

## Specification



### The Specification

Project Title:	Solway Coast and Marine Project – Mobile Lab Study and Costed Options Appraisal
Service:	Environment Team
Project Owner:	Nick Chisholm

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
<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 Study and Costed Options Appraisal (with outline design) for the development of a Mobile Lab to be used during the 8-year delivery phase of SCAMP.</p> <p>The Mobile Lab is a compact learning hub that can be taken to events to enhance ocean literacy for students and the general public. The Mobile Lab should also provide a suitable space to be used as a laboratory base for scientists undertaking fieldwork in remote coastal locations.</p> <p>The successful applicant will take a collaborative approach to work with all project partners and the SCAMP Technical Advisory Group to undertake a Study to establish clear objectives, define scope and needs, identify functional and technical requirements for a mobile multi-purpose learning hub.</p> <p>The Options Appraisal will set out options, the criteria for assessment and recommend a preferred solution with specification, outline design and costs. 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>	

<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<p>Mobile Lab Study and Options Appraisal for the Dumfries and Galloway Solway Coast Phase 1 Development report is expected to be undertaken between July 2026 – November 2026</p> <p>Fixed budget £9,950 max excluding VAT</p> <p>Mobile Lab Options Appraisal for the Dumfries and Galloway Solway Coast is part of Phase 1 Development of the Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP).</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.</p>	

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.

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. Encourage academic research and develop a programme of skills and training opportunities. Empower citizen science engagement with our communities events that will engage communities, connecting people to the heritage of the Solway Firth, support understanding, appreciation, learning and foster a passion for the rich natural and cultural heritage.

The Mobile Lab is to be co-created with educators, researchers and 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

<b>3</b>	<b>Specification</b>
<p>We are seeking a consultant to deliver a study including options appraisal and costed recommendations for a mobile lab 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The consultant will undertake partner and stakeholder engagement to set out clear objectives, define scope and identify functional and technical requirements for a mobile multi-purpose learning hub. The study should consider user experience, design principles, safety and compliance required to achieve a mobile lab that achieves ocean literacy outcomes.</p> <p>The options appraisal will set out options, the criteria for assessment and recommend a preferred solution with detailed design, specification and costings.</p>	

### 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 Mobile Lab study and options appraisal.
- A series of meetings / workshops with SCAMP partners and other stakeholders.
- A study reporting on objectives, scope and needs with recommendations on functional and technical requirements.
- Draft options appraisal and presentation with preferred option.
- Final study and options appraisal including design, specification and costings for implementation.

#### Time scale

- Initial meeting June 2026
- Series of meetings / workshops with partners and stakeholders July 2026
- A study reporting on objectives, scope and needs with recommendations on functional and technical requirements August 2026
- Draft options appraisal and presentation with preferred option September 2026
- Final study refined options appraisal including design, specification and costings for implementation. 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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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.

The **budget** for the biodiversity monitoring strategy is a maximum of £9,950 ex VAT

### 4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

- Experience of working on the development of educational and research facilities (especially coast and marine).
- Experience of consulting with environmental, education and research organisations.
- Familiarity with the Solway coast.

- Strong track record of producing clear, well written, high-quality studies and options appraisals.

### Insurance

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

Questions to be submitted via email to: [nick.chisholm@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:nick.chisholm@dumgal.gov.uk) and [Karen.Morley@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Morley@dumgal.gov.uk)

### Council contact details

Nick Chisholm  
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Dumfries & Galloway Council  
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## 5 SUSTAINABILITY

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-20260505
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