

**Institution:** University of Winchester

**Unit of Assessment:** UoA 17 Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology

**a. Context**

The types of impact generated by the Unit are on A. culture and society (heritage preservation, conservation and presentation; enhancements to policy; understanding), B. economy (changed approaches to management of resources; improved processes), C. environment (management/conservation of natural resources) and D. practitioners/professional services (influence on professional guidelines; research findings in professional practice). All impacts are by the transfer of knowledge/expertise to user groups during joint or commissioned research, or via consultancies. The main beneficiaries of such knowledge transfer are:

1. Residents of and tourists visiting Winchester and other locations researched by the UoA (A);
2. Members of the general public with archaeological and/or historical interests, for example readers of *Current Archaeology*, *British Archaeology* and archaeological stories in broadsheet newspapers, and viewers of television programmes such as *Digging for Britain*, *Meet the Ancestors* and the *Grave Trade* (the UoA has featured in all of these in the census period) (A);
3. Amateur archaeologists/historians who are members of local (e.g. Winchester Archaeological Research Group), regional (e.g. Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society) and national (e.g. Royal Archaeological Institute, Prehistoric Society) societies with which the UoA has worked (A);
4. Professional archaeologists, planners, engineers and ecologists working for local and regional government (e.g. District, Borough, City and County Councils), archaeologists employed by national heritage and environment agencies (e.g. English Heritage, CADW, Environment Agency, Natural England – all of whom the Unit has worked with during the census period) or museums with whom the UoA has collaborated, and whose job is to manage and/or conserve the archaeological/natural history resource (B, C, D).
5. Professional archaeologists employed by commercial archaeological organisations (e.g. Cotswold Archaeology, MoLA, Oxford Archaeology, Wessex Archaeology), utilities companies (e.g. Thames Water, National Grid) and consultancies (e.g. Ramboll) who commission specialist archaeological works (the UoA's consultancy, ARCA, has worked for all of the above during the census) (B, D).

**b. Approach to impact**

The Unit has fully engaged with national and international networks, both during the census period of the present REF and before (i.e. when such activities were not defined in terms of 'impact'). A concern to publicise its activities beyond the academic sphere and undertake research that is of wider public, policy and technical interest has always underpinned the Unit's work – it is essential given the Unit's small size and historically limited research income. Indeed as is made clear below and in RA3b, for a body of just 5.40 FTE the Unit punches considerably above its weight in impact terms. Funding received as a result of RAE 2008 has been utilised, together with finance obtained from commercial and non-HE public sources, to further the following means of dissemination and involvement beyond academia:

- Public lectures (to local, regional and national societies and professional interest groups [all Unit staff]).
- Publication in popular journals such as *Current Archaeology* and *British Archaeology* (see Impact Case Study 1).
- Contributions to the development of regional (e.g. South-west Archaeological Research Framework [King and Wilkinson (<http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/archives/hes/swarf/Index.htm>)] and Thames-Solent Archaeological Research Framework [Wilkinson ([http://thehumanjourney.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=553&Itemid=277](http://thehumanjourney.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=553&Itemid=277))]) and national research agenda and frameworks [e.g. Wilkinson's Reviews of colluvial geoarchaeology (2009) (<http://research.english-heritage.org.uk/report/?14719>) and molluscan bioarchaeology (2013) (<http://research.english-heritage.org.uk/report/?15004>)].

## Impact template (REF3a)

- Training professional archaeologists in developing countries [e.g. Georgian National Museum staff and students of universities in Tbilisi by the Nokalokevi Project (<http://www.nokalokevi.org/home.html>) (Everill), of heritage professionals working for the Ethiopian Government at Lalibella and in the Barbados Museums service (Finneran).
- Launching a research Centre for Applied Archaeology and Heritage Management (CAAHM, <http://www.winchester.ac.uk/academic-departments/archaeology/research/centre-for-applied-archaeology-and-heritage-management>) specifically to disseminate developments in cultural resource management (CRM).
- Development of new techniques with a CRM potential [e.g. an English Heritage-sponsored project to develop a methodology for using the <sup>137</sup>Cs radioisotope tracer as a means of measuring erosion of archaeological sites (Wilkinson et al. 2005)].
- Active involvement with the Institute for Archaeology (IfA), the professional body for UK archaeologists – the Department of Archaeology (together with its ARCA consultancy) became only the second academic body to become a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) with the IfA following an inspection visit in 2009 (<http://www.archaeologists.net/ro?status=1&title=University+of+Winchester>).
- Expansion of the Unit's ARCA consultancy (launched in 2005) (<http://www.arcauk.com>) to undertake specialist geoarchaeological, geophysics and geomatics work on CRM projects.

The approach throughout has been to ground impact in traditional academic activities (publications, lectures etc.), but also through advice and consultancy. To this end the UoA, through successful capital bids to the University, has developed infrastructure and purchased equipment to enhance the impact of its research. For example the purchase of a GPR system (2013) and mechanical drilling equipment (since 2005) was partially prompted by a desire to develop methodologies for the archaeological investigation of deeply stratified sequences that are a particular problem in CRM. Furthermore, as outlined in both case studies, the UoA has endeavoured to involve as wide a non-HEI community as possible in its research. These developments are in full accordance with the University's Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategic Plan (available at <http://winchester.ac.uk/freedom-of-information1/public-documents>) in emphasising the need to communicate research results beyond academia and to undertake research alongside the non-HEI community.

### c. Strategy and plans

The UoA's impact strategy for REF 2014 has formalised arrangements that were in place before impact became a material consideration in research assessment. Active encouragement for such activities has been provided from the University – as stated in b. above – in the form of financial subvention or relief from other duties. Clearly impact will become of ever-greater importance and an enhanced and more formalised strategy will be implemented for the next REF cycle to better integrate impact. The UoA will seek to:

- Embed impact as an essential element of the project design (e.g. identifying and developing 'products' for end 'users'), fieldwork, analyses, publication and dissemination process;
- Ensure that significant academic publications are accompanied by 'popularisation', e.g. through articles in popular journals and via broadcast media. Roffey and Marter's work on the St Mary Magdalen site is already leading the way in this respect (see Impact Case Study 1);
- Adopt means of dissemination and impact that are continuous, cover more than one output, and do not require re-invention on each case (e.g. via the University website);
- Formalise relationships with Georgian and Barbadian partners so as to better develop archaeological training in those countries and to develop new formal links in other parts of the developing world;

**Impact template (REF3a)**

- Report results of ARCA's significant projects in peer-refereed international scientific journals;
- Further develop the ARCA consultancy as an organ for technical innovation in the investigation of deeply stratified sites via further collaboration with English Heritage and commercial partners;
- Develop all UoA staff in IT and other useful expertise in dissemination;

Maintain and develop impact in existing research projects via funding applications.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

The selected case studies are (1) Magdalen Hill Archaeology Research Project (MHARP) and (2) The Clarendon Park Project. The first of these developed from 2008 as a result of a long history of the UoA working on archaeological sites in the City of Winchester alongside bodies such as Winchester Museums Service (WMS), Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society and Winchester Archaeological Research Group. MHARP also builds on research on medieval religion previously carried out by Roffey (for details see <http://www.winchester.ac.uk/academic-departments/archaeology/people-profiles/dr-simon-roffey>) and studies on medieval Winchester conducted by Emeritus Professor James (see <http://www.winchester.ac.uk/academic-departments/archaeology/people-profiles/prof-tom-james>) as well as colleagues in the Department of History (e.g. Prof Barbara Yorke). The UoA has supported impact on MHARP financially and by making facilities available for film and radio crews to cover laboratory works. In contrast, the Clarendon Park Project is the longest running of the UoA's research projects (it commenced in 1977) and has involved the majority of UoA staff under the direction of Prof James. James and former UoA staff Christopher Gerrard and Amanda Richardson have published four books and ten articles on the project, while the research also involved several generations of Winchester students and volunteers. James and Wilkinson are currently progressing the Clarendon Project via a volunteer group, Friends of Clarendon Palace, and a new phase of topographic and remote sensing works.