



# Medieval Bastions and the Siege Breach

## Medieval Repairs and the Civil War Siege

After suffering neglect in the early Saxon period, the wall was repaired by Edward the Elder in 917, when he had expelled the Danes. The town was then called 'Colneceaster.'

Major repairs were carried out in 1173-74 and again from 1381 to c1413. The south wall was rebuilt at its eastern end and a series of 8 bastions added between East Gate and Scheregate.

Today only Bastions 1, 2, 5 and 6 survive. The others have been located from John Speed's map of 1610 and by archaeological excavation.

In 1965 Bastion 3 was found to survive below ground to a height of 4 ft. (1.22 m.). It had been destroyed in the Siege of Colchester in 1648 during the English Civil War.

Parliamentarian cannon also made a large breach in the adjacent length of wall. After the siege the gap was closed with brickwork. A section fell down and had to be rebuilt in 1992.



Bastion 2 and the Siege Breach created by Parliamentarian cannon at Magdalen Green.



Bastion 3 being excavated in 1965 by members of Colchester Archaeological Group.

## Colchester Roman Wall Walk



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