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| Institution: | | |
| Unit of Assessment: UoA28 History | | |
| Title of case study: The Great Gift of Freedom: Working with the National Trust and the mountaineering community to understand, interpret and commemorate mountaineering heritage. | | |
| Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2008-Present | | |
| Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit: | | |
| Name(s): Jonathan Westaway | Role(s) (e.g. job title): | Period(s) employed by submitting HEI: |
| Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2014 to date | | |
| Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? Y/N N | | |
| <p>1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words)</p> <p>Westaway's research on the donation of mountain summits as war memorials had a significant impact on the policy and practices of the National Trust (NT) in the Lake District, underpinning the NT's plans to commemorate the centenary of First World War in the Lake District, The Great Gift Project. Westaway's research inspired senior managers in the NT in the Lake District to address this legacy in their commemorative programme for 2018, enabling them to link contemporary needs for maintenance and repair of their mountain estates with a wider understanding of the heritage of these memorial landscapes. The Great Gift Project led to: the rebuilding of the summit cairn and war memorial plaque on Scafell Pike; an exhibition Where Poppies Blow, the British Soldier, Nature and the Great War at Wordsworth House, Cockermouth; and an Arts Council funded community choir, The Fellowship of Hill, and Wind, and Sunshine, who were commissioned to sing and record a suite of songs on ten of the summits donated as war memorials in the Lake District. Westaway worked with NT managers to organize a session at the Kendal Mountain Festival 2018 called The Great Gift of Freedom with Sir Chris Bonington, bringing the story of the Lake District land-donation war memorials to a wide constituency of outdoor enthusiasts. The Great Gift Project enabled the NT to effectively commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War, bringing a little-known story to a mass audience via public events and NT publications. It contributed to the wider public understanding of the legacy of the high fells of the Lake District as sacred and storied places, reinforcing a sense of identity and a commitment to landscape preservation amongst stakeholders.</p> | | |
| <p>2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words)</p> <p>Westaway's research focusses on the histories of mountaineering, mountain environments and exploration and is strongly interdisciplinary, involving working in collaboration with archivists, curators, artists, festivals and communities. His research has focussed on the regional middle-classes' appropriation of upland landscapes in North-west England (19th-20th C.) as both leisure spaces and symbolic places for the liberal bourgeoisie, leading to the creation of cultural landscapes that exemplified liberal values of individual freedom and liberty. Westaway's transnational approach has highlighted the significance of the German émigré middle classes in Manchester in shaping regional mountaineering culture (1).</p> <p>Building on this, Westaway's research has examined the themes of masculinity, endurance and memorialisation of the First World War with a focus on the Lake District as a culturally valorised landscape with a unique significance to English mountaineering. Westaway's 2013 article (3) "Men who can last": Mountaineering endurance, the Lake District Fell Records and the campaign for Everest, 1919-1924' demonstrated how metanarratives around endurance in the hills were shaped by the experience of the First World War and helped shape imaginative repertoires of performance that linked the hills of the English Lake District with the British post-war campaign for Everest.</p> | | |

Westaway's 2013 article (2) 'Mountains of Memory, Landscapes of Loss: Scafell Pike and Great Gable as War Memorials, 1919-1924' examined the response of Lake District mountaineers to the Great War, particularly to the issues surrounding the establishment of a war memorial for fallen members of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club of the English Lake District (FRCC). It examined the donation of mountain summits to the National Trust as war memorials. This research argued that the sacralisation of the Lake District landscape resolved a number of dissonances apparent in middle-class liberalism, particularly the tension between post-war calls for mass access to the outdoors and the need to conserve cherished landscapes. Constructing the high fells of the Lake District as a 'site of memory' linked place-specific sacredness to the sacrifices of the wartime generation. In creating a memorious landscape, mountaineers sought to control the present, instructing post-War generations in appropriate forms of behaviour and how to read a landscape.

Westaway's more recent research has examined British imperial leisure cultures, knowledge practices and mountain environments in India and Central Asia c.1850-1947 and their representation in travel writing, photography and film. Westaway's 2014 article (4) 'That Undisclosed World: Eric Shipton's Mountains of Tartary (1950)' explored the problematic nature of travel writing authored by servants of the British Imperial security state, calling into question the reliability of these texts as sources. Between 2014 and 2019 it was the most downloaded article in the journal *Studies in Travel Writing*. Further research examining the mountaineer Eric Shipton's relations with the Government of India reached a global mountaineering audience in 2017 via the publication of the article (5) 'Eric Shipton's Secret History' in *The Alpine Journal* 2017. *The Alpine Journal*, as the world's oldest mountaineering journal, acts as a journal of record and is circulated to all mountaineering organizations throughout the world. Part of Westaway's scholarly communication strategy is to bring contemporary scholarship to a global mountaineering audience by publishing in *The Alpine Journal*.

Westaway's 2018 *Alpine Journal* article (6) 'Thinking Like a Mountain: The life and Career of E. O. Shebbeare' draws on his archival and oral history research on the regulation and governance of Himalayan mountaineering and colonial conservation practice and was linked to the exhibition *Mountain of Destiny: Kanchenjunga 1929*. Westaway's innovative curatorial approaches have helped unlock the hidden histories of high-altitude expeditionary labour, redirecting the focus of mountaineering historiography towards the contribution of indigenous agents. The eminent mountaineering historian Prof. Peter Hansen described it as an 'Outstanding exhibit! Sensitive and scholarly treatment of relations with Sherpas'. The exhibition has provided audiences with new subjects and new ways of looking at Himalayan mountaineering history. The exhibition forms part of Westaway's ongoing examination of imperial governmentality and knowledge-gathering practices in the trans-border regions of British India, particularly the ways in which the political control of space by the imperial security state implicated all forms of expeditionary representation (travel writing, cartography, photography and film) in colonial surveillance and knowledge networks.

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

Published

1*. J. Westaway (2009), 'The German Community in Manchester, Middle-Class Culture and the Development of Mountaineering in Britain, c.1850-1914'. *English Historical Review*, Vol.124, June 2009, 571-604.

doi:10.1093/ehr/cep144

2*. J. Westaway, (2013) 'Mountains of Memory, Landscapes of Loss: Scafell Pike and Great Gable as War Memorials, 1919-1924', *Landscapes*, Vol.14 (2) November 2013, 174-193. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/1466203513Z.00000000019>

3*. J. Westaway, (2013) "'Men who can last": Mountaineering endurance, the Lake District Fell Records and the campaign for Everest, 1919-1924', *Sport in History* special issue on climbing, Vol.33 (4), October 2013, 303-332.

DOI:10.1080/17460263.2013.826438

4*. J. Westaway, (2014) 'That Undisclosed World: Eric Shipton's Mountains of Tartary (1950)', Studies in Travel Writing special issue on Xinjiang, Vol. 18 (4), 2014, 357-373.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13645145.2014.964457>

5. J. Westaway, (2017), 'Eric Shipton's Secret History', The Alpine Journal 2017, Vol. 121, 215-229.
<http://clock.uclan.ac.uk/20285/>

6. J. Westaway, (2018) 'Thinking Like a Mountain: The life and Career of E. O. Shebbeare', The Alpine Journal 2018, Vol.122, 205-218.
<http://clock.uclan.ac.uk/23505/>

Asterisk (*) Indicates peer-reviewed journals. 4 has been the most downloaded article in the journal Studies in Travel Writing between publication and March 2019 and is now the second most downloaded (1,778 views).

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

Working with the National Trust in the Lake District to commemorate the end of the First World War

Westaway's research (2) has had a significant impact on the policy and practices of the National Trust (NT) in the Lake District, underpinning the NT's plans to commemorate the centenary of First World War in the Lake District, The Great Gift Project. Westaway's research on the donation of the mountain summits of Scafell Pike and Great Gable to the National Trust as war memorials in 1919 and 1923 respectively, inspired senior managers in the NT in the Lake District to address this legacy in their commemorative programme for 2018. Marian Sylvester, General manager of the NT's West Lakes estate said: 'your paper, Mountains of Memory, Landscapes of Loss, was very influential for the Great Gift team, as we developed our thoughts and ideas around how to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.... While looking for further information about Scafell Pike, I came across your paper, and the way you described the Leconfield gift, and powerfully, the FRCC gift, and the wider meaning of the memorial landscapes, had an emotional impact on me and made me feel more determined that this was a story which we wanted to share more widely. I shared your paper with colleagues, and they too felt that we had a duty and a responsibility to share the story.' (A)

In 2018 The Great Gift Project led to: the rebuilding of the summit cairn and war memorial plaque on Scafell Pike by NT rangers (B); the lighting of an Armistice beacon on 11 November 2018 by NT rangers (C); the commissioning of further research by the NT into the history of the land-donation war memorials in the Lake District. An exhibition Where Poppies Blow, the British Soldier, Nature and the Great War at Wordsworth House, Cockermouth (D) had 28,485 visitors and drew in 'broader audiences as well as our usual NT members....Staff and volunteers verbally reported that feedback from visitors was very emotional....and resonated with them'. (E) Other impacts included improved interpretive signage on the NT's Wasdale estate and an Arts Council funded commission resulting in the creation of a community choir, The Fellowship of Hill, and Wind, and Sunshine, who were commissioned to sing and record a suite of songs on ten of the summits donated as war memorials in the Lake District (F). New songs were commissioned from the choir's director, Dr. Dave Camlin. In the video of the choir made by the NT, choir member Keith Fitton gave his testimony of what the choir meant to him: 'for me is about a number of things, first of all its about celebrating the fact that these fells are in public ownership, that we do have the right to roam over them and that's not to be taken for granted. But it's also about remembrance, it's also about remembering that this was part of The Great Gift which was given to the nation by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club. It was a real act of total generosity from the heart, and so the project for me is about keeping that in mind, particularly as we are coming up to a hundred years from the Armistice.' (F) In the video, Jessie Binns, Visitor Experience Officer, National Trust, talks about undertaking research into NT history and coming across the speech given at the dedication of Great Gable to the NT in

1923, reproduced by Westaway in (2). Binns records: 'I had never even heard of mountains being given as war memorials, it was completely unknown to me and that speech, reading it, the hairs just stood up on the back of my neck. After the First World War, there was so much grief and there was so much hardship, but for people to club together and to have that greatness of spirit, to buy these mountains and then gift them to the nation, it's just an incredibly visionary act.' (F)

Westaway worked with NT managers to organize a session on the first Sunday after the centenary Armistice day at the Kendal Mountain Festival 2018 called The Great Gift of Freedom with Sir Chris Bonington, bringing the story of the Lake District land-donation war memorials to a wide constituency of outdoor enthusiasts - audience figure 278. (G) The session was opened by Westaway who provided a historical introduction to the Lake District land-donation war memorials and also featured interviews with NT staff and members of the FRCC, as well as performances by the Fellowship Choir (H, I). In an email to Westaway, Paul Scully, Festival Manager said: 'The Great Gift' was a wonderful event. A week after Armistice day it was a brilliant way to mark the centenary. After initial meetings with the National Trust I learned that all the events during year which included the Sca fell cairn rebuilding and the exhibition at Keswick museum were all created from your original paper on the Great Gift a few years back. It was brilliant to introduce you to the National Trust team and subsequently working and speaking on the session. Your work on this was hugely valuable'. (J)

The research enabled the NT to link contemporary needs for maintenance and repair of their mountain estates with a wider understanding of the heritage of these memorial landscapes. The Great Gift Project enabled the NT to effectively commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War, bringing a little-known story to a mass audience via events and NT publications, featuring on the front cover of the NT magazine. It helped drive fundraising campaigns with partners like Fix the Fells and the British Mountaineering Council's Mend Our Mountains and it contributed to the wider public understanding of the legacy of the high fells of the Lake District as sacred and storied places, reinforcing a sense of identity and a commitment landscape preservation amongst stakeholders. (A)

Working with the mountaineering community to understand and interpret mountaineering and expeditionary heritage

Westaway's archival and oral-history research (6) has underpinned a free exhibition of mountaineering photography from the German 1929 Kanchenjunga expedition, entitled Mountain of Destiny: Kanchenjunga 1929, which ran from 15 Nov 2018 to 11 Jan 2019 at the Heaton Cooper Studio in Grasmere, Cumbria. The photographs were uncovered as part of Westaway's research and the exhibition was the first time they have been seen in public in the UK. The exhibition was part of the arts programme of the Kendal Mountain Festival 2018, the largest mountain film and culture festival in the world. During November and December, the Heaton Cooper Studio recorded 10,395 visitors. (K) Archival photographs were juxtaposed with contemporary paintings of Kanchenjunga by Britain's foremost painter of mountain landscapes, Julian Cooper. The location of the exhibition was significant. The Lake District was the birthplace of rock climbing in England and Grasmere sits at the heart of the UNESCO recognized world heritage site. Grasmere receives a huge number of tourists and visitors and is centrally accessible to the climbing and mountaineering community in the Lake District and the wider region. The significance of this exhibition was recognized by the editor of The Alpine Journal, Ed Douglas. Many photographs from the exhibition have been reproduced in the annual The Alpine Journal 2018 (front papers, pages 188, 189, 190, 192, 195, 200) alongside Westaway's article (6). Westaway was interviewed about the exhibition on BBC World News on their flagship current affairs programme 'Impact' that is broadcast to over 100 million households weekly, mainly in Asia (L) and the exhibition was featured in the magazine Cumbria Life.

Westaway has had a longstanding commitment to bringing contemporary scholarship to diverse communities of interest in the wider outdoor movement, particularly via the Kendal Mountain Festival. In November 2014 Westaway presented an invited public lecture at the Kendal Mountain Festival, entitled 'That Undisclosed World: Eric Shipton and the Imperial Security State' based on his research (4). Westaway has worked with the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG) to research, interpret, and contextualize

their film archive and make it accessible to diverse audiences. Westaway's research on the amateur films of Sir C. P. Skrine shot in Iran in the 1930s and 1940s was presented at a public lecture at the RGS in London on the 22nd November 2017 to an audience of 66 people, part of their 'Be Inspired' lecture series. A related article about the research in The Conversation entitled 'British Empire's hidden workings in India and Iran revealed in remarkable new film footage' resulted in 30,533 reads. Westaway worked with the RGS-IBG and British Film Institute to research, present and host a film session at the Kendal Mountain Festival 2018 entitled The Royal Geographical Society Film Archive at Kendal, which drew on his published research (4, 5). This featured amateur film from Sir C. P. Skrine, a session on Everest films from 1933 by Jan Faull and a full screening of the 1934 documentary Wings Over Everest - audience of 75 (G). Festival Manager Paul Scully said: 'The RGS event and Wings Over Everest film was again another brilliant session where we were able to bring incredible films from that era to the big screen. I must thank you for all your hard work dealing with the BFI and the RGS to secure the rights to screen them at Kendal. The research was very detailed and was a joy to listen to.... Thank you once again for your support and hard work on these sessions. The feedback has been brilliant and an excellent addition to the Mountain Festival.' (J)

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

- A. Corroborating statement from Marian Sylvester, General Manager, National Trust, West Lakes, EMAIL
- B. National Trust, Scafell Pike - Restoring the summit cairn - WEBSITE
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wasdale/features/scafell-pike---restoring-the-summit-cairn>
- C. National Trust, Armistice 'Beacon of Light' on Scafell - VIDEO <https://youtu.be/usb8TyIBr-A>
- D. National Trust, Where Poppies Blow: the British soldier, nature and the Great War - WEBSITE
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/press-release/where-poppies-blow-the-british-soldier-nature-and-the-great-war>
- E. Where Poppies Blow Exhibition Summary, Zoe Gilbert, Visitor Experience Manager.
- F. National Trust, Songs on the Summits, 1918-2018 – WEBSITE and VIDEO
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/borrowdale-and-derwent-water/features/songs-on-the-summits-1918-2018>
- G. Audience figures from Paul Scully, Festival Manager, Kendal Mountain Festival 2018, EMAIL
- H. National Trust, Kendal Mountain Festival Features the Great Gift - WEBSITE
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/projects/the-great-gift-of-freedom---project-updates-from-the-team>
- I. VIDEO of The Fellowship Choir – IMPACT TRACKER
- J. Paul Scully, Festival manager, Kendal Mountain Festival 2018 EMAIL
- K. Heaton Cooper Studio, EMAIL
- L. Philippa Thomas interview with Westaway on 'Impact, BBC World News, 20 Oct 2018 FACEBOOK 4 minute VIDEO
- M. Peter Hansen quote, Heaton Cooper Studio, Visitor book.