

Impact template (REF3a)

| |
|---|
| Institution: University of Oxford |
| Unit of Assessment: 17A: Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology: Archaeology |
| <p>a. Context</p> <p>Research within Oxford has impact across the full range of archaeological and cultural heritage practice. Members of the School of Archaeology have always thought critically about how academic archaeology can best connect with non-academic users and audiences, including the following key constituencies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Professionals in archaeology worldwide</u>: We provide training and evidence of best practice for professional archaeologists and field workers through our field projects in Europe, Africa and Asia. For example, training and capacity-building in underwater archaeology are provided by the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (OCMA), and in professional archaeology more widely by the Department of Continuing Education (OUDCE). We run a successful commercial accelerator radiocarbon dating service, widely acknowledged as a world leader and provide training in its use. 2. <u>Policy-makers, Commercial Archaeology and the Heritage Industry</u>: Our research has generated strong links with museums, English Heritage (EH) and commercial archaeology that allows our research to influence heritage policy and practice in the UK and globally. The School's research has led to close engagement with the heritage industry in several countries, and we have helped to establish a number of museum exhibitions and visitor centres. 3. <u>Volunteers and members of the public with an interest in archaeology</u>: We have involved thousands of members of the public directly in the processes of fieldwork and analysis, many of whom have become partners in our research. These activities have been funded by over £500,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grants in Britain, alone. Our research has impact upon the general public more widely through museum exhibitions, the media, and over a hundred talks to local societies during the REF period, helping change the way individuals and groups think about their past and identities. |
| <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Our approach to impact is practice-led and informed by critical reflection, emphasising the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Links with commercial archaeology and heritage professionals</u>. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) UK: We have strong, longstanding links with Oxford Archaeology (OA), the UK's largest independent archaeological practice. OA's Chief Executive and one of their senior project managers are co-Directors of our research excavation at Dorchester on Thames (with <i>Gosden</i> and <i>Hamerow</i>, both Trustees of OA), will co-author the final publication and are Research Associates of the School. Collaboration with OA's post-excavation work is rapidly developing, particularly through the analysis of materials and human skeletons. Through the OUDCE (<i>Griffiths</i>), we offer professional training in the Historic Environment (co-delivered with EH and other bodies) and short courses on policy, standards, technical, legal and practical themes; 1555 people have participated in these courses since October 2008. b) Abroad: Our research aids capacity-building in a range of countries. For example, SEALINKS (<i>Boivin</i>) assists with professional training in Sri Lanka following the end of the recent civil war, via a formal agreement with the head of the Central Cultural Fund of Sri Lanka. In 2011, OCMA trained employees of the National Museum of the Philippines in the excavation of wooden vessels and, in 2013 the new inspector of antiquities in the Jahub oasis (Libya) in survey. Science-based training and outreach are also important. The Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Lab holds annual training courses for postgraduate students and professionals in radiocarbon techniques, emphasising calibration and Bayesian modelling. Through the NERC-funded "Eggtimer" project (with York) we run workshops on dating methods and chemistry for school children in England and South Africa. 2. <u>Engaging with policy-makers</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) UK: Due to a longstanding relationship with EH, <i>Pollard</i> has chaired EH's Research Advisory Panel. We have collaborated with Historic Environment Records on major strategic projects, such as 'English Landscapes and Identities' and inputted into the new Oxford Archaeological Action Plan through the City Archaeologist. <i>Pollard</i> also advised the Ministry of Justice on policy towards the excavation, retention and management of human remains. b) Abroad: <i>Mitchell's</i> project in Lesotho persuaded the World Bank and local government to mitigate historical landscape damage by supporting archaeological work ahead of dam construction. The project's leaders successfully lobbied for holistic heritage management for Phase II of the large-scale Lesotho Highlands Water Project, including a locally staffed archaeological |

Impact template (REF3a)

unit. *Bogaard* and *Boivin* contribute their insights into long-term change to the Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food, which links multiple research groups across Oxford. We actively contribute our expertise in chronological models in archaeology to international bodies attempting a better understanding of the causes of climate change and reducing uncertainties in climate prediction. We contribute to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and are active in the INTIMATE Cost Action ES0907 (INTEgrating Ice core, Marine and TERrestrial records), a body developing common protocols and methods to reconstruct abrupt and extreme climate changes across all European environments over millennia. RLAHA members contribute specifically to Working Group 1 on Chronology. Developments in Bayesian age modelling (*Ramsey, Schulting*) and tephrostratigraphic frameworks (*Lane, Staff*).

3. Involving members of the public and volunteers:

Thousands of people have taken part in both excavation and post-excavation analysis, through the School. To support this we have received four HLF grants and are partners in another three. The first HLF grant (2010-13) (£32k, and locally raised funds of £47.5k) - jointly with the Friends of Dorchester Abbey - supported Open Days, exhibits and educational programmes around our research at Dorchester on Thames. The second, in partnership with the Vale and Ridgeway Trust (£19.5k - 2006-9), supported volunteer involvement in our excavations at Marcham (visited by Edward Vaizey, Minister for Culture in 2013) and led to the Trendles project. The latter involved the community in analysing finds and records from Marcham (£96k - 2012). Most recently (2013-14), the community-led Archaeology of East Oxford Project obtained an HLF grant of £331k.

The University's highly competitive Fell Fund allows us to pilot projects leading to major grants. Research on the archive of Paul Jacobsthal (a German-Jewish archaeologist who fled to Oxford in the 1930s), supported by Fell (2010), led to an exhibition at the Oxford City Museum (2012) and a public speaking competition for schools on UK attitudes to refugees. The Jacobsthal Project then attracted a grant of £48k from the HLF (2012). Fell Funding of £100k (2013) leveraged a further £200k from the Logan Foundation for the Historic Environment Image Resource Project, creating an image database of thousands of lantern slides of ancient sites held at Oxford and photographic holdings worldwide. A Citizen Science Alliance (CSA) grant (£50k) will use 'crowdsourcing' to identify keywords and re-photograph sites using our mobile app. CSA anticipate circa 250,000 worldwide public collaborators.

Two shared posts with the *Ashmolean and Pitt Rivers Museums* form an important part of our approach to impact. *Standley's* work on late medieval dress items, for example, underpinned the redisplay of the museum's medieval material; and both *Standley* (Ashmolean) and *Hicks* (Pitt Rivers) engage with the museums' Educational Service, responding to enquiries from members of the public and local societies. Finally, our relationship with OUDCE allows our research to reach a broad non-academic audience via online courses and weekend workshops. Since 2008, we have run 27 day workshops and weekend schools at OUDCE. Up to 6000 people have attended, engaging in more depth with the speakers informally beyond the formal sessions.

Dissemination of our results occurs through our use of a variety of media, including the University Press Office and our own School website, complemented by a range of podcasts and the use of social media for particular projects (such as English Landscapes). Members of the School also regularly appear on television and radio.

c. Strategy and plans

The School's strategy for supporting, monitoring and reporting research and impact activity and outcomes is developed by the Finance and Strategic Planning Sub-committee, which comprises seven senior members of the School, and is discussed by the School Committee. The increasingly explicit emphasis on impact encouraged us to bring more focus to impact strategy and coordination. The School's Research Coordinator (*Gosden*) oversees and supports the planning and implementation of impact-related activities, for example by reviewing grant applications and sharing best practice. Senior members actively mentor Early Career Researchers, who often gain experience of impact working on established projects, whether in museums or in the field.

Our approach to impact views it as both systematic and contingent. Systematic impact derives from continued critical discussion both across the discipline and with our external partners, concerning the special role that university-based archaeology plays within the great range of archaeological, scientific and heritage-oriented activities. Systematic impact is actively developed from our research strengths, placing us at the heart of particular discussions on the public understanding of science. Contingent impact emerges from our research and takes advantage of

Impact template (REF3a)

public or political interest in specific discoveries. For example, a knucklebone recovered from the ruins of an ancient Church on the Island of Sveti Ivan (Bulgaria), purported to be that of John the Baptist, was radiocarbon dated by Higham and Ramsey and found (unexpectedly) to be from the early first century AD. This date will inform further research into its provenance, feeding into debates about the truth of claims generally relating to sacred relics.

Future Plans

Partnerships are critical to our future strategy. In the UK, our partners in archaeology include EH and local authority planning departments who are interested in the implications that academic research has for scheduling sites and for the planning process. We will work closely with the Head of Historic Environment Commissions at EH to develop links between academic archaeology and local planners around web-based access to the results of archaeology fieldwork. *Gosden* runs the so-called Grey Literature Group which brings together key people from all sectors of British archaeology three times a year, developing initiatives include lobbying of government concerning planning law and the Localism Bill. In developer-funded archaeology, we are developing student internships on OA projects, introducing them to developer-funded archaeology. Our collaboration on post-excavation work will also increase, where our expertise in materials science and in bioarchaeology (particularly in isotopes) forms an increasingly important component of OA's reports to clients.

Relationships with the University Museums and with OUDCE are key to our impact strategy. *Standley's* post (Ashmolean) was created within the REF period partly to maximise the possibilities of impact through museum display and outreach and we are discussing with the Museum's educational service how this can be developed. At the Pitt Rivers, *Hicks* is currently exploring collaborations with local societies, the Arts Council and the Museums' Association. We will build on our links with OUDCE, which include presentations of research work as part of professional training in the historic environment (members of EH, the National Trust and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation participate). Part-time degrees have a research component, including fieldwork on School-run excavations, with expansion envisaged in on-line courses, using research from within the School of Archaeology, and an active programme of weekend workshops, helping to showcase our research to a broad public audience. Internationally, our links in North, Southern and East Africa, as well as in India, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Japan and China through long-running projects will aid training of archaeology professionals. Each country has its own specificities and local strategies are needed. For instance, a recent MoU with the University of Peking will facilitate the movement of staff and students for training and research. We encourage all staff members to report on their activities in a systematic manner and to consider how these various activities might be better linked with external partners.

d. Relationship to case studies

The four case studies exemplify the UoA's activities in the three key areas of engagement with other professionals, the public and policy makers in Britain and globally. They are not unique within the School, but aim to give a sense of the variety and international reach of our research, illustrating the impacts from a variety of the research themes in the UoA.

The Danebury/Brading case study (17A-02) highlights public engagement and links with other professionals through the development of museum facilities. Importantly the case studies derive from a long-standing and deeply embedded commitment to impact, which has involved local groups, gained wide publicity and influenced the presentation and discussion of the past, nationally and internationally. The work at Danebury/Brading, for instance, forms part of a series of projects by Cunliffe over many decades (e.g. Fishbourne and Bath). Long-term research projects allow us to build lasting relationships with individuals and local bodies, so that the nineteen years of work on the Berkshire Downs and the Vale of the White Horse by *Gosden* and *Lock*, developed further through the East Oxford and Dorchester projects (17A-01, 17A-04). Large numbers of younger scholars have grown up through these projects. Similarly, relationships over many decades between members of the School and countries such as Turkey generate the links with the public and professionals through the museum at Aphrodisias (17A-01). We have similar long-term relationships in many other countries. The OXCAL case study is grounded in the expertise developed in radiocarbon dating in the RLHA and chronological methods that are rapidly being applied beyond radiocarbon (17A-03). The RLHA welcomes interns and other external researchers from across Europe, the US, Iran, Australia and elsewhere keen to gain experience in laboratory techniques. Two-way interchanges are critical to the success of much of our research.