
DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Introduction

1. The purpose of this application is to provide accommodation for an extended **Gypsy / Traveller family**, all of whom meet the definition of traveller contained within Annex 1 of planning policy for traveller sites, 2024. The majority of those that the application is seeking consent already live at the Gallons in property that would not comply with Caravan Site Licensing requirements.
2. The site is a previously developed land and is part of a large area that has previously been used by the military. The site has a variety of planning consents. A full planning history of the site is shown at **Tab 6**.
3. The application is for:

Change of use of land to allow standing of 8 residential static caravans and eight touring caravans to meet the accommodation needs of a single extended Gypsy / Traveller family on existing lawful hard-standing, to include ecological enhancements and ancillary works.
4. There are fourteen documents / exhibits accompanying this application. These are contained in an indexed and paginated bundle.

5. There are four drawings accompanying this application:
- i. Location Plan;
 - ii. Block Plan;
 - iii. Static Caravan Plan
 - iv. Habitats Plan
6. The application is policy compliant with both the North Wiltshire Local Plan , 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework, 2024.
7. A copy of the UKHAB Metric is attached. It is understood that the Statutory Metric has been withdrawn by DEFRA as they have chosen to allow UKHAB Ltd to produce new versions of their metric without placing them before Parliament as required by schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Design

8. The design seeks to ensure that the proposed development is compliment with the criteria contained with Core Policy 47 Meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers of the North Wiltshire Local Plan, 2011 and Planning Policy for traveller sites. The minimum number of accommodation units required by the extended Gypsy / Traveller family is 8 (eight). The site has access to water, sewerage and electricity networks, and the existing infrastructure is able to accommodate the accommodation provision sought.
9. The site has an extensive area of hardstanding associated with its previous and established use. It is proposed that not used residentially is retained for parking and storage. Areas of the Gallons will be used for children play and to provide amenity space.
10. The Wiltshire Council has an acknowledged shortage of Gypsy / Traveller

accommodation, and is unable to demonstrate a 5 year year supply. This is shown at **Tab 7**.

11. The development has a very limited effect on Natural History interest and Natural England advises that they do not need to be consulted. This is shown at **Tab 8**. It is unclear why Wiltshire Council has claimed that a Euro site could be impacted by the development, particularly as there will be no change in accommodation units.
12. The development has no effect on the character and appearance of heritage structures as these are distant from the site. This is shown at **Tab 9**.
13. The development has a negligible effect on the character and appearance of the landscape as it is not significantly visible from any public rights of way. Any lighting of the land is to be through use of down lighters
14. The land is within Flood Zone 1 and is at a very low risk of surface water flooding. This is shown at **Tab 12**.
15. The land has adequate access to services and amenities this is shown at **Tab 14**.

Access

16. The site has an established access onto **Chetworth Road**. The Local Highways Authority has already determined that the access is safe
17. There is good visibility to the east and west from the site onto highway. This is shown at **Tab 1**. There have been no reported accidents at the junction for the last twenty five years. This is shown at **Tab 13**.
18. The access is safe.

CONCLUSION

19. The proposed development will meet a pressing accommodation need and make a welcome contribution to accommodation provision in the district, and will also enable an area of land to be tidied without environmental damage, whilst making a valuable contribution to biodiversity. The published evidence identifies that human occupation of land residentially increases lands biodiversity by about 450%. Most nature conservation sites have very low biodiversity scores.

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October 2025