

<p>Institution: The University of Huddersfield</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: 30 History</p> <p>a. Context</p> <p>Impact for our historians tends to be focused on work with the heritage sector – museums, libraries and archives – and in support to non-academic groups promoting or researching their history, or the history of their community or organisation. Historians are also involved in protection and conservation work which can have an impact on policy and more recently in working with a range of social groups, especially the socially excluded, to change perceptions through initiatives like RCUK's Connected Communities. The extension of sites for disseminating knowledge, ideas and information – through blogs, wikis, twitter and other social media – is allowing historians to comment on and influence public policy supported by their access to traditional media such as the press and broadcasting. Historians at Huddersfield are active in all of these contexts, working with a range of partners in the heritage sector from Huddersfield Local History Society to the Royal Armouries to share and promote research and develop partnerships which have helped secure external income for organisations like the Thackray Medical Museum. Through the work of Foard and Morris they are making a major impact on the British landscape while interventions by Ellis and Ward are helping to transform public attitudes to disability and race. The impact work of the department has reached a broad range of audiences, including the general public attending museums, galleries and battlefield sites, television audiences, school children, ethnic groups through participation in activities like Black History Month, members of various historical societies and a number of leisure and community groups including the cricket clubs of Kirklees and Calderdale whose history we helped to record. Our strong commitment to partnership working and the promotion of impact is reflected in our involvement in the successful AHRC BGP2 Heritage Consortium which builds on a links we have developed with a number of organisations over the last five years.</p> <p>The broad areas of involvement by the unit include work with museums, archives, conservation organisations, companies, associations and a range of social groups. The unit has a long history of working with external partners built in part upon its experience of offering a compulsory work experience programme for its students. Ward, Martin, Nicholson and others, have been involved in a variety of oral history projects arising from the formation of the Centre for Visual and Oral History in 2007. Addressing key areas of interest to the unit – sport and leisure, ethnicity, British identity - they include the 'Up and Under Rugby League Oral History Project, 'Asian Voices, First Generation', 'Two Minutes Silence' and the 'Yeoman Warders of the Tower of London'. These have been supported by a number of archive initiatives which have seen the unit and the university rescue or support community groups in preserving their records. Sport, leisure and culture have been important here, the Rugby League Project building a close relationship with the Rugby League authorities that led to the depositing of the Rugby League archives in the University archives. The deposit of the records of House of Commons Speaker, J.H. Whitley, in the University Archives and an annual J. H. Whitley lecture, built on connections developed through Laybourn, Doyle and Ward's work on early twentieth century British political identities. Doyle worked with Teesside Archives on the British Steel Archive Project and remained a member of the Advisory Board between 2008-11. The University Archives have received a grant of over £1.5m to improve access and facilitate increased cooperation with public organisations.</p> <p>Medical Historians Ellis and Doyle have worked closely with the Thackray Medical Museum, including a PhD Collaborative Doctoral Award, research deployed in exhibitions and museum events and support for their Arts Council bid to renew two of their galleries around the theme of medicine and war with Ellis contributing expertise on PTSD. Ellis is also closely involved with the South West Yorkshire Mental Health Trust on their 'Change lab' project, which will involve him delivering an exhibition at the Stanley Royd Hospital Mental Health Museum. The Arms and Armour group have close links with the Royal Armouries, supported by a partnership agreement signed in 2009, and the RAF Museum, Hendon where doctoral research part funded by the museum and supervised by Morris will enhance interpretation of the collection. Staff from all of the research groups have been working with the National Coalmining Museum to strengthen the</p>

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research aspects of their work.

Our involvement with **community groups** was strengthened significantly by a Connected Communities award which allowed us to work with more than ten local organisations submitting bids to the Heritage Lottery 'All Our Stories' call, a number of which were successful. We also have a close involvement with local history groups, such as Huddersfield Local History Society with whom we have a Memorandum of Understanding. These relationships were consolidated when **Martin** was involved in bringing together ten historical and cultural organisations to create the Luddite Link website as a gateway to information and resources about the Luddite movement in West Yorkshire. We have also been supporting the project to transcribe and publish the Wakefield Court Rolls and are developing relations with the Churches Conservation Trust. In a similar vein, **Foard** and **Morris** work closely with many heritage organisations, especially English Heritage, the Battlefields Trust and bodies in Belgium and Germany.

We have worked with a number of organisations to effect policy change. **Ward**, in particular, has been involved with one of Ed Milliband's strategy groups and has also deployed his research to aid the South Australian government; **Ellis** is involved in reshaping how mental health is perceived; **Foard**, has influenced English Heritage in their approach to conservation of battlefield sites; and **Thornton's** work on charters of Guernsey is cited in courts as the basis for legal argument on Norman law.

b. Approach to impact

Our impact work has emerged from three sources: opportunities provided by our partnership working in the undergraduate curriculum; research where impact is inherent in the methods and practices; and projects where non-academic outcomes have been built into the design. The long tradition of working with external partners to provide work experience for our students and underpin our heritage based taught modules had led to important research and impact opportunities, most significantly with the Thackray Medical Museum, Royal Armouries, local history societies and museums and developing relations with the People's History Museum and the National Co-operative Archive. As a result staff research has informed temporary and permanent exhibitions, grant applications and online dissemination projects like the Luddite Link. In the field of Arms and Armour research non-academic beneficiaries and users are inherent in the practice of research and partnership working with attendant impacts is essential for success. This is especially evident in **Foard's** work on battlefield sites with the Battlefield Trust, English Heritage and Leicestershire Council. Similarly **Morris's** involvement with Lastingham parish church and The Blackden Trust has seen him engage extensively with non-academic audiences while his collaborations with **Foard** on the battlefields at risk project will have explicit non-academic outcomes. But an increasing proportion of our research impact is built into the project from the start. Building on partnerships developed through teaching **Doyle** and **Ellis** have deployed their research for the benefit of a range of audiences at the Thackray in projects funded by Leeds City Museums, Wellcome and an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award. A Connected Communities award for **Morris** allowed he and **Ellis** to support a number of community groups in their bids to the HLF while **Ward's** part in the ESRC 'Imagine: Connecting Communities through Research' project sees him working with users and beneficiaries to ensure both societal change and a range of co-produced research outputs. We seek to sustain the impact of our research through Memoranda of Understandings, such as those with Leeds City Museums, the Royal Armouries, Colne Valley Museum and Huddersfield Local History Society and through the exchange of Visiting Fellows and Professors, including **Ellis's** visiting fellowship with SW Yorks Mental Health Trust and the University's appointment of, for example, Professor Steven Burt and Professor Rob Perks. Similar links have been forged through board memberships such as **Doyle's** role in the National Coalmining Museum's Liaison Committee and the British Steel Archive Advisory Board, and **Morris's** membership of bodies that include the board of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the North East Committee of the Heritage Lottery Fund, chairing of The Blackden Trust, and trusteeship of the York Archaeological Trust. These roles are mirrored in our International Advisory Board with a membership which includes the Chief Executive of the Historical Association (Becky Sullivan), the Head of West Yorkshire Archives Services (Teresa Nixon) and Jon Cruddas MP. The History Department has

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supported the development of impact by employing a research fellow to work with various projects in oral and community history and a lecturer in Community History as well as teaching relief to develop and manage external projects. A section of the History research budget is set aside to fund impact and partnership development and attendance at external training and dissemination events. This has been underpinned by local training events where staff with experience of successful impact shared best practice. The University has provided further financial assistance to impact activities through the Researcher Development Fund, training activities developed by the Research and Enterprise Department and by the employment of consultants, Bulletin Academic, to advise on effective public engagement, especially in community and policy activities.

c. Strategy and plans

As explained in REF5, the development of research based on partnership, co-production and impact is at the heart of our research strategy for the next five years. All new projects will be designed to incorporate non-academic beneficiaries and where possible co-production of academic and non-academic outputs will be pursued. This strategy will be integrated into every part of our academic activity, from undergraduate courses, through our masters and doctoral programmes to university and externally funded research. The key underpinnings for this strategy will come from **Ward's** Imagine project, the BGP2 Heritage Consortium, which will see us managing doctoral students in partnership with non-academic organisations, and the Heritage Lottery Fund support for the University Archive refurbishment which will open up our collections to a range of users and audiences. We will maintain existing Memoranda of Understanding with heritage and community organisations and seek to establish further arrangements and opportunities for staff to be involved with the oversight and management of partner organisations, for example through committee membership and visiting fellowships. It will work through its Advisory Body for History to secure advice about the direction of future research and to reflect the demands and interest of our partners and consumers in the use of history. The unit will continue to provide earmarked funding to develop projects with non-academic beneficiaries and sustain those underway and to encourage all staff to pursue impact activities through training, targeted teaching relief and a public engagement fellowship scheme which is currently under development. Particular attention will be paid to working with doctoral students to build a sustainable response to impact in the department.

d. Relationship to case studies

The two case studies – on Battlefields and Mental Health – stem from both the expertise of the History staff and their close relationship with partner and consumer groups. **Foard's** Battlefield study exemplifies what may be termed the organic approach to impact which is intrinsic to work in battlefield and landscape archaeology. Indeed the novelty of this research area has necessitated a close relationship with users in order to craft a new methodology for the specific identification, recording and preservation of fields of conflict. It also shares elements of its approach with the co-production at the heart of our developing work in community and welfare projects. This is emerging increasingly in the other case study of Mental Health and Heritage, led by **Ellis**. This originated in connections made through our teaching activities but has grown via user focused funding such as the CDA with Thackray and the Connected Communities project Sound Craft Vision Place which built partnerships with mental health user support groups. However, **Ellis's** work with the Stanley Royd Mental Health Museum links closely to our broad interaction with heritage sector providers which helped to shape the AHRC funding at the heart of the case study.