

REF - BUILT ENVIRONMENT PANEL – A FEW STATS

(Research quality assessment for the 4 UK higher education funding bodies, managed by the REF Team.)

- One of 36 Units of Assessment.
- ‘Deep Trawl’ of 5 years’ of full time researchers’ outputs
- 3900 Outputs from 1000+ Researchers from 45 universities
- Worth £200 Million
- Assessed by a panel of ~35



REF - BUILT ENVIRONMENT – MY OBSERVATIONS*

[* Based on reading 320 Outputs (<10% of all)]

40 papers of importance across 3 or more construction disciplines – with original & relevant insights for practice

Of these, 20+ papers offered information urgently needed by practice;

~15 ‘themes’ (some shown below)

Urban Heat Island +
Climate Change +
Design effects on
summertime
overheating

Design mitigations of
UHI +Climate
Change effects on
overheating

Atmospheric
contamination effects
on morbidity &
mortality rates

Causes of the
‘Performance Gap’

Sustainability of
Construction
Materials

Potential reuse of
contaminated soils in
the built
environment

Risk & technical
challenges of building
refurbishment
schemes

Dynamics of control
in construction
project teams



REF - BUILT ENVIRONMENT PANEL – RESULTS

4 – Star; World Leading* = 29%

3 – Star; Internationally Excellent* = 40%

(* In terms of originality, significance and rigour.)

~70% is as good as, or better than, anything anywhere!



INTERPOLATION & EXTRAPOLATION

- 800+ outputs per year from full time researchers
- Worth £40 Million!
- 500(+) 'Internationally Excellent' or 'World Leading'
- 100 of cross-disciplinary Importance
- 50 urgently needed by practice
- 25 research themes

Vital insights do not reach practice quickly, if at all.

Missed opportunity

The opportunity

Dissemination through targeted, plain language, digests

By our construction institutions?