

Community Update



Welcome to the Winter edition of our Community Update for the Grand Union Canal Transfer. Since our last update in August, we've announced some significant progress in shaping key elements of the scheme. We've moved forward with our proposed site and route selection and addressed some key issues raised in the last consultation, such as noise management and how we'll protect the environment.

Moving forward with site and route selection

During our Phase One Public Consultation two route options were proposed for connecting to the Coventry Canal near Atherstone, along with several potential sites for the Southern water treatment works and storage.

After careful review of public feedback, stakeholder discussions, and detailed engineering and environmental assessments, we announced the options we'll be progressing for further consultation, which you can read on our website [here](#):

- **Location for connecting the northern pipeline to the canal:** Option 1, via Coleshill Road and Atherstone Golf Course, has been selected as the preferred route.
- **Southern water treatment works and storage:** Site B, near Great Brickhill, southeast of Milton Keynes, has been identified as the preferred location.

These options will now be taken forward for further consultation which will take place in February and March 2026. These decisions marked an important milestone, however, we're continuing with technical and environmental studies to refine our proposals and preparing for our Phase Two Public Consultation, where communities will have further opportunities to provide input.

Maintaining the quality of water

Water companies treat and monitor water from various sources every day to ensure it's safe and clean for consumption, delivering it to customers through a vast network of pipes, underground storage tanks, and water towers. Wastewater, including sewage from homes, businesses, and industries is directed to treatment plants like Minworth Wastewater Recycling Centre (WwRC), where it undergoes multiple stages of processing.

Water recycling is a key process within the Grand Union Canal Transfer, and [we've created a short animation](#) to explain how the process works, and its importance in providing high-quality, safe drinking water.

Why wastewater can't enter the canal

In our Phase One Public Consultation, many people asked how we'll ensure wastewater won't enter the canal as a result of the scheme. We want to reassure everyone that this isn't possible.

Water from Minworth is treated to a high standard already, and the new Minworth Advanced Water Treatment Plant (AWTP) will ensure that the water being transferred will meet the required quality standards, making it suitable for discharge into the Coventry Canal at Atherstone.

The system at Minworth Wastewater Recycling Centre that handles untreated water is separate from the highly treated recycled water that will enter the canal. There are also no storm tanks or combined sewer overflows connected to our scheme, so only highly treated water will enter the canal.

This water treatment process will be regulated by the Environment Agency, and should the Trust, Severn Trent or Affinity Water have concerns about water quality, the supply of water into the canal will be suspended until concerns are addressed.

There is therefore no physical way for untreated wastewater from the existing Minworth Wastewater Recycling Centre to enter the canal as part of this scheme, and water can't pass from the AWTP to the canal if it's not actively pumped there.

We'll be sharing more details about this treatment process at our next consultation in February and March 2026.

A lasting legacy – introducing social value across the scheme



While securing a resilient water supply is the main objective of the scheme, we aim to deliver social value and benefits to local people and communities, even after the scheme has been constructed.

Through data-led research, proactive stakeholder engagement and collaboration with local authorities and communities, we're identifying opportunities where our support can have the most positive impact. We'll seek to partner with local organisations in communities along the route to maximise the distinct opportunities to add social value to impacted areas.

We'll be sharing an overview of our Social Value Approach at our Phase Two Public Consultation in early 2026. We'd like to hear feedback which will directly shape how we design, deliver and measure our social value outcomes across the lifecycle of the scheme, to create meaningful and enduring social, economic and environmental value for communities along the scheme's route.

We've launched some new web content



We've created some new content on our website to support your knowledge about the scheme:

- New downloadable factsheets available [here](#).
- In our last issue, we told you about a navigation trial in the Trevor Basin area of the Llangollen Canal which we undertook to learn more about how water transfers on canals impact real life boating, kayaking and paddleboarding experiences. A short video about the trial, including our volunteers' first-hand experiences, is now on our website [here](#).
- A brand-new [news section](#) to keep you up to date.

Keeping it quiet: managing noise and protecting our environment



We understand how important peace and quiet are to our local communities across the scheme's route, and we're committed to ensuring that any noise from our work is kept to a minimum. As part of this, we're looking closely at potential sources of noise and designing the scheme to manage these carefully, so they won't cause unnecessary disruption to residents or the environment.

Doug Hunt, Head of Engineering & Environment at Affinity, is one of our technical experts for the scheme. You can listen to his insights into how we're addressing potential noise concerns around the outfall at Atherstone, once it's operational, in his [interview on our website here](#). He also explains how we're protecting the surrounding countryside while we're undertaking work.

Stay connected, get involved, and help us build a scheme that works for everyone

Do you have any questions, suggestions or topics about the scheme you'd like us to explore in our next issue? We'd love to hear from you. Please send us a message via:

 contact@guctransfer.co.uk

What happens next?

Our Phase Two Public Consultation will take place in February and March 2026. In the meantime, we'll continue to engage with and talk to communities along the route, while we continue with our in-depth investigation, assessment and design work as we develop our proposals.

We'll be back in the new year with more updates and stories to share, plus an introduction to how the Phase Two Public Consultation will work. Until then, enjoy the festive season and stay in touch.

The Grand Union Canal Transfer team

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