

SWDP 17: Travellers and Travelling Showpeople



- A. Each Local Planning Authority will identify and update annually a five year supply of deliverable pitches for Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in order to meet the local targets set out in Tables 17a and 17b (subject to subsequent reviews of the GTAA).

Table 17a: Minimum Requirements for Permanent Traveller Pitches, Travelling Showpeople Plots and Transit Pitches 2014/15 – 2018/19 (source: Worcestershire Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment, 2014*)

District	Permanent Traveller Pitches	Permanent Travelling Showpeople Plots	Transit Pitches
Malvern Hills	4	0	3
Worcester	0	0	0
Wychavon	31	0	2

Note to Table 17a

* The need identified in the GTAA in the period to 2018/19 has been amended to reflect the interim examination findings relating to the GTAA – available at <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/GTAA-Inspectors-interim-findings-20072015.Pdf>

Table 17b: Longer-Term Requirements for Permanent Traveller Pitches and Travelling Showpeople Plots 2019/20 – 2033/34 (source: Worcestershire Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment, 2014)

	2019/20 – 2023/24		2024/25 – 2028/29		2029/30 – 2033/34	
	Traveller Pitches	Showman Plots	Traveller Pitches	Showman Plots	Traveller Pitches	Showman Plots
Malvern Hills	6	2	6	2	8	4
Worcester	5	0	3	0	5	0
Wychavon	19	0	23	0	33	0
Total	30	2	32	2	46	4

- B. Worcester South (SWDP 45/1) and Worcester West (SWDP 45/2) urban extensions shall each include a Traveller site of up to 10 pitches, to be located within the allocation boundary of the urban extension.**
- C. The South Worcestershire Councils (SWC) will identify additional sites in a Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and assess the suitability of proposals and planning applications (including the intensification or expansion of existing authorised sites where appropriate) against the following criteria:**
- i. Whether the site is within, or on the edge of, a town or Category 1, 2 or 3 settlement.**
 - ii. Whether the site is within an international or national⁽⁴²⁾ planning designation.**
 - iii. Whether the site is outside Flood Zone 1 or vulnerable to surface water flooding.**
 - iv. Whether the site has any significant impact on local plan designations such as Conservation Areas and Significant Gaps, or on sites of ecological or biodiversity interests that cannot be mitigated.**
 - v. Whether any significant visual impact on the landscape can be mitigated.**
 - vi. Whether there is any significant impact on privacy and residential amenity for both site residents and neighbouring properties.**
 - vii. Whether the size of the site and the number of pitches are of an appropriate scale for the location.**

42 Examples of international designations include Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites. Examples of national designations include Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belts, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves.

viii. **Whether the site has safe and convenient access to the highway network.**

ix. **Whether the site is capable of providing adequate on-site services for water supply, mains electricity, waste disposal and foul and surface water drainage.**

x. **Whether the site has reasonable access to health services, schools and employment.**

xi. **Whether the site complies with good practice on designing Gypsy and Traveller sites.**

D. Any planning permission will be subject to conditions relating to the number of pitches / plots and restricting occupancy to Traveller or Travelling Showpeople use.

Reasoned Justification

1. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) states that local planning authorities should set pitch targets for Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople that address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of Travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities. National planning policy also states that local planning authorities should set out criteria to provide a basis for the allocation of sites and identify sufficient deliverable pitches to provide a five year supply when measured against locally set targets.
2. The Worcestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) published in 2014, identifies the need for additional Traveller pitches, Travelling Showpeople plots and transit pitches in the County in the period between 2014/15 and 2033/34.
3. Within south Worcestershire, the need identified in the GTAA⁽⁴³⁾ in the five years to 2018/19 is set out in Table 17a.
4. The GTAA⁽⁴⁴⁾ identifies an overall shortfall of 35 permanent Traveller pitches across south Worcestershire in the period to 2018/19 – a need for a minimum of 31 pitches in Wychavon and 4 pitches in Malvern Hills. No additional pitches are required in Worcester.
5. For Travelling Showpeople, the GTAA identifies no overall additional need for plots across south Worcestershire in the period to 2018/19.

43 The need identified in the GTAA in the period to 2018/19 has been amended to reflect the interim examination findings relating to the GTAA – available at <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/GTAA-Inspectors-interim-findings-20072015.pdf>

44 The need identified in the GTAA in the period to 2018/19 has been amended to reflect the interim examination findings relating to the GTAA – available at <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/GTAA-Inspectors-interim-findings-20072015.pdf>

6. The GTAA identified a number of vacant pitches (particularly in Wychavon) and opportunities for the intensification or limited expansion of a number of existing sites in Malvern Hills and Wychavon.
7. It is considered that sites for Traveller communities should be provided at the largest and most sustainable urban extensions, i.e. SWDP 45/1 and SWDP 45/2. The precise location of these sites and which of the SWC Traveller accommodation needs they will be assigned to will be identified through the development management process. The sites in the urban extensions will help address the need for pitches in Tables 17a and 17b.
8. The GTAA recommends that the SWC assess the suitability of proposals and planning applications for smaller sites as they arise against criteria-based planning policies.
9. The GTAA also recommends that provision be made for a minimum of 5 transit pitches and suggests that the SWC co-operate with a view to providing a shared facility for dealing with future unauthorised encampments.
10. The GTAA indicates a desire amongst Travellers for a mixture of Council / Registered Social Landlord (RSL) managed sites and private sites.
11. The GTAA also identifies the likely longer-term requirement for pitches and plots, covering the period 2019/20 to 2033/34. The longer-term requirements, based on expected household formation rates, are set out in Table 17b. The longer-term requirements make no allowance for turnover on existing sites and are therefore indicative and liable to change in light of future updated turnover rates.
12. The GTAA suggests a need for up to 30 Traveller pitches between 2019/20 to 2023/24, 32 pitches 2024/25 to 2028/29 and 46 pitches 2029/30 to 2033/34, with most of the need arising in Wychavon.
13. For Travelling Showpeople, the GTAA indicates a need for an additional 8 plots in Malvern Hills between 2019/20 and 2033/34.
14. The availability and delivery of Traveller pitches will be kept under review. Each SWC will maintain a rolling five year supply of deliverable pitches sufficient to provide five years' worth of pitches against the targets set out in Tables 17a and 17b (subject to paragraph 11 above).
15. Any proposals and planning applications for Traveller and transit sites will be considered by the relevant local planning authorities against the criteria outlined in SWDP17 C and D.
16. The Good Practice Guide on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites (published by DCLG in 2008 and cancelled in 2015) suggested that, where possible, sites should be developed near to housing for the settled community as part of mainstream residential developments. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites also says that new Traveller site development in open countryside that is away from existing settlements should be very strictly limited and that any sites in rural areas should respect the scale of, and not dominate the nearest settled community.

17. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites highlights the importance of good access to health services and schools to ensure that children can attend school on a regular basis. The Good Practice Guide on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites also said that it was essential that sites have access to water, electricity, drainage and sanitation.
18. In general, it is anticipated that sites for Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will not be appropriate within international or national designations because the objectives of the designation are likely to be compromised by the development. Sites in these designated areas will not be permitted unless other locations have been considered and dismissed and only then in very special circumstances.