



Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Call for Sites – Frequently Asked Questions

Background:

The Council has submitted an updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), dated June 2023 to the Inspectors of the Local Plan. The Inspectors invited the Council to undertake work to identify a supply of sites sufficient to meet the accommodation needs identified in the GTAA, for consideration as part of the Examination of the Local Plan. Further details can be found on the Council's Local Plan Examination [Web Page](#).

Why are you running a Call for Sites for Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople?

The Council have a responsibility to assess the accommodation needs of all people living in the Borough. This includes allocating sufficient sites for Gypsy and Travellers with pitches for caravans in the Local Plan.

The National Planning Policy Framework ([NPPF](#)) requires local planning authorities to determine the number of homes needed for different groups in the community, including gypsies and travellers. The Planning Policy for Travellers Sites ([PPTS](#)) (2015) requires local plans to have 'specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years worth of sites against their locally set targets.... [and] specific, developable sites, or broad locations for growth, for years 6 to 10 and, where possible, for years 11-15'.

The Housing Act (2004) places a duty on local planning authorities to undertake regular assessments of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers either living in or resorting to their area and requires them to include the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in any housing strategy they produce and to take any such strategy into account in exercising their functions.

Who are Gypsies and Travellers?

The term 'Gypsies and Travellers' does not cover a single, homogenous group, but encompasses a range of groups with different histories, cultures and beliefs including Romany Gypsies, Welsh Gypsies, Scottish Gypsy Travellers and Irish Travellers. These are ethnic groups recognised by the courts and declared to be protected "races" under the Equality Act 2010. However, some groups like showpeople and New (or New Age) Travellers fall outside the Equality Act 2010 definition.

How many Gypsy and Traveller pitches are needed in the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk?

The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk's Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment ([GTA](#)), published in June 2023, identifies a need for 76 pitches within the 5-year period 2023-2027 and a further 26 pitches for 2028-2039. It also identifies an additional need of 4 plots for Travelling Showpeople within the 5-year period 2023-2027 and a further 1 plot for 2028-2039.

What is a Gypsy and Traveller pitch and how big is it?

The actual size of a pitch varies but is a space of land big enough to provide for one household. This may vary depending on the size of the household in a similar way to housing for the settled community, but generally means enough room for an amenity block consisting of a kitchen, bathroom and living room, plus space for two caravans and two vehicles. As a guideline, a pitch will require approximately 300 square metres of land.

How many pitches are there on a Gypsy and Traveller site?

There is no minimum or maximum number of pitches for a Gypsy and Traveller site. Smaller sites of three or four pitches can be suitable for one extended family.

What is the minimum required site area for a Gypsy and Traveller site?

A minimum site size requirement of 0.2 hectares will be applied to potential sites. This is the minimum size required to deliver a site comprising six pitches. There could be variations to the minimum size requirements, depending on site shape and access.

What happens when I put a site forward?

Submission of a site as part of this Call for Sites does not mean that it will be accepted. All sites that meet the minimum criteria will be carefully assessed considering policy and environmental constraints including flood risk, in the same way that housing sites are considered. Even if a site is finally allocated through the Local Plan, planning permission must be sought before any development takes place.

What is the next stage in the process for selecting sites?

Consultation on preferred sites will be undertaken over 6-weeks, during January-March 2024. Following the consultation final recommendations on the sites to be allocated will be considered by the Council who will make the final decisions about which sites will be put forward to the Inspectors for consideration as part of the Local Plan examination.