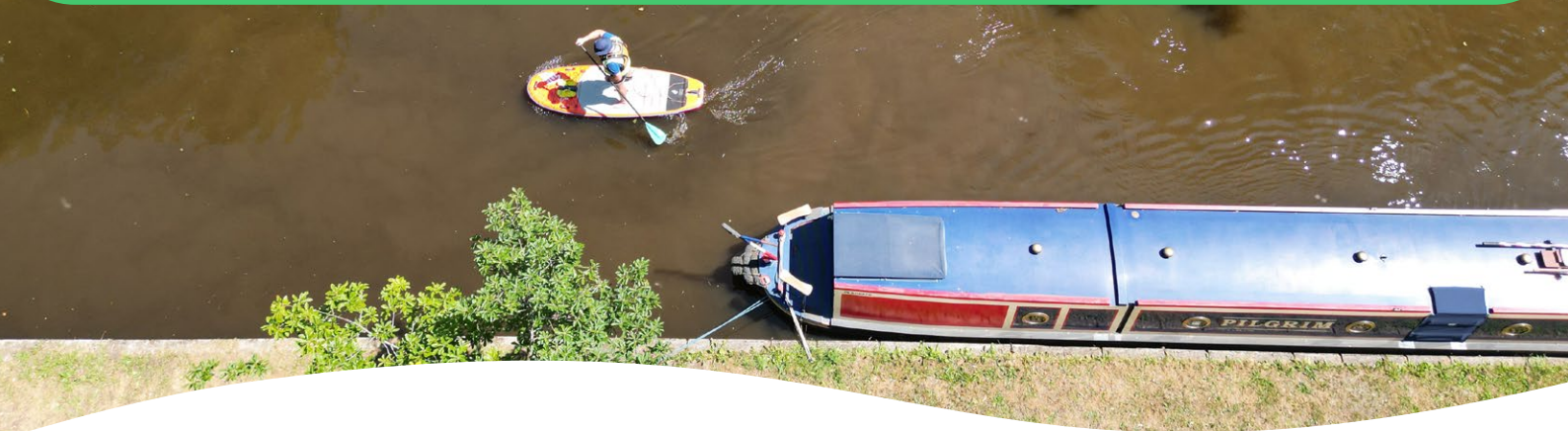


Community Update



Welcome to the Summer edition of our Community Update for the Grand Union Canal Transfer (GUCT). Since we last updated you in April, we've been busy developing our design and continuing with our detailed surveys across the scheme. We've also been focusing our attention on the canal section of the scheme, learning from another similar canal-based water transfer, and considering how features like pumping stations and gravity bypasses will be designed. This is to ensure the scheme works for everyone and minimises impact wherever we can, before, during and after construction.

Learning from the Llangollen Canal

As climate change increases the risk of more droughts in parts of the UK, water transfers on canals, like the GUCT, are quietly becoming a key part of solving the water deficit challenge.

The UK potentially faces a daily shortfall of up to 5 billion litres of water by 2055, and using our historic canals to move water from areas of surplus to those under stress, like London and the South, is proving to be a practical and efficient step to support water resilience.

The Trust's Llangollen Canal in North Wales is currently used as a water transfer by United Utilities, taking water from the River Dee to Hurleston Water Treatment Works, where, after cleaning, it supplies around 330,000 people. It's a great working example of a water transfer using a canal, demonstrating how historic infrastructure can be used to move water to areas of need.

We know from responses to our public consultation last October that canal users had questions about the impact the slightly increased flow rate of 0.3 metres per second (approx. 0.6 mph) along the canal would have on navigation. Our team have completed extensive technical work to understand the flows across the canal length and are building in design mitigations to ensure that this flow rate is not exceeded.

To help us understand the issues from a canal users' perspective first hand, we carried out a navigation trial in the Trevor Basin area of the Llangollen Canal last month, to learn more about how water transfers on canals impact real life boating, kayaking and paddleboarding experiences. With the help of a group of volunteers, we tested a variety of craft along the canal section, at a similar water flow rate that the GUCT scheme will experience along the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union Canals, once it's operational.

The Llangollen Canal, although not an exact replica of the GUCT canal network, provides the closest real-life working comparison, and our trial clearly demonstrated that transferring water down the canal at the same rate we would use for our scheme, has no significant effect on how non-powered craft, such as kayaks and paddleboards, navigate and handle. Although the effect of the flow can be felt by powered craft, it does not detract from the overall boating experience.

We'll share a short video about our navigation trial, including our volunteers' first-hand experiences, on our website very soon.



We're working with landowners, occupiers and other affected parties to gather information

We'll need to access, survey and use some land to construct and operate the GUCT scheme, and we're making contact with landowners and occupiers as we shape and develop our proposals.

While it's too early to confirm specific land requirements, ongoing design work, surveys, and your feedback from our first consultation are helping us refine our plans.

To help us make the best-informed decisions while we develop our land requirements for the scheme, we're getting in touch with surrounding land and property owners over the next few weeks and months, to gather as much information as possible. Our land agent, Fisher German, may send you a land information questionnaire to help us gather this information. This includes contacting all relevant persons with any interest in potentially affected land, for example, people who live close to it or may have a right of way to it, and/or may be disturbed by works on it.

In the main part, most of the land will only require temporary access and the land we'll need to acquire permanently will be minimal.

Gathering this vital information will help us to minimise impacts of the scheme wherever possible and we'll share our updated plans at our next public consultation early next year.

You can contact our land and property team for more information:



We understand that if you live close to or along the GUCT scheme route you will have questions about the proposals and how they might affect you. We've just launched a land and property page on our [website](#), dedicated to supporting landowners, occupiers and other affected parties. You can visit it here at:

guctransfer.co.uk/land

You can also contact our dedicated Land team at Fisher German on:

guc@fishergerman.co.uk

0345 013 1746

Fisher German LLP, Global House, Hindlip Lane, Worcester, WR3 8SB

We've just launched some new web content!



We've rounded-up the newest content on our guctransfer.co.uk website to support your knowledge about the scheme:

- A land and property webpage with helpful documents and guidance
- Downloadable factsheets available on our website for information about the scheme
- A short video providing a snapshot of the GUCT and our proposals. [Click here](#) to view it and tell us what you think at contact@guctransfer.co.uk

Stay connected, get involved, and help us build something that works for everyone.

While we prepare for our next public consultation in early 2026, we'll share updates, spotlight key parts of the scheme, and continue conversations with stakeholders and communities to shape a scheme that benefits 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 next public consultation will take place in early 2026. During the rest of this year, we'll keep engaging and talking to communities along the route as well as continuing with our in-depth investigation and assessment work to develop our proposals in the run up to the consultation.

We'll be back in the Autumn with more updates and stories to share. Until then, enjoy the sunshine and stay in touch.

The Grand Union Canal Transfer team

Stay in the loop between newsletters

guctransfer.co.uk

contact@guctransfer.co.uk

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