

# **Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment: North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth**

**Final Report**

**Lisa Scullion, Joanna Wilson Brown and  
Philip Brown**  
Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit  
University of Salford

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University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

## About the Authors

**The study consisted of the following core team members:**

Dr Lisa Scullion (Research Fellow)

Dr Philip Brown (Senior Research Fellow)

Joanna Wilson Brown (Research Associate)

The team was also supported by Victoria Morris (Project Administrator) and Sharon Finney and Tracey Finney who worked as Community Interviewers for the study.

The Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit is a dedicated multi-disciplinary research and consultancy unit providing a range of services relating to housing and urban management to public and private sector clients. The Unit brings together researchers drawn from a range of disciplines including: social policy, housing management, urban geography, environmental management, psychology, social care and social work.

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This report is based on research undertaken by the study team and the analysis and comment thereafter do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the research commissioners, or any participating stakeholders and agencies. The authors take responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions in the report.

# Contents

About the Authors.....	2
Acknowledgements.....	3
Contents .....	4
Glossary .....	6
Executive summary .....	8
1. Introduction.....	11
Background and scope .....	11
Research approach.....	12
Structure of the report.....	14
2. Policy context .....	16
Planning policy 2006-2011 .....	16
Regional planning policy.....	16
Current planning policy .....	17
Defining Gypsies and Travellers .....	19
Housing/accommodation need.....	21
Defining a pitch .....	22
Conventions.....	22
3. The bi-annual Caravan Count and size of the population.....	23
Caravan numbers and trends from the Caravan Count .....	23
The size of the local Gypsy and Traveller community.....	26
4. Authorised social and private sites .....	28
Socially rented sites – North Warwickshire .....	28
Socially rented sites – Nuneaton and Bedworth.....	30
Socially rented sites: survey findings .....	31
Authorised private sites .....	35
Authorised private sites: survey findings .....	35
5. Planning and unauthorised sites .....	40
Current policy.....	40
Planning applications since 2006 .....	41
Unauthorised development of Gypsy and Traveller sites.....	41
Unauthorised developments: survey findings .....	42
Unauthorised encampments.....	44
6. Gypsies and Travellers in social and private bricks and mortar accommodation .....	47
Estimating the size of Gypsy and Traveller population in bricks and mortar housing.....	47
Living in bricks and mortar accommodation: survey findings.....	49
7. Future accommodation, household formation and accommodation affordability .....	54
Future accommodation intentions.....	54

Household concealment.....	57
Household formation .....	57
Accommodation affordability .....	57
8. Travelling Showpeople .....	59
A note on the assessment of accommodation need.....	60
Explanation of the need requirement elements .....	62
In summary.....	65
10. An assessment of need for transit accommodation .....	67
Need for transit sites and stopping places.....	67
Appendix 1: The assessment methodology .....	69
Appendix 2: Demographics of the local Gypsy and Traveller population.....	72
Appendix 3: Questionnaire .....	74

## Glossary

The following terms are used in this report and or are used in conjunction with planning for Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople accommodation. As such these terms may need some clarification. In the case of those terms which are related to Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and culture, it is noted that a number of these terms are often contested and debated. It is not the intention of the authors to present these terms as absolute definitions; rather, the explanations provided are those the authors used in this assessment as their frames of reference.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Amenity block/shed</b>	On most residential Gypsy/Travellers sites these are buildings where basic plumbing amenities (bath/shower, WC and sink) are provided at the rate of one building per pitch.
<b>Authorised social site</b>	An authorised site owned by either the local authority or a Registered Housing Provider.
<b>Authorised Private site</b>	An authorised site owned by a private individual (who may or may not be a Gypsy or a Traveller). These sites can be owner-occupied, rented or a mixture of owner-occupied and rented pitches.
<b>Bricks and mortar</b>	Permanent mainstream housing.
<b>Caravan</b>	Mobile living vehicle used by Gypsies and Travellers. Also referred to as trailers. Both terms are used within this report.
<b>Caravan Count</b>	Bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans conducted every January and July by local authorities published by the CLG
<b>Chalet</b>	In the absence of a specific definition the term 'chalet' is used here to refer to single storey residential units which resemble mobile homes but can be dismantled.
<b>Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)</b>	The main government department responsible for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation issues.
<b>Development Plan Documents (DPDs)</b>	Documents which outline the key development goals of the local planning frameworks/local plans.
<b>Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA)</b>	The main document that identifies the accommodation requirements of Gypsies and Travellers.
<b>Green Belt</b>	A policy or land use designation used to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or neighbouring urban areas.
<b>Gypsy</b>	Members of Gypsy or Traveller communities. Usually used to describe Romany (English) Gypsies originating from India. This term is not acceptable to all Travellers.
<b>Gypsies and Travellers</b> (as used in this report)	Consistent with the Housing Act 2004, inclusive of: all Gypsies, Irish Travellers, New Travellers, Showpeople, Circus People and Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation.
<b>Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)</b>	National housing and regeneration agency. Has been responsible for administering the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant since 2009/10.
<b>Local planning framework/Local plan</b>	A set of documents which a Local Planning Authority creates to describe their strategy for development and use of land in their area of authority.

<b>Pitch/plot</b>	Area of land on a site/development generally home to one licensee household. Can be varying sizes and have varying caravan occupancy levels. Often also referred to as a plot, particularly in relation to Travelling Showpeople. There is no agreed definition as to the size of a pitch.
<b>Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)</b>	Previous planning approach across England. In July 2010 the government announced its decision to revoke RSSs.
<b>Settled community/people</b>	Reference to non-Travellers (those who live in houses).
<b>Site</b>	An authorised area of land on which Gypsies and Travellers are accommodated in trailers/chalets/ vehicles. Can contain one or multiple pitches.
<b>Static caravan</b>	Larger caravan than the 'tourer' type. Can be moved but only with the use of a large vehicle. Often referred to simply as a trailer.
<b>Stopping place</b>	Locations frequented by Gypsies and Travellers, usually for short periods of time.
<b>Suppressed/concealed household</b>	Households, living within other households, who are unable to set up separate family units and who are unable to access a place on an authorised site, or obtain or afford land to develop one.
<b>Trailer</b>	Term commonly used by Gypsies and Travellers to refer to a moveable caravan. Both terms are used within this report.
<b>Transit site</b>	Site intended for short stays. Such sites are usually permanent, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.
<b>Travelling Showpeople</b>	Commonly referred to as Showmen, these are a group of occupational Travellers who work on travelling shows and fairs across the UK and abroad.
<b>Unauthorised Development</b>	This refers to a caravan/trailer or group of caravans/trailers on land owned (possibly developed) by Gypsies and Travellers without planning permission.
<b>Unauthorised Encampment</b>	Residing in caravans/trailers on private/public land without the landowner's permission (for example, at the side of the road, on a car park or on a piece of undeveloped land).
<b>Yard</b>	Term used by Travelling Showpeople to refer to a site.

# Executive summary

## The study

1. The Housing Act 2004 placed a duty upon local authorities to produce assessments of accommodation need for Gypsies and Travellers. In November 2012 Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire Councils commissioned the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford to produce an updated Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment. The primary purpose of this assessment was to provide up to date information and data regarding the needs and requirements of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. This report presents the projection of pitch requirements for the period 2012 – 2028.
2. The assessment was undertaken by conducting a review of the following data sources:
  - Previous assessments of need and information submitted through the previous regional planning process
  - The policy and guidance context
  - Census 2011 data
  - The bi-annual Caravan Count
  - Information from the local authority with regards to pitch provision and supply
  - Information from key stakeholders
  - A survey of 38 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households
3. From the estimation of a base population of 98 households in Nuneaton and Bedworth and 44 in North Warwickshire, we consulted with 60 resident households in Nuneaton and Bedworth; 61% of the estimated resident Gypsy and Traveller community across the district. We consulted with 42 residents in North Warwickshire; 95% of the estimated resident Gypsy and Traveller community across the district. We believe that the sample is as representative as can be reasonably expected given the relatively hidden nature of the population and the timescale available for the consultation period. The fieldwork took place during a two week period in the middle of December 2012. The base date used in this assessment is 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013.



## Local Accommodation Provision

4. There is no one source of information about the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population across the Study Area. Our best estimate in relation to the resident population is that there are at least 372 individuals or 98 households in Nuneaton and Bedworth and 157 individuals or 44 households in North Warwickshire. The population was found across the following accommodation types:
- There is **one socially rented site** in Nuneaton and Bedworth. This site currently accommodates 25 households. This is also **one socially rented site** in North Warwickshire which accommodates 17 households.
  - There are **nine private sites with permanent planning permission** accommodating 25 families in Nuneaton and Bedworth and **two private sites with permanent planning permission** in North Warwickshire accommodating eight households.
  - There are **three unauthorised developments** in Nuneaton and Bedworth. These sites currently accommodate six households. There are no unauthorised developments in North Warwickshire.
  - It is estimated that there are at least **42 households living in bricks and mortar accommodation** in Nuneaton and Bedworth and at least **19 households living in bricks and mortar accommodation** in North Warwickshire.
  - There are **no Travelling Showpeople sites** in Nuneaton and Bedworth or North Warwickshire.

## Characteristics of Local Gypsies and Travellers

5. The survey of Gypsies and Travellers identified some of the important characteristics of the local population.
- Although the average household size over the whole sample in Nuneaton and Bedworth is 4.0, this varied between different accommodation types; for example, the average household size for those in bricks and mortar was 4.5, compared to 3.5 on the council run sites, and 3.3 on the private developments with planning permission. The average household size over the whole sample for North Warwickshire is 3.4, this also varied between different accommodation types; for example 3.3 on council sites, 2.9 on sites with planning permission and 4.1 for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation
  - The majority of Gypsies and Travellers on all site types have strong and longstanding local connections. The Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire communities generally appears to be a settled one with little travelling and very intention to move or to travel.
  - The local population is largely Romany Gypsies (93%), with a smaller number of Irish Travellers.
  - The population are most likely to not travel or only travel for one to two weeks per year.

## Accommodation Need and Supply

6. There are no signs that the growth in the Gypsy and Traveller population will slow significantly. Research from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has indicated that around 6,000 additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers are immediately required to meet the current shortage of accommodation within England.
7. This study has taken a thorough assessment of the need arising from all accommodation types present at the time of the survey. As such this assessment of need should be regarded as a reasonable and robust assessment of need upon which to base planning decisions going forward. Sites developed after 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013 contribute to the need requirements detailed in the table below.

Table i: Summary of Net Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation need (2012 - 2028)

	North Warwickshire Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Requirements		Nuneaton and Bedworth Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Requirements	
	Residential pitches	Transit pitches	Residential pitches	Transit pitches
Current authorised provision (pitches)	25	0	50	0
<b>Need 2012 - 2017 (pitches)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15-20</b>
Need 2017 –2022 (pitches)	3	0	8	0
Need 2022 –2028 (pitches)	4	0	12	0
<b>Need 2012/13 – 2027/28 (pitches)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15-20</b>

8. It is recommended that this assessment of accommodation need is repeated in due course (circa 5 years) to ensure it remains as accurate as possible.
9. Indicative numerical transit requirements have been made. A number of considerations underpinning the provision of accommodation for short-stay households are detailed in the main report.

# 1. Introduction

## Background and scope

- 1.1 The Housing Act 2004 placed a duty upon local authorities to produce assessments of accommodation need for Gypsies and Travellers. In 2007, North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth commissioned a sub-regional assessment of need along with a number of other local authorities and this was published as the *Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment*.<sup>1</sup> This assessment provided an overview of the accommodation and related needs and experiences of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire. Crucially, it identified the accommodation need – in the form of residential pitch shortfall – of the population on an individual local authority level. For North Warwickshire, the assessment identified a need for 12 pitches over the period 2007-2012, with an additional 15 pitches required between 2012 and 2026. For Nuneaton and Bedworth, the assessment identified a need for 21 pitches over the period 2007-2012, with an additional 23 pitches required between 2012 and 2026.
- 1.2 Planning guidance contained within Circular 01/2006 indicated that the district level requirements identified in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) were to be submitted to the Regional Planning Body (RPB) – in this case the West Midlands Regional Assembly – and a ‘strategic view’ of need taken. The intention was that these figures, once agreed, would be incorporated into the Regional Spatial Strategy which in turn would be adopted by each local authority’s local planning framework. The adopted West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy required that ‘development plans should ensure adequate provision is made for suitable sites to accommodate gypsies and other travellers’. This provision had to reflect demand shown by Caravan Count Data and ‘any additional local information’. The West Midlands RSS Interim Statement looked at the distribution of existing pitches and pitch requirements across the region and diverted some of the requirement from areas which already had large levels of provision to those with none or low levels<sup>2</sup>. The Interim Statement allocated 14 pitches to North Warwickshire and 29 pitches to Nuneaton and Bedworth between 2007 and 2017 (with a need for five transit pitches in each area over the same period).
- 1.3 In July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Strategies. Local authorities were advised to continue to develop local planning frameworks and where these had already been adopted, use the adopted Development Plan Documents as the local planning framework.

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<sup>1</sup> Brown, L., Hunt, L., Condie, J. and Niner, P. (2007) *Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment*, Salford: University of Salford.

<sup>2</sup> West Midlands Regional Assembly (2010) *West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, Phase Three Revision Interim Policy Statements and Policy Recommendations, March 2010*.

- 1.4 In early 2012 a revised policy for the planning of Gypsy and Traveller sites was released by CLG replacing previous guidance in this area<sup>3</sup>.
- 1.5 In November 2012 North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Councils commissioned the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford to produce a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment. The primary purpose of this assessment was to provide up to date information and data regarding the needs and requirements of the local Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. This report presents the projection of accommodation requirements for the following periods:
- 2013 – 2018 (0-5 years)
  - 2018 – 2023 (6-10 years)
  - 2023 – 2028 (11-16 years)

### Research Approach

- 1.6 The approach to this assessment involved bringing together various existing data sources with empirical research with the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities across North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth. Details about the methodology for the assessment can be found in Appendix 1. The methodology entailed a review of the following data sources:
- Previous assessments of need and information submitted through the previous regional planning process
  - The policy and guidance context
  - The bi-annual Caravan Count
  - Information from the local authorities with regards to pitch provision and supply
  - Consultations (written and verbal) were undertaken in order to develop a clearer understanding about the context of provision and need within the two areas and to help inform the assessment of need. This information has been incorporated into this report in the appropriate places. This included information from: housing, planning, and education officers, the Police, and the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.
  - A survey of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople currently residing in Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire. This entailed the completion of interviews with **102** households living in trailer-based and bricks and mortar accommodation across the two areas: **60 in Nuneaton and Bedworth** and **42 in North Warwickshire**. See Appendices for specific details of this sample and the research process.

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<sup>3</sup> CLG (2012) *Planning for traveller sites*

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2113371.pdf>.

Table 1.1 : Sample in relation to local Gypsy and Traveller population – Nuneaton and Bedworth

Type of accommodation	No. of sites			No. of known occupied pitches/households		
	Total	Sample	%	Total	Interview Sample	%
Socially rented sites	1	1	100%	25	25	100%
Residential private authorised pitches (permanent) <sup>4</sup>	9	8	89%	25	17	68%
Residential private authorised pitches (temporary)	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unauthorised developments	3	2	67%	6	5	83%
Unauthorised encampments	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Travelling Showpeople yards	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL SITE BASED POPULATION</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>84%</b>
Housed	N/A	N/A	N/A	42	13	31%

Table 1.2: Sample in relation to local Gypsy and Traveller population – North Warwickshire

Type of accommodation	No. of sites			No. of known occupied pitches/households		
	Total	Sample	%	Total	Interview Sample	%
Socially rented sites	1	1	100%	17	17	100%
Residential private authorised pitches (permanent)	2	1	50%	8	7	88%
Residential private authorised pitches (temporary)	0	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
Unauthorised developments	0	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
Unauthorised encampments	0	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
Travelling Showpeople yards	0	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL SITE BASED POPULATION</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>96%</b>
Housed	N/A	N/A	N/A	19	18	95%

1.7 The key points to note from the methodological approach adopted is that:

- From the estimation of the base population in the two study areas a sample of around 61% has been achieved across Nuneaton and Bedworth and a sample of around 95% has been achieved across North Warwickshire. The sample size for both areas in this localised assessment is far greater than the sample that was

<sup>4</sup> Includes unauthorised pitches that are considered tolerated located on private sites with permanent planning permission

achieved in the previous cross-boundary assessment (where eight interviews were carried out in North Warwickshire and 22 in Nuneaton and Bedworth). We believe that the sample is as representative as can be reasonably expected given the relatively hidden nature of the population.

- Due to the size of the sample it is reasonable to gross up findings from the survey to the total population of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the two areas. See Chapter 9 for a description of how the survey findings have been translated into accommodation need.

## Structure of the Report

1.8 This report is intended to assist North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Councils in their formulation of planning policies for the provision of accommodation for the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. It sets out the background and current policy context, identifies the estimated Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population and presents evidence of need arising within the two authorities.

- **Chapter 2** looks at the past, present and emerging policy context in the area of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation.
- **Chapter 3** looks at the trends in caravan numbers evident from the bi-annual count of caravans and estimates the size of the local Gypsy and Traveller community.
- **Chapter 4** discusses current authorised provision across the two areas.
- **Chapter 5** looks at the level of planning applications made in the two areas and the presence of unauthorised sites.
- **Chapter 6** looks at the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation as well as drawing upon the views of households obtained through the survey.
- **Chapter 7** looks at a range of issues including the movement intentions of the sample, the formation of new households, the concealment of existing ones and the accommodation preferences of the Gypsy and Traveller population.
- **Chapter 8** looks at specific issues as they relate to Travelling Showpeople within the local authorities.
- **Chapter 9** provides the numerical assessment of accommodation need for North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- **Chapter 10** provides an analysis of the need for transit provision for North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth.

- 1.9 The base date for this assessment is 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Any changes in the level of accommodation provided after this date impacts on the level of accommodation need identified in this report.

## **2. Policy Context**

2.1 This chapter looks at the current and past policy context impacting on the assessment of need and the provision of accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

### **Planning Policy 2006-2011**

2.2 The main document for detailing planning policy in England over the 2006-2011 period was ODPM Circular 01/2006 *Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites*. This specifies that the aims of legislation and policy were to:

- Ensure that Gypsies and Travellers have fair access to suitable accommodation, education, health and welfare provision
- Reduce the number of unauthorised encampments and developments
- Increase significantly the number of Gypsy and Traveller sites in appropriate locations and with planning permission in order to address under-provision by 2011
- Protect the traditional travelling way of life of Gypsies and Travellers
- Underline the importance of assessing accommodation need
- Promote private site provision
- Avoid Gypsies and Travellers becoming homeless, where eviction from unauthorised sites occurs and where there is no alternative accommodation.

2.3 The circular directed local authorities to assess needs through Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) which should then form part of the evidence base for subsequent Development Plan Documents.

2.4 Travelling Showpeople were the subject of separate planning guidance - CLG Circular 04/07 - which aimed to ensure that the system for pitch assessment, identification and allocation as introduced for Gypsies and Travellers was also applied to Travelling Showpeople.

### **Regional Planning Policy**

2.5 ODPM Circular 01/2006 made it clear that district level requirements identified in GTAAs were to be submitted to the relevant Regional Planning Body (RPB) – in this case the West Midlands Regional Assembly. The RPB would then, in turn, provide pitch requirements on a district by district basis once a strategic view of needs had been taken through the process of producing the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The broad purpose of the strategic view was to ensure requirements were identified fairly and did not compound existing inequalities of accommodation provision. The intention was that these figures, once agreed, would be incorporated into the RSS, which in turn would be adopted by each local authority's local planning framework.



- 2.6 The adopted West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy required that 'development plans should ensure adequate provision is made for suitable sites to accommodate gypsies and other travellers'. The West Midlands RSS Interim Statement looked at the distribution of existing pitches and pitch requirements across the region and diverted some of the requirement from areas which already had large levels of provision to those with none or low levels<sup>5</sup>. The Interim Statement allocated 14 pitches to North Warwickshire and 29 pitches to Nuneaton and Bedworth between 2007 and 2017 (with a need for five transit pitches in each area over the same period).
- 2.7 In July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Strategies. Local authorities were advised to continue to develop local planning frameworks and, where these had already been adopted, use the adopted Development Plan Documents as the local planning framework. Specific guidance was provided in July 2010 in the form of a letter from the Chief Planner in order to assist in the determination of provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites.<sup>6</sup> With respect to the needs of Gypsies and Travellers this guidance stated that:

*“Local councils are best placed to assess the needs of travellers. The abolition of Regional Strategies means that local authorities will be responsible for determining the right level of site provision, reflecting local need and historic demand, and for bringing forward land in DPDs. They should continue to do this in line with current policy. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) have been undertaken by all local authorities and if local authorities decide to review the levels of provision these assessments will form a good starting point. However, local authorities are not bound by them. We will review relevant regulations and guidance on this matter in due course.”*

### **Current Planning Policy**

- 2.8 The government has formulated a new planning framework for England and Wales in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Among the many significant changes to the planning system the NPPF places greater emphasis of the role communities can play in the planning process. The NPPF also contains a presumption in favour of sustainable development and makes provisions for the protection of the Green Belt.
- 2.9 The specific planning framework that will be implemented for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation provision has also been released. This replaces Circulars 01/06 and 04/2007.<sup>7</sup> This states that:

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<sup>5</sup> West Midlands Regional Assembly (2010) *West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, Phase Three Revision Interim Policy Statements and Policy Recommendations, March 2010.*

<sup>6</sup> Quartermain, S. (2010) *Chief Planning Officer Letter: Revocation of Regional Strategies*, online at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1631904.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> CLG (2012) *Planning for traveller sites* <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2113371.pdf>

*“Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. This policy must be taken into account in the preparation of development plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. Local planning authorities preparing plans for and taking decisions on traveller sites should also have regard to the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework so far as relevant.”*

2.10 The Policy states that the Government’s overarching aim is:

*“to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.”*

2.11 The Policy outlines the Government’s aims in respect of Traveller sites:

- That 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.

- 2.12 Policy A of 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' states that in assembling the evidence base necessary to support their planning approach, local planning authorities should:
- a) pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities (including discussing travellers' accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups)
  - b) co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas over the lifespan of their development plan working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities
  - c) use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions.
- 2.13 This accommodation assessment is one of the main components in the evidence base required in the preparation of the planning approach for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation for North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Councils. It has been developed through engagement with Gypsies, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in the two authorities and through discussion with key stakeholders, in accordance with national policy.

### **Planning for Pitch Provision in Surrounding Local Authorities**

- 2.14 North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth sit to the north of Warwickshire County. Rugby sits to the south of Nuneaton and Bedworth whilst Tamworth and Lichfield are in the north. To the east of the county is Leicestershire and to the west, Birmingham. Rugby is currently developing their Allocations Development Plan as a next step from their 'call for sites' exercise as a means to meet the need for an additional 62 pitches between 2007 and 2016. Stratford-Upon-Avon (also to the south of the region) produced a guidance note in June 2012 to provide advice on the provision and design of sites in order to plan to meet the need for 44 additional pitches between 2008 and 2013. This guidance note will be replaced by a formal Core Strategy in due course. Warwick District Council, are currently running their site options consultation, which will work in line with their Local Plan process. The recently updated GTAA for the area demonstrated a need for a total of 31 permanent pitches over a 15 year period, 25 of which are required within the first five years of the Local Plan and a 12 pitch transit site to be delivered over the Plan period. The most recent published GTAA for Birmingham (2008) identified a need for an additional 19 pitches. The 2012 GTAA for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland in East Midlands identified a need for an additional 113 pitches between 2012 and 2017.

### **Defining Gypsies and Travellers**

- 2.15 Defining Gypsies and Travellers is not straightforward. Different definitions are used for a variety of purposes. At a very broad level the term 'Gypsies and Travellers' is used by non-Gypsies and Travellers to encompass a variety of groups and individuals

who have in common a tradition or practice of nomadism. More narrowly both Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised minority ethnic groupings.

2.16 At the same time Gypsies and Travellers have been defined for accommodation and planning purposes. The statutory definition of Gypsies and Travellers for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments required by the Housing Act 2004 is:

*(a) persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan; and  
(b) all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:*

- i. such persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently; and*
- ii. members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such).*

2.17 The new planning policy contains a separate definition for planning purposes which offers a narrower definition and excludes Travelling Showpeople:

*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 show people or circus people travelling together as such.*

2.18 This definition focuses more narrowly upon people who either still travel or have ceased to do so as a result of specific issues and can as a consequence demonstrate specific land use requirements.

2.19 A separate definition of Travelling Showpeople is provided within the planning policy:

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

2.20 The new planning policy document uses the term 'traveller' to refer to both Gypsy and Traveller communities and populations of Travelling Showpeople. This has been used as it is recognised that this definition is "...more pragmatic and wider and enables local planning authorities to understand the possible future accommodation needs of this group and plan strategically to meet those needs".<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> CLG (2011) *Planning for traveller sites*, Consultation Paper, April, London: HMSO, online at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1886164.pdf>

## Housing/Accommodation Need

- 2.21 Crucially, for Gypsies and Travellers, the definition of housing need is varied slightly to acknowledge the different contexts in which members of these communities live. The general definition of housing need is *“households who are unable to access suitable housing without some financial assistance”*, with housing demand defined as *“the quantity of housing that households are willing and able to buy or rent.”*<sup>9</sup>
- 2.22 In recognising that in many cases these definitions are inappropriate for Gypsies and Travellers, the guidance on producing Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments<sup>10</sup> refers to distinctive requirements that necessitate moving beyond the limitations of the definition for both caravan dwellers and those in bricks and mortar housing. For caravan dwelling households, need may take the form of those:<sup>11</sup>
- Who have no authorised site on which to reside
  - Whose existing site accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable, but who are unable to obtain larger or more suitable accommodation
  - Who contain suppressed households who are unable to set up separate family units and are unable to access a place on an authorised site, or obtain or afford land to develop one.
- 2.23 In the context of bricks and mortar dwelling households, need may take the form of:
- Those whose existing accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable (including unsuitability by virtue of psychological aversion to bricks and mortar accommodation).
- 2.24 The needs presented in this report reflect the definition of Gypsies and Travellers as used in the Housing Act 2004, which gives an overall strategic level of accommodation need. It should also be noted that steps have been taken within this report to analyse need in the context of local and historic demand.
- 2.25 Housing need is assessed at the level of a single family unit or household (broadly a group of people who regularly live and eat together). On Gypsy and Traveller sites, this is assumed to equate to a ‘pitch’; in housing, to a separate dwelling.

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<sup>9</sup> ODPM (2006) *Definition of the term 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the purposes of the Housing Act 2004*. Consultation Paper, February, London: HMSO.

<sup>10</sup> GTAA guidance has been used in developing the methodology but variations to the approach have been made to take account of local circumstances, where considered appropriate.

<sup>11</sup> CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments – Guidance*, London: HMSO.

## Defining a Pitch

- 2.26 There is no set definition for what constitutes a Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch. In the same way as in the settled community, Gypsies and Travellers require various accommodation sizes, depending on the number of family members.
- 2.27 The convention used in this report is that a pitch is the place on a Gypsy and Traveller site accommodating a single family/household. In some cases a single pitch may account for the entire site. The number of caravans that a household uses can be a single unit (trailer, touring caravan, static, chalet, etc.) or more. In order to ensure comparability across accommodation types it is important to determine a convention when translating caravan numbers into pitches/households.
- 2.28 The convention in the last round of GTAAs, and an approach advocated by CLG guidance, was the use of a national average 1.7 caravan to pitch ratio<sup>12</sup>. In this assessment, from the trailer-based interviewees carried out, an overall pitch ratio of 1.8 is calculated for Nuneaton and Bedworth and 1.2 for North Warwickshire. The average for both local authorities equates to 1.5. Where necessary we have used the 1.7 caravan to pitch ratio throughout this assessment.

## Conventions

- 2.29 Two conventions are followed in this report:
- Percentages in text and tables are rounded to the nearest whole number; this means that they do not always sum to exactly 100.
  - Quotes included from the Gypsy and Traveller interviews are distinguished by being in italic type and usually inset.

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<sup>12</sup> CLG (2007) *Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy Reviews on Gypsies and Travellers by Regional Planning Bodies*, London: CLG.

### 3. The bi-annual Caravan Count and size of the population

3.1 This chapter looks at the Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans in order to present what is known about Gypsies and Travellers within North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth. This chapter also presents information on the estimated size of the Gypsy and Traveller population.

#### Caravan Numbers and Trends from the Caravan Count

3.2 The bi-annual Caravan Count provides a snapshot of the local context in terms of the scale and distribution of caravan numbers across North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth. The Count provides a starting point in assessing the current picture and recent trends. Indeed, in the absence of other datasets it is virtually the only source of information on Gypsy and Traveller caravan data. However, there are well documented issues with the robustness of the count.<sup>13</sup> These issues include: the 'snapshot' nature of the data, the inclusion of caravans and not households, the historic exclusion of Travelling Showpeople<sup>14</sup>, and the exclusion of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation. It should be noted that the analysis contained in this report should be considered a more robust assessment of the current situation with regards to the local population than the Caravan Count.

3.3 Tables 3.1 and 3.2 provide the distribution of caravan numbers for North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth respectively since January 2006. These tables show the following:

- **North Warwickshire** – the highest number of caravans are recorded on socially rented sites. This shows an increase in the number of caravans on socially rented sites since 2009. There have been a small number of caravans recorded on private authorised sites since 2010. A small number of caravans also feature on unauthorised developments; however, this number has decreased from a peak in 2010. With the exception of four caravans in January 2012, no caravans have been recorded on unauthorised developments over the period.
- **Nuneaton and Bedworth** – Prior to 2010 the highest number of caravans were on private sites. However, as of 2010, the number of caravans on private sites dropped with a high number of caravans then featuring on socially rented sites. A small number of caravans feature on unauthorised developments, but this type of site has been a consistent feature across the period. The number of caravans recorded on unauthorised encampments is low.

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<sup>13</sup> Niner, P. (2002) *Review of the ODPM Caravan Count*, London: ODPM.

<sup>14</sup> The January 2011 and January 2012 counts included a count of Travelling Showpeople caravans for the first time. However, as this is not comparable with previous years and as nil caravans have been identified this is excluded from the tables in this report.

Table 3.1: Caravan numbers across accommodation types within North Warwickshire 2006 - 2012

Count	Authorised sites (with planning permission)				Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				Total
	Socially rented	Private			Unauthorised developments		Unauthorised encampments		
		Temporary permission	Permanent permission	All private	'Tolerated'	'Not tolerated'	'Tolerated'	'Not Tolerated'	
<b>Jul 12</b>	25	0	5	5	0	3	0	0	<b>33</b>
<b>Jan 12</b>	29	0	6	6	0	3	4	0	<b>42</b>
<b>Jul 11</b>	24	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	<b>29</b>
<b>Jan 11</b>	26	5	1	6	0	7	0	0	<b>39</b>
<b>Jul 10</b>	27	5	0	5	0	9	0	0	<b>41</b>
<b>Jan 10<sup>15</sup></b>	22	5	0	5	0	15	0	0	<b>42</b>
<b>Jul 09</b>	12	-	-	0	3	12	0	0	<b>27</b>
<b>Jan 09</b>	15	-	-	0	8	0	0	0	<b>23</b>
<b>Jul 08</b>	11	-	-	0	8	0	0	0	<b>19</b>
<b>Jan 08</b>	12	-	-	0	8	0	0	0	<b>20</b>
<b>Jul 07</b>	9	-	-	0	0	7	0	0	<b>16</b>
<b>Jan 07</b>	10	-	-	0	0	7	0	0	<b>17</b>
<b>Jul 06</b>	12	-	-	0	7	0	0	0	<b>19</b>
<b>Jan 06</b>	6	-	-	0	0	7	0	0	<b>13</b>

<sup>15</sup> Please note that data which breaks down private sites into permanent/temporary permission was not available or not required to be collected until this time.



Table 3.2: Caravan numbers across accommodation types within Nuneaton and Bedworth 2006 - 2012

Count	Authorised sites (with planning permission)				Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				Total
	Socially rented	Private			Unauthorised developments		Unauthorised encampments		
		Temporary permission	Permanent permission	All private	'Tolerated'	'Not tolerated'	'Tolerated'	'Not Tolerated'	
<b>Jul 12</b>	58	0	28	28	3	1	0	0	<b>90</b>
<b>Jan 12</b>	34	3	27	30	0	4	0	0	<b>68</b>
<b>Jul 11</b>	24	2	21	23	5	2	0	0	<b>54</b>
<b>Jan 11</b>	29	5	16	21	6	5	0	3	<b>64</b>
<b>Jul 10</b>	35	3	13	16	3	6	0	5	<b>65</b>
<b>Jan 10</b>	45	0	29	29	2	0	0	10	<b>86</b>
<b>Jul 09</b>	0	-	-	60	2	0	0	0	<b>62</b>
<b>Jan 09</b>	0	-	-	73	3	0	0	0	<b>76</b>
<b>Jul 08</b>	0	-	-	63	0	4	0	4	<b>71</b>
<b>Jan 08</b>	0	-	-	64	3	3	0	14	<b>84</b>
<b>Jul 07</b>	0	-	-	44	2	9	0	3	<b>58</b>
<b>Jan 07</b>	0	-	-	35	0	11	0	0	<b>46</b>
<b>Jul 06</b>	0	-	-	19	0	9	0	0	<b>28</b>
<b>Jan 06</b>	0	-	-	37	0	8	0	0	<b>45</b>

## The size of the Local Gypsy and Traveller Community

- 3.4 For most minority ethnic communities, presenting data about the size of the community in question is usually relatively straightforward (with the exception of communities which have large numbers of irregular migrants and migrant workers, etc. amongst them). However, for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, one of the most difficult issues is providing accurate information on the size of the population. As a result, we have used our survey findings and information provided by the local authorities and key stakeholders in order to provide a best estimate as to the size of the local Gypsy and Traveller population at the time of the assessment.
- 3.5 Census 2011 data details that 75 individuals in Nuneaton and Bedworth and 45 individuals in North Warwickshire have identified themselves as Gypsy or Traveller. Based on the information supplied by both councils and the number of interviews secured with residents in both Boroughs, we consider the Census 2011 figures to be an underestimation of the total populations of Gypsies and Travellers in the districts.
- 3.6 As highlighted in Chapter 1, this localised assessment has achieved a larger sample than that which featured in the previous cross-boundary GTAA.<sup>16</sup> Tables 3.3 and 3.4 present the estimation of the size of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth respectively. Using the information available we estimate that there are at least 372 individuals or 98 households in Nuneaton and Bedworth and 157 individuals or 44 households in North Warwickshire.

Table 3.3: Gypsy and Traveller population based in North Warwickshire

Type of accommodation	Families/households (based on 1 pitch/house = 1 household)	Individuals	Derivation
Socially rented sites	17	56	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (3.3)
Private sites	8	23	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (2.9)
Bricks and mortar	19 <sup>17</sup>	78	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (4.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>157</b>	

<sup>16</sup> Brown, L., Hunt, L., Condie, J. and Niner, P. (2007) *Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment*, Salford: University of Salford.

<sup>17</sup> We did not receive any information regarding the accurate size of the Gypsy and Traveller bricks and mortar-based population. It is generally agreed that there are now more Gypsies and Travellers living in conventional housing in the UK than living on sites or unauthorised encampments. The Commission for Racial Equality's 2006 report *Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers* suggested that the housed population could be around 3 times the trailer-based population. Using a multiplier of 3 times the site population may be excessive in the absence of definitive evidence of the size of the population. Therefore, as a conservative estimate, we assume we have interviewed 75% of the actual bricks and mortar-based population.

Table 3.4: Gypsy and Traveller population based in Nuneaton and Bedworth

Type of accommodation	Families/households (based on 1 pitch/house = 1 household)	Individuals	Derivation
Socially rented sites	25	88	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (3.5)
Private sites	25	83	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (3.3)
Unauthorised developments	6	29	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (4.8)
Bricks and mortar	42 <sup>18</sup>	172	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (4.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>372</b>	

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<sup>18</sup> We did not receive any information regarding the accurate size of the Gypsy and Traveller bricks and mortar-based population. It is generally agreed that there are now more Gypsies and Travellers living in conventional housing in the UK than living on sites or unauthorised encampments. The Commission for Racial Equality's 2006 report *Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers* suggested that the housed population could be around 3 times the trailer-based population. Using a multiplier of 3 times the site population may be excessive in the absence of definitive evidence of the size of the population. Therefore, as a conservative estimate, we assume we have interviewed 75% of the actual bricks and mortar-based population.

## **4. Authorised Social and Private Sites**

4.1 In order to provide more specific information on the local Gypsy and Traveller population, the remaining chapters draw upon the information provided by North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Councils on site provision within the two authorities as well as information obtained through a survey of Gypsy and Traveller households.

### **Socially Rented Sites – North Warwickshire**

4.2 There is currently one socially rented site in North Warwickshire (information on this site is detailed in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.15 below). North Warwickshire Council indicated that there were plans to provide additional socially rented sites/pitches over the next five years. A residential site with two pitches has been provided as part of this site, which has been managed by Warwickshire County Council on a temporary basis to accommodate a family with two households who have had specific accommodation needs. This family no longer has a specific need for this site, and as such the site is due to be closed. The council are currently working with the family to identify alternative suitable accommodation in the district, preferably in the form of a private site.

#### *Alvecote Caravan Park*

4.3 This site currently has a total of 17 residential pitches. At the time of this study 16 were occupied; however, one pitch has been since closed due to vandalism but will be refurbished and brought back into use once a family identifies a desire to move to this site.

4.4 Warwickshire County Council indicated that the number or nature of pitches on the site had not changed over the past five years and that many families living on the site are settled and happy. However, there are a number of pitches that have been vacated and let over the past four years and this is thought to be because the site is fairly unpopular with potential and new residents moving on, due to its reportedly inconvenient location and proximity to the railway line. These factors are thought to, in part, explain the relatively high turnover. Warwickshire County council report that the site was refurbished in 2008, but this seems to have had little effect on its popularity.

4.5 The site has been the subject of a successful bid for a Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant. This was used to update the units with kitchens and toilets in 2007. There was no intention to apply for further funding.

4.6 The site is managed by Warwickshire County Council. There have been no changes in site management arrangements over the last five years.

4.7 Licensees are permitted to be absent for a maximum of four weeks subject to payment of full rent/licence fee. Licensees are permitted to have visitors on the site for a maximum of 28 days.

- 4.8 There is a formal waiting list for the site, the council indicated that the number of applicants has decreased over the last few years and Warwickshire County Council confirm that there are currently no applicants for this site. This is thought to be due to the unpopularity of the site. The site has a formal allocations policy for letting pitches. This takes the following factors into account: family size/composition; need for accommodation; medical/special health needs; previous known behaviour/references; and previous rent arrears. Of these factors, the most important considerations are: need for accommodation and medical/special health needs.
- 4.9 The weekly rent is £58 for a pitch (the pitches provide space for a single caravan and a towing vehicle), with all/almost all residents (over 90%) receiving housing benefit payments. A damage deposit of £250 is required at the start of a licence.
- 4.10 Information from Warwickshire County Council indicates that there are currently 32 people living on the site: 20 adults; four children under the age of five; seven children aged five to 11; and one child aged 12 to 16. In terms of ethnic group, the residents were reported to be English Gypsy or Traveller. North Warwickshire Council reported 100% occupancy for most of the year during 2011. About half of the residents (i.e. 40 – 60%) have lived on the site longer term (i.e. five year or longer).
- 4.11 In terms of facilities, each pitch has an amenity unit, which contains the following: bath; WC with direct entrance from outside; space/provision for cooking; space/provision/plumbing for laundry; and effective heating.
- 4.12 Warwickshire County Council described the quality of the general surroundings and environment of the site, and the site's location in relation to access to schools and shops as poor. The following comments were made in relation to this rating:
- “The site is next to a main railway line and schools, shops, etc are quite far away.”*
- 4.13 Warwickshire County Council described the physical condition and maintenance of the site as good.
- 4.14 Warwickshire County Council indicated that there have been known instances of intimidation and other anti-social behaviour on the site over the last 12 months. This resulted in eviction from the site on one occasion and in other cases mediation was carried out to resolve the issues. There have not been any cases of anti social behaviour in recent weeks.
- 4.15 Warwickshire County Council indicated that there were currently no households doubled up on the site.

## **Socially rented sites – Nuneaton and Bedworth**

4.16 There is currently one socially rented site in Nuneaton and Bedworth (information on this site is detailed in paragraphs 4.17 to 4.27 below). The Council indicated that there were currently no plans to provide additional socially rented sites/pitches over the next five years.

### *Griff Hollows Site*

4.17 This site currently has a total of 25 residential pitches; all of which were currently occupied. Warwickshire County Council indicated that the size of the site had increased by four pitches over the last five years. Seven pitches had been vacated and re-let over the past four years.

4.18 The site has been the subject of a successful bid for a Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant. This was used for a total re-build and for mobile homes in 2010 to be placed on the site. There was no intention to apply for further funding.

4.19 The site is managed by Warwickshire County Council. They indicated that in February 2007 they took over the management of the site from a lease holder who it was felt had not looked after the site. In consultation with the residents at the site, Warwickshire County Council made the decision to take over the management of the site, and began plans to improve the conditions and the management of the site.

4.20 Licensees are permitted to be absent for 28 days subject to payment of full rent/licence fee. It was indicated that they are allowed to be absent for longer if they notify the Council. Licensees are permitted to have visitors on the site for up to 28 days without permission; however, permission must be sought for stays of longer than 28 days.

4.21 Warwickshire County Council indicated that there is an informal waiting list for the site, which currently has six people on the waiting list. It was indicated that the number of applicants has remained static over the last few years. The site has a formal allocations policy for letting pitches. This takes the following factors into account, in order of importance: need for accommodation; medical/special health needs; previous known behaviour/references; and family size/composition.

4.22 The weekly rent is £105 for a pitch which provides space for a single caravan and a towing vehicle and includes a two bedroom mobile home. All/almost all residents (over 90%) receiving housing benefit payments. A damage deposit of £250 is required at the start of a licence.

4.23 Information from Warwickshire County Council indicates that there are currently 81 people living on the site: 53 adults; eight children under the age of five; 12 children aged five to 11; and eight children aged 12 to 16. In terms of ethnic group, the residents were reported to be a mix of English Gypsy or Traveller and Irish Travellers. Warwickshire County Council reported 100% occupancy for most of the year during 2011, with most of the residents (i.e. 60 - 90%) having lived on the site longer term (i.e. five years or longer).

- 4.24 In terms of facilities, the site has a meeting room, a designated work area and provision for dogs, while each pitch has a two bedroom mobile home/chalet.
- 4.25 Warwickshire County Council described the quality of the general surroundings and environment of the site as good, the site's location in relation to access to schools and shops as very good, and the physical condition and maintenance of the site as very good.
- 4.26 Warwickshire County Council indicated that there have been known instances of disputes between residents, intimidation and other anti-social behaviour on the site over the last 12 months. These issues have been managed internally and resolved by mediation.
- 4.27 Warwickshire County Council indicated that there were currently two households doubled up on the site.

### **Socially rented sites: Survey Findings**

- 4.28 A total of 42 respondents were consulted with who were living on socially rented sites (41% of the sample as a whole): 25 in Nuneaton and Bedworth and 17 in North Warwickshire. 36 respondents on the socially rented sites indicated that they were Romany Gypsies (86% of the sample as a whole); five were Irish Traveller; and one indicated 'other'. When asked to elaborate, this respondent stated that they were married to a Romany Gypsy.

#### *Views on size and facilities*

- 4.29 39 respondents on the socially rented sites responded to the question as to whether they owned or rented their caravans. 14 stated that they owned their caravan (all based in North Warwickshire) and 25 that they rented (all based in Nuneaton and Bedworth). 32 respondents said that they had one caravan, 18 had two caravans, and three had three.
- 4.30 The average number of caravans to households was 1.7 for Nuneaton and Bedworth and 1.4 for North Warwickshire.
- 4.31 When asked if they had enough space, six respondents (15% of the sample) said no. Four of those respondents were living in North Warwickshire and the other two in Nuneaton and Bedworth. In North Warwickshire, all four respondents stated that they required a larger pitch, and one a bigger shed. In Nuneaton and Bedworth, one respondent stated that they needed a larger pitch, and three stated that they wanted a shed on their pitch.
- 4.32 Two respondents reported that visitors come to stay with them on a temporary basis (one from each authority). The respondent from North Warwickshire indicated that visitors stayed with them in their caravan, while the respondent from Nuneaton and Bedworth stated that their visitors brought their own trailer with them.

- 4.33 Six respondents (15% of the sample) indicated that hosting visitors was a problem for them (two in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and four in North Warwickshire). When asked to elaborate, these respondents made reference to not having enough space for visitors on their current site.

#### *Previous Accommodation Experiences*

- 4.34 When asked why they came to live on their current site, people gave a variety of reasons (see Table 4.1 below). The most common reason was to be with or near family (59% of the sample). As can be seen, this was particularly the case for the Nuneaton and Bedworth respondents (74%). 13 respondents (38% of the sample) stated that they had been born/raised there; this was more common for the respondents in North Warwickshire (53%). Eight respondents did not provide a reason.

Table 4.1: Main reason for moving to current site

Reason	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
To be with/near family	20	59	14	74	6	40
Born/raised there	13	38	5	26	8	53
Children's education	1	3	-	-	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: excludes five missing cases

- 4.35 Table 4.2 below shows the type of accommodation they had immediately before their current site. As can be seen, the respondents had moved from a range of accommodation types, with unauthorised encampments being the most common (43% of the sample), particularly amongst the respondents from North Warwickshire (59%). A large proportion of respondents (26% of the sample), however, had been born/raised in the area, and 60% had been living on their current site for more than ten years (see Table 4.4 below).

Table 4.2: Previous accommodation

Accommodation type	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Unauthorised encampment	18	43	8	32	10	59
Been here all my adult life	11	26	9	36	2	12
Private site	7	17	4	16	3	17
House	4	4	3	12	1	6
Local Authority site	2	2	1	4	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

- 4.36 The respondents who stayed on unauthorised encampments prior to their current site stated that they primarily stayed on encampments within their current local area.



### *Length of time in the area and on the site*

4.37 With regards to length of time in the area, 90% of the respondents had been living in the area for more than ten years. The remaining respondents had been living in the area for between five and ten years. The main reason for staying in the area was having family living there (59% of the sample); this was particularly the case for the respondents in Nuneaton and Bedworth. Following family connections, people indicated that being born/raised in the area was the main reason for staying (38% of the sample), particularly the respondents from North Warwickshire (53%) (see Table 4.3 below).

Table 4.3: Main reason for staying in this area

Reason	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Have family living in the area	20	59	14	74	6	40
Born / raised here	13	38	5	26	8	53
Children's schooling / education	1	3	-		1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: excludes eight missing cases

4.38 With regards to length of time on their current site, the majority of respondents (60% of the sample) had lived there for ten years or more. This was followed by those who had lived there for between five and ten years (21%).

Table 4.4: Length of time on current site

Length	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Ten years or more	25	60	14	56	11	65
5 years or more but less than 10	9	21	5	20	4	23
3 years or more but less than 5	3	7	3	12	-	
1 year or more but less than 3	5	12	3	12	2	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

4.39 None of the respondents indicated that they had a base elsewhere, with the exception of one person who stated that their brother had a site in another area of the UK, which they were able to visit whenever they wanted.

### *Travelling Experiences*

4.40 24 respondents (57% of the sample) indicated that they never travelled (14 in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and ten in North Warwickshire). The most common reasons for not travelling were: health (42%), age (38%), and children's education (29%). However, respondents also made reference to not having a trailer (8%), work (4%),

not having a driving license (4%), and having too many animals to look after (4%). The last time people had travelled ranged from between two to 17 years ago.

- 4.41 With regards to the 18 respondents who did travel (43% of the sample), 14 travelled a few times a year, while the remaining four travelled once a year. When asked where they tended to go to, the majority of respondents made reference to travelling to fairs (for example, Appleby and Stow). However, individual respondents did make reference to visiting relatives in various parts of England.
- 4.42 The most common reason for travelling in the last 12 months was to visit fairs (11 respondents/89%). The other reasons identified were to visit relatives (39%), for work purposes (28%), and for a holiday (17%). With regards to where people stayed while travelling, the majority of respondents stayed at designated fair sites when visiting the fairs. With regards to the other reasons for travelling, people primarily made reference to staying on private sites, caravan parks, at the roadside or on council sites.

#### *Experiences of living in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation*

- 4.43 Nine respondents (21%) interviewed on the socially rented sites indicated that they had lived in a house at some point during their life; seven had lived in socially rented accommodation, one in private rented accommodation, while one had owned their own home. Two respondents indicated that their house had been within the study area (Bedworth), while other respondents had lived in Ashby, Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester, Lichfield, Luton and Tamworth.
- 4.44 Three respondents stated that their main reason for moving into bricks and mortar accommodation had been due to a lack of sites; three had moved with family; two had been evicted from their previous site; one respondent moved into a house for work reasons; and one stated that they had moved into a house because they were “*sick of being moved on*” from the roadside.
- 4.45 When asked to rate their experience of living in a house, two respondents said it was good, three respondents said neither good nor poor, two stated it was poor, and two respondents said it was very poor. With regards to their reasons for leaving the house, three respondents indicated that it was because there was a vacancy on their current site; two indicated they had moved out when they got married; two had moved out in order to travel; and one said they moved due to harassment. One respondent also stated that they had moved to be with their ‘*own community*’.

#### *Employment*

- 4.46 The majority of households were self-employed (27 - 64%), with only three respondents stating that someone in their household was employed by a third party. These respondents primarily worked within the local authority area that they lived, with a smaller number indicating that they worked across the West Midlands. Three respondents stated that they worked elsewhere in the UK and one worked in Ireland. Ten respondents indicated that they or family members were looking for work, while in three households there were family members who had retired.

- 4.47 Respondents were asked if they had ever experienced any issues or problems accessing employment. Only two respondents said yes and made the following comments:

*"I have tried to get part time work...but always get turned down. They never say it's because I'm a Traveller, but I know it is."* (Nuneaton and Bedworth respondent)

*"I have been told to leave the village because they don't like Gypsies working for them."* (North Warwickshire respondent)

#### *Health Services and Issues*

- 4.48 The respondents were asked if they had access to the following health services: GP/health centre; health visitor; maternity care; A & E; and dentist. All respondents indicated that they had sufficient access to these services; where households said that they did not currently have access, this was because the service was not relevant to them (for example, maternity care). None of the respondents indicated that they had experienced any problems accessing the local health care services.

#### **Authorised Private Sites**

- 4.49 There are currently two authorised private sites within North Warwickshire. One site has seven pitches and was reported by the Council to be owner occupied. The second site was granted permanent permission in 2011 from an application by a family who normally reside on a barge and has full planning permission for one pitch to be occupied by any member of the Gypsy and Traveller community. The Council indicated that the permission is for a speculative need and that the site was currently unoccupied. The Council indicated that the number of private sites and pitches had stayed static over the last five years; however, they expected the number of private sites to increase over the next five years.
- 4.50 There are currently nine authorised private sites within Nuneaton and Bedworth. These sites all had permanent planning permission, accommodating 25 households. However, at two of these sites, there are also six pitches that are unauthorised but considered tolerated by the Council – two on one site and four on another. The Council indicated that the number of sites and pitches had increased since 2006. They indicated that they also expected the number of private sites to increase over the next five years.

#### **Authorised Private Sites: Survey Findings**

- 4.51 A total of 24 respondents were consulted who were living on authorised private sites (24% of the sample): 17 in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and seven in North Warwickshire. All of the respondents indicated that they were Romany Gypsies, with the exception of one respondent who stated that they were married to a Romany Gypsy. It should be noted that some respondents may have been occupants of one

of the tolerated unauthorised pitches as the planning status of these sites only became apparent after the fieldwork period had ended.

#### *Views on Size and Facilities*

4.52 All the respondents on the authorised private sites owned their trailers; 14 respondents had one trailer and ten had two trailers. The average number of caravans to households was 1.6 for Nuneaton and Bedworth, and 1 for North Warwickshire.

4.53 When asked if they had enough space, just one respondent said no. This respondent was living in North Warwickshire and indicated that they needed a larger site, a larger pitch and more caravans.

4.54 Eight respondents reported that visitors come to stay with them (seven in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and one in North Warwickshire). All of these respondents indicated that visitors brought a trailer and stayed with them on their pitch/site. The majority of visitors were family members. One respondent made the following comment about accommodating visitors:

*“Anyone can pull on. It’s very nice here, loads of Travellers in this area”*  
(Nuneaton and Bedworth respondent)

4.55 None of the respondents indicated that hosting visitors was a problem for them.

#### *Previous Accommodation Experiences*

4.56 When asked why they came to live on their current site, the most common reason was to be near family/friends (71% of the sample) (see Table 4.5 below). Five residents stated that it was due to the fact that there was land available to buy, one highlighted a lack of sites, and one indicated that they had bought their chalet.

Table 4.5: Main reason for moving to current site

Reason	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
To be near family / friends	17	71	11	65	6	86
Land was available to buy	5	21	4	23	1	14
Lack of sites	1	4	1	6	-	-
Bought chalet	1	4	1	6	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>

4.57 Table 4.6 below shows the type of accommodation they had immediately before their current site. As can be seen, the respondents had moved from a range of accommodation types, with private sites and unauthorised encampments being the most common. However, the majority of respondents (58% of the sample) indicated that they had lived on their current site all their adult life.

Table 4.6: Previous accommodation

Accommodation type	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Been here all my adult life	14	58	8	47	6	86
Private site	6	26	6	35	-	-
Unauthorised encampment	2	8	2	12	-	-
House	1	4	1	6	-	-
Council site	1	4	-	-	1	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>

- 4.58 With regards to where people had moved from, the respondents who had moved from another private site indicated that they had been located in Lichfield, Nottingham and Evesham. The two respondents who had previously lived on unauthorised encampments indicated that this had been in Nuneaton and Bedworth and Coventry. The respondent who had moved from a house indicated that this had been a house they owned in Lincoln. The North Warwickshire respondent who indicated that they had lived on a council site prior to moving to their current site stated that this site had been in Nuneaton.

#### *Length of Time in the Area and on the Site*

- 4.59 With the exception of two respondents living on authorised private sites in Nuneaton and Bedworth, everyone had lived in the general area for ten years or more. One of these respondents had lived in the area for between five and ten years, and the other for between six and 12 months. One respondent in each local authority area stated that they did not know for how long they had lived in the area. The main reason for staying in the area was having family living in the area (57% of the sample) (see Table 4.7 below).

Table 4.7: Main reason for staying in this area

Reason	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Have family living in the area	12	57	9	64	3	43
Born / raised here	7	33	4	29	3	43
Work available in the area	1	5	1	7	-	-
Holiday	1	5	-	-	1	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: excludes three missing cases

- 4.60 With regards to length of time on their current site, the majority of respondents had lived on their current site for more than ten years (54% of the sample), particularly those interviewed in North Warwickshire (72%) (see Table 4.8 below). The only respondent who had lived on the site for less than six months was a North

Warwickshire respondent who stated that they were visiting the site on holiday, which they indicated they did every year.

Table 4.8: Length of time on current site

Length	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N. Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Ten years or more	13	54	8	47	5	72
5 years or more but less than 10	3	13	3	18	-	-
3 years or more but less than 5	2	8	2	12	-	-
1 year or more but less than 3	1	4	-	-	1	14
Between 6 months and 1 year	4	17	4	23	-	-
Between 3 and 6 months	1	4	-	-	1	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>

4.61 Just two respondents reported having a base elsewhere (both from North Warwickshire). One respondent had a permanent base in Market Harborough and visited family on the current site every year. The second respondent did not state where their other base was. Both bases were identified as being private sites with planning permission and both respondents stated that they visited the current site on an occasional basis.

#### *Travelling Experiences*

4.62 Seven respondents (29%) indicated that they never travelled (six in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and one in North Warwickshire). The reasons for not travelling were health reasons (one respondent); age (two respondents); children's education (one respondent); not having a trailer up to standard (one respondent); and feeling that it was no longer safe to travel (one respondent). One respondent did not provide a reason for not travelling. The last time people had travelled ranged from four to ten years ago.

4.63 With regards to the 17 respondents (71%) who did travel, 14 travelled a few times a year; two travelled once a year; and one travelled every month. When asked where they tended to go to, the majority of respondents made reference to travelling to fairs (for example, Appleby, Cambridge and Stow). However, individual respondents did make reference to visiting relatives in various parts of England, including London and Newcastle. One respondent also stated that they travelled to Ireland.

4.64 All 17 respondents had travelled in the last 12 months. As highlighted above, this was primarily to attend a fair or to visit relatives. With regards to where people stayed while travelling, 16 respondents stayed at designated fair sites when visiting the fairs and nine had stayed with relatives on private sites. Seven respondents indicated that they also stayed on caravan / holiday parks, while four respondents stated that they had stopped at the roadside.

### *Experiences of living in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation*

- 4.65 Two respondents interviewed on the authorised private sites (both in Nuneaton and Bedworth) stated that they had previously lived in bricks and mortar accommodation (one, as stated above, immediately prior to their current accommodation). Both respondents had owned the property, one of which was in Bagworth (near Coalville) and the other in Lincoln (as highlighted previously). The respondent who lived in Lincoln stated that they had moved into the house for health reasons, but this was also the reason why they subsequently moved out of the house and they indicated that their health problems restricted their ability to maintain the property. Despite these issues, they indicated that the experience of living in a house was very good. The second respondent stated that they simply wanted to “*give it a try and live in a house.*” However, they described the experience as being very poor.

### *Employment*

- 4.66 The majority of households were self-employed (23 - 96%). These respondents primarily worked within the local authority area that they lived in or across the West Midlands. Three respondents indicated that they worked in other areas of the UK. When asked to elaborate on where in the UK, one respondent identified Leicester, while the remaining two stated that they worked “*all over*”.
- 4.67 Respondents were asked if they had ever experienced any issues or problems accessing employment. While no-one made reference to any problems accessing employment, two respondents did clarify that where they work, people are not always aware that they are Gypsies/Travellers. As one commented:

*“Sometimes if they know you are a Gypsy, they don’t like you working for them, so we never say”* (Nuneaton and Bedworth respondent)

### *Health Services and Issues*

- 4.68 The respondents were asked if they had access to the following health services: GP/health centre; health visitor; maternity care; A & E; and dentist. All respondents indicated that they had sufficient access to these services; where households said that that they did not currently have access, this was because the service was not relevant to them (for example, maternity care). Despite all of the respondents stating that they had sufficient access to all services, one respondent from Nuneaton and Bedworth indicated that they are not in one place long enough to get a doctor and as such seek medical attention from A & E.

## 5. Planning and Unauthorised Sites

5.1 The development of unauthorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers can be a major source of tension between Gypsies and Travellers and the settled population. The current planning system is intended to create conditions where there is no need for unauthorised developments because land will be allocated for authorised site development within the Local Plan. The chapter focuses upon instances where there has been the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites without planning permission. The chapter concludes by looking at the presence of unauthorised encampments in the area.

### Current Policy

5.2 North Warwickshire Council indicated that their existing development plan does not include a policy towards Gypsy and Traveller sites (*North Warwickshire Local Plan 2006*). However, it was reported that the emerging Local Plan contains relevant policies relating to Gypsy and Traveller Sites (*North Warwickshire Local Development Framework, Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document, Issues and Options Consultation June 2012*)<sup>19</sup>. The Council indicated that sites/locations were being considered for Gypsy and Traveller site development:

*“No exact locations have been identified. However, generally they will be outside of the Green Belt in the first instance. The comments from the Issues and Options Paper for the Gypsy and Traveller Plan are being taken to the LDF sub-committee on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012”*

5.3 Nuneaton and Bedworth Council indicated that their existing development plan did include a policy towards Gypsy and Traveller sites (*Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Plan (June 2006)*)<sup>20</sup>:

#### *Policy H13: Gypsy and Traveller Sites*

*Proposals for additional traveller sites must meet the following criteria:*

- a) Demonstrable need cannot be met on present sites*
- b) Compatibility with other Plan policies – sites for travellers will not normally be appropriate in the Green Belt*
- c) Acceptable impact on the environmental quality of the surrounding area*
- d) Compatibility with nearby land uses*
- e) Good access to the public highway and sufficient area on site for vehicle movements*
- f) Good access to local services and facilities – schools, shops, medical practitioners*

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<sup>19</sup> North Warwickshire Local Development Framework, Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document, Issues and Options Consultation June 2012, online at:  
[http://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/4148/draft\\_gypsy\\_and\\_traveller\\_dpd-issues\\_and\\_options](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/4148/draft_gypsy_and_traveller_dpd-issues_and_options).

<sup>20</sup> Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Plan (June 2006), online at:  
[http://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/618/adopted\\_local\\_plan-june\\_2006](http://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/618/adopted_local_plan-june_2006)



g) *Defined boundaries with embankments and/or extensive landscaping and planting*

- 5.4 Nuneaton and Bedworth Council reported that their emerging Local Plan also contains relevant policies relating to Gypsies and Travellers. At the time of writing this was not publicly available as it was still in draft form and subject to Member approval. The Council indicated that no sites were currently being considered as suitable for Gypsy and Traveller site development; however, they stated:

*“Sites/locations are not being considered at present. However, sites/locations will be considered through the preparation through the proposed Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD”.*

**Planning Applications since 2006**

- 5.5 North Warwickshire Borough Council have received three planning applications since 2006. Two applications relate to the one proposed site in Hurley in 2008 (which featured as an unauthorised development). This site was divided into two sites using the same vehicular access and the same address “wrens Nest”. These applications were refused and dismissed at appeal and both parts of the site are now vacant and unoccupied. The reasons for refusal were:

- 1. Inappropriate development in the Green Belt to which there are no material considerations of significant weight to amount to very special circumstances to grant such a planning consent.*
- 2. Site lies within Flood Zone 2 and the use involves caravans which are classed as being highly vulnerable in such flood areas.*
- 3. Adverse impact on highway safety from amount and type of vehicles accessing site on a single track lane with limited visibility.*

The second related to the granting of permanent planning permission in 2011 for a site that had previously been granted temporary permission.

- 5.6 Nuneaton and Bedworth Council had received 12 planning applications for the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites since 2006: seven had been approved (one temporarily; three were pending; and two had been refused (both of which were within the Green Belt - one of which was still awaiting the outcome of the appeal hearing).

**Unauthorised Development of Gypsy and Traveller Sites**

- 5.7 North Warwickshire Council indicated that there were currently no unauthorised developments within the borough; however, they had experienced the unauthorised development of one site over the last five years. The Council did not expect the number of unauthorised developments to increase over the next five years.
- 5.8 Nuneaton and Bedworth Council indicated that there were currently three unauthorised developments within the borough, with a total of six pitches. They had experienced the unauthorised development of five sites over the last five years and

expected the number of unauthorised developments to increase over the next five years.

### **Unauthorised Developments: Survey Findings**

5.9 A total of five respondents were consulted with who were living on unauthorised developments (5% of the sample), all of whom were living in Nuneaton and Bedworth. There are also some unauthorised pitches located on private sites with planning permission in Nuneaton and Bedworth and interviews from these occupants may have been picked up in chapter four. However, we were unaware of this situation at the start of the project and therefore are unable to identify these potential respondents from within the sample. Due to the small sample size of those living on unauthorised developments, findings will be displayed in the chapter as whole numbers of respondents rather than percentages. All of the respondents on the unauthorised developments indicated that they were Romany Gypsies.

#### *Views on Size and Facilities*

5.10 Four of the respondents on the unauthorised developments indicated that they owned their pitches, while one rented a pitch. Four respondents stated that they owned their own trailers; the fifth respondent did not state whether they owned or rented their trailer. Three respondents had two trailers, one had one trailer and one respondent had four trailers. The average number of caravans to households was 2.2.

5.11 When asked if they had enough space, just one respondent said no. This respondent indicated that they needed a larger site. They also made the following comments about their site:

*“Would love to get planning [permission] so we could get the trailers out of the mud”*

5.12 One respondent reported that visitors come to stay with them. They indicated that these visitors were family members who brought their own trailers with them. This respondent indicated that they had no problems hosting visitors.

#### *Previous Accommodation Experiences*

5.13 When asked why they came to live on their current site, each respondent gave a different reason. These were as follows:

- Moving there with family
- Moved there to be near family
- A lack of sites
- Land was available to buy
- There was a vacancy on the site

5.14 With regards to where people had moved from, two respondents provided information, both of whom indicated that they had lived on private sites prior to their current site. One had previously lived in Northampton, and the other in Tamworth.

### *Length of time in the Area and on the Site*

- 5.15 With the exception of one respondent, everyone had lived in the general area for ten years or more. The remaining had lived there for less than six months. Two respondents stated that they had been born/raised in the area.
- 5.16 With regards to length of time on their current site, three respondents indicated that they had lived there for ten years or more. One respondent had lived on the site for between three and six months, and one for less than three months.
- 5.17 None of the respondents reported having a base elsewhere.

### *Travelling Experiences*

- 5.18 Four respondents indicated that they had travelled in the last 12 months. One had travelled for work reasons, three to visit fairs (such as in Appleby and Epsom), with all four indicating they had travelled to visit relatives. The three who travelled to fairs stayed on designated fair sites. The respondent who travelled for work indicated that they stayed on the roadside or on transit sites, while all four had stayed on private sites whilst visiting relatives. With regards to the areas that people travelled to – aside from the fairs mentioned above - respondents indicated that they travelled to Stafford, Scotland, Bournemouth, Gloucester and Dorset. One respondent did not provide any information with regards to whether they travelled.

### *Experiences of living in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation*

- 5.19 One respondent had previously lived in privately rented bricks and mortar accommodation in Walsall. They had moved there in order to be near family and friends. However, they found the experience to be very poor and indicated that the main reason for leaving the house was because they wanted to travel.

### *Employment*

- 5.20 All of households indicated that they were self-employed. Respondents primarily worked within Nuneaton and Bedworth, with a smaller number indicating that they worked across the West Midlands. Two respondents indicated they worked throughout the UK, although they did not state where.
- 5.21 None of the respondents indicated that they had experienced any issues or problems accessing employment.

### *Health Services and Issues*

- 5.22 The respondents were asked if they had access to the following health services: GP/health centre; health visitor; maternity care; A & E; and dentist. All respondents indicated that they had sufficient access to these services; where households said that that they did not currently have access, this was because the service was not

relevant to them (for example, maternity care). None of the respondents indicated that they had experienced any problems accessing the local health care services.

### **Unauthorised Encampments**

- 5.23 The presence and incidence of unauthorised encampments is often a significant issue that impacts upon local authorities, landowners, Gypsies and Travellers and the settled population. Due to the nature of unauthorised encampments (i.e. unpredictability, seasonal fluctuations, etc.), it is often very difficult to grasp a comprehensive picture of need for residential and/or transit accommodation without considering a range of interconnected issues. During the assessment period we did not receive notification from the Councils of any unauthorised encampments in North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- 5.24 Both Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police report that there have been unauthorised encampments in the district over recent years. This has been particularly problematic for Nuneaton and Bedworth, where encampments have been most likely sited in residential and business areas. Warwickshire Police describe a noticeable increase in reports in crime and antisocial behaviour when there are unauthorised encampments in Nuneaton and Bedworth and feel that there is a need for provision for these families who are visiting or travelling through the area at different times throughout the year.
- 5.25 Warwickshire County Council have proposed two Emergency Stopping Sites in the county to enable them to move families from unauthorised encampments where such encampments have become problematic for local residents and businesses. These sites would not fully meet a residential need for unauthorised encampments in the district as they would only provide basic facilities such as a water stand pipe and toilets. Families would only be able to stop at the sites for a maximum of 28 days. To date, the proposal for these sites has failed. However, Warwickshire County Council has stated that they will continue to investigate the potential to supply such sites.
- 5.26 North Warwickshire Council indicated that they do not have a written policy for managing unauthorised encampments; however, they were party to a joint agreement/protocol with other local authorities, the Police and Warwickshire County Council in relation to managing unauthorised encampments. It was indicated that an officer from within one of the above services would normally first make contact with Gypsies and Travellers on an unauthorised encampment. The Council indicated that they kept a log of all known unauthorised encampments within the borough. The records indicated that there had been 26 separate encampments during 2009 – 2012 (11 in 2009; eight in 2010; and seven in 2011). The following encampments were recorded during 2011.

Table 5.2: Unauthorised encampments North Warwickshire 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

No	Location	Number of caravans	Duration	Action taken
1	Grendon Recreation Ground	19	2 weeks	Section 61
2	Piccadilly Recreation Ground	5	1 week	Negotiated departure
3	Moto Services Junction 10, M42	10	6 days	Private land – No action taken
4	Land off A5 near M42 island	10	3 days	Private land – No action taken
5	Alvecote	1	3 weeks	-
6	Water Orton	8	6 weeks	Nobody there when visited
7	Freasley	1	2 weeks	Did not answer the door

5.27 The average size of encampment was eight caravans. The average duration was 15 days; however, this is skewed slightly by an encampment that lasted around six weeks.

5.28 North Warwickshire Council reported that there was no clear seasonal variation in relation to the occurrence of unauthorised encampments. It was suggested that households on unauthorised encampments were primarily those 'in transit'. The number and size of encampments had reportedly remained broadly the same over the last five years and was expected to remain broadly the same over the next five years. Table 5.3 details the number of unauthorised encampments in North Warwickshire by each year since 2009.

Table 5.3. Unauthorised encampments in North Warwickshire by year

Year	Number of unauthorised encampments
2012	6
2011	6
2010	8
2009	11

5.29 Nuneaton and Bedworth Council indicated that they have a written policy for managing unauthorised encampments and that they were party to a joint agreement/protocol with Warwickshire Police in relation to managing unauthorised encampments. It was indicated that an officer within the Council would normally first make contact with Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments. The Council indicated that they kept a log of unauthorised encampments within the borough, see table 5.4 below. The Council reported that unauthorised encampments were more common during the summer, and that most were 'in transit'. They did not provide information on whether the number and size of encampments had changed or remained broadly the same over the last five years; however, they expected the number to remain broadly the same over the next five years.

Table 5.4. Unauthorised encampments in Nuneaton and Bedworth by year

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of unauthorised encampments</b>
2012	19
2011	29
2010	26
2009	29

## 6. Gypsies and Travellers in Social and Private Bricks and Mortar Accommodation

6.1 Nationally, it is recognised that the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers currently accommodated within bricks and mortar accommodation are unknown, but potentially large. Indeed, the Commission for Racial Equality's 2006 report, *Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers*, suggested that the housed population was around three times the number of trailer-based populations, while the CLG guidance on producing GTAA's suggested the housed population to be more than half of the total population<sup>21</sup>. However, it is widely acknowledged that there is very little secondary data available on the number of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation. Numbers can only be estimated, as Gypsies and Travellers are not counted as a separate group by most data sources<sup>22</sup>. Where they are included separately, Gypsies and Travellers may sometimes be reluctant to identify themselves for fear of reprisals<sup>23</sup>. Movement to and from housing is a major concern for the strategic approach, policies and working practices of local authorities in relation to the provision of new accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller communities.

### Estimating the size of Gypsy and Traveller Population in Bricks and Mortar Housing

6.2 Officers within either local authority or members of the local Gypsy and Traveller communities in the area were able to accurately estimate the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population in bricks and mortar housing in the District.

6.3 As highlighted above, the Commission for Racial Equality suggest that the housed population can be around three times the number of trailer-based populations. However, using a multiplier of three times the site population may either overstate or understate the housed population in the absence of definitive evidence of the size of the population. Consequently, a number of other sources are pursued in order to provide some indication as to the population in bricks and mortar accommodation.

6.4 North Warwickshire Council indicated the following:

- Gypsies and Travellers are not specifically referred to in their current housing and homelessness strategy.
- Gypsies and Travellers are not identified in ethnic monitoring records in relation to housing applications/allocations.
- Nil Gypsies and Travellers were: currently registered for social housing; currently living in social housing; or housed in 2010/11.
- They did not know if the number of Gypsies and Travellers moving into social housing had changed over the last five years or would change over the next five years.

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<sup>21</sup> CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments – Guidance*, London: HMSO.

<sup>22</sup> Shelter (2008) *Good practice guide: Working with housed Gypsies and Travellers*, London: Shelter.

<sup>23</sup> CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments – Guidance*, London: HMSO.

- There was no information on Gypsies and Travellers living in private housing.
- 6.5 Nuneaton and Bedworth Council indicated the following:
- Gypsies and Travellers are specifically referred to in their current housing and homelessness strategy.
  - Five Gypsies and Travellers were currently registered for social housing (although the Council did not confirm whether the identified Gypsies and Travellers are in ethnic monitoring records in relation to housing applications/allocations).
  - There was no information on how many Gypsies and Travellers were housed in 2010/11 or had presented as homeless in the last 12 months.
  - They did not know if the number of Gypsies and Travellers moving into social housing had changed over the last five years or would change over the next five years.
  - There was no information on Gypsies and Travellers living in private housing.
- 6.6 None of the stakeholders that were consulted or members of the local Gypsy and Traveller communities in the study area were able to accurately estimate the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 6.7 In order to engage with households in bricks and mortar accommodation the Community Interviewers deployed three main strategies. They utilised their own extensive social networks in order to find people who lived in houses in the two areas; they asked people who they had interviewed in trailer-based accommodation if they knew of people in houses and if they would be happy to pass on their details; and they utilised snowball sampling where one respondent in housing recommended engaging with other households.
- 6.8 Engaging with households in bricks and mortar accommodation appeared unproblematic and more interviews could have been achieved, given more time. However, there was a sense from our community interviewers that they were reaching an upper limit of respondents through their networks. This leads us to assume that the households we interviewed may constitute a significant proportion of the entire population in bricks and mortar housing. As a conservative estimate, we suggest that 75% of the housed population have been interviewed.
- 6.9 Data from the 2011 Census indicates that within Nuneaton and Bedworth, individuals ascribing as Gypsy or Traveller totalled 75 people, with the total within North Warwickshire, 45 people. This leads us to conclude that there was under-reporting of Gypsy/Traveller ethnicity in the Census and that this does not provide an accurate picture as to the Gypsy/Traveller population in the boroughs. As such we recommend using the experiences of our fieldwork team in accessing the housed population. Once the estimated/known population living in other forms of accommodation are accounted for (see chapter three) this leads us to conclude that there are at least 172 individuals or 42 households accommodated in bricks and mortar accommodation in Nuneaton and Bedworth and 78 individuals or 19 households in North Warwickshire.



The last GTAA carried out in 2006 identified just 13 households in each of the boroughs.

- 6.10 In the absence of accurate evidence, the estimate of the base population of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in houses is based on the assumption that the number of interviews with bricks and mortar households that were secured was a minimum of 75% of the housed population. In a number of GTAA's we have carried out in other areas, an assumption has been made that survey samples have included around 50% of the housed population. This has been based on a range of information, including that provided by stakeholders, as well as taking into account the fieldwork period and how many additional interviews the Community Interviewers could have achieved with more time. In relation to the fieldwork in Lichfield and Tamworth, the Community Interviewers indicated that they had exhausted achievable bricks and mortar interviews within the study areas through site-based contacts and snowball sampling. However, it is recognised that the survey is unlikely to have captured *all* bricks and mortar residents. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the sample constitutes three quarters of the housed population<sup>24</sup>.
- 6.11 It should be noted that we believe that this may be an understatement of the actual housed population, but it is based on the best information available at the time of the assessment. A more accurate estimation of the numbers of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in houses will only be possible when a number of issues are resolved:
- Monitoring forms allow for the ethnic groups as options
  - The data from the Census 2011 provides more accurate numbers by accommodation types
  - Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople feel able to disclose their ethnic group in monitoring forms
  - Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople feel able to disclose their ethnic group to the wider community.
- 6.12 Until some of the above issues are resolved, estimates based on the informal knowledge of stakeholders and the experiences of fieldworkers, such as those in this study, will be the only and best source of evidence. It is recommended that the issue of housed Gypsies and Travellers is revisited in more detail in future studies of this type.

### **Living in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation: Survey Findings**

- 6.13 A total of 31 respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation were consulted with (30% of the sample): 13 in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and 18 in North Warwickshire. Table 6.1 below shows the breakdown by tenure. As can be seen, 77% of the sample living in bricks and mortar accommodation were living in socially rented accommodation, with smaller numbers of owner occupiers and those living in private rented accommodation. All residents who reported their ethnicity described themselves as Romany Gypsies. Four respondents did not provide their ethnicity.

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<sup>24</sup> This figure should be revised should further information become available at a later date.

Table 6.1: Tenure of bricks and mortar respondents

Tenure	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Rented from local authority or social landlord	24	77	11	84	13	72
Owner occupation	4	13	1	8	3	17
Rented from private landlord	3	10	1	8	2	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>

### *Overall Experience of living in a House*

6.14 When asked to rate their experience of living in a house, the majority of respondents (80%) described it as 'good' or 'very good'; this percentage was highest amongst the Nuneaton and Bedworth respondents (85%, compared to 72% in North Warwickshire). Only two respondents rated their current experience of living in a house as 'poor' (one in each authority).

### *Ownership of Trailers*

6.15 Six respondents in Nuneaton and Bedworth owned trailers, which were all for occasional use. All six respondents had just one trailer.

6.16 Nine respondents in North Warwickshire owned trailers, which were all for occasional use. All nine respondents had just one trailer.

### *Views on Size of Property*

6.17 The majority of respondents (25/80%) had three bedrooms, with the exception of six respondents (two in Nuneaton and Bedworth and four in North Warwickshire) who lived in two bedroom properties.

6.18 When asked if they had enough space in their current home, seven respondents said no. Three of these respondents were living in Nuneaton and Bedworth (two in socially rented houses and one in a privately rented house), and four were living in North Warwickshire (three in socially rented houses and one in a privately rented house). The most common reason for needing more space was that respondents needed somewhere to put their trailer.

6.19 Three respondents reported that visitors come to stay with them (one in Nuneaton and Bedworth and two in North Warwickshire). These visitors all stayed with them in their home.

6.20 Four respondents (13%) indicated that hosting visitors was a problem for them (three in Nuneaton and Bedworth and one in North Warwickshire). When asked to elaborate, these respondents made reference to not having enough space.

## Previous Accommodation Experiences

6.21 The most common primary reason for moving to their current accommodation was to be near family and friends (52% of total), followed by a lack of sites (20%), and health reasons (10%). Respondents from both Nuneaton and Bedford, and North Warwickshire identified these three reasons for moving. Respondents from North Warwickshire also identified overcrowding, children's education and there being a vacancy as their primary reason for moving, while those from Nuneaton and Bedworth also highlighted family problems and trouble on their previous site. Table 6.2 summarises the main reasons for moving.

Table 6.2: Main reason for moving to the house

Reason	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
To be near family / friends	16	52	7	53	9	50
Lack of sites	6	20	3	23	3	16
Health reasons	3	10	1	8	2	11
Overcrowding	2	6	-	-	2	11
Children's education	1	3	-	-	1	6
There was a vacancy	1	3	-	-	1	6
Family problems	1	3	1	8	-	-
Trouble on previous site	1	3	1	8	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>

6.22 Prior to living in their current accommodation, the most common accommodation was on a private site with planning permission (29%), followed by unauthorised encampments (23%). 19% of respondents had lived in their current accommodation for all their adult life (15% and 22% of the respondents in Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire respectively). Respondents also identified council sites, transit sites, and other bricks and mortar accommodation as their previous accommodation. When asked where they had lived, respondents identified Bedford, Coventry and Derby as locations. Table 6.3, below, shows a breakdown of respondents' previous accommodation.

Table 6.3: Previous accommodation

Accommodation type	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Private site - permanent permission	9	29	3	23	6	33
Unauthorised encampment	7	23	4	31	3	17
Been here all my adult life	6	19	2	15	4	22
Council site	4	13	1	8	3	17
Transit site	3	10	2	15	1	5.5
Another house	2	6	1	8	1	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>

- 6.23 Although only two respondents had lived in a house immediately prior to moving to their current accommodation, a further four respondents had previously lived in bricks and mortar accommodation. Four of these six respondents stated that their experience had been 'good', and two stated that it had been 'neither good nor poor'. Respondents identified a number of reasons for moving from their previous house. Two stated that it was due to the fact that they had got married, one that they wanted to travel, and one had split with their partner and had to move. One respondent identified the desire for house ownership as the reason, stating that paying a mortgage was more desirable than paying rent as the house would be theirs, while the final respondent stated that there was no reason why they had moved.

#### *Length of Time in the Area and in the House*

- 6.24 The majority of respondents (93%) had been living in the area for ten years or more (including all of the respondents from North Warwickshire). The main reasons for staying in the area were being born/raised in the area (56%) or having family living in the area (44%) (see Table 6.4 below).

Table 6.4: Main reason for staying in this area

Reason	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Born / raised here	15	56	7	58	8	53
Have family living in the area	12	44	5	42	7	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: excludes four missing cases

- 6.25 With regards to length of time in their current house, 45% of the sample as a whole had lived there for ten years or more, with over a third (35%) indicating that they had lived in the house for between five and ten years.

Table 6.5: Length of time in current house

Length	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Ten years or more	14	45	6	46	8	44
5 years or more but less than 10	11	35	4	31	7	39
3 years or more but less than 5	2	6	1	8	1	6
1 year or more but less than 3	4	13	2	15	2	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>

- 6.26 Two respondents reported having a base elsewhere (one from each area). The respondent from Nuneaton and Bedworth did not indicate where their other base was. The respondent from North Warwickshire stated that their other base was in Loughborough.

### *Travelling Experiences*

- 6.27 17 respondents (55%) indicated that they never travelled (eight in Nuneaton and Bedworth and nine in North Warwickshire). The reasons cited by respondents for not travelling were children's education (seven respondents); health (four respondents); age (three respondents); looking for a nice site in the area (one respondent); sold their trailer (one respondent); and getting land ready to move on to (one respondent). One respondent also stated that they liked their current area and therefore did not want to travel. The last time people had travelled ranged from two to eight years ago.
- 6.28 With regards to the 14 respondents (45%) who did travel, the majority (79%) stated that they travelled a few times a year. Two respondents stated that they travelled once a year, while one respondent said that they travelled every week. When asked where they tended to go to, the majority of respondents made reference to travelling to fairs (for example, Appleby, Cambridge and Stow). However, individual respondents did make reference to visiting relatives in various parts of England.
- 6.29 The most common reason for travelling was to attend fairs (69%); however, respondents also made reference to travelling to visit relatives for work or for a holiday. With regards to where people stayed while travelling, people stayed at designated sites when visiting the fairs. When visiting relatives or working, people made reference to staying with relatives on private sites or stopping on caravan parks.

### *Employment*

- 6.30 The majority of respondents were self-employed (77%). Nine respondents also stated that there were members of their household who were employed by a third party. Three respondents, all in North Warwickshire, indicated that they were retired. The majority of respondents worked within the local authority area that they lived, with a smaller number indicating that they worked across the West Midlands. One respondent stated that they worked in Leicester, one in London, and one that they travelled around working at various locations.
- 6.31 None of the respondents indicated that they had ever experienced any issues or problems accessing employment.

### *Health Services and Issues*

- 6.32 The respondents were asked if they had access to the following health services: GP/health centre; health visitor; maternity care; A & E; and dentist. All respondents indicated that they had sufficient access to these services; where households said that they did not currently have access, this was because the service was not relevant to them (for example, maternity care). None of the respondents indicated that they had experienced any problems accessing the local health care services.

## 7. Future Accommodation, Household Formation and Accommodation Affordability

7.1 This chapter looks at a range of issues including the movement intentions of the sample, the formation of new households and concealment of existing ones and the accommodation intentions of the Gypsy and Traveller population. These factors are key drivers in the assessment of accommodation need within the two authorities. The findings from the survey are presented here and how this then translates into 'need' is discussed in Chapter 9.

### Future Accommodation Intentions

7.2 Table 7.1 shows the movement intentions of the households. The majority of respondents (86% of the sample as a whole) had no plans to move or indicated that they intended to stay in their current accommodation indefinitely. This percentage was highest amongst the Nuneaton and Bedworth respondents (90%, compared to 81% of those in North Warwickshire).

Table 7.1: Movement intentions

	Intention	Current accommodation									
		All		Private site		LA site		Unauthorised development		Bricks and mortar	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Nuneaton and Bedworth	Move in the next 12 months	3	5	3	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Stay indefinitely	16	27	7	41	7	28	2	40	-	-
	No plans to move	38	63	6	35	18	72	2	40	12	92
	Other	3	5	1	6	-	-	1	20	1	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>
North Warwickshire	Move in the next 12 months	1	2	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-
	Move in the next 1 – 2 years	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11
	Stay indefinitely	6	14	-	-	3	17	-	-	3	17
	No plans to move	28	67	4	57	11	65	-	-	13	72
	Other	5	12	3	43	2	12	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>

7.3 With regards to Nuneaton and Bedworth, as can be seen, none of the residents on the local authority site indicated any intentions to move. This primarily related to the fact that the site had been improved in recent years and that these improvements had contributed to their satisfaction with the site.

7.4 Just three respondents in Nuneaton and Bedworth indicated that they needed to move; all three were living on private sites and indicated that they intended to move

in the next twelve months. The following provides further information about these households:

HH1: Indicated that they had been on the site for between six and 12 months. Prior to this site they had lived on another private site outside the study area. They had moved onto this site to be near family/friends. They indicated that they needed to move so they could travel. They did not know if they intended to stay in the area, but were looking to move to another private site owned by someone else. They indicated that they would go "*wherever my husband wants to move*". They indicated that they used the current site as a winter base: "*we stop here most winters and move in late Spring*"

HH2: Indicated that they had been on the site for between six and 12 months. Prior to this site they had been stopping on a private transit site outside the study area. They had moved onto this site to be near family/friends. They indicated that they needed to move for work reasons. They did not know if they intended to stay in the area, but were looking to move to another private site owned by someone else. They did not know where they would move to. They made the following comments: "*we move all the time, we go when we want and we travel all over*".

HH3: Indicated that they had been on the site and lived in the area for between six and 12 months. Prior to this site they had been stopping on a private transit site outside the study area. They had moved onto this site as they have family in the area. They indicated that they used this site regularly: "*we pull on here most years*". They indicated that they needed to move for work reasons. They did not know if they intended to stay in the area, but were looking to move to another private site owned by someone else. They did not know where they would move to. They made the following comments: "*we had Christmas here; we will be moving late February*".

7.5 With regards to the three respondents who indicated 'other', the respondent who was currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation indicated that they had bought a piece of land in another part of the UK (where they had close family) and would be moving as soon as they had planning permission. The respondent who was currently living on an unauthorised development indicated that they would be "moving on in Spring". They did not know if they would stay in the area, but indicated that they were looking for a private site owned by someone else in other parts of the UK. The respondent currently living on a private site indicated that they did not know when they would be moving, but suggested that they were likely to move to Essex, to a private site owned by someone else.

7.6 With regards to North Warwickshire, one respondent stated that they needed to move within the next 12 months. This respondent was currently living on the local authority site. The following provides further information about this household:

HH4: Indicated that they had been on the site for between one and three years. Prior to this site they had been living on another council site outside the study area. They had moved onto their current site to be near

family/friends. They indicated that they needed to move to a vacant pitch on a preferred site. When asked to elaborate they indicated that they wanted to move to a local authority site in Nuneaton and Bedworth. This was because they had close family members in that area. However, they indicated that there was no accommodation for them to move to.

- 7.7 As can be seen from Table 7.1, two respondents from North Warwickshire indicated that they wanted to move in the next one or two years. Both respondents were currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation. The following provides further information about these households:

HH5: Indicated that they had lived in their current house for between one and three years, but had lived in the area for ten years or more. Prior to this house they had been living on a private site. They had moved into a house due to overcrowding in their previous accommodation. They indicated that they were looking for their own site to develop with planning permission. They indicated that this would be in Nuneaton and Bedworth, because they had close family members in that area. They indicated that they did not know if there was accommodation available for them to move to.

HH6: Indicated that they had lived in their current house for between one and three years, but had lived in the area for ten years or more. Prior to this house they had been stopping on a private transit site in Nuneaton. They had moved into a house to be near family/friends (but indicated that they had left the transit site due to harassment). They indicated that they needed to move to travel, but also wanted a pitch on a preferred site. When asked to elaborate they said they wanted a pitch on the local authority site in Nuneaton and Bedworth. They indicated that they did not know if there was accommodation available for them to move to.

- 7.8 Five respondents indicated 'other'. With regards to the three respondents who were currently stopping on a private site, one was moving to travel and one was moving for work reasons. Both of these respondents indicated that they travelled frequently and did not indicate that they were looking for accommodation in the area. The third respondent indicated that they had a base elsewhere in the UK and would be returning to this base in March/April. With regards to the two respondents who were currently living on the local authority site, one respondent indicated that they did not know what they intended to do in the future.

They did not know if they if they would stay in the study area, but indicated that they would want to remain on local authority accommodation within the West Midlands. The second respondent indicated that they needed to move to a pitch on a preferred site. When asked to elaborate they indicated that they wanted to move to the local authority site in Nuneaton and Bedworth because: *"Its plots are bigger and they rent you the chalet too"*. They indicated that they had family on that site, but were aware that it was currently full.



## **Household Concealment**

- 7.9 None of the respondents in Nuneaton and Bedworth or North Warwickshire reported concealed households (i.e. separate households currently in need of accommodation and living with them).

## **Household Formation**

- 7.10 Respondents were also asked whether there were people living with them who were likely to need their own separate accommodation in the next five years (i.e. by 2017). Just three respondents said yes (all from Nuneaton and Bedworth). Two respondents stated that their sons were getting married and that they would require site based accommodation. However they both indicated that their sons would be moving out of the area. The third respondent was currently living on the local authority site. They indicated that they had two daughters who would need their own trailers to sleep in. They indicated that they needed to live on the same pitch with them and stated that there was enough room to accommodate them on their current pitch.

## **Accommodation Affordability**

- 7.11 In order to explore issues of accommodation affordability we asked respondents if they could afford to purchase any of the following: a pitch on a private site with planning permission; a pitch on a private site without planning permission; land to be developed into a site. The vast majority of respondents (74%) indicated that they could not afford any of these options (39 in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and 36 in North Warwickshire), while 17 respondents (17%) indicated that it was not relevant as they were not moving or not looking for land (12 in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and five in North Warwickshire). Seven respondents indicated that they could afford to buy a pitch with planning permission (five in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and two in North Warwickshire). Nine respondents said that they would be able to purchase a private pitch without planning permission (seven in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and two in North Warwickshire), and nine said that they could afford to buy land (seven in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and two in North Warwickshire). One respondent did not provide a response.
- 7.12 Respondents were also asked how much they paid per week in rent or mortgage for their current accommodation. 25 (25%) were paying £90 – £119, followed by £60 – £89 (24 - 23%), £30 – £59 (19 - 19%) and £120 - £149 (three - 3%). The remaining respondents either did not pay rent because they were on the private site, did not know or did not want to say.

### *Note about Affordability*

- 7.13 It is worth noting that a diversity of socio-economic situations is present amongst the Gypsy and Traveller communities, from the moderately wealthy to very poor families. Although obtaining empirical evidence on the economic circumstances of Gypsies and Travellers is very difficult it is well established that Gypsies and Travellers are amongst the most culturally, socially, physically and financially excluded in society. A number of families will always be able to afford to purchase or rent pitches at market

rates. However, in line with the rest of society, other sections of the communities will be excluded from accommodation provided at market rates and will require additional support to access safe and secure accommodation in line with their cultural needs. The absence of a range of tenure to address this diversity of socio-economic circumstances may lead to a perpetuation and possible increase in hidden homelessness.

## 8. Travelling Showpeople

- 8.1 Travelling Showpeople occupy an unusual position in planning terms and a separate planning Circular, detailing the particular planning needs of Travelling Showpeople, was produced: Circular 04/07. As well as detailing the requirements for pitch identification and allocation for Travelling Showpeople, Circular 04/07 also required that the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople were included within the assessments of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs. Circular 04/07 has been replaced by the new planning policy<sup>25</sup>. However, it is clear that the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople should be included within the assessments of accommodation need for 'travellers' within this new framework.
- 8.2 Both North Warwickshire Council and The Showmen's Guild indicated that there was currently no Travelling Showpeople known to be living in the area. They indicated that their current development plan did not include a policy towards sites for Travelling Showpeople. They indicated that the number of Travelling Showpeople sites in the district had not changed since 2006. The Council indicated that they did not expect the number of Travelling Showpeople sites to increase over the next five years. They had not experienced any unauthorised development, nor had any enforcement action been taken, in relation to the development of sites for Travelling Showpeople since 2006.
- 8.3 Nuneaton and Bedworth Council did not provide any information in relation to Travelling Showpeople in the area and The Showmens Guild are not aware of any sites or need in the area for Travelling Showpeople.
- 8.4 The lack of Travelling Showpeople in the boroughs appears to imply that there is a nil need for yard-based accommodation from Travelling Showpeople households. However, it should be noted that Travelling Showpeople remain distinct from Gypsies and Travellers and further work may need to be produced, across local authority boundaries, to accurately understand their accommodation needs. There may be a need for accommodation in the boroughs from families working in the areas but who live in adjacent or other authorities. A broader cross-boundary assessment in partnership with the Showmen's Guild would, most effectively, identify such shortage if it exists.

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<sup>25</sup> CLG (2012) *Planning for traveller sites*

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2113371.pdf>

## 9. An Assessment of Accommodation Need

9.1 There are no signs that the accommodation need from Gypsy and Traveller communities has yet been met. Research from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has indicated that around 6,000 additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers are immediately required nationally to meet the current shortage of accommodation within England.<sup>26</sup>

### A note on the Assessment of Accommodation Need

9.2 Because of the historical inequalities in pitch provision, Gypsies and Travellers have constrained choices as to where and how they would choose to live if they had real choice. So while choices for the non-Travelling community are generally much wider - as there is social housing available in every authority in the country - there are no local authority sites in around a third of the local authorities in England. Few local authorities have more than one socially rented site and a significant number of authorities have no authorised private sites.

9.3 Despite all local authorities across England completing a first round of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTAAs) over the 2006-2009 period, the methods of assessing and calculating the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers are still developing. The model drawn upon here derives from a number of sources including:

- The Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments.<sup>27</sup>
- Guidance for Regional Planning.<sup>28</sup>
- Knowledge and experience of assumptions featuring in other GTAAs and results of EiP tests of GTAAs.
- The messages arising from the CLG consultation document 'Planning for Travellers' and the content of the new planning policy.

9.4 This assessment has taken a more localised approach than the previous cross-boundary assessment and has therefore focused on just two local authority areas. As a result, the survey sample in this assessment has increased significantly from the previous assessment. In a move from the first round of GTAAs this assessment has focussed more closely on two issues, the constitution of local and historic need and the need for site-based accommodation in line with the planning definition (see Chapter 2). In terms of addressing local and historic need this assessment has measured this by:

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<sup>26</sup> See Brown, P., Henning, S. and Niner, P (2010) *Assessing local housing authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in England and Wales : Update 2010*, Equality and Human Rights Commission.

<sup>27</sup> CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments – Guidance*, London: HMSO.

<sup>28</sup> CURS, SHUSU and CRESR (2007) *Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy reviews on Gypsies and Travellers by regional planning bodies*, London: CLG, online at: [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/209/PreparingRegionalSpatialStrategyreviewsonGypsiesandTravellersbyregionalplannings\\_id1508209.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/209/PreparingRegionalSpatialStrategyreviewsonGypsiesandTravellersbyregionalplannings_id1508209.pdf)

- Surveying households resident within the two areas, as opposed to extrapolating trends and findings from households resident outside the boroughs, which was the approach taken in the previous cross-boundary assessment.
- Drawing upon empirical primary research within the two areas as opposed to developing projections based upon trends within the Caravan Count. Via a process of triangulation, records are brought together with survey responses on issues such as unauthorised sites, concealed households, etc. to develop a robust assessment of need. Similarly, an empirical assessment of local likely future needs is made possible via the comprehensive survey of households. Together these factors represent the latest position on historic demand.

9.5 This study has taken a thorough assessment of the need arising from all accommodation types present at the time of the survey. As such it should be regarded as a reasonable and robust assessment of need upon which to base planning decisions in the future.

9.6 Table 9.1 below contains the requirements for net additional pitches that need to be developed to meet the measured need. Accommodation need has been considered in this assessment by carefully exploring the following factors:

***Current Residential Supply***

- Socially rented pitches
- Private authorised pitches

***Residential Need 2012–2017***

- Temporary planning permissions, which will end over the assessment period
- Concealment of households
- Allowance for family growth over the assessment period
- Need for authorised pitches from families on unauthorised developments
- Movement over the assessment period between sites and housing
- Whether the closure of any existing sites is planned.
- Potential need for residential pitches in the area from families on unauthorised encampments
- Movement between areas
- Overcrowding of sites

### ***Additional Supply 2012–2017***

The only source of potential pitch supply within North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth would be any new sites that are planned; however, from consultation with the local authorities there is no such intention to provide sites over this period.

- 9.7 The requirements are presented in summary form in Table 9.1 below. **All figures relate to pitches not sites.**

Table 9.1: Summary of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation and pitch need (2012-2028)

	Element of supply and need	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton and Bedworth
		Accommodation Need/Supply Total (households)	Accommodation Need/Supply Total (households)
<b>Current residential supply</b>			
1	Socially rented pitches	17	25
2	Private authorised pitches	8	25
<b>3</b>	<b>Total authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Residential pitch need 2012-2017</b>			
4	End of temporary planning permissions	0	0
5	Concealed households	0	0
6	New household formation	0	0
7	Unauthorised developments	0	12
8	Net Movement from housing to sites	0	0
9	Closure of sites	2	0
10	Unauthorised encampments	0	0
11	Movement between areas	0	3
<b>12</b>	<b>Residential pitch need (2012–2017)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Supply (2012-2017)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Residential pitch need (2012-2017)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Residential pitch need (2017–2022)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Residential pitch need (2022–2028)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Total Residential pitch need (2012–2028)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>35</b>

### **Explanation of the need requirement elements**

#### ***Current Residential Supply***

- 9.8 **Row 1:** The number of pitches on socially rented sites provided by local authority information.

- 9.9 **Row 2:** The number of pitches on private authorised sites provided by local authority information.
- 9.10 **Row 3:** The total number of authorised pitches within Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire.

**Residential Pitch Need 2012–2017**

- 9.11 **Row 4:** The number of pitches which have temporary planning permission due to expire within the assessment period. This was believed to be nil for both areas.
- 9.12 **Row 5:** The number of concealed households occupying existing accommodation who require independent accommodation within the boroughs. This was zero for both areas.
- 9.13 **Row 6:** This is the number of pitches required from new household formation. The figure for Nuneaton and Bedworth is shown below. The figure for North Warwickshire was zero.

***Pitch requirement from new households forming – Nuneaton and Bedworth***

**Finding:** Drawing upon the information contained within Chapter 7, the survey showed that there were three households which contained households which were due to form over the course of the next five years.

**Assumptions:**

- Two of these households reported that the family members concerned would be leaving the Nuneaton and Bedworth area to form their household.
- The remaining household concerned older children who required separate living quarters but not a separate pitch.
- It was thought that there was enough room to accommodate the provision of additional living quarters on the existing pitch.
- There are a number of older children within the age range of 11-17 years living in the areas. It is possible that a proportion of these children may require additional accommodation over the assessment period. However, due to the large sample included in this research from site based accommodation we assume respondents can accommodate this household growth within existing provision. We also assume household growth within bricks and mortar housing will remain with housing.

**Calculation:** The need from household formation is nil

- 9.14 **Row 7:** This is the level of need arising from current unauthorised developments. This was zero for North Warwickshire and 12 for Nuneaton and Bedworth (inclusive of the six tolerated pitches on the existing private sites).
- 9.15 **Row 8:** This is the estimation of the flow from sites to houses and vice versa.

### ***Movement between housing and sites***

#### **Nuneaton and Bedworth:**

- **Movement from sites to housing:** No site-based household expressed an intention to move into bricks and mortar accommodation.
- **Movement from housing to sites:** No household currently accommodated within bricks and mortar housing expressed an intention to move onto site-based accommodation.

#### **North Warwickshire:**

- **Movement from sites to housing:** No site-based household expressed an intention to move into bricks and mortar accommodation.
- **Movement from housing to sites:** No household currently accommodated within bricks and mortar housing expressed an intention to move onto site-based accommodation within North Warwickshire. There were two households accommodated in housing in North Warwickshire who were seeking site based accommodation in Nuneaton and Bedworth. This need is outlined in a section below which considers movement between areas.

**Calculation:** There is no need arising as a result of housing-site movement in either of the two local authority areas.

- 9.16 **Row 9:** Plans to close existing sites, which have been calculated within the supply of site accommodation, will ultimately displace a number of Gypsies and Travellers resulting in an increase in housing need. North Warwickshire reported that there is a small site consisting of two pitches which is due to be closed (see Chapter 4). The households on this site require alternative site-based accommodation within the district. Pitch need from site closure equates to two pitches for North Warwickshire. There is a nil need for Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- 9.17 **Row 10:** This provides an estimation of the need arising from households on unauthorised encampments. As highlighted in Chapter 5, during the assessment period we did not receive notification of any unauthorised encampments, therefore we are unable to assess the residential need (if any) arising from encampments. However, Warwickshire County Council detail 19 encampments in Nuneaton and Bedworth and six in North Warwickshire in 2012, but these are thought to be mainly families visiting the area or passing through the area. The potential need for accommodation from unauthorised encampments remains an issue however, and should remain under close review by the agencies responsible (the separate issue of transit accommodation is detailed in Chapter 10).
- 9.18 **Row 11:** This is the level of movement of households between areas. Usually the assumption is that migration between areas will balance. However, within the survey three households, currently accommodated within housing and on a site in North Warwickshire, were actively seeking site-based accommodation within Nuneaton and



Bedworth in order to move closer to family members. There was no equivalent intention articulated by households in Nuneaton and Bedworth towards moving into North Warwickshire. The need for accommodation equates to three pitches to be located within Nuneaton and Bedworth.

9.19 **Row 12:** This is the total gross residential need for pitches arising in Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire between 2012 and 2017.

9.20 **Row 13:** This is the supply of pitches – for example, through pitch vacancies – in each area. The supply of pitches is nil for both authorities.

9.21 **Row 14:** This is the total net requirement for pitches arising in the two boroughs between 2012 and 2017.

### ***Permanent Residential Accommodation Need over 2017–2021 and 2022-2028***

9.22 It is necessary to plan for the long term and anticipate pitch need from Gypsy and Traveller households. In order to tackle the complexity of needs that may well occur over the next decade it is established practice in assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need to apply an assumed rate of household growth. It has been common in similar studies to employ a standard 3% per annum compound rate of household growth. This figure is then applied, minus an assumed ratio for pitch sharing of 1:0.75, to the projected number of pitches which should be available by 2017. All household growth is assumed to require a site-based solution. This study does not allow for unauthorised developments over the next periods (2017 – 2021 and 2022 – 2028) because the factors which will contribute to future need have been clearly identified and measured as part of the study. The supply of pitches over the 2017 – 2028 period has been considered, but has been assumed to be zero. This is consistent with earlier GTAA's and implicitly compensates for not taking into account needs arising from drivers other than family growth. However, it is recommended that the rate of household growth is kept under review.

9.23 **Row 15:** The total requirement for pitches in Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire over the period 2017-2022.

9.24 **Row 16:** The total requirement for pitches in Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire over the period 2022-2028.

9.25 **Row 17:** The total overall requirement for pitches in Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire over the period 2012-2028.

### **In Summary**

9.26 In relation to Nuneaton and Bedworth, accommodation need arises from the following factors:

- Unauthorised developments
- Movement between areas
- Household growth

9.27 In relation to North Warwickshire, accommodation need arises from the following factor:

- Closure of sites
- Household growth

9.28 This analysis has shown that there is an accommodation need for **44 households** over the 2012-2028 period; **nine in North Warwickshire** and **35 in Nuneaton and Bedworth**. These figures incorporate a household growth rate of 3% a year compound as applied to all current households in the area and all future households that should be accommodated on pitches by 2017 to estimate need in the period 2017-2028.

## **10. An Assessment of Need for Transit Accommodation**

10.1 Although to a certain extent nomadism and travelling are currently restricted by a lack of sites nationally, this remains an important feature of Gypsy and Traveller identity and way of life, even if only to visit fairs or visit family. Some Gypsies and Travellers are still highly mobile without a permanent base, and others travel for significant parts of the year from a winter base. More Gypsies and Travellers might travel if it were possible to find places to stop without the threat of constant eviction. Nationally the worst living conditions are commonly experienced by Gypsies and Travellers living on unauthorised encampments who do not have easy access to water or toilet facilities and have difficulties in accessing education and health services.

### **Need for Transit Sites and Stopping Places**

10.2 National policy is clear that there should be provision in order for Gypsies and Travellers who choose to travel to do so without resorting to stopping illegally or inappropriately.

10.3 The level of unauthorised camping within both areas indicates an unmet need for some form of transit provision. However, determining the need for transit pitches is incredibly complex. A common method used by local authorities has been to base the level of need on the average size of the unauthorised encampments that were occurring in their area. Consistent data would therefore be required in order to assess this issue.

### **Assessing Transit Need in the Study Area**

10.4 Methods of enumerating the need for transit of short stay pitch requirements are not well advanced. Difficulties arise in estimating requirements due to a number of reasons including: the unknown motivation for staying in an area; the lack of reliable information about the size of households concerned or the accommodation need, information indicating the duration that households would remain in an area in the absence of enforcement action.

10.5 Most enumerations of transit need are based on a calculation of the average size of the unauthorised encampments occurring during a particular time period. As highlighted in Section 5, based on information provided for 2012, the average encampment size in the district of North Warwickshire is eight caravans (Nuneaton and Bedworth did not provide an estimate as to the encampment size so we assume eight is also reflective of the Nuneaton and Bedworth experience). We were unable to consult with households on unauthorised encampments, so in order to estimate the scale of need we assume an average of 1.3 caravans per household (based on findings from the recent Warwick GTAA). This suggests that there are approximately six families/households on each encampment. For North Warwickshire this suggests around 36 households on encampments during a calendar year with 114 households using unauthorised encampments in Nuneaton and Bedworth. It is not clear how many of these are large gatherings or repeat encampments.

- 10.6 These calculations support the development of transit provision in both local authority areas. For North Warwickshire this may equate to the provision of around five transit pitches. Whereas in Nuneaton and Bedworth the number of encampments suggests a need for provision in the region of 15-20 pitches.
- 10.7 However, there are a number of issues to consider in relation to this transit provision:
- Whilst these transit pitches would help to address some transit need, there is a need to consider provision (whether formal or informal) for any larger encampments/mass gatherings that occur
  - The provision of a single transit site does not allow for more than one encampment in the area at the same time (it is not unusual to find multiple encampments in different locations within a district at any one time).
  - A single transit site would force the mixing of differing groups (family and ethnic) and households which may lead to potential tensions – although this is not always the case.
  - The needs of the travelling groups often combines a mixture of motivations (i.e. work, family and holiday). A single transit site may not meet the differing requirements.
- 10.8 There are potentially four main options which could be adopted when considering the development of transit provision to meet the need identified in the areas.
- **Option 1:** Ensure the development of transit pitches on new residential site development, thus allowing short-stay households to be accommodated alongside friends/family members. This option will potentially exclude households travelling to the area with no social networks.
  - **Option 2:** Identify a series of informal temporary stopping places which households travelling within the area can be directed to. This option however may not provide comprehensive provision to meet all households needs (e.g. families with young children or older people)
  - **Option 3:** Develop a formal transit site. This would require robust management arrangements.
  - **Option 4:** A combination of the three options and/or an incremental approach to delivering short-stay provision, where changes are made to short-stay provision, depending on the response by households residing in the area.
- 10.9 Finally, this assessment would support the approach of creating a **network of transit facilities across the wider region** to accommodate short term accommodation requirements. Such an approach is discussed in a regional study on transit need produced in 2009<sup>29</sup> and would require joint-working with neighbouring authorities and Warwickshire County Council.

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<sup>29</sup> Niner, P. (2009) *South East England Regional Gypsy and Traveller Transit Study*, Final Report, Birmingham: University of Birmingham, October 2009

## Appendix 1: The Assessment Methodology

Draft practice guidance for local authorities undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAAs) was released by the ODPM (now CLG) in February 2006 with final guidance made available in October 2007. Specialised guidance and assessments were felt to be required as many local authority housing needs assessments were previously failing to assess or identify the needs of Gypsies and Travellers. The Guidance explains why assessments are needed, how authorities might go about conducting an assessment and issues to consider. The Guidance is non-prescriptive in terms of methods but suggests that Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments integrate a wide variety of evidence such as existing secondary information, views of selected stakeholders and the views of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

It is noted that the recent draft Planning Policy Statement 'Planning for traveller sites' (CLG, 2011) has proposed removing the need for dedicated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTAAAs) from any new guidance. It states:

*While the Government is keen that planning policy highlights the importance of ensuring that targets are based on robust evidence, it does not consider it necessary to prescribe to local planning authorities the type and volume of evidence required, especially as their conclusions will be tested through the process of consultation and Examination in Public of local plans. This also accords with the Government's "streamlining" objectives by removing policy that is already adequately covered by legislation. The proposed policy states that local planning authorities set their own evidence-based targets for the provision of pitches/plots. The policy does not dictate what targets local planning authorities should adopt. This is a matter for local planning authorities to decide themselves depending on the circumstances in their particular area.*

However, in the absence of alternative methodologies for assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, we have adopted a modified survey of the sort used in the first round of GTAAAs.

This assessment was undertaken in three distinct stages. Each of these stages is described in more detail below.

- Stage one: collation and review of existing information
- Stage two: consultation with key stakeholders
- Stage three: survey with Gypsies and Travellers across North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth

### **Stage One: Collation and Review of Existing Secondary Information**

This first involved the collection, review and synthesis of:

- The bi-annual Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans.
- Records and data maintained and provided by the local authorities
- The original GTAA produced by the University of Salford in 2007

- The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, Phase Three Revision Interim Policy Statements and Policy Recommendations, 2010

### **Stage Two: Consultation with Key Stakeholders**

The analysis and review of existing information was supported by consultation with a small number of key stakeholders. Consultations (written and verbal) were undertaken in order to develop a clearer understanding about the context of provision and need within the two areas and to help inform the assessment of need. This included information from: housing, planning and education officers, the Police, and the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.

### **Stage Three: Survey with Gypsies and Travellers**

One of the most important aspects of the assessment was consulting with local Gypsies and Travellers. The fieldwork took place over a five week period during August and September 2012. These consultations took the form of face-to-face interviews in order to gather information about their characteristics, experiences, accommodation and related needs and aspirations. The survey with Gypsies and Travellers is discussed below under three sections: sampling strategy and response rates; questionnaire design; and fieldwork and interviewers.

#### ***Sampling and Response Rates***

Sampling Gypsy and Traveller households for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is always problematic given the absence of accurate information concerning the size and location of the Gypsy and Traveller communities. As such the sampling technique for the assessment was purposive rather than purely random. The sampling strategy for the assessment differed depending upon the particular accommodation type currently inhabited by Gypsies and Travellers in the two areas.<sup>30</sup>

- Information provided by the Councils provided the addresses of all sites and the Community Interviewers were asked to attempt an interview with every separate household currently on the site.
- For households on unauthorised encampments, officers from both authorities were asked to inform the fieldwork team when and where encampments occurred during the fieldwork period. We were not informed of any encampments in this assessment.
- As the population of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar housing is relatively hidden from official records there was no sample frame from which to identify people. Therefore, in order to engage with housed Gypsies and Travellers the fieldwork team relied on three main methods: contacts of Gypsies and Travellers who had already been interviewed as part of the assessment (i.e. on site-based accommodation); contacts of the Gypsy and Traveller Community Interviewers on the fieldwork team; and snowball sampling where one respondent in housing recommended engaging with similar households.

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<sup>30</sup> Such a sampling strategy coupled with the lack of knowledge about the overall size of the Gypsy and Traveller population means that discussing statistical issues such as sampling error and confidence intervals would be misleading.

A total of **102 households** were involved in the assessment: **60 in Nuneaton and Bedworth** and **42 in North Warwickshire**

In terms of the gender split between interviewees, we spoke to 31 women (91%) and seven men (9%). This reflects a commonly achieved gender distribution in GTAAs.

We believe that the sample is as representative as can be reasonably expected and have no reason to believe that those households included in the survey are untypical from the total population in the area. The exception is the lack of data from households on unauthorised encampments, which do not feature largely as a result of their relative infrequency in the area. However, on balance we believe that the findings for the assessment are based on reliable information from accommodation types within the two study areas.

### ***Questionnaire Design***

All household interviews have utilised a structured questionnaire upon which questions were routed according to the appropriate accommodation type. Questions were a mixture of tick-box answers and open-ended questions. This mixed approach enabled us to gather quantifiable information, but also allowed for contextualisation and qualification by the more narrative responses. The survey contained the following sections:

- Current accommodation
- Local and historic connection
- Travelling
- Previous housing experiences
- Household details
- Health services
- Future accommodation

The questionnaire used in the assessment is available in Appendix 3.

### ***Fieldwork and Interviewers***

Of crucial importance to engaging as effectively as possible with the Gypsy and Traveller population was the involvement of Gypsy and Traveller Community Interviewers. In total, two members of the Gypsy and Traveller community were involved in the assessment as Community Interviewers. These interviewers have worked with SHUSU on a number of GTAAs. They are of Romany Gypsy background and live outside the study areas.

Each interviewer was briefed on the assessment and the questionnaire prior to commencing fieldwork, and provided with support from the core study team members during their interviewing activity. Each questionnaire which was returned to us was subject to quality control. By taking this approach we found we were able to access a range of people that would not otherwise have been included in the assessment, such as 'hidden' members of the community (e.g. people living in bricks and mortar accommodation), and those people who were uncomfortable talking to non-Travellers.

# Appendix 2: Demographics of the Local Gypsy and Traveller Population

This section aims to provide some information on the demographics of the sample involved in this accommodation assessment within the two boroughs.

## Demographic and Household Characteristics

Characteristics of Gypsy and Traveller communities are often hidden or not widely known. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments present an ideal opportunity to get to know more about the community at large, particularly in terms of living circumstances, age, Gypsy and Traveller groups and household composition. The following aims to provide some information about the Gypsy and Traveller households in the sample.

### Age of Interviewees

The age profile of the sample can be seen from Table A2.1. The 25–39 age groups were most consulted during the assessment, forming 49% of the sample as a whole.

Table A2.1: Age of interviewees

Age Group	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwick-shire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
17–24	7	7	4	7	3	7
25–39	50	49	29	48	21	50
40–49	20	19	13	22	7	17
50–59	15	15	9	15	6	14
60–74	10	10	5	8	5	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>

### Household Size

In total, the survey sample accounts for 227 members of the Gypsy and Traveller community in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and 150 in North Warwickshire. The average household size across the sample as a whole was 3.7. There was very little difference between the household sizes of those living in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and those in North Warwickshire (3.8 and 3.6 respectively).

Table A2.2 below shows the number of children of different age cohorts across the sample. There was an average of 1.5 children per household in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and 1.7 children per household in North Warwickshire.



Table A2.2: Number of children in households

Age range	All	Nuneaton & Bedworth	N.Warwickshire
	No	No %	No %
0-5	16	5	11
6-10	66	34	32
11-16	88	51	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>70</b>

### ***Gypsy and Traveller Groups***

Nearly all respondents indicated that they were Romany Gypsy (English) (93%). With regards to the respondents who indicated 'other', these respondents stated that they were married to Romany Gypsies.

Table A2.3: Interviewees by Gypsy and Traveller group

Gypsy and Traveller groups	All		Nuneaton & Bedworth		N.Warwickshire	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Romany Gypsy (English)	95	93	53	88	42	100
Irish Traveller	5	5	5	8	-	-
Other	2	3	2	4	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>

## Appendix 3: Questionnaire

### North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Study Questionnaire

#### Introduction

My name is [ ] and I work for the University of Salford [show ID badge]. We have been asked by North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth Councils to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople in this area. We're looking to speak with a number of people staying in the local areas, in houses, on council sites, on private sites and on the roadside, to get a range of views. The views that we collect may help plan and improve accommodation, sites, planning and other services in the future.

We are completely independent of any local council or the government. Would you be willing to talk to me? If you agree it will probably take about 25 minutes. I have a number of questions I would like to ask but I would like to hear about anything else you feel is relevant. I will be writing down your answers, but the interview will be confidential. Therefore no one will be identified in any report that we write, and there is no way that anyone will be able to trace any particular answer back to you.

Are you happy to go ahead with the interview? If it's not a good time I could arrange to come back later if that suits you better.

**CHECK!** Have you already been interviewed for this survey before? Do you have one of these (show pink sheet)?

Address/Site: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer name: \_\_\_\_\_

**If, during the interview a question comes up that you don't want to answer just say so and I'll move on**

## SECTION A: CURRENT ACCOMMODATION

QA1. Type of accommodation **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Unauthorised encampment  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <b>Go to QA6</b> |
| Unauthorised development (own land no planning)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <b>Go to QA5</b> |
| Residential Council/site/yard  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <b>Go to QA5</b> |
| Residential Private site/yard with permanent planning permission     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <b>Go to QA4</b> |
| Residential Private site/yard with temporary planning permission     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> <b>Go to QA5</b> |
| Bricks & Mortar (rented from the local authority or social landlord) | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub> <b>Go to QA2</b> |
| Bricks & Mortar (rented from a private landlord)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub> <b>Go to QA2</b> |
| Bricks & Mortar (owner occupier)                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8</sub> <b>Go to QA2</b> |
| Other <b>(please specify below)</b>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>9</sub> <b>Go to QA5</b> |
- 

QA2. How many bedrooms do you have here? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| One          | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <b>Go to QA3</b> |
| Two          | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <b>Go to QA3</b> |
| Three        | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <b>Go to QA3</b> |
| Four or more | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <b>Go to QA3</b> |

QA3. How would you rate your experience of living in a house? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Very good             | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <b>Go to QA7</b> |
| Good                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <b>Go to QA7</b> |
| Neither good nor poor | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <b>Go to QA7</b> |
| Poor                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <b>Go to QA7</b> |
| Very poor             | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> <b>Go to QA7</b> |
| Don't know            | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub> <b>Go to QA7</b> |

QA4. Is the permission 'personal' i.e. for you and your family only? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Yes        | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <b>Go to QA5</b> |
| No         | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <b>Go to QA5</b> |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <b>Go to QA5</b> |

QA5. Do you? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Own your plot/pitch  <sub>1</sub> **Go to QA6**  
Rent your plot/pitch  <sub>2</sub> **Go to QA6**  
Other **(please specify below)**  <sub>3</sub> **Go to QA6**
- 

Don't know  <sub>4</sub> **Go to QA6**

QA6. Do you? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Own your trailer/chalets/units   
Rent your trailer/chalets/units   
Other **(please specify below)**
- 

Don't know

QA7. How many trailers/chalets/units..... **(Please write in spaces provided - please note that this does not refer to any utility block that they may have)**

- a. Do you have in total? \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Are used as sleeping spaces? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Are used as living spaces (non-sleeping)? \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Are used mainly for storage/occasional use? \_\_\_\_\_

QA8. Would you say you have enough space for your household at its current size in this home / pitch? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

**(Interviewer: this relates not just to bedrooms but all of the dwelling / pitch)**

- Yes  <sub>1</sub> **Go to QA10**  
No  <sub>2</sub> **Go to QA9**  
Don't know  <sub>3</sub> **Go to QA9**

QA9. Do you feel that you need? **(Please tick ✓ all that apply)**

1. A larger site/yard   
2. A larger pitch/plot   
3. More caravans/trailers/units   
4. Larger caravans/trailers/units   
5. More bedrooms or living space   
6. Other **(please specify below)**
-

QA10. What was the **main reason** for moving to this site/encampment/house/yard?  
(Please tick ✓ one box only)

Moved there with parents/family (if known, detail family/parents reasons for moving) 1

---

Born/raised there (if known, detail family/parents reasons for moving) 2

---

Own health/family member or other dependent health reasons (please explain below) 3

---

To be near family/friends 4

To look after a family member / dependent in old age 5

Evicted from last accommodation 6

Lack of sites 7

Overcrowded in previous accommodation 8

For children's schooling/education 9

Work available in the area 10

Land/pitch was available to buy 11

There was a vacancy 12

Convenient for working pattern (Showpeople only) 13

Holiday 14

Family event 15

Other (please specify below) 16

---

**INTERVIEWER: GO TO SECTION B IF INTERVIEWING SOMEONE ON AN UNAUTHORISED  
ENCAMPMENT/ROADSIDE**

QA11. Do other Gypsies/Travellers/Showpeople (e.g. friends/family etc.) come to stay with you on a short-term/transit basis? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

Yes 1 Go to QA12

No 2 Go to QA14

Don't know 3 Go to QA14

QA12. Where do they stay? (**Interviewer: this is to explore how much transit need is being taken care of informally**)

- With me in my trailer/chalet/house  <sub>1</sub>
  - They bring a trailer and stay on my pitch/driveway  <sub>2</sub>
  - They bring a trailer and stay elsewhere on this site (e.g. on a transit pitch)  <sub>3</sub>
  - They stay on the roadside near this site/house  <sub>4</sub>
  - Other (**please specify below**)  <sub>5</sub>
- 

QA13. Can you briefly describe who comes to stay, how often they come and how long they stay (i.e. daughter, her husband and dependent children, twice a year for around 2 weeks each time)?

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QA14. Is hosting visitors here? (**Please tick ✓ one box only**)

- Not a problem for you  <sub>1</sub>
  - A problem (**please specify why below**)  <sub>2</sub>
  - Other (**please specify below**)  <sub>3</sub>
- 

QA15. **Specific question for Showpeople** What equipment do you have at present? (**Please list main items and number of pieces of equipment as well as issues regarding the storage of them**)

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## SECTION B: LOCAL AND HISTORIC CONNECTION

QB1. Are there particular reasons for staying in this area?

- (Interviewer:**
- a. Tick all the reasons that apply**
  - b. From the reasons they have given, ask them to choose the most important)**

		a: Tick ✓ all that apply	b: Tick most important reason (one only)
1	Born/raised here		
2	Have close family members living in area		
3	Have extended family members living in area		
4	Own/family/dependent health		
5	Look after a family member/dependent in old age		
6	Children's schooling/education		
7	Work available in the area		
8	Convenient for working pattern ( <b>Showpeople</b> )		
9	Availability of site(s)/accommodation		
10	Lack of sites		
11	Holiday		
12	Family or community event		
13	Only place I could find		
14	Other ( <b>please specify below</b> )		

QB2. How long have you lived in this general area? (**Interviewer: ideally we are looking at the local authority area**) (**Please tick ✓ one box only**)

- Less than 1 month <sub>1</sub>
- Between 1 and 6 months <sub>2</sub>
- 6 months or more but less than 12 <sub>3</sub>
- 1 years or more but less than 3 <sub>4</sub>
- 3 years or more but less than 5 <sub>5</sub>
- 5 years or more but less than 10 <sub>6</sub>
- 10 years or more <sub>7</sub>
- Don't know <sub>8</sub>

QB3. How long have you been here on this site/encampment/house/yard?  
(Please tick ✓ one box only)

- Up to 1 week  1 Go to QB4
- 2-4 weeks  2 Go to QB4
- More than 1 month but less than 3 months  3 Go to QB4
- 3 months or more but less than 6 months  4 Go to QB4
- 6 months or more but less than 12 months  5 Go to QB4
- 1 years or more but less than 3 years  6 Go to QB4
- 3 years or more but less than 5 years  7 Go to QB4
- 5 years or more but less than 10 years  8 Go to QB4
- 10 years or more  9 Go to QB5
- Don't know  10 Go to QB4

QB4. If resided for less than 10 years at the site/encampment/house/yard please can you tell me where you have lived since late 2002?

Dates (from – to) starting with 2002 onwards	Nearest town	Local authority (if known)	Site type (roadside, UD, LA site, private site)



QB5. Out of 52 weeks of the year how many weeks do you usually live in this area? (**Interviewer: we are looking at the local authority area**) (**Please tick ✓ one box only**)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Between 1 and 10 weeks                             | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Go to QB6 |
| Between 11 and 20 weeks                            | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> Go to QB6 |
| Between 21 and 30 weeks                            | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> Go to QB6 |
| Between 31 and 40 weeks                            | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> Go to QB6 |
| Between 41 and 51 weeks                            | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> Go to QB6 |
| 52/Never leave                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub> Go to QB7 |
| Don't know   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub> Go to QB6 |
| This is the first time I/we have been in this area | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8</sub> Go to QB6 |

QB6. Where do you usually go for the other part of the year? (i.e. travel for x number of weeks during summer) (**Interviewer note: explore the general areas they go and why**)

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QB7. Do you have a base somewhere else? (**Please tick ✓ one box only**)

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Yes        | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Go to QB8       |
| No         | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> Go to SECTION C |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> Go to SECTION C |

QB8. If **YES**, where is it and what type of base?

a: Where is it? (**i.e. town/local authority**)

---

b: What type of accommodation is it?

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Unauthorised development (own land no planning)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> |
| Residential Council/ site/yard                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| Residential Private site/yard with permanent planning permission     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> |
| Residential Private site/yard with temporary planning permission     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> |
| Bricks & Mortar (rented from the local authority or social landlord) | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> |
| Bricks & Mortar (rented from a private landlord)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub> |
| Bricks & Mortar (owner occupier)                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub> |
| Other ( <b>please specify below</b> )                                | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8</sub> |

---

c: Who owns/rents it? (**e.g. themselves, a friend, parent, etc.**)

---

QB9. Which of the following statements most apply to how you use this base?

I/We visit this area every now and then <sub>1</sub>

I/We use it as a winter base <sub>2</sub>

I/We use it as a summer base <sub>3</sub>

I/We are based there for part of the year <sub>4</sub>

It's my/our permanent accommodation where we travel from <sub>5</sub>

Other (**please specify below**) <sub>6</sub>

---

## SECTION C: TRAVELLING

QC1. How often do you travel or move at present? (**Travelling whilst living in a caravan or trailer**) (**Please tick ✓ the statement that most closely resembles your travelling patterns**)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| I/we travel or move every day or so     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 Go to QC4</b> |
| I/we travel or move every week or so    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>2 Go to QC4</b> |
| I/we travel or move every month or so   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>3 Go to QC4</b> |
| I/ we travel or move a few times a year | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>4 Go to QC4</b> |
| I/we travel or move once a year only    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>5 Go to QC4</b> |
| I/we never travel                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>6 Go to QC2</b> |

QC2. If **NEVER**, is this because of any of the following reasons? (**Please tick ✓ all that apply**)

	Yes	No
Your, a family member or a dependents health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your, a family member or a dependents educational needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your, a family member or a dependents older age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other ( <b>please specify below</b> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

QC3. If **NEVER**, When did you last travel? (**Interviewer: ascertain number of months/years ago**)

---

### INTERVIEWER: IF NEVER TRAVEL, GO TO SECTION D

QC4. Which places do you like to go? - **List 3 main areas** (**Note: Travelling Showpeople should indicate the 3 main areas their fairs/events take place**)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(nearest town: \_\_\_\_\_)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(nearest town: \_\_\_\_\_)
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(nearest town: \_\_\_\_\_)

QC5. How many trailers/caravans do you normally travel with? \_\_\_\_\_  
(**Interviewer: insert 0 if none**)

QC6. How many pieces of equipment do you normally travel with? \_\_\_\_\_  
(**Interviewer: insert 0 if none**)

QC7. Have you travelled in the last 12 months?

- Yes <sub>1</sub> **Go to QC8**  
 No <sub>2</sub> **Go to SECTION D**  
 Don't know <sub>3</sub> **Go to SECTION D**

QC8. In the last 12 months, did you travel for any of the following reasons?

- (Interviewer:**
- a. Tick all the reasons that apply**
  - b. From the reasons they have given, choose one that was most important)**

		<b>a: Tick ✓ all that apply</b>	<b>b: The main reason (one only)</b>
1	Work opportunities		
2	A holiday		
3	Attend a fair (not working at fair)		
4	To visit relatives		
5	To attend family events		
6	To attend community events		
7	Other ( <b>please specify below</b> )		

QC9. In the last 12 months have you stayed at any of the following?  
**(Please tick ✓ all that apply)**

		<b>Yes</b>
1	Roadside (countryside)	
2	Roadside (town/city)	
3	Caravan park (i.e. holiday park/campsite)	
4	With family/relatives on private sites	
5	With family/relatives on council/public sites	
6	Public or private transit sites	
7	Farmer's fields	
8	Fair sites	
9	Designated fairground land for Showpeople	
10	Other Showpeople yards	
11	Other ( <b>please specify below</b> )	

## SECTION D: PREVIOUS HOUSING EXPERIENCES

QD1. What type of accommodation did you live in/on immediately before you came here?  
**(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Unauthorised encampment  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Go to QD2        |
| Unauthorised development (own land no planning)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> Go to QD2        |
| Residential Council/ site/yard                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> Go to QD2        |
| Residential Private site/yard with permanent planning permission     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> Go to QD2        |
| Residential Private site/yard with temporary planning permission     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> Go to QD2        |
| Transit site   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub> Go to QD2        |
| Bricks & Mortar (rented from the local authority or social landlord) | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub> Go to QD2        |
| Bricks & Mortar (rented from a private landlord)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8</sub> Go to QD2        |
| Bricks & Mortar (owner occupier)                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>9</sub> Go to QD2        |
| Been here all my adult life  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>10</sub> Go to SECTION E |
| Other <b>(please specify below)</b>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>11</sub> Go to QD2       |
- 

QD2. Where was this? **(i.e. which town/local authority)**

---

QD3. What was the **main reason** for leaving there? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- To be near family/friends 1
  - Own health/family member or other dependent health reasons 2
  - Evicted 3
  - For children's schooling/education 4
  - Harassment 5
  - Land/pitch was available to buy here 6
  - There was a vacancy here 7
  - Overcrowded conditions 8
  - Fears over personal safety 9
  - Site closure 10
  - Planning problems 11
  - Wanted independence 12
  - Work reasons 13
  - To travel 14
  - Site/accommodation conditions 15
  - Get married/live with partner 16
  - No particular reason 17
  - Other **(please specify below)** 18
- 

QD4. Have you ever lived in a house? **(Interviewer – if currently in a house this question asks about previous housing)** **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Yes 1 **Go to QD5**
- No 2 **Go to SECTION E**
- Don't know 3 **Go to SECTION E**

QD5. What type of house? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Council rented 1
  - Housing Association/RSL rented 2
  - Private rented 3
  - Privately owned 4
  - Other **(please specify below)** 5
-

QD6. Where was it? (i.e. which town/local authority)

---

QD7. What was the **main reason** for moving to that house? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

Moved there with parents/family (if known, detail family/parents reasons for moving) <sub>1</sub>

---

Born/raised there (if known, detail family/parents reasons for moving) <sub>2</sub>

---

Own health/family member or other dependent health reasons (please explain below) <sub>3</sub>

---

To be near family/friends <sub>4</sub>

To look after a family member / dependent in old age <sub>5</sub>

Evicted from last site <sub>6</sub>

Lack of sites <sub>7</sub>

For children's schooling/education <sub>8</sub>

Work available in the area <sub>9</sub>

House was available to buy <sub>10</sub>

House was available to rent <sub>11</sub>

Convenient for working pattern (Showpeople) <sub>12</sub>

Other (please specify below) <sub>13</sub>

---

QD8. How would you rate your experience of living in a house? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

Very good <sub>1</sub>

Good <sub>2</sub>

Neither good nor poor <sub>3</sub>

Poor <sub>4</sub>

Very poor <sub>5</sub>

Don't know <sub>6</sub>

QD9. What was the **main reason** for leaving the house? (Please tick ✓ **one box only**)

- To be near family/friends 1
  - Own health/family member or other dependent health reasons 2
  - Evicted 3
  - For children's schooling/education 4
  - Harassment 5
  - Land/pitch was available to buy here 6
  - There was a vacancy here 7
  - Overcrowded conditions 8
  - Fears over personal safety 9
  - Wanted independence 10
  - Work reasons 11
  - To travel 12
  - Site/accommodation conditions 13
  - Get married/live with partner 14
  - No particular reason 15
  - Other (**please specify below**) 16
-



## SECTION E: HOUSEHOLD DETAILS

QE1. Thinking about the people you live with, can you tell me their ages, whether they are male or female, their marital status and their relationship to you? (Interviewer: Please note that the person you interview is always number 1. To avoid confusion, get all information for one household member, then move on to next household member)

AGE	HOUSEHOLD MEMBER										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
0 – 5 years											
6 – 10 years											
11 – 16 years											
17 – 24 years											
25 – 39 years											
40 – 49 years											
50 – 59 years											
60 – 74 years											
75 – 84 years											
85 years +											
<b>GENDER</b>											
Male											
Female											
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>											
Married											
Single											
Living together											
Widowed											
Separated											
Divorced											
<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>											
Partner											
Son or daughter											
Sister/brother											
Uncle/aunt											
Cousin											
Grandparent											
Grandchild											
Other											

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

- QE2. How many people are there in the household? \_\_\_\_\_
- QE3. How many adults are there in the household aged 60 or over? \_\_\_\_\_
- QE4. How many children are there in the household aged:
- |         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|
| None    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0 – 5   | _____                    |
| 6 – 10  | _____                    |
| 11 – 16 | _____                    |

QE5. How do you think of yourself? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |                                     |                          |    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| Romany/Gypsy (English)              | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1  |
| Welsh Gypsy/Traveller               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2  |
| Scottish Gypsy/ Traveller           | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3  |
| Irish Traveller                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4  |
| New Traveller                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5  |
| Traveller (not specified)           | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6  |
| Showmen/Circus person               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7  |
| Roma                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8  |
| Bargee/Boat dweller                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9  |
| Other <b>(please specify below)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 |
| <hr/>                               |                          |    |
| Don't know                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 |
| Refused                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 |

QE6. How many members of your family **over the age of 16** are: **(Please write the number of people in the spaces below and ensure no double counting of individuals. If people fall into multiple categories explain situation in 'other')**

- |   |       |            |
|---|-------|------------|
| 1. Self employed  | _____ | Go to QE7  |
| 2. Employed   | _____ | Go to QE7  |
| 3. Both employed and self-employed                          | _____ | Go to QE7  |
| 4. Retired  | _____ | Go to QE10 |
| 5. Unemployed but looking for work                          | _____ | Go to QE7  |
| 6. Not working and not looking for work                     | _____ | Go to QE7  |
| 7. In further education (e.g. college/6 <sup>th</sup> form) | _____ | Go to QE7  |
| 8. In higher education (e.g. University)                    | _____ | Go to QE7  |
| 9. Full time homemaker                                      | _____ | Go to QE10 |
| 10. Other <b>(please explain)</b>                           | _____ | Go to QE7  |
| <hr/>   |       |            |

QE7. Where do you/your family (mostly) work? **(Please tick ✓ all that apply)**

- Within North Warwickshire <sub>1</sub>
  - Within Nuneaton & Bedworth <sub>2</sub>
  - Within West Midlands <sub>3</sub>
  - Other parts of the UK **(please specify below)** <sub>4</sub>
- 
- Abroad <sub>5</sub>

QE8. Do you have any site/space needs relating to your work? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Yes <sub>1</sub> **Go to QE9**
- No <sub>2</sub> **Go to QE10**
- Don't know <sub>3</sub> **Go to QE10**

QE9. If **YES**, what needs?

---

---

---

QE10. Have you/members of your family ever experienced any problems accessing employment?  
**(Note: includes self employment) (Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Yes <sub>1</sub> **Go to QE11**
- No <sub>2</sub> **Go to SECTION F**
- Don't know <sub>3</sub> **Go to SECTION F**

QE11. If **YES**, what problems?

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## SECTION F: HEALTH SERVICES AND ISSUES

I'd like to talk to you a little bit about what you think of the local health services.

QF1. Do you or your family feel that you have sufficient access to the following services?

Service	Have access		Not relevant
	Yes	No	
GP/health centre			
Health visitor			
Maternity care			
A&E			
Dentist			

QF2. Is there anything that stops you from accessing any of the above?  
**(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Yes <sub>1</sub> **Go to QF3**
- No <sub>2</sub> **Go to Section G**
- Don't know <sub>3</sub> **Go to Section G**

QF3. If YES, what? **(Interviewer: probe for issues such as transport, lack of awareness, etc)**

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## SECTION G: FUTURE ACCOMMODATION

QG1. Thinking about your current accommodation which of the following applies to you?  
**(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |   |                          |             |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|
| I need to move immediately                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 Go to QG2 |
| I need to move in the next 12 months                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 Go to QG2 |
| I need to move in the next 1 – 2 years                | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 Go to QG2 |
| I need to move in the next 2 – 5 years                | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 Go to QG2 |
| I need to move in the next 5 – 10 years               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 Go to QG2 |
| I am going to stay in this accommodation indefinitely | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 Go to QG8 |
| I have no plans to move                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 Go to QG8 |
| Other <b>(please describe below)</b>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 Go to QG2 |
- 

QG2. Why do you need to move?

- (Interviewer:**
- a. Tick all the reasons that apply**
  - b. From the reasons they have given, ask them to choose one that was most important)**

		a: Yes (Tick ✓ all that apply)	b: The most important reason (Tick ✓ <u>one only</u> )
1	Own health/family member or other dependent health reasons		
2	For children’s schooling/education		
3	To look after a family member / dependent in old age		
4	To be nearer to family/friends		
5	Overcrowded living conditions		
6	Overcrowded on site		
7	To move to a vacant pitch on a preferred site		
8	Going to buy own site/pitch		
9	Being moved on (as encamped)		
10	Eviction		
11	Harassment		
12	Fears over personal safety		
13	Site closure		
14	No planning permission		
15	Want independence		
16	Work reasons		
17	To travel		
18	Site/accommodation conditions		
19	Get married/live with partner		
20	No particular reason		
21	Other <b>(please specify below)</b>		

---

QG3. Do you intend to stay in this area? (Interviewer: the local authority area)  
 (Please tick ✓ one box only)

- Yes <sub>1</sub>  
 No <sub>2</sub>  
 Don't know <sub>3</sub>

QG4. What accommodation are you looking for?

- (Interviewer: a. Tick all types that apply  
 b. From types they have given, ask them to choose one main preference)

		a: Tick ✓ all that apply	b: Main preference (Tick ✓ one only)
1	Council site (permanent)		
2	Council site (transit)		
3	Roadside/informal stopping place		
4	Own site with planning permission		
5	Private site owned by someone else		
6	Piece of land to buy (without planning permission)		
7	I already own a piece of land		
8	Bricks and mortar/another house		
9	Other (please specify below)		

QG5. Where do you need to move to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

Within North Warwickshire <sub>1</sub>  
 (note: show map of authority and include specific place below)

Within Nuneaton & Bedworth <sub>2</sub>  
 (note: show map of authority and include specific place below)

Within West Midlands <sub>3</sub>

Other parts of the UK (please specify below) <sub>4</sub>

Abroad <sub>5</sub>

QG6. Why this place?

(Interviewer:

a. Tick all the reasons that apply

b. From the reasons they have given, ask them to choose one that was most important)

		a: Tick ✓ all that apply	b: The most important reason (Tick ✓ <u>one only</u> )
1	Born/raised there		
2	Have close family members living in area		
3	Have extended family members living in area		
4	Own/family/dependent health		
5	Look after a family member/dependent in old age		
6	Children's schooling/education		
7	Work available in the area		
8	Convenient for working pattern ( <b>Showpeople</b> )		
9	Availability of site(s)/accommodation		
10	Lack of sites		
11	Holiday		
12	Family or community event		
13	Only place I could find		
14	Other ( <b>please specify below</b> )		

---

QG7. Is there any accommodation available for you to move to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

Yes <sub>1</sub>

No <sub>2</sub>

Don't know <sub>3</sub>

QG8. Is there anyone in your household who is in need of their own separate accommodation **immediately?** (i.e. grown up children, extended family members etc.)  
(Please tick ✓ one box only)

Yes <sub>1</sub> **Go to QG9**

No <sub>2</sub> **Go to QG15**

Don't know <sub>3</sub> **Go to QG15**

QG9. How many members of your household? \_\_\_\_\_

QG10. Who (**note: include ages at the time of the interview**)?

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QG11. Where do you expect them to move to? (**Please tick ✓ one box only**)

Within North Warwickshire <sub>1</sub>  
(**note: show map of authority and include specific place below**)

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Within Nuneaton & Bedworth <sub>2</sub>  
(**note: show map of authority and include specific place below**)

---

Within West Midlands <sub>3</sub>  
Other parts of the UK (**please specify below**) <sub>4</sub>

---

Abroad <sub>5</sub>

QG12. What sort of accommodation are they likely to need? (**Please tick ✓ one box only**)

Bricks & Mortar <sub>1</sub> **Go to QG15**

Site based trailer/caravan <sub>2</sub> **Go to QG13**

Up to them <sub>3</sub> **Go to QG13**

Don't know <sub>4</sub> **Go to QG13**

Other (**please specify below**) <sub>5</sub> **Go to QG13**

---

QG13. How would they need to be accommodated? (**Please tick ✓ one box only**)

A pitch on a council site <sub>1</sub> **Go to QG15**

Live on this pitch with us <sub>2</sub> **Go to QG14**

Live on this site <sub>3</sub> **Go to QG15**

Rent a pitch on a private site <sub>4</sub> **Go to QG15**

Purchase a pitch on a private site <sub>5</sub> **Go to QG15**

Purchase their own site/land to be developed into a site <sub>6</sub> **Go to QG15**

Don't know <sub>7</sub> **Go to QG15**

Other (**please specify below**) <sub>8</sub> **Go to QG15**

---



QG14. Is there enough room on your pitch to accommodate them? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Yes, but likely to need planning permission <sub>1</sub>
- Yes, without needing planning permission <sub>2</sub>
- Yes, but uncertain of the need for planning permission <sub>3</sub>
- Yes, but would need permission from the landlord <sub>4</sub>
- No <sub>5</sub>
- Don't know <sub>6</sub>
- Other **(please specify below)** <sub>7</sub>
- 

QG15. Is there anyone in your household (e.g. son or daughter) who is likely to need their own separate accommodation **in the next 5 years (by 2017)? (Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Yes <sub>1</sub> **Go to QG16**
- No <sub>2</sub> **Go to QG22**
- Don't know <sub>3</sub> **Go to QG22**

QG16. How many members of your household? \_\_\_\_\_

QG17. Who **(note: include ages at the time of the interview)**?

---

---

QG18. Where do you expect them to move to? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Within North Warwickshire <sub>1</sub>  
**(note: show map of authority and include specific place below)**
- 
- Within Nuneaton & Bedworth <sub>2</sub>  
**(note: show map of authority and include specific place below)**
- 
- Within West Midlands <sub>3</sub>
- Other parts of the UK **(please specify below)** <sub>4</sub>
- 
- Abroad <sub>5</sub>

QG19. What sort of accommodation are they likely to need? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Bricks & Mortar                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 Go to QG22</b> |
| Site based trailer/caravan          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>2 Go to QG20</b> |
| Up to them                          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>3 Go to QG20</b> |
| Don't know                          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>4 Go to QG20</b> |
| Other <b>(please specify below)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>5 Go to QG20</b> |
- 

QG20. How would they need to be accommodated? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A pitch on a council site                                | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 Go to QG22</b> |
| Live on this pitch with us                               | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>2 Go to QG21</b> |
| Live on this site  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>3 Go to QG22</b> |
| Rent a pitch on a private site                           | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>4 Go to QG22</b> |
| Purchase a pitch on a private site                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>5 Go to QG22</b> |
| Purchase their own site/land to be developed into a site | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>6 Go to QG22</b> |
| Don't know   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>7 Go to QG22</b> |
| Other <b>(please specify below)</b>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>8 Go to QG22</b> |
- 

QG21. Is there enough room on your pitch to accommodate them? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Yes, but likely to need planning permission        | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1</b> |
| Yes, without planning permission                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>2</b> |
| Yes, uncertain of the need for planning permission | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>3</b> |
| Yes, but would need permission from the landlord   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>4</b> |
| No   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>5</b> |
| Don't know   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>6</b> |
| Other <b>(please specify below)</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>7</b> |
- 

QG22. Are you – or a member of your household – currently on a waiting list(s) for a site?  
**(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Yes        | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 Go to QG23</b> |
| No         | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>2 Go to QG24</b> |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>3 Go to QG24</b> |

QG23. Which site(s)? Where? Is it local authority site/private sites/etc.?

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QG24. Are you – or a member of your household – currently on a waiting list for a house?  
**(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

Yes <sub>1</sub> **Go to QG25**

No <sub>2</sub> **Go to QG26**

Don't know <sub>3</sub> **Go to QG26**

QG25. Which list? Where?

---

QG26. Could you currently afford to purchase any of the following? **(Please tick ✓ all that apply)**

1. A pitch on a private site with planning permission

2. A pitch on a private site without planning permission

3. Land to be developed into a site

4. Cannot afford to purchase land or a pitch

5. Not relevant **(please specify below)**

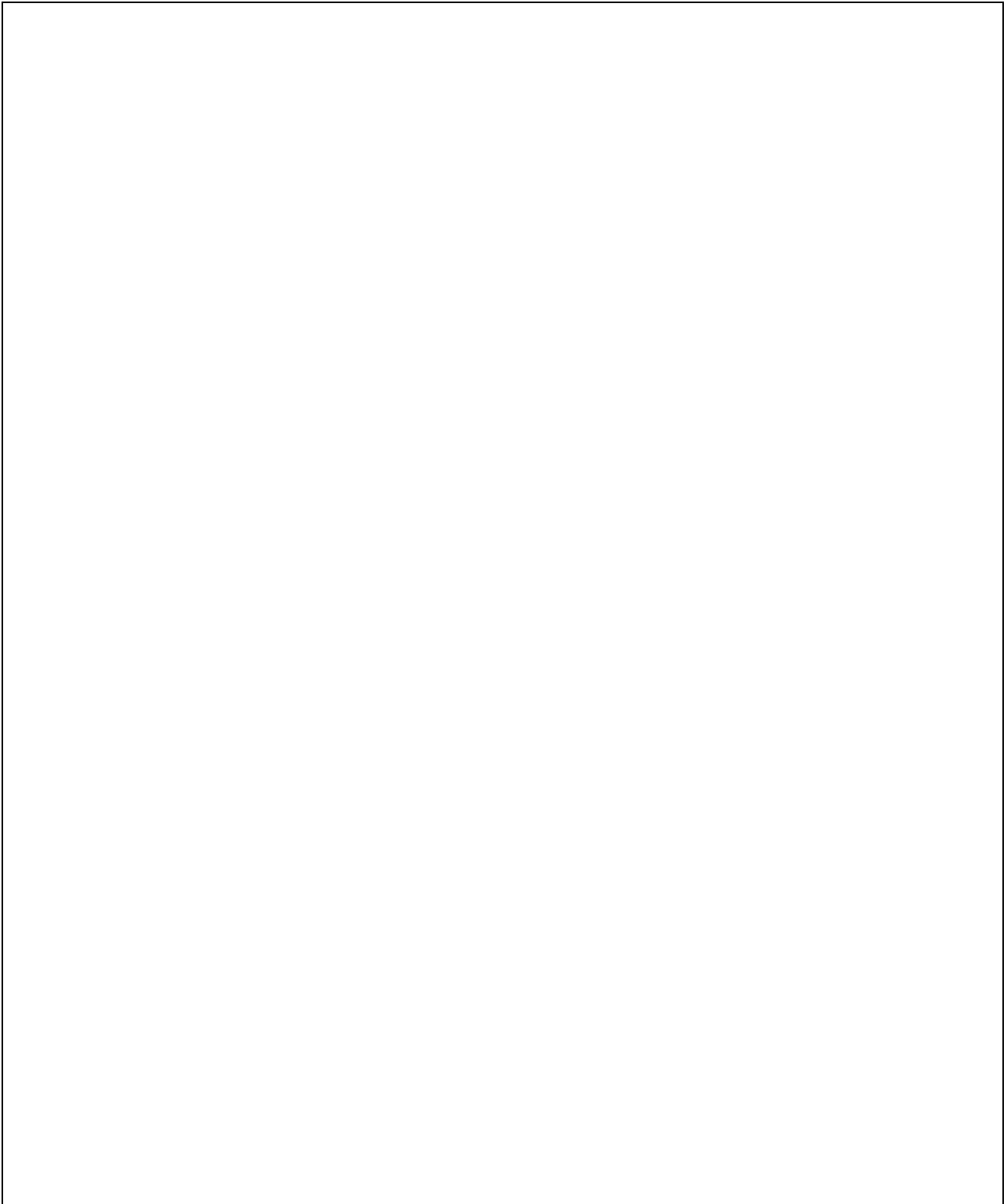
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G27. What does your rent / mortgage cost **in total** per week or month for your current accommodation approximately? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

**Interviewer: please note that you need the TOTAL cost of rent / mortgage for the whole dwelling/pitch**

<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	
Under £30	Under £130	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>
£30 - £59	£130 - £255	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>
£60 - £89	£256 - £385	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
£90 - £119	£386 - £515	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
£120 - £149	£516 - £645	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
£150 - £179	£646 - £775	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
£180 - £209	£776 - £905	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
£210 - £239	£906 - £1,035	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8</sub>
£240 - £269	£1,036 - £1,165	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>9</sub>
£270 - £299	£1,166 - £1,295	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>10</sub>
£300 or more	£1,296 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>11</sub>
Don't know		<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>12</sub>
Prefer not to say		<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>13</sub>
Don't pay rent or mortgage		<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>14</sub>
Not applicable (unauthorised encampments only)		<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>15</sub>

QG28. Finally, are there any other issues/concerns that we haven't talked about that you'd like to mention?



**Thank you very much for your time**

For further details on the study please contact:

Dr Lisa Scullion on 0161 295 3647 or Joanna Brown on 0161 295 6926