

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM

Date of Interview	26 August 2024
Location of Interview	Private Property, Ilfracombe, Devon
Name of Interviewee	Abi Obene
Name of Interviewer	Laurence Hillel
Length of Interview	01:48:51
File format, storage format	WAV

Tags:

London; Nigerian; Ilfracombe; Black or mixed-race; Discrimination; University and identity; Feeling English; Understanding identity; Community; Museums; Telling Our Stories, Finding Our Roots; Dungeons and Dragons

Interviewee's wishes regarding interview use:

None

Interviewer's notes / any issues with recording:

Note: a number of redactions have been made to the original recording at the request of the interviewee. The timestamps in the Key Themes and Highlights sections of this form have been adapted to correspond with the redacted recording, however some timestamps on the full transcript may not correspond with the redacted recording.

Linked objects / photographs:

A variety of photographs provided

Key Themes and topics covered in interview

Timestamp on

Telling Our Stories Finding Our Roots

DEVON'S MULTICULTURAL HISTORY
ILFRACOMBE

	redacted recording
Childhood in London, Roots and ethnicity, Not really noticing what ethnicity someone was, what religion they were are where they originated from	[00:00:45]
Family connections outside of parents, Gradually losing contact after divorce	[00:05:50]
Customs, Traditions	[00:07:36]
School in London, Maybe the start of divisions between children	[00:08:30]
Moving to Ilfracombe, Feeling weird being one of the only mixed/half black people around, Getting used to it	[00:13:51]
Some stories of discrimination	[00:16:50]
How did this discrimination impact you? Trying not to lash out	[00:22:00]
Being a teenager in Devon - not all bad! In fact, most was good... Freedom and enjoying being in Ilfracombe, Loving Devon	[00:28:26]
Friendship group make up as a teen, Some funny experiences	[00:32:45]
Being black or mixed race - what's the difference?	[00:36:07]
University and identity. How did the latter impact the former, The British Empire	[00:43:20]
Finding identity at university, Feeling validated despite different upbringings	[00:50:18]
Feeling British/English	[00:59:14]
Understanding of identity progressing over time	[01:04:01]
Do outside events impact your sense of self? No and why not, BLM/George Floyd, Being defensive and hardened	[01:10:03]
How do you relate to Ilfracombe and the area? Detailing life post-university	[01:17:50]
Interest in community, museums etc	[01:23:18]
Discussing the Telling Our Stories project	[01:31:45]
Wishing more people were able to be curious, kind and open	[01:33:50]

Telling Our Stories Finding Our Roots

DEVON'S MULTICULTURAL HISTORY
ILFRACOMBE

Proudest achievements: running Dungeons and Dragons!

[01:36:15]

Interview Highlights:

Family, early life in London || Not really noticing ethnicity [00:00:56.0 - 00:05:26]

Moving to Ilfracombe at nine || Feeling isolated || Describing a few negative experiences [00:13:44 - 00:22:08]

Loving Devon || Positive experiences [00:29:30 - 00:32:00]

Identity || Defensiveness || BLM and vulnerability [00:49:49 - 01:17:50]