

# Esslinger Weinerlebnisweg

Station

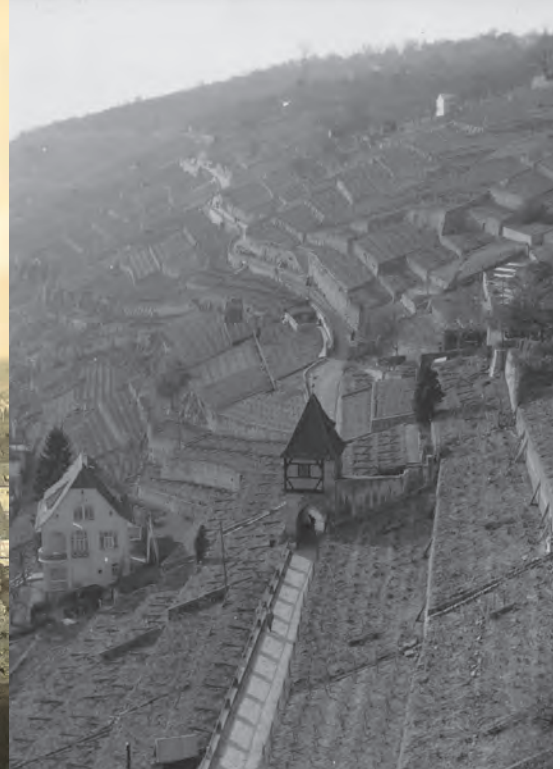
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## City fortification in Esslingen



### The Gate to the Neckarhalde

It was built in the 14th century as part of the city fortification and secured the access to the city from the vineyards. Even today you can see the guide stones for external grids. The superstructure had to be restored after fire in the 19th century.



## City fortification

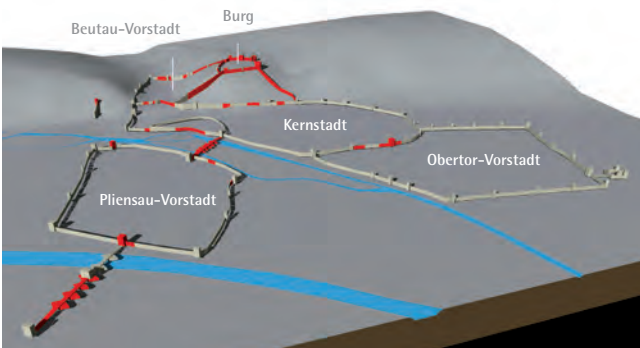
### Techniques of building walls and stone processing

Although large parts of the medieval city fortification have been cancelled in the nineteenth century it is still possible to see the previous course on some buildings, it is preserved over long distances. Archaeologists can learn about the historical development of stone structures from the techniques of building walls, the joint image, stone processing and stone sizes, inscriptions or masonry signs as well as from cracks in masonry.

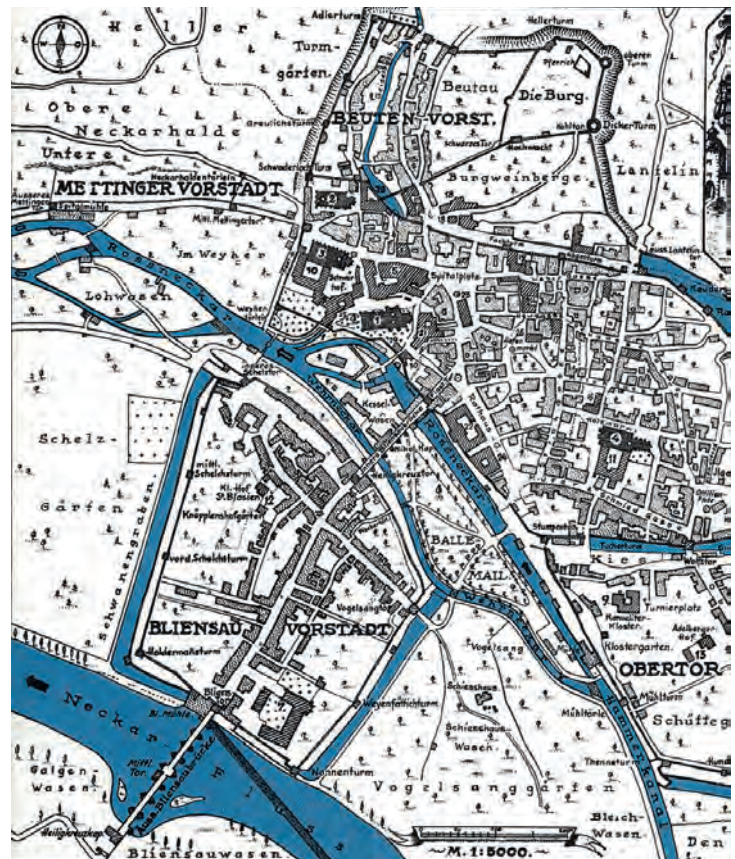


Shield wall at the covered staircase (Seilergang)

Through style comparisons, from processed workpieces such as window or door ledges you can learn about time of manufacture. The wall around Esslingen as well as the Pliensau suburb, the Obertor suburb and the Beutau suburb was built in only a little more than 100 years. The city fortification called „the Burg“ has never been a castle, was mentioned in 1314 for the first time. Probably with the threat of Duke Ulrich of Wuerttemberg in 1519 the Burg-Plateau was expanded. At the covered staircase different layers in the masonry can still be seen which refer to different phases of construction, but written sources are missing.



The former city fortification after a reconstruction by Hans Koepf



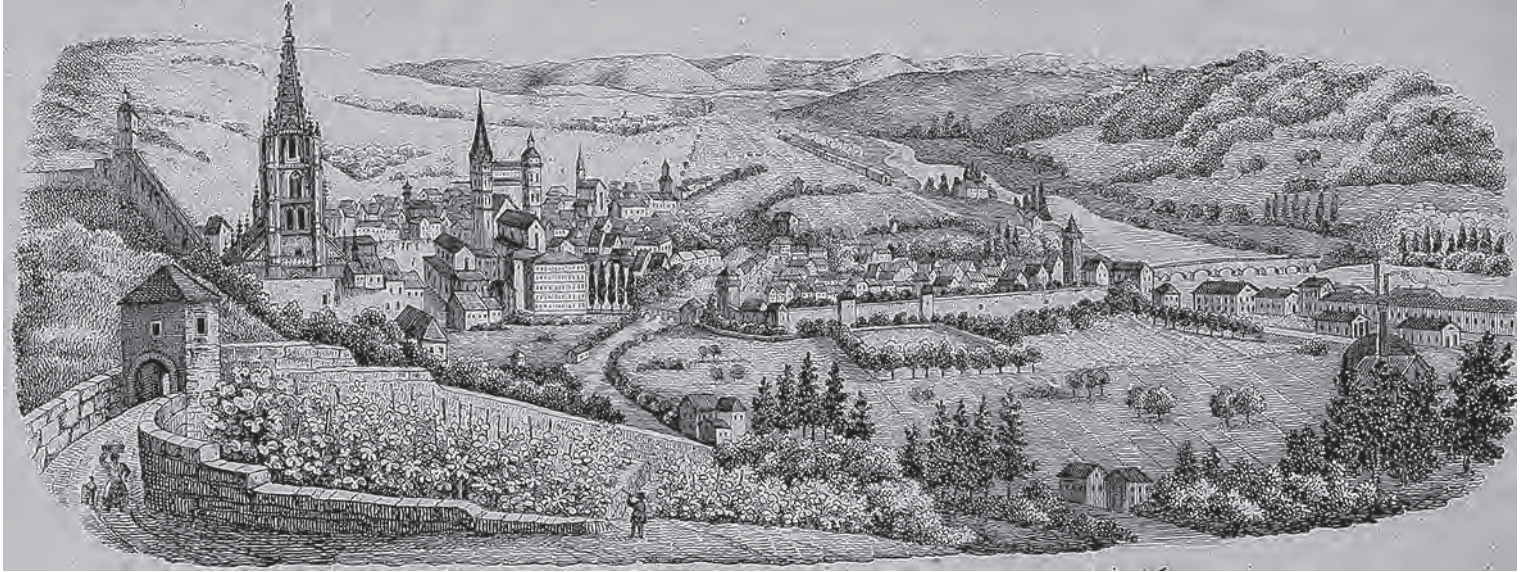
Overview of the city Esslingen according to a map of Tobias Mayer from 1739

Extract from the folder of the City Planning Office and Measurement Office of Esslingen produced for the Open Monument Day 2008 „Archaeology and building materials research“.



### Matthaeus Pfister: „Die heyllige Röm. Reichs Statt Esslingen 1650“ – The holy Roman imperial city Esslingen 1650“

The second eldest view of the imperial city at the river Neckar shows Esslingen from the southwest. Until middle of the 19th century this view at the city is preferred by the artists. This way it presents from the most impressive side. You can well recognize the topography: on the hill in the background is the city fortification (called „the Burg“), the city with its suburbs is in the valley. And you can see the arms of the Neckar running through the city. There is the bridge called Pliensaubrücke in the west, the so called Innere Brücke in the middle of the picture. The most important churches, monasteries and buildings are described true to nature, but the settlement is more condensed than in reality. Until the 19th century the suburbs had many open spaces. With the help of the legend you can easily identify the most important buildings. Until well into the 19th century this visual appearance did not change very much. When Esslingen became an industrial city the medieval city borders were extended. New urban quarters developed in the west, the east and the south and the city fortifications were removed.



View of Esslingen with Neckarhaldentor (Attachment of the protocols of the City Council dated 6. March 1862 – City Archive Esslingen)



View of Esslingen with the Spitalmühle (Spital mill) (City Archive Esslingen)



View along the street Mettinger Straße, on the left you can see remainings of the huge city wall (unknown)