

Institution: The University of Edinburgh

Unit of Assessment: 17 Archaeology

a. Context

Since the appointment of Gordon Childe as the first Abercromby Professor in 1927, Archaeology at Edinburgh has succeeded in disseminating its research widely to achieve public awareness and impact. In recent years, the opportunity to do this has evolved as our work has extended and widened its range. Developing out of an early involvement in applied research and realised through our Centre for Field Archaeology (to 2000), we now have a wider portfolio of impact activities focusing both nationally and internationally. Notable achievements have included the development and maintenance of popular archaeological reconstructions which display and draw on research interests in the archaeology of Europe and the Mediterranean. Principal amongst these have been the Crannog Centre on Loch Tay and the Lemba Prehistoric Village in Cyprus, both established tourist resources with international recognition, as well as the reconstructed oppidum gateway at Porte du Rebut, Mont Beuvray - President Mitterand's last 'Grand Projet'. At the same time as new research objectives have developed and diversified within the unit, now embedded in the new School of History, Classics and Archaeology, so we have been able to sustain established projects, while enhancing the impact activities that emerge from a new set of themes and interdisciplinary research foci. A highlight of these will be the *Citizen Science* initiative of the AHRC *Hillforts Atlas* project involving amateur archaeologists (2012-2016).

There are four main non-academic user groups and beneficiaries of our impact work. We seek to engage them through an appropriate mix of dissemination and engagement activities:

- Legislators and Heritage Practitioners. We offer contributions to research-led debate and practice on current policies, practices and laws.
- Museum curators and visitors to museums and heritage centres
- Professional applied archaeologists
- The public in general (especially via the media), including in particular school students

Contributions to research-led debate on practices and policies

Our research concerning material culture has made a specific contribution towards the development and implantation of archaeological policies and practice in Scotland and elsewhere. Notably Ralston chaired the Treasure Trove Panel (2004-2012) at the invitation of the Scottish Minister for Culture. Working with A. Saville of National Museums Scotland (NMS) and others, Ralston led in this capacity the first codification of Scottish procedures on the treatment of archaeological finds for the Scottish Government (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/04114930/0>). He was awarded an OBE for his services to Scottish archaeology in 2009.

Heritage and Museums (users: curators and other professionals; visitors)

We have long-established relationships with the principal heritage agencies and museums in Scotland especially National Museums Scotland (NMS), RCAHMS and Historic Scotland. Case study (b) on Secrets of the Rhind Mummy explores Kranioti's recent project with NMS. The recent Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF), funded by Historic Scotland and developed under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, aims to define new research agenda for public and academic archaeology across Scotland and involved half of Archaeology's staff on its steering and period based-committees. The UoA's research activities continue to make a significant contribution to the management and curation of archaeological sites and landscapes across 5 Mediterranean countries for the benefit of visitors. In Britain staff have been involved in the display and interpretation of a number of iconic heritage sites, e.g. Shillito has contributed to the forthcoming Stonehenge visitor centre and to new displays as part of the Jorvik Centre, while Crow completed (2012) a new English Heritage (EH) Red Guide for Housesteads Fort, and compiled the English Heritage *Portico* website and narratives for EH's 'The Story of England' for this key Roman site (2013).

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Public archaeology – practitioners and professional services

We have been directly involved with a number of archaeological bodies including the Scottish branch of the Institute for Archaeology and the Society of Experimental Archaeologists. Aitchison (2011) published a major study of how archaeological employment developed in the UK, drawing on his Edinburgh doctoral thesis, while Stammitti (PhD student) co-organised a conference at Durham on the impact of dam construction on archaeological sites. Fibiger's Routledge book on *Human Remains and Legislation* has now been published in paperback. These activities contribute to the development and maintenance of professional standards.

Public Engagement and Media

We have encouraged work with the media, public lectures and other events all to enable broader groups to access and engage with Archaeology's research, thereby enhancing its social, cultural, and public value. Public talks and meetings have ranged from McSweeney on Human Bones at the Hawick High School, Ralston's Dalrymple public lectures, Glasgow University 2011, and Ralston and Bintliff, respectively, to local groups and societies from Bègues, France, to Askra and Koroneia in Greece, whilst Bartosiewicz led TUDÁSTÁRS Foundation bus tours on the 'history of animals' across the city of Budapest. We have sought to highlight the diverse range of the unit's research and fieldwork: media interest has reached both national and international audiences. Current research has been profiled on BBC *Countryfile* (Bonsall/Pickard Ulva Cave, off Mull), *Women's Hour* on the Rhind Mummy (Case study b), with other interviews on the BBC *Today* programme, and BBC Scotland *Drivetime* (Ralston, Crow - Treasure Trove, Cleopatra, and York Gladiators). Internationally research activities are represented across a more diverse range of newspapers, magazines and websites. For Turkey these include *Milliyet* reporting Schoop's work at Camlibel Tarlasi. Pickard's research on Asperger's Syndrome was reported in *Corriere della Sera* (19.12.11). Invited articles in popular magazines include Fibiger in *Archäologie in Deutschland*, with further reports in *Der Spiegel* (10/2013) and in the Danish *History Illustrated* (6/13), Shillito in two recent issues of *Current World Archaeology*, Ralston in a range of French popular archaeology magazines including two issues of *Les dossiers d'Archéologie* (2008). Mellars' research on early humans in southern Asia has enjoyed extensive worldwide coverage from *The Australian* to the *Times*.

b. Approach to impactPartnerships

Partnerships and collaborations that deliver impact have consistently been developed within Scotland, such as with NMS (Kranioti, Rhind Mummy), and outside the UK with the Archaeological Museums at Nessabur (Bulgaria) and in Ibiza (McSweeney and Kranioti). Engagement with the Koç Foundation led to its sponsorship of the *Waters for a Capital* Exhibition in Istanbul (Crow, Water Supply).

Support for impact

Impact and Knowledge Exchange (KE) activity in the UoA is supported at School level, led by the Deputy Director of Research (Impact), and at College level through the Knowledge Exchange office. In the review period the impact agenda has been formally embedded within our research activity in the following ways:

- (i) A programme of staff development workshops has been run within the School and College. They have instilled the need for all academic staff to plan for impact (through partnerships, media contacts and brokers), to track impact (through questionnaires or follow-up interviews), and to collate evidence of impact activity as part of their personal academic portfolio considered at their annual review meeting.
- (ii) Briefings are given at staff meetings; individual advice is also offered. School funding is available to support small KE/impact events (up to £500), complementing the College fund (up to £5000) from which the *Water for a Capital* exhibition received direct financial support.
- (iii) Impact activity is discussed with all staff as part of the School's annual research interviews.
- (iv) Auditing of impact activity is now a routine process within the School (alongside the collation of information about research outputs). A database of activity is maintained and updated and evidence of impact is archived.

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(v) The School's research webpages have been reorganised to promote the work of the unit.

Staff have been supported in successfully applying to external funding bodies for projects that involve a high degree of collaboration and impact. These include the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Award scheme which encourages PhD students to develop academic work in an applied context (two studentships in progress or awarded since 2008, most recently to Ralston in collaboration with the NMS), plus sponsorship by Historic Scotland for two PhD studentships in human osteology. The *Citizen Science* element of the *Hillforts* project is now accessible online (<http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/hillforts-form.html>) with guidance notes. This has been launched with considerable publicity across the UK and Ireland and first results are to be assessed at TAG at Bournemouth in December 2013. The 'crowd science' approach represents a new way of involving amateur archaeologists in the assessment of our databases and the building of major research resources, and our intention is to test its efficacy.

c. Strategy and plans

The impact strategy has the following priorities:

- (1) to identify and refine the unit's particular strengths;
- (2) to encourage and investigate new strengths focused on the unit's priority areas of Landscape Archaeology, Osteoarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology, material studies/archaeological science, and early prehistory;
- (3) to consolidate and enhance Edinburgh Archaeology's reputation as a centre for prehistoric and historic archaeology whose activities are increasingly defined by their impact in order to achieve an increased reach in areas of archaeological policy and public understanding.

Our strategy has ensured support in specific new areas, notably exhibition curation, museum display and heritage guidelines and practices. We will continue to ensure all staff in Archaeology recognise the need to engage in various aspects of KE and to become more alert to opportunities to enhance the impact from their research. To achieve this we resolve to:

- (i) continue and extend the existing programme of mentoring, training and advice around impact to support the development of the new generation of researchers and to enhance activities that can demonstrate impact of those in mid-career
- (ii) support staff who have had AHRC or other funding to apply for the follow-on funding wherever available.

We shall endeavour to enhance the capability to promote archaeological research through existing and developing research centres at the University of Edinburgh (e.g. Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, as evidenced by a two-day inter-disciplinary graduate conference on the archaeology, history, theology, art history and literature of the 7th Century, May 2013). The following funded projects, currently in progress, are examples of those expected to deliver significant impact over the next 5 years: Ralston AHRC-funded *Hillfort Atlas*, Bartosiewicz's *Sturgeon on middle Danube* - an ESF programme aiming to reintroduce Sturgeon in the middle Danube; two Mediterranean landscape projects: *Crow*, *Aegean landscapes* examining historic landscape and settlement in Naxos, along with Bintliff's long-running *Boeotia Survey*; and innovative analytical work by Shillito and Pickard at Çatal Höyük and elsewhere.

d. Relationship to case studies

Two case studies have been selected to exemplify new aspects of Edinburgh Archaeology's impact activities, extending the range from the established 'flagship' practices of the reconstruction and presentation of archaeological structures in context. Together they represent distinctive impact types and are targeted at different audiences, with a variation in reach from the national to the international. They constitute impacts that emerge from (a) the work of individual research projects and (b) a collaboration with a national institution:

The case studies are: a) *The Water Supply of Byzantine Constantinople*.

b) *Secrets of the Rhind Mummy* in and with National Museums Scotland.

The latter represents the contribution of new research techniques in forensic anthropology as part of a specific display in a major public exhibition, while the former aimed to inform public and policy makers of significant new archaeological discoveries close to Istanbul.