

Chamber Tour Notes

- Museum. Introduction, Health & Safety
- Brunswick Road, past Boots Mural.
- By Roman gate – above Chamber. Point out notice. Show pictures of two Roman gates and building of walls. Point out markings on ground – do not correspond to line of walls. Dark bricks in road show outline of medieval north tower of the gate. South tower visible in chamber. Slot for portcullis.
- Down to Chamber. Why did the Romans come to Gloucester? Importance of Severn. Access to FOD for timber, iron and coal.
- AD 49 Kingsholm fort established with 20th Legion. Moved to City centre AD 61-65 – Glevum founded.
- First wall was turf and rampart. Eastgate originally built of wood. Show picture.
- The only trace of the 1st century Roman tower is the black panel in the middle of the floor. This marks a wooden post, probably the centre front post of a square 9-post timber tower.
- AD 75 legion moves to Caerleon and Glevum became a Colonia in AD97. Emperor Nerva AD 96-98. **COLONIA NERVA GLEVENSIS**
- AD 100 stone wall built extending short distance either side of gate. Show picture.
- AD 170 Glevum's walls strengthened. New Earth rampart added to original clay one. Large stone interval towers set in rampart added.
- The surviving walls on the east and south-east are of the 2nd century Roman tower, in closely jointed ashlar masonry.
- AD 270 further reinforcement of walls
- AD 310 Major strengthening of East Gate. Large Bastions added to outside of wall to provide artillery platform. Whole of wall strengthened and rebuilt in places.
- South of the gate tower are the remains of the 4th century city wall with lowest course being closely jointed ashlar blocks. City wall foundation usually 2.5 m thick but this section 4 metres.
- Rubble facing in NE corner is fragment of 11thc Norman Gate
- Ground immediately in front of wall, occupied in 1st century by ditch, was back-filled in 2nd century to form berm. Note water main.
- Limits of 4th century Roman ditch marked out in black on floor.

The Norman Gate

Roman Eastgate survived until 11th century when gate was partially demolished and rebuilt as simple entrance passage with a rear stairway and a room above.

Medieval gate

The remains are of the tower that was built in 13th century. Two round towers with room above. Tower wall pierced with 3 openings.

- Original entrance on north, with steps leading down from gateway passage
- On east wall was arrow slit but this was altered in 18th c to take stone lavatory seat and wider window
- South opening, leading to berm, was sally-port, intended for sorties against a besieging force.

Building has had various uses through the centuries, including as a women's prison, a dungeon and a bridewell. East gate was defensive but also marked boundary of City and had porter to close gates at night, to collect tolls, etc.

- Rebuilt with tower and room above in 1100. Show picture
- 1250 Eastern defences repaired, and a line of round towers added to outside wall – Bastions. Money raised by levying toll called Murage on produce sold in the town. Eastgate rebuilt with two round towers with room above. Show picture.
- 1265 Baron's War. Gate refortified by Barons.
- 1540 Stone moat built with **Horsepool** for washing horses and carts.
- 1588 Used as prison for women
- 1616 Meeting place for Council
- 1633 Lodgings for porter
- 1643 Siege of Gloucester – East Gate filled with earth
- Late 1600's Charles II had walls knocked down
- 1703 Bridewell and Dungeon / Poor school
- 18thc latrine and window
- 1778 Eastgate demolition

Wars of the Roses 1455-85

Gloucester closed gates to Lancastrian army, forcing it to march north to cross the Severn. Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471. Lancastrians were defeated by Yorkists, including Richard, Duke of Gloucester who became Richard III