



FOUNDATION PERIODS OF SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC COUNTIES

Best-confirmed emergence periods based on earliest secure sheriffdom or county evidence

01

12TH CENTURY ORIGINS

Early royal sheriffdoms

- Aberdeenshire
- Angus (Forfarshire)
- Berwickshire
- Dumfriesshire
- Dunbartonshire
- East Lothian (Haddingtonshire)
- Inverness-shire
- Kincardineshire
- Lanarkshire
- Midlothian (Edinburghshire)
- Peeblesshire
- Perthshire
- Roxburghshire
- Selkirkshire
- Stirlingshire
- West Lothian (Linlithgowshire)

02

13TH CENTURY CONSOLIDATION

Later medieval development

- Ayrshire
- Banffshire
- Clackmannanshire
- Fife
- Kinross-shire
- Morayshire (Elginshire)
- Nairnshire
- Wigtownshire

03

14TH-15TH CENTURIES

Western and southern additions

Argyllshire
c.1326

Buteshire
late 14th century

Kirkcudbrightshire
1369

Renfrewshire
early 15th century

04

16TH-17TH CENTURIES

Highland, island and complex counties

Caithness
1503

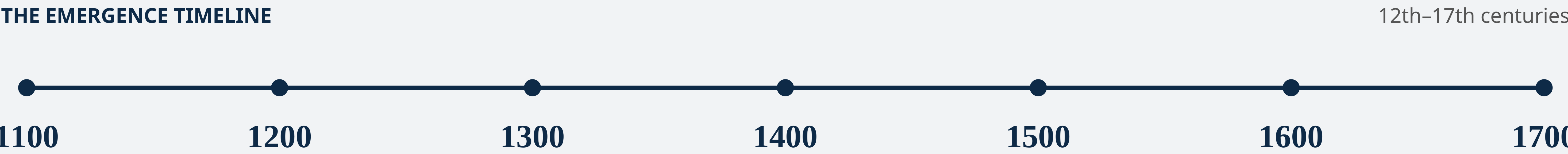
Cromartyshire
medieval core, enlarged c.1685

Orkney
1540

Ross-shire
present county from 1661

Shetland (Zetland)
1540/41

Sutherland
1633



In Scotland these are best-confirmed emergence periods, not always exact single ‘foundation dates’.