

## Waddesdon and Quainton

### **DODDERSHALL 'CIVIL WAR EARTHWORK'**

HS2 references: Area CFA12 - Unique ID WAD050

#### **Summary:**

Although we welcome the fact that the site of the civil war earthwork (WAD050) has been excluded from the land required during construction of HS2, we are concerned that the earthwork and any associated buried features nearby will be endangered by the use of heavy machinery working nearby (see map CT-05-050).

#### In our view:

- Before construction starts, geophysical surveys should be made in the fields around the earthworks,
- A protective exclusion zone of at least 6 metres should be set around all four sides of the earthwork,
- The Temporary materials stockpile shown should be removed to a distance of at least 20 metres.

#### **Assessment:**

Due to lack of access to the Doddershall estate surveyors on behalf of HS2 were unable to inspect the earthworks directly. However the Environmental Statement accepts the summary conclusions of the Society's own report on the earthworks: that this may have been a medieval moated homestead, civil-war gun emplacement, or both, with the moated site re-used as a gun emplacement. (Appendix CH-001-012 pages 15-16 paragraphs 3.6.15-16 and 3.7.3, referencing BAS Report 2012-04)

The earthworks' value, however, is rated only as 'Moderate' (Appendix CH-002-012 page 8 item WAD050) – presumably because of their uncertain provenance.

The ES Construction Phase map (CH-05-050) indicates that the earthworks have been excluded from the land required from construction. We welcome this exclusion, which we assume is why the impact of HS2 on the earthworks is rated as only 'Minor adverse' and its effect as 'Minimal adverse' (Appendix CH-003-012 page 8 item WAD050).

The ES notes, however, that 'there is potential for associated earthworks or features to extend into the land required' for HS2. The Construction Phase map (CH-05-050) shows that the 'land required' is drawn very close to the earthworks and a Temporary materials stockpile appears to overlap their eastern corner.

We are concerned, therefore, that the earthworks may be in danger of damage from the too-close use of heavy machinery to move construction materials.

#### In our view:

- during construction a protective exclusion zone at least 6 metres wide should be set around the earthworks to prevent damage from the use of heavy machinery,
- before construction begins, geophysical surveys should be carried out to determine whether associated earthworks or other archaeological features exist below-ground in the surrounding fields, with the option of increasing the protected area if results indicate this is necessary,
- the Temporary materials stockpile should be removed from the area between the earthworks and the HS2 rail line, to a distance of at least 20 metres.