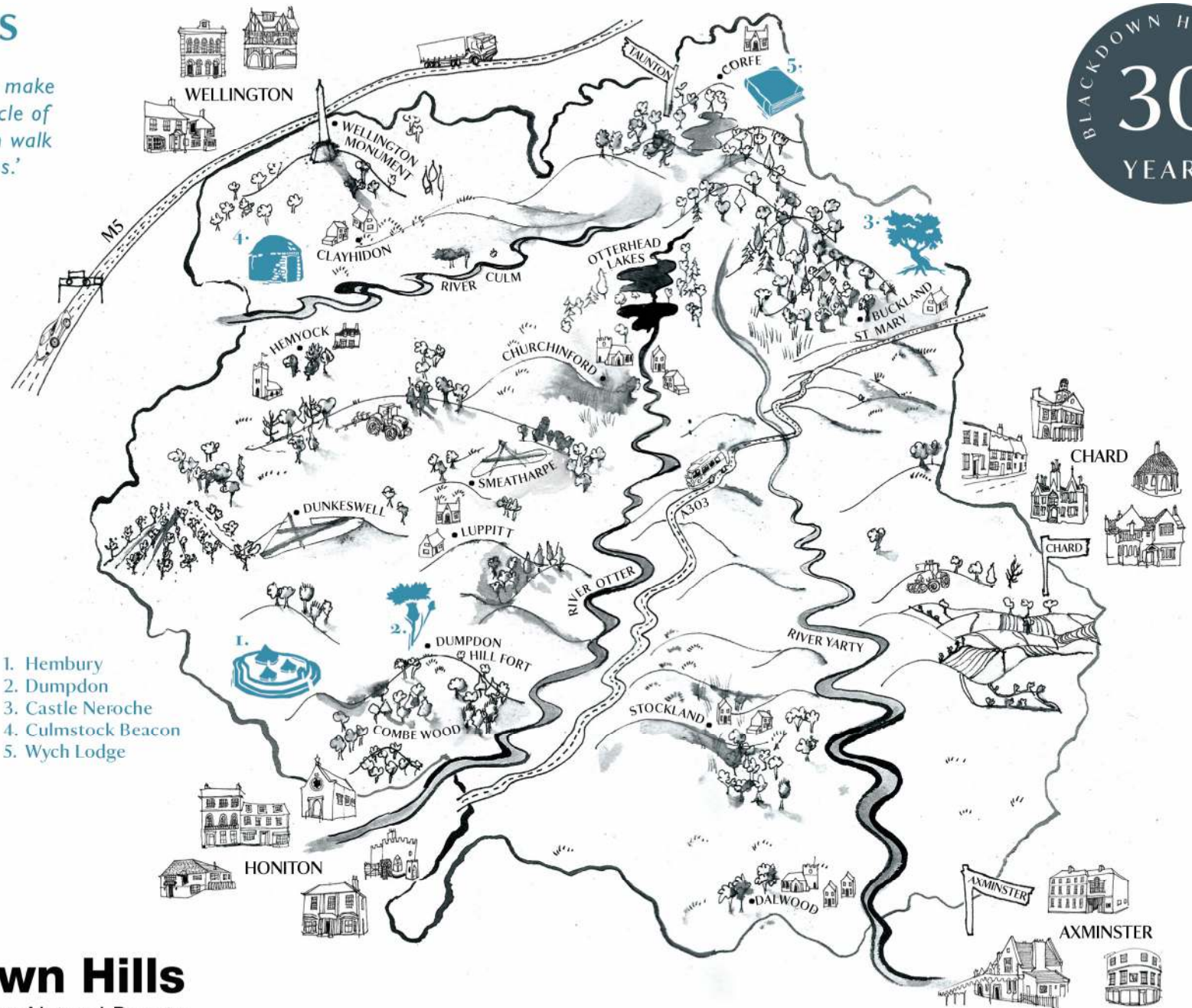


HILLFORTS

'I can make a circle of words, I can make a circle of stones, I can make a circle of mud with my hands on a wall, I can walk in a circle for one hundred miles.'
(Richard Long)



1. Hembury
2. Dumpsdon
3. Castle Neroche
4. Culmstock Beacon
5. Wych Lodge



Blackdown Hills
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

HILLFORTS

Here are 30 easy and fun activities and creative ways for all ages and abilities to experience the landscape and seasons. You don't need any materials, but if you do take a photo of your activity, write notes, or make any art or a drawings, we'd love to hear from you so please share #30waysblackdownhills or email us: blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk

Some of these activities are making, and some prompts are for feeling or creative thinking in new ways. Try returning to a favourite spot or try somewhere new and repeat the activities in different seasons!

www.blackdownhills.org.uk/30ways

Space for your thoughts:

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H E M B U R Y

The Sleeping Giant...

The secrets of a hillfort lie below the surface; Iron Age earthworks, ramparts, and ditches above older neolithic settlements. Archaeological finds at Hembury include pottery, beads, flint tools and even charred grains from a cooking pit. Above ground we still see the same views that people experienced 4000 years ago. You are walking in the footsteps of pre-historic Devonians... think about the settlements that were once here and take a quiet walk. Stop every few minutes and make notes or record a line of your thoughts and feelings on your phone or on paper. Even fragments suggest their own stories when reviewed later!



D U M P D O N



Up close you might forget this is an Iron-age hillfort...

Take a good look around you for five minutes and then close your eyes whilst you describe the view to someone else (in person or by telephone) - what do you remember, what do you forget? Also try in pairs together - taking it turns to add something both with eyes closed.

C A S T L E N E R O C H E

There be dragons?

Legend tells us that treasure may be buried under this Iron Age hillfort, and that an ancient dragon protects its hoard...



What precious objects would you bury to be found in the future and why? Find a sit-spot and imagine what lies below the ground, real and imagined.

C U L M S T O C K B E A C O N

...magic chain of hilltop fires

For over 300 years this Elizabethan beacon was used as a warning signal of danger (e.g. the Spanish Armada). The stone hut was for the beacon-keeper to keep watch and light one of the chain of fires across the ridgeway. Imagine this place at night, consider how you would



feel alone here, waiting for a signal... How does darkness change our perception of place?

"Tedyously day and night from March to October, he should not even be allowed a dog for company, sheltered by a hut without seats of place of ease less he should fall asleape"

W Y C H L O D G E

The Iron Age Dumnonii tribes lived in this area and created the hillfort earthworks by hand... a huge effort.

Think about what else in this landscape has been the same for thousands of years and what has changed, how do we know?



A N Y S I T E

Hillforts are good places to imagine layers of time and history all coming together in a sense of place. When you get home try writing a four line diary entry about something that happened to a character in the past at the hillfort you visited... take yourself back to the place with your eyes closed and really feel yourself there, then open your eyes and write in clear images as if we are seeing a film. Who appears, what are they doing? End with a reflection or a prediction.