

UNITED KINGDOM, Wales

This review has been checked and approved by Jenny Hall, Hon. Sec. (Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales) 8 October 2023.

Country: United Kingdom, Wales
Type: National
Name: Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales

Who has created /funded the framework?

The framework developed from a conference held by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Cymru/Wales in 2001. The original baseline data trawl was funded by Cadw (Welsh Government's historic environment service) and undertaken by the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts. All the work undertaken since then has been undertaken voluntarily or funded by the organization a contributor worked for, with some finance towards conferences, publications and website from a variety of sources including RCAHMW (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales) and Cambrian Archaeological Association.

Who owns the framework?

Until 2019 CIfA Cymru/Wales group provided the secretariat for the Research Framework, guided by a Steering Group of interested parties. In 2019, the Research Framework formed a separately constituted group, *Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales*, with a management committee and a steering group to help guide direction.

What was the process of creating the framework?

The original framework was created through various processes:

- 4 regional audits to identify existing knowledge as reflected in published sources.
- An assessment of current understanding and the development of a research agenda to identify gaps.
- Seminars held – involving all sectors of Welsh archaeology (private individuals and governmental, educational, voluntary and commercial organisations).
- Development of a national agenda for each period with themes at regional level.
- Finally creating a national strategy.

Aims and objectives of the framework

Who is it for?

Archaeologists and organisations in Wales, or working in Wales, or studying Wales. It is also for the general public.

What is it for?

So that archaeologists and organisations in Wales, and the general public can:

- appreciate the broader context or work that has been done already;
- consider the needs and opportunities for new research;
- identify collaborators and stakeholders;
- seek funding;
- promote training;
- prioritise the use of resources;
- develop future research frameworks.

Structure and content of the framework

What does it contain?

It contains a set of themes, for each of which there are:

- the original baseline documents for southeast, southwest, northeast and northwest Wales, including a bibliography and key sites.
- national documents drawn together by working groups and a coordinator.
- 2004 Theme documents
- 2009 – First Review Theme documents (Documents were returned over period 2009 -2011).
- 2014 – Second Review Theme documents (Documents were returned over period 2014-2017).
- 2021 -Third Review currently ongoing.

How is it structured?

It is arranged by theme and then reviewed on an approximate 5-year cycle

What period/themes does it cover?

2004 and 2009 Research Framework:

- Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Wales (250,000 BC - 4,000 BC)
- Neolithic and Earlier Bronze Age Wales (4,000 BC - 1,500 BC)
- Later Bronze Age and Iron Age Wales (1500 BC – AD 43)
- Roman Wales (AD 43 – AD 410)
- Early Medieval Wales (410 – 1100)
- Medieval Wales (1100 - 1539)
- Post-Medieval Wales (1539 – 1750)
- Industrial and Modern Wales (1750 – present)
- Maritime and Coastal Wales
- The Palaeoenvironment in Wales

Research Framework revised 2014 - 2017 for second review:

One updated theme

- Industrial and Modern Wales (1750 – present) / split into Later Post-Medieval and Industrial (1750 - 1899) and Modern Wales (1900 - present)

Research Framework revised 2021 for third review

- Climate Adaptation added as a theme

Outputs

Format

PDF documents on a website
Occasional publications
Accompanying Youtube videos of presentations/mini conferences

Date of publication

Main dates of publication are 2004, 2009 and 2014, with some documents being made public after each of these dates. Forthcoming late 2023/early 2024.

Where can you find it?

<https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/>