

Introduction

To help the water along the Grand Union Canal Transfer (GUCT) and to ensure that our water transfer doesn't adversely affect the navigation and recreational use of the canal network, our scheme will need to deliver some new equipment such as pumping stations.



What are pumping stations?

Pumping stations are already a common feature on the existing canal network and are typically small buildings, used by the Canal & River Trust (The Trust). They are needed where it's necessary for the water to flow uphill, bypassing existing locks and lock flights, to help move water to where it's needed and to maintain water levels for navigation.

Why do we need more pumping stations?

We need to build more pumping stations as part of the GUCT because we'll need to move additional volumes of 'transfer' water uphill around locks and lock flights. The new pumping stations will pump greater volumes of water than the Trust's existing pumping stations which were designed to pump water for navigation purposes only.



How do pumping stations work?

Step 1: Water enters a weir, known as an inlet. This helps maintain water levels downstream in the canal, diverting water safely into a pump chamber.

Step 2: Pumps will adjust their strength to match the level of incoming flow.

Step 3: Water will enter an underground pipeline and will travel from the pumping station adjacent to the canal uphill around a lock, before it re-enters the canal.

Step 4: Water is put back into the canal at a weir outlet. This will limit the turbulence and speed of the water as it re-enters the canal, to ensure safety of boat users and reducing the risk of sediment disturbance.



What do pumping stations look like?

We'll design the pumping stations for each location by thinking about things like the local context and setting, ease of access, and heritage considerations such as listed buildings'.

The new pumping stations along the canal could be housed in new buildings, or, where possible, within existing buildings owned by the Trust in the vicinity.

If we do need a new pumping station building, we'll need an area typically 7 metres by 8 metres in size, plus some space around the building for vehicle access for inspection, maintenance and repairs.

You can find out more about the history of pumping stations on the Trust's website [here](#).

Where will new pumping stations be needed?

Northern Section



We'll build a new pumping station on the existing Minworth Wastewater Recycling Centre site to transfer the water to Atherstone and into the canal network. This will be within the total footprint of the new Advanced Water Treatment Plant, and will pump water uphill along the buried pipeline, where water can't flow naturally via gravity.

Canal Section

Several new pumping stations will be required along the canals as part of the scheme, where water will need to flow uphill.

The type and style of pumps we'll use are part of our ongoing design work and we'll provide more details on them and their associated buildings at our next consultation in early 2026.

Southern Section

We'll need to build a new weir to take the water out of the canal in a controlled way and at a low speed. We'll require a new pumping station to help transfer this water away from the canal and to the new water storage area.

Interactive map

We've 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](#).

Sharing more detail

We'll share more detailed design updates and potential mitigation suggestions at the next round of consultation, currently planned for early 2026, where your feedback will continue to play a vital role in shaping the design of the GUCT scheme.



Answering your questions

If you have a general query about the scheme, please contact the team via

email: contact@guctransfer.co.uk