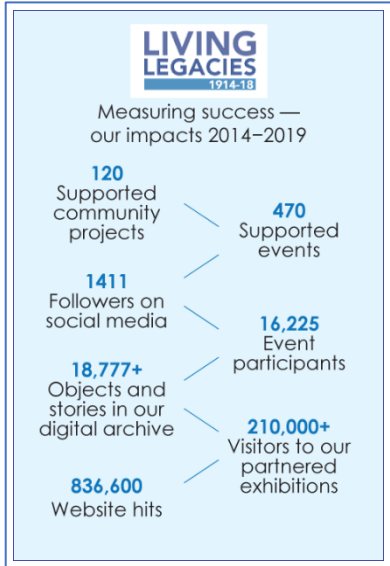


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|---|--|--|
| Institution: Queen's University Belfast | | |
| Unit of Assessment: 14 (Geography and Environmental Studies) | | |
| Title of case study: 'Living Legacies 1914-18': <i>Sharing contested heritage through digital and spatial humanities</i> | | |
| Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2014-2019 | | |
| Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit: | | |
| Name(s): | Role(s) (e.g. job title): | Period(s) employed by submitting HEI: |
| Keith D. Lilley | <i>Professor of Historical Geography</i> , Director and PI of "Living Legacies 1914-18" | 1999 – Present |
| Paul S. Ell | <i>Senior Research Fellow</i> , Director of Centre for Data Digitisation & Analysis (CDDA) and CI of "Living Legacies 1914-18" | 1993 - Present |
| Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2014-2019 | | |
| Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N | | |
| 1. Summary of the impact | | |
| <p>In 2014, the centenary of World War One (WW1) presented a significant challenge for heritage bodies and communities across the UK and Ireland, as well as a great opportunity on how to commemorate past conflict <i>inclusively</i>. Led by historical geographers at Queen's University Belfast (QUB), an AHRC-funded WW1 Engagement Centre—"Living Legacies 1914-18"—partnered with communities and institutions nationally and internationally to co-produce research sharing untold experiences of war, so enhancing inclusive cross-community understanding of contested heritage. Over six years, Living Legacies developed spatial and digital humanities tools and methods to deliver a public engagement programme that supported 120 community centenary projects in Britain and Ireland, reached 16,225 event participants, and 210,000+ exhibition visitors, as well as leveraging c.£900k for community coproduction projects between 2014-19, delivering significant policy-recognised benefits and impacts in the UK and Ireland.</p> | |  <p>LIVING LEGACIES 1914-18 Measuring success — our impacts 2014-2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 Supported community projects 470 Supported events 1411 Followers on social media 16,225 Event participants 18,777+ Objects and stories in our digital archive 210,000+ Visitors to our partnered exhibitions 836,600 Website hits |
| 2. Underpinning research | | |
| <p>In 2013, "a major call was issued by the AHRC for proposals from consortia of research organisations to support and encourage the extensive interest in exploring WW1 and its legacy among communities in the UK." In 2014, a successful bid led by Lilley and Ell created the 'Living Legacies 1914-18' WW1 Engagement Centre (EC), founded on their long track-record of published and funded research at QUB on digital and spatial humanities in historical geography, coupled with Lilley's established impact projects in cultural heritage.</p> <p>With its historical-geographical grounding, combined with an interdisciplinary approach, Living Legacies engagement was underpinned by a strong <i>spatial</i> emphasis and community coproduction projects, as well as a strong sensitivity to the importance of <i>place</i> and <i>landscape</i> in constructing and conveying cultural and social <i>identities</i>. Both drew directly on the geographical research of Lilley and Ell. To this end, as an AHRC WW1 engagement centre <u>only</u> Living Legacies was directly underpinned by geographical research, drawing on geospatial and digital techniques and methodologies which give new grounding and provide new spaces for engagement around contested heritage.</p> <p>Key research that directly shaped and guided the creation, development and delivery of Living Legacies includes, <u>first</u>, Lilley's spatial humanities research, particularly using</p> | | |

geovisualisation, digital methodologies and geospatial technologies, especially mapping as an interpretative space for exploring alternative narratives about past places, as set out by Lilley and Dean (2015) [R1]. Since 2003, Lilley successfully developed these themes through a series of AHRC-funded digital projects on **cultural heritage**, including *Mapping Medieval Chester* (2008-9) and *City Witness* (2012-14). Each of these major inter-disciplinary research projects forged strong pathways to impact, through web-GIS resources, map-based exhibitions, historical walking trails, and geospatial datasets, reaching across heritage and community sectors (e.g. medievalchester.ac.uk; medievalswansea.ac.uk/en/) [R2]. In 2018, in recognition of his leading contribution to contemporary geographical research methods, including GIS and digital mapping, the Cuthbert Peek Award was conferred on Lilley by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).

A second critical area of underpinning research for Living Legacies is QUB expertise by Ell on **digital humanities**, GIS applications and historical gazetteers and datasets, including spatial analyses specifically relating Britain and Ireland's social and historical geographies. [R3] This research drew on major collaborative projects including digitisation and ICT with government and public bodies UK and Ireland wide, through the [Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis](#) (CDDA) based in Geography at QUB. Founded in 1999 and directed by Ell, CDDA has consistently pioneered linkages between information technologies and humanities research internationally, and delivered major innovative digital projects such as *A Vision of Britain through time 1801-2001* and *Digitising Scotland*. This research shows how GIS-based analysis makes a clear contribution to our knowledge of historical geography, in particular how **historical GIS** can and is developing our knowledge of the past, and challenging orthodox historical explanations. [R3] Especially significant here is Ell's research on exploring the spatial histories of social divides in Ireland using census data and GIS. [R4]

Through these interdisciplinary projects and outputs, Lilley and Ell's combined experiences of GIS and geospatial applications in cultural heritage and digital engagements shaped and underpinned Living Legacies engagement and impacts across the Centenary period, directly enabling community researchers to co-produce digital and geospatial resources and outputs, building their field-/place-based, mapping and landscape knowledge, skills and capacity on an inclusive cross-community basis. This 'connected communities' approach was of critical importance to policy makers in the context of Living Legacies in Northern Ireland, using a contested centenary of a past conflict to bridge community divides, and lay at the heart of the research undertaken through the centre's engagement programmes between 2014-19. In 2019, these engagements were documented in a legacy web-site created for *Living Legacies 1914-18* (<http://www.livinglegacies1914-18.ac.uk/>), and the *WW1 Community Platform*, archiving digital content and objects from NLHF and AHRC WW1 EC projects (<http://ww1digitalportal.org.uk/>), both web-resources created by QUB Geography and CDDA and coordinated by Lilley and Ell.

Living Legacies drew upon both previous research and experiences gained through six years of engagement activities, and pro-actively developed new methods and tools for exploring the contested heritage of WW1, forming a basis for further research outputs focusing on historical-geographical approaches in community mapping and heritage engagement. [R5, R6]. This research arising *through* Living Legacies engagement has itself thus furthered geographical debates on 'citizen cartography', participatory GIS and 'inclusive heritage'. This iterative research>impact>research process reflects the recursive nature of Living Legacies 'engaged research' between 2014 and 2020, drawing on previous research by Lilley for developing public engagement and participation programmes for the centre activities, and then feeding this *back* into an international research agenda through collaborative published outputs.

3. References to the research

[R1] Lilley K D and Dean G (2015) 'A silent witness? Medieval urban landscapes and unfolding their mapping histories', *Journal of Medieval History* 41(3), 273-291.

DOI 10.1080/03044181.2015.1048094

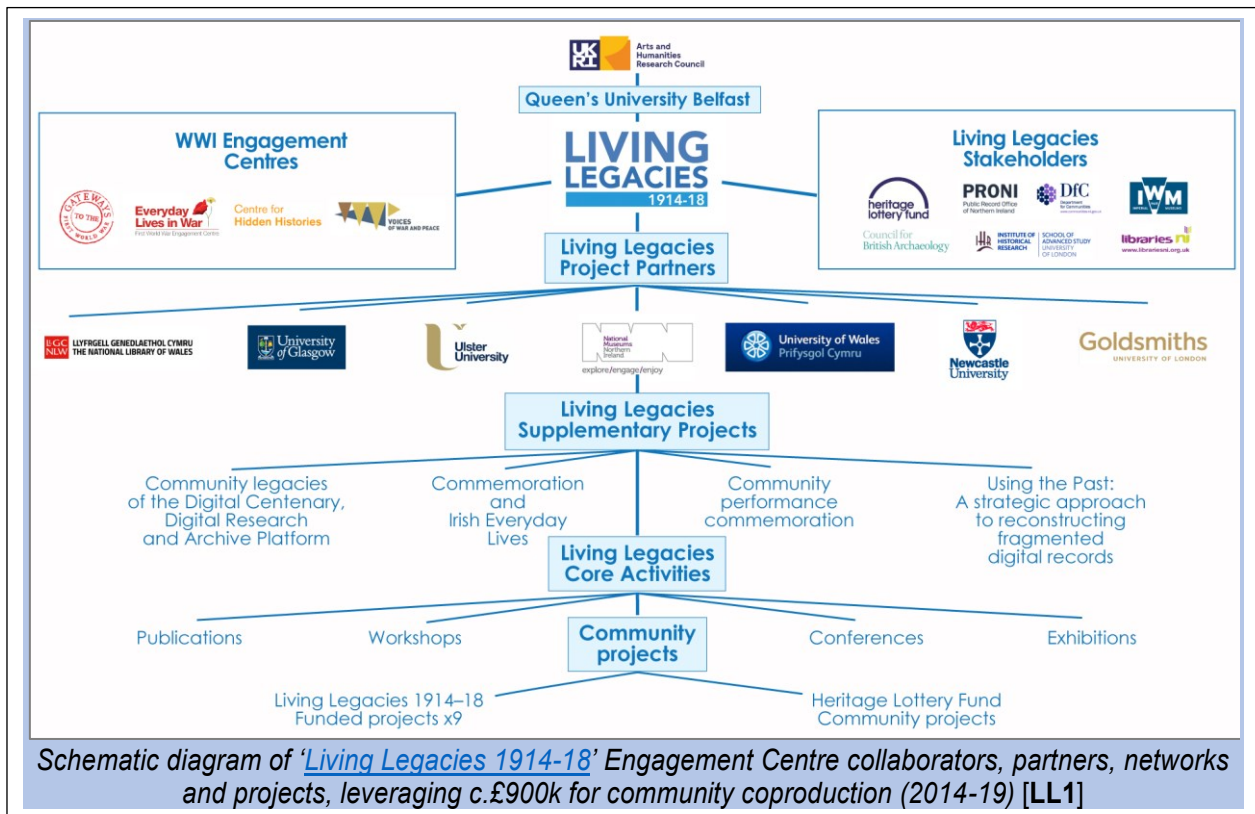
[R2] Lilley K D (2011) 'Digital cartographies and medieval geographies', in Daniels S, DeLyser D, Ketchum J & Richardson D (eds.) *Envisioning Landscapes, Making Worlds. Geography and the Humanities* (London: Taylor and Francis), 25-33.

[R3] Gregory I and Ell P S (2007) *Historical GIS: Technologies, methodologies and scholarship* (Cambridge: CUP).

[R4] Gregory I N, Cunningham N A, **Eil P S**, Lloyd C D & Shuttleworth I G (2013) *Troubled Geographies: A Spatial History of Religion and Society in Ireland* (Bloomington: Indiana UP).
 [R5] **Lilley K D** (2017) ‘Commemorative cartographies, citizen cartographers and WW1 community engagement’, in Wallis J and Harvey D (eds), *Commemorative Spaces of the First World War: Historical Geographies at the Centenary* (London: Routledge), 115-134.
 [R6] Tracey R and **Lilley K D** (2020) ‘Inclusive heritage, conflict commemoration and the Centenary of World War One in Northern Ireland’, in O’Reilly G. (ed.) *Places of Memory and Legacies in an Age of Insecurities and Globalization* (New York: Springer International), 415-36. DOI 10.1007/978-3-030-60982-5_19

4. Details of the impact

Over the period 2014-19, a team of 21 ‘Living Legacies’ EC researchers led by Lilley and Eil created a set of geographical and geospatial tools, methods and approaches to address community groups and projects needs and interests in commemorating the Centenary of WW1 in new and meaningful ways. Funded through the UKRI AHRC (£1.7m), Living Legacies centre researchers collaborated nationally and internationally across research, community, heritage and policy sectors, resulting in highly successful outcomes and impacts for the funder, the results and impacts of which were summarised by the AHRC’s 2020 policy report, “Relationship Brokering: Reflections on Community Engagement from AHRC’s World War One Engagement Centres”, and a series of linked stakeholder and policy events in 2019 around the UK [LL1].



❖ **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY UPSKILLING THROUGH DIGITAL AND SPATIAL HUMANITIES:**

Through **120 community projects** and **470 supported events**, and focusing on digitally exploring, visualising and recording the legacies of WW1 in localities and landscapes, Living Legacies community engagement (archived at livinglegacies1914-18.ac.uk) resulted in significant **impacts for key UK agencies, bodies and organisations** leading WW1 Centenary programmes:

1. Living Legacies was established as part of a AHRC-NLHF strategic partnership, created in 2014. Working collaboratively with community groups UK-wide, our digital and place-based projects and programmes impacted on the successful delivery and reach of the £94 million Heritage Lottery Fund (now **National Lottery Heritage Fund**) community centenary objectives creating 1,900 WW1 projects across the UK, within which NLHF commended how:

“Living Legacies has been central to helping the National Lottery Heritage Fund achieve the aims of its strategic partnership with AHRC to support First World War Centenary projects to increase public understanding of the war...” [LL2]

2. A series of UK-wide community-based research and upskilling workshops on landscapes, web-GIS and field-survey were developed and delivered by Living Legacies as part of the **Council for British Archaeology’s** (CBA) major “Home Front Legacy” (HFL) Centenary crowdsourcing project, recording 5,660 WW1 heritage sites right across the UK in partnership with **Historic England**, with the result that:

“The range of things we [CBA] could offer at the workshops increased because of collaborating with Living Legacies – we were able to give a much broader range of skills development... to develop projects... to provide advice on fieldwork... at sites, identifying sites and recording them – all of those skills can be taken on to be used in any area of heritage”. [LL3]

3. In 2018 for the major **RAF100** commemorative programme and working closely with the **Royal Air Force** in Northern Ireland, Living Legacies led and developed a digital, GIS-based toolkit (called “[Action Stations!](#)”) for engaging Air Cadet Squadrons and young people in interpreting and recording historic airfields and aeronautical sites through using maps, aerial photographs and local fieldwork and site-recording. This collaboration had a significant impact on the efficacy of the RAF100 programme, as attested by the RAF:

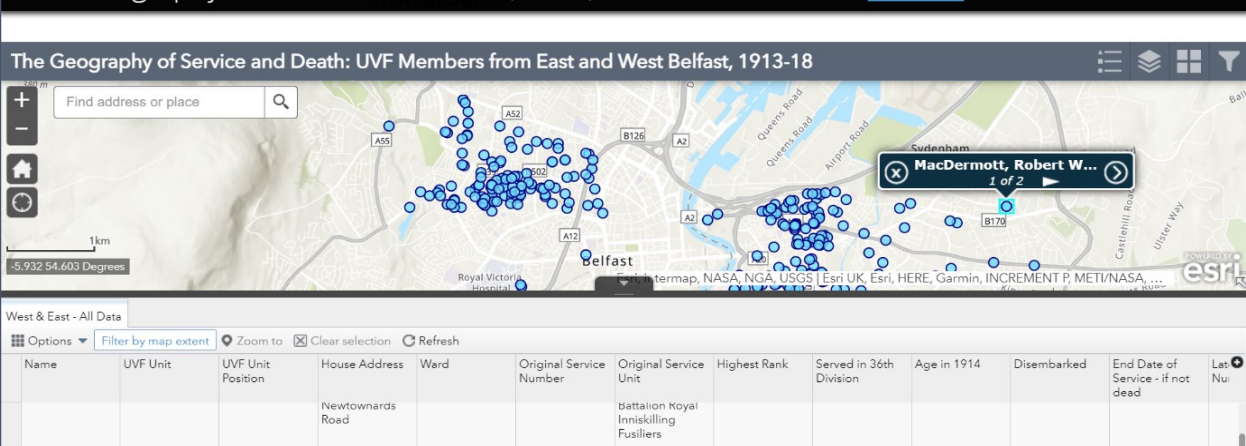
‘The work undertaken by Living Legacies has helped increase the RAF’s profile in NI and brought our history to life for a wide audience...Living Legacies’ efforts in helping to achieve these aims has been invaluable’. [LL4]

❖ **EXPLORING CONTESTED AND CONFLICT HERITAGE THROUGH DIGITAL AND SPATIAL HUMANITIES:**

The Centenary of WW1 and especially commemorating critical historical events of 1916 in Ireland had potential to heighten divisions between Nationalist and Loyalist communities, a key [policy concern](#) identified by UK and RoI governments in 2014. Living Legacies researchers addressed this directly through creating an outreach programme built around digital and spatial technologies to work with NI local communities to explore WW1 through ‘sharing heritage’, with significant impacts highlighted by the **Royal Geographical Society [LL5]**.

Cross-community research impacts in NI focusing on sharing WW1 heritage involved a close collaboration with **National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI)** creating the “Remembering 1916” exhibition in 2016 [LL6], and the NI “**Decade of Centenaries**” programme [LL7], as well as leveraging and supporting a series of cross-community NLHF-funded WW1 Centenary inclusive heritage projects in NI, including Shankill Area Social History group (£10k), “Battlebags and Blimps” project with **Carrickfergus Museum** (£10k), East Belfast & the Great War (£10k), and a Peace-IV funded project with **Down County Museum** (£60k). [LL8]

The Geography of Service and Death (GoSD) Top [Interactive Map](#) [Contact Us](#) [Links](#) [How To Navigate](#)



The Geography of Service and Death: UVF Members from East and West Belfast, 1913-18

| Name | UVF Unit | UVF Unit Position | House Address | Ward | Original Service Number | Original Service Unit | Highest Rank | Served in 36th Division | Age in 1914 | Disembarked | End Date of Service - if not dead | Lat | Lon |
|------|----------|-------------------|------------------|------|-------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | Newtownards Road | | | Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers | | | | | | | |

‘The [Geography of Service and Death](#)’—A community coproduced GIS and web-map, created by collaboration between NLHF-funded East Belfast & Great War project and Shankill Area Social History group through crowdsourcing and partnership with Living Legacies researchers [LL1/LL8].

These collaborations forged deep partnerships between community groups from different backgrounds and heritage stakeholders and research bodies, with workshops, field-surveys, map and landscape analyses, led by Lilley and the Living Legacies EC team, resulting in coproduced outputs, including digital-platforms, events and exhibitions (as set out in **LL1** and summarised by project leads in reflective case-studies in **LL8**). Through exploring legacies of WW1, the impacts of this six-year programme have achieved wide recognition by NI and UK policy-makers as meaningful and significant for enhancing cross-community relations:

1. Living Legacies' impact on enhancing community relations through exploring and sharing contested heritage is commended by the **Community Relations Council (CRC)**. Funded by the **Northern Ireland Executive**, CRC was established in 1990 to lead and support change towards reconciliation, tolerance and mutual trust in Northern Ireland, and to implement the NI Executive's 'Good Relations Strategy' – [Together: Building a United Community](#). The CRC notes:

'It is in no small part down to Living Legacies that community groups and the public are coming to an understanding of the complexity of this period and that our sense of identity is becoming more permeable. In our experience communities and individuals are interested in the broader narratives, however, without assistance and expertise being made available it is difficult to make this a reality.' [**LL9**]

2. UK government recognition and endorsement of the significance of cross-community impacts of Living Legacies' in Northern Ireland is evidenced by **Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS)** in Westminster. In July 2019 a report from DCMS Select Committee outlining 'Lessons from the First World War Centenary' specifically identified "the academic engagement centre at Queen's University Belfast" in achieving this, and in commenting on the wider significance of this outreach work the UK Prime Minister's special representative for the World War One centenary, Dr Andrew Murrison MP, stated: *"It has been that Irish dimension that has been the most heartening and, for me, probably one of the most productive things that we have achieved".* [**LL10**]

5. Sources to corroborate the impact

[**LL1**] AHRC Policy Report, 'Relationship Brokering: Reflections on Community Engagement from AHRC's World War One Engagement Centres' / *Living Legacies 1914-18 Report* (2020)

[**LL2**] Letter from Karen Brookfield, former director of the National Lottery Heritage Fund's *First World War Centenary Programme* (March 2019).

[**LL3**] Council for British Archaeology and English Heritage, 'Home Front Legacy' project report, quote from interview with Claire Corkill (Development Manager, Council for British Archaeology): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6yfWfzOKVM&t=196s> [quote @13'50"] (May 2020).

[**LL4**] Letter from Tara Scott, Wing-Commander of the Royal Air Force (December 2018).

[**LL5**] Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) (2020) *Living Legacies highlights the untold story of WW1 in Northern Ireland*. (<https://www.rgs.org/geography/advocacy-and-impact/impact/livinglegacies/>).

[**LL6**] Evaluation Report, *Remembering 1916*, Ulster Museum: National Museums Northern Ireland, Belfast (2016).

[**LL7**] National Lottery Heritage Fund/Community Relations Council NI, 'Decade of Anniversaries Toolkit: Understanding Our Past, Shaping Our Future' (2018).

[**LL8**] Tracey, R & Lilley, K. (2020) 'Inclusive Heritage in Practice: Lessons from the *Living Legacies 1914-18 WW1 Public Engagement Centre*', Community Co-production Project Case Studies, with foreword by Paul Mullan (Director, NLHF Northern Ireland).

[**LL9**] Letter from Deirdre MacBride, former Cultural Diversity Programme Director, Community Relations Council Northern Ireland (June 2016).

[**LL10**] House of Commons: Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, 'Lessons from the First World War Centenary' (Thirteenth Report of Session 2017-19 – July 2019) [quote on p.9].