

Route 1

Short Circular

1.5 miles
30 – 40mins approx

Walking
105 kcal

Running
150 kcal



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



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.



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.



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.



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.



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



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.



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



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 Findern. 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