

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434**

HS2 Update

Calvert | Spring 2026

EKFB
Working in
partnership with **HS2**

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. Should you have any questions or enquiries regarding our works, please contact the Helpdesk details of which can be found in this newsletter. We will be keeping our local website www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk up to date with information on our works in the local area.



What's inside this newsletter

Our newsletters are an important way to update local communities on the progress of the HS2 project. This newsletter has been created specifically for the Calvert construction area (CA), located between Twyford and Quainton in Buckinghamshire.

In this edition, we will be looking at the latest information on our works, community projects and events to include;

- Protected species surveys, bat monitoring programme
- Construction update on:
 - Sheephouse Wood bat protection structure
 - Earthworks season and creating biodiversity
 - Key structures facts and progress
- West Street overbridge
- School Hill overbridge
- Edgcott overbridge
- Station Road realignment
- Community news
- Community events
- Site tours
- Social value projects

Spring has sprung

As many of you will have noticed, the daffodils planted on Station Road north in Quainton as part of our eastern realignment works last year, are now in full bloom.

Following months of disruptive works, daffodils were planted as part of our commitment to restoring and enhancing the area once our works were complete.

We look to continue to listen to local views and look for more ways to make a positive impact where possible. We hope the daffodils bring some joy and add some colour this spring!

Protected species surveys: bat monitoring programme

As part of our environmental responsibilities, we are undertaking long-term monitoring of bat populations across the Bernwood area. This work helps us better understand how local wildlife uses the landscape and ensures that protected species, such as Bechstein's bat and other native bats, are safeguarded throughout construction.

Why is HS2 involved in bat conservation?

Bats are particularly vulnerable to habitat fragmentation, light pollution, and disturbance. Due to the scope and duration of its works, HS2 has a unique opportunity to mitigate these impacts by conducting long term bat monitoring.

Are bats protected?

Yes. All bat species in the UK are protected due to their vulnerability to habitat loss and disturbance. This makes it illegal to disturb bats, damage their roosts, or obstruct access to their resting places.

Monitoring helps us to:

- Understand how bats use the landscape, including roosting, commuting, and foraging patterns.
- Track population health and species presence, especially rare or vulnerable species like Bechstein's bat.
- Assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures, such as habitat creation, bat boxes, and green corridors.



The image above shows bechstein bat in flight.

How is survey land selected?

Land is selected based on features that are highly suitable for bats, including:

- Mature trees and hedgerows that offer roosting and commuting routes.
- Water bodies and woodland edges that support insect-rich foraging areas.
- Low levels of artificial light and disturbance, which are ideal for nocturnal bat activity.

What's involved in the surveys?

- Walking transects at dusk or dawn to record bat flight paths and activity.
- Using bat detectors to identify species by their echolocation calls.
- Taking photographs and notes for ecological records.

If access to your land is required, you will receive further details in the post. We appreciate the support of landowners and residents, whose participation plays an important role in protecting local biodiversity for the future, so thank you.



Construction update

Sheephouse Wood bat protection structure

- 114 of 255 concrete arches weighing a staggering 20 Ton each, the equivalent to four African elephants, have now been installed on the structure. These are carefully lifted into position using a 300 Ton crane and we will see the remaining arches lifted into their final positions throughout the year.
- 30,000m³ of concrete has been poured so far for the structure. That's the equivalent to filling 12 Olympic sized swimming pools. The total volume of concrete that will eventually be used will be around 37,000m³.
- Between each arch, a mesh panel is installed, with each arch shape formed by securing 57 individual mesh panels together.
- The trial panel installation last year was successful meaning these will continue to be installed throughout 2026. Having these mesh panels in position creates natural ventilation, removing the need for forced ventilation.
- A green overpass, SCL/13, will run over the northern portal. This structure has now been constructed, recently waterproofed with black resin ready to be covered with earth.
- The structure is a part of wider mitigation for major infrastructure works, showing how wildlife protection is built into large projects, blending with the natural landscape features where possible.



The image above shows Sheephouse Wood with the 1km bat protection structure spanning the woodland edge.



Earthworks season

Spring marks the start of peak earthworks season on HS2. Longer daylight hours and drier ground conditions make it an ideal time to carry out large scale excavation, embankment building and ground shaping. Teams can work efficiently moving, placing and compacting material to form the structure of the future railway. More than 95% of our excavated earth is reused along the route to build new landscape features and wildlife habitats, reducing waste and lorry movements.



A 20T excavator creating a drainage channel in Buckinghamshire.

Building biodiversity: transitioning temporary ponds into permanent habitats



Wildlife pond in Buckinghamshire showing common reed encroaching on open water and barley straw bale being used to control algal growth.



Great crested newt

2026 presents a key opportunity in the Calvert area to carry out earthworks for permanent ponds. This involves large-scale excavation, material movement, and ground preparation to create ecological habitats and water drainage systems. These ponds, require precise siting to hold water, with construction involving liner installation and landscaping.

HS2 is creating over 180 new wildlife ponds as part of its "Green Corridor" project to mitigate the impact of the railway construction on local ecosystems.

Ponds are created for protected species like great crested newts (GCN). As part of our ecology strategy, we are currently completing GCN torch surveys which involves ecologists attending ponds at sunset to identify the species presence.

Key structure facts and progress

West Street overbridge

- Utilities works are underway, diverting the existing NGED and BT services.
- 40,000m³ of earthworks to form the west embankment has been completed.
- 50,000m³ of earthworks to form the east embankment is underway.
- The tie-in, where Steeple Claydon to Twyford road meets Gawcott Road is being constructed and widened by 2.5m either side.



West Street overbridge with Steeple Claydon to Twyford crossroads located top left.

School Hill overbridge

- 10,000m³ earthworks backfill complete on west, Calvert village side.
- 25,000m³ of earthworks to the east is ongoing until spring.
- Highways works are planned to begin shortly, with the road construction either side of the bridge to be complete by summer.
- Noise barrier piling installation to begin in summer 2026.



School Hill overbridge with Jubilee lake and Calvert Green village to the right.

Edgcott overbridge

- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) access is continued to be maintained from Quainton side.
- The construction of the west and east embankment is underway.
- Late spring we will install kerbing, asphaltting, white lining and signage.
- Road realignment will be complete with traffic using the new diversion by end of spring 2026.



Edgcott overbridge. Edgcott village to the south and Quainton to the North.

Station Road realignment

- Station Road HS2 and Network Rail bridges see material backfill works ongoing with parapets installation to start in April.
- Station Road highway progresses as we complete utility diversion works and continue highway construction to include kerbs, asphaltting, white lining and signage. The new alignment to open to traffic in summer 2026.



Network Rail overbridge top left, Station Road overbridge central and a cycle/pedestrian under path bottom right.

Community news

The mobile visitor centre is back – bringing 2026 updates to your local community



The image above shows Ashton Gilbert, Engagement Manager for Calvert and Sam Wehby, Social Value Manager, setting up for a community event on the MVC.

We are delighted to share that our mobile visitor centre (MVC) is back on the road for another event season, visiting communities along the route. These visits are a great opportunity to share the latest updates on construction progress, project timelines, and the social value projects we are delivering locally. Our team will be available to discuss traffic and transport, programme updates and answer any questions you may have.

We have an exciting programme of community visits planned, details of which can be found on the HS2 events page. If you are interested in the MVC coming to your local area, please get in touch with the HS2 helpdesk.

We invite you to come and see our works up close and join us on a site tour



The image above shows Winslow Lions admiring the progress of School Hill overbridge in Calvert and receiving an update from the site manager.

Twelve members of Winslow Lions Club were invited to attend our monthly community site tour, providing them with the opportunity to see our works up close, receive an update on the current stage of construction and ask questions directly to our experts. We began our tour at West Street overbridge and worked our way down to Station Road, stopping at each structure along the route. "Many thanks for hosting a very interesting and informative tour. The group all enjoyed the experience and education by all your team. The photographs will be a nice reminder of this experience."

Would you like to join us on one of our monthly tours?

If so, get in touch with the EKFB Community Engagement team on hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk and we can book you a seat!

Social value

Steeple Claydon allotments

Steeple Claydon allotments approached us to support with clearance works ahead of the spring growing season. The team at HW Martins did a fantastic job by cutting back overgrown vegetation, removing dead plant material and generally tidying the area. It is now ready for fresh planting.



Steeple Claydon allotments before and after our clearance works.

Easter bingo

Both Charndon Parish Council and Steeple Claydon School organised local Easter bingo events to bring some fun to the community. EKFB was pleased to support by donating raffle prizes, packed with 'eggs-tra' special chocolate delights.



Charndon Parish Council Easter Bingo prizes

Quinton Monday club

EKFB are delighted for the third year running, to donate £1000 towards the running of the club. This generous contribution is greatly appreciated by local residents, providing a valuable opportunity to engage, socialise, and enjoy the company of others in a friendly and welcoming environment.



Members of Quinton Monday Club enjoying a friendly game of scrabble.

Wooden planters available

We have a surplus of wooden delivery boxes which make the perfect rustic planter. Please do let us know of any community projects which could make use of these and reserve yours by contacting hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.



Wooden planter outside Quinton memorial Hall

Do you have a community project for 2026 that needs some support?

If so, get in touch with the EKFB Community Engagement team on hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk and let's talk about how we can help.

Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes making sure you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help.

Residents' and Construction Commissioner

The independent Residents' and Construction Commissioner oversees and monitors our **community engagement strategy**, making sure we fulfil our commitments to you.

The commissioner monitors the way we manage and respond to complaints about construction and advises members of the public how to make complaints.

The commissioner helps settle disputes involving individuals and organisations that we can't resolve.

You can find the commissioner's report and our responses at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-hs2-commissioner

The commissioner can be contacted on:
hs2commissioner@dft.gov.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the route by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Find out if you're eligible for compensation at:

www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2

Holding us to account

If you are unhappy for any reason, you can make a complaint by contacting our HS2 Helpdesk team.

For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website:

www.hs2.org.uk/contact-us/how-to-complain

Reference number: HS2-EKFB-26-2040

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.

Registered office: Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 888 8512 56

Contact us

Our HS2 Helpdesk team are available all day, every day. You can contact them by:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Write to:

FREEPOST
HS2 Community Engagement

Website www.hs2.org.uk

To keep up to date with what is happening in your area, visit:

www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk

Please contact us if you'd like a free copy of this document in large print, Braille, audio or easy read. You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.

We are committed to protecting personal information. If you would like to know more about how we use your personal information, please see our privacy notice (www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-two-ltd-privacy-notice)