

# Sherston Neighbourhood Plan



## Evidence Summary

## Foreword

This report summarises the available evidence that comprises the social, physical and environmental make up of Sherston.

Much of the available evidence is contained within the Sherston Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, and is not repeated here. Please refer to the Scoping Report to find information on the following topics, :

- Land & soil resources
- Water resources
- Air quality and other potential environmental pollution
- Historic built environment
- Landscapes
- Health
- Inclusivity
- Education

# I. Sherston & its population

## Introduction

The figures in this section are taken from the 2011 Census data. The Sherston Neighbourhood Plan Area is covered in the Census by output areas E00162993, E00162994, E00162995, E00162996 and E00162997 which can be seen in the plans in the appendix.

## Population

ONS predictions for 2011 suggest a population of 1510 in 680 households. The village can be described as having a somewhat aging population, although the largest age group as shown in Fig. 1 is the 45-59 years age group.

Age	Number	%
0-17	375	22.9%
18-29	130	7.9%
30-44	304	18.5%
45-59	390	23.8%
60-74	277	16.9%
75+	163	9.9%

Figure 1 - Population of Sherston by age group

Being a small rural village it is not surprising that the smallest age group is of the 18-29 year olds, suggesting that after school young people leave home for university or work. Given that there are over twice as many 30 to 44 year olds than there are 18-29 year olds it would appear that younger people either return to the village later in life or are 'replaced' by older people in the 30-44 age group. The high percentage of children under the age of 18 suggests that Sherston is a place that people move to in order to raise children.

## Home ownership

Sherston has a very high proportion of its homes in private ownership. This can likely be explained by both the population profile of the village and the relative wealth of the population. There are a limited amount of social-rented properties available in the housing stock- only 9.6% of properties in Sherston are social rented.

Tenure - Households	
All categories	686
Owned	508
Social rented	66
Private rented	91
Living rent free	17

Figure 2 - Number of households by tenure

## Size/type of properties

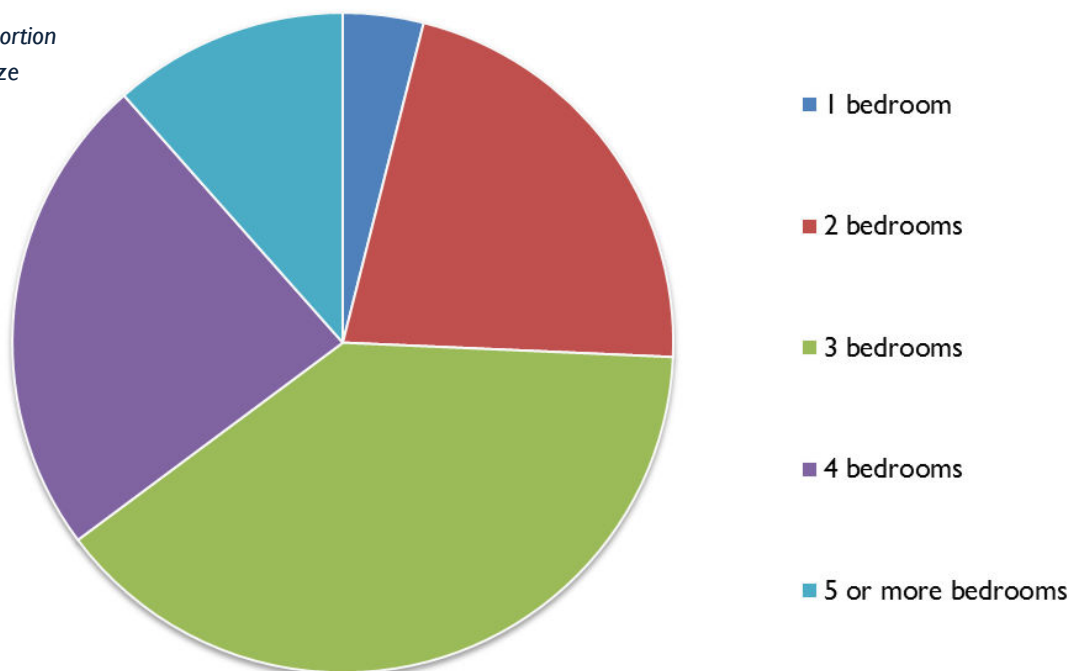
Detached properties are the most prevalent type of dwelling house in Sherston. There are very few flats or apartments in the village and also very few smaller properties, i.e. 1 or 2 bedroom homes.

Indeed, nearly three-quarters of properties in Sherston have 3 bedrooms or more. This suggests a good stock of family homes but a possible under-supply of starter homes for younger people.

Accommodation Type	No.	%
<b>Total homes</b>	<b>686</b>	
Detached	297	43.3%
Semi-detached	209	30.5%
Terraced (including end-terrace)	169	24.6%
Flat, maisonette or apartment	11	1.6%

Figure 3 - Number of homes by type

Figure 4 - Proportion of homes by size



## Working & Shopping

According to the 2011 Census data only 2% of residents of Sherston are unemployed while nearly three-quarters of employees are considered 'economically active'.

## Sectors in which people work

According to the 2011 Census the largest employment sectors by percentage of working population were:

- Education (11.2%)
- Wholesale & Retail (10.7%)
- Professional, Scientific & Technical (10.4%)

There is no dominant employment sector amongst the population of Sherston, in part due to there being no particularly large employer in the village

## Commuting & working from home

Of those in employment in the Sherston area 72.9% travel to work by motor vehicle compared to 70.4% for the Wiltshire area. Just 8% travel on foot and 1.5% by bicycle compared to 13% and 2.9% respectively for the county. This suggests that of those that travel to work around 10% work within Sherston while a further 13.3% work mainly from home, which is twice the county average.

Public transport is used by 3.8% of the employed population in the area to reach their place of work compared to 5.4% in the whole of Wiltshire.

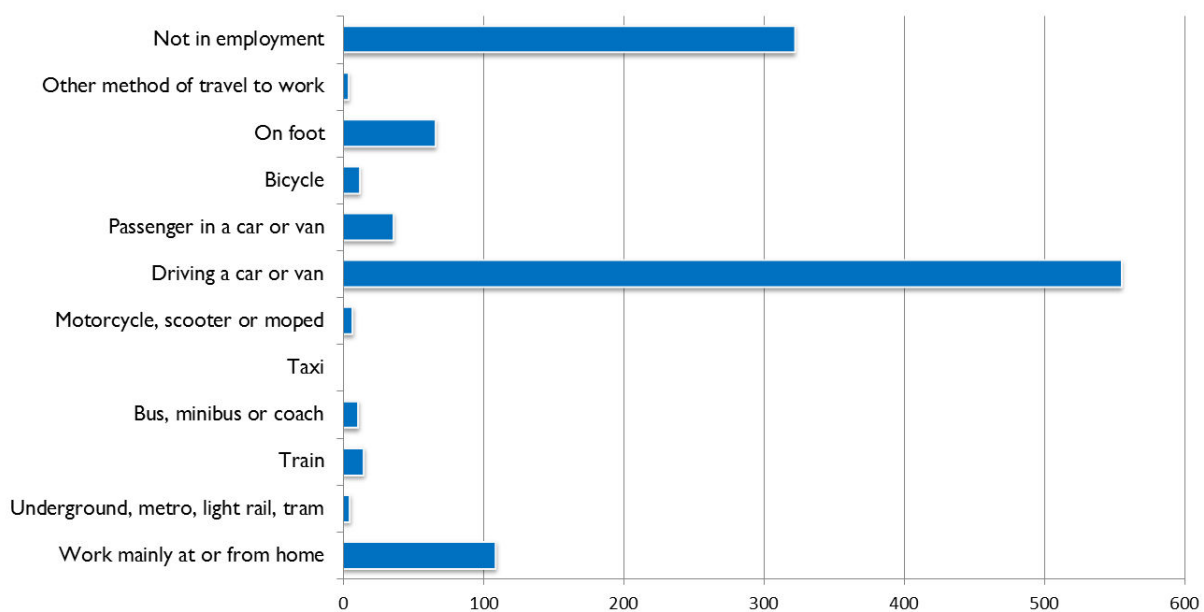


Figure 5 - Travel to work methods

## Employers

There is only one company in Sherston that could be considered a significant employer- Stretchline Ltd. who make elastic products.

There are a number of minor employers in the village such as shops, pubs, a florist and a shutter and blind company.

Consequently, as indicated above, it is thought that only around 10% of those in employment in the village work within the village.

Economic Activity	
Economically active: Total	74.1%
Employee: Part-time	12.8%
Employee: Full-time	39.3%
Self-employed w/ employees: Part-time	0.9%
Self-employed w/ employees: Full-time	3.8%
Self-employed w/out employees: Part-time	4.9%
Self-employed w/out employees: Full-time	7.4%
Unemployed	2.2%
Full-time student	2.9%
Economically inactive: Total	25.9%
Retired	15.0%
Student (including full-time students)	2.9%
Looking after home or family	4.7%
Long-term sick or disabled	1.9%
Other	1.4%

Figure 6 - Economic activity in Sherston

## Retail provision

Sherston has historically had a High Street with a number of different retail offerings but the current offering is limited to a handful number of shops and/or services.

The community-run convenience store also houses a post office but is the only outlet selling food in the village. Therefore, in order to do a weekly shop residents must travel around 7 miles to Tetbury, where there is a Superstore, or 6 miles to Malmesbury where there are two of smaller-scale supermarkets. A Waitrose store has planning permission in Malmesbury and is expected to be completed in 2015.



## 2. Getting Around

### Road layout

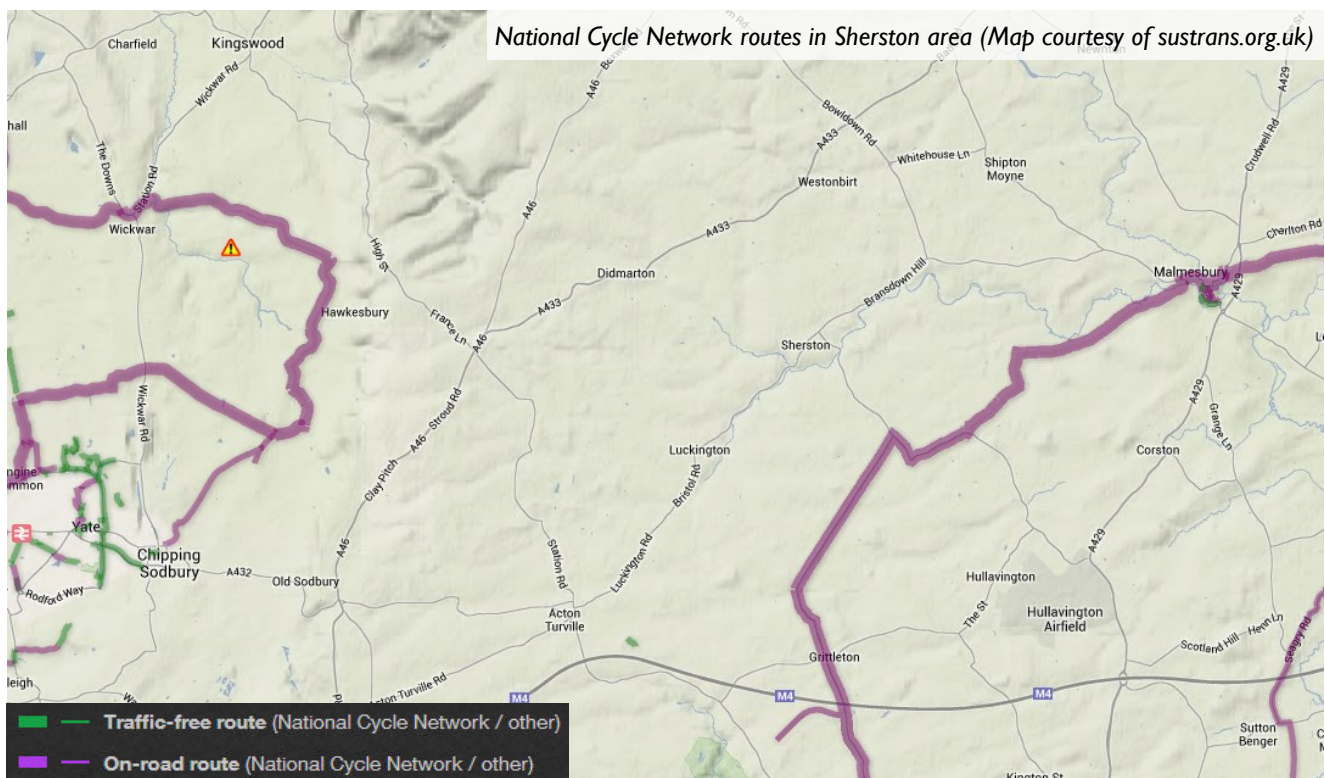
Church Street and High Street form the backbone of Sherston, although both are narrow at points, reduced even to single carriageway. Other arteries into the village are very narrow and generally only wide enough for one car at a time.

The village is a short drive from the A433, meaning Sherston has good connections with the M4 to the south, and the towns of Tetbury and Cirencester to the north. Malmesbury to the east is also quite accessible on the B4040.

Given the nature of Sherston's location it is not surprising that the private car is the predominant form of transport and it is necessary to own one to access many shops, employment sites and services in the local area (but outside the village).

### Walkability/Cyclability

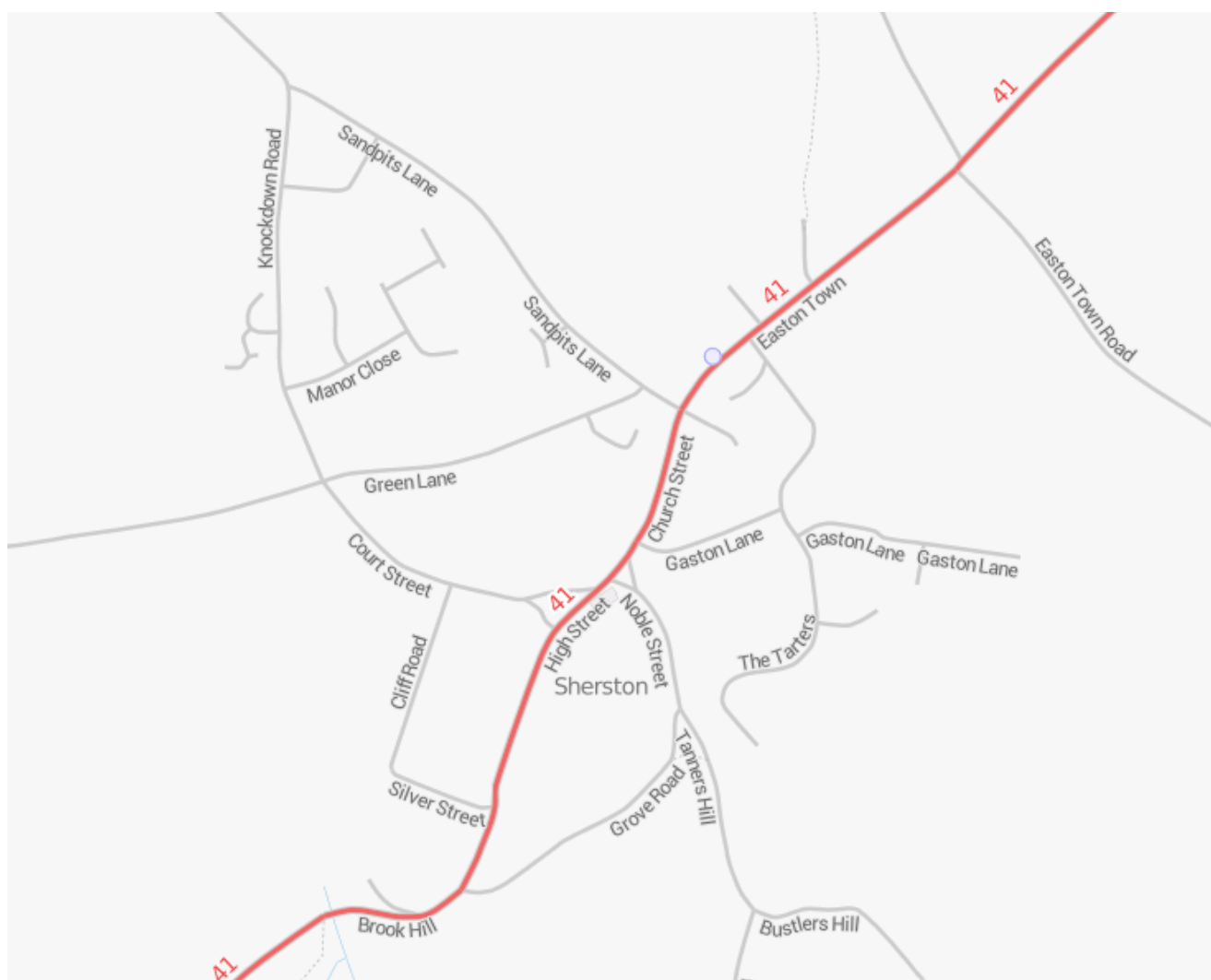
The small and fairly compact nature of the village means that it is quite walkable, although there are



sections of road without pavement that mean pedestrians must walk on the road in certain places. There are no cycle lanes in the village meaning cyclist use on-street routes, however the village is a short road cycle from an on-road cycle route that connects with Malmesbury

## Bus services

Eight buses a day connect Sherston with Chipping Sodbury and Yate, while a further seven buses run in the opposite direction connecting the village with Malmesbury. This makes it possible, if not entirely practical, to reach '9 to 5' employment opportunities in both directions. In addition to the bus services provided by the County there is a Community bus service which is well-used. The bus route through the town can be seen on the map below.



Bus routes through Sherston (Map courtesy of [openstreetmap.co.uk](https://www.openstreetmap.co.uk))



## Access to railway

The bus to Yate means that Sherston has a public transport connection to a railway station, although a journey time of around 40 minutes means that this method of reaching the station is not very attractive, nor convenient. From Yate, however, it is possible to reach Cam & Dursley, Bristol, Bath, Gloucester and Cheltenham within 60 minutes.

## Parking

There is parking provision on the High Street in the centre of the village, albeit shared between the public and residents of the immediate area. This means that many of the village's services are accessible to those with mobility issues or that do not live within walking distance of the centre of the village.



Parking on Sherston High Street

### 3. Community Facilities

There is one pre-school in the village and one primary school which was built recently and sits on the northern edge of the village. The nearest secondary school is in Malmesbury, around 5 miles away.



There is a GP surgery in the town, which is well use and now considered too small and housed in premises that are not practical for the use. There is also concern that the building could be deemed not fit for purpose by the NHS, necessitating a relocation of the practice.

There are no indoor sports facilities to speak of the in the village, although this is not unusual for a village of Sherston's size.



In addition to the above there is a Village Hall, a Scout Hut, and the British School Room which can all be hired out by the community.

There are two pubs the village– the Rattlebone Inn (pictured left) and the Carpenters Arms, which is currently vacant and on the market.

## 4. Environment & Sustainability

### Flooding

The village is abutted by two tributaries of the Avon. The map overlaid indicates the areas in and around the village which fall within Flood Zone 3 while the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report goes into the issues facing the village with regard to flooding in further detail.



### Open space, parks etc.

There is one main area of Public Open Space in the village- the recreation ground between Court Street and Green Lane. This is home to play equipment and a football pitch and sits adjacent to the Scout Hut.

## **Sports pitches**

Sherston Town Football Club is located at the very north-western tip of the village at Knockdown Lane. There is room for one pitch and the current changing facilities are of poor quality and in a state of poor repair. The site is also home to two public tennis courts from which Sherston Tennis Club operates. There is also one football pitch marked out with goalposts on the recreation ground in the centre of the village.

## **Allotments**

Sherston has a large allotment site on Knockdown Road, between Manor Close and Green Lane, with a number of well-cared for allotments. The site is well-used and well-located for anyone in the village to be able to reach on foot. There is a waiting list for allotments, but it said to be declining in length.

## **Biodiversity**

The area is considered to be rich in biodiversity. Species present in the area are believed to include bats, grass snakes, slow worms, kingfishers, woodpeckers, birds of prey, deer, badgers, hedgehogs, foxes, varieties of voles & shrew, water rats, field rats & mice, ancient hedgerows & hedgerow plants, oak trees and other trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders. Please see the SEA Scoping Report for further information on Biodiversity.

## **Wildlife/Nature sites**

There are no identified Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the Sherston NP Area nor any designated local nature reserves.

There are 2 designated County Wildlife Sites at:

- Lord's Wood – situated about a mile to the south of the village (an area of ancient woodland)
- Vancelette's Fram – situated just to the south of Willersley (an area of unimproved grassland)



# Appendices

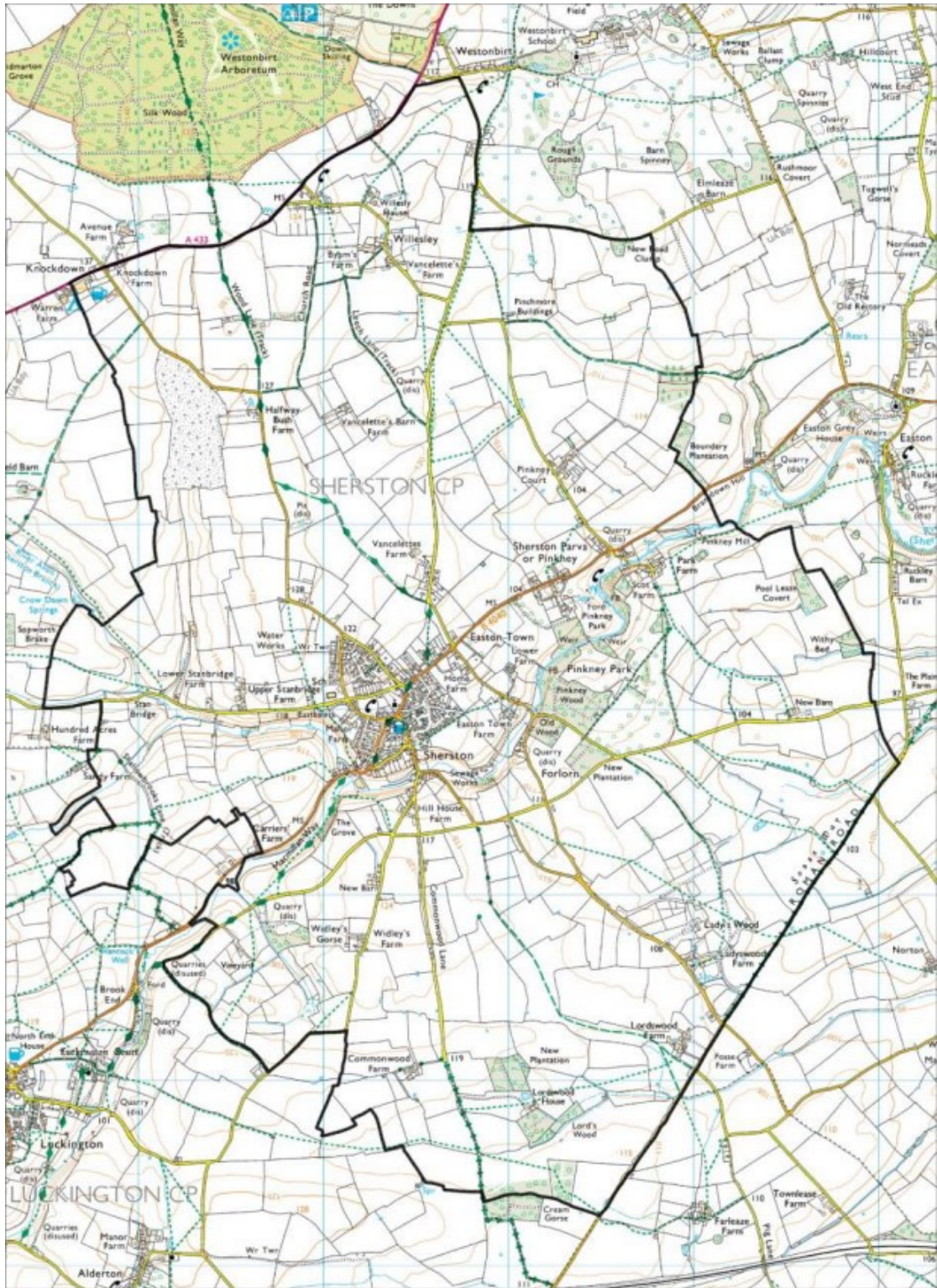
Appendix 1— Sherston Neighbourhood Plan Area Map


Appendix 2— List of Evidence Documents

Appendix 3—2011 Census data tables



Appendix I—Sherston Neighbourhood Area





## Appendix 2—Evidence Base






## Evidence Base

- Sherston Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- 2011 Census Data (see Appendix 3)
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment (Dec 2011)
- Affordable Housing Viability Assessment (Dec 2011)
- Wiltshire Workspace Strategy - (Aug 2009)
- Wiltshire Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Report
- Wiltshire Habitat Regulations Assessment
- Wiltshire Workspace and Employment Land Review

### **Wiltshire Core Strategy Topic Papers:**

1. Climate Change (Jan 2012)
  - Climate Change Addendum (Jan 2012)
2. Housing (Jan 2012)
3. Settlement Strategy (Jan 2012)
  - Settlement Strategy Addendum (Jan 2012)
  - Settlement Strategy Appendices (Jan 2012)
4. Rural Signposting (Jan 2012)
5. Natural Environment (Jan 2012)
6. Retail (Jan 2012)
  - Retail Addendum (Jan 2012)
7. Economy (Jan 2012)
  - Economy Addendum (Jan 2012)

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8. Infrastructure and Developer Contributions (Jan 2012)
  9. Built and Historic Environment (Jan 2012)
  10. Transport (Jan 2012)
    - Transport Addendum (Jan 2012)
  11. Green Infrastructure (Jan 2012)
  12. Site Selection Process (Jan 2012)
  15. Housing Requirement Technical Paper (Feb 2012)
  16. Gypsies and Travellers (Jan 2012)
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Appendix 3—Census Data Tables



<b>Key Stats</b>	
All Residents:	1639
Number of Households:	686
Average Household Size	2.39

<b>Accommodation Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Whole house or bungalow: Total	675	98.4%
Whole house or bungalow: Detached	297	43.3%
Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached	209	30.5%
Whole house or bungalow: Terraced	169	24.6%
Flat, maisonette or apartment: Total	11	1.6%
Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	0	0.0%
Shared dwelling	0	0.0%

<b>Number of bedrooms</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
No bedrooms	1	0.1%
1 bedroom	27	3.9%
2 bedrooms	149	21.7%
3 bedrooms	268	39.1%
4 bedrooms	162	23.6%
5 or more bedrooms	79	11.5%

<b>Tenure - Households</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
All categories: Tenure	686	
Owned: Total	508	74.1%
Social rented: Total	66	9.6%
Private rented: Total	91	13.3%
Living rent free	17	2.5%

<b>Age Structure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>All categories: Age</b>	<b>1639</b>	
Age 0 to 4	102	6.2%
Age 5 to 9	111	6.8%
Age 10 to 14	99	6.0%
Age 15 to 19	90	5.5%
Age 20 to 24	45	2.7%
Age 25 to 29	58	3.5%
Age 30 to 44	304	18.5%
Age 45 to 59	390	23.8%
Age 60 to 64	101	6.2%
Age 65 to 74	176	10.7%
Age 75 to 84	120	7.3%
Age 85 to 89	33	2.0%
Age 90 and over	10	0.6%

<b>Economic Activity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
All categories: Economic activity	1142	
Economically active: Total	846	74.1%
Employee: Part-time	146	12.8%
Employee: Full-time	449	39.3%
Self-employed with employees: Part-time	10	0.9%
Self-employed with employees: Full-time	43	3.8%
Self-employed without employees: Part-time	56	4.9%
Self-employed without employees: Full-time	84	7.4%
Unemployed	25	2.2%
Full-time student	33	2.9%
Economically inactive: Total	296	25.9%
Retired	171	15.0%
Student (including full-time students)	33	2.9%
Looking after home or family	54	4.7%
Long-term sick or disabled	22	1.9%
Other	16	1.4%

<b>Adults not in Employment</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
All households	686	
No adults in employment in household: With dependent children	11	1.6%
No adults in employment in household: No dependent children	187	27.3%
Dependent children in household: All ages	211	30.8%
Dependent children in household: Age 0 to 4	78	11.4%
One person in household with a long-term health problem or disability: With dependent children	27	3.9%
One person in household with a long-term health problem or disability: No dependent children	142	20.7%

<b>Travel to work</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
All categories: Method of travel to work	1142	
Work mainly at or from home	109	13.3%
Underground, metro, light rail, tram	5	0.6%
Train	15	1.8%
Bus, minibus or coach	11	1.3%
Taxi	0	0.0%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	7	0.9%
Driving a car or van	555	67.7%
Passenger in a car or van	36	4.4%
Bicycle	12	1.5%
On foot	66	8.0%
Other method of travel to work	4	0.5%
Not in employment	322	39.3%

<b>Employment Sectors</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
All categories: Industry	820	
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	33	4.0%
B Mining and quarrying	2	0.2%
C Manufacturing	80	9.8%
D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	2	0.2%
E Water supply, sewerage, waste management	5	0.6%
F Construction	66	8.0%
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	88	10.7%
H Transport and storage	36	4.4%
I Accommodation and food service activities	44	5.4%
J Information and communication	54	6.6%
K Financial and insurance activities	38	4.6%
L Real estate activities	28	3.4%
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	85	10.4%
N Administrative and support service activities	36	4.4%
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	37	4.5%
P Education	92	11.2%
Q Human health and social work activities	59	7.2%
R,S Arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities	32	3.9%
T Activities of households as employers;	2	0.2%
U Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	1	0.1%