

The Anglian Tower of York

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The famous Anglian Tower of York is known as one of the only two Anglo-Saxon non-ecclesiastical structures that have survived until today. The date of its creation can't be told for sure yet. It is guessed that it was built at the end of the Roman period (5th Century) or at the start of the Anglo-Saxon period.

The Anglian Tower has been associated with King Edwin of Deira (586-633). He also rebuilt the defences of York in the 7th Century.

Why was it built?

There are two ground-level opposed doorways allowing a sentry to walk directly through the tower, but the chamber within the tower appears to have no other function than to allow an unobstructed passage. The missing upper storey may have served as a watchtower or acted as an artillery platform or a protected area for archers. The tower might also be one of many as yet undiscovered towers erected at the same time to strengthen the city's defences.

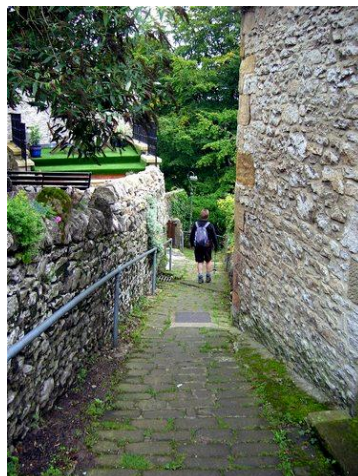
The Anglian Tower originally stood two storeys high although only one storey remains. The Anglo-Saxon walls may stand atop an earlier Roman foundation. The tower is built of oolitic limestone blocks with a brick-vaulted roof.

How was it rediscovered?

The Anglian Tower of York was rediscovered in 1839 while some men were trying to dig a tunnel between Mint Yard and St Leonard's Place (ended in 1971). Unfortunately, the leader of the excavation, Jeffrey Radly, died.

Location

The Anglian Tower is best-accessed through the Museum Gardens. Take the path leading off to the left of the **Multangular Tower** through a doorway in the city wall. Turn left and you will see the Anglian Tower directly in front of you. Beyond the tower is an excavated area of the Danish ramparts, with plaques at different levels showing how the city's defences developed over the centuries.



Credits:

<https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/lookout-tower-haut-koenigsbourg-castle-outside-alsace-france-ch%C3%A2teau-du-k%C5%93nigsbourg-medieval-fortress-round-close-up-orschwiller-158507559.jpg>

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