

Society of Antiquaries
of Scotland

Annual Impact Report

June 2024–May 2025



For 245 years the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland has supported the research, enjoyment and protection of Scotland's past. Today, we are Scotland's oldest heritage charity and learned Society with over 2,600 Fellows (members) globally.

Our charitable work is not just for academics or experts. From grassroots initiatives to national programmes, we engage communities at every level through archaeological and historical research. We are an independent voice for heritage, championing its value and relevance, and promoting its safeguarding for future generations.

Heritage can be a powerful catalyst for change. It shapes our sense of identity, brings people together, and supports wellbeing. By connecting people with the past, we can play our part in helping build a more resilient, inclusive, and connected society.

Our charitable vision is simple.

'Scotland's past is for everyone to research, share, enjoy and protect, at home and abroad.'

www.socantscot.org

Every year we need to raise £1 million to continue our work across communities in Scotland and we are indebted to our Fellows, funders and sponsors who have supported us over the past 12 months.

Together we have kept Scotland's past alive and with your support, we will continue to help secure its future.



Our Impact: June 2024–May 2025

Financial Impact

- **£918,887** spent on charitable activities

Broadcast, Print & Digital Media

Overall, our work generated an estimated **5.2 million** impressions, significantly increasing our visibility and engagement.

- Extensive coverage of our charitable work in leading media included the BBC, STV, *The Scotsman*, and *The Herald*. The total audience reach is estimated at over **2.4 million**

Publications

- **11,300+** free e-book downloads
- **320,500+** downloads of our peer-reviewed journal, the *Proceedings*
- **43,800+** free Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports downloads

Social Media & Digital

- **27,000+** combined social media followers
- **8,300+** YouTube subscribers
- **1,300+** public e-newsletter subscribers
- **4,000+** Dig It! & ScARF e-newsletter subscribers

“

Myself and son LOVED this workshop and would love to join more!

Lectures & Events

- **8** public lectures with **463** attendees in person and **762** attendees online
- **10** online member talks attended by over **200** Fellows
- **73,500** views of recorded lectures online (40% UK, 22% USA, and 38% rest of world)
- **45** Fellows (members) took part in guided tours of Scottish archives, historic houses and libraries
- **115** people attended the 2025 Archaeological Research in Progress Conference in person

Grants & Awards

- **£37,221** funded 23 significant historical and archaeological projects
- The inaugural Audrey Henshall Legacy Fund provided a **£50,000** grant to investigate Scotland's earliest megalithic monuments

Advocacy & Safeguarding

- Provided **sector representation** to support advocacy on heritage issues in Scotland
- **Inaugural member** of the new Scottish Treasure Trove Steering Group
- **60%** of surveyed members said that their wellbeing improved after contact with the Society

Images, from top: Rock Art workshop, Culloden © ScARF; and Dendrochronology Framework © AOC Archaeology Group



Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF)

Guiding exploration of Scotland's past by highlighting priority research areas for professionals, community organisations and volunteers.

- **160,000** website views
- **Two new frameworks launched:** International Network for Contemporary Archaeology (INCA Scot) and Dendrochronology Research
- **40** pages added to the ScARF website with help from experts and community volunteers
- **250** individuals attended **6** public events in communities across Scotland

Dig It!

Increasing understanding of and engagement with Scottish archaeology.

- **169** free or low-cost archaeology events advertised
- **100,000** visitors to the Dig It! website
- **80,000** interactions with Dig It! social media
- **2.2 million** user reach for summer campaign hashtag #ScotlandDigs2024

“An incredible initiative that highlights work going on all over Scotland!”

“ScARF is one of the only archaeological resources I feel I can read and fully understand without it being too academic or condescending at all.”

Hidden Voices

- Unearthing the impact of women in Scottish archaeology – new and improved Wikipedia-entries for women in Scottish archaeology have been viewed over **74,000** times

Cover page images, from top: Archaeology promoted as part of Scotland Digs 2024 © Graeme Warren; Scottish Crannog Centre Excursion; and Innerpefferay Library and St Mary's Chapel Excursion. Both images © Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

This page, from top: Dendrochronology Framework launch, November 2024 © ScARF; and Rock Art workshop, Kirkcudbright © ScARF



About Us

Founded in 1780 the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland was formed to provide an independent forum for the study, conservation and enjoyment of Scotland's past mainly through archaeological and historical research.

The Society continues to help translate Scotland's rich heritage for wider contemporary audiences, highlighting the importance of past and new research. We do this by publishing high-quality books and peer-reviewed papers, supporting independent research with awards and grants, running public lectures and conference programmes featuring leading experts, developing innovative educational projects, and providing a home for two sector-leading archaeological research and engagement projects, the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework and Dig It!.

Our values of collaboration, opportunity, transparency, research excellence and equality are central to everything we do as a charity.

Our strategy is aligned with national and international priorities, ensuring that our work delivers local impact whilst also contributing to broader outcomes and goals, including those set out in *Scotland's Archaeology Strategy*, Scotland's strategy for the historic environment *Our Past, Our Future*, the Scottish Government's *National Outcomes*, and the UN's *Sustainable Development Goals*.

Royal Patronage was originally granted by King George III on 6 May 1783, and continues today under the patronage of His Majesty King Charles III.

We are grateful to all funders, partners and supporters:

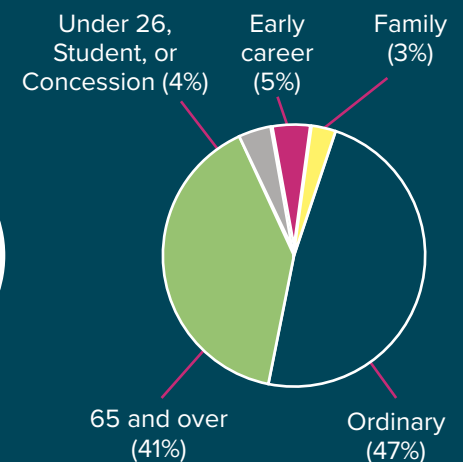
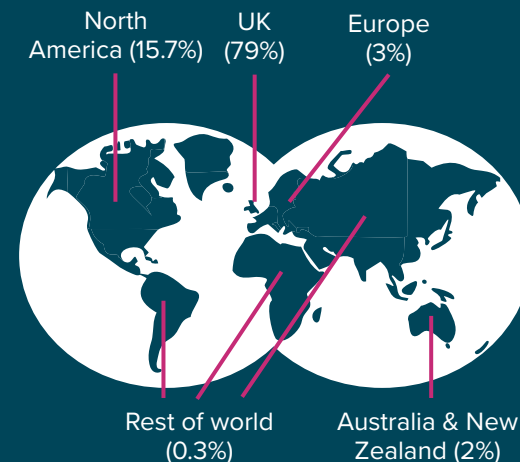
National Museums Scotland, Royal Society of Edinburgh, Forestry and Land Scotland, Archaeology Scotland, Architectural Heritage Fund, AOC Archaeology Group, GUARD Archaeology, Prehistoric Society, Scottish History Society, Headland Archaeology, Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, and SUERC, the Centre for the Isotope Sciences.

A special thanks to the Mrs M.H. McMillan Charitable Trust, Marlena Wald FSAScot MPH MLS, Dr Doug MacKie, Professor Rona Black and Elizabeth Pitts for their donations to the Society.



Our Fellowship

The Society has over 2,600 Fellows (members) globally from a diverse range of backgrounds and ages who are interested in and inspired by the study of Scotland's past.



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