



# Semington Parish Character Statement

**May 2024**

# 1 Introduction and Background

A Character Statement is a description of important and locally distinctive features of the parish as a whole and the settlement pattern and built and landscape character areas within it. It also includes character, conservation and development 'cues' to inform any changes that will take place in the parish - whether for new buildings, or for existing buildings. It does not state whether or where developments should take place.

This Character Statement is an appendix to the Semington Neighbourhood Plan, linking to content within the main body of the Plan and containing information relevant to policies and as such will be a 'material consideration' as part of the Development Plan for Semington.

The core aim of the statement is to help ensure the design of any future developments conserves and strengthens Semington's character and distinctiveness across the varied neighbourhoods and rural environments of the parish.

The objectives are to:

- Describe the distinctive character of the villages, hamlets and to some extent the wider parish, and those aspects of its built and natural environment that the community most value
- Set out clear design / development 'cues' to guide future development proposals in the parish
- Be a user-friendly tool for planners, developers, designers and community members

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) places great importance on design quality:

**“Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development”**

The NPPF also reflects the importance the government places on local character and the involvement of local people in the design of new development:

**“Design policies should be developed with local communities so they reflect local aspirations, and are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each area's defining characteristics.”**

**“Development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design”**

The National Design Guide sets high level principles to be used to guide decisions on applications legislation in the absence of locally produced design guides or codes.

Wiltshire Council is informally consulting on the potential to create a county-wide Design Guide to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). But first, we are looking to gauge initial thoughts on this proposal.

Potential applicants can and should use national and future adopted Wiltshire character guidance and national good practice including “Building for a Healthy Life”, National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code.

## Who should use this document?

Semington Character Statement is a tool to use in connection with any planning or other development application or to inform minor changes to buildings and structures in the Parish.

It is intended to be of use to:

- Local residents, businesses and landowners who may wish to improve or add to their homes, or business premises should refer to the guide when shaping their proposals to help them fit well into and improve Semington's character.
- Designers, developers and planning professionals involved with new build developments are encouraged to refer to the guide in considering feasibility and design at pre-application proposals as well as engage in pre-application discussions with the Parish Council.
- Wiltshire Planning Authority and the Parish Councillors should use the statement and guide in assessing development proposals to make comments and to resolve decisions.

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## 2. Parish Character Areas

Semington Parish is characterised by the three distinct settlements of Semington and Littleton set within an extensive open rural landscape south of the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The following pages present an analysis of identified distinct areas in the Parish to provide character, conservation and development 'cues' to inform future development, stewardship and enhancement of each character area as summarised below and shown on map 1:

### Rural Landscape

The expansive and open landscape that simultaneously connects and sub-divides the distinct parish settlements and those beyond. The settlement edge is the key element for the purpose of this Character Assessment - the wider landscape is analysed in detail in the Semington NP Landscape and Visual Appraisal 2022 which is a key part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan and should be read alongside this document.

### Semington Historic Core

The linear core reflecting Semington's historic economic relationship with the Kennet and Avon and Wilts and Berks Canals.

### Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Semington

The distinct twentieth and twenty-first century housing growth largely to the west, reflecting the village's changing role and attractiveness as a place to live and changed approaches to house building.

### Semington Industrial Area

A distinct employment focus to the south of the village characterised by single storey industrial units and depot at the southern gateway to Semington.

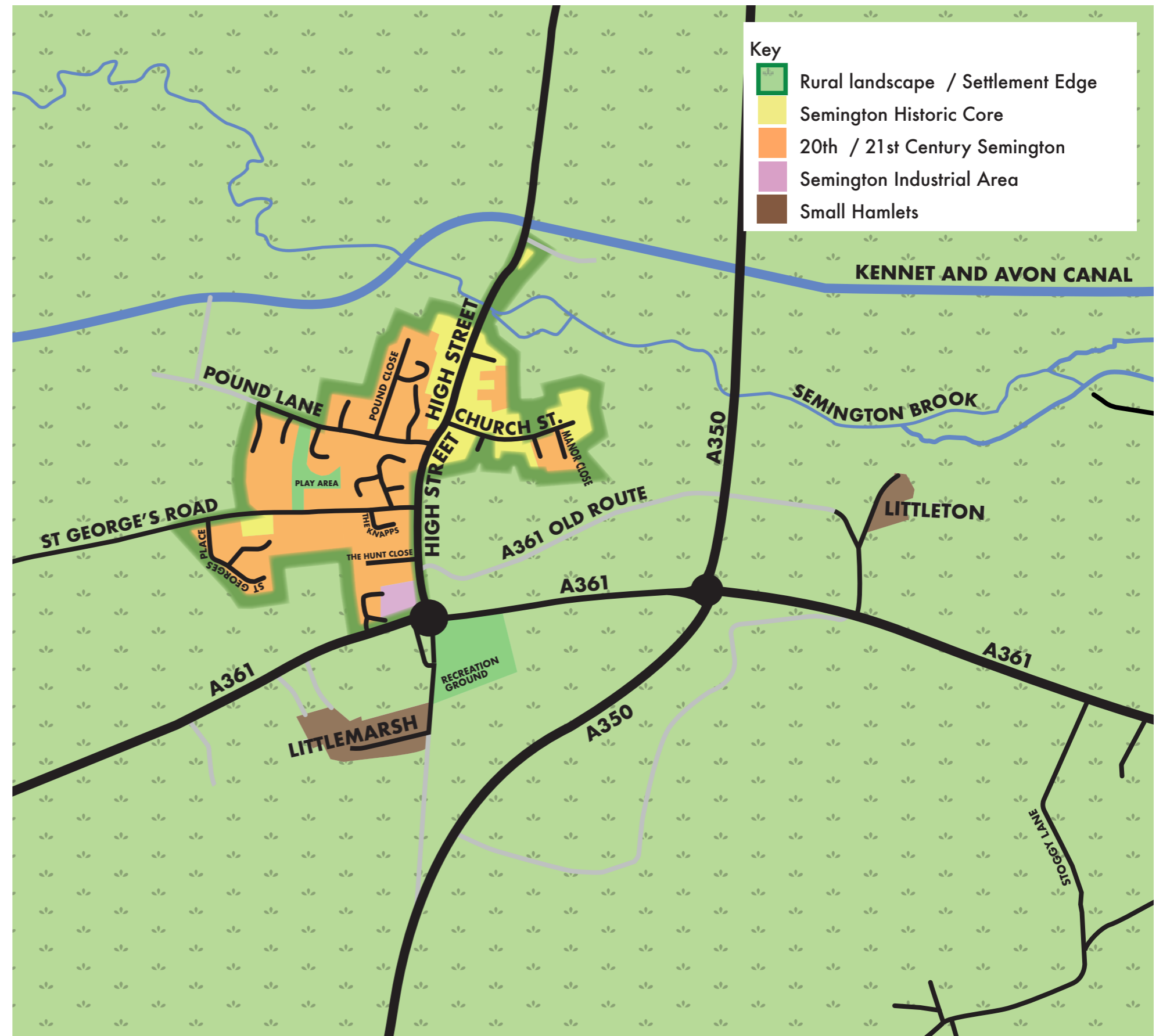
### Little Marsh

A small community to the south of Semington village focused on a single culs-de-sac lane set within a level rural landscape.

### Littleton

An historic rural hamlet set within a level landscape of mature hedgerow and trees-lined lanes with dispersed farms and large houses in substantial plots.

Map 1: Character Areas



## 2.a Rural Landscape - Settlement Edge and Natural Features

Semington Parish is described by the Parish Council as 'actively rural'. Its landscape of fields, hedgerow trees and waterways are highly valued by the local community. The parish and settlement of Semington is generally well vegetated with a strong and varied network of mature native hedgerow field boundaries and mature hedgerow trees.

The immediate setting to Semington village is variable. Apart from the southern edge adjacent to the A361, the village is surrounded by farmland and paddocks. The north, north-east and eastern edge of Semington appears well vegetated and verdant, with the occasional property that is more visually prominent, i.e. less enclosed by vegetation. The far eastern edge of the settlement extends to the Grade II Listed property Manor Farm and its associated large agricultural barns and outbuildings, with land that appears unkempt and overgrown with scrub, and various agricultural machinery and materials that appear disused/neglected. The western edge of the settlement is generally well vegetated and integrated with surrounding fields/countryside. When looking towards the village, the ambient two storey tiled roofs of detached and semi detached homes within the tree-scape provides a soft and subtle presence of the village behind the network of field hedgerows.

The wider landscape is appreciated for its tranquility and wide range of benefits to people and wildlife. Major roads (A350 / A361) cross the parish, but there is little visual or audible intrusion from the roads perceived in the landscape around the village of Semington. The Semington NP Landscape and Visual Appraisal 2022 has identified areas of different landscape sensitivities in the Parish and is a key evidence document to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Locally valued views have been identified and mapped in a Key Views Report (also part of the evidence base to the Neighbourhood Plan) which will inform a policy in the Neighbourhood Plan and have been assessed by a chartered Landscape Architect (Semington NP Landscape and Visual Appraisal 2022) as having high value at a local level, and a large proportion considered to hold high value at a national or regional scale.

Natural features in and around the settlement contribute to the positive character of the landscape of the Parish. Riparian vegetation such as willow and poplar are seen along the corridor of Semington Brook and its tributary streams, for example as seen around Semington Brook and The Mill at Littleton. These provide valuable wildlife habitats and wildlife

corridors. In other areas, the banks of Semington Brook are less rich in habitats and variety due to more intensive land management. The Canal is also a key wildlife area and is designated as a County Wildlife Site.

Notable mature trees with some exotic species are also seen in and around the settlements. These are frequently associated with larger properties (often historic) such as land associated with Brook House to the north of the settlement of Semington and private land opposite St George's Court. Other prominent mature trees of note are those located near the A361 roundabout and the High Street approach to Semington and Little Marsh.

### KEY DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS / CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT CUES

#### WIDER LANDSCAPE

- Openness with a range of identified locally valued views
- Mature hedgerow and field trees
- Distinct rural separation between villages and Melksham
- Setting of Kennet and Avon Canal
- Setting and character of historic farm buildings

#### SETTLEMENT EDGE

- Rural boundaries well-defined by retained and new native hedge and trees. Development should avoid the use of high fencing or walls along the outer boundaries adjacent to the landscape
- Larger rear garden plots and tree planting

#### BUILT FORM

- Maximum building height of two storeys
- Pitched tile roofs with chimneys
- External lighting and windows to avoid light pollution
- Signage design and position to avoid harm to rural character

#### ACCESS

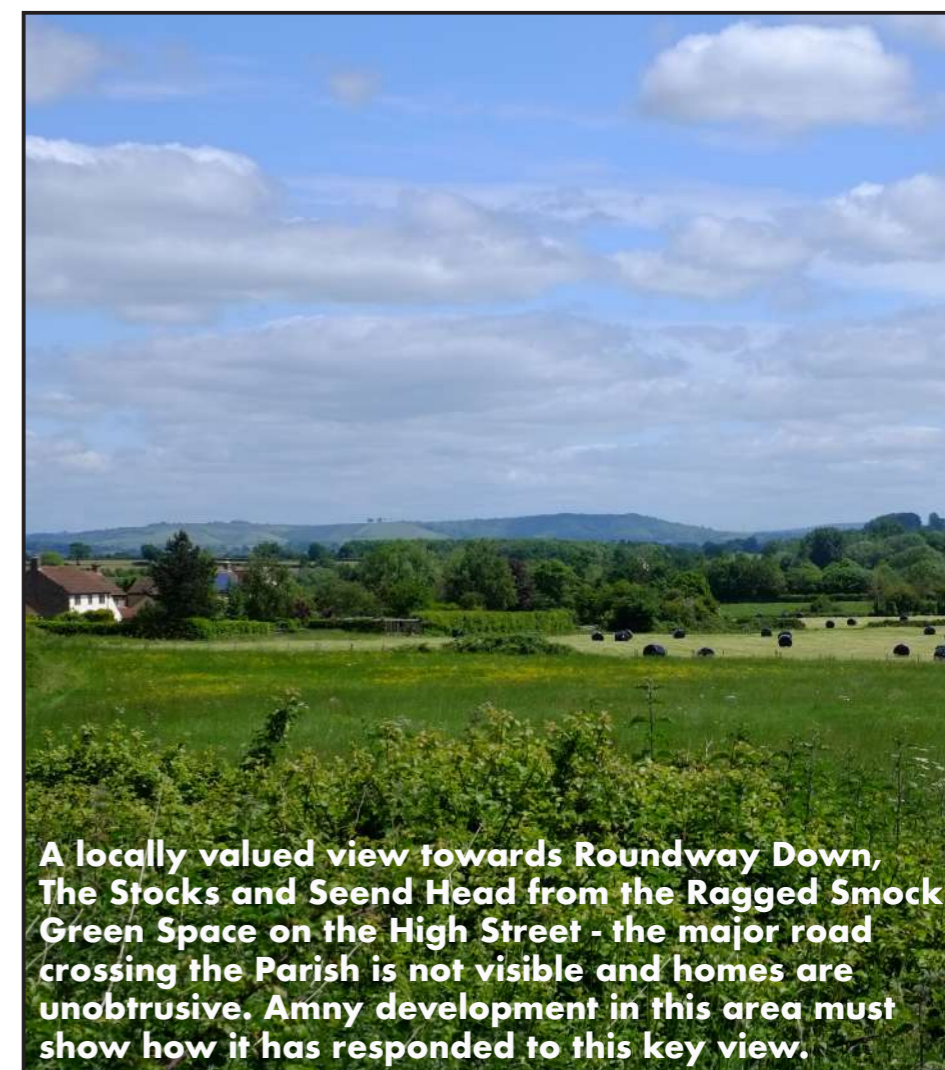
- Connection to Public Rights of Way maintained or created

#### ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Reinforcement of the network of Green and Blue Infrastructure
- Soften the appearance of built form at this edge through the planting of trees and enhancement of hedgerows.
- Renovation of the disused route of the old A361 offers potential for recreational activities to a variety of uses. This could improve the visual amenity of potential users accessing the route at Littleton. This could also improve access to Littleton.

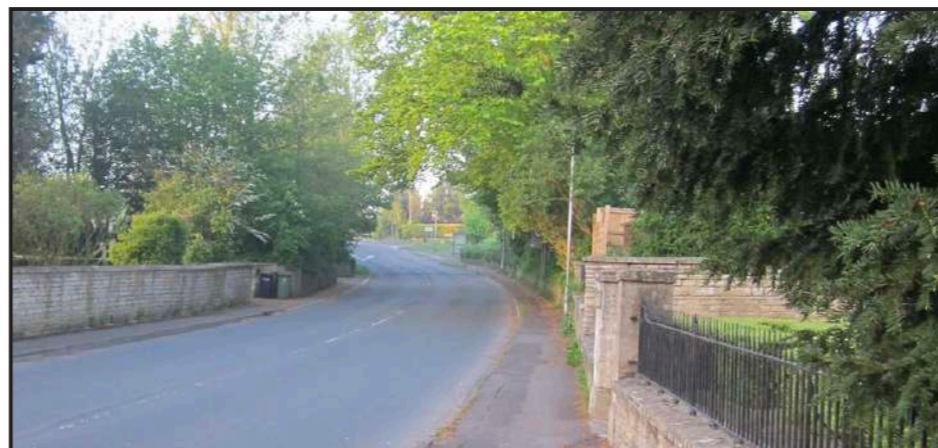


The well vegetated western edge of Semington as seen from the Kennet and Avon Canal



## 2.b Semington Village Character: Historic Core

The village core contains nearly all of Semington's historic development except St George's Hospital. The linear village may be considered in four distinct sections connected by their shared historic importance and need for a conservation led approach to future development.



### 1. High Street between the Canal and Semington Brook

The elevated canal bridge gateway into the village passes through a rural landscape with important long views across Semington Brook meadows to the east and west until the High Street crosses the Brook and becomes enclosed by large trees as it passes Brook House. This route is an important component of distinct character that must be protected.



### 2. The village centre from the tree-lined Brook House "gateway" to the curve and dramatic vista of Semington House at Pound Lane.

The historic core of the village is characterised by nearly continuous frontages of individual buildings and small terraces, the Somerset Arms public house and green space reflecting the history of Semington's development and community life. The village centre retains its historic focal role, which has been re-discovered by the removal of through traffic and by community focal points such as the Village Hall and the green.



### 3. High Street (South)

The wider southern section of the High Street south from Pound Lane to the junction with the A361 roundabout and Toll House village gateway.

The historic High Street alignment is retained but has been substantially widened to accommodate former "A" road traffic. It forms a tree lined boundary between Semington's 20th Century growth to the west and its retained close relationship with the countryside to the east. The southern gateway to the village is strongly defined by the combination of the historic Toll House and the A361 roundabout. A mature oak is a noticeable feature at the junction of St George's Road and the High Street.



### 4. Church Street and Manor Farm

Running east from the High Street and terminated by Manor Farm. The church of St George is the focus of the semi-rural route that now contains a range of semi-detached and detached 20th Century houses, and includes a home which is a sympathetic conversion of the old school house/chapel. The lane reflects a transition between the High Street and the rural lane as it progresses to Manor Farm.

## 2.b Semington Village Character: Historic Core - Key Recorded Features

### SCALE and FORM

Residential scale of predominantly two storeys with three storey Georgian villas, Brook House and St George's Church providing focal and gateway elements. Some 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalows. Anomaly of car sales and former petrol filling station and canopy harms continuity and heritage character, whilst contributing to economy.

Detached and semi-detached with pronounced variation of building line and plot size. Majority of properties set back within garden plots with land to side. Some back of pavement and at 90 degrees to street. Trees and garden landscape provides a significant unifying and rural character.

### GARDENS and BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

Gardens behind low walls to domestic frontages add positively to the High Street character. Differing materials and treatments reflect variety in building style. Some frontage enclosure lost to car parking.

Church Road reflects a more rural character with grass verges, hedges, high stone walls in places and the estate fencing to the Church of St George.

### WINDOWS

Large variety of window sizes and styles, but largely authentic to the architecture and historic role of buildings. Significant proportion of alteration to white UPVC.

### MATERIALS

Varied materials representing the variety of building typologies and ages within the village core.

Heritage fabric includes timber frame and render, Ashlar and coursed stonework, stone tiles, brickwork and painted render with stone quoins and window surrounds to larger buildings. Simple painted render facades to more modest cottage terraces and stone porches on the cottages next to canal.

20<sup>th</sup> Century additions include painted render and Bath stone faced block-work and brick.

### ROOFS

Mixture of pitched, hipped and gable fronted roof treatments. Mixture of stone and clay tiles. Some use of slate for cottage scale terraces.

Chimneys make significant contribution to roofscape character.

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- Conserved features including frontage walls, railings, building details such as porches, together with seating and telephone box adds to the completeness and character of the village centre.
- The absence of highway markings and through traffic along the High Street (and north to the canal) make a strong contribution to reinforcing the heritage character, with a tranquil sense of place within the village centre.
- Village/parish information boards provide interpretation and interest.
- Significant listed buildings which bookend the High Street – to the south are the large, grand Georgian buildings of Semington House and Highfield House, and at the northern end, Brook House (with notable trees) and 1 High Street.



## KEY DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS / CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT CUES

### SCALE and FORM

- Residential scale of predominantly two storeys with three storey Georgian villas
- Some 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalows
- Detached, semi-detached and detached with pronounced variation of building line and plot size
- Majority of properties set back within garden plots
- Some back-of pavement and at 90 degrees to street

### WINDOWS & DOORS

- Varied window sizes and styles, authentic to the architecture and historic role of buildings

### MATERIALS

- Varied authentic to building typologies and ages within the village core
- Heritage fabric includes timber frame and render, Ashlar and coursed stonework, stone tiles, brickwork and painted render with stone quoins and window surrounds to larger buildings. Simple painted render facades to more modest cottage terraces and stone porches on the cottages next to canal

### ROOFS

- Mixture of pitched, hipped and gable fronted roof treatments. Mixture of stone and clay tiles. Some use of slate for cottage scale terraces
- Chimneys make significant contribution to roofscape character

### ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Car sales site redevelopment potential to restore townscape character
- Replacement of UPVC windows with conservation quality frames
- Reinstatement of frontage boundary walls, lost to car parking
- Enhanced tree planting and carriageway narrowing and speed restraints( in High Street (South)
- De-cluttering and management of Manor Farm fields to north of Church Street

## 2c. Semington Village Character: 20th & 21st Century Neighbourhoods

As highlighted earlier, Semington has seen incremental housing growth from the 1960s onwards. Whilst some of this has been through infill within the historic village structure, the great majority has been and continues to be through small estate developments to the west of the old village.

Twentieth century Semington extends west of the High Street from south of Brook House to the boundary with the A361

Twentieth century Semington was largely developed field plot by field plot, west along historic Pound Lane and St George's Road in small public sector and private estate culs-de-sacs. The pattern and forms of development do not reference or continue Semington's historic linear development or its pre-twentieth century character. Whilst there is great variety in architecture the extent of this growth, along with its relationship with St George's School has created a community and character area that maintains important community focus.

The relationship with the surrounding rural landscape, residual paddocks including Church Field and the presence of retained lane side hedgerow and suburban garden landscape help bind the varied styles into a more unified and distinct quality of place with a landscape presence that relates more to the historic village.

Council housing was added along Pound Lane after the war, with the period from the 1960s to the millennium seeing further private sector housing development there and along St George's Road and Church Street.

Recent times have seen further building along St George's Road and at the Turnpike. Most of these developments have been small scale and have included affordable housing.

A selection of these housing areas are summarised on this page.

### THE HUNT CLOSE

*Individual spacious detached properties. Interesting brick patterns and designs on some of the original, historic properties. Large front gardens, trees.*



### TURNPIKE CLOSE

*Social housing; two bedroom properties, solar panels, built in 2000s. Small front gardens, driveways. Communal play area separates the houses from the neighbouring industrial units. Able to hear significant traffic from the main road (9pm+).*



### WESSEX CLOSE

*Detached spacious 4+ bedroom properties (1990s), double garages, large front drives; very quiet cul-de-sac. Backs onto play area and the village school.*



### HIGHFIELD CLOSE

*Detached and semi-detached properties with garages. One part of the Close seems very 'hemmed in' with parked cars causing congestion whilst the rest is quite spacious. Trees, hedging a mixture of styles, individual for privacy. The area used for parking at school drop off.*



### THE KNAPPS

*Spacious 1960/70s detached and semi-detached houses; low front walls. A few bungalows, with views of the fields and beyond. Red brick and tiles to the front, decor. A mix of hedges.*



### POUND LANE

*A mix of housing ages and styles along this lane - several set far back from the road behind hedges. Pound Close is accessed off the lane and is a quiet area with a mix of ownership and types. In part of the Close there are four detached homes - all built at different times, very private, built in grounds of the former Manor House*



## 2.c Semington Village Character: 20th & 21st Century Neighbourhoods - Key Recorded Features

### SCALE and FORM

Predominantly two storey housing with some bungalow development in clusters and cul de sacs of a mixture of standard housing designs. Grade II listed St George's Hospital continues to be the dominant landmark built form within the character area. Hedgerow, trees and views out into the open country provide the ambient place making qualities.

### GARDENS and BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

Suburban front gardens, hedges and residual lane hedges combine to soften and connect the estate clusters and enable a less impactful relationship with Semington's rural setting. Along Pound Lane and St Georges Road there are however poor examples of high garden fencing and over-engineered accesses that fragment this continuity. This is also notable along the west side of the southern section of the High Street where housing in The Knapps backs onto the road and rear fences and unplanted banks fragment the tree-lined and rural approach to the village. More recent estate development now being constructed has adopted an approach of retaining the lane-side hedgerows enabling nature conservation and softening the "suburbanisation" of Semington's lanes.

### MATERIALS

Varied standard 20th century building materials including brick, concrete block-work and render.

### ROOFS

Pitched and hipped with feature gables and dormers. Larger properties tiled.

### WINDOWS

Varied twentieth century forms consistent with the age and design of housing developments.

Replacement of wooden windows and doors with UPVC widespread.

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- Grade II listed St Georges Hospital is a distinct historic landmark.
- St Georges School - a community focal point.
- Wessex Close Play Area has an equipped children's play area and a playing field both of which need upgrading.
- Existing lanes and PRow's connect to the countryside and pedestrian routes weave between them.
- Church Field adjacent to Wessex Close is a large green area.
- Pound lane's northern rural boundary provides wide connecting views to the canal and beyond.



### KEY DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS / CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT CUES

#### SCALE and FORM

- 20th and 21st century development combines two storey housing with some bungalow development in clusters and culs-de-sac of a mixture of standard housing designs. Future development should deliver north-south pedestrian connections between lanes.

#### LANDSCAPE, GARDENS AND BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

- Retained hedgerow, trees and views out into the open country provide a strong visual connection with the countryside.
- Suburban front gardens, hedges and residual lane hedges combine to soften and connect the estate clusters and enable a less impactful relationship with Semington's rural setting.
- High garden fencing and over-engineered accesses fragment this continuity and are not supported.
- 21st Century development has adopted an approach of retaining the lane-side hedgerows enabling nature conservation and softening the "suburbanisation" of Semington's lanes. (See also Rural Boundaries)

#### ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- St George's Road; strengthened boundary hedge reinstatement
- Pound Lane and The Knapps; enhanced tree and hedge planting
- North-south permissive path linking St George's Road and Pound Lane via Church Field
- Wessex Close Play Area

## 2.d Industrial Areas - Key Recorded Features

Semington contains two distinct employment locations either side of the junction of High Street and the A361.

To the west, the Turnpike Industrial Estate contains two terraces of single storey units constructed of brick and steel. The site is heavily screened by mature trees and hedge boundary planting except on its southern A361 boundary.

To the east is a Wiltshire Council gritting depot.

This is also heavily screened with very little visual impact on the village gateway from the A361 roundabout.



### KEY DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS / CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT CUES

#### SCALE and FORM

Existing industrial estate development of about 1.5 residential storeys minimises the visual impact on the surrounding residential neighbourhoods and enables development to create standardised space and external service areas.

#### MATERIALS

Existing steel cladding is in good repair. Where visible from the highway, building design and condition are not harmful to the character of south gateway to the High Street. However, boundary treatment is fragmented adjacent to the bus stop.

#### BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

To enable both sites to operate and potentially change to meet future employment needs, it is essential that existing boundary planting is retained and bolstered where it is denuded.

#### ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Boundary landscape strengthening to screen the Industrial Estate to A361 and adjacent housing areas
- Potential for regeneration or remediation of existing depot

## 2.e Little Marsh

Small residential community to south of Semington village west of old A360, focused on single cul-de-sac lane set within level rural landscape. Large verges line the old A350 into Little Marsh with established trees.

### SCALE and FORM

Diverse building styles and ages with mixed building line. Two storey detached and semi-detached houses and detached bungalows. Possibly former terraced cottages to Little Marsh gateway.

### GARDENS AND BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

Small frontages on south side of road, but large back gardens looking out over farmland towards Hag Hill.

All have garages and driveways

No trees in front gardens on south side of road.



### MATERIALS

Mix of painted brickwork, exposed brickwork, and reconstituted Bath stone blocks.

### ROOFS

Concrete roof tiles.

### WINDOWS

No prevailing style

### KEY DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS / CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT CUES

- This is a compact and discreet area with diverse building styles and forms. As such any development in this area should ensure that gardens and boundary treatments avoid suburbanising features.
- Any increase in settlement size must ensure a green gap between it and nearby settlements.
- Further tree planting along the large verges lining the old A350 and improved pedestrian connections present enhancement opportunities.

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- The A361 separates Little Marsh and neighbouring sports facilities from Semington village. However, Semington Roundabout and Toll House are significant historic and contemporary gateway landmarks to the south of the High Street.
- No verges along main Little Marsh road, but there is a tree / hedgerow lined grass strip at the end of the road, approx. 2m wide by 130m long. It runs north to south with the northern end leading onto public footpath SEMI12, but the southern end terminates in trees and hedgerow.
- Little Marsh gateway: Stone and slate roof cottages and The Old Cow Byre – detached cottage style bungalow and smallholding with barns and shepherds' huts and a number of ducks and chickens and a wild-flower meadow on the property.
- Semington football club is also located off the old A350 at Little Marsh.
- West Wiltshire Crematorium, east of Little March set within mature and semi-mature trees and landscape.



## 2.f Littleton Hamlet

Very low density rural hamlet within a level landscape setting of mature hedgerow and trees-line lanes with dispersed farms, large Georgian houses and twentieth century bungalows set in large plots with long drives.

### SCALE and FORM

Larger scale detached houses  
Two and three storey Georgian houses  
Dormer windows  
Farms with outbuildings  
Bungalows

### GARDENS AND BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

Large garden plots  
Long driveways



### MATERIALS

Red brick  
Dressed Bath stone  
Yellow/cream render

### ROOFS

Primarily pitched roofs with either stone tiles or clay pan tiles

### WINDOWS

Georgian style windows

### KEY DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS / CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT CUES

- This small hamlet is comprised of mainly grade II listed buildings and should be protected and enhanced as the setting to these buildings of special historic and architectural interest. Listed building consent will be needed for listed buildings and all buildings in this area will need to be sensitive to the built and natural environment.

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- Continuous hedgerow and treescape and farm buildings create the distinctiveness of this hamlet.
- The quietest part of the parish with the Kennet & Avon canal to the north and extensive water meadows to the south and east where Semington Brook runs from Salisbury Plain forming the boundary with Seend parish.
- The 18th century Littleton Mill, rebuilt in the early 1800s, was converted from a woollen fulling mill to a corn mill in 1887, with barley being milled here until 1976. It has an important association with a machine-breaking riot in 1802 during which the woollen mill was burnt down. Thomas Hellicker a shearman from Trowbridge was hung in 1803 for alleged arson; his probable innocence led to his status as a hero in Wiltshire industrial workers' history.



### 3. Local Heritage

Alongside the officially designated heritage assets, which are protected by national listed (such as Grade I / II /II\*) and local Wiltshire policy, there are a number of non-designated local heritage assets that are important to the local community and contribute significantly to the local character and are found across the Parish in the various character areas.

Identification of these locally important assets as part of the Neighbourhood Plan gives the community of Semington the opportunity to give these assets consideration within the planning process.

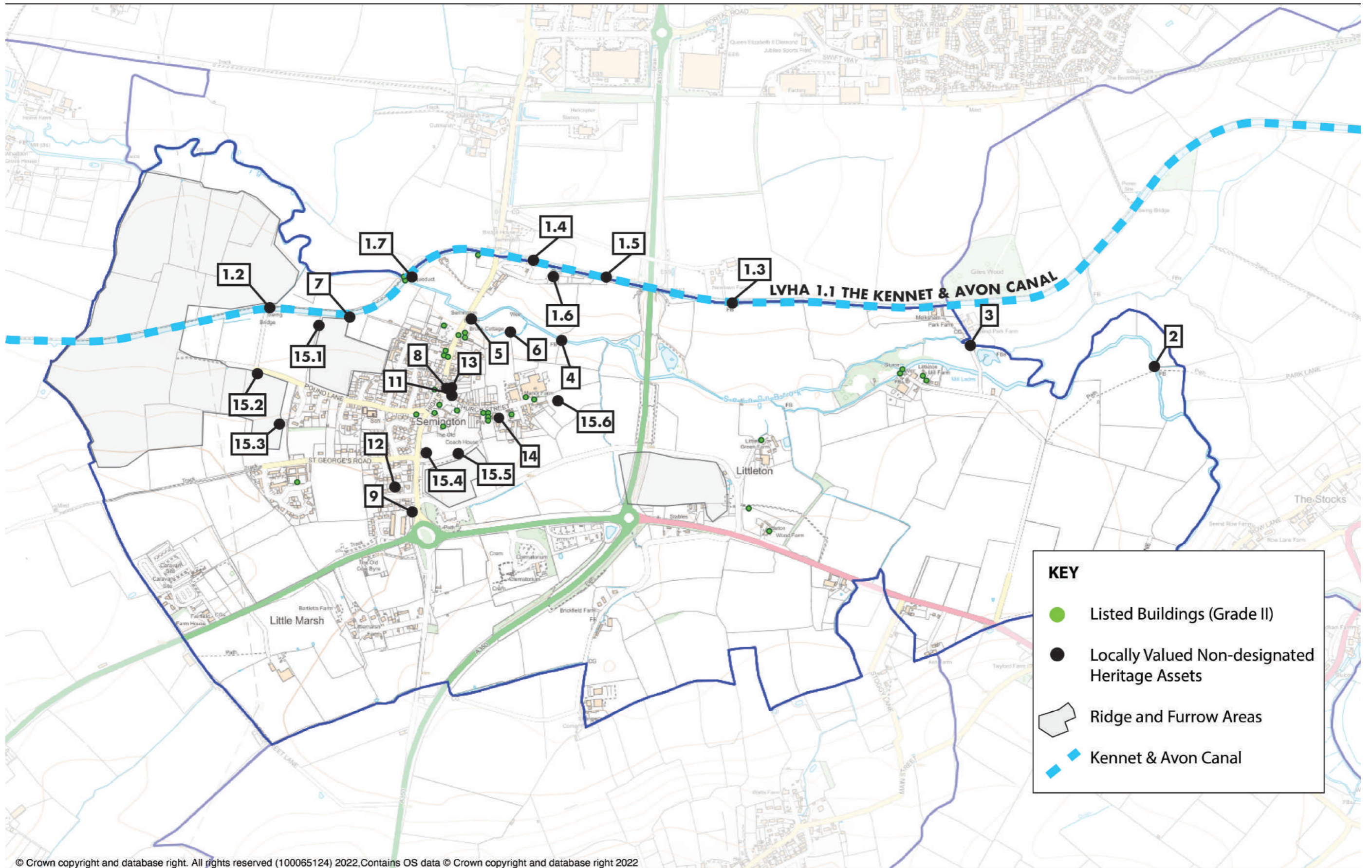
The Steering Group followed the guidance issued by Historic England, Local Heritage Listing Advice (Note 7 ), which sets out the importance of identifying Heritage Assets that are locally valued but non-designated.

The list of what might qualify for the list of local non-designated heritage assets is long and varied and genuinely open to things that are of real value to a local community. To the right is a adaptation of the criteria set out by Historic England. The full criteria and guidance can be accessed on the Historic England website.

On the following page, locally valued, non-designated heritage assets have been mapped. Tables then follow, recording information about the 15 identified within the parish to date and includes a short description of how each of the assets meet the criteria set out by Historic England. The tables also include map reference numbers for each asset to identify their location. The map is included in the main body of the Neighbourhood Plan.

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Rarity</i>	<i>This can include unusual assets such as cast-iron bridges and traditional signage or more common ones of unusual architectural style or materials.</i>
<i>Representativeness</i>	<i>May be representative of a particular architectural period, architect, movement, company or group of its time, for example Quaker, railway, Victorian and industrial.</i>
<i>Architectural interest</i>	<i>Of importance in its architectural design, decoration or craftsmanship; important examples of particular building types, materials and techniques (e.g. buildings displaying technological innovation) and significant plan forms.</i>
<i>Townscape or Landscape value</i>	<i>Key landmark buildings or structures and buildings that strongly contribute to a view or roofscape vista. Valued open spaces, (including designed landscapes, streets, squares, parks, gardens, amenity and green spaces), walls, fences, railings, street surfaces (including cobbles, setts and grass verges). Street furniture (including signposts, streetlights, benches, post boxes and telephone boxes).</i>
<i>Group value</i>	<i>Groupings of assets with a clear visual, design or historic relationship (including farmyards, terraces, group form and layout), contribution to street scene, roofscapes and perception.</i>
<i>Artistic interest</i>	<i>An asset with artistic interest exhibiting some degree of creative skill (including sculpture, painting, decoration, advertisements, memorials, gates, railings, door surrounds, finials and signage).</i>
<i>Historic association</i>	<i>Associated with an historical person or event of acknowledged note (including important local figures or events, for example landowner, commemorative event, charity, ecclesiastical or other community group and former resident). Highly unlikely this would apply to assets associated with a living person. These can also be heritage assets which add to the collective memory of a local place can be valuable in understanding the social value and the sense of community in the local area.</i>
<i>Archaeological interest</i>	<i>There may be evidence to suggest that a site is of significant archaeological interest.</i>

Map 2: Local Heritage



## Locally Valued Non-Designated Heritage Assets in Semington - Tables

### Kennet & Avon Canal

	Heritage Asset	Description
1.1	Kennet and Avon Canal	The Kennet & Avon Canal is 140km long and comprises a canal joined to two lengths of navigable river. It is a representative example of the late 18 <sup>th</sup> century CE expansion of transport links through the country. It follows the Avon from Bristol to Bath, and the Kennet from Newbury to Reading when it joins the Thames. The canal is of national importance, popular with walkers, cyclists, boaters, and anglers. It brings trade to the village pub and is a vibrant wildlife corridor (it is a county wildlife site).
1.2	Kennet & Avon Swing Bridge north of Pound Lane	
1.3	Kennet & Avon Swing Bridge just east of the A350	
1.4	Kennet & Avon Lock 1	The canal forms the northern boundary of the parish from the aqueduct that carries it over Semington Brook to the eastern parish boundary, and flows through the parish westwards from the aqueduct to the parish boundary with Hilperton. It has a number of listed structures along its length through the parish.
1.5	Kennet & Avon Lock 2	
1.6	Semington Dock	There are a number of non-designated heritage assets along the canal as listed here – dating from 1794 to 1810, the locks and the swing bridges are fundamental to the operation of the canal for navigation and to the distinctive character or the corridor. Semington Dock is a canal boat repair and maintenance business located between locks 15 and 16 just east of the bridge over the old A350 road.
1.7	Structural bank of the canal supporting the aqueduct	The aqueduct itself is mainly constructed of limestone ashlar masonry and is grade II listed. Some controversy exists as to whether the supporting earth ramparts are part of the listing.

### Bridges (non canal)

Map Ref.	Heritage Asset	Description
2	Bridge over Semington Brook at the eastern parish boundary	A bridge with fine views around the pastures and flood plain at the edge of the parish
3	Bridge over Semington Brook by Seend Park Farm	A bridge carrying a right of way north to the Kennet & Avon canal and road traffic to farm buildings

### Bridges (non-canal) cond't

4	Iron Bridge across Semington Brook near Manor Farm	An unusual bridge important for farm and pedestrian access to the eastern part of the parish
5	Bridge over Semington Brook at the High Street	This bridge marks a gateway into the village
6	Redundant bridge and brickwork east of the High St	A glimpse into history of a now dry channel in the field south of Semington Brook

### Miscellaneous

Map Ref.	Heritage Asset	Description
7	Stone Stile along P <del>R</del> oW SEMI 1	This odd and very awkward stile is unique in the parish
8	Phone Box	The now unconnected BT phone box is a village library.
9	Toll House	This is the only remaining Toll House in the parish that is still occupied. It is shown on an 1773 map next to the old Trowbridge to Devizes road as it enters the village.
10	Ridge and Furrow Fields	These are ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages. They were typical of open field land use. It is hard to see much trace of this field system unless you have a specialist guide. This map shows where the systems can be found.
11	Old Wesleyan chapel on the High Street	Although land had been acquired in 1819, it wasn't built until 1884. Henry James Stockwell, an active Wesleyan and the village postmaster, was the driving force behind this. The last service was held in 1981 after which the building was sold for housing.
12	The Old Kennels	This was the Avon Vale Hunt Masters house when the hunt was based in the village, a fact commemorated in the name of the adjacent street: The Hunt Close.
13	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> century terrace of rendered whitewashed homes at the triangle green opposite the village hall	One of two village blacksmiths lived in the north end of this terrace, and worked in the central part. The village carpenter and wheelwright, who doubled as the undertaker, worked in the south end.
14	Old church school to the east of the church	The original school was built in 1859 and had two classrooms and two playgrounds. The girls and boys were together inside the school but kept separate outside. The new school on Pound Lane was built in 1967 and the school became a private residence in 1970.

## WW2 Heritage Sites

The village of Semington sits on the GHQ (General Head Quarters) Blue Line.

This was a defensive stop line constructed to protect Britain in the event of invasion during the Second World War. The Blue Line followed the Kennet and Avon canal.

Semington's WWII heritage artefacts include pillboxes, anti tank cylinders and the foundations for a vertical rail anti-tank defence. See the Traces of War website for details.

Semington was a key part of this anti-tank line. It was meant to be a tank killing ground if the Germans had invaded. There are many remaining defence structures still in situ in and around the village.

Map Ref.	Heritage Asset	Description
11.2	<p><b>Vertical Rail Obstacle</b></p> <p>This is an anti-tank <i>vertical rail defence</i> which was erected in Pound Lane to restrict access to the crossing of the Kennet &amp; Avon canal to the north-west of the village settlement.</p> <p>Most such systems were placed in roads because that is where German tanks would come, and they tended to be removed once the threat of invasion had gone, meaning that few remain. This is why the Semington system is so important</p>	
11.1	Infantry Pillbox	<p>Although pill box and concrete cylinder defences are comparatively common, especially along the Kennet &amp; Avon, this is not the case with vertical rail systems. All the more reason, then, for taking note of them where they still exist, and taking steps to ensure that they are not lost.</p> <p>A fuller account of Semington's WW2 defences can be found under <i>Heritage &amp; History</i> on the Semington Parish Council website. This includes a more detailed map of the WW2 artefacts superimposed on a contemporary map of the village.</p>
11.3	Anti-tank Pillbox	
11.4	Anti-tank Pillbox	
11.5	Infantry Pillbox	
11.6	Anti-tank Pillbox	

## Appendix

### Owner Consultation

Informal consultation with landowners is recommended by Historic England when identifying non-designated locally valued heritage assets. Many of the assets identified are elements of the local environment such as bridges or non-designated assets already on the Historic Environment Record. Owners of the tollhouse (as this building is a home) and the Canal and Rivers Trust (as a Statutory body responsible for the Avon & Kennet Canal) were contacted informally for their feedback in February and March 2023 on the inclusion of these assets on the Semington 'local list' of heritage. Responses are below:

#### Canal & River Trust Response by email

Subject: FW: [CASE:1016706] Non Designated Heritage Asset Enquiry  
Date: 16 March 2023 at 15:37:35 GMT

Hello Bill, thank you very much for getting in touch regarding the Semington Parish Council consultation on 'Locally Valued Non-Designated Heritage Assets'.

I'm delighted to hear this news as the Trust also shares similar views on the value of its Non-Designated Heritage Assets. We welcome the addition of Trust NDHA's to your proposed 'Local Lists' and are wholly supportive of your proposals.

Please do continue to keep us updated on the emerging Semington Neighbourhood Plan in due course.

Canal & River Trust | Heritage & Environment Manager, Wales & South West

#### No. 9. Toll House

Oral consent / support given by the landowner in a telephone conversation in March 2023.

No.s 11-14

These were identified post Regulation 14 consultation. Support given by owners.