

Scottish Archaeological Research Framework Project Officer

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

The Society was established over 238 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 later 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 the National Museums Scotland.

The governance of the Society comprises an elected and appointed Council supported by an executive staff (currently numbering eleven). Council members are Trustees of the Society and utilise appointed Committees to help them perform their duties. It 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 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) was designed to be the go to resource for Scottish archaeology. Originally published online in 2012, it provides a national, chronological overview of the state of knowledge about Scotland's past as well as setting out useful and relevant research questions for anyone working or interested in archaeology to use. It is multi-authored and multi-disciplinary, reflecting the variety of approaches and people who conduct research into the past.

As the understanding of the past changes, so does the ScARF. It is a live document freely accessible online (at www.scottishheritagehub.com) that is designed to be updated, edited and improved. Since the original ScARF further subject specialist research frameworks have been created including the 'Future thinking on Carved Stones' research framework – published in 2015. The people developing ScARF are the people who use it: those who research Scotland's past for enjoyment, employment, or frequently both.

As part of the Society's role in the delivery of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy Aim 2 (see www.archaeologystrategy.scot) ScARF is now updating the national picture described in 2012 by the

development of Regional Research Frameworks. These will to provide a more nuanced series of research questions that reflect the particularities of archaeological research across Scotland. The ScARF project is currently funded by Historic Environment Scotland until March 2022.

The current aims of the ScARF project are to:

1. Develop regional research frameworks to highlight differences from the national picture across the geographical regions of Scotland. More information about our work with regional research frameworks can be found [here](#)
2. Reinvigorate and update the original ScARF reports, by adding new case studies and linking to recent work, which answers or builds on original research questions.
3. Build on the work of the ScARF Museums Project (ended in March 2019) to develop the museums sector involvement in wider archaeological research
4. Involve a wider audience in the development of ScARF including new and early career researchers (see our Student Network <https://scottishheritagehub.com/content/student-network>) and local communities.

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.