

Gypsy and Traveller, Travelling Showperson and Houseboat Accommodation Assessment 2025

Rugby Borough Council

Final Report
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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Rugby Borough 2025 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) provides the latest available evidence to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the borough.

The GTAA has included:

- A review of existing (secondary) data.
- A household survey and site observation. Information on a total of 81 Gypsy and Traveller households were obtained (76 through interview and 5 from planning data) compared with a total of 102 households living on pitches. This represents an 79.4% response rate.

There are a total of 19 sites with 121 pitches wholly within Rugby Borough. There are also 6 sites that are located on the boundary of Rugby and Nuneaton and Bedworth which are covered by the Nuneaton and Bedworth GTAA. There are also 6 sites that are no longer for Gypsy and Traveller use.

Data has been carefully analysed to provide a picture of current provision across Rugby Borough and an assessment of future need. The findings of the study provide an up-to-date, robust and defensible evidence base for policy development. We are very grateful to the Gypsy and Traveller communities' response across Rugby Borough for their positive engagement with the work.

Population and current accommodation provision

The 2021 Census identified a population of 74 people who identified as 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller' or 'Gypsy/Romany' plus 1 person identifying as 'Roma' living in Rugby Borough and an estimate of 30 households where the household reference person identifies as being a Gypsy/Traveller.

The GTAA assumes the following on sites and pitches:

- 1 council site, 17 pitches (15 occupied by 15 households, 2 vacant)
- 13 private authorised sites, 82 pitches (64 occupied by Gypsy and Traveller households, an estimated 13 occupied by non-Gypsy Traveller households, 8 vacant, with 2 Gypsy Traveller households living with another household on a pitch).
- 2 private temporary authorised sites, 16 pitches (13 occupied by 16 households, 3 vacant, with one large pitch occupied by 3 households).
- 3 unauthorised sites, 6 pitches (6 occupied by 7 households with 2 Gypsy Traveller households living with another household on a pitch)

In summary, the GTAA assumes a total of 19 sites wholly within Rugby Borough with 121 pitches (108 occupied and 13 vacant). Of the 108 occupied pitches, 102 were occupied by Gypsy and Traveller households and 13 by non-Gypsy Traveller households, with 7 households living with another household on a pitch. There are

also 6 sites that are no longer for Gypsy and Traveller use based on site observation data and discussions with owners. For pitches where there were more than one household, none said they were overcrowded.

In January and July each year, councils carry out a Traveller caravan count to inform DLUHC statistics. The latest seven bi-annual DLUHC Traveller caravan counts (January 2020 to January 2024) reported an average of 250 caravans across all sites (68.9% on private sites, 15.9% on council sites and 15.1% on unauthorised sites).

Planning policy requirements for needs assessments

The 2024 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states in Paragraph 63 *‘the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policy (including travellers)’*. A footnote in the NPPF then states *‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers’ housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document’*.

The 2024 Planning Policy for Traveller Site (PPTS) document states that *‘local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning’* and *‘ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies’* and *‘to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply’*.

In the absence of further guidance on preparing GTAAs, the methods adopted by arc⁴ reflect the PPTS, build upon those methods established through previous guidance, our practical experience and decisions made at planning inquiries and appeals.

Need assessment period

Need has been assessed over a short-term five-year period 2024/25 to 2028/29 and longer-term period 2029/30 to 2041/42 using demographic data.

Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements

There is an overall minimum need for 94 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches across Rugby Borough over the period 2024/25 to 2041/42 (Table ES1). Of this need, 35 are needed in the first five years and 59 over the period to 2041/42.

Needs analysis considers the needs arising from existing households, households on unauthorised sites, newly forming households and current vacancies on existing public and private sites.

The annual net need is 5.2 pitches which compares with 5.3 pitches from the previous 2022 GTAA.

Table ES1 Gypsy and Traveller pitch need 2024/25 to 2041/42

Period	Pitch need
5yr Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2024/25 to 2028/29) (A)	35
Longer-term need	
Over period 2029/30 to 2033/34 (B)	16
Over period 2034/35 to 2038/39(C)	28
Over period 2039/40 to 2041/42 (D)	15
Longer-term need TOTAL to 2041/42 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)	59
F. NET SHORTFALL 2024/25 to 2041/42 (A+E) (18 years)	94
Annual net need	5.2

Meeting the need

The council should consider the following to help meet identified residential pitch need. Firstly, **regularising of pitches** that are not permanently authorised (**22 pitches across 5 sites**). Secondly, **additional pitch provision using existing sites**. Respondents were also asked if their sites could be expanded either through a physical expansion or intensification of use to provide more pitches. A potential **15 pitches** could be delivered this way. The council has been provided with details of potential sites for expansion/intensification. It is also anticipated that **9** pitches are likely to come forward through household dissolution over the period to 2041/42.

This potential supply could provide **up to 46 additional pitches**. This has the potential to help meet short-term five-year need and longer-term need.

Further work is recommended to review the potential for additional pitch development on existing sites and the occupancy of permanent pitches.

Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into Rugby Borough. It is therefore recommended the council has criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for private sites should they arise.

It is also important that the council liaises closely with its neighbouring local authorities when considering need arising from sites which straddle local authority boundaries.

Transit provision

Over the period 2017 to 2023, 119 unauthorised encampments have been reported across Rugby Borough. The number of encampments peaked in 2019 at 38 but have since fallen to 9 in 2023. In the past 3 years 2021 to 2023, there have been an average of 9.3 caravans on each encampment, with 50% of encampments comprising 10 or more caravans. The council should consider how land can be provided for short-term use and particularly in response to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act. It is recommended that the council continues discussions with local planning authorities across Warwickshire to determine the level of need and how this could be provided for. It is recommended that councils identify areas of land that can be used for smaller encampments (up to 5 caravans), medium-sized encampments (between 5 and up to 10 caravan) and larger encampments (more than 10 caravans).

Travelling Showperson plot requirements

There are currently no Travelling Showperson yards in Rugby Borough. It is recommended that the council develop a criteria-based policy to consider any applications coming forward over the plan period.

Houseboat need

Based on the views of local marina owners/managers, there is a need for at least 20 moorings for houseboats within Rugby Borough.

Policy recommendations

The council should recognise the minimum need for 95 pitches over the period 2024/25 to 2041/42. Of this need, 36 is over the short-term 5 year period 2024/25 to 2028/29 and 59 is over the longer-term (2029/30 to 2041/42) . A key driver of longer-term need is household formation. The GTAA has evidenced a range of potential sites including regularising existing sites that are not authorised, the potential expansion/intensification of existing sites and through household dissolution which could provide up to 46 additional pitches. It is recommended the council appraise sites to explore their potential for providing additional pitches.

No specific Travelling Showperson need was evidenced.

To support the wider needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, the council should also set out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for small private Gypsy and Traveller sites and Showperson's yards should they arise over the plan period.

There is currently no provision to address transit need but given unauthorised encampment activity, the council will need to consider appropriate responses. These include transit pitches, stopover places and negotiated stopping arrangements. The council should work with other Warwickshire local authorities to establish a coordinated response to the delivery of appropriate temporary accommodation options. This could include a negotiated stopping policy to support the needs of Travellers passing through Rugby Borough and Warwickshire more generally. It is recommended that councils identify areas of land that can be used for smaller encampments (up to 5 caravans), medium-sized encampments (between 5 and up to 10 caravan) and larger encampments (more than 10 caravans).

1. Introduction

Overview

- 1.1 In January arc⁴ was commissioned by Rugby Borough Council to prepare the 2024 Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showperson and Houseboat Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). The GTAA is part of the Local Plan evidence base.
- 1.2 The overall scope of the study is to ensure that the council has a robust evidence base to determine an appropriate level of residential pitch and transit provision over the period 2024/5 to 2041/42 and to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers to meet both the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) - defined need and the council's obligations under section 124 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

Who the study covers?

- 1.3 The 2024 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites provides the updated definition of Gypsies and Travellers as set out within Annex 1 of the 2024 PPTS:

“Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.”

- 1.4 Similarly, the following definition from Annex 1 of the Guidance in respect of Travelling Showpeople is used:

‘Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.’

- 1.5 In addition:

‘For the purposes of this planning policy, “pitch” means a pitch on a “gypsy and traveller” site and “plot” means a pitch on a “travelling showpeople” site (often called a “yard”). This terminology differentiates between residential pitches for “gypsies and travellers” and mixed-use pitches for “travelling showpeople”, which may/will need to incorporate space or to be split to allow for the storage of equipment.’ (DCLG Planning policy for traveller sites December 2024 Annex 1, para 5).

- 1.6 For the purposes of this study, therefore, Gypsies and Travellers live on pitches within sites, whilst Travelling Showpeople live on plots within yards.

Geography and time frame for the study

- 1.7 This study relates to the geographical area of the Rugby local authority district. For the study, this area is termed 'Rugby Borough'.
- 1.8 The timeframe for the study is 2024/25 to 2041/42.
- 1.9 The base date for the study is May 2024 but updated in December 2024 following the publication of the new PPTS.

Report structure

- 1.10 The GTAA 2024 report structure is as follows:
- **Chapter 1 Introduction:** provides an overview of the study.
 - **Chapter 2 Policy and local context:** presents a review of the national policy context which guides the study.
 - **Chapter 3 Methodology:** provides details of the study's research methodology.
 - **Chapter 4 Review of current Gypsy and Traveller population and provision of pitches/plots:** reviews estimates of the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across the district and existing site/yard provision.
 - **Chapter 5 Household survey:** presents relevant data obtained from the household survey research.
 - **Chapter 6 Pitch / plot / transit requirements:** focuses on current and future pitch/plot requirements. This chapter includes a detailed assessment of drivers of demand, supply and current shortfalls across the district.
 - **Chapter 7 Houseboat need**
 - **Chapter 8 Conclusion and strategic response:** concludes the report, providing brief summary of key findings and recommendations.
- 1.11 The report is supplemented by the following appendices:
- **Appendix A** Household questionnaires.
 - **Appendix B** Glossary of terms.

2. Policy context

Overview

- 2.1 This study is grounded in an understanding of the national legislative and planning policy context that underpins the assessment and provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 2.2 This chapter sets out the policy context within which this GTAA has been prepared, including a consideration of the previous GTAA for the borough.

Government policy and guidance

- 2.3 The 2024 National Planning Policy Framework states in Paragraph 63 *‘the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies’*. It then lists a number of groups including Travellers. A footnote to the paragraph states *‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers’ housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document’*.
- 2.4 The 2024 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) document states that *‘local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning’* and *‘ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies’* and *‘to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply’*.
- 2.5 Policy A of the 2024 PPTS relates to evidence needed to plan positively and manage development. This states *‘in assembling the evidence base necessary to support their planning approach, local planning authorities should:*
 - *pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities (including discussing travellers’ accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups);*
 - *cooperate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups; other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas over the lifespan of their development plan, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities; and*
 - *use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions’*.
- 2.6 In the absence of further guidance on preparing GTAAs, the methods adopted by arc⁴ reflect Policy A of the PPTS; build upon those methods established through previous guidance; our practical experience and findings from planning inquiries and appeals.
- 2.7 The calculation of pitch/plot requirements is based on established DCLG modelling methodology, as advocated in *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment Guidance* (DCLG, 2007). Although this guidance was

formally withdrawn in December 2016, in the absence of any updated guidance on the subject, it continues to provide a good practice approach for needs modelling.

- 2.8 Policy B of the 2024 PPTS relates to planning for traveller sites and requires Local Plans:
- *to be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and consistent with the policies of the NPPF; and*
 - *to set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople as defined in Annex 1 which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities.*
- 2.9 Policy B (paragraph 10) sets out that local authorities should, in producing their Local Plan:
- a. *identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;*
 - b. *identify a supply of specific, developable sites, or broad locations for growth, for years 6 to 10 and, where possible, for years 11-15;*
 - c. *consider production of joint development plans that set targets on a cross-authority basis, to provide more flexibility in identifying sites, particularly if a local planning authority has special or strict planning constraints (local planning authorities have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries);*
 - d. *relate the number of pitches or plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density; and*
 - e. *protect local amenity and environment.*
- 2.10 Policy B (paragraph 13) sets out that local authorities should ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally and therefore ensure that their policies:
- a. *promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community;*
 - b. *promote, in collaboration with commissioners of health services, access to appropriate health services;*
 - c. *ensure that children can attend school on a regular basis;*
 - d. *provide a settled base that reduces both the need for long-distance travelling and possible environmental damage caused by unauthorised encampment;*
 - e. *provide for proper consideration of the effect of local environmental quality (such as noise and air quality) on the health and well-being of any travellers who may locate there or on others as a result of new development;*

- f. avoid placing undue pressure on local infrastructure and services;*
- g. do not locate sites in areas at high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains, given the particular vulnerability of caravans; and*
- h. reflect the extent to which traditional lifestyles (whereby some travellers live and work from the same location thereby omitting many travel to work journeys) can contribute to sustainability.*

Intentional unauthorised development

- 2.11 The planning policy statement issued with PPTS 2015 [planning policy statement link here](#) and confirmed by Ministerial Statement [Ministerial Statement link here](#) makes clear that if a site is intentionally occupied without planning permission this would be a material consideration in any retrospective planning application for that site. Whilst this does not mean that retrospective applications will be automatically refused, it does mean that failure to seek permission in advance of occupation will count against the application.
- 2.12 In addition, PPTS 2024 (Paragraph 12) makes clear that in exceptional cases where a local authority is burdened by a large-scale unauthorised site that has significantly increased their need, and their area is subject to strict and special planning constraints, then there is no assumption that the local authority will be required to meet their Gypsy and Traveller site needs in full. This is intended to protect local planning authorities with significant land constraints from being required to provide for additional needs arising directly from large sites such as Dale Farm (a large unauthorised site in Essex).

PPTS definition

- 2.13 The PPTS 2024 now contains a revised definition of Gypsy and Traveller which includes reference to people with a cultural tradition of nomadism or living in a caravan.

Previous GTAA

- 2.14 The previous Rugby Borough GTAA was published in 2022 and identified a need for 79 additional pitches based on the cultural definition need (that is the 2012 PPTS definition) over the period 2022 to 2037 or a need of 5.3 pitches each year.

Responding to challenges

- 2.15 GTAAs are subject to intense scrutiny, particularly at planning inquiries and hearings. The methodological approaches taken by arc⁴ aim to maximise the robustness of evidence and measures include:
- An up-to-date assessment of the number of pitches on sites and the number of households living on pitches and any vacancies.
 - Maximising response rates from households.
 - Carefully considering the relationship between households and the pitches they occupy.

- Sensitive analysis of the flows of existing households from and to local authority districts.
- Consideration of overcrowding and concealed households.
- Careful consideration of turnover on council / housing association pitches, with clear assumptions over future potential capacity from households moving away from pitches.
- Longer-term modelling of need using detailed demographic information contained from household survey work.
- Reasonable assumptions around the number of households in bricks and mortar accommodation who may want to move to a pitch.

Further contextual matters

- 2.16 The 2024 GTAA is being prepared at a time of notable change in the use of Gypsy and Traveller sites. There are a series of trends taking place which are affecting both the level of need across local authorities and the use of sites. A reversion back to the 2012 PPTS definition will result in higher levels of need being reported, particularly where previous GTAA's reported levels of pitch need based on the PPTS nomadic habit of life test.
- 2.17 Through our observational work elsewhere and discussions with agents, a more complex relationship between pitches, households and caravans is emerging. On some sites across the country, there has been a dramatic increase in occupancy, with additional caravans placed on sites. But these are not necessarily occupied by Gypsies and Travellers and there is evidence of pitches being used to accommodate new migrant communities. There are also concerns that residents are being displaced from their pitches, sometimes by force, and need to find somewhere else live, resulting in higher levels of in-migration to local authority areas.
- 2.18 Against the backdrop of these emerging trends, the residential pitch needs expressed in GTAA's should therefore be considered as a minimum need.

3. Methodology

Introduction

- 3.1 The GTAA research method is grounded in an understanding of the requirements of the NPPF and based on an established methodology which regularly withstands scrutiny at planning inquiries and hearings.
- 3.2 The methodology has comprised:
- a desktop analysis of existing documents, including data on pitches / sites, plots / yards and unauthorised encampments;
 - the collection of primary data, including household interviews with Gypsies and Travellers and information from planning applications; and
 - an assessment of accommodation needs taking into account all available data and information.
 - discussions with marina owners concerning the need for houseboat moorings
- 3.3 The information gathering has been carried out in three phases, as outlined below:
- Phase 1: Literature / desktop review.
 - Phase 2: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the district and stakeholder consultation, including discussions with marina owners regarding houseboat need.
 - Phase 3: Needs assessment and production of the GTAA 2024 report.

Phase 1: Literature/desktop review and steering group discussions

- 3.4 We have reviewed relevant literature, including legislative background and best practice information; and analysis of available secondary data relating to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Rugby Borough. The research has progressed with input from local authority officers.

Phase 2: Fieldwork survey and interviews with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 3.5 Our aim is to obtain interviews from all households living on sites using a standard questionnaire (Appendix A). This questionnaire has been carefully designed in consultation with councils, feedback from community representatives and planning agents. Site visits took place in March 2024, with interviews carried out during the period March to mid-May 2024.
- 3.6 Data for 71 households were obtained, of which 66 were through interviews and 5 from planning application data. The overall response rate for households living on pitches is taken as 71 households out of 88 households living on pitches wholly located in Rugby Borough or 80.7%. There were a total of 17 non-responses, with 15 refusals and 2 households not available for interview.

Phase 3: Needs assessment and production of report

- 3.7 A detailed explanation of the pitch requirements is contained in Chapter 6 but briefly comprises analysis of the following:
- current pitch supply, households living in bricks and mortar accommodation; households planning to move in the next five years, and emerging households to give total need for pitches; and
 - supply based on the number of authorised pitches and turnover on sites on public pitches.
- 3.8 The overall need for pitches is then compared with the overall supply.

Pitches and households

- 3.9 One of the key challenges faced when assessing Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements is the actual nature of pitches and how this relates to the number of households they can support.
- 3.10 PPTS 2024 refers to the need for local planning authorities to ‘*identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years’ worth of sites against their locally set targets’ and ‘relate the number of pitches/plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population’s size and density’ (PPTS 2024, paragraph 10).*
- 3.11 Planning decision notices usually refer to the number of pitches on a site or the specifics of what can be on a pitch e.g., statics, tourers; or specific individuals and/or households.
- 3.12 As part of the GTAA, it is essential that the characteristics of sites, the number of pitches and how many households these can support is carefully considered. There are a range of issues which need to be considered when reviewing site and pitch characteristics and their potential implications for future pitch and site requirements which are now summarised.

Site and pitch size

- 3.13 There are no definitive parameters for site or pitch sizes. Although now withdrawn, the DCLG Designing Gypsy and Traveller sites: good practice guide (2008) states in paragraph 4.4 that ‘*Gypsy and Traveller sites are designed to provide land per household which is suitable for a mobile home, touring caravan and a utility building, together with space for parking. Sites of various sizes, layouts and pitch numbers operate successfully today and work best when they take into account the size of the site and the needs and demographics of the families resident on them*’.
- 3.14 Paragraph 4.47 states that ‘*to ensure fire safety it is essential that every trailer, caravan or park home must be not less than 6 metres from any other trailer, caravan or park home that is occupied separately*’.
- 3.15 Paragraph 7.12 states that ‘*as a general guide, it is possible to specify that an average family pitch must be capable of accommodating an amenity building, a large trailer and touring caravan (or two trailers, drying space for clothes, a lockable shed (for bicycles, wheelchair storage etc.), parking space for two vehicles and a small garden area*’.

- 3.16 Paragraph 4.13 states that *‘smaller pitches must be able to accommodate at least an amenity building, a large trailer, drying space for clothes and parking for at least one vehicle’*.
- 3.17 As a general guide, it is suggested by arc⁴ that the minimum pitch size is 25m by 25m (625 square meters or 0.0625 hectares). This would support a twin-unit chalet/mobile home (15m x 6.5m), a tourer, an amenity shed/building (5m x 4m), two vehicle spaces (minimum 2.4m x 4.8m for each space) and turning circle for vehicles, amenity space and a small garden area/play space. Residential units need to be 3m from the pitch boundary and at least 6m apart. A slightly larger pitch of 25m by 30m (750 square meters or 0.075 hectares) would be appropriate for larger household units requiring several residential units.
- 3.18 In 2010, the Showmen’s Guild of Great Britain prepared a document ‘Travelling Showpeople’s sites: a planning focus – model standard package). This document was intended to provide guidelines to Travelling Showpeople and Local Planning Authorities when considering the needs of Travelling Showpeople.
- 3.19 This document confirmed that:
- A plot is a piece of land occupied by a Showperson with their family and equipment, used to store fairground rides, vehicles and other items as well as for living accommodation. The family unit can be large or small, for instance an extended family with grandparents, parents and children, or a single-family unit of parents and children.
 - A yard is two or more plots owned by the same family who may use this for their own family purposes or may let part out to other Showpeople.
 - A site is a group of plots where the land is owned by individual plot holders. Quite often a Showperson’s site will have a common shared access onto the main road network.
 - Showpeople’s sites do not fit neatly into the definition of a one land use category. The sites combine a residential use with a storage use, and maintenance is also likely to be carried out on site. The residential use can take the form of static homes and caravans.
 - For a Travelling Showperson yard, the minimum size of a plot is 0.5ha and should include space for residential accommodation and equipment storage.

Occupancy

- 3.20 A pitch may accommodate more than one family unit, for instance it could include a family, older children who have formed their own household and other family members. This could lead to potential overcrowding, and this is considered as part of the GTAA household survey.
- 3.21 Private sites may restrict occupancy to close family / friends. This limits opportunity for others to move onto the site, but this restrictive occupancy may provide for emerging needs within a household, for example as grown-up children (previously living within a parent(s) or grandparent(s) home) form independent households of their own.

3.22 Quality, size of pitch and proximity of caravans on pitches vary dramatically.

Response

- 3.23 For each site, a pragmatic and reasonable judgement should be made as part of the GTAA regarding the number of pitches or sub-divisions on sites. This may relate to the number of families living on sites and could include a consideration of the potential intensification of sites (for instance through further sub-division, extension or use of vacant areas within the site). Capacity and layout of sites should be identified through site observation (directly or indirectly through Google maps or similar), planning history and local knowledge of planning, enforcement and liaison officers.
- 3.24 Pitches can become intensified or sub-divided once planning applications have been approved. These sub-divisions tend to be tolerated by councils. Often pitches become subdivided to provide space for newly-forming households, particularly from family members. The potential for pitch intensification/sub-division was considered on site visits and respondents were asked whether intensification/sub-division was possible on the site they lived on.

4. Review of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population and existing provision of pitches and plots

Overview

- 4.1 This chapter looks at the current picture in terms of the current population and demography of Gypsies and Travellers across Rugby Borough before going on to explore the extent and nature of provision across the area.

Census data

- 4.2 In October 2023, the ONS published detailed census data relating to Gypsy and Traveller populations. This provides valuable insights into the population dynamics and comparisons with overall populations.
- 4.3 The 2021 Census reported a population of **73** people who identified as ‘White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller’ or ‘Gypsy/Romany’ plus 1 person identifying as ‘Roma’ living in Rugby Borough. The total number of households was estimated to be **30** based on the number of Household Reference People, with an estimated 25 living in bricks and mortar accommodation. This compares with 154 people living in 43 households from the 2011 Census. This would suggest that there was a notable undercount of Gypsy and Traveller population in the 2021 Census which is confirmed by a much higher population base evidenced through site observation and household surveying carried out as part of the 2024 GTAA.
- 4.4 Table 4.1 sets out a range of data relating to people identifying as Gypsies and Travellers from the 2021 Census. In summary:
- 85% live in bricks and mortar accommodation and 15% live in a caravan/mobile structure.
 - 60% rent (20% privately and 40% from a social landlord) and 40% are owner occupiers.
 - 20% are overcrowded compared with 5.4% of the general population.
 - 16.7% are singles, 41.7% couples with children, 16.7% single parents and 25% other household types.

Table 4.1 Characteristics of properties and households which are occupied by people identifying as Gypsy and Traveller from 2021 Census.

Theme	Category	Number of people identifying as Gypsy/Traveller	% of people identifying as Gypsy/Traveller	% of total population
Dwelling Stock	Detached whole house or bungalow	#		33.7
	Semi-detached whole house or bungalow	25	38.5	34.9
	Terraced (including end-terrace) whole house or bungalow	15	23.1	22.8
	Flat, maisonette or apartment	15	23.1	8.3
	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	10	15.4	0.3
	Total	65	100.0	100.0
	Tenure	Owned: Owns outright	20	26.7
Owned: Owns with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership		10	13.3	42.1
Private rented or lives rent free		15	20.0	18.4
Rented Social rented		30	40.0	12.7
Total		75	100.0	100.0
Occupancy	Occupancy rating of bedrooms 0 or more	60	80.0	94.6
	Occupancy rating of bedrooms -1 or less	15	20.0	5.4
	Total	75	100.0	100.0
Household composition	One person household: Aged 66 years and over	[c]	#	5.0
	One person household: Other	10	16.7	6.3
	Single family household: Couple family household: No children	[c]	#	15.3
	Single family household: Couple family household: Dependent children	25	41.7	35.1
	Single family household: Couple family household: All children non-dependent	[c]	#	8.6
	Single family household: Lone parent household	10	16.7	10.7
	Other household types	15	25.0	19.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0
General Health	Very Good	20	28.6	48.8
	Good	30	42.9	34.8
	Fair	20	28.6	12.0
	Bad	#		3.4
	Very Bad	#		0.9
	Total	70	100.0	100.0
	Net health score (VG+G-B-VB)			71.4

Note 1 : # indicates data are suppressed as they relate to a small number of people.

Source: 2021 Census

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/articles/gypsyoririshtravellerpopulationsenglandandwales/census2021>

- 4.5 In terms of health, 71.4% of Gypsies and Travellers said their health was very good/good and small numbers (not reported in the census) said it was bad/very bad. The overall net health satisfaction score (% saying very good/good minus bad/very bad) was 71.4% compared with 79.4% of the overall population.
- 4.6 Please note that the data reported from the census may differ from the findings of the household survey. This is because of the small population base of the Gypsy and Traveller population and data highly influenced by the level of response to both the 2021 Census and 2024 household survey. It is also important to note that an estimate of households in bricks and mortar is very difficult to establish.

Caravan Count information

- 4.7 Snapshot counts of the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans were requested by the government in 1979 and have since been undertaken every January and July by local authorities. An annual count of Travelling Showperson caravans takes place every January. The counts provide a source of information on the number of caravans located on authorised and unauthorised sites but do not record the actual number of pitches on sites/yards.
- 4.8 The figures for the last 7 Traveller caravan counts (January 2020 to January 2024) for Rugby Borough are set out in Table 4.2. Data shows an average of 250 caravans across the area. Of these, 15.9% were in council sites, 68.9% were on private sites and 15.1% were on unauthorised sites.

Table 4.2 Bi-annual Traveller caravan count figures January 2020 to January 2024

Rugby Borough	Authorised sites (with planning permission)	Authorised sites (with planning permission)	Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)	Total
	Social Rented	Total Private (inc. temporary permission)	Total Unauthorised	
Jan-20	33	128	33	194
Jul-21	76	135	7	218
Jan-22	34	139	44	217
Jul-22	34	156	56	246
Jan-23	34	200	70	304
Jul-23	34	211	26	271
Jan-24	34	238	29	301
Latest 7-count average	40	172	38	250
Latest 7-Count % Average	15.9%	68.9%	15.1%	100.0%

Source: DLUHC Traveller Caravan Count, Live Table
Counts not taken in July 2020 or Jan 2021 due to the COVID pandemic

- 4.9 Over the period 2018 and 2024, there were no Travelling Showperson's' caravans recorded (Table 4.3) in Rugby Borough.

Table 4.3 Annual Travelling Showpeople caravan count figures January 2018 to January 2024

Rugby Borough Count	Authorised sites with planning permission	Authorised sites with planning permission	Unauthorised sites without planning permission	Total
	Social Rented	Total Private	Total Unauthorised	
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0
Five-Count Average	0	0	0	0
Five-Count % Average	0	0	0	0

Source: DLUHC Travelling Showpeople Caravan Count, Live Table 3
Counts not taken in Jan 2021 due to the COVID pandemic

Local sites and yards

- 4.10 Authorised sites are those with planning permission and can be on either public or privately-owned land. Unauthorised sites are made up of either longer-term (approximately three months or longer) unauthorised encampments and can be considered to be indicative of a permanent need for accommodation (in some instances local authorities class these as tolerated sites and do not take enforcement action to remove them); and unauthorised developments, where Travellers are residing upon land that they own and that does not have planning permission (see Appendix B for more detailed definitions).
- 4.11 Table 4.4 sets out the range of sites in Rugby Borough. The GTAA assumes the following on sites wholly located within Rugby Borough:
- 1 council site, 17 pitches (15 occupied by 15 households, 2 vacant)
 - 13 private authorised sites, 82 pitches (64 occupied by Gypsy and Traveller households, an estimated 13 occupied by non-Gypsy Traveller households, 8 vacant, with 2 Gypsy Traveller households living with another household on a pitch).
 - 2 private temporary authorised sites, 16 pitches (13 occupied by 16 households, 3 vacant, with one large pitch occupied by 3 households).
 - 3 unauthorised sites, 6 pitches (6 occupied by 7 households with 2 Gypsy Traveller households living with another household on a pitch)
 - There are no Travelling Showpersons yards in the borough.
- 4.12 In summary, the GTAA assumes a total of 19 sites with 121 pitches (108 occupied and 13 vacant). Of the 108 occupied pitches, 102 were occupied by Gypsy and Traveller households and 13 by non-Gypsy Traveller households, with 7 households living with another household on a pitch but none said they were overcrowded with some households occupying more than one pitch and some pitches occupied by more than one household). There are also 6 sites that are located on the boundary of Rugby and Nuneaton and Bedworth which are covered by the Nuneaton and Bedworth GTAA and one site which is covered by the Hinkley and Bosworth GTAA. There are also 6 sites that are no longer for Gypsy and Traveller use based on site observation data and discussions with owners.
- 4.13 Table 4.5 sets out the summary position regarding pitches/plots, vacancy and occupancy. This provides a transparent base position from which the modelling of future pitch need in Section 6 can proceed. However, it should be acknowledged that the existing private sites are mainly for extended family groups and the ability to live on these sites is therefore restricted. The location of sites is also presented in Map 4.1.
- 4.14 Table 4.6 summarises additional sites which are partially located in Rugby and other neighbouring districts and sites that are no longer believed to be occupied by Gypsies and Travellers.

Table 4.4 List of Gypsy & Traveller pitches on sites as at May 2024

Site reference	Address	Postcode	No. pitches	Total occupied	No. Vacant	No. G&T households	Interview achieved	Planning application data	Total response	Non-response	Reason	
											Refusal	No-one available
LA1	Woodside, Oxford Road, Ryton on Dunsmore (private pitches)	CV8 3JY	17	15	2	15	9		9	6	6	
Priv1	The Stables, Wood Lane, Shilton	CV7 9LA	2	2		2		2	2			
Priv2	Evergreens, Wood Lane, Shilton	CV7 9LA	1	1		1		1	1	0		
Priv3	High Tor, Shilton Lane, Shilton	CV7 9LH	3	3		6	6		6	0		
Priv4	The Spinney, Shilton Lane, Shilton	CV7 9LH	1	1		1	0		0	1		1
Priv5	The Paddocks, Top Road, Barnacle	CV7 9FS	3	3		3	3		3	0		
Priv6	Green Meadow, Top Road, Barnacle	CV7 9FS	1	1		1	1		1	0		
Priv7	Oakwood, Hawkesbury Lane, Coventry CV2 1NR	CV2 1NR	3	3		3	3		3	0	0	
Priv8	Smeaton Paddocks, Smeaton Lane, Stretton under Fosse CV23 0PS	CV23 0PS	1	1		1	1		1			
Priv9	Canal View, Cathiron Lane,	CV23 0JH	1	1		1	1		1	0		0
Priv10	Woodside, Oxford Road, Ryton on Dunsmore (private pitches)	CV8 3JY	32	32		32	20		20	12	12	
Priv11	Sunrise Park, Oxford Road, Ryton on Dunsmore	CV8 3JY	10	2	8	1	1		1			

Site reference	Address	Postcode	No. pitches	Total occupied	No. Vacant	No. G&T households	Interview achieved	Planning application data	Total response	Non-response	Reason	No-one available
Priv12	Bryants Bungalows (multiple site covering Bryant's Bungalow, land south-west of Bryant's Bungalow and West of Bryant's bungalow)	CV3 3GW	23	23		10	10		10	0	Refusal	
Priv13	Oak Tree Ranch, Land at Gipsy Lane, Wolvey	LE10 3HQ	1	1		2		2	2	0		
PrivTemp1	Top Park, Top Road, Barnacle	CV7 9FS	15	12	3	15	14		14	1		1
PrivTemp2	Land adj. Rosefields, Hinckley Road, Wolvey	LE10 3HQ	1	1		1	1		1	0		
Unauth1	Land South of Top Road, Barnacle	CV7 9FS	4	4		5	5		5	0		
Unauth2	Land at Fosse Corner, Monks Kirby	CV23 ORL	1	1		1	1		1			
Unauth3	Treetops, Shilton Lane, Shilton	CV7 9LA	1	1		1	0		0	1	1	
TOTAL			121	108	13	102	76	5	81	21	19	2

Table 4.5 Summary of sites, pitches, occupancy and response

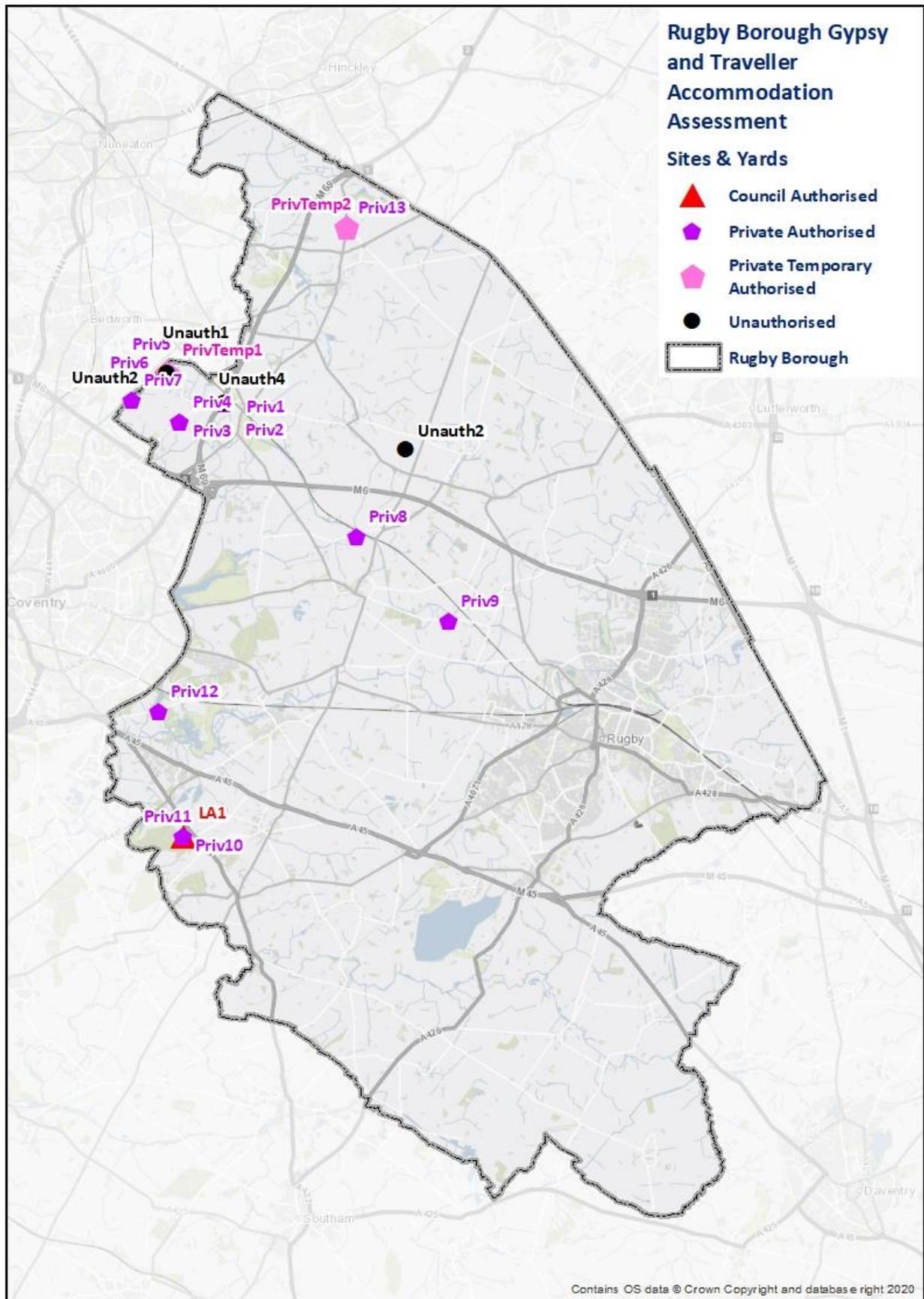
General pitches	No. Sites/ yards	No. Pitches	Total occupied pitches	Total vacant pitches	Total G&T households	Interviews completed	Planning data	Total response	Non- response	Non-G&T household
Local Authority	1	17	15	2	15	9	0	9	6	0
Private Authorised	13	82	74	8	64	48	5	51	13	14
Priv Temp Auth	2	16	13	3	16	15	0	15	1	0
Unauthorised	3	6	6	0	7	6	0	6	1	0
Total	19	121	108	13	102	76	5	81	21	14

Table 4.6 Summary of sites partially located in Rugby Borough and sites no longer occupied by Gypsies and Travellers

Site name	Postcode	Comment	Summary
Sunrise Cottage, Coventry Road, Bulkington	CV2 1NT	Covered by Nuneaton and Bedworth GTAA	
The Haven, Coventry Road, Bulkington	CV2 1NT	Covered by Nuneaton and Bedworth GTAA	
Fellas Acre, Coventry Road, Bulkington	CV2 1NT	Covered by Nuneaton and Bedworth GTAA	
Rosewood, Coventry Road, Bulkington	CV2 1NT	Covered by Nuneaton and Bedworth GTAA	
Bottom Meadow, Coventry Road, Bulkington	CV2 1NT	Covered by Nuneaton and Bedworth GTAA	
The Poppies, Mile Tree Lane, Bulkington	CV2 1NT	Covered by Nuneaton and Bedworth GTAA	
Little Orchard, Shilton Lane, Shilton	CV7 9LA	Now residential caravan park	
Equine stables - Land adjacent to Green Meadow/Greenacre, Top Road, Barnacle	CV7 9FS	No residential activity	
The Bungalow, Hydes Lane, Hinckley	LE10 3DP	Site on border within Hinkley and Bosworth. No pitches in Rugby	
Green Bank/adj. Woodside, Oxford Road, Ryton on Dunsmore	CV8 3JY	Non longer G&T according to people working on the site	
Tree Tops, Oxford Road, Princethorpe,	CV23 9QE	Now residential caravan park	

No longer G&T	
Need covered in other GTAAs	

Map 4.1 Location of Gypsy and Traveller sites in Rugby Borough



5. Household survey findings

- 5.1 This chapter presents the findings of the household survey, which was carried out to provide primary data to inform this GTAA. The survey aimed to reach as many Gypsy and Traveller and households living in the study area as possible. It was conducted using the questionnaire presented in Appendix A.

Gypsy and Traveller households living in Rugby Borough

- 5.2 A review of the characteristics of Gypsy and Traveller households living in Rugby Borough has been based on data from a total of 71 households living on sites wholly located within Rugby Borough plus one in bricks and mortar accommodation and interviewed as part of the 2024 GTAA.
- 5.3 The number of responses achieved is summarised for each question. The household data are presented in a manner which maintains respondent confidentiality. If analysis refers to 'small numbers' this means 4 or fewer households responding to a question.
- 5.4 **Ethnicity** (base=67): Of household representatives interviewed 58% described themselves as Gypsy (including Romany, Romany Gypsy and English Gypsy and 42% as Irish Traveller.
- 5.5 **Household size** (base=70): 8.6% of households were single person; 18.6% two person; 17.1% three person; 25.7% four person, 8.6% five person and 21.4% six or more people.
- 5.6 **Household type** (base=70): 8.6% were singles, 7.1% were single parents, 17.1% were couples, 37.1% were couples with child(ren) which can include non-dependent children, 30% were multi-adult families or extended families, such as couples with siblings living with them.
- 5.7 **Age profile:** The household survey identified a total of 265 Gypsies and Travellers living on sites in Rugby Borough. The age profile is as follows: 31.9% aged 13 or under, 6.4% aged 14-17, 31.5% aged 18-34, 16.7% aged 35-49, 8.4% aged 50-64 and 5.2% aged 65 and over.
- 5.8 **Length of residence** (base=39): 30.8% had lived at their current place of residence for less than 5 years, 20.5% between 5 and less than 10 years, 12.8% between 10 and less than 15 years, 28.2% between 15 and less than 20 years and 7.7% 20 or more years.
- 5.9 **Overcrowding:** When asked if their home was overcrowded (base=48), 4.2% said yes and 95.8% said no. When asked whether their pitch was overcrowded (base=46), 6.5% said yes and 93.5% said no.
- 5.10 **Regarding the need for more residential pitches** (base=28), respondents were asked if they felt there was a need for more pitches. This was to gauge local views on need and does not influence the needs assessment modelling carried out. 89.3% said there was a need for more and 10.7% said no more pitches were needed. Only a small number of respondents stated a number which ranged between 3 and 20 pitches.

Help and support needs

- 5.11 Respondents were asked if they had any broader help and support needs. Several respondents mentioned illness and disability but there were no specific support needs identified for which households required assistance.

Travelling Showpeople

- 5.12 There are currently no Travelling Showperson yards in Rugby Borough. It is recommended that the council develop a criteria-based policy to consider any applications coming forward over the plan period.

6. Gypsy and Traveller pitch and transit site requirements

Introduction

- 6.1 This section reviews the overall pitch and plot requirements of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across Rugby Borough. It takes into account current supply and need, as well as future need, based on modelling of data. This chapter also considers transit pitch requirements for Gypsies and Travellers. Finally, the chapter presents planning policy recommendations.
- 6.2 The calculation of pitch requirements is based on modelling as advocated in *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Guidance (DCLG, 2007)*. Although now formally withdrawn, the former DCLG guidance still provides the best-practice approach towards the assessment of pitch and plot needs (see Chapter 2 for further discussion).
- 6.3 This approach requires an assessment of the current needs of Gypsies and Travellers and a projection of future needs. It advocates the use of a survey to supplement secondary source information and derive key supply and demand information. Modelling presents an overall need based on the 2012 PPTS definition which is also called the ‘cultural’ need.

Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirement model overview

- 6.4 Pitch need is assessed for two time periods. A short-term 5-year model looks at need over the next five years (2024/25 to 2028/29). A longer-term model looks at need over the period to 2041/42 using demographic data.
- 6.5 In terms of **cultural need**, the 5-year model considers:
- the baseline number of households on all types of site (authorised, unauthorised and temporary authorised sites) as of May 2024;
 - existing households planning to move in the next five years (currently on sites and also from bricks and mortar) and where they are planning to move to;
 - emerging households currently on sites and planning to emerge in the next five years and stay within the study area on a pitch; to derive a figure for total pitch need
- 6.6 In terms of **supply**, the model considers:
- total supply of current pitches on authorised sites;
 - supply from new sites being developed; and
 - vacant pitches on authorised sites.
- 6.7 The model then reconciles total need and existing authorised supply over the next five years by summarising:
- total need for pitches; and
 - total supply of authorised pitches.

- 6.8 The longer-term model then considers the cultural need over the period to 2041/42. This is based on the age profile of children under 13 living in Gypsy and Traveller households on pitches.

Rugby Borough pitch need analysis: Description of factors in the 5-year need model

- 6.9 Table 6.1 provides a summary of the 5-year pitch need calculation. Each component in the model is now discussed to ensure that the process is transparent and any assumptions clearly stated.

Need

Current households living on pitches (row 1a to 1e)

- 6.10 These figures are derived from council data and site observation data. In summary there are a total of 102 households living on pitches (See Table 6.1). This also takes into account a total of +5 households who are doubling up on pitches and 2 households who are living across more than one pitch, resulting in an overall +3 need for pitches.

Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (row 2)

- 6.11 The 2021 Census reports a total of 30 households of whom 85% live in bricks and mortar accommodation or around 25.

Weighting of data

- 6.12 Survey data has been weighted to take account of non-response households. For Gypsy and Traveller households the weighting is 102 (total households) divided by 81 (total responses) = 1.26 .

Table 6.1 Summary of demand and supply factors: Gypsies and Travellers – 2024/25 to 2028/29

CULTURAL NEED			Rugby Borough	
1	Households living on pitches	1a. On LA Site	15	
		1b. On Private Site – Authorised	64	
		1c. On Private Site - Temporary Authorised	16	
		1d. On private site – unauthorised	7	
		1e. Total (1a + 1b+1c+1d)	102	
2	Estimate of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation	2021 Census estimate	25	
		Weighting for non-response	1.26	
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years or on unauthorised site	Currently on sites		
		3a. To another pitch/same site (no net impact)	5	
		3b. To another site in district (no net impact)	3	
		3c. From site to bricks and mortar (-)	0	
		3d. To site/bricks and mortar outside district	0	
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar		
		3e. Planning to move to a site in LA (+) (see note 1)	1	
		3f. Planning to move to another B&M property (no net impact)	0	
		In-migrant households		
		3g. Allowance for in-migration (+)	0	
	3h. TOTAL Net impact (-3c-3d+3e+3g)	1		
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on site and planning to live on current site	21	
		4b. Current on site and planning to live on another site in the district	15	
		4c. Currently on site and planning to live outside the district	0	
		4d. Currently in B&M planning to move to a site in LA (+)	0	
		4e. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0	
		4f. Currently on Site and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0	
			4g. TOTAL (4a+4b+4d)	36
			1e+3h+4g	139
SUPPLY				
6	Current supply of authorised pitches to meet need	6a. Current supply of authorised pitches occupied by Gypsies and Travellers	79	
		6b. Multiple households living on pitches but not overcrowded and likely to be living as part of extended family groups and not needing alternative pitches	2	
		6c. Vacant pitches on authorised sites	10	
		6d. Pitches believed to be occupied by non-Gypsy Travellers	13	
			6e. Total current authorised supply (6a+6b+6c+6d)	104
		RECONCILING NEED AND SUPPLY		
7	Total need for pitches	5 years (from 5)	139	
8	Total supply of authorised pitches	5 years (from 6c)	104	
5-YEAR AUTHORISED PITCH SHORTFALL 2024/25 TO 2028/29			35	

Existing households planning to move in the next five years (row 3)

- 6.13 This was derived from information from the 2024 household survey for respondents currently on pitches.
- 6.14 For households currently in bricks and mortar, based on national arc⁴ studies it is estimated that 5.3% of households living in bricks and mortar would prefer to live on a site which would equate to 1 household. However, there was little evidence of households actually moving from bricks and mortar to a site in the past 5 years, but this allowance is included in modelling.
- 6.15 There has been limited migration into the borough which has been mainly associated with households moving on/off Woodside. Because of the complexities of understanding pitch dynamics on this site, for instance not knowing who moved out to make the pitch vacant, or if anyone planning to move will leave their pitch vacant, net zero migration to and from pitches in Rugby is assumed.
- 6.16 The factors presented in Section 3 of the model result in an overall net requirement of +1 pitches (weighted) from existing households planning to move in the next 5 years.

Emerging households (row 4)

- 6.17 This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next 5 years based on 2024 household survey information and planning application data. The total number is +36 (weighted). If young people aged 18 and over were living with family and have not specified that they want to form a new household, this is assumed to be through choice and the model does not assume they want to form a new household. The model however does factor in need from 50% of 13 to 17 year-olds who are likely to emerge in the next 5 years but had not indicated this on the household survey.

Total need for pitches (row 5)

- 6.18 This is a total of current households on authorised pitches, households on pitches planning to move in the next five years and demand from emerging households currently living on pitches. This indicates a total need for 139 pitches (102 existing households on sites, a net need for 1 (weighted) pitches from existing households planning to move and a need for 36 (weighted) pitches from emerging households).

Supply

Current supply of authorised pitches to meet need (row 6)

- 6.19 Modelling assumes a total supply of authorised pitches to meet the needs of 104 households. This is broken down to a total of 79 Gypsy and Traveller households living on these pitches, 2 pitches with multiple households living on them, 10 vacant pitches and 13 pitches believed to be occupied by non-Gypsy Travellers.

Reconciling supply and need

- 6.20 There is a total need over the next five years (2024/25 to 2028/29) for 139 pitches in Rugby Borough (row 7) compared with a supply of 104 authorised pitches (row 8). The result is an overall need for 35 additional pitches.

Longer-term pitch requirement modelling

- 6.21 Longer-term pitch need modelling has been carried out using known household structure information from the household survey of households living on pitches. On the basis of the age of children in households, it is possible to determine the extent of 'likely emergence', which assumes that a child is likely to form a new household at the age of 18.
- 6.22 The year when a child reaches 18 has been calculated and it is possible to assess how many newly forming households may emerge over the period 2029/30 to 2041/42. A reasonable assumption is that half of these children will form new households, bearing in mind culturally women tend to move away on marriage and men tend to stay in close proximity to their families on marriage. The model therefore assumes that 50% of children will form households when they reach 18 and that these households remain in Rugby Borough. This approach has been tested at inquiry and the assumption has been corroborated by several Travelling interviewees. Analysis would suggest a total need for 59 additional pitches over the period 2029/30-2041/42 (Table 6.2). This should be considered as a minimum level of longer-term need as other factors such as net in-migration in the longer-term may have an impact on need, which could be considered in future GTAA updates.

Table 6.2 Future pitch requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a pitch in Rugby Borough

Time period	No. children	No. pitches (rounded)
2029/30 to 2033/34 (5 years)	33	16
2034/35 to 2038/39 (5 years)	55	28
2039/40 to 2041/42 (3 years)	30	15
Total (2029/30 to 2041/42) (13 years)	118	59

Overall plan period pitch need

- 6.23 Table 6.3 summarises the overall need for pitches across Rugby Borough over the period 2024/25 to 2041/42. The main drivers of need in the first five years are new household formation and in-migration.

Table 6.3 Gypsy and Traveller pitch need 2023/24 to 2041/42

Period	Pitch need
5yr Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2024/25 to 2028/29) (A)	35
Longer-term need	
Over period 2029/30 to 2033/34 (B)	16
Over period 2034/35 to 2038/39(C)	28
Over period 2039/40 to 2041/42 (D)	15
Longer-term need TOTAL to 2041/42 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)	59
F. NET SHORTFALL 2024/25 to 2041/42 (A+E) (18 years)	94
Annual net need	5.2

Potential capacity for Gypsy and Traveller pitches on existing sites

Turnover on sites

- 6.24 Turnover relates to the number of pitches that are expected to become available for occupancy. Analysis only includes expected turnover on public sites as this is referenced in (former) government guidance and more accurate data on changes in pitch occupancy is likely to be available. Although there is likely to be turnover on private sites, the ability of households to move onto private sites may be more restrictive (for instance the site may be restricted to a particular family) and less likely to be recorded.
- 6.25 Given the complexities of understanding which pitches on Woodside were private and which were local authority, it was difficult to calculate a turnover figure. Therefore no turnover on sites is assumed in modelling.

Regularisation of existing sites

- 6.26 There are currently 22 pitches on sites that are not permanently authorised:
- 15 pitches that are temporary authorised (12 occupied by 15 households, 3 vacant)
 - 7 unauthorised pitches (7 occupied by 8 households, 0 vacant)
- 6.27 It is recommended that the council considers assessing these pitches against an appropriate assessment criteria and/or policy guidance to consider if they can be regularised (permanently authorised).

Potential for additional pitches on existing sites

- 6.28 Survey respondents suggested potential for additional pitches on existing sites (Table 6.4). Through discussions with residents on sites and private site

owners, the GTAA identified a total of 15 potential pitches. It is recommended that the council investigate the potential for additional pitches on sites as a way of helping to meet need.

Table 6.4 Potential additional pitches on existing sites to help meet Gypsy and Traveller need

Site Code	Site Location	Number of additional pitches
B&M with land	Wilshire Ranch (B&M)	4
Unauth4	Land at Foss Corner	1
Priv12	Bryant's Bungalow	10
Total		15

Vacant pitches on private sites

- 6.29 There were 10 vacant pitches on authorised sites which are included in the five-year needs model as an element of supply. This includes 8 pitches at Sunrise Park for which planning permission is granted. In addition, there are 3 vacant pitches on sites that was not authorised.

Potential for additional pitches on existing sites through household dissolution

- 6.30 When considering the potential future supply of pitches, consideration should be given to the potential availability of pitches due to household dissolution. Gypsy and Travellers have a life expectancy at least 10 years shorter than the wider population. As the study period is over 18 years, potential pitch supply from household dissolution over the plan period is assumed where there are singles or couples aged 55 and over, with no other people living on the pitch.
- 6.31 By considering the age profile and household structures of households, there is the potential for 9 (weighted) pitches to become available through household dissolution over the period to 2041/42.

Impact of turnover, regularisation, additional pitches and household dissolution on overall need.

- 6.32 The overall pitch need over the next 5 years (2024/25 to 2028/29) is 35. There is a further need from 2029/30 to 2041/42 for 59 pitches, resulting in an overall need for 94 pitches.
- 6.33 There is a potential supply of additional pitches through:
- Regularisation (22 pitches)
 - Potential expansion/intensification (15 pitches)
 - Household dissolution (9 pitches)
- 6.34 This potential supply could provide **46** additional pitches. This has the potential to help meet short-term five-year need and longer-term need.
- 6.35 Further work is recommended to review the potential for additional pitch development on existing sites and the occupancy of permanent pitches.

- 6.36 Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into Rugby Borough. It is therefore recommended the council has criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for private sites should they arise.
- 6.37 It is implicit in this study that the needs arising from the private family sites will be met either through the use of vacant pitches on those sites or through new site provision. No turnover is assumed on private sites but over the plan period this may help provide pitches for occupation by Gypsies and Travellers in housing need.

Tenure preferences

- 6.38 Households were asked about tenure preferences for new sites and some responded (base=19). Respondents could tick public and/or private site ownership and several ticked both options. Overall 89.5% of respondents picked ownership by Travellers and 68.4% picked council ownership.

Transit requirements

- 6.39 There are a number of ways to deliver temporary places where Travellers can stop whilst passing through a local authority area. These include transit sites, stop over areas and negotiated stopping.
- 6.40 Households interviewed were asked their views on transit provision (base=33) and a limited need for transit provision was reflected in their responses:
- 36.4% said there was an overall need for places where people can stop whilst travelling through the district and 63.6% said there was no need.
 - 36.4% said there was a need for transit pitches.
 - Of those who said there was a need (base = 2), the number ranged between 10 and 30.
 - When asked about stopping places (base=25), 60% said they were needed and 40% said they were not needed.
- 6.41 An indicator of transit need is unauthorised encampment activity and data for Rugby Borough are now presented. Over the period 2017 to 2023, 119 unauthorised encampments have been reported across Rugby Borough. The number of encampments peaked in 2019 at 38 but have since fallen to 9 in 2023. In the past 3 years 2021 to 2023, there have been an average of 9 caravans on each encampment, with 50% of encampments comprising 10 or more vehicles.
- 6.42 Over the period 2017 to 2023, there were 119 recorded incidences of unauthorised encampment activity (Table 6.5). Over this period:
- The number of caravans on unauthorised encampments has ranged between 1 and 30
 - The median number of caravans on an encampment has been 7.
 - The modal number (the most frequently recorded number of caravans) was 2

- 6.43 In the most recent 3 year period 2021 to 2023, the median number of caravans has increased to 9.5.

Table 6.5 Unauthorised encampment activity in Rugby 2017 to 2023

Number of encampments recorded	119 encampments (2017=32, 2018=17; 2019=38, 2020=8; 2021=9; 2022=6; 2023=9)		Last 3 years = 25 encampments (2021 to 2023)
Number of caravans	Average	7.5	9.3
	Median	7	9.5
	Mode (most frequent number)	2	8
	Range	1 to 30	1 to 15

Source: Council data

- 6.44 Table 6.6 shows the distribution in the number of caravans reported on unauthorised encampments in the past three years (2021 to 2023). Half of encampments comprised 10 or more caravans.

Table 6.6 Number of caravans recorded on unauthorised encampments: Rugby Borough 2021 to 2023

Number of caravans	Frequency	%	Cumulative %
<5	3	16.7%	16.7%
5 to <10	6	33.3%	50.0%
10 to <15	6	33.3%	83.3%
15 or more	3	16.7%	100.0%
Total	18		

Source: Council data

- 6.45 When considering transit need, the council needs to be mindful of new legislation through the Police, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Act (Part 4). This will make using land for stopping without permission a criminal offence rather than a civil offence. The Act gives police increased powers to act and introduces significant penalties (fines up to £2,500, impounding vehicles and prison sentences).
- 6.46 It is recommended that the council continues discussions with local planning authorities across Warwickshire to determine the level of need and how this could be provided for. It is recommended that councils identify areas of land that can be used for smaller encampments (up to 5 caravans), medium-sized encampments (between 5 and up to 10 caravan) and larger encampments (more than 10 caravans).
- 6.47 Although only a minority of household survey respondents indicated there was a need for transit provision, there is clear evidence of a need to provide land to address the need for temporary places to stop. There are several ways to deliver temporary places where Travellers can stop whilst passing through a local authority area and in general, councils are moving towards providing temporary stop over areas and negotiated stopping to help meet short-term transit need rather than develop transit sites.

- 6.48 A temporary stop over area is land which can be used on a temporary basis if unauthorised encampments occur or are likely to occur. They can be fields, areas of hardstanding or a mixture of both. Temporary facilities can be provided when the temporary stop over is in use, for instance portable toilets and rubbish collection.
- 6.49 Negotiated stopping involves councils making an agreement with Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments. The terms of the agreement can vary but usually include the provision of portaloos, waste disposal, water; the length of the agreement can vary but tends to be around 28 days; and users agree to comply with rules for behaviour and use of the site (see <https://www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk/> for more information).
- 6.50 Based on emerging good practice nationally, it is recommended that the council considers developing a flexible approach to unauthorised encampment activity using negotiated stopping arrangements. It is recommended that the council liaises with local planning authorities across Warwickshire to determine the level of need and how this could be provided for. Councils should consider identifying areas of land that can be used for smaller encampments (up to 5 caravans), encampments of between 5 and up to 10 caravans and for larger encampments at least 10 caravans to accommodate Travellers passing through Rugby Borough.

7. Houseboat need

- 7.1 The Housing and Planning Act 2016 (section 124) creates a duty under section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 to consider the needs of people residing in or resorting to a local authority area with respect to sites for caravans and the mooring of houseboats as part of the periodical review of housing needs. It deletes sections 225 and 226 of the Housing Act 2004.
- 7.2 arc⁴ has carried out a series of interviews nationally with houseboat residents. In general, living on a houseboat is a lifestyle choice but there are small numbers of people who identify as Boat Travellers/Bargee Travellers.
- 7.3 The Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT) are the national organisation responsible for issuing boat licences to residents and users of canals. There are two types of licence: for permanent moorings, but these do not have to be residential moorings and most are for leisure purposes; and a licence without a mooring where the boater is required to 'bona fide navigate' meaning that the boater needs to keep moving around and not be in any location for more than 14 days.
- 7.4 Regarding the need for residential moorings, the CRT comment that based on their national boater survey, nationally the number of people living on boats has reduced and possibly declined slightly this year. To assist with planning for boater needs, the Canals and Rivers Trust comment that Local Plans/policies should acknowledge and support residential mooring if there are appropriate locations, but would expect most permanent moorings to be still for leisure use. There is also a need for short stay moorings for leisure and residential boaters while they move around. The CRT also comment that many liveaboard boaters do so without having a permanent mooring as they can moor in many places - so it's not the mooring space but rather the availability of facilities for them to access (e.g., water points, wet waste disposal, refuse/recycling) that is important.

Stakeholder feedback

- 7.5 Within Rugby Borough there are a number of marinas. We spoke to owners/managers of three marinas (Ventnor Marina, Calcut Boats and Kays Boats) to obtain views on current supply and future need. Key findings included:
- There is a strong demand and a need for more permanent moorings.
 - Living on houseboat is often perceived as being a cheap housing option but this not necessarily the case as there are fees for moorings, the boat itself and regular maintenance costs.
 - Although moorings are predominantly for leisure purposes, they are sometimes used for residential accommodation because of demand.
 - There is a minimum need for around 20 moorings in the Rugby area.

8. Conclusion and response

- 8.1 This concluding chapter provides a brief summary of key findings and recommendations.

Current accommodation

- 8.2 There are well-established Gypsy and Traveller communities living across Rugby Borough. The GTAA assumes a total of 19 sites wholly within Rugby Borough with 121 pitches, with 108 occupied and 13 vacant. Of the 108 occupied pitches, 102 were occupied by Gypsy and Traveller households and 13 by non-Gypsy Traveller households, with 7 households living with another household on a pitch. For pitches where there were more than one household, none said they were overcrowded.
- 8.3 There are no Travelling Showperson yards in the borough.

Future Gypsy and Traveller residential need

- 8.4 There is an overall minimum need for 94 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches across Rugby Borough over the period 2024/25 to 2041/42. Of this need, 35 are needed in the first five years and 59 over the period 2029/30 to 2041/42. Needs analysis considers the needs arising from existing households, households on unauthorised sites, newly forming households and current vacancies on existing public and private sites. The annual net shortfall need is 5.2.
- 8.5 In order to help meet its need for pitches, the council is recommended to consider intensifying and expanding existing sites; and regularising temporary authorised and unauthorised sites where possible.
- 8.6 This potential supply could provide 46 additional pitches through regularisation, intensification and expansion of existing sites and from household dissolution. This has the potential help meet five-year and longer-term need.
- 8.7 Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance from a higher number of households moving into Rugby Borough than anticipated. It is therefore recommended that the Local Plan references the need in the GTAA as a minimum need which is likely to be met but sets out policies to inform future planning applications for private sites.

Transit provision

- 8.8 The council should consider how land can be provided for short-term use and particularly in response to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act. It is recommended that the council continues discussions with local planning authorities across Warwickshire to determine the level of need and how this could be provided for. It is recommended that councils identify areas of land that can be used for smaller encampments (up to 5 caravans), medium-sized encampments (between 5 and up to 10 caravan) and larger encampments (more than 10 caravans).

Travelling Showperson need

- 8.9 There are currently no Travelling Showperson yards in Rugby Borough. It is recommended that the council develop a criteria-based policy to consider any applications coming forward over the plan period.

Houseboat need

- 8.10 There is a need for at least 20 moorings for houseboats within Rugby Borough based on the views of stakeholders.

Future updating

- 8.11 The GTAA should be updated on a 5-yearly basis to ensure that the level of pitch and plot provision remains appropriate for the Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople population and houseboat need across Rugby Borough.

Appendix A: Gypsy and Traveller Fieldwork Questionnaire

Questionnaire Number:	
Date and Time	
Site Reference	
Address	
General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and Data Protection	<p>This study is being done for your local council to identify if there is a need for more residential pitches and transit provision in the area. A report will be prepared based on the findings of these surveys .</p> <p>The information you provide will not be used to identify you personally, will be kept strictly confidential. Anonymous data may be shared with the council.</p>

Can you please say if you are happy to carry on with the questionnaire on this basis?	Yes	No
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1	Pitch/Property Type (and tenure if B&M)	
2	No . Statics/mobiles/chalets or bricks and mortar	
3	No. tourers/caravans	
4	Description of pitch occupancy	
5	No. households	
6	No. concealed households	
7	No. doubled up households	
8	Does anyone else use this pitch as their home? If so, who	

9	HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS			
		Gender	Age	Relationship to respondent
	Respondent			
	Person2			
	Person 3			
	Person 4			
	Person 5			
	Person 6			
	Person 7			
	Person 8			

10	ETHNICITY	
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11	How many bedspaces are there on your pitch?	
12	Overcrowding of home	Y / N
13	Overcrowding of pitch	Y / N
14	Thinking back to when you were 15, were you living on a site, on the roadside or living in bricks and mortar housing?	S, R, B&M
15	Where were you living? Record district/settlement name	

	TRAVELLING QUESTIONS	
16	In the last year have you or someone in your household travelled?	Y / N
18	If yes, reason(s) for travelling	
19	If no, what reasons do you or your household have for not travelling now or in the future?	

	WHERE YOU PLAN TO LIVE IN THE FUTURE	
20	Are you planning to move to another place to live in the next 5 years?	Y / N
21	Why are you planning to move ?	
22	Where are you planning to move to? (Same Site, Private Site in District, Council Site in District, Outside District (if so where), Bricks and Mortar housing)	
23	What type of dwelling ? (caravan, trailer, chalet, house, flat, bungalow)	
24	If pitch, single (one static) or double pitch (for two statics)	

	IF IN B&M HOUSING	
25	If you live in bricks and mortar housing, are you happy to live here or would you prefer to live on a pitch?	Happy Here / Prefer pitch
26	If you would prefer to live on a pitch is this because you have a 'cultural aversion' to living in bricks and mortar (this means if affects your mental health and makes you unhappy/ depressed)?	Y / N

	EMERGING HOUSEHOLDS	
27	Emerging households: Are there any people in your household who want to move to their own pitch in the next 5 yrs?	Y / N

		HH1	HH2	HH3	HH4
28	Where are you planning to move to? (Same Site, Private Site in District, Council Site in District, Outside District (if so where), Bricks and Mortar housing)				
29	What type of dwelling ? (caravan, trailer, chalet, house, flat, bungalow)				
30	If pitch, single (one static) or double pitch (for two statics)				
31	If living in bricks and mortar do you have a 'cultural aversion' to living in bricks and mortar? (this means if affects your mental health and makes you unhappy/ depressed)	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N

	ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL PITCHES	
32	Scope to expand site (extend the boundary of the site)	Y / N
33	No. additional pitches	
34	Scope to intensify pitches (put more pitches on the existing site)	Y / N
35	No. additional pitches	
36	Are there any vacant pitches on the site which could be used by another family? If so how many pitches	
37	In general, is there a need for more authorised pitches (for people to live on all the time?) in this district?	Y / N
38	If so, now many are needed?	
39	Who should own them (Council, people from the Traveller Community, non-Travellers)	
40	Do you own any land or know of anywhere within the district which could be considered for development as a site?	

	TRANSIT AND TEMPORARY STOPOVER NEED	
41	Is there a need to provide places where people can stop whilst travelling through the district? This can include transit pitches or stopover places	Y / N
42	Is there a need for transit pitches (for people stopping over temporarily) in the district? A transit pitch is intended for short-term use and usually includes space for two caravans, parking space and access to electricity, a toilet, washing facilities	Y / N
43	If so, how many are needed?	
44	Who should manage them ? (Council, Traveller Community)	
45	Where should they be located?	
46	Is there a need for stopover places? A stopover place is land which can be used on a temporary basis and usually include access to Portaloo, waste disposal and water	Y / N
47	If so, how many are needed?	
48	Who should manage them ? (Council, Traveller Community)	
49	Where should they be located?	

RESIDENTIAL HISTORY		
50	How many years have you lived here?	
Routing	If more than five years	Go to Q56
	If five years or less	Go to Q51
51	Where did you move from? (District)	
52	Were you living on a Private Site, Council Site, Roadside or Bricks and Mortar housing?	
53	When you moved here, was the pitch vacant, a brand new pitch or had the pitch been created by dividing up an existing pitch?	
54	What were the reasons for moving here?	
55	Did you already have a connection with the area ? (e.g. family or friends living here; or you used to live here?)	

SUPPORT NEEDS	
56	Do you or a member of your household have any health-related needs? Could you please explain what they are?

FINAL QUESTIONS	
57	Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your housing or support needs?
58	Do you know anyone in bricks and mortar housing looking to live on a pitch? If so, can you provide contact details

OTHER COMMENTS

Appendix B: Glossary of terms

Bargee Travellers: Itinerant boat dwellers on Britain’s inland and coastal waterways. This includes anyone whose home is a boat and who does not have a permanent mooring for their boat with planning permission for residential use.

Caravans: Mobile living vehicles used by Gypsies and Travellers; also referred to as trailers.

CJ&POA: Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; includes powers for local authorities and police to act against unauthorised encampments.

CRE: Commission for Racial Equality.

Duty to cooperate: introduced in the Localism Act 2011 and is set out in section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It placed a legal duty on local planning authorities in England to engage constructive, actively and on an ongoing basis with prescribed bodies on the preparation of a Local Plan. The Duty, as a legal test, has now been rescinded by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act, which received Royal Assent on 26 October 2023. This has replaced the legal test with a soundness test (in national policy).

Gypsies and Travellers: Defined in DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites 2015* (which reverted in December 2023 to the 2012 PPTS definition) as “Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such”.

Irish Traveller: Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in England. Irish Travellers have a distinct indigenous origin in Ireland and have been in England since the mid nineteenth century. They have been recognised as an ethnic group since August 2000 in England and Wales (*O’Leary v Allied Domecq*).

MHCLG: Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government. Previously renamed DLUHC Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in 2021 from the MHCLG in 2018. The ministry has oversight of policies to meet the needs Gypsies and Travellers in England.

Mobile home: Legally a ‘caravan’ but not usually capable of being moved by towing.

Negotiated Stopping: involves Local Authority officers making an agreement with Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments. The agreement allows Travellers to stay either on the land they are camped on or move to a bit of land more suitable for all parties. The length of the agreement can also vary from 2 weeks to several months but tend to be around 28 days. The agreement is a local one and will vary but has so far included Travellers agreeing to leave sites clean and not make too much noise and the Local Authority providing waste disposal and toilets, sometimes showers and water too. See www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk for more information.

Pitch: Area of land on a Gypsy/Traveller site occupied by one resident family; sometimes referred to as a plot, especially when referring to Travelling Showpeople. DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites* (August 2015, amended December 2023) states that “For the purposes of this planning policy, “pitch” means a pitch on a “gypsy and traveller” site and “plot” means a pitch on a “travelling showpeople” site (often

called a “yard”). *This terminology differentiates between residential pitches for “gypsies and travellers” and mixed-use plots for “travelling showpeople”, which may / will need to incorporate space or to be split to allow for the storage of equipment”.*

Plot: see pitch

PPTS: Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2012 and 2015 editions) and amended in December 2023.

Roadside: Term used here to indicate families on unauthorised encampments, whether literally on the roadside or on other locations such as fields, car parks or other open spaces.

Roma: Migrant populations from Central and Eastern Europe that have arrived in the UK in the last half-century. It is an umbrella term used to describe sub-groups including Sinti, Lovari, Erldes and others.

Romany: Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in England. Romany Gypsies trace their ethnic origin back to migrations, probably from India, taking place at intervals since before 1500. Gypsies have been a recognised ethnic group for the purposes of British race relations legislation since 1988 (CRE V Dutton).

Sheds: On most residential Gypsy/Traveller sites 'shed' refers to a small basic building with plumbing amenities (bath/shower, WC, sink), which are provided at the rate of one per pitch/plot. Some contain a cooker and basic kitchen facilities.

Showpeople: Defined by DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites 2015* (amended in December 2023) as *“Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above”.*

Site (Gypsy and Traveller): An area of land laid out and used for Gypsy/Traveller caravans; often though not always comprising slabs and amenity blocks or ‘sheds’. An authorised site will have planning permission. An unauthorised development lacks planning permission.

Slab: An area of concrete or tarmac on sites allocated to a household for the parking of trailers (caravans).

Stopping places/stopover sites: A term used to denote an unauthorised temporary camping area tolerated by local authorities, used by Gypsies and Travellers for short-term encampments, and sometimes with the provision of temporary toilet facilities, water supplies and refuse collection services.

Tolerated site: An unauthorised encampment/site where a local authority has decided not to take enforcement action to seek its removal.

Trailers: Term used for mobile living vehicles used by Gypsies and Travellers; also referred to as caravans.

Transit site: A site intended for short-term use while in transit. The site is usually permanent and authorised, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.

Unauthorised development: Establishment of Gypsy and Traveller sites without planning permission, usually on land owned by those establishing the site.

Unauthorised development may involve ground works for roadways and hard standings. People parking caravans on their own land without planning permission are not Unauthorised Encampments in that they cannot trespass on their own land – they are therefore Unauthorised Developments and enforcement is always dealt with by local planning authorities enforcing planning legislation.

Unauthorised encampment: Land where Gypsies or Travellers reside in vehicles or tents without permission. Unauthorised encampments can occur in a variety of locations (roadside, car parks, parks, fields, etc.) and constitute trespass. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent. Unauthorised encampments fall into two main categories: those on land owned by local authorities and those on privately owned land. It is up to the landowner to take enforcement action in conjunction with the police.

Wagons: This is the preferred term for the vehicles used for accommodation by Travelling Showpeople.

Yards: Travelling Showpeople travel in connection with their work and therefore live, almost universally, in wagons. During the winter months these are parked up in what was traditionally known as 'winter quarters. These 'yards' are now often occupied all year around by some family members.