

Route 3

Willington Circular

3.3 miles
1 – 1.5hrs approx



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.



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.



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.



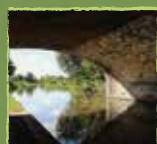
7 Follow the path and cross the bridge over the railway line and then continue straight through the field, following the overhead power lines with the railway track to your left.



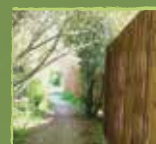
11 When you reach the 2 mini roundabouts, use the pedestrian crossing and take the first left off both roundabouts.



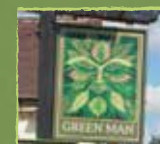
2 After going through the tunnel, take time to look at the wildlife pond on the left which attracts an array of water birds including moorhens and coots.



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.
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.



6 Carry on until you reach a very narrow footpath on your left, just before the next bridge, no. 25.



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.