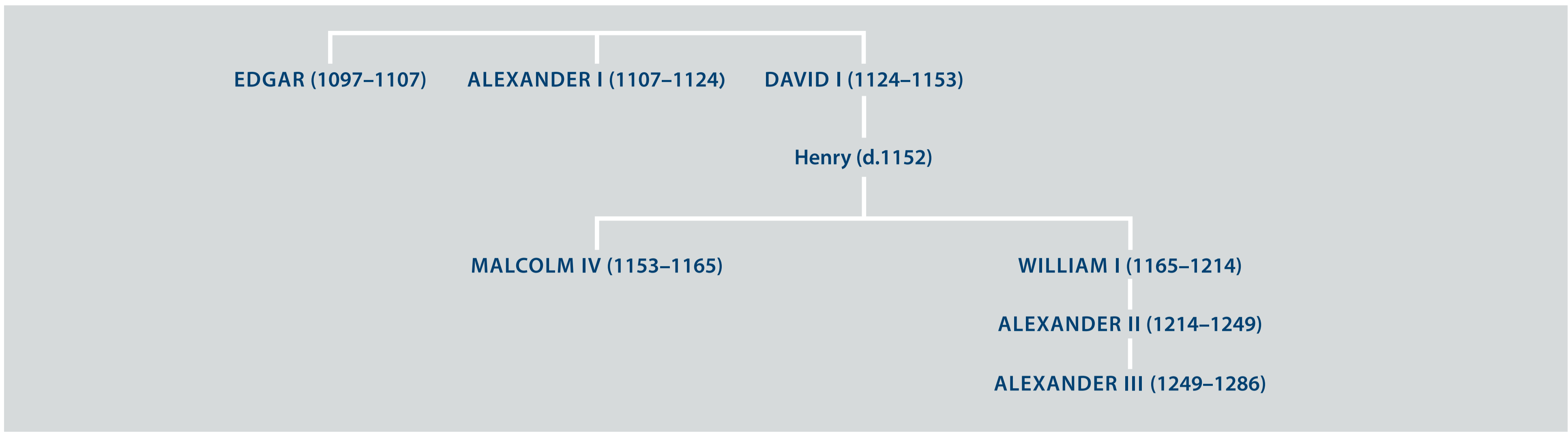


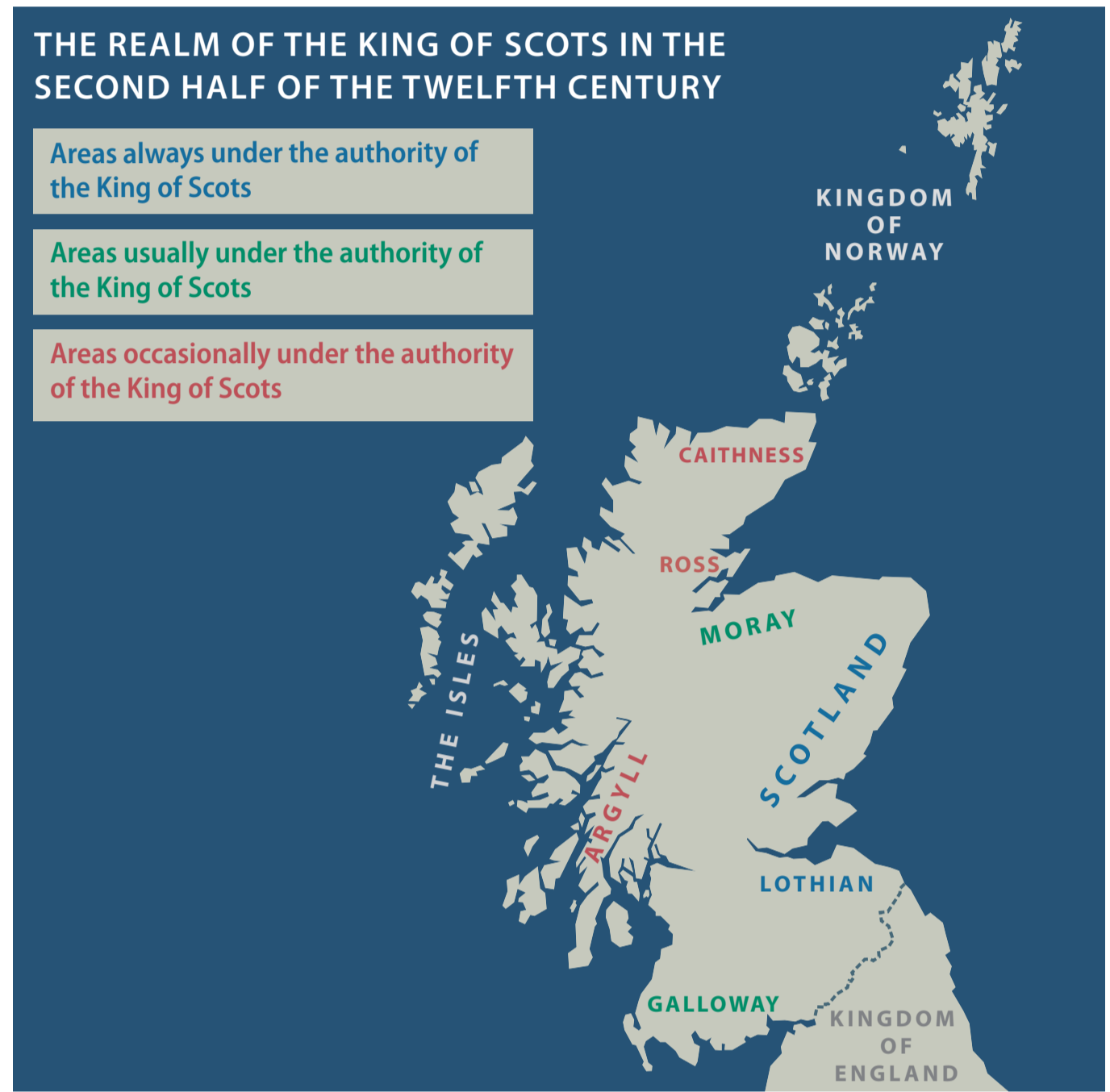
# Historical background

## KINGS OF SCOTS: 1100–1250



### SCOTLAND: A REALM OF MANY COUNTRIES

In the twelfth century, kings of Scots ruled over a realm made up of several different countries. As royal authority became increasingly institutional, a new idea emerged: the kingdom of Scotland as a single country and people.



### EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS

Europe in the twelfth century was undergoing what has been called the 'Europeanisation of Europe'. Societies were becoming more alike, and yet at the same time more self-consciously distinct as independent kingdoms of equal status.

New monasteries were part of this process of Europeanisation, inspired by a shared desire across Europe to create a more Christian society. Some formed networks, none more so than Cistercian monasteries which spread throughout Europe. At the same time, monasteries identified with their local patrons (kings, queens, lords and ladies) who supplied them with property and privileges in exchange for regular prayers.



The map shows the sequence of Cistercian foundations from Cîteaux to Melrose, founded by King David I in 1136.

