

<p>Institution: Liverpool Hope University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology (17)</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Since being awarded research degree awarding powers in 2009, the University has become a research informed University and, in accordance with the University's agenda and aspirations, research is central to the activities of the Geography Department.</p> <p>All academic members of the Department have published and are research active. All but one (a post-doctoral teaching fellow) are members of professional/subject societies and associations and have experience in acting as reviewers for international peer reviewed journals with most also serving on editorial boards. In September 2013 the Department had seven staff (6.2 fte) comprising 'established' researchers with a track record of publication in international journals (Professor Siska, Professor Chester, Dr Speake) 'Early stage' researchers still in the initial stages of their research careers (Dr Filimonau, Dr Kennedy) 'Resuming' researchers (Dr Kevin Crawford) and a 'Practitioner researcher (Mr Rooney). In the last few years the Department has undergone considerable restructuring which, in part, has reflected the University's aim of creating a high quality, vibrant research culture and environment.</p> <p>Geography, Environmental Management and Environmental Studies have been taught at Liverpool Hope since 1980. The Geography Department in its current form came into existence in September 2007. At its heart are the subjects of Geography, Environmental Management and Tourism which provide context underpinning the Department's core research activities in environmental and economic sustainability in coastal, urban and tourism. Since January 2008 the five members of staff in October 2012 (Dr Chapman, Dr Crawford, Dr Light, Mr Rooney and Dr Speake) had produced 35 publications, presented 37 papers at international and international conferences and given 10 research seminars at other universities.</p> <p>The research culture of the Department is rapidly gaining momentum and several areas of new research are being built especially in GIS and geostatistics. There is further development taking place within the core research areas of environmental and economic sustainability, including Dr Filimonau's work in the area of tourism and sustainability.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Geography was entered in the 2001 RAE and achieved a grade of 3B. It was not entered in the 2008 RAE, although one member of staff's output was submitted in the Politics entry. However, the Department received a transformational boost as a result of the University's strategy to enhance research culture.</p> <p>The Faculty of Sciences and Social Sciences, of which the Geography Department is part, has as its mission "to achieve and sustain research excellence in every department". More specifically this strategy involves: 1. having 50% of all staff in each department at a level that is recognised internationally in terms of research originality, significance and rigour; 2. for 90% of all staff to be REF rated; 3. for each staff member to make one bid for research funding each academic year and 4. for areas of international research focus to be identified.</p> <p>It is university policy only to: recruit new staff who hold a PhD; to ensure areas of research excellence are resourced; to use the resources of the Research Support Office to target funders; all junior researchers to be assigned mentors; to integrate individual research into annual staff appraisal; research seminars to reflect research goals so as to enable researchers to present their work at conferences; staff to be encouraged fully to participate in collegial academic activities (e.g. editorial boards, peer reviewing, subject associations); to focus library research funds on the above priorities; and to enhance existing internal and external research linkages which are explicit in the submitted output. New and developing initiatives over the next five years are in part spelt out in detail in section c. of this document. All current members of the Department are performing at international level.</p> <p>In a small department the priority research themes are defined by staff research interests. Funding streams that will be explored include: Leverhulme; ESRC; British Academy; and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. In order further to enhance geographical research, new laboratory facilities both for physical geography and data handling and presentation will be built early in the next review period.</p>

With respect to postgraduate provision the Department already has a well-developed and successful MSc in Environmental Management. The Department will be expanding its existing provision for postgraduate research students.

Therefore in recent years the Department has developed an enabling framework in which research activity has, and is being, developed and transformed.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Staffing levels have fluctuated over the review period, including changes associated with a major restructuring of the University in early 2011. At that point, the Department decreased in size from 10 to 5 academic staff. There were departures of staff with a range research experience: established researchers (e.g. Dr Light), resuming researchers (e.g. Mrs Edmondson and Mr Delf), early stage researchers (Drs Chapman, McGrath and Mrs Grant). In 2012-13 there were five academic staff in the Department, who between them had published 33 outputs since January 2008. At the start of the academic year 2013-14, the Department has a staff of seven (6.2 ftes) and there are staff working in cognate disciplines in other areas of the University whose research is complementary for example, in Liverpool Hope Business School (until August 2013 Dr Brown; and since September 2013, Dr Andreoni).

Recent recruitment has reflected the drive towards the consolidation and enhancement of the unit's research output and impacts. For instance, in summer 2013 two professorial appointment were made (one 1.0 with the Head of Department role) [Professor Siska] and the other 0.2 for Professor of Environmental Science [Professor Chester]. Two other appointments have been made, a lectureship in tourism, with a research focus on environment and sustainability and the other a post-doctoral teaching fellow with research interests in coastal resort regeneration. All these appointments strengthen the existing and developing departmental foci on sustainability, environmental management and regeneration issues as well as bringing into the research unit additional individual research specialisms.

The University has in place various measures to support research. These have included allocations for research within the workload model. From 2013-14 the model previously applied to associate professor and professorial grades, of a third research, a third teaching and a third administration/management is now applied to senior lecturer and lecturer grades. The following additional practices have been adopted within the Geography Department to support research.

1. The performance review process. During performance reviews, specific research targets are discussed with individual staff to specify outputs over the following year (or longer period). These targets are set with reference to the document 'Research Activity and the Role Profiles Policy', which sets out the type and level of research output that are required at all levels. Individual achievable staff targets are intended, are supported and staff are encouraged to be ambitious in their research and aspire to publish in high-quality journals. Performance reviews are also used to support, and mentor, less experienced researchers.

2. The Department has an annual budget from the Faculty of Science and Social Science to support research. This is divided equally among the team for research support.

- 3 Departmental research seminars seek to foster a research culture and familiarise staff and students with current research being undertaken within the Department (including presentations by visiting professors and other guest researchers).

4. There is mentoring of young or less-experienced researchers, for example, by reading through draft papers or conference presentations.

5. All members of the Department are expected to adhere to the University's Ethics Policy. Research Ethics are managed within the context of the University and Faculty research ethics policies. The Faculty of Sciences and Social Sciences devolves decisions about research ethics to the level of each individual department and the Geography Department has its own Departmental Ethics Committee. This is chaired by a senior member of staff and the committee meets regularly to consider all staff, postgraduate and undergraduate research proposals.

ii. Research students

Since 2008 there have been two postgraduate research students based solely within the Geography Department. Both have been part-time and both self-funded. Glenda Wall

commenced her postgraduate research studies in October 2005 and graduated with a PhD in December 2012. The title of her thesis was *Contextualising Geography Fieldwork: Perspectives within European Higher Education* (supervisory team, Dr Speake, Dr Crawford and Dr Light). Stephen Axon started his PhD research in October 2009 and continues to work on his thesis *Public attitudes towards climate change and carbon reduction strategies: Development and implications for mainstreaming sustainable development* (supervisory team, Dr Speake and Dr Crawford).

In addition, Dr Speake has been second supervisor for two part-time postgraduate research students registered in other departments, but whose work has an overtly geographical dimension. These are Gerald Proctor (Department of Theology) who graduated with an MPhil in July 2013. His thesis was entitled *From base ecclesial communities to the neighbourhood*. In addition, Arthur Kelly (Faculty of Education) is working on children's geographies of music.

Three members of the Department have served as University approved supervisors for Doctoral study, Dr Crawford (supervisor), Dr Light (senior supervisor) and Dr Speake (senior supervisor). The recent appointments of new academic staff (including two at professorial level) will extend the number of research supervisors and raise the capacity to supervise more doctoral students. The University has clear practices in place for supervision of research students, including a training programme of workshops and seminars, for both new and experienced supervisors, that encourages the sharing of good practice. Also all supervisors have to hold a PhD qualification.

All research students participate in a University-run programme of research training which includes contributions from staff across the institution. Postgraduate students are expected to engage with Department, Faculty and University research activities through, for example, presenting research in departmental or external seminar programmes. The postgraduate research skills training programme is aligned with the Vitae Researcher Development Framework. One of the Geography Department's PhD students has served as faculty postgraduate student representative on the University's Research Degrees Sub-committee and Faculty Research sub-committee.

Postgraduate researchers in the Department have opportunities to develop professional skills, including contributions to first year undergraduate teaching. They are encouraged to present their research at conferences and are able to bid for departmental and faculty research funds.. Research students in the Department have regularly presented at international conferences such as the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) Annual Conference and the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, and have been funded to do so.

The Department benefits from the expertise and experience of Dr Speake, who from 2001 - 2010 was employed in a 0.5 role and the Associate Dean for Postgraduate Programmes (the other half of her role was as senior lecturer in the Geography Department). In this role, Dr Speake was responsible for drawing up many of the regulations and procedures for research students. She was also Chair of the University's Research Degrees Sub-committee and the Progression and Award Board for Postgraduate Research Students. She also has extensive experience, which continues in the delivery of training for research students and supervisors, representing the Department and Faculty on various committees and in chairing *viva voce* examinations.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Researchers in the Geography Department are able to draw on the expertise of a University research facilitator to assist them in preparing bids. He is also invited regularly to update them on current opportunities.

Members of the Department have had considerable success in attracting research funding. In the academic year 2009-10, Mr Rooney made bids for research funding from ESRC, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the EU Inter-Reg fund, and Scottish National Heritage. Income from the Sand Dune and Shingle Network has also provided desk space and PCs.

During the 2011-12 academic year, members of the Department submitted three unsuccessful bids totalling £707,549. Dr Light - British Academy £4,900 *Tourism and Holiday-Taking in a Socialist State*; Dr Light - HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) €866,077 *European identity, Balkanism and media representations of the 'new' EU – member and accession states in the 'old EU* (co-applicant); Drs Speake and Crawford - British Academy £9,787 'Transforming spatialities, cartographies of navigation: Experiences with, and evaluation of Sat Nav technologies'.

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The Department has continued this upward trajectory and, since 2011-12, the University has required all senior staff to submit at least one bid for external research funding each academic year.

Various members of the Department have been successful in attracting internal funding to support their research activities. The majority of these bids have been associated with requests for funding to present papers at conferences. Recent examples include:-

Dr Crawford *An unsustainable vision? The case of Dwejra Heritage Park, Malta*, presented at the International Conference on Landscape Conservation, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, 4-5 October 2011; Dr Speake *"I've got my Sat Nav, it's alright": Users' attitudes towards, and engagements with, technologies of navigation*. Association of American Geographers Annual International Conference, Los Angeles, 10 April 2013.

Geography Department-based postgraduate research students have dedicated work-space in the department and access to the postgraduate area of the University's Library, which contains bookable individual study carrels and large work spaces. There is a bespoke VLE on the University's intranet (Moodle) for postgraduate research students. This contains information on skills and training and links through to an on-line skills training package and *Vitae*. There is also a postgraduate student led seminar series and support group, in which geography doctoral students participate actively. Postgraduate research students based in small departments such as Geography, have multiple and varied opportunities for wider engagements with research culture and other postgraduate researchers.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Staff are engaged in collaborative research with colleagues both within the University and/or with external colleagues. This collaboration has been a prudent strategy to enhance output and publications from a small department. It is also invaluable for engaging with new ideas and perspectives and in enriching the research culture of the Department.

Internal University research collaboration

Within a small department, collaborative research has been adopted as a strategy in order to maximise resources and research outputs. It also has had the advantage of allowing more experienced researchers to mentor those with less experienced. A number of such collaborations can be identified for example: Dr Crawford and Dr Chapman have worked together on the management and consumption of geotourism in Malta; Mr Rooney and Dr Crawford are working on the geoconservation of vegetated coastal shingle; Dr Speake and Dr Crawford have worked collaboratively on the development research on satellite navigation technologies and their impacts on graphicacy and spatial awareness which have resulted in conference and published papers; Dr Chapman and Dr Speake have shared expertise on coastal resorts and urban regeneration to look at the regeneration and transformation of resorts in Malta. One outcome was the paper Chapman, A. & Speake, J. (2011) 'Regeneration in a mass-tourism resort: the changing fortunes of Bugibba, Malta'. *Tourism Management*, 32, 482-491. This research was also presented at the RGS-IBG conference in September 2011 and in invited research seminars at the Westminster and Manchester Metropolitan universities.

Additionally, members of the Department are working collaboratively with colleagues in other departments within the university, for example: Dr Speake and Professor Mills (Department of Theology and Religious Studies) sharing respective expertise on satellite navigation and Old Testament Studies in the project *Martial Navigation in the Book of Joshua 1-14*. A paper of the same title is to be presented in November 2013 at the US session of the Society for Biblical Literature.

Industry, commerce, third sector and other users of research (and how these have enriched the research environment)

The Department has several strong and established research collaboration links. Most notably this is exemplified in the activities of the Sand Dune and Shingle Network, hosted in the Department and managed by Mr Rooney. Through the network links are made to coastal stakeholders, including those e.g. all statutory conservation agencies in the UK, key NGOs such as the National Trust., the golf industry and coastal engineers whose activities impact on sand dune and shingle habitats. It is closely associated with the Golf Environment Organisation and the

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Network has a *Making Links* initiative to improve the dialogue between conservationists and golf managers. Research and consultancy projects have been fostered through the capacity of the Network to encourage dialogue and set up conference and seminars in which academics and practitioners can meet to exchange knowledge, build understandings and conserve the habitat through sustainable use and management.

There is also long-term, on-going research-based interaction led by Dr Speake with various urban regeneration stakeholders in the Liverpool area, including Liverpool Vision (the city's economic development company), Engage Liverpool (resident's association (and CIC) representing 32,000 city centre and waterfront residents) and other local CICs. Much of this research activity is focused on global-local connections (e.g. the city's involvement and recognition for innovative regeneration practice by UN-Habitat) and the development of distinctive and inclusive neighbourhoods. Several research papers on these themes are in production or in review).

National and international academic collaborations

Staff engage in research with other institutions, both nationally and internationally, for example:- Dr Crawford works with Professor Burke of the University of Chester on issues of geo-conservation (particularly limestone pavement conservation in the UK); Dr Light collaborated with Dr Craig Young of Manchester Metropolitan University on issues of landscape and power in Bucharest, Romania. He also has worked with Dr Dumbraveanu of the Department of Human and Economic Geography, University of Bucharest on tourism development in Romania during the 1948-2012 period; Mr Rooney is engaged in extensive international collaborative research through the Sand Dune and Shingle Network. These include Professor van de Vegte (University of Amsterdam) on coastal dune management; Dr Isermann (University of Bremen, Germany) on vegetation responses following clearance of sea buckthorn and ecology of sea holly; and Professor Psuty (Rutgers University, USA) on the impact of coastal change on golf links.

Professor Psuty was confirmed as a visiting Professor in the Geography Department at the Senate meeting of 7th December 2011 and has made research visits to the Department in this role.

Seminar series, contribution to journal editorship and preparation, conferences and research based CPD

Staff regularly write articles for academic journals including:- *Journal of Historical Geography*, *Annals of Tourism Research*, *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change*, *Journal of Historical Geography*, *Journal of Heritage Tourism*, *Tourism Management*, *The Geographical Journal*; *Aeolian Research*; *Coastal Management Journal*; *Urban Ecosystems*; *Geomorphology* and *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research*.

Several also serve on the editorial boards of journals, for example:- *Journal of Tourist Consumption*; *Human Geographies: Journal of Studies in Research in Human Geography*; *Journal of Coastal Conservation*.

Members of the Department have organised conferences or have been members of organising committees. In 2008 Mr Rooney organised and hosted an international conference entitled *Changing Perspectives in Coastal Dune Management* which attracted over 100 international delegates. A workshop in September 2012 entitled *Dune Scrub and Woodland* attracted 65 delegates from 6 countries and in September 2013 Mr Rooney organised a symposium on *Coastal Cliffs and Lake Bluffs* held in Llandudno. In September, 2013, he also co-organised an international conference *Sand Dune Hydro Ecology: Dealing with Dynamics and Extremes* in South Wales in partnership with, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, the British Geology Survey, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales. Dr Chapman was a member of the organising committee for the annual Leisure Studies Association which was held at Liverpool John Moores University in July 2008. Dr Light regularly convened sessions at the Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference for the Post-Socialist Geographies Research Group.

Mr Rooney, through the Sand Dune and Shingle Network, organises regular colloquia and workshops. These have included Wilhelmshaven (Germany), August 2008; Norfolk, September 2008; Lincolnshire, September 2009; and Northern Ireland, October 2010. The Network has also arranged study tours for professionals to the Netherlands (February 2009, May 2011 and May 2012) and France/Belgium (October 2010).

Dr Crawford has worked with Geoconservation UK to develop and deliver CPD courses on geodiversity. The appointment of new staff will increase the range of potential for CPD development, for example, in geographical information systems (i.e. Professor Siska).

Dr Speake regularly presents at, and co-organises seminar series and conferences in Liverpool with national and international contributors. Recently, these have included two series of seminars: *Cities for People* (2012) in conjunction with the Department of Architecture and Urban Design, University of Liverpool, School of Architecture, Liverpool John Moores University, Engage Liverpool and the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. *Liverpool Waters* (2013). Including participants from the Bartlett School of Planning, University College, London, HafnCity University, Hamburg and Engage Liverpool.

Contribution to professional associations or learned societies, and developmental disciplinary initiatives.

Members of the Department are engaged with organisations outside the University. A number are engaged with NGOs and professional organisations. Dr Crawford is a member of the Executive Committee of Geoconservation UK; Secretary of the North West Geodiversity Partnership; and a member of the North Merseyside Local Sites Partnership. Mr Rooney is active in the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and served as a member of the Council and company director until 2012. He also founded and chaired the North West England branch of CIEEM and is currently vice-chair of the regional committee. Mr Rooney is also a member of the Advisory Council of the EUCC- Coastal and Marine Union. Dr Crawford and Mr Rooney are also actively involved with Merseyside BioBank and Mr Rooney is a member of their Steering Group, and chaired their Education and Outreach Group. Dr Speake is active in the Geographical Association (GA) and until 2008 was editor of the GA's *Changing Geography* series. Both Mr Rooney and Dr Speake regularly give presentations to GA branches. Mr Rooney is a founding trustee of the Golf Environment Organisation, is a member of their Advisory Council, and chairs their Technical Commission.

Members of the Department also give external talks and lectures. For example, Dr Speake gave a public lecture entitled *Living the city: Creating a place for everyone* as part of a series of lectures focused on contemporary urban living, entitled 'Three talks in the Three Graces' in Liverpool in November 2011.

A number of the Department are involved with academic societies. In the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers, Dr Light was treasurer of the 'Post-Socialist Geographies Research Group' of the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers between 2001 and 2011. Paul Rooney is secretary of the 'Coastal and Marine Research Group' (since 2012). Dr Speake has been a committee member of the 'Urban Geography Study Group' and has recently (2013) been invited into the 'Gender and Feminist Geographies Research Group'. Dr Anya Chapman has been treasurer of the Institute of Marketing's 'Tourism Marketing Special Interest Group'.

Co-operation and collaborative arrangements for PGR training

Postgraduate research students in Geography follow the University's Postgraduate Research Skills Training Scheme. This is co-ordinated centrally with inputs from academic staff from across wide range of disciplines. Additionally, where supervisory teams identify training needs in specific, specialised research areas students can, and do, approach experts within and beyond the subject area (e.g. in one instance, seeking detailed information regarding behavioural engagement from appropriate researchers in Psychology).