

Impact template (REF3a)

<p>Institution: University of Stirling</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: D30 History</p>
<p>a. Context The research undertaken by History has a broad range of impacts which stem from our staff geographic/temporal concentrations, and our shared focus upon particular political and socio-economic themes, questions and methodologies. The nature of our research also impacts upon a range of non-academic users and beneficiaries. This is further shaped by Stirling's chiefly Scottish geographic and socio-economic context; but also by the cross-disciplinary, civic and practitioner approach inculcated by our participation in Stirling's Centres for Scottish Studies (CSS) and Environmental History & Policy (CEHP) and our collaboration with other Stirling units including the Schools of Applied Social Science and Biological and Environmental Sciences. We have developed and sustain a successful commercial research unit, History Tomorrow which is a key conduit for our engagement with and impact on a wide range of heritage, community and educational organisations.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact We have always fostered engagement with research issues beyond the academy with concentrated focus on impact of a cultural, continuing professional/curricular development, heritage or policy nature. Hence colleagues' participation in a wide range of NGOs, governmental advisory bodies and cultural institutions alongside the public and practitioners. For example, since 2008 on the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland, the National Archives Advisory Panel, the National Trust Bannockburn Academic Advisory Panel, the Ochils Landscape Partnership (OLP) and eight museum/archive Trusts, including the Smith Gallery in Stirling, helping to shape heritage/education, access, planning and funding agendas. Parallel good practice is demonstrated by our commitment to maximise public understanding of commissioned research in conjunction with a similar range of external bodies through free-to-access publication on-line. This complements a general facility for staff consultancy and external briefings in our declared areas of research expertise. For example, Jenkinson's study of migration to post-WW1 Britain (2010) has seen her consult on historical race issues with the BBC (<i>Mixed Race Britain</i>, broadcast Sept. 2011), the Community Foundation for Merseyside and the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights; Emeritus Professor Peden has briefed the UK Exchequer on NI/Income tax practice and the US Treasury on Keynesian policies (2011-12); Newfield's studies on pan-European medieval epizootics saw The World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine invite him to address their annual conference [9/10, Antalya, Turkey]. Stirling's on-line digital research repository STORRE complements external partner publications and is further supplemented by History's free-to-access dissemination of the research reports of <i>History Tomorrow</i> (including its embedded <i>Virtual Landscape Centre</i> to 2011).</p> <p>Researchers employed through <i>History Tomorrow</i> and the <i>Virtual Landscape Centre</i> have completed over sixty commissions (worth over £800,000 in total), ranging from investigations informing planning decisions for built heritage sites, battlefields, waste recycling and wind turbine farms; to landscape and heritage interpretation/presentation outputs, such as the Scottish Burgh Survey (with Historic Scotland), the Dalriada Project, Yorkshire Dales: Out of Oblivion – A Landscape through Time, <i>Upland Visions</i> with the Scottish Wildlife Trust, and grasslands management and snaring histories for Scottish Natural Heritage. These in-house units also contribute to production of research-led pedagogical, curricular and professional tools with a wide range of user impacts. For example, Oram, Ross and Smyth offered record-linkage, palaeography and oral history training to Prestongrange Industrial Heritage Museum, equipping a community group to undertake their own heritage development; Ross produced a report on Environmental History teaching for the Higher Education Academy (2009); Nicolson advises the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence on American history.</p> <p>The engagement outlined above represents our sustained effort and best practice model for extending the reach of our research beyond the academy. This is a key component of our overall research strategy (see REF 5) and so is supported through provision of financial resources,</p>

recognition in our workload model and our arrangements for staff development and support. Since RAE2008, however, we have also developed key platforms to enhance research impact. This has involved significant investment by the University including c.£30,000 drawn from *History Tomorrow* surpluses and a grant of c.£80,000 from the Stirling University Strategic Research and Enterprise Development Fund. This investment has been targeted on:

- Hosting symposia, workshops and proceedings publications which fund participation by non-HEI research users, practitioners, community groups and policy makers:** Between 2009 and 2011 History held free workshops and lecture series for (150+) Secondary Teachers of History, briefing them on American/British/European/Scottish historical research and resources for the revised Scottish 'curriculum for excellence'; Prestongrange IHM (2008-); 2011- workshops on record-linkage in the investigation of Great War Memorials, bringing together schools, Scotland's War, The War Memorials Trust, the British Legion, Poppy Scotland and local history societies; the proceedings of the 2008 8th World Congress of Mining History published in conjunction with Cornwall County Council, the Workers Educational Association, the World Heritage Foundation, and Cornwall and Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site; a free 2012 public lecture series on Landscape Encounters in conjunction with Stirling Smith museum showcasing such research as Mills' testing of inter-disciplinary methodologies for investigation of the environmental effects of mining at Tyndrum, Loch Lomond, and thus a model for the engagement of local groups and the Scottish Environmental Agency in policy response.
- The creation of free-to-access on-line archives and primary source editions:** *Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707* (2008, with the National Records of Scotland, 2013-, see REF3b), *Corpus of Scottish Medieval Parish Churches* (in collaboration with St Andrews University, 2009-); the *Scottish Political Archive* (2010-), in conjunction with Stirling Politics and Applied Social Science colleagues, started with a two-year archive post [Bromage] funded by an £80K Stirling Research Development grant, now extended with a £37K National Cataloguing Grants award (held with Stirling University Library's Special Collections) to catalogue and provide access to the papers of former First Minister of Scotland Jack McConnell; *Lest Scotland Forgets* (2011-); and *Forth Valley Health Board archive* (2012, awarded UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register status).
- Public exhibitions and terrestrial media commissions:** the Scottish Political Archive's *1979/1997 Referendums* exhibition with Edinburgh City and Stirling Smith museums (2012); *The Stirling Hundred* war memorials exhibition (2012-13, Stirling, Dunblane); *Medieval Roxburgh* (Tiger Aspect/C4, broadcast 2009) resulting from a 2008 public conference hosting practitioners from Historic Scotland, RCAHMS, NLS, NRS, Borders Council, Visit Scotland. Colleagues also assisted scripting/production on: *Scotland's Clans* (Mentorn/BBC, 2009); and *Scotland's Environment* (BBC, 2010-11).

Since RAE2008 our staff appointments have been carefully designed and the appointees chosen to speak to our inter-disciplinary and impact focus. This has included scholars with environmental policy/regulation expertise including heritage and energy resources and comparative international relations, political process and social policy expertise. We have been successful in securing two University of Stirling Impact Fellowships (Newfield, McLeod), designed to support talented early career scholars with high impact potential to embark on their independent research careers. We have also seconded one of our research assistants, McAlister who is a qualified Secondary school teacher, on a 50% basis as a Clackmannanshire Council Education Officer. Synergies between these appointees have cross-pollinated a number of public projects, including our Scottish Political Archive, the Ochils Landscape Partnership and several strands of the contaminated soils initiative.

We have developed networking and agenda-setting priorities to follow-up all these initiatives: these have enhanced colleagues' consultancy roles and professional/research opportunities for our own researchers and external partners. Ross has secured matched studentships and a post-doctoral placement as Stirling's component of the Ochils Landscape Partnership (2010-) overseeing 22 Third Sector and community volunteering programmes and projects to facilitate access to the natural and built heritage with Stirling/Clackmannanshire Councils and Heritage Lottery funding;

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Oram has secured heritage science studentships in conjunction with Historic Scotland which will help sustain skills and develop cross-disciplinary methodologies for heritage practitioners. This has contributed to a partnership with Forth Valley College and leading heritage employers to develop and introduce a new skills-focused BA(Hons) in Heritage and Conservation Management which attracted additional funding from the Scottish Funding Council. Our employability skills focus extends to the postgraduate arena with a new MSc in Environment, Heritage, and Policy also supported by specific additional SFC skills funding. These programmes are providing students with a foundation in the theory, practice and application of environmental history, heritage and heritage policy, developing interdisciplinary skills in the subject areas contributing to the study of the cultural and natural heritage of Scotland. This will be further developed under a Stirling-led Royal Society of Edinburgh network project researching the landscape and archaeology of Royal Assembly and Inauguration Sites across the British Isles and Northern Europe (£19K, November 2013-)

c. Strategy and plans

Our priority to 2020 will be to systematise elements outlined above, including formal inclusion of outreach and impact development in our workload model to encourage wider participation in consultancy, community engagement, policy forums and externally-funded project development. We will continue to foster a stronger culture of (on-line, free-to-access) public dissemination of our research and its value to non-HEI users, including targeted briefing papers to such bodies as <http://www.historyandpolicy.org/>. We also aim to grow our researcher capacity with firm plans in 2014-15 to recruit a researcher who will contribute to the delivery of both our new BA in Heritage and Conservation Management and MSc in Environment, Heritage and Policy, and engage with projects outlined above. Specific research projects will also be further developed concentrating on our shared expertise in cultural and environmental heritage, archival records and curriculum/CPD development: undergraduate students are now also invited to volunteer for these outreach projects. Several of the established and newer initiatives outlined above have been identified as 'flagship' projects, prioritised for internal investment but we have scope to add further recently launched projects to this group and focus development of research strands which speak directly to current public policy concerns: built heritage conservation/interpretation; community engagement; natural resource management and waste; poisoned landscapes and health and safety legislation; and ethnicity, public health and housing. To support this activity we will refine our systems for dissemination, measurement and enhancement of impact, in conjunction with wider Stirling School of Arts and Humanities and University strategies. Research impact will continue to inform our future staffing (and general QR) investment.

d. Relationship to case studies

1. *Enhancing community engagement with the historic environment*: highlights inter-connected collaborations of the CEHP, *History Tomorrow* and engaged researchers with impact upon cultural awareness, community projects, the Third Sector, heritage policy and presentation, public policy, practitioner cpd and some economic generation.
2. *Free-Access public history, policy formulation, and education: The Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707 and their analysis*: illustrates impact upon cultural awareness, legal/policy practitioners, and curriculum development globally, through a pioneering free-to-access public archival resource.