

## Check Point 6

Climb over the stile or go through the gate and stop under these trees. Collect stones, sticks and leaves and create some EPHEMERAL ART.

“Say it [I]+[FEM]+[UH]+[RUHL]”

Ephemeral art is art which occurs only once. Make a wild art picture, ask a grown-up to take a photo of your creation and then leave it to nature to blow away. Ask your grown up to share your picture on our social media pages, we'd love to see your creation. Maybe you could use the sticks to make Hardy Monument!

## Check Point 7

BENCH – Take a rest on the next bench you come to. Look out to the Horizon and see if you can see the Electricity Pylons in the distance. How many can you see? Would these have been here when Thomas Hardy was a boy?

We can only see a few small pylons now. Recently there were 22 huge pylons on this landscape and they have now been replaced with 5.4 miles of cables running underground. This is thanks to the National Grid who want to make this landscape look beautiful.

## Check Point 8



Head to the modern Stone Circle. We think it makes a great stage. Can you make up a story about Vice Admiral Thomas Hardy and act it out?

## Check Point 9



Look for the Stone slabs under the two hawthorn trees with the instructions carved in? Follow these instructions.

**nationalgrid**

National Trust would like to thank National Grid for their support in funding this leaflet



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Hardy Monument, Black Down, near Dorchester, DT2 9HY

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/hardy-monument](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/hardy-monument)

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National Trust

HARDY MONUMENT TRAIL

# Mini Explorer

Passport No. NT00072023

Name: .....

Age: .....

Date of Issue: .....

Issued by: **HARDY MONUMENT**



Follow this family trail to explore the landscape around the Hardy Monument – look out for the explorer waymark posts.





## HARDY MONUMENT TRAIL

# Mini Explorer



**Fun Fact** – Hardy was 12 years old when he first joined the Navy as a captain's servant.

Vice Admiral Thomas Hardy was born on 5 April 1769. He was born 4 miles away, and his family owned much of the land around you.

Vice Admiral Thomas Hardy is famous for being the captain of a fleet of ships at the Battle of Trafalgar, and was by Lord Nelson's side when he died.

Can you believe that one of the world's finest naval officers started life here, exploring this site, watching the ships and dreaming of faraway countries?

Are you ready to go on a Mini Explorer trail around Black Down Heath, and walk in the footsteps of the young Vice Admiral Hardy? Can you identify some of the old things which would have been here when Hardy was alive, 250 years ago, and some of the new things which Hardy would never have seen?

**Follow the waymarkers and look out for the nine brass-rubbing checkpoints which all have a fun task for you to do.**



### Check Point 1

**Information Board** – Count the number of boats out at sea. Choose your favourite boat and make up a story about it. Where is it going? Where has it been? Vice Admiral Hardy would have looked out at this same sea and seen boats sailing past just like you are now.

### Check Point 2

Brass-rubbing post – Can you see the hollow in the ground? This is called a sinkhole, a swallow hole or a doline. You will see more of these as you walk the trail. Count them as you go and write the final number you see here:

What's a doline?

.....

## Do you know what a doline is?

They are formed when rain falls on acidic topsoil. The rain water then increases in acidity and, as it seeps through the topsoil, the acid dissolves the chalk underneath and giant holes form like you see here. Some dolines are very old and would have been here when Vice Admiral Hardy was a child...what do you think he might have thought they were?

### Check Point 3

Gate by Smitten Corner – Look for the two big stones by the entrance to Smitten Corner. These are the same type of stone used to build the Hardy Monument. Look for the fossils in the stone. This stone is called Portland stone and has been used for hundreds of years all around the world; it was even used to build parts of Buckingham Palace. Young Thomas Hardy may have watched this stone being transported out to sea, as it was once exported all over the world.

### Check Point 4



Can you identify a plant called rhododendron? Rhododendron is an **INVASIVE** plant and came to the UK by boat in the

18th century. It can overpower native plants, so we need to manage it to keep the landscape looking the same as when Hardy was a boy.

Identify the rhododendron leaf and then see how many more you can spot as you continue your walk.

**Check Point 4** can be found on the main, accessible footpath and also on the small track running parallel. Both footpaths join back together.

### Check Point 5

Stop by the large field gate – To be a successful explorer you have to be good at seeing and listening. **STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN.** Can you see or hear five different things, e.g. the wind in the trees, a blackbird singing...?

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

**Fun Fact** – Look out for buzzards or red kites flying overhead, looking for a bite to eat.



HARDY MONUMENT TRAIL

# Mini Explorer

**Fun Fact** – Vice Admiral Thomas Hardy was Horatio Nelson's captain on HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. The Battle of Trafalgar was a sea battle with France and Spain on one side and Great Britain on the other side. It ended in a clear victory for Great Britain, and Thomas Hardy was the captain of the ship which led this battle to victory.

Accessible walk  
or option for the  
more adventurous  
Mini Explorers!

Car park &  
picnic area



8

TRAIL END



NT car park

Hardy Monument  
TRAIL START



Car park

2

3



Road crossing - take care!

**WARNING** – be very careful  
as you cross the road - stop,  
look and listen. Vehicles can  
go very fast.

**Fun Fact** – Hardy became famous  
because it was in his arms that  
Nelson died, saying the immortal  
words 'Kiss me, Hardy'.



## Brass rubbings

Bring some paper and crayons to create your brass rubbings, or use the boxes provided here.



