

WEIR to IDYLL, EXETER

A Sound Walk
for Wendy
Emma Welton
April 2021

⑦ Pause here. The parallel terraced houses frame stillness, yet channel birdsong from end to end. Close by, a breeze shifts wet newborn leaves - their first cry. A wren explodes into trills. Train song creeps round terrace end. An aeroplane falls into my ears.

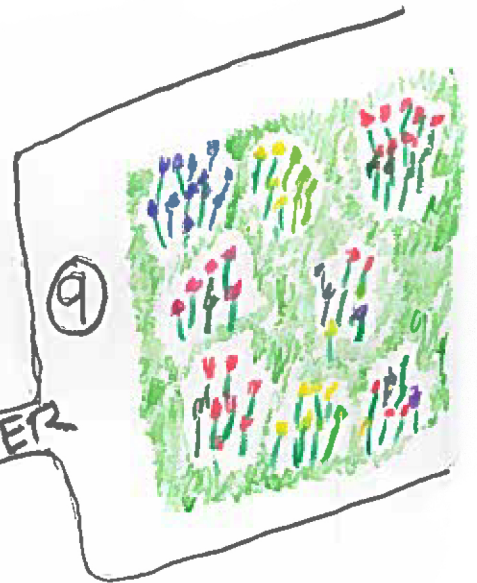
⑤ Face the river, ears cupped. Trees on the far bank are full of birds. Can you hear them?



Walk distance:
approx. $\frac{2}{3}$ kilometre.
Steep steps.

① Fill your ears with water music. Then lift them to other sounds blending in or cutting through. Heavy vehicles thunder on this arterial road. Maybe trains pass inaudibly and the highest birdsong glints above the sibilant weir.

⑨ I hope sparrow sentries fanfare you into Little Silver. Is the dazzle of April's flowers matched by its sounds? Fill your eyes... then close them and fill your ears with colour.



⑧ I heard a school bell, parked engines running. Light vehicles sing gentler music, though every so often a driver screams, solo. During gaps, children squeal, gleeful, skateboard weaves downhill. When all cars go electric, what music will remain?

⑥ Up steps, road & weir fall away but return, altered, through gaps. Footsteps ricochet, high-pitched, between black bricks, becoming muffled further on by weathered stone and creeping plantlife.

④ Allow Bonhay Road Cutting information board to transport you deep undersea, amid the avalanches that became this cliff. Fill your ears with sand.

③ Walk slowly past the houses, noticing how the sound behaves. After them, from bushes on the steep bank comes the first clear birdsong. Let the weir accompany you as far as possible.

② Play the toucan crossing music and walk or dance in step with it over the road.

