





# Hwapo

## Wil Bolton

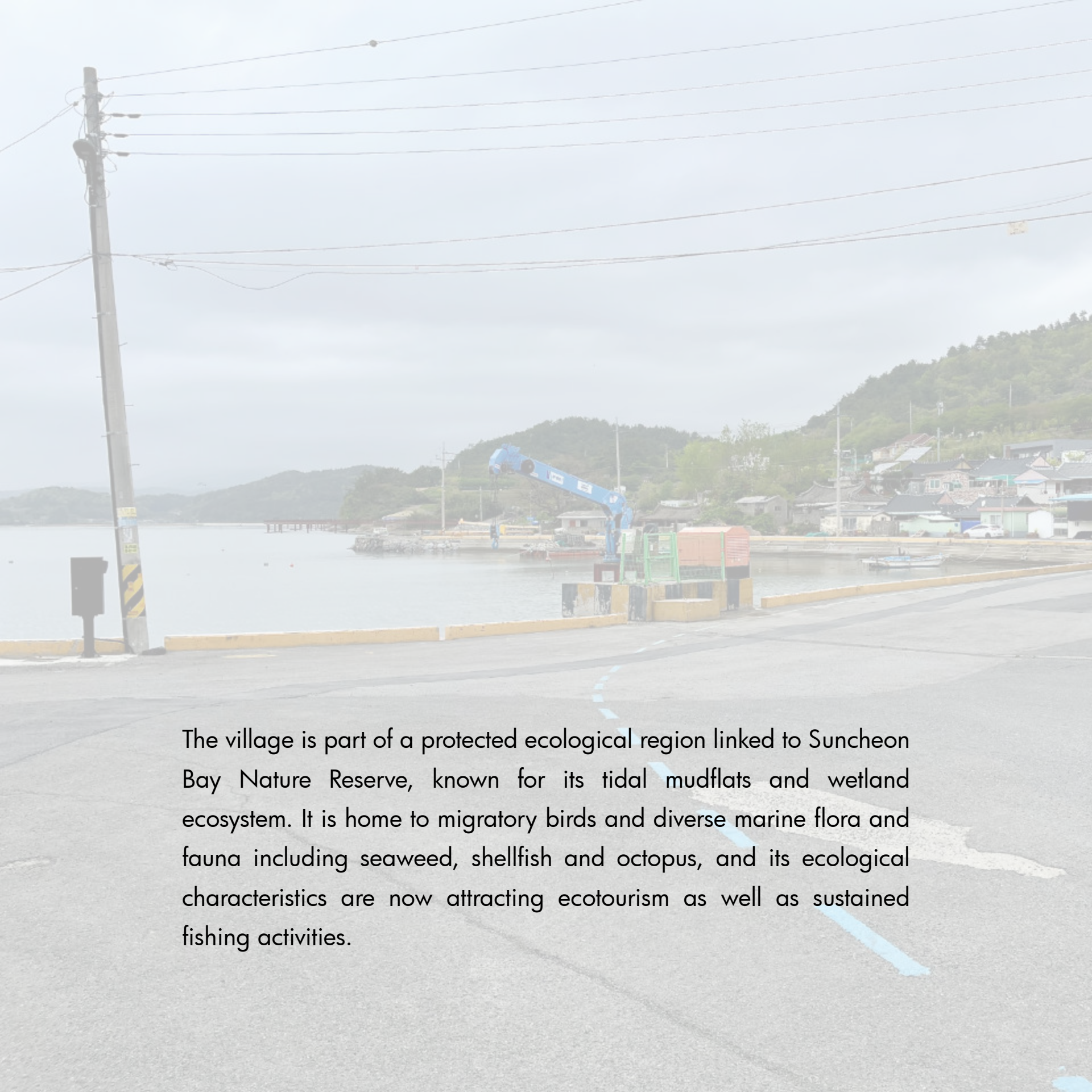


Hwapo is a work in four parts, based around field recordings from the place of the same name, a tiny fishing port in South Korea. These environmental sounds were processed and combined with electronic tones during a residency at EMS (Elektronmusikstudion) in Stockholm, Sweden.



Hwapo is a small coastal village that developed around a traditional fishing port in the Jeolla Province on South Korea's southwestern edge. It historically served as a base for small-scale maritime trade and coastal defence, but remains a quiet fishing community where the pace of everyday life is slow and locals greet each other around the modest harbour.



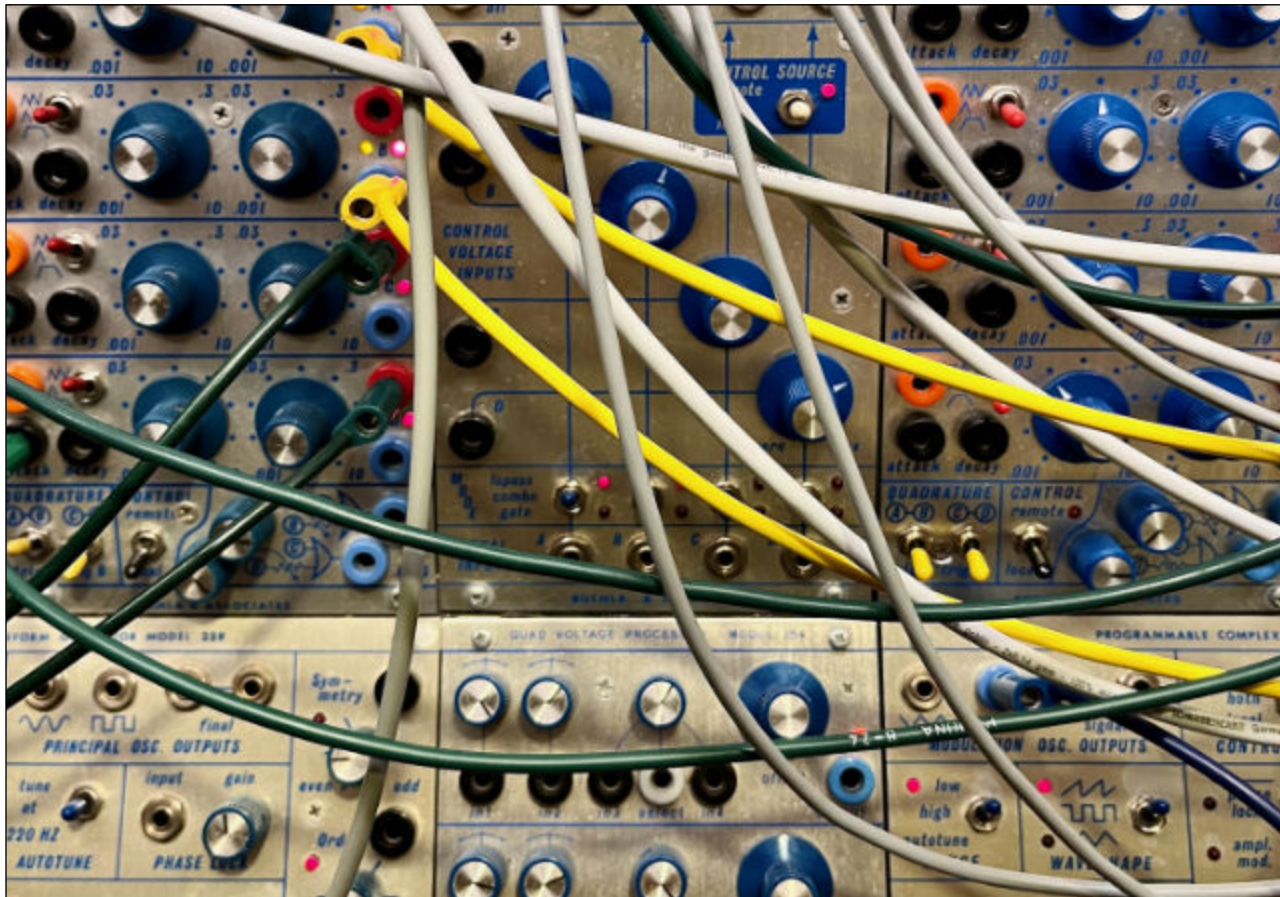


The village is part of a protected ecological region linked to Suncheon Bay Nature Reserve, known for its tidal mudflats and wetland ecosystem. It is home to migratory birds and diverse marine flora and fauna including seaweed, shellfish and octopus, and its ecological characteristics are now attracting ecotourism as well as sustained fishing activities.



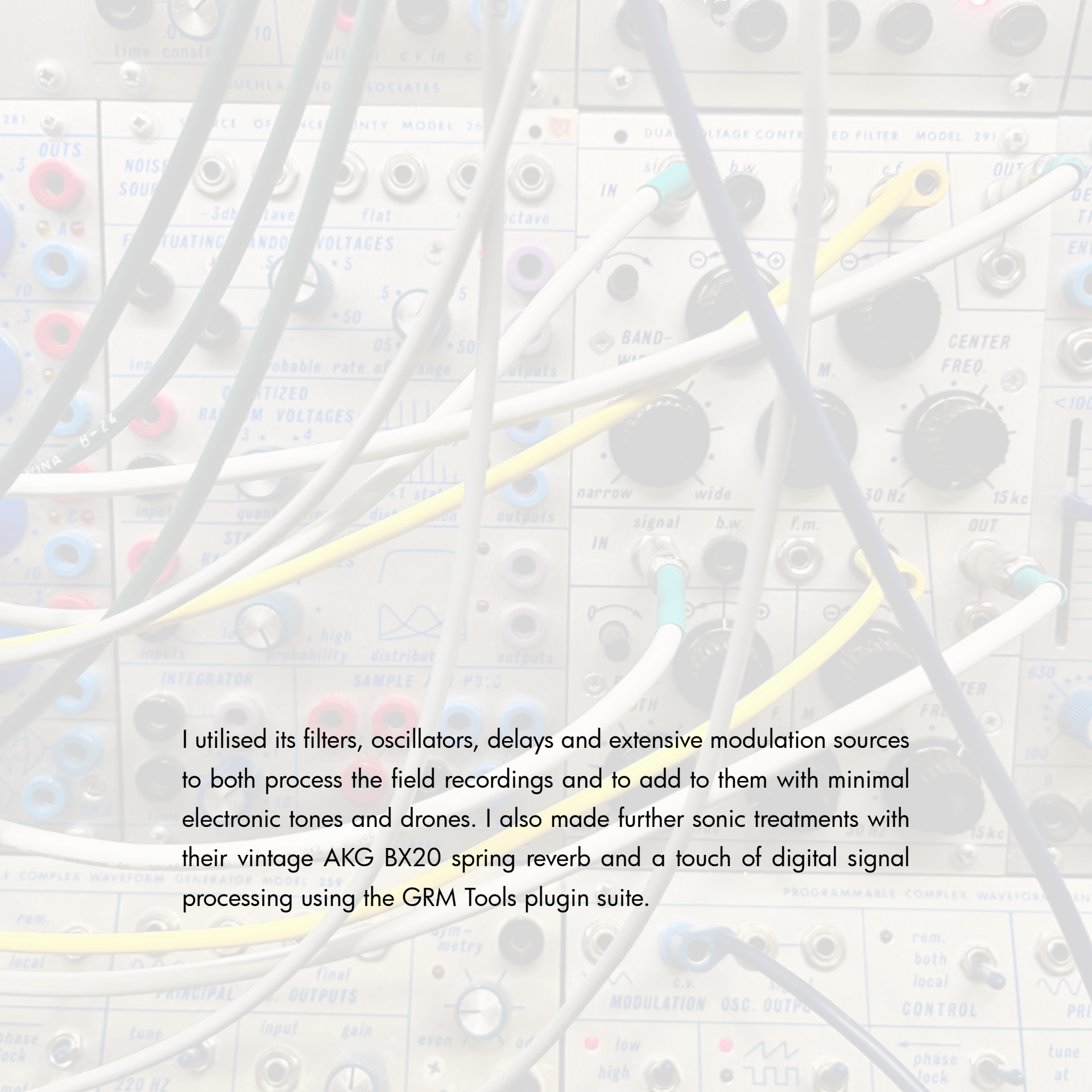


Visiting on a fresh and sunny early morning in April 2023, I spent several hours absorbing and recording the sounds of the port. These included birdsong, the waves gently lapping against the harbour walls, local residents and fisherman talking, construction noises, a boat docking in the harbour and unloading its cargo, and fishermen preparing their octopus nets.



In September of the same year, I spent some time at the renowned EMS (Elektronmusikstudion) in Stockholm, as part of my ongoing artist residency. I took the opportunity to work on this release in their Studio 4, using the historic Buchla 200 modular synthesizer system.





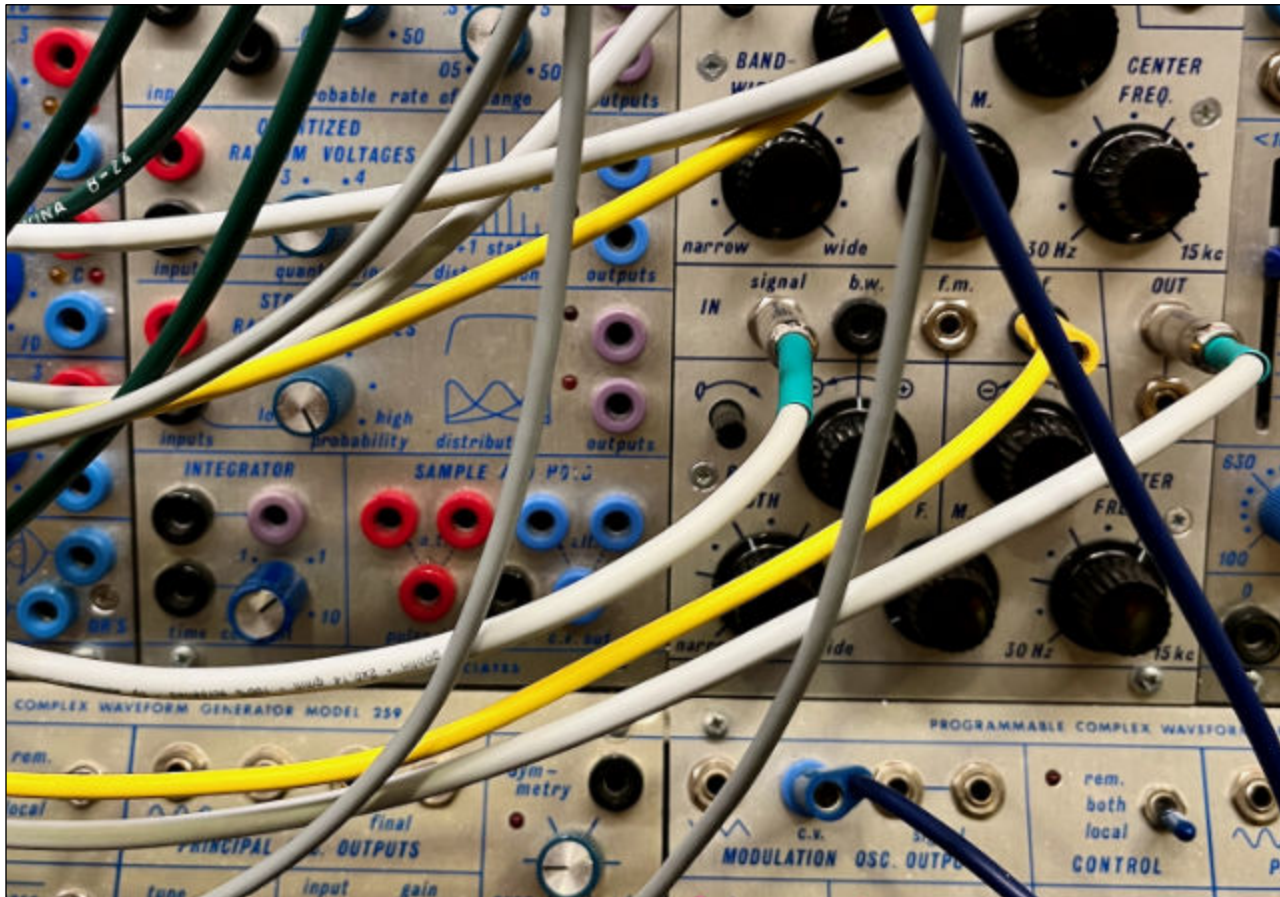
I utilised its filters, oscillators, delays and extensive modulation sources to both process the field recordings and to add to them with minimal electronic tones and drones. I also made further sonic treatments with their vintage AKG BX20 spring reverb and a touch of digital signal processing using the GRM Tools plugin suite.



**Wil Bolton is a British artist and composer.** His work is inspired by place, psychogeography and finding beauty in ruins, decay and the details and textures of everyday scenes.

He explores the natural and built environment through the use of media spanning sound, video, photography, performance and installation.





Wil's audio work uses field recordings, found objects, modular and analogue synthesizers, guitars, acoustic instruments and effects to create warm and emotive melodies, fragmented and submerged among beds of droning ambient textures and environmental sounds.



He has been published internationally by record labels including Home Normal, Quiet Details, Dronarivm, Audiobulb, Laaps, Past Inside the Present, Hidden Vibes, Krysalisound, Sound In Silence, Time Released Sound and Hibernate Recordings.

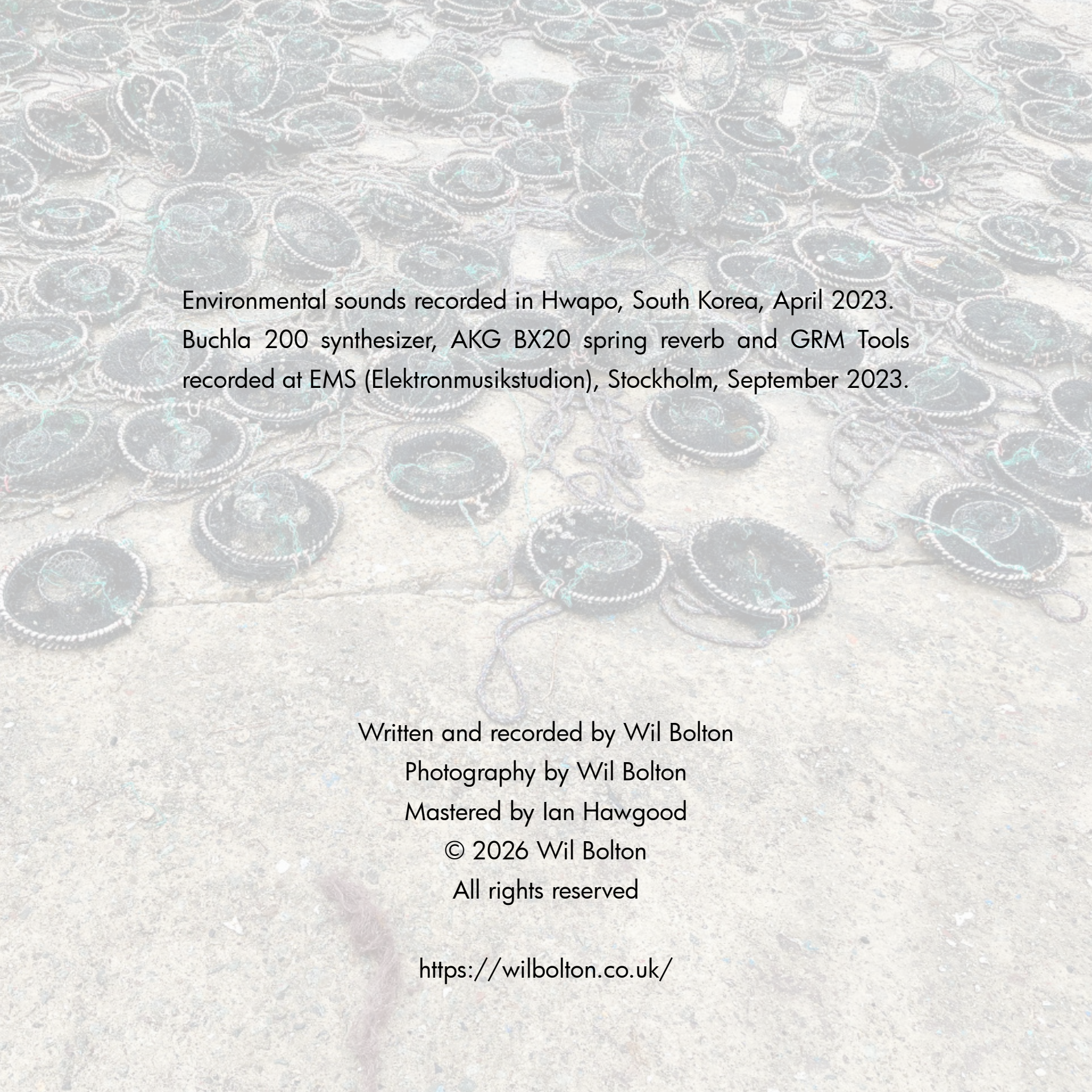




His works have been exhibited at ICA (UK), Liverpool Biennial (UK), Cheongju Craft Biennale (South Korea), Sheffield Institute of Art and Design Gallery (UK), University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music (USA), Index Art Center (USA), Taehwa River Eco Art Festival (South Korea), Foundation Destellos (Argentina), Nanji Studio Gallery (South Korea), KRiK Festival (Croatia), Oxburgh Hall (National Trust, UK), King's Lynn Art Centre (UK) and others.

He has performed at venues including Cafe Oto, Iklectik, Focal Point Gallery and Tate Liverpool and has undertaken artist residencies at Gapado AiR (South Korea), Cheongju Art Studio (South Korea), Elektronmusikstudion (Sweden), Electronic Studio Radio Belgrade (Serbia), Incheon Art Platform (South Korea) and the Estonian Artists' Association.





Environmental sounds recorded in Hwapo, South Korea, April 2023.  
Buchla 200 synthesizer, AKG BX20 spring reverb and GRM Tools  
recorded at EMS (Elektronmusikstudion), Stockholm, September 2023.

Written and recorded by Wil Bolton

Photography by Wil Bolton

Mastered by Ian Hawgood

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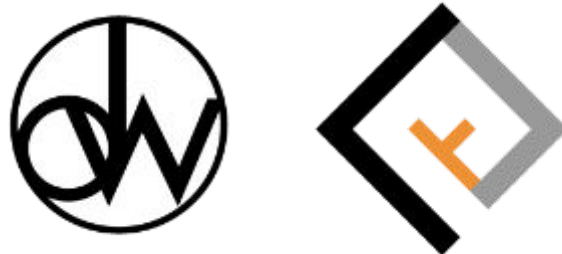
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SITE is a collaborative conceptual series jointly curated by Driftworks and Audiobulb Records, exploring the relationship between sound and place. Each edition invites artists to recreate their personal perception of a location, blending environmental sounds and imagery to capture the unique 'audio-geography' of our world.

Through SITE, artists transform their experiences of place into immersive soundscapes and visual narratives, offering listeners a new way to connect with the environments around them.



**SITE003**