

Strategic Planning Service Response

PL/2026/013439

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

The Gallons, Chelworth Road, Cricklade, Swindon, SN6 6HJ

7 July 2026

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1. This note provides the Strategic Planning Service's response to the above proposal.

Adopted Development Plan

2. The Core Strategy (CS) was adopted in January 2015 and forms part of the adopted development plan. Core Policy 47 (Meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers) sets out pitch requirements for three Housing Market Areas (HMAs) up to 2021. The monitoring position for June 2026 against the requirements is presented below and includes a pro-rata projection from the 2021 end date, in the absence of a 2021-26 requirement.
3. The site falls into the North and West HMA where there is oversupply of pitches.

	2016-2021	2016-26 pro-rata pitch requirement	Permitted pitches 2016-26	Shortfall (-)/Oversupply (+)
North & West HMA	22	44	86	+42

4. However, the Core Strategy pitch requirements are time-expired and not an up-to-date reflection of need. The Core Strategy committed to the development of a Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document (DPD) and the completion of a full Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA – see below), consistent with national planning policy.
5. At a meeting of Cabinet¹ on 25th June 2026, it was agreed that work on the emerging DPD would cease and matters related to gypsies and travellers would be covered in the new Local Plan for the reasons set out in the Cabinet report.

¹ <https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=16434>

6. Therefore, the most recent adopted policy relating to gypsies and traveller accommodation provision is Core Policy 47. The policy sets out the criteria by which planning applications for new traveller accommodation should be judged against. Whilst other consultees can comment on the various different technical requirements of the policy, criterion 'v' states that the site should be *"located in or near to existing settlements within reasonable distance of a range of local services and community facilities, in particular schools and essential health services"*.
7. The site is located approximately 1km south (in a straight line) of the built-up edge of Cricklade, identified as a 'Local Service Centre' in the Core Strategy. Cricklade contains services such as primary schools, nurseries and prep schools, a leisure centre and medical surgery practices.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

8. The 2025 based Gypsies and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) provides the most up to date picture of the level of accommodation need for gypsies and travellers in Wiltshire. The GTAA was prepared by Opinion Research Services and published on the Council's website in June 2026².
9. For 2025-42, the GTAA identifies a need for 294 new pitches emerging from the 361 households that met the definition. For the first five years of the plan period, 196 pitches are required which includes 17 pitches from 'undetermined' households. The study also identifies a need for 13 travelling showpeople plots.
10. Currently the Council can only identify a 1-year supply of deliverable gypsies and traveller pitches against this need³.

National Planning Policy

11. The Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) in December 2024. PPTS Annex 1 sets out a revised planning definition of gypsies and travellers. The definition now includes persons that are ethnic travellers but have never travelled for work.
12. PPTS Policy H sets out the national position on determining planning applications for traveller sites. Paragraph 28 states that where a local

² https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/20472/2025-Gypsy-and-Traveller-Accommodation-Assessment/pdf/Wiltshire_GTAA_final_report_2026.pdf

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<https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/s249897/26075YearHousingLandSupplyandGypsiesTravellersAccommodationAssessment.pdf>

planning authority cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable sites, paragraph 11d in the National Planning Policy Framework is engaged (the 'tilted balance'). As the Council cannot currently demonstrate a 5-year supply, paragraph 11d of the NPPF is engaged.

13. In December 2025, the Government consulted on an updated NPPF which amongst other changes, included National Development Management Policies (NDMPs). A specific NDMP for traveller sites (HO12) sets out the proposed national criteria to be used in decision-taking.
14. The PPTS and the draft NPPF are important material considerations in the decision-making process and should be considered when assessing a proposal, especially in view of the application of the tilted balance.