

## Scottish Canals Adopts Friendly WiFi Certification

### Introduction

Scottish Canals, responsible for managing Scotland's extensive canal network, undertook a significant project to provide robust public WiFi access along its waterways. This initiative aimed to enhance the experience for boaters and visitors by ensuring reliable internet access. In alignment with their commitment to safety and quality, Scottish Canals also pursued Friendly WiFi certification.

### Project Overview

The public WiFi project by Scottish Canals required a robust and resilient network capable of delivering consistent internet access for boaters and visitors. The project, implemented by Highland WiFi, aimed to provide seamless connectivity across various canal locations, ensuring that users could stay connected while enjoying the scenic waterways of Scotland.

### Friendly WiFi Certification

Friendly WiFi certification is a globally recognised standard that ensures public WiFi services are filtered for inappropriate content, including child sexual abuse material, pornography, and terrorist content. By achieving this certification, Scottish Canals demonstrated their commitment to providing a safe and secure online environment for all users.

### Benefits of Certification

- **Enhanced User Safety:** Friendly WiFi certification ensures that all users, including families and children, are protected from exposure to inappropriate and harmful online content. This safety measure aligns with Scottish Canals' dedication to creating a welcoming and secure environment for all visitors.
- **Brand Protection and Trust:** By implementing Friendly WiFi, Scottish Canals enhances its reputation as a responsible and safety-conscious organisation. This certification builds trust with users, reassuring them that their online safety is a priority.
- **Compliance with Standards:** Friendly WiFi certification helps Scottish Canals comply with recommended standards for online safety. This proactive approach ensures that their public WiFi services meet the required standards to become Friendly WiFi certified.



- **Improved Visitor Experience:** Reliable and safe WiFi access improves the overall visitor experience, encouraging more people to use the canals for recreation and travel. It enhances convenience and connectivity for boaters and tourists, making the canals a more attractive destination.
- **Support for Digital Inclusion:** Providing safe and accessible WiFi helps bridge the digital divide, ensuring that all visitors, regardless of their background, can enjoy the benefits of internet access. This initiative supports broader goals of digital inclusion and community engagement.

## Conclusion

The Friendly WiFi certification of Scottish Canals' public WiFi project is a significant step towards ensuring a safe, reliable, and enjoyable online experience for all users. By prioritising online safety and adhering to high standards, Scottish Canals sets an example for other public WiFi providers. This initiative not only enhances user trust and satisfaction but also reinforces Scottish Canals' commitment to creating a secure and welcoming environment along Scotland's beautiful waterways.

