Artist in Residence Siobhán Humston

# Drawings on Paper & Clay

A Virtual Exhibition
June 2020

Thank you for visiting my virtual end of term exhibition! In this visual gathering are pieces that sit outside the installations and film works that would've shown in the Mount House Gallery, but for obvious reasons was postponed until November 2020.

They are exploratory in nature rather than prescriptive within a set creative guideline which is most often how bodies of work come to full fruition. For example *Before the Gathering No's 1 & 2* (page ten) are two of many drawings that led to an eventual series of thirty-five drawings exhibited in Akin Uncountable last June. The *Cosmos Plates* (above) are the result of my experimenting with paper-clay and oxides that were part of a truncated idea about sound and space. It is always interesting for an artist to see how pieces from different times work, or don't work, together; how favourite materials make themselves apparent and how themes develop and often reoccur. My love of nature is what fuels my creative practice: ideas of beauty, fragility, demise and resilience have persisted through the years.

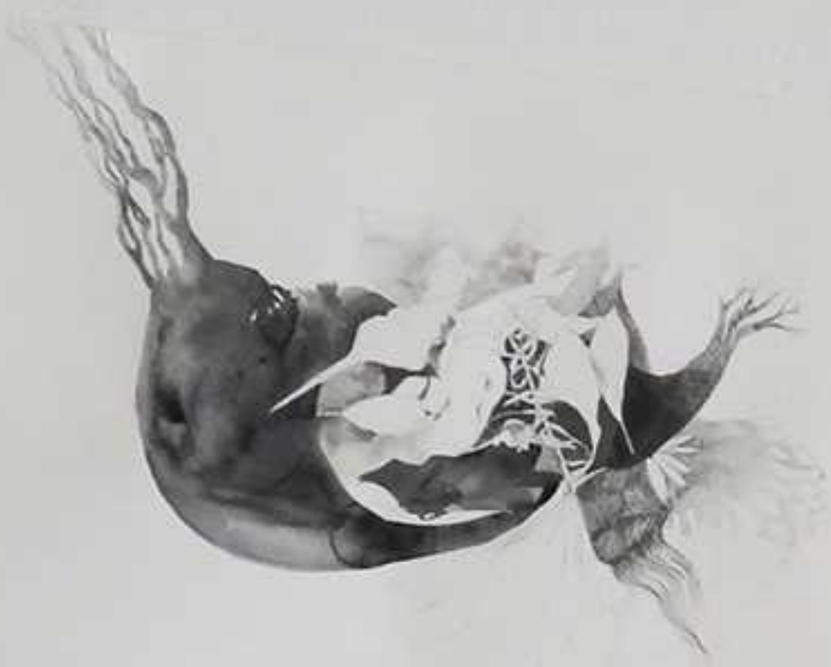
Part of the great privilege of doing an artist residency is to be given the time, space and opportunity to test out materials, ideas and theories. It is certainly the case with my last two school years and I will be forever grateful for a most fruitful, productive and expansive time here at Marlborough College. Thank you to Edward Twohig and to each of the Art School team as well as students and staff in the collage community for this remarkable experience.

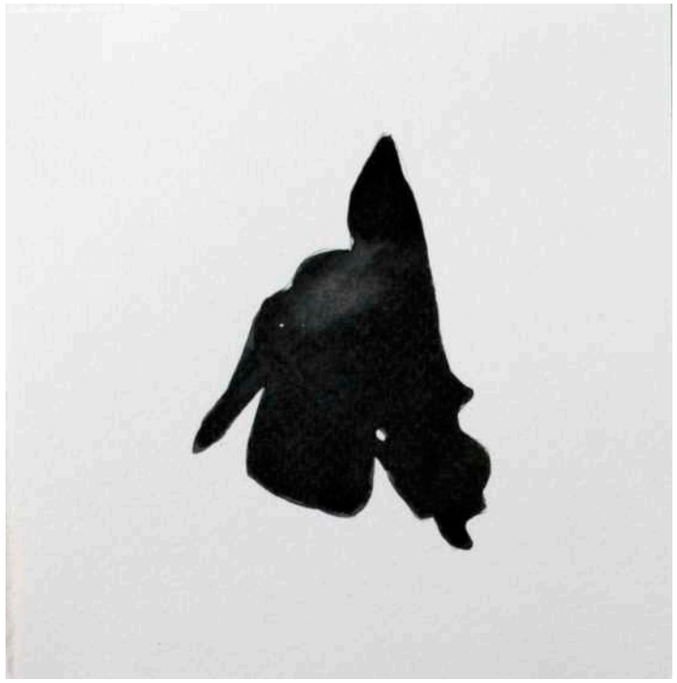
*'Spring' window installation*
Mount House Gallery
April 2020

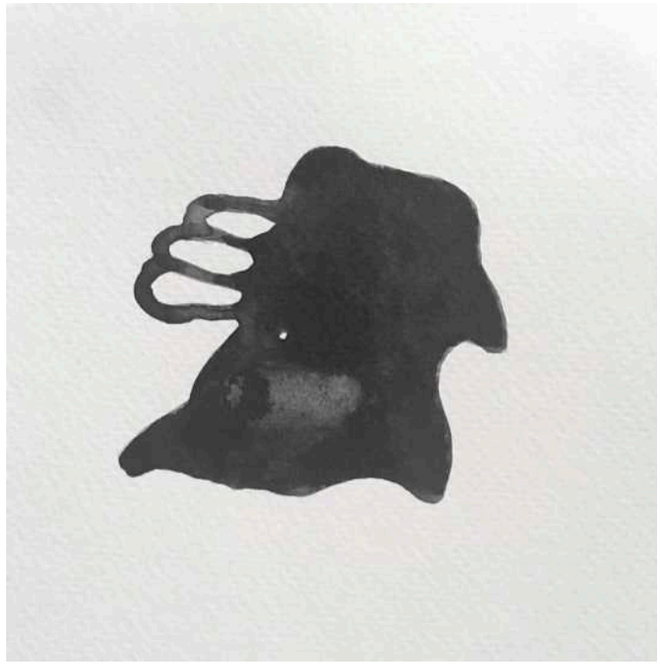
Siobhán Humston's creativity, its *'con brio'* fluidity, select meticulous detail and lyric colour, is a visual diary or more collectively, a visual keyboard. They are the sustained results of total ongoing absorption and emersion in and from nature. What makes this interdisciplinary artist, I believe, stand away from the crowd, is she goes much further and taps into the ephemeral and the universal.

A common thread from pupils when revisiting as well as staff and colleagues talking about past times in the Art School at Marlborough College is mentioning the name of the *Artist-in-Residence*; 'in Claire Barber's year' or, more recently, 'in Tim Betjeman's year', without thinking of its enlightening significance. 2018 to 2020 has been Siobhán's era. We have been enriched immeasurably by her presence, her can-do attitude and commitment, her generosity in showing us her thinking, her processes and layers unfolding and infusing her creativity. And, Siobhán's acumen in guiding our *Art Scholars*. These cherished experiences will not be forgotten.

Edward Twohig RE, Head of Art, Marlborough College
(Fellow, Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers, London; Hon. Member of National Academy of Fine Art, Baku, Azerbaijan)





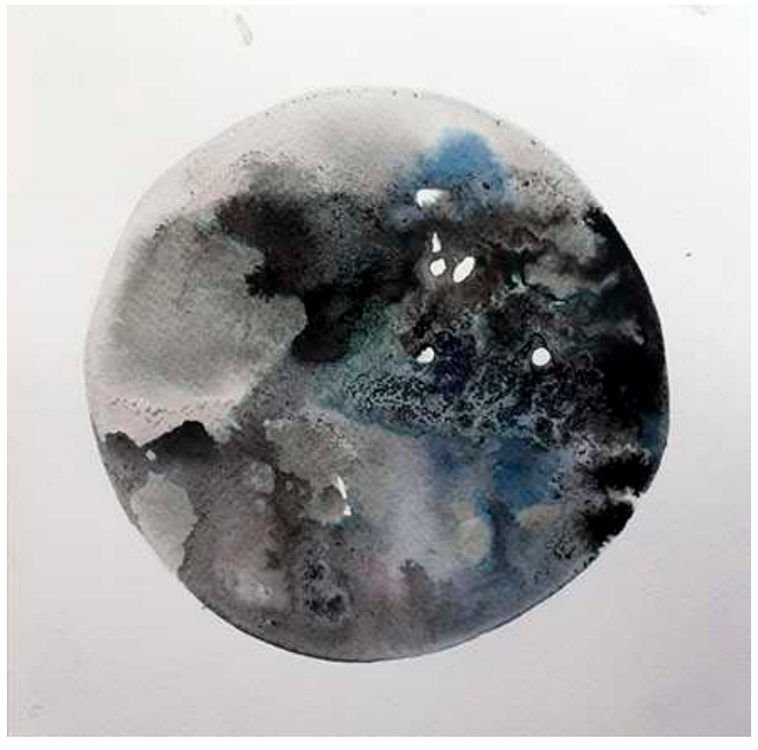








*The Shape of Tulips*
Ink on paper | 13 cm square
Group of 6 £90



*Little Worlds*

I found great pleasure experimenting with regular and my own bio ink while I revisited one of my favourite television series of all time. Given the creative content of Firefly, it's not surprising these little worlds have emerged. They loosely represent the planetary, nebulae, outer space, inner space, petri dish and on and on. They became my peace of mind amid the chaos that spring 2020 felt like, my focused eye in the centre of the 'storm'.

Ink on watercolour paper | 21 cm square
£40/each, group of 3 for £100 (please contact for price of larger grouping)

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*Before the Gathering No.1*
Ink, graphite on paper | 42 x 60 cm
£100

*Before the Gathering No.2*
Ink, graphite on paper | 42 x 60 cm
£100

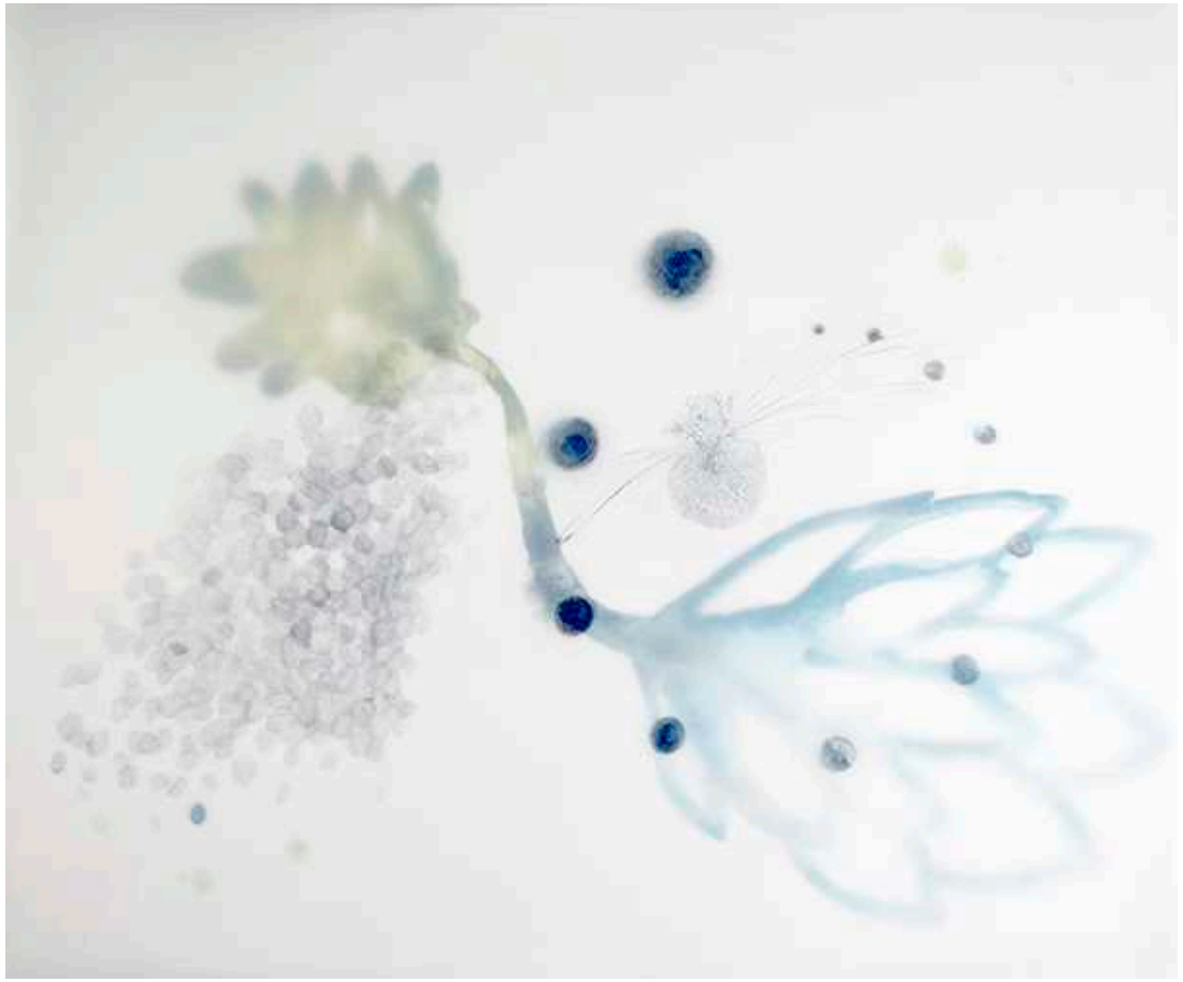
As many of you will know, artists spend a lot of their time *not* making art, but thinking about it, writing about it, throwing it (only sometimes), and applying for art competitions, artist residencies, grants, galleries and museum exhibitions. We tirelessly post our work on the socials and try our best to not be discouraged with the refusal letters, or the ‘radio silence’.

This piece is in fact one of over a dozen pieces that I submitted to various ‘call for artists’ in the last two years. This was for a watercolour exhibition in London, and I wanted to portray some of the feelings that I get as an artist, wanting the work to go out in the world, feeling so nourished by my natural surroundings while sometimes still feeling as I imagine an island would if they felt, a bit isolated in my experience.

This piece is lined inside with a map and the cut out circles below (there are a few more than pictured here) can be displayed in a myriad of ways, making the piece interactive with those whose wall it hangs.

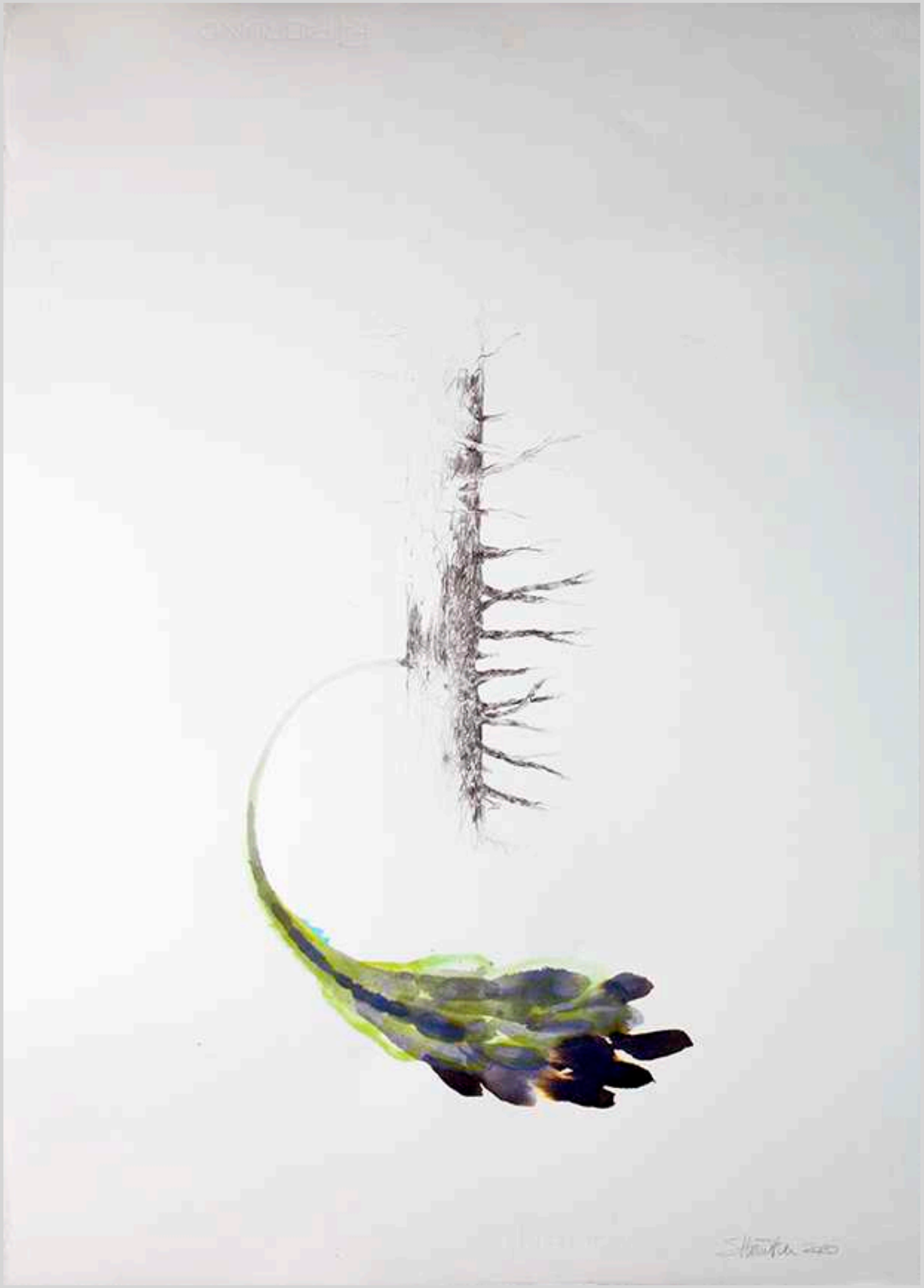
Side note: not a single application landed me in an exhibition or residency, but here I am, still. . .

*Overgrowth Island*
Watercolour, thread with paper & maps |
43 x 29 x 17 cm + circles
£120

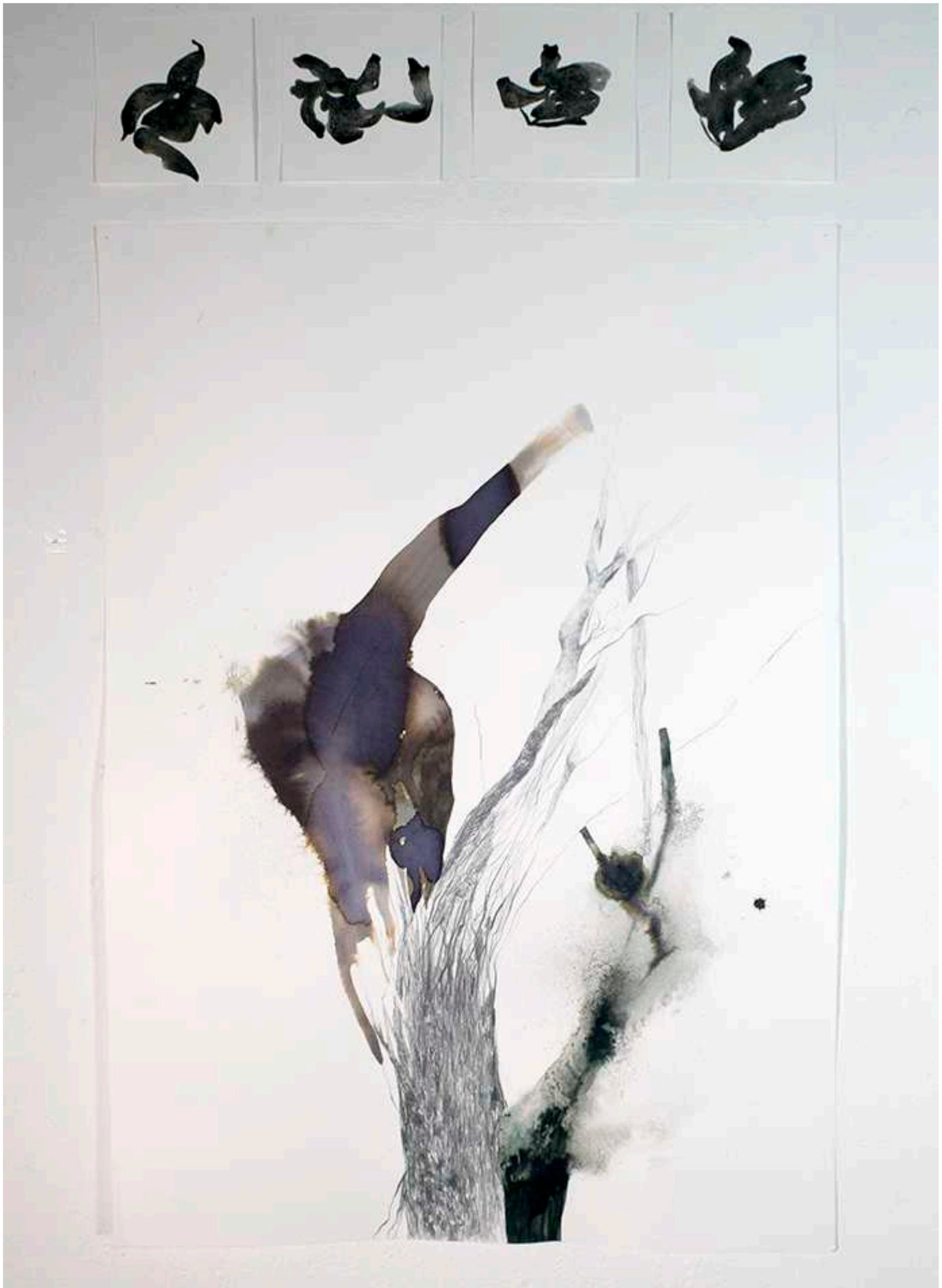


*Underneath*
Graphite, watercolour on paper & vellum | 48 x 59.8 cm
£110 *

*When the Wind Blows We All Join the Gathering in the Field*
Graphite, watercolour on paper | 49 x 60 cm
£100



*The Way We Come The Way We Go*
Ink, graphite on paper | 70.5 x 50 cm
£120

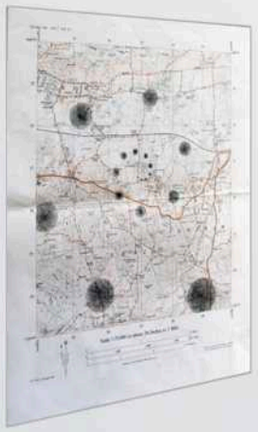


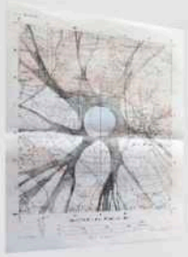
*The Shape of Lilys (4 of 16)*
Ink on watercolour paper | 13 cm square
$15 each, please request price for groupings

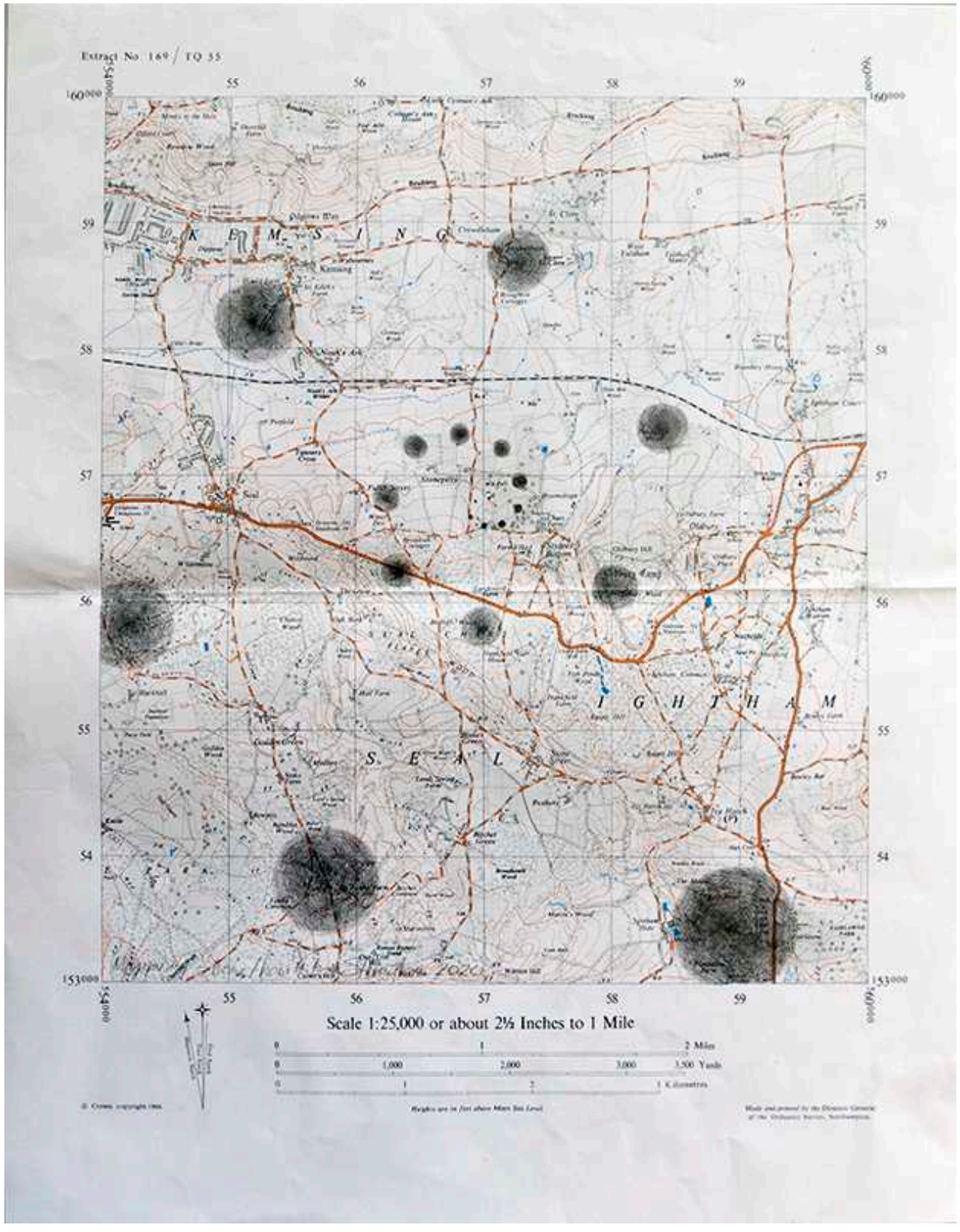
*The Shape of Growth*
Ink, graphite on paper | 84 x 54.5 cm
£135

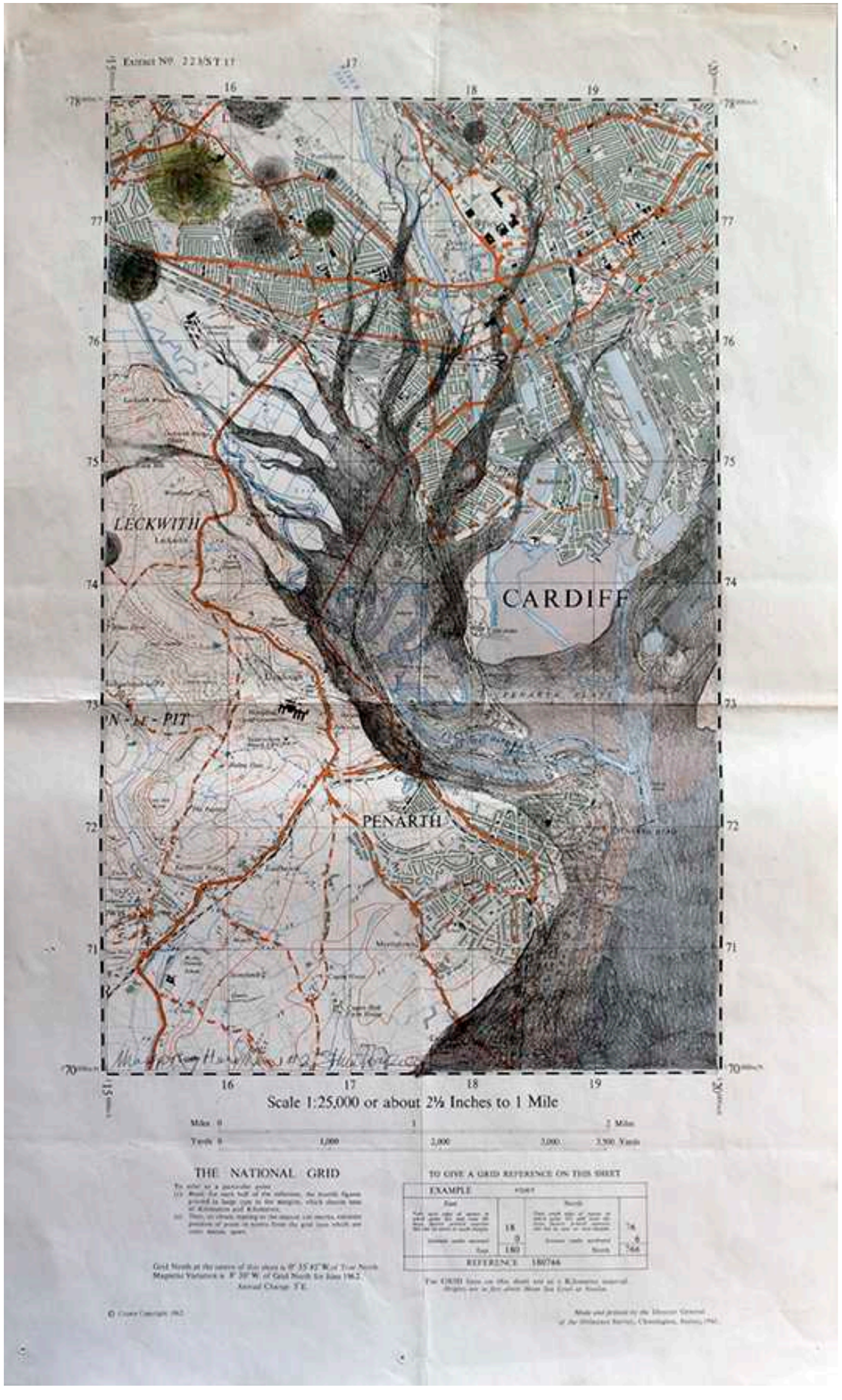
*How to Grow an Island No.1*
Graphite on paper | 50 x 130 cm (diptych)
£150


*How to Grow an Island No.2*
Graphite on paper I 130 x 50 cm (diptych)
£150

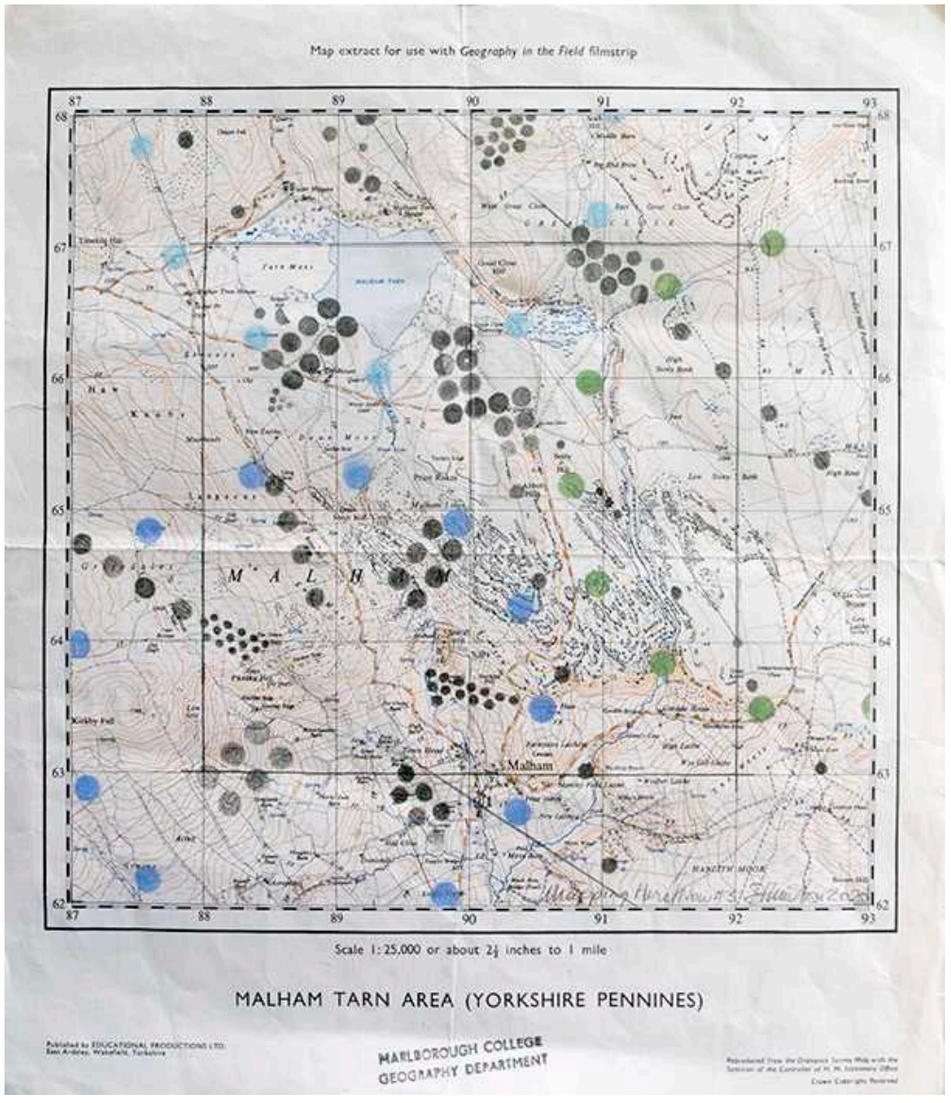


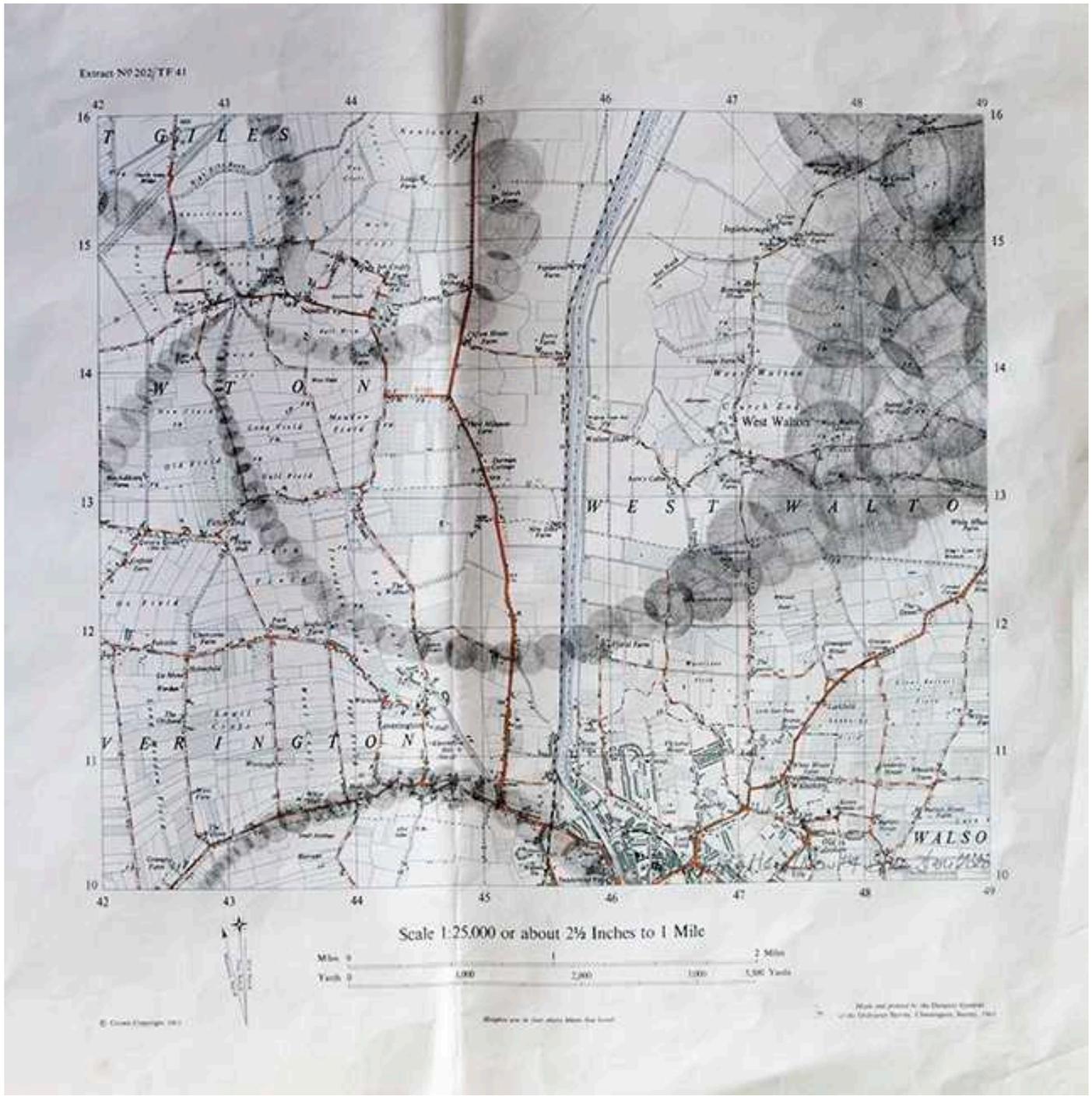




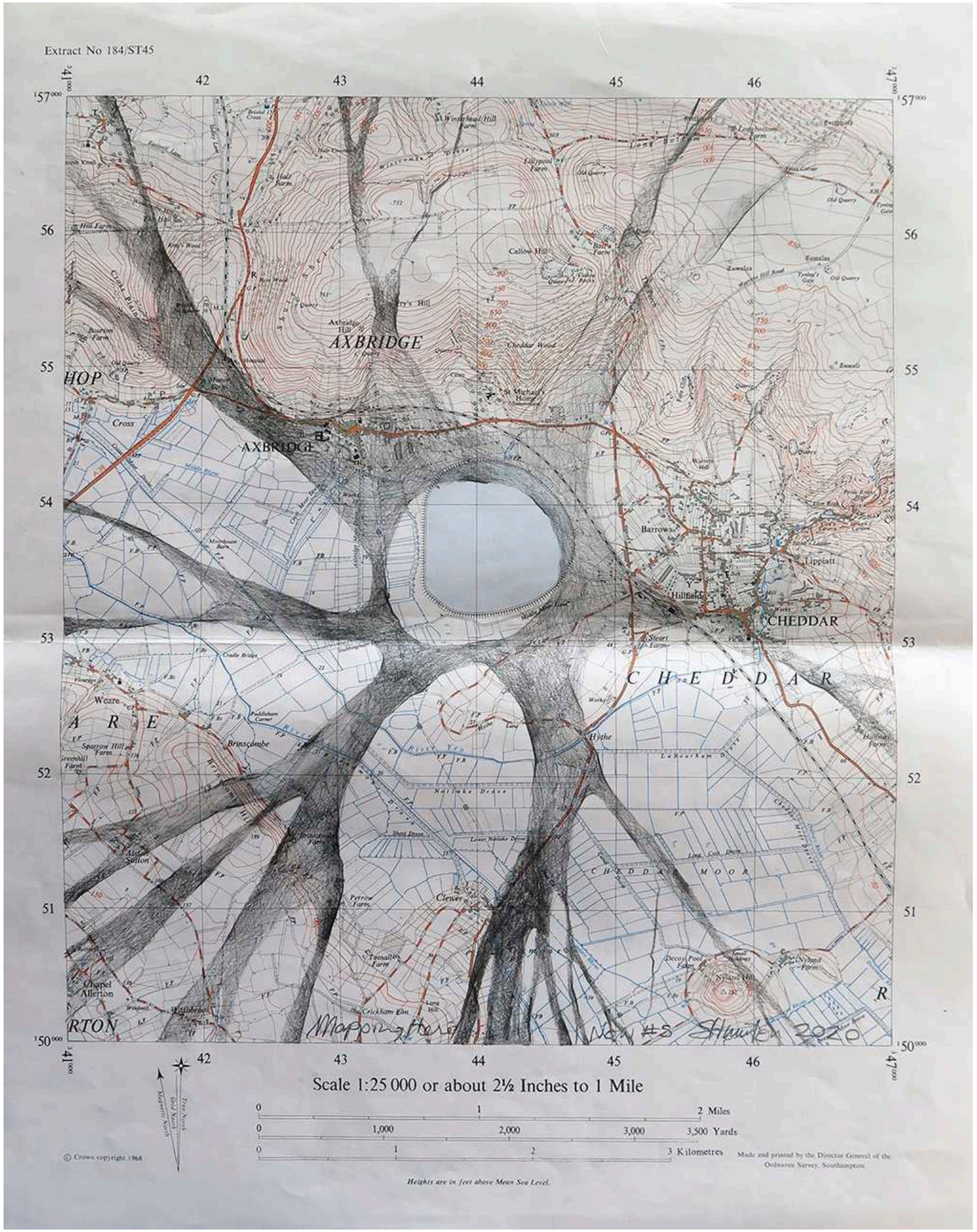




*Mapping Here/Now No's 1 -10*
Graphite on vintage maps (1965-1980) l 33 - 47.5 cm
£75-100 -make an offer
(Contact for individual sizes and years)




Using maps for creative purposes holds a long-standing tradition in the art world and is understandably something that, given my nomadic disposition, I've always been interested in. I collected these maps (and many others) from the geography department last year, using them in various projects (see page 11, inside of the paper sculpture) but it wasn't until recently that I began to draw on them. To me they are extensions of both the geology and geography portrayed and the 'sense' of the land, along side my own investigations in patterns, biomimicry and sacred geometry.




There is something intriguing that happens, perhaps due to the wrinkles and folds of the years old paper, that frees one to take up the pencil without a plan, without a sense of where it's going. So, in essence, these drawings are visual meanderings, sometimes reacting to what I've dreamt about during the previous night's sleep, other times reflecting what I'm listening to and seeing around me. I love perusing aerial photographs of places I've not been that depict changes in the land, water flow and water storage tanks that create beautiful markings. Some recall past experiences, like *Mapping Here/Now #6,* page 20, which recalls a 5am drive along the Oregon coast (Pacific Northwest USA) to see the 'ghost forest', a gaggle of over seventy 2,000 year old tree stumps that only show up at low tide during certain times of the year.

I believe these are the pieces that best reflect, possibly because they are the most recent of this gathering, the direction that I will continue toward. I look forward to sharing that future work with you another time.

SOUTHERN EXAMINING GROUP
General Certificate of Secondary Education
Winter Examination 1991
Geography Syllabuses A1 & A2, Paper 1 Written (GEO-A1&2/1W)
FIGURE 1

Extract No 839/OLM25
1:25 000 Scale

ROADS AND PATHS

BOUNDARIES

SYMBOLS

VEGETATION

HEIGHTS AND ROCK FEATURES

TOURIST AND LEISURE INFORMATION
RENSEIGNEMENTS CONCERNANT LE TOURISME ET LES ACTIVITES DE LOISIR
TOURISTEN-INFORMATION UND FREIZEIT-AUSKUNFT

Brehar
Tresco
St Martin's
Samson
St Mary's
HUGH TOWN
ISLES OF SCILLY
The Road

Mapping Here/Now #6

SHutton 2020

Scale 1:25 000

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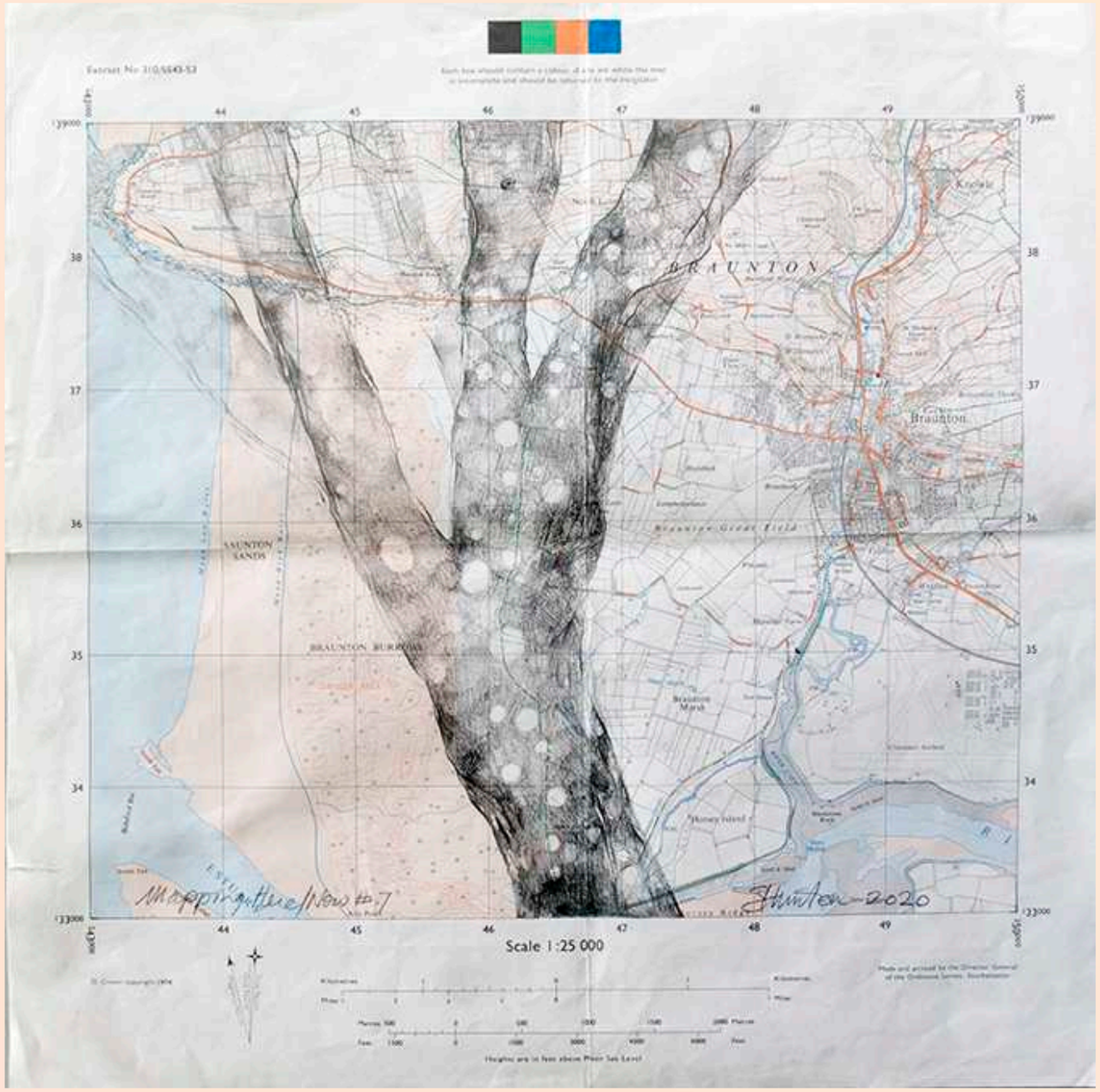
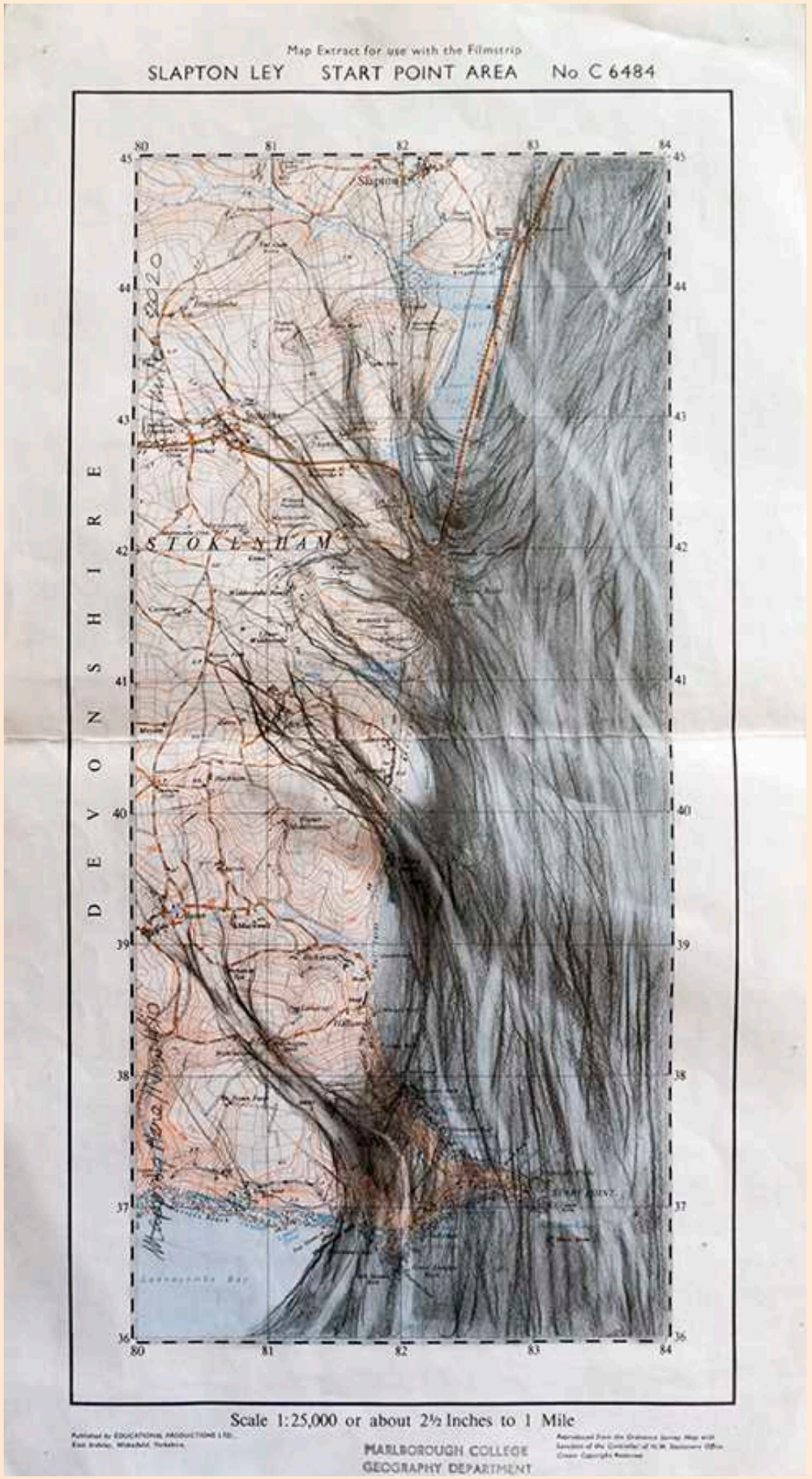
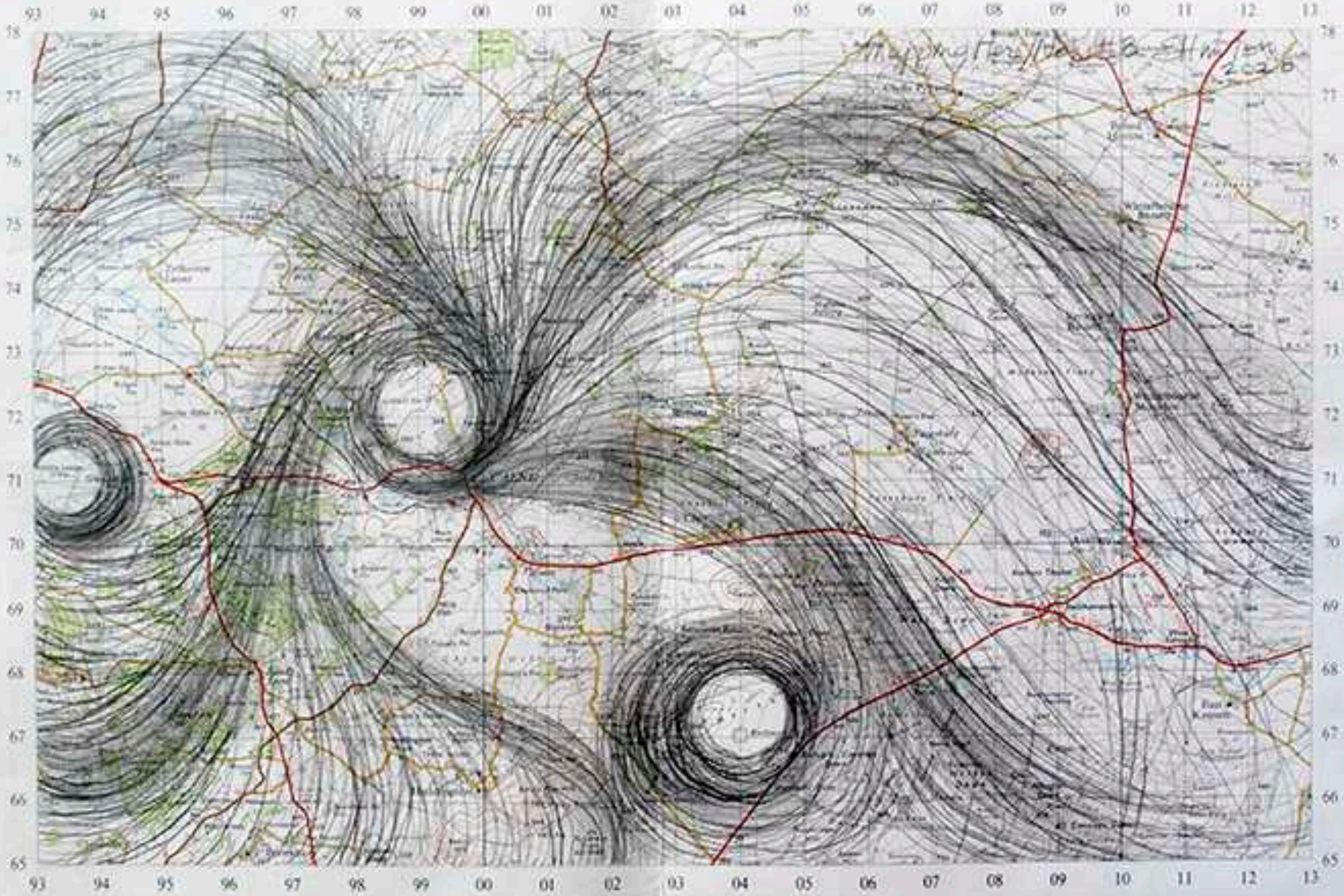

Extract No 310/SE43-53
BRAUNTON
Braunton
Braunton Marsh
Braunton Great Field
SAUNTON SANDS
BRAUNTON BURROWS
Knowle
Mapping outline/How to?
Hunter 2020
Scale 1:25 000


Map Extract for use with the Filmstrip
SLAPTON LEY START POINT AREA No C 6484
STOKENHAM
Slapton
DEVONSHIRE
2020
Scale 1:25,000 or about 2½ Inches to 1 Mile
MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Extract No: 243 137

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Scale: One Inch to One Statute Mile - 1/63360

Miles

Yards

Kilometres

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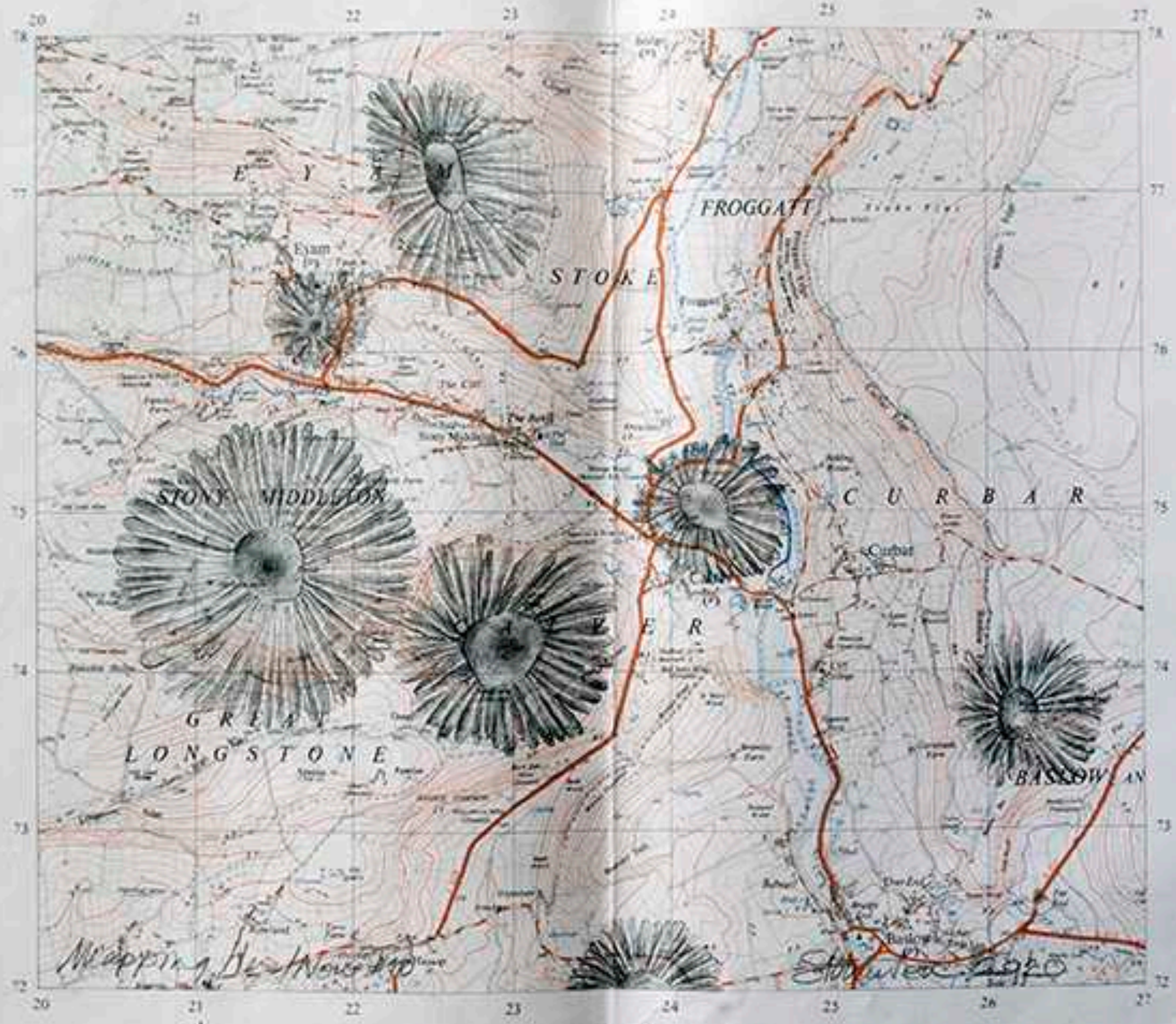
Extract No. 230/SK 27




Scale 1:25,000 or about 2½ Inches to 1 Mile

Miles 0 1 2 Miles

Yards 0 1,000 2,000 3,000 3,500 Yards

*Biophilia Bowls (above)*
Oxide stained paper clay | - 22 cm
From £20 -make an offer
(Please request individual sizes & prices)

*Cosmos Plates (opening page)*
Oxide & underglaze stains on paper clay | 7 – 22 cm diametre
Price range from £20 depending on grouping

Please request price for complete set of plates

*** indicates piece is SOLD**

***Please note that prices are set at well below current market value due to the extraordinary and challenging global situation. In accordance with the #artistsupportpledge, all pieces are below £200 except where multiples are purchased.***

*Art work will be available for shipping or pick up until 26 June. Please indicate your post code for shipping estimate, thank you.*

*Contact me at smhumston@gmail.com or 07848 117723 with any queries or offers, or to see the work in person.*
*To see more art work, visit www.siobhanhumstonart.com*

*'THANK YOU'*
Installation at the Mount House Gallery
20 March to June 2020