



The Staffordshire Hoard and Tamworth, the Ancient Capital of Mercia.

It's not very often that you get the chance to get close to real, valuable buried treasure and look back in time to the 6th century, when Tamworth was the Ancient Capital of Mercia, one of the three kingdoms that ruled the county.

The Anglo-Saxons came to Staffordshire in the late 6th century as groups of settlers or tribes. Mercia means boundary and the area grew from a number of these separate tribes.

The Mercians gradually conquered most of the other Midland tribes to become a powerful kingdom stretching from the Humber to the Thames. The rest of the country was ruled by the kingdoms of Northumbria and Wessex.

Tamworth was the heartland of the Mercian Kingdom and the King's main residence was in Tamworth. It is certain that the Mercian kings spent more time at Tamworth than anywhere else, and it is thought that there was a royal palace at Tamworth by the end of the 7th century situated on the site close to St Editha's Church.

Evidence from signed charters also shows that the Mercian royal families were regularly here for the festivals of Christmas and Easter between 751 and 857 A.D. The most well know Mercian Kings are Penda (625-655), Wulfhere (657-674), Aethelred (674-704), Aethelbald (716-757) and Offa (757-796). Mercian power began to decline after the death of King Offa and by the 10th century it lost its independence, becoming part of the Kingdom of Wessex, to create the Kingdom of England.

The town had significant importance as a military centre and the recent local discovery of the Staffordshire Hoard, the largest collection of Saxon gold ever found, has focused the world's attention on this area. We may never know why it was buried or who it belonged to. Was it part of the royal treasure of the Mercian Kings, buried to hide it from invaders?



View this great You Tube video to see Saxons in Tamworth today:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHd5w8fp15A



Route Description

By road: From M42 take A5 Westbound, from A38 take A5 Eastbound, and follow signs for Tamworth. From A453, A51, A513 and B5000, follow signs for Tamworth town centre.

This leaflet has been designed and produced by
Tamworth Borough Council

Tamworth
Borough Council



All information believed accurate at time of print, based on available research. We accept no responsibility for errors. Suggested route is fully accessible by footpaths, however paving surfaces may vary.

If you require this information in another format or language please phone 01827 709581, or email tic@tamworth.gov.uk.

(9/17) 1650

Welcome to Tamworth

Heritage Trail



A self-guided walking tour through the historic town of Tamworth, Staffordshire.

Tamworth
Borough Council



www.visittamworth.co.uk

Welcome to the Tamworth Heritage Trail

This self-guided walking tour offers the opportunity to explore the best Tamworth has to offer.

As the ancient capital of Mercia and once home to the King of Mercia's palace, Tamworth's history is crammed with stories of intrigue and warfare. Discover its influential people, admire its grand architecture and see how ancient meets modern today.



Further information on Tamworth's history and heritage, plus general information about the town and local attractions may be obtained from:

Tamworth Tourist Information Centre
Philip Dix Centre, Corporation Street,
Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7DN.

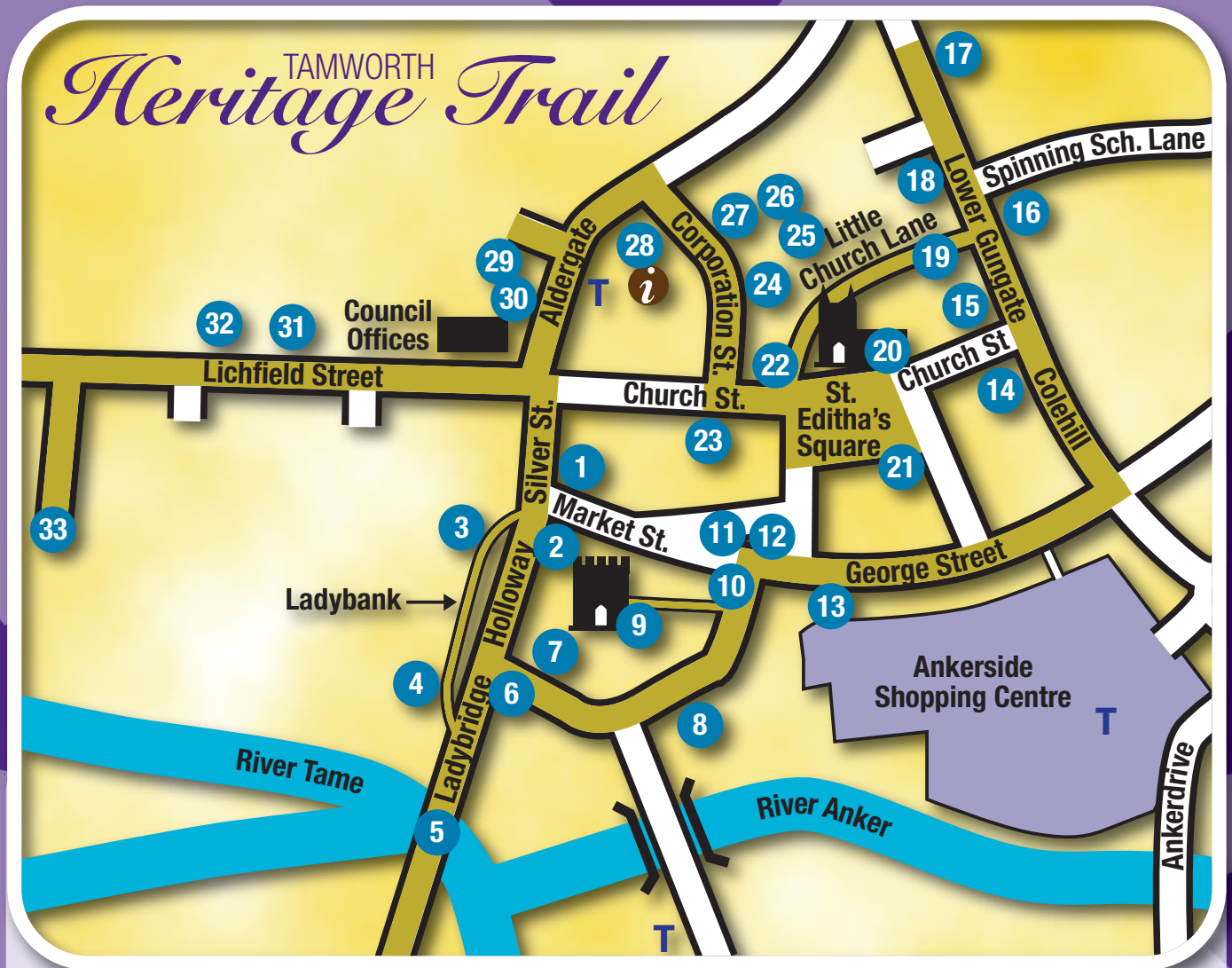
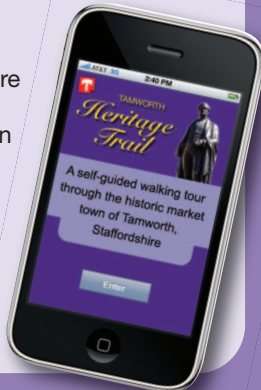
Telephone: 01827 709 581
Box Office: 01827 709 618
Fax: 01827 709 582
Email: tic@tamworth.gov.uk

Monday-Friday: 9am – 7pm
Saturday: 9am – 5pm



Get the Tamworth Heritage Trail iPhone app!

If this brochure has whetted your appetite and you want to know more about the fascinating history and heritage Tamworth has to offer, then download the Tamworth Heritage iPhone app FOR FREE.



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| 1. Co-op Grocery Store | 12. Town Hall | 24. Assembly Rooms |
| 2. Castle Hotel | 13. George Street | 25. Memorial Obelisk |
| 3. Bank House | 14. Tamworth Co-op | 26. The Library |
| 4. Brewery House | 15. Tamworth Registry Office | 27. Carnegie Centre |
| 5. LadyBridge | 16. Almshouses | 28. Philip Dix Centre |
| 6. Holloway Lodge | 17. The Globe Public House | 29. St Johns RC Church |
| 7. Aethelfleda Monument and the Black Anchor | 18. Free Grammar School | 30. The Methodist Church |
| 8. Bandstand and flowerbeds | 19. Little Church Lane | 31. 16th Century House |
| 9. Tamworth Castle | 20. St Editha's Church | 32. Old Peel School House |
| 10. Castle Gatehouse | 21. Colin Grazier Statue | 33. The Moat House |
| 11. Robert Peel statue | 22. Colin Grazier Pub | |
| | 23. The Silk Kite Public House | |

T: Public Toilets