# The Lodge, Doddershall

# **HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT / December 2013**

including HS2 high-speed rail line impact assessment

# Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society



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REPORT: Karen Pepler and Peter Marsden

Report number BAS/2013-04

# **THANKS**

to Christopher Prideaux for giving the survey team access to the Lodge and permitting us to make this survey, and for the old photograph of the Lodge.

This report has been produced by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society



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Report by Karen Pepler and Peter Marsden following a measured survey by Karen Pepler, Peter Marsden, John Sheldon and Steve Nicholl. Photographs by John Sheldon and Peter Marsden. This is report number BAS/2013-04.



Figure 1: The Lodge and its driveway, providing the gateway to Doddershall Park.

# 1 THE SITE

# 1.1 Geographical context

The Lodge stands to the south-west of the village of Quainton in Buckinghamshire, close to a minor road that runs between Waddesdon and the west end of Quainton. The building straddles the driveway to Doddershall House, which is 1.4 kilometres to the north-west. This driveway reaches the minor road 90 metres east of the Lodge, where the minor road crosses a bridge over the single-track rail line running north from Aylesbury to Calvert, formerly a section of the Great Central Railway.

The building stands between the rail line, 35 metres to its north, and the separate driveway to the Doddershall estate's Upper and Lower South Farms immediately on its south side. It serves both as a dwelling and as the entrance to the Doddershall Park estate.

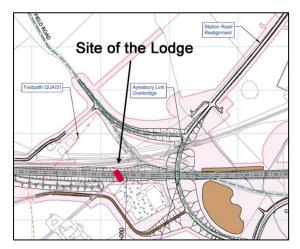
Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SP 73200 19317

## 1.2 Historic context

The estate of Doddershall dates from Saxon times and is recorded (as 'Sortelai') in Domesday Book in 1086. Doddershall House is listed Grade 2\* and dates from 1520. Two farmhouses near the Lodge date from the 16th and 17th century respectively and are listed Grade 2.<sup>2</sup>

The Lodge itself is unlisted. It has been the entrance lodge to Doddershall Park only since the 1890s, when the building of the Great Central Railway cut off the original driveway to the estate. Much of the present Lodge was built then, though it may incorporate an earlier building.

# 1.3 The 21st-century context: the HS2 high-speed rail line



The route of the proposed HS2 high-speed rail line between London and Birmingham, as on the engineering plans accompanying the HS2 Environmental Statement of November 2013,<sup>3</sup> takes the line directly through the site of the Lodge in order to run parallel with the existing track of the former Great Central line.

If the HS2 plans go ahead, this will result in the complete destruction of the Lodge.

Figure 2 (left): The HS2 engineering plan showing the line passing directly through the site of the Lodge.

#### 2 THE BUILDING SURVEY

A level 2 survey following English Heritage 2006 guidelines<sup>4</sup> was carried out at the Lodge on 12 November 2012 by members of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, as part of a wider investigation into historic buildings and archaeological sites that would be affected by the proposed HS2 rail line.

The descriptions that follow are based on a survey of the structure and features that were visible in November 2012, along with documentary evidence. No archaeological excavations or intrusive investigations, such as the removal of panelling, floorboards or carpets, were carried out.

# 3 SUMMARY

The Lodge is an unlisted building known to have been built in the 1890s when the construction of the Great Central Railway required a new driveway to Doddershall House. This may have involved the adaptation of an older building on the site, but the survey was unable to confirm this.

The survey indicates two phases of construction, with the south wing added in the first quarter of the 20th century.

The survey also identified various historic features and fittings at the Lodge – chimney stacks, leaded-light casement windows, moulded cross-beams and pillars, a reconstructed staircase and arched doors and doorways – which may be of an earlier date than the building itself. These may have been recycled as a result of building work at the 16th-century Doddershall House. These merit further investigation, which may throw light on the past history of the House.

If the construction of the HS2 rail line goes ahead as planned, the Lodge will be demolished. The survey recommends, as a minimum, the rescue of its historic features and fixtures.



Figure 3: The east front of the Lodge.

#### 4 BUILDING OBSERVATION AND DESCRIPTION

## 4.1 THE EXTERIOR

The Lodge is a largely two-storey building which faces east and straddles the driveway to Doddershall House. It has a single central bay framed by two gabled cross-wings. The larger of these, to the south, is of two storeys, while the central bay is of one and a half storeys.

The smaller cross-wing to the north has an open rectangular archway on the ground floor through which the driveway passes. On the north side of this arch is a single-storey lean-to outhouse. The building stands on a 16-inch cement-rendered plinth.

The roof is of red clay tiles. All the gables are set within wooden decorative barge-boards with central down-pointing finials. The rainwater drainpipes are metal, with a rectangular cross-section.

## 4.1.1 East elevation (front)

The building faces east down the driveway towards its junction with the minor road from Waddesdon. The ground floor is concrete-rendered in 'pebble-dash' except under the northern archway. The gable ends of the two cross-wings and the side walls under the archway are timber-framed, with large square panels in-filled with mainly red bricks set in herringbone pattern. However the bricks used over and inside the arch, which are orange-red, differ from those of the south wing, which are a lighter pink-red in colour.

The south wing has two matching windows, on ground and upper floors. Each is of three metal casements set in an outer wooden frame with multiple rectangular leaded lights.

In the south corner of the central bay is a 'principal entrance door' protected by a single-storey open porch. This is cement-rendered, with a smooth finish marked to imitate stonework. It has a pitched clay-tiled roof with decorative barge-boards. Inside the open porch is a narrow single-panelled

wooden door. The top of the porch's outer archway, the door and its wooden doorframe are all formed as four-centred arches.

This central bay has two windows. That on the ground floor matches those in the south wing in size and materials, but with three single panes in place of the leaded lights. The first-floor window immediately above it, however, is in a completely style: a metal casement of 20th-century design with six horizontal panes – most likely a later insertion.

To the north side of the building the main archway over the drive is framed by two heavily moulded wooden corner posts which stand on brick bases and rise to eaves level. Centrally above the arch is a window matching those noted in the south wing but of only two casements, each with octagonal leaded lights with coloured diamond insets.

Centrally in the north wall under the archway is a narrow single-panelled wooden door which is the entrance to the lean-to outhouse. Here, as at the principal entrance, both door and frame have four-centred arches.

The lean-to outhouse on the north side of the archway has a decorative wooden barge-board matching those of the gables. In the corner formed by its wall and that of the archway is a single-flue chimney stack.

The chimney stacks on all three sections of the building are tall, in 'Tudor' style with moulded brickwork. Those on the northern and central sections, which have separate octagonal flues set on decorative brick bases and attached to outer walls, differ from that on the south, which is a single central multi-flue stack in a different style of brickwork.

# 4.1.2 North elevation

The outhouse has two small windows, while the upper storey above the arch has none. All wall surfaces are concrete-rendered, under a tile roof.

#### 4.1.3 West elevation (rear)

Roof tiles, bargeboards, rendered wall surfaces, timber framing and inset brickwork are all the same here as on the east front. There is a similar mismatch between the bricks used in the north and south gables.

On this elevation the northern lean-to has a window matching those noted on the east front of the building: of three metal casements in an outer wooden frame – but here the leaded lights are diamond-shaped.



Figure 4: Doorway with four-centred arch.



Figure 5: Octagonal leaded lights above the driveway.



Figure 6: The brick base of one of the archway pillars.

The west side of the archway over the drive matches that on the east in all respects. The brick base at the foot of the moulded wooden pillar at the north-west corner of the archway has broken away (see figure 6) revealing a straight joint between this and the building plinth.

A large double chimney stack stands in the angle formed by the south wall of the driveway arch and the outer wall of the central bay of the building. Above eaves level this has a decorative brickwork base topped by two separate octagonal flues linked at the top.



Figure 7: The western elevation of the Lodge.

The central bay here has a single three-casement window matching those noted on the east front. Here, however, there are diamond leaded lights in the two outer casements with a single large pane between them (probably a replacement). Failing render on the right-hand side of this window has revealed a small area of brickwork, set in lime mortar.

Above this window a small decorative 'gablet' is set into the roof slope, with the same herringbone brickwork and decorative barge-boards noted elsewhere.

The main entrance in use today is on this elevation, leading into the south cross-wing. It has a modern four-panelled door with two glass panels and a cat-flap, and no porch. Beside it there is a small window of two panes in a modern wooden frame. The window on the first floor matches that on the east gable of this wing: three metal casements with rectangular leaded lights.

#### 4.1.4 South elevation

The south elevation of the Lodge faces immediately on to the separate drive that leads to the estate's Upper and Lower South Farms. There are two windows on the ground floor and two on the first, all metal casements matching those on the east elevation in size and style with rectangular leaded lights. Three have three casements, but one – that serving the main dining room - has five, of which only the outer casements retain their leaded lights; the central three are modern single panes.

## 4.2 THE INTERIOR

Throughout the building the walls are plain plastered. All ceilings, whether horizontal or following the roof-slope, have rudimentary modern panelling: large square boards with narrow rounded battens over the joints between them. Details of windows are included in the external elevations.

## 4.2.1 Entrance passage

The present main entrance, in the western elevation, opens into a short passage. Three feet inside the door is the empty frame of an earlier doorway, with cut-off crossbar revealing the removal of a top-light. An original small open porch has been enclosed by a new outer door.

Immediately to the right of this outer door is a blocked doorway, which originally led through into what is now the kitchen. The present Kitchen door is on the right beyond the redundant doorframe.

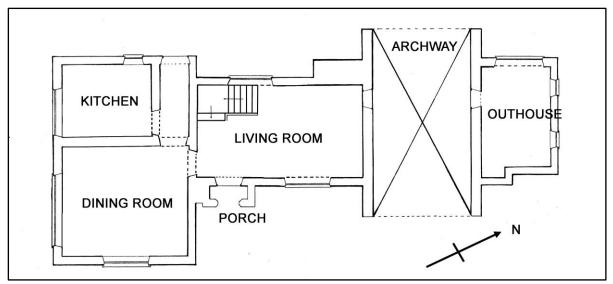


Figure 8: The ground-floor plan of the Lodge

#### 4.2.2 Kitchen

The kitchen has cupboard units on both sides. Immediately on the left on entering there is a serving hatch through to the dining room. Beyond this is a chimney breast, indicating an earlier stove, now gone. It is lit by a three-casement window facing south and a small modern window facing west.

#### 4.2.3 Dining room

The doorway from the passage to the dining room has a square frame. A chimney breast in the west wall of the room is back-to-back with that in the kitchen. A large five-casement window faces south; a second, of three casements, faces east.

# 4.2.4 Living room

From the dining room a doorway with four-centred arched top leads into the living room, in the central bay of the building. Above the doorway is a large jagged crack in the plastered wall.



Figure 9: The staircase.

The living room is lit by two windows, to east and west, each of three casements. In the north-west corner of the room is a plain fireplace in white-painted brick with a simple wooden mantel shelf. Beside this, in the north wall of the building, is an alcove with a four-centred arched top. The size of a doorway, this would have given access directly to the driveway as it passed under the archway.

In the south-west corner of the room is the inside of the principal entrance door. This is a polished, single-panelled wooden door, matching those noted elsewhere; again both door and frame have four-centred arches. At the time of our survey this door was partially sealed up with parcel tape.

# 4.2.5 The staircase

In the south-west corner of the living room is a staircase leading up to the first floor. This is of two flights with a small square landing. The staircase appears to be of polished oak throughout. Its

square 4-inch newel posts have plain moulded corners. Two newel posts rise from floor to ceiling of the ground floor. A moulded wooden banister is supported on multiple turned spindles and this continues around the stair well on the first floor. In several places these relatively high-quality materials have been fixed together rather crudely, using screws and odd pieces of wood.

## 4.2.6 Study

The staircase leads to a first-floor study built into the roof-space of the central bay of the building. This is lit by a single window facing east – the 20th-century metal casement noted on the east elevation. Here its position at floor level confirms that it is a later insertion.

The modern panelled ceiling hides most of the roof structure, but two heavy purlins are visible running the length of the room, and across its centre is a heavy tie-beam. This is black-stained and moulded with a heavily decorative profile – which



Figure 10: The curious position of the cross-beam in the study: below and separate from the roof purlins.

matches that of the moulded wooden pillars at the four corners of the driveway arch.

This heavy beam, however, is not jointed to the roof-purlins, as would be expected. Instead it meets the roof slope six inches below them. In this positionit is more likely to be decorative than structural.

## 4.2.7 Main bedroom

From the northern end of the study a plain stair of five steps leads up to a wooden single-panelled door, again with the tops of both door and doorframe formed as four-centred arches. This leads to the main bedroom, which is above the driveway arch.

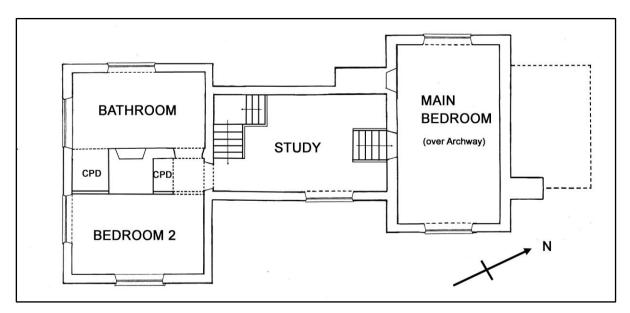


Figure 11: upper-floor plan of the Lodge.

Here again two purlins run the length of the ceiling. Again there is a heavily moulded tie-beam matching in profile that in the study and the posts of the driveway arch. Here, however, the purlins appear to rest on the beam, although they are not jointed into it. The beam's structural function is again difficult to judge.

The main bedroom is lit by two windows facing east and west, both with multiple octagonal leaded lights with coloured diamond insets. These were noted on the east and west elevations of the building. Close to the south-west corner of the room is a small plain fireplace that has been blocked up. This would have been served by one of the double chimney stacks on the west elevation.

## 4.2.8 First-floor lobby

At the head of the stairs a doorway to the right leads into a small lobby in the south wing. Here there is no door, but the doorframe is again formed as a four-centred arch.

Above this doorway is another jagged crack in the plaster wall, in a similar position to that above the doorway between dining room and living room immediately below on the ground floor.

In the ceiling of the lobby is a hatch giving access to the roof space above the south wing. This was the only point in the survey where the roof timbers were visible. They were of clean, plain softwood, clearly of 20th-century date.

## 4.2.9 Second bedroom

From the lobby a square-framed doorway leads into the second bedroom, lit by windows facing east and south. No other features were visible.



Figure 12: Clean modern timbers in the roof space above the south wing.

#### 4.2.10 Bathroom

A second square-framed doorway leads into the bathroom. This is lit by two leaded-light windows of three casements facing south and west, with a view along the drive to Upper and Lower South Farms. A plain mantel shelf on the inner wall, where the chimney stack rises from the kitchen below, may indicate that this room once had a fireplace. Apart from a high-level cast-iron toilet cistern, the bathroom fittings are modern, with the bath itself set away from the wall.

# 4.2.11 The outhouse

At the time of the survey the outhouse was locked, so not available for inspection.

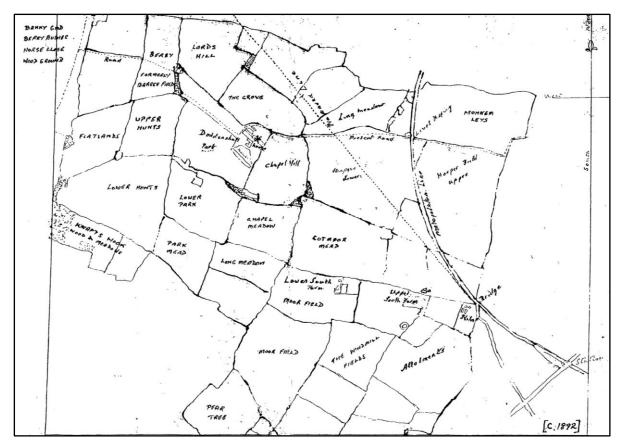


Figure 13: A plan of the Doddershall estate as it was in 1892. Quainton railway station is in the bottom right-hand corner. From there the curved line shows the railway of 1868 to Buckingham, while the straight, dotted line shows the planned route of the Great Central Railway, which was opened for passengers in 1899.

## **5 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

#### 5.1 The building of the railway

Two railway lines were built across the Doddershall estate during the 19th century. The first was opened in 1868 by the Aylesbury and Buckingham Railway Company. This curved north from Quainton Station and included a level crossing for the eastern driveway of Doddershall House. Though the rail line went out of use in the 1930s, its route can still be traced across the fields. The position of the crossing is marked on the plan above. 'Railway Cottage' stands there today.

The second line was part of the Great Central Railway, which ran between London Marylebone and Rugby. Today this line is used only by occasional freight trains heading for Calvert. From Quainton Station this line takes a direct north-westerly route across the estate, passing 350 metres away from Doddershall House itself.

This second railway line again cut across the eastern driveway of Doddershall House (as can be seen on the plan), so the decision was made to build a new driveway further south across the fields. The new Lodge was built to serve this.

The building of the railway therefore gives an approximate date for the building of the Lodge. Its route appears as a proposal on the hand-drawn plan of the estate dated 1892,<sup>5</sup> and the line opened to passengers on 15 March 1899.<sup>6</sup> Construction work on the railway would therefore have cut off the old driveway before 1899.



Figure 14: An old photo of the Lodge

## 5.2 The Lodge when newly built

This photograph shows the Lodge and with the new driveway passing through its archway. The track on the left leads to the two estate farms.

The built surfaces of the Lodge all appear new, its surroundings uncluttered, and the driveway in use. The photograph probably dates from the late 1890s, around the time of the opening of the Great Central line.

Several points are worth noting:

- The original building does not include today's south wing (compare figures 3 and 14).
- Decorative features the chimney stacks and leaded-light windows are in place.
- To the left of the arch, the building has no upper-floor window.
- The building stands on the edge of open fields to the north (to the right in the photo).

# 5.3 The brick and tile works

To the south of the Lodge, on the other side of the farm track, is an area of flooded and overgrown pits. These are the abandoned workings of a brick and tile works which is known to have been in operation before 1861.<sup>7</sup> An invoice of 1862 refers to bricks 'bought from W Locke and Sons, Doddershall Patent Brick and Tile Works'.<sup>8</sup>

#### **6** ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF EVIDENCE

## 6.1 When was the Lodge built?

The building of the Great Central railway line between 1892 and 1899, causing the re-alignment of the western driveway, indicates that the newly built Lodge we see in the old photograph was built in the 1890s or very soon after.

It has been suggested, however, that the driveway arch may have been built as an addition to an existing building, perhaps an estate worker's cottage. Roof ridge and upper floor levels, for instance, differ considerably between the two parts of the new building as we see it in the photo.

In the photograph the building beside the arch is of one and a half storeys, which is the usual height for a cottage dating between the 15th and 18th centuries. Its footprint is 14ft by 7ft 6in. It stands beside the track leading to two farmhouses that date from the 16th and 17th centuries and opposite a former brick and tile works. A worker's cottage could have served either.

But it is difficult to find solid evidence to support an earlier date for this section of the building. The very straight roofline shown in the old photograph indicates that it has either a new roof, or one that has been heavily rebuilt.

Beyond that the structure of this central bay is well hidden. A small area of failing render on the west elevation has revealed brickwork and lime mortar, but everywhere else the actual building materials are hidden by concrete render externally and plaster and modern wood panelling internally. There are no minor tell-tale cracks to indicate a wooden frame hidden beneath the plaster.

And the Ordnance Survey maps of 1833 and 1885 show no building at this location. <sup>10</sup>



Figure 15: Exposed brickwork in the central bay.

# 6.2 The south wing

The old photograph shows that the south wing was not part of the original Lodge when built in the 1890s. This section of the building also exhibits stylistic differences: its chimney is central and in a different decorative style; its herringbone brickwork is a different shade of red; and its door frames are square instead of arched.

The south wing is therefore a later extension. The jagged cracks above the connecting doorways on both ground and first floors show where these have been broken through and weakened the wall.

But this addition was made soon after the original build, in the first quarter of the 20th century, because even this extension did not include a bathroom. The large windows, blocked fireplace and strangely position bath show that this room was originally a bedroom.

It is also worth noting that though the internal doors and doorframes of the south wing are square, the two doorways that link this later extension with the central bay have four-centred arches.

#### 6.3 A change of use

When built in the 1890s the Lodge was small: a single room on the ground floor, with an outhouse across the archway, and two rooms upstairs, one of which had no window. If there was living accommodation here it was small, though it does appear to have had two fireplaces. Alternatively the Lodge may originally have been no more than a shelter for a lodge-keeper, someone to greet and direct visitors to the big house and the estate.

The addition of the south wing in the early 20th century would have made the Lodge a dwelling sufficient for a family. This was most likely also when the window was inserted in the upper room.

Indeed this extension may signal the point at which the building ceased to function as a lodge, even though it retained the name. The First World War literally decimated the staff of big country estates everywhere, while the new, faster motor vehicles swept past where slower horse-drawn carriages and carts used to plod.



Figure 16: Chimneys on the Lodge...



Figure 17:...and on Doddershall House.

## 6.4 Decorative or functional?

The plain structure of the Lodge is at odds with some of its higher-quality components.

The three tall octagonal chimney stacks on either side of the archway are out of scale with such a modest building. Although they served fireplaces inside the Lodge, their main intended function was clearly decorative: to mirror the 16th-century chimney stacks on Doddershall House itself. Their style matches exactly.

The four moulded wooden pillars that stand at the corners of the driveway arch are also decorative and have no structural function. The brick base of the north-western pillar has broken away, revealing a straight brickwork joint with the building's main plinth, showing that the pillars were added after the main structure had been built.

Another example can be seen in the heavily moulded, black-stained beams

on the upper floor which share the same moulded profiles as the pillars. The disjunction between these beams and the purlins of the roof structure indicates that these too are more decorative than structural. They may have been inserted after the roof had been built.

That identical mouldings should be used for both horizontal beams and vertical pillars is unusual — another indicator that they were most likely not cut for the Lodge, but brought from elsewhere.

The same can probably be said for the six matching doorways with single-panelled polished doors topped by four-centred arches. This form of arch was in use from the 15th to 17th centuries.<sup>11</sup>

The staircase, though not high-status, has complex turned balusters, a moulded banister rail and newel posts with moulded corners – but in several places these have been crudely fixed together. The staircase has been brought from elsewhere and made to fit. The style of the balusters

and the aging of the wood, perhaps oak, also suggest that the original staircase is more likely to date from the 17th or 18th centuries than the 1890s. <sup>12</sup>

The fact that the leaded-light windows in metal frames are in three different styles – rectangular, diamond, and octagonal with coloured diamond insets – suggest that they too were not made for this building but have been recycled from elsewhere.

So while the Lodge may have been new in the 1890s, many of its component parts may be older.

#### 7 INTERPRETATION:

## THE HISTORIC VALUE OF THE LODGE

Age is only one indicator of the historic value of a building. Its design, its fixtures and its contents also add to that value. And context matters: the building has value as an element in its surrounding historic landscape.

#### 7.1 Parts older than the whole

The Lodge at Doddershall may or may not be adapted from an earlier worker's cottage. But its main historic value lies – perhaps more than we have so far realised – in its component parts.

The staircase with turned balusters, the arched doors and doorframes, the heavily moulded beams and pillars – these all appear to be older than the Lodge itself. The same may apply to some of the leaded lights, perhaps even the moulded brick chimney stacks. Although the conscious copying of historic features became fashionable during the late 19th century, it seems unlikely that such expense would be afforded to a simple lodge, particularly if a source was available nearby.

Doddershall House dates from the early 16th century. It has tall octagonal chimney stacks in moulded brick, leaded casement windows, moulded cross beams, staircases with turned balusters. Originally a courtyard house, its north-west wing was removed in 1789 and the north-east wing rebuilt in the early 19th century. Panelling and carvings were certainly re-sited within the house, <sup>13</sup> so other features and fixtures from the 16th to 18th centuries may have been stored for later re-use. Some may be in the Lodge today. If so, then what we see at the Lodge may not only be of historic value in themselves but also clues to the earlier history of Doddershall House.

#### 7.2 The Lodge in its historic context

The estate of Doddershall is a historic landscape that dates back more than a thousand years. It is not unchanging. In the late 15th century its medieval open-field village was dispossessed and replaced by sheep. <sup>14</sup> In the 19th century the railways came. But it is a landscape in which we can read the history of our county. As the 16th-century Doddershall House holds its centre, so the Lodge, mirroring the great house, is its entrance.

# **8** CONCLUSIONS

# 8.1 The impact of HS2

If the construction of HS2 goes ahead the Lodge will be lost. The route of HS2 passes directly through the driveway arch. The HS2 Environmental Statement records the building's value as 'low' and states bluntly: 'The building will be demolished.' HS2 surveyors viewed the building externally but made no survey. The Environmental Statement offers neither survey nor rescue work before demolition.

## 8.2 Recommendations

#### Assessment and evaluation

- Work should be done to verify whether or not the central bay of the Lodge is an adaptation of an earlier building. This will require the removal of areas of external render and internal plasterwork and panelling to reveal the original structure of the building.
- Any building accounts held by the estate should be examined for details of the building and extension of the Lodge. These may reveal the source of its decorative features and fixtures.
- Historic features in Doddershall House should be examined, both as it is today and as it has
  changed in the past, should be examined to identify possible sources for the re-used internal
  features found at the Lodge.
- The low value given to the building by HS2 should then be reassessed in the light of the above investigations and appropriate mitigation measures applied by HS2 Limited.

#### **Mitigation**

Subject to the results of the above re-evaluation, the following measures are recommended if demolition becomes unavoidable:

- The historic features and fixtures of the Lodge should be carefully dismantled, marked and stored for future re-erection or display.
- Consideration should be given to the reconstruction of the Lodge, in full or in part, with its historic features and fixtures on a new and appropriate site.

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- 14. See I S Leadam, *The Domesday of Enclosures 1517-1518* (two volumes, London 1897, volume 1, pages 162-163 and 202, and Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, *The deserted medieval village of Doddershall* (Historic Landscape Report BAS/2013-02, Aylesbury 2013).
- 15. HS2 Environmental Statement (November 2013) Area CFA12: Waddesdon and Quainton, Appendices CH-002-012 and CH-003-012, Unique ID WAD036.