

# Community Update



Welcome to our first Community Update for the Grand Union Canal Transfer, which will bring water from the Midlands to the Southeast, using the existing canal network.

We completed our first public consultation on 25 October, after 6 weeks of talking and listening to people across the region about our proposals.

We'd like to thank all of you who came to our consultation events or outdoor pop-up events along the canal.

The feedback we received is a vital part of our understanding of the views of local communities, canal users, stakeholders and businesses and it will shape the early development of our plans.

Our first consultation ran from 11 Sep to 25 Oct. We held nine consultation events and six pop-up events with a total of 780 attendees.

## Publicity:



**14,000+**  
postcards to local residents



**Posters**  
across local communities



**Press releases**  
issued and consultation  
through local and trade media



**250**  
stakeholders emailed



**7,000+**  
boating customers contacted

## Responses:



**475**  
responses in total



**297**  
returned via online feedback forms



**40**  
returned to our Freepost address



**138**  
email responses to our dedicated  
email address



**200+**  
phone and email enquiries



## What did we learn from your feedback?

Most people who responded live locally or are regular visitors to and/or users of the canal. We also received feedback from landowners, business owners and local community and specialist interest groups.

In general, we received positive support for the scheme, and we also received comments that will help us understand and manage the potential impacts of our work.

People have asked us to look closely at the environment, particularly where we're proposing new infrastructure and to make sure our construction plans are managed appropriately.



# What we heard from you

## 📍 At the northern end of the scheme

We received useful comments that will help us identify the best option for the outfall location, refine the visual impact of our new infrastructure and limit any construction impacts, particularly on local roads.

We also heard from people who wanted us to consider our pipeline route, where it runs close to villages or other developments, and the impact of the proposed advanced treatment works at Minworth.

## 📍 At the southern end of the scheme

We received lots of feedback on how the sites we presented during our consultation might impact certain people and communities. We recognise these concerns and they will help inform site selection going forward. We also received suggestions for alternative sites and are now assessing these alongside considering the feedback on the proposed sites.

We heard views on the pipeline options and the impact on the environment, local communities, and roads. This will help us refine the route at the next stage of development.

## 📍 Along the canal section of the scheme

The feedback we received relating to the canal generally focused on its importance as a leisure and recreation asset and its industrial heritage, and there were questions about the impact on the canal infrastructure both during construction and in the operational phase of the transfer, including concerns about specific locations along the canal.

The feedback indicated that people want any new infrastructure to be designed to fit with the surroundings.

People also wanted to know more about the impact on water flow, quality and levels in the canal.

We want to reassure everyone that the water entering the canal will be recycled water, which will have first been treated at the existing wastewater recycling centre at Minworth and then treated again at a new advanced water treatment works on the same site, to ensure its suitability to discharge into the canal.

We understand this is an important aspect of the scheme for many people and will continue to make this clear as the plans develop.



# What happens next?

We want to say a big thank you to everyone who took the time to share or send in their invaluable feedback - this will inform the next steps in our scheme's journey.

We're continuing to review all the feedback we received which will be used alongside more technical work and environmental assessments, to refine our plans. Everything you've told us, and how we've considered your comments, will be summarised in a report which we'll publish ahead of our next consultation.

We'll hold another consultation later next year, where we'll share updates from our ongoing work and more detailed scheme designs. In the meantime, you can see our timeline [here](#) and we'll continue to keep in contact with regular email updates which you can sign up to on our website [here](#).

You can also get in touch with us at any time via the contact details at the bottom of the page.

We look forward to hearing more from you and we'll be back in touch soon!

**The Grand Union Canal Transfer team**

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