



GATE to GATE,
EXETER
A sound walk
Emma Welton
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⑨ Thistledown and butterflies drift in a summer blizzard.

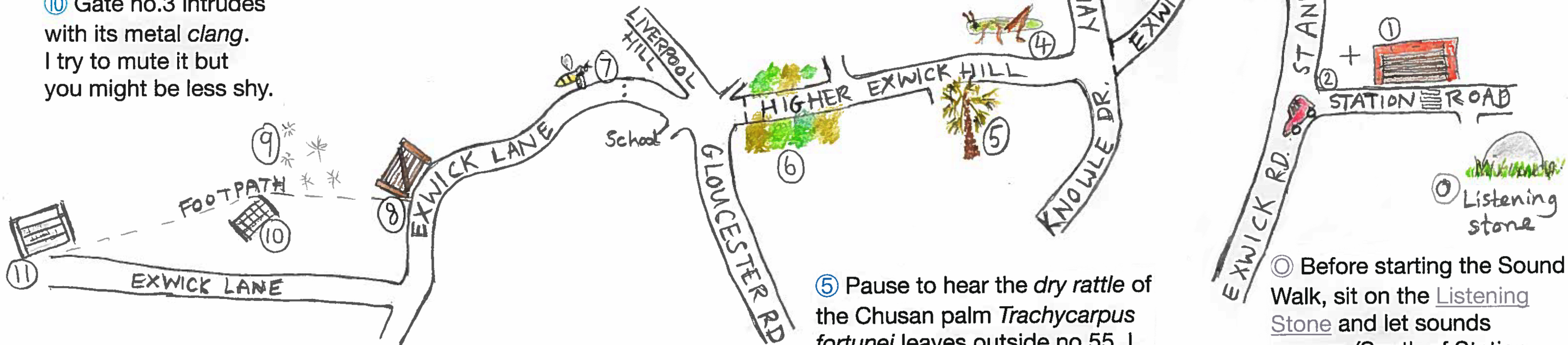
Silent?

⑥ In unusual weather you can be surprised by the constant *russhhhh* of the A30 from far over the hill ahead. Closer, the wind might *ssshhhiff* the leaves around from one side to another, in front and behind.

③ The *ssss* of trees behind you fades while your footsteps *crunch* back from walls on either side. Can you walk soundlessly? (Stop, Look & Listen before crossing Knowle Drive)

④ It can feel calm, here: trees, birds, lazy grasshoppers
The city distant.

⑩ Gate no.3 intrudes with its metal *clang*. I try to mute it but you might be less shy.



⑪ Play gate no.4 as your instrument in the orchestra around you, making melodies, tones, rattles, sighs. Enjoy the echoes within the metal tubes and the vibrations in your hand. After your music ends, bow to your audience of brambles.

What can you hear, now?

⑧ Here's gate no.2, with a wooden, wheezy *creak & groan*.

⑦ I found a shady summer stillness here with occasional close-ear hoverfly *buzzes* and surreptitious birds. It's quiet after raucous spring. Voices are raised only in alarm.

⑤ Pause to hear the *dry rattle* of the Chusan palm *Trachycarpus fortunei* leaves outside no.55. I could even hear high-pitched *tinkling* when I listened very closely. Or was it a hidden bird?

① The flood gates near the zebra crossing are a massive xylophone. Try them! Knock out a tune on the horizontal planks with a knuckle, if you're brave.

② At the T junction study the pitch drop & rise as engines slow and accelerate. If you wait long enough there will be a time when there are no cars. What can you hear then?

○ Before starting the Sound Walk, sit on the Listening Stone and let sounds appear. (South of Station Road, top of flood channel bank, behind a fence, near a crab apple tree & path)

○ Listening stone