

The Solway Coastodians

SOLWAY COAST AND MARINE PROJECT 2024



Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**

This project is supported by NatureScot in collaboration with the Scottish Government and in partnership with the National Lottery Heritage Fund

WORLD PREMIER

poem commissioned for SCAMP project in Scots and English

Dauner

by **Stuart Paterson**

Oor bus pechs up the Whinny Hill,
sklents by Kirkbean, the Bay of Carse,
ablo the Riddlings of Creation,
rummles heeligoleerie by Loaningfoot,
Mainsriddle, Linnet Hall, Merseheid, stops tae
lowse me by the gates at Heughs o Laggan.

Daunerin doon by Dinnings an Powbrade
Ah loup owre Cairngill Burn tae reach The Smiddy,
hae a notion fir stravaigin along the strand
by Wattie's Nets, the Needle's Ee, Torrs Hill abuin
an mak fir Port o' Warren, Blackneuk Craigs.

Thornkip Hill, the Broukit Heugh, the Bogle Hole
hae nae tourist signs nor markers sae by
Gutcher's Isle an Tinker's Loup Ah'm mindit o
the time we scrievit maps wi tongues,
printit them in heid an een, kennt fine
aw weys an whaur they led in Gallowa
wi nocht mair than a blether or a skeckin,
nae need tae read but jist tae ken an reckon.

Fae Muscle Clauchan, Stanefauld, Craigie Knowes
an Sluice it's no sae far tae Muckle Lands, nae
mair than twae mile oan tae White Hoose
an The Scaur whaur thochts o drinkin 'liquor'
while gettin baukit in the ingle-neuk
o The Anchor bar aye helps me dauner quicker.

Oangaun's the dauner, backweys, furrit,
owre, ablo, across an doon thir lanes
an braes an cleuchs an paths we've aye gave names tae,
hae nae claims tae much beyond the need
fir makkin maps that willnae chynge inside
this place's livin breathin heid.

Walk

by **Stuart Paterson**

Our bus puffs up Whinny Hill,
swerves past Kirkbean, the Bay of Carse,
below the Riddlings of Creation,
rumbles higgledy-piggledy past Loaningfoot,
Mainsriddle, Linnet Hall, Merseheid, stops to
let me off past the gates at Heughs o Laggan.

Walking down past Dinnings and Powbrade
I jump over Cairngill Burn to reach the Smiddy,
have a whim for wandering along the beach
past Wattie's Nets, the Needle's Ee, Torrs Hill above
and make my way to Port o' Warren, Blackneuk Craggs.

Thornkip Hill, the Broukit Heugh, the Bogle Hole
have no tourist signs or boundaries so by
Gutcher's Isle and Tinker's Loup I'm reminded of
the time we wrote maps with tongues,
printed them in minds and eyes, knew very well
all ways and where they led in Galloway
with nothing more than a chin-wag or a plan,
no need to read but just to know and go ahead.

From Muscle Clauchan, Stanefauld, Craigie Knowes
and Sluice it isn't far to Muckle Lands, no
more than two miles on to White Hoose
and The Scaur where thoughts of drinking 'liquor'
while stretched on a bench in the fireplace corner
of The Anchor bar always helps me walk quicker.

Never ending's the walk, backwards, forward,
over, below, across and down these
streams and ravines and paths we've always given names to,
have no real claims to past the need
for making maps that won't change inside
this countryside's living breathing head.

OUR PLACE NAMES

Whinny Hill – Gorse Hill; Kirkbean – Church of St. Bean; Bay of Carse – Bay of Wetlan; Riddlings of Creation – The Sieved Ashes of Creation; Loaningfoot – Pathfoot; Mainsriddle – Farmlands estate; Merseheid – Head of the shoreline grass; Heughs o Laggan – Bankings of Laggan; Powbrade (hill) – Broad head; Cairngill Burn – Cairn gully Stream; Wattie's Nets – Walter's Nets (stake-pole fishing nets); Needle's Ee – Needle's Eye (a sea stack); Blackneuk Craggs – Black corner Cliffs; Thornkip Hill – Thorn point Hill; Broukit Heugh – Broken Banking; Bogle Hole – Goblin Hole; Gutcher's Isle – Grandfather's Isle; Tinker's Loup – Gypsy's Leap; Muscle Clauchan – Mussel Hamlet; Stanefauld – Stone bend; Craigie Knowes – Necked Hillocks; Sluice – Sliding gate for controlling water flow; Muckle Lands – Big Fields; White Hoose – White House; The Scaur (Loch Ryan and Kippford) – bank of gravel and stones running out from shore.

Stuart Paterson took part in the SCAMP Exploration at Kippford in January 2024.
A writer and poet, Stuart lives locally. He performs spoken word and is passionate about keeping the Scots language alive.
www.facebook.com/patersonpoetry

Keep up with SCAMP. Search and follow @SolwayCoastAndMarineProject on Facebook.

SCAMP

 SOLWAY COAST AND MARINE PROJECT

12 WALK & TALK

1st LUNCH

130-3pm FUTURE VISIONS

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DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COUNCIL

SOLWAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP



Contents

THE SUMMARY		THE ENGAGEMENT	
1.	About SCAMP	1.	Launch
2.	SCAMP Phase 1	2.	Postcards from the Future
3.	Top findings	3.	Conversations
4.	Reflections	4.	Survey
5.	Next steps	5.	Explorations
		6.	Solway Lab 2038
		7.	Participants
		8.	Findings
		9.	Insights
		10.	Feedback
		11.	Keeping up momentum
		12.	Phase 2



Tree of the Year, Kippford | Photo: Barbara Chalmers

Cover image: Mermaids Purse, charcoal drawing, Erinclare Scrutton made by charcoal from local pine

THE SUMMARY

The Solway Coast And Marine Project or SCAMP is a 10-15 year, £20 million coastal habitat restoration project in Dumfries & Galloway in Scotland’s south west. This report captures the SCAMP Engagements, winter 2023/4.

This report shares the process and outcomes of the 6 month SCAMP engagement from October 2023 to March 2024. Around 1,000 citizens across the region participated in different ways:

- Conversations
- Survey
- Explorations

SCAMP is one of 27 Scotland-wide projects exploring how citizen engagement can help the public sector shape ‘natural capital’ projects to attract private sector investment in the environment.

The main purpose of this engagement was to discover what local people considered might be Community Benefits of investment in the coastal environment and identify the key Assessment Criteria that might apply to projects in the future.

Report by Only Human Ltd
www.onlyhuman.co.uk



photos opposite - Oysters: Stranraer Development Trust; Seagrass: Solway Firth Partnership; Saltmarsh: NatureScot; Woodlands: Only Human



This project is supported by NatureScot in collaboration with The Scottish Government and in partnership with the National Lottery Heritage Fund

1. About SCAMP

SCAMP is engaging locals to save the Solway Coast. Here’s why.

WHY Nature is losing its balance. There’s a pressing need to act. Europe has lost 90% of its seagrass meadows; 85% of the UK’s saltmarsh has disappeared - a massive flood defence system and ‘big bird restaurant’. Loch Ryan is Scotland’s last wild native oyster fishery. Woodland has been lost over centuries. We are changing the climate. Climate change is affecting human life, wildlife and habitats.

WHAT SCAMP aims to protect, improve and restore 4 key coastal habitats. Dumfries & Galloway Council is acting to protect the Solway Coast’s marine and coastal environment with its unique habitats, wildlife, flora fauna, birds and species.

- Oyster beds (Loch Ryan is Scotland’s last native/wild fished bed)
- Seagrass (potentially genetically unique underwater grass species)
- Saltmarsh (spongy, lumpy grassy ‘merse’ between sea and land)
- Woodlands (much loved, well walked, seaside green pockets).



WHERE 200 mile Solway Coast on Scotland’s southern edge.
The Solway coastline stretches all the way rom Stranraer in the west to Gretna in the east.



WHEN Phase 1 engagement took place from October 2023 to March 2024.
Nature’s care and restoration is a long-term mission. The whole SCAMP project runs for 10-15 years. In future phases, the Council aims to offer opportunities to invest in ‘natural capital’: projects that enhance and protect the natural environment.

HOW Raising £20 million to invest in marine and coastal projects.
This pre-development phase engaged local people to shape SCAMP principles. The Council will apply to the Heritage Lottery in 2024 for Phase 2. It aims to secure £10 million of public funding then £10 million matching funds from the private sector and community shareholders interested in investing in ‘natural capital’.

WHO The SCAMP project is a partnership project.

- **Lead:** Dumfries & Galloway Council has kicked off SCAMP.
- **Partners:** Solway Firth Partnership, Southern Ayrshire & Galloway Biosphere, D&G Woodlands, Southern Uplands Partnership and Crichton Carbon Centre all deliver SCAMP activities for the Council.
- **Community engagement:** Only Human, a local consultancy, designed, facilitated and reported on Phase 1 of community engagement.
- **Funders:** Facility for Investment-Ready Nature in Scotland (FIRNS), National Lottery Heritage Fund, Scottish Government and NatureScot.
- **Learning collaborators:** 27 projects across Scotland are sharing learning from engagement.



This community engagement was funded by the Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland (FIRNS) to explore ideas for projects that can restore and improve the natural environment.

FIRNS funding helps develop ideas into investment-ready propositions to offer to ‘the market’ - potential private investors.



Photo

*no-one will care about what
they have never experienced*

2. SCAMP Phase 1

Winter explorations and community engagement

WHY

No-one will care about what they have never experienced

“No-one will protect what they don’t care about,” said David Attenborough wisely, “and no-one will care about what they have never experienced”. So we designed an engagement programme to help local people experience and understand the Solway, coastal issues and current opportunities. The SCAMP Explorations specifically had experience at its heart. See more under Solway Lab 2038.

WHAT

Engagement: Launch, Conversations, Survey, Explorations

We designed a series of opportunities so locals could engage at various levels of interest. These activities gathered information about their connection to the coast, their values and their views on the environment and its challenges. They identified potential community benefits and assessment criteria that could be applied in future to proposals for activities and developments along the coast. The Council commissioned a local photographer and film-maker to share the SCAMP story.

WHERE & WHEN

Launch: Nov 23: Launch, Vision + Action Meeting, Stranraer + Zoom

We launched the SCAMP project, its aims and the upcoming workshop series at information sessions, piloting and testing a presentation and workshop material at a lively public meeting in Stranraer. We used Postcards from the Future to gather views on values and priorities. We launched SCAMP across the region in Zoom presentations.

Photo: Pete Robinson

**WHERE
&
WHEN**

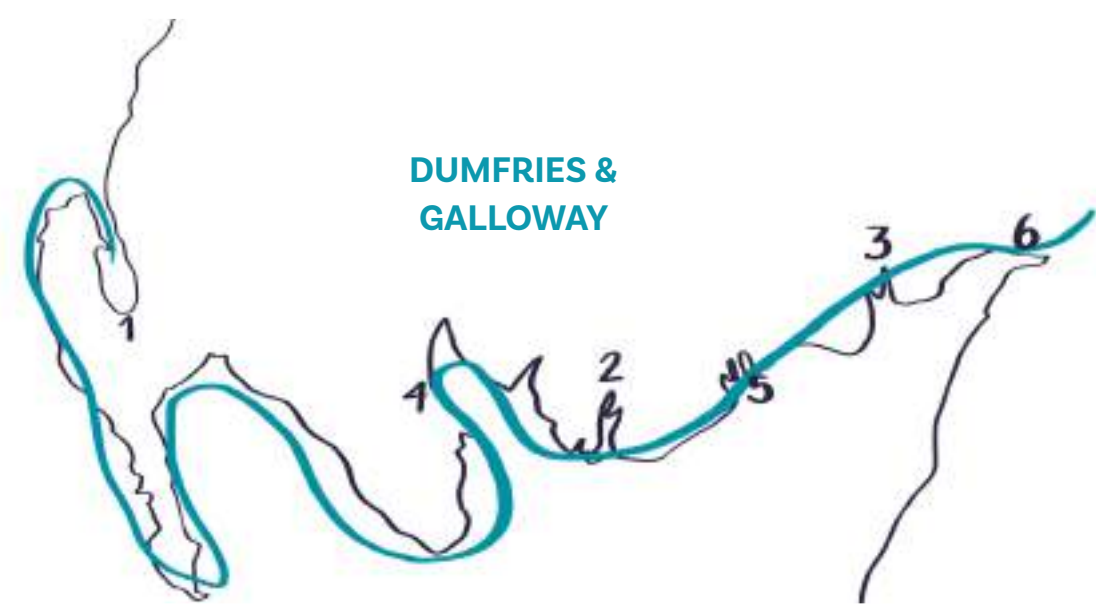
Conversations: Nov-Jan 23/4
We connected with 500 people directly and posed a set of questions to a sample of 26 individuals representing interest groups. Outputs from these conversations fed into the design of workshops.

Survey: Nov-Jan 23/4
We shared a survey with our database and promoted it through DGWGO - a popular local Facebook page - on social media. We had 717 responses.

Explorations: Dec-Jan 23/4
Walk-and-Talks with expert guide + Solway Lab 2038 workshops
6 x 3 hour long events from 12-3pm. Maximum 24 participants.

Round 1
mid-December, weekdays
1. Stranraer
2. Kirkcudbright
3. Glencaple

Round 2
end January, long weekend
1. Wigtown
2. Kippford
3. Annan



HOW

Reaching out. Digging deep. Aiming high.
Key connectors - community groups, activists and Ward Officers - helped us reach out across the region. Direct mail and social media promoted opportunities to participate. Workshops encouraged participants to dig deep into their values, experiences and hopes to envision solutions for the Solway. We gathered and shared models of best practice and innovation from Scotland and beyond to aim high and be ambitious for this treasured marine and coastal environment. We contacted the media and did interviews on TV and radio. The Council filmed engagements to tell the story of SCAMP at the end of the process.

TV and radio reported on the engagement.



Local film-maker, John Wallace, captured the process on film to help raise awareness and promote engagement in later phases.

Photo (bottom): Pete Robinson

3. Top findings

What local people told us - at a glance

Merging data from all sources - the survey, Conversations and workshops - gave us clear direction on the values, ideas and preferences of local people:

Top 5 themes

- 1. Ecosystem Restoration
- 2. Citizen Science - baseline, monitor, measure, map
- 3. Improve Access - Paths, Routes, Info, Green Tourism
- 4. 'Coastodians' Network - community activism
- 5. Awareness - connect people to nature

Top 10 Community Benefits

Local people could imagine investment in natural capital bringing these community benefits:

- 1. Environmental improvement
- 2. Jobs, skills, training and opportunities
- 3. Access to the coast
- 4. Economic growth
- 5. Environmental education and awareness
- 6. Opportunities for young people
- 7. Family, child-friendly and intergenerational opportunities
- 8. Community building
- 9. Health & wellbeing
- 10. Fun, engagement and participation

Top 10 Assessment Criteria

The criteria we would use in future to assess whether or not investment would help or hinder environment are:

- 1. Habitat/species support
- 2. Environmental benefit
- 3. Feasibility
- 4. Health & Wellbeing
- 5. Accessibility
- 6. Strategic fit
- 7. Region-wide benefit
- 8. Collaboration
- 9. Evidence Base
- 10. Sustainability

Top 10 Goals

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|--|
| 1. | Coastal activities | opportunities to engage with the coast |
| 2. | Infrastructure | routes and paths, parking, waste management |
| 3. | Accessibility | public transport, resting places, affordability |
| 4. | Engagement | information, awareness, interpretation |
| 5. | Jobs and skills | opportunities to learn, grow and work |
| 6. | Evidence base | map, survey, base plans on evidence |
| 7. | Social equity | share nature's gifts, land access, resources region-wide |
| 8. | Environment | all change must fit with environmental impact measures |
| 9. | Economy | coastal development should grow the region's prosperity |
| 10. | Feasibility | we must be able to afford and deliver developments. |

Top 10 Actions

- 1. Be a flagship for careful coastal development
- 2. Use controls, regulation and monitoring to stop and reverse habitat decline
- 3. Harness nature for social connection, personal meaning, health and wellbeing
- 4. Enjoy access to the coast without detriment - it's all about balance
- 5. Harness local knowledge and passion
- 6. Collaborate: share community assets; grow a movement; avoid competition
- 7. Promote Citizen Science data collection and incentivise volunteering
- 8. Share good practice: hook to cook, growing, foraging, teaching the young
- 9. Adopt the *Just One Thing* approach to avoid overwhelm.
- 10. Combine quick wins and long term goals to plot a route to a positive green future.

Top 5 Challenges

- 1. There's a lack of awareness of environmental issues and how to help
- 2. We lack community capacity: we rely on volunteers and short term funding
- 3. Consultation fatigue: too many projects ask too much of small communities
- 4. We need a careful balance of economic : environmental development of the coast
- 5. Beware privilege and financial advantage dominating decision-making.

Top 5 Insights

- 1. People who live, work and play on the coast tend to be passionate about it
- 2. Passionate people are strong candidates to be eco-activists: *Coastodians*
- 3. Passion engages others - it's infectious; harness this to engage others
- 4. Engaging the disengaged takes more resources: focus on the interested first
- 5. Overwhelm is the enemy of activism: let's keep future calls-to-action doable.

4. Reflections

This SCAMP Phase 1 'sprint' was a short, focussed and energetic piece of work. We engaged with 1,000 participants - more than we had expected. People right across the region joined-in, in different ways. The quality of their contribution was rich. People who have moved to the region bring fresh ideas, energy and experience to the area. People who have lived here their whole lives brought a depth of understanding of place. All who engaged were clearly invested in making this region a great place to live.

We offered a range of ways to engage and small grants to support participation. Grants could be used to help with travel costs, childcare and pay individuals working in community development to attend. Despite prompting to some less well represented communities, the fund wasn't drawn upon as we'd intended. We're not sure whether that was because it was the wrong offer or the timing was too tight. We did find out during Conversations that it can be a struggle for local communities to keep on top of all the engagement and funds around. With this in mind, and to respond to the feedback from community groups, we refocussed the grant support as an opportunity to 'do things'. This worked. See the range of activities supported in *Afterword*. These community-led initiatives help keep up momentum in the SCAMP project, build local engagement and grow learning for future phases.

Public services are shrinking and there is a push to community-led initiatives. There is a risk that too much is asked of community groups, especially in small communities with limited capacity and resources. Participants in engagement commented that this risks shifting the balance of power from elected and accountable public servants to individuals. We're alert to the danger that this can give more voice, influence and control to people with more privilege: the time-rich, better educated, more articulate and confident. We will remain sensitive to these issues in future phases and look at different ways we can broaden and deepen engagement.

5. Next Steps

Phase 1 reportback

To close the feedback loop on the Phase 1 engagement, the Council launched this report and the film about the engagement on 25 March 2024 at a public event online. By publishing this report and sharing the findings, participants see how their contribution is shaping thinking for the next phase.

The Solway Coast And Marine Project Facebook page remains very much alive as the hub for information on SCAMP and the report and film will be available there.

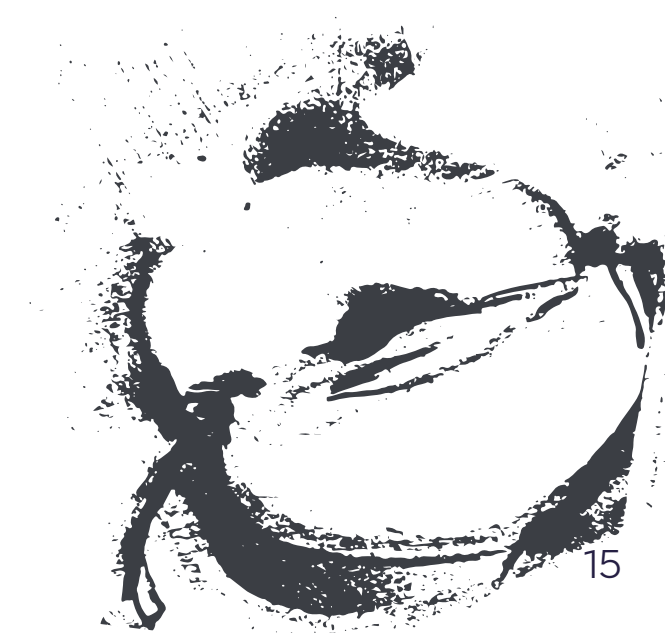
As a legacy of Phase 1, the Solway Lab 2038 workshop experience toolkit remains with Dumfries & Galloway Council and can be used again and shared with collaborators to adapt and use.

Phase 2 plans

The outputs from SCAMP Phase 1 engagement are informing and shaping Phase 2. For Phase 2, there is potential to trial projects that build on Phase 1 findings and insights. These projects will deepen and focus engagement and continue to co-design ongoing phases:

1. **Coastodians network:** one project built around a community of interest - environmental enthusiasts and citizen scientists
2. **Two place-based projects:** focussing on two communities: Stranraer in the west and Annan in the east of the region, aligning with their Place Plans and connecting with their active community networks.
3. **Unheard voices:** focus engagement on less engaged groups and in socially excluded communities.

Kippford Crab Apple, charcoal drawing, Erinclare Scrutton



THE ENGAGEMENT

PARTICIPATION... EXPLORATION... EXPERIENCE

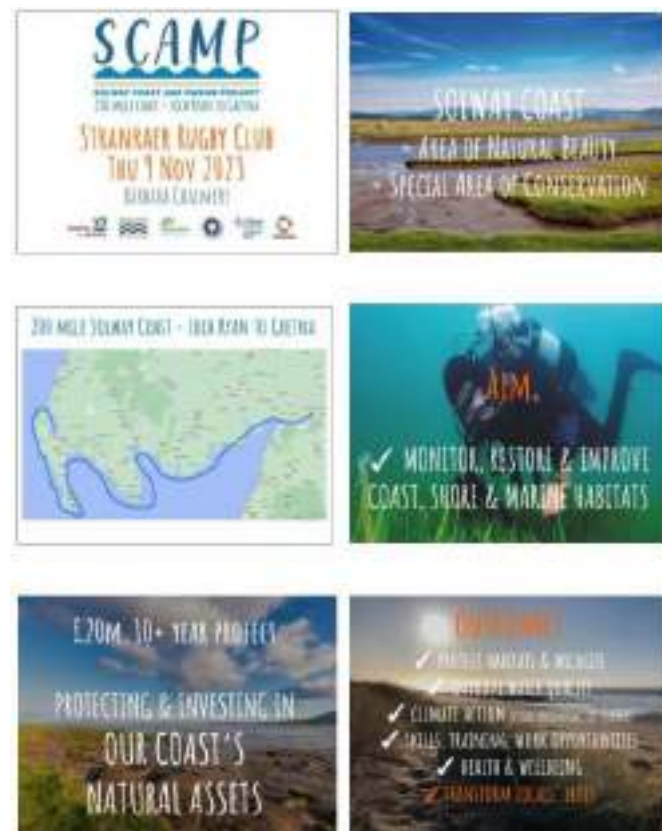
The SCAMP Explorations... Winter Walk-and-Talks + Solway Lab 2038



1. Launch

9 November 2023: Vision & Action meeting, Stranraer

We launched SCAMP and a range of opportunities to engage at a lively public meeting in Stranraer attended by 70 people in November 2023. We shared a presentation about SCAMP with Q+A. We ran the same session on Zoom for people across the region. We introduced SCAMP, its aims and options for engaging in shaping the project. Central to engagement would be Winter Walk-and-Talk Explorations with a workshop. We trialled elements of content for those events at the launch. We developed promotional materials and the Council launched a supporting dedicated Facebook page.



Above: social media promotion for the Launch
Right: presentation for the Launch and on Zoom

2. Postcards from the Future

Postcards from the Future were trialled at the SCAMP Launch and used throughout all in-person engagement events. It was designed to immerse participants in FEELING rather than THINKING. We asked local people to imagine they were standing in the future, describe the scene and then think about ONE key action we could take now to help us achieve the idyll we'd like for the future.



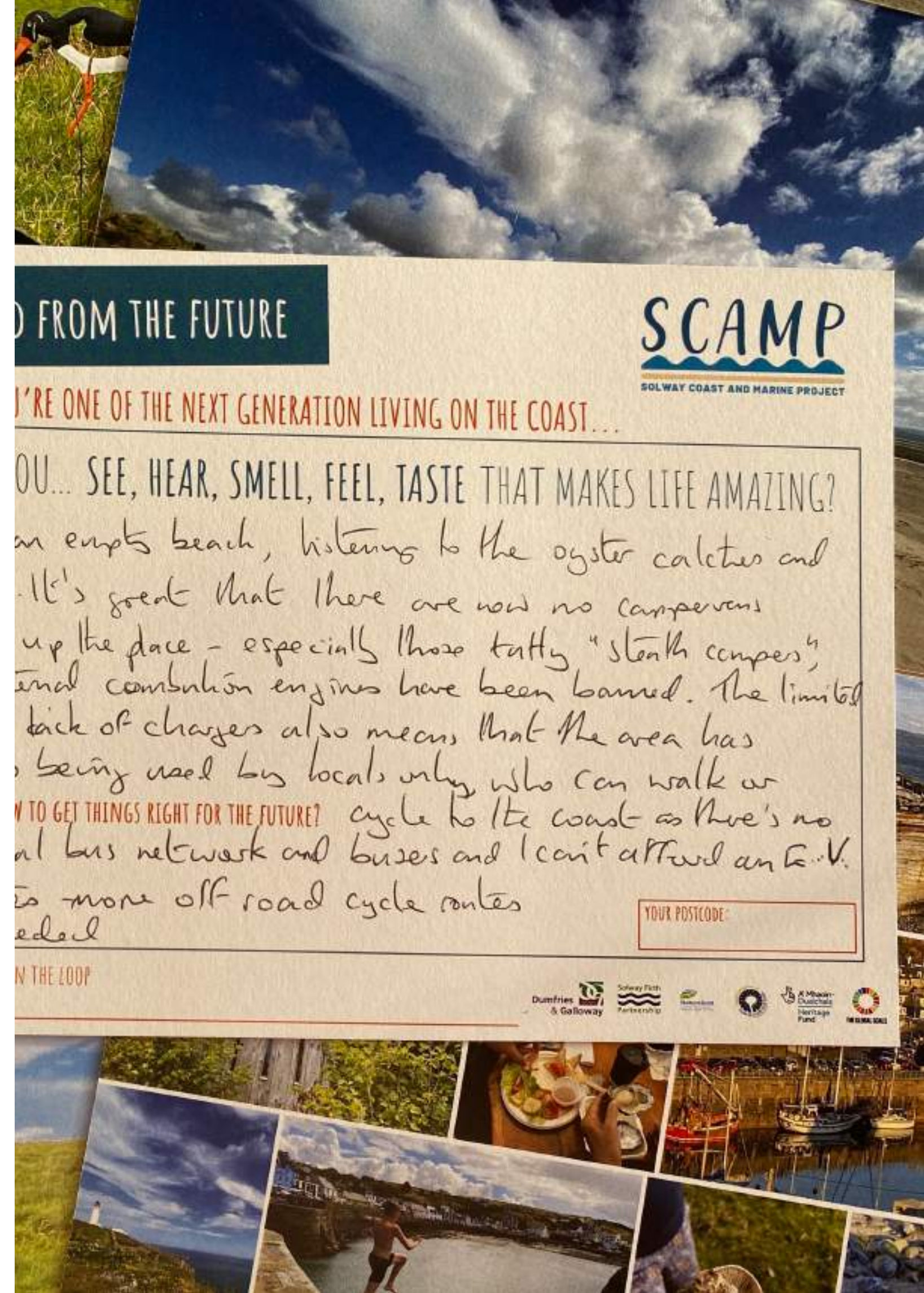
Plan, protect and educate were 3 key priority actions locals identified, along with opportunities for young people and a key goal: cleaning up the environment. See more on following pages.

Postcards from the Future: Vision for 2053

IT'S 2053. YOU'RE ONE OF THE NEXT GENERATION LIVING ON THE COAST.
WHAT CAN YOU ... SEE, HEAR, SMELL, FEEL, TASTE THAT MAKES LIFE AMAZING?

access for all
awareness
beauty/scenery
bird flocks/diversity
buzz of life
cafes/local produce
changing colours
clean sea
clean shore
coastal caretakers
community engaged
cycling/bikes
eco tourism
environmental principles
evidence base
feel good
fresh air
healthy habitats
in the now
in/on the water
jobs
joy
lapping waves
light on the water
local culture conservation

native species
open space
opportunities open
peace
people at play
plantlife
prosperity
public transport
routes & paths
salty
sandy
seafood
sealife
seaweed
smell of the sea
space
sun on skin
sustainable practices
tinkling boat masts
walking
wellbeing
wildflowers
wildlife
wind on skin
young engaged



Postcards from the Future: Priority Actions

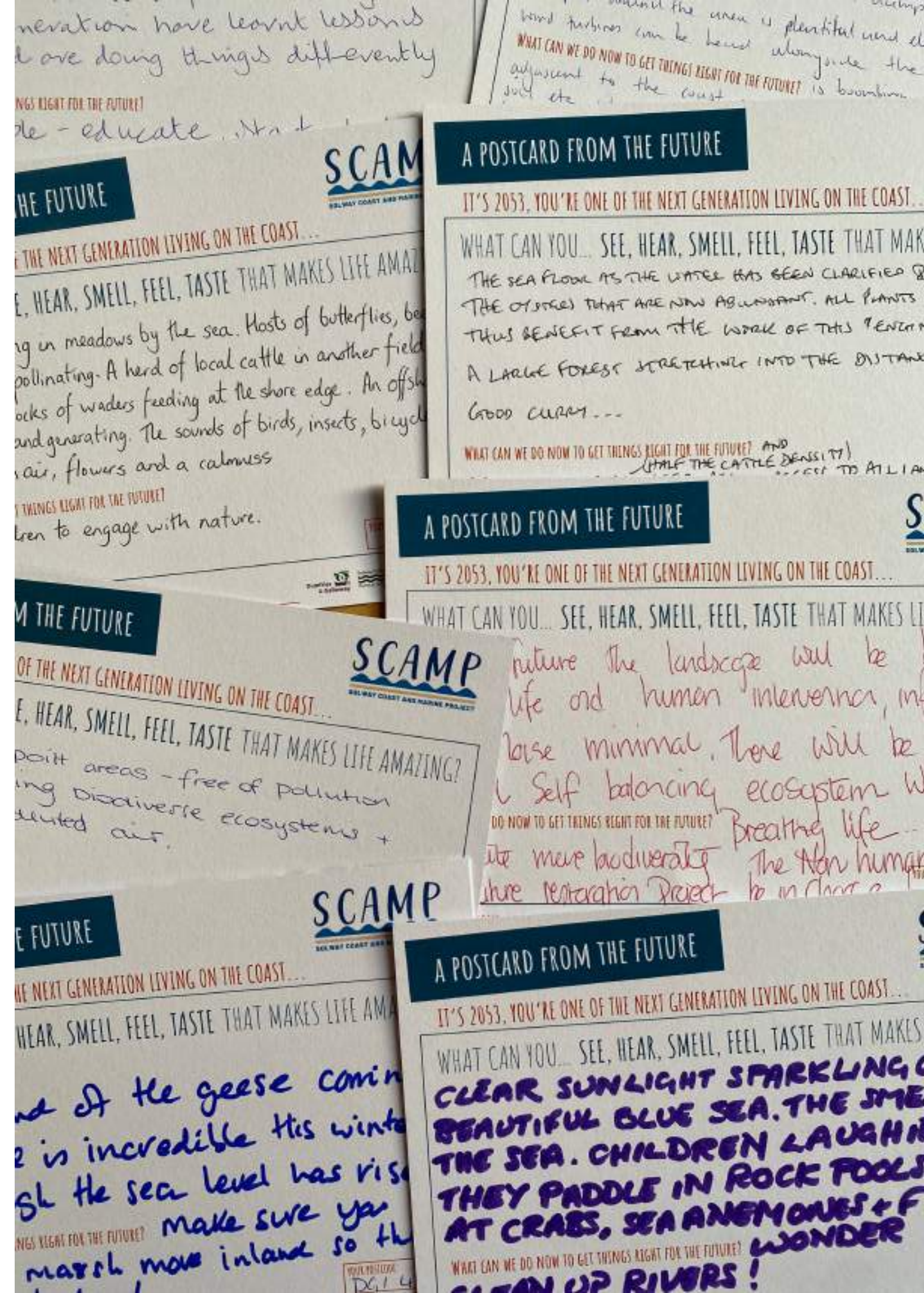
WHAT CAN WE DO **NOW** TO GET THINGS RIGHT FOR THE FUTURE?

access to nature
activities on the water
ask Nature
collaborate
citizen power
citizen science
develop and manage assets
education
engage businesses
engage community
engage the young
family activities
flood prevention
follow science
funding
hydro power
interpretation
jobs
limit tourism

local employment
monitor & improve
native species
nature prescribing
paths, routes, parking
planning, long term, regs
prevention
promote access
promote opportunities
protect habitats/species
public transport
restoration
region wide benefits
sanctuaries
tackle waste / water quality/ plastics
tidal pools
waste management
waterfront development
visitor management



Mud Shrimp, Annan, charcoal drawing, Erinclare Scrutton



3. Conversations

Nov-Jan 23/4

Private chats with a representative sample of citizens plugged us into the experiences of people who work, life and play along the coast. We spoke to fishermen, farmers, charter boat skippers, walkers, divers, swimmers, Skiffie rowers, fifth generation gillie, more recent arrivals ('comer-inners' as a couple of relocating retirees described themselves), landowners, tenants, home owners, AirBnB hosts, professionals, partners, environmentalists, volunteers, community development workers, community activists, business people, media, councillors. Clear themes and ideas emerged.



Conversations were held in person and by phone and Zoom to suit participants. They were almost all one-to-ones, with a couple of community groups opting to have two people present.

Conversations: Top 10 Actions

When asked about action we should take NOW, these themes emerged:



Top 10 Action themes

1. Coastal activities
2. Infrastructure (paths, routes and information boards)
3. Engagement and learning
4. PR and promotion (coastal awareness and activities)
5. Accessibility
6. Facilities management
7. Regulation and control
8. Business opportunities
9. Community shares (equity and region-wide access)
10. Long term funding

Conversations: Ideas for the Future



Local people came up with a range of ideas for the coast:

- Join coastal paths to manage access
- Promote/support business opportunities on coastal paths
- PR/messaging: promote 'undiscovered' qualities, Costa del Wig, SW300
- Manage camping
- Provide campervan facilities
- Stiff penalties for litter
- Maximise watersports potential
- Extreme sports from pier
- Prioritise infrastructure: roads and transport
- Need enforcement
- Remove barriers to access: beach kit, footwear
- Hook to cook fishing camp for kids
- Growing projects: seagrass, community gardens
- Ferry: step on/off with tours and walk home
- Oyster boat summer tours when not fishing
- Develop Castle Kennedy airfield
- Train to Stranraer; links to Dumfries & Carlisle
- Meet with peer group in Norway
- Reinstate Cairnryan Pier for fishing
- Wild wellness offers; eco tourism
- Quick wins: do some small projects to demonstrate change

- Restore/create tidal pools; saunas; shelters
- Promote wild swimming, dipping, wellbeing tourism, mental health
- Walkways to protect habitats/species
- Coastodians; Young Eco Warriors group
- Restoration projects
- Link to Cumbria/Lake District tourism
- Learning in the outdoors
- Capital and revenue funding - strategic, long term
- Links: Lancashire saltmarsh, Swansea seagrass, Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Survey infrastructure: shelters, sheds, paths
- Resting places on paths
- Rank beaches/water quality
- Garlieston to Rigg Bay - fix path
- Introduce children to coast, wildlife, sealife
- A skiff in every coastal village
- Kayak, paddle board, Fin & Foil hire
- Conservation holidays (come 7 days, volunteer to work 2)
- Volunteer programme; citizen scientists
- Interpretation boards
- Rewilding projects
- Get land into hands of the community
- Get kids and families out on boats
- Snorkelling and diving promotion
- British Sub Aqua Club



Mermaid's Purse, charcoal drawing, Erinclare Scrutton

Conversations: Models of Good Practice

Participants cited these models of good practice during Conversations:

- Jupiter Artland
- Gairloch Museum - WW2 history
- Eden Project
- California (national parks) - John Muir link
- Nature & Nurture areas in schools
- Nana's Pack - project since 2018
- Cinque Terre - paths, walks, ferry links
- Norway - everyone has a jetty
- Skiffies event on water
- Fin & Foil annual event
- Work in Ecuador, Portugal, England, Denmark
- East Neuk coastal path & tidal pools
- Ardfern Seagrass Project - young people
- Tayvallich Initiative
- Denmark community sauna: annual fee £20
- Marine Reserve SSI Berwickshire
- Argyll & Ayrshire - communities engaged
- Carifran Borders Forestry Trust rewilding
- Walk-and-Talk events
- Artists in residence in landscape
- Southerness rock pools thriving
- Beach clean ups
- Sands of Luce caravan park
- Nature prescribing
- Stranraer team visit to Netherlands
- Field trips
- Art trails along coastal paths
- Project Oyster - Oban
- British Sub Aqua Club





4. Survey

Nov-Jan 23/4: Survey

We compiled an online survey to enable the team to gather quantitative data to support or challenge emerging themes. The use of an online survey also enhanced inclusion and accessibility, recognising that participation in in-person engagement opportunities was not possible for everyone with an interest in SCAMP.

We shared the survey with our database and it was promoted on social media, at the in-person events and through local media channels. The survey was open during December 2023 and January 2024 and generated 717 responses. 3.5% completed the survey after attending an in-person engagement event, which means there is only a small crossover in sample.

The survey was in 3 distinct parts:

- **Nature:** we asked respondents how they interact with nature.
- **Values:** we invited thoughts on what matters to local people when they think about attracting investment in ‘natural capital’ - nature and all it offers.
- **Profile:** we gathered information on respondents: where in the region they lived, how they relate to the area and invited them to opt-in to future mailings.

A Nature-Aware Community

The people who responded to the survey were typically very nature-aware:

- Half had visited a nature reserve in the past year and around the same number had been birdwatching.

A large proportion of respondents were active participants in nature or environmental activities:

- More than a quarter had taken part in a litter pick or beach clean over the year.
- A quarter had been wild swimming.
- One in 7 had taken part in habitat creation / restoration in the last year.

Respondents were highly knowledgeable about the habitats and species that are important to the Solway coast:

- Of the four of the SCAMP priority habitats, Coastal Woodlands ranked highest - of interest to almost 8 in 10 people, with Saltmarsh of interest to 7 in 10 and Seagrass and Native Oysters ranking high for around 6 in 10.
- 8 out of 10 were interested in Wintering Geese.
- Just under 7 out of 10 were interested in kelp and other re and slightly fewer were interested in Intertidal Mudflats and Sand Dunes.

Survey: Investment priorities

The focal point within the survey was an open-ended question that invited respondents to describe a project that could attract investors.

The 628 responses to this question were coded thematically and by keyword.

Keyword	No. of mentions
Protection	83
Access	69
Walk / walking	69
Path	57
Preserve / preservation	37
Tourism	37
Clean / cleaning	32
Educate / education	28
Community / communities	26
Fishing	24
Conserve / conservation	23
Restore / restoration	22

The quality of the responses was diverse, with some people only supplying a single word answer while others provided rich and detailed proposals.

The emerging themes from this question were closely aligned with the findings of the in-person engagement activities.

- **Protecting, preserving, enhancing nature, habitats and natural resources** was the dominant theme, with more than a third of responses (228 people) including this within their response. The responses within this theme were diverse, spanning everything from water cleanliness and counteracting coastal erosion to eradication of non-native species and investment in habitat creation.
- **Access and infrastructure** to support access - specifically a coastal path along the Solway coastline – comprised the overwhelming majority of responses within the access and infrastructure themes. This was by far the most requested investment in the survey and is an idea that was entirely unprompted. The next most frequently cited infrastructure request was improved car parking near the coast.
- **Tourism** was a strong theme but a qualified one. Respondents want ‘nature-based tourism’, ‘sustainable tourism’ and ‘eco-tourism’.

- **Education and skills**, and the importance of **community**, emerged as strong themes.
- Of coastal activities, **fishing** was the most frequently cited. However this was evenly split between respondents wanting to increase access to fishing, and other respondents requesting that commercial fishing be reduced, with seven respondents specifically requesting 3 mile exclusion zones.
- One in eight respondents, 12.5%, requested **no development** or expressed concern or criticism of what they perceive to be inappropriate development that has already taken place along the coastline.

Survey: Values

When asked to pick one word to describe how they feel about the Solway, respondents overwhelmingly focused on its scenic importance alongside feelings of relaxation, peace and personal and deep connection with place. This gives a strong sense of values.

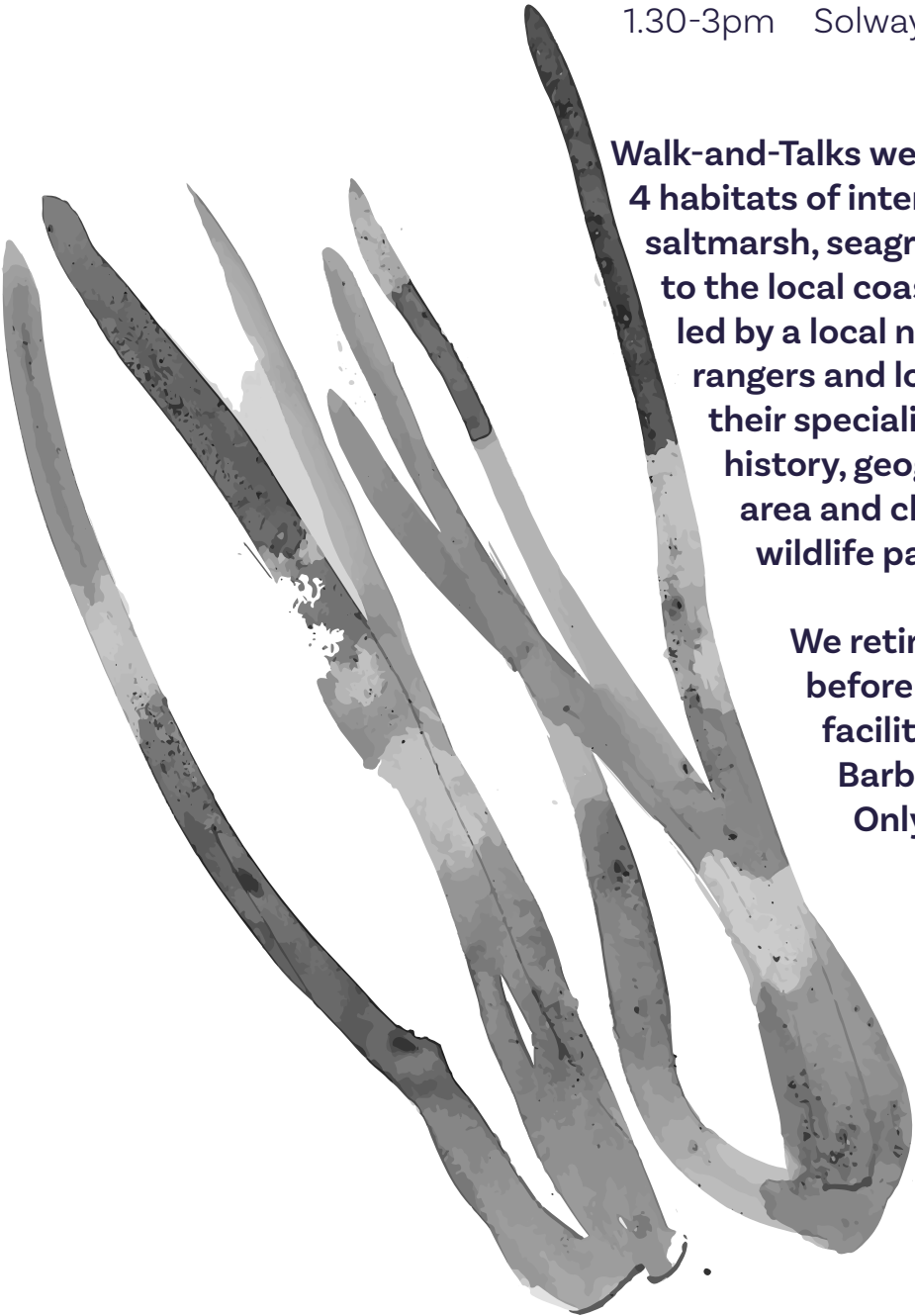
Keyword	No. of mentions
Beautiful	75
Home	38
Peace	35
Stunning	26
Love	24
Unspoiled	24
Relaxed	20
Amazing	14
Inspirational	14
Magic	13
Happiness	12
Heaven	11
Precious	11
Unique	11

5. Explorations

Walk-and-Talks & Solway Lab 2038

We hosted 6 SCAMP EXPLORATIONS in well used community centres, halls and hubs in Stranraer, Wigtown, Kirkcudbright, Glencaple, Kippford and Annan. Workshops ran 12-3pm in each location. The first half was designed to get people outdoors; a full-on experience of the focus of our exploration - nature itself. The second half was a workshop - the Solway Lab 2038.

12-1.15pm Walk-and-Talks with an expert
1.15pm soup!
1.30-3pm Solway Lab 2038 - workshop



Walk-and-Talks were designed to focus on the 4 habitats of interest to SCAMP: woodland, saltmarsh, seagrass, oyster beds in relation to the local coastal environment. Talks were led by a local nature expert - scientists, rangers and local activists - who shared their specialist knowledge about the history, geography and geology of the area and changes in the landscape and wildlife patterns.

We retired indoors for a quick lunch before the experiential workshop facilitated by Creative Lead, Barbara Chalmers from Only Human.

Seagrass, watercolour created with handmade pigment from foraged alder cones, Erinclare Scrutton

Immersive Walk-and-Talks

Dec-Jan 23/4

- Events ran from 12-3pm (with free lunch):
- Round 1: December - weekdays in Stranraer, Kirkcudbright and Glencaple.
 - Round 2: January - weekend in Wigtown, Kippford and Annan.

SCAMP

SOLWAY COAST AND MARINE PROJECT

200 MILE COAST- LOCH RYAN TO GRETNA



OYSTER BEDS



SEAGRASS



SALTMARSH



WOODLANDS

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR COAST?

HOW CAN WE PROTECT OUR NATURAL ASSETS?

WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE?

COME CHAT!

SOLD OUT

	where	when
1	Stranraer	Mon 11 Dec
2	Kirkcudbright	Tue 12 Dec
3	Glencaple	Wed 13 Dec
4	Wigtown	Sat 27 Jan
5	Rockcliffe	Sun 28 Jan
6	Annan	Mon 29 Jan

FREE TO ATTEND - BOOK ON EVENTBRITE!



Explorations: Walk-and-Talks

Each Exploration kicked off with a Walk-and-Talk. Local experts offered fascinating insights to the coastal and marine environment. Their knowledge of habitats, species and wildlife stimulated discussion in the subsequent workshop - the immersive Solway Lab 2038 experience - at the time of the walk, not yet revealed to participants.



Top left photo: Pete Robinson

Walk-and-Talk Experts (left to right, top then bottom):

1. **Stranraer:** Nic Coombey, Solway Firth Partnership - seagrass, oyster beds, geology and more
2. **Kirkcudbright:** Nic Coombey shows off the elusive seagrass from the Solway
3. **Glencaple:** Dr Larry Griffin and Robbie Cowan, Caerlaverock Estate - geese and Natterjack toads
4. **Wigtown:** Nic Coombey SFP and Andrew Bielinski, RSPB - birds and saltmarsh
5. **Kippford:** Mary Smith, National Trust Ranger - coastal woodland species
6. **Annan:** Alan Thomson, Annan Harbour Action Group- saltmarsh, farming and fishing.

Evidence Bags

Participants were given 'evidence bags' to encourage a forensic approach to examining at the 'crime scene'... our environment in crisis. Exciting finds included multi-layered oyster shells, seagrass, seaweeds, corals, mermaid's purse and other egg cases, stones, shells, pottery and even... a thumb!

(All finds were returned to the shore.)





Photos: Pete Robinson



Walk-and-Talk expert, Nic Coombey, Solway Firth Partnership shares expertise on seagrass, oyster beds, geology and more.

Photo: Pete Robinson





Photo: Pete Robinson

6. Solway Lab 2038

Solway Lab 2038 workshop



For the purposes of our Solway Lab 2038, participants became the Solway's Coastodians.

This experiential future visioning workshop took as its inspiration Valencia's River Court, which has been in existence for hundreds of years, giving locals living on all tributaries feeding into the River Turia responsibility for caretaking the river bed.

The experience was designed to enabled people to think about the future of Solway Firth, as if they were in 2038. Participants were transported through methods of Design Fiction and Speculative Design to consider the values, challenges, benefits and impact of planning in the region.





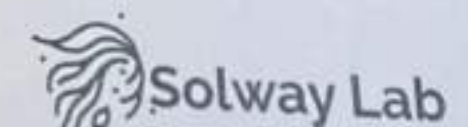
Welcome to the Future of Coastal Stewardship

You have been chosen to be a member of the Solway Firth Lab 2038.

As a member, you are now a part of a visionary community with power and funds, dedicated to the stewardship of the Solway Firth. We replaced the council in 2030.

Today, our collective action is more crucial than ever to ensure the health and vitality of our coastal ecosystem.

We are thrilled to have you on board!



The Solway Lab 2038 Mission

The Solway Lab 2038 was the workshop element of the exploration.

Following the stimulating Walk-and-Talks with experts along the Solway Coast, participants enjoyed a quick heat-up and hearty soup indoors then were briefed on the workshop challenge... an immersive scenario where they were given active roles and goals.

- SCENARIO

YOU ARE A COASTODIAN OF THE SOLWAY COAST
In 2038, Coastodians - local environmental caretakers - have replaced the Council.
- MISSION

Together, consider a range of 7 proposals for development along the Solway Coast and discuss which you would support. Rank the proposals.
- CHALLENGE

Reflect on how/why you made decisions on the 7 proposals to identify:
 - Community benefits
 - Assessment criteria
 - Values
 - Challenges and priorities.
- VISION

Send us a Postcard from the Future to describe your vision for the coast.
- ACTION

Tell us what we need to do RIGHT NOW to protect the environment.

Coastodians Challenge

Participants at Solway Lab 2038 workshops were welcomed as the new Coastodians of the Solway Coast.



Welcome to the Future of Coastal Stewardship

You have been chosen to be a member of the Solway Firth Lab 2038.

As a member, you are now a part of a visionary community with power and funds, dedicated to the stewardship of the Solway Firth. We replaced the council in 2030.

Today, our collective action is more crucial than ever to ensure the health and vitality of our coastal ecosystem.

We are thrilled to have you on board!

Solway Lab



Photo: Pete Robinson

Solway Lab 2038 Toolkit

The Solway Lab 2038 workshop provided each participant with a Coastodian’s handbook, explaining their role, mission and context as decision-makers and caretakers of the Solway Coast in an imagined future.

- Each group was given **7 development proposals** to assess.
- Each participant had a bundle of cockle shells: **voting tokens**.
- A set of **Persona Cards** prompted each group to consider various citizens’ perspectives ... an AirBnB host, landowner, farmer, youth councillor, young mother, entrepreneur, cyclist, walker. Some had been identified as groups with influence, impact or particular needs during SCAMP Conversations.
- **Postcards from the Future** - a solo reflective task to complete the workshop.

Development Proposals

An exercise in negotiation and prioritisation.

Participants were invited to debate and rank 7 imagined development proposals in groups.

In fact, ranking was not the point. The discussion itself was the mechanism for helping participants to learn through that experience how they applied their personal values, beliefs and experience to identify community benefits and assessment criteria.

Participants were organised in small groups to aid discussion and encourage all to speak up. Each person had equal voting power - their cockle shell currency. No matter how articulate or persuasive another might be, at the end of the session, ranking was determined by votes.

After Round 1, in response to feedback, we swapped out the two lowest ranked proposals with two new, more environmentally-focussed proposals for Round 2.

Plasticity - creating a playground from waste plastic - ranked top in both rounds. It also ranked bottom for some. This provided participants with an experience of the real tensions that arise for decision-makers who may have polar opposite views. Lab participants felt how challenging it is to take responsibility for community decision-making.

The more environmentally focussed projects floated to the top in ranking.

Plasticity

A collaboration of volunteers from ONUS and other local beach litter pick groups, is working with Creative Stranraer and The Stove arts organisation to build a plastic play city from all the waste collected from beaches across D&G.



Plasticity is a demonstration project on 2 sites: Stranraer’s East Pier and Annan Harbour, to make visible the amount, types of and origin of waste washed up on our shores. It will document and map the waste, repurposing it to form play structures. There will be play based projects for young people to engage with environmental learning.



PLANNING PROPOSAL: A // TOKENS: 2

Citizen Science Lab

South of Scotland Scientists (SOSS), an environmental charity, is working in collaboration with a team of scientists from Scottish Universities.

Their aim is to recruit 100 volunteer detectives to support the scientists’ work charting the Solway Coast’s important population of natterjack toads.

In year 1, the volunteers will gather baseline information on the toads’ locations, habitats and movement. Over 10 years, SOSS aims to monitor change against this baseline to protect the toads, improve their habitats and ensure they thrive.



PLANNING PROPOSAL

Top: Round 1 - Plasticity was one project that ranked both top and bottom, flagging challenges of oppositional views. Bottom: Round 2 - we introduced two projects with a clear environmental focus.



Solway Lab 2038 Toolkit - Personas

During the workshops, each team was invited to refer to a set of Persona cards. This was designed to promote broader thinking, wadopting the lens of another to consider various perspectives. Like the Development Proposals, above, some of the personas were inspired by Conversations - both by the roles that participants themselves play in the local area and roles that they have feelings and comments about. The aim was to encourage empathy and understanding of others' needs and perspectives.

Mother



Part-time oyster processor, she balances work with caring for her young family. Her goal is to maintain a sustainable livelihood while ensuring the firth remains a safe and clean environment for her children to enjoy.

Graduate



A 30-year-old with a fresh university degree, living at home and figuring out the next steps. Keen to find meaningful work that contributes to the community they are currently unemployed and might move.

Farmer



With fields that kiss the shoreline, this farmer is deeply connected to the land and sea. Striving for balance, they work to harmonise agricultural practices with the well-being of the coast.

Cafe Owner



Owner of a cafe that's facing tough times. They're invested in revitalising their business by aligning with the firth's conservation efforts & attracting eco-conscious clientele.

Airbnb Host



Eager to offer an eco-tourism experience, this host is looking to develop sustainable stays that highlight the natural beauty and conservation efforts of the Solway Firth.

Factory Boss



Focused on growing their workforce, this boss seeks to make the area attractive to potential workers and creating a strong income for the area.

Cyclist



A cycling enthusiast who educates children on active travel. They advocate for sustainable transport and connection with the coastal landscape through biking.

Walker



Dedicated to the upkeep of the coastal paths, this walker ensures the trails are safe and enjoyable for everyone, fostering a deeper appreciation for the firth's natural beauty.

Environmental Activist



A marine biologist specialising in the Solway Firth's ecosystems. They work to protect marine life and educate the public on the importance of biodiversity.

Shopkeeper



Running an outdoor clothing store, they equip adventurers with gear to explore the Solway Firth and advocate for responsible tourism and outdoor activities. They want lots more people to come to the area.

Charity Skipper



Working from the harbor, this skipper provides charter services and is passionate about showcasing the Solway Firth's beauty responsibly and sustainably as well as having people who use their services.

Fisherman



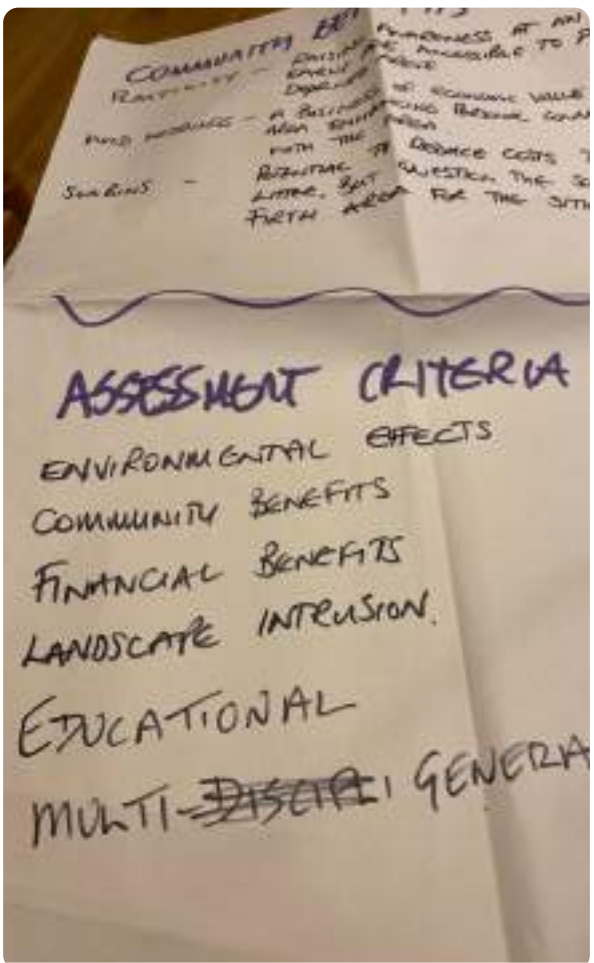
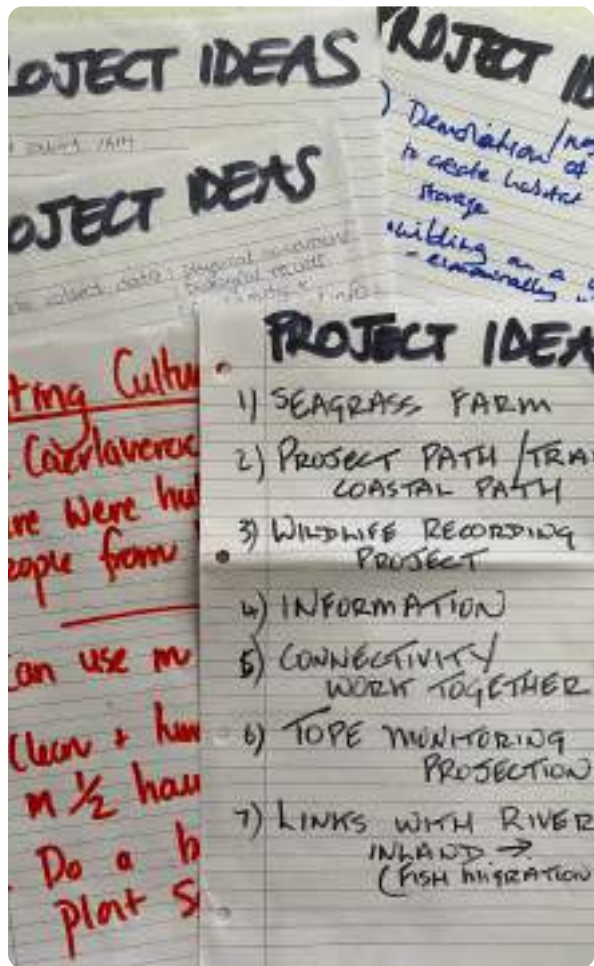
Operating a small boat, this fisherman supplies fresh catches to local restaurants and is committed to sustainable fishing practices that preserve the firth's marine life.



Reflection

Solway Lab 2038 participants took their Mission seriously and engaged in deep and earnest discussion to consider what mattered to them about the Solway Coast.

This helped groups and individuals think about how we might improve the coast. They arrived at a shared understanding of priorities when seeking investment in natural capital in the next decade. There's a strong desire to ensure our actions encourage and support projects that best protect the coast for the long term. Many had ideas of how we can start to tackle the issues.



top left and right: photos by Pete Robinson





Photo: Pete Robinson

7. Participants

Profiling participants



Exploration participants fell into these groups; some wearing 2 or 3 of these badges:

- **Environmental Enthusiasts:** specialist knowledgeable, active, outdoor types who arrive well kitted out for the weather with water bottles, walking poles, waders, wellies, binoculars, spirit and energy.
- **Community Activists:** wide-ranging interest in the local community; likely to have attended other community meetings eg Place Planning. They are often wearers of many hats.
- **Recent Arrivals:** often self-labelling as ‘incomers’ and ‘comer-inners’, some are conscious of their label even when they moved to Dumfries & Galloway 30 years ago. An asset to the community, they are relocators - many retirees - who have have chosen Dumfries & Galloway as home. They are invested in the future of the area and willing to play their part to shape the future of community. Some are new to nature and country/coastal living. They are keen to meet their neighbours, socialise within the community and give something back. They are delighted to be shown the ropes and learn from others with expert or local knowledge.
- **Community champions:** professionals and volunteers working in the community and the environment eg Biosphere, community development roles, creative placemaking, writers.

As observed rather than measured, participants profiled as white; 35-75 (mostly in the 45-65 bandwidth); all genders, 60/40 presenting female to male.

Survey data shows engagement was strongest in the west - Wigtown and the Rhins of Galloway - DG8 and DG9.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
DG1	8.74%	62
DG2	7.76%	55
DG3	1.55%	11
DG4	0.56%	4
DG5	8.18%	58
DG6	5.22%	37
DG7	11.28%	80
DG8	18.76%	133
DG9	12.41%	88
DG10	0.28%	2
DG11	2.82%	20
DG12	4.37%	31
DG13	0.28%	2
DG14	0.28%	2
DG15	0.00%	0
DG16	4.37%	31
Other (please specify)	13.12%	93
TOTAL		709

1 in 5 of survey respondents had lived in the region less than 10 years. Just under a third have been here 11-30 years and half over 30 years.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 10 years	22.36%	159
11-30 years	29.11%	207
31-50 years	25.04%	178
More than 50 years	23.49%	167
TOTAL		711

8. Findings

The survey, Conversations and Solway Lab 2038 were all designed to discover what local people considered might be:

- **Community Benefits**
- **Assessment Criteria**
- **Values**
- **Challenges.**

Community benefits

The key benefits locals identified were around a clean, healthy marine and coastal environment which would in turn support thriving birdlife, wildlife, flora and fauna. Safeguarding species and habitats in this way was seen to enhance our quality of life and effect long term environmental change. The future vision pictures a return to nature where local people and visitors are aware of their environment and actively care for it. They enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of beauty, peace and serenity. Infrastructure offers access for all to these special places. We share stimulating rich, lively spaces to exercise, chill and socialise. The environment recovers. Wildlife is abundant. The planet is better off.

Assessment criteria

As we go forward and begin to develop plans to attract investors in natural capital projects, local people want to ensure investment helps rather than hinders the Solway Coast. Key must be the protection of habitats and species and the lasting environmental impact of projects. Feasibility should determine whether they get the green light. Health and wellbeing should be a key outcome. Projects must enhance accessibility to the coast, be a good strategic fit and offer region-wide benefits. They should begin with evidence, be developed in collaboration and be sustainable. They should bring the region economic benefits including jobs, skills and training opportunities that will help keep young people here.



Mud Shrimp, Annan, charcoal drawing, Erinclare Scrutton



Postcards from the Future

Local people are passionate about their coast

Solo exercises at the end of every workshop encouraged personal reflection. Local people were invited to immerse themselves in a future world on the coast... the idyll... to help them think about what we need to do *right now* to make sure our world is in good shape for the next generation.

These are typical of the range of imaginative, creative, practical, lyrical and beautiful writing we had on our postcards.

"Sat on an empty beach, listening to the oyster catchers and curlew"

"Taste the salt air and sorrel"

"All plants and fish benefit from the work of the oyster 'engineer'"

"It's great that there are now no campervans cluttering up the place - especially those tatty 'stealth campers', now internal combustion engines have been banned"

"Quiet roads, green fields, hardly any cattle"

"The limited range and lack of chargers means that the area has reverted to being used by locals only, who can walk or cycle to the coast"

"Smells of fresh fish cooking on the breeze"

“Feel the water on your skin”

Vision for the Future



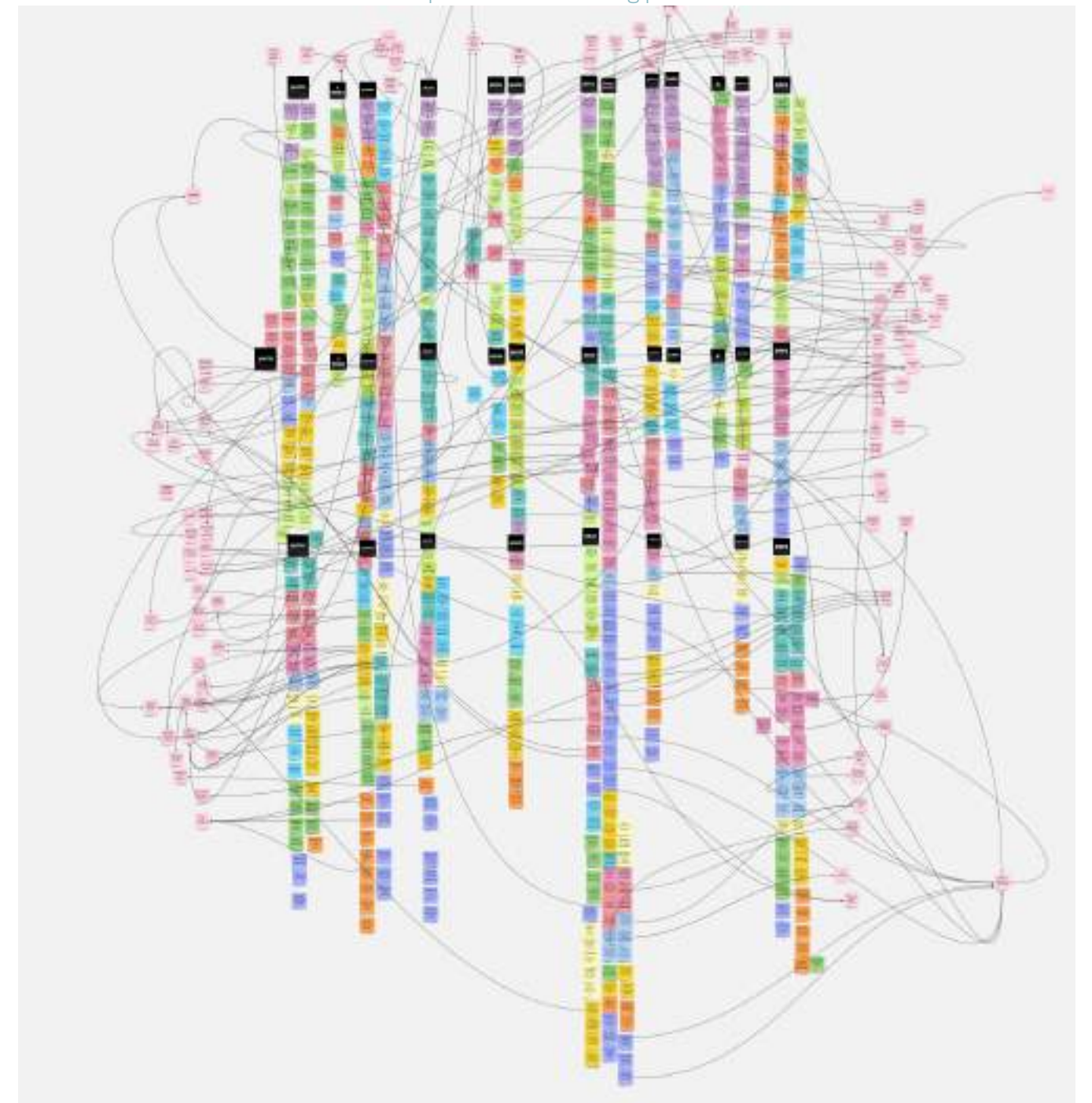
9. Insights

THE PROCESS

With 900 minutes of recorded Conversations to process, responses were coded and re-coded ... first to draw out common themes, then to push out insights. In Coding Pass I, below, we pulled out key themes: values, opportunities, models of good practice, ideas, issues, hopes and fears and identified links. Three further coding passes (see over) would group responses on spectrums, identify tensions and highlight 'sweet spots' - circled yellow - potentials that inspire thinking and action.

Coding Pass 1

not intended to be read... this offers as a picture of the sorting process and the links between themes



Coding Pass 2

Findings are grouped around polar opposites:

- Glorious, bountiful nature able to **THRIVE**: forest, rockpool, beach, life
- Negative impact on wildlife and humans when nature begins to **DIE**
- Issues that are **GLOBAL**: COP28, oceans dying, climate crisis, waste
- Positive **LOCAL** action - nature prescribing, tree planting, beach cleans.



Sweet spot: between THRIVE and LOCAL lie nature's gifts that make us well: '...grounds me... hidden waterfall... rockpooling... salt smell in the air... birds on feeder... walk at sunset... wandering... makes me well... my happy place... privilege to see on my doorstep'.

Insights > action

- Habitat loss is accelerating - use controls, regulation, monitoring to stop
- Dumfries & Galloway can be a coastal flagship - but let's keep some secrets
- Harness nature for social connection, personal meaning, healthy ageing
- Balance is vital - enjoy access to the coast without detriment
- Harness local knowledge.

Coding Pass 3

In the next pass, findings group around:

- **GREED**: over-fishing/foraging, profiteering, land use, right to roam
- **SHARES** repeatable, ongoing, free nature; share knowledge, data, funds, effort
- Apathy, overwhelm, pessimism, resistance create **PASSIVE** communities
- **ACTIVE** approaches: 'do one thing', volunteer, custodian, citizen scientist.



Sweet spot: between ACTIVE and SHARES lie the answers: Coastodians, volunteering, working together, taking responsibility, conservation, beach cleans, sharing knowledge, learning from other projects: Lancashire on saltmarsh, Swansea on seagrass.

Insights > action

- Harness energy and passion of locals who wear many hats - ideal Coastodians
- Collaborate; share community assets; grow a movement; avoid competition
- Promote Citizen Science data collection.
- Incentivise volunteering with Civic Credits - don't just reward private investors
- Share good practices: hook to cook, growing, foraging, teaching young.

Coding Pass 4

There was a clear sense in responses of the environment being at a ‘Code Red’ state:

- Rapid change is driving a need for **URGENT** quick wins
- Nature works over aeons; funding, over short term - this hampers **LONG VIEW**
- Species/habitat loss is a present **RISK**; investment/development could be too
- Play **SAFE**: learn from best practice - Eden project, managed access, rewilding.



Sweet spot: URGENT solutions must take the LONG VIEW and be SAFE. Citizens value nature’s gifts: blue light, serotonin, fresh air, good sleep, calm... ‘an existential depth to life’. They fear there’s ‘no time’, ‘it’s too late’ ‘there’s an urgent need to reverse trends’. Let’s go!

Insights > action

- Overwhelm is the enemy of activism... Do One Thing approach counters hopelessness.
- Combine quick wins and long term strategy to plot a route to a positive green future
- Public sector/funders must take the long view too with funding for strategic partners
- Act now: have a bold vision, take action - baseline data, measure change, enforce rules
- If economic growth must be an outcome of environmental investment, beware risks.

10. Feedback

We gathered feedback at the end of each Exploration. This learning will help shape future SCAMP events.

What went well:

- “stimulating and inclusive discussion”
- “focussed activities with excellent supporting resources”
- “excellent approach to concentrate assessment of very important issues”
- “interesting and engaging way to encourage discussion and input”
- “walk and talk on shoreline was great thank you”
- “knowledge top notch... excellent experts”
- “lovely mix of indoors and outdoors”
- “great event - well done!”
- “brilliant... fantastic day”
- “excellent facilitation of discussion session”
- “shells were great as currency for voting - how very Solway”

Even Better IF:

- ask people to think as if Nature - “What would nature want?”
- less to cover in workshop to allow more time for discussion
- longer walk - see more of the coast
- save printing - instead of postcards, just use paper
- walk more than talk - it’s hard, standing still in the cold
- shelter out of the cold on walk
- lunch break could just be soup, coffee and cake - no sandwiches.

Team observations

- It’s a challenge to hit the ground running and connect widely in a 6 month engagement project.
- We had expected around 6 people to book for each - partly because of known ‘consultation fatigue’; partly because of the specialist nature of the project; partly because of the time of year and the outdoor engagement offer. We ‘sold-out’ all the free workshops and raised the ceiling of 20 participants to open a few more seats where venues could accommodate them. Suggests an appetite for more events.
- If groups were any larger they would need a co-facilitator.

11. Keeping up momentum

Dumfries & Galloway Council is keeping up momentum around this series of engagements and before Phase 2 begins.

Solway Coastodians

ARRAN FIELD TRIP

Many models of good practice were cited at Solway Lab 2038 workshops, in the survey and during Conversations. Dumfries & Galloway Council is organising a Spring Go and See field trip to Arran for 16 Coastodians from across the region. They will hear the story behind the community organisation COAST who created a No-Take Zone at Lamlash Bay, visit the geopark, discovery centre and coastal walks to inspire thinking about the future role of the Solway Coastodians.

Dumfries & Galloway Schools

BEACH SCHOOLS

Teams within the Council are collaborating to run a Beach School trial in the inner Solway to reconnect communities and their young people to their coastal landscape... eg in Gretna, where locals don't necessarily think of their home as coastal.

In parallel with the SCAMP engagement, Dumfries & Galloway Council offered small grants to community groups for environmental initiatives and supported these projects across the region:

Stoneykirk Community Council

FRAGILE FORESHORE

Work with researchers to monitor and protect the fragile foreshore to "hold the line" and gain back some ground from the sea, supporting the natural return of flora and fauna to the uncut wilding area. Findings will be useful for future SCAMP coastal defence projects.

Port William and District Community Council

RETURN OF THE TIDAL POOL

Research to explore the potential role of reestablishing an historic tidal pool to connect people to their coastal and marine environment and collect evidence of the wellbeing impacts of wild sea water swimming.

The Stove Artists Collective

WILD GOOSE FESTIVAL

To help fund a Scientist in Residence to share information and input into the themes of the annual Wild Goose Festival in October 2024, working with Dr Larry Griffin, an expert in migratory birds and their habitats.

Newton Stewart Sub Aqua Club

SEAGRASS DIVING SURVEYS

Dozens of shipwrecks around the coast provide rich habitats for marine life. These diving surveys will plunder for treasure... seagrass. Divers will record findings in images and film, building a database for public and academic use.

Caerlaverock Estate

COASTAL RESTORATION FILMS

Caerlaverock Estate is working hard to restore the coast and preserve endangered species like the Natterjack Toad. This initiative will commission a filmmaker to create mini film clips to showcase and share the Estate's nature restoration work via QR codes across the estate.

Powfoot Charity Group

RETURN OF THE NATTERJACK

Powfoot Charity Group will undertake research with the community and experts to explore nature-based solutions that restore habitat and encourage the return of Natterjack toads to the foreshore and sandy embankment.



Stranraer Oyster, watercolour created with handmade pigment from foraged alder cones, Erinclare Scrutton

12. Phase 2

coastodians



Photo: Pete Robinson

Phase 2: Coastodians network

In discussions after workshops, many participants expressed an interest in taking on a real Coastodian role - caretaking their beloved coast. This demonstrated positive potential to grow a network of activists in the future. This is already being acted upon and a field trip to Arran for April 2024 has recruited the first batch of **Coastodians**.

Phase 2: Place-based projects

Pipeline projects in the west and east of the region offer a focus for future place-based SCAMP projects. In the west, Stranraer's multi-million pound **One Waterfront** development is key to its Place Plan. It features a marina expansion, new Watersports Centre, proposed Marine Research Centre and development ideas for the old ferry pier. At the Annan end of the region, the Harbour Development Trust has raised £12 million of *Levelling Up* Funding for the harbour area development.

Stranraer and Annan present opportunities for developing Phase 2 of SCAMP.

Photo: Pete Robinson





Seaweed, charcoal marks
Erinclare Scrutton

Thanks to

- Karen Morley, Jan Hogarth and Anna Harvey at Dumfries & Galloway Council.
- Clair Mcfarlan, Nic Coombey and Morag Walker at Solway Firth Partnership.
- Expert guides for our Walk-and-Talks: Nic Coombey, Solway Firth Partnership; Dr Larry Griffin; Robbie Cowan, Caerlaverock Estate; Andrew Bielinski, RSPB; Mary Smith, National Trust; Alan Thomson, Annan Harbour Action Group.
- Host venues: Millennium Centre, Stranraer; Kirkcudbright Development Trust; the Barbour Memorial Hall, Glencaple; Wigtown Town Hall; Anchor Hotel, Kippford; Annan Harbour Action Group.
- Deciding Matters team for FIRNS.

Creatives

- Pete Robinson, photographer.
- Erinclare Scrutton, artist, joined several walks and created unique illustrations using charcoal handmade from natural materials foraged along the Solway coast.
- Poetry: Stuart Paterson and Angela McG.
- Photographs with no credit © Only Human

Another creative collaboration by Only Human Ltd:

Barbara Chalmers, Only Human www.onlyhumanltd.co.uk
Lorna Young, Indigo Words www.indigowords.co.uk
Gabby Morris, Feeldwork www.feeldworkfutures.co.uk



Knockbrex, April

by Angela McG

**Violets! Ground Ivy, in flower! Thrift, in bud!
Gorse, in flower, but not yet smelling of coconut
when rubbed! Bright-white seashells! Peacock
butterflies! Red Kites! Pheasants (a pair)!**

**Brambles, hawthorn, low-growing rose – not in
flower yet, but in leaves, and thorns!
Full of birthday cake, we limp down to the water's
edge. More cake, coffee from a flask. The taste of
salt on my lips. The dogs running and barking, gulls
screeching, I read someone else's poetry to my
husband and the waves. It feels good to hear my
voice echoing off my audience. Today, me and the
sea, we're like that.**

Angela is a poet and writer with a herbalist's eye for the coast. She lives in Terregles in Dumfries & Galloway and took part in our SCAMP Conversations over the winter of 2023-24.

A POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE

IT'S 2053, YOU'RE ONE OF THE NEXT GENERATION



ING ON THE COAST...

ASTE THAT MAKES LIFE AMAZING

what we have
ments

of vehicle (electric)
of livestock
of plastic
T MAKES LIFE AMAZING?
THE COAST...



Thank you for
an interesting
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