

CABOT TOWER, BRANDON HILL, BRISTOL

The tower, a grade II Listed building, which stands atop a medieval fortification, is a commemorative public viewing tower built between 1896 and 1898 as a monument to the 400th anniversary of John Cabot's voyage from Bristol to America in 1497.

It was closed to the public in November 2007 due to health and safety fears after cracks started spreading in the tower's masonry. The cracks appeared on all faces of the tower at high level extending from under the lower balcony to the roof of the octagonal upper tower in the balconies, ballustrades and arches.



Investigations by English Heritage showed that the cracks were caused by severe corrosion in the steelwork set in the concrete floor slabs of the tower's viewing platforms.

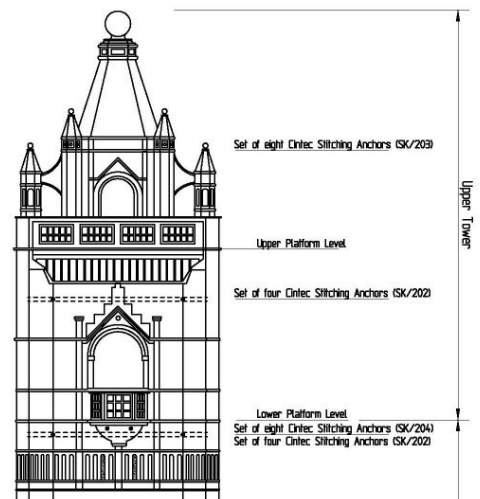


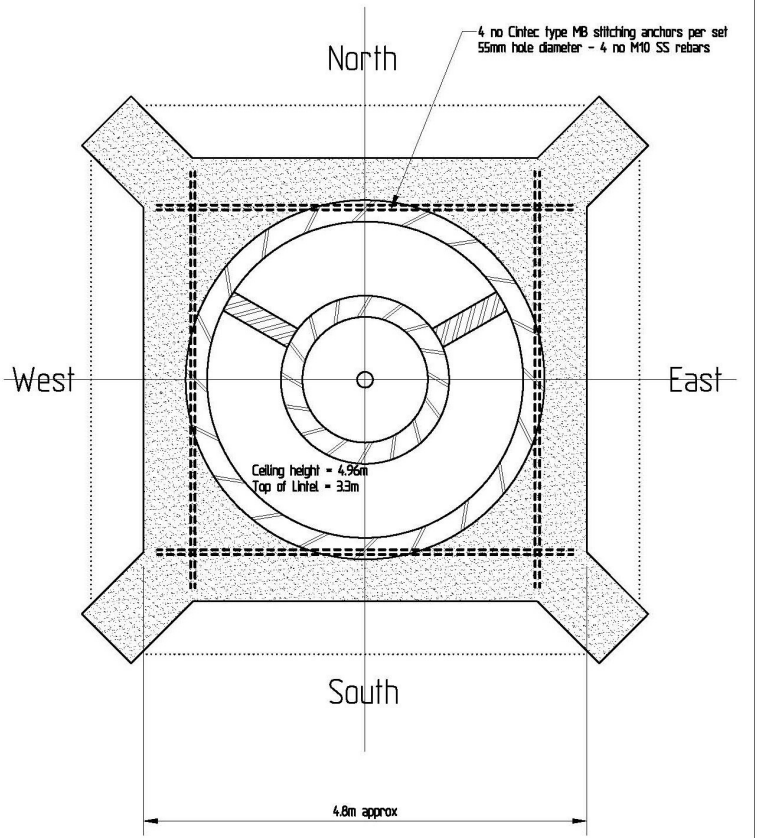
The grant from English Heritage helped fund vital repairs including rebuilding and reinforcing the concrete floors, stabilisation work above the lower balcony arch and stonework repairs and the clamping of steel-

Falcon and Partners Structural Engineers from Cheddar were appointed to devise a sympathetic and functional system of restoration the structural integrity of the tower in order for it to re-open to the public who would again have access to ascend the to the balconies at high level .

After a full survey and in-situ investigations to determine the scope and extent of the work required a scheme was approved by English Heritage. This consisted of removing all corroded steel beams and replacing the stair tread supports with stainless steel beams.

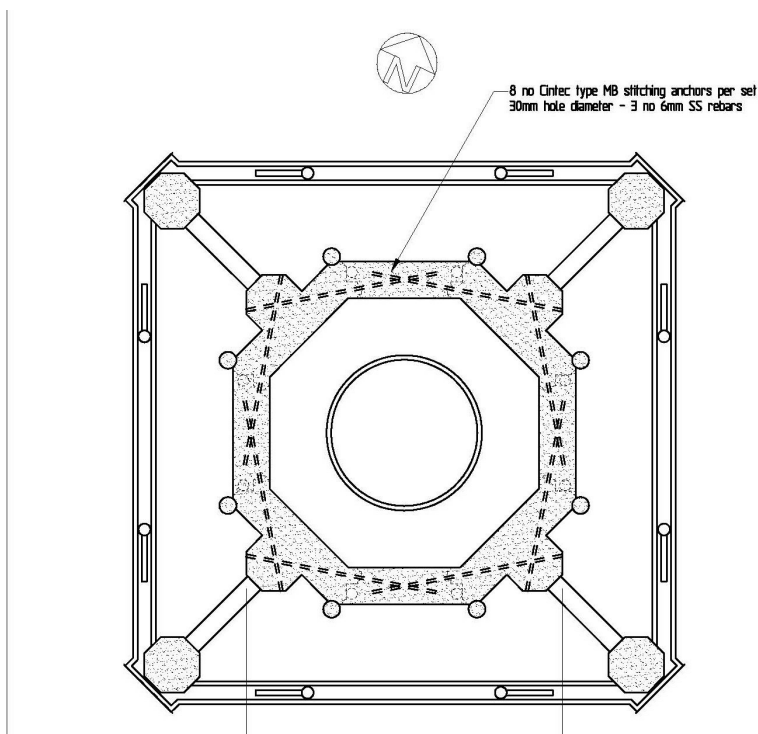
Prior to any other work being carried out the whole tower needed insertion of Cintec anchors to the main walls and balconies to create a stable structure.





Once fully scaffolded work was able to commence on the anchor installation which was performed by Falcon Structural Repairs of Bristol.

Sets of Cintec Multi-bar anchors up to 4.80m long were installed in each of the four external walls at various specific heights plus further sets through the inner walls which enclosed the spiral staircase.



Working space was very confined but the project was completed on time with a successful outcome as Cabot Tower is one of Bristol's best-known landmarks and one that has attracted city residents and visiting tourists for many years. It is an iconic building providing an important link to Bristol's rich maritime history.