

Guest Blog – Rubbish

Earlier this term Sarah (the host of this blog) and I agreed to step into each other's shoes and look / photograph each other's Genres. The objective was to see what skills from our current arsenal we could utilise and those we needed to develop. The needed part may well support the upcoming workshop 'agendas'.

As the weekend was bright and sunny, I set off to some of my local nature spots / reserves with the intention capturing kerbside rubbish from cars on the way. I had no expectation of finding rubbish at the reserves (as I hardly ever see rubbish at those in Highlands). I did and the sheer scale of what I found was astonishing.

At a red squirrel nature reserve – signs for No Tipping and directions to the nearest dump.



No Tipping – Alexandra Prescott 2018

Then further in – so the guilty party had to drive past the No Tipping sign:



No Tipping 2 – Alexandra Prescott 2018

The item that I saw most of was plastic bottles - here are some facts to reinforce our communal guilt / activate our own do a little bit buttons:

70% of soft drinks are packaged in PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles. All PET bottles can be recycled which is good news but they cannot be recycled if they are just thrown into the countrysideⁱ



Could be recycled – Alexandra Prescott 2018

162g of oil and seven litres of water are required to manufacture a single one litre volume disposable PET bottle and this amounts to the release of 100g of carbon dioxide (CO₂) a major greenhouse gas (GHG)ⁱⁱ



Could be recycled 2 – Alexandra Prescott 2018

The Eastern Garbage Patch is an area 6 times the size of England, where plastic outweighs plankton by 6:1. It is the world's largest waste dumpⁱⁱⁱ



The Eastern Garbage Patch- Unknown Photographer

What did I learn from the day – always carry a bin bag as part of the camera kit.

What did I need help with?

Presenting the rubbish so that people would look at the pictures and think shock / horror, I must try to help/ change– etc. I have a habit of trying to make things look aesthetically pleasing.

Advice on how we can individually raise awareness.

Bibliography

Eastern Garbage Patch available at <http://brainskewer.com/great-pacific-garbage-patch/> accessed 23/07/2018

ⁱ *Facts Not Myths* available at http://www.bpf.co.uk/Sustainability/pet_plastic_bottles_facts_not_myths.aspx. Accessed 23/07/2018

ⁱⁱ *Should we be using bottled water* available at <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/etc/news-water.php> accessed 23/07/2018

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