



Department for Transport

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Dear Mark and Simon,

Bat Mitigation – Sheephouse Wood

I have seen copies of letters sent to each of HS2 Ltd and the East West Rail Alliance from Natural England, dated 20 November 2018, requesting clarification about responsibilities concerning the bat mitigation issues at ~~Sheephouse Wood~~, adjacent to Calvert. Given the Department for Transport's role in funding and sponsoring these two railway projects, I thought it would be helpful to set out the Department's expectations and understanding about how the bat mitigation issues are being handled.

HS2 Ltd is leading the interface between the two projects and chairs the Calvert Integration forum, bringing both projects together to work collaboratively on matters relating to the Calvert area, including work on bat mitigation at this location. It has developed a short-listed options (SIFT) report to identify a preferred solution for a Bat Mitigation Structure (BMS) to cover both the HS2 and EWR railway lines and inform scheme design. HS2 Ltd will develop the detailed design of the BMS later in 2019 and 2020. The intention is to design and deliver the BMS across the two schemes at the same time.

The BMS is described in:

- HS2 (London-West Midlands) Environmental Statement 2.1.12 as an 800m long structure to provide a physical barrier to bats. The BMS is described, and has been assessed, as a box-shaped enclosure.

- HS2 (London-West Midlands) Supplementary Environmental Statement and Additional Provision 23.2.40, which extends the BMS by 50m southwards.
- East West Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Environmental Statement, Volume 2i Project Wide Assessment, Chapter 2 Project Description, Section 2.4.90 to 2.4.92, which describes a cantilevered structure off the HS2 Ltd BMS to cover the EWR tracks.

The Department recognises the need for the projects to deliver a mitigation solution that is developed in consultation with, and approved by, Natural England, in order to meet statutory requirements for wildlife protection.

Yours sincerely,



CLIVE MAXWELL