

Route 1

Short Circular

1.5 miles
30 – 40mins approx



Walking
105 kcal



Running
150 kcal

Can you spot a swan in the marina or canal?

How many times does your voice echo under the marina tunnel?

Spelling Bee

Each choose an animal that you can see and try to spell it

Can you spot any boats that begin with the letter P?



1 Starting at the entrance of Mercia Marina, follow the footpath around the back of Midland Chandelers shop and make a sharp left down to the waterside.



2 After going underneath the tunnel, look out for the wildlife pond on the left which attracts an array of water birds including mallards, coots and moorhens.



3 Follow the path to the pedestrian canal bridge and join the towpath which runs parallel to the 93 mile Trent & Mersey Canal.

Completed in 1777 the main proposer of the canal was famous pottery manufacturer Josiah Wedgwood.



4 Turn left after the bridge and follow the path. Look out for a quaint cottage on the right called Potlocks Farm. This was a former boater's pub which was frequented by men and their horses.

Whilst the men drank and the horses grazed in the fields, the women on the boats prepared the evening meal.



5 Continue walking until you see the Nadee Restaurant. Turn left to follow the path over the bridge and continue to walk past Nadee and onto Heath Lane.



6 Here, you will see houses that were built in the 1950s to accommodate the workers of Willington Power Station.



7 As the path naturally turns to the left, cross over the road to King George V playing field which can be entered in between the heraldic plates mounted on the brick pillars. This is a great place to stop for a picnic, or to let the kids play on the swings in the park.

After King George V's death in 1936, the decision was made by the government to create a playing field fund for the 'enjoyment of the people' across the UK. This park is one of 471 across the country.



8 Walk through the park and up the stairs onto Willington Road before heading left and crossing over the road to the footpath.



9 Follow the footpath back to Mercia Marina entrance.

Wildlife Information

Bats



There are 17 bat species in the UK, 11 in Derbyshire and 9 of these in Fiedern. The Marina's body of water with its insect life is an excellent habitat for bat foraging.

Here are some which have been spotted feeding at the Marina: Brown Long Eared Bat, Leiser's Bat, Daubenton's Bat, Noctule Bat, Nathusius Pipistrelle.

Wetland Birds



Mute Swan



Canada Goose



Gadwall



Mallard



Tufted Duck



Moorhen



Coot



Black Headed Gull

Other Birds



Goldfinch



Pied Wagtail



Blue Tit



Long Tailed Tit



Wood Pigeon



Robin



Dunnock



Chaffinch

Butterflies



Gatekeeper



Red Admiral



Common Blue



Cinnabar Moth

Flowers



Red Clover



Ladies Smock



Snowdrop



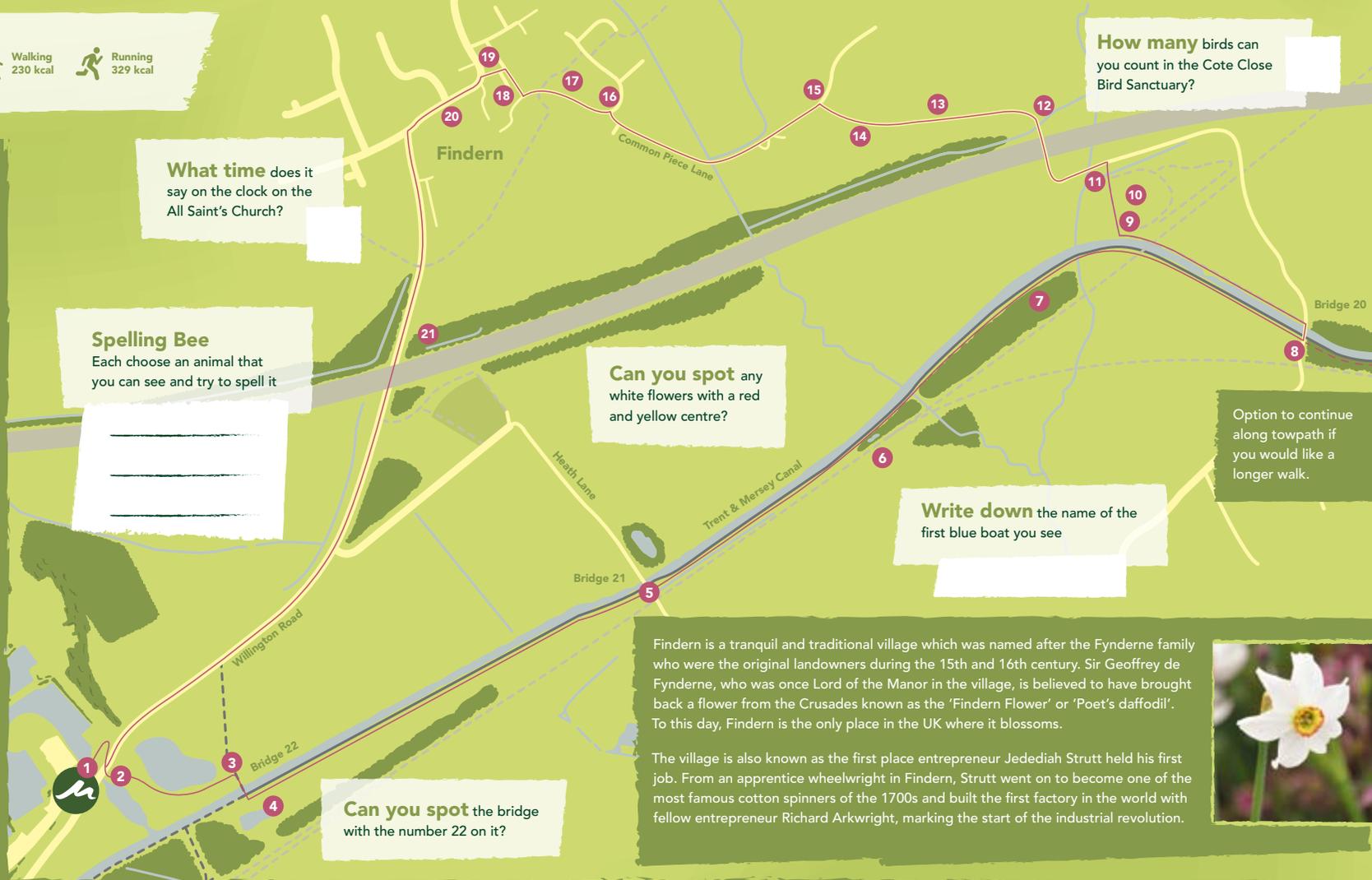
Aconite

Route 2 Findern Circular

3 miles
45mins – 1hr approx

Walking
230 kcal

Running
329 kcal



How many birds can you count in the Cote Close Bird Sanctuary?

What time does it say on the clock on the All Saint's Church?

Spelling Bee
Each choose an animal that you can see and try to spell it

Can you spot any white flowers with a red and yellow centre?

Write down the name of the first blue boat you see

Option to continue along towpath if you would like a longer walk.

Can you spot the bridge with the number 22 on it?

Findern is a tranquil and traditional village which was named after the Fynderne family who were the original landowners during the 15th and 16th century. Sir Geoffrey de Fynderne, who was once Lord of the Manor in the village, is believed to have brought back a flower from the Crusades known as the 'Findern Flower' or 'Poet's daffodil'. To this day, Findern is the only place in the UK where it blossoms.

The village is also known as the first place entrepreneur Jedediah Strutt held his first job. From an apprentice wheelwright in Findern, Strutt went on to become one of the most famous cotton spinners of the 1700s and built the first factory in the world with fellow entrepreneur Richard Arkwright, marking the start of the industrial revolution.



1 Starting at the entrance of Mercia Marina, follow the footpath around the back of Midland Chandlers shop before making a sharp left down to the waterside.



2 After going through the tunnel, take time to look at the wildlife pond on the left which was first built in 2008 and attracts an array of water birds.



3 Make your way across to the pedestrian canal bridge and join the towpath which runs parallel to the Trent & Mersey Canal. Completed in 1777 the main proposer of the canal was famous pottery manufacturer Josiah Wedgwood, who chose the famous engineer James Brindley to build the 93 mile canal which stretches from Long Eaton in Derbyshire to Runcorn in Cheshire.



4 As you turn left off the footbridge, follow the path past Potlocks Farm, a former boater's pub, and keep going until you see Nadee Restaurant on the other side of the canal.



6 Keep going along the canal path underneath the bridge and you will soon see the Ballast Hole Pond. The pond was one of many dug out to provide ballast for the building of the railway in the 19th century and later used by Willington Power Station in the 1950s to deposit ash from the burnt coal.



7 Further along you will see Jubilee Wood on your right hand side. 1,000 trees were planted here in 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.



8 You will come to bridge no.20 over the canal, go up and over this (if you reach the Bubble Inn you have gone too far). Turn left off the bridge and continue to walk on the opposite side of the canal, under a tunnel and shortly after this turn right through an A frame which will take you away from the waterside.



10 On your right you will notice a thriving wildlife wetland site and Stanhope Wood woodland area. You can take some time to explore the area to your right, which is full of wildlife.



11 Go up the bank steps and turn left at the top of the path and follow the path round going through the underpass of the A50.



12 From here, you can either choose to navigate through Cote Close Bird Sanctuary or left through Cardales Wildflower Meadow.



13 Both will take you to a bridle gate at the end of the fields. Look out for a rare white flower with red and yellow edges, called the 'Fynderne Flower' a type of narcissus which was brought to the area by former land owner Sir Geoffrey de Fynderne in the 16th century.



14 Walk left through the gate on Crow Park Way, past the horse field on your right & left.



15 Take a left down Commonpiece Lane until you pass the allotments on your right & left until you reach the houses in Findern Village.



16 Follow the road straight ahead and on your right will see a small restored Methodist Chapel.



17 As you follow the road further on your left the Findern Parish Rooms with were bought by villagers over 100 years ago and turned into a community centre.



18 As you reach Findern Village Green, take a look at All Saint's Church built in 1863 after the original church burnt down.



19 Turn left at the church and walk down Main Street past the old silk weaver's cottage on your left. Along the road you will see a water pump which was used until 1931 in the village.

You will also be able to see Somerville House – a mid-18th Century gentleman's residence which has a noticeably high gateway to allow for carriages to originally enter.



20 Follow the road round to the left and carry on down Heath Lane and continue to the flyover over the A50. This will merge into Willington Road, keep to the roadside footpath and you will arrive back to the Mercia Marina on your right hand side.

Route 3

Willington Circular

3.3 miles
1 – 1.5hrs approx



Walking
240 kcal



Running
344 kcal



Thank you to the Findern Footpath Group who have helped plot these fantastic walking routes.

Formed in 1998 by the Findern Parish Council, the Findern Footpaths Group was created to care for the local countryside.

Run solely by volunteers, the group work to maintain, improve and promote the 10 kilometres of public footpaths in Findern. These paths take in picturesque routes alongside streams, ponds and the Trent and Mersey Canal, as well as flower-rich meadows, historical sites and woodland.

Findern Footpath Group have also worked to create diverse habitats to encourage wildlife to flourish in the county alongside managed scrubland, hedgerow, wetland, meadows and restored ponds.

Situated on the River Trent, Willington was once an agricultural village before becoming the highest navigable port on the river in the 17th century.

The 18th century saw it continue to grow in popularity as the construction of the Trent and Mersey Canal began in 1777, the same year Bass beer in Burton began to trade and use the canal as their main transportation link.

Write down the name of the first red boat you see

What types of birds can you spot at the wildlife pond?

Spelling Bee

Each choose an animal that you can see and try to spell it

Where did the name 'Mercia' come from?

What would you name your boat?

Continue towards Repton along the footpath if you would like a longer walk

✓ Repton

Repton is a quaint village to the south of Mercia Marina, known for its Priory and Grammar School. Repton Priory was built in the 12th century and became a Christian place of pilgrimage for over 400 years who believed the shrine of St Guthlac would cure headaches.

The Grammar School in the village has educated a plethora of famous people including Author Roald Dahl.



1 Starting at the entrance of Mercia Marina, follow the footpath around the back of Midland Chandelers shop before making a sharp left down to the waterside.



4 As you get to Willington, continue following the canal path under the road, (bridge no.23) and carry on along the towpath towards Burton.



7 Follow the path and cross the bridge over the railway line and then continue straight through the field, following the overhead power lines with the railway track to your left.



11 When you reach the 2 mini roundabouts, use the pedestrian crossing and take the first left off both roundabouts.



2 After going through the tunnel, take time to look at the wildlife pond on the left which attracts an array of water birds including moorhens and coots.



5 Continue walking until you go underneath bridge no. 24 (The Castle Way).
The canal stretches 93 miles from Long Eaton in Derbyshire to Runcorn in Cheshire and was initially built to transport limestone, coal and bricks.



8 As you approach a wooden fence on your right hand side, follow it and then bear left taking the underpass under the railway.



12 Walk up the road which has the 'Green Man' Pub on your left and 'Rising Sun' pub on your right.



3 Make your way across to the pedestrian canal bridge and join the towpath which runs parallel to the Trent & Mersey Canal. Turn right and follow the canal path.



6 Carry on until you reach a very narrow footpath on your left, approx 100 yards before the next bridge.



9 Turn right on to a quiet residential street Ivy Close and follow the path round until you reach The Castle Way – turn right on The Castle Way. This will take you to the centre of Willington.



13 Carefully cross the road and back onto the towpath you walked previously. Retrace your steps back to the bridge near Mercia Marina.

Completed in 1777 the main proposer of the canal was famous pottery manufacturer Josiah Wedgewood who realised the transport system could be used to bring raw materials to his factory.