



Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers ‘Call for Sites’ – May 2024

Guidance Note

What is this Call for Sites about?

Wyre Council is in the process of preparing its Emerging Local Plan.

The Emerging Local Plan will be the Borough’s chief planning document. It will set out the strategy for the Borough over the next 15 to 20 years, and policies, proposals and site allocations/designations to deliver the strategy. The Local Plan will continue to be the main reference document for determining planning applications in the Borough and guiding investment.

Current Policy HP8 - Accommodation for Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople provides the criteria for assessing proposals for Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople accommodation and that apply to allocated sites and any windfall applications. The area of search for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson accommodation is the whole of the borough, however, the policy itself does not designate specific sites.

A separate current site allocation, Policy – Site SA6 – Land at Conway, West of the A6, Garstang, allocated 2.43 hectares of land for use as a Travelling Showpersons Yard. The site came forward, was granted planning permission for the use as a Travelling Showpersons Yard and the development has been delivered.

The recent Fylde Coast Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment 2023/24 (GTAA) considered the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the Fylde Coast for Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre. It identified the accommodation needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation across the three boroughs. For Wyre, the GTAA does not identify any need for pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, however it does identify a need for 13 Travelling Showpersons plots within the borough up to 2040. It also recommends the Council should consider

finding Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers. Wyre borough is on the Appleby Horse Fair commute and also on part of a traditional travelling route for Gypsies and Travellers.

In order to help inform the Emerging Local Plan Wyre Council is therefore conducting a Call for Sites for inviting landowners, agents, developers, community groups and others with an interest in putting forward land for developments for Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and/or Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers to submit land for inclusion in the Emerging Local Plan as **sites for Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and/or Transit Provision sites for Gypsies and Travellers**. This 'Call for Sites' exercise will sit alongside our previous Call for Sites for housing, economic uses, on-shore wind energy projects and other uses.

This specific 'Call for Sites' does not seek the submission of land for Gypsies and Travellers sites for permanent residential accommodation as no need has been identified for such accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers through the Council's evidence. Only Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers has been recommended by the Council's GTAA. It is important to note however that should any planning applications be submitted for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation during the new Local Plan period 2022-40, any such applications would be considered against criteria based policies within the new Local Plan.

If you have submitted sites into the previous Call for Sites exercises you may also submit a site through this current exercise specifically aimed at Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and/or Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers.

As a guide the Council is looking at sites for Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople of around a hectare in size as a minimum. The Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople 'Call for Sites' is seeking suggestions for land for 13 or more travelling showpersons plots to form a new travelling showpersons yard. Yards may also involve provision of land for storage buildings, space for storage of equipment (including show equipment) and amenity green space. Therefore any site needs to be large enough to accommodate 13 plots, space for potential associated buildings, equipment and amenity space within a yard. There is no maximum size threshold for sites for Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople at this stage.

There is no minimum or maximum site threshold for Transit Provision sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

Please note that submitting a site does not guarantee that the Council will allocate or designate it, or support its development in the future. All sites will need to be judged against relevant planning policies and other considerations. Until such time as any site is formally allocated, any submissions will have **no weight** as a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications.

To submit sites please complete the response form available at

<https://www.wyre.gov.uk/downloads/file/1912/showpeople-and-transit-provision-for-gypsies-and-travellers-cfs-response-form>

Please include details of the site ownership, land owner's consent (see note below), proposed project, land availability and a scale map clearly identifying the precise boundaries of the land that is potentially available for Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and/or Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers.

Proposed sites can be submitted through the form at any time up to the closing date of **5pm Friday 21 June 2024**.

Sites submitted after this date will be kept on a register and considered next time we update the assessment.

How do I complete the response form?

- **Section A – Your Contact Details**

Your contact details are required. Please include your email address if available - this will be helpful as it enables the Council to contact you easily if we need further information. The Council is obliged to make all submissions available to the public, as they will form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan. The name of the sender and organisation (if relevant) will be published, no other personal information will be published. Please note that sites submitted cannot be treated as confidential and anonymous responses will not be accepted.

- **Section B – Site Details, Proposed Use and Scale**

Please provide details about the site proposed, providing any relevant details that are available, including whether you are proposing the site for Accommodation

for Travelling Showpeople, Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers, or both, and relevant details the scale of development for Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople or Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers that the site can reasonably accommodate (e.g. the size and number of plots/pitches). This should include a consideration of the extent to which the site is appropriately located. For Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople you should consider whether or not there is sufficient capacity to site plots, ancillary buildings and space for storage equipment (including show equipment) and associated green space. For Transit Provision sites for Gypsies and Travellers you should consider whether or not there is sufficient capacity to site pitches or caravans, bins/skips and toilets and, if possible, space for horses to graze.

To allow the Council to accurately locate the site and its boundaries, your suggested site cannot be considered if you do not submit a location plan that clearly identifies the site boundary. Due to Ordnance Survey licensing restrictions, the Council is unable to provide blank plans for this exercise. Ordnance Survey plans of sites may be obtained via external companies (there is normally a charge for these services).

- **Section C – Site Ownership**

Please specify the site ownership status. You do not need to be the owner of a site to promote it. However if you do not own the site, please provide evidence that the site owner is supportive of the use of the site for Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and/or for Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers.

- **Section D – Market Interest in Accommodation for Travelling Showperson or Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers**

Please provide any details or comments regarding any market interest in the site for use for Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and/or for Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers, if relevant.

- **Section E – Site Constraints and Considerations**

This section involves a deeper consideration of the site attributes with a focus on any known constraints and how they may be overcome. Please provide an

indication of the extent of any known constraints and other considerations that may have implications for the feasibility of the suggested scale of development.

- **Section F – Site Ownership Considerations and Availability**

Please provide any details of any known legal, ownership or physical constraints that may have implications for how quickly the site may be developed, including viability matters. Please provide an indication of when the site may be available for Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and/or for Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers.

- **Section G – Community Support**

Please provide details on any known community support for the site and its use for Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and/or for Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers. This should include any known community concerns and how they may be addressed.

- **Section H – Additional Comments**

Please provide any additional comments to support your proposed site. Wherever possible, please provide proportionate evidence to support your submission. The Council will consider this as part of the assessment work undertaken and may use your submitted information to consult with relevant stakeholders and infrastructure providers. As part of this assessment process, the Council may come to different conclusions from what is submitted on the response form and supporting evidence.

How can I keep informed of progress?

The Council maintains a local plan consultation database which is used to notify interested individual and organisations of local plan consultation and planning policy matters. If you would like to be added to the local plan consultation database, you can subscribe online at: <https://www.wyre.gov.uk/planning-policy/consultations>

If you would like to subscribe to the database but are unable to do so, please contact the planning policy team.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you require any further information please contact the planning policy team via:

planning.policy@wyre.gov.uk or 01253 887373 or 01253 887331

How should I respond to the call for sites?

Please complete a separate response form for each site you are proposing.

This guidance note and a downloadable response form are available at

<https://www.wyre.gov.uk/planning-policy/consultations/5>

Completed forms and location plans should be submitted by either:

- Email: planning.policy@wyre.gov.uk or
- Post: Planning Policy, Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton le Fylde, FY6 7PU

All submissions should be received by the **deadline of 5pm pm on Friday 21 June 2024**. Late responses will not be considered.

Please be aware that if you are submitting your form via email you will need to send an electronic copy of a location plan (a scanned copy will suffice). As noted above, due to Ordnance Survey licensing restrictions the Council is unable to provide blank plans for this exercise. Plans of sites may be obtained via external companies (there is a charge for these services).