

**TAG Historic Environment Impacts Worksheet**

Feature	Step 2		Step 3		Step 4
	Description	Scale it matters	Significance	Rarity	Impact
Form	<p>The Junction Improvement Scheme is centred on the area of the M4 Junction 17. The area surrounding the scheme is made up of agricultural land with the M4 running east to west and the A429 and A350 running north to south. The historic environment surrounding M4 Junction 17 is comprised of archaeological and built heritage that shows evidence of human activity from the Neolithic Period until the Modern Era. In the immediate vicinity (within 1 km) of the M4 Junction 17 there is evidence of Medieval and 17th century occupation of the area such as farmsteads. There are no World Heritage Sites (WHS) or Scheduled Monuments (SM) within 1km of the scheme. The Stanton St Quintin Conservation Area is located within 1km of the scheme. Additionally, no listed buildings of any grade (I, II, or II*) are located within 1km of the M4 Junction 17.</p>	<p>The non-designated historic monuments, seven 19th century farmsteads, are the only heritage assets within the study area. These matter at a local level under the NPPF and DMRB methodologies.</p>	<p>In accordance with the methodology set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) the assets within the study area of low significance, based on current understanding. The non-scheduled monuments within the study area which consist of 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads ranging from robust survival to almost no original structure left, have low significance.</p>	<p>The form of the historic environment within the study area is not rare. 19th century farmsteads are common across the region.</p>	<p>The construction of the scheme will result in no temporary or permanent physical impacts to any heritage assets (designated or non-designated). The operation of the scheme would result in no temporary or permanent adverse impacts on the settings of designated assets (outside of the study area) due to the improvements of the M4 Junction 17.</p>
Survival	<p>Good to poor. While the individual assets may be well preserved, the overall historic environment has been degraded somewhat by the development of the M4 Junction 17. Within the scheme there are undisturbed areas as well as areas that have been previously investigated for development of the M4 and disturbed from associated works.</p>	<p>The survival of an asset may have an impact on its designation, however it is its designation which defines how much it matters under legislation, policy, and guidance</p>	<p>The survival of an asset may have an impact on its designation, however it is its designation which defines its significance under the methodology of DMRB.</p>	<p>The level of survival within the study area is not rare. 19th century farmsteads are common across the region.</p>	
Condition	<p>It is beyond the remit of this exercise to evaluate the condition of individual heritage assets. However, the condition of the known heritage assets within the study area is typical for the context</p>	<p>The condition of the historic environment within the study area matters at a local scale, as none of the assets are protected at a larger scale.</p>	<p>The condition of the historic environment within the study area is significant at a local level, contributing to local character and able to contribute to local research objectives</p>	<p>The condition of the historic environment within the study area is not rare.</p>	

Complexity	The historic environment of the study area is not complex. There are no designated heritage assets with the study area. The non-designated assets within the study area, all are representative of 19 <sup>th</sup> century farmsteads. This is consistent with how the landscape is being used contemporarily. This is an area of agricultural land use that is bisected by existing sections of motorway. There is little archaeological presence within this area.	The survival of the historic environment of this level of complexity matters at a local scale	The level of complexity of the historic environment in the study area is significant at a local level	The complexity of the historic environment within the study area is not rare.
Context	The presence of farmsteads within the study area, and the contemporary agricultural land use demonstrates the role of this area as farmland for an established period of time.	The context of the historic environment within the study area matters at a local scale, demonstrating local character and land-use and subject to local policies and guidance	The context of the historic environment is significant at a local level, able to contribute to local research objectives and providing local character.	The context of the historic environment within the study area, with 19th century farmsteads dispersed within modern settlement and infrastructure, is common.
Period	There are non-scheduled monuments within the study area that are all 19 <sup>th</sup> century farmsteads. Within close proximity to the study area there are more archaeological remains evident from the scheduled monuments ranging from the Medieval period to the 18 <sup>th</sup> century, and a non-scheduled monument representing a Romano-British burial dated to 43 AD - 409 AD.	As above, the period of an asset may have an impact on its designation, however it is its designation which defines how much it matters in legislation, policy, and guidance.	As above, the period of an asset or assets may have an impact on its designation, however it is its designation which defines its significance under the methodology of DMRB. The period of the non-designated assets as understood is taken into account for defining their significance. Additional investigation would be required to determine the significance of buried archaeological remains. Current baseline evidence suggests they would be of local significance.	The periods represented in the study area are not rare. 19th century farmsteads are common across the region.

#### Reference Sources

The National Heritage List for England. Local authority information relating to conservation areas and non-designated heritage assets. Edwards, B. (2014) Wiltshire Farmsteads Mapping Project Data. Forum Heritage Services. PRN601730. Edwards, B. Lake, J. (2014) Wiltshire & Swindon Farmsteads & Landscape Project. Forum Heritage Services. Lake, J. Edwards, B. (2014) Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads Guidance. Farmsteads. Assessment Framework. English Heritage and Wiltshire Council. Lake, J. Edwards, B. (2014) Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads Guidance. Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads Character Statement. English Heritage, Wiltshire Buildings Record, Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council.

#### Step 5 - Summary Assessment Score

Neutral Effect

#### Qualitative Comments

The construction of the scheme results in no permanent moderate adverse impacts on heritage assets in the vicinity of the M4 Junction 17. The improvements to the junction will result in no adverse impacts due to these works being carried out on existing junction and roads where any archaeological remains have already been identified by survey works or truncated/disturbed by previous construction activity. The operation of the scheme results in no adverse impacts on the settings of designated heritage assets.