


Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Assessment Methodology

Stage 1 - Is the site available?





Site Assessment Table: Stage 1 - Site availability

Criteria and Issues	Assessment references	Red – Does not meet criteria	Amber – May be capable of meeting criteria	Green – Fully meets criteria
Availability		Owner confirmed site not available, nor is likely to become available over plan period	Site availability uncertain	Willing landowner
Is the site available and deliverable?				

IF RED THE SITE SHOULD BE DISCOUNTED AT THIS STAGE. ALL OTHER SITES SHOULD PROCEED TO STAGE 2.

Stage 2 – Suitability/ Constraints

Site Assessment Table: Stage 2 - Suitability

Criteria and Issues	Assessment references in addition to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), National Planning Guidance (NPG)	Red – Does not meet criteria	Amber – May be capable of meeting criteria	Green – Fully meets criteria
Flood Zone	Swale Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Environment Agency guidance	Flood zone 3/ cannot be mitigated	Flood zone 2 or 3 but with acceptable mitigation to the satisfaction of the Council and Environment Agency	Flood zone 1
Flooding and risk to residents				
Landscape	Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2009. Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal SPD. Advice from Natural England and other environmental bodies	Site is within <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a landscape designation, or will affect the setting of a designation; or 2. is within an Area of High Landscape Value with unacceptable detrimental impact or where landscape impact cannot be mitigated including cumulative impacts	Within close proximity of a designated area but, and where landscape impact may be mitigated	Outside designated area and not affecting the setting of a designation/ No impact
Impact on designations or on landscape character/quality				
Biodiversity	Advice from KCC Archaeology Officers, UK/ Kent/ Swale BAP, advice from Natural England and environmental bodies	Site is within or affecting international, national or locally designated sites with unacceptable detrimental impact or where impact cannot be mitigated including cumulative impacts	Site is within, close proximity to or affecting international, national or locally designated sites where impact could be mitigated	Outside of any designation and not affecting the setting of a designation/No impact
Impact on biodiversity of known protected species				
Scale of site or multiple sites	Officer assessment - considering quantity of existing sites against scale and form of existing settlement/settled community and advice from service providers	Has significant dominating effect	Scale has some impact	Scale has little or no impact
Scale dominating nearest settled community				
Archaeology and	Heritage asset list and advice from heritage	Unacceptable detrimental impact on scheduled	Possible impact /minor impact on scheduled	Not in close proximity to Scheduled Ancient

Conservation Impact on Scheduled Ancient Monument or other heritage asset/non designated heritage asset	advisors	ancient monument/other heritage asset/non designated heritage assets	ancient monument/other heritage asset/non designated heritage assets	Monument/other heritage asset/non designated heritage assets
Contamination Unacceptable living conditions	Consult Land Contamination Planning guidance Document 2013 and Contaminated Land Strategy 2010	Site is contaminated and cannot be mitigated	Site is or is potentially contaminated - potential impact likely to be mitigated	No known contamination issues
Noise and disturbance issues Unacceptable living conditions	Consult Noise and Vibration: Planning Guidance Document 2013	Site located adjacent to noisy land use – cannot be mitigated	Site located adjacent to noisy land use - potential impact likely to be mitigated or low level	No noisy adjacent land uses
Site access and safety Access/Proximity to major roads and pedestrian routes	Any transport information submitted and Kent Highways Services assessment/advice	Remote location accessed by unmade roads/ poor roads or unresolvable highway safety issue	Some access to road network and site – potentially requiring mitigation or highway safety issue and possibly capable of mitigation	Good site and road access and no significant highway safety concerns
Accessibility to facilities GP surgery, Primary School, Shops, Public Transport	Desk top review	None or few within reasonable distance	Reasonable distance to most services	All within reasonable travelling distance

IF ANY SCORE RED THE SITE SHOULD BE DISCOUNTED AT THIS STAGE. ALL OTHER SITES SHOULD PROCEED TO STAGE 3.

Stage 3 - More detailed site suitability

Site Assessment Table: Stage 3 - Detailed suitability

Criteria and Issues	Assessment references	Red – Does not meet criteria	Amber – May be capable of meeting criteria	Green- Fully meets criteria
Topography Uneven or unsafe ground levels and structures	Site survey by Officers and landscape evidence submitted	Steep slope which makes site unsuitable	Sloping land which may require works to make site suitable for use	Level or gently sloping site
Residential Amenity Impact on amenity of proposed and existing residents	Officers' assessment - same as housing, overlooking, disturbance from vehicle movements, loss of light, overcrowding etc	Close proximity to existing adjacent uses especially residential properties where any potential impact (light, visual, other disturbance). Has unacceptable impact which cannot be mitigated	Some impact on residential amenity – likely to be mitigated or low level	No impact on residential amenity
Utilities Electricity, Gas, Water, Drainage/ Sewers (mains or cesspit)	Site visit and utility providers advice	Not applicable as a reason for discounting a site	Yes – most (3 or 4)	Yes – all
Site capable of live/ work mix Priority for sustainable	Site visit/ submitted details	Not applicable as a reason for discounting a site	No or maybe	Yes

locations				
Parking Sufficient parking and turning space	Site visit and Kent Highways Services advice	No parking/ turning and no potential to provide parking and turning space	Inadequate parking/ turning or limited potential to provide parking and turning space	Sufficient parking and turning space 
Landscaping Sufficient landscaping for amenity/impact on landscape character	Site visit and Swale Landscape Character and Biodiversity Assessment 2010, Planting on New Developments: A Guide for Developers	Not applicable as a reason for discounting a site	No soft landscaping/ landscaping could impact on landscape character area	Site has existing soft landscaping/ option to provide soft landscaping 