



STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE ARCHIVE TRUST

Registered Charity number 1093071.

Development Management team,
Cherwell District Council,
Bodicote House,
Bodicote,
Banbury OX15 4AA

October 31st 2019

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Cedar Lodge, North Side, Steeple Aston

We write with regard to an application for planning permission and listed building consent to insert a "jib door" in a wall at first floor level in the above building.

This has come to our attention because SAVA conducted a historical survey of the house in 2012/13, as part of our programme of such surveys of historic houses in the village. We carried out the survey jointly with the Oxfordshire Buildings Record who, as you may know, are distinguished in this field right across the County of Oxfordshire. The survey report, which was made available to the previous owners of Cedar Lodge, was carefully checked by OBR's Chairman, Paul Clark (who inspected the house with SAVA on two occasions). We believe, therefore, that the report was as accurate as possible in its findings.

It is SAVA's view that a farmhouse existed on the site prior to the construction of the M-roof dwelling-house, and that the new building was butted up to a gable end wall of the farmhouse. The latter was then altered to provide various service functions for the enlarged dwelling, with openings between the two created as necessary. Over time, the earlier accommodation became incorporated into the house, with little or no separation of spaces used exclusively by the owners or their diminishing number of employees. For the last sixty years or so, there have probably been no "servants" at all.

SAVA therefore sees no reason why a carefully-designed jib door should not be inserted in a wall which may once have represented a division of sorts, but which has clearly not done so for a long period of time.

Yours sincerely

Martin Lipson, Chairman, SAVA