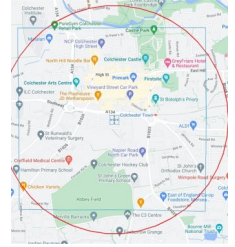




HISTORY ON OUR DOOR-STEP... ONE SQUARE MILE.



St John's Green (Balcerne Gate)

Did you Know?

- Colchester has the earliest, best preserved and one of the longest Roman town walls in Britain. Its construction began in the period AD 65 to 80 following the destruction of the town during the revolt by Queen Boudica against Roman rule. The entire wall circuit is 2,800 metres, or $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles, in length and it once stood nearly 6 metres high.
- In the Roman period the wall had six gates located at regular intervals. Of these only two survive above ground today: Balcerne Gate and Duncan's Gate. The Balcerne Gate was the original main entrance to the town. It was upgraded to a Triumphal Arch celebrating the conquest of Britannia by the Roman Emperor Claudius. The remains of a Roman Guardroom can be found next to the Balcerne Gate. Originally, it would have been the gate.
- It is the largest surviving gateway in Roman Britain and was built where the Roman road from Londinium intersected the town wall of Camulodunum.
- Although it is the best-preserved Roman gateway in the country, it only survives in part. The remaining gateway is the south-side arched footway; however, the remains of a guard tower are also visible. The rest of the gateway has been overbuilt by the 18th-century Hole in the Wall public house, which is also a listed building.
- The gate probably dates to the 2nd century AD. It appears to have incorporated an existing monumental arch from the 1st century.
- Roman town gates sometimes had as many as three entrances but were usually limited to one or two. The Balcerne Gate, however, had four gates, and unusually wide carriageways.
- There are no other quadruple gates in Britain but there are a few elsewhere in Europe.

