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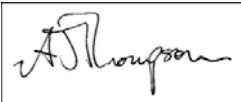
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Summary

The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CfAA) was commissioned by Bury Council to carry out architectural history and archaeological analysis of Radcliffe Tower (**Figs 1 & 2**). This historic environment work was undertaken as part of an HLF project looking at the Radcliffe Historic Core.

The Radcliffe Historic core lies 1km east of the current town centre and 4km south of Bury. Sitting on the northern bank of the River Irwell, a loop of the river encompasses three sides of this historic settlement, which includes the medieval parish church of St Mary and St Bartholomew, Radcliffe Tower and the Tithe Barn. The land to the south was quarried for gravel in the early 20th century and in the late 20th century was used as a landfill site.

This report presents the findings of the architectural history and archaeological research on the tower. Further research undertaken by the volunteer history group is reported separately.

Most of the existing ruined stone tower dates from a primary building phase. The type of tooling on the stonework, the architectural fragments that can still be seen around the ground and first floor windows and ground floor door, and the use of a lime mortar and rubble core for the walls all point to the late medieval period as the origin of the structure. The precise date of this construction can be further refined by combining the existing architectural fragments from the structure with those elements recorded on the early drawings and photographs of the structure in the period 1781 to 1902. These show dateable architectural details in two areas. Firstly around the first floor opening to the stair tower, where photographs show that the lintel was a two-centred arch like that for the ground floor hall door, and that the tower door had chamfered moulding along its sides, again like the hall doorway. The surviving fragments of window detailing, the splayed arrangement to the first floor windows and the ogee head to the ground floor opening in the eastern elevation can be augmented by Captain Dewhurst's drawing which show tre-foil headings to the windows in the northern and southern elevations. Assuming that his sketches are accurate these details support the dating attributable to the hall doorway, stair tower doorway and eastern elevation ground floor window; the decorated style of the 14th century.

This construction date presents an immediate problem of interpretation for the traditional assumption, stated by Whitaker and repeated in all the studies of the tower down to and including the 1995 work: that the tower and hall were built together and that the licence to crenellate given in 1403 was the point at which the tower and hall were built. However, the medieval documentary evidence makes it clear that the de Radcliffes were living at Radcliffe in the 13th century. Any work undertaken as a result of the 1403 licence should thus be seen as a re-building episode. Furthermore, the fact that the tower and hall might have been built together, as shown by the grooves for the pitch of the hall roof that survive in the western elevation is not a barrier to a construction date before 1403.

Detailed analysis of the fabric of the eastern and southern elevations of the tower also suggests that the two arches in these elevations, and their associated flues, are almost certainly later inserts. The precise date of these features is unclear.



1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CfAA) was commissioned by Bury Council to carry out architectural history and archaeological analysis of Racliffe Tower (**Fig 1**). This historic environment work was undertaken as part of the Radcliffe Heritage Project, an HLF project looking at the Radcliffe Historic Core. This part of the project included volunteer work through a series of eight history workshops, held between October 2013 and April 2014 which were attended by 13 volunteers from the Bury area.

1.2 Location, Topography and Current Land Use

Radcliffe Tower lies 1km east of the current town centre and 4km south of Bury (**Fig 1**). Sitting on the northern bank of the River Irwell, a loop of the river encompasses three sides of the tower and the historic core settlement, which also includes the medieval parish church of St Mary and St Bartholomew and the Tithe Barn. The land to the south of the tower was quarried for gravel in the early to mid-20th century and in the late 20th century this area was used as a landfill site.

1.3 Geology

The drift geology of the area comprises alluvial sands and gravels overlying Carboniferous Coal Measures (British Geological Survey of England and Wales). The solid geology consists of weak sandstones and mudstones, including the sandstone strata from the 'Knob End' sandstone beds (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>). This strata of sandstone was used in the construction of the tower.

1.4 Methodology

In brief this work comprised:

- Historic research including a historic map regression exercise (scaled to a large, uniform size), study of the historic images of the tower, examination of census records, Trade Directories and local history sources from Bury Archives, and the Lancashire Record Office. Additional research as undertaken by the history workshop volunteers.
- A photographic survey showing general view of the building's exterior and setting; the overall appearance of the building's principle rooms and circulation areas; detailed coverage of the buildings external and internal appearance; and architectural and structural features relevant to the building's design. The photographs have been taken as high resolution digital photographs.
- Fabric analysis of the tower, showing the phasing and restoration work on the structure.
- Eight volunteer workshops between October 2013 and April 2014 with a focus of volunteer study of the tower, church and if access was possible the tithe barn.

- A final written report including a description of the structures, photographic and historic material, and a discussion of the development and importance of the tower.



2. *Archaeological and Historical Background*

2.1 Introduction

The following descriptions form an appropriate and accurate reflection of the current state of knowledge of the archaeological and historical development of Radcliffe Tower.

2.2 The History of Radcliffe

Since the Industrial Revolution the town of Radcliffe has been centred on its bridge across the River Irwell. The original historic core of Radcliffe, however, lies c 1.5km to the east of that point. It is sited within a great bend in the river, on the opposite bank of which is the 'red cliff', an exposed area of 'knob End' sandstone strata, which gave Radcliffe its name. This area still retains three buildings of historical importance: the remains of Radcliffe Tower, a Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building; the parish church of St Mary, a Grade I Listed Building; and the tithe barn on Tythe Barn Street, a Grade II Listed Building.

Radcliffe Tower formed part of the manor house of the de Radcliffes, one of the most important families in medieval Lancashire with large estates across much of south-eastern Lancashire. The history of the tower is recounted in several publications (Arrowsmith 1995; Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 60-1). In summary, Radcliffe itself is mentioned as a royal manor in the Domesday Survey of 1086, and appears to have been founded as a Saxon manor and was held by King Edward the Confessor in 1066. The de Radcliffe family had possession of the manor by 1193 and held the manor until it passed to a distant relative, Robert Radcliffe, the First Earl of Sussex, in 1517. It was at this point that the hall ceased to be the chief home of the family. In 1561 the Third Earl of Sussex sold Radcliffe to Richard Assheton of Middleton in 1561. It remained in the Assheton family, though not their chief residence, until 1765 when the family estates were split between two daughters, the Radcliffe estate coming by marriage to the Wilton family (who lived at Heaton Hall in Manchester; **Figs 2 & 3**), with whom it remained until the 20th century (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 56-67; **Figs 4 & 5**).

In 1925 the national historic importance of the tower was recognised when it was scheduled as an ancient monument by the Officer of Works (Bury Archives, *Radcliffe Tower, Radcliffe, Manchester, Lancashire. A report prepared by Alan Reed on behalf of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings*, March 1969). The land around Radcliffe Tower was purchased by a quarry company in the mid-20th century, and was owned in 1964 by River Aggregates Ltd (*Radcliffe Times* 11/9/1964), later known as P D Pollution Control Ltd (Beatwaste). This was taken over by Wimpey (Waste Division) in 1975 (*Radcliffe Times* 5/3/1975; *Radcliffe Times* 25/3/1976). Wimpey Waste Management Ltd sold the tower and surrounding land to Bury Council in 1981 (*Radcliffe Times* 9/4/1981).

2.3 Early Descriptions of the Tower

One context for the building of the tower is a 'licence to crenellate' (ie to fortify) granted by Henry IV to James de Radcliffe in 1403 (Arrowsmith 1995). The text of the licence to crenellate, which is unusually detailed for the period, can be found in the calendar of patent rolls and is as follows:

‘Licence for the king's esquire James de Radclif to enclose his manor of Radclif, held of the king in chief as of the duchy of Lancaster, with walls of stone and within them to make a hall with two towers of stone and to crenellate the walls, hall and towers and hold the manor as a fortalice. By K. (CPR)

‘Jacobus de Radclif, armiger ... manerium (Cum muris de petris et calce de novo includere et infra eosdem muros quandam aulam cum duabus turribus de petris et calce similiter de novo facere et eosdam muros aulam et turres sic factos kernellare et batellare) "quod de ducatu Lanc. tenetur."

In full as follows:

‘... Radclif. The king, &c., greeting, Know ye, that of our special grace we have granted and licensed, for us and our heirs, as much as in us is, to our beloved esquire, James de Radcliffe, that be his manorhouse of Radcliffe (which is held of us as of the Honor of Lancaster, *in capite*, as it is said) with walls of stone and lime to enclose anew; and within these walls a certain hall, with two towers, of stone and lime in like manner to make anew; and those walls, hall, and towers, so made, to kernel and embattle { "*kernellare et battelare*" }. And the manorhouse so enclosed, with the hall and lowers aforesaid so kernelled and embattled, for a certain fortalice he may hold to him and his heirs for ever, without any accusation or impediment of us or our heirs, or our officers, or those of our said heirs whatsoever. In testimony whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness the king at the Castle of Pontefract, on the 15th day of August {1403}, by the king himself’, *Patents of 4 Hen. IV.* (1403) p. 2. m. 11.

Rex omnibus ad quos hae litterae nostras patentes pervenerint salutem. Sciatis quod de gratia nostra speciali concessimus et licenciam dedimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est dilecto armigero nostro Jacobo de Radclif, quod ipse Manerium suum de Radclif quod de nobis ut de ducatu nostro Lancastrie tenetur in capite ut dicitur, cum muris de petris et calce de novo includere et infra eosdem muros quandam Aulam cum duabus Turribus de petris et calce similiter de novo facere, et eosdem muros aulam et turres sic factos kernellare et battellare. Ac manerium illud sic inclusum cum aula et turribus predictis sic kernellatis et battellatis tanquam quoddam fortalitium tenere possit sibi et beredibus suis imperpetuum sine impetitione aut impedimento nostri vel heredum nostrorum aut Ministrorum nostrorum vel dictorum heredum nostrorum quorumcunque. In cujusrei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste Rege apud Castrum de Ponte Fracto xv die Augusti. Per ipsum Regem. — (Paten, de Anno Henrici Quarti quarto, p. 2, m. 11., Whittaker)’

Such a grant, of course, does not mean that the works were undertaken. The licence states that there was an existing manor house at Radcliffe, and there is no reason to believe that this earlier manor house was anywhere other than on the present tower site.

The tower has been a prominent feature of this part of the Irwell valley for many centuries and was sketched and described by travellers and local antiquarians in the 18th and 19th centuries. The most important descriptions of the tower are by Captain Dewhurst in the 1780s, Rev T. D. Whitaker in 1800 (*An History of the Original Parish of Whalley*, 1800), Edwin Butterworth in 1833 (*Topography of Radcliffe Parish in 1833*), Edward Baines in 1836 (*History of the County Palatine and Ducky of Lancaster*, vol 3, 1836, 13-14), Samuel Bamford in 1844 (*Walks in South Lancashire*, 1844, 172-3 & 281-8), and the Rev. W Nicholls in 1910 (*History and Traditions of Radcliffe*, 1910, 39-53).

The earliest written, as opposed to drawn, description of the tower and hall dates from 1784 and was written by Captain Roger Dewhurst of Halliwell Hall, Bolton. He notes in his diary for September 6th 1784 ‘The walls of Radcliffe Tower are six feet thick. There is a groove in each arch as if intended for a portcullis, and over the north and south arches there is a hole about two feet square communicating from the arch to the window, and back again from the middle of the pole to the arch. The west side of the tower joins to the hall by a side door about two and a half feet wide. The ground floor is arched over with a very flat arch. The tower has been three storeys high’ (Bolton Archives Ref ZZ/442/1).

In 1800 T D Whitaker published his ‘A History of the Original parish of Whalley and the manor of Clitheroe’. This includes a description of the remains at Radcliffe, of which the greatest part is taken up with a detailed study of the timber hall. Of the tower he notes that ‘at the bottom of this room [the hall] is a door opening into one of the towers, the lower part of which only remains, of massy grout-work, and with three arches, each furnished with a funnel or aperture like a chimney...Near the top of the hall, on the right, are the remains of a doorway, opening into what was once a staircase, and leading to a large chamber above the kitchen, the approach to which beneath was by a door of massy oak, pointed at the top’ (Whitaker 1800).

Edwin Butterworth, writing in 1833, undertook much of the fieldwork for Edward Baines’ ‘History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster’ (see below). He described the tower as ‘...a massive pile of rough plain stones overgrown with shrubs and grass and tumbling into a confused heap of ruins on each of its four sides are four archways two of them made up and a third closed by a door of rotten oak which once led into the principal room – Above each archway was a funnel like a chimney and cut through the roof but they are now falling – On the summit of this heavy pile a sycamore tree is growing...(Butterworth 1833, 15).

Baines’ description of the tower and hall, published in 1836, is almost identical to some of the material written by Butterworth in 1833 and is clearly based directly upon Butterworth’s research. Thus ‘Radcliffe Tower, now in ruins, was anciently one of the most considerable manorial residences in the county of Lancaster...The tower was built with stone strongly growted, with a door communicating with the house. On the top of the tower beneath the castellated rampart, at a depth of about four feet, was a covering of lead, which has long since disappeared, and its place is now occupied by a sycamore tree, growing out of the ruins. Over the great entrance door of the tower, from each of the three stories, is a funnel resembling an ancient chimney, with which these manorial fortresses were furnished, in order that the domestic garrison might resist the entrance of an enemy by pouring upon him boiling pitch, or casting down offensive missiles....This ‘hall’ is now [1833] used as a hay-loft and cow-shed; nothing visible remains of the moulded cornice of oak, the massy principals, ornamented pillars, the pointed door-way, or the curious oak window-frame mentioned by the learned doctor [Whitaker]. The principal part of the edifice, which stands within a few yards of the church, near a cluster of cottages [Church Row?], is a neglected ruin, and the remains of what may be properly called the tower partake of the general dilapidation. All the fabric, except the tower, is of brick, enclosed in squares of wood...’ (Baines 1836, volume 3, 13). This is good evidence that the hall was standing in 1833.

In 1844 Samuel Bamford clearly states that the hall had been demolished a few years before. He noted that ‘the square tower, or fortified part of the ancient residence, still remains; but tottering with decay. The vaulted roof of the tower room almost hangs by a single stone, and unless it be protected from further wanton outrage it must soon share the fate of the hall...’ The context for the demolition of the hall was the need for ‘more dwellings....and the hall, under some contract or another, was pulled down to furnish materials for to build them’

(Bamford 1844). Archaeological evidence from 2013 has shown that the houses along the eastern side of Tower Street were built using material from the hall. Since these properties are shown on the 1848 Ordnance Survey map for the area it seems a safe assumption to suggest that these were the houses referred to by Bamford in 1844.

A letter written on the 24th September 1888 by Richard Bealey and published in the *Manchester Guardian* on the 28th September 1888, page 7, sheds some light on the tenancy of the farm during the earlier 19th century, and the fate of the hall and tower. He stated that ‘Radcliffe Tower and the farm connected with it was leased to my mother, the late Mrs. Mary Bealey, and rented from her by the firm of which she was a member [Bealey’s & Company’s Bleachworks]. One of the conditions of the lease was that she should repair the farm buildings, and be at liberty in so doing to use materials of the Tower and the Old Hall connected with it. The Tower, she did not disturb, but she used the materials of ‘Old Hall’. This building, such as it was, had long been used as cowhouses and store for hay and straw, and some rooms were used as cottages. Mrs. Bealey, on the site of the ‘hall’, and using some of the old materials, built a row of cottages [on Tower Street]. The statement that the materials were used in Bealey and Co.’s bleachworks is therefore incorrect.’

Reverend Nicholls’ work, published in 1910, brings together the text of the licence to crenellate from 1403, with the descriptions of Whitaker, Baines/Butterworth, and Bamford. He also includes some notes on the angry correspondence concerning the destruction of the hall between Samuel Bamford and a Mr T Heywood. This correspondence is especially useful as it provides a date for the destruction of the hall, which appeared to have occurred soon after 1833. Since Nicholls omitted any mention of Captain Dewhurst’s note book we can assume that he was unaware of this document.

The final significant historic description is given by Alan Reed in his report written in March 1969 for the Society for The Protection of Ancient Buildings. His description, which provides a useful indication of the state of the monument in that year, is as follows: ‘The Tower which runs roughly north to south is approximately 50 feet by 28 feet measured externally. The walls which have a massive base and plinth are about 5 feet in thickness. The Tower seems to have been either a hall or gatehouse and of, at least, two stories. The basement (at ground level) was vaulted and there is a stone staircase in the wall thickness to the first floor level which was presumably the principal floor.’

‘The basement was entered on the west side by an arched doorway approximately 4 feet wide with panels and arch in a continuous chamfer without base moulding. The unusual features of the building however, are the three large arched openings (approximately 10 feet span) each in the north, south and east walls. They are constructed with under and outer skins with a space about 2 feet 6 inches wide between them. The most obvious explanation to this is that they are fireplace openings and flues and there is some evidence of calcining in the stonework. However, with only comparatively slight acquaintance with the building, I do not feel able to express a definite opinion without further investigation. The walls stand to various heights but average about 20 feet from the ground, the possibility of a third story can only be conjectural.’

‘The dating of the Tower presents some problems. It has an essentially defensive position on flat ground in a bend of the River Irwell. A licence to build and crenellate granted to James de Radcliffwe in 1403 has generally been accepted as the date of this building. The plain, massive stonework does not assist in the task but its general character and detail of the base course and door opening suggests a possible date about 100 years earlier than this.’ (Reed 1969).

2.4 Historic Images of the Tower

The earliest known sketch of the hall and tower was drawn H Wyatt in 1781 (**Fig 7**). This drawing shows a two storied timber-framed hall with a gabled and slated roof with, to the east, a ruined two-storey stone tower. The northern elevation is shown completely, with its plinth and blocked arch on the ground floor and at first floor level a window but without any tracery. A tree, probably the sycamore mentioned by Whitaker, is shown growing out of the top of the western end of this elevation. East of the window was a large gap in the northern elevation and through this can be seen the rear of the eastern elevation which has a large, arched, opening at first floor level. The western elevation is obscured by the abutting timber-framed hall. The remains of the first floor eastern window can still be seen in the surviving fabric, although the lintel and northern side have gone.

Captain Roger Dewhurst's sketches of the tower from 1784 (**Fig 6**) show details not recorded in the Wyatt drawing from a few years earlier. Dewhurst has four sketches in his note book showing the northern, western and eastern elevations of the hall, the northern and southern ones with centrally-placed ground floor arched openings. The first floor windows in both the northern and southern elevations are shown as each having two lights with tracery at the top. The hall or western elevation is shown with a single central doorway flanked by two vertical slits. He also provides a written description of the northern elevation as follows: '1 The North [word illegible] the first floor has a flat stone arch and a hole like a chimney pipe through the arch to the window and a return which terminates at the arch'.

There are several odd points in these drawings. Firstly, the ground floor arches in the southern and northern elevations are shown as open, whereas Wyatt's drawing of 1781 shows the northern arch blocked in the same manner that it is in the early 21st century. Secondly, the windows in the northern and southern elevations have two-lights with tracery detail at the top. This detail is not shown in the Wyatt drawing, nor on any other drawings. Thirdly, Dewhurst's 'side next the Hall' is shown with a central door, with a stepped lintel, flanked by two vertical slits, whereas this elevation has two doorways at ground and first floor level, each with two-centred arches, and no other openings. In contrast the eastern elevation of the tower has an archway flanked by two vertical windows. Could Dewhurst have confused the two elevations in his annotation of the drawings? The differences between the 1781 and 1784 drawings suggest that either or perhaps both might be unreliable. Later drawings and paintings, however, confirm the details on the 1781 sketch which throws doubt on the reliability of Dewhurst's sketches.

An engraving of the interior of the timber hall at Radcliffe published to accompany Whitaker's description in 1800 adds a little more detail for the tower (**Fig 8**). The view is one that looks along the length of the hall and although this is clearly exaggerated in perspective it shows the two-centred arch at the end the eastern end of the hall that led into the ground floor of the tower. To the top-right is a small vertical opening which might mark the location of the first-floor doorway leading into the stair tower, although as shown it is too small. Furthermore, a second arched opening in the eastern wall of the tower can be seen through the two-centred arched doorway leading into the ground floor of the structure from the hall. Once more the discrepancy between this depiction and the surviving archaeological evidence suggests that the interior hall view is not entirely reliable.

An engraving by J Ford from 1823 (**Fig 9**), based upon the 1781 Wyatt drawing, shows the hall and tower in a similar state. The main difference was the absence of the sycamore tree growing onto of the northern elevation and the presence of vegetation draping the top of the walls, although the latter detail could be artistic licence.

Two early 19th century paintings provide views of the hall and tower a few years before the demolition of the hall (**Fig 11**). A dated but unsigned watercolour view of c. 1830 shows the hall and tower looking south. In this view only the northern elevation of the tower is visible. This shows the blocked ground floor arch, plinth and first floor window with a complete arch like Dewhurst's drawing of 1784, unlike the flat lintel depicted on the 1781 and 1823 sketches. Through the upper window can be seen the opposite window in the southern elevation. Intriguingly a tree is shown growing out of the top of the northern elevation as on Wyatt's drawing.

An undated watercolour view signed G F Ride (**Fig 12**) looks westwards at the tower and hall. The northern and eastern elevations of the tower are shown. The northern elevation has its arched, only partially blocked, and plinth, with the first floor window and a tree growing out of the top of the wall. The eastern elevation shows a central arched opening (unlike the current rounded-arch) at ground floor level flanked by a plinth and two small vertical openings. The upper elevation is ruinous, covered in vegetation, with only the southern side of the first floor window visible.

The only early interior view dates from 1842 (**Fig 10**). This is a view looking north through the open arch in the southern elevation. It shows the blocked arch and first floor window of the northern elevation completely intact. To the west is shown the doorway leading into the hall. To the east are two arched entrances. Although this seems inaccurate it may indicate that the floor of the tower was considerably higher in 1842 than in the early 21st century, coming up to the sill of the ground floor windows. The hall doorway shows just six courses beneath the archway whereas today there are nine. The most striking feature of this drawing is the ruinous remains of the barrel vaulting, and supports Bamford's description of the tower vaulting being in a dangerous state in 1844. Ford's redrawing of 1823 started a fashion for adapting the earliest drawings of Radcliffe Tower, a fashion that continued throughout the 19th century. Thus two oil paintings of the tower and hall looking westwards by 'H.C.' and James 'Clock' Shaw appear to be inaccurate re-workings of Ride's view.

The main conclusion of this study of the early sketches and paintings of the tower and adjoining hall is that they can be inaccurate and contradictory but nevertheless contain useful details not recorded elsewhere.

The surviving photographs from the late 19th and early 20th century appear more reliable. These chart the rate at which the monument was robbed and eroded. Although many of these early views are not dated, the earliest, dated 1882 (**Fig 13**), shows a view of the western and northern elevations, surrounded by sheep. Though very similar to the early 21st monument there are two significant differences. Firstly the northern elevation is higher, with both lower sides of the first floor window surviving, and the first-floor doorway to stair tower in the western elevation retains its two-centred arch lintel. It also shows the upper part of a single-pitch roof abutting the inside of the eastern elevation – presumably as part of the use of the structure as a barn. A photograph dated 1892 (**Fig 14**) showing the Salford harriers lined up in front of the western elevation of the tower shows in detail the stair tower doorway and its arch and the remains of a window towards the top of the stair tower. A series of photographs from the years 1900 to 1902 (**Figs 15-21**) shows the archway to the first floor tower doorway and the tower window intact. A view of the southern elevation from around the same time shows the southern arch with a wooden door and a wooden lean-to structure against the southern end of the eastern elevation and vegetation growing along the tops of the walls. Furthermore, these photographs are the only ones to show the interior of the tower in use as a barn with uprights supporting ceiling beams embedded into the eastern and western walls of the tower.

Photographs from the 1960s (**Figs 22-23**) show that the northern elevation had been reduced in height by this date, resulting in the removal of most of the first floor window. This robbing also exposed the top of the ground floor arch. They also show that the stair tower doorway and window had both been robbed of their chamfered coricing and lintels. However, the eastern and southern arches remained unblocked. This robbing continued into 1970s and 1980s around the northern elevation and along parts of the western elevation as recorded by the *Radcliffe Times* (*Radcliffe Times* 11/09/1964; *Radcliffe Times* 5/3/1975; *Radcliffe Times* 25/3/1976; *Radcliffe Times* 9/4/1981).

2.5 Previous Archaeological Work

There have been several pieces of archaeological work during the 20th and early 21st century in and around the tower. Excavations in 1961 by Mr Shawcross of the Radcliffe Historical Society inside the north-eastern corner of the tower failed to reveal any medieval archaeology beyond the wall foundations. Excavation of five trenches by the Bury Archaeological Group (BAG) in 1979-80 immediately west of the Radcliffe Tower revealed the remains of a timber-framed wing (Tyson 1985). On the north-west of the site, in Trench A (**Fig 1**), those excavations also found evidence of an outer wall fronted by a broad shallow ditch. This is believed to be contemporary with the construction of Radcliffe Tower and appears to have replaced an earlier ditch, set further to the south, which was recorded in Trench C. However, excavation in 2013 has thrown doubt on whether this was a ditch and on the date of the wall. BAG also undertook at the same time a stone-by-stone survey of the interior and exterior of the tower (Tindall & Walker 1985). The monument was largely the building recorded in 1995 and 2013, though with fewer blockages and a wall running from the south-eastern corner. This study recorded, for the first time, details of the flues in the northern and southern elevations and the first floor fireplace in the western elevation.

In 1995 the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit undertook a stone-by-stone survey of the exterior and interior elevations of the tower. The fabric descriptions from this work (UMAU 1995) form the basis of the descriptions used in this report, since the building survives in largely the same state, though with two notable exceptions. Firstly, some of the wall fabric above the north-western part of the northern elevation arch has been lost. Secondly, the northern ground-floor window in the eastern elevation has since been unblocked.

In 2007 three evaluation trenches were excavated along the modern haulage road which crosses the Scheduled Ancient Monument. This work uncovered medieval and post-medieval remains, in the form of cobbled surfaces, a hearth, stone and clay foundations, and a stone culvert, to the west and north of the tower at a depth of c 1m (OAN 2007).

In 2012 the Dig Greater Manchester project undertook excavation immediately to the north of the tower over the rear of the cottages known as Church Row. Three trenches were dug (T2 to T4) and in two of them stone foundations were recovered for pre-cottage buildings (Cattell, Nash, Grimsditch, Thompson & Nevell 2013). Most recently, in the autumn of 2013 (**Figs 36-44**), area excavation of the site of the manor hall to the west of the tower was undertaken as part of the HLF project. This work also included further excavation within the tower itself. The results are detailed in a separate report but in brief the excavation recovered the timber and stone foundations for the hall, including enigmatic substantial stone foundations at the western end of the timber hall associate with late medieval pottery; two different types of medieval clay ridge tile from different periods; further remains of the stone wall of the manor perimeter to the north, and a medieval routeway that might represent a holloway, which ran along the outside of the this wall to the north.



3. Radcliffe Tower Description

3.1 Listed Building Description (Figs 24-33)

Name: Radcliffe Tower and site of hall 100m south west of the parish church in Radcliffe

List entry Number: 1014721

Grade: Scheduled Monument & Grade I Building0

Date first scheduled: 26-Jun-1924

Date of most recent amendment: 16-Jul-1996

‘The monument includes a stone built tower house constructed in the medieval period, together with the buried remains of a timber hall constructed at the same time as the tower and lying to the west of the standing building. The tower, which is a Grade I Listed Building, survives as a roofless rectangular building. The ground floor has a stone tunnel vault, of which substantial parts remain. Internally the building measures 12.2m from north to south and 5.5m from east to west. The walls are 1.5m thick at the base, increased to 1.9m by a plinth surrounding the building at ground level. In the south west corner the wall is reinforced to 1.8m thick to accommodate a staircase in the thickness of the wall. In the eastern wall are two openings with a deep splay for windows, a fireplace in the centre and the flue in the thickness of the wall. In the opposite western wall is a central doorway with a pointed arch of a decorated style with a simple roll moulded surround. Larger windows were set in the north and south walls. Below each of these two windows there is a fireplace 3.2m wide and 2.2m high. The arches above the fires are repeated as a decoration in the outside walls of the tower. Above the ground floor room was an upper room with a fireplace set in the centre of the west wall. The present height of the tower is 8.5m but there is evidence from the 18th century that the original was three storeys high. This tower was built with a timber hall butted onto the west wall. Remains of the slot for the timbers of the hall are visible in the west wall, as is the outline of the hall gable end. This shows that access to the tower was through the hall and that the two buildings were designed as a whole. The timber hall was used as a farm building until it was demolished in about 1830. Excavations in 1979-1980 have revealed that the hall and tower were contained within a ditched enclosure on the northern side and that this was later reinforced by a rubble wall to form a square courtyard. The tower and hall were built by James de Radcliffe in 1403 when he was granted a licence to crenellate, that is, permission from the king to fortify his residence. The hall stands within 100m of the present parish church and this should be viewed as part of the extent of the original manor precinct. The railings and post and wire fence erected around the remains of the tower are not included in the scheduling, but the ground beneath is included.’

3.2 Architectural Description

In plan the tower measures 15.9m long by 9.3m wide externally (from outer plinth to outer plinth) and 12.2m long by 5.5m wide internally, with an average wall thickness around the base of the tower of 1.8m. The present remains survive to first-floor height, and to a maximum height of 8.5m along the western wall.

The tower is constructed of coursed sandstone blocks with most of the external elevations having a dressed stone facing. However large areas of the exterior walls, in the western,

southern and eastern elevations have a random rubble finish, whilst other areas of the external elevations (in the northern and southern elevations reveal large parts of the rubble core.

The following descriptions are based upon the 1995 survey work by UMAU and are amended where necessary (UMAU 1995).

Western External Elevation (Fig 32)

The western elevation contains two doorways. The centrally placed ground-floor door (10) (that mentioned by Whitaker) has a two-centred arch with two orders of chamfered moulding. Associated with this door are two draw bar slots 001 & 021 and receiving slots 104 & 051. The second doorway (11) is located above and to the south of the main doorway and leads into an intra-mural staircase (31) in the stair tower rising to the first-floor level of the tower. This doorway has no lintel or stone jambs and is an extremely plain opening. However, photographic evidence from 1882, 1900 and 1902 shows that originally this had a two-centred arch with chamfered moulding. These elements were robbed during the first half of the 20th century. There was also chamfering for a narrow window within the stair tower, to the south of the door, although this too has gone.

The northern and southern ends of the western elevation largely retain well-dressed stone courses. However, in the upper central section of the wall, c. 4m either side of the centre point of the door (10) and directly above the door, the stonework although coursed is generally of smaller less well finished masonry. Other features within this elevation include a stringcourse (71) c 5.2m above ground level and the remains of the roof line of the hall (14) which survives as two opposing grooves cut into the sandstone of this elevation. These remains represent the clearest evidence for the position of the hall.

At the northern end of this elevation there are two plinths (08) & (09). The upper one (08) has a chamfered edge and extends to the edge of the poorer quality stonework. There is a single plinth at the southern end of this elevation (06). However, this section of the wall is slightly wider than the other walls to the tower in order to accommodate the intra-mural staircase in the stair tower. Between these two sections, and flanking the ground floor doorway, is an area of disturbed stonework lacking any finishing stone. This appears to mark an area where the plinth has been robbed away. Indeed fragments of the lowest coursing of plinth survive to the north of the door. The presence of the plinth along the whole length of this elevation suggests the possibility that it pre-dated the building of the timber hall (see below).

Access to the stair tower is via the upper doorway (11) in this elevation. The stair now consists of eight stone steps and the ceiling of the stair is formed by a series of overlapping stone slabs which are themselves supported in the wall.

Southern External Elevation (Fig 28)

This represents one of the shorter sides to the tower and its wall now stands to a maximum height of c. 5m. The main feature in this elevation is a large stone archway (34) at ground-floor level. The arch measures c 3.3m at its widest point and is c 2.7m high. This opening was blocked in the mid-20th century. Above the central section of the arch is a second arch (33) consisting of thin blocks of gritstone. This does not appear to be related to the main arch. It was suggested in 1995 that this feature related to the intra-mural flue in this wall (see below). However, it could also mark the position of an earlier window opening. This style of arch is repeated in this elevation and in the first floor fireplace on the inner face of the western elevation. In the upper section of walling in this elevation is a window opening (32), the

segmental arch of which just survives as the uppermost course of wall and is similar to feature (33).

Two plinths are located in this elevation, both of which have chamfered edges. The stonework in this elevation consists of large well-dressed sandstone blocks to the lower coursing but thinner smaller stonework, similar to the central section of the west elevation, in the upper courses. One section of the wall above the arch and to the west of the window appears to be a later rebuild and might be associated with the insertion of the flue.

Eastern External Elevation (Fig 31)

As with the southern elevation this wall has an archway (49) which in this case is centrally placed. This is also a semi-circular arch and measures c 3.3m wide and 3.1m high. The arch was blocked in two separate phases. Also within this elevation were two ground-floor windows (47) & (48). The southern window (47) had a stone lintel, although most of the facing stones to the sides and bottom to the opening have been removed. It was blocked in the mid-20th century. The northern window retains most of its external detail. The lintel of the window is composed of two curved stone blocks forming a small ogee arch. The window interrupts the upper plinth in this elevation which runs down and round the bottom of the window forming a chamfered sill. Both windows have been blocked.

Beneath the northern window the outfall of a drain (46) was visible near the base of the tower. This drain passed through the eastern wall and ran directly underneath the window.

Other features in this elevation included the remains of a stringcourse (44) c. 5.5m above ground level and apparently at the same height as that in the west elevation (17). Above this string course and placed just to the south of the centre line of the arch were the remains of a window. Two plinths (42) & (43) were also located along this elevation, and are one course higher than the respective plinths at the southern end. The walls to this elevation, as with the southern elevation, have large well-dressed stonework to the lower courses, including the plinths, with smaller thinner courses of stonework to the upper section.

Northern External Elevation (Fig 26)

The northern elevation, which suffered the greatest erosion and robbing during the 19th and 20th centuries, now has the lowest surviving wall remains, standing to a height of c. 4.3m. This wall also has a semi-circular stone archway (67) which measures 3.3m wide and 2.3m high. Unlike the archways in the other sides of the tower, this arch retains its original blocking fabric, composed of very large sandstone blocks, suggesting that it was a primary feature. The evidence that this arch was closed from its inception is provided by the two plinths (63) & (64) which are located on this side of the tower. Both continue across the blocked arch, with the upper plinth (63) being the most clearly defined. Both plinths are a course lower than the respective plinths of the eastern elevation and would appear to be at the same height as those in the south wall. Above and slightly behind the face of the arch, the remains of a second arch composed of thin blocks of stone are visible. This represents the line of the intra-mural flue located in this wall. Above the arches are the remains of a splayed window (65) with some chamfering to its edges left.

The stonework to this north elevation consists entirely of large well-dressed sandstone blocks and is the most aesthetic wall face of the tower.

Western Internal Elevation (Fig 33)

The two remaining floors of the tower are most clearly identifiable in this and the internal eastern elevation. This is because the line along which the barrel-vaulted ceiling formerly sprung (20) is discernible along the full length of the wall, c. 3.3m above ground level. A number of small indentations below the spring line for the vaulting, though to possibly represent putlog holes, established when the roof was constructed, in 1995, are probably to be associated with the joists for the use of the tower as a barn in the later 19th century. Also extending along the full length of this wall is a stone plinth (18), which at present lies at ground level.

The central doorway in this elevation has a segmental stone arch with the jambs having a quoined appearance. There are two other openings in this elevation at ground-floor level. These are recesses, one of which is interpreted as a cupboard (21), while the second (22) has no obvious function. This second recess has a smaller blocked opening at the rear which may have extended through the wall. One other unexplained feature to the ground floor of this elevation is a section of bowed walling (19) at the southern end. This is a concave curve which at its deepest point is recessed back from the face of the wall c 290mm. This feature is clearly shown on the c. 1840 internal view of the tower.

At first-floor level the major feature of this elevation is a centrally placed fireplace (27). This has slightly splayed side walls and angled stone blocks, springers, at its edges which presumably supported a firehood or lintel, which no longer survives. The back wall of the fireplace contains an arch of stonework, similar to those seen in the southern elevation, beneath which is a herring-bone arrangement of masonry. Elsewhere in the first floor of this elevation are several holes in the stonework which have been interpreted as joist holes (23, 24, 25, 26, 28 & 29). However, a number of these are difficult to reconcile with a floor position, although (26), which lies below the fireplace (27), is in the right position to have supported the first-floor floor. (23) and (28) can be associated with the ceiling beams for the 19th century barn.

The intra-mural stair (31), which formed the stair tower at the southern end of this wall is partially visible in this elevation, although the area where it would have opened into the first-floor room has been heavily robbed removing any architectural feature in this area that might have provided information about the form of opening at the head of the stairs.

Southern Internal Elevation (Fig 29)

The external arch (34) of the south wall was matched by an internal open arch (37) of the same dimensions. The internal elevation clearly shows that the arches are not centrally placed but lie on the western side of the wall, with the western side of the arch against the western internal wall. There is a gap of 700mm between the inner and outer arches, and within this space a tapering flue (38) rises through the wall. The area of walling above the arch and below the window (see below) is disturbed and might indicate that the flue and arch were both later inserts.

Above the arch is the splayed window (32) in this elevation. Viewed internally the splayed side walls to this aperture are clearly visible.

Eastern Internal Elevation (Fig 31)

The centrally placed arch (49) in this elevation also had an associated internal arch, although in this instance the inner arch had also been blocked. Another intra-mural flue (61) lay in the 700mm space between the two arches. Once more disturbed stonework above the arch in area of the flue suggests that the flue and arch might be later inserts. The southern window (47) in this elevation was set within a splayed recess and the opening was spanned by three stone lintels, which are stepped one above the other. The northern window (48) was in a completely different style: the internal opening had a segmental stone arch and the roof to the opening was vaulted. The side walls as with the other windows in the tower were splayed, although in this case there was a plinth or bench, below sill height, running along both side walls which created a window seat impression.

Running along the floor of the window opening is the stone drain (46), the channel of which terminated on this internal face. A 1964 photograph, featuring excavation work in the tower, shows the northern window opening as partially blocked and it is possible that the plinths along the sides of the opening are the remains of this blocking which has since been removed. It is possible that this blocking actually housed a sink, of which the drain is the only remaining feature.

The line from which the barrel-vaulted roof sprang (56) was again visible in this elevation, as is an internal stone plinth (55). As with the western internal elevation, there are a number of recesses in the stonework which are interpreted as joist holes (57-60). Again there is no obvious pattern to them, although some do directly oppose holes in the west wall. These are probably to be associated with the floor of the 19th century barn phase.

Northern Internal Elevation (Fig 27)

As with the eastern and southern walls there was an internal arch (70) in this wall. This open arch was the same width as the outer arch to this wall, but was slightly taller, c 2.7m from the ground level. The arches were not centrally placed but on the western side of the wall, with the western edge against the western internal wall (directly opposed to the arches in the south wall). There was a 700mm gap between the two arches, which again featured an intra-mural flue (69).

The remains of an upper window (68) in this wall were visible in this internal elevation. Only part of the eastern side wall and the base to this opening (clearly shown in 19th-century illustrations) survived at the time of the current survey, although the side wall again revealed a splayed opening.



4. The Context of Radcliffe Tower

4.1 Phasing (Figs 34-35 & 63)

Although only a fragment of the original tower and hall complex survives as a standing monument there is sufficient evidence within the fabric to record four broad phases of activity.

Phase 1: Medieval

Most of the existing ruined stone tower dates from a primary building phase. The type of tooling on the stonework, the architectural fragments that can still be seen around the ground and first floor windows and ground floor door, and the use of a lime mortar and rubble core for the walls all point to the late medieval period as the origin of the structure. The precise date of this construction can be further refined by combining the existing architectural fragments from the structure with those elements recorded on the early drawings and photographs of the structure in the period 1781 to 1902. These show dateable architectural details in two areas. Firstly around the first floor opening to the stair tower, where photographs show that the lintel was a two-centred arch like that for the ground floor hall door, and that the tower door had chamfered moulding along its sides, again like the hall doorway. The surviving fragments of window detailing, the splayed arrangement to the first floor windows and the ogee head to the ground floor opening in the eastern elevation can be augmented by Captain Dewhurst's drawing which show tre-foil headings to the windows in the northern and southern elevations. Assuming that his sketches are accurate these details support the dating attributable to the hall doorway, stair tower doorway and eastern elevation ground floor window; the decorated style of the 14th century. Elements of this design can be seen in other peel towers in the north. At Sizergh castle the tre-foil window design survives in the northern elevation whilst the ground floor has barrel vaulting and two-centred arches as at Radcliffe (**Figs 48-50**). Turton Tower has an external stair tower (**Figs 52-4**), a ground floor with vaulting of a similar dimension to that at Radcliffe and a fireplace similar to the first floor example at Radcliffe.

This construction date presents an immediate problem of interpretation for the traditional assumption, stated by Whitaker and repeated in all the studies of the tower down to and including the 1995 work: that the tower and hall were built together and that the licence to crenellate given in 1403 was the point at which the tower and hall were built. However, the medieval documentary evidence makes it clear that the de Radcliffes were living at Radcliffe in the 13th century. Any work undertaken as a result of the 1403 licence should thus be seen as a re-building episode. Furthermore, the fact that the tower and hall might have been built together, as shown by the grooves for the pitch of the hall roof that survive in the western elevation is not a barrier to a construction date before 1403. Indeed it is possible that the timber hall was added later – the grooves could be a later feature, and the presence of the stair tower and the plinth along the western elevation could be interperated as pre-hall features. Not only do the architectural features within the tower point to a 14th century date but the 2013 excavations revealed medieval pottery spanning the 13th to 15th centuries and two phases of medieval roof tile from a high status building. Whilst it is possible that the tower was built before the hall, the simplest interpretation is that both were a contemporary rebuild sometime during the 14th century. A number of peel towers in northern Lancashire and southern Cumbria have towers with contemporary halls, although in most cases these are both in stone. These include Beetham Hall, which also has an enclosure wall possible of the type allowed for in the

1403 licence (**Fig 55**); Sizergh Castle (**Fig 47**); Thurnham Hall (Fig 58) and Turton Tower (**Fig 51**). Furthermore, many sites with licences to crenellate can be shown to have earlier structures on them.

Phase 2: Post-Medieval Alterations

Detailed analysis of the fabric of the eastern and southern elevations of the tower suggests that the two arches in these elevations, and their associated flues, are almost certainly later inserts. The precise date of these features is unclear. The suggestion that the tower was a kitchen range stems from the three arches visible in the ground floor of the tower. These are unique features not paralleled elsewhere in the tower houses and peels of Lancashire and Cumbria. Tower houses and peels usually had a single fireplace, occasionally two with the ground floor room divided into two parts. For a single room of the size at Radcliffe to have three such large fireplaces is peculiar. A secondary re-use as a kitchen would be in keeping with the tower's position at the lower end of the hall. However, it should be noted that the 1666 hearth tax returns only list four hearths for Radcliffe Hall, three of which may be accounted for in the 2013 excavations of the hall foundations. This suggests that either these two arches were insertions post-dating 1666 or that they had gone out of use by this date.

There are many parallels in Cumbria and Lancashire for extensive rebuilding work on tower houses and their associated halls in the 16th and 17th century (Salter 1998 & 2001). It is therefore not a surprise that Radcliffe might have been altered, perhaps significantly. Turton Tower had its upper third storey completely rebuilt, new windows inserted and the chimneys altered in the 16th century. The peel tower at Sizergh castle in southern Cumbria was also extensively remodelled in the 16th century and the hall extended and enlarged. Halton Hall and Levens Hall were also extensively rebuilt in this period with more luxurious domestic accommodation beyond the tower (Hartwell & Pevsner 2009; Hyde & Pevsner 2010).

It should be noted, though, that once Radcliffe Hall passed out of the direct family line in 1517 the hall was unlikely to have been used by the family very often, and after 1561 it was in the hands of the Assheton family who resided in Middleton. Large-scale investment in the hall seems unlikely after the mid-16th century. In 1765 the hall came by marriage to the Wilton family and was used as a farmstead from this period if not before. If the arches were inserted in the 16th century then the tower must have been abandoned as a functioning building by the time of the 1666 hearth tax, otherwise they would have been recorded in the assessment. The suggestion that they were a status symbol for the wealth of the family might yet explain their presence but would only work when the Radcliffes were still in occupation.

Phase 3: Late 18th and 19th Century Activity

The major activity during this period was the loss of fabric in the late 18th century from the eastern elevation, the demolition of the adjoining hall around 1833, the robbing of fabric from the tower in the 1830s and 1840s around the northern and eastern elevations, and the barrel vaulting collapsed or was removed. It was re-used as a barn for Tower Farm (**Figs 15-18**). This involved the insertion of a floor and wooden supports within the tower structure (**Fig 20**).

Phase 4: 20th Century alterations

During this period the tower saw further loss of fabric, particularly in the northern elevation, around the tower doorway, and inside the tower with the removal of floor levels. The farm was closed on the 1960s and the farm buildings demolished soon after which may also have

affected the fabric of the tower (**Fig 22**). Conservation work was carried out on the tower in the 1980s and 1990s, when the eastern and southern arches were blocked.

4.2 The Building of Radcliffe Tower

The context for the initial construction of the tower sometime in the 14th century is the warfare between England and Scotland during this period. After the battle of Bannockburn in 1314 England was not strong enough to conquer Scotland. Yet neither was Scotland strong enough to retrieve those northern English counties that it had held in the 12th century: Cumberland, Northumberland, and Westmorland, plus the Honours of Lancaster and Skipton. The result of this military stalemate was a century of raiding into southern Scotland and northern England by both monarchies, followed by two centuries of low-level border conflict in the 15th and 16th centuries by local families (the boarder reevers). The late 1310s and 1320s saw raiding as far south as West Yorkshire and southern Lancashire by the Scots (**Fig 64**) so the need for a strong defensive structure at manor level became common. Without exception the tower houses of Lancashire and Cumbria post-date 1320 and a significant number were built in the later 14th century. Analysis of the wording of the 1403 licence to crenellate and the other licences granted by Henry IV (**Table 1**) provides a possible political context for the rebuilding of the hall in this period. Of the fourteen licenses granted during Henry IV’s reign, eight related to counties of Cheshire and Lancashire. Excluding the three licenses granted to Abbot Henry Sutton in 1410, this changes to five out of eleven. This means that a large proportion of those grants given during Henry IV’s reign were to North West individuals. Most of these individuals appear to have been prominent supporters’ of the king and were active in the King’s court. Thus, these grants might be seen as rewards to his followers. Such an explanation, however, does not fully explain why the Radcliffe grant is so detailed.

Table 1: Licences to crenellate in the reign of Henry IV

| Date | Region | County | Site | Applicant | Notes |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 23 July 1402 | Welsh marches | Herefordshire | Leominster (town walls) | “good men” | |
| 13 October 1402 | South West | Devon | Gommerock | Johannes Corp | coastal |
| 14 October 1402 | North West | Lancashire | Thurland Castle | Thomas Tunstall, miles | |
| 23 February 1403 | North West | Cheshire | Doddington Tower | John de Delves, Nicholas Bradshawe, Roger Bradshawe, John de Hynkeley, John Wordhull, clerk, John Bertram, clerk | Chester licence |
| 15 August 1403 | North West | Lancashire | Radcliffe Tower | Jacobus de Radclif, armiger | |
| 6 February 1404 | South West | Devon | Plymouth (town walls) | “the king’s lieges lately dwelling at Plymouth” | |
| 24 February 1405 | North East | Yorkshire | Kettlewell in Craven | Ralphe de Nevill, Earl of Westmorland | |
| 15 March 1405 | South East | Essex | Harwich Castle | “burgesses of the town” | |
| 15 January 1406 | North West | Lancashire | Liverpool Stanley Tower | Johannes de Stanley, miles | |
| 19 March 1406 | South East | Oxfordshire | Broughton Castle | Thomas Wykeham, armiger | |
| 1410 | North East | Durham | Witton Castle | Ralphe de Eure, knight | Durham pardon |
| 1410 | North West | Cheshire | Macclesfield Castle | John de Macclesfield, clerk | Chester licence |
| 8 Jan 1410 | North East | Yorkshire | Hatfield Hall | Robert Waterton, esquire, Thomas de Toveton, clerk, Nicholas Colne and William Baroweby | |
| 5 February 1410 | North West | Cheshire | Ince Grange | Abbas et Conventus Monasterii | |
| 5 February 1410 | North West | Cheshire | Saighton Grange | Cestriae “(abbot and convent of the | |
| 5 February 1410 | North West | Cheshire | Sutton Hall | monastery of Chester; Abbot Henry Sutton)” | |

4.3 Radcliffe as a Peel Tower

It has been suggested that the tower was a kitchen wing of the hall built in stone to prevent it from burning down. Yet there are defensive features that show that Radcliffe Tower was built as a pele tower in the 14th century. Whether it had a crenellated parapet when it was first constructed is unclear. The upper part of the tower has long since collapsed or been demolished, but in any case there are examples in the North West of peel towers without crenellations: the first phase at Turton Tower (**Fig 62**) and Dalston Tower (**Fig 61**) being two comparisons close in style to the primary phase of Radcliffe. The internal doors, both with draw bar slots, the small narrow windows at ground-floor level, the lack of any connection between the ground and first floor, and the stair tower with external access from the first floor all provide further evidence of the tower's defensive qualities. Effectively such a tower represented a defended wing to what was otherwise a typical medieval manorial hall arrangement in this area.

The unusual arrangement of the hall and tower end as shown on the 1800 engraving accompanying Whitaker's account also suggests that its primary use was not domestic and that such adaptation was later. The hall, based on Whitaker's account, measured 13.09m long and c 8.19m wide. This makes the hall relatively large in size. The hall at Smithills Hall, Bolton, built c 1406 measures only 11.07m long, although is 9.36m wide. The 1800 engraving shows a spere truss at the eastern end of the hall, which suggests that a screens passage existed at this end of the hall, with the western end representing the upper end of the hall. This places the tower at the lower end of the hall, which is an area usually associated with a service function. A traditional hall arrangement would have three doorways in the lower end wall of the hall, one leading to a buttery, another to a pantry and the other to a kitchen. In this case the western wall of the tower represents the eastern end wall of the hall, although there is only a single centrally placed door, leading into the ground floor of the tower. This is clearly not a typical arrangement, although it is possible that it represents a variation of the traditional three door layout.

The problem remains of where the buttery and pantry were located. However, Whitaker's engraving may provide a possible clue to the position of these two rooms. The engraving shows the spere truss a considerable distance up the hall from the tower wall and, accepting that the perspective of the engraving is not accurate, there is nevertheless the suggestion that the area between the spere and the end wall was wider than the usual screens passage; (the screens passage at Smithills Hall is 1.7m wide and that at Baguley Hall, Manchester, a 14th-century building, 2.25m wide). If this was the case, it is possible that the buttery and pantry were accommodated against the west wall of the tower separated by a short passageway leading into the ground-floor of the tower which could have been used as a kitchen.

There are plenty of parallels in northern Lancashire and Cumbria for peel towers with adjoining medieval halls (Beetham, Halton, Levens, Sizergh, and Thurnham for instance). There are also examples of peel towers standing as isolated single structures, such as Dalston Tower. The archaeological and architectural evidence suggests that Radcliffe belonged to the late medieval tradition of defensive manorial sites common across the border counties of Cumbria and Northumberland, and in the hinterland counties such as northern Yorkshire and Lancashire. Whether the site had a more overly defensive appearance, as suggested by the 1403 licence is something that only archaeological investigation can now discover.



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6. Archive

The archive comprises of a historical map regression, copies of historical photographs and documents and research notes. This archive is currently held by the Centre for Applied Archaeology and a copy of this report will be forwarded to the client, and the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service.



Appendix 1: A List of Peel Towers & Fortified Houses in the North West

NB: The following summary list excludes the modern county of Cumbria.

A1.1 Cheshire

- Bradlegh Old Hall (Warrington), 1460s, Piers Legh, SJ 572 948 (Salter 2001, 23).
- Doddington Castle & Tower, licence to crenellate 1365 to John Delves, SJ 361 608 (Hartwell, Hyde & Pevsner 2011, 23 & 331; Salter 2001, 17).
- Macclesfield Castle, licence to crenellate 1398 to John de Macclesfield, SJ 917 737 (Hartwell, Hyde & Pevsner 2011, 23; Salter 2001, 20).

A1.2 Greater Manchester

- Ashton Old Hall (Galgate), C15, de Asshetons, SJ 941 989 (Burke & Nevell 1996, 16-18).
- Bury Castle, licence to crenellate 1465, SD 802 108 (Hartwell, Hyde & Pevsner 2004, 29-30; Salter 2001, 23).
- Radcliffe Tower, licence to crenellate 1403 to Radcliffe, SD 798 075 (Hartwell, Hyde & Pevsner 2004, 30 & 573; 30; Salter 2001, 37).

A1.3 Lancashire

- Ashton Hall, C14 or C15 red sandstone tower, Lawrence family, SD 462 573 (Salter 22).
- Borwick Hall, C14 or C15 tower, SD 526 730 (Salter 2001, 23).
- Broughton Tower, pre-1515, SD 524 343 (Salter 2001, 23).
- Hoghton Tower, C16 or earlier, SD 622 262 (Salter 2001, 26).
- Lathom House, L15, Thomas Lord Stanley, SD 459 091 (Pollard & Pevsner, 2006, 20 & 30; Salter 2001, 33).
- Turton Tower, c. 1430 by William Orrel, SD 731 152 (Salter 2001, 39).

A1.4 Merseyside

- Brimstage Hall (Wirral), C15 SJ 303 806 (Hartwell, Hyde & Pevsner 2011, 23 & 184).
- Stanley Tower (Liverpool), licence to crenellate 1406 to Sir John Stanley, SJ 339 904 (Salter 2001, 35).

Appendix 2: Figures

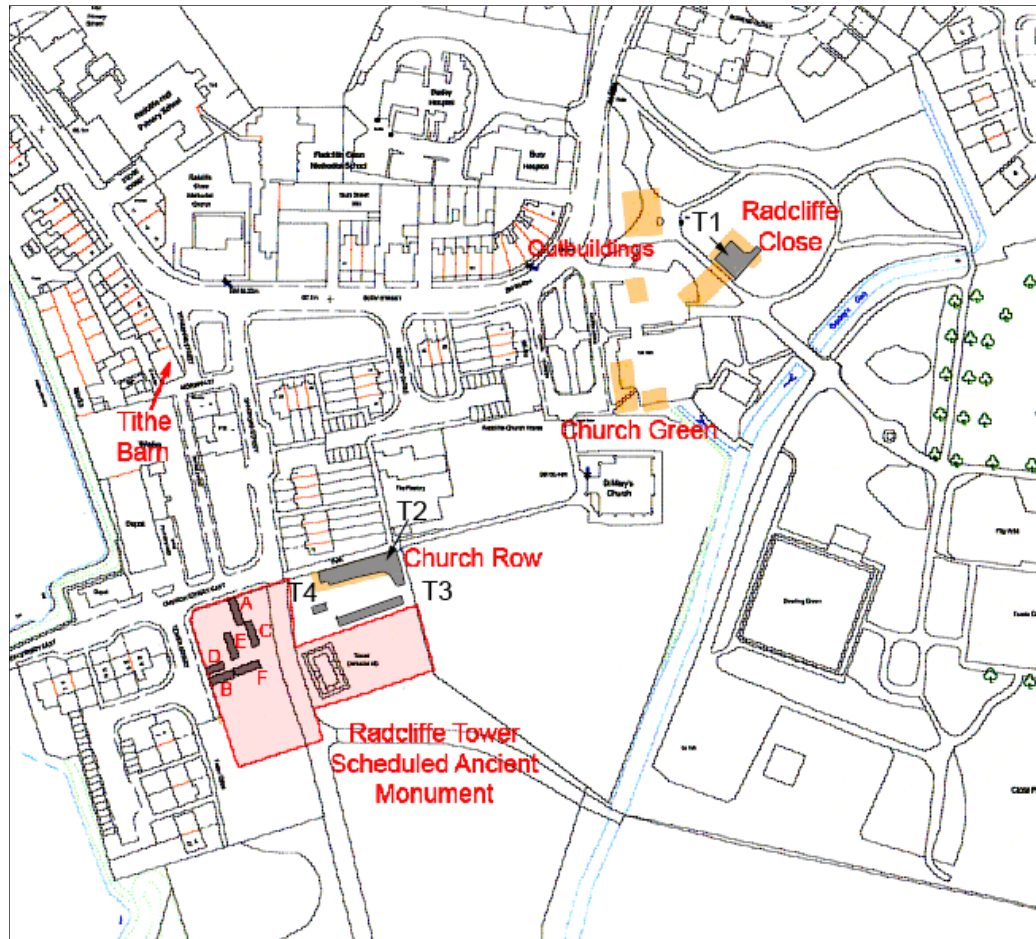


Fig 1: The location of Radcliffe's historic core and the chief historic sites. The 2012 evaluation trenches (T1 to T4) are shown as are also the trenches excavated by Bury Archaeological Group at Radcliffe Tower in 1979-80 (A to F after Tyson 1985). Scale 1:2500.

Reproduced from modern OS mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100048362.

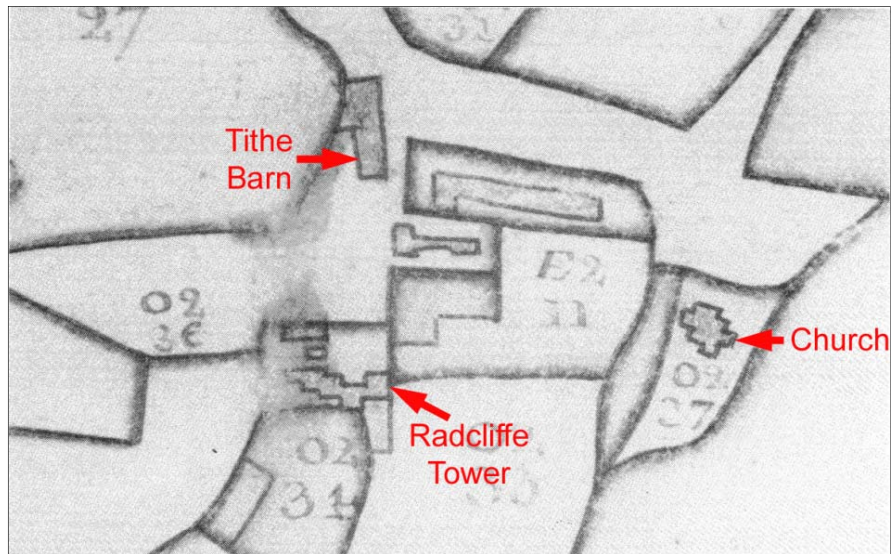


Fig 2: Radcliffe Tower, Church and surrounds on 1767 map of Radcliffe (Greater Manchester County Record Office).



Fig 3: Radcliffe Tower and surrounds as shown on the 1810 estate map. Bolton Archives ZAL 170.



Fig 4: Radcliffe Tower, Church and surrounds on on OS 6in to 1 mile mapping surveyed 1844-6 (Lancashire sheets 95 & 96, published 1850 & 1848). Scale 1:2500.

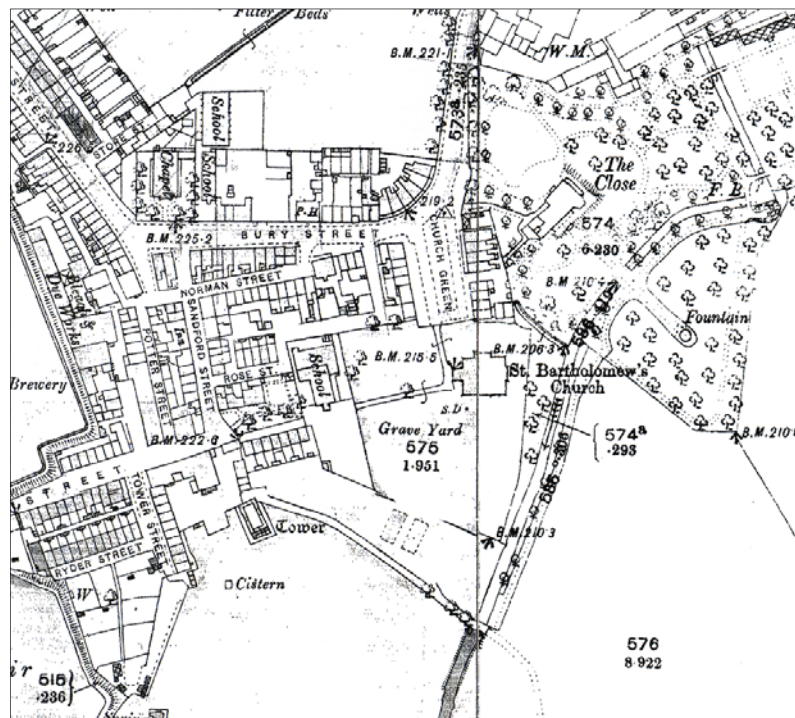


Fig 5: Radcliffe Tower, Church and surrounds on OS 1:2500 mapping surveyed 1889-90 (Lancashire sheets XCV.4 & XCVI.1, published 1893). Scale 1:2500.

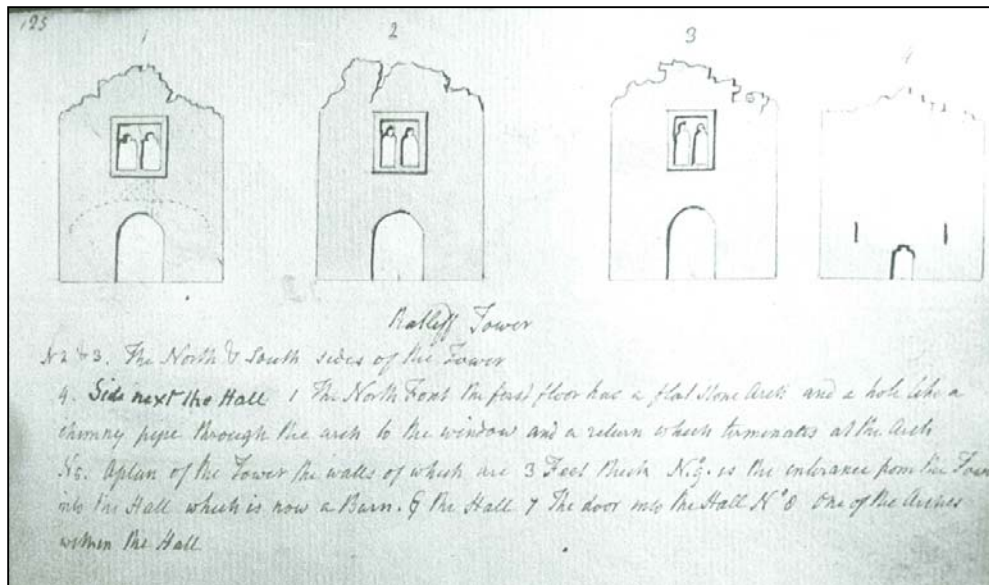


Fig 6: Captain Dewhurst's drawings of the tower from 1784. Bolton Archives ZZ/442/1.



Fig 7: Wyatt's drawing of Radcliffe Hall and Tower from 1781.

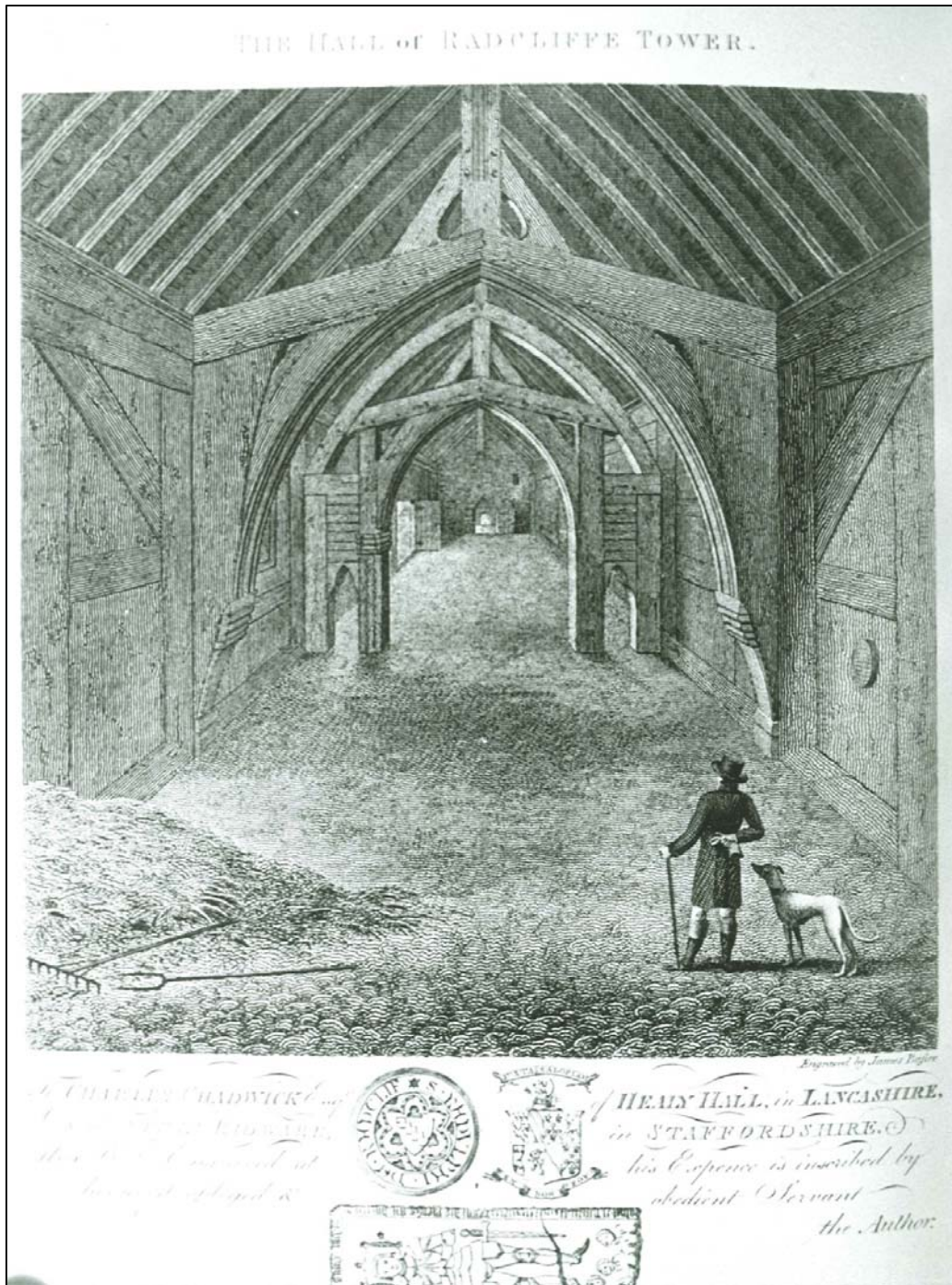


Fig 8: The interior of Radcliffe Hall looking towards the tower as illustrated in Whitaker 1800.



Fig 9: Ford's map drawing of Radcliffe Hall and Tower from 1823.

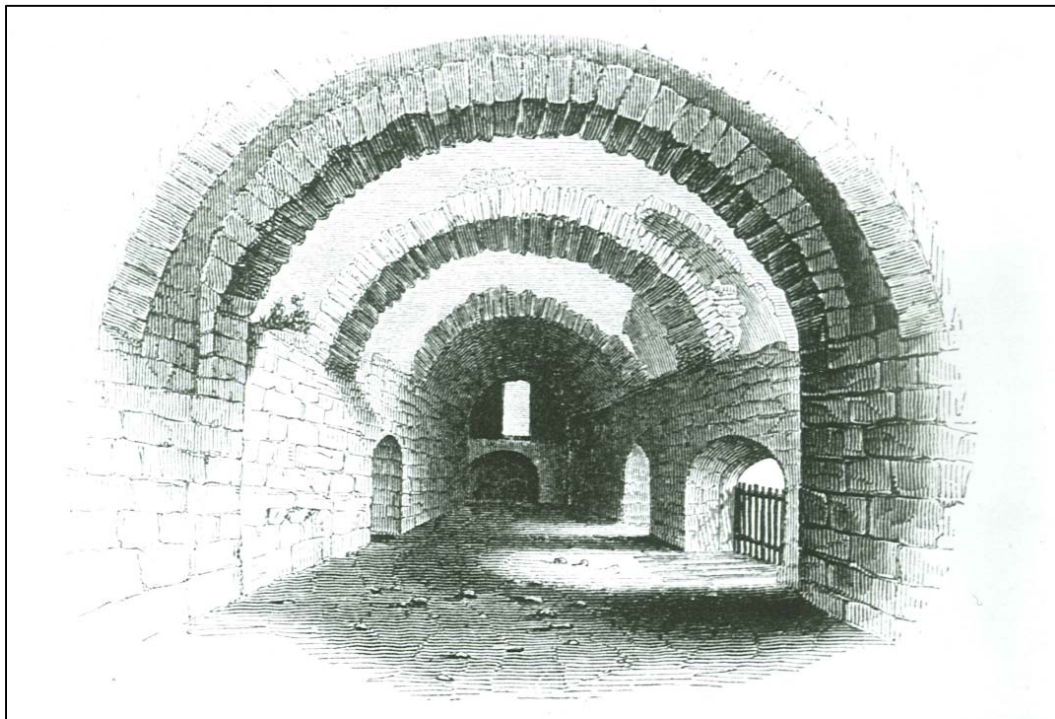


Fig 10: The interior of Radcliffe Tower showing the barrel vaulting in 1842. The floor of the tower appears to be two three courses higher than in the early 21st century.



Fig 11: c. 1830 view of Radcliffe Hall and Tower. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 12: Undated early 19th century painting of Radcliffe Tower by G F Ride. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 13: Radcliffe Tower in 1882 showing the northern and western elevations. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 14: Radcliffe Tower in 1892 showing the elevations. Copyright Craig Brisbane Collection.



Fig 15: Radcliffe Tower in the late 19th century showing the northern and western elevations. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 16: Radcliffe Tower around 1902. Copyright Craig Brisbane Collection.



Fig 17: Radcliffe Tower in the late 19th century showing the western and southern elevations. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 18: Radcliffe Tower in the late 19th century showing the southern elevations. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 19: Radcliffe Tower western doorway in 1902. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 20: Radcliffe Tower southern archway and interior in 1902. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 21: Radcliffe Tower western doorway and the edge of the tower doorway (right) in 1902. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 22: Radcliffe Tower and Farm in 1963. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 23: The northern elevation of Radcliffe Tower in 1964. Copyright Bury Archives.



Fig 24: The northern and eastern elevations of Radcliffe Tower in 2008.



Fig 25: The western and southern elevations of Radcliffe Tower in 2008. The haulage road is to the left.

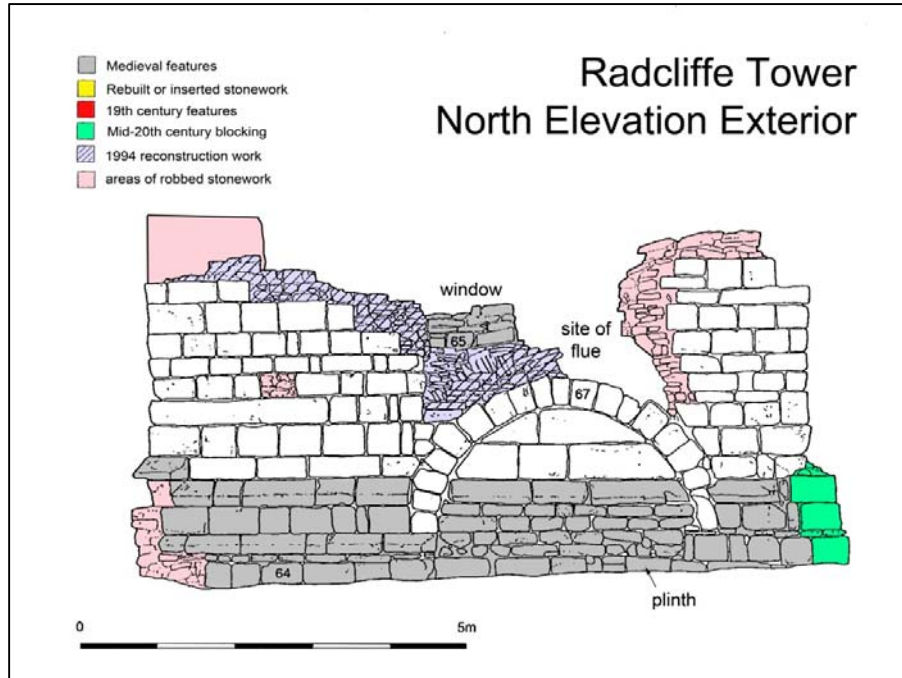


Fig 26: Radcliffe Tower northern elevation exterior 2014.

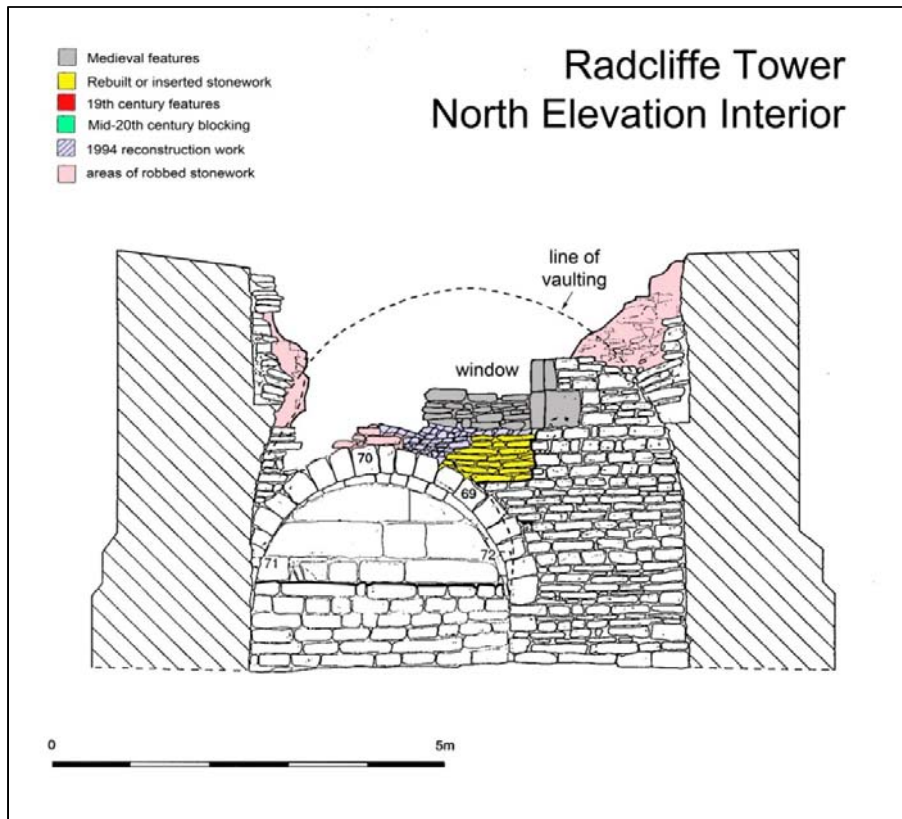


Fig 27: Radcliffe Tower northern elevation interior 2014.

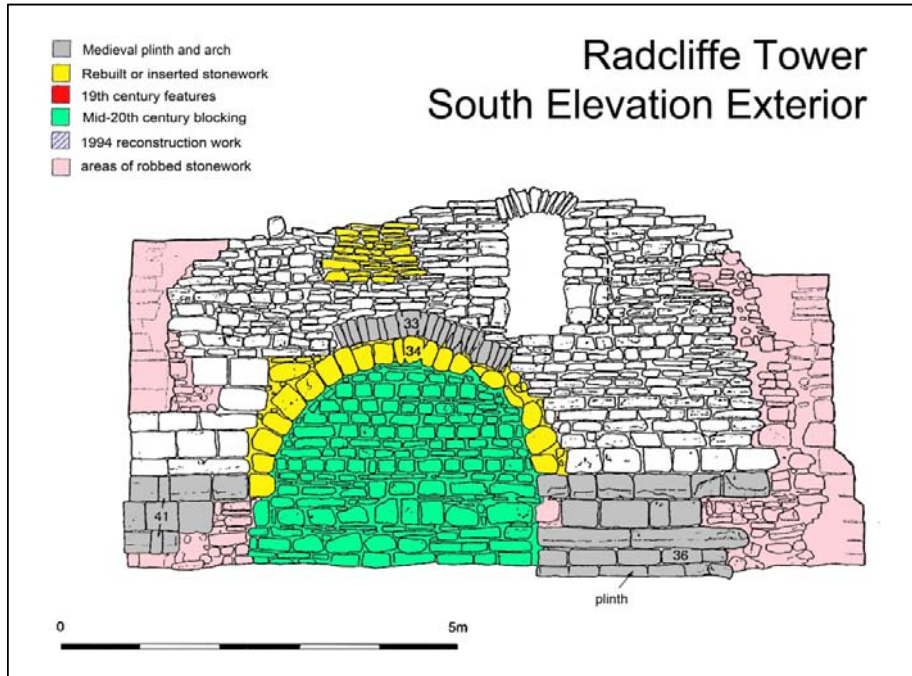


Fig 28: Radcliffe Tower southern elevation exterior 2014.

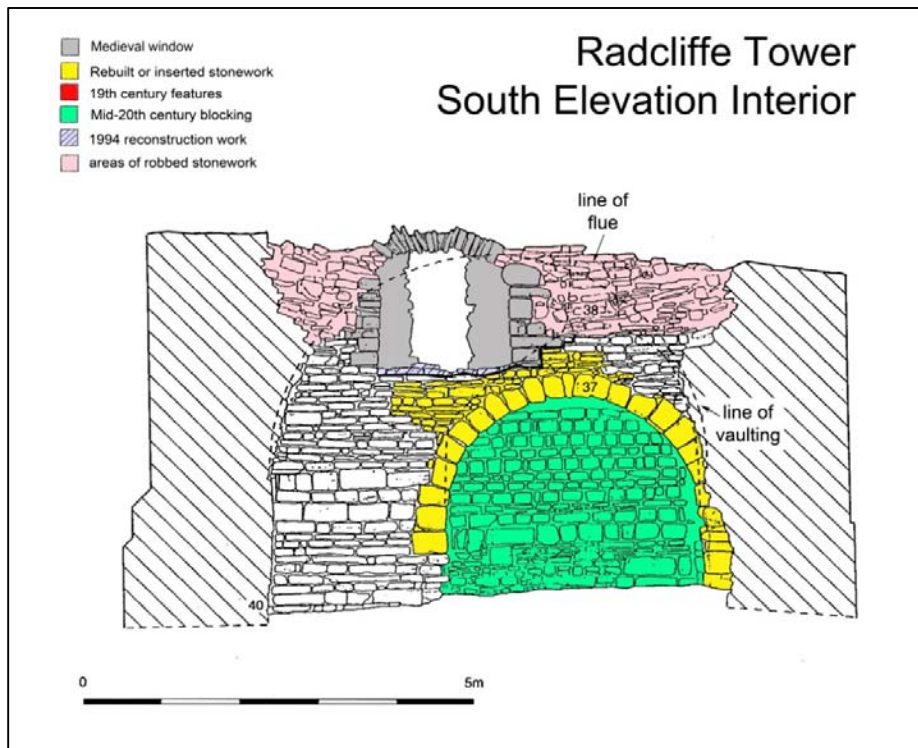


Fig 29: Radcliffe Tower southern elevation interior 2014.

Radcliffe Tower East Elevation Exterior

- Medieval features
- Rebuilt or inserted stonework
- 19th century features
- Mid-20th century blocking
- 1994 reconstruction work
- areas of robbed stonework

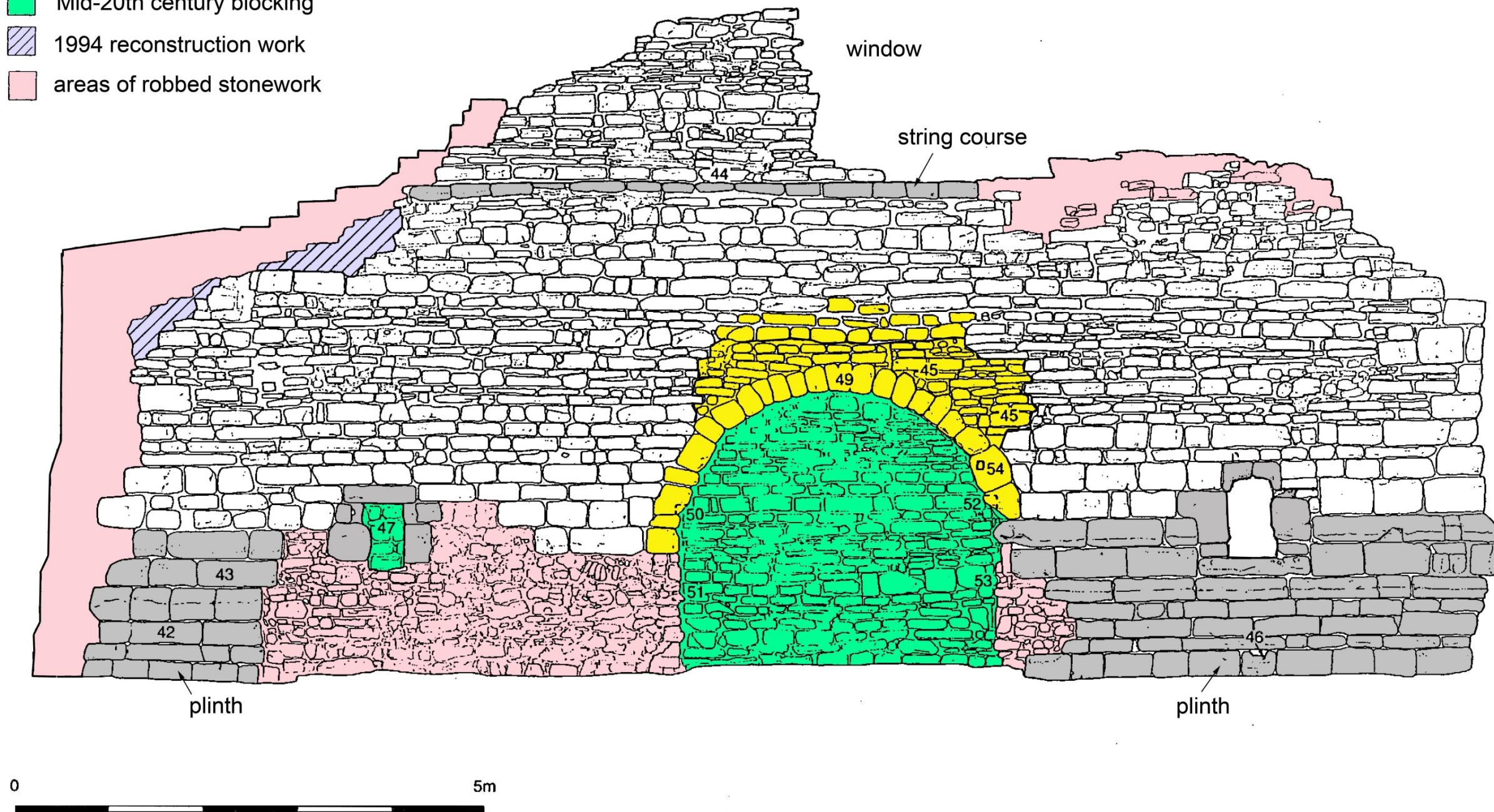


Fig 30: Radcliffe Tower eastern elevation exterior 2014.

Radcliffe Tower East Elevation Interior

- Remains of medieval barrel vaulting
- Rebuilt or inserted stonework
- 19th century barn features
- Mid-20th century blocking
- 1994 reconstruction work
- areas of robbed stonework

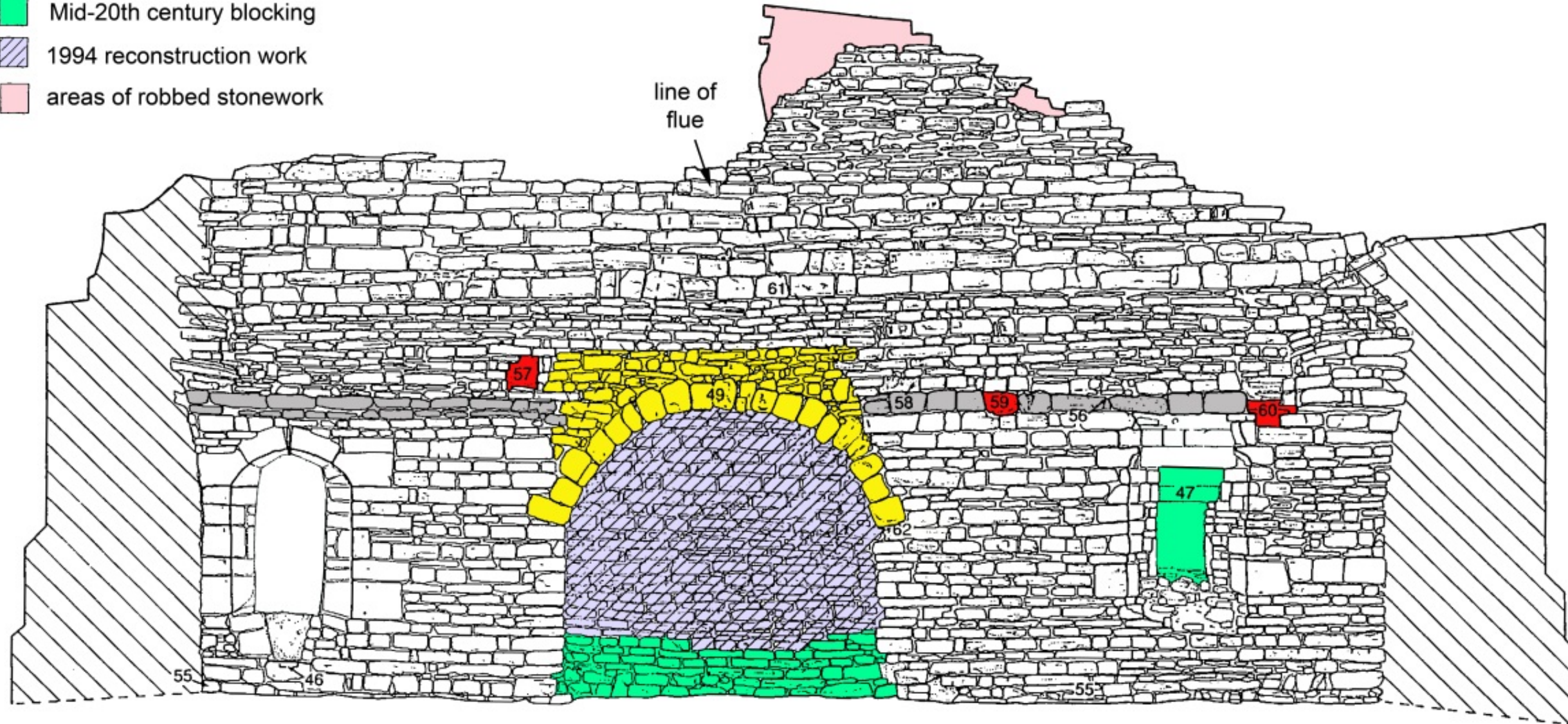


Fig 31: Radcliffe Tower eastern elevation interior 2014.

Radcliffe Tower West Elevation Exterior

- Medieval features
- Rebuilt or inserted stonework
- 19th century features
- Mid-20th century blocking
- 1994 reconstruction work
- areas of robbed stonework

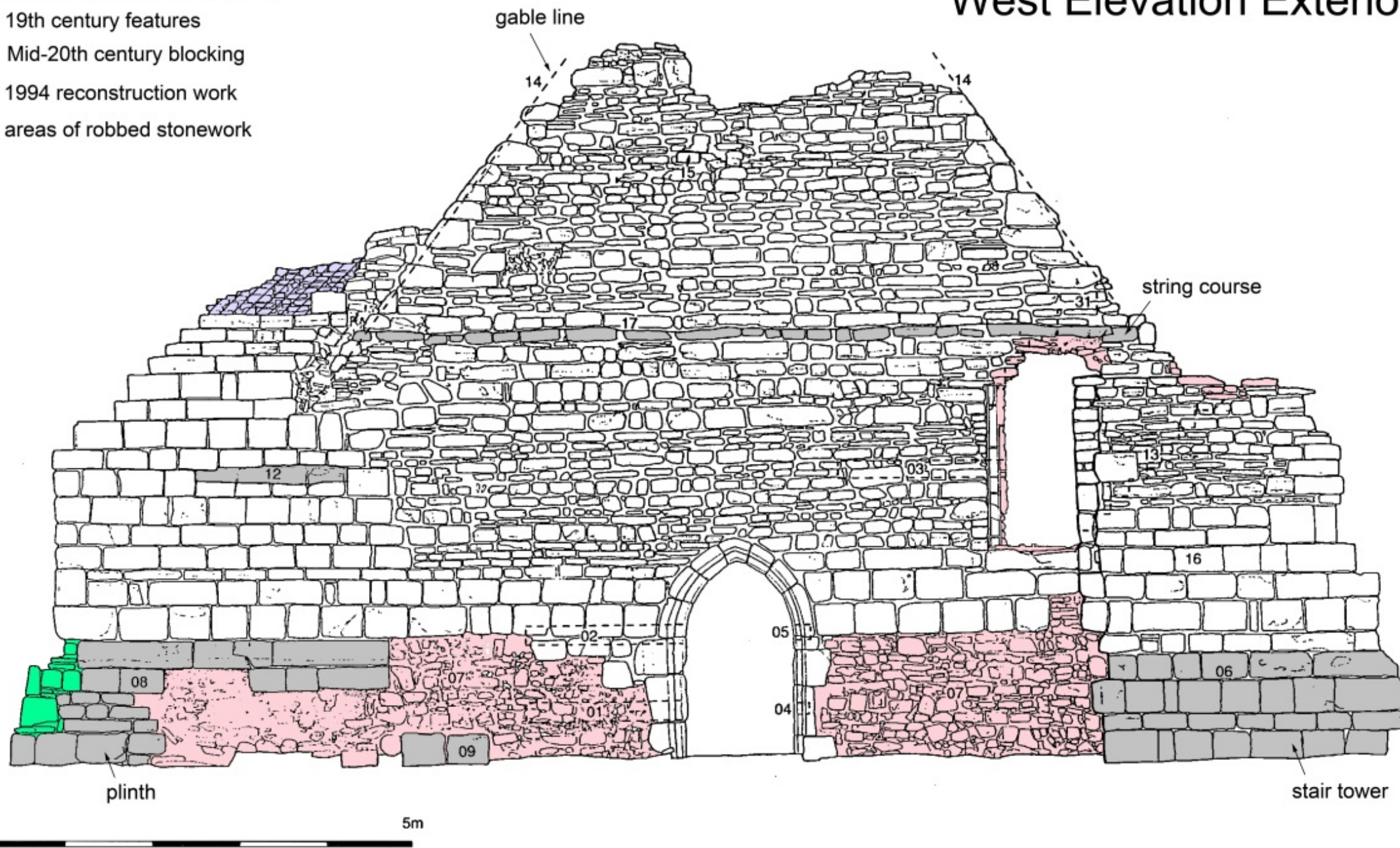
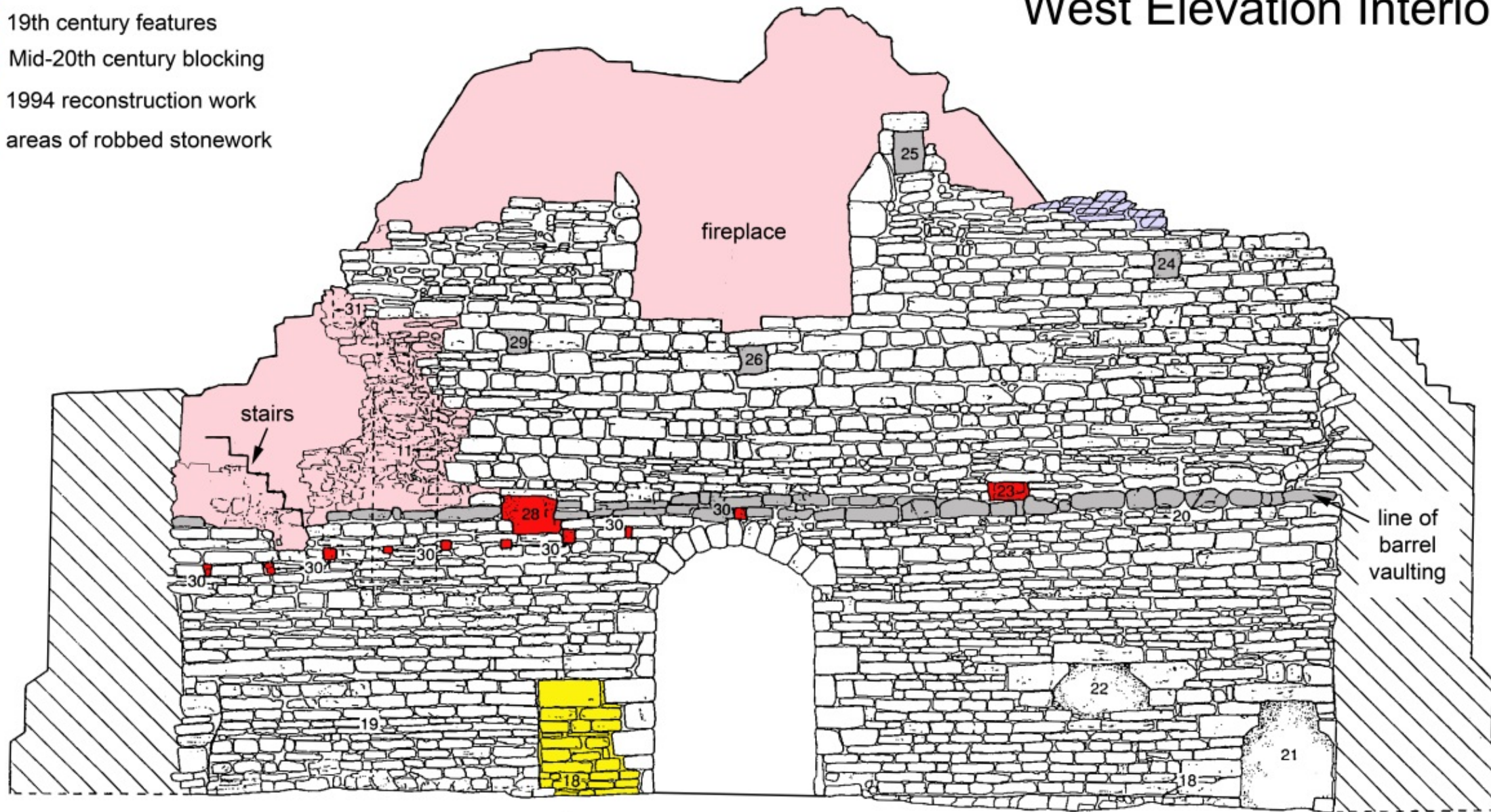


Fig 32: Radcliffe Tower western elevation exterior 2014.

Radcliffe Tower West Elevation Interior

- Medieval features
- Rebuilt or inserted stonework
- 19th century features
- Mid-20th century blocking
- 1994 reconstruction work
- areas of robbed stonework



0 5m

Fig 33: Radcliffe Tower western elevation interior 2014.

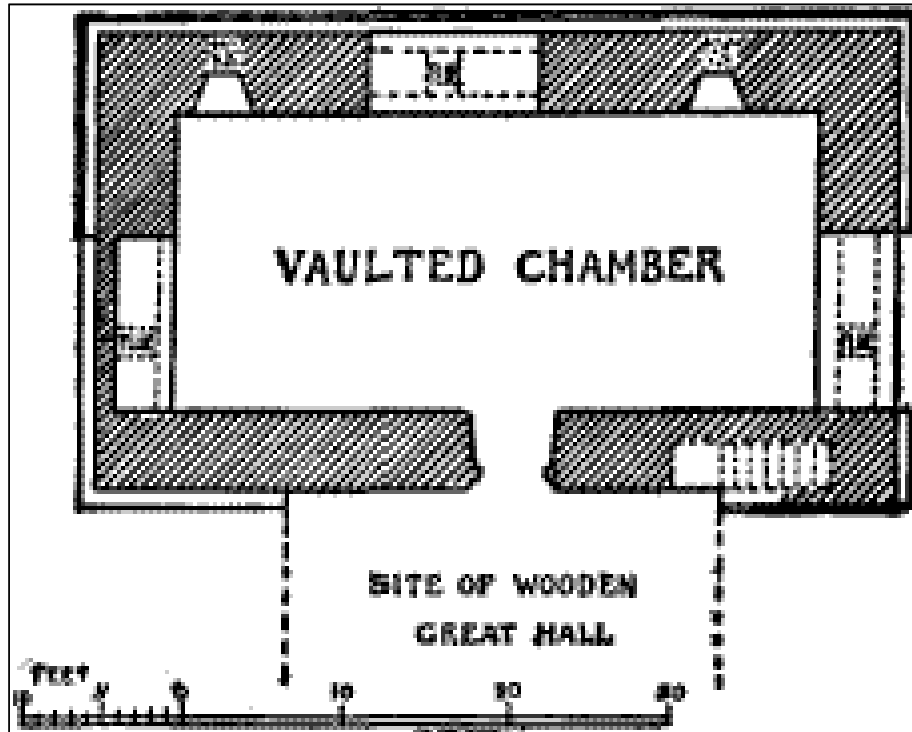


Fig 34: Plan of Radcliffe Tower from 1911 (Farrer & Brownbill).

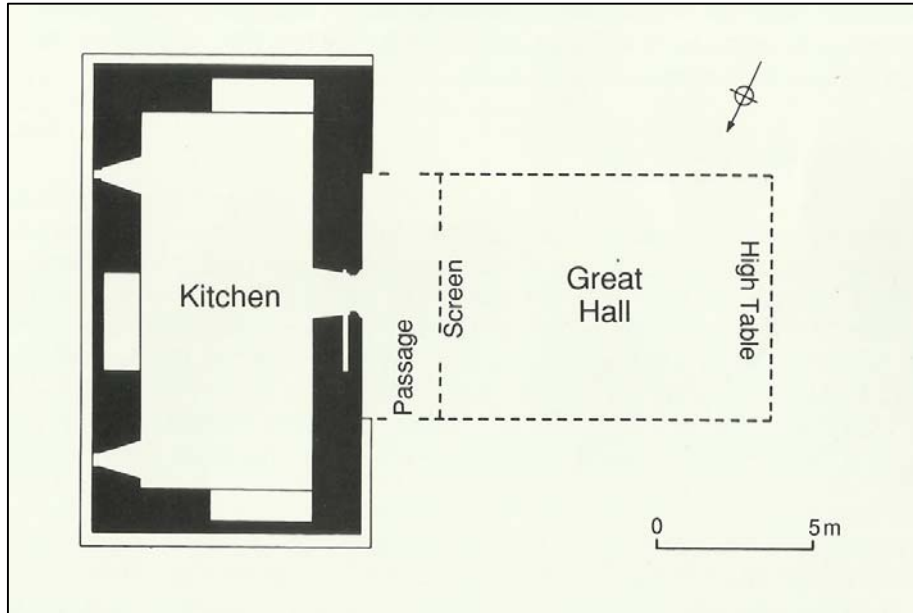


Fig 35: Plan of Radcliffe Tower and its relationship to the hall from 1995 (Arrowsmith).



Fig 36: Radcliffe Tower excavations in October 2013 showing the stone foundations of the western gable of the hall and in the background Radcliffe Tower.



Fig 37: Excavations in October 2014 showing the foundations of farm buildings and behind the northern gable of the Radcliffe Tower.



Fig 38: Excavations in October 2014 showing the trenches in the interior of Radcliffe Tower, looking south.

Fig 38: Excavations in October 2014 showing the north-eastern interior corner of Radcliffe Tower, with the medieval drain. Note the remains of the barrel vaulting surviving above the window.



Fig 39: The interior corner of Radcliffe Tower, looking at the fireplace above the archway in the western elevation. Note the arch to the top of the fireplace and the chamfered surrounds. Note the four redundant beam slots from the 19th century use as a barn.





Fig 40: Interior of Radcliffe Tower, looking north showing the two recesses in the western wall and the northern fireplace.

Fig 41: Interior of Radcliffe Tower, looking up through the flue in the archway for the northern fireplace. Note how the upper part of the wall and flue have been robbed away.

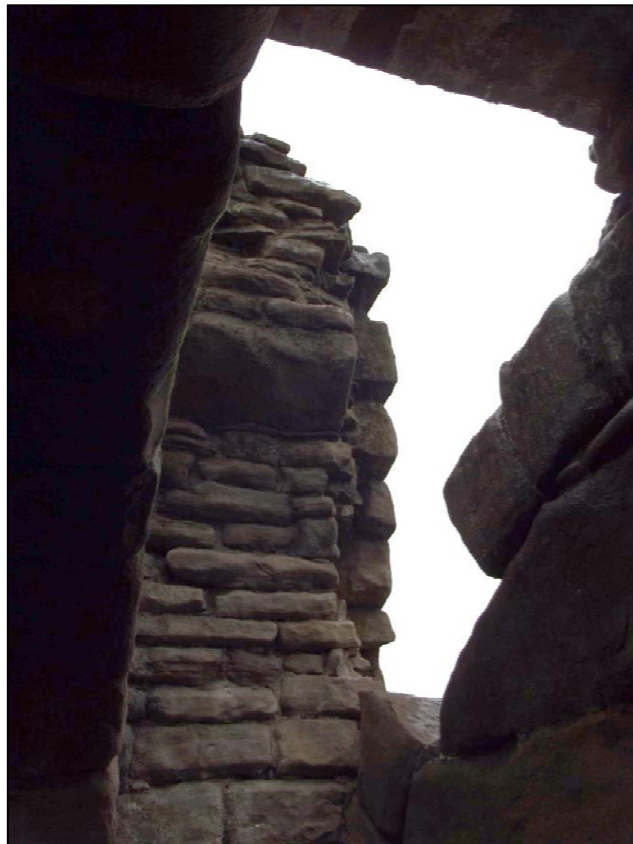




Fig 42: Interior of Radcliffe Tower, looking at the eastern elevation. The apex of the archway breaks the line of the barrel vaulting suggesting that it is a later insert. Note the remains of the window above the arch.



Fig 43: Interior of Radcliffe Tower, looking at the inner western elevation with the remains fo the barrel vaulting and the first floor fireplace.



Fig 44: The first floor doorway to the tower in the western elevation. Note the surviving stairs.



Fig 45: The foundations of Bury Castle – a tower house set within a ditched and walled compound, possible like Radcliffe, built in 1465 and the nearest example to Radcliffe Tower



Fig 46: The 14th century stone solar wing at Ashton Hall with 15th century towers. Some of the features of this building, such as the window tracery and doorway are similar in style to features at Radcliffe Tower.



Fig 47: The main northern elevation of Sizergh Castle, Cumbria. The late medieval tower house is on the west and the hall to the east as at Radcliffe.

Fig 48: The windows with trefoil tracery in the upper northern elevation at Sizergh Castle match the style as recorded at Radcliffe Tower by Captain Dewhurst in 1784.





Fig 49: The ground floor at Sizergh Castle with a two-centred arch of the style found at Radcliffe Tower.



Fig 50: The ground floor barrel vaulting at Sizergh castle with a splayed central window of the style seen at Radcliffe Tower.



Fig 51: Turton Tower, the nearest parallel to Radcliffe in terms of date, plan-form and style. The late medieval tower is to the left and the medieval timber-framed hall to the right.

Fig 52: The northern elevation at Turton Tower showing the extensive remodelling of the windows and chimney, and the raising of the roof all from the late Tudor period.





Fig 53: A first-floor fireplace at Turton Tower – a possible parallel for the first floor fireplace at Radcliffe Tower.

Fig 54: The stair tower at Turton Tower with corbelling to support the roof line. A possible parallel for the stair tower at Radcliffe.





Fig 55: The late medieval tower (left) at Beetham Hall, Cumbria.



Fig 56: The late medieval tower curtain wall and gatehouse (left) at Beetham Hall, Cumbria. A parallel for Radcliffe Tower, perhaps?



Fig 57: Halton Hall, Lancaster, with its central late medieval peel tower.

Fig 58: The late medieval peel tower at Thurnham Hall, Lancaster.





Fig 59: Levens Hall, Cumbria with to the right its late medieval peel tower.



Fig 60: Ashton Hall which its late medieval peel tower which has stair turrets to each corner..



Fig 61: the peel tower known as Dalston Tower, Furness, Cumbria. Built in the 1320s, probably, its form may echo the original structure at Radcliffe Tower.

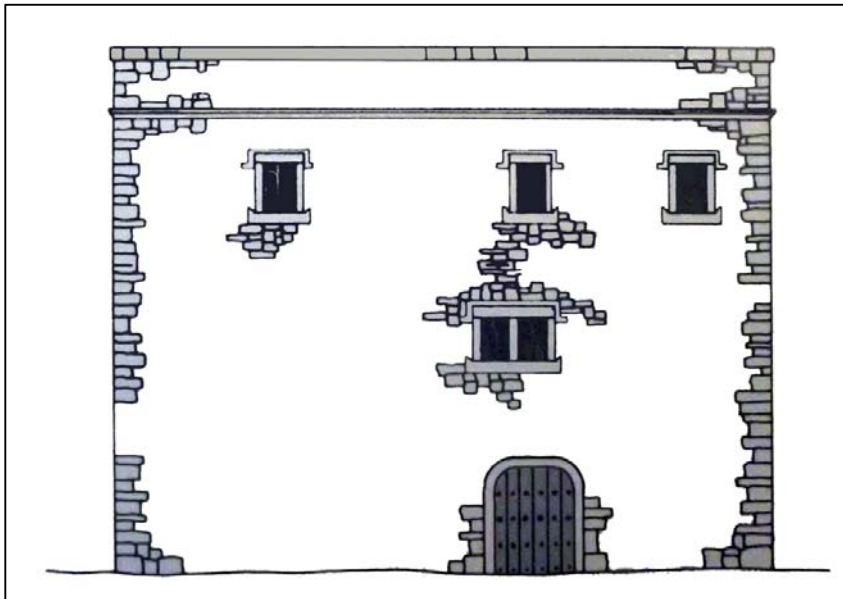


Fig 62: The suggested reconstruction of the primary phase at Turton Tower. Radcliffe may have had a similar form.

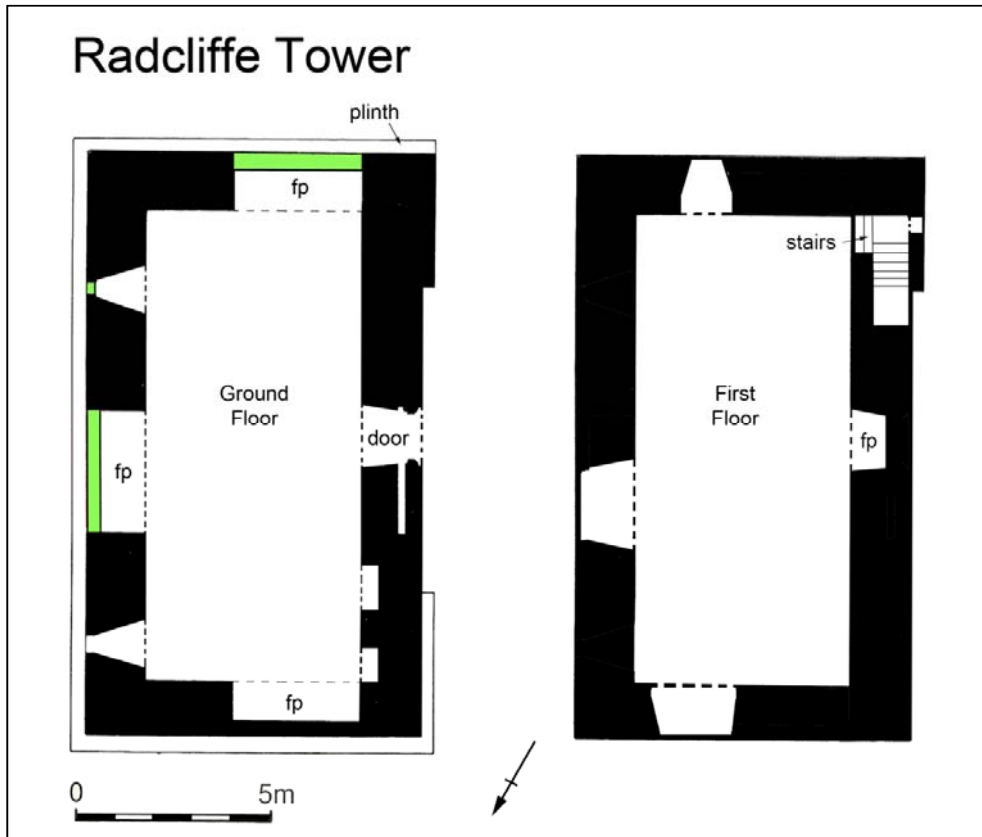


Fig 63: Floor plans of Radcliffe Tower in 2014.

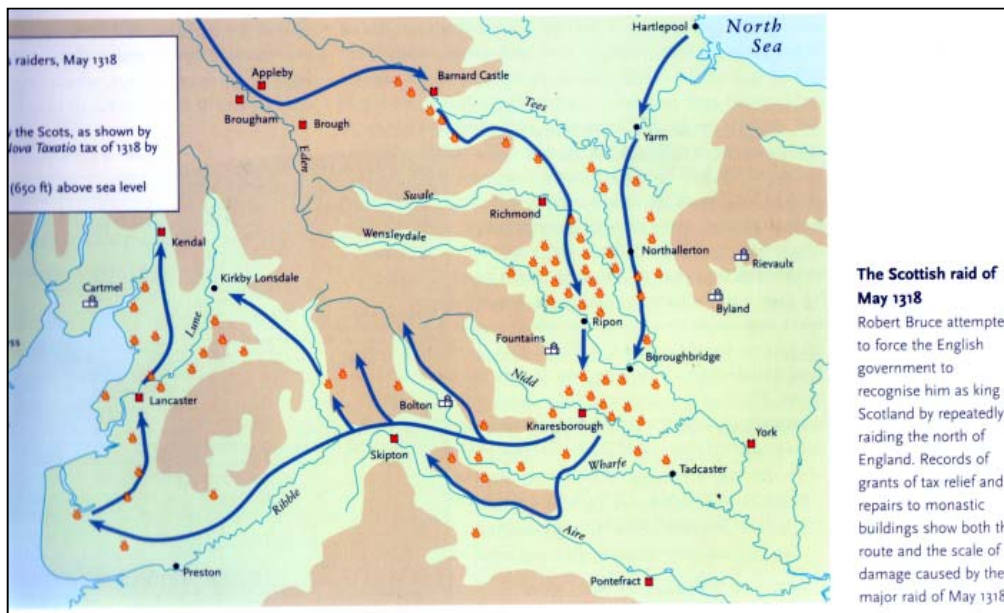


Fig 64: The course of the Scottish raid of 1318 in northern England. The building of Radcliffe Tower should be seen in the context of the instability of England's frontier with Scotland in the 14th and 15th centuries.



Fig 65: Most of the Radcliffe History Workshop volunteers outside Turton Tower in April 2014.