

KEEP SAFE

- ❖ Please keep your dog on a lead at all times.
- ❖ Please walk in single file along the road.
- ❖ Children should be carefully supervised.
- ❖ Take care when climbing stiles and crossing bridges.
- ❖ Be aware the path may be slippery, particularly after rain.
- ❖ Cross fields containing livestock with care.
- ❖ We are not responsible for any loss, damage or injury, howsoever caused, to you or your possessions on this footpath.



*An award winning countryside
group*

www.findernfootpathsgroup.org

We are a small, self-funded conservation group, who work to preserve the countryside and to help others to enjoy it!

A donation of 50p for this leaflet will help us with our work.

*WALK 'S AROUND
... FINDERN*

A LOCK- KEEPERS LIFE

***Walk along the canal, see
my house and find out
about my job!***



Distance: Approx. 2 miles/2 hours

Terrain: Gentle, mostly flat. Possibly muddy after rain.

Stiles: several, 1 flight of steps.

Bus: Villager V3 stops at Findern Green

A LOCK-KEEPERS LIFE

START: LOWER GREEN,
FINDERN

Grid Ref. 309305.

From Findern Green proceed towards the Church. Turn right and you will find the car park in Lower Green. From Lower Green 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.

Turn left and walk along the canal. At the old canal bridge, bridge 20, cross the canal. Turn left and walk towards Stenson Bubble. Notice the modern boat yard, marina and the old lock keepers cottage.

From here, imagine how my life would have been.....

Return by walking directly along the towpath towards the Greyhound pub. When you arrive at the pub, turn right and return to the village along the road.

MY DAY BEGINS.....

I lived in the lock-keepers cottage beside the canal. Every day was different for me and it depended on the number of boats travelling through the lock and the other jobs that needed doing.

Often it could be a cold and wet job, so British Waterways supplied me with a uniform.

My first job was to prepare the locks for the day ahead. Then I checked the lock chambers and the life saving equipment to make sure it hadn't been vandalised overnight.

My customers came from all walks of life: from a boater sailing for pleasure, to boaters who made their living from the canal.

Everyone who wanted their boat to travel on the Trent & Mersey Canal had to buy a licence. Once the boats were tied up, I asked the skipper to come ashore to pay their licence at my office at Stenson.

A big part of my job was ensuring the safety of everyone who visited the canal whether they were anglers, boat users, walkers, or simply members of the public. I reminded people about how important it is to Stay Away From the Edge and I made sure that all the life saving

equipment was in place and in good working order.

I liked the lock to look neat and tidy so I painted the bollards, hooks and locks once a year and also cut the grass. All these jobs had to be done in between operating the locks and when the weather allowed it! I had a good communication system which meant that I was in contact with boats arriving or other staff by radio or by telephone. This was really important as it saved the customer having to wait around.

I loved my job, even though I was kept very busy and hardly got time to have a cup of tea! I worked in a beautiful place and got to meet lots of interesting people. I was a lock-keeper for 32 years before I retired. Now, my house has become a café, and the staff from British Waterways maintain the lock. This means that there will not be someone looking after it all the time like I used to do.

I hope that you will get the opportunity to visit the Trent & Mersey Canal and see its beauty for yourselves!