

# HOMES

## Activity 2a

**T**he recordings that you are about to hear feature different people talking about their homes and what they are like. Consider the following questions and remember to explain your answers.



- 1.** **How many different types** of home were mentioned in the recordings?
- 2.** **How have Travellers' homes** changed over time?
- 3.** **What are the advantages** and disadvantages of these different types of homes?
- 4.** **How do you think** Travellers feel about living in houses?
- 5.** **How do these people** envisage the majority of Travellers living in the future?

# HOMES

## Activity 2b

Y

ou are about to hear a recording where several different Travellers talk about their homes: the different types of homes they have and what it is like to live in them. These questions will help you think more carefully about how they live.



**1. Can you** list five different types of home mentioned in the recordings?

- a \_\_\_\_\_
- b \_\_\_\_\_
- c \_\_\_\_\_
- d \_\_\_\_\_
- e \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What are** some of the advantages or disadvantages of living in these homes?

- a \_\_\_\_\_
- b \_\_\_\_\_
- c \_\_\_\_\_
- d \_\_\_\_\_
- e \_\_\_\_\_

**3. How have** Traveller's homes changed over time?

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**4. How do you** think Travellers feel about living in houses?

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**5. If Travellers move** into houses, what sorts of things do they do to keep in touch with their travelling identity?

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**6. Where do you** think most Travellers will be living in the future?

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# HOMES

## Activity 2c

Y

ou are about to hear a recording where several different Travellers talk about their homes: the different types of homes they have and what it is like to live in them. These questions will help you think more carefully about how they live.



**1. Can you** list five different types of home mentioned in the recordings?

- a \_\_\_\_\_
- b \_\_\_\_\_
- c \_\_\_\_\_
- d \_\_\_\_\_
- e \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What are** some of the advantages (good things) or disadvantages (bad things) of living in these homes?

- a \_\_\_\_\_
- b \_\_\_\_\_
- c \_\_\_\_\_
- d \_\_\_\_\_
- e \_\_\_\_\_

**3. How have** Traveller's homes changed over time?

- I think that Traveller's homes have changed over time \_\_\_\_\_

**4. How do you** think Travellers feel about living in houses?

- I think that living in houses makes Travellers feel \_\_\_\_\_

**5. If Travellers move** into houses, what sorts of things do they do to keep in touch with their travelling identity?

- If Travellers move into houses, they keep in touch with their travelling identity by \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Where do you** think most Travellers will be living in the future?

- In the future, I think that most Travellers will be living in \_\_\_\_\_

# HOMES

## Activity 4a



**Bow Top**

**Brush**

**Burton**

**Ledge**

**Open Lot**

**Reading**





# HOMES

## Activity 4b



### Travellers' homes – types of wagon

**I**n the earlier half of the twentieth century, it would not have been unusual to see Traveller people moving about the country, perhaps camped in fields and on common land, in traditional wagons. The wagons would have been drawn by horses, and the camp would have been set up around a fire. These days, it is more common for Travellers to live in trailer caravans, but there are six main types of wagon that Travellers would have used: the Brush, Bow

Top, Burton, Open Lot, Ledge, and Reading. Burton and Reading wagons were made mostly by coach-builders from Burton and Reading: it's not hard to see how they got their names! Bow Top, Ledge, and Open Lot wagons were named after their styles. As for Brush wagons, the people who lived in them tended to sell brushes and brooms, which they hung from the outside.

**Using the descriptions of the wagons here, can you identify the wagons in the photographs correctly?**

#### Brush wagon:

- Straight sides
- Door and steps at the rear of the wagon
- Baskets, brooms, and brushes would have been attached to the outside to display them for sale

#### Bow Top wagon:

- Canvas roof stretched over a frame of wooden arches, and lined with felt and fabric
- Door and steps were at the front with a window to the rear but no side windows
- All woodwork would have been painted

#### Burton wagon:

- Straight sides
- Door to the front and windows at the sides
- The Burton was regarded as the premier class of wagon and favoured in particular by Showpeople
- Usually driven on better-maintained roads and therefore had smaller wheels that were positioned beneath its floor

#### Ledge wagon:

- Sides are slightly pitched
- It widens over the wheels, making a ledge, hence its name
- Above the front wheels, below the ledge, would have been a spindle rack to store vegetables

#### Open Lot wagon:

- Stretched canvas roof, similar to the Bow Top wagon
- Built onto an existing cart, not built from scratch
- Cabin opened at the front, using a canvas flap not a door

#### Reading wagon:

- Pitched sides
- Narrow floor set between tall wheels, which would have made it easier to move over uneven ground or through fords
- Front wheel usually much smaller than the rear wheel
- Door and steps to the front
- Side windows
- It had a mollicroft – a raised section of the roof with small windows
- A chimney would have poked out of the off-side (right side) roof

# HOMES

Activity 4, image 1





# HOMES

Activity 4, image 2





# HOMES

Activity 4, image 3



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# HOMES

Activity 4, image 4





# HOMES

Activity 4, image 5

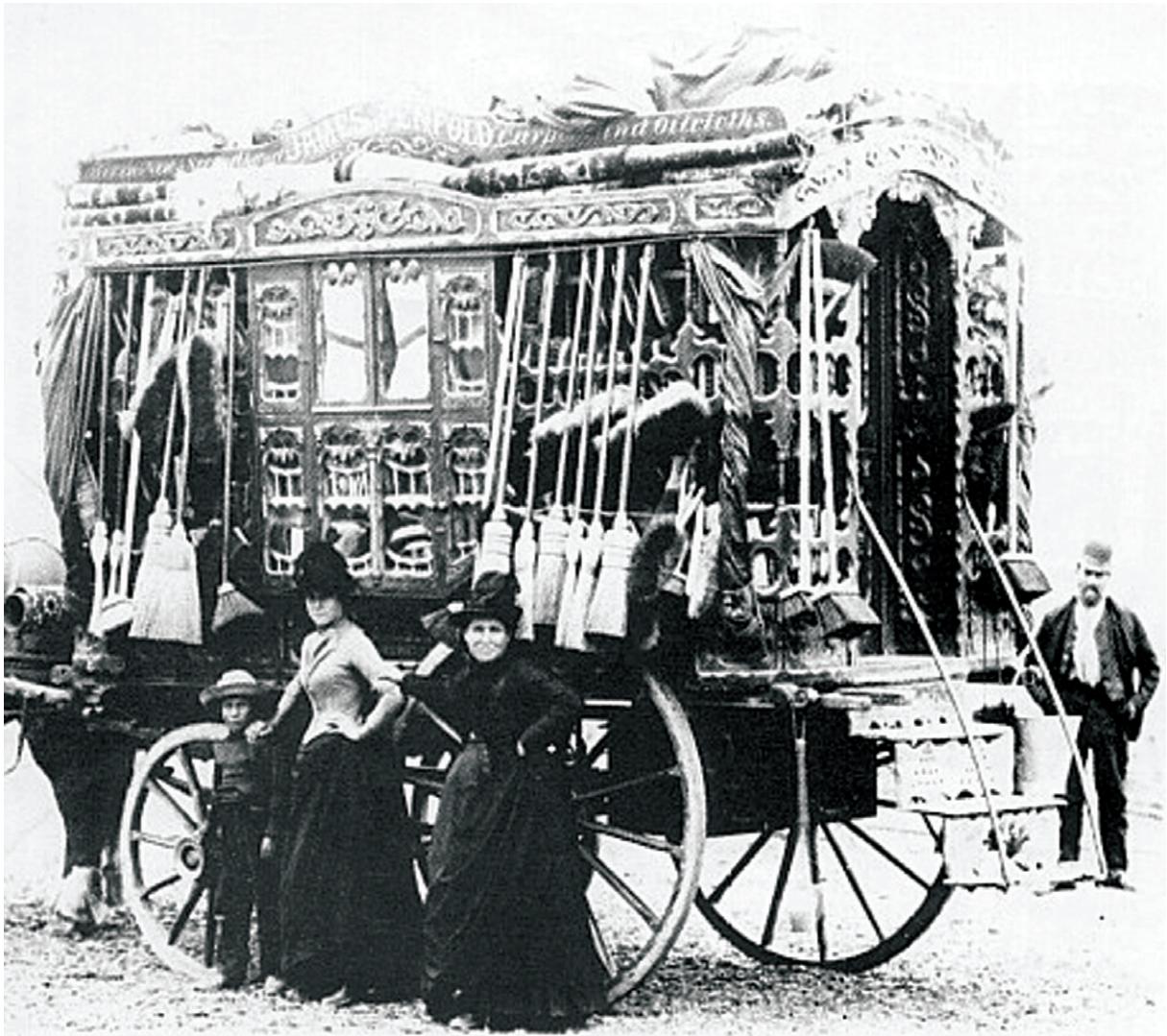


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# HOMES

Activity 4, image 6





# HOMES

## Activity 4, Teacher's guide



Open Lot



Burton



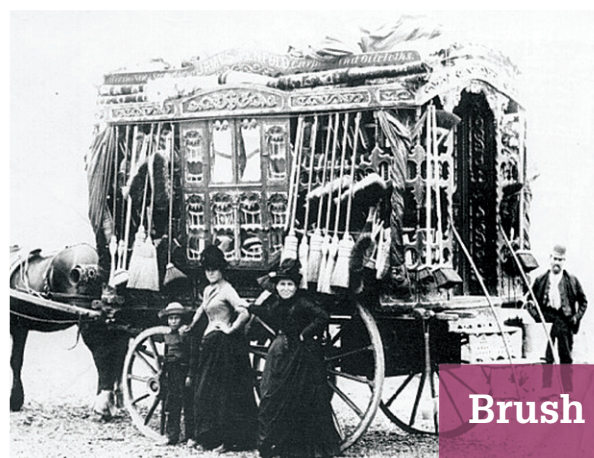
Reading



Bow Top



Ledge



Brush



# HOMES

## Activity 5, Teacher's notes

**T**his is a role-playing exercise that will require some preparation. Learners need to be confident assuming the character of someone to whom they might have difficulty relating and also be able to think critically and creatively. Over the course of one session groups of learners must assume the characters of members of a local council who are deliberating where to build a site of seven pitches for Travellers in a small market town. This activity has the potential to last for longer than one lesson and might therefore be suitable for a collapsed timetable day.

Each group comprises between six and eight characters, depending on class size and gender balance. The characters span a cross-section of society and have opinions that reflect this. Some are vehemently opposed to a Traveller site, some are enthusiastic supporters, and others are cynical or apathetic in one way or another.

There are three proposed sites for consideration, each with positive and negative elements to them. Combined with the strong characters and opinions of the councillors, this has the potential to inspire lively debate and reinforce that decisions are rarely simple with many different points of view to be taken into account. Should groups determine that alternative sites are available within in the town, they are not restricted to debating the merits of the three prescribed sites.

It is recommended that when all of the groups have reached a decision on where the site should be built the selections should be discussed as a class and the motivations examined. Additionally, the plenary should cover the broader themes of the exercise, for example learning how to make compromises and the diverse needs of the Traveller community.



### Aims and objectives:

to decide where in a town a Travellers' site should be built.

**Key skills:** analysis, communication, compromise

**Required resources:** town map, character descriptions, potential site descriptions, introductory notes.





# HOMES

## Activity 5, Introductory notes



### Where to build a Travellers' site?

**R**edbourn is a rural market town located in the county of Orshire. It has a population of 15,000 and a strong community spirit.

There is a market twice every week, a cluster of primary schools, two secondary schools, several doctors' surgeries, a library, a cinema, a police station, a high street of shops, a small industrial estate to the north of the town, and two supermarkets. It isn't outstanding in any particular way, but the people who live there think of it as a good place to live.

The town council has recently received instructions from the County Council that it must create seven pitches for use by Travellers. As part of legislation passed in 2008, local authorities must make adequate provision for the needs of Travellers and a recent audit by the council has determined that over all, it must provide 95 pitches across the county. These pitches can be provided and run by the council, privately, or by social housing associations. Ensuring that Travellers have access to the facilities and services

that many members of the settled community take for granted – for example education and health care – is important, and is reliant on there being an adequate number of stopping places. However, it can be difficult to decide where a Traveller site should be located.

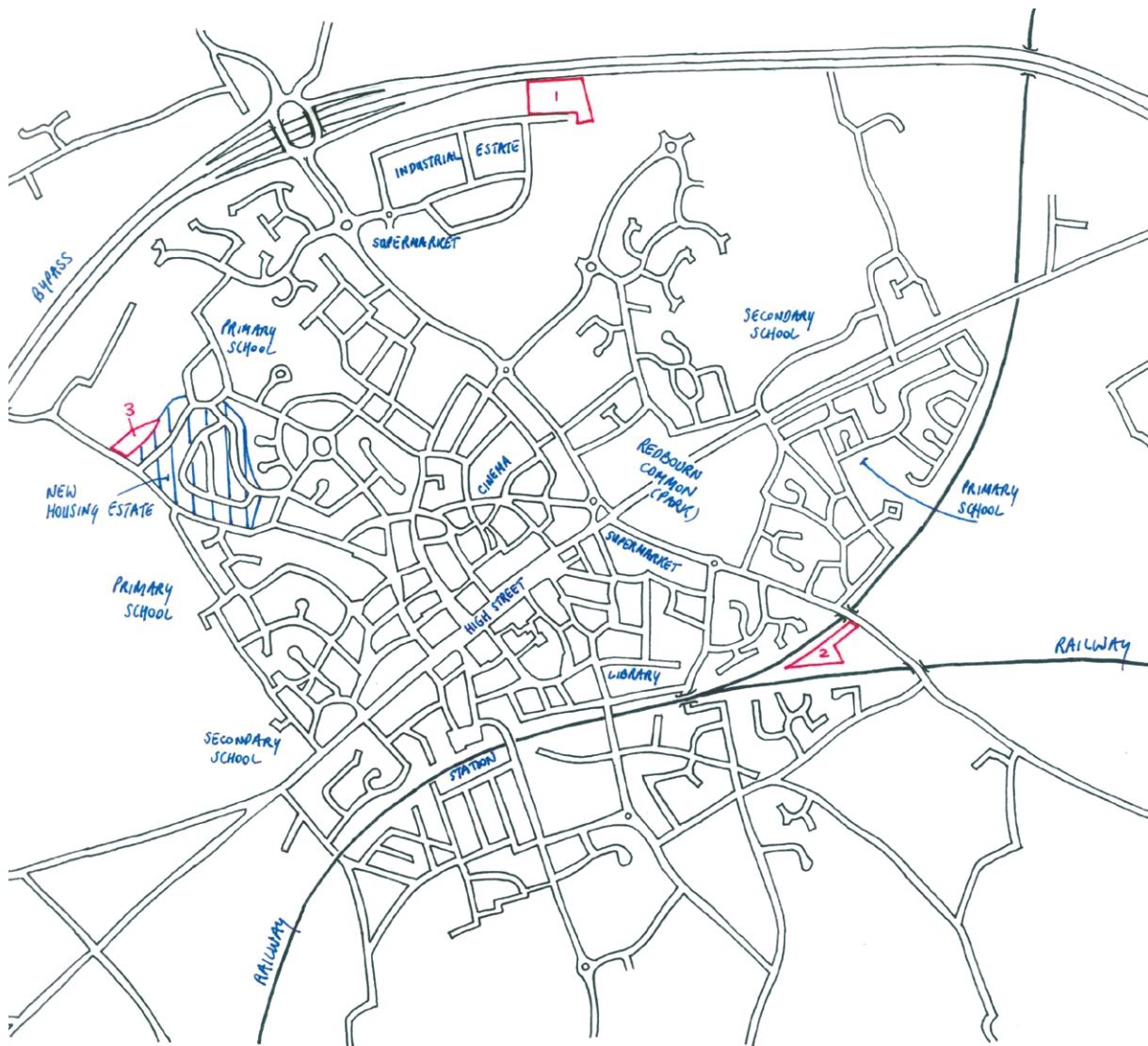
Traditional hostility to Travellers often means that people do not want sites close to their homes, or even to be built at all. Sometimes, the land that is proposed for a site is unsuitable: perhaps it is close to a railway line or a tip, or it might be a long way from the amenities that its residents need. Even if someone, for example a farmer, were prepared to sell a piece of land to be developed as a site for Travellers it might not be possible. The land might be green belt, and therefore it is very difficult to secure permission to develop it, or there could be objections from locals.

**You are now going to assume the character of a member of Redbourn's Town Council and as a group, debate and decide where seven pitches for use by Travellers are going to be located in the town.**



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## Activity 5, Map





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## Activity 5, Dramatis Personae



### ■ Mrs Kate Smedley, 39.

You have a strong social conscience and have long recognised the need for adequate provision for Travellers. You want to see them have the access to education and healthcare to which they are entitled and a safe place to stop. Your liberal attitude often brings you into heated conflict with George Bingley.

### ■ Mr George Bingley, 62.

You are a very difficult person. You don't like change or things being different. Some people might even call you stuck-up. You definitely don't get on with Kate Smedley. You think that she is soft and stupid. You believe that all Travellers are thieves and liars and you are opposed to site provision anywhere in the area. In particular you are opposed to the development of a site near to a new housing development in the west of Redbourn. You championed the development, but it has received lots of opposition from people who do not want to see the town expand and are concerned that it doesn't have the infrastructure to support many more residents.

### ■ Miss Emily Buchanan, 27.

You are newly elected to the council and have a great deal of enthusiasm. You admire Kate Smedley's social conscience, but also you can be overawed by George Bingley. Sometimes, your enthusiasm clouds your judgement, though. Will you be able to keep a clear head here?

### ■ Mr Mark Rampling, 41.

You recently clashed with Bingley over the new housing development, as you believe that the town cannot support many more new residents. This wasn't the first time that you clashed with, and lost to, Bingley, and it has severely dampened your enthusiasm for council matters. Will your chance to ally with Kate Smedley and defeat Bingley re-inspire you, or has your spirit been crushed entirely?

### ■ Ms Rachel Leighter, 33.

In theory, you have no objections to building a site for Travellers. Everyone needs a place to live, right? However, you are concerned that it might lower house prices, or have a negative impact on the 'feel' of the town. Why should members of the settled community lose out? You also have a huge crush on Bingley. Is that going to sway you?

### ■ Mr Rashid Mubarak, 53.

You chair the town council and are weary of the constant clashes between Kate Smedley and George Bingley. Whilst you normally agree with Smedley's social conscience, you are constrained by budgets and concerned with how to fund initiatives. You feel that providing the pitches is the right thing to do, but how will they be funded?

### ■ Mrs Florence Kowseno, 48. (Or Mr. Charles Kowseno, 48, depending on the group's gender balance.)

This is a debate that really doesn't interest you. What's everyone's problem with Travellers? Why should the council be responsible for providing them with sites? Unless someone has a really compelling argument, you will be abstaining in the vote.

### ■ Mrs Phoebe Gamlith, 45. (Or Mr Tom Gamlith, 45, depending on the group's gender balance.)

You have been invited to the meeting to represent the Traveller community. You don't really know much about the personal politics going on in the council, but you're fairly convinced that few people are on your side. You know that you need at least seven pitches, and that the first of the proposed sites is effectively useless: it places you a long way from the amenities that you need. You know that the second proposed site is too small for seven pitches and that the ground there is damp and marshy. The best site is next to the new development championed by George Bingley. How will you fight this battle?



# HOMES

## Activity 5, The possible sites



### ■ Site One: *North*

There is a small industrial estate to the north of the town. It would be easy to develop seven pitches there as the land is brown-field, but it is far-removed from the amenities that Travellers need and there is no other housing nearby. Locating the site here would effectively ostracise the Traveller community.

### ■ Site Two: *East*

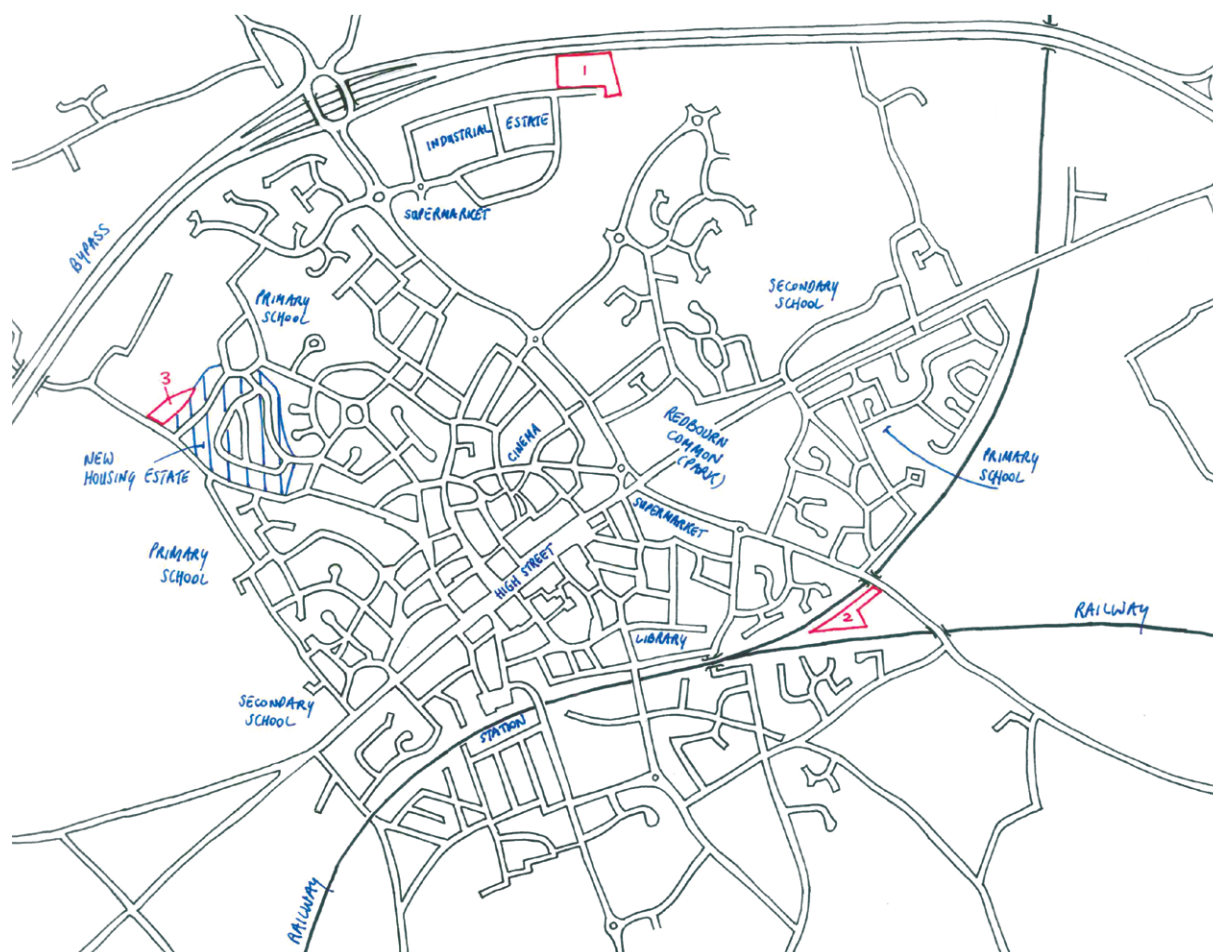
On the east side of the town there is a small piece of land proposed for development. It almost certainly isn't large enough for seven pitches and the ground there is damp, marshy, and close to a railway line. There are, however, shops, schools, and other houses within walking distance.

### ■ Site Three: *West*

A new housing development has recently received approval – albeit very contentiously – from the council. It's a posh development on the west side of the town. Placing seven pitches on its edge would be easy in terms of construction and would place its residents close to amenities that they need, but would it have an impact on the desirability of the development?

### ■ Site Four: ?

**Can you locate a suitable fourth site for consideration?**





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Additional resources

