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HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS Grovewood, Grove Lane, Ashow, Warwickshire, CV8 2LE Tel. 01926 855849 hazelfryer@parklandsconsortium.co.uk Director: Hazel Fryer

Head of Planning Warwick District Council P O 2178 Riverside House Milverton Hill ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA CV32 5QH

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29 JUL 203
 LEAMINGTON

25th July 2013

Dear Sir,

Objections to Site for Gypsies and Travellers 2013:

On behalf of my client C and S Taylor, the owners of Warwick Castle Park, I wish to object to the proposed Gypsy and traveler site on land at Park Farm, Spinney Farm referred to as GTO6 which is inappropriate development in close proximity to Warwick Castle Park, Included on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic interest at grade 1.

Paragraph 7.3 of the consultation document states the draft policy by which sites would be assessed for suitability clearly advises that these should be chosen: Avoiding areas where there could be adverse impact on important features of the natural and historic environment.

The proposed site GT06 for Gypsies and Travellers at Park Farm, Spinney Farm, will be adjacent to the boundary of Warwick Castle Park and will stretch along the entire south eastern perimeter of the grade 1 registered landscape park that is bounded by the Barford Road.

The proposed site for Gypsies and Travellers at Park Farm, Spinney Farm Gypsy numbered GT06 does not conform with **Paragraph 7.3** and is inappropriate and misinformed because:

1. Warwick Castle is one of the most spectacular castles in England, as a result of a combination of its architecture and its setting on a sandstone bluff above a deep bend of the river Avon. Lord Torrington described the castle as 'the most perfect piece of castellated antiquity in the kingdom.'¹ Its setting was enhanced in the C18 by the creation of a landscape park, Warwick Castle Park, to the south of the castle. This was the work of two men Francis Greville, Baron Brooke, created the Earl of Warwick in 1759, and his son George.

¹ Quoted in Nikolaus Pevsner and Alexandra Wedgwood, Warwickshire, (Harmondsworth, 1966) p. 452

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- 2. Warwick Castle Park, (WCP) extends to over seven hundred acres. The park is roughly ovoid in shape and is traversed by the river Avon which runs through the center of the park and bends sharply creating a deep bluff in the ridge which runs from West to East across the park. This reflects the bluff on which the Castle is sited. The Warwick suburb of Bridge End is adjacent to the Northern boundary of the park whilst housing adjoins the North-western boundary which continues as open land below that. The Eastern boundary is formed by the Banbury Road and that to the South-eastern is bounded by the Barford Road.
- 3. The Castle Park Landscape has been in existence for over 250 years. The evolution of the WCP is examined in detail in a Conservation Management Plan for Warwick Castle Park prepared by Parklands Consortium in June 2012. The vision of Francis and George Greville and their advisor Lancelot Brown, was achieved in the extension of the park to the east and the creation of New Waters. This vision culminated in the completion of the re-aligned Barford Road and the New Banbury Road with its designed approach to Warwick Castle and the town.

The special features of the South Park include the Belt which abuts the Barford Road to the south east and Nursery wood which abuts the eastern boundary of Warwick Castle Park. Nursery Wood is significant because it Includes remnants of the eastern perimeter planting from the early park at its western edge. It also retains features of the ornamental woodland with a system of walks and drives which survives from George Greville's extensions to Warwick Castle Park in the 1780s

We are aware that The National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF) published in March 2012 *Planning Policies for Travellers Sites* confirmed the importance of providing sites where travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure but site GT06 does not meet these criteria.

We consider that the introduction of a Gypsy and Traveller site in such close proximity to a landscape of such major importance is in contravention of both National and Local guidelines and will be a threat to this important historic landscape which has already suffered from peripheral development and should be protected from further degradation by the removal of site GT06 from the Local Plan.

Yours faithfully



Dr. Hazel Fryer
PARKLANDS CONSORTIUM LIMITED