

⑧ The forbidden land sends music: while I listened, a blackbird's solo arrived from beyond the gate. He sang - listened - sang again, over and over. Then stabbed out 'chip-chip-chip'. High drama, matched by a counter-warning from a smoke alarm 'dee-dee-dee-dee'. A raindrop tinked off the metal gate, reminding me that I am contained here, in the city. I want to flow through the boundary like the blackbird's song.

⑥ Tap your toes gently on the 7 water meter covers in the pavement. (All different sounds). Harmonics breathing from a double drain suggest an entombed choir.

④ Perhaps a bicycle spins downhill, or a throbbing train engine intrudes from the outside world. Passing engines & tyres combine and separate up & down the road. Some drivers perform within the valley symphony: others impose their own solos.

② What sounds emerge between the up-and-down threading cars? Within bare hedges and trees I heard magpies jabber, long-tailed tits' very high 'see-see-see', robin's explosive burble, and gentle wood pigeon.

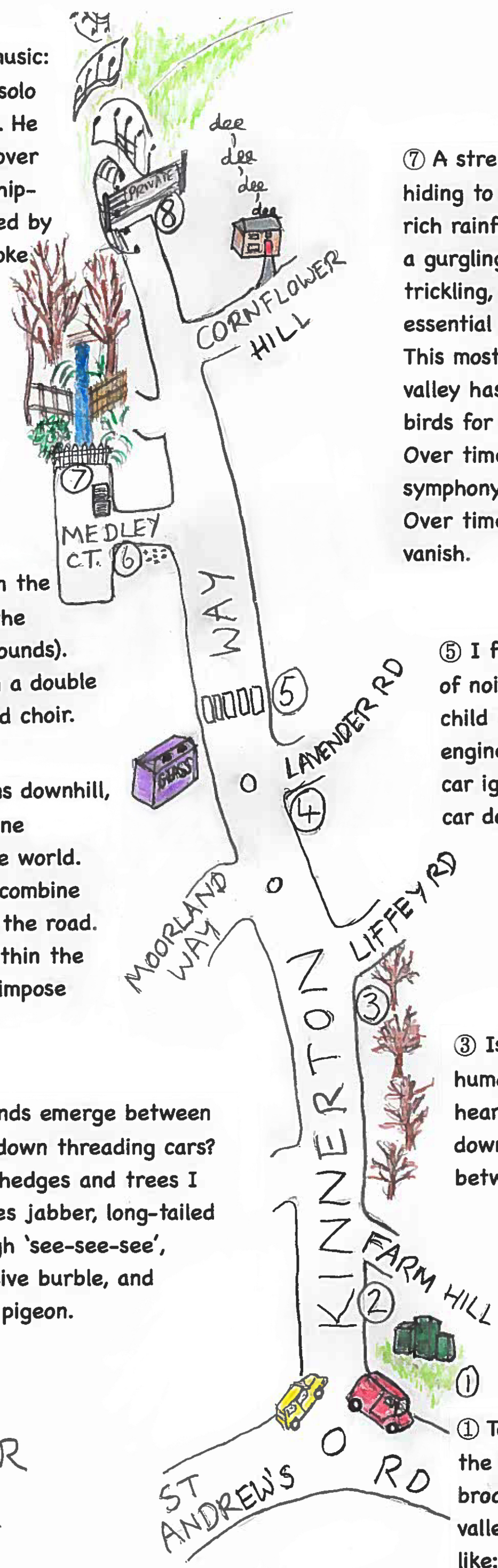
⑦ A stream bursts free from hiding to perform a few metres of rich rainforest music. Joyous to me: a gurgling, burbling, tumbling, trickling, gushing, rushing, alive, essential bit of untamed Exwick. This most ancient voice in the valley has been singing with the birds for millennia. Over time, new voices will join the symphony. Over time, all today's voices will vanish.

⑤ I found the enclosing valley full of noises. Do you hear these?
 child chatter - seagull cry
 engine roar - dog yelp
 car ignition - human footsteps
 car door boom - bin lid slam.

Laughter.

③ Is there music of your fellow-humans from behind fences? I heard a child's playful yell bounce down the steep-sided valley between angled brick walls.

① To begin, immerse yourself in the pitches of the three droning broadband cabinets that guard the valley entrance. Hum along if you like: accompany the roundabout dance. I think telecoms boxes are the valley's newest voice.



STREAMING,
 EXETER
 A Sound Walk
 Emma Welton
 January 2021

Walk distance:
 less than 1 kilometre.