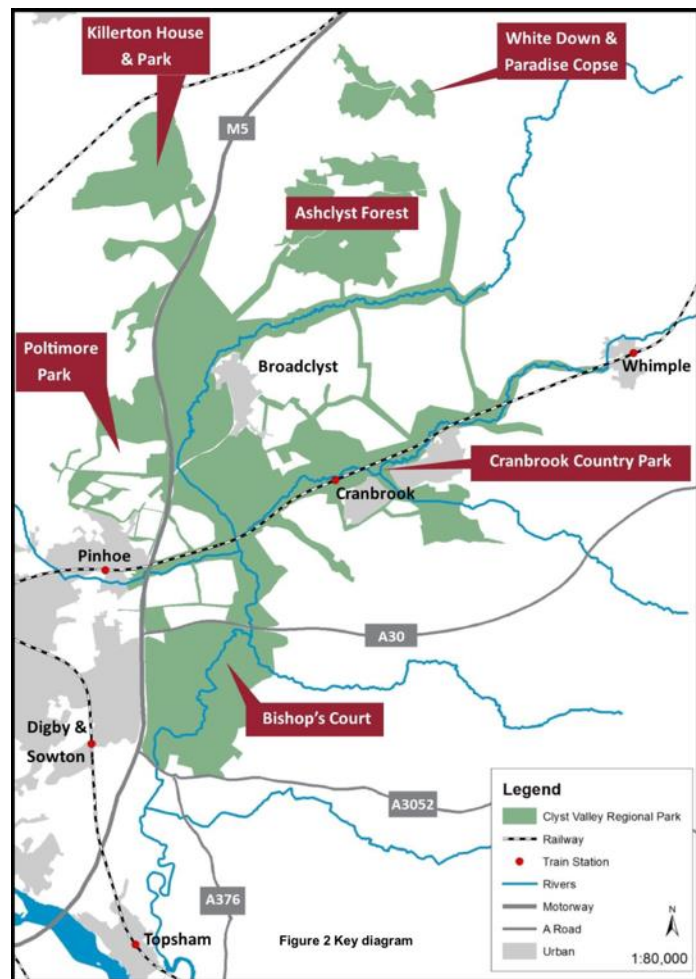


Great Trees in the Clyst Valley

Great Trees in the Clyst Valley, supported by Devon Gardens Trust, was a partnership of nine organizations, designed to encourage the public to explore, record and restore the heritage of trees in fields, hedges, parks and orchards across parishes in the Clyst Valley of East Devon. It was a preliminary project to the Cyst Valley Regional Park, first identified in the East Devon District Council Local Plan in 2016 to ensure that high quality green space was provided in the vicinity of Cranbrook and the development close to Exeter. Whilst some parts of the valley are well known, for example Killerton House and Park, others are inaccessible and await discovery.

Volunteers of all ages have recorded some 325 ancient and veteran trees for the national Ancient Tree Inventory maintained by the Woodland Trust, surveyed thirteen historic Clyst Valley orchards for the People's Trust for Endangered Species, and planted over 2000 trees, 234 metres of hedgerow and two new orchards.

The Masterplan for the Regional Park has been published for public consultation. It proposes 'to restore nature and historic buildings, create trails, tackle climate change and improve water quality.' The Regional Park is a series of green spaces linked by trails and public transport. It includes Killerton House and Park, Ashclyst Forest, Poltimore House and Park, Cranbrook Country Park and Bishop's Court parkland. It is a large area protected from certain types of development and currently comprises 2,338 hectares, roughly half the size of Exeter and much in private ownership, of which 762 hectares is accessible to the public and it is hoped that a further 500 hectares will be accessible by 2045. The Masterplan sets out a long-term broad guide to how the Regional Park could develop and it will become a material consideration in assessing planning applications within the Regional Park.



Aims of the Regional Park include:

- link up existing rights of way and create new trails, giving people access to the countryside
- create new accessible, high-quality green spaces to take recreational pressure off our most precious European habitats and species
- strengthen the landscape through the restoration of wildlife-rich habitats such as native trees, hedges, parklands, orchards, and wetlands
- restore and provide access to the built heritage

- create new educational and visitor facilities so that people can enjoy and understand the countryside

To find out more go to www.clystvalleypark.org.uk and click on the link to the Masterplan consultation.