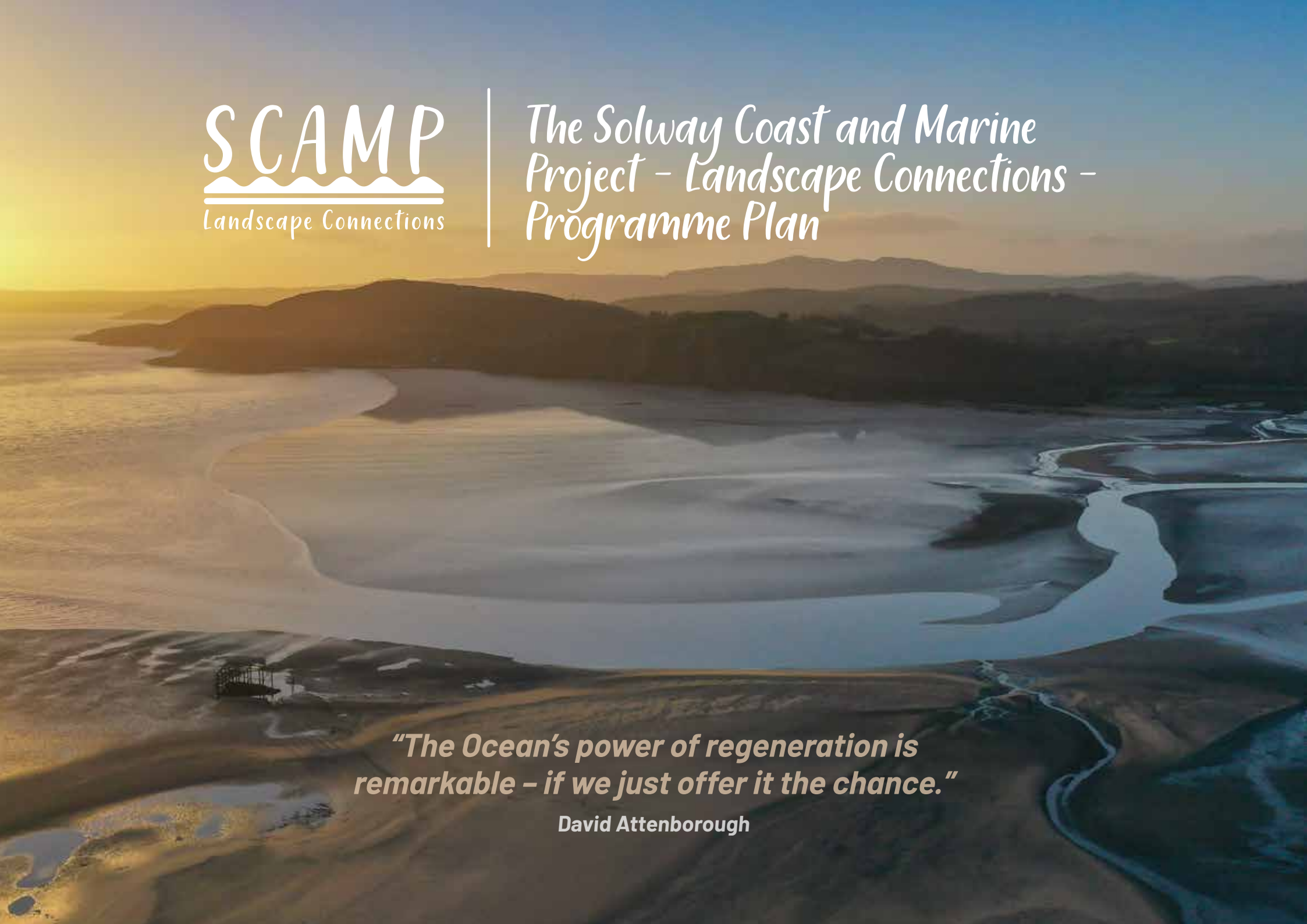
SCAMP
Landscape Connections

The Solway Coast and Marine Project - Landscape Connections - Programme Plan



"The Ocean's power of regeneration is remarkable – if we just offer it the chance."

David Attenborough

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The Solway

The Solway Firth is one of the largest estuaries in Europe and one of the most important in Britain. The amazing seascape is vital for people and a nature superhighway for wildlife. The Dumfries and Galloway's north Solway coastline runs for 210 miles from the shimmering sands of the inner Solway to the distinctive Stewartry and Wigtownshire coasts, and Scotland's most southerly point, the Mull of Galloway. The Firth has shaped the history, economy, art and culture of Scotland, as a gateway to the world and a rich natural resource, however its diverse habitats are fragmented and inaccessible for both communities and nature.

Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP) Landscape Connections

SCAMP is an ambitious coastal and marine nature restoration project that seeks to restore the coastal and shallow sea habitats of the North Solway, covering the entire Dumfries and Galloway coastline from Gretna around to the Rhins of Galloway, working with local people, sustaining the economy and delivering health and wellbeing outcomes.

The Journey So Far

SCAMP is one of the most ambitious coastal conservation projects to be undertaken by a local authority and partners, the scale and longevity of the programme has been carefully planned, it has been four years in the making, four essential years to make sure everything is underpinned by sustainable principles.

Working with multiple partners and funding agencies to ensure we can confidently deliver positive outcomes on a seascape scale that will improve the quality of key habitats, grow the coastal economy, and create the tools for community resilience to mitigate the effects of the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

The timeline below outlines the journey we have taken so far and highlights the key milestones that has enabled Dumfries and Galloway Council to develop and lead a strong and inclusive partnership project over the next ten years, delivering for our communities and nature.

Made possible with Heritage Fund

2020

Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Natural Capital pilots identified.

South of Scotland selected by Scottish Government for a Regional Land Use Pilot

2021 – 2023

Early development and baseline work undertaken with Solway Firth Partnership

Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal natural capital pilot development

2022 – 2023

Saltmarsh opportunity mapping & Seagrass intertidal survey completed. Native Oyster survey in Loch Ryan undertaken

2023

Borderlands approve Natural Capital programme business case, SCAMP pilot business case developed and submitted to Scottish & UK governments

2023 – 2024

SCAMP successful in two 'Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland' projects to investigate the opportunities for involving nature finance to help fund the SCAMP ambitions and how we gain community benefits from this investment

2024

SOSE invests £200,000 from the Natural Capital Innovation Zone Fund into remote water quality data collection in Loch Ryan

2024-2025

2025 SCAMP secures £1.4million National Lottery heritage Fund landscape Connections programme to take forward plans expected to secure further funding of up to £6.4million

Investment Paving the Way

To understand the complexities and interrelationships of the Solway Coast and Marine project and its potential scale, we would require dedicated research and development beyond the capacity of DGC and our regional partner the Solway Firth Partnership (SFP). We were fortunate to gain some early funding from Crown Estate Scotland (CES) and South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) to employ a project officer for a year to do research and regional and national networking. This early work set the basis for the Borderlands bid and the early development of the wider SCAMP. Since then, we have managed to secure funding from a variety of sources to undertake specific survey work where there were obvious, significant gaps in our understanding of key habitats.

Seagrass

We have undertaken an intertidal seagrass survey in conjunction with NatureScot which was the first comprehensive spatial and conditions survey ever undertaken in the Solway and the first locational check in over 20 years.

We have trialled sub tidal seagrass surveying by drone but found the turbid waters of the Solway not always conducive to this method.

Saltmarsh

Dumfries and Galloway has 25% of Scotland's saltmarsh.

Through our early development work we had come to appreciate the significance of the Solway's saltmarsh and the potential impact of climate change on this vital habitat. If no opportunities are created for inland migration of saltmarsh we might lose a substantial portion of our saltmarsh over the next 50 – 100 years with the subsequent impact on wildlife and the security of our coastal communities. We therefore commissioned a 'Saltmarsh Opportunity Mapping Report' which has identified where the natural landform gives the best opportunity to address this coastal squeeze.

Native oysters

The significance of the unique Loch Ryan native oyster beds became clear, together with the cultural significance to the community of Stranraer.

To better understand the health of the oyster beds and the associated habitat and biodiversity they foster we commissioned Herriot Watt University to undertake a stock assessment and biodiversity audit of Loch Ryan. We trialled an underwater camera survey to identify and map sub tidal seagrass beds and to look for remnants of the once vast oyster beds in the Solway, fished out in the 19th century. This work has given us a better understanding of some of the most challenging habitats to evaluate but also identified the need for further baseline data and the need to repeat surveys in order to understand trends and impact of interventions or threats.

The Solway Coast and Marine Project Programme Plan

SCAMP Landscape Connections

Data and surveys

From the outset of our Borderlands natural capital work, we understood the importance of data to aid understanding and protect our natural capital in the region. The work we have already undertaken, and any future work will feed into the South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre and a complementary south of Scotland natural capital data project. Good quality data also underpins potential future nature and carbon finance markets in the coast and marine environment that have started to emerge in the last few years.

Investment

For a project of this size on the Solway and the scale of funding resource required, we have been working to be 'investment ready'. We have embraced the potential of the new emerging finance markets, and from the outset had planned a Borderlands south of Scotland Natural Capital Investment pilot to be run by SOSE. This is currently in development but once up and running will feature the SCAMP project as one of the most significant and ambitious projects in the region. This will be our 'shop window' to potential investors.

Working towards securing that investment we have been successful in securing both round 1 and round 2 FIRNS (Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland) funded by NatureScot and National Lottery Heritage Fund. This investment has been vital to secure financial expertise and to allow us to start the conversation with our coastal communities about what investment in the Solway's Natural Capital could bring to them in tangible but non cash terms.

In the past year we have started to develop our wider project to complement the work we will undertake under the Borderlands programme. We have widened our partnership working with a number of local and national, not-for-profit environmental and community-based organisations, to develop programme of action for the next 10 years. There are strong themes and in the early years clear tasks to undertake, but we retain flexibility in the later years to respond to the research and learning and the opportunities which will inevitably emerge once work starts.

On top of the investment by various organisations over the past four years, SOSE has, in the past year, committed £200,000 to develop a remote water quality sensing system in Loch Ryan, building on a £600,000 investment by Borderlands 5G in a private 5G network at Stranraer Marina. During 2026 Borderlands will be investing £600,000 in a Marine Research Centre in Stranraer which will be a great asset to the project.

We hope the above preliminary work shows the genesis of the project, the significant work already done to develop the concept and the sizable investment already committed to support work in the coastal and marine environment in the north Solway. We are confident this commitment, drive and ambition will continue throughout the development and delivery of the Solway Coast and Marine Project.

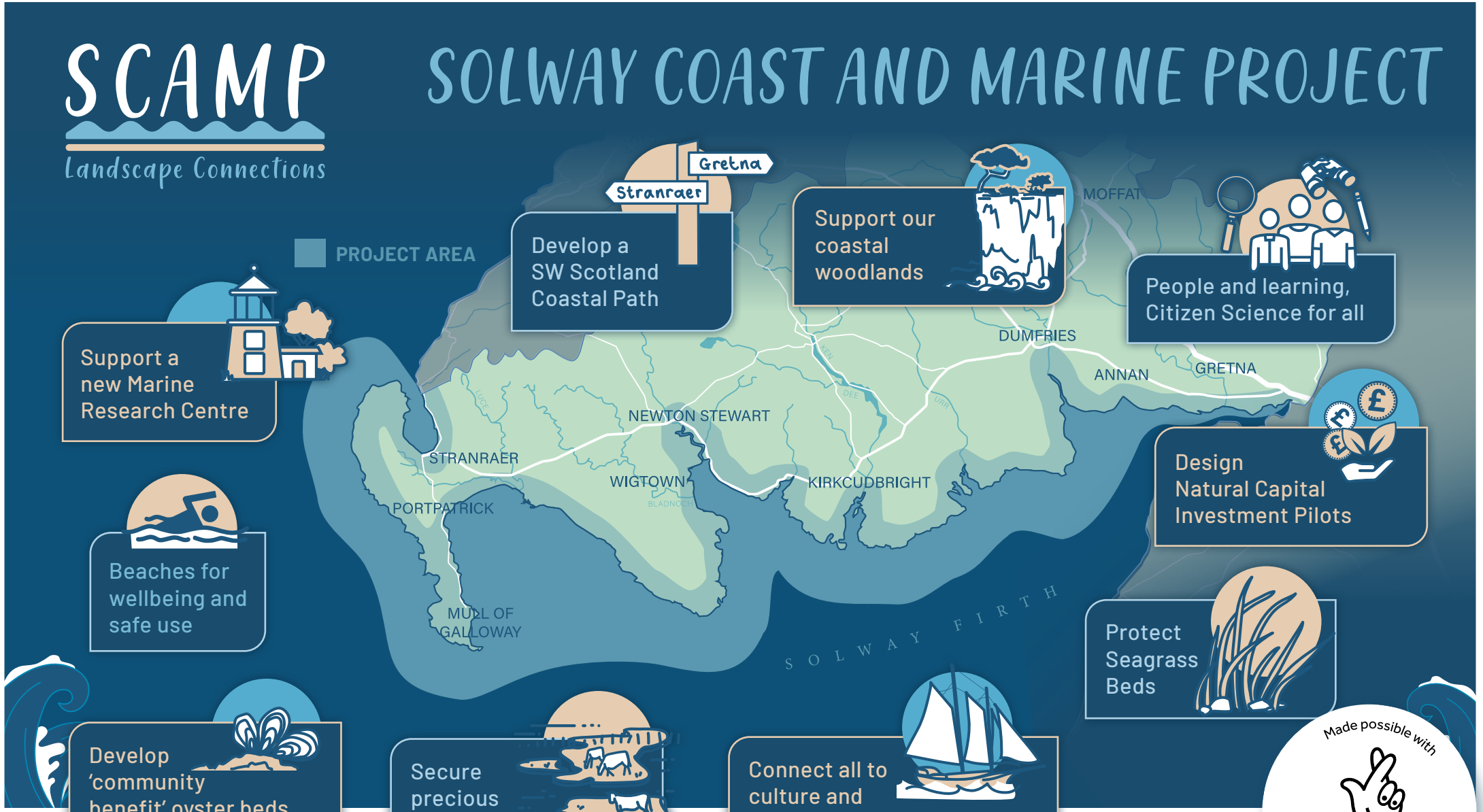
In June 2025 SCAMP – Landscape Connections was given an exciting boost, secured £1.4million of National Lottery Heritage Fund to take forward plans expected to secure further funding of up to £6.4million. This funding will ensure the SCAMP can work with partners to develop and test its project ideas ahead of the delivery stage.

For more information, please see our website,
www.solwaycoastmarine.co.uk

SCAMP

Landscape Connections

SOLWAY COAST AND MARINE PROJECT



Made possible with Heritage Fund

Dumfries and Galloway Council

The Solway Firth is one of the largest estuaries in Europe and its amazing seascape is vital for people and wildlife. The Solway Coast and Marine Project – Landscape Connections, will harness the potential of the Solway Firth to support resilient communities, drive economic activity and address the climate and nature crises.

Engagement of Communities

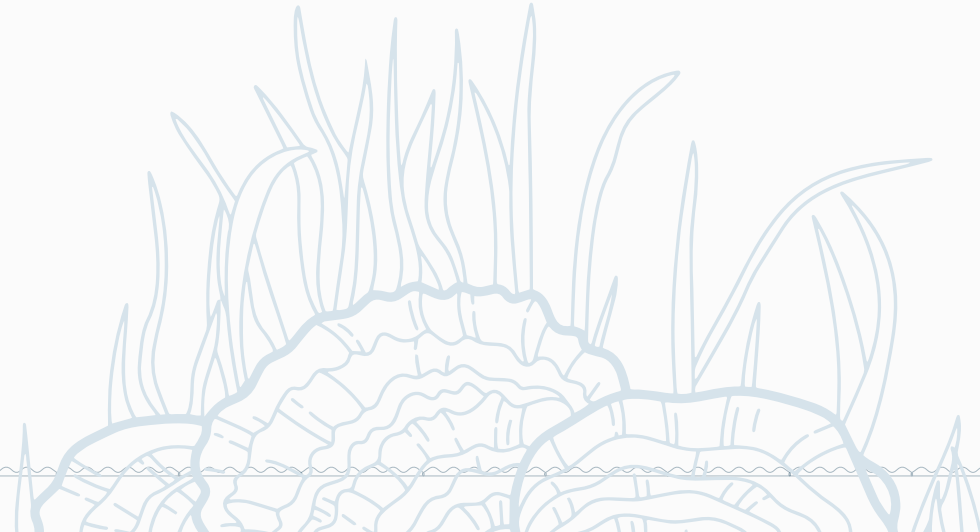
Engagement of Communities

We have been able to reach out to communities along our Solway coast and ask them how they currently engage with their coastal and marine environment, what they want for their coastal and marine environment, and how they want to be involved in SCAMP. We are grateful to FIRNS (The Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland) for supporting these conversations.

Initial engagement events took place between November 2023 and March 2024. The main message that came back was people wanted clean air, clean water and a thriving natural environment. We offered eight small grants to communities who wanted support their coastal and marine environment. These included funding film and photography work with Newton Stewart Sub Aqua Club; a study on the wellbeing benefits of salt water swimming; and biodiversity studies at Powfoot and Sandhead. We began to build up a network of "Coastodians"- people who want to help their coastal and marine environment thrive.

The next phase of engagement was a deeper dive with communities involving engagement walks, workshops, talks and picnics with a particular focus on the coastal and marine environments of Wigtown, Annan and Stranraer. We also collaborated with local festivals including Stranraer Oyster Festival and Wigtown Book Festival, running The Coastal Fringe, a series of walks and talks with experts. These aimed to explore the coastal habitats and help people understand how they work and ways to restore them for people, nature, and climate. At Annan we ran a new festival called ImMerse aimed at helping people engage with the nature, habitat and ecosystems of their local saltmarsh and river estuary. We even teamed up with The Great UK Water Blitz and the Scottish Government's Climate Week, running citizen science workshops with local people, visitors and schools, testing the health of the river Annan and building a sense of community pride in "the merse" or saltmarsh.

As part of this engagement work we commissioned a local eco filmmaker, John Wallace to create a film called "Coastodians – Charting the Future of the Solway" and "Solway Unseen" from edited footage taken by Newton Stewart Sub Aqua Club. We also commissioned "Wigtown Bay at Night" film by Colin Tennant.



Project Portfolio

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Solway Venison
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Artisans Tool Kit

Eco Arts and Culture

SEAS (Scamp Eco Art Strand)
Archaeology of the Tide

Nature Restoration

Our planet is in trouble and this is felt acutely in our coastal environments. Predicted sea level rises, oceanic acidification and warming are all risks to biodiversity and people living around our coastal zone. Healthy ecosystems can and will mitigate many of these pressures - nature already has the solutions, but we need to give a helping hand.

Habitats such as seagrass meadow and saltmarsh can lock up huge amounts of carbon and provide a rich biodiversity, rivalling that of a tropical coral reef. Seagrass can provide shelter, territory and important food for fish. On the edge, saltmarsh can protect inland communities against storm surges and coastal woodland locks up carbon and cools our air. Connected healthy habitats can work together to provide an eco-system service that helps sustain coastal living for all species of life.

Bring Back the Native Oysters

Lead organization: Solway Firth Partnership (SFP).

Loch Ryan has the last wild native oyster fishery in Scotland. The native oyster population in Loch Ryan is well established and sustainably fished. However there used to be a large oyster fishery in both Luce Bay and Wigtown Bay. Due to overfishing in the mid-19th century the present population is either tiny or completely expurgated.

SCAMP will re-establish native oyster reefs in the Solway. In the development stage we will investigate where the best locations for the re-introduction of oysters are through opportunity mapping. We will also investigate innovative community-based approaches for small scale hatcheries and the collection of spat. The project 'Innovation in Coastal Restoration' will help us identify appropriate large-scale techniques to restore as much of the oyster reef as we can. Working with contractors our aim is to create around 10ha of reef per annum. It is assumed that the techniques will be a mixture of encouraging the expansion of existing beds, translocation of clean native oysters from elsewhere and the use of mini hatcheries.

Solway Firth Partnership

Seagrass Meadowlands

Lead organisation: Solway Firth Partnership (SFP).

Sub tidal seagrass is a habitat that we need to investigate further. Where are the sub tidal seagrass meadows across the Solway, and how are they impacted by the dynamic changing estuaries and changing climate? In order to understand the current distribution of seagrass around the Solway we plan to investigate the known habitat requirements and the current distribution of sub tidal seagrass in Wigtown Bay, Luce Bay and Loch Ryan.

At development stage we will pull together existing data and supplement it with new data collected in SCAMP. This will allow us to produce a hierarchal opportunities map for the restoration of seagrass which will inform the delivery stage of our seagrass restoration project.

In development we will construct and trial a community seagrass nursery. This will inform a larger scale seagrass nursery plan across the whole project area, giving us a resource of locally sourced plant material for restoration. We will learn from work SFP are doing with Edinburgh University on developing improved seagrass propagation techniques.

Solway Firth Partnership

Innovation in Marine Restoration

Lead organisation: Solway Firth Partnership (SFP).

This is a theme that is critical to the success of SCAMP. Experimental testing of techniques, survey work and marine research will be housed at a new purpose-built marine centre at Stranraer Marina. This centre will also showcase all of SCAMPs innovations in nature restoration across the Solway and act as a hub to the whole scheme. By bringing together known restoration techniques across habitats, people will be able to see restoration working on a large seascape scale.

Through SCAMP nature restoration projects, the team at the new marine research centre will see the blue carbon and biodiversity potential of the work, creating sustainability beyond the lifetime of SCAMP.

Solway Firth Partnership

Seabed Studies, Recording Biodiversity

Lead organisation: SCAMP Core Team.

The seabed is generally understudied and recorded. For subtidal sea grass and oyster reefs it is important to understand where they are and what condition they are in. This is essential for creating the opportunity maps which will inform the restoration of these habitats.

In the development stage we will combine efforts, through core staff, volunteers and specialist divers (from the Newton Stewart Sub Aqua Club and The Captain Paul Watson Foundation), and begin gathering further baseline information. The baseline will become the foundation of the long-term monitoring plan, with a scheme Biodiversity Monitoring Plan undertaken in the first two years of delivery.

Environment DNA (eDNA) has the potential to be an important tool for understanding biodiversity in the marine environment. We will investigate how it can be used to monitor change in the project areas.

Coastal Fish

Lead organisation: Galloway Fisheries Trust.

It is often stated that saltmarsh is an important area for juvenile fish species, including many commercially important ones such as the European Seabass (Dicetrachus labrax). There has been very limited research and monitoring on the various coastal habitats of the Solway fish, indeed this area is very poorly researched throughout the UK. We will fill this gap in knowledge with comprehensive fisheries surveys in the intertidal zones, a small amount of preliminary work has already been undertaken that has yielded positive results.

These coastal habitats include the unique and essential saltmarshes, which are an important bridge between terrestrial marshes and the salinity of the sea. The location and situation of saltmarsh lend to a diverse ecosystem exploited by various species for food, shelter, nursery areas for juvenile fish.

It is important to generate baseline fish population data for the key coastal habitats around the Solway to inform restoration efforts and allow monitoring to occur after the restoration has been undertaken. There are lots of variables for consideration of coastal fish population data. Experimenting with techniques, timings and equipment is very important during the delivery phase. Determining the optimal techniques and timings will allow the design of a baseline data collection and inform future monitoring.

As well as generating data on coastal fish populations, there will be projects targeted at the conservation of rare and endangered fish species.

Galloway
Fisheries Trust

Recording SCAMP's Biodiversity

Lead organisation: Southern Upland Partnership through SWSEIC.

The South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC) is the Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) covering Dumfries & Galloway and Ayrshire.

Environmental records are crucial to SCAMP therefore at development stage SWSEIC will create the data bases required to store and, most importantly, disseminate to the public and NBN (National Biodiversity Network) database all of the biological records collected by the 10-year SCAMP project.

In the delivery phase, as the data is supplied by partners, it will, unless it has protected characteristics, be made available with species, type and location in an easily interrogated form on the NBM data base.

Dune Works

Lead organisation: RSPB.

The RSPB reserves associated with SCAMP are being effected by climate change and unseasonal storms. We need to understand more about how this will impact on our sand dunes now and in the future. Works will include a structured salinity survey and monitoring of freshwater features, a survey of dune geomorphology with recommendations of how best to manage dynamic change to the dunes, especially inward erosion and catastrophic flooding. We will also undertake a hydrological survey of alternative dune grassland habitats and their freshwater catchments on the reserve.

At development stage we will undertake a feasibility study to look at changing current land management, allowing the dunes to roll back inland, exploring the reduction in intensive grassland management in order to develop natural dune grassland, including extending no-fence grazing within the selected areas.

Saltmarsh Fitness

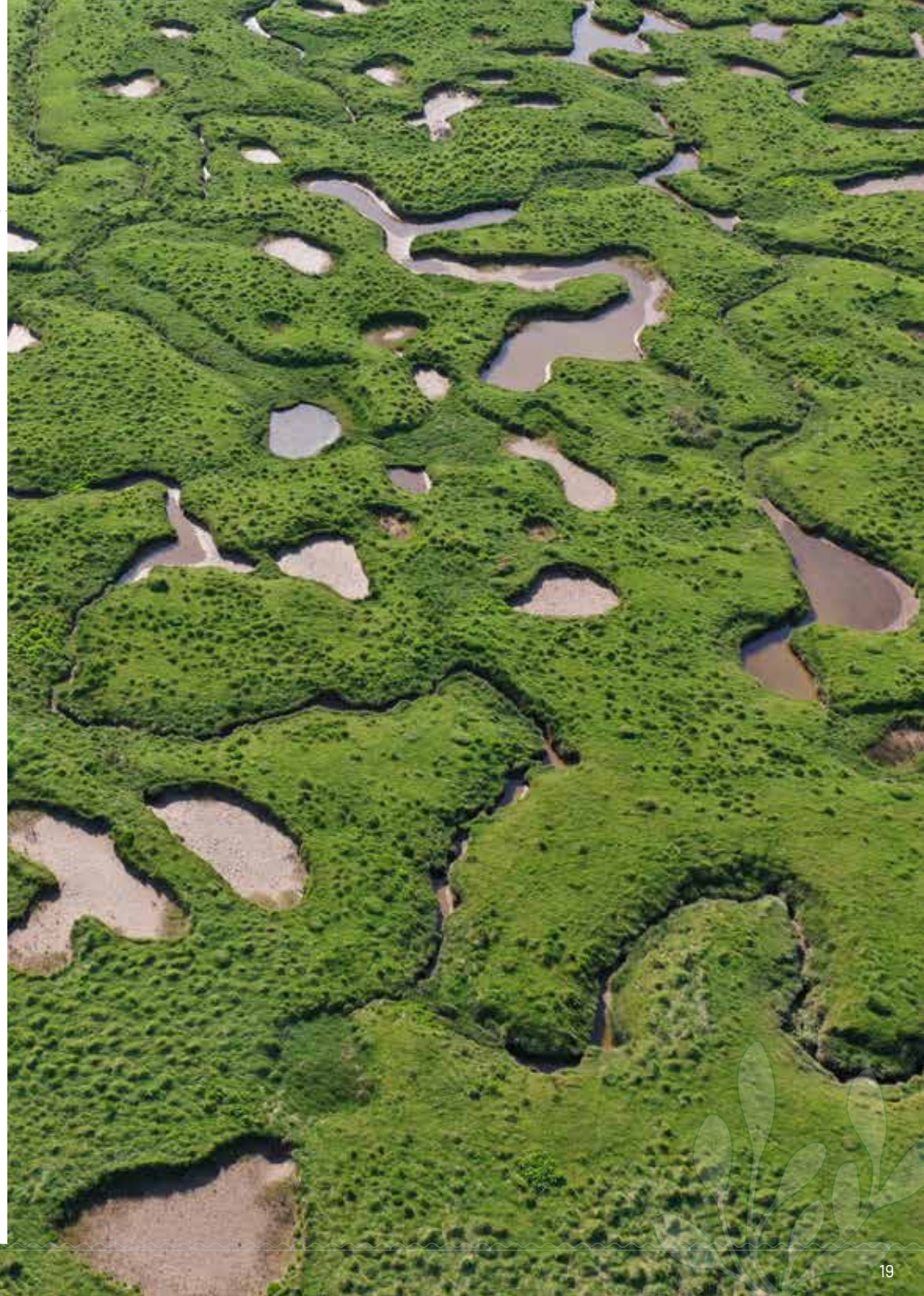
Lead organisation: SCAMP core team + RSPB + Crichton Carbon Centre.

In development we will pilot ways in which we can prepare saltmarsh and the adjacent land for the impacts of sea level rise, ensuring that saltmarshes remain healthy and that the new, developing, saltmarsh is a healthy ecosystem.

The hydrology of catchments is key to understanding the dynamics of a saltmarsh. We will develop methodologies to assess and predict water flow, water regulation and ecosystem enhancement opportunities to improve resilience to climate change from "Cairns to Coast". Our ambition is to take our successful approaches to peatland restoration to the landscape scale and build the link between our coastal environments and our catchments.

Saltmarsh (merse) grazing using no-fence technology: To seasonally graze 273ha of saltmarsh at RSPB Kirkconnell Merse, up to 66ha at RSPB Mersehead and 98ha at RSPB Crook of Baldoon. This will involve cattle with no-fence collars.

Restore the tidal habitats of the Southwick River system by enabling sustainable conservation grazing of the saltmarsh and encourage native scrub and woodland management on its margins.



Coastal Burns

Lead organisation: Galloway Fisheries Trust.

Coastal burns are important habitats for a range of anadromous (spawn in freshwater but mostly live at sea) fish species including sea trout, sea lamprey, river lamprey, salmon and sparling. Catadromous (spawn at sea but live mostly in freshwater) species like the European eel also use these coastal burns. Many of these fish species are important for conservation and economic reasons.

Over 50 coastal burns flow into the Solway, allowing fish populations to move between the freshwater and marine habitats throughout their lives. Both habitats need to be in good order for these fish species to thrive.

Many coastal burns are known to be in poor condition and neglected as a result of historic and current surrounding land-use, morphological alterations (including barriers) and pollution. They are rarely included in SEPA monitoring programmes and poor water quality that originates from these burns has negative effects on the receiving marine environment.

Over the project duration, up to 10 priority burns will be identified, surveyed, restoration plans will be designed and the mid/lower reaches restored to improve habitat, water quality and biodiversity.

Galloway
Fisheries Trust

INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species)

Lead organisation: Galloway Fisheries Trust.

INNS are recognised as an important driver of biodiversity loss with plant INNS often outcompeting and replacing the natural native mix of vegetation species that should be present. The wider ecology also benefits when there is a mix of species rather than a single dominant non-native species. INNS control is one of the key drivers of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, which aims to help improve biodiversity and make habitats more resilient to climate change.

At present there is no INNS control programme covering the Solway coast. INNS such as Japanese knotweed require co-ordinated control programmes over a number of years to effectively control and eradicate it following recognised best practice techniques undertaken by qualified sprayers. The work will take place along the coastal areas of the Solway with a particular focus on the buffer areas between the sea and the woodland/farmland. We are aware of large areas of Japanese knotweed at Drummore, Sandhead, Glenluce golf course and along the east side of Loch Ryan but there will be much more.

In the marine environment there are another group of 11 invasive species present such as Japanese Wireweed, Pacific Oyster and Orange tipped sea squirt. Working with Solway Firth Partnership we will gain further understanding of this problem and seek for additional solutions to reduce their spread and stop new species form appearing.

Galloway Fisheries Trust

Salt and Shake

Lead organisation: D&G Woodlands.

How have trees adapted for life on or near the Solway coast?

The project will monitor and study the tree species that make up the Solway coastal woodlands.

How do trees adapt for the coastal environment? To what extent do coastal tree populations – even individual, inaccessible trees – act as genetic reserves that can be used to restore populations that are under threat?

By undertaking a series of discrete academic-led studies, researchers will be drawn into the region to allow us all to better understand the influence of the coast on our woodlands.

Looking forward, this information will bring new opportunities to planning for resilience in our woodlands in the face of climate change and tree disease.

D&G WOODLANDS

Coastal Seed Bank

Lead organisation: D&G Woodlands.

Can we establish a population of young trees to bolster and repopulate our coastal woodlands?

This project would involve the collection of seed and samples of our remaining coastal woodland populations, which would then be grown on in a chain of community-based plant nurseries along the coast and used to repopulate and expand our coastal woodlands.

This project would be a nationally significant establishment of local tree nurseries but also a major volunteering endeavour for the region.

The focus of the project is on making the nurseries sustainable - acknowledging the amount of work required to run a nursery. Focus is also on the special properties of coastal woodland species with nursery income sources from plant sales building towards sustainability.

This project includes **Coastal Aspen** - From Aspen propagation workshops through to boosting populations in tree nurseries, this project will look at all aspects of championing Galloway Aspen, so often found by the coast.

D&G WOODLANDS

Wet Lab on the Road

Lead organisation: SCAMP Core Team.

SCAMP's project area is vast, over 210 miles of coastline and a myriad of different habitats. With each habitat there is natural variance, for example a saltmarsh in the east of the Solway at Annan will behave differently to a saltmarsh in the west like Wigtown Bay. Multiple laboratories could be used to measure change across the whole scheme, but a more innovative approach would be to have a mobile 'Wet Lab' which can be moved across the Solway and be available for all partners to use.

At development stage we will explore the feasibility, options and specifications of building a travelling wet lab and making it work.

People and Learning

Learning, training, skills development and research will be one of SCAMP's most important legacies. We will be designing a programme with a suite of projects that will foster learning from three-year-olds to volunteer retirees. The experimental nature of SCAMP allows and invites discovery at every stage through the coastal and marine nature restoration.

Focusing on skills training, citizen science, internships, apprenticeships and PhD's, we will cut across disciplines to encourage a diverse audience to join us on our SCAMP learning journey.

SCAMP Beach School

Type of Learning: Outdoor Learning for Primary Schools in the seascape.

Lead organisation: Coordinated by Dumfries and Galloway Council working with Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere (GSAB) and Crichton Carbon Centre.

Beach School is an initiative designed to get young people from early years to upper primary (3-12 years) out into the coastal and marine environment and to help them playfully learn about ecology, biodiversity and climate change as well as the benefits of being in the great outdoors.

Each School will have its own unique coastal environment to understand, explore and investigate, while building a sense of pride in their special habitat and the biodiversity it supports.

We will work with schools from Gretna to Stranraer helping young people connect with their particular local coastal environment, from the saltmarshes of Wigtown and Annan, to the marine environment over towards Stranraer. We will use the school's particular locality as a memorable learning place helping young people fall in love with nature and want to protect its biodiversity into the future.

SCAMP Landscape Connections

Dumfries and Galloway Council
Comhairle Dhùn Phrìs is Ghall-Ghàidhealaibh

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

Blue Biosphere

Type of Learning: In Class Primary School Learning Resources.

Lead organisation: Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere (GSAB).

Blue Biosphere is an accessible and inspirational learning resource packed with ideas for educators. A range of classroom-based outdoor activities have been designed to engage primary-age pupils (5-12 years) with the fascinating underwater world of the GSA Biosphere and beyond.

Including a host of information on species and habitats from catsharks to kelp forests, Blue Biosphere also helps explain some of the challenges of marine conservation both locally and globally and provides the opportunity to learn about climate change, plastic pollution, and ocean acidification, and the effects these are having on ocean life. It celebrates coastal communities, and the rich cultural heritage linked to the sea, with activities designed to help children explore their local history and learn about sites and stories where they live.

Our Coast Our Climate

Type of Learning: In Class Upper Primary School Science focused Climate Change Lessons.

Lead organisation: Crichton Carbon Centre, Education Officer.

The big concepts around climate will be made specific and local through experiments, outdoor learning, arts and crafts. Our Coast Our Climate focuses on upper primary (9-12 yrs) and is an in-school science-focused learning experience. Helping young people to understand how their local area may be impacted in the future will increase their ability to withstand and mitigate climate change.

Additionally, they will better understand why they should, and the ways in which they can, take local climate action which will collectively help to tackle climate change.

SCAMP-ing at Secondary School

Type of Learning: The development of In Class Learning Resources.

Lead organisation: Crichton Carbon Centre supported by SCAMP Team.

At development stage Crichton Carbon Centre education officer will develop a module linked to SCAMP's nature restoration and ecology work and create the learning materials and model to support teaching in the secondary school classroom.

This innovative module based on up to the minute research and real coastal and marine nature restoration work will have the potential to be taught in schools and colleges through, geography, biology and environmental studies courses.

Young Coastodians

Type of Learning: Out of School Learning linked to the SCAMP project.

Lead organisation: The SCAMP Team.

The programme will offer young people the opportunity to get involved in SCAMP's citizen science activities. This will include wildlife surveys, water testing, building hides, sampling and collecting data from the SCAMP boat.

As well as the science, there will be specific opportunities for Young Creative Coastodians to engage with SCAMP through the arts, for example filmmaking and photography, illustration, animation and ecological art.

Many young people are struggling with the overwhelming knowledge of climate change and nature loss. Being able to make a difference through the media of the arts will feel empowering and positive for both the young people and the SCAMP project.

It is through the arts that young people can begin to explore these issues and challenges inspiring them to want to help restore and celebrate our coastal and marine environment.

Training for Coastal Futures

SCAMP will be working at development stage with partners, contractors, colleges and universities to identify green job and training opportunities across our programme.

Dumfries and Galloway is home to Scotland's Rural University College which runs Environmental Management and Conservation courses; University of Glasgow which has a strong Environmental Studies programme and Dumfries and Galloway College, an FE college with courses and apprenticeships closely associated with industry and technology.

We will work with these education providers to make them aware of the enormous opportunities for young people to work in and alongside nature restoration at the cutting edge of practice. Working in this field can be highly rewarding giving a sense of purpose in helping nature recover and improving wellbeing.

SCAMP Landscape Connections

Dumfries and Galloway Council
Comhairle Dhùn Phrìs is Ghall-Ghàidhealaibh

Sharing SCAMP's Experimental Learning

Type of Learning: SCAMP Learning with Further and Higher Education

Lead organisation: The SCAMP Team

As well as exploring the potential of apprenticeships programmes with Dumfries and Galloway College and Scotland's Rural College Barony Campus, we will also be investigating if there are ways for SCAMP to work with courses to develop coastal and marine nature restoration modules and opportunities to share the new knowledge evolving through the SCAMP nature restoration works.

This will include offering talks, seminars and modules to the Environmental Management, Countryside Management, Ecological Economies and Environmental Protection and Management Courses. Once these sessions are established, there will be opportunities to embed this within the curriculum of programme courses in forestry and agriculture.

In addition to training on the ground we will be working with universities and environment organisations to offer MSc, MA, MPhil and PhD opportunities. With many different habitats being restored using a more experimental approach and nature-based solutions, there is an opportunity for SCAMP to act as a series of "habitat" labs for learning and research.

SCAMP Landscape Connections

Dumfries and Galloway Council
Comhairle Dhùn Phrìs is Ghall-Ghàidhealaibh

SCAMP in the Green Workplace

Type of Learning: Learning in the workplace through apprenticeships and internships

Lead organisation: The SCAMP Team with partners

We will be rolling out an apprenticeship and internship programme across SCAMP to build capacity within organisations delivering the nature restoration on land and in the marine environment.

We want to support the organisations who are working on habitat restoration to take on apprentices and create internships, ensuring that the new knowledge emerging from this work is shared and taken forward by the people working at the cutting edge of these new nature restoration techniques. We also recognise that internships not only result in jobs for young people but also bring energy, new knowledge and a vitality to organisations.

Connecting the Coast

Dumfries and Galloway is highly regarded as a popular visitor destination due to the landscape, nature, and wildlife assets of the region. Scottish Tourism Alliance have a vision for Scotland to become a world leader in 21st century tourism, detailed within 'Scotland Outlook 2030 – Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future'. This strategy aims to grow the sector by delivering high quality, sustainable visitor destinations which benefit local communities and the local environment.

Improved access to coast is required to improve understanding and appreciation of this special seascape for communities and visitors.

Coastal Path

Lead organisation: Dumfries and Galloway Council's access team and Southern Uplands Partnership

The development of a continuous 200 mile coastal path from Gretna to Cairnryan will make a major contribution to supporting stronger communities and local visitor economies. The coastal path will take people on a journey through the Solway's diverse seascapes, its unique habitats, and allow people to enjoy experiencing our coastal and marine landscapes close up. Utilizing the core path network we will identify the missing sections of the coast path network and work with landowners to create new paths and the access infrastructure required.

Coastal Gateways

Lead organisation: SCAMP access team

A recent audit identified 20 key sites on the North Solway coast which should be improved and upgraded to provide an enhanced visitor experience through improved site management and increased capacity for visitors and locals, including accessible routes from these gateway sites to encourage those in cars to stop and get out into nature. This approach would address current issues of capacity and quality of facilities to deliver a consistent, welcoming and safe visitor experience with improved coastal access at the key stopping points along the coast of Dumfries and Galloway.

Interpretation will be developed to reflect the nature and biodiversity of these special Gateways, celebrating place and the connections local people have had through time with these special coastal and marine places.

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Access for All on the Merse

Lead organization: RSPB

To ensure our visitors have access to a wider area of the reserve including the beach, we will develop further access schemes, such as beach wheel chairs and adaptive bikes and schemes for CVI (cerebral visual impairment) and other sight issues, deaf and hard of hearing etc. Therefore, at development stage we will carry out a feasibility study to look at opportunities to engage with all aspects of access-for-all and ahead of delivering these sustainable initiatives across the reserve visitor infrastructure.

In addition, RSPB Mersehead visitor centre is keen to upgrade toilet facilities which are not currently accessible, by refurbishing three cubicles into accessible-for-all standards. The project would ensure all the new infrastructure would be sustainable, hygienic and of an appropriate standard to meet the needs of visitors to the reserve. This project will benefit both the local community and visitors from further afield. It will improve access for families with pushchairs, young children, the elderly and other people with limited physical dexterity

SCAMP's Coastodians

SCAMP has built up a community of interest called the "Coastodians" through early community engagement work supported by FIRNS1 and FIRNS2. We have met many amazing people who are making a real difference for coastal and marine nature, for people and for climate. We will continue this work bringing people together to share ideas and knowledge, empowering communities to achieve their inspirational ideas and initiatives

Citizen Science

Lead organisation: SCAMP working with partners

From consultation work and co-design discussions, communities have said they want clean air, clean water and a thriving natural environment, they want learning opportunities in the form of walks and talks and they want to help physically with nature restoration work.

Therefore, at the development stage we will be exploring with partners and communities the type of activities that would help nature restoration and how citizen science can be embedded into SCAMP's delivery phase.

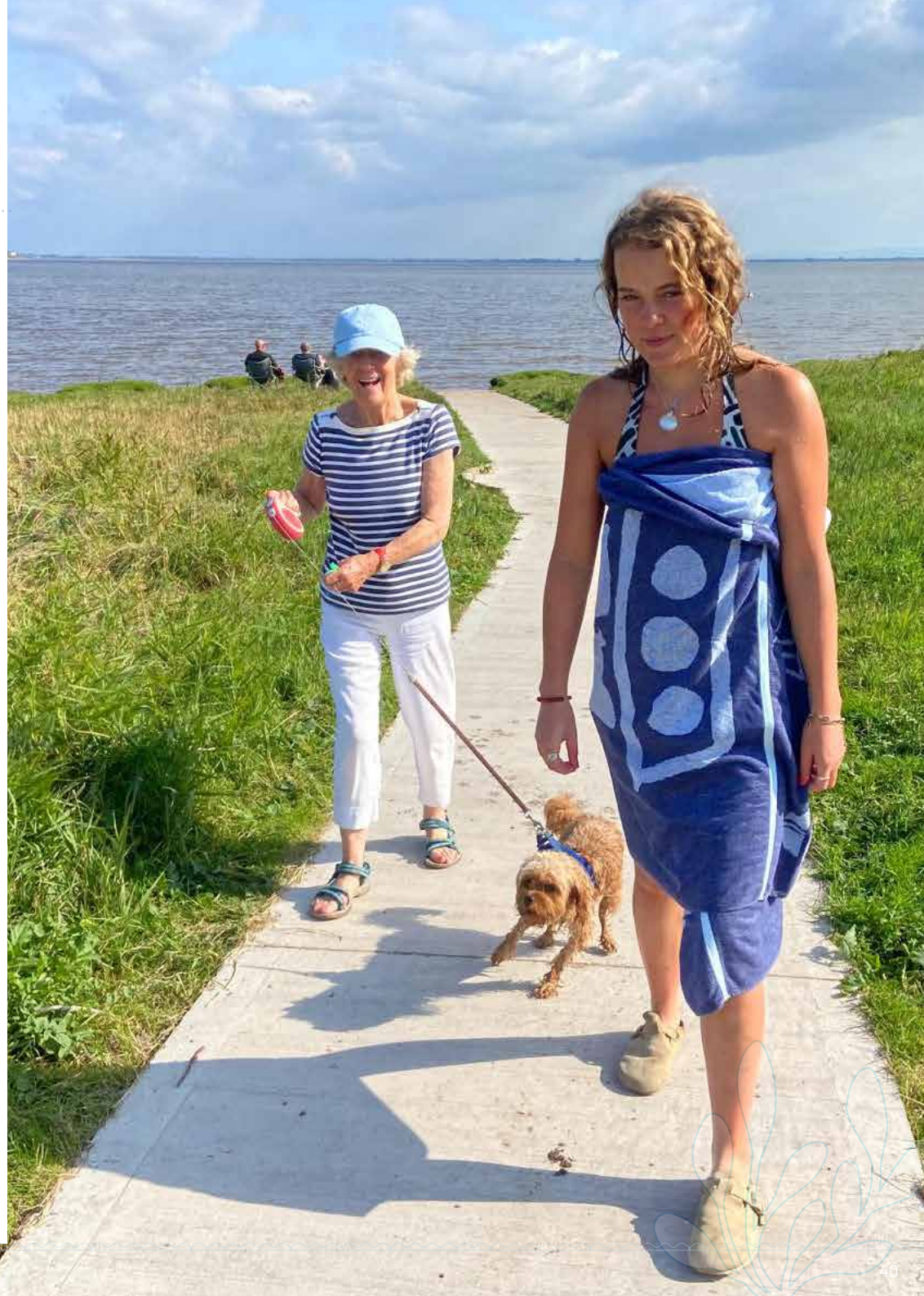
From water testing to underwater surveys and seagrass propagation, we will ensure communities and young people get access to the training needed to take part in both SCAMP based citizen science along the Solway and national initiatives linked to SCAMP or the coastal and marine environments, habitats and nature.

Coastal and Marine Wellbeing

Lead organisation: SCAMP working with partners

It has been recognised that nature is intrinsically linked to our wellbeing. We are a nature depleted nation who are often working during the daylight hours in the winter and many people live indoor lives even in rural Dumfries and Galloway. Many of us struggle with digital addiction, lack of sunlight and lack of exposure to the natural world which causes and amplifies anxiety.

Across generations, but with a particular focus on young people, we will, at development stage, explore with the NHS, hard-to-reach groups struggling with their mental health and doctors' surgeries, the possibility of "Nature on Prescription". That might be anything from walking along the beach on a sunny day to going wild, saltwater swimming with a group or being actively involved in nature restoration work (a great way to combat climate change and biodiversity-loss anxiety). By the delivery phase of the project we will be in a position to roll out a wellbeing programme along the Solway coast.



SCAMP Landscape Connections

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The Great SCAMP Litter Pick

Lead organisation: Solway Firth Partnership

How do our actions change coastal habitats and species?

Buoyant plastics found on the Solway coast are a symptom of global issues that are a cause and effect of climate change. The unwise use and disposal of plastic contributes to global warming that influences ocean temperatures, weather patterns and acidification that has an impact on coastal habitats and species.

The project will use data collected through volunteer beach cleans to explore changes in the marine environment that are often overlooked and under appreciated by visitors to the coast:

- Data collection of the global sources of buoyant plastics found by volunteer beach cleans.
- Data collection of records of targeted native and non-native species that have changed distribution or abundance in the past / present.
- Publication of a series of guides to help curious participants with the identification of natural and manmade beach finds.
- Travelling exhibitions that raise awareness of global issues and the impact on local habitats and species.
- Curated activities that inspire volunteers and encourage local actions for positive change.

Solway Firth Partnership

Next Stop the World

Lead organisation: D&G Woodlands

How have the coastal woodlands on the Solway influenced the wider world?

Dumfries & Galloway can seem to be apart from the wider world but our coastal woodlands connect us regionally, globally and internationally. Timber and other products from the Solway coastal woodland zone have been woven into so much of our global history. From stories of empire through to self defence and global trade, our coastal woodlands have influenced activity beyond these shores.

This project will explore this further, working with specialists to deliver a series of public engagement activities, through in-person, online and hybrid events, to start to tell the story of how our coastal woodlands have changed over time and influenced local and global events.

D&G WOODLANDS

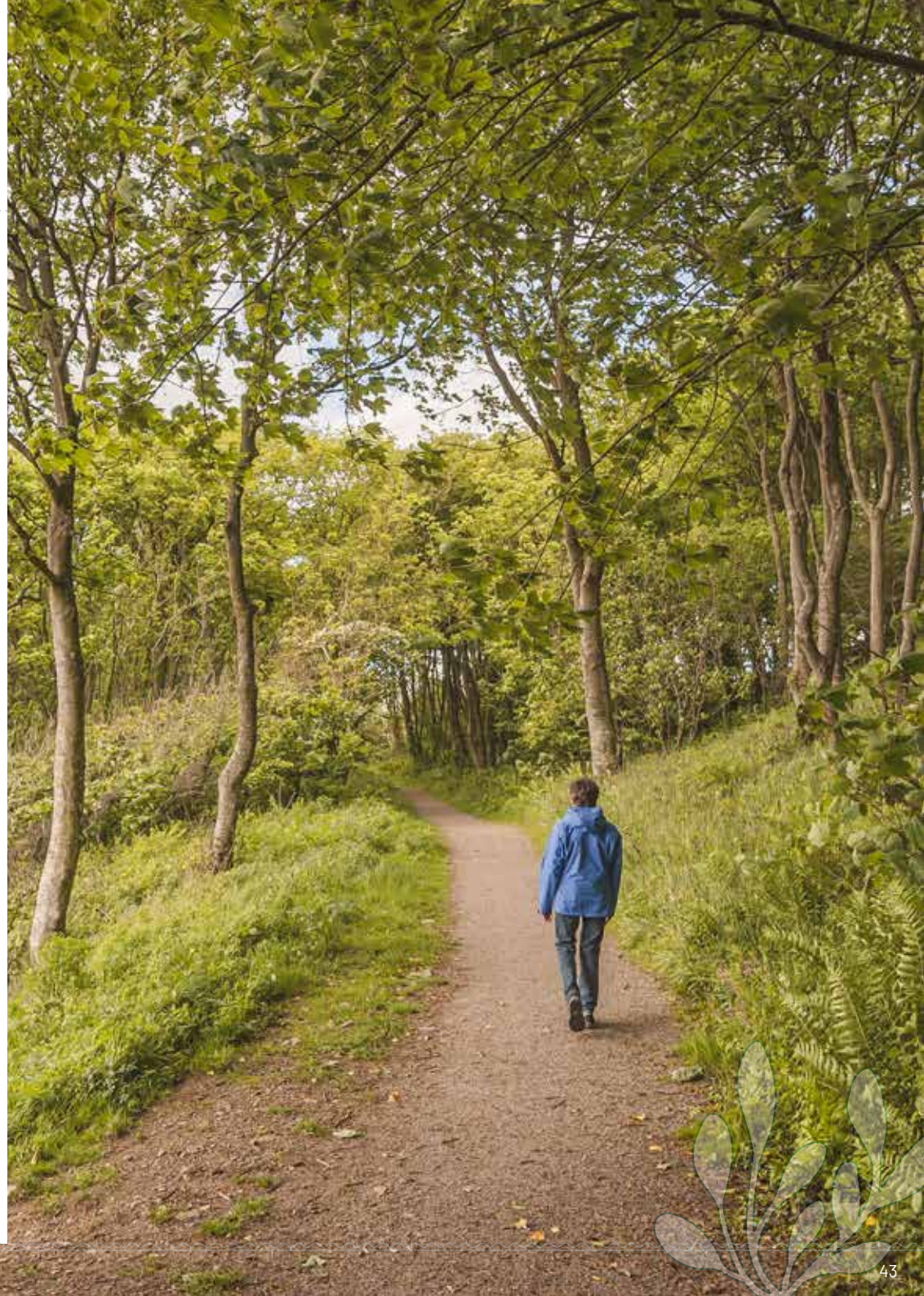
Wood History Hunters

Lead organisation: D&G Woodlands

How has our coastal woodland changed over time?

Recruiting a team of volunteers to use a variety of online platforms to map the change in coastal woodlands over time. A volunteer will be assigned a section of the coast to focus on. Then combining the results into easy to interpret outputs, such as slides, a short video or prints. The work will be done in partnership with National Library of Scotland and local groups e.g. Kirkcudbright History Society, Devil's Porridge Museum etc.

Results could inform later phases of work. The 'Coastal Woodland Hunters' would be encouraged to see themselves as a team working along the entirety of the coast.



D&G WOODLANDS

Coastal Woodlands for All

Lead organisation: D&G Woodlands

How can we raise the profile and understanding locally about coastal woodlands?

Building on the recent experience of the Galloway Glens Scheme, this project consists of the setup of a travelling coastal woodlands exhibit, including child friendly activities, to attend local events, agricultural shows and festivals. The project would also include allowance for pitch rental and other costs.

D&G WOODLANDS

Coastodians Small Grants Scheme

Lead organisation: SCAMP Core team

Over the last few years SCAMP has built up a strong and growing community of "Coastodians" an amazing group of people passionate about helping and protecting their coastal and marine environment.

Following on from the success of the Coastodians network, we seek to offer small grants at delivery stage to communities who are interested in protecting and restoring their coastal and marine habitats, promoting the wellbeing benefits of our seascape and celebrating the coastal and marine environment through media.

The grants could also help communities develop enterprising ideas centred around their heritage and natural environment that will help with sustainability within the local coastal economy.

SCAMP Landscape Connections

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Paying Our Way

With the development of SCAMP, a seascape scale nature restoration project with engaged communities being involved in innovative experimental initiatives which bring more people into our coastal and marine environment, there are many opportunities for our coastal communities to benefit from green finance investment and initiate community economic development.

SCAMP will nurture new micro-business and circular economy ideas, where the value will be on the landscape/seascape first and our relationship with it will be paramount.

Solway's Community-Led Tourism

Lead organisation: Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere (GSAB)

The project development phase would identify and explore opportunities relating to sustainable community led tourism and green finance across the project area. This would include identifying communities interested in taking part in larger projects (delivery phase), in which local heritage highlights have potential to be showcased

The project development phase would also include focussed work with Stranraer Development Trust exploring new community-led marine tourism opportunities specific to Loch Ryan and immediate surrounds, through workshops, discussion and a supported pilot tourism activity that gauges wider public interest.

GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE

Natural Capital Audit

Lead organisation: Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere (GSAB)

The Natural Capital Audits will focus on coastal farms along the Solway and will be designed to build on the Borderlands OPIN project which is developing a methodology to assess natural capital on farm holdings.

By creating natural capital baselines, land management changes can be better informed and farmers better equipped to implement operations that fully integrate both natural capital and business objectives. The program of audits will help identify opportunities on coastal farms for interventions that will enhance the coastal natural capital of the region.

The development phase will focus on working with partners to refine the NC audit process to ensure it can address the demands of a coastal environment. Workshops will help identify key land managers and delivery partners for the delivery phase.

SolWays

Lead organisation: Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere (GSAB)

SolWays will be an opportunity to engage with young people and young adults in rural coastal communities who register in the bottom quartile of SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation), to develop entrepreneurial thinking and pathways to new futures. Working with partners such as APEX Scotland, YouthLink Scotland, South of Scotland Enterprise and D&G Chamber of Commerce, we will be seeking, in the development phase, to create a programme that uses the unique features and opportunities presented by the coastal zone for skills development, opportunity building and work-readiness.

The development phase will include establishing committed partners for the delivery phase, identifying interested local youth providers and community groups and exploring opportunities to secure a seed fund for this project in its delivery phase.

GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE

Solway Venison

Lead organisation: D&G Woodlands

One of the biggest barriers to the re-establishment of native woodlands is deer pressure. This project will seek to reduce deer pressure through support of existing stalkers and establishment of a chain of venison chillers across the Solway, allowing the venison to be sold to local outlets.

The chillers – building on innovative projects elsewhere – will be operated on a co-operative basis, building a community of interest and sustainable venison-related businesses.

D&G WOODLANDS

Surf and Girth

Lead organisation: D&G Woodlands

The best protected woodland is a woodland of multiple uses. Biodiversity, recreation and of course the production of sustainable timber products.

Coastal woodlands in our region are often visually significant but relatively small in size. This means they are often not economic to harvest or manage.

The project will explore the establishment of a local network for small scale but significant coastal woodland harvesting and management processes. This will work with existing sawmills to identify opportunities for co-operative management of small scale coastal woodland sites, from Horse Logging to use of latest technology.

It will also include training opportunities for local practitioners to make the coastal woodland sites economic and accessible.

D&G WOODLANDS

Artisans Tool Kit

Lead organisation: D&G Woodlands

How can the coastal woodlands on the Solway inspire or support micro-businesses?

Recent years have seen growth nationally in flexible working arrangements and establishment of micro or 'lifestyle' businesses. This contributes to local economic activity but also encourages a healthy work life balance in participants, letting people of working age stay in the region and reducing the need to leave.

This project is an opportunity to allow the special properties of our coastal woodlands to support local economic activity in the region.

The project will employ a Woodland Products business advisor to highlight aspects of our coastal woodlands that could drive local, small scale economic activity.

D&G WOODLANDS

Eco Arts and Culture

Dumfries and Galloway has a strong community of nationally and internationally recognised eco artists working in various disciplines including, film, photography, performance, sound and word art. Ecological or environment art is a type of arts practice that focuses on the NatureClimate crisis and how we might address the challenges of the future.

As well as eco art, the SCAMP project will engage with the culture, heritage and the archaeology of the coastal and marine environment. By understanding how peoples lived with the sea in the past, its transport routes and the changing climate and biodiversity, we begin to understand the changes that have occurred through time.

SEAS (Scamp Eco Art Strand)

Lead Organisation: The SCAMP Team

A strand of eco-art running across and through SCAMP will help use the considerable experience and talent already here in Dumfries and Galloway and bring eco-artists from other places to respond and collaborate with SCAMP, helping to amplify important seascape restoration work and new discoveries as they emerge.

From, bursaries, to residencies, to collaborations with marine biologists or community groups, the embedding of eco arts will help build a wider audience for SCAMP engaging people from a diverse community here in Dumfries and Galloway and further afield.

Art can touch peoples' hearts and minds helping educate, inform, and enchant, as well as seeing the beauty in the everyday work of SCAMP and its wider ethos. SCAMP is in a great position to offer artists a real live experimental project to engage with over time. With the chance to experience diverse coastal and marine environments, work with ecologists and bring this work to the public eye.

There are many ways to involve artists in landscape restoration projects, but we want to ensure the approach we take fully embeds the arts across the SCAMP projects and the work of our environmental partners. Therefore, we will undertake a SCAMP Eco Art Strategy to ensure the eco art strand is developed in consultation with the eco art community.

SCAMP Landscape Connections

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Archaeology of the Tide

Lead organisation: The SCAMP Team

Archaeology is a science that underpins and helps us to understand the past and how we lived with the land or, in this case, sea. Over time communities have become disconnected from their coastal and marine environment and we are forgetting how important it was to our survival.

We want to work with archaeologists to understand the deep connection our communities had with the sea through time and also to understand the environmental changes that impacted on our coastal and marine biodiversity. If we have lost 85% of our marine environment in the past then what did 85% more marine life look like and what species have we lost?

We can explore the transport routes and the sea to understand better our cultural connections with the rest of the UK and the world. Using new technology we can revisit historic artefacts and let them give us the jigsaw pieces of the Solway's past seafaring communities.

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Our partners

Solway Firth Partnership

Galloway Fisheries Trust

D&G Woodlands

Crichton Carbon Centre

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

RSPB

Other funders

The Holywood Trust

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Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

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www.solwaycoastmarine.co.uk

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