

TAG Historic Environment Impacts Worksheet

	Step 2		Step 3		Step 4
Feature	Description	Scale it matters	Significance	Rarity	Impact
Form	The area is characterised by a mixture of urban, rural and agricultural landscape. The proposed route avoids any interaction with the urban town centre and residential expansion of Melksham. There are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Park and Gardens or Registered Battlefields in the study area. There are nine heritage assets that will be affected by the Proposed Scheme. These include eight Grade II Listed Buildings, comprising of The Folly, a 16th century timber-framed house, five farmhouses; Rhotteridge, Tankhouse, Old Loves, Blackmore House, Queenfield House dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. The Old Coach House and the 18th Old Railway House, previously a public house. The Proposed Scheme will also affect the Lacock Conservation Area which encompasses most of the listed buildings within the Study Area. Lacock Village, located approximately 180m north from the Proposed Scheme, is a rare example of a 14th-18th century village with 95 listed buildings and a Grade I listed Abbey, founded in the 13th century. Lacock Abbey is particularly important for being the home of William Fox Talbot, the inventor of the photographic negative and where he created the earliest surviving photographic negative in 1835, taken of a small window in the Abbey's South Gallery. There are also 309 non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area and 11 findspots, most of which are related to a Romano-British presence and medieval and post-medieval agricultural features. There is a significant medieval settlement known as Medieval Settlement, Southeast of Snarlton Farm (MWI3621) which comprises building platforms, hollow ways, field boundaries, a possible pond, ridge and furrow and plough headlands. The Medieval settlement of Redstocks is also located within the Site extent and there is also evidence of a historic Parkland, known as Sandridge Park. The Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal (MWI9472) dissects the middle portion of the Proposed Scheme. There is a strong, modern military presence in the landscape in the form of camps, residential houses and associated archaeological features (i.e. pillboxes, tank ditches). There are several findspots including Roman coins and pottery and a Bronze Age weapon and axehead.	The listed buildings and conservation areas are of national importance and are protected at a national level. Lacock Abbey, due to its connection with William Fox Talbot is of international importance. The non-designated archaeological features and remains including the areas of archaeological importance matter at a regional or local level. Given the multi-period assets, the landscape has some historic value.	The Grade I Abbey is of high significance. The Grade II Listed Buildings and conservation area are of medium significance and the non-designated archaeological remains are of medium and low significance. The significance of the Listed Buildings resides in both their historical and aesthetic associations. The significance of the archaeological remains relies in their evidential value.	The conservation area of Lacock is moderately rare nationally. Lacock Abbey is rare nationally. Listed buildings relating to agricultural farms and estates and post-medieval domestic buildings are relatively common both at a regional and national level, examples are well represented in the designated assets list. However, the extent and preservation of the Medieval Settlement, south east of Snarlton Farm is less common. Non-designated prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval archaeological features are also prevalent at both a national and regional level.	The area of the Scheme is within a varied landscape. There is likely to be limited impacts to some non-designated features including impact to archaeological remains of national significance such as the Medieval Settlement of Redstocks (MWI3625), and the Medieval Settlement of Southeast of Snarlton Farm (MWI3621). The adverse impacts to non-designated assets cannot be fully quantified at this stage, to establish the level of harm on known archaeological remains further assessment is required in the form of a desk-based assessment. The Proposed Scheme also has the potential to affect the settings of Lacock Conservation Area and a number of listed buildings; a setting assessment would establish to what degree.
Survival	Good. Although the historic landscape setting has degraded through the development of Melksham town and its residential outskirts, a number of individual assets maintain a good level of survival. A number of the listed buildings and the conservation area of Lacock survive in good condition. The state of survival of the non-designated archaeological remains is not currently known - it is advised that this is assessed at further assessment through consultation with the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist. However, desk based assessment has shown some initial evidence of good survival of Medieval Settlement of Redstocks (MWI3625), and the Medieval Settlement of Southeast of Snarlton Farm (MWI3621).	Generally, survival of Listed Buildings and preservation of conservation areas matter on a regional to national scale. The survival of non-designated heritage assets mainly matters on a local to regional scale, however, there are exceptions where non-designated assets could be considered as mattering on a national scale if deemed to be of high value. The Medieval settlement of Redstocks (MWI3625), and the Medieval Settlement of Southeast of Snarlton Farm (MWI3621) could be examples of this.	The survival of the Listed Buildings is important to understand the development of villages/town and their use from the medieval to the modern period onwards. Due to many of the non-designated heritage assets being associated with the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods, survival of the non-designated heritage assets is important to understand the utilisation and development of a rural settlements, industry and economy in this landscape. The non-designated heritage assets at this site have the potential to inform understandings of lived Medieval life and organisation of rural settlements.	Within the study area, the non-designated assets of Medieval Settlement of Redstocks (MWI3625), and the Medieval Settlement of Southeast of Snarlton Farm (MWI3621) appear to have a good survival and extent which is rare on a regional and national level. Further investigation and a desk-based and ground level would yield more information and detail about the extent of the rarity.	
Condition	It is beyond the remit of this exercise to evaluate the condition of individual heritage assets, the condition of the historic environment as a whole is evaluated in the 'survival' and 'form' sections.	The condition of the conservation area matters on a national scale. The condition of Listed Buildings matters on a regional to national scale. The condition of non-designated heritage assets mainly matters on a local to regional scale, however, there are exceptions, such as here, where non-designated assets could be considered as mattering on a national scale if deemed to be of high value.	Overall condition of the cultural heritage landscape is of moderate significance. Condition of some non-designated assets is of indeterminate significance.	The potential for archaeological survival is currently unknown. However the presence within the study area of known archaeological remains, both designated and non-designated, suggests that outside the existing development and road corridors, there is potential for surviving archaeological remains.	
Complexity	The historic environment in the study area is complex. The archaeological find spots, designated and non-designated assets demonstrate clear activity within the area spanning multiple periods. The medieval agricultural features form the bulk of the historic landscape, while the non-designated assets demonstrate the evolution of use of this landscape over subsequent periods. The listed buildings are associated with agricultural estates, as well as domestic and public buildings which, whilst dating from the 16th-18th centuries are possibly associated with earlier agricultural settlements. Non-designated archaeological remains and find spots suggest the potential for multi-period archaeological remains within the study area and site extent.	Generally it is considered that the complexity of Listed Buildings matters on a regional to national scale. The complexity of non-designated heritage assets mainly matters on a local to regional scale, however, there are exceptions, such as here, where non-designated assets could be considered as mattering on a national scale if deemed to be of high value.	The complexity of the designated and non-designated heritage assets is not of national significance.	The study area is not rare in terms of complexity either nationally or regionally.	
Context	The designated assets are set within a multi-faceted landscape of urban, rural, parkland and agriculture field pattern, with nucleated groups in areas of historic settlements. The study area includes the conservation area of Lacock which despite having already been impacted by the A350, maintains some of the historic integrity of landscape and setting particularly to south and east of the conservation area.	Generally, the context of Listed Buildings matters on a regional to national scale. Lacock Abbey, due to its connection with William Fox Talbot is of international importance. The context of conservation areas matters on a regional level to national level. The context of non-designated heritage assets mainly matters on a local to regional scale, however, there are exceptions where non-designated assets could be considered as mattering on a national scale if deemed to be of high value. The Medieval settlement of Redstocks (MWI3625), and the Medieval Settlement of Southeast of Snarlton Farm (MWI3621) could be examples of this.	At this stage it is considered that the context of the designated and non-designated heritage assets is of regional significance.	The context of the study area is notable but is not rare regionally or nationally.	
Period	The designated assets date from multiple periods. The listed buildings date to the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The conservation area of Lacock contains 95 listed buildings which date from the 16th-19th centuries. The Grade I listed Lacock Abbey dates from the 13th century and is particularly important for being the home of William Fox Talbot, the inventor of the photographic negative. Sandridge Park and landscape garden dates to the 16th-20th periods. Non-designated archaeological remains within the study area date to the prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. Archaeological findspots date from the prehistoric, Bronze Age, Roman and medieval periods. The Proposed Scheme's close proximity to the River Avon also has the likelihood of palaeoenvironmental remains being present within the Proposed Scheme extent	The periods captured by the assets matter on regional scales.	At this stage it is considered that the period of the designated and non-designated heritage assets is considered to be of minor significance.	The later prehistoric to modern periods are not uncommon in this region.	

Reference Sources

The National Heritage List for England for Listed Buildings, Registered Parks & Gardens, Scheduled Monuments and Local Authority for Special Character Areas, Conservation Areas, Archaeological Priority Areas, Areas of Archaeological Search

Step 5 - Summary Assessment Score

The overall effect on the historic environment resource is considered to be slight adverse.

Qualitative Comments

There is unlikely to be any substantial impact to designated assets and listed buildings. There is likely to be a moderate adverse impact to the setting of the Lacock Conservation area however, mitigation measures could be put in place to reduce this. There is likely to be a moderate impact on the non-designated heritage asset identified as Medieval Settlement of Redstocks (MWI3625), and the Medieval Settlement of Southeast of Snariton Farm (MWI3621). At this stage, the Scheme is considered to result in an overall slight adverse effect on the known historic environment.