

Wiltshire

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment



Final Report
December 2014



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1. Introduction

The Survey

- 1.1 Opinion Research Services (ORS) were commissioned by Wiltshire Council in March 2014 to undertake a Gypsy, Traveller (and Travelling Showpeople) Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).
- 1.2 The study seeks to provide an evidence base to enable the Council to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 2004, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2012.
- 1.3 The primary objective of the 2014 GTAA is to provide a robust assessment of need and deficiencies in Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in Wiltshire, upon which a review of Core Policy 47 in the Wiltshire Core Strategy can be based. This GTAA should be seen as a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid the implementation of development plan policies and the provision of traveller pitches and plots for the 15 year period to 2029. As well as identifying current and future permanent accommodation needs, it will also seek to identify whether or not the Council needs to plan for the provision of transit sites or emergency stopping places.
- 1.4 We would note at the outset that the study covers the needs of Gypsies (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Romany Gypsies), Irish Travellers, New (Age) Travellers, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople, but for ease of reference we have referred to the study as a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment.
- 1.5 This document is the main report and summarises the key findings of the study, in particular where they relate to existing policies, or have implications for future policy decisions across the study area.

Definitions

- 1.6 For the purposes of the planning system, Gypsies and Travellers means:

Persons of nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or circus people travelling together as such. (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), March 2012).
- 1.7 Within the main definition of Gypsies and Travellers, there are a number of main cultural groups which include:
 - » Romany Gypsies
 - » Irish Travellers
 - » New (Age) Travellers.

- 1.8 Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised in law as distinct ethnic groups and are legally protected from discrimination under the Equalities Act 2010.
- 1.9 Alongside Gypsies and Travellers, a further group to be considered is Travelling Showpeople. They are defined as:

Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their family's or dependant's more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above. (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, CLG, March 2012).

Legislation and Guidance for Gypsies and Travellers

- 1.10 Decision-making for policy concerning Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sits within a complex legislative and national policy framework and this study must be viewed in the context of this legislation and guidance. For example, the following pieces of legislation and guidance are relevant when constructing policies relating to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople:
- » Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), 2012
 - » National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2012
 - » National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG), 2012
 - » Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments Guidance, 2007
 - » The Human Rights Act 1998 (when making decisions and welfare assessments)
 - » The Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as subsequently amended)
 - » Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, 1994
 - » Anti-social Behaviour Act, 2003 (both as victims and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour)
 - » Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004
 - » Housing Act, 2004 (which requires local housing authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Showpeople as part of their housing needs assessments. This study complies with this element of government guidance)
 - » Housing Act, 1996 (in respect of homelessness).
- 1.11 To focus on Gypsies and Travellers, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is particularly important with regard to the issue of planning for Gypsy and Traveller site provision. This repealed the duty of Local Authorities from the Caravans Act 1968 to provide appropriate accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. However, at this time Circular 1/94 did support maintaining existing sites and stated that appropriate future site provision should be considered.
- 1.12 For site provision, the previous Labour Government guidance focused on increasing site provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and encouraged Local Authorities to have a more inclusive approach to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within their Housing Needs Assessment. The Housing Act 2004 Section 225 requires Local Authorities to identify the need for Gypsy

and Traveller sites, alongside the need for other types of housing, when conducting Housing Needs Surveys. Therefore, all Local Authorities were required to undertake accommodation assessments for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople either as a separate study such as this one, or as part of their main Housing Needs Assessment.

- ^{1.13} Local Authorities were encouraged rather than compelled to provide new Gypsy and Traveller sites by central Government. Circular 1/06 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites', released by the CLG in January 2006, replaced Circular 1/94 and suggested that the provision of authorised sites should be encouraged so that the number of unauthorised sites would be reduced.
- ^{1.14} The Coalition Government announced that the previous Government's guidance contained in Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites (Circular 01/06) and Planning for Travelling Showpeople (Circular 04/07) was to be repealed, along with the Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) which were used to allocate pitch provision to Local Authorities. The CLG published 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' in March 2012 which set out the Government's planning policy for Traveller sites. It should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework.
- ^{1.15} More recently additional changes have been set out in a letter from the Planning Minister in March 2014. This clarified the Government's position on household formation rates and stated:

'Following the recent consolidation of planning guidance we will be seeking to consult on updating and streamlining the remaining elements of traveller planning practice guidance and also on strengthening traveller planning policy. We will ensure that any new guidance supports councils to accurately assess their needs and would remove ambiguous references to the 3% growth rate figure, which, I stress, is only illustrative. This would, once published, have the effect of cancelling the last Administration's guidance.'

'I can confirm that the annual growth rate figure of 3% does not represent national planning policy. The previous Administration's guidance for local authorities on carrying out Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments under the Housing Act 2004 is unhelpful in that it uses an illustrative example of calculating future accommodation need based on the 3% growth rate figure. The guidance notes that the appropriate rate for individual assessments will depend on the details identified in the local authority's own assessment of need. As such the Government is not endorsing or supporting the 3% growth rate figure, though in some cases we are aware that inspectors have, in considering the level of unmet local need when demonstrating specific traveller appeals, used the 3% growth rate figure in the absence of a local authority's own up-to-date assessment of need.'

- ^{1.16} The Council should also note that CLG launched a consultation on new policy guidance for Gypsies and Travellers in September 2014. This is seeking views on potential changes to policy relating to developments in the Green Belt, unauthorised developments, and areas with large unauthorised sites and encampments. The consultation also seeks views on a potential change to the definition of a Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showperson and if this is introduced it could have a significant impact for local planning authorities. Whilst these proposals are only at a consultation stage at present the Council do need to be aware of potential changes that may be introduced, and the implications of these changes for future planning purposes.

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites

1.17 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, which came into force in March 2012, sets out the direction of Government policy. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites is closely linked to the National Planning Policy Framework, but is to be viewed as a *separate document*. ORS have sought clarification of this relationship from CLG and have been told that Planning Policy for Traveller Sites should be viewed as effectively a separate document with little overlap. In particular, ORS queried paragraphs 47 and 159 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.18 Paragraph 47 states that local authorities should:

Use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area.

1.19 While paragraph 159 states local authorities should:

Prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries.

1.20 We were informed by CLG that there was no requirement to implement these paragraphs in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments because they are not in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. Similarly a Planning Inspector at a hearing in Wokingham has ruled that the requirement to have a buffer for land supply contained in paragraph 47 of the National Planning Policy Framework does not apply to Gypsy and Traveller sites because it is not in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. Therefore, it is clear that Planning Policy for Traveller Sites is best considered largely in isolation from the wider requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.21 Among other objectives, the aims of the policy in respect of Traveller sites are (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites Pages 1-2):

- » Local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning.
- » To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites.
- » To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale.
- » That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development.
- » To promote more private Traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those Travellers who cannot provide their own sites.
- » That plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective.
- » For local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies.
- » To increase the number of Traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply.

- » To reduce tensions between settled and Traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions.
- » To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which Travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.
- » For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.

^{1.22} In practice, the document states that (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites Page 3):

Local planning authorities should set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople, which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of Travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities.

^{1.23} In producing their Local Plan local planning authorities should:

- » Identify and annually update a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets.
- » Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15.
- » Consider production of joint development plans that set targets on a cross-authority basis, to provide more flexibility in identifying sites, particularly if a local planning authority has special or strict planning constraints across its area (local planning authorities have a duty to cooperate on strategic planning issues that cross administrative boundaries).
- » Relate the number of pitches or plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density.
- » Protect local amenity and environment.

^{1.24} A key element to the new policies is a continuation of previous Government policies. Local Authorities now have a duty to ensure a 5 year land supply to meet the identified needs for Traveller sites. However, 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' also notes on Pages 3-4 that:

Where there is no identified need, criteria-based policies should be included to provide a basis for decisions in case applications nevertheless come forward. Criteria-based policies should be fair and should facilitate the traditional and nomadic life of Travellers, while respecting the interests of the settled community.

Tackling Inequalities for Gypsy and Traveller Communities

^{1.25} In April 2012 the Government issued a further document relating to Gypsies and Travellers titled 'Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers' (CLG April 2012).

- ^{1.26} The aforementioned report contains 28 commitments to help improve the circumstances and outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers across a range of areas including:
- » Identifying ways of raising educational aspirations and attainment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.
 - » Identifying ways to improve health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers within the proposed new structures of the NHS.
 - » Encouraging appropriate site provision; building on £60 million Traveller Pitch Funding and New Homes Bonus incentives.
 - » Tackling hate crime against Gypsies and Travellers and improving their interaction with the criminal justice system.
 - » Improving knowledge of how Gypsies and Travellers engage with services that provide a gateway to work opportunities, and working with the financial services industry to improve access to financial products and services.
 - » Sharing good practice in engagement between Gypsies and Travellers and public service providers.

Funding

- ^{1.27} The Coalition Government policies also involved financial incentives for new affordable pitch provision in the form of the New Homes Bonus. For all new pitches on Local Authority or Registered Provider-owned and managed sites, Local Authorities received a New Homes Bonus equivalent to Council Tax (based on the national average for a Band A property), plus an additional £350 per annum for six years. This equated to around £8,000 per pitch.
- ^{1.28} Direct grant funding was also available for Gypsy and Traveller sites. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) took over delivery of the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant programme from CLG in April 2009. Since then they have invested £16.3 million in 26 schemes across the country to provide 88 new or additional pitches and 179 improved pitches. The HCA welcomed bids from Local Authorities, Housing Associations and Traveller community groups working with Registered Providers.
- ^{1.29} The HCA has now confirmed allocations for all of its £60 million of future funding which will support 96 projects around the country for the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller sites and new pitches on existing sites, as well as the improvement of existing pitches. For the HCA 2015-18 Affordable Housing Programme there is no ring-fenced funding, but proposals for Gypsy and Traveller pitches will be considered within the programme. The table below shows the current allocation outside of London.
- ^{1.30} While all HCA funds for Gypsy and Traveller pitches have now been allocated, further funding may become available as a result of slippage over the course of the programme. Local authorities and Registered Providers are advised to continue to work closely with HCA area teams to develop their proposals should any further funding become available as a result of some funded schemes not proceeding.

Figure 1 - HCA Grant Allocations for New Pitches (Source: HCA)

Local Authority	Amount of money	Number of new pitches
East and South East	£6,218,381	91
Midlands	£14,126,576	216
North East, Yorkshire and The Humber	£15,328,694	375
North West	£3,850,763	108
South and South West	£16,713,954	309
Total	£56,238,368	1,099

- ^{1.31} It is accepted that individual local authorities are likely to find it very difficult financially to provide the new sites that are identified in this study and other sources of funding should be considered, for example S106 funding that has been identified to fund the provision of new pitches in other local authorities, working closely with Registered Providers, and encouraging the development or expansion of other private sites or yards.
- ^{1.32} The Council has also informed ORS that they are to become a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging authority. This allows a local authority to use CIL receipts to fund the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. This could apply to infrastructure related to providing for the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. However in the case of CIL the government are very clear that CIL is unlikely to pay for all the infrastructure required to support development and growth, and it is estimated that CIL could account for between 10 and 30 percent of estimated infrastructure costs.
- ^{1.33} Consequently it is very important for the Council to consider CIL as one part of a wider funding package that needs to be brought together and managed in order to facilitate growth. The diversity of funding is recognised in the new CIL guidance.
- ^{1.34} ORS therefore recommends that the Council explore the use of CIL receipts to contribute towards the provision of infrastructure to support meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Wiltshire and considers whether it would appropriate to include the provision of new sites and yards in its Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 This section sets out the methodology we have followed to deliver the outputs for this study. Over the past 10 years ORS has developed a methodology which provides the required outputs from a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment and this has been updated in light of Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, as well as recent changes set out by the Planning Minister in March 2014, with particular reference to new household formation rates (see paragraph 1.15). This is an evolving methodology that has been adaptive to recent changes in planning policy as well as the outcomes of Local Plan Examinations and Planning Appeals that ORS have been involved in. The methodology used by ORS has been challenged on several occasions and at both Examinations and Appeals and whilst Planning Inspectors have ruled against the outcomes of previous GTAA Studies at times, the methodology itself has not been called into question. More recently ORS were approached by the Welsh Government to provide advice to support the development of new Gypsy and Traveller Policy for Wales on the basis of our considerable experience in undertaking GTAA studies across the UK, having completed studies for over 120 local authorities since the PPTS was published in 2012.
- 2.2 The stages below provide a summary of the revised methodology that was used by ORS to complete the new study. More information on each stage is provided in the appropriate sections of this report.

Stage 1: Desk-Based Research

- 2.3 At the outset of the project ORS sought to understand the background to the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in Wiltshire and surrounding areas. This comprised the collation of a range of important secondary data from the following available sources:
- » Census data.
 - » Details of all authorised public and private sites and yards.
 - » Site management records.
 - » Waiting lists.
 - » Biannual Traveller Caravan Counts.
 - » Records of any unauthorised sites and encampments.
 - » Relevant information from planning, housing, education, community safety, environmental health and health services.
 - » Information on planning applications and appeals – including those that have recently been refused and those awaiting determination.
 - » Information on any other current enforcement actions.
 - » Existing GTAAs and other relevant local studies.
 - » Existing policy, guidance and best practice.

- 2.4 This data has been used to inform the stakeholder interviews and fieldwork and has also been analysed in conjunction with the outcomes of the other elements of the study to allow ORS to complete a thorough review of the needs of travelling communities in Wiltshire and surrounding areas.

Stage 2: Stakeholder Engagement

- 2.5 This study included extensive local stakeholder engagement. This involved a series of telephone depth-interviews with Council officers from Planning; Housing; Highways; Public Health; Traveller Support Services; and Enforcement. A selection of Councillors were also interviewed.
- 2.6 In addition interviews were conducted with 2 of the Registered Providers responsible for the provision of housing in the area - Selwood Housing Society and Greensquare Group, and information was provided by email by Aster. In addition ORS conducted telephone interviews with representative groups of the Gypsy and Traveller community, including the Showmen's Guild and the Association of Independent Showmen as part of the stakeholder consultation process.
- 2.7 The stakeholder interviews covered the following key topics:
- » What dealings or relationships people have with Gypsies and Travellers;
 - » Experiences of any particular issues in relation to Gypsies and Travellers;
 - » Awareness of any Gypsy and Traveller sites either with or without planning permission and whether this varies over the course of a year;
 - » Any trends people may be experiencing with regard to Gypsies and Travellers (e.g. increase in privately owned sites or temporary sites);
 - » What attracts Gypsies & Travellers to an area;
 - » Identification of any seasonal fluctuations that may occur;
 - » Awareness of any occurrences of temporary stopping by travellers;
 - » Identifying the relationship between the settled and travelling communities;
 - » Awareness of any travellers currently residing in bricks and mortar accommodation;
 - » Awareness of any cross boundary issues; and
 - » Any other comments on the Gypsy and Traveller community in the study area.

Stage 3: Working Collaboratively with Neighbouring Planning Authorities

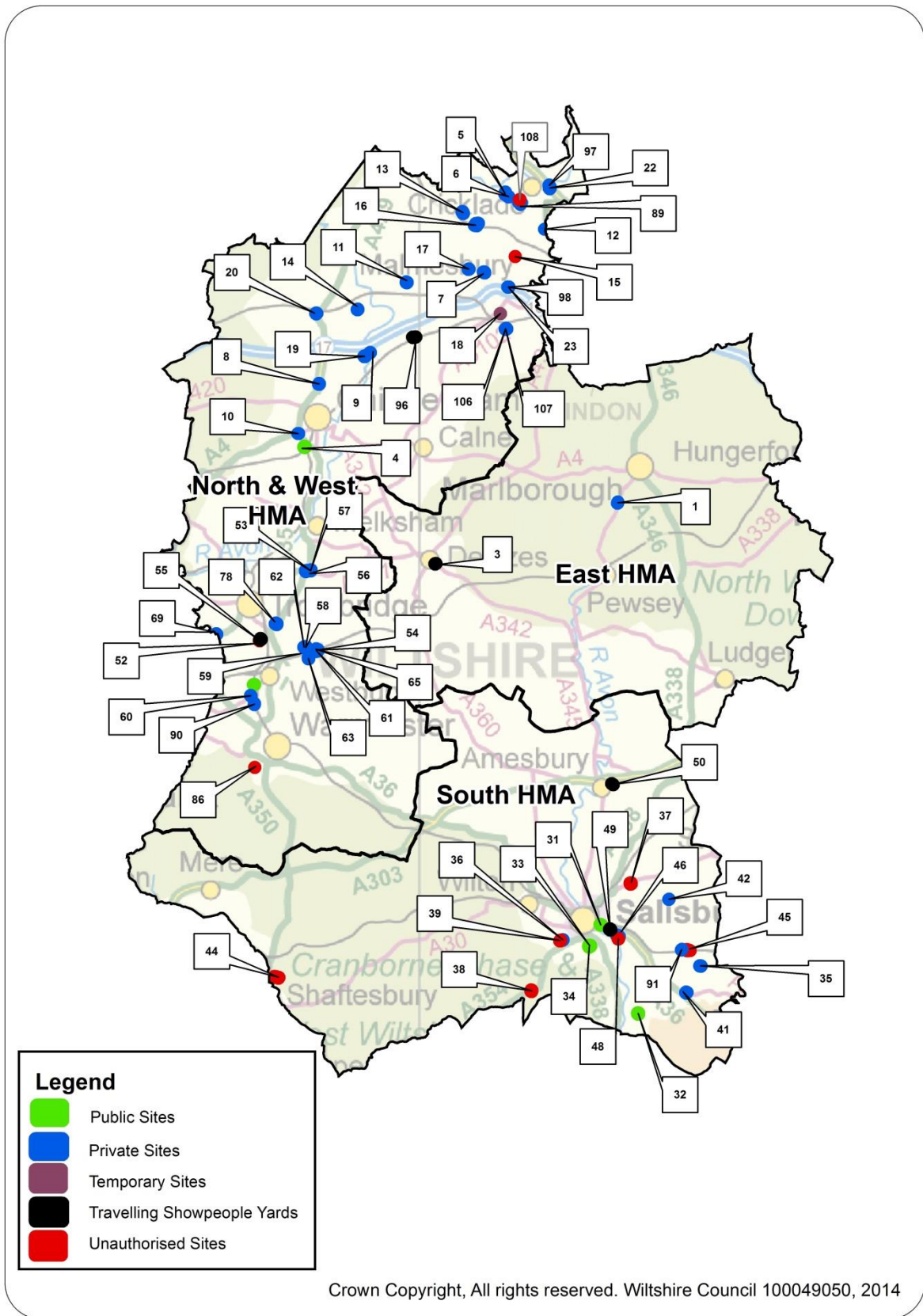
- 2.8 Given the duty to cooperate, interviews were also conducted with officers from neighbouring authorities and any other authorities where we identified a direct link with the needs of the study area – for example wider travelling routes etc. These interviews ensure that the GTAA addresses wider issues that may impact on the outcomes of the study. These stakeholders were identified as part of the desk-based review and in conjunction with officers from the Council. Interviews were conducted with officers from the following neighbouring authorities and covered the same broad issues as the local stakeholder interviews:

- » Basingstoke and Dean;
- » Bath and North East Somerset;
- » Cotswold District Council;
- » Dorset;
- » East Dorset;
- » Gloucestershire;
- » Hampshire;
- » New Forest National Park;
- » South Somerset;
- » Swindon;
- » Test Valley;
- » The Vale of White Horse; and
- » West Berkshire.

Stage 4: Survey of Travelling Communities

- ^{2.9} Through the desk-based research and stakeholder interviews ORS sought to identify all authorised and unauthorised sites and encampments in Wiltshire. This work identified 5 public sites, a total of 38 private sites with permanent planning permission, 4 private sites with temporary planning permission and 11 unauthorised sites – 6 of which are tolerated. 4 private Travelling Showpeople yards with permanent planning permission was also identified, along with one tolerated unauthorised yard. The location of these sites and yards is shown on the map and table overleaf, and full details can be found in **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**.
- ^{2.10} ORS sought to undertake a full demographic study of all pitches as part of our approach to undertaking the GTAA as our experience suggests that a sample based approach very often leads to an under-estimate of current and future needs which can be the subject of challenge at subsequent appeals and examinations. All pitches (including those on current unauthorised sites that were present at the time of the study) were visited by experienced ORS researchers who conducted interviews with residents on as many pitches as possible to determine their current demographic characteristics, whether they have any current or likely future accommodation needs and how these may be addressed, and whether there are any concealed households or doubling-up. The interview was based around an approach that was agreed with the Council. A copy of the Site/Yard Visit Record Form can be found in **Appendix C**. This approach also allowed the interviewers to identify information about the sites and pitches that could help support any future work on possible site expansion by undertaking an overall assessment of each pitch/site.
- ^{2.11} Where it was not possible to undertake an interview, our researchers captured as much information as possible about the site from site management or from residents on adjacent sites or pitches.
- ^{2.12} All of the site fieldwork was undertaken during April and May 2014 and researchers were able to conduct interviews, or obtain information, for households on the majority of the 67 sites and yards that were identified, including interviews with the unauthorised sites and encampments. A small number of sites were granted planning permission after the fieldwork had finished and no interviews were undertaken with these households although ORS did seek to obtain basic demographic information from Officers in the Council and additional information from the Planning Application documentation.

Map 1 – Wiltshire GTAA Indicative Location of Sites and Yards (July 2014)



Site ID	Site Name
Public Sites	
31	Dairyhouse Bridge Gypsy Site
52	Fairhaven Gypsy Site
32	Lode Hill Gypsy Site
33	Oak Tree Field Gypsy Site
4	Thingley Gypsy Site
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
54	Bonnie Farm
5	Bournelake Park
36	Braemar
16	Bridge Paddocks
22	Calcutt Stables
8	Christian Place
91	Dillions Farm
13	Field 7920, Minety
23	Former Glenville Nurseries
19	Frampton Farm
89	Hicks Leaze
60	Land adjacent to Hisomly Farmhouse
56	Land adjacent to West Wiltshire Crematorium
65	Hedgerow Stables
12	Land adjoining Swindon and Cricklade Railway
62	Land at Capps Lane
7	Land at Four Oaks
6	Land at Greenfield View
69	Land at junction Frome Road and Poplar Tree Lane
63	Land at Lower Westbury Road
9	Land at Orchard Paddock
78	Land south of Four Winds
61	Land south west of Bonnie Farm
58	Land west of Penn Farm
53	Lansdowne
57	Littleton Stables
35	Llamedos
11	Melbourne View
10	Pudding Brook
17	Purdys Farm
20	Rose Field Caravan Site
90	Sand Pit Lane
1	Specks Caravan Park
14	The Paddock
98	The Paddocks
97	The Stables
41	Trickey's Paddock

Site ID	Site Name
Sites with Temporary Planning Permission	
46	79 Southampton Road
42	Badgers Rest
55	Land opposite 6 Hawkridge Road
18	The Caravan
Unauthorised Sites	
108	Adjacent to 46 Chelworth Road
38	Blandford Road
45	Dean Road
91	Dillions Farm
86	Ernies Yard
44	Hart Hill
48	Hillbilly Acre (formerly Avonview)
15	Land adjacent to 27 Restrop Road
39	Little Acre
11	Melbourne View
37	Viney Ridge
Travelling Showpeople Yards	
3	Land adjacent to Nursteed Park
49	Southampton Road
50	Porton Road
59	Land opposite The Laurels
96	The Old Station Yard
Transit Site	
34	Odstock

Stage 5: Bricks and Mortar Households

- 2.13 In our experience many Planning Inspectors and Appellants question the accuracy of GTAA assessments in relation to those Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation who may wish to move on to a site. ORS feel that the only practical approach is to go to **disproportionate** lengths to identify as many households in bricks and mortar who may want to take part in an interview to determine their future accommodation needs, including a wish to move to a permanent pitch in the study area.
- 2.14 Contacts in bricks and mortar were sought through a wide range of sources including speaking with people living on existing sites to identify any friends or family living in bricks and mortar who may wish to move to a site, intelligence from the Council and other local stakeholders. In addition contacts were sought during the stakeholder interviews with Registered Housing Providers. Adverts were also placed on the Friends, Families and Travellers Community Website and in the World's Fair publication.¹
- 2.15 Officers and Registered Providers were also asked to provide information regarding Gypsies, Travellers or Travelling Showpeople who may be living in bricks and mortar accommodation and who may wish to move into the Wiltshire area. A letter from ORS was given to the local authority to pass to any other contacts that they were aware of to request them to contact ORS independently to be interviewed.
- 2.16 Through our approach we endeavoured to do everything within our means to publicise that a local study was being undertaken in order to give all households living in bricks and mortar who may wish to move on to a site the opportunity to make their views known to us.
- 2.17 As a rule we do not extrapolate the findings from our fieldwork with Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar households up to the estimated Gypsy and Traveller bricks and mortar population as a whole, and work on the assumption that those wishing to move will make their views known to us based on the wide range of publicity that we put in place.

Stage 6: Current and Future Pitch/Plot Requirements

- 2.18 The methodology used by ORS to calculate future pitch and plot requirements has been developed over the past 10 years and has drawn on lessons from both traditional housing needs assessments and also best and worst practice from Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessments conducted across the country.
- 2.19 To identify need Planning Policy for Traveller Sites requires an assessment for current and future pitch requirements, but does not provide a methodology for this. However, as with any housing assessment, the underlying calculation can be broken down into a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future needs of the population. The key factors in each of these elements are set out below and will be set out in more detail in the relevant chapter of this report:

¹ Copies of these adverts can be found in **Appendix D** of this report

Supply of Pitches

- » Current vacant pitches.
- » Pitches currently with planning consent due to be developed within the study period.
- » Pitches vacated by people moving to housing.
- » Pitches vacated by people moving from the study area.
- » Pitches vacated due to the dissolution of households.

Current Need

^{2.20} Total current need, which is not necessarily the need for additional pitches because they may be able to be addressed by space available in the study area, is made up of the following. It is important to address issues of double counting:

- » Households on unauthorised sites for which planning permission is not expected.
- » Concealed households.
- » Households in B&M wishing to move to sites.
- » Households on waiting lists for public sites.

Future Need

^{2.21} Total future need is the sum of the following three components:

- » Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions.
- » New household formation.
- » In-migration.

^{2.22} Household formation rates are often the subject of challenge at appeals or examinations. While many GTAA studies undertaken by other companies have continued to use a net growth figure of 3.00%, we agree with the position now being taken by CLG (as set out in the Introduction to this report) and firmly believe that any household formation rates should use a **robust local evidence base**, rather than simply relying on precedent. This is set out in more detail later in Chapter 6 of this report.

^{2.23} All of these components of supply and need are presented in easy to understand tables which identify the overall net requirements for current and future accommodation for both Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This has proven to be a robust model for identifying needs. The residential and transit pitch requirements for Gypsies and Travellers are identified separately from those for Travelling Showpeople and for each group the requirements are identified in 5 year periods to 2029.

Stage 7: Conclusions

^{2.24} This stage of the study will draw together the evidence from Stages 1 to 6 to provide an overall summary of the requirements for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Wiltshire.

3. Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites and Population

Background

- 3.1 A Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) focuses upon the number of dwellings required in an area, and how many of these should each be provided by the public and private sector. The central aim of this study was to follow a similar format for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation requirements.
- 3.2 One of the main considerations of this study is the provision of pitches and sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. A pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy and typically contains enough space for one or two caravans, but can vary in size. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers. For Travelling Showpeople, the most common descriptions used are a plot for the space occupied by one household and a yard for a collection of plots which are typically exclusively occupied by Travelling Showpeople. Throughout this study the main focus is upon how many extra pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople are required in Wiltshire.
- 3.3 The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One common form of a Gypsy and Traveller site is the publicly-provided residential site, which is provided by a Local Authority or by a Registered Provider (usually a Housing Association). Pitches on public sites can be obtained through signing up to a site preference list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the licensees (similar to social housing).
- 3.4 The alternative to public residential sites are private residential sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on existing private sites. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing. Generally the majority of Travelling Showpeople yards are privately owned and managed.
- 3.5 The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population also has other forms of sites due to its mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a maximum period of residence which can vary from a few days or weeks to a period of months. An alternative to a transit site is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time someone can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities. Both of these two types of site are designed to accommodate, for a temporary period, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople whilst they travel. A number of authorities also operate an accepted encampments policy where short-term stopovers are tolerated without enforcement action.

- 3.6 Further considerations for the Gypsy and Traveller population are unauthorised developments and encampments. Unauthorised developments occur on land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers or with the approval of the land owner, but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. Unauthorised encampments occur on land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers.

Sites and Yards in Wiltshire

- 3.7 Overall in Wiltshire there are 5 public residential sites; 38 private residential sites with permanent planning permission; and 4 private residential sites with temporary planning permission. There is currently no public transit provision as the Council owned transit site at Odstock has recently closed for refurbishment works to be undertaken. A total of 11 unauthorised sites were identified during the study period, 6 of which are classified by the Council as tolerated. Overall these provide a total of **269 residential pitches** in Wiltshire as of July 2014. 4 private Travelling Showpeople yards with permanent planning permission and 1 tolerated unauthorised yard were also identified.

Figure 2 - Sites in Wiltshire

Category	Sites	Pitches
Private with permanent planning permission	38	148
Private sites with temporary planning permission	4	4
Total Private Sites	42	152
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	5	90
Unauthorised Sites (6 sites and 12 pitches tolerated)	11	27
TOTAL (Excluding Travelling Showpeople yards)	58	269

- 3.8 Also the Council have 3 defined Housing Market Areas (HMA's) and have requested that, where possible, the outcomes of the GTAA are broken down by the HMA's. The map over the page and box below illustrate and describe the 3 HMA's in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Housing Market Areas (HMA's)

South –The South of Wiltshire is the area to the south of Salisbury Plain, largely rural in nature and centred on the principal settlement of Salisbury. There is the market town of Amesbury and a number of local service centres; Downton, Mere, Tisbury and Wilton. The remainder of the area is made up of small villages and open countryside which is sparsely populated. The Southern housing market area (HMA) 'looks' south and has strong relationships with the bordering counties of Dorset, Hampshire and the New Forest.

North and West –The North and West HMA is the area North of Calne and West of Devizes, it includes the community areas of Malmesbury, Chippenham, Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade, Calne, Corsham, Bradford-on-Avon, Melksham, Trowbridge, Westbury and Warminster. The North and West housing market area (HMA) 'looks' West and has strong relationships with the City of Bath and the major regional centre of Bristol. The M4 and links to the M5 have influences on this area.

East –The East of Wiltshire is the area to the East of Devizes and Calne. It is made up of the community areas of Marlborough, Pewsey, Devizes and Tidworth. The area 'looks' East towards the towns of Reading and Newbury and even further away to Oxford and London.



3.9 The chart below shows that the majority (40 of 59) of sites are located in the North and West HMA, with only a very small number (3 of 59) located in the East HMA, and the remainder (16 of 59) in the South HMA.

Figure 3
Sites in Wiltshire



Sites and Yards in North and West HMA

- 3.10 Overall in the North and West HMA there are 2 public residential sites; 32 private residential sites with permanent planning permission; and 2 private residential sites with temporary planning permission. There is currently no public transit provision. A total of 4 unauthorised sites were identified during the study period, 1 of which is classified by the Council as tolerated. These provide a total of **182 residential pitches** in the North and West HMA as of July 2014. 2 private Travelling Showpeople yards with permanent planning permission and no unauthorised yards were also identified.

Figure 4
Sites in North and West HMA

Category	Sites	Pitches
Private with permanent planning permission	32	140
Private sites with temporary planning permission	2	2
Total Private Sites	34	142
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	2	30
Unauthorised Sites (1 pitch tolerated)	4	10
TOTAL (Excluding Travelling Showpeople yard)	40	182

Sites and Yards in East HMA

- 3.11 Overall in the East HMA there are no public residential sites; 1 private residential site with permanent planning permission; and no private residential sites with temporary planning permission. There is currently no public transit provision. No unauthorised sites were identified during the study period. These provide a total of **1 residential pitch** in the East HMA as of July 2014. No private Travelling Showpeople yards with permanent planning permission and 1 tolerated unauthorised yard was also identified.

Figure 5
Sites in East HMA

Category	Sites	Pitches
Private with permanent planning permission	1	1
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Total Private Sites	1	1
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	0	0
Unauthorised Sites (both tolerated)	0	0
TOTAL (Excluding Travelling Showpeople yard)	1	1

Sites and Yards in South HMA

- 3.12 Overall in the South HMA there are 3 public residential sites; 5 private residential sites with permanent planning permission; and 2 private residential sites with temporary planning permission. There is currently no public transit provision as the Council owned transit site at Odstock has recently closed for refurbishment works to be undertaken. A total of 7 unauthorised sites were identified during the study period, 5 of which are classified by the Council as tolerated. These provide a total of **86 residential pitches**

in the South HMA as of July 2014. 2 private Travelling Showpeople yards with permanent planning permission and no unauthorised yards were also identified.

Figure 6
Sites in South HMA

Category	Sites	Pitches
Private with permanent planning permission	5	7
Private sites with temporary planning permission	2	2
Total Private Sites	7	9
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	3	60
Unauthorised Sites (8 pitches tolerated)	7	17
TOTAL (Excluding Travelling Showpeople yard)	17	86

Travelling Community Characteristics

- 3.13 The fieldwork element of the study sought to identify the gender, age and ethnicity of members of the Travelling Community living in Wiltshire. This is broken down where appropriate by the 3 Housing Market Areas – North & West, East and South.
- 3.14 The charts overleaf show the breakdown of ethnicity of household members and show in particular that far higher numbers of English Gypsies and Travellers live in the South Housing Market Area and far more Romany Gypsies and Travellers live in the North and West Housing Market Area.
- 3.15 Households surveyed showed a mixed range of ages across their members, though (as with other studies carried out by ORS elsewhere) a significant proportion of the population were younger and female. However, we would note that it is typical for Gypsy and Traveller studies to record relatively fewer males aged 18-60 years, many of whom travel on a more regular basis, or are in prison². There are also instances where it is apparent to interviewers that there are men present on sites but that they do not want to be recorded as being resident. This is likely to be the case in Wiltshire so the share of adults in the population is almost certainly higher than shown by the household survey.
- 3.16 There were too few respondents in the East Housing Market Area to produce a detailed breakdown by age of resident.

² A report released in March by HM Inspectorate of Prisons revealed that around 5% of prisoners (approximately 4,200) in England and Wales consider themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller.

Figure 7
Ethnicity by Housing Market Area HMA

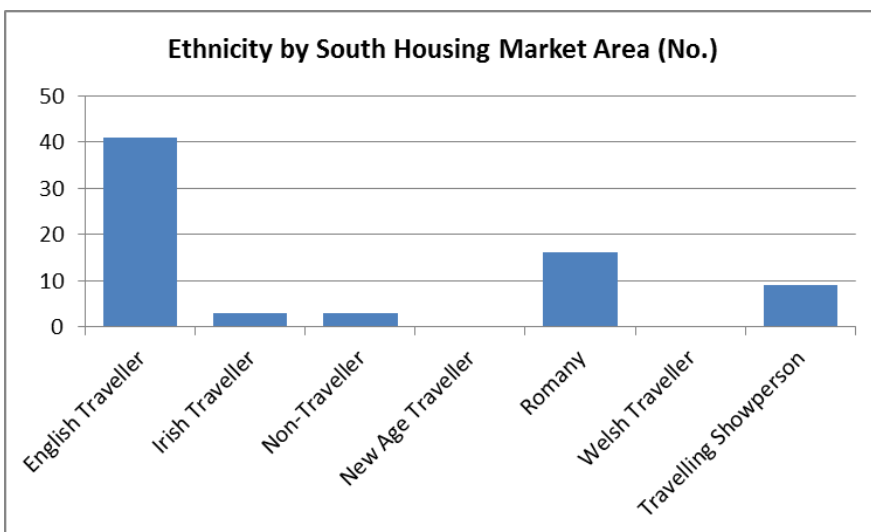
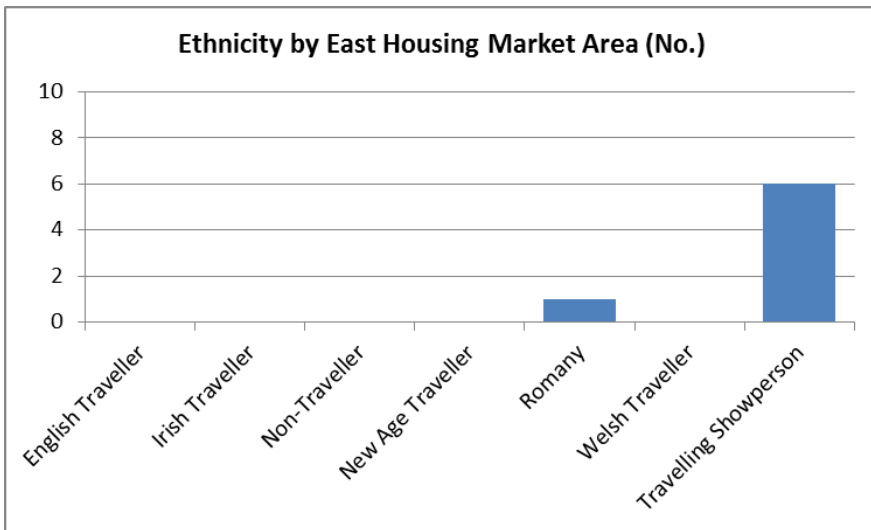
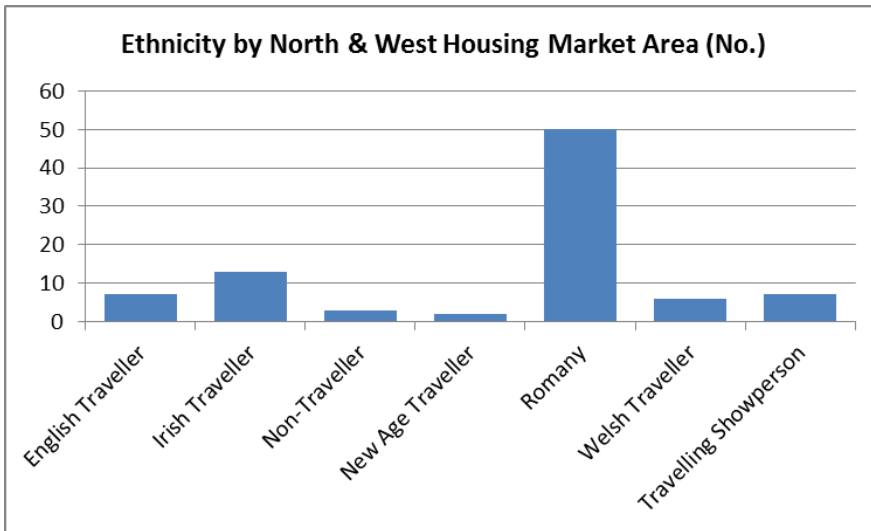
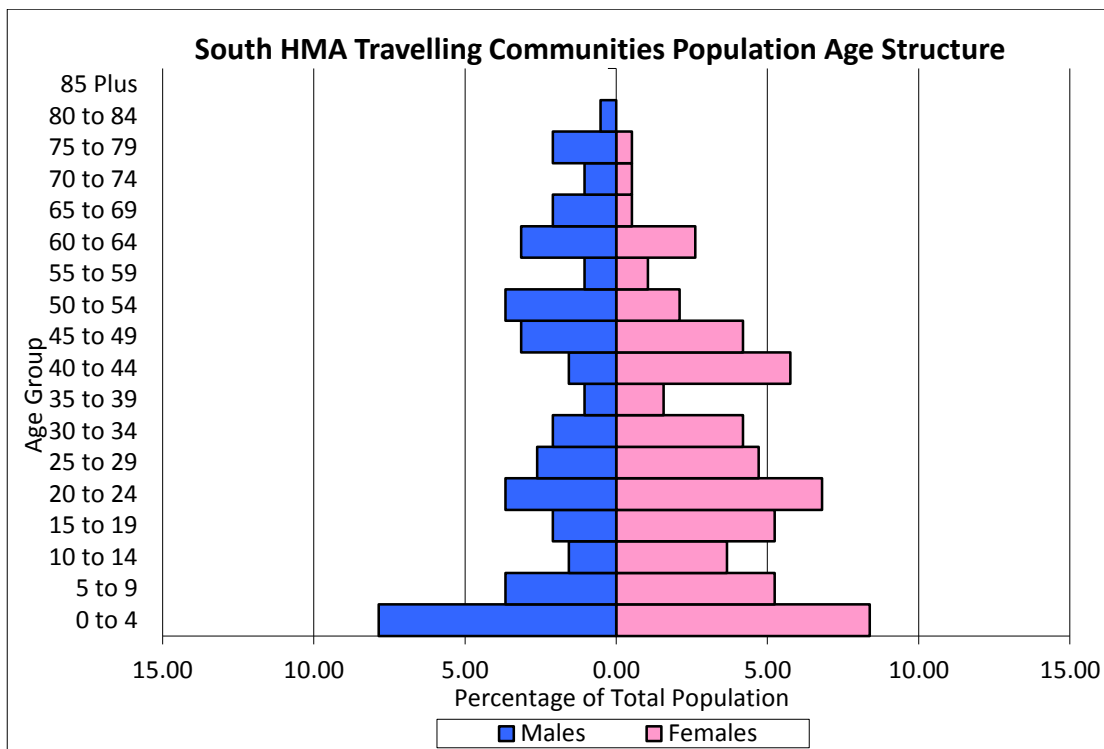
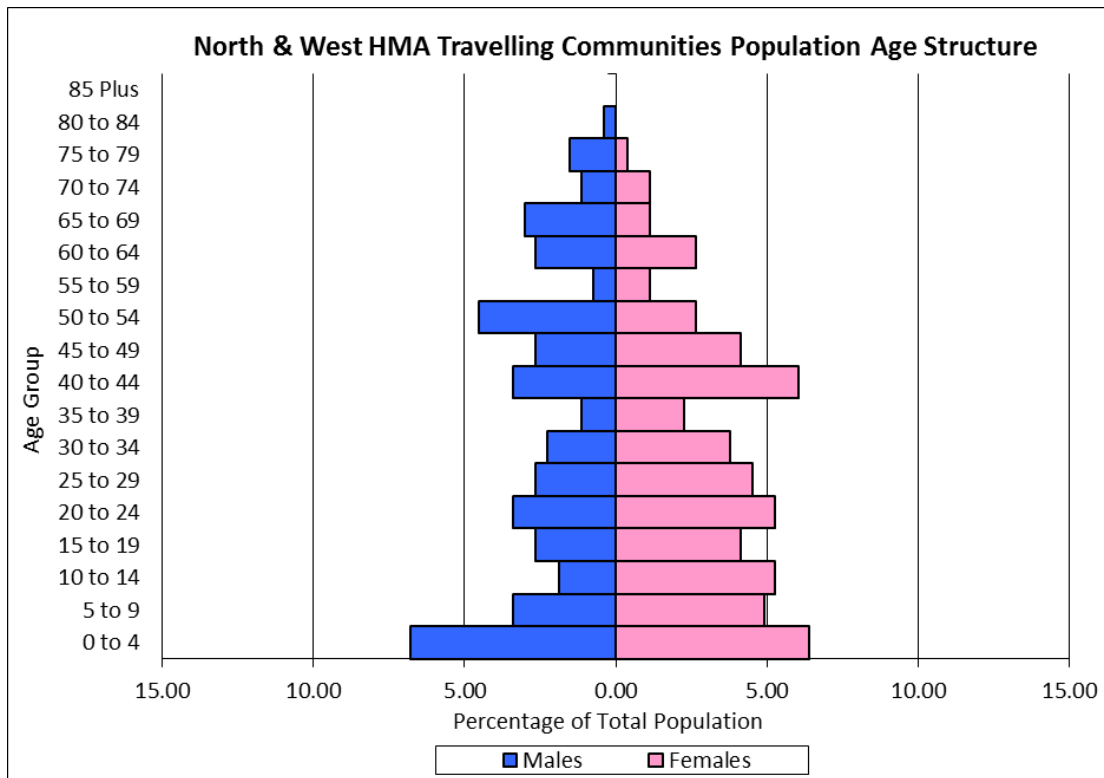


Figure 8
Age by Housing Market Area HMA



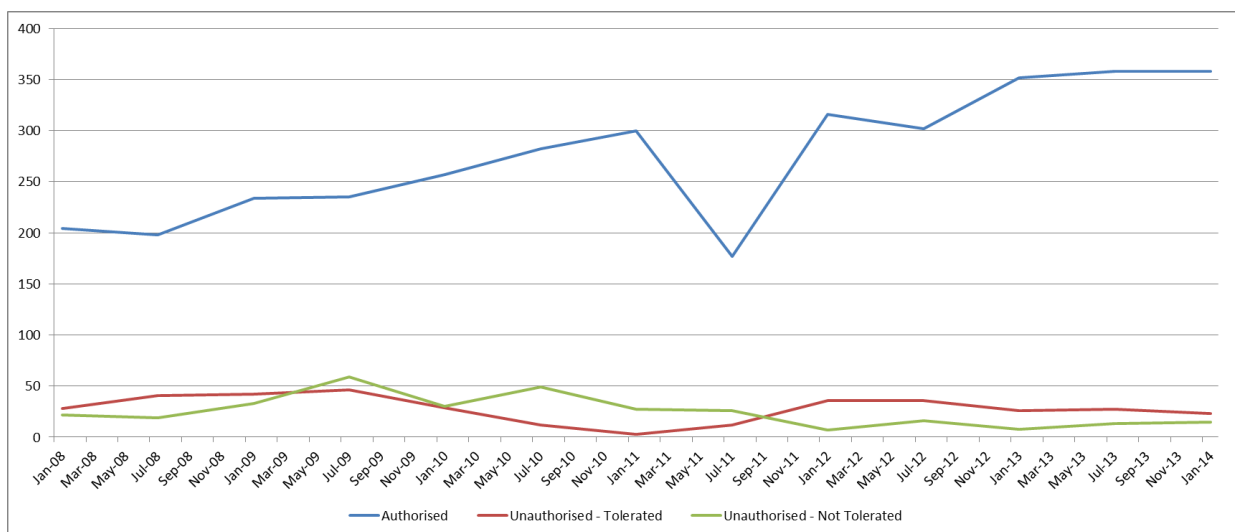
Caravan Count

^{3.17} One source of information available on the Gypsy and Traveller population derives from the bi-annual Traveller Caravan Count which is conducted by each Local Authority in England on a specific date in January

and July of each year, and reported to CLG. This is a statistical count of the number of *caravans* on both authorised and unauthorised sites across England. With effect from July 2013, CLG has renamed the ‘Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count’ as the ‘Traveller Caravan Count.’ This does not reflect any changes to the coverage of the count but brings its title into line with the terminology used for planning policy purposes. It is also consistent with the fact that its scope is wider than caravans lived in by ethnic gypsies and travellers, but also includes non-traditional travellers.

- 3.18 As this count is of caravans and not households, it makes it more difficult to interpret for a study such as this because it does not count pitches or resident households. It must also be remembered that the count is merely a ‘snapshot in time’ conducted by the Local Authority on a specific day, and that any unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates will not be recorded. Likewise any caravans that are away from authorised sites on the day of the count will not be included.
- 3.19 The chart below shows the number of unauthorised and authorised caravans in Wiltshire at the time of the counts in January and July each year between 2008 to 2014. Please note the figures are provided for illustrative purposes to demonstrate the relative size of the populations and are not used in any modelling of future pitch requirements. A count has also been completed of Travelling Showpeople caravans each January since 2011 (this group are usually travelling in July). This identified 42 authorised caravans and 13 unauthorised caravans in 2014; 38 authorised caravans and 13 unauthorised caravans in 2013; and 38 authorised caravans and 13 unauthorised caravans in 2012.
- 3.20 It can be seen from the chart that the number of unauthorised and not tolerated caravans has gradually decreased significantly from a peak of 59 in July 2009 to a recorded figure of 15 in January 2014. Conversely the number of authorised caravans has steadily increased over the same period of time. It should be noted that the count in July 2011 did not include private caravans on sites with permanent planning permission.

Figure 9
Gypsy Caravan Count for Wiltshire: Jan 2008 – Jan 2014. (Source: CLG Traveller Caravan Count)



4. Stakeholder Engagement

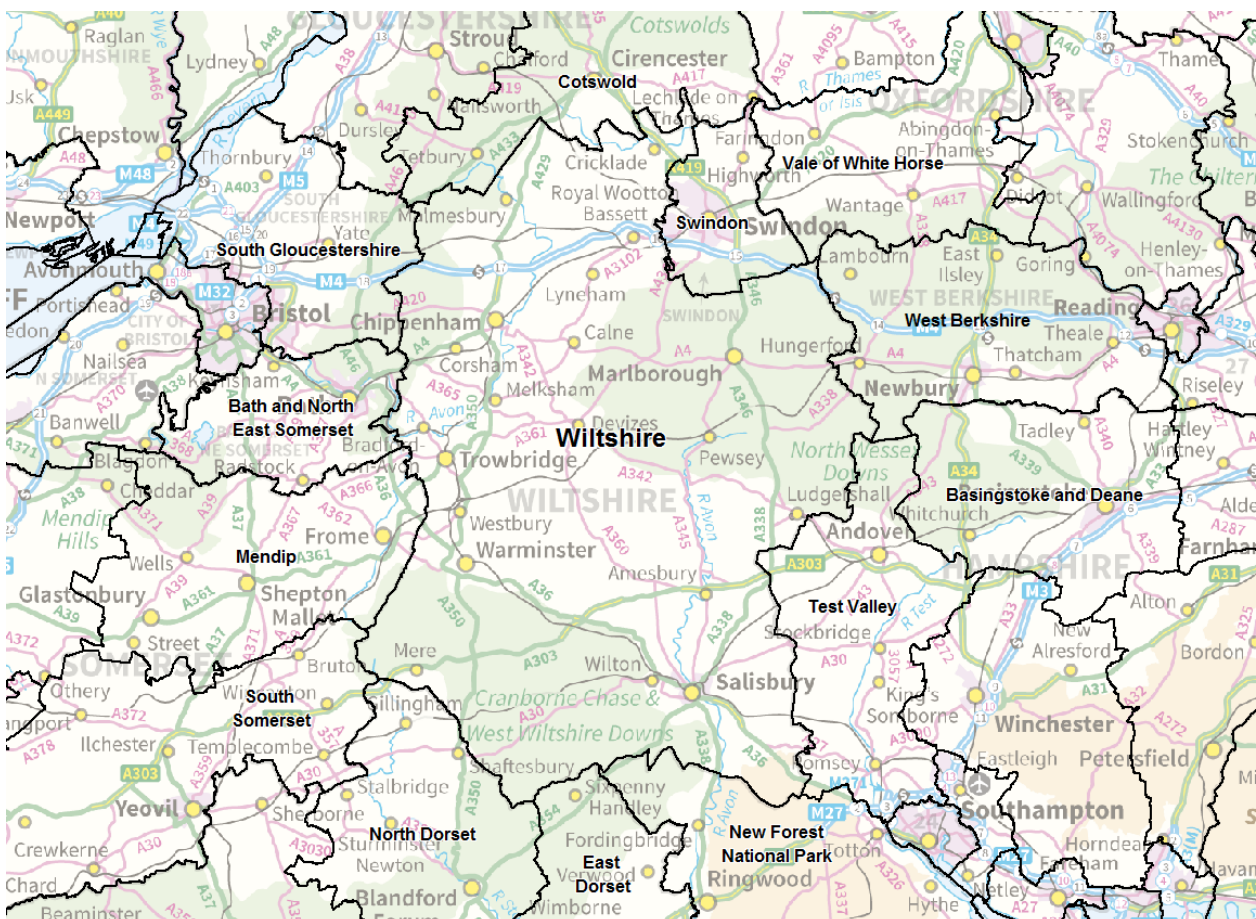
Introduction

- 4.1 To be consistent with the guidance set out in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites and the methodology used in other GTAA studies that ORS have completed, a process of stakeholder engagement was undertaken. The purpose of this was to provide thoughtful consideration of the issues by a wide range of key stakeholders using in-depth telephone interviews. Qualitative research of this type attempts to gain a deeper understanding of the issues and is used to supplement the information gathered during visits to Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites in Wiltshire.
- 4.2 To enable ORS to identify key stakeholders, the Council were asked to identify contacts which included Registered Providers, Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople representatives, Gypsy and Traveller Support Services, and relevant Council officers from Planning, Housing, Highways, Public Health, and Enforcement. A number of local Councillors were also interviewed.
- 4.3 ORS reviewed this list for consistency with other studies to ensure that it was comprehensive and fair. Each stakeholder received an email outlining the study aims, objectives and timetable, which was followed up with a telephone call to arrange a suitable time to undertake the interview.
- 4.4 Representatives from neighbouring authorities were also interviewed to satisfy the Duty to Co-operate and to identify any migration between districts, what routes may be travelled, background information on the framework within which the authorities operate and any perceptions they may have regarding Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities within their own areas.
- 4.5 Similar to the guidance given to other Local Authorities that ORS have worked with; the project lead was advised to notify the Gypsy Council that the GTAA was being carried out and invited them to take part and make a contribution to the study. Similarly to the experience of other Local Authorities the Gypsy Council did not respond to the aforementioned invitation.
- 4.6 In addition to the telephone interviews ORS also sought the views from members of 263 Parish Councils across Wiltshire. Email contacts for the Parish Clerks were obtained from the Council and a link to a short online survey was sent to them, as well as PDF of a written version of the survey. The response was significantly higher than ORS would have expected based on experience of engaging with Parish Councils in other parts of the country and a total of 87 online and 5 written responses were received, representing a response rate of 35%. A summary of the responses can be found at the end of this chapter.
- 4.7 Overall, ORS achieved 34 telephone interviews with stakeholders:
 - » Twelve Council officers representing the study area:
 - Estates and Valuation; New Housing; Highways; Business Analysis; Enforcement; Area Development; News, Information and Reputation; Legal; Public Health; Traveller Support Service; and Gypsy and Traveller Liaison

- » Fourteen officers representing the following neighbouring areas:
 Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council; Bath and North East Somerset Council;
 Christchurch Borough Council and East Dorset District Council; Cotswold District
 Council; Dorset County Council; Gloucestershire County Council; Hampshire County
 Council; New Forest District Council; South Gloucestershire Council; South Somerset
 District Council; Swindon Borough Council; Test Valley Borough Council; Vale of White
 Horse District Council and West Berkshire Council.
- » Four Elected Members
- » Two Housing Associations
- » Two representatives of the South West Alliance of Nomads.

4.8 The number and range of stakeholders interviewed is viewed to be satisfactory and consistent with similar GTAA's that ORS have completed.

4.9 The map below shows the local authorities that were interviewed.



Discussion Agenda

- 4.10 The format for the interviews covered the following themes:
- » Trends and history
 - » Meeting the current and future needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community
 - » Meeting the current and future needs of the Travelling Showpeople community
 - » Awareness of Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation
 - » Short-term roadside encampments and requirement for a transit site
 - » Meeting future accommodation needs
 - » Engaging the communities
 - » Cross boundary issues and the Duty to Cooperate
 - » Future priorities
 - » Any further issues and next steps.
- 4.11 In addition to wider information all interviewees were asked whether they could identify or knew of any Gypsies, Travellers or Travelling Showpeople living in bricks and mortar accommodation and if so, could they give a letter from ORS to them asking if they would like to be involved in the study.
- 4.12 The majority were unable to provide much data through their monitoring systems on Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in bricks and mortar. The reasons given for not being able to identify households were due to people not self-declaring their ethnicity during the housing application process or that it was not possible to identify this information from administrative records.
- ## Reporting Engagement with Stakeholders
- 4.13 The key findings in this section of the report represent a balanced summary of the views expressed by the wide range of stakeholders that took part in the engagement programme. In all cases they reflect the views of the individual concerned, rather than the official policy of their Council.
- 4.14 Due to issues around data protection and in order to protect the confidentiality of those who took part, this chapter does not include verbatim comments and it aims to represent a summary of the views and responses expressed by Officers and other stakeholders during the interviews.
- 4.15 The comments may, in some places, be representative of personal views and opinions and not necessarily the views of the organisation the interviewee works for. Some respondents also noted that at times their reply is based on a Wiltshire-wide experience and not specifically to Wiltshire but note is made of this.
- 4.16 ***The chapter is based on information provided during the interview process and may not have a direct correlation to the factual information passed to ORS from the local authority e.g. number and names of sites.***

Key Findings

Current Accommodation

Public Sites

- 4.17 Within Wiltshire there are five public sites consisting of a total of 90 pitches. Most officers acknowledged that the sites were in a poor condition. Positively, officers referred to the planned refurbishment of all the public sites, which has been funded by the HCA, and were confident that the sites would be of a high standard once the work is completed by the end of December 2015 (the sites in the north of the area were nearing completion at the time of interview).
- 4.18 One officer was aware of concealed households on the public sites and these were identified during the fieldwork. Thingley and Lode Hill sites were considered to be compact and overcrowded but, as a result of the HCA funding, the size of the pitches were being increased and eight new pitches were being created at the Thingley site.
- 4.19 Site allocations are open to all Travellers, but predominantly the sites are occupied by Romany Gypsy and Irish Travellers.

Private Sites

- 4.20 Positively, an officer explained that when purchasing land to develop a site, many families have bought land which can accommodate the future growth of their family. Therefore, overcrowding is not considered to be an issue on the majority of the private sites. One officer was aware that, on occasions, some of the private sites can become overcrowded if they have family to stay, but that is a temporary situation.
- 4.21 Standards of the private sites are said to be variable and smaller family sites are thought to be of a better standard than the larger private sites.

Travelling Showpeople Sites

- 4.22 One elected member referred to a site for Travelling Showpeople and was not aware of any issues relating to the site and explained that it is long established and has been there for many years.

Geographical Distribution

- 4.23 Most officers acknowledged that there is more provision in the north of the County and explained that this is predominantly because the north of Wiltshire has better transport links and Travellers tend to come off the M4 around Chippenham. Two officers explained that there had been a lot of activity in the north of the County around two years ago, when a number of Gypsy and Travellers bought pieces of land and moved onto it without permission, hence the number of sites in the north have increased as a result of granting planning permission to unauthorised sites.

Bricks and Mortar

- 4.24 Most officers and elected members were aware of anecdotal evidence that there are Travellers living in bricks and mortar and explained that, although many have moved into bricks and mortar because of the lack of sites, some had moved into bricks and mortar out of choice, for instance the elderly or those with physical disabilities. One officer was of the view that many young Gypsy and Travellers have opted for bricks and mortar. However, a wider stakeholder was of the view that many had moved into bricks and mortar because of the poor conditions on sites.
- 4.25 ORS also spoke to three Housing Associations who provide accommodation across Wiltshire. They record Gypsy and Traveller ethnicity but were unable to assist ORS to contact anyone living in their properties.

Management of Unauthorised Encampments

- 4.26 Most officers and elected members were of the view that there has been a decrease in the numbers of unauthorised encampments. One officer explained that in the past most encampments occurred in the summer period, whereas now they occur at any time of the year and referred to a recent large encampment which occurred during the winter time
- 4.27 The Highways Department recorded 80-90 encampments per year. The majority of these are described as being short-term. Traveller ethnicity and the size and location of the encampments vary: New Age Travellers are said to be small in size and will park up on the side of the road for 1-2 days and Irish Traveller encampments tend to be larger (up to 40 caravans at a time). Larger encampments are more likely to camp on council car parks, council land and public parks as opposed to highways land. Where they are on highways land it is usually deemed as unsafe and the police will look to move them on.
- 4.28 Officers and elected members agreed that the A4 is a major route which is used by the Travelling community and also identified the following:
- » A419
 - » A303
 - » A27
 - » A36
 - » A30
 - » A361
- 4.29 New Age Travellers are said to be attracted to the area to visit landmarks such as Stonehenge and events such as the Summer Solstice. Other reasons include:
- » En route to fairs and festivals – Glastonbury; Marlborough; Stowe Fair and Dorset Steam Fair
 - » Employment opportunities – seasonal work like tarmacking
 - » Holiday
 - » Family events – weddings and funerals.

- 4.30 Officers and an elected member offered the following examples of areas/places where Travellers regularly stop:
- » Industrial and retail estates in Salisbury (Solstice Park)
 - » Devizes
 - » Cricklade.
- 4.31 Officers supported the work of the enforcement team who are said to mobilise quickly, and are usually able to deal with encampments within three days. The team carry out a need assessment which takes account of health and education needs.
- 4.32 The majority of officers and wider stakeholders referred to the temporary closure of the transit site at Salisbury. One wider stakeholder reported that the closure of this site has led to problems for Travellers who have travelled into the area because they have assumed that it was still open. The stakeholder complained that it is still not clear when the site will reopen. Officers and wider stakeholders supported the provision of a transit site and felt that this provision should be provided on the main arterial roads. Some officers suggested that the north of the area is an ideal place for a transit site given that this area is particularly popular for Travellers.
- 4.33 Two officers felt that the Council should look to provide a network of temporary stopping sites for Travellers who want somewhere to stop, sometimes for just 24 hours, without police interference but without the facilities and cost of a transit site. A networked approach suggests cross boundary working with other authorities on the M4 to develop stopping places on this key route.

Future Provision

- 4.34 When asked if there is a need for additional provision most officers referred to the fact that there are a number of unauthorised sites and there are people on the waiting list for public sites, suggesting that more pitches are required, particularly in the south of the area.
- 4.35 Officers and a wider stakeholder strongly felt that the Travelling community should be given the opportunity to develop their own sites, and preferably develop a network of small private sites. Two officers referred to the Community Land Trust model which is an affordable private ownership model. One elected member felt that the Council should try and expand public sites as this is a 'quicker' option. While a wider stakeholder felt there should be a mixture of provision.
- 4.36 A few officers and wider stakeholders acknowledged that identifying suitable pieces of land can be problematic and felt the Council should try and assist the community in sourcing appropriate sites.

Local Governance

- 4.37 In 2010 Wiltshire developed a Gypsy and Traveller Strategy Group which aimed to bring together a wide range of services and responsibilities that engage with Gypsies and Travellers. Members of the group include strategic and frontline officer from across Wiltshire County Council, with representatives from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Primary Care Trust.

- 4.38 The overall objective of Gypsy and Traveller Strategy is to strengthen and coordinate service provision and engagement with Gypsy and Traveller communities. An officer explained that the Group are due to revisit the strategy.
- 4.39 A wider stakeholder felt that more could be done by the Council to communicate with representatives from the community.

Cross Border Movement and Working

- 4.40 Officers were aware of movement between Wiltshire and neighbouring areas including the New Forest, Berkshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. Many of those interviewed suggested that there is movement between Wiltshire and Hampshire.
- 4.41 However, the only example that was of a family moving to Wiltshire from Bath and North East Somerset because they couldn't obtain planning permission in that area. Bath is developing a new site and some Travellers who were moved out of the Devizes area are now residing on that site.
- 4.42 Most officers were of the opinion that Wiltshire Council is complying with the Duty to Cooperate and is working with its neighbours. The following examples were provided to highlight cross boundary working:

A benchmarking group which is attended by neighbouring authorities and discussed Gypsy and Traveller issues has part of a wider remit.

Enforcement officers in Wiltshire will alert neighbouring areas if there are large scale encampments which are being moved on.

Work with Bristol, Cotswold District, Dorset, Hampshire, Mendip, Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Swindon and the border counties.

Neighbouring Areas

- 4.43 Almost all officers in neighbouring areas reported that their authorities had either recently conducted a Gypsy and Traveller Needs assessment, or were due to undertake one shortly. The majority of the neighbouring authorities will have to provide additional pitches as a result of the GTAA findings and are struggling to identify suitable land.
- 4.44 The accommodation situations of Wiltshire's surrounding authorities (as reported by their respective officers) and information obtained through completion of its GTAA is summarised below:

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

- » Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council completed a GTAA which covers the period up until 2017. The Study found a need of seven pitches. Since the Study was completed the Council has given permission for two sites since and the decision was pending on another two (at the time of interview). The Council will be looking to update its GTAA before 2017.
- » The Council has in place a criteria based policy to assess any new planning applications and as sought to meet need through this approach.

Bath and North East Somerset Council (BANES)

- » ORS undertook the GTAA in 2012. The Study found a need for an additional 23 Gypsy and Traveller pitches, five transit pitches and 40 Travelling Showpeople plots over a 15 year period.
- » Until recently BANES had no authorised sites. At the end of 2013 the Council granted permission for two sites with personal permission. They are both in the greenbelt and are exceptional circumstances. The Council is now applying for permission for a ten pitched site near Bath. However, this will still not meet the identified need and as a result there are a number of unauthorised encampments which are tolerated by the Council due to the lack of authorised provision.
- » There are a number of small Travelling Showpeople sites that the Council is looking to regularise.
- » Two fifths of BANES is green belt and this is a barrier to identifying suitable land for sites. There have been two calls for sites which have yielded a limited number of sites with potential.
- » The Officer felt there is a need for a Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer who could be the main contact between the Council and the Travelling community.

Christchurch Borough Council and East Dorset District Council

- » ORS completed the GTAA for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole in 2013. The total requirement (2013 -2028) for Christchurch was 14 pitches for Gypsy and Travellers and in East Dorset the need was 19.
- » There are 8 Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Christchurch and 17 in East Dorset. There is one yard for Travelling Showpeople in East Dorset.
- » Dorset County Council are working to produce a county-wide site allocation DPD that looks at the needs for Gypsies and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople, permanent accommodation and transit provision, and at the time of the interview were about to start on site consultation.
- » The demand for future provision mainly seems to be for small private sites.
- » At the time of interview Dorset County Council had just granted temporary planning permission for a transit site in West Dorset which, it was hoped, would pick up the needs of Gypsy and Travellers who are moving through the area.

Cotswold District Council

- » ORS completed the Gloucestershire-wide GTAA 2013. The total requirement was five Gypsy and Traveller pitches up to 2017 and a total of 26 up to 2031. The Council is currently in the process of making a decision on an application for four pitches near Stow-on-the-Wold.

Dorset County Council

- » ORS undertook the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole GTAA in 2013. The estimated extra pitch provision that is required for Gypsies and Travellers in the next 15 years in the area is 150 pitches. An eight pitched New Age Traveller site has just been provided.
- » There are currently four public sites in the area and there is a waiting list for all the sites. The remaining sites are privately owned.

Gloucestershire County Council

- » ORS undertook the Gloucestershire wide GTAA in 2013.
- » Gloucestershire County Council owns and manages four sites of various sizes (46, 19, 10 and 4 pitches). There are overcrowding issues on the large site which is located on the outskirts of Gloucester.
- » The County also deals with issues concerning unauthorised encampments on County owned land which amounts to an average of six unauthorised encampments per year.

New Forest District Council

- » New Forest was part of the Hampshire wide GTAA which was completed by Forest Bus in 2013.
- » Within the New Forest, there are three sites which provide 45 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers. One is a public site which consists of twenty pitches. The GTAA identified a requirement of 10 additional pitches up to 2017 and the representative referred to an allocation in the Local Plan that will meet a good proportion of this need.
- » The GTAA found a low need for Travelling Showpeople and concluded that one further plot will be required up to 2017. In view of the small number the representative explained that the District will not be making any allocations to meet the need for the single plot.
- » There was an appeal pending a decision on a piece of land between Fordingbridge and Ashford which has been bought by an Irish Traveller family who, it was claimed, do have permanent accommodation in other parts of the country. The arrival of Irish Travellers is said to be new as most of the community are Romany Gypsy or English Travellers.
- » There is said to be a large housed Traveller community at Calshot.

South Gloucestershire Council

- » ORS completed the South Gloucestershire Council and Bristol GTAA in 2013. The study found a need for 46 additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in the period 2013-2028.
- » Over the past five to eight years the Council is said to have been more proactive and have decreased the number of unauthorised encampments by authorising more pitches.

South Somerset District Council

- » South Somerset District Council were part of a Somerset wide GTAA in 2011 and an updated the Study in 2013. The study found that between 2016 and 2020 the Council needs to provide eight additional pitches; between 2021 and 2025 a further nine; and between 2026 and 2030 eleven.
- » At the time of the study, there were a total of 37 pitches (3 unauthorised, 21 public and 13 private pitches).
- » The Council is said to have taken a positive approach to granting planning applications and have approved two more than the target for 2015.
- » The Council has not been able to achieve the 10 transit pitches that are required and that issue is to be carried forward.
- » There are two yards for Travelling Showpeople and the GTAA identified a need for 22 Travelling Showpeople plots over the whole county and six plots in South Somerset over the plan period up until 2028.

Swindon Borough Council

- » ORS completed the GTAA for Swindon in 2013 and found that 13 additional pitches for Gypsy and Travellers are required up to 2028. The Study also identified that there was a group of eight Travelling Showpeople who are looking for a site in the area.
- » There is one public site with 37 pitches and the officer explained that the Council will be looking for possible funding opportunities to enhance the standard of the site.
- » The officer was not aware of any unauthorised encampments and, when they do arise they are moved onto the 18 pitch publically owned transit site.
- » In order to meet the identified need the officer explained that the Council was hopeful that some private sites would come forward.

Test Valley Borough Council

- » There are a total of nine private pitches in the area, one pitch has temporary planning permission. At the time of interview a planning application for an additional four pitches was being determined.
- » The representative was of the opinion that the current authorised provision doesn't meet the need of Travellers in the area.
- » There are a number of short-term encampments, some are said to be local Travellers and other more transient groups.
- » There is said to have been an increase in the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers and planning applications in recent years, including an increase in those living in bricks and mortar who want to move to a caravan on a site in the countryside. There is also said to be in-migration from groups outside of Test Valley, and also Showpeople from the Sussex area.

Vale of White Horse District Council

- » ORS completed the GTAA Oxford City, South Oxfordshire the District and Vale of White Horse in 2013. The study concluded that the Vale of White Horse District needs to provide an additional 13 pitches up to 2026.
- » There are currently 48 public pitches and 8 private pitches, the latter being granted in February 2013, which will meet the short-term need. An additional 5 will need to be identified in the remainder of the Local Plan.
- » The GTAA did not identify a need for a transit site.

West Berkshire Council

- » At the time of interview, ORS were conducting West Berkshire's GTAA.
- » There is one public site of 18 pitches, a private site with 24 permanent pitches and 15 transit pitches. There are a number of smaller private sites.

^{4.45} As part of the interviews, Officers from the neighbouring authorities were asked about cross boundary issues and the Duty to Cooperate. The following key themes emerged.

Meeting the Duty to Cooperate

^{4.46} When asked if they were meeting their Duty to Cooperate all Officers felt that the Local Authority they were representing and Wiltshire were meeting the Duty to Cooperate.

^{4.47} When asked about cross boundary working, the majority of officers referred to the production of joint GTAA's and work with other Local Authorities. Many Local Authorities will work collaboratively as a County or with neighbours which have sites in close proximity to each other. Some examples are presented below:

- » **Bath and North East Somerset** are working with Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset to ensure that accommodation need has been addressed in a consistent way across the west of England and to examine whether there's any strategic in which the areas can respond to the need regionally.
- » The nine authorities that makes up **Dorset County** are said to be working together to identify future sites and are having discussions with their neighbours in Hampshire.
- » **Gloucestershire County** has commissioned a joint GTAA.
- » **Test Valley Borough Council** has worked with the 11 Hampshire authorities to produce a joint GTAA and have links with Winchester, Southampton and Eastleigh.
- » **West Berkshire Council** attends a Gypsy and Traveller Liaison group for all six Berkshire authorities.
- » The **Vale of the White Horse** referred to the joint GTAA with Oxford City and South Oxfordshire.

^{4.48} When asked about cross border working specifically with Wiltshire, the officer representing Bath and North East Somerset claimed to regularly meet with Wiltshire to share good practice. The officer representing Swindon was of the view that there is a close working relationship on all housing issues and explained that

Swindon has had particular difficulties attempting to find land for a Travelling Showpeople Site and was of the view that this could be an issue that then authority discusses with Wiltshire.

- 4.49 Dorset County have been able to use Wiltshire's transit site in the past, although they have not done so recently because it has been closed. The officer also has meetings with the Gypsy Liaison Officer in Wiltshire to discuss what is happening within their areas. However, the officer representing Christchurch and East Dorset felt that there was no need to work with Wiltshire as there were no sites or cross border movement in the area.
- 4.50 Despite little movement between the areas and no sites on the border, Gloucestershire County including the Cotswold District are said to meet with Wiltshire
- 4.51 The officers representing of Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, South Somerset and West Berkshire felt that there was no need to work with Wiltshire as there were no sites or cross border movement in the area but the representative of Gloucestershire had attended a few meetings.
- 4.52 Despite officers within Wiltshire saying that there is cross boundary movement into Hampshire and vice versa, the officer for Hampshire County did not confirm this. However, the officer did caveat this by explaining that many Travellers will not reveal where they have been or where they are going. On a few occasions the officer said that they have directed people to the transit site in Salisbury. Overall the officer revealed that there had been limited cross boundary work with Wiltshire.
- 4.53 Christchurch and East Dorset and West Berkshire were of the view that more work needed to be done with Wiltshire on a cross boundary basis.

Travelling Patterns and Stopping Places

- 4.54 Officers in neighbouring local authorities were asked about the movement of Travellers in their area and the travelling routes, the number of unauthorised encampments that occur in their area and how they are currently managed and recorded. Clearly some of Wiltshire's neighbouring authorities are popular areas for Travellers. Bath and North East Somerset is considered to be a common place for Travellers who have a particular interest in the Bristol area and the various fairs and shows in the South West.
- 4.55 Officers noted the following travelling routes, which are similar to those identified in Wiltshire:
- » M4
 - » M5
 - » M27
 - » A30
 - » A31
 - » A34
 - » A35
 - » A303

- 4.56 Dorset is a destination for Travellers who move along the south coast between April and October. The main travelling routes are the A31 and A35 from the east and they head west through the county. Encampments occur in car parks and recreation grounds off the A31.
- 4.57 Encampments occur for a variety of reasons: visiting family, travelling through, work and the Dorset Steam Fair which is held at the end of August/beginning of September.
- 4.58 During the Steam Fair a transit site is provided and caters for between 70-100 caravans. During the summer 2014 Dorset has also provided a temporary transit site for 25 pitches.
- 4.59 An officer did note that the prevalence of incursions seems to have decreased in Christchurch and East Dorset over the last couple of years and it seems to have focused more on Bournemouth and Poole.
- 4.60 In Gloucestershire there are a number of New Age Travellers who move around the County, particularly in the Cotswolds.
- 4.61 In South Gloucestershire the officer reported a decrease in the numbers of unauthorised encampments.
- 4.62 Officers in neighbouring areas were not aware of particular cross border movement, for instance the officer for Swindon claimed that the movement tends to be east to west rather than north to south and avoids movement from Swindon into Wiltshire. The officer representing West Berkshire explained that elected members are under the impression that when encampments occur during the summer months they have moved from Wiltshire, they stop in West Berkshire, before moving onto London, although the officer was not aware of any evidence to verify this claim.
- 4.63 The officer for Test Valley explained that Travellers tend to circulate South Hampshire. Test Valley is described as having a very long border which stretches all the way down from Southampton all the way up to the Berkshire border. There are said to be distinct travelling patterns, importantly, towards the southern end of the borough close towards Southampton and Eastleigh and around the M27 corridor. There is also a smaller group that move along the A303 trunk road which runs through Test Valley, the top end of Hampshire, going down towards the West Country. The officer was not aware of any unauthorised encampments which occur along the A303 en route from north-east Hampshire down through to Wiltshire.
- 4.64 The officer for New Forest claimed that Hampshire County Council has logged where families are coming from and where they are travelling to and the data shows a lot of movement from North Hampshire down to the Southwest area, particularly quite a few fairs and festivals that travellers head to down in the Southwest.

Transit Provision

- 4.65 When asked about provision, a number of officers in the neighbouring areas were in the process of considering providing a transit site. As aforementioned, within the region there are areas which are popular stopping places for Travellers. The officers representing Christchurch Borough Council and East Dorset District Council and Dorset Council thought there was a need for a transit site in the Eastern side of the county as well as the Western side of the county. They referred to the temporary site for 25 pitches over the summer 2014, but were of the view that this has been a temporary solution and felt that a permanent

transit site is required. The officer for Bath and North East Somerset was of the view that a transit site would be useful and referred to the DPD work that is ongoing to identify a site.

^{4.66} The officer representing the New Forest revealed that the Council is in the process of working with Hampshire authorities to discuss the idea of having a network of small transit sites in North Hampshire, East Hampshire, South Hampshire and West Hampshire. The officer representing Test Valley Borough Council felt that there needs to be a greater understanding of the wider travelling patterns and sites should be jointly provided by authorities. The officer felt that it would be sensible if a site was located to the north of the Borough including Basingstoke and Deane, Rushmoor and Hart and another to the south of the county including Southampton, Eastleigh and New Forest District for example and referred to the M27 corridor down to the south and the A303 trunk road.

^{4.67} The officer for Gloucestershire County Council and the Vale of the White Horse explained that there was no identified need for a transit site in the areas and the officer for Basingstoke and Deane explained that, although they have had discussion with neighbouring authorities about the possibility of transit sites, the Council has a resolution not to have any temporary or permanent sites.

Additional Findings

^{4.68} A range of other issues were also discussed during the interviews including Community Cohesion, Health and Wellbeing, Education, Employment and Consultation Activities. The outcome of these discussions can be found in **Appendix E** of this report.

Parish Council Responses

^{4.69} The majority of Parish Councils reported that they were either unaware of any issues with Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in their areas, or that there were no problems or issues to report. A total of 12 Parish Councils did raise some issues in relation to the Travelling Community.

^{4.70} There was a certain degree of scepticism raised in some of the responses:

- » Some Parish Councils reported concerned about incidents of theft of metal being attributed to Gypsies and Travellers.
- » There were concerns raised about the impact that the development of new sites would have on local property prices, and levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- » Issues were raised in relation to the mess left behind when unauthorised encampments were moved on.
- » Concerns were made about door-to-door cold calling that was through to be undertaken by members of the Travelling Community, and concerns about these being linked to an increase in thefts and break-ins.

^{4.71} However some of the Parish Councils did respond positively in relation to the local Travelling Community in their areas:

- » Some Parish Councils reported that Gypsies and Travellers do not cause any problems and that the children integrate well in local schools.

- » One Parish Council reported that the households living on one of the Councils public sites are no bother at all and appear to be living a happy and consistent lifestyle.

4.72 None of the Parish Councils that responded were able to identify and sites or encampments that were not already known to the Council. Whilst a handful of Parish Councils reported that they were aware of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation, none were able to provide contact details. However the response from Royal Wootton Bassett stated that there were several families living in bricks and mortar know to the respondent and as a result further work was undertaken to try and contact these families.

Conclusions and Areas of Consideration

4.73 Overall, the majority of those interviewed within Wiltshire felt that more provision is required, particularly in the south of the area. When asked about the types of sites that should be provided most supported the development of smaller private sites as opposed to larger private or public sites.

4.74 Wiltshire officers and wider stakeholders supported the provision of smaller transit sites or temporary stopping places. Information gathered through the stakeholder interviews suggests there is a lot of cross boundary movement, particularly with Hampshire. However, due to the lack of data offered by individual authorities and the absence of any data that has been collated using a 'joined-up' methodology, it is difficult to provide any conclusions, other than anecdotal evidence, on wider travelling patterns. Therefore, individual authorities continue to deal with transit issues in isolation to their neighbours.

4.75 It would be helpful if more cross boundary work was done to: share information on unauthorised encampments; develop a common protocol and methodology on collecting data on unauthorised encampments; track families travelling patterns across borders; develop and maintain a central database; and also record the extent to which unauthorised encampments require transit or permanent accommodation.

4.76 The majority of the neighbouring areas have completed a GTAA and at the time of interview were working towards meeting the identified pitch and plot requirements. The majority of the authorities are experiencing difficulties trying to provide accommodation and have other general issues. This presents a good opportunity to share methodologies and findings from their respective GTAA's and it would be useful to identify a platform in which to do so. Indeed, there are a number of cross border issues which could be explored, including:

- » Sharing best practice on site management.
- » Exploring the distribution of need across the region.

5. Survey of Travelling Communities

Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 5.1 One of the major components of this study was a detailed survey of the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in Wiltshire. This aimed to identify current households with housing needs and to assess likely future household formation from within existing households, to help judge the need for any future site provision. As noted in the introduction, “Gypsy and Traveller” refers to:

Persons of nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or circus people travelling together as such (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, CLG, March 2012).

- 5.2 Through the desk-based research and stakeholder interviews ORS sought to identify all authorised and unauthorised sites and encampments in the study area. This identified 5 public sites; 38 private sites with permanent planning permission; 4 private sites with temporary planning permission; and 11 unauthorised sites – 6 of which are tolerated. 5 Travelling Showpeople Yards were also identified. In addition one interview was completed with a member of the Gypsy and Traveller community who is currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation. The table below identifies the sites that ORS staff visited during the course of the fieldwork:

Figure 10
Sites Visited in Wiltshire

Public Sites
Dairyhouse Bridge Gypsy Site, Salisbury
Fairhaven Gypsy Site, Westbury
Lode Hill Gypsy Site, Downton
Oak Tree Field Gypsy Site, Odstock Road
Thingley Gypsy Site, Chippenham
Private Sites
Bonnie Farm, Bratton
Bournelake Park, Cricklade
Braemar, Coombe Bissett
Bridge Paddocks, Minety
Calcutt Stables, Calcutt
Christian Place, Kington Langley
Dillions Farm, East Grimstead

Field 7920, Minety
Former Glenville Nurseries, Royal Wootton Bassett
Frampton Farm, Sutton Benger
Hicks Leaze, Cricklade
Land adjacent to Hisomly Farmhouse, Dilton Marsh
Land adjacent to West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington
Hedgerow Stables, Bratton
Land adjoining Swindon and Cricklade Railway, Blunsdon
Land at Capps Lane, Bratton
Land at Four Oaks, Lydiard Millicent
Land at Greenfield View, Leigh
Land at junction Frome Road and Poplar Tree Lane, Southwick
Land at Lower Westbury Road, Bratton
Land at Orchard Paddock, Christian Malford
Land south of Four Winds, West Ashton
Land south west of Bonnie Farm, Bratton
Land west of Penn Farm, Bratton
Lansdowne, Semington
Littleton Stables, Littleton Semington
Llamedos, West Dean
Melbourne View, Brinkworth
Pudding Brook, Chippenham
Purdys Farm, Braydon
Rose Field Caravan Site, Hullavington
Sand Pit Lane, Dilton Marsh
Specks Caravan Park, Clench Common
The Paddock, Startley
The Paddocks, Hook
The Stables, Calcutt
Trickey's Paddock, Whiteparish
79 Southampton Road, Salisbury

Temporary Sites

79 Southampton Road, Salisbury
Badgers Rest, Salisbury
Land opposite 6 Hawkridge Road, Heywood
The Caravan, Wootton Bassett

Unauthorised Sites - Tolerated

Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett
Dean Road, East Grimstead
Ernies Yard, Warminster
Hart Hill, Semley
Little Acre, Coombe Bassett
Viney Ridge

Unauthorised Sites – Not Tolerated

Adjacent to 46 Chelworth Road, Cricklade

Dillions Farm, East Grimstead
 Hillbilly Acre (formerly Avonview), Alderbury
 Land adjacent to 27 Restrop Road, Purton
 Melbourne View, Brinkworth

Travelling Showpeople Yards

Land opposite The Laurels, North Bradley
 Porton Road, Amesbury
 Southampton Road, Salisbury
 The Old Station Yard, Dauntsey Lock

Travelling Showpeople Yards - Tolerated

Land adjacent to Nursted Park, Devises

- 5.3 ORS sought to undertake a full demographic study of all pitches as part of our approach to undertaking the GTAA as our experience suggests that a sample based approach very often leads to an under-estimate of current and future needs which can be the subject of challenge at subsequent appeals and examinations. A summary of the findings from each site can be found under the headings below, split by Housing Market Areas.

North and West HMA

Public Sites

Fairhaven Gypsy Site

- 5.4 Staff from ORS visited the Fairhaven Gypsy Site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 7 households living on the site comprising 9 adults and 3 teenage children. Only 1 resident was interviewed but he provided information on all households. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Thingley Gypsy Site

- 5.5 Staff from ORS visited the Thingley Gypsy Site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 22 households on the site comprising 32 adults, 4 teenage children and 42 young children. Two households weren't interviewed but a neighbour provided all relevant information. Four residents spoke of there being transport issues, the main problems being that there is no bus stop nearby and taxis won't enter the site. There was evidence of 2 concealed households on the site. There were also three non-Gypsy and Traveller households on the site.

Private Sites with Permanent Permission

Bonnie Farm

- 5.6 Staff from ORS visited the Bonnie Farm site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 vacant pitch. There were 10 households on the site comprising 13 adults, 3 teenage children and 3 young children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Bournelake Park

- 5.7 Staff from ORS visited the Bournelake Park site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was evidence of some vacant pitches, whilst other pitches were used to store vans and commercial vehicles. Only 5 households were interviewed and they comprised 9 adults, 4 young children and 2 teenage children. One of the adults reported being in a poor state of health. A follow-up site visit identified that the owners of the pitches being used for storage do occupy them during winter months. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Bridge Paddocks

- 5.8 Staff from ORS visited the Bridge Paddocks site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 7 adults and 3 young children. There was evidence of 2 concealed households on the site, and a follow-up site visit indicated that there is plenty of room on the current site for new pitches to accommodate family members.

Calcutt Stables

- 5.9 Staff from ORS visited the Calcutt Stables site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was evidence of some vacant pitches and 'pitch sitting'. Only 5 families were interviewed and they comprised 12 adults, 10 young children and 1 teenage child. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Christian Place

- 5.10 Staff from ORS visited the Christian Place site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork the site was occupied by an extended family group living in 5 caravans with dayrooms. There were 5 adults and 3 children living on the site. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding.

Field 7920

- 5.11 Staff from ORS visited the Field 7920 site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there were 2 vacant pitches. There were 14 households on the site comprising 25 adults and 14 children. Three households mentioned the need for more pitches in the future due to family expansion. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Former Glenville Nurseries

- 5.12 Staff from ORS visited the Former Glenville Nurseries site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 7 households on the site comprising 14 adults, 8 teenage children and 18 young children. Five households weren't interviewed but a neighbour provided all relevant information. There is room for a further 6 or 7 pitches at the front of the site. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Frampton Farm

- 5.13 Staff from ORS visited the Frampton Farm site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 3 households on the site comprising 6 adults, 5 teenage children and 3 young children. Further site visits and discussions with planning agents confirmed that the remaining 8 pitches which have planning permission will be implemented within the required timescales. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Hicks Leaze

- 5.14 Staff from ORS visited the Hicks Leaze site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork the site was vacant and there were no signs of recent occupation. The site has permission for 1 pitch and 1 caravan.

Land adjacent to Hisomley Farmhouse

- 5.15 Staff from ORS visited the Land adjacent to Hisomley Farmhouse site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 3 adults and no children. The owner wants 2 additional pitches on the site for his son and daughter and there is room to accommodate this. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Land adjacent to West Wiltshire Crematorium

- 5.16 Staff from ORS visited the Land adjacent to West Wiltshire Crematorium site in April/May 2014 but were unable to speak with all of the residents living on the site. A follow-up visit was made which identified that in addition to the 3 permitted households, there were a further 6 households living on the site. In total these comprised 15 adults, 13 young children and 7 teenage children. In addition it was identified that an additional family member living in bricks and mortar is seeking to move to the site to receive care from family members. Although there was evidence of concealed households and doubling up on the site there was no evidence of over-crowding, the site is large enough to accommodate the additional units. The site visit also identified the need for up to 4 additional pitches for older teenage children who are likely to get married during the first 5 years of the study period.

Hedgerow Stables

- 5.17 Staff from ORS visited the Hedgerow Stables site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 adult living on the site and no children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Land adjoining Swindon and Cricklade Railway

- 5.18 Staff from ORS visited the Land adjoining Swindon and Cricklade site in April/May 2014. However no contact was made with the residents of the site and interviewers were unable to ascertain details of the occupiers from other sources.

Land at Capps Lane

- 5.19 Staff from ORS visited the Land at Capps Lane site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 2 adults and no children. They currently have no electricity and a drainage problem which they're trying to resolve. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Land at Four Oaks

- 5.20 Staff from ORS visited the Land at Four Oaks site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 2 families on the site comprising 9 adults and 2 young children. The owner of the site has planning permission for an additional 10 pitches for his family to move onto in the future. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Land at Greenfield View

- 5.21 Staff from ORS visited the Land at Greenfield View site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 2 households on the site comprising 7 adults and 4 young children. One of the residents expressed a desire to live in a bungalow on the site due to ill health. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Land at junction of Frome Road and Poplar Tree Lane

- 5.22 Staff from ORS visited the Land at junction of Frome Road and Poplar Tree Lane site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 5 adults, 6 young children and 2 teenage children. There was evidence of 2 concealed households on the site and planning permission has been submitted for an additional 2 pitches to accommodate this need. There was also evidence of extended family living on the site but as planning permission has recently been submitted for additional pitches it has been assumed that this is sufficient to meet medium term need.

Land at Lower Westbury Road

- 5.23 Staff from ORS visited the Land at Lower Westbury Road site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 2 adults and 2 teenage children. The owner wants 2 additional pitches on the site for his son and daughter and there is room to accommodate this. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Land at Orchard Paddock

- 5.24 Staff from ORS visited the Land at Orchard Paddock site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 4 adults and 2 young children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Land South of Four Winds, 81 Yarnbrook Road

- ^{5.25} Staff from ORS visited the Land South of Four Winds, 81 Yarnbrook Road site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 2 adults and no children. The owner of the site would like planning permission for an additional 2 pitches and dayrooms. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Land South West of Bonnie Farm

- ^{5.26} Staff from ORS visited the Land South West of Bonnie Farm site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 adult living on the site and no children. The resident has 2 relatives who are currently travelling and expressed a wish for them to live permanently with him on the site. At this stage it has not been possible to establish the Traveller status of these relatives. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site and therefore no identified need for additional pitches.

Land West of Penn Farm

- ^{5.27} Staff from ORS visited the Penn Farm site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 4 adults and 1 young child, whilst there was also 1 tourer on the site. There was evidence of 1 concealed household on the site and a need for 2 new pitches for the resident's expanding family.

Lansdowne

- ^{5.28} Staff from ORS visited the Lansdowne site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 6 adults, 5 young children and 1 teenage child. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site but there is plenty of room for expansion.

Littleton Stables

- ^{5.29} Staff from ORS visited the Littleton Stables site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 2 adults and no children. The owners are looking to extend the site and put on an extra unit. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Melbourne View

- ^{5.30} Staff from ORS visited the Melbourne View site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 5 families on the site living in 11 caravans and 1 chalet and comprising 16 adults and 8 children. The site is over-crowded with little room for expansion. The site has permission for 10 caravans on 10 pitches so is also included under unauthorised sites.

Pudding Brook

- ^{5.31} Staff from ORS visited the Pudding Brook site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 2 adults and no children. Their daughter-in-law cares for but doesn't live with them. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Purdys Farm

- 5.32 Staff from ORS visited the Purdys Farm site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 4 adults and 5 young children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Rose Field Caravan Site

- 5.33 The planning permission for the Rose Field Caravan Site had not been implemented at the time of the site interviews. However the Council have indicated that they have received no information to suggest that the site will not be in operation within the required time periods.

Sand Pit Lane Dilton Marsh

- 5.34 The Sand Pit Lane Dilton Marsh site was vacant at the time of the site interviews.

The Paddock

- 5.35 Staff from ORS visited The Paddock site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 1 adult and 2 teenage children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

The Paddocks

- 5.36 Staff from ORS visited The Paddocks site in April/May 2014. However no contact was made with the residents of the site and interviewers were unable to ascertain details of the occupiers from other sources.

The Stables

- 5.37 Staff from ORS visited The Stables site in April/May 2014. However no contact was made with the residents of the site and interviewers were unable to ascertain details of the occupiers from other sources.

Private Sites with Temporary Permission

Land opposite 6 Hawkrigde Road

- 5.38 Staff from ORS visited the Land opposite 6 Hawkrigde Road site in April/May 2014. However no contact was made with the residents of the site and interviewers were unable to ascertain details of the occupiers from other sources.

The Caravan

- 5.39 Staff from ORS visited The Caravan site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 1 adult, 2 teenage children and 1 young child. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Tolerated Sites – Long-Term without Planning Permission

Ernies Yard

- ^{5.40} Staff from ORS visited the Ernies Yard site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 2 households on the site comprising 2 adults and no children. The owner of the site would like planning permission for an additional 2 permanent pitches. There was no evidence of concealed households or overcrowding on the site. There was also one non-Gypsy and Traveller household on the site.

Unauthorised Sites

Adjacent to 46 Chelworth Road

- ^{5.41} Staff from ORS visited the Chelworth Road site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 6 households on the site comprising 10 adults, 3 young children and 2 teenage children. Only the owner of the site was interviewed but he provided information on all households.

Land adjacent to 27 Restrop Road

- ^{5.42} The Land adjacent to 27 Restrop Road site was vacant at the time of the site interviews. However the July 2014 Caravan Count showed there to be one occupied caravan on the site.

Melbourne View (also authorised pitches)

- ^{5.43} Staff from ORS visited the Melbourne View site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 5 households on the site living in 11 caravans and 1 chalet and comprising 16 adults and 8 children. The site only has permission for 10 caravans and is overcrowded.

Travelling Showpeople

Private Yards with Permanent Permission

Land opposite the Laurels

- ^{5.44} Staff from ORS visited the Land opposite the Laurels yard in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 7 households on the yard comprising 13 adults and 4 young children. There was evidence of 2 concealed households on the yard.

The Old Station Yard

- ^{5.45} The Old Station Yard was vacant at the time of the site interviews, and had been for some time according to occupiers of neighbouring properties.

East HMA

Private Sites with Permanent Permission

Specks Caravan Site

- ^{5.46} Staff from ORS visited the Specks Caravan Site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there was 1 family on the site comprising 3 adults and 2 young children. They currently live in a wooden chalet but would like to upgrade to a brick bungalow in the future. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Travelling Showpeople

Tolerated Yards – Long-Term without Planning Permission

Land adjacent Nursteed Park

- ^{5.47} Staff from ORS visited the Land adjacent Nursteed Park yard in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 2 families on the yard comprising 9 adults, 5 young children and 3 teenage children. There are concerns that the yard owners may wish to sell the land which would mean the residents would have nowhere to go. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the yard.

South HMA

Public Sites

Dairyhouse Bridge Gypsy Site

- ^{5.48} Staff from ORS visited the Dairyhouse Bridge Gypsy Site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 4 vacant pitches as a result of site improvement works that were being undertaken. There were 15 households on the site comprising 17 adults and 8 young children. One household wasn't interviewed but a neighbour provided all relevant information. Some households mentioned that the site needs improving and that there are issues surrounding rats and rubbish. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site. There was also one non-Gypsy and Traveller household on the site and one resident who would like to move to bricks and mortar.

Lode Hill Gypsy Site

- ^{5.49} Staff from ORS visited the Lode Hill Gypsy Site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 4 vacant pitches as a result of site improvement works that were being undertaken. There were 5 households on the site comprising 9 adults, 4 young children and 3 teenage children. One of the families wishes to move into bricks and mortar accommodation. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Oak Tree Field Gypsy Site

5.50 Staff from ORS visited the Oak Tree Field Gypsy Site in April/May 2014. At the time of fieldwork there were 3 vacant pitches as a result of site improvement works that were being undertaken. There were 27 households on the site comprising 34 adults, 18 young children and 7 teenage children. Many households mentioned that the site needs improving and that there are issues surrounding rats and rubbish. There was evidence of 2 concealed households on the site. There was also one non-Gypsy and Traveller household on the site.

Private Sites with Permanent Permission

Braemar

5.51 Staff from ORS visited the Braemar site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 7 adults and 2 young children. They want more space in the future to take into consideration their expanding family. There was evidence of 1 concealed household on the site. The owners would like planning permission to replace their chalet with a brick bungalow.

Dillions Farm

5.52 Staff from ORS visited the Dillions Farm site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there were 2 families living on the site comprising 4 adults and 4 young children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site. The site only has permission for 1 pitch and 1 caravan so is also included under unauthorised sites.

Llamedos

5.53 Staff from ORS visited the Llamedos site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 3 adults, 2 teenage children and 1 young child. The family reported that they are occasionally harassed by locals and have no electricity. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Tricky's Paddock

5.54 Staff from ORS visited the Tricky's Paddock site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was 1 adult living on the site and no children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

79 Southampton Road (also temporary pitches)

5.55 Staff from ORS visited the 79 Southampton Road site in April/May 2014. However no contact was made with the residents of the site and interviewers were unable to ascertain details of the occupiers from other sources.

Private Sites with Temporary Permission

79 Southampton Road

^{5.56} Staff from ORS visited the 79 Southampton Road site in April/May 2014. However no contact was made with the residents of the site and interviewers were unable to ascertain details of the occupiers from other sources.

Badgers Rest

^{5.57} Staff from ORS visited the Badgers Rest site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 2 adults and no children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Tolerated Sites – Long-Term without Planning Permission

Blandford Road

^{5.58} Staff from ORS visited the Blandford Road site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was 1 adult living on the site and no children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Dean Road

^{5.59} Staff from ORS visited the Dean Road site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 4 adults and 4 young children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Hart Hill

^{5.60} The Hart Hill site was vacant at the time of the site interviews.

Little Acre

^{5.61} Staff from ORS visited the Little Acre site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 4 adults and 1 young child. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Viney Ridge

^{5.62} Staff from ORS visited the Viney Ridge site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 3 adults and no children. The family do not want to be classed as travellers and they live in a bungalow. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Unauthorised Sites

Dillions Farm (also authorised pitches)

- ^{5.63} Staff from ORS visited the Dillions Farm site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there were 2 families living on the site comprising 4 adults and 4 young children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the site.

Hillbilly Acre (formerly Avonview)

- ^{5.64} Staff from ORS visited the Hillbilly Acre site in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was 1 family living on the site comprising 9 adults, 3 teenage children and 2 young children. There was evidence of 1 concealed household on the site. It is understood from the Council that a notice has been served on the occupiers of the site to clear the site of all caravans and structures with a final date of February 2015.

Travelling Showpeople

Private Yards with Permanent Permission

Porton Road

- ^{5.65} Staff from ORS visited the Porton Road yard in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there were 6 households living on the yard comprising 11 adults, 7 young children and 2 teenage children. One of the family's in particular is growing and will require more plots in the future. Whilst there was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding, a review of planning conditions for the yard indicates that it only has permission for one mobile home to be occupied on a permanent basis. As such there is a breach of planning conditions and evidence of 5 additional households that are occupying the yard on a permanent basis.

Southampton Road

- ^{5.66} Staff from ORS visited the Southampton Road yard in April/May 2014. At the time of the fieldwork there was 1 family living on the yard comprising 8 adults and 3 young children. There was no evidence of concealed households or over-crowding on the yard.

Summary of Site Demographics - Wiltshire

5.67 The table below provides a summary of the site resident demographics for Wiltshire as a whole that were identified during the site visits. For those sites where it was possible to record demographics of residents there were a total of 203 families, 377 adults, 213 young children and 66 teenage children. This equates to 57% adults and 43% children and teenagers.

Figure 11
Sites Demographics in Wiltshire

Site	Families	Adults	Young Children	Teenagers
Public Sites				
Dairyhouse Bridge Gypsy Site, Salisbury	14	17	8	0
Fairhaven Gypsy Site, Westbury	7	9	0	3
Lode Hill Gypsy Site, Downton	6	9	4	3
Oak Tree Field Gypsy Site, Odstock Road	24	34	18	7
Thingley Gypsy Site, Chippenham	22	32	42	4
Private Sites				
Bonnie Farm, Bratton	10	13	3	3
Bournelake Park, Cricklade	5	9	4	2
Braemar, Coombe Bissett	3	8	2	0
Bridge Paddocks, Minety	2	7	3	0
Calcutt Stables, Calcutt	2	12	10	1
Christian Place, Kington Langley	5	5	3	0
Dillions Farm, East Grimstead	3	6	4	0
Field 7920, Minety	8	23	12	2
Former Glenville Nurseries, Royal Wootton Bassett	7	14	18	8
Frampton Farm, Sutton Benger	3	6	3	5
Hicks Leaze, Cricklade	0	0	0	0
Land adjacent to Hisomly Farmhouse, Dilton Marsh	1	3	0	0
Land adjacent to West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington	9	15	13	7
Hedgerow Atables, Bratton	1	1	0	0
Land adjoining Swindon and Cricklade Railway, Blunsdon				
Land at Capps Lane, Bratton	1	2	0	0
Land at Four Oaks, Lydiard Millicent	2	9	2	0
Land at Greenfield View, Leigh	2	7	4	0
Land at junction Frome Road and Poplar Tree Lane, Southwick	1	5	6	2
Land at Lower Westbury Road, Bratton	1	2	0	2
Land at Orchard Paddock, Christian Malford	1	4	2	0
Land south of Four Winds, West Ashton	1	2	0	0
Land south west of Bonnie Farm, Bratton	1	1	0	0
Land west of Penn Farm, Bratton	1	4	1	0

Lansdowne, Semington	1	6	5	1
Littleton Stables, Littleton Semington	1	2	0	0
Llamedos, West Dean	1	3	1	2
Melbourne View, Brinkworth	11	16	8	0
Pudding Brook, Chippenham	1	2	0	0
Purdys Farm, Braydon	2	4	5	0
Rose Field Caravan Site, Hullavington				
Sand Pit Lane, Dilton Marsh				
Specks Caravan Park, Clench Common	1	3	2	0
The Paddock, Startley	2	1	0	2
The Paddocks, Hook				
The Stables, Calcutt				
Trickey's Paddock, Whiteparish	1	1	0	0
79 Southampton Road, Salisbury				
Private Sites with Temporary Planning Permission				
79 Southampton Road, Salisbury				
Badgers Rest, Salisbury	1	2	0	0
Land opposite 61 Hawkridge Road, Heywood				
The Caravan, Wootton Bassett	1	1	1	2
Unauthorised Sites - Tolerated				
Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett	1	1	0	0
Dean Road, East Grimstead	3	5	4	0
Ernies Yard, Warminster	1	4	4	0
Hart Hill, Semley				
Little Acre, Coombe Bassett	1	4	1	0
Viney Ridge	1	3	0	0
Unauthorised Sites – Not Tolerated				
Adjacent to 46 Chelworth Road, Cricklade	6	10	3	2
Dillions Farm, East Grimstead	See Above			
Hillbilly Acre (formerly Avonview), Alderbury	5	9	2	3
Land adjacent to 27 Restrop Road, Purton				
Melbourne View, Brinkworth	See Above			
Travelling Showpeople Yards				
Land opposite The Laurels, North Bradley	7	13	4	0
Porton Road, Amesbury	6	11	7	2
Southampton Road, Salisbury	4	8	4	0
The Old Station Yard, Dauntsey Lock	0	0	0	0
Land adjacent to Nursteed Park, Devises	2	9	5	3
TOTAL	203	377	213	66

Summary of Site Demographics – North and West HMA

5.68 The table below provides a summary of the site resident demographics for the North and West HMA that were identified during the site visits. For those sites where it was possible to record demographics of residents there were a total of 126 families, 244 adults, 151 young children and 46 teenage children. This equates to 55% adults and 45% children and teenagers.

Figure 12
Sites Demographics in North and West HMA

Site	Families	Adults	Young Children	Teenagers
Public Sites				
Fairhaven Gypsy Site, Westbury	7	9	0	3
Thingley Gypsy Site, Chippenham	22	32	42	4
Private Sites				
Bonnie Farm, Bratton	10	13	3	3
Bournelake Park, Cricklade	5	9	4	2
Bridge Paddocks, Minety	2	7	3	0
Calcutt Stables, Calcutt	2	12	10	1
Christian Place, Kington Langley	5	5	3	0
Field 7920, Minety	8	23	12	2
Former Glenville Nurseries, Royal Wootton Bassett	7	14	18	8
Frampton Farm, Sutton Benger	3	6	3	5
Hicks Leaze, Cricklade	0	0	0	0
Land adjacent to Hisomly Farmhouse, Dilton Marsh	1	3	0	0
Land adjacent to West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington	9	15	13	7
Hedgerow Stables, Bratton	1	1	0	0
Land adjoining Swindon and Cricklade Railway, Blunsdon				
Land at Capps Lane, Bratton	1	2	0	0
Land at Four Oaks, Lydiard Millicent	2	9	2	0
Land at Greenfield View, Leigh	2	7	4	0
Land at junction Frome Road and Poplar Tree Lane, Southwick	1	5	6	2
Land at Lower Westbury Road, Bratton	1	2	0	2
Land at Orchard Paddock, Christian Malford	1	4	2	0
Land south of Four Winds, West Ashton	1	2	0	0
Land south west of Bonnie Farm, Bratton	1	1	0	0
Land west of Penn Farm, Bratton	1	4	1	0
Lansdowne, Semington	1	6	5	1
Littleton Stables, Littleton Semington	1	2	0	0
Melbourne View, Brinkworth	11	16	8	0
Pudding Brook, Chippenham	1	2	0	0

Purdys Farm, Braydon	2	4	5	0
Rose Field Caravan Site, Hullavington				
Sand Pit Lane, Dilton Marsh				
The Paddock, Startley	2	1	0	2
The Paddocks, Hook				
The Stables, Calcutt				
Private Sites with Temporary Planning Permission				
Land opposite 61 Hawkridge Road, Heywood				
The Caravan, Wootton Bassett	1	1	1	2
Unauthorised Sites - Tolerated				
Ernies Yard, Warminster	1	4	4	0
Unauthorised Sites – Not Tolerated				
Adjacent to 46 Chelworth Road, Cricklade	6	10	3	2
Land adjacent to 27 Restrop Road, Purton				
Melbourne View, Brinkworth	See Above			
Travelling Showpeople Yards				
Land opposite The Laurels, North Bradley	7	13	4	0
The Old Station Yard, Dauntsey Lock	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	126	244	151	46

Summary of Site Demographics – East HMA

5.69 Due to the small number of sites in the East HMA it is not possible to provide a breakdown of site demographics due to confidentiality thresholds. However in summary there are 55% adults and 45% children.

Summary of Site Demographics – South HMA

5.70 The table below provides a summary of the site resident demographics for the South HMA that were identified during the site visits. For those sites where it was possible to record demographics of residents there were a total of 74 families, 121 adults, 55 young children and 17 teenage children. This equates to 63% adults and 37% children and teenagers.

Figure 13
Sites Demographics in South HMA

Site	Families	Adults	Young Children	Teenagers
Public Sites				
Dairyhouse Bridge Gypsy Site, Salisbury	14	17	8	0
Lode Hill Gypsy Site, Downton	6	9	4	3
Oak Tree Field Gypsy Site, Odstock Road	24	34	18	7
Private Sites				
Braemar, Coombe Bissett	3	8	2	0
Dillions Farm, East Grimstead	3	6	4	0

Llamedos, West Dean	1	3	1	2
Trickey's Paddock, Whiteparish	1	1	0	0
79 Southampton Road, Salisbury				
Private Sites with Temporary Planning Permission				
79 Southampton Road, Salisbury				
Badgers Rest, Salisbury	1	2	0	0
Unauthorised Sites - Tolerated				
Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett	1	1	0	0
Dean Road, East Grimstead	3	5	4	0
Hart Hill, Semley				
Little Acre, Coombe Bassett	1	4	1	0
Viney Ridge	1	3	0	0
Unauthorised Sites – Not Tolerated				
Dillions Farm, East Grimstead	See Above			
Hillbilly Acre (formerly Avonview), Alderbury	5	9	2	3
Travelling Showpeople Yards				
Porton Road, Amesbury	6	11	7	2
Southampton Road, Salisbury	4	8	4	0
TOTAL	74	121	55	17

Bricks and Mortar Interview

- 5.71 Staff from ORS conducted a telephone interview with a member of the Gypsy and Traveller community currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation. The respondent stated that they currently live in private rented accommodation that it not felt as suitable and meeting their accommodation needs due to support that is needed for health problems, and regularly stays with friends and family on sites to get the support that is needed.
- 5.72 As far as permanent accommodation needs are concerned the respondent stated that they would like a permanent pitch, as well as an additional pitch for family members to use over the winter months when they are not travelling, and to provide additional support for health problems. The respondent used to live on a pitch but was forced to sell it for due to personal circumstances.

6. Current and Future Pitch Provision

Pitch Provision

- 6.1 This section focuses on the extra pitch provision which is required by Wiltshire Council currently and to 2029. This includes both current unmet needs and needs which are likely to arise in the future. This time period allows for robust forecasts of the requirements for future provision, based upon the evidence contained within this study and also secondary data sources.
- 6.2 We would note that this section is based upon a combination of the on-site surveys, planning records, stakeholder interviews and site preference list information. In many cases, the survey data is not used in isolation, but instead is used to validate information from planning records or other sources.
- 6.3 This section concentrates not only upon the total extra provision which is required in the area, but also whether there is a need for any transit sites and/or emergency stopping place provision.
- 6.4 To identify current and future need, the March 2012 CLG guidance 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' requires an assessment for current and future pitch requirements, but does not provide a suggested methodology for undertaking this calculation. However, as with any housing assessment, the underlying calculation can be broken down into a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future needs of the households. The key factors in each of these elements are set out in the sections below. The calculations will be completed for Wiltshire as a whole and then broken down by Housing Market Area. Separate calculations will also be completed for Gypsies and Travellers and for Travelling Showpeople.

Supply of Pitches

- » Current vacant pitches.
- » Pitches currently with planning consent due to be developed within the study period.
- » Pitches vacated by people moving to housing.
- » Pitches vacated by people moving from the study area.
- » Pitches vacated due to the dissolution of households.

Current Need

- 6.5 Total current need, which is not necessarily the need for additional pitches because it may be able to be addressed by space available in the study area, is made up of the following. It is important to address issues of double counting. For example potential in-migrants may already be included on a waiting lists, or households on a waiting list may already be living as a concealed household on a permitted site or on an unauthorised encampment in the area:

- » Households on unauthorised sites for which planning permission is not expected.
- » Concealed households.
- » Households in B&M wishing to move to sites.
- » Households on waiting lists for public sites.

Future Need

- 6.6 Total future need is the sum of the following three components. Again it is important to address issues of double counting as, for example, potential in-migrants may already be on a waiting list:
- » Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions.
 - » New household formation.
 - » In-migration.
- 6.7 ORS will firstly provide the model as set out above for Gypsies and Travellers in Wiltshire and will then separately analyse the needs for the North and West HMA and the South HMA. Due to the very small number of sites and pitches it is not possible to provide a breakdown by the East HMA. A separate set of needs will be set out for Travelling Showpeople in Wiltshire as well as the possible need for additional transit provision in the study area.

Current Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision – Wiltshire

- 6.8 Planning records indicate that there are 90 authorised public pitches; 148 authorised private pitches; and 4 pitches with temporary planning permission in Wiltshire. In addition there are 27 pitches on unauthorised sites, 12 of which are tolerated.

Figure 14
Sites and Pitches in Wiltshire

Category	Sites	Pitches
Private with permanent planning permission	38	148
Private sites with temporary planning permission	4	4
Total Private Sites	42	152
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	5	90
Unauthorised Sites (11 sites and 12 pitches tolerated)	11	27
TOTAL (Excluding Travelling Showpeople)	58	269

- 6.9 The next stage of the process is to assess how much space is, or will become, available on existing sites. The main ways of finding this is through:
- » Current empty pitches
 - » New sites or site extensions which have already been granted permission, or are likely to gain planning permission in the foreseeable future, or sites which are likely to come back into use following refurbishment
 - » Pitches vacated by people moving to housing.

- » Pitches vacated by people moving from the study area.
- » Pitches vacated due to the dissolution of households.

6.10 Currently there are a total of 11 vacant pitches on public sites in Wiltshire – 4 at Lode Hill, 4 at Dairyhouse Bridge and 3 at Oak Tree Field. Planning permission has also been granted to provide an additional 8 pitches at Thingley Gypsy Site, 4 additional pitches at Oak Tree Field Gypsy site and 4 additional pitches at Odstock – whilst the pitches at Odstock will not be implemented until new transit provision has been identified, the Council are confident that this supply will be made available during the first 5 years of the study period so they are counted as supply. In addition there are 14 pitches on private sites which have been granted planning permission but have not yet been implemented at Rose Field and Frampton Park. This gives a potential **supply of 41 pitches** during the first 5 years of the study.

6.11 The site visits did identify a number of vacant pitches on private sites, but as these were on small family sites as opposed to larger commercial sites they cannot be counted as available supply.

6.12 There were 2 households identified on the public sites who said that they want to move to bricks and mortar accommodation and no evidence of pitches likely to be vacated by people moving from the study area.

Additional Pitch Provision: Current Need

6.13 The next stage of the process is to assess how many households are currently seeking pitches in the area. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking pitches will include those:

- » Households on unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected.
- » Concealed households.
- » Households in bricks and mortar wishing to move to sites.
- » Gypsy and Traveller households on waiting lists for public sites.

Current Unauthorised Developments

6.14 The study has identified 27 pitches on unauthorised developments in Wiltshire. Of these 12 are classified by the Council as tolerated (from a planning perspective) so do not therefore make up a component of current need. As such there are a **total of 15 pitches** on unauthorised developments that do make up a component of current need. Some are on sites with planning permission where planning conditions for the number of pitches or caravans have been breached.

6.15 A problem with many Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is that they count all caravans on unauthorised sites as requiring a pitch in the area when in practice many are simply visiting or passing through, and some may be on sites that are tolerated for planning purposes. In order to remedy this, ORS' approach is to treat need as only those households on unauthorised sites already in the planning system (i.e. sites/pitches for which a planning application has been made), those otherwise known to the Local Authorities as being resident in the area or those identified through the household survey as requiring pitches.

- 6.16 Staff visited all 5 unauthorised sites and identified a total of 15 household groups who considered Wiltshire as their permanent place of residence and expressed a wish to move to a permanent pitch in Wiltshire. Whilst staff also visited pitches on tolerated sites, these are excluded from future need requirements (but included in calculations for new household formation).

Concealed Households

- 6.17 The household survey also sought to identify concealed households on authorised sites that require a pitch immediately. A concealed household is one who is living within another household and would wish to form their own separate family unit, but is unable to do so because of a lack of space on public or private sites. Site interviews identified a **total of 15 concealed or doubled households** in Wiltshire. Note also that concealed households on unauthorised sites are included as current need under that component of the study.

Bricks and Mortar

- 6.18 Identifying households in bricks and mortar has been frequently highlighted as an issue with Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments. The 2011 UK Census of Population identified a total of 278 Gypsy and Traveller households in Wiltshire.
- 6.19 As noted earlier, ORS went to **disproportionate** lengths to identify gypsies and travellers living in bricks and mortar and worked with stakeholders, Council officers and on-site interviewees to identify households to interview. This process has resulted in 1 contact to interview at the time of this report. In addition the site interviews identified 2 households from outside Wiltshire who would like to move to a site due to family connections in the area, although no contact details were forthcoming. A response received from the Town Council in Royal Wootton Bassett indicated that the respondent was aware of Gypsy and Traveller families living in bricks and mortar but when this was followed up it did not result in any households to interview. A follow-up visit to one of the sites also identified one household needing to move to a site to receive medical care from relatives. As such the study identifies 2 households wishing to move from bricks and mortar. Given that the study also identified 2 households who wish to move back to bricks and mortar from a site the **net movement is therefore nil**.
- 6.20 ORS would also note that in a number of recent studies undertaken, ORS has worked with national Gypsy and Traveller representatives to identify households in bricks and mortar. For a number of recent studies the representatives reported over 100 known households in housing and they encouraged them to come forward to take part in the survey. The actual number who eventually took part in the surveys ranged from zero to six households per area, and a very small proportion of these wished to move back to sites. Therefore, while there is anecdotal evidence of many Gypsies and Travellers in housing, most appear to be content to remain there and when provided with the opportunity by national representatives to register an interest in returning to sites, few choose to do so.

Waiting Lists

- 6.21 Wiltshire Council currently own and manage 5 permanent public sites. There is currently a refurbishment programme underway to rebuild these 5 sites and increase the capacity. The nature of this work has required the council to suspend allocations to pitches for the duration of these works to allow any vacated

pitches to become available to enable internal moves and phasing work to be completed with the minimum amount of disruption for the current residents. ORS have been advised by the Council that all of the additional pitches and current vacant pitches will be available for occupation within the first five years that this GTAA covers. There are currently 22 households on the waiting list for the public sites. Of these 10 have already been included as concealed/doubled-up households or as living on unauthorised sites. A further 5 households are living in properties or on sites outside of Wiltshire and are not in immediate need for a pitch. Of the 7 remaining households ORS were not made aware of any personal circumstances that would warrant immediate need for accommodation on a site in Wiltshire. This study therefore acknowledges that there are households on the waiting lists for public sites in Wiltshire, and that these households need to stay on the lists and wait for a pitch to become available.

Additional Pitch Provision: Future Need

- 6.22 The next stage of the process is to assess how many households are likely to be seeking pitches in the area in the future. There are three key components of future need. Total future need is the sum of the following:
- » Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions.
 - » New household formation expected during the study period.
 - » Migration to sites from outside the study area.

Temporary Planning Permissions

- 6.23 There are currently 4 pitches on 4 sites in Wiltshire with temporary planning permission. This will be counted as additional need when calculating current and future pitch requirements.

New Household Formation

- 6.24 It is recognised that an important group for future pitch provision will be children and young adults from existing households who will wish to form their own households in future years. Historically studies of Gypsy and Traveller population have assumed a net growth in the population of 3.00% per annum. However, long-term trends indicate that the number of Gypsy and Traveller **caravans** on site has grown by 134% nationally in the past 34 years, which equates to a net growth of around 2.50% per annum. Unfortunately, no specific figures are available for Gypsy and Traveller **households**. However, the UK Census of Population 2011 and ORS' own national survey data both indicate the **population** of Gypsies and Travellers grows at a rate between 1.50% and 2.50% per annum.
- 6.25 More recently in a letter dated 26th March 2014 Brandon Lewis MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government, clarified the Government's position on household formation rates and stated:

'I can confirm that the annual growth rate figure of 3% does not represent national planning policy. The previous Administration's guidance for local authorities on carrying out Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments under the Housing Act 2004 is unhelpful in that it uses an illustrative example of calculating future accommodation need based on the 3% growth rate figure. The guidance notes that the appropriate rate for individual assessments will depend on the details identified in the local authority's own assessment of need. As such the Government is not endorsing or supporting the

3% growth rate figure, though in some cases we are aware that inspectors have, in considering the level of unmet local need when demonstrating specific traveller appeals, used the 3% growth rate figure in the absence of a local authority's own up-to-date assessment of need.'

- 6.26 While many GTAA studies undertaken by other companies have continued to use a net growth figure of 3.00%, we agree with the position being taken by CLG and firmly believe that any household formation rates should use a **robust local evidence base**, rather than simply relying on precedent.
- 6.27 The household survey for Gypsies and Travellers in Wiltshire indicates **43%** of the on-site population are children and teenagers. This is similar to the percentage of children and teenagers for the Gypsy and Traveller population in Wiltshire as a whole in the 2011 Census which was 42%, and higher than the percentage of children and teenagers for the population of Wiltshire as a whole from the 2011 Census which was 24%.
- 6.28 In the 2011 based interim ONS Population Projections the projected growth rate for the whole population of England is 0.83% per annum. A population where 35% are children gives a new household formation rate of 1.50%. As such ORS considers it appropriate to allow for future projected household growth for the Gypsy and Traveller population in Wiltshire to occur at a rate proportionally higher than 1.50% based on the higher percentage of children that were identified during the site visits (**43%**). Therefore, an annual growth rate of **2.00%** has been used in this assessment. ORS do still consider that this is a generous rate that this will provide enough new pitches to accommodate all newly-forming households in Wiltshire, as well as any concealed households and those living in bricks and mortar, who may not have been identified in the survey, to have their future needs met.
- 6.29 Based on a new household formation rate of **2.00%** we estimate that a total of **97 additional pitches** will be required during the study period as a result of new household formation, assuming that each forming household will require a pitch of its own. The private site with residents who have expressed a desire to move to bricks and mortar has not been included in the base for the calculation of new household formation.
- 6.30 Note that the base population for the calculation of new household formation excludes 4 pitches that were found to be occupied by non-Travellers. If these were to be occupied by Gypsies or Travellers the number of new household formations would rise by 1 to 98.

In-migration from outside Wiltshire

- 6.31 The most complicated area for a study such as this is to estimate how many households will require accommodation from outside the area. Potentially, Gypsies and Travellers could move to the Wiltshire area from anywhere in the country, or further afield. It has been noted that a weakness of many Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments conducted across the country has been that they either allowed for out-migration without in-migration, which led to under-counting of need, or they over-counted need by assuming every household visiting the area required a pitch.
- 6.32 Typically, ORS allow for a balanced level of migration. The advantage of allowing for net migration to sum to zero is that it avoids the problems seen with other Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments where the modelling of migration clearly identifies too low or too high a level of total pitch provision. An assumption of net nil migration implies that the net pitch requirement is driven by locally identifiable need.

- 6.33 This issue has been raised at a number of planning appeals and ORS have demonstrated that in order to include a component for net in-migration need there is also the requirement to identify where out-migration will occur from.
- 6.34 There are three main sources of out-migration. Historically, London has seen a loss of Gypsy and Traveller sites and this has seen population displaced to areas across the country. However, ORS are currently working with a number of London Boroughs including Camden, Lambeth, Bexley and also the London Legacy Development Corporation to undertake their GTAA's. In all cases the authorities have been advised by their Planning Inspectors to undertake these studies and to meet the needs identified before their Local Plans can be found to be sound. Therefore, the Planning Inspectorate is requiring London Boroughs to assess needs and provide sites, which should prevent, or significantly limit any future out-migration
- 6.35 The second potential source of out-migration is from local authorities with significant areas of green belt. A Ministerial Statement in July 2013 reaffirmed that:
- 'The Secretary of State wishes to make clear that, in considering planning applications, although each case will depend on its facts, he considers that the single issue of unmet demand, whether for traveller sites or for conventional housing, is unlikely to outweigh harm to the green belt and other harm to constitute the 'very special circumstances' justifying inappropriate development in the green belt.'*
- 6.36 However, while this reaffirmation of policy states that green belt development is likely to be inappropriate, it does not remove the requirement for local authorities with green belt to assess their needs and to provide pitches. There is a requirement for local authorities who have difficulties in meeting their own local need in their own area to work with neighbouring authorities through the Duty to Cooperate process to have these needs met. It is not the place of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to assume a particular authority will meet the needs of another and instead any authority unable to meet their own needs should work with neighbours to meet these. This process is already well established in general housing provision.
- 6.37 The final main source of out-migration is from the closure of unauthorised sites and encampments. There are several well documented cases of large-scale movement of gypsies and travellers following enforcement action against unauthorised sites – Dale Farm being a good example.
- 6.38 In Wiltshire 2 households living on sites outside Wiltshire contacted ORS following the advert that was placed in Worlds Fair. Both expressed a wish to move to a site in Wiltshire due to a number of reasons including family connections. ORS understand that these households are not currently on a waiting list for a public site in Wiltshire, and as they are currently living on sites we do not identify them as in need for a pitch. Also as there are a number of vacant pitches on public sites ORS have **assumed nil net migration** for the purpose of this study. Beyond this, rather than assess in-migrant households seeking to develop new sites in the area, ORS would propose that each case is assessed as a desire to live in the area and that site criteria rules are followed for each new site. It is important for the Council to have clear criteria-based planning policies in place for any new potential sites which do arise.

Overall Needs for Wiltshire

6.39 The estimated extra provision that is required now and for the plan period to 2029 will be **90 additional pitches** to address the needs of all identifiable households. This includes the existing households on unauthorised sites, sites with temporary planning permission, concealed households, movement from bricks and mortar and growth in household numbers due to new household formation.

Figure 15
Extra Pitches which are required in Wiltshire from 2014-2029

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty public pitches	-	11	-
Additional supply from unimplemented sites	-	14	-
Additional supply new sites	-	16	-
Total Supply		41	
Current Need			
Pitches on unauthorised developments	15	-	-
Concealed households	15	-	-
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	-
Total Current Need	30		
Future Needs			
Pitches with temporary planning permission	4	-	-
Net migration	0	-	-
New household formation (2.00%)	97	-	-
Total Future Needs	101		
Total	131	41	90

Split to 2031 in 5 year Time Periods

6.40 In terms of providing results by 5 year time periods, ORS has assumed that all unauthorised pitches, those with temporary planning permissions and concealed households are addressed in the first 5 years. In addition new household formation is apportioned over time based on a compound net annual rate of 2.00%. The figure for 2014-19 is made up of 34 from concealed households, unauthorised sites and temporary planning permissions, and 29 from the new household formations, less the supply of 41 pitches.

Figure 16
Extra pitch provision in Wiltshire in 5 Year Periods (Financial Year 01/04-31/03)

	2014-2019	2019-2024	2024-2029	Total
Wiltshire	22	32	36	90

Overall Needs for North and West HMA

- 6.41 The estimated extra provision that is required now and for the plan period to 2029 in the North and West HMA will be **68 additional pitches** to address the needs of all identifiable households. This includes the existing households on unauthorised sites, sites with temporary planning permission, concealed households and growth in household numbers due to new household formation.

Figure 17
Extra Pitches which are required in North and West HMA from 2014-2029

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty public pitches	-	0	-
Additional supply from unimplemented sites	-	14	-
Additional supply new sites	-	8	-
Total Supply		22	
Current Need			
Pitches on unauthorised developments	8	-	-
Concealed households	13	-	-
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	-
Total Current Need	21		
Future Needs			
Pitches with temporary planning permission	2	-	-
Net migration	0	-	-
New household formation (2.00%)	67	-	-
Total Future Needs	69		
Total	90	22	68

Split to 2031 in 5 year Time Periods

- 6.42 In terms of providing results by 5 year time periods, ORS has assumed that all unauthorised sites, those with temporary planning permissions and concealed households are addressed in the first 5 years. In addition new household formation is apportioned over time based on a compound net annual rate of 2.00%. The figure for 2014-19 is made up of 23 from concealed households, unauthorised sites and temporary planning permissions and 20 from the new household formations, less the supply of 22 pitches.

Figure 18
Extra pitch provision in the North and West HMA in 5 Year Periods (Financial Year 01/04-31/03)

	2014-2019	2019-2024	2024-2029	Total
North & West HMA	21	22	25	68

Overall Needs for South HMA

- 6.43 The estimated extra provision that is required now and for the plan period to 2029 in the South HMA will be **22 additional pitches** to address the needs of all identifiable households. This includes the existing households on unauthorised sites, sites with temporary planning permission, concealed households and growth in household numbers due to new household formation.

Figure 19
Extra Pitches which are required in South HMA from 2014-2029

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty public pitches	-	11	-
Additional supply from unimplemented sites	-	0	-
Additional supply new sites	-	8	-
Total Supply		19	
Current Need			
Pitches on unauthorised developments	7	-	-
Concealed households	2	-	-
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	-
Total Current Need	9		
Future Needs			
Pitches with temporary planning permission	2	-	-
Net migration	0	-	-
New household formation (2.00%)	30	-	-
Total Future Needs	32		
Total	41	19	22

Split to 2031 in 5 year Time Periods

- 6.44 In terms of providing results by 5 year time periods, ORS has assumed that all unauthorised sites, those with temporary planning permissions and concealed households are addressed in the first 5 years. In addition new household formation is apportioned over time based on a compound net annual rate of 2.00%. The figure for 2014-19 is made up of 11 from concealed households, unauthorised sites and temporary planning permissions, and 9 from the new household formations, less the supply of 19 pitches.

Figure 20
Extra pitch provision in South HMA in 5 Year Periods (Financial Year 01/04-31/03)

	2014-2019	2019-2024	2024-2029	Total
South HMA	1	10	11	22

Overall Needs for East HMA

- 6.45 The estimated extra provision that is required now and for the plan period to 2029 in the East HMA will be for **no additional pitches** to address the needs of all identifiable households.

Needs for Plots for Travelling Showpeople

- 6.46 Planning records indicate that there are 4 Travelling Showpeople yards in Wiltshire with planning permission and 1 long-term tolerated unauthorised yard. Staff from ORS visited all of the yards during the fieldwork period. One yard had been abandoned – The Old Station Yard at Dauntsey Lock. However the advice provided by the Councils Planning Officers is that as the principle in law is that a planning permission cannot be abandoned and in the absence of any other permitted use, on the basis that the original permission was implemented (as appears to be the case according to aerial photos), this land would still retain its permitted use as a Travelling Showpeople yard.
- 6.47 There was evidence at Porton Road of unauthorised households living permanently on the yard. The yard only has planning permission for 1 unit to be occupied on a permanent basis but the yard visit identified that there were an additional 5 households from the extended family living permanently on the yard. In addition there was evidence of 2 concealed households from the extended family on the yard at The Laurels.
- 6.48 Due to the small number of yards and plots in Wiltshire, and also the specific family related circumstance of the yards where additional need has been identified, ORS would recommend that a formal calculation of current and future need for Travelling Showpeople is not appropriate for this purpose of this study. The reason for this is that it is unlikely that the current and future need from existing yards can be met from the potential supply at The Old Station Yard, even if this could be brought back into use.

Meeting the Needs of Travelling Showpeople by HMA

- 6.49 As set out in the above paragraphs due to the current circumstances for Travelling Showpeople that have been identified in this study, ORS recommend that the Council will need to address this need within each individual Housing Market Area in Wiltshire rather than relying on the supply of pitches at The Old Station Yard.
- 6.50 The main issue in the North and West HMA relates to addressing 2 concealed households at The Laurels. As the concealed households are part of a wider family unit it is felt unlikely that their need can be met at The Old Station Yard, should this be brought back in to use, and the Council should therefore consider whether expansion or intensification of The Laurels would be appropriate to meet this need. The Council do still need to consider bringing the plots at The Old Station Yard back into use should any future need from new Travelling Showpeople be identified in Wiltshire. The Council will also need to take into consideration any need that may arise from new household formation at this yard over the period covered by this study.
- 6.51 The main issue in the South HMA is addressing the needs of the 5 unauthorised households at Porton Road. Again as these unauthorised plots are occupied by members of a wider family group it is felt unlikely that this need can be met at The Old Station Yard and the Council should again consider whether expansion or intensification of the Porton Road yard would be appropriate to meet this need. The Council will also need

to take into consideration any need that may arise from new household formation at this yard over the period covered by this study.

^{6.52} As a note of advice from ORS in the East HMA the Council do need to be aware of the situation at the tolerated yard at Nursteed Park in Devises. Whilst there was no need identified, other than through new household formation, the residents currently rent their plots and do not own them. There were concerns raised about what would happen to the plots should the land be sold. This is a situation that the Council needs to monitor and may potentially need to address in future years. The Council will also need to take into consideration any need that may arise from new household formation at this yard over the period covered by this study.

Transit Site/Temporary Stopping Place Provision

^{6.53} Transit sites serve a specific function of meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller households who are visiting an area or who are passing through. A transit site typically has a restriction on the length of stay of around 13 weeks and has a range of facilities such as water supply, electricity and amenity blocks.

^{6.54} An alternative to a transit site is a temporary stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which a Traveller can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities with typically only a source of water and chemical toilets provided. Some authorities also operate an accepted encampment policy where households are provided with access to lighting, drinking water, refuse collection and hiring of portable toilets at a cost to the Travellers.

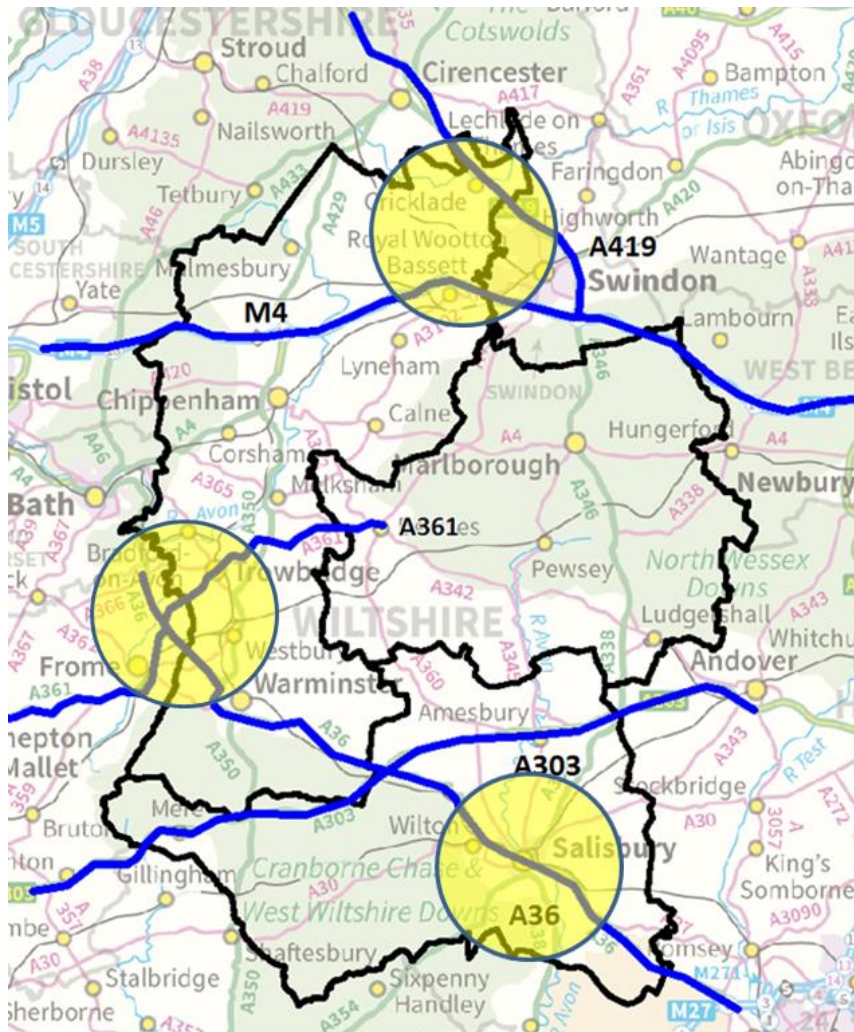
^{6.55} The difference in services and facilities that need to be provided between a transit site and a temporary stopping place are set out in detail in the CLG publication *Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites – Good Practice Guide*. In summary the services and facilities and other considerations for a transit site are very similar to planning and delivering a permanent site. For an temporary stopping place the Council needs to address the following key issues:

- » Markings or barriers to encourage residents to park safely, allow access for emergency vehicles, and enable maximum use of the site in accordance with its intended capacity and fire safety standards.
- » Regard must be given to the need to ensure a safe distance between trailers/caravans and other structures made of combustible materials. The advice of the Local Fire Officer must be sought during the planning of temporary topping places;
- » The road to and from the site must be of sufficient quality and size to enable access onto and off the site by heavy vehicles such as trailers. There must be a clear barrier around the emergency stopping place to discourage unauthorised expansion of the site;
- » It is essential for a cold water supply to be provided for the use of site residents which may be by use of water standpipe or bowser;
- » Portalooos must be provided for the use of residents, with separate provision for men and women. There must be at least one portaloo for every four households on the site;
- » It is essential for a sewerage disposal point to be provided; and
- » Refuse disposal facilities should be provided.

- 6.56 Local Authorities and the Police have a number of powers available to them to deal with unauthorised encampments. These are set out in the CLG publication *Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments - A summary of available powers* that was published in August 2013.
- 6.57 Should trespassers refuse to adhere to a request to leave the land, sections 61- 62 of Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 gives the police discretionary powers to direct trespassers to leave and remove any property or vehicles they have with them. Section 62A of the Act also allows the Police to direct trespassers to remove themselves, their vehicles and their property from any land where a suitable pitch on a relevant caravan or transit site is available within the same Local Authority area (or within the county in two-tier Local Authority areas).
- 6.58 A suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is one which is situated in the same Local Authority area as the land on which the trespass has occurred, and which is managed by a Local Authority, a Registered Provider or other person or body as specified by order by the Secretary of State. Case law has confirmed that a suitable pitch must be somewhere where the household can occupy their caravan and bricks and mortar housing is not a suitable alternative to a pitch.
- 6.59 Powers that are available to local authorities to deal with unauthorised encampments are set out in detail in the CLG publication and include:
- » Temporary Stop Notices.
 - » Injunctions to protect private land.
 - » Licensing of caravan sites.
 - » Tent site licensing.
 - » Possession Orders.
 - » Interim Possession Orders.
 - » Local Byelaws.
 - » Power of local authority to direct unauthorised campers to leave land.
 - » Addressing obstructions to the Public Highway.
 - » Planning contravention notices.
 - » Enforcement Notices and Retrospective Planning.
 - » Stop Notices.
 - » Breach of Condition Notices.
 - » Powers of entry onto land.
- 6.60 Therefore, a public transit site both provides a place for households in transit to an area and also a mechanism for greater enforcement action against inappropriate unauthorised encampments.
- 6.61 Until recently the Council operated a transit site at Odstock, south of Salisbury which had 12 pitches. This recently closed for the refurbishment of the adjacent Oak Tree Field public site as part of the programme of works to improve Gypsy and Traveller provision in Wiltshire. Once the refurbishment is complete the Odstock transit site will reopen. However it is understood that the 12 pitches at the Odstock Transit Site have been included in the Wiltshire Core Strategy with a view to exploring options for a new site(s)

- elsewhere in Wiltshire due to problems associated with having a transit site adjacent to a permanent site. Planning permission has already been granted to replace the 12 transit pitches with 4 permanent pitches when the new provision is identified.
- 6.62 Evidence provided by stakeholders and data from the Council showed that, whilst there has been a decrease in the number of unauthorised encampments, the Council's Highways Department still records between 80-90 each year, with the majority of these being described as short term and during the summer months. A large number of these are said to be New Travellers and Irish Travellers.
- 6.63 The Council keeps records of all unauthorised encampments reported to their Highways Team. From the period April 2012 – January 2014 there were 61 unauthorised encampments in the South HMA, 53 in the East HMA, and 35 in the North and West HMA. The majority of these encampments were recorded as being short term and on vacant land and car parks.
- 6.64 Wiltshire is on a major travelling route for Gypsies and Travellers visiting landmarks such as Stonehenge and events and festivals such as the Summer Solstice, Glastonbury, Stowe Fair and the Dorset Steam Fair. Stakeholders also agreed that main routes off the M4 and A4 are also used by Gypsies and Travellers when travelling to and from the south west of England.
- 6.65 Officers and wider stakeholders supported the need for the Council to explore options for transit provision of some kind and felt that this provision should be provided on the main arterial roads in a number of locations around the county. Some officers suggested that the north of the area is an ideal place for a transit site given that this area is particularly popular for Travellers.
- 6.66 Some stakeholders felt that the Council should look to provide a network of temporary stopping places for Travellers who want somewhere to stop, sometimes for just 24 hours, without police interference but without the facilities and cost of a transit site. It was discussed whether a networked approach should involve cross boundary working with other authorities on the M4 to develop stopping places on this key route. However ORS feel that this is an issue that Wiltshire need to address as this is a Wiltshire issue. Under Section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 the police can only move travellers on from unauthorised encampments if there are alternative pitches available within that local authority area. Therefore Wiltshire need to have transit provision in place to enable the police to use these powers.
- 6.67 Based on the evidence from the stakeholder interviews and the information on roadside encampments that is recorded by the Council the view of ORS is that transit provision is required in a number of areas in Wiltshire as in our view a single site would not meet this need and would result in ongoing problems with encampments. We would therefore recommend that the Council seek to provide a number of shorter-term temporary stopping places at locations across Wiltshire, and also to explore how best to meet the very short-term needs of those travelling to specific events and festivals.
- 6.68 The map overleaf shows the main travelling routes that were identified during the stakeholder interviews. From this it would be sensible for the Council to consider the provision of temporary stopping places at locations surrounding Trowbridge, Salisbury and to the north of the county.
- 6.69 ORS would also recommend, as part of a strategy to address transit requirements, that the Council engage with neighbouring local authorities to identify what they are currently doing or planning to do to address these needs. Unauthorised encampments are not a problem restricted to Wiltshire and this needs to be

recognised to ensure, for example, that potential transit sites either side of a county boundary are not being considered in isolation.



7. Conclusions

Introduction

- 7.1 This chapter brings together the evidence presented earlier in the report to provide some key policy conclusions for Wiltshire. It focuses upon the key issues of current and future site provision for Gypsies and Travellers and also Travelling Showpeople.

Gypsy and Traveller Future Pitch Provision

- 7.2 Based upon the evidence presented in this study the estimated extra pitch provision required for Gypsies and Travellers to 2029 in Wiltshire is **90 additional pitches**. These figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population arising in the area.
- 7.3 The table below shows the provision required by type of site in 5 year time periods to 2029. This is based upon addressing any current backlog of need where it arises in the next 5 years and then projecting forward household growth based upon a compound net annual rate of 2.00%.

Figure 23
Extra pitch provision in Wiltshire in 5 Year Periods (Financial Year 01/04-31/03)

	2014-2019	2019-2024	2024-2029	Total
Wiltshire	22	32	36	90

Transit Sites

- 7.4 A public transit site or emergency stopping places both provide a place for households in transit to an area and also a mechanism for greater enforcement action against inappropriate unauthorised encampments.
- 7.5 Based on evidence provided by stakeholders and data from the Council the view of ORS is that it would not be economically feasible for the Council to provide and manage more than one permanent Transit Site in Wiltshire. The evidence also shows that as transit provision is required in a number of areas and suggests that a single transit site would not meet this need and would result in ongoing problems with encampments elsewhere in Wiltshire. We would therefore recommend that the Council seek to provide a number of shorter-term stopping places at locations across Wiltshire, and also to explore how best to meet the very short-term needs of those travelling to specific events and festivals. As such it recommended that the Council to consider the provision of Emergency Stopping Places at locations near to Trowbridge, Salisbury and to the north of the county.
- 7.6 ORS would also recommend, as part of a strategy to address transit requirements, that the Council engage with neighbouring local authorities to identify what they are currently doing or planning to do to address these needs. Unauthorised encampments are not a problem restricted to Wiltshire and this needs to be

recognised to ensure, for example, that potential transit sites either side of a county boundary are not being considered in isolation.

Travelling Showpeople Requirements

- 7.7 Due to the small number of yards and plots in Wiltshire, and also the specific family related circumstance of the yards where additional need has been identified, ORS recommend that a formal calculation of current and future need for Travelling Showpeople is not appropriate for this purpose of this study. The reason for this is that it is unlikely that the current and future need from existing yards can be met from the potential supply at The Old Station Yard, even if this could be brought back into use.
- 7.8 The main issue in the North and West HMA relates to addressing 2 concealed households at The Laurels. As the concealed households are part of a wider family unit it is felt unlikely that their need can be met at The Old Station Yard, should this be brought back in to use, and the Council should therefore consider whether expansion or intensification of The Laurels would be appropriate to meet this need. The Council do still need to consider bringing the plots at The Old Station Yard back into use should any future need from new Travelling Showpeople be identified in Wiltshire.
- 7.09 The main issue in the South HMA is addressing the needs of the 5 unauthorised households at Porton Road. Again as these unauthorised plots are occupied by members of a wider family group it is felt unlikely that this need can be met at The Old Station Yard and the Council should again consider whether expansion or intensification of the Porton Road yard would be appropriate to meet this need.
- 7.10 As a note of advice from ORS in the East HMA the Council do need to be aware of the situation at the tolerated yard at Nursteed Park in Devises. Whilst there was no need identified, other than through new household formation, the residents currently rent their plots and do not own them. There were concerns raised about what would happen to the plots should the land be sold. This is a situation that the Council needs to monitor and may potentially need to address in future years.

Stakeholder Engagement

- 7.11 As a result of the outcomes of the interviews with stakeholders ORS would recommend that the Council explore a range of opportunities in relation to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 7.12 Overall, the majority of those interviewed within Wiltshire felt that more provision is required, particularly in the south of the area. When asked about the types of sites that should be provided most supported the development of smaller private sites as opposed to larger private or public sites.
- 7.13 Wiltshire officers and wider stakeholders supported the provision of smaller transit sites or temporary stopping places. Information gathered through the stakeholder interviews suggests there is a lot of cross boundary movement, particularly with Hampshire. However, due to the lack of data offered by individual authorities and the absence of any data that has been collated using a 'joined-up' methodology, it is difficult to provide any conclusions, other than anecdotal evidence, on wider travelling patterns. Therefore, individual authorities continue to deal with transit issues in isolation to their neighbours.

- ^{7.14} It would be helpful if more cross boundary work was done to: share information on unauthorised encampments; develop a common protocol and methodology on collecting data on unauthorised encampments; track families travelling patterns across borders; develop and maintain a central database; and also record the extent to which unauthorised encampments require transit or permanent accommodation.
- ^{7.15} The majority of the neighbouring areas have completed a GTAA and at the time of interview were working towards meeting the identified pitch and plot requirements. The majority of the authorities are experiencing difficulties trying to provide accommodation and have other general issues. This presents a good opportunity to share methodologies and findings from their respective GTAAs and it would be useful to identify a platform in which to do so. Indeed, there are a number of cross border issues which could be explored, including:
- » Sharing best practice on site management.
 - » Exploring the distribution of need across the region.

Appendix A: Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Wiltshire (July 2014)

Site	Site Reference	Number of G&T Pitches	Total Permitted Pitches
Public Sites			
Dairyhouse Bridge Gypsy Site, Salisbury	31	13	14
Fairhaven Gypsy Site, Westbury	52	7	7
Lode Hill Gypsy Site, Downton	32	10	10
Oak Tree Field Gypsy Site, Odstock Road	33	36	36
Thingley Gypsy Site, Chippenham	4	20	23
TOTAL PITCHES ON PUBLIC SITES		86	90
Private Sites with Permanent Permission			
Bonnie Farm, Bratton	54	10	10
Bournelake Park, Cricklade	5	15	15
Braemar, Coombe Bissett	36	2	2
Bridge Paddocks, Minety	16	2	2
Calcutt Stables, Calcutt	22	14	14
Christian Place, Kington Langley	8	4	4
Dillions Farm, East Grimstead	91	1	1
Field 7920, Minety	13	16	16
Former Glenville Nurseries, Royal Wootton Bassett	23	7	7
Frampton Farm, Sutton Benger	19	11	11
Hicks Leaze, Cricklade	89	1	1
Land adjacent to Hisomly Farmhouse, Dilton Marsh	60	1	1
Land adjacent to West Wiltshire Crematorium	56	3	3
Hedgerow Stables, Bratton	65	1	1
Land adjoining Swindon and Cricklade Railway	12	2	2
Land at Capps Lane, Bratton	62	1	1
Land at Four Oaks, Lydiard Millicent	7	11	11
Land at Greenfield View, Leigh	6	6	6
Land at junction Frome Road and Poplar Tree Lane	69	1	1
Land at Lower Westbury Road, Bratton	63	1	1
Land at Orchard Paddock, Christian Malford	9	1	1
Land south of Four Winds, West Ashton	78	1	1
Land south west of Bonnie Farm, Bratton	61	1	1
Land west of Penn Farm, Bratton	58	1	1
Lansdowne, Semington	53	1	1

Littleton Stables, Littleton Semington	57	1	1
Llamedos, West Dean	35	1	1
Melbourne View, Brinkworth	11	10	10
Pudding Brook, Chippenham	10	2	2
Purdys Farm, Braydon	17	2	2
Rose Field Caravan Site, Hullavington	20	6	6
Sand Pit Lane, Dilton Marsh	90	2	2
Specks Caravan Park, Clench Common	1	1	1
The Paddock, Startley	14	2	2
The Paddocks, Hook	98	2	2
The Stables, Calcutt	97	1	1
Trickey's Paddock, Whiteparish	41	1	1
79 Southampton Road, Salisbury	46	2	2
TOTAL PRIVATE PITCHES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION		148	148
Private Sites with Temporary Permission			
79 Southampton Road, Salisbury	46	1	1
Badgers Rest, Salisbury	42	1	1
Land opposite 6 Hawkridge Road, Heywood	55	1	1
The Caravan, Wootton Bassett	18	1	1
TOTAL PRIVATE PITCHES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION		4	4
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission			
Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett	38	1	0
Dean Road, East Grimstead	45	3	0
Ernies Yard, Warminster	86	2	0
Hart Hill, Semley	44	2	0
Little Acre, Coombe Bassett	39	3	0
Viney Ridge, Figsbury	37	1	0
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES		12	0
Unauthorised Developments			
Adjacent to 46 Chelworth Road, Cricklade	108	6	0
Dillions Farm, East Grimstead	91	5	0
Hillbilly Acre (formerly Avonview), Alderbury	48	2	0
Land adjacent to 27 Restrop Road, Purton	15	1	0
Melbourne View, Brinkworth	11	1	0
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS		15	0
TOTAL PITCHES		265	242
NEW HOUSEHOLD FORMATION BASE (INCLUDING CONCEALED HOUSEHOLDS)		280	

Appendix B: Travelling Showpeople Yards in Wiltshire (July 2014)

Yard	Site Reference	Number of TSP Plots
Public Yards		
	None	0
TOTAL PLOTS ON PUBLIC SITES		0
Private Yards with Permanent Permission		
Land opposite The Laurels, North Bradley	59	5
Porton Road, Amesbury	50	1
Southampton Road, Salisbury	49	1
The Old Station Yard, Dauntsey Lock	96	0 ³
TOTAL PRIVATE PLOTS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION		7
Private Yards with Temporary Permission		
	None	0
TOTAL PRIVATE PLOTS WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION		0
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission		
Land adjacent to Nursteed Park, Devises	3	6
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS		6
Unauthorised Developments		
	None	0
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS		0
TOTAL PLOTS		13

³ There are 5 plots but the yard has been vacant for a number of years

Appendix C: Site Record Form

Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment – Site/Pitch Record (Use an additional form if more than 4 caravans present on the pitch)															
General Information															
Name of Local Authority				Wiltshire											
Date of Site Visit															
Time of Site Visit															
Name of Interviewer(s)															
Name/Address of Site/Yard															
Type of Site				Council / Social / Private / Unauthorised											
Plot/Pitch Number (if applicable)															
Planning Status				Full Permission / Temporary Permission / Unauthorised											
Number of Caravans on Pitch															
Number of other Buildings (include details)															
Family Demographics															
Caravan 1															
Name of Family				<i>If family not present note who provided the information</i>											
Ethnicity of Family				Romany Gypsy / Irish Traveller / Scots Gypsy or Traveller / Show Person / New Traveller / English Traveller / Welsh Gypsy / Non Traveller (specify)											
How long have they lived here?															
Person 1		Person 2		Person 3		Person 4		Person 5		Person 6		Person 7		Person 8	
Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age
Concealed Households?				Yes / No Detail (including assessment of over-crowding):											
Any future needs?															
Why do you like living here?															

Site/Pitch Plan	<i>Sketch of Site/Pitch – any concerns?</i>

Appendix D: Bricks & Mortar Adverts

Friends, Families of Travellers – May 2014

we seek to end racism and discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers, whatever their ethnicity, culture or background, whether settled or mobile, and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life



Health ▾ Young People ▾ Your Rights ▾ Where you live ▾ Your Work ▾

Community Noticeboard

Welcome to the FFT noticeboard featuring events, campaigns, jobs, funding opportunities, resources and more.....

[Click here to send us your events and news.](#)

Views expressed on this noticeboard are not necessarily those of FFT. Items for sale are not necessarily endorsed or recommended by FFT.

Friends, Families and Travellers



We seek to end racism and discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers, whatever their ethnicity, culture or background, whether settled or mobile, and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life. Registered Charity: 111 2326

Opinion Research Services (ORS) is an independent research company with experience in carrying out **Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments** across the country. These assessments must be carried out by every local authority to inform how many new pitches and sites will need to be provided in the future.

ORS would like to speak to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople who are looking to develop a site/yard or live in bricks and mortar and would prefer to live on a site/yard in any of the following areas: Birmingham; Bracknell Forest; the Fylde Coast (Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre); Hambleton, Hinckley and Bosworth; North Herts South Norfolk; Eastleigh and Southampton; Hyndburn; South Norfolk; Wiltshire; Wokingham; Windsor and Maidenhead; Reading and West Berkshire.

If you would like to speak to ORS about your accommodation needs, please contact Claire Thomas on (01792) 535337 or email Claire.Thomas@ors.org.uk.

World's Fair – May 2014

WORLD'S FAIR

**Market
Trader**

Traders slam
van ban

Market square
fountain of foam

INSIDE

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Funfairs
Two from
Gloucestershire

PAGE 24

Circus
Russell's Circus
- Viva Latino

PAGE 28

Preservation
Ackworth Scammell
spectacular

Stormy weather at Beaconsfield but the show goes on

By Desmond FitzGerald

This year's Beaconsfield Charter Fair, the 744th holding of the Buckinghamshire's Old Town event, took place on a Saturday. Once more there were some surprises, with several new rides, shows and kiosks across the fair's four 'Ends' (roads) that radiate from the central roundabout.

However, once again there were gaps across the fair, especially in the London and Aylesbury Ends, with both the forecast stormy weather, with gusting winds, and the fear of losing a better weekend's business elsewhere due to

steadier business in recent years at Beaconsfield.

Nonetheless, there were showmen who showed confidence in the historic fair by returning, including Robert & Alf Smith who brought their very rare Eyerly Loop O Plane, a small but neat direct-drive version of the Dive Bomber, to the Wycombe End, near the roundabout.

This position has seen several varied rides over the years and the Loop O Plane proved as capable as any and surprisingly quicker than most. That it was lower in height than the traditional Dive Bombers and significantly

lower than the newer Booster types worked to its advantage here.

The windy conditions that swept the county on Friday and were set to continue throughout the weekend meant that Bridget Burton's Booster was unable to pull on. It was standing by in the nearby Borough Green showmen's yard awaiting the wind to die down. It never did and the ride had to be replaced on its position in the London End, the highest point of the Buckinghamshire town, by James Burton's play centre.

While the wind did not physically curtail other rides at the fair, the many flags on John Irvin's Pit Stop kiosk and pick & mix sweet stall were

flapping dramatically near the roundabout of the Aylesbury End all day. The wind did keep the rain away, except for intermittent showers, but also kept the teenagers away in the evening, with the families shortening their stay during the day.

The pull on, from Friday at 6.30pm, had otherwise run smoothly and almost like clockwork once again under chief steward for the Showmen's Guild London Section, David Amer, with his colleague stewards in hi-visibility uniform, Bill Pettigrove, Phillip Searle and London Section Vice Chairman John Edwards among them.

The later pull on of rides and attractions, with some arriving

on the morning of Saturday's fair day, helped, but as ever there were still some locals' parked cars on ride positions that had to be moved.

As part of the legal and logistical duties of holding the fair, special road closure and diversionary signs were placed across the fair. It's an important consideration, with the adjacent M40 having its alternative route in an emergency through the roads used by the fair, so an extra diversionary route is needed.

The numbers of local residents of all ages who gather to witness the pull on grows annually, their ranks swelled by fairground

enthusiasts drawn from across the county, along with Giles Paddison, as the official from Hill Barn Estates, the Charter Trustees; and Town Crier Dick Smith in full regalia. The Town Crier officially read out the Charter proclamation at each of the four Ends, ahead of the official possession of the streets from 6.30pm.

Harry Hebborn returned with his build up Dodgems in the London End for a second year, (where John Parrish's Extreme and Reuben Bond's Wheel are usually seen). They arrived drawn by a new Foden 9-wheeler, shortly to be christened 'The Governor'

Continued on page 2



John Bomber Smith's Calypso back at Beaconsfield.

**Travelling Showpeople
Accommodation Assessments**

Opinion Research Services (ORS) is an independent research company who carry out regular **Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessments**. We work for Councils across the UK to undertake this work to inform them how many new yards and plots may be needed in the future to meet the needs of Travelling Showpeople.

As part of this work ORS would like to speak to any Travelling Showpeople who are looking to move to a new yard, or who are currently living in bricks and mortar and would prefer to live on a yard. We are particularly interested in speaking with Showpeople from the following areas:

Birmingham, Blackpool, Bracknell, Eastleigh, Fylde, Maidenhead, Reading, Southampton, South Norfolk, West Berkshire, Wiltshire, Windsor and Wokingham.

Your views are very important to us.

If you would like to speak to ORS about your accommodation needs please contact **Clare Thomas** on 01792 536337 or email clare.thomas@ors.org.uk

Appendix E: Additional Stakeholder Comments

Community Cohesion

Most officers were of the view that the settled community will express concern over the development of a new site, however small. However, long established sites are said to be well integrated. Two officers felt that the settled community's negative stereotypes are reinforced by the media. In order to combat these negative perceptions and stereotypes the Traveller Support Service undertakes cultural training in schools, colleges and Universities. An officer praised the work of the liaison officers who have reportedly built up a good relationship with the Gypsy and Traveller community.

However, two officers noted that some Travellers want to separate themselves from the rest of the community and have erected high fencing and walls – which doesn't help aid integration and can lead to mistrust within the settled community.

Site Criteria

Three officers commented on site criteria and were of the view that when determining the outcome of a site application – they would look at sustainability issues such as proximity to schools, GP surgeries shops, schools and road networks.

Officers acknowledged that this criterion does not always reflect the wish of Travellers to be located away from the settled community. Therefore, it is felt that the edge of a village/town could be a compromise.

Employment

No major employment issues were raised. Gypsy and Travellers are said to be self-reliant and are either self-employed or working with other Travellers.

Education

Wiltshire has a Traveller Support Service which has responsibility for ensuring children from the Traveller community accesses education. Unfortunately, but similar to other areas of the country, the staffing numbers have been cut from twelve to six.

An officer explained that being made aware of children in the area is extremely important as parents will not necessarily know about the service and many will be content to home school their children. On the Council sites the Service are kept up to date by the site warden if there are any children present. However, an officer explained that this can be more difficult on private sites. Fortunately, the officer was not aware of problems accessing private sites.

The Traveller Support Service works with Swindon and will share information with education services in Hampshire and has recently been in touch with Berkshire, Surrey, Hampshire and Gloucestershire.

A representative of the travelling community and an elected member were of the view that educating the settled community about the nomadic lifestyle and the different cultures that exist within the community would be beneficial as many peoples view is based upon the negative portrayal of the travelling community in the media.

Health

There is a body of research which shows the health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers are lower than that of the settled community. Poor accommodation, lifestyle and access to health services are contributory factors.

As aforementioned, the standard of accommodation in Wiltshire is variable and an officer referred to issues relating to damp caravans/mobile homes, insufficient heating, and lighting and bathroom facilities. Clearly, the investment in the public sites will improve accommodation and will result in improved health outcomes.

Access to health services continues to be an issue and an officer explained that although many Gypsy and Travellers are registered with their local GP they continue to visit the Accident and Emergency unit when in need. In the event that they do not visit or register with a GP they don't access preventative care such as immunisation programmes, screening programmes and health promotions which could actually improve their health rather than just responding to an episode of illness. For example, they don't access information about how to stop smoking, or how to access and use contraception.

Currently, nurses visit sites periodically and will also respond to particular incidents or issues such as the measles outbreak in late 2013. Public health worked with local surgeries to go into the community to offer vaccinations to those children and parents who hadn't had the vaccination.

A community organisation also runs the 'Blue Bus' which visits sites, particularly in the north of the county, to do health promotions.

Going forward, public health has developed a plan with health trainers who are going to be working with the Gypsy and Traveller community to provide health information, signposting, and will work with individuals over a period of time to look at their health protection needs and how to promote better health for them, such as how to tackle alcohol dependency.