

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of Sheffield</p> <p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 17B - Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology: Geography</p> <p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>Geography at Sheffield seeks to ensure that our research serves public welfare and has a significant beneficial impact on the <u>economy, environment, culture and society</u>. Our research has led to positive impacts on health and welfare, environmental risk and sustainability, international development and environmental and climate change. <u>Regional, national and international</u> beneficiaries range from UK government institutions, committees and commissions to EU institutions and international NGOs. Impacts are felt in spheres that include industry and business, think tanks, policy makers, charitable bodies, arts organizations and museums, and by members of the public. Impact related activities by our researchers range from trusteeships, membership of public bodies, giving evidence to Parliament, collaborating with private and commercial bodies and contributing to the press and media. The impact of our research is recognised, inter alia, by the award of prestigious prizes including McGonigle's Rolex Award for Enterprise for work on volcanic remote sensing and Dorling's 2009 Back Award from the RGS for his outstanding contribution to public policy and the GA's Gold Prize 2009 for <i>The Real World Atlas</i>.</p> <p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p>We encourage researchers to be ambitious and invest time in order to deliver research that achieves significant impact through: developing <u>relationships with key stakeholders</u>; impact-related <u>income capture</u>; and the creation of effective <u>mechanisms for achieving impact</u>. Examples of success through this approach include Pattie on UK parliamentary constituency boundaries; Ballas on education inequality (working with the New Zealand Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit); Swift on nuclear waste; and Hanna on the Arctic report card. Our actions are built on strong institutional support, with the University and the Faculty having invested c. £1.5m in developing a strong impact culture and enabling infrastructure (detailed below). The Department takes a pro-active approach to impact and shaped scholarly debates through papers by Gregson, Phillips and Jazeel. Grugel co-authored the Faculty of Social Science's impact strategy in 2010 as Co-Director of the Faculty's impact unit. Whitworth is a co-director of the Faculty's KE hub, the Research Exchange for the Social Sciences (RESS), which is responsible for engagement with non-academic stakeholders across the social sciences and provides training to encourage researchers to be aware of mechanisms for achieving impact. The Department's expertise has thus contributed to both debates on impact and the approach to impact within the University.</p> <p><b>1. Establishing relationships for impact</b></p> <p>To develop pathways to impact, Sheffield Geographers have invested in, developed and sustained a series of <u>strategic relationships</u> with, in particular, <u>public institutions, communities, third sector organizations, and private companies</u> that are able to co-produce knowledge and apply findings to policy decisions. Colleagues have joined management and advisory boards to generate impact from the inside. Jackson has contributed to the work of the Food Standards Agency as Chair of the Social Science Research Committee and to the British Library through membership of its Research Board. Valentine used her research on alcohol to support the work of the Drinkaware Trust in changing national drinking cultures; Whitworth's expertise on single parenting supports Sheffield charity, Scoopaid; and Grugel's expertise in children's rights and development informed the work of Childhope UK, where she was Chair of the Project Committee. Dorling used his research on health and inequality to inform the work of the Runnymede Trust Academic Forum and Advisory Board, the World Health Organization Scientific Resource Group and the Royal Society of the Arts' Steering Group in Citizens' Power. As a member of the Academic Reference Group advising Ministers on Social Mobility, Dorling's research also contributed to a government White Paper in 2008 and, as Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Public Policy Research, his work informed political debates on welfare and inequality.</p> <p>We are also committed to <u>engaging with communities</u> in which the impacts of research develop more organically. These range from the Arts-Sciences Encounters, convened by Dubow and Phillips, to the regional, national and transnational Muslim communities engaged through Phillips' and Valentine's research. Relationships with environmental policy stakeholders are reflected in Hanna's membership of the World Climate Research Programme (Climate and Cryosphere Ice-</p>
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**Impact template (REF3a)**

Sheet Mass Balance and Sea level Steering Group), Moggridge's membership of conservation partnerships (Thames and Tributaries Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Area and River Biodiversity Integration Group) and Bigg's membership of the Department of Energy and Climate Change's review on Changing Sea Ice. We also work with the Meteorological Office, maintaining a nationally significant weather facility in the Peak District.

**2. Enabling impact through securing funding**

The Department has enabled our research to achieve impact through competitive funding for impact activities. Impact from Jackson's research on food was made possible by a £20k contribution from AHRC-ESRC's Cultures of Consumption programme for the Food Stories website and €149k Proof of Concept funding from ERC for his Food Futures work, leading to successful partnerships with several food businesses. Jones' JISC grant (£98K) supported closer relationships with Welsh business organizations. Grugel's research achieved impact with Argentine civil society organizations as a result of funding from the ESRC and with UK NGOs via an EU DAPHNE III award. Funding from the AHRC enabled Dubow's research to reach a public audience via a gallery exhibition. Sporton received ESRC funding in 2009 for the *Visualising Identities* exhibition at the Workstation, Sheffield, as well as enterprise funding to create SIIDshare, a social enterprise associated with the Sheffield Institute for International Development (SIID), which links the University to development practitioners through volunteering, fundraising and outreach work. Stakeholders include Restless Development, Development Education South Yorkshire and Barnsley football club. With >60 partners across the world, SIIDshare is unique in UK universities. Gregson achieved societal impacts from her ESRC-funded 'Waste of the World' project through events in schools and at the Bargehouse in London. Staff (Jackson, Sporton, Grugel and Smith), PDRs (Fontana, Oldekop) and PGRs (Bryant, Wright) received financial support from ESRC for Festival of Social Science events and Twyman (PI) and Grugel (Co-I) won funding for ESRC policy-focused seminar series. RCUK provided funding for collaborative studentships with the Scottish government, DWP, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and other partners, and the University provided three fully funded 4-6 month placements for postgraduate students with the Equalities Trust, Young People in Focus, Brighton and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Councils. Two PhD students took up ESRC-funded internships with the Scottish Government. We also made good use of internal funding streams, including £9K from HEIF for Jackson's *Food Glorious Food* exhibition.

**3. Encouraging impact and formalising mechanisms**

Our research culture has already embraced impact through the introduction of a number of informal and formal procedures and we have begun to build our impact activities into a coherent and self-sustaining strategy. All our research groups have mechanisms in place to develop potential for impact including: dedicated stakeholder seminars; staff development events in which impact skills are shared; mentoring of early career staff; and access to a budget and a departmental impact support officer. We monitor impact regularly in Research Committee and encourage impact activities through the annual Staff Review process. The time commitment of establishing and sustaining user networks and achieving impacts are recognized in promotion and through pay and reward. We also ensure that impact is recognised in probation and study leave applications and we are now using the workload model to provide compensation for impact work. We have made investments in infrastructure to encourage impact by: establishing a budget for network building and stakeholder events; creating a new support staff post with a specific remit in developing and maintaining relationships with key user groups; investing in a media suite within the Department; accommodating public and stakeholder engagement events within the Department; and introducing the academic role of Impact Coordinator (McGonigle) within Research Committee.

**c. Strategy and plans**

Achieving impact is central to our research goals as reflected in our department plan, 2013-2018. Our plan is to embed impact systematically across the Department by building partnerships more strategically, training and empowering early career researchers to consider impact an integral part of the research process, enabling research groups (not just individual researchers) to achieve impact and supporting research that can achieve impact at a very early stage. We will continue to work closely with the University to achieve these aims. We are committed to opening up new funding streams by closely monitoring RCUK impact/KE and EU budget lines and reviewing our impact budget annually in order to ensure success.

## Impact template (REF3a)

**1. Impact partnerships**

Since 2008, the Department has moved from encouraging individual researchers to make their work count to developing collective mechanisms to leverage impact based on our research. In our future plans, we will continue to develop our relationships with stakeholders in a more systematic manner. We are establishing an External Board with membership from business (Ernst and Young), the cultural industries (British Library), non-governmental stakeholders (Oxfam) and the Ordnance Survey. We will also ensure a more systematic integration of our influential alumni and strengthen our relationships with policy stakeholders in the UK and the EU through a Practitioner Fellowship scheme which will allow key people from policy and practice to spend time working in the Department and academics to take up placements outside the University. Some research groups have already established an advisory board (for example, International Development) and we will extend this practice.

**2. Early identification of research with the promise of significant and sustained impact**

Research Committee has been charged with identifying research that has the potential for major impact in the future at an early stage. We already recognise the potential of Bigg's remote sensing algorithm development work on ice hazard detection and Clark's work on developing a mapping app for mobile phones, based on the BRITICE-CHRONO research, to achieve a major impact over the next 2-5 years and we are providing tailored support to help achieve that. Bigg has already developed contacts with the international ice hazard service of Kongsberg Satellite Services, and recently received a NERC Urgency Grant that will expand the scope of this work to icebergs.

**3. Support for early career staff**

We will upgrade our support to early career staff in particular by embedding impact more firmly in our postgraduate teaching, strengthening our impact forum for early career researchers and ring-fencing funding. We will extend our existing staff placement provision. Individualised mentoring, staff appraisal and guidance from the Impact Coordinator will also be provided.

**4. University resources for impact**

The Department will continue to draw on the University's expanding resources and infrastructure to develop the potential for impact by investing its social, physical and cultural capital. We will continue to make full use of the University's physical infrastructure to support public engagement events. We will use the University's ICT resources and its highly professional corporate communications and public relations units as portals for engagement and communication. We will also use the University's skills and relationships as well as new schemes such as the Public Service Fellowship Scheme, and continue to draw from, and contribute to, the University's enhanced Civic Engagement Strategy.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

The case studies exemplify our approach to impact and are a realisation of the investments in collaboration, management and planning for impact made before and during the current REF period. All have grown out of long-standing research projects and have been nurtured through access to internal and external funding streams. Taken together, the cases reveal the scale of ambition that characterises our approach, and our reach in terms of the stakeholder communities who benefit from our research. Dorling's case study is illustrative of our impact on public policy. Jackson's case study is reflective of our collaborations with educational stakeholders, commerce and government (FSA), further exemplified by Watson's work on reused and recycled goods for DEFRA and Little's collaborative work with DEFRA, initially on secondment and now via an ESRC Future Research Leader award. McGonigle's case study illustrates the impact of our scientific research on organisations and governments that manage environmental risk. We have learned from the case studies (and our other impact work) the importance of working with key stakeholders from a very early stage, the need to set budgets and staff time for impact, and the value of encouraging risk and ambition in the research process. Our approach has been to feed back experiences to colleagues from these case studies and to ensure that the lessons learned from them have informed our practices. Our current strategy is built on these lessons and our future plans reflect our investments to ensure that our future research generates impact with the reach and significance of these exemplar cases.