

The Tower of London

Historic Environment site form

- a) The reasons for the location of the site within its surroundings
- b) Why and when people first created the site
- c) The ways in which the site has changed over time
- d) How the site has been used throughout its history
- e) The diversity of activities and people associated with the site
- f) The reasons for changes to the site and to the way it was used
- g) Significant times in the site's past: peak activity, major developments, turning points
- h) The significance of specific features in the physical remains of the site
- i) The importance of the whole site either locally or nationally, as appropriate
- j) The typicality of the site based on a comparison with other similar sites
- k) What the site reveals about everyday life, attitudes and values in particular periods of history
- l) How the physical remains may prompt questions about the past and how historians frame these as valid historical enquiries
- m) How the physical remains can inform artistic reconstructions and other interpretations of the site
- n) The challenges and benefits of studying the historic environment

Tower of London

The Tower of London is a 1,000-year-old castle that protects the Crown Jewels. It was a royal palace, a secure fortress, and an infamous prison. Kings and queens demonstrated their power from here, shaping our society and influencing our world.

The framework of **fortress, palace and prison** helps us understand the roles of the Tower in the past and in the present and will be used throughout this resource.

The specification prohibits the use of the chosen site being linked directly to other topics being studied, but there is enough history at the Tower to avoid such prohibited overlaps.

Main areas of overlap include

- Normans
- Elizabethans
- Crime and Punishment

Where you are taking one of these modules, you can leave out the content in your historic environment module to avoid overlap.

For example:

- If you are studying the Normans, begin your Historic Environment study at the Tower of London in the Tudor period
- If you are studying Elizabethans, focus your HE study at the Tower of London on the Norman or post-Tudor period, or make a comparison, e.g. between the Norman and Victorian Tower
- If you are studying Crime and Punishment, focus your HE study on the fortress and palace functions of the Tower rather than the Prison function.

	Criteria
a)	The reasons for the location of the site within its surroundings
	<p>Fortress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tower was founded on the site of the easternmost Roman City wall of Londinium • It was situated at a strategic river location by the river Thames • The strategic location outside of Saxon Lundenwic was chosen by the Normans to impose their authority on the native population • Later fortifications to the Tower under Henry III and Edward I made the Tower a heavily defended concentric castle <p>Palace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tower was the site of a royal palace and residence for king and queens of England • It was where many kings and queens began a procession on the morning of their coronation <p>Prison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong and secure fortress became used as a prison from as early as 1100 and up to the 1950s
b)	Why and when people first created the site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site was first built as a castle shortly after 1066 when William the Conqueror built a wooden motte and bailey structure on the site • A solid stone building was begun in the 1080s and completed in the early 1100s • It was built as a fortress to defend the Norman settlers, and to intimidate the local native Saxon population

c)	<p>The ways in which the site has changed over time</p>
	<p>Medieval fortress, palace and prison, 1066-1509</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original defensive keep, the White Tower, was added to by later kinds to increase the strength of the fortress • The inner curtain wall was added under Henry III, and the outer curtain wall and moat under Edward I • New palatial apartments were built and used under these medieval kings • The Tower was also pressed into service as a prison for foreign kings such as Llewellyn ap Gruffydd of Wales in 1244, John II of France in 1359-60, David II of Scotland in 1357, as well as deposed English kings such as Richard II in 1399 and Henry IV in 1465, and the young 'Princes in the Tower' Henry V and his brother Richard in 1483 <p>Tudor fortress, palace and prison, 1509-1700</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the Tudor monarchs built and used new palaces such as Greenwich, Whitehall and Hampton Court, the role of the Tower as a palace declined, although new apartments were built for Anne Boleyn's coronation in 1533 • In the Tudor period the Tower became notorious as a prison as political and religious enemies were imprisoned and executed here such as Thomas More, Anne Boleyn, Devereux, Walter Raleigh and Lady Jane Grey <p>Industrial fortress, 1700-1850</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over time the Tower's role as an industrial powerhouse grew - it produced the majority of the coins of the realm as well as armour, weaponry and cannon in huge industrial and administrative complexes within the Tower • The Tower was the nerve centre for Britain's wars at home and abroad 1066 - 1850, with the role of the armouries and ordnance enveloping the site in the 18th-19th <p>Tourist attraction 1850-present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tower was open to visitors since the 17th, but the role of it as a place for visitors to see its collections of armour, meet the Beefeaters, and see the medieval buildings flourished in the Victorian era • Today the Tower is the most visited paid-for attraction in London, receiving up to 2.4 million visitors each year
d)	<p>How the site has been used throughout its history</p>
	<p>Fortress</p> <p><i>1066-1509</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The White Tower was built as a fortress to protect Norman interests in London and intimidate the local Anglo-Saxon population • Extra layers of defence were added under Henry III in the 1240s and Edward I in the 1270s • The fortress defences of the Tower have never been breached. The peasants during the Peasants' Revolt in 1281 did enter the Tower but they were let in, they did not have the military capacity to breach the fortress defences.

- The Tower has also been used to produce, store and supply weapons such as cannons, guns, gunpowder and bows and arrows which were used in important battles such as the Battle of Agincourt in 1415
- The Mint was located in the Tower under Edward I in the 1270s because its secure walls kept the precious metals and coins secure

1509-1850

- As military technology improved, the Tower was adapted and new elements built to protect the castle from bigger and more powerful guns and other military techniques. Such as the reinforcement of Legge's Mount and Brass Mount so they could withstand cannon fire and also fire cannon out of the castle.
- The Tower became more important as the place where weapons and gunpowder were made, stored and sent to wars from. New buildings such as the New Armouries and Grand Storehouse were built to store large amounts of weapons.
- The Mint expanded to meet demand for coins in the economy. Henry VIII's disastrous economic reforms known as the Great Debasement needed new Mint buildings to make more and more coins.

1850-present

- The Tower no longer needed to be a defensive structure, and some buildings were modified or removed by Victorian architects to make the castle a more attractive and medieval-looking visitor experience.
- The industrial revolution meant that the small street was no longer sufficient for the making of coins. The Mint moved to a new purpose-built factory nearby at Tower Hill.

Palace

1066-1509

- The White Tower was built as a fortress and palace, and the Chapel of St John served as the place where Kings and Queens prayed before the night of their coronation.
- New royal apartments were built in the 1300s - the king and queen had separate apartments and staff. Rooms were richly decorated with imported luxury fabrics, and painted with expensive dyes and real gold leaf. Images on the decoration represented royal strength such as English lions and French Fleur de lys. The king didn't live in one place - he moved about the country so he could be seen, and all his furniture and furnishings had to be 'flatpack' so they could travel with him.
- Case study - the royal apartments of Edward I. How the Tower of London interpreted historical and archaeological evidence to recreate Edward's bedroom.

1509-1700

- Royal apartments were refurbished for special events such as the coronation of Anne Boleyn in 1533. This was where Anne started her coronation procession towards Westminster Abbey. But the buildings weren't always cared for well as within 30 years, these apartments were described as 'decayed'.
- Henry VIII gave Anne a wedding present of new cupolas on the top of the turrets of the White Tower.

1700 to present

- The Tower was no longer a fashionable and comfortable palace for the modern monarch. Henry VIII had built palaces at Greenwich, Whitehall and Hampton Court, and new monarch such as William & Mary also founded Kensington Palace and refurbished Hampton Court.
- The Tower was too small, too old fashioned, and too near the smelly river and pollution of the city to be somewhere kings and queens wanted to stay.

Prison

1066-1509

- The Tower was not built as a prison, but it's first prisoner was also it's first escapee! Bishop Ranulf Flambard was imprisoned because of his unpopular demands for tax. He escaped by having a party. He ordered barrels of wine and got his guards drunk. Once they were unconscious, he took a rope from one of the barrels and abseiled down the White Tower to freedom.
- A second prisoner was not so lucky in his escape attempt. Llewelyn ap Gruffydd tried the same rope trick, but his rope wasn't long enough. Stuck halfway down the outside of the White Tower, he let go, but he was too high up and the fall killed him.
- It wasn't always high status prisoners at the Tower. In the 1270s Edward I persecuted the entire Jewish population and imprisoned 600 London Jews in the Tower for alleged financial crimes. Many were executed for these crimes, and those who were not were expelled from the country with all other Jewish people in 1290.
- In 1483 the new 12-year-old king of England Edward V was sent to the Tower with his little brother by their uncle Richard. Richard claimed it was to keep the boys safe, but soon after they mysteriously disappeared and Richard announced himself King Richard III.

1509-1700

- The Tudors are famous for using the Tower as a place of imprisonment and execution.
- Three queens were executed in the Tower. Anne Boleyn for allegedly having an affair, was killed by a swordsman in 1536. Henry VIII's 4th wife Katherine Howard had the same fate in 1542. Lady Jane Grey was announced queen on the death of Henry's son Edward VI. However, she didn't have widespread support and Henry's daughter Mary had a stronger claim to rule, imprisoned Jane and executed her at the Tower.
- Other prisoners included religious prisoners such as the Jesuit priest John Gerard who was accused of plotting to kill Elizabeth I. He was tortured but later escaped the Tower.

1700-present

- The Tower fell out of favour as a place of imprisonment and execution. One exception is the execution of three soldiers

	<p>from the Black Watch Regiment who deserted their regiment in 1743. Their mutiny was seen as such a severe crime they were executed at the Tower.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people were executed in the Tower in the 20th century than in the Tudor period. German spies in World Wars I and II were imprisoned and executed at the Tower for the crime of espionage. • The last prisoners of the Tower were not state prisoners – they were not a threat to the monarch or the country. The notorious criminal gangsters the Kray twins were held at the Tower for a few days because they had failed to turn up for their National Service in the army. Their regiment’s base was at the Tower, so they were brought there to join the other soldiers.
e)	<p>The diversity of activities and people associated with the site</p>
	<p>Fortress</p> <p>The Tower of London is a military site of exceptional security. For centuries kings and queens have strengthened this royal fortress for defence and attack at home and abroad.</p> <p><u>Defence and attack</u></p> <p>The Tower was built at this key location in London and used to defend royal power. Kings, queens and governments have used it as a central point to defend Britain’s local, national and international interests.</p> <p>People: William the Conqueror, Henry III, Edward I, Duke of Wellington</p> <p>Activities: Army base, home of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers</p> <p><u>Display and propaganda</u></p> <p>The Tower of London is a visible symbol of Britain and its military power. Displays have been used to inspire both awe and fear for most of its history.</p> <p>People: Henry VIII, Victoria, ffoulkes</p> <p>Activities: Museum and visitor attraction, weapons and trophies on show, Line of Kings display</p> <p><u>Armoury and arsenal</u></p> <p>As a secure fortress, the Tower was a major military centre and weapons store (arsenal) for supply and distribution to the nation’s armed forces.</p> <p>The Office of Ordnance (responsible for heavy weaponry such as cannons) was based here from the late 1700s.</p> <p>People: Henry V, Edward I, Henry VIII</p> <p>Activities: Supplying arms, storing arms and gunpowder, ordnance survey (mapping for the military), production of weapons</p>

Accommodation

The Tower was used as accommodation for soldiers, craftsmen and officials. The extent and use of the space at the Tower changed according to England's military commitments abroad.

People: Yeoman Warders, Tower of London staff, Mint officials, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

Activities: Barracks, Offices, Workshops, Home

Treasure chest

Kings and queens have used the Tower as a secure fortress to protect the nation's treasures and their valuables over time.

People: Charles II, Elizabeth, Edward I, Isaac Newton

Activities: Crown jewels, national archives, Tower mint

Palace

The Tower is a palace which was used by kings and queens as a royal residence and ceremonial space. It was designed as a statement of power to impress.

Royal residence

The Tower was one of many homes for kings and queens, used by royal officials who represented them when they were elsewhere. Kings and queens travelled around the country to be seen by, and to control, the people.

People: Henry III, Edward I, Anne Boleyn, Yeoman Warders

Activities: Royal apartments, royal chapels, royal bodyguard, ravens

Demonstration of royal power

Kings and queens used the Tower to demonstrate their right to rule and their power through ceremonies and the display of wealth.

People: Anne Boleyn, Charles II, Henry II, Tower Constable

Activities: Coronation processions, royal ceremonies, Menagerie

Prison

Tower was a prison where people were held while awaiting trial or as punishment. Kings and queens used the Tower as a secure place to hold prisoners. These included people who posed a serious threat to royal and national security.

People: Elizabeth I, Anne Boleyn, Katherine Howard, Lady Jane Grey, John Gerard, Princes in the Tower, Richard III, Ranulf Flambard, Guy Fawkes, Jean le Bon

	Activities: Prison accommodation, interrogation, torture, executions
f)	The reasons for changes to the site and to the way it was used
	<p>Political</p> <p>As a castle built by an invading power, the Normans, the Tower initially functioned to intimidate and subdue the local Anglo-Saxon population.</p> <p>The stability of royal power had an impact on how the Tower was used. The unstable Tudor dynasty with its succession issues and uprisings used the Tower as a prison very frequently.</p> <p>Henry III had the White Tower whitewashed to project the power of the monarchy upon the population of the City of London. The toilets in the White Tower faced the east, so human waste staining the white walls was not visible from the city.</p> <p>The restoration of the monarchy in 1660 and the introduction of constitutional government in 1689 meant the Tower lost its role as the start of royal coronation processions, and as a royal residence.</p> <p>Environmental & geographical</p> <p>As London grew, its pollution grew too. The water-filled moat was drained in the 1843 as it was being used as a cess pool and was described as 'excrementious'.</p> <p>Military</p> <p>The changes in military technology defined the shape of the Tower. The White Tower is typical of Norman defensive architecture. The later inner and outer curtain walls feature defensive structures typical of their time. The Bell Tower has faceted edges to prevent undermining in case of a siege. The Outer wall and moat form a concentric castle with several layers of defence. Later additions and modifications such as Legge's and Brass Mount show how the Tower was adapted to hold and resist new firepower from large cannon.</p> <p>Inside the Tower, buildings were built to accommodate industrial processes of arms manufacture and making coins. A great fire in 1841 destroyed the grand weapons storehouse and many nearby buildings. New buildings were designed with the needs of the Victorian army in mind - with officers housed in a separate building to the ordinary men, which reflected Victorian society segregated by class.</p> <p>Social</p> <p>Changes in how society viewed and punished crimes affected how the Tower was used. The fall in the number of offences punishable by execution meant that the Tower saw fewer high status and high profile executions.</p> <p>In the 1270s, Jewish people were imprisoned in the Tower as it was a royal fortress and also because it was the only place capable of holding over 600 prisoners. By the early modern period, lower status offenders could be held at other prisons such as</p>

	<p>Newgate.</p> <p>In the Tudor period, the palaces of Westminster and Whitehall to the west of London became the seats of political and royal power respectively. These palaces were larger than the Tower and had space for the new functions of monarchy – accommodation for the royal court. The Tower’s constrained site and walls meant it could not expand, and was at the wrong end of town.</p> <p>Religious</p> <p>The Tudor period was a rollercoaster of religious change, with monarchs choosing the Protestant or Catholic faith, and that choice having a huge impact for the population. Under Mary I, persecution of Protestants meant many were imprisoned at the Tower. Under Elizabeth, it was the Catholics who were imprisoned at the Tower.</p> <p>Under later kings and queens, confident in their own and the country’s Protestant religion, having the wrong religion was not the threat to royal power it had been under the Tudors. As such it was not seen as treason, and people were not sent to the Tower for having the wrong and treasonous faith.</p> <p>Economic</p> <p>The industrial revolution meant that the small street was no longer sufficient for the making of coins. The Mint moved to a new purpose-built factory nearby at Tower Hill.</p> <p>The Tower today is run by an independent charity called Historic Royal Palaces, and receives no money from the government or the Queen to run the site. As such it has to charge an entry fee, and all money is used to make sure the Tower is conserved for the future, and people can visit and learn about the site.</p>
g)	<p>Significant times in the site’s past: peak activity, major developments, turning points</p>
	<p>Roman foundation</p> <p>The roots of the Tower of London can be found in the settlement of the Roman city of Londinium. The Roman city and river walls are still visible in the Tower and surrounding area. The Roman’s decision to settle on this site, close to the River Thames, and near the nearest crossing point to the sea where a bridge could be build, is fundamental to the history of London and the Tower.</p> <p>The site was left to ruin by the Anglo-Saxons, who build their city of Lundenwic further west.</p> <p>Norman invasion</p> <p>The Norman’s have defined this corner of London ever since they built their first wooden castle on the site, and then build the magnificent White Tower which dominated the London skyline until the 1960s. The building of the Tower was a turning point in the site’s history, but also of England’s history – it represented in stone form, the conquest of the Anglo-Saxons by the Norman invaders. The White Tower was begun in the 1080s and probably completed by around 1100.</p>

Medieval fortress and palace

Later kings, such as Henry III and Edward I used the Tower as a royal fortress and palace. They used new castle-building technologies, such as a concentric castle design, walls shaped to avoid defeat during a siege, drawbridges, weapons, and portcullises. The impact of these kings was to make the Tower a huge and powerful fortress which further dominated the City of London.

Medieval kingship was a dangerous business, and kings needed strong fortresses to defend their land, to make their coins, and make and supply weapons for their armies. The Tower became the most prominent mint and armoury in the country.

To ensure the kings could rule effectively, they needed to be constantly on the move to see their people and be seen by them. The Tower was one of many royal bases, decorated lavishly with expensive furniture and textiles, all of which could be taken on the road with the king.

The Tower was the symbolic start of royal coronations. Medieval kings and queens spent the night before their coronation at prayer in the Tower, so they were spiritually clean and ready to accept their new role as monarch. The next day, they would travel in an elaborate procession through the city of London to Westminster Abbey where they were crowned.

Tudor palace and prison

The Tudors continued to use the Tower as a palace and the starting point for coronation processions.

However, during the Tudor period the Tower became notorious as a place of imprisonment and execution. High status and high profile prisoners included three queens of England, Anne Boleyn, Katherine Howard and Lady Jane Grey. Political enemies of the monarch, religious dissenters and people who threatened the stability of the royal dynasty were kept at the Tower, and some were executed here.

Stuart and Georgian industrial powerhouse

After the Civil Wars the Tower ceased to be used as a royal palace, as other, newer palaces such as Whitehall, Hampton Court and Greenwich were preferred by kings, queens and their court.

The Tower's role as a place of weapons storage, production and supply, and as an army base, and mint became more prominent.

The Armoury and Ordnance grew to be a huge operation which was the Nerve Centre for Britain's wars, where weapons were made, stored, tested and supplied. The Tower became a huge industrial complex with different weapons specialists, artisans, craftsmen, administrators, scientists and decision makers working in the cramped site to ensure military operations and home and abroad were supplied with the latest technology, the right number of weapons, at the right time and in the right place.

Other industries were also onsite, for example the Mint was a bustling factory between the inner and outer walls of the Tower. There coins were melted, tested, shaped and issued. The Mint had to respond to huge financial crises to prevent economic crashes. This usually involved taking in all old coins and making new ones, in a process called recoinage. A recoinage was a huge operation, but one that restored faith in the economy. The biggest ever recoinage at the Tower happened in 1696-9 under the

	<p>supervision of Mint Warden Isaac Newton, and using the latest coin-making machines and technology.</p> <p>Victorian tourist site</p> <p>The Tower had long been a place where those with the right contacts could visit. When it was opened in 1842 to the general public for a fee, this was the moment the Tower's reputation and many myths began to grow. Victorian architects such as Antony Salvin created the faux-medieval look of the Tower, and Yeoman Warder tours and sensational fiction authors such as William Harrison Ainsworth, helped create many myths and legends of the Tower. Ghost stories, the legend of the ravens, the sinister and bloodthirsty tales from the Tower originated to entertain visitors.</p> <p>Modern heritage attraction</p> <p>Today the Tower is the most visited paid-for heritage attraction in the UK with around 2.4 million visitors a year. The art installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' in 2014 was one of the ways the Tower stays relevant to today's audiences. The Poppies was seen in person by an estimated 5 million people and received huge amounts of press coverage as part of the WWI centenary commemorations.</p>
h)	<p>The significance of specific features in the physical remains of the site</p>
	<p>Roman wall</p> <p>The remains of the Roman riverside wall can be seen to the south of the site. The wall was excavated by archaeologists in the 1970s and is evidence of the Roman city of Londinium and the line of the Thames 2000 years ago. The wall was made from stone imported by river from Kent, showing a vibrant trade in the Roman period.</p> <p>White Tower</p> <p>The White Tower is one of the finest remaining examples of Norman architecture. Recent archaeological work included a study of every single stone on the building, showing its age and origin. The stone used is largely Kentish ragstone, dressed with Caen stone imported from William I's homeland of Normandy.</p> <p>The White Tower originally comprised 3 floors (it now has 4) and included a chapel for prayer and religious ceremonies. The Chapel of St John is a fine example of Romanesque architecture.</p> <p>The White Tower has been modified over time. New larger windows were added by Sir Christopher Wren in the 1600s, and the turret cupolas date to the reign of Henry VIII - they were a wedding present to his second wife, Anne Boleyn.</p> <p>Medieval walls</p> <p>The Tower was expanded in the 1200s by Henry III and his son Edward I. Two additional rings of walls and a water-filled moat were added to make the Tower a highly defended concentric castle.</p> <p>As with so much of the Tower, these walls were modified over time due to changes in technology, fashion, or to repair fire or other damage. The walls were punctuated by towers positioned so that the walls could be defended from attackers.</p> <p>The entrance to the Tower was originally multi-layered. Visitors entered through the Lion Tower, past ferocious animals, through</p>

	<p>the Middle Tower, across a causeway and then through a portcullis in the Byward Tower. Each tower was defended and visitors, as today, were checked before they could gain entry.</p> <p>St Peter's</p> <p>The Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula (St Peter in chains) is a Tudor building but stands on the site of an Anglo-Saxon Church. It is where three queens of England are buried – Anne Boleyn, Katherine Howard and Lady Jane Grey who were executed at the Tower.</p> <p>The Chapel was the place of worship for people who live and work at the Tower. Generations of Mint workers are buried in the crypt. Today, people who work at the Tower can get married in the chapel, and celebrate Christmas with Christmas Carols and a service.</p> <p>Victorian buildings</p> <p>The Tower was extensively remodelled by Victorian architects Anthony Salvin and John Taylor in the 1800s. There was pressure to restore the castle to its 'original' medieval state which meant much of the Tudor Palace, and other buildings from the Mint and Ordnance were pulled down. Some towers were rebuilt or remodelled, such as the Beauchamp Tower and Lanthorn Tower. New buildings including the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers HQ and Waterloo Barracks were built in a gothic medieval style which matched Victorian romantic images of the medieval period.</p>
i)	<p>The importance of the whole site either locally or nationally, as appropriate</p>
	<p>International significance</p> <p>The Tower is a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) World Heritage Site. What does that mean?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outstanding universal value to humanity 2. We belong to an international community of appreciation and concern 3. It sets a standard <p>Hits two criteria:</p> <p>Criterion (ii): A monument symbolic of royal power since the time of William the Conqueror, the Tower of London served as an outstanding model throughout the kingdom from the end of the 11th century. Like it, many keeps were built in stone: e.g. Colchester, Rochester, Hedingham, Norwich, or Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight.</p> <p>Criterion (iv): The White Tower is the example par excellence of the royal Norman castle in the late 11th century. The ensemble of the Tower of London is a major reference for the history of medieval military architecture.</p> <p>National Significance</p>

	<p>There is a myth that if the ravens leave the Tower then the kingdom will fall. Today the ravens have their flight feathers harmlessly trimmed so they do not fly away. The Tower is something of national importance, both in the myths of the country as shown by the raven myth, and as a symbol of the UK heritage and tourism industry.</p> <p>Local significance</p> <p>The Tower is in not in the City of London but the London Borough of Tower Hamlets which is a historic term which means the small villages near the Tower. Today Tower Hamlets using an image of the Tower as its logo.</p>
j)	<p>The typicality of the site based on a comparison with other similar sites</p>
	<p>Norman Castle</p> <p>The Tower was one of William the Conqueror's castles and this style of architecture can be seen in his other castles in France and England.</p> <p>Edwardian castle</p> <p>The Tower was heavily built upon as additional layers of defence were added during the reign of Edward I. Similarities in castle design and defensive architecture can be seen in other castles in England and Wales during his reign.</p> <p>Tudor Palace</p> <p>The Tudor palace buildings, including a Great Hall at the Tower have been lost, as they were pulled down during the 1800s. However, the Tower was not a typical Tudor Palace. New Tudor palaces such as Whitehall, Hampton Court and Greenwich were built in areas with plenty of room for royal apartments and for the court to live in. The Tower was constrained by the medieval castle walls and so could not be built as a large and sprawling modern Tudor palace.</p> <p>Fortress</p> <p>The Tower was used as a defensive fortress until the 1800s, and parts were adapted to defend the walls against new heavy cannon and other military technologies. However, because architects were working with a medieval castle, the site does not look like a purpose built fortress of the 1700s, for example Fort Cumberland or European star forts, which were designed from scratch to withstand the latest heavy artillery.</p> <p>Industrial site</p> <p>The Tower was home to several heavy industries – largely coin and weapons production. Where these industries are found at purpose-built sites, such as the Woolwich arsenal or Tower Hill Mint, we can see that the layout of buildings and workshops within the Tower was not ideal for these processes.</p> <p>Tourist attractions</p> <p>Like many castles throughout the UK and Europe, the Tower is a tourist site open to the public to visit. Unlike many castles in England, it is run by an independent charity called Historic Royal Palaces, many English castles are run by another charity called</p>

	<p>English Heritage.</p> <p>A museum is usually a purpose-built building containing historic artefacts, and will have been designed for easy visitor access. However, the Tower was built to keep precious things inside, and people out, and can be tricky to access if you are a wheelchair user as we cannot put lifts into the medieval architecture.</p>
k)	<p>What the site reveals about everyday life, attitudes and values in particular periods of history</p>
	<p>Daily Life</p> <p>The biggest source of daily life from the site is archaeological remains found on site. Large quantities of animal bones show people were eating pork, beef and lamb. A medieval fish trap shows the moat was being used to stock and catch fish for meals.</p> <p>Pottery shows how people were eating and drinking. Common pottery types such as Roman Samian wares and amphora fragments show that high status people lived here during the Roman era, and drank imported wines.</p> <p>Bellarmine pots show that people in the Tudor period were drinking wine or beer with their meals.</p> <p>Oyster shells found in groups show that oysters were a common snack for common people – the crisp packets of the past.</p> <p>People needed to eat and drink and then go to the toilet. The White Tower has visible garderobes (toilets) which emptied the waste down the side of the White Tower. Those in other areas used chamber pots, fragments of which have been found in archaeological excavations. The waste was then emptied into the Moat, which became so smelly and dirty it had to be drained in the 1800s.</p> <p>Working Life</p> <p>People worked at the Mint, but work was largely seasonal. Most minting happened in the summer when there were long hours of daylight to work in, and the temperature wasn't too cold (making coins was fiddly work and you needed to be able to feel your fingertips) as they often worked outside or in buildings with no glass in the windows – glass was a luxury for kings, not for workers.</p> <p>Working at the Mint could be dangerous as it involved working with fires and furnaces that could burn you or blind you if you looked at them for too long. They worked with dangerous chemicals such as nitric acid to purify gold and silver. One mint worker called William Foxley mysteriously fell asleep for 14 days and nights. Accidents with heavy hammers and machinery were common – many mint workers were missing fingers from work-related accidents. However, dangerous this sounds, it was probably still a better job than most could aspire to in London. It was good pay, you were immune from being drafted into the navy, and there was a regular stream of work.</p> <p>Social status</p> <p>We mostly think of the Tower as a high status site. It was built by kings, it was the home of royalty, and only high status people had the 'luxury' of being imprisoned or executed within its walls.</p> <p>We think of prisons as dark dank places, but for high status prisoners, their rooms could be just like home. In the early 1600s</p>

	<p>Walter Raleigh lived with his family here, and the Wizard Earl had at least 21 servants to look after him.</p> <p>Even in the Victorian era, the new barrack buildings show a difference of social status. There was a barracks for the officers, all drawn from aristocracy, and one, with much more cramped quarters for the commoner soldiers.</p> <p>Yet the Tower was also the home and workplace of many ordinary people. These were largely male workers (not really many women) working in the armoury or mint. Some jobs were highly specialists, such as engraving coin designs, creating detailed pieces of armour, or financial specialisms. These craftsmen were recruited from all over Europe: engravers and armourers from Belgium, financiers from Italy. Other jobs needed little more than muscle power, and lower status local people were recruited from nearby Hackney, Stepney or Stoke Newington.</p> <p>Crime & punishment</p> <p>Society's attitudes to Crime and punishment can be seen at the Tower throughout time. Punishment, including imprisonment and execution, varied according to social status. For example, many prisoners lived in luxury at the Tower, far from the dank dungeons of popular imagination.</p> <p>Torture, whilst commonly associated with the Tower, was rarely used at the site, or at all in England, as it was illegal. One famous exception was the torture of Guy Fawkes to uncover his fellow Gunpowder Plot conspirators. Although physical torture such as manacles, thumb screws and the rack were used rarely at the Tower, other techniques defined today by Amnesty International as psychological torture did happen frequently. Prisoners were kept in isolation or kept for years not knowing whether the next morning would be their execution day. Thomas More was denied access to pens and paper to try and force compliance from him on the issue of Henry VIII as supreme head of the Church of England.</p> <p>Punishments such as executions used to be seen as the stuff of public entertainment, and executions at Tower Hill drew large crowds into the 1700s.</p>
D)	<p>How the physical remains may prompt questions about the past and how historian frame these as valid historical enquiries</p>
	<p>How old is the White Tower?</p> <p>Historical sources tell us the White Tower was built in 1078, and many secondary sources repeat this date.</p> <p>However recent conservation work reveals a different story. Each stone was examined and cleaned. A detailed image was produced which colour coded the date of each stone at the White Tower. Dendrochronology was used to date the timbers to around 1081, showing the lower portions of the building was underway. This shows that a range of evidence, both material and written is needed to assess a historic site, and that the building of such a major structure in the past was something that could take decades.</p> <p>An added complication is that the White Tower has been modified in the years since construction. Archaeologists used data from the stones to gain an understanding of the building phases of the White Tower. They looked at the type of stone – it's geological composition, to understand where it was mined. They also looked at stylistic features of the building. Large glass windows are not an original feature of Norman castles, but an intervention from the late 1600s.</p>

	<p>So the White Tower was started in c1075, completed about 1100, and has been changing ever since. A better question would be: how can we use historical and archaeological sources to date the building phases of the White Tower?</p> <p>Where was the Tower Mint?</p> <p>The space between the inner and outer walls of the Tower is called Mint Street, so we assume that this is where the Mint was, but is this true?</p> <p>The earliest written evidence we have for the Mint at the Tower comes from the 1280s, but it mentions coins were made there, not whereabouts in the Tower the Mint was located.</p> <p>The earliest plan we have of locations of the Mint is from 1707. This shows locations of various workshops and residences. Can we project this back in time?</p> <p>A document from the 1300s details the kinds of workshops that were at the Mint, many of which are on the plan from 600 years later.</p> <p>The earliest evidence of where the Mint was at the Tower is not from documents, but from archaeology. Excavations in Mint Street uncovered what look like the bases of furnaces, and associated with these are pots used in a process called assaying. Assaying was testing the purity of precious metals.</p> <p>It is easy to assume from later evidence that we know what happened in a location hundreds of years before. However, we need to use a combination of archaeological and historical sources together to understand the Tower as a historic site.</p>
m)	<p>How the physical remains can inform artistic reconstructions and other interpretations of the site</p>
	<p>The Tower has changed over time and curators and historians use the physical remains of the site, archaeological evidence and documentary sources to understand what the site looked like in the past.</p> <p>Looking at the artistic reconstruction images over time, we can see the Tower grew as successive kings built additional walls or structures.</p> <p>Physical remains of the site which still remain are used as the basis for this series of drawings. However, the buildings have not remained unaltered so curators use a variety of techniques to understand how buildings looked in the past.</p> <p>Maps and drawings or photographs of the site from the past are compared to what we can see today</p> <p>Documents are studied to understand when certain elements or features were built. For example the History of the Kings Works in the National Archives documents when there were substantial building material expenses and labour costs at the Tower.</p> <p>Careful analysis of the building materials can tell us when each part of the building was constructed. For example, certain stones were from quarries operating at particular periods in time. Another example is the styles of certain features, such as the round-arched windows of the White Tower indicate a Norman date compared to other Norman sites. But, the large round-arched windows are a later addition as large windows were a security risk for a secure fortress.</p> <p>Building colours could change over time. The White Tower was whitewashed between the reigns of Henry III and Charles II,</p>

	<p>hence its name. The heavy pollution of the industrial era meant the stones of the building were dark and almost black for much of the twentieth century. A recent conservation programme cleaned each stone revealing the creamy white colour of the original stones.</p> <p>Remains of decorative schemes have also been found. From these we know that rooms were often richly decorated with paints in greens, blues, reds and gold leaf for example the Angel in the Byward Tower.</p> <p>How do we know what Edward I's bedroom looked like?</p> <p>An area of the Tower called the Medieval Palace recreates Edward I's bedroom. Curators used a range of evidence to reconstruct how this room would have looked.</p> <p>Curators first looked at the existing building. They then looked through historical records made when the building was constructed, and looked for any materials that we can't see today. For example, plaster for the walls, expensive paint colours to decorate. They then checked the archaeology archive to see if any of the building had been lost and uncovered by modern day archaeologists, such as glazed floor tiles.</p> <p>They did some paint analysis on the walls to see if they could find traces of old wall painting, to see what the designs and colours were like.</p> <p>At the same time they looked at historic images from richly decorated manuscripts with coloured images, to find out if there were any pictures of the inside of the Tower, or similar sites for a similar time period. They looked at the curtains, furniture and colours used.</p> <p>They also visited other sites built around the same time to see whether they had any original features such as floor tiles that may not have survived at the Tower.</p>
n)	<p>The challenges and benefits of studying the historic environment</p>
	<p>Challenges</p> <p>Understanding a historic site can be difficult because you are not seeing the whole picture. A site such as the Tower will have changed so often and so radically over time that it can be hard to imagine or understand what the Tower looked like at any one period in the past.</p> <p>The different layers of history are built on top of each other on one site. To see what was there before, curators have to rely on a variety of sources that don't always agree. For example, a curator might need to use an old map to find where a building stood, but the archaeological excavation might reveal a different building, or a building not mentioned anywhere in the documentary records.</p> <p>Later inhabitants of the Tower changed the buildings to suit their needs and their own interpretations of history. For the Victorians, the Tower was a medieval castle. So they Victorians knocked down a lot of the Tudor buildings because they wanted</p>

the site to be more 'medieval', so we have lost a lot of material we could have used to understand the Tudor Tower.

The Victorians also built new buildings such as the Waterloo Block and Royal regiment of Fusiliers building which were inspired by medieval gothic architecture and can be mistaken for genuine medieval buildings.

New discoveries can change interpretations of the Tower with alarming frequency. This is not usually on big questions like who built the Tower, but on smaller but important questions of interpretation such as: when was that building built? Who lived in that tower? Where was that person kept as a prisoner? Some questions may never be answered, such as: who killed the Princes in the Tower?

Benefits

There are always surprises with the historic environment which makes working with the evidence fun. The variety of sources means that a curator really can discover new facts in the archives, a new building or object during an archaeological excavation, or a new medieval wall painting during some routine maintenance.

The variety of sources means that when studying the Tower you can check your evidence for bias. A documentary source can be checked against the structure of the building, an old map of the site, or an archaeological record. Which means the evidence and or interpretations of that evidence are more robust. This is also useful when the documentary sources are scarce on certain questions - you can use other historical tools to answer the same question. If the records don't tell you when a building was constructed, you can look at the style of architecture, the building materials used, and study old maps and plans to see when the building first appears.