

---

# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 A partnership has been formed by six local authorities - Broxbourne Borough Council, East Hertfordshire District Council, Hertfordshire County Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, Stevenage Borough Council, and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council - to identify potential areas for the accommodation of gypsy and traveller pitches<sup>1</sup> in the study area. National guidance and legislation, namely The Housing Act 2004 and the Communities and Local Government (CLG) guidance 'Planning for gypsy and traveller caravan sites – ODPM Circular 01/2006', requires Local Planning Authorities to produce Local Development Documents that address gypsy and traveller accommodations needs.
- 1.1.2 In response to this requirement, Scott Wilson has been commissioned to produce the report: 'The accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire Stage Two: Identification of potential gypsy and traveller sites in the study area'. This will form part of the evidence base to support the development of options on gypsy and traveller accommodation for any emerging Local Development Documents in the study area.
- 1.1.3 The report was produced in October 2007. It contains a national, regional and local policy context review and outlines the 'selection criteria' to identify areas where it

would be feasible to provide an appropriate number of pitches. Areas were assessed against broad criteria and then specific criteria in a two-tiered approach.

- 1.1.4 Broad criteria were used to remove unsuitable areas from consideration. These criteria were applied to datasets and overlaid on GIS maps to create areas of opportunity and constraint. It was noted whether areas were located within the Green Belt or not.
- 1.1.5 Electronic GIS maps detailing layers of 'constraints' and 'opportunities' along with baseline information and photos of the sites can be accessed via the following link <ftp://ftp.sw-ftp.com/><sup>2</sup>. A CD also accompanies this report.
- 1.1.6 Once viable areas were identified through the application of the broad criteria, areas were then assessed on field visits against specific criteria in order to allow the identification of potential areas for gypsy and traveller accommodation.
- 1.1.7 The areas that accorded well with the criteria were recorded and ranked in terms of their degree of accordance. The best areas were those ranked as '1' and the next favourable areas were ranked as level '2'.
- 1.1.8 The partner authorities were consulted on these sites. Some Green Belt areas were deemed unsuitable for consideration by the partner authorities due to their position between settlements. These areas were discounted from

---

<sup>1</sup> The sites in the report do not reflect the only potential Local Development Plan options for the accommodation of gypsy and traveller pitches, however they include those which best met the site selection criteria and were the most locally viable sites.

---

<sup>2</sup>

To access the site please follow the following details  
Username:ISD\_FTP\_2006, Password: Filetransfer2006

---

**Broxbourne Borough Council**

- 2BR4 Hell Wood (Turnford)
- 2BR5 Lord Street (Hoddesdon)
- 2BR6 Lieutenant Ellis Way (Bury Green)

**East Hertfordshire District Council**

- 1EH13 Royston Road (Buntingford)
- 2EH14 Throcking Lane (Buntingford)
- 2EH15 Baldock Road (A507) (Buntingford)
- 2EH65 Millfield Lane East (Little Hadham)
- 2EH66 Millfield Lane West (Little Hadham)
- 2EH82 Little Spellers (Hunsdon)
- 2EH84 Abbots Lane (Hunsdon)

**North Hertfordshire District Council**

- 2NH16 Lilley Bottom Road (Whitwell)
- 2NH18 Hinxworth Road South (Ashwell)
- 2NH61 Preston Hills (Kings Walden)
- 2NH72 London Road (Barkway)
- 2NH73 Buckland Road (Barkway)
- 2NH95 Holwell Way (Pirton)
- 2NH109 North of Payne End (Sandon)
- 2NH112 Land South of Notley Green (Sandon)
- 2NH117 The Joint North (Reed)

**Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council**

- 2WH15 Bulls Lane South (Bell bar)

**Stevenage Borough Council**

- 2ST1 Great North Road (West Stevenage)

study on coalescence grounds since a merger of the settlements would result. Highways and Environmental Health departments within the partner authorities were also consulted and subsequently some sites were removed on these grounds.

1.1.9 Twenty-one areas for the accommodation of an appropriate number of gypsy and traveller pitches were identified as the most favourable areas. These are listed opposite. This number accords with the estimated extra site provision required for the next five years in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire of forty-five pitches, as calculated in the 'Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment', produced by Opinion Research Services (ORS) in June 2006.

1.1.10 Green Belt areas would only receive consideration where no suitable Non-Green Belt options were available, with reference to North Hertfordshire, East Hertfordshire and Stevenage. In addition to the identification of new potential areas, the analysis concluded that two existing non-Green Belt sites and one Green Belt site were considered suitable for expansion. Furthermore three other existing sites were deemed capable of accommodating additional pitches within their existing boundaries.

1.1.11 The report also recommends criteria, consistent with the area selection process that may assist partner authorities in the development of policy options to for any emerging development plan documents on planning permissions for gypsy and traveller sites.