

<p>Institution: University of Winchester</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: D30 History</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>1.1 The research of Winchester’s historians impacts on cultural life and education locally and nationally. Historical data is processed and communicated to local historians and genealogists outside academia. They are informed of its existence, usefulness and best use, and are enabled to create knowledge (especially medieval) for themselves of high quality. Cultural heritage is enhanced and contributes to the quality of tourist experience.</p> <p>1.2 The main non-academic user groups, beneficiaries and audiences are:</p> <p>1.2.1 Local and regional historians world-wide mainly interested in Hampshire, Wessex and the southern region, yet including those interested in specific areas beyond (e.g. Forest of Dean, south Warwickshire). The Overland Trade Project creates a resource base for Southampton’s whole hinterland, mainly in Wessex, but extending beyond that to London, Coventry, and Kendal;</p> <p>1.2.2 Genealogists and family historians world-wide interested in landholders, jurors, wholesalers, retailers, and carters anywhere in England;</p> <p>1.2.3 Non-academic readers of history, such as those who read <i>BBC History Magazine</i> and <i>History Today</i>, and sub-groups interested in Richard III (<i>The Ricardian</i>), wargaming, Royalty Studies and Holocaust Studies;</p> <p>1.2.4 School children studying the Third Reich and Henry VII.</p> <p>1.2.5 Winchester’s inhabitants and tourists interested in the evolution of its townscape and buildings (the Winchester Project).</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>2.1 Longstanding national and international networks are the basis of the UoA’s impact. Winchester’s historians have published outputs in a dozen specialist fields, developing their research environment, both national and local, and disseminating their research to consumers of history beyond the academy, e.g. through public lectures, articles in popular journals, broadcasts and podcasts. Non-academics contribute to research centres, volunteer for the Victoria County History (VCH) and Winchester projects, have written in support of funding applications, and agreed to co-host collaborative doctorates (notably the Holocaust Museum, Royal Armouries).</p> <p>2.2 Before this REF cycle Winchester’s historians had embarked on four collaborative research projects, on Inquisitions <i>post mortem</i> (IPM) since 2006, the New VCH Hampshire (since 2007), Overland Trade (since 2002) and Winchester (since 1983), that now or in the future will fulfil the criteria for impact. Although three are local in content and focus, they are of much more than local (indeed national and international) reach and significance. Each project creates and makes fully accessible resources for others beyond academia to exploit, and offers representative or comparative models for historical work elsewhere. Each maximises reach through electronic media (e.g. the VCH’s <i>Explore</i> website). Whilst the IPM and Overland projects make available academic data to wider publics, the Winchester and New VCH projects coordinate research by undergraduates and adult volunteers towards creative and significant objectives. Projects in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Veterinary History, and Royalty Studies are developing.</p> <p>2.3 Latterly, when it became apparent that Impact would feature in the REF and its broad outlines, the UoA has:</p> <p>2.3.1 Developed projects designed to develop and disseminate research to the wider public principally through creating readily searchable data of value, especially to local historians and genealogists;</p> <p>2.3.2 Invested QR income in developing the Overland Trade Project, New VCH Hampshire, and the Winchester Project;</p> <p>2.3.3 Highlighted major works after publication through seeking wider dissemination of research, via articles in <i>BBC History Magazine</i>, <i>History Today</i>, <i>The Ricardian</i>, wargaming journals (etc.), and public lectures and day conferences;</p> <p>2.3.4 Contributed research information to the Department’s blog, Twitter account and Facebook page. History research also features on the University website;</p> <p>2.3.5 Developed the two research centres on Wessex and Modern History offering seminars and conferences in local and modern history;</p> <p>2.3.6 Organised day conferences directed at local audiences to consolidate and stimulate</p>

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research, publication and impact in Wessex and Rye;

2.3.7 Organised residential conferences to maximise the impact of Holocaust Studies, principally by launching the new Holocaust Society, and Royalty Studies through the Royalty Studies Network;

2.3.8 Trained VCH volunteers and published results on the *Explore* website.

c. Strategy and plans

3.1 The UoA is developing an environment conducive to impact. Current research can generate impact at future REFs, and new case studies will be developed for the next REF. The UoA's new strategy integrates impact with publication and networking, develops media and connections that are economical in staff time, and develops expertise that does not require constant re-creation. The UoA therefore seeks:

3.1.1 To make impact integral to the publication and dissemination process;

3.1.2 To ensure major outputs are popularised, e.g. via articles in popular journals and broadcasting. Lavelle and Woodacre will take the lead here;

3.1.3 To identify rapidly potential case studies for the second REF cycle and to focus staff time and resources on them. A long list, e.g. Royalty Studies and Veterinary Studies, have already been identified. Whilst excellent research is the essential foundation, certain staff will increasingly focus on impact;

3.1.4 To seek ways of dissemination and impact that are continuous, cover more than one output, and do not require re-invention in each case;

3.1.5 To focus on particular types of impact and to develop collaborative relationships with appropriate publishers etc.;

3.1.6 To develop staff in IT skills and other useful expertise for dissemination;

3.1.7 To develop new networks engaging non-academics, e.g. Royalty Studies Network, Mapping the Medieval Countryside, and Overland Trade, via electronic media (websites), and social media (Twitter, blogs, Facebook);

3.1.8 To maintain and develop existing networks through the research centres, coordination of volunteers, and social media;

3.1.9 To maintain and ideally develop existing funded projects through further funding applications;

3.1.10 To maintain and develop collaborative research, using undergraduates (Winchester Research Apprenticeship Programme) and volunteers (New VCH Hampshire), thus training future users and developing communities creatively;

3.1.11 To develop existing contacts with South Downs National Park, the Winchester Military Museums, the Holocaust Educational Trust, and Royal Armouries into joint-research studentships or other projects;

3.1.12 To further develop outreach through the two research centres and through engagement with local sixth form colleges.

d. Relationship to case studies

4.1 From a list of potential case studies the UoA selected (1) History of Wessex (2) Fifteenth-Century English History. Each has developed from the long-term engagement of the UoA with medieval history and local and regional history (and archaeology). They build on excellent outputs at previous RAEs, on existing networks, and on longstanding engagement with consumers of history in the locality. Greater staff turnover has prevented Early Modern and Modern History from demonstrating the longer-term strategic engagement needed for this first REF cycle. In several fields the impact already generated was too focused, dispersed, or immeasurable for a case study. In its choice of case studies the Department has sought to exploit collaborative projects that generate readily identifiable and measurable impacts. Each exploits longstanding on-going relationships with communities of local historians and consumers of research.

4.2 Local and Regional History has been a departmental priority since the 1970s. It has involved a high proportion of staff, and remains a key element in the University's outreach strategy (as outlined in REF 5). Eleven day conferences and 85 research seminars organised by the Wessex Centre alone have been accessed by non-academics. There is both excellent research and dissemination to draw upon. The high quality of medieval outputs was praised in RAEs 1996-2008. Recent staff changes made a medieval case study less fitting than one focused on Hicks, whose

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recent work with Holford brings research to the widest publics.

4.3 The four longstanding projects commenced are committed to web-dissemination to the widest publics as well as to excellent academic publication. The University has invested significantly in them, both financially and in staff time, which has sometimes prioritised them over the production of further excellent outputs. Internal investment in the Overland Trade Project has proved essential for the completion of the website and the compilation of the online book of the project. Investment made towards the end of this research cycle will enable the Winchester Project to fulfil its objectives in the next REF cycle.

4.4 Whilst maintaining existing networks, the Department intends developing nascent relationships into genuinely interactive engagement with new communities for the next REF.