

Scotland's canals in the twenty-first century.

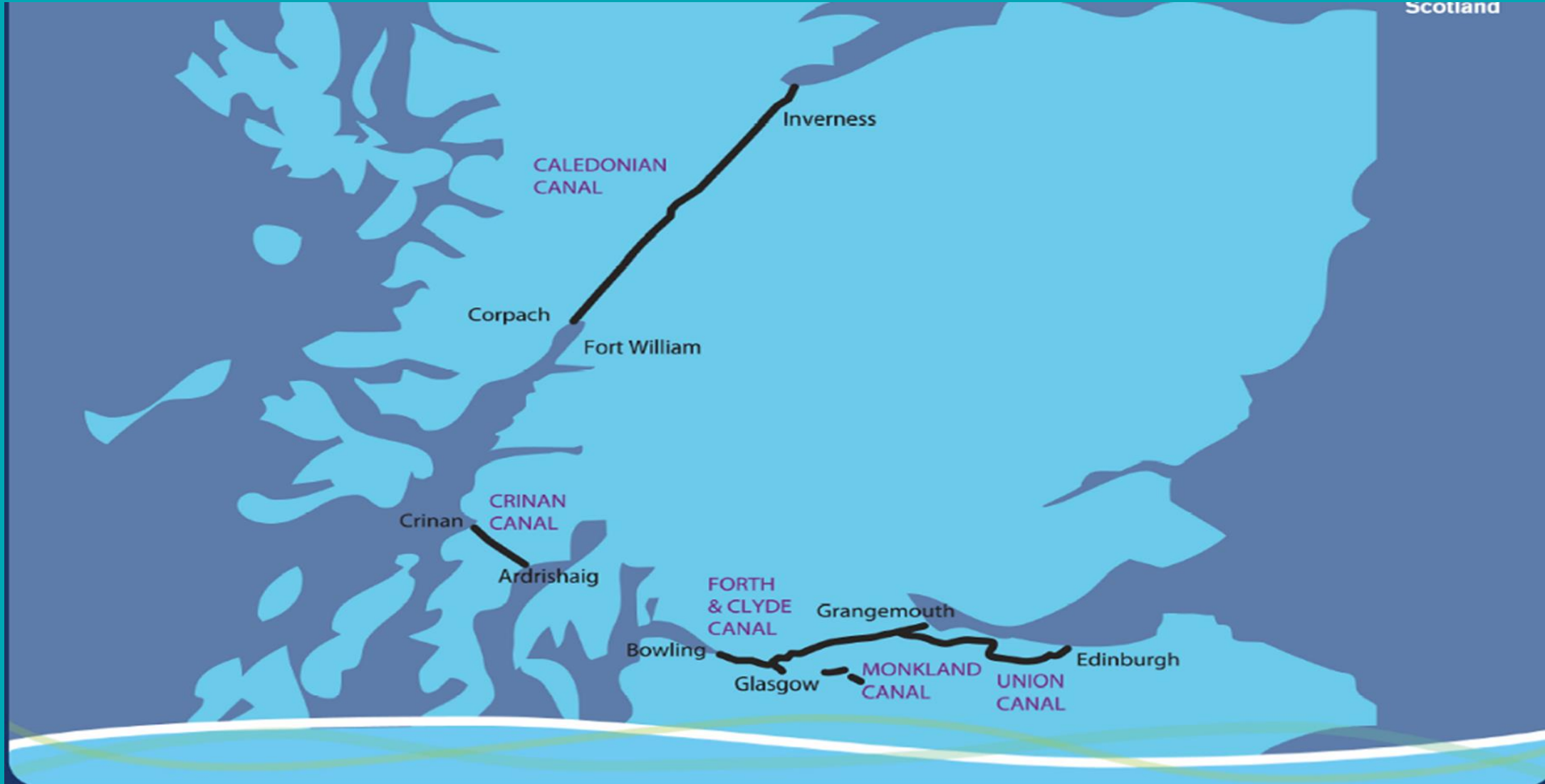
Tackling the climate crisis and health inequalities through innovation.

World Canals Conference
Leipzig 2022

Catherine Topley
CEO Scottish Canals



Our Canal Network



What we care for

There are five **Scottish Canals**, together making **140 linear miles** of waterway network:



Navigation rights to **Loch Ness & three other lochs**



World's **largest** equine sculptures


Over 22m visits each year

104 properties
residential, commercial and holiday

35m tall
The **Falkirk Wheel** is the equivalent of **8 double decker buses** stacked

The **Falkirk Wheel**



£1.78bn
costs to rebuild the canals

227
canal embankments



560 moorings
leisure, residential or commercial moorings

1,500 hectares of land and water
17km of canal feeder channel

19 reservoirs
(18,304 megalitres of water)

90 locks

Over 4,100 major engineering structures








5 lighthouses

253 bridges

815m canal tunnels

Our journey



-  **£1.53bn**
Economic value since 2002
-  **9,078**
Housing units built
-  **8,415**
FTE jobs since 2010
-  **9,218**
Temp construction jobs since 2010
-  **20m**
Visits per year

Our Decline



Case study: Transforming North Glasgow Together

Spiers Locks now





Delivering a shared vision

The Claypits: Glasgow's Local Nature Reserve

Creative use of unused, unloved land and suds ponds.



HELLO NATURE

THE CLAYPITS
GLASGOW INNER CITY NATURE RESERVE

Contact with nature improves our health and well-being. We all want to enjoy and connect with the outdoors.

To make your visit even more memorable, there are a few basic rules that will help you and other visitors keep safe and enjoy your visit to The Claypits Nature Reserve.

Be sure to be nice, say hello and share the environment with everyone.

Respect, Protect, Enjoy

- TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME
- PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET
- FOLLOW THE PATH
- NO FIRES OR BBQ
- CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED AT ALL TIMES
- DOGS MUST BE KEPT UNDER CONTROL

GUIDANCE ON PATHWAY ACCESSIBILITY

- EASY**: Fully accessible paths, suitable for all users including wheelchair users, pushchairs, prams and pushcarts.
- MODERATE**: Paths are suitable for most users but have some steps, uneven ground or some uneven surfaces. Best routes are provided.
- DIFFICULT**: Paths include uneven ground and steep slopes and may not be suitable for all users.

Please be alert to hazards

- ELECTRICITY PYLONS / OVERHEAD POWER LINES
- SLIP / UNEVEN SURFACES
- UNPROTECTED DROPS
- RUNNING / STANDING WATER

Glasgow's Smart Canal



£17m
Invested



3,500
New homes



55,000
Cubic metres of water
(22 Olympic Swimming Pools)



110
Hectares of land
Unlocked

Health impact



University for the Common Good

Research by Glasgow Caledonian University has found:

3%

Annual decline in mortality rates in urban areas within 500m of a canal which has undergone major regeneration since 2002

Living within 700m of a canal which has undergone major regeneration is connected to

Regional Agenda | Mental Health | United Kingdom | Cities and Urbanization

This is how urban 'blue spaces' can improve our health



'Blue spaces', like canals, could improve health in urban areas. Image: Pixabay/BeansandSausages



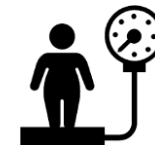
15%

Lower risk of suffering stroke, hypertension & cardiovascular disease



12%

Lower risk of diabetes

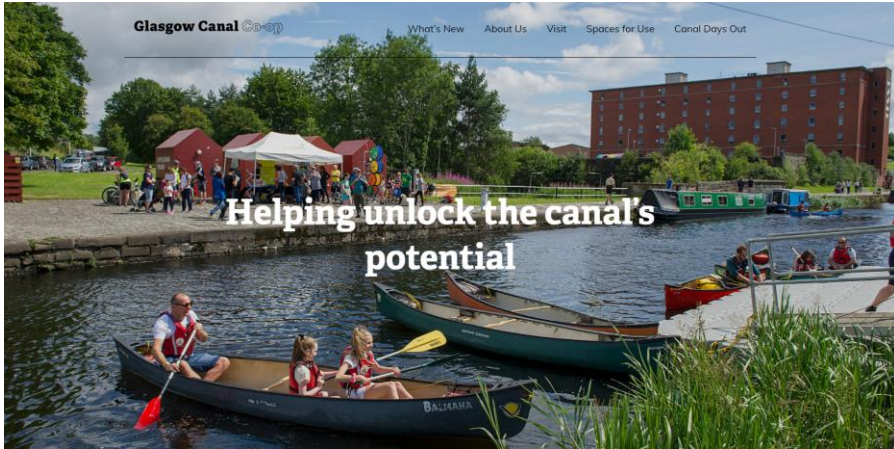


10%

Lower risk of obesity

Community benefits

Community co-op set up



New neighbours moved into the area



New events connecting the community & bolstering the local economy



Sharing the results



Re-imagining 18th century infrastructure to address flood risk, stimulate investment & tackle health inequalities.

1 COP
Event

Hosted at the
Scottish Government
Climate Ambition Zone



451

Attendees
(in person/online)

Including CEO,
chairs, directors &
elected members
from USA, Europe,
New Zealand, Japan



38.98m

Press reach

Coverage in 151
countries including
China, Germany &
Portugal

Why is this important?



Scottish
Canals



Our beloved Falkirk Wheel

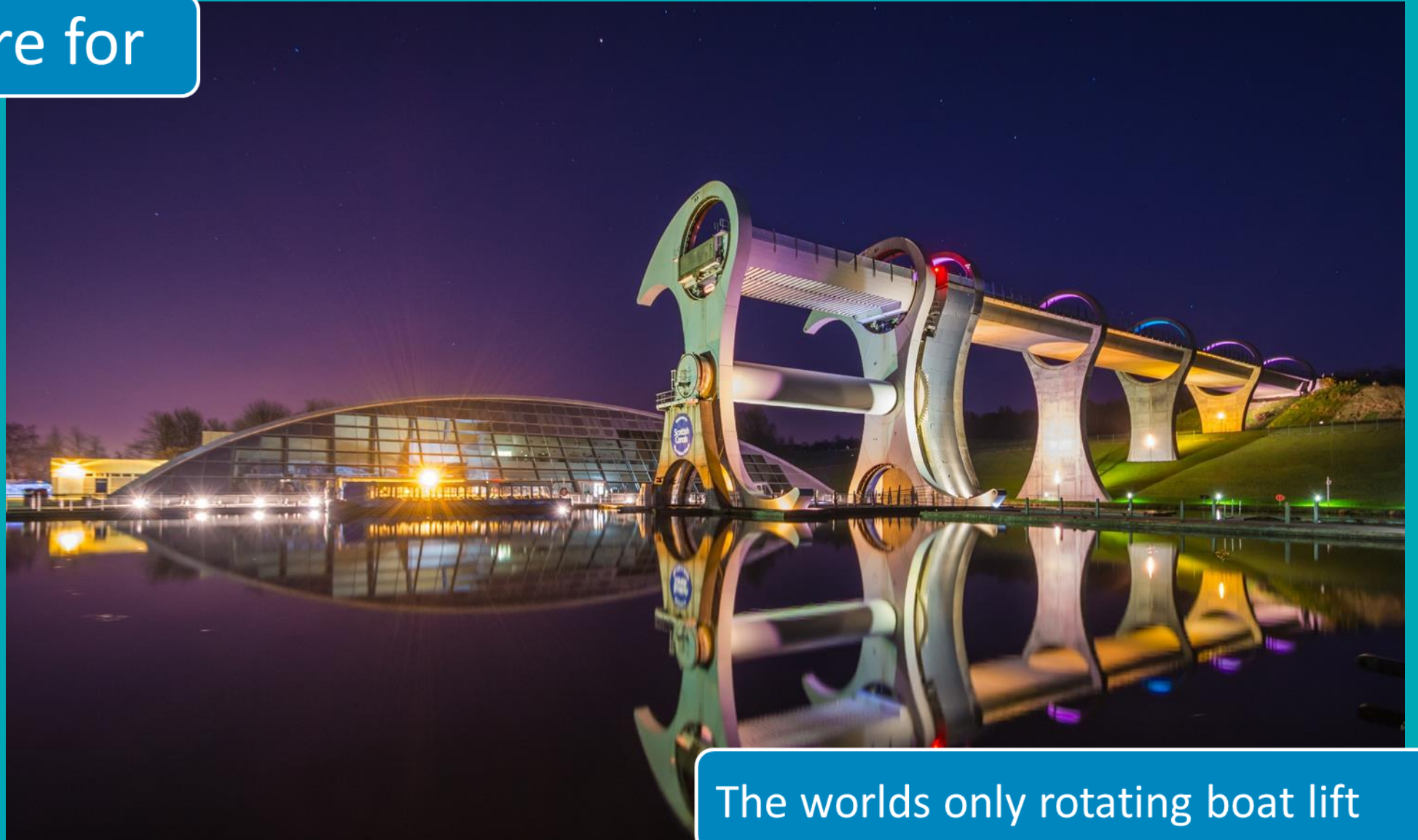


Scottish
Canals



Reimagined and regenerated

What we care for



The worlds only rotating boat lift

A community asset



**How do we help the rest of
Scotland (and the world)
learn from our journey?**