

Each spring, a pair of great crested grebes can usually be found somewhere on Exwick Flood Relief Channel. This year they have two chicks, who call *peep, peep, peep, peep*. You might need to hunt the whole length of the channel to find them. Sometimes they disappear for a while, and then come back the next day. Where do they go? And when the chicks fledge, where do they spend the rest of the year? I hope you catch them.

If a train passes you'll hear the Level Crossing alarm  
 dee dee  
 doo doo and the clatter of the gates coming down, and the grumble of car engines idling.

Listen to (and feel) the *crunching rotation* of the cone beneath the pedestrian crossing button casement at New North Road/ Streatham Drive junction when the green man is showing.

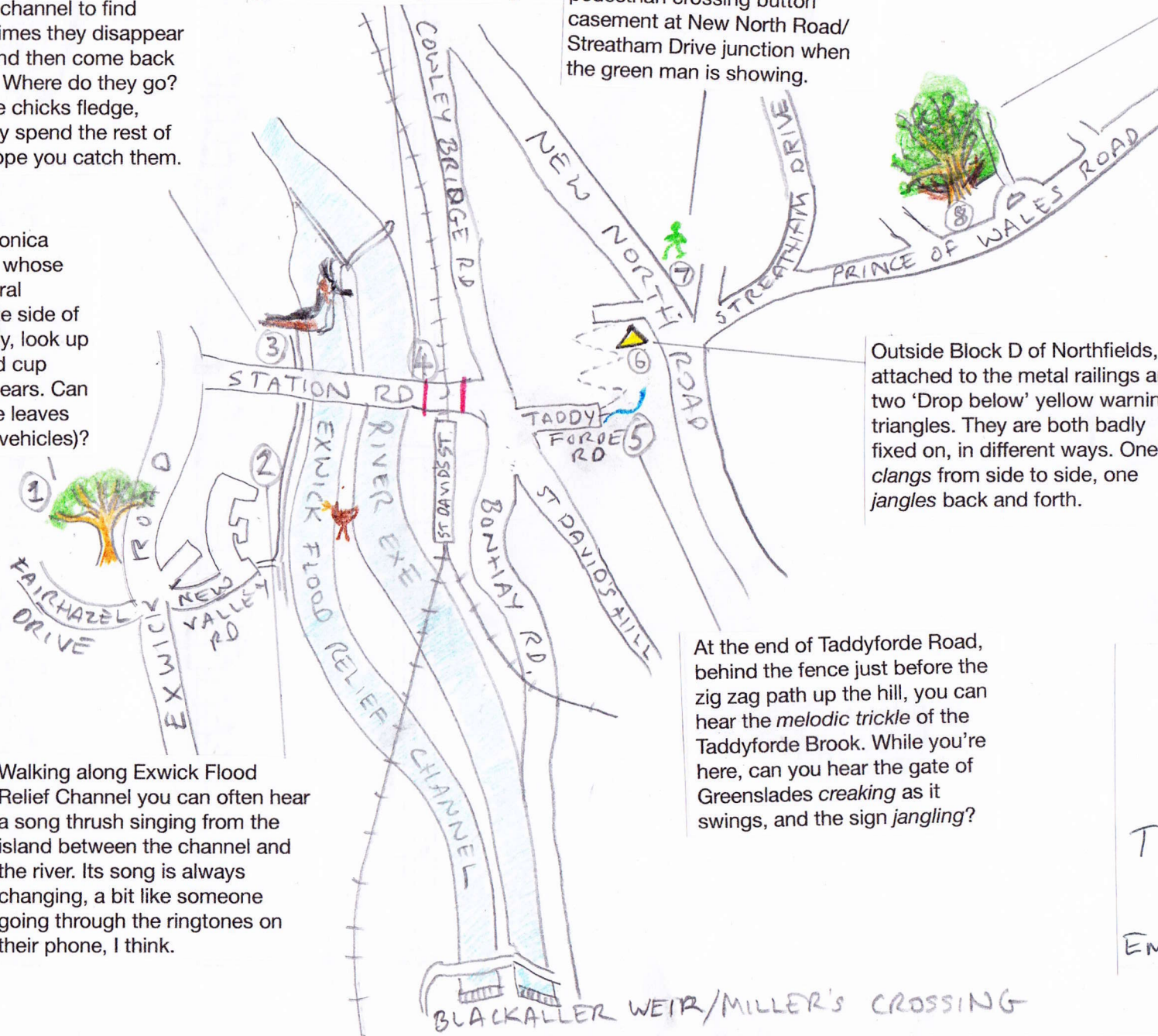
Tree number 0542 at the edge of Exeter University's campus is a *Zelkova carpinifolia* (Caucasian Elm). It is found a bit up and to the left of the cobbled crescent that leads up to the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum. It has many thick trunks. I can climb inside the tree. Can you? Once inside, talk, sing or whisper to yourself, or to the tree. It has its own acoustic. How would you describe it?

Large tree, *Sophora Japonica* (Japanese Pagoda Tree) whose branches reach the funeral director's on the opposite side of Exwick Road. If it's windy, look up to the high branches and cup your hands behind your ears. Can you hear the *sssss* of the leaves (between the sounds of vehicles)?

Outside Block D of Northfields, attached to the metal railings are two 'Drop below' yellow warning triangles. They are both badly fixed on, in different ways. One *clangs* from side to side, one *jangles* back and forth.

At the end of Taddyforde Road, behind the fence just before the zig zag path up the hill, you can hear the *melodic trickle* of the Taddyforde Brook. While you're here, can you hear the gate of Greenslades *creaking* as it swings, and the sign *jangling*?

Walking along Exwick Flood Relief Channel you can often hear a song thrush singing from the island between the channel and the river. Its song is always changing, a bit like someone going through the ringtones on their phone, I think.



TREE

to

TREE,

Exeter.

EMMA WELTON June '20

BLACKALLER WEIR/MILLER'S CROSSING