

Appendix 11.6: A43/A5 Tove Roundabout - Archaeological Sites, Features and Find-spots (Figure 11.7) (organised by period)

Site Id No.	Site type	Period	Source	Site Description	Heritage Significance
MNN3659	Roman town: Lactodorum	Prehistoric to Saxon	HER	<p>The HER entry records that Towcester was the site of the Roman town of 'Lactodorum' located along side Watling Street, between the settlements at 'Whilton Lodge' ('Bannaventa') and 'Fenny Stratford' ('Magiovinium'). The majority of the known settlement lay to the west of Watling Street, occupying a spur of land surrounded on three sides by low lying marshy ground on the floodplains of the Tove and Silverstone Brook. The choice of the site of Towcester is thought likely to have been determined to a large degree by the river crossing of the major road where it passed through the broader valley area.</p> <p>Prehistoric origins for the settlement at Towcester have long been suspected. It has been suggested, largely on the basis of scattered finds of residual Iron Age pottery, that the pre-Roman settlement was as extensive as the Roman town. There is also a suggestion, based on the duro element of the Roman place-name, that the settlement may have been fortified, although no trace of an early defensive circuit has been found. However, surviving features relating to this pre-Conquest settlement appear to have been largely confined to the east of the present town in the area between the line later taken by Watling Street and the floodplain of the River Tove. The earliest occupation can be dated to the mid-late 1st century AD when roadside boundary ditches and enclosures seem to have been laid out close to the newly constructed major route of Watling Street in what subsequently becomes the core of the town. The latest recorded coins from the town are all late fourth century issues, which suggest that urban life was beginning to break down before the official end of Roman administration in AD410. Although there is structural evidence for occupation well into the late 4th century, especially along the Alchester Road suburbs, evidence</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>(potential buried remains of former prehistoric/Romano-British and Saxon settlement)</p>

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				<p>for subsequent Anglo-Saxon occupation into the fifth century AD is absent.</p> <p>There is generally an absence of evidence for activity during the Early-Middle Saxon period, finds from the area , suggest that occupation may have shifted away from the former Roman town by the early 6th century, though other evidence is unclear.</p>	
MNN140797	Buildings (possible)	Roman	HER	The HER entry records that archaeological investigations in this area uncovered no definite buildings but the presence of gravel surfaces and some slots/foundation trenches and postholes, as well as the quantity of finds uncovered, perhaps suggests that there had originally been buildings fronting onto Watling Street.	Medium (potential buried remains of former Romano-British settlement)
MNN115875	Iron Working Site (possible)	Roman	HER	The HER entry records that there is evidence for iron working of indeterminate form within the northern suburb along Watling Street.	Medium (potential buried remains of former Romano-British settlement)
MNN8517, MNN19115	Cemetery (possible), Inhumation	Roman	HER	The HER entry records that there is a reputed Roman burial place at SP 6879, 4954. The Royal Commissions recorded in 1982 that the site is crossed by a possible 'old' road and no surface evidence, tumulus or cemetery features are visible.	Medium (potential buried remains of former Roman cemetery)n
MNN3501, MNN11430	Road, Watling Street Roman Road	Roman	HER	The HER entry records that Watling Street runs along the alignment of the contemporary A5 trunk road. Built soon after the Roman Conquest of 43 AD, it linked the southeast of the country to the northwest. The line of the road currently forms the parish boundary between Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.	Medium (potential buried remains of former road)
MNN19079	Find-spots: Coins	Roman	HER	The HER entry records that 14 coins dating to the late 3 rd and 4 th centuries AD were found in this part of Towcester.	Negligible (unstratified artefact find-spot)
MNN31402	Northern Suburb of	Roman	HER	The HER entry records that a series of evaluations and trial trenching close to the junction of the A5 and A43	Medium

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	Roman Town			have identified a northern suburb for the Roman town. Although mostly small scale trenches, these excavations have identified sufficient evidence to suggest the likely form of buildings in this area. No complete building plans have been recovered but limited pre-emptive excavations in 1986 and 1988, during the construction of a petrol filling station, and trial trenching and geophysics southeast of the main roundabout in 1990 both suggest that this area is characterised by stone founded strip buildings in a ribbon development close to Watling street.	(potential buried remains of former prehistoric/Romano-British and Saxon settlement)
MNN101325	Turnpike, Old Stratford to Dunchurch Turnpike	Post-medieval to Modern	HER	The HER entry records the presence of the former Stratford to Dunchurch turnpike road. No further information is provided but this route follows the line of the A5 and is an old Roman road.	Negligible (later reuse of the former Roman road)
MNN116296	Avenue of Trees running west from main house	Post-medieval to Modern	HER; Historic maps; Aerial photographs	The HER entry records the presence of an avenue of trees associated with Easton Neston House. No further information is provided. Oswald (1993-4) records that the avenue is a raised earthwork up 2m high formerly flanked by a double line of trees which formed a great avenue running both east and west from Easton Neston House and extending for nearly 4km in total and is probably contemporary with the 17 th -18 th century house. Archaeological investigations carried out in 1996 recorded that the remains a broad shallow ditch survive on either side of a causeway, both c. 4m wide and 0.6m deep. The avenue of trees is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1 st edition map (1884; Sheet LVI.NW) and subsequent maps until 1952. The avenue of trees is not visible on modern aerial photographs (Googleearth) and has been largely built over in the area to the east of the roundabout.	Negligible (former designed landscape feature which no longer survives)

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MNN143182	Cold War communication site (possible)	Modern	HER; Historic maps; Aerial photographs	<p>The HER entry records the presence of a possible Cold War communication site (Telephone Repeater Station) comprising a number of small former BT buildings. The buildings are c. 2.5 miles apart and run up the A5 to Wheedon before heading west on the A45. They are thought to have been part of the 1950's hardened 'survivable' trunk cable linking the deep underground exchanges in London, Birmingham and Manchester.</p> <p>A building and small rectangular enclosure is depicted in this area on the 1952 Ordnance Survey map (Sheet LVI.NW).</p> <p>The building on the 1952 Ordnance Survey map is visible on modern aerial photographs (Googleearth).</p>	Low (modern historic feature)
200	Race course	Modern	Historic maps; Aerial photographs	<p>What appears to be a small racecourse is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1884; Sheet LVI.NW) but is not shown on the 2nd edition (1901; Sheet LVI.NW).</p> <p>No remains of the racecourse are visible on modern aerial photographs (Googleearth); the area in which it is depicted on the Ordnance Survey maps has now been developed for the A5 Tove Roundabout.</p>	Negligible (former feature that no longer survives)
201	Building	Modern	Historic maps; Aerial photographs	<p>A small, square building is depicted abutting a field boundary on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (1901; Sheet LVI.NW), but not on the 1952 edition.</p> <p>The building is not visible on modern aerial photographs (Googleearth).</p>	Negligible (former building that no longer survives)
202	Building	Modern	Historic maps; Aerial photographs	<p>A small, square building and associated enclosure are depicted on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (1901; Sheet LVI.NW) and on the 1952 edition.</p> <p>The building is not visible on modern aerial photographs (Googleearth).</p>	Negligible (former building that no longer survives)