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# Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum of the Herefordshire Travellers' Sites Development Plan Document

Final Report  
Prepared by LUC  
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**Client:** Herefordshire Council

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# 1 Introduction

## Introduction

- 1.1 On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Herefordshire Council (referred to hereafter as 'the Council') submitted the [Herefordshire Travellers' Sites DPD Pre-Submission Publication](#) (November 2017) (referred to hereafter as 'the Travellers' Sites DPD') for independent examination by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report entitled '[Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Herefordshire Travellers' Sites Development Plan Document Pre-Submission Publication](#)' (November 2017) was submitted alongside the DPD. It should be noted that this is an Addendum to that HRA Report and that the two documents should therefore be read together.
- 1.2 The examination hearing for the Travellers' Sites DPD took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018. Following the conclusion of the hearing, the Inspector issued closing comments and post hearing advice. The Inspector concluded that the Travellers' Sites DPD fails to identify a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites from 2018 against locally set targets. Given that there is an immediate need and that providing for an adequate supply is a fundamental aim of Government policy, the Inspector advised that the Travellers' Sites DPD is not sound as it stands. To remedy this, the Inspector advised the Council to investigate ways to increase supply by at least five deliverable pitches to ensure a five year supply on adoption of the Travellers' Sites DPD. Overall, a further five pitches are required in the county before 2022/23 and a further 11 pitches between 2023 and 2031. This is in addition to the nine residential pitches at four different sites<sup>1</sup> and one temporary stopping place for five pitches<sup>2</sup> already identified in the Travellers' Sites DPD.
- 1.3 Herefordshire Council provided the Inspector with a report outlining the possible approaches to identifying the additional pitches<sup>3</sup>. The Council's proposed approach is to assess the potential for additional pitches on an existing private site identified through the [Gypsy and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment Update 2017](#) (July 2017). In addition, the Council received a proposal for additional pitches at another site in the county. It is considered that the potential supply from these sites could achieve the requirement for the five year supply of pitches.
- 1.4 The sites that are subject to assessment in this HRA Addendum Report are:
- Land at Stoney Street, Madley; and,
  - Land at Oakfield, Nashend Lane, Bosbury.
- 1.5 The proposed sites and provisions within the Herefordshire Travellers' Sites DPD, including the additional sites identified during the Travellers' Sites DPD examination, are identified in **Table 1.1**.

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<sup>1</sup> One pitch at Romany Close, Grafton; Two pitches at Extension to Orchard Caravan Park, Lower Bullingham; Two pitches at Openfields Caravan Site, Bromyard; Four pitches at Pembridge Caravan Site.

<sup>2</sup> Temporary stopping place at Land to the west of A49 Leominster for five pitches.

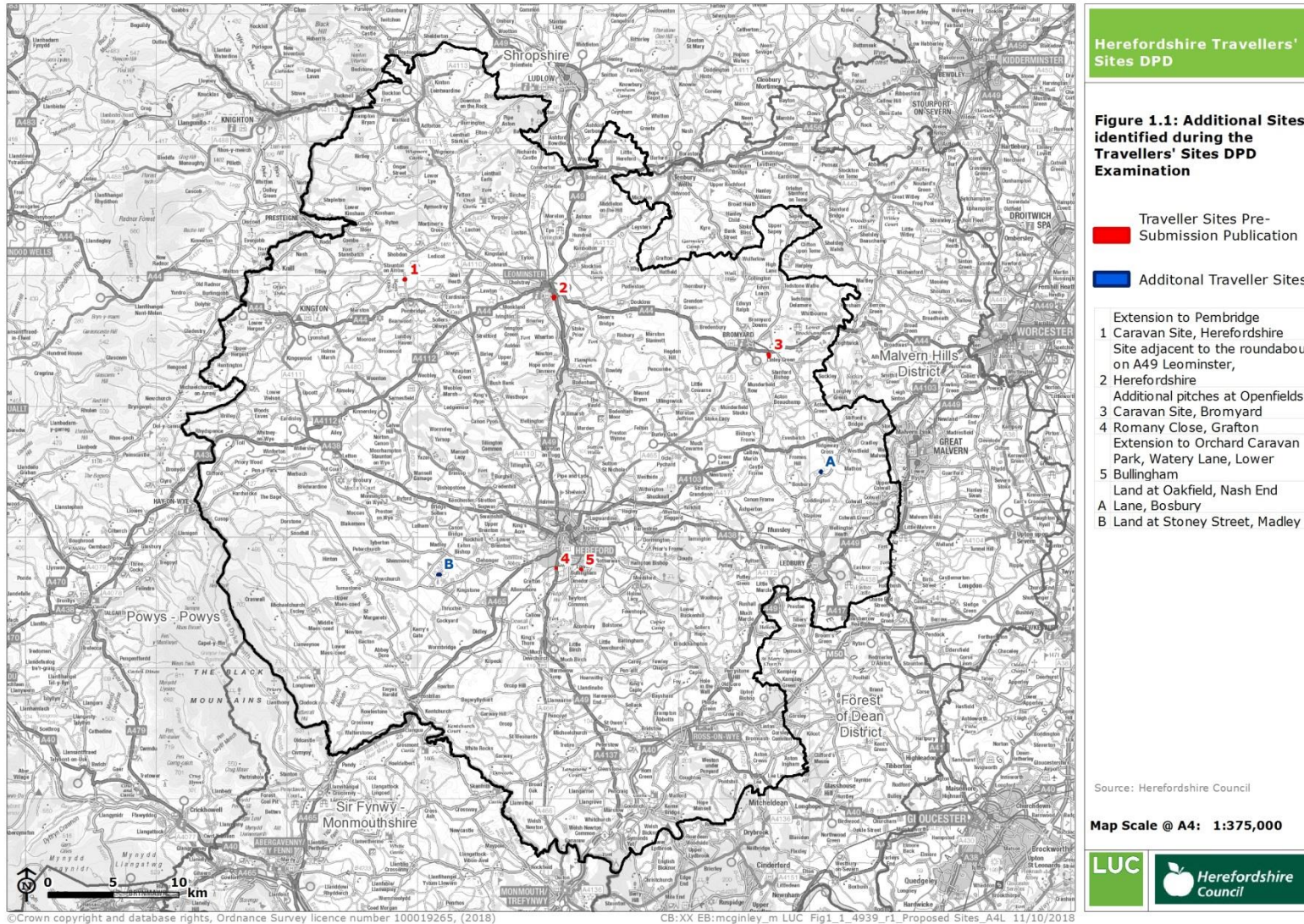
<sup>3</sup> Herefordshire Council (2018) Herefordshire Local Plan – Travellers' Sites Development Plan – Proposed approach to finding additional sites to meet Five Year Requirement [online]. Available at: [https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/14919/coun008\\_herefordshire\\_council\\_approach\\_to\\_identifying\\_additional\\_pitches.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/14919/coun008_herefordshire_council_approach_to_identifying_additional_pitches.pdf) [Accessed 19 October 2018]

**Table 1.1 Proposed allocation for residential pitches and temporary stopping places**

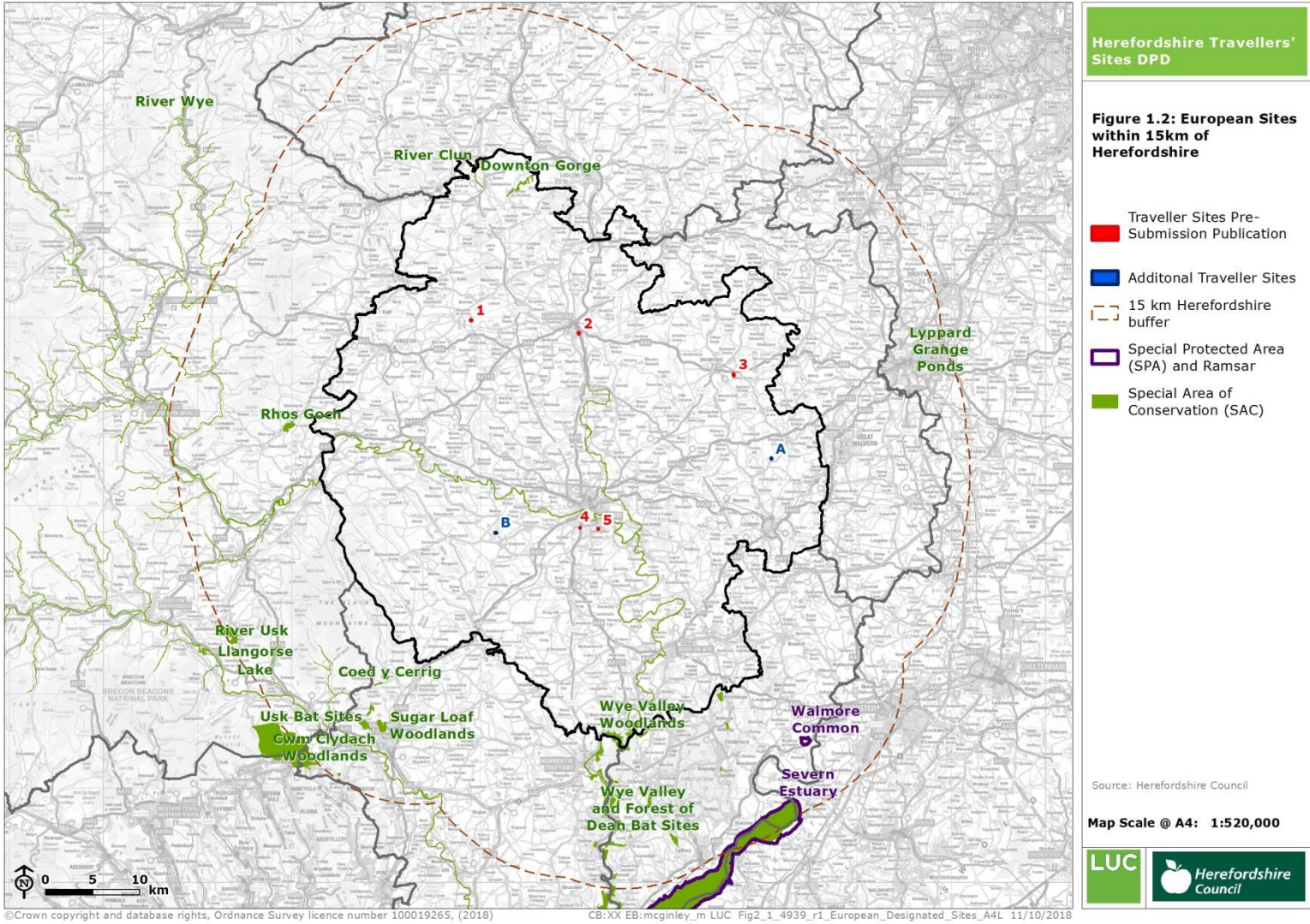
Site Name	Site Type	Number of Pitches
Site adjacent to the roundabout on A49 Leominster, Herefordshire	Temporary Stopping Place	5
Romany Close, Grafton	Permanent Residential – Intensification within existing site	1
Extension to Orchard Caravan Park, Watery Lane, Lower Bullingham	Permanent Residential – Extension to existing site	2
Additional pitches at Openfields Caravan Site, Bromyard	Permanent Residential – Intensification within existing site	2
Extension to Pembridge Caravan Site, Herefordshire	Permanent Residential – Extension to existing site	4
Land at Stoney Street, Madley	Permanent Residential – Vacant site	10
Land at Oakfield, Nashend Lane, Bosbury	Permanent Residential – Extension to existing site	4
<b>Total number of pitches</b>		<b>28 of which 23 are residential pitches</b>

1.6 **Figure 1.1** shows the location of the two proposed additional sites as well as the five sites proposed for allocation in the Travellers’ Sites DPD. European sites considered for the HRA in Herefordshire or within 15km of the county boundary are illustrated in **Figure 1.2**.

**Figure 1.1 Additional Sites identified during the Travellers' Sites DPD Examination**



**Figure 1.2 European Sites within 15km of Herefordshire**



## HRA work previously undertaken

- 1.7 The HRA of the Herefordshire Traveller's Sites DPD undertaken in 2017 found that the majority of the sites proposed with exception of Romany Close and Extension to Orchard Caravan Park are located some distance away from any European sites and due to their scale were considered unlikely to result in likely significant effects.
- 1.8 The two sites at Romany Close and Extension to Orchard Caravan Park are situated in close proximity to the River Wye SAC and were considered to have potential to result in increased physical disturbance/damage, or erosion/trampling. However, in both cases, the scale of development proposed was very small and unlikely to result in significant effects on any European site.
- 1.9 In addition to this, a HRA was undertaken in 2014 of the Pre-submission Publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy. This work identified potential likely significant effects to the River Wye SAC as a result of impacts on water quality from the scale of development proposed in the Local Plan. Following collaboration between Herefordshire Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England, water companies and other relevant stakeholders to address the potential effects on water quality in the River Wye SAC, through joint working on a Nutrient Management Plan in conjunction with protection policies outlined in the Local Plan-Core Strategy, it was concluded that no adverse effects on integrity would occur.



## 2 Habitats Regulations Assessment Findings – Additional Sites identified during the Travellers’ Sites DPD Examination

2.1 This chapter presents the HRA findings for the two additional sites that are proposed by Herefordshire Council to address the shortfall in deliverable pitches over the plan period. **Chapter 2: HRA Findings** of the November 2017 HRA Report describes the likely effects of implementing the Travellers’ Sites DPD on European sites. Most of the European sites are some distance away from the Travellers’ sites proposed for allocation in the Travellers’ Sites DPD and are unlikely to be affected by the proposals, due to their scale. The only European site in close proximity to any of the allocated sites is the River Wye SAC.

### HRA of the additional sites identified during the Travellers’ Sites DPD examination

2.2 **Table 2.1** describes the effects and European sites which are relevant to the additional sites identified during the Travellers’ Sites DPD examination.

**Table 2.1 Likely effects of the additional sites identified during the Travellers’ Sites DPD examination on European sites**

Site Name	No. of Pitches	Likely activities and effects if plan is implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could allocation of this site have likely significant effects on European sites?
Land at Stoney Street, Madley	10	Increased recreation activities: physical disturbance/damage, erosion/trampling	River Wye SAC, which is c3.5km from the potential site.	No, the occupation of 10 pitches even on a permanent basis is not likely to significantly affect the qualifying features of the River Wye SAC.
Land at Oakfield, Nashend Lane, Bosbury	4	n/a – site is c.17.5km away from the nearest European site.	None	No.

2.3 Although no likely significant effects have been identified, it is noted that paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 of the November 2017 HRA Report identify mitigation measures. For example policy *H4: Traveller Sites* specifies that sufficient on-site play areas should be provided on Traveller sites. Additionally Core Strategy policies OS1-OS3 which relate to open space, sport and recreation may help to relieve any increase in pressure on European sites for recreation space, if appropriately implemented. Furthermore, policies *TS1: Residential Traveller Pitches and Sites* and *TS2: Travelling Showpeople Plots* in the Herefordshire Travellers’ Sites DPD require proposals to incorporate into the design of the site a safe area for children to play, which like policy *H4: Traveller Sites*, will provide mitigation and reduce the effects from recreational activities.

## 3 Conclusion and Next Steps

### Conclusion

- 3.1 Most of the European sites are some distance away from the proposed Travellers' sites and are unlikely to be affected by the proposals, due to their scale. The only European site in close proximity to any of the proposed sites is the River Wye SAC.
- 3.2 Following an assessment of the two additional sites identified during the Travellers' Sites DPD examination, it was identified that there was potential for the proposed site at Land at Stoney Street, Madley to result in an increase in physical disturbance/damage, or erosion/trampling to the River Wye SAC. However, due to the small scale of the development and the location of the site c.3.5km from the River Wye SAC, it was considered unlikely for significant effects on the European site to occur.
- 3.3 Overall, it was concluded that no likely significant effects will occur as a result of the inclusion of the two additional sites in the Travellers' Sites DPD.

### Next Steps

- 3.4 This HRA Addendum Report will be available for consultation from 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Following this, Herefordshire Council will consider the responses received during the consultation period and will submit the HRA and SA Addendums, together with their associated responses, to the Inspector for examination.

LUC

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