

THE FORTH DIMENSION

A feasibility study, focusing on potential opportunities for the development of the River Forth was approved as part of the Building Better Cities Initiative, launched by the Scottish Executive in 2003. Following discussions with British Waterways and Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, it was agreed to widen the scope of the study from its focus on Stirling City to look at the much wider corridor, taking in other locations in the Stirling Council area, as well as sites in Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Fife. This joint approach was seen as beneficial to all parties, with a common vision to examine the potential to exploit a resource, generally regarded as neglected and under-utilised.

The study's conclusions have proved, in the main, to be very positive and reflect considerable potential for development in the Stirling area. This was further emphasised by the historic boat trip on the 10th November up-river from Grangemouth to Stirling. The Pride of Belhaven, which is more accustomed to sailing on the Millennium Link, was chartered by British Waterways to highlight the potential links that could be exploited between the re-vitalised Lowland Canals and the River Forth. Apart from Stirling's significance as an international heritage destination, the River Forth provides a magnificent backdrop to the City. In locations like Raploch, Riverside, Forthside and Forthbank, the feasibility study sees great opportunities to develop facilities, which can capitalise on a resource, which has been neglected for so many years.

