

Scottish Archaeological Research Framework Project Officer

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

The Society was established over 240 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 humankind 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 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 new draft Strategic Plan 2022-2027 is currently being consulted on by the Fellowship and 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 a 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. It is multi-authored and multi-disciplinary, reflecting the variety of approaches and people who conduct research into the past. The people developing ScARF are the people who use it: those who research Scotland's past for enjoyment, employment, or frequently both. It is freely accessible online (at www.scarf.scot) and the new website launched in 2020 is designed to be updated and linked with other online research resources across the UK.

As the understanding of the past changes, so does the ScARF. Since the original ScARF further subject specialist research frameworks have been created including the 'Future thinking on Carved Stones' research framework – published in 2015. As part of the Society's role in the delivery of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy Aim 2 (www.archaeologystrategy.scot) ScARF is now updating the national picture described in 2012 by the development of a series of Regional Research Frameworks - the latest of these the [Highland Archaeological Research Framework](#) was launched online in 2021. These will 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.

The current aims of the ScARF project are to:

1. Develop and publish 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. Work with thematic research framework projects and publish them online
3. Maintain the profile of ScARF and ensure it is a widely used resource for the whole of the archaeology sector
4. Manage and upgrade the existing ScARF infrastructure, including the maintenance and development of the current web-resource as well linking Scottish research frameworks with others across the UK through a new digital platform.
5. Involve a wider audience in the development of ScARF including new and early career researchers (see our [Student Network](#)) and local communities.

Working Environment

The Society and ScARF offices are based in the National Museums Scotland (NMS) on Chambers Street, Edinburgh. The offices are located up two flights of spiral stairs and are subject to NMS health and safety policies. It is envisaged this will be the normal place of work although working from home will be necessary during the current pandemic. The post also requires travel around Scotland and further afield and some out-of-hours working for example to attend events and conferences on evenings or weekends (current activities are curtailed due to the pandemic). The Society operates Time-Off-In-Lieu of work undertaken outside normal working hours and flexible working that can include some home working where requested. Staff are encouraged to maintain a healthy working environment and there are policies to encourage this.

Currently, staff are requested to work from home where possible, in line with Scottish Government advice, with each member of staff being assessed individually. Most meetings are undertaken using Microsoft Teams and the Society also has Zoom for external meetings as required.

The ScARF team comprises a Project Manager (Dr Helen Spencer) and a Project Officer (this post), within an overall Society team of eleven and additional placements, internships and apprenticeships. The post will be part of a small supportive team helping the Society deliver on its Strategic Plan as an independent charitable organisation.