

<p>Institution: Liverpool Hope University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology (17)</p>
<p>a.Context</p> <p>Liverpool Hope University, an ecumenical Christian foundation with origins dating from 1846 has a core commitment to serving the community. This is expressed in its mission to contribute to the “educational, religious, cultural, social and economic life of Liverpool, Merseyside, the North-West and beyond”. The impact of Hope’s research and teaching activities is noted in the ESRC/HEFCE January 2010 report “The impact of Higher Education Institutions on Regional Economies” (Paul Benneworth), which states that “what Hope had achieved was in its own way peerless”. The work of the Geography Department is imbued with an institutional ethos to ‘make a difference’.</p> <p>The Geography Department has a strong profile within the University and beyond, for: good practice in making and maintaining links; and for having a range of public policy engagements and impacts. Underpinning this diverse range of established and emergent research specialisms in the Department, there are broad commonalities encompassing environmental and economic sustainability in coastal, urban and tourism contexts. Geography at Hope is frequently held up, both internally and externally, as a prime example of an outward looking department, engaged with, and active in, the wider world.</p> <p>This attitude and approach is primarily created by motivated, creative individuals who seek to, and do, ‘make a difference’ through their research, scholarly activities and involvement with a range of academic and non-academic research users. The work led by Janet Speake and Paul Rooney forms the basis for the impact case studies which are detailed in REF 3b. These engagements occur within a department and university in which individuals, singularly and/or collaboratively connect and interact. The University’s distinctive mission sets an overarching context for such practice that is then readily translated into an awareness of the importance of research which has an impact. There are three main strands of impact generating activity, two which are reported in REF 3b: transforming spatialities and satellite navigation technologies; and the sand dune and shingle network. The third, on city centre revitalisation is reported here, along with other examples of research activities with impact.</p> <p>Main user groups, beneficiaries and audiences are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Professional bodies</i> – dealing with environmental and geographical matters. 2. <i>Private sector</i> e.g. organisations and businesses such as GPS/software producers, property development companies. 3. <i>Public sector</i> e.g. local authorities, national governments. 4. <i>Third sector</i> e.g. community interest companies. 5. <i>Members of the public</i> e.g. through media and public events.
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>The impacts attained by the Department of Geography have been achieved within the context of the University’s mission of engaging with the world beyond academia, to ‘be the critic and conscience of society’ and to ‘make a difference’. This is mirrored in various strategies of the Faculty of Sciences and Social Sciences, of which the Department of Geography is a part. This highly distinctive University environment shapes the activities of departments and of individuals within them, because there is a clear expectation of wider contributions that are clearly articulated in policies of staff recruitment, annual monitoring and promotion, by which individuals are required to demonstrate their contributions to academia and beyond. The work of the Department nests within this environment, draws on contacts and support from elsewhere in the University for example: 1.the Research Facilitator in developing applications for external funding, including pathways to impact; 2. development of impact agendas; 3. research funding and its impact and 4. support from the Conference Office. Over the years the Department has, therefore, been able to nurture extensive - and in several cases - deep, external collaboration. Given the small size of the Department, many of these links have been the outcome of work by individual staff members, although there has been the creation of synergetic, research-based relationships through the work of the Sand Dune and Shingle Network. The University and Department continue to assist staff (including the provision of funding), in the pursuit of discovery and other new, sometimes serendipitously emerging, research themes. These have included recent work on satellite</p>

navigation technology and geoconservation/geotourism. Support has also expedited the production of research publications and engagement with research users.

Key mechanisms by which user groups are engaged include:

1. informing groups, organisations and individuals through public speaking and other forms of communication; 2. organising, running and contributing to public lectures, seminars and conferences; 3. advisory work and expert opinion; 4. media engagement.

In addition to the two strands of impact detailed in REF3b, other areas of the Department's work have impact, reach and significance, including the third strand focused on revitalising city centres. There are strong and continually developing links with stakeholders in Liverpool's regeneration and development. This activity has been grounded in an extensive corpus of work produced by Dr Speake on transforming city centres, and Dr Light's research on heritage and heritage tourism.

Within the context of the Department's goal to enhance research (and wider academic) impact in private, public, third sector organisations and the general public, Dr Speake is proactive in developing links between research, academia and the wider world, and in responding to calls from city stakeholders for increased participation by academics. She is regularly invited to contribute to discussions on regeneration themes (e.g. developing the city's links with UN-Habitat) with key strategic city stakeholders for example, Liverpool Vision (the city's economic development company), Liverpool City Council and with community interest companies (CICs) such as Liverpool Engage (which represents 32,000 city centre and waterfront residents) and to contribute to activities of other groups such as the North West Young Planners (e.g. co-leading Jane's Walks) and Urbanistas (women in regeneration). She regularly gives public presentations as an invited guest speaker (e.g. *Living in the City* in November 2011) and as panel member (e.g. *Cities for People* in October 2012). She also collaborates with other city stakeholders including Liverpool University (Geography and Planning, Design) and John Moores University (School of Architecture), in co-organising opportunities e.g. seminars and other events for widening participation in engagement with city (re)development issues. Dr Speake has recently researched the theme of making local-global connections between cities (following visits from Vancouver and Copenhagen based urban designers) and in engaging centre residents with becoming more involved in creating 'distinctive' and 'inclusive' neighbourhoods in parts of the city which are newly residential.

Through these connections with city centre stakeholders, opportunities are often created for students to volunteer, undertake work placements and/or work as interns with Vision, the City Council, CICs and others. These contributions have been reflected in the production of the local area report e.g. the forthcoming Stanley Street interim report, and in increasing communication (through pioneering work using social media) with 'hard to reach' city residents.

Departmental and faculty funding has also supported the work of Dr Crawford in the development of research into visitor expectations, experiences and understandings of geotourism. He has presented papers on "Expectations and experiences of visitors at the Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site, Northern Ireland, at the World Heritage and Tourism: Managing for the Global and the Local, UNESCO/UNITWIN NETWORK for Culture, Tourism and Development, in Quebec (October 2010) and presented the National University of Taiwan (October 2011) on "An unsustainable vision? The case of Dwejra Heritage Malta" at the National University of Taiwan, Taipei (October 2011). This latter paper also contributes to the Department's developing portfolio of research on Malta (e.g. Chapman and Speake, 2011) and strengthens existing connections with the Department of Geography (University of Malta) and organisations such as the Malta Tourism Authority.

c. Strategy and plans

Achieving impact (including research) is, and has been, an implicit part of the underlying ethos of the work of the Department within a developing institutional strategy which seeks to embed impact within academic culture and life. The Department aims to develop the 'impact environment' in the following ways:-

1. Impact will form a part of annual performance review. This will include the setting of targets and identification of staff training needs.
2. Impact achievement and potential will be one of the criteria used to inform staff recruitment and promotion.
3. A portion of institutional research funds will be identified to support impact-related activity.

Impact template (REF3a)

4. Review mechanisms for on-going projects will be established.
5. Staff development in impact will be undertaken, so as to optimise the effectiveness of impact-related activity.
6. Individuals and groups will draw up research impact plans.

The Department will continue to develop its existing focus on: 1. environmental and economic sustainability in coastal, urban and tourism; and 2. geographic information systems.

The recent appointment of four academic staff in Geography and another with cognate interests (i.e. in economic and environmental sustainability) in the Liverpool Hope Business School, will contribute to both outputs and impacts associated with this research focus and will extend both the geographical and user reach through their collaborative external networks.

For example:- Professor Chester has long-standing research link (since 1994) with the University of the Azores' Centro de Vulcanologia e Avaliação de Riscos Geológicos and, more latterly, the Istituto Nazionale di Vulcanologia, Catania, Sicily. Dr Filimonau's novel work on the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) method (already recognised by the EC as having relevance for policy-makers) is being extended to key elements of tourism such as conference venues. He collaborates with the Department of Geography at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland and with the School of Tourism, Bournemouth University. Dr Andreoni collaborates with: the Institute of Environment and Sustainability (IES) of the Joint Research Centre of the EC (Italy); the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) of the Joint Research Centre of the EU (Spain); the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) (Spain) and the Italian Institute for Statistics. Professor Siska's work includes collaboration with: the Stephen F Austin University, Tennessee on geographic information science projects, especially on mapping composite pollen in Big Bend National Park; Texas A & M University; the Homeland Security Office in McLean, Virginia, developing geolocation information systems; connections with the National Oakridge Laboratory in Tennessee; the European Union Embassy in Washington DC and the NATO centre in Norfolk, Virginia.

d. Relationship to case studies

Two contrasting case studies are presented which demonstrate the Department's commitment to, and support for, nurturing impact, 1. The Sand Dune and Shingle Network, in operation since 2006, led by Paul Rooney and 2. more recent research (since autumn 2010 and led by Janet Speake) on attitudes and engagements with satellite navigation technologies and their impacts on spatial awareness and graphicacy. The case studies show how both the University and Department provide support for different types of project and respond positively to developing research by enhancement and impact opportunities. Key mechanisms for engaging users and achieving impact identified earlier also apply to the case studies e.g. **informing groups, organisations and individuals through public speaking and other communication**. Regular contact and communication with professional bodies and other users and beneficiaries e.g. RGS-IBG, Esri, CIEEM and statutory government agencies such as Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, and Natural Resources Wales.

Organising, running and contributing to public lectures, seminars and conferences e.g. contributions at AAG annual conference (Janet Speake, 2012, 2013), RGS-IBG (regularly participation by Janet Speake and Paul Rooney), colloquia organisation by Paul Rooney e.g. *Changing Perspectives in Coastal Dune Management* (2008), colloquia and workshops e.g. *The Conservation and Management of Coastal Vegetated Shingle in England* (2008), *The Conservation and Management of Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophaë rhamnoides*) in the UK* (2009), *Dune Scrub and Woodland* (2012).

Advisory work and expert opinion e.g. regular on-line 'expert comment' by Janet Speake and Paul Rooney. The Sand Dune and Shingle Network provides an advisory service and products to statutory government agencies. Paul was an expert witness for Scottish National Heritage at the Donald Trump Inquiry for Menie Links, 2008.

Media engagement. Regular engagement with the media including Janet Speake's interview with *The New York Times* journalist for an article to be published in *The New Yorker Magazine*. Paul Rooney appears regularly in the media on coastal dune matters, for instance in 92 newspapers on one day relating to the Donald Trump Inquiry. He has appeared on the BBC TV programme *Coast* and on various BBC radio programmes.