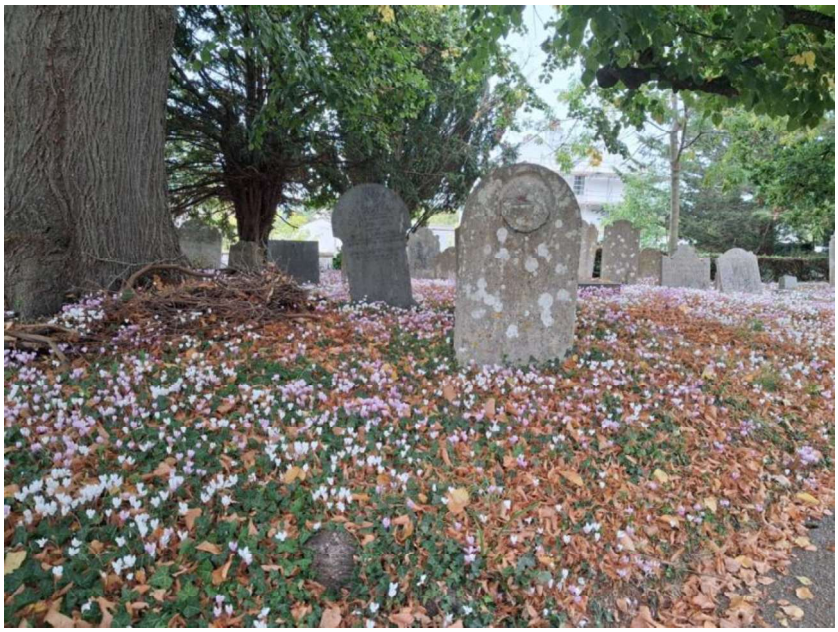
‘Exeter Green Circle in a Day’ with Claire Read, October 6, 2026

Having led us along the 13 or so miles of this clockwise in 2025, Claire Read kindly offered to lead it again, this time anti-clockwise.

It was a wonderful walk; seven of us started from Central Station, we were soon crossing the Exe at the Miller’s Crossing and making our way up through Redhills to Barley Valley Nature Reserve for a coffee break with views to Exmouth. From there it was a sequence of wonderful green spaces, nature reserves and valley parks, many of them managed by Devon Wildlife Trust. At times it was hard to believe we were close to a city, there was such peace and wildlife around us.



The route also passes through some urban/industrial areas, perhaps one of the more interesting is Alphington village, which has some wonderful old buildings and history. A real highlight was the churchyard of the 15th century church, where we ate our picnics – it was a sea of pink and white cyclamen, and boasted a huge strawberry tree, laden with fruit (Arbutus unedo). Sadly the fruit, while edible, are not particularly nice!



A great thing about the Green Circle is that you are never far from public transport, so can cut the walk short, or do it in sections. Two members made a planned exit at the new Marsh Barton train station.

The rest of us romped on, stopping briefly in Mincinglake Valley Park then climbing high for more distant views of Exmouth, before gradually descending through the beautiful University grounds and Bury Meadow Park before reaching the Exe again and a welcome drink and bite to eat at The Mill on the Exe.

More details of the Green Circle, which is very well waymarked, can be found here: https://www.visitexeter.com/things-to-do/exeter-green-circle

Penny Kurowski