

Contact Us



Scottish Canals

Canal House, Applecross Street,
Glasgow G4 9SP
T: 0141 332 6936
E: moorings@scottishcanals.co.uk

Bowling Sea Lock

T: 01389 877969

Carron Sea Locks 1 and 2

T: 07810 794468

Boat Movements

(24hr advanced booking/
Winter – 48hr advanced booking
T: 07810 794 467

Falkirk Wheel Basin Control (please give 24hr notice)

T: 01324 676912

Crinan Canal

Pier Square, Ardrishaig, Argyll, PA30 8DZ

T: 01546 603210

Caledonian Canal

Seaport Marina, Muirtown Wharf,
Inverness, IV3 5LE

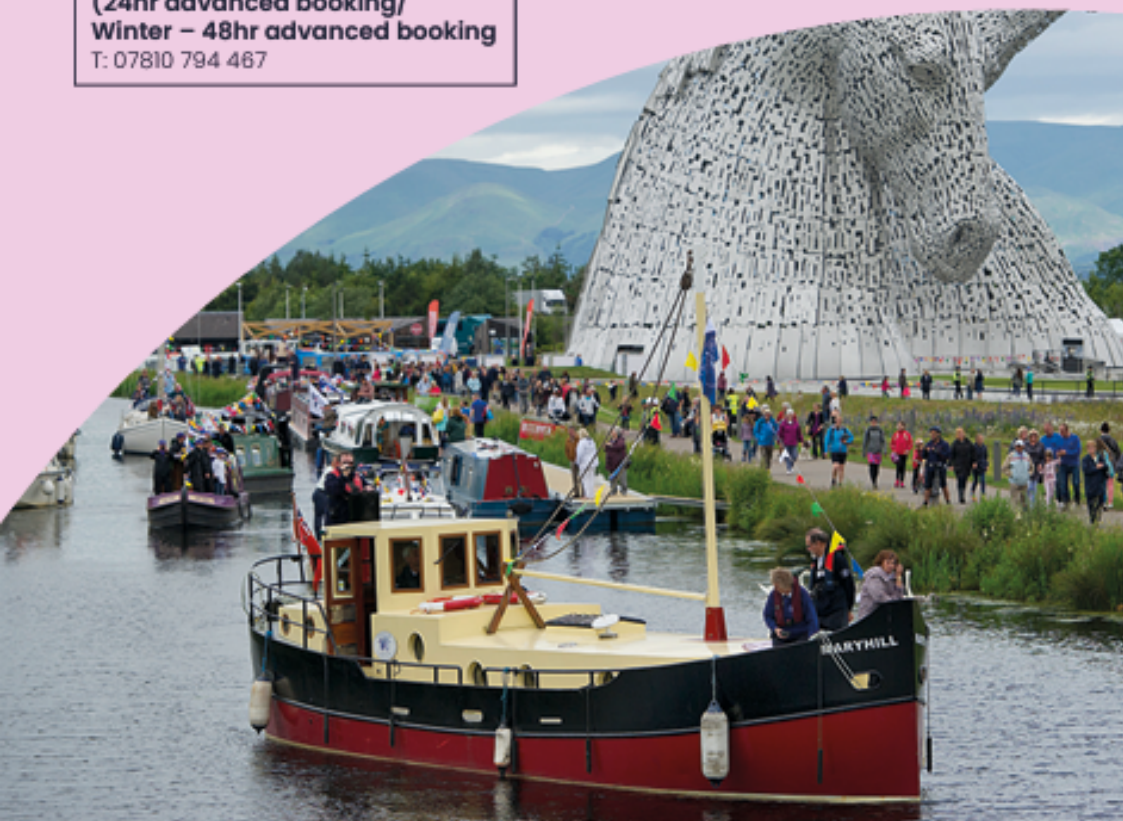
T: 01463 725500

E: enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk



Skipper's Guide

Forth & Clyde and Union Canals



Find out more at
scottishcanals.co.uk

Find out more at
scottishcanals.co.uk

Carron Sea Lock (no 1) to Lock 16	6 hours
Lock 16 to Auchinstarry Basin	3 hours
Auchinstarry Basin to Lock 27	6 hours
Lock 27 to Bowling Sea lock	6 hours

Sufficient time should be allowed for passage from Port Edgar and negotiation of the River Carron to the Sea Lock.

The Union Canal is 51km long (28 nautical miles, 31 statute miles) from Lochrin Basin in Edinburgh to just above The Falkirk Wheel. It is a contour canal with only one moving structure – Leamington Lift Bridge in Edinburgh. This can be negotiated by prior arrangement with the Waterway Office.

Skippers should allow a minimum of 12 hours under way, divided as follows:

Lochrin Basin to Ratho Br (15)	2 hours
Ratho Br to Almond Aqueduct (18)	1/2 hour
Almond Aqueduct to Craigton Br (35)	2 hours
Craigton Br to Linlithgow	2 hours
Linlithgow to Brightons Br (54)	2 hours
Brightons Br to Falkirk Wheel	2 hours

CREWING REQUIREMENTS

Scottish Canals staff will be on hand to assist at all locks and bridges on the Forth & Clyde Canal, but craft must have sufficient crew to assist staff with lockings. Faster progress will be made if each craft has more than one spare person available to work ashore.

We are unable to guarantee assistance to single-handed boaters, so please ensure you have sufficient crew onboard to handle your ropes. Single-handed boaters are likely to experience delays.

If you require further information on the working and manning of locks, please contact the Waterway Office. See the Bowling and River Carron sailing instructions for further information on assistance in the approaches to the canal and in the Sea Locks.

DALMUIR DROP LOCK

This lock is situated near the western end of the canal at Dalmuir, and provides passage below Dumbarton Road. The lock is situated on a sharp bend on the canal and care should be taken whilst approaching from either direction. Moor outside the lock to await instructions from Scottish Canals staff. Minimum locking time is 40 minutes.

FALKIRK TUNNEL

The tunnel is narrow with room for one way traffic only. Please comply with the safety information displayed on the signs located at the tunnel entrances, and with the light signals.

You must not stop in the tunnel.

Please consult the diagram and notes in this Guide.

ROUGHCASTLE TUNNEL

As above, but as SC staff are on hand at this location, please accept their verbal instructions.

SKIPPER'S GUIDE – NOTE

This document is for the general guidance of waterway users, and should not be treated as Navigation Rules or Bye-laws. General or local instructions published by SC, and directions given by SC staff, should be followed.

EMERGENCIES

In the event of an emergency summon assistance by whatever means is available – such as mobile phone, public telephone, or by enlisting the help of others.

EMERGENCY AND ACCESS NUMBERS

Emergency Number
(inc Coastguard) 999

Emergency Out of Hours Contact
0800 072 9900

Other Useful Numbers:

Lowland Canals Waterway Office
0141 332 6936

Falkirk Wheel Basin Controller
01324 676912

DO NOT PHONE THESE NUMBERS FOR BOAT MOVEMENTS

**EMERGENCY POINTS ARE
AVAILABLE ALONG THE CANAL
– LOOK OUT FOR THE SIGNAGE
FOR THEM**

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOWLAND MOORINGS INFORMATION PACK

All licence holders can access the Lowlands Moorings Information Pack and other guidance for boaters via the Scottish Canals website at www.scottishcanals.co.uk/activities/boating/information.

OPERATING TIMES

Opening times can vary throughout the season. For all the latest operating times go to www.scottishcanals.co.uk. Last lockings are half an hour before closing; late locking can be arranged for a fee.

MAXIMUM CHANNEL DIMENSIONS

All measured from the water surface. Add 10cm (4inches) to your sea water draught to compensate for reduced buoyancy in fresh water, and allow for the weight of extra equipment, fuel and water which may increase your draught.

Leave a safety margin for underkeel clearance and for fluctuating water levels, which may effect channel depth and headroom. The headroom at the railway bridge below Lock 9, and at Merer's Bridge between Locks 7 & 8, may be reduced due to increases in water flows from locks in operation upstream.

Forth & Clyde:

Max. Boat Length: 19.2m (63ft)

Width / Beam: 6m (19ft 6in)

Channel Depth: 1.5m

Maximum Headroom: 3m (9ft 10in)

*Slightly longer vessels, depending on their hull shape, may be accommodated. Contact 07810 794 467 when planning passage.

Forth & Clyde Canal, Glasgow Branch:

Max. Boat Length: 19.2m (63ft)

Width / Beam: 5.02m (16ft 6in)

Channel Depth: 1.4m (4ft 6in)

Maximum Headroom: 3m (9ft 10in)

The Queen Elizabeth Canal & Sealock:

Max. Boat Length: 20.47m (67ft)

Width / Beam: 5m (16ft 4in)

Channel Depth: 1.8m (6ft)

Maximum Headroom: 3m (9ft 10in)

Union Canal & The Falkirk Wheel:

Lock Length: 21.3m (70ft)

Width: 3.5m (11ft 6in)

Channel Depth: 1.06m (3ft 6in)

Maximum Headroom: 2.7m (8ft 10in)

The Falkirk Wheel Locks:

Channel Depth 1.5m (5ft)

Maximum Headroom: 2.7m (8ft 10in)

Golden Jubilee Lock: (Lock 3: F&C into basin)

Length: 21.30m (70ft)

Width / Beam: 3.83m (12ft 6in)

Channel Depth: 1.5m (5ft)

Max headroom: 2.74m (9ft)

SHOWERS, TOILETS, WATER, REFUSE POINTS, SHORE POWER

Available at locations throughout the waterway. Please refer to canal facilities grids. Access is via a Scottish Canals passkey, which is available from the Waterway Office or the sea locks. A charge applies for the key for all short term license holders. All Long Term Mooring Holders will receive one key with their agreement.

PUMP OUT FACILITIES

The use of sea toilets within the waterway is prohibited. Vessels with holding tanks can use the pump-out facilities (chargeable) located throughout the waterway. Please refer to canal facilities information.

FUEL

Marine diesel is available at Bowling, Auchinstarry, Carron Sealock 2, the Falkirk Wheel (on F&C) and at Manse Road Basin, Southbank Marina and Edinburgh Quay.

Petrol & Derv can be obtained from local garages.

We would remind owners to exercise care during refuelling to avoid risk of fire or pollution.

CANAL LICENCES

All craft using the canals must have an up to date licence on display at all times. For more information please visit

www.scottishcanals.co.uk or contact the Waterway office 0141 332 6936.

PASSAGE TIMES – A GUIDE

The Forth & Clyde Canal is 57km (31 nautical miles, 35 statute miles) from the River Carron Sea Lock on the Firth of Forth, to Bowling on the Firth of Clyde, and there are 40 locks to negotiate.

Skippers should allow a minimum of 21 hours underway, divided approximately as follows (east to west):

SAFETY INFORMATION

GENERAL CREW SAFETY

Canals are potentially hazardous environments, care should be exercised at all times. Skippers should maintain safety awareness in the canal, just as they would at sea. The ideal procedure is for life jackets to be worn at all times by all persons. Have an adequate number of competent crew on board. Single-handed passage is possible, but not recommended, and may be subject to delays and additional costs depending on staff availability.

BOAT SAFETY SCHEME

All long term users of the waterway must have an up to date Boat Safety Certificate and provide evidence of insurance for £2million and must include recovery of vesse. Information is available from the Moorings Team or from the Boat Safety Scheme website www.boatsafetyscheme.com. Craft entering the system by sea and berthing for no more than 28 consecutive days do not require a Boat Safety Certificate. Instead, they may be subject to a Dangerous Boat Check of gas and fuel systems, and will be required to complete a boat condition declaration.

SWIMMING

Although the canal may look inviting, please do not swim in it, as there may be underwater obstructions, and the banks can be steep.

VHF

Sea Locks: VHF Channel 16 / 74.

Call signs "Bowling Basin" and "Carron Sea Lock".

VHF coverage on inland reaches is not consistent.

RADAR

Skippers must ensure that radar scanners are switched off while craft are in the canal, and when entering sea locks.

SPEED LIMIT

All craft must observe the 4mph speed limit on the waterway to avoid bank erosion by excessive wash.

Please minimise disturbance to others by passing moored craft at DEAD SLOW speed.

CAUTION – MAST PROJECTION

Skippers of sailing craft are reminded that most masts will project beyond bow and stern. Care should be taken to leave side decks as clear of spreaders and shrouds as possible to facilitate handling warps. Please take extra care at bends whilst on passage.

LOCKS AND BRIDGES

FORTH & CLYDE CANAL

All inland locks are operated by Scottish Canals staff, and/or licensed users. Sufficient boat crew is required to provide assistance.

MAIN OPENING BRIDGES

Erskine Ferry, Sylvannia Way Footbridge, Old Basin Bascule Bridge, Hillhead, Twechar, Kerse Road Bridge, Bonnybridge and Garscube Bridge bridges are hydraulically operated by Scottish Canals staff. Bridge openings will not take place during peak road traffic times on week days. Automated road bridge operation is expected to take in the region of 5 to 10 minutes, depending on the number of vessels.

UNION CANAL LOCKS AND BRIDGES

Scottish Canals staff will operate the two locks above The Falkirk Wheel. Contact number 01324 676912. Mooring ropes must be used in both locks.

Scottish Canals staff operate Leamington Lift Bridge near Lochrin Basin, Edinburgh by prior arrangement. Call 07795 827712 to arrange bridge operation.

USE OF LOCKS BY PORTABLE CRAFT

Portable craft, including canoes and kayaks, must portage round locks for safety and water economy reasons. Where unpowered and portable craft are considered too large to portage round locks, they may transit through the locks. They must be warped through on ropes with no-one on board.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Scottish Canals operates a Port Waste Management Plan, agreed with the Maritime Coastguard Agency and SEPA.

Please help us to keep the Lowland Canals tidy by disposing of rubbish in a thoughtful manner. In particular, plastic bags thrown overboard could block water intakes, or foul propellers.

It is an offence to discharge oil, or oily bilge water, into the canal, or its adjacent waters. Any contravention of this rule will be reported to the Marine Coastguard Agency. If you require to empty bilges please contact Scottish Canals, who may be able to arrange for specialist contractors (at additional cost).

ROWING

Rowing clubs use the section of Union Canal from Slateford (Prince Charlie) Aqueduct to Harrison Park (between Ashley Terrace Bridge and Harrison Park Bridge). Signs cautioning boaters have been erected 500 metres east and west of this section. Please refer to the diagram and procedure detailed overleaf.

SAFETY AT GRANGEMOUTH

The River Carron comes within the safety zone for the Grangemouth Petroleum and Chemical Complex.

In the event of a major escape of toxic gas public warning sirens will be sounded, as follows:

The Alert Siren will have a two-tone sound operating continuously for 5 minutes, followed by 1 minute off. This alert cycle will be repeated

for as long as it is considered necessary.

The All Clear will be a Single Tone Sound and will last for 5 minutes.

Anyone hearing the sirens, or without warning is affected to the point of discomfort by any gas, should immediately extinguish all naked lights and go inside shutting all doors, windows and vents.

If you are under way on the River Carron, proceed to the nearest mooring point (see sailing instructions) and then follow the above procedure.

The Skipper has sole responsibility for the safe navigation of the vessel in his or her charge through the canal. Specifically, the skipper is responsible for the safe passage of the vessel under bridges, and through tunnels and locks. No warranty, assurance, undertaking or representation is given or made by or on behalf of Scottish Canals regarding the safe passage of a vessel through the canal. This does not affect your statutory or common law rights.

RIVER CARRON TIDES

- At spring tides the mid-tide level is rising at around 1.6m per hour and on the ebb will fall at up to 2.0m per hour. The combination of rapidly changing levels and strong currents makes accurate timing of your passage, especially during spring tides, important. At neap tides the pattern is similar, but the range is less and one will be navigating near High Water (HW) rather than at half tide, the problem is much less acute. In general this is the easiest and safest time to make the passage.
- The current in the river may be up to 4 knots on a spring flood and more, depending on river conditions, on the ebb.

GOING UPSTREAM

- Neap tides (less than 5.0m, HW around 0900/2100 UT)
- The optimum tide level will probably occur between 1.5 and 2.5 hours before HW, and again approximately 1.0 hour after HW. Tidal current will be slight. As a general rule skippers should begin the up river passage on a flood tide as soon as they consider that there is sufficient depth.
- Spring tides (more than 5.0m, HW occurring around 0300/1500 UT) The optimum tide level

will probably occur between 3.0 and 3.5 hours before HW, and again approximately 2.0 hours after HW. Tidal current will be strong. For more information consult the Lowland canals tide tables (E1), available from Lowland Canals office and sea-locks.

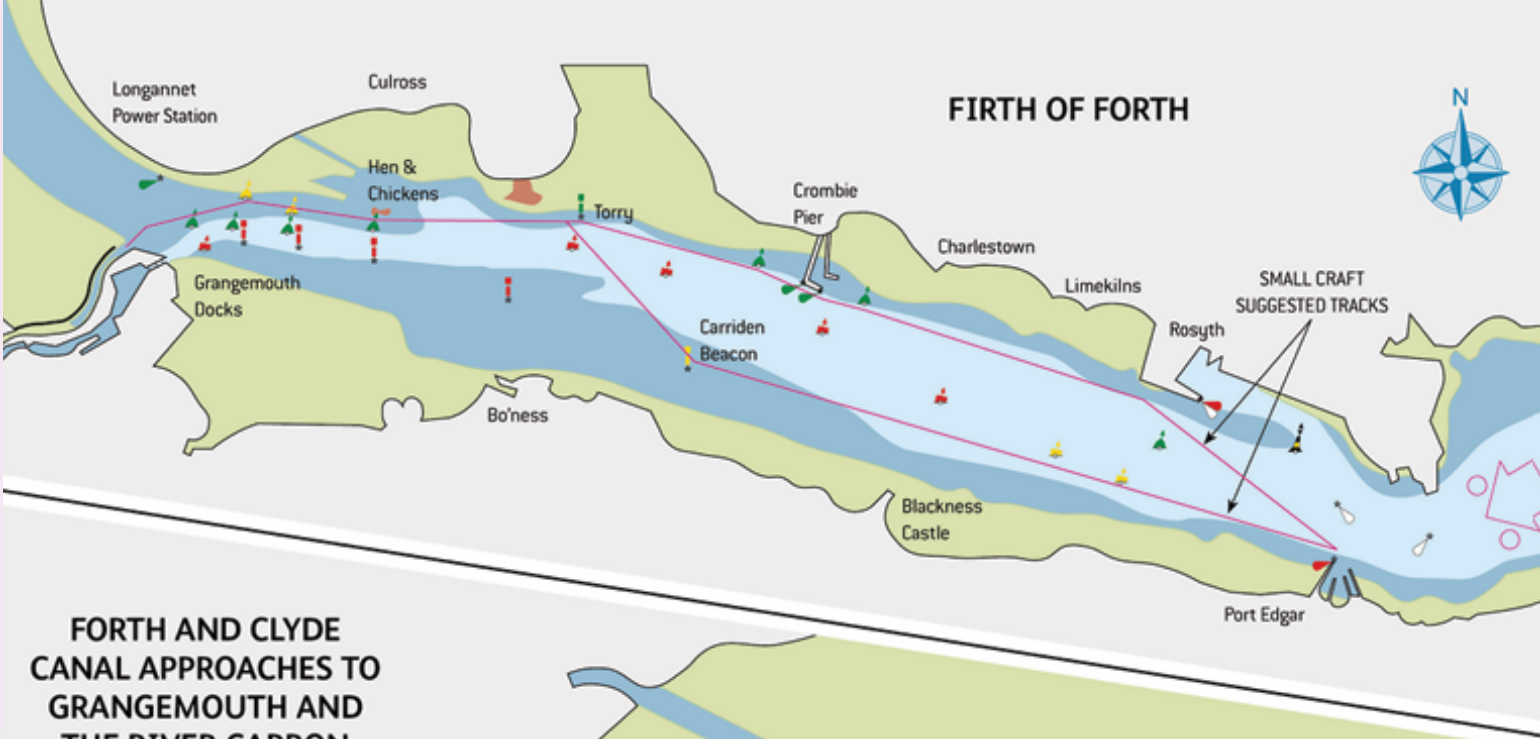
- The entrance to the Carron Estuary channel lies at 56°02.3N 03°41.3W between the port-hand red Carron Approach buoy FI(4)R 12sec and the original large starboard-hand white-painted stone-built Beacon FI G 5sec.
- The new Eastern sealock (Sealock 1) to the Forth & Clyde Canal lies in the south bank of the tidal River Carron estuary 2 miles upstream from the above entrance from the Forth, to seaward of all the restrictive overhead bridges. Consequently, a yacht may enter the canal, fully rigged with mast stepped, provided that the tide has risen sufficiently to allow under-keel clearance.

TIDES

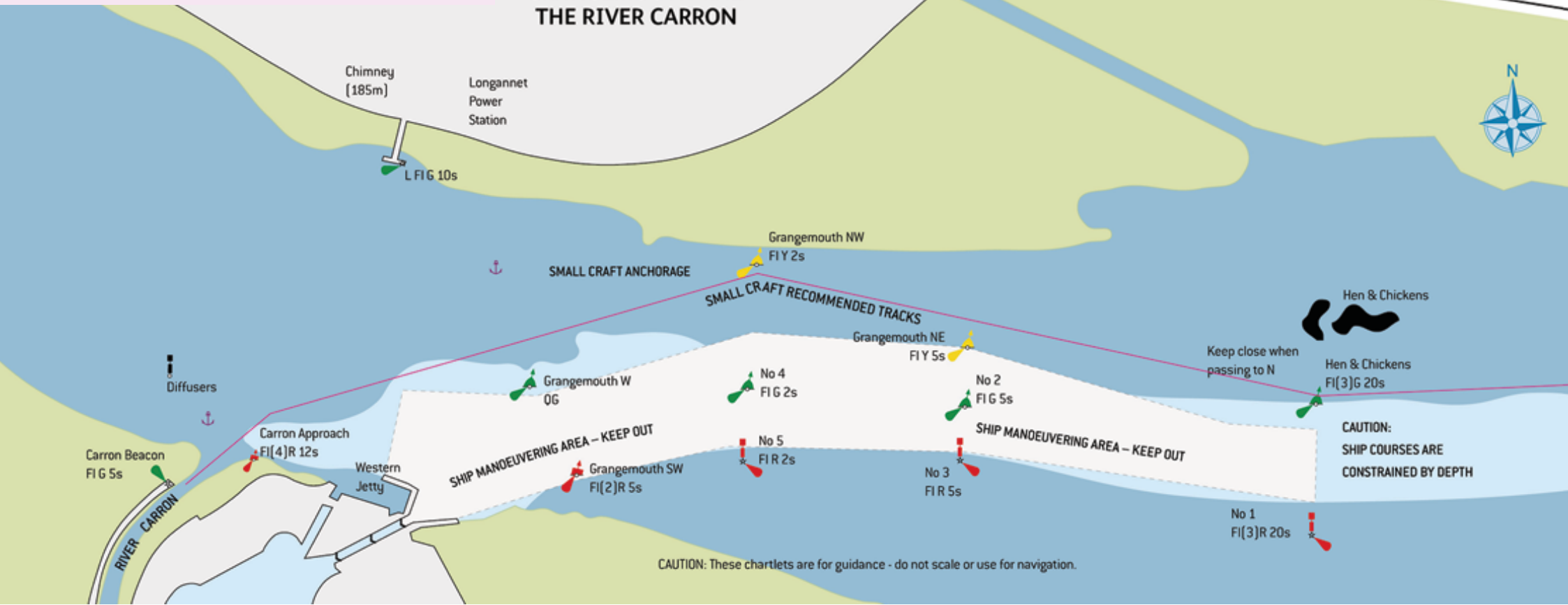
- Spring Tides – change to Spring tides (more than 5.0m, HW occurring around 0300/1500 UT) The optimum tide level will probably occur between 3.0 and 3.5 hours before HW, and again approximately 2.0 hours after HW. Tidal current will be strong. For more information consult the Carron Tidal information.

PILOTAGE NOTES

- Passage from the River Carron entrance to the Forth & Clyde Canal Sea Lock is restricted by depth and overhead obstruction. Consult the Tides and Currents Information below, and the Tidal Predictions for Carron Sea Lock.
- Once the Carron access time window has been established, allow sufficient time for the passage (10 miles from Forth Road Bridge/Port Edgar) to the river mouth, and then to the Sea Lock (a further 2.5 miles)
- Passage from Port Edgar/Forth Bridges to the Torry Beacon may be made either on the north or south side of the main shipping channel.
- West of the Hen & Chickens the north side must be used.
- Vessels should monitor Grangemouth Docks on VHF Ch 14, but do not need to report, except in case of emergency or difficulty.
- Ships may cross the mouth of the River Carron on their approach to the Western Jetty.
- If tugs are waiting in the fairway, a large vessel may be due. Keep well clear and beware of wash.
- Small craft may anchor in the positions shown, or in the mouth of the River Carron as depth permits, to await the tide.
- Charts: Admiralty Chart 737 and/or Imray Chart C27. Pilot: Forth Yacht Clubs' Association Pilot Handbook.



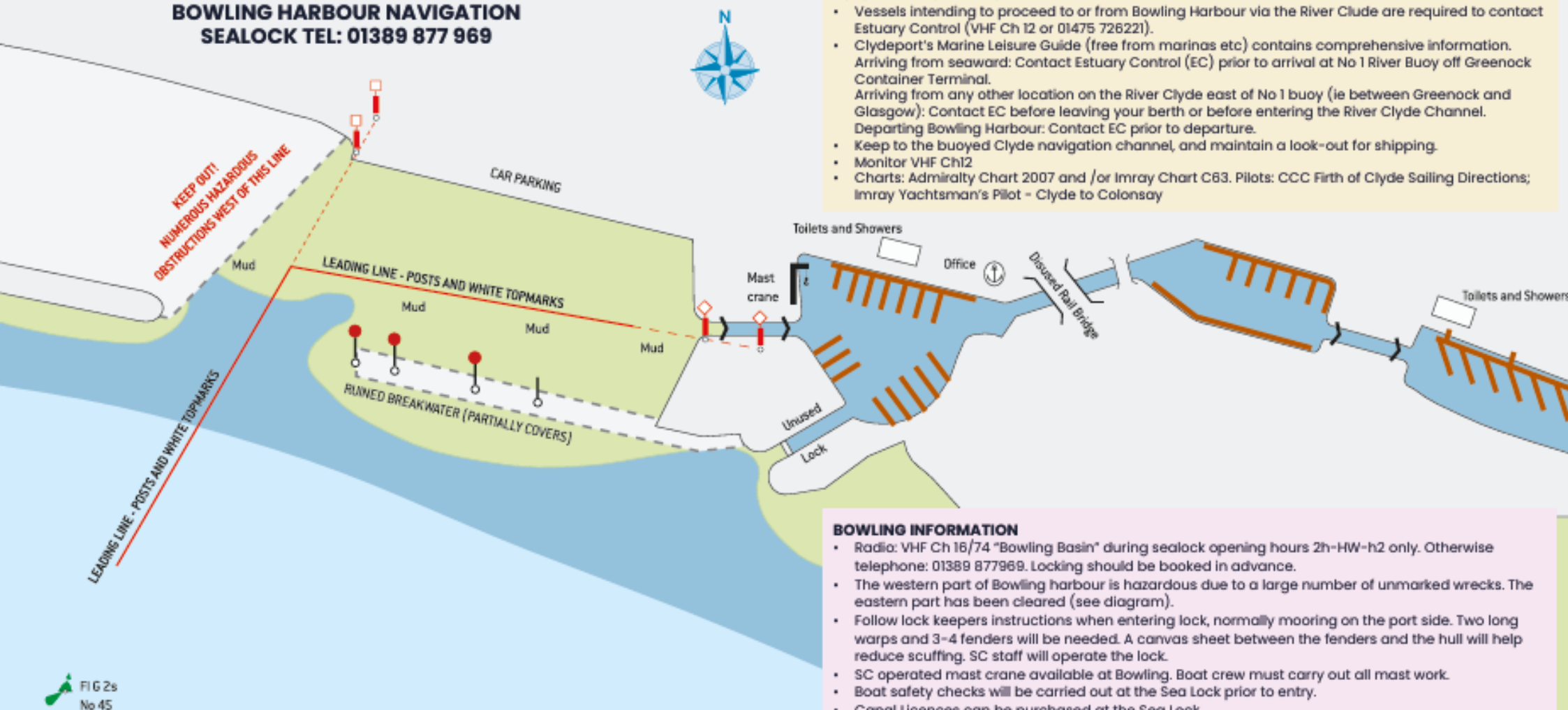
**FORTH AND CLYDE
CANAL APPROACHES TO
GRANGEMOUTH AND
THE RIVER CARRON**



FORTH AND CLYDE CANAL BOWLING HARBOUR NAVIGATION SEALOCK TEL: 01389 877 969

ESTUARY INFORMATION

- Vessels intending to proceed to or from Bowling Harbour via the River Clyde are required to contact Estuary Control (VHF Ch 12 or 01475 726221).
- Clydeport's Marine Leisure Guide (free from marinas etc) contains comprehensive information.
- Arriving from seaward: Contact Estuary Control (EC) prior to arrival at No 1 River Buoy off Greenock Container Terminal.
- Arriving from any other location on the River Clyde east of No 1 buoy (ie between Greenock and Glasgow): Contact EC before leaving your berth or before entering the River Clyde Channel.
- Departing Bowling Harbour: Contact EC prior to departure.
- Keep to the buoyed Clyde navigation channel, and maintain a look-out for shipping.
- Monitor VHF Ch12
- Charts: Admiralty Chart 2007 and /or Imray Chart C63. Pilots: CCC Firth of Clyde Sailing Directions; Imray Yachtsman's Pilot - Clyde to Colonsay



BOWLING INFORMATION

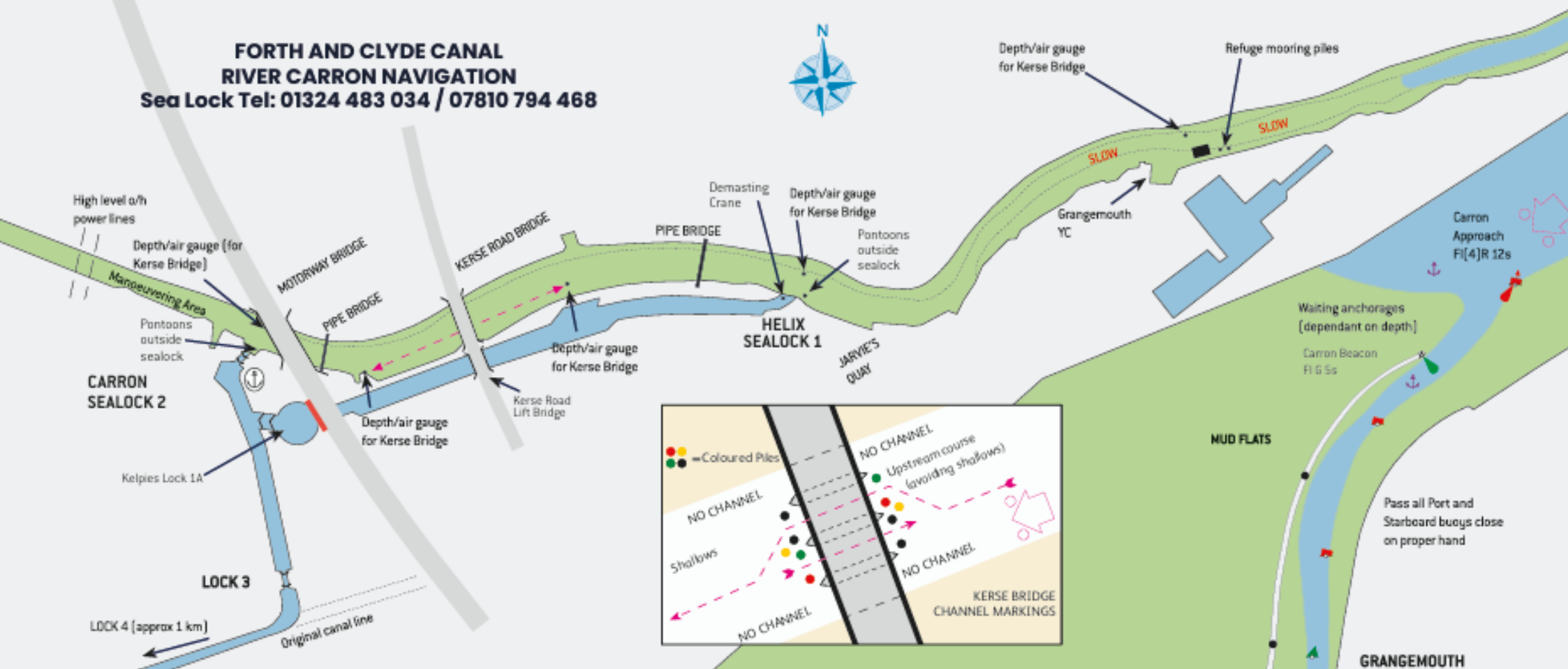
- Radio: VHF Ch 16/74 "Bowling Basin" during sealock opening hours 2h-HW-h2 only. Otherwise telephone: 01389 877969. Locking should be booked in advance.
- The western part of Bowling harbour is hazardous due to a large number of unmarked wrecks. The eastern part has been cleared (see diagram).
- Follow lock keepers instructions when entering lock, normally mooring on the port side. Two long warps and 3-4 fenders will be needed. A canvas sheet between the fenders and the hull will help reduce scuffing. SC staff will operate the lock.
- SC operated mast crane available at Bowling. Boat crew must carry out all mast work.
- Boat safety checks will be carried out at the Sea Lock prior to entry.
- Canal Licences can be purchased at the Sea Lock.
- For further details see General Information section.



CAUTION: These chartlets are for guidance - do not scale or use for navigation.

FORTH AND CLYDE CANAL RIVER CARRON NAVIGATION

Sea Lock Tel: 01324 483 034 / 07810 794 468



PILOTAGE NOTES

- Passage must be booked in advance with SC Sealock Keeper (07810 794468).
- Sea Lock - 4 hrs before to 2h30 after HW, 0800-2000 and daylight hours.
- Craft on passage can call the Sea Lock on VHF Ch 74, callsign "Carron Sea Lock". (Forth Ports traffic Ch 71)
- Consult the Carron Tidal Information page before planning your passage up or downstream.
- SC operated mast crane (500 kgs) available at Sealock No 1. Boat crew must carry out all mast work.
- The Carron dries at LW. The bed is flat gravel, the banks are steep, soft mud.
- Temporary berthing at Grangemouth YC (only by arrangement), or at the refuge posts nearby.
- SC staff will be available to assist and direct craft on passage.
- Boat Safety Checks will be carried out at the Sea Lock pontoon prior to entry.
- Canal Licences can be purchased at the Sea Lock.
- Canal dimensions for the Helix canal extension

are 1.8m (deep), 5.0m (wide) and 3.0m (air draft). Carron Sealock 2 (upstream) is available for boats up to 6.0m wide.

- For further details see General Information section.

ADDITIONAL PILOTAGE NOTES SEA LOCK 2

- Passage must be booked in advance with SC Sealock Keeper (07810 794468) specifically advising access to Lock 2.
- Sea Lock - 4 hrs before to 1h30 after HW, 0800-2000 and daylight hours.
- Navigation is constrained by the headroom under the 4 fixed bridges over the River Carron, and by the depth at shallow points between the sea and the sea lock.
- Masts must be unstepped before navigating upstream of Sealock 1.
- The Kerse Road Bridge has approx 5.0 metres (16.5ft) from river bed to bridge underside, and the highest point of the river bed is at +2.3CD. It is the critical point in the navigation.
- Tide and headroom gauges in the River Carron refer to the Kerse Road Bridge. Their tops are level with the underside of the Kerse Road Bridge.

CAUTION: These chartlets are for guidance - do not scale or use for navigation.

Forth & Clyde Canal Facilities and Distances																				
(distances are approximate, to nearest mile)		Bowling	Dalmuir	Clydebank	Temple Locks	Stockingfield Junct	Applecross St	Speirs Wharf	Glasgow Rd Br	Southbank Marina	Kirkintilloch	Auchinstarry	Craigmarloch	Wyndford (L20)	Underwood (L17)	Bonnybridge	Falkirk Wheel	Camelon (L16)	Bainsford (L15)	Grangemouth (L2)
Visitor Mooring		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓		✓
Shorepower		✓			✓		✓	✓		✓		✓					✓	✓		✓
Refuse disposal		✓			✓		✓	✓		✓		✓					✓	✓		✓
Parking		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Toilets		✓		✓	✓		✓			✓		✓					✓			✓
Shower		✓			✓		✓			✓		✓					✓			✓
Elsan Disposal		✓			✓					✓		✓					✓			✓
Pump-out		✓				✓				✓		✓					✓			✓
Slipway												✓					✓			
Fuel (diesel)		✓								✓		✓					✓			✓
Information		✓					✓			✓		✓					✓			✓
Pub (nearby)		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Restaurant		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boat hire																	✓			
Places of Interest		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			✓
Miles to Grangemouth		35	32	30	27	25	27	28	21	20	19	14	13	10	8	6	4	3	2	0
Miles to Bowling		0	3	5	8	10	12	13	14	15	16	21	22	25	27	29	31	32	33	35

FORTH & CLYDE CANAL

Boat Movement

07810 794 467

Advance booking required – 24hr notice

KEY

SC operated opening bridge

Fixed footbridge

Rail Station

Visitor Mooring

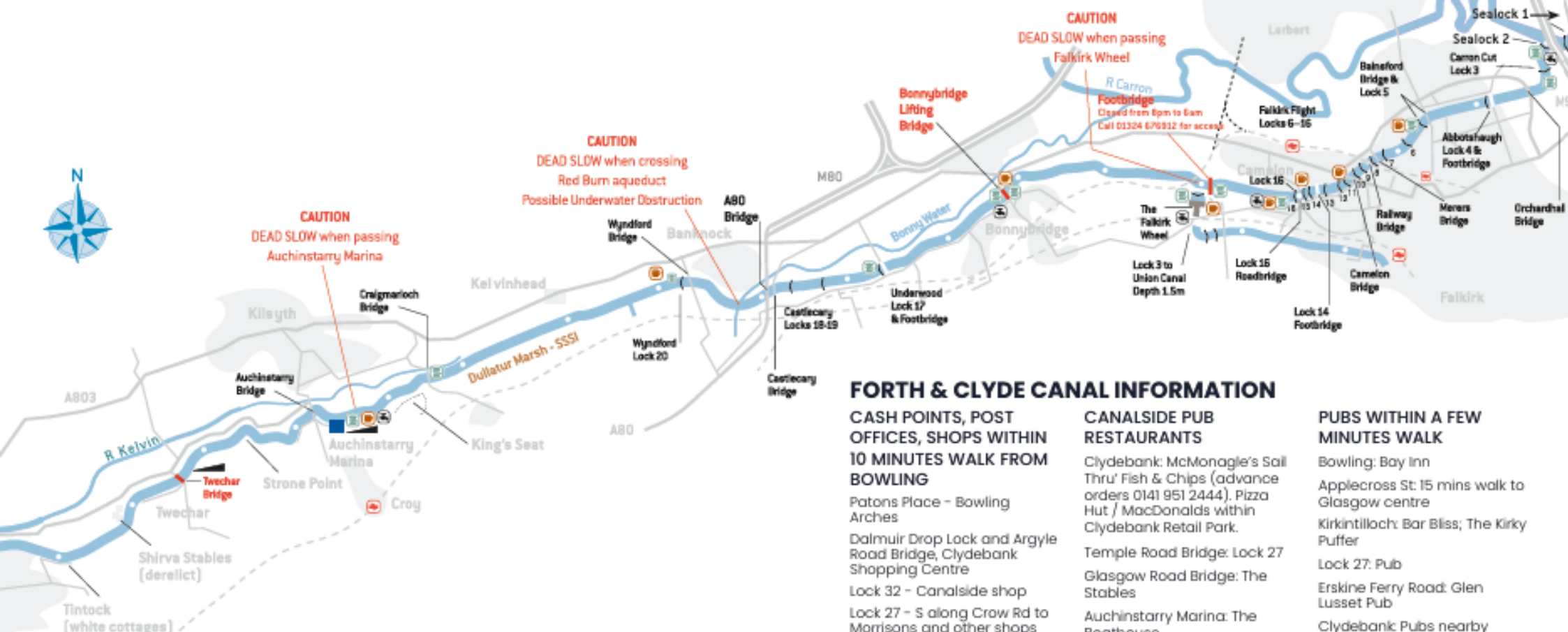
Winding Hole with length

Pub / Restaurant

Slipway

Emergency Evacuation Site





FORTH & CLYDE CANAL INFORMATION

CASH POINTS, POST OFFICES, SHOPS WITHIN 10 MINUTES WALK FROM BOWLING

Patons Place - Bowling Arches
 Dalmuir Drop Lock and Argyle Road Bridge, Clydebank Shopping Centre
 Lock 32 - Canalside shop
 Lock 27 - S along Crow Rd to Morrisons and other shops
 Applecross St - 15 mins walk to Glasgow centre
 Kirkintilloch - all main street shops adjacent to canal
 Auchinstarry Basin - in Kilsyth (20 min walk)

Bonnybridge - N on A803
 Lock 16 - Nearby, and N on Camelon Main Street
 Lock 5 - S into Falkirk town centre
 Lock 2 - service station shop at M9 junction 6

FUEL ADJACENT TO CANAL

Service stations near Dalmuir Lock and Lock 27
 Bonnybridge - N on A803 - 01324 813708
 Canalside Diesel - Bowling; Auchinstarry; F&C at Falkirk Wheel; Grangemouth; Southbank Marina

CANALSIDE PUB RESTAURANTS

Clydebank: McMonagle's Sail Thru' Fish & Chips (advance orders 0141 951 2444). Pizza Hut / MacDonalds within Clydebank Retail Park.
 Temple Road Bridge: Lock 27 Glasgow Road Bridge: The Stables
 Auchinstarry Marina: The Boathouse
 Lock 20: Glenskirlie House Hotel
 Bonnybridge: Cornhill Inn; Royal Hotel (5mins N of bridge)
 The Falkirk Wheel: Visitor Centre Café & Boardwalk
 Lock 16: The Union Inn
 Lock 15: The Canal Inn
 Lock 11: The Rosebank Beefeater
 Lock 5: Bar & Restaurant

Note: Please ask SC staff for advice on all local facilities.

PUBS WITHIN A FEW MINUTES WALK

Bowling: Bay Inn
 Applecross St: 15 mins walk to Glasgow centre
 Kirkintilloch: Bar Bliss; The Kirky Puffer
 Lock 27: Pub
 Erskine Ferry Road: Glen Lisset Pub
 Clydebank: Pubs nearby
 Bonnybridge: Pubs nearby

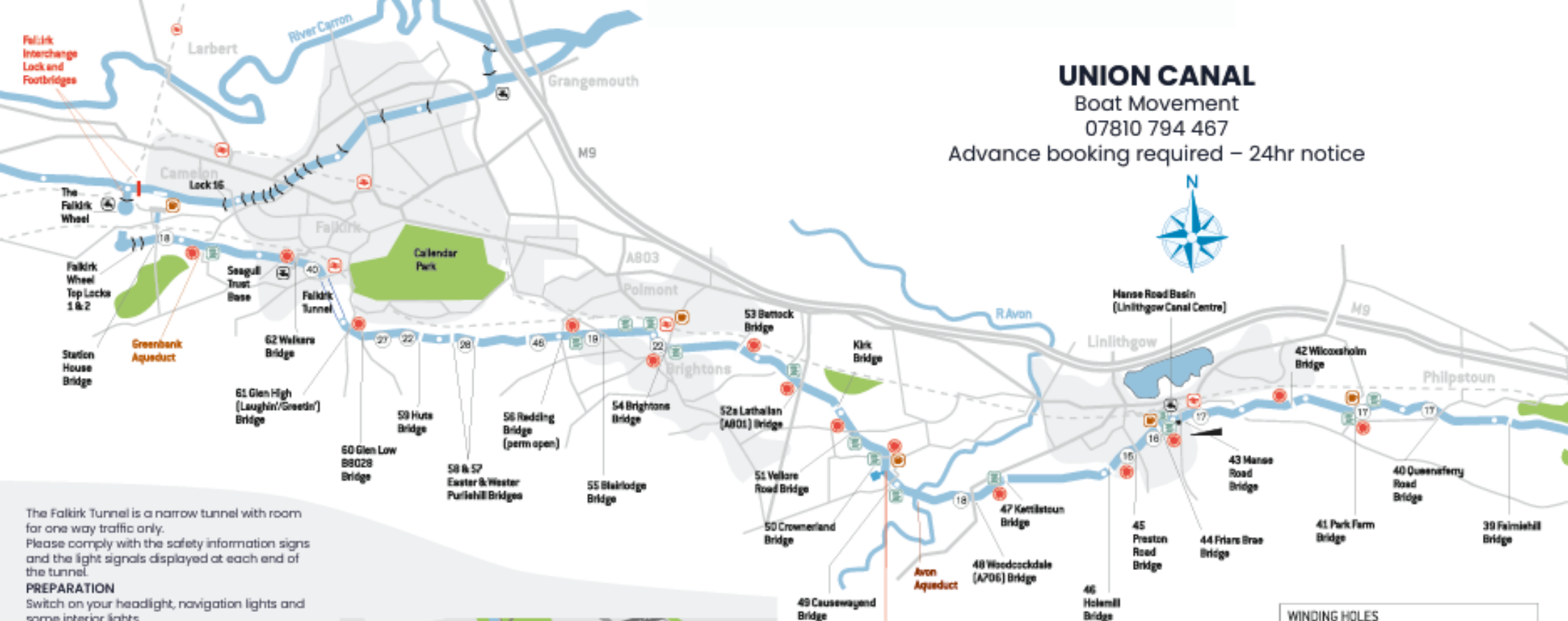
BOAT REPAIRS AND SERVICES

CHANDLERS
 Hulley Marine, Dumbarton. 01389 742438
 Duncan Yacht Chandlers, Glasgow. 0141 429 6044.
 ENGINE REPAIRS
 J N Macdonald & Co. 0141 810 3400
 Douglas & Thorburn, Larbert. 01324 551166 & 0784 0 969120

VISITOR MOORINGS

See facilities grid and chart
 Sandpoint Marina
 Clyde Boatyard





UNION CANAL

Boat Movement

07810 794 467

Advance booking required – 24hr notice

The Falkirk Tunnel is a narrow tunnel with room for one way traffic only. Please comply with the safety information signs and the light signals displayed at each end of the tunnel.

PREPARATION

Switch on your headlight, navigation lights and some interior lights. Whoever is steering should have a waterproof torch, and put on some waterproof clothing.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

FLASHING RED = Tunnel clear of traffic. Proceed towards the entrance with caution. The light will change to **FIXED GREEN** as you pass the sensor, confirming that you are clear to proceed.

FLASHING RED = Boat, or several boats, approaching in the tunnel. Wait, (moored) clear of the entrance. The light will turn to **FIXED GREEN** when the opposing traffic has cleared the tunnel. When entering the tunnel always check that it is clear, and that no other vessels, particularly small craft, have come through against the signals.

APPROACH

Approach slowly on the towpath side. If you have to wait your turn, stay well clear of the entrance. As you go in, sound one long blast on your horn.

IN TRANSIT

Steer by looking at one side of the tunnel only and keep to a moderate speed. Move the tiller or wheel as little as possible – it's a common illusion to feel that the boat is being pulled to the side. Keep at least 2 minutes (at normal cruising speed), or about 160m, behind any boat in front of you. You must not stop in the tunnel.

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WINDING HOLES
Turning places on the Union Canal are shown by a white circle with the available length indicated in metres: 17

UNION CANAL INFORMATION

CASH POINTS, POST OFFICES, SHOPS

Within 10 minutes walk.

Falkirk Town Centre – 1.2km from Walkers Bridge (62), or bus from Falkirk Wheel

Tesco: E of Bridge 55

Brightons – S of Bridge 54

Linlithgow – N of Manse Rd Basin

Winchburgh High St (N of Br 32)

Port Buchan (S of Br)

Ratho

Wester Hailes Shell Garage S of Road Bridge

N of Ashley Terrace Bridge

CANAL SIDE SHOP

Linlithgow Union Canal Society (LUCS): Tearoom, Gift Shop and Museum at Manse Road Basin. (open 7 days July & August; otherwise 2–5pm Sats & Suns). 01506 842559

Winchburgh: Sainsburys

Lochrin Basin: Tesco

PUBS/RESTAURANTS WITHIN 10 MINS WALK

Falkirk: Many pubs, cafés and restaurants in town centre

Polmont & Brightons: Cadgers Brae; The Black Bull; Claremont Inn; Bridge 49: Bistro

Linlithgow: The Star & Garter Hotel; The Auld Hole I The Wa';

The Four Marys; Park Farm: Park Bistro; other cafés & restaurants nearby

Winchburgh: Tally Ho Inn

Port Buchan: The Grenadier Bar.

Ratho: The Bridge Inn

Edinburgh Quay: short walk or bus trip to city centre

BOAT REPAIRS AND SERVICES

Douglas & Thorburn, Larbert. 01324 551166 & 0784 0 969120

LUCS, Linlithgow. See above

The Bosun's Locker, Port Edgar 0131 331 4496

Sea Span, Granton 0131 552 2224



MLW CARRON SEALOCK 2

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH CANAL & SEALOCK MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS:

Length – 20.47m (67ft)

Beam – 5m (16ft 4in)

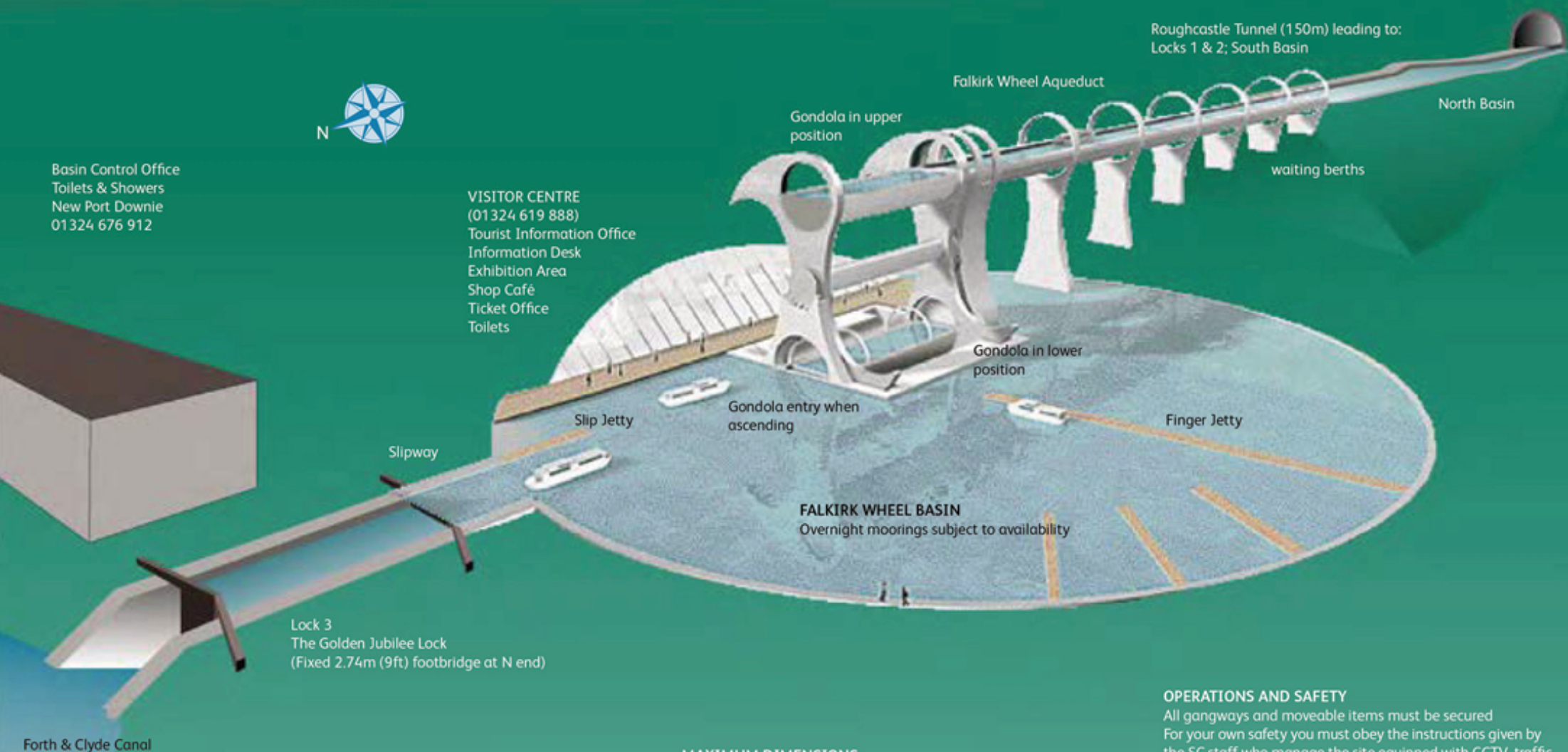
Depth of Water – 1.8m (6ft)

Max headroom – 3m (9ft 10in)

See Pilotage Notes for specific navigational information.

Contact Sea Lock Keeper on 01324 483034 or 07810 794468 in advance to book passage.

Find out more about The Kelpies and The Helix at www.thehelix.co.uk



Basin Control Office
Toilets & Showers
New Port Downie
01324 676 912

VISITOR CENTRE
(01324 619 888)
Tourist Information Office
Information Desk
Exhibition Area
Shop Café
Ticket Office
Toilets

Lock 3
The Golden Jubilee Lock
(Fixed 2.74m (9ft) footbridge at N end)

VOYAGING THROUGH THE FALKIRK WHEEL

- 1) There is no extra charge for SC licence holders who wish to take their craft through the Wheel.
- 2) You should contact the Basin Controller on 01324 676 912 up to 24 hours in advance to book your time. Giving us notice will speed your transit.
- 3) Skippers approaching the Union Canal should phone 01324 676912 to re-confirm when exiting the Falkirk Tunnel, and indicate if continuing E or W on the F&C Canals. This will enable Locks 1 & 2 to be prepared.
- 4) Skippers approaching from the F&C Canal should phone to re-confirm when leaving Lock 16 (westbound) or Bonnybridge (eastbound).
- 5) Pre booked transits of the Falkirk Wheel are available. Please check opening times as these vary throughout the year.

Route options for licence holders are from one canal to the other, either direction.

Paddlers must contact Basin Controller for advice and instructions on transit through the Falkirk Wheel or Roughcastle Tunnel.

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS

GOLDEN JUBILEE LOCK 3

(From Forth & Clyde Canal to Basin)

Length:	21.3m (70ft)
Width:	3.83m (12ft 6ins)
Depth: 1.5m (5ft)	Headroom: 2.74m (9ft)
Water levels fluctuate - allow adequate draft tolerance.	

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS

UNION CANAL AND FALKIRK WHEEL

(From Forth & Clyde Canal to Basin)

Length:	21.3m (70ft)
Width:	3.5m (11ft 6ins)
Depth:	1.06m (3ft 6ins)
Wheel & Roughcastle Tunnel Depth:	1.5m (5ft)
Water levels fluctuate - allow adequate draft tolerance.	

Roughcastle Tunnel (150m) leading to:
Locks 1 & 2; South Basin

OPERATIONS AND SAFETY

All gangways and moveable items must be secured
For your own safety you must obey the instructions given by the SC staff who manage the site equipped with CCTV, traffic lights, radio and PA systems to help them.

The locks and swing bridge are normally operated by SC staff and will be locked when unattended. Staff will guide users into the Gondolas and during the 15-minute rotation you must not leave the vessel.

Assistance may be available from SC staff.

POINTS TO NOTE

- Each Gondola is controlled by an operator, whose instructions must be followed.
- The operator will select vessels to make optimum use of Gondola capacity.
- Have your stern and bow lines ready to control the vessel in the Gondola.
- Do not allow anyone near the bow or stern when these are adjacent to the north end of the Gondola.
- Do not leave the vessel except if directed, or in an emergency.