

Scottish Archaeological Research Framework Project Manager

**The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland**

The Society was established over 230 years ago, actively supporting the study and enjoyment of Scotland’s past. Founded in 1780 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783 the Society’s purpose is “…to investigate both antiquities and natural and civil history in general, with the intention that the talents of mankind should be cultivated and that the study of natural and useful sciences should be promoted.” More than two hundred years on we continue to promote the understanding and conservation of Scotland’s historical and archaeological environment for the benefit of all. Today we are an independent charity stimulating discussion, collaboration and supporting research. Increasingly we are involved in helping to interpret the past for a contemporary audience, highlighting its relevance today. We publish high quality books, a peer reviewed journal, peer reviewed online papers, programme lectures and conferences featuring leading experts and administer prestigious grants and prizes. We also act as advocates for the heritage sector, responding to government consultations and chairing meetings and symposia. We are an independent voice for Scotland’s past and a focal point for its diverse strands.

The antiquities that Society members originally collected form the basis of the collection at the National Museum of Scotland, and were transferred to the nation in the mid nineteenth century. While the Society initially managed this collection on the nation’s behalf, it is now a wholly independent organization with continued close ties to National Museums Scotland.

The governance of the Society comprises an elected and appointed Council supported by an executive staff (currently numbering ten). Council members are Trustees of the Society and utilise appointed Committees to help them perform their duties. The Society is mainly funded by membership subscription with several thousand Fellows spread around the world, all connected through their interest in Scotland’s past. Our Strategic Plan 2016 to 2021, available on our website, includes the Society vision for the future and details the activity of the organisation.

**ScARF (Scottish Archaeological Research Framework)**

The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) reflects the current state of knowledge regarding Scotland’s past. As understanding of the past changes, so too will ScARF. It should be seen as a live document accessible online (at [www.scottishheritagehub.com](http://www.scottishheritagehub.com)) that will be constantly updated, edited and improved. The people developing ScARF are the people who use it: those who research Scotland’s past for enjoyment, employment, or frequently both.

ScARF is therefore not a routine publication as it is one that is revised from day one. It is also multi-authored and necessarily multi-disciplinary, reflecting the variety of approaches and people who conduct research into the past. ScARF is subject to an ongoing process of review. The formulation of the framework required a considerable amount of engagement from across and beyond the Scottish heritage sector, and the project and contributions were peer-reviewed during the process of creation. That work formed the basis for ScARF, and it is now open to everyone to review, improve and develop.

ScARF forms a fundamental means for the Society to provide leadership and help the sector deliver Aim 2 of Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy: Enhancing Understanding (see [www.archaeologystrategy.scot](http://www.archaeologystrategy.scot)). As part of Aim 2 ScARF is developing Regional Research Frameworks to provide a more nuanced series of research questions that reflect the particularities of archaeological research across Scotland. It is expected that these will drive changes to and be fully integrated with the national framework. ScARF is funded by Historic Environment Scotland with additional funding provided from Museums Galleries Scotland to undertake the ScARF Museums Project.

The ScARF Museums Project aims to deepen the museum sector involvement in ScARF and address shared objectives and specific regional priorities within Aberdeenshire museums services. The project also focuses on engaging new audiences with Scottish archaeology through the more detailed understanding of collections and the research questions they can generate and answer, building on the already strong support for the project within the historic environment sector. It also enables the development of a Regional Research Framework more targeted at local chronological and thematic issues that will enable museums to use ScARF and introduce a further nuanced use of the framework. Following the same model as ScARF it is expected that this will also promote greater detail flowing back to ensure the framework is up-to-date and fit-for-purpose.

Through the process of continuing to develop links between museums and ScARF we will build resilience and capacity within the museums sector, through developing knowledge, increasing collaboration, raising the profile of Scottish archaeological research and Local Authority museums’ collections, developing and sharing skills with the target audiences. ScARF is already used in a variety of ways and provides best practice for future research initiatives to utilise, and is lauded across national strategic thinking; this project aims to build on this success.

The ScARF Project Manager will line manage Anna MacQuarrie, the part-time SCARF Museums Project Officer.

**Working Environment**

The Society and ScARF offices are based in the National Museums Scotland (NMS) on Chambers Street. It is envisaged this will be the normal place of work, but the post requires travel around Scotland and further afield and some out-of-hours working. The Society operates Time-Off-In-Lieu of work undertaken outside normal working hours and flexible working that can include some home working where necessary. The offices are located up two flights of spiral stairs and are subject to NMS health and safety policies.

Staff in the Society currently comprise those delivering the Dig It! project, our own publications and the administration of the charity. Support will be provided by both the Director and the Finance Manager of the Society, and the Trustees of the organisation. The interviews will be undertaken by the Director, the current ScARF Project Manager and Barry Ferguson, a Trustee and Vice President with particular responsibility for staff matters.