilson, P
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeological occasional papers 14 by Gurney, D.
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological occasional papers 24 by Medlycott, M
Historic England	2015	<i>MoRPHE: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i>
Historic England	2016	<i>Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice</i>

Hull, M.R.	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National planning policy framework</i>
Morant, P.	1748	<i>The History and Antiquities of the most ancient Town and Borough of Colchester, in the County of Essex</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
HE	Historic Environment
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
medieval	the period from 1066 to 1500
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
septaria	a compacted clay used as building material by the Romans

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum (under accession code ECC4642).

12 Contents of archive

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1692)
Original site record (plans, elevations and notes)
Site digital photos and log, attendance register, risk assessment

Digital record

The CBC brief and CAT WSI
The report (CAT Report 1692)
Digital plans
Site digital photos and log

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Distribution list

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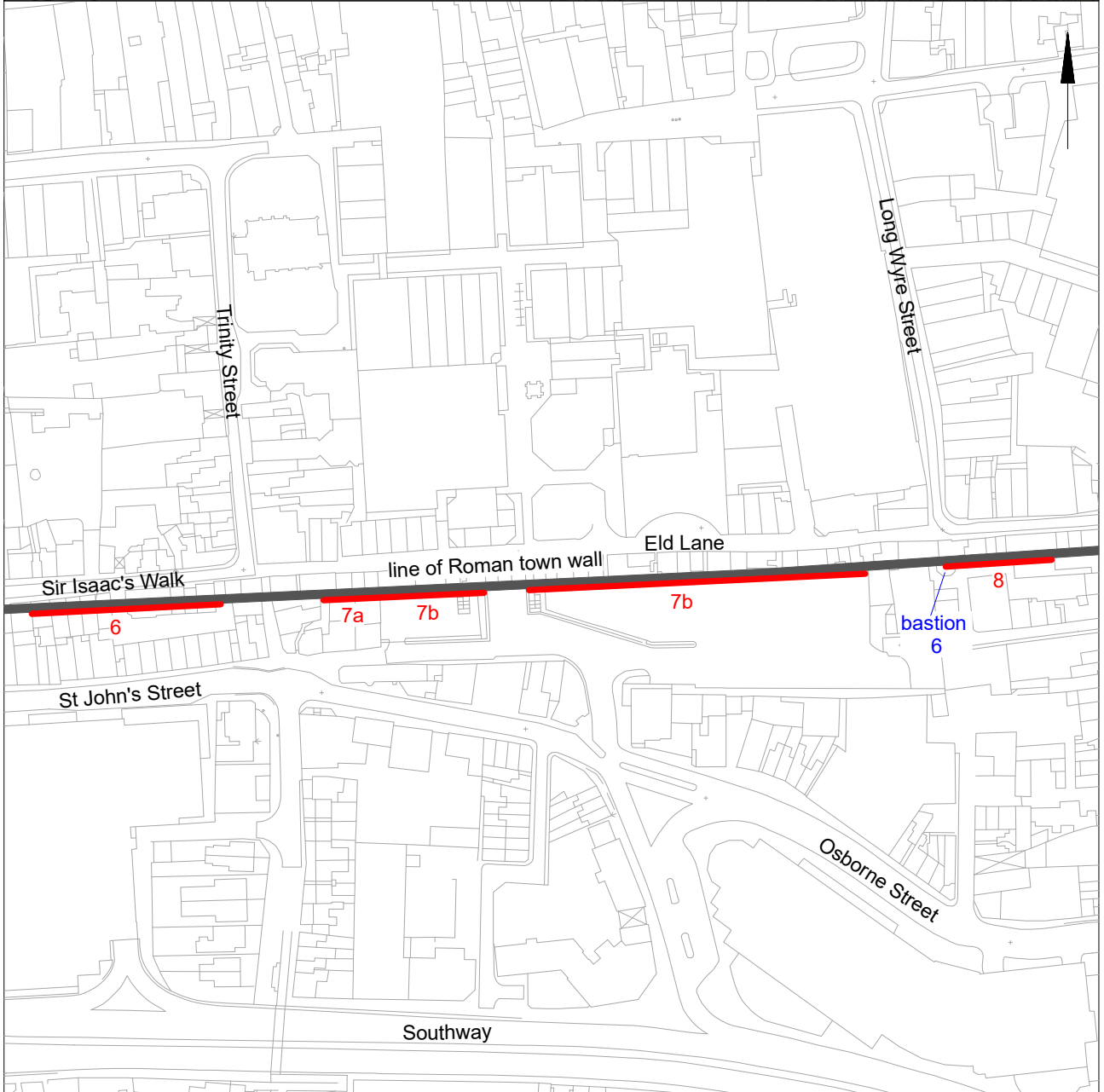
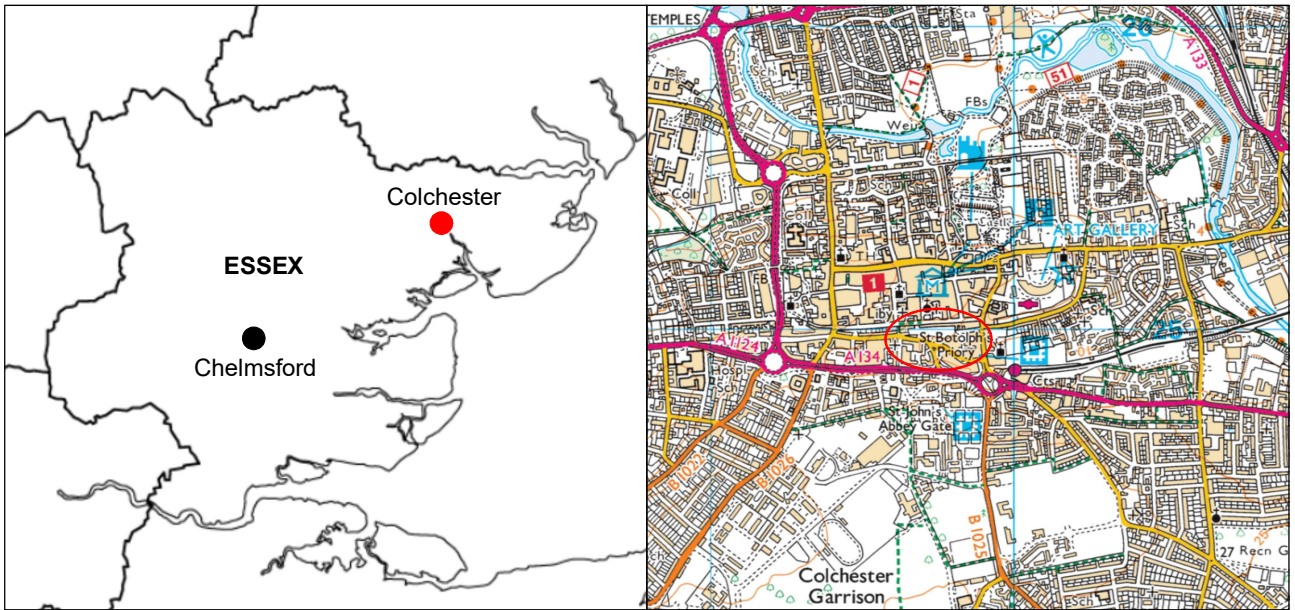
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checked by: Philip Crummy
date: 16/07/2021

Appendix 1:
Full digital photographic record
(images on accompanying CD)

Photograph_001-046.JPG	Section 7b record shots, showing detail of medieval refacing.
Photograph_047-084.JPG	Section 8 record shots, showing detail of medieval refacing and bastion 6.
Photograph_085-104.JPG	Section 7a record shots, showing medieval refacing and modern repairs.
Photograph_105-171.JPG	Section 6 record shots, showing modern brickwork and re-used septaria.
Photograph_172-229.JPG	Section 8 recording shots, showing bastion 6 and medieval refacing.



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Fig 1 Site location with numbered sections of the Roman town wall to be recorded shown red.



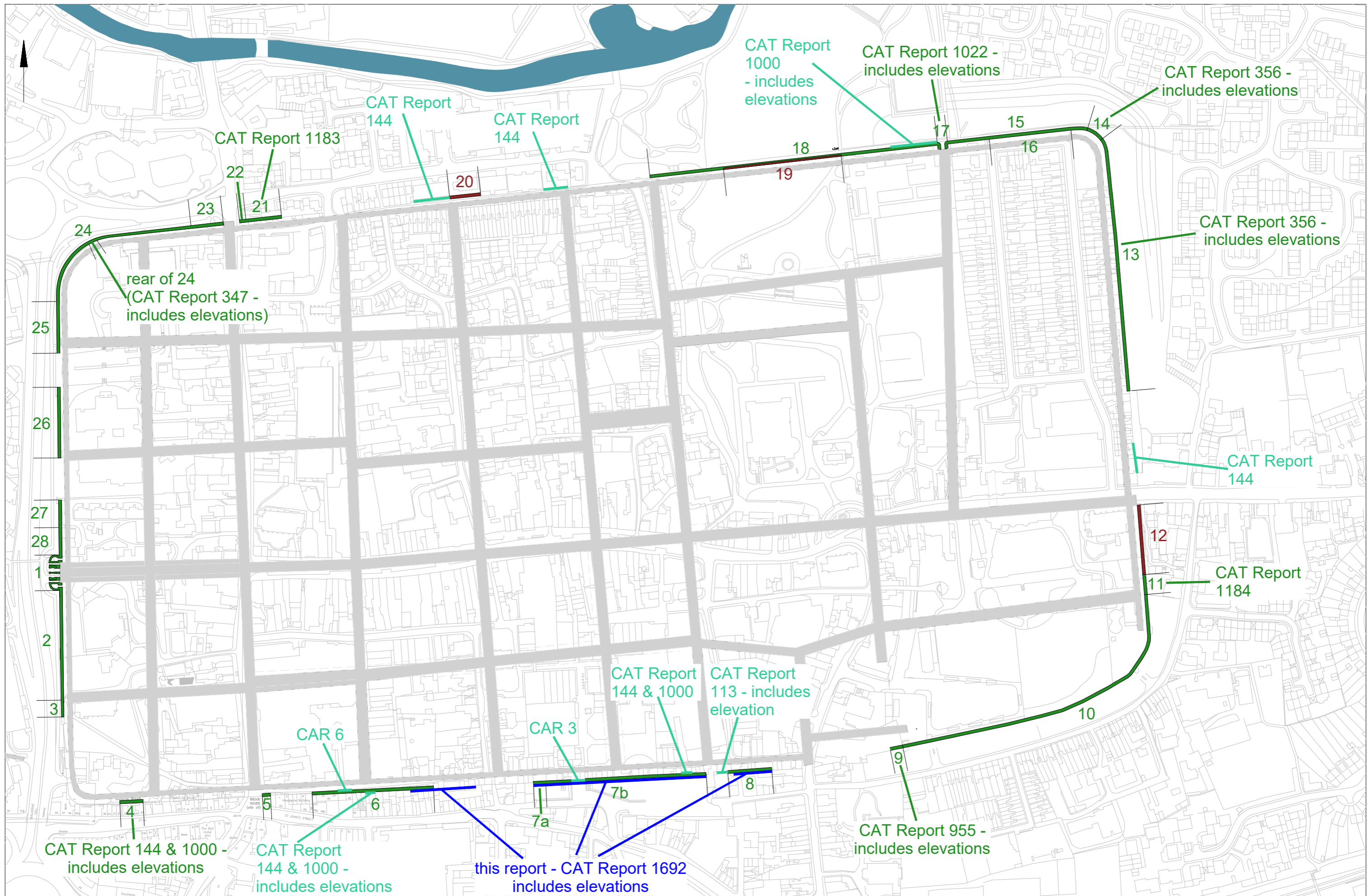


Fig 3 Plan showing previous recording of the town wall. Section numbers of standing elements of wall are as per the drawing project undertaken in the 1980-90s (unpublished). Any associated CAT reports and CARs detailing sections of wall are noted.

drawn
 not drawn

0 200m

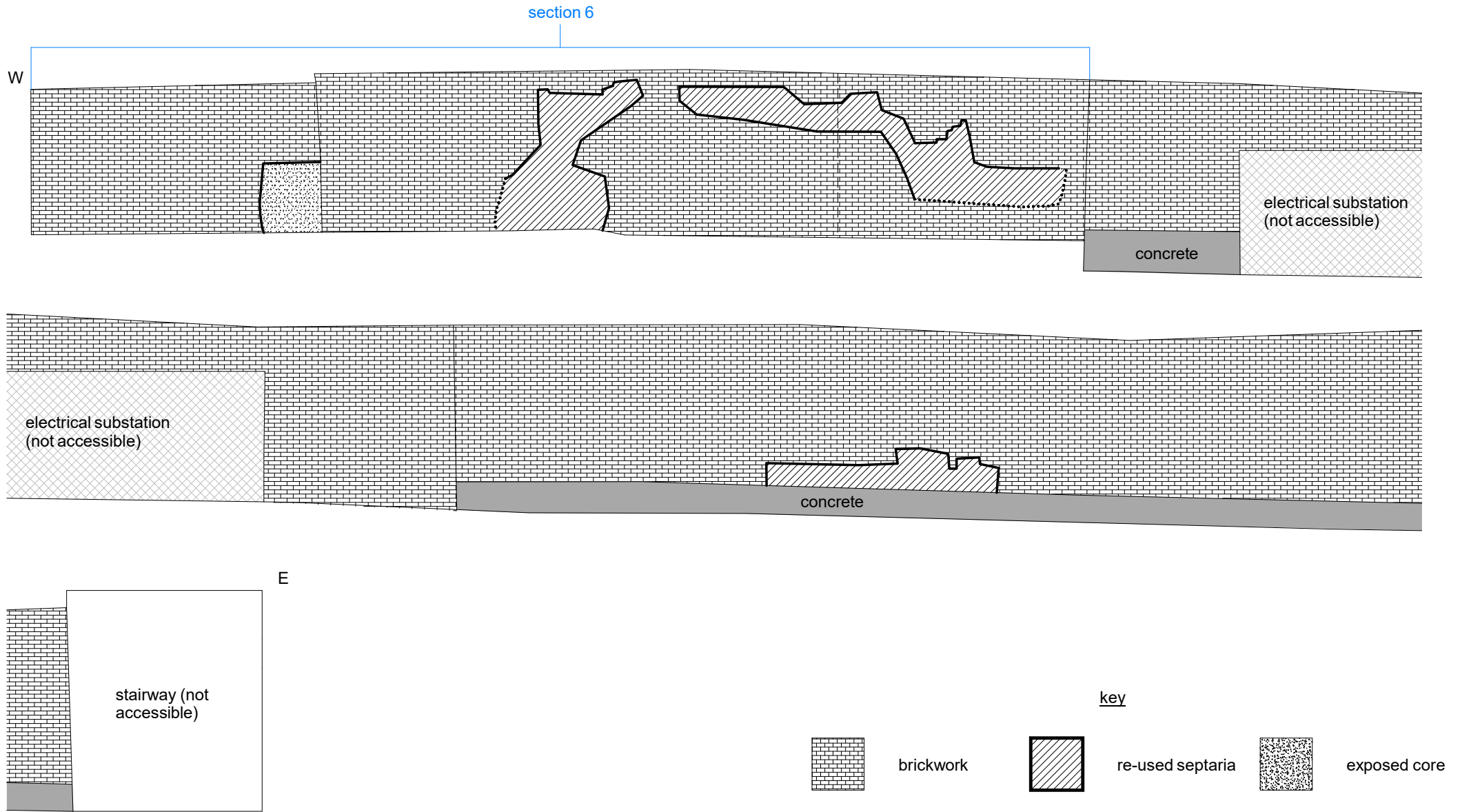
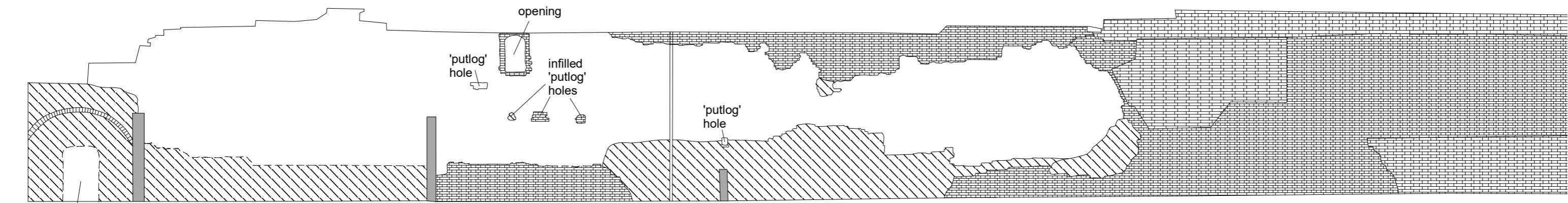
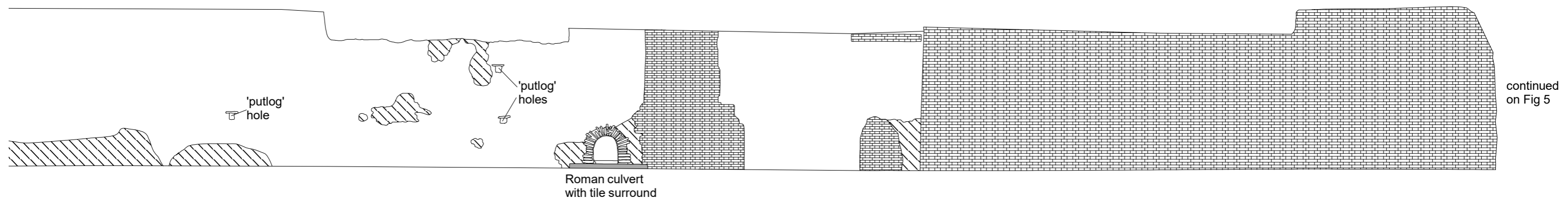
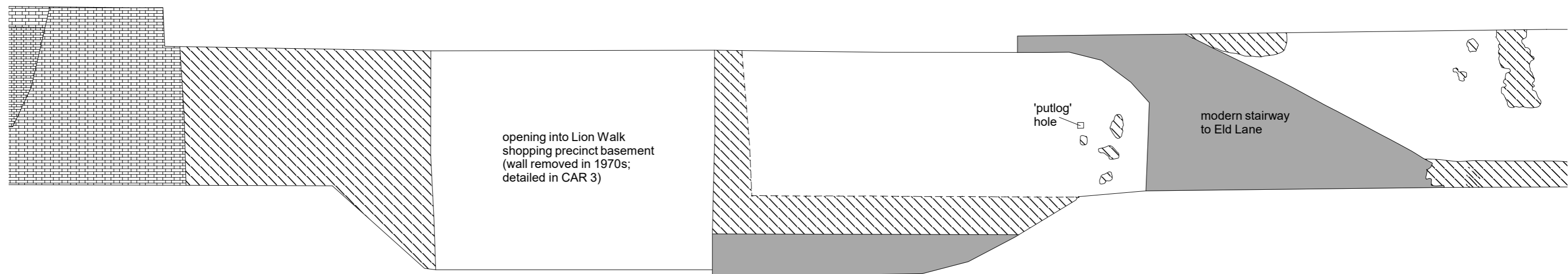


Fig 3 Section 6 and additional wall to east.



arched recess largely obscured
- possible fireplace?



continued on Fig 5

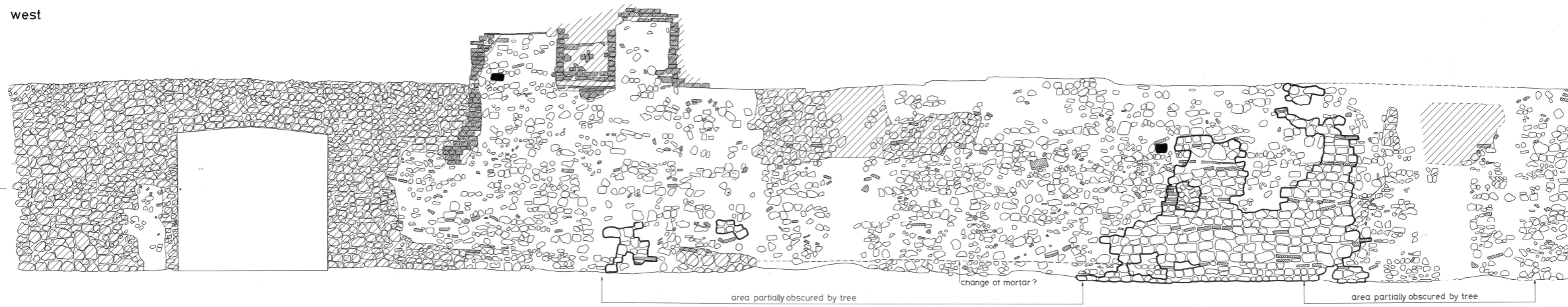


Fig 4 Section 7 of wall (continued on Fig 5).

key



west



THE ROMAN TOWN WALL, COLCHESTER, ESSEX
1990 Drawing No. 3414 sheet 3 of 3
Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd

Section 7b
scale—1:20

□ original ashlar—medieval (elsewhere exposed core) ▨ later repair

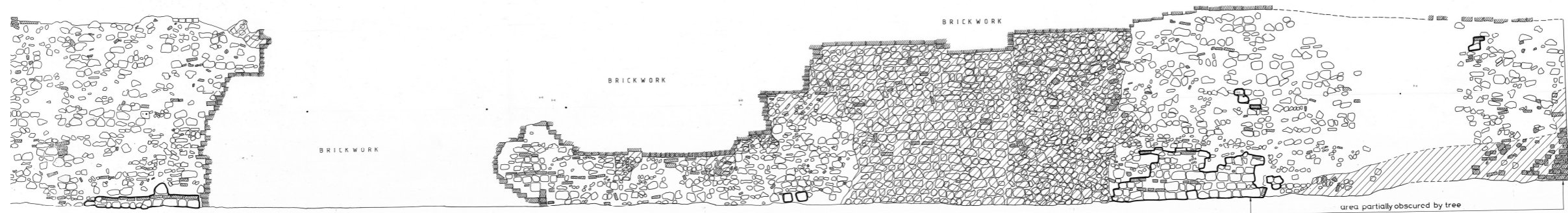


Fig 5 Eastern end of section 7 (reproduced from drawing project carried out in 1990).

0m 2m

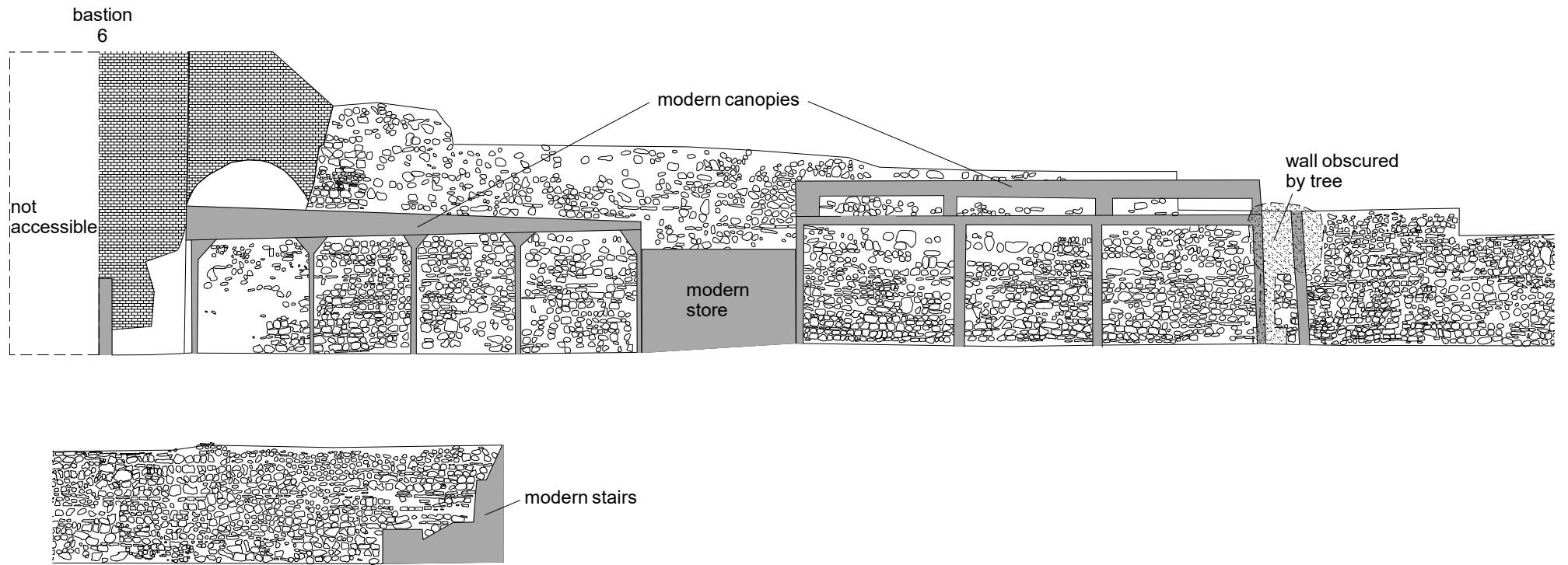
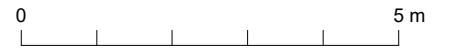


Fig 6 Section 8 of wall.



Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Town Wall Sections 6-8, St Johns Street, Osborne Street and Vineyard Street, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7DL	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 966 250 (c) (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2020/06j CHER ref: ECC4642 OASIS ref: colchest3-397350
Type of work: Historic Building Recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: May 2021	Size of area investigated: -
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	Funding source: Colchester Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related CHER/EHER number(s): CHER: MCC2710 (Bastion 6)
Final report: CAT Report 1692	
Periods represented: Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Sections 6-8 of Colchester's town wall, at St John Street, Osborne Street and Vineyard Street, in May 2021.</p> <p>The three sections of wall surveyed for this report vary significantly in size and preservation. Section 6 is almost entirely obscured by modern brickwork, with very little of original Roman or even later medieval fabric visible. Section 7 survives in much better condition, almost all of what is now visible is the result of medieval refacing, with some late modern repairs. At the very eastern end of section 7 there is an exposed area of original Roman core. Section 8 is entirely covered with medieval refacing, and also contains one of the eight medieval bastions added to the south-east of the wall circuit in the late 14th-early 15th century.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: town wall, bastion	Significance: *
Author of summary: Mark Baister	Date of summary: July 2021

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an historic building recording along the Roman Town Wall sections 6-8, St Johns Street and Vineyard Street, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7DL.

NGR: TL 966 250 (centre)
District: Colchester

Commissioned by: Martin Leek (CB Homes)
Client: Colchester Borough Homes

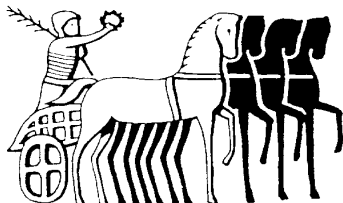
Curating Museum: Colchester

CAT Project code: 2020/06j
CHER Event number: tbc
OASIS ref: colchest3-397350

Scheduled Ancient Monument number: 1003772

Site manager: Chris Lister
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper
Historic England monitor: Will Fletcher

This WSI written: 24/06/2020



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester,
Essex, C02 7GZ
tel: 01206 501785
email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The Roman Town Wall is located within the historic core of Colchester Town centre. This recording focuses on Sections 6-8 running east to west on land to the north of St Johns Street and Vineyard Street, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 966 250.

Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the repair and conservation of sections 6-8 of the Roman Town Wall.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer:

Sections 6-8 of the town wall are located on southern central edge of the Roman Town Wall (Scheduled Ancient Monument NHLE no. EX7 1003772, MCC859). The wall was built around the town in the late 1st-century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar with coursed septaria and tile on each face.

A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 1997). Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT Report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation.

Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Some sections are in relatively good condition, with large areas of intact facing surviving (such as around Balkerne Gate to the west of the town). The section of wall to the rear of 1 Middleborough, however, is much diminished in height, and has suffered from recent collapse.

CAT have undertaken multiple recordings of sections of the wall during conservation work, recent examples include Section 21 (CAT Report 1183) and Sections 10-11 (CAT Reports 1184). During the 1980-1990s CAT carried out a project recording large sections of the Town Wall. The sections drawn were allocated numbers from 1 to 28, starting from Balkerne Gate and going anti-clockwise around the wall circuit. CAT is in the process of creating a publication combining town wall projects, including the digitisation of the hand-drawn elevations (Crummy forthcoming).

Planning background

As a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) and Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (HEIAM) advised that an archaeological impact assessment would be required in the form of a Historic England Level 3 building survey of this section of the wall in advance of the conservation work. This recommendation is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

Colchester Archaeological Trust has prepared this Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) in response to the CBCAA's brief, and with the approval of the CBCAA and HEIAM, for submission to Colchester Borough Council Planning Department.

Any variations to this WSI will be agreed beforehand with the CBCAA/HEIAM.

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for an historic building recording.

Building recording

The building recording will comprise a Historic England Level 3 survey of sections 6-8 of Colchester's Roman Town Wall (see Fig 1 for location).

The remains will be described, drawn and photographed. Specifically this will consider:

- Plan form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structure.
- Function and layout.
- Original and later phasing, additions and their effect on the internal/external fabric and the level of survival of original fabric.
- The significance of the site on a regional level.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b, c)
- appropriate Historic England advice and guideline publications
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2019)

Professional CAT archaeologists will undertake all specified work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to the CBCAA and HEIAM one week before start of work.

Vegetation will need to be cleared from the wall to facilitate good recording. Any plants will be cut back to face of the masonry but the roots left intact to avoid damage to the scheduled monument.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the CBCAA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one building recorder and one surveyor for three days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Mark Baister

Building Recording Methodology

A Historic England Level 3 survey will be undertaken.

A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the section of wall will be made. Sources consulted will include:

- Essex Historic Environment Record.

- Colchester Historic Environment Record.
- Essex Records Office.
- The site owner.

A large-scale block plan will be made of the site using the current OS 1:2500 map extract.

Plans and elevations at a scale of 1:100 will be made of the wall, tied into the descriptive text and accompanying photographic record.

The wall will be viewed, described and photographed. The description will seek to address materials, dimensions, method of construction and phasing.

A full photographic record will be made comprising colour digital photographs. This record will include both general shots and details of features (ie structural detail). A photographic scale will be included in the case of detailed photographs. Rectified photographs will be created of the entire section of wall. The photographic record will be accompanied by a photographic register detailing (as a minimum) location and direction of shot. Digital site photographs will be supplied as both a jpeg and in raw uncompressed format (TIFF), with metadata will be embedded into the raw file as per HE guidelines (HE 2015a).

The completed plans will be clearly annotated to show the location and orientation of photographs taken as part of the survey.

Fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text will be reproduced as colour laser copies.

The guidelines contained in *Historic England: Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice (2016)* will be adhered to. In addition, RCHME: *Descriptive Specification 3rd Edition*, ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2014)* and the appropriate sections of the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (East Anglian Archaeology occasional paper 14, 2003)* and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England (EAA 24, 2011)* and *Management of research projects in the historic environment (MoRPHE)* will be used for additional guidance in the design of the project specification, the contents of the report, and for the general execution of the project.

Results

Notification will be given to the CBCAA/HEIAM when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (HE 2015b)*.

A report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the CBCAA/HEIAM as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation.
- A brief history of this section of the precinct wall
- Location maps, plans and annotated drawings tied into the OS Grid.
- Labelled re-productions of a representative sample of the photographs.
- Detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to the CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the

project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full paper archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

Monitoring

The HEIAM and CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to the CBCAA and HEIAM one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA and HEIAM prior to them being carried out.

The CBCAA and HEIAM will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the CBCAA and HEIAM will be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Policies and procedures</i>
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006</i>
CAT Report 1183	2017	<i>Historic building recording at Town Wall Section 21, Rear of 1 Middleborough, Colchester, CO1 1WD-August 2017. By M Baister</i>

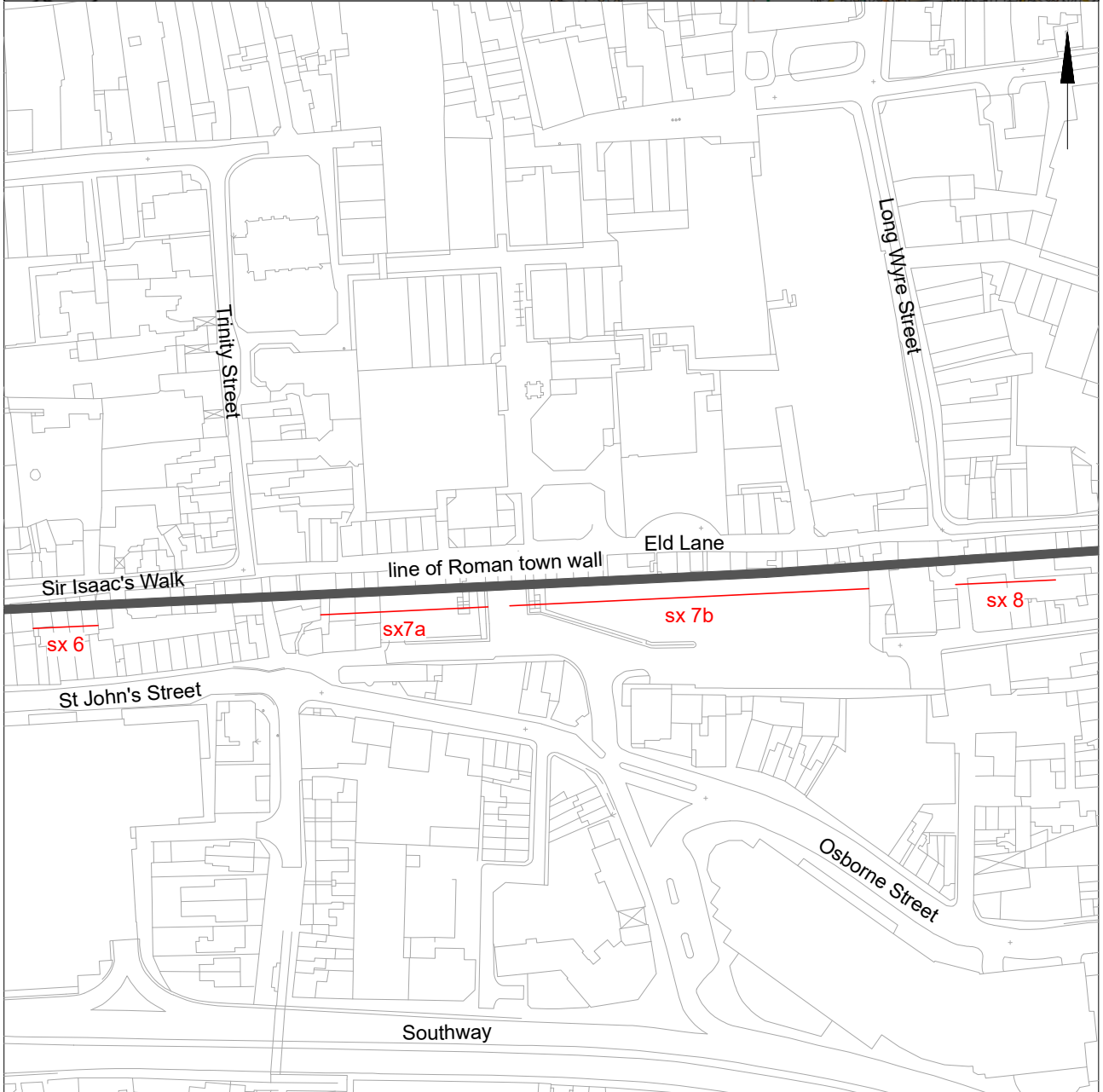
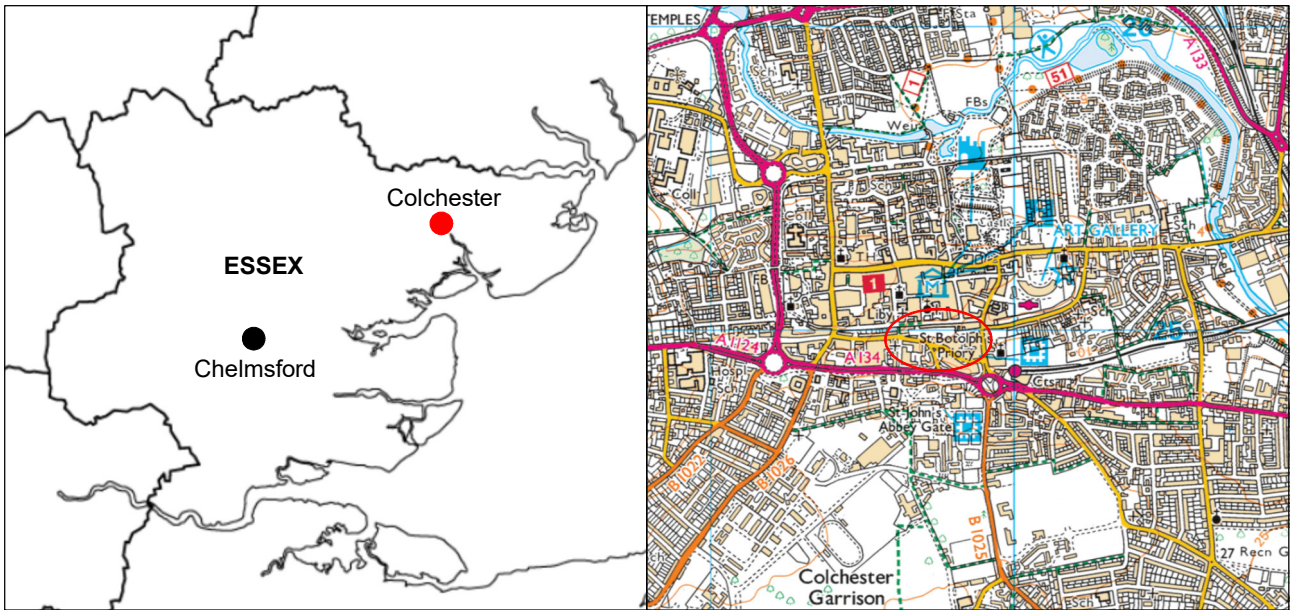
CAT Report 1184	2017	<i>Historic building recording at Town Wall Section 11, rear of 62 Priory Street (Priory Lodge), Colchester, CO1 2QE. By M Baister</i>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By S Cole & P Backhouse</i>
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2016	<i>Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice</i>
Hull, MR	1957	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Gurney, D.	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 14 (EAA 14)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government</i>

Emma Holloway



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email: eh@catuk.org



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Fig 1 Site location with numbered sections of the Roman town wall to be recorded shown red.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-397350

Project details

Project name	Historic building recording along the Roman Town Wall sections 6-8, St Johns Street and Vineyard Street, Colchester, Ess
Short description of the project	A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Sections 6-8 of Colchester's town wall, at St John Street, Osborne Street and Vineyard Street, in May 2021. The three sections of wall surveyed for this report vary significantly in size and preservation. Section 6 is almost entirely obscured by modern brickwork, with very little of original Roman or even later medieval fabric visible. Section 7 survives in much better condition, almost all of what is now visible is the result of medieval refacing, with some late modern repairs. At the very eastern end of section 7 there is an exposed area of original Roman core. Section 8 is entirely covered with medieval refacing, and also contains one of the eight medieval bastions added to the south-east of the wall circuit in the late 14th-early 15th century.
Project dates	Start: 26-05-2021 End: 16-07-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2020/06j - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 6 - Land boundary
Monument type	WALL Roman
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Roman Town Wall sections 6-8, St Johns Street and Vineyard Street, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO2 7DL
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 966 250 51.888312156345 0.857238108855 51 53 17 N 000 51 26 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Colchester Borough Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Historic building recording at Town Wall Sections 6-8, St Johns Street, Osborne Street and Vineyard Street, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7DL
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Baister, M
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1692
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/summaries/CAT-1692.html
Entered by	Mark Baister (mb@catuk.org)
Entered on	16 July 2021

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