

Specification

Project Title:	Solway Coast and Marine Project – North Solway / South West Scotland Coast Path Community Engagement
Project Owner:	Cara Gillespie, The Southern Uplands Partnership

1	INTRODUCTION
<p>The Southern Uplands Partnership (SUP) is seeking an external consultant to co-ordinate and deliver community engagement with coastal communities on coast path signage, interpretation and volunteering opportunities, as well as produce a related report with recommendations.</p> <p>The work will take place alongside, and in support of, wider work being taken forward by Dumfries & Galloway Council and the Southern Uplands Partnership to develop a Coast Path within SCAMP. The outputs will inform and shape the submission to Heritage Lottery Fund for delivery of a Coast Path within the SCAMP delivery phase.</p> <p>We are seeking an experienced consultant, with relevant knowledge and skills, to deliver the commission over six months June-December 2026, with some further ad hoc requirement January-March 2027. There is a fixed price budget of £9,000, excluding VAT, but including all delivery costs including travel, materials and sub-contractor fees.</p> <p>The deadline for quotes is noon on Wednesday 20th May 2026 by email to cara@sup.org.uk.</p>	

2	BACKGROUND
<p>SCAMP Landscape Connections (SCAMP) will deliver a 10-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. SCAMP 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. SCAMP will leave the Solway Firth</p>	

better understood, protected and will maximise the potential of the seascape to respond to today's nature and climate crises. SCAMP is the result of four years of development work under the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, Natural Capital Innovation Zone programme.

Headline activities include the following:

- Large scale seascape/connected habitat restoration across five main habitats, native oyster reefs, seagrass beds, saltmarsh, sand dunes and coastal woodlands.
- Develop and implement large scale sustainable restoration demonstration projects
- Explore innovation and experimental habitat restoration techniques
- Encourage academic and practical research
- Empower citizen science engagement with our communities
- Gather quality decision grade baseline data.
- Develop financial models and help support emerging blue carbon and marine and coastal biodiversity private finance markets
- Run cultural programmes, activities and 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.
- Develop a programme of skills and training opportunities, ensuring our people are equipped for future green and heritage job opportunities.
- Foster positive relationships with, and between, local maritime and coastal industries addressing conflict and helping to work through solutions.
- Enhance and develop our coastal infrastructure, particularly access and recreation improvements ensuring access for all and encouraging sustainable travel options. Development and delivery of the South West Scotland Coast Path between Gretna and Rhins of Galloway Coast Path utilising the core path network and provision of directional signage. Improve accessibility at key coastal gateway sites along the Solway through improved design and facilities.
- Design and implement high quality interpretation & engagement infrastructure to enhance the understanding and enjoyment for local communities and visitors
- Explore the past coastal and marine habitat through a Solway wide community archaeology programme exploring the unseen marine past using new technologies.
- Develop an innovative eco arts programme called SEAS. This will work with local and international artists working in the field of eco art, collaborating with scientists and experts to better reveal, challenge and illuminate SCAMP's innovative and experimental habitat restoration.
- Work with local businesses and industry to help safeguard, expand and improve sustainability of our maritime & coastal economy, addressing areas of conflict and seeking resolution to issues such as practices which damage our coastal and marine environment.
- Support our young people and communities to develop innovative sustainable enterprises based on the coast and marine environment.

Extensive initial scoping and development work relating to the Coast Path has already been undertaken and full details will be shared with the successful contractor at inception.

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Specification

We are seeking quotes from suitably experienced consultants, in the form of a tailored CV and covering letter, which should outline your experience, skills and proposed approach to delivery. Please include details of two relevant referees, and examples of recent similar work (these may be supplied as additional documents or links).

As well as outlining your approach to delivery, the covering letter should address the following selection criteria, which will be scored according to the associated weightings in brackets:

- Experience of rural community engagement, research and consultation, ideally within the context of a long-distance walking route and/or Dumfries & Galloway (30%)
- Knowledge of access legislation and good practice in Scotland (10%)
- Understanding of the role of local authorities and relevant local and national policies with regard to core paths and access, ideally within Dumfries & Galloway (10%)
- Ability to produce clear, accessible and timely research reports (20%)
- Experience of working within complex multi-stakeholder projects (10%)
- Availability within the timescales and a flexible approach, with the ability to adapt to evolving circumstances (10%)
- Access to own vehicle and/or ability to travel extensively across rural Dumfries & Galloway (5%).
- Price – please specify a daily rate and whether you are VAT registered (5%).

a) Outputs and Milestones

Contract administration

The commission and the overall project will be managed by SUP CEO Cara Gillespie. The contractor will be supported with co-delivery of community-facing events and activity by other SUP staff and freelance associates, where available and necessary, as well as provided with linkages to other relevant partners and activity, including within coastal communities.

The contractor will lead on day-to-day co-ordination, development and delivery of community-facing activity, as well as production of the final report. We anticipate regular, (every two weeks) contact with the consultant (online) to monitor progress and feed in information.

Outputs

The successful contractor will:

- 1) Organise and deliver a minimum of 6 in person awareness raising and engagement events with communities along the coast, to:
 - a) Inform and improve understanding and appreciation of the coast path network, coastal access and SCAMP
 - b) identify local priorities and areas for improving access infrastructure, including opportunities for fully accessible sections of the coast path route

volunteer path warden scheme																			
Produce report on coast path community engagement activities																			
Assist SCAMP coordination team to write content for the with Lottery stage 2 Delivery application																			

b) Fees and Costs

The budget for this project is fixed at £9,000 excluding VAT, to include all costs of delivery.

Selection of the successful contractor will be based upon the quality criteria noted above.

4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Informal enquiries in advance of tendering are welcomed. Please contact Cara Gillespie at cara@sup.org.uk to arrange.