

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
IMPACT REPORT**



For awards ending on or after 1 November 2009

This Impact Report should be completed and submitted using the **grant reference** as the email subject to **reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk** on or before the due date.

Completion of this Impact Report is mandatory. It will not be possible to edit this Impact Report at a later date, as it is designed to provide a statement of the impacts of your project to date 12 months after your grant ends.

Please note that the Impact Report will only be accepted if all sections have been completed in full. If a section does not apply to you, please enter 'n/a'. Grant holders will not be eligible for further ESRC funding until the Report is accepted. (Please see Section 5 of the ESRC Research Funding Guide for details.)

Please refer to the Guidance notes when completing this Impact Report. In particular, the notes explain what the ESRC means by 'impact'.

Grant Reference	RES-000-22-2693		
Grant Title	London and the tidal Thames 1250-1550: Marine flooding, embankment and economic change		
Grant Start Date	01/03/2008	Total Amount	£99909
Grant End Date	28/02/2010	Expended:	
Grant holding Institution	University of London, Institute of Historical Research		
Grant Holder	Dr. James A. Galloway		
Grant Holder's Contact Details	Address	Email	
	Centre for Metropolitan History, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU.	jimgalloway@sas.ac.uk	
		Telephone	
		0207 862 8790	
Co-Investigators (as per project application):		Institution	

1. SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

A Please **summarise** below the scientific impact(s) your project has had. *[Max 250 words]*

The project has added to knowledge of economic and environmental change in the later middle ages, to the history of later medieval London and its region and to understanding of the impact of 'natural disasters' upon later medieval society. Specifically, it has shown how environmental change associated with marine flooding around the Thames Estuary and tidal river was crucially mediated by economic factors between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries. It has also added to understanding of the chronology of climatic change, and the incidence of storm surges in the southern North Sea area.

B Please outline the **findings and outputs** from your project which have had the scientific impact(s) outlined in 1A. *[Max 250 words]*

Analysis of quantitative and qualitative sources permitted the identification of key episodes in the environmental and economic history of the tidal Thames and Thames Estuary between the mid-thirteenth and mid-sixteenth centuries. The most serious and wide-ranging episodes of surge-related flooding affecting the Thames-side lands occurred in the 1280s, 1323-4, 1334, the mid-1370s, 1404, 1421, c.1450, 1477 and 1530, although many other less severe or more localised floods have been identified. Before the Black Death of 1349, most flood damage sustained by the reclaimed marshlands bordering the Thames was remedied fairly rapidly. Afterwards, and in particular from the mid-1370s onwards, more protracted flooding of extensive areas became common; in some cases reclaimed lands reverted to inter-tidal conditions for periods of a century or more. The lands subject to long-term flooding had formerly comprised highly-valued arable and pasture lands, many of them having strong links to the London market. The rise in labour costs and decline of prices for agrarian produce reduced their value in the aftermath of the Black Death. While some lands continued to be farmed, and their sea- and river-defences maintained, where flooding occurred, often as the direct result of a storm surge, it might no longer be economically viable to effect repairs. Landlords and tenants in such locations often chose to exploit newly developed fisheries on flooded marshes, or to harvest other semi-wild resources through fowling and the cutting of reeds or rushes. In the first half of the sixteenth century a process of recovering 'drowned marshes' was underway, but was disrupted at some locations by institutional discontinuity associated with the dissolution of monastic houses.

C Please outline **how** these impacts were achieved. *[Max 250 words]*

Impacts were achieved through publication of journal articles and a volume of working

papers, through presentations at academic conferences and workshops in London, Leeds, Copenhagen, Ghent and elsewhere, and through informal discussions and exchange of information with academics active in similar fields. A one-day conference on 'London, the Thames and Water' held in London in October 2009 brought together historians, archaeologists, geographers and representatives of heritage and natural environment agencies for a fruitful exchange of ideas.

A session on flooding in medieval and early modern Europe was organised and chaired at the Anglo American conference of historians in July 2010, with speakers from Belgium, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. This led to fruitful discussions and will be followed by a themed issue of the journal *Environment and History* to be published in 2013, which will include a paper incorporating project outputs.

Project research and outputs were also publicised through the websites of the Institute of Historical Research and the Environmental History Network for the Middle Ages.

D Please outline **who** the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can include specific academics/researchers through to broader academic groups. [Max 250 words]

Economic and environmental historians, wetland and coastal archaeologists, historical geographers.

Outputs cited in:

Kathryn Yusoff *Social Science and Humanities Climate Change Bibliography* (2010);

C. Liddy et al., 'Review of periodical articles', *Urban History* vol. 37 (2010);

P. R. Schofield, 'Review of periodical literature' in *Economic History Review* vol. 64 (2011);

D.A. Sear et al. 'Cartographic, Geophysical and Diver Surveys of the Medieval Town Site at Dunwich, Suffolk, England', *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* vol. 40 (2011);

2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

A Please **summarise** below the economic and societal impact(s) your project has had. [Max 250 words]

Impact upon understanding of historic coastal / estuarine landscape change, and the environmental and economic parameters within which decision-makers have operated in the past. The project findings are currently cited in discussion and working / consultative documents, and may in due course become incorporated into interpretative material produced by heritage bodies, and help to inform conservation and habitat restoration strategies.

B Please outline the **findings and outputs** from your project which have had the economic and societal impact(s) outlined in 2A. [Max 250 words]

The impact of storm surges upon land-use, settlement and landscape around the tidal Thames and Thames estuary; chronology of surges and other extreme weather events, as an aspect of historic climate change; cyclical nature of reclamation and flooding over the period c.1200-1550; documentary evidence of construction and abandonment of sea and river defences.

C Please outline **how** these impacts were achieved. [Max 250 words]

Research findings have been placed in publications with a wide interdisciplinary readership (*Journal of Medieval History*, *Area* and forthcoming in *Environment and History* and two edited volumes), some of which (e.g. *Area*) attract readership beyond the academic community.

A one-day conference on 'London, the Thames and Water' held in London in October 2009 brought together historians, archaeologists, geographers and representatives of heritage and natural environment agencies for a fruitful exchange of ideas. Some of the papers presented there have been published as a volume of working papers aimed at a broad readership.

Personal contacts.

D Please outline **who** the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can be at a broad societal level through to specific individuals or groups. [Max 250 words]

The draft of English Heritage's *Maritime and Marine Historic Environment Research Framework: Medieval Period Resource Assessment*, compiled by Jon Adams, Joe Flatman and Jesse Ransley, draws on project findings at several points.

Professor Stephen Rippon (University of Exeter) is incorporating references to the project's findings in his report on the Essex marshes, entitled 'Our Wetland Heritage: An Integrated Approach Towards Managing Coastal Landscapes', which is being produced in partnership with the RSPB and the Historic Environment Service of Essex County Council, as part of an AHRC knowledge transfer fellowship scheme grant.

3. UNEXPECTED AND POTENTIAL FUTURE IMPACTS

A Unexpected Impacts

Please note which, if any, of the impacts that your research has had were *unexpected* at the outset of the research, explaining where possible why you think this was the case. [Max 250 words]

n/a

B Potential Future Impacts

If you have a clear idea of the impact your research is likely to have in the future please detail these below. [Max 250 words]

A themed issue of the journal *Environment and History*, edited by the principal investigator, is due to be published in 2013. It will include a paper on the project's findings, together with papers on flooding in other European countries during the middle ages and the sixteenth century. This will make the project's findings available to a wider international audience.

4. IMPACT LIMITATIONS

A Limited scientific impact

Please state below any major scientific difficulties that have limited the scientific impact of your research. The statement should refer to an effect on *impact* rather than simply detail research difficulties. [Max 250 words]

n/a

B Limited economic and societal impact

ESRC recognises that some of the research it funds will not have an economic or societal impact in the short term. Please explain briefly below if this is the case for your project, and refer to your grant application where relevant. [Max 250 words]

n/a

C No impact to date

This project has had no impact to date

Please note that ESRC projects are evaluated on the basis of their scientific and/or economic and societal impact. Grant holders are expected to report any future impacts as they occur using the Impact Record, downloadable from the ESRC website.

If you have no impacts at this stage, please give reasons below. *[Max 250 words]*

n/a

5. DECLARATIONS

Please read the statements below. Submitting this Impact Report to reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk confirms your agreement.

- i) This Impact Report is an accurate statement of the impacts of the research project to date. All co-investigators named in the proposal to ESRC or appointed subsequently have seen and approved the Report.
- ii) Details of any subsequent impacts will be submitted via an Impact Record as they occur.

Thank you for completing this Impact Report. Your Impact Report will be considered along with your End of Award Report in the evaluation of your research.

You are now invited to complete the confidential Nominations form, which will assist with the evaluation of your project.

NOMINATIONS (CONFIDENTIAL)

In this section, you are invited to nominate the following:

- **Rapporteurs**
At least two independent reviewers who will be able to evaluate your research
- **Outputs**
Two outputs which you would like to be considered in the evaluation of your research

Any information given in this section will remain confidential, and will not be made publicly available. The information will only be seen and used by relevant ESRC staff and the rapporteurs involved in the evaluation of your research.

Please note that this section is NOT required for Seminar Series grants.

NOMINATED RAPPORTEURS

Please nominate at least two people who would be able to act as suitable, independent rapporteurs in the evaluation of your research. This should include two scientific rapporteurs and at least one (maximum two) non-academic rapporteurs if an economic and societal impact has been reported. The non-academic rapporteur should be someone who directly experienced at least one of the impacts described.

Please state the email address, full postal address, and where possible the telephone number, of each nominee.

Full name	Email address	Postal address	Telephone
Professor Maryanne Kowaleski	kowaleski@fordham.edu	Center for Medieval Studies, FMH 405 Fordham University Bronx, NY 10458, USA.	(718) 817-4655
Dr. Mark Gardiner	m.gardiner@qub.ac.uk	School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology Queen's University Belfast Belfast BT7 1NN.	(0)2890 973448

NOMINATED OUTPUTS

Please nominate a maximum of two outputs from your research which you would like to be considered as part of the evaluation.

Output type (eg journal article, book, newspaper)	Publication details (eg author name, date,, title, publisher details)	Uploaded to ESRC website? (Yes/No)

article, conference proceedings)		
Journal article	James A. Galloway, 'Storm flooding, coastal defence and land use around the Thames estuary and tidal river c.1250–1450', <i>Journal of Medieval History</i> 35 (2009), 171–188.	Yes
Volume of conference proceedings	James A. Galloway ed. <i>Tides and floods: New research on London and the tidal Thames from the middle ages to the 20th century</i> (London, 2010).	No

Please email your completed Impact Report with electronic copies of your nominated outputs to reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk, using your **grant reference number** as the email subject.