

Uttlesford District Council
Gypsy and Traveller Land Availability Assessment
Call for Sites 1 October 2012 – 12 November 2012

What is a Land Availability Assessment?

It is a requirement of Government Guidance for local planning authorities to undertake assessments that look at the availability of land for Gypsy and Traveller sites (Planning policy for traveller sites March 2012). This technical study will form part of the evidence base for the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Document.

What is a 'Call for Sites'?

The first stage of the assessment is to identify potential sites that may be available for development as part of the new Gypsy and Traveller allocations for the district. If you have any interest in land in Uttlesford and wish to put forward a site or sites for potential Gypsy and Traveller development then please complete the Call for Sites Pro-forma and send to the Planning Policy Team by midnight Monday 12 November 2012.

Who Should Complete the Call for Sites Pro-forma?

Please complete the pro-forma if you have an interest in land which you believe to have genuine potential for development for Gypsy and Traveller use over the next 15-20 years. You should complete the Pro-forma even if you have had recent discussions with the Council. Sites with unimplemented or lapsed planning permissions should also be included. You do not need to complete a Pro-forma if you are proposing minor changes to existing sites.

The Local Plan Process

The sites that are suggested as part of the call for sites will then be assessed and filtered, as part of an iterative process to inform the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Document, and to ensure that the sites themselves are suitable for such a use. The Council will assess suggested sites using criteria set out in draft policy HO10 (which may be updated as part of the response to the Local Plan Consultation). This policy states:

Policy HO10 – Sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People

The Council will identify sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People in the Site Allocations DPD, or through the planning application process in accordance with the following criteria:-

- a. sites should be located, designed and landscaped to minimise any impact on the natural, built and historic environment;
- b. sites should have safe pedestrian access, and safe vehicular access to and from the public highway and allow for parking, turning and servicing of vehicles on site;
- c. sites should not be located within areas at risk of flooding;
- d. sites should be capable of being provided with drainage, water supply

- and other necessary utility services
- e. sites should be of an appropriate size to provide the planned number of caravans together with amenity blocks, play areas, access roads and structural landscaping; and
 - f. in addition the plots for Travelling Showpeople should be large enough for the storage and maintenance of rides and equipment.

Public Consultation

Sites that are considered potentially suitable for development will then be subject to public consultation. The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Document will ultimately set out where new Gypsy and Traveller development will go.

Disclaimer

The Call for Sites will simply be a list of suggestions of sites for Gypsy and Traveller development. Inclusion in the list is not an indication that the site is suitable for development. Uttlesford District Council cannot make any commitment or comment about any land put forward in the study at this stage. The Call for Sites does not preclude landowners and developers submitting planning applications for development.

Site Location Map

All suggested sites must be accompanied by a 1:1250 scale Ordnance Survey map clearly showing the precise boundaries of the site and details of site ownership. Extracts can be obtained from approved Ordnance Survey Map resellers.

What is the timetable for the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Document?

The District Council aims to undertake a consultation on a Draft Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Document in September/October 2013. The document will need to be agreed by the Council before Publication, and prior to formal submission to the Secretary of State.

Following the submission, an examination will be held, chaired by an independent inspector, who will consider the soundness of the document. The inspector will make recommendations and the document will then be formally adopted.

Further details of the timetable are set out in the [Local Development Scheme](#) section of the website, which will be updated as and when changes are made.

Further Information

Copies of the Call for Sites Pro-forma can be downloaded from the Council's website at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/developinguttlesford . If you have any further queries please contact the Planning Policy Team.

Email: planningpolicy@uttlesford.gov.uk
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