

## 1EW03 - Enabling Works Central

### AWHi – Summary Report at Doddershall Railway Cottages, Doddershall Embankment, Buckinghamshire, AC250/32

### 1C19RWCAR

Document no.: 1EW03-FUS\_COP-EV-REP-CS04\_CL20-000010

Revision	Author	Checked by	Approved by	Date approved	Reason for revision
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HS2 LTD-Code 1 - Accepted

# 1 Summary

- 1.1.1 Archaeological recording at Doddershall Railway Cottages comprised the investigation of one area, encompassing two fields (C25087) measuring c. 3.21ha. The site's location was selected to mitigate construction impacts arising as part of the HS2 Phase 1 Central Scheme of Works. Archaeological recording was undertaken from 13/08/2020 to 09/10/2020.
- 1.1.2 The site (centred on NGR 472670, 219998) lay within Community Forum Area (CFA) 12: Waddesdon and Quainton and Archaeological Character Sub Zone (ASZ) 7 (Doddershall Outer Estate), which comprised an area of large fields associated with the Grade II\* Listed Doddershall House, located c. 700m to the north-west.
- 1.1.3 Archaeological recording works targeted the Late Iron Age/early Roman, later Roman and medieval/post-medieval remains revealed during the preceding trial trench evaluation. It sought to define the location, extent, survival and significance of the remains of a Roman period moderately complex farmstead and associated domestic, industrial, craft and economic activities, its relationship with the wider landscape and whether activity continued into the 5th century.
- 1.1.4 Archaeological recording revealed the extensive remains of a moderately-sized farmstead, which was probably established early in the Roman period, though may have superseded or expanded upon a Late Iron Age settlement. The settlement lasted at least till the end of the Roman period and was probably superseded by more transient early medieval activity. The focus of the farmstead lay predominantly in RC South and was defined by a rectilinear enclosure system delineated by arrangements of broadly NW/SE aligned single and parallel ditches, which defined the principal area of settlement and measured c. 100m by 100m. There were also sub-dividing ditches, a floor surface/demolition deposit, clusters of pits and tree throws, postholes, four large probable waterholes/ponds and the remains of at least two possible roundhouses. In RC North the predominant pattern of archaeological remains was represented by rectangular stock enclosures, pits and arable bedding trenches. Occupation did not appear to extend into RC North, although the small cluster of pits and postholes was recorded, along with the remains of a cremation deposit. The probable focus of settlement in RC South was also axially aligned to a NW/SE aligned trackway, which appeared to divide the intensive settlement area to its south, from the area of more extensive stock enclosures and bedding trenches to its north.
- 1.1.5 In summary, the farmstead developed initially in the early Roman period, possibly superseding a small Late Iron Age agricultural settlement. It grew in size and complexity through the period and terminated around its end. The site's economy was founded primarily on pastoral agriculture, with some local arable land use and low-level craft/industrial activity acting in support of this economy. There is only a hint of early medieval activity, based principally on pottery evidence and the remains of furrows indicate only agricultural activity thereafter.