

UNITED KINGDOM, Scotland

This review has been checked and approved by Helen Spencer, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 18 December 2023.

Country: United Kingdom, Scotland
Type: National, Regional, Thematic
Name: Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF)

Who has created /funded the framework?

The ScARF was created and is managed by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (SoAS), primarily funded by Historic Environment Scotland (Scotland's historic environment lead public body).

Who owns the framework?

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (SoAS)

What was the process of creating the framework?

- A proposal was placed by SoAS with Historic Environment Scotland for funding of a national research framework in 2008.
- A Steering group was created in 2008, chaired by the president of the SoAS and project manager appointed.
- Specialist panels were convened for each chronological period (Palaeolithic & Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Medieval, Modern) and two themes – Marine & Maritime, and Science.
- Each panel met, held workshops then drafted, consulted and revised the content
- Over 350 people took part in the process
- Content and process discussed and advised on by wider steering group.
- 'Panel reports' were made open access on the ScARF website and available to download as a PDF in 2012.
- From 2016 a programme to create regional research frameworks in Scotland began with the first being launched in 2018. These are co-ordinated by SoAoS but managed and created by key partners in the regions.
- The ambition is for all regions of Scotland to have a regional research framework project underway by 2026.
- Additional thematic frameworks have been added since 2016.

Aims and objectives of the framework

Who is it for?

Anyone working or interested in Scottish Archaeology

What is it for?

It was designed to be the 'go to' resource for Scottish archaeology, one which provides an overview of the subject and also a set of useful and relevant research questions for everyone to use.

Structure and content of the framework

What does it contain?

Chapters/section of what was known about the period/themes at the point of production in 2012. Questions and research themes for future work.

Since 2018 a number of regional research frameworks have been created to update and add more detail to the original national ScARF. Additional thematic research frameworks have also been added.

How is it structured?

The original ScARF was structured both chronologically and thematically. Each section is structured differently depending on the main authors of the panel reports. In some the research questions are to the fore – other chapters are more discursive.

What period/themes does it cover?

1. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic
2. Neolithic
3. Chalcolithic and Bronze Age
4. Iron Age
5. Roman
6. Medieval
7. Modern
8. Science
9. Marine and Maritime

Additional Research Frameworks

In addition to the original National ScARF there are four regional frameworks all structured by chronological period, with key themes consistent throughout the chapters:

- Argyll
- Highlands
- Perth and Kinross
- South East Scotland

There are two more in production:

- Scotland's Islands
- Clyde Valley

ScARF is also home to the following thematic research frameworks:

- Scottish Network for Nineteenth century European cultures
- Boyne to Brodgar
- Antonine Wall World Heritage Site
- International Network for Contemporary Archaeology

Outputs

Format

Online, open access, wiki style website. Each section can be downloaded as a PDF.

Date of publication

ScARF 2012

Future Thinking on Carved Stones in Scotland – 2016

Regional frameworks various years from 2018-2023

Antonine Wall World Heritage 2023

Where can you find it?

National ScARF and the more recent regional and thematic frameworks available online from: www.scarf.scot