

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

HS2 Information Update

Calvert Batching Plant | August 2021

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. In response to COVID -19 we have worked hard to ensure that our working practices are fully aligned with the Site Operating Procedures produced by the Construction Leadership Council. These procedures have been endorsed by Public Health England. We will be keeping our local website www.hs2inbucksandox.co.uk up to date with information on our works in the local area.

Calvert Batching Plant

The aim of this document is to be a user-friendly source of information that addresses frequently asked questions as well as concerns raised by local communities. It will provide further information on batching plants, in a way that is meant to complement EKFB Newsletters, EKFB Traffic Guides and existing technical HS2 information papers. These HS2 information papers can be found on the government website, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-information-papers-environment>.

Q: What is a concrete batching plant and why are you creating them to do the HS2 main works?

A: A concrete batching plant is a facility that makes concrete from its constituent parts of aggregate, cement, sand and water. The raw materials are delivered to the facility and go through a mixing process. The concrete is discharged into concrete transport vehicles that carry the wet concrete to the destination point where the construction activity is carried out.

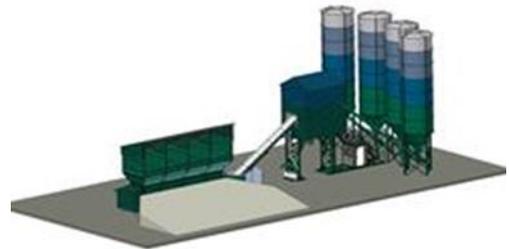


Figure 1: 3D model of the Calvert batching plant

The HS2 construction works requires a large amount of concrete. The existing concrete batching facilities in the area do not have sufficient capacity to meet the demands of HS2 and maintain the wider local construction industry demands. Therefore, new concrete batching facilities are being provided along the HS2 alignment.

Delivering the raw materials to an onsite batching plant, rather than batching and delivering from offsite plants, will reduce the number of vehicles using the local road by approximately 45%.

Q: What steps have been taken to minimise the impact of the batching plant on the local community, will the activity be noisy?

A: The batching plants have been designed to minimise community impact. The elements that generate the most noise have been located as far away from the local residents as possible and as requested, the silos have been coloured to minimise intrusion. The layout has been designed so that the vehicle flow minimises reversing and the permanent construction vehicles are fitted with white noise reversing devices. The working hours are being limited to normal working hours as far as possible.

The construction works needs to comply with the requirements of the HS2 'Code of Construction Practice' and adopt construction best practice. Noise levels have been agreed with the local authority and monitoring stations have been established to monitor noise levels throughout the construction phase of the project.

Q: I have heard that the batching plant will be dusty and could cause health issues such as asthma?

A: The concrete mixing process is not dusty, the equipment used is modern and has been designed in a way that avoids creating dust. Cement is delivered by tankers and discharged in a pressurised enclosed system of pipes from the cement delivery vehicle into the cement silos. The aggregate delivery vehicles are covered to prevent dust migration during transport and tipping. The aggregates are tipped into their respective bin sizes varying from single sizes 20mm to 5mm being dust free. The finer aggregates (Sand) whose grains range from 1mm to 4mm have covers over the storage bins as well as water spray bars to minimise any dust migration.

We have also set up long term dust monitoring stations to assess dust levels throughout the construction phase of the project. The data from the monitoring system is tracked via an online system that is automated to send out alerts should high levels of air borne dust is detected. If an alert is received it is investigated and actions put into place to identify the cause and adjust the working methods to reduce the impact and/or put in place dust suppression systems. If neither of these are effective or cannot be undertaken safely then works will be stopped.

The results from our monitoring are issued monthly to Buckinghamshire County Council Environmental Health team and are publicly available on the following:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monitoring-air-quality-and-dust-on-the-hs2-phase-one-and-2a-route-june-2021>

Further information about HS2 and air quality can be found on the following link:

<https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/hs2-environment-facts/hs2-and-air-quality/>

Q: Will the concrete batching plant result in an increase in HGV traffic to the area?

A: Materials will be delivered in articulated vehicles rather than having a larger number of concrete wagons delivering concrete from nearby batching plants. The number of HGV deliveries permitted to the school hill compound is restricted to 50 vehicles per working day and the works will be carried out within these limits. Once the concrete has been loaded into the concrete mixing vehicles, the vehicles will travel along the newly formed site access roads to deliver the concrete. This avoids using the local highway network.

Q: What consents do you need to do these works and how do we know that they will be well controlled and monitored?

A: The concrete batching plant does not require separate consents and is permitted within the parameters set out in the HS2 Act. As part of these works, we are adopting a 'Section 61 Agreement.' This allows us to come to an agreement with the local authority on working parameters for noise and vibration, including agreed monitoring locations.

Q: Why is the concrete batching plant at Calvert located where it is, couldn't it have been located further away from the residents of Calvert Green?

A: Several locations were considered and the location at School Hill compound was seen to be the most appropriate location. This location is most efficient for vehicle deliveries and distribution of concrete delivery wagons. It is also well located for the supply of services such as water and electricity. The operation fits within an already existing construction compound.

Q: How high will the silo's be? What will they look like?

A: There will be four 15m high storage silos (large containers used to store and distribute cement mixes), shaded to blend in with the landscape. They will be painted shades of blue to reduce visibility.

Q: What else will be at the batching plant?

A: In addition to the siloes and enclosed mixing unit, there will also be storage bays. These bays are where lorries can park and material can be stored. The batching plant will also have parking areas, offices and welfare facilities for staff working on structures in the area.

Q: How can I find out more information about this?

A: Our HS2 Helpdesk team is here to listen and help with any questions you may have about the project. This is a key part of our commitment to be a good neighbour for the duration of the programme. The team are available all day, every day of the year.

You can contact them via Freephone: 08081 434 434 or by emailing hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk .

Keeping you informed

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

Residents' Charter and Commissioner

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. Find reports at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

You can contact the Commissioner at: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The Construction Commissioner's role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints. You can contact the Construction Commissioner by emailing: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of 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/how-to-complain

Contact Us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 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 local area, visit: **www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk**

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Reference number: <Click here to insert text>

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