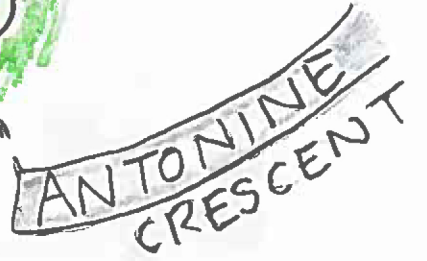
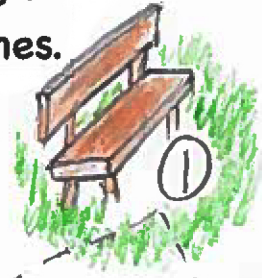


BARLEY MOUNT to ROOKERY, EXETER GREEN CIRCLE

A Sound Walk
Emma Welton
March 2021
Heard with Jai

① This viewpoint is a 360° 'soundpoint'.
There's another listener on every hilltop across the city.
What can you hear in common?

② Down in the woods teeming with songs,
play sighing gates & footbridge xylophones.
Stamp heels in middle of planks for the
best tone. Then just listen.



③ I suddenly became aware of
four aircraft pulsing super-low
rumbles and roaring out of clouds
like dragons.
Sound condenses
in the valley bowl.
At the bench I heard lumpen,
frisky sheep crashing through
undergrowth. Green woodpecker
laughed, 'ha ha ha ha ha!'

⑤ Stand between the toes
of the huge oak tree and
lean back against its trunk.
Listen with the tree.

⑦ Some gardens are buzzing,
tweeting, trickling heavens: more-
than-human life embraced with joy.
Other human dwellings, like the
grassy green ridge fields, are
silent.

There's dense song in the narrow
hedgerow margins. We can
dream of sowing the marginal
music across the whole hilltop.

④ Squelch the mud,
play the kissing gate,
step into the enclosing
holloway and...
back in time.
Envisage (enhear)
centuries of
cloven hooves and
leather boots
heading to market.
Bumble bees still
grazzezzzzzzzzzz
mossy banks.

⑥ Stump up steps
out of the past
towards the sound
of bungalows.

⑧ At sideroads, meet
sound rising from the city.

⑨ Find the rookery in these giant
beech trees using only your ears.
Spend time with the rooks. Learn
their language. They know the
times of day when human chatter
and engines gather at ground-level.

Walk distance:
about 1.5 kilometres



ETON
WALK

