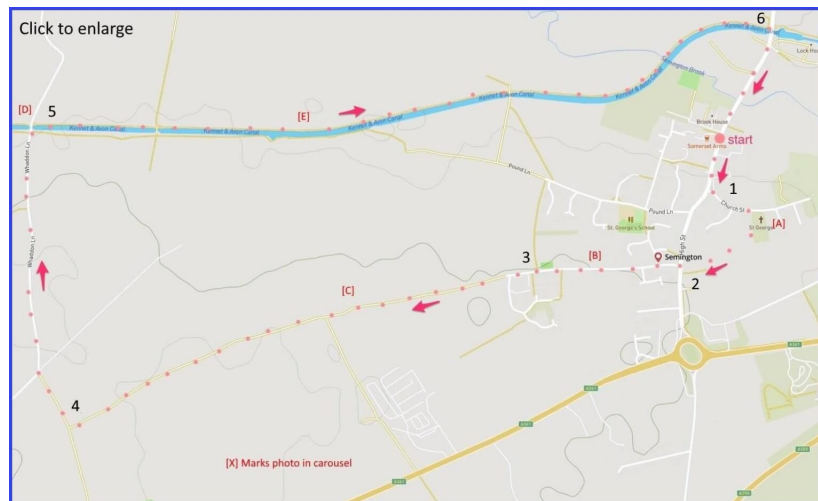




# Semington

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**BA14 6JR** This is an easy 4 mile walk. About a third of it is along the Kennet and Avon canal tow path. *Click map to enlarge.* Water is blue, wooded green, contour lines show slopes. [Click here](#) for arial view. [Click here](#) to download/print PDF



(Routes to take from map points + metres to next point)

- 1: From High Street head towards Church Lane. Just before church, take the fenced path and follow line of trees rightwards until it meets road. 500m
- 2: Turn right and then immediately left onto St George's Road to Independent Living Centre (once Workhouse). 225m
- 3: Walk forward until meeting T-junction with similar path. 1.3km
- 4: Turn right and walk to pick up Whaddon Lane at X-junction. Walk forward to canal. 500m
- 5: Turn right onto towpath, walk forward until High Street crosses canal. 2.2km
- 6: Join High Street and return to start. 300m

The pictures below are in the order things were seen on this walk. Clicking on any one will enlarge it (and the slideshow) .



[A]



[B]

## Observations

This village has been populated since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. More recently, until a recent bypass was built, it was violated by a constant stream of A350 traffic. It is now a quiet canal village with two 'Semington Locks' (from 1794 and 1802) on the Avon and Kennet canal. Once it was the junction point for the start of the Wilts and Berks canal that headed north through Melksham, Chippenham and Swindon into Berkshire. Perhaps if the railways had not come along Semington would have been more of a boom town. However, there is currently talk of re-opening the '[Melksham Link](#)'. Although the project repeatedly stalls as, perhaps, its just a little bit fanciful.

Semington is otherwise an unexceptional place, although there are a few old houses of note – Pevsner mentions the 17<sup>th</sup> century [Manor House](#) on High Street. And it is worth checking out [St George's church](#) on your way. 15<sup>th</sup> century, although much rebuilt around 1860. The oldest houses in Semington are on this Church Street, although mixed in with pre-war council houses.

You will walk past the old (Grade II listed) St George's Hospital built in the 1830s as the Trowbridge and Melksham workhouse. After the second world war it became a hospital for elderly patients. It has now become a [centre for independent living](#), providing residential support for disabled people as well as some high end private accommodation. I guess this must signal progress from a 'workhouse' era. Great window [\[B\]](#)

The tow path is a very pleasant walk in the second half of this route, usually with much wild life in view. You will pass the [old](#) Semington adqueduct (1807 and 46 feet long) that carries the Kennet and Avon over Semington Brook. Actually, there are two adqueducts in Semington. The second, new one (2002) was constructed as part of the bypass scheme for Semington. The canal would have thrived on the transport of coal from the Somerset coal fields but also stone and timber for building.

You might like to finish up at the [Somerset Arms](#). It's a fair enough pub – with a bit of outdoor seating if the weather fits.

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