



What the Fossil

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Erik Whitton Sheng-Jung Tsai Nicholas Bennett Leyu Li

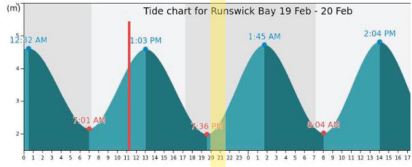


We are collectors and by owning this zine you are too.
You will find what it holds behind the layers of pages.
Will it strike dynamics if you tell a friend or put it in the bin?

As an interest, fossils came along as
a symbol of changing ecology.
We decided to go on trip fossil hunting
to find out much more.
Through venturing we tried not to analyze ecology
separate from what we are, or could be,
such as tourists and consumers.
We were trying to understand the world broader
through a change of location and the items
and people that surround us.
In this zine we created narratives and
ideas that take positions after this journey,
about where the world is and could be in the future.



RUNSWICK BAY 18th FEBRUARY
After seeing the Yorkshire fossil association, we went on fossil hunting in Runswick bay which is a location we found on an instagrammer who does a lot of fossil hunting there.



WHITBY 19th FEBRUARY



WAPPING 26th FEBRUARY



WHITBY MUSEUM

MUDLARKING FOR OBJECTS AT WAPPING AND PHOTOGRAPHING ARTIFICIAL DOSSILS WE MAD



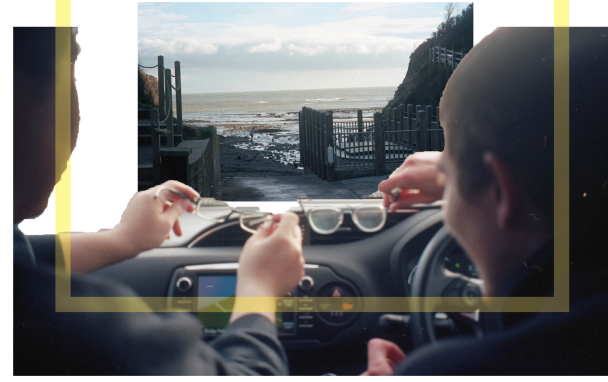
MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH FINDINGS FROM THE PREVIOUS DAY SUCH AS THIS CARBONICOLA



CHISELING FOSSILS OUT FROM BROKEN SLATE STONE FALLEN FROM THE CLIFFS OF THE BAY

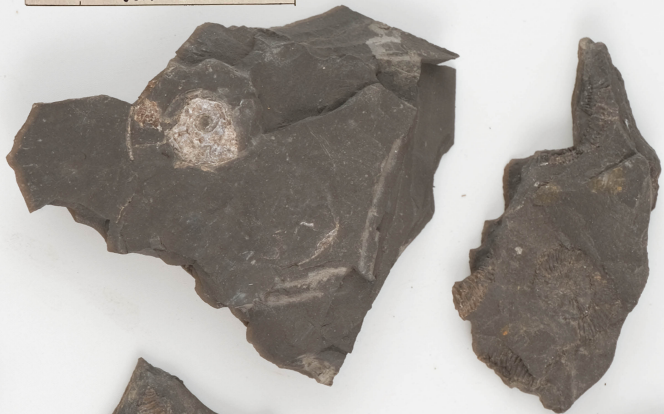


TALKING WITH LOCALS ABOUT THE AREA AND FOSSILS



LEAVING THE EAST COAST BACK TO LONDON

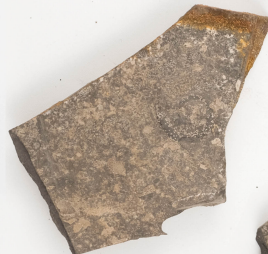
V Kosmoceras
Middle Jurassic
(Cross Section)



IV Harpoceras
Upper Almonite;
Late Jurassic



I. Bifericeras
(Female) Upper Lias;
Early Jurassic



IV Harpoceras
Upper Almonite;
Late Jurassic

I. Bifericeras
(Female) Upper Lias;
Early Jurassic



IV Harpoceras
Upper Almonite;
Late Jurassic



II. Cenoceras
Middle Jurassic



III Amaltheus
Middle & Early
Jurassic

Order AMMONITIDA	Family DACTYLOGERATIDAE	Informal name Ammonite
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DACTYLOCERAS

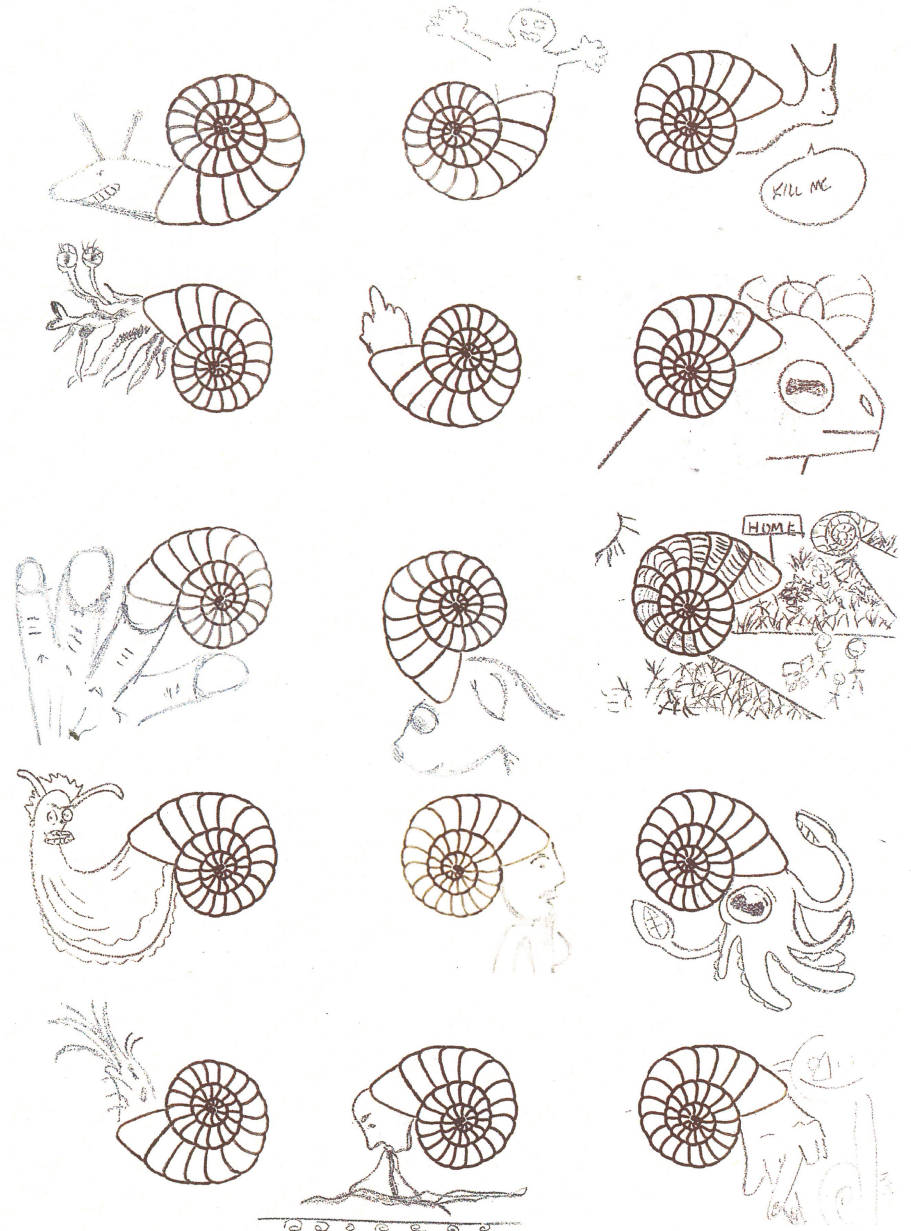
The shell form is evolute, with many whorls visible, and a wide, shallow umbilicus. The fine, branching ribs are closely spaced and pass over a rounded venter.

- **HABITAT** Experiments have shown *Dactyloceras* to be a slow swimmer.
- **REMARK** In medieval times, ammonites were thought to be petrified snakes and were provided with carved heads for sale to pilgrims.

Typical diameter 7cm (2 3/4in)

DACTYLOCERAS COMMUNE (J. de C. Sowerby); Upper Lias; Early Jurassic; UK.

Range E. Jurassic	Distribution Worldwide	Occurrence
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Fossilised Folk Tales

Next time you are beachcombing in Yorkshire look out for this fossil from the Jurassic seas of 190 million years ago.

St Hilda's Snakes

In the 7th century, Abbess Hilda rounded up the serpents that swarmed on the site of her Abbey at Whitby. As she hurled them from the cliff top each unfortunate snake lost its head.

'Snakestones' are the coiled fossil shells of ammonites (extinct relatives of squid and octopus). Most will fit in the palm of your hand, but they can be as small as a button or as big as a lorry tyre. Locals carved heads on the 'snakestones' to make the resemblance to a serpent more convincing.

The impact of data the narrative of a numbers or symbol doesn't create social impacts and physical action. But thoughts, narratives and picture create ideas, hopes, doubt, fear, attraction etc.

15 AMMONITES SHELLS IMAGINED BY 15 DIFFERENT PEOPLE

New discovery

Multiple objects found in the Old England desert, the big discovery could be a key find in understanding the early history of homo-sapiens on earth.

Scientists say this site may contain crucial evidence for 80% of the disappearance of land on the Mother Earth, since this era was mainly the cause of it.

Erik Whitton
Leyu Li
Sheng-Jung Tsai
Nicholas Bennett



Fungi-like fossils were suspected to be the main food source of the era.

Along the dried banks of the UK's Thames river, lies a treasure trove of fossils that may reveal the secret of the old capital city, London. Research team, W T F is led by a group of paleontologists including Erik Whitton, Leyu Li, Nicholas Bennett, Sheng-Jung Tsai.



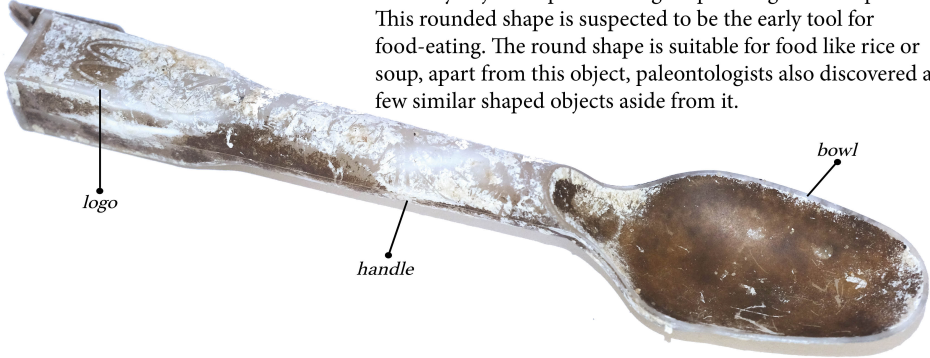
The roughly 6.5-million-year-old site contains a dizzying abundance of beautifully preserved weird and wonderful forms, from jellyfish and artifacts to arthropods and algae. Among them, paleontologist Tsai discovered a plant that he suspected to be the main food source for early human consumption. Old England's first plant foods -- eaten by early populations 65,000 years ago -- have been discovered in Lewisham.

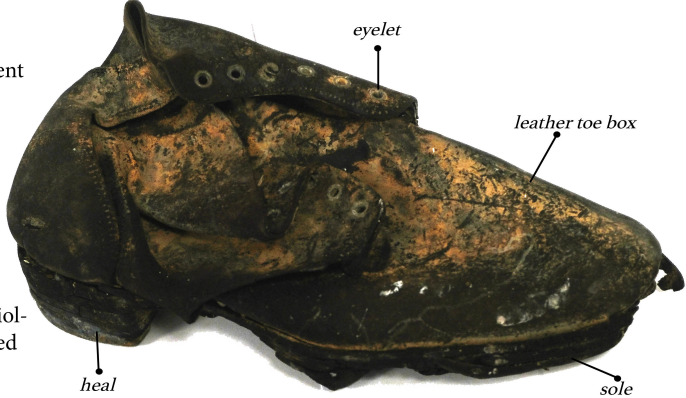
"Many of these plant foods required processing to make them edible and this evidence was complemented by grinding stone technology also used during early occupation at the site." - Dr. Leyu Li.

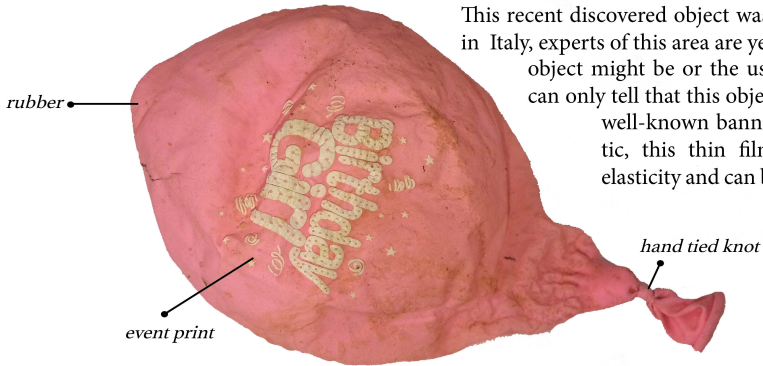
"The site is an important environmental place to old England people today who strive to understand their history, what happened to make a capital city into a desert, with our advanced technology, the data we collected might be able to find out the reason for the cause of this wasteland." - Dr. Erik Whitton.



On the other hand, Dr. Bennett suggests it otherwise, he believes that the fossil is an ancient animal called the Kraken which is a common animal in the era. In addition, cholesterol traces suggest these mysterious fossils were animals, not fungi.

Family CUTLERY	Name SPOON
<p>This tiny object helps archeologists piece together the past. This rounded shape is suspected to be the early tool for food-eating. The round shape is suitable for food like rice or soup, apart from this object, paleontologists also discovered a few similar shaped objects aside from it.</p>	
	
Distribution GRAVESEND	Occurance ●●●●●

Family CLOTHING	Name BROGUES
<p>New artifacts suggest global warming arrived earlier than previously thought. First ancient shoe from West Europe was discovered in Harrogate. According to historical records, Harrogate only disappeared 6 million years ago, however, this waterproof shoe which was suspected to be used to prevent from flood, with the mud came with this shoe, radiologist tells us that it can be dated back to 6.5 million years ago.</p>	
	
Distribution YORK	Occurance ●

Family RECREATIONAL	Name BALLOON
<p>This recent discovered object was found in a cave in Italy, experts of this area are yet to tell what this object might be or the use of it, scientists can only tell that this object is made by the well-known banned material-plastic, this thin film offers a great elasticity and can be in various size.</p>	
	
Distribution BRIGHTON	Occurance ●●●

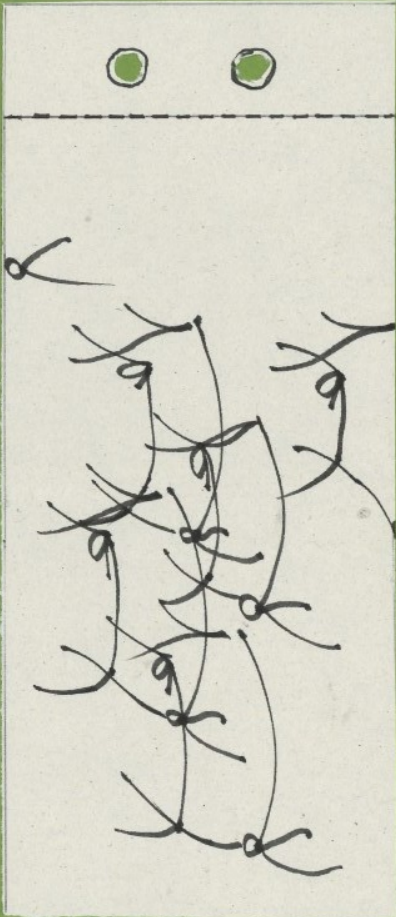
I contemplate a finder in the very far future may find the fossils of organisms in our age usual and expectable if they are still homo-sapien. They will be able to really understand the reasons why all beings have those certain appearances or physiological structures. Our creations of organisms are extremely basic and fundamental to them because of the lack of much more advanced biotechnology to support humanity's needs. We shape the planet's flora and fauna. It feels like we are the Creator of the Earth. We decide what kind of genes should be left by selectively breeding and what kind should be done depending on if they can be used to benefit us or not in the domestic setting.

The natural selection switches to Anthropogenic Selection.

We designers still need to question the relationship between humans and other species. We have manipulated them for our domestic interests. With the development of our genetic technology, this process could be accelerated. Relative to the time of fossil formation, it is not a remote future to us. In fact, livestock accounts for 60% of all mammals on Earth, while poultry accounts for 70% of all birds. We designers should take the responsibility to demonstrate and depict how insane and absurd the near future will be if we continue to flourish far into the future in time.

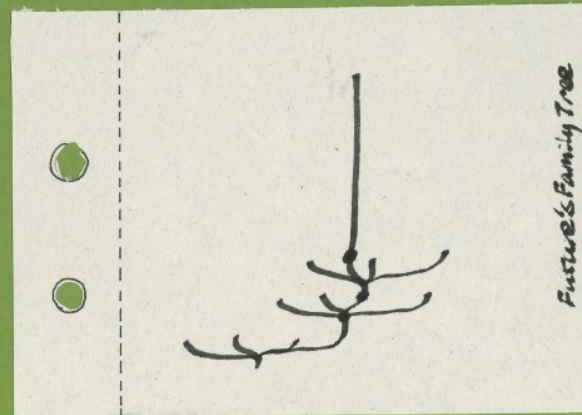
Besides, we designers should think about if it is fair for other species, for the animals or plants which are about to be replaced. Hence we need to be clear that they are innocent and make these animals that are hidden away to humans more visible.

In a specific area, all the cattle may look similar because they come from the same father, the prize bull. It seems that only the prize bull can get the chance to reproduce. Others are artificially deprived of the right to be a father even though they are not sterile at all.



What we designers can do is not to blame how unfair and evil our biotechnology is and praise how effective and useful our bioengineering means are. What we must attempt to do is to question the logistics of certain situations using bioengineering methods as the the best solution rather than the "laziest" ways from the ecological perspective and the conundrums if they think about the diversities in species.

Human beings have already altered some organisms intentionally and heritably. We have changed their evolutionary path somehow. We designers make people aware of what we have altered so far and attempt to figure out if it is necessary to manipulate other species to satisfy us and meet our need and if we have the right to alter their evolutionary paths. If so, who gave us the right? For example, During the late 1950s, a large-scale public works program was initiated to eradicate the live-flesh-eating screwworm plaguing cattle ranches across the American south. Male screwworms, at the age of 5 1/2 days, werloaded into metal tubes and carried by a lone worker to the irradiation facility where they were exposed to a radioactive sample of Cobalt 60, permanently ending their reproductive capacity. Although from our perspective, it can be more normal. Because we want to prevent our cattle from plague. While from flies' views, they have survived from natural selection. Their existence is rational. We make the decision to eradicate them just due to our probable loss.

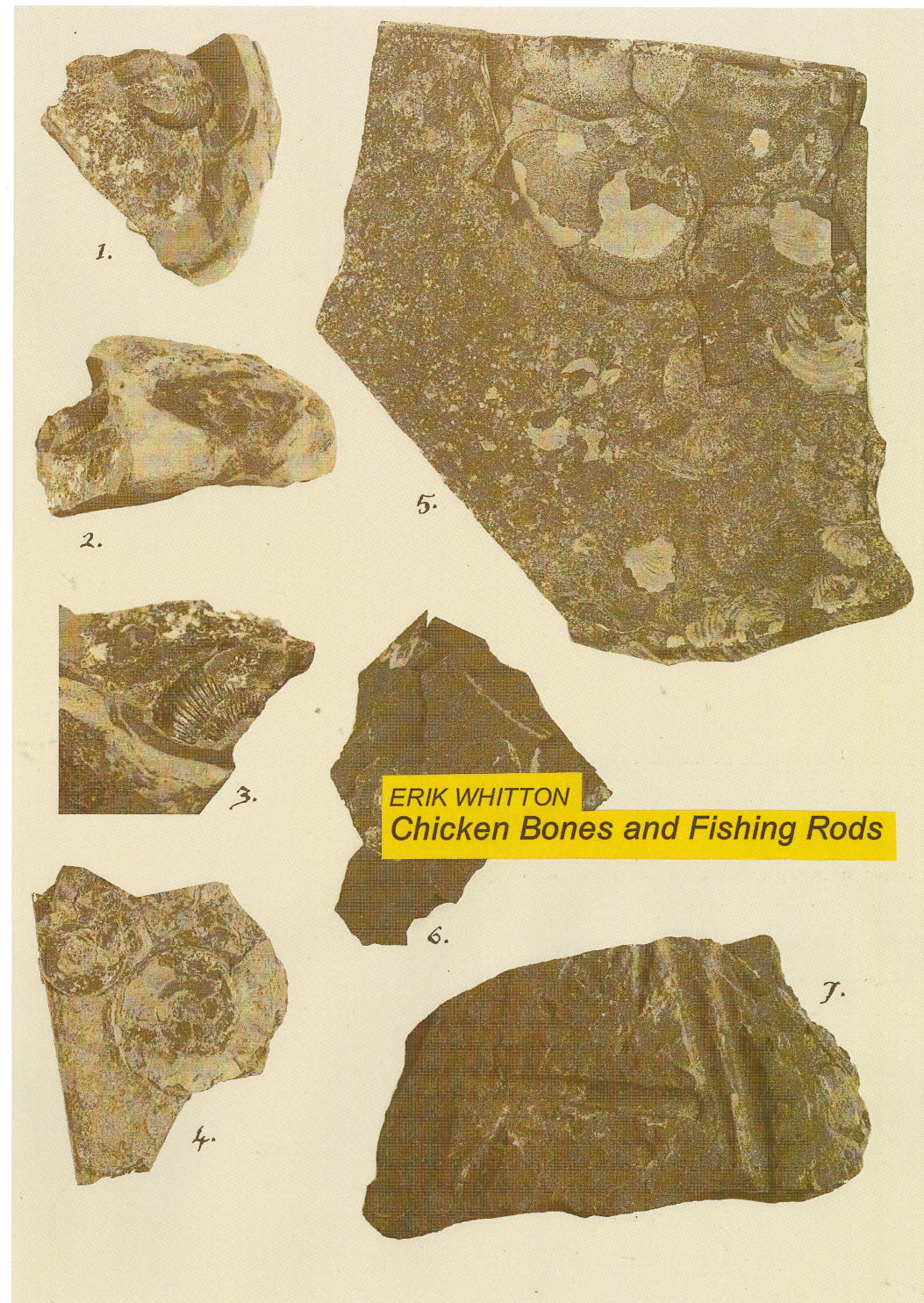


I think applying genetic engineering as a solution is a short-term and radical method. When we use biotechnology tools it means that we put ourselves in a position where we are separated from nature. But I think we designers must declare that we are part of nature and now is part of the future. Even though it might be necessary and sensible to edit other species' genes in the laboratory to develop our biotechnology or for other reasons, it still makes me feel that we are doing something over-confident. We are prone to neglecting the fact that we are equal to test subjects. I think we designers we are trying to let people acknowledge it is brutal to directly splice information from one to another instead of stopping biologists from experimenting.

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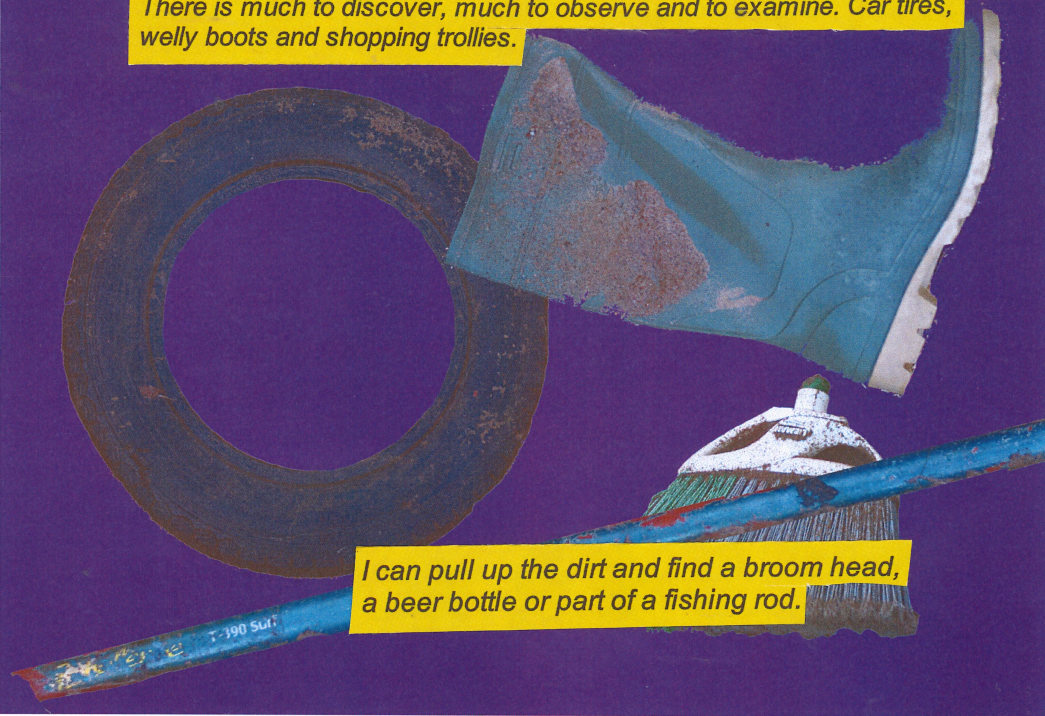
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Walking down the river.

There is much to discover, much to observe and to examine. Car tires, welly boots and shopping trollies.



I can pull up the dirt and find a broom head, a beer bottle or part of a fishing rod.

This fishing rod is a 'SHAKESPEARE Adventure Flash Tele Surf T-390'.

<https://www.gooutdoors.co.uk/15914059/shakespeare-adventure-flash-tele-surf-t-390-combo-15914059> tells me this is

"An at(r)ractive telescopic surfcasting rod and reel."

Furthermore, a review by "part timer - 28th Feb, 2015" tells me it is

"good value
I've used this combo a few times now and it seems ok , cast approx. 100m , reel is average but for the price i'm happy."



The object I have found is rubbish. It is not a fishing rod, at some point it has ceased to exist as an object by the name of 'fishing rod'. I think now it is something different, something with no function that exists only to exist.

Does this mean it has become a 'fossil'?

Is this an important archaeological find?

When these objects are removed from the Earth, they leave their shape and impact. In the future This object will mean we access and interpret the impact our current age had on the world. Will we need to dig up all our junk from the ground, will this not disturb the surface.



The rod speaks of a time when I received new toys every year. This is the beginning of a new hobby that will last my lifetime.

Or maybe the rod is a one off. I need this rod to go fishing though, I need to go fishing. We have created these fishing rods to aid us in finding food and maintaining life, or perhaps help us find some satisfaction in the world but they control us. Even after they are in the ground they will still control us the authority we humans have translated onto the objects we buy and consume means that life can not mean anything unless we constantly improve, invest and do useless things with useless objects. I did not need to go fishing. And if I really wanted to go fishing, I would not need a fishing rod to do so, it is because of the construct of the consumer system that I thought I needed the fishing rod. If what we leave behind is a mountain of chicken bones, consumed in seconds and debris that lasts lifetimes, our age will have an index of abundant fossils of such liking.

Is this really the only way for us to fulfill our lives?

Entertainment and consumption. The only way to live in the modern world. You can not walk through a door without technology taking over. Your phone is your brain and your brain is this useless thing in your head that is incapable of making concise decisions. Let your phone make the decisions and let the door close itself, how did they survive back in the day! In this post-truth age when you believe what you want rather than what you see, people can interpret the past and know what went wrong and not see the same happen again before their eyes. We need to take back control. Even if the way the world changes, these objects will still be here. This is what we will be leaving behind, chicken bones and fishing rods.





Where are we taking things from and where are things going?

Belonging somewhere a certain time and space like to imagine the importance of each other and the objects that presented to us have everything to do with our dreams and ideologies. Should this be discouraged as something dumbfounded or held higher, fear, love and other emotions as something powerful?

The collection of material without thought to past and future of the mass of it. We can collect and build social or material impact with these items which could effect back into material ecological problem by showing these in one way we could provide a motive for other to go out and strip the cliffs of Runswick bay like the Californian gold rush creating problematic movements.

What is it to care?

We all share a concern for this planet and ecology, so we made presumptions in this zine, after altering our perspectives of looking at things by collecting and journeying with each other. We embodied personal perspective functionalities in some sections to get across material concern in social ways and ideas to show our range of philosophies in our studio.

We are still going to be collectors and this zine isn't finished, no matter what this has become, it will impact as something else, so we invite you to do something more so we left this spare page as a metaphor for this.



