





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?

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

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

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 Chandlers 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 Wedgewood.



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.



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 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

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

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

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

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 Wedgewood, 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 bridge gate at the end of the fields. Look out for a rare white flower with red and yellow edges, called the 'Findern 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 Commonplace 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.