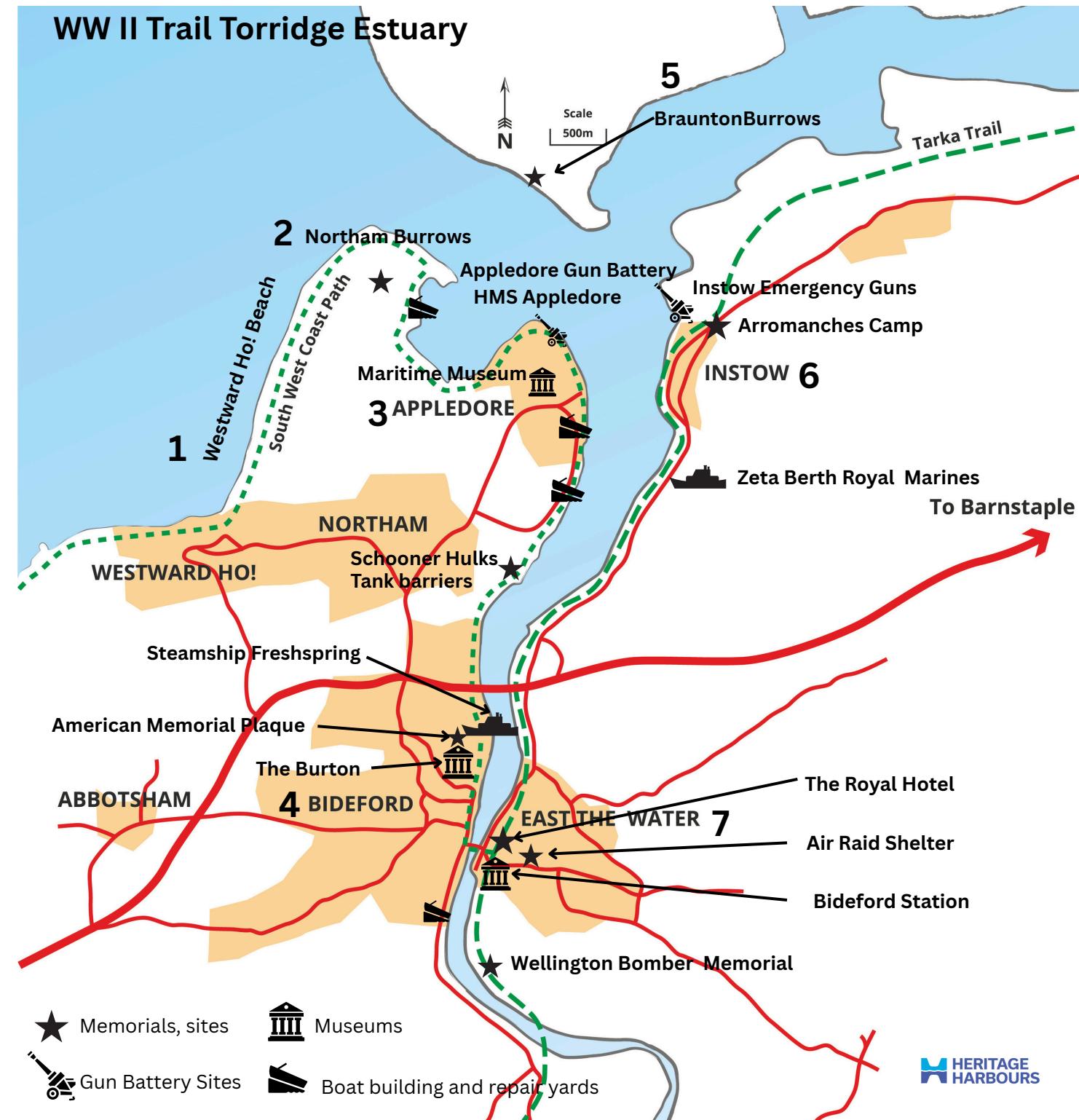


# WW II Trail Torridge Estuary



## 1 Westward Ho! Beach

- Beach Defences
- Testing Experimental Vehicles

## 2 Northam Burrows

- Beach Defences
- RAF Northam Radar Station
- Training Area
- Self Guided Walk Map

## 3 Appledore

- Gun Battery
- COXE Training and Experimental Station for Frogmen and Vehicles
- North Devon Maritime Museum
- Shipyards

## 4 Bideford

- American Bases and Club
- Evacuees
- Steamship Freshspring
- The Burton at Bideford

## 5 Braunton Burrows

- Assault Training Ground Live Firing Range

## 6 Instow

- Gun Battery
- Training Beach Landings
- Arromanches Camp Royal Marines
- Zeta Berth Amphibious Base

## 7 East the Water

- Railway Station and Museum
- Royal Hotel and VIPs
- Air Raid Shelter
- Home Guard
- Wellington Crash Site

Find out more at [www.bighthh.org](http://www.bighthh.org)

Discover more about North Devon's war secrets and 'special operations'.

During 1940, when invasion was imminent, barriers against landing craft and troops were erected and Home Guard units had hidden bases to operate from in case of invasion.

As the tide of war changed the area played a major role in preparing for the invasion of Normandy.

Experimental stations worked out how to waterproof vehicles, essential for a successful seaborne landing.

The American Army set up huge camps and training areas. Beaches became training grounds for the invasion of Europe in June 1944.

Amongst the first men ashore on D-Day were the 'frogmen', trained at Appledore in explosives and beach clearing.

After the war much was cleared away but there are still traces if you know where to look ...

**How do you make tanks swim ?**

**Where do you train an army to make a beach landing ?**

**Why build wooden boats ?**

**Who were the frogmen?**

**Website and map download**  
[www.barthh.org](http://www.barthh.org)



Bideford & River Torridge Heritage Harbour together with North Devon Maritime Museum, The Burton at Bideford and MOLA Coasts in Mind Way of the Wharves CIO Charity 1188912

May 2025 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day

**BIDEFORD & RIVER TORRIDGE HERITAGE HARBOUR**

**WW II Trail  
Torridge  
Estuary**



**Defence to D-Day**



IWM