

Policy SP.14 - Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision

The following sites (A-M), as shown on the Policies Map, will continue to be safeguarded for Gypsy and Traveller use, and in addition, a new site, (Site N) (Policy SA.K17) is allocated on land to the rear of Zortech Avenue, Kidderminster, to contribute to meeting the housing needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community that are expected to arise over the Plan period:

- Site A – Lower Heath, Stourport-on-Severn (22 pitches)
- Site B – Broach Road, Stourport-on-Severn (9 pitches)
- Site C – Power Station Road, Stourport-on-Severn (4 pitches)
- Site D –1 Broach Meadow, Stourport-on-Severn (3 pitches)
- Site E – 1b Broach Road, Stourport-on-Severn (3 pitches)
- Site F – 6/6a Broach Road, Stourport-on-Severn (5 pitches)
- Site G – Meadow Park, Stourport-on-Severn (7 pitches)
- Site H – Saiwen, Stourport-on-Severn (5 pitches)
- Site I – 28/29 Sandy Lane, Stourport-on-Severn (6 pitches)
- Site J – Land adjacent Nunn’s Corner, Stourport-on-Severn (8 pitches)
- Site K – The Gables Yard, Stourport-on-Severn (5 pitches)
- Site L – Gatehouse Caravan Park (16 pitches)
- Site M – Wilden Lane (4 pitches)
- Site N - Land to the rear of Zortech Avenue, Kidderminster (16 pitches)

The 2020 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment identifies the need for 13 pitches, under the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) definition to be provided in the period 2020/21 to 2035/36, 3 of which need to be provided by 2024/5. It is anticipated that the short-term and longer-term needs can be met through the allocation of the land to the rear of Zortech Avenue (Policy SA.K17) and limited intensification/expansion of the existing safeguarded sites where proposals would comply with the other policies of the Plan. Gypsy and Traveller sites are predominantly residential in nature. Outside the sites safeguarded and allocated in this Plan, planning permission for new sites will be granted on previously developed land or in areas allocated primarily for residential development subject to all relevant policies within the Local Plan being met. Development in the open countryside that is away from existing settlements or outside areas identified in this Plan will be strictly limited in accordance with the Plan’s policies.

There is a wider cultural need for 22 pitches to address the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers who do not meet the planning definition set out in PPTS. This will be addressed through various means, including residential caravans/mobile homes sites and through other policies in the Plan which provide for different types of housing.

Reasoned Justification

7.35 Gypsies and Travellers are defined as per the Planning Policy for traveller sites (2015).

7.36 The 2020 Wyre Forest District Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) provides a robust evidence base to determine an appropriate level of pitch and plot provision for the District. The GTAA identified a total indicative need for 35 pitches over the Plan Period, of which 13 fall within the definition set out in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. This can be split down into 5 year tranches as follows:

Table 7.0.4 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment indicative need to 2036

	Cultural Need	of which PTTS need
5 yr authorised pitch shortfall (2020/21 to 2024/25) (A)	25	14
Potential turnover on existing pitches (B)	3	3
Potential regularisation of unauthorised site (C)	0	0
Potential expansion / intensification of existing sites (D)	4	4
Potential new site (E)	4	4
Residual need 2020/21 to 2024/25 F=A-B-C-D-E	14	3
Medium -term need (2025/26 to 2029/30) (G)	9	5
Potential turnover on existing pitches (H)	3	3
Residual need 2025/26 to 2029/30 I=G-H	6	2
Long-term need (2030/31 to 2035/36) (J)	17	10
Potential turnover on existing pitches (K)	2	2
Residual need 2030/31 to 2035/36 L=J-K	15	8
Summary		
Total shortfall 2020/21 to 2035/36 (M)	51	29
Total potential turnover on existing pitches (N)=B+H+K	8	8
Total potential regularisation of unauthorised site(O)=C	0	0
Potential expansion / intensification of existing sites (P)=D	4	4

	Cultural Need	of which PPTS need
Potential new site (Q)=E	4	4
Residual need 2020/21 to 2035/36 (R)=M-N-O-P-Q	35	13

7.37 Under the PPTS the Council should provide pitches for those meeting the planning definition. However, there is no government guidance on how to meet the needs of those who do not meet the planning definition (other than by the implication that they should be met as part of overall housing need) even though they may need to live on a pitch. Therefore, as a minimum the Council are seeking to address the needs of those meeting the planning definition and will also endeavour to meet the overall cultural need for pitches.

7.38 The 2020 GTAA identifies that there is a need to provide 4 transit pitches in the district. According to the report, this obligation could be met through temporary stop over orders, negotiated stop over rights or provision of a permanent site. The use of temporary stop over orders and/or negotiated stop over rights will be the preference of the authority due to the low number of transit pitches required each year. It is anticipated that the proposed sites for temporary stop over sites and / or negotiated stop over rights will be several Wyre Forest District Council car parks and parks, used by Gypsy and Travellers in the past.

Policy SP.15 - Site Provision for Travelling Showpeople

The former Burlish Golf Course Clubhouse site (see Policy SA.K22), is allocated and safeguarded to meet the immediate needs of the existing Travelling Showpeople family currently living within the District. The site should be developed in accordance with Policy SA.K22.

Reasoned Justification

7.39 The 2020 Wyre Forest District Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment identified one Travelling Showperson family in the district who have a requirement for a yard to accommodate 11 caravans and equipment. The allocation at the former Burlish Golf Course Clubhouse site will adequately meet the needs of the family on a permanent basis.