

CANAL HERITAGE WALK

Grid Ref. 309305.

From Findern Green proceed towards the Church . Continue past the cemetery on the right. The lane continues over the brook past Clovermead Kennels. The lane forks, and here you must take the right hand fork. Turn right and pass underneath the bridge spanning the A50. Turn left and then right towards the Trent & Mersey canal towpath.

Work to build the canal was started in 1766 and completed in 1777. The main proposer of the canal was Josiah Wedgewood, who realised that the canals could be used for bringing in raw materials as well as carrying away finished goods.

His engineer was James Brindley who became the greatest of the canal builders, but who died before seeing the Trent & Mersey Canal completed. The Canal is 93 miles long. It begins at

Begins at Long Eaton and finishes at Runcorn.

Continue along the towpath, crossing the canal at bridge 20.

Bridges are numbered for easy identification. Existing roads and footpaths had to be carried over the newly constructed cut.

As we walk towards Stenson, please note the by-weir on the right hand side. This allows water to flow past the lock when it is not being used. This is known locally as the Stenson Bubble.

The lock keepers cottage opposite accommodated a lock keeper until the 1960's.

The lock here is very wide and boaters are wary of it! They complain it is heavy to operate and that the water inside is deep and turbulent!

Continue back along the path towards Findern. Pass under the canal bridge near the Greyhound Pub. This was the original road bridge, which was later replaced when the railway was built.

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Notice the milepost on the left hand side This milepost is in fact a replica, which was kindly installed by the Trent & Mersey Canal Society in 1977. The original one was removed as part of the war effort in 1939.

Here we pass in front of Potlocks Farm. This was the boaters pub. The men would go for a drink while the women prepared a meal in the boat, and the boat horses grazed.

Behind the hedge in the garden at the side of the cottage are still visible the Transshipment basins that would have been used to take goods off the barges on the canal before they were loaded on the trains. The first one has been made into a delightful pond, the second one is dry.

Cross over the canal at the White Footbridge and after walking over Potlocks Path, crossing the 2 stiles, turn right along the road and walk back to the village.