
Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document

Sustainability Appraisal
Scoping report

Pre-Submission Draft (Regulation 19)

August 2024

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report relates to the sustainability appraisal (SA) of the Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document – hereafter referred to as ‘the Plan’. It sets out the proposed scope and level of detail of the SA of the Plan and is often known as a ‘scoping report’.
- 1.2. The Plan will identify the future level of need for accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, including travelling showpeople, in Wiltshire to 2038. It will identify sites to meet permanent and temporary accommodation needs, based on a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment¹ (GTAA). The GTAA Report was published in June 2024.
- 1.3. The timetable for the progression of the Plan, according to the Council’s updated Local Development Scheme² (LDS) is shown below. Note this already accounts for a short delay that occurred at the beginning of the process.

Table 1: Plan preparation programme

Stage of development of the Plan	Dates
Plan preparation (including evidence gathering and informal consultation)	Qtr 2 2020 - Qtr 3 2024
Publication of plan for pre-submission consultation	Commencing Qtr 3 2024 – Qtr 1 2025
Submission to Secretary of State	Qtr 1 2025
Examination (including hearing and receipt of Inspector’s report)	Commencing Qtr 1 2025
Adoption	Qtr 3 2025

- 1.4. This initial ‘scoping’ stage of the SA involves compiling information on the current and future situation in relation to the Gypsy and Traveller community in Wiltshire and the key issues. It establishes an evidence base for ongoing SA work related to the Plan and culminates in a framework of sustainability objectives.
- 1.5. The information contained within this report will be used to assess the extent the Plan contributes towards the objective of achieving sustainable development.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.6. The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

a) **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;

b) **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) **an environmental objective** – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

¹ Wiltshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (ORS, 2024)

² Local Development Scheme (Wiltshire Council, 2024)

- 1.7. The purpose of SA is to promote the achievement of sustainable development within planning policy. This is done by appraising the social, environmental and economic effects of a plan, and reasonable alternatives, from the outset and in doing so, helping to ensure that sustainable development is treated in an integrated way in the preparation of the Plan.

Legal requirements

- 1.8. SA is a legal requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for all Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which includes the Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document.

- 1.9. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 32, states that:

“Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements³. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered)”.

- 1.10. This report meets the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into law EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC. These requirements are outlined in Section 2 of this report and at the beginning of relevant sections.

- 1.11. The two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:

1) a report is published for consultation alongside the draft Plan that presents an appraisal of the draft Plan i.e. discusses ‘likely significant effects’ that would result from plan implementation, and reasonable alternatives; and

2) when deciding on ‘the scope and level of detail of the information’ which must be included in the SA Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues.

- 1.12. This ‘Scoping Report’ is concerned with (2) above. It presents a proposed scope for the SA so that the nationally designated authorities (which, in England, are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England) can provide timely comment.

Joint assessment

- 1.13. Although the legal requirements for SA and SEA are separate and distinct, they have a high degree of overlap and guidance advises that an integrated approach can be followed if both assessments are being undertaken. Throughout this report therefore, where reference is made to SA, it relates to the combined process of SA and SEA.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.14. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 is a further consideration in respect of the Wiltshire Gypsies & Travellers Development Plan Document. HRA concerns Natura 2000 sites, which are areas protected for their nature conservation value; these areas consist of Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites.

- 1.15. An HRA screening exercise will be undertaken by Wiltshire Council ecologists in consultation with Natural England to determine if the Plan is likely to have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European Sites. If the HRA screening identifies that an Appropriate Assessment

³ The reference to relevant legal requirements refers to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

(AA) is required, this will need to be conducted alongside the development of the Plan. Its findings will also inform the findings of the SA.

Report structure

1.16. This report is structured in the following way:

Chapter 2: Methodology

Chapter 3: Stage A1 - Review of other plans, policies and sustainability objectives

Chapter 4: Stage A2 - Baseline information

Chapter 5: Stage A3 - Key sustainability and environmental issues and problems

Chapter 6: Stage A4 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Chapter 7: Stage A5 - Consultation requirements

Chapter 8: Next steps

2 METHODOLOGY

Introduction

2.1. The methodology for this scoping stage of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was developed in accordance with the following guidance:

- A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (ODPM, 2005)
- Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005)
- Planning Practice Guidance – Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal (MHCLG, 2020)

2.2. This report meets the scoping requirements of the SEA Regulations which are as follows:

The SEA Regulations (2004) - requirements for deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report.

Schedule 2 - Regulation 12(3)

1. *...its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes'*
2. *'The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme'*
3. *'The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected'*
4. *'Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(a) and the Habitats Directive'*
5. *'The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation'*

'When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies'
(Regulation 12 (5))

Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal

2.3. The SA will be carried out in a series of stages which are outlined in Figure 1.

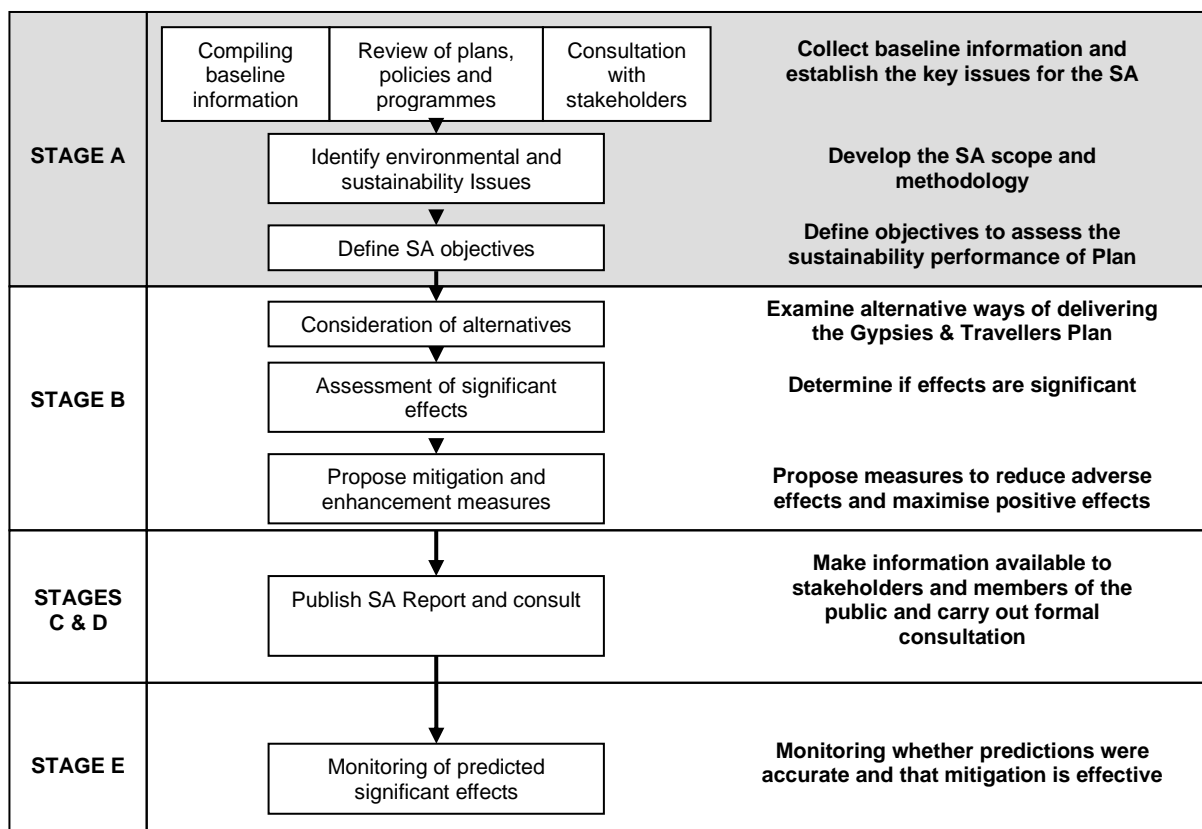


Figure 1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

2.4. This scoping report includes the information relating to Stage A (highlighted) in Figure 1. The individual tasks within Stage A, which will meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations, are further explained in Sections 3-7 of this report.

Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal

2.5. The sustainability topics considered in this scoping report encompass those required by Regulation 12(3) of the SEA Regulations but include wider social and economic considerations required for a SA. They also reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of the effects of the Plan. The topic areas have been informed by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and reflect those used for the SA of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review in order to ensure consistency.

The SEA Regulations require an assessment of:

'the likely significant effects on the environment including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as — biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape; and the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).'

2.6. In addition, topics have been included to ensure that those of particular relevance to the Plan have been considered. These topics are summarised in the table below, with a comparison against the topics required by the SEA Regulations. SA guidance also advises that any inter-relationships between topic areas are considered. Cross cutting matters have therefore been

addressed within this report for each topic area. Cross cutting issues refer to where elements of one topic relate to elements of either one or a number of the other topic areas.

Table 2: Sustainability topics proposed for the SA of the Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document

SEA Regulations issues for consideration	SA topic areas	Sustainability theme
Biodiversity	Biodiversity Incorporating fauna and flora	Environmental
Fauna		
Flora		
Soil	Land and soil resources	
Water	Water resources	
Air	Air quality and environmental pollution	
Climatic factors	Climatic factors	
	Energy	
Cultural heritage, Including architectural and Archaeological heritage	Historic environment Incorporating cultural heritage, architectural and archaeological heritage	
Landscape	Landscapes	
Population	Population and housing	Social
Human health	Healthy and inclusive communities	
N/A	Transport	Economic
	Economy and enterprise	
Material assets	Material assets and infrastructure matters are discussed within different topic areas.	Environmental Social Economic
Inter- Relationships	Important cross cutting matters are addressed within each topic area.	Environmental Social Economic

3. TASK A1 - IDENTIFYING OTHER PLANS, POLICIES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

The SEA Regulations (Regulation 12(3)) require consideration of:

...its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes'

'The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation'

Introduction

- 3.1. The SA Report must provide information on the Plan's "*relationship with other relevant plans and programmes*" and "*the environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] Community or [national] level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation*". This review helps identify obligations and highlights the objectives of other organisations and service providers which might be pursued during the development of the Plan.
- 3.2. The Plan is influenced in various ways by other plans and programmes, including European and national legislation, national guidance and those plans of neighbouring authorities. Documenting these influences helps to ensure that the Plan is consistent with up-to-date policy, is informed by sound information and this also helps in the process of identifying environmental and sustainability issues.

Review of plans, policies and objectives

- 3.3. The Wiltshire Core Strategy and Wiltshire Local Plan SA Scoping Reports⁴ provide a comprehensive review of policies, plans and objectives that describe the sustainability context of those documents; they include policies, plans and objectives relating to the natural, built and historic environment at the international, national, regional and local levels. Some of those documents already reviewed for the Core Strategy and Local Plan SAs are relevant to the Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document and it is not intended to repeat those in this section.
- 3.4. However, there is European and national legislation, national policy guidance, plans of neighbouring authorities and local documents that are of specific relevance to the emerging Plan. Those we propose to include are listed below:

International

- European Directive 2001/42/EC (The SEA Directive) (2001)

National

- Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as subsequently amended)
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- Housing Act 1996/ Homelessness Act 2002
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Housing Act 1985 (as amended), in conjunction with the Housing and Planning Act 2016 Section 124
- Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans (2015)
- Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (2016)
- Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2015)

⁴ Wiltshire Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, April 2010) and Wiltshire Local Plan Review Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, September 2020)

- Historic England Advice Note 3: The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans (2015)
- Equalities Act 2010
- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DLUHC, 2023)
- National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC, 2023)
- Review of housing needs for caravans and houseboats: draft guidance (MHCLG, March 2016)
- Planning Practice Guidance (DLUHC, 2023)
- Localism Act (2011)
- Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping (DCLG, 2004)
- Supplement to 'Managing Unauthorised Camping: A Good Practice Guide (ODPM, 2005)
- Guide to effective use of enforcement powers Part 1: Unauthorised encampments (ODPM, 2006)
- Guide to Effective Use of Enforcement Powers – Part 2: Unauthorised Development of Caravan Sites (DCLG, 2007)
- Local authorities and Gypsies and Travellers: a guide to responsibilities and powers (DCLG, 2007)

Regional (including relevant plans/policies of neighbouring authorities)

- Bath & North East Somerset Council Adopted Core Strategy 2029 Policy CP11 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
- Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan (Part 1 Core Strategy) 2013-2028
- Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation January 2021
- Cotswold's National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2025
- Cranborne Chase Partnership Plan 2019-2024 Mendip District Council Local Plan 2006-2029
- New Forest District Council Local Plan Part 1 2016-2036
- New Forest National Park Authority Local Plan 2016-2036
- New Forest National Park Recreation Management Strategy 2010 – 2030
- North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2019- 2024
- New Forest National Park Partnership Plan 2022–2027
- South Gloucestershire Core Strategy 2006-2027
- South Somerset Local Plan 2006-2028
- Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026
- Test Valley Local Plan 2014-2029
- Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan Part 2 2031
- West Berkshire Core Strategy 2006-2026

Local

- Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 47 (Wiltshire Council, 2015)
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (ORS, June 2024)
- Wiltshire Council Emergency Stopping Places Strategy (Wiltshire Council, 2018)
- Planning for Wiltshire's Gypsy and Traveller Communities Regulation 18 Consultation Document (Wiltshire Council, 2021)
- Wiltshire Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, and Boater Strategy 2020-2025 (Wiltshire Council, 2020)
- Health Needs Assessment for Gypsy, Traveller and Boater populations living in Wiltshire (Wiltshire Council, 2019)
- Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document Consultation Report – Regulation 18 (Wiltshire Council, 2021)
- Wiltshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2015 – 2025 (Wiltshire Council, 2015)
- Wiltshire Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (JBA Consulting, May 2019)

3.5. A brief review of all documents listed above is presented in **Appendix A** and information from these has been used to inform the subsequent sections of this report.

4. TASK A2 - BASELINE INFORMATION

Introduction

The SEA Regulations (Regulation 12(3)) require consideration of:

‘The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme’

‘The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected’

- 4.1. This ‘baseline’ section identifies what is currently happening in the Wiltshire local authority area with regards Gypsies and Travellers and the likely evolution of the situation if current trends were to continue. It meets the requirements of the SEA Regulations as shown in the text box above.
- 4.2. This additional baseline information on Gypsies and Travellers supplements that presented in the Wiltshire Core Strategy and Wiltshire Local Plan SA Scoping Reports⁵, which include information on the natural, built and historic environment of Wiltshire. This additional baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the environmental and sustainability effects of the Plan and will help to identify current problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.
- 4.3. A practical approach to the collection of baseline information has been taken as there will be opportunities to update this scoping report as further consultation is undertaken. This report has been updated to reflect the Wiltshire GTAA (June 2024) and ‘*Planning for Wiltshire’s Gypsy and Traveller Communities Consultation Document*’ (Wiltshire Council, 2021). Stakeholders will have an important role to play in this process by providing information and feedback which will inform the Plan, and associated SA, as it progresses.

A profile of Wiltshire

- 4.4. The adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy describes Wiltshire as being one of the largest unitary authorities in England. The authority’s area covers approximately 3,255 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 460,000 people. Wiltshire adjoins the higher tier local authorities of Dorset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Hampshire, Swindon and Bath & North East Somerset.
- 4.5. Wiltshire is a largely rural area encompassing many natural and historic features which make it distinctive, including parts of three National Landscapes, part of the New Forest National Park, over 16,000 listed buildings, over 240 conservation areas and a World Heritage Site. The high number of conservation areas reflects the importance of the county’s heritage, much of which is recognised at national and international levels. Wiltshire’s heritage is unique and outstanding, ranging from pre-historic monuments such as Stonehenge, to links with the industrial revolution, including canal and railway structures. Among the issues and challenges facing Wiltshire’s heritage is the pressure from encroachment on its sensitive historic landscapes.
- 4.6. Wiltshire also includes an element of the Western Wiltshire Green Belt, which protects the openness of the countryside between Bath, Bradford-on-Avon and Trowbridge. The urban area of Swindon, while predominantly within Swindon Borough, has expanded into Wiltshire.
- 4.7. Deprivation is generally low and communities benefit from relatively safe environments. Wiltshire enjoys strong sub-regional links and is within commutable distance of London, Bristol, Swindon, South Wales and the south coast; for instance, via rail, the M4, A36 and A303.
- 4.8. Wiltshire’s largest settlements are Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge. They are designated in the Core Strategy as ‘Principal Settlements’ which are the focus for growth due to

⁵ Wiltshire Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, April 2010) and Wiltshire Local Plan Review Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, August 2020)

their ability to provide infrastructure and services to the population. Below this, market towns, local service centres and villages accommodate additional development but to a much lesser extent.

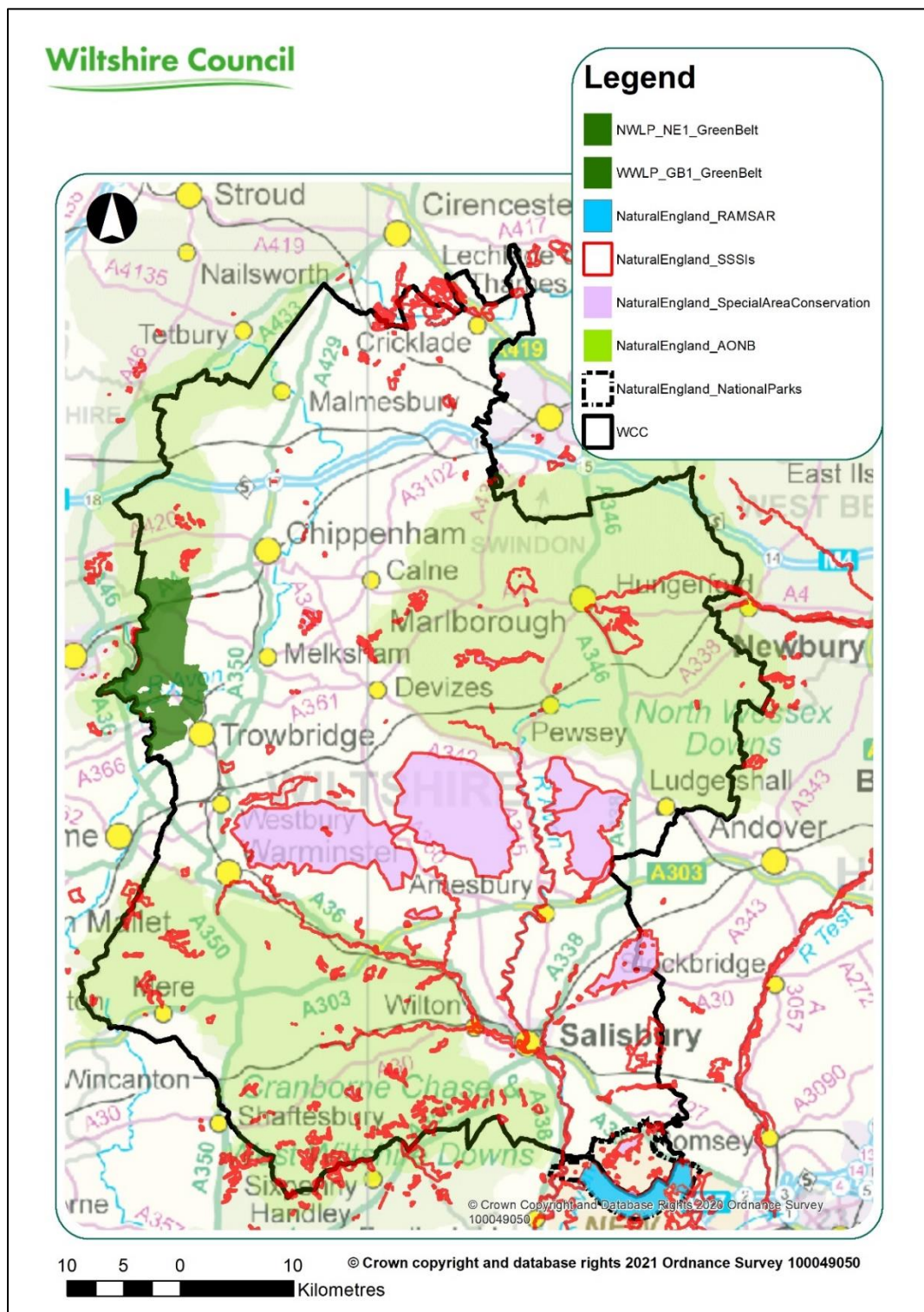


Figure 2: Wiltshire’s key environmental designations

- 4.9. The SA Report that accompanied the Wiltshire Core Strategy identified key sustainability issues in Appendix D. The Core Strategy is now being reviewed. The Local Plan Review will cover the plan period 2016 - 2038. The SA Scoping Report for the Local Plan Review, dated September 2020, sets out the social, environmental and economic sustainability issues for Wiltshire at Table 5.1.

Background to the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Wiltshire

- 4.10. A well-established Gypsy and Traveller community exists in Wiltshire. Most Gypsies and Travellers in Wiltshire identify themselves as English Travellers or Romany Gypsies, with some Irish Travellers. These communities reside on a mix of local authority sites, privately owned sites and unauthorised sites. Research⁶ has shown that the majority of sites are within the north, west and south of the county. New Age Travellers can also be found in Wiltshire, although their settlement pattern is more transient with numbers increasing during the summer months. There are also a small number of travelling showpeople yards in the county.
- 4.11. It is often generalised that Gypsies and Travellers are a uniform, cohesive community, however the reality is they are a diverse group of communities which share some features such as nomadism but have their own histories and traditions. There is often fragmentation between different families and between cultural groups. The main cultural groups include Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, and New Age Travellers. Under the Equality Act 2010, several groups have recognition as ethnic groups protected against discrimination. These include English, Welsh and Scottish Gypsy Travellers, Irish Travellers, and Romany Gypsies and Roma people. However, Showpeople and New (or New Age) Travellers are not recognised within these definitions and may not be protected (Parliament, 2019).
- 4.12. Many Gypsies and Travellers in Wiltshire pursue an active itinerant lifestyle and are generally self-employed, sometimes occupied in scrap-metal dealing, laying tarmac, seasonal agricultural work, casual labouring, and other employment. However, these traditional patterns are changing whereby the community has become increasingly settled, thereby increasing the demand for new permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites.
- 4.13. In accordance with guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Wiltshire Council undertakes a bi-annual count of caravans across Wiltshire. Whilst caravans do not necessarily relate to the number of pitches, the count data is used to monitor the pressures on existing sites, both authorised and unauthorised.

Current Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision in Wiltshire

- 4.14. The Wiltshire 2024 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2024 GTAA) states that there are 3 public sites; 66 private sites with permanent planning permission; no private sites with temporary planning permission; 3 sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; and 8 unauthorised sites. There are also 5 travelling showpeople yards. There is currently no public transit provision as the Council owned transit site at Odstock has been sold. Overall, these provide a total of 370 residential gypsies and traveller pitches in Wiltshire as of June 2024, and 13 plots for travelling showpeople.

Table 3: Sites and Pitches in Wiltshire – June 2024⁷

Category	Sites	Pitches
Gypsy/Traveller sites		
Private with permanent planning permission	66	302
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Total Private Sites	66	302
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	3	50
Unauthorised Sites (8 unauthorised sites and 3 tolerated sites)	11	18
TOTAL	80	370
Travelling showpeople sites		
Travelling showpeople sites with permanent planning permission	5	13
Travelling showpeople sites with	0	0

⁶ Wiltshire GTAA (ORS, 2024)

⁷ Wiltshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (ORS, June 2024). The Council continues to monitor planning permissions so these numbers may change.

temporary planning permission		
Unauthorised/tolerated travelling showpeople sites	0	0
TOTAL	5	13

4.15. Figure 3 below shows that the majority of sites are located in the north and west of the county, with only a very small number in the east, and the remainder of sites in the south of the county.

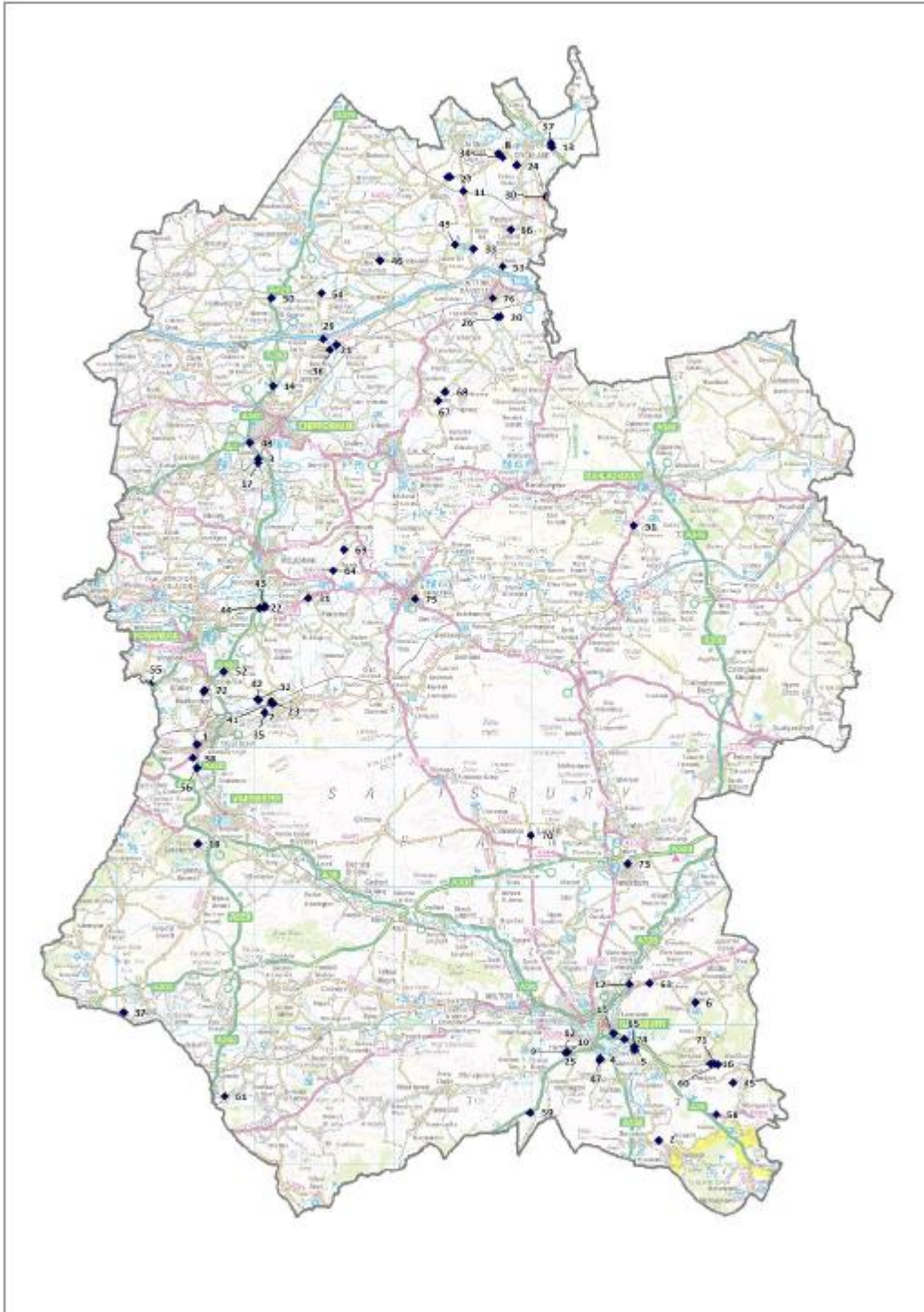


Figure 3: Traveller sites in Wiltshire

4.16. According to the 2024 GTAA, Wiltshire has a year-round issue with short-term unauthorised encampments. Most of the population are New Age Travellers and are a constant presence on the roadside around Wiltshire. The more traditional Gypsy & Traveller population tend to stop over the summer months, primarily for employment opportunities.

- 4.17. Information held by the Council recorded a total of 106 encampments in 2016, 230 encampments in 2017, 161 encampments in 2018, 116 encampments in 2019, 34 in 2020 (coronavirus pandemic), 186 in 2021, 272 in 2022 and 129 in 2023 (2024 GTAA, para 7.44). This shows that the number of encampments fluctuates year on year. The recommendations in the 2024 GTAA and the Emergency Stopping Places (ESP) Strategy⁸ seek to provide stopping sites in three broad locations to assist with provision of temporary accommodation (see below).
- 4.18. In addition, caravan count information is routinely compiled by the Council bi-annually, except for summer 2020 and winter 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The 2020 GTAA was, amongst other, informed by caravan count data, but advises that while these data can support the work on accommodation need, caution must be applied because they only represent a snapshot in time.

Tackling inequalities – National context

- 4.19. In April 2012 the Coalition Government published *'Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers'*. Government was concerned that Gypsies and Travellers score low on a number of social indicators, some of the worst outcomes of any ethnic group. The Ministerial Working Group was set up to look at ways to reduce and tackle the inequalities faced by the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- 4.20. The report contains 28 commitments which target the following areas:
- Identifying ways of raising educational aspirations and attainment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.
 - Identifying ways to improve the health outcomes of Gypsies and Travellers within the proposed new structures of the NHS.
 - Encouraging appropriate site provision; building on £60m Traveller Pitch Funding and New Homes Bonus incentives.
 - Tackling hate crime against Gypsies and Travellers and improving their interaction with the criminal justice system.
 - Improving knowledge of how Gypsies and Travellers engage with services that provide a gateway to work opportunities and working with financial services industry to improve access to financial products and services.
 - Sharing good practice in engagement between Gypsies and Travellers and public service providers⁹.
- 4.21. These national areas of focus help set the context for the type of inequalities or issues the Gypsy and Traveller population may be facing in Wiltshire.
- 4.22. In Spring 2019, the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee published a report¹⁰ on tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities (Parliament, 2019). This provided a comprehensive overview of the current national state of inequalities faced by these communities. The report highlighted the breadth of agencies and organisations with responsibilities towards addressing these challenges, with recommendations for action upon several departments in central and local government, NHS England, the Care Quality Commission, and Ofsted. The recommendations from this report, in summary, are:
- Improving Government department's practice and strategy development to tackle gypsy and traveller inequalities.
 - Addressing data gaps at Government and NHS level specific to Gypsy and Travellers

⁸ Emergency Stopping Places Strategy (Wiltshire Council, 2018)

⁹ Page 6, 'Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers' (DCLG, 2012)

¹⁰ PARLIAMENT, HOUSE OF COMMONS 2019. Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities [online] Available from: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/360/report-summary.html>

- Department for Education to undertake an audit of all local authorities how they tackle school attendance of gypsy and traveller children.
- Ofsted to take a more active role scrutinising what schools are doing to engage with traveller parents on a range of key issues such as attendance, relationships and sex education.
- NHS England to consider when allocating funding, how Clinical Commissioning Groups integrate tackling health inequalities.
- Local authorities to map sites which have access to a minimum standard of basic amenities, and which do not.
- Training for senior staff on Public Sector Equality Duty.
- Government to work with community organisations to encourage travellers to come forward and report hate crime and explain what their rights are.
- Local authorities to lead on improving awareness of the consent culture and healthy relationships amongst travellers to tackle domestic abuse, and to provide trusted support for reporting.

4.23. A letter from Stephen Greenhalgh MP, Minister of State for Communities, to local authorities in early 2020 highlighted the vulnerability of some travellers during the pandemic. It identified that some Gypsies and Travellers are particularly vulnerable and had the potential to be disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Difficulties relating to social-distancing and self-isolation were found as a result of often confined and communal households, and restricted living conditions on many sites. In addition, some families experienced lack of basic amenities including running water, adequate sanitation and refuse disposal facilities, especially when public facilities were closed (leisure centres, churches, petrol stations, recycling facilities).

4.24. While the pandemic may come to an end the need for the provision of basic amenities on traveller sites remains a key sustainability issue. It is for Local Authorities to determine how best to support vulnerable groups in line with their public health responsibilities. To enable compliance with health guidance on hygiene requirements, access to basic facilities is essential.

Census 2021

4.25. The 2021 census explores the characteristics of the Gypsy and Irish population in areas such as qualifications, economic activity, family relationships, health and accommodation. The Office for National Statistics published the 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller populations, England and Wales: Census 2021'¹¹ data analysis in October 2023. The key points to report are as follows:

- 71,440 people identified themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller in the 2021 Census.
- Most people who identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller identified with an English only national identity (54.8%) and were Christian (63.2%).
- Over half (56.8%) of people who identified as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller had no qualifications— almost three times higher than for England and Wales as a whole.
- Among people who identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller, 41% were employed (including self-employed), and the highest number of self-employed for any ethnic group at 15.1%. It is important to note that Census 2021 was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is possible that this affected the way people responded.
- Just under half of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households had dependent children (43.2%) – above the average for the whole of England and Wales (28.4%).
- Bricks and mortar housing (including detached, semi-detached, terrace properties and flats, maisonettes and apartments) was the most common accommodation type for people who identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller (78.4%). Over a fifth (21.6%) live in caravans or other mobile or temporary structures.
- Gypsy or Irish Travellers were more than twice as likely to live in social housing than the overall population in England and Wales (42.3% compared with 16.6%) and four

¹¹

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/articles/gypsyoririshtravellerpopulationenglandandwales/census2021>

times less likely to own their accommodation with a mortgage, loan or shared ownership (9.5% compared with 35.6%).

- Most people who identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller reported being in good or very good health (72.3%) compared with 8.2%.

4.26. This is the second Census that has allowed respondents to identify themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller, the first being the 2011 Census. There are a number of notable comparisons between the results of the 2011 Census to the 2021 Census. Firstly, the number of people identifying themselves as Gypsy and Irish Traveller has increased by almost 19% and secondly, the number of those living in bricks and mortar accommodation has increased from 61% to 78.4% (a 22% increase). Other notable results include a reduction in the number of those economically active (41% compared with 47%) as well as a reduction in those identifying as self-employed (15.1% compared with 26%). The health of those identified as Gypsy and Irish Traveller has increased from 70% (2011) to 72.3% in the 2021 Census. There are various reasons why the statistics have altered over the 10-year period from 2011 to 2021. Most notably the fact that the 2021 Census was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic which affected employment, education and day-to-day living. Overall, there appears to be a tendency to more settled existence which is likely a result of Covid, as well as new enforcement legislation in the form of the Crime, Courts and Sentencing Bill, and cost of living crisis. Furthermore, it should be noted that travellers living the traditional way of life may not have responded to either Census, so in reality the traveller population may be larger.

4.27. 'Showpeople' have long been recognised as a discrete community related to Gypsies and Travellers. Travelling Showpeople were included for the first time in the 2021 Census.

Census 2021: Gypsy and Irish Traveller population in Wiltshire

Population

4.28. In response to the Census 2021, 725 people in Wiltshire self-identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller; 355 males and 320 females. 730 of the Gypsy and Irish Traveller population in Wiltshire were born in the UK. The age structure of the adult gypsy and Irish Traveller population in Wiltshire is as follows:

Table 4: Age structure of the adult gypsy and Irish Traveller population in Wiltshire

Age	Gypsy and Irish Traveller	% of population	Wiltshire (all ethnicities)	% of population
16-24 years	100	13	51,570	10
25-49 years	230	31	153,115	30
50 + years	130	18	220,155	43

4.29. To aid comparison the age structure of Wiltshire as a whole has also been provided. There are clear differences; the Gypsy and Traveller population is much younger with only 18% of the population 50+ years. Conversely the population of Wiltshire as a whole is ageing with 43% of the population 50+ years and only 10% under 24.

4.30. This has implications when planning for the gypsy and traveller population as younger populations are likely to continue to grow. It could imply that Gypsies and Travellers have more children than the population of Wiltshire as a whole. Only 18% of the population in the 50+ age bracket could be an indication of a number of issues so assumptions are more challenging to make; health issues, standard of living, moving away from Wiltshire and so on.

Economic activity

4.31. Economic activity concerns those aged 16 and over who are employed or unemployed (those who are actively seeking and available for work). In Wiltshire there are 460 Gypsy or Irish Traveller people aged 16 or over; of these, 205 are economically active - 185 are in employment, 105 of these are an employee and 80 are self-employed. There are 20 people classified as unemployed who are actively seeking and available for work.

- 4.32. The rest of the adult population in Wiltshire are economically inactive (230 people). Of these 230 people, 80 are looking after children/family, 65 are long term sick or disabled, less than 10 are retired, 20 are students and 65 are classified as 'other'.
- 4.33. The occupations of the Gypsy and Irish traveller population in Wiltshire from the 2021 Census are as follows:

Table 5: Occupations of the Gypsy and Irish traveller population in Wiltshire (Census 2021)

Occupation	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
All categories	460
1. Managers, directors and senior officials	20
2. Professional occupations	(c)
3. Associate professional and technical occupations	25
4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	(c)
5. Skilled trades occupations	35
6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	20
7. Sales and customer service occupations	15
8. Process, plant and machine operatives	25
9. Elementary occupations	30
10. Economically active: Unemployed	20
Looking after home or family	80
Long term sick or disabled	65
Retired	(c)
Economically inactive: Other	65
Students	20

Some shorthand is used in this table, c = confidential, this is used when a count is suppressed because it is less than 10.

Health

- 4.34. In the 2021 Census the Wiltshire Gypsy and Traveller population (725 people) classed their general health in the following categories; 310 felt their health was 'very good', 190 'good health', '115 'fair health', 80 'bad health' and 30 'very bad health'. This means the Gypsy and Irish Traveller population in Wiltshire is similar to the national traveller population in that they have the lowest proportion of any ethnic group rating their health 'good' or 'very good' when compared to the overall population of England and Wales.

Wiltshire Health Needs Assessment 2019¹²

- 4.35. The study's main findings are:

The health outcomes for Gypsy and Traveller communities are worse compared to the general population across the life course. Gypsy and Traveller communities experience poorer health and die earlier than the rest of the population and are less likely to receive effective continuous health care that meets their needs. They are largely invisible to health service commissioners.

- Gypsy and Traveller communities experience wide ranging inequalities and the lack of suitable accommodation underpins many of the inequalities that people in this community experience.
- A lifetime of experiencing racism and discrimination in education, access to health care, employment and other social and public contexts impacts adversely on their health.

¹² <https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/library/gypsy-traveller-and-boater-populations-health-needs-assessment/>

- Life expectancy is 10-12 years less than the general population, and there is significant health inequality in dental, maternal, child and mental health.
- This is compounded by reduced use and access of healthcare services. There are also issues with domestic abuse, and attendance in education. Cultural norms and customs often mean that health needs cannot be met in a targeted way. This requires a mindful approach by healthcare providers and other public services.
- More Gypsy and Traveller children have special educational needs compared to all children in Wiltshire.

4.36. The study makes several recommendations:

- Improve awareness and understanding of Gypsy, Roma, Traveller needs
- Support and promote close working relationship with the GRT and Boater community
- Promote community-driven enablement
- Improve data collation and data sharing
- Respond to national policy changes and local survey results

Wiltshire Traveller Strategy (2020)

4.37. The Wiltshire Traveller Strategy 2020-25 refreshed the previous 2010 Traveller Strategy. The Strategy identifies 7 strategic priorities:

1. Educational attainment and attendance
2. Preventative services (primary, secondary and tertiary) – including management of long-term conditions; screening; immunisations; pharmacy and dental services
3. Safeguarding and violence prevention
4. Mental health
5. Maternal health and early years
6. Social care and carer support
7. Place and Community e.g. site safety, access to refuse points

4.38. Four cross cutting themes run through all these priorities:

1. Increasing awareness of the GRT and Boater culture and health needs
2. Improving multi-agency dialogue and information sharing to work towards reducing inequalities using current services and resources available
3. Improved local data collation and analysis specific to GRT and Boater communities in Wiltshire
4. Facilitate engagement with the GRT and Boater communities

4.39. Strategic Priority 7 'Place and Community' is of particular relevance in planning terms. The Strategy notes that living conditions and environmental factors are one of the most significant contributory factors to poor health in the GRT community. Actions for this strategic priority are:

- Work with the GRT community members to improve pathways for addressing housing and site condition concerns, both for local authority owned and private Traveller sites where feasible
- Work with Boater community members and the Canal and River Trust to ensure adequate provision of amenities, and access to moorings, to provide a safe environment for all
- Ensure that private Traveller sites have access to a minimum standard of basic amenities
- Engage and inform GRT and Boater community members about site safety (e.g. fire safety awareness)
- Empower front-line staff to recognise and sign-post issues experienced by GRT and Boater community members to the appropriate services (e.g. safeguarding; maternity services)

- Work across services (e.g. healthcare, education) to maximise utility from sharing data gained when new residents access a site or when a new private site is registered; also consider utilising communication points to provide health promotion messaging (e.g. leaflets on local maternity services sent with housing support information)

Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers planning policy context

- 4.40. Adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 47 - Meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers – sets out requirements for permanent pitches and plots for 2011-21 and site assessment criteria to determine planning applications for new pitches and plots. The supporting text describes that the Council will review the Policy through a standalone development plan document.
- 4.41. To this end, Wiltshire Council published a consultation document under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 on 13th January 2021. The consultation closed on 9 March 2021. The purpose of that document was to seek views on the proposed scope of the emerging Plan which will cover the period 2019-2038; the key issues affecting Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in Wiltshire; to present an outline methodology for assessing existing and new sites to accommodate pitch and plot requirements; proposed site selection criteria for permanent and temporary accommodation; and a call for sites. Prior to this, the need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation over the plan period had been identified through a GTAA completed in June 2020.
- 4.42. The document proposes pitch and plot requirements for gypsies/travellers and travelling showpeople based on the published 2024 GTAA. The document proposes to meet accommodation needs of travellers that do meet the definition in PPTS Annex 1, and of those who do not. Pitch and plot requirements of undetermined households are proposed to be met through the planning application process as the Council cannot plan for undetermined need.

Table 6: Permanent pitch requirements of gypsy and traveller households meeting the planning definition

Years	0-5	6-10	11-14	15	Total
	2024-28	2029-33	2034-37	2038-39	
Pitches	135	25	22	6	188

Table 7: Accommodation need for gypsy and traveller households that do not meet the planning definition

Years	0-5	6-10	11-14	15	Total
	2024-28	2029-33	2034-37	2038-39	
Pitches	48	12	10	3	73

Table 8: Permanent pitch requirements of undetermined gypsy and traveller households

Years	0-5	6-10	11-14	15	Total
	2024-28	2029-33	2034-37	2038-39	
Pitches	27	5	5	1	38

Table 9: Permanent pitch requirements of showpeople households who meet the planning definition

Years	0-5	6-10	11-14	15	Total
	2024-28	2029-33	2034-37	2038-39	
Pitches	11	0	1	0	12

Table 10: Permanent pitch requirements of undetermined showpeople households

Years	0-5	6-10	11-14	15	Total
	2024-28	2029-33	2034-37	2038-39	
Pitches	0	0	0	0	0

- 4.43. The consultation document also identifies a proposed requirement for three emergency stopping sites for travellers, one in the north, one in the south and one in the west of the county. No set number of pitches are proposed. Emergency stopping sites are sites likely to be

equipped with basic facilities such as fence, gate and hardstanding, porta-toilets and a skip for rubbish disposal. Linked with this, the GTAA considered the published Wiltshire Emergency Stopping Places Strategy and agreed with the findings in terms of the number of sites proposed.

- 4.44. The consultation document proposes a strategy to meet identified need, based on a three-tier site assessment approach as follows:
- Intensification of existing lawful sites to meet on-site need
 - Regularisation of unauthorised sites to meet this need
 - New sites to accommodate residual need
- 4.45. The document sets out assessment criteria for permanent sites, and to aid determining planning applications. They will inform the technical work on site assessments. The criteria stem from the adopted Core Strategy's Core Policy 47. A limited number of changes have been proposed to reflect national planning policy and to improve clarity. These include:
- A stronger emphasis on considering brownfield opportunities first before considering greenfield sites
 - Six kilometres to constitute a 'reasonable distance' from a new site to health and education facilities
 - New developments to secure mains connections where practicable
- 4.46. The document also proposes assessment criteria to guide the allocation of three emergency stopping sites as required by the GTAA; and promotes a 'call for sites' to encourage landowners to submit land to the Council for assessment.

Likely evolution of the area without the Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan

- 4.47. There continues to be a steady stream of private sites coming forward to meet the needs of Gypsy and Traveller families. Some of these proposed sites are initially refused for site specific reasons, but then allowed on appeal once reasons for refusal are tested and personal circumstances of the applicant are taken into account. Often the lack of an alternative, approved site is part of the discussion.
- 4.48. Without a Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan this situation is likely to continue with speculative proposals coming forward to meet a definite need but in locations that may be unsustainable and not identified through a Plan.
- 4.49. A review of the site assessment criteria in Core Policy 47 would not be undertaken without this Plan. As explained above, the review is seeking to improve clarity on brownfield site development; what constitutes a reasonable distance to services; and achieving mains connections where practicable in the interest of sustainable development.
- 4.50. Without a plan that meets the evidenced need in the 2024 GTAA there could be a rise in unauthorised encampments on the roadside, and actual homelessness. The lack of emergency stopping sites would not allow the Council to manage unauthorised encampments effectively; or offer travellers temporary accommodation. Having to reside on unauthorised encampments, or having nowhere to go, can seriously affect the mental and physical health of travellers.
- 4.51. Meeting permanent and temporary accommodation need has been identified in various sources, including the Regulation 18 consultation document, as a key issue. Accommodation, and available land for it, assists travellers in meeting key needs such as access to healthcare and education. Without plan-led development, health and education inequalities that travellers are suffering from are not going to improve in the plan area but are likely to worsen.
- 4.52. The GTAA also identifies teenager's need for accommodation over the first five years as they will become of adult age. Again, there would be a lack of land for new accommodation where they could start living as independent households or a family, if there was no plan with sufficient allocations.
- 4.53. Providing temporary accommodation on emergency stopping sites and allocating permanent sites for new accommodation can also reduce the financial burden for the public directly and

indirectly. It may result in lower costs as managing fewer encampments would require fewer police and Council resources; and there could be reduced effects on public and private amenity (for example town centre car parks or private land).

5. TASK A3 - KEY SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

Introduction

The SEA Regulations (Regulation 12(3)) requires consideration of:

'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (a) and the Habitats Directive'

- 5.1. This stage of the scoping report is concerned with identifying the key environmental and sustainability issues for the SA of the Plan to address. These issues may be defined as both problems and opportunities, and this leads on from evidence related to the plans, policies and objectives review and baseline information presented in the previous sections. Identifying these issues aids the understanding of matters which need addressing within the Plan.
- 5.2. Many current issues will continue to be identified during the development of the Plan through consultation with the Gypsy and Traveller community, other Wiltshire residents and stakeholders.

Key issues and problems

- 5.3. A brief summary of the main issues that have been identified in the context of planning for travellers in Wiltshire are as follows:
- The evidence confirms that the Wiltshire traveller population, and here ethnic travellers, suffer from health inequalities consistent with the national traveller population. A settled base is key to meet health needs. The Regulation 18 consultation document also identifies education as a key issue in that traveller increasingly seek primary education for their children which is not possible without a settled base.
 - There is a concentration of lawful and unauthorised traveller sites in geographical locations in Wiltshire, as shown in Figures 3 and 4 above. This means that accommodation need evidenced in the 2024 GTAA corresponds with this geographical concentration. While in itself is not an issue, it has sometimes led to responses from the settled community that certain areas in Wiltshire 'had their fair share' of traveller sites and should therefore not receive new pitches on existing sites, or new sites.
 - The GTAA identifies an accommodation need of 188 pitches for gypsies and travellers meeting the planning definition and 73 that do not. There are 12 plots required for travelling showpeople who meet the planning definition over this period. There is also an accommodation need of 38 pitches from households that are 'undetermined'. This points to a lack of accommodation that is available to address need over the plan period.
 - The lack of available and suitable land in sustainable locations allocated in the development plan to meet identified need can lead to speculative applications on sites travellers acquire on the property market. Not all these sites are acceptable in planning terms and applications are refused and end up at appeal. The lack of site allocations can reduce the effectiveness of the planning system which is meant to be plan-led, and cause frustration for travellers and the settled community alike. The chief future priority highlighted in stakeholder interviews as part of the 2024 GTAA was to address site availability and to improve the availability of education and health services, to improve the lives of Travellers.
 - There is currently no provision of pitches for temporary accommodation, in the form of a transit site or emergency stopping site. As outlined above, there are many unauthorised encampments in Wiltshire each year, with encampments occurring mainly during the summer months. Transit sites or emergency stopping sites can assist in

directing travellers to a suitable pitch within the local authority area that is safe and provides basic facilities, for a limited period of time.

5.4. Based on the foregoing, the sustainability issues that are particularly relevant to planning for travellers in Wiltshire may be summarised as follows:

- An existing concentration of permanent gypsy and traveller sites in the north, west and south of the county
- Unauthorised and tolerated sites that have no planning permission
- Health inequality issues that mirror national statistics with lack of accommodation being a key underpinning problem
- An identified need for new permanent and temporary pitches and plots for the period 2019-2038, including for children growing up
- Lack of land for new permanent sites in sustainable locations
- Accessibility to services, especially schools and medical facilities
- New sites to have a minimum of basic amenities
- There are no public transit or stopping sites for temporary stay, although some travellers would provide additional pitches on their land for private transit
- Tensions with the settled community

6. TASK A4 - SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

Introduction

- 6.1. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework consists of sustainability objectives which provide a way in which the effects of the Plan can be described, analysed and compared. While not specifically required by the SEA Regulations, objectives are a recognised way of considering the effects of a plan and comparing the effects of alternatives.
- 6.2. SA objectives are different in concept and purpose from the objectives of the Plan, although there is likely to be a degree of overlap. The sustainability objectives are designed to be aspirational in nature and to address the full cross-section of sustainability issues, including social, economic and environmental factors laid down by law or policy.
- 6.3. The sustainability objectives presented in this section are based upon those contained within the Wiltshire Local Plan Review SA Scoping Report which has undergone consultation with the statutory consultees. However, the objectives have been amended slightly so that they are more relevant to assessing the likely effects of the Plan.

Establishing sustainability objectives

- 6.4. Sustainability objectives are set out in Table 11 below, together with the sustainability topics they cover:

Table 11: Sustainability topics and SA objectives

Sustainability topic	Sustainability appraisal objective
Biodiversity	1. Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses
Land and Soil Resources	2. Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings
Water Resources	3. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner
Air Quality and Environmental Pollution	4. Improve air quality and reduce all sources of environmental pollution
Climatic Factors	5. Minimise our impacts on climate change (mitigation) and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects (adaptation)
Energy	6. Increase the proportion of energy generated by renewable and low carbon sources of energy
Historic Environment	7. Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment
Landscapes	8. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place
Population and Housing	9. Meet the accommodation needs of the traveller population
Healthy and Inclusive Communities	10. Improve health and wellbeing and reduce poverty and deprivation, promoting more inclusive communities with better access to services and facilities
Transport	11. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices
Economy and Enterprise	12. Provide education and employment opportunities to meet the needs of the traveller population

- 6.5. A more detailed framework is presented in Appendix B. As the proposed objectives are purposely broad and aspirational in nature, they are supported by 'decision aiding criteria'; these will help to ensure that all the key sustainability issues likely to arise from the Plan are considered during the appraisal. They have been adapted for the purpose of planning for travellers.

Predicting and evaluating significant effects

- 6.6. The sustainability objectives outlined in Table 11 and Appendix B will be used to predict and evaluate the social, environmental and economic effects of options being considered in the Plan, and this will form a key part of the Sustainability Appraisal Report. The methodology for the prediction and evaluation of effects will be outlined in that report.
- 6.7. Significance of effects will be determined taking account of the criteria for determining likely significance, outlined in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. Significance will also be determined taking account of the established criteria adopted by Wiltshire Council in its Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Report.

7. TASK A5 – CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

The SEA Regulations require the following:

'When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies' (Reg 12(5))

'Where a consultation body wishes to respond to a consultation under paragraph (5), it shall do so within the period of 5 weeks beginning with the date on which it receives the responsible authority's invitation to engage in the consultation' (Reg 12(6))

- 7.1. In accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, the authorities with environmental responsibility, otherwise known as the 'consultation bodies', are being consulted on the scope and level of detail contained within this report. These bodies are:
- Historic England
 - Natural England
 - Environment Agency
- 7.2. Consultation is being undertaken on this scoping report alongside the Regulation 19 draft Gypsies and Travellers Plan between 20 August 2024 and 4 October 2024.
- 7.3. This report will be updated to take account of any comments received.

8. NEXT STEPS

Remaining Sustainability Appraisal stages

- 8.1. As the draft Plan develops, the information contained within this scoping report will inform the assessment of Plan proposals. A Sustainability Appraisal Report has been published alongside the Regulation 19 draft Plan for public consultation.

Monitoring

- 8.2. There is a legal requirement to monitor the likely significant effects of the Plan. Monitoring will allow the actual significant effects of implementing the Plan to be tested against those predicted in the sustainability appraisal. It will thus help to ensure that any problems which arise during implementation, whether or not they were foreseen, can be identified and future predictions made more accurately.
- 8.3. Further information regarding future monitoring of significant effects is outlined in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Wiltshire Council



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