The EXETER GREEN CIRCLE is a twelve-mile walk that provides a great walking experience within the boundaries of Exeter – from green countryside valley parks to the pavements of quiet leafy suburbs.

This part of the GREEN CIRCLE explores the Riverside Valley Park, passing over the historic Exeter Ship Canal and the River Exe with its weirs and former mills. In contrast through the Ludwell Valley Park the walk follows the gentle Northbrook overlooked by sloping meadows. Quiet roads and lanes link Wonford and Whipton with names that echo the former rural nature of the area such as Sweetbrier Lane and Woodwater Lane.

Directions (anti-clockwise, west to east)

Walk starts beside canal near swingbridge. Walk away from canal and cross corner of meadow on right to bridge over river

Walk along side mill stream. Cross wooden bridge and keep left around mill house and turn left through gate

Through golf course, turn left over stone bridge then right at crematorium road

Cross Topsham Rd at pedestrian crossing and turn right. Enter Ludwell Valley Park by path on left

Follow path by stream to Ludwell Lane

Cross road and follow stream between Ludwell Lane and Woodwater Lane

Turn right along Woodwater Lane then left along Heath Rd, crossing Quarry Lane to Brook Cottages

Cross Honiton Road at pedestrian crossing and up Sweetbrier Lane then straight ahead along Vaughan Rd

Cross Whipton Lane from Vaughan Rd to Georges Close

Half a mile (15 minutes at 2mph)

One kilometre

On footpath, pavement or quiet road (generally smooth surfaces; occasional kerbs)

On public footpath or bridleway or permitted footpath (surface may be rough or muddy; occasional gates and steps)

Connecting footpaths

Connecting bus routes to and from City Centre (times and routes subject to change)

Railway line

Viewpoint
The Ludwell Valley Walk
- Almost three miles between the Exeter Ship Canal and Whipton Lane
- Along valley park paths, never far from the sound of running water
- Through the leafy suburbs of eastern Exeter

- Little egret
  Numbers refer to notes overleaf

Ludwell Valley Park
Rolling meadows overlook the stream where shoals of sticklebacks provide food for little egrets and kingfishers. You may even spot a mink hunting along the banks.

St James’ Weir
Watch for leaping salmon here

Mill Leat and Pool
Look for bats skimming over the pool at dusk as they hunt for insects

Vaughan Road
These stately poplar trees provide some welcome shade on a hot day

Countess Wear Mill
Operated from 1638 to late 19th century as a paper mill, and before that for corn milling. It drew its water power from the leat flowing from St James’ Weir

Duck’s Marsh Bridge
An important walking link between east and west Exeter

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Exeter Ship Canal
Opened in 1566 and was the first canal to use the pound lock

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