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

HS2 Update

Calvert Area | Autumn 2026

EKFB Working in partnership with HS2

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. This update provides information about the main civil engineering works being carried out by EKFB in the areas between Twyford and Quainton. Our local website **www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk** is up to date with information on our works in the local area.



What's inside this newsletter

In this autumn edition, we take a closer look at new bridges being built around the Calvert Area to restore connectivity across HS2. We also review our construction milestones for the next 12-18 months, including some key dates as well as looking at construction progress to date. You'll also find information on:

- Construction updates
- Social value projects and community news
- Bernwood Bat survey results
- Progress at the Bat Mitigation Structure
- The new Public Rights of Way User Guide video

Highways drainage works to West Street overbridge have been completed, along with utility installations, including fresh water, telecommunications and power. Road surfacing, white lining, vehicle restraint system (VRS) installation, and the erection of signage will all be completed by mid-November when the highway will reopen to traffic, reconnecting local villages.



Pictured: West Street overbridge, between Steeple Claydon and Twyford

Drop-in events

We will be hosting events during the autumn.

Please join us at one of our events to find out more about our work in the area.

Further dates and full details can be found on the HS2 website here:

www.hs2.org.uk/events

Calvert Area map

The map below shows the location of works in your area



From foundations to first journeys, major milestones reached as two key bridges open to traffic and reconnect communities

School Hill Overbridge

The School Hill overbridge on Calvert Road is one of three green bridges in the area, designed to maintain connectivity for both the local community and wildlife across the HS2 route. Construction of this 40m wide bridge required more than 100 piles, reaching 38m deep, were installed to support this mammoth structure. The bridge opened to traffic on 15 August 2026, reconnecting the villages of Calvert and the Claydons.



Station Road realignment

In less than two years, our delivery team has now constructed two overbridges, a cycleway underpass, five culvert crossings and approximately 2km of new highway diversion. The scheme also included extensive earthworks, utility diversions, drainage infrastructure, landscaping works and the construction of 100,000m³ of reinforced embankment to tie the new route into the bridge structures. The new highway opened on 21 August 2026, reconnecting the A41 with Quainton. We would like to thank residents, businesses and road users for their patience, support and understanding throughout these extensive works.



Pictured: The completion of both bridges reflects a collaborative effort between EKFB's workforce, Buckinghamshire Council, local stakeholders and the wider community.

Structural arches near completion as works enter final stages on the Bat Mitigation Structure



Pictured: Sheephouse Wood bat protection structure photographed during the solar eclipse on 12 August 2026.

The Sheephouse Wood Bat Mitigation Structure, near Calvert, continues to take shape, with the project now around 80% complete with several major construction milestones being achieved over the past year.

Over the past 12 months, significant progress has been made, including the completion of waterproofing and reinforced earthworks at SCL13, the public crossing over the northern portal, diversion of Muxwell Brook to the south of the structure, construction of the north culvert, major backfilling activities and continued installation of the curved precast concrete arches that define the structure's distinctive appearance.

As of the 24 of August 2026, the project had reached a significant milestone, with 95% of the arch installation complete. A total of 254 arch pairs and 350 wall units had been installed from 869 precast elements, while structural concrete works were 91% complete. Installation of the mesh panels that will eventually enclose the structure was also progressing on site.

When complete, the structure will stand as one of the most distinctive environmental features on the route, demonstrating how major infrastructure can be delivered while protecting biodiversity and supporting wildlife movement for generations to come.

Bernwood Bat Surveys

Recent pre-maternity bat surveys across the Bernwood Woodlands have recorded some encouraging results, highlighting the importance of the area for a diverse range of bat species.

As part of the programme, nine bats were radio tracked and twenty-three roost surveys were undertaken, helping ecologists identify and map important roosting locations across the woodlands.

During the June 2026 surveys, 242 bats from 13 different species were recorded, more than double the number recorded in the 2022 surveys.

These species included Brown long-eared, Natterer's and common pipistrelle bats which were the most frequently recorded species.

These findings provide valuable information about how bats are using the Bernwood landscape and will help inform ongoing ecological monitoring and mitigation associated with the HS2 programme.



Pictured: The rare Bechstein bat in flight

Social value projects

Calvert Green eco-garden





During September, and guided by the local community, the team carried out extensive clearance works across the garden, helping to bring previously overgrown areas back into use, while also giving the existing planters, benches and fencing a much-needed refresh.

What we achieved

- Extensive clearance works across the garden
- Painted and restored the garden planters and benches
- Built a bespoke picnic bench
- Made three hedgehog houses and a dozen bat boxes
- Created a fantastic giant bug hotel to provide additional habitat for local wildlife
- Fenced off a new recreational area
- Provided fresh soil and donated daffodil bulbs, which will be planted to provide a lovely display for the community next spring

Community news

HS2 Community and Environment Funding

Are you a local community group or business that's looking for support from HS2?

The Community and Environment (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) schemes will provide up to £40m of funding throughout the construction of HS2, supporting community-led projects.

The Funds also support initiatives that bring benefits to local communities, such as the provision of new community facilities or support for local heritage and culture.

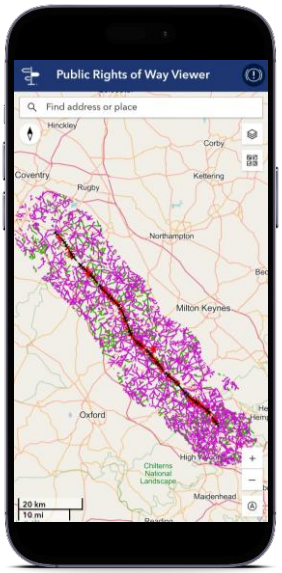
You can find more information about eligibility and how to apply on the HS2 website. Alternatively, you can get in touch with your local Community Engagement Team to find out more information and support.

www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/community-funding/

Working in partnership with HS2

Public Rights of Way interactive map

A user-friendly guide to using EKFB's new Public Rights of Way Map



This summer, EKFB launched a new Public Rights of Way (PRoW) map to help local communities safely navigate the countryside while construction works are progressing.

Navigating the PRoW's in your area is simple with the viewer providing a quick guide on how to use the map.

The map is regularly updated to reflect the latest information as construction works progress and routes change.

Scan me or visit prow.ekfb.com to check out the interactive map

Scan me to view the User Guide video to get started

Over the past 12 months, the main works civils contractors have made great progress and have been productive with many notable construction milestones achieved.

You can read ore about this one the HS2 website via this link: HS2 marks a year of progress ahead of major reset

or by scanning the QR code.

EKFB's route to civils completion – an update

The recent 'reset' of the HS2 programme, led by HS2 CEO Mark Wild, has given greater certainty over the construction and funding of HS2 and a clear route ahead for the completion of the civils work.

As the main works civils contractor for HS2 Ltd. in your area, we are working hard to complete the major engineering works ready for the installation of the railway track and systems.

Our engineering works include building 80 bridges, 15 viaducts, three cut and cover 'green' tunnels, the excavation and replacement of millions of cubic metres of earth and the landscaping, planting and fencing requirements as part of our finishing works.

This year alone, you will have seen overbridges, local roads and public rights of way starting to re-open, further connecting communities along the route, plus river diversions being put back to how they were found.

This year alone, you will have seen overbridges, local roads and public rights of way starting to re-open, further connecting communities along the route, with river diversions also being restored to their original condition. To quantify our progress to date, we are on track to have completed around 75% of our works across these three key areas: earthworks delivery, concreting activities, and viaduct and green tunnel construction, representing significant progress as we head towards the civils completion deadline between 2029 and 2030.

As physical works continue at pace, we'll welcome various construction milestones that you'll be interested in, as well as supporting our communities with social value initiatives, jobs and skills opportunities and regular engagement about the works happening in your area.

Our focuses for the next 12 months are presented in the table below:

Location	Activity
West Street Overbridge, Calvert	Bridge opening to traffic in November 2026
Infrastructure Maintenance Depot	BAM Nuttall to start main works early 2027
Calvert Green overbridge	Parapet installation ongoing throughout 2026
Sheephouse Wood Bat Protection Structure	Mesh panel installation continues throughout 2026

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-26-2450

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**)