

Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment 2023/24

Canterbury City Council

Final Report
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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Canterbury District 2023/4 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 Canterbury District.

The GTAA has included:

- A review of existing (secondary) data.
- A household survey and site/yard observation. A total of 61 Gypsy and Traveller households were interviewed compared with a total of 86 households (71% response rate) across the study area. An additional 5 interviews were achieved with households living on sites but were not Gypsy and Traveller.

Data has been carefully analysed to provide a picture of current provision across Canterbury District 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 Canterbury District for their positive engagement with the work.

Population and current accommodation provision

The 2021 Census identified a population of 383 people who identified as 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller' or 'Gypsy/Romany' plus 1 person identifying as 'Roma' living in Canterbury District and an estimate of 155 households where the household reference person identifies as being a Gypsy/Traveller.

Across Canterbury there are a total of 35 Gypsy and Traveller sites with 94 pitches (85 currently occupied and 2 vacant, with extended households living across 7 pitches), broken down further as:

- 1 council site, 18 pitches (17 occupied by 17 households, 1 vacant)
- 22 private authorised sites, pitches (54 occupied by 49 households, 0 vacant).
- 7 private temporary authorised sites, 17 pitches (16 occupied by 14 households, 1 vacant).
- 5 unauthorised sites, 5 pitches (5 occupied by 5 households and 0 vacant)

Across Canterbury there is currently no Travelling Showperson's yard.

In January and July each year, councils carry out a Traveller caravan count to inform DLUHC statistics. The latest six bi-annual DLUHC Traveller caravan counts (July 2019 to January 2023) reported an average of 90 caravans across all sites (74% on private sites, 26% on council sites and none on unauthorised sites).

Planning policy requirements for needs assessments

The 2023 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 2015 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 period: 2023/24 to 2027/28 and longer-term period: 2028/29 to 2040/41.

Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements

There is an overall cultural need for 54 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches across Canterbury District over the period 2023/24 to 2040/41 (Table ES1). Of this need, 34 are needed in the first five years and 20 over the period to 2040/41.

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

Table ES1 Gypsy and Traveller pitch need 2023/24 to 2040/41

Period	Pitch need
5yr Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2023/24 to 2027/28) (A)	34
Longer-term need	
Over period 2028/29 to 2032/33 (B)	7
Over period 2033/34 to 2037/38(C)	10
Over period 2038/39 to 2040/41 (D)	3
Longer-term need TOTAL to 2040/41 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)	20
NET SHORTFALL 2023/24 to 2040/41 (A+E) (18 years)	54
Annual net shortfall	3

Meeting the need

The council should consider the following to help meet identified residential pitch need. Firstly, **regularising of sites** that are not permanently authorised (22 pitches) 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 range of between 30 and 32 pitches were identified. The council has been provided with details of potential sites for expansion/intensification. In addition, there is one vacant pitch on a site that is not authorised.

This potential supply could provide between 53 and 55 additional pitches. This has the potential to meet both the five-year and longer-term needs.

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 Canterbury District. It is therefore recommended the council has criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for private sites should they arise.

Transit provision

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 Kent to determine the level of need and how this could be provided for.

Travelling Showperson plot requirements

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

Policy recommendations

The council should recognise the need for 54 pitches over the period 2023/24 to 2040/41. Of this need, 34 is over the next 5 years (2023/24 to 2027/28) and 20 is over the longer-term (2028/29 to 2040/41) . A key driver of longer-term need is household formation and some in-migration.

The GTAA has evidenced a range of potential sites including regularising existing sites that are not authorised and the potential expansion/intensification of existing sites which could provide between 53 and 55 additional pitches. Is it

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.

To manage any unauthorised encampments, the council should develop a negotiated stopping policy to support the needs of Travellers passing through Canterbury District. It is recommended that the council should 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 June 2023 arc⁴ was commissioned by Canterbury City Council to prepare the 2023/4 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson 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 2023/4 to 2040/41 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 In December 2023, the government announced that it was reverting to the definition of Gypsies and Travellers as set out within Annex 1 of the 2012 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, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling Showpeople [sic] or circus people travelling together as such.'
- 1.1 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.'
- 1.4 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 August 2015 Annex 1, para 5).**
- 1.5 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

- 1.6 This study relates to the geographical area of the City of Canterbury local authority district. For the study, this area is termed 'Canterbury District'.
- 1.7 The timeframe for the study is 2023/24 to 2040/41.
- 1.8 The basedate for the study is June 2023.

Report structure

- 1.9 The GTAA 2023/4 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 city 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 Conclusion and strategic response:** concludes the report, providing brief summary of key findings and recommendations.
- 1.10 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 city.

Government policy and guidance

- 2.3 The 2023 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 2015 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 2015 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 DLUHC 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 2015 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 2015 (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).

Considering ‘Cultural’ and ‘PPTS’ need

- 2.13 The definitions set out in PPTS have now reverted back to those of the 2012 PPTS. When considering future residential pitch needs, there is no longer a distinction between Gypsies and Travellers who have ceased to travel or continue to live a nomadic habit of life.

Previous GTAA

- 2.14 The previous Canterbury District GTAA was published in 2018. This identified a plan period need (2017/18 to 2036/37) for 39 pitches of which 17 were required in the first five years 2017/18 to 2021/22. By considering turnover on the local authority site and the potential expansion/intensification of existing sites, the overall need reduced to 29 pitches. The GTAA found no identified need for Travelling Showpeople but recommended that the Council continues to monitor activity and engage with the Showman’s Guild and other representative bodies should local needs arise during the Plan Period.

Responding to challenges

2.15 GTAA's 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.

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.
- 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.
 - Phase 3: Needs assessment and production of the GTAA 2023/4 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 Canterbury District. 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 September 2023, with interviews carried out during the period September to November 2023.

- 3.6 This ensured that interviews took place after the main travelling season had ended. The following interviews were achieved:
- 61 household interviews based on responses from 58 pitches, with 3 pitches having 2 households living on them.
 - 1 bricks and mortar interview
 - 5 interviews on pitches that were not Gypsy and Traveller households.
 - Information regarding 6 households who want to live on a family site.
- 3.7 The survey response rate is taken as 61 households out of 86 households living on pitches or 71%.

Phase 3: Needs assessment and production of report

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 The overall need for pitches is then compared with the overall supply.

Pitches and households

- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 PPTS 2015 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 2015, paragraph 10).
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 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

- 3.14 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’.

- 3.15 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’.*
- 3.16 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’.*
- 3.17 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’.*
- 3.18 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.
- 3.19 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.
- 3.20 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

- 3.21 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.
- 3.22 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.
- 3.23 Quality, size of pitch and proximity of caravans on pitches vary dramatically.

Response

- 3.24 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.
- 3.25 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 Canterbury District 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 **393** people who identified as 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller' or 'Gypsy/Romany' plus 101 person identifying as 'Roma' living in Canterbury District. The total number of households was estimated to be **155** based on the number of Household Reference People, with an estimated 138 living in bricks and mortar accommodation. This compares with 369 people living in 127 households from the 2011 Census.
- 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:
- 89% live in bricks and mortar accommodation and 11% live in a caravan/mobile structure.
 - 80.2% rent (11.1% privately and 69.1% from a social landlord) and 19.8% are owner occupiers.
 - 29.6% are overcrowded compared with 5.8% of the general population.
 - 8.9% are singles, 5.1% couples no children, 27.8% couples with children, 38% single parents and 20.3% other household types.
- 4.5 In terms of health, 62.2% of Gypsies and Travellers said their health was very good/good and 17.1% said it was bad/very bad. The overall net health satisfaction score (% saying very good/good minus bad/very bad) was 45.1% compared with 76.6% 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 2023 household survey.

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	40	10.0	33.0
	Semi-detached whole house or bungalow	160	40.0	33.8
	Terraced (including end-terrace) whole house or bungalow	80	20.0	18.6
	Flat, maisonette or apartment	75	18.8	13.8
	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	45	11.3	0.8
	Total	400	100.0	100.0
Tenure	Owned: Owns outright	60	14.8	31.1
	Owned: Owns with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership	20	4.9	33.6
	Private rented or lives rent free	45	11.1	23.2
	Rented Social rented	280	69.1	12.0
	Total	405	100.0	100.0
Occupancy	Occupancy rating of bedrooms 0 or more	285	70.4	94.2
	Occupancy rating of bedrooms -1 or less	120	29.6	5.8
	Total	405	100	100
Household composition	One person household: Aged 66 years and over	#	#	6.5
	One person household: Other	35	8.9	6.3
	Single family household: Couple family household: No children	20	5.1	14.2
	Single family household: Couple family household: Dependent children	95	24.1	28.0
	Single family household: Couple family household: All children non-dependent	15	3.8	8.4
	Single family household: Lone parent household	150	38.0	10.8
	Other household types	80	20.3	25.8
	Total	395	100.0	100.0
General health	Very Good	140	34.1	47.0
	Good	115	28.0	34.7
	Fair	85	20.7	13.2
	Bad	45	11.0	4.0
	Very Bad	25	6.1	1.1
	Total	410	100.0	100.0
	Net health score (VG+G-B-VB)		45.1	76.6

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#>

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 6 Traveller caravan counts (July 2019 to January 2023) for Canterbury District are set out in Table 4.2. Data shows an average of 90 caravans across the area. Of these, 26% were in council sites, and 74% were on private sites, with none recorded on unauthorised sites.

Table 4.2 Bi-annual Traveller caravan count figures Jul 19 to Jan 2023

Canterbury District	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)	Total
	Social Rented	Total Private (inc. temporary permission)	Total Unauthorised	
Jul-19	23	99	0	122
Jan-20	23	76	0	99
Jul-21	23	128	0	151
Jan-22	23	37	0	60
Jul-22	23	36	0	59
Jan-23	23	25	0	48
Latest 6-count average	23.0	66.8	0.0	89.8
Latest 6-Count % Average	26%	74%	0%	100%

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 past 2 years 2022 and 2023, there were no Travelling Showperson's' caravans recorded (Table 4.3) in Canterbury District. Between 2018 and 2020 there were 3 caravans recorded.

Table 4.3 Annual Travelling Showpeople caravan count figures January 2018 to January 2023

Canterbury District Count	Authorised sites with planning permission		Unauthorised sites without planning permission	Total
	Social Rented	Total Private	Total Unauthorised	
2018	0	3	0	3
2019	0	3	0	3
2020	0	3	0	3
2022	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0
Five-Count Average	0	1.8	0	1.8
Five-Count % Average	0	100.0	0	100.0

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 across Canterbury District. There are a total of 35 Gypsy and Traveller sites with 94 pitches (85 currently occupied and 2 vacant, with extended households living across 7 pitches), broken down further as:
- 1 council site, 18 pitches (17 occupied by 17 households, 1 vacant)
 - 22 private authorised sites, pitches (54 occupied by 49 households, 0 vacant).
 - 7 private temporary authorised sites, 17 pitches (16 occupied by 14 households, 1 vacant).
 - 5 unauthorised sites, 5 pitches (5 occupied by 5 households and 0 vacant)
- 4.12 Please note that on some sites the number of pitches does not match the number of households because some households occupy more than one pitch.
- 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.

Table 4.4 List of Gypsy & Traveller pitches on sites (as of September 2023)

Site Code	Site Name and Address	Postcode	Type of Site	Ownership	Total pitches	Total occupied	Total vacant	Total households	Household interviews achieved	Non response
LA1	Greenbridge Park, Vauxhall Road, Canterbury	CT1 1YZ	Permanent	Local Authority	18	17	1	17	12	5
Unauth2	Plot 3, Thanet Way, Lock/Chambers site, Thanet Way, Yorkletts	CT5 3AA	Unauthorised Development	Private	1	1		1	1	
Priv1	The Shannon, 9A Shallock Road, Broad Oak	CT2 0QD	Permanent	Private	2	1		1	1	
Priv2	Plot 1 Brookside, Whitehall Road, Canterbury	CT2 8AF	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	1	
Priv3	Plot 2 Brookside, Whitehall Road, Canterbury	CT2 8AF	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	1	
Priv4	Plot 3 Brookside, Whitehall Road, Canterbury	CT2 8AF	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	1	
Priv5	Plot 4 Brookside, Whitehall Road, Canterbury	CT2 8AF	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	0	1
Priv6	Underdown Orchard Nursery, Mystole Lane, Thruxted Lane, Chartham	CT4 7RT	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	1	
Priv7	Romany Green Acres, Well Lane, Fordwich	CT2 0DU	Permanent	Private	12	12		12	10	2

Site Code	Site Name and Address	Postcode	Type of Site	Ownership	Total pitches	Total occupied	Total vacant	Total households	Household interviews achieved	Non response
Priv8	The Caravans, Cherry Tree, Howfield Lane, Chartham Hatch	CT4 7NA	Permanent	Private	1	1		2	2	
Priv9	Land South of Total Petrol Station/ Broadstream, Broad Oak Road, Canterbury	CT2 7PX	Permanent	Private	1	0		0	0	
Priv10	The Cobbs, Upper Horton Lane, Cockering Road, Chartham	CT4 7LG	Permanent	Private	3	3		3	3	
Priv11	The Paddocks, Shalloak Road, Broadoak	CT2 0PT	Permanent	Private	2	2		2	0	2
Priv11	The Paddocks, West of Shalloak Road, Broadoak	CT2 0PT	Permanent	Private	4	4		4	0	4
Priv13	The Oaks, Highstreet Road, Dargate	ME13 9EN	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	1	
Priv14	Woodlands, Coombe Walk, Yorkletts, Whitstable	CT5 3AL	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	1	
Priv15	4 Pye Alley Farm, Pye Alley Lane, Clapham Hill, Whitstable	CT5 3AU	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	0	1
Priv16	The Oaks, Radfall Ride, Chestfield	CT5 3EW	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	1	

Site Code	Site Name and Address	Postcode	Type of Site	Ownership	Total pitches	Total occupied	Total vacant	Total households	Household interviews achieved	Non response
Priv17	Cartref , Radfall Ride, Chestfield	CT5 3EW	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	1	
Priv18	The Paddock, Ford Road, Broomfield, Herne Bay	CT6 7AD	Permanent	Private	1	1		1	1	
Priv19	Sandy Bank Farm, Old Tree Road, Hoath	CT3 4LE	Permanent	Private	3	1		1	1	
Priv20	Greenhill Caravans, West of Greenhill Roundabout, Thanet Way, Herne Bay (previously Land North Of The Thanet Way)	CT6 8BX	Permanent	Private	4	4		4	4	
Priv21	Moate Farm, Stodmarsh Road, Fordwich, Canterbury	CT3 4AP	Permanent	Private	10	10		10	5	5
Priv22	Caravan A, 9A Shalloak Road, Broad Oak, Sturry	CT2 0QD	Permanent	Private	1	0		0	0	
PrivTemp1	Brandywide Hollow Puddledock Wood, Nethergong Hill, Upstreet, Chislet	CT3 4DN	Temporary	Private	7	7		7	7	
PrivTemp2	1 Plot 5, Thanet Way, Yorkletts (Muddy Puddles)	CT5 3AH	Temporary	Private	1	1		1	1	
PrivTemp3	Hillside Paddocks, 34 Blean Hill, Blean	CT2 9EF	Temporary	Private	1		1	0		

Site Code	Site Name and Address	Postcode	Type of Site	Ownership	Total pitches	Total occupied	Total vacant	Total households	Household interviews achieved	Non response
PrivTemp4	Romany View, Hatch Lane, Chartham	CT4 7LP	Private Tolerated	Private	1	1		1	0	1
PrivTemp5	Land On South-West Side Of Dover Road Barham	CT4 6SA	Temporary	Private	1	1		1	0	1
PrivTemp6	The Chalet, Pilgrims Lane, Seasalter, Whitstable	CT5 3AP	Permanent (personal permission)	Private	1	1		1	1	
PrivTemp7	Prospect Farm, Thornden Wood Road, Herne Bay	CT6 7NU	Certificate of Lawful Use	Private	5	3		3	3	
Unauth4	Plot 7 , Thanet Way, Lee Site, Thanet Way, Yorkletts	CT5 3AA	Unauthorised Development	Private	1	1		1	0	1
Unauth6	Small Meadows, Iffin Lane, Chartham	CT4 7BD	Unauthorised Development	Private	1	1		1	0	1
Unauth7	Three Oaks, Land at New House Lane, Chartham, Canterbury	CT4 7BN	Unauthorised Development	Private	1	1		1	0	1
Unauth8	The Caravan, The Drove, Fordwich	CT2 0DE	Unauthorised Development	Private	1	1		1	1	
TOTAL					94	85	2	85	61	25

Notes

Non response was either due to households not being available after multiple visits or refusals

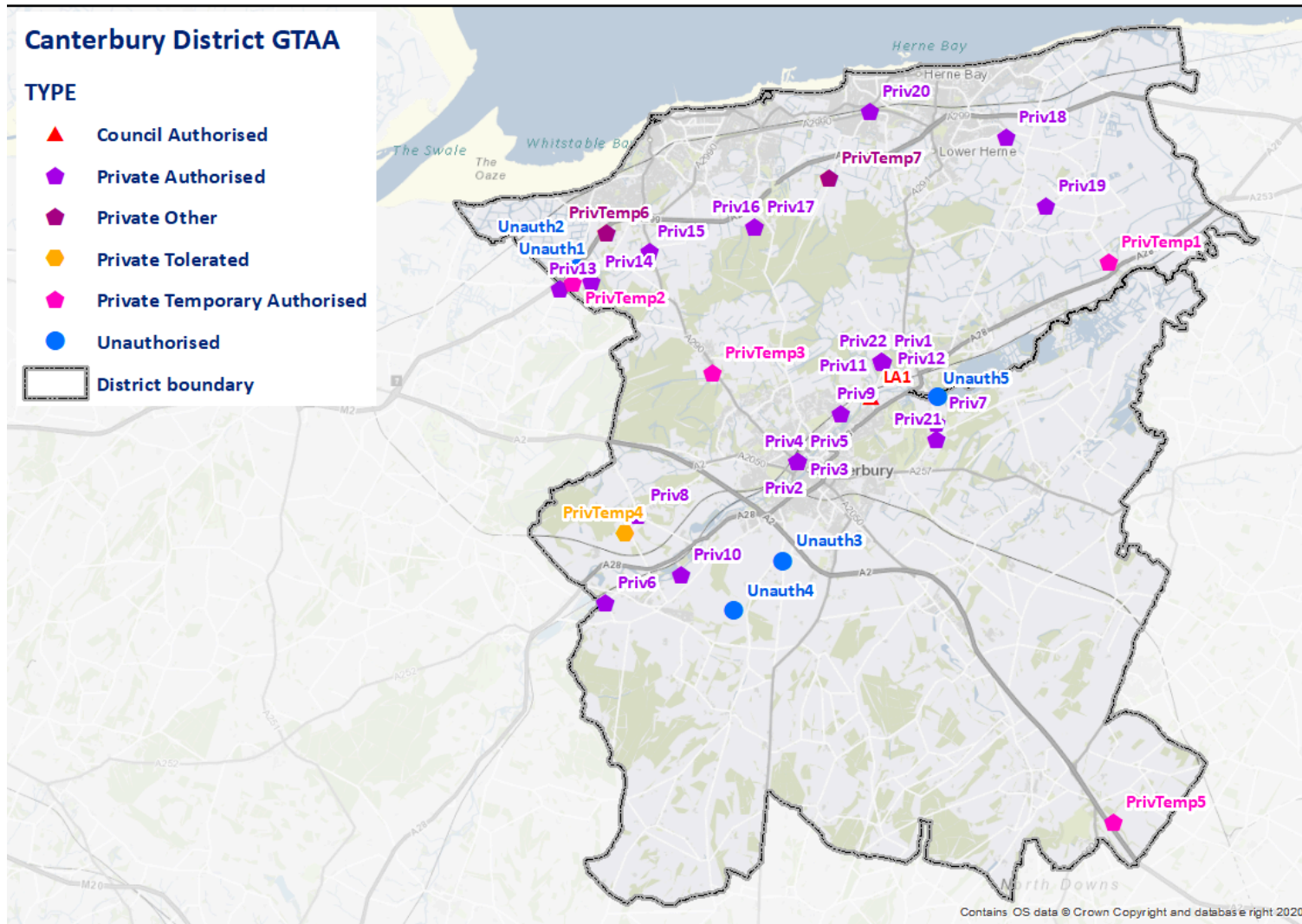
Table 4.5 Summary of sites, pitches, occupancy and response

Accommodation setting	No. Sites	No. Pitches	Total occupied	Vacant	Total households	Interview achieved	Non-response
Council site	1	18	17	1	17	12	5
Private site	22	54	49	0	50	35	15
Private Temporary site	7	17	14	1	14	12	2
Unauthorised site	5	5	5	0	5	2	3
TOTAL	35	94	85	2	86	61	25

Note: For non-responses, 15 were unavailable and 2 refused

The Paddocks, High Street, Dargate is now a bricks and mortar property and removed from the list of sites

Map 4.1 Location of Gypsy and Traveller sites and Travelling Showperson’s yard in Canterbury District



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 Canterbury District

- 5.2 A review of the characteristics of Gypsy and Traveller households living in Canterbury District has been based on data from a total of 62 households living on sites and in bricks and mortar accommodation and interviewed as part of the 2023/4 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=59): Of household representatives interviewed 81.4% described themselves as Gypsy (including Romany, Romany Gypsy and English Gypsy and 18.6% as Irish Traveller.
- 5.5 **Household size** (base=59): 25.4% of households were single person; 30.5% two person; 16.9% three person; 18.6% four person, 5.1% five person and 3.4% six or more people.
- 5.6 **Household type** (base=59): 25.4% were singles, 5.1% were single parents, 23.7% were couples, 22% were couples with child(ren) which can include non-dependent children, 23.7% 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 162 Gypsies and Travellers living on sites in Canterbury District. The age profile is: 19.8% were aged 13 or under, 4.9% aged 14-17, 17.3% aged 18-34, 24.1% aged 35-49, 24.7% aged 50-64 and 9.3% aged 65 and over.
- 5.8 **Length of residence** (base=56): 12.5% had lived at their current place of residence for less than 5 years, 23.2% between 5 and less than 10 years, 17.9% between 10 and less than 15 years, 16.1% between 15 and less than 20 years and 30.4% for 20 years or more.
- 5.9 **Overcrowding**: When asked if their home was overcrowded (base=57), 100% said no. When asked whether their pitch was overcrowded (base=57), 100% said no.
- 5.10 **Regarding the need for more residential pitches** (base=57), 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. 38.5% said there was a need for more and 61.5% said no more pitches were needed. 13 respondents stated a number and 85% said up to 5 pitches and 15% between 5 and 8 pitches.

Help and support needs

- 5.11 Respondents were asked if they had any broader help and support needs. Six respondents raised issues relating to old age and two references to children with medical needs. But there no specific support needs identified for which households required assistance.

Travelling Showpeople

- 5.12 There are no Travelling Showpeople currently living in Canterbury District.

Stakeholder summary

- 5.13 As part of our research, arc⁴ contacted a range of stakeholders to obtain feedback on Gypsy and Traveller matters which is now summarised. Please note these are the views of stakeholders (which included local authority officers, officers from neighbouring districts and community representatives) and not necessarily the views of the council or arc⁴.
- 5.14 The main issues raised are summarised below:
- Neighbouring local authority stakeholders commented that the strategic provision of transit sites across Kent is an important issue for all authorities across the county. The key strategic messages need to be led by the evidence base; the actual overall change in the number of pitches, and information on supply of sites and anticipated need for additional pitches over a sensible period
 - The Gypsy Council UK commented that there will always be a need for public pitches and potential sites need to be identified. This needs to be combined with education and training, to gain employment, access to health care, and everything that the wider community enjoys. Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople may lead a different lifestyle, but they are keen to point out that they are not strangers and should never be treated as such.
-

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 Canterbury. 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 (2023/24 to 2027/28). A longer-term model looks at need over the period to 2040/41 arising from children likely to need a pitch.
- 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 September 2023;
 - 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;
 - and data on households expected to occupy pitches on two major sites being developed in the district.
- 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 2040/41. This is based on the age profile of children under 13 living in Gypsy and Traveller households on pitches.

Canterbury 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 (1a to 1e)

- 6.10 These figures are derived from council data and site observation data. In summary there are a total of 86 households living on pitches (See Table 6.1).

Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (2)

- 6.11 The 2021 Census reports a total of 151 households of whom 89% live in bricks and mortar accommodation or around 134.

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 86 (total households) divided by 61 (total responses) = 1.41 .

Table 6.1 Summary of demand and supply factors: Gypsies and Travellers – 2023/24 to 2027/28

CULTURAL NEED		Canterbury District	
1	Households living on pitches	1a. On council sites	17
		1b. On authorised private sites	50
		1c. On private temporary authorised sites	14
		1d. On unauthorised sites	5
		1e. Total (1a to 1d)	86
2	Estimate of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation	2021 Census estimate	134
		Weighting for non-response	1.41
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)	0.0
		3b. To another site in district (no net impact)	0.0
		3c. From site to bricks and mortar (-)	1.4
		3d. To site/bricks and mortar outside district	1.4
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar	
		3e. Planning to move to a site in LA (+) (see note 1)	0.0
		3f. Planning to move to another B&M property (no net impact)	0.0
		In-migrant households	
		3g. Allowance for in-migration (+)	8.5
	3h. TOTAL Net impact (-3c-3d+3e+3g)	5.6	
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on site and planning to live on current site	0.0
		4b. Current on site and planning to live on another site in the district	10.0
		4c. Currently on site and planning to live outside the district	0.0
		4d. Currently in B&M planning to move to a site in LA (+)	0.0
		4e. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0.0
		4f. Currently on Site and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0.0
		4g. TOTAL (4a+4b+4d)	10.0
5	Total Need	1e+3h+4g	102
SUPPLY			
6	Current supply of authorised pitches	6a Current supply of occupied permanently authorised pitches	67
		6b. Vacant authorised pitches	1
		6c. Total current authorised supply (6a+6b)	68
RECONCILING NEED AND SUPPLY			
7	Total need for pitches	5 years (from 5)	102
8	Total supply of authorised pitches	5 years (from 6c)	68
5-YEAR AUTHORISED PITCH SHORTFALL 2023/24 TO 2027/28			34

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

6.13 This was derived from information from the 2023 household survey for respondents currently on pitches.

- 6.14 Evidence for existing households indicates a net +5.6 (weighted) pitch need based on existing households planning to move. This is the sum of rows 3a to 3h and includes an allowance for in-migration into the district.
- 6.15 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 7 households. However, there was little evidence of households actually moving from bricks and mortar to a site in the past 5 years. However, the model does take into account the specific needs arising from a household needing to move from bricks and mortar to a site.
- 6.16 The factors presented in Section 3 of the model result in an overall net requirement of +5.6 pitches (weighted) from existing households planning to move in the next 5 years.

Emerging households (4)

- 6.17 This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next 5 years based on 2023 household survey information and planning application data. The total number is +10 (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 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 (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 102 pitches (86 existing households on, a net need for 5.6 (weighted) pitches from existing households planning to move including in-migration and a need for 10 (weighted) pitches from emerging households).

Supply

Current supply of authorised pitches (6)

- 6.19 Modelling assumes a total supply of 68 pitches. There are a total of 67 authorised pitches and 1 vacant pitch on authorised sites.

Reconciling supply and need

- 6.20 There is a total need over the next five years (2023/24 to 2027/28) for 102 pitches in Canterbury (row 7) compared with a supply of 68 authorised pitches (row 8). The result is an overall need for 34 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 2028/29 to 2040/41. 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 Canterbury. This approach has been tested at inquiry and the assumption has been corroborated by several Travelling interviewees. Analysis would suggest a total need for 7 additional pitches over the period 2028/29-2040/41 (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 Canterbury

<i>Time period</i>	<i>No. children</i>	<i>No. pitches (rounded)</i>
2028/29 to 2032/33 (5 years)	14	7
2033/34 to 2037/38 (5 years)	20	10
2038/39 to 2040/41 (3 years)	6	3
Total (2028/29 to 2040/41) (13 years)	40	20

Overall plan period pitch need

- 6.23 Table 6.3 summarises the overall need for pitches across Canterbury over the period 2023/24 to 2040/41. 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 2040/41

Period	Pitch need
5yr Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2023/24 to 2027/28) (A)	34
Longer-term need	
Over period 2028/29 to 2032/33 (B)	7
Over period 2033/34 to 2037/38(C)	10
Over period 2038/39 to 2040/41 (D)	3
Longer-term need TOTAL to 2040/41 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)	20
NET SHORTFALL 2023/24 to 2040/41 (A+E) (18 years)	54
Annual net shortfall	3

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 Turnover on the council site is very low and 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:
- 17 pitches that are either on a temporary authorised, tolerated or have a certificate of lawful use (14 occupied, with some households occupying more than one pitch, 1 vacant)
 - 5 unauthorised pitches (5 occupied, 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 between 30 and 32 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	
		Minimum	Maximum
Priv 6	Underdown Orchard Nursery, CT4 7RT	3	3
Priv 7	Romany Green Acres, Well Lane, Fordwich, CT2 ODU	2	4
Priv 8	The Caravans, Howfield Lane, CT4 7NA	2	2
Priv 17	Cartef, CT5 8EW	6	6
Priv 18	The Paddock, Ford Road, Broomfield, CT6 7AD	8	8
Priv 20	Greenhill Caravans, West of Greenhill Roundabout, Thanet Way, Herne Bay (previously Land North Of The Thanet Way)	2	2
Priv Temp 2	Muddy Puddles, CT5 3AH	4	4
Priv Temp 7	Prospect Farm CT6 7NU	3	3
TOTAL		30	32

Vacant pitches on private sites

6.29 There was one vacant pitch on authorised sites which is included in the five-year needs model as an element of supply. In addition, there was 1 vacant pitch on a site that was not authorised.

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

6.30 The overall pitch need over the next 5 years (2023/24 to 2027/28) is 34. There is a further need from 2028/29 to 2040/41 for 20 pitches, resulting in an overall need for 54 pitches.

6.31 There is a potential supply of additional pitches through:

- Regularisation (22 pitches)

- Potential expansion/intensification (30 to 32 pitches)
 - One pitch on a private temporary authorised site
- 6.32 This potential supply could provide between 53 and 55 additional pitches. This has the potential to meet both the five-year and longer-term needs.
- 6.33 Further work is recommended to review the potential for additional pitch development on existing sites and the occupancy of permanent pitches.
- 6.34 Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into Canterbury. It is therefore recommended the council has criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for private sites should they arise.
- 6.35 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

- 6.36 Households were asked about tenure preferences for new sites and some responded (base=20). Tenure preferences were 67% for council sites and 33% for private sites.

Transit requirements

- 6.37 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.
- 6.38 Households interviewed were asked their views on transit provision (base=57) and a limited need for transit provision was reflected in their responses:
- 26.3% said there was an overall need for places where people can stop whilst travelling through the district and 73.7% said there was no need.
 - 26.3% said there was a need transit sites and 73.7% said there was no need.
 - Of those who said there was a need (base = 15), 12 stated a need, and all said up to 5 pitches. Responses slightly favoured council ownership (71%) compared with private ownership (29%).
 - When asked about stopping places (base=57), 9% said they were needed and 91% said they were not needed. Those stating a need (base=5), all stated a need for 5 or less pitches and all said they should be provided by the council.
- 6.39 An indicator of transit need is unauthorised encampment activity and data for Canterbury District are now presented.

6.40 Over the six-year period 2017/18 to 2022/23, there were 55 recorded instances of unauthorised encampment activity (Table 6.5). Over this period:

- The number of caravans on unauthorised encampments has ranged between 1 and 25
- The median number of caravans on an encampment has been 5
- The modal number (the most frequently recorded number of caravans) was 2.

Table 6.5 Unauthorised encampment activity in Canterbury District 2017/18 to 2022/23

Number of encampments recorded	55 encampments (2017/18=17, 2018/19=10, 2019/20 =6; 2020/21=13, 2021/22=5; 2022/23=4)	
Number of caravans	Average	6
	Median	5
	Mode (most frequent number)	2
	Range	1 to 25

Note: data on number of caravans not recorded for 17 unauthorised encampments

Source: Council data

6.41 Table 6.6 shows the distribution in the number of caravans reported on unauthorised encampments. Almost half of encampments had fewer than 5 caravans and overall, 84.2% of encampments had fewer than 10 caravans.

Table 6.6 Number of caravans recorded on unauthorised encampments: Canterbury 2017/18 to 2022/23

Number of caravans	Frequency	%	Cumulative %
<3	10	26.3	26.3
3 to <5	8	21.1	47.4
5 to <10	14	36.8	84.2
10 to <15	4	10.5	94.7
15 to <20	1	2.6	97.4
20 or more	1	2.6	100.0
Total	38	100.0	

Source: Council data

- 6.42 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).
- 6.43 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. It is recommended that the council continues discussions with local planning authorities across Kent to determine the level of need and how this can be provided for.
- 6.44 There is currently no Travelling Showperson provision in Canterbury. It is recommended that the council maintains a criteria-based policy to consider any applications coming forward over the plan period.

7. Conclusion and response

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

Current accommodation

7.2 There are well-established Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson communities living across Canterbury.

7.3 There are a total of 35 Gypsy and Traveller sites with 94 pitches (85 currently occupied and 2 vacant, with extended households living across 7 pitches), broken down further as:

- 1 council site, 18 pitches (17 occupied by 17 households, 1 vacant)
- 22 private authorised sites, pitches (54 occupied by 49 households, 0 vacant).
- 7 private temporary authorised sites, 17 pitches (16 occupied by 14 households, 1 vacant).
- 5 unauthorised sites, 5 pitches (5 occupied by 5 households and 0 vacant)

7.4 Please note that on some sites the number of pitches does not match the number of households because some households occupy more than one pitch.

7.5 There currently no Travelling Showperson yards.

Future Gypsy and Traveller residential need

7.6 There is an overall need for 54 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches across Canterbury over the period 2023/24 to 2040/41. Needs analysis considers the needs arising from existing households, households on unauthorised sites, newly forming households, in-migrant households and current vacancies on existing public and private sites. Household formation and net in-migration is the key driver of future need.

7.7 In order to meet its need for pitches, the council is recommended to consider intensifying and expanding existing sites; and regularising temporary authorised, tolerated and unauthorised sites where possible.

7.8 This potential supply could provide between 53 and 55 additional pitches through regularisation, intensification and expansion of existing sites. This has the potential to meet short- and longer-term need to 2040/41.

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

- 7.10 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 Canterbury 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

- 7.11 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. Based on the evidence of unauthorised encampment activity, it is recommended that the council continues discussions with local planning authorities across Kent to determine the level of need and how this could be provided for.

Travelling Showperson need

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

Future updating

- 7.13 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 and Travelling Showpeople population across Canterbury.

Appendix A: Gypsy and Traveller Fieldwork Questionnaire

	Date and Time			
	Site Reference			
	Address			
	General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and Data Protection	GDPR came into effect from 25th May 2018. This provides rights of people to control personal data held about them by organisations		
		This study is being done for the City of Canterbury 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. The information you provide will not be used for any other purpose.		
		The information you provide will not be used to identify you personally, will be kept strictly confidential		
		Can you please say if you are happy to carry on with the questionnaire on this basis?	Yes	No
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	Anyone else use this pitch as their home? If so, who			
9	Household characteristics			
		Gender	Age	Relationship to respondent
	Respondent			
	Person 2			
	Person 3			
	Person 4			
	Person 5			
	Person 6			
	Person 7			
	Person 8			
10	Ethnicity			
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				
	In 2015, the Government changed its definition of Gypsies and Travellers for planning purposes. To be recognised as a Gypsy Traveller you or someone in your household has to travel (nomadic habit of life). I'm now going to ask a few questions about whether you or someone in your household travels			
16	In the last year have you or someone in your household travelled?	Y / N		
17	Previous to the last year, did you or someone in your household travel?	Y / N		
18	Reason(s) for travelling			
19	Please describe when and where do you travel? (if relevant)			
20	Do you or a member of your household plan to travel next year?	Y / N		
21	Do you think you or a member of your household will travel in the next two to five years?	Y / N		
22	What reasons do you or your household have for not travelling now or in the future?			
Where you plan to live in the future				
23	Are you planning to move to another place to live in the next 5 years?	Y / N		
24	Why are you planning to move ?			
25	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)			
26	What type of dwelling ? (caravan, trailer, chalet, house, flat, bungalow)			
26a	If pitch, single (one static) or double pitch (for two statics)			
If in B&M housing				
27	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		
28	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)?	Y / N		
Emerging households				
29	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
30	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)			
31	What type of dwelling ? (caravan, trailer, chalet, house, flat, bungalow)			
31a	If pitch, single (one static) or double pitch (for two statics)			
32	Have they travelled / plan to travel ?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
33	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

Additional residential pitches		
34	Scope to expand site (extend the boundary of the site)	Y / N
35	No. additional pitches	
36	Scope to intensify pitches (put more pitches on the existing site)	Y / N
37	No. additional pitches	
38	Are there any vacant pitches on the site which could be used by another family? If so how many pitches	
39	In general, is there a need for more authorised pitches (for people to live on all the time?) in this district?	Y / N
40	If so, now many are needed?	
41	Who should own them (Council, people from the Traveller Community, non-Travellers)	
42	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		
43	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
44	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
45	If so, how many are needed?	
46	Who should manage them ? (Council, Traveller Community)	
47	Where should they be located?	
48	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 porta-loos, waste disposal and water	Y / N
49	If so, how many are needed?	
50	Who should manage them ? (Council, Traveller Community)	
51	Where should they be located?	
Residential history		
52	How many years have you lived here?	
Routing	If more than five years	Go to Q58
	If five years or less	Go to Q53
53	Where did you move from? (District)	
54	Were you living on a Private Site, Council Site, Roadside or Bricks and Mortar housing?	
55	When you moved here, was the pitch vacant, a brand new pitch or had the pitch been created by dividing up an existing pitch?	
56	What were the reasons for moving here?	
57	Did you already have a connection with the area ? (e.g. family or friends living here; or you used to live here?)	
Support needs		
58	Do you or a member of your household have any health-related or support needs? Could you please explain what they are?	
Final questions		
59	Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your housing or support needs?	
60	Do you know anyone in bricks and mortar housing looking to live on a pitch? If so, can you provide contact details	

Appendix B: Glossary of terms

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.

DLUHC: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Formerly Department for Communities and Local Government; created in May 2006 and responsible for the remit on Gypsies and Travellers during the period the PPTS was written. It was renamed in 2018 as MHCLG (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government) and in 2021 it was renamed again as DLUHC.

Gypsies and Travellers: Defined by DLUHC *Planning policy for traveller sites* (December 2023 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”. The planning policy goes on to state that, “In determining whether persons are “gypsies and travellers” for the purposes of this planning policy, consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters: a) whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life b) the reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life c) whether there is an intention of living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances”.

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).

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

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) 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)

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.

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* (August 2015) 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, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above”.

Site: 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 Showpeople.

Yards: 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.