

Colchester Borough Electric Company

August 2018.





The original power station was established in Osborne Street in 1898 and in 1901 started to supply electricity for street lighting . By 1904 it was providing power to the Colchester Tramways service.

Apart from the various styles of lamp posts that survive and four of the Tram traction power posts still in use as lamp posts there are a small number of cast iron items bearing the town coat of arms and helping to provide electricity supply in the town centre.

These come in two forms : A large cast iron box known as a “Lucy “ box after the most well known manufacture, The Lucy Foundry of Oxford and used as a feeder pillar and connection box to distribute power to the Tram network and as part of the general supply network.

Only two can be found today in the Castle Park.

The only one in situ is against the wall near the Castle Road exit from the Park.



The second of these boxes is in the Park Rangers Area in the Park. It was originally located at the entrance to the Lower Park Bowling Green and was saved when a recent upgrade made it redundant. It is now lying on its side in the garden area.

Hopefully it will be possible to re-examine the box for clues as to the manufacturing foundry.



The 2nd photo does show the depth of the fixing legs.

E.J.Russell records in 1983 one's at Braiswick, North Station roundabout, Gladwin Road and Mersea Road at Bourne Road.

The second group of survivors are the fuse box on posts with a Colchester arms cover which are around the town centre.

There are five in all now.

The Kings Arms, Crouch Street with the box on a post by the window and

No 27 Crouch Street on a post between the shop fronts.





St John's Street at the old Liberal Club.



St Botolph's Street on a post between the two shop fronts.



No 15 Queens Street and sadly damaged and unexamined.



Again E.J.Russell listed several more in 1983 and these were located at :

Head Street by the old Gas Office.

Culver Street West.

Shewell Road

The footpath at Bourne Mill.

Sadly not to be found today.