



Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting... Ludwell Valley Park

## Discover Ludwell Valley Park: Self-guided Walk

### Walk 5. Aspen Close circular walk

This walk is designed to be used in conjunction with a walk map available here

The numbered gate references, park entrance points and field names in this walk guide are shown on this map.

<b>Duration</b>	45 minutes - 1 hour
<b>Level</b>	Moderate. Some steep slopes, not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs
<b>Start</b>	Aspen Close Entrance; (D bus to Parkland Drive or H to Woodwater Academy)

## DIRECTIONS

1. Go through the Aspen Close entrance, down the steps and turn immediately right. Follow the boundary path up and across the top of the field.
2. Go through Gate 20 (Beam Wood) in the corner of the field, walk a few metres through the small copse and through Gate 21 into Great Ridgeway field. Turn right and follow the path at the top of this field. Go through Gate 22 by the information board, onto Hilly Ridge footpath. *A short diversion – a few metres to the right, you will see a view over to Heavitree Church, the R D and E Hospital, Wonford Sports Centre etc.*
3. Follow Hilly Ridge footpath downhill, keeping the private Little Ridgeway field to your right, until you come to Lower Hilly Ridge Gate 16 at the bottom, out onto Ludwell Lane.
4. Cross Ludwell Lane carefully and go through Gate 17 immediately opposite and down into Vet's Field. Turn right, following the boundary fence at the bottom of the field adjacent to Ludwell Lane.
5. Go through Gate 4 into the Cherry Orchard and continue to follow the lower path at the bottom of the old orchard. Go through Gate 5, into 3 Acre Meadow, keeping to the lower path alongside the boundary fence and adjacent to Ludwell Lane.
6. Go through Gate 6 and turn immediately left following the path uphill heading towards the gate at the brow of the hill. *Look backwards to see views of Heavitree.*

7. Go through Gate 7 at the top of the hill into Shoulder and Mutton Field and turn left on the path along the field boundary walking towards the crest of the hill. *Rest on the "Fool on the Hill" seat and admire the views over the valley towards Haldon Belvedere tower. You can extend your walk by taking any of the paths in this field, around the copse and back.*

8. Keeping to the left perimeter fence, go through Gate 8 at the top and immediately right into a further field with a seat. Here you can admire the fine views over the Exe Estuary towards Topsham and Exmouth. You can further extend your walk by taking the path around the perimeter of the field and back to this gate.

9. Go through Gate 9 on the left and walk along the hedgerow boundary to the left of the meadow, which is full of wildflowers in the summer. At the end of the meadow, go through Gate 10, into Free Field and continue on this path.

10. At the end of the path, follow the line of trees on your left round through Gate 1 into Barn and Court Field. Walk along the north side of the ridge for about 50 metres (*noting views of the Exeter cityscape*) then walk carefully down the gentle slope on your right, making your way towards Gate 2 at the bottom right corner of the field. Go through this kissing gate and follow the shaded footpath past the sharp right turn and emerge through Gate 23 (Shipping Gate) onto Ludwell Lane.

11. Cross the Lane carefully and go through Gate 24 (Lower Burr ridge Hill) opposite. Once in the field, turn immediately left, through Gate 25 (Little 3 Acres South) and follow the path uphill, through Gate 26 (Little 3 Acres North) at the top, up the steps and into the field where you started your walk. Turn right, following the boundary fence and out through the gate, up the steps and back into Aspen Close and your starting point.

### 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 chir buntings 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



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