



## Directions

1. Take the pathway between the Community Centre and the supermarket out onto Wonford Playing Fields.

2. Once in the field, turn left, following the footpath to the left and shortly you will come out onto Ludwell Lane. Turn right on the road, crossing the Northbrook, and just as the lane bends to the right, go through the entrance on the left hand side of the road, signed Ludwell Valley Park, into a field. Follow the path up the steep Northern Ridgeway. NB This is a steep path and you will need shoes with a good grip and preferably a walking stick particularly when the ground is slippery.

3. At the top of the hill, go through kissing Gate 11 and onto Hilly Ridge footpath. Pause to look back at the views towards Heavitree Church and the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Walk down the leafy footpath straight ahead, with the private Little Ridgeway field on your right, until it joins Ludwell Lane at Gate 16 (Lower Hilly Ridge Path) at the bottom. Cross the road carefully and go through the Gate 17 immediately opposite and down the steps into Vet's Field.

4. Turn right in Vet's Field and follow the perimeter fence footpath adjacent to Ludwell Lane. Go through Gate 4 into the Cherry Orchard. Keeping to the lower footpath and still following the perimeter fence adjacent to Ludwell Lane, go through Gate 5 into 3 Acre Meadow. Continue along the path at the bottom of the field and through Gate 6 which brings you out into a large field, with a sign pointing to the right saying "Off-Road Footpath alongside Ludwell Lane". Turn right here.

5. Keeping to this path at the lower end of the field, follow the fence along and you will soon come to Gate 23 into Little Longcombe. Take the footpath which winds diagonally across the field and exit through Gate 24 at the bottom left corner into Butchers Field.

6. Walk straight ahead, through Gate 14, then turn immediately right through another Gate 15 (Panny Bridge) and you will see a small bridge over the Northbrook ahead of you. Cross over this bridge and take the footpath to the right which will emerge onto Wonford Playing Fields. Follow this footpath alongside the brook, passing the childrens' playground on the left and you will see Wonford Sports Centre straight ahead of you. Take the footpath between the Community Centre and Lidl's to arrive back at your starting point.

## What to look out for

Look over the Exeter skyline and identify landmarks – Exeter Cathedral, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, University, Heavitree Church, St Leonards Church

Enjoy the view over the Exe estuary towards Exmouth and note Haldon Belvedere tower on the horizon to the west

Spot the wildlife including a great variety of British and migrating birds including buzzards, woodpeckers, goldfinches. Foxes, rabbits and squirrels are often seen in the valley as well as dragonflies near the Northbrook (or, as it is known locally, the Panny)

Enjoy the trees and wildflower meadows and look out for butterflies and bees.

## Enjoying your visit

To get the most from your visit without harming the wildlife that lives there, please remember:

### **Respect wildlife**

Please don't pick flowers or disturb nesting birds! If you see anything particularly exciting during your visit, please tell us about it via Facebook, Twitter or email

### **Dogs**

Dogs are welcome in the Valley Park, but please keep them under control and clean up after your dog. There are a number of dog bins at entrances to the Valley Park.

In the winter, there are likely to be overwintering birds looking for food, particularly in those fields where you see the signs explaining this. It is particularly important to control your dog in these fields ie keep them to the edges of the fields only, as they are specially planted to attract important bird species such as chaffinches and the birds will not use these fields if disturbed.

### **Cattle**

There are cattle in some fields from April to October – please keep your dog under close control and do not allow them to approach the cattle.

### **Be properly dressed**

Generally the terrain is uneven and after rain, some paths can be very muddy.. Make sure you have the right footwear – Wellington boots or stout shoe / walking boots are advised – and wear sensible clothing. You may find a walking stick helpful on the slopes.

### **Toilet facilities**

Wonford Sports Centre, (Burnthouse Lane, Exeter EX2 6NF) have very kindly said that anyone doing one of the Ludwell Life guided walks is welcome to use the Centre's toilet facilities. Just tell the staff on reception that you are on a 'Ludwell Life walk' and they will show you the loos.

### **About Ludwell Life**

Ludwell Life is an independent community group, set up to protect and enhance Ludwell Valley Park. There are lots of ways to support what we do, from joining as a Friend, to coming along the regular conservation, litter picking and other events we organise. Sign up to our monthly newsletter, follow us on Facebook or Twitter or email us.

Volunteers have put this walking guide together, to encourage more people to enjoy and get to know the wonderful public space that is Ludwell Valley Park



@LudwellLife



facebook.com/groups/ludwelllife.org.uk/



ludwelllife@gmail.com

www.ludwelllife.org.uk