

Countryside Management Association Gordon Miller Award 2018



Nominee

Name of individual, organisation or project being nominated: National Trust Basecamp Volunteer centre
Where is the activity/project being carried out? (location & region) Lake District , Cumbria (South lakes area)

Nominee Contact details – CMA needs to be able to contact someone about this nomination (NB these personal details will not be published without explicit permission)

Primary contact name:
Address: National Trust Basecamp
High Wray
Town/City: Ambleside
County: Cumbria
Postcode: LA21 8AQ
Email:
Phone number:

Your contact details (if different to above)

Contact name:
Email:

About the activity/work/project

<p>Summary (150 words max) Please summarise the work/project, being clear about what was achieved and the difference the project has made.</p> <p>This will be used on the web site and in Ranger to describe your project.</p>	<p>Basecamp is the National Trust's oldest and busiest volunteer centre. Since 1969 we've welcomed thousands of volunteers who've come to help us fix our upland and lowland paths, repair our walls and hedges, manage our woodlands and countless other practical conservation tasks. Every year Basecamp volunteers gift over a 1000 days towards the National Trust's work to look after our land in the Lake District, gaining new skills and leaving with a deeper understanding of and connection to the places they've worked in.</p> <p>Often it is not just the facts and figures that are so important to our story, but the emotional and human side of things. Many times volunteers either tell us of the importance to them of 'putting something back' to a place they've loved for years, how they have had their minds opened to entirely new experiences and possibilities or how they've done things they never imagined they would have been capable of. Part of the Basecamp ethos is that practical conservation work can be for everyone; From retired long time supporter of the Trust to inner city youth getting their first taste of the countryside, everyone makes their contribution to helping us look after our special places.</p> <p>The Basecamp itself is the key focus. Its basic but comfortable accommodation, woodland setting and view from the access track allow our visitors to completely immerse themselves in what is for many of them a</p>
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	<p>completely new and inspiring environment. Visiting or staying at Basecamp is a brilliant way for volunteers we work with to fully appreciate the beautiful place they are helping to look after.</p> <p>Conservation is and always has been at the heart of everything we do at High Wray. Every volunteer group we work with helps us with practical conservation work, not only giving us a fantastic resource to keep our land in good condition but also spreading a much deeper and longer lasting understanding of how much work goes into this.</p>
<p>What was done (500 words max) Please describe the work/project in more detail</p>	<p><u>Working holidays</u></p> <p>Working holidays are a great way to get involved with the National Trust's work and meet new people at the same time.</p> <p>At High Wray we around 8 working holidays every year, giving people a chance to try their hand at traditional skills such as hedgelaying, drystone walling, upland footpath work or traditional green woodwork. Participants stay for a week at High Wray and work with us for 5 of the days on the chosen task, going away with a good understanding of it and hopefully the confidence to take it further themselves if they want. They're a fantastic way to get a much deeper understanding of the work that goes into looking after the countryside.</p> <p>We also provide the accommodation for other ranger team's working holidays.</p> <p><u>Fix the Fells</u></p> <p>Since 2002 the Fix the Fells partnership has been working to protect the Lake District's spectacular upland landscapes from erosion and Basecamp is an integral part of this very successful scheme.</p> <p>Between us and the South Lakes upland team we run four National Trust upland working holidays each year, all of which work on projects that are part of the current Fix the Fells work programme. Basecamp works closely with the Fix the Fells volunteers, an essential part of the partnership. As well as patrolling all of the Lake District's paths and conducting minor maintenance, these volunteers join us for regular work parties where they get involved with more complicated construction tasks. Basecamp is also the perfect place for more social affairs and we host the annual summer 'blitz' (a three day work party where we invite volunteers from around the country to join us) and the Fix the Fells Christmas party.</p>
<p>Outputs/Outcomes (300 words max) Please provide some facts and figures (e.g. no of schools / vols engaged, events delivered, acres improved /joint working), how the project was innovative or demonstrates best practice.</p> <p>Sell your project!</p>	<p>Every year around 1100-1200 days are gifted by Basecamp volunteers.</p> <p>In the last year alone we have rebuilt and repaired around 20 metres of drystone wall, worked on 6 different sites in the uplands fixing/building approximately 300 metres of path, laid around 200 metres of hedge, planted around 800 trees, bashed the bracken back from recently planted trees in 4 sites and built tree cages around newly planted trees in 2 sites, removed Himalayan balsam in 2 sites and Spruce regen in 2 clear felled sites, cleared and refreshed around 50 metres of low level path, burnt brash and cleared ground for re-planting over a few acres in 2 sites and spent 80 days clearing aboretums and parkland of overgrown plants at Fell Foot park.</p>

<p>If appropriate: (150 words max) who was involved? Partners? Employers? Vols? Funding?</p>	<p>We've been helped with this work by local volunteer groups the Fix the Fells volunteer lengthsmen and the South Lakes conservation group, local outdoor studies students from Kendal college and Dallam School, 7 National Trust working holidays and National Trust volunteer groups from Manchester, Liverpool, Chester and Northumberland, Mental Health charity Mind in Furness, groups from the Prince's Trust in Newcastle, Middlesborough, Burnley and Salford, people recovering from substance abuse problems at residential rehabilitation centres Littledale Hall therapeutic community in Lancaster, Shardale in Blackpool and Phoenix Futures in Newcastle, Japanese students from Seinan Gakuin university in Tokyo, sheltered housing provider Mulberry from Blackpool and Christian youth leadership organisation West Runton scripture union (who have been coming to Basecamp since 1969). Many of these groups have come for more than one visit and we look forward to welcoming them all again next year!</p>
<p>Downloads, videos, images <i>(please add links or attach 2 -3 images for use on the CMA website Ranger and wider promotion eg press releases. (Please only list if credits agreed)</i></p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoQEtemclf4&t=267s</p> <p>https://issuu.com/highwraybasecamp/docs/yearbook_2017</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/NTHighWrayBasecamp/?modal=invite_friend</p>

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Date: 28/09/2018