



southern uplands partnership  
*living land, living community*

# SUP NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025



*Hoar frost, Scottish Borders © Linda Macpherson*

Hello and welcome to our December newsletter!

It's been another busy month at SUP, as this time of year sees our projects wrapping up both for the weather (!) and reporting on a busy year of activity, alongside planning for 2026 and the many exciting new opportunities it promises to bring.

As we head towards the holidays, we wish you and yours a wonderful, peaceful and restful festive season and a very Happy New Year when it comes!

Read on for news from The Southern Uplands Partnership and our partners, working together for a "Living Land, Living Community".

[www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk)



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## Launch of a new vision for forests and woodlands from the Environmental Alliance of the South of Scotland



*Launch event Langholm: Image credit SUP*

Regular readers will be aware that we facilitate the [Environmental Alliance of the South of Scotland](#) and, together with members and partners, we held a well-attended launch event in Langholm at the end of November for an important and timely new paper, setting out the EASOS vision and recommendations for Forests and Woodlands in the South of Scotland.

There was an excellent discussion, with many attendees sharing their formidable experience and knowledge. Enormous thanks to those who joined us, our keynote speaker Prof. Jaboury Ghazoul, and our partners from Crichton Carbon Centre, Tweed Forum, RSPB, Borders Forest Trust, D&G Woodlands, Dumfries & Galloway Biosphere and Solway Firth Partnership for their contributions to the Vision.

We look forward to working with policymakers, foresters, communities and NGOs in 2026 to progress the recommendations for increased environmental and community benefits from our forests and woodlands.

If you would like to get involved, please drop us a line at [easos@sup.org.uk](mailto:easos@sup.org.uk). You can also download a copy of the Vision and recommendations from our website [here](#).

## Winter Tree I.D. at Mauldsheugh with Scottish Borders Climate Action Network and The Wildlife Information Centre



"The arrangement of leaves on a stem is one of the crucial identification features when looking at trees in winter. These arrangements may be opposite, alternating or spiral. Look at last year's growth, lenticels, and leaf scarring."

Undaunted by the weather and armed with this advice, a field lens, and some specimen books, we set off into the woods. The woods in question are those found at the Mauldsheugh Community Wildlife project in Selkirk and the occasion was our SBCAN team's final event of the autumn, 'Winter Tree I.D.', which formed part of the Mauldsheugh Woodland Community day. Head to our blog to find out more:

<https://www.sbcan.co.uk/sbcannews/winter-trees>



## Solway Coast and Marine Project Landscape Connections visit to SAMS in Oban



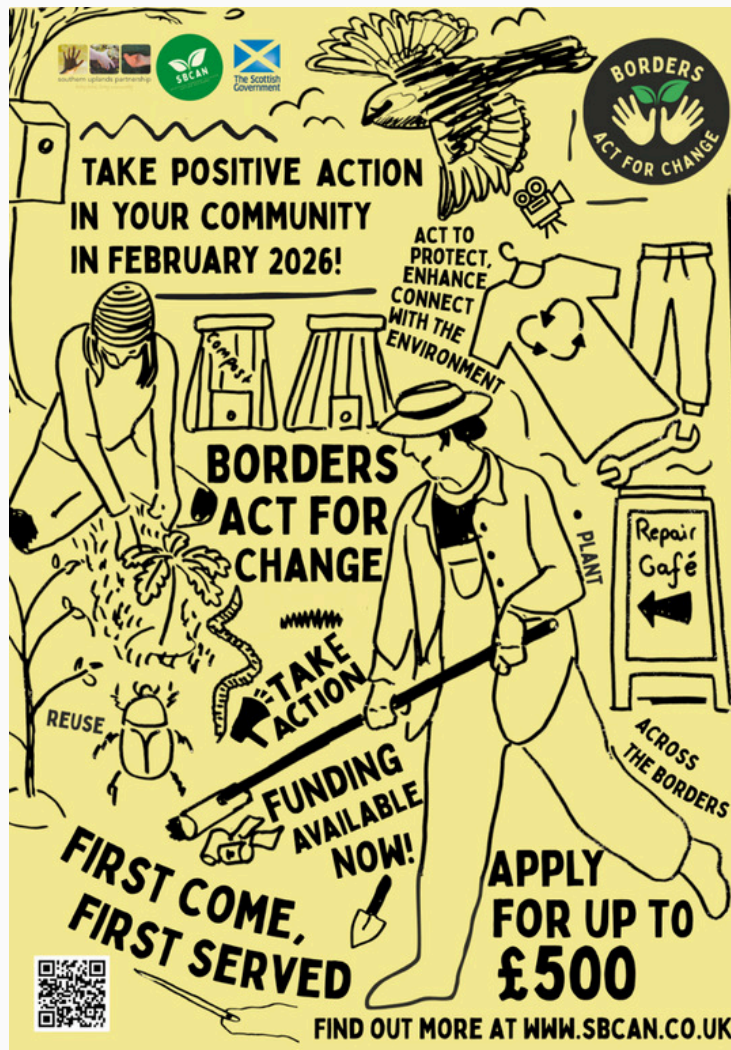
*Loch Ryan Oysters at SAMS: Image credit Dumfries & Galloway Council*

Alongside Dumfries & Galloway Council, Solway Firth Partnership and many other partners, we are proud to be part of the exciting Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP) Landscape Connections project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and now in its development phase.

Earlier this month, we were delighted to join a visit to SAMS ([the Scottish Association for Marine Science](#)) at its Oban campus, where we learned about their work on marine restoration, including research on the last wild population of native oysters in Loch Ryan (pictured above, in one of SAMS nursery labs).

Although our work will focus on the coast, we will be supporting interpretation and community engagement for SCAMP, and it was a privilege to learn more about the challenges and opportunities for restoration of marine species and habitats, as well as all the innovative work of SAMS and our local partners.

# Borders Act for Change 2026 is off to a flying start



Interest in Act for Change 2026 has been phenomenal so far! Our Scottish Borders Climate Action Network (SBCAN) team have already been able to award funding to 20 projects! These include community gardens, schools and third sector organisations from Paxton to Peebles and Lamberton to Lowood. We can't wait to see all of these projects getting underway in the new year! Each of these will make meaningful contributions to climate action within their respective communities. Some funding is still available, so don't delay if you are interested in accessing support with taking community-led action to tackle climate change in February 2026. Huge thanks to our funders at The Scottish Government for making this possible.

As part of the weekend, our SBCAN team co-facilitated the third Springboard Local Assembly in the Borders. Organised with Culture for Climate Scotland as part of their national programme of local assemblies, this year's theme was 'Upstream, Downstream' focusing on the role of rivers as climate indicators and climate regulators. Read more about the event here: [Springboard! — SBCAN](#)

If you would like to support the work that Southern Uplands Partnership does, you can donate at the button below:



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