

South Worcestershire
Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
Site Allocations
Development Plan Document

Revised Preferred Options (2021)
Consultation

May 2021

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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 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 (DPD) will allocate new sites or extensions/intensifications to existing Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sites and will become part of the Development Plan for the South Worcestershire Councils (SWCs).

The South Worcestershire Councils undertook three “calls for sites”: February to March 2015, November 2016 – January 2017 and the latest October – November 2020. The calls for sites provided an opportunity for individuals and organisations to suggest sites that they considered might be suitable for allocation as a Traveller or Travelling Showpeople site. It was made clear that proposals could be for either new sites or an expansion or intensification of an existing site. Proposals were invited for permanent residential sites or transit sites / temporary stopping places – although it should be noted that the latest GTAA (Oct 2019) suggests that transit or temporary stopping places are not required due to the Toleration Policy currently operative across Worcestershire.

Sites were sieved out which failed on the grounds of either the site being unavailable for Travellers or Travelling Showpeople purposes or the site had major constraints such as being within planning designations, areas prone to flooding, or on contaminated land, etc. Remaining sites went through a more detailed assessment. This is explained further in the section on Site Selection Process (page 17).

Purpose of the Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document

The Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document (TTS DPD) allocates sites to meet the need as identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (Oct 2019).

The short term needs (for the first 5 years) will be met through the allocation of sites to meet the identified needs in the GTAA – this includes the allocation of existing tolerated sites, i.e. sites which do not have planning permission but do not cause any planning harm.

- The medium term need (for years 6 to 10) will be met via the new sites on the urban extensions and/or windfall sites coming forward in the broad locations indicated on Map 1.
- The longer term need (11 to 15 years) is not covered by this DPD because the level of need is likely to have changed by that time and there will have been a review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP).

The Revised Preferred Options (2021) consultation seeks views on these matters.

Sustainability Appraisal

The TTS DPD is informed by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which will contribute to the evidence base with the aim of delivering sustainable development.

For the purposes of this consultation an Interim Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared to set out the assessment of the strategic options and sites and can be viewed at <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/consultations/traveller-and-travelling-showpeople-site-allocations-dpd-preferred-options-2021> A full Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published alongside the Publication version of the Plan.

How to Comment

The consultation period runs for 7 weeks from 17 May to midnight on 5 July.

Consultation responses can be completed online: https://swdp-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/traveller_dpd_po_2021/traveller_and_travelling_showpeople_site_allocations_dpd_revised_po

Alternatively you may wish to submit comments using the response form:

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

Further information about the TTS DPD and an electronic copy of the Response Form are available on the SWDP website at <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/consultations/traveller-and-travelling-showpeople-site-allocations-dpd-preferred-options-2021>

Hard copies of this Consultation Document are also available at 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 councils' websites.

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, The 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 SWC prepared the SWDP which was adopted in February 2016. The SWDP sets out the strategy, together with policies and site allocations to guide the location of new pitches in south Worcestershire up to 2030.

One of the issues that the SWDP addresses is meeting the accommodation needs of Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

A new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) was published in Oct 2019 to inform the need for this DPD.

Policy SWDP 17 (Travellers and Travelling Showpeople)

The pitch requirements set out in the SWDP in Policy SWDP 17 have been superseded by the evidence in the GTAA (Oct 2019).

Policy SWDP17 also sets out a number of criteria¹ to guide land supply allocations and provide a basis for decisions when planning applications come forward.

The SWDP Review will include a similar Traveller policy to the SWDP – both setting out the need for new Traveller pitches and a criteria based policy for determining planning applications.

¹ Criterion xi) is no longer applicable because of the cancellation of the CLG Good Practice Guide on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Existing Provision of Travellers Pitches and Showpeople Plots in South Worcestershire

In Spring 2019, the GTAA records that there were 217 permanent Traveller pitches and 12 Travelling Showpeople plots within south Worcestershire:

- 131 authorised private pitches,
- 86 local authority managed pitches (plus 4 unoccupied)
- 1 Travelling Showperson's yard located in Malvern Hills which provides 12 plots.

In addition, there were:

- 30 transit pitches (24 with temporary planning permission and 6 not yet developed)
- 20 residential private pitches with temporary planning permission
- 7 pitches located on unauthorised developments (1 pitch in Malvern Hills regarded as unauthorised and 6 pitches in Wychavon referred to by the local authority as tolerated pitches)
- There were 29 potential pitches (i.e. pitches with planning permission but which had not yet been developed) located in Wychavon.

Table 1 Traveller Pitches in South Worcestershire Spring 2019)

	Malvern Hills	Worcester	Wychavon	Total
Local Authority Site	5	15	66	86
Housing Association Site	0	0	0	0
Private Site – Authorised	15	0	116	131
Private Site – Temporary Authorised**	8	0	12	20
Unauthorised	1	0	0	1
Unauthorised - tolerated	0	0	6	6
TOTAL	29	15	200	244

**Plus an additional 24 transit pitches at Crossway Green

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

The SWC are required to identify and update annually, a supply of deliverable Travellers 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 the adoption of a DPD 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 with the associated 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 the same public services that are available to the settled community.

The TTS DPD 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 first 5 years and identify broad locations for years 6 to 10.

Doing nothing to address the issues is therefore not considered a viable option.

2. What Have We Done So Far?

Vision

The Vision for the TTS DPD 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 communities.

Both the travelling and 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 that meet their needs, whilst respecting the interests of the settled community.

To achieve this it will be necessary to:

- Identify sites that are available, suitable and deliverable;
- Allocate and grant planning permission for sufficient land and pitches to meet identified needs within south Worcestershire in the most appropriate locations;
- Allocate sites and pitches in the most sustainable locations to enable reasonable access to local services and facilities including health, education and employment;
- Ensure sites are of high quality design and are 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 October 2019 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) was published for south Worcestershire which identifies the future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The south Worcestershire GTAA is available at:

<https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review/swdp-review-evidence-base/south-worcestershire-gypsy-and-traveller-accommodation-assessment>

The GTAA identified the need for new Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots from 2019 to 2041 and is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 Need for Permanent Traveller Pitches and Travelling Showpeople - 2019 – 2041

	Malvern Hills Traveller Pitches**	Malvern Hills Travelling Showpeople Plots**	Worcester City Traveller Pitches**	Wychavon Traveller Pitches**	South Worcestershire Traveller Pitches**
2019-2023*	15	7	1	14	30
2024-2028	3	1	1	16	20
2029-2033	3	1	1	18	22
2034-2041	4	1	2	26	32
2019-2041	25	10	5	74	104

source: South Worcestershire Addendum to the GTAA, October 2019

*Each year runs from 1 Jan to 31 Dec

** PPTS 2015 definition

Development to Date

The SWC 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 they will contribute towards the required 5-year land supply.

Since 1 Jan 2019 planning permission has been granted for 21 new pitches² (all in Wychavon) – these count towards meeting the need for pitches in Wychavon.

Table 3 below indicates the outstanding need for the SWDP plan period to 2030 taking into account planning permissions granted.

Table 3 Outstanding need for Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople Plots

	Malvern Hills Traveller Pitches**	Malvern Hills Travelling Showpeople Plots**	Worcester City Traveller Pitches**	Wychavon Traveller Pitches**	South Worcestershire Traveller Pitches** & Plots
2019-2030	19.2	8.2	2.4	16.2	58.8 pitches & 8.2 plots

Tolerated Sites

It is suggested that the existing tolerated sites are allocated in the TTS DPD notwithstanding that they do not have planning permission as they have been in existence for many years and are not considered to cause any planning harm. The tolerated sites are all in Wychavon and are:

- The Gravel, Lineholt: 2 pitches,
- The Orchards, Knowle hill, Evesham: 2 pitches, and
- Sands Lane, Badsey: 2 pitches.

The inclusion of these tolerated sites will in effect increase supply by 6 pitches but without actually physically increasing the number of pitches on any of the sites. This would reduce the requirement from 58 pitches to 52 pitches for the period to 2030.

Call for Sites

The call for sites was advertised on the SWDP website and contact was made with owners of existing authorised sites, sites with temporary planning permission, tolerated sites, unauthorised developments and caravan parks.

² Up to 21 January 2021

17 sites were submitted during the first call for sites in February / March 2015. In addition, the potential suitability of the only Traveller site in south Worcestershire (at Crossway Green), which had temporary planning permission and no conditions limiting the site to named individuals, was also assessed.

21 sites were submitted to the second call for sites in Nov 2016 to Jan 2017. In addition, three sites which were either located within the proposed urban extensions or on sites beyond the urban extensions in lieu of sites on the urban extensions were also assessed.

10 sites were submitted to the latest call for sites in Oct/Nov 2020.

The full list of sites submitted to the councils is available in a separate Site Assessment Background Report available on the SWDP website at [South Worcestershire \(swdevelopmentplan.org\)](http://SouthWorcestershire.org/swdevelopmentplan.org)

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 sites may be identified for allocation in this DPD.

In addition, Council owned land across south Worcestershire and sites submitted to the SHELAA for housing and/or employment within 800m of Malvern, Tenbury Wells, Upton upon Severn or Cat 1 village in Malvern Hills were also assessed. None were found to be suitable, available and deliverable.

Preferred Options Consultations

There have been 2 previous Preferred Options consultation - March / April 2016 and March/April 2018. Comments received from those consultations have been considered in the preparation of this latest Preferred Options.

The SWC have not discounted the possibility of other sites coming forward during the preparation of this DPD or through approvals of planning applications.

Site Selection Process

The Site Assessment Background Report [South Worcestershire \(swdevelopmentplan.org\)](http://SouthWorcestershire.org/swdevelopmentplan.org) explains the assessment process which included a 2 stage desk-based assessment of the submitted sites. Sites which did not satisfy 1 or more of the essential criteria were rejected. Essential criteria included within 800m of a town, cat 1, 2 or 3 village, suitable and safe access, not on land liable to flood, not within Green Belt, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or significant Gap and not causing harm to Heritage or biodiversity assets.

The remaining sites were also assessed against 'desirable' criteria to determine their distance from e.g. schools, shops and doctors surgeries – but this was for information and to prioritise more sustainably located sites in the event of a choice of potential sites.

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

3. Proposed Site Allocations

Following the detailed assessment of all of the sites listed in the Site Assessment Background Report the following 4 sites meet, or have the potential to meet, the essential site suitability criteria and are proposed as potentially deliverable sites. These are listed in Table 4 below.

A copy of the Site Assessment Background Report is available on the SWDP website at [South Worcestershire \(swdevelopmentplan.org\)](http://SouthWorcestershire.org.uk/swdevelopmentplan)

Further information is provided on each of the 4 sites in Appendix 3.

Table 4 – New/extended Traveller sites

Site Name and Location	District	New site or Extension to or intensification of Existing Site	Proposed Number of Additional Permanent Pitches
Hillbee Farm, Welland Road, Upton upon Severn	Malvern Hills	Existing: Intensification	3
The Orchard, Knowle Hill, Evesham	Wychavon	Existing: Extension	5*
Blossom Hill, Village St, Aldington	Wychavon	Existing: Extension	2
Hughes Barn, Bretforton Rd, Badsey	Wychavon	New	6
Total			16

*for clarification this means 3 new pitches in addition to the 2 currently tolerated pitches, i.e. 5 in total.

The SWC 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.

Specific Consultation Questions

Travelling Showpeople

The GTAA (Oct 2019) identifies that 8 plots are required for the period from 2019 to 2030

Question 1 There have not been any suggested sites for Travelling Showpeople plots and therefore it is proposed that the SWC work with the Showman's Guild to identify a suitable site. Do you agree with this approach?

If no, please give your reasons.

Transit Sites

Question 2 The GTAA (Oct 2019) suggests that no new transit pitches are required because of the toleration policy operating across Worcestershire. Do you agree with this approach?

If no, please give your reasons.

Proposed Deliverable Traveller Pitches (first 5 years)

Question 3 Do you have any comments on the suitability of increasing the number of pitches (by 3 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 by 5 pitches (to include the 2 currently Tolerated pitches) at The Orchard, Knowle Hill in Evesham?

Question 5 Do you have any comments on the suitability of increasing the number of pitches (by 2 pitches) by extending the existing Traveller site at Blossom Hill, Village Street in Aldington?

Question 6 Do you have any comments on the suitability of land at Hughes Barn, Bretforton Rd, Badsey as a potential new permanent Traveller site for 6 pitches?

Meeting the Need for Developable Pitches and Plots (years 6 to 10)

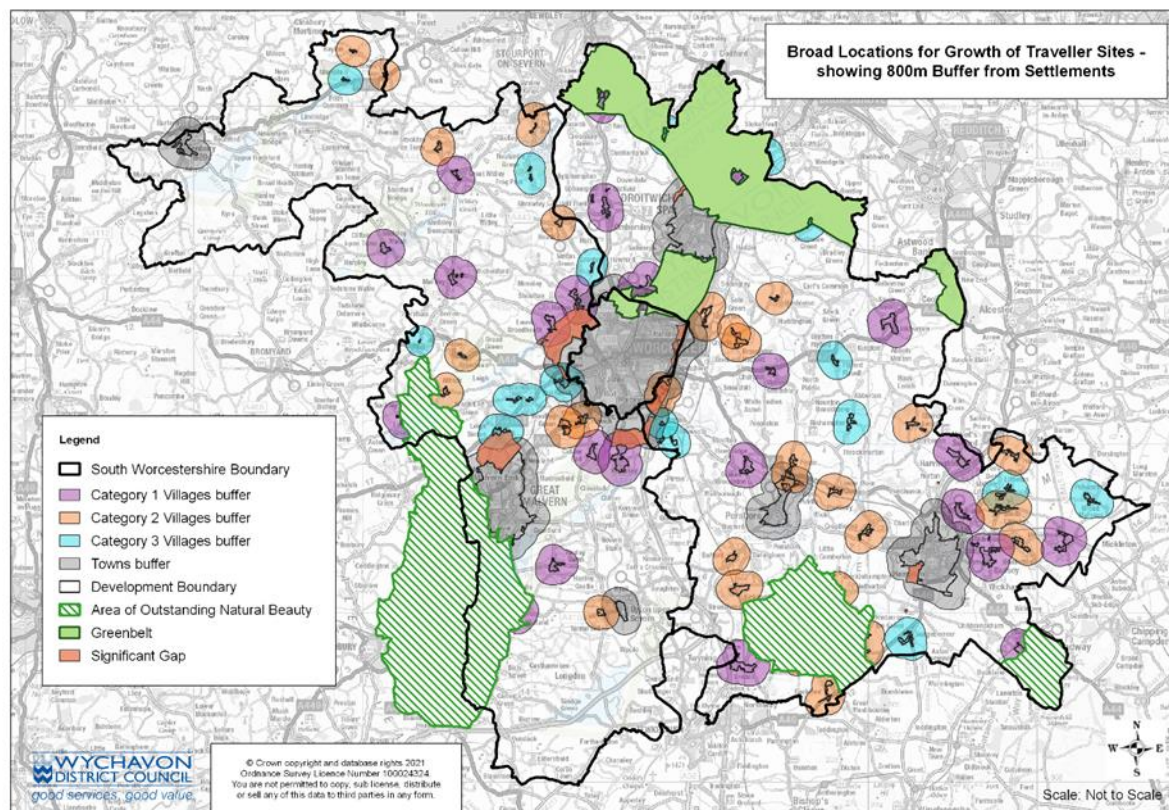
The Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites says that local planning authorities should identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years' six to ten.

Question 7 The SWDPR will include Traveller Site Allocations for the new settlements at Worcestershire Parkway, Rushwick and Throckmorton Airfield. Worcestershire Parkway shall include 2 Traveller sites and Rushwick Expanded Settlement and Throckmorton Airfield Strategic Allocation shall both include 1 Traveller site. Each site to be around 10 pitches. Do you agree with this approach?

If no, please give reasons.

Broad locations for growth are shown on Figure 1, which shows areas within 800 metres (the recognised threshold beyond which it is very unlikely people would walk to access a service) of a town or Category 1, 2 or 3 settlement excluding land within either the Green Belt or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (in accordance with the Site Assessment Methodology and reflecting SWDP 17Ci). In the ten year period, April 2007 to March 2017, 66 Traveller pitches were granted consent in South Worcestershire within 800 metres of towns or Category 1, 2 or 3 settlements. It therefore seems reasonable to assume that further windfall sites will come forward within or on the edge of towns or Category 1, 2 or 3 settlements through the development management process to meet any outstanding need in the period to 2027. Windfall development proposals will be assessed in accordance with the criteria in Policy SWDP17 and the policies in the emerging SWDPR.

Figure 1: Broad Locations for the Growth of Sites for Travellers and Travelling Showpeople



Question 8 Do you agree with this approach of identifying broad locations of growth?

If no, please give reasons.

4. Other Planning Issues

Tenure of New Pitches and Plots

There is a waiting list for social rented pitches for Travellers who are unable afford to purchase a pitch, therefore ideally a mixture of private and socially-rented sites should be provided.

In the previous Preferred Options consultations respondents indicated that there could be difficulties in assessing applicant's incomes and establishing discounted market values for pitches.

Question on Tenure

Question 9 Do you have any suggestions as to how the SWC can encourage the provision of socially rented pitches?

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.

In the previous Preferred Options consultations respondents suggested information could be sought from applicants on their working locations over the previous 5 years and how long the Travellers are away from the site.

Question about Nomadic Habit of Life

Question 10 When determining planning applications the SWC will have to assess whether persons are Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of planning policy. Do you have any suggestions about how the SWC should assess whether Gypsies and Travellers are leading or have permanently ceased their nomadic habit of life?

If yes, please provide suggestions.

General

In the previous Preferred Options consultations respondents indicated that the distribution of existing Traveller sites is not reflected equally across Worcestershire and therefore does not enable Travellers to live in other areas; sites are over concentrated in certain areas with no

apparent upper limit; Travellers should become more involved in local life; if sites are too large they lead to more friction between local and travelling communities.

Question 11 Are there any other comments you wish to make about this Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Revised Preferred Options Document?

5. Next Steps

The timetable for the preparation of the TTS DPD is outlined in each of the SWC Local Development Schemes, published in November 2019.

The proposed timetable for the development of the TTS DPD is summarised as follows:

Stage	Timetable
Commencement	September 2014
Preferred Options Consultations (Regulation 18)	May – June 2016 February - April 2018 17 May to 5 July 2021
Publication (Regulation 19)	Sept/October 2021
Submission (Regulation 22)	April 2022
Independent Examination (Regulation 24)	May/June 2022 <i>Precise dates of examination hearing sessions will be determined by the Inspector</i>
Receipt of Inspector's Report (Regulation 25)	June 2022
Adoption (Regulation 26)	July 2022

The next stage in the process will be for the SWC to consider and assess responses to the latest Preferred Options (2021) consultation.

A Draft DPD will then be prepared, including the recommended final site allocations. The Draft DPD will be consulted on at the Publication stage in Sept/October 2021, the Draft DPD, together with the representations received on it, will be submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2022.

An Examination in Public will follow and the Inspector will then publish their 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 - includes 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 (2019) 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 public transport 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 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 SWC. The Worcestershire GTAA was published in November 2014.

Mobile Home: Legally a caravan but not normally capable of being moved by towing, may also be known as a 'trailer', 'static caravan' or 'chalet'.

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 full list of sites submitted to the councils is available in a separate Site Assessment Background Report available on the SWDP website at <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/consultations/traveller-and-travelling-showpeople-site-allocations-dpd-preferred-options-2021>

The following essential and desirable site criteria are based on:

- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2015)
- SWDP 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 and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)

The site assessment methodology differentiates between ‘essential’ criterion which must be satisfied if a site is to be acceptable and ‘desirable’ criterion which are important sustainability criteria, but may not be essential for a site to be acceptable.

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 of³, a town or Category 1, 2 or 3 settlement⁴ 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 Ancient Monuments, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Listed

³ ‘On the edge of’ equates to 800m from the development boundary – in this case the distance is measured along the road network and is not a radius measurement from the site.

⁴ 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 bus 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”.

	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 Belt⁵. • Whether the site falls within a Significant Gap. • Whether there are any known protected species or habitats 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 or intensification of 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.

⁵ 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))

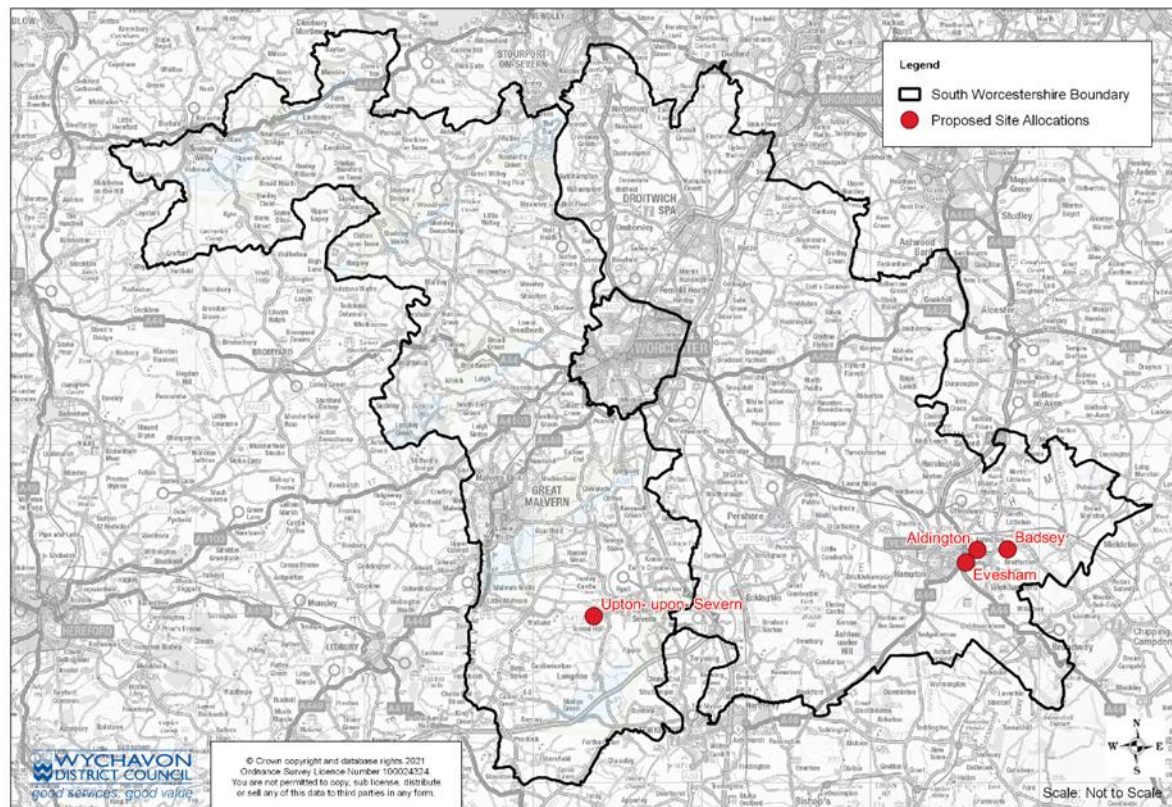
Appendix 3

Proposed Site Allocations for Traveller and Travelling Showpeople

To meet the need for the deliverable permanent residential Traveller pitches in the first 5 years the SWC propose that new or additional pitches be allocated at 4 existing or new sites. The location of the proposed sites to be allocated is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2

Location of Proposed Site Allocations

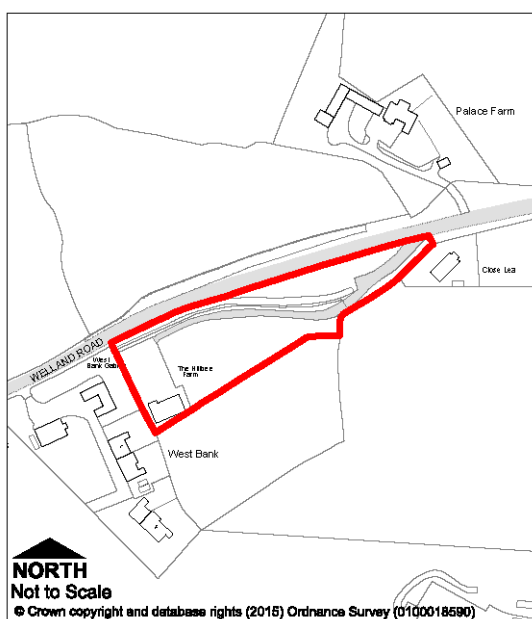


Details of the each of the sites suggested to accommodate the new pitches are given below.

Site at Hillbee Farm, Welland Road, Upton upon Severn

Potential Pitch Provision: 3 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 site takes access from A4104 within a 40mph speed limit. The highway authority have indicated that they would need evidence that an appropriate level of visibility could be provided for the actual traffic speeds on the road and would also require alterations to the access so that vehicles could make the left turn out of the site without crossing onto the far side of the carriageway.
- 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, Evesham

Potential Pitch Provision: 5 pitches (including 2 Tolerated pitches)

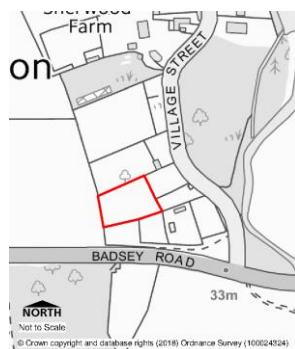
- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for Traveller use.
- This is an existing Traveller site with planning permission for 1 mobile home. In addition there are 2 tolerated pitches. The site is located 300 metres from Evesham. Adjacent uses include farmland and woodland as 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.
- The Manor House, a Grade 2 Listed Building, is to the north-east of the site. To mitigate against potential harm to the setting of this listed building a smaller site area is proposed to include only a third of the originally submitted site plus additional planting on the northern and western boundaries.
- 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. Although the impact on the residential amenity for the site residents or neighbouring properties is unlikely to be significant because of existing screening, but additional planting would be beneficial.
- It is considered that the smaller parcel of land as now proposed will 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 Blossom Hill, Village St, Aldington

Potential Pitch Provision: 2 additional pitches

- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for Traveller use.
- This site is adjacent to two existing authorised Traveller sites with planning permission for 6 pitches in total.
- The site is located 150 metres from Aldington and 370m from Badsey. 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 could be mitigated by additional planting.
- The site is on a slope rising up from the road but appears relatively stable 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.
- Given the four existing plots on the adjacent existing site and the two additional consented plots, it is not considered that a further additional 2 plots to the rear (western half) of the proposed site would have a significant additional landscape impact. They would be in the least visible part of the site as a whole.
- There are approximately 14 residential properties within 200 metres of the site.
- The size of the site and the number of pitches in conjunction with the neighbouring sites are 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 1,330 metres of a primary school in Badsey.



Site at Hughes Barn, Bretforton Rd, Badsey

Potential Pitch Provision: 6 new pitches

- The site has been identified by the landowner as being available for Traveller use.
- This site is adjacent to an existing authorised Traveller sites with planning permission for 3 pitches in total.
- The site is located 420 metres from Badsey and 600m from Bretforton. Adjacent uses include farmland and a traveller site. The nearest residential dwelling is approximately 170m from the site.
- The site is flat and open to the west and south has an existing access which is shared with the neighbouring traveller site.
- There are no international or national planning designations affecting 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 same could be provided for this new site.
- The site is within 170 metres of a bus stop, 1.2km of a shop and 1.1km of a primary school in Bretforton.

