rebel
zine 004

MILL to MILL, EXETER
A sound walk

Emma Welton
August 2020

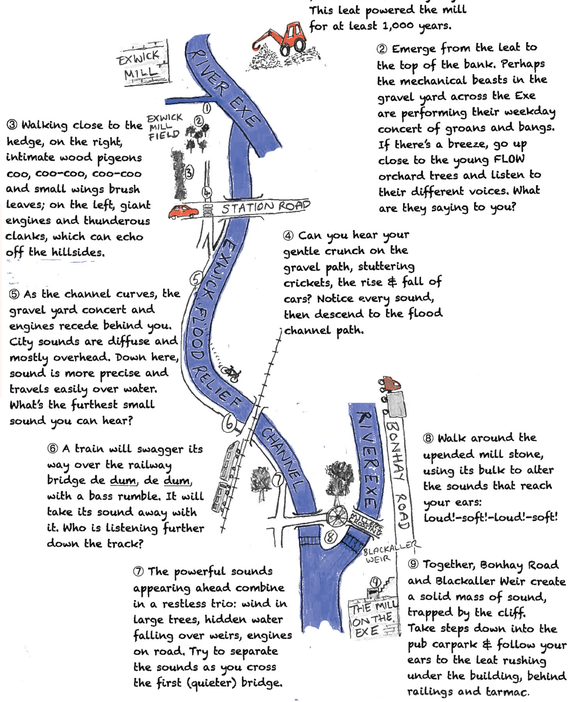
INKY FINGERS WORKSHOP
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NOSE
Exeter City of Literature

① Behind brambles & barbed wire, Exwick Mill leat rushes out of its channel into the River Exe. Immerse yourself in its layered, pulsing sound for a while (but stay dry). This leat powered the mill for at least 1,000 years.

② Emerge from the leat to the top of the bank. Perhaps the mechanical beasts in the gravel yard across the Exe are performing their weekday concert of groans and bangs. If there's a breeze, go up close to the young FLOW orchard trees and listen to their different voices. What are they saying to you?

③ Walking close to the hedge, on the right, intimate wood pigeons coo, coo-coo, coo-coo and small wings brush leaves; on the left, giant engines and thunderous clanks, which can echo off the hillsides.

④ Can you hear your gentle crunch on the gravel path, stuttering crickets, the rise & fall of cars? Notice every sound, then descend to the flood channel path.



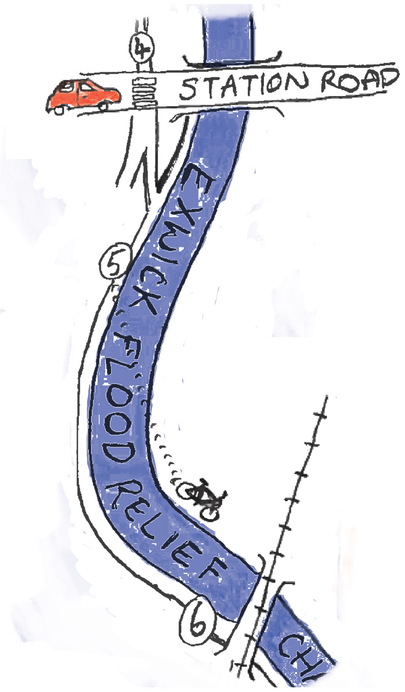
⑤ As the channel curves, the gravel yard concert and engines recede behind you. City sounds are diffuse and mostly overhead. Down here, sound is more precise and travels easily over water. What's the furthest small sound you can hear?

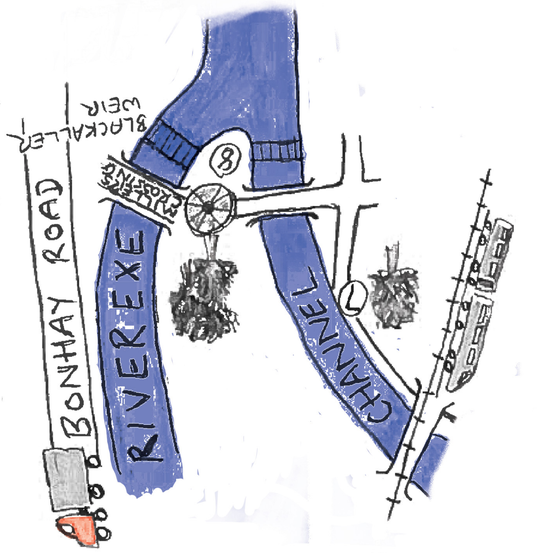
⑥ A train will swagger its way over the railway bridge de dum, de dum, with a bass rumble. It will take its sound away with it. Who is listening further down the track?

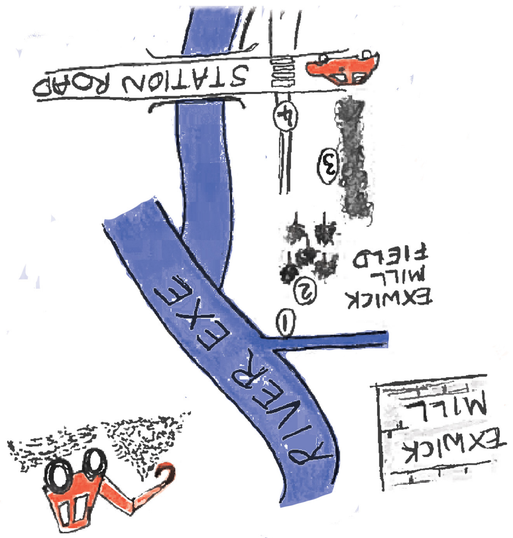
⑦ The powerful sounds appearing ahead combine in a restless trio: wind in large trees, hidden water falling over weirs, engines on road. Try to separate the sounds as you cross the first (quieter) bridge.

⑧ Walk around the upended mill stone, using its bulk to alter the sounds that reach your ears: loud!-soft!-loud!-soft!

⑨ Together, Bonhay Road and Blackaller Weir create a solid mass of sound, trapped by the cliff. Take steps down into the pub carpark & follow your ears to the leat rushing under the building, behind railings and tarmac.

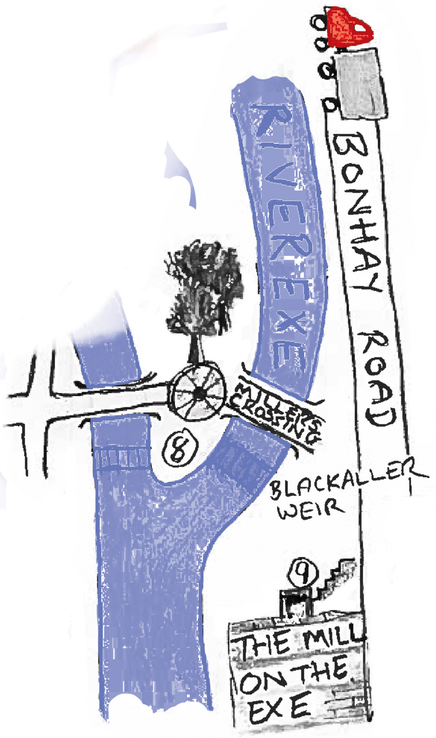




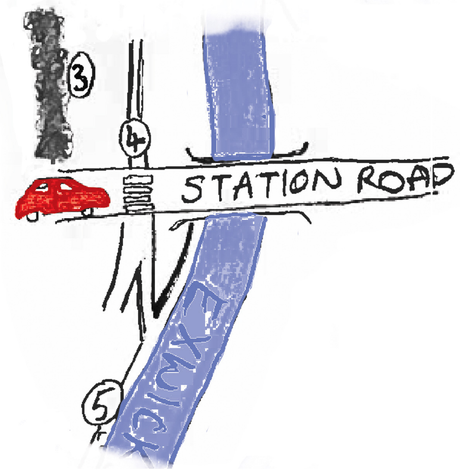


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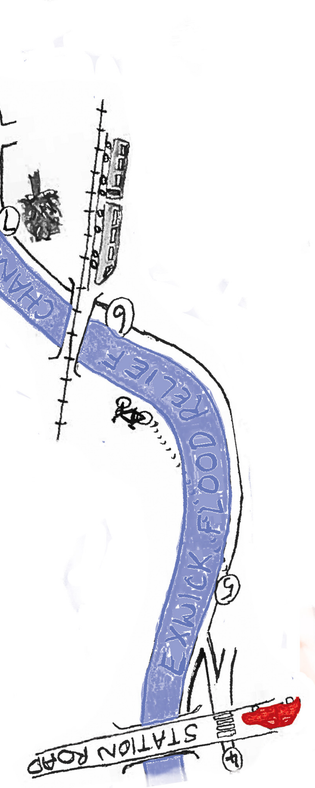


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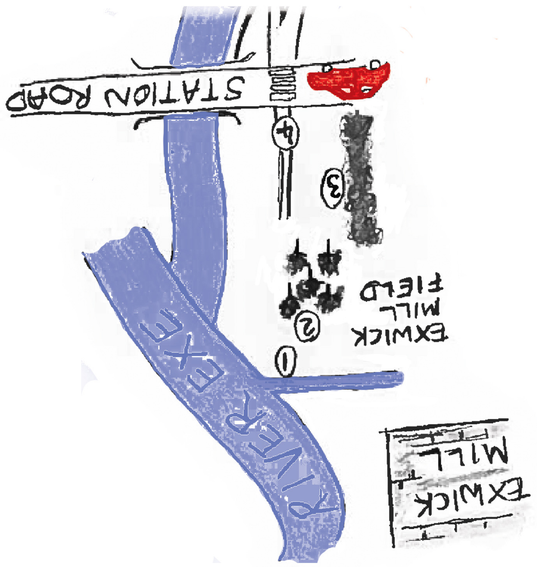


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