



Exeter City Council A master plan for the Riverside & Ludwell Valley Parks 2016-2026

1. Introduction

Exeter City Council has appointed consultants Exterior Architecture to produce a master plan for the Riverside & Ludwell Valley Parks (see Map 1 below). The need for this plan is driven largely by housing growth. The resulting increase in population has an indirect impact on the Exe Estuary, which is a protected European wildlife site. This impact has to be mitigated, by law.

One of the elements of the mitigation strategy is the enhancement of alternative natural greenspace, and the Council has identified these two Parks for this purpose. We need to make the Parks more attractive for people, particularly those walking the dog, thus taking pressure off the estuary and its wild bird populations.

2. What will the plan do?

Fundamentally, the plan needs to set out where new areas of public recreational space can be created, and where improvements to existing space can be made, for example through planting orchards, providing shelter, toilets, or a cafe. The perceived and actual difficulties where dogs, walkers and cyclists occupy the same path need to be resolved, and there is a need to consider car parking. That said, the plan will prioritise walking and cycling infrastructure, and linkage with buses and trains, particularly the new rail station at Marsh Barton.

However, we also want the plan to address other aspects, such as the quality of 'gateways' into the Parks, interpretation of heritage and wildlife, navigation, notice of Park events, and the use of art to increase socialising in under utilised spaces. An art plan has been written for Riverside Valley Park, and we are keen to develop it through public engagement.

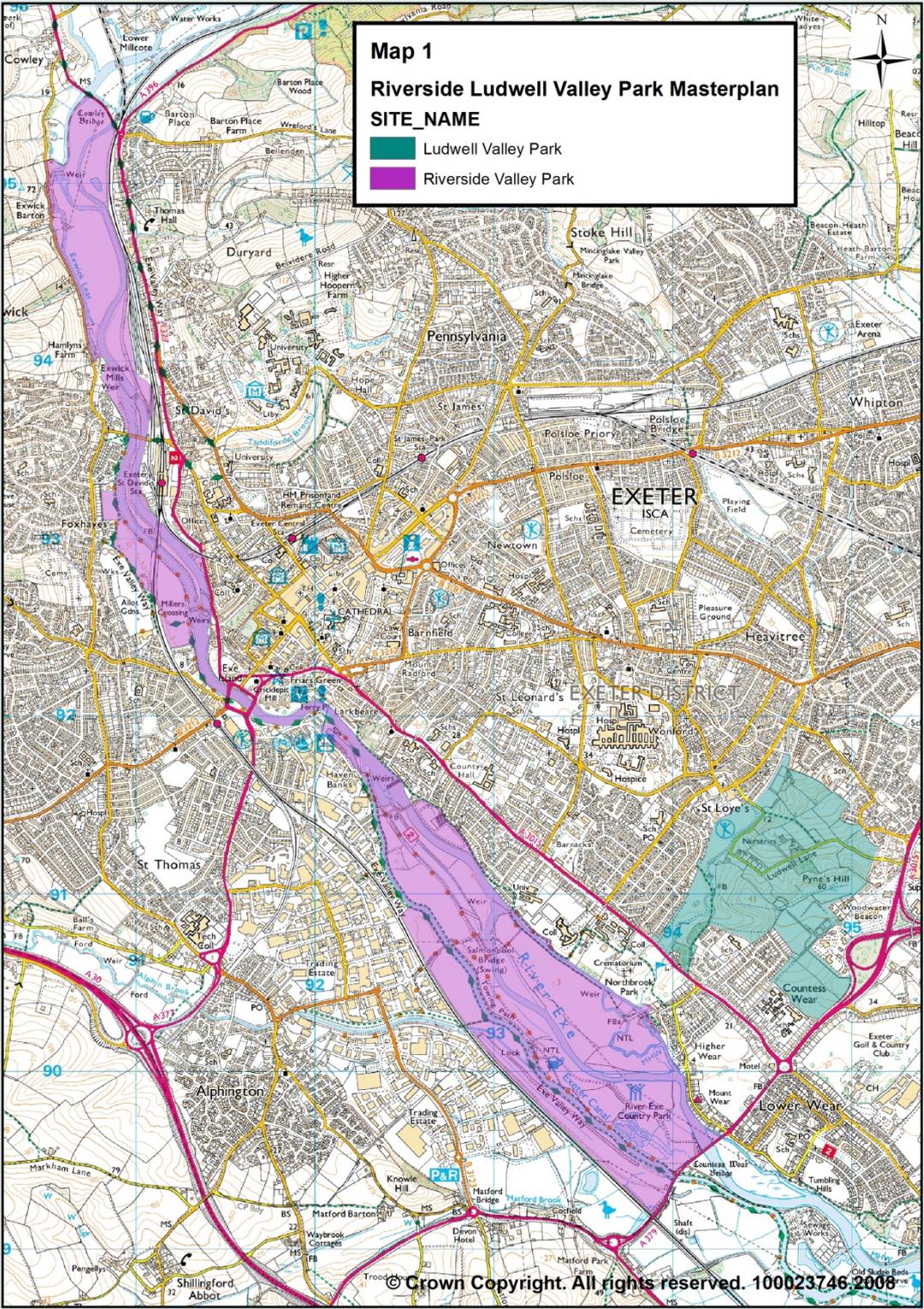
3. Funding

The plan making is funded from a Government grant, whilst the works to enhance the amount and quality of recreational space will be funded from development via the [Community Infrastructure Levy](#) (CIL). Up to £1 million may be available, depending on housing growth, and this may not be split evenly between each Park. Additionally, some aspects of Park improvement are unlikely to be funded from the CIL and will necessitate bids, for example to the Heritage Lottery Fund or Arts Council.

4. Consultation and timeline

A survey has been completed by interviewing 110 visitors to both Parks over 4 days. A user group has been established, with representation from community groups, clubs, charities, and landowners. The role of this group is to propose Park improvements and comment on a draft plan. It will meet twice. Anybody is invited to input their views at a family event in the Riverside Valley Park on Sunday 27th September (more details here). The draft masterplan will go before the Council's Executive Committee meeting on 17th November 2015 and will then be published on the Council's website. Detailed planning and delivery of the projects in the plan would then follow in early 2016.

For more information, please contact Simon Bates, Project Manager on 07875-280540 or email: sbates@eastdevon.gov.uk



Map 1
Riverside Ludwell Valley Park Masterplan
SITE_NAME

- Ludwell Valley Park
- Riverside Valley Park