



Specification



The Specification

Please note: This document should be tailored to the project requirements. The level of detail within the specification should adequately reflect the nature of the project requirements. Some of the information may not be necessary and can be omitted.

Project Title:	Solway Coast and Marine Project – Native Oyster Opportunity Mapping on the Dumfries and Galloway Solway Coast
Service:	Environment Team
Project Owner:	Nick Chisholm

1	INTRODUCTION
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<p>Dumfries and Galloway Council and its partners in the Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP) wish to appoint a qualified and experienced consultant to map data to identify areas suitable for native oyster <i>Ostrea edulis</i> reef establishment in the Solway along the Dumfries and Galloway Coast.</p> <p>The report and digital mapping of key environmental variables and constraints to native oyster reef reintroduction will be based on existing available data plus a literature review. Where data gaps are identified, the consultant will need to define the additional data collection action required and where SCAMP can assist to infill data.</p> <p>The successful consultant will provide digital mapping at high enough resolution to be meaningful at a local scale to aid potential restoration effort.</p> <p>The report will form part of Phase 1 Development of SCAMP and the results will be used to support the delivery stage application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Detail on the full SCAMP Landscape Connections Programme can be found here. Home - Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP)</p>	

2	BACKGROUND

Native Oyster Opportunity Mapping on the Dumfries and Galloway Solway Coast Phase 1 Development report and digital mapping is expected to be undertaken between May 2026 – November 2026

The estimated value of this Contract is up to and not exceeding £19,950 (excluding VAT)

Native Oyster Opportunity Mapping on the Dumfries and Galloway Solway Coast is part of Phase 1 Development Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP). The report and mapping will guide native oyster bed potential by identifying suitable locations for reintroduction.

SCAMP will deliver an 8-year holistic seascape programme to understand, conserve and develop the potential of the natural, cultural and built heritage for the people of the Solway Firth. It will focus a range of large-scale interventions and activities to deliver a coherent, and co-ordinated approach to reconnect people to the amazing Solway Firth seascape. The project will leave the Solway Firth better understood, protected and will maximise the potential of the seascape to respond to today’s nature and climate crises. Much of our work will involve new and novel ways of working, research and development, citizen science and co design.

Native oyster beds are known to have existed in the Solway along the Dumfries and Galloway coast and evidence of shell middens in Stranraer suggest that they have been exploited by early hunter gatherers.

Rights to fish oysters in Loch Ryan were first granted in 1701 and continuous management has resulted in the thriving oyster beds and a commercial fishery. Other local oyster beds on the coasts of Colvend, Rerrick, Wigtown Bay, and Luce Bay have declined and probably disappeared largely due to overfishing in the late 1800s. There is thought to be significant potential for restoration effort within the outer Solway Firth.

A study to understand the potential for enhancement of Loch Ryan's oyster beds through the deployment of cultch could help expand both the population and the distribution of oysters in the loch. In 2024 a team from Heriot-Watt University assessed the current distribution of oyster stock and evaluated the sediment types within the area. The report will be made available to the successful consultant.

3	Specification
<p>This will either be a conformance specification (a precise and technical description of what is required) OR a performance specification (an explanation of what it should do).</p> <p>A conformance specification is known as technical or design specifications; and performance specifications known as output specification for goods or services.</p> <p>Please refer to the accompanying guidance for more detail on what should be included in either specification. In some cases it may be more effective to use attachment documents with further detail where appropriate.</p>	

We are seeking a consultant to deliver a report and digital mapping of key environmental variables and constraints to native oyster reef reintroduction on the Dumfries and Galloway Solway coast. The mapping should include a subset identifying suitable locations at high enough resolution to be meaningful at a local scale to aid potential restoration effort.

Work will include literature review, fieldwork and obtaining data sets required to map factors including but not limited to:

- Evidence of historic and current range
- Protection from destructive fishing methods
- Absence of dredging and extractive practices
- Dissolved oxygen concentration
- Sedimentation rate
- Unregulated harvesting
- Invasive species including Pacific oyster
- Pollution levels including sewage and inorganic nutrients
- Disease
- Substrate suitability
- Water temperature for reproduction and summer / winter extremes
- Salinity range and freshwater input
- Seabed mobility / turbidity / wave exposure
- Current directions and tidal stream strength
- Water PH

Identifying any remnant oyster populations would be essential for informing future restoration initiatives. This opportunity mapping process will combine fieldwork with a review of existing literature and historical records, while also engaging local experts and communities in identifying any remaining oyster beds. SCAMP will assist with identifying local fishers, divers, conservation groups, and coastal residents who may help locate remnant populations or identify suitable locations for reintroductions.

Work will include opportunities to develop socioeconomic factors including engaging with local community and building partnerships, cooperation with local fishers, returning heritage value and strengthening protection area status. Community engagement will be conducted to gather information and help foster community support and ownership of the restoration project, ensuring their long-term success. SCAMP will support community engagement through our networks, introductions, and any relevant events.

Outputs and Milestones

Contract administration

We anticipate monthly, or as required, online or in person meetings between SCAMP and the consultant that will include a progress report and identify issues and opportunities.

Outputs

- Initial meeting agreeing environmental variables and constraints to be mapped, data gaps and fieldwork to be scoped and agreed.
- Literature review report.
- Community engagement meetings and events in person x 6
- Native Oyster Opportunity Mapping on the Dumfries and Galloway Solway Coast report
- Digital mapping including a subset of suitable location for reintroduction

Time scale

- Initial meeting June 2026
- Literature review July 2026
- Community engagement meetings June - August 2026
- Draft report and digital mapping presentation September 2026
- Final report and digital mapping November 2026

a) Fees and Costs

Rates and prices shall be deemed inclusive of all additional expenses howsoever incurred. Provide details of how fees and costs are to be provided (you may reference to a separate Pricing Schedule document).

To guide the consultant, we have provided the following supporting documents:

Pricing schedule document – to be completed by the consultant

Pricing Guide: Consultants are invited to submit a fixed fee tender as described in this briefing document and the submission will be assessed on a quality/price (70/30%) basis.

Budget

The budget for the opportunity mapping of native oysters in the Dumfries and Galloway Solway is a maximum of £19,950(excluding VAT)

4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We are looking for an individual, team or organisation with:

- Experience of working on / delivering environmental consultation work – including working on native oysters and / or habitat restoration programmes (especially coast and marine).
- Experience of working within and successfully engaging local communities.
- Experience of working on projects which are delivered across a large geographical area and by a range of partners, volunteers, and community groups.
- Familiarity with the Solway coast.
- Ability to travel to and around the project area.
- Strong track record of producing clear, well written, high-quality reports.
- Experience of producing accessible digital mapping

Your Proposal should be a maximum of four sides of A4, and should include the following information:

- The outline Framework you would propose implementing (this could be an example of one you have delivered for a similar project).
- Any other tools or methodologies you propose to use as part of delivering the work.
- How you will approach developing the native oyster opportunity mapping with us and how you intend to work with us throughout the programme.
- Your understanding of this brief and the wider context within which the project sits in the UK.
- The reason you are interested in working with the team and your fit to our criteria.
- Your relevant experience.
- How you will manage the project, including your anticipated time commitment.
- Your ideas about how you will present the report findings to us and to others.
- A budget, broken down against each output and against stages or tasks outlined in your methodology, with a breakdown for delivery.
- Details of two referees from other clients for whom you have delivered work.

Insurance

The Consultants must confirm and evidence that they have the appropriate Employers Liability Insurance (£5 Million), Public Liability Insurance (£5 Million) and Professional Liability of up to £1million.

Questions to be submitted via email to: nick.chisholm@dumgal.gov.uk or Karen.Morley@dumgal.gov.uk

Council contact details

Nick Chisholm
 SCAMP Coordinator
 Dumfries & Galloway Council
Nick.Chisholm@dumgal.gov.uk

5 SUSTAINABILITY

You should mention the Councils sustainability policy within the brief to ensure best practice is promoted throughout the project and minimise the impact on the environment. Refer to the Councils **Sustainable Procurement Policy** for further information.

Our Council has adopted a **Sustainable Procurement Policy**, tenders should include a statement as to their approach to carbon reduction, fairtrade and community benefit.

It is a condition of this tender that contractors shall pay the real living wage to all employees working on the contract and provide an 'effective voice' channel. Tenders should be prepared to evidence this if required.

Reference:

DGC-SCAMP-260501

Once complete you may remove the guidance text within each section.