

## Year of Fieldwork and the John Muir Award



### What's the [Year of Fieldwork](#)?

It's a UK-wide initiative to:

- Raise awareness of the value of fieldwork
- Highlight examples of good practice and the support available to schools
- Encourage more schools to undertake geographical fieldwork at all phases of the curriculum
- Promote benefits of fieldwork as a valuable and transferable skill across a range of subjects

Running over the academic year 2015-16, Year of Fieldwork brings together a range of partners to promote the value of fieldwork and highlight the wide range of resources, training and support available.

The [John Muir Trust](#) is backing it, and the [John Muir Award](#) – the Trust's main engagement initiative – is a great way of getting involved and promoting it.

### Fieldwork & the John Muir Award

The John Muir Award can be used to:

- Help deliver [National Curriculum/Curriculum for Excellence](#) and cross-curricular outcomes.
- Integrate fieldwork and related activities across different subjects, including practical tasks, multi-sensory activities, and creative approaches to learning.
- Support outdoor learning approaches.
- Provide additional focus and context for fieldwork activities such as 'investigate'.
- Help bring to life themes such as 'sense of place', land use, value of natural resources, landscape interpretation.
- Support engagement with wider themes such as personal skills, global citizenship, sustainability, character, attainment, wellbeing.
- Encourage a sense of responsibility, care and stewardship.
- Be used with minimal bureaucracy and be cost efficient – it's free to use!

Examples of fieldwork activities and how they can contribute to the John Muir Award (and help meet its four Challenges of Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share):

- Ground and land use surveys, as a means of understanding diverse motivations and values of users (Explore)
- Field sketches to encourage detailed ways of seeing and enhancing awareness (Explore, Share)
- Data collection and recording - examining different species and understanding biodiversity (Explore, Conserve)
- Litter picks – recording weight, age and type of litter; creating artworks; recycling (Explore, Conserve, Share)



Credit: Launceston College

**“The John Muir Award has been a breath of fresh air. It has become a really positive part of the ethical and progressive geography that we teach. It helps us develop a wider understanding of place, space, scale and culture.”**

Andrew Richardson, Geography department, Richard Rose Morton Academy, Carlisle

## Information and Resources

- [Geography Association Magazine Autumn 2015 article](#) Introduction to the John Muir Award in a fieldwork and geography context; case study.
- [Resource Guides](#) Information and links on Surveys, Wildlife Gardening, Biodiversity, Sustainability, Outdoor Learning, National Parks, John Muir.
- John Muir Award [Conserve Audit 2015](#). All activity carried out to meet the Conserve Challenge of the John Muir Award in 2015 is being monitored and quantified. Be part of our 2015 Audit! Use the information and audit tool in your own fieldwork.
- [National Curriculum and the John Muir Award](#)
- [Curriculum for Excellence and the John Muir Award](#)
- A [Case Study](#) showing how a secondary school has integrated outdoor learning and fieldwork into the John Muir Award.

## From the Field Studies Council

### [Join in with Year of Fieldwork](#)

Add a pin to the fieldwork map. Download and display a poster. Take part in training.

## Other Resources

- [Mission:Explore](#) Innovative online resources and books that help people to explore and see the world in new ways, from the award-winning Geography Collective.
- [OPAL](#): The Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) network develop activities and resources, including [national surveys](#). They encourage people to get hands-on with nature and collect important scientific data to help build a picture of the UK's natural environment.



**Year of Fieldwork**  
September 2015-August 2016

**Principal purposes**

- Highlight examples of good practice in fieldwork.
- Encourage more schools, colleges and universities to undertake fieldwork.
- Raise awareness of the value of fieldwork to education.
- Promote the benefits of fieldwork as an invaluable and transferable skill.
- Work collaboratively to highlight the value of fieldwork and its wider benefits.

is supporting Year of Fieldwork • [www.fieldwork.org.uk](http://www.fieldwork.org.uk)

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## Using the John Muir Award - What next?

For further information, visit [www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org) where you can:

- Watch a 10 minute introductory film
- Download an Information Handbook – for detailed guidance on delivering the Award
- Read Case Studies to see the Award in action in a wide range of settings, including schools
- Find out about John Muir at [www.discoverjohnmuir.com](http://www.discoverjohnmuir.com)

To participate in the John Muir Award, fill in a Proposal Form (see [Key Documents](#)) and email this to [england@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:england@johnmuiraward.org). This form can help with your planning process. You choose locations and activities that are suitable for your group and how you would like to integrate fieldwork. We will be in touch to review and develop the Proposal Form with you.

## Tweet away!

#YearOfFieldwork  
#FieldworkFriday  
#JohnMuirAward