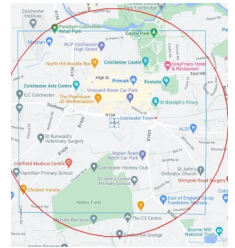




# HISTORY ON OUR DOOR-STEP... ONE SQUARE MILE.



## Roman Circus

### Did you Know?

- The site of the Roman circus was identified in 2004 and represents the only known Roman circus in Britain.
- It was a monumental structure and it may have seated up to 8,000 spectators: it would have been used as a venue for spectator sports, including chariot-racing.
- It was built in the early 2nd century CE and seems to have been in use for about 150 years.
- At one end of the track there was a row of eight starting gates and at the other a sharp 180-degree turn. The two long straight sections were separated by a barrier called which supported a series of decorative columns and other features, including lap counters and pressurised water features.



- This arena was built specifically for chariot racing, and would have attracted a large volume of visitors.
- Chariot racing was the oldest and most popular sport in the Roman world and the Circus building would have been used for other spectator sports, such as boxing and hand-to-hand combat (gladiatorial fights).
- It's believed emperor Hadrian himself funded this once architectural wonder.
- The Colchester Roman Circus is a classic example of its type - an elongated arena, approximately 450 metres long and 74 metres wide.
- The Roman circus must be considered in conjunction with other monumental buildings or structures surviving from Roman Colchester. It provides further evidence of the importance of Colchester as one of the principle urban centres of Roman Britain.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Yl6vnmWAjs>