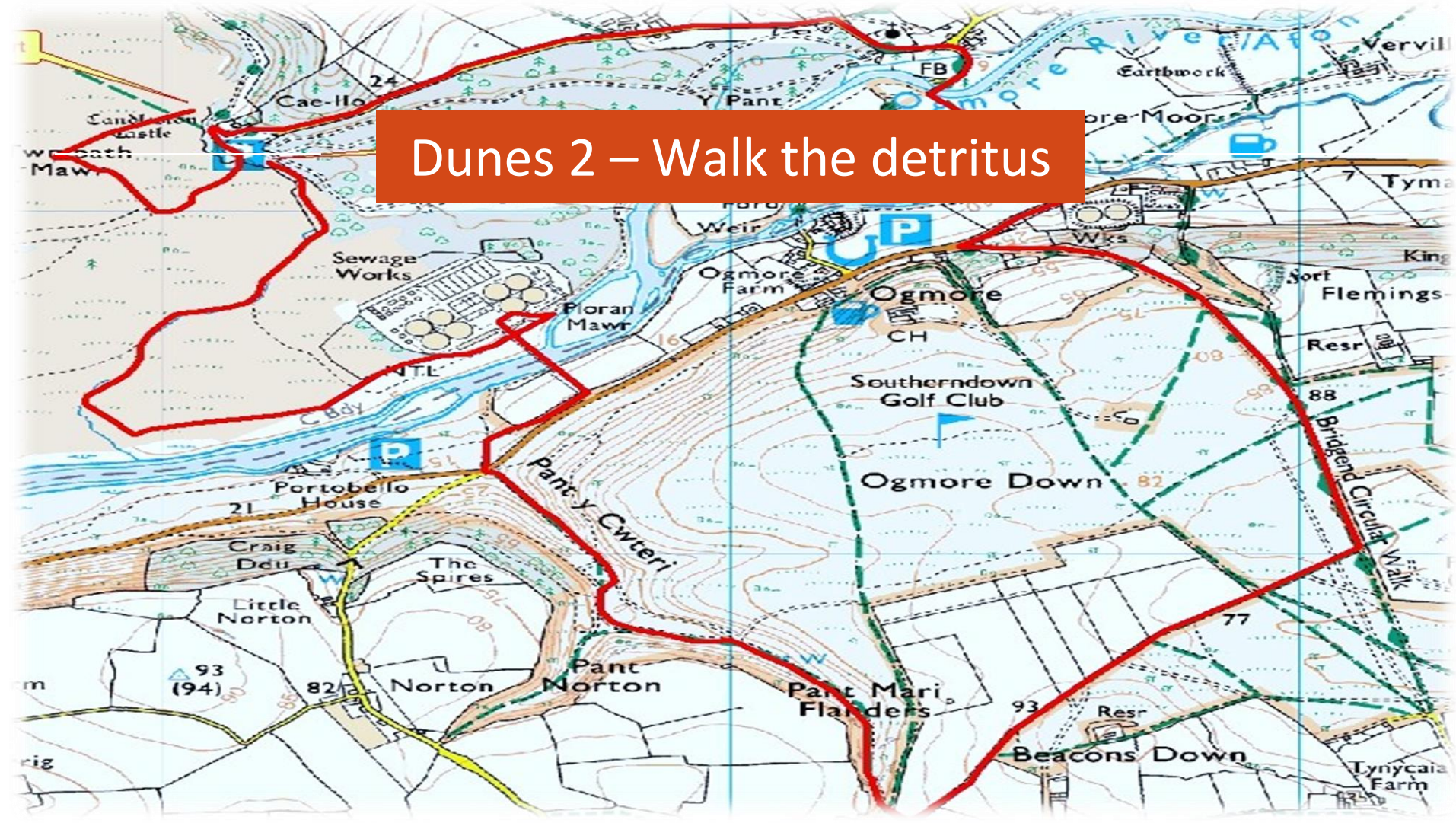


Dunes 2 – Walk the detritus





Theme
Coastal Pollution
- Has the global pandemic lessened the detritus on our coastline

Dunes 2



Aim

My aim was to produce a series of images to reflect my personal journey in understanding my feelings and represent my anger in a positive way towards the people who walk this stretch of my local coastline. My portfolio is based on coastal pollution and detritus. Both manmade and environmental. I am on a personal mission to highlight how rubbish now blends into the environment.

Initial Idea

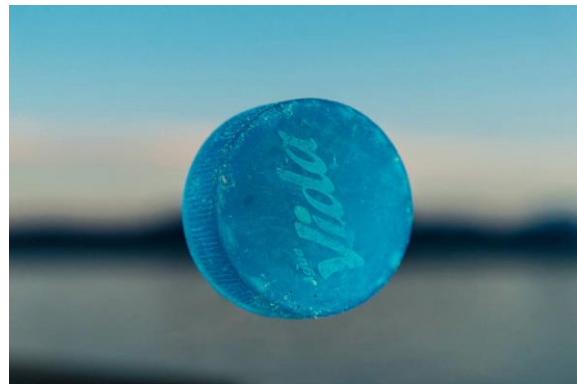
I developed my initial ideas based on whether the global Covid 19 pandemic has had a positive effect on the local community and pride in the wonderful location they live near. Comparison to the same stretch coastline 2 years previously to gauge decline or increase.



Research

Andy Hughes

Yorkshire born Hughes has been photographing plastic waste on beaches for almost 30 years. He began documenting after seeing how much plastic was on the beaches of south wales while surfing. This series, the 'Dominant Wave Theory' explores and examines the link between of waste as “both and object of visual inquiry and as a reference to the global environmental crisis”



Majority of his work explores the littoral zones and politics of plastic waste

John Darwell

Independent photographer John Darwell produces long term projects that reflect his own interests in industrial and social change, concerns for the environment and issues concerning the depiction of mental health.

I have researched Darwell while doing previous projects and its always been an inspiration while creating my own work. In particular 'Indian Ocean' is my go to project of Darwell's as it is very similar to the work I first started producing when I first created my projects on this topic.



Dunes 2 Experimental



These outcomes have a bright intense tone, with the offending items breaking the delicate balance of the landscape. The backgrounds are the natural environment with the 3d effect items at the forefront. The shape and form are simplistic and almost ornate. The textures are contrast of smooth glaze of the balloon and jagged driftwood and filter.

The colours are warm and reflection from the river is relaxing and chilled, the second image is colder and primary focus is the plastic. Overall the composition of these images bring attention to the pollution and is balanced

Take a walk
with me

Dunes 2 – Eat, drop, repeat



These images tone show the changing season from summer into Autumn and these colours should be prominent and the focal point however you are drawn to the out of place plastic packing, There are regular litter picks in this area so are these continuously being washed up or are walkers dropping litter as they go.

The composition of these have balance and irregular uniformity of the background. The tones are bright and depth with a feeling of anger and disappointment. The textures are jagged and glazed and the colours are warm. Overall these images capture that the situation hasn't improved since my previous series Dunes, 2 years ago,



A small patch of grassland on the edge Of the dune, filled with rubbish and discarded plastic The 3 images are in close proximity The Tesco and crisp wrapper were found adjacent to the plastic bag in the left image and were hidden within the grass

Dunes 2



Colour experimental

Dummies and paint tins were a theme of my last series Dunes, where I experimented by showcasing these items in their original setting and in the studio, due to the pandemic I haven't been able to recreate the studio shoot but hope to so in the near future. The composition of the dummy image is clear and bold, clear definition of the dummy against the background, there is contrast between the coloured shrubbery, sand and dummy. Colours are defined and vibrant with a warm feeling and expressive. For this series I prefer colour images to show the natural setting and tones. Overall I'm fairly happy with the outcomes, I think that colour images really highlight the issue more and create a more powerful image especially with the bright colours. A studio comparison of these against my first series would be a future extension piece.

Black and White



I wanted to experiment editing some of the images in black and white. Black and white imagery isn't something I produce often so I wanted to try and see if this project would look better this way. I do not have a preference for these outcomes, the colour images really highlight the issue more and create a stronger powerful images. The lines are blurred and tone is dark with an eerie feeling to them, Monochrome is cold and the complex elements in the composition are lost in the black and white. The only one image that I like of this range is the bottle as I think this has well defined edges and clarity.

FINAL OUTCOMES EVALUATION

Intent

I expected my final outcomes to be a combination of litter left behind by people walking the beach and recent storm damage, I was shocked by the litter that had been dumped either as fly tipping or from recent illegal parties on the beach. I was hoping that the recent local lockdowns and national lockdowns would have had a positive effect on the amount of litter that I found. I was surprised because there have been recent organised litter picks at the beaches but the Dunes seemed to have been overlooked.

Outcomes

The best outcomes were from a still standing position or using a tripod. The images that were taken as I was walking tour were out of focus. I wanted to experiment with whether this created unusual angles. To improve the final portfolio, I would like to take these items to the studio and create studio images with lighting and combine the items into a design like Barker does or strategically placed in both natural environment and the studio, like Hughes. I also think this could be improved by experimenting further with distance and closeup shots or taking a video walking the journey to support how short of stretch these items were found. I am drawn to film photography so I would experiment with the media,

I think the series could be broken into key areas, food and drink packaging, toys, baby, storm, this would give a good contrast and balance and a series of 4 to 5 images per area of the collection. I intended for my images to spark an emotive response which I think they will do. They are well balanced and good overall composition and draw the eye in closer and I imagine viewers will react differently depending on whether you are someone who drops litter or not.

To present these images, I tried various editing techniques, black and white, overlaying the image over the map of the area, out of focus, in focus, ultimately I prefer to present them in a simplistic form without manipulation as this is true to how I found the environment. The spotlight is on the unnatural items within the natural environment as the backdrop. I chose to select a range of portrait and landscape images. These images express my idea that the throwaway plastics problem has not improved during the pandemic.

I am overall happy with my final outcome of my project, I am content with the composition and clarity of the main point of the images. I could improve the images by taking images using a trigger and maybe create a video slide show of the actual route to support the exhibit.. I am pleased with the way the project has developed and that these images can be interpreted by the viewer based on their emotions and relationship mindset.









Student Name Kyle James Branigan

Student ID - 1912980

Programme – BA Documentary Photography & Visual Activism

Module – Developing a unique voice

Module Code – M5X01634

Submission deadline – 20th November 2020

Research

Theme – Coastal Pollution, natural and manmade. Has Covid-19 having a positive effect on coastal pollution.

Aim - to represent current detritus and coastal pollution in midst global pandemic.

Research for this portfolio

Images taken on selection of walks after 6 week local and national lockdown period.

Highlight the disgust at how much rubbish has been left following recent storms and people disobeying local rules and meeting people outside and leaving their rubbish in their place.

Inspirations

John Darwell walks along coastline and featuring detritus on its journey.

Andy Hughes – plastic coastal photographer

Chris Packham – wildlife campaigner

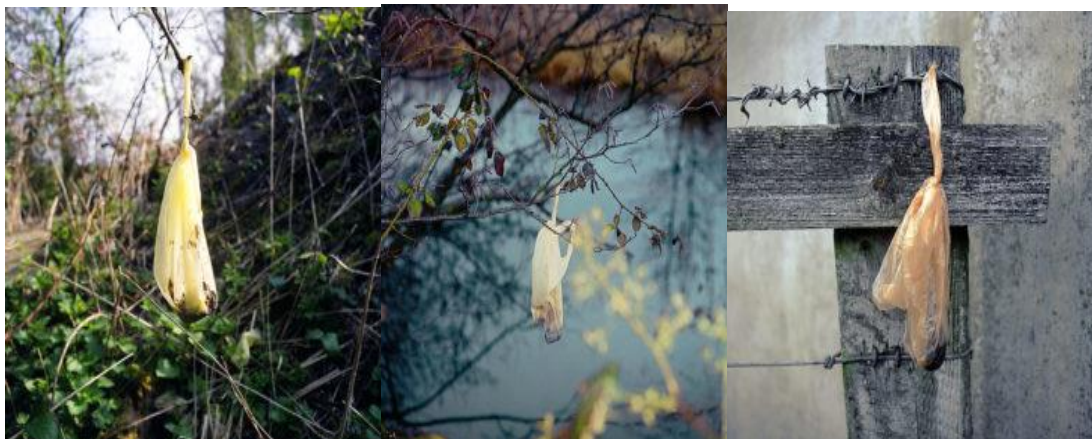
Potential - Walk through Dunes, coastline or river

2.5-mile coastal walk

Darwell's recent project DDSB is thought provoking making art out of excrement that local dog walkers feel the need to pick up but then drop or hang from trees. His simplistic visual representations invoke mixed emotions in me, anger, bemusement at the irresponsible dog owners but I also appreciate the quality imagery and the message that he is portraying.

Darwell quote "What I fail to understand is the increasing number of dog owners who bag their dog's mess and then discard in bushes or hang on fences/tree branches or leave in the middle of pathways and playing fields. Is this purely about not wishing to be fined and thereby picking the right moment to surreptitiously dispose of the offending article? Whatever the reasoning the ddsb has very quickly become a feature of our environment."

Darwell Images – Walking with Schwitters



<http://www.walk.uk.net/portfolio/john-darwell-interview/>

Like me, he documents his local coastline and walks the same routes to reflect the area at different points in time.

Possible images that can be used as comparison pieces

Lands2 portfolio



Indian Ocean



1000 yards or so



Andy Hughes

Yorkshire born Hughes has been photographing plastic waste on beaches for almost 30 years. He began documenting after seeing how much plastic was on the beaches of south wales while surfing.

Majority of his photographs explore the littoral zones and politics of plastic waste. Hughes was one of the first photographer/artist who explored plastic as a subject as pollutant and as a metaphor. Expanding on this statement the book, the 'Dominant Wave Theory' explores and examines the link between of waste as "both and object of visual inquiry and as a reference to the global environmental crisis. The book also includes essays from leading scientists to help back Hughes's narrative.

Hughes encourages viewers to question the materiality in relationship to waste by utilising traditional photographic materials and digital technologies. He challenges the agency of waste on a regular basis by a variety of visual means and juxtaposition, by doing this he tries to reveal 'thing-power', a topic which was explored by Jane Bennet in 'Vibrant Matter'.

Hughes images are often described as if the objects are coming alive; they seem to speak to each other and to us, especially in the photographs of plastics, coffee cups, rubbish bins etc. which have been discarded. He is fascinated with the radical conceptions of materialism and the effects and impact this has for politics, ecology, and the everyday way we think about ourselves, others, and the world.

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I have researched Darwell while doing previous projects and its always been an inspiration while creating my own work. In particular 'Indian Ocean' is my go-to project of Darwell's as it is very similar to the work I first started producing when I first created my projects on this topic

Chris Packham



Development of Ideas

Backgrounds for overlaying images



Sample contact sheets



Portfolio presentation ideas

Simple presentation

Overlay images

Map background

Lay images over the line of coastal walk

Reading lists/References

MacLean, A | 2020 | The effect of climate change on Coastlines | Birkhäuser

Alexander, JAP | 2015 | Perspectives on Place: Theory and Practice in Landscape Photography | Bloomsbury Academic

Carson, D; Hughes, A | 2007| Dominant Wave Theory | ABRAMS

Darwell, J; Hermann P | 2007 | Committed to memory | Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery

Online articles/websites

<https://www.andyhughes.net/biography.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2016/feb/22/chris-packham-photographs-the-impact-of-litter-in-pictures>

<https://johndarwell.com/>

<https://www.1854.photography/>

<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2017/5/2/10-inspiring-works-of-art-about-plastic-pollution>

<https://davidgibbeson.com/>

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Module Evaluation

To inform my portfolio direction I researched other photographers who walk coastlines, remove plastic pollutants and document their detritus journey. John Darwell is inspiring, his work previously sparked my visual presentation Dunes, he walks a large coastline documenting at varying time periods and compares these. My portfolio is based on coastal pollution and detritus, manmade and environmental impacts. Other research artists that influenced my work are Andy Hughes, Mandy Barker and Chris Packham as their work contrasts, Packham animal endangerment and coastal decline versus Barker producing amazing designs out of plastic recycling. Hughes has piqued my interest as he photographs single items rubbish either in their found location or studio, he also manipulates the plastic to make interesting shapes.

I developed my initial ideas based on whether the global COVID-19 pandemic has had a positive effect on the local community and pride in the wonderful location they live nearby. I chose to explore the Hughes influence and document the plastic in the landscape.

I intended for the final outcomes to show a combination of litter and storm damage, but the amount of litter was shocking, so this is what I focussed on. Some images were taken as a walking tour, to experiment with whether this created unusual angles, but the best images were taken using a tripod as stable base. To improve the final outcomes, I would like to take these items to the studio and create studio images with lighting and combine the items into a design like Barker does or strategically place like Hughes. I also think this could be improved by experimenting further with distance and closeup shots or taking a video walking the journey to support how short of stretch these items were found. I am drawn to film photography so I would experiment with the media, I think the series could be broken into key areas, food and drink packaging, toys, baby, storm, this would give a good contrast and balance and a series of 4 to 5 images per area of the collection. I intended for my images to spark an emotive response which I think they will do. They are well balanced and good overall composition and draw the eye in closer and I imagine viewers will react differently depending on whether you are someone who drops litter or not.

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I am overall happy with my final outcome of my project, I am content with the shading and tone and the clarity of the main point of the images. I could improve the images by taking images using a trigger and maybe create a slide show of the actual route to support the exhibit.. I am pleased with the way the project has developed and that these images can be interpreted by the viewer based on their emotions and relationship mindset.



Andy Hughes



Kyle Branigan



Andy Hughes



Kyle Branigan



Chris Packham



John Darwell



Kyle Branigan

Word Count – 558

Bibliography

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Online articles/websites

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2016/feb/22/chris-packham-photographs-the-impact-of-litter-in-pictures>

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