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Dear [Clerk to the Parish Council]

Locally Important Historic Buildings and Sites on HS2 Route

The Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society has worked since 1847 to understand, record and celebrate all that is best in our county's heritage.

The society does not take a view on the business or financial merits or otherwise of the HS2 proposal. However, mindful of the potential impact of the scheme, it has recently researched a number of historic buildings and sites which lie on the line's route and are liable to be affected

Now that the preferred route for HS2 has been confirmed, the society is seeking to extend its preliminary survey work. We are particularly concerned that, while there are reasonably comprehensive records and registers of listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and conservation areas, many more locally important historic sites and buildings may be known only among the residents of a particular parish. Some of these places, it is not unreasonable to assume, would lie on or adjacent to the route of HS2 where it is projected to pass through your parish.

The Society would like to ask your parish council if it is aware of such places in your parish, or if it knows of individuals, or even a parish history society, who may be in possession of such information. If so, would you let us know? The Society can then consider how best to assess these places further. I should say that such assessment would be conditioned by the limited resource of researchers constituted by our Society's members, though we would be happy to involve the local community as far as possible.

Whether HS2 is built or not, it is important that locally significant places are identified and recorded. They are an important part of Buckinghamshire's heritage which we all hold in trust for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Marsden
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