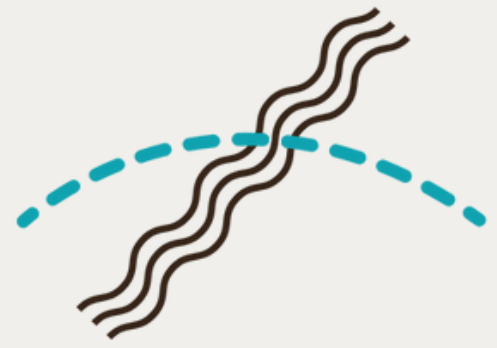# S COTTISH
A RCHAEOLOGICAL
F ORUM

25th-26th October, 2025
NICOLSON SQUARE VENUES
25 NICOLSON SQUARE, EDINBURGH, EH8 9BX

BUILDING BRIDGES: CONNECTING SCOTLAND'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

Deadline for abstract submissions: **31st July 2025**
Notification of acceptance: **31st August 2025**
Deadline for final posters: **25th September 2025**

Call for Papers

We are pleased to invite submissions for an upcoming conference centred on the theme of Building Bridges: Connecting Scotland's Archaeological Community. This conference seeks to highlight the diverse and dynamic ways in which archaeology in Scotland is evolving, emphasising collaboration, inclusivity, and global engagement.

Under the theme of 'Building Bridges' we invite contributions and hope to foster dialogue across the Scottish archaeological spectrum. By highlighting collaboration across sectors, from academic research to community projects, museums, and government bodies, we aim to foreground the work of the diverse groups within archaeology. Despite the wide range of archaeological organisations active in Scotland, challenges persist in the equitable distribution of resources, accessibility, and the often insular nature of individual communities. This year's conference aims to open a joint discussion on how we can bridge disciplinary gaps and build the future of Scottish archaeology together.

Archaeology is a product of both the humanities and the sciences. At times, we as practitioners can become highly specialised in one of these arenas (or in one particular profession), perhaps to an extent that is limiting. For this reason, therefore, we also welcome contributions from those who seek to explore archaeology's mixed intellectual ancestry.

Subject to any restrictions, we hope to have a hybrid conference, with attendees and presenters participating online and in person at the Nicolson Square Venues (2 minutes away from the University of Edinburgh's Central Campus). The conference will comprise 20-minute papers sorted into thematic panels. We are also welcoming poster submissions to feature on the SAF social media accounts and an online gallery, and to be displayed throughout the duration of the conference.

We would like to invite contributors from across the Scottish archaeological community who are involved in all aspects of researching, curating, or presenting the archaeological record to submit an abstract on the following themes:

1. Building Bridges Across Sectors: Inclusivity and Accessibility in Practice

Archaeology is inherently a collective endeavour, enriched by the contributions of diverse actors, including academics, community groups, museums, cultural heritage bodies, and government institutions. This theme invites papers that explore how collaboration across these sectors enhances archaeological research and practice, offering mutual benefits and deepening our understanding of Scotland's rich heritage.

We seek contributions that highlight innovative partnerships, showcase successful case studies, and examine the practical impacts of shared expertise and resources. This theme also emphasises the importance of inclusivity and accessibility in archaeology, focusing on strategies that ensure all of Scotland's communities see their heritage represented and have opportunities to engage in its study and preservation.

Topics of interest include, but are not restricted to:

- Innovative partnerships and collaborative initiatives that demonstrate the practical benefits of shared expertise and resources.
- Approaches to diversifying participation and amplifying underrepresented voices in archaeological research and practice.
- Tools, practices, and case studies that enhance the accessibility and public engagement of archaeological knowledge.
- Strategies for making archaeological practice more inclusive and reflective of Scotland's diverse communities.

We welcome papers that offer critical insights, share best practices, and inspire new ways of thinking about collaborative and inclusive approaches within archaeology.

2. Conversations Across Time: Engaging New Audiences with Old Stories

This theme examines how innovative approaches in archaeological theory and practice can (re)shape our understanding of Scotland's rich heritage. We invite papers that explore the transformative impact of new theoretical perspectives, methodologies, and interpretive frameworks on the ways we engage with sites, objects, and collections. We are particularly interested in case studies and theoretical discussions that challenge traditional narratives, offering fresh insights into key periods and themes within Scottish archaeology.

Contributors are encouraged to consider how interdisciplinary methods—such as art, digital media, creative storytelling, and novel interpretive strategies—can enhance the accessibility, ethical dimensions, and contemporary relevance of archaeology for diverse audiences. Additionally, we welcome submissions that highlight how advancements in archaeological theory have led to reinterpretations that deepen our understanding of Scotland's past. Such contributions should demonstrate not only how these shifts enrich academic discourse but also how they foster meaningful public engagement with heritage.

3. Archaeology Without Borders: Scotland in a Global Context

Scotland's archaeological heritage does not exist in isolation. This theme encourages exploration of Scotland's archaeological heritage within international frameworks past and present. We welcome discussions on cross-border connections, migrations, shared heritage, and comparative studies that situate Scotland within a global archaeological narrative.

We welcome contributions on:

- Studies of cultural exchanges, trade networks, or migration patterns highlighting how Scotland's archaeological record contributes to, and benefits from, global perspectives on heritage and identity.
- Comparative studies placing Scotland's archaeological record in conversation with international contexts.
- Examples of Scotland's contribution to global archaeological research and shared heritage initiatives.

4. Crossroads of Discovery: Reinterpreting Scottish Archaeology Through Technology and Interdisciplinary Approaches

This theme explores the dynamic intersections of cutting-edge technologies and interdisciplinary collaborations that are reshaping the practice of archaeology in Scotland.

We invite contributions that highlight how new methodological shifts—such as advancements in remote sensing, GIS, 3D modelling, dating techniques, and the integration of AI—are generating fresh perspectives on Scotland's past and informing its future. Equally, we seek papers that demonstrate the power of interdisciplinary partnerships, drawing on insights from environmental science, soil science, geology, history, anthropology, art, literature, and cultural studies to enrich archaeological narratives and methodologies.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- The impact of technological innovations on archaeological discovery, analysis, and interpretation.
- Collaborative projects that bridge archaeology with environmental science, particularly in addressing climate change and heritage preservation.
- Interdisciplinary approaches that integrate artistic, literary, or cultural perspectives in interpreting archaeological data.
- Case studies illustrating how partnerships with historians, anthropologists, and other disciplines are reconstructing complex narratives of Scotland's past.

By bringing together diverse methodologies and perspectives, this theme aims to showcase how the fusion of technology and/or interdisciplinary collaboration is transforming our understanding of Scotland's rich archaeological heritage.

This list is not exhaustive, and we encourage submissions on adjacent topics under the four main themes.

Abstract Submission Details and Guidelines:

We welcome abstracts for individual papers (20-minute long presentations) and posters that address these themes or related topics. Contributions should be framed to foster dialogue and collaboration within Scotland's archaeological community and beyond. We are pleased to invite both in-person and online presentations.

Please submit an abstract of no more than 250 words, along with a personal introduction, here: https://forms.gle/NZvMhSnebRpFDtUF7 by 31st July 2025.

For poster presentations, please note that authors are responsible for the printing and delivery of their posters.

If you have any questions, please contact scotarchforum@gmail.com.

We look forward to receiving your proposals and fostering meaningful conversations that connect and strengthen Scotland's archaeological community.