

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment: Sevenoaks

Final Report

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About the Authors

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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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Particular thanks must, of course, go to the people who found the time to talk to us and answer our questions in a full, honest and patient manner. It is hoped that this report is able to accurately reflect their experiences and needs.

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.

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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.

Term	Explanation
Amenity block/shed	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.
Authorised social site	An authorised site owned by either the local authority or a Registered Housing Provider.
Authorised Private site	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.
Bricks and mortar	Permanent mainstream housing.
Caravan	Mobile living vehicle used by Gypsies and Travellers. Also referred to as trailers.
Caravan Count	Bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans conducted every January and July by local authorities published by the CLG
Chalet	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.
Core Strategy	Key compulsory Development Plan Document in the Local Development Framework which sets out principles on which other Development Plan Documents are built.
Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)	The main government department responsible for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation issues
Development Plan Documents (DPDs)	Documents which outline the key development goals of the Local Development Framework.
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA)	The main document that identifies the accommodation requirements of Gypsies and Travellers.
Doubling-up	To share a pitch on an authorised site.
Gaujo/Gorger	Literal translation indicates someone who is not of the Romany Gypsy race. Romany word used mainly, but not exclusively, by Romany Gypsies to refer to members of the settled community/non-Gypsy/Travellers.
Green Belt	A policy or land use designation used to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or neighbouring urban areas.
Gypsy	Members of Gypsy or Traveller communities. Usually used to describe Romany (English) Gypsies originating from India. This term is not acceptable to all Travellers.
Gypsies and Travellers (as used in this report)	Consistent with the Housing Act 2004, inclusive of: all Gypsies, Irish Travellers, New Travellers, Show People, Circus People and Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)	National housing and regeneration agency. Has been responsible for administering the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant since 2009/10.
Local Plan/Local Development Framework (LDF)	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.
Mobile home/Mobiles	Legally classified as a caravan but not usually moveable without dismantling or using a lorry.
Pitch/plot	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.
Pulling-up	To park a trailer/caravan.
Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)	Previous planning approach across England. In July 2010 the government announced its decision to revoke RSSs.
Settled community/people	Reference to non-Travellers (those who live in houses).
Site	An authorised area of land on which Gypsies and Travellers are accommodated in trailers/chalets/vehicles. Can contain one or multiple pitches.
Static caravan	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.
Stopping place	Locations frequented by Gypsies and Travellers, usually for short periods of time.
Suppressed/concealed household	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.
Tourer	Term used by SDC to define a moveable caravan
Trailer	Term commonly used by Gypsies and Travellers to refer to a moveable caravan.
Transit site	Site intended for short stays. Such sites are usually permanent, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.
Travelling Showpeople	Commonly referred to as Showmen, these are a group of occupational Travellers who work on travelling shows and fairs across the UK and abroad.
Unauthorised Development	This refers to a caravan/trailer or group of caravans/trailers on land owned (possibly developed) by Gypsies and Travellers without planning permission.
Unauthorised Encampment	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).
Yard	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 2006 Sevenoaks District Council published a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA). This GTAA provided an overview of the accommodation and related needs and experiences of the Gypsy and Traveller population.
2. In September 2011 Sevenoaks District Council commissioned the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford to produce a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment for the district. The primary purpose of this report is to provide an evidence base to inform the future development of planning policies through the Local Development Framework. This report presents the projection of requirements for the following periods:
 - 2012 – 2016
 - 2017 – 2021
 - 2022 – 2026
3. 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
 - The bi-annual Caravan Count
 - Information from the local authority with regards to pitch provision and supply
 - Information from key stakeholders.
 - A survey of 86 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households currently residing in Sevenoaks District.
4. On a base population of 163 households we consulted with 86 resident households, 53% of the estimated resident Gypsy and Traveller community across the Study Area. We believe that as the sample included a range of accommodation types and household circumstances we have no reason to believe that those households included in the survey are untypical from the total population in the area. Overall, we believe that the findings for the assessment are based on reliable information from accommodation types within the Study Area.
5. The fieldwork took place between October and December 2011. The base date used in this assessment is the 1st October 2011.

Local accommodation provision

6. There is no one source of information about the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population in the district. Our best estimate is that there are at least 498 local Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in the District. The population was found across a range of accommodation types:
- There are **3 socially rented sites** in the District. Two of these are managed by Kent County Council the remaining site is managed by Sevenoaks District Council. Together these sites provide accommodation over 58 pitches.
 - There are **11 authorised permanent private sites** in the District. Together these accommodate approximately 30 pitches/households.
 - There are **7 authorised private sites with temporary consent** in the District. Together these accommodate approximately 14 pitches/households.
 - There are **8 unauthorised developments** (land owned by Gypsies and Travellers but developed without planning permission) within the District. It is estimated that these sites accommodate approximately 21 pitches/households.
 - It is estimated that there are at least **40 households living in bricks and mortar housing** in the District.
 - It is estimated that there is **1 yard for Travelling Showpeople** in the District accommodating a single household.
 - There is little to no evidence of significant need for accommodation arising from the presence of unauthorised encampments within the district.

Characteristics of local Gypsies and Travellers

7. The survey of Gypsies and Travellers identified some of the important characteristics of the local population.
- Household size is significantly larger than in the settled/non-Traveller population at 3.4 persons across the whole sample.
 - A significant minority of the sample (17%) were households over 60 years of age.
 - The majority of Gypsies and Travellers in trailers and in housing can be seen to belong, in some way, to the district. The vast majority of people had lived in the District for over 10 years. Many of these were born or had strong family links in the area.
 - The local population is dominated by Romany Gypsies (91%) with a much smaller number of Irish Travellers (6%).
 - There was a mix of households who still travelled and those who no longer travelled. A number of those who no longer travelled cited education, health and age related reasons for becoming more sedentary.

Accommodation need and supply

8. 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.
9. This study has taken a thorough assessment of the need arising from all sites (social, permanent, temporary and unauthorised) 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 given planning permission or developed through new social provision after the 1st October 2011 contribute to the need requirements detailed in the table below.
10. Requirements for the additional residential provision for Travelling Showpeople are estimated on the basis of survey findings and local authority information.

Table i: Summary of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation and pitch need (2012-2026)

	Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Need Total (No. of pitches)	Travelling Showpeople Plot Need Total (No. of plots)
Current authorised residential provision (pitches/plots)	88	0
Residential need 2012–2016 (pitches/plots)	40	0
Residential need 2017–2021 (pitches/plots)	15	0
Residential need 2022–2026 (pitches/plots)	17	0
Residential need 2012–2026 (pitches/plots)	72	0

11. It is recommended that this assessment of accommodation need is repeated in due course (circa 5 years) to ensure this assessment remains as accurate as possible.
12. Numerical transit requirements have not been provided although an indication of how provision for short-stay households could be made is 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 2006, Sevenoaks District Council published a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA).¹ This GTAA provided an overview of the accommodation and related needs and experiences of the Gypsy and Traveller population in the area. Crucially, the GTAA identified the accommodation need – in the form of residential pitch shortfall – of the population on an individual district level. The Sevenoaks GTAA identified a need for 64 pitches over the period 2006-2011. In addition, it was later acknowledged, through the South East Plan Partial Review process, that an additional 2 pitches were needed on account of these being counted as permanent when they were in fact temporary. A separate accommodation assessment for Travelling Showpeople was also produced, covering North and West Kent.² This assessment identified a need for 1 plot for Travelling Showpeople within the district.
- 1.2 An additional 8 permanent pitches have been granted since the original GTAA was carried out, including 4 at the Council's Hever Road site. In addition, the Council has sought to meet need by granting a number of temporary permissions. The number of temporary permitted pitches increased from 2 at the time of the GTAA to 23 in March 2011.
- 1.3 In September 2011 Sevenoaks District Council 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 report is to provide an evidence base to inform the future development of planning policies through the Local Development Framework. This report presents the projection of requirements for the following periods:
- 2012 – 2016 (0-5 years)
 - 2017 – 2021 (6-10 years)
 - 2022 – 2026 (11-15 years)

Research approach

- 1.4 The approach to this study involved bringing together various existing data sources with empirical research with the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities across the District. Details about the methodology for the assessment can be found in Appendix 1. The methodology entailed a review of the following data sources:

¹ DCA (2006) Sevenoaks Gypsy & Traveller Study 2006.

² DCA (2007) North and West Kent Travelling Showpeople Study Final Report 2007.

- 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 authority with regards to pitch provision and supply
- Information from key stakeholders. These included officers from within Sevenoaks District Council, Kent County Council, the Gypsy Council and the Showmen’s Guild. Consultations (written and verbal) were undertaken in order to develop a clearer understanding about the context of provision and need within the area and to help inform the assessment of need. This information has been incorporated into this report in the appropriate places.
- A survey of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople currently residing in the district. This has entailed the completion of interviews with 86 households living in trailers and in houses across Sevenoaks. See Appendix 1 of this report for specific details of this process.

1.5 Table 1 summarises the response to the survey by number of sites and estimated/known number of households across sites in the district.

Table 1: Sample in relation to local Gypsy and Traveller population

Type of accommodation	No. of sites			No. of known occupied pitches/households		
	Total	Sample	%	Total	Interview Sample	%
Socially rented sites	3	3	100	57	27	47
Residential private authorised pitches (permanent)	11	7	64	30	18	60
Residential private authorised pitches (temporary)	7	7	100	14	7	50
Unauthorised developments	8	7	88	21	13	62
Unauthorised encampments	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Authorised Travelling Showpeople yards	1	1	100	1	1	100
TOTAL SITE BASED POPULATION	30	25	83%	123	66	54%
Housed	NA	NA	NA	NA	20	NA

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

- A sample of around 50% has been achieved and, in most cases, exceeded across all accommodation types
- Household interviews were achieved on all socially rented sites, sites with temporary consent and the authorised Travelling Showpeople yards.
- 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 district. See Chapter 11 for a description of how the survey findings have been translated into accommodation need.

Structure of the report

- 1.7 This report is intended to assist Sevenoaks District Council in its 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 district.
- **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.
 - **Chapter 4** presents the findings from across all authorised social and private sites based on information provided by Sevenoaks District Council and obtained through the survey of Gypsy and Traveller households.
 - **Chapter 5** looks at the level of planning applications made in the district, the presence of unauthorised sites and the views of households on unauthorised sites obtained through the household survey.
 - **Chapter 6** looks at the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation as well as drawing upon the views of people obtained through the household survey.
 - **Chapter 7** looks at issues associated with travelling in order to shed some light on travelling patterns and experiences of Gypsies and Travellers throughout the district
 - **Chapter 8** 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 preferences of the Gypsy and Traveller population.
 - **Chapter 9** considers the provision of accommodation and need relating to Travelling Showpeople.
 - **Chapter 10** provides an indication as to some of the experiences around access to health services.
 - **Chapter 11** provides the numerical assessment of accommodation need for the District.
 - **Chapter 12** provides an analysis of the need for transit provision for the District
- 1.8 The base date for this assessment is the 1st October 2011. It should be noted that at the time of the survey, the temporary permissions on two sites, accommodating 9 pitches, had recently expired. Whilst new temporary permissions had been granted on these sites at the time of publication, the analysis presented is based on the position at the time of the survey.

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; and,
- 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 which should then form part of the evidence base for subsequent Development Plan Documents.

2.4 Travelling Showpeople were the subjects 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).³ 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).

³ In the case of the South East this was the South East of England Regional Assembly (SEERA) which was then dissolved with the planning function transferring to the South East England Partnership Board

- 2.6 During early 2010 a Partial Review of the South East RSS on Gypsies and Travellers was examined in public, including the regional pitch requirements identified for the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. In July 2010 the Secretary of State announced his intention to revoke all Regional Strategies, as a consequence the South East RSS Partial Review was not completed. Local authorities were advised to continue to develop LDF core strategies 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.⁴ 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 (GTAAAs) 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

- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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 04/2007.⁵ This states that:

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.

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

⁴ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1631904.pdf>

⁵ (CLG, 2012) *Planning for traveller sites*

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

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.

2.10 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; and,
- for local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.

2.11 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.

2.12 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 sites for Sevenoaks District Council. It has been developed through engagement with Gypsies, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in Sevenoaks District and through discussion with key stakeholders, in accordance with national policy.

Defining Gypsies and Travellers

2.13 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.

2.14 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 Assessment 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).

2.15 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.

2.16 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.

2.17 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.

- 2.18 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'.⁶ However, the study has also had regard to the planning definition where it is considered appropriate to do so.

Housing/accommodation need

- 2.19 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."⁷
- 2.20 In recognising that in many cases these definitions are inappropriate for Gypsies and Travellers, the guidance on producing Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments⁸ 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:⁹
- 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; and
 - 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.
- 2.21 In the context of bricks and mortar dwelling households, need may take the form of:

⁶ CLG (2011) *Planning for traveller sites*. Consultation Paper, April, London: HMSO

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1886164.pdf>

⁷ ODPM (2006) *Definition of the term 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the purposes of the Housing Act 2004*. Consultation Paper, February, London: HMSO.

⁸ 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

⁹ CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments – Guidance*. London: HMSO.

- those whose existing accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable (including unsuitability by virtue of psychological aversion to bricks and mortar accommodation).

2.22 The needs presented in this report reflect both the definition of Gypsies and Travellers as used in the Housing Act 2004, which gives an overall strategic level of accommodation need, and the new planning policy which indicates the proportion of site-based need for operational purposes. It should also be noted that steps have been taken within this report to analyse need in the context of local and historic demand.

2.23 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.

Defining a pitch

2.24 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.

2.25 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.

2.26 The convention in the last round of GTAAs, and an approach advocated by CLG guidance, was the use of a 1.7 caravan to pitch ratio. Taking a more locally informed approach this assessment has indicated that from a base of 65 site based interviewees a total of 108 caravans are owned/used. This provides a 1.7 caravan to pitch ratio across the sample.¹⁰ Therefore throughout this assessment a 1.7 caravan to pitch ratio is used to determine need.

Conventions

2.27 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 Gypsies and Travellers are sometimes in first and sometimes in third person form because interviews were not audio recorded but noted in written form. They are distinguished by being in italic type and usually inset.

¹⁰ Although we attempted to distinguish between caravans used for living, sleeping and storage the survey findings indicate trailers have multiple uses serving all these uses for the vast majority of the time.

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 the Study Area. This chapter 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 the District. The Count provides a useful 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.¹¹ Such issues include: the ‘snapshot’ nature of the data, the inclusion of caravans and not households, the exclusion of Travelling Showpeople,¹² and the exclusion of Gypsies and Travellers in housing. 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, this is demonstrated further in Chapter 11.

3.3 Table 3.1 provides the distribution of caravan numbers for Sevenoaks since January 2006 with this illustrated in Figure 3.1. These figures have been adjusted to account for inaccuracies observed in the published data

Table 3.1: Caravan numbers across accommodation types within Sevenoaks

	Authorised sites with planning permission		Unauthorised sites		Total No. caravans
	Caravans on Socially Rented sites	Caravans on authorised private sites with planning permission	Caravans on unauthorised developments	Caravans on unauthorised encampments	
Jan-06	93	21	25	0	139
Jul-06	89	28	30	0	147
Jan-07	93	21	25	0	139
Jul-07	79	34	52	0	165
Jan-08	94	76	20	0	190
Jul-08	80	45	32	0	157
Jan-09	73	62	17	0	152
Jul-09	73	53	12	0	138
Jan-10	59	56	4	0	119
Jul-10	59	49	15	0	123
Jan-11	107	55	4	0	166
Jul-11	70	69	18	0	157

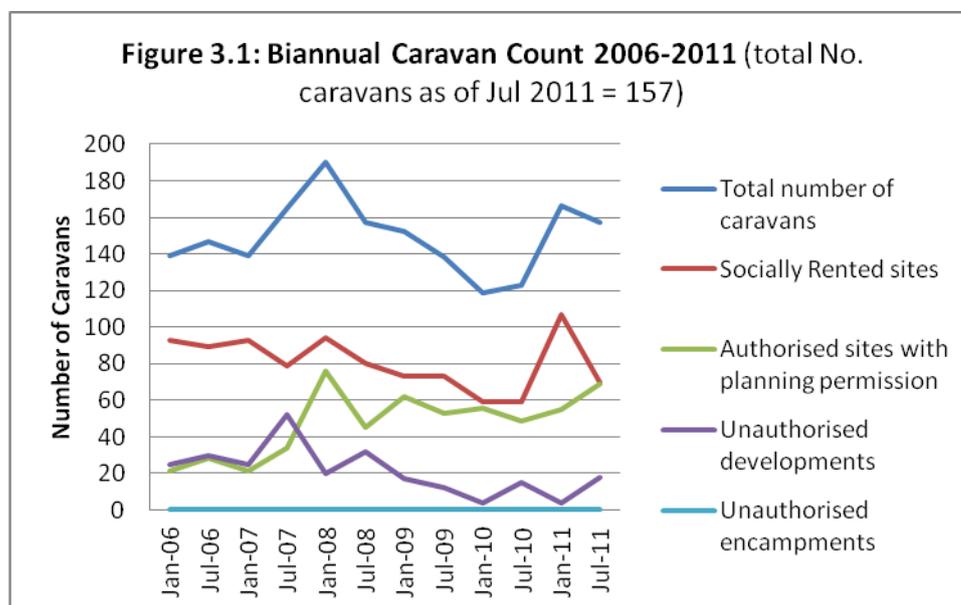
¹¹ Niner, P. (2002) Review of the ODPM Caravan Count. London: ODPM.

¹² The January 2011 count included a count of Travelling Showpeople caravans for the first time. However, as this is not comparable with previous years and as 0 caravans have been identified this is excluded from the tables in this report.

3.4 Table 3.1 shows the following:

- Caravan numbers on socially rented sites have declined steadily in recent years but have increased significantly, returning to 2008 levels, in January 2011.
- Caravan numbers on private sites increased in 2008 but have declined since and been relatively stable in recent years.
- There has been a decrease in the number of caravans recorded on unauthorised developments and a corresponding increase in the number of caravans on authorised private sites. This distribution is likely caused by the granting of temporary consent to a number of households previously on unauthorised developments.
- There have been no caravans recorded on unauthorised encampments over the period.
- Overall caravan numbers have increased by 19% between Jan 2006 – Jan 2011 (January is taken as it is generally considered to represent ‘resident’ households as opposed to July which tends to include a degree of seasonality).
- Recent increases in caravan numbers are almost entirely accounted for by an increase in the number of caravans counted on socially rented sites.

3.5 The following chart illustrates the trends in caravan numbers recorded in the count and described above. There appears to be little seasonality in caravan numbers (i.e. absence of significant summer travelling).



The size of the local Gypsy and Traveller community

3.6 For most minority ethnic communities, presenting data about the size of the community in question is usually relatively straightforward (with the exception of communities who 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 information provided by the local authorities and key stakeholders, together with our survey findings, in order to provide a best estimate as to the size of the local Gypsy and Traveller population at the time of the assessment.

- 3.7 Table 3.2 presents the estimation of the size of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population. Using the best information available we estimate that there are at least 498 individuals or 163 households in the Study Area.

Table 3.2: Gypsy and Traveller population based in the area

Type of accommodation	Families/ Households (based on 1 pitch = 1 household)	Individuals	Derivation
Socially rented sites	57	149	Actual numbers taken from information supplied by Kent County Council and Sevenoaks District Council
Private sites (permanent)	30	96	Estimated number of pitches multiplied by average household size from the survey (3.2)
Private sites (temporary)	14	50	Estimated number of pitches multiplied by average household size from the survey (3.6)
Unauthorised developments	21	74	Estimated number of pitches multiplied by average household size from the survey (3.5)
Housing	40 ¹³	128	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (3.2)
Travelling Showpeople	1	1	Number of plots multiplied by an estimate of the household size for Travelling Showperson (1 adult)
Total	163	498	

¹³ 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 50% of the actual bricks and mortar-based population.

4. Authorised social and private sites

- 4.1 A certain degree of caution needs to be taken when extrapolating the characteristics, trends and needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population from the Caravan Counts and other such data alone. In order to provide more specific information on the local Gypsy and Traveller population, this section draws upon the information provided by Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council on site provision within the district as well as information obtained through a survey of Gypsy and Traveller households.

Socially rented sites

- 4.2 There are three socially rented sites in the District. Together these sites provide residential accommodation on 58 pitches. Each is detailed below and summarised in Table 4.1.

Hever Road

- 4.3 This site currently has a total of 16 residential pitches. At the time of this study 15 of these were occupied and there was 1 vacancy; this pitch is currently in the process of being allocated. There is usually a high level of occupancy on the site (between 75%-100%). The following vacancies have arisen on the site over the last few years:
- 2011 – 5
 - 2010 – 1
 - 2009 – 4
 - 2008 – 2
- 4.4 All these vacancies were subsequently re-let.
- 4.5 The site has a waiting list which consists of 2 applicants, this number has remained static for the last few years. Four pitches have recently been developed and there are no plans to develop any more pitches on the site. Before undertaking the recent development on the site (involving the provision of 4 additional pitches), the Council reconsidered plans for a larger increase of the site following consultation with the site's existing residents.
- 4.6 There are currently 31 people living on the site (23 adults; 5 children under 5 years of age; 3 children 5-11 years; and, 1 child 12-16 years). Most residents are long term (over 5 years) residents. Each pitch has an amenity unit which has a bath, shower, WC, space for cooking, heating and space/provision for laundry facilities.
- 4.7 Licensees are permitted to be absent for up to 12 weeks of the year subject to the payment of their licence fee. Visitors are permitted on the site.

4.8 There is a formal policy for allocating pitches on the site with the most important factors being, in rank order:

1. Being homeless
2. Being a Gypsy
3. Medical/special health needs

4.9 The weekly rent is £70.35 with all/almost all residents receiving housing benefit payments.

4.10 The site has previously received funding from the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant to increase the pitches, provide new amenity blocks, improve the roads, and make improvements to drainage and the electrical supply.

4.11 No pitch was seen to be currently doubled up on the site

Polhill Caravan Park

4.12 This site currently has a total of 7 residential pitches and all were occupied at the time of this study. There is usually a high level of occupancy on the site (100%). Only 1 vacancy has arisen on the site, in 2011, in recent years; this pitch was immediately re-let.

4.13 The site has a waiting list which consists of 13 applicants, this number has remained static for the last few years.

4.14 There are currently 23 people living on the site (14 adults; 4 children under 5 years of age; 2 children 5-11 years; and, 3 children 12-16 years). Most residents are long term (over 5 years) residents. Each pitch has an amenity unit which has a bath, shower, WC, space for cooking, heating and space/provision for laundry facilities.

4.15 Licensees are permitted to be absent for up to 12 weeks of the year subject to the payment of their licence fee. Visitors are permitted on the site subject to certain restrictions (i.e. agreement of site manager and adherence to site rules and regulations).

4.16 There is a formal policy for allocating pitches on the site with the most important factors being, in rank order:

1. Need for accommodation
2. Medical/special health needs
3. Family size/composition

4.17 The weekly rent is £43.30 with all/almost all residents receiving housing benefit payments.

4.18 No pitch was seen to be currently doubled up on the site

Barnfield Park

- 4.19 This site currently has a total of 35 residential pitches and all were occupied at the time of this study. No vacancies have recently arisen on the site and the site is usually fully occupied throughout the year.
- 4.20 The site has a waiting list which consists of 17 applicants, this number has remained static for the last few years.
- 4.21 There are currently 95 people living on the site (75 adults; 8 children under 5 years of age; 4 children 5-11 years; and, 8 children 12-16 years). Most residents are long term (over 5 years) residents. Each pitch has an amenity unit which has a bath, shower, space for cooking, heating and space/provision for laundry facilities.
- 4.22 Licensees are permitted to be absent for up to 12 weeks of the year subject to the payment of their licence fee. Visitors are permitted on the site subject to certain restrictions (i.e. agreement of site manager and adherence to site rules and regulations).
- 4.23 There is a formal policy for allocating pitches on the site with the most important factors being, in rank order:
1. Need for accommodation
 2. Medical/special health needs
 3. Family size/composition
- 4.24 The weekly rent is £46.40 with all/almost all residents receiving housing benefit payments.
- 4.25 A total of 6 pitches reportedly contained households which were considered to be doubled up i.e. containing individuals who require a separate pitch or house of their home. These consisted of grown-up children living on their parents/families pitch together with their own families. It is understood from discussions with Kent County Council that a number of other households (approximately 18 households) also reported cramped conditions on the site but it is understood that these could be alleviated by a level of site remodelling/refurbishment.

Table 4.1: Overview of socially rented sites

	Hever Rd	Polhill	Barnfield Park
Total number of pitches	16	7	35
Number of occupied pitches	15	7	35
Site population	31	23	95
Number of children	9	4	20
% children	29%	39%	21%
Average persons per occupied pitch	2	3.3	2.7
Doubled-up pitches	0	0	6
Ethnic groups among site residents	Mostly Romany Gypsy	Mostly Romany Gypsy	Mostly Romany Gypsy
Pitch occupancy in year	75%-100%	100%	100%
% of site residents lived on site 5+ years	Over 90%	Over 90%	Over 90%
Weekly rent	£70.35	£43.30	£46.40
Management	Sevenoaks DC	Kent County Council	Kent County Council

Socially rented sites residents: findings

- 4.26 A total of 27 people were interviewed across these sites. The residents were mostly Romany Gypsies on both sites although one person described themselves as 'Traveller'.
- 4.27 A total of 11 respondents owned a single caravan, 13 respondents owned two caravans and 3 respondents owned three caravans. The average number of caravans to households was 1.7.
- 4.28 Around a half of respondents (48%) reported that this gave them enough room. Of the other half of the sample:
- 5 respondents wanted a larger plot
 - 3 respondents wanted more living space
 - 2 respondents wanted more caravans
 - 1 respondent wanted a larger living unit
 - 1 respondent wanted a separate plot
 - 1 respondent wanted a larger amenity unit.
- 4.29 The reported lack of space was particularly acute from respondents on the Barnfield Park site.
- 4.30 When asked why they had come to live in the area people cited a variety of reasons, see Table 4.2 below. The most common reason cited however was that there was a vacancy on the site.

Table 4.2: Main reason for living in the area

Main reason for living in the area ...	%
There was a vacancy	48
Other	15
Born/raised here	11
To be near family/friends	11
Work available in the area	7
For children's education	4
Moved with parents/family	4

Base: 27 respondents

4.31 In terms of 'other' reasons these were:

Because it is a small site and good for the children's schooling

I was evicted by my Mum when I got pregnant

There is more open space here

Was travelling around with children and needed somewhere safe to stay. It's hard to travel with children.

4.32 70% of respondents reported that they do not have visitors to stay on their pitch with them. A third (33%) of respondents reported that accommodating visitors on the site was a problem mainly due to the fact that the Council (County and District) may not allow visitors and that their pitch/site did not have room. There is clearly some discrepancy here with what the Council's allow in terms of visitors and the perceptions of residents.

4.33 The vast majority of respondents we spoke to said that they had lived in the area for 10 years or more (67%). Relatively few respondents reported living in the area for less than 5 years, see Table 4.3. There were very similar levels reported when respondents were asked how long they had lived on the site providing support for the information received from the District and County council about the long-term nature of the socially rented tenants in the area.

Table 4.3: Length of time living in the general area

Length of time	% of respondents
10 years or more	67
More than 5 years less than 10	15
More than 3 years less than 10	7
More than 1 year less than 3	4
More than 6 months less than 1 year	4
Don't know	4

Base: 27 respondents

- 4.34 Very few residents left the area during the year. A total of 63% of respondents on the socially rented sites reported that they never leave, with the remainder saying that they travel away for around 10 weeks of the year. When asked where they tended to go most cited short periods of travel to such places such as Bournemouth, Chesterfield, other parts of Kent, Scotland as well as a minority of people reporting visiting fairs. Most travel was seen to be related to the summer time.
- 4.35 No respondent reported having a base elsewhere

Authorised private sites

4.36 This section looks at private sites across the Study Area. There is a number of small to medium sized authorised private sites in the district. It proved difficult to accurately establish the pitch capacity of all private sites. Planning permissions are often based on a maximum number of caravans rather than clearly defined pitches. Where pitch numbers are not defined, we have used a 1.7 caravan to pitch ratio to ascertain the approximate number of pitches.¹⁴ As can be seen in Table 4.4 there are 17 authorised private sites in the district, of these 11 have permanent planning permission which have a combined capacity of around 30 pitches. There are 7 sites (6 independent sites and an existing permanent site) with temporary planning permission which have a combined capacity of around 14 pitches. These are presented in greater detail in Appendix 3.

Table 4.4: Private sites in the district

Consent	No. of sites	Estimated No. of pitches
Permanent	11	30
Temporary	7 ¹⁵	14
Total (est)	17	44

4.37 Appendix 3 provides details of all the private sites that currently have temporary planning permission within the District. The planning consent for all these sites is due to expire within the assessment period.

Permanent private site residents: findings

- 4.38 A total of 18 people were interviewed on the permanent private sites. Of these 78% owned the pitch they were occupying and 22% were renting the pitch. All respondents owned their trailers.
- 4.39 Most respondents (61%) reported that they either had a single living unit. The remaining respondents reported that they had two living units (39%). The average number was 1.4 caravans per household. All respondents reported that their current accommodation provided them with enough living space.

¹⁴ As described earlier this ratio is commonly used in GTAA research however, the caravan to pitch ratio based on the sample for the assessment across all private sites (permanent and temporary) was 1.7

¹⁵ There are 6 independent sites and a further 2 pitches with temporary planning permission on an existing permanent private site.

- 4.40 Most respondents reported that they did not host visitors on their pitch/site (89%). Only two respondents (11%) reported hosting visitors on a short term basis. In terms of who visited the site this was either close family or friends for short periods in the year. Only one respondent commented that hosting visitors was a problem due to being a tenant on a rented site.
- 4.41 All respondents reported having lived in the area (i.e. Sevenoaks district) for 10 years or over. There were very similar levels reported when respondents were asked how long they had lived on the site where the interview took place, see Table 4.5 below.¹⁶

Table 4.5: Length of time living on the site with permanent planning permission

Length of time	%
10 years or more	83
Between 5-10 years	6
Between 3-5 years	0
Between 1 -3 years	11

Base: 18 respondents

- 4.42 When asked why they had come to live in the general area people cited a variety of reasons, see Table 4.6 below. The most common reason cited however was a vacancy (47%) followed by being born or raised on the site (39% of respondents).

Table 4.6: Most important reason for living in the area

Most important reason for living in the area ...	%
There was a vacancy	47
Born/raised here	39
Land/pitch was available to buy	17
To be near family/friends	11
Moved with parents/family	11
Convenient for working pattern	6

Base: 18 respondents

- 4.43 A total of 50% of respondents reported never leaving the area throughout the year, 33% reported that they lived in the area between 41-51 weeks of the year, while 17% of respondents did not know. The main reason given for travelling away was attendance at fairs. One respondent mentioned travelling away for work.
- 4.44 No respondent reported having a base elsewhere

Temporary private site residents: findings

- 4.45 It should be noted that the number of temporary permissions at the time of the survey was lower (by 9 pitches) than observed in March 2011 as a result of a number of permissions expiring. At the time of the completion of this report, the 9 additional temporary permissions had been granted, with a corresponding reduction in the number of unauthorised sites. However, the figures below are based on the position identified during the survey work.

¹⁶ It should be noted that the interviewers directed respondents to interpret ‘in the area’ throughout the survey as within Sevenoaks District

- 4.46 A total of 7 people were interviewed on the temporary private sites. All owned the pitch they were occupying.
- 4.47 One respondent had 1 trailer, five respondents had 2 trailers and 1 respondent had 4 trailers. The average number of trailers per household was 2.1. All respondents thought they had enough living space. For those who did host visitors the visitor profile was similar to those on permanent sites i.e. close and extended family members who tended to visit infrequently.
- 4.48 The vast majority of residents on the temporary sites we spoke to said that they had lived in the area for 10 years or more (86%). The other 14% (1 respondent) had lived in the area for between 6-12 months prior to the interview. In terms of how long people had lived on the site where they were interviewed, 29% (2 respondents) had lived there for 10 years or over with 43% (3 respondents) living there for between 5-10 years, see Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Length of time living on the site with temporary planning permission

Length of time	%
10 years or more	29
Between 5-10 years	43
Between 3-5 years	14
Between 1 -3 years	0
Between 6-12 months	14
Between 3-6 months	0
Between 1-3 months	0
2-4 weeks	0
Don't know	0

Base: 7 respondents

- 4.49 Although a number of reasons were cited for living in the area the majority either cited family connections (29%) or that they were born in the area (29%), see Table 4.8 below.

Table 4.8: Most important reason for living in the area

Most important reason for living in the area...	%
Born here	29
Having family living here	29
Children's education	14
Work in the area	14
Other ("lived here for years")	14

Base: 7 respondents

- 4.50 A total of 43% of respondents reported never leaving the area throughout the year, 43% reported living in the area for between 41-51 weeks of the year. One respondent (14%) did not know how many weeks a year they lived in the area. The reasons for leaving the area for these periods were similar to those provided by respondents on sites with permanent planning permission specifically Traveller fairs and visits to family.
- 4.51 No respondent reported having access to a base elsewhere.

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 Development Framework. This chapter focuses upon the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites without planning permission. This chapter then looks at the presence of unauthorised encampments in the area.

Planning applications

- 5.2 Table 5.1 outlines the number of planning permissions submitted for pitches over the period of 2004 – 2011 excluding sites where applications were made to extend the permission on existing temporary sites.

Table 5.1: Number of planning applications over the period 2004-2011

Year	Number of Applications	Number of pitches permission applied for	Number of applications on sites not previously subject to an application since April '04	Number of pitches on sites not previously subject to an application since April '04
04/05	4	11	4	11
05/06	6	31	4	29
06/07	8	18	7	16
07/08	8	18	3	3
08/09	7	21	3	3
09/10	4	11	3	5
10/11	4	7	1	1

- 5.3 This table shows a large increase in the number of pitches applied for in the 2005-2006 period for larger (but still relatively small) sites. Since then applications have been made for smaller sites consisting of around 2 pitches on average.
- 5.4 It is worth observing that since temporary permissions began to be granted in 2006/07 the level of demand for new site development has fallen significantly. This is particularly the case for sites not previously considered through the planning application process. Table 5.1 may suggest that when the pitch needs for Gypsies and Travellers currently living in the District are met permanently, the remaining annual demand will be relatively low. This contradicts popular notions of a 'honeypot effect' - where the provision of sites attracts greater number of applications – as this does not appear to be occurring in practice across the District.
- 5.5 In order to meet the need identified as a result of the last GTAA there has been a tendency to grant temporary consent to pitches as opposed to permanent consent, in accordance with national planning policy. It should also be noted that the use of temporary planning consents will not address the long-term needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the District. The use of such consents merely postpones meeting the need thus causing added uncertainty to the applicants, local community and local authority.

Unauthorised development of Gypsy and Traveller sites

5.6 At the time of the study there were a total of 8 unauthorised developments within the District. Table A3.3 which can be found in Appendix 3 provides details of the unauthorised sites and presents the estimated pitch size of each. It is estimated that these 8 sites accommodate 21 pitches/households across Sevenoaks.

5.7 As stated above it should be noted that the number of unauthorised developments at the time of the survey was higher (by 9 pitches) than observed in March 2011 as a result of a number of temporary permissions expiring. At the time of the completion of this report, the 9 additional temporary permissions had been granted, with a corresponding reduction in the number of unauthorised sites. The figures below are based on the position identified during the survey work.

Unauthorised developments residents: findings

5.8 A total of 13 households were interviewed across 7 of the 8 sites. In terms of number of trailers on these, most respondents had a single trailer (69%), two (23%) or, in one occurrence, three trailers (7%). The average was 1.4 caravans to a household. All households reported that this gave them enough space.

5.9 The sample was split between those respondents who had visitors to stay with them for short periods (42%) and those who did not (42%). Two respondents (17%) did not know. All respondents reported that it was not a problem to host visitors if they chose to do so.

5.10 The vast majority of residents on the unauthorised developments we spoke to said that they had lived in the area for 10 years or more (92%) with the remaining respondent reporting that they had lived in the area between 5 and 10 years (8%).

5.11 Similarly, a significant number of these reported living on the site where they were interviewed for significant periods of time, 77% reported having had lived on the site for 10 years or more, see Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1: Length of time living on the unauthorised site

Length of time	%
10 years or more	77
Between 5-10 years	15
Between 3-5 years	8

Base: 13 respondents

5.12 Although a number of reasons were cited for living in the area the majority either cited being born in the area (41%) or having family connections (25%), see Table 5.2 below.

Table 5.2: Most important reason for living in the area

Most important reasons for being in the area..	%
Born here	41
Having family living here	25
Children's schooling/education	17
Health reasons	8
Looking after a family member	8

Base: 12 respondents

- 5.13 A total of 39% of respondents reported never leaving the area throughout the year, 46% reported that they lived in the area between 41-51 weeks of the year, see Table 5.3 below.

Table 5.3 How many weeks of the year lived in the area

Length of time	%
52 weeks/never leave	39
Between 41-51 weeks	46
Don't know	15

Base: 13 respondents

- 5.14 The reasons for leaving the area for these periods were similar to those provided by respondents on sites with planning permission i.e. visits to fairs and visits to family and friends.
- 5.15 One respondent reported being able to use a private site in Romford when travelling, although it is unknown who owns this site.

Unauthorised encampments: findings

- 5.16 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. Unauthorised encampments are often the type of accommodation which has become synonymous with Gypsies and Travellers due to often residing on public and private land.
- 5.17 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. However, as seen in Chapter 3 the level of encampment has been nil in the last five years. Indeed during the fieldwork for this assessment we did not receive notification of any unauthorised encampments within the district.
- 5.18 The authority does not keep a log of unauthorised encampments as this data is collected by Kent County Council. Information from Kent County Council indicated that over the last 2 years there had been 1 unauthorised encampment in 2011 and 1 unauthorised encampment over 2010 within the District.

6. Gypsies and Travellers in social and private bricks and mortar accommodation

- 6.1 The numbers of Gypsies and Travellers currently accommodated within bricks and mortar accommodation are unknown, but potentially large. Movement to and from housing is a major concern for the strategic approach, policies and working practices of local authorities. Moreover, this was an issue raised in the Panel Report of the South East Regional Spatial Strategy Partial Review which commented on the lack of consideration given to households accommodated in bricks and mortar housing in the previous GTAA covering the District.

Estimating the size of Gypsy and Traveller population in bricks and mortar housing

- 6.2 Neither the local authority officers nor 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. However a response from the Gypsy Council indicated that the number of Gypsies and Travellers in the area could amount to a sizeable population:

*It is hard to tell how many there are [Gypsies and Travellers]... but there are so many in all the big council estates in and around Maidstone and **Sevenoaks**. Because of the agricultural industry. There has never been any interest in any G&Ts who are in housing, within the boroughs, It could be as much as 24 to 30% of the total population. As you say, the GTAA's were so small it was only a guide...The outlying villages have also got a high number in them.¹⁷*

- 6.3 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 populations was around 3 times the number of trailer-based populations. This would however, provide a potential housed population of 306 households.¹⁸ This figure would appear unrealistic given the relatively small size of the District. In the absence of accurate evidence as to the numbers in housing we base the estimate of the base population of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in houses on the number of interviews with bricks and mortar-based households we secured.
- 6.4 In order to engage with households in bricks and mortar housing the community interviewers who worked as fieldworkers on the study deployed three main strategies. They utilised their own extensive social networks in order to find people who lived in houses in the District, they asked people who they interviewed on sites if they knew of people in houses and if they would be happy to pass on their details, they utilised snowball sampling where one respondent in housing recommended engaging with similar households. Engaging with households in bricks and mortar housing appeared unproblematic and more interviews could have been made

¹⁷ From personal email correspondence with Joe Jones of the Gypsy Council

¹⁸ Number of authorised households on sites (socially rented 58, private permanent 30, private temporary 14) equals 102 trailer based houses multiplied by 3.

possible given more time. This leads us to assume that the households we interviewed constitute only a proportion of the entire population in bricks and mortar housing.

- 6.5 Therefore, as a pragmatic working assumption, which allows for a reasonable consideration of need arising from households in bricks and mortar, we assume we have interviewed 50% of the actual bricks and mortar-based population. Therefore, by doubling the number of interviews attained we posit that there are at least 40 households living in bricks and mortar in the District.¹⁹
- 6.6 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:
- Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople feel able to disclose their ethnic group in monitoring forms
 - Monitoring forms allow for the ethnic groups as options
 - The data from the Census 2011 is released
- 6.7 Until this point 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 housing residents: findings

- 6.8 Among the 20 respondents whom we consulted who lived in bricks and mortar accommodation, 60% of bricks and mortar dwellers were social housing tenants; 25% were owner-occupiers; and 15% were private tenants.
- 6.9 In terms of the size of the dwelling, 25% of respondents had 2 bedrooms and 75% had 3 bedrooms. All but 2 respondents (10%) thought that their property gave them enough space. One of the respondents who reported needing more space said that this would be for their trailer which they currently leave at a family member's site.
- 6.10 In total, 9 households (45%) in bricks and mortar accommodation still owned trailers. Eight households had just 1 trailer and one household had 2 trailers.
- 6.11 The majority of respondents had lived in their accommodation for a significant period of time: 65% for 10 years or more; 15% had been there for between 5 and 10 years. Only 5% (1 household) had been in the house for less than 1 year, see Table 6.1

¹⁹ This figure should be revised should further information become available at a later date.

Table 6.1: Length of time living in the house

Length of time	%
10 years or more	65
Between 5-10 years	15
Between 3-5 years	5
Between 1 -3 years	5
Between 6-12 months	5
Don't know	5

Base: 20 respondents

- 6.12 There was a range of reasons given for why people moved into the houses they were living in, see Table 6.2 below.

Table 6.2: Main reasons given for people living in the house

Reason	Number (%)
To be near family or friends	37
Born/raised in the house	16
Lack of sites	11
Health reasons	11
Other	11
Children's education	5
There was a vacancy	5
House was available to buy	5

Base: 20 respondents

- 6.13 The most common reason was that living in the house allowed them to live nearer to their family or friends. A number of people were born in the house with a number of people living in house due to some sort of health problem which was either cited as 'arthritis and asthma'. In terms of 'other' reasons one person simply stated that they 'just needed to be more settled'.
- 6.14 The majority of people who were now living in housing had previously been living on a private site with planning permission, followed by an unauthorised encampment and then a socially rented site, see Table 6.3.

Table 6.3: Prior accommodation to living in a house

Accommodation	Number (%)
Private site with planning permission	40
Unauthorised encampment	25
Transit site	15
Council site	10
Been here always	10

Base: 20 respondents

Views from site-based population of housing

- 6.15 A total of 23 respondents across the whole site based population (27%) had, at one time or another, lived in a house. Table 6.4 outlines how respondents rated their experience of housing. As can be seen there was a diversity of experience.

Table 6.4: Experience of living in a house

Rating	Number (%)
Very good	8
Good	21
Neither good nor poor	38
Poor	4
Very poor	29

Base: 23 respondents

- 6.16 When asked why they had left the house by far the most common response (in around 40% of cases) could be seen, in some way, as ‘cultural aversion’ or wanting to return to a travelling way of life,

“Couldn't live the way I wanted to”

“Mother wanted to return to the Traveller life”

“My kids were not with our own people, houses are not for Travellers”

“To mix back into the Gypsy community”

- 6.17 A large number of people (around 29% of respondents) cited ‘getting married’ as a major reason for leaving housing and returning to live on sites.

7. Travelling

7.1 In order to shed some light on the travelling patterns and experiences of Gypsies and Travellers throughout the Study Area, respondents were asked about a range of issues associated with travelling.

7.2 One of the most important issues to gain some information on was the frequency that households travelled. The vast majority of people reported that they never travelled or travelled seasonally, which generally means for short periods during the summer months. Table 7.1 breaks this down by accommodation type.

Table 7.1: Frequency of travelling by current accommodation type

Frequency	Unauthorised development (%)	Socially rented sites (%)	Private residential sites (perm) (%)	Private residential sites (temp) (%)	Bricks & mortar (%)
Every day or so	-	-	-	-	-
Every week	-	-	-	-	-
Every month	-	-	-	-	-
Every month or so	-	-	-	-	-
Few times a year	31	22	44	57	20
Once per year	23	11	6	0	10
Never	46	67	50	43	70

Base: 86 respondents providing information

7.3 Generally this appears a slightly more static population than a number of other areas in which the researchers have worked where residents from all accommodation types, but particularly households on private sites and in bricks and mortar housing, appear to travel more often (e.g. Cumbria, Tees Valley, Merseyside etc.). However, it is common in GTAA's across the country (i.e. the North of England and Midlands) for large numbers of residents to report that they 'never' travel.

7.4 In order to determine accommodation need under the planning definition for Gypsies and Travellers (see Chapter 2) it is necessary to determine the specific reasons for why people no longer travel. We asked those who said they never travelled to tell us why, which resulted in some diverse responses. Table 7.2 looks at the proportion of people not travelling for reasons of health, education or older age

Table 7.2: Reasons given for never travelling

Reason	%
Your, a family member or a dependents health	21
Your, a family member or a dependents educational needs	40
Your, a family member or a dependents older age	21
Other reason	47

Base: 47 respondents providing information. Respondents could submit multiple responses in order to best explain their situation.

- 7.5 A total of 47% of respondents who reported that they 'never travelled' said that this was because of 'other' reasons. Such reasons were diverse with many people providing responses that suggest that a lack of travelling is due to a lack of sites available and/or the changing nature of the travelling way of life:

"There was nowhere to go"

"Don't want to travel anymore"

"Not the same as it was years ago, need more sites"

- 7.6 A number of other people simply described themselves as 'settled'.
- 7.7 The number of households living on temporary pitches who travel at times throughout the year was 57% of the resident households. Those households who no longer travelled for reasons of their or a dependents education, age or health needs was 21% of the resident households. Responses were checked to ensure no double counting. This indicates that 22% of households living on temporary pitches no longer travel for reasons other than those set out in the planning definition.
- 7.8 The number of households living on unauthorised developments who travel at times throughout the year was 54% of the resident households. Those households who no longer travelled for reasons of their or a dependents education, age or health needs was 39% of the resident households. This indicates that 7% of households living on unauthorised pitches no longer travel for reasons other than those set out in the planning definition.
- 7.9 For those who did travel, however, we asked them where they liked to go. This was an open question designed to allow respondents to mention three of the places they visit most frequently. The most common destination seemed to be Appleby Fair in Cumbria or a number of other traditional horse fairs across the UK. Places such as towns in the East of England (e.g. Cambridge and Harlow) as well as other parts of Kent were very common responses. It is difficult to ascertain and quantify a specific travelling pattern from these responses; however, it seems that there was a preference for remaining in the 'South' of England, with the exception of annual visits to Appleby Fair in Cumbria.
- 7.10 For those people who still travelled, there was a wide variation in how many caravans/trailers they travelled with from 1 to 3, with most people travelling with 1 or 2 caravans.
- 7.11 Of the people who said they still travel to a certain extent 86% of these had travelled at some point in the past 12 months. In terms of why they travelled, respondents cited attending fairs as the main reason followed by 'a holiday' and 'work'.

8. Future accommodation, household formation and accommodation affordability

8.1 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 District. The findings from the survey are presented here and how this then translates into ‘need’ is discussed in Chapter 11.

Future accommodation intentions

8.2 The overwhelming majority of trailer based households in the area had no intention of leaving their current accommodation, see Table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Movement intentions

Intention	Unauthorised development (%)	Socially rented sites (%)	Private residential sites (perm) (%)	Private residential sites (temp) (%)	Bricks & mortar (%)
Immediate move	0	7	0	0	5
Move in the next 12 months	0	0	0	0	0
Move in the next 1-2 years	0	0	0	0	0
Move in the next 2-5 years	0	0	0	14	5
Move in the next 5-10 years	0	4	6	0	5
Stay indefinitely	92	89	83	86	75
Other	8	0	11	0	10

8.3 Only two households across the socially rented sites and one household in a house said they were going to move immediately. The following indicates the sorts of accommodation these households were seeking and their reasons:

- One household from one of the socially rented sites was looking for another pitch on a different socially rented site in order to get better access to the doctor.
- One household from one of the socially rented sites was looking for a house but cited ‘no particular reason’.
- One household currently in a house was looking for pitch on a socially rented site in order to rejoin their family.

8.4 It is thought all intended to stay within Sevenoaks. All were on a waiting list on one of the socially rented sites in the District.

8.5 The only other households who had any movement intentions within the next 5 years were:

- One household on a temporary site who wanted to move in the next 2-5 years to a permanent site in order to make a profit.

- One household in a house who wanted to buy a piece of land and develop that into a site but cited ‘no particular reason’.

Household concealment

- 8.6 A total of 3 households (4% of the sample) reported concealed households (i.e. separate households currently in need of accommodation and living with them), which equates to a total of 5 individuals. All of these were family members who were living as doubled up households on the pitches where the interviews took place. Table 8.1 below shows the composition of these households by accommodation type.

Table 8.2: Concealed households by accommodation type

Type of accommodation	Comments
Socially rented site	Two households: HH1. One household of 1 person – a daughter of the respondent HH2. One household of 2 people – a 22 year old woman and her baby HH3. One household of 3 people – a 36 year old woman and her two children.

- 8.7 No households were concealed within bricks and mortar housing. From looking at these household members it is reasonable to assume that this concealment equates to an accommodation need for 3 separate households.
- 8.8 Table 8.3 below looks at how the accommodation need for these concealed households is expected to be resolved. It should be noted that all households were expected to move within the same local area as the respondents.

Table 8.3: Accommodation intentions and arrangements for each concealed household

Household (see Table 8.2 above)	Intentions and arrangements being made	Potential pitch need
HH1	Probable move to bricks and mortar	Nil
HH2	Probable move to bricks and mortar	Nil
HH2	Probable move to bricks and mortar	Nil

- 8.9 From examining the intentions and arrangements being made there appears a nil pitch need from concealed households from respondents to the survey. However, this analysis needs to be seen alongside the advice from Kent County Council representatives about household concealment at Barnfield Park (see para 4.25). Section 11 presents a recommended approach for how these two pieces of information should be translated into need for pitches arising as a result of household concealment (p54).

Household formation

8.10 Respondents were also asked whether there were people living with them who were likely to want their own separate accommodation in the next five years (2012–2016). A total of 4 households (6% of sample) said that there were people living with them who would require independent accommodation within the next five-year period. This amounted to 5 individuals.²⁰

8.11 All of these were family members (mainly older children or children in their teens). Table 8.4 below shows the composition of these households by accommodation type.

Table 8.4: Household formation by accommodation type

Type of accommodation	Comments
Socially rented site	Two households: HH1. One household member – a 13 year old son HH2. Two household members – son and a daughter
Permanent private site	One household: HH3. One household member – a daughter
Bricks and mortar	One household: HH4. One household member – an 18 year old daughter

8.12 Looking at these household members it is reasonable to assume that this household formation equates to an accommodation need for 5 separate households.

8.13 Table 8.5 below looks at how the accommodation need for these households is expected to be resolved. It should be noted that all households expected to move within the same local area as the respondents, or they reported not knowing.

Table 8.5: Accommodation intentions and arrangements for each household

Household (see Table 8.4 above)	Intentions and arrangements being made	Potential pitch need
HH1	Pitch on a socially rented site	1 pitch
HH2	Intention for both households to live on a pitch	2 pitches
HH3	Intention to live on a pitch	1 pitch
HH4	Unknown	Unknown

8.14 It is worth noting that HH1 reported that their son would more than likely move into bricks and mortar. This was a direct result of the lack of opportunity to access a vacant pitch on the site where they live. Furthermore, it remains unknown how the need from HH4 will be met as the respondent commented that it was ‘up to their daughter’ how she wanted to be accommodated and she did not know her intentions.

8.15 From examining the intentions and arrangements being made for these households it is reasonable to assume a pitch need of 4 pitches.

8.16 We are confident that we have ensured no double counting between household concealment and household formation.

²⁰ We are confident there was no double counting between these different time periods.

Accommodation affordability

8.17 In order to explore issues of accommodation affordability we asked a series of related questions. The first of these looked at the ability of households, who were living on the socially rented sites, to afford a series of accommodation options, these are presented in Table 8.6.

Table 8.6: Ability to afford any of the following

Type of accommodation	% of respondents agreeing
A pitch on a private site with planning permission	4
A pitch on a private site without planning permission	4
Land to be developed into a site	8
Cannot afford to purchase land or a site	77
Not relevant	15

8.18 As can be seen very few people appeared able to afford to develop their own site based accommodation and were reliant on the provision of socially rented accommodation.

8.19 The next question explored how much all respondents pay per week/month in rent or mortgage for their accommodation. This information is displayed across all accommodation types in Table 8.7.

Table 8.7: Cost of rent/mortgage

Cost	Type of accommodation								Total
	Unauthorised Development	Socially rented site	Private site (perm)	Private site (temp)	Bricks & mortar (socially rented)	Bricks & mortar (Private rented)	Bricks & mortar (owner occupier)	Travelling Showpeople	
£130-255pm	0	15 (56%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	15 (17%)
£256-385pm	0	0	4 (22%)	0	1 (8%)	0	0	0	5 (6%)
£386-515pm	0	0	0	0	8 (67%)	3 (100%)	0	0	11 (13%)
£516-645pm	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (20%)	0	1 (1%)
£646 – 775pm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£776-905pm	0	1 (4%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1%)
Don't know	0	9 (33%)	0	0	3 (25%)	0	0	0	12 (14%)
Prefer not to say	0	0	0	0	0	0	3 (60%)	0	3 (4%)
Don't pay rent or mortgage	13 (100%)	2 (7%)	14 (78%)	7 (100%)	0	0	1 (20%)	1 (100%)	38 (44%)

8.20 As this table shows, almost half the sample (44%) do not have any rental or mortgage costs. The lack of rental or mortgage costs are particularly evident in households on unauthorised developments and all private sites. Although the sample was small it appears that the rent on private rented sites was double that on the socially rented sites.

8.21 The next question looked at the income that each household received gross. This can be seen in Table 8.8.

Table 8.8: Income

Cost	Type of accommodation								Total
	Unauthorised Development	Socially rented site	Private site (perm)	Private site (temp)	Bricks & mortar (socially rented)	Bricks & mortar (Private rented)	Bricks & mortar (owner occupier)	Travelling Showpeople	
Under £50pw	0	1 (4%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1%)
£50-100pw	1 (8%)	2 (7%)	0	0	2 (17%)	0	0	0	5 (6%)
£101-150pw	0	6 (22%)	0	0	1 (8%)	0	0	0	7 (8%)
£151-200pw	0	3 (11%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3 (4%)
£201-250pw	0	2 (7%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 (2%)
£251-300pw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£351-400pw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£401-500pw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£501-700pw	0	0	0	1 (14%)	0	0	0	0	1 (1%)
None	0	0	0	0	1 (8%)	0	0	0	1 (1%)
Don't know	6 (46%)	9 (33%)	9 (50%)	3 (43%)	6 (50%)	2 (67%)	2 (40%)	1 (100%)	38 (44%)
Prefer not to say	6 (46%)	4 (15%)	9 (50%)	3 (43%)	2 (17%)	1 (33%)	3 (60%)	0	28 (33%)

8.22 As can be seen most respondents either did not know (44%) or preferred not to say (33%) their household income. The findings from those who did respond are based on a sample which is too small to draw conclusions about the income of Gypsy and Traveller residents.

- 8.23 We also asked people to indicate their household savings. However, the results are uninformative as the majority either preferred not to say (60%) or reported 'none' (40%).²¹
- 8.24 In line with many other assessments of the affordable accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers relatively few respondents were willing to answer the specific questions relating to income. The reasons for these are complex but tend to revolve around issues of trust between the interviewer and respondent and particular privacy issues associated with Gypsy and Traveller communities. This is not atypical from other similar assessments and few conclusions should be drawn about the need for affordable accommodation or otherwise from these responses or from the significant level of pitch ownership on sites in the District.
- 8.25 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.

²¹ Actual results are 60.5% and 39.5% but results rounded down and up respectively for comprehension purposes.

9. Travelling Showpeople

- 9.1 Within the new planning policy it is clear that the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople should be included within the assessments of accommodation need for 'travellers'.
- 9.2 Within Sevenoaks there is currently a single 'known' authorised private yard occupied by a Travelling Showperson in the District:
- Mercantile, West Kingsdown. Estimated to consist of 1 plot. This yard currently has permission for 1 living unit and a mobile home.
- 9.3 This corresponds with the findings of the North West Kent Traveller Showperson Assessment which identified 1 existing pitch in Sevenoaks District on the basis of information provided by the Showmen's Guild.
- 9.4 An interview was secured with the resident on this yard. However, due to the need to protect the personal information of the individual concerned it would not be appropriate to detail their circumstances and situation here. After reviewing the completed information it is clear that there is no additional accommodation need emanating from this yard.

10. Access to health services

10.1 This section provides an overview of some of the health experiences of Gypsies and Travellers in the area. Issues of access to health care services and perceived barriers to access experienced by respondents are discussed below.

10.2 For the overwhelming majority of respondents those people who required access to healthcare services was able to access them. The exception appeared, for a minority of people, to be dental services, see Table 10.1.

Table 10.1: Access to health services

Service	Have access (%)	Not relevant (%)
GP/Health Centre	100	0
Health visitor	51	49
Maternity care	44	64
A&E	99	0
Dentist	90	4

10.3 Just 7% of the sample thought there was access problems, all of these respondents were from the socially rented sites in the district. A number of issues were mentioned but it was dominated by access to dental care:

“The cost of going to the dentist or getting glasses”

“It is very difficult to find a dentist in Sevenoaks, had to go to Orpington”

“There is a lack of dentists on NHS in Sevenoaks, need to attend one further away”

10.4 One person intimated about potential discrimination from healthcare providers,

“Don’t like giving site address as had problems registering with the dentist, doctors”

10.5 Other issues revolved around the lack of ability to travel to various healthcare services,

“We don’t have our own transport - we rely on other people to take us. Bus stop is a long walk away and they are infrequent”

“Hospital is too far to go, I am asked to go to appointments but I don’t go because it is too difficult to get there. Bus stop is one mile away”

10.6 People were asked to provide suggestions for how healthcare services could be improved, the following indicates the responses received.

10.7 One respondent talked about how difficult an ambulance had found it to access the site in the past,

“Ambulance access on the site is a problem. Vehicles cannot get up and down the road because of the snow and ice in winter.”

10.8 Another respondent talked about experiencing unpleasant interactions with staff at the local health centre,

“The Doctor’s receptionist can be very biased and rude, I don’t think she likes Travellers”

10.9 However, it should be noted that a number of people reported either ambivalence or positive views towards healthcare services in the area,

“No the services are all good as I've needed them a lot. They have helped me and my family loads”

“The doctor here is really good, very helpful”

11. An assessment of accommodation need

11.1 Irrespective of the proposed change in policy targeted at resolving Gypsy and Traveller accommodation issues 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 nationally to meet the current shortage of accommodation within England.²²

A note on the assessment of accommodation need

11.2 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.

11.3 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.²³
- Guidance for Regional Planning.²⁴
- Knowledge and experience of assumptions featuring in other GTAAs and results of EiP tests of GTAAs
- The emerging messages arising from the recent CLG consultation document '*Planning for Travellers*'.

11.4 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:

²² 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.

²³ CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments – Guidance*, London: HMSO.

²⁴ http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/209/PreparingRegionalSpatialStrategyreviewsonGypsiesandTravellersbyregionalplannings_id1508209.pdf

- Surveying households resident in the District, as opposed to extrapolating trends and findings from households resident outside the District (i.e. which often occurs where neighbouring authorities have combined to produce joint GTAA's).
- Drawing upon empirical primary research within the District 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, temporary consents and concealed households 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.

11.5 In turn, the planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers as detailed in the new planning policy is operationalised by a refinement of accommodation need informed by the current mobility/nomadism of resident Gypsies and Travellers. In line with the sentiment of the definition of Gypsies and Travellers within the planning policy refinement of need is made possible by assessing the extent of travelling undertaken by households and whether travelling was no longer undertaken due to the specific reasons of needs associated with their, or a dependents, education, health or age.

11.6 It should be noted that the need reported as arising here is generated from households currently accommodated across a variety of accommodation types i.e. private sites, social sites and unauthorised sites. This does not entail a need for these types of tenure.

11.7 This study has taken a thorough assessment of the need arising from all sites (social, permanent, temporary and unauthorised) 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.

11.8 Table 10.1 below contains the requirements for net additional pitches that need to be developed to meet the measured need. Sites given planning permission or developed through new social provision, 'genuine' vacancies on social and private sites arising in the District²⁵ occurring after the 1st October 2011 contribute to the need requirements detailed in the table below.

11.9 Accommodation need has been considered in this assessment by carefully exploring the following factors:

Current residential supply

- Socially rented pitches
- Private authorised pitches

²⁵ Such vacancies will require close monitoring.

Residential need 2012–2016

- 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.

11.10 Site overcrowding was also considered (i.e. whether there were more living units on sites designed for less) but there was no strong evidence that sites are overcrowded in this way to any great extent that requires additional pitches to be provided. Pitch overcrowding (i.e. more households occupying a single living area than they are designed for) is addressed within the consideration of household concealment.

Additional supply, 2012–2016

With the exception of a vacant pitch on one of the socially rented sites at the time of the assessment the supply of pitches between 2012–2016 has been considered but concluded to be nil. The supply of pitches within the District should be closely monitored. New mechanisms may be required to enable this. A number of factors are potential sources of supply:

- Pitches currently closed but re-entering use
- New sites planned
- Vacant pitches

11.11 The requirements are presented in summary form in Table 11.1 below. Table 11.1 details the accommodation and pitch need, derived from applying the definition as used in the Housing Act and the Planning definition. The housing definition is considered to illustrate overall accommodation need for the District. The planning definition refines the above need in order to illustrate the need for site-based accommodation. Each element is explained in greater detail below. **All figures relate to pitches not sites.**

Table 11.1: Summary of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation and pitch need (2012-2026)

	Element of supply and need	Column 1	Column 2
		Accommodation Need/Supply Total (households)	Pitch Need/Supply Total (pitches): Application of Planning Definition
Current residential supply			
1	Socially rented pitches	58	58
2	Private authorised pitches	30	30
3	Total authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches	88	88
Residential pitch need, 2012–2016			
4	End of temporary planning permissions	14	11
5	Concealed households	5	5
6	New household formation	6	6
7	Unauthorised developments	21	20
8	Net Movement from housing to sites	0	0
9	Closure of sites	0	0
10	Unauthorised encampments	0	0
11	Movement between areas	0	0
12	Residential pitch need (2012–2016)	45	41
13	Supply (2012-2016)	1	1
14	Residential pitch need (2012-2016)	44	40
15	Residential pitch need (2017–2021)	16	15
16	Residential pitch need (2022–2026)	18	17
17	Total Residential pitch need (2012–2026)	78	72

Note: For pragmatic reasons these figures have been rounded up to the nearest whole pitch for further details please see Table A5 in Appendix 5.

Explanation of the need requirement elements

Current residential supply

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

11.13 **Row 2:** The number of pitches on private authorised sites provided by local authority information.

11.14 **Row 3:** The total number of authorised pitches within the district.

Residential pitch need 2012–2016

11.15 **Row 4:** The number of pitches which have temporary planning permission due to expire within the assessment period. Column 1 of Table 11.1 details the number of pitches with temporary planning permission in the district ending within the assessment period. Column 2 of Table 11.1 details the number of pitches with temporary planning permission in the district ending within the assessment period, where residents are estimated to meet the need for site-based accommodation under the planning definition.

Households on private sites with temporary planning permission meeting the planning definition

Applying the planning definition to households within the district was made possible by assessing the extent of travelling undertaken by households and the reasons for not travelling where households were sedentary.

Column 1 of Table 11.1 presents the actual number of households currently residing on pitches with temporary planning permission which will end within the assessment period. Column 2 of Table 11.1 applies findings from the survey which detail the extent of travelling undertaken by these households. The findings and calculation are as follows.

Finding: The number of households living on temporary pitches who travel at times throughout the year was 57% of the resident households. Those households who no longer travelled for reasons of their or a dependents education, age or health needs was 21% of the resident households. Responses were checked to ensure no double counting.

Calculation: 78% on a base population of 14 pitches with temporary planning permission = 11 households who meet the Planning definition.

- 11.16 **Row 5:** This details the number of concealed households occupying existing accommodation who require independent accommodation within the district. A total of 6 households require site based accommodation due to being concealed.

Concealed households across accommodation types requiring site based accommodation

Finding: The analysis of the survey showed that there were no households on sites or bricks and mortar housing that required site-based accommodation. However, information from Kent County Council indicated that there were 6 households who were currently doubled up on one of the socially rented sites who required independent accommodation in the district. All these households were independent households with children living on the pitches of their parents/families.

Assumptions:

- It is likely that these 6 households will form and demand independent accommodation so no pitch sharing adjustment has been made.
- As one interview was conducted with a household who was doubled-up on this site it is possible that the survey has already accounted for the needs of this households. The households reported that they were likely to move into bricks and mortar accommodation (see Row 6 & 11.17 below). Adjustment is needed to exclude the possibility of double-counting.
- All remaining households have been identified as needing site-based accommodation on the socially rented site they current inhabit.

Calculation: 6 households minus 1 potential move into housing = 5 concealed households.

11.17 **Row 6:** This is the number of new pitches required from new household formation.

Pitch requirement from new households forming

Finding: Drawing upon the information contained within Chapter 8, the analysis of the survey showed that there were 6 households likely to require pitch based accommodation in the district in the next 5 years from authorised sites. There were no households expected to form and require pitch based accommodation from bricks and mortar housing, unauthorised developments and temporary private sites.

Assumptions: It is unlikely that all households will form and demand independent accommodation. A ratio of pitch sharing has been assumed at a rate of 1:075 as advocated in the incomplete Inspector's Report for the South East Plan Partial Review.

Calculation:

- Authorised private sites (permanent) – 1 household was identified in the survey that required independent site based accommodation. Applying the pitch sharing ratio equates to 1 new household which is the equivalent to 6% of the sample on private sites. This is then grossed to the whole population of households on permanent private sites = 2 households
- Socially rented sites – 3 households were identified in the survey that required independent site based accommodation. Applying the pitch sharing ratio equates to 2 new households which is the equivalent to 7% of the sample on socially rented sites. This is then grossed to the whole population of households on permanent private sites = 4 households

11.18 **Row 7:** This is the level of need arising from current unauthorised developments. Column 1 of Table 11.1 details the number of pitches on unauthorised developments within the district. Column 2 of Table 11.1 details the number of pitches on unauthorised developments where the residents are estimated to meet the need for site-based accommodation under the planning definition.

Households on pitches on unauthorised developments meeting the planning definition

Applying the planning definition to households within the District was made possible by assessing the extent of travelling undertaken by households and the reasons for not travelling where households were sedentary.

Column 1 of Table 11.1 presents the actual number of households currently residing on unauthorised developments. Since these sites are, by definition, unauthorised, these households are in need of authorised, legal accommodation, whether through the granting of planning permission, the provision of other accommodation options or the provision of accommodation elsewhere. Column 2 of Table 11.1 applies findings from the survey which detail the extent of travelling undertaken by these households. The findings and calculation are as follows.

Finding: The number of households living on unauthorised developments who travel at times throughout the year was 54% of the resident households. Those households who no longer travelled for reasons of their or a dependents education, age or health needs was 39% of the resident households. Responses were checked to ensure no double counting.

Calculation: 93% on a base population of 21 unauthorised pitches = 20 households who meet the Planning definition

11.19 **Row 8:** This is the estimation of the flow from sites to houses and vice versa.

Movement between housing and sites

Movement from sites to housing finding: Only 1 site based household expressed a firm intention to move into bricks and mortar accommodation. This is the equivalent of 2% of the total site based sample.

Calculation: 2% of the total site based population present at the time of the study = 2 households who will move from sites to housing over the assessment period

Movement from housing to sites finding: Only 1 respondent in bricks and mortar accommodation had firm intentions to move from their house on a site. This is the equivalent of 5% of the bricks and mortar sample.

Calculation: 5% of the estimated bricks and mortar population = 2 households who will move from housing to sites over the assessment period.

Net movement from housing to sites = 0

11.20 **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. It is the understanding of the project team that there was no intention to close any residential site in the district.

11.21 **Row 10:** This provides an estimation of the need arising from households on unauthorised encampments. This factor takes into account households involved in unauthorised encampments that require a residential pitch in the Study Area. The Caravan Count records and records collected by Kent County Council indicate low to nil levels of unauthorised encampments in the district. The survey team saw no primary evidence of unauthorised encampments during the fieldwork. This assessment has not found any need for residential accommodation from households on unauthorised encampments.²⁶

11.22 **Row 11:** This is the level of movement of households between areas. The survey found no evidence to suggest that there is movement between areas. It is assumed that if movement does occur in-migration will balance out migration

11.23 **Row 12:** This is the total gross residential need for pitches arising in the district between 2012-2016

11.24 **Row 13:** At the time of the survey there was 1 vacancy on one of the socially rented sites. This is the only supply element included in this assessment.

11.25 **Row 14:** The total net requirement for pitches in the district over the period 2012–2016.

²⁶ This should remain under close review by the agencies responsible.

Permanent residential accommodation need over 2017–2021 and 2022-2026

- 11.26 The current shortage of sites and pitches for Gypsies and Travellers means that it is difficult to predict trends in living arrangements until the current lack of pitch based accommodation has been addressed at a national level. There is no means of knowing how Gypsies and Travellers will decide to live in the next decade. There may be an increase in smaller households, moves into bricks and mortar housing may be more common or household formation may happen at a later age.
- 11.27 However, 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. In order to produce a more locally responsive assessment this study considered the local household formation rate (based on predicted household growth 2012-2016) and found this to be 1.25% per annum compound. This is significantly lower than is found elsewhere. It should be noted that Table A2.4 outlines a significant number of children that will have reached an age where households are typically formed in Gypsy/Traveller families (i.e. 18-21 years) during the period to 2026. Although it appears that there seems to be a preference from some households for bricks and mortar accommodation, for their children, or incorporation within existing space this may not be a sustained trend. Taking these issues into consideration the 3% household growth rate has been employed. 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 2016. 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 – 2026) 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 2017–2026 period has been considered but has been assumed to be zero. This is consistent with earlier GTAAs and implicitly compensates for not taking into account needs arising from drivers other than family growth. It is recommended that the rate of household growth is kept under review.
- 11.28 **Row 15:** The total requirement for pitches in the district over the period 2017-2021.
- 11.29 **Row 16:** The total requirement for pitches in the district over the period 2022-2026.
- 11.30 **Row 17:** The total requirement for pitches in the district over the period 2012-2026.

In summary

11.31 Analysis of data has shown that accommodation need will arise from the following factors:

- The ending of temporary planning permissions
- Concealed/doubled-up households in the area
- New households due to form
- Unauthorised developments

This analysis has shown that there is an accommodation need for **78 households** over the 2012-2026 period. However, when an adjustment is made to account for the use of the planning definition to assess accommodation needs there is a **pitch need for 72 households**. These figures incorporate a household growth rate of 3% a year compound as applied to all current site based households in the area and all future households that should be accommodated on pitches by 2016 to estimate need in the period 2017-2026.

12. An assessment of need for transit accommodation

12.1 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

12.2 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.

12.3 We found no clear evidence of the need for transit provision as a result of unauthorised encampments in the District. It appears that some transit need is currently being catered for by site-based households resident in the area who allow their families and friends to stay with them for short periods at various times throughout the year. No one mentioned accommodating visitors as being a problem except households on socially rented sites, who reported requiring permission from the site manager.

12.4 This assessment would support the approach of creating a network of transit facilities across Kent and the wider region to accommodate short term accommodation requirements. Such an approach is discussed in a regional study on transit need produced in 2009.²⁷

12.5 There are a number of issues to note when considering the provision of transit accommodation:

- The geographic nature of the area - the provision of one transit site may not provide for need across the different areas of the District.
- A single transit site would force the mixing of differing groups (family and ethnic) and could lead to potential tensions.
- The needs of the travelling groups often combines a mixture of motivations (i.e. work, family and holiday). A uniform transit site may not meet the differing requirements.
- Larger pitches on residential sites, or larger number of pitches on sites, provide the potential to meet the needs of short-term visitors and 'future-proof' against an increase in unauthorised encampments.

²⁷ South East England Regional Gypsy and Traveller Transit Study, Final Report, Pat Niner, University of Birmingham, October 2009

- 12.6 Although transit need could be met by the creation of 'hard' purpose-made pitches/sites, it is also recommended that consideration is also given to the need for the development of such 'hard' pitches with the possibility of 'soft' transit pitches (i.e. designated stopping places). Such 'softer' options would provide Gypsies and Travellers with somewhere authorised and more secure to stop whilst creating a minimal environmental impact. Such stopping places are often favoured by Gypsy and Traveller households.
- 12.7 Requirements for provision of future transit accommodation are impossible to predict from this survey. Additional provision would only be required if the level of travelling were to increase markedly. This underlines the general importance of monitoring and reviewing travelling patterns and the incidence of transient unauthorised encampments regularly, and re-assessing provision usage and requirements.

13. Concluding comments

- 13.1 This final chapter contains some concluding comments which aim to help Sevenoaks District Council in understanding how the need arising within the District may best be met.
- 13.2 The Gypsy and Traveller population appears relatively stable with few incidents of unauthorised encampments, as need for short-term stays is apparently met by residential sites, and relatively few incidents of new unauthorised development of sites. This means that the accommodation need is arising, in the main, from Gypsy and Traveller residents of the District as opposed to those from outside the area.
- 13.3 It is worth noting that the need assessed in the original GTAA was not fully met, as sites were typically granted temporary consent, and that need has rolled over into this GTAA. In order to reduce need over the next period there should be a preference of granting permanent permission in order to reduce uncertainty and costs associated with precarious planning situations.
- 13.4 It is possible that a significant proportion of the accommodation need within the District can met in the first five years (2012-2016) by regularising the existing sites without permanent planning permissions, where these sites are considered to be acceptable. Table 13.1 outlines the scenarios of providing permanent planning permission to all temporary pitches sites meeting the planning definition (11 pitches) and pitches on unauthorised developments meeting the planning definition (20 pitches)

Table 13.1: Scenarios for meeting need by regularising temporary and unauthorised pitches

	Remaining need 2012-2016
Total pitch need 2012-2016	40
If permanent planning permission is granted to the 11 pitches with temporary permission seen to meet the planning definition (see Ch 11)	29
If permanent planning permission is granted to the 11 pitches with temporary permission seen to meet the planning definition and the 20 pitches on unauthorised developments seen to meet the planning definition (see Ch 11)	9

- 13.5 As Table 13.1 shows the vast majority of need for the period 2012-2016 could be met without any further investment in site provision by the regularising of existing pitches. However, this will require the assessment of existing temporary and unauthorised sites to determine whether they are appropriate locations for permanent Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. It should be noted that the Council should take steps to address the provision of affordable accommodation for those who require it.
- 13.6 It is the understanding of the authors that some of the overcrowding on one of the socially rented sites (Barnfield Park) could be alleviated by further investment leading to remodelling of the site. It is the view of the authors that this should be considered a priority, in order to address the accommodation conditions of existing residents, alongside the provision of new pitches elsewhere.

- 13.7 There appears a nil need from Travelling Showpeople from households living within the District. 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.
- 13.8 Although the pitch requirements over the 2012-2016 period should be seen as accurate as a result of utilising the best information available at the time of the study, pitch requirements for the 2017-2026 period should be seen as indicative due to the reliance on household growth figures. It is recommended that this assessment of accommodation need is repeated in due course (circa 5 years) to ensure this assessment remains as accurate as possible.
- 13.9 There is no apparent need for transit provision in any formal sense, as short-term visitors appear to be accommodated by households on residential sites. This should be monitored. Similarly, in order to 'future-proof' for need from visitors to the area consideration should be given to ensuring the provision of short-stay pitches is embedded within the permission granted for residential pitch accommodation.
- 13.10 The long term accommodation needs arising from Gypsy and Traveller households in bricks and mortar accommodation continue to be largely unknown. Although this assessment has been successful in including the needs of this group it is not known how representative these findings are across the entire population who live in houses. More work needs to take place around estimating the size of the housed population and monitoring their accommodation need. Some of this may be made possible as a result of findings from Census 2011 which included the ethnicities of Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller.
- 13.11 Finally, it is imperative that progress is made to address the needs identified in this assessment. If no or little progress is made in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the District it is likely that this would involve:
- No additional public site/pitch provision. Pitches on existing public and private sites would only come available through current natural turnover and these would then be let according to current allocation policies and practices;
 - Receiving applications for the development of private Gypsy or Traveller sites. The national trend indicates that these will often be unsuccessful (around 60% of the time). It is likely that these will stimulate long processes of refusals, enforcement, appeals and inquiries; and,
 - A continuation, and possible increase, in the number of unauthorised developments occurring across the District
- 13.12 The implications of this are that:
- The various needs that have been identified during the course of this assessment will not be met;
 - Households which are currently concealed and new households which are forming will not be able to locate in appropriate accommodation across the District;

- The legal and other costs of accommodating or removing unauthorised sites will continue and may increase;
- The Council fail to meet the requirements of both the Housing Act 2004 and national planning policy, which outline the requirement for plans to be developed in order to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.
- Greater conflict between the settled and Gypsy and Traveller populations as a result of unauthorised development in inappropriate areas.

13.13 Engaging with a broad array of partners will be essential in order to move Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation provision forward. Effective partnership working should be developed with:

- internal staff and departments within the local authority to ensure a joined-up approach;
- elected members;
- adjacent local authorities;
- Homes and Communities Agency;
- key stakeholders including health, education and training, police and residential social landlords;
- Gypsies and Travellers (including the Showmen's Guild); and,
- The general public more widely

13.14 Only via effective partnership working can the accommodation needs identified here be addressed and have the best opportunity for long-term success.

13.15 It should be noted that the need identified in this assessment does not arise from people from elsewhere but from the existing residents of Sevenoaks. Addressing the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople is the shortest and quickest route to helping to ensure positive outcomes for members of this population. Research has shown that a lack of suitable accommodation and poor conditions is related to poor educational and health as well as being at the root of ill feeling between the general non-Traveller community and Gypsies and Travellers. In addition, addressing accommodation will in the short and long-term reduce the costs of maintaining the process that surrounds unauthorised encampments and developments and help achieve additional revenue where socially rented sites are developed. Permanent solutions will offer the best chance for positive outcomes for all concerned and create a platform where greater engagement and cohesion can be fostered and developed throughout the District.

Appendix 1: The assessment methodology

Draft practice guidance for local authorities undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments 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 two distinct stages. Each of these stages is described in more detail below.

- Stage one – collation and review of existing information
- Stage two – survey with Gypsies and Travellers across the Study Area.

Stage One: Collation and review of existing secondary information

This first stage comprised a review of the available literature and secondary sources obtained from government (central and local) and regional and community bodies. This provided an historical, social and political overview to the situation of Gypsies and Travellers in the Study Area. More specifically this included the collection, review and synthesis of:

- The bi-annual Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans.
- Records and data maintained and provided by the local authority and the County Council

Stage Two: Survey with Gypsies and Travellers

One of the most important aspects of the assessment was consulting with local Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople; the fieldwork took place between October and December 2011. 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 Travelling 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, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the Study Area.²⁸

- For households on the socially rented sites, authorised private sites and unauthorised developments we compiled a sample frame from information provided by the local authority. We set an aspirational quota for the interviews of 50% of the occupied pitches on these sites. Repeat visits were made to locations in order to achieve interviews if households were away from the site, it was not convenient for the household in question or the fieldworkers ran out of time.
- For households on unauthorised encampments, officers were encouraged to inform the fieldwork team when and where encampments occurred during the fieldwork period. Fieldwork team members also sought to utilise their own contacts to trace any unauthorised sites. There were no unauthorised encampments reported to the team during the fieldwork period and none were found. From looking at the Caravan Count and from discussions with stakeholders it appears that the low number of encampments is reflective of the current trend.
- 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; the contacts of the Gypsy and Traveller Community Interviewers on the fieldwork team; and contacts provided by stakeholders.
- Contact with Travelling Showpeople was made possible by information held by the local authority as to the whereabouts of yards as well as links provided by the local section of the Showmen's Guild.

²⁸ 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 86 households were involved in the assessment within the district.

Table A1.1 below illustrates how the assessment sample relates to the known number of pitches and estimated population by accommodation type. As can be seen, we endeavoured to include all known sites in the Study. To be clear Table A1.2 reflects achieved household interviews. This represents the households who opted to participate in the study rather than the number of households approached. Anecdotally, households on temporary sites often tend to perceive, when asked, that they no longer have any accommodation needs, with households on unauthorised developments often wary of participating in a survey such as this in case participation complicated, or was detrimental to, their planning application (despite the researchers explaining that it was in no way linked to their application). However, we would not advocate taking these reasons as proxies for having no household need due to the level of suspicion in the communities around surveys of this nature. We therefore believe that the sample is as representative as can be reasonably expected.

Table A1.1: Sample in relation to local Gypsy and Traveller population

Type of accommodation	No. of sites			No. of known occupied pitches/households		
	Total	Sample	%	Total	Sample	%
Socially rented sites	3	3	100	57	27	47
Residential private authorised pitches (permanent)	11	7	64	30	18	60
Residential private authorised pitches (temporary)	7	7	100	14	7	50
Unauthorised developments	8	7	88	21	13	62
Unauthorised encampments	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Housed	NA	NA	NA	NA	20	NA
Authorised Travelling Showpeople yards	1	1	100	1	1	100

In terms of the gender split between interviewees, we spoke to 12 men (14%) and 74 women (86%). This reflects a commonly achieved gender distribution in GTAAs.

On a base population of 163 households we consulted with 86 resident households, 53% of the estimated resident Gypsy and Traveller community across the Study Area. We believe that as the sample included a range of accommodation types and household circumstances we have no reason to believe that those households included in the survey are untypical from the total population in the area. Overall, we believe that the findings for the assessment are based on reliable information from accommodation types within the Study Area.

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; and
- Future accommodation.

The questionnaire used in the assessment is available in Appendix 4.

Fieldwork and interviewers

In addition to SHUSU fieldwork staff, and 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 had worked previously with SHUSU and were of Romany Gypsy background and lived outside the area.

Each interviewer took part in refresher training, 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 and appropriate feedback was given to the interviewers. 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 (older people or people living in bricks and mortar housing), 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 Study Area.

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 composition of 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 group was the most consulted during the assessment, forming 31% of the total sample. This was followed by the 40–49 age group (26%) and then the 18-24 age group (14%). A total of 17% of the sample were aged 60 years and over.

Table A2.1: Age of interviewees

Age Group	No.	%
18–24	12	14
25–39	27	31
40–49	22	26
50–59	10	12
60–64	10	12
65–74	3	4
75–84	1	1
Total	85	

Base: 85 respondents providing information

Household size

In total, the survey sample accounts for 284 members of the Gypsy and Traveller community in the Study Area. The average household size for the whole sample is 3.4 – larger than the household size of the non-Traveller population. However, this hides a range in household sizes as indicated in Table A2.2 below.

Table A2.2: Household size distribution

Household Size	No.	%
1 Person	9	11
2 Persons	18	21
3 Persons	15	17
4 Persons	26	30
5 Persons	12	14
6 Persons	5	6
Total people	284	

Base: 85 respondents providing information

There was very little variation in the size of households in relation to their current accommodation type. As can be seen from Table A2.3, respondents living on the most precarious sites (private sites with temporary planning permission and unauthorised developments) tended to have the largest households.

Table A2.3: Average household size by accommodation type

Accommodation type	Average household size
Residential private sites (Temp)	3.6
Unauthorised developments	3.5
Residential private sites (Perm)	3.2
Bricks and Mortar	3.2
Socially rented sites	3
Travelling Showpeople	1

Base: 85 respondents providing information

In order to consider household growth the number of children of different age cohorts were analysed. This can be seen as recorded in the survey and then grossed to the known population across accommodation types in Table A2.4.

Table A2.4: Number of children in households by accommodation type

	Unauthorised development		Socially rented sites		Residential private sites (Temp)		Residential private sites (Perm)		Bricks & Mortar		Travelling Showpeople		Total	
	Actual	Grossed	Actual	Grossed	Actual	Grossed	Actual	Grossed	Actual	Grossed	Actual	Grossed	Actual	Grossed
Children 0-4	5	8	20	42	4	8	4	7	0	0	0	0	33	65
Children 5-10	10	16	9	19	2	4	6	10	17	34	0	0	44	83
Children 11-16	4	7	8	17	2	4	6	10	12	24	0	0	32	62

Base: 86 respondents providing information

Gypsy and Traveller groups

The largest single group was Romany/Gypsy (78%), followed by smaller numbers of Irish Travellers (5%), Other (2%) and Traveller (not specified) (1%).

Table A2.5: Interviewees by Gypsy and Traveller group

Gypsy and Traveller groups	No. of households	%
Romany/Gypsy (English)	78	91
Irish Traveller	5	6
Other	2	2
Traveller (not specified)	1	1
Total	86	

Base: 86 respondents providing information

Appendix 3: Authorised sites with planning permission and unauthorised developments

Socially rented sites

Table A3.1: Socially rented sites

Site	No. of pitches
Hever Road	16
Polhill	7
Barnfield Park	35
Total	58

Authorised sites with permanent planning permission

Table A3.2: Authorised private sites with permanent planning consent

Site	Estimated No. of pitches
Early Autumn, West Kingsdown	2
Valley Park, Hextable	17
Eagle's Farm, West Kingsdown	2
Macandy, Knatts Valley	1
The Oaks Farm, Knockholt	1
Greenvale, West Kingsdown	1
Two Barnes, West Kingsdown	1
The Old Piggery, Knatts Valley	1
Pembroke House, Swanley	1
Park Lane, Swanley Village	2
72 Lower Road, Hextable	1
Total	30

Authorised sites with temporary planning permission

Table A3.3: Authorised private sites with temporary planning consent

Site	Estimated No. of pitches	Planning consent dates
Eagle's Farm, West Kingsdown	2	Granted 20/02/08 expires February 2013
Land SW Broomhill, Swanley	2	Granted 11/12/08 expires December 2012
Bournewood Brickworks, Crockenhill	1	Granted 13/01/09 expires January 2012
Robertson's Nursery, Swanley	1	Granted 24/07/09 expires July 2012
Seven Acre Farm, Edenbridge	6	Granted 17/09/10 expires September 2013
Hollywood Gardens, West Kingsdown	1	Granted 18/05/10 expires May 2013
The Mobile Home, Hextable	1	Granted 28/10/10 expires October 2013
Total	14	

Unauthorised developments

Table A3.4: Unauthorised developments

Site	Est pitches/ households
Knockholt Station, Halstead *	6
Land south of déjà vu, Swanley *	3
Brands Hatch Garage, Fawkham~	1
Fordwood Farm, Ash	1
Hill Top Farm, Farningham	5
Hopgarden Farm, Otford	1
Plot 4, South Darenth	1
St George's Stable, Well Hill~	3
Total	21

* Further temporary planning permissions granted on these sites following the completion of the household survey by permissions SE/11/01510 and SE/11/02120, respectively

~ Sites have now been vacated.

Appendix 4: Questionnaire

Maidstone & Sevenoaks Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Study Site Accommodation Questionnaire

Introduction

My name is [] and I work for the University of Salford in Manchester [show badge]. We have been asked by the local authority [Maidstone or Sevenoaks] to see what sort of accommodation Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople need locally. We want to be sure that we understand what people need. We're looking to speak with a number of people staying in the local area, 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 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 and 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.

Would you be willing to talk to me? 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)?

Site ref number: _____

Local authority: _____

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

The first set of questions is about where you are living at present and your views about it. Can I ask you first about the living accommodation you have for yourself and your family?

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

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Unauthorised encampment | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA5 |
| Unauthorised development (own land no planning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA4 |
| Residential Council/site/yard | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA4 |
| Residential Private site/yard with permanent planning permission | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA3 |
| Residential Private site/yard with temporary planning permission | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA4 |
| Bricks & Mortar (rented from the local authority or social landlord) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA2 |
| Bricks & Mortar (rented from a private landlord) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA2 |
| Bricks & Mortar (owner occupier) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA2 |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA4 |
-

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

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| One | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA6 |
| Two | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA6 |
| Three | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA6 |
| Four or more | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA6 |

QA3. Is the permission 'personal' i.e. for you and your family only? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA4 |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA4 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA4 |

QA4. Do you? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Own your plot/pitch | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA5 |
| Rent your plot/pitch | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA5 |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA5 |
-

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QA5 |
|------------|------------------------------------|

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

Own your trailer/chalets/units

Rent your trailer/chalets/units

Other (please specify below)

Don't know

QA6. How many trailers/chalets/units..... **(Please write in spaces provided)**

a. Do you have in total? _____

b. Are used as sleeping spaces? _____

c. Are used as living spaces (non sleeping)? _____

d. Trailers are used mainly for storage/occasional use? _____

QA7. 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 **Go to QA9**

No **Go to QA8**

Don't know **Go to QA9**

QA8. Do you feel that you need? **(Please tick ✓ all that apply)**

A larger site/yard

A larger pitch/plot

More caravans/trailers/units

Larger caravans/trailers/units

More bedrooms or living space

Other (please specify below)

QA9. 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)

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

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

To be near family/friends

To look after a family member / dependent in old age

Evicted from last accommodation

Lack of sites

Overcrowded in previous accommodation

For children's schooling/education

Homeless

Work available in the area

Land/pitch was available to buy

There was a vacancy

Convenient for working pattern (**Showpeople only**)

Holiday

Family event

Other (please specify below)

CONTINUE TO SECTION B FOR UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

QA10. Do other Gypsies/Travellers/Showpeople (friends/family etc.) come to stay with you on a short-term/transit basis? (Please tick ✓ **one box only**)

Yes **Go to QA11**

No **Go to QA12**

Don't know **Go to QA12**

QA11. Can you briefly describe who comes to stay, how often they come, how long they stay and how many trailers they bring (i.e. daughter, her husband and dependent children, twice a year for around 2 weeks each time, with 2 trailers.)? **(Interviewer: this is to explore how much transit need is being taken care of informally)**

QA12. Is hosting visitors here? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

Not a problem for you

A problem (please specify below)

Other (please specify below)

QA13. **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)**

SECTION B: LOCAL AND HISTORIC CONNECTION

This section moves onto asking you about why you are staying in this particular area.

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 one that was most important)

	a: Yes (Tick ✓ all that apply)	b: Most important reason (Tick ✓ one only)
Born/raised here		
Have family living in area		
Own/family/dependent health		
Look after a family member/dependent in old age		
Children’s schooling/education		
Homeless		
Work available in the area		
Convenient for working pattern (Showpeople)		
Availability of site(s)/accommodation		
Lack of sites		
Holiday		
Family or community event		
Only place I could find		
Other (please specify below)		

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

- Less than 1 month
- Between 1 and 6 months
- 6 months or more but less than 12
- 1 years or more but less than 3
- 3 years or more but less than 5
- 5 years or more but less than 10
- 10 years or more
- Don’t know

Dates (from – to) starting with 2001 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: ideally we are looking at the local authority area i.e. Maidstone or Sevenoaks)?**
(Please tick ✓ one box only)

- Between 1 and 10 weeks **Go to QB6**
- Between 11 and 20 weeks **Go to QB6**
- Between 21 and 30 weeks **Go to QB6**
- Between 31 and 40 weeks **Go to QB6**
- Between 41 and 51 weeks **Go to QB6**
- 52/Never leave **Go to QB7**
- Don't know **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)**

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

- Yes **Go to QB8**
- No **Go to SECTION C**
- Don't know **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)
- Residential Council/ site/yard
- Residential Private site/yard with permanent planning permission
- Residential Private site/yard with temporary planning permission
- Bricks & Mortar (rented from the local authority or social landlord)
- Bricks & Mortar (rented from a private landlord)
- Bricks & Mortar (owner occupier)
- Other (please specify below)

SECTION C: TRAVELLING

If it's ok I'd like to talk about your experiences of travelling, or moving about, in general

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"/> Go to QC4 |
| I we travel or move every week or so | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QC4 |
| I/we travel or move every month or so | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QC4 |
| I/ we travel or move a few times a year | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QC4 |
| I/we travel or move once a year only | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QC4 |
| I/we never travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QC2 |

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		
Your, a family member or a dependents educational needs		
Your, a family member or a dependents older age		
Other (please specify below)		

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

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 Go to QC8
- No Go to SECTION D
- Don't know 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, ask them to choose one that was most important)

	a: Yes (Tick ✓ all that apply)	b: The main reason (Tick ✓ one only)
Work opportunities		
A holiday		
Attend a fair (not working at fair)		
To visit relatives		
To attend family events		
To attend community events		
Other (please specify below)		

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

	Yes	No
Roadside (countryside)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roadside (town/city)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caravan park (i.e. holiday park/campsite)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
With family/relatives on private sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
With family/relatives on council/public sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public or private transit sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmer's fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designated fairground land for Showpeople	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Showpeople yards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION D: PREVIOUS HOUSING EXPERIENCES

Is it ok now to move onto talking about some of the places you have lived in the past?

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"/> Go to QD2 |
| Unauthorised development (own land no planning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QD2 |
| Residential Council/ site/yard | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QD2 |
| Residential Private site/yard with permanent planning permission | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QD2 |
| Residential Private site/yard with temporary planning permission | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QD2 |
| Transit site | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QD2 |
| Bricks & Mortar (rented from the local authority or social landlord) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QD2 |
| Bricks & Mortar (rented from a private landlord) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QD2 |
| Bricks & Mortar (owner occupier) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QD2 |
| Been here all my adult life | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to SECTION E |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Own health/family member or other dependent health reasons | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Evicted | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| For children's schooling/education | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Harassment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Land/pitch was available to buy here | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There was a vacancy here | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Overcrowded conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fears over personal safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Site closure | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Planning problems | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wanted independence | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Work reasons | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To travel | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Site/accommodation conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Get married/live with partner | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No particular reason | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to QD5 |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to SECTION E |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to SECTION E |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Council rented | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Housing Association/RSL rented | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Private rented | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Privately owned | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

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)

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

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

To be near family/friends

To look after a family member / dependent in old age

Evicted from last site

Lack of sites

For children's schooling/education

Homeless

Work available in the area

House was available to buy

House was available to rent

Convenient for working pattern (**Showpeople**)

Other (please specify below)

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

Very good	Good	Neither good nor poor	Poor	Very poor	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>					

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

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| To be near family/friends | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Own health/family member or other dependent health reasons | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Evicted | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| For children's schooling/education | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Harassment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Land/pitch was available to buy here | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There was a vacancy here | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Overcrowded conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fears over personal safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wanted independence | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Work reasons | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To travel | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Site/accommodation conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Get married/live with partner | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No particular reason | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

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. In order to avoid confusion you should work downwards getting all information for one household member, then moving on to next household member.

AGE	FAMILY 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 +											
GENDER											
Male											
Female											
MARITAL STATUS											
Married											
Single											
Living together											
Widowed											
Separated											
Divorced											
RELATIONSHIP											
Partner											
Son or daughter											
Sister/brother											
Uncle/aunt											
Cousin											
Grandparent											
Grandchild											
Other											

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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 your household aged:

None

0 – 5 _____

6 – 10 _____

11 – 16 _____

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

Romany/Gypsy (English)

Welsh Gypsy/Traveller

Scottish Gypsy/ Traveller

Irish Traveller

New Traveller

Traveller (not specified)

Showmen/Circus person

Roma

Bargee/Boat dweller

Other (please specify below)

Don't know

Refused

Do you mind telling me a bit about the work you and your family do?

QE6. Are you and your family employed/self employed?

(Please write the number of people as well if appropriate)

Self employed _____

Employed _____

Both employed and self-employed _____

Retired _____

QE7. Do you mind telling me what type of work you and your family do? **(i.e. main trade)**

QE8. Where do you (mostly) work? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Within the same local area
- Within Maidstone/Sevenoaks
(note: show map of district and include place below)
- Within South East
- Other parts of the UK
- Abroad
- Other (please specify below)

Interviewer prompt for a specific location (i.e. nearest town)

QE9. Do you have any site/space needs relating to your work? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Yes **Go to QE10**
- No **Go to SECTION F**
- Don't know **Go to SECTION F**

QE10. If **YES**, what needs?

SECTION F: HEALTH SERVICES

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 **Go to QF3**
- No **Go to QF4**
- Don't know **Go to QF4**

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

QF4. Are there any ways in which you think health services, or your access to them, could be improved?

SECTION G: FUTURE ACCOMMODATION

Finally I'd like to ask some questions about the future.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| I would like to move immediately | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG2 |
| I would like to move in the next 12 months | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG2 |
| I would like to move in the next 1 – 2 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG2 |
| I would like to move in the next 2 – 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG2 |
| I would like to move in the next 5 – 10 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG2 |
| I am going to stay in this accommodation indefinitely | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG8 |
| Other (please describe below) | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 ✓ one only)
Own health/family member or other dependent health reasons		
For children's schooling/education		
To look after a family member / dependent in old age		
To be nearer to family/friends		
Overcrowded living conditions		
Overcrowded on site		
To move to a vacant pitch on a preferred site		
Going to buy own site/pitch		
Being moved on (as encamped)		
Eviction		
Harassment		
Fears over personal safety		
Site closure		
No planning permission		
Want independence		
Work reasons		
To travel		
Site/accommodation conditions		
Get married/live with partner		
No particular reason		
Other (please specify below)		

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

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

QG4. What type of accommodation are you looking for?

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

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

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

- Within Maidstone/Sevenoaks
- (note: show map of district and include place below)**
- Within South East
- Other parts of the UK
- Abroad

Interviewer prompt for a specific location (i.e. name of nearest town):

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: Yes (Tick ✓ all that apply)	b: The most important reason (Tick ✓ one only)
Born/raised there		
Have family living in area		
Own/family/dependent health		
Look after a family member/dependent in old age		
Children's schooling/education		
Homeless		
Work available in the area		
Convenient for working pattern (Showpeople)		
Availability of site(s)/accommodation		
Lack of sites		
Holiday		
Family or community event		
Only place I could find		
Other (please specify below)		

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

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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 **Go to QG9**
- No **Go to QG15**
- Don't know **Go to QG15**

QG9. How many members of your household? _____

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

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

- Within the same local area
- Within Maidstone/Sevenoaks
(note: show map of district and include place below)
- Within South East
- Other parts of the UK
- Abroad
- Don't know

Interviewer prompt for a specific location (i.e. name of nearest town):

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

- Bricks & Mortar **Go to QG15**
- Site based trailer/caravan **Go to QG13**
- Up to them **Go to QG13**
- Don't know **Go to QG13**
- Other (please specify below) **Go to QG13**

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

- Live on this pitch with us **Go to QG14**
- Live on this site **Go to QG15**
- Move to another site **Go to QG15**
- Don't know **Go to QG15**
- Other (please specify below) **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
 - Yes, without needing planning permission
 - Yes, but uncertain of the need for planning permission
 - Yes, but would need permission from the landlord
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Other (please specify below)
-

QG15. Is there anyone in your household (e.g. son or daughter) who is likely to want their own separate accommodation **in the next 5 years (by 2016)? (Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Yes **Go to QG16**
- No **Go to QG22**
- Don't know **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 the same local area
- Within Maidstone/Sevenoaks
(note: show map of district and include place below)
- Within South East
- Other parts of the UK
- Abroad
- Don't know

Interviewer prompt for a specific location (i.e. nearest town):

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

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

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Live on this pitch with us | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG21 |
| Live on this site | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG22 |
| Move to another site | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG22 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG22 |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG22 |
-

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"/> |
| Yes, without planning permission | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes, uncertain of the need for planning permission | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes, but would need permission from the landlord | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

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"/> Go to QG23 |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG24 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to QG24 |

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

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

- Yes **Go to QG25**
- No **Go to QG26**
- Don't know **Go to QG26**

QG25. Which list? Where?

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

- 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
- Cannot afford to purchase land or a pitch
- Not relevant (*please specify below*)

We are now going to ask a couple of questions about income and savings. Please remember that any information you give is completely confidential – the following questions ask about income and savings but are important in terms of being able to plan affordable accommodation

QG27. 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

Weekly	Monthly	
Under £30	Under £130	<input type="checkbox"/>
£30 - £59	£130 - £255	<input type="checkbox"/>
£60 - £89	£256 - £385	<input type="checkbox"/>
£90 - £119	£386 - £515	<input type="checkbox"/>
£120 - £149	£516 - £645	<input type="checkbox"/>
£150 - £179	£646 - £775	<input type="checkbox"/>
£180 - £209	£776 - £905	<input type="checkbox"/>
£210 - £239	£906 - £1,035	<input type="checkbox"/>
£240 - £269	£1,036 - £1,165	<input type="checkbox"/>
£270 - £299	£1,166 - £1,295	<input type="checkbox"/>
£300 or more	£1,296 or more	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know		<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say		<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't pay rent or mortgage		<input type="checkbox"/>

QG28. Please can you tell me your household's weekly, monthly or annual gross income (i.e. before tax but including any investment income or household state benefits)?

(Please tick ✓ one box only)

Weekly	Monthly	Annual	
Under £50	Under £217	Under £2,600	<input type="checkbox"/>
£50 - £100	£217 - £433	£2,600 - £5,200	<input type="checkbox"/>
£101 - £150	£434 - £650	£5,201 - £7,800	<input type="checkbox"/>
£151 - £200	£651 - £867	£7,801 - £10,400	<input type="checkbox"/>
£201 - £250	£868 - £1,080	£10,401 - £13,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
£251 - £300	£1,081 - £1,300	£13,001 - £15,600	<input type="checkbox"/>
£301 - £350	£1,301 - £1,517	£15,601 - £18,200	<input type="checkbox"/>
£351 - £400	£1,518 - £1,733	£18,201 - £20,800	<input type="checkbox"/>
£401 - £500	£1,734 - £2,167	£20,801 - £26,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
£501 - £700	£2,168 - £3,033	£26,001 - £36,400	<input type="checkbox"/>
£701 - £900	£3,034 - £3,900	£36,401 - £46,800	<input type="checkbox"/>
£901 - £1,100	£3,901 - £4,767	£46,801 - £57,200	<input type="checkbox"/>
£1,101 - £1,300	£4,768 - £5,633	£57,201 - £67,600	<input type="checkbox"/>
£1,301 - £1,500	£5,634 - £6,500	£67,601 - £78,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
£1,501 - £1,700	£6,501 - £7,366	£78,001 - £88,400	<input type="checkbox"/>
£1,701 - £2,000	£7,367 - £8,666	£88,401 - £104,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over £2,000	Over £8,667	Over £104,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
None			<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know			<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say			<input type="checkbox"/>

QG29. Please can you indicate your total household savings? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**
(Interviewer: please note that this would not include children or those who are cared for.)

- In debt (negative savings)
- None
- £1,000 or less
- £1,001 - £5,000
- £5,001 - £10,000
- £10,001 - £25,000
- £25,001 - £50,000
- £50,001 - £100,000
- £100,001 - £250,000
- Over £250,000
- Prefer not to say

QG30. 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 Phil Brown on 0161 295 3647 or Dr Lisa Scullion on 0161 295 5078

Appendix 5: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and Pitch Need

Table A5: Detailed Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and Pitch Need

	Element of supply and need	Column 1	Column 2
		Accommodation Need/Supply Total (households)	Pitch Need/Supply Total (pitches): Application of Planning Definition
Current residential supply			
1	Socially rented pitches	58.00	58.00
2	Private authorised pitches	30.00	30.00
3	Total authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches	88.00	88.00
Residential pitch need, 2012–2016			
4	End of temporary planning permissions	14.00	10.92
5	Concealed households	5.00	5.00
6	New household formation	5.86	5.86
	<i>Private permanent sites</i>	<i>1.80</i>	<i>1.80</i>
	<i>Private temporary sites</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>Socially rented sites</i>	<i>4.06</i>	<i>4.06</i>
	<i>Unauthorised developments</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
7	Unauthorised developments	21.00	19.53
8	Net Movement from housing to sites	-0.46	-0.46
	<i>Housing to sites</i>	<i>2.00</i>	<i>2.00</i>
	<i>Sites to housing</i>	<i>2.46</i>	<i>-2.46</i>
9	Closure of sites	0	0
10	Unauthorised encampments	0	0
11	Movement between areas	0	0
12	Residential pitch need (2012–2016)	45.40	40.85
13	Supply (2012-2016)	1.00	1.00
14	Residential pitch need (2012-2016)	44.40	39.85
15	Residential pitch need (2017–2021)	15.82	15.27
16	Residential pitch need (2022–2026)	17.71	17.10
17	Total Residential pitch need (2012–2026)	77.92	72.22