



PEOPLE  
to  
PEOPLE,  
EXETER  
A SOUND WALK  
Emma Welton June '20

① This wide open space can fill with people. Stand in the middle, and close your eyes if you like. Scan the sounds of your fellow humans. (It might help to cup your hands behind your ears.)

② There are 4 sets of rugby posts. Sometimes the flags on top of them squeak in the wind. If you knock the posts with your knuckles, I think they all sound the same pitch, but one sounds clearer than the others.

③ The tallest trees near the railway track are poplars. They might be the loudest. If you walk to the poplar in the far corner you can see Blackaller Weir. Is there a place where the poplar leaves and weir sound equally balanced?

⑤ Blackaller Weir is upstream, and traffic on Exe Bridges downstream. Find a mix you are happy with.

④ There are steps over the new wall between Flowerpot and the riverside path. While you ascend them there is a crescendo, opening out to a new soundscape at the top.

⑥ Sit near to the first Exe Bridge. Is the water slopping against the riverbank and bridge? Compare the pitch, pace, rhythm of running shoes, breathing, whirring of wheels, mudguard resonance.

⑦ Pass under the first bridge and climb the bank to a group of three weeping willow trees. Stay within the willow curtain for longer than is normal. Is this a comfortable place to be? Maybe the ends of the branches are sweeping the dead leaves on the ground.

⑧ After the river's curve past the pedestrian bridge and Butts cable ferry is a slope (steep ramp & steps) down to the water's edge. Squeeze into one of the alcoves created by the metal supports and rest your head back against the cool metal. You're in your own personal sound collector.

⑨ This space, bounded by different kinds of hard surface, can fill with people. Stand in the middle, and close your eyes if you like. Scan the sounds of your fellow humans.

