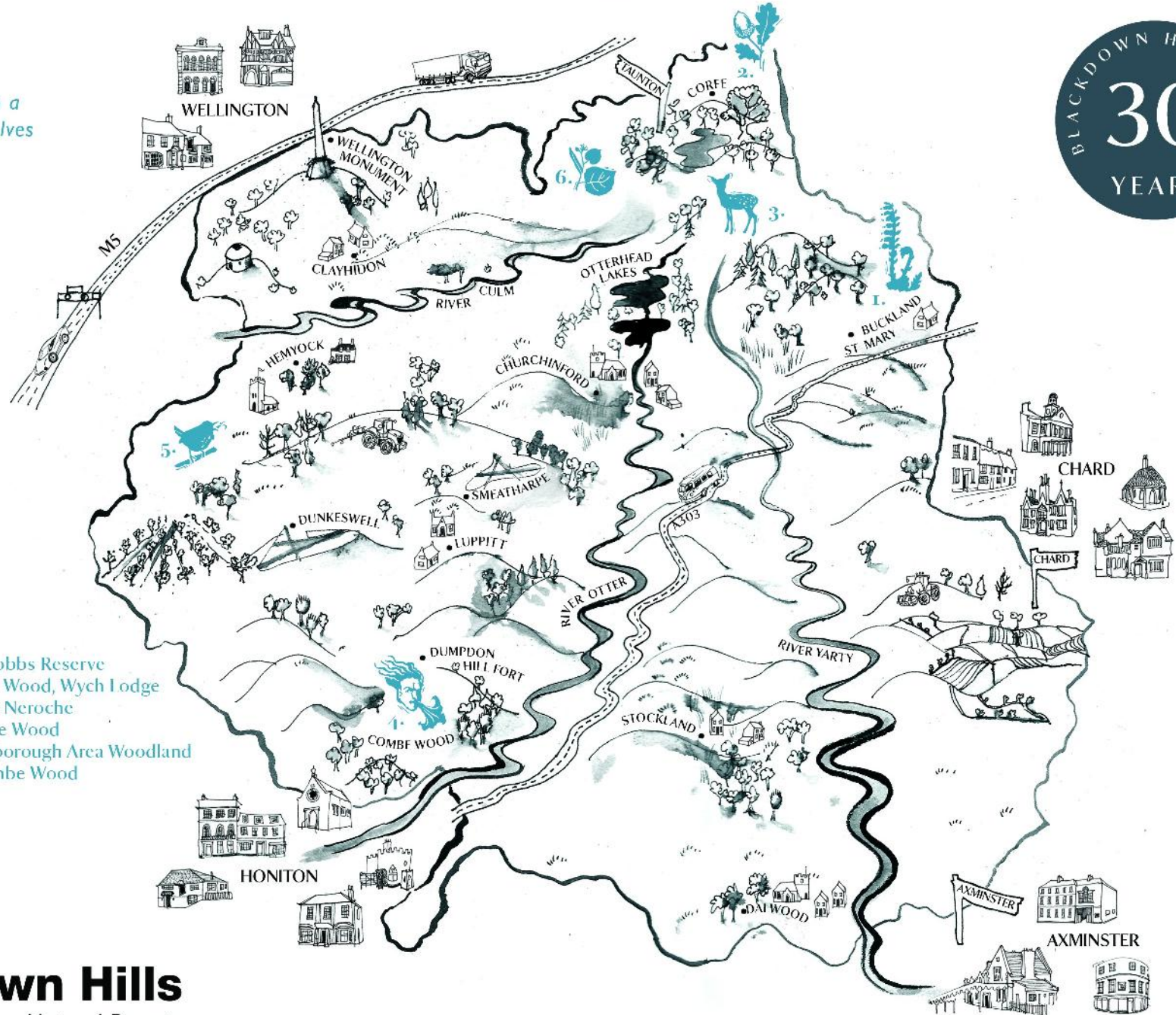


## WOODS

*"To enter a wood is to pass into a different world in which we ourselves are transformed."*  
– Roger Deakin



1. Jan Hobbs Reserve
2. Piddle Wood, Wych Lodge
3. Castle Neroche
4. Combe Wood
5. Blackborough Area Woodland
6. Adcombe Wood



**Blackdown Hills**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## WOODS

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](mailto: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](http://www.blackdownhills.org.uk/30ways)

## JAN HOBBS

Known as the corpseflower, the parasitic Toothwort spends most of the year underground feeding on hazel and elm roots. Spot its teeth-like rows of spikes when it flowers in Spring.



Try visiting and walking at a time that is new to you; early morning, dusk or when it is raining/windy. Walk somewhere you have never been before... how does the mood here change through the lens of different

weathers? Make a map of a walk marking what you felt in shapes or sounds.

Created by Sarah Acton and Emma Molony  
Designed by Alex Baldwin

## PIDDLE WOOD, WYCH LODGE

Ancients of the future... The Piddle Oak is a grove of ancient oaks, old timers, living medieval monuments that support hundreds of life forms and species.



Artists Gaby Hoad & Megan Calver read to trees in their practice. Select an extract of a book you know well and take it on your walk and read aloud to a tree. How does it compare, reading to different types of tree...is there any response?

## CASTLE NEROCHE

The name 'neroche' comes from its old English meaning 'the place of the hunting dogs.' This settlement was a base for hunting parties to range this royal forest (one of six royal forests in Somerset) for deer and small game.



Find a tree you like - do you know what species it is? Invent twenty names to celebrate this individual tree, thinking about its characteristics and

historical roles (made-up or traditional). E.g King Oak, Bridge of Sky and Soil, Protector of the Understory, Vessel across Great Seas...now your turn.

## COMBE WOOD

Look out for ancient Wood Anemone or Windflowers in springtime. Named after the Greek wind god, Anemos who sent his namesakes the anemones, in early spring to signal his coming.

Find a sit-spot. Listen, watch and tune into the rhythms of place. Stay still for as long as you can. Write a journal when you get home to capture the moment in detail. Add your feelings and thoughts about the experience as well as what you saw. Pick any one phrase from this and share it with us.



## BLACKBOROUGH AREA WOODS



Dawn Chorus

*"The single biggest wildlife miracle that we have in Britain"*

Simon Barnes, Rewild Yourself

The sheer variety of individual birds singing in unison means that no two dawn choruses are the same. Get to a woodland by Sam (April and May are the best months) and experience one of Britain's most accessible wildlife dramas - the dawn chorus.

## ADCOMBE WOOD



Ancient woodlands are special places to slip between boundaries of history and fiction, myth and imagination ...or to relax, daydream, meditate.

Move between the trees, take long breaths and extend the exhalation to help you relax. Stop, stand or sit and smell what's around you. If it's summer, you might be able to smell the blossom of the small-leaved lime trees.

Lime trees are traditionally used for making...cosmetics, rope, medicines, foods, musical instruments, fuel, building materials, clothing and utensils...how connected do you feel to these lime trees as resources / inspiration / friends? Send us a phrase or line about how you value these or other trees in your life.

Space for your thoughts:

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