

Investment Ready Solway

A report for the Facility for Investment Ready Scotland
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Cam about wi help fae

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Solway Coast and Marine Project -FIRNS 1

Introduction

The Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP) is an ambitious seascape scale project that aims to restore important coastal, intertidal, and subtidal habitats along the Dumfries and Galloway Coastline, and the Scottish Solway including Loch Ryan. The map below indicates the extent of the project area.

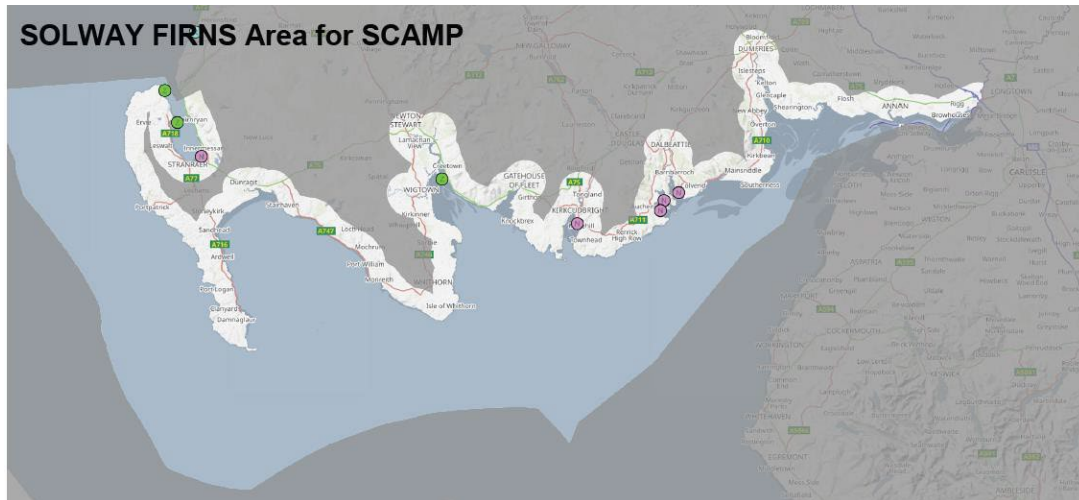


fig 1.1 Map of project area

The project will achieve this through a mixture of public, private and third sector investment. Achieving important biodiversity gains, climate mitigations and adaptation is at the heart of the project but we expect that coastal communities build on this through multiple associated benefits including employment, education, recreational and wellbeing benefits.

The project will also improve coastal community resilience from the effects of climate change. It is predicted by SEPA that the median sea level rise will be 0.8m, (this is backed up by the IPCC reports that the likely sea level rise is between 0.61 and 1.1 m) by 2100, along with increased storminess, increased sea temperature and acidity. The dire nature of these high confidence predictions makes it urgent that we find solutions now.

All 'natural' habitats will be considered in the final iteration of SCAMP but for the purposes of this report we are dealing exclusively with Salt Marsh (Merse), Sea Grass beds and Native Oyster beds. These habitats have been chosen as they are all present to a greater or lesser extent around the coastline and are known to have significant ecosystem services, including flood defense water quality, biodiversity, carbon, and cultural importance. They are also habitats, and the species found within them, that are either vulnerable to the effects of climate change or may help mitigate some of the scenarios, by providing important ecosystem services and offering biodiversity and community resilience. For example:



- Sea grass beds, *Zostera marina* and *Zostera noltii*, may be vulnerable to both increasing storm frequency and scale, increasing depth of sea and increased turbidity. *Z. marina* is less common in the intertidal zones and less adapted to changes in temperature in that zone, compared to *Z. noltii*. Sea grass is however thought to provide a useful buffer against the effects of ocean acidification. Sea grass is also known to be an important accumulator of carbon and provide habitats for many other important species, including commercially important fish. [Seagrass can mitigate negative ocean acidification effects on calcifying algae | Scientific Reports \(nature.com\)](#).
In the SCAMP area we have well mapped intertidal areas of sea grass species, *Zostera marina* and *Zostera noltii* and less well-known areas of the *Zostera marina* in the near shore subtidal areas as well as a genetically unique form of marina.
- Oyster beds are vulnerable to changes in ocean acidity. Mature oysters are possibly less vulnerable but juvenile oysters, with their thin shells are particularly vulnerable to increasing ocean acidity. Oyster beds are known to create biodiverse habitats that accumulate carbon and filter water as well as providing habitats for important commercial fish species. [How ocean acidification is affecting oyster reef ecosystems | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#).
In the SCAMP area we have Scotland's only viable commercial native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) fishery in Loch Ryan. In other parts of the Solway, we used to have a commercial fishery that, due to overfishing, has ceased to exist. Fragmented populations are thought to still be present, but their viability and location is currently unknown. Effects of ocean acidification will need to be monitored going forward.
- Salt marsh (Merse) is highly vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise and will have to be allowed to migrate inland if we wish to maintain this important biodiverse habitat. Merse provides an important ecosystem service by buffering the effects of storm surge on communities as well as being internationally important for overwintering birds. Increased storminess also risks increased erosion and potentially higher temperatures leading to risk damaging drought conditions.
In the SCAMP area merse habitat is currently accreting in parts of the Solway, but it is known that this situation, without action, will deteriorate soon, as sea levels rise.

To achieve the scale of ambition for SCAMP we are looking to raise in the region of £20 million over 10 years, with project activity commencing in 2026/7. To realise this ambition, we will require significant private sector investment. It is vitally important that the already vulnerable communities in the project area are a key part of the project and benefit from the investments. Indeed, where appropriate it would benefit the project if community codesign is considered at the outset.

With the help of FIRNS 1, Dumfries and Galloway Council commissioned a number of reports to help us map a way forward. These reports, the Nature Finance Report (Finance Earth), the Land Agents Report (Galbraith) and the Community



Engagement Plan (Only Human) will assist Dumfries and Galloway Council and its partners plan its future activities to realise the ambitions of SCAMP.

Nature Finance Report

Finance Earth was asked to consider the options available for generating private finance revenue to deliver the SCAMP objectives in a sustainable way, over the period of the SCAMP scheme and beyond. They were tasked with looking at options around carbon and biodiversity credits and the mechanisms for delivery and development of markets that could monetise other ecosystem services. They were to look for options available under markets currently available in Scotland and contrasting this with other markets developing in the UK. They were asked to assess barriers to finance and describe market risks whilst preparing recommendations for a route forward. Lastly, they were to advise the project on the steps need to ensure that the projects are 'investment ready' once financing mechanisms become available. In addition, they were to consider a business case for the expansion of the Loch Ryan Oyster beds.

Land Agents Report

Galbraith's were asked to specifically look at the opportunities and risk for landowners wishing to undertake merse restoration/expansion on a variety of farms around the Solway. The landholdings were identified through a piece of work delivered by Dr Larry Griffin (ECOL LG Ltd) called: *The potential for saltmarsh (merse) and pseudo- saltmarsh reinstatement or creation through managed realignment on the Solway Firth, Dumfries & Galloway*. This report noted the likelihood of successful saltmarsh restoration, creation or realignment based upon predictions of sea level rise across the region. The report did not undertake any financial evaluation of what this would cost, either in terms of implementation, loss of income to the landholding or loss of value of the landholding, it did however demonstrate where the land height adjacent to the sea would, in future years, be likely to be affected by sea level rise and increasing storm inundation.

Galbraith's were asked to look at the financial impact this would have on a number of landholdings practicing a variety of land management regimes. Four typical landholding types (and real-life examples) were chosen, ranked from the most valuable land under current agricultural management to the least valuable. Dumfries and Galloways agriculture is typically livestock based so a purely arable land option was not required. The land management options chosen were the following. The most valuable land would be a high value, highly protected by physical barriers, silage production area (principally for dairy), the second most valuable was also under silage production but less well protected, then we identified an area of unmanaged rough pasture, typically beef and lamb production (all year round grazing potential) and lastly an area that is currently under frequent tidal inundation, again this would typically be used at low stock densities for lamb and beef production (summer grazing only).



Community Engagement Plan

The Only Human consultancy and members of the Council's environment team undertook a programme of community engagement. It was important that the engagement work was creative and educational, grounded in place, along the Solway coast and in seven specific communities. A number of focused activities were held including walks, talks and workshops. We were fortunate that Barbara Chalmers from Only Human was from Stranraer in the west of the region, it is helpful to the communities we were working with that the consultant was seen as local.

Only Human's previous experience in people focused community consultation in urban and rural place plans often had an environmental element, but environment and nature were not the primary focus, unlike SCAMP where natural capital is the focus. For this reason, DGC worked closely with their team to provide any technical information on the marine environment including saltmarsh, seagrass, oyster beds and coastal woodlands and why restoring them is important for the coastal and marine environment. Only Human was able to translate what they learned and through excellent visual presentations, work with people in the workshops. Learning was embedded into all the work we undertook.

In addition to the consultants' work, DGC's environment team members delivered presentations, school workshops, commissioned a "Coastodians – Charting the Future of the Solway" film, and supported seven communities with undertaking their own research and education work identified by them as locally important, linked to the coastal and marine nature restoration.



Evaluation

Introduction

SCAMP received a Development Phase FIRNS 1 grant in October 2023 and proceeded to deliver a short and focused piece of work over the following 5 months. The project was in response to an application made in June 2023 and involved a number of DGC staff members, a dedicated project officer, SCAMP partner organisations, members of the community, landowners, along with a number of consultants.

Purpose of the project

Our ambition is to see the Solway Firth as a thriving, healthy, sustainable, ecosystem where healthy nature capital provides ecosystem services that support sustainable communities, builds the Wellbeing Economy, contributes to Community Wealth Building and the Transition to Net Zero. We want to see our coastal communities have positive engagement with the marine and coastal environment, feel empowered to take action for its continued health and sustainability, and benefiting from these healthy assets.

To do this we need to work with our local communities and partners (SFP & GSAB and others) to start a programme of restoration, awareness raising and action across a wide range of habitats.

Our marine pilot project (SCAMPP), funded through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal will kick start this process with an emphasis on setting up a research centre to provide a focal point for habitat restoration, community engagement, research into restoration techniques and achieving cost effective outcomes.

To realise the benefits of this investment and achieve our vision for the Solway we need to then roll out the learning and experience at scale through Loch Ryan and the wider Solway. This will require considerable investment, likely to be beyond that which will be available through public sources. Therefore, there is a need to ensure the Solway and our project is 'investment ready' The investment model for coastal and marine projects is less well developed than for some terrestrial habitats, the conditions are more complex and challenging and the cost likely to be higher. The road to being investment ready is therefore longer and more uncertain.

To inform the development of the landscape/seascape scale project we need to better understand the market, its current challenges, obstacles to investment, mechanisms that may allow investment and the associated cost/benefits.

The Purpose of this Evaluation & audience for the report

This evaluation has three main purposes

- 1) It is/was an iterative process throughout the duration of our project. It helped us to evaluate the outcome we were seeing from our work, respond to unexpected results and or changing parameters and our greater understanding of the underlying project drivers as the project evolved. We were dealing with multiple inputs, from communities, to government agencies, to private landowners and partners organisations and inevitably things change, or don't go as you initially planned. As



time was particularly short this required early identification of potential issues, rapid project team response and clear communication. The result was that some strands of the project needed changes and didn't necessarily end up taking the route we had initially envisaged.

- 2) On completion we have looked back on the project and evaluated its outputs and outcomes against our original aspirations. This has allowed us to reflect on how it went, what worked, what might have gone better, for our internal improvement.
- 3) To offer up areas of learning to the wider funders and project community, reflecting on both the process and the externalities that we have found to impact on our project outcomes.

Activities undertaken & Outputs Achieved

Local Community engagement

- 7 Walk and talk 'explorations'
- 500 one to one interviews with different members of the community
- Online survey 717 respondents
- 2 other place based talks/presentations
- 2 schools workshops
- 1 short film and associated premier event and panel discussion
- One research trip for "Coastodians"
- Supported for 6 community initiatives linked to research, further community engagement and education into coastal and marine restoration.

Work with loch Ryan Oyster Company

- A number on online discussions
- In-depth knowledge gained of the companies existing business model.
- Generally agreement gained to work with the local community to achieve community benefit
- A draft high-level business plan to increase the oyster beds and fishery

Engagement with Crown Estate Scotland

- Online and in person discussions with policy leads
- Development of a paper outlining project development requirement
- Input from other FIRNS projects to this paper
- Paper presented to CES to help in their ongoing policy

development Develop engagement with buyer.

- Difficulties engaging with buyer who had previously shown an interest due to development of their policy on location of projects.
- Work to identify other potential buyers.
- Meeting with SPEN regarding their Biodiversity & Innovation

funds. Partnership working with UKCEH.

- Discussions around current iteration of Saltmarsh Code
- Discussions around potential partnership to help the development of further iterations/variations of the Saltmarsh code to cover other types of restoration techniques beyond managed realignment.
- Delivery of local Saltmarsh Codes and Nature Finance markets

seminar Pipeline of interested landowners.

- 4 landowners visited and assessment of agricultural income which would be forgone in restorations project scenarios.
- Report to give agricultural costs associated with salt marsh restoration on 4 different agricultural business models. This will allow a cost estimate to be created for Salt Marsh restoration across the north Solway.

Acknowledging our grant



- We have ensured that we have acknowledged our grant funders in the following ways
 - On all presentations given – both verbally and on screen
 - On publicity materials for events
 - On all final reports
 - On any physical outputs
 - On our web page

Outcomes Achieved

Develop a project/business investment model which can be scaled and replicated.

- We now have a far better understanding of the potential investment model we need to aim for, there are still holes in that model but we are far clearer what we need to do and how we need to support the market development, working in partnership with others.

Create transparent and inclusive governance structures.

- Our project is not yet at the point of delivering detailed governance structure, but we are now starting to consider how this might look, and having open and transparent discussion with our potential partners.

Capture and disseminate lessons learned.

- We hope this work from this project will help other looking to develop similar projects, we are engaged with the FIRNS community of practise and other related marine and coastal restoration/finance workshops with agencies and other projects, building a network of fellow project developers.

Increase confidence and capability to create market ready investable projects.

- Our staff have all learned a huge amount through this process and better understand the private finance market our future project will sit within, knowledge will also be spread locally amongst colleagues and project partners to help them understand and engage with this new area of funding. We also have a regional FIRNS support group.

Develop long term opportunities for the development of local delivery capacity.

- We are well aware of the need in this area and we will be increasingly focused on this, one of our project consultants while lead from central office in Edinburgh used their local office to carry out much of the work and it has allowed this local office to increase its understanding and ability in this area of work.

Aggregation of projects & scale

- This has very much been our focus for the last couple of years and our project is working towards having in place the number of projects needed to deliver at scale and be attractive to larger investors. We have more to do to firm up our project pipeline but have a clearer idea of what we need to do.

Conclusion and Recommendations

As described by the community engagement consultant, this was a 'sprint' over 5 months which included the Christmas holidays. An additional challenge for our project was trying to undertake part of our community engagement outdoors on the coast in December and January. We were in the end incredibly fortunate with the weather over the days the events took place. In the end, as all the events were fully booked both the timing and the weather didn't appear to put people off.

The timescales were also a potential barrier for both the employment of a project officer and the procurement of consultants. We anticipated, based on previous experience in similar situations, that it would be both challenging to navigate the public sector procurement rules



and timescales and that there would be a 'rush' on a small number of specialist consultants. To mitigate these risks, we started the internal procurement process prior to receiving news we had been awarded the grant, this was a risk of wasted time internally but paid off when we were ready to procure on the day the awards were announced. We were pleased to receive four very strong tender returns for the financial specialist – the role we were concerned would be in most demand. We were though, disappointed only to receive 1 return for each of the Community Engagement and Land Agent tenders. Luckily the returned tender were both strong and we had no concerns appointing.

It can usually take up to 3 months to appoint a member of staff through Council processes, this clearly would not have been a satisfactory situation given the five month duration of the project. Again, we were very fortunate that our in house NLHF funded landscape partnership scheme 'Galloway Glens' finished at the end of September allowing a seamless transition for their project officer who was highly qualified for the role. He has been supported by both the Environment Team's Countryside Development Officer and the ex Galloway Glens Community and Education Officer who also came over to the Environment team at that time.

For us, this project was very much about gaining a greater understanding of how and what we need to do to bring private finance on a significant scale into our future seascape project, to this extent we were constantly learning as the project progressed. Through a process of constant evaluation of how the project was going we were able to quickly identify where planned work was not going to either fit with the timescales or was no longer what the project needed, and we were able to adapt our project plan to suit. This was particularly evident with the Land Agent work which hinged on a third-party event happening before the bulk of the work could be undertaken. When it became clear that this event wouldn't take place until well into February, leaving very little time for the follow-on work, we identified a number of landowners by other means. When after the first few farm visits we realised that external circumstances again meant we were not getting meaningful outcomes from these visits we identified a related stream of work which would be both of value to our 'investment readiness' and would utilise the data already gained from the site visits. In the end the work undertaken is probably more realistic and useful to us going forward at this stage of the project.

Responding to often heard concerns expressed by community groups about over consultation and that organisations expect community volunteers to engage with engagement/consultation events without any financial support we had included a 'small' grant' offer in our proposal, to be used, very flexibly by community groups to help them engage with our project. The 'pot' was offered to community groups for childcare, transport, development worker time etc however we had no take up for this offer. We think that this was probably a number of reasons.

- We had events in a mix of both affluent and less affluent areas those with more resources didn't need the support.
- In the less affluent areas, we would have needed more time and deeper engagement to seek out and encourage greater engagement from those who could have benefited from the funds.

When we became aware that this fund would not be used in the way we had intended. We discussed with several communities what they would like to do to achieve greater connection to the coast and marine environment within their community. There was a general feeling that engaging in a local physical project was the best option, many of the communities had a local small scale project aspiration and this was found to be a useful vehicle to engage communities in the 'local' while considering the bigger picture.



Related to the above issue is the diversity of those engaged in our community programme. We acknowledge that it was not as diverse as we would have liked. Dumfries and Galloway is not a particularly ethnically diverse area, its age range is naturally skewed to the older, however we do have a range of income brackets with a generally low wage economy. We think that the project and engagement events naturally attracted the slightly older, better educated and more affluent participant. This was less evident however at the Stranraer and Annan events. Again, this confirms that with future engagement we need to be more active to encourage participation from the harder to reach groups and we need to ensure there is the time to do this. Several of the small grants went to project which will have a wider engagement.

We were pleasantly surprised that in general the community benefits identified by communities were heavily focused on the environment itself, its health, and access to that environment for health and wellbeing, rather than facilities or cash and showed the depth of connection people felt with their coastal environment. The community of “Coastodians” that emerged from this work want to be actively involved in any restoration work in the future this includes citizen science survey work. Any investment in the future would in turn be an investment in people’s wellbeing and sense of empowerment. These “Coastodians” want to be advocates and activists for their coastal and marine environment and value learning for themselves and others in order to achieve restoration.

Our work on this also confirmed, once again, that local history is a great engagement tool for starting conversations on a wide range of topics.

Our work with Finance Earth on the finance market for marine and coastal restoration work gave us no real surprises, the nascent state of the market was confirmed, we did learn a lot more about the Salt Marsh Code and its potential applicability to the Dumfries and Galloway coastline, it has helped us to get a better understanding of how nature finance could work for our project, what we could do and how we could structure our project to help develop the market, and what we need to do to be able to take forwards tangible negotiating with potential buyers. It has, in our mind, on a number of fronts confirmed that biodiversity is an easier and potentially more financially attractive offer from our marine and coastal habitats than carbon. Also, that while some of the more general biodiversity market mechanisms cover the coastal and intertidal habitats, marine still remains a difficult area with no sense that there is significant market development happening.

Recommendations from this evaluation

- 1) That such short timescale projects are difficult to achieve in the public sector due to procurement and recruitment timescales
- 2) That some consideration should be given to funding programmes that put a lot of demand on a small narrow group of consultants in a short timescale – could some of this work/advice be centrally procured for projects in advance? We suspect there will be a lot of duplication amongst projects.
- 3) Flexibility on project change and development is essential to get the best from the funding available in the timescales available.
- 4) Government policy has a big influence on the development and uptake of the market, especially agricultural subsidy policy.
- 5) To engage a wide range of community members and to utilise a support grant we need to allow more time for a greater depth of community engagement.
- 6) The coastal and particularly marine markets are still quite a long way from being generally available and in the marine environment there doesn’t appear to be much active development work.



- 7) That the biodiversity market is likely to be more important to the coast and marine environment than the carbon market and if there was a functioning biodiversity credit market in Scotland this could be the focus for the coast and marine restoration sectors.

Evidence

Please see the main community engagement report



Conclusions

Summary

The SCAMP is an ambitious, long-term, large scale seascape project and it has a real opportunity and the potential to be at the forefront of developing and shaping the coastal and marine nature finance market in Scotland over the next 10 years. This report and the accompanying detailed subject reports, identify both the challenges and significant opportunities for SCAMP. The market is developing rapidly but still in its early years, and SCAMP will have the opportunity to trial, demonstrate and evaluate new techniques, approaches and programmes, in conjunction with its wide range of partners, to help provide the data needed to underpin this market development.

FIRNS1 gave us the valuable opportunity to investigate the potential models for financing the SCAMP. The separate reports offer a route to achieving this, but they also identify obstacles that will have to be overcome if private finance models are to be successfully deployed in the marine and coastal environment. The rationale for the scheme is clear, the climate change impacts on our coastal communities over the next 80 or so years will be dramatic. Those same impacts, if not mitigated will also have significant effects for biodiversity, agriculture and fisheries. Action is needed urgently; delays will only make this more costly and increasingly difficult to deliver in the future. In many parts of the UK, the visible effects of climate change is already causing immediate severe economic and social hardship that is irreversible.

Opportunities and challenges for private finance and landowner investment

The reports by Finance Earth and Galbraith's identified challenges and opportunities for attracting private investors to either purchase carbon or biodiversity credits (the nearest markets to being a reality). It is recognised that the coastal environment is generally a nascent market in contrast to already developed markets in woodlands and peatlands. It is clear from our work on this project that one of the aims of SCAMP needs to be to help inform and develop this market. Both reports also identify policy and regulatory differences within the United Kingdom, which is particularly pertinent and relevant for a water body which covers both Scottish and English jurisdictions.

The developing 'Saltmarsh Code' is currently based on the restoration technique of 'managed realignment'. In the Solway this is mostly inappropriate as the region's landform means there is only a limited area that the saltmarsh can 'migrate' into before topography limits any further expansion, in some areas there is no existing or very minor sea walls to start with. It is clear that to roll out action at scale along the Solway and elsewhere in Scotland there will need to be further iterations of the code that take into consideration the differing conditions and restoration techniques that could be used. Developing these iterations further will require additional financial resources and crucially, data for the models. In the early years it is likely this finance will be from either the public sector or the private ESG/CSR investment or a blend of the two.



These reports also question the focus on carbon sales for saltmarsh restoration, in a situation with a functioning biodiversity credit market, this would appear to be a more attractive and reliable model for both Saltmarsh and possibly other marine habitats.

To follow a route of pursuing biodiversity, rather than carbon, as the main avenue for delivering restoration, there needs to be a fully functioning Scottish market. There is, in Scotland, through the National Planning Framework (NPF4) a requirement for biodiversity enhancement to be considered by developers and planners but this seems to lack the clarity of the Westminster rules where developers **must** (since February 2024) have a plan to restore biodiversity plus 10% in close proximity to the development site. [Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biodiversity-net-gain-requirements).

Even with clearer regulation in Scotland, in parts of the country which lack large scale development there may not be a 'local' demand from developers. This has already been seen with Orsted deciding to focus their investment closer to the location of their offshore wind farms and SSEN developing a 'Seagrass Restoration Fund' which is limited to their area of operation. Consideration of market intervention to ensure all areas of the country can benefit from emerging private finance opportunities may be needed. As marine and coastal restoration can be costly, a 'stacked' or 'bundled' approach would also be an advantage.

The report also identifies that there is a lack of short-term clarity for landowners (on land) on future land management subsidies. There is likely to be a reluctance for land managers to change their management practices until this is resolved, which is currently expected by 2026. The shape of a future agricultural subsidy scheme will have a significant impact on the future of saltmarsh restoration in the Solway.

Where, for various reasons, the sea is already encroaching on agricultural land, or will do over the coming years, the question of 'additionally' (whether the action proposed is above and beyond what would have happened anyway) also arises. It is particularly unclear in terms of saltmarsh where there are a number of different scenarios within a short stretch of coastline.

The majority of the seabed is owned by Crown Estate Scotland (CES), further clarity is needed about policy positions that CES will adopt toward marine habitat restoration, licencing and nature finance. Discussions have been undertaken with CES and a paper with suggested project development requests has been produced. This has been reviewed by a number of other FIRNS projects and submitted to CES for consideration alongside future strategy development.

The report also highlights that although much work has already been done on developing a baseline for habitats in the Solway, more still needs to be done, particularly in the marine environment. There are also known and unknown risk factors – including climate change that need to be better understood and accounted for in any financial models.



The Communities Voice

The community engagement work delivered by Only Human, and our Environment Team, identified that for our coastal communities and communities of interest, habitat restoration, the protection of species along our coastline and in the marine environment were absolutely paramount. There was a clear message that people wanted to breath clean air, bath in clean water and have a healthy ecosystem where the nature around them could flourish, in addition people wanted easy access to this environment.

The links between this ambition and peoples' own health and wellbeing was also apparent. If people are helping coastal and marine habitats, they are also helping their own feeling of wellbeing by contributing to restoring nature. By helping combat nature loss and climate change they are helping mitigate their own anxiety about the future of our natural world.

Opportunities and challenges for communities

Working with communities can be a challenge over such a large project area, whilst there is a commonality of issues in each community, the landscape differences from east to west mean some habitats are vastly more important to one group compared to another. For example, oysters are very important in Stranraer and merse will be far more important in Annan. There is however a 'commonality' in some of their wishes for the future, the challenge will be to keep continuity and create one SCAMP community. It should be noted also that social inclusion is an issue across all coastal communities and work will need to be undertaken in SCAMP to improve this.

Most of our communities want to engage through being outdoors doing things. They wanted to be actively involved in this work through citizen science and practical outdoor activities. Such was the passion for helping our coastal and marine environment that we are now describing these geographic and communities of interest as "Coastodians".

These community activists or "Coastodians" want finance and investment that puts nature restoration first because they know that that their coastal and marine environment is under threat from human activities and climate change. However, there is also an appetite for a more active business role in restoration and the potential benefits it could bring to communities. Stranraer Development Trust are working with SCAMP to actively explore how the community can both help expand the oyster beds in Loch Ryan but also develop financial revenue from the fishery either through a form of limited community ownership or the development of associated tourism businesses.



Key actions

1 Carbon

Carbon coding is well established in woodland & peatland environments and the post FIRNS1 inclusion of coastal woodlands as one of the habitats that will be part of SCAMP does enable carbon to become one of the 'saleable' aspects of the scheme. Whilst the carbon element of the saltmarsh code may be small, we should continue to work with this as there may be opportunity of stacking carbon with multiple biodiversity enhancement and community benefits. We need to assist the market development by providing data to support the development of further iterations of the carbon elements of the Salt Marsh Code to better reflect the situation on the Solway and elsewhere in Scotland.

2 Biodiversity

The most likely way forward across all of the key habitats will be to develop and improve the use and understanding of biodiversity credits in the coastal and marine habitats. There is an opportunity for SCAMP to work with partners, both in academia and government to help to establish viable codes. There is an opportunity in SCAMP for the development of demonstration projects.

Whilst marketing biodiversity enhancement in the subtidal zone appears to have limited monetary potential at present due to lack of research and development (especially with oyster beds) there may be future opportunities to develop this approach and SCAMP would be an appropriate and willing partner to test these options at a practical scale.

3 Agricultural Subsidies

For coastal habitats, landowners need more information on the future subsidy picture for land management. It is likely that there will be a number of landowners interested in converting their land to be more biodiverse once they have a clearer picture of the management consequences and financial benefits or losses.

4 Knowledge

As a matter of urgency, we need to work with partners to improve survey methodology and get a better understanding of the habitats in the subtidal zone. Some of this can be done with through a citizen science approach which would have multiple community benefits. There will also have to be an investment in technology to support this. DGC is already partnering with academic institutions on this approach and further development is required.



5 Communities and social inclusion

Through a citizen science approach, the SCAMP will promote inclusiveness and encourage communities to share ideas with each other and develop events that explore the coastal heritage in a wider sense. Events that have an impact on multiple communities should have an online format so that all can get included.

Improvements will be made to connect to wider parts of the community through learning experiences, both in schools and with adults across the whole of the SCAMP area.

We need to work harder to ensure all communities feel confident engaging with the project and that their views are heard. People want to take action and feel they are making a difference.

In conclusion, there are exciting opportunities for developing the SCAMP and the coast and marine finance markets, there are many synergies between the two. There are a number of challenges ahead but if these are tackled and overcome, in time, the opportunities for the Solway and the wider Scottish coast and marine environment are promising.

