

1EW03 - Enabling Works Central

AWhi- Summary Report for Archaeological Record- ing at Doddershall Deserted Medieval Village

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1 Summary

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological recording at Doddershall Deserted Medieval Village (DMV), which comprised the investigation of one land parcel, comprising two areas (C25004, C25089) measuring c.2.21ha in total. The locations of the areas were selected to mitigate construction impacts arising as part of the HS2 Phase 1 Central Scheme of Works. The programme of archaeological recording was undertaken from 26/05/2020 to 09/07/2021.
- 1.1.2 The Site (centred on NGR 472280, 220440) was located within Community Forum Area CFA12 (Waddesdon and Quainton) and most of DMV South is located within Archaeological Character Sub Zone (ACSZ) 9, which is the site of the deserted medieval village of Doddershall. DMV North is located within Archaeological Character Sub Zone 10 and the south-eastern part is located within Archaeological Character Sub Zone 7. Both Archaeological Character Sub Zones 7 and 10 are associated with the outer estate of the medieval village and the 16th century estate of Doddershall House.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological recording works targeted the remains of the DMV, activities associated with its occupation and use and any potential evidence of preceding early medieval, as well as post-abandonment remains. The presence of these remains had been demonstrated by preceding desk-based investigations, the geophysical and LiDAR surveys and a Test Pit Evaluation of the Site. The works revealed extensive remains associated with the DMV.
- 1.1.4 Remains in DMV South proved to be the densest on the site, particularly in the central and north-western parts of the area. These were characterised by four north-west/south-east toft and croft strips, delineated by a system of ditches and gullies. Two house platforms, HP7 and HP6, were fully excavated and ponds, middens, and possible industrial features were recorded in the crofts. An isolated and undated cremation burial was also recorded. In the southern half of DMV North, the remains of the village included a 50m long north-west/south-east aligned rubble trackway. A north-east/south-west ditch associated with a metalled trackway was also recorded and is thought to represent the village's south-eastern boundary in this part of the DMV. A hearth containing broken but complete jugs and a midden was also recorded. The northern half of DMV North was bisected by a north-east/south-west aligned ditch, which defined the village's north-western boundary. Scatters of possible midden material were recorded on the north-west side of this ditch. Three rubble surfaces were recorded on its south-eastern side, which were probably associated with backyards within at least three tofts recorded here. Each had no obvious associated structural remains, except for one rubble wall and evidence of buried occupation soils.
- 1.1.5 The evidence of excavation suggests that the village was probably established in the 12th century, hypothetically superseding an earlier, 11th century settlement. The village expanded and became more complex between the 13th and 15th centuries, with episodes of abandonment, change of function and expansion, until its enforced abandonment in the 16th century.