



Kilvey Hill Development Debate

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- Due Date: 13/01/2026
- Student ID's: Chenai Woods(2501493)
- Kiera Pritchard(2503415)
- Lily Lewis(2501492)
- Liv Kincaid (2517453)
- Nicol Huptysova(2519793)
- Niamh McAuliffe(2503286)
- Rihane Francisco(2501756)
- Lecturer Name: Deborah Jenkins

Order of speaking

- Liv-Introducing
- Nicol- For Environmental
- Lily- Against Environmental
- Niamh- For Social
- Rhiane- Against Social
- Chenai- For Economical
- Keira-Against Economical
- Liv- Concluding Arguments

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal town. In the foreground, there's a rocky shoreline with dark, wet stones. Beyond the rocks is a calm body of water, likely the ocean. In the background, a line of houses is visible on a slight rise, surrounded by greenery and trees. The sky is clear and blue.

Introduction, liv

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- The Kilvey Hill skyline development has sparked significant debate within Swansea, raising important questions about the future of the city and the preservation of it's natural environment.



How The Kilvey Hill Skyline Will Benefit The Environment

- Renewable Energy
- Biodiversity protection and habitat enhancement.
- Meet climate goals
- Position itself as a leader in sustainable coastal cities.

An aerial photograph of a park with winding paths, trees, and playground equipment. The image is used as a background for the text.

Renewable Energy

- Generating clean power to protect the natural environment. Statistically proven, lower air pollutants that cause respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, potentially saving millions of lives annually.
- Cuts carbon emissions, reducing long term energy costs, enhance biodiversity and landscapes and deliver benefits to local communities.
- Renewables grew by about **15 % in 2024**, meaning the clean energy transition is accelerating.
- Turbines are a lot quieter and more efficient than other models

Biodiversity



Biodiversity protection helps us understand what species are in that area for example, plants, birds and insects.

- Invasive species spreading
- Scrub choking out wildflowers
- Declining insect and bird diversity
- Regular ecological monitoring
- Funded habitat maintenance (not optional)
- Nature protection written into planning conditions

Benefits:

- Boosts pollinators (bees, butterflies, hoverflies)
- Supports birds and small mammals
- Improves soil health and carbon storage

Meeting Climate Goals

- The biggest climate goal across the UK and Wales is net zero — reducing greenhouse gas emissions as close to zero as possible.
- Replaces electricity that would otherwise come from gas or coal
- Produces zero emissions during operation
- Cuts thousands of tonnes of CO₂ over its lifetime
- Increasing locally generated renewable capacity
- Reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels
- Helping Swansea Council meet its own climate emergency commitments



Position itself as a leader in sustainable coastal cities.

- Uses elevation and coastal winds for clean energy
- Understands coastal vulnerability
- Designs solutions rooted in its own landscape
- Treats nature as infrastructure, not scenery

Sustainable coastal cities attract:

- Green tech companies
- Research partnerships
- Universities and innovation funding



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The Kilvey Hill Skyline Development is going to destroy the environment.

Ways in which the development will negatively impact the environment include:

- Destruction of natural habitats.
- Damage to the landscape.
- Disruption and harm to local wildlife.
- Environmental disruption to nearby communities.



Deforestation.

- A number of pine trees are required to be removed for the developments to take place (Swansea.gov, 2022).
- Deforestation causes destruction to natural habitats and increases CO₂ in the atmosphere. (Atlanta Tree Service, 2022).
- Deforestation is a global issue and does not need to be brought into Swansea.

Impacts of deforestation:

- Increase in climate change.
- Fast release of CO₂.
- Eliminating habitats.
- Decreasing biodiversity



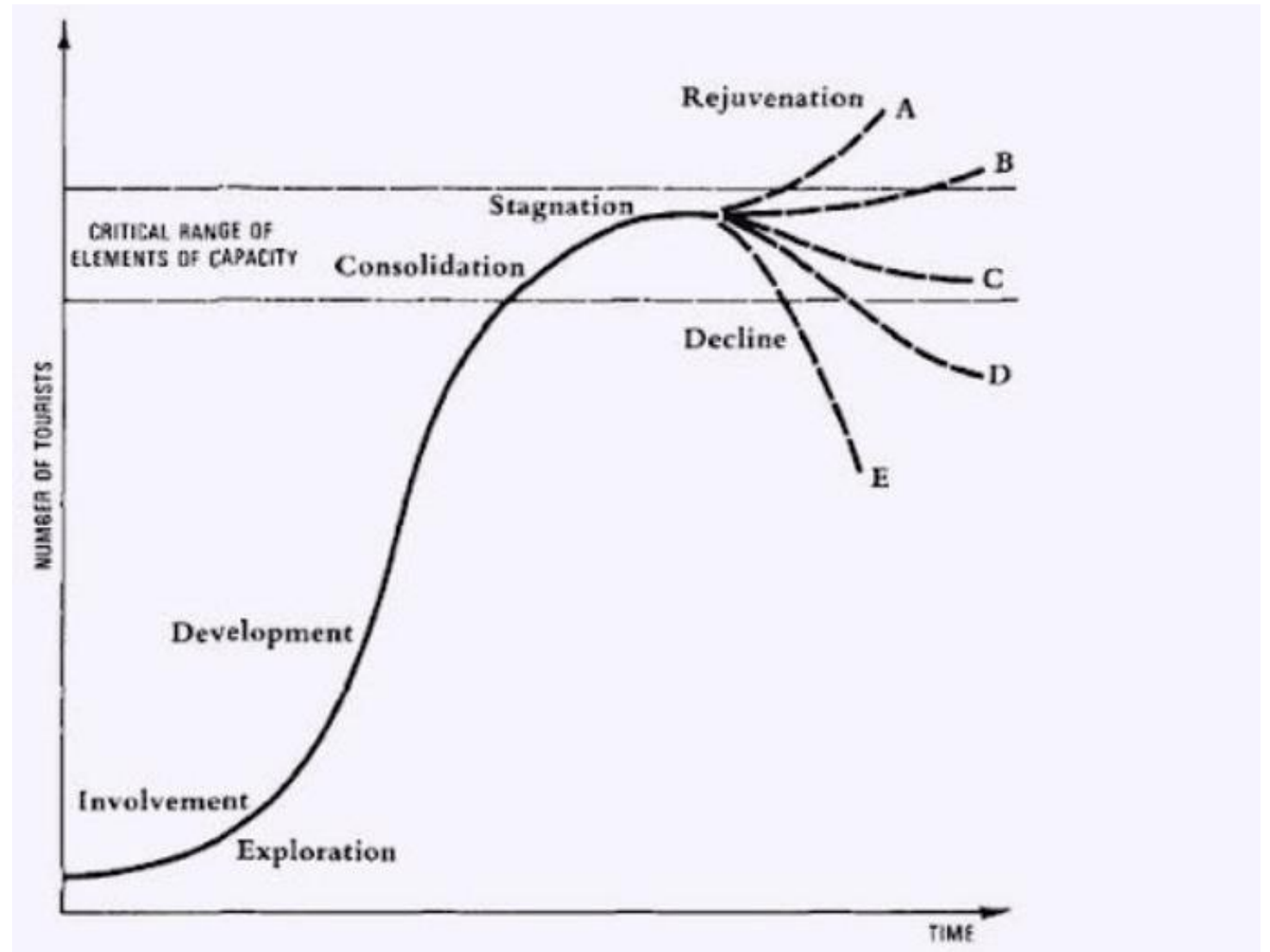
Is the Skyline Development worth the damage to natural habitats and local wildlife?

- As well as deforestation being a CO2 polluter, it's also the cause of disruption to local wildlife.
- Example: Bird nesting seasons begins in August which is the month that the development began (Youle, 2025).
- Tourism degrades biodiversity which creates long term impacts for local areas (University of Luxembourg, 2024).
- Biodiversity is absolutely crucial, and our planet cannot survive without it. Every species plays a specific role (Knapp, 2019).



Environmental disruption for nearby communities.

- Operations are going to increase the risk of landslides (Facebook, 2026).
- Noise pollution will increase during the development.
- The deterioration of the local environment will put Swansea in a state of decline (Butler, 2024).



Increase in tourism = an increase in CO2 emissions.

- 450,000 visitors are estimated to visit the development annually (Kilveyhill.co.uk, 2026).
- Contributes to noise pollution and creates a disruption for the locals.
- Traffic will increase and create an extortionate amount of CO2 emitted into the atmosphere.



We must protect our environment.

Overall reasons against the Kilvey Hill development:

- Deforestation will damage the environment.
- Loss of natural habitats and local wildlife.
- Noise pollution disrupting wildlife and communities.
- Increase in traffic is a result of more CO₂ emissions.



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The economic advantages of the Kilvey Hill development.

Today I am arguing in favour of the Kilvey Hill Skyline development, based purely on its economic benefits to Swansea. This argument is not about personal opinion; it is about jobs, investment, and long-term economic growth in a city that needs sustainable opportunities.

Economic advantages of the Kilvey Hill Skyline Development.

- Proposal for a major leisure and tourism attraction on Kilvey Hill
- Includes a cable car, outdoor activities, and visitor facilities.
- My argument focuses only on economic benefits for Swansea.



Job Creation – boosting employment in Swansea

- Around 478 during construction
- Over 100 permanent jobs once open
- Jobs in:
 - Construction, tourism/ hospitality, maintaince/ management

Why this matters?

- Helps reduce youth unemployment
- Creates local jobs for many including students and graduates
- Keeps skilled workers in swansea





Tourism and visitor spending

Increasing tourism revenue

- Estimated up to 450,000 visitors per year
- Many visitors expected from outside Swansea and Wales
- Visitors spend money on accommodation, restaurants, transport, and shops

The economic impact:

- More visitors = more money flowing into the local economy
- Supports small and medium sized local bussiness.

Long term economic growth

Long term financial benefits:

- Projected £84 million added to Swansea's economy over 15 years
- Measured using gross value added (GVA)
- Supported by £4 million Welsh Government Investment

Why this is important:

- Shows government confidence in the project
- Encourages future private investment in Swansea
- Creates lasting economic benefits, not just short-term gains.



Efficient use of land and infrastructure

Smart economic planning:

- Uses existing infrastructure at Landore park and ride
- Concentrates development in one area
- Reduces the need for costly development/ expansion elsewhere

Economic advantage:

- Lower infrastructure costs
- Higher economic return from a single attraction site
- More efficient use of public money



Conclusion.

Why the Kilvey Hill development makes economic sense?

- Creates jobs
- Attracts visitors and spending
- Adds long-term value to Swansea's economy
- Increases investment confidence

Economic growth is essential for the future of Swansea so the Kilvey hill development is an opportunity to achieve it.

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Economic disadvantages of the development of the Kilvey Hill Skyline

These are the topics I am going to be talk about:

- Economic disadvantages
- Financial risks
- Job creation disadvantages
- Tourism and visitor disadvantages
- Long term economic disadvantages





3 overall economic disadvantages of the Kilvey Hill skyline development.

- The developers claim that this project will only take up 9% of Kilvey Hill but this has been misled as the development will actually take up 37% of the publicly accessible land, including the hilltop area as well.
- Noise pollution during the development and opening of the skyline will disrupt the surrounding areas of Kilvey Hill, this can decrease the areas appeal for peacefulness, leading to the effect of economic viability.
- This development is hoping to attract 450,000 annual visitors to this attraction, but this figure is misaligned with Swansea's tourism trends, which can create situations where the develop does not attract visitors and contribute to the local economy.

Financial risks of the Kilvey Hill Skyline Development

The Welsh Government is funding £4 Million into this project but this can lead to the public funds going to waste on a development of uncertain success.

There has been similar development plans around Wales that has not succeeded even with the Welsh Governments funding, such as:

Over £1.6 Million was invested into a leading Martial Arts Centre in Llangollen in 2013, the proposal did not go through because the money had been wasted due to the government's procedural failures.

A Bala Heritage centre had been closed after 3 years of opening, despite the £3.4 million that was invested by the Welsh Government.

Near Ebbw Vale there was supposedly going to be a world class race

A New start for Kilvey Hill

By Niamh McAuliffe(2503286)

**Social and Community
Impacts**





- **Kilvey Hill was once a by product of industrial damage, however is ready for it's new chapter as the peoples park for the 21st Century.**
- **Social Equity: The development will be beneficially to those that aren't just physically fit to make the journey up the hill but for those who have been restricted for doing so.**
- **Skyline Enterprises previous development in Rotorua (Skyline, 2017b) and Queenstown (Skyline, 2017a) that has been there for 50 years have turned into the beating hearts of those communities.**

Social Impacts of the Kilvey Hill Skyline Development



- Creating an extra 100+ jobs and apprenticeship roles- keeping young people a reason to stay.



- Attracting over 450,000 annual visitors- contributing towards the local community.



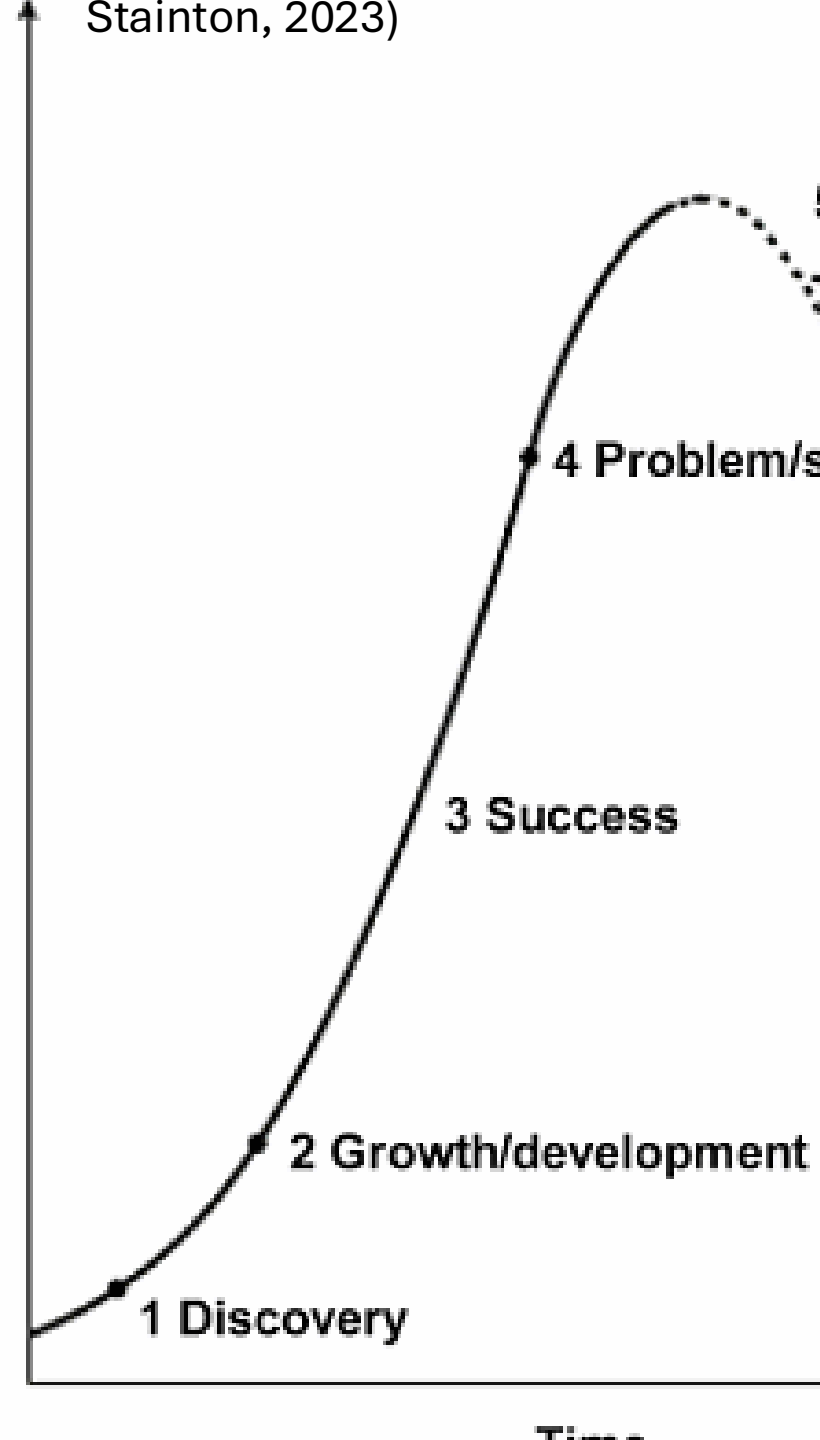
Regeneration for the local area and investing in maintaining well used routes:

- Bike Trails
- Cycle paths



- Butlers TALC Development stage. (Stainton.H, 2023)

Number of tourists





- **Universal Access:**
Gondalas providing a mobility tool for young families, elderly people and the disabled.



- **Community:** 91% of the hill remains untouched.
- Existing trails are maintained by the Skyline Development at there expense.



- **Local People:** Recieve discounted annual passes (£20-£40) to ensure the space continues as a community asset.

Inclusivity & Social Equilty

Future Proofing the Community

(Harry, 2023)



- **Education Hub:** The hill is a ‘living classroom’. Accessible for local schools and universities to use providing a space for anyone and everyone.



- **Skyline’s NZ “Care Teams”** who lead local conservation and education projects- showing that community and sustainability share the same interests.



To conclude:

- **Swansea** deserves the recognition for it’s history and community pride resulting in a brighter future.

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NEGATIVE SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACTS

RHIANE

Although the project predicts benefits to Swansea, it also contributes to variety of negative impacts to the community and area.

Topics that will be discussed:

1. Effects on the area and to the community
2. Noise pollution
3. Lost of heritage
4. Community disagreement
5. Developing tourism or commercialising the countryside ?



“Current trails will be unaffected, maintain free, and public” (Skyline)

Photograph of an **unrecorded path** crossing the **development area**

Photo: (Open space society, 2023)

Rhiane

EFFECTS ON THE AREA AND TO THE COMMUNITY



The project intends to introduce 478 jobs in construction (Skyline, 2017), ignoring the negatives of such massive workload to the area and to the community. The construction would contribute to noise pollution affecting **locals, wildlife, and to those intending to visit** the hill which can cause physical harm.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported that Western European Countries lose around 1-1.6 million disability adjusted life year, each year due to noise exposure (WHO, 2012)

90% of noise-related disputes in urban areas are related to construction projects (Kwon, Cho, Lee, Yoon, & Park, 2019)

European robins were found to have higher baseline stress levels in noisy urban settings compared to those in quieter environments (Whitmore, 2025)



- People live on the hill, animals as well
- Even though the construction noise will stop, the attraction will gather loads of people who will disrupt them from ever living life normal again
- Jane Britton (living on the hill) has had hospital visits over declining mental health on the matter - has animals such as horses and roosters

(Daily mail, 2025)



(Wales online,
Clements, 2019)

EFFECTS ON THE AREA AND TO THE COMMUNITY

History repeats itself

Kilvey Hill was once used as a hub for the copper industry before its activities started damaging the land. The damages left Kilvey Hill as a wasteland with toxic soil and no sights of living plants (History Point, 2025).

How was it restored?

Even though the restoration was initiated by the council and government, the efforts were done by the Kilvey Hill Community Woodland Volunteers. Efforts including removing industrial waste, planting new trees, and establishing variety of paths for the public to use. Making it a symbol of recovery and creating **a space for the communities wellbeing**.



“History of pollution made it unsuitable for housing development and unattractive to investors” (Thomas, 2025)

- 01 Project completely dismisses the efforts of the community
- 02 If the Skyline does not succeed, will it make the countryside even more unattracting?



The project has support from local businesses such as chief executive of Penderyn Distillery, stating “**the plans are important for visitors and tourism**” (Thomas, 2024).

Doxy's Irritation Index (1975)

Businesses and Skyline will prioritise visitors/tourists, but who will be the most likely to be repeated customers?

COMMERCIALISING THE COUNTRYSIDE

IS IT FOR THE LOCALS?

- 60 groups regularly use the hill, rest of Swansea do not
- Local people are the ones that use it
- The children who live in the area are poor, not able to afford to go to other locations such as Gower

“Skyline is offering discounted tickets to locals which they are still not even able to afford it” - Dr Susan Lyle, member of Swansea Climate Action (Shaurya, 2025).



The planning application only received **40 letters of support**, whilst the opposing side was a total of **545 opposing** (Open Space Society, 2025).

The planning officer has to have “understood the significant harm to the landscape, but it is outweighed by the cumulative benefits”.

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Conclusion, liv

- In conclusion, the proposed development on Kilvey Hill present is a complex balance of environmental, social and economic impacts. Environmentally while the development could support renewable energy generation and contribute to Wales sustainability targets, it also risks damaging natural habitats, altering the landscape, and affecting local wildlife. Kilvey hill is valued for its natural beauty and biodiversity meaning any environmental harm could be difficult to reverse.
- Overall while the development offers clear economic and environmental advantages the renewable energy and job creation these must be carefully weighed against the environmental damage and social concerns of local residence. A well planned approach that minimise environmental harm, involves community, consultation, and protects the natural landscape would be essential if the development on Kilvey Hill is to be justified.

Thank you for listening!

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