

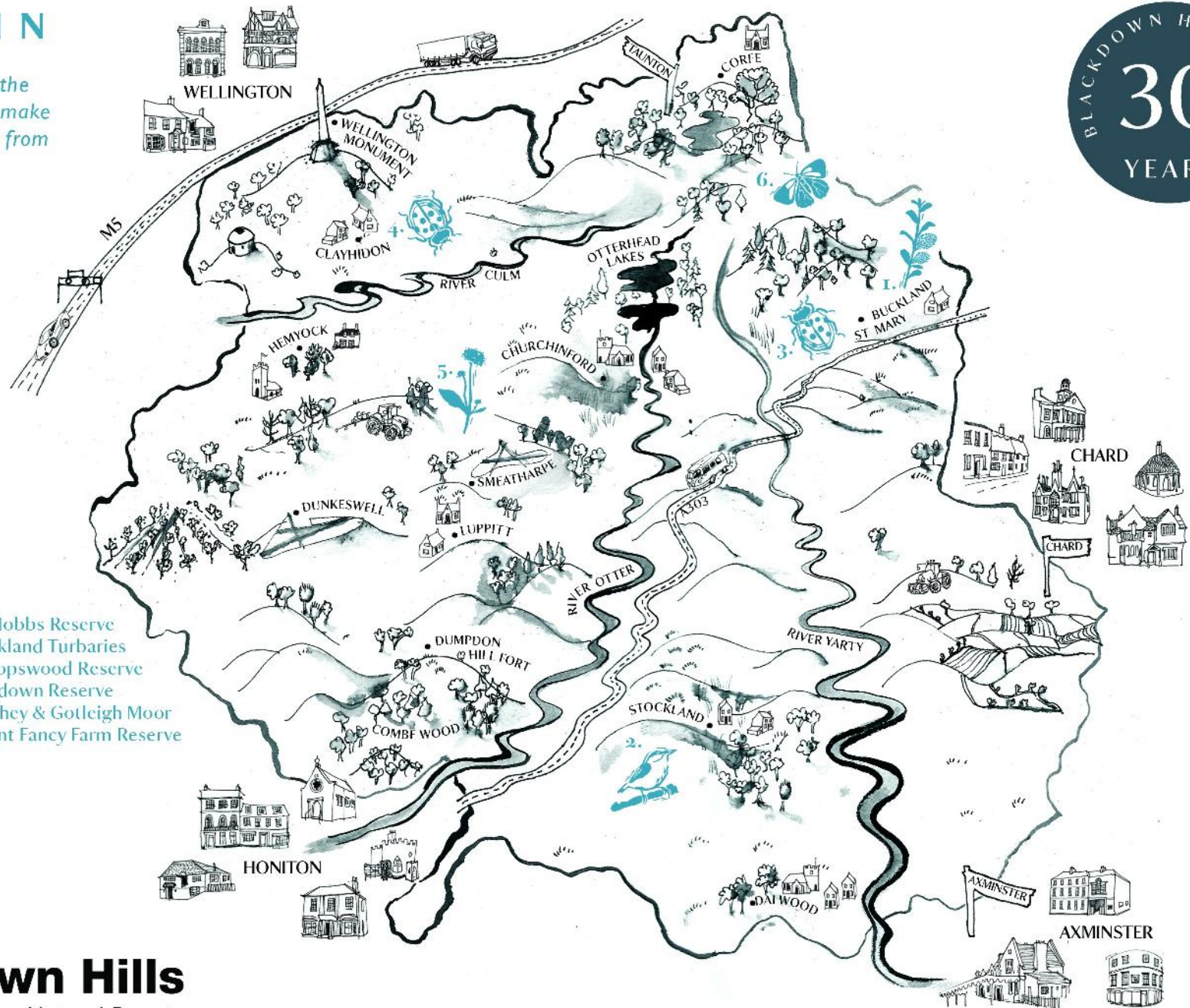
ZOOMING IN

"...by the particular focuses and the angles of trajectory we choose, we make an interpretation of our world, and from our impressions we begin to re-make its meanings"

– Phil Smith



1. Jan Hobbs Reserve
2. Stockland Turbaries
3. Bishopswood Reserve
4. Ringdown Reserve
5. Southey & Gottleigh Moor
6. Mount Fancy Farm Reserve



Blackdown Hills
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

ZOOMING IN

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:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

JAN HOBBS

This is a wonderful reserve to explore and look out for wet meadow plants like the very rare and tiny Creeping Willow, which rarely grows more than six inches tall.



Game: Find a story stick (a stick from the ground!) and pass it between two people. The person with the 'talking stick' points to something you can both see and makes up a one minute wild story about this thing or what happened here (real or imagined). Keep swapping until you are done with sticks and stories.

STOCKLAND TURBARIES

A little give and take on the land. Turbary was an ancient right to cut peat for fuel. During the Enclosure Acts, non-landowners, many of them rural land-workers, had traditional and collective rights of access taken away. These rights had included the right to pasture animals, harvest meadow grass, fish, and collect firewood, peat etc.

GIVE something back today - share your interest in this place with someone who has never been here before. TAKE something for your journal - a fallen leaf, photo or memory to remember the moment back at home.



BISHOPSWOOD OR RINGDOWN RESERVES

Find a sit-spot. If you visit this same spot regularly you may find you start to pay more attention to insects and their movements. How long does it take to tune into a place and notice more, opening up your senses? Tell us about anything noticed about your relationship to place or an insect as you get to know each other.



SOUTHEY & GOTLEIGH MOOR

These are the Blackdown Hills' best examples of valley mires - areas of water-logged deep peat. Peat is a damp, dark soil made of organic matter like plants, mosses and even trees.

Any flora (plants) and fauna (animals) that live in mires have to be particularly suited to the waterlogged, very acidic peat soil.

You need to be tough and remarkable to live here. List characteristics you need to survive where you live. Where could/ couldn't you live?



MOUNT FANCY FARM RESERVE

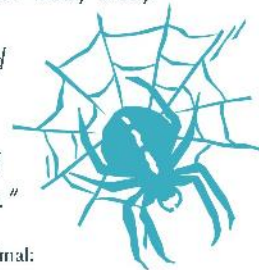


This is a good place to spot around 22 species of butterfly.

Try walking at a slower pace than usual, then even slower again. Time yourself for five minutes ... what happens to your sense of time? Tell someone else about this experience.

ANY SITE

"How monotonous our speaking becomes when we speak only to ourselves! And how insulting to the other beings...if we no longer call out to the moon slipping between the clouds, or whisper to the spider setting the silken struts of her web, well, then the numerous powers of this world will no longer address us - and if they still try, we will not likely hear them."



David Abram, *Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology*

Try listening out for the many languages, sounds and music of landscape and place. Consider the possibility of what needs to happen to communicate. Deep and active listening is something we all have to practice.