

**Northumberland Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling  
Showpeople Accommodation Assessment**

**October 2015**

**December 2018 Update**

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## **Appendices**

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Northumberland includes a vision seeking to secure, for those residing in, travelling through or staying temporarily in the County, equal opportunity to participate in the community. It gives an assurance that the rights of these communities to continue their own cultural identity(-ies) will be understood and equal access to services will be facilitated.
- 1.2 A key part of this cultural identity is the travelling itself – or at least the option of doing so. Specialised accommodation is necessary to allow for this mobility and associated lifestyle. The Strategy recognises that the vision can only be realised if the Council identifies the range of accommodation needs which exist for Gypsies and Travellers in Northumberland and work with partners to meet those needs.
- 1.3 In order to understand these needs, Councils, such as Northumberland County, carry out regularly updated Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessments, ('GTAA's'). Indeed this is necessary, in order to comply with requirements towards these groups under the Housing Act 2004, as well as national planning legislation and guidance, (especially the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2015).
- 1.4 This assessment will therefore inform the Council about the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, as well as Travelling Showpeople, in Northumberland looking over a number of years and projecting this through the whole Northumberland Local Plan period.
- 1.5 **Please note that the original GTAA was carried out in 2015. This 2018 update is based on the same survey work and projections but rolls the needs assessment on a further five years to cover the period of the new Northumberland Local Plan. Certain assumptions have been modified in accordance with updated advice and the updated position. The text of most chapters remains unchanged unless there are matters of fact that have required updating.**

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1 As set out in the 2013 Strategy, the definition for Gypsies and Travellers, (in line also with national policy at the time of writing), includes those recognised as a racial group under the Equalities Act 2010 and subsequent judicial decisions. These are Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers and Gypsies of either English, Scottish or Welsh origin. The abbreviation GRT (standing for Gypsy / Roma / Travellers) will be used to represent this definition at various points throughout this report.
- 2.2 A definition, based on ethnicity rather than lifestyle, encourages the inclusion of GRT who live all or part of the time in houses (sometimes referred to as “bricks and mortar”). The reason for bricks and mortar living may reflect a lack of places on sites but can also be due to factors such as age, family circumstances, or access to services.
- 2.3 For the purposes of planning future accommodation needs through the Local Plan, the document “Planning Policy for Traveller Sites” (CLG, August 2015) defines these groups in the following way:

*“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, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.”*

This definition is changed slightly from the Government’s previous definition insofar as those who have ceased to travel permanently are now excluded. Even though this Assessment was based around the old definition, it is not considered that this alters the assessed requirement for pitches / sites, because the estimate of the element wishing to move from bricks and mortar accommodation into caravans would, by definition, not include any households who have decided to cease travelling permanently.

- 2.4 The policy document then makes clear that the above definition does not include members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or circus people travelling together as such. They are defined separately as follows:

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

- 2.5 This GTAA has to examine the current and plan the future provision of
- for Gypsies and Travellers, “pitches” (which are for individual households) and ‘sites’ (a grouping of pitches)

- for Travelling Showpeople, “plots” (occupied by one household) and a “yards” (a collection of plots) (typically occupied exclusively by Travelling Showpeople).
- 2.6 While this may seem a simple sub-division, planning for accommodation needs can be more complex because there are different ethnic sub-groups, particularly among the Gypsies and Travellers. These are described and defined within the Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Northumberland.
- 2.7 Among the travellers living in / travelling through the County are Romany, Irish Travellers and Scottish Travellers. It is not always desirable or practicable for GRT families from these groups to share sites or generally to be planned for based on the same set of considerations.

### 3. The Gypsy and Traveller Population

#### Estimating numbers

- 3.1 Gypsies and Travellers were included as an ethnic group in a national Census for the first time in 2011. The data from this was published in 2012 with 57,680 individuals self-identifying as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' in England and Wales.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.2 This is in contrast to the Equality and Human Rights Commission who estimate there are around 250,000 to 300,000 Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar, and around 90,000 living a semi-nomadic life. This is 6.3 times the census count.
- 3.3 The demographic information for Northumberland is based on a biannual Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans. This survey is carried out by local authorities on behalf of central government and gives a snapshot view of the number of caravans in each area.
- 3.4 It was hoped that data from the 2011 Census would provide a more accurate picture. However only 156 individuals self-identified in Northumberland. This may be due to long held fears of persecution or racism. There are additional issues estimating likely school intakes, with the fact that school censuses only look at certain sub-groups, compounding the uncertainties resulting from the nomadic lifestyle of some of the children's families. The estimate in the 2008 GTAA was of around 160 households or around 500 individuals, not including Travelling Showpeople. (It can be noted at this point that, if the estimated Census under-counting factor of 6.3 was applied to Northumberland, the actual figure for the number of individuals would be close to 1000).<sup>2</sup>

#### Equality

- 3.5 As referred to earlier, the GRT population is recognised as a racial group under the Equality Act 2010 (and subsequent judicial decisions). In addition it is important to understand the distinctive sub-groups of travellers within the racial group.
- 3.6 Categorisation under the 2010 Act places a duty on the Council to ensure inclusivity and equality in how policies are shaped and services are delivered, by focussing on certain "protected characteristics", one of which is race.
- 3.7 The government has (in a separate set of considerations) recognised that there is a need to tackle inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, making a number of commitments on this, ranging from raising educational aspirations and attainment and health outcomes to reducing crime against these groups.

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<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census

<sup>2</sup> It should, of course, be borne in mind that, if the planning definition is taken, the bricks and mortar population would only include those who are residing in bricks and mortar on a temporary, rather than a permanent basis.

- 3.8 Estimating the quantitative requirements for accommodation and providing this is therefore only part of what the Council must seek to ensure. The location and quality of the accommodation provided are vital in terms of meeting these other Government commitments and encouraging true equality.

## 4. Existing Accommodation

4.1 Twice a year, a caravan count takes place in the county. The latest sets of results are as follows:

**Table 4.1 The Most Recent Caravan Counts for Northumberland**

Site type	Jan 2014	July 2014	Jan 2015	July 2015	Jan 2016	July 2016	Jan 2017	July 2017
Socially rented (council owned site)	56	45	51	57	54	60	62	78
Private	15	18	11	24	5	34	111	60
Unauthorised	0	7	4	8	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>138</b>

Source: MHCLG and Northumberland County Council

4.2 It should be noted that most recent set of figures includes five additional pitches added to one of the Council owned sites since the base date of this Assessment (see below).

4.3 In addition it should be pointed out that there were 30 caravans belonging to Travelling Showpeople on private sites in 2017 - an increase of 8 from previous years.<sup>3</sup>

### Permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites

4.4 There are currently two Gypsy and Traveller sites owned and managed by Northumberland County Council. These sites include a range of facilities to allow the site to function and provide its occupants with essential services. Pitches on these public sites can be obtained through the Council and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the licensees (similar to social housing). The two sites are:

- **Hartford Bridge** near Bedlington, which at the time of the survey that supports this Study (2014) had 22 permanent pitches, although this provision has since increased to 27.<sup>4</sup> A Housing Officer manages the day to day operation of the site;
- **Lyneburn Cottages** near Lynemouth, which has 11 permanent pitches. A Housing Officer manages the day to day operation of the site.

<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that caravan counts are a snapshot in time and cannot be used as an accurate measure of transient stop offs, (whether or not authorised), as these vary in number considerably across the year. This issue is covered in Chapter 9.

<sup>4</sup> NB. An additional pitch that was being used for transit purposes within the site has recently (at the time of writing of this 2018 update) gone across to permanent use.



- 4.5 Each of these sites is located adjacent or near to the edge of a settled community and both have access to the same local services and facilities as the settled community concerned. All of the families on these sites are permanently resident and do not undertake a significant amount of travelling. Turnover on the sites averages around 7 to 8% per year. At present, the sites are managed by Homes For Northumberland (NCC). Applicants apply to be accommodated on these permanent pitches. It has long been the experience of the Council that, vacated pitches are reoccupied within a short time.
- 4.6 There is a sizeable site located centrally in Berwick-upon-Tweed, owned and managed by a Gypsy and Traveller family who initially obtained planning permission for this use. At the time of the survey that supports this Study (2014) it had 18 permanent pitches, but has since increased to 20 pitches. This site also has a range of facilities and, although there are some permanent residents, it is predominantly of a transient nature, primarily reflecting the route followed by Scottish Travellers. According to the 2013 Strategy, there is significant integration with the local community and the site is accepted, although some pockets of discrimination and racism do exist.
- 4.7 Other than this, permanent pitches are limited to one or two small, single family sites along the coastal strip.
- 4.8 The number of permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches **at the time of the 2014 survey** can therefore be estimated at **between 50 and 55**, depending on how smaller sites are counted. This has since increased to **between 57 and 62**.<sup>5</sup>

### Permanent Travelling Showpeople's yard

- 4.9 Turning to Travelling Showpeople, there is a Showman's Guild yard in Bomarsund, Stakeford, which is privately owned and managed. At the time of the survey that supports this Study (2014) it had 22 plots, but this provision has since increased to 30.

### Temporary / Transit Arrangements

- 4.10 Transit sites are designed to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers whilst they travel and tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site. They would typically have a maximum period of residence which can vary from a few weeks to a period of months. Northumberland does not currently have any fixed transit sites.
- 4.11 Emergency stopping places are identified as and when the need arises. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which someone can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities. This document seeks to analyse the issue of emergency stopping places in more detail.

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<sup>5</sup> NB Pitches can accommodate 1 or 2 caravans or possibly more.

- 4.12 In the absence of transit sites, there is an issue of unauthorised encampments, which is quantified in section 9.<sup>6</sup>

### **Bricks and Mortar**

- 4.13 Gathering data on the number of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation is difficult due to the reluctance to self-identify and this is acknowledged as a significant gap in developing and delivering services. This Assessment seeks to address this issue.

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<sup>6</sup> In relation to the absence of fixed transit sites, coupled with the unauthorised stopping issue, the Council has recently begun trialling a 'negotiated stopping places' model, as advocated by the travelling community nationally, to help facilitate increased provision to meet this largely seasonal, semi-permanent transit demand, informed by an initial site search within the priority Ashington / Bedlington / Blyth / Cramlington area.

## 5. The Planning Requirement

- 5.1 Councils have to adhere to a number of legislative requirements when considering GRT accommodation needs and related matters around these communities' needs.<sup>7</sup>
- 5.2 Since 2012 the main planning requirements, with respect of GTAAAs have been contained within 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' (initially published in 2012 and updated in 2015).<sup>8</sup>

### Planning Policy for Traveller Sites

- 5.3 The document 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' (2015) makes clear that, notwithstanding their statutory housing duties, Councils must assess traveller accommodation needs for the purposes of planning over a reasonable timescale. It goes on to clarify that this is likely to involve the identification of land for sites, in order to reduce shortfalls and unauthorised encampments. It advocates a collaborative, inclusive but realistic approach. In finding any needed land, it states that impacts on nearby communities, local amenity and the environment must all be considered, while ensuring that necessary infrastructure can be provided and that suitable services can be accessed from the sites. The accommodation needs of those on unauthorised sites must be included within what is provided (within reason) as well as those arising from households within the Local Authority Area on authorised sites or residing temporarily in bricks and mortar accommodation within the Local Authority area, (also taking account of the Duty to Cooperate). Importantly, the guidance states that Green Belt must be protected from inappropriate development.
- 5.4 The document then sets out a number of national policies on how Councils should deal with Gypsy and Traveller accommodation through their local plans:
  - POLICY A  
The first policy makes clear that, in assembling robust **evidence**, there should

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<sup>7</sup> These include provisions within the Housing Act (1996) as amended by the Homelessness Act (2002) (and further refined by the Housing Act 2004) and the associated statutory codes of guidance; the Mobile Homes Act 1983; the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010; and the Race Relations Act 1976 and Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. In addition, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and The Childrens Act 2004 have sections relating to the G.R.T. community. (Section 124 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 removes the duty on local authorities under the Housing Act 2004 to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and travellers in their area as a distinct category. This stipulation applied an assumption of a 3% per annum growth rate in GRT households, which has tended to have been built into past GTAAAs around the country and a lower growth rate is assumed later in this Assessment).

<sup>8</sup> In March 2016, the Government issued Draft guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs Caravans and Houseboats. This type of needs assessment includes those other than GRT groups, who may also dwell in caravans or houseboats. It is not considered that there is any significant number of caravans or houseboats in Northumberland that are occupied long term by people who are not part of the travelling communities.

be close cooperation with travellers, their representative bodies and communities.

- POLICY B

This explains that **Local Plans should set targets** (pitch/plot targets) based on likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities. These have to take account of need generated from within the authorised sites and those residing on a temporary basis in bricks and mortar. Unauthorised sites also have to be taken into account except where of unusually large scale. The policy states that new pitches and plots should be in scale with the sites / yards that they are to be part of and/or settled communities that they are to be close to, considering the environment and local amenity. Specific sites must be found for at least the first five years with broader locations beyond that.

**Criteria-based policies** are also required, in order to ‘facilitate the traditional and nomadic life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community’. Detailed proposals can be assessed against criteria covering likely infrastructure, service and access requirements and any impacts associated with new or expanded sites / yards.

- POLICY C

This clarifies that any **sites should not dominate rural areas** – e.g. in relation to any neighbouring village or hamlet.

- POLICY D

This makes clear that, just as there is a distinction between affordable and general market housing for permanent dwellings, so there is such a distinction for traveller accommodation. As such, Local Plans can set **rural exception sites** policies for traveller sites that meet “affordable” criteria – i.e. they could be located in areas that traveller sites would not normally be permitted.

- POLICY E

This confirms that traveller sites (permanent or temporary) are **inappropriate development in the Green Belt**. This is important insofar as Green Belt covers a large part of the south and east of the County including the extension around Morpeth. Therefore if the results of this assessment are that additional or expanded sites are going to be required within the general extent of the Green Belt, locating them there will encounter this key obstacle. The final setting of the Green Belt boundaries in the Morpeth area, and a review of the existing Green Belt, are both part of the current planning process.

- POLICY F

This covers the possibility that, apart from residential accommodation, sites or yards may need to include other uses such as workspaces – i.e. **mixed uses** – this may especially be the case for Travelling Showpeople.

- POLICY G

This deals with the situation where the **relocation** of a site may be required due to major development projects.

- 5.5 Further policies then cover how applications should be assessed. It is clear that, just as with permanent housing, if a five-year supply cannot be demonstrated, backed by an up-to-date GTAA, then the Council could come under much greater pressure to grant ad hoc temporary permissions for sites. It is also not acceptable to rule a application out because those who will occupy it do not have a local connection.

## 6. How new provision is funded

- 6.1 As with any area of planning, there is little point in identifying need and then planning for it unless there is confidence that the necessary pitches or plots will be delivered within the plan period. As explained earlier, some sites are private initiatives but the reality is that public sector funding is largely relied upon in order to meet shortfalls in the accommodation needs of the GRT groups.
- 6.2 The Government considers it in the national interest to provide funding because meeting foreseeable GRT accommodation needs reduces the haphazard nature of temporary (often unauthorised) encampments and helps towards meeting national goals such as community cohesion, sustainability and equality.
- 6.3 Nationally, Homes England (formerly the HCA) used to operate a Traveller Pitch Funding stream within the Government's Affordable Homes Programme. At present (at the time of writing this update of the GTAA) Homes England no longer offers a specialist programme of funding for Traveller pitch provision, but this type of development may be funded via their Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme 2016-21 ('SOAHP 16-21') programme. This funding is limited to new pitch provision, (whether on existing or new sites); it does not cover the refurbishment of existing pitches.
- 6.4 Other funding sources will therefore usually be necessary in order to make up the total cost of pitches and any refurbishments necessary so that they meet necessary design standards. Working with partners / consortia can help bring costs down. Funding is more likely to be forthcoming if there is evidence of close consultation with GRT communities concerned as well as existing local communities and necessary service providers.
- 6.5 The most recent addition of five pitches on the existing permanent site at Hartford Bridge was funded through the previous HCA funding programmes and may not have been possible otherwise – see below.
- 6.6 As with affordable housing, there are various models as to how GRT sites, once provided, function in terms of renting, shared ownership etc.

## 7. Relevance of previous GTAA work - regionally and locally

- 7.1 The previous Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was published in 2008 in response to the Authority's duties under the Housing and Planning and Compulsory Purchase Acts (both 2004) and the then existing guidance in Circular 01/2006. It looked ahead to 2018.
- 7.2 This assessment must meet the guidance in "*Planning for Traveller Sites*", looking ahead across the plan period to 2036, with a clear idea of sites (or yards) pitches (or plots) required over at least ten of those years, including detailed locations for the immediate five-year period as far as possible, plus general locations for the second five years.

### Main findings of 2008 Assessment

- 7.3 The 2008 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment identified a requirement for 11 additional permanent pitches, one in the North area and ten in the South East area for the period 2008-13 and also found that this amount of additional accommodation would cover the period to 2018, (i.e. that further permanent pitches would not be needed during the second five-year period).
- 7.4 The 2008 GTAA also saw the need for a transit site for ten pitches in South-East Northumberland.

### Other background to 2008 Assessment

- 7.5 The 2008 GTAA had considered regional information gathered for the then Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North-East but it was not considered to be watertight in terms of the survey work behind it. Nonetheless, it drew some interesting region-wide conclusions, such as:
- That the Gypsy and Traveller community in the north-east was small and thinly scattered, compared with other regions, with the greatest concentrations in the southern part of Co. Durham and the Tees Valley, this in part reflecting where accommodation was available at the time.
  - That the North East was a base for families to work and for their children to be schooled;
  - That, notwithstanding this, some members of these communities would also travel for part of the year while retaining their business and employment interests within the region.
- 7.6 Following the Regional Study, Northumberland's pitch requirements of 21 additional pitches by 2020 were set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy of 2008, with this being projected forward to 29 pitches by 2025. However the RSS recognised that much more local work, including close liaison with the GTTS communities, would be needed for a full understanding of these needs and requirements to be obtained.

- 7.7 The 2008 Northumberland GTAA survey work was undertaken when many of the roles and responsibilities sat with the six former district councils, meaning that much of the background information was patchy and the county-wide survey that was undertaken could not be sure of reaching all potential respondents. Nevertheless, 34 responses were obtained at the time – 12 from local authority sites, 15 from unauthorised sites, 2 from a private site and 5 housed families – plus 12 responses from the Travelling Showpeople community.
- 7.8 The results were analysed and conclusions drawn based on Government guidance on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments dated 2007, (which remained the relevant guidance when the initial version of this Accommodation Assessment was prepared but has now been withdrawn).
- 7.9 The GRT population was estimated to be around 500. As stated, the need for additional permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches to the year 2018 was estimated at a single pitch for the former Alnwick and Berwick districts, with a further ten in the former Tynedale / Castle Morpeth / Wansbeck / Blyth Valley district areas.
- 7.10 A clear issue identified at the time was the urgent need for a ten pitch transit site in SE Northumberland to resolve the issue of Gypsies and Travellers regularly moving between unauthorised encampments in that general area. An expressed wish for transit sites or stopping places in more rural parts of Northumberland was not borne out by the evidence.
- 7.11 Various issues regarding qualitative aspects of sites were also noted with a view to resolving these. In addition, various community-related issues were identified – e.g. the prejudice faced by the GTTS communities, from the settled communities, was far greater for those on the move and occupying unauthorised sites than it was for those with official pitches.
- 7.12 It was concluded also that further work with agencies and the communities themselves was required to work up the details of the recommendations, with regular review also being required.

### **Implications for this GTAA**

- 7.13 It is clear that many of the issues identified then, (especially qualitative ones), remain relevant today.
- 7.14 The initial version of this assessment took 2014, the date of the most recent survey, as its base date and assessed permanent and temporary pitch and plot requirements from then. Provision since 2014 was then counted towards meeting the newly assessed needs. This latest version rolls this forward by four years, taking a new base date of 2018.
- 7.15 The Government guidance on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments (2007) helped guide the way in which the assessment has been carried out. (In rolling forward the Assessment in 2018, it is noted that the 2007 methodology was withdrawn in 2016).



## 8. Gathering information in advance of the Survey

- 8.1 The Council has, over many years, gained a good understanding of the GRT and Travelling Showpeople communities in relation to a number of its statutory functions, including housing, education, transport, social services and, of course, planning. Nevertheless the Council continually strives to improve its knowledge of the communities' lifestyle and unique needs.
- 8.2 A number of existing information sources are available:
- The information in the **2011 Census** has already been referred to. The overall count of 156 is considered to be a significant underestimate of the GRT population and would almost certainly not cover the Travelling Showpeople. This is due to reluctance (in many cases) to self-identify.
  - The biannual Traveller **Caravan Counts** have also already been mentioned.
  - The County Council holds **detailed information** on pitches / sites and their current occupancy, as well as other relevant information obtained from site management records, education rolls, school travel patterns etc.
  - The County Council holds records of any **unauthorised sites and encampments**, gathered as they occur through the housing and/or planning enforcement functions.
  - The **2008 Northumberland GTAA** provided a useful benchmark for this assessment.
  - The **GTAA's of neighbouring authorities** provide useful information on cross-boundary issues.
- 8.3 Prior to the undertaking the main survey that underpins this report, the Council sought to boost the above 'desk-based' information by, at the beginning of 2014, carrying out a stakeholder survey to ascertain the views of those involved with the GTTS communities and a summary report was completed. This is included as Appendix D to this report. Such a Stakeholder Survey is a necessary stage in the prescribed process.
- 8.4 In addition, the Council, as Local Planning Authority, has a '**Duty to Cooperate**' with neighbouring authorities (as well as a number of statutory bodies). This cooperation consists of meetings, discussions and possibly written 'Memoranda of Understanding' between adjoining LPAs, with the aim of ensuring sound planning across boundaries. In particular, the Duty has the aim of ensuring that all land use needs are accounted for – i.e. any overspill in land requirements, housing provision etc. can be accommodated in neighbouring authorities' areas. It is easy to understand why this cross-boundary Duty is especially important in the accommodation of GTTS, given the fluid nature of these populations.

## 9. Findings from existing information sources

- 9.1 With only 156 individuals self-identified within the Gypsy and Traveller sub-category in the 2011 Census, it is clear that there is an undercount. Well over this figure is known to be present on the permanent sites alone at any given time. As already explained, many people, particularly those in 'bricks and mortar', are reluctant to identify themselves as GTTS for fear of persecution racial discrimination (institutional or individual).

### Caravan Count

- 9.2 The Caravan Count figures are a national dataset based on counts taken in January and July of each year, looking at both authorised and unauthorised sites across England. The most recent figures for the County are set out in Chapter 4, However, their input into this study is based on the counts up to 2014.
- 9.3 It is of note that that the number of traveller caravans recorded in England quadrupled over a 35 year period from the end of the 1970s – from around 4000 to around 16,000.
- 9.4 Table 9.1 covers the run-up to the base date of this study for England, Northumberland and the rest of the NE-LEP area and gives an insight into the the level of the unauthorised site problem. In England, while total caravans counted in summer tends to be slightly higher than in winter, the percentage of these that are on unauthorised sites is significantly higher in July than January, (16 to 22%, compared with 13 to 15%). This implies that there is a pattern of some caravans leaving permanent sites to travel during the summer but not all of these finding authorised stopping-off places.
- 9.5 These 'snapshot' statistics suggest that, in Northumberland, caravans on unauthorised sites have, in the past, been more of a summer than a winter phenomenon.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> As already noted, these are snapshot counts. The quite large variations in the number of caravans passing through and stopping on a temporary basis accounts for the fluctuations between counts in the figures. Additional information on year-round counts for unauthorised encampments, given later in this document, shows that the summer peak may indeed be the case, at least for parts of the County. The survey results reported in Chapter 11 also appear to corroborate this insofar as many people reside in one location for much of the year but travel in the summer.

- 9.6 The figures also imply that the unauthorised encampment problem may not be as great in Northumberland as nationally<sup>10</sup>, or indeed further south within this region.<sup>11</sup>
- 9.7 All of this suggests that there is a national issue relating to either transit and/or emergency stopping places and that this tends to be a greater in the summer. It is clearly also a north-east issue but much more confined to the summer months than is, perhaps, the case nationally. The results of the 2014 survey shed some additional light on this phenomenon.

### Detailed Information on Existing Sites

- 9.8 The detailed information held on existing Council-owned permanent sites shows that these sites are almost continuously fully subscribed. Pitches become available intermittently, averaging three to four per year across the two authorised sites. When this occurs, people wishing to occupy them come forward immediately. It is such an infrequent occurrence for pitches to be vacated that, while a formal waiting list is held, it tends not to operate in the traditional sense of a social housing waiting list due to the transient nature of the GTTS communities. Nevertheless, in the event that a number of potential occupants come forward, a clearly set-out prioritisation policy operates.

### Unauthorised Sites and Encampments

- 9.9 Information on unauthorised encampments that informed this GTAA covered the period from June 2012 to March 2015. The issue has been looked at in terms of geographical occurrences and split by the 'Delivery Areas'.<sup>12</sup>
- 9.10 Occurrences are plotted on Figure 9A and its inset, Figure 9B. Table 9.2 shows that that there were 225 instances in that timescale, approximately 80 per year. The maps at Figures 9A and 9B show that the main concentration of instances was in SE Northumberland, with other occurrences strung out north – south along the coastal strip, (with a particular concentration in the Berwick area), and east – west, (with a particular concentration in the Prudhoe area).

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<sup>10</sup> This is because the percentage of all caravans that are unauthorised is lower.

<sup>11</sup> Unauthorised stopping is more of a rural than an urban phenomenon. Only Gateshead of the urban authorities has fixed permanent pitches. Within rural areas, Durham appears to experience a greater problem than Northumberland in summer, when caravans on unauthorised sites make up a much greater proportion of all caravans than the national average. The section on neighbouring authorities' GTAA's later in this chapter implies that many more travel to the Appleby Fair from the south than the north and this may be reflected in Durham's higher level of summer encampments.

<sup>12</sup> These areas continue to provide a useful basis for the analysis, as they allow the isolation of SE Northumberland, the coastal N-S route (SE plus North) and the E-W issue (West).

**Table 9.1: Count of Traveller Caravans over five counts to July 2014**

		Authorised sites (with planning permission) (Note 1)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)		Total All Caravans
		Socially Rented <sup>1</sup>	Private Caravans	No	%	
England	July 2014	6,513	10,258	3,264	16.29%	20,035
	Jan 2014	6,854	10,016	2,633	13.50%	19,503
	July 2013	6,545	9,813	4,553	21.77%	20,911
	Jan 2013	6,871	9,647	2,841	14.68%	19,359
	July 2012	6,829	9,274	3,158	16.40%	19,261
Northumber-land	July 2014	45	18	7	10.00%	70
	Jan 2014	56	15	0	0.00%	71
	July 2013	45	16	18	22.78%	79
	Jan 2013	52	16	1	1.45%	69
	July 2012	50	25	9	10.71%	84
County Durham	July 2014	85	1	46	34.85%	132
	Jan 2014	66	0	7	9.59%	73
	July 2013	83	0	40	32.52%	123
	Jan 2013	154	0	3	1.91%	157
	July 2012	127	0	28	18.06%	155
Gateshead	July 2014	25	0	0	0.00%	25
	Jan 2014	34	0	0	0.00%	34
	July 2013	40	0	0	0.00%	40
	Jan 2013	20	0	0	0.00%	20
	July 2012	34	0	0	0.00%	34
Newcastle upon Tyne and North Tyneside (summed)	July 2014	0	0	4	100.00%	4
	Jan 2014	0	0	0	N/A	0
	July 2013	0	0	0	N/A	0
	Jan 2013	0	0	0	N/A	0
	July 2012	0	0	1	100.00%	1
South Tyneside and Sunderland (summed)	July 2014	0	5	7	58.33%	12
	Jan 2014	0	8	0	0.00%	8
	July 2013	0	72	8	10.00%	80
	Jan 2013	0	0	8	100.00%	8
	July 2012	0	0	12	100.00%	12

Source DCLG Caravan Counts

Note: Authorised Sites include sites owned by Private Registered Providers. NB Incomplete data returned 2014 (July). Some or all figures have been imputed using the latest available July count data

- 9.11 Appendix B tabulates instances of occupancy on unauthorised sites within that same period. In order to give a clearer picture a measure has been developed for the purposes of the table – “Caravan Nights”. This is derived by multiplying the number of caravans involved in the incident by the number of nights that they were present before leaving or being removed from the unauthorised site concerned. The picture for the four Delivery Areas is shown in the Table 9.2 and the Figures 9C and 9D below.
- 9.12 The dominance of SE Northumberland, in both measures can be seen. This is followed by the Central Delivery Area, then the North and finally the West. In terms of Caravan nights, the West has a slightly greater problem in terms of the length of time spent than in terms of individual instances. Otherwise, the patterns are similar.

**Table 9.2: Unauthorised Encampments, June 2012 – March 2015: Instances and ‘Caravan Nights’ by Delivery Area**

Location (former delivery areas)	Instances	Caravan Nights
South East Delivery Area	146	2,509
Central Delivery Area	43	639
North Delivery Area	29	450
West Delivery Area	7	209
<b>NORTHUMBERLAND</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>3,809</b>

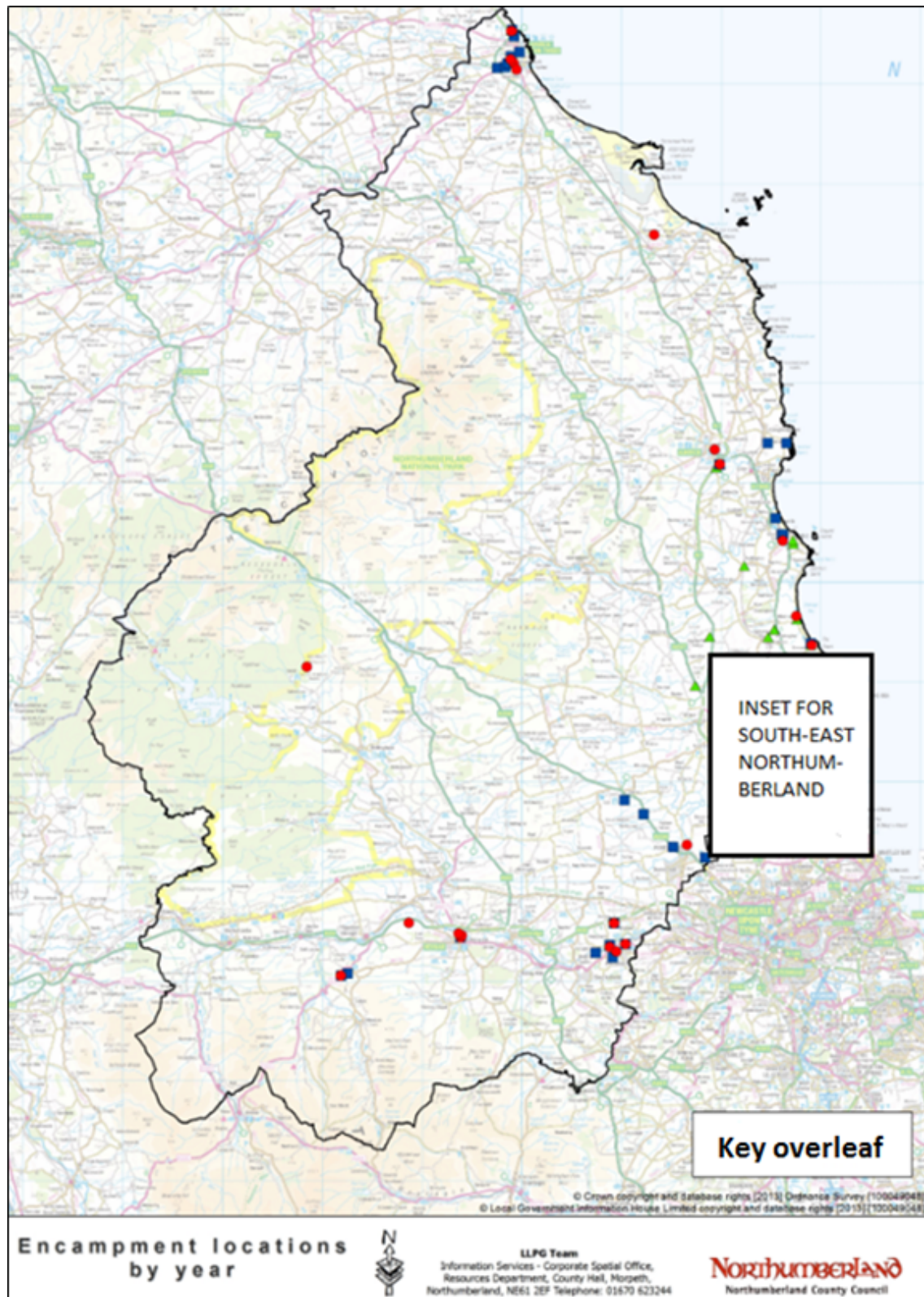
- 9.13 The geographical pattern of unauthorised encampments suggests:
- an approximate correlation with the population density of the County’s general population, (i.e. half or more in the South-East of the County);
  - a degree of correlation with where the permanent sites are (i.e. the two in the SE of the County and one in Berwick);
  - north-south and east-west movements;
  - very little pressure in the north-west / along the NW route of the A696/A68.
- 9.14 Further analysis has been done to split the unauthorised encampments by season and length of stay. This can be found in Appendix C, by settlements and is summarised for the four Delivery Areas in Table 9.3 below.

**Table 9.3: Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 by the Delivery Areas– seasonal split and average length of stay.**

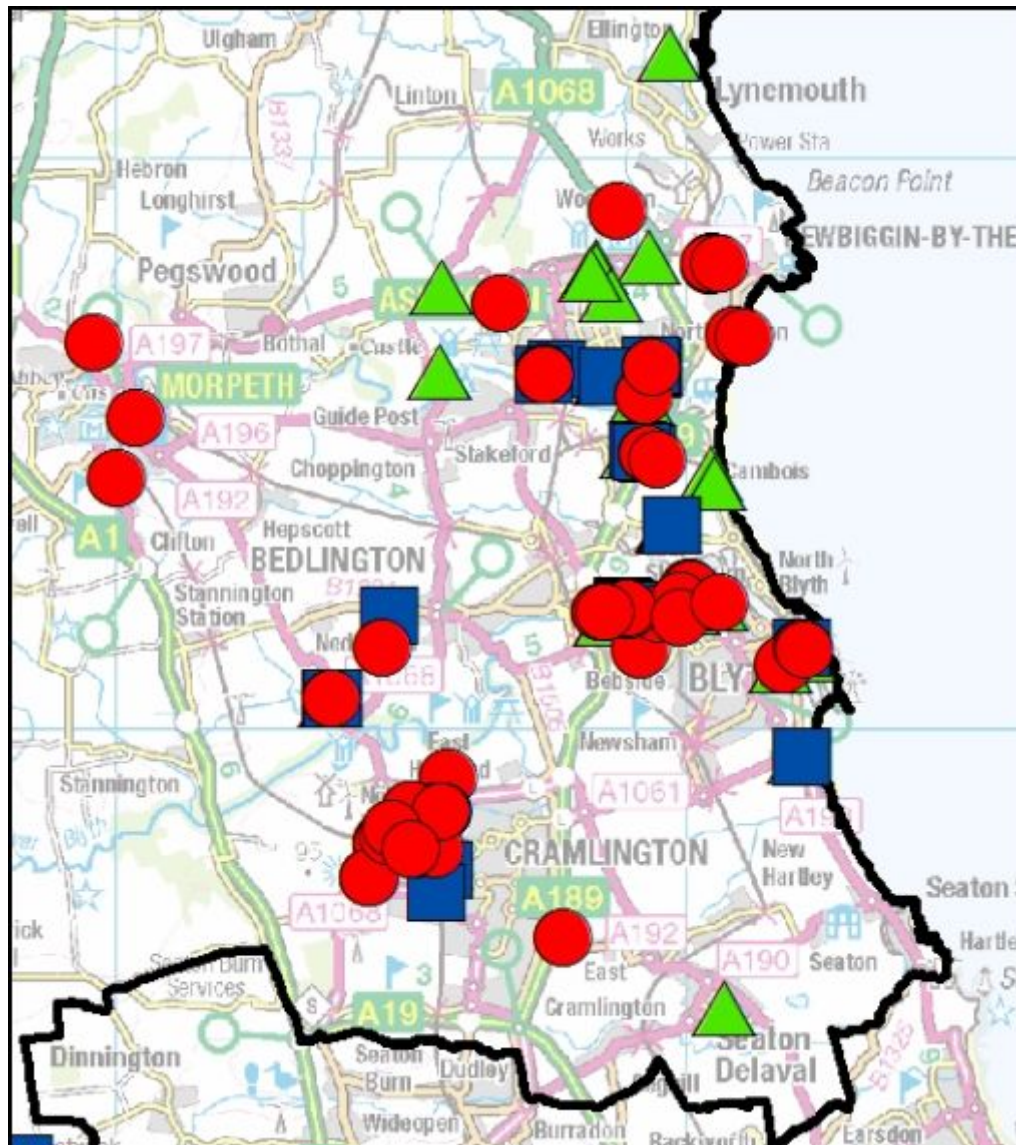
Location	Summer Instances April – Sept.		Winter Instances Oct. – March	
	No	Av length of stay (nights)	No	Av length of stay (nights)
South East Delivery Area	93	5.58	53	5.53
Central Delivery Area	40	3.08	3	5.67
North Delivery Area	21	3.19	8	1.88
West Delivery Area	7	1.14	0	N/A
<b>NORTHUMBERLAND</b>	<b>161</b>		<b>64</b>	



**Figure 9A Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015**



**Figure 9B Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 – SE Northumberland Inset (see previous page for key)**  
*Not to scale*



**Encampment locations  
by year**



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 Northumberland, NE61 2EP Telephone: 01670 623244

**Northumberland**  
 Northumberland County Council



Encampments\_2014\_2015 (108)

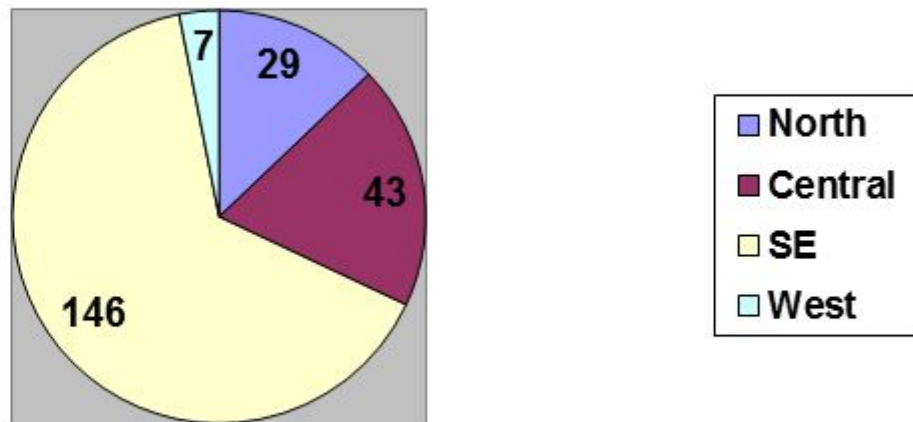


Encampments\_2013\_2014 (62)

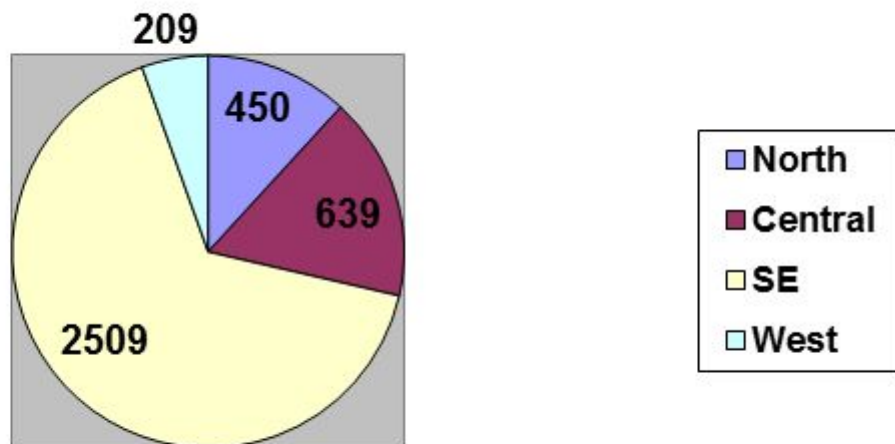


Encampments\_2012\_2013 (55) \*Data only collected from June 2012

**Fig 9C: Unauthorised Encampments, June 2012 – March 2015:  
Instances by Delivery Area**



**Fig 9D: Unauthorised Encampments, June 2012 – March 2015:  
Caravan Nights by Delivery Area**

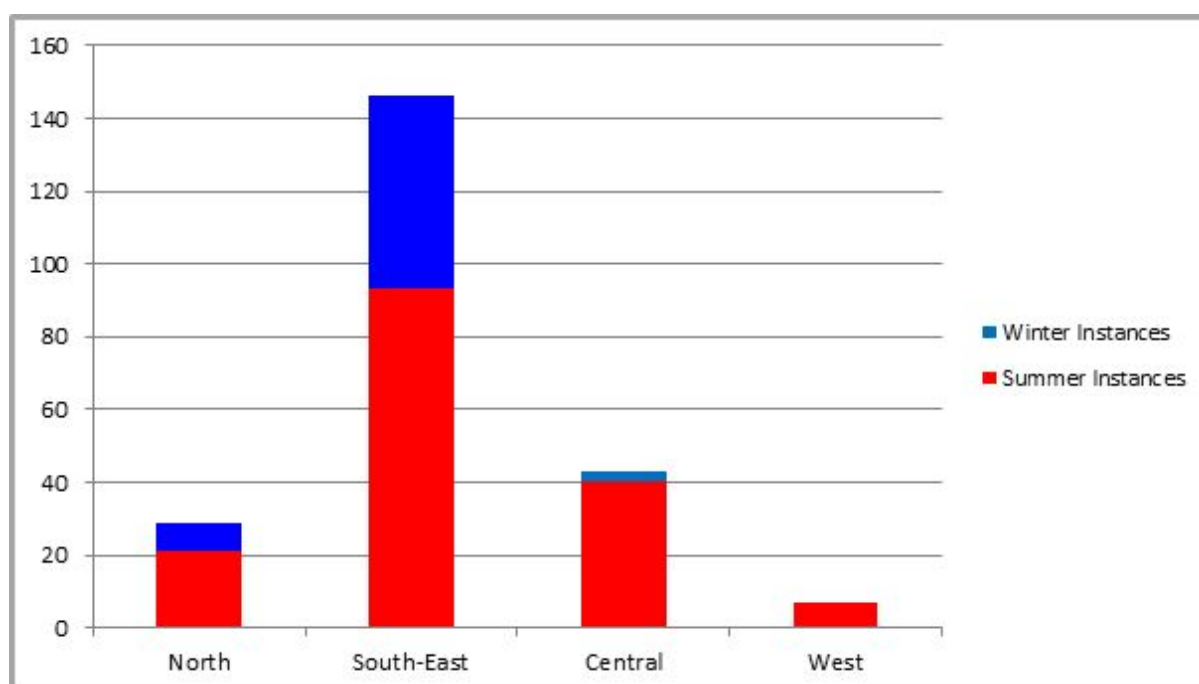




- 9.15 Table 9.3 shows that summer instances outnumber winter instances by a factor of about 2.5 to 1.
- 9.16 In terms of the Delivery Areas used, the split is more clearly viewed on Figure 9E below. This shows that unauthorised sites in winter are only really a significant issue in SE Northumberland and (to a lesser extent) parts of the North. The West only sees unauthorised encampments in the summer months and the Central Delivery Area also has very little such activity in the six winter months.

**Figure 9E**

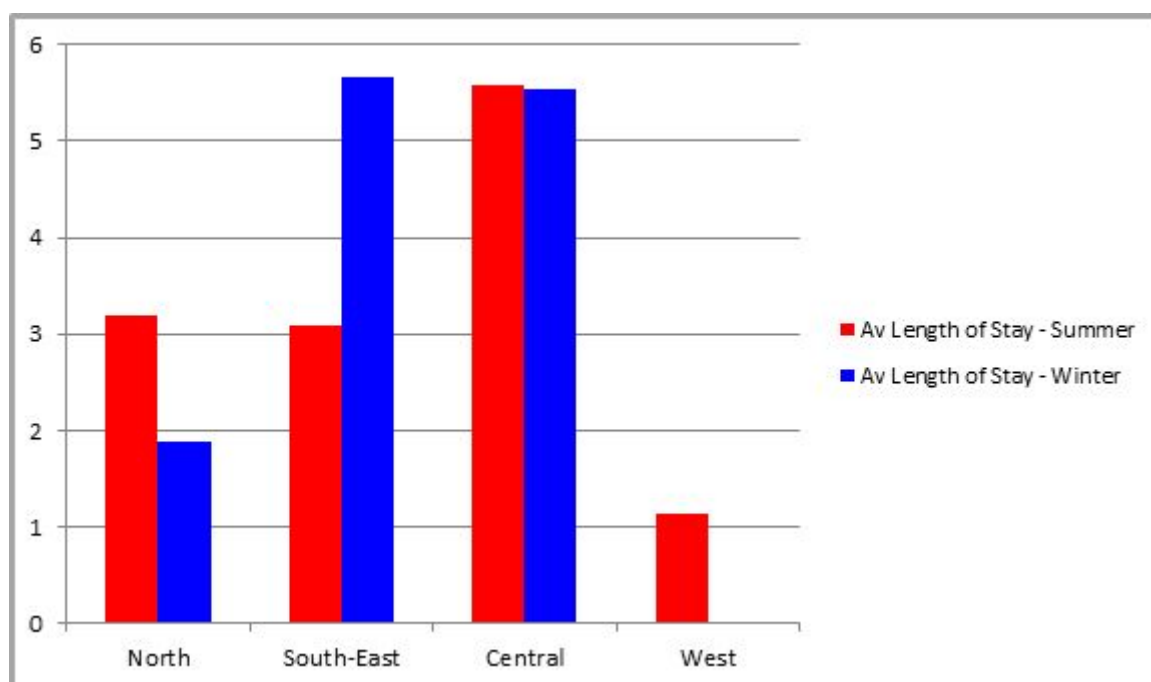
***Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 by the Delivery Areas– seasonal split***



- 9.17 The length of stay on unauthorised sites is influenced by the purpose of the visit, ranging from people passing through to those seeking a more permanent stop but unable to find an official pitch. It is also influenced by whether a Section.77 'Direction to Leave' was served and followed. Analysis shows that this type of notice was served in slightly over 1 in 5 instances of unauthorised encampments and that the average stay on such encampments was slightly less than eight days, compared with slightly less than four days, where no notice was served. Not surprisingly, there is an increasing likelihood that notices will be served as the duration of the encampment increases.
- 9.18 Figure 9F shows that there is no clear pattern between the length of stay, the season or the area of the County, although the short average durations of the (summer only) stays in the West, suggests that most of the people are likely to be passing through the area (possibly to the Appleby Horse Fair), rather than seeking a more lengthy stop.

**Figure 9F**

**Average number of nights of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 by the Delivery Areas – seasonal split**



9.19 In terms of any changes in these patterns since this GTAA was first published in 2015, no comprehensive re-analysis has been carried out. As shown in Table 9.4, overall, the instances of unauthorised sites continues to be of the same order. Findings are that the location / concentration remains in the South East Northumberland area (notable areas close to Cramlington, Blyth and Ashington).

**Table 9.4: Unauthorised Encampments, 2014/2015 – 2017/2018:**

	Unauthorised Encampment	Number of Caravans
2014-15	108	529
2015-16	92	527
2016-17	74	313
2017-18	70	340

- 9.20 In relation to this, it should be noted that the Council is trialling a 'negotiated stopping places' model, the effect of which on the incidences of unauthorised stopping has yet to be fully tested.<sup>13</sup>

### **The 2008 Northumberland GTAA**

- 9.21 As outlined in section 7, the previous Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was published in 2008, looking ahead to 2018. It identified a requirement for 11 additional permanent pitches during that ten year period, one in the North area and ten in the South East area. It also found a need for a transit accommodation in South-East Northumberland.
- 9.22 Comparing the 2008 survey findings with the new survey, it is clear that many of the issues identified then, (especially qualitative ones), remain relevant today. The methodology employed for that assessment also remains valid to use for this new assessment. It is important that the assessment projects needs from the new base date(s) and it would not be appropriate to add any outstanding unmet need from the 2008 Assessment, as need has evolved considerably since then, including between 2014 and 2018.

### **GTAA's of neighbouring authorities**

- 9.23 The review below is of the GTAA's as they existed at the time of this GTAA's first iteration. Any updates since 2015 are outlined at the end of each sub-section.

#### **North Tyneside**

- 9.24 A GTAA was carried out in 2014. It found that the area was not a popular stopping place for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople for geographical reasons. With no permanent sites in the Borough, no survey work was undertaken, (other than a stakeholder survey), and it was estimated that the pitch requirements for the future were also likely to be zero and that a criteria based approach to any future demands could be taken at present, so long as it was recognised that the situation could change and that the study would need to be reviewed on a periodic basis. There was also identified to be no need for yards for Travelling Showpeople.

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<sup>13</sup> It can be noted that this approach is advocated by the travelling community nationally, to help facilitate increased provision to meet this largely seasonal, semi-permanent transit demand, is expected to have an impact. Under the proposal for this, approved by the Council's Cabinet on 27th September 2018, locations for Negotiated Stopping Places across the County are assessed against a set of criteria which include known seasonal migration routes and trends, the number of caravans / trailers to be accommodated, the proximity of occupied housing and local services, as well as land ownership issues and any physical or environmental constraints within 200 metres of the site. They are then subject to approval by key officers and Members. In order to operate, they must be provided with bins and portaloos but do not need other on-site facilities that would be required for a permanent transit site. Stopping is time limited and the management of the sites is subject to an agreed protocol.

- 9.25 In terms of temporary accommodation, while there was evidence of sporadic travelling through the area, this was not found to be sufficient to justify the identification of a permanent transit site. However, it was recommended that North Tyneside Council should seek to ascertain from future occupiers of unauthorised sites, whether they are seeking permanent or transit sites in the area and to seek to gather better information on bricks and mortar occupancy.

### **Newcastle / Gateshead**

- 9.26 A joint GTAA was carried out in 2013 for these two authority areas.
- It confirmed a total of 20 existing permanent site pitches located in Gateshead and none in Newcastle. It found no backlog of need but a current five year need of 10 pitches. However these would be accounted for by vacancies recurring at past rates, meaning no net need for new permanent pitches was identified for the five years concerned.
  - Regarding transit sites, there were no such sites in the two Council areas and the conclusions were similar to those of North Tyneside – i.e. while some people passed through the area, these movements were not sufficient to justify such a site being provided. It was recommended that the situation should be monitored carefully and regularly, with accompanying policy helping any unforeseen need to be met.
- 9.27 A new study carried out since the above, published in August 2017, has very similar findings, with no need for additional pitches, permanent or temporary, in either Local Authority area being identified.

### **Durham**

- 9.28 The County Durham Traveller Site Needs Assessment that this assessment reviewed was carried out in 2013 to support the production of the County Durham Plan. It was found that 2,100 individuals from the GRT communities resided in the County – around 700 households. Most were in bricks and mortar housing that was generally close to Traveller sites. There were also about 30 Travelling Showpeople.
- 9.29 The assessment process was acknowledged as being made more difficult by the ongoing refurbishment of all of the Council's six Gypsy and Traveller sites, meaning that, at the time of the survey, residents from four of the sites had been or were being 'decanted', variously to commercial caravan sites, other Durham County Council sites, to bricks and mortar housing or else leaving the County.
- 9.30 Notwithstanding that the refurbishment would provide much improved facilities, (including eight additional pitches), changes in site management and charges led the study authors to conclude that there would be an unusually high level of available vacancy on completion of the refurbishment programme, although this was not likely to persist long term.

9.31 Surveys undertaken appeared to show that:

- In spite of numerous unauthorised encampments, there was no unmet need for permanent pitches, so backing up Durham County Council's policy of providing stop-over sites;
- This was based on the anticipated effects of the refurbishment and a reliance on permission continuing to be renewed on a limited number of small private sites.
- This would be reviewed in 2020;
- There was a need to gather additional data, especially on the size and nature on the bricks and mortar Gypsy and Traveller population.
- Some qualitative improvements were needed to cater for the accommodation needs of the small Travelling Showpeople population.

9.32 Since this assessment was originally published, Durham CC has published a new Assessment dated January 2017. This took place after the refurbishments mentioned above and looked at just a ten year period to 2026 (for reasons including the degree of uncertainty beyond that). It concluded that five Gypsy and Traveller households would need to be accommodated on additional sites during that decade.

9.33 However, this need (and a continued five year supply) would, it found, be met through churn and existing anticipated permissions. In essence the higher number of permanent pitches in Durham (as compared with Northumberland), along with the number of private sites, ensures that the additional demand arising from a relatively low level of household formation and migratory factors is accounted for without the need for a step change in provision.

## **Cumbria**

9.34 The GTAA work for Cumbria that informed this GTAA dates from 2008. At the time of the 2008 Study there were approaching 800 local Gypsies and Travellers accommodated either in bricks and mortar housing, on a private permanent site (in Eden district), on transit sites or on unauthorised sites – i.e. none on socially rented sites. As in other parts of the north there was a mixture of ethnic sub-groups but a lack of clear information on those in bricks and mortar housing. Again, it appears that the large number of existing sites and the resulting churn meant that no new permanent pitches were needed, although an early need for transit sites was identified but most of the recommendations were of a procedural or qualitative nature – e.g. joined-up working between the eight authorities concerned.

9.35 At the same time, a specific 'Appleby Fair Assessment' was undertaken and published, based on surveys carried out in the temporary stopping places, provided within Cumbria. This confirmed that

- A wide range of the various sub-ethnicities attended the Fair from all over the country. The list of "where people live for most of the year" included some 70 locations, although the only Northumberland location mentioned was Morpeth. Of the other places mentioned, the only ones where an assumption can be made that people may journey to and from the Fair via Northumberland were Newcastle and Edinburgh,

although the former may equally use the A66 and the latter the A7 corridors.

- People were not only coming for the Fair itself but arrived well before in many cases for traditional reasons of meeting family etc. giving the possibility of a wider 'stopover' timeframe;
- The most common method of travelling to Appleby Fair was with a touring caravan. While many followed the M6 or A66, many had reported using "back roads" although no part of Northumberland was specifically mentioned. A third of people had stopped somewhere else on the way, with a smaller number indicating that they would be stopping somewhere on their return journey.

- 9.36 A further Assessment dated November 2013 was not included in the information used in the original version of this GTAA but is looked at now.
- 9.37 This time a considerable quantitative need was identified - over five years: 29 Gypsy and Traveller pitches; 8 Showperson plots; and up to 50 transit pitches. These requirements were projected for the longer term with a lesser five year need but nevertheless about sixty new permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches over a fifteen year period. The Assessment included some suggestions as to how sites might be identified and brought forward.
- 9.38 Other issues identified included addressing poor conditions on existing sites and tackling wider service and support needs.

### **Scottish Borders**

- 9.39 The Housing (Scotland) Act (2001) requires Local Authorities (LAs) to prepare local housing strategies supported by an assessment of housing need and demand. Although, in most cases, this includes evidence about the housing needs of Gypsies/Travellers, there is no requirement for specialised research to be carried out.
- 9.40 A study entitled "Accommodation Needs of Gypsy / Travellers in East Lothian, Midlothian, City of Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders" was carried out in 2008, recommending that Scottish Borders Council should improve its information base and develop a strategy and written policies on the provision of accommodation and services for Gypsy/Travellers, including roadside camping, although there were no recommendations on future pitch or site needs. At that point the nearest permanent, publicly-run site to the border was at Dalkeith, south of Edinburgh. There was a considerable issue of roadside camps in the Borders area and surveys at the time revealed some evidence of seasonal movement between England and the Scottish Borders, including from Bricks and Mortar accommodation in "the Newcastle area".

### **Others**

#### **Sunderland**

- 9.41 In Sunderland, the 2011 census recorded 70 people who identified as having a Gypsy/Traveller ethnicity. Sunderland's 2013 SHMA noted no authorised provision for Gypsies and Travellers within the City, meaning that Bricks and Mortar housing would account from most of the GRT population there. A 2009

Accommodation Needs Assessment had identified a requirement of 14 pitches over the period 2008 to 2018 but none had been provided. It was also noted that Sunderland had quite a significant population (relatively speaking) of travelling Showpeople, with upwards of 120 households occupying three yards. As many as 43 additional plots were predicted to be needed by 2018.

- 9.42 Subsequently, in 2014, a Joint GTAA was carried out covering Sunderland and South Tyneside. This found that the estimated extra pitch provision required in South Tyneside was 12 pitches, with no clear need for any pitches in Sunderland and no transit sites in either authority area. The figure for pitches was spread over three 5 year time periods ending in 2036.
- 9.43 A more recent (2017) update, covering Sunderland only, found that there was some need, for stop-over provision to accommodate 5 Gypsy and Traveller pitches.
- 9.44 With regard to Travelling Showpeople, the 2014 joint assessment identified a need for 34 extra plots to 2036 in Sunderland (none in S.Tyneside), spread over four five year time cohorts, with an immediate need for 13 plots in the first five years.
- 9.45 The Sunderland only revision in 2017 had similar findings - 33 plots over the plan period, with 15 needed in the short term.
- 9.46 The 2017 document went on to apply a methodology to the identification of sites.

#### **South Tyneside**

- 9.47 The 2013 South Tyneside SHMA referred to a Tyne and Wear wide study carried out by Salford University in 2009, when there were 32 authorised Gypsy and Traveller residential pitches in that Borough and an identified additional need for 13 more pitches over the period 2008 to 2018, a needed contribution towards 15 transit pitches across Tyne and Wear as a whole and three additional Travelling Showperson plots at South Shields fairground. (Following that, the Council had allocated a permanent Gypsy and Traveller site with some transit provision for friends and family of the main residing community in its adopted LDF site specific allocations DPD and land had also been identified for the Showperson plots).
- 9.48 The 2014 joint assessment, with Sunderland, updated this position, finding that 12 pitches were required, all in the S.Tyneside authority area, spread over three 5 year time periods ending in 2036. By contrast, this joint study found that it was Sunderland, rather than S.Tyneside, which required additional plots for Showpeople.

#### **Conclusions from the information gathered prior to the main survey work**

- 9.49 In summarising the information gathered in advance of the first iteration of this Assessment, the following were found to be the salient points:



- The Census had considerably undercounted Gypsies and Travellers in Northumberland, (at 156); the figure is likely to be at least 500, possibly more.
- Unauthorised encampments were numerous but mostly short-lived and any additional provision might be best placed in the south-east of the County where the problem is year round. (NB, while recent counts of 'unauthorised caravans' may seem to suggest that the problem is diminishing, these caravan counts are snapshots and it must be assumed for the purposes of the update, that the issue continues and needs to be tackled).
- Summer emergency stopping place provision may be appropriate in the west of the County.
- Existing social rented provision and privately run permanent sites are well used with a low turnover rate and swift reoccupation of any vacated pitches / plots.
- Many of the issues identified in the 2008 GTAA continue today but needs changed and a complete reassessment, based on the 2014 base date, was appropriate.
- Many GTAA's elsewhere in the region, have not identified an immediate need for additional pitches, with not too much change to these conclusions emerging from updates.
- The only relatively recent provision for Gypsies and Travellers in the North-East, outside Northumberland, has been a new site in South Tyneside, and a few new pitches in County Durham, (where the full refurbishment of sites that has taken place resulting in no further foreseeable need).
- Travelling Showpeople are a relatively sizeable group in the Sunderland and South Tyneside area with new plots planned in the former and provided in the latter.
- There are clear movements of people, at least on a seasonal basis, on a north-south axis, crossing into Scotland and going south out of the region.
- Links with Cumbrian GTTS communities are less marked, the exception being the days around the Appleby Fair. However, the bulk of movements to the Appleby Fair are from other regions of England and Scotland.



## 10. Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Stakeholder Consultation

### Introduction

- 10.1 The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople stakeholder survey was carried out in mid-2014 and received 21 replies. Respondents were from local authorities, housing associations and a healthcare organisation. Two thirds have dealings with the GTTS community and they highlighted a wide variety of issues. The write-up of the Stakeholder Consultation is reproduced as Appendix D.

### The contribution of the Stakeholder Survey

- 10.2 The Stakeholder survey was valuable in revealing the positive factors and continuing barriers that will have a bearing on how the future accommodation needs of the GTTS communities can be provided for. Some of the headlines are set out below and can give a steer to how needs may be met.

#### *The need to take full account of all services and facilities that may be needed*

##### Issue

- 10.3 Stakeholders reported accessibility to services taken for granted by settled communities also needs to be a basic assumption for GTTS communities. (For example, there is evidence that the maternity facilities at Wansbeck Hospital provide a focus for where families choose to reside at particular times. The fact that services would be relocated to Cramlington could be significant. There are many other examples: jobs, shops, schools, medical facilities and public transport as key facilities would also need to be taken into account).
- 10.4 At the same time, settled communities close to a potential site need to be confident that local facilities have the capacity for the incoming people.

##### Possible Action

- 10.5 Should this Assessment reveal the need for one or more additional sites, then a site selection methodology would need to be carried out in favoured parts of the County to establish the proximity of necessary services and whether they have the necessary capacity.

#### *Any future sites should have full agreement of the GTTS communities*

##### Issue

- 10.6 Stakeholders reported that sites should be in locations where GTTS people want to live. This suggests that the choice of actual site should be considered early with the full cooperation of the GTTS communities. As well as factors relating to services and facilities, it is clear that there are networks within and between communities that are only fully understood by the communities

themselves, relating to factors such as the location of relatives and contacts in Bricks and Mortar accommodation.

#### Possible Action

- 10.7 Once general areas are identified for any future sites, consultations with the communities concerned should begin at an early date.

#### *That there is an environmental impact of encampments*

##### Issue

- 10.8 As with any development, consideration needs to be given to environmental factors including the character of the surrounding landscape, local ecological impact on designated nature conservation sites and/or important habitats and species, as well as any heritage assets and designations. This is especially an issue if the development brings people and associated activities (such as parking, play, dog-walking etc.) into localities that have not previously been occupied by people. Conversely, where a new site is close to an existing town or village, residential amenity of existing residents will be one of the most important considerations.

#### Possible Action

- 10.9 Local Plan policies should provide a good level of protection in relation to any unforeseen applications. However in choosing new sites, there is an opportunity to employ site selection techniques to filter out areas where there would be unacceptable environmental impacts. Even where these are not obvious, potential sites should be examined for wider impacts, applying the ecosystem approach.

#### *That there is an issue of personal safety associated with the location of sites and yards*

##### Issue

- 10.10 This refers primarily to the safety of the GTTS communities themselves, taking account of known factors such as possible hostility from local settled communities and the relative isolation of some locations that may be chosen.

#### Possible Action

- 10.11 The need to avoid overly isolated locations e.g. where there are no lit paths to local facilities and for sites to be suitably resourced so that any necessary security measures can be put in place; the need to build up a good relationship with any potentially affected local community.

#### *That unauthorised use is only partly predictable*

##### Issue

- 10.12 Stakeholders report that the incidence of unauthorised encampments seems to be growing but can only be partly predicted. This is because the occupiers of such encampments are a mixture of local individuals moving back and forth around the region and one-off visits from further afield.

## Possible Action

- 10.13 That the issue of unauthorised use needs to be split into its component parts: (a) any element that may reflect a pattern where the same users return at various times of year– e.g. for work or family reasons – most likely to be a phenomenon of SE Northumberland; (b) that element which is repeated but seasonal – e.g. Appleby Fair – where a different solution may be needed, such as an emergency stopping place in the west of the County; (c) that element which is entirely unpredictable, where it may have to be accepted that a firm protocol will be needed on levels of tolerance – versus enforcement action. At the time of the 2014 stakeholder survey, the issue of unauthorised sites seemed to be on the increase but the situation since 2015 seems to have stabilised. Discussions with officers who deal with provision of sites and enforcement suggest that informal stop off arrangements that have been brought in may have helped.<sup>14</sup>

## *Existing social rented sites may not be catering for the full array of ethnic sub-groups who may need accommodation*

### Issue

- 10.14 There is evidence that some of the sub-ethnicities within GRT groups known to reside in / pass through Northumberland, (e.g. Irish Travellers) do not have a foothold in the existing social rented sites due to sites being enclaves for particular groups of families. This raises the question of whether accommodation may need to be separately created to house these groups and whether this may make the creation of, say, a third socially rented site more urgent than would otherwise be the case.

## Possible Action

- 10.15 Notwithstanding the small samples surveyed in the household survey (see below), there may be a need to differentiate between the responses of the different sub-ethnicities and see if there is a need to tailor future provision accordingly.

## *The relationship between the location of permanent and transit sites presents difficult issues*

### Issue

- 10.16 There are likely to be family or other community linkages between some occupiers of transit sites and some occupiers of permanent sites (or GTTS in bricks and mortar). On the other hand placing transit sites within or adjacent permanent sites is not advised due to possible tensions between different groups of travellers.

## Possible Action

- 10.17 While transit visitors may have family associations on permanent sites, they may equally be from a different group that would not easily mix with the more permanent residents. Therefore the location of transit sites would benefit from

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<sup>14</sup> See earlier footnote on the trialling of informal stop-off arrangements.

being in the same locality as permanent sites (the area of SE Northumberland identified in this paper, there should be reasonable physical separation between the two types of site.

***That the Green Belt will be an increasing constraint on where new sites may be located***

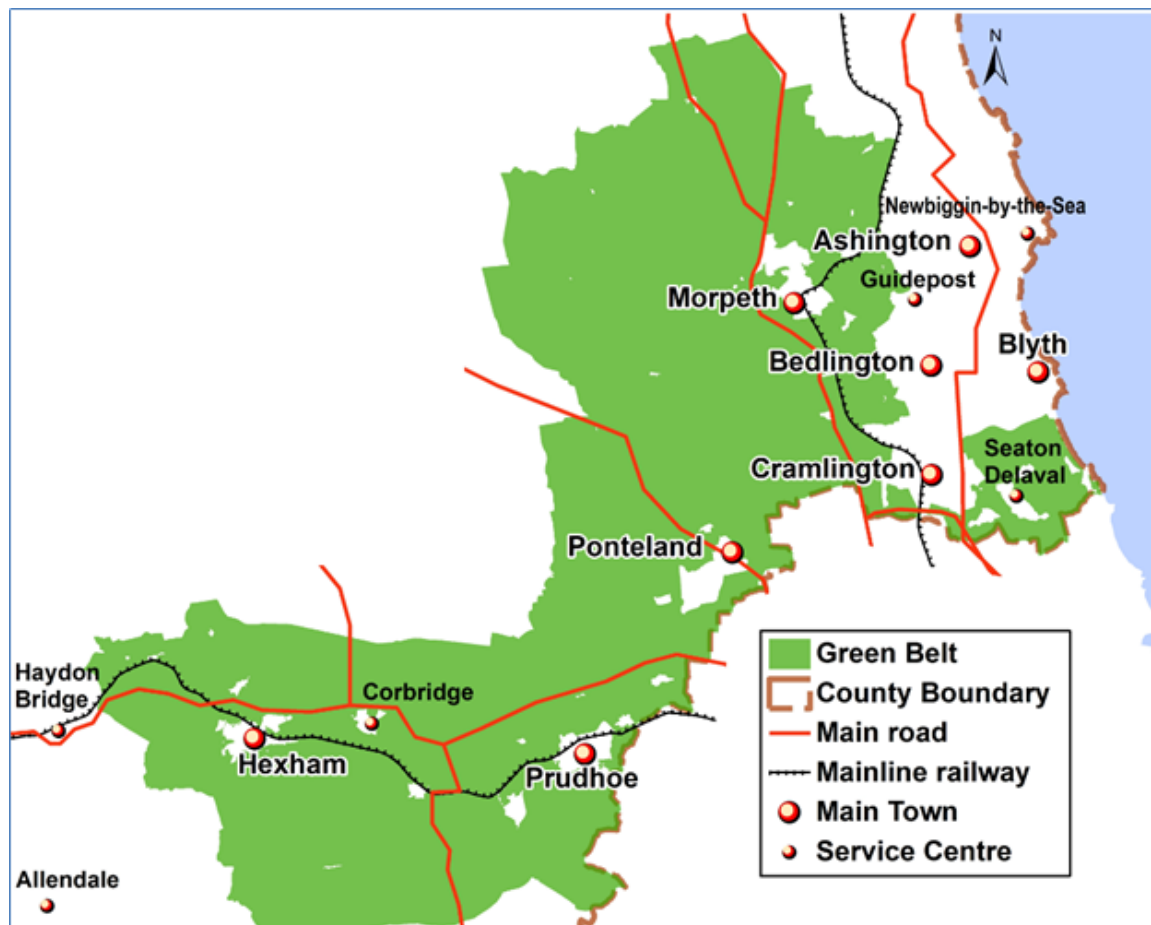
**Issue**

10.18 The issue is two-fold: firstly since 2012, the Government has been clamping down on the location of GTTS accommodation in the designated Green Belt by 'calling in' such applications for consideration by the Secretary of State. Secondly, Northumberland has areas of Green Belt and boundaries around Morpeth are defined in the new Local Plan, (see Figure 10A below). Comparing this map with the distribution of unauthorised encampments (see earlier Figures 9A and 9B) shows that there may be an issue.

**Possible Action**

10.19 That the exact definition of the Green Belt boundary, should have taken account of the results of this Assessment; and that any site identification will need to avoid the already existing Green Belt.

***Figure 10A Map showing the Area of the Green Belt including the Extension around Morpeth***



### ***The need to foster good relation with settled communities that may be affected by a proposed site or yard***

#### **Issue**

- 10.20 Stakeholders reported continued prejudice towards these ethnic groups, not only from the general public but, on occasion, from people representing local settled communities. On the other hand it was clear that good relations exist with local settled communities in places where permanent sites are well established. There is also evidence that the GRT communities place great weight on fostering good relations with communities with which they will be geographically linked.

#### **Possible Action**

- 10.21 Some general awareness raising and ‘myth-busting’ among the general public could be beneficial in widening the scope for choosing the correct location for any new site or yard. Once locations have been identified, further efforts could be made, involving the GTTS communities themselves, to build up a good relationship with the community(ies) concerned.

### ***The possible need to formalise one or more stopping places in the west***

#### **Issue**

- 10.22 There is an issue (perceived at least) that emergency stopping places are needed for the period around the Appleby Fair. Hexham’s east end is mentioned and seems to be accepted as an almost unavoidable annual occurrence. However the area is being developed for housing and the informal stopping of travellers here may create more tensions in the future. It has been noted that Langley is another place where this phenomenon is experienced.

#### **Possible Action**

- 10.23 Consideration may need to be given to whether informal stopping arrangements will always suffice in the west, given that the issue is highly seasonal.

### ***Site-specific factors that will affect the type of site / location chosen***

#### **Issue**

- 10.24 There are aspects of sites which those in close contact with GTTS communities understand to be important to these communities. Services, such as electricity, must be connected to sites reliably and securely. It is likely that provision will need to be made for what may be termed ancillary purposes, such as workshop / storage space and children’s playing space.

#### **Possible Action**

- 10.25 As this may affect the size and location of any future site, it is important to include these factors in any early discussions with community representatives.

### ***The future management of the site will be an issue***

#### **Issue**

- 10.26 As well as making sure that resources are in place for the successful long term management and maintenance of sites, as a prerequisite of sites being chosen and given permission, any potential conflicts between sectors of the GTTS communities must be considered, especially if sites are to be run and managed by the GTTS communities themselves.

#### **Possible Action**

- 10.27 Early thought to be given over whether any future site might be managed and maintained privately or by the Council and how this is likely to work in practice.

### ***There may be a need to refurbish existing sites***

#### **Issue**

- 10.30 Durham has seen a programme of refurbishment of its socially rented sites. If this is found to be needed in Northumberland, two considerations may have planning-related 'knock-on' effects. Firstly, what will happen to those people who may be temporarily displaced from the sites being refurbished? Secondly, will the refurbishment result in any net change to the number of pitches offered within sites and, if so, what may the off-site consequences be?

#### **Possible Action**

- 10.31 Early consideration to be given to whether refurbishment will be likely in the Plan period and what the possible consequences may be for other areas.

## 11. Survey of GTTS Households

### Introduction

- 11.1 A key input into this Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (GTTS) Accommodation Assessment, was a survey of people within GTTS communities, carried out over the summer and early autumn of 2014. For this reason, 2014 has been used as the base date for this GTAA. A full set of results from the survey can be found at Appendix A.
- 11.2 The survey was undertaken by way of face-to-face interviews. The questionnaire on which the interviews were based was carefully designed to be in line with Government guidance but also with a view to collecting all the data necessary for the Council to plan for the needs of this population across its various functions, but especially the Council's planning and housing roles. The questionnaire was peer-reviewed by 'POSE' (Planning Officers' Society Enterprises), prior to being finalised for use. The Questionnaire can be found at Appendix E
- 11.3 The interviews were aimed at residents of two social rented council owned sites at Hartford and Lyneburn Cottage, as well as the privately owned sites, the unauthorised sites, the single Travelling Showpeople yard and GTTS in bricks and mortar housing.

### Households

- 11.4 31 paper questionnaires were completed by way of Council personnel interviewing people from the GTTS communities. Of these, 22 were from Council-owned sites, 1 from a private site, 3 from unauthorised sites and 5 from Bricks and Mortar. If the most recent local estimate of households, at the time, is taken at face value, this would represent around 19% of GTTS households. However the sample was strongly skewed towards the socially rented sites and almost 40% of households from these sites were represented in the survey. By contrast very little information was obtained from the permanent private site and the unauthorised encampments and, unfortunately, no returns were obtained from the Travelling Showpeople community.
- 11.5 Of those households that did respond, one third described themselves as being Romany Gypsies, slightly more than a quarter English Travellers and about 17% English Gypsies.

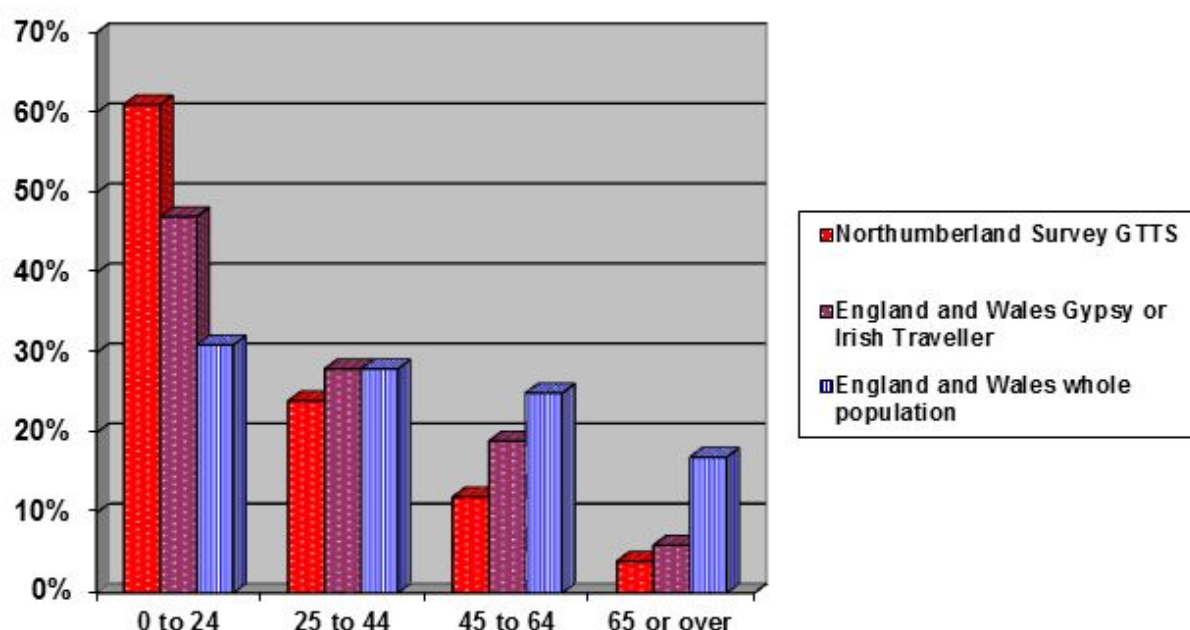
### People

- 11.6 Overall, the 31 households surveyed contained a total of 112 people. It is instructive to examine the age breakdown of this group compared with national breakdown, in order to have some assurance that the survey group is representative. Figure 11A demonstrates that, while the national Gypsy and Irish Traveller population is heavily biased towards the younger end of the population nationally, this is even more marked in the surveyed group in Northumberland. This may reflect an actual difference from the national



picture but is considered more likely to be a result of older groups being in bricks and mortar who were under-represented in the survey.<sup>15</sup>

**Figure 11A Graph comparing Age Breakdown of the Surveyed GTTS, with national age breakdown**



Sources: ONS and Northumberland CC survey.

## Household size and composition

11.7 The average household size among those surveyed was 3.6. This is much larger than the average Northumberland household size, (2.2 at the time of the 2011 Census) but corresponds to national information on GTTS household make-up.

## How representative is the sample?

11.8 It can therefore be stated with a reasonable degree of confidence that the survey sample is representative of GTTS in Northumberland – at least that element not permanently living in bricks and mortar.

## Some of the key findings from the Survey

### Travel patterns and movements

11.9 The survey demonstrates that most on permanent sites have been in place for a number of years and most do not travel regularly; moreover, many of those

<sup>15</sup> Given the change in the planning definition of travellers to exclude households residing permanently in bricks and mortar, it could be concluded that the more elderly in bricks and mortar would be less likely to return to the nomadic lifestyle and therefore would be excluded from the pitch accommodation needs assessment in any case.



who do travel, do so for less than a month per year, travelling for a variety of reasons relating to work or family.

- 11.10 In terms of the longer term movement of families, recorded patterns (based on previous places of residence) show a degree of self-containment within Northumberland and the wider north-east with some of longer term movement between this area and Scotland and Cumbria. Having stated this, a significant percentage of respondents had resided in parts of the UK further afield than this in the past. The evidence also shows a pattern of movement between council-run sites in different areas, with those currently and/or previously on such sites, wishing to continue to reside on such a site in future.

### ***Views on existing permanent sites***

- 11.11 The results show a good degree of satisfaction with the accommodation and amenities on Council-owned sites in the County but there was a clear indication that people living on these sites did not wish to see them expand further. When asked, later in the survey, what the optimum number of pitches on a site should be, the most popular answer was 11-15, with very few saying “over 20” – suggesting that adding significantly to the size of the current permanent sites may not be an option worthy of pursuit.

### ***Responses of unauthorised users***

- 11.12 Clearly the small sample of those responding from unauthorised encampments means that no clear conclusions can be drawn from their responses – albeit that they give an interesting insight into the lifestyle and some valuable information on where future transit sites and/or stopping places may best be located, (see Appendix A). The pattern of unauthorised encampments is considered to be a much better indicator and will be given greater weight when conclusions on this aspect are drawn in Chapter 13 below.

### ***Responses of people in Bricks and Mortar***

- 11.13 As with unauthorised users, those in bricks and mortar accommodation responding to the survey were few in number and it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions from their responses although it is interesting to note that some would like to move to a site if given the opportunity to do so. This suggests that there may be a case for building a slight net movement from bricks and mortar to sites into the final calculation of the need for permanent sites.

### ***Preferred Locations for Future Permanent Sites***

- 11.14 Table 11.1 is transposed from Appendix A. It shows respondents’ choices for where any future permanent site should be located. The colour coding denotes the four delivery areas that were being used at the time. While, (as would be expected given the current distribution of the GTTS population), the South-East Delivery Area emerges ahead of the other areas, Hexham also drew a number of preferences, making the Central Delivery Area a stronger

choice than the north, despite the absence of a permanent presence there and only a summer presence of unauthorised users.

**Figure 11.1 Preferred Location(s) for Future Permanent Sites (from survey)**

Location	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice	Total
Hexham	3	1	6	10
Blyth	5	3	0	8
Berwick	2	0	3	5
Ashington	2	1	2	5
Bedlington	0	2	1	3
Alnwick	1	1	0	2
Haydon Bridge	0	2	0	2
Morpeth	1	0	0	1
Haltwhistle	1	0	0	1
Newbiggin	1	0	0	1
Prudhoe	0	1	0	1
Wooler	0	1	0	1
Amble	1	1	0	2
Cramlington	0	1	0	1
Rothbury	0	0	1	1
Guidepost/Choppington	0	0	1	1
<b>Total North</b>	3	2	4	9
<b>Total Central</b>	4	2	6	12
<b>Total South-East</b>	9	8	4	21
<b>Total West</b>	1	2	0	3
<b>Total Northumberland</b>	17	16	16	49

### **Household Formation**

11.15 Six out of 31 respondents (19.4%) indicated that they had members of their household who were likely to want their own accommodation in the future. All were currently on one of the permanent sites. This level of latent demand has helped inform the household formation element of the calculation in the next chapter.

## 12. Assessment of the need for permanent residential pitches.

### Introduction

- 12.1 Guidance was produced by Government in 2007<sup>16</sup> in order to help authorities calculate the future needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community in terms of residential pitches. This was extant at the time when this Assessment was initially carried out. While the guidance has been withdrawn for technical reasons<sup>17</sup>, it continues to be a clear and relevant basis on which to calculate needs.
- 12.2 In order to estimate the future need for permanent residential pitches over a five year period, the approach is to consider current pitch supply, the arising need over the 5 years and the likely supply of new pitches over the same period. Beyond this, projections would make certain assumptions on how such trends may continue, as well as the degree to which the supply problem may have been resolved by the time five years has elapsed.
- 12.3 Current supply takes account of all socially rented and private pitches.
- 12.4 Arising need includes the following
- Temporary permissions which will end over the period
  - Family growth over the period (new household formation)
  - Needs of those living in unauthorised developments
  - Need for movement between housing and sites
  - Needs arising from potential site closures
  - Needs of those living on unauthorised encampments
  - Allowance for movements between Northumberland and elsewhere
- 12.5 Future supply will include any unused pitches which were to be brought back into use, newly arising vacancies on socially rented sites and known planned site developments. While the survey work has not looked beyond the area to ascertain Gypsies and Travellers who may wish to move to the area from elsewhere, other information – not least the occurrence of unauthorised encampments – can be used to estimate this as an element of future need.

### Calculation for Additional Permanent Residential Pitch Requirements.

- 12.6 Table 12.1 identifies the need for residential pitches looking at the County as a whole and its delivery areas, as assessed in this 2018 update. Table 12.2 provides explanatory notes on Table 12.1.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> See [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7838/accommnedsassessments.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7838/accommnedsassessments.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> The 2007 guidance was revoked on 12 July 2016 because Section 124 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 revoked section 225 and 226 of the Housing Act 2004, and this was guidance made under these sections..

<sup>18</sup> The calculations as at 2014 are contained at Appendix F.

### ***Demand - Temporary permissions which will end over the period***

12.7 No temporary permissions and none due to expire, viewed from either base date.

### ***Demand - New Household formation***

- 12.8 As explained in Table 12.2, guidance and research suggests that 2% per annum household formation would be applicable to the baseline of households. The 2018-based assessment predicts an increase of 14 households from 173 to 187 over the five years to 2023
- 12.9 Clearly some of the new households will form in bricks and mortar families that have ceased to travel on a permanent basis, so the figure for new households needing pitch accommodation will be lower. Looking at the survey results, if households, reported to be forming, are assumed to be spread over 5 years and extrapolated to cover the entire permanent pitch population, then 12 new households would be formed based on the 2018 base date. To this figure must be added:
- Any new households formed within bricks and mortar households who are still travelling for part of the time; and
  - An assumption for new households forming in unauthorised encampments who may need and wish to be accommodated on permanent sites.

These two factors, together, are assumed to generate demand for just 2 more permanent pitch over 5 years from the 2018 base date - assigned to SE Northumberland.<sup>19</sup>

- 12.10 It is appropriate to allocate the basic figure between the permanent sites and any additional pitches arising from bricks and mortar or unauthorised sites to the SE of the County. The 2018-based assessment has identified a demand for 10 pitches in the SE and 4 in the north over the following 5-year period.

### ***Demand – from those living in unauthorised developments***

12.11 There were no unauthorised developments in the study area.

### ***Demand – from net movements from Bricks and Mortar to Sites***

- 12.12 The survey showed that no respondents expressed a wish to move into bricks and mortar accommodation from caravans. Indeed it indicated that people in Bricks and Mortar, while satisfied with living in a house, may also like to move to a site if it were available. The 2018-based assessment included an assumption that there would be a propensity for two households to move out

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<sup>19</sup> A higher figure of 7 over five years had been assumed in 2014 but has been revised downwards considerably to take account of the revised planning definition of Travellers pertaining to those residing permanently in bricks and mortar and a lack of evidence on the degree to which people setting up unauthorised encampments would seek permanent pitches within the County.

of bricks and mortar into a pitch on a permanent site over a five year period - all attributed to SE Northumberland.<sup>20</sup>

### ***Demand – from the closure of Sites***

- 12.13 Any site closures would increase the need for new pitches but none has been (or is) planned.

### ***Demand – from those living on unauthorised sites***

- 12.14 This part of the calculation takes the information on unauthorised encampments in Northumberland, recorded over a 34 month period. Adding up the number of caravans in an average year and multiplying this by the number of nights each spends on the unauthorised site on average, a figure of around 1350 “caravan nights” is arrived at. Were this figure to be taken as indicative of an additional number of pitches required, the suggestion would be that three to four additional pitches would help resolve the issue.
- 12.15 However, an assumption has been made that one third of this total is likely to be in need of transit, rather than permanent pitch accommodation. A further third – but only in summer – is assumed to be in need of stopover accommodation only. It is therefore suggested that a very small addition to permanent pitches could make a significant impact on the number of occurrences of unauthorised encampments. The assumption for the 2018 based assessment therefore limits the contribution from permanent pitches on permanent sites that would be needed to tackle the unauthorised encampment problem to just 2 over 5 years. It is clear that all pitches arising in this way should be located in or close to south-east Northumberland.<sup>21</sup>
- 12.16 It is assumed that the unauthorised encampments in some way reflect the propensity of those based outside Northumberland to move to permanent pitches within the County although, as noted above, no evidence has been gathered from beyond the County boundary. (NB The Durham GTAA – see Chapter 9 – indicates some movement from Durham to Northumberland but there is nothing to suggest that there is a net movement in the direction of Northumberland from Durham, or indeed elsewhere).

### ***Supply – from sites vacant to be reused***

- 12.17 There are no closed sites due to reopen.

### ***Supply – from pitches with permission but not yet developed***

- 12.18 Five pitches had permission, at Hartford Bridge in SE Northumberland, at the 2014 base date. These were delivered between that date and the publication

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<sup>20</sup> NB The 2018-based Assessment of two movements over five years has been revised downwards from 1 per year assumed for the 2014 base date. This is to take account of the revised planning definition of Travellers pertaining to those residing permanently in bricks and mortar.

<sup>21</sup> The 2014-based assessment concluded that a three additional pitch within the five years would reflect the (then) evidence that the unauthorised problem was growing at the time. The figure for the 2018 calculation reflects the fact that the problem is being managed in other ways.

of the 2015 version of the GTAA. They are therefore part of the baseline supply information used for this update. The private site in Berwick acquired an additional 2 pitches between the 2015 version of the Assessment and this new 2018 base-date. As at 2018, there are no new pitches in the pipeline.

### **Supply – from new sites planned**

12.19 No entirely new permanent sites are planned at present.

### **Supply – from newly vacated pitches**

12.20 The turnover is estimated at an average of two pitches per site per year on each of the two public sites. Using a cautious approach, the supply of pitches coming on stream is therefore estimated at three per year on the two public sites put together with a further one pitch a year on the private site at Berwick. This adds up to 20 vacant pitches available over the five years from the 2018 base date across the County as a whole.<sup>22</sup>

12.21 Subtracting the demand figure from the supply gives an overall 5-year requirement for permanent pitches. **The estimate from the 2018 base date is zero, as all demand will have been accounted for by supply.**

### **Total Additional Permanent Residential Pitch Requirements (2023/24-2035/36)**

12.22 This part of the calculation has to make a number of additional assumptions

12.23 Firstly, on need, there is no evidence available on whether household formation rates will change beyond five years. So for the years 2023/24 onwards it is assumed that the then assumed number of households (191) should be inflated by 2% per annum, (used for the initial five years), to give 56 additional households over this thirteen year period.<sup>23</sup>

12.24 While it would be hoped that the problem of unauthorised encampments could be substantially reduced through measures taken in the first five year period, it has already been acknowledged that this is likely to remain as a problem. It may also be reasonable to expect some continuing latent demand for pitches from people in Bricks and Mortar. Therefore an overall demand of 60 has been assumed over the thirteen year period from 2023 to 2036.<sup>24</sup>

12.25 On the supply side, the starting assumption is that there will be an increased baseline of pitch numbers meaning an increased turnover of pitches. For the

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<sup>22</sup> In 2014/15, the turnover was lower and was estimated at one per annum per site on average. An assumption was made that the same turnover rate would apply at the private site at Berwick, although no direct evidence has been obtained on this. Overall, this gave a turnover of vacancies of 15 over a five-year period- see Appendix F. Subtracting the demand figure from the supply gave an overall 5-year requirement for permanent pitches of five, (for the 2014 base date), all of them in South-East Northumberland.

<sup>23</sup> In the first iteration of this Assessment, for the years 2019/20 onwards it was assumed that the then assumed number of households (185) should be inflated by 2% per annum, (used for the initial five years), to give 50 additional households over this twelve year period.

<sup>24</sup> For the earlier base date, an overall demand of 56 was assumed over the twelve year period from 2019 to 2031.

2018 base date, given that the total number of pitches is not anticipated to increase significantly, it follows that the turnover of 4 per annum (1 in the north, 3 in the south-east) can be assumed to continue, giving a supply of around 52 over the thirteen year period.<sup>25</sup>

- 12.26 **From the perspective of the 2018 base date, it has been concluded that an additional 8 pitches will be required over the final thirteen years of the Plan period.** This is split in the same way between North and SE Delivery areas, as for the demand (“need”) side of the calculation for the first five years, giving 1 in the North and 7 in the SE Delivery area.<sup>26</sup>

### **Total Additional Permanent Residential Pitch Requirements - as revised (rolled forward)**

- 12.27 **Overall, this gives a requirement for permanent residential pitches over the whole of the remaining Plan period as zero in the first five years from 2018 and eight over the period 2023 onwards, seven in the SE Delivery Area and one in the North.**

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<sup>25</sup> For the 2014 base date, a turnover of 3.5 per annum was assumed for 2019/20-2024/25 and 4 per annum 2025/26-2030/31, giving a supply of around 45 over the twelve year period

<sup>26</sup> From the perspective of the 2014 base date, an additional 11 pitches would be required over the final twelve years of the Plan period. This was split in the same way between North and SE Delivery areas, as for the demand (“need”) side of the calculation for the first five years.

**Table 12.1 Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - updated to 2018**

Element of supply and need			Delivery Area				Northum-berland total
			North	Central	South-East	West	
Current residential supply							
1	Socially rented permanent		0	0	38	0	38
2	Socially rented transit		0	0	0	0	0
3	Private authorised		20	0	0	0	20
4	Total authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches		20	0	38	0	58
5	Total Travelling Showpeople		0	0	30	0	30
Permanent residential pitch need (2018/19-2022/23)							
6	End of temporary planning permission		0	0	0	0	0
7	New household formation	Permanent sites	+4	0	+8	0	+14
		Others	0	0	+2	0	
8	Resulting from unauthorised developments		0	0	0	0	0
9	Net movements to site from housing, (assuming some availability)		0	0	+2	0	+2
10	Closure of sites		0	0	0	0	0
11	Resulting from unauthorised encampments		0	0	+2	0	+2
12	Need (2018/19-2022/23)		+4	0	+14	0	+18
Additional supply of permanent residential pitches ((2018/19-2022/23)							
13	Sites vacant to be reused		0	0	0	0	0
14	Pitches with permission but not yet developed		0	0	0	0	0
15	New sites planned		0	0	0	0	0
16	Newly vacated pitches		5	0	15	0	20
17	Supply (2018/19-2022/23)		5	0	15	0	20



**Table 12.1 Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - updated to 2018 cont'd....**

Element of supply and need		Delivery Area				Northum-berland total
		North	Central	South-East	West	
REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2018/19-2022/23)						
18	Requirement for extra permanent residential pitches (2018/19-2022/23)	0	0	0	0	0
REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2023/24-2035/36)						
19	Requirement for extra permanent residential pitches (2023/24-2035/36)	1	0	7	0	8
REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2018/19-2035/36)						
20	Total Requirement for extra permanent residential pitches (2018/19-2035/36)	1	0	7	0	8

**Table 12.2 Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - updated to 2018**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Current residential supply</b>		
<b>1</b>	Socially rented permanent	This is the total number of permanent pitches on the two socially rented sites (both in SE Northumberland Delivery Area), as at 2018
<b>2</b>	Socially rented transit	This is transit pitches on the socially rented sites at 2018
<b>3</b>	Private authorised	This is the privately owned and run site at Berwick), as at 2018
<b>4</b>	Total authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches), as at 2018	The total of 1, 1A and 2.
<b>5</b>	Total Travelling Showpeople plots), as at 2018	This is the yard at Bomarsund.

**Table 12.2 continued on next page.....**

**Table 12.2 Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - updated to 2018 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Permanent residential pitch need (2018/19-2022/23)</b>		
<b>6</b>	End of temporary permission	There were no temporary permissions and none was due to expire), as at 2018
<b>7</b>	New household formation	<p>There has been no definitive new advice on rates of household formation, meaning that past practice of 1.5 to 2.5% per annum can be taken as still applying - midpoint 2% (see note 7 on Table 12.2).</p> <p>The estimate of the true figure for GTTS households in Northumberland used in the original survey was around 160. Applying a 2% household growth rate leads to an assumption of the present (2018) GTTS households being 173. Applying the same 2% growth rate would mean the formation of 18 new households over five years to 2022-2023 (191 in all).</p> <p>Turning to the questionnaire survey results, these showed that six out of 31 respondents (19.4%) indicated that they had members of their household likely to want their own accommodation in the future, with a further two unsure (6.5%). All of these were from permanent sites. From this, it may be surmised that around 20% of families on permanent sites may see new households forming over a five year period. Given the 2018 figure for such pitches, this equates to 12 new households over the five years from then.</p> <p>The survey also contains evidence, from the small sample of households in bricks &amp; mortar households of a desire by some to acquire mobile accommodation, in line with their traditional lifestyle. In the initial version of this Assessment an assumption was made that some new households formed in bricks and mortar would adopt the nomadic lifestyle and require permanent pitches. It is now acknowledged that such households would not necessarily correspond with the national planning definition of travellers unless their family had only ceased travelling on a temporary basis. Cont'd....</p>

**Table 12.2 Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - updated to 2018 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Permanent residential pitch need (2018/19-2022/23) cont'd....</b>		
<b>7</b>	New household formation continued....	<p>It also has to be noted that little or no information on household formation has been obtained regarding those on unauthorised sites. Overall therefore, it is considered that a figure of 14 newly formed households requiring new permanent pitches (12 generated from within the permanent sites + 2 others, covering (a) new households generated from within bricks and mortar families who have only ceased travelling on a temporary basis and (b) from unauthorised sites) would represent a reasonable assumption on household formation requiring new permanent pitch provision.</p> <p>It is appropriate to allocate the basic figure of 12 proportionately between the permanent sites – giving 8 in the SE and 4 in the north. It is appropriate to allocate the additional pitches to where bricks and mortar households are thought to be concentrated and where unauthorised sites present a year round problem, rather than a seasonal one - i.e. SE Northumberland.</p> <p>NB The assumptions on household formation above incorporate assumptions on mortality which are low and the survey has clearly shown that only 10% of people in the responders' households were over the age of 55. (The national Census (2011) showed that around 13% of the population identifying themselves as GRT were over 55 – less than half the proportion in the general population – and that the age profile of this group is generally young compared with England and Wales as a whole). Given the relatively large average household size, (demonstrating occupation by extended family units), it is considered unlikely households would be entirely removed through mortality. It is of note that around 40% of Gypsy and Irish Traveller households identified in the 2011 Census contained more than one family.</p>

**Table 12.2 Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - updated to 2018 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Permanent residential pitch need (2018/19 - 2022/23) cont'd....</b>		
<b>8</b>	Resulting from unauthorised developments	There were no unauthorised developments in the study area.
<b>9</b>	Net movements to site from housing, (assuming some availability)	No respondents expressed a wish to move into bricks and mortar accommodation from caravans. Indeed the survey indicated that people in Bricks and Mortar, while satisfied with living in a house, may also like to move to a site if it were available. The initial version of this Assessment therefore included an assumption that there would be a propensity for one household per year to move out of bricks and mortar into a pitch on a permanent site. It is now acknowledged that such households would not necessarily correspond with the national planning definition of travellers unless their family had only ceased travelling on a temporary basis. An assumption is made that two households will wish to recommence a travelling lifestyle over a five year period. Again this figure attributed to SE Northumberland.
<b>10</b>	Closure of sites	Any site closures would increase the need for new pitches but none is planned.

**Table 12.2 continued on next page.....**

**Table 12.2 Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - updated to 2018 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Permanent residential pitch need (2018/19 - 2022/23) cont'd....</b>		
<b>11</b>	Permanent pitch requirement generated from unauthorised encampments	The unauthorised encampments analysis used for the original iteration of this Assessment, (see Table 12.2, Note 11), applied statistics from a 34 month period between June 2012 and March 2015. It split instances between the four delivery areas and between summer and winter, applying length of stay and the prevailing trend and concluded that this warranted three additional pitches over the five year period - all in SE Northumberland with the remaining issues (including summer pressure in the West) to be dealt with through stop-off or temporary transit arrangements. There are indications that, since then, instances have decreased or at least stabilised (Table 9.4), although whether this is a long term trend may depend on the current trial of informal arrangements mentioned in the main body of this report. It is considered that the figure for additional pitches over a 5 year period resulting from this phenomenon, should now be reduced from three to <b>two</b> .
<b>12</b>	<b>Need (2018/19 - 2022/23)</b>	<b>Sum of rows 6, 7, 8, 9,10 and 11</b>
<b>Additional supply of permanent residential pitches (2018/19 - 2022/23)</b>		
<b>13</b>	Sites vacant to be reused	There are no closed sites due to reopen.
<b>14</b>	Pitches with permission but not yet developed	As of the updated 2018 base date, no additional pitches had permission.
<b>15</b>	New sites planned	No entirely new sites are planned.

**Table 12.2 continued on next page.....**

**Table 12.2 Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - updated to 2018 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Additional supply of permanent residential pitches (2018/19 - 2022/23) cont'd.</b>		
<b>16</b>	Newly vacated pitches	This is the number of vacancies which are likely to become available over the period. Turnover on the two socially rented sites having slowed to 1 per year per site at the time of the 2015 version of this assessment is now estimated to have increased to up to 2 per year per site. Bearing in mind past trends, it is assumed that the turnover over a five year period across the two sites will be fifteen pitches. An assumption is made that a one per year turnover rate will apply at the private site at Berwick, although no evidence has been obtained on this. Overall, this gives a turnover of vacancies of 25 over this five-year period
<b>17</b>	<b>Supply (2018/19 - 2022/23)</b>	<b>Sum of rows 13, 14, 15 and 16</b>
<b>REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2018/19 - 2022/23)</b>		
<b>18</b>	<b>Requirement for extra residential pitches (2018/19 - 2022/23)</b>	<b>This is the total requirement calculated by taking row 17 from row 12</b>

**Table 12.2 continued on next page.....**



**Table 12.2 Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - updated to 2018 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2023/24-2035/36)</b>		
<b>19</b>	Requirement for extra residential pitches (2023/24-2035/36)	<p><b><u>NEED</u></b></p> <p>Assumed number of households for 2023 is 173 (the 2018/19 estimate) plus 18 – i.e. 191</p> <p>From this, household formation can be calculated for the remaining 13 years of the Plan period through to 2036, applying the 2% growth rate arrived at above.</p> <p>This gives an estimated household formation of an additional <b>56</b> households. While it would be hoped that the initial five years of the plan period could address the issue of unauthorised use, it has been acknowledged that the problem appears to be continuing. Based on the survey of GTTS, there is also likely to be a continued low level desire from bricks and mortar households, who have only temporarily ceased to travel, to move to pitches on sites. Therefore, with these various other factors at play, it is it is reasonable to increase the figure from 56 to <b>60</b>, as the need for the thirteen years between 2023/24 and 2035/36.</p> <p><b><u>SUPPLY</u></b></p> <p>Given that the total number of pitches is not anticipated to increase significantly, it follows that the turnover of 4 per annum (1 in the north, 3 in the south-east) can be assumed to continue, giving a supply of around <b>52</b> over the thirteen year period.</p> <p><b><u>CONCLUSION</u></b></p> <p>Therefore it is concluded, from a current perspective, that an additional <b>8</b> pitches would be required over the final thirteen years of the Plan period, with most of these needed in the South-East area.</p>
<b>20</b>	<b>Total Requirement for permanent residential pitches (2023/24-2035/36)</b>	<b>Sum of rows 18 and 19</b>

## 13. Assessment of the need for temporary site accommodation.

### Introduction

- 13.1 Temporary accommodation is aimed at meeting the unmet need for short term accommodation – unmet need which often manifests itself in the form of unauthorised encampments.
- 13.2 People who may be expected to occupy such sites may be visiting the area for work or family reasons, having a more permanent location elsewhere; or they may be simply travelling through the area; or they may, in effect, be homeless within Northumberland – e.g. as a result of inadequate accommodation on existing permanent sites, (for whatever reason that may be).
- 13.3 Some of the latent demand that is manifested through unauthorised encampments may be for what are usually termed **transit sites** – normally with well-equipped pitches and a good range of amenities provided, for possible occupation over a number of weeks or even months.
- 13.4 Some of the need, however, may be for shorter term (emergency) **stopover sites**, where stays would normally be shorter term, (days rather than weeks or months) and with fewer amenities.

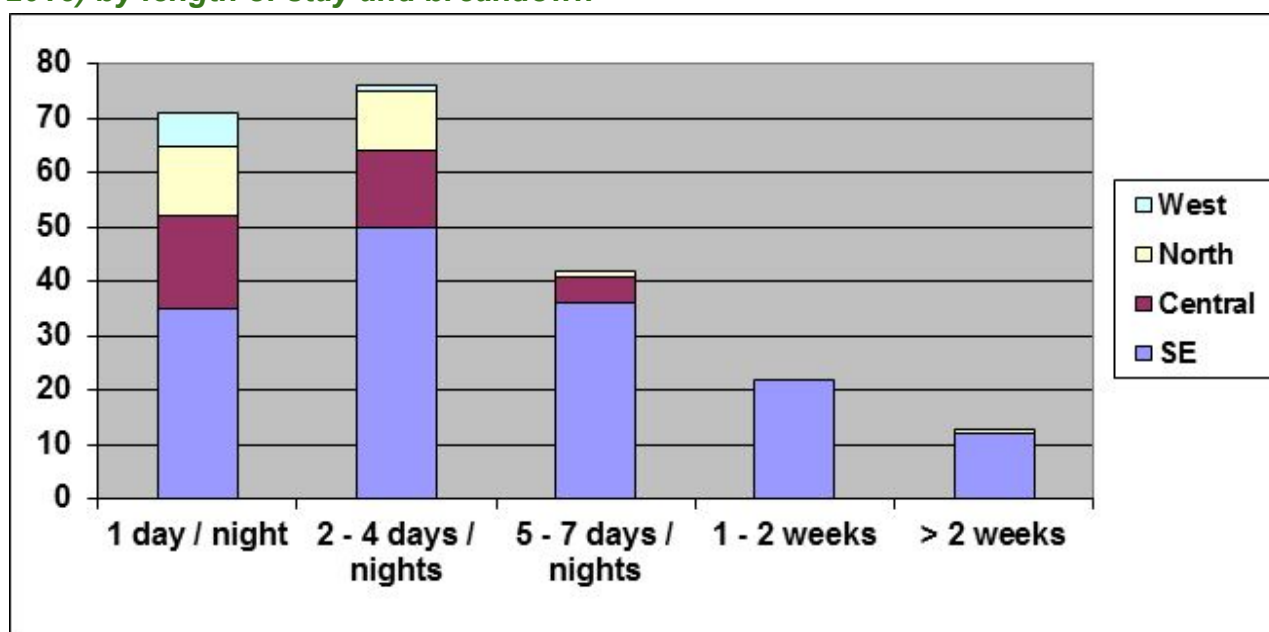
### Survey results

- 13.5 The very limited responses given to the survey questionnaire from those on unauthorised sites indicated that both types of demand are likely to exist in the County.

### Unauthorised encampments

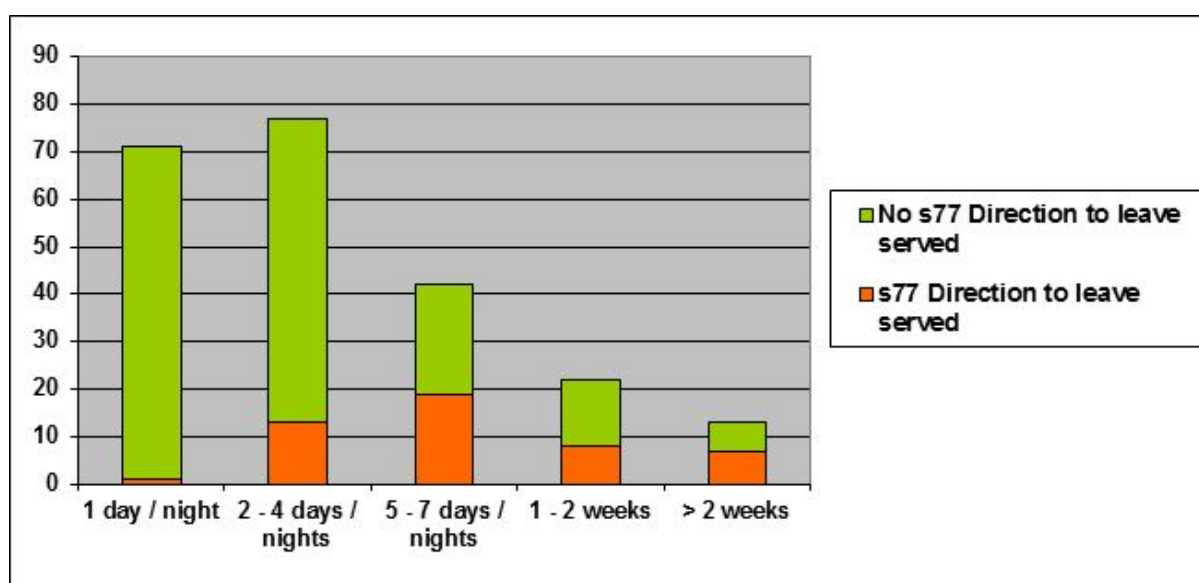
- 13.6 More reliable indication can be obtained from the analysis of unauthorised encampments contained in Appendices B and C and briefly described in Chapter 9.
- 13.7 Further analysis of this information can be found in Figure 13A, which shows incidences, (over the 34 month period for which information has been collected), split by the length of stay.

**Figure 13A Graph showing unauthorised encampments (June 2012 to March 2015) by length of stay and breakdown**



13.8 It shows that the vast majority of unauthorised encampments last less than a week, with many being a single night or day in length. The chart also shows that stays of more than a week in length are almost exclusively in the south-east of the County. Stays in more rural parts of the County are short-lived, suggesting that people are passing through, rather than wishing to remain longer term.

**Figure 13B Graph showing unauthorised encampments (June 2012 to March 2015) by whether a S.77 'Direction to Leave' Served**

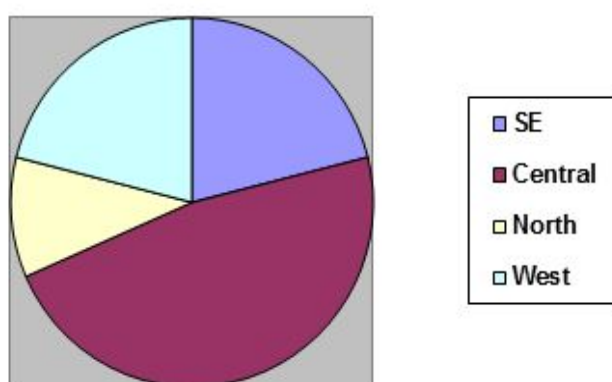


13.9 This is borne out by Figure 13B which shows the level to which Section 77 'Directions to Leave' are served in relation to lengths of stay. The fact that they are relatively rarely served on the shorter stays – i.e. that people move

on in any case – suggests that there is indeed a tendency towards shorter stays, especially in rural parts of the County. Figure 13B also shows that Section 77 'Directions to Leave' are by no means served on all longer term encampments, demonstrating that there is a degree of tolerance and/or an acceptance that a problem exists.

- 13.10 As already explained in the previous chapter,<sup>27</sup> it is considered reasonable to assume that one third of the unauthorised users throughout the year will be in need of transit, rather than permanent pitch accommodation. As shown, this would suggest that between 1 and 2 transit pitches could resolve the issue. However this does not take account of the clustering at different times and in different areas. Therefore somewhat more pitches on fixed transit sites may be called for.
- 13.11 This would need to be in SE Northumberland, as nearly all unauthorised encampments that last over a week fall here, (as well as the fact that this is the part of the County where unauthorised use is a year-round factor). The Council's Gypsy Roma Traveller Liaison Officer has suggested that pitches could be split between two sites in this area, to take account of the different groupings that may be visiting families or working and require this type of accommodation.
- 13.12 As also explained in the previous chapter,<sup>28</sup> it is considered reasonable to assume that one third of the unauthorised users in the summer will actively seek shorter-term stopover accommodation with fewer facilities. This appears to be corroborated by the analysis above which demonstrates the much wider geographical spread of short-stay stops.

**Figure 13C Chart showing unauthorised encampments (June 2012 to March 2015) where there were more than 10 caravans - by Delivery Area**



- 13.13 It is instructive to look at unauthorised sites with 10 or more caravans, (of which there were nineteen during the period analysed) – see Figure 13C. Only a few were in south-east Northumberland. Many of the short-stay stopover

<sup>27</sup> See Table 12.2 – Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland.

<sup>28</sup> See Table 12.2 – Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland.

encampments in the more rural areas had relatively large numbers of caravans. By contrast, most unauthorised encampments in south-east Northumberland consisted of a small number of caravans.

### Conclusions on Transit Pitches and stopover facilities

- 13.14 It may therefore be considered that 4 to 8 fixed transit pitches should be provided in south-east Northumberland in the short term. In order to provide for practicalities of different sub-groups, families etc., **two small fixed transit sites within south-east Northumberland** may be the answer.
- 13.15 However this solution is not being pursued just yet even though the unauthorised problem clearly requires a short term solution. This is because the Council has taken note of the short term nature of most unauthorised stopping, and **a 'negotiated stopping places' model is currently being trialled by the Council.**
- 13.16 Such a model is advocated by the travelling community nationally, to help facilitate increased provision to meet this largely seasonal, semi-permanent transit demand. The arrangements involve local land owners, and have been informed by an initial site search within the priority Ashington / Bedlington / Blyth / Cramlington area.
- 13.17 Under the proposal, approved by the Council's Cabinet on 27th September 2018, locations for Negotiated Stopping Places across the County are assessed against a set of criteria which include known seasonal migration routes and trends, the number of caravans / trailers to be accommodated, the proximity of occupied housing and local services, as well as land ownership issues and any physical or environmental constraints within 200 metres of the site. They are then subject to approval by key officers and Members. In order to operate, they must be provided with bins and portaloos but do not need other on-site facilities that would be required for a permanent transit site. Stopping is time limited and the management of the sites is subject to an agreed protocol.
- 13.18 If successful in tackling the unauthorised encampments issue. It may be taken forward as a permanent solution and the need for the small fixed transit sites will disappear. It will clearly be necessary to keep the situation under review and revisit whether and when fixed transit pitches will need to be provided when the Local Plan is next reviewed. Such pitches should (as stated) be located in the SE Northumberland area close to Blyth, Cramlington and Ashington but would need to be kept separate from the two permanent socially rented sites for practical reasons.
- 13.19 The seasonal dimension of stopover needs will continue - notably the western movement to Appleby Fair in the summer, which sees overnight stops in the Hexham area and at places such as Langley, further to the west. The Negotiated Stopping Places trial will therefore have a seasonal dimension with more negotiated arrangements needed in summer, when a high proportion of additional arrangements will be in the West Delivery Area, especially bearing in mind that relatively large numbers of caravans can be involved at one time.

13.20 Before proceeding with any stopping place facility for west-bound travellers, it is necessary for clear coordination with Durham CC, who have a greater issue in relation to emergency stopping which they intend to tackle. There remains scope to investigate whether a joint approach can be taken.

## 14. Travelling Showpeople.

- 14.1 As noted towards the beginning of this Assessment, Travelling Showpeople are a distinct ethnic group and must be considered separately from Gypsies and Travellers in terms of their accommodation needs.
- 14.2 Travelling Showpeople in Northumberland are currently accommodated on a Showmen's Guild yard in Bomarsund, Stakeford, which is privately owned and managed. At the time of the 2014 base date of the original version of this Assessment, there were 22 plots within the yard. Since then, this has increased to 30 plots.
- 14.3 Unfortunately, it was not possible to persuade people from this Yard to participate in the assessment survey. There has been no pressure for any new yard to be created, although it is not known what the latent demand may be. Nor is there any evidence that any part of the unauthorised issue stems from Travelling Showpeople.
- 14.4 The above examination of the situation in neighbouring authorities revealed that Sunderland and South Tyneside are areas where there are significant numbers of Showpeople with significant additional provision made or being made.
- 14.5 An examination of assessments elsewhere, where evidence was obtained, suggests a household formation rate of between around 12.5% and 27% over a five year period, giving a mid-point of 20 per cent. **This would potentially suggest a need for perhaps around six more plots in each 5 year period.**
- 14.6 The existing yard, at Bomarsund, is well concealed and may offer the opportunity for further expansion within its landscaped boundary.
- 14.7 In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it is proposed that any additional demand for plots from this community should be supported, most likely accommodated as an expansion of the existing facility but other options could also be considered.



## 15. Conclusions and recommendations

### Introduction

- 15.1 These conclusions have been updated from those in the original version of the GTAA, which was published in 2015. In summary:
- Only certain of the inputs into the Assessment have been updated - notably:
    - A rolled forward estimate of the numbers of existing pitches and plots;
    - A rolled forward estimate of household formation, based on this;
    - A more realistic estimate of the movement of those GTSS following a travelling lifestyle from bricks and mortar to caravans on pitches and the formation of new households within bricks and mortar who may eventually require mobile accommodation;
    - Any implications of more recent GTAAs done for other local authorities in the area;
    - Advice from internal officers, who deal with monitoring and enforcement, regarding the most recent trends in unauthorised encampments and how this may affect need;
    - Advice from internal officers, who liaise with the GTAA communities on a day-to-day basis, on any changes in the turnover rate of pitches, the financing of new pitches etc.
  - The basic survey information (from 2014) and some of the main pieces of analysis (e.g. the detailed analysis of the distribution and duration of unauthorised encampments) have been taken forward on the basis that the evidence that they provide remains sufficiently up-to-date.

### Conclusions on permanent residential pitches

- 15.2 **That 8 new permanent residential pitches will be needed over the whole of the remaining Plan period to 2036.** These will be needed as follows: **7 in the SE Delivery Area and 1 in the North.** This is a net figure, taking account of pitches coming on stream through turnover. The need mainly addresses household formation but also builds in a small adjustment for unauthorised encampment and the demand for pitch-based accommodation from within Bricks and Mortar families who have not ceased to travel on a permanent basis.
- 15.3 That the above should be split as follows:
- **None within the remainder of the period to March 2023, due to the availability of sites outstripping the demand**
  - **8 over the following thirteen years (2023/24 to 2035/36), 7 in SE Northumberland and 1 in North Northumberland**
- 15.4 That any further expansion of any of the three existing permanent sites (at Berwick, Lyneburn Cottages, West Hartford) should be limited in scale, given

that these sites are constrained physically and (in the latter case) by the Green Belt.

- 15.5 That, in the medium term, efforts may need to be made to identify a suitable new site for permanent pitches. However, see below on transit sites. Whatever the solution, the Council will need to investigate the possibility of accommodating some additional pitches in SE Northumberland in the later part of the Plan period;
- 15.6 That any new site for permanent pitches would best be placed within the triangle Blyth – Ashington – Bedlington.
- 15.7 That, in identifying alternative places to locate any new site, a sieve mapping exercise should be carried out to establish: the proximity of necessary services and whether they have the necessary capacity; and to filter out areas where there would be unacceptable environmental impacts, applying the ecosystem approach and any other relevant site identification and assessment criteria.
- 15.8 That sites chosen should have sufficient room and be adequately resourced to accommodate necessary ancillary features, also having regard to security measures, avoiding overly isolated locations.
- 15.9 That once general areas are identified for any future sites, consultations with the communities concerned should begin at an early date, involving both the GTTS and local settled communities.
- 15.10 That consideration is given to the various ethnicities within the Gypsy and Traveller communities so that provision can be tailored accordingly.
- 15.11 That early thought should be given to whether a future site might be managed and maintained privately or by the Council and how this would work in practice.
- 15.12 That early consideration should be given to whether refurbishment of any of the existing sites will be likely in the Plan period and what the possible consequences may be for the sites themselves, their surroundings and other areas.

### **Transit Pitches / Emergency Stopping Places**

- 15.13 That the current trialling of a 'negotiated stopping places' model should be assessed in the near future to help decide whether this could be a long-term solution to the unauthorised stopping issue.**
- 15.14 That, if, following review, the above model is found not to fully tackle the issue of unauthorised encampments, then locations for 4 to 8 fixed transit pitches with facilities should be sought in the medium term in the area of Blyth – Ashington – Bedlington.**
- 15.15 That the degree to which negotiated solutions and/or fixed transit pitches may lessen the likely need for permanent pitches should also be assessed and reviewed in the future.

- 15.16 That relevant considerations (of those listed in 15.6 to 15.12 under “Permanent Residential Pitches”) should be applied to the consideration of any transit site.
- 15.17 That discussions continue with relevant land owners on the corridor of A69 – A689, in order to allow a significant stopping facility, available for summer months to be granted permission, to include some essential facilities; but not before further discussing with Durham CC the possibility of a joint approach on the east-west summer movement between Cumbria and the NE;
- 15.18 That areas beyond the Green Belt be considered for all facilities, including stopping places, in recognition that even a stopping place may be occupied for several weeks within any given year.
- 15.19 That further consideration be given to whether stopping arrangements should also be sought close to the A1 corridor in the North Delivery Area.

### **Showpeople requirements**

- 15.20 That recognition be given to the likelihood of household growth within the Travelling Showpeople communities and that further evidence of possible plot / yard needs be obtained.
- 15.21 That, in the meantime, **support should be given, as far as possible, to further modest proposals to expand yard facilities and/or accommodate additional plots.**

# **APPENDIX A**

## **Results of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Survey Report**

**2014**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
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# 1. Introduction

As part of its Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (GTTS) Accommodation Assessment, Northumberland County Council (NCC) carried out a survey of people within GTTS communities.

This was undertaken by way of face-to-face interviews. The questionnaire on which the interviews were based was carefully designed to be in line with Government guidance but also with a view to collecting all the data necessary for the Council to plan for the needs of this population across its various functions, but especially the Council's planning and housing roles. The questionnaire was peer-reviewed by 'POSE' (Planning Officers' Society Enterprises), prior to being finalised for use. The Questionnaire can be found at Appendix E

The interviews were aimed at residents of council owned sites at Hartford (near Bedlington) and Lyneburn Cottages (near Lynemouth), privately owned sites, unauthorised sites, Travelling Showpeople sites and bricks and mortar housing.

The survey was carried out over the summer and early autumn of 2014.

This Appendix sets out in full the results obtained from the survey, based on data collected

## 2. Current situation

Currently, NCC provides 33 pitches on their council owned sites. 21 permanent pitches and 1 transit pitch are on the Hartford site and 11 permanent pitches are on the Lynemouth site.<sup>1</sup> Planning permission has been granted for a further 5 permanent pitches on the Hartford site and development started on the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Twice a year, a caravan count takes place in the county. In 2014 and early 2015, the results were as follows:

Site type	January 2014	July 2014	January 2015
Socially rented (council owned site)	56	45	51
Private	15	18	11
Unauthorised	0	7	4
Total	71	70	66

**Source: DCLG Traveller Caravan Count January 2014 and NCC Caravan Count July 2014**

In addition, (as at January 2014) there were 22 caravans belonging to Travelling Showpeople on private sites. These caravans are not normally included in the July count.

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<sup>1</sup> DCLG Traveller Caravan Count, January 2014



## 3. Interim survey results

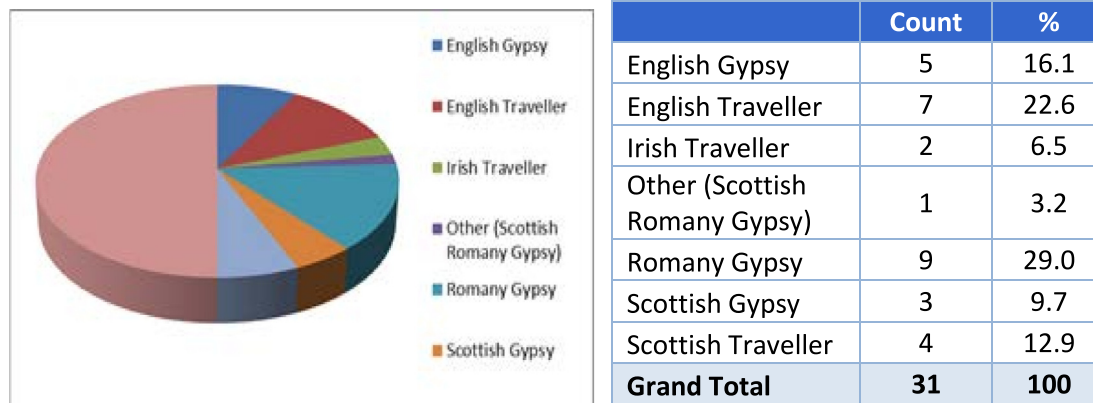
### 3.1 Response rate

31 paper questionnaires were completed by way of Council personnel interviewing people from the GTTS communities. Of these, 22 were from council owned sites, 1 from a private site, 3 from unauthorised sites and 5 from bricks and mortar.

Site type	Number of responses	Of which at	Number of responses
Permanent sites	23	Hartford (council)	20
		Lynemouth (council)	2
		Berwick (private)	1
Unauthorised sites	3		
Bricks and mortar	5		
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>		

### 3.2 Ethnic background

A third (31.0%) of respondents described themselves as being Romany Gypsies, followed by 24.1% English Travellers and 17.2% English Gypsies. There were no responses from Travelling Showpeople.



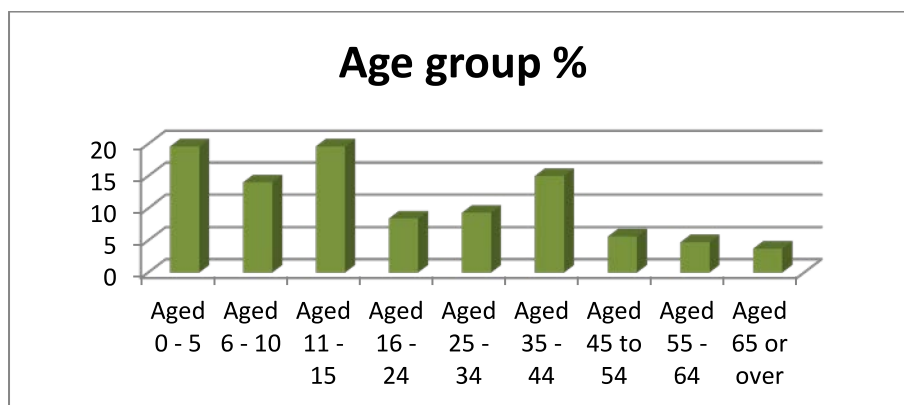
Q1: Ethnic background<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> In this report, all percentages in tables are in decimals rounded to the nearest tenth. The sum of these may therefore not always add to 100%.

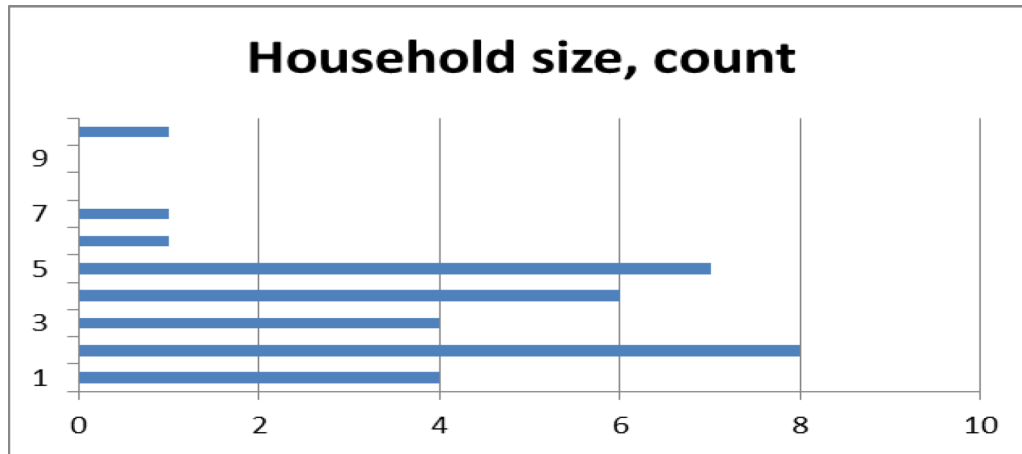
### 3.3 Household

The table below shows the household composition of all respondents. The largest age group was the age 11-15 at 20.5%, followed by age 0-5 at 18.75%. The most common household size was 5 members. In total, there were 112 people in all households, making an average of 3.6 members per household.

Age group	Count	%
Aged 0 - 5	21	18.75
Aged 6 - 10	15	13.4
Aged 11 - 15	23	20.5
Aged 16 - 24	9	8.0
Aged 25 - 34	10	8.9
Aged 35 - 44	17	15.1
Aged 45 to 54	6	5.4
Aged 55 - 64	7	6.3
Aged 65 or over	4	3.6
Total	112	100



Household size	Count	%
1	4	12.9
2	7	22.5
3	4	12.9
4	6	19.3
5	7	22.5
6	1	3.2
7	1	3.2
8	0	0.0
9	0	0.0
10	1	3.2
Total	31	100



Q2: Household age groups and size

### 3.4 Disability

26 respondents or any member of their household (86.7%) did not have a disability, three respondents or their household members (10.1%) did and two preferred not to say. Of the three who answered yes, none needed specially adapted accommodation; however, one indicated that they might need it in the future.

Finally all respondents said that they (or any member of their household) would not need sheltered or warden attended accommodation now or in the next 3 years.

### 3.5. Travel

To the question 'do you usually travel?' over half of respondents (55.2%) answered no:

		No	Yes	Total
Count		18	13	31
%		58.1	41.9	100

Q3: Travel

This question, categorised by the current living situation of the respondent, gives the following results:

Do you usually travel?	No	Yes	Total
Bricks and Mortar housing	3 40%	2 60%	5 100%
Permanent site	15 65.2%	8 34.8%	23 100%
Unauthorised site	0 0%	3 100%	3 100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b> <b>58.1%</b>	<b>13</b> <b>41.9%</b>	<b>31</b> <b>100%</b>

**Q3: Travel per current living situation**

### **3.5.1. Travel patterns**

Those who usually travel showed the following patterns (n=13):

Counts Base % Respondents	Total				
		Lasts less than 1 month	Lasts 1 to 3 months	Lasts 3 - 6 months	Lasts over 6 months
Base	31	18 58.1%	7 22.6%	-	6 19.4%
Spring (20 Mar - 20 Jun)	12 38.7%	8 25.8%	2 6.5%	-	2 6.5%
Summer (21 Jun - 22 Sep)	13 41.9%	8 25.8%	3 9.7%	-	2 6.5%
Autumn (23 Sep - 21 Dec)	4 12.9%	2 6.5%	1 3.2%	-	1 3.2%
Winter (22 Dec - 19 Mar)	2 6.5%	-	1 3.2%	-	1 3.2%

**Q4: Travel patterns**

### **3.5.2. Reasons for travelling**

Amongst those who usually travel, a third indicated to travel for family reasons and under a fifth to take up a job or look for work (multiple answers were enabled).

Reason	Take up job/looking for work	Fairs or shows	Family reasons	Passing through	Harassment at previous site	Other (looking for a house)	Total
Count	5	4	9	4	4	1	27
%	18.5	14.8	33.3	14.8	14.8	3.7	100%

**Q5: Reasons for travelling**

## 3.6 Current living situation

### 3.6.1. Length of residence

Most of the respondents (61.3%) had lived in their current location for more than five years.

Length of residence	Count	%
Less than 1 year	6	19.4
Between 1 and 5 years	6	19.4
Over 5 years	19	61.3
Total	31	100

Q9: Length of residence

### 3.6.2 Locations

The next table gives the places where respondents have lived before. Respondents could select multiple locations and almost half had lived in Northumberland before, whilst 41.7% had lived somewhere else in the UK, followed by under a third in the Scottish Borders. None had lived abroad.

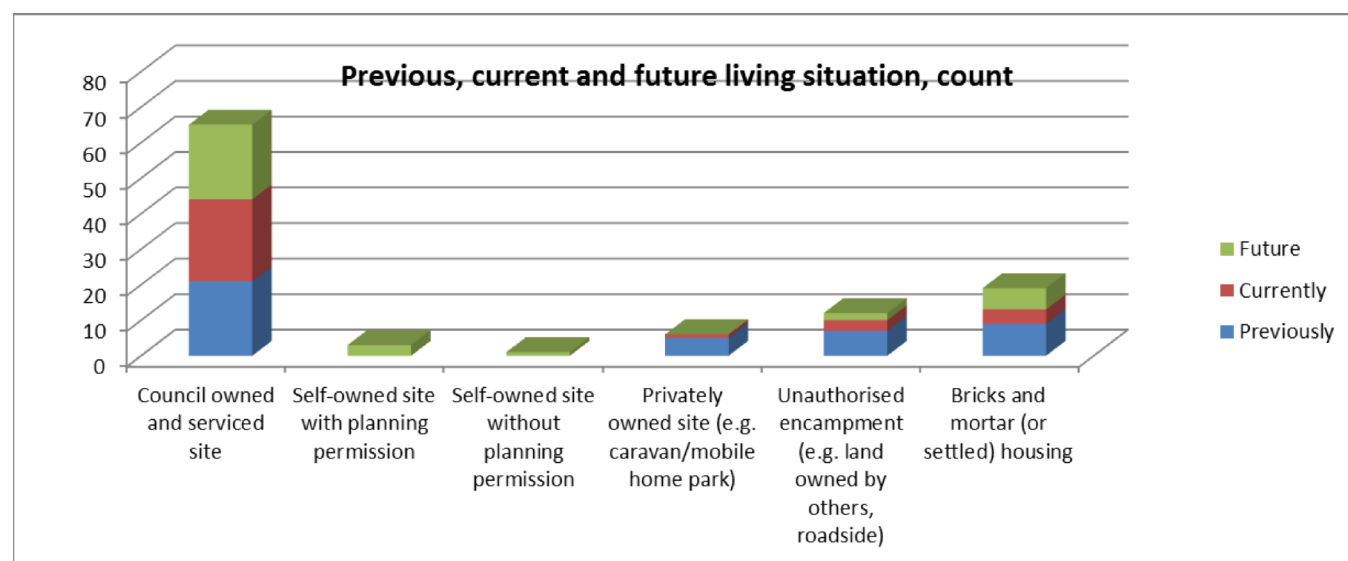
Location	Count	%
Northumberland	11	45.8
North Tyneside	1	4.2
South Tyneside	1	4.2
Newcastle upon Tyne	4	16.7
Gateshead	4	16.7
Durham	6	25.0
Cumbria	3	12.5
Scottish Borders	7	29.2
Elsewhere in the UK	10	41.7
Abroad	0	0

Q10: Previous locations

In addition, most respondents had previously lived on a council owned site (21 respondents, equalling 80.1% of all respondents). In the future, 21 respondents (or 80.8% of all

respondents) wished to live on a council owned site. The following table provides the counts and the percentages in relation to the total number of respondents (n=31) (multiple answers were enabled).

Site	Previously	Currently	Future
<b>Council owned and serviced site</b>	21 80.8%	23 88.5%	21 80.8%
<b>Self-owned site with planning permission</b>	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	3 9.1%
<b>Self-owned site without planning permission</b>	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 3.0%
<b>Privately owned site (e.g. caravan/mobile home park)</b>	5 11.9%	1 3.2%	0 0.0%
<b>Unauthorised encampment (e.g. land owned by others, roadside)</b>	7 16.7%	3 9.7%	2 6.1%
<b>Bricks and mortar (or settled) housing</b>	9 21.4%	4 12.1%	6 18.2%



**Q11: previous, current and future living situation**

### 3.7 Permanent sites

This section gives the results of the respondents who live on a permanent site. As mentioned previously, of the respondents who lived on permanent sites, 20 respondents were from the Hartford site, 2 from Lynemouth and 1 from Berwick.

#### 3.7.1 Trailers/chalets

The respondents on permanent sites together had 21 trailers, with a mean of 0.9 per respondent and a mode of 1. In addition, there were 9 respondents with one chalet, making 9 chalets in total.

Twenty-one respondents (91.3%) always occupied their pitch, with 1 not always occupying and 1 only occupying at certain times of the year.

#### 3.7.2 Satisfaction with site

All respondents found the size of the permanent site about right, but 30.4% of respondents found the pitch too small and 22.7% found the amenity block too small.

Counts Base % Respondents	Counts Base % Respondents	Counts Base % Respondents
Base 23 100.0%	Base 23 100.0%	Base 22 100.0%
The permanent site overall is	My pitch is	The amenity block is
Too big - -	Too big - -	Too big - -
Too small - -	Too small 7 30.4%	Too small 5 22.7%
About right 23 100.0%	About right 16 69.6%	About right 17 77.3%

Q16: Size site

There was a split regarding the storage of equipment. Half of respondents found the storage provision easily accessible and secure and sufficient in size. However, twelve respondents commented that they do not have or use storage on site.

Is the storage provision easily accessible and secure?	Is the storage provision sufficient in size for your equipment?	If no, please give details
Yes	Yes	
Yes	Yes	
Yes	Yes	
No	Yes	Don't use any storage accessible but not secure
No	No	Don't use any storage provision
Yes	Yes	
No	No	No storage provided
No	No	Don't have any
No	No	No storage provision provided
No	No	No storage provided
Yes	No	work area - bays could be bit bigger
Yes	Yes	
Yes	Yes	
No	No	do not use work area
Yes	Yes	
Yes	Yes	
No	No	Don't use/been offered storage
No	No	Do not use work area
No	No	Have not been offered storage provision
		No storage area provision apart from work area that I do not use
		We do not have storage for equipment
Yes	Yes	

#### Q17: Storage provision



Most respondents found the location of their site convenient for amenities.

Counts Base % Respondents	Counts Base % Respondents	Counts Base % Respondents
Base 23 100.0%	Base 23 100.0%	Base 23 100.0%
<b>Shops</b>	<b>Health Centre / GP</b>	<b>Hospital</b>
Convenient 12 52.2%	Convenient 12 52.2%	Convenient 11 47.8%
Neither good nor bad 4 17.4%	Neither good nor bad 5 21.7%	Neither good nor bad 6 26.1%
Not convenient 7 30.4%	Not convenient 6 26.1%	Not convenient 6 26.1%
Counts Base % Respondents	Counts Base % Respondents	Counts Base % Respondents
Base 23 100.0%	Base 22 100.0%	Base 22 100.0%
<b>Post Office</b>	<b>Primary School</b>	<b>Secondary School</b>
Convenient 12 52.2%	Convenient 11 50.0%	Convenient 11 50.0%
Neither good nor bad 5 21.7%	Neither good nor bad 5 22.7%	Neither good nor bad 5 22.7%
Not convenient 6 26.1%	Not convenient 6 27.3%	Not convenient 6 27.3%

please give any other comments
Schools not applicable, due to age and absence of children
Site is too far from bus routes
Do not drive so have to rely on people or taxis
Elderly and does not drive but daughter lives on site and takes to places
Do not drive and limited bus services although there is a school bus for kids
You have to drive everywhere. Nothing in walking distance.

#### Q19: Amenities

Below are comments from respondents about what they liked/disliked about their permanent site:

<b>What do you like most about this site?</b>	<b>What do you like least about this site?</b>	<b>Name 1 ?</b>
It's alright		Lynemouth
Family on site, relations with other individuals on site	Closed in, distance from facilities in town	Lynemouth
	Dogs running loose	Hartford
	Horses - the field should be nice and for kids to play on	Hartford
Plenty of families with children so my kids have friends	horses	Hartford
warden - lovely and treats everyone the same; having family on site to look after me	location of electric cupboard/substation on site. Warden can't see it and children hang around and vandalise it.	Hartford
Having family on site		Hartford
open space; trees; neighbours	council	Hartford
	work area	Hartford
	isolation	Hartford
location		Hartford
		Hartford
having family near	work area	Hartford
		Hartford
Having family on	work area; enforcing/dictation from council on how they think we should live; electric system - limited to days to put on. What about weekends?; notifying council when off site and limited to how long can have visitors. Pitches different sizes.	Hartford
		Hartford
Family on site	Not enough maintenance from council i.e. grass cutting, roadsweep etc.	Hartford
location/nice place	no play area for kids	Hartford
		Hartford
	Work area a mess; horses on site; dogs loose; lack of authority by council so site is starting to go down hill as people just do what they want	Hartford
Living near family	Drainage problems	Hartford
Pitch size and new utility shed	General appearance of site - grass, weeds, hedges, rubbish; loose dogs; horses; chickens running wild; work area is a mess	Hartford
The location, it's private but very accessible.	Lack of amenities	Berwick

**Q20, Q21: Likes/dislikes regarding site**

When asked about how satisfied respondents were with their site, 47.8% were satisfied or very satisfied and 52.2% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. The following table shows how satisfied respondents were with their site, divided into site location.

Site	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied not unsatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Total
Lynemouth	0 0%	1 50%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%
Hartford	1 5%	8 40%	11 55%	0 0%	0 0%	20 100%
Berwick	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%
Total	2 8.7%	9 39.1%	12 52.2%	0 0%	0 0%	23 100%

**Q22: Satisfaction with site**

### 3.7.3 Site expansion

After being asked about whether they want the existing site expanded, 18 respondents (90%) answered 'no'. The two who answered 'yes' are both from the Hartford site.

Counts Analysis % Respondents	Do you want this existing site expanded?		
	Total	Yes	No
Base	20	2 10.0%	18 90.0%
Name 1 ?			
Ashington (Showman's Guild)	-	-	-
Berwick	1	-	1 100.0%
Bomarsund (Showman's Guild)	-	-	-
Hartford	17	2 11.8%	15 88.2%
Lynemouth	2	-	2 100.0%
Other	-	-	-

**Q18: Site expansion**

It is important to note that three respondents, all from Hartford, did not answer the question, but indicated on the questionnaire that they were 'not bothered' (this was not an optional answer, but they wrote it on the paper form). If they are counted as well, 78.3% was against expansion. See the following table (n=23):

Site	Yes to expansion	No to expansion	Indifferent
<b>Berwick</b>	0 0.0%	1 4.3%	0 0.0%
<b>Hartford</b>	2 8.7%	15 65%	3 13.0%
<b>Lynemouth</b>	0 0.0%	2 8.7%	0 0.0%
<b>Total</b>	2 8.7%	18 78.3%	3 13.0%

**Q18: Site expansion, additional answers added**

### 3.8 Unauthorised sites

Three respondents were from unauthorised sites, two in Blyth and one in Cramlington. Two respondents had two trailers on their site and one respondent had three. One had a permanent location in Scotland; the other two did not have a permanent location.

#### 3.8.1 Reasons for visiting

The reasons for visiting Northumberland were:

What is the purpose of your visit to Northumberland?			please give details
Fairs or Shows	Visiting (family, friends, holiday)	Harassment at previous site	Other
Take up a job, looking for work		Harassment at previous site	Other
			Looking for a house to settle in SE Northumberland personally
			Looking for a house to settle

#### Q27: Purpose of visit

#### 3.8.2 Future transit sites/stopping places

All three respondents would use a stopping place (short term with few amenities) and two would use a transit site (longer term with many amenities); one did not answer the question on transit sites.

The respondents indicated where they thought future transit sites or stopping places should be provided:

Location	Stopping place count	Transit site count
Blyth	2	1
Cramlington	2	1
Ashington	2	1
Bedlington	1	1

#### Q30: Stopping/transit sites locations

To the question 'how often would you use a transit site or stopping place and when', two respondents would use them in the spring and autumn and once or twice a year, whilst one would use it all year and 3 to 4 times a year.

Counts Base % Respondents	Total	1 or 2 times per year	3 to 4 times per year	5 times or more per year
Base	8	4 50.0%	4 50.0%	- -
Spring (20 Mar - 20 Jun)	3 37.5%	2 25.0%	1 12.5%	- -
Summer (21 Jun - 22 Sep)	3 37.5%	2 25.0%	1 12.5%	- -
Autumn (23 Sep - 21 Dec)	1 12.5%	- -	1 12.5%	- -
Winter (22 Dec - 19 Mar)	1 12.5%	- -	1 12.5%	- -

### Q31: Stopping/transit site use

Two respondents would stay up to 4 weeks on a transit site or stopping place, whilst the respondent who would use the sites all year through would stay as long as possible.

Respondents thought the following facilities should be provided on any future transit site or stopping place:<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Note on question 33: on paper forms, tick boxes are missing under 'Stopping place', thereby omitting the options 'Hard standing', 'Water supply', 'Mains electricity', 'Shared baths/showers' and 'Individual baths/showers'. On none of the paper forms these options were selected and it could be that respondents may have selected them had they been visible, as they did for the transit sites.

Counts Base % Respondents	Total		
		Transit site	Stopping place
Base	20	20 100.0%	6 30.0%
Hard standing	3 15.0%	3 15.0%	-
Water supply	3 15.0%	3 15.0%	-
Mains electricity	3 15.0%	3 15.0%	-
Shared baths / showers	1 5.0%	1 5.0%	-
Individual baths / showers	2 10.0%	2 10.0%	-
Shared WCs/ porta-loos	3 15.0%	3 15.0%	3 15.0%
Refuse collection	3 15.0%	3 15.0%	3 15.0%
Warden	2 10.0%	2 10.0%	-
Other	-	-	-
please give details	-	-	-

### Q33: Stopping/transit site amenities

In addition, one respondent thought future sites should have up to five trailers, whilst two thought they should have 6-10 trailers. All thought NCC should provide the future sites. Two respondents thought a Gypsy or Traveller should manage the site (paid by the council), whilst one thought it should be someone else, commenting: 'Not a Gypsy or Traveller as they would only let friends or family on'.

Counts Base % Respondents	Counts Base % Respondents	Counts Base % Respondents
Base 3 100.0%	Base 3 100.0%	Base 3 100.0%
How many trailers should future transit sites or stopping...	Who should provide these future transit or stopping places?	Who should manage any future transit sites or stopping pl...
Up to 5 trailers 1 33.3%	Northumberland County Council 3 100.0%	A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council) 2 66.7%
6 - 10 trailers 2 66.7%	Gypsies and Travellers to rent to others -	No preference -
11 - 15 trailers -	Gypsies and Travellers for themselves and their families -	Someone else 1 33.3%
16 - 20 trailers -	No preference -	
Over 20 trailers -	Other -	
No preference -		

### Q33, Q34, Q35: Size, ownership and management of future sites

### 3.9 Bricks and mortar housing

Five respondents are currently living in bricks and mortar housing. Two respondents gave their postcode as NE61 and one from NE62 and one NE65. Three respondents privately rented a three bedroom house, one privately rented a two bedroom house and one rented a 3 bedroom house from the Council.

Three respondents stated they did not to live in bricks and mortar by choice.

#### 3.9.1 Satisfaction with accommodation

Four respondents find the accommodation adequate for their needs. They like the following about living in a house and their house in particular:

If yes, what do you like about living in a house, and this house in particular					please give any other comments
Good facilities	Close to amenities (like shops, schools)	Right amount of space	No harassment		I am only living in a house out of necessity and I would much prefer to live in a trailer on an authorised site.
	Close to amenities (like shops, schools)			Like being settled in one place	
Good facilities	Close to amenities (like shops, schools)		No harassment		

**Q43: What respondents like about living in their house**

#### 3.9.2 Moving to a site

Two respondents would be happy to move if suitable site accommodation was available as long as it is close to the area, whilst one would be happy to move further away.

Counts	
Base %	
Respondents	
	Base 3
	100.0%
If suitable site accommodation was available would you be...	
Yes, as long as it is close to this area	2 66.7%
Yes, even if it is further away in another part of Northumberland or outside of the county	1 33.3%

**Q41: Moving away for suitable accommodation**



### 3.10 Future permanent sites

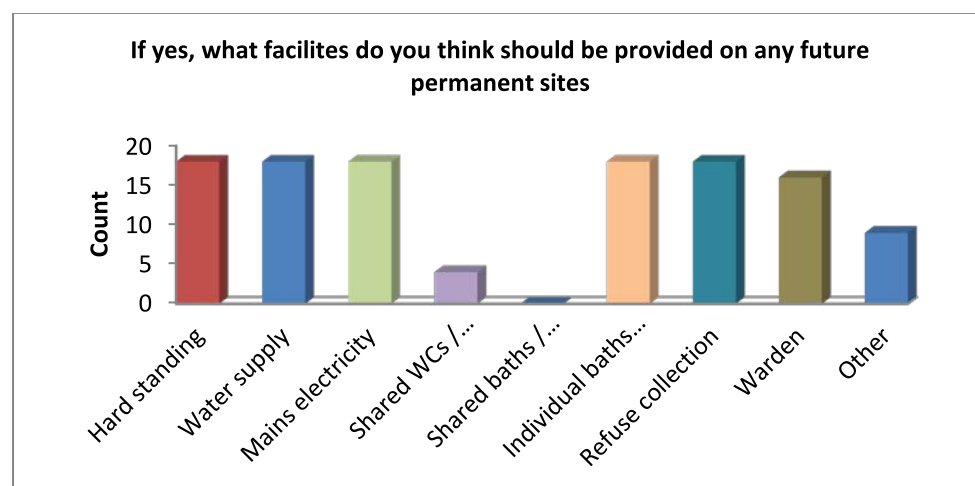
All respondents answered the question 'are more permanent sites needed', with 18 (58.1%) answering 'yes' and 13 (41.9%) answering 'no'.

	Count	%
Yes	18	58.1
No	13	41.9
Total	29	100

#### Q45: Need for future permanent sites

##### 3.10.1 Facilities

Those answering that more permanent sites are needed, indicated that the following facilities should be provided on any future permanent sites:



#### Other: Please give details

Broadband - Wi-Fi access on site; Play area for children  
proper play area for children  
yes but not near Bedlington  
Self-running sites  
Sites needed but not council sites. Better sites are owned and ran by Gypsies with Gypsies' rules and there is nobody breaking rules or they are off.  
feel a new site may be needed but not extending onto existing sites  
Work area; play area for children  
Individual WCs; play area  
Non-Traveller warden; individual WCs.  
Work area with individual pitches  
Community room so that things can be organised for children and residents on site  
Work areas

#### Q46: Facilities on future permanent sites

### 3.10.2 Location

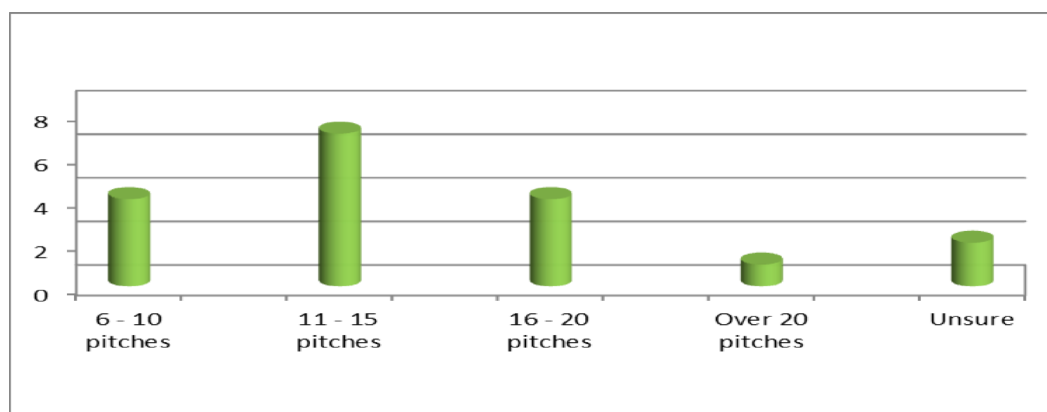
The following locations where future sites should be provided were given (n=16):

Location	First choice	Second choice	Third choice	Total
Hexham	3	1	6	10
Blyth	5	3	0	8
Berwick	2	0	3	5
Ashington	2	1	2	5
Bedlington	0	2	1	3
Alnwick	1	1	0	2
Haydon Bridge	0	2	0	2
Morpeth	1	0	0	1
Haltwhistle	1	0	0	1
Newbiggin	1	0	0	1
Prudhoe	0	1	0	1
Wooler	0	1	0	1
Amble	1	1	0	2
Cramlington	0	1	0	1
Rothbury	0	0	1	1
Guidepost/Choppington	0	0	1	1
Total	17	16	16	49

Q47: Locations of future sites

### 3.10.3 Number of pitches

Respondents (n=16) indicated how many pitches they thought should be included on future permanent sites, with 11-15 being the most popular answer (38.9%).



Q48: Number of pitches on future sites

### 3.10.4 Ownership and management

Most respondents (13 or 76.5%) thought local councils should provide future sites, followed by Gypsies and Travellers to rent to others (3 or 17.6%) and no preference (1 or 5.9%). It is worth noting

that even though the question did not allow for multiple answers, 5 respondents filled in a second/third choice, which changes the counts and percentages (see below).

	One answer given		Multiple answers given	
	Count	%	Count	%
Local councils	13	76.5	12	50
Gypsies and Travellers to rent to others	3	17.6	5	20.8
Gypsies and Travellers for themselves and their families	0	0	6	25
No preference	1	5.9	1	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Q49: Provision of future sites

To the question 'who should manage any future permanent sites', 8 out of 16 respondents (50.0%) answered a Gypsy or Traveller paid by NCC, followed by someone else (6 or 37.5%) and no preference (2 or 12.5%). One person did not answer the question but gave details.

Who should manage any future permanent sites?	please give details
A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council)	whoever's site it is
No preference	
A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council)	Gypsies and Travellers who have provided the sites If council wants to run site they need authority or warden's job is difficult as no one will listen and the people will just do what they want
A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council)	
A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council)	
Someone else	
No preference	
Someone else	A non-Traveller Non-Traveller
Someone else	
A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council)	Someone who is not a Gypsy or Traveller (paid by NCC).
A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council)	
Someone else	
Someone else	
Someone else	
A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council)	
A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council)	

#### Q50: Management of future sites

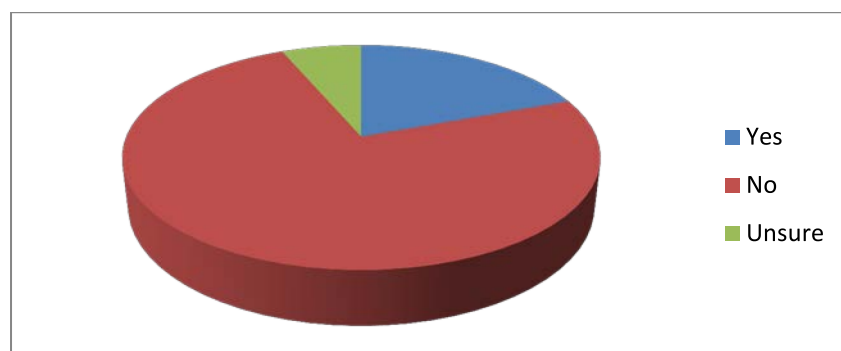
### 3.10.5 Other comments

Any other comments regarding future permanent sites were:

Please give us any other comments regarding future perman...
Got to be managed properly. Not let people use just for address for benefits. Attached small transit site for people to pull on for a short time; A work area for men relating to your pitch and you're responsible for it; Individual post boxes Shouldn't be too big

### 3.11. Future accommodation for household members

Six out of 31 respondents (19.4%) indicated that they have members of their household who are likely to want their own accommodation in the future. Most respondents did not, however, (23 or 74.2%) and two were unsure (6.5%). Also see the next table for responses categorised by current living situation, which shows that all respondents answering 'yes' were from permanent sites (all from Hartford).



	No	Unsure	Yes	Total
Bricks and Mortar housing	5	0	0	5
Permanent site	15	2	6	23
Unauthorised site	3	0	0	3
Total	23	2	6	31

Q52: Future accommodation need for members of household

#### 3.11.1 Timescales

Two respondents answered that in total three members of their household were most likely to move in 1-3 years' time. Four respondents did not fill in the first part of question 53, but indicated in the 'please give more information if needed' section that they did not know when the members of their household would want to move. All said that the members would want accommodation when they got married, but they were unsure when that would be.

Counts Base % Respondents	Total			
		Within 12 months	In 1 - 3 years' time	In 4 - 5 years' time
Base	3	-	3 100.0%	-
Person 1	2 66.7%	-	2 66.7%	-
Person 2	1 33.3%	-	1 33.3%	-
Person 3	-	-	-	-
Person 4	-	-	-	-
Person 5	-	-	-	-

### Q53: When members are likely to move

#### 3.11.2 Type of site

All respondents said that the members of their household would most likely want a pitch on a permanent site. One respondent with five members in their household also indicated that they would want access to transit sites or stopping places. This was not recorded in SNAP as the question only allowed for one answer, but was instead filled into the 'more information' field.

	Pitch on a permanent site	Access to Transit Sites or Stopping Places	Bricks and Mortar Housing
Person 1	6	0	0
Person 2	4	0	0
Person 3	3	0	0
Person 4	2	0	0
Person 5	1	0	0
Total	16	0	0

### Q54: Type of site

	Pitch on a permanent site	Access to Transit Sites or Stopping Places	Bricks and Mortar Housing
Person 1	6	1	0
Person 2	4	1	0
Person 3	3	1	0
Person 4	2	1	0
Person 5	1	1	0
Total	16	5	0

### Q54: Type of site adjusted for additional answers

### 3.11.3 Waiting list

All respondents indicated that none of the members of their household were on a housing or site waiting list. However, five respondents indicated in the Q56 'more information' field that this was because these members were too young to join the waiting list, but this was not recorded in SNAP as Q56 was meant to be skipped.

### 3.11.4 Preferred area

Five respondents answered the question where the members of their household would like to live, all giving only one choice:

1st choice
North East (anywhere)
on site with family
hard to say where children would want to live
can't comment on children
Hartford with family around

**Q59: Preferred area for members**

### 3.12 Final remarks

The following final remarks were given:

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?	What type of accommodation do you currently live in?	Location
It's alright	Permanent site	Lynemouth
I have been travelling to Cramlington for over 16 years, I have asked for a transit site so many times, but you never build it	Unauthorised site	
Field needs to be for kids to play in, no horses or new pitches	Permanent site	Hartford
Would like the council to provide more maintenance on site i.e. sweeping roads, trimming verges, keeping grass tidy. Would like this warden to stay as we all appreciate her.	Permanent site	Hartford
If transit pitch vacant then should be allowed to stay longer if nobody wants it	Permanent site	Hartford
Site is big enough. Feel do not need the new pitches. But site needs attention i.e. grass cut regularly, road sweeper, general maintenance. Repairs done at better standard and more quickly.	Permanent site	Hartford
Council needs to fix existing problems with current sites i.e. damp, oven problems that have been going on for years. They need to deal with problems quicker. Feel council house tenants are treated better.	Permanent site	Hartford
Don't like a lot of the licence conditions	Permanent site	Hartford
Residents on site should have some say as to new tenants for the welfare of the site and the welfare of residents on site.	Permanent site	Hartford
Pitches fairly small and new utility sheds too small. Other councils providing bigger/better 'day rooms'. Council don't listen to what residents want.	Permanent site	Hartford
Hartford site needs more authority from warden and council as site is getting messy and deteriorating. Dogs and horses running up and down camp fouling and nothing done about it.	Permanent site	Hartford
Find the electric too expensive	Permanent site	Hartford
Feel we do not need any more pitches at all; we would like boundaries/outside of boundaries tidied up as attracting vermin	Permanent site	Hartford
We would like to have a Community Room on a permanent site for the children to have activities Bricks and Mortar housing	Bricks and Mortar housing	
I would like to be able to stay while looking for a house, but keep getting moved on.	Unauthorised site	
It is becoming more and more difficult for the Traveller way of life when you are not allowed to stay anywhere or if you want to look for a house.	Unauthorised site	
We live in a house because there aren't enough sites but we still keep moving because of harassment when people find out we are Gypsies.	Bricks and Mortar housing	

**Q60: Final remarks**

## 4. Conclusion

A total of 31 questionnaires were returned. The majority of questionnaires (87.0%) were from the council owned site in Hartford, with further questionnaires from Lynemouth (8.7%), a private site in Berwick (4.3%), unauthorised sites (9.7%) and bricks and mortar housing (16.1%). There have been no responses from the Travelling Showpeople community. Apart from this, there was a good spread of respondents from different cultural backgrounds, with most being Romany Gypsies, English Travellers and English Gypsies.

None of the respondents needed specially adapted accommodation; however, one indicated that they might need it in the future. None needed a sheltered or warden attended accommodation now or in the next 3 years.

Under half of respondents (41.9%) said that they usually travel; the main reason being for family reasons (33.3%) or to take up a job or look for work (18.5%).

Nine out of ten of the respondents who live on a permanent site and who filled in the multiple-choice question did not want to see their current site expanded.

Three respondents were on an unauthorised site. All indicated that they would use a stopping place and two would also use a transit site. Locations given for future stopping and transit sites are Blyth, Cramlington, Ashington and Bedlington.

Five respondents were currently residing in bricks and mortar housing; three said this is because they have no choice. They were willing to move for suitable housing; two respondents would move close to their current area and one would move further away.

Just over half (55.2%) of 29 respondents thought that more permanent sites were needed. Hexham was the most popular choice if first, second or third choices are taken in to account (9), although Blyth is the most popular first choice (6).

Finally, six respondents (19.4%) indicated that in the future members of their household would need their own accommodation. All six respondents were from a permanent site and they stated that in total 16 members would want a pitch on a permanent site as well. Three members from two households would need their own accommodation within 1-3 years, but the rest did not know when the members would need accommodation, depending on when they would get married. The preferred locations given were mixed, with some saying on site with family, others saying that they did not know where the members would want to live and one stating anywhere in the North East.

Finally, 17 respondents gave final remarks. Most of the respondents from the permanent site in Hartford raised site issues, whilst those on unauthorised sites said that they have no place to stay in Northumberland.





## Appendix B

### Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 by the Delivery Areas and the 25 Small Housing Areas.

NB The column entitled "Caravan Nights" is derived as follows: For each instance, the number of caravans involved is multiplied by the number of nights that they were present before leaving or being removed from the unauthorised site concerned. The resulting figures were summed for each of the small housing areas and Delivery Areas to allow the level of the problem (if any) to be compared between areas.

#### *(1) North Northumberland Delivery Area*

Location	Instances	Caravan Nights
<b>Main Towns:</b>		
Alnwick	6	22
Berwick-upon-Tweed	19	407
<b>Service Centres:</b>		
Belford	1	7
Seahouses	0	0
Rothbury	0	0
Wooler	0	0
<b>Rest of North Delivery Area:</b>		
Acklington	1	4
Boulmer	1	6
Warkworth	1	4
Rest of Delivery Area	3	14
<b>TOTAL: North Delivery Area</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>450</b>

**Appendix B continued....**

**Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 by the Delivery Areas and the 25 Small Housing Areas:**

**(2) Central Northumberland Delivery Area:**

Location	Instances	Caravan Nights
<b>Main Towns:</b>		
Anick	2	18
Hexham town	9	122
<b>Hexham</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Morpeth</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Prudhoe</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Service Centres:</b>		
<b>Corbridge</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Prestwick	1	1
Ponteland village	2	4
<b>Ponteland</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Rest of Central Delivery Area:</b>		
Belsay	1	1
Causey Park Bridge	1	28
Horsley	11	224
<b>Rest of Delivery Area</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>TOTAL: Central Delivery Area</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>639</b>

**Appendix B continued....**

**Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 by the Delivery Areas and the 25 Small Housing Areas**

**(3) South East Northumberland Delivery Area:**

Location	Instances	Caravan Nights
<b>Main Towns:</b>		
<b>Amble</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>56</b>
Woodhorn	1	45
Ashington town	13	159
North Seaton	12	355
<b>Ashington</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>519</b>
Cambois	4	32
East Sleekburn	5	23
West Sleekburn	7	396
Bedlington town	5	13
<b>Bedlington</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>464</b>
<b>Blyth</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>641</b>
<b>Cramlington</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>570</b>
<b>Service Centres:</b>		
<b>Guidepost/Stakeford/Choppington</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Newbiggin-by-the-Sea</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Seaton Delaval and locality</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Rest of South-East Delivery Area:</b>		
Cresswell	4	31
Druridge Bay	2	7
Widdrington	1	36
Widdrington Station	2	40
<b>Rest of Delivery Area Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>TOTAL: South East Delivery Area</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>2509</b>

**Appendix B continued....**

**Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 by the Delivery Areas and the 25 Small Housing Areas**

**(4) West Northumberland Delivery Area:**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Instances</b>	<b>Caravan Nights</b>
<b>Main Towns:</b>		
<b>Haltwhistle</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Service Centres:</b>		
<b>Allendale</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Bellingham</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Langley	7	209
Haydon Bridge Village	0	0
<b>Haydon Bridge</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Rest of Delivery Area</b>		
<b>Rest of Delivery Area</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL: West Delivery Area</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>209</b>

## Appendix C

### Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 – seasonal split and average length of stay.

Location	Summer Instances April – Sept.			Winter Instances October – March		
	No	Av length of stay (nights)	Caravan Nights	No	Av length of stay (nights)	Caravan Nights
<b>Main Towns:</b>						
Alnwick	3	1.67	12	3	1	10
Amble	5	2	36	2	10	20
Ashington	16	6.25	416	10	4.9	143
Bedlington	3	1.33	6	2	2.5	7
Berwick - upon - Tweed	16	3.69	389	3	1.33	18
Blyth	31	6.29	471	11	4.18	170
Cramlington	19	4.68	394	14	4.14	176
Haltwhistle	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0
Hexham	9	2.22	122	0	N/A	0
Morpeth	3	2.33	22	1	4	4
Ponteland	2	2	4	0	N/A	0
Prudhoe	11	4.82	182	1	11	33

**Appendix C continued... Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 – seasonal split and average length of stay.**

Location	Summer Instances April – Sept.			Winter Instances October – March		
	No	Av length of stay (nights)	Caravan Nights	No	Av length of stay (nights)	Caravan Nights
<b>Service Centres:</b>						
Allendale	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0
Belford	0	N/A	0	1	7	7
Bellingham	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0
Corbridge	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0
Guidepost / Stakeford / Choppington	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0
Haydon Bridge	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0
Newbiggin-by-the -Sea	0	N/A	0	7	9.14	127
Rothbury	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0
Seahouses	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0
Seaton Delaval /New Hartley/ Seghill /Holywell	0	N/A	0	1	18	18
Wooler	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0

**Appendix C continued... Instances of GRT Occupancy on unauthorised sites between June 2012 and March 2015 – seasonal split and average length of stay.**

Location	Summer Instances April – Sept.			Winter Instances October – March		
	No	Av length of stay (nights)	Caravan Nights	No	Av length of stay (nights)	Caravan Nights
<b>Other places</b>						
Acklington	0	N/A	0	1	1	4
Anick	2	1	18	0	N/A	0
Belsay	1	1	1	0	N/A	0
Boulmer	1	1	6	0	N/A	0
Cambois	4	8	32	0	N/A	0
Causey Park Br.	1	7	28	0	N/A	0
Cresswell	3	3.66	28	1	1	3
Druridge Bay	2	2.5	7	0	N/A	0
East Sleekburn	2	4	8	3	5	15
Horsley	10	2.8	218	1	2	6
Langley	7	1.14	209	0	N/A	0
Prestwick	1	1	1	0	N/A	0
Warkworth	1	2	4	0	N/A	0
West Sleekburn	5	8	329	2	8.5	67
Widdrington	1	12	36	0	N/A	0
Widdrington Station	2	6.5	40	0	N/A	0



**APPENDIX D**  
**Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople**  
**Stakeholder Consultation**

**Summary report**

**July 2014**

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## Introduction

The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople (GTTS) stakeholder consultation was designed to capture a range of views on specific themes and issues with the intention of securing a wide range of views and opinions. The survey closed on the 18th of April 2014. This report summarises the main findings from this survey.

## Respondents

The survey received 22 responses, but one of which was blank for all questions, so this will be excluded from this report. Table 1 shows the type of stakeholders who responded. The 'other' category included planning staff and a clerk. The support group respondent further identified themselves as being 'legal'.

Row Labels	Count of Which stakeholder are you:
Education	1
Elected Member	3
Health	1
Housing Staff	4
Other	2
Parish Councillor	6
RSL	3
Support Group	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21</b>

The participants were from a variety of organisations; seven were from Northumberland County Council (NCC), seven from other councils (of which four town/parish councils within Northumberland), three from housing associations and one from Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. Three parish councillors did not indicate which organisation they were from, but two of these were retired.

## Dealings with the GTTS community

Two thirds of the respondents have dealings with the GTTS community; see next page.

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Dealings with GTTS community</b>
Housing Renewal Manager	Barrow Borough Council	Assessing need and considering any requirement for future provision. Dealing with unauthorised encampments
Councillor	West Bedlington Town Council	Gypsy settlement
Councillor	NCC	Health and safety, education
Housing needs analyst	South Tyneside Council	As a strategic housing department we work with our strategic planning department to assess the communities needs and plan for suitable provision
Gypsy Roma Traveller Liaison Officer	NCC	Liaison, welfare assessments, assistance, referrals, negotiation and enforcement
Health Visitor Professional and Management Lead	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Deliver universal health services to families on the settled sites and living in accommodation. Health development reviews, immunisation, needs assessments and interventions as required, signposting to other services
Councillor	NCC	Statutory provision of housing or land to settle/education and protection. Duty of care to prevent discrimination
Anti-Racism Education Worker and Elected Member	Show Racism the Red Card and NCC	Sometimes in workshops I have traveller children in my class. As an elected member I am part of a statutory process in delivering culturally appropriate homes/accommodation for GRT people.
Housing Research Officer	Eden District Council	Visit unauthorised encampments
Senior Manager	NCC	Education support to schools re inclusion Education welfare - liaison re admissions
Senior Planner (Engagement/Neighbourhood Planning)	NCC	The Development Services department has responsibility for the Local Plan, which will need to include a criteria based policy approach on how to deal with applications for new GRT sites, as well as allocating land for any new sites that may be required. As such, the Dept. relies on evidence obtained from up-to-date GTAA's. The Department also determines (or makes recommendations to Committee on) planning applications for new or extended GRT sites. It would also take enforcement action against any sites that were illegally established (under planning law).
Clerk of the Council	Hexham Town Council	Personal relationships
Solicitor	NCC	Enforcement - legal proceedings for unauthorised encampments
Chairman	Longframlington Parish Council	We would be involved in any planning applications or the setting up of unauthorised camps

Nine respondents (43%) invoked legislation or national guidance when dealing with GTTS, which entailed:

National planning policy
CJPOA 1994 (S.77 and 78), National Guidance on managing unauthorised encampments; Part 55 Civil Procedures are considered but seldom used
The Equality Act (2010)
The Equality Act and other legislation
Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, Human Rights Act, Equalities Act, various Housing Acts, Town and Country Planning Act, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Highways Act
Move encampments if in unsuitable locations
Different sections of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as modified by various Acts including the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Localism Act 2012, which give Local Planning Authorities their powers to produce statutory local plans, determine planning applications and take enforcement action. A myriad of accompanying Guidance includes 'Planning policy for traveller sites', March 2012 (Department for Communities and Local Govt.)
Allocations

Almost a third of the respondents were aware of illegal encampments in their area. Most respondents from local authorities said to have a protocol for dealing with these unauthorised encampments. For instance, a respondent from Eden District Council stated that:

*'We have a county wide Gypsy and Traveller Protocol with relevant agencies (e.g. police, Children's Services) which sets out procedures for dealing with unauthorised encampments. Generally we tolerate encampments for short periods.'*

In addition, the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust delivers health assessments and services to unauthorised encampments.

Furthermore, almost a third of respondents had information about GTTS living in settled accommodation in Northumberland. The question on which information they had was interpreted in different ways, leading to the following answers:

I have worked with a number of Gypsies and Travellers living in settled accommodation. Information is known to NCC (GRT Liaison Officer council)
I know that there are some steeled travellers living in the Cambois area. (Anti-Racism Education Worker and Elected Member)
I have no specific information regarding the GRT community, however there is a Traveller site at Hartford Bridge in my Ward and this has been in place for many years and cohesion with the settled community is at a great level' (Councillor)
At Hartford and Lynemouth and Berwick Show people calendar known from previous service which provided peripatetic education support (Senior Manager council)
Flygrazing - potentially caused / contributed to by lack of grazing facilities near settled accommodation (such as in Newbiggin-by-the-sea) (Solicitor council)

## Issues

Eight respondents (40%) were aware of issues in relation to the GTTS community, which were described as:

*'High numbers of unauthorised encampments, associated issues including; trespass, fly-tipping, no VRMs on vehicles, damage to property, several different identities in paperwork, unsolicited calls to residential areas for work. There can also be a lack of toleration by the local population to unauthorised encampments arriving nearby to them. This can lead to community tension and occasional heated arguments between the two parties but thankfully rarely more than that. Appleby Horse Fair is nearby to our borders and as a result we see a huge spike in unauthorised encampments in that period of time.'* (GRT Liaison Officer council)

*'The issue of transit sites and stopover sites, a solution to which is difficult due to local opposition encountered when proposals are put forward, the seasonality of movement along different routes and the many unknowns and variations that obfuscate a full understanding of what the exact solution should be.'* (Senior Planner)

*'Stopping before and after Appelby Fair while travelling to and from. Often using highway laybys, Tyne Green Park etc.'* (Clerk of the council)

*'Permanent sites are poorly managed - for example, residents have connected DIY wiring etc. which is a potential danger to all residents. Flygrazing on land near permanent'* (Solicitor council)

*'Poorly looked after horses'* (Retired)

*'Unauthorised encampments occurred on our main industrial estate last year, which were too large to tolerate. We worked with the police to move this on. Eden hosts the Appleby Horse Fair which has many issues.'* (Housing Research Officer council)

*'Health needs assessment completed and available on request'* (Health Visitor Professional and Management Lead)

*'I know that there is a lot of prejudice toward GRT people. Not only within the communities but also amongst some elected members. The level of misinformation and prejudice seems to cloud the conversations about appropriate accommodation and land provision. There seems to be a complete disregard for different cultural practices, that those who are not GRT are 'normal', and that those who are part of the GRT*

*community are 'weird' or to be cautious of. It astounds me that there is still a feeling that GRT people are an inconvenience and some people joke that they would not want them in their ward, which deeply saddens me. Something really needs to be done about the level of racism toward these people before we are truly able to provide culturally appropriate sites or accommodation.'* (Anti-Racism Education Worker and Elected Member)

## **Provision of sites and pitches**

To the question 'In your experience, to what extent does the current provision meet the need of residents?', answers of respondents within Northumberland were:

*'The general consensus of those residents I have spoken to was that they did not want more provision but instead wanted that what was present to be refurbished/improved.'*

*'Not very well - lack of appropriate transit sites leads to unauthorised encampments which impact upon residents.'*

*'Settled community access, GP midwifery and Health Visitor services. Need bespoke resources as not always culturally suitable'*

The same question, but regarding the wider GRT community, within Northumberland:

*'A number of families passing through the area have stated it would be good to have set aside fields or stopping places to accommodate them whilst travelling through Northumberland. At present we have one emergency/transit pitch available to meet such needs but this is sometimes given to friends and family of the site and so unavailable.'*

*'Not very well - lack of transit sites, insufficient permanent pitches, inadequate grazing for horses'*

Lastly, the same question, but for local authorities:

*'Provision in Northumberland that caters for those travelling through the area (e.g. nomadic or transient) would potentially benefit other local authorities. I imagine our settled sites do not massively affect other local authorities either positively or negatively'.*

*'This too raises many unknowns. The Local Planning Authority has a Duty to Cooperate with these neighbouring authorities on all matters of planning strategy. Understanding cross boundary movements and accommodation needs of the GRT communities is an essential element of the Duty. Failure to comply with the Duty can render a Local Plan document "unsound", leading to long delays in the adoption of a Local Plan, which would be undesirable in terms of future sustainable*

*development in the County. Discussions have taken place with Newcastle, N. Tyneside, Co Durham, Cumbria etc. but it will be essential, as part of the GTAA process, to scrutinise the GTAA of these other areas to ensure that there are no gaps, double-counting etc.'*

## Locations favoured by GTTS

A third of the respondents identified main travelling routes, which were travel to Appleby Fair, from Newcastle to Cumbria and between Scotland and other parts of (Northern) England.

A third of respondents identified locations favoured by the community, which were as follows:

<b>Blyth</b>
Nearby to work opportunities, shops and infrastructure. Friends and family live there
<b>Cramlington - industrial sites and riverside or Ashington area</b>
Family groups, sometimes come to have baby at Wansbeck hospital or access healthcare
<b>Hexham layby near Farmway</b>
On route to Appleby fair
<b>Industrial estates (in Northumberland)</b>
Not so visible
<b>It is generally known that most movement is north-to south on the coastal strip (in Northumberland)</b>
We would defer to Housing colleagues for greater detail on this
<b>Tyne Green, Hexham</b>
No NCC action is taken so annually repeated
<b>Parkwell lay by A695</b>
No NCC action is taken so annually repeated
<b>Bedlington</b>
Local Authority GRT Site located here. Friends and family often visit. Also settled Gypsy and Traveller families in the north of Bedlington
<b>Berwick</b>
Nearby to work opportunities, shops and infrastructure. Often used by those living in Scotland as a short term encampment destination or for passing through. Large private caravan site is available nearby and a number of settled Gypsy and Traveller families nearby
<b>Any layby (in Northumberland)</b>
Travelling to Scotland or Durham or Cumbria and just passing through

In addition, 5 respondents (24%) provided reasons as to what attracts GTTS to an area or keeps them there:

Events i.e. Town Moor Newcastle
Friends and family nearby, work opportunities, born/brought up in the area, for holidays, a stopping place on a longer journey (e.g. to the south or to Scotland). A lot of open spaces

(2000 sq. miles of land), a key route to many destinations
No NCC action is taken to remove them
The (Hexham) layby (near Farmway) is on route to the fair and has traditionally been a stopping off place
We have one permanent residential site (in Eden). The rest of our G&T community are transit, as we are on main links north to south and east to west.

Seasonal fluctuations were also identified by seven respondents (37%). The Appleby Fair in June was given as a reason by four respondents, whilst one respondent named fairs in general, and three identified the summer months as a period of high demand (one explained that the summer tends to attract more showspeople). Two respondents said that unauthorised encampments were particularly a problem (during the Appleby Fair and the summer in general).

## New site criteria and constraints

Asked what the respondents thought the main criteria should be to determine the location of sites, the following answers were given:

Access to healthcare services including hospitals. Midwifery will move to the new Cramlington hospital 2015
Accessibility - by roads and also to local facilities and amenities. Any provision needs to be integrated into the settled community as best as possible
Amenities, impact on local communities
As in the draft policy (Policy 11) from the Core Strategy Preferred Options document, Feb.2013: i.e. avoiding Green Belt and areas at high risk of flooding; aiming to be well related to local services and facilities, including jobs, shops, schools, medical facilities and public transport; allowing for a good degree of screening/landscape buffering so as not to cause unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the surrounding area, including unacceptable impact to ecological and heritage assets and designations; allowing for safe vehicular access from the highway, adequate parking provision and turning areas as well as space for storage of equipment; avoiding disturbance or loss of amenity to any neighbouring residential properties or settled communities; allowing for adequate infrastructure and on-site facilities, including water supply, sewerage, waste removal / recycling, work areas and play areas.
Communication with all parties
Easy access outside of residential areas
In the case of Hexham to make sure the stay is short and does not become permanent
Location Impact on environment
Location - proximity and access to local services, transport, schools, places of work. Impact on existing communities nearby. Is the area physically safe? (e.g. pollution, post-industrial wasteland etc.). Access to reliable utility services (gas, electric, water etc.)
Low visibility. Access to amenities within walking distance. Who owns the land and who will manage a site? Is demand from Romany or Irish Travellers who are not catered for on existing sites?
Preserving the habitat and the countryside and the character of the area considered
Proximity to housing estates, connection of services (electricity and water), suitable grazing land nearby (appropriately serviced and fenced off)



Safety of children, accessibility, inclusiveness of community
That the GRT community want it there and that the local community are prepared in a sensitive way. Perhaps doing consultations, public meetings and making sure they are aware of the GRT communities needs/rights
There should be utilities and facilities for the site
Whether or not it is somewhere that the GRT community would actually want to live

None of the respondents could name a particular site that would be suitable for the GTTS community.

However, many constraints for further provision were also mentioned, mostly regarding land availability and prejudice/local opposition. All given comments were:

Availability of suitable land
Availability of NCC land, reluctance of third party landowners to enter into licence agreements with NCC to make their land available to G,T&TS (concerned that there may be difficulties in removing G,T&TS and as to the condition of the land when the G,T&TS leave the site)
Further provisions are likely to face problems as many of those involved even at the Authority have prejudicial views, and belief in the stereotypes and misinformation is rife and must be tackled to allow community cohesion to exist.
Land availability and planning constraints
Land availability. Public hostility
Local opposition, the Green Belt, landscape, other environmental issues, inadequate facilities and/or infrastructure
Potential difficulties with funding, planning permission, local reactions (NIMBY syndrome)
That prejudice affects site allocation
The site should be authorised and subject to consultation with neighbouring residents.
Very few as the traveling community seems to be able to obtain planning consent where other proposals would be refused

## Displacing GTTS

Two respondents (11%) claimed to regularly displace GTTS from their area, who were both from Northumberland County Council.

Eleven respondents answered the question if they were aware of any trend of GTTS moving to neighbouring authorities. Nine answered no, whilst one respondent from NCC answered 'Durham and Lancaster' and one from Eden District Council 'further afield than neighbouring authorities, however the most commonly used of those nearby would be Durham'.

Furthermore, the majority of respondents (71%) did not know if the same GTTS are being shifted back from one authority to another, or if they were long-distance Travellers passing through on traditional routes. Two respondents (10%) answered they were the same Travellers (from NCC and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust). Four respondents (19%) answered they were long-distance Travellers (from Barrow Borough Council, NCC, Eden District Council and Hexham Town Council).

## Future situation

When asked how a respondent saw the situation with regard to GTTS in the next five years, answers were:

*'It is becoming worse' (Solicitor council)*

*'I do not have an overview. It depends on their migration / movement trends. We are dependent on the survey and consultations revealing more facts. Hopefully the improvements in relationships between these communities and the authorities will continue.'* (Senior Planner)

*'Expansion on alternative accommodation provision for nomadic/transient families and groups should numbers continue to be high.'* (GRT Liaison Officer council)

*'I feel it will get worse where if there are no sites for them they will cause confrontation with the authorities.'* (Councillor)

*'I think hostility will continue to grow unless we are willing to train people and work on their attitudes. I think the staff at the council is working really hard to get this right and I applaud them for that.'* (Elected Member)

*'I think that NCC should ensure that the correct information is made available to the settled and traveller communities to stop mistrust and hatred developing and that NCC must be diligent in its approach to handling GRT people especially when evicting them from sites. Also the council must include the GRT community in any discussions over proposed sites.'* (Councillor)

*'Identifying sites is almost impossible leading to the usual problems of unauthorised encampments in unsuitable locations. We have fairly good relations with travellers when they are here but this requires explaining to the public that we need to have a level of tolerance which does not always go down well!'* (Housing Research Officer)

*'Little change' (Housing Renewal Manager)*

*'Travelling show people and Gypsies are not the same as travellers. Most travellers are simply keeping away from any rules!'* (Clerk council)

*'I would like to see some progress to improve health outcomes' (Health Visitor Professional and Management Lead)*

## Cross-border working

Respondents from the following organisations indicated to be interested in cross-border working and gave their contact details:

<b>Eden District Council</b>
Housing Research Officer
Lee Walker: 01768 212489
<b>Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</b>
Health Visitor Professional and Management Lead
Janet Leigh: 01670 529278
<b>Show Racism the Red Card and NCC</b>
Anti-Racism Education Worker and Elected Member
Laura Pidcock: 075 90028206
<b>South Tyneside Council</b>
Housing Needs Analyst
Anna Milner: anna.milner@southtyneside.gov.uk

Lastly, the NCC GRT liaison officer and an NCC councillor indicated they would be interested to work with other councils.

## Conclusion

The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople stakeholder survey received 21 replies. Respondents were from local authorities, housing associations and a healthcare organisation. Two thirds have dealings with the GTTS community and they highlighted a wide variety of issues.

Most respondents recognised patterns of movement, in particular around the Appleby Fair and in the summer months. At these times, the number of unauthorised encampments increases, causing issues in the local area.

Respondents gave a variety of criteria for new sites, which included the availability of amenities on and off site and the impact on the local community and the environment. Many indicated that land availability and the opposition and prejudice of local people are major constraints in the development of new sites. Some of the respondents predicted that shortage of sites and prejudice of others will worsen in the future.

**APPENDIX E**  
**Accommodation Survey of Gypsies and**  
**Travellers in Northumberland**  
**(carried out between**  
**April and October 2014)**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**(used for face-to-face interviews)**

## **Accommodation Survey for Gypsies and Travellers**

Northumberland County Council is carrying out a survey to see what sort of accommodation, and how much, Gypsies and Travellers need locally (now and in the future).

We want to be sure that we understand what you need and want so would would like to talk to a number of people on sites, on land by the roadside, and in houses, to get a range of views.

**This survey is open from Friday, 25 April 2014 until Friday, 24 October 2014**

For further information contact Diane Munro (Housing Management) telephone 01670 623075 or email [diane.munro@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:diane.munro@northumberland.gov.uk)

# About your household

**1.** How would you describe your ethnic or cultural background? (tick only one)

- ☐ Roma
- ☐ Romany Gypsy
- ☐ English Gypsy
- ☐ Irish Gypsy
- ☐ Scottish Gypsy
- ☐ Welsh Gypsy
- ☐ English Traveller
- ☐ Irish Traveller
- ☐ Scottish Traveller
- ☐ Welsh Traveller
- ☐ Circus Traveller
- ☐ Fairground Traveller or Travelling Showperson
- ☐ New Traveller
- ☐ Other

please give details:

**2.** How many people are there in your household, including yourself?

	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Aged 0 - 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aged 6 - 10	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aged 11 - 15	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aged 16 - 24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aged 25 - 34	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aged 35 - 44	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aged 45 to 54	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aged 55 - 64	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aged 65 or over	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**3.** Do you usually travel?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (go to Q6)

**4.** At what time of the year do you usually travel, and for how long?

	Lasts less than 1 month	Lasts 1 to 3 months	Lasts 3 - 6 months	Lasts over 6 months
Spring (20 Mar - 20 Jun)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Summer (21 Jun - 22 Sep)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Autumn (23 Sep - 21 Dec)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter (22 Dec - 19 Mar)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**5. What are your reasons for travelling? (tick all that apply)**

☐ *Take up a job, or looking for work*  
☐ *Fairs or Shows*  
☐ *Family reasons*  
☐ *Passing through*  
☐ *Harassment at previous site*  
☐ *Other*

*please give details:*

**6. Do you, or any member of your household, have a disability that affects normal day-to-day activities?**

☐ *Yes*  
☐ *No*  
☐ *Prefer not to say*

**7. If yes, does this disability make it necessary to have specially adapted accommodation?**

☐ *Yes*  
☐ *No*

*If yes, please give details*

**8. Do you, or any member of your household, require sheltered or warden attended accommodation?**

	Yes	No	Don't know
At this time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In the next 3 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Where you live

### 9. How long have you lived in your current location?

- ☐ *Less than 1 year*  
☐ *Between 1 and 5 years*  
☐ *Over 5 years*

### 10. Where did you live before? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ *Northumberland*  
☐ *North Tyneside*  
☐ *South Tyneside*  
☐ *Newcastle-upon-Tyne*  
☐ *Gateshead*  
☐ *Durham*  
☐ *Cumbria*  
☐ *Scottish Borders*  
☐ *Elsewhere in the UK*  
☐ *Abroad*

### 11. What type of accommodation have you lived in previously, where do you live now, and where do you intend to live (or would like to live) in the future?

	<i>Previously</i>	<i>Currently</i>	<i>Future</i>
Council owned and serviced site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-owned site with planning permission	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-owned site without planning permission	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Privately owned serviced site (eg caravan/mobile home park)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unauthorised encampment (eg land owned by others, roadside)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bricks and mortar (or settled) housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Current accommodation

12.

What type of accommodation do you currently live in?

- ☐ *Permanent site*
- ☐ *Unauthorised site*
- ☐ *Bricks and Mortar housing*

## Permanent sites

**13. What is the location of this site?**

- ☐ *Ashington (Showman's Guild)*
- ☐ *Berwick*
- ☐ *Bomarsund (Showman's Guild)*
- ☐ *Hartford*
- ☐ *Lynemouth*
- ☐ *Other*

*please give details*

**14. What type of accommodation are you living in on your pitch?**

Trailer (how many)?

Chalet (how many)?

**15. Is your pitch always occupied?**

- ☐ *Yes, always*
- ☐ *No, not always*
- ☐ *Only at certain times of the year*

**16. Thinking about the size of your living space please tell us if**

	<i>Too big</i>	<i>Too small</i>	<i>About right</i>
The permanent site overall is	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My pitch is	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The amenity block is	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please give any other comments*

17.	Storage of equipment	
	Yes	No
Is the storage provision easily accessible and secure?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the storage provision sufficient in size for your equipment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If no, please give details		
<div></div>		

18.	Do you want this existing site expanded?
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

19.	How convenient is the location of this site for amenities?		
	Convenient	Neither good nor bad	Not convenient
Shops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health Centre / GP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hospital	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Post Office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Primary School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Secondary School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
please give any other comments			
<div></div>			

**20.** What do you like most about this site?

**21.** What do you like least about this site?

**22.** Overall how satisfied are you with this site?

- ☐ *Very satisfied*
- ☐ *Satisfied*
- ☐ *Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied*
- ☐ *Dissatisfied*
- ☐ *Very dissatisfied*

*please give details*

## Unauthorised sites

**23.** What is the location of this site?

**24.** How many trailers do you currently have on this site?

**25.** Do you have a permanent location elsewhere?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No (go to Q27)

**26.** If yes, where is that permanent location?

**27.** What is the purpose of your visit to Northumberland?

- ☐ Take up a job, looking for work  
☐ Fairs or Shows  
☐ Visiting (family, friends, holiday)  
☐ Passing through  
☐ Harassment at previous site  
☐ Other

*please give details*

**28.** Would you use one of the following:

Yes

No

Unsure

Stopping place (short-term  
with few amenities)

☐☐☐

Transit site (longer-term with  
many amenities)

☐☐☐

**29.** What are your reasons for not wanting to use (or being unsure about using) these types of site?

Stopping place (short-term with few amenities)

Transit site (longer-term with many amenities)

**30.** If yes, where should future transit sites or stopping places be provided? (please list up to 3 places or areas)

Stopping place (short-term with few amenities)

Transit site (longer-term with many amenities)

**31.** How often would you use a transit site or stopping place, and when?

*1 or 2 times per year      3 to 4 times per year      5 times or more per year*

Spring (20 Mar - 20 Jun)

☐☐☐

Summer (21 Jun - 22 Sep)

☐☐☐

Autumn (23 Sep - 21 Dec)

☐☐☐

Winter (22 Dec - 19 Mar)

☐☐☐

**32.** How long would you like to stay on a transit site or stopping place in the area?

- ☐ Up to 2 weeks
- ☐ Up to 4 weeks
- ☐ Up to 8 weeks
- ☐ Up to 3 months
- ☐ As long as possible
- ☐ Unsure

33.
What facilities do you think should be provided on any future transit sites or stopping places?

	Transit site	Stopping place
Hard standing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Water supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mains electricity	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Shared baths / showers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Individual baths / showers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Shared WCs/ portaloos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refuse collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Warden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*please give details*

34.
How many trailers should future transit sites or stopping places have?

☐ Up to 5 trailers  
☐ 6 - 10 trailers  
☐ 11 - 15 trailers  
☐ 16 - 20 trailers  
☐ Over 20 trailers  
☐ No preference

35.
Who should provide these future transit or stopping places?

☐ Northumberland County Council  
☐ Gypsies and Travellers to rent to others  
☐ Gypsies and Travellers for themselves and their families  
☐ No preference  
☐ Other

*please give details*

**36. Who should manage any future transit sites or stopping places?**

- ☐ *A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council)*
- ☐ *No preference*
- ☐ *Someone else*

*please give details*



# Bricks and Mortar housing

**37.** What is the postcode of your house?

**38.** Is your present house

- ☐ Owner occupied (paying a mortgage)
- ☐ Owner occupied (no mortgage)
- ☐ Private rented
- ☐ Council rented
- ☐ Housing Association rented
- ☐ Shared ownership (part rent / part buy)
- ☐ Tied to your employment (living rent free)
- ☐ Staying with a relative or friend

**39.** How many bedrooms does your house have?

- ☐ Bedsit
- ☐ 1 bedroom
- ☐ 2 bedrooms
- ☐ 3 bedrooms
- ☐ 4 bedrooms
- ☐ 5 or more bedrooms

**40.** Do you live in bricks and mortar housing by choice?

- ☐ Yes (go to Q42)
- ☐ No

**41.** If suitable site accommodation was available would you be happy to move there?

- ☐ Yes, as long as it is close to this area
- ☐ Yes, even if it is further away in another part of Northumberland or outside of the county

**42.** In your opinion is your present accommodation adequate for your needs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (go to Q44)

**43.** If yes, what do you like about living in a house, and this house in particular?

- ☐ *Easy to maintain or make improvements*
- ☐ *Good facilities*
- ☐ *Close to amenities (like shops, schools)*
- ☐ *Right amount of space*
- ☐ *No harassment*
- ☐ *Like being settled in one place*

*please give any other comments*

**44.** If no, what do you not like about living in a house, and this house in particular?

- ☐ *Needs improvements or repairs*
- ☐ *Inadequate facilities*
- ☐ *Too far from amenities (like shops, schools)*
- ☐ *Too large*
- ☐ *Too small*
- ☐ *Suffering harassment*
- ☐ *Don't like being in one place permanently*

*please give any other comments*

## Future permanent sites

**45.** Are more permanent sites needed?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (go to next section "Future accommodation for household members")

**46.** If yes, what facilities do you think should be provided on any future permanent sites?

- ☐ Hard standing
- ☐ Water supply
- ☐ Mains electricity
- ☐ Shared WCs / portaloos
- ☐ Shared baths / showers
- ☐ Individual baths / showers
- ☐ Refuse collection
- ☐ Warden
- ☐ Other

*please give details*

**47.** Where should future additional permanent sites be provided? (please select your top 3 choices in and around the places listed below)

Allendale  
Alnwick  
Amble  
Ashington (Showmen's Guild permanent site at Ashington)  
Bedlington (currently there is a permanent site at Hartford)  
Belford  
Bellingham  
Berwick (currently there is a permanent site at Berwick)  
Blyth  
Corbridge  
Cramlington  
Guidepost / Stakeford / Choppington (Showmen's Guild permanent site at Bomarsund)  
Haltwhistle  
Haydon Bridge  
Hexham  
Morpeth  
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea (currently there is a permanent site at Lynemouth)  
Ponteland  
Prudhoe  
Rothbury  
Seahouses  
Seaton Delaval / New Hartley / Seghill / Holywell / Seaton Sluice  
Wooler

1st choice	
2nd choice	
3rd choice	

**48.** How many pitches should future permanent sites have?

☐ Up to 5 pitches  
☐ 6 - 10 pitches  
☐ 11 - 15 pitches  
☐ 16 - 20 pitches  
☐ Over 20 pitches  
☐ Unsure

**49.**

**Who should provide these future additional sites?**

- ☐ *Local Councils*
- ☐ *Gypsies and Travellers to rent to others*
- ☐ *Gypsies and Travellers for themselves and their families*
- ☐ *No preference*
- ☐ *Other*

*please give details*

**50.**

**Who should manage any future permanent sites?**

- ☐ *A Gypsy or Traveller (paid by Northumberland County Council)*
- ☐ *No preference*
- ☐ *Someone else*

*please give details*

**51.**

**Please give us any other comments regarding future permanent sites**

## Future accommodation for household members

**52.** Are there any members of your household likely to want their own accommodation in the future?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No (go to next section "Anything else?")  
☐ Unsure (go to next section "Anything else?")

**53.** If yes, when are they likely to want to move?

	<i>Within 12 months</i>	<i>In 1 - 3 years' time</i>	<i>In 4 - 5 years' time</i>
Person 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*please give more information if needed*

**54.** If yes, what sort of accommodation are they likely to want?

	<i>Pitch on a permanent site</i>	<i>Access to Transit Sites or Stopping Places</i>	<i>Bricks and Mortar housing</i>
Person 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*please give more information if needed*

**55. Are any of these people currently on a waiting list?**

- ☐ Yes (see options below)  
☐ No (go to Q57)

Homefinder list - go to Q55  
Site list - go to Q56

**56. Homefinder - how long have they been on the waiting list?**

	<i>Up to12 months</i>	<i>1 - 3 years</i>	<i>4 - 5 years</i>	<i>Over 5 years</i>
Person 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*please give any further information if needed*

**57. Site list - how long have they been on the waiting list?**

	<i>Up to12 months</i>	<i>1 - 3 years</i>	<i>4 - 5 years</i>	<i>Over 5 years</i>
Person 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*please give any further information if needed*

**58. If they want a house then how many bedrooms would they need?**

- ☐ Bedsit  
☐ 1 bedroom  
☐ 2 bedrooms  
☐ 3 bedrooms  
☐ 4 bedrooms  
☐ 5 or more bedrooms  
☐ No, they would not want a house

**59.**

**What area would they prefer to live in? (please select your top 3 choices in and around the places listed below)**

**Allendale**

**Alnwick**

**Amble**

**Ashington (Showmen's Guild permanent site at Ashington)**

**Bedlington (includes permanent site at Hartford)**

**Belford**

**Bellingham**

**Berwick (includes permanent site at Berwick)**

**Blyth**

**Corbridge**

**Cramlington**

**Guidepost / Stakeford / Choppington (Showmen's Guild permanent site at Bomarsund)**

**Haltwhistle**

**Haydon Bridge**

**Hexham**

**Morpeth**

**Newbiggin-by-the-Sea (includes permanent site at Lynemouth)**

**Ponteland**

**Prudhoe**

**Rothbury**

**Seahouses**

**Seaton Delaval / New Hartley / Seghill / Holywell / Seaton Sluice**

**Wooler**

1st choice

2nd choice

3rd choice



# Finally

**60.** Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

**61.** Would you like the Council to contact you with the results of this research?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

**62.** If yes, tell us how best to contact you (such as an email or postal address)

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.  
Your views are important to us and they will help us to further improve  
our services to you.**

**APPENDIX F (1) Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - original iteration of Assessment - base date 2014**

Element of supply and need			Delivery Area				Northumberland total
			North	Central	South-East	West	
Current residential supply							
1	Socially rented permanent		0	0	33	0	33
2	Socially rented transit		0	0	0	0	0
3	Private authorised		18	0	0	0	18
4	Total authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches		18	0	33	0	51
5	Total Travelling Showpeople		0	0	22	0	22
Permanent residential pitch need (2014/15-2018/19)							
6	End of temporary planning permission		0	0	0	0	0
7	New household formation	Permanent sites	+4	0	+6	0	+17
		Others	+1		+6		
8	Resulting from unauthorised developments		0	0	0	0	0
9	Net movements to site from housing, (assuming some availability)		0	0	+5	0	+5
10	Closure of sites		0	0	0	0	0
11	Resulting from unauthorised encampments		0	0	+3	0	+3
12	Need (2014/15-2018/19)		+5	0	+20	0	+25
Additional supply of permanent residential pitches (2014/15-2018/19)							
13	Sites vacant to be reused		0	0	0	0	0
14	Pitches with permission but not yet developed		0	0	5	0	5
15	New sites planned		0	0	0	0	0
16	Newly vacated pitches		5	0	10	0	15
17	Supply (2014/15-2018/19)		5	0	15	0	20

**APPENDIX F (1) Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - original iteration of Assessment - base date 2014 cont'd....**

Element of supply and need		Delivery Area				Northum-berland total
		North	Central	South-East	West	
REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2014/15-2018/19)						
18	Requirement for extra permanent residential pitches (2014/15-2018/19)	0	0	5	0	5
REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2019/20-2030/31)						
19	Requirement for extra permanent residential pitches (2019/20-2030/31)	2	0	9	0	11
REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2014/15-2030/31)						
20	Total Requirement for extra permanent residential pitches (2014/15-2030/31)	2	0	14	0	16

**APPENDIX F (2): Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - original iteration of Assessment - base date 2014**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Current residential supply</b>		
<b>1</b>	Socially rented permanent	This is the total number of permanent pitches on the two socially rented sites (both in SE Northumberland Delivery Area), as at 2014
<b>2</b>	Socially rented transit	This is the single transit pitch on the socially rented site at Hartford (in SE Northumberland Delivery Area)), as at 2014
<b>3</b>	Private authorised	This is the 18 pitch privately owned and run site at Berwick), as at 2014
<b>4</b>	Total authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches), as at 2014	The total of 1, 1A and 2.
<b>5</b>	Total Travelling Showpeople plots), as at 2014	This is the yard at Bomarsund.

**Appendix F (2) continued on next page.....**

**APPENDIX F (2): Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - original iteration of Assessment - base date 2014 cont'd...**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Permanent residential pitch need (2014/15-2018/19)</b>		
<b>6</b>	End of temporary permission	There were no temporary permissions and none was due to expire), as at 2014
<b>7</b>	New household formation	<p>National guidance on GTAA's 2007 suggested an annual household formation among this group of the population of 3%. Subsequent research carried out for Central Bedfordshire Council (November 2013), entitled "<i>Household Formation Rates for Gypsies and Travellers - Technical Note</i>" looked at past research and the 2011 Census to conclude that:</p> <p><i>"In practice the evidence supports using formation rates of between 1.5% and 2.5% per annum depending upon the relative youthfulness of the local area population. A figure of 3% net growth per annum would be exceptional and would require clear justification and statistical support before being used. In areas where an on-site survey indicates that there are few children in the population a lower figure may be used."</i></p> <p>The "2012-based Household Projections: England, 2012-2037" projected a 5-year household formation rate in England and Wales for the population as a whole of 5%, (or slightly below 1% per annum). If the mid-point of the Central Bedfordshire suggested range is taken – i.e. 2%, the 5-year household formation rate for GTTS households would be 10.4%.</p> <p>The most recent estimate of the true figure for GTTS households in Northumberland was around 160, (although it is not entirely clear how households may relate to families in this case). Therefore an assumption of 160 households is taken as a baseline for 2014.</p> <p>Applying a 2% household growth rate, this would mean the formation of 17 new households over the first five years of the period being examined.</p> <p>Cont'd....</p>

**APPENDIX F (2): Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - original iteration of Assessment - base date 2014 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Permanent residential pitch need (2014/15-2018/19) cont'd....</b>		
<b>7</b>	New household formation continued....	<p>Turning to the questionnaire survey results, these showed that six out of 31 respondents (19.4%) indicated that they had members of their household likely to want their own accommodation in the future, with a further two unsure (6.5%). All of these were from permanent sites. From this, it may be surmised that around 20% of families on the permanent sites may see new households forming over a five year period.</p> <p>This would equate to 10 new households. The survey also contains evidence, from the very small sample of households in bricks and mortar households of a desire by some to acquire mobile accommodation, in line with their traditional lifestyle.</p> <p>Therefore it would be appropriate to add (to the figure of 10) a small figure for household formation among such households. It also has to be noted that little or no information on household formation has been obtained regarding those on unauthorised sites.</p> <p>Overall therefore, it is considered that the figure of 17 (obtained by applying assumptions from national (and Central Bedfordshire) documents, would represent a reasonable assumption on household formation.</p> <p>It is appropriate to allocate the basic figure of 10 proportionately between the permanent sites – giving 6 in the SE and 4 in the north. It is appropriate to allocate the additional figure (seven) to where bricks and mortar households are thought to be concentrated and where unauthorised sites present a year round problem, rather than a seasonal one.</p> <p>Therefore six are allotted to SE Northumberland and one to north Northumberland.</p> <p>Cont'd....</p>

**APPENDIX F (2): Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - original iteration of Assessment - base date 2014 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Permanent residential pitch need (2014/15-2018/19) cont'd....</b>		
<b>7</b>	New household formation continued....	NB The assumptions on household formation above incorporate assumptions on mortality which are low and the survey has clearly shown that only 10% of people in the responders' households were over the age of 55. (The national Census (2011) showed that around 13% of the population identifying themselves as GRT were over 55 – less than half the proportion in the general population – and that the age profile of this group is generally young compared with England and Wales as a whole). Given the relatively large average household size, (demonstrating occupation by extended family units), it is considered unlikely households would be entirely removed through mortality. It is of note that around 40% of Gypsy and Irish Traveller households identified in the 2011 Census contained more than one family.
<b>8</b>	Resulting from unauthorised developments	There were no unauthorised developments in the study area.
<b>9</b>	Net movements to site from housing, (assuming some availability)	No respondents expressed a wish to move into bricks and mortar accommodation from caravans. Indeed the survey indicated that people in Bricks and Mortar, while satisfied with living in a house, may also like to move to a site if it were available. The tabulation therefore includes an assumption that there would be a propensity for one household per year to move out of bricks and mortar into a pitch on a permanent site. Again this figure attributed to SE Northumberland.
<b>10</b>	Closure of sites	Any site closures would increase the need for new pitches but none is planned.

**APPENDIX F (2): Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - original iteration of Assessment - base date 2014 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES																		
<b>Permanent residential pitch need (2014/15-2018/19) cont'd....</b>																				
<b>11</b>	Permanent pitch requirement generated from unauthorised encampments	<p>The unauthorised encampments analysis uses statistics from a 34 month period. The table below takes the total number of winter or summer caravan nights recorded in each delivery area (Appendix C) and multiplies these by 12/34 to represent the number of unauthorised caravan nights in each delivery area in each half of the year. This gives a total of 1357. If this figure were to be taken as indicative of an additional number of pitches required, when multiplied by the number of nights in a year, the suggestion would be that three to four additional pitches would help resolve the issue.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>Winter</th><th>Summer</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>North</td><td>14</td><td>145</td></tr> <tr> <td>Central</td><td>15</td><td>210</td></tr> <tr> <td>South-East</td><td>263</td><td>636</td></tr> <tr> <td>West</td><td>0</td><td>74</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td><b>292</b></td><td><b>1065</b></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>However, it has to be accepted that there is a good deal of clustering of these instances, some could be catered for by transit sites or emergency stopping places. Therefore the above figures are subdivided as follows:</p> <p>One third of the unauthorised users throughout the year, assumed to be in need of transit, rather than permanent pitch accommodation;</p> <p>A further third – but only in summer – assumed to be in need of stopover accommodation only.</p> <p>As shown in the table below, this suggests that providing 1 to 2 permanent pitches could make a significant impact on the number of occurrences of unauthorised encampments. It is clear that these should be located in or close to south-east Northumberland.</p> <p>As the issue of unauthorised encampments appeared to be growing at the time of the survey, it is assumed that creating an additional two permanent pitches would address the immediate problem but that, as the five year period progresses, an additional pitch would be required to resolve the recurring issue.</p>		Winter	Summer	North	14	145	Central	15	210	South-East	263	636	West	0	74		<b>292</b>	<b>1065</b>
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**APPENDIX F (2): Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - original iteration of Assessment - base date 2014 cont'd....**

		FACTOR	NOTES																								
<b>Permanent residential pitch need (2014/15-2018/19) cont'd....</b>																											
<b>11</b>	Unauthorised encampments continued....	<p>Hence an additional pitch is added to make a total of three in SE Northumberland over the five year period. As suggested by the other two columns in the table below, and the assumptions made, transit and emergency stopover accommodation could also help, although the figures of one to two pitches for each of these could be an underestimate due to the concentration of these types of movement in particular months.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>Permanent</th><th>Transit</th><th>Stopover</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>North</b></td><td><math>12 \times [(39 \times 0.67) + 411 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.16</math></td><td><math>12 \times [(39 \times 0.33) + 411 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.15</math></td><td><math>12 \times [411 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.13</math></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Central</b></td><td><math>12 \times [(43 \times 0.67) + 596 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.22</math></td><td><math>12 \times [(43 \times 0.33) + 596 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.21</math></td><td><math>12 \times [596 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.19</math></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>South-East</b></td><td><math>12 \times [(746 \times 0.67) + 1803 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 1.05</math></td><td><math>12 \times [(746 \times 0.33) + 1803 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.81</math></td><td><math>12 \times [1803 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.57</math></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td><td><math>12 \times [209 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.07</math></td><td><math>12 \times [209 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.07</math></td><td><math>12 \times [209 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.07</math></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL (rounded to nearest 0.5)</b></td><td><b>1.50</b></td><td><b>1.24</b></td><td><b>0.96</b></td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Permanent	Transit	Stopover	<b>North</b>	$12 \times [(39 \times 0.67) + 411 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.16$	$12 \times [(39 \times 0.33) + 411 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.15$	$12 \times [411 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.13$	<b>Central</b>	$12 \times [(43 \times 0.67) + 596 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.22$	$12 \times [(43 \times 0.33) + 596 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.21$	$12 \times [596 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.19$	<b>South-East</b>	$12 \times [(746 \times 0.67) + 1803 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 1.05$	$12 \times [(746 \times 0.33) + 1803 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.81$	$12 \times [1803 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.57$	<b>West</b>	$12 \times [209 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.07$	$12 \times [209 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.07$	$12 \times [209 \times 0.33] / [365 \times 34] = 0.07$	<b>TOTAL (rounded to nearest 0.5)</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>0.96</b>
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<b>12</b>	<b>Need (2014/15 - 2018/19)</b>	<b>Sum of rows 6, 7, 8, 9,10 and 11</b>																									

**APPENDIX F (2): Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - original iteration of Assessment - base date 2014 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>Additional supply of permanent residential pitches (2014/15-2018/19)</b>		
<b>13</b>	Sites vacant to be reused	There are no closed sites due to reopen.
<b>14</b>	Pitches with permission but not yet developed	As of 2014 base date, five additional pitches had permission at Hartford Bridge permanent site (now delivered).
<b>15</b>	New sites planned	No entirely new sites are planned.
<b>16</b>	Newly vacated pitches	This is the number of vacancies which are likely to become available over the period. Turnover on the two socially rented sites has slowed since the previous GTAA and is estimated at one per annum per site on average (still the case in 2018). An assumption is made that the same turnover rate will apply at the private site at Berwick, although no evidence has been obtained on this. Overall, this gives a turnover of vacancies of 15 over this five-year period
<b>17</b>	<b>Supply (2014/15-2018/19)</b>	<b>Sum of rows 13, 14, 15 and 16</b>
<b>REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2014/15-2018/19)</b>		
<b>18</b>	<b>Requirement for extra residential pitches (2014/15-2018/19)</b>	<b>This is the total requirement calculated by taking row 17 from row 12</b>

**APPENDIX F (2): Notes on Calculation of the Need for Residential Pitches in Northumberland - original iteration of Assessment - base date 2014 cont'd....**

	FACTOR	NOTES
<b>REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2019/20-2030/31)</b>		
<b>19</b>	Requirement for extra residential pitches (2019/20-2030/31)	<p><b><u>NEED</u></b></p> <p>Assumed number of households for 2019 is 160 (the 2014/15 estimate plus 25 – i.e. 185).</p> <p>From this, household formation can be calculated for the remaining 12 years of the Plan period through to 2031, applying the 2% growth rate arrived at above.</p> <p>This gives an estimated household formation of an additional <b>50</b> households. While it would be hoped that the initial five years of the plan period could address the issue of unauthorised use, it has been acknowledged that the problem appears to be increasing. Based on the survey of GTTS, there is also likely to be a continued desire from bricks and mortar households to move to pitches on sites.</p> <p>Therefore it is reasonable to increase the figure from 50 to <b>56</b>, as the need for the twelve years between 2020/21 and 2030/31.</p> <p><b><u>SUPPLY</u></b></p> <p>Given that there will hopefully be an increased baseline of pitch numbers at the start of that twelve year period and after a further few years, a turnover of 3.5 per annum is assumed for 2019/20-2024/25 and 4 per annum 2025/26-2030/31. This would give a supply of around 45 over the twelve year period.</p> <p><b><u>CONCLUSION</u></b></p> <p>Therefore it is concluded, from a current perspective, that an additional 11 pitches would be required over the final twelve years of the Plan period, split in the same proportion between North and SE Delivery areas, as for the first five years.</p>
<b>REQUIREMENT permanent residential pitches (2014/15-2030/31)</b>		
<b>20</b>	Total Requirement for permanent residential pitches (2014/15-2030/31)	Sum of rows 18 and 19





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