

**South Worcestershire
Traveller and Travelling Showpeople**

**Site Allocations
Development Plan Document**

Preferred Options Consultation

March 2016

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1. Introduction and Context

Purpose of the Consultation

The South Worcestershire Councils (Malvern Hills, Worcester and Wychavon) are preparing a Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) which will set out the requirement for the number of pitches and plots to be provided to meet the needs of Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in south Worcestershire over the coming years.

The final Development Plan Document will allocate sites, or extensions to existing Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites, and will become part of the Development Plan for the South Worcestershire Councils (SWCs).

As a step towards producing the Development Plan Document this consultation document outlines the South Worcestershire Councils preferred options for how the future accommodation needs of Travellers and Travelling Showpeople can be met. This consultation paper identifies where potential new Traveller pitches could be allocated and also outlines more detailed planning issues that would need to be considered when dealing with Traveller and Travelling Showpeople related development.

How To Comment

The consultation period runs for 6 weeks from 14th March to 25th April 2016 and comments can be made in two ways:

- By email. To: contact@swdevelopmentplan.org; or
- By post. To: South Worcestershire Development Plan, c/o Wychavon Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1PT.

Further information about the Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document and an electronic copy of the Response Form are available on the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) website at http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=12237

Hard copies of this Consultation Document are also available at Council Customer Service Centres (CSC) and/or Libraries.

Please be aware that copies of representations will be made available for public inspection and cannot be treated as confidential. This information will include your name, organisation and your comment. Representations will also be available on the council's website.

Inappropriate comments submitted as part of the consultation will not be considered. These may include, but are not be limited to, representations that are deemed to be racist or discriminatory.

Definition of Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

For the purposes of planning, Government's **Planning Policy for Traveller Sites** (August 2015) defines Gypsies and Travellers as:

Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites also says that *"in determining whether persons are "gypsies and travellers" for the purposes of this planning policy, consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters:*

- a) whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life*
- b) the reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life*
- c) whether there is an intention of living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances."*

Travelling Showpeople are defined as:

Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.

The National Planning Policy Context

The Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (paragraph 10) states that local planning authorities should, in producing their Local Plan *"identify and update annually, a supply of specific **deliverable sites** sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets"*. Further, Local Plans should *"identify a supply of specific, **developable sites** or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten and, where possible, for years 11-15."*

The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites says that to be **deliverable**, sites should be:

- Available now;
- Offer a suitable location for development now; and be
- Achievable with a realistic prospect that housing will be delivered on the site within five years and in particular that development on the site is viable.

To be considered **developable**, sites should be in a suitable location for Traveller site development and there should be a reasonable prospect that the site is available and could be viably developed at the point envisaged.

The Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites also says that *"criteria should be set to guide land supply allocations where there is identified need. Where there is no identified*

need, criteria-based policies should be included to provide a basis for decisions in case applications nevertheless come forward. Criteria based policies should be fair and should facilitate the traditional and nomadic life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.” (paragraph 11)

Local Plan Context

The South Worcestershire Councils have jointly prepared the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). The South Worcestershire Development Plan sets out the strategy, together with policies and site allocations to guide the location of development in south Worcestershire up to 2030.

One of the issues that the South Worcestershire Development Plan seeks to address is meeting the accommodation needs of Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Policy SWDP 17 (Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) and Related South Worcestershire Development Plan Policies

Policy SWDP 17 in the South Worcestershire Development Plan sets out the future pitch requirements for Travellers and plot requirements for Travelling Showpeople based on the Worcestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodations Assessment (GTAA) - see section on Evidence Base below.

Policy SWDP17 also sets out the following criteria to guide land supply allocations and provide a basis for decisions when planning applications come forward:

- i. *Whether the site is within, or on the edge of, a town or Category 1, 2 or 3¹ settlement.*
- ii. *Whether the site is within an international or national² 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 is of an appropriate scale for the location.*
- viii. *Whether the site has safe and convenient access to the highway network.*

¹ Definition of Category 1, 2 and 3 settlement – see Glossary

² 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.

- 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.*

Policy SWDP 45 proposes up to 20 pitches through the identification of two sites (up to 10 pitches each) on the Worcester South and Worcester West urban extensions – policies SWDP 45/1 and 45/2 respectively. The precise location of these Traveller sites will be identified through detailed masterplanning of the urban extensions. At the masterplanning stage, it will also be determined whether the sites on the urban extensions will be to meet Malvern Hills, Worcester or Wychavon's pitch requirements.

SWDP 17 says that the South Worcestershire Councils will identify additional sites in the Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

Existing Provision of Traveller Pitches and Showpeople Plots in South Worcestershire

In south Worcestershire, as at February 2014, there were 97 pitches on local authority owned sites, 124 pitches on private permanent authorised sites, 8 pitches on private temporary authorised sites, and 12 pitches on unauthorised sites, 6 of which were tolerated. This is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1

Traveller Pitches in South Worcestershire (as at February 2014)

	Malvern Hills	Worcester	Wychavon	Total
Local Authority Site	5	20	72	97
Housing Association Site	0	0	0	0
Private Site – Authorised	14	0	110	124
Private Site – Temporary Authorised	2	0	6	8
Unauthorised	0	0	6	6
Unauthorised - tolerated	1	0	5	6
TOTAL	22	20	199	241

In terms of yard provision for Travelling Showpeople, there were 17 plots on a private authorised yard in Malvern Hills.

Why Do We Need A Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document?

The South Worcestershire Councils are required to identify and update annually, a supply of deliverable Traveller pitches sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against locally set targets. It is important to be able to demonstrate a 5 year supply of sites and prepare and adopt a Development Plan Document as this is the best way to evidence a suitable supply of sites and thus reduce the risk of less appropriate sites being approved, or granted temporary consent.

Further, the failure to allocate sufficient land to meet the need for new pitches could have a number of impacts including:

- Continuing the problem of unauthorised development and encampments, as well as tensions with the settled community,
- Restricting the Council's ability to enforce against unauthorised development as our ability to enforce is related to efforts to meet the need for new provision, and
- Increasing the difficulty of ensuring that the Traveller and Travelling Showpeople community has access to all the support and services they need.

The Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document will therefore seek to address these issues by identifying deliverable sites to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in south Worcestershire in the 5 years from 2016/17 to 2020/21 and identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6 to 10.

Doing nothing to address the issues is not an Option.

2. What We Have Done So Far

Vision

The Vision for the Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document is that by 2030 south Worcestershire will be an area where:

Travellers and Travelling Showpeople have the same opportunities and responsibilities as the settled community to secure a decent home which allows them to pursue and preserve their traditional way of life and there is sufficient land and pitches available to meet the identified need for accommodation.

Sites are well located, sustainable and of high quality where residents enjoy living and where they and the site are well integrated with the wider local community.

Unauthorised developments and encampments are reduced and there are harmonious relationships between the Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and settled community.

Both the Traveller, Travelling Showpeople community and the settled communities have security and certainty about their future and that of their local environment.

Objectives

The overarching objective to deliver this Vision is to:

To provide authorised pitches for Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in south Worcestershire, in line with evidence of established need, in the most appropriate locations, to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and enable Travellers and Travelling Showpeople to access the services and facilities to meet their needs, whilst respecting the interests of the settled community.

This will involve further sub-objectives to:

- Identify sites that are available, suitable and achievable;
- Allocate and grant planning permission for sufficient land and pitches to meet identified needs within south Worcestershire, in the most appropriate locations;
- Increase access to local services and facilities including health, education and employment by allocating sites and pitches in the most sustainable locations to enable this;
- Ensure sites are of high quality design, safe and pleasant places to live; and
- Provide clear guidance for making decisions on planning applications regarding Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites.

The Evidence Base

In November 2014 the six Worcestershire districts published the Worcestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) which identifies the future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the county.

The GTAA involved interviews with 297 Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households living in south Worcestershire.

The GTAA assessment of pitch and plot requirements was calculated based on the results of the survey interviews and information on the current supply of pitches / plots.

As part of the process of testing the soundness of the South Worcestershire Development Plan, Examination Hearings on the Traveller & Travelling Showpeople policy (SWDP 17) were held in April 2015. The Hearings included a thorough examination of the GTAA. Following the Hearings, the Inspector recommended two changes to the GTAA methodology. Firstly, it was considered that households who had stated in the GTAA survey that they were planning to move to another pitch within that District in the next five years should be factored in to total need. Secondly, the Inspector recommended that a lower turnover rate be assumed for Malvern Hills in the next 5 years, based on evidence of turnover at the County Council managed site in Malvern Hills in recent years.

The GTAA, revised to reflect the South Worcestershire Development Plan Inspector's interim findings, identified a need for 35 permanent Traveller pitches across south Worcestershire in the period to 2018/19 – see Table 2. The identified need was primarily in Wychavon where there was a requirement for 31 pitches. In Malvern Hills there was a need for 4 permanent pitches, whilst Worcester was considered to have sufficient capacity to cover identified needs up to 2018/19.

For Travelling Showpeople, the GTAA identified no overall additional need for plots across south Worcestershire in the period to 2018/19. The Development Plan Document is therefore not proposing to identify plots for Travelling Showpeople in the next five years.

The GTAA also recommended that provision be made for a minimum of 5 transit pitches to cover the period 2014/15 to 2018/19 and suggested that the South Worcestershire Councils cooperate with a view to providing a shared transit site.

There are currently 7 Council managed sites in south Worcestershire which provide 97 pitches. The GTAA indicated a desire amongst Travellers for a mixture of private and council / Registered Social Landlord managed sites.

Table 2

Need for Permanent Traveller Pitches, Travelling Showpeople Plots and Transit Pitches - 2014/15 – 2018/19

	Permanent Traveller Pitches	Permanent Travelling Showpeople Plots	Transit Pitches
Malvern Hills	4	0	3
Worcester	0	0	0
Wychavon	31	0	2
Total	35	0	5

source: Worcestershire GTAA, November 2014 / SWDP Examination Hearings, Interim Findings, July 2015

The GTAA also identified 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 3. The longer-term requirements make no allowance for turnover on existing sites or whether Travellers intend to live a nomadic habit of life in the future. The longer-term requirements are therefore indicative and liable to change in light of future updated turnover rates.

Table 3

Longer-Term Requirement for Permanent Traveller Pitches and Travelling Showpeople Plots - 2019/20 – 2033/34

	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

source: Worcestershire Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment, November 2014

The GTAA suggests a need for up to 30 Traveller pitches between 2019/20 and 2023/24, 32 pitches between 2024/25 to 2028/29, and 46 pitches between 2029/30 to 2033/34 – with most of the need arising in Wychavon.

For Travelling Showpeople, the GTAA indicates a need for an additional 2 plots in Malvern Hills between 2019/20 and 2023/24, and a further 6 plots in the period 2024/25 to 2033/34.

Development to Date

The South Worcestershire Councils will update annually the supply of deliverable sites, with a rolling five-year cumulative requirement for pitches, set against a rolling five-year delivery of pitches.

When planning permissions are granted for permanent pitches through the development management process, these will contribute towards meeting the required 5-year land supply.

In 2014/15 4 pitches were granted planning consent in Wychavon, thus reducing the 5-year requirement for south Worcestershire in the period 2014/15 to 2018/19 from 35 pitches (see Table 2) to 31 pitches. In the first ten months of 2015/16 a further 18 Traveller pitches were granted planning consent in Wychavon. Rolling forward the 5-year cumulative requirement for pitches for 2015/16 to 2019/20, set against a rolling five-year delivery of pitches, indicates a current need to identify sites sufficient to provide 19 pitches.

In addition, during the first ten months of 2015/16 temporary planning consent was granted in Wychavon for a further 10 residential Traveller pitches and 24 transit pitches. Due to the fact that these residential and transit pitches have temporary (for four years to 2019) rather than permanent consent, they do not count towards the council's five-year supply of pitches.

If there are no further consents for Traveller pitches in 2015/16 then the rolling 5-year requirement for Traveller pitches in 2016/17 will increase by +6 in south Worcestershire to 25 pitches (17 in Wychavon, 6 in Malvern Hills and 2 in Worcester).

Question on Travelling Showpeople

Question 1 In view of the fact that there is currently no specific identified need for a Travelling Showpeople plots in the next five years, the South Worcestershire Council's consider that there is not a need to allocate additional plots for Travelling Showpeople in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document. Do you agree?

If no, please give your reasons.

Question on Transit Sites

Question 2 In July 2015 temporary planning permission was granted for 24 transit pitches in south Worcestershire to 2019. The South Worcestershire Council's consider that these pitches will meet the need for transit pitches identified in the GTAA and consider that there is not a need to allocate additional transit pitches in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document. Do you agree?

If no, please give your reasons.

Call for Sites

In February / March 2015, the South Worcestershire Councils conducted a 'call for sites' which provided an opportunity for individuals, organisations and other stakeholders to submit sites that they considered might be suitable for Traveller or Travelling Showperson use. A Press Notice was also issued. Proposals were invited for either new sites or an expansion or intensification of existing sites. Proposals were also invited for permanent residential sites or transit sites / temporary stopping places.

17 sites were submitted during the call for sites including requests from the owners of some existing authorised sites to intensify (increase the number of pitches on the existing site) or extend their sites. The full list of sites submitted to the councils is available in a separate Site Allocations Background Report available on the South Worcestershire Development Plan website at http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=12237

It was made clear that any sites submitted in the call for sites exercise, together with those proposed for the urban extensions, would be assessed for their suitability against the criteria in SWDP17 and other good practice guidance, and then subject to public consultation, in order to determine which may be identified for allocation in the Development Plan Document.

The South Worcestershire Councils also considered the potential suitability of Traveller sites with temporary planning permission which did not have a personal occupancy restriction.

The South Worcestershire Councils have not discounted the possibility of other sites coming forward during the preparation of this Development Plan Document or through planning applications.

Site Selection Process

The South Worcestershire Councils have used a staged approach to producing this Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

The first stage was to contact landowners who may have land that they wish to be considered for potential use by Travellers or Travelling Showpeople. These included owners of existing authorised sites, sites with temporary planning permission, tolerated sites, unauthorised developments, caravan parks, public sector land, and land submitted for consideration as potential housing allocations.

The second stage involved a desk-based assessment of the suitability criteria set out in Appendix 2, together with an initial investigation of likely availability. This stage sieved out immediately sites which failed on the grounds of either the site being unavailable for Traveller or Travelling Showpeople purposes or potential sites contravening major constraints such as being within planning designations, areas prone to flooding, on contaminated land etc. Sites where at least one essential criterion was not satisfied were rejected.

All of the remaining sites then went forward to stage three – a detailed site assessment. The on-site assessment helped determine whether:

- the land is relatively flat and stable,

- the site has (or has potential of) safe and convenient access to the highway network,
- there is likely to be any significant adverse visual impact which can not be adequately mitigated
- there is likely to be a significant adverse impact on privacy and residential amenity for both site residents and neighbouring land uses that can not be mitigated
- the site is likely to be capable of providing adequate on-site services for water supply, mains electricity, waste disposal and foul and surface water drainage

At the detailed site assessment stage sites were also assessed for whether local services and facilities such as primary schools and health facilities would be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. Whilst a failure to meet these criteria may not, in themselves, preclude the development of Traveller or Travelling Showpeople sites, they are important considerations which could assist in assessing the sustainability of sites and prioritising between a choice of potential sites. Sites were also assessed as to whether they would be an extension to an existing site or a new site and whether the site would be on previously developed or greenfield land.

The Site Assessment Criteria and detailed considerations are summarised in Appendix 2.

Sustainability Appraisal

The Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document is subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which will contribute to the evidence base and ensure that the Development Plan Document delivers sustainable development.

An Initial Sustainability Appraisal report has been prepared to set out the initial assessment of the strategic options and sites and can be viewed at

http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=12237 alongside this consultation document.

A full Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published alongside the Publication version of the Plan.

3. Proposed Site Allocations

Following the detailed assessment of the 17 sites submitted in the call for sites, the broad locations identified in policy SWDP 45 and temporary Traveller sites without personal occupancy restrictions, 7 sites meet, or have the potential to meet, the essential site suitability criteria and are proposed as potentially deliverable sites.

The urban extensions also appear to meet the essential suitability criteria and are proposed as potentially developable sites.

A copy of the Site Assessment Background Report is available on the South Worcestershire Development Plan website at http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=12237

The 9 potentially suitable sites (7 deliverable and 2 developable) were considered by the three South Worcestershire Councils in February 2016.

Meeting The Need For Deliverable Traveller Pitches To 2020/21

To meet the need for 25 deliverable permanent residential Traveller pitches in the period to 2020/21 the South Worcestershire Councils propose that new or additional pitches be allocated at the 7 sites listed in Table 4.

Table 4 – Proposed New or Additional Deliverable Pitches

Site Name and Location	District	New or Existing Site	Proposed Number of Additional Permanent Pitches
Hillbee Farm, Welland Road, Upton upon Severn	Malvern Hills	Existing	5
The Orchard, Knowle Hill, Badsey	Wychavon	Existing	7
8 Evergreen Bank, Main Road, Crophorne	Wychavon	Existing	3
Seven Acres, Main Road, Crophorne	Wychavon	Existing	3
Blossom Hill, Village Street, Aldington	Wychavon	Existing	2
The Laurels, Kemerton Road, Bredon	Wychavon	Existing	3
Shorthill Caravan Park, Crossway Green	Wychavon	New	10
Total			33

Comments on the suitability of the 7 proposed potentially deliverable sites are being sought as part of this Preferred Options consultation. Further information is provided on each of the sites in Appendix 3.

The South Worcestershire Councils will update annually the supply of deliverable sites, with a rolling five-year cumulative requirement for pitches, set against a rolling five-year delivery of pitches. When planning permissions are granted through the development management process, these will contribute towards meeting the required 5-year land supply.

Questions on Proposed Deliverable Traveller Pitches

- Question 3 Do you have any comments on the suitability of increasing the number of pitches at the existing Traveller site at Hillbee Farm in Upton upon Severn?
- Question 4 Do you have any comments on the suitability of increasing the number of pitches at the existing Traveller site at The Orchard, Knowle Hill in Badsey?
- Question 5 Do you have any comments on the suitability of increasing the number of pitches at the existing Traveller site at 8 Evergreen Bank, Main Road in Cropthorne?
- Question 6 Do you have any comments on the suitability of increasing the number of pitches at the existing Traveller site at Seven Acres, Main Road in Cropthorne?
- Question 7 Do you have any comments on the suitability of increasing the number of pitches by extending the existing Traveller site at Blossom Hill, Village Street in Aldington?
- Question 8 Do you have any comments on the suitability of increasing the number of pitches at the existing Traveller site at The Laurels in Bredon?
- Question 9 Do you have any comments on the suitability of Shorthill Caravan Park in Crossway Green as a potential new permanent Traveller site?

Meeting The Need For Developable Pitches and Plots

The Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites says that local planning authorities should identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years' six to ten.

The Worcestershire GTAA suggests a need for 30 Traveller pitches and 2 Travelling Showpeople plots in south Worcestershire between 2019/20 and 2023/24. These longer-term requirements made no allowance for turnover on existing pitches and plots and are therefore indicative and liable to change in the future.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan allocates up to 20 pitches on the urban extensions in policies SWDP 45/1 and SWDP 45/2 as outlined in Table 5.

Table 5

Proposed New Developable Sites

Site Name and Location	New or Existing Site	Potential Number of Additional Permanent Pitches	For Gypsy/Traveller, Showman &/or Transit Use
SWDP 45/1 - Broomhall Community and Norton Barracks Community (Worcester South Urban Extension)	New	Up to 10	Gypsy/Traveller
SWDP 45/2 - Temple Laugherne (Worcester West Urban Extension)	New	Up to 10	Gypsy/Traveller

Further information is provided on each of the proposed new deliverable sites in Appendix 3.

The South Worcestershire Councils will monitor the longer-term need for pitches and plots in light of future updated turnover rates and sites granted planning permission through the development management process which will count towards meeting the longer-term need.

Questions on the Proposed Developable Sites

Question 10 Do you agree with the South Worcestershire Councils proposed approach towards meeting the longer-term need for pitches?

If no, please give reasons.

4. Other Planning Issues

Tenure of New Pitches and Plots

The Worcestershire GTAA indicated a desire amongst Travellers for a mixture of private and socially-rented sites.

Question on Tenure

Question 11 The South Worcestershire Councils consider that there may be opportunities to provide socially rented pitches as part of the provision of Traveller sites on the urban extensions. Do you agree?

If no, please provide reasons.

Nomadic Habit Of Life

The Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (August 2015) says that in determining whether persons are Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of planning policy, consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters:

- a) whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life
- b) the reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life
- c) whether there is an intention of living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances.

The Government has not provided guidance on how long someone would need to cease travelling, or in what circumstances, before they are no longer classed as a Traveller for the purposes of planning policy. Currently, there is also no Government guidance for councils on the criteria that they should use to assess whether Gypsies and Travellers live a nomadic lifestyle.

The Worcestershire GTAA indicated that only 28% of the Gypsy and Traveller families in the County had travelled in the previous year. 76% of the Travelling Showpeople households interviewed had travelled in the previous year.

Question on the Nomadic Habit of Life

Question 12 When determining planning applications the South Worcestershire Councils will have to assess whether persons are Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of planning policy. Do you have any suggestions about how the South Worcestershire Council's should assess whether Gypsies and Travellers are leading or have permanently ceased their nomadic habit of life?

If yes, please provide suggestions.

Rural Exceptions Sites

The Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites says that local planning authorities should very strictly limit new Traveller site development in open countryside that is away from existing settlements or outside areas allocated in the development plan.

However, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (paragraph 15) also says that if there is a lack of affordable land to meet local Traveller needs, local planning authorities in rural areas, where viable and practical, should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable Traveller sites. This may include using a rural exception site policy for Traveller sites that should also be used in the determination of planning applications.

A rural exception site policy enables small sites to be used, specifically for affordable Traveller sites, in small rural communities, that would not normally be used for Traveller sites. Rural exception sites should only be used for affordable Traveller sites in perpetuity. A rural exception site policy would seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection to the local area, whilst also ensuring that rural areas continue to develop as sustainable, mixed, inclusive communities.

In south Worcestershire virtually all of the Traveller sites coming through the Development Management process are for private family sites and are therefore not meeting the needs of those households who cannot afford private sites. The South Worcestershire Councils consider that there may be opportunities to provide socially rented pitches as part of the provision of Traveller sites on the urban extensions and these will help to meet the need for affordable pitches. It is not considered necessary to have a specific policy for rural exception Traveller sites because such applications can be judged against the criteria provided in policy SWDP17

Question on Rural Exceptions Sites

Question 13 The South Worcestershire Council's do not consider that there is a need for a rural exception site policy for affordable Traveller sites in rural communities. Do you agree that there is not a need for a rural exception site policy for Traveller sites?

If yes, please give reasons.

If no, please give reasons.

Site Design Considerations

Once sites have been allocated and/or detailed applications for Traveller or Travelling Showpeople development are submitted, it is considered that applications would need to be assessed against more detailed considerations to ensure that sites are appropriately designed.

DCLG published a Good Practice Guide titled "Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites" in 2008. The Good Practice Guide was cancelled in August 2015 when the Government published its

revised Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. This has left a gap in good practice guidance that the Development Plan Document needs to address.

To ensure that Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites are appropriately designed the South Worcestershire Councils propose that new Traveller or Travelling Showpeople sites should incorporate the following design principles:

- Sites should provide a maximum of 10 pitches/plots to provide a comfortable environment for residents which is easy to manage.
- Access/turning space should be sufficient for emergency vehicles and comply with Fire Service requirements.
- The design/layout should clearly define individual pitches but without 'enclosing' them too much with inappropriate high, close-boarded fencing. Communal areas without clear usage should be avoided as they may attract vandalism, fly-tipping or unauthorised caravans.
- Appropriate landscaping proposals, to include where necessary, hard landscaping, fencing and boundary treatment to soften any visual impact and protect amenity but not enclose and separate the site so much that it hampers cohesion with the neighbouring settled community.
- It is essential that there is a mains water supply and mains electricity for each pitch, sufficient to meet the reasonable requirements of the residents.
- Wherever it is economic to do so, each pitch should be connected to a public sewer. Where this is not possible, provision must be made for discharge to a properly constructed sealed septic tank.
- Look for opportunities for Sustainable Drainage Systems.
- Accommodate travelling lifestyle by provision of room for at least one touring caravan per pitch.
- Schemes should make clear what commercial activity, if any, would be carried out on the site and where.
- Proposed amenity buildings or day rooms should be the minimum necessary to provide required facilities, be sensitively sited, and use sympathetic materials.
- Details of the keeping of animals to be submitted with applications.
- External lighting should be controlled and kept to a minimum

Questions on Site Design Considerations

Question 14 To ensure that Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites are appropriately designed the South Worcestershire Councils propose that detailed policy considerations be included in the Site Allocations Development Plan

Document. Do you think that the proposed design policy considerations are the right ones?

If no, please give reasons.

Question 15 Are there any other design policy considerations that need to be identified?

If yes, please provide details of other policy considerations.

Safeguarding of Sites

To ensure that permitted levels of Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation are maintained the South Worcestershire Councils propose that existing sites and any proposed new sites (where there is no personal occupancy restriction) are safeguarded for Traveller and Travelling Showpeople use in perpetuity. This would ensure that the accommodation needs of the Traveller community continue to be met in the long term and that the development or redevelopment of land on safeguarded sites for uses other than for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation would not normally be permitted.

It is not considered appropriate to safeguard sites with permanent permission where a condition limits the occupation of the site to named individuals. The expectation with such sites is that if the named occupants no longer live there the use of the site would cease and the site would be restored in accordance with the relevant condition(s) attached to the planning permission.

Where sites are granted temporary permission with a personal occupancy restriction and the site ceases to be occupied by the named individuals the site should be restored in accordance with the relevant condition(s) attached to the planning permission.

Question on Safeguarding Sites

Question 16 Do you agree that existing sites and potential site allocations (where there is no personal occupancy restriction) should be safeguarded for Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation use in perpetuity?

If no, please give reasons.

General

Question 17 Are there any other comments you wish to make about Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Preferred Options Document?

5. Next Steps

The timetable for the preparation of the Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document is outlined in each of the South Worcestershire Council's Local Development Schemes (LDSs), published in September 2015.

The proposed timetable for the development of the Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document is summarised as follows:

Stage	Timetable
Commencement	September 2014
Initial consultation (Regulation 18) – 6 weeks	March - April 2016
Publication (Regulation 19)	July 2016
Submission (Regulation 22)	November 2016
Independent Examination (Regulation 24)	December 2016 <i>Precise dates of examination hearing sessions will be determined by the Inspector</i>
Receipt of Inspector's Report (Regulation 25)	June 2017
Adoption (Regulation 26)	December 2017

The next stage in the process will be for the South Worcestershire Councils to consider and assess responses to the Preferred Options consultation.

A Draft Development Plan Document will then be prepared, including the recommended final site allocations. The Draft Development Plan Document will be consulted on at the Publication stage in July 2016, prior to preparation of a Submission Draft which will be submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2016.

An Examination in Public will follow and the Inspector will then publish his/her report. Subject to the Plan being found sound it will then be adopted.

Appendix 1

Glossary

Authorised Site: A site with planning permission for use as a Traveller or Travelling Showpeople site. These sites can be private or Council-owned. Most authorised sites in south Worcestershire are permanent, but they can sometimes be temporary (see 'Temporary Sites').

Call for Sites: The way in which the councils give the public an opportunity to suggest sites for potential Traveller or Travelling Showpeople development. Respondents filled out a form with the details of the suggested site which was then considered by the councils.

Caravans: Mobile living vehicles also called touring caravans. Section 29 (1) of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 Act defines a caravan as 'any structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is capable of being moved from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer) and any motor vehicle so designed or adapted'.

Category 1, 2 and 3 Settlements: The results of the Village Facilities and Rural Public Transport Survey enabled a hierarchy of settlements to be ranked according to their sustainability and access to local services. Category 1 settlements have at least four key services in the Village Facilities Survey. Category 2 settlements have at least two key services including a shop and have access to at least daily services for employment and shopping purposes. Category 3 settlements have at least one key service (other than a parish / village hall) and have access within the settlement to at least a daily bus service to a "designated town".

DCLG: Department for Communities and Local Government. Government department responsible for making the planning system work efficiently and effectively, including planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Development Plan: A document setting out the local planning authority's policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings in the authority's area. This includes adopted Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. The Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) will be one of the Local Plans that form part of the Development Plan for south Worcestershire.

Green Infrastructure: Green Infrastructure and Green Space are the network of green spaces that intersperse and connect our cities, towns and villages, providing multiple benefits for environment, economy and communities. The components of Green Infrastructure and Green Space include biodiversity, landscape, historic environment, access and recreation and water.

Gypsies and Travellers: Defined by DCLG Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (August 2015) as "persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or circus people travelling together as such". When determining whether persons are "gypsies and travellers", Planning Policy for Traveller Sites says that "consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters - whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life, the reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life, and whether there is an intention of living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances."

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA): This was a study carried out for the six Worcestershire districts to assess the need for additional Gypsy, Traveller and

Travelling Showpeople accommodation in the County, including the South Worcestershire Council's. The Worcestershire GTAA was published in November 2014.

Mobile Home: Legally a caravan but not normally capable of being moved by towing. Also known as 'trailers', 'static caravans' or 'chalets'.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Perpetuity: For all time, for eternity, for always.

Pitch: Area of land on a Gypsy/Traveller site required to accommodate one household and their caravans, parking space and enough room for turning vehicles. There is no 'one-size fits all' measurement for a pitch; as with standard housing, this depends on the size of individual families and their particular needs.

Plot: A piece of land of unspecified size which accommodates Travelling Showpeople's caravans, trailers, mobile homes and sometimes equipment. This terminology differentiates between residential pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and mixed-use plots for Travelling Showpeople, which will need to incorporate space or be split to allow for the storage of equipment such as fairground rides. These areas used for storage are also called 'yards'.

Site: An area of land where Gypsy/Travellers live. These can be privately owned (often by particular families) or socially rented (where the site is owned by a council or registered social landlord). A site may consist of a single pitch, or may have a number of pitches and be home to several families/households.

Stopping places: A term used to denote an unauthorised temporary camping area tolerated by local authorities, used by Gypsies and Travellers for short-term encampments, and sometimes with the provision of temporary toilet facilities, water supplies and refuse collection services.

Temporary Site: This is an authorised site that has been granted temporary planning permission. At the end of the specified time period (usually between 2-4 years, defined by a planning condition) the use of the site must cease and the site should be restored to its former condition.

Tolerated site: An unauthorised encampment/site where a local authority has decided not to take enforcement action to seek its removal.

Transit site: A permanent site intended for short-term temporary use by Travellers on the move. The site is usually permanent and authorised, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.

Travelling Showpeople: Defined by DCLG Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (August 2015) as "Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above".

Turnover rate: Indicates the number of pitches available annually due to turnover of stock. Turnover enables existing stock to absorb current and future households considered in need.

Unauthorised Encampment: Land where Gypsies or Travellers reside in vehicles or tents without permission. Unauthorised encampments can occur in a variety of locations (roadside, car parks, parks, fields, etc.) and constitute trespass. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent. Unauthorised encampments fall into two main categories: those on land owned by local authorities and those on privately owned land. It is up to the land owner to take enforcement action in conjunction with the Police.

Unauthorised Development: Establishment of Gypsy and Traveller sites without planning permission, usually on land owned by those establishing the site. Unauthorised development may involve ground works for roadways and hard standings. People parking caravans on their own land without planning permission are not classed as Unauthorised Encampments in that they cannot trespass on their own land – they are therefore Unauthorised Developments and enforcement is always dealt with by Local Planning Authorities enforcing planning legislation.

Appendix 2

Site Assessment Criteria and Detailed Considerations

The following essential and desirable site criteria are based on:

- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2015)
- South Worcestershire Development Plan Policy SWDP17
- Good Practice Guide: Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2008, cancelled in August 2015), and
- General preferences of the Travelling community, based on published reports and the Worcestershire Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)

Essential Site Criteria

Availability	• Whether the landowner is willing to sell or is interested in developing the site for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople purposes
Suitability	
<i>Physical Constraints</i>	• Whether the site is within, or on the edge of, a town or Category 1, 2 or 3 settlement³ or within a proposed urban extension • Whether the site is outside Flood Zone 1 or vulnerable to surface water flooding • Whether the site is located on relatively flat and stable land • Whether the site is affected by contamination which cannot be mitigated • Whether the site has safe and convenient access to the public highway
<i>Environmental, Historic or Landscape Constraints</i>	• Whether the site is within an International (Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation or Ramsar) or National planning designation (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Ancient Woodlands, Veteran Trees, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Listed Buildings)
	• Whether there are any local designations affecting the site (including Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Local Geological Sites, Local Heritage Assets, Conservation Areas, Local Green Space, Tree Preservation Orders) • Whether the site is within the Green Belt⁴ • Whether the site falls within a Significant Gap • Whether there are any known protected species or habitats

³ Category 1, 2 and 3 Settlements - The results of the Village Facilities and Rural (Public) Transport Survey enabled a hierarchy of settlements to be ranked according to their sustainability and access to local services. Category 1 settlements have at least four key services in the Village Facilities Survey. Category 2 settlements have at least two key services including a shop and have access to at least daily services for employment and shopping purposes. Category 3 settlements have at least one key service (other than a parish / village hall) and have access within the settlement to at least a daily bus service to a "designated town".

⁴ An exceptional limited alteration to the Green Belt boundary would be required for such a site to be considered (DCLG (2015) Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2015))

	recognised in the Biodiversity Action Plan on the site
<i>Potential impacts</i>	• Whether there is any likely adverse visual impact which cannot be adequately minimised • Whether there is likely to be any adverse impact on privacy and residential amenity for both site residents and neighbouring land uses which cannot be mitigated • Whether the site (and possible number of caravans stationed) respects the scale of, and would not dominate, the nearest settled community • Whether there is likely to be any adverse impact from noise for both site residents and neighbouring land uses which cannot be mitigated
Achievability	• Whether the site is likely to be capable of providing adequate on-site services for water supply, mains electricity, waste disposal and foul and surface water drainage - or whether there are any likely abnormal costs which would prejudice the ability of the site from being developed

Proposed Desirable Sustainability Criteria

Suitability	
<i>Sustainability Criteria</i>	• Whether the site is accessible by walking, cycling and public transport to local services and facilities including shops, schools and health facilities • Whether the site would be an extension to an existing serviced site • Whether the site would be on previously developed land • Whether the site would have an adverse impact on the Green Infrastructure and Green Space as identified in SWDP 5

Appendix 3

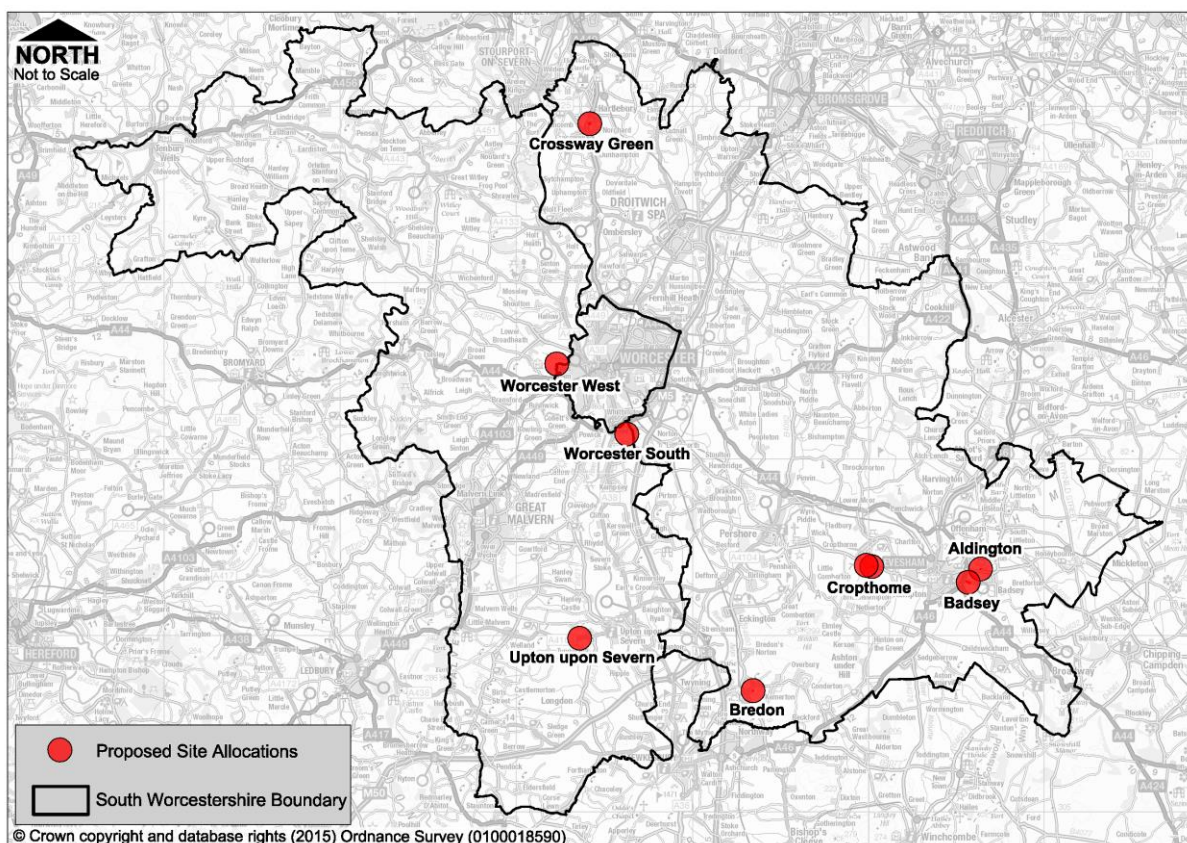
Proposed Site Allocations for Traveller and Travelling Showpeople

To meet the need for 25 deliverable permanent residential Traveller pitches in the period to 2020/21 the South Worcestershire Councils propose that new or additional pitches be allocated at 7 existing or new sites. The broad location of the proposed deliverable sites is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 also shows the broad location of the proposed developable sites on the urban extensions.

Figure 1

Location of Proposed Deliverable and Developable Sites

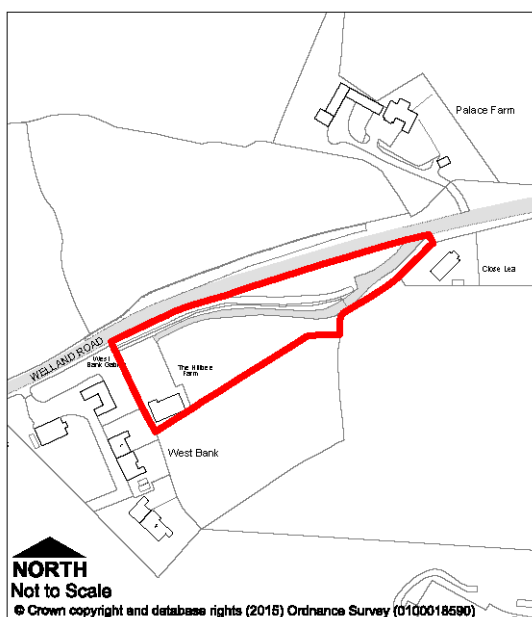


Proposed Deliverable Sites (Years 1 to 5)

Site at Hillbee Farm, Welland Road, Upton upon Severn

Potential Pitch Provision: 5 additional pitches

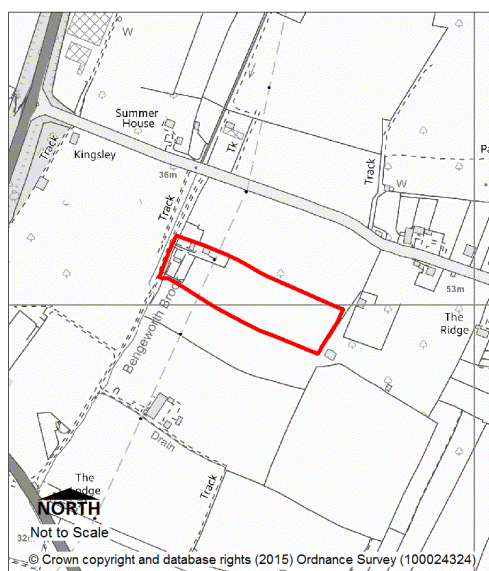
- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for Traveller use.
- It is an existing authorised Traveller site with planning permission for 2 caravans.
- The site is located 450 metres from Tunnel Hill and comprises a paddock with a static mobile home and hard standing for a touring caravan. Adjacent uses include mainly farmland as well as 7 residential properties within 50 metres from the site.
- The site is relatively flat and not affected by flooding.
- There are no international or national planning designations affecting the site. The site would not have a significant impact on local designations that cannot be mitigated.
- The County Highway Authority have not ruled out the site but require further evidence that the site could have safe access to the highway.
- The existing site is well screened and intensification of the site is unlikely to have a significant impact on the landscape.
- There are seven residential properties within 50 metres of the site but the impact on the residential amenity for the site residents or neighbouring properties is unlikely to be significant because of existing screening.
- The site has, and is capable of providing, on-site services for water supply, mains electricity, waste disposal and foul and surface water drainage.
- The site has good access to health services and schools in Upton upon Severn.



Site at The Orchard, Knowle Hill, Badsey

Potential Pitch Provision: 7 additional pitches

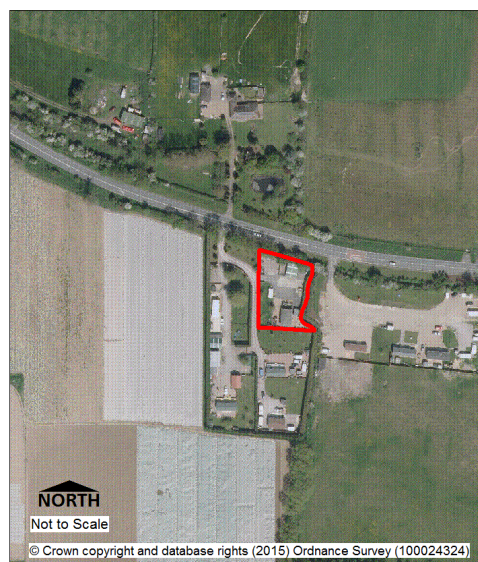
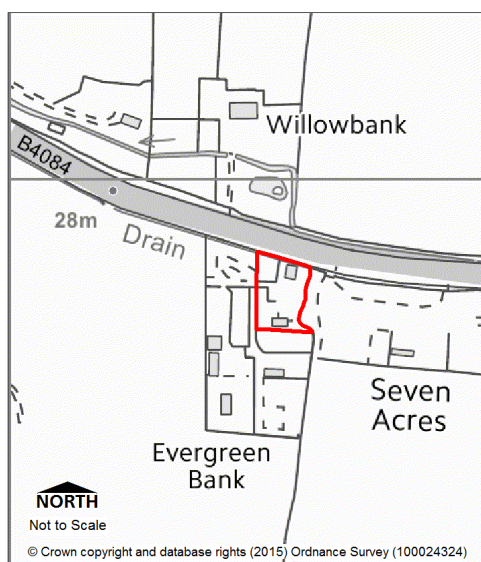
- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for Traveller use.
- This is an existing authorised Traveller site with planning permission for 3 mobile homes. The site is located 300 metres from Evesham. Adjacent uses include farmland and woodland as well as residential properties approximately 120 metres from the site, but on a slope overlooking the site.
- The site is relatively flat and not affected by flooding.
- There are no international or national planning designations affecting the site. The site would not have a significant impact on local designations that cannot be mitigated.
- The site is considered to have safe access to the highway.
- The existing site is well screened to the west and along its eastern extremity there is a woodland which is on land that slopes up from the site. However, additional planting would be required along the other boundaries to reduce the impact on the landscape. There are approximately 8 residential properties within 200 metres of the site but the impact on the residential amenity for the site residents or neighbouring properties is unlikely to be significant because of existing screening. However, additional planting would be required to further reduce impact on residential amenity.
- It is not proposed that the whole of the site would be used to accommodate new pitches but to concentrate them on the western half of the site close to the existing pitches this would help to ensure that the size of the site and the number of pitches are of an appropriate scale for the location.
- The site has on-site services for water supply, mains electricity, waste disposal and foul and surface water drainage.
- The site is approximately 1800 metres from Bengeworth Primary School.



Site at 8 Evergreen Bank, Main Road, Cropthorne

Potential Pitch Provision: 3 additional pitches

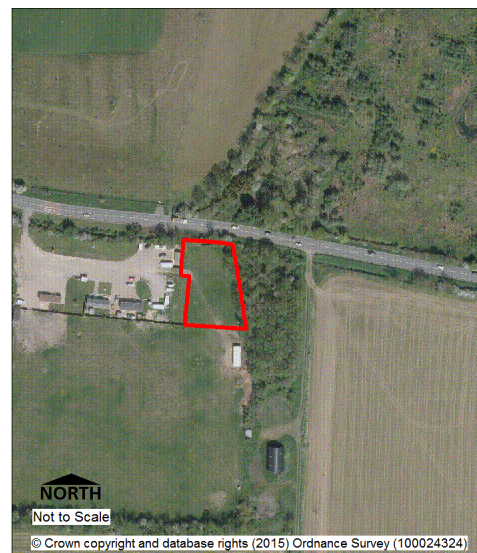
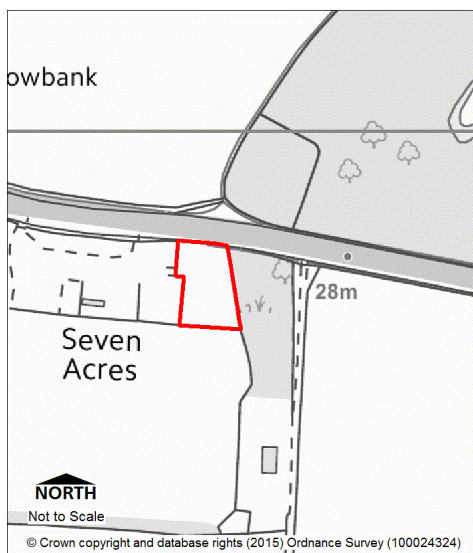
- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for Traveller use.
- This is an existing authorised Traveller site with planning permission for 1 pitch but adjoins 3 other sites with another 7 existing pitches, including Seven Acres (see next page). If pitches are increased on both of these sites then the potential number of pitches overall would be increased to 14 pitches.
- The site is located 770 metres from Cropthorne and is approximately 80 metres from the nearest residential property.
- The site is relatively flat and not affected by flooding.
- There are no international or national planning designations affecting the site. The site would not have a significant impact on local designations that cannot be mitigated.
- The County Highway Authority require further evidence that the site could have safe access to the highway.
- The existing site is well screened and intensification of the site is unlikely to have a significant impact on the landscape.
- There are 2 residential properties within 200 metres of the site but the impact on the residential amenity for the site residents or neighbouring properties is unlikely to be significant because the site is surrounded by existing traveller pitches and a substantial hedge to the road.
- The site has on-site services for water supply, mains electricity, waste disposal and foul and surface water drainage.
- The site is within 400 metres of a bus stop and is approximately 1,300 metres of Cropthorne primary school .



Site at Seven Acres, Main Road, Cropthorne

Potential Pitch Provision: 3 additional pitches

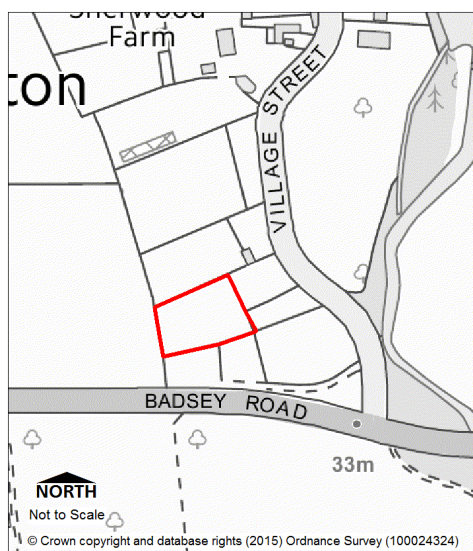
- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for Traveller use.
- This is an existing authorised Traveller site with planning permission for 3 pitches but adjoins 3 other sites with another 5 existing pitches, including 8 Evergreen Bank (see previous page). If pitches are increased on both of these sites then the potential number of pitches overall would be increased to 14 pitches.
- The site is located 900 metres from Cropthorne and is approximately 180 metres from the nearest residential property.
- The site is relatively flat and not affected by flooding.
- There are no international or national planning designations affecting the site. The site would not have a significant impact on local designations that cannot be mitigated.
- The County Highway Authority require further evidence that the site could have safe access to the highway.
- The existing site is well screened and intensification of the site is unlikely to have a significant impact on the landscape.
- There is 1 residential property within 200 metres of the site but the impact on the residential amenity for the site residents or neighbouring properties is unlikely to be significant because the site is surrounded by existing traveller pitches and a substantial hedge to the road.
- The site has on-site services for water supply, mains electricity, waste disposal and foul and surface water drainage.
- The site is approximately 530 metres of a bus stop and is approximately 1500 metres of Cropthorne primary school.



Site at Blossom Hill, Village Street, Aldington

Potential Pitch Provision: 2 additional pitches

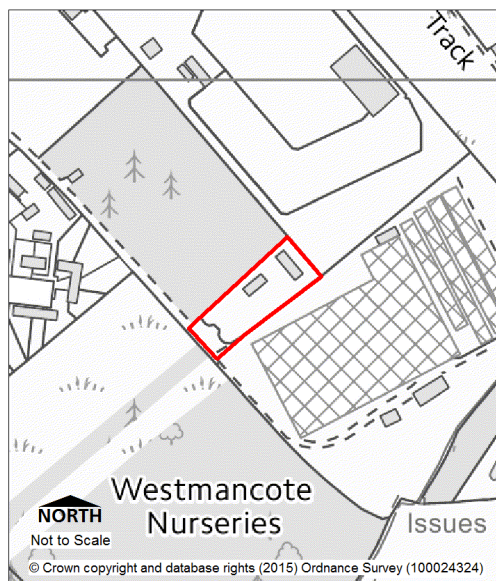
- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for Traveller use.
- This is a new site adjacent to two existing authorised Traveller sites with planning permission for 6 pitches in total.
- The site is located 150 metres from Aldington. Adjacent uses include farmland as well as residential properties approximately 130 metres from the site but the impact on the residential amenity for both the site residents and neighbouring properties is unlikely to be significant because of the existing screening that would be planted.
- The site is on a slope rising up from the road but is not on unstable land and is not affected by flooding.
- There are no international or national planning designations affecting the site. The site is within 100m of a Special Wildlife Site – Littleton and Badsey Brook and tributaries but the site would not have a significant impact on local designations that cannot be mitigated.
- The site is considered to have the potential for safe access to the highway.
- The existing site is well screened and the expansion of the site onto the adjoining land is unlikely to have a significant impact on the landscape.
- There are approximately 14 residential properties within 200 metres of the site.
- The size of the site and the number of pitches is considered to be of an appropriate scale for the location.
- The neighbouring site has on-site services for water supply, mains electricity, waste disposal and foul and surface water drainage and therefore it is assumed that the expanded site is capable of providing the same.
- The site is within 100 metres of a bus stop and 1330 metres of a primary school in Badsey.



Site at The Laurels, Kemerton Road, Bredon

Potential Pitch Provision: 3 additional pitches

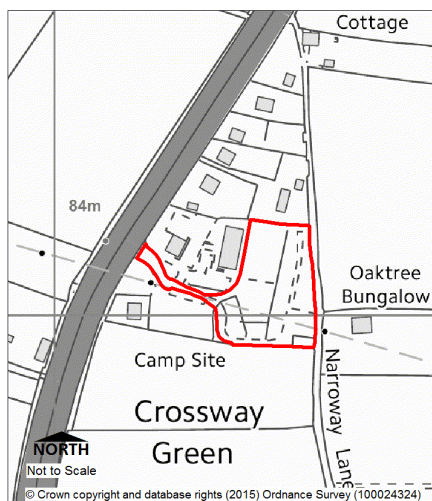
- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for Traveller use.
- This is an existing authorised Traveller site with planning permission for 2 pitches.
- The site is located 50 metres from Bredon. Adjacent uses include a nursery as well as residential properties 50 metres from the site.
- The site is relatively flat and not affected by flooding.
- There are no international or national planning designations affecting the site. The site would not have a significant impact on local designations that cannot be mitigated.
- The County Highway Authority require further evidence that the site could have safe access to the highway. The existing site is relatively open but is set against a backdrop of nursery buildings and glasshouses and intensification of the site is unlikely to have a significant impact on the landscape.
- There are approximately 45 residential properties within 200 metres of the site, additional boundary planting would be required to minimise the impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties.
- The size of the site and the number of pitches is considered to be of an appropriate scale for the location.
- The site has on-site services for water supply, mains electricity, waste disposal and foul and surface water drainage.
- The site has good access to health services and schools in town/village.



Site at Shorthill Caravan Park, Crossway Green

Potential Pitch Provision: 10 new pitches and 5 Transit pitches

- The site is subject to temporary planning permission granted on appeal for 10 residential pitches, 1 managers pitch (occupation of this pitch is not restricted to a traveller) and 24 transit pitches in July 2015. The temporary planning permission is due to expire in July 2019.
- The site is located 550 metres from Crossway Green. Adjacent uses include Travel Lodge and restaurant, caravan sales forecourt as well as a group of approximately 10 residential properties 2 of which are immediately adjacent to the site.
- The site is relatively flat and not affected by flooding.
- There are no international or national planning designations affecting the site. The site would not have a significant impact on local designations that cannot be mitigated.
- The site is considered to have safe access to the highway although part of it is shared with the Travel Lodge and restaurant.
- The site is well screened to the A449 and the Inspector determining the appeal considered that the combination of the existing planting and additional fencing proposed would further isolate the site visually from the adjoining properties. Furthermore, the site would not be visually obtrusive in the wider landscape.
- The size of the site and the number of permanent pitches is considered to be of an appropriate scale for the location and is not considered to dominate the nearby homes. However, the appeal Inspector considered that if much of the 24 transit pitches and the 10 permanent pitches were occupied at the same time then the development could be regarded as having the potential to dominate the nearby group of houses. Therefore, it is suggested that the allocation be for 10 permanent pitches, 1 managers pitch (which does not count as a Travellers pitch) and 5 transit pitches for Travellers, the latter is the number identified in the GTAA for transit pitches.
- The site is capable of providing on-site services for water supply, mains electricity, waste disposal and foul and surface water drainage.
- The site is within 300metres of a bus stop and 500 metres of a shop.

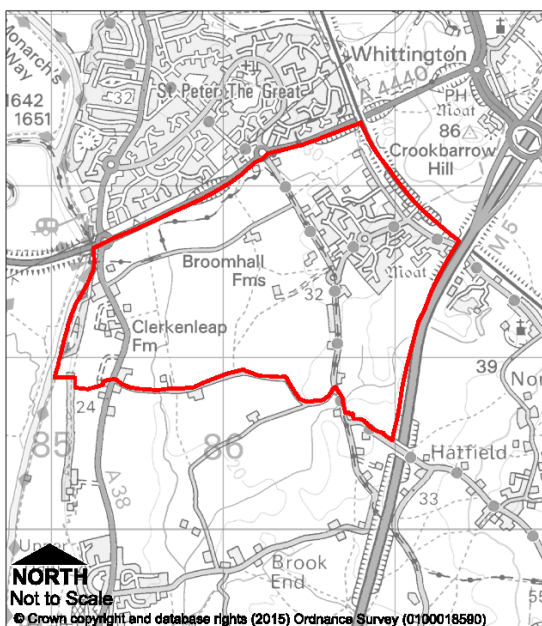


**Proposed Developable Sites
(Years 6 to 10)**

Site at Broomhall Community and Norton Barracks Community (Worcester South Urban Extension)

Potential Pitch Provision: up to 10 pitches

- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for mixed use development.
- A Traveller site of up to 10 pitches within the Worcester South urban extension has been proposed in the South Worcestershire Development Plan (policy SWDP 45/1). The policy has been subject to public consultation and tested at the South Worcestershire Development Plan Examination Hearings.
- It is proposed that the Worcester South urban extension will accommodate approximately 2,600 dwellings and 20 hectares of employment land by 2030. Due to its size and scale, the urban extension offers opportunities for mixed use development, including the integration of a Traveller site up to 10 pitches. The precise location of the Traveller site will be identified through detailed masterplanning of the urban extension.
- The Worcester South urban extension offers a sustainable location and would be consistent with Planning Policy for Traveller Sites and the South Worcestershire Development Plan. The urban extension would provide a location where infrastructure and services exist and would ensure access to appropriate health services and schools. Being near to housing for the settled community as part of mainstream residential development, the urban extension would also offer scope to manage an integrated coexistence with the local community.
- Depending on the precise location of the Traveller site, it may be situated in a Significant Gap. However, the principle of development within the boundary of urban extension is accepted in the South Worcestershire Development Plan.



Site at Temple Laugherne (Worcester West Urban Extension)

Potential Pitch Provision: up to 10 pitches

- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for mixed use development.
- A Traveller site of up to 10 pitches within the Worcester West urban extension has been proposed in the South Worcestershire Development Plan (policy SWDP 45/2). The policy has been subject to public consultation and tested at the South Worcestershire Development Plan Examination Hearings.
- It is proposed that the Worcester West urban extension will accommodate approximately 2,150 dwellings and 5 hectares of employment land by 2030. Due to its size and scale, the urban extension offers opportunities for mixed use development, including the integration of a Traveller site up to 10 pitches. The precise location of the Traveller site will be identified through detailed masterplanning of the urban extension.
- The Worcester West urban extension offers a sustainable location and would be consistent with Planning Policy for Traveller Sites and the South Worcestershire Development Plan. The urban extension would provide a location where infrastructure and services exist and would ensure access to appropriate health services and schools. Being near to housing for the settled community as part of mainstream residential development, the urban extension would also offer scope to manage an integrated coexistence with the local community.

