

## Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils

### Gypsy and Traveller Five-Year Land Supply Position

20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

#### Background

The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2024<sup>1</sup> requires Local Planning Authorities to identify a five-year supply against their locally identified pitch targets. This note summarises the most up to date position of the need and supply of permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches. The base date of this statement is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

#### Needs - Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers Accommodation Needs Assessment Report<sup>2</sup> ('the ANA') was published in May 2024 to provide evidence in the development of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 2 Development Plan Document.

The ANA assessment covers the time period 2023-37 to align with the adopted Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 Development Plan Document, adopted in November 2023.

The ANA, in Table ES.1, identified the following need pitch requirements;

#### *Babergh*

Period	Total Requirement	Annualised Requirement
2023-28	3	0.60
2028-33	0	0.00
2033-37	1	0.25
Total (2023-37)	4	0.29

#### *Mid Suffolk*

Period	Total Requirement	Annualised Requirement
2023-28	22	4.40
2028-33	6	1.20
2033-37	6	1.50
Total (2023-37)	34	2.43

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/documents/d/asset-library-54706/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-gtaa-report-may-2024>

As set out in the methodology detailed in the ANA, the level of need for additional pitches has been identified with regard to the existing supply of GRT pitches. The ANA is clear that any additional supply that the Councils identify can be considered as meeting identified needs.

During 2025 the Councils undertook a verification exercise to reassess the ANA's assumptions on the number of pitches already available or deliverable in the Districts, in order to consider whether there was an impact on need.

The results of this assessment, and any accompanying adjustments to the assessed need, are published below.

### *Babergh*

Site	Number of Pitches Identified in ANA <sup>i</sup>	Number of Pitches Identified by BDC <sup>i</sup>
Lilleyfields – Newton	1	1
Land North of Second Pits – Monks Eleigh	1	1
	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

This shows no discrepancy between the ANA and BDC's assessment. As such no adjustment has been made to the need summary described above.

The current five-year supply period would be for the years 2026-2031. Based on a need for three pitches between 2023 and 2028 and no requirement in the following five years (2028 – 2033) **the current five-year requirement for Babergh remains the same at three pitches.**

**Furthermore, the originally assessed need in Babergh for the current plan period; between 2023 and 2037; also remains unchanged.**

### *Mid Suffolk*

In Mid Suffolk, the site assessment process resulted in the following discrepancies being identified in the baseline supply assumption.

Site	Number of Pitches Identified in ANA <sup>i</sup>	Number of Pitches Identified by MSDC <sup>i</sup>
Waveney Vale – Brome and Oakley	3	3
The Gables – Palgrave	5	5
Oak Lodge – Rickinghall	2	3
Crabtree Farm – Stuston	2	3
Brookdale – Thrandeston	1	1
Two Ways –Hinderclay/Wattisfield	10	11
Old White Elms – Monk Soham	1	1
Magpie Green – Wortham	3	3
The Paddocks – Wetheringsett	4	4
Broadgrass Green – Elmswell / Tostock	8	7 <sup>3</sup>
Kiln Lane – Elmswell	5	6
Runcton – Bramford	3	3
	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>

As set out above, the ANA is clear that any additional supply that the Councils identify can be considered as meeting identified needs. Therefore, the additional three pitches contribute to meeting needs in the first five years and across the plan period to 2037.

This results in a revised need for 31 pitches across the plan period (2023-37), of which 19 pitches would be required from 2023-28.

Applying a new (i.e. current) five-year period 2026-31, would indicate a revised baseline need of at least 23 pitches in Mid Suffolk from a total of 31 pitches across the plan period. This is explained step by step, below.

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<sup>3</sup> In line with the ANA methodology, this figure does not include twelve pitches that were assessed as being occupied by non-GRT residents.

	Need	Notes
Initial baseline need, 2023-28:	22 pitches	As per ANA.
Minus additional supply identified by the Council:	19 pitches	To see table above, showing the three net additional pitches identified by the Council.
Updated baseline need, 2026-31	23 pitches	The requirement identified in the ANA of 6 additional pitches between 2028 and 2033 equates to an annualised requirement of 1.2 additional pitches per year.  Taking the previous baseline of 19 pitches, and adding 3.6 pitches (1.2 pitches each for 2028-29, 2029-30 and 2030-31) gives a need of 22.6 pitches, which becomes 23 pitches when rounded to the nearest whole number.

### *Conclusions; Need in Babergh and Mid Suffolk*

In summary, the pitch requirements for Babergh and Mid Suffolk are as follows:

	5-Year Pitch Requirement (2026-2031)	Plan Period Pitch Requirement (2023-37)
Babergh District	3	4
Mid Suffolk District	23	31

### **Supply Positions**

The PPTS sets out that, in identifying a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against locally set targets, 'sites should be available now, offer a suitable location for development, and be achievable with a realistic prospect that development will be delivered on the site within five years'.

Sites with planning permission should be considered deliverable until permission expires, unless there is clear evidence that schemes will not be implemented within five years, for example they will not be viable, there is no longer a demand for the type of units or sites have long term phasing plans.'

The base date for the ANA is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. This paper has set out the Council's position on additional pitches that can be considered as forming part of the Council's baseline supply as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 and the impact this has had on the resulting need.

Next, we may consider what further permissions are likely to form a new supply in the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2031.

### *Babergh*

No additional planning permissions, beyond those listed in the table above, have been granted for permanent GRT pitches between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

**Therefore, there is a current unmet need for three additional pitches in Babergh within the next five years (2026 – 2031).**

This deficit is intended to be addressed through the review of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan, which is currently underway, although the Councils are in the process of commissioning a new ANA to replace the 2024 study and to extend the assessment period to reflect a longer plan period, to 2050.

### *Mid Suffolk*

No additional planning permissions, beyond those listed in the table above, have been granted for permanent GRT pitches between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

However, Planning Enforcement Action being undertaken by Mid Suffolk District Council is in the process of bringing previously permitted pitches back into the supply.

The Council's assessment is that there is a reasonable prospect of success in securing compliance with the planning permission and returning 12 pitches to the supply at Broadgrass Green, by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2030 (i.e. within five years).

Furthermore, following an appeal decision dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026, the Council feels that there is a reasonable prospect of securing planning compliance at Dunroamin by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2030, returning 21 pitches at this site to the supply.

The ANA is clear that any additional supply that the Councils identify, including pitches brought back into planning compliance by way of requiring GRT occupancy, can be considered as meeting identified needs.

The effect of bringing these two sites into compliance within the five-year period is as follows:

	Need	Notes
Updated baseline need, 2026-31	23 pitches	As per table above.
Effect of additional pitches being brought back into compliance:	0 pitches	Being 23 minus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 12 pitches at Broadgrass Green, Elmswell/Tostock</li> <li>- 21 pitches at Dunroamin, Wetheringsett</li> </ul>

Against a need of 23 pitches during 2026-31 (4.6 additional pitches per annum) these 33 additional pitches equate to 7.17 years' supply.

For the plan period as a whole, the revised need at the time of writing (based on the updated baseline need for 31 pitches and 33 pitches returning to the supply from Dunroamin and Broadgrass Green) is zero.

The Councils are in the process of commissioning a new ANA to replace the 2024 study and to extend the assessment period to reflect a longer plan period, to 2050. This may result in the identification of additional needs.

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<sup>i</sup> Pitches that either:

- (1) Have an existing planning permission and are occupied by households from a GRT background,
- (2) Benefit from an existing planning permission but are not currently occupied or,
- (3) Benefit from a planning permission and are expected to developed or redeveloped within the first five-year period.