

Specification



The Specification

Project Title:	Solway Coast and Marine Project – Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy
Service:	Environment Team
Project Owner:	Nick Chisholm

1	INTRODUCTION
<p>Dumfries and Galloway Council and its partners in the Solway Coast and Marine Project – Landscape Connections (SCAMP) wishes to appoint an experienced consultant to provide a Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for the 8-year delivery phase of SCAMP.</p> <p>The successful applicant will work with all project partners and the SCAMP Technical Advisory Group to develop a deliverable plan and methodology that will measure the impact of SCAMP habitat works by monitoring key biodiversity indicators. The work is to include an assessment of the potential for using environmental The DNA (eDNA) monitoring to create a holistic picture of biodiversity for SCAMP. The Strategy and Action Plan report will identify areas where monitoring is already taking place, opportunities for project partners to deliver ‘in house’ monitoring that supplement existing approaches and identify where gaps exist that will require additional resources.</p> <p>The report will set out a deliverable action plan to measure status and trends for priority habitats, species and their ecosystem functions. It 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.</p>	

2	BACKGROUND
<p>Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan on the Dumfries and Galloway Solway Coast Phase 1 Development report is expected to be undertaken between May 2026 – November 2026</p> <p>Fixed budget £15,000 max excluding VAT</p> <p>Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for the Dumfries and Galloway Solway Coast is part of Phase 1 Development of the Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP). The report will provide a framework for measuring the success of SCAMP habitat restoration.</p> <p>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-</p>	

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.

Activities include large scale seascape and connected habitat restoration across a long and varied coastline from extensive tidal mudflats in the east to towering cliffs in the west. SCAMP has a focus on five main habitats; native oyster reefs, seagrass beds, saltmarsh, sand dunes and coastal woodlands. Employing innovation and experimental habitat restoration techniques it is essential that a robust monitoring framework is implemented from the start of the project to track progress, demonstrate performance against targets and inform reviews of restoration effort.

A suite of indicators will need to be agreed with environmental organisations including SCAMP partners:

- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Solway Firth Partnership
- Southern Uplands Partnership (and South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre)
- Crichton Carbon Centre
- RSPB
- Galloway Fisheries Trust
- D&G Woodlands
- Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

3 Specification

We are seeking a consultant to deliver the Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan during the development phase of SCAMP, our National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) project. This report will inform the application to the NLHF for a second round delivery grant under the Landscape Connections programme.

The successful consultant will be expected to demonstrate that they have the key skills and knowledge either within their own organisation or by sub-contracting additional expertise. A consortium of different organisations would be acceptable, but the successful applicant will be responsible for delivery.

The consultant will undertake partner and stakeholder engagement to identify criteria and agree a suite of indicators for the many habitats and species on the Dumfries and Galloway coast. It will be necessary to collate information on the monitoring that is already taking place both nationally and locally. An assessment of opportunities for project partners to deliver 'in house' monitoring that supplement existing approaches will need to be explored. The report should identify where gaps or overlaps exist and set out where additional resources are required to provide a robust monitoring framework that reflects nature restoration at scale. It is recognised that natural conditions have an impact on habitats and species so long-term data on habitats, species and natural influences will need to be collated throughout the duration of the project.

The work is to include an assessment of the potential for using environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring to create a holistic picture of biodiversity for SCAMP.

The report will include an agreed framework that identifies key indicators for habitats, species and their ecosystem functions. A Strategy and Action Plan will set out proposed sampling methodology and analysis with costed options.

a) 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 with SCAMP agreeing an approach to Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan
- A series of meetings with SCAMP partners and other stakeholders.
- A review reporting on framework and strategy.
- Draft report and presentation on strategy and action plan
- Final strategy and action plan report for biodiversity monitoring.

Time scale

- Initial meeting June 2026
- Series of meetings with partners and stakeholders July 2026
- A review reporting on framework and strategy August 2026
- Draft report and presentation on strategy and action plan September 2026
- Final strategy and action plan report November 2026

b) Fees and Costs

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.

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Budget

The budget for the opportunity mapping of native oysters in the Dumfries and Galloway Solway is a maximum of £15,000(excluding VAT)

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

- Experience of working on / delivering environmental monitoring work (especially coast and marine).
- Experience of consulting with environmental organisations.
- 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.

Insurance

The Consultants must confirm and evidence that they have the appropriate Employers Liability Insurance (£5 Million) and Public Liability Insurance (£5 Million).

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
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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, as a minimum, 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-20260504
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