

# Route 2

## Findern Circular

3 miles  
45mins – 1hr approx



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 daffodil 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.



18 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.



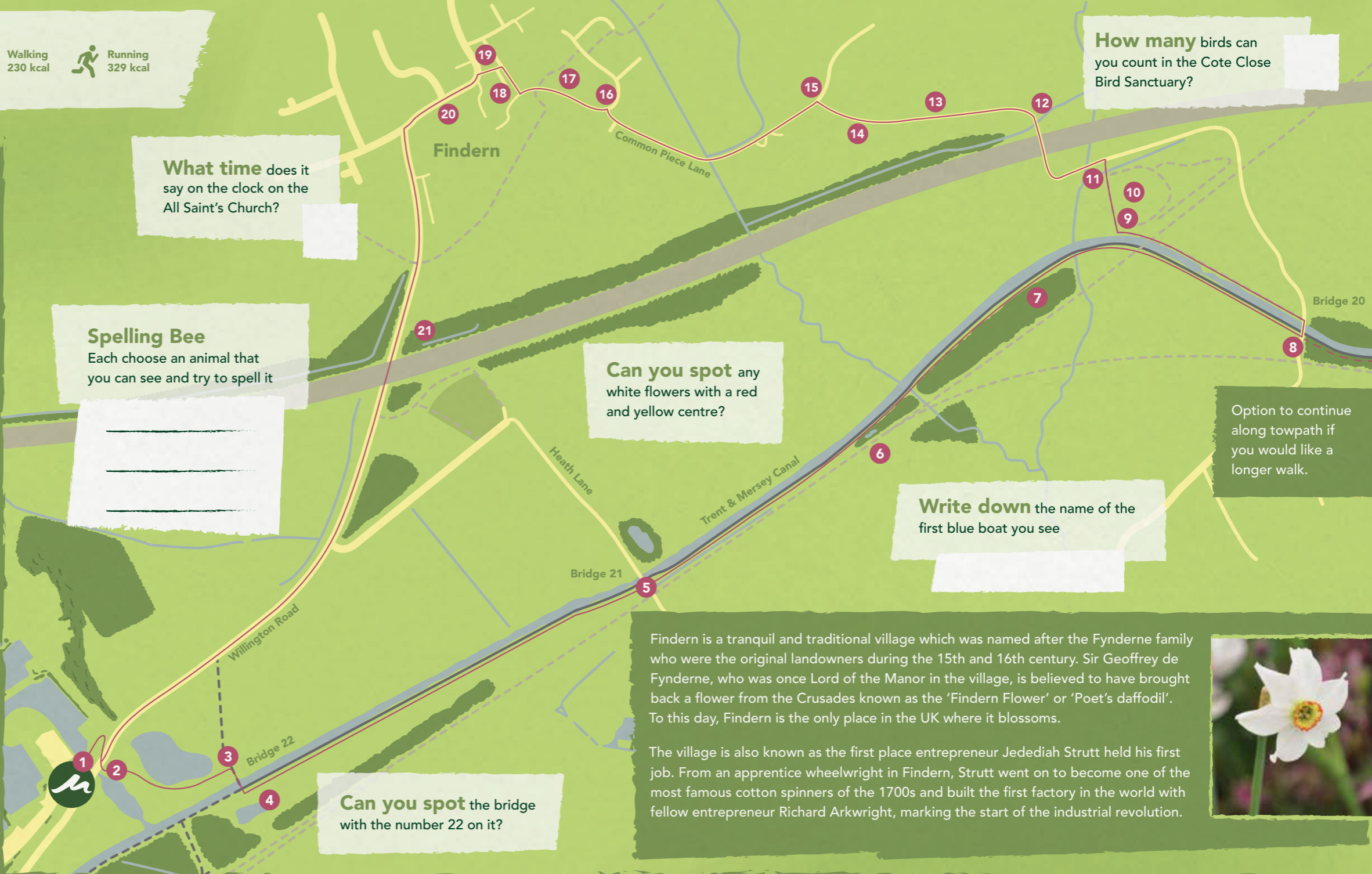
19 As you reach Findern Village Green, take a look at All Saint's Church built in 1863 after the original church burnt down.



20 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.



21 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.



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

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.



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

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