



**Canal &  
River Trust**

Making life better by water

Wiltshire Council

By email to:  
developmentmanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk;  
isobella.wise@wiltshire.gov.uk

Your Ref PL/2026/04916

Our Ref CRTR-PLAN-2026-47484

Friday 4 September 2026

Dear Isobella Wise,

**Proposal:** Outline application for up to 225 dwellings, with access from Semington Road, along with public open space and landscape buffers to incorporate existing rights of way and to accommodate the route of the proposed Melksham Link Canal (under separate application W/12/01080/FUL). Demolition and clearance of all existing buildings and structures on the site. All matters reserved other than vehicular access from Semington Road.

**Location:** Land west of, Semington Road, Melksham

**Waterway:**

Thank you for your consultation.

We are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation. The Trust is a statutory consultee in the Development Management process.

Based on the information available our response is the following general advice:

It is noted that the route of the Wilts & Berks Melksham Link runs through the centre of this site.

The Canal & River Trust do not own or look after this proposed link or the Wilts & Berks canal, but we are supportive of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust's (WBCT) endeavours to bring the canal back into navigation as the Trust believes that life is better by water and that growing the connected navigable waterway network for public benefit can bring economic, environmental and social wellbeing to communities and the nation.

It is noted that the applicant is in discussions with the WBCT regarding the canal corridor and we hope that a satisfactory solution can be agreed to ensure that the future restoration of the canal is not put at risk as a result of this proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

**Canal & River Trust Spatial Planning Team**

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