



JHON MUIR AWARD

Completion presentation

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INTRODUCTION

In this presentation I will explain what I did to achieve the criteria of my John Muir award and how this had an impact, as well as influences on this challenge.

What is it ?

'The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It supports people to connect with, enjoy and care for nature, landscape, and the natural environment - wild places.' (Anon., 2019)

“DISCOVER A WILD PLACE”- IN THIS SECTION I WILL NAME AND LOCATE THE PLACE I VISITED, DISCUSS WHAT I LIKE ABOUT IT, WHY I THINK IT IS SPECIAL AND WORTH MY ATTENTION.

My main project was on the 28th November at Rhossili Bay beach. This is on the western front of the Gower. It's a area of outstanding natural beauty in south Wales. It's a long sandy beach that stretches 3 miles but also has rocky areas as well as some grassland. I like this particular beach for it's variety of habitats that allows for a variety of wildlife, this results in a beautiful and refreshing space. Also its just a place that makes me feel at peace and in my element.

It's a special place worth our attention, because as a Uni course we use the area a lot for our studies and activity's. To continue to do this without ruining it or having a negative impact its important to think how we could help. Also if we can help to sustain it, we can pass on this beauty and area of interest onto the following generations. Therefore, they can learn / get the same experiences from it that we do now.

“DISCOVER A WILD PLACE”- PICTURES OF AREA
THE PROJECT WAS CARRIED OUT IN.



“EXPLORE ITS WILDNESS”- IN THIS SECTION I WILL EXPLAIN WHAT I HAVE DONE TO GET TO KNOW THE WILD PLACE. I WILL ALSO HIGHLIGHT THE KEY NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PLACE.

What is the area used for?

Before Completing my Award here and helping conserve this piece of land, I did a bit of research. I found out: what kind of activities people use it for most; what kind of wildlife lives there; what the key natural characteristics are.

I already had a good idea of what the area was mostly used for, having used it before for course-based activities. Hence, I concluded that it was used: for coasteering, for the general public to walk along/have a nice day out and coastal foraging. Following further research, I found this text (Anon., 2021) that confirms my conclusion, stating that the beach is indeed used as suggested. ‘True adrenaline junkies can try a spot of coasteering – climb the cliffs and leap into the waves below, not for the faint hearted! Make sure you’re always accompanied by a professional though.’ The article also goes on to talk further about more possible activity options, such as surfing, walking, camping and visiting places of historical interest.

"EXPLORE ITS WILDNESS" - COASTEERING AND CLIMBING PICTURES



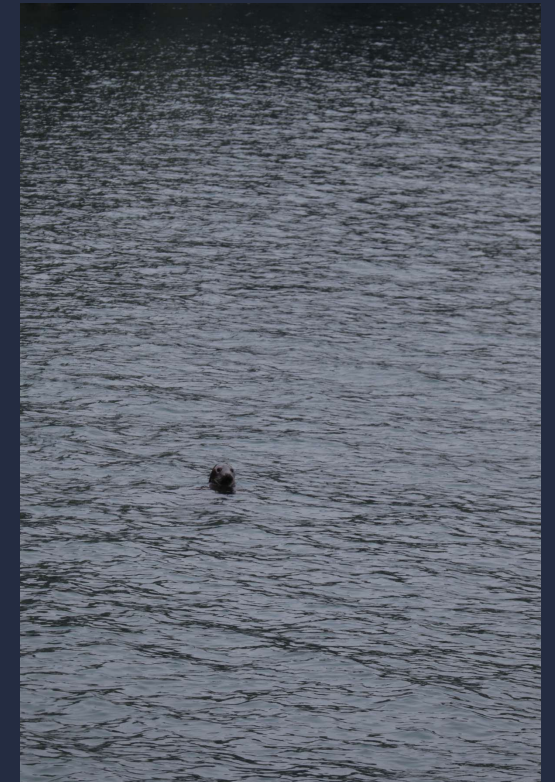
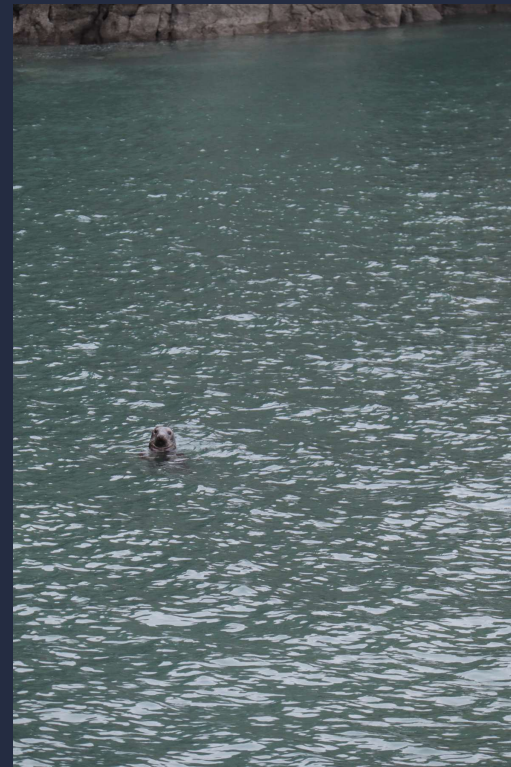
“EXPLORE ITS WILDNESS” - WHAT KIND OF WILDLIFE LIVES THERE ?

Before this task I never really thought too much about the wildlife in this area I knew there were some common birds like gulls about and occasionally you'd see a seal but upon researching this area I found that actually 'The site supports a good biodiversity of flora and fauna including a number of protected species:

Mammals: brown hare - Birds: skylark, chough - Butterflies: marsh fritillary - Larger Moths: narrow-bordered bee-hawk - Dragonflies: southern damselfly - Other invertebrates: black bog ant, hornet, robber-fly. (Anon., 2020)

Finding out about these species inspired me even more in my effort to conserve and continue to have a positive impact on this piece of land.

“EXPLORE ITS WILDNESS”- PICTURES OF SEALS AND
SOME HOOKS WE FOUND VERY NEAR BY.



“EXPLORE ITS WILDNESS” - KEY NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PLACE

Before going to the Gower for this project I didn't think too much in depth about the characteristics of the place. However, upon having to think about it for this assignment I actually found out a lot about the place. When originally asked about characteristics my answer was very basic. I said there would be Cliffs, Sea, Sand and rocks. After reading into it I realised it was much more than that. (Anon., 2021) 'The Peninsula's richly varied natural environment is renowned for its heathland, limestone grassland, fresh – and salt-water marshes, dunes and oak woodlands. Its mixed geology has given rise to a wide variety of scenery in a relatively small landscape area. Dramatic limestone cliffs, interspersed with sandy beaches and rocky shores, dominate its southern coast. In the north, the coast is low-lying with extensive salt marshes and dune systems.'

“EXPLORE ITS WILDNESS” - KEY NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PLACE

This is important to know because it makes it safer for you (myself and the group) to know. There was one part that people who haven't been to the area before are prone to falling down. Because of this and a few other safety reasons we got in contact with a local guide to help us around. Its also good to know because knowing what the tide is like and when it goes in and out can one make it safer and two let us know when we can cross to worms head should we have done some litter picking there. Also, the weather can affect the environment determining what parts of the area would be safe or not safe. Although wen we went it was quite cold, the weather wasn't too bad and we also had our guid to help make it safer. Its also important to know how to look after yourself near the water and that the water is generally a different temperature from the air around so if you go in there is a high possibility of hypothermia or cold-water shock. For the bit of rubbish, we did see in the water we asked some costeerers who were training near by to grab it for us as they were already in the water and there was less risk for us.

“EXPLORE ITS WILDNESS”- KEY NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PLACE - VIDEO



“CONSERVE/ TAKE RESPONSIBILITY”- HERE I WILL TELL YOU THE PRACTICAL MEASURES I HAVE TAKEN TO CONSERVE OR OTHERWISE PROTECT OR PROMOTE THE PLACE.

- *We went as a group to these areas in the peninsular and we took some litter picking kit with us which included:*
- *Litter pickers*
- *Gloves*
- *A bottle to put sharps in (hooks ect)*
- *And two sets of bags one for recyclables and one for non-recyclables*
- *And a first aid kit*

We walked to the various areas picking up any litter we saw along the way and then scoured the area for more once we were there. We also made a short YouTube video to encourage others looking to help and some useful information of how to get involved.

Along the way we spoke to some locals and some coasteering trainers about what we were doing and how it was good for the environment we were in and a few of them even got involved and helped us get some rubbish out the ocean which was otherwise to unsafe for us to reach.

“SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES”- HERE I WILL REFLECT ON THE DAY AND THIS PRESENTATION

When I reflect upon this program, I realise how little I thought about some of these big topics. I didn't realise how big of an impact I could have, or how big an impact it could have on me. I discovered so much and I'm glad I could not only make a better impact but also I got to see the affects it had as well seeing the seal swimming freely knowing we had cleared all immediate danger was a very proud moment for me.

I have laid my presentation out this way to make sure I convey all the information in a basic understandable way but also ad the visual aids to back it up and make it more interesting.