

Evidence to support NE2: Valley Parks

August 2025

Exeter City Council

Civic Centre

Paris Street

Exeter

EX1 1JN



Exeter
City Council

Exeter's Valley Parks

Exeter's Valley Parks were first designed in the Adopted Local Plan First Alteration (November 1993). Since then they have been key to Exeter's spatial strategy and to the purposes of conservation, recreation, public access and environmental education.

Policy NE2: Valley Parks of the Publication Exeter Plan seeks to take forward this destination adding to the Valley Parks with the designation of four additional areas:

- Whitycombe Valley Park
- Northbrook Valley Park
- Clyst Valley Park
- an extension to Savoy Hill Valley Park.

These additional designations in Policy NE2: Valley Parks are supported by the following evidence reports, documents and webpages.

Whitycombe

Whitycombe Valley Park: A newly designated Valley Park in the Exeter Plan, located on the northern edge of Exwick. The sites includes some pristine 89 meadow and provides views across the city. Whilst small in size, the proximity of a large residential area makes this area particularly well used for informal recreation.

DWT letter:

See Appendix A

DWT website:

[Whitycombe Valley Park | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Northbrook Valley Park

Northbrook Valley Park: A newly designated Valley Park in the Exeter Plan. This former golf course creates a link between the two existing Valley Parks of Ludwell and Riverside and there is significant scope here for making improvements, for example through the Northbrook wild arboretum project. Designating this area as a Valley Park ensures it is retained for the city's residents to use for informal recreation;

Consideration of the future of Northbrook took place in 2020:

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday 11th February 2020, 5.30 pm - Exeter City Council](#)

Consultation took place in 2021:

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday 5th October 2021, 5.30 pm - Exeter City Council](#)

Northbrook Wild Arboretum: Project Initiation and Funding:

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday 6th September 2022, 5.30 pm - Exeter City Council](#)

The following websites set out delivery progress:

[Northbrook Park | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

[Exeter Wild City | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

DWT letter:

See Appendix A

Clyst Valley Park:

Clyst Valley Park: A newly designated Valley Park that sits on the built-up edge of Topsham, providing an important buffer. The land comprises the flat open valley floor of the Clyst with its semi-natural marshy character, the scenic valley sides and the land forming the skyline above the valley. There is potential for this land to link into the wider Clyst Valley Regional Park to the north (within East Devon) to deliver a strategic scale resource for residents of Exeter and East Devon.

[cvrp-masterplan.pdf](#)

Savoy Hill Valley Park (extension)

Savoy Hill: A relatively small Valley Park, to the north of the city close to Beacon Heath, soon to be extended and provided with enhanced unrestricted access. The northern portion comprises a large meadow rich in wild flowers and the southern section is a partially wooded, narrow valley. The park is surprisingly rich in wildlife and the proximity of a large residential area makes the locality particularly valuable for informal recreation.

20/0538/OUT - Outline application for up to 93 residential dwellings (Approval sought for details of access only, with scale, layout, appearance and landscaping all reserved for future consideration) at Land Off Spruce Close and Celia Crescent Spruce Close

Legal Agreement (S106):

[Legal Agreement \(S106\).pdf](#)

Masterplan (showing new Valley Park):

[Masterplan.pdf](#)

Appendix A

17 September 2025

Jill Day
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Dear Jill

The New Local Plan – the Exeter Plan

Please accept this letter as confirmation that Devon Wildlife Trust supports the designation of Whitycombe and Northbrook as Valley Parks in the Exeter Local Plan.

Exeter is fortunate to benefit from such outstanding green assets in its Valley Parks. The protection of these areas is of paramount importance to biodiversity and represents a critical investment in its environmental resilience and community wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

Nick Bruce White
Chief Executive