

Gypsies and Traveller Statement

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Gloucestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2017 (Examination document EB006) was undertaken by Opinion Research Services (ORS) and included an assessment of need for Tewkesbury Borough.
- 1.2 The need assessed through the GTAA was through a combination of desk-based research and engagement with members of the travelling community living on all known sites and yards. A total of 96 interviews were completed with Gypsies and Travellers and a further 28 were completed with Travelling Showpeople living on authorised and unauthorised sites and yards.
- 1.3 As well as calculating need for interviewed households that met the PPTS planning definition, the needs of the households where an interview was unable to be completed (either due to refusal to be interviewed or households that are not present during the fieldwork period) was assessed as part of the GTAA where they were believed to be Gypsies and Travellers who may meet the planning definition. These are referred to in the tables as 'unknown'.
- 1.4 Whilst it is no longer a requirement for a GTAA to meet the need for Travellers that did not meet the planning definition, (an approach now supported by Paragraph 61 of the NPPF), those travellers needs were also assessed and figures provided, to inform the JCS policy and in turn the Tewkesbury Borough Plan policy.

2. Gypsy and Traveller Need

- 2.1 Overall the GTAA identified a total need for 78 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in Tewkesbury Borough for the period 2016-31. Figure 1 below sets out how this need is broken down by the PPTS planning definition status of a Traveller and by 5-year time periods as required by the PPTS.

Figure 1

PPTS Planning Definition Status	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	TOTAL
Meet planning definition	4	0	1	5
Did not meet planning definition	14	5	6	25
Unknown	25	11	12	48
TOTAL	43	16	19	78

- 2.2 The PPTS requires a Local Plan to identify a 5-year supply of pitches for households that meet the planning definition of a Traveller. In addition, consideration needs to be given to a proportion of need from unknown households who may meet the planning definition.
- 2.3 ORS have now completed approximately 4,800 interviews with Gypsies and Travellers on sites across England and the proportion of households that meet the planning definition is approximately 30%, suggesting that the majority of households that are interviewed across the country are settled and do not meet the planning definition of a Traveller.
- 2.4 Figure 2 shows that Tewkesbury Borough Council is required to identify a 5-year supply of 12 pitches in the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Policy for households who met the PPTS definition, including 30% of the need from unknown households.

Figure 2

Delivery Status	Gypsy & Traveller Policy 2016-21
Meet Planning Definition	4
30% Undetermined Need	8
TOTAL	12

- 2.5 Analysis of planning permissions that have been granted since the publication of the GTAA in 2017 shows that a total of 23 pitches have been granted permanent planning permission. The requirement of 12 has thus been met and exceeded by the granting of planning permission for 23. Details are set out in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3

Reference	Site	Local Plan Allocation	TOTAL
14/00926/FUL	The Paddocks, Twyning	No	2
15/00693/FUL	Starcroft Lane, Minsterworth	No	4
16/00257/FUL	Part Parcel 7812, Ashleworth	No	2
16/01360/FUL	The East of The Lodge, Minsterworth	No	5
13/01216/FUL,	Parcel 7710, Hygrove Lane	No	5
17/00083/FUL	Land adjacent to Hygrove Place/Parcel 7710, Minsterworth	Yes	5
TOTAL			23

- 2.6 For Travelling Showpeople the GTAA identified a 5-year need for 20 plots. To date permanent planning permission has been granted for a total of 9 new plots leaving a shortfall of 11 plots. Policy SD13 of the JCS provides a mechanism, as an enabling policy to address the remaining shortfall for Travelling Showpeople

3 5-year supply of specific, suitable, and deliverable gypsy and traveller sites.

- 3.1 Paragraphs 2.4-2.6 above clearly set out the 5-year supply position for Tewkesbury Borough based on the findings of the GTAA and new pitches and plots that have been granted permanent planning permission since the GTAA was published. The following paragraphs set out how the Council plan to address need identified for the remainder of the Local Plan period.
- 3.2 Figure 4 below sets out the need for the remainder of the Local Plan period that the Council need to address for Gypsies and Travellers that met the planning definition of a Traveller, including 30% of need from unknown households is for 3 pitches between 2021-26 and for a further 5 pitches between 2026-31.

Figure 4

Delivery Status	Gypsy & Traveller Policy 2021-26	Gypsy & Traveller Policy 2026-31	TOTAL
Meet Planning Definition	0	1	1
30% Undetermined Need	3	4	7
TOTAL	3	5	8

- 3.3 The current period to be assessed in terms of 5-year supply is between 2021 and 2026. This is illustrated below (highlighted in green). This demonstrates that the Council needs to deliver **3 pitches** over this 5-year period – all from unknown households.
- 3.4 Based on sites that have been allocated in the Local Plan that have not yet been delivered there is a **5-year supply of 15 pitches²** for this period. The requirement has therefore been met and exceeded for this period. The requirement for 2026-31 of 5 pitches has also been met and exceeded with a supply of 7 pitches. The oversupply arising will help to address the needs of gypsies and travellers who do not meet the definition.

Figure 5

	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	TOTAL
GTAA Requirement	12	3	5	20
Supply	18 ¹	15 ²	7 ²	40

¹ - 14/00926/FUL – The Paddocks, Twyning (2 pitches) / 15/00693/FUL, Starcroft Lane (4 pitches) / 16/00257/FUL, Parcel 7812, Ashleworth (2 pitches) / 16/01360/FUL, East of The Lodge, Hygrove Lane (5 pitches) / 13/01216/FUL, Parcel 7710, Hygrove Lane (5 pitches).

² - Local Plan Allocation at Land Adjacent Highgrove Place/Parcel 7710 (5 granted in 17/00083/FUL and yet to be implemented; and 2 remaining in Local Plan allocation) / Local Plan allocation: Hillview, Staverton, for an additional 15 pitches (8 to come forward in 2021-26, and 7 in 2026-31)

- 3.5 The site plan below shows that there is available space on the site for the remaining pitches at the local plan allocated site at Land Adjacent to Hygrove Place.



- 3.6 The agent to the Hillview site at Staverton, has confirmed on behalf of the site owner that the site is available for an additional 15 pitches.
- 3.7 It has been confirmed by the site owner that the allocation at the Leigh (Land adjacent to Fieldview) for 8 pitches is no longer suitable or available, given the planning permission for the change of use to extend the existing garage operations on that site. It is therefore proposed to withdraw this allocation.
- 3.8 The Pre-Submission plan has numerically included those meeting the definition and those not. However, for soundness purposes of whether the Plan makes adequate provision for Gypsies and travellers, it is only whether there is enough provision for those meeting the definition which falls to be tested. The remainder fall within general housing need. As such, Tewkesbury Borough Council has met their requirement for those Gypsies and Travellers who meet the definition and can demonstrate a 5-year housing supply. The oversupply along with JCS policy SD13 which provides a mechanism for windfall allocations as noted in paragraph 3.82 of the Pre-Submission Plan, plus general housing provision, will provide for those travellers who fall outside the definition.
- 3.9 Further, as has been noted previously, there is a tender that has been sent out for a revised GTAA, with submissions required on 12 March 2021, and completion of the study in October 2021. This study will provide a basis to review address gypsy and traveller, and travelling showpeople need as part of the JCS review.