

# Community Update



Welcome to the **Spring edition** of our Community Update for the Grand Union Canal Transfer. In this issue, we're focusing on the work we're doing to progress the scheme through its planning process. This includes extensive environmental and site surveys, and our ongoing development of the scheme design informed by the invaluable feedback we received from our public consultation last year.

## We're out and about conducting extensive surveys

Our environmental surveys help us understand more about the area we're working in so we can consider this as we design the scheme. This will help with our aim to minimise our impact as far as we can.

These surveys are part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) we are undertaking. Identifying and assessing those potential significant impacts and taking steps to avoid, reduce or mitigate them forms a crucial part of our application for planning consent.

At our next public consultation, we'll publish an initial assessment of the potential environmental impacts in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report. You'll be able to view and comment on this report and our updated proposals for the scheme. We'll use your feedback to finalise our assessments before we apply to the government for a Development Consent Order for permission to build the scheme.

We're already carrying out a huge amount of survey work as part of our assessments and you might have seen our ecologists out and about investigating wildlife on and near to the canals, along our pipeline routes and in places where we might build new infrastructure.

We've been looking at a variety of existing habitats of badgers, water voles, bats, reptiles and a wide range of bird species. We're carefully considering how we avoid, reduce and manage our work in those areas.

Our aim is to minimise our impact wherever possible. We'll assess traffic on local roads, consider local heritage and conduct tree surveys to ensure we minimise tree and vegetation loss wherever we can, particularly in those areas where trees are listed as being particularly important or where our potential pipeline might affect existing woodland. For example, near Atherstone, in the northern section of the scheme.



## We've produced a Scoping Report and recently submitted it to the Planning Inspectorate.

Scoping is a key part of the EIA process and sets out our proposal and methodology based on field and desk studies of the existing environment. Find out more about this process on our [website here](#).

## We're identifying opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain

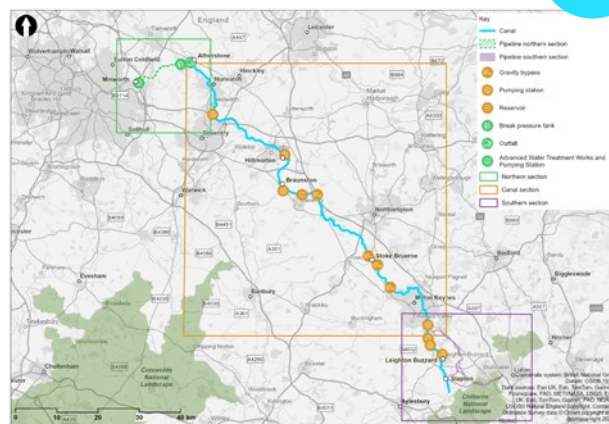
Drawing on the results of our survey work, we'll be exploring opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). BNG is a way of cataloguing the biodiversity we already have and seeking ways to create and improve our natural habitats so that existing wildlife and vulnerable species are protected and have a chance to flourish.



## We're progressing our scheme's design

Our technical and engineering design work is continuing, informed by the consultation feedback we received last year and what we're finding out through our environmental and site surveys. There's also lots of ground investigation work going on across the scheme to help us decide where our southern water treatment works and storage will be located. This will help us understand more about the ground conditions in the areas we may need to install new infrastructure.

## Website update



## We've recently added a new interactive map to our website

We've just published an easy to navigate map of our scheme so you can explore the key points along the route and identify where some of the key infrastructure might be in relation to where you live. Take a look [here](#).

## What happens next?

Our next public consultation will take place early next year. We'll be able to provide more detail and invite feedback on the different elements of the scheme, and explain how we propose to manage potential environmental impacts and carry out construction along the route.

We'll continue with our in-depth investigation, assessment and design work across the rest of this year and develop our proposals in the run up to the consultation.

We'll keep you updated on our progress in our next Community Update in early summer.

The Grand Union Canal Transfer team

[guctransfer.co.uk](https://guctransfer.co.uk)

[contact@guctransfer.co.uk](mailto:contact@guctransfer.co.uk)

Freepost GRAND UNION CANAL TRANSFER