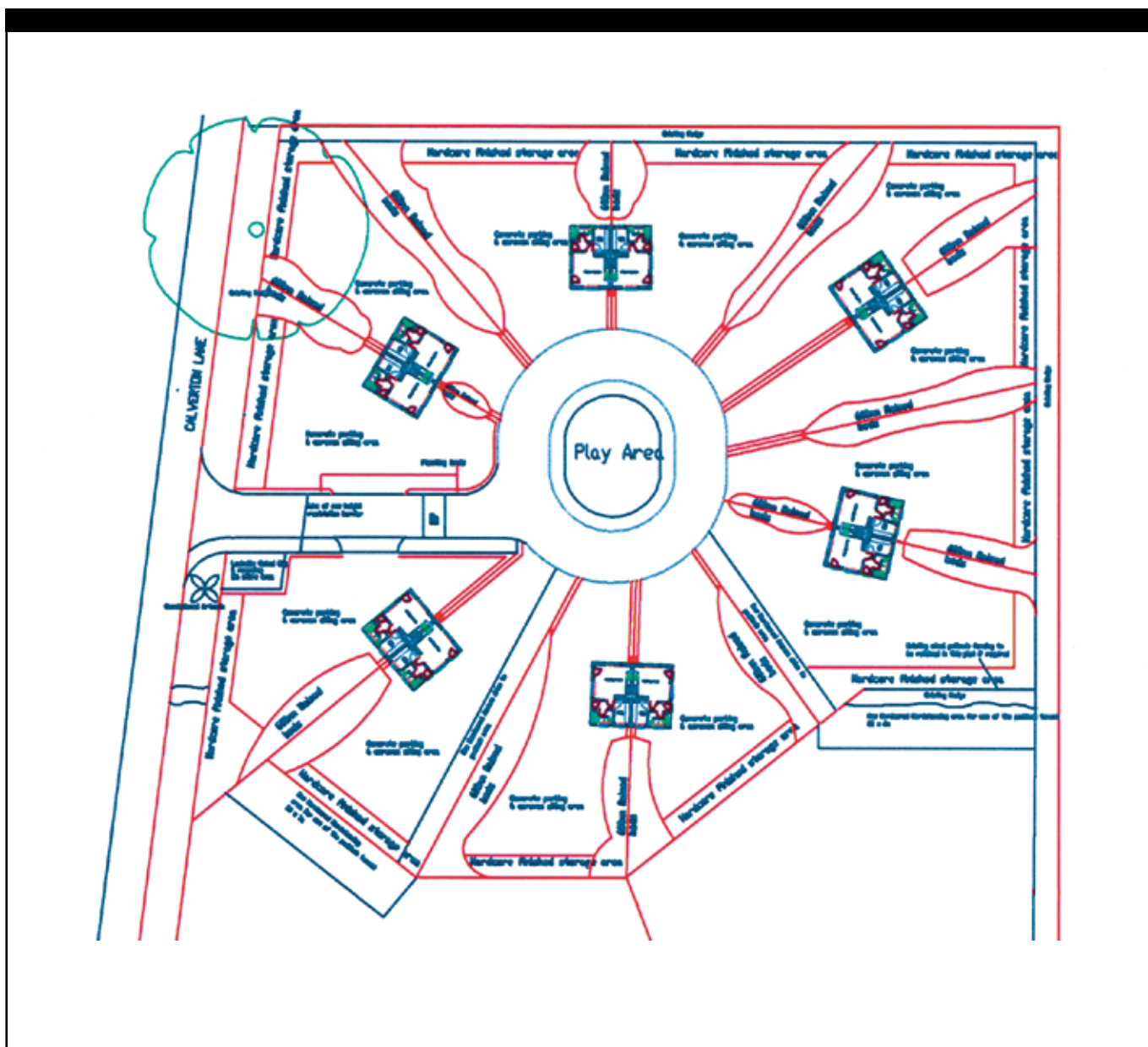


Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Good Practice Guide



- 4.5 Consultation on this guidance has shown that many Gypsies and Travellers prefer a circular or horseshoe design rather than the more traditional linear layout of pitches. An example of a circular site, the result of close consultation between a local authority and representatives of the prospective residents for that site is featured at Annex B.1 of this document. This was originally intended to be a horseshoe site but was later extended to produce further pitches and the circular design resulted. An example of a more traditional site design is featured at Annex B.2 although these can differ considerably depending on the particular characteristics of the available land.
- 4.6 Consultation with the local Gypsy and Traveller community is crucial in deciding how best to proceed with the overall layout of the site and to get full value from the investment in it. It is a key element in obtaining the trust and full support of the prospective residents at the very outset of the project and can help deal swiftly with subsequent consultation on individual aspects of the design as and when they arise.
- 4.7 There is no one ideal size of site or number of pitches although experience of site managers and residents alike suggest that a maximum of 15 pitches is conducive to providing a comfortable environment which is easy to manage. However, smaller sites of 3-4 pitches can also be successful, particularly where designed for one extended family. These can be advantageous in making good use of small plots of land, whilst retaining the qualities described in this guidance and expected by families on modern sites. An example of a small scale site, in an urban environment, is featured at Annex B.3.
- 4.8 Sites should ideally consist of up to 15 pitches in capacity unless there is clear evidence to suggest that a larger site is preferred by the local Gypsy or Traveller community. Nevertheless, where a larger site is unavoidable, or where one exists already, in a few cases smaller 'closes' have been created within the site for extended families, thereby retaining the sense of community and creating defensible space.
- 4.9 An example of this design approach is at Annex B.4. This arrangement could also open up possibilities for facilitating inter site transfers, where for example families may be offered the opportunity to move closer to other family members or elderly and dependant relatives where a pitch in a certain close may become available.

Site perimeter boundaries

- 4.10 The site boundary must provide clear demarcation of the perimeter of the site, so as to prevent nuisance for existing residents created by others seeking to move on to the site without permission. Boundaries should take into account adjoining land uses, and be designed with the safety and protection of children in mind.