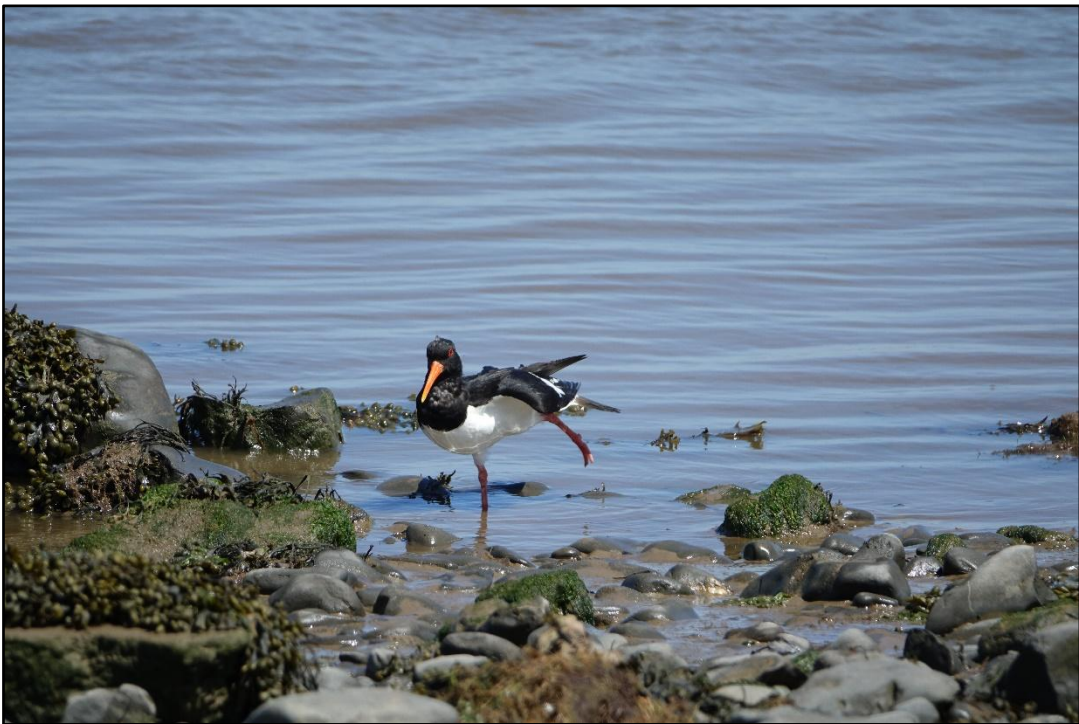


# **Solway Firth Partnership**

## **Business Plan 2024 – 2027**



**Working Together towards a sustainable Solway  
Firth**

**Solway Firth Partnership**

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## 1. Executive Summary

This Business Plan sets out a framework for the activities of the Solway Firth Partnership over the period 2024 – 2027. The Plan details the activities of the Partnership, by identifying key actions, and outlining the current management framework and delivery model by which aims will be achieved. A breakdown of funding requirements is given together with an indication of where funds are to be sought.

Our annual report is published in conjunction with our accounts. All our governing and strategic documents are available on our website:

[www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)



*Picture – CLEARcoasts Project Workshop Maryport © SFP*



## 2. Organisation Details

**Company Name:** Solway Firth Partnership

**Address:** Campbell House, The Crichton, Bankend Road, Dumfries, DG1 4UQ

**Telephone number:** 07462 664384

**E-mail:** [info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](mailto:info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)

**Legal Status:** The Solway Firth Partnership is a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee and without share capital under Company Number SC250012 and a Scottish Charity under Scottish Charity Number SCO34376.

**The Registered office:** Campbell House, The Crichton, Dumfries DG1 4UQ



*Picture – Pink Paint Weed and Snakelocks Anemone © SFP*

Objects, as specified in Memorandum and Articles of Association:

- To promote and advance education of the public about working and living sustainably in the Solway Firth area of Southern Scotland and North West England.
- To preserve and protect, for the public benefit, the environment covering the land, coastal zones and waters of the Solway Firth area by seeking to guide, encourage and enhance the integration of environmental, social and economic policies including the sustainable management of pollution, waste, land reclamation, provision of public amenities and other related activities.
- To advance the conservation and preservation of the Solway Firth and to support marine development and planning for the protection of the wider seas; and to do so either independently and/or in association with Local Authorities, environment agencies, public bodies, conservation bodies, voluntary organisations, local communities and others.



*Picture – Kite Surfing at Allonby Bay © Keith Walker*

### 3. Background

The Solway Firth Partnership is an independent Company Limited by Guarantee and acts as a voluntary coastal management mechanism. The Partnership was launched in 1994 as a response to formal support for integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) from the European Union, UK Government and agencies.

#### **Our Vision**

To support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of our Solway marine and coastal area.

#### **Our Mission**

- To make a significant contribution to sustainable development and environmental protection through supporting whole coast, integrated marine and coastal planning and management.
- To provide a transparent, balanced and respected mechanism that supports objective, impartial and evidence-based decision making for the local marine and coastal area.
- To provide distinctive input to development of a cooperative network of relationships between those with an interest in the local marine and coastal area.
- To help coastal communities and businesses resulting in tangible local benefits.
- To promote greater recognition and understanding of the high-quality environment, culture and heritage of the local marine and coastal area.



*Picture – SCAMP Walk & Talk Event at Stranraer © DGC*

## 4. Future Focus

### Marine Planning

Marine legislation has now been in place for over 10 years and has been enacted throughout the UK to enable marine planning. The UK Marine and Coastal Access Act came into effect in 2009<sup>1</sup> and the Marine (Scotland) Act was introduced in 2010<sup>2</sup>. Marine planning is a statutory requirement. These two pieces of legislation both govern marine planning for the Solway Firth, given its administrative boundary between the inshore waters of England and Scotland. The Solway lies close to the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland, which have separate systems of marine legislation and management. Wales and Ireland bring further administrative jurisdictions to the Irish Sea making this a particularly complex area.

Marine planning is a central means of achieving shared objectives through planning for the sustainable and appropriate placement of multiple marine activities in a coordinated and coherent way. This is in conjunction with other key measures including the creation of a marine protected areas network and the development of improved fisheries management. There are significant commitments to mitigate the effects of climate change and a need to find ways in which our local marine environment can contribute to these.

Scotland's National Marine Plan was adopted in 2015. In line with the Marine Acts, two statutory reviews of the National Marine Plan have been carried out to date, in 2018 and 2021<sup>3</sup>. It is the framework for all marine activity in Scottish waters (inshore and offshore), applying to the exercise of both reserved and devolved functions<sup>4</sup>. This National Marine Plan sets out strategic policies for the sustainable development of Scotland's marine resources out to 200 nautical miles.

The plan has to be compatible with the UK Marine Policy Statement and existing marine plans across the UK, particularly where there is interaction between England inshore and offshore marine plans and Northern Ireland Marine Plans. Following the Scottish Marine Regions Order 2015, the Solway became one of the 11 Scottish inshore planning regions (0-12 Nautical Miles NM). The Solway marine region coastline is entirely within the administrative boundary of Dumfries and Galloway Council.

### National Marine Plan 2

In 2022/23, Scottish Ministers committed to start the process of developing a new National Marine Plan for Scotland, to address the global climate and nature crises, by carefully managing increased competition for space and resources in the marine environment.

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<sup>1</sup> (The UK Government, 2014) UK Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009

<sup>2</sup> (The Scottish Government, 2015) Marine (Scotland) Act

<sup>3</sup> (Marine Directorate, 2024) National Marine Planning

<sup>4</sup> (The Scottish Government, 2014) National Marine Plan Online



The Marine Acts set out the statutory requirements for the planning process, which will require sustained stakeholder engagement and detailed assessment work and will take approximately three years to complete and will incorporate several stages.

The preparation of a new National Marine Plan provides an opportunity for all users of Scotland's seas to have their say. SFP is working with Scottish Government Marine Directorate to help ensure the input and feedback provided by local Solway stakeholders during this planning process will be considered and used to inform the next National Marine Plan.

The development of National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi)<sup>5</sup>, a web based Geographical Information System (GIS), provides the public with a wide range of spatial data including all the data from Scotland's Marine Atlas. Solway Firth Partnership will continue to gather data and make this available to the NMPi.



*Picture – Sea Bindweed © SFP*

To date three Regional Marine Planning Partnerships have been formed. Shetland and Clyde were the first regions to set up MPPs and be granted authority to create Regional Marine Plans in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Orkney followed these, with authority being granted in 2020. In due course, Scottish Ministers will direct the formation of a Marine Planning Partnership for the Solway to produce a regional marine plan under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

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<sup>5</sup>(The Scottish Government, 2014) [Interactive Marine Planning](#)



In June 2019, as part of its programme of work on the marine environment and nearly a decade on from the Act, the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) Committee agreed to explore issues arising from the review of the National Marine Plan. This included progress in the development and implementation of Regional Marine Plans.

The Committee published its interim report on 26 June 2020, setting out the work of the Committee to that date, summarising:

- the written evidence received from the call for views;
- the themes emerging from the fact-finding visits undertaken in November 2019; and
- the key outstanding questions to be addressed.

The inquiry culminated in the production of a final report in December 2020<sup>6</sup>. In the report, the Committee recommended that the Scottish Government publish a renewed vision statement.

‘This should include:

- Specific aims, objectives and outcomes for regional marine planning.
- Identification of priority regions for future rollout of regional marine planning and indicative timescales.
- Priority socioeconomic and environmental issues that should be considered in future Regional Marine Plans.
- Details of work to secure long-term finance for future implementation of regional marine planning

The Committee also recommended that the Scottish Government should do more to communicate the benefits of regional marine planning to coastal communities and other stakeholders across the nation.’<sup>6</sup>

The findings of the ECCLR Committee poses an opportunity for increased momentum and progress towards the development of regional marine planning. Solway Firth Partnership are continuing project and core work to facilitate the ongoing progress towards forming a regional marine planning partnership in the Solway and a regional marine plan.

In England, there is no ‘national’ marine plan. Instead, marine planning is structured as regional marine plans for inshore and offshore waters, with 11 marine regions. The English side of the Solway Firth forms part of the North West Inshore marine region, which extends to the English border with Wales at the River Dee.

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<sup>6</sup>(The Scottish Parliament, 2020) Development and implementation of Regional Marine Plans in Scotland

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has produced marine plans for all marine regions in England, with the North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plans adopted in 2021. The Partnership provided support to the MMO in their early stakeholder engagement for the North West Marine Plans and will continue to do so through the continued development of the Plans.

The MMO have also developed an interactive map based Marine Information System<sup>7</sup>. It presents information on all sectors and activities submitted to support the development of marine plans, including environmental, economic and social data. The Partnership will continue to gather and provide data for this system where possible.

Mechanisms for aligned planning in the Solway Firth that meet the requirements and aspirations of both Scottish and English marine planning systems must be developed. Solway Firth Partnership has an integral role to play in taking this forward in a way that supports environmental protection, economic development and community wellbeing across the local marine and coastal area throughout the Solway.

The three-year Solway Firth Partnership SMILE (Solway Marine Information Learning and Environment) Project, completed in July 2021, updated the 1996 'State of the Solway Review'. It used innovative communication methods to gather pan-estuary information, learn from stakeholders including fishers and promote a better understanding of the Solway Firth ecosystem. The updated online Solway Review<sup>8</sup> within the SFP website, Figure 1, was required in the light of new demands made on the estuary's resources and in the context of marine planning.

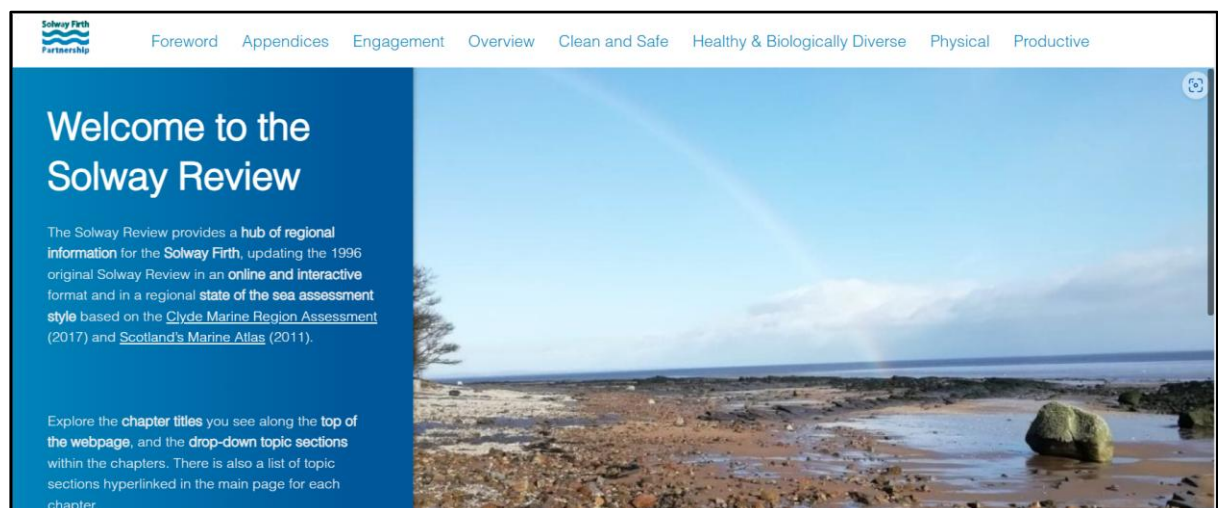


Figure 1 – Solway Review Webpages

<sup>7</sup> (GOV.UK, n.d.)\_Marine Activity Data

<sup>8</sup> (Solway Firth Partnership, 2021) Solway Review

## The Solway Area

The area covered by Solway Firth Partnership includes the marine and coastal zone of the Solway within the line from St Bees Head in Cumbria across to and including the Mull of Galloway and the Rhins up to the administrative boundary for Dumfries and Galloway. This includes Loch Ryan, see Figure 2 - Area covered by Solway Firth Partnership (map for illustrative purposes only).

The Partnership's landward boundary has never been geographically defined. Defining the landward boundary of Solway Firth Partnership's work would potentially result in restricted involvement in land-based activities which are linked to the Solway's coastal and marine area. Involvement is dependent upon features and activities that have an integral relationship with the marine environment.



Figure 2 - Area covered by Solway Firth Partnership

## The Environment

The 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP)<sup>9</sup> set out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aimed to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. It called for an approach to agriculture, forestry, land use and fishing that puts the environment first. The plan also aimed to achieve good environmental status of our seas while allowing marine industries to thrive and complete the ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas (MPAs).

The Environment Improvement Plan<sup>10</sup> represents the first review of the 25YEP after five years. The plan sets out the progress made against the 10 goals of the 25YEP.

The 25YEP committed to leaving the environment in a better state than we found it. Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) will contribute to the government's vision for 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse ocean and seas'.<sup>11</sup> HPMAs are areas of the sea that allow the protection and recovery of marine ecosystems, taking a whole site approach to protections. HPMAs have a critical role to play in ocean recovery, by setting aside some areas of the sea with the highest levels of protection. HPMAs will help the government achieve its key environmental goals and targets, such as in the Environmental Improvement Plan, 25YEP, 30 by 30 commitment (The government has committed to protect 30% of the land and of the sea in the UK for nature's recovery, by 2030)<sup>12</sup>, net zero<sup>13</sup>, sustainable fisheries and marine nature recovery.

Areas of the inner Solway Firth are designated both as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive and a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive – collectively known as the Solway Firth European Marine Site (EMS)<sup>14</sup>. The Solway Firth SAC designation reflects the importance of the site's marine and coastal habitats including merse (saltmarsh), mudflats and reefs. The Solway Firth SPA designation recognises the large bird populations that these habitats support, particularly in winter.

Important bird species present include Svalbard barnacle goose, pink-footed goose, whooper swan and pintail as well as waders such as bar-tailed godwit, golden plover, oystercatcher, dunlin, knot, curlew and redshank.

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<sup>9</sup> (DEFRA, 2018) 25 Year Environment Plan

<sup>10</sup> (GOV.UK, 2024) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023)

<sup>11</sup>-(Gov.uk, 2023)(GOV>UK, 2023) (GOV>UK, 2023)Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs)

<sup>12</sup> (DEFRA, 2023)Delivering 30by30 on land in England

<sup>13</sup> (GOV.UK, 2022) Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener

<sup>14</sup> (JNCC, 2006) Upper Solway Flats and Marshes – Standard Natura 2000 Data Form



A cross-border extension to the SPA was approved in 2020<sup>15</sup>. The qualifying bird species in the Solway Firth marine SPA include the Annex 1 species Red-throated diver; Migratory species common scoter and goosander; Migratory species from the 2001 SPA Review ringed plover, lapwing, cormorant, herring gull, common gull, and black-headed gull<sup>16</sup>.

Solway Firth Partnership continues to highlight the bird interest of the Solway and looks for opportunities to raise awareness of wading birds and the vulnerability of their high tide roosts to the public.

The estuary is also a Ramsar site<sup>17</sup>, as it is an important wetland for overwintering birds and the rare natterjack toad, which is found here at the most northerly point in its range.

The Solway Firth is important for the passage of migratory fish such as sea and river lamprey, as well as salmon and sea trout that the local angling economy depends upon<sup>18</sup>. The Solway also provides an important nursery area for species including skates and rays.



*Picture – Grey seals in the Solway © Keith Kirk*

The existing Marine Protected Area (MPA) network in Scotland covers approximately 37% of Scotland's seas. The EU's biodiversity strategy sets the target that, by 2030, at least 30% of EU seas should be protected (30 x 30) - with 10% to be strictly protected.

The latest assessment under the UK Marine Strategy indicated that overall the UK failed to achieve 11 out of 15 descriptors of Good Environmental Status in its seas.

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<sup>15</sup> (Scottish Government, 2020) Solway Firth SPA

<sup>16</sup> (UK Government Press Release, 2020) 125,000 seabirds to benefit from expansion of protected site

<sup>17</sup> (Ramsar, 2015) Upper Solway Flats & Marshes – Ramsar Sites Information Services

<sup>18</sup> (The Scottish Government, 2013) Scotland's National Marine Plan: Chapter 8: Wild Salmon & Diadromous fish.

Evidence presented in Scotland's 2020 Marine Assessment and portal<sup>19</sup> shows nine out of 21 marine regions in Scotland have seafloor habitats which are predicted to be in 'poor condition' across more than half of their area.

Most of the spatial data used in the assessments are available through the Marine Scotland Open Data Network (MS Data<sup>20</sup>, MS Information<sup>21</sup>, MS Maps NMPI) or other online portals.

In English waters, there have been three tranches of designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) under the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Sites designated in the Solway are the Cumbria Coast MCZ<sup>22</sup>, an inshore site that stretches for approximately 27 km along the coast of Cumbria, extending from south of Whitehaven, around the cliffs at St Bees Head, to the mouth of the Ravenglass Estuary; Allonby Bay MCZ<sup>23</sup>, including Dubmill Scar and the offshore area of Maryport Roads. The Bay contains some of the best examples of honeycomb worm reef in the UK; and the Solway Firth MCZ<sup>24</sup> covering the inner English side of the Solway. It has been designated specifically for the protection of European smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*).

Allonby Bay was designated as a Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA), one of only three in the country, in 2023<sup>25</sup>. HPMA's have the highest levels of protection in our seas. All extractive, destructive and depositional uses are prohibited. This helps the ecosystem to fully recover.

Allonby Bay is an inshore HPMA situated in the Irish Sea, covering the southern region at the mouth of the Solway Firth and extends approximately 5.6km seaward from the shoreline between Maryport and Mawbray.

This HPMA is within both the Allonby Bay Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) and the Solway Firth Special Protection Area (SPA). The conservation objective of Allonby Bay HPMA is to:

- achieve full recovery of the protected feature, including its structure and functions, its qualities and the composition of its characteristic biological communities present within the Allonby Bay Highly Protected Marine Area, to a natural state
- prevent further degradation and damage to the protected feature, subject to natural change

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<sup>19</sup> [\(The Scottish Government, 2020\) Scotland's Marine Assessment 2020 Portal](#)

<sup>20</sup> [\(The Scottish Government\) MS Data](#)

<sup>21</sup> [\(The Scottish Government \) MS Information](#)

<sup>22</sup> [\(DEFRA, JNCC and Natural England, 2013\) Marine conservation zone 2013 designation: Cumbria Coast.](#)

<sup>23</sup> [\(MMO, 2016\) Marine Conservation Zone 2016 designation: Allonby Bay](#)

<sup>24</sup> [\(DEFRA, 2019\) Solway Firth Marine Conservation Zone](#)

<sup>25</sup> [\(DEFRA, 2023\) Highly Protected Marine Areas: Allonby Bay](#)



*Picture – Allonby Bay © Morag Walker*

At the time of writing, the Scottish Government proposals consulted on to implement Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) across 10% of Scotland's seas by 2026 will not be progressed.

In Scottish inshore waters, the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) network covers approximately 20% of the sea. Sites were designated for nature conservation, demonstration and research or historical reasons<sup>26</sup>. The only MPA site partially location within the Solway is the Clyde Sea Sill which stretches from the Mull of Kintyre to Corsewall Point on the Rhins of Galloway. This site is designated for black guillemot, circalittoral sand & coarse sediment communities, and fronts. Luce Bay and Sands SAC in the outer Solway Firth has been designated principally for its seabed and dune habitats and the species which depend on these places<sup>27</sup>. The site was one of nine SACs in inshore waters which was the subject of public consultation by the Scottish Government in late 2014/early 2015<sup>28</sup> regarding new fishery management proposals. In February 2016, the Scottish Parliament passed spatial measures to regulate fishing in Luce Bay<sup>29</sup>.

European Marine Sites (SPAs and SACs), MCZs and MPAs collectively are intended to form an ecologically coherent network of protected areas across all UK seas.

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<sup>26</sup> (The Scottish Government, 2015) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

<sup>27</sup> (JNCC, 2015) Luce Bay and Sands

<sup>28</sup> (The Scottish Government, 2015) Protected Area G – Luce Bay & Sands SAC

<sup>29</sup> (The Scottish Government, 2015) The Inshore Fishing (Prohibited Methods of Fishing) (Luce Bay) Order 2015

The Solway coastal lands are heavily influenced by maritime conditions, creating unique and nationally important landscapes. On the south side of the Solway an area is designated as the Solway Coast National Landscape<sup>30</sup> and on the north side there are three National Scenic Areas (NSAs)<sup>31</sup> – the Nith Estuary, the East Stewarty Coast and the Fleet Valley.

Solway Firth Partnership will support work to ensure that MCZ and MPA projects are coordinated across the national boundary. Ways of doing this include provision of information to local stakeholders and cross border consultation on any proposed new sites or changes to the designations of existing sites.

The Solway Firth is part of the Solway Tweed River Basin Management Planning unit, see Figure 3, for the purposes of implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD)<sup>32</sup>.



*Figure 3 - Solway Tweed River Basin District*

This placed a duty on the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Environment Agency to jointly prepare the first River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Solway in 2009 with the current, second plan having been produced in 2015 for the cycle 2015-2027<sup>33</sup>. The process was supported by a Solway Area Advisory Group comprising partners from Scotland and England including Solway Firth Partnership.

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<sup>30</sup> (Solway Coast AONB) Solway Coast National Landscapes

<sup>31</sup> (Government, 2014)] Countryside and Landscape in Scotland – National Scenic Areas

<sup>32</sup> (Environment Agency; Natural Scotland, 2015) The river basin management plan for the Solway Tweed river basin district

<sup>33</sup> (Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2015) River basin Management planning: The Current Plans



Solway Firth Partnership continues to provide input on marine and coastal issues to ensure integration between structures for delivering work on WFD and marine planning.

A small part of the Solway Firth Partnership area is covered by the North West River Basin District (south to St Bees Head) in Cumbria, see Figure 4 - Map of the North West River Basin District. These plans were first published in December 2009 and updated in February 2016 and December 2022.<sup>34</sup>



Figure 4 - Map of the North West River Basin District

The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA),<sup>35</sup> launched in 2010, embeds collaborative working at a river catchment scale, delivering a range of environmental, social and economic benefits and protecting our precious water environments for the benefit of us all. Catchment partnerships bring local knowledge and expertise and are active in each of the 100+ Water Framework Directive catchments across England, including those cross-border with Wales. In the past, management of the water environment has fallen to Government, to private companies and to landowners, often operating in isolation.

<sup>34</sup> (GOV.UK, 22) North West river basin district river basin management plan: updated 2022

<sup>35</sup> (Catchment Based Approach , 2018) ]

SFP continues to be involved with the River Eden Catchment Partnership<sup>36</sup> and the West Cumbria Catchment Partnership.<sup>37</sup>

Following on from CaBa, a new Coastal Based Approach has been proposed by a network of coastal practitioners in England. CoBA<sup>38</sup> is a simple idea to establish partnerships covering the entire UK coast, see Figure 1 - CaBA Diagram<sup>38</sup>. It aims to support integrated, place-based delivery for coastal ecosystems and communities. This approach is championed by the Coastal Partnership Network (CPN)<sup>39</sup> and SFP continues to support CoBA and explores opportunities of working within this network with CPN.

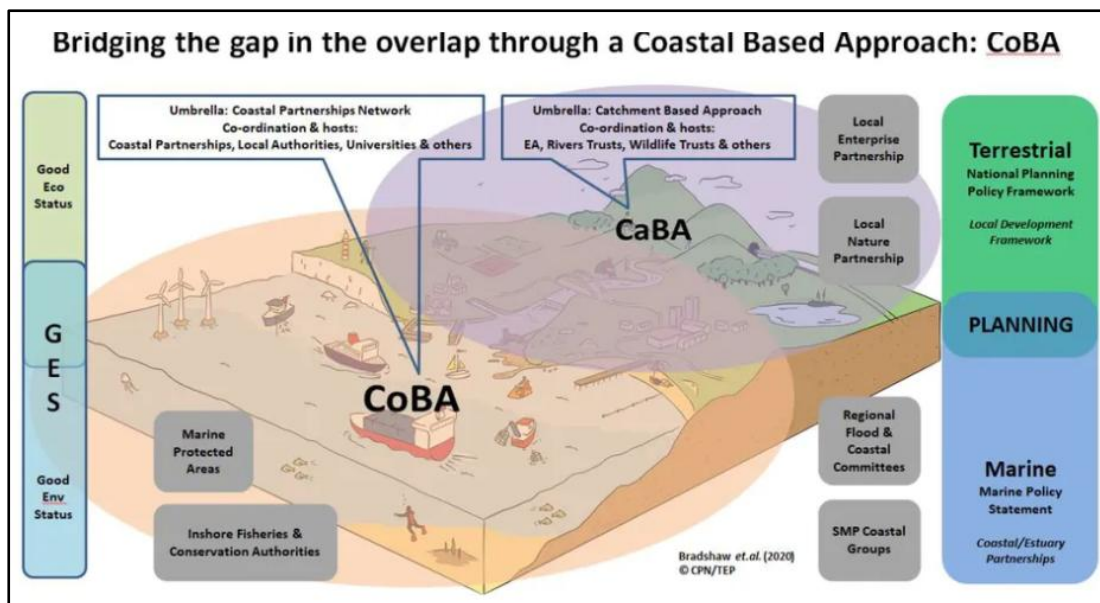


Figure 1 - CaBA Diagram<sup>38</sup>

Looking at the Solway in a holistic way, during the life of the last plan, SFP has developed natural capital projects on both sides of the Solway. On the Scottish Solway, the Partnership has worked with Dumfries and Galloway Council to produce business plans to release funding from the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal for the SCAMPP<sup>40</sup> (Solway Coast and Marine Pilot Project). Development work has included seagrass baseline surveys, seagrass laboratory propagation, saltmarsh opportunity mapping and priority assessments, native oyster survey of Loch Ryan and assessment of saltmarsh using Mini Buoy data loggers. It is anticipated that SCAMPP will proceed in 2024.

<sup>36</sup> (Eden Catchment Partnership, 2020) The Eden River Catchment Plan

<sup>37</sup> (West Cumbria Catchment Partnership) Catchment Partnerships

<sup>38</sup> (CoBA.) Coastal Based Approach

<sup>39</sup> (Coastal Partnerships Network) Coastal Partnerships Network Publications

<sup>40</sup> (Solway Firth Partnership, 2023) Marine Natural Capital – Dumfries and Galloway

On the Cumbrian Solway, funding was secured to carry out a desktop assessment - Marine Natural Capital Development on the Cumbrian Solway: current status, gaps and opportunities<sup>41</sup>. This was followed up with the CLEARcoasts Project, Phases 1 and 2, developing innovative methods to identify areas for the restoration of coastal habitats in the Cumbrian Solway Firth, and empowered local stakeholders in developing, implementing, and evaluating coastal restoration programmes. This project will be taken forward to Phase 3, running a citizen science project, resources allowing.



Figure 6 – CLEARcoasts Project Workshop Invite

Invasive non-native species, known as INNS, have increasingly become an issue in the marine environment, both nationally and locally<sup>42</sup>. These are species which have been intentionally or accidentally released into an environment outside their native geographic range. Marine INNS can be transported in several ways, but the most significant method is through shipping by attachment to hulls and in ballast water. The results can be significant, not only in terms of ecological impact but also economically as aquaculture, recreation and fisheries can be adversely affected. It can be very expensive to control and eradicate INNS once they have become established. Therefore, it is more cost effective to concentrate efforts to prevent their arrival where possible<sup>43</sup>. The presence of INNS can also impact on the status of the water environment and the condition of European Marine Sites, increasing the risk that these sites do not meet their favourable conservation target or the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

<sup>41</sup> (Solway Firth Partnership, 2023) 3 C's Project – Marine Natural Capital Development in the Cumbrian Solway

<sup>42</sup> (Natural England, 2016) Investigating the Impacts of Marine Invasive Non-Native Species

<sup>43</sup> (Williams, et al., 2010) The Economic Cost of Invasive Non-Native Species on Great Britain.

Solway Firth Partnership initially produced a biosecurity plan for the Solway in 2013 which highlighted the issues and sets out actions. The plan has been regularly reviewed and updated and made available on the SFP website, currently at 2024-27 edition<sup>44</sup>, and actions will continue to be delivered insofar as resources allow. Solway Firth Partnership conduct limited INNS monitoring through settlement panels placed in harbours and marinas around the Solway Firth and will continue to use this method to spread awareness of INNS and good practice.

Marine litter is a global problem with millions of tonnes of litter ending up in the world's oceans every year. All UK Administrations are developing and implementing waste strategies or plans which play a significant role in reducing, reusing and recycling litter.

In response to the problem, Marine Scotland produced A Marine Litter Strategy for Scotland<sup>45</sup> in 2014 which highlighted measures and actions to try and tackle the issue. Scottish government reviewed the Strategy in 2022,<sup>46</sup> outlining new priority actions to tackle marine litter in Scotland. The updated Strategy will promote action on sewage-related debris, plastic pellets, and fishing and aquaculture gear.

Changes have come into force regarding microplastic nurdles with Scotland and England having banned the manufacturing and sale of rinse-off personal care products containing microbeads<sup>47</sup> to help reduce litter before it enters the marine environment.



*Picture - Beach Clean at Cairndoon Beach © Nic Coombey, SFP*

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<sup>44</sup> (Solway Firth Partnership, 2021) Marine Non-native species

<sup>45</sup> (Scottish Government, 2022) Marine Litter Strategy for Scotland.

<sup>46</sup> (Scottish Government, 2022) Marine Litter Strategy

<sup>47</sup> (The Environmental Protection (Microbeads) (Scotland) Regulations, 2018)  
(The Environmental Protection (Microbeads) (England) Regulations , 2017)]



There is progress in the UK towards banning single use plastic products. Scotland has a ban on selling plastic stemmed cotton buds, and England banned the supply of plastic straws and stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in October 2020. In England, Defra banned a range of single use plastic products in 2023, encompassing all single-use plastic cutlery and balloon sticks. The UK authorities have announced the introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland to commence on 1 October 2025. Scottish Government had planned to implement the DRS in 2023 but have had to delay the introduction to October 2025 to align with the scheme in the rest of the UK.

Solway Firth Partnership share the Scottish Government's vision of a litter-free Scotland<sup>48</sup> and raise awareness of the issue whenever possible and are working with local organisations to develop marine litter projects.

### **Fisheries**

Sea fisheries include all commercial fishing activity within inshore waters such as trawling, dredging, pots/creeling, and diving.

Historically, commercial fishing in the Solway Firth was relatively diverse with Dover sole and herring being the primary catches. However, in recent decades, catches have been almost exclusively shellfish, in particular scallops and queen scallops, with a small number of whelks, razor clams, and lobsters. Fishing by the Solway fleet is primarily undertaken by scallop dredgers a combination of smaller local vessels and larger more nomadic dredgers. These are complimented by a smaller creel fishing boats catching lobsters, crabs, etc. Traditional haaf net fishing for salmon and trout also takes place around the Firth, however this has become a recreational/ heritage industry in recent years.

Whitehaven is the main landing port on the English Solway Coast, accounting for 79% of all landings by weight in 2018 and 70% by value<sup>49</sup>. Kirkcudbright is the main landing port in Dumfries & Galloway, accounting for 72% of all landings by weight in 2018, including 65% of scallops and 98% of queen scallops<sup>49</sup>.

Kirkcudbright is in the top twenty UK ports due to the quantity of shellfish, mainly scallops, landed. The main target fisheries for the larger commercial vessels, based out of Whitehaven and Maryport, is king scallops during the winter and prawns (with a fish by-catch) during the summer.

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<sup>48</sup> (Scottish Government, 2014) Towards a Litter Free Scotland: A Strategic Approach to Higher Quality Local Environments.

<sup>49</sup> (EKOS, 2020) Socio-Economic Analysis of the English Solway (2020) EKOS.



*Picture - Scallops landed at Kirkcudbright Harbour © Colin Tennant*

There is also an inshore fishery for the smaller vessels potting for crab and lobster along the coast. Maryport and Silloth host vessels targeting brown shrimps in the Upper Solway although this is now limited to one or two vessels and Whitehaven also provides a base for vessels potting for whelks in the Irish Sea.

The Solway is fished by boats from further afield including the Isle of Man, Ireland and larger ports to the north and south such as Girvan and Fleetwood. Additionally, cockles, mussels and winkles are collected from the Solway shores.

Fish processing is carried out around the Solway with processing businesses at Annan and Kirkcudbright, as well as smaller smokehouses on the Galloway coast. The fisheries sector is an important part of the rural economy for the communities of Dumfries and Galloway and Cumbria but is also a primary pressure on the marine environment.



*Picture - Galloway Smokehouse Fishing © Colin Tennant*

The statutory Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) operate under the Marine and Coastal Access Act<sup>50</sup>. The North Western (NW) IFCA jurisdiction extends north to the national boundary in the Solway; its responsibilities include making and enforcing byelaws for the management and conservation of fish and shellfish stocks and conserving the wider marine environment through a 'Set of Principles for Sustainable Fisheries' which were adopted in September 2011<sup>51</sup>.

The NWIFCA has a governing Board and fishery officers, scientific staff and administrators work from coastal offices in Whitehaven and Carnforth. The MMO also has a local office in Whitehaven where staff are based.

Scottish Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups (RIFGs) are non-statutory bodies, set up as a pilot in 2013 as IFG's, that aim to improve the management of Scotland's inshore fisheries out to six nautical miles, and to give commercial inshore fishermen a strong voice in wider marine management developments<sup>52</sup>. A new structure for the RIFG network was established in January 2023 which subdivides the west coast into two sections as well as taking a new approach to the Northern Isles. The South West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group covers inshore waters from Ardnamurchan point in the west to the national border with England in the Solway Firth.

Solway Firth Partnership will continue to have active engagement with the South West Coast RIFG contributing to consultations on management schemes and marine legislation thereby helping to ensure delivery of local fisheries policy in the north Solway is directly linked to marine planning.



*Picture - Kirkcudbright Harbour, Fishing Faces Project © Kim Ayres*

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<sup>50</sup> (IFCA, 2015) DEFRA guidance to the IFCAs

<sup>51</sup> (North Western IFCA (, 2011) Principles for Sustainable Fisheries

<sup>52</sup> (RIFGs, 2018) Regional Inshore Fisheries Group Network.

SFP is supporting a current study on the Scottish Solway – ‘Solway Firth Cockle Stock Surveys and Re-Laying Trials’ by sitting on the steering group. The project, running from 2023 to 2025, is led by the consultant, Seascope Fisheries Research in partnership with Scottish Government Marine Directorate, Fruits of the Sea and the University of Glasgow. The outputs from the project include undertaking stock surveys in 2023 and 2024 to improve data; undertaking a re-laying trial to assess potential impacts on growth/biomass of redistributing cockles between areas; and providing opportunities for students to carry out projects and gain practical experience.

Funding is available on an annual basis for projects relating to commercial fisheries (including marine litter) through Scottish Government Marine Fund Scotland<sup>53</sup> This programme and any other funds run by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and other government agencies will be monitored for any potential future funding for local fisheries projects.

## Energy

The UK Climate Change Act (2008) set legally binding targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions: 100% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels<sup>54</sup>. The UK Government produced an Energy White Paper<sup>55</sup> in 2020 which highlights the need for net zero to combat climate change.

The Scottish Government has set the ‘net zero emissions target’ by 2045 through its Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009<sup>56</sup>. Work is being carried out by the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP). This group brings together scientists, government, agencies and NGOs to provide coordinated advice on climate change impacts, adaptation around our coast/seas.

The Scottish energy strategy published in December 2017<sup>57</sup> which set a 2030 target for the equivalent of 50% of the energy for Scotland’s heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied by renewable sources, was dropped in April 2024. However, the commitment to achieve net zero by 2045 remains.

Robin Rigg Wind Farm which was initially operated by E-On Climate and Renewables<sup>58</sup> (RWE Renewables from 2019) in the Solway Firth since 2010 was the first commercial offshore wind farm in Scottish waters<sup>59</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> [\(Marine Directorate, 2024\) Marine-and-fisheries-grants](#)

<sup>54</sup> [\(Climate Change Act , 2008\)](#)

<sup>55</sup> [\(Energy White Paper - Powering our Net Zero Future , 2020\)\]](#)

<sup>56</sup> [\(Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act, 2009\)](#)

<sup>57</sup> [\(Scottish Government, 2017\) The future of energy in Scotland: Scottish energy strategy](#)

<sup>58</sup> [\(EON\) Our Windfarm Legac\]](#)

<sup>59</sup> [\(RWE\)\\_Robin Rigg East and West](#)



Solway Firth Partnership continues to provide a means of engagement between RWE and local communities through distribution of the RWE 'Round Robin newsletter' as an insert in Tidelines magazine twice yearly.

The Partnership also provides administration for the Robin Rigg Community Fund on both sides of the Solway to 2028.



*Picture - Robin Rigg Community Fund Update in Tidelines*

The Partnership works to support a coherent approach across the national border and holistic assessment of Solway wide opportunities as well as potential cumulative impacts of renewable energy developments.

The Crown Estate's Leasing Round 4 had an 'Irish Sea' bidding area which was partially located within the Solway Firth but none of the approved projects are within the Solway. On the Scottish side of the Solway, an area was highlighted as a Draft Plan Option (DPO) within the Draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy at south of Luce Bay and Sands SAC. This DPO was met with significant consultation feedback comparative to other sites and has not progressed to becoming a Plan Option (PO) site in the Sectoral Marine Plan. Solway Firth Partnership promoted consultation events and workshops to ensure engagement around the Solway Firth in the Draft Sectoral Marine Plan.

The Partnership continues to facilitate discussion on the development of other renewable energy projects in the Solway through meetings and conference workshops. SFP has also published webpages on Renewable Energy to provide the public with more information.<sup>60</sup>



*Picture - Robin Rigg Wind Farm © RWE*

### **Awareness**

Facilitating community engagement, increasing understanding of our natural and cultural heritage, celebrating and promoting the Solway Firth have always formed a core part of the Partnership's activities. The Partnership also encourages engagement in recreational activities such as sailing, kayaking, diving, wildlife watching and coastal walking in and around the Solway.

Good practice is supported by a range of means including promotion of activities and events in social media, E-newsletters and Tidelines<sup>61</sup> magazine which is produced twice yearly and distributed widely around the Solway and beyond.

Recreational sea angling is widely enjoyed on the Solway shores as well as from small boats with several charter boat businesses operating in the area. Solway Firth Partnership encourages sustainable sea angling and continues to provide updates on responsible sea angling practice and other local information.

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<sup>60</sup> (Solway Firth Partnership, 2020) energy

<sup>61</sup> (Solway Firth Partnership, 2024) publications



*Picture - Sea Angling on the Solway © Keith Kirk*

Haaf netting is a traditional and long-established method of fishing for salmon and sea trout in the Solway and is practised on both sides of the estuary, on the Rivers Nith and the Annan in Dumfries and Galloway and the River Eden in Cumbria. SFP supports haaf net fishing in line with government guidelines which dictate the annual catches of fish allowed on each river.

The Partnership provides advice and equipment to support community beach cleans and promotes the Marine Conservation Society Great British Beach Clean and Adopt-a-beach schemes; The Great Nurdle Hunt; Keep Scotland Beautiful Clean up Scotland campaign; and others as they develop. SFP has developed and delivered several marine litter projects including Positive Action for a Cleaner Solway and the follow up More Positive Action for a Cleaner Solway. It is anticipated that a further project will be developed and delivered within the timescale of this business plan for Solway Firth Partnership to continue raising awareness of the issue of marine litter and plastics / micro plastics in the sea.

A variety of guides to the Solway Coast have been developed and produced through various projects. They are all available on the SFP webpage.<sup>62</sup> Some more recent examples include; Kirkcudbright Bay

– A Walking Guide, Tales from Kirkcudbright Bay; Rhins Coast Path Booklets – Archaeology, Flower Guide, Lighthouse Guide, Coastal Bird Guide, Strandline Guide, Seaweed Guide, Where Every Place Tells a Story Booklet.

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<sup>62</sup> (Solway Firth Partnership, 2024) Publications

In line with the objective of holding a conference every two years, a joint event with the Solway Coast AONB (now National Landscape) was held in November 2023 (postponed from November 2020 due to covid-19). The next conference is due to be held in November 2025.



**Invitation**

**Solway Firth Partnership & Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty warmly invite you to our joint Solway Conference 2023**

**Friday 17th November**  
**The Halston Hotel, 20-34 Warwick Rd, Carlisle CA1 1AB**

**Dr Tori Herridge,**  
evolutionary biologist at the University of Sheffield, mammoth expert and broadcaster will give the final address of the day.

The programme will feature a range of talks, presentations and workshops including:

- Nature recovery and species on the edge
- Archaeological discoveries on the Solway
- Creative approaches to marine litter
- Sense of place and sustainable tourism

As well as snapshot updates on a variety of other topical Solway projects and initiatives.

**Tea and coffee from 9.30am**  
**Solway Firth Partnership report & AGM 10.00am**  
**Registration for conference from 10.00am**  
**Conference 10.45am – 4.00pm**

The conference is free and includes a light buffet lunch but places are limited so booking is essential.

Book your place through [Eventbrite](#) by Friday 27th October.

**Solway Firth Partnership**

**Solway Coast**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Figure 7 – Invitation to SFP / Solway Coast AONB (now National Landscape) Conference 2023



## 5. Action

The Partnership's core activities can be categorised into the following areas:

- Partnership
- Planning
- Environment
- Fisheries
- Energy
- Awareness

The Partnership will pursue its strategic aims and outcomes by taking the actions presented in the table below. Quarterly meetings of the Solway Firth Partnership Advisory Group and regular meetings of the Board of Trustees will review and assess achievements, priorities, developments and potential changes.

**NB: Actions that are a condition of existing grants, funding applications or a constitutional requirement are shaded blue in the table below.**

Activity	Action
Partnership	Maintain regular contact with all stakeholders to support networking especially cross-border
	Facilitate consultation on issues affecting the marine and coastal area and act as an intermediary in conflict resolution
	Hold a conference every two years
	Hold regular management group meetings in compliance with the Partnership's Memorandum and Articles of Association
	Maintain and update the Partnership database and website
	Provide partners with regular updates on key issues through website, E-newsletters and social media
	Attract additional funding to develop the Partnership's capacity
	Manage the Partnership's income and expenditure
	Maintain regular contact with the Coastal Partnership Network and explore opportunities for funded partnership working on national initiatives including transboundary projects
Planning	Contribute to development of a Scottish Marine Planning Partnership for the Solway as required
	Gather pan-estuary information, learn from stakeholders and promote a better understanding of the Solway ecosystem

Activity	Action
Planning	Work with partners to develop mechanisms to deliver joint planning across national boundaries
	Continue to input to the NMPI with relevant data from the Solway
	Maintain working relationships with marine planning bodies in the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland as well as England and Scotland
	Contribute to the Irish Sea Maritime Forum / Celtic Seas Initiatives
Environment	Contribute to ensuring that conservation objectives for European Marine Sites are recognised and addressed by relevant competent authorities
	Contribute to the conservation of features monitoring within the European Marine Site where resources allow
	Contribute to a review of the European Marine Site Management Scheme if appropriate and resources allow
	Support integration of the MCZ and MPA programmes and promote understanding and stakeholder engagement with both
	Maintain and develop engagement with all marine recording schemes and centres including the Marine Conservation Society, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre and South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre
	Continue the analysis of coastal and marine biodiversity data availability, accessibility and identify knowledge gaps
	Raise awareness of marine non-native species and complete actions from the Solway Biosecurity Strategy where resources allow
	Raise awareness of the issue of marine litter through website, social media campaigns and participation in national campaigns
	Maintain input to the Solway Area Advisory Group of the Solway Tweed River Basin District and ensure integration with delivery structures for implementation of the Marine Acts
	Run the Solway Coast and Marine Pilot Project (SCAMPP) as funding is released through SG Borderlands - delivering seagrass / saltmarsh / native oyster enhancement and restoration by 2030
Fisheries	Support consultation on options for sustainable future management of the Solway cockle fishery
	Support cohesion between English, Scottish, Manx and Northern Irish fisheries management regimes
	Support the South West Coast Regional Inshore Fishery Group as appropriate

Activity	Action
Fisheries	Contribute to litter initiatives as appropriate
	Contribute to sustainable fishing projects as appropriate
Energy	Provide information on climate change and the need for sustainable energy through events and publications
	Provide a means of engagement between existing and prospective offshore renewable energy developers and the local community
	Distribute the RWE Round Robin newsletter
	Deliver the Robin Rigg Community Fund 2024 to 2027 (and in future as funding allows)
Awareness	Produce and distribute two issues of Tidelines annually
	Update the website regularly
	Produce and distribute regular E-newsletters
	Promote SFP and the Solway through social media
	Continue to support the Rhins of Galloway Coast Path, as required, promoting the regions rich coastal and marine heritage and biodiversity
	Promote good practice and publicise opportunities for marine and coastal recreation
	Promote World Oceans Day with appropriate events through funded projects
	Deliver additional awareness projects as funding allows
	Issue regular press articles
	Support local action on beach cleans and surveys in line with Marine Conservation Society objectives including lending equipment
	Support opportunities that arise from relevant new initiatives

## 6. Delivery

### Management Framework

The Partnership is constituted as an independent Scottish Charity Limited by Guarantee and operates to a Memorandum and Articles of Association<sup>63</sup> in compliance with the Companies Acts. The Partnership has an open membership policy, including corporate and individual members, and all are eligible for appointment to the Board of Trustees (Appendix 1: Board of Trustees at April 2024). The Board normally meets at least four times per year (hybrid - both in person and online), and directs the work of the Partnership with responsibility for financial matters.

The Partnership and Board are guided by an Advisory Group comprising representatives of Corporate Members of the Partnership at an Officer level (Appendix 2 – Corporate Members). The Advisory Group normally meets four times per year (hybrid - both in person and online) and focusses on key issues and developments.

Solway Firth Partnership currently employs a Partnership Manager, Administrator/Finance Officer, Project Officer, Project Assistant and Cumbrian Project Officer (as funds allow). Staff work closely with the Convenor of the Board of Trustees (Appendix 3 – Meet the team).

### Promotion and Advertising

Solway Firth Partnership communicates and engages with the wider community by regular e-newsletters, social media posts and website updates, Tidelines magazine, meetings, webinars, consultation events and the bi-annual conference. The Partnership manages a database of around 550 around the Solway.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of progress on actions identified in this plan are carried out through the Partnership management structure. Minutes of all meetings are recorded. A review of progress on this Business Plan is carried out annually.



*Picture - Crab on seaweed ©SFP*

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<sup>63</sup> (SFP, 2018) Memorandum and Articles of Association



## 7. Funding

### Resources to date

Solway Firth Partnership relies on core funding from Corporate Members who are local authorities or government agencies. The Partnership also benefits from private sector funding from RWE, specifically for publication and the distribution of their Round Robin newsletter within Tidelines. The Partnership is very grateful to all those who have provided funding support to date and without whose input the successes described herein would not have happened.

### Core funding

Figures below are based on financial support to date and the best information currently available.

The Partnership carried forward £144,348 of core (unrestricted) funds at the end of financial year to 31 March 2023. Solway Firth Partnership's reserves policy is to maintain a sufficient level of resources to enable operating activities to be maintained, taking account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time such as:

- Shortfalls in income: when income does not reach expected levels as a result of reduced or withdrawn grant support;
- Unexpected expenditure: for example, when projects overrun or unplanned events occur.

The general reserve should allow operating activities to be maintained, approximately £80,000, as agreed at the Board of Trustees meeting in June 2023. The Trustees review the policy and progress towards maintaining the target level of reserve annually.

### Future funding sources

The Partnership will seek and welcome continued financial support for delivery of all actions from its Corporate Members. Scottish Government Marine Directorate continues to make a funding commitment and the Partnership has active engagement with several other partners such as the Solway Coast National Landscape, Natural England and Dumfries and Galloway Council about working together to deliver projects.

The Partnership will continue to monitor the situation on fisheries related funding and seek funding from outside sources. National Lottery Heritage Fund and private trusts will continue to be a source of possible funding.

### **SFP Future Project Staffing**

Over the term of the last business plan project staff were employed on short term projects e.g., Positive Action for a Cleaner Solway and its follow on project, More Positive Action for a Cleaner Solway. Staff are currently developing another marine litter related project and hope to secure funds from Marine Fund Scotland. In addition, at present, funds are secured for delivering Rhins Coast Path public activities (DGC Funding) and the Galloway Seaweed Search Project (Kilgallioch Community Fund). This will cover some of the Project Officer costs of working 4 days/week and the Project Assistant working 1.5 days/week for the year 2024/25. The Partnership will continue to seek further funding to keep these experienced staff in post to maintain the sustainability of the organisation.

It is anticipated that funds will be released in 2024 from Scottish Government (Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal) to start the Solway Coast and Marine Pilot Project. Project staff, one manager and one marine biologist, along with part time administrative support will be recruited to deliver this project. The SCAMP Project will run until 2030 at which time it is anticipated that the project will become sustainable.

Other opportunities for funding projects will be taken as appropriate. For example, it is hoped to develop a cross-border community archaeology project in partnership with the Solway Coast National Landscape in due course.



*Picture – Mersehead Sands ©SFP*

**Income and Expenditure**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
<b>Core Income</b>			
Scottish Government Marine Directorate Planning & Policy Dept	41,500	41,500	41,500
RWE	8,000	8,000	8,000
Cumberland Council	5,600	5,600	5,600
Crown Estate Scotland	3,000	3,000	3,000
Other Core Grants	2,000	2,000	2,000
Misc Income	12,000	13,000	14,000
<b>Total Core Income</b>	<b>72,100</b>	<b>73,100</b>	<b>74,100</b>
<b>Project Income</b>			
Income/Recoveries for Project Staff & Overheads	23,410	26,560	24,610
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£95,510</b>	<b>£99,660</b>	<b>£98,710</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Core Expenses</b>			
Staff Costs			
Salaries and employment costs for Partnership Manager & Admin	47,000	48,500	50,000
Training	500	500	500
Travel & Subsistence	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Staff Costs	49,000	50,500	52,000
Operating Costs			
Rent	9,900	9,900	9,900
Insurance	1,000	1,000	1,000
Telephone/Postage/Internet	1,000	1,000	1,000
Stationery & Equipment	500	500	500
IT Costs	2,500	2,500	2,500
Meetings and Seminars	1300	1300	1300
Conference	2,500		2,500
Legal & Accountancy	1,500	1,500	1,500
Tidelines	6,150	6,300	6,350
Website	540	540	540
Total Operating Costs	24,390	27,040	24,590
<b>Total Core Expenses</b>	<b>75,890</b>	<b>75,040</b>	<b>79,090</b>
<b>Project Expenses</b>			
Salaries and Employment costs for Project Officer & Project Admin	17,500	17,500	17,500
Rent on Project Office	4,620	4,620	4,620
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>22,120</b>	<b>22,120</b>	<b>22,120</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>£98,010</b>	<b>£97,160</b>	<b>£101,210</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>



### Project funding

A range of other outputs and activities are enabled by additional grant support for individual projects.

Solway Firth Partnership has a proven track record of maximising the value of core funds by drawing in additional project (restricted funding).

Projects currently being developed and/or delivered:

Project Title	Status
SCAMPP Development	Being delivered
SCAMPP	In development
Galloway Seaweed Project	Being delivered
CLEARCoasts Project Phase 3	In development
Various Solway natural and cultural heritage projects	In development
Marine Litter Project	In development
Solway Carbon Project (Cumbrian Saltmarshes)	In development
Community Cross-border Archaeology Project	In development



*Picture – Workington Beach ©SFP*

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## 9. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Board of Trustees at April 2024

Member Name	Organisation	Type
Cllr Anthony Markley	Cumberland Council	Corporate
Cllr Malcolm Johnstone	Dumfries & Galloway Council	Corporate
Michael Cowen	Maryport Harbour Authority	Corporate
Mr Rupert Shaw MBE	Independent	Ordinary
Ms Sheena Horner	Independent	Ordinary
Ms Judith Brown	Independent	Ordinary
Mr Tristan Hugh-Jones	Independent	Co-opted

## **Appendix 2: Corporate Members**

Annan District Salmon Fishery Board

Annan Harbour Action Group

Associated British Ports

Crown Estate Scotland

Cumberland Council

North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (formerly Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee)

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Environment Agency

Marine Management Organisation (formerly Marine and Fisheries Agency)

Maryport Harbour Authority

Natural England (formerly Countryside Agency)

NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage)

Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Scottish Water



### **Appendix 3: Meet the team**

#### **Rupert Shaw Solway Firth Partnership, Convenor**

Rupert Shaw became Convenor of Solway Firth Partnership in 2021. He became a Board Trustee in 2016.

Farming on the Borgue Peninsula, Rupert feels entwined with the Solway and its future and is a strong advocate for sustainable and ethical coastal enterprise. Apart from strong familial and geographic connections to the Sea he has indulged his passion for the marine environment, through activities as diverse as an austral winter in the Antarctic, photo tagging bottlenose dolphins off California and this year, attendance at SAMS Oban's Seaweed Academy.

#### **Clair McFarlan Solway Firth Partnership, Partnership Manager – 4 days/week**

As Partnership Manager for the past ten years and Project Officer with Solway Firth Partnership for the previous three years, Clair has been involved with a wide range of marine and coastal projects and been involved in stakeholder engagement on both sides of the Solway.

Clair represents Solway Firth Partnership on fora including the Solway Coast National Landscape Officer Steering Group / Farming in Protected Landscape Assessment Panel, River Eden and West Cumbria Catchment Management Partnerships, Cumbria Nature and People Group and the Northern Coastal Sub-Group.

Clair has worked in project management, conservation, countryside access, community engagement, environmental education and interpretation for over 30 years through positions with Solway Firth Partnership, Solway Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) and the Tree Register of the British Isles.

#### **Paul Mackey Solway Firth Partnership, Administrator/Finance Officer – 2 days/week**

Paul joined SFP in 2015 as Administrator / Finance Officer. With previous experience as an accountant, Paul manages the day-to-day finances of SFP, is the Company Secretary and prepares the accounts for the Independent Examination by a registered auditor or by the accountant.

#### **Nic Coombey Solway Firth Partnership, Project Officer - 4 days/week**

Nic has worked with SFP since 2012 and leads on projects raising awareness of the Solway Coast including marine litter projects.

Nic, a Landscape Architect for over 30 years, has increasingly specialised in the management of heritage projects on the Solway coast. He spent 13 years as an

employee of Solway Heritage nurturing and delivering community aspirations to enhance and conserve the built, natural and cultural landscapes of Dumfries and Galloway.

**Morag Walker Solway Firth Partnership, Project Assistant – flexible**

Morag has worked as the Project Assistant at Solway Firth Partnership since 2016 on a range of projects including Solway Coastwise, Fishing Faces, Solway Coast is Clear and Marine Litter Projects. These projects involved looking at innovative ways to engage with both the public, stakeholders and interest groups.

Morag has worked in project and event management, conservation, wildlife management, community engagement, environmental education, tutoring, web development, IT support and interpretation for over 30 years through positions with Solway Firth Partnership, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot), Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Forest Industry Economics Unit (Edinburgh University), Field Studies Council and Nature Conservancy Council.



*Picture – Criffel at Sunset ©SFP*



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