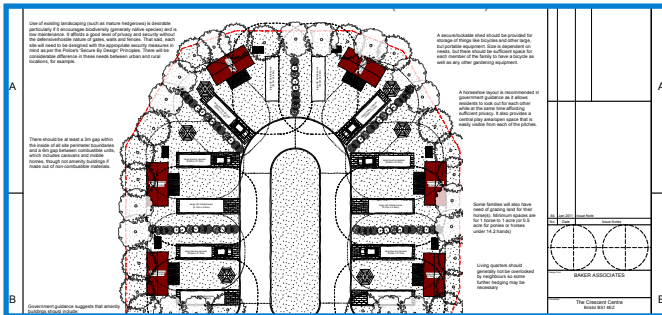


# Have your say: finding sites in Dorset for Gypsies and Travellers

Consultation – November 2011

Site options summary and response form (West Dorset)



Produced by Baker Associates on behalf of Dorset councils

## Introduction

Councils in Dorset (including Bournemouth and Poole) are working together to identify sites to meet the current and future needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the area.

The councils would like to hear your views on the content of the site options included in this booklet.

We would also like to hear your views on the full Issues and Options Consultation Document which is available to view, together with other background documents, at council offices and at [www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches)

Public exhibitions to explain the need for this plan and the options suggested are being held at the following places in the West Dorset and Weymouth and Portland areas:

- 9 January 12-3pm, Corn Exchange, Dorchester, DT1 1HF
- 9 January 5-8pm, The Ocean Room, Weymouth Pavilion, DT4 8ED
- 10 January 12-3pm, The Ocean Room, Weymouth Pavilion, DT4 8ED
- 10 January 5-8pm, Beaminster Town Hall, Beaminster, DT8 3EF

You can have your say by:

- Completing and returning the attached response form
- Completing the online questionnaire at [www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches)
- Completing the questionnaire available at the public exhibitions

The deadline for comments to be received is **10 February 2012**.

## Background

Gypsies and Travellers have been living in England for hundreds of years. The number living in Dorset is estimated at between 2,400 and 3,000 people. There are seasonal differences, with more Travellers arriving during the summer months. Many Gypsies and Travellers move around the country and need temporary transit sites in the areas they

travel to. However, travelling communities are becoming increasingly settled and need permanent residential sites which also act as a base from which to travel.

Travelling Showpeople play an important role in the leisure economy, travelling the country to hold fairs and circuses. They need secure, permanent bases in which to live and store their equipment. There are established family businesses currently based in Dorset.

## Why should councils find places for Gypsies and Travellers to stay?

The Government wants to significantly increase the number of Traveller sites with planning permission and address the shortage of sites in recent years.

It's important that local councils plan for the needs of all of their communities, including Gypsies and Travellers. Councils will help meet the needs of the travelling communities by producing a plan that identifies enough sites for them. This should help reduce the number of illegal camps. It should also reduce tension and help make enforcement by councils and the police more effective.

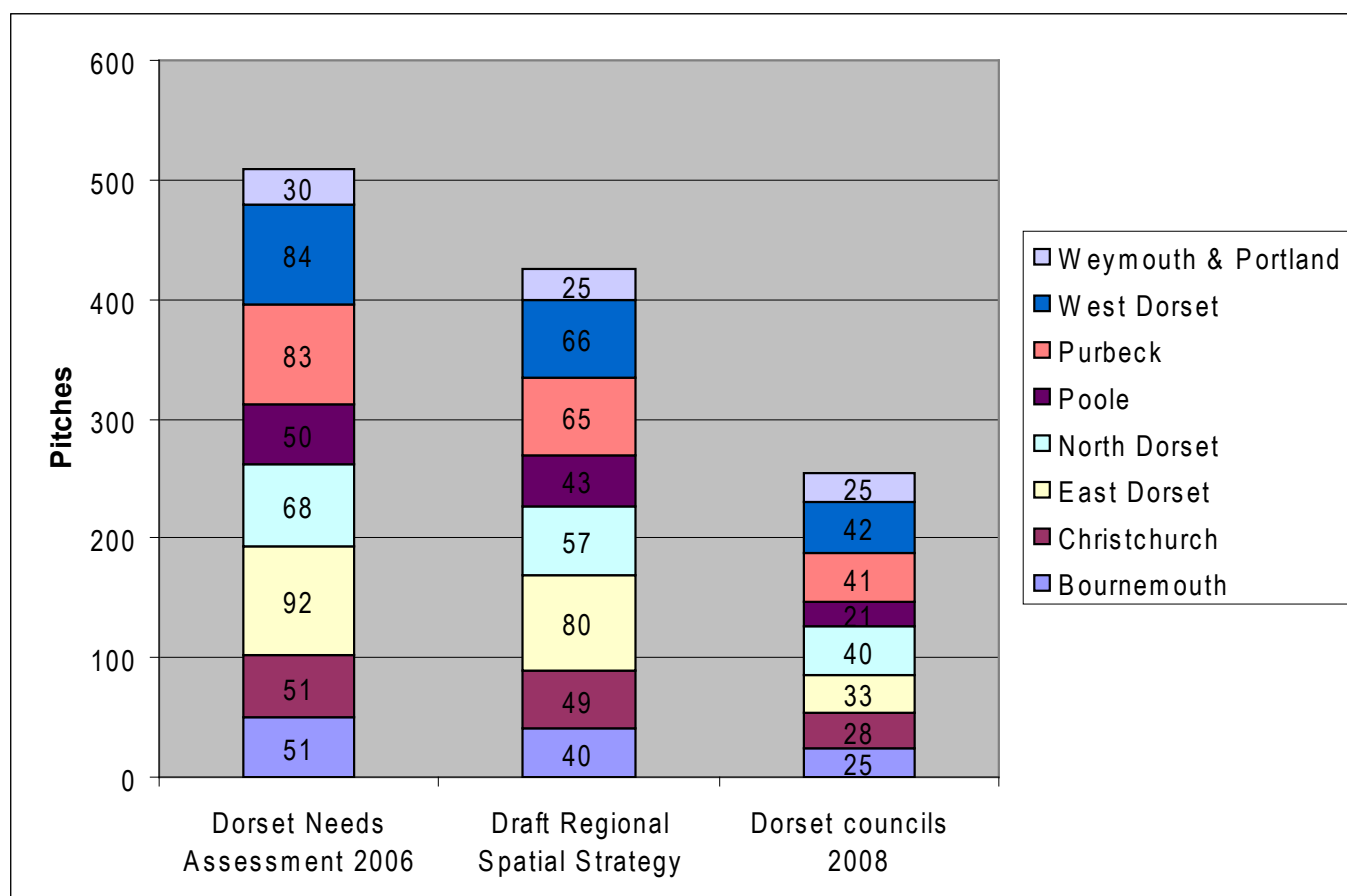
More generally, councils have a duty to promote good race relations, equality of opportunity and community cohesion.

## Meeting needs

There is currently a shortage of permanent residential and transit Gypsy and Traveller pitches<sup>1</sup> in Dorset. A site can contain up to 15 pitches, although travelling communities prefer small sites with up to six pitches.

A number of estimates have been made for the current needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Dorset, mainly based on local surveys of need.

## Recent estimates of Gypsy and Traveller need in Dorset



The following table shows three different recent estimates of need. In addition a further 100 transit pitches are required on a temporary basis each year for the annual Great Dorset Steam Fair in North Dorset<sup>2</sup>.

A regional report on Travelling Showpeople in the South West has estimated that two plots<sup>3</sup> should be provided in Dorset to meet current needs.

More work will need to be done to identify future needs. The plan will need to identify local targets for 5, 10 and 15 year periods.

## Site options

The councils have started to assess potential sites within their areas. Independent planning

consultants Baker Associates have identified a list of sites which may be potentially suitable, available and achievable for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in West Dorset.

The councils have yet to decide which, if any, of the identified sites are appropriate for Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople uses.

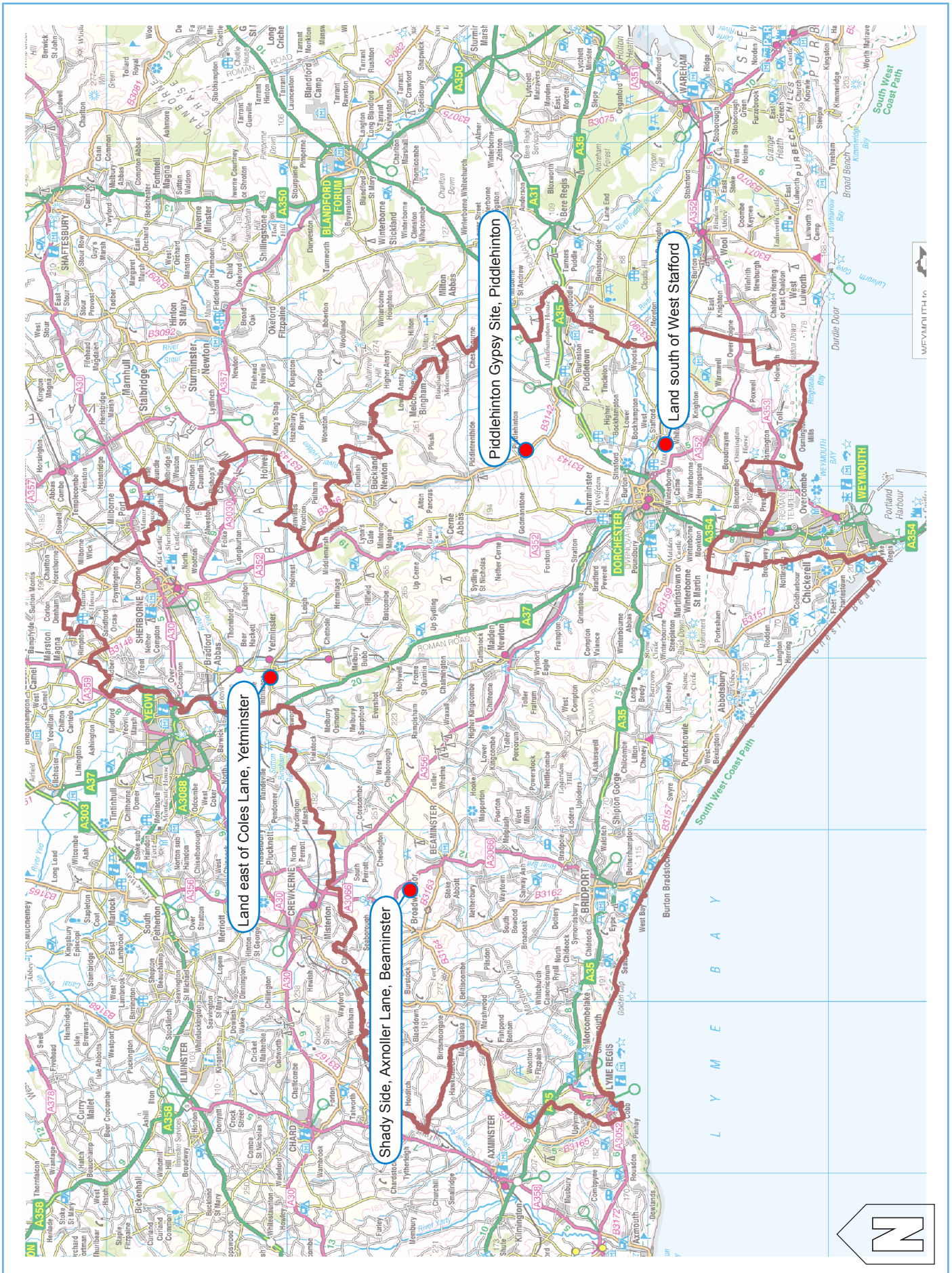
Your views are sought to help the councils come to an informed decision.

1. Gypsy and Traveller site needs are measured in terms of pitches. A pitch is an area of land where a Gypsy or Traveller household can reside. Typically, this may have a building, parking space and one or more caravans, with sufficient space so that caravans up to 20 metres in length can be moved around.

2. In July 2011, Dorset County Council granted planning permission for five years for a site off the A354 to be used during a three week period around the dates of the Steam Fair each year.

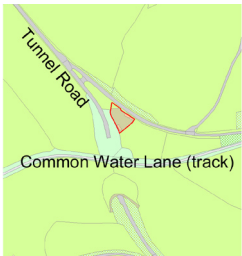
3. Travelling Showpeople needs are measured in terms of plots. A plot contains both residential and business uses for a household. It allows for the storage and repair of fairground equipment.

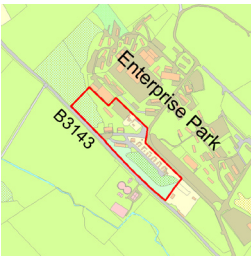
# Location of shortlisted sites in West Dorset





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## Shortlisted sites

<p><b>Site name &amp; settlement:</b> Shady Side, Axnoller Lane, Beaminster</p>	<p><b>Summary of assessment:</b></p> <p>A triangular area of hard standing previously used as a Gypsy caravan site.</p>	<p><b>Number of pitches:</b> 1</p>
<p><b>Site map</b></p> 	<p><i>Is it suitable?</i> The site is located within AONB, close to a site of nature conservation interest and to the A3066. Planting may be needed to avoid landscape, ecology and noise impacts. Otherwise, there are no obvious physical constraints or potential impacts. The site is not near existing housing. Accessibility to services from the site is poor.</p> <p><i>Is it available?</i> The site has temporary permission for Gypsy uses and is considered available.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> There are no abnormal constraints to overcome.</p>	<p><b>Type of provision:</b> Residential</p> <p><b>Type of traveller:</b> Existing occupants</p> <p><b>Delivery:</b> Existing privately owned site requiring permission</p>

<p><b>Site name &amp; settlement:</b> Piddlehinton Gypsy Site, Piddlehinton</p>	<p><b>Summary of assessment:</b></p> <p>Land within the existing public Gypsy site.</p>	<p><b>Number of pitches:</b> 4</p>
<p><b>Site map</b></p> 	<p><i>Is it suitable?</i> There is space within the north of the site to contain limited additional residential pitches. The Enterprise Park and waste water treatment works next door may impact the site with noise and odour. Pedestrian safety along the B3143, and the amenity of existing residents, would prevent a significant increase of pitches in this location. The site has very poor access to essential services, although a nearby bus stop/route does provide a link.</p> <p><i>Is it available?</i> The site is an existing public Gypsy site.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> No abnormal costs need to be overcome.</p>	<p><b>Type of provision:</b> Residential</p> <p><b>Type of traveller:</b> Romany Gypsies</p> <p><b>Delivery:</b> Existing public residential site intensified</p>

<p><i>Site name &amp; settlement:</i> Land south of West Stafford</p>	<p><i>Summary of assessment:</i></p> <p>A large field located to the south of the village, the railway line and main road.</p>	<p><i>Number of pitches:</i> 10</p>
<p><i>Site map</i></p> 	<p><i>Is it suitable?</i> The site is separated from the village by the railway line and main road. The site would need a new access. To protect landscape character, only the north eastern part of the site should be developed, and extensive screening and new planting would be needed. Pedestrian links to the village would need to be improved. Reducing noise may be necessary. The site has poor accessibility, with the village lacking all services. However, a bus stop near the site may help make services accessible to those without a car.</p> <p><i>Is it available?</i> The site has been put forward by the landowner for consideration.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> No abnormal costs need to be overcome.</p>	<p><i>Type of provision:</i> Residential or transit</p> <p><i>Type of traveller:</i> Romany Gypsies or New Travellers</p> <p><i>Delivery:</i> Purchase of site and occupation by Travellers or purchase of site as a publicly managed site</p>

<p><i>Site name &amp; settlement:</i> Land east of Coles Lane, Yetminster</p>	<p><i>Summary of assessment:</i></p> <p>A small piece of scrubland next to a row of housing.</p>	<p><i>Number of pitches:</i> 1</p>
<p><i>Site map</i></p> 	<p><i>Is it suitable?</i> The site is generally well screened both from the countryside and nearby properties. The site is above the road and would need a new access. The lane is narrow with on-street parking. Development would need to protect the existing boundary hedgerows and provide additional screening to protect residential amenity. The site has very good access to most services.</p> <p><i>Is it available?</i> The site is owned by the District Council and is available in principle.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> New access and screening may be costly.</p>	<p><i>Type of provision:</i> Residential or transit</p> <p><i>Type of traveller:</i> Romany Gypsies or New Travellers</p> <p><i>Delivery:</i> Purchase of site and occupation by Travellers or use of public grants to allow purchase by Travellers.</p>

## Other sites

A number of other sites have been assessed, but the independent planning consultants have recommended they be rejected. Details of these sites can be found in the full Issues and Options Consultation Document.

The councils would also like to hear of any other sites which you think they should be considering as part of this process.

# Site options response form Consultation – November 2011-February 2012

## Dorset-wide Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Joint Development Plan Document

Please answer the questions below. You may use an additional sheet of paper if needed. Inappropriate, offensive or racist comments will not be accepted.

Do you have information about any of the sites in this booklet which will help Dorset councils decide whether they are suitable, available and achievable for Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople provision?

Name of site: \_\_\_\_\_

Response: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Do you know of any other sites which the councils should be considering for future Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople uses?

Name and location of site: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a map if possible.

Reasons why it should be considered \_\_\_\_\_  
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Do you have any additional comments to make on any other matter raised in this document?

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Your email and/or telephone\_\_\_\_\_

Please tick here if you would like to be kept informed of progress with the plan

Please note we can only accept comments made by respondents who provide their names and contact addresses.

Thank you for taking the time to respond.

## What next?

Please complete the attached response form and return it by **10 February 2012** to:

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Consultation  
County Hall  
Dorchester,  
Dorset,  
DT1 1XJ

The councils will consider the responses received and will use them to develop proposals for further public consultation next year.