

HORSHAM DISTRICT

HOTEL & ACCOMMODATION
STUDY

Technical Appendices

Prepared for: †
Horsham District Council †
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Caravan Holiday Home Parks

The market for caravan holiday home parks has remained relatively robust during the economic downturn, with relatively few holiday parks going into administration compared to other elements of the visitor accommodation sector such as hotels. However, the credit crunch did affect the sales of holiday parks, as despite market interest prospective buyers had difficulty in securing finance.

National holiday park operators will develop new holiday parks if they can find suitable sites that might be acceptable in planning terms. The difficulty of obtaining planning permission for a new holiday park has generally constrained the development of new sites however. The majority of local authorities across the country have planning policies that resist the development of new holiday parks because of their visual impact on the landscape. Flood risk issues are also a major barrier to new holiday park development. These constraints on the development of new holiday parks have however been a key factor in the robustness of the sector as it has meant that market demand has generally exceeded supply in most parts of the country.

Touring Caravan and Camping Sites

The focus of product development in the UK touring caravan and camping sector has been primarily on the **upgrading** and development of existing sites and the **extension of opening periods**, rather than on new site development. Where new sites have been developed they have generally been relatively small sites. Planning constraints impose a significant barrier on the development of large new touring caravan and camping sites in many parts of the UK, particularly for schemes that involve new buildings and/or winter caravan storage. Achieving commercially viable large touring caravan and camping site development projects is also very difficult. The **Caravan Club** and **Camping and Caravanning Club** are the main operators that have opened large new sites. They are motivated more by providing additional choice for their members than entirely commercial considerations. The camping and caravanning club is continually looking for opportunities for new club sites. Sites associated with visitor attractions and leisure and sports facilities are of particular interest, for example the club's site at the Gulliver's Kingdom theme park in Milton Keynes. The caravan club has acquired established touring parks in a number of locations and upgraded and developed them into new club sites. These have included sites in West Sussex, Cheshire, Lincolnshire and Scotland. It also opened entirely new club sites in Barnard Castle in County Durham in 2010, Bridlington in East Yorkshire in 2011, Rathclyde Country Park near Glasgow in 2012 and Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire in 2013. The development of caravan club sites is carried out using local suppliers and contractors where possible, and with an emphasis on landscaping using native species to promote biodiversity. The club has developed an expertise in land reclamation, with a number of new sites having been developed on brownfield sites such as worked-out quarries, former railway stations and ex-service camps.

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Both the caravan club and the camping and caravanning club are investing substantially in improving their sites. The caravan club typically invests in excess of £10million annually in site improvement and development, while the camping and caravanning club completed a 5-year, £29million investment programme in 2014. The club invested a further £4.8million in 2014/15 and £4million in 2015/16 in site improvements including upgrading toilet and shower blocks, new reception buildings and site shops, resurfacing site roads, more hard standing and electric hook-up pitches, new children's play areas, and site security measures.

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Many independent touring caravan and camping parks are also investing in improving and developing their sites and facilities. The sorts of investments that are being made include the following:

- The installation of electric hook-up points;
- The development of hard standing pitches, which allow winter use by tourers and motor homes;
- The development of fully serviced pitches with water and drainage connection;
- Investment in site infrastructure e.g. drainage, roads, lighting, signage, entrances;
- Improvements to landscaping and site layouts;
- Better quality, heated toilet and shower blocks;
- New laundry facilities;
- Leisure facilities e.g. games rooms, saunas, gyms, internet rooms;
- The development of children's play areas and improvements to existing play areas;
- Catering operations;
- On-site shops;
- Installation of Wi-Fi;
- Improved access and facilities for disabled guests;
- The introduction of camping pods and glamping units.

The **'greening' of touring caravan and camping parks** in terms of promoting biodiversity, reducing environmental impact and encouraging guests to engage in environmentally sustainable activities has also been a key trend in the sector that looks set to continue. Examples include investing in environmentally sustainable technologies for electricity generation, water heating and waste recycling; promoting bio-diversity through creating wildlife areas and planting to encourage butterflies and bees; and providing nature and orienteering trails, cycle hire and wildlife watching activities.

The caravan club is firmly committed to boosting its green credentials with a number of policy initiatives across its sites network, including using biodegradable and environmentally-friendly products, building with timber from sustainable sources, shredding tree prunings on site to use as mulch, and using low-energy lighting. The club has made a major commitment to eco-friendly caravanning through a £1.8 million investment in its Poolsbrook Country Park club site near Hestonfield in Derbyshire, including trialling a whole range of energy and water efficient technologies such as solar panels and photovoltaic cells, wind turbines, rain water harvesting and grey water recycling, geothermal energy and heat recovery ventilation systems, for possible roll out to other sites. The club also has 43 sites that have signed up to its Boosting Biodiversity programme.

The other key development trend in the sector has been the **lengthening of the season** with many site operators now wanting to operate over a longer period and increasing numbers of sites looking to stay open throughout the year. The higher specifications of today's touring caravans and motor homes is resulting in growing numbers of owners wanting to use their caravans and motor homes throughout the year. Sites are increasingly investing in third standing pitches to enable them to cater for this demand. Planning restrictions have not necessarily kept pace with this market demand, underpinned by concerns about permanent residential use and visual impact in the winter.

The recession, together with innovations in easy-to-erect tents and camping equipment, have stimulated strong growth in demand for **camping** in the UK.

Another emerging trend is the development of **eco camping** sites. These are small, low impact, environmentally friendly, off-grid camp sites with solar or wind powered showers and eco/compost toilets. They often have a central campfire area and/or allow campers to have their own campfires. Some sites offer secluded and isolated pitches for individual camping. Sites may have wildlife areas and some offer nature study and environmental activities and courses. Examples are Cerenety Campsite in Cornwall (www.cerenetycampsite.co.uk); Northlodge in Pembrokeshire (www.eco-camping.co.uk); The Secret Campsite in East Sussex (www.theseccampsite.co.uk); and Comrie Croft in Perthshire (www.comriecroft.com/sleep/eco-camping.html). In some cases eco camping sites also offer glamping units or glamping sites have opened eco camping sites. Eco Camp UK (www.ecocampuk.co.uk), for example, offers fully equipped bell tents alongside forest tent pitches at its Beech Estate ecological woodland camp site in East Sussex.

Camping Pods

Camping pods were first introduced in the UK at the Eskdale Camping & Caravanning Club site in the Lake District in 2008. The site has 10 camping pods priced at £43.75 per night. They are made from locally sourced timber and insulated with sheep's wool. They have hard foam floors, French windows, wooden decking areas, heaters and electric lighting. Each pod sleeps 4 people. They have proved extremely popular and have even attracted demand during the winter. The Camping and Caravanning Club has now introduced camping pods and dens at its club sites in Bellingham, Northumberland; Hayfield in the Peak District; Eskdale and Avenglas in Cumbria; Kye; Gulliver's Kingdom at Milton Keynes; and Hethford Forest in Newfoundland Leisure Lodges, the company that manufactured the pods for these sites reports huge interest in the concept, which is rapidly developing throughout the UK. The company has now supplied camping pods to over 70 sites across the country. The YHA has introduced camping pods alongside its hostels at Malham and Grinton in the Yorkshire Dales, Hawkshead and Borrowdale in the Lake District, Stratford-upon-Avon, Manorbier in Pembrokeshire, and its South Downs hostel at Lewes in East Sussex (www.yha.org.uk/places-to-stay/alternative-accommodation/camping-pods). The National Trust is another organisation that has started to offer camping pods at three sites in the Lake District, Lumber Park in Nottinghamshire and a site in Northern Ireland (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays/camping/camping-pods). Holiday parks, holiday lodge parks, touring caravan and camping sites and hotels are increasingly introducing camping pods as an alternative accommodation option. Examples are:

- The Pure Leisure Group has introduced camping pods at three of its holiday parks (<http://www.pureleisuregroup.com/holidays/camping-pods>).
- The Hillcrest Park touring caravan park at Aldwell in County Durham (www.hillcrestpark.co.uk/pods) introduced 3 camping pods in August 2011, increasing this to 5 pods in March 2012 and 10 in October 2012 due to the strength of demand.
- The Old Thorns Manor Hotel and Golf Club at Liphook has developed a number of luxury eco pods adjacent to the hotel as an alternative accommodation option (www.oldthorns.com/home/accommodation-old-thorns-hotel-hampshire/luxury-eco-pods).
- Woodland Park Lodges at Ellesmere in Wiltshire (www.woodlandparklodges.co.uk/camping-huts.html) has 5 camping huts alongside 11 holiday lodges.

Glamping

A key trend in recent years has been the rapid growth of glamping (glamorous camping) offers, in terms of ready-erected, fully-equipped tents, yurts, tipis and other unusual forms of camping and caravanning accommodation such as geodesic domes, gypsy caravans, retro caravans, safari tents, glamping pods and tree camping. These types of accommodation have proved to be highly popular with more affluent families that want to experience camping holidays but without the hassle of having to bring their own tents and camping equipment. As a new form of accommodation they have attracted significant media coverage and wherever they have opened such accommodation operations have quickly attracted strong demand. The Go Glamping (www.goglamping.net), the leading online directory of luxury camping sites, now lists 286 locations in the UK.

Key luxury camping products that have so far emerged in the UK are as follows:

- Feather Down Farms** (www.featherdown.co.uk) is a concept that has been operated in the UK since 2005 by the Feather Down Farm Days company as a seasonal luxury camping holiday option. Originally developed in Holland, the concept involves Feather Down Farm Days providing working farms with 5-10 fully equipped Feather Down tents for erection between Easter and October. The tents provide spacious, ready-to-use camping accommodation including beds, bedding, a toilet, wood-burning cooking stove, cool chest and cooking equipment. The farmer is responsible for providing a cold water supply to each tent and connection to mains sewer or septic tank, together with the provision of a communal hot shower facility. Feather Down Farm Days runs a national marketing, advertising and PR campaign and provides a central booking system. The company currently has 29 sites across the UK. Their development strategy has focused initially on locations that are within a 2 hour drive time of London, as this is their core market. These holidays require some affluence, at circa £1000 for the week, and they recognise that they are aiming at the educated city dweller wanting rural family 'experience' for themselves and their children.

- In November 2014 Feather Downs Farms launched a sister brand, **Country Retreats** (www.featherdown.co.uk/country-retreats) in order to offer the Feather Down Farm model to a wider range of country estates. Under the new scheme, land, country estate and vineyard owners choose new, fully collapsible log cabins and/or luxury canvas lodges and become part of the Country Retreats collection that Feather Down Farms is marketing. Owners are encouraged to personalise the interiors of the cabins/lodges and to offer a range of interesting activities for guests. Five country retreats sites have opened so far, in Essex, Wiltshire, Cornwall, Lancashire and Scotland. The aim is to eventually expand to 50 sites across the UK.
- Ready-pitched luxury camps:** Jolly Days Luxury Camping (www.jollydaysluxurycamping.co.uk) in North Yorkshire is a boutique campsite that offers the ultimate in luxury camping, with 8 large lodge tents with four poster beds, sofas and chandeliers, 7 vintage style tents and 7 bell tents. Shieling Holidays (www.shielingholidays.co.uk) on the Isle of Mull provides 16 fully equipped shieling cottages, which take their name from the summer cottages that Highland shepherds traditionally use. The tents are equipped with proper beds and fully equipped kitchens and have electricity and gas heaters. Some also have shower and toilet facilities. Dandelion Hideaway (www.thedandelionhideaway.co.uk) in Leicestershire offers a number of canvas cottages.
- Yurts**, based on the Mongolian yurt, are wooden frame, insulated circular tents that are usually furnished with beds, wood burning stoves and kitchen equipment. The Bivouac (www.thebivouac.co.uk) on the Winton Estate in the Yorkshire Dales has 8 yurts and six timber frame shacks. Each yurt sleeps 5 and comes with beds, bedding, a terrace, a cold store, wood burning stove and gas burner for outdoor cooking on a wooden veranda. Lincoln Yurts at Welton in Lincolnshire (www.lincolnyurts.com) offers 5 themed yurts that are fully equipped with beds, bedding, a gas stove, BBQ and decked seating area and supported by a bathroom cabin with a Jacuzzi bath. Other examples are Hidden Valley Yurts in Monmouthshire (www.hiddenvalleyyurts.co.uk) and Yurtshire (www.yurtshire.co.uk) which has two yurt camps in North Yorkshire and one in Warwickshire.
- Tipi** sites offer a similar set up. Examples include Wild Northumbrian Tipis & Yurts (www.wildnorthumbrian.co.uk); Lincolnshire Lanes Campsite in the Lincolnshire Wolds (www.lincolnshire-lanes.com); Eco Retreats in Powys, Wales (www.ecoretreats.co.uk); and 4 Winds Lakeland Tipis (www.4windslakelandtipis.co.uk) in the Lake District.

- Wooden **wigwams** rented out at around 20 sites in Scotland and the North East of England are another alternative. Northumbria's Pot-a-Doodle-Do (www.northumbrianwigwams.com) has 12 wooden wigwams sleeping 4/5 people. Each wigwam is fully insulated and has electric lighting and heating. Foam mattresses are provided. The site has a central shower and toilet block, kitchen for guests' use and licensed restaurant on site.

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Wigwam Holidays is a national wigwam holiday franchise that now offers 70 sites across the UK. The company manufactures the wigwams and sells them to franchisees who then pay a franchise fee to cover the use of the Wigwam Holidays brand, marketing through the Wigwam Holidays website and online booking system, and ongoing IT, marketing and operational support.

Springhill Farm in Northumberland (www.springhill-farm.co.uk/wigwams) offers a number of wooden wigwams alongside self-catering cottages and a touring caravan and camping site.

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- Other examples of luxury camping offers include:
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 - **Geodesic domes** e.g. The Dome Garden (www.domegarden.co.uk) at Oxford in Gloucestershire has 10 geodesic ecodeomes equipped with wood burning stoves, beds, private flushing toilets, a fully-equipped outside kitchen area with fridge and timber en-suite hot shower. Another example is Ekopod (www.ekopod.co.uk) in Cornwall.
 - **Persian alachigh tents**, similar to yurts e.g. Penhein Glamping near Hepstow in Monmouthshire (www.penhein.co.uk)
 - **Gypsy caravans** e.g. Gypsy Caravan Breaks in Somerset (www.gypsyncaravanbreaks.co.uk) and Roulot Retreat in the Cotish Borders (www.roulotretreat.com), which has 4 French roulotte gypsy caravans for hire.
 - **Retro caravans** e.g. Vintage Vacations on the West of Wight (www.vintagevacations.co.uk), which has a collection of 13 vintage American airstream and partisan caravans for hire; Happy Days Retro in East Dorset (www.happydaysrv.co.uk) with 4 airstream caravans available for hire for holidays; and Mad Dogs and Vintage Vans in Herefordshire (www.maddogsandvintagevans.co.uk), which has 4 vintage caravans.
 - **Shepherds Huts** e.g. Herdy Huts in the Lake District (www.herdyhuts.co.uk) and Shepherds Huts South East (www.shepherdshuts-southeast.com) in Kent.

- **Safari Tents** e.g. Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Kent (www.aspinallfoundation.org/short-breaks) has developed two safari tent encampments - Livingstone Lodge and Elephant Lodge overlooking the elephant paddocks, and the camping and caravanning club has 4 safari tents for hire at its club site at Gulliver's Kingdom theme park at Milton Keynes and one at its club site at Teversal in Nottinghamshire. (www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/ukcampsites/club-t-glamping/safari-tents/). Another example is the Little Bit of Uppingham in Rutland (www.alittlebitofrough.co.uk)
- **Medieval Glamping** e.g. Warwick Castle has 41 ready-to-bed medieval-themed tents and guests are served breakfast at medieval-styled tables in a banqueting tent. They are also offered medieval-themed evening entertainment, including archery, a jester's school and knight's school and medieval games (www.warwick-castle.com/accommodation/medieval-glamping-at-warwick-castle.aspx). Leeds Castle in Kent offers 8 striped canvas pavilions based on a medieval design as its Knight's Glamping site (www.leeds-castle.com/accommodation/Knight%2s+Glamping)
- **Tree camping** in tents and structures suspended in trees e.g. Red Kite Tree Tent in Mid Wales (www.sheepskinlife.com/relax-at/red-kite-tree-tent), The Tree Tent at The Secret Campsite in East Sussex (www.theseecretcampsite.co.uk/secret-shelters), and Treehotel in Sweden (www.treehotel.se), which features 5 quirky, individually designed 'treerooms' and a tree sauna.
- **Bubble camping** in transparent inflatable tents was introduced in France in 2010 but has yet to come to the UK (www.bubblecabins.com)
- **VW camper van pop-up camps** e.g. Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles partnered with booking website Latent Rooms in 2014 to provide 6 VW California camper vans for hire on a nightly basis at Temple Island in Henley-on-Thames
- **Cargo pods**, converted from shipping containers have been introduced at the Lee Wick Farm glamping and touring site at Osyth, near Tacton-on-Sea in Essex (www.leewickfarm.co.uk).
- **Converted train carriages** e.g. Long Hill Carriage at Luckington in Somerset is a restored 1882 Great Western railway carriage that provides a living space and kitchen alongside an en-suite double bedroom in an adjacent converted 1950s goods wagon (www.longhillcarriage.co.uk)

- **Converted lorries** e.g. Cedar Valley in the Meon Valley in Hampshire offers a converted horse lorry as a glamping unit sleeping 3 people, alongside safari tents, a yurt and a campsite (www.cedarvalley.co.uk/betty/about-betty)
- **Champing** (camping in a church) The Churches Conservation Trust offers champing at four of its churches in Kent, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Guests enjoy a full breakfast delivered to the church in the morning, made using local produce. The Trust also arranges activities for champing guests, including walks, canoe trips, storytelling and meditation (www.visitchurches.org.uk/champing).

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Youth Hostels

The Youth Hostels Association has been going through a programme of network renewal since 2006. This saw the disposal of 32 hostels between 2006 and 2008 and reinvestment of the proceeds in upgrading the remaining hostels in the network and some new hostel openings, including a new hotel in Eastbourne in 2009. A number of the hostels that YHA sold subsequently re-opened as independent hostels, in some cases benefiting from YHA marketing support through the YHA Enterprise scheme. A new capital strategy was launched in 2010. This has focused on further rationalisation of the YHA hostel network to generate £40million for reinvestment in hostel improvements and some new hostels. This has included the development of the new YHA South Downs hostel at Ford Farm near Lewes in 2013 and the YHA Eden Project in Cornwall in 2014, which was built by portable hotel company noozebox and is made entirely from shipping containers. It offers 54 contemporary en-suite bedrooms for 2 to 4 guests. YHA's latest hostel openings are the new YHA Brighton in the former Royal York Hotel, which opened in November 2014, and the new YHA Cardiff, which opened in March 2015. YHA is currently progressing plans for a new 86-bed hostel as part of The Mill landscape discovery centre project in the Northumberland National Park, due to open in summer 2017.

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Children's Activity Holiday Centres

The children's activity holiday centre sector is rapidly expanding in the UK and is identified as having good potential for further expansion³. The sector is made up of many different operators, from those with multiple centres across several countries to smaller, family-run independents. Centres range in size from 50 to 900 beds and are operated largely by the private sector but also by local authorities and charitable organisations.

The two main players in the sector are PGL and Kingswood. Both companies have been the subject of high profile acquisitions. PGL was acquired by Holidaybreak plc. in May 2007 for £100m. Kingswood was acquired by DJL Merchant Banking (a division of Credit Suisse Bank) in July 2008, also for £100m. Both companies have since nearly doubled in size and now handle around 500,000 children each year. PGL opened the former Windmill Hill Place Tennis Centre near Herstmonceux in East Sussex as a children's activity holiday centre in May 2009 following a £7m revamp. The centre now offers activity courses for school and youth groups, together with summer camps and family activity holidays during the summer. The centre can accommodate up to 450 guests in bunk-bedded accommodation and new 4-6 person en-suite lodges. Facilities include a sports hall, swimming pool, climbing tower and zip wires and a multi-sports area. Existing lakes are used for canoeing and raft building. The centre has created 130 jobs. PGL also opened a new holiday centre at Liddington, near Winton in 2010 through the conversion of the former Liddington Hotel. It can accommodate up to 1,000 children and employs 250 staff. Kingswood is currently looking for a site for a new centre in the Oxfordshire/Berkshire/Buckinghamshire/Wiltshire area.

The other key player in the children's activity holiday centre market is Jet Adventure, which became part of TU Travel plc. in 2007. It works with 13 UK centres and two centres in France to provide multi-activity courses of 2-4 nights, netball tournaments and summer camps for young people. The company launched its first Jet-owned activity holiday centre at Bondover Hall in Wiltshire in 2011.

For new centres these operators would require properties of a substantial size within their own formal grounds ideally with access to lakes, rivers and woodland. They will consider leaseholds and freeholds in rural and semi-rural locations. Residential institutions (2) on properties such as former boarding schools or residential colleges can be an advantage but is not essential.

³ The information provided on the UK children's activity holiday centre sector is taken from an article published in Rut & Parker's Leisure Comment journal in 2009 – 'Room to Grow.' Duncan Willard

Wellness Retreats

A nascent trend that may develop further in the UK is the development of wellness retreats. Current examples include:

- ecoYoga in Tregyll (www.ecoyoga.org) runs yoga courses, retreats and holidays in self-catering accommodation. The site offers a range of bathing facilities including rainforest showers, a large hot tub, artisan sauna and two wild river hot baths.
- Slimmeria Retreat in Trowhurst in East Sussex (www.slimmeria.com), which offers detox, fitness and weight loss holidays in a Georgian country house offering boutique hotel bedrooms and a luxury health spa.
- Toft Manor at Tarnbrook in Bedfordshire (www.toftmanor.co.uk) is a manor house wedding and events venue that offers a range of wellness retreats and inspirational workshops including massage, meditation, yoga and labyrinth walking. It has 12 luxury guest bedrooms and can also offer accommodation in yurts and tents with outdoor hot water showers for larger groups.
- Brightlife (www.brightlife.com) is a country house on the outskirts of Tamsey on the Isle of Man, which offers a range of wellness courses and retreats, from yoga and pilates to chakra healing and life coaching. It has 12 luxury guest bedrooms and opened a new spa in 2015.
- The Reynolds Retreat Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Centre at Borough Green, near Sevenoaks in Kent is in the process of adding accommodation (www.reynoldsgroup.co.uk/retreat/accommodation).

Vineyard Accommodation

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number of vineyards across England and Wales provide accommodation in terms of B&B rooms, self-catering holiday cottages and lodges, restaurants with rooms and small hotels, often offering wine tours as part of an accommodation package. Examples include: †

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- Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking, Surrey – a 7-bedroom, 4 star farmhouse B&B (www.denbies.co.uk/accommodation). †
- Three Choirs Vineyard, Newent, Gloucestershire – a restaurant with rooms and wooden cabins in the vineyard (www.three-choirs-vineyards.co.uk/gloucestershire/rooms-and-lodges/). †
- The English Wine Centre, Berwick, East Sussex – opened the Green Oak Lodge in 2011, with 5 boutique guest bedrooms (<http://englishwinecentre.co.uk/lodge>). †
- Jabajak, Camarthenshire – a 10-bedroom vineyard restaurant with rooms (www.jabajak.co.uk). †
- Camel Valley Vineyard, Cornwall – two holiday cottages (www.camelvalley.com/stay) †
- Valley Farm Vineyards, Suffolk – a self-catering barn conversion (www.valleyfarmvineyards.co.uk/accommodation/4584721095) †

APPENDIX 9

UK HOTEL DEVELOPMENT - FUNDING CONTEXT

The Economic Backdrop

The fortunes of the hotel industry are closely aligned to the national and local economy and so the economic downturn that began in 2008 and the subsequent climb out of recession has hit the sector in a number of ways. Hotel performance fell back with occupancy dropping below 70% from 2009, only recovering to pre-recession levels in 2013. In terms of achieved room rates, they have taken until 2014 to recover to these levels. The drop in performance affected end values in some cases to the point where it would cost more to build a hotel than its value, resulting in hotel investors holding back on new build schemes until yields improved. This has made funding more difficult to secure, especially for small hotel companies and franchisees, and when available often on less favourable terms, with less debt funding and more equity required. These trends have had implications for the type of new hotel being delivered, favouring conversions and re-brandings alongside refurbishment and improvement, encouraged by the ability to buy existing hotel stock at less than replacement value.

As a result of this risk-averse climate, many hotel companies are now focusing on asset-light development strategies that don't involve them in capital outlay. A number of 4 star and luxury international brands like Hyatt and Millennium & Copthorne have for some time only done management contract deals, but certainly their prevalence has spread as funding has become more difficult to secure. These schemes involve significant levels of investment and what the operator brings to the table is their sector expertise and brand strength. This reinforces an earlier trend in the sector pre-recession, for hotel companies to divest themselves of their property assets whilst retaining the contract to operate – Hilton and Accor are good examples.

Whilst funding 3 and 4 star hotels has been a challenge during the economic downturn, budget hotel development has continued apace: Travelodge and Premier Inn have remained active, offering the advantage of their ability to take lease deals in developer-led schemes. One advantage of the downturn in the property market has been that residential and some commercial sites have come forward for hotel development that would not previously have been available or affordable. A weaker market has also seen some distressed hotels coming onto the market being bought up by chain hotel companies and re-branded. London is also an increasing focus of hotel development interest, driven by strong performance and the 2012 bounce.

PwC identifies a solid return to revpar growth as critical to de-risking hotel investment; with revpar having turned the corner in 2014, access to finance should improve and the pace of new hotel development should accelerate. Growth will vary between regions and segments, with London likely to continue to see the highest growth in supply, and key regional cities having the largest active hotel development pipelines. The structural shifts that have taken place continue to squeeze the middle, with budget hotels making up 50% of total pipeline schemes identified in PwC's hotel forecast, and the four and five star segment accounting for almost 40%.

In an overview, the credit crunch and recession have inevitably had an impact on reining in the development plans of hotel companies, and seen new routes to delivery emerging. The upturn in the hotel market and economic growth looks likely to improve the climate for hotel investment, though to counterbalance the up-turn in demand from residential and office markets will mean greater competition for land, making it harder and more expensive to acquire sites.

Hotel Business Models & Funding Routes

Hotels can be developed and operated under a number of different business models (summarised in the table overleaf) with hotel brand owners, franchisees and property developers playing different roles in each case, with development and operating risks shifting under the different models.

The levels of capital outlay as well as development risk required by a hotel company therefore vary considerably between these options. Many more hotel operators, particularly at the 4 star level, which is much more capital intensive, are likely to be interested in options that involve management contracts than in building and funding hotels themselves, as access to capital will naturally restrict the latter and require hotel companies to prioritise their investment locations.

Many of the chain hotel companies will have a mix of the above structures in place, though some do prefer a single route. Often franchisees are looking to build the asset value of the company with a view to exit within a 5-10 year period, and in such situations are less likely to be interested in lease options.

HOTEL DEVELOPMENT & OPERATING MODELS		
	Property Company Risk	Hotel Company Risk
Hotel company (hotel brand owner) develops the hotel & subsequently operates and markets under one of its brands <i>e.g. InterContinental Hotel Group(IHG) builds and operates a hotel under its Holiday Inn brand</i>	x	√
Hotel company (hotel brand franchisee) develops the hotel then operates and markets under a hotel brand through a franchise deal with the owners <i>e.g. Sanguine Hospitality builds a hotel and operates it under a Holiday Inn franchise agreement with IHG</i>	x	√
Property company develops the hotel & seeks a hotel company to lease the hotel <i>e.g. Equity Estates builds the hotel and leases to Travelodge</i>	√	√ (depending on the type of lease)
Property company develops the hotel & seeks a hotel company to purchase the freehold of the hotel	√	x
Property company develops the hotel & employs a hotel company to manage the hotel under a management contract	√	√ (some depending on the terms of the management agreement)

Lease models require a little more explanation, as there are some key issues surrounding lease structures that are impacting upon the ability to deliver hotel developments currently. Developers require hotel operators to take a fixed lease, a standard institutional lease that will give a guaranteed fixed payment per room over a period of 20-30 years. Once secured, this guaranteed income stream makes the development fundable, and the developer can secure finance on the back of this. On completion the developer may retain or sell the investment. Currently, only Travelodge and Premier Inn are able to take such leases, as only they have the strength of covenant required. One or two of the multiple brand chains have taken leases, but generally these will only be for large hotels in premium locations such as London or Edinburgh, where occupancy and high rates are guaranteed. There are accounting implications of fixed leases also, as they represent a financial commitment going forward, and this has also put hotel companies off this model.

More favoured by hotel companies are variable leases, made up of a combination of base rental and a share of turnover. Some guarantees can be built into these arrangements, but should the market fall back, the risk and impact is shared by the developer/funder and the operator. Their responsiveness and flexibility accounts for their appeal to hotel companies. Certainly in previous recessionary climates, fixed leases have contributed to the downfall of hotel companies, as they became unable to meet their rental commitments when trading performance fell back. However, there is evidence that these turnover leases make it difficult to fund development because they don't give the same fixed income stream.

The differing objectives and requirements of developers/investors and operators has led to something of an impasse and resulted in it being difficult to get hotel schemes off the ground. During our consultations with hotel companies we have come across numerous schemes and sites that have stalled for this reason, with few hotel operators able or willing to do the sort of deal the funding institutions require.

The funding climate and the changes in the way that hotels are being delivered has had an impact on the development strategies of hotel companies, with schemes increasingly developer and/or investor-led. Many hotel developers and operators have stopped having target lists of locations where they would like to be, rather considering schemes on an individual basis, if they are live. Many are willing to respond to specific sites and schemes, and to work with a developer on sites and locations to determine the strength of the market and the most appropriate brand to consider. From a destination or landowner point of view, the response should be about making the case and evidencing the potential.

The difficulty in securing funding for hotel schemes has also led to other interventions being used to secure hotel schemes. Local authorities have begun to provide funding to support the development of hotels as part of strategically important mixed-use schemes and the conversion of architecturally important buildings to hotels. In Hampshire, Eastleigh Borough Council has funded the development of a new Hilton as part of the development of the Gas Bowl cricket ground on the edge of Southampton. In Newcastle the City Council has played a pivotal role in enabling Silverlink to secure the funding package for phase 1 of the Stephenson Quarter through acquiring the site for staged buy-back. Travelodge has been working with a number of local authorities nationally, where the Council has invested in the hotel; an example is the Redhill Travelodge and town centre mixed use scheme in Surrey. THG have also worked on several projects involving Council funding of hotels, most recently for Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express hotels in Stockport and Blackpool. In each case the Council has funded, developed and owns the hotel – or bought it back off the developer – and taken a franchise with THG, with an option to put in place a management company.

HORSHAM DISTRICT - POTENTIAL TOURIST ACCOMMODATION PROJECTS - AS AT JULY 2016

Name Of Site	Location	Proposal	Source
Hotels - Horsham District			
South Lodge Hotel	Lower Beeding	The hotel has planning permission for a spa facility and 6 eco lodge accommodation pods in the grounds. Work is due to start on the spa in autumn 2016, with a view to a 2018 opening. The eco lodges will be a longer-term project	Planning/ Hotel Manager Survey
Emberley Castle	Emberley	The hotel is planning to refurbish the rest of its bedrooms	Hotel Manager Survey
Ghyll Manor	Busper	The hotel will embark on a 3-year refurbishment programme from 2016	Hotel Manager Survey
Linfold Park Golf Club	Linfold	Extensions to the existing clubhouse to provide a 70-bedroom golf lodge, additional treatment rooms, function space, and golf academy - permission granted January 2016	Planning
Inns			
The Owl at Kingsfold	Kingsfold	Construction of linked building to provide 8 letting bedrooms and manager's accommodation – approved 2013	Planning
Kings Head	Billingshurst	Renovation and alteration of existing public house and guest bedrooms and new extension to provide a restaurant/function room with 4 guest bedrooms above – providing 9 guest bedrooms in total – planning pending	Planning
Self-Catering			
Nightingale Hall Barn	Henfield	Convert builders store to holiday let – permission granted 2010	Planning

Horsham District Hotel & Visitor Accommodation Study

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Name Of Site	Location	Proposal	Source
Merrion Lodge	Partridge Green, Horsham	Erect holiday cottage – permission granted 2010	Planning
Pond Farmhouse	Southwater, Horsham	Change of use from garage to holiday let – permission granted 2010	Planning
Riverdale	Wimberley, Horsham	Change of use of granny annex to holiday let – permission granted 2010	Planning
Bryants Plat Farm	Wimberley, Horsham	Conversion of outbuilding to holiday accommodation – permission granted 2010	Planning
Beam Barn	Wimberley, Horsham	Conversion of outbuilding to holiday let – permission granted 2011	Planning
Winters Farm	Hardham, Pulborough	Conversion of farm outbuilding to holiday accommodation – permission granted 2011	Planning
Lancasters	Henfield	Change of use of ancillary accommodation to holiday accommodation – permission granted 2011	Planning
Baldwins	Howfold, Horsham	Change of use of ancillary building to holiday let – permission granted 2012	Planning
Champions Farm	Thakeham, Pulborough	Conversion of garage to holiday let – permission granted 2012	Planning
Oldfields	Woodmancote, Henfield	Conversion of barn to holiday let – permission granted 2012	Planning
Southborne Court	Wopsale, Horsham	Change of use of annexe to holiday let – permission granted 2012	Planning
Maple Farm	Warnham, Horsham	Conversion of coach house to holiday let – permission granted 2012	Planning
Lock Farm Cottages	Partridge Green, Horsham	Change of use of studio and garages to garages and holiday accommodation – permission granted 2012	Planning
Eastfield Wood	Howfold	Use of timber cabin as holiday accommodation – permission granted 2012	Planning
Danefold House	Partridge Green, Horsham	Conversion of stable to holiday let – permission granted 2013	Planning

Horsham District Hotel & Visitor Accommodation Study

1

Name Of Site	Location	Proposal	Source
Pot Hill House	Dial Post, Horsham	Conversion of ancillary building to holiday let – permission granted 2013	Planning
Lordings Farm	Billingshurst	Conversion of cat le byres to holiday let – permission granted 2013	Planning
11 Bootham Brow	Worrington, Pulborough	Change of use from garage and workshop to holiday let – permission granted 2013	Planning
Broadmere Farm	Henfield	Conversion of outbuilding to holiday let – permission granted 2014	Planning
Freeland Farmhouse	Bog Common, Pulborough	Conversion of stable unit to holiday let – permission granted 2014	Planning
Grays Farm	Henfield	Conversion of barn to holiday let – permission granted 2014	Planning
West Wantley	Worrington, Pulborough	Development of holiday let on site of stables and dairy – permission granted 2014	Planning
Grays Farm	Henfield	Change of use of annexe to holiday let – permission granted 2014	Planning
Fantasy House	Weyning	Alterations to form holiday let and office – permission granted 2014	Planning
Timbers	Small Dole, Henfield	Change of use of ancillary accommodation to holiday let and occasional B&B – permission granted 2015	Planning
The Barn, Two Woods Estate	Pulborough	Change of use of first floor of clubhouse to holiday let – permission granted 2015	Planning
West End House	Henfield	Extension and alterations to provide holiday let – permission granted 2015	Planning
Studio 2, Park Road	Henfield	Change of use of office to holiday let – permission granted 2015	Planning
Birchwood Cottages	Southwater	Change of use of barn to holiday accommodation – permission granted 2015	Planning
Hammerham Cottages	Wusper	Erection of log cabin for holiday let – permission granted 2015	Planning

Name Of Site	Location	Proposal	Source
Holiday Lodge Complexes			
The Orchard (Tabby Cat)	West Grinstead	Construction of 8 eco holiday lodges and a campsite for 50 occupants, plus associated washing facilities and ranger centre – permission granted 2012	Planning
Blacklands Farm	Henfield	Erection of 6 log cabins – permission granted 2013	Planning
Touring Caravan and Camping Sites			
Washington Caravan & Camping Park	Washington	The site operator is considering plans to extend the site into a second field for up to 40 tents, with the development of a toilet and shower block. He would also like to add further hard standing pitches.	Operator Survey
Fairoaks Campsite	Wiston	The site owner would like to develop a toilet and shower block if he could secure planning permission	Operator Survey
Blacklands Farm Campsite	Henfield	The site owner would like to expand the site and introduce more hard standing pitches	Operator Survey
Larkins Park	Brook Green	Currently applying for change of use to a residential park home park	Planning
Holiday Parks			
Honeybridge Park	Dial Post	The park's owners would like to convert tent pitches to increase the number of owned caravan holiday homes. They would also like to increase the number of hard standing pitches for touring caravans and motor homes in order to help extend the season.	Operator Survey

Name Of Site	Location	Proposal	Source
Glamping			
Two Woods Estate	Pulborough	Use of land for glamping – 5 safari tents, 5 shepherd's huts, shower block and parking – permission granted 2015	Planning
Summers Ponds	Barns Green	Introduction of 4 luxury shepherd's huts – 2016. The site owners would also like to further develop the site's glamping operations in order to help extend the season.	Operator survey
Bat and Ball	Billingshurst	Introduction of 2 shepherd's huts to provide additional accommodation capacity at the pub – 2016	Internet research
Group & Youth Accommodation			
Lodge Hill Centre	Watersfield	The centre has a Vision Plan that includes relocation of offices and a kitchen to provide additional accommodation capacity, together with improvements to disabled access and facilities.	Operator survey

HORSHAM HOTEL DEVELOPER TESTING – SAMPLING & RESPONSE

HOTEL COMPANY	RESPONSE	INTEREST	BRAND	STANDARD
Accor	Y	Y	ibis	Budget
Bespoke	Y	Y	Bespoke	Boutique
Beyonder/OT	†	†	†	†
Bridge Street	†	†	†	†
Cathedral Hotels	†	†	†	†
Fullers	Y	†	†	†
Greene King	Y	Y	Greene King Inns	Budget
Hall & Woodhouse	†	†	†	†
Hilton	Y	Y	Hampton by Hilton Hilton Garden Inn	Upper tier budget 3 star
HG	Y	Y	Express by Holiday Inn	Upper tier budget
Limewood Group	Y	N	The Pig	Boutique Inn
Moxy	Y	N	Moxy	Budget boutique
Nicholas James Group	†	†	†	†
Premier Inn	Y	Y	Premier Inn	Budget
Taylor Walker	†	†	†	†
Travelodge	Y	N	Travelodge	Budget
Village	†	†	†	†

†

APPENDIX 12

PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDING OF HOTEL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN THE UK

1. Introduction

Public sector funding in one form or another is increasingly being used to support hotel development schemes across the UK in terms of:

- Tax allowances for the conversion of redundant office buildings to hotels;
- Local authority borrowing at preferential rates;
- Growth fund grants;
- Heritage grants for the conversion of historic buildings to hotels;
- Local authority freehold purchase of a building for hotel conversion;
- The contribution of local authority owned land or properties for hotel development;
- Local authority partnerships with universities.

Such public sector investment in hotel schemes is being justified in terms of:

- Finding a new use for a redundant building;
- Enabling a strategically important hotel that cannot secure bank finance to proceed;
- Kick starting and enabling key regeneration schemes that include a hotel as a component;
- Generating an income stream for a local authority at no cost to the tax payer;
- Helping to boost tourism growth;
- Job creation.

Examples of these types of public sector funding of hotel projects are given in the following paragraphs.

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2. Business Premises Renovation Allowance (BPRA)

The Business Premises Renovation Allowance (BPRA) scheme was introduced under the Finance Act 2005 to bring redundant offices and business premises in disadvantaged areas that have been unused for at least a year back into use. The scheme gives an investor a tax allowance of 100% on expenditure incurred in the conversion and renovation of unused business premises. The scheme runs until 31 March 2017 for Corporation Tax and 5 April 2017 for Income Tax.

†

Hotel BPRA structures typically involve investors obtaining BPRA by investing either via a form of trust or via a special purpose vehicle – which can take the form of a limited partnership or limited liability partnership depending on the details of the specific transaction and/or jurisdiction. The partnership may own both the hotel and the hotel operating company. The operating company is able to enlist the services of a specialist hotel operator or alternatively the hotel may be leased to a hotel company.

†

An overview of how a hotel BPRA scheme is structured and operated is given below. Models seen to date involve buying an office block in a city centre and converting it to a hotel. The numbers can look something like this:

†

†	Cost of office building:	£2m	†
†	Cost of renovation:	£10m	†
†	Total expenditure:	£12m	†

† If the renovation cost of £10m that attracts the BPRA, a typical scheme will involve a combination of investors' monies and bank finance along the following lines:

†

†	Investor capital:	£6m	†
†	Bank finance:	£6m	†
†	Total capital:	£12m	†

† And therefore as far as the qualifying tax relief is concerned the numbers in this example work out as follows:

†

†	Qualifying expenditure:	£10m	†
†	Tax rebate for 45% taxpayers:	£4.5m	†
†			†

Producing a final net position of:

†

†	Investors' contribution:	£6m	†
†	Investors' tax rebate:	(£4.5m)	†
†	Net cash invested:	£1.5m	†

