

Falkirk Lock Flight works programme – Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the closure of Lock 3 to Lock 16 on the Forth & Clyde Canal?

We are suspending navigation for 16 months (November 2024 to March 2026) to allow these major works to take place. As the programme progresses, we will review this and provide updates accordingly.

How long does it take to navigate between Lock 3 and Lock 16?

Four hours should be allowed for transiting between locks 3 and 16.

I need to get through the Falkirk Flight to get to my home mooring. Is this going to be possible?

Yes, we have a window open from now until mid-November to allow you to move. Please contact the boat movement team on 07810 794 467 as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Can I transfer my mooring to The Kelpies for this period?

Our moorings team will be able to advise on locations available. Please contact the moorings team (moorings@scottishcanals.co.uk) as soon as possible to discuss options.

Can I move to another residential/leisure mooring elsewhere on the canal?

Yes, please contact the moorings team (moorings@scottishcanals.co.uk) as soon as possible to discuss availability.

Will the Carron Sea Lock (Lock 2) be operational?

We are currently assessing water control to this area and will provide an update by 31 October 2024. If you would like to discuss your requirements further please contact the Lowlands customer team (lowland.canals@scottishcanals.co.uk).

Can boats be lifted in/out at The Kelpies?

There is not designated lifting point at The Kelpies. If you require to enter/exit the canal, please contact boat movements (07810 794 467) to discuss your options.

Where can boats be lifted in/out of the Union and Forth & Clyde Canals?

Boats can be lifted in/out at the following locations:

Union Canal: Hub 8 at Calders Crescent, Edinburgh. Stewartfield Slipway Broxburn.

The Falkirk Wheel: Plaza area.

Forth & Clyde Canal: Auchinstarry, Firhill Basin, Drop Lock area.

Please contact boat movements or the lowlands customer team to discuss options.

Are there other restrictions to navigation on the Forth & Clyde and Union canals that will impact the boaters moving back to their home mooring?

We have no additional works planned that would impact navigation. If any reactive (unplanned) or third-party works arise we will publish the information on the disruptions section of the website. Please always check this section before planning your journey.

When will The Falkirk Wheel winter works take place?

The Falkirk Wheel shutdown period is January and February 2025.

What contingency is there if customers are not available on the days the flight is open?

These are essential works which require the canal to be drawn down. Our ability to support boat movements will be minimal during this time. If the opportunity does arise to rewater and move vessels we will communicate with customers accordingly. If you require to move your boat in/out of the canal, please contact our team to explore alternate options.

Will Scottish Canals move boats if the owners cannot be present?

It is our preference that boat owners move their own vessels however please contact the boat movements team to discuss options if this is not possible.

Will I be compensated for the inconvenience of not being able to navigate?

The Union Canal and most of the Forth & Clyde Canal will remain open for navigation throughout the period for boaters to enjoy. For those most affected we will apply a pro-rata credit to navigation licences.

How can I remove my boat if I decide to give up my mooring during the closure?

If you are considering leaving the canal network before March 2026, please contact the moorings team to discuss your options. A list of places for boats to be lifted out is detailed above.

Will I be permitted to sell my mooring with my boat?

No, as normal moorings cannot be sold along with your boat. If you are planning to sell your boat, please contact the moorings team.

How are water levels at The Kelpies moorings going to be maintained?

We will continue to monitor and manage water levels around The Kelpies as normal. If you experience any issues, please contact the Lowlands customer team.

How will the weed at The Kelpies be managed?

We will monitor weed in the area and if required mobile weed cutters can be

brought in to manage it.