



**Scottish  
Canals**



# Thomas Telford Corpach Marina Project Management Services

## END OF PROJECT REPORT

**What have been the main benefits to the area as a result of your project?**

With a planned opening in early Summer 2020, we can expect the area to enjoy the full economic, social and environmental benefits set out in our project plan and economic impact assessment. Construction and operational employment within the marina but also in the wider business community will sit alongside greater use of our superb marine environment to promote wellbeing. Visitors and locals alike will benefit from our fully accessible facilities, encouraging use by people of all abilities.

**What have been the main benefits to your group/organisation/business as a result of the project?**

The process of developing the project, and surmounting numerous challenges along the way, has strengthened the resilience and governance of Caol Regeneration Company (CRC). The organisation's profile as a champion of local interests has also been heightened. Once the marina is up and running, we anticipate that modest surpluses will be returned annually to CRC to assist long term promotion of our social objectives.

**Have any target groups particularly benefited as a result of your project?**

The marina is intended to be for the benefit of all and accessible to all. It was not intended to specifically target any individual protected characteristics groups, although we fully intend to deliver on our plan to offer opportunities of supported employment and learning to challenged individuals within the community.

**With reference to the outputs and results that were set as targets in your project evaluation framework, please now provide the actuals for each and also please note the evidence you have to support this**

### **No of projects supporting communities to manage/own assets/services- 1**

LEADER funding has allowed us to retain Northern Light as our project managers. They have brought a wide scope of expertise to the table, each element contributing essential components of progress: for example fundraising (see next point below), procurement (preferred contracts within budget), civil engineering refinement (reducing capital cost), business planning and impact assessment. It is impossible to imagine that we could have reached today's position - on the threshold of delivering our goals - without this input.

### **No of new community facilities created- 1**

Despite the challenges of fundraising in an austerity environment - with around 40 separate applications submitted, no stone has been left unturned - we have made excellent progress with the support of our very able and professional project managers, Northern Light. The outcome of our last significant bid (under SNH's Nature and Culture Fund) will be known in the early Autumn and, if successful, together with HIE's commitment to provide "the last brick in the wall", we shall have secured all funding needed to complete the whole facility. After a number of setbacks resulting from a late change in stance towards the project by a key partner, we also anticipate that final legal hurdles will be overcome this month, allowing work to start on the first phases of the project by July. Our latest target date for full commissioning is June 2020.

**Please explain how your project has met the following cross cutting themes:**

#### **1. Fairer Highland – advancing equality –**

Our marketing plan and our website will ensure that all are welcome and are enabled to utilise the facilities. We are proposing a high profile launch during the Scottish Year of Coast and Water 2020 which will embrace these aspirations. In particular, we will prioritise college and school links, engaging teaching staff and students in imaginative ways to encourage enjoyment of the water. We are also clear that our pricing strategy, currently in formulation, will promote local use and be inclusive. The entire facility, on land and afloat, has been designed and will be built to ensure DDA Compliance, thus enabling all-ability access.

#### **2. Innovation –**

There is currently no public slipway in the area, nor is there an all-weather, high quality and fully serviced marina between Inverness and Oban - a distance of 100 miles. This project will deliver these benefits and unlock access and enjoyment to the waters around Loch Linnhe, a much under-utilised asset. The cafe will be a new community hub which will be available not only to sea users but also to walkers and bikers.

### **3. Sustainability/legacy**

Our latest projections confirm that we shall achieve a trading surplus on an ongoing basis, providing the means of sustaining a high quality of service and giving back returns to the community through supporting the aims of CRC.

### **4. Carbon clever (if relevant)**

We are now fully enrolled members of British Marine, allowing us to access amongst other benefits their "Blue Green" environmental initiative, an international benchmark of high environmental standards. Our building design will incorporate smart use of renewable energy. We will also be very much in the business of promoting low carbon activities such as sailing and kayaking

### **5. Skills development (if relevant)**

N/A

### **A year from now what impact do you think there will be as a result of your project?**

Since we anticipate opening in June next year, this will be the point when optimum benefit can be expected.

**Please use the final space to tell us anything else you would like recorded – for example, if you were doing things again is there anything you would do differently?**

Whilst we can see in retrospect that certain challenges could have been mitigated by adopting different approaches - for example promoting a stand-alone community marina rather than close partnering with another body - these issues could not have been anticipated and our responses in each case have been proactive and professional thanks in considerable part to the engagement of our project managers.

Whilst the LEADER funding process, from application to claims, has been at times highly complex and bureaucratic, especially for a small community body lacking substantial human or financial resources, these burdens have been largely offset by extremely supportive and encouraging LEADER staff both in Fort William and Inverness.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Position in organisation:**