

their six generation ownership (circa 1100 to 1294) it was remodelled in stone. It was besieged by Parliamentary forces during the Civil War and captured on 25th June 1643.

Ethelfleda & Athelstan Statue
Unveiled in 1913, it commemorates one thousand years since Aethelflaed drove back the Danes, establishing her reign and her education of Athelstan.

Castle Grounds Pillbox
The Castle Pleasure Grounds were opened in 1931 near to the site of a Saxon Water Mill, Built to defend against possible enemy invasion via the river during World War II.

Lady Bridge
The bridge, originally known as either 'The Bridge of St. Mary' or 'The Bridge of Our Lady' was first built in circa 1294. It was rebuilt in 1796 after flooding destroyed the original, and was widened in 1840.

Built to defend against possible enemy invasion via the river during World War II.



head fritillary flowers can be found growing wild. The site is managed under the Wild About Tamworth Project between Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Tamworth Borough Council.

Tamworth Castle
Built in the 11th Century on the likely site of a previous Saxon fort, Tamworth Castle is Grade I listed. Following the Norman Conquest, the castle site was given to William the Conqueror's Steward, Robert Despensers who built a typical Norman Mott and Bailey fashion castle. The castle passed down to the Marmion Family of Tamworth and during

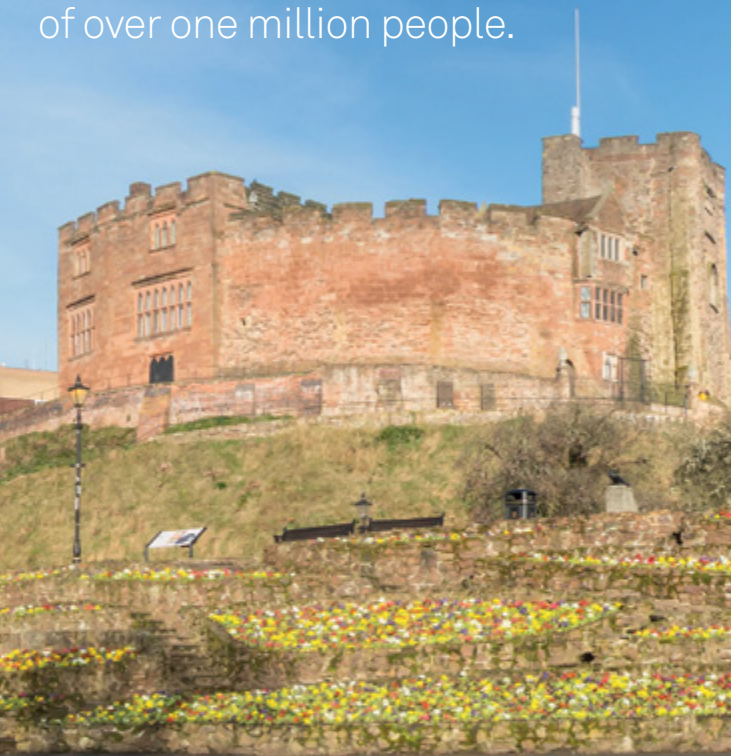
Originally the land of the Corinti tribe and settled by the Romans between 43-409 AD. See nearby Watling Street, a Roman road. The Angles then landed in an open meadow by the Tame named "Tomworðig" and established "Tomtun" or Tame-town. They become known as "Tomsaete" or Tame-settlers. In the reign of King Offa, 757-796 AD, Tamworth was the seat of the Kingdom of Mercia.

Broad Meadow Local Nature Reserve
This 61-acre island between the two channels of the River Tame is an example of rare floodplain grassland where snakes

Walk highlights



Explore the landscape, history and wildlife of the Tame Valley Wetlands. Stretching between Birmingham and Tamworth is an extraordinary, hidden landscape on the doorstep of over one million people.



Getting here

Tamworth is located just off Junction 10 of the M42 and the A5. There are a number of car parks in the town – the walk starts from Tamworth Borough Council's Jolly Sailor car park, off Fazeley Road, B78 3JJ, a short distance from the centre, which is also serviced by several bus routes. Please note this car park occasionally floods. For more information visit: www.tamworth.gov.uk

This guide is available to download from the website. For more information visit: tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

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This walk has been created with assistance from:



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Landscape Partnership C/O
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust



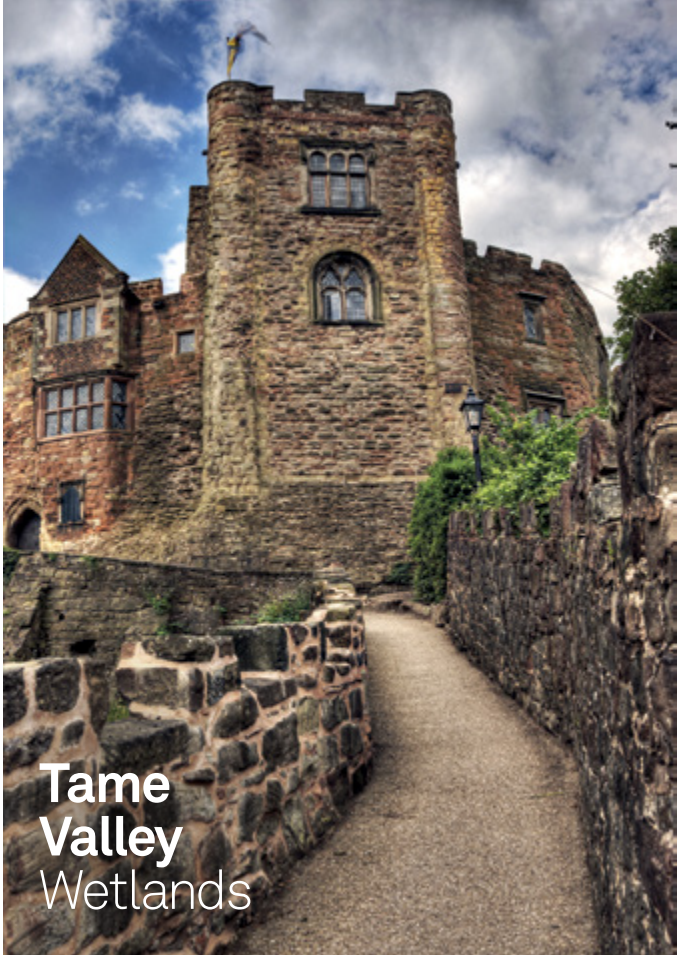
Follow the Countryside Code

Sections of this circular walk travel through wildlife friendly areas. Please be aware of this and know your Countryside Code:

- Leave gates and property as you find them and keep to paths
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Be considerate of locals and others enjoying the outdoors
- Follow advice and local signs.

Tamworth Town Circular Walk

Medium: 6.5 km / 4 miles



Tame Valley Wetlands



Tamworth Town Circular walk

Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians, ruled Mercia in the Midlands from 911 until her death in Tamworth on 12 June 918 AD. Aethelflaed would have walked or ridden through a landscape of woodland, meadow and fields rich in wildlife. As the borough of Tamworth has expanded, it has retained some of those wild spaces. They offer, like small jewels in a crown, the freedom of exploring a semi-rural setting and the opportunity for a glimpse into her world.

Distance: 6.5 km (4 miles)

Allow: 3 hours

NOTICE: During adverse weather, sections of this walk can flood. Please use sound judgement and adhere to any warnings, restrictions or closures in place along the route.

Landscape and path type: The route uses unsurfaced footpaths through a nature reserve with free roaming cattle and on surfaced pavements through the town, along busy roads and over footbridges. There are kissing gates and a stile during this walk. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

Map: OS Map 232 Nuneaton & Tamworth, Lichfield & Atherstone.

Dogs: Restricted to public rights of way through the nature reserve – please keep dogs on a lead and under close control at all times.

Directions:

1 From the car park, follow the finger post to the left towards a small bridge. After the bridge, turn right and follow the finger post along Fazeley Road, a wide pedestrian path towards the town centre. In 85m, turn left through a kissing gate into Lady Meadow, crossing a culvert in 100m. Take a moment to look back at the view of Lady Bridge and Tamworth Castle, (the concrete building in Lady Meadow alongside the Tame is a World War II pillbox), then continue along the path exiting the meadow in 160m through a gate onto Bonehill Road.

2 Turn right and use the pedestrian crossing ahead to cross the A51, then walk to your right over the flood relief channel and following the path down to Broad Meadow LNR. Follow the desire lines alongside the river to take you in a loop around the island nature reserve – look for the beautiful Snake's Head Fritillary in flower in March/April. You will see and hear the water from the weir at the furthest point west of this loop. Be careful not to get

too close to the riverbank and keep an eye out for cattle grazing the wet grassland.

3 Rejoin the path alongside the A51 and walk uphill, crossing the River Tame then crossing over to your right near the roundabout briefly onto Lichfield Street. Take the first right onto Sunset Close and walk for 110m to the end of the road and back to the river. Turn left and follow the path alongside the river for 450m past the rear of the Grade II listed Moat House and to the north end of Lady Bridge where the rivers' Anker and Tame join.

4 Turn left back onto Fazeley Road then immediately turn right into the Castle Grounds, admiring a closer view of Tamworth Castle, following the path to a bridge over the Anker in 130m. Follow the cycle track to the left immediately after the bridge, keeping to the left tracks when the paths split alongside the Anker, passing beneath Anker Drive in 300m then crossing another culvert in 150m.

Key

- Walk highlight
- Refreshments
- Parking
- Bus stop
- Train station
- Information Point
- Library
- Buildings
- Open water
- Woodland

- Tamworth Town (circular route)
- The Tame Way (River route)
- Route point
- Road
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Track
- Train track

5 At the next split, take the right path and then the right path again at the next, joining a path alongside a stream feeding Borrowpit Lake and passing beneath River Drive. In 150m, cross the stream to your right, exiting into the car park for the Snowdome. Walk to your left around the Snowdome to another bridge over River Drive, crossing back into the Castle Grounds area.

6 Follow the path ahead towards the skate park and tennis courts, turning left in 140m between the skate park and tennis courts. You can stop here for refreshments and to enjoy a view of the bowling

green, the old lido and the centenary rose garden planted to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 60 years on the throne. Continue ahead along the path coming to a bridge over the River Tame in 200m. Cross the Tame to reach the end of the Tamworth Town Trail.



Jubilee Roses
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