22 October 2025

To: HS2 Ltd (via Joel Sykes)

Strengthening Collaboration on Landscape and Nature Recovery in the Chilterns Corridor

Dear HS2 Ltd Team,

On behalf of the Chiltern Society and our network of local conservation groups, community stakeholders, and environmental NGOs, I write to reaffirm our interest in collaborating on HS2's landscape and ecological strategy: particularly within the corridor between the M25 and Aylesbury through the Chilterns National Landscape.

We acknowledge the ambition and technical rigour embedded in the Landscape Design Reports, Landscape Maintenance Management and Monitoring Plans (LMMMPs), and the Landscape Elements Strategy. These documents reflect a shared vision for regenerative, biodiverse, and community-beneficial landscapes. However, we believe that the success of this vision depends on three critical enhancements:

1. Accessible and Actionable Information
The current suite of documents while comprehensive is difficult for community stakeholders to navigate. We urge HS2 Ltd to:

- Publish simplified, searchable versions of key documents such as the route-wide LMMMP and Schedule 17 design submissions.
- Provide clear summaries of landscape typologies, planting schedules, and ecological objectives tailored to local areas.
- Offer visualisations and mapping tools that help communities understand what is planned, where, and when.

2. Transparency on Budget, Timelines, and Stewardship
We note the absence of publicly available information on funding, phasing, and long-term governance. To enable meaningful partnership, we request:

- A breakdown of budget allocations for landscape restoration, ecological mitigation, and long-term maintenance.
- Phased timelines for planting, establishment, and monitoring across the Chilterns corridor.
- Clarification of land ownership, future land use intentions (infrastructure, nature recovery, or agriculture), and stewardship responsibilities.
- Details on governance structures for adaptive management and community involvement post-construction.

3. Place-Based Partnership and Practical Collaboration
We believe HS2's landscape vision can be significantly strengthened through direct collaboration with local groups. The **River Chess Smarter Water Catchment Project** provides a good example of successful collaborative working and we invite HS2 and their contractors to meet the SWC team in Chesham to explore opportunities for joint delivery around:

- Habitat connectivity and biodiversity corridors, including woodland blocks, hedgerows, and riparian planting.
- Water quality improvement and wetland habitat creation, aligned with chalk stream restoration goals.
- Community-led stewardship and monitoring, drawing on local expertise and volunteer networks.
- Integration of HS2 infrastructure with placemaking and public access initiatives that reflect Chilterns character.

We are confident that such a partnership approach can deliver measurable nature recovery outcomes, enhance community wellbeing, and support HS2's commitment to long-term sustainability. Together with the Chilterns National Landscape Team, Wendover HS2 Mitigation Group and others we have developed proposals for a **Landscape Restoration Panel** (draft proposal document enclosed). Local Buckinghamshire Councillors, BBOWT and the Colne Valley Regional Park have confirmed their support for this approach both in the Chilterns and extending to Calvert and the Colne Valley.

We look forward to your response and hope to arrange a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Beeston
Chief Officer at the Chiltern Society
Mobile 07957 357 201