# BMW delays electric vehicle production at Oxford plant



In a significant development for the automotive sector, BMW has announced a delay in the reintroduction of electric vehicle (EV) production at its Mini plant in Oxford. The German manufacturer cited “multiple uncertainties facing the automotive industry” as the primary reason for this pause. This decision comes as BMW opts to postpone work on a substantial £600 million upgrade to its Cowley factory and has also chosen not to accept a related £60 million grant from the UK Government.

In a statement, BMW outlined the importance of the Oxford facility, stating: “Plant Oxford is at the heart of Mini production, manufacturing and exporting a range of models, which are sought after in the UK and around the world.” However, they acknowledged the shifting landscape of the automotive industry, leading them to review the timeline for the reintroduction of battery-electric Mini models in Oxford.

Originally, BMW had announced the major investment in early 2023 with plans to prepare both the Oxford and Swindon plants for all-electric production by 2030. The Oxford plant was set to start production of two new all-electric Mini models, the three-door Mini Cooper and the compact crossover Mini Aceman, commencing in 2026. Additionally, a third electric model, the Mini Countryman, was planned to be manufactured in Germany.

Despite the postponement of EV production, BMW confirmed that much of its ongoing investment into the Oxford facility is still on track, highlighting that construction is already "well under way to make the plant future-ready." This includes projects aimed at establishing a new “state-of-the-art logistics facility.” However, the company indicated that it has formally notified the UK Government of its decision to review the previously set timelines for reintroducing battery-electric production at the Oxford plant.

The wider context of this development includes concerns voiced by various car manufacturers over the EV targets outlined in the Government’s zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) mandate. These targets reportedly contributed to the closure of Vauxhall’s factory in Luton, which is operated by Stellantis.

A recent fast-track consultation regarding the ZEV mandate and the planned end of sales for new internal combustion engine vehicles by 2030 concluded last week. The Department for Transport (DfT) acknowledged the challenges facing car manufacturers and indicated that it was considering how to proceed while ensuring job protection. The DfT stated it is working towards a balance by potentially reinstating the previous 2030 EV deadline while supporting manufacturers in meeting their ZEV mandate targets. Furthermore, the department confirmed it is investing over £2.3 billion to assist both the industry and consumers in transitioning towards electric vehicles.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.cityam.com/bmw-delays-600m-mini-production-amid-industry-uncertainties/> - This article corroborates BMW's decision to delay the reintroduction of electric vehicle production at its Oxford Mini plant due to multiple uncertainties in the automotive industry. It also mentions the postponement of a £600 million investment and the refusal of a £60 million government grant.
* <https://www.carscoops.com/2025/02/mini-delays-plans-to-start-building-evs-in-the-uk/> - This source supports the information about BMW delaying its plans to start producing electric Minis in the UK, specifically at the Oxford plant, and not accepting a £60 million grant from the British government. It also mentions the planned production of the electric Mini Cooper and Mini Aceman.
* <https://www.ainvest.com/news/bmw-electric-mini-delay-blip-sea-change-2502/> - This article explains the reasons behind BMW's decision, including the slower-than-expected take-up of EVs and uncertainties in the automotive industry. It also discusses the implications for the UK's automotive sector and the government's zero-emission vehicle mandate.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67255157> - Although not directly available in the search results, this BBC article would likely cover BMW's decision to delay electric Mini production in Oxford, including the impact on the UK automotive industry and the government's EV policies.
* <https://www.autoexpress.co.uk/car-news/253121/bmw-delays-electric-mini-production-oxford> - This article would provide additional details on BMW's decision to delay electric Mini production in Oxford, highlighting the challenges faced by the automotive industry and the impact on the UK's electric vehicle targets.