

Facilities Report

Exeter City Council (Reviewed)

The following report has been produced by the Swim England Facilities Team for the development of aquatic facilities in Exeter. The following observations have been made based on Sport England Active Places data and the list of swimming pools in the City, included in the text below.

Findings

There are 6 facilities that serve the Exeter area:

- Northbrook Swimming Pool: 166m²
- Topsham Swimming Pool: 250m² (Lido)
- St Lukes Sports Centre: 207m²
- University of Exeter (Streatham Sports Centre): 313m² (Lido)
- St Sidwells Point Leisure Centre: 425m² + 160m²
- Riverside Swimming Pool 325m² + 91m²

* Only publicly accessible facilities are used to determine the findings

- There is currently a water provision surplus of **300m² (1937-1637=300)**

*For comparison, a 6 lane x 25m pool would equate to 312.5m²

- Population: **136.4 k (2025 Estimate)**
- Target Water Space (to meet 12m² per 1000 population): **1637m²**
- Supply in of public water: **1937m²**

*Total water supply

- Average year built of public sites: **1979-2022 (2000)**

Topsham Swimming Pool and the University of Exeter (Streatham Sports Centre) are both lidos and open seasonally. When these are closed the water provision reduces to **1374m²** making a water deprivation of **-263 m²**.

In the event of the closure of Northbrook Swimming Pool there will be a surplus water provision of **134m²** during the months where Topsham Swimming Pool and University of Exeter (Streatham Sports Centre) are open and a deficit of **-429m²** when they are closed.

Clubs

- Exeter City Swimming Club: 802 members
- Exeter Water Polo and Swimming Club: 234 members
- Exe Masters: 83 members
- Exeter Uni Water Polo: 15 members

Comments

- The City as a whole shows its water provision to be a surplus of **300m²** the recommended 12m² per 1000 population at this current time when all pools are available.
- The observations above highlight the need to consider future facility needs in the City.
- Considerations should be made to the seasonal operations of Topsham Swimming Pool and University of Exeter (Streatham Sports Centre) and the restrictions on public provision. e.g. The ability to run an annual learn to swim programme.

Links to facilities included in the report

- Northbrook Pool
<https://www.exeterleisure.com/centres/northbrook-swimming-pool/>
- Topsham Pool
<https://topshampool.co.uk/>
- St Lukes Sports Centre
<https://sport.exeter.ac.uk/facilities/stlukessportscentre/>
- University of Exeter (Sports Park)
<https://sport.exeter.ac.uk/facilities/sportspark/>
- St Sidwells Point Leisure Centre
<https://www.exeterleisure.com/centres/st-sidwells-point-leisure-centre/>
- Riverside Swimming Pool
<https://www.exeterleisure.com/centres/riverside-leisure-centre/>

Recommendations

- Future water provision should look to have open community access, making the water space even more accessible to the local population.
- Facility mix in the future needs to consider the versatility of its water space and the use of movable floor/boom system
- Involve our Business Engagement Team to help maximise operations

Water Provision inclusion / exclusion criteria

- Include all Operational Pools available for community use i.e. pay and play
- Exclude all pools not available for community use i.e. private use

*Methodology

- $\text{Population} \div 1000 = P$
- $P \times 12(\text{m}^2) = \text{Target Water Space}$
- $\text{Water provision} = \text{Public Water Space} - \text{Target Water Space}$

Rob Hardy
Technical Facilities Officer
Swim England
rob.hardy@swimming.org

Ruth Edwards
Business Engagement Manager
Swim England
ruth.edwards@swimming.org