

# **Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment 2012/13**

**Executive Report for Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and South Northamptonshire Council**

**January 2013**



**Main Contact: Michael Bullock**

arc<sup>4</sup> Ltd

Email: [michael.bullock@arc4.co.uk](mailto:michael.bullock@arc4.co.uk)

Website: [www.arc4.co.uk](http://www.arc4.co.uk)

**Publishing Date:** January 2013

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Methodology	4
Legislative and policy context	5
The current picture: population, provision and pitch availability	5
Pitch requirements	8
Travelling practices and experiences	9
Wider service and support needs	10
Local authority summaries	11
Key issues and how to tackle them	12

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

In January 2012 arc<sup>4</sup>, working in partnership with Homespace Sustainable Accommodation (Homespace SA), were commissioned by the District Councils of Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment to identify the needs of Gypsies and Travellers from across the three districts.

The overall objective of the research was to provide a robust evidence base to inform future reviews of Supporting People Strategies, Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), and housing strategies.

## Methodology

The methodology for this study comprised:

- Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers;
- Desktop analysis of existing documents, data and pitch information; and
- A Key Stakeholder on-line Questionnaire for professionals who have direct contact with local Gypsy and Traveller communities.

The primary fieldwork for this study comprised survey work with Gypsies and Travellers. This work was managed by Homespace SA and undertaken by Gypsy and Traveller fieldworkers. Homespace SA was involved in the design of the questionnaire and in the recruitment of fieldworkers. A total of 142 interviews were secured (Table ES1), 99 with households living on a pitch on a private site, 13 living on local authority sites and 30 with people living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

**Table ES1** Summary of achieved interviews by District and type of dwelling

Location	District			Total
	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	
On Local Authority Site	0	13	0	<b>13</b>
On Private Site	61	14	24	<b>99</b>
In Bricks and Mortar Accommodation	19	11	0	<b>30</b>
Total	80	38	24	<b>142</b>

In conjunction with interviews with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community, a range of complementary research methods have been used to permit the triangulation of results.

## Legislative and policy context

The report sets out the legislative and policy context within which the local authorities are working to address the needs of Gypsies and Travellers, which includes new guidance and definitions set out within the National Planning Policy Framework and the *Planning policy for traveller sites* documentation from CLG. The following definition of Gypsies and Travellers is adopted:

*'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.'*

It is within this policy context that the local planning authorities will have to plan future provision for Gypsies and Travellers across their respective areas. The new National Planning policy emphasises the role of evidence and how it should be used within this context.

Paragraphs 8 and 9 of *Planning policy for traveller sites* state that;

*'Local planning authorities should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling show people which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities'.*

*Local planning authorities should:*

- a) Identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;*
- b) Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten 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 across its area (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.*

## The current picture: population, provision and pitch availability

According to CLG estimates (Table ES2) 0.6% of the population are Gypsies and Travellers. Applying this population data for the three local authority areas would result in a figure of around 851 residents in Cherwell, 629 in West Oxfordshire and 511 in South Northamptonshire.

**Table ES2** Estimate of Gypsy and Traveller Population (based on CLG, 2007)

District	Total Population <sup>1</sup>	Estimate of Gypsy and Traveller Population (0.6%)
Cherwell	141,900	851
West Oxfordshire	104,800	629
South Northamptonshire	85,200	511

The extent of current authorised provision across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire is as follows:

- There are 83 authorised pitches across West Oxfordshire across ten sites;
- There are 70 pitches across seven sites in Cherwell; and
- In South Northamptonshire there are only three authorised pitches on one private site.

In total, across the three areas, as of 31st March 2012 there are 156 authorised pitches across 18 sites

In terms of unauthorised sites, in West Oxfordshire and Cherwell the number of unauthorised sites had been falling, with 13 encampments recorded in 2008 and 2009, and 10 in 2010. However in 2011 the number rose to 20, with the majority of these incidents taking place between June and September 2011. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 there were four reported unauthorised encampments in Cherwell, two in West Oxfordshire and two in South Northamptonshire. A site at Deanshanger in South Northamptonshire is a long-standing tolerated unauthorised site, located on land owned by Northamptonshire County Council that was acquired via Compulsory Purchase following road improvements to the A422 over ten years ago.

## Tenure

Overall, 51.5% of respondents owned their own home, 34.6% rented privately, 10.8% rented from the Council and 3.1% rented from a Housing Association. Of those living on a pitch on a site, 57% owned, 34% rented privately and 9% rented from a social landlord. Of those living in bricks and mortar accommodation, 36.7% rented privately, 33% owned their own home and 30% rented from a social landlord

## Facilities

Facilities vary from site to site, and were generally inadequate to meet the needs and requirements of residents. Analysis of responses shows that only 47.3% of respondents living on a pitch on a site had a shed; access to kitchens, toilets and bathrooms was overwhelmingly poor and few respondents had access to laundry facilities. Only 37.5% respondents had access to mains water and sewerage facilities.

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS, 2011 Census

There was a significant incidence of shared facilities with 29.6% of respondents sharing a toilet, 25.4% of respondents sharing a bath with another household, 9.2% a kitchen and 3.5% a laundry. This is a situation commonly faced by residents on sites across the study area.

## Repairs and improvements

In terms of repairs and improvements needed for those living on pitches on a site, the biggest problems were associated with the need for more space on a pitch, with 94.3% finding a lack of space problematic. There were also issues with kitchens/bathrooms, particularly in West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire. CLG guidance states that sites should provide, as a minimum, access to a separate toilet, bath/shower room, and a kitchen and dining area should be provided. This is clearly problematic on a number of sites within the study area.

For respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation a range of issues were identified including a lack of space and improvements needed to bathroom and kitchen facilities, drives, roofs, doors and windows.

## Space standards and overcrowding

73.9% of respondents felt there was sufficient space overall on their pitch. Respondents in South Northamptonshire were most likely to state there was insufficient space, with 57.9% stating this.

The majority of respondents (93.7%) did not feel that their home was overcrowded; compared to only 6.3% who did. Overcrowding would seem to be a greater issue in South Northamptonshire where 16.7% of respondents described themselves as overcrowded. No-one living in bricks and mortar accommodation felt that they were overcrowded.

## Satisfaction and safety

Satisfaction with the location of the home of respondents is high, with 77.1% overall stating that they were very satisfied or satisfied. Only 1.4% stated a degree of dissatisfaction.

Interviewees were asked how happy they were with the neighbourhood in which they were located; overall the majority of respondents were either very happy or happy (80.7%) with their neighbourhood.

In terms of safety, virtually all (97.8%) of respondents felt safe in their neighbourhood, although respondents living in bricks and mortar were more likely to say they did not feel safe (7.4%) compared with 0.9% of respondents living on pitches.

## Cost of accommodation and services

Respondents were asked about the cost of accommodation and services provided. On the basis of responses given, the majority of respondents (96.3%) paid between £60 and £70 each week for their accommodation. Most people living on pitches paid

up to £70 each week with the exception of South Northamptonshire where only 25% paid up to £70 per week; here 50% of respondents paid between £100 and £150 each week.

The cost of services (in particular gas, electricity and oil) was identified as an issue across the majority of respondents, in particular those living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

## Planned moves

Respondents were asked whether they planned to move over the next five years. The vast majority of residents plan to stay where they are (112 out of 130 respondents).

## Pitch requirements

There is a total demand over the next five years (2012/13 to 2016/17) for five pitches in Cherwell, six in West Oxfordshire and six in South Northamptonshire (Table ES3).

**Table ES3** Summary of current pitch supply and shortfalls 2012/13 to 2016/17

	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
Existing supply (at 31st March 2012)	70	83	10 <sup>2</sup>	163
Future pitch requirements 2012/13 to 2016/17	5	6	6	17

Modelling assumes a five year time horizon but it is feasible to extrapolate the findings over a longer time-frame. Assuming there is no significant change in demand for pitches or pitch availability; analysis would suggest a total 15 year requirement (2012/13 to 2026/27) of 15 pitches in Cherwell, 18 in West Oxfordshire and 18 in South Northamptonshire (see Table ES4).

**Table ES4** Summary of current pitch supply and shortfalls 2012/13 to 2026/27

	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
Existing supply (at 31st March 2012)	70	83	10 <sup>3</sup>	163
Future pitch requirements 2012/13 to 2026/27	15	18	18	51

<sup>2/3</sup> Note: Of the existing supply (10), 7 are from tolerated unauthorised pitches.



## Type of new provision

Respondents were asked if there is a need for new permanent sites for Gypsies and Travellers across the three districts and, if so, what sort of provision this should be and where should it be located.

The majority of respondents, 125 out of 131, agreed that there was a need for new provision across the three Districts. Respondents from Cherwell and West Oxfordshire also agreed this new provision should be owned and managed privately by non-Gypsies and Travellers (69.4% Cherwell, 56.3% West Oxfordshire - 64.9% overall). Only 18.1% of respondents wanted new provision to be managed by Housing Associations, and 15.6% by Councils. No views were expressed by respondents from South Northamptonshire.

The greatest expressed preference for location of new provision was for Oxford and Headington. Respondents were asked how many new pitches they felt were needed in their current district of residence over the next five years. A majority of respondents in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire suggested up to 20 additional pitches. Across South Northamptonshire, a majority of respondents felt there was a need for at least 20 additional pitches over the next five years.

## Travelling practices and experiences

Around half of respondents (46.8%) had travelled in the previous year, but this varied according to dwelling type, with 58.2% of those on pitches on sites having travelled compared with 34.5% of those living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Of respondents that had travelled in the previous year, a majority (58.4%) had travelled for less than one month, with 18.1% travelling for less than 13 days and 40.3% travelling for between two weeks and one month. A further 30.6% travelled for between one and three months, with 11.2% travelling for at least three months but not more than ten months.

A range of problems can be experienced whilst travelling and respondents were asked to identify these. Most frequently the problems mentioned were no places to stop over (83.6%) and the closing of traditional stopping places (82.1%). Other frequently mentioned problems included police behaviour (64.2%), lack of toilet facilities (61.2%) and abuse, harassment or discrimination (58.2%).

## Transit sites

Views were sought on the current provision of transit sites across the Districts and 86.4% of respondents said that there was a need for provision of new transit sites across all three Districts, whilst 13.6% said not. At District level, 86.3% of respondents in Cherwell, 91.7% in South Northamptonshire and 82.9% in West Oxfordshire felt that there was a need for additional transit sites to be provided.

## Homelessness

Overall 21.3% of respondents said that they had experienced homelessness within the past five years. Rates of homelessness were higher amongst those living on a pitch on a site, at 22% compared to 18.5% for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

## Wider service and support needs

The vast majority of respondents interviewed stated that they were registered with a doctor (89.4%) and 58.5% were registered with a dentist. The proportion of respondents registered with a doctor and dentist were consistently higher amongst residents living in bricks and mortar accommodation; residents in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire were also more likely to be registered.

The most used services were Doctor (GP) and Dentist. GP services were accessed by 91.3% of respondents in South Northamptonshire, 90.8% of respondents in Cherwell and 83.3% in West Oxfordshire. Dentists were accessed by 64.5% of respondents in Cherwell, 77.8% of respondents in West Oxfordshire and 52.2% of respondents in South Northamptonshire.

The proportion of respondents using other services tended to be considerably lower. For instance, the next most frequently used services by respondents in Cherwell is the Citizens' Advice Bureau (32.9%), Traveller Liaison Service (26.3%) and Accident and Emergency services (26.3%). In South Northamptonshire, the next most frequently used services are Accident and Emergency (30.4%) and Traveller Education (17.4%). In West Oxfordshire the next most frequently used services are Citizens Advice Bureaux (22.2%), Traveller Education (19.4%) and Traveller Liaison (19.4%).

## Long term illness and disability

Arthritis and asthma are the main long-term illnesses identified, with particularly high levels amongst those living on pitches on sites. Similarly, incidences of depression (the next most common long-term illness in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire) are higher amongst those living on a pitch on a site than for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation. In both Cherwell and South Northamptonshire issues with hearing and sight were particularly noted.

## Stakeholder consultation

Stakeholders identified the following key issues as those most affecting Gypsies and Travellers across the three districts:

- Lack of land/sites;
- Prejudice and discrimination;
- Illiteracy;
- Lack of job opportunities;

- Isolation;
- Access to healthcare;
- Lack of understanding from settled community; and
- Lack of local authority commitment to facilitate additional provision.

## Local authority summaries

### Cherwell

Across Cherwell District there are seven private sites with a total of 70 pitches. The largest sites are Smiths Caravan Site, Bloxham with 36 pitches and Bicester Trailer Park (Rossiters) in Bicester with 8 pitches.

An analysis of future demand which takes into account current pitch provision, future moving intentions of existing households and emerging need from newly-forming households, indicates a shortfall of 5 pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and a shortfall of 15 pitches over the fifteen years 2012/13 to 2026/27. This should be viewed as a minimum requirement based on the data received from the Gypsy and Traveller community and regularly reviewed.

A key option available to deliver additional pitch provision is the granting of planning permissions for the expansion of existing sites (e.g. Rossiters in Bicester)

### West Oxfordshire

Across West Oxfordshire District there is one Local Authority site at Standlake (16 pitches) and 67 pitches across nine sites, the largest of which are Ting Tang Lane (23 pitches) and the Beeches near Chadlington (20 pitches).

An analysis of future demand which takes into account current pitch provision, future moving intentions of existing households and emerging need from newly-forming households, indicates a shortfall of 6 pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and a shortfall of 18 pitches over the fifteen years 2012/13 to 2026/27. This should be viewed as a minimum requirement based on the data received from the Gypsy and Traveller community and regularly reviewed.

Key options available to deliver additional pitch provision are the granting of planning permissions for the expansion of existing sites and a review of unauthorised sites to explore if planning permission can be granted on them.

### South Northamptonshire

Across South Northamptonshire there is one authorised private site at Abthorpe and a tolerated site at Deanshanger.

An analysis of future demand which takes into account current pitch provision, future moving intentions of existing households and emerging need from newly-forming households, indicates a shortfall of 6 pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and a shortfall of 18 pitches over the fifteen years 2012/13 to 2026/27. This

should be viewed as a minimum requirement based on the data received from the Gypsy and Traveller community and regularly reviewed.

A key challenge for South Northamptonshire is to improve the accommodation situation of households living at Deanshanger. This is a well-established unauthorised encampment but conditions are poor and overcrowded pitches commonplace. Options would include authorising the site or providing an alternative site for households currently residing on the site.

## Key issues and how to tackle them

The key priority issues identified by the research include:

- Meeting pitch requirements;
- Addressing poor conditions on existing sites; and
- Tackling wider service and support needs.

## Recommendations for meeting pitch requirements

To enable the Districts to meet the identified pitch requirements it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That the Districts continue to work collaboratively to meet identified need;
- That mechanisms are established to enable effective engagement with both settled and Traveller communities about identifying future sites;
- That appropriate sites are identified to meet requirements;
- That needs are monitored on an on-going basis;
- That options to secure provision of pitches through planning gain and exception sites are pursued;
- That the use of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to meet needs is explored;
- That consideration is given to disposal of publicly owned land to meet pitch requirements;
- That consideration is given as to the ways in which Gypsies and Travellers can be supported through the planning application process;
- That a key point of contact is identified for each local authority to deal with all matters relating to Gypsy and Travellers;
- That key stakeholders are kept up-to-date and fully briefed on progress;
- That resources are identified to develop a proactive communications strategy, starting with dissemination of these research findings, to enable positive media coverage of Gypsy and Traveller issues;
- That, where necessary, training is provided for staff and elected members to promote better cultural understanding, counter prejudice and aid communication; and

- Develop demarked transit/stop-over provision on permanent sites to ensure effective management.

### Recommendations for addressing poor conditions on sites

To enable the Districts to address issues linked to poor site condition it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That all planning applications ensure decent site design and layout, that is developed in partnership with the Gypsy and Traveller community, and is in accordance with CLG Design Guidance as a minimum;
- That appropriate planning policy guidance in respect of site design and layout is adopted within the three District's Local Plans; and
- That improvements in conditions on existing pitches are encouraged through on-going dialogue and partnership working with Gypsy and Traveller communities.

### Recommendations for tackling wider service and support needs

To enable the Districts to tackle wider service and support needs it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That, in line with the best practice set out within this chapter, the Councils review how they engage with Gypsy and Traveller communities locally, and develop new methods of long-term, on-going engagement;
- Provision of additional support to Gypsy and Traveller communities to enable them to better access services and support;
- That the District councils liaise with Traveller Education services and local colleges and schools to identify opportunities to support and facilitate opportunities to improve literacy amongst Gypsy and Traveller communities;
- Continue to work with healthcare professionals to improve health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers, including working to improve property conditions, which adversely impact upon the health of those living on pitches on sites.

# **Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment 2012/13**

**Final Report for Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and South Northamptonshire Council**

**January 2013**



**Main Contact: Michael Bullock**

arc<sup>4</sup> Ltd

Email: [michael.bullock@arc4.co.uk](mailto:michael.bullock@arc4.co.uk)

Website: [www.arc4.co.uk](http://www.arc4.co.uk)

**Publishing Date:** January 2013

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
Introduction	5
Methodology	5
Legislative and policy context	6
The current picture: population, provision and pitch availability	6
Pitch requirements	9
Travelling practices and experiences	10
Wider service and support needs	11
Local authority summaries	12
Key issues and how to tackle them	13
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>15</b>
Study Components	16
Phase 1: Literature/desktop review and stakeholder discussions	16
Phase 2: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire	17
Phase 3: Production of report	17
<b>2. Methodology</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>3. Legislative and Policy Context</b>	<b>22</b>
Legislative background	22
Policy background	22
CLG Design Guidance	26
<b>4. The Current Picture: provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites</b>	<b>29</b>
Provision of authorised sites	29
Provision of unauthorised sites/encampments	33
<b>5. The Current Picture: Gypsy and Traveller population and pitch availability</b>	<b>35</b>
Population Estimates	35
Caravan Counts and Authorised Pitches	35
Facilities on pitches	40
Amenities elsewhere on the site	41
Overcrowding	52
Feelings about neighbourhood, safety and security	58
<b>6. Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Requirements</b>	<b>64</b>
Description of factors in the model	67
Demand	67
Supply	67
Reconciling supply and demand	67
Longer-term requirements	68
Type of new provision	69
<b>7. Travelling practices and experiences</b>	<b>72</b>
Homelessness	77



<b>8. Wider Service and Support Needs</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>9. Summary of Findings</b>	<b>86</b>
Headline findings from the research	86
Local authority summaries	88
<b>10. Conclusion and Strategic Response</b>	<b>90</b>
Key issues and how to tackle them	90
<b>Appendix A: Legislative Background</b>	<b>102</b>
Overall approach	102
<b>Appendix B: Policy and Guidance</b>	<b>105</b>
Introduction	105
<b>Appendix C: Fieldwork Questionnaire</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Appendix D: Stakeholder Consultation</b>	<b>127</b>
Overall approach	127
Stakeholder questions and responses	130
<b>Appendix E: Glossary of Terms</b>	<b>139</b>

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

In January 2012 arc<sup>4</sup>, working in partnership with Homespace Sustainable Accommodation (Homespace SA), were commissioned by the District Councils of Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment to identify the needs of Gypsies and Travellers from across the three districts.

The overall objective of the research was to provide a robust evidence base to inform future reviews of Supporting People Strategies, Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), and housing strategies.

## Methodology

The methodology for this study comprised:

- Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers;
- Desktop analysis of existing documents, data and pitch information; and
- A Key Stakeholder on-line Questionnaire for professionals who have direct contact with local Gypsy and Traveller communities.

The primary fieldwork for this study comprised survey work with Gypsies and Travellers. This work was managed by Homespace SA and undertaken by Gypsy and Traveller fieldworkers. Homespace SA was involved in the design of the questionnaire and in the recruitment of fieldworkers. A total of 142 interviews were secured (Table ES1), 99 with households living on a pitch on a private site, 13 living on local authority sites and 30 with people living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

**Table ES1** Summary of achieved interviews by District and type of dwelling

Location	District			Total
	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	
On Local Authority Site	0	13	0	<b>13</b>
On Private Site	61	14	24	<b>99</b>
In Bricks and Mortar Accommodation	19	11	0	<b>30</b>
Total	80	38	24	<b>142</b>

In conjunction with interviews with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community, a range of complementary research methods have been used to permit the triangulation of results.

## Legislative and policy context

The report sets out the legislative and policy context within which the local authorities are working to address the needs of Gypsies and Travellers, which includes new guidance and definitions set out within the National Planning Policy Framework and the *Planning policy for traveller sites* documentation from CLG. The following definition of Gypsies and Travellers is adopted:

*'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.'*

It is within this policy context that the local planning authorities will have to plan future provision for Gypsies and Travellers across their respective areas. The new National Planning policy emphasises the role of evidence and how it should be used within this context.

Paragraphs 8 and 9 of *Planning policy for traveller sites* state that;

*'Local planning authorities should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling show people which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities'.*

*Local planning authorities should:*

- a) Identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;*
- b) Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten 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 across its area (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.*

## The current picture: population, provision and pitch availability

According to CLG estimates (Table ES2) 0.6% of the population are Gypsies and Travellers. Applying this population data for the three local authority areas would result in a figure of around 851 residents in Cherwell, 629 in West Oxfordshire and 511 in South Northamptonshire.

**Table ES2** Estimate of Gypsy and Traveller Population (based on CLG, 2007)

District	Total Population <sup>1</sup>	Estimate of Gypsy and Traveller Population (0.6%)
Cherwell	141,900	851
West Oxfordshire	104,800	629
South Northamptonshire	85,200	511

The extent of current authorised provision across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire is as follows:

- There are 83 authorised pitches across West Oxfordshire across ten sites;
- There are 70 pitches across seven sites in Cherwell; and
- In South Northamptonshire there are only three authorised pitches on one private site.

In total, across the three areas, as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 there are 156 authorised pitches across 18 sites

In terms of unauthorised sites, in West Oxfordshire and Cherwell the number of unauthorised sites had been falling, with 13 encampments recorded in 2008 and 2009, and 10 in 2010. However in 2011 the number rose to 20, with the majority of these incidents taking place between June and September 2011. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 there were four reported unauthorised encampments in Cherwell, two in West Oxfordshire and two in South Northamptonshire. A site at Deanshanger in South Northamptonshire is a long-standing tolerated unauthorised site, located on land owned by Northamptonshire County Council that was acquired via Compulsory Purchase following road improvements to the A422 over ten years ago.

## Tenure

Overall, 51.5% of respondents owned their own home, 34.6% rented privately, 10.8% rented from the Council and 3.1% rented from a Housing Association. Of those living on a pitch on a site, 57% owned, 34% rented privately and 9% rented from a social landlord. Of those living in bricks and mortar accommodation, 36.7% rented privately, 33% owned their own home and 30% rented from a social landlord

## Facilities

Facilities vary from site to site, and were generally inadequate to meet the needs and requirements of residents. Analysis of responses shows that only 47.3% of respondents living on a pitch on a site had a shed; access to kitchens, toilets and bathrooms was overwhelmingly poor and few respondents had access to laundry facilities. Only 37.5% respondents had access to mains water and sewerage facilities.

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS, 2011 Census

There was a significant incidence of shared facilities with 29.6% of respondents sharing a toilet, 25.4% of respondents sharing a bath with another household, 9.2% a kitchen and 3.5% a laundry. This is a situation commonly faced by residents on sites across the study area.

## Repairs and improvements

In terms of repairs and improvements needed for those living on pitches on a site, the biggest problems were associated with the need for more space on a pitch, with 94.3% finding a lack of space problematic. There were also issues with kitchens/bathrooms, particularly in West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire. CLG guidance states that sites should provide, as a minimum, access to a separate toilet, bath/shower room, and a kitchen and dining area should be provided. This is clearly problematic on a number of sites within the study area.

For respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation a range of issues were identified including a lack of space and improvements needed to bathroom and kitchen facilities, drives, roofs, doors and windows.

## Space standards and overcrowding

73.9% of respondents felt there was sufficient space overall on their pitch. Respondents in South Northamptonshire were most likely to state there was insufficient space, with 57.9% stating this.

The majority of respondents (93.7%) did not feel that their home was overcrowded; compared to only 6.3% who did. Overcrowding would seem to be a greater issue in South Northamptonshire where 16.7% of respondents described themselves as overcrowded. No-one living in bricks and mortar accommodation felt that they were overcrowded.

## Satisfaction and safety

Satisfaction with the location of the home of respondents is high, with 77.1% overall stating that they were very satisfied or satisfied. Only 1.4% stated a degree of dissatisfaction.

Interviewees were asked how happy they were with the neighbourhood in which they were located; overall the majority of respondents were either very happy or happy (80.7%) with their neighbourhood.

In terms of safety, virtually all (97.8%) of respondents felt safe in their neighbourhood, although respondents living in bricks and mortar were more likely to say they did not feel safe (7.4%) compared with 0.9% of respondents living on pitches.

## Cost of accommodation and services

Respondents were asked about the cost of accommodation and services provided. On the basis of responses given, the majority of respondents (96.3%) paid between £60 and £70 each week for their accommodation. Most people living on pitches paid

up to £70 each week with the exception of South Northamptonshire where only 25% paid up to £70 per week; here 50% of respondents paid between £100 and £150 each week.

The cost of services (in particular gas, electricity and oil) was identified as an issue across the majority of respondents, in particular those living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

## Planned moves

Respondents were asked whether they planned to move over the next five years. The vast majority of residents plan to stay where they are (112 out of 130 respondents).

## Pitch requirements

There is a total demand over the next five years (2012/13 to 2016/17) for five pitches in Cherwell, six in West Oxfordshire and six in South Northamptonshire (Table ES3).

**Table ES3** Summary of current pitch supply and shortfalls 2012/13 to 2016/17

	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
Existing supply (at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012)	70	83	10 <sup>2</sup>	163
Future pitch requirements 2012/13 to 2016/17	5	6	6	17

Modelling assumes a five year time horizon but it is feasible to extrapolate the findings over a longer time-frame. Assuming there is no significant change in demand for pitches or pitch availability; analysis would suggest a total 15 year requirement (2012/13 to 2026/27) of 15 pitches in Cherwell, 18 in West Oxfordshire and 18 in South Northamptonshire (see Table ES4).

**Table ES4** Summary of current pitch supply and shortfalls 2012/13 to 2026/27

	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
Existing supply (at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012)	70	83	10 <sup>3</sup>	163
Future pitch requirements 2012/13 to 2026/27	15	18	18	51

<sup>2/3</sup> Note: Of the existing supply, 7 are from tolerated unauthorised pitches.

## Type of new provision

Respondents were asked if there is a need for new permanent sites for Gypsies and Travellers across the three districts and, if so, what sort of provision this should be and where should it be located.

The majority of respondents, 125 out of 131, agreed that there was a need for new provision across the three Districts. Respondents from Cherwell and West Oxfordshire also agreed this new provision should be owned and managed privately by non-Gypsies and Travellers (69.4% Cherwell, 56.3% West Oxfordshire - 64.9% overall). Only 18.1% of respondents wanted new provision to be managed by Housing Associations, and 15.6% by Councils. No views were expressed by respondents from South Northamptonshire.

The greatest expressed preference for location of new provision was for Oxford and Headington. Respondents were asked how many new pitches they felt were needed in their current district of residence over the next five years. A majority of respondents in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire suggested up to 20 additional pitches. Across South Northamptonshire, a majority of respondents felt there was a need for at least 20 additional pitches over the next five years.

## Travelling practices and experiences

Around half of respondents (46.8%) had travelled in the previous year, but this varied according to dwelling type, with 58.2% of those on pitches on sites having travelled compared with 34.5% of those living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Of respondents that had travelled in the previous year, a majority (58.4%) had travelled for less than one month, with 18.1% travelling for less than 13 days and 40.3% travelling for between two weeks and one month. A further 30.6% travelled for between one and three months, with 11.2% travelling for at least three months but not more than ten months.

A range of problems can be experienced whilst travelling and respondents were asked to identify these. Most frequently the problems mentioned were no places to stop over (83.6%) and the closing of traditional stopping places (82.1%). Other frequently mentioned problems included police behaviour (64.2%), lack of toilet facilities (61.2%) and abuse, harassment or discrimination (58.2%).

## Transit sites

Views were sought on the current provision of transit sites across the Districts and 86.4% of respondents said that there was a need for provision of new transit sites across all three Districts, whilst 13.6% said not. At District level, 86.3% of respondents in Cherwell, 91.7% in South Northamptonshire and 82.9% in West Oxfordshire felt that there was a need for additional transit sites to be provided.

## Homelessness

Overall 21.3% of respondents said that they had experienced homelessness within the past five years. Rates of homelessness were higher amongst those living on a pitch on a site, at 22% compared to 18.5% for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

## Wider service and support needs

The vast majority of respondents interviewed stated that they were registered with a doctor (89.4%) and 58.5% were registered with a dentist. The proportion of respondents registered with a doctor and dentist were consistently higher amongst residents living in bricks and mortar accommodation; residents in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire were also more likely to be registered.

The most used services were Doctor (GP) and Dentist. GP services were accessed by 91.3% of respondents in South Northamptonshire, 90.8% of respondents in Cherwell and 83.3% in West Oxfordshire. Dentists were accessed by 64.5% of respondents in Cherwell, 77.8% of respondents in West Oxfordshire and 52.2% of respondents in South Northamptonshire.

The proportion of respondents using other services tended to be considerably lower. For instance, the next most frequently used services by respondents in Cherwell is the Citizens' Advice Bureau (32.9%), Traveller Liaison Service (26.3%) and Accident and Emergency services (26.3%). In South Northamptonshire, the next most frequently used services are Accident and Emergency (30.4%) and Traveller Education (17.4%). In West Oxfordshire the next most frequently used services are Citizens Advice Bureaux (22.2%), Traveller Education (19.4%) and Traveller Liaison (19.4%).

## Long term illness and disability

Arthritis and asthma are the main long-term illnesses identified, with particularly high levels amongst those living on pitches on sites. Similarly, incidences of depression (the next most common long-term illness in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire) are higher amongst those living on a pitch on a site than for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation. In both Cherwell and South Northamptonshire issues with hearing and sight were particularly noted.

## Stakeholder consultation

Stakeholders identified the following key issues as those most affecting Gypsies and Travellers across the three districts:

- Lack of land/sites;
- Prejudice and discrimination;
- Illiteracy;
- Lack of job opportunities;
- Isolation;



- Access to healthcare;
- Lack of understanding from settled community; and
- Lack of local authority commitment to facilitate additional provision.

## Local authority summaries

### Cherwell

Across Cherwell District there are seven private sites with a total of 70 pitches. The largest sites are Smiths Caravan Site, Bloxham with 36 pitches and Bicester Trailer Park (Rossiters) in Bicester with 8 pitches.

An analysis of future demand which takes into account current pitch provision, future moving intentions of existing households and emerging need from newly-forming households, indicates a shortfall of 5 pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and a shortfall of 15 pitches over the fifteen years 2012/13 to 2026/27. This should be viewed as a minimum requirement based on the data received from the Gypsy and Traveller community and regularly reviewed.

A key option available to deliver additional pitch provision is the granting of planning permissions for the expansion of existing sites (e.g. Rossiters in Bicester)

### West Oxfordshire

Across West Oxfordshire District there is one Local Authority site at Standlake (16 pitches) and 67 pitches across nine sites, the largest of which are Ting Tang Lane (23 pitches) and the Beeches near Chadlington (20 pitches).

An analysis of future demand which takes into account current pitch provision, future moving intentions of existing households and emerging need from newly-forming households, indicates a shortfall of 6 pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and a shortfall of 18 pitches over the fifteen years 2012/13 to 2026/27. This should be viewed as a minimum requirement based on the data received from the Gypsy and Traveller community and regularly reviewed.

Key options available to deliver additional pitch provision are the granting of planning permissions for the expansion of existing sites and a review of unauthorised sites to explore if planning permission can be granted on them.

### South Northamptonshire

Across South Northamptonshire there is one authorised private site at Abthorpe and a tolerated site at Deanshanger.

An analysis of future demand which takes into account current pitch provision, future moving intentions of existing households and emerging need from newly-forming households, indicates a shortfall of 6 pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and a shortfall of 18 pitches over the fifteen years 2012/13 to 2026/27. This should be viewed as a minimum requirement based on the data received from the Gypsy and Traveller community and regularly reviewed.

A key challenge for South Northamptonshire is to improve the accommodation situation of households living at Deanshanger. This is a well-established unauthorised encampment but conditions are poor and overcrowded pitches commonplace. Options would include authorising the site or providing an alternative site for households currently residing on the site.

## Key issues and how to tackle them

The key priority issues identified by the research include:

- Meeting pitch requirements;
- Addressing poor conditions on existing sites; and
- Tackling wider service and support needs.

## Recommendations for meeting pitch requirements

To enable the Districts to meet the identified pitch requirements it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That the Districts continue to work collaboratively to meet identified need;
- That mechanisms are established to enable effective engagement with both settled and Traveller communities about identifying future sites;
- That appropriate sites are identified to meet requirements;
- That needs are monitored on an on-going basis;
- That options to secure provision of pitches through planning gain and exception sites are pursued;
- That the use of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to meet needs is explored;
- That consideration is given to disposal of publicly owned land to meet pitch requirements;
- That consideration is given as to the ways in which Gypsies and Travellers can be supported through the planning application process;
- That a key point of contact is identified for each local authority to deal with all matters relating to Gypsy and Travellers;
- That key stakeholders are kept up-to-date and fully briefed on progress;
- That resources are identified to develop a proactive communications strategy, starting with dissemination of these research findings, to enable positive media coverage of Gypsy and Traveller issues;
- That, where necessary, training is provided for staff and elected members to promote better cultural understanding, counter prejudice and aid communication; and
- Develop demarked transit/stop-over provision on permanent sites to ensure effective management.

## Recommendations for addressing poor conditions on sites

To enable the Districts to address issues linked to poor site condition it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That all planning applications ensure decent site design and layout, that is developed in partnership with the Gypsy and Traveller community, and is in accordance with CLG Design Guidance as a minimum;
- That appropriate planning policy guidance in respect of site design and layout is adopted within the three District's Local Plans; and
- That improvements in conditions on existing pitches are encouraged through on-going dialogue and partnership working with Gypsy and Traveller communities.

## Recommendations for tackling wider service and support needs

To enable the Districts to tackle wider service and support needs it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That, in line with the best practice set out within this chapter, the Councils review how they engage with Gypsy and Traveller communities locally, and develop new methods of long-term, on-going engagement;
- Provision of additional support to Gypsy and Traveller communities to enable them to better access services and support;
- That the District councils liaise with Traveller Education services and local colleges and schools to identify opportunities to support and facilitate opportunities to improve literacy amongst Gypsy and Traveller communities; and
- Continue to work with healthcare professionals to improve health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers, including working to improve property conditions, which adversely impact upon the health of those living on pitches on sites.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In January 2012 arc<sup>4</sup>, working in partnership with Homespace Sustainable Accommodation (Homespace SA), were commissioned by the District Councils of Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment to identify the needs of Gypsies and Travellers from across the three districts.
- 1.2 The overall objective of the research was to provide a robust evidence base to inform future reviews of Supporting People Strategies, Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), and housing strategies.
- 1.3 The research provides information about the current and future accommodation needs and demands of Gypsies and Travellers; as well as providing information about additional support needs.
- 1.4 The study adopts the definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' set out within the Government's *'Planning policy for traveller sites'* (March 2012) within which the following definition of Gypsies and Travellers is adopted:

*'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.'*

- 1.5 Similarly, the following definition from the Guidance in respect of 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.'*

- 1.6 The following definitions also apply:  
*'[A] "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.'*<sup>4</sup>
- 1.7 For the purposes of this study, Gypsies and Travellers live on pitches on sites. Travelling showpeople are not included within the scope of this research as a separate study of their accommodation requirements has already been carried out.

---

<sup>4</sup> CLG Planning policy for traveller sites Appendix A Glossary March 2012

1.8 The overall objectives of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment are:

- To produce an entirely new accommodation needs study covering the three districts but providing distinct analysis, conclusions and recommendations for each district;
- To understand the current accommodation circumstances of Gypsies and Travellers residing in the three districts;
- To provide a clear and robust understanding of the permanent, transit and other accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers;
- To establish a clear baseline for existing provision;
- To make recommendations for each district on the level of future pitch requirements over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and fifteen year period 2012/13 to 2026/27;
- To provide any appropriate recommendations on subsequent site identification and delivery; and
- To provide best practice advice in preparing/reviewing policies for the provision of sites and accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers.

## Study Components

1.9 The study comprised three phases, which are set out and detailed below:

- Phase 1: Collation and review of existing information and literature and stakeholder survey and discussions;
- Phase 2: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers across the three districts; and
- Phase 3: Report production and dissemination.

### Phase 1: Literature/desktop review and stakeholder discussions

1.10 This phase comprised a review of available literature, including legislative background and best practice information; and available secondary data relating to Gypsies and Travellers.

1.11 Relevant regional, sub-regional and local information has been collected, collated and reviewed, including information on:

- The national policy and legislative context;
- Current policies towards Gypsies and Travellers in the districts (drawn from LA and sub-regional policy documents, planning documents, housing strategies, homelessness strategies and Supporting People strategies); and
- Analysis of existing data sources available from stakeholders.

1.12 Views have been sought from a range of stakeholders, including Traveller liaison officers in Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire, education officers, housing and planning professionals.

## Phase 2: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire

- 1.13 The survey of Gypsies and Travellers across the three local authority areas was organised and undertaken by Homespace SA. Interviews have been carried out over two main phases: March 2012 to May 2012 and further supplementary interviews to boost responses during July to September 2012. Interviews were carried out with residents living on authorised local authority and private sites across the three districts. Additional interviews were held with Gypsy and Traveller respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation; and with respondents on unauthorised encampments. To maintain confidentiality and at the request of many respondents interviewed, the specific locations of sites is not identified in this report.
- 1.14 Interviews were undertaken by trained members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. Using members of the community as interviewers helps secure a good response rate, and ultimately deliver a more comprehensive picture of need.
- 1.15 The cultural needs of Gypsies and Travellers differ from those of the rest of the population and consideration of culturally specific requirements such as the need for additional permanent caravan sites and/or transit sites and/or stopping places (or improvements to existing sites) are key to this study. The research has therefore explicitly sought information from Travelling people across the districts living in housing, on sites, on unauthorised encampments and unauthorised developments.
- 1.16 To maximise the value of the fieldwork, we have also obtained information on housing and housing-related support issues.

## Phase 3: Production of report

- 1.17 The report structure is as follows:
  - Chapter 1 Introduction: provides an overview of the study;
  - Chapter 2 Methodology: provides details of the study's research methodology;
  - Chapter 3 Legislative and policy context presents a review of the legislative and policy context;
  - Chapter 4 The current picture: looks at the current provision of sites across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire to provide a baseline picture of what is currently available;
  - Chapter 5 The current picture: reviews estimates of the Gypsy and Traveller population across the districts and the scale of existing site provision. A review of the current accommodation situation of Gypsies and Travellers will identify any issues arising;

- Chapter 6 Pitch requirements: focuses on current and future pitch requirements. This chapter includes a detailed assessment of drivers of demand, pitch supply and current shortfalls across the districts;
- Chapter 7 Travelling practices and experiences: highlights issues relating to transit sites;
- Chapter 8 Wider service and support needs: considers the wider service and support needs of Gypsies and Travellers including health and education;
- Chapter 9 Summary of findings: focuses on key outputs and headlines emerging from the research; and
- Chapter 10 Conclusion and strategic response concludes the report, identifying headline issues, and recommending ways in which these could be addressed.

1.18 The report is supplemented by the following appendices:

- Appendix A which provides details of the legislative background underpinning accommodation issues for Gypsies and Travellers;
- Appendix B Policy and guidance;
- Appendix C Questionnaire;
- Appendix D Stakeholder survey questionnaire; and
- Appendix E Glossary of terms.

## 2. Methodology

- 2.1 The methodology for this study has comprised:
- Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers;
  - Desktop analysis of existing documents, data and pitch information; and
  - A Key Stakeholder on-line Questionnaire for professionals who have direct contact with local Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- 2.2 The primary fieldwork for this study comprised survey work with Gypsies and Travellers. This work was managed by Homespace SA and undertaken by Gypsy and Traveller fieldworkers. Homespace SA was involved in the design of the questionnaire and in the recruitment of fieldworkers. A total of 142 interviews were secured, 99 with households living on a pitch on a private site, 13 living on local authority sites and 30 with people living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Please note that the number of achieved household interviews does not necessarily reflect the number of pitches in individual authorities. This was particularly the case in South Northamptonshire where there was a considerable degree of ‘doubling up’ with several families living on individual pitches.

**Table 2.1** Summary of achieved interviews by District and type of dwelling

Location	District			Total
	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	
On Local Authority Site	0	13	0	<b>13</b>
On Private Site	61	14	24	<b>99</b>
In Bricks and Mortar Accommodation	19	11	0	<b>30</b>
Total	80	38	24	<b>142</b>

- 2.3 The ethnicity of respondents (Table 2.2) indicated high proportions of both English and Irish Travellers; this is representative of the wider Gypsy and Traveller communities across the districts. In South Northamptonshire, Irish Travellers are the single biggest group overall (62.5%) and in West Oxfordshire, English Travellers (45.9%) are the largest single group. In Cherwell, English Travellers are also the largest single group (34.6%).
- 2.4 In terms of those living on pitches on sites in Cherwell, Romany Gypsies are the single largest ethnic group (35%); In South Northamptonshire the largest ethnic group living on a pitch is Irish Travellers (62.5%); and in West Oxfordshire the largest group living on a pitch is English Travellers (42.3%). These populations are most exposed to any changes in the provision of pitches on sites.



**Table 2.2** Range of responses achieved by ethnicity and dwelling type

Cherwell Ethnicity	Dwelling Type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Romany Gypsy	35.0	5.6	28.2
English Gypsy	16.7	22.2	17.9
English Traveller	26.7	61.1	34.6
Irish Traveller	11.7	5.6	10.3
Welsh Gypsy	1.7	0.0	1.3
Welsh Traveller	8.3	0.0	6.4
Scottish Traveller	0.0	5.6	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid responses)	60	18	78
Non response	1	1	2
All households	61	19	80
West Oxfordshire Ethnicity	Dwelling Type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Romany Gypsy	11.5	0.0	8.1
English Gypsy	15.4	36.4	21.6
English Traveller	42.3	54.5	45.9
Irish Traveller	26.9	0.0	18.9
Welsh Traveller	3.8	0.0	2.7
Scottish Traveller	0.0	9.1	2.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid responses)	26	11	37
Non response	1	0	1
All households	27	11	38
South Northamptonshire Ethnicity	Dwelling Type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Romany Gypsy	20.8	0.0	20.8
English Gypsy	8.3	0.0	8.3
English Traveller	4.2	0.0	4.2
Irish Traveller	62.5	0.0	62.5
Welsh Gypsy	4.2	0.0	4.2
Total	100.0	0.0	100.0
Base (Valid responses)	24	0	24
Non response	0	0	0
All households	24	0	24
Total Ethnicity	Dwelling Type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Romany Gypsy	26.4	3.4	21.6
English Gypsy	14.5	27.6	17.3
English Traveller	25.5	58.6	32.4
Irish Traveller	26.4	3.4	21.6
Welsh Gypsy	1.8	0.0	1.4
Welsh Traveller	5.5	0.0	4.3
Scottish Traveller	0.0	6.9	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid responses)	110	29	139
Non response	2	1	3
Grand Total	112	30	142

- 2.5 In conjunction with interviews with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community, a range of complementary research methods have been used to permit the triangulation of results. These include:
- Desktop analysis of existing documents and data;
  - A database of authorised and unauthorised sites;
  - A key stakeholder on-line questionnaire for professionals who have direct contact with local Gypsy and Traveller communities; and
  - Consultation with key stakeholders working with the Gypsy and Traveller communities in these areas.
- 2.6 Good practice guidance and evidence from other studies emphasises that building trust with Travelling communities is a prerequisite of meaningful research. In this case it has been achieved by using interviewers from Gypsy, and Traveller communities to conduct the interviews, by engaging with Gypsy and Traveller groups, and by using local resources and workers to make links, and working closely with officers who have already established a good relationship.
- 2.7 We have also used the following sources of information:
- The bi-annual caravan count for CLG;
  - Records from local authority managed sites; and
  - Local Authority information on existing site provision.
- 2.8 The assessment of pitch requirements has been calculated by utilising information on current supply of pitches and the results from the survey. The overall number of pitches has been calculated through Local Authority information but current and anticipated behaviour has been assessed through the survey. A detailed explanation of the analysis of pitch requirements is contained in section 6.

### 3. Legislative and Policy Context

- 3.1 This research is grounded in an understanding of how the national legislative and policy context has affected Gypsy and Traveller communities to date.

#### Legislative background

- 3.2 Since 1960, three Acts of Parliament have had a major impact on Gypsies and Travellers:
- Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960;
  - Caravan Sites Act 1968 (Part II); and
  - Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.
- 3.3 The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act abolished all statutory obligations to provide accommodation, discontinued Government grants for sites and made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent.
- 3.4 Since the 1994 Act, the only places where Gypsies and Travellers can legally park their trailers and vehicles are:
- Council Gypsy caravan sites;
  - Privately owned land with appropriate planning permission; and
  - Land with established rights of use, other caravan sites or mobile home parks by agreement or licence along with land required for seasonal farm workers.
- 3.5 The 1994 Act resulted in increased pressure on available sites. It eventually resulted in further reviews of law and policy, culminating in the Housing Act 2004 which placed a requirement (s.225) on local authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs.
- 3.6 More detail on the legislation affecting Gypsies and Travellers can be found at Appendix A.

#### Policy background

- 3.7 As part of this research we have carried out a literature review. A considerable range of guidance documents have been prepared by central Government to assist local authorities in discharging their strategic housing and planning functions, and numerous research and guidance documents have been published by other agencies. This review examines influential guidance and research which either relates specifically to Gypsies and Travellers or makes reference to them; see Appendices A and B for further information.
- 3.8 Overall, this range of statutory documentation, advisory and guidance notes and accepted good practice has helped set a broad context within which this research is positioned.

- 3.9 Some of the key themes to emerge from the review of relevant literature include:
- Recognising the long-standing role Gypsies and Travellers have played in society and how prejudice, discrimination and legislative change have increasingly marginalised this distinctive ethnic group;
  - A recognised shortage of pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites;
  - The importance of understanding Gypsy and Traveller issues in the context of recent housing and planning policy development;
  - Recognition that Gypsies and Travellers are the most socially excluded group in society and are particularly susceptible to a range of inequalities relating to health, education, law enforcement and quality of accommodation;
  - Recognition of the considerable prejudice and discrimination faced by Gypsy and Traveller communities; and
  - A need for better communication and improved understanding between, and within, Travelling communities themselves, and between Travelling communities and elected members, service providers and permanently settled communities.
- 3.10 In March 2012 the Government published both the National Planning Policy Framework and its *Planning policy for traveller sites*. These documents replace all previous national planning policy and guidance in respect of Gypsies and Travellers. This new national guidance is now a material consideration in determining local planning applications and its overarching aim is *'to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers.'*
- 3.11 Local planning authorities are encouraged to make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning and plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. The policy aims to promote more private traveller site provision *'while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites'*.
- 3.12 The policy also states that:
- *'Plan making and decision taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective'*;
  - Planning policies need to be fair, realistic and inclusive; and
  - Should increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under-provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply.
- 3.13 It is within this policy context that local planning authorities will have to plan future provision for Gypsies and Travellers across their respective areas. The new National Planning policy emphasises the role of evidence and how it should be used within this context. *Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development* stresses the need for timely, effective and on-going community engagement (both with Travellers and the settled community); in addition the *'use of a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs*

to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions' is advocated. Paragraphs 8 and 9 of *Planning policy for traveller sites* state that;

*'Local planning authorities should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling show people which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities'.*

*Local planning authorities should:*

- f) Identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;*
- g) Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten and, where possible, for years 11-15;*
- h) 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 across its area (local planning authorities have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries);*
- i) 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*
- j) Protect local amenity and environment.*

3.14 Despite abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy the need for strategic planning remains, especially to ensure coherent planning beyond local authority boundaries. To this end the Localism Act has introduced the *Duty to Co-operate* which the Planning Advisory Service advises :

- Requires councils and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis in relation to planning of sustainable development;
- Requires councils to consider whether to enter into agreements on joint approaches or prepare joint local plans (if a local planning authority); and
- Applies to planning for strategic matters in relation to the preparation of local and Marine Plans, and other activities that prepare the way for these activities.

3.15 The Duty to Co-operate applies to the provision of new homes, including the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers. Aimed at improving effectiveness and reducing costs, the new Duty is also intended to act as a driver for change, bringing about a new sense of cooperation and partnership working on cross boundary issues. Allocation of sites for Gypsy and Traveller communities is generally a contentious issue across localities, and tensions between neighbouring local authorities around provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers is not uncommon. The Duty to Co-operate makes it essential for local authorities to resolve outstanding issues in relation to new provision or risk local plans being found unsound, at which point the presumption in favour of sustainable development would come into effect.

3.16 As part of this programme of research, a meeting was convened on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012 with representatives from the neighbouring local authorities of Vale

of the White Horse, South Oxfordshire, Oxford and West Northamptonshire to discuss the emerging findings of this research and for the local authorities to discuss their current provision and evidence base. The three authorities of Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire and Oxford were planning to commission a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment during 2012 to update their evidence base, while West Northamptonshire were similarly planning to commission an assessment for the areas of Daventry District Council and Northampton Borough Council. These neighbouring authorities were all asked if there were any particular cross-boundary issues that needed to be reflected on in this study. No issues were raised by any of the participating local authority officers. Several authorities provided a brief summary of their site provision. Currently:

- Oxford City has no sites but would view sites as residential provision in their Core Strategy;
- Vale of the White Horse have three sites – 2 public and 1 private plus one travelling showperson site; and
- South Oxfordshire have three authorised sites operated by the County Council and have one unauthorised site.

3.17 In April 2012 the Government published a *Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers*, which summarised progress in terms of meeting ‘*Government commitments to tackle inequalities and promote fairness for Gypsy and Traveller communities.*’<sup>5</sup> The report covers 28 measures from across Government aimed at tackling inequalities, these cover:

- Improving education outcomes;
- Improving health outcomes;
- Providing appropriate accommodation;
- Tackling hate crime;
- Improving interaction with the National Offender Management Service;
- Improving access to employment and financial services; and
- Improving engagement with service providers.

3.18 In respect of provision of appropriate accommodation, the report advises that financial incentives and other support measures have been put in place to help councils and elected members make the case for development of Traveller sites within their areas. Changing perceptions of sites is also identified as a priority, and to this end the Government has made the following commitment:

- ‘*The Department for Communities and Local Government will help Gypsy and Traveller representative groups showcase small private sites that are well presented and maintained*’; and

---

<sup>5</sup> [www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2124322](http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2124322)

- *'Subject to site owners agreeing to have their homes included we will help produce a case study document which local authorities and councillors, potential site residents and the general public could use. It could also be adapted and used in connection with planning applications.'*<sup>6</sup>
- 3.19 Also aimed at improving provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, the Government has committed to:
- The provision of support, training and advice for elected members services up to 2015; and
  - The promotion of improved health outcomes for Travellers through the planning system; the report states that *'one of the Government's aims in respect of traveller (sic) sites is to enable provision of suitable accommodation, which supports healthy lifestyles, and from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.'*<sup>7</sup>
- 3.20 Conversely, in August 2012, the Government published guidance for local authorities setting out the powers available to them and landowners to remove unauthorised encampments from both public and private land. Commenting on the guidance set out in *'Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments: A summary of available powers'*, the Chartered Institute of Housing comments that: *'Gypsy and Traveller communities are some of the most marginalised communities in modern times. Long standing difficulties in the provision of private and authorised sites, coupled with fewer stopping places across the country, have resulted in increasing numbers of unauthorised sites and the increasing marginalisation of these communities. There is a real need to develop a planning system that enables the provision of well situated, decent and accessible site provision for Gypsies and Travellers.'*<sup>8</sup>

## CLG Design Guidance

- 3.21 The Government's new 'Planning policy for traveller sites' provides no guidance on design for Gypsy and Traveller sites, concentrating instead on the mechanics of the planning process, from using evidence, to plan making and decision taking. The new policy does not therefore add to existing design guidance from CLG, which suggests that, among other things, there must be an amenity building on each pitch and that this must include, as a minimum:
- Hot and cold water supply;
  - Electricity supply;
  - A separate toilet;

---

<sup>6</sup> CLG Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers April 2012 commitment 12 page 18

<sup>7 7</sup> CLG Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers April 2012 para 4.13 page 19

<sup>8</sup> [www.cih.org](http://www.cih.org) Housing policy: Gypsies and Travellers

- A bath/shower room; and
  - A kitchen and dining area.
- 3.22 The access to the toilet should be through a lobbied area. The amenity building must include: secure storage space for harmful substances/ medicines; enclosed storage for food, brooms, washing, cleaning items etc.; and space for connection of cooker, fridge/freezer and washing machine. The inclusion of a day/living room in the amenity unit is recommended. The day/living room could be combined with the kitchen area to provide a kitchen/dining/lounge area. It is desirable that the day/living room should not be part of essential circulation space, nor contain essential storage.
- 3.23 The Guidance also maintains that the design and construction of amenity buildings must meet the requirements of the current Building Regulations, Housing Corporation Design and Quality Standards, the Institution of Electrical Engineers regulations, and the Local Water Authority. Materials used must comply with the relevant British Standard Specifications and Codes of Practice and must provide for durable and low maintenance buildings. Its construction should be sympathetic to local architecture, attractive and of a domestic nature.
- 3.24 It is also recommended that amenity buildings incorporate cost effective energy efficiency measures. The building layout and construction should be designed to maximise energy conservation and the use of passive solar gain. All mechanical and electrical systems should be as energy efficient as possible. Consideration should be given to the insulation of plumbing systems, the use of low energy light fittings and appropriate heating and ventilation systems. Any opportunities for using energy from renewable sources should be considered.
- 3.25 A recent Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) review (January 2012) of Non-Mainstream Housing Design Guidance found that the CLG Design Guide most '*succinctly outlines the physical requirements for site provision for travellers.*' It also identified a number of 'pointers' for future guidance, and these are worth mentioning here:
- The family unit should be considered to be larger and more flexible than that of the settled community due to a communal approach to care for the elderly and for children;
  - A distinct permanent building is required on site to incorporate washing and cooking facilities, and provide a base for visiting health and education workers; and
  - Clearer diagrams setting out the parameters for design are called for, both in terms of the scale of the dwelling and the site. Incorporating requirements for maintenance, grazing, spacing, size provision, communal spaces, etc. '*would ensure that a set of best practice principles can be established.*'<sup>9</sup>
- 3.26 The HCA Review suggested the following design considerations:

---

<sup>9</sup> Non-Mainstream Housing Design Guidance Literature Review, HCA January 2012 page 63



- Travelling Showpeople should be considered in the development of provision for temporary/transit sites;
- Vehicular access is a requirement and not an option;
- Open space is essential for maintenance of vehicles and grazing of animals;
- Open play space for children needs to be provided;
- A warden's office is required for permanent sites;
- Communal rooms for use of private health/education consultations are required; and
- An ideal ratio of facilities provision (stand pipes, parking area, recreation space) to the number of pitches.

3.27 The HCA Review also identified the following best practice suggestions:

- Greater separation between aspects of living and those of cooking/washing;
- Disabilities should be accounted for within provision;
- When determining proposed locations, accessibility and proximity to local amenities and the surrounding community should be considered;
- Issues associated with reducing alienation with the settled community need to be accounted for;
- Measures for emergency sites accommodating a population not accounted for should be outlined;
- The Right to Buy should be taken into account in the provision of permanent sites; and
- Greater guidance for the planning, procurement and consultation process to ensure sites meet the needs of proposed residents, as well as reassuring neighbouring settled communities regarding impact.

## 4. The Current Picture: provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites

4.1 This chapter looks at the current provision of sites across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire to provide a baseline picture of what is currently available.

### Provision of authorised sites

4.2 The extent of current authorised provision across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire is set out in Table 4.1 below. There are 70 pitches across seven sites in Cherwell; 83 authorised pitches across ten sites in West Oxfordshire: all of these sites, with the exception of the Furlong at Standlake in West Oxfordshire are privately owned and managed. In South Northamptonshire there are only three authorised pitches on one private site. In total, across the three areas, there are 156 pitches across 18 sites.

**Table 4.1** List of authorised sites as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012<sup>10</sup>

Local Authority	Site Address	Number Of Pitches	Type	Notes
Cherwell DC	Station Caravan Park, Station Approach, Banbury, Oxon OX165AB	10	Priv	Full Planning Permission
Cherwell DC	Smiths Caravan Site, Bloxham Road, Milton, Oxon OX15 4HE	36	Priv	Previous long-standing planning permission expired. Permanent permission granted on 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2012 for 36 pitches
Cherwell DC	Bicester Trailer Park (Rossiter's), Oxford Road, Chesterton, Bicester, Oxon OX25 2NY.	8 out of 18 pitches on site available for Gypsy and Traveller use	Priv	Full Planning permission for use of eight pitches for Gypsies and Travellers; remaining 10 pitches for alternative use.
Cherwell DC	Corner Meadow, Off the A423, Mollington, Oxon OX17 1ND	4	Priv	Full Planning Permission Site subject of current application for further pitches.
Cherwell DC	Horwood Site, Ardley Road, Ardley, Oxon OX27 7HP	1	Priv	Full Planning Permission (personal permission only)

<sup>10</sup> Northamptonshire Countywide Traveller and Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Services data

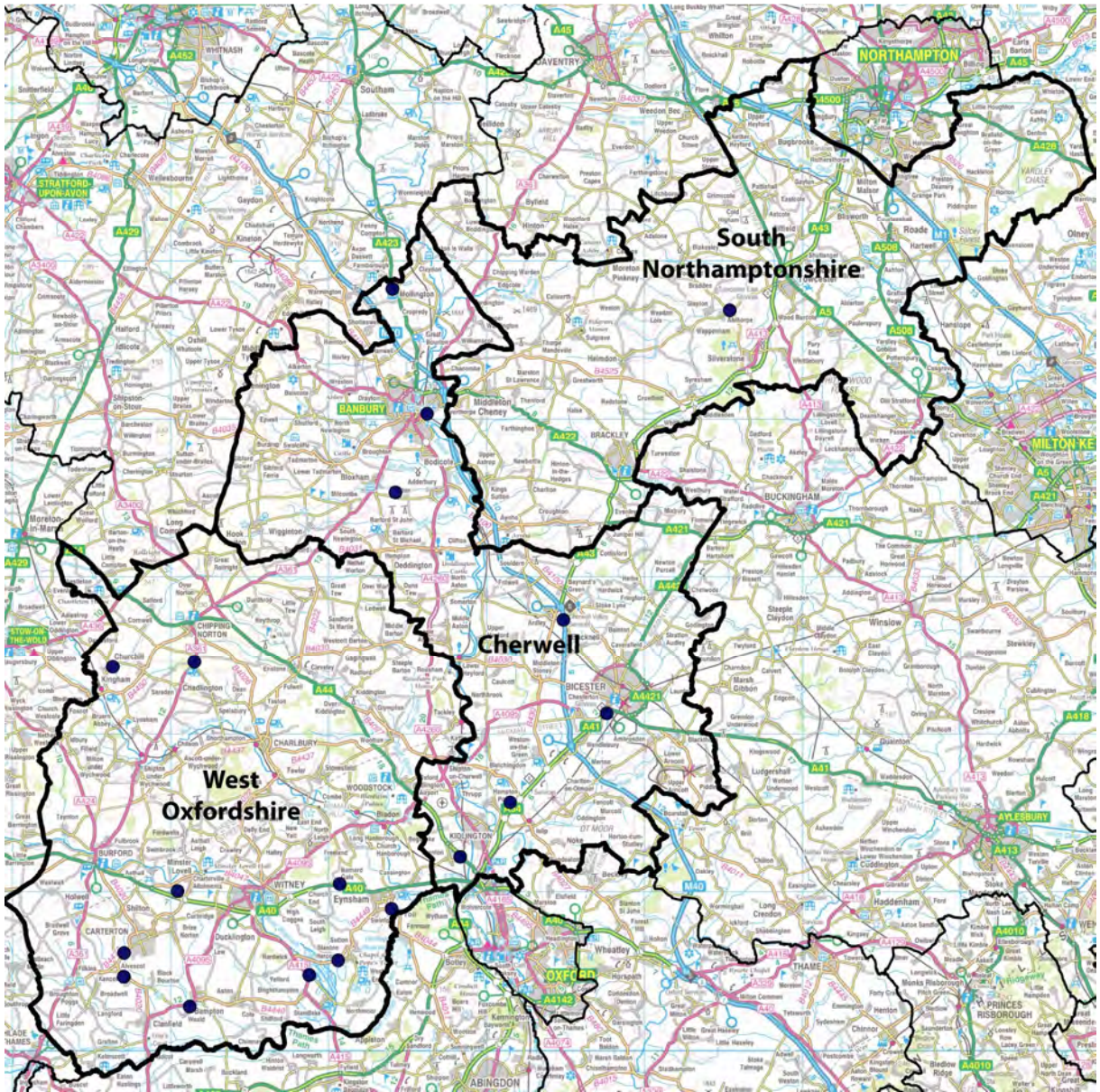
Local Authority	Site Address	Number Of Pitches	Type	Notes
Cherwell DC	Land Adjoining A34 by Hampton Gay and Poyle, Oxon	8	Priv	Full Planning Permission.
Cherwell DC	Land South West of Woodstock Road, Yarnton, Oxon	3	Priv	Personal and temporary Planning Permission granted 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2012 for three years.
West Oxfordshire DC (Oxfordshire CC)	The Furlong Caravan Site, Downs Road, Standlake, Oxon OX29 7UH	16	LA	Full Planning Permission
West Oxfordshire DC	Beeches, off the Burford Road near Chadlington, Oxon OX7 5XB	20	Priv	Full Planning Permission
West Oxfordshire DC	Ting Tang Lane, Asthall Fields, Minster Lovall, Oxon OX29 0RU	23	Priv	Full Planning Permission (assumes 15 plus assumes 8 additional permissions exercised)
West Oxfordshire DC	The Paddocks, Weald Street, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2HL	11	Priv	Full Planning Permission (10 plus assumes 1 planning permission exercised)
West Oxfordshire DC	The Ark off the B4020 near Alvescot, Oxon OX18 2PU	1	Priv	Full Planning Permission
West Oxfordshire DC	Little Acorn, Cogges Lane, Stanton Harcourt, Oxon	1	Priv	Full Planning Permission
West Oxfordshire DC	Gilsons Field off the B4020 near Carterton, Oxon OX18 1PF	4	Priv	Full Planning Permission
West Oxfordshire DC	Home Farm, Barnard Gate, Witney, Oxon OX29 6XE	5	Priv	Full Planning Permission
West Oxfordshire DC	The Heyes, Church Road, Kingham, Oxon OX7 6TA	1	Priv	Full Planning Permission
West Oxfordshire DC	Little Willow, Oxford Road, Eynsham, Oxon OX29 4BT	1	Priv	Full Planning Permission
South Northamptonshire DC	Mini Farm, Blakesley Road, Abthorpe, Towcester NN12 8WB	3	Priv	Currently has temporary and personal Planning Permission. Subject to current planning appeal to be determined by end 2012. Fully occupied

4.3 Provision at the Furlong is managed by the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Services unit; this site predominantly accommodates English Gypsies. Residents at the Furlong rarely leave and the population has remained static for a number of years, primarily since 2004 when Oxfordshire

County Council undertook site improvements and took over management of the site.

- 4.4 The location of authorised sites is presented in Map 4.1
- 4.5 Across Cherwell and West Oxfordshire Districts there has been no provision of new sites in the last 5 years by either the County or District Councils. The only provision has been through the granting of planning permission on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers.
- 4.6 As most sites are in private ownership (the exception being the Furlong site, Standlake in West Oxfordshire), there is little contact with owners and occupiers other than accessing the sites twice a year for the caravan count. According to the Gypsy and Traveller Service Manager, when accessed for caravan count purposes, all sites appear to be fully occupied which would indicate there is no capacity for additional households without further development of these sites. With the exception of the Rossiter's site in Bicester, none of the sites are believed to have further capacity but site-by-site viability assessments would need to be carried out to verify this.
- 4.7 The Rossiter's site in Bicester may have potential pitch provision and existing legal agreement requires reinvestment in the remaining Gypsy and Traveller part of the site. Within West Oxfordshire there are legal issues associated with the 8-pitch Tar Road, Stanton Harcourt site and this site remains vacant.
- 4.8 Across South Northamptonshire there is one site at Abthorpe but a majority of Gypsies and Travellers live on the unauthorised Deanshanger site which has seven pitches. The Council does not currently have any sites where planning permission is being sought.

**Map 4.1** Location of authorised sites across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire



## Provision of unauthorised sites/encampments

4.9 The extent of current unauthorised provision across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire is set out in Table 4.2 below.

**Table 4.2** List of unauthorised sites 2011/2012<sup>11</sup>

Local authority	Site address	Number of caravans/pitches	Notes
Cherwell	Grass verge, Stratton Audley Cross Roads	3 caravans	Date first notified 15/11/11
Cherwell	Grass verge, B4011 Ambrosden turn	3 caravans	Date notified 22/03/12
Cherwell	Grass verge, Fetherbed Lane, Nr Mixbury	3 caravans	Date notified 01/04/12
Cherwell	Grass verge, Evenly Road, Cottisford	5 caravans	Date notified 18/04/12
South Northamptonshire	Privately owned land	1 caravan	
South Northamptonshire	Deanshanger, NCC owned land	7 pitches	Long term unauthorised site.
West Oxfordshire	Eynsham Bypass	5 families with 2-3 caravans each	New Age Travellers
West Oxfordshire	Tar Road, Stanton Harcourt	8 pitches	Vacant unauthorised site

4.10 In West Oxfordshire and Cherwell the number of unauthorised sites had been falling, with 13 encampments recorded in 2008 and 2009, and 10 in 2010. However in 2011 the number rose to 20, with the majority of these incidents taking place between June and September 2011. It is not clear what caused this increase, or whether it was a 'one off'; as of March 2012 there were four reported unauthorised encampments in Cherwell, two in West Oxfordshire and two in South Northamptonshire. It is therefore reasonable to assume that many of the unauthorised encampments were temporary in nature. Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Services felt that the general downward trend in unauthorised sites was due to a consistent approach to enforcement, which discourages use of unauthorised sites for anything other than short stopovers. The Unit felt that many Gypsies and Travellers in West Oxfordshire and Cherwell were now successfully purchasing land and acquiring planning permission for sites – this would

<sup>11</sup> Northamptonshire Countywide Traveller Unit and Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Services 2012

appear to be reflected in the relatively high number of private sites across both of these local authority areas.

- 4.11 Consultations with the Countywide Traveller Unit reveal that in South Northamptonshire there have been no forced evictions for three years; Travellers within Northamptonshire are primarily new travellers passing through the area, generally occupying verges on a temporary basis. Problems of anti-social behaviour linked to Travellers have also decreased.
- 4.12 The site at Deanshanger in South Northamptonshire is a long-standing tolerated unauthorised site, located on land owned by Northamptonshire County Council that was acquired via Compulsory Purchase following road improvements to the A422 over ten years ago. The site is in poor condition; many of the residents have complex needs including issues linked to drug and alcohol misuse. Travellers on the site do not want to live on a 'proper site' preferring the 'commune type encampment' at Deanshanger. The Countywide Traveller Unit has regular contact with residents but feels that alternative accommodation needs to be provided to enable the encampment to be moved on. As this site is a long-standing tolerated site, it has been included in the analysis of pitch requirements.

## 5. The Current Picture: Gypsy and Traveller population and pitch availability

### Population Estimates

- 5.1 This chapter looks at the current picture in terms of the current population and demography of Gypsies and Travellers across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire before going on to explore the extent and nature of provision across the areas.
- 5.2 According to CLG estimates (Table 5.1) 0.6% of the population are Gypsies and Travellers. Applying this population data for the three local authority areas would result in a figure of around 851 residents in Cherwell, 629 in West Oxfordshire and 511 in South Northamptonshire. That said, Gypsies and Travellers face considerable prejudice and discrimination and there is an understandable reluctance to report cultural identity.

**Table 5.1** Estimate of Gypsy and Traveller Population (based on CLG, 2007)

District	Total Population <sup>12</sup>	Estimate of Gypsy and Traveller Population (0.6%)
Cherwell	141,900	851
West Oxfordshire	104,800	629
South Northamptonshire	85,200	511

- 5.3 As the number of pitches on sites is known, the main issue is the number of Gypsies and Travellers in housing. It may well be that there are significant numbers of people of Gypsy or Traveller descent living in houses who are unknown to Traveller Education providers. Nevertheless, for the purposes of analysing pitch requirements, where possible interviews have been carried out with Gypsies and Traveller living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

### Caravan Counts and Authorised Pitches

- 5.4 Snapshot counts of the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans were requested by the Government in 1979, and have since been made by local authorities on a voluntary basis every January and July. Their accuracy varies between local authorities and according to how information is included in the process. A major criticism is the non-involvement of Gypsies and Travellers themselves in the counts. However, the counts conducted on a single day twice a year is the only systematic source of information on the numbers and distribution of Gypsy and Traveller trailers. The counts include caravans (or

---

<sup>12</sup> Source: ONS, 2011 Census



trailers) on and off authorised sites (i.e. those with planning permission) but do not relate necessarily to the actual number of pitches on sites.

- 5.5 A major review of the counting system was undertaken in 2003 by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), which made a number of recommendations and improvements to the process.
- 5.6 The January 2012 Caravan Count nationally found that:
- The total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans was almost 18,750. This is about 400 more than the total in January 2011;
  - The number of caravans on socially rented sites fell by 150 over the same period (January 2011 to January 2012);
  - There was an increase in the number of caravans on private sites, up by 750 since January 2011;
  - The number of caravans on unauthorised sites not owned by Gypsies and Travellers had increased by 50 to approximately 1,900 since January 2011;
  - The average number of caravans per site was 20.4 for social rented sites and 5.1 for private sites; and
  - Overall 85% of Gypsy and Traveller caravans were on authorised sites, whilst 15% were on unauthorised sites.<sup>13</sup>
- 5.7 The figures for the last five caravan counts for the three districts are set out in the table below. Figures from the count show that generally the number of caravans has increased over this period across all three districts, with the exception of South Northamptonshire where the number has fallen between July 2011 (13) and January 2012 (five).

---

<sup>13</sup> CLG National Caravan Count January 2012

**Table 5.2** Bi-annual Caravan Count figures 2010 to 2012

Count	Authorised sites with planning permission		Unauthorised sites without planning permission	Total
	Social Rented	Total Private		
<b>Jan 2012</b>				
Cherwell	0	100	9	109
West Oxfordshire	23	160	20	203
South Northants	0	0	5	5
<b>July 2011</b>				
Cherwell	0	108	2	110
West Oxfordshire	26	144	15	185
South Northants	0	3	10	13
<b>Jan 2011</b>				
Cherwell	0	98	0	98
West Oxfordshire	26	155	0	181
South Northants	0	0	11	11
<b>July 2010</b>				
Cherwell	0	88	0	88
West Oxfordshire	28	120	16	164
South Northants	0	0	11	11
<b>Jan 2010</b>				
Cherwell	0	98	0	98
West Oxfordshire	29	142	18	189
South Northants	0	0	9	9

Source: CLG Caravan Count

- 5.8 There may be more than one trailer per pitch, and in the case of households doubling up on pitches there could be several trailers. For obvious reasons Gypsies and Travellers living on sites may not be present on the days in which the counts are conducted.
- 5.9 There has been no systematic attempt to quantify the number of Gypsies and Travellers living in conventional housing and they have not been listed as ethnicities in any census.
- 5.10 Table 5.3 summarises the range of sites known to the Local Authorities and in summary, there are the following number of authorised sites:
- Cherwell: 7 sites and 70 pitches;
  - West Oxfordshire: 10 sites and 83 pitches; and
  - South Northamptonshire: one site and 3 pitches.

**Table 5.3** Summary of authorised sites and pitches

<b>District</b>	<b>No. Sites</b>	<b>No. Pitches</b>
<b>Cherwell District</b>		
Private authorised	7	70
<b>West Oxfordshire District</b>		
Private authorised	9	67
Local Authority	1	16
<b>South Northamptonshire District</b>		
Private authorised (temporary and personal)	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>156</b>

Source: Local Authorities

- 5.11 Residents on all these sites, and on additional unauthorised sites (including Deanshanger in South Northamptonshire) and encampments, were contacted and asked to participate in the study. A total of 142 interviews were achieved; of these, 112 were with respondents living on a pitch on a site and 30 respondents were living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Each table used in this report provides details of valid and invalid responses. Invalid responses can be classes as non-responses as these are most often related to questions where respondents have chosen to not provide a response or where they felt that they could not respond directly to the question being asked. This results in a number of non-responses being identified in several of the questions asked as part of the survey.
- 5.12 Overall, 51.5% of respondents own their own home, 34.6% rent privately, 10.8% rent from the Council and 3.1% rent from a Housing Association (Table 5.4). Of those living on a pitch on a site, 57% own, 34% rent privately and 9% rent from a social landlord. Of those living in bricks and mortar accommodation, 36.7% rent privately, 33% own their own home and 30% rent from a social landlord.

**Table 5.4** Tenure of respondents

Cherwell		Dwelling Type (%)		
Tenure	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total	
Rent from Council	0.0	21.1	5.0	
Rent privately	32.8	36.8	33.8	
Rent from Housing Association	3.3	5.3	3.8	
Own home	63.9	36.8	57.5	
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Base (Valid Responses)	61	19	80	
West Oxfordshire		Dwelling Type (%)		
Tenure	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total	
Rent from Council	25.9	27.3	26.3	
Rent privately	11.1	36.4	18.4	
Rent from Housing Association	0.0	9.1	2.6	
Own home	63.0	27.3	52.6	
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Base (Valid Responses)	27	11	38	
South Northamptonshire		Dwelling Type (%)		
Tenure	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total	
Rent from Council	0.0		0.0	
Rent privately	91.7		91.7	
Rent from Housing Association	0.0		0.0	
Own home	8.3		8.3	
Other	0.0		0.0	
Total	100.0		100.0	
Base (Valid Responses)	12	0	12	
Non Response	12		12	
Grand Total	24		24	
TOTAL		Dwelling Type (%)		
Tenure	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total	
Rent from Council	7.0	23.3	10.8	
Rent privately	34.0	36.7	34.6	
Rent from Housing Association	2.0	6.7	3.1	
Own home	57.0	33.3	51.5	
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Base (Valid Responses)	100	30	130	
Non Response	12	0	12	
Grand Total	112	30	142	

5.13 According to the responses given by respondents, the vast majority of those living on pitches rent the land they live on with planning permission (84.9%). A further 10.5% rent a pitch from the Council, 3.5% rent a pitch (with no planning permission) and 1.2% own the land where their trailer/caravan is normally located.

**Table 5.5** Ownership of land where trailer/caravan located\*

Land ownership	District (%)			
	Cherwell	South Northamptonshire	West Oxfordshire	Total
Own land where trailer/caravan is normally located (no planning permission)	2.1	0.0	0.0	1.2
Rent pitch from Council	4.3	0.0	25.9	10.5
Rent pitch privately (with planning permission)	89.4	91.7	74.1	84.9
Rent pitch privately (with no planning permission)	4.3	8.3	0.0	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	47	12	27	86
Non Response	14	12	0	26
Grand Total	61	24	27	112

\*Note: this table is based on household responses and in the case of South Northamptonshire respondents incorrectly assumed that Deanshanger Site is an authorised site.

### Facilities on pitches

5.14 Facilities vary from site to site, and were generally inadequate to meet the needs and requirements of residents (Table 5.6). Analysis of responses shows that only 47.3% of respondents living on a pitch on a site had a shed; access to kitchens, toilets and bathrooms was overwhelmingly poor and few respondents had access to laundry facilities. Only 37.5% respondents had access to mains water and sewerage facilities.

**Table 5.6** Facilities provided on pitch

Facilities on Pitch	District (% with facility)			
	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
Slab	100.0	96.3	50.0	88.4
Shed	55.7	44.4	29.2	47.3
Kitchen	18.0	22.2	25.0	20.5
Laundry	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.9
Laundry drying area	1.6	0.0	8.3	2.7
Bath	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.9
Shower	36.1	22.2	25.0	30.4
Toilet	52.5	44.4	45.8	49.1
Mains water	49.2	44.4	0.0	37.5
Mains sewerage	49.2	44.4	0.0	37.5
Base (Valid Responses)	61	26	12	99
Non Response	0	1	12	13
Grand Total	61	27	24	112

### Amenities elsewhere on the site

5.15 Most sites provided car parking, and toilets (Table 5.7) and a range of other amenities. Few provided a play area or a communal meeting area

**Table 5.7** Amenities provided elsewhere on site

Amenities	District (%)			
	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
Amenity block	66.7	93.3	0.0	66.7
Toilets	86.3	93.3	33.3	83.3
Showers	68.6	86.7	0.0	66.7
Laundry	11.8	6.7	16.7	11.1
Car parking	90.2	86.7	100.0	90.3
Space for storing loads	66.7	80.0	0.0	63.9
Play area	9.8	20.0	0.0	11.1
Communal meeting area	5.9	13.3	0.0	6.9
Base (Valid Responses)	51	15	6	72
Non Response	10	12	18	40
Grand Total	61	27	24	112

## Repairs and improvements

- 5.16 Around two-thirds of all respondents (63.9%) stated that they had no repair problems; 67.6% of respondents living on a pitch on a site and 35.7% living in bricks and mortar accommodation stated they did not have a repair problem. A relatively high number of respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation (64.3%) had repair issues. Repair issues with bricks and mortar accommodation were highest in West Oxfordshire where 81.8% of all respondents living in this type of accommodation had a problem. There were no repair problems for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation in Cherwell<sup>14</sup>.

---

<sup>14</sup> No Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar accommodation were identified in South Northamptonshire

**Table 5.8** Repair problems by accommodation type

Cherwell	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
No repair problems	72.4	100.0	73.8
Repair problem(s) stated	27.6	0.0	26.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	58	3	61
Non response	3	16	19
Grand Total	61	19	80

West Oxfordshire	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
No repair problems	76.9	18.2	59.5
Repair problem(s) stated	23.1	81.8	40.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base	26	11	37
Non response	1	0	1
Grand Total	27	11	38

South Northamptonshire	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
No repair problems	45.8		45.8
Repair problem(s) stated	54.2		54.2
Total	100.0		100.0
Base	24	0	24

Total	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
No repair problems	67.6	35.7	63.9
Repair problem(s) stated	32.4	64.3	36.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base	108	14	122
Non response	4	16	20
Grand Total	112	30	142



5.17 Overall 84.8% described the state of repair of their home as being good or very good (Table 5.9). This was highest in Cherwell (97.1%), followed by 81.8% in West Oxfordshire and 54.2% in South Northamptonshire.

**Table 5.9** State of repair

Cherwell State of repair	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Very Good	55.7	57.1	55.9
Good	41.0	42.9	41.2
Neither Good nor Poor	3.3	0.0	2.9
Poor	0.0	0.0	0.0
Very Poor	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base	61	7	68
Non response	0	12	12
Grand Total	61	19	80

West Oxfordshire State of repair	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Very Good	30.8	42.9	33.3
Good	50.0	42.9	48.5
Neither Good nor Poor	19.2	14.3	18.2
Poor	0.0	0.0	0.0
Very Poor	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base	26	7	33
Non response	1	4	5
Grand Total	27	11	38

South Northamptonshire State of repair	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Very Good	25.0		25.0
Good	29.2		29.2
Neither Good nor Poor	29.2		29.2
Poor	16.7		16.7
Very Poor	0.0		0.0
Total	100.0		100.0
Base	24	0	24
Non response	0	0	0
Grand Total	24	0	24

Total State of repair	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Very Good	43.2	50.0	44.0
Good	40.5	42.9	40.8
Neither Good nor Poor	12.6	7.1	12.0
Poor	3.6	0.0	3.2
Very Poor	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base	111	14	125
Non response	1	16	17
Grand Total	112	30	142

5.18 In terms of repairs and improvements needed for those living on pitches on a site, the biggest problems were associated with the need for more space on a pitch, with 94.3% finding a lack of space problematic. There were also issues with kitchens/bathrooms, particularly in West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire. CLG guidance states that sites should provide, as a minimum, access to a separate toilet, bath/shower room, and a kitchen and dining area should be provided. This is clearly problematic on a number of sites within the study area.

**Table 5.10** Repairs or improvements needed

Pitch on a site Repair problems	District (%)			
	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
More space on pitch	100.0	83.3	92.3	94.3
Slab/drive	0.0	33.3	84.6	37.1
Roof	0.0	33.3	84.6	37.1
Doors/windows	0.0	16.7	76.9	31.4
Kitchen facilities	0.0	33.3	84.6	37.1
Bathroom facilities	0.0	33.3	84.6	37.1
Other	0.0	33.3	0.0	5.7
Base (Respondents stating a repair problem)	16	6	13	35
Total Respondents not stating a repair problem	42	20	11	73
Non response	3	1	0	4
Grand Total	61	27	24	112

Bricks and Mortar	District (%)			
	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
More space	0	88.9		80
Slab/drive	0	100		90
Roof	0	100		90
Doors/windows	0	100		90
Kitchen facilities	0	100		90
Bathroom facilities	100	100		100
Base (Respondents stating a repair problem)	3	9		12
Total respondents not stating a repair problem	0	2		2
Non response	16	0	0	16
Grand Total	19	11	0	30

5.19 For respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation a range of issues were identified including a lack of space and improvements needed to bathroom and kitchen facilities, drives, roofs, doors and windows.

## Space Requirements

5.20 Whilst there is no set pitch size, CLG guidance states that there should be sufficient space on pitches to allow for:

- Manoeuvrability of an average size trailer of up to 15 metres in length;
- Capacity for larger mobile homes of up to 25 meters on a number of pitches on a site; and
- A minimum of six meters between every trailer, caravan or park home that is separately occupied on a site.

5.21 In terms of space for trailers, wagons and vehicles (Table 5.11), 83.5% of respondents living on pitches and all respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation on pitches felt they had enough space.

5.22 Of respondents living on pitches, 63.5% felt there was sufficient space in their amenity block/sheds (Table 5.12). Respondents in South Northamptonshire were most likely to state there was insufficient space, with 90.9% stating this. In South Northamptonshire, the high level of dissatisfaction with space requirements is linked to respondents living on an unauthorised tolerated site and in resolving site issues this will need to be examined.

**Table 5.11** Sufficient space for trailers, wagons and vehicles

<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>			
	<b>Sufficient Space</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	88.3	100.0	89.1	
No	11.7	0.0	10.9	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Base (Valid Responses)	60	4	64	
Non Response	1	15	16	
Grand Total	61	19	80	
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>			
	<b>Sufficient Space</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	88.0	100.0	89.7	
No	12.0	0.0	10.3	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Base	25	4	29	
Non Response	2	7	9	
Grand Total	27	11	38	
<b>South Northamptonshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>			
	<b>Sufficient Space</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	66.7	0.0	66.7	
No	33.3	0.0	33.3	
Total	100.0	0.0	100.0	
Base	24	0	24	
Non Response	0	0	0	
Grand Total	24	0	24	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>			
	<b>Sufficient Space</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	83.5	100.0	84.6	
No	16.5	0.0	15.4	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Base	109	8	117	
Non Response	3	22	25	
Grand Total	112	30	142	

**Table 5.12** Sufficient space in amenity blocks/sheds on pitch

<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>
Sufficient Space	Pitch on a site
Yes	82.8
No	17.2
Total	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	29
Non Response	32
Grand Total	61
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>
Sufficient Space	Pitch on a site
Yes	72.7
No	27.3
Total	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	11
Non Response	16
Grand Total	27
<b>South Northamptonshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>
Sufficient Space	Pitch on a site
Yes	9.1
No	90.9
Total	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	12
Non Response	12
Grand Total	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>
Sufficient Space	Pitch on a site
Yes	63.5
No	36.5
Total	0.0
Base (Valid Response)	52
Non Response	60
Grand Total	112

5.23 73.9% of respondents felt there was sufficient space overall on their pitch (Table 5.13). Respondents in South Northamptonshire were most likely to state there was insufficient space, with 57.9% stating this.

**Table 5.13** Sufficient space on pitch

<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>
Sufficient Space	Pitch on a site
Yes	81.8
No	18.2
Total	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	44
Non Response	17
Grand Total	61
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>
Sufficient Space	Pitch on a site
Yes	84.0
No	16.0
Total	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	25
Non Response	2
Grand Total	27
<b>South Northamptonshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>
Sufficient Space	Pitch on a site
Yes	42.1
No	57.9
Total	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	19
Non Response	5
Grand Total	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>
Sufficient Space	Pitch on a site
Yes	73.9
No	26.1
Total	0.0
Base (Valid Response)	88
Non Response	24
Grand Total	112

## **Satisfaction with location of your home**

- 5.24 Satisfaction with the location of the home of respondents is high (Table 5.14), with 77.1% overall stating that they were very satisfied or satisfied. Only 1.4% stated a degree of dissatisfaction.
- 5.25 Satisfaction levels were highest within Cherwell, with 82.3% of respondents satisfied or very satisfied with the location of their home; 81.1% in West Oxfordshire were satisfied or very satisfied, and 54.2% in South Northamptonshire.

**Table 5.14** Satisfaction with the location of your home

Cherwell Location	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Very satisfied	42.6	22.2	38.0
Satisfied	39.3	61.1	44.3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18.0	16.7	17.7
Dissatisfied	0.0	0.0	0.0
Very dissatisfied	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	61	18	79
Non response		1	1
Grand Total	61	19	80

West Oxfordshire Location	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Very satisfied	30.8	27.3	29.7
Satisfied	50.0	54.5	51.4
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	19.2	18.2	18.9
Dissatisfied	0.0	0.0	0.0
Very dissatisfied	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	26	11	37
Non response	1		1
Grand Total	27	11	38

South Northamptonshire Location	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Very satisfied	41.7	0.0	41.7
Satisfied	12.5	0.0	12.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	37.5	0.0	37.5
Dissatisfied	8.3	0.0	8.3
Very dissatisfied	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	0.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	24	0	24
Non response	0	0	0
Grand Total	24	0	24

Total Location	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Very satisfied	39.6	24.1	36.4
Satisfied	36.0	58.6	40.7
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.5	17.2	21.4
Dissatisfied	1.8	0.0	1.4
Very dissatisfied	0.0	0.0	0.0
Base (Valid Response)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Non response	1	1	2
Grand Total	112	30	142



## Overcrowding

5.26 The majority of respondents (93.7%) did not feel that their home was overcrowded (Table 5.15); compared to only 6.3% who did. Overcrowding would seem to be a greater issue in South Northamptonshire where 16.7% of respondents described themselves as overcrowded. No-one living in bricks and mortar accommodation felt that they were overcrowded.

**Table 5.15** Do you think your home is overcrowded?

<b>Cherwell</b>			
	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Overcrowded	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	3.3	0.0	2.9
No	96.7	100.0	97.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	61	9	70
Non response		10	10
Grand Total	61	19	80
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>			
	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Overcrowded	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	7.7	0.0	6.3
No	92.3	100.0	93.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	26	6	32
Non response	1	5	6
Grand Total	27	11	38
<b>South Northamptonshire</b>			
	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Overcrowded	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	16.7	0.0	16.7
No	83.3	0.0	83.3
Total	100.0	0.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	24	0	24
Non response	0	0	0
Grand Total	24	0	24
<b>Total</b>			
	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Overcrowded	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	7.2	0.0	6.3
No	92.8	100.0	93.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	111	15	126
Non response	1	15	16
Grand Total	112	30	142

## Facilities shared with other households

5.27 There was a significant incidence of shared facilities with 29.6% of respondents sharing a toilet, 25.4% of respondents sharing a bath with another household, 9.2% a kitchen and 3.5% a laundry (Table 5.16). This is a situation commonly faced by residents on sites across the study area.

**Table 5.16** Shared Facilities

<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Shared facilities	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Bath	29.5	5.3	23.8
Toilet	36.1	5.3	28.8
Kitchen	8.2	0.0	6.3
Laundry	3.3	0.0	2.5
Base (Total Respondents)	61	19	80

<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Shared facilities	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Bath	63.0	0.0	44.7
Toilet	66.7	0.0	47.4
Kitchen	29.6	0.0	21.1
Laundry	3.7	0.0	2.6
Base (Total Respondents)	27	11	38

<b>South Northamptonshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Shared facilities	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Bath	0.0	0.0	0.0
Toilet	4.2	0.0	4.2
Kitchen	0.0	0.0	0.0
Laundry	8.3	0.0	8.3
Base (Total Respondents)	24	0	24

<b>Total</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Shared facilities	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Bath	31.3	3.3	25.4
Toilet	36.6	3.3	29.6
Kitchen	11.6	0.0	9.2
Laundry	4.5	0.0	3.5
Base (Total Respondents)	112	30	142

## Cost of accommodation and services

5.28 Respondents were asked about the cost of accommodation and services provided. On the basis of responses given, the majority of respondents (96.3%) paid between £60 and £70 each week for their accommodation (Table 5.17). Most people living on pitches paid up to £70 each week with the exception of South Northamptonshire where only 25% paid up to £70 per week; here 50% of respondents paid between £100 and £150 each week.

**Table 5.17** Cost of accommodation each week

Cost of home each week (£)	District (%)					
	Cherwell			West Oxfordshire		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
63	0.0	#	0.0	23.1	#	22.2
70	94.9	#	95.0	76.9	#	74.1
75	1.7	#	1.7	0.0	#	0.0
80	3.4	#	3.3	0.0	#	0.0
85	0.0	#	0.0	0.0	#	0.0
100	0.0	#	0.0	0.0	#	0.0
150	0.0	#	0.0	0.0	#	0.0
550	0.0	#	0.0	0.0	#	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	59	1	60	26	1	27
Non response	2	18	20	1	10	11
Grand Total	61	19	80	27	11	38

Cost of home each week (£)	District (%)					
	South Northamptonshire			Total		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
63	0.0		0.0	6.2	#	6.1
70	25.0		25.0	81.4	#	80.8
75	16.7		16.7	3.1	#	3.0
80	0.0		0.0	2.1	#	2.0
85	8.3		8.3	1.0	#	1.0
100	41.7		41.7	5.2	#	5.1
150	8.3		8.3	1.0	#	1.0
550	0.0		0.0	0.0	#	1.0
Total	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	12	0	12	97	#	99
Non response	12	0	12	15	28	43
Grand Total	24	0	24	112	28	142

# number of responses low so data suppressed

- 5.29 Overall, 34.2% of respondents have none of their housing costs met by Housing Benefit (Table 5.18). Of those receiving benefit, 36.8% have some of their housing costs met and 29.1% have all of their costs met.
- 5.30 Receipt of Housing Benefit is higher amongst those living on a pitch on a site with 68.4% of respondents having their housing costs covered in total or in part by Housing Benefit, compared to just 16.7% of those living in bricks and mortar dwellings.
- 5.31 Of those living in bricks and mortar accommodation, 83.3% do not receive Housing Benefit, compared with 31.5% of those living on a pitch on a site.

**Table 5.18** Housing costs covered by Housing Benefit

Housing costs covered by Housing Benefit	District (%)					
	Cherwell			West Oxfordshire		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
None	34.4	#	34.9	34.6	100.0	43.3
Part	29.5	#	28.6	46.2	0.0	40.0
All	36.1	#	36.5	19.2	0.0	16.7
Total	100.0	#	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	61	2	63	26	4	30
Non response	0	17	17	1	7	8
Grand Total	61	19	80	27	11	38

Housing costs covered by Housing Benefit	District (%)					
	South Northamptonshire			Total		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
None	20.8		20.8	31.5	83.3	34.2
Part	54.2		54.2	38.7	0.0	36.8
All	25.0		25.0	29.7	16.7	29.1
Total	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	24	0	24	111	6	117
Non response	0	0	0	1	24	25
Grand Total	24	0	24	112	30	142

# number of responses low so data suppressed

- 5.32 It was not deemed culturally sensitive to ask about income in the survey so it has not been possible to calculate the proportion of the population with unaffordable accommodation costs.

5.33 The cost of services (in particular gas, electricity and oil) were identified as an issue across the majority of respondents, in particular those living in bricks and mortar accommodation. 73.3% of respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation felt that the cost of gas and electricity was not ok; this compares to respondents living on pitches where 39.1% felt the cost of electricity was not okay and 14.6% felt that the cost of gas was not okay.

**Table 5.19** Cost of services

Cherwell		Dwelling type (%)		
		Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
How do you find the cost of electricity?	OK	55.0	33.3	52.2
	Not OK	45.0	66.7	47.8
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	60	9	69
	Non Response	1	10	11
	Grand Total	61	19	80
How do you find the cost of gas?	OK	88.7	33.3	80.6
	Not OK	11.3	66.7	19.4
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	53	9	62
	Non Response	8	10	18
	Grand Total	61	19	80
How do you find the cost of oil?	OK	50.0		50.0
	Not OK	50.0		50.0
	Total	100.0		100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	2	0	2
	Non Response	59	19	78
	Grand Total	61	19	80
How do you find the cost of water?	OK	60.0	0.0	23.1
	Not OK	40.0	100.0	76.9
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	5	8	13
	Non Response	56	11	67
	Grand Total	61	19	80

West Oxfordshire		Dwelling type (%)		
		Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
How do you find the cost of electricity?	OK	73.1	16.7	62.5
	Not OK	26.9	83.3	37.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	26	6	32
	Non Response	1	5	6
	Grand Total	27	11	38
How do you find the cost of gas?	OK	92.3	16.7	78.1
	Not OK	7.7	83.3	21.9
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	26	6	32
	Non Response	1	5	6
	Grand Total	27	11	38
How do you find the cost of oil?	OK	100.0		100.0
	Not OK	0.0		0.0
	Total	100.0		100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	2	0	2
	Non Response	25	11	36
	Grand Total	27	11	38
How do you find the cost of water?	OK	100.0	16.7	58.3
	Not OK	0.0	83.3	41.7
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	6	6	12
	Non Response	21	5	26
	Grand Total	27	11	38

South Northamptonshire		Dwelling type (%)		
		Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
How do you find the cost of electricity?	OK	62.5		62.5
	Not OK	37.5		37.5
	Total	100.0		100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	24	0	24
How do you find the cost of gas?	OK	70.8		70.8
	Not OK	29.2		29.2
	Total	100.0		100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	24	0	24
How do you find the cost of oil?	OK	72.7		72.7
	Not OK	27.3		27.3
	Total	100.0		100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	11	0	11
How do you find the cost of water?	OK	75.0		75.0
	Not OK	25.0		25.0
	Total	100.0		100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	12	0	12

Total		Dwelling type (%)		
		Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
How do you find the cost of electricity?	OK	60.9	26.7	56.8
	Not OK	39.1	73.3	43.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	110	15	125
	Non Response	2	15	17
	Grand Total	112	30	142
How do you find the cost of gas?	OK	85.4	26.7	73.6
	Not OK	14.6	73.3	20.8
	Total	100.0	100.0	94.4
	Base (Valid Response)	103	15	118
	Non Response	9	15	24
	Grand Total	112	30	142
How do you find the cost of oil?	OK	73.3		73.3
	Not OK	26.7		26.7
	Total	100.0		100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	15	0	15
	Non Response	97	30	127
	Grand Total	112	30	142
How do you find the cost of water?	OK	78.3	7.1	51.4
	Not OK	21.7	92.9	48.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	23	14	37
	Non Response	89	16	105
	Grand Total	112	30	142

## Feelings about neighbourhood, safety and security

- 5.34 Interviewees were asked how happy they were with the neighbourhood in which they were located (Table 5.20); overall the majority of respondents were either very happy or happy (80.7%) with their neighbourhood. 17.1% were neither happy nor unhappy; 2.1% of the respondents were unhappy or very unhappy.
- 5.35 Of respondents living on pitches, 87.4% were happy or very happy with their neighbourhood. This degree of happiness varied between the three districts, with 96.1% of respondents in West Oxfordshire, 88.5% in Cherwell and 75% in South Northamptonshire happy or very happy with their neighbourhood.
- 5.36 Respondents living in bricks and mortar appeared to be less happy with their neighbourhood with 55.2% stating they were happy or very happy (61.1% in Cherwell and 45.5% in West Oxfordshire).

**Table 5.20** Happy with neighbourhood

<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Happy with Neighbourhood</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Very happy	32.8	16.7	29.1
Happy	55.7	44.4	53.2
Neither happy nor unhappy	11.5	33.3	16.5
Unhappy	0.0	5.6	1.3
Very unhappy	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	61	18	79
Non response	0	1	1
Grand Total	61	19	80
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Happy with Neighbourhood</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Very happy	42.3	27.3	37.8
Happy	53.8	18.2	43.2
Neither happy nor unhappy	3.8	45.5	16.2
Unhappy	0.0	9.1	2.7
Very unhappy	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base	26.0	11.0	37.0
Non response	1.0	0.0	1.0
Grand Total	27.0	11.0	38.0
<b>South Northamptonshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Happy with Neighbourhood</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Very happy	45.8		45.8
Happy	29.2		29.2
Neither happy nor unhappy	20.8		20.8
Unhappy	4.2		4.2
Very unhappy	0.0		0.0
Total	100.0		100.0
Base	24.0	0.0	24.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Happy with Neighbourhood</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Very happy	37.8	20.7	34.3
Happy	49.5	34.5	46.4
Neither happy nor unhappy	11.7	37.9	17.1
Unhappy	0.9	6.9	2.1
Very unhappy	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base	111	29	140
Non response	1	1	2
Grand Total	112	30	142



## Safety

5.37 In terms of safety (Table 5.21), virtually all (97.8%) of respondents felt safe in their neighbourhood, although respondents living in bricks and mortar were more likely to say they did not feel safe (7.4%) compared with 0.9% of respondents living on pitches.

**Table 5.21** Do you feel safe in this neighbourhood?

<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Feel safe in neighbourhood</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	100.0	94.1	98.7
No	0.0	5.9	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	61	17	78
Non response	0	2	2
Grand Total	61	19	80

<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Feel safe in neighbourhood</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	100.0	90.0	97.1
No	0.0	10.0	2.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	25	10	35
Non response	2	1	3
Grand Total	27	11	38

<b>South Northamptonshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Feel safe in neighbourhood</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	95.5		95.5
No	4.5		4.5
Total	100.0		100.0
Base (Valid Response)	22	0	22
Non response	2		2
Grand Total	24	0	24

<b>Total</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Feel safe in neighbourhood</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	99.1	92.6	97.8
No	0.9	7.4	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	108	27	135
Non response	4	3	7
Grand Total	112	30	142

## Location to amenities

- 5.38 Respondents were asked if they felt being near to a range of amenities was important, slightly important or not important to them (Table 5.22). Over 90% felt it was important to be close to shops and doctors; with pubs and secondary schools identified as being of least importance in being close to.

**Table 5.22** Location to amenities

Amenity	District											
	Cherwell			West Oxfordshire			South Northamptonshire			Total		
	Pitch on a site (%)	Bricks and Mortar (%)	Total (%)	Pitch on a site (%)	Bricks and Mortar (%)	Total (%)	Pitch on a site (%)	Bricks and Mortar (%)	Total (%)	Pitch on a site (%)	Bricks and Mortar (%)	Total (%)
<b>Primary School nearby</b>												
Important	52.6	70.0	56.3	60.9	85.7	66.7	81.0		81.0	62.2	76.5	64.6
Slightly Important	44.7	10.0	37.5	34.8	14.3	30.0	4.8		4.8	31.7	11.8	28.3
Not Important	2.6	20.0	6.3	4.3	0.0	3.3	14.3		14.3	6.1	11.8	7.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	38	10	48	23	7	30	21	0	21	82	17	99
<b>Secondary School nearby</b>												
Important	51.4	63.6	54.2	45.5	87.5	56.7	68.2		68.2	54.3	73.7	58.0
Slightly Important	45.9	18.2	39.6	54.5	12.5	43.3	18.2		18.2	40.7	15.8	36.0
Not Important	2.7	18.2	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.6		13.6	4.9	10.5	6.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	37	11	48	22	8	30	22	0	22	81	19	100
<b>Doctors nearby</b>												
Important	91.4	100.0	93.4	80.0	100.0	85.3	95.8		95.8	89.7	100.0	91.8
Slightly Important	8.6	0.0	6.6	20.0	0.0	14.7	4.2		4.2	10.3	0.0	8.2
Not Important	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	58	18	76	25	9	34	24	0	24	107	27	134
<b>Pubs nearby</b>												
Important	46.0	58.8	49.3	54.5	44.4	51.6	61.9		61.9	51.6	53.8	52.1
Slightly Important	52.0	17.6	43.3	45.5	22.2	38.7	23.8		23.8	44.1	19.2	38.7
Not Important	2.0	23.5	7.5	0.0	33.3	9.7	14.3		14.3	4.3	26.9	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	50	17	67	22	9	31	21	0	21	93	26	119
<b>Shops nearby</b>												
Important	91.7	93.8	92.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	95.8		95.8	94.4	96.2	94.7
Slightly Important	8.3	6.3	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2		4.2	5.6	3.8	5.3
Not Important	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	60	16	76	23	10	33	24	0	24	107	26	133
<b>Public Transport nearby</b>												
Important	60.5	70.6	63.3	34.8	63.6	44.1	80.0		80.0	58.1	67.9	60.5
Slightly Important	25.6	17.6	23.3	39.1	36.4	38.2	15.0		15.0	26.7	25.0	26.3
Not Important	14.0	11.8	13.3	26.1	0.0	17.6	5.0		5.0	15.1	7.1	13.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	43	17	60	23	11	34	20	0	20	86	28	114
<b>Main Roads nearby</b>												
Important	81.0	64.7	77.3	72.0	45.5	63.9	60.9		60.9	74.5	57.1	70.9
Slightly Important	19.0	29.4	21.3	24.0	36.4	27.8	30.4		30.4	22.6	32.1	24.6
Not Important	0.0	5.9	1.3	4.0	18.2	8.3	8.7		8.7	2.8	10.7	4.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	58	17	75	25	11	36	23	0	23	106	28	134

## Moving

5.39 Respondents were asked whether they planned to move over the next five years. The vast majority of residents plan to stay where they are (112 out of 130 respondents).

**Table 5.23** Respondents planning to move in the next five years

<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Moving intention	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Planning to stay where you are based now	86.7	93.3	88.0
Planning to move elsewhere	13.3	6.7	12.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	60	15	75
Non response	1	4	5
Grand Total	61	19	80

<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Moving intention	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Planning to stay where you are based now	80.8	83.3	81.3
Planning to move elsewhere	19.2	16.7	18.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	26	6	32
Non response	1	5	6
Grand Total	27	11	38

<b>South Northamptonshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Moving intention	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Planning to stay where you are based now	87.0		87.0
Planning to move elsewhere	13.0		13.0
Total	100.0		100.0
Base (Valid Response)	23	0	23
Non response	1		1
Grand Total	24	0	24

<b>Total</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Moving intention	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Planning to stay where you are based now	85.3	90.5	86.2
Planning to move elsewhere	14.7	9.5	13.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	109	21	130
Non response	3	9	12
Grand Total	112	30	142

## 6. Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Requirements

- 6.1 This chapter reviews the overall pitch requirements of Gypsies and Travellers across the three local authority areas. It takes into account current supply and demand, as well as future demand, based on modelling of data, as advocated by the CLG. Requirements for Gypsies and Travellers are reviewed. This chapter also considers planning issues.
- 6.2 The calculation of pitch requirements is based on CLG modelling as advocated in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Guidance (CLG, 2007). The CLG Guidance requires an assessment of the current needs of Gypsies and Travellers and a projection of future needs. The Guidance advocates the use of a survey to supplement secondary source information and derive key supply and demand information.
- 6.3 The GTAA has modelled current and future demand and current and future supply. The following analysis focuses on Gypsies and Travellers specifically.
- 6.4 In terms of **demand**, the model considers:
- The baseline number of households on authorised and unauthorised sites (as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012);
  - The number of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation (a minimum baseline based on achieved interviews) and the number wanting to move to a pitch;
  - Households planning to move in the next five years (currently on sites); and
  - Emerging households currently on sites and planning to stay within the study area; to derive a figure for Total demand.
- 6.5 In terms of **supply**, the model considers :
- Turnover on existing authorised sites; and
  - Total supply of authorised pitches based on turnover and existing pitch provision.
- 6.6 The model then reconciles total demand and existing authorised supply by summarising:
- Total demand for pitches (based on 5.); and
  - Total supply of authorised pitches (based on 7.)
- 6.7 The assessment of current need should, in line with the guidance, take account of existing supply and demand. In the CLG model, current residential supply refers to local authority residential sites and authorised privately owned sites.
- 6.8 In this assessment we have reported the existing and authorised number of pitches on local authority and private sites (this is the actual number of pitches on sites available for occupancy at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012).
- 6.9 Data have been weighted for West Oxfordshire (by a factor of 3.07), Cherwell (1.15) and South Northamptonshire (0.42) to reflect the total number of pitches

identified in each District relative to achieved interviews. The number of achieved interviews in South Northamptonshire was greater than the total number of pitches identified by the Council and a lower weighting has been applied. All weighted data has been rounded up to the nearest whole number.

**Table 6.1** Household survey weighting

	<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>South Northamptonshire</b>
Total no. pitches	70	83	10
Total no. responses	61	27	24
Weight	1.15	3.07	0.42

Note: Weighted figures rounded up to nearest whole number

**Table 6.2** Summary of demand and supply factors

DEMAND		TOTAL	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire
1	<b>Current Household pitch demand</b>	1a. On LA Site	16	16	
		1b. On Private Site - Authorised	140	70	3
		1c. Unauthorised	7		7
		<b>1d. Total (1a to 1d)</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>10</b>
2	<b>Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (baseline information only)</b>	2a. TOTAL	30	19	11
3	<b>Households planning to move in next 5 years</b>	<b>Currently on sites</b>			
		3a. To another pitch/same site	14	4	9
		3b. To another site in local authority area	11	5	6
		3c. To Bricks and Mortar	3	2	0
		<b>Currently in houses</b>			
		3d. Planning to move to a site	0	0	0
		<b>3e. TOTAL (3a+3b-3c+3d)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>
4	<b>Emerging households (5 years)</b>	4a. Currently on sites and planning to live on current site	30	15	14
		4b. Currently on sites and planning to live on another site in LA	44	14	27
		4c. Currently in houses planning to move to a site	4	4	0
		<b>4d. TOTAL (4a+4b+4c)</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>41</b>
5	<b>Total Demand</b>	1d+3e+4d	263	110	139
<b>SUPPLY</b>					
6	Turnover on existing sites	6a Annual	18	7	10
		6b 5 Years	90	35	50
7	Total supply of authorised pitches (5 yrs)	6b	246	105	133
<b>RECONCILING DEMAND AND SUPPLY</b>					
7	Total demand for pitches (5 yrs)	from 5	263	110	139
8	Total supply of authorised pitches (5 yrs)	from 7	246	105	133
<b>Total 5yr Shortfall (2012/13 to 2016/17)</b>			<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Shortfall over 15 yrs (2012/13 to 2026/27)</b>			<b>51</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>

Note: Needs Analysis based on surveys carried out during March to September 2012; Base date of pitch supply is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

## Description of factors in the model

- 6.10 Table 6.2 provides a summary of the future pitch requirement calculation. Each component in the model is now discussed to ensure that the process is transparent and any assumptions clearly stated.

### Demand

#### 6.11 Current pitches

These figures are derived from the Local Authority Planning Department data.

#### 6.12 Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation

This is a minimum figure based on the respondents who were interviewed as part of the fieldwork

#### 6.13 Households planning to move in the next five years

This was derived from information from the household survey for respondents currently on authorised and unauthorised pitches and respondents in bricks and mortar accommodation who would prefer to live on a site.

#### 6.14 Emerging households

This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next five years based on household survey information from respondents living on authorised and unauthorised pitches.

#### 6.15 Total demand for pitches

This is a total of current households on pitches (authorised and unauthorised), households planning to move in the next five years (either on pitches or in bricks and mortar accommodation) and demand from emerging households.

### Supply

#### 6.16 Turnover on existing pitches

Survey information identifies the proportion of pitches which have been occupied for less than one year. Analysis assumes that 6.1% of all pitches become available each year.

#### 6.17 Total authorised supply

This figure is based on the total number of pitches available (1a + 1b) plus annual supply based on turnover rates (6a).

### Reconciling supply and demand

- 6.18 In summary, there is a total demand over the next five years (2012/13 to 2016/17) for 5 pitches in Cherwell, 6 in West Oxfordshire and 6 in South Northamptonshire. This analysis assumes that all pitches described in Table 4.1 are occupied which includes sites with full planning permission and tolerated sites.



- 6.19 Analysis does not factor in the potential for additional pitches which are subject to planning permission (after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012) as indicated in Table 4.1.
- 6.20 Table 6.3 summarises current supply and future need by local authority over the period 2012/13 to 2016/17.
- 6.21 This should be viewed as a minimum requirement based on the current supply of pitches and the views expressed by Gypsies and Traveller households who have been interviewed. The demand for pitches should be regularly reviewed to determine the extent to which this minimum requirement is changing over time.

**Table 6.3** Summary of current pitch supply and shortfalls 2012/13 to 2016/17

	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
Existing supply (at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012)	70	83	10	163
Future pitch requirements 2012/13 to 2016/17	5	6	6	17

**Longer-term requirements**

- 6.22 Modelling assumes a five year time horizon but it is feasible to extrapolate the findings over a longer time-frame. Assuming there is no significant change in demand for pitches or pitch availability; analysis would suggest a total 15 year requirement (2012/13 to 2026/27) of 15 pitches in Cherwell, 18 in West Oxfordshire and 18 in South Northamptonshire (Table 6.4).

**Table 6.4** Summary of current pitch supply and shortfalls 2012/13 to 2026/27

	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
Existing supply (at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012)	70	83	10	163
Future pitch requirements 2012/13 to 2026/27	15	18	18	51

## Type of new provision

6.23 Respondents were asked if there is a need for new permanent sites for Gypsies and Travellers across the three districts and, if so, what sort of provision this should be and where should it be located. Responses to these questions are now looked at in turn.

**Table 6.2** Need for new provision

<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Site need	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	98.3	100.0	98.7
No	1.7	0.0	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	60	15	75
Non Response	1	4	5
Grand Total	61	19	80
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Site need	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	92.3	85.7	90.9
No	7.7	14.3	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	26	7	33
Non Response	1	4	5
Grand Total	27	11	38
<b>South Northamptonshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Site need	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	91.3		91.3
No	8.7		8.7
Total	100.0		100.0
Base (Valid Response)	23	0	23
Non Response	1		1
Grand Total	24	0	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Site need	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	95.4	95.5	95.4
No	4.6	4.5	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	109	22	131
Non Response	3	8	11
Grand Total	112	30	142

6.24 The majority of respondents, 125 out of 131 who responded to this question, agreed that there was a need for new provision across the three districts. Respondents from Cherwell and West Oxfordshire also agreed this new provision should be owned and managed privately by non-Gypsies and

Travellers (69.4% Cherwell, 56.3% West Oxfordshire – 64.9% overall). Only 18.1% of respondents wanted new provision to be managed by Housing Associations, and 8.5% by Councils. No views were expressed by respondents from South Northamptonshire on site management options.

**Table 6.3 Preferred Site Management Option**

<b>Cherwell</b>			
	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Site management</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Councils	3.6	16.7	4.8
Registered Social Landlords / Housing Associations	17.9	0.0	16.1
Private (Gypsy/Traveller)	10.7	0.0	9.7
Private (non-Gypsy/Traveller)	67.9	83.3	69.4
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Base (Valid Response)	56	6	62
Non Response	5	13	18
Grand Total	61	19	80
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>			
	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Site management</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Councils	20.0	0.0	15.6
Registered Social Landlords / Housing Associations	28.0	0.0	21.9
Private (Gypsy/Traveller)	8.0	0.0	6.3
Private (non-Gypsy/Traveller)	44.0	100.0	56.3
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Base (Valid Response)	25	7	32
Non Response	2	4	6
Grand Total	27	11	8
<b>Total</b>			
	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
<b>Site management</b>	<b>Pitch on a site</b>	<b>Bricks and Mortar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Councils	8.6	7.7	8.5
Registered Social Landlords / Housing Associations	21.0	0.0	18.1
Private (Gypsy/Traveller)	9.9	0.0	8.5
Private (non-Gypsy/Traveller)	60.5	92.3	64.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Base (Valid Response)	81	13	94
Non Response	31	17	48
Grand Total	112	30	142

6.25 In terms of locations for new provision, the following responses were given:

- All over;
- Anywhere suitable;

- Oxford;
- Cowley;
- Woodstock;
- Littlemore;
- Horsepath;
- Cumner;
- Headington;
- Banbury;
- Witney;
- Bicester;
- Hinkley;
- Kidlington; and
- Northampton.

6.26 The greatest expressed preference for location of new provision was for Oxford and Headington.

6.27 Respondents were asked how many new pitches they felt were needed in their current district of residence over the next five years (Table 6.4). A majority of respondents in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire suggested up to 20 additional pitches. Across South Northamptonshire, a majority of respondents felt there was a need for at least 20 additional pitches over the next five years.

**Table 6.4** Respondent views on pitch requirements over the next five years (2012/13 to 2016/17)

Number of pitches required in next five years	Cherwell Respondents (%)	West Oxfordshire Respondents (%)	South Northamptonshire Respondents (%)	Total Respondents (%)
up to 10	20.9	22.2	8.7	18.8
Between 10 and 20	47.8	44.4	39.1	45.3
20 to 100	31.3	33.3	52.2	35.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	67	27	23	117
Non Response	13	11	1	25
Grand Total	80	38	24	142

## 7. Travelling practices and experiences

- 7.1 The purpose of this chapter is to review the travelling patterns associated with respondents across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire. Broadly speaking, travelling patterns are seasonal, generally linked to seasonal employment but travelling also takes place to visit family and friends and attend events such as weddings and funerals. Families require safe and secure places from which they do their travelling and this is usually from where they access GPs, schools and a dentist.
- 7.2 Respondents were asked about their travelling practices in the previous year (Table 7.1). Around half of respondents (53.2%) had travelled, but this varied according to dwelling type, with 58.2% of those on pitches on sites having travelled compared with 34.5% of those living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

**Table 7.1** Travelling behaviour by dwelling type

<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Travelled in last year	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	53.3	33.3	48.7
No	46.7	66.7	51.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	60	18	78
Non response	1	1	2
Grand Total	61	19	20

<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Travelled in last year	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	73.1	36.4	62.2
No	26.9	63.6	37.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	26	11	37
Non response	1	0	1
Grand Total	27	11	38

<b>South Northamptonshire</b>	<b>Dwelling type (%)</b>		
Travelled in last year	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Yes	54.2		54.2
No	45.8		45.8
Total	100.0		100.0
Base (Valid Response)	24	0	24

Total	Dwelling type (%)		
	Travelled in last year	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar
Yes	58.2	34.5	53.2
No	41.8	65.5	46.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	110	29	139
Non response	2	1	3
Grand Total	112	30	142

7.3 Of respondents that have travelled in the previous year, a majority (58.4%) had travelled for less than one month, with 18.1% travelling for less than 13 days and 40.3% travelling for between two weeks and one month. A further 30.6% travelled for between one and three months, with 11.2% travelling for at least three months but not more than ten months.

**Table 7.2** Duration of travelling

Cherwell	Dwelling type (%)		
	Length of time travelling	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar
No more than 13 days	6.3	50.0	11.1
Two to four weeks	46.9	50.0	47.2
5 to 8 weeks	18.8	0.0	16.7
9 to 12 weeks	12.5	0.0	11.1
13 to 26 weeks	6.3	0.0	5.6
Over 6 months but less than 10 months	9.4	0.0	8.3
Over 10 months but less than 12 months	0.0	0.0	0.0
All Year	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Respondents travelling)	32	4	36

West Oxfordshire	Dwelling type (%)		
	Length of time travelling	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar
No more than 13 days	31.6	25.0	30.4
Two to four weeks	26.3	50.0	30.4
5 to 8 weeks	15.8	0.0	13.0
9 to 12 weeks	15.8	25.0	17.4
13 to 26 weeks	5.3	0.0	4.3
Over 6 months but less than 10 months	5.3	0.0	4.3
Over 10 months but less than 12 months	0.0	0.0	0.0
All Year	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Respondents travelling)	19	4	23

South Northamptonshire	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Length of time travelling			
No more than 13 days	15.4		15.4
Two to four weeks	38.5		38.5
5 to 8 weeks	23.1		23.1
9 to 12 weeks	15.4		15.4
13 to 26 weeks	7.7		7.7
Over 6 months but less than 10 months	0.0		0.0
Over 10 months but less than 12 months	0.0		0.0
All Year	0.0		0.0
Total	100.0		100.0
Base (Respondents travelling)	13	0	13

Total	Dwelling type (%)		
	Pitch on a site	Bricks and Mortar	Total
Length of time travelling			
No more than 13 days	15.6	37.5	18.1
Two to four weeks	39.1	50.0	40.3
5 to 8 weeks	18.8	0.0	16.7
9 to 12 weeks	14.1	12.5	13.9
13 to 26 weeks	6.3	0.0	5.6
Over 6 months but less than 10 months	6.3	0.0	5.6
Over 10 months but less than 12 months	0.0	0.0	0.0
All Year	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Respondents travelling)	64	8	72

7.4 A range of reasons were given for travelling but the most frequently mentioned were to visit fairs (34.2%), for work (32.4%) and visiting family/friends (12.6%) (Table 7.3)

**Table 7.3** Reasons for travelling

Reason	Number	%
Culture	7	6.3
Fairs	38	34.2
Family/Friends	14	12.6
Holiday	6	5.4
Meeting other travellers	10	9.0
Work	36	32.4
Total	111	100

Base: number of responses to why respondents travelled

7.5 A range of problems can be experienced whilst travelling and respondents were asked to identify these. Most frequently the problems mentioned were no places to stopover (83.6%) and the closing of traditional stopping places (82.1%). Other frequently mentioned problems included police behaviour (64.2%), lack of toilet facilities (61.2%) and abuse, harassment or discrimination (58.2%).

**Table 7.4** Problems whilst travelling

Problem	Responses	%	% respondents mentioning
No places to stopover	56	16.0	83.6
Closing of traditional stopping places	55	15.7	82.1
Abuse, harassment or discrimination	39	11.1	58.2
Lack of toilet facilities	41	11.7	61.2
No water facilities	30	8.6	44.8
Problems with rubbish collection	27	7.7	40.3
Police behaviour	43	12.3	64.2
Enforcement officer behaviour	27	7.7	40.3
Behaviour of other travellers	31	8.9	46.3
Other	1	0.3	1.5
Total	350	100.0	

## Transit sites

7.6 The CLG Guidance suggests that, in addition to the need for permanent provision, an assessment should be made of the need for temporary places to stop-over while travelling. Two types of temporary provision have been identified elsewhere:

- Transit sites: intended for short-term use while in transit. Sites are usually permanent but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay; and
- Stop-over places: designated temporary camping areas tolerated by local authorities, used for short-term encampments and sometimes with the provision of temporary toilet facilities, water supplies and refuse collection services.

7.7 Views were sought on the current provision of transit sites across the Districts and 86.4% of respondents said that there was a need for provision of new transit sites across all three Districts, whilst 13.6% said not. At District level, 86.3% of respondents in Cherwell, 91.7% in South Northamptonshire and 82.9% in West Oxfordshire felt that there was a need for additional transit sites to be provided.

7.8 In terms of location for new transit provision the following locations were identified:

7.9 From respondents in Cherwell District:

- Everywhere;



- Outside city centre;
- Close to existing sites;
- Off the A34;
- Oxford;
- Witney;
- Woodstock;
- Cowley; and
- Thames.

7.10 From respondents in South Northamptonshire:

- Everywhere; and
- Oxford.

7.11 From respondents living in West Oxfordshire:

- Anywhere;
- Oxfordshire;
- Banbury;
- Cowley;
- Horsepath;
- Oxford;
- Woodstock;
- Littlemore; and
- Bicester.

7.12 There is a strong preference for the management of transit sites by Housing Associations (82.7% Cherwell, 95.8% South Northamptonshire, and 68.6% West Oxfordshire) (Table 7.5). Conversely there is a strong preference for private sites managed by Gypsies and Travellers in South Northamptonshire (95.8%), which is not the case in the other two Districts (28% in Cherwell and 28.6% in West Oxfordshire).

**Table 7.5** Preferred management of transit provision

Management of transit sites	District (%)			
	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	South Northamptonshire	Total
Councils	25.3	31.4	54.2	32.1
Registered Social Landlords / Housing Associations	82.7	68.6	95.8	81.3
Private (Gypsy/Traveller)	28.0	28.6	95.8	40.3
Private (non-Gypsy/Traveller)	14.7	8.6	16.7	13.4
Other	1.3	0.0	4.2	1.5
Base (Valid Response)	75	35	24	24

Note: Respondents could tick more than one response so percentages do not add up to 100%

## Homelessness

7.13 Respondents were asked if they, or any member of their household, had been homeless in the last five years (Table 7.6). Overall 21.3% of respondents said that they had experienced homelessness within the past five years. Rates of homelessness were higher amongst those living on a pitch on a site, at 22% compared to 18.5% for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

7.14 Rates were highest in South Northamptonshire, where homelessness had been a problem for 29.2% of respondents, compared with 20% in Cherwell and 18.2% in West Oxfordshire.

**Table 7.6** Homelessness over past five years (%)

District	Dwelling type	Homeless experience (%)	Base (Total households)
Cherwell	Pitch on a site	25.0	52
	Bricks and Mortar	5.6	18
	Total	20.0	70
South Northamptonshire	Pitch on a site	29.2	24
	Total	29.2	24
West Oxfordshire	Pitch on a site	8.3	24
	Bricks and Mortar	44.4	9
	Total	18.2	33
Total	Pitch on a site	22.0	100
	Bricks and Mortar	18.5	27
	Total	21.3	127

7.15 The predominant reasons for being made homeless were:

- Being moved on;

- Nowhere to stay/stop;
- No spaces on sites; and
- Not enough sites.

## Planning

7.16 Respondents owning their own land were asked if they were intending to apply for planning permission in the next five years, there were only five such cases noted across the study area and to ensure confidentiality of respondents this is not broken down further.

## 8. Wider Service and Support Needs

8.1 This research provides a valuable opportunity to review the wider service and support needs of Gypsies and Travellers, and this chapter discusses issues raised through household surveys and stakeholder consultation.

### Registration with doctor and dentist

8.2 The vast majority of respondents interviewed stated that they were registered with a doctor (89.4%) and 58.5% were registered with a dentist (Table 8.1). The proportion of respondents registered with a doctor and dentist were consistently higher amongst residents living in bricks and mortar accommodation; residents in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire were also more likely to be registered

**Table 8.1** Registration with a doctor and dentist

District	Dwelling type	% Registered with a Doctor	% Registered with a Dentist	Base
Cherwell	Pitch on a site	90.2	47.5	61
	Bricks and Mortar	100.0	78.9	19
	Total	92.5	55.0	80
South Northamptonshire	Pitch on a site	79.2	58.3	24
	Total	79.2	58.3	24
West Oxfordshire	Pitch on a site	85.2	59.3	27
	Bricks and Mortar	100.0	81.8	11
	Total	89.5	65.8	38
Total	Pitch on a site	86.6	52.7	112
	Bricks and Mortar	100.0	80.0	30
	Total	89.4	58.5	142

### Services used in the last year

8.3 Interviewees were asked which services they had used in the last year (Table 8.2). The most used services were Doctor (GP) and Dentist. GP services were accessed by 91.3% of respondents in South Northamptonshire, 90.8% of respondents in Cherwell and 83.3% in West Oxfordshire. Dentists were accessed by 64.5% of respondents in Cherwell, 77.8% of respondents in West Oxfordshire and 52.2% of respondents in South Northamptonshire.

8.4 The proportion of respondents using other services tended to be considerably lower. For instance, the next most frequently used services by respondents in Cherwell is the Citizens' Advice Bureau (32.9%), Traveller Liaison Service (26.3%) and Accident and Emergency services (26.3%). In South Northamptonshire, the next most frequently used services are Accident and Emergency (30.4%) and Traveller Education (17.4%). In West Oxfordshire the

next most frequently used services are Citizens Advice Bureaux (22.2%), Traveller Education (19.4%) and Traveller Liaison (19.4%).

**Table 8.2** Services used in past twelve months (%)

Type of support	Cherwell			West Oxfordshire		
	Pitch on a site (%)	Bricks and Mortar (%)	Total (%)	Pitch on a site (%)	Bricks and Mortar (%)	Total (%)
Traveller Liaison	31.6	10.5	26.3	23.1	10.0	19.4
Traveller Education	22.8	0.0	17.1	26.9	0.0	19.4
Adult Education	5.3	0.0	3.9	3.8	0.0	2.8
Law Centre	3.5	5.3	3.9	0.0	10.0	2.8
Citizens Advice Bureau	40.4	10.5	32.9	19.2	30.0	22.2
Other welfare rights advice	10.5	10.5	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Doctor (GP)	89.5	94.7	90.8	76.9	100.0	83.3
Dentist	64.9	63.2	64.5	73.1	90.0	77.8
Accident and emergency	26.3	26.3	26.3	19.2	10.0	16.7
Health visitors	22.8	10.5	19.7	23.1	0.0	16.7
Social services	1.8	0.0	1.3	3.8	0.0	2.8
Other	1.8	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Base (Valid Responses)	57	19	76	26	10	36
Non Response	4	0	4	1	1	2
Grand Total	61	19	80	27	11	38

Type of support	South Northamptonshire		Total		
	Pitch on a site (%)	Total (%)	Pitch on a site (%)	Bricks and Mortar (%)	Total (%)
Traveller Liaison	0.0	0.0	22.6	10.3	20.0
Traveller Education	17.4	17.4	22.6	0.0	17.8
Adult Education	8.7	8.7	5.7	0.0	4.4
Law Centre	0.0	0.0	1.9	6.9	3.0
Citizens Advice Bureau	8.7	8.7	28.3	17.2	25.9
Other welfare rights advice	8.7	8.7	7.5	6.9	7.4
Doctor (GP)	91.3	91.3	86.8	96.6	88.9
Dentist	52.2	52.2	64.2	72.4	65.9
Accident and emergency	30.4	30.4	25.5	20.7	24.4
Health visitors	4.3	4.3	18.9	6.9	16.3
Social services	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.5
Other	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.7
Base (Valid Responses)	23	23	106	29	135
Non Response	1	1	6	1	7
Grand Total	24	24	112	30	142

## Long-term illness or disability

- 8.5 The incidence of long-term illnesses or disability among Gypsy and Traveller respondents is set out in the table below. Arthritis and asthma are the main long-term illnesses identified, with particularly high levels amongst those living on pitches on sites. Similarly, incidences of depression (the next most common long-term illness in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire) are higher amongst those living on a pitch on a site than for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation. In both Cherwell and South Northamptonshire issues with hearing and sight were particularly noted.

**Table 8.3** Incidence of long-term illness or disability

Type of illness/disability	Cherwell			West Oxfordshire			South Northamptonshire		Total		
	Pitch on a site (%)	Bricks and Mortar (%)	Total (%)	Pitch on a site (%)	Bricks and Mortar (%)	Total (%)	Pitch on a site (%)	Total (%)	Pitch on a site (%)	Bricks and Mortar (%)	Total (%)
Arthritis	27.9	3.9	22.6	17.2	8.0	15.3	12.5	12.5	22.0	5.3	18.9
Asthma	32.4	5.9	26.5	22.6	8.0	19.5	21.9	21.9	27.7	6.6	23.8
Depression	18.4	3.9	15.2	11.8	4.0	10.2	9.4	9.4	14.9	3.9	12.9
Diabetes	7.3	5.9	7.0	5.4	4.0	5.1	6.3	6.3	6.5	5.3	6.3
Problems with hearing	12.8	5.9	11.3	6.5	4.0	5.9	10.9	10.9	10.7	5.3	9.7
Learning difficulties/dyslexia	1.7	0.0	1.3	8.6	0.0	6.8	1.6	1.6	3.6	0.0	2.9
Learning disability	2.2	0.0	1.7	2.2	0.0	1.7	1.6	1.6	2.1	0.0	1.7
Problems with mobility	14.0	2.0	11.3	4.3	4.0	4.2	1.6	1.6	8.9	2.6	7.8
Problems with vision	14.5	3.9	12.2	6.5	0.0	5.1	14.1	14.1	12.2	2.6	10.4
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2
Total % with one or more	27.4	15.7	24.8	17.2	16.0	16.9	23.4	23.4	23.8	15.8	22.3
Total population with one or more illness/disability	49	8	57	16	4	20	15	15	80	12	92
Total Population in respondent households	179	51	230	93	25	118	64	64	336	76	412
Total Respondent households	61	19	80	27	11	30	24	24	112	30	142

## Stakeholder consultation

- 8.6 Consultation with stakeholders formed part of this study, with all key partners being invited to participate in an on-line survey to ascertain their views on the most pressing issues facing the Gypsy and Traveller communities across the three districts. Interviews were also undertaken with representatives from both the Northamptonshire Countywide Traveller Unit, and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Services unit. A comprehensive summary of the stakeholder consultation survey responses can be found at Appendix D; however, some key points and comments are set out here.

## Key issues and outcomes

- 8.7 Stakeholders identified the following key issues as those most affecting Gypsies and Travellers across the three districts:
- Lack of land/sites;
  - Prejudice and discrimination;
  - Illiteracy;
  - Lack of job opportunities;
  - Isolation;
  - Access to healthcare
  - Lack of understanding from settled community; and
  - Lack of local authority commitment to facilitate additional provision.
- 8.8 When asked what they would like to be the main outcome from this research the primary objective of stakeholders was to gain a better understanding of the issues:
- A comprehensive evidence base to enable understanding of need and allow issues to be addressed;
  - A better understanding of needs so possible solutions can be identified; and
  - A better understanding of culture, to enable listening and consultation with the communities concerned.

## Prejudice and lack of awareness

- 8.9 There was a broad consensus of opinion that Gypsy and Traveller communities experience prejudice and discrimination, and that they can be isolated. A lack of awareness was strongly emphasised as a critical issue, which hampers effective planning and delivery.
- *Those charged with meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers ought to actively pursue an agenda of debunking myths that build-up to create prejudice.*



- *I think that there is a general misunderstanding as to the needs of this community and raising awareness across services etc could benefit.*

### Access to healthcare

- 8.10 Ongoing access is needed to local GP surgeries (on a bus route if there is a transport issue) and suitable washing/toileting facilities should be available on sites.

### Strategic commitment

- 8.11 It was felt by a number of stakeholders that there was a lack of strategic commitment to tackle the issues faced by Gypsies and Travellers, and that there was scope and capacity to improve partnership working and deliver better and more effective results:
- *There are some organisations who strive to meet these aims within the area of the study. However, they are few and far between and a greater understanding around the needs and desires of the wider travelling community would go a long way to breaking down barriers.*
- 8.12 It was felt that public opinion and a lack of political will hampers progress in addressing the housing and support requirements of Gypsies and Travellers.

### Education

- 8.13 Concerns were raised by stakeholders regarding reduced resources and the impact that this will have on the provision of education services to Gypsy and Traveller families:
- *The Advisory Service for the Education of Travellers (ASET) which was an Oxfordshire County Council service has been dramatically cut to 1.6 people from a strong team of 15. This hasn't helped our service with getting Traveller children into schools when new families come into the area. This team needs to be a lot bigger in numbers. The PCT NHS provide a Traveller Health Advocate on a three day a week basis which again is not enough to support the families both on the county council and private sites, there needs to be at least three Advocates working part time.*

### Barriers to new provision

- 8.14 To deliver more sites/pitches within the study area barriers to delivery will need to be tackled. Stakeholders were asked to identify what these barriers to delivery are and cited the following:
- Widespread prejudice and local opposition:
    - *The perceptions of the community and the behaviour of some site occupants;*
    - *The general public is the main barrier as they carry the political vote and lack the knowledge of the culture; and*

– *Perceptions of the travelling community.*

- Local anxieties about antisocial behaviour and crime;
- Negative press and opposition from local residents;
- Attitudes and preconceptions – *Land is a scarce commodity and the perception is that its best use is for the settled community;*
- Lack of land or provision within Local Plans for sites for Gypsies and Travellers; *(Over many years central government failed to enforce legislation requiring sufficient provision. Although many would agree that additional provision is probably required, trying to address this by agreement at county level has meant authorities only wishing to agree to provision elsewhere);* and
- Reactive and not proactive responses from local authorities.

8.15 In terms of locations for new provision, there was strong support for sites across all three districts but no broad locations were identified.

## 9. Summary of Findings

- 9.1 This section of the report summarises the key headlines findings from the research, both in terms of the overall picture for the three authorities, and then for each individual local authority, identifying the key issues for each authority.

### Headline findings from the research

#### Current conditions

- 9.2 Overall satisfaction levels are high, with 80.7% of respondents being either happy or very happy with their home; none were unhappy – similarly 77.1% were satisfied with the location of their home. The majority of respondents own their own home (51.5%), whilst 34.6% rent privately; only 10.8% rent from the Council and 3.1% are rented from a Housing Association which is consistent with the limited availability of local authority owned sites.
- 9.3 While respondents were generally happy with their existing permanent sites the survey suggests that the conditions could be improved. There are high incidences of shared facilities, with 29.6% of respondents sharing a toilet, and 25.4% a bath, with another household.
- 9.4 Linked to the reasonably high levels of satisfaction is the relatively high level of repair, with 63.9% of respondents having no repair issues with their home and 84.8% describing their home as being in either a good or very good state of repair. Where repairs and improvements were identified as being needed, these tend to be linked to a lack of space, and a lack of kitchen and bathroom facilities; issues were also identified with roofs, doors and windows.
- 9.5 Overcrowding and lack of space generally were not identified as significant problems for the majority of respondents. Only 6.3% of respondents felt that they were overcrowded; 73.9% felt like they had sufficient space on their pitch, and 83.5% had sufficient space for their trailers, wagons and vehicles.
- 9.6 The cost of services was more problematic for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation than for those living on a pitch on a site.

#### Pitch Requirements

- 9.7 Since the obligation to provide Gypsy and Traveller sites was abolished in 1994 a gap in the provision of permanent sites has emerged nationally.
- 9.8 By combining research methods and drawing upon secondary source data it has been possible to understand the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities locally.
- 9.9 The study has provided robust estimates of the size of the population of these communities and established the current and future accommodation for the three Districts.
- 9.10 Using the CLG-approved model for calculating pitch requirements, the research has demonstrated that across the Districts there is a shortfall of 17 pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 (Cherwell 5, West

Oxfordshire 6 and South Northamptonshire 6 pitches). Although it is recommended that the analysis is reviewed on a regular basis, if the same shortfall is extrapolated over the 15 year period to 2026/27, the total shortfall would be 51 pitches across the three Districts (Cherwell 15, West Oxfordshire 18 and South Northamptonshire 18 pitches).

- 9.11 Survey respondents did express a need for transit provision across the study area although management and enforcement issues would suggest that the use of temporary pitches on authorised sites would be more appropriate.
- 9.12 CLG guidance advocates smaller permanent sites of between six and 12 pitches. There is a need to take a long-term view of the site management as it is more intensive and demanding than most conventional housing management, and it would be sensible to look at this issue in greater depth. Different management models may be appropriate for different sites, with mainstream approaches to recruitment and selection of managers needing to reflect cultural sensitivities.
- 9.13 For all communities, the method of analysis is such that it is possible to periodically update the assessment of accommodation need through the careful recording of key data. For Gypsy and Traveller Communities, the number of extant authorised pitches and the provision of Traveller Education support needs to be recorded in some detail in order that the estimate can be disaggregated by the different ethnicities.

### Travelling Practices and Requirements

- 9.14 The current understanding of travelling patterns and the associated requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller communities is more limited. The communities continue to travel because it is part of their cultural heritage, for work, social and religious reasons.
- 9.15 There is support for the provision of transit sites and stopping places which allow for temporary stopovers while travelling.

### Wider service needs

- 9.16 Gypsies and Travellers reported limited support of wider service needs, beyond access to doctors and dentists; registration with doctors and dentists was reasonable, though levels were low in South Northamptonshire at only 79.2% (doctor) and 58.3% (dentist).
- 9.17 Professionals from Health and Education point to the difficulties that Gypsies and Travellers have in accessing services due to their poor levels of literacy, which make form filling difficult and sometimes impossible.

### Health

- 9.18 Concerns were raised by healthcare professionals about the high levels of asthma and arthritis reported amongst members of the Gypsy and Traveller community living on pitches on sites. Hearing and sight problems appear to be issues within the Travelling community in South Northamptonshire.

## Local authority summaries

### **Cherwell**

- 9.19 Across Cherwell District there are seven private sites with a total of 70 existing or approved pitches. The largest sites are Smiths Caravan Site, Bloxham with 36 pitches and Bicester Trailer Park (Rossiters) in Bicester with 8 pitches.
- 9.20 An analysis of future demand which takes into account current pitch provision, future moving intentions of existing households and emerging need from newly-forming households, indicates a shortfall of 5 pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and a shortfall of 15 pitches over the fifteen years 2012/13 to 2026/27. This should be viewed as a minimum requirement based on the data received from the Gypsy and Traveller community and regularly reviewed.
- 9.21 A key option available to deliver additional pitch provision is the granting of planning permissions for the expansion of existing sites (e.g. Rossiters in Bicester).

### **West Oxfordshire**

- 9.22 Across West Oxfordshire District there is one Local Authority site at Standlake (16 pitches) and 67 pitches across nine sites, the largest of which are Ting Tang lane (23 pitches) and the Beeches near Chadlington (20 pitches).
- 9.23 An analysis of future demand which takes into account current pitch provision, future moving intentions of existing households and emerging need from newly-forming households, indicates a shortfall of 6 pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and a shortfall of 18 pitches over the fifteen years 2012/13 to 2026/27. This should be viewed as a minimum requirement based on the data received from the Gypsy and Traveller community and regularly reviewed.
- 9.24 Key options available to deliver additional pitch provision are the granting of planning permissions for the expansion of existing sites and a review of unauthorised sites to explore if planning permission can be granted on them.

### **South Northamptonshire**

- 9.25 Across South Northamptonshire there is one authorised private site at Abthorpe and a tolerated site at Deanshanger.
- 9.26 An analysis of future demand which takes into account current pitch provision, future moving intentions of existing households and emerging need from newly-forming households, indicates a shortfall of 6 pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and a shortfall of 18 pitches over the fifteen years 2012/13 to 2026/27. This should be viewed as a minimum requirement based

on the data received from the Gypsy and Traveller community and regularly reviewed.

- 9.27 A key challenge for South Northamptonshire is to improve the accommodation situation of households living at Deanshanger. This is a well-established unauthorised encampment but conditions are poor and overcrowded pitches commonplace. Options would include authorising the site or providing an alternative site for households currently residing on the site.

## 10. Conclusion and Strategic Response

10.1 This concluding chapter looks at the key challenges and issues facing the local authorities in respect of meeting the accommodation requirements of Gypsies and Travellers in Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire. The chapter provides:

- A brief **summary of key issues** emerging from the research, and the challenges these pose;
- Advice on the **strategic responses available** to the local authorities to address identified issues, including examples of good practice; and
- Recommendations and next steps.

### Key issues and how to tackle them

10.2 Chapter 9 provides a summary of the headline findings from the research, so these will not be reiterated here. This section of the report focuses on the key issues emerging from the research, and looks at how these challenges might be addressed by the local authorities. Recommendations are highlighted throughout the chapter.

10.3 The key priority issues identified by the research include:

- Meeting pitch requirements;
- Addressing poor conditions on existing sites; and
- Tackling wider service and support needs.

### Meeting pitch requirements

10.4 An overall five year pitch requirement of 17 has been identified by the research (Cherwell five pitches, West Oxfordshire six pitches, and South Northamptonshire six pitches). In order to meet these requirements the three Districts will need to ensure that an adequate supply of sites is identified within their respective local plans, and they will need to work closely with both settled and Travelling communities to do this. The Districts, in partnership with Travelling communities, also need to consider the options available to help meet identified need, including the expansion of existing sites, re-designation of unauthorised sites, use of Community Land Trusts and exceptions site policies. Each of these areas is now looked at in more detail, alongside good practice in planning for Gypsy and Traveller provision.

10.5 Local planning authorities have a duty to identify land for development (Housing Act 2004 S225). Planning authorities are best placed to do this as they are most likely to know the current status of the land and the probability of securing planning permission.

### *Expansion of existing sites*

- 10.6 With the exception of Rossiter's site in Bicester, none of the existing authorised sites are believed to have further capacity based on observation and discussions with professionals working with the Gypsy and Traveller communities. Site-by-site viability assessments and a review of surrounding land ownership would be recommended to confirm this.

### *Re-designation of unauthorised sites*

- 10.7 The re-designation of sites from unauthorised to authorised use is an option to bring forward sites to address pitch shortfalls across the local authorities.

### *New site identification*

- 10.8 The three Local Authorities should look to their land bank for suitable and appropriate land for development that is not in need of remediation, as this may well incur more financial investment than site provision itself. County land should also be considered but given the current economic climate, 'going rates' may negate the viability of development. Counties should be looking to review releasing land for development rather than seeing this as an opportunity for fiscal reward. The Homes and Communities Agency also have a land bank and this should also be explored. Local land owners should also be approached as there may be 'set aside' land that is not economically viable to the landowner, but would be suitable for a small family unit and could 'reap' a dividend, thus making it attractive as a business venture. There has been suggestion of some Local Authorities 'gifting' land for development and although not a popular suggestion, it should be given consideration.
- 10.9 The idea of local community members 'knowing' what land is available or suitable is a misnomer that has been indicated by research carried out by Homespace SA which shows Travellers are usually unaware of planning restrictions and current/past land use.

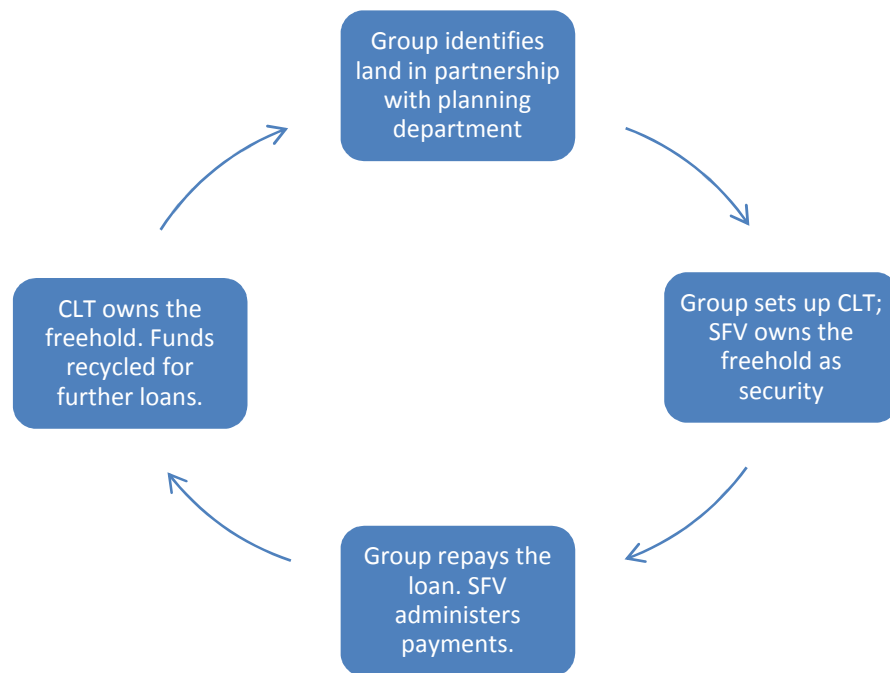
### *Community Land Trusts*

- 10.10 The 2008 Housing and Regeneration Act established Community Land Trusts as an option for local communities to acquire and manage land to address a social, environmental or economic interest.
- 10.11 Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are now emerging as an option to help meet the need for more sites for Gypsies and Travellers. This approach has successfully been adopted by Mendip District Council in Somerset, which has committed funding to developing a CLT locally, despite Government cuts in funding.
- 10.12 In the Mendip model the Council has worked with Travellers and community groups to develop a CLT which facilitates Gypsies and Travellers purchasing land at low cost with a loan made available through a specific funding vehicle (SFV). Travellers develop a business plan for their proposal. Land owners are needed to sell small parcels of land for sites; this land cannot be sold for profit but is retained in perpetuity for provision of Traveller site accommodation. To



incentivise landowners an upfront deposit is provided. The following diagram illustrates how the model works. A fundamental challenge with this approach is resourcing the model in the absence of Government subsidy; in Mendip the local authority has provided £100,000 to get their scheme off the ground.

**Diagram 10.1** How does CLT model work?



*Planning gain and Exception Sites policy*

10.13 Use of planning obligations to deliver or improve sites for Gypsies and Travellers could be explored further by the three Districts. For example, in Cherwell, to prevent further loss of pitches at a private site, a legal agreement has been used to require phased improvements to the remaining pitches. Planning obligations to address Gypsy and Traveller requirements on sites other than trailer parks should also be considered. However, it is important that, where this approach is adopted, regular monitoring takes place to ensure that the requisite pitches are being made available to, and are being used by, Gypsies and Travellers; enforcement action will be necessary where this is not the case.

*Good practice in planning for Gypsy and Traveller provision*

10.14 There are a number of resources available to local planning authorities to assist them in planning for Gypsy and Traveller provision, including resources from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), which are looked at briefly here. In addition, the Improvement

and Development Agency (I&DeA) and Local Government Association, have resources available for local authorities working with Gypsy and Traveller communities to identify sites for new provision, these include dedicated learning aids for elected members<sup>15</sup>.

10.15 Work undertaken by PAS<sup>16</sup> identified ways in which the planning process can increase the supply of authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches. PAS list the following as key to successful delivery of new provision:

- **Involve Gypsy and Traveller communities:** this needs to happen at an early stage, innovative methods of consultation need to be adopted due to low levels of literacy and high levels of social exclusion within Gypsy and Traveller communities. PAS cites as good practice examples, authorities using members of the Gypsy and Traveller community as trained interviewers on Accommodation Assessments (Cambridgeshire, Surrey, Dorset and Leicestershire). Other good practice examples include distribution of material via CD, so that information can be 'listened to' as opposed to read. The development of a dedicated Gypsy and Traveller Strategy is also seen to be good practice, helping agencies develop a co-ordinated approach and so prioritise the issue. The report also recommends the use of existing Gypsy and Traveller resources such as the planning guide published in Traveller's Times, which aims to explain the planning process in an accessible way to members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. As well as consulting early, PAS also flags the need to consult often with communities;
- **Work collaboratively** with neighbouring authorities to address the issues and avoid just 'moving it on' to a neighbouring local authority area. With the new duty to cooperate established within the NPPF, working collaboratively with neighbouring local authorities has never been more important. Adopting a collaborative approach recognises that local authorities cannot work in isolation to tackle this issue;
- **Be transparent:** trust is highly valued within Gypsy and Traveller communities, and can take a long time to develop. The planning system needs to be transparent, so that members of the Gypsy and Traveller community can understand the decisions that have been taken and the reasoning behind them. PAS states that *'ideally council work in this area should be led by an officer who is respected both within the Council and also within Gypsy and Traveller communities: trust is vital and can be broken easily.'*<sup>17</sup> Local planning authorities also need to revisit their approach to development management criteria for applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites *'to ensure that criteria make it clear what applications are likely to be accepted by the council. Authorities need to ensure that these are reasonable and realistic. Transparent and criteria-based policies help everyone to understand what decisions have been made and why.'*<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> I&DeA local leadership academy providing Gypsy and Traveller sites

<sup>16</sup> PAS spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help

<sup>17</sup> PAS spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help page 8

<sup>18</sup> PAS spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help page 8 & 14

Kent and Hertsmere councils are listed as examples of good practice in this regard.

- **Integration:** accommodation needs assessments need to be integrated into the Local Plan evidence base, with site locations and requirements set out within specific Development Plan Documents (DPDs); dedicated Gypsy and Traveller DPDs are advocated as a means of ensuring that the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers are fully considered and addressed within the local planning process; and
- **Educate and work with councillors:** members need to be aware of their responsibilities in terms of equality and diversity and *'understand that there must be sound planning reasons for rejecting applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites'*<sup>19</sup>. It is helpful for members to understand the wider benefits of providing suitable accommodation to meet the requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller community, such as:
  - An increase in site provision;
  - Reduced costs of enforcement; and
  - Greater community engagement and understanding of community need.

10.16 The RTPI has developed a series of Good Practice notes for local planning authorities 'Planning for Gypsies and Travellers'; the notes cover four key areas:

- Communication, consultation and participation;
- Needs assessment;
- Accommodation and site delivery; and
- Enforcement.

10.17 Whilst the notes were developed prior to the NPPF and the introduction of the new *Planning policy for traveller sites*, they remain relevant, and it is worth considering some of the papers' key recommendations.

10.18 In terms of **communication, consultation and participation** the RTPI highlight the following good practice:

- **Define potentially confusing terminology** used by professionals working in the area;
- **Use appropriate methods of consultation:** oral exchanges and face-to-face dealings are essential to effectively engage with Gypsy and Traveller communities, whilst service providers tend to use written exchanges;
- **Consultees and participants need to be involved in the entire plan making process;** this includes in-house participants, external organisations, Gypsy and Traveller communities, and settled communities. The RTPI concludes that:

---

<sup>19</sup> PAS *spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help* page 10

- ‘Local authorities should encourage Gypsy and Traveller communities to engage with the planning system at an early stage. However, they may request other agencies that have well-established relationships with members of Gypsy and Traveller communities to undertake this role.’ and
  - ‘In the past, settled communities have often only become aware of the intention to develop Gypsy and Traveller accommodation when the local authority issues a notice or consultation. ... cultivating the support of the settled community for the development of sites should start as soon as possible. ... There is a sound case for front-loading and sharing information with small groups in the [settled] community, rather than trying to manage large public gatherings at the start of the process. Again, it may be beneficial for the local authority to work in partnership with organisations with established links in the community. The settled community is not a homogeneous whole. There will be separate groups with different perceptions and concerns, which the local authority must take account of.’<sup>20</sup>
- **Dialogue methods:** the RTPI correctly identify that the experience of many Gypsies and Travellers of liaising with both public sector agencies and the settled community is both frightening and negative. As a result ‘there should be no expectation that Gypsies and Travellers will participate in open meetings. Stakeholders should investigate suitable methods of bringing together individuals from the respective communities in an environment that will facilitate a constructive exchange of information and smooth the process of breaking down animosity and hostility.’<sup>21</sup> The use of public meetings is discouraged, and the use of organisations with experience of working within both Gypsy and Traveller, and settled communities encouraged – advice and support groups, assisted by the latter, holding regular local meetings can be an effective means of engaging constructively with both communities. Representatives from these groups can also be included on appropriate forums and advisory groups. The location and timing of meetings needs to be carefully considered to maximise participation, with a neutral venue being preferable;
  - **The media** has an important role to play in facilitating the delivery of sites locally, with past reporting being extremely damaging. Positive media liaison is important and requires:
    - A single point of contact with the local authority;
    - A liaison officer responsible for compilation and release of briefings, and for building positive relationships with editors, journalists, radio and television presenters;

---

<sup>20</sup> RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part A page 8

<sup>21</sup> RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part A page 13

- All stakeholders to provide accurate and timely briefings for the liaison officer;
  - Provision of media briefings on future activities;
  - Officers to anticipate when and where the most sensitive and contentious issues will arise and use of a risk assessment to mitigate any negative impact;
  - Use of the media to facilitate engagement with both settled and Gypsy and Traveller communities; and
  - Stakeholders to provide politicians with clear, accurate and comprehensive briefings.
- **On-going communication, participation and consultation** are important. The continued use of the most effective methods of engagement once an initiative is completed ensures the maximum use of resources:
    - *The delivery of some services, such as the identification of sites in development plan documents, is the end of one process and the start of another. The various committees and advisory groups established to participate in the process of site identification and the accommodation needs assessment will have considerable background information and expertise embedded in their membership. This will prove useful in the management and monitoring of subsequent work. ... Whilst on-going engagement with all service users is important, it is especially important with regard to Gypsies and Travellers, given their long history of marginalisation.*<sup>22</sup>

10.19 Whilst the RTPI's Good Practice Note Planning for Gypsies and Travellers predates the NPPF, the principles that it establishes at Part C remain largely relevant in terms of the role of local plan making. The Note advises that whilst the use of the site specific DPDs to identify sites for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation may seem less divisive, subsequent to identification of sufficient sites to meet identified demand, local planning authorities should seek to integrate provision for Gypsies and Travellers within their general housing strategies and policies. Early involvement of stakeholders, the community and special interest groups will help achieve a consensus.

10.20 However, the RTPI point out that, due to the contentious nature of Gypsy and Traveller provision, the use of a criteria based approach to the selection of development sites is unlikely to be successful *'in instances where considerable public opposition to the development might be anticipated.'* The paper concludes that *it is not appropriate to rely solely on criteria as an alternative to site allocations where there is an identified need for the development.*<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>22</sup> RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part A page 18

<sup>23</sup> RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part C page 11

10.21 The RTPI advocate adopting a pragmatic approach, whereby local planning authorities work with the Gypsy and Traveller communities within their areas to identify a range of potentially suitable sites:

- *'The local authority and Gypsy and Traveller communities are both able to bring forward their suggested sites during this process, and the distribution and location of transit as well as permanent sites can be covered. The practicable options would then go forward for discussion with the local community, interest groups, and other stakeholders before the selection of preferred sites is finalised. The advantages of this approach are its transparency and the certainty it provides both for Gypsies and Travellers and for settled communities.'*<sup>24</sup>

10.22 The RTPI also advocates the use of supplementary planning guidance to provide additional detail on policies contained within a Local Plan; in terms of Gypsies and Travellers this could include:

- Needs assessment evidence base;
- Design principles; and
- A design brief for the layout of sites.

---

<sup>24</sup> RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part C page 11

## Recommendations for meeting pitch requirements

To enable the Districts to meet the identified pitch requirements it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That the Districts continue to work collaboratively to meet identified need;
- That mechanisms are established to enable effective engagement with both settled and Traveller communities about identifying future sites;
- That appropriate sites are identified to meet requirements;
- That needs are monitored on an on-going basis;
- That options to secure provision of pitches through planning gain and exception sites are pursued;
- That the use of Community Land Trust to meet needs, is explored;
- That consideration is given to disposal of publicly owned land to meet pitch requirements;
- That consideration is given as to the ways in which Gypsies and Travellers can be supported through the planning application process;
- That a key point of contact is identified for each local authority to deal with all matters relating to Gypsy and Travellers;
- That key stakeholders are kept up-to-date and fully briefed on progress;
- That resources are identified to develop a proactive communications strategy, starting with dissemination of these research findings, to enable positive media coverage of Gypsy and Traveller issues; and
- That, where necessary, training is provided for staff and elected members to promote better cultural understanding, counter prejudice and aid communication.
- Develop transit or stop-over provision

## Addressing poor conditions on sites

10.23 Despite respondents indicating high satisfaction levels with their homes, issues were identified in terms of conditions and facilities with high incidences of shared facilities being a significant problem, especially in respect of sharing toilet and bathroom facilities (this is counter to CLG design guidance set out in Chapter 3, CLG Design Guidance at 3.21). For sites outside of local authority or housing association ownership it is difficult for the councils to effect any change or improvement in this area. If an existing site becomes the subject of a planning application, it presents the local authority with an opportunity to facilitate potential improvements in facilities, and this should form part of the application negotiation process.

- 10.24 By working more closely with Traveller communities throughout the plan making process, and by adopting other recommendations within this report, such as having a single, trusted, nominated person acting as a point of contact for Gypsies and Travellers, it may be possible for the authorities to effect change by encouraging site owners in improving facilities and conditions on their sites.
- 10.25 However, by adopting appropriate planning policy responses, including adoption of design guidance and information on layout and density, the councils could have a significant influence on the standard of future provision in the Districts. Information in Chapter 3 provides a useful starting point for the authorities when considering good practice advice in respect of new site and pitch provision.

### Recommendations for addressing poor conditions on sites

To enable the Districts to address issues linked to poor site condition it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That all planning applications ensure decent site design and layout, that is developed in partnership with the Gypsy and Traveller community, and is in accordance with CLG Design Guidance as a minimum;
- That appropriate planning policy guidance in respect of site design and layout is adopted within the three District's Local Plans; and
- That improvements in conditions on existing pitches are encouraged through on-going dialogue and partnership working with Gypsy and Traveller communities.

### *Good practice in Gypsy and Traveller provision: Case Study*

- 10.26 Carlisle City Council identified a need for Gypsy and Traveller provision and were successful in securing funding to develop the first local authority site in Cumbria. Lower Harker Dene is a flag ship site, currently managed on a 15 year lease by Homespace SA. Homespace SA applied to HCA for a grant under the AHP, TPF and were awarded £1.368m to develop a further 40 pitches across Cumbria. Carlisle and Homespace SA are currently in negotiations with HCA to provide for a 7 pitch transit site in Carlisle, planning permission has been submitted and validated. The Council also won the North West Employers Equality and Diversity Award for their development, in consultation with Homespace SA.
- 10.27 Homespace SA works in partnership with all stakeholders to break the cycle of deprivation associated with homelessness due to the lack of site provision and addresses community tensions caused by unauthorised encampments. Homespace SA's operating model does not use a 'gate keeping' management system, but believes that residents should take responsibility for their own accommodation and associated living costs and to respect their neighbours. The 'standard' site manager approach is not employed and a 'care taker'



ensures that all residents have their needs catered for without the continued presence of a 'landlord'.

### Tackling wider service and support needs

- 10.28 Access to services and support was flagged as a significant issue both by Gypsies and Travellers themselves and stakeholders. Serious consideration needs to be given to the ways in which the councils and other statutory agencies engage with Traveller communities that struggle with high levels of illiteracy and social exclusion. Attendance at meetings, especially in local authority offices is not to be expected. The only way to achieve an effective, meaningful and on-going dialogue with Gypsy and Traveller communities is to invest time and resources in it, either directly or by working in partnership with an appropriate community group or organisation. It is possible to make information available to Travellers in a number of different ways (see above Good practice in planning for Gypsy and Traveller provision) and these need to be adopted as standard practice when working with Traveller communities.
- 10.29 Stakeholders flagged the need for a 'floating support' style model, capable of offering tailored support for Gypsies and Travellers, as and when they need it, to ensure that they are accessing appropriate care and support (education, welfare, health and employment). Given the long-standing marginalisation of this group, and statutory equality and diversity commitments, such an approach would be beneficial in helping address some of the inequalities faced by Gypsies and Travellers.
- 10.30 Similarly, suggestions for additional support at tenancy start-up for those moving into bricks and mortar accommodation make sense; they may even provide the opportunity for those seeking to move away from living on a pitch on a site to do so.

### Recommendations for tackling wider service and support needs

To enable the Districts to tackle wider service and support needs it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That, in line with the best practice set out within this chapter, the Councils review how they engage with Gypsy and Traveller communities locally, and develop new methods of long-term, on-going engagement;
- Provision of additional support to Gypsy and Traveller communities to enable them to better access services and support;
- That the District councils liaise with Traveller Education services and local colleges and schools to identify opportunities to support and facilitate opportunities to improve literacy amongst Gypsy and Traveller communities;
- Continue to work with healthcare professionals to improve health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers, including working to improve property conditions, which adversely impact upon the health of those living on pitches on site

### Concluding comments

10.31 The overarching purpose of this study has been to identify the accommodation requirements of Gypsies and Travellers across Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire. An overall shortfall of pitches has been identified which needs to be addressed. It is also recommended that this work is refreshed on a regular basis to ensure that the level of pitch provision remains appropriate for the Gypsy and Traveller population in each of the districts.

## Appendix A: Legislative Background

### Overall approach

- A.1 Between 1960 and 2003, three Acts of Parliament had a major impact upon the lives of Gypsies and Travellers. The main elements of these are summarised below.
- A.2 The **1960 Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act** enabled Councils to ban the siting of caravans for human occupation on common land, and led to the closure of many sites.
- A.3 The **Caravan Sites Act 1968 (Part II)** required local authorities '*so far as may be necessary to provide adequate accommodation for Gypsies residing in or resorting to their area*'. It empowered the Secretary of State to make designation orders for areas where he (sic) was satisfied that there was adequate accommodation, or on grounds of expediency. Following the recommendations of the Cripps Commission in 1980, provision began to grow rapidly only after the allocation of 100% grants from central government. By 1994 a third of local authorities had achieved designation, which meant that they were not required to make further provision and were given additional powers to act against unauthorised encampments. The repeal of most of the Caravan Sites Act under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act in 1994 led to a reduction in provision, with some sites being closed over a period in which the Gypsy and Traveller population was increasing.
- A.4 The **1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (CJ&POA)**:
- Repealed most of the 1968 Caravan Sites Act;
  - Abolished all statutory obligation to provide accommodation;
  - Discontinued government grants for sites; and
  - Under Section 61 made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent.
- A.5 Since the CJ&POA the only places where Gypsies and Travellers can legally park their trailers and vehicles are:
- Council Gypsy caravan sites; by 2000 nearly half of Gypsy caravans were accommodated on council sites, despite the fact that new council site provision stopped following the end of the statutory duty;
  - Privately owned land with appropriate planning permission; usually owned by Gypsies or Travellers. Such provision now accommodates approximately a third of Gypsy caravans in England; and
  - Land with established rights of use, other caravan sites or mobile home parks by agreement or licence, and land required for seasonal farm workers (under site licensing exemptions).

- A.6 By the late 1990s the impact of the 1994 Act was generating pressure for change on both local and national government. There was a major review of law and policy, which included:
- A Parliamentary Committee report (House of Commons 2004);
  - The replacement of Circular 1/94 by Circular 1/2006;
  - Guidance on accommodation assessments (ODPM 2006); and
  - The Housing Act 2004 which placed a requirement (s.225) on local authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs.
- A.7 More recent legislation with a direct impact on the lives of Gypsies and Travellers includes the Housing Act 2004 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- A.8 **Section 225: Housing Act 2004** which imposes duties on local authorities in relation to the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers:
- Every local housing authority must as part of the general review of housing needs in their areas under section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their district;
  - Where a local housing authority are required under section 87 of the Local Government Act 2003 to prepare a strategy to meet such accommodation needs, they must take the strategy into account in exercising their functions;
  - A local housing authority must have regard to section 226 ('Guidance in relation to section 225') in:
    - carrying out such an assessment, and
    - preparing any strategy that they are required to prepare.
- A.9 **The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004** set out to introduce a simpler and more flexible planning system at regional and local levels. It also introduced new provisions which change the duration of planning permissions and consents, and allow local planning authorities to introduce local permitted development rights using 'local development orders'. It made the compulsory purchase regime simpler, fairer and quicker, to support major infrastructure and regeneration initiatives.
- A.10 The Act introduced major changes to the way in which the planning system operates. The Development Plan now comprises the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Frameworks. Local planning authorities are required to prepare a Local Development Framework, the key components of which are:
- A **Local Development Scheme**, which sets out what local development documents Local Planning Authorities will prepare, along with their timetable and whether they are to be prepared jointly with one or more other authorities;
  - A **Statement of Community Involvement**;
  - **Local Development Documents**, which must be in general conformity

with the Regional Spatial Strategy, and which effectively replace local plans, unitary development plans and structure plans. County Councils are able to participate in the preparation of local development documents by becoming part of a joint committee with one or more LPA; and

- **Annual Monitoring Reports.**

- A.11 Part 8 of the Act contains a series of measures to reform the compulsory purchase regime and make it easier for local planning authorities to make a case for compulsory purchase orders where it will be of economic, social or environmental benefit to the area. This section also brings in amended procedures for carrying out compulsory purchase orders, including a widening of the category of person with an interest in the land who can object, and deals with ownership issues and compensation.
- A.12 **The Localism Act 2011** introduced a number of reforms, including changes to planning enforcement rules, which strengthen the power of local planning authorities to tackle abuses of the planning system. The changes give local planning authorities the ability to take actions against people who deliberately conceal unauthorised development, and tackle abuses of retrospective planning applications. The Act also introduced the Duty to Co-operate which applies to the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites; the Duty aims to ensure that neighbouring authorities work together to address issues such as provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers in a planned and strategic way.

## Appendix B: Policy and Guidance

### Introduction

B.1 As part of this research, we have carried out a review of literature, which is presented in this Appendix. A considerable range of guidance documents has been prepared by Central Government to assist local authorities discharge their strategic housing and planning functions. In addition there is considerable independent and academic research and guidance on these issues; some of the key documents are summarised here. The documents are reviewed in order of publication date.

B.2 **A Decent Home: Definition and Guidance for Implementation Update, DCLG, June 2006**

Although not primarily about the provision of caravan sites, facilities or pitches, the June 2006 updated CLG guidance for social landlords provides a standard for such provision. The guidance is set out under a number of key headings:

- Community-based and tenant-led ownership and management;
- Delivering Decent Homes Beyond 2010;
- Delivering mixed communities;
- Procurement value for money; and
- Housing Health and Safety

The guidance defines four criteria against which to measure the standard of a home:

- It meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing;
- It is in a reasonable state of repair;
- It has reasonably modern facilities and services; and
- It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

B.3 **Guide to Effective Use of Enforcement Powers - Part 1: Unauthorised Encampments, ODPM, 2006**

The Guide is the Government's response to unauthorised encampments which cause local disruption and conflict. Strong powers are available to the police, local authorities and other landowners to deal with unauthorised encampments. It provides detailed step-by-step practical guidance to the use of these powers, and sets out advice on:

- Choosing the most appropriate power;
- Speeding up the process;
- Keeping costs down;
- The eviction process; and

- Preventing further unauthorised camping.

#### B.4 **Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers, Commission for Racial Equality, May 2006**

This report was written four years after the introduction of the statutory duty on public authorities under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act to promote equality of opportunity and good race relations and to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination. The CRE expressed concerns about relations between Gypsies and Irish Travellers and other members of the public, with widespread public hostility and, in many places, Gypsies and Irish Travellers leading separate, parallel lives. A dual concern about race relations and inequality led the Commission in October 2004 to launch the inquiry on which this report was based.

The Report's recommendations include measures relating to central government, local authorities, police forces and the voluntary sector. Among those relating to central government are:

- developing a realistic but ambitious timetable to identify land for sites, where necessary establishing them, and making sure it is met;
- developing key performance indicators for public sites which set standards for quality and management that are comparable to those for conventional accommodation;
- requiring local authorities to monitor and provide data on planning applications, outcomes and enforcement, and on housing and homelessness by racial group, using two separate categories for Gypsies and Irish Travellers; and
- requiring police forces to collect information on Gypsies and Irish Travellers as two separate ethnic categories.

Strategic recommendations affecting local authorities include:

- developing a holistic corporate vision for all work on Gypsies and Irish Travellers;
- reviewing all policies on accommodation for Gypsies and Irish Travellers;
- designating a councillor at cabinet (or equivalent) level, and an officer at no less than assistant director level, to coordinate the authority's work on all sites;
- emphasising that the code of conduct for councillors applies to their work in relation to all racial groups, including Gypsies and Irish Travellers;
- giving specific advice to Gypsies and Irish Travellers on the most suitable land for residential use, how to prepare applications, and help them to find the information they need to support their application;
- identifying and reporting on actions by local groups or individuals in response to plans for Gypsy sites that may constitute unlawful pressure on the authority to discriminate against Gypsies and Irish Travellers; and

- monitoring all planning applications and instances of enforcement action at every stage, by type and racial group, including Gypsies and Irish Travellers, in order to assess the effects of policies and practices on different racial groups.

Among other recommendations, the Report states that police forces should

- include Gypsies and Irish Travellers in mainstream neighbourhood policing strategies, to promote race equality and good race relations;
- target individual Gypsies and Irish Travellers suspected of anti-social behaviour and crime on public, private and unauthorised sites, and not whole communities;
- treat Gypsies and Irish Travellers as members of the local community, and in ways that strengthen their trust and confidence in the police;
- provide training for all relevant officers on Gypsies' and Irish Travellers' service needs, so that officers are able to do their jobs more effectively,
- review formal and informal procedures for policing unauthorised encampments, to identify and eliminate potentially discriminatory practices, and ensure that the procedures promote race equality and good race relations; and
- review the way policy is put into practice, to make sure organisations and individuals take a consistent approach, resources are used effectively and strategically, all procedures are formalised, and training needs are identified.

Other recommendations relate to Parish and Community councils the Local Government Association, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the voluntary sector.

#### **B.5 Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments, DCLG, October 2007**

This Guidance sets out a detailed framework for designing, planning and carrying out Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments. It includes the needs of Showpeople. It acknowledges that the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers are likely to differ from those of the settled community, and that they have hitherto been excluded from accommodation needs assessments.

The guidance stresses the importance of understanding accommodation needs of the whole Gypsy and Traveller population; and that studies obtain robust data. It recognises the difficulty of surveying this population and recommends the use of:

- Qualitative methods such as focus groups and group interviews;
- Specialist surveys of those living on authorised sites that are willing to respond;
- Existing information, including local authority site records and the twice yearly caravan counts; and



- The guidance recognises that there are challenges in carrying out these assessments, and accepts that while the approach should be as robust as possible it is very difficult to exactly quantify unmet need.

#### **B.6 CLG Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Good Practice Guide, May 2008**

The Guide attempts to establish and summarise the key elements needed to design a successful site. In particular, the guidance intends to assist:

- Local authorities or Registered Providers looking to develop new sites or refurbish existing sites;
- Architects or developers looking to develop sites or refurbish existing sites; and
- Site residents looking to participate in the design/refurbishment process.

#### **B.7 The National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into effect in March 2012; this frees local planning authorities from some of the regulation and red tape associated with the Local Development Framework (LDF) approach, but the requirements of the 2004 Act still apply with authorities still being required to produce a Local Development Framework, however, the NPPF uses the terminology of Local Plans instead of LDFs. Whilst not an Act of law, the NPPF as national policy carries the force of law behind it, and as such it has legal weight, taking precedence on issues where local planning policies remain silent

#### **B.8 Planning policy for traveller sites, March 2012**

In March 2012 the Government also published Planning policy for traveller sites, which together with the NPPF replaces all previous planning policy guidance in respect of Gypsies and Travellers. The policy approach encourages provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers where there is an identified need, to help maintain an appropriate level of supply. The policy also encourages the use of plan making and decision taking to reduce unauthorized developments and encampments.

#### **B.9 Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, April 2012**

In April 2012 the Government published a *Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers*, which summarised progress in terms of meeting 'Government commitments to tackle inequalities and promote fairness for Gypsy and Traveller

*communities.*<sup>25</sup> The report covers 28 measures from across Government aimed at tackling inequalities, these cover:

- Improving education outcomes;
- Improving health outcomes;
- Providing appropriate accommodation;
- Tackling hate crime;
- Improving interaction with the National Offender Management Service;
- Improving access to employment and financial services; and
- Improving engagement with service providers.

#### **B.10 Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments: a summary of available powers, CLG August 2012**

This guidance note summarises the powers available to local authorities and landowners to remove encampments from both public and private land. Powers available to local authorities being:

- Injunctions to protect land from unauthorised encampments;
- Licensing of caravan sites;
- Tent site licences;
- Possession orders;
- Interim possession orders;
- Local byelaws;
- Power of local authorities to direct unauthorised campers to leave land;
- Addressing obstructions to the public highway;
- Planning contravention notice;
- Temporary stop notice;
- Enforcement notice and retrospective planning;
- Stop notice;
- Breach of condition notice; and
- Powers of entry onto land.

---

<sup>25</sup> [www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2124322](http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2124322)

## Appendix C: Fieldwork Questionnaire

### Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Survey

#### Introduction

I am an independent researcher doing a study on the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. This work is being done for Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Councils. I don't work for these Councils but they have asked me to do this study.

We want to find out:

- What sort of homes – sites and houses – Gypsies and Travellers need.
- What you think of existing sites and homes
- Whether you think new permanent and temporary sites are needed
- Whether you travel and if so whether you've had problems while travelling
- What you think about the costs of your homes – houses and sites
- What other services you feel you need to support you

#### Interviewed before?

Have you been interviewed for this survey before (you would have received a pen like this)?

- ***If 'Yes' and in same location as previous interview, politely decline interview and find new respondent.***
- ***If 'Yes' on roadside and in different location from previous interview carry on with introduction***
- ***If 'No' carry on with introduction***

Do you have time to talk with me about these things – it will take about 40 minutes?

Your answers are completely confidential – I won't use your name in any report that I write and no one will be able to trace any answer back to you. You don't have to answer everything - if you don't want to answer any particular questions, just tell me to skip them.

[For most answers, check the boxes most applicable or fill in the blanks.]

#### Interview details

Attach label with interviewer details and URN

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Type: **Unauthorised Encampment / Unauthorised Development / Caravan in Garden / Local Authority Site / Private Site / House**

Date and time \_\_\_\_\_

## Homebase

1. Do you usually live here?

1.  Yes
2.  No

2. Why do you live here?

(Select all that apply.)

1.  Close to family and friends
2.  Near to place of work
3.  Nowhere else that is suitable
4.  Choose to travel
5.  Other **[please state]**  
: \_\_\_\_\_

3. How long have you lived here?

(Select only one.)

1.  up to 1 year
2.  Over 1 and up to 2 years
3.  Over 2 and up to 3 years
4.  Over 3 and up to 4 years
5.  Over 4 and up to 5 years
6.  5 years or over

4. What do you normally live in?

(Select only one.)

1.  Trailer or wagon - **go to Q 7**
2.  Chalet/mobile home (or similar) - **go to Q 7**
3.  House
4.  Bungalow
5.  Flat
6.  Sheltered housing
7.  Other **[please state]**: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you happy with your home or would you prefer to live in a trailer or wagon?

(Select only one.)

1.  Happy with house
2.  Prefer caravan or wagon

6. Why do you feel like this?

---

---

---

---

7. Do you rent or own the home where you normally live?

(Select only one.)

1.  Rent from Council
2.  Rent privately
3.  Rent from Housing Association
4.  Own home -
5.  Other **[please state]**: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you own or rent the land you live on?

(Select only one.)

1.  Own land where trailer/wagon is normally located (with planning permission) – **go to Q 9**
2.  Own land where trailer/caravan is normally located (no planning permission) – **go to Q9**
3.  Rent pitch from Council **go to Q10**
4.  Rent pitch privately (with planning permission) **go to Q9**
5.  Rent pitch privately (no planning permission) **go to Q9**
6.  Other **[please state]**: \_\_\_\_\_

9. If you own land, over the next five years, are you likely to:

1.  Apply for planning permission for residential use
2.  Apply for more caravan accommodation than currently permitted
3.  Reapply for planning permission

10. How satisfied are you with your home?

(Select only one.)

1.  Very Satisfied
2.  Satisfied
3.  Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied
4.  Dissatisfied
5.  Very Dissatisfied

11. **[ONLY FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON SITES]**

What is provided on your pitch?

(Select all that apply.)

1.  slab
2.  shed
3.  kitchen
4.  laundry
5.  laundry drying area
6.  bath
7.  shower
8.  toilet

- 9.  living room
- 10.  mains water
- 11.  mains sewerage
- 12.  gas supply

13.  Other **[please state]**  
\_\_\_\_\_:

**12. [ONLY FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON SITES]**

What is provided for your use elsewhere on the site?

(Select all that apply.)

- 1.  amenity block
- 2.  toilets
- 3.  showers
- 4.  laundry
- 5.  car parking
- 6.  space for storing loads
- 7.  play area
- 8.  communal meeting area
- 9.  Other **[please state]**:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**13. Do you think your home is overcrowded?**

(Select only one.)

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  No

**14. What repairs or improvements, if any, are needed to your home?**

(Select all that apply.)

- 1.  none
- 2.  more space on pitch
- 3.  slab/drive
- 4.  roof
- 5.  doors/windows
- 6.  kitchen facilities
- 7.  bathroom facilities
- 8.  Other **[please state]**:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**15. How would you describe the state of repair of your home?**

(Select only one.)

- 1.  Very Good
- 2.  Good

- 3.  Neither Good nor Poor
- 4.  Poor
- 5.  Very Poor

**16. Do you feel you have enough space:**

- a) for your trailers, wagons, vehicles and loads?  
Yes 1.  No 2.
- b) in your own amenity block (shed) - if relevant? Yes 1.  No 2.   
Not relevant 3.
- c) on your pitch - if relevant?  
Yes 1.  No 2.  Not relevant 3.

**17. Do you have to share any of the following facilities with another household?**

(Select all that apply.)

- 1.  Bathroom
- 2.  Toilet
- 3.  Kitchen
- 4.  Laundry

**18. How many bedrooms/sleeping trailers or wagons do you have?**

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**19. How much does your home cost per week (excluding water, heating and lighting; including rent, mortgage, ground rent)?**

Please state amount

£ \_\_\_\_\_

**20. How much of this amount if any is covered by housing benefit? (Select only one.)**

- 1.  None
- 2.  Part
- 3.  All

**21. How do you find the cost of :**

- |                | OK                         | Not OK                     |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Electricity | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> |

- b. Gas            1 [ ]        2 [ ]
- c. Oil            1 [ ]        2 [ ]
- d. Water        1 [ ]        2 [ ]

22. Is there anything else you would like to add about your home base? **[Prompt: safety, views about wardens on sites, management, maintenance issues, living conditions]**

---



---



---

### Neighbourhood and local services

23. How satisfied are you with the location of your home?  
(Select only one.)

1. [ ] Very Satisfied
2. [ ] Satisfied
3. [ ] Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied
4. [ ] Dissatisfied
5. [ ] Very Dissatisfied

24. How happy are you with the neighbourhood?  
(Select only one.)

1. [ ] Very Happy
2. [ ] Happy
3. [ ] Neither happy nor unhappy
4. [ ] Unhappy
5. [ ] Very unhappy

25. Do you feel safe in this neighbourhood?  
(Select only one.)

1. [ ] Yes
2. [ ] No

26. Please say if the being near to the following is important, slightly important or not important to you?

	Important	Slightly Important	Not important
Primary schools			
Secondary schools			
Doctors			
Pubs			
Shops			
Public Transport			
Main roads			

27. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about your neighbourhood?  
**[Prompt - how do you find local people, shops, problems with the environment etc. ?]**

---



---



---

### Housing History

28. Where did you live before you came here (or moved to your existing ho

1. [ ] Please state town/district \_\_\_\_\_
2. [ ] Travelling all the time (no permanent home) - **go to Q33**
3. [ ] Homeless - **go to Q 34**

29. How long did you live there?  
(Select only one.)

1. [ ] up to 1 year
2. [ ] 1 to 2 years
3. [ ] 2 to 3 years
4. [ ] 3 to 4 years
5. [ ] 4 to 5 years
6. [ ] over 5 years

30. What kind of home did you have there?

(Select only one.)

- 1.  Trailer or wagon
- 2.  Chalet/mobile home (or similar)
- 3.  House
- 4.  Bungalow
- 5.  Flat
- 6.  Sheltered
- 7.  Other **[please state]**\_\_\_\_\_:

31. Why did you leave that place?

\_\_\_\_\_

32. How many times have you moved in the last 2 years

Number:\_\_\_\_\_

**Or**  b. Travelled for the whole time

33. Have you or a member of your household been homeless in the last five years?

[For example, with no home to go to or on the roadside with nowhere else to go lawfully.]

(Select only one.)

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  No - **go to Q 35**

34. **[IF HOMELESS]** What were the main causes and how could they have been prevented? **[Prompt: e.g. relationship breakdown, domestic violence, leaving home, leaving hospital, death of spouse or partner, debt; being frequently moved on)**

Problem	How prevented
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

## Travelling

35. In the last year, have you travelled?

(Select only one.)

1.  Yes
2.  No - **go to Q39**

36. How many days or weeks do you normally travel every year?

(Select only one.)

1.  No more than thirteen days
2.  2 to 4 weeks (or one month)
3.  5 to 8 weeks (or 2 months)
4.  9 to 12 weeks (or 3 months)
5.  13 to 26 weeks (or 6 months)
6.  Over 6 months but less than 10 months
7.  Over 10 months but less than 12 months
8.  All year

37. Where would you normally go when you are travelling and why?

Location	Reason
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	

38. What problems do you have while travelling?

(Select all that apply.)

1.  No places to stopover
2.  Closing of traditional stopping places
3.  Abuse, harassment or discrimination
4.  Lack of toilet facilities
5.  No water facilities
6.  Problems with rubbish collection
7.  Police behaviour
8.  Enforcement officer behaviour

9.  Behaviour of other travellers

10.  Other **[please state]:**

39. Transit sites are intended for short-term use while in transit. Sites are usually permanent and authorised, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.

Is there a need for a transit site(s) in [Cherwell/West Oxfordshire/South Northamptonshire] (interviewer instruction – please refer to the District you are in)?

(Select all that apply.)

1.  Yes
2.  No

40. If yes, where should the transit site(s) be located

Location
a.
b.
c.

41. Who should manage transit sites? (Select all that apply.)

1.  Councils
2.  Registered Social Landlords/Housing Associations
3.  Private (Gypsy/Traveller)
4.  Private (non-Gypsy or Traveller)
5.  Other **[please state]:**

42. Stop-over places are designated temporary camping areas or pitches tolerated by local authorities, used for short-term encampments and sometimes with the provision of temporary toilet facilities, water supplies and refuse collection services.

Is there a need for a stopover places in [Cherwell/West Oxfordshire/South Northamptonshire] (interviewer instruction – please refer to the District you are in)?

1.  Yes
2.  No



43. If yes, where should the stopover place(s) be located

Location
a.
b.
c.

44. Why do you travel?

(Select all that apply.)

1.  Cultural heritage
2.  Personal preference
3.  Work related
4.  Visit family/friends
5.  Only way of life I know
6.  Other ***[please state]***

\_\_\_\_\_:

45. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about your travelling experience, transit sites and/or stopping places?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Advice, support, health and other services**

46. Have you used any of the following services in the last year?

(Select all that apply.)

- 1[ ] Traveller liaison
- 2[ ] Traveller Education
- 3[ ] Adult education
- 4[ ] Law Centre
- 5[ ] Citizens Advice Bureau
- 6[ ] Other welfare rights advice
- 7[ ] Doctor (G.P.)
- 8[ ] Dentist
- 9[ ] Accident and emergency

- 10[ ] Health visitors
  - 11[ ] Social services
  - 12[ ] Other **[please state]:**
- 

47. Are you registered with the following

(Select all that apply.)

- 1[ ] Doctor
- 2. [ ] Dentist

48. Do you or anyone in your household have any health problems(Select all that apply for each person.)

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Arthritis	1[ ]	1[ ]	1[ ]	1[ ]	1[ ]	1[ ]	1[ ]
Asthma	2[ ]	2[ ]	2[ ]	2[ ]	2[ ]	2[ ]	2[ ]
Depression	3[ ]	3[ ]	3[ ]	3[ ]	3[ ]	3[ ]	3[ ]
Diabetes	4[ ]	4[ ]	4[ ]	4[ ]	4[ ]	4[ ]	4[ ]
Problems with hearing	5[ ]	5[ ]	5[ ]	5[ ]	5[ ]	5[ ]	5[ ]
Learning difficulties/dyslexia	6[ ]	6[ ]	6[ ]	6[ ]	6[ ]	6[ ]	6[ ]
Learning disability	7[ ]	7[ ]	7[ ]	7[ ]	7[ ]	7[ ]	7[ ]
Problems with mobility	8[ ]	8[ ]	8[ ]	8[ ]	8[ ]	8[ ]	8[ ]
Problems with vision	9[ ]	9[ ]	9[ ]	9[ ]	9[ ]	9[ ]	9[ ]
Other <b>[please state]:</b>	10[ ]	10[ ]	10[ ]	10[ ]	10[ ]	10[ ]	10[ ]

49. What type of services (other than those you currently receive) would help you with your health care needs?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

50. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about your health or health services?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The future**

51. **In the next five years, is your household:**

- 1.  Planning to stay where you are based now – **go to Q53**
- 2.  Plan to move elsewhere - **go to Q52**

52. If you are planning to move elsewhere, are you planning to move to (select one):

- 1.  Another pitch on the same site in a trailer/wagon
- 2.  Another pitch on the same site in a chalet/mobile home
- 3.  Onto another site (if so, where) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.  Into bricks and mortar accommodation **go to Q53**
- 5.  From bricks and mortar accommodation onto a site (if so, where?) \_\_\_\_\_

53. If you are planning to move to bricks and mortar accommodation

a. Where would it be ? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What type of accommodation?

- 1.  House
- 2.  Bungalow
- 3.  Flat
- 4.  Sheltered/extra care housing

c. Would you be renting or buying?

- 1.  Rent from Council
- 2.  Rent privately
- 3.  Rent from Housing Association

- 4.  Buy
- 5.  Other **[please state]:** \_\_\_\_\_

54. How do you think sites should be managed?

(Select only one.)

- 1.  Councils
- 2.  Private (Gypsy/Traveller)
- 3.  Private (non-Gypsy or Traveller)
- 4.  Registered Social Landlords/Housing Associations
- 5.  Other **[please state]:** \_\_\_\_\_

55. Is there a need for new permanent sites in [Cherwell/West Oxfordshire/South Northamptonshire] (interviewer instruction – please refer to the District you are in)??

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  No

56. If yes, where

Location
a.
b.
c.

57. How many new pitches in [Cherwell/West Oxfordshire/South Northamptonshire] (interviewer instruction – please refer to the District you are in) do you think are needed now and in the next 5 years?

a. Number now: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Number next 5 years: \_\_\_\_\_

58. Is there anything else that you want to tell us about the future need for homes and sites for Gypsies and Travellers?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

59. Do you have children or grandchildren who want to live in a similar way to you (e.g. Travelling lifestyle)?  
 (Select only one.)
1.  Yes
  2.  No

**Emerging Families**

60. How many members of your family who are living with you now, if any, are likely or need to move on and set up by themselves in the next five years? **[IF POSSIBLE, ASK THOSE WHO ARE LIKELY TO MOVE ON THE 'EMERGING FAMILIES' QUESTIONS DIRECTLY - PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOX]**

(Select only one.)

1.  1
2.  2
3.  3
4.  4

Q60b	✓
1. Respondent is part of emerging household	
2. Respondent is not part of emerging household	

## Emerging Families

61. What type of household (HH) are you (or they) likely to form?  
(Select only one for each household.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Single person (under 60 years)	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]
Single person (60 years and over)	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]
Lone parent	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]
Young couple (under 30) with no children	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]
Young couple (under 30) with child(ren)	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]
Couple (aged 30-under 60)with no children	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]
Couple (aged 30-under 60)with children.	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]
Older Couple (at least one over 60 years)	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]
Other <b><i>[please state]:</i></b>	9 [ ]	9 [ ]	9 [ ]	9 [ ]

---

62. What would you (or they) want as a permanent base?

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Continue to live on current site	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]
Move to another site	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]
Move to bricks and mortar accommodation	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]

63. If planning to move to another location, where would you (they) prefer to live? Please state town/district

HH1 \_\_\_\_\_

HH2 \_\_\_\_\_

HH3 \_\_\_\_\_

HH4 \_\_\_\_\_

64. What type of home do you (or do you think they would) want as a permanent base?

(Select only one for each household.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Trailer or wagon	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]
Chalet/mobile home or similar	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]
House - go to q 66	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]
Bungalow - go to q 66	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]
Flat - go to q 66	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]
Sheltered housing/extra care - go to q 66	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]

65. Which of the following options would you (or do you think they would) prefer?

(Select only one.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Rent pitch from Council	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]
Rent pitch privately	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]
Own land where trailer/ caravan is normally located	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]
Other <b>[please state]:</b>	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]

66. If in a house, which of the following options would you (or do you think they would) prefer?  
(Select only one.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Rent house/flat from Council	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]
Rent house/flat privately	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]
Rent house/flat from Housing Association	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]
Own house	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]
Other <b><i>[please state]:</i></b>	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]

---

67. Do you (or do you think they will) want to travel for some time of the year? (Select only one.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Yes	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]
No	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]

**Your Household**

68. Family type (Select only one.)

1.  Single person (under 60 years)
2.  Single person (60 years and over)
3.  Lone parent
4.  Young couple (aged under 30) – no children
5.  Young Couple (aged under 30 years) - with children
6.  Couple (aged 30 to under 60) - no children
7.  Couple (aged 40 to under 60) - with children
8.  Older Couple (at least one of 60 years or over)
9.  Other [please state]: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF RESPONDENT HAS A SPOUSE OR PARTNER THEN RECORD INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PERSON IN THE SECOND COLUMN.**

66. For each person in your household, starting with yourself and then your spouse (partner, husband or wife) please could you tell us their sex and age?  
(Select only one for each person.)

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Male	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]
Female	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]

67. Age

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Age							

**IF NO SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN GO TO Q 69**

68. What type of education are your children receiving  
(Select all that apply.)

1.  Nursery education
2.  State school
3.  Private school



- 4.  Home schooled
- 5.  College or university
- 6.  Other **[please state]:** \_\_\_\_\_

69. Employment status  
(Select only one for each person.)

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Full-time employee	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]
Part-time employee	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]
Self-employed	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]
Retired	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]
No paid work	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]
Disability benefit	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]
In education	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]
Other <b>[please state]:</b>	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]

70. How would you describe yourself (ethnic or cultural identity)?  
 (Select all that apply)

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Romany Gypsy	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]	1 [ ]
English Gypsy	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]	2 [ ]
English Traveller	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]	3 [ ]
Irish Traveller	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]	4 [ ]
Welsh Gypsy	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]	5 [ ]
Welsh Traveller	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]	6 [ ]
Scottish Gypsy	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]	7 [ ]
Scottish Traveller	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]	8 [ ]
New Traveller	9 [ ]	9 [ ]	9 [ ]	9 [ ]	9 [ ]	9 [ ]	9 [ ]
Showman	10 [ ]	10 [ ]	10 [ ]	10 [ ]	10 [ ]	10 [ ]	10 [ ]
Circus Traveller	11 [ ]	11 [ ]	11 [ ]	11 [ ]	11 [ ]	11 [ ]	11 [ ]
DK/No answer	12 [ ]	12 [ ]	12 [ ]	12 [ ]	12 [ ]	12 [ ]	12 [ ]
Other <i>[please state]:</i>	13 [ ]	13 [ ]	13 [ ]	13 [ ]	13 [ ]	13 [ ]	13 [ ]

---

71. **Anything else you would like to tell us?**

---

---

72. Would you be happy to be contacted again?

- Yes
- No

***[If 'Yes', record name and contact details on SEPARATE SHEET]***

## Appendix D: Stakeholder Consultation

### Overall approach

All key stakeholders<sup>26</sup> identified by the three participating local authorities were invited to take part in an on-line survey aimed at identifying a range of information, including establishing the key perceived issues facing the Gypsy and Traveller community across the three districts, and ways in which these should best be addressed.

An initial explanatory email invitation and link to the on-line survey was sent out to a total of 36 stakeholders on the 6th of March 2012. From this initial email to all stakeholders a total of five online surveys were completed. There were eight contacts from the 36 emails issued where the email address was incorrect or was bounced back to us – we then amended these contact details with the help of the Councils and issued the email for a second time.

This initial email and web-survey was then followed up with a reminder email to all non-responding stakeholders on the 27th March – this email was sent to 23 stakeholders (we had removed those responding to the initial wave and also those whose emails were incorrect or out of date). The deadline for responses to the reminder was Friday the 30th March; this was then extended for a small number of stakeholders who had requested more time to complete the on-line survey. The return date was thus extended to the end of May as we felt re-opening the survey might assist a couple of stakeholders, however there were no new surveys completed after March 29th. A total of eight responses were received from a range of organisations and from the initial contact list we had 54 separate visits to the web survey page.

Stakeholders were asked to respond to any of the 17 questions within the survey. The questions and stakeholders' responses are set out below and copies of the outgoing email text are also included.

Follow up telephone conversations were also held with a number of key stakeholders.

A meeting also took place in July 2012 following a Traveller Awareness Event. This was attended by representatives from neighbouring local authorities who discussed their planning policy positions and existing evidence base (which was due to be refreshed).

---

<sup>26</sup> The initial contact list included stakeholders from each of the three commissioning Councils (including representatives from health, education, social care, strategy, planning etc), Gypsy and Traveller support services, the Police, the County Council, and Registered Providers and Housing Associations.

## **Outgoing email text – Initial email**

*Hello.*

*arc<sup>4</sup> Ltd, has been commissioned by Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Councils to conduct a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The overall remit of this work is to produce an entirely new accommodation needs study covering the three Districts. The study seeks to:*

- present a clear and robust analysis of current and future accommodation needs;*
- provide a clear and robust understanding of the permanent, transit and other accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers;*
- provide best practice guidance on reviewing / preparing policies for the provision of sites / pitches for Gypsies and Travellers;*
- provide any appropriate recommendations on subsequent site identification and delivery; and*
- provide general guidance on the local housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers and how this might affect subsequent site identification and delivery.*

*This on-line consultation survey (the questionnaire can be accessed through the link provided below) is designed to capture a range of views on specific themes and issues with the intention of securing as wide a range of views and opinions from stakeholders as possible.*

*You can skip any questions that you want to but, the more varied the responses we get to each question the more detailed a picture we will get of the key issues. Please answer as many of the questions as possible, or those which you deem to be appropriate to your professional background or organisation type.*

*Thank you in advance for taking part in this important piece of research. Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Councils and us here at arc<sup>4</sup> appreciate your time and support.*

*All data will remain confidential and feedback by survey respondents will be anonymised prior to any analysis. We take a note of who you are at the beginning of the survey so that we can then use this information to get in touch with you if needed.*

*If you would prefer to go through the questions on the telephone this is also easy to do - simply provide your phone number in the appropriate box on the questionnaire and, if possible, a date and time that would be suitable for us to contact you and we will do our best to get in touch (it would be helpful if a range of dates/times can be provided).*

*The survey can be accessed by clicking on the web link below. If at all possible could you complete and 'submit' your responses to the survey by 6pm on Thursday 15th March 2012.*

*<http://www.keysurvey.co.uk/survey/417591/3969/>*

*Kind regards,*

Scott Brand, Director, arc<sup>4</sup>

Sent on behalf of:

Michael Bullock, Project Director - arc<sup>4</sup>

Cherwell District Council Gypsy and Traveller Study 2012

**Reminder email text:**

Hi there.

*I recently sent out a request asking for your input into an on-line survey to assist us in our intelligence gathering for the research we are conducting for the Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Councils' Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. We have had 5 responses to date (from a list of over 30 contacts) so we are still looking for many more to get involved. We are going to leave the on-line consultation open from today until Friday this week to give everyone some more time to get involved by contributing their thoughts and ideas to the outputs for this important project. I have copied in the text from the previous email for your information below.*

*Please do take some time out to complete this really important piece of information gathering - all views are important to us and our colleagues at each of the Councils.*

*You can complete the survey at the link below. You do not have to answer all questions but do try to answer those questions that you feel are appropriate to you or your organisation.*

*<http://www.keysurvey.co.uk/survey/417591/3969/>*

*All the best and thank you for your time and attention.*

*Scott Brand*

*Director, arc<sup>4</sup>*

*Text from previous email sent to stakeholders.*

*Hello.*

*arc4 Ltd, has been commissioned by Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Councils to conduct a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The overall remit of this work is to produce an entirely new accommodation needs study covering the three Districts. The study seeks to:*

- present a clear and robust analysis of current and future accommodation needs;*
- provide a clear and robust understanding of the permanent, transit and other accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers;*
- provide best practice guidance on reviewing / preparing policies for the provision of sites / pitches for Gypsies and Travellers;*

- *provide any appropriate recommendations on subsequent site identification and delivery; and*
- *provide general guidance on the local housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers and how this might affect subsequent site identification and delivery.*

*This on-line consultation survey (the questionnaire can be accessed through the link provided below) is designed to capture a range of views on specific themes and issues with the intention of securing as wide a range of views and opinions from stakeholders as possible.*

*You can skip any questions that you want to but, the more varied the responses we get to each question the more detailed a picture we will get of the key issues. Please answer as many of the questions as possible, or those which you deem to be appropriate to your professional background or organisation type.*

*Thank you in advance for taking part in this important piece of research. Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Councils and us here at arc<sup>4</sup> appreciate your time and support.*

*All data will remain confidential and feedback by survey respondents will be anonymised prior to any analysis. We take a note of who you are at the beginning of the survey so that we can then use this information to get in touch with you if needed.*

*If you would prefer to go through the questions on the telephone this is also easy to do - simply provide your phone number in the appropriate box on the questionnaire and, if possible, a date and time that would be suitable for us to contact you and we will do our best to get in touch (it would be helpful if a range of dates/times can be provided).*

*The survey can be accessed by clicking on the web link below. If at all possible could you complete and 'submit' your responses to the survey by 6pm on Thursday 15th March 2012.*

<http://www.keysurvey.co.uk/survey/417591/3969/>

*Kind regards,*

*Scott Brand, Director, arc<sup>4</sup>*

*Sent on behalf of:*

*Michael Bullock, Project Director - arc<sup>4</sup>*

*Cherwell District Council Gypsy and Traveller Study 2012*

## Stakeholder questions and responses

D.1 Preamble provided to stakeholders:-

## Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment: Stakeholder Questions.

arc4 Ltd, has been commissioned by Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Councils to conduct a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The overall remit of this work is to produce an entirely new accommodation needs study covering the three Districts. The study seeks to: present a clear and robust analysis of current and future accommodation needs; provide a clear and robust understanding of the permanent, transit and other accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers; provide best practice guidance on reviewing / preparing policies for the provision of sites / pitches for Gypsies and Travellers; provide any appropriate recommendations on subsequent site identification and delivery; and provide general guidance on the local housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers and how this might affect subsequent site identification and delivery. This on-line consultation survey is designed to capture a range of views on specific themes and issues with the intention of securing as wide a range of views and opinions from stakeholders as possible. The questionnaire is structured into themes: general questions; provision of accommodation; planning policy and other issues. You can skip any questions that you want to but, the more varied the responses we get to each question the more detailed a picture we will get of the key issues. Please answer as many of the questions as possible, or those which you deem to be appropriate to your professional background or organisation type. Thank you in advance for taking part in this important piece of research. Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Councils and us here at arc4 appreciate your time and support. All data will remain confidential and feedback by survey respondents will be anonymised prior to any analysis. We take a note of who you are at the beginning of the survey so that we can then use this information to get in touch with you if needed. If you would prefer to go through the questions on the telephone this is also easy to do - simply provide your phone number in the appropriate box on the questionnaire and, if possible, a date and time that would be suitable for us to contact you and we will do our best to get in touch (it would be helpful if a range of dates/times can be provided). The survey can be accessed by clicking on the web link below. If at all possible could you complete and 'submit' your responses to the survey by 6pm on Thursday 15th March 2012 (reminder date was extended until 30th March).

Your contact details:

Name

Organisation

Email

Phone Number

D.2 Do you think that there is sufficient understanding of the education, employment, health and support needs of Gypsies and Travellers within the area(s) within which you work? What could be done to improve the current position?

- *Working within the Councils ASB Team our current contact with G&T is in situations where they have ceased travelling and adopted a settled*



*lifestyle. In these situations they seem to lack specialist support in establishing and maintaining successful tenancies.*

- The Advisory Service for the Education of Travellers (ASET) which was an Oxfordshire County Council service has been dramatically cut to 1.6 people from a strong team of 15. This hasn't helped our service with getting Traveller children into schools when new families come into the area. This team needs to be a lot bigger in numbers. The PCT NHS provide a Traveller Health Advocate on a 3 day a week basis which again is not enough to support the families both on the county council and private sites, there needs to be at least 3 Advocates working part time.*
- Although there is a well-established network of people working directly with the Gypsy and Traveller community, so yes as a County we have a sound network to contact. However I think it would be useful to have access to a directory, this could provide information on the key people and the services that are available. This directory could be made available to front line organisations, which could be distributed to schools, colleges, community groups, councils etc. Currently getting hold of the right person can sometimes be down to staff who have been in post for some time.*
- There is little understanding on the scale of the issue, so by default little in terms of knowledge about what the provisions are and if these are appropriate and adequate.*
- I think that education and health are fine for children but more support needs to be given to settled men travellers who are unemployed. They face greater problems when trying to get work through literacy problems and prejudice.*
- There are some organisations who strive to meet these aims within the area of the study. However, they are few and far between and a greater understanding around the needs and desires of the wider travelling community would go a long way to breaking down barriers.*
- Publicise support services on offer.*

D.3 Do you think that more could be done to appropriately monitor the needs of Gypsies and Travellers? If so what?

- I feel the services are there to monitor the needs but they are not strong enough in numbers to do so.*
- As for housing we currently would record approaches made by this community if they have indicated on their forms their Ethnic background. This will only identify a small number of households that make contact with us. I think there is always room for better recording of information as this can lead to additional services being made available.*
- Yes, absolutely. To understand the issues it is important to have quantitative data to support this community. I would like to see more robust information on the size of the travelling community in these districts, what current provision is and what the gaps are.*
- I think gaining trust & listening to what they want as a group is important.*

- *Those charged with meeting the accommodation needs of G&T, ought to actively pursue an agenda of debunking myths that build-up to create prejudice.*

D.4 In your opinion, what additional support is most needed to help Gypsy and Traveller families living within the area(s) within which you work?

- *I think that the support that is given is enough.*
- *The families that I have worked with would benefit from having someone to support them in approaching agencies such as education, DWP, housing, to name a few. If they had someone to help them complete forms, contact agencies by phone, etc., this could be a variation to floating support specifically commissioned to assist this community.*
- *I don't know, I would suspect that it is around suitable sites, education/information for communities with which travellers engage/come into contact with, the impact on local services due to the transient nature of the lifestyle.*
- *Adult education literacy programmes.*
- *Just the will behind site finding and clearer Land Use Planning policies to ensure that adequate land is set aside in and around settled 'settlements' so that Gypsies and Travellers could have the same access to health, education, transport, employment and affordable food as the wider settled community enjoys.*
- *Link gypsies and travellers in with skills advisors when being rehoused to assist them into permanent work, possibly offer some light support for the first six weeks of a tenancy to ensure all benefits, facilities are registered for [sic].*

D.5 What action has your organisation undertaken to defuse negative portrayals of Gypsies and Travellers locally?

- *Our service acts as a One Stop Shop Multi Agency Service. Some of the settled community get very upset when they see caravans on the side of the road but our service with help from our partners can defuse the tensions due to a quick and rapid response once we are aware of unauthorised encampments. The removal of rubbish from the sites is very important. We provide the Travellers with black bags and will arrange for their rubbish to be taken away when needed.*
- *Referenced in our equality and diversity policy.*
- *We have not had a massive problem with this but have tried to work with Parish Councils & police in the area to provide positive solutions.*
- *As a LA we have the duty to challenge all prejudice, towards staff and constituents. This includes customers from the G&T community. We have a duty to house settled people, and this duty ought to be taken more seriously when working with travellers as well.*
- *We have rehoused a few travellers in the Bicester area over the last couple of years. Light support has been needed but nothing more, some*

*discussions with neighbours have been held but very little need to intervene.*

D.6 Do you think that there is currently sufficient provision of sites/pitches for Gypsies and Travellers within the area(s) in which you work? Please comment on each of the area(s) where you work.

- Cherwell - Adequate provision has been made by travellers themselves purchasing sites and obtaining planning permission. there are also low levels of roadside encampments within Cherwell.*
- There are 3 privately owned sites in Cherwell. Those in Bloxham and Wendlebury are exclusively for gypsies and that in Banbury is in mixed use. The total number of pitches is not insignificant but my experience suggests that a majority are almost permanently occupied. Since they are privately owned and managed it is not easy to determine which groups are allowed access and which are not. My impression is that some groups are excluded.*
- There are no council sites within Cherwell and only one in West Oxfordshire. There definitely needs to be more.*
- We currently have one Council run site in West Oxon, this is nearly always full. We have a few private sites around the district. We do not have very many approaches from this community. I think that the sites that we have seem to meet our need although if more sites became available I don't think they would stay empty for long.*
- We work in all three areas but are not aware of the current provision, we have not had a dialogue with our partners with regard to traveller and gypsies to date.*
- In Cherwell I think there is sufficient.*
- WODC - we have a larger provision of pitches and sites by area than other LA's, however we do still experience unauthorised encampments and appeals etc. We ought to be able to allocate sites within our Core Strategy and other policy documents, setting out scope, rationale and time limitations on adequate sites for use by G&Ts.*

D.7 If new sites/pitches are needed, where do you think that these should be located?

- Cherwell – 5 responses*
- West Oxfordshire – 5 responses*
- South Northamptonshire – 4 responses*

D.8 What do you perceive to be the main barriers to new provision?

- The perceptions of the community and the behaviour of some site occupants.*
- Local anxieties about potential anti-social behaviour and crime.*
- Local communities because of pre conceived ideas of this community.*
- Existing communities, land and planning.*

- *Negative press, opposition from local residents in areas.*
- *Attitudes and preconceptions. Land is a scarce commodity and the perception may be that its best use is for the settled community.*
- *Perceptions of the travelling community.*
- *The general public is the main barrier as they carry the political vote and lack the knowledge of the culture.*

D.9 Do you think that additional provision of sites/pitches needs to be made to accommodate the requirements of Gypsies and Travellers currently living in settled (i.e. bricks and mortar) accommodation?

- *Some G&T who have adopted a settled lifestyle still on occasions travel. The availability of transit site pitches across the whole County is essential in order to allow them to follow this part of their cultural habit legally and safely.*
- *Yes, some families have been forced into bricks and mortar through the lack of provision of council sites.*
- *I don't think that bricks and mortar sites are the answer, from my experience this is the type of lifestyle they do not want. However if there were safe sites for them to pitch a caravan or mobile home they would use this.*
- *Don't know would need to understand the scale and need first?*
- *No.*
- *We only have anecdotal evidence, but we believe that if more pitches / sites were made available, then some of the travelling community currently housed in bricks and mortar, would welcome the return to the more nomadic life.*

D.10 Are Gypsies and Travellers able to access permanent accommodation if they require it?

- *Cherwell – 6 positive responses*
- *West Oxfordshire – 5 positive responses*
- *South Northamptonshire – 2 positive responses*

D.11 Is there sufficient support available to Gypsies and Travellers living in settled accommodation to help them manage their housing effectively (i.e. help in dealing with practical tenancy issues, such as paying rent, bills and making benefit applications)?

- *I am not aware of any special provision made by Cherwell DC but Gypsies and travellers have access to the same services as other residents.*
- *Seeing Oxfordshire County Council is not a housing authority I cannot speak about Gypsies and Travellers within housing. Our residents in our social sites have help with this issue from the Traveller Site Manager or the Traveller Health Advocate. We also point them in the direction of the CAB.*

- *I think this would be covered by the commissioning of a floating support service, to help with the completion of forms, contacting agencies etc.*
- *I don't believe a specific provision is in place, general management practice tends to cover it.*
- *Yes.*
- *Unsure of this, not currently recorded or reported.*
- *unknown, light support provided by housing managers in the Cherwell, Daventry and Oxford area.*

D.12 Do Gypsies and Travellers living in settled accommodation feel safe and are their specific cultural needs considered by the local authority when offering conventional accommodation?

- *I am not aware that any particular modifications to the housing allocations process are made when the applicant is a settled or settling G and T. The choice based letting process allow applicants to make their own selections as to which properties they intend to bid for. Whilst racial tension has arisen between settled G&T and other ethnic groups it is not clear whether the G&T perceive themselves as feeling unsafe.*
- *Not a housing authority so wouldn't know.*
- *From my experience the families that have been accommodated into 'bricks and mortar' are generally happy and join in with the local community. However new properties are built to accommodate the majority and do not take into consideration and specific needs that a family from this community such as outside toilets, areas for pets etc*
- *Allocation systems perhaps don't support this too well, there is certainly no support linked to the offer of accommodation.*
- *I don't imagine so.*
- *Again, this is an area that we are sadly lacking in hard evidence. Hopefully this study will make suggestions about how we ought to be overcoming this deficiency.*

D.13 To date, what if anything has hampered provision of new sites/pitches for Gypsies and Travellers within the area(s)? What steps could be taken to address these issues in each of the areas in the future?

- *Over many years central government failed to enforce legislation requiring sufficient provision. Although many would agree that additional provision is probably required, trying to address this by agreement at county level has meant authorities only wishing to agree to provision elsewhere.*
- *My belief is the provision of land has been the main problem.*
- *Increasing the understanding in the local community.*
- *Cherwell - availability of land. Need to be more proactive, responses tend to be reactive.*
- *Lack of resources and land availability.*

- D.14 Do you think that more could be done to identify and bring forward new sites for the provision of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers? If so, what.
- *The need to identify land that will not impede on the settled community but not identify land that is close to motorways, sewage works etc. Then proper consultation needs to take place both with the settled and Traveller communities in those areas.*
  - *Not sure.*
  - *As noted above that depends on the level of need, I'm not sure on this point.*
  - *Again, I feel that as LA, we ought to be allocating or 'ring fencing' sites within our policy documents for G&Ts to have the opportunity within a realistic timeframe to bring forwards sites for their own use. In addition, we must recognise that we need to allocate sites purely for 'affordable' use, as not all G&T will have the means to provide for themselves. We ought to have the same impetus to strive to provide for affordable G&T needs as we currently deploy on site finding for affordable bricks and mortar accommodation.*
- D.15 What impact do you think that the Government's proposed changes to planning policy will have on future provision?
- *Unsure.*
  - *Not sure.*
  - *I think it will make it very difficult to obtain future provision for the travelling community as a great deal of prejudice exists.*
  - *Judging from the policy document published on Monday 26th, it seems to me that G&T will be excluded from areas that the settled community currently enjoy - green belt. It also looks as though LA's can 'swap' their responsibility with one another across boundaries. It is very thin on concrete solutions.*
- D.16 What do you see as the key issues affecting Gypsies and Travellers living in the study area?
- *The lack of social sites in both Cherwell and West Oxfordshire. Families are forced to live on private sites through the lack of social provision.*
  - *Lack of understanding in rural areas of the need to provide space for the families to have a safe location with the appropriate facilities such as water, electricity and refuse collections.*
  - *Prejudice, they sometimes do not help themselves with this which can be an issue.*
  - *Prejudice, isolation, lack of opportunity and state-sponsored discrimination.*
  - *the need to improve the perception of the travelling community Light support at the commencement of tenancies Support and assistance for work.*

D.17 What would you want to see as the key strategic messages coming from the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment?

- *Consultation with the community itself. Speaking to those in bricks and mortar, social and private sites about what they see as their need.*
- *Not sure.*
- *A preparedness to understand the needs better, and to look for appropriate solutions. Underpinned by educational programmes in primary schools.*
- *Understanding of culture, listening to all sides and consultation.*
- *I would like to see, hard evidence of localised need, the range of traveller groups within the study area, current best practice and the basis for a cohesive network of support organisations to help tackle the problems in Q16.*

## Appendix E: 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.

**CLG** : Department for Communities and Local Government; created in May 2006. Responsible for the remit on Gypsies and Travellers, which was previously held by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (O.D.P.M.).

**Emerging households** : Households which are likely to form (over a five year time horizon) or are currently concealed households wanting their own pitch (over a five year time horizon). Examples of emerging households would be a young person currently living with their parents but planning to get married and move to a new pitch; or a couple who are currently living on a pitch with parents who want to move to their own pitch.

**Gypsies and Travellers** : Defined by CLG *'Planning policy for traveller sites'* (March 2012) 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.'*

*'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.'*

**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.

**Plot** : see pitch

**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 plot/pitch. Some contain a cooker and basic kitchen facilities.

**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)

**Showpeople**: Defined by CLG *'Planning policy for traveller sites'* (March 2012) 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.'*

**Stopping places** : 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.

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

**Transit site** : A Gypsy 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.

**Turnover** : The likely number of pitches likely to become vacant for new occupants during each year.

**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 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.

**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.