

Environmental Documentary: Life in
Swansea

Climate Change and Visual Activism

ACNA4003

Rowan Moses

1. Storyboard

LIFE IN SWANSEA

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE - ROWAN MOSES



SHOT 1: SWANSEA MARINA (VARMA, 2021)
A sweeping shot of Swansea at sunset, showing the marina and people walking and laughing.

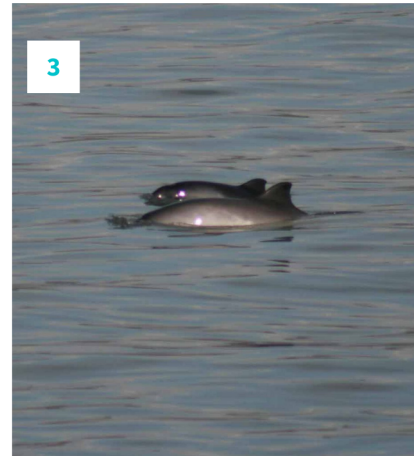
Swansea was founded in the early 12th century. Since then, it has survived increasing population, world wars and changing industries.



SHOT 2: A SWIFT (MOULTON, 2022)

Quick shots of some local wildlife, including swifts flying, Yellow Whitlow grass and scrambled egg lichen.

Groups such as Gower Ornithological Society, Plantlife and Lichens of Wales help to highlight how special the flora and fauna of Swansea is.



SHOT 3: PORPOISES (DORAN, 2014)

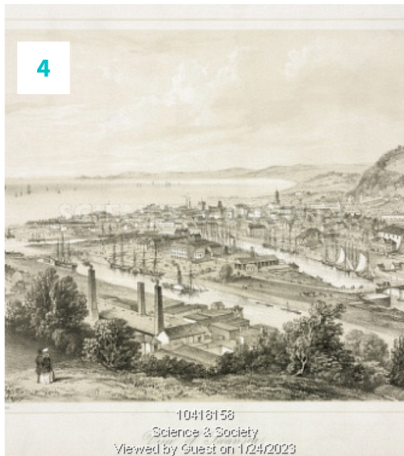
A long shot following harbour porpoise swimming, as they disappear then reappear.

Oakley *et al* (2016) studied the porpoise population in Swansea Bay, finding an active community. Common dolphins are seen too.

Figure 1: The first three images of the video log storyboard.

THREATS TO ECOSYSTEMS

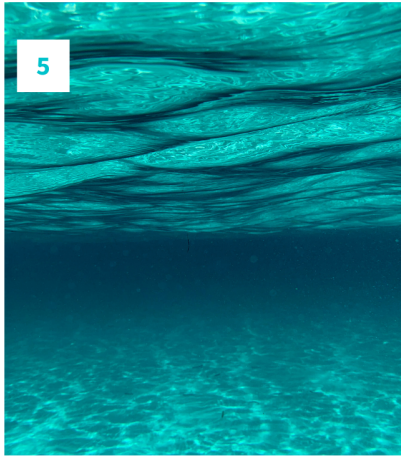
LOCAL AFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



SHOT 4: HISTORIC SWANSEA (SCIENCE & SOCIETY, 1850)

A selection of historical images of Swansea industry.

However, Swansea's industrial past and the future of worsening climate upheaval puts our unique and fragile ecosystems at risk.



SHOT 5: WATER (JORGE, 2019)

Shots of present day Swansea, mirroring the historical images we were just shown, intercut with ocean waves.

Sea level rise in particular will be an ongoing issue due to Swansea's coastal location. Air and water pollution and habitat loss also affect the local area.



SHOT 6: FLOODING (GALLAGHER, 2020)

Footage of environmental disasters thought to be triggered by the climate crisis, such as flooding.

The acidification of oceans, extreme weather events, loss of habitat, and increasing global temperature are just some of the ways that climate change threatens biodiversity.

Figure 2: The second set of three images of the video log storyboard.

PATHWAYS FORWARDS

WHAT IS BEING DONE?



SHOT 7: FIRST IPCC MEETING (IPCC, 1988)

Historical visuals, this time of more than just Swansea.

The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) conduct research with the help of scientists worldwide. They have identified various different pathways to mitigate the effects of climate change.



SHOT 8: WELLBEING GOALS (WELSH GOVERNMENT, 2021)

Diagrams to illustrate the multi-pillared concept being discussed.

In Wales, the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 sets out the need for "sustainable development", which is defined as working on the environmental, cultural, social and economic wellbeing of Wales.



SHOT 9: VIDEO INTERVIEW (SIGMUND, 2021)

Footage of interviews with local people.

Here in Swansea, local organisations are tackling climate change. Key figures in these groups should be interviewed, as their viewpoints have valuable insights and make sure the community's voices are heard.

Figure 3: The third set of three images of the video log storyboard.

A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL

CREATING A THRIVING, INCLUSIVE FUTURE



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SHOT 10: WOODLAND (PELL, 2019)

A long shot of healthy wildlife.

A scientist named Daniel Pauly (1995) coined the term "shifting baseline syndrome" to describe the way that each younger generation bases their "normal" on their experience of already degraded environmental conditions.



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SHOT 11: COMMUNITY (ILUYOMADE, 2021)

Shots of communities, people laughing.

Aiming to enhance and restore biodiversity instead of only conserving what we have is therefore vital. Community involvement, political engagement and ambition will all be needed to protect Swansea wildlife.



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SHOT 12: BRYNMILL (AL-HILFI, 2020)

Return to shots of Swansea.

There is so much wildlife to love here in Swansea. As fellow creatures living in this area, we have a duty to learn about it and protect it while we still can.

Figure 4: The final three images of the video log storyboard.

2. Supporting Materials

2.1 Why is Biodiversity Important?

The topic that the video log “Life in Swansea” focuses on is biodiversity. Species found locally in Swansea are highlighted, using sources from groups that operate locally, and the dangers that climate change presents to Swansea in particular are explored. The city’s history is touched upon, with reference to the Local Histories organisation, and images from the time of industrial Swansea from the Science and Society Picture Library archives are taken to bring it to life.

Biodiversity, which leads to healthy ecosystems, play vital roles in climate resilience. Ecosystems provide a huge number of “ecosystem services” which support life all around the globe by cycling nutrients, preventing flooding and providing food amongst other things (Royal Society, 2022). Griscom *et al* (2017) conducted a study in which they found a variety of conservation and land management strategies that could provide 30% of the climate change mitigation that would help ensure the global average temperature does not rise above 2 degrees celsius by 2030.

Coastal areas are especially vulnerable to climate change (Amaratunga, 2022). Swansea and its surrounding areas are coastal, and a lot of species are threatened by the effects of climate change here. Local people deserve knowledge and agency to act to mitigate dangers towards their home, and may have perspectives that people who aren’t local wouldn’t have on the area. However, the video log brings up the dangers of phenomena such as “shifting baseline syndrome”, a name for generational environmental amnesia, which can cause lack of ambition and big picture thinking when it comes to restoration and therefore enhancing the environment and biodiversity (Jones *et al*, 2020; Macdonald, 2019).

2.2 Sharing the Video Log

This video log would be targeted at local people in particular, but designed to be as accessible as possible and shareable with the wider population so people could learn about Swansea’s particular issues. The starting point would be sharing it on Youtube.com, and other social media such as Instagram and Twitter (see figure 5), or Facebook groups for Swansea local area things. To reach people who are less frequently online, leaflets could be made and distributed to local businesses, such as charity shops and newsagents. The video log should be available in both Welsh and English.

A full transcript and subtitles should be provided to increase access for hard of hearing/deaf people, and audio description for people with vision issues. These should be easy to access, and no one should have to disclose disabilities in order to use these features.



Figure 5: An example of a tweet used to share the video log, created via TweetGen.com.

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