

Jewel Tower FINAL Interpretation Plan



Curatorial Department
2012/13

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I. INTRODUCTION

I.1 Site summary and context of the plan

The Jewel Tower is a three storey building lying opposite the Houses of Parliament in the heart of London. It was built around 1365 to house Edward III's personal treasure as part of the palace at Westminster, and is one of the few buildings from this complex to survive today. In the 17th century, the Jewel Tower became the record office for the Houses of Lords and from 1869, it was the home of the Weights and Measures office, which set standards used across the British Empire. The site came under the guardianship of the Ministry of Works in 1948 and English Heritage in 1984.

The current interpretation provided on site consists of two exhibitions, one installed in 1992 by the curatorial team at the Houses of Parliament, which tells the history of Parliament, and one installed by an English Heritage team in 2004 focussing on the history of the Jewel Tower. The former in particular is severely outdated. In 2012, it was agreed that an Interpretation Plan to re-display the Jewel Tower would be written and implemented. This document sets out how to interpret the site in order to present its stories in engaging and accessible ways.

I.2 Project team

The contributors to this document are as follows:

| | |
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The following people have also been consulted and provided support to the project:

| | |
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2. HISTORY OF THE SITE

2.1 Summary

The Jewel Tower was built around 1365 to house King Edward III's treasury and the office of its administrators. It was added to the south-west corner of the palace of Westminster within the walls of its enclosure, as part of the Privy Palace. The Jewel Tower is the only surviving element of the Privy Palace, the rest of which was destroyed by fire in 1512, and it is one of only four elements surviving from the whole of the palace of Westminster. It served as a base for the king's Privy Wardrobe until the 16th century. In 1621 it was adapted for use by the Parliament Office, serving as the record office for the House of Lords. After 1716, following a petition to repair its ruinous condition, the tower lost many of its medieval architectural elements and assumed its present appearance. Between 1867 and 1938, the Jewel Tower was the base for the Weights and Measures office. Following post-war conservation works and clearance of surrounding houses in Abingdon Street and Old Palace Yard, the Jewel Tower moat was re-excavated and a small garden laid out.

2.2 History of the building and important associations

The construction of the Jewel Tower was an important element of one of the most significant building projects in the 14th century: the renovation of the palace of Westminster under Edward III and subsequently Richard II. By the 1360s, the residential southern area of the palace had largely become separate from the more public areas to the north (occupied by the royal courts and the exchequer). It was in this area that the Jewel Tower came to be built, as an adjunct to the Privy Palace, to which it was connected by a small garden.



Reconstruction of the garden and fishpond in the L-shape of the Jewel Tower c. 1350-1370

The Jewel Tower was constructed as a base for the Privy Wardrobe, a branch of the royal household responsible for the acquisition, deployment and storage of royal property. Its construction in the 1360s reflects a shift in the operations of the Privy Wardrobe, previously based predominately in the Tower of London. The wardrobe organisation in the Tower had become increasingly specialised as an armoury and arsenal, and the creation of the Jewel Tower within the palace of Westminster represents a move to separate the non-military items within its care, specifically precious items of personal ornament, plate and textiles. These were henceforward to be kept in the Jewel Tower, under the care of administrators. The building retained this role into the 16th and possibly early 17th century.

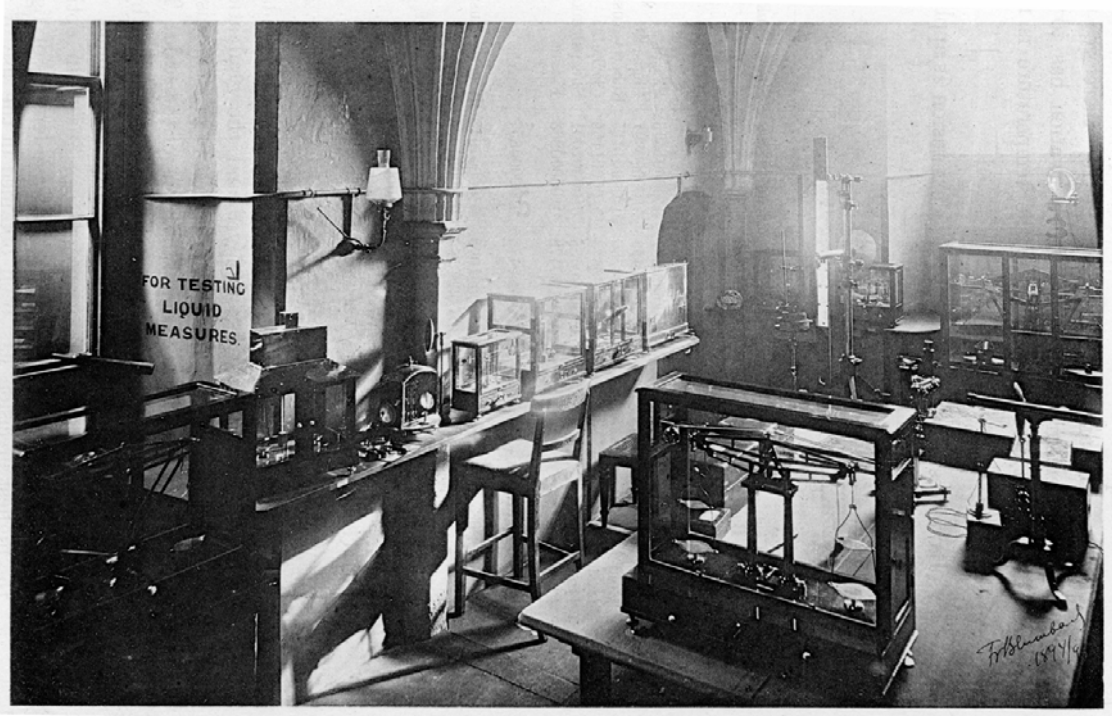
The medieval construction of the Jewel Tower is associated with two of the most important craftsmen in medieval England: the master mason Henry Yevele (better known for rebuilding the naves of Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral, a leading exponent of design in the Perpendicular style) and the master carpenter Hugh Herland, whose masterpiece was the hammer-beam roof of Westminster Hall.

The function of the building changed over time. Even in the later Middle Ages and under the Tudors, its function as a repository for precious goods was down-graded: this became particularly notable after the accession of Edward VI in 1547. Recent research for the *History of Parliament* has called into question the existing narrative, in which the Jewel Tower became a residence in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, until the year 1621, when Henry Elsyng, newly appointed as clerk of the parliaments, secured the use of the Jewel Tower as storage for the records, and procured works to adapt the building for this purpose. It is now clear that this was a development already long under way: before 1599, the tower housed both the records and their keeper, and from that year, a new timber-framed extension was added to the eastern side of the tower as a house for the keeper. From 1621, the use of the tower as the parliamentary record store was consolidated – the smaller room on the first floor received a brick vault and an iron door, improvements in fire-protection and security. In the 1660s, the moat around the Jewel Tower was filled in: the process of in-filling the space around the Jewel Tower with other buildings continued throughout this period, only being reversed in the second half of the twentieth century.

Later alterations to the record office in the Jewel Tower are also attributed to figures of great significance: Nicholas Hawksmoor, Sir Christopher Wren and Sir John Vanburgh are all documented as contributing to the works in the early eighteenth century. This period saw the transformation of the external appearance of the building, with the reconstruction of all the medieval windows in modern forms (though preserving the medieval window embrasures internally). At some stage, as yet unidentified, a stone vault was added over the larger room on the first floor. The Jewel Tower, by being physically separate from the main body of the palace of Westminster, was undamaged by the fire of 1834 that destroyed much of the historic complex: this also contributed to the survival of the records stored in the tower. The new palace buildings incorporated record storage in the Victoria Tower, directly opposite the Jewel Tower: the Parliamentary records were installed there in 1864 and have remained there since.

As the base (between 1867 and 1938) for the Weights and Measures office, the Jewel Tower was the centre from which the imperial system was spread around the world. In 1941, the Jewel Tower suffered damage during an air raid: much of the original roof

structure was lost to fire. From 1948, the Ministry of Works repaired the building for display as an Ancient Monument. In the 1950s and 1960s, landscaping works took place around the outside, including the re-excitation of the moat. Formerly filled with water, this was finally re-drained in the late 1990s, on account of poor water quality.



The ground floor of the Jewel Tower in 1897 when it housed the Weights and Measures office

2.3 Description and features

The Jewel Tower was built as an L-shaped tower at the south-western corner of the enclosure of the Palace of Westminster. It contains three storeys of similar layout, with one large rectangular room (running north-south) and a smaller space projecting from the south-east corner. The external walling of dressed Kentish ragstone is essentially from the original construction of the 1360s: other stones include Beer stone and Caen for other dressings. It is notable that the outward-facing stonework (on the south and west sides) is more finely dressed than the masonry of the eastern sides, that formerly faced into the palace garden. The original foundations of elm-piles, discovered during 20th-century excavations, were replaced in 1954 with concrete underpinning. The large windows represent 18th-century replacements of the medieval originals, remodelled externally but internally retaining their medieval rere-arches: the iron-work is also thought to date to the early 18th century. The brick parapet and capping to the spiral stair date, like the windows, to 1718. Stubs of masonry indicate the former continuation of masonry to the north and south-east, showing the relationship between the tower and the medieval boundary wall of the palace. The moat, now dry and gravel-bottomed, was originally fed by a canal from the Thames to the south-east of the tower: the medieval stone revetment of the moat still survives in its lower courses.

The interior of the building retains many medieval features, most notably the tierceron vault of the ground floor, with fine sculpted bosses incorporating floriate and foliate ornament and grotesque human heads. On all floors, the internal dressings of doors,

fireplaces and windows have survived relatively unaltered from the Middle Ages, though most of the internal walling is obscured by modern render. The upper floors contain evidence for alterations made in 1621 to protect against fire (when the tower was fitted up to serve as a record store): features include the brick vault over the smaller room on the first floor, the brick partition dividing this room from the main space, and the metal door in a stone frame, bearing the date of 1621. The stone vault over the main first-floor room probably dates to the 1750s.

On the second floor, the entrance door (originally the inner of two doors leading from the stair) is thought to date to the 14th century. The roof structure is largely a replacement of the mid-20th century, after the loss of the medieval roof to an incendiary bomb in 1941.

2.4 Points of significance

Using the terms of Conservation Principles, the major significances of the Jewel Tower may be considered in the following terms. The evidential value of the Jewel Tower is relatively minor: these points are best addressed under Historical (Illustrative) value below.

Historical

The Jewel Tower has great historical significance as one of the four surviving structures of the historic palace of Westminster, until 1512 the central residence of the English Crown. Of the four surviving elements, this is the only one regularly accessible to the public.

Through its later use as a record office for Parliament, the Jewel Tower is associated with an internationally significant institution, viewed both in the UK and in several other parts of the world as the root of other parliamentary democracies and legal traditions.

The Jewel Tower illustrates early work of two important royal builders, Henry Yevele and Hugh Herland, who later worked on other buildings of very great significance, notably the renewal of Westminster Hall.

Though there is little or no explicit information concerning the detailed use of individual spaces during the Middle Ages, the Jewel Tower is broadly illustrative of medieval treasuries: this information can be amplified through comparison with other surviving contemporary structures including the Pyx Chamber in Westminster Abbey and the White Tower in the Tower of London.

The use of spaces in the 17th and 18th centuries is easier to trace, being comparatively well documented and visible through changes to the standing fabric of the building.

The use of the Jewel Tower by the office of Weights and Measures is of relatively minor interest compared with its previous functions, but is potentially of wide quirky interest, and certainly relates to another internationally important institution, whose influence spread throughout the British Empire.

On present knowledge, the Jewel Tower has direct associations only with a few individuals, many of them only well known to specialists: these include the medieval craftsmen Hugh Herland and Henry Yevele and the 18-century architects Wren, Hawksmoor and Vanbrugh. The story of the death of William Ussheborne, poisoned by a pike caught in the moat, is memorable and worth telling.

Aesthetic

The basic shape of the Jewel Tower and many of its features are plain and functional, although the building in its present form undoubtedly makes a positive contribution to the visual amenity of the immediate area. (In this capacity, its exterior often appears on TV as the backdrop to political interviews held on the lawn to the south).

Internally, the tierceron vault of the main ground-floor room is of high quality and its carved bosses, though relatively hard to appreciate, are very fine.

The Jewel Tower contains one set of artefacts of high aesthetic (as well as historical) value: these are the historiated capitals recovered in the 19th century during restoration of Westminster Hall, and dated to the construction of that building in the 1090s.

Communal

As a publicly accessible part of the historic palace of Westminster, the building is potentially of great interest, although the shortcomings of its displays have militated against this.

The shop and particularly the coffee-making facilities and tables on the ground floor are undeniably a useful local amenity, although few would argue that they show the important medieval interior to its best advantage.

Presentation regime

The Jewel Tower is generally overlooked by tourists, but provides an important reminder of the extent of the medieval palace of Westminster. The building is generally presented as the setting for didactic displays. The re-flooding of the moat in 1963 proved unsuccessful (owing to water-leakage), but the revival of this element should be considered, as an important visual and interpretative amenity to the site.

Deficiencies in access for wheelchair users and disabled visitors have been resolved externally but, internally, are inherent in the form of spiral staircase to the upper floors and steps into rooms. Otherwise the building has evidence of minor wear and tear which requires routine maintenance to keep in check.

More recently, the Jewel Tower has seen damage to its lead downpipes: this is being repaired at the time of writing (July 2012).

3.3 Conservation issues

The survey draws particular attention to the following defects:

1. Patched splits in main roof leadwork could point to significant lead detailing defects requiring further investigation.
2. Related repointing to head of lead cover flashes to roof leadwork and localised repoint of parapet copings.
3. Vertical crack visible down internal face of east wing wall extends full height of building historic to be subject to further investigation by a Structural Engineer.
4. Numerous fine cracks within the lime floor screed on the first and second floors which suggest minor movement or shrinkage to be subject to further investigation by a Structural Engineer.
5. Minor rust to window stays requiring maintenance redecoration.
6. Periodic replacement of worn non-slip strips adhered to stair treads is required and, in the long term the stone steps themselves will require selective repair.
7. The spiral staircase and up and over door thresholds restrict access for disabled visitors and staff to the ground floor of the building. A small portable ramp is provided to get over the entrance door threshold. However, there are no practical measures that can be taken without unacceptable alteration to the building.
8. The Jewel Tower is bounded by a dry pebbled moat about 1.5m deep on its south, west and north sides. The moat is guarded by the broad wall head, in good condition, which stands about 450mm high. The wall head is lower along the south, west and north sides of the moat but is guarded by warning signs. However, it is to be noted that the area around the Palace of Westminster, including the Jewel Tower, is subject to a high level of surveillance which inhibits misbehaviour.
9. The York Stone paved path that runs adjacent to the moat on the south side has some unevenness which should be rectified within the limits that are acceptable for a heritage site of this nature.

10. There is a good new sloping path with bonded gravel surface which provides wheelchair and disabled access to the Jewel Tower and avoids the steps down from the main pavement.
11. The small shop store and restroom with toilet is very cramped and could be made more spacious if better racking and storage could be provided for stock, brochures and other English Heritage material which is also stored in the room.

3.4 Parameters for new interpretation

As a relatively plain building, much of whose fabric is robust, the Jewel Tower offers relatively wide potential for different interpretative media. The principal constraints are:

1. The sensitivities of a scheduled ancient monument, particularly the need to avoid intrusive or damaging fixings into historic fabric, and to ensure that any new installations respect significant vistas around and within the building. The most important of these are the exteriors (all of them, but particularly the westward view from the road and from the garden below it), and the main room on the ground floor. All of the internal spaces have recently contained substantial installations: that on the ground floor is arguably intrusive, but those on the upper floors have been accepted and may legitimately be replaced.
2. The level of provision of power, security, disabled access and internal environmental controls acts as a limiting factor in the scope of interpretation.

4. COLLECTIONS

4.1 Summary of collections

This chapter is concerned with those collections within the Jewel Tower and in store that are under English Heritage management, rather than those objects that form part of the current exhibition installed and maintained by Parliament on the first floor.

The collections of historic objects associated with the Jewel Tower comprises of four main categories – Archaeology, Architecture, Images, Weights and Measures.

Archaeology

There are over 400 recorded archaeological objects associated with the Jewel Tower. The majority of these consist of animal bone, wood and iron fragments which are not suitable for display and do not contribute anything to the understanding of the site and its history. There are also a significant number of ceramic finds, mostly fragmentary but some near complete examples. See appendix iii for examples of these.

The best items from the archaeology collections are already on display at the Jewel Tower and should be included in the new interpretation proposal as they illustrate the wealth of material culture left behind as detritus by the medieval population. These objects are listed below:

| Number | Description | Date | Size | Image |
|----------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|--|
| 78209040 | Fragment of drinking fountain | ? | 33mm |  |
| 78209071 | Delftware drug jar | ? | 31mm | |
| 78209072 | Delftware drug jar | ? | 67mm | |
| 78209073 | Delftware drug jar | ? | 56mm | |
| 78209126 | Sword | c.800 | 900mm | |

Architecture

These collections consist of a set of wooden pilings and a series of stone capitals. The wooden pilings are currently situated in the large outer room on the second floor and should be displayed in the section of the redisplay that considers the building phases of the Jewel Tower. The stone capitals are currently situated on the ground floor in the high level alcove case. These need to be included in the redisplay as they can illustrate the important relationship between the Jewel Tower and the rest of the medieval Palace of Westminster. They should be moved from their current position to take a more prominent role in the display and so that they can be more closely inspected by visitors. The pilings and capitals are shown below:



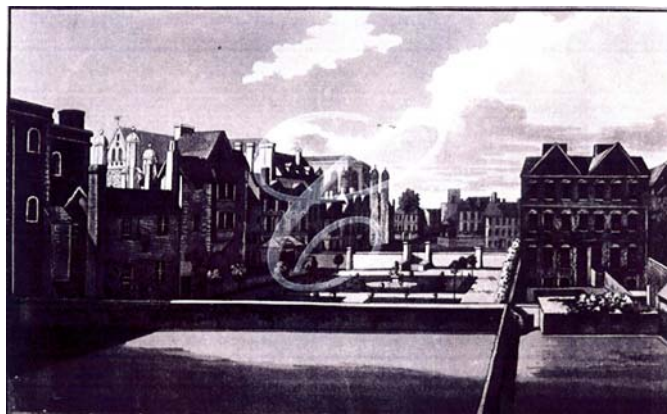
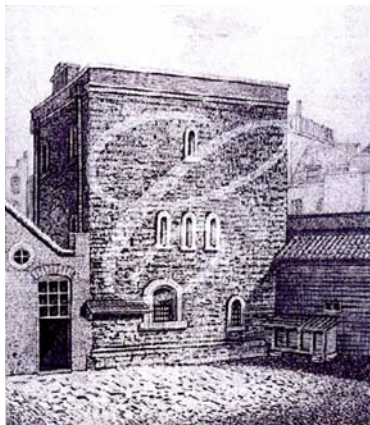
There is also another stone capital on loan to us from the Museum of London, referred to as the Westminster Capital, which may also be included. This is currently stored at Ranger's House and is shown below:



There are also some other architectural pieces from parts of the medieval palace of Westminster currently held by the Estates team at Parliament which may also be included in this display, subject to further investigation.

Images

The parliamentary collections hold a vast range of images of the palace of Westminster as a whole that occasionally show glimpses of the Jewel Tower. It is possible to use reproductions of these hung in frames on the walls of the Jewel Tower, but not to hang original objects as the environmental conditions are unknown at present. However, there is scope to acquire two display cases from Wrest Park that should be suitable and secure/airtight enough to allow the display of some original prints in these, if they add to the illustration of the building phases of the Palace as a whole and how the Jewel Tower fits into this. There are several attractive prints and engravings held at the London Metropolitan Archives which are of interest and could be either borrowed (depending on conditions) or used in reproduction form. A selection of these is shown below:



Weights and Measures

At present there is a display of weights and measures in the small inner room of the second floor of the Jewel Tower. The majority of these are on loan to us from the Science Museum, and as they form quite a large striking display it would be beneficial to retain the loan of these, but to relocate this part of the history of the Jewel Tower to the ground floor room where we have photographic evidence of this area being used for weights and measures at the turn of the 20th century. The objects currently on display are shown below:



If the stone capitals are relocated from the high level alcove case, this area could be used for the new display of weights and measures. However, there would have to be some provision of steps up to a viewing platform to be able to see these objects properly and the access issues and cost of this structure are to be considered.

This theme could be properly explained, expanded on and illustrated by the use of several items of weights and measures that have recently been acquired by English Heritage from Bromley Council. As these were gifted without condition it is also possible that some of the smaller items could be used as a handling collection for school groups or as part of an interactive. A selection of these objects is shown below:



English Heritage also has access to images of prosecution books from the 1930s onwards which detail various fines and convictions of individuals who have flouted weights and measures legislation which can be used to explain the importance of the objects.

4.2 Collections conservation

Environment

There is currently no environmental control within the property. A few stand-alone radiators are put out during winter to increase the temperature for human comfort. Despite this, temperatures within the building generally follow the external temperature trend, with low temperatures of under 10°C in winter and highs of up to 25°C in summer. Over the year the relative humidity (RH) varies between 35 and 80%. There are occasions where there have been fluctuations of over 30% with a 48 hour period.

Archaeology

The archaeological objects on the second floor are displayed in a modern desktop showcase. The display is passively controlled using silica gel and the case is well-sealed. This set up provides buffering from the extremes and fluctuations of RH in the room environment.

Architecture

The display of stone capitals on the ground floor was redone approximately four years ago. They have been cleaned and checked once since then and no problems were noted but access to them is difficult due to their location. Any new display should ensure that they are suitably mounted (to ensure they are stable) and should be out of easy reach to avoid the public touching them. Extra man power may be needed to move the stone capitals to a new location. The wooden pilings show no signs of deterioration in their current location but may need to be re-mounted if moved.

Images

Any new loan objects are likely to bring with them the demand for tight environmental control. At present it is very unlikely that we would be able to secure loans for open display within the Jewel Tower, however it would be possible to create microclimates within showcases which have conditions acceptable to lenders. This would also provide an addition level of security. Until any loan conditions are known it is not possible to say for certain what control will be necessary. If loan objects are light sensitive objects light levels in the areas of display would need to be reduced which may mean stopping daylight from entering parts of the building. There is frequently a stipulation within loan agreements that environmental data be provided to the lending institution during the loan. This may require more sensors than at present.

As high specification showcases are expensive it may be possible to make use of two spare cases from Wrest Park. It should be noted that these cases are bulky and are designed to sit in table like plinths (adding a considerable amount to the dimensions of the cases). The large size and weight of these cases could be prohibitive in manoeuvring them up the spiral staircase and positioning them on higher floors if there are concerns about weight loading, therefore this will need a full investigation. It is also thought that these plinths have holes for shelves and writing relating to a previous exhibition and so may need refinishing before use. There is space for passive environmental control within the cases but if this is not sufficient to control the environment in the cases when they are in the Jewel Tower, the cases and plinths will need to be altered to allow mechanical control units (such as dehumidifiers) to be incorporated.

Libraries and archives often put in place restrictions on light exposure for sensitive objects. This can not only take the form of limiting light levels but also the length of time an object is on display for. It is common for loans only to be agreed for six month durations and this will need to be explored further.

Weights and Measures

The weights and measures are on a plinth and shelves which have been fitted into a recess in the wall and there is a framed glass sheet fitted in front of the recess. There is no environmental control in this area and the wall is friable and spalling, leaving debris on the objects and plinth. A few years ago areas of corrosion were noticed on a number of the copper alloy measures. It is unclear whether this developed during their display in the Jewel Tower. With the consent of the lender the corrosion was removed and all objects in the case cleaned. There has not been any problem with corrosion reoccurring over the past two years. An English Heritage conservator cleans and condition checks the objects annually. The glass front is unwieldy and difficult to move due to its size, weight and method of fixing to the wall.

As the weights and measures currently on display are on loan to English Heritage, any movement or change in display of the items will have to be agreed with the lender, as they may stipulate tighter environmental and security controls than at present. At present there are no mounts for the weights and measures. Some blocks of Plastazote foam have been added in recent years to provide support for hinged cases displayed open and to reduce abrasion and pressure between objects which are displayed on top of one another. This is adequate for the stability of the objects with the current display but in a new display configuration further support may be needed and/or the foam may not be aesthetically pleasing. The need to access and clean these objects annually also needs to be taken into consideration.



Display case currently in the Jewel Tower showing archaeological finds from the Westminster area

5. AUDIENCES

5.1 Visitor numbers

Visitor figures to the Jewel Tower for the past five years reveal a fairly consistent flow, averaging around 30,000 per annum.

| JEWEL TOWER | Yr2007/08 | Yr2008/09 | Yr2009/10 | Yr2010/11 | Yr2011/12 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Site admissions adult (A7000)(Statistics) | 6,111 | 5,607 | 5,707 | 4,829 | 4,520 |
| Concession Admissions (A7002)(Statistics) | 1,817 | 1,742 | 1,536 | 1,507 | 1,265 |
| Site admissions - Child (A7004)(Statistics) | 684 | 513 | 571 | 436 | 468 |
| Group Admissions (A7006)(Statistics) | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Overseas Pass Admissions (A7008)(Statistics) | 341 | 304 | 324 | 446 | 505 |
| GBH Admissions (A7011)(Statistics) | 876 | 524 | 590 | 399 | 232 |
| Regional Discount Cards (A7014)(Statistics) | 5,575 | 6,851 | 9,032 | 8,500 | 10,845 |
| Total Paying Site Visitors | 15,417 | 15,541 | 17,760 | 16,117 | 17,835 |
| Schools Admissions (A7007)(Statistics) | 2,869 | 2,298 | 2,233 | 2,506 | 1,654 |
| Member Admissions (A7009)(Statistics) | 2,802 | 3,009 | 3,236 | 4,311 | 4,054 |
| Other Free Admissions (A7010)(Statistics) | 8,806 | 8,118 | 8,628 | 8,248 | 5,769 |
| Total Non-Paying Site Visitors | 14,477 | 13,425 | 14,097 | 15,065 | 11,477 |
| ADMISSIONS (ADMSN) (Statistics) | 29,894 | 28,966 | 31,857 | 31,182 | 29,312 |

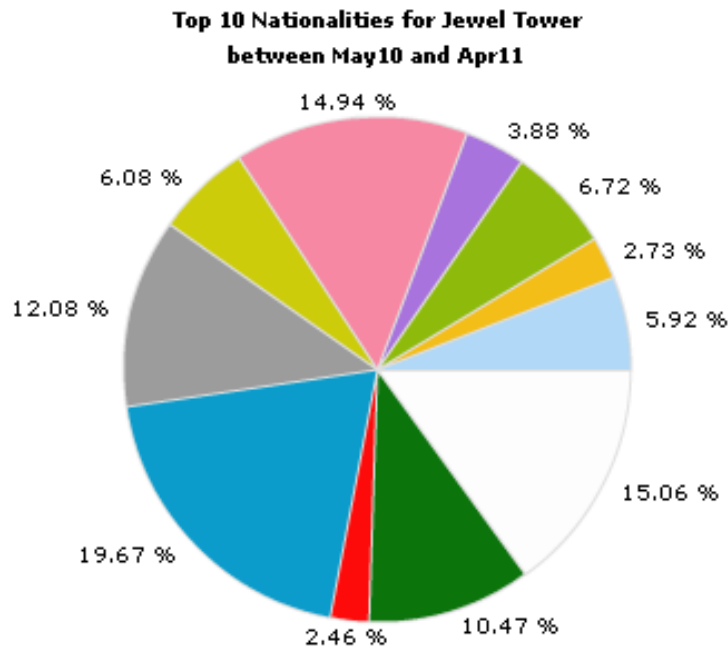
5.2 Analysis

The Jewel Tower visitors are mainly adults, members and pass holders. It is not a site that attracts a large amount of family visitors and the lack of toilet facilities, car parking, and access issues prohibit the site from being marketed as such. However it is likely some child visitors are 'hidden' in other categories.

'Other Free Admissions' represent those visitors that gain free entry after a tour of the Houses of Parliament, including school groups. Generally tours of Parliament run most week days and on Saturdays. During summer, a temporary ticket stall is held in the neighbouring 7 Old Palace Yard building where UK and non-UK visitors can buy tickets for a tour, which helps boost visitor figures to the Jewel Tower as people congregate around the area. Foreign language tours of Parliament in French, German, Italian and Spanish are also available at certain times.

Around a third of visitors to the Jewel Tower are 'Regional Discount Visitors' which are Great British Heritage pass users (now discontinued) and those using the London Pass. The latter allows both domestic and international tourists to pay up front for a pass covering 1, 2, 3 or 6 days which then allows free entry to over 55 attractions in and around London during this period. The list consists of cultural attractions- mostly museums, art galleries and historic buildings such as Windsor Castle and Kensington Palace.

Anecdotally, visitors for whom English is not their first language represent a great deal of current visitors to the Jewel Tower- possibly as much as half. A sense of what languages are spoken by these visitors can be gained by looking at a breakdown of visitors provided by the London Pass company:



Key:

- 19.67 % - International
- 15.06 % - Other
- 14.94 % - Germany
- 10.47 % - United Kingdom
- 12.08 % - United States
- 6.72 % - Italy
- 6.08 % - Spain
- 5.92 % - France
- 3.88 % - Australia
- 2.73 % - Canada
- 2.46 % - Austria

The main non-English speaking groups correlate to those at Parliament - French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Visitor survey

A visitor survey was conducted at the Jewel Tower over the course of June and July 2012. Site staff asked visitors to fill in the survey before or after their visit. It aimed to get a sense of why visitors had come to the Jewel Tower and their thoughts on a new exhibition. There were 35 completed questionnaires and the main trends were as follows:

- Over 70% of the respondents were aged 46+

- Around 50% of visitors had visited the Houses of Parliament either before or after their visit to the Jewel Tower
- The vast majority respondents would prefer the new exhibition to cover the history of the Jewel Tower and the lost palace of Westminster, rather than how Parliament works today. Giving a sense of what the Jewel Tower looked like in the past was slightly favoured, with panels/images and interactive elements not far behind.

(see appendix ii for full breakdown of results and visitor comments)

Another key trend noted by site staff is that many visitors are attracted into the site at the prospect of a drink and as a place to relax but do not pay admission to see the rest of the building. Converting these café-users into paying visitors is something that the new interpretation will seek to address.

5.3 Education visits

In 2011-12, 1654 education visitors came to the Jewel Tower. More than 80% of visitors also have a visit to the Houses of Parliament (see appendix v for a summary of education visits to Parliament). All education groups who undertake educational work onsite are eligible to visit the Jewel Tower through the free entry scheme: this usually involves the group leader contacting the education booking team to arrange a visit two weeks in advance. They are then emailed a permit which is presented on the day to gain free entry. This permit also allows free entry for teachers making a preliminary visit in advance.

However since most groups have the visit to Parliament as their main focus, the visit to the Jewel Tower is often seen as an 'add-on' and they do not always arrange a permit in advance. They sometimes visit ad-hoc, completing the booking form retrospectively. This means that we do not have an accurate picture of the education visitor demographic to Jewel Tower. Anecdotally, there tends to be a spread across different age groups and also a large number of international visitors.

Consultation with teachers and HE group leaders has revealed that there is a lot of reading in the current interpretation and that it can be difficult to hold the attention of the group. They would prefer a specific focus on the history of the Jewel Tower and images of the palace layout. Trips to the Jewel Tower were often combined with visiting the Houses of Parliament or Westminster Abbey.

Education groups can download Hazard Information sheets to assist them in making their own risk assessments and a Site Information Sheet about the Jewel Tower. There is also a teacher's kit available for download although this is quite outdated.

For families, there are two activity sheets, 'Children's Guide and Activity Sheet' (see appendix iv) and 'Design a roof boss'. There is also a story sack with props for children to act out the story ('Henry's Adventure at the Jewel Tower'). This is currently in storage since it was not being used. It focuses on the Jewel Tower as a store for the King's treasures.

Learning opportunities

The Jewel Tower has no obvious links to the history curriculum. However, since most groups tend to visit as part of a wider experience around Westminster, it is probably more useful to focus on skills based learning. For example, this could involve viewing the Jewel Tower as a historical source to investigate what it was used for by examining the architecture, displays and interior. Plans, pictures and images would allow children to compare and discover how the building has changed over the years. Activities that place the Jewel Tower in the history of London and the palace of Westminster would also be relevant to many visiting groups. Since many different ages visit the tower, on-site activities should focus on younger groups such as KS2 who may not find the building so accessible. On-site activities could focus on the exterior of the building as well as the interior giving larger groups the opportunity to split in half to look at the inside and outside of Jewel Tower. Since the visit time is rarely more than 30 minutes, a couple of simple activities would be ample.

Since few groups book the Jewel Tower in advance, any resources for use on-site would need to be simple, clear and allow the teacher to use them immediately without requiring prior knowledge and planning. Post-visit resources would most useful. These could include a short 'reminder' history of the Jewel Tower with resources such as images of the interior and exterior, a map of the medieval palace of Westminster, and be distributed on a memory stick or DVD for groups to take away.

5.4 Neighbouring attractions

The borough of Westminster contains a cluster of hugely popular tourist attractions at the heart of London, all within a short walking distance from each other. The main other historic/visitor attractions nearby to the Jewel Tower are:

- **Houses of Parliament**
In 2011, a total of 280,000 people took a guided tour of Parliament. These last 75 minutes and broadly cover the history of the site, the art and architecture and how politics works today. All visitors get free entry to the Jewel Tower as part of their visit, which is advertised with their confirmation email/ticket.
- **Westminster Abbey**
Westminster Abbey attracts over 1 million visitors a year. It is one of the most popular visitor attractions in London, particularly due to its associations with royalty. Interpretation is provided by audio guides and guided tours.
- **Churchill War Rooms**
Attracting around 300,000 visitors per year, the Churchill War Rooms allow visitors to see the rooms where Churchill and his ministers met during the Second World War. These rooms are complemented by a modern and interactive museum about Churchill.
- **Buckingham Palace**
Around 15 minutes walk from the Jewel Tower lies Buckingham Palace. The state rooms are open to the public each year for most of the summer months, attracting around 400,000 visitors. The changing of the guard particularly draws

large crowds. Interpretation is largely provided through exhibitions, audio guides and special tours.

- **Banqueting House**

Managed by Historic Royal Palaces, Banqueting House is the last complete surviving building of another lost royal palace, the palace of Whitehall. Interpretation is currently provided by audio guide but there are plans to move away from using the site as a venue for events and to re-open to the public as a fully interpreted property.

There are also two English Heritage properties in close proximity to Jewel Tower: Wellington Arch (around 33,000 visitors per annum) and Apsley House (around 42,000), both of which are also included as attractions on the London Pass.

There are no immediate analogues to the Jewel Tower in the English Heritage National Collection. There are other small towers of comparable size such as Longthorpe Tower and Marmion Tower but these have little in common with the Jewel Tower in date or function. The closest parallel is with the nearby Chapter House at Westminster Abbey, whose basement (not part of the National Collection) and the Pyx Chamber were used as part of the treasure-store of the royal wardrobe, and subsequently for the secure storage of state papers.



Aerial view of Westminster, with the L-shaped Jewel Tower sitting behind 7 Palace Yard in between Westminster Abbey and the Houses of the Parliament

5.5 Target audiences

Drawing upon all the information above, coupled with the knowledge and experience of the visitor operations and marketing teams, the following groups have been identified as the primary audiences for the new interpretation:

- Culture seekers: Adult, ABC I
- Members (culture seekers segment)
- Foreign-language speaking tourists (French, German, Italian, Spanish)

Primary geographic targets:

- London
- South-East

These visitors, especially members and those on the London Pass, are likely to be Culture Seekers (as identified in the English Heritage Customer Segmentation research). This group visit historic sites, museums and galleries to indulge their own personal interest, have a keen interest in heritage and history and are motivated by learning and discovering new things.

Foreign tourists are likely to use these passes as they offer a convenient way of 'ticking off' as many attractions as possible in a short period of time. They are unlikely to have a great deal of specific knowledge of English political history and may have more of a general interest in English heritage and London's past. They are attracted to the Parliamentary site due its iconic status and Westminster Abbey with its royal associations but likely to have little understanding of the Parliamentary site, other than as the seat of the modern British government.

As a World Heritage Site, the Jewel Tower needs to be as accessible to all as far as possible, both intellectually and physically, and the approach should also be inclusive to younger visitors and take into account different learning styles.

6. EXISTING INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

6.1 Audit of current interpretation

Arrival

The Jewel Tower lies near the centre of the London borough of Westminster, opposite the Victoria Tower of the Palace of Westminster. Most visitors arrive by foot, having travelled to the area by the London Underground, as there is no parking provided on site. Signage directs visitors towards the Houses of Parliament but none specifically to the Jewel Tower.

There are two guardianship panels, one opposite the Victoria Tower on Abingdon Street and one behind 7 Old Palace Yard, a large building that obscures the view of the Jewel Tower. These guardianship panels will need to be updated for the next financial year as they will show images of the old exhibition (to be funded by Historic Properties). An 'A-board' is temporarily laid out every day on the green to draw visitors towards the partially hidden Jewel Tower, using images of the café to entice visitors inside.



There are two external interpretation panels outside the Jewel Tower. These were installed in 2008 and both are accurate and in good condition therefore there are no plans to replace them as part of this scheme.



Ground floor

The ground floor, first floor and second floor of the Jewel Tower are all open to the public. The roof is not accessible as it represents a healthy and safety issue, as well as a potential security threat to the Parliament buildings opposite.

Only the ground floor is fully accessible as a steep spiral staircase provides the only route upwards. There are currently no plans to provide DDA access to the site, however this space contains the vaulted ceiling which is the most visually appealing part of the building. There is also a small tea room offering light refreshments, a shop selling a selection of gifts and light snacks and the visitor admission desk.

At one end of this room, there is some interpretation and objects on display. Eight capitals from Westminster Hall are displayed in an alcove, together with an interpretation panel beneath which gives an outline history of the Jewel Tower and identifies features of the capitals.



First floor

This floor contains an exhibition on the history of Parliament, which was put in by a team from Parliament in 1992. The amount of panels and detail is overwhelming and the information is now outdated. The panels also contain audio numbers for a tour that no longer exists. There are several objects on display, including a bust of Oliver Cromwell, some speaker's robes and a model of St Stephen's chapel.



Second floor

On the upper floor, a smaller exhibition was installed in 2004 by an English Heritage team which focuses on the Jewel Tower's history. The weights and measures, display case of medieval finds and the original foundations as described above are all on display here, along with some benches for visitors and a booklet on Edward III created by site staff.



All the lighting in the Jewel Tower is integrated into the current exhibitions therefore the removal of these two displays will mean that a new lighting scheme (including emergency lighting) will need to be developed as part of this project.

6.2 Guidebook

The existing guidebook was written by Dr Arnold J Taylor, foremost historian of royal building in England and Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments. It was written in the 1960s and is extremely scholarly, with very densely written text that assumes a certain level of knowledge of medieval and modern government institutions. Dr Jeremy Ashbee is writing a new guidebook for the Red Guide series, to be produced in the Spring of 2013. This will be written in a more accessible style and illustrated more thoroughly. It will also make more of the objects formerly kept in the Jewel Tower.

6.3 Events

At present there are no events held on site because English Heritage national events strategy focuses on the top 45 properties nationwide. Large scale and frequent events would not be suitable in the Jewel Tower due to the lack of visitor facilities. Small evening receptions used to be held at the Jewel Tower but the site no longer holds the required license to serve alcohol due to access issues and its steep spiral staircase.

6.4 Website

The Jewel Tower has a single entry on the English Heritage website, giving basic visitor information. It currently does not have a Portico entry- it is hoped that this will be added in 2013.

7. INTERPRETATION PROPOSALS

7.1 Themes

It was agreed that the themes for the new interpretation should focus on the stories of the Jewel Tower itself, rather than the history of Parliament and explaining how it works today, as it was not felt appropriate to tell those stories in this space. However the new interpretation will use the stories of the Jewel Tower to explain wider themes of government, power and the role of the state to help place the Jewel Tower in the context of the parliamentary site.

Overarching theme:

The Jewel Tower is a precious survival of the ancient palace of Westminster, seat of government of the medieval and Tudor monarchs. Its changing role over 650 years reflects the shift in political power from monarchy to parliament.

Theme 1:

The Jewel Tower was built by Edward III and used by subsequent monarchs as a private treasure house and storage space.

Subthemes to communicate:

- How the Jewel Tower reflects the role, power and status of a king in medieval England
- Royalty and patronage in a medieval economy - gift giving
- Key figures such as Edward III, Henry Yevele and William Sleaford

Making connections with visitors: the practice of gift giving amongst more recent monarchs, the nature of storage and security today (banks, vaults etc), asking visitors where they keep their own treasured possessions.

Theme 2:

The building you can see today was once part of a much bigger royal palace, now lost.

Subthemes to communicate:

- Westminster as a seat of royal power - the private and public aspects of the palace which explains why parliament sits there today
- Extent and form of the medieval palace of Westminster, putting the Jewel Tower into context
- Features of the Jewel Tower and how changes to its fabric reflect the changing purpose of the building

How this relates to today's society: other royal palaces that have survived or have been lost, the changing landscape of Westminster and the parliamentary site today, what medieval Westminster looked, felt and smelt like.

Theme 3:

From the late sixteenth century until 1869, the Jewel Tower was the record office for the House of Lords, storing acts of Parliament, journals, maps and plans.

Subthemes to communicate:

- Reflection of the rise, importance and power of Parliament, and later their accountability to the electorate (linked to the law)
- Contained key documents that changed the course of British history
- The Jewel Tower as a working office and the clerks who worked there

Making connections with visitors: record keeping on an individual and professional level, as evidence of decision-making process and accountability, the acts of parliament that affected people's lives in the past (their taxes, education and health) just as today, the decline of royal power and rise of democracy.

Theme 4:

The Jewel Tower was the home of the Weights and Measures Office from 1869-1930, which was responsible for setting standards that were used across the British Empire.

Subthemes to communicate:

- Reflection of the increasing power and control of the state, domestically and internationally – uniting the empire
- An example of government decision-making affecting the lives of individuals
- How the original objects are linked to the site

Making connections with visitors: the modern day weights and measures office, fines and punishments from the past and today, the legacy of imperial vs. metric systems.

The interpretation will therefore show how the changing role of the Jewel Tower, sitting at the symbolic heart of government in Westminster, helps reflect the power and politics of this country.

7.2 Interpretation approach

This section sets out proposals to interpret the site in order to communicate the themes outlined above in effective ways. Each of the themes will make connections to visitor's own lives in order help them engage with the past on a meaningful level. For example, the interpretation will provoke visitors to think about their own precious items and to identify with a clerk whose office was at the Jewel Tower and how much of his working day consisted of sitting at a desk and writing reports and minutes, just as many office workers are familiar with today and as the current clerks of the house do for Parliament.

The stories of the Jewel Tower can best be told through the building itself. The interpretation will be aim to be visually appealing, atmospheric and interactive, appealing to audiences of different ages, learning styles and both English and non-English speaking visitors. The scheme will attempt to detangle the complex Westminster site and help visitors understand the importance of this 'forgotten' part of a lost Palace- and why its stories are relevant to visitors today. It will bring life and atmosphere back to a site that currently offers a very passive visitor experience.

7.3 The scheme

The new experience will encourage visitors to start at the top and work their way down as this will make for a chronological experience. However each section will be discrete in order to ensure that visitors who do not experience it in this order can understand the story.

I. GROUND FLOOR

The ground floor is the only fully accessible floor and therefore needs to provide as much of an experience as possible. It is also the place to tell some of the weights and measures story, as it is here that the only historic photograph of the building in use was taken.

The interpretation here should provide an introduction to the site, some sense of context and engage visitors. It should also aim to encourage those who only come into the building for refreshments to see the rest of the building- this could be done through images, quotes or prints on the walls and asking questions of visitors to provoke a response.

The interpretation will include:

Introductory graphic panel– giving an overall introduction to each phase of the tower's history but focussing on the ground floor in each period in particular (i.e. the vaulted ceiling/bosses as part of the story of the origin of the tower, its use in the time of the records office and then weights and measures with 1897 photograph of equipment in situ). This panel should also encourage visitors to start their visit on the top floor.

Timeline – highlighting the phases of the Jewel Tower within British political history, with some international events to contextualise for foreign visitors.

Display weights and measures in the display case where the capitals are currently held. A viewing platform will likely be required to allow visitors, especially children, to see some of the smaller objects, and clearly labelled interpretation of the objects will also be needed.

New lighting – highlighting the vaulted ceiling and individual sides of bosses if possible.



2. SECOND FLOOR

This is where visitors should be encouraged to start their visit by site staff. The themes covered here will be the origins of the Jewel Tower and the lost medieval palace of Westminster. On both floors of the Jewel Tower there is one large outer room and a smaller inner room (see appendix vi for a plan).

Outer room:

Graphics to communicate the themes set out above- using materials/designs inspired by the medieval theme.

Tags or **inventory book** for people to record their most treasured possessions and gifts they have received.

Display case with new labels containing objects from the Jewel Tower surrounds, helping illustrate the life of the medieval clerks who worked there.

Re-display **capitals**, on open display but high up on plinths so as to be out of reach and with explanatory labels. New **label** for foundations.

Model/interactive that demonstrates the Jewel Tower in context of the medieval palace of Westminster and how it fits into the parliamentary site today.

Possibly will include other objects from medieval palace of Westminster but this needs pursuing (space may be also be a consideration, especially if benches remain).

Smaller inner room:

Set dressing to give a sense of what the medieval Jewel Tower looked like. Likely to be in the reign of Richard II as we have good knowledge about his treasure. **Replica chests** with jewels/plate inside, and a **replica crown and robes** to try on (with mirror). Room also to contain triggered **audio**, depicting a scene of clerk receiving, weighing and recording gifts and then being visited by the king.



Pyx Chamber at Westminster Abbey containing chests dating from the 13th and 14th centuries which were also used to store royal treasure

FIRST FLOOR

This area will cover the themes of the Jewel Tower as a record store and the weights and measures office.

Outer room:

Graphics to communicate the themes, again inspired by the theme of the floor i.e. designed as records, text through open books etc.

One corner of the room to be a recreated 17th-century **clerk's office** i.e. desk, chair and items on desk. This could be a graphic instead of real objects. Opportunity for people to sit at desk and write up minutes from Parliament session (i.e. pen disguised as a quill).

Story of the clerk and their background– what was their daily life like compared to modern clerks – show differences/similarities, explain why record keeping is important, what the Jewel Tower stored, and why they were here.

Display case showing loaned prints of the Jewel Tower from 16th-19th century. If it is not possible to agree a loan item or conditions are unsuitable, reproductions can be used instead.

Handling station using original objects from weights and measures office, given to us by Bromley council. The small ones could be incorporated into an interactive that allows visitors to try and guess the fake weights.

Inner room:

'Dressed space' recreating the Jewel Tower as a record office c. 17th century. This should attempt to give a flavour of what the space looked like. It could be done using a large graphic on one wall, with the ends of rolls that are 3D/tactile. Ideally some rolls could be pulled out and read, using facsimiles of original records provided by the archives team at Parliament.



The Acts of Parliament as stored in the Victoria Tower at the Houses of Parliament today

Additional interpretation

- Room folders will be provided, with full translation of all exhibition text into French, German, Spanish and Italian
- The activity sheet currently provided on site will be updated in-house to reflect the new interpretation
- On-site and post-visit educational activities will be developed by a freelance specialist for Key Stage Two children
- A folder of all exhibition text and images will be provided at ground level for visitors unable to ascend the stairs

7.4 Maintenance

Parts of the proposed scheme will be subject to wear and tear, particularly the interactive elements. Attempts will be made to mitigate against this as far as possible. For example, not all of the replica items in the dressed medieval Jewel Tower space will be able to be handled and will likely be secured down. The facsimile rolls in the record office also likely to be attached to the exhibition in some way so they cannot be removed. If budget allows, it is hoped that spares of replicas can be ordered as part of this project.

The costs for any replacements or refurbishments that are required will be managed and paid for by the interpretation team. Conservation and Collections staff will advise the site staff on best practice for day-to-day cleaning and storage of replica objects, and provide any other necessary training.

8. APPENDICES:

i) Future work

This section includes some recommendations for future phases of work relating to improving the interpretation of the site.

Possible suggestions include:

- A podcast for architecture students. This could take the form of a walkaround with Jeremy Ashbee, focussing on architectural features and changes to the building made by Wren and Hawksmoor. Cost: c. 4k
- A virtual tour in the shop. This would be particularly valuable to visitors who are unable to ascend the stairs. This could be delivered via an iPad mounted into a stand. Cost: c. 5k
- Possibility of the Jewel Tower being an information hub for the World Heritage site. The team at Parliament are keen to work with English Heritage on developing some joint resources, such as podcasts/audio tours, as well as themed leaflets or guides that could be developed in collaboration with other stakeholders in the World Heritage site. There is also the possibility of looking at how visitors to Parliament might be able to access digital images of the parliamentary records and the Jewel Tower may provide an opportunity to do this.

ii) Copy of visitor questionnaire



Jewel Tower visitor questionnaire

How old are you? Under 16 16-25 26-34 35-45 46-60 61-80 81+

If you or any members of your party are under 16, please give ages.

.....

Are you combining your visit to the Jewel Tower today with a visit inside the Houses of Parliament?

Yes, before/Yes, after/No

We are creating a new exhibition to go inside the Jewel Tower. Please rank these statements (1 - 3) in order of your preference. Give '1' to the statement you most strongly agree with.

I would like to know about the Jewel Tower and how it was used. Rank:

I would like to know about the lost medieval palace of Westminster. Rank:

I would like to know about how Parliament works today. Rank:

Please rank these statements in order of preference (1 - 3). Give '1' to the statement you most strongly agree with.

The new exhibition in the Jewel Tower should:

have lots of information panels and pictures. Rank:

give you a sense of what it looked like in the past. Rank:

have lots of hands-on interactive exhibits. Rank:

Would you like the new exhibition to be available in a language other than English? If yes, please state which language(s):

.....

Do you have any other comments about your visit today or suggestions for the new exhibition?

.....

Results of visitor survey:

Ages:

Under 16: 6,8; 10; 12,10,8; 9-13; 8
16-25 II
26-34 IIII
35-45 IIII
46-60 IIIIIIIII
61-80 IIIIIIIIIIIII
81+ I

Visit to Parliament?

Yes, before: IIIII
Yes, after: IIIIIIIIIII
No IIIIIIIIIIIII

Statements in order of preference:

"I would like to know about the Jewel Tower and how it was used."
(18 respondents favoured this the most)

"I would like to know about the lost medieval palace of Westminster."
(18 respondents favoured this the most)

"I would like to know about how Parliament works today."
(6 respondents favoured this the most)

The new exhibition in the Jewel Tower should:

"give you a sense of what it looked like in the past".
(22 respondents favoured this the most)

"have lots of information panels and pictures".
(15 respondents favoured this the most)

"have lots of hands-on interactive exhibits".
(14 respondents favoured this the most)

Other language(s):

Maybe booklets in other languages

French

Yes, major European and Asiatic.

Not personally but more languages would be appropriate – eg. audio guide?

Leaflets could be provided in a number of different languages.

Comments:

As I had young children with me, perhaps more for them to do would be good.

More information should be available about the ceiling - very interesting.

Reading all the panels is tiring, especially if combined with after sightseeing. Some way of briefly summarising the origins, progress through history and current use would be helpful at the start of the exhibition perhaps.

I enjoyed the quiet atmosphere – not too crowded.

Have interactive things for children while adults read the panels. I think you should focus on the old palace.

Good coffee!

I like the bows + arrows.

The exhibition should be larger/fill more space upstairs.

I really like the scale of this exhibition. It's got enough stuff to think about but not so much as I leave I suspect I've already forgotten the first bits – which is really pleasing.

Very informative.

An interesting visit enjoyed by US-born.

Suggest David Cameron is featured not Tony Blair and Gordon Brown!

The children's guide was wonderful for our son.

Very informative. Possibly a lift.

Helpful and friendly staff in the shop.

It will be much better when the exhibition gets upgraded.

iii) Summary of collections in store.

| Number | Description | Date | Size | Image |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------|---|
| 78209065 | Jug in metropolitan slipware | 16th century | 1450mm |  |
| 78209066 | Bread dish in glazed red earthenware | c.1850-1900 | 415mm |  |
| 78209078 | English delftware shallow bowl | 16th century | 255mm |  |
| 78209079 | Coarse ware costrel | 15th century | 220mm |  |
| 78209117 | Coarse ware jug | 16th century | 109mm |  |
| 78209250 | Glass bottle | ? | 100mm |  |
| 78209252 | Decorated floor tiles | Medieval | 100mm |  |
| 78209256 | Leather shoes | ? | 200mm |  |

iv) Activity trail provided on-site.



Jewel Tower Children's Guide and Activity Sheet

Welcome to the Jewel Tower!

The Jewel Tower has a long and interesting history, and this guide will help you to discover its story.

The Jewel Tower is in a very important part of London. Do you know the name of the famous building just across the road from the Jewel Tower? Fill in the blanks –

_ _ u _ _ _ _ _ f _ _ _ _ i a _ _ n _

This famous building was built a long time after the Jewel Tower was built. In those days, the Palace of Westminster covered this whole part of London.

The Palace of Westminster has been in this part of London since the eleventh century (one thousand years ago!), but this part of London was important even before that – back in Roman times!

We know this because some archaeologists were digging in this area and they found some Roman things, including a real Roman sword! It is now in the Jewel Tower – can you find it?

What year was it made? _____



1366 – 1547: King's Privy Wardrobe

The history of the Jewel Tower itself starts over six hundred years ago, in the year 1366. At this time the Kings of England lived at the Palace of Westminster.

The Jewel Tower was built in a corner of the Palace. It was designed to store the king's own collection of gold, silver, jewels, robes and other treasures. Although the Jewel Tower was changed in later years, we can still see some of the medieval security features that helped to keep everything safe.

Can you find a window like this? (right)

Why do you think they wanted to have small windows?



→ Look at the thickness of the walls too – they are another security feature!



Although most of the walls and ceilings of the Jewel Tower are quite plain, there is one area that is decorated with things called 'bosses', like this one (left)

Can you find them? What floor are they on?

Ground Floor / First Floor / Second Floor (circle the correct one)

1621 – 1864: Parliament Office

After almost three hundred years of storing the Kings' and Queens' personal treasures, the Jewel Tower was no longer needed.

Instead it became a special office for storing government records and documents. They chose the Jewel Tower because it was already a very strong building with thick walls, but they also made some improvements to make it even more secure.

Can you find this date?
What object is it on?



This object is made from iron, which would have been more expensive than making one from wood. Why do you think they used iron?

→ Look out for the iron window shutters on one of the windows.
Originally most of the upstairs windows would have had these shutters, for extra security!

1869 – 1938: Weights and Measures Office

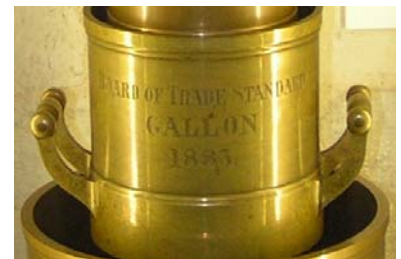
After two hundred years, the Jewel Tower wasn't big enough to store all the documents any more, so they were moved to another place.

It was time for the Jewel Tower to change for the second time. It now became the Weights and Measures Office. An important job of the government was to make sure that everyone used the same measurements – so a pint of milk was the same across the whole country.

The Weights and Measures Office kept special containers called 'standards', so if there was any disagreement they could tell people exactly how much a certain measurement should be. (People in the past didn't have measuring jugs or kitchen scales at home, and they couldn't buy things in nice packets and cartons, so it was easier for bad shopkeepers to try and cheat people!)

Today we use words like kilograms and litres, but in the past they used different measurements. Find the 'standards' in the Jewel Tower, and use them to put these measurements in order of size – smallest first!

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| Quarter Gill | 1. _____ |
| Half Gallon | 2. _____ |
| Quart | 3. _____ |
| Peck | 4. _____ |
| Half Bushel | 5. _____ |
| Pint | 6. _____ |



Which of these terms do we still use today?

There are two important reasons why the Jewel Tower was chosen to be the Weights and Measures Office. Firstly, because it had an even temperature – it didn't get too hot or too cold. Secondly, because people inside couldn't feel the vibrations (shaking) from traffic outside.

Why do you think the Jewel Tower had an even temperature and didn't feel vibrations?

The Jewel Tower since 1938

In 1938 the Weights & Measures Office moved out – now that there were lots of cars on the roads, the Jewel Tower was disturbed by too many vibrations.

After the Second World War the Jewel Tower had to be repaired, because it was now very old and had been damaged in air raids during the war.

Since then the Jewel Tower has been open to the public.

Before you leave, don't forget to have a look at the outside of the Jewel Tower.

Can you find this 'torn' wall? When the Jewel Tower was built it was in the corner of the Palace, so the boundary wall would have been joined to the Jewel Tower.

Look for the drawing on the interpretation panel that shows how it would have appeared.



Over its six hundred year history the Jewel Tower has been used in very different ways. If you owned the Jewel Tower, what would you use it for?

v) Education visits at the Houses of Parliament

Unlike the Jewel Tower, all education visits provided by Parliament are guided by staff for security reasons. Visits begin with a tour of the Palace of Westminster, providing the context for learning about the work and role of Parliament. A choice of curriculum-focused workshops follows, including a question-and-answer session with the school's MP, subject to their availability. The workshops available all focus on the Citizenship curriculum as follows:

- **Elections and voting (KS2-5)**
Younger students will make their own manifestos for an interactive election, while older learners will explore the world of different voting systems and voting behaviour.
- **Your voice (KS2-3)**
Local, national and European responsibilities are the focus of this session. Crucially, it explores how people have effected change in this context and what students can do to make a difference on the issues that matter to them.
- **Making laws (KS2-5)**
We all have to obey laws, but how are they made? Students will find out by following the process of a bill from the spark of an idea to the Queen putting pen to paper.

There are also seasonal workshops, student parliament events and a range of more in-depth workshops for KS5 students. The education service also provides very high quality online, print and DVD resources for a range of ages and levels including white board lessons, information booklets, games, and videos.

vi) Copy of site plan.

