

# River Exe Wild Walk



## Details

- **Approx time:** 4 hours
- **Approx length:** 6 miles
- **Terrain:** Mainly tarmac or gravel tracks
- **Start:** Cricklepit Mill (SX 919 921)
- **Child friendly:** Suitable for children, but care should be taken, as the path runs alongside the canal and river and shared with cyclists.
- **Dog friendly:** Dogs on leads
- **Refreshments:** Cafés and shops at Exeter Quay. Pub halfway along the canal
- **Public Transport:** Buses from city centre



Old Sludge Beds

## Species to look out for:

- Grass snake
- Swan
- Moorhen
- Cetti's warbler
- Great diving beetle
- Golden ringed dragonfly
- Sedge warbler
- Daubenton's bat
- Heron
- Otter
- Purple loosestrife
- Little egret
- Kingfisher (right)



## Introduction

This walk includes Devon Wildlife Trust's headquarters at Cricklepit Mill with its riverside garden, a walk through the outskirts of Exeter from the lively Quay area along the canal to the quiet of the Old Sludge Beds nature reserve.

The walk follows tracks and pathways and is around six miles in length so will provide a good

afternoon's stroll.

The route offers tranquil stop-off points in the heart of the city, good views of the river as it winds its way to the sea and some great opportunities to spot the many wild birds and wetland creatures that make the River Exe their home.

## Contact details

Cricklepit Mill  
Commercial Road  
Exeter  
EX2 4AB

01392 279244  
contactus@devonwildlifetrust.org  
www.devonwildlifetrust.org

## Directions

From Cricklepit Mill turn left and in 50 yards go right up an alleyway signposted Cricklepit Bridge. Cross this and turn left along the river. Just before you pass two gasholders, by an information board for the Ship Canal, cross a canal lock on the left, then turn right into Riverside Valley Park (1). Proceed with the canal on the right and go straight on under some pylons; at the Double Locks Hotel walk through its grounds and on to a cycle track/footpath.

Further on there are two viewing platforms from which you can look across a small wetland nature reserve.

On approaching Exeter Canal Bridge take a right fork at a pedestrian crossing. Cross the main road and then turn left over the canal and take the road signposted Countess Wear Waste Water Treatment Works (2). At this point it is essential to be between the river and the canal. Follow the road for 1/4 mile, then pick up a pedestrian track next to the canal with the treatment works on your left.

Turn left on reaching a Devon Wildlife Trust sign

for the Old Sludge Beds reserve, then right to follow the path/boardwalk through the reserve. At a waymarker continue straight on to cross the complete site. At a T-junction where you are facing the motorway bridge and the Exe Reedbeds turn right; this leads back to the public footpath next to the canal (3).

With the canal now on your left retrace your steps to where the path and road to the water meets the main road at Exeter Canal Bridge; here turn left and cross the main road at the pedestrian crossing (2).

Follow the footpath sign to the Double Locks and Exeter on the opposite side of the canal to the outward journey. Walk along the canal until you have passed two gasholders on the left and a bridge over the canal on the right (1).

You are now on a road, follow this until you see a paved area in front of some modern shops and flats. Cross this to rejoin the river and retrace your steps along the bank to Cricklepit Bridge. After going over this bear right to a narrow alleyway and turn left to Cricklepit Mill.

