

## **3. North Wiltshire Gypsy and Traveller Site Search**

3.1 During this stage of the project, the following tasks are being undertaken:

- Identification of all suitable District and County Council owned land.
- Identification of potential sites not owned by the Local Authority. These sites could include current unauthorised sites, sites put forward by land owners, suggestions from Planning Officers.
- A general filter of all potential sites looking at current site use, size and deliverability. This has included an initial assessment of the sites by Humberts.<sup>1</sup>

### **POTENTIAL SITES**

3.2 As a result of the preliminary work, 6 council owned sites have been identified as suitable to be analysed further.

#### **Council owned sites**

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|--|------------|
| 1. Abberd Lane, Calne                                  | NWDC       |
| 2. Site adjoining Oxford Road, Calne                   | NWDC       |
| 3. Land at Long Close & Hardens Mead, Chippenham       | NWDC       |
| 4. Marlborough Road, Wootton Bassett                   | NWDC & WCC |
| 5. Land at Stanley Lane, Chippenham (2 possible sites) | WCC        |
| 6. Land at Stoneover Lane, Wootton Bassett             | WCC        |

#### **Private sites**

3.3 Nine privately owned sites have been identified by Officers. However, the landowners have still to be contacted and to assent to their inclusion and consideration as potential sites for Gypsies and Travellers. Therefore, for the purposes of this consultation, the sites have not been identified and analysed. However, if and when landowners do assent their inclusion, the sites will be analysed and consulted upon.

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<sup>1</sup> Humberts were asked to undertake an initial evaluation of the sites. The outcome of this work was reported to the Councils Executive on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

### **Site Search Methodology**

3.4 An assessment has been undertaken of the Council owned sites against the Council's planning policy 'Site Search Criteria'. The 'Site Search Criteria' reviews each site in terms of its site characteristics, access to basic services, transport access, proximity to protected areas and site services.<sup>2</sup>

3.5 The Gypsy and Traveller 'Site Search Criteria' (see Appendix 1) are based on evidence supplied in Circular 01/2006, general sustainable development principles set out in "PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development" and the "Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment" 2006.

3.6 The 'Site Search Criteria' appraises a site through a series of tests, with the results allocated a status: red, yellow or green. A status of red indicates that the site contains a significant constraint and should not be considered for development. A status of yellow indicates that the site contains a minor constraint but that mitigation measures are possible. (If mitigation is possible, the constraint will revert to a status of green. If mitigation measures are not possible, the constraint will revert to a status of red.) A status of green means that the site is considered suitable for further analysis as a potential preferred location for development.

3.7 The 'Site Search Criteria' have not been given a more complex weighting system because it was felt that this would unduly restrict reasonable decision making and could not reflect the extensive number of situations that could occur.

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<sup>2</sup> The site search criteria have been developed as part of the North Wiltshire LDF Core Strategy work and were consulted upon in the Core Strategy Second Issues and Options consultation in 2007.