



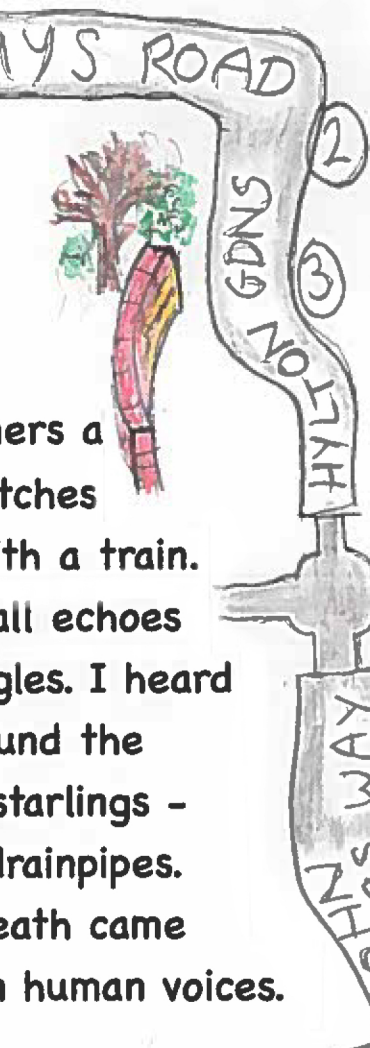
① Traffic sound is trapped here by the high stone wall. For some people it's intolerable. If you can, analyse the textures, pitches, short rhythms, long patterns, different sound sources. Guys Road offers refuge & clarity. Birdsong edges between buildings.



WALLS and RAILINGS,
EXETER (take a stick)
A Sound Walk
Emma Welton
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② As I walked, the quiet between a house and parked car was torn by scolding adult & plaintive child. A car unlocked, locked. The overgrown bank was bursting with invisible singers.

③ A great tit hammers a tiny anvil, its two pitches knotting rhythms with a train. The curved brick wall echoes sounds from odd angles. I heard birdchatter, then round the corner saw them - starlings - busy on eaves and drainpipes. From doorsteps beneath came friendly greetings in human voices.



a smoker coughs
power tools whine
children play-shout
running feet bounce between buildings
hoovers inhale
traffic hisses from the road ahead
crows caw rooftop commands

⑤ A gap in the long-passing vehicles revealed two elderly men, greeting. I heard smiles in their voices. What can you tell from the voices you hear? Run a stick along any musical r-r-r-r-railings while rolling your 'r's.

⑥ Traffic intensifies. Pigeons groan in ardour beneath the bridge, their few notes combining in low-fluting hockets. They might all suddenly flee, flapclattering.

⑦ A small broadband cabinet screams a hot, desperate chord of eternal climax. A robin's outpouring claims its patch with thrilling whole-body commitment: pay attention, it told me. Human pairs sauntered past, their steady gait & relaxed talk telling me, 'There's plenty of time'.

Walk distance about 1 1/4 kilometre.

⑧ Fast trains barrel over the bridge. Delivery drivers push their engines. The sound of human effort is translated onto motors saying, 'There's not enough time'.

⑨ Listen to the young habitat beside the redbrick flood wall. It will soon host bees and birdsong. Past the wall's end, can you hear the river flowing?

