

## Impact template (REF3a)

<b>Institution:</b> Canterbury Christ Church University
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> History (30)
<p><b>a. Context</b> The main non-academic users, beneficiaries and audiences of the unit's research are members of history societies, both throughout the UK and within Kent; schools, universities, and the general public more widely, both internationally and in the UK; and authorities, institutions, organisations and communities internationally, nationally and in Kent. These include, but are not confined to: Boulogne Museum; Canterbury Archaeological Trust; Canterbury City Guides; the Democratic Unionist Party; Folkestone Town Council; Ghent University; the Higher Education Academy (<b>HEA</b>); the Historical Association (<b>HA</b>); Maidstone Museum; the National Archives; the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst; Lille 3 University; TV and radio audiences for the BBC, Meridian TV, and KentTV.com; and users of twitter and of websites showcasing the unit's research. The main types of impact relevant to the unit's research are creating and interpreting cultural capital in the form of access to and the understanding of historical resources: preserving; conserving and presenting cultural heritage; creating new audiences for and contributing to widening public access to research into cultural heritage; and the analysis, representation and interpretation of conflict within and between communities, including issues of race, counter-terrorism and national defence. These impacts relate to research undertaken within the unit into two core themes: regional history, and communities in conflict.</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b> The unit has an established track record of engagement with international, national and local users, beneficiaries and audiences predating the REF, and the unit encourages staff to be proactive in seeking to influence policy makers. Professor Hennessey was a political advisor to the Ulster Unionist Party Leader, David Trimble, before joining the unit in 1998, and his research and publications continue to inform the political agenda in Northern Ireland. Dr Wilkinson is a member of the national Magna Carta Academic/Education Committee, which includes representatives from the British Library, National Archives, History of Parliament Trust, and the Constitutional Society and which reports into the House of Lords Magna Carta 800 Committee. She is also a member of the 'Canterbury Magna Carta 800' Committee, which co-ordinates the 2015 celebrations in Canterbury and includes representatives from Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Canterbury City Council. The unit has a strong relationship with the Higher Education Academy: as Co-Convenor of <b>History UK (HE)</b> Professor Eales was a member of the <b>HEA</b> History Subject Centre Advisory Board (2008-11) and as President of the <b>HA</b>, subsequently joined the reformed <b>HEA's</b> History Forum (2011-). Both of these <b>HEA</b> bodies took strategic overviews and decisions about the teaching and learning of History in HEIs in relation to research during the census period. Eales was also a member of the Review Group for the QAA History Benchmark Statement in 2007 representing <b>History UK (HE)</b>, and is involved in the current (2013) review of the Statement. Dr Bulaitis and Dr Dalton are currently (2012-13) conducting <b>HEA</b> funded research into the transition from school into first year at university in order to develop coherent practice across the sector, and Dr Plath is a member of the <b>HEA's</b> North American History Teachers Network. The unit also actively supports the work of the <b>HA</b> and as President of the <b>HA</b> (2011-14), Eales has lectured to 20 branches including Glasgow, Swansea, and Carlisle (to July 2013), and at the <b>HA</b> annual conferences in Reading (2012) and York (2013), the last two attracting audiences of c.100, including school and university teachers from across the country. The unit has maintained continuous representation on the <b>HA</b> Canterbury Branch Committee since 1990 (Smith 1990-2002, Eales 2002-2011, Wilkinson 2011-). Up to 3 members of the unit, including postgraduates, lecture to the Canterbury branch annually, attracting audiences of between 30-60, including local school students and their teachers. Evidence about the unit's engagement with the <b>HA</b> can be found for example at <a href="http://www.history.org.uk/resources/he_resource_1172_17.html">http://www.history.org.uk/resources/he_resource_1172_17.html</a>. The unit also has strong relationships with other research users in Canterbury. During the REF period, the unit has maintained representation on the Committees of both Canterbury Cathedral Archives (Eales, Insley) and the Cathedral Library (Eales) to help in developing policies and strategies in relation to their holdings. The unit has also provided research expertise by giving public lectures on the Cathedral collections (Eales) and collaborating with the Cathedral Archives and Library on conferences (Dalton, Insley, Wilkinson) and exhibitions (Dalton, Eales, Insley, Wilkinson). Working with schools locally and nationally is also a key aspect of the unit's approach to impact and the unit organises two schools conferences with the <b>HA</b> annually. The unit has also influenced teaching</p>

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and examining nationally. Members of the unit regularly address school audiences, this includes annual events in association with the *A-Level Conference Company* in London and Leeds (audiences of 400), as well as tailor made talks for individual schools both in Kent and elsewhere. Ruane addressed examiners for the **OCR Examination Board** in July 2011 and his book *War and Revolution in Vietnam, 1930-75* (UCL Press, 1998) is regularly recommended by the **Edexcel Examination Board** as required reading for GCSE and A-level students

<http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/GCE%20New%20GCE/GCE-Bibliographies-Unit1.pdf>.

In 2012-13 Eales acted as a consultant to **Pearson/Edexcel** in the development of their new History A-level syllabus. As President of the **HA**, she has been involved in responses to the draft National Curriculum (up to age 14), including meetings with other History subject associations such as the **RHS**, with civil servants and the Minister for Education. The unit enables staff to achieve research impact with the support of the Department's Knowledge Exchange (**KE**) representative, who identifies sources of funding and opportunities for impact, and the Department's Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee, which meets termly to share information and practical advice. Members of the Department collect evidence about research impact via questionnaires, visitors' books, external partner evaluations and feedback, press reports, and website visits. The Department has an established system for mentoring new staff, which includes support for research impact. Staff involved in larger scale impact development are supported by research leave, remission from teaching and secondment (in the case of the Folkestone Peoples History Centre **FPHC**). The Department draws on central University resources to achieve impact and is supported by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities KE Committee and by the Faculty Research and KE Development Manager, who manages the distribution of funds from the Higher Education Innovation Fund (**HEIF**) through a system of faculty applications. The Department also works with the University Cultural Manager to apply for external funding and mount exhibitions. Two Heritage Lottery funded public exhibitions *Canterbury: England's Crucible 597-1603* held from 6<sup>th</sup> February-27<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and *Canterbury: 400 years of Change, 1600-2012* held from 15<sup>th</sup> November- December 2012 attracted 7,204 visitors and drew on the research of the Department's medievalists (Insley, Wilkinson) and early modernists (Eales, Hipkin). A series of children's books was published by the University in conjunction with these exhibitions and a website based on the books can be found at <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/sidney-cooper/crucible-history/home.asp> Exhibition evaluations were conducted by Maidstone Museum, and emphasised the 'clear heritage impact' achieved through 'informing the community and visitors ... of Canterbury's history, leading to a better understanding and appreciation'. In 2007-9 the unit received £18,000 from **HEIF** to develop research impact in partnership with Maidstone Museum. The first phase involved the guest curatorship by Eales of an exhibition at the Museum on the *Battle of Maidstone 1648*, held from 5<sup>th</sup> April-6<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Further **HEIF** Funding of £10,500 was received in 2010 for Dr Hitchmough to create a virtual museum of the North American artefacts in the Museum collected by the 19<sup>th</sup> century Kent explorer Julius Brenchley. The Brenchley project is a research and teaching resource for schools, colleges and universities in Britain, North America and globally <http://www.brenchleycollection.co.uk/>. The University's register of experts facilitates media contact with members of the unit, a sample of media appearances include: Hennessey on 'The Real Goldfinger' (Channel 5 - 09/07/09 – viewers 800,000), Ruane on 'The One Show' (BBC 1 - May 2010 – average viewers 5 million), Hardy on 'Digging for Britain' – presenter Alice Roberts <http://www.atownunearthed.co.uk/news/latest-news/villa-dig-on-digging-for-britain/> (BBC 2-09/09/11– viewers 4 million), Eales on 'Who Do You Think You Are' (BBC 1 - 10/10/12 – viewers 4.65 million) and Ledwidge on BBC 1 Breakfast News Today, 27 August 2012 and on 'Obamamania' on Sky News, 29 October 2012. Radio interviews include Eales in an episode on *Brilliana Harley* for 'Forbidden Families' - presenter Bettany Hughes <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00d0sj8> (BBC Radio 4 - 20/08/08 and 25/08/09), Wilkinson on 'The World at One' - in response to David Cameron's inability to translate 'Magna Carta' (BBC Radio 4 - 26/09/12 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-19746227>) and Wilkinson on *The Anarchy* on 'In Our Time' presented by Melvyn Bragg (BBC Radio 4 - broadcast twice on 01/11/12 – 2.3 million listeners). <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01nl963>

**c. Strategy and plans** In 2013-15 the Department will create two new research centres to enhance impact in the two key areas of its research. The Research Centre for Kent History and Archaeology (**RCKHA**) has developed from the Department's expertise in regional history. It will

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build on the work of the **FPHC** and on the Department's lively engagement with community history and history societies in Kent. The Department will also contribute to a Faculty based Research Centre for Race and Ethnic Studies using our expertise in international political history, communities in conflict and, in particular, the Americanists' specialisation in Red and Black Power in North America. The Department has made considerable progress in attracting increased external knowledge exchange funding in the current REF cycle. The Department plans to sustain this achievement by mentoring our early career researchers in making **KE** funding applications and in supporting such funding applications through remission from teaching. The Department will also build on its increasing expertise in the digitisation of research data and artefacts for web based audiences, as evidenced by the Brenchley project and the Henry III Fine Rolls Project. Our growing achievements in this field will be sustained by the flagship AHRC funded Magna Carta project, and by exploring new areas for digitisation with experienced research staff and with our ECRs through the mentoring system. The unit's strategy and plans for impact are informed by the Department's Research Steering Group, set up in 2012, and are overseen by the Department's Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee.

**d. Relationship to case studies** Both studies dovetail with the Department's emphasis on regional history and with plans for the **RCKHA**. The Fine Rolls study exemplifies our strategy of creating online research resources. 1. The Folkestone impact case study grew directly from the work of the **FPHC**, which responded to the public's desire to find out more about the pre-Edwardian history of Folkestone. In turn this was central to the development of the Heritage Lottery Fund supported project *A Town Unearthed: Folkestone Before 1500 (ATU)*, which incorporates broader objectives around public history, education, conservation, volunteer participation and training. The Department is now developing a follow-on project from **ATU** called 'Cornerlands', which will look at connections between East Kent and across the Channel, and to other parts of Britain and Europe between the late prehistoric period and 1500. It will centre on Dover, Folkestone and the Isle of Thanet as nodes for impact and community engagement activities, and will include further excavation of the Folkestone Roman Villa and research into relevant museum collections. 2. The Henry III Fine Rolls Project has involved the Department in the preservation and presentation of cultural capital and in widening public access to cultural heritage through the use of print and the internet. The success of the Project has provided a platform for Dr Wilkinson's role as co-investigator in the Magna Carta Project, which has received a total of £719,165 from the AHRC. This project started on 1st July 2012 and funding runs until 30 November 2013. It will create an internationally significant online database of new commentary, images, translations and research findings about Magna Carta

<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2012/05/magna-cartas-800th-anniversary.html>

The Fine Rolls case study also demonstrates the Department's impact strategy of producing digital resources and has encouraged other members of the unit to develop online resources for wider impact. This includes Hitchmough's virtual museum of the Brenchley collection at Maidstone Museum, Eales' online database of the 1641 Canterbury Poll Tax records

<http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/arts-humanities/history-and-american-studies/history/1641PollTax/Home.aspx>

and Ruane's contribution to the collaborative digitisation of the Winston Churchill Papers in Cambridge. The latter is supported by the Churchill Archives and Bloomsbury Publishing. This major project will make the papers available to a global research community and to the wider public, especially schools and university students. See <http://www.churchillarchive.com/index>