

Repair Works to the King's Walk Bastion

Tours & Talks

It is currently hoped that tours of the King's Walk Bastion will be starting in May. Tours will be given by volunteers from Gloucester Civic Trust and tickets will be available from the Museum of Gloucester or the Tourist Information Centre.

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Behind this fence panel is an access hatch to the King's Walk Bastion chamber. The chamber was built in the early 1970s when the King's Walk Shopping Centre was being constructed.

The chamber contains the standing remains of part of the Roman city walls and a later medieval defensive tower, 'the King's Bastion'. These remains were found during excavations undertaken in 1969 in advance of the construction of the shopping centre. Archaeologists and volunteers excavated this site and others beneath the shopping centre in order to safeguard the remains for the future. Following the discovery of the bastion, a special chamber was constructed around the remains to preserve them and to make them accessible to the general public. The chamber was opened in 1975 and remained so till flooding in 1997. Gloucester City Council is currently working in partnership with King's Walk Shopping Centre and Gloucester Civic Trust to make the site accessible again.

Figure 1:
Excavations of the King's Bastion in 1969

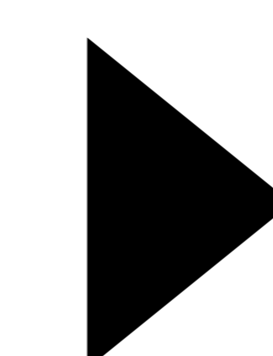
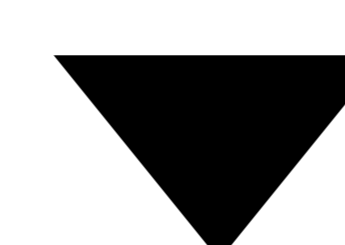
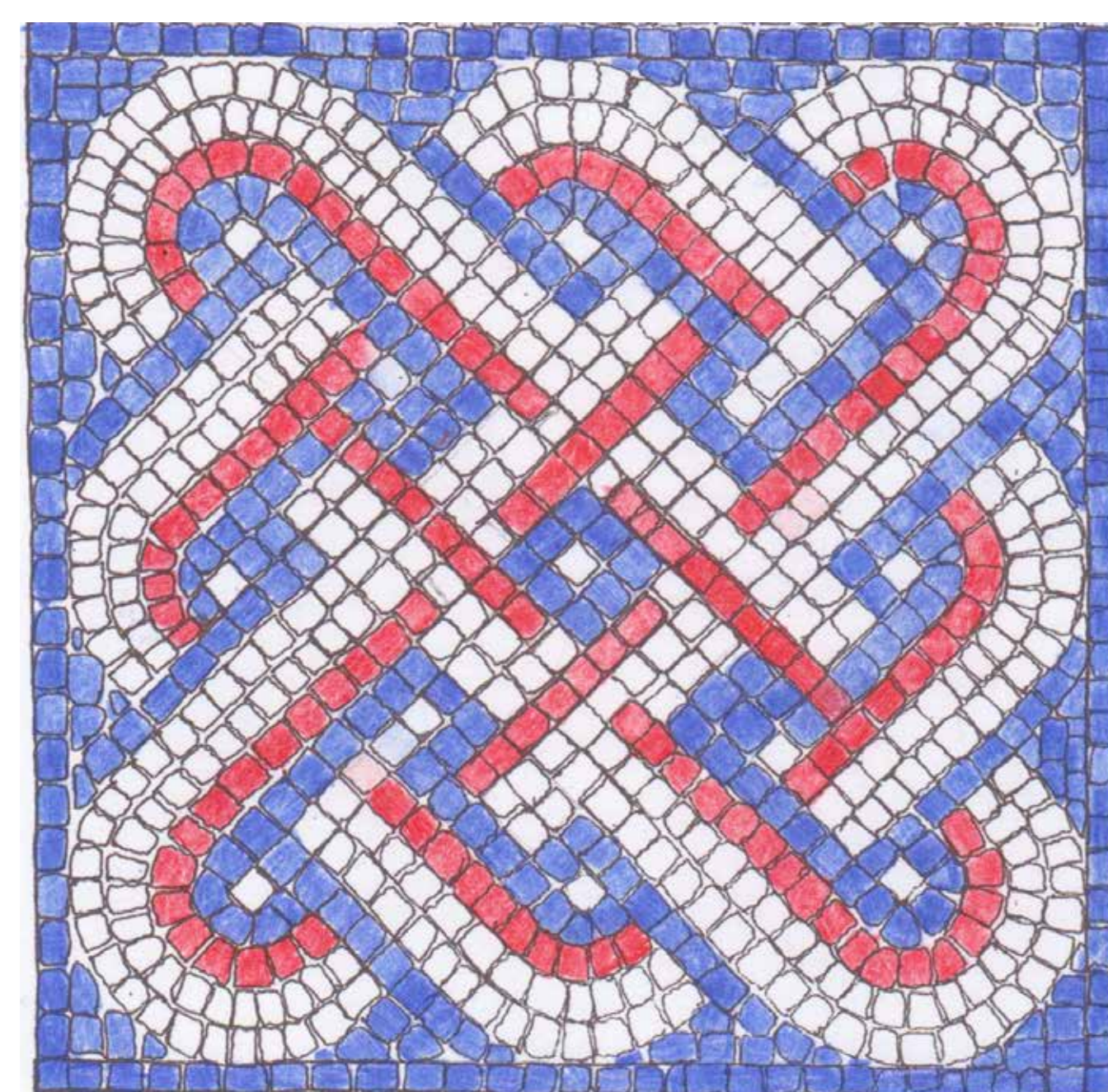


Figure 2:
The metal panel in the middle of the walkway is a hatch covering a set stairs leading down to the bastion chamber





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The King's Walk Bastion contains part of the Roman city wall, which is approximately 1,700 years old. The wall survives in surprisingly good condition and is, in places, about ten feet high.

During the Thirteenth Century (probably during the reign of Henry III), the city walls were repaired and improved. The defensive tower in the chamber is one of these improvements.

These defences were tested during the Second Barons' War of 1263-65 and during the siege of 1643 (as part of the English Civil War), when a small Parliamentary garrison successfully resisted the forces of Charles I.

Why is this Fencing Up?

The chamber is currently open to enable repair works to take place. These works include repairing the mortar in the medieval tower and should take no longer than five days.

Figure 1:
A recent view of the Roman city walls within the King's Walk Bastion chamber



Figure 2:
Excavations of the King's Bastion in 1969

Figure 3:
A plan of 1646 showing the King's Bastion as part of the city's defenses.

