

Derbyshire

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2008



[Main Report of Study Findings](#)



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Chapter 1: The Study Context

The Survey

- 1.1 Opinion Research Services (ORS) was commissioned by Derbyshire Travellers Issues Working Group (TWIG) to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. It should be noted that TWIG includes representatives from all Derbyshire District/Borough Councils, Derby UA, the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) as well as representatives from Connexions Derbyshire, Derby & Derbyshire Primary Care Trust, Derbyshire Constabulary, East Midlands Regional Assembly and Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group.
- 1.2 The area under consideration, which includes Derby UA and also the Peak District National Park outside of Derbyshire, will henceforth be known as Derbyshire. It should be noted that the whole of the Peak District National Park is covered by this study, despite much of the national park lying outside of Derbyshire. Therefore, studies from surrounding areas such as South Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Greater Manchester have been checked to ensure they did not include any pitch provision for Peak District National Park.
- 1.3 Additionally, it should be noted that the Peak District National Park is a unitary planning authority not a local authority. Although they are not required to make provision for Gypsies and Travellers, as local authorities do, granting planning permission for sites does fall to them. Throughout the report, the authorities will be collectively referred to as local authorities, although it is acknowledged that this, and requirements detailed, do not necessarily apply to the Peak District National Park.
- 1.4 The main objective of this study was to assess the need for additional authorised Gypsy and Traveller site provision within Derbyshire in at least the next 5 years. This required an identification of the broad location of where any additional sites should be located, and to have these apportioned to local authorities. It also required the identification of whether any extra site provision should be on public or private sites, and whether or not any of the local authorities need to plan for the provision of transit sites or emergency stopping places.
- 1.5 A secondary objective was to assess the needs of people living on existing sites in terms of any extra service provision that may be required. The study also seeks to highlight how Government planning guidance for Gypsy and Traveller sites will impact upon the planning and housing strategies employed by the local authorities.
- 1.6 The commissioning partners included:
 - Amber Valley Borough Council;
 - Bolsover District Council;
 - Chesterfield Borough Council;
 - Derby City Council;
 - Derbyshire County Council;
 - Derbyshire Dales District Council
 - Erewash Borough Council;

- High Peak Borough Council;
- North East Derbyshire District Council;
- South Derbyshire District Council;
- Peak District National Park Authority;
- Connexions Derbyshire;
- Derby and Derbyshire Primary Care Trust;
- Derbyshire Constabulary;
- Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group;
- East Midlands Regional Assembly; and
- Government Office East Midlands.

Figure 1
Identifying the Study Area

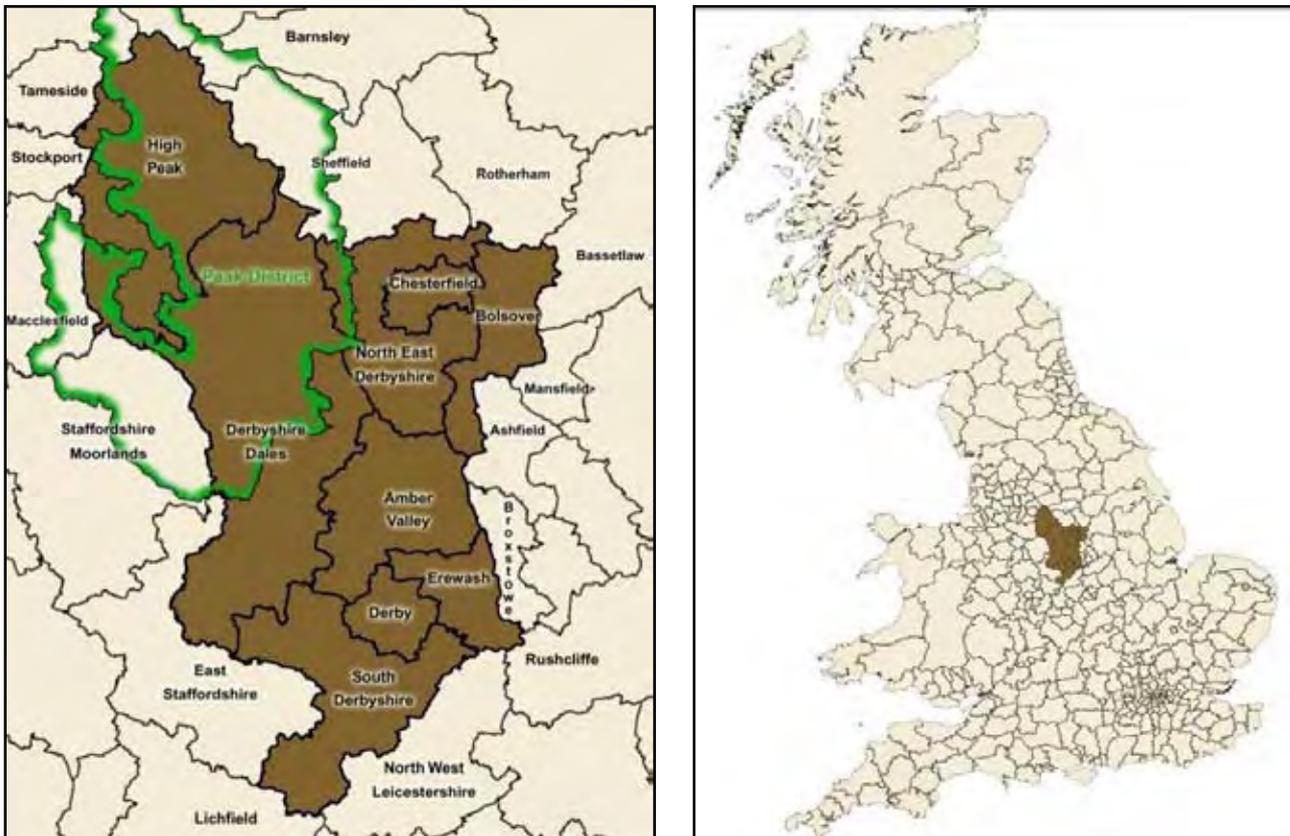


Figure 2
Overview of the Document Structure for Derbyshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2007



1.7 This document is the main report for Derbyshire, which summarises the key findings of the study in particular where they relate to existing policies or have implications for future policy decisions across Derbyshire. Also available is an executive summary of the study findings.

Legislation and Guidance for Gypsies and Travellers

^{1.8} Decision making for policy concerning Gypsies & Travellers and Showmen sits within a complex legislative and national policy framework and this study must be viewed in the context of this legislation and guidance. For example, the following pieces of legislation and guidance are relevant when constructing policies relating to Gypsies & Travellers and Showmen:

- PPG3, which advises local authorities to consider the accommodation needs of Gypsies & Travellers and Showmen when assessing housing needs;
- PPS3 on housing provision – this document replaced PPG3 in November 2006;
- PPG18 on enforcement;
- Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites 2004: DCLG consultation paper December 2004;
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 for statutory nuisance provisions;
- The Human Rights Act 1998, when making decisions and welfare assessments;
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as subsequently amended);
- Homeless Legislation and Allocation Policies;
- The local authority development plan and emerging Local Development Frameworks;
- Circular 1/94;
- Circular 1/06 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites
- Circular 4/07 Planning for Travelling. Showpeople (DCLG August 2007) which replaced Circular 22/91 ‘Travelling Showpeople’;
- East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy;
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments: DCLG Practice Guidance October 2007 which also covers Showmen;
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (sections 61, 62);
- Anti-social behaviour Act 2003 (both as victims and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour);
- Race Relations Act 1976 (Amended 2000);
- National Guidance issued by DCLG – Managing Unauthorised Encampments, Gypsy and Traveller counts and Disabled Facilities Grants as well as legislation on the regulatory reform order;
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
- Housing Act 2004 which requires local housing authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies & Travellers and Showmen as part of their housing needs assessments;
- Housing Act 1996 in respect of homelessness

^{1.9} To focus on Gypsies and Travellers, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (Sections 61, 62) is particularly important with regard to the issue of planning for Gypsy and Traveller site provision. This repealed the duty of local authorities to provide appropriate accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. However, Circular 1/94 did support maintaining existing sites and stated that appropriate future site provision should be considered.

^{1.10} The current Government has implicitly accepted the findings of a 2003 study of Gypsy and Traveller site provision in England, which was commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (the department has subsequently been replaced by the Department for Communities and Local Government) from the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at Birmingham University. This study identified a lack of authorised sites as a key factor which has helped to contribute to the large number of unauthorised encampments. This study estimated that 1,000-2,000 additional residential pitches and 2,000-2,500 transit pitches were required nationwide for the existing Gypsy and Traveller

population. This would represent a growth in the total number of pitches of between a third and a half.

- 1.11 Current Government guidance focuses on increasing site provision for Gypsies and Traveller and encouraging local authorities to have a more inclusive approach to Gypsies and Travellers within their housing needs plans. The Housing Act 2004 required local authorities to identify the need for Gypsy and Traveller sites, alongside the need for other types of housing, when conducting Housing Needs Surveys. Therefore all local authorities are required to undertake accommodation assessments for Gypsies and Travellers either as a separate study such as this one, or as part of their main Housing Needs Assessment.
- 1.12 Local authorities are currently being encouraged rather than compelled to provide new Gypsy and Traveller sites by central government. Circular 1/06 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites' released by the DCLG in January 2006 replaces Circular 1/94 and suggests that the provision of authorised sites should be encouraged so that the number of unauthorised sites is reduced.
- 1.13 One strand of this encouragement to provide more sites is that grants have been made available to local authorities who wish to provide more public sites. Another strand is that local authorities are being encouraged to be proactive in site planning, rather than waiting for unauthorised developments to take place.
- 1.14 Circular 1/06 indicates that local authorities should set fair, reasonable, realistic and effective criteria for allowing the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites. In particular, they should also offer positive guidance which focuses on the criteria under which a private Gypsy and Traveller site will be granted planning permission.
- 1.15 Local authorities should also look at vacant or surplus local authority land as potential places for site development. Therefore, the guidance would seek to minimise the number of cases such as those in Derbyshire where an unauthorised development subsequently became an authorised private site by ensuring that the local authority actively engages with potential site developers to ensure planning permission is gained before the site is occupied.
- 1.16 The criteria for authorising sites should include an analysis of the impact of the site on the local infrastructure. The site should also not dominate the nearest settled community. Sites should not be developed on Green Belt land unless exceptional circumstances can be shown. The land should not be contaminated, but other sites such as near a motorway or power lines are acceptable provided they would also be considered for settled housing. Sites should be located near to existing settlements to allow for access to services. Discreet use of tree screening, rather than fencing, to make the site appear less intrusive should also be considered.
- 1.17 Local need does not have to be proven for private sites. All private site applications should be judged by the same criteria. At all stages the Gypsy and Traveller population should be involved and those wishing to apply for planning permission should be encouraged to engage in pre-planning discussions with the local authority.
- 1.18 Other important pieces of legislation for handling Gypsy and Travellers issues are the Race Relations Act (RRA) 1976, subsequently amended in 2000, and the Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998. Both Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as separate ethnic groups, despite not being recognised as such by

the 2001 Census, and therefore the local authority must be careful to prevent any unlawful discrimination.

- 1.19 The RRA has particular consequences with how evictions and unauthorised developments are dealt with. In particular, it must be shown that no disproportionate action is taken when evicting someone. Consultation is also required with ethnic groups on policies that are likely to affect them.

Research Methodology

- 1.20 The research methodology adopted in this report followed a number of phases. Firstly, ORS conducted structured interviews with a number of officers from the County Council, 9 local authorities and Peak District National Park, who in the course of their jobs work with Gypsies and Travellers. Interviews were also conducted with Council Members, whose constituencies contain Gypsy and Traveller sites, who had portfolios for planning and housing, or who headed planning committees. In total 22 Council officers and 6 Council Members were interviewed.
- 1.21 The aim of these interviews was to provide background information on local authority thinking about the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers, and to understand how site provision operates at the present time within current and emerging national, regional and local policy frameworks.
- 1.22 The second stage of the research process was a census of Gypsy and Traveller households in Derbyshire. This took place in between June and September 2007. Interviews were attempted with every known Gypsy and Traveller household present in Derbyshire during this time period, and 65 interviews were achieved in total.
- 1.23 This survey had a number of objectives. One objective was to analyse the provision of services on existing sites to assess if more, or improved, service provision was required within the existing sites. Another main objective was to view travelling patterns and likely future household formation to analyse the future need for extra site provision.
- 1.24 The survey focused on Gypsies and Travellers living on-site in Derbyshire. A separate survey was conducted of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation. The on-site survey was a Census and therefore can be taken as representative of the views of Gypsy and Travellers on-site. The bricks and mortar interviews were identified through the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group and the Derby and Derbyshire Traveller Education Service. Therefore, the interviews are unlikely to be fully representative of all Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar, but they do provide an interesting context for this group.
- 1.25 The third strand of the research methodology was to tie the evidence of any accommodation need identified from the interviews with Gypsies and Travellers to available sources of secondary data on the trends in the Gypsy and Traveller population of Derbyshire.
- 1.26 One of these sources is the waiting list information for sites in Derbyshire. Derbyshire County Council supplied information on unauthorised encampments and developments which have been reported to them in each of the local authorities since 2005. Derbyshire County Council only record encampment activity on their land, therefore the majority of the reported encampments were on public land, with those on private land being less likely to be reported because it is the land owners' responsibility to decide on what action to take with the encampment. It should also be noted that, information relating to reported encampments in Derby UA and the PDNPA was not available. The DGLG provided information on all applications for sites in recent years. The final main source of data comes from the

bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller caravan count conducted by local authorities. This count gives a picture of historic trends in Gypsy and Traveller populations. The caravan count has been known to contain inaccuracies, but is useful as a guide to trends.

^{1.27} Finally, the results of the survey were supplemented with a series of focus groups across Derbyshire;

- Travelling Showmen from the Pinxton site in Bolsover District to highlight the needs of Showmen in Derbyshire;
- Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group representing public and private sites in Derbyshire to discuss the results of the survey and any issues which required further clarification;
- Young people (10-16 years) from the Corbriggs site in North East Derbyshire District to discuss their views on their future;
- Unauthorised encampment of Irish Travellers in South Derbyshire who arrived following the end of the fieldwork period, to identify any accommodation needs they have in the area;

^{1.28} The results of the focus group with Travelling Showmen are provided as a separate chapter within this report (Chapter 7). The results of the remaining focus groups are interspersed into the report where they made relevant points.

Summary of Key Points

- The main objectives of this study were to assess the need for additional authorised Gypsy and Traveller site provision within Derbyshire in at least the next five years, and to assess the needs of people living on existing sites.
- There is a large amount of national legislation and guidance relating to Gypsy and Traveller policies which should be taken into consideration when producing more local guidelines.
- A national study conducted in 2003 estimated that 1,000-2,000 additional residential pitches and 2,000-2,500 transit pitches were required, an increase of between one third and one and a half.
- Current guidance encourages local authorities to take a more inclusive approach and assess Gypsy and Traveller needs alongside Housing Needs Surveys.
- Circular 1/06 (which replaced Circular 1/94) encourages local authorities to provide more authorised sites and grants have been made available for this. It also gives guidance on where sites should be located.
- Research methods consisted of telephone interviews with council officers and Members, a survey of Gypsy and Traveller households (both on-site and in bricks and mortar accommodation) combined with secondary data on trends within Derbyshire and focus groups with relevant parties.

Chapter 2: Gypsy and Traveller Sites and Population

Sites in Derbyshire

- 2.1 A mainstream Housing Needs Survey typically focuses upon the number of dwellings required in an area, and how many of these should each be provided by the public and private sector. The central aim of this study was to follow a similar format for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation requirements.
- 2.2 The main consideration of this study is the provision of pitches and sites. A pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy and typically contains enough space for two caravans. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers. Throughout this study the main focus is upon how many extra pitches are required in Derbyshire in at least the next 5 years, and across how many different sites these pitches should be provided.
- 2.3 The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One common form of Gypsy and Traveller site is the publicly-provided residential site, which is provided and run by the local authority, County Council or by a registered social landlord. Places on public sites can be obtained through a waiting list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the licensees. Therefore, public sites are a direct equivalent of social housing among bricks and mortar tenants.
- 2.4 The alternative to public residential sites are private residential sites. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on existing private sites. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing.
- 2.5 The Gypsy and Traveller population also has other forms of sites due to its mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a maximum period of residence which can vary from a few weeks to a period of months. An alternative is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which someone can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities. Both of these two types of site are designed to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers whilst they travel.
- 2.6 Further considerations in the Gypsy and Traveller population are unauthorised developments and encampments. Unauthorised developments occur on land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers, but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. Unauthorised encampments occur on land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers.
- 2.7 Figure 3 shows the Gypsy and Traveller sites, and the number of pitches, which are to be found in Derbyshire. The study area contains 3 authorised public residential sites, two of which are operated by managers on behalf of South Derbyshire District and one in North East Derbyshire District which is leased to a member of the Romany Gypsy community. These have a combined capacity of 55 pitches. There were also 17 authorised private sites with a combined capacity of 38 pitches. It should be noted that many of the private sites in the area have temporary rather than permanent planning permission.

This implies that the owners of these sites must re-apply for planning permission on a regular basis with many of the sites having permission granted at three year intervals.

- 2.8 There is a provision of two transit pitches on a public site in South Derbyshire District and permission has recently been granted for four transit pitches at the public site in North East Derbyshire District. There is also a private transit site in Bolsover District with capacity for 14 pitches. This site has recently been granted planning permission for 25 permanent pitches, 11 transit pitches and a warden's bungalow.

Figure 3

Site Provision in Derbyshire (Source: DCLG Bi-annual Caravan Count and Local Authority Records)

Local Authority	No of authorised public sites	No of pitches	No of authorised private sites	No of authorised pitches	Total number of authorised pitches
Amber Valley	0	0	0	0	0
Bolsover	0	0	2	15	15
Chesterfield	0	0	0	0	0
Derby UA	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire Dales	0		1	2	2
Erewash	0	0	0	0	0
High Peak	0	0	0	0	0
North East Derbyshire	1	22	5	10	32
Peak District National Park	0	0	0	0	0
South Derbyshire	2	33	9	11	44
Total	3	55	17	38	93

- 2.9 The best quantitative information available on the Gypsy and Traveller communities derives from a bi-annual survey of Gypsy and Traveller caravans which is conducted by each local authority in England on a specific date in January and July of each year. This count is of caravans and not households which makes it more difficult to interpret for a study such as this. It must also be remembered that the count is conducted by the local authority on a specific day and that any unauthorised encampments which occur on other dates will not be recorded. The count also only features those caravans the local authority is aware of. Therefore, it may not reflect all of the Gypsy and Traveller caravans in the authority.
- 2.10 Figure 4 to Figure 6 show the average number of caravans on public, private and unauthorised sites for the last five counts. Figure 4 highlights that the only public sites in Derbyshire are to be found in North East Derbyshire District and South Derbyshire District while Figure 5 highlights that these two authorities plus Bolsover District contain the authorised private sites. Figure 6 illustrates that a wider number of authorities in Derbyshire have seen at least some unauthorised developments or encampments in recent years.

Figure 4
Caravans on Public Sites by Local Authority: Average of Last 5 Counts (Source: DCLG Bi-annual Caravan Count)

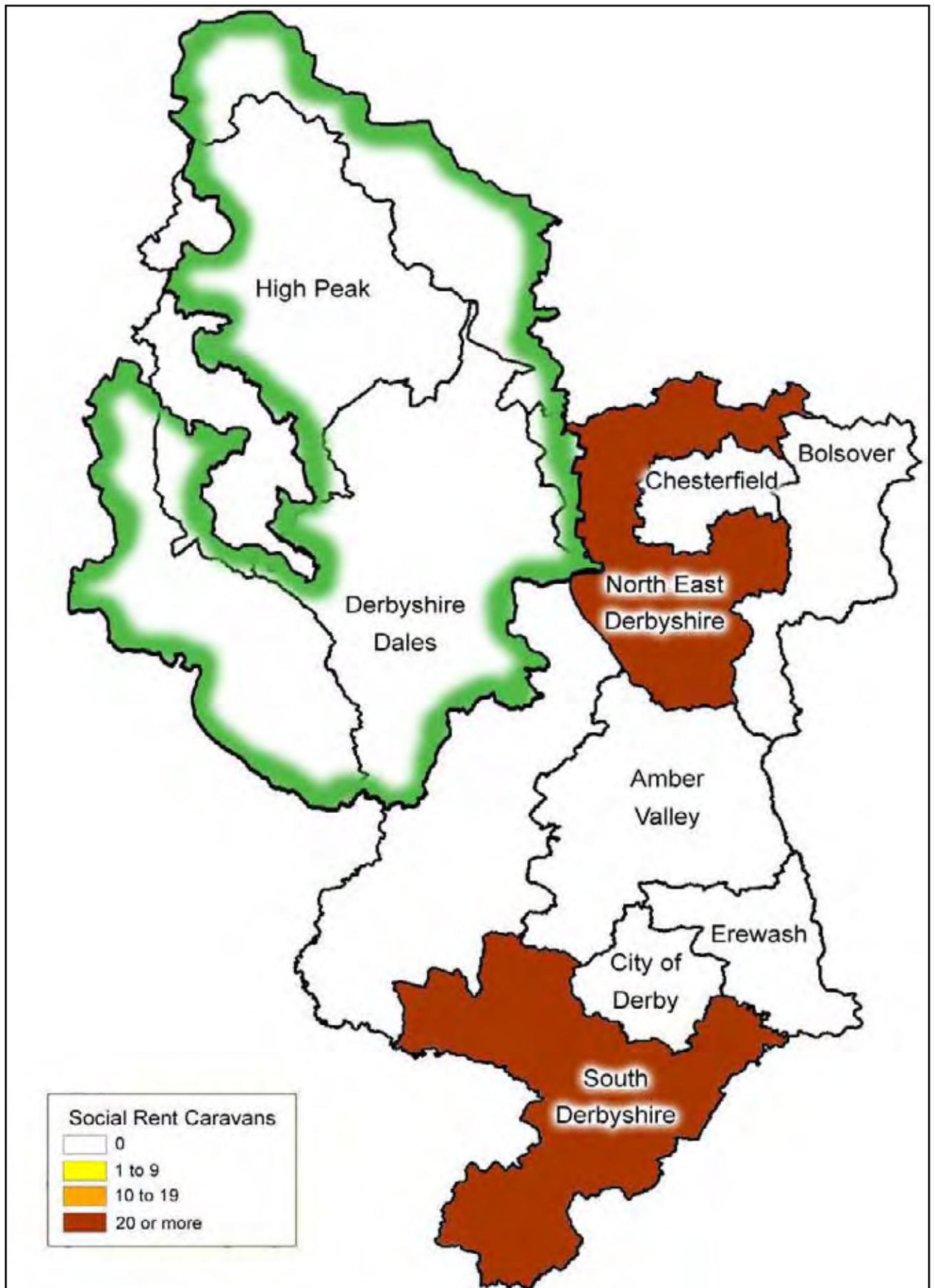


Figure 5
Caravans on Private Sites by Local Authority: Average of Last 5 Counts (Source: DCLG Bi-annual Caravan Count)

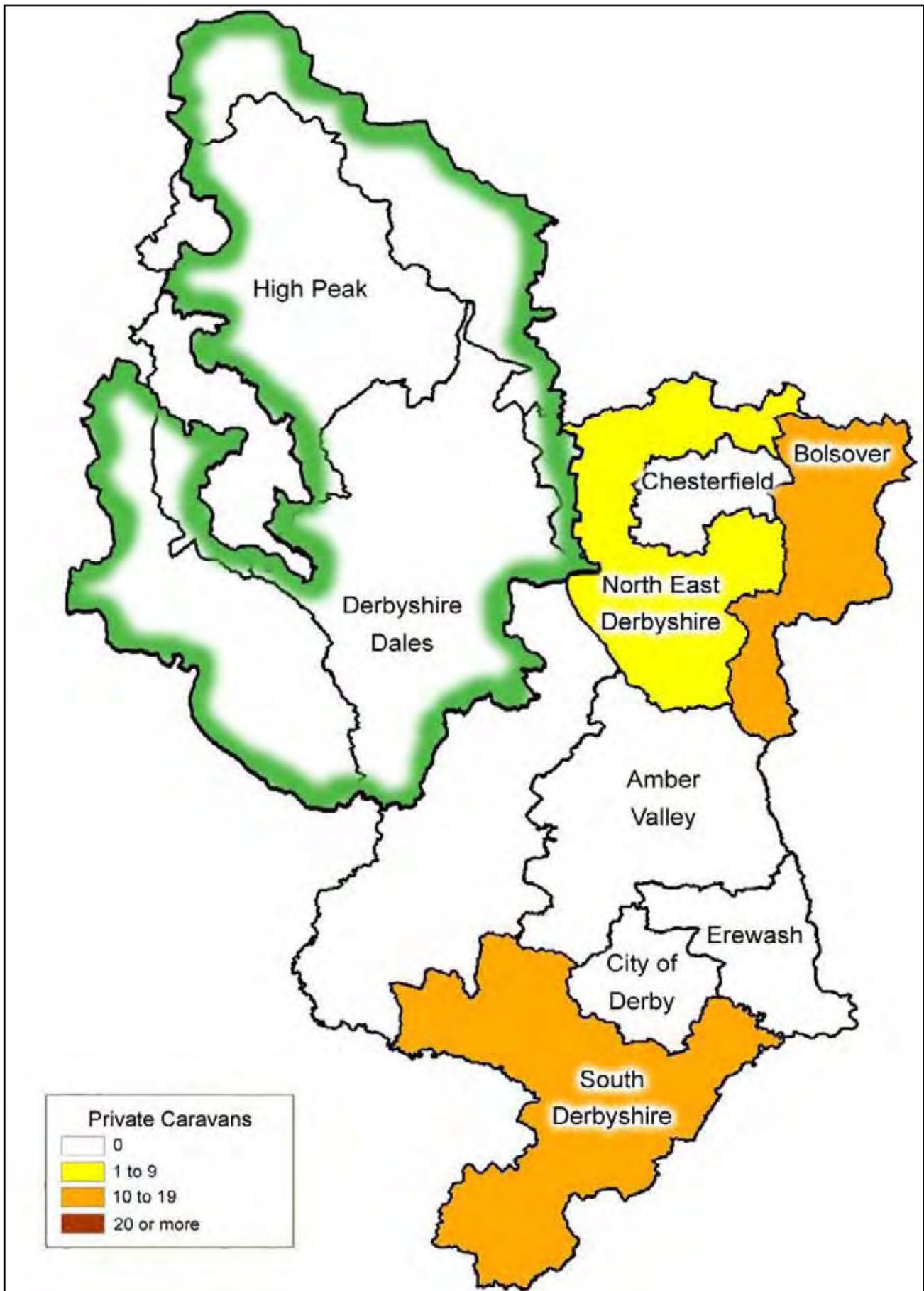


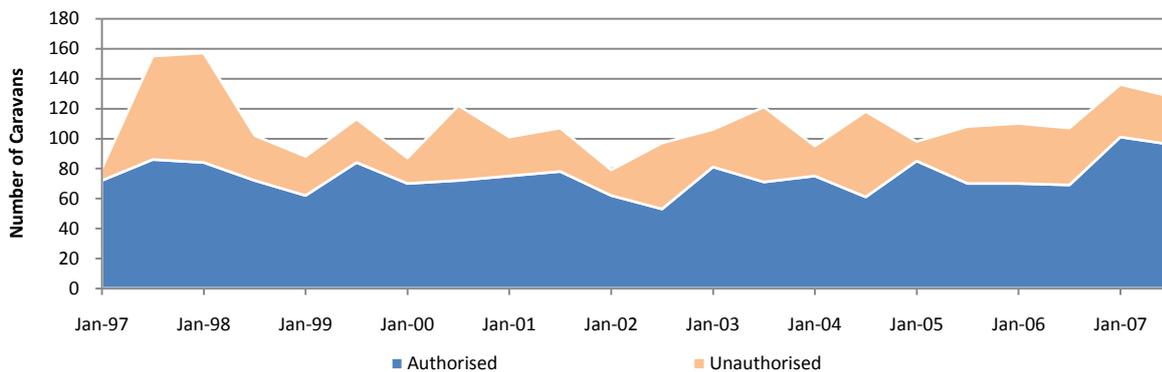
Figure 6
Caravans on Unauthorised Sites by Local Authority: Average of Last 5 Counts (Source: DCLG Bi-annual Caravan Count)



Trends in Derbyshire

- 2.11 Figure 7 shows that during the most recent caravan count in July 2007 there were 128 caravans across the whole of Derbyshire. It should be noted that Figure 7 shows the cumulative total for the caravan count, so that in July 2007 there were 96 caravans on authorised sites and 32 on unauthorised sites.
- 2.12 The counts for 2007 show an increase in the number of caravans on authorised sites. In part this is due to residents of public sites being home during the counts and also in part due to a steady growth in the number of authorised private sites in Derbyshire. The number of caravans which are to be found on unauthorised sites has remained relatively constant in recent years.

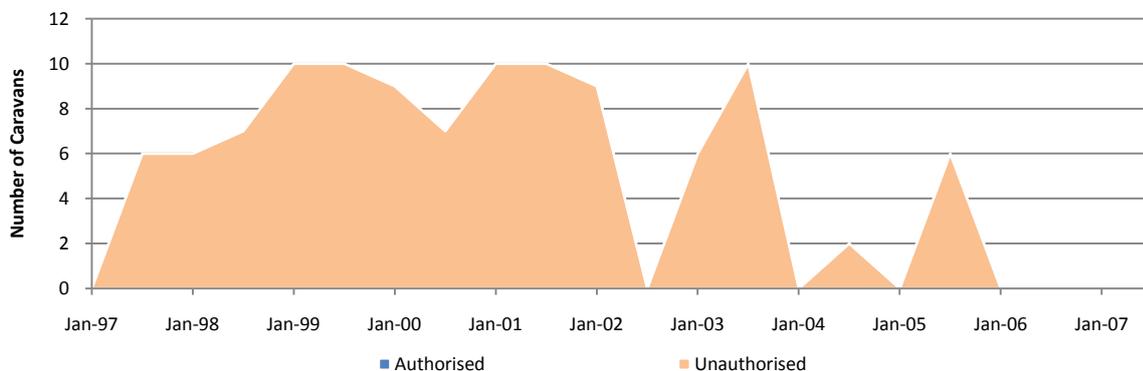
Figure 7
Gypsy Caravan Count for Derbyshire and Derby UA: January 1997 – July 2007 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Amber Valley Borough

- 2.13 Amber Valley Borough contains no authorised sites. In recent years it has recorded a small number of unauthorised sites. Records from Derbyshire County Council indicate that there have been five unauthorised encampments in Amber Valley Borough since 2005.

Figure 8
Gypsy Caravan Count for Amber Valley Borough: January 1997 – July 2007 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)

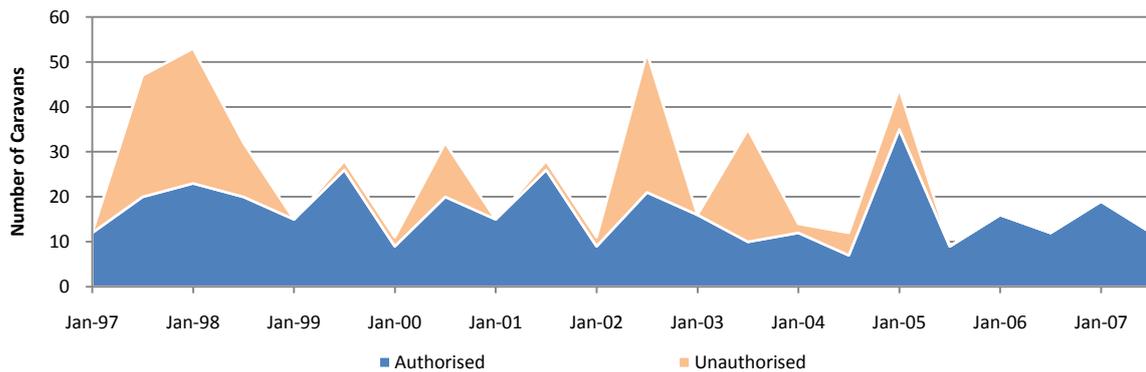


Bolsover District

- 2.14 Bolsover District contains a small number of private sites and has also had a small number of unauthorised sites in recent years. There is a single authorised private residential site at Blackwell and a private transit site at Pleasley Vale. This site has recently been granted planning permission for 25 permanent pitches, 11 transit pitches and a warden's bungalow. The area also contains an authorised residential site for travelling showmen at Pinxton. Records from Derbyshire County Council indicate that there have been 10 unauthorised encampments in Bolsover District since 2005 including an encampment of 27 caravans in February 2007.

Figure 9

Gypsy Caravan Count for Bolsover District: January 1997 – July 2007 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)

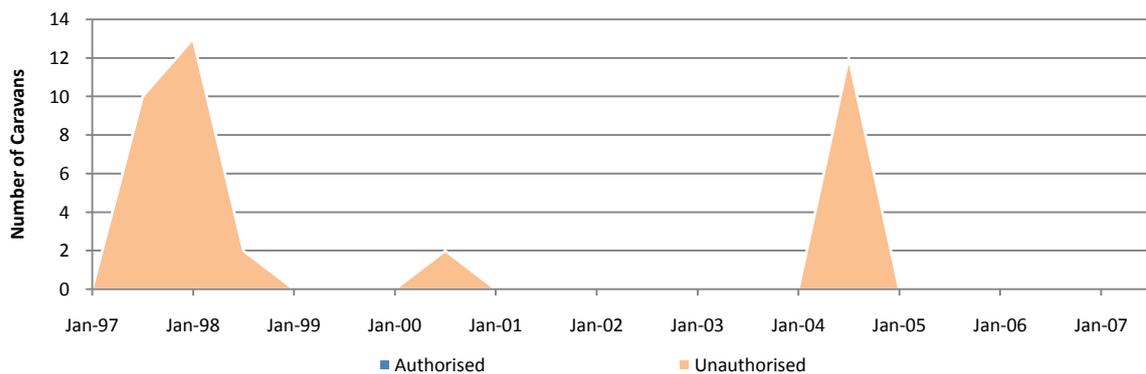


Chesterfield Borough

- 2.15 Chesterfield Borough contains no authorised sites. In July 2004 a small number of unauthorised caravans were recorded at the time of the caravan count, but there have been none since this time. Records from Derbyshire County Council also indicate that there have been no unauthorised encampments in Chesterfield Borough at any point since 2005.

Figure 10

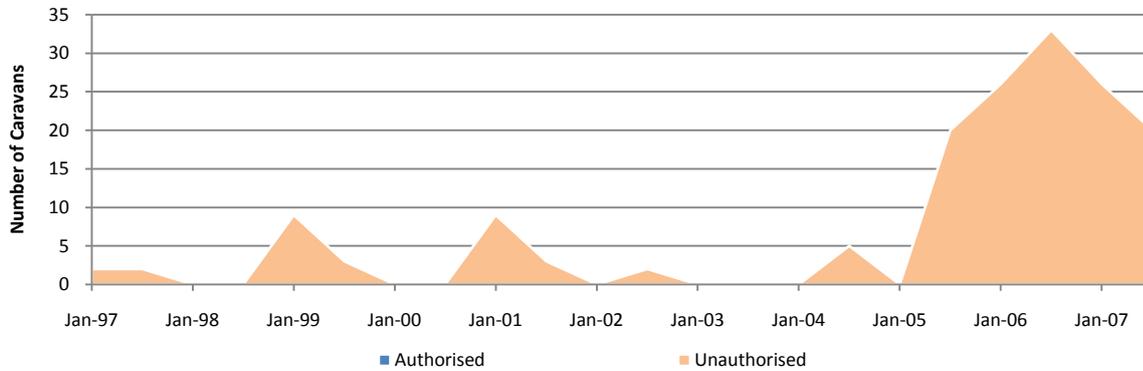
Gypsy Caravan Count for Chesterfield Borough: January 1997 – July 2007 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Derby UA

2.16 Derby UA contains no authorised sites. However, since 2005 there has been a major unauthorised site at Glossop Street. This site has typically contained around 26 caravans.

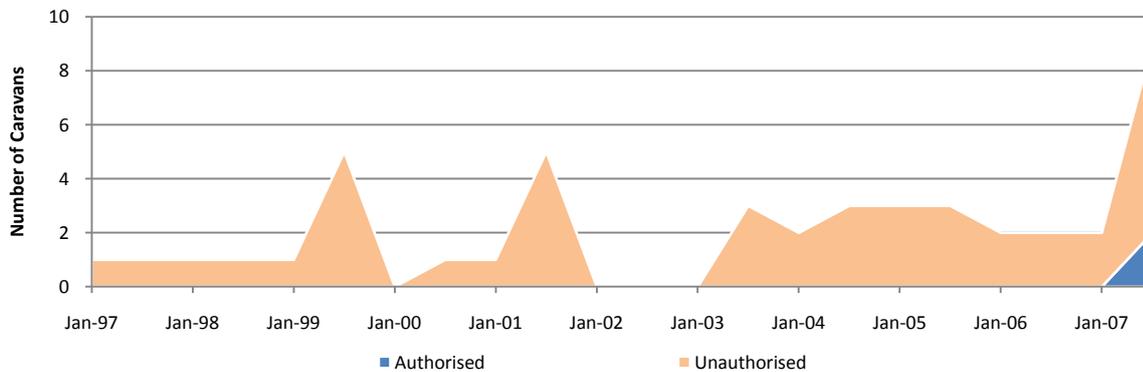
Figure 11
 Gypsy Caravan Count for Derby UA: January 1997 – July 2007 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Derbyshire Dales District

2.17 Derbyshire Dales District contains a new temporary authorised site which contains two caravans. It has consistently had a small number of unauthorised caravans. Records from Derbyshire County Council indicate that there have been twelve unauthorised encampments in Derbyshire Dales District since 2005, but many of these were from the same group at different locations.

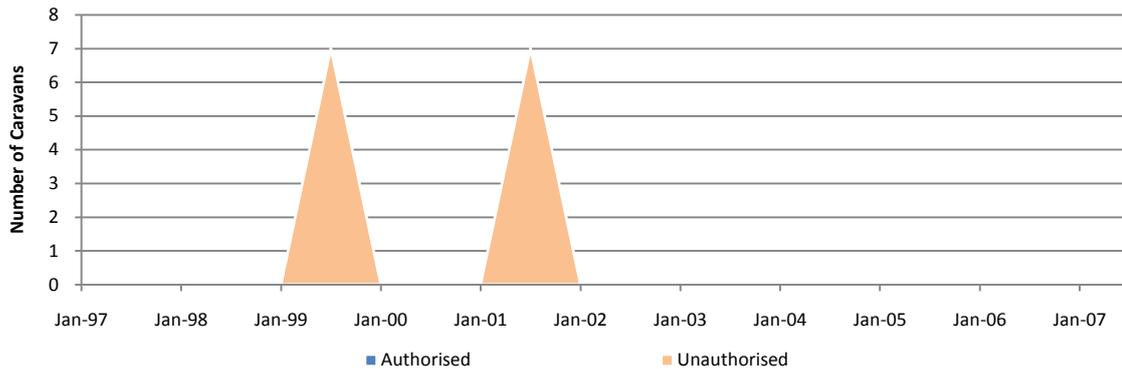
Figure 12
 Gypsy Caravan Count for Derbyshire Dales District: January 1997 – July 2007 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Erewash Borough

2.18 Erewash Borough contains no authorised sites. In July 2001 a small number of unauthorised caravans were recorded during the caravan count, but there have been none since this time. Records from Derbyshire County Council indicate that there have been two unauthorised encampments in Erewash Borough since 2005, but figures directly from Erewash Borough Council confirm that there have been other encampments in the borough in this time.

Figure 13
Gypsy Caravan Count for Erewash Borough: January 1997 – July 2007 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



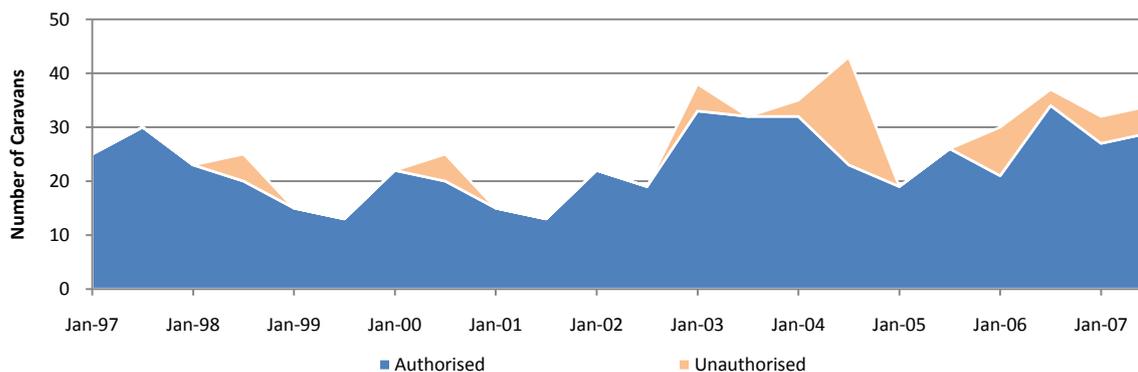
High Peak Borough

2.19 High Peak Borough contains no authorised sites and has not recorded any unauthorised caravans since 1997. Records from Derbyshire County Council indicate that there has been one unauthorised encampment in High Peak Borough since 2005. However, the DGLG also note that a regular encampment occurs on private land near Buxton every spring.

North East Derbyshire District

2.20 About a third of the Gypsy and Traveller population of Derbyshire reside in North East Derbyshire District. The authority contains an authorised public site with 22 pitches at Corbriggs and also a small number of private sites. Records from Derbyshire County Council indicate that there have been twelve unauthorised encampments in North East Derbyshire District since 2005.

Figure 14
Gypsy Caravan Count for North East Derbyshire District: January 1997 – July 2007 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



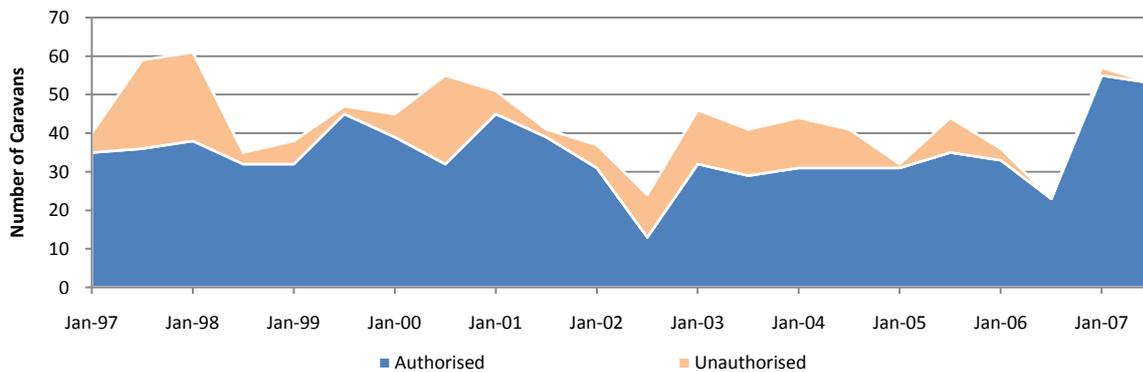
Peak District National Park

2.21 The Peak District National Park is not reported as a separate area by the DCLG caravan count. However, the area does not contain any authorised sites and does not appear to have experienced any unauthorised sites either. Encampments within the Peak District National Park are not formally recorded.

South Derbyshire District

2.22 South Derbyshire District contains around a half of the on-site Gypsy and Traveller population of Derbyshire. This includes two public sites at Woodyard Lane and Lullington Crossroads and nine separate private sites. The Lullington Crossroads site is occupied mainly by a Romany Gypsy population, while the Woodyard Lane site is occupied by Irish Travellers and Romany Gypsies. Records from Derbyshire County Council indicate that there have been 32 unauthorised encampments in South Derbyshire District since 2005, but many of these were from the same group moving around the authority.

Figure 15
 Gypsy Caravan Count for South Derbyshire District Council: January 1997 – July 2007 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Summary of Key Points

- There are currently 3 authorised public residential sites (55 pitches) and 17 authorised private sites (38 pitches) within the study area. Many of the private sites have only temporary planning permission which must be renewed periodically. There are also several transit sites, some of which have recently been granted planning permission.
- Incidences of both authorised and unauthorised sites vary greatly between districts.
- All authorised public sites in Derbyshire are located in either North East Derbyshire District or South Derbyshire District and these two authorities plus Bolsover District and Derbyshire Dales District contain all the authorised private sites. A wider range of authorities have seen some unauthorised developments or encampments in recent years.
- Figures for the entire study area show an increase in the number of caravans on authorised sites. The number of caravans which are to be found on unauthorised sites has remained relatively constant in recent years.

Chapter 3: Consultation Findings

Interviews

- 3.1 ORS conducted structured interviews with Council officers from Derbyshire County Council, Derby UA, Bolsover District, Erewash Borough, Derbyshire Dales District, Amber Valley Borough, Chesterfield Borough Council, High Peak Borough, North East Derbyshire District, South Derbyshire District and the Peak District National Park Authority who, in the course of their jobs, deal with the issues of Gypsies and Travellers. Council Members whose wards contain Gypsy and Traveller sites, who have portfolios for planning and housing, or who head planning committees, were also nominated for interview.
- 3.2 The Derbyshire Partnership nominated members of staff from each authority (working in a range of departments) to participate in the study, supplemented by further searches for contacts conducted by ORS. In total, contact details for 24 officers were obtained. Each officer was sent an introductory letter notifying them of this important research, before attempting to make interview appointments. Further contacts were subsequently identified by council officers and telephone interviews were successfully carried out with 21 officers. This included representatives of the Derby and Derbyshire Traveller Education Service and the Derbyshire County Council Traveller Liaison Officer. An additional interview was also conducted with the Derbyshire Constabulary Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer.
- 3.3 The majority of the telephone interviews were undertaken over a period of two weeks in November 2007. Typically, interviews lasted between 15 to 30 minutes. The majority of officers interviewed work in Planning, Environmental Health, Enforcement or Housing.
- 3.4 Contact details for 12 Council Members were also obtained. ORS contacted each of these Members in the same manner as the Council officers. Seven Members agreed to be interviewed.
- 3.5 The aim of interviewing Council officers and Members was to provide background information on the policy framework within which they operate, and on the perceptions of the Gypsy and Traveller community within each of the Councils. It did not seek to directly ask the views of Council officers and Members on extra site provision, but rather to highlight how matters relating to Gypsies and Travellers were currently handled and perceived within Derbyshire.
- 3.6 The views expressed in this section of the report represent a balanced summary of the views expressed by officers and Members. In all cases they reflect the views of the individual concerned, rather than the official policy of their Council, and not all officers and Members held the same views.

Figure 16

Number of Completed Telephone Interviews with Officers and Members (Source: ORS Survey of Council Officers and Members 2007)

Local Authority	Number of Interviews
Amber Valley	2
Bolsover	5
Chesterfield	2
Derby UA	4
Derbyshire County	2
Derbyshire Dales	1
Erewash	4
High Peak	2
North East Derbyshire	2
Peak District National Park	1
South Derbyshire	3
Total	28

Council Officers

- 3.7 The majority of interviewees stated that they do not have direct or regular day-to-day contact with Gypsies and Travellers in the course of their jobs with some stating that they have very little to do with them at all. This was usually the case where there are very low occurrences of Gypsies and Travellers in their district. Many of the officers work indirectly with Gypsies and Travellers either in relation to policy preparation and the development of plans for site allocation and planning permission, the on-going research, or identifying gaps in provision and possible funding working alongside outside agencies. Those who do have direct contact with Gypsies and Travellers are involved in finding out their specific needs and plans and ensuring that they can access essential services such as health and education.
- 3.8 People's awareness of policies, legislation and guidance varied depending on the interviewees' role and for which authority they worked. Many officers did not have working knowledge of the specific policy tools used in relation to such issues but most were aware of which were used in their department. It was generally stated that national guidance, circular 1/94, was followed and in addition the majority of the authorities were signed up to the Derbyshire inter-agency guidance which is now in place. All districts and Derby UA are either signed up to the guidance or taking to committee for approval. Other policy tools used included the Local Development Framework (LDF), the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and county and magistrates court protocols. It was remarked by some officers that they did not follow any particular set policy, but did what was appropriate depending on the situation. It should also be noted that policies are evolving, and constantly changing depending on what is relevant at the time.
- 3.9 Whilst many officers were unaware of any official records kept, some of the officers were able to give an indication of the number of illegal encampments in their district. It appears that officers are only aware of such encampments if they are directly involved with them or have heard about them anecdotally.

Issues and Problems

- 3.10 Although in general few specific issues were mentioned, particularly in the districts with a small or non-existent Gypsy and Traveller population there were some issues reported. By far the most common response to this question was a problem with community relations.

- 3.11 Many officers reported that they have either directly experienced or heard about negative public perceptions of the Gypsy and Traveller communities. Complaints are common, with phone calls directly to the council or to local councillors being the most popular method of communication. Perceptions are usually of anti-social behaviour, crime and unauthorised dumping of rubbish and scrap although this is rarely backed up with any evidence. Officers believed that often the public are just suspicious and complain “*just because they are there*”, rather than because of a particular incident. It was stated that people’s perceptions of Gypsies and Travellers had become a “*political hot potato*” because of the problems it causes.
- 3.12 Other issues reported were related to housing, access to services, medical facilities and waste disposal. There were also concerns over how sites should be managed and what the needs of the community were, however, it is hoped that the results of this assessment will help to resolve these problems.
- 3.13 The Derbyshire Constabulary Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer noted that they had been working to build up trust and confidence from the Gypsy and Traveller community. They follow home office guidance, local legislation and human rights legislation to ensure that there is no disproportionate response in police action. They also feel that there is no disproportionate level of criminality with travellers,, but where there are complaints and evidence they will investigate and prosecute individuals.
- 3.14 Specific problems were reported regarding the Glossop Street site in Derby UA. The community is divided. It was reported that some local residents spoke very positively about them, claiming that they fit into the community well, have helped out on many occasions in the past and in fact lowered crime levels. However, alongside the positive views are those residents with perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour. There is also more concern recently as the Glossop Street site has been ‘earmarked’ for a housing development which would raise the profile of the Osmaston Triangle. This would add more fuel to the argument that they should be moved on, despite the Gypsies and Travellers forming ties. The process of finding an alternative site to move them to has now begun.
- 3.15 In the past there have also been specific concerns over the Woodyard Lane site in South Derbyshire District; families were not happy and moved on but since then changes have been made and people are now moving back. It was commented that “*the warden there is good and really positive*”.

Unauthorised Encampments

- 3.16 In terms of unauthorised encampments, many of the officers were not aware of any existing unauthorised encampments in their district at the moment. Many felt unable to comment on this issue as they do not have regular day-to-day dealings with Gypsies and Travellers. Officers’ lack of awareness may not, however, necessarily denote that there are no unauthorised encampments in the area.
- 3.17 Several officers stated that unauthorised encampments do arise regularly, usually about one every 6 weeks over the county as a whole, but that they do not stay for very long; usually only for a few days at a time. It was also mentioned on more than one occasion that unauthorised sites arose more regularly in the past, but in recent months it has been a less frequent occurrence.
- 3.18 One unauthorised site that is well known is at Glossop Street in Derby UA although there are current plans to find the Gypsies and Travellers an alternative site. Other sites mentioned were a couple in North East Derbyshire (thought to consist of one unauthorised site and one where temporary planning permission was recently renewed), and one in South Derbyshire.

- 3.19 Many officers stated that it was their impression that Gypsies and Travellers commonly travel through their district en route from the north through to the Midlands and that it is a “regular stopping point”, although some are not sure of particular routes and suspect they stop off on an ad hoc basis or in an emergency. It was also strongly felt that cultural and family occasions such as weddings, family gatherings and shows were the main reasons for Gypsies and Travellers to set up an unauthorised encampment in their district. One officer emphasised the importance of family to the Gypsy and Traveller culture and this appears to play a big role in their movements.
- 3.20 It was also frequently stated that work was a typical factor for attracting unauthorised encampments and it is not uncommon for unauthorised occupation to take place. The sorts of work Gypsies and Travellers are most commonly involved with include tree felling, tarmac of roads, paving of driveways and drainpipe clearing. Officers are aware of these activities as they have found evidence of such on the sites, such as “piles of dug up driveways”.
- 3.21 When asked why they felt unauthorised encampments did not arise regularly in their area it was speculated that owing to a permanent site at Winsick, in North East Derbyshire Council area and a previous site at Pleasley, both in close proximity to Chesterfield, that Chesterfield Borough (which doesn't currently have any sites) is a less desirable place to set up encampments and that the other sites acted as a pressure valve. It was also considered that the more rural parts of the county were more desirable than the urban areas owing to easy access and space.
- 3.22 Not all of the officers interviewed felt that they were best placed to comment on policies and/or procedures that their Council have for managing unauthorised encampments. It was evident that officers with responsibility for Planning become involved only with longer term cases and Environmental Health have the most involvement in the initial instance and are therefore more aware of the relevant policies.
- 3.23 Many stated that there were no particular set of procedures or “hard and fast policies” but rather they followed whatever procedure was most relevant at the time. However the following policies and procedures were cited:
- The Derbyshire protocol is followed.
 - Enforcement officers become involved at an early stage.
 - Liaison officers visit the sites, establish how long the Gypsies and Travellers plan to stay and what their needs are.
 - The Traveller Education Service welfare and health visitors then visit to carry out checks, before being presented to county councillors who can authorise action.
 - Sites are tolerated as much as possible, and if they are not eviction procedures are followed through the magistrates court act.
 - The Gypsy Liaison Group are contacted for advice and additional information.
 - Facilities such as waste disposal and toilets are provided if required.

Trends

- 3.24 Many officers stated that they weren't any trends in their area or at least not that they were aware of. This is mainly owing to the low number of Gypsies and Travellers in most districts. It should be remembered that trends vary across districts: however, several general trends were identified, These included:

- An increase in privately owned sites. Gypsies and Travellers have been encouraged to buy their own sites and there has been an increase in planning permission for private sites recently,
- An increased desire for smaller sites,
- A trend towards settlement in housing (although it was reported that many traveller families are unhappy in this sort of accommodation),
- A decrease in unauthorised sites.

3.25 Officers were unsure as to why there has been a decrease in the number of sites over recent months. It was suggested that it may be because word has got round that there is a full time officer now working in the area. There was little reference to actual numbers of Gypsies and Travellers and therefore it cannot be stated whether there has been any significant changes in their population across the county.

3.26 It was also noted by one respondent that many Gypsies and Travellers are travelling traditional and regular routes which have been travelled for generations. However these are changing because landowners are blocking site entrances to prevent entry. This means that Gypsies and Travellers are finding it more difficult to get to stopping points.

3.27 Housing officers were specifically asked if they had any information about Gypsies and Travellers living in settled accommodation but none had any detailed knowledge about this. One stated that they were currently conducting a study into this, and another was aware of some in the Osmaston area but was not sure of numbers.

3.28 Suggestions given as to why Gypsies and Travellers might be attracted to the area are similar to those mentioned previously, the main reasons including work, being on a traditional travelling route, and family connections. Conversely, some officers stated that they did not believe that they were on a traditional travelling route or that people come specifically for work reasons, however this is affected by the geography of the individual districts with some being more attractively placed than others. For example the A50 runs west to east across South Derbyshire District and also through Derbyshire Dales District (along which the majority of unauthorised encampments are located), the M1 also runs north to south in the east of the county, providing easier access to some areas than others.

3.29 It was surmised that lack of employment opportunities, inaccessibility and in particular the cold open conditions in the Peak District National Park all discouraged large numbers of Gypsies and travellers residing in their authority.

3.30 Perceptions of seasonal fluctuations varied significantly between districts. The majority stated that encampments arose on a very ad hoc basis and there was no particular pattern, or that the numbers over the year were so small that it was not possible to identify any particular trends. Some authorities saw more activity in the summer months mainly because of the conditions of the ground when it is wet, although it was generally not known where they go in the winter months. Conversely both the Corbriggs and Blackbridge sites experienced a higher number of Gypsies and Travellers over the winter months, when travelling populations are more settled, though it is thought that some may travel to Europe to work over the summer.

Site Location Considerations

3.31 The Council officers were asked what factors they considered important in the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites. Many stated that they referred to national and local policy guidance when considering what criteria were important, although some spoke from personal experience.

- 3.32 Reasonable proximity or ease of access to services and facilities such as shops, schools, health facilities and other local amenities was thought to be most important by many. Other provisions that need to be considered were thought to be: access to utility services (water, power); appropriate transport infrastructure and access to road networks; sewerage; waste disposal facilities and vehicular access.
- 3.33 Long term implications and the sustainability of sites were thought to be important. There should also be no adverse affect or significant visual impact on the surrounding area. This includes the restrictions of protected land such as Green Belt Land. The level of noise and disturbance was also a consideration.
- 3.34 Many officers referred to the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites in relation to existing communities. It was generally thought that it was important that sites were not too far away from other settlements so that they were isolated and unable to access vital facilities and services or become “ghettos”.
- 3.35 It was not universally agreed, however, that sites should be part of the community. Some believed that although they should not be isolated they should also not be too close to other residential properties to minimise problems of negative community relations. It was suggested that a buffer could possibly be established between the two or perhaps sites could be built in an area where housing did not yet exist so that when houses were built residents would be aware of their existence beforehand. Conversely several officers strongly felt that Gypsy and Traveller communities should be integrated within the existing community, that they should be part of the core of the community and be able to join in. It was considered that “*if people understood the needs of Gypsies and Travellers there shouldn’t be a problem*”. It is therefore important to assess settled residents’ views and likely reactions to potential sites; hence there is a need to consult with the whole community. Similarly any previous sites and reactions to these should be considered when planning new ones.
- 3.36 The Derbyshire Constabulary Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer was particular keen to emphasise that their priority was community cohesion. It was noted that is an important and statutory factor for all agencies concerned and that nationally the Association of Chief Police Officers consider that community cohesion is a top priority in future site provision.
- 3.37 It was also considered that the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities should be the same as any community and it was important that the site was somewhere pleasant and where they actually wanted to live. Therefore it is also vital to take into consideration the aspirations as well as the needs of Gypsies and Travellers themselves. There is no point providing a new site which will not be used.
- 3.38 It was remarked that funding was an issue, as each site was hugely expensive. It was hoped that there will be government funding and in the absence of this that Gypsies and Travellers would pay for themselves. The DCLG have currently made grant funding available for the development of new Gypsy and Traveller sites.

Cross-boundary Issues

- 3.39 The majority of officers did not feel able to comment on the main travelling routes through their area and those who were aware of any cross-boundary issues were in the minority. However, some officers were able to identify the main travelling routes through the areas, although none were certain and only making educated guesses. Generally it was thought that Gypsies were travelling from north to south mainly using the M1 in the east of the county and from west to east using the A50 and A52 in Derbyshire Dales District Council and South Derbyshire District Council areas moving into the nearby

counties of Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Nottinghamshire. Some of the districts in the north also considered they were on a route, via the A38, to other parts of the county, such as Derby.

- 3.40 Most of the officers are not aware of any trend for Gypsies and Travellers to move to neighbouring districts, although this is not to say that it is not happening (it was previously mentioned that North East Derbyshire may act as a pressure valve for surrounding areas) . A few officers remarked that they often came across Gypsies and Travellers that they know suggesting that some may travel back and forth between areas, and that they were aware of movement between Bolsover and Mansfield and Chesterfield in addition to travellers stopping off on long distance travelling routes.

The Future

- 3.41 When asked what constraints there were locally on further provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers the most common response was local resident opposition and subsequently political opposition. It was thought by many that that there would be a *“huge outcry”* and there would be a *“not in my back yard”* attitude. It was suggested that to overcome issues of public opposition, there could be training of councillors in Gypsy and Traveller issues, possibly to attend local meetings to brief people about what the council is planning to do or hold public consultations to let residents have their say. However, it is difficult to change people’s opinions and this will always be a significant constraint.
- 3.42 Land availability is also a substantial problem with several officers stating that there wasn’t much or any suitable land in their district. This may be because the council own very little land and other land owners may not wish to sell theirs. The site needs to be large enough and free from buildings but there are restrictions on Green Belt and open countryside land making it very difficult to release land for private – or public-owned Gypsy and Traveller sites. However, the regeneration of brown field sites is very expensive, particularly if they are old industrial sites. Thirdly, the environmental impact, including noise, pollution and the visual impact, was seen to be a large constraint.
- 3.43 When asked how they see the Gypsies and Travellers situation in their area in five years time, the majority of officers predicted that it there is likely to be little change in the current situation. They based this on the fact that there generally has been a low propensity in the past for Gypsies and Travellers to reside in their district or that current sites, i.e. Blackbridge, already have planning permission and are under good management.
- 3.44 Many stated that they were unsure and were waiting to see what the results of research and the updated Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) were. In this respect, the situation was considered to be somewhat dependent on the outcomes of the survey, how the results are viewed by Members, and the policy direction the local authorities decide to take.
- 3.45 It was remarked that there were concerns politically that another large site would be drawing Gypsies and Travellers in when they could be catered for further afield. In addition, some questioned whether further provision was necessary given the current perception of demand in their area and pressures on land given the limited availability. If sites were provided without evidence that they were needed there would be major problems with the public.
- 3.46 It was hoped by some that there would be further site provision, at least transit if not permanent sites, and a variety of possible sites put aside for consideration. It was acknowledged however, that this is not necessarily what will happen although there is drive for more emphasis on site provision and funding. In Derby UA it is expected that the Gypsies and Travellers currently located on the

unauthorised site at Glossop Street will have moved onto a properly managed site and that a further additional site may also be needed within the next five years.

- 3.47 It is also hoped that there will be a joint policy for the whole of Derbyshire which identifies the number of pitches needed, and that all districts work together towards the same goal. It may be that some districts have an unfair share of sites and others have none but that all districts contribute no matter where the sites are located. One officer stated that there is “*more need for sub-regional working rather than building a site in each individual district*”. This should not be difficult as long as the choice of site location is justified.
- 3.48 It was clear that many of the districts did not have any systematic mechanisms for regular consultation with Gypsies and Travellers in their district, however county-wide the main ones mentioned were: The Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, the Traveller Education Service, the TIWG Group and the Traveller Liaison Officer. Consultation was predominantly through face to face direct contact.
- 3.49 The Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group was praised by the majority of officers as being an extremely effective means of consulting with Gypsies and Travellers in the county. It was stated that although there are similar groups in the country, the DGLG is believed to be a leader in its field, their views are very representative and one officer remarked that “they wouldn’t know what they’d do without them” as it is difficult for them to contact them themselves owing to such small numbers. However, there were concerns that their views aren’t completely representative and that the good and the bad within the Gypsy and Traveller community aren’t given balanced attention.
- 3.50 Other direct consultation with Gypsies and Travellers were also generally considered effective and the importance of such work advocated. However, again there were some concerns if all needs have been represented or whether the consultations have resulted in the appropriate action. For example it was commented that in the past, it was identified that there was a need for additional sites but it was not clear where it was needed and was suspected that Gypsy and Traveller communities did not feel their needs were being met.
- 3.51 It should be mentioned that there was concern expressed that references to Gypsy and Travellers are not wholly conclusive of people who move around such as migrant workers, many from Eastern Europe, who may or may not settle in “*shanty towns*” and become like Gypsies. There is no evidence at present that groups such as these are in any need in Derbyshire, but perhaps should be taken into consideration.

Council Members

- 3.52 Interviews were undertaken with seven Council Members in total, although unfortunately it was not possible to interview one from each authority. A list of members’ contact details was provided to ORS by TIWG, and similar to the officers, Members were sent a letter notifying them of the study.
- 3.53 Members readily took part in the research and shared their views openly. Appointments for ORS to undertake the telephone interviews were arranged at Members’ convenience and they were on average 10 -20 minutes in duration.

Gypsies and Travellers

- 3.54 Members remarked that they had very few dealings/relationships with Gypsies and Travellers in the course of their duties. Instead they worked in more of an overseeing capacity or as chair of a committee such as development control, planning or equalities.
- 3.55 Most Members reported problems with community relations stating that the major problem involved mess such as litter and general untidiness that has been left behind. Two members identified particular cases where this had become a major issue. In Etwall, South Derbyshire District Council, several plies of waste (refrigerators, gas cylinders, furniture, conifer cuttings – from work they had been carrying out) had been left on a transient site, as well as items such as nappies and such like discarded in hedgerows. A site in Erewash also experienced similar problems, with upturned caravans, and excrement left on the site. This in turn has created poor local relations, and it is the view that without the mess there would not be any problems.
- 3.56 There were conflicting views on the issue of mess, with some Members stating that it is *“inhuman and verging on an economic disaster”* while another believes it is just perceived ideas and that they have seen houses in much worse states – *“You should see some of the houses we have seen. It made me really angry”*. It was also mentioned on more than one occasion, in different districts, that the problem of mess left behind is believed to be related to the Traveller ethnic group rather than the Gypsy ethnic group.
- 3.57 It was also mentioned that there were general problems with the local community and many residents are unhappy, as they are suspicious of theft and intimidation, nuisance from cold calling for work and simply do not want to have Gypsies and Travellers living close by. It was stressed that it is important that people understand Gypsy and Traveller needs so that their negative opinions are not unfounded.

Trends

- 3.58 Many of the Members were not aware of any trends within their district – *“There aren’t any changes I don’t think”*. One member from South Derbyshire District Council felt that there had possibly been a slight increase in the number of sites over the last 20 years.
- 3.59 They are also not able to comment on what attracts Gypsies and Travellers to their area. Members in Bolsover do not believe that they are on a traditional travelling route although Members in South Derbyshire District Council believe they are travelling through their district, along the A50 into Cheshire or in the other direction to Leicestershire – *“I think in the main it is transient Travellers, as opposed to Travellers who want to reside in the area”*. Derbyshire Dales District Council also agree that The A50 is a main route that Gypsies and Travellers follow, from Staffordshire to Wales or to go on further south.
- 3.60 Members are aware of Gypsies and Travellers working in the area but it is not agreed whether they believe they are coming for that reason. It was also suggested that they may come into the area for events like weddings or funerals.
- 3.61 In relation to seasonal fluctuations, there do not appear to be any visible patterns. However, there are possibly more incursions in summer. Other than this, the situation was described as static. One Member believed that most Travellers had a permanent base for the winter, which they travelled back to, but the older Travellers were more likely to stay – *“the need to travel seems to diminish with age”*.

Needs and Aspirations

- 3.62 When asked what the constraints are locally on further provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers almost all Members stated that public opinion/local opposition was the biggest problem; the difficulties of finding suitable land owing to restricted land and pressures to build more houses was also mentioned.
- 3.63 The problem of negative perceptions was emphasised by several Members. Reference was also made to the source of people's perceptions, from misunderstanding and from Gypsy and Traveller communities on transit sites. It was thought that if people understood more about Gypsies and Travellers and saw the differences between those on transit sites and those on permanent sites, there wouldn't be a problem – *"The image of Gypsies, tramps and thieves comes to mind and it makes me angry"*.
- 3.64 It was considered that in order for local residents to accept a new Gypsy and Traveller site there would have to be sufficient evidence to prove that there was actually a need for one.
- 3.65 In terms of site location, Members thought that the following were considered as important criteria that must be borne in mind when determining where a site should be placed:
- Sites should be near to shops, transport, education and health facilities and other services;
 - Sites should be sustainable and have electricity, sewerage, a water supply and other essential facilities.
 - Sites should be located not in the centre of a residential area but also *"not stuck in the middle of nowhere"*. However it is difficult to find a location where the residents are happy but is still near to services.
 - Sites should be on main routes, easy to get to and have easy access for large vehicles. In South Derbyshire District and Derbyshire Dales District, for example, this would be somewhere in the A50 Corridor.
 - Sites should be compatible with the needs of Gypsies and Travellers – *"There is no use trying to set up a site which the traveller is not actually willing to access"*, as well as the needs of residents and the Council;
- 3.66 Members were asked to comment on how they see the situation with regard to Gypsies and Travellers in their area in five years time. All of the Council members shared the view that the situation is likely to remain fairly static, with little, if any, change, as they have not seen any change in patterns in past years – *"There is no reason for there to be any change"*. One Member considered the possibility that there might be an increase in permanent sites in the future.
- 3.67 Some of the Members want to reiterate the point that it is the general untidiness that upsets people and that if they did not leave sites in such states and adhered to the law there would not be a problem and people would see them differently. There is nothing that the council can do – *"They are their own worst enemy"*.
- 3.68 One Member spoke about the importance of meeting people face to face informally so that each group can understand each other better – *"People realise that they don't have two heads or anything"*. The Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison group was also mentioned, and praised for doing a lot of good work in the county.

Summary of Key Points

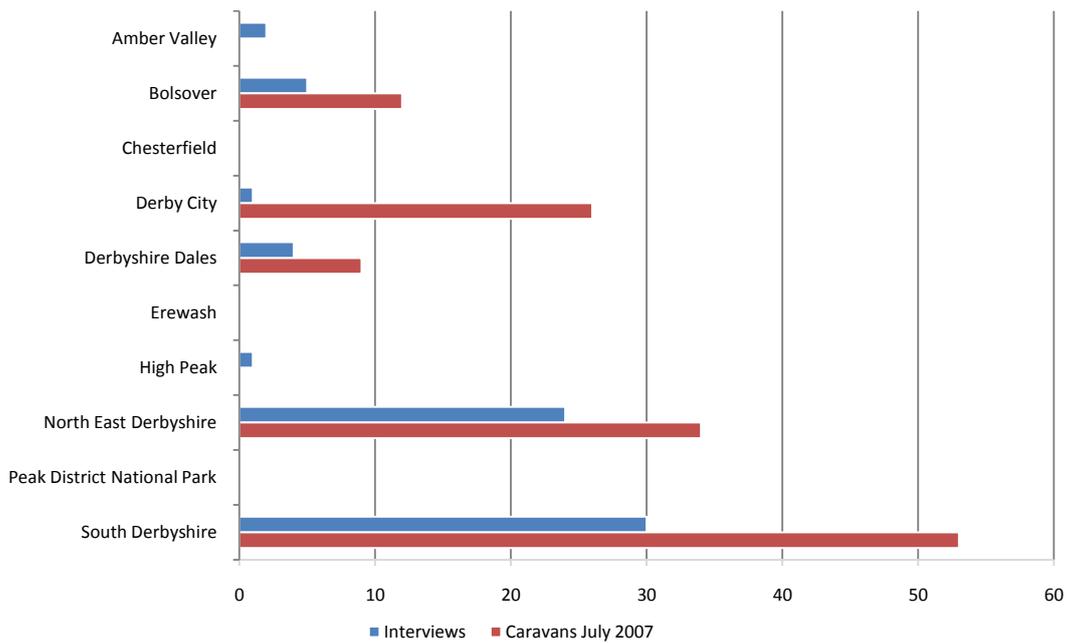
- Although trends vary across districts the main trends that were identified were increases in privately owned and smaller sites, settlement in housing, and a decrease in unauthorised sites.
- Sites should be located where Gypsies and travellers are most likely to want and be able to access them. As it is generally considered that the majority of Gypsies and Travellers are travelling through the county on route, this is likely to be somewhere close to main road routes (A50, A52, M1, A38), in rural areas owing to space, and where there is not currently sufficient provision nearby.
- One of the largest issues relating to site location is negative public perception, therefore assessing residents' views via consultation with the whole community (such as attendance at public meetings) is vital.
- Sufficient evidence and justification of the need for additional sites should be provided in order to minimise problems of public opposition.
- There should be continued direct consultation with Gypsies and Travellers themselves to ensure that their needs are fully represented in site location considerations. Informal meetings between groups would be particularly advantageous in understanding their needs.
- There is a need for joint-working between all districts in Derbyshire. Sites should be located in the most appropriate locations, however all districts should contribute to the process.

Chapter 4: On-site Gypsy and Traveller Profile

Survey of the Gypsy and Traveller Population

- ^{4.1} One of the major components of this assessment was a detailed survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Derbyshire. This aimed to identify current households with housing needs, and to assess likely future household formation from within the existing households to help judge the need for future site provision. The survey sought to provide a baseline position on the resident Gypsy and Traveller population of Derbyshire.
- ^{4.2} Interviews were attempted with every Gypsy and Traveller household in the area who were present between June and September 2007. Throughout the survey period interviewers worked from 9am to 9pm each day and made repeated visits to each household until a successful interview was concluded. Despite some refusals, potential respondents were generally very keen to co-operate with the survey and wished to have their views taken into account. Throughout this study the person responding to the survey will be referred to as the respondent, and in questions which refer to all people in the household they will be referred to as household members.
- ^{4.3} In total 65 interviews were achieved with Gypsies and Traveller households living on authorised and unauthorised sites in Derbyshire, with a further 2 respondents not wishing to complete a full interview, but instead provided text comments. The definition used for a household was that of a pitch. Therefore, the 65 interviews all took place with respondents who lived at separate pitches.
- ^{4.4} Throughout the remainder of this report the majority of numbers which appear on the charts represent the percentage of respondents who appear in that category. The purpose of showing percentages is to allow the results of the survey to be extrapolated to the whole Gypsy and Traveller population of Derbyshire. In a few cases it is more appropriate to use the actual number of respondents, and these cases are clearly identified. In all charts those respondents who answered 'don't know', or did not answer the question, are omitted unless otherwise stated.
- ^{4.5} In total, 239 people were contained within the 65 households which had complete interviews. This gives an average household size of 3.7 people per household. 20 of the 65 households interviewed contained 6 or more people.
- ^{4.6} Figure 17, overleaf, shows the breakdown of interviews achieved, by local authority in Derbyshire. North East Derbyshire District and South Derbyshire District contain the bulk of all authorised pitches in Derbyshire and provided the vast majority of the interviews. Derby UA contains 26 caravans at a single unauthorised site. This site yielded only one interview. In this case a single nominated spokesperson was chosen to complete the interview on behalf of the entire site. Therefore, the one interview can be treated as representing the views of the entire unauthorised site.

Figure 17
Interviews by Local Authority (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)

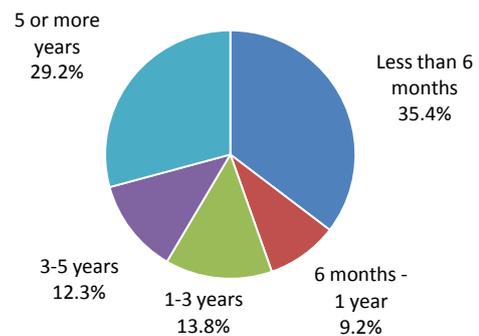


Length of Residence

4.7 Many of Gypsies and Travellers surveyed had a long period of residence in Derbyshire. 29% of respondents had lived on their current site for more than 5 years.

4.8 35% had been resident of their current site for less than 6 months. In total 14 of the 65 respondents reported that Derbyshire was not their permanent base and therefore many of those who had been residing on-site for a short period of time are not permanent residents of Derbyshire. It is also worth noting that 6 respondents reported that they had no permanent base.

Figure 18
Length of Time Respondents Have Lived on Their Current Site, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)

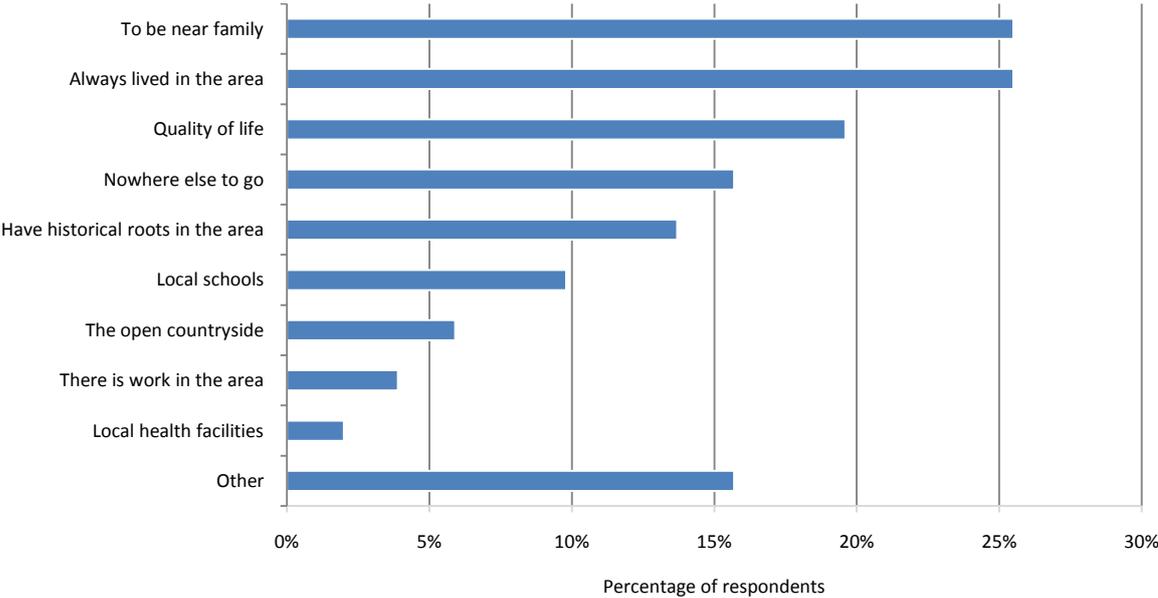


Attractions of Living in Derbyshire

4.9 Respondents were asked to identify the main reasons that attracted them to live in Derbyshire. They were allowed to select as many reasons as they wished from a list of nine options.

4.10 The main factors which attracted respondents to Derbyshire was to be near to their family or because they had always lived in the area. 15% of respondents reported that they were attracted to Derbyshire because they had nowhere else to go.

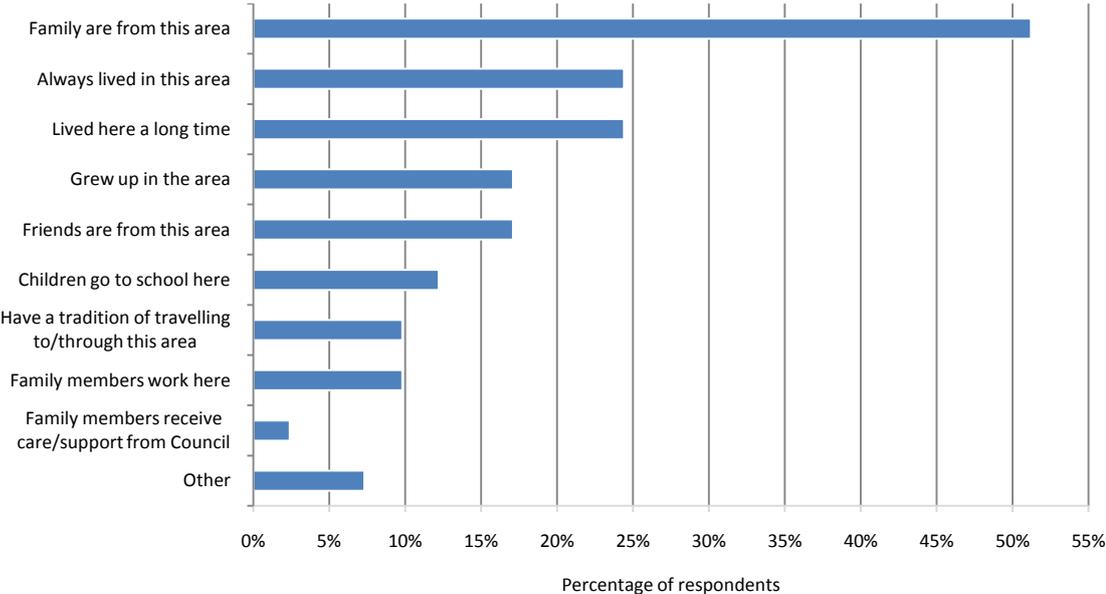
Figure 19
What Attracted Them to Live in the Area, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



Connections with the Area

4.11 63% of the respondents felt they have strong connections to Derbyshire. In particular, Figure 20 shows that the main connection was that their family comes from the area, while many had either always lived in the area or had lived in Derbyshire for a long time.

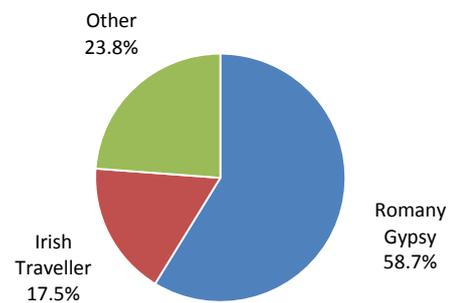
Figure 20
Nature of Local Connections in Derbyshire, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



Ethnic Background

4.12 Over half of all respondents explicitly identified themselves as being Romany Gypsies. Around a fifth of respondents were Irish Travellers, and another quarter regarded themselves as being from another ethnic group. However almost this entire group felt that they were English or English Gypsies. English Gypsy can be used interchangeably with Romany Gypsy and anyone describing themselves as being an English Gypsy is covered by the Race Relations Act.

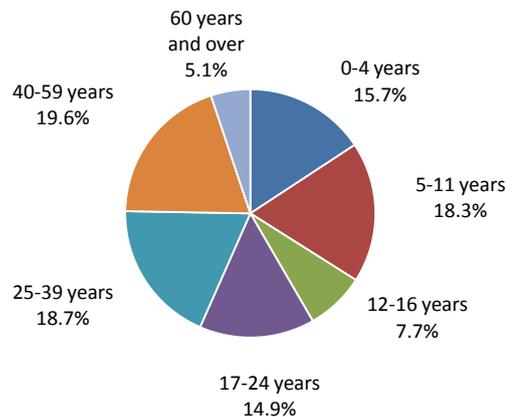
Figure 21
Ethnic Group by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



Age and Household Profile

4.13 The households showed a mixed range of ages across their members. The households contained 5% of people who were of retirement age, but over 40% of all household members were aged 16 years or under. 26% of all household members were of school age and another 16% were children aged 4 years or less.

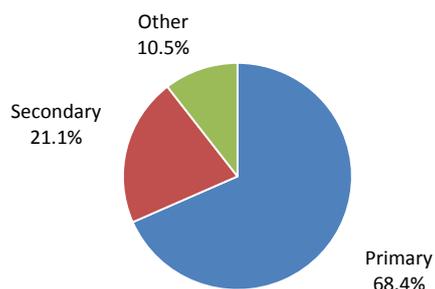
Figure 22
Age of Household Members, by all Household Members (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



Schooling

4.14 The schooling details of 57 of the children aged 5-16 years were included in the responses to the survey. Almost all the children were schooled in either primary or secondary schools. Of the 10% of children who were schooled in other circumstances, several had only recently arrived in the area and were waiting to start at a new school and only one child was schooled at home.

Figure 23
Type of School Attended, by all School Aged Children (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



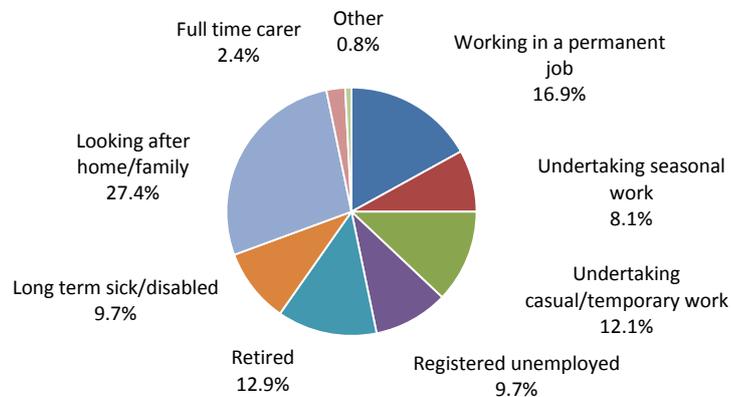
4.15 The focus group at the Corbriggs site with young persons aged 10-16 years discussed their experiences and attitudes to education. Among the ten participants to this group only four go to school every day. Some attend only two days a week and those aged fourteen years or older reported that they did not attend school regularly.

4.16 One child reported that they only go to school two days a week because they get bullied while other felt that school was boring and that they learned little of value while they were there. They also felt that they had few friends among the children at school and that many of the other children avoided them because they were Gypsies.

Employment Status

- 4.17 The employment status of household members aged 16 years or older is shown in Figure 24. Of those who had their employment status recorded, 27% were looking after their home/family. Another 13% were retired and 10% were long term sick or disabled. 17% had a permanent job, another 20% had casual or seasonal work. The most common jobs that were detailed were scrap metal dealing, gardening and building.
- 4.18 The focus group with young persons found that many expected to work in similar occupations to their parents with the males in particular expecting to undertake manual work such as tarmacing, tree maintenance and scrap metal dealing. However, this was through choice and they did not feel that they were being pressurised to follow in a family tradition.

Figure 24
Employment Status of Household Members, by All Household Members Aged Over 16 Years (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



Health Problems

- 4.19 42% of respondents interviewed reported that their household contained at least one member with a long-term health problem. The most common problems experienced by members of the on-site Gypsy and Traveller population were walking and other mobility problems, stress or depression and diabetes.
- 4.20 Participants at the DGLG focus group confirmed that they felt that the health of the population was in many cases poor, and they felt that the situation was getting worse. Stress was identified as being a serious problem with the issue of temporary planning permission and security of tenure being raised. It was felt that people not knowing if you're going to be able to stay was contributing to stress related illnesses. The group also highlighted discrimination in employment as being a contributory factor in stress with many people not wishing to employ Gypsies and Travellers meaning that employment is difficult to find.
- 4.21 32% of those households which contain a member with a health problem report that the person concerned has care needs. However, all report that these care needs are currently being met. Only one household requires any form of adaptation to help the person with health needs. Therefore, there appear to be serious health issues in the Gypsy and Traveller population of Derbyshire, but their support needs are currently being met.

Bricks and Mortar Accommodation

- 4.22 20% of respondents reported that they had lived in bricks and mortar accommodation in the past. Almost all of this group now occupy pitches on authorised public sites. However, none had done so in the last 3 years. Many respondents reported that they had left bricks and mortar housing because they felt it was not part of their way of life.
- 4.23 Only one respondent expressed a desire to move to bricks and mortar housing. This respondent is currently on a Council waiting list. Therefore, the evidence from this survey is that there is very little interest in bricks and mortar accommodation among the on-site Gypsy and Traveller population in Derbyshire.
- 4.24 The DGLG focus group agreed that few people currently on sites would be interested in moving to bricks and mortar. It was felt to simply not be part of the Gypsy and Traveller culture and was felt to be restrictive for their lifestyle.
- 4.25 At the young person's focus group only one of the participants had lived in a house and they didn't like doing so. One of the participants felt that they may like living in a house because it would give them more space, but they would still want to keep a caravan to allow them to travel. The majority of the young persons were not interested in living anywhere except for caravans because it was part of their heritage and culture.

Summary of Key Points

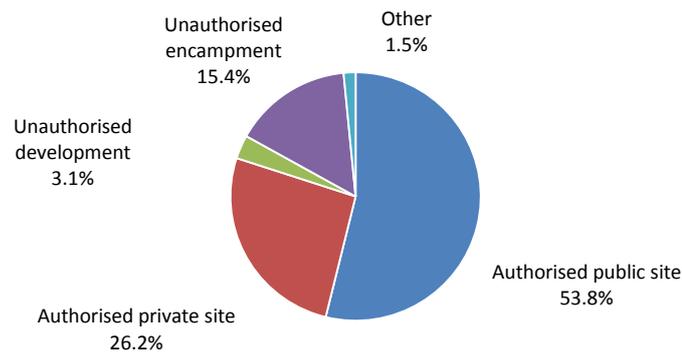
- In total, 239 people were contained within the 65 households which had complete interviews giving an average household size of 3.7 people per household with almost a third containing 6 or more people.
- Almost a third of all respondents had lived on their current site for more than five years, although another third had been there for less than 6 months.
- Many had strong connections to Derbyshire because of family or just because they had always been there.
- Over 40% of household members were aged 16 or under and of those of working age, only 17% had a permanent job.
- Although there is evidence of serious health problems, needs are currently being met.
- There is very little interest in bricks and mortar accommodation among the on-site Gypsy and Traveller population in Derbyshire.

Type of Site

- 5.1 54% of the on-site interviews were completed on authorised public sites. This represents interviews with around two-thirds of all authorised pitches on public sites in Derbyshire. However, the Woodyard Lane site in South Derbyshire District contained a number of empty pitches at the time of the survey and therefore the response rate was much higher than two-thirds.
- 5.2 Nearly 20% of all interviews which took place for the survey were on unauthorised sites. All reports of unauthorised encampments were approached to be interviewed and in the majority of cases successful interviews were achieved. However, unauthorised encampments are frequently very brief and in a small number of cases the reported unauthorised encampment had moved on before any attempt to interview them could be made.

Figure 25

Type of Site the Respondent is Currently Living on, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)

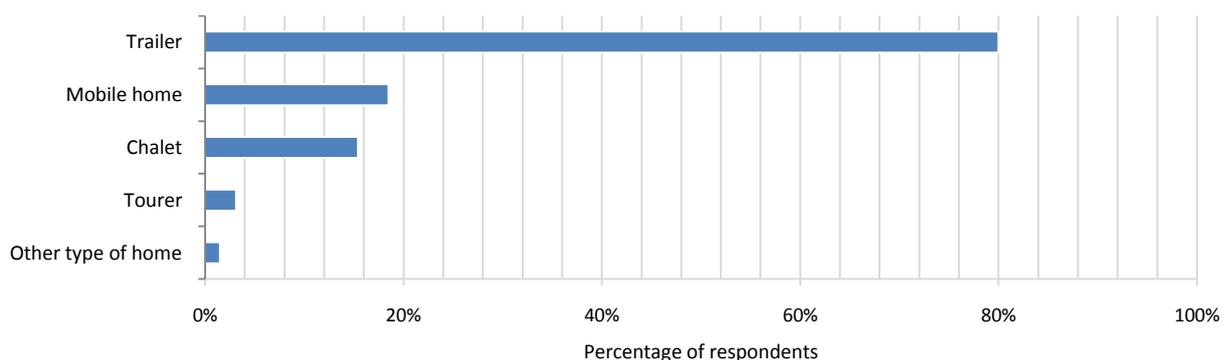


Type and Number of Caravans

- 5.3 Figure 26 shows that the type of accommodation occupied by respondents shows considerable variation. Around 80% of all households occupied at least one trailer, while a number had a mobile home or chalet. If the household had any combination of accommodation then they were counted in all categories.

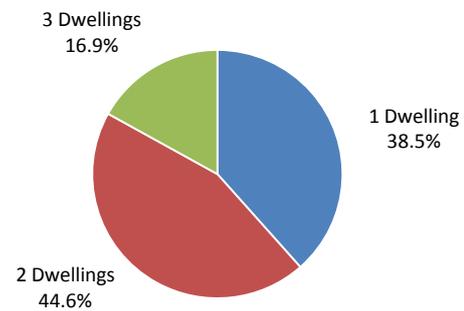
Figure 26

Nature of Accommodation, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



5.4 Figure 27 shows that nearly 40% of all the households interviewed had only one trailer/chalet/mobile home.

Figure 27
Number of Trailers/Mobile Homes/Chalets Owned by Respondent, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)

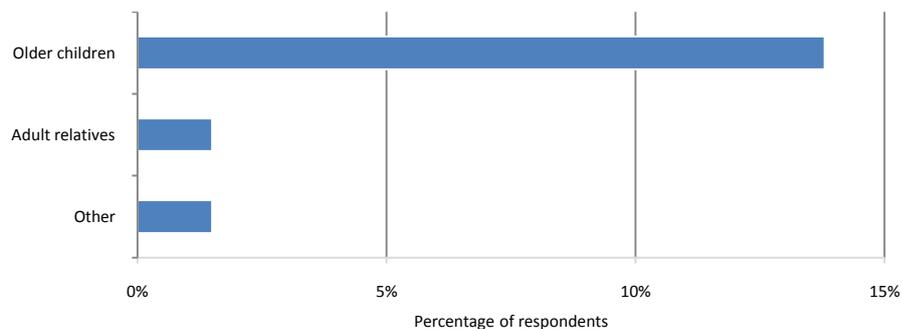


5.5 All respondents were asked if they require extra caravans. The evidence from the survey is that 10 (15%) of the 65 households would like more caravans within their existing household.

5.6 The phrasing of this question focused on a need rather than a demand for more caravans. Respondents were asked, irrespective of who was purchasing the caravans, whether they needed more caravans for household members. Therefore, this question simply reflected a perceived need for more caravans, rather than an ability to afford (demand for) more caravans.

5.7 The evidence from this survey is that extra caravans were felt to be needed mainly if there were older children within the household. Therefore, the extra caravans are most likely to be needed to provide more sleeping accommodation on existing pitches. This could be seen as relieving overcrowding at existing pitches by providing more living space without the necessity of providing any further pitch provision.

Figure 28
Who Requires Additional Caravans, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



5.8 Of those who would like extra caravans, seven require one more trailer, two require two more trailers and one requires four more trailers.

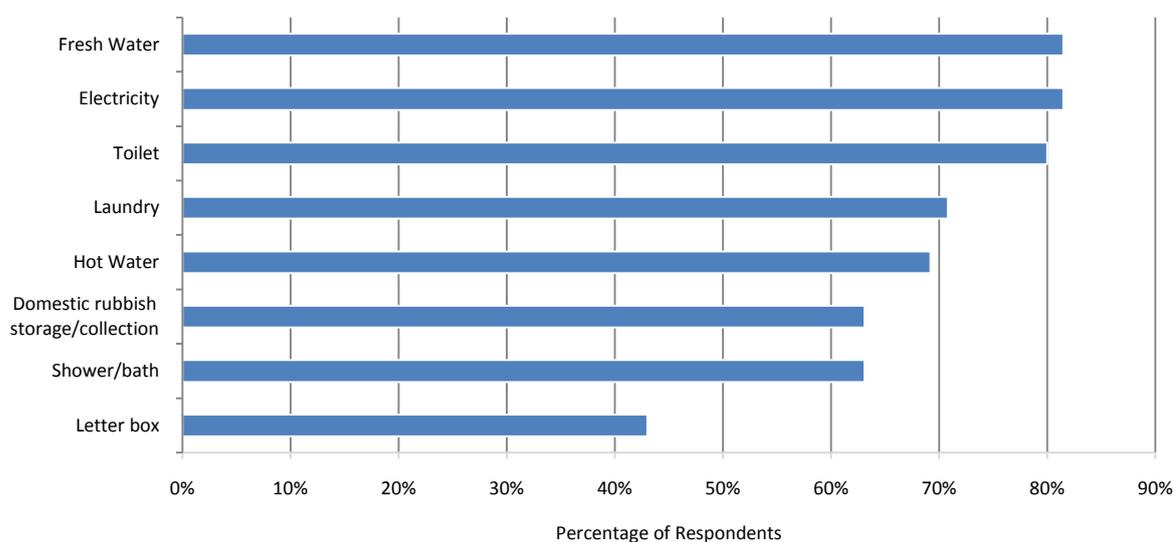
5.9 It is also noteworthy that over 10% of households reported that there were people living elsewhere who they would like to have living with them. This group predominantly wanted either parents or adult children to be living with them. All but one of the additional persons live outside of Derbyshire. Therefore, if anyone was to join existing households it would not free any extra pitch provision in Derbyshire.

Site Facilities

5.10 Figure 29 shows that the percentage of households with access to facilities which are just for their own use. Many of those who do not have access to facilities such as fresh water, electricity, a toilet and laundry were on unauthorised encampments.

Figure 29

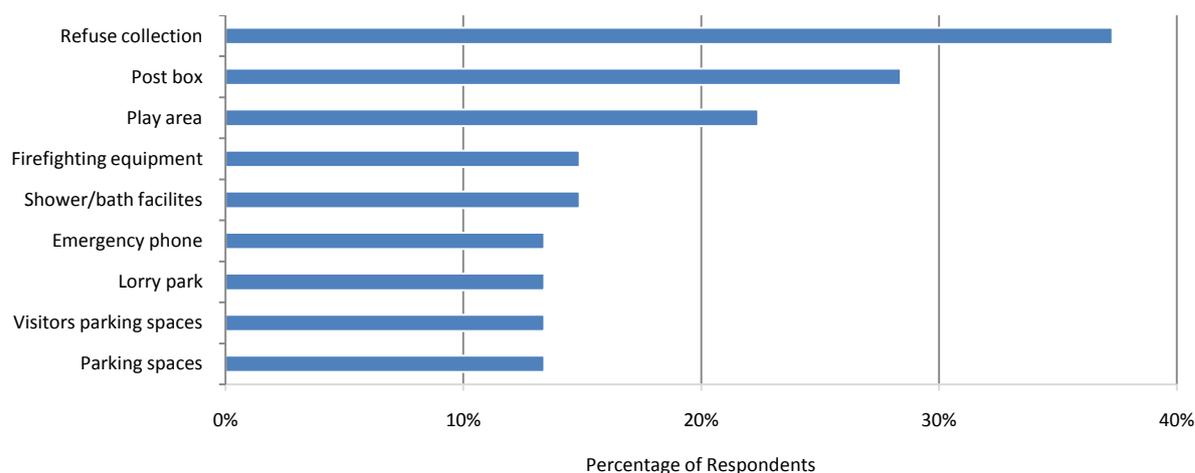
Facilities That are Available to Respondents for the Use of Just Their Family, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



5.11 Figure 30 shows that access to communal facilities for respondents. This shows that communal facilities are relatively limited on many of the sites.

Figure 30

Facilities That are Available to Respondents for Communal Use, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



Views of Sites

5.12 The majority of respondents were satisfied with their sites. 69% of respondents expressed some form of satisfaction with their site, with only 16% expressing dissatisfaction.

5.13 However, almost all of the respondents who expressed dissatisfaction were living on unauthorised encampments.

5.14 The text comments which accompany this question indicate that many of those living on unauthorised encampments would like to move to a permanent base.

5.15 Figure 32 shows the improvements which were identified by respondents as being required at their permanent sites. Despite the majority being satisfied with their sites, only 18% of respondents felt that no improvements were required. Almost all of these reside on private sites.

5.16 Many respondents who wanted better washing and toilet facilities resided on public sites. Many also felt that they would like improved pest control on their site.

5.17 Very few respondents reported that they wanted more storage space for business needs or asked for better parking facilities.

Figure 31
Satisfaction with Current Site, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)

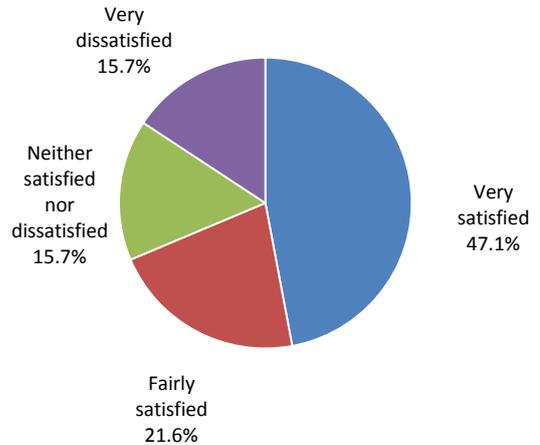
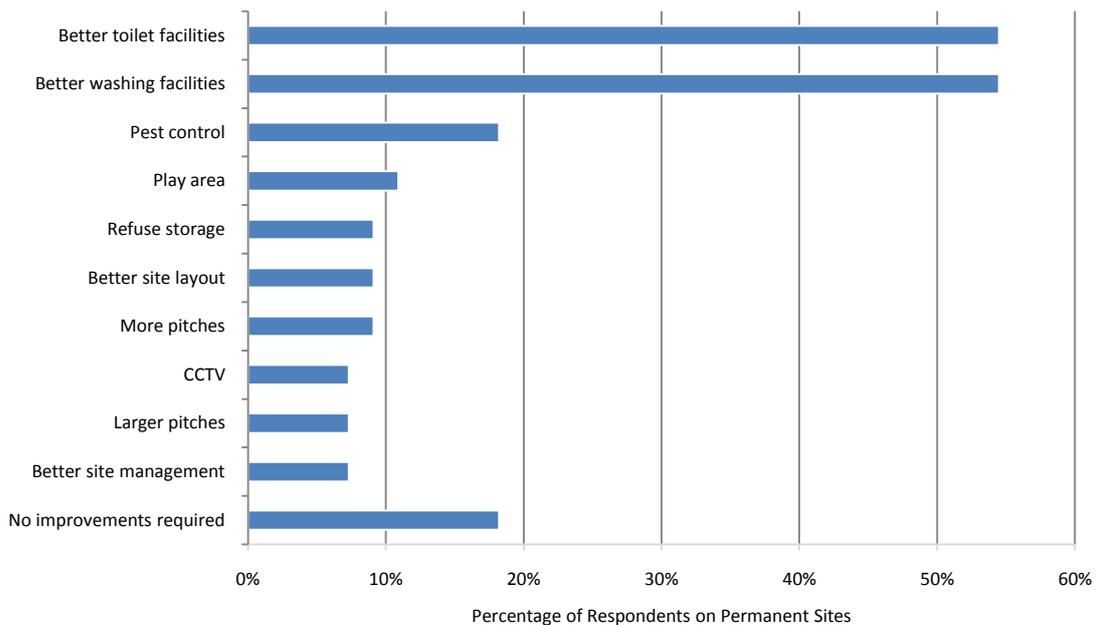


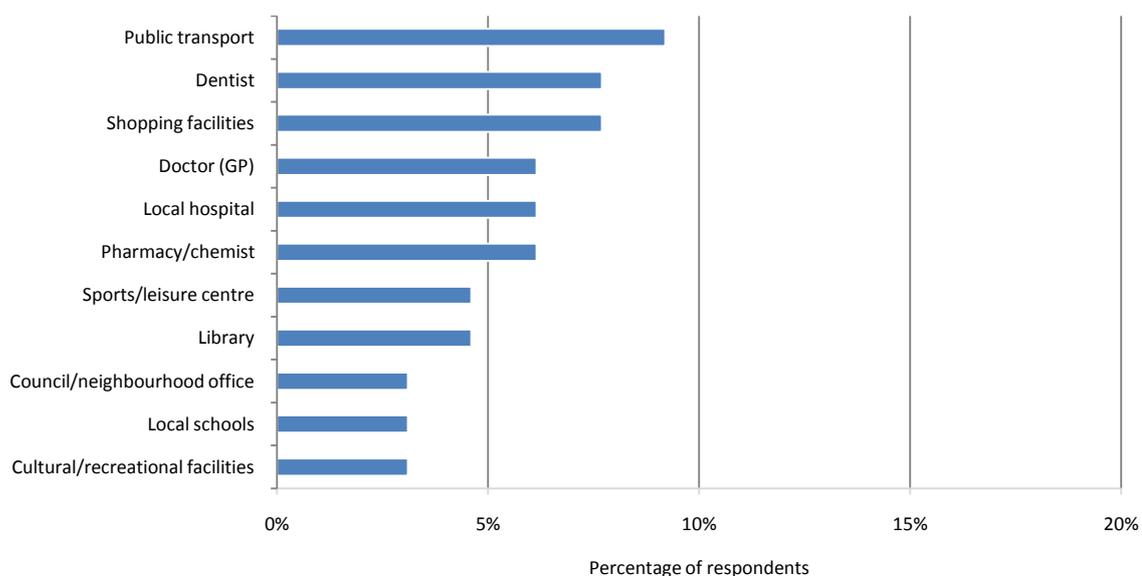
Figure 32
Improvements Which Respondents Would Like to See on Their Site, by all Respondents on Permanent Sites (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



- 5.18 A small minority (14%) of respondents reported that they had difficulty in accessing services at their current site. The largest single difficulty identified among those interviewed was that of access to public transport. This would suggest that some households lack access to transport of their own and that the level of public transport provided near their sites is not adequate. Many of the other difficulties such as access to a GP, shopping, hospital and pharmacy are also likely to be linked to the lack of adequate public transport.

Figure 33

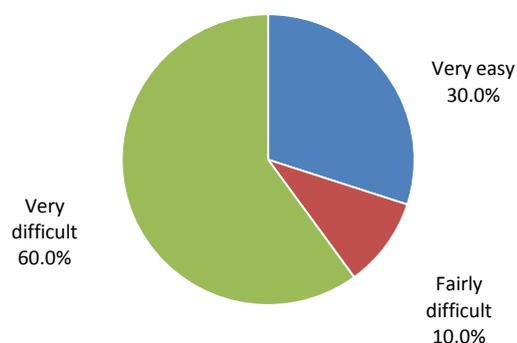
Problems Accessing Services at Current Site, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



Private Sites

- 5.19 10 respondents to the survey reported that they had required planning permission for their site. Of those who did need planning permission, only 3 felt that this was fairly easy to obtain while six felt it had been very difficult to obtain planning permission for their site.

Figure 34
The Ease of Obtaining Planning Permission, by all Respondents who Required Planning Permission (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



- 5.20 Many of the participants at the DGLG focus group felt that Gypsies and Travellers like to have a site for just their family because they could control who they lived with. In general they felt that sites for just one family were better than large public sites and that the conditions on them were typically better. However, the group also acknowledged that not all Gypsy and Traveller households could afford to buy their own land and that there would continue to be a need for the provision of public sites.
- 5.21 Many of the participants at the young person's focus group also felt that they would like to have a site for just their family and that this was something many aspire to when they are older.

Security and Crime

5.22 Many (15%) respondents report that they have experienced at least one case of harassment, vandalism or loss of property from their site in the last 12 months. Of those who were willing to apportion blame, 8 respondents felt the problems were caused by local people from outside the site.

Propensity to Travel

5.23 35% of respondents reported that they had not travelled at all during the last 12 months. 25% had made five or more different trips from the permanent base.

5.24 Therefore, the Gypsy and Traveller population in Derbyshire contains many household who do not travel, but also contains a much more mobile population.

5.25 Around a half of those who did not travel in the past 12 months had travelled in the past. Figure 36 shows that the most common explanation for this is that they want a more settled lifestyle. However, some have also stopped travelling due to difficulties in camping at the side of the road.

5.26 Therefore, the low rate of travelling among the Gypsy and Traveller population in Derbyshire appears to be due to a combination of a lack of opportunities to travel elsewhere, and a desire to settle in one place.

Figure 35
 Number of Trips Made in Last 12 Months, by all Respondents
 (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)

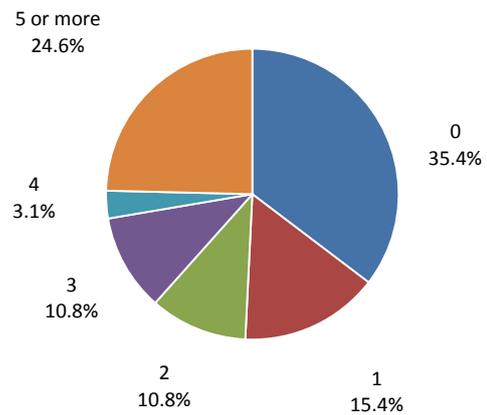
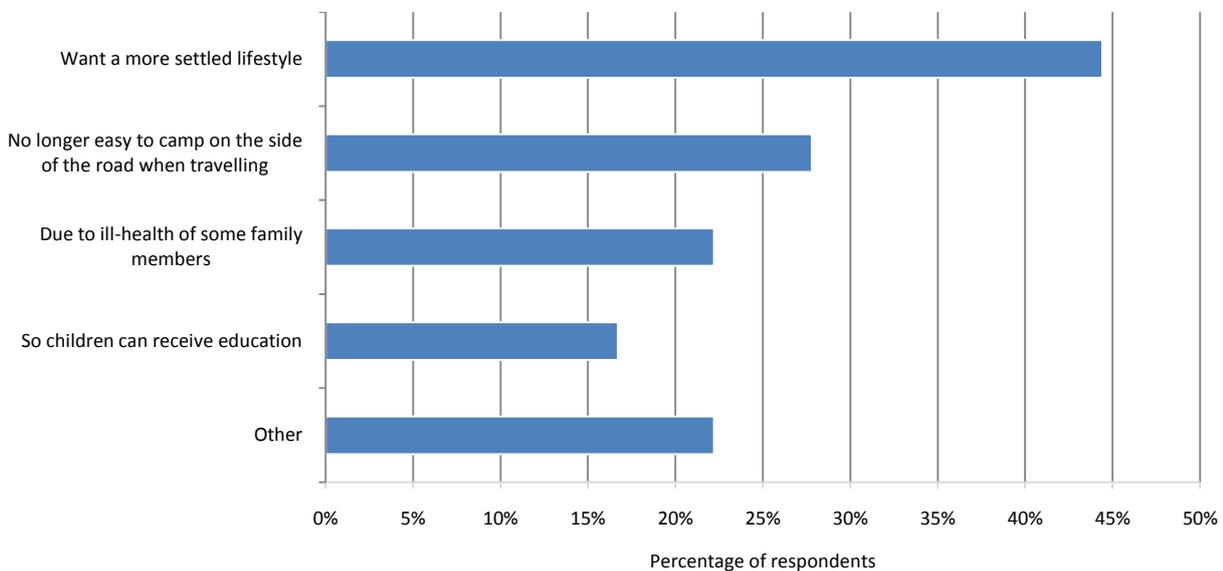


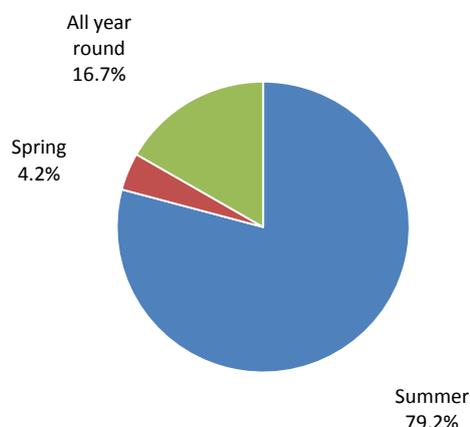
Figure 36
 Why Respondents No Longer Travel, by all Respondents Who Have Travelled in the Past (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



5.27 Of those respondents who do travel, the main period for travelling is the summer.

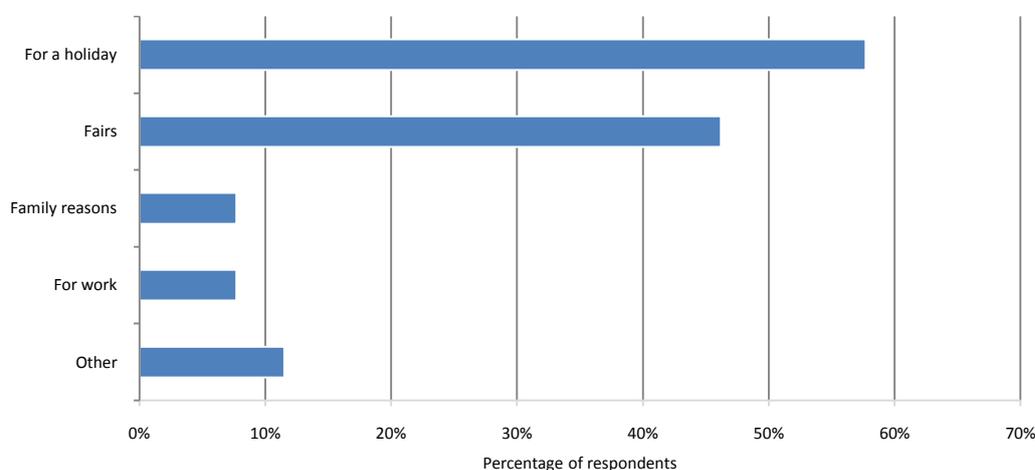
5.28 Figure 38 shows that the main reasons for travelling is for a holiday or to attend fairs. Very few members of the Gypsy and Traveller population of Derbyshire reported that they travel for economic reasons. However, participants at the DGLG focus group felt that in many households some members travel in the summer for work while other members of the household do not. It was also noted that part of the Gypsy and Traveller culture is to have a permanent base to return to, but that many members do want to travel for extended periods of time on a regular basis.

Figure 37
Time of Year They Travel, by all Respondents who Currently Travel
(Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



5.29 Therefore, it was felt that travelling for work was still a key part of the Gypsy and Traveller lifestyle, but that this was becoming more difficult due to the lack of suitable stopping places around the country.

Figure 38
Why Respondents No Longer Travel, by all Respondents Who Have Travelled in the Past (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2007)



5.30 The young person's focus group felt that one of the best things about the Gypsy and Traveller lifestyle was to ability to move around the country when they wanted to. However, they were aware that it is difficult to find places to stop when travelling and that most sites around the country were full. They identified a need for more areas around the country where Gypsies and Travellers could pull on to temporarily without being faced with the threat of enforcement action.

Summary of Key Points

- Nearly 40% had only one trailer/chalet/mobile home and 15% would like extra caravans. Extra caravans are usually required when there are older children resident and so overcrowding can be accommodated for without the need for additional pitches.
- The majority of households had access to services such as fresh water, electricity and a toilet for use just by themselves. Those who didn't were mainly on unauthorised sites. Communal facilities are much more limited generally.
- The majority of respondents were satisfied with their site. Only 16% expressed dissatisfaction although many of these were on unauthorised sites and also expressed a wish to move to a more permanent site.
- Over 80% thought that their site needed some improvements to their site –mostly better washing and toilet facilities on public sites.
- Inadequate public transport facilities and subsequently access to local services was also reported as a difficulty.
- Many respondents have experienced some form of harassment, vandalism or loss of property within the last 12 months.
- Many Gypsy and Traveller households in Derbyshire do not travel which appears to be due to a combination of lack of opportunities and a desire to settle in one place. However, it was still felt that the ability to travel was a key part of Gypsy and Traveller culture.

Chapter 6: Bricks and Mortar

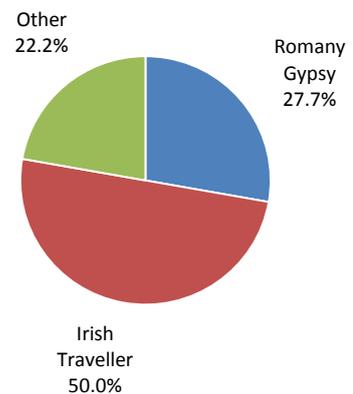
Introduction

- 6.1 Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar are very difficult to identify because few housing waiting and transfer lists identify Gypsies and Travellers as a separate ethnic group. ORS's experience with Housing Needs Surveys indicates that Gypsies and Travellers typically account for around 0.5%-1% of all households, but it is almost impossible to identify a representative sample of this group.
- 6.2 The bricks and mortar interviews were identified through the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group and the Derby & Derbyshire Traveller Education Service. Therefore, the interviews are unlikely to be fully representative of the views all Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar, but they do provide an interesting context for this group.

Ethnic Background

- 6.3 In total, 73 people were contained within the 19 households which were interviewed. This gives an average household size of 3.8 people per household which is similar to the on-site population.
- 6.4 Half of all respondents were Irish Travellers. Around a quarter of respondents were Romany Gypsies, and the remainder identified themselves as English Gypsies which, as was noted earlier, is often used interchangeably with Romany Gypsy.

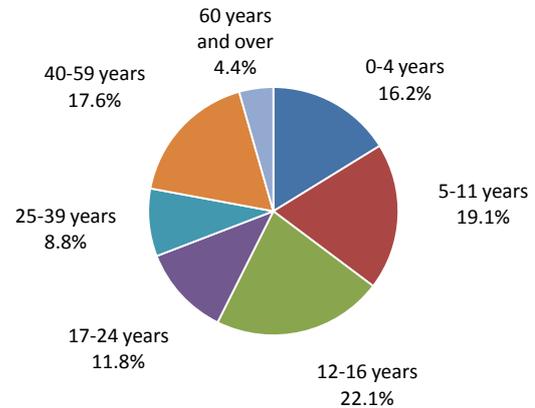
Figure 39
Ethnic Group by all Respondents in Bricks and Mortar (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population in Bricks and Mortar 2007)



Age and Household Profile

6.5 The households showed a mixed range of ages across their members. The households contained 4% people who were of retirement age, but over 50% of all household members were aged 16 years or under. 41% of all household members were of school age and another 16% were children aged 4 years or less. Therefore, the population in bricks and mortar contains a higher proportion of children than those on-site.

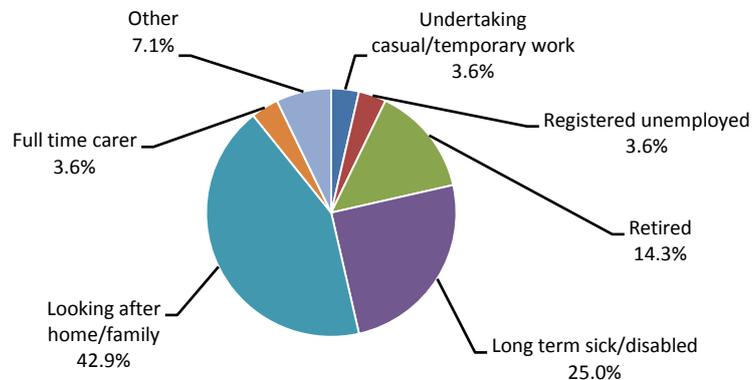
Figure 40
Age of Household Members, by all Household Members (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population in Bricks and Mortar 2007)



Employment Status

6.6 The employment status of household members aged 16 years or more is shown in Figure 41. Of those who had their employment status recorded, 43% were looking after their home/family. Another 14% were retired and 25% were long term sick or disabled. Only 4% were employed.

Figure 41
Employment Status of Household Members in Bricks and Mortar, by All Household Members Aged Over 16 Years (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population in Bricks and Mortar 2007)



Health Problems

6.7 71% of respondents interviewed reported that their household contained at least one member with a long-term health problem. The major problems reported were with stress or depression, walking and other mobility problems and diabetes.

6.8 Of those households which contain someone with a health problem, 61% reported that the person with the health problem can support themselves. This implies 39% require some form of care or support. However, all of this group are currently receiving the care or support they require. Therefore, there appears to be serious health issues in the bricks and mortar Gypsy and Traveller population of Derbyshire, but their support needs are currently being met.

On-site Accommodation

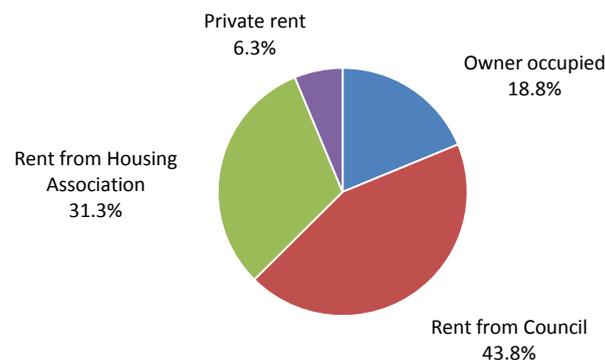
6.9 No respondent to the survey reported that they currently have a pitch on a site. However, 12 of the 19 respondents have previously lived on-site. The majority report that they left the on-site accommodation because they wanted a more settled lifestyle or because of their children. Only one respondent reports that they want to move back to a site and they are on a waiting list for a Council site. Therefore, the evidence from this survey is also that there is very little interest in moving back on to site accommodation among the Gypsy and Traveller population in bricks and mortar in Derbyshire. However, it should be remembered that this conclusion is based upon a very partial sample of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar and that potentially more could wish to move on to sites.

Type of Home

6.10 75% of interviews were obtained in properties rented from either a Housing Association or a Council. Only a small number of interviews were conducted with owner occupiers.

Figure 42

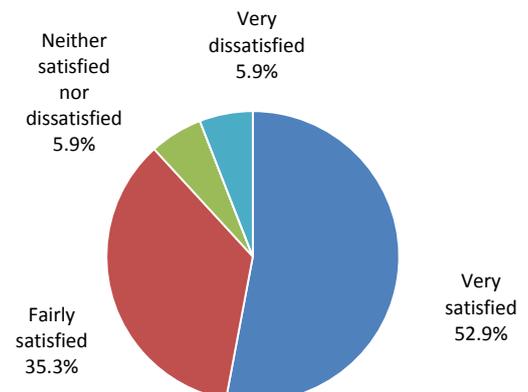
Tenure of Bricks and Mortar Accommodation, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population in Bricks and Mortar 2007)



6.11 The majority of respondents were satisfied with their homes. 88% of respondents expressed some form of satisfaction with their home, with only 1 respondent expressing dissatisfaction.

Figure 43

Satisfaction with Current Home, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population in Bricks and Mortar 2007)



Propensity to Travel

- ^{6.12} Only 3 of the 19 respondents had travelled in the past 12 months. 14 had travelled in the past, but no longer do so. The main reasons given for not travelling were the education of their children and that they wished to have a more settled lifestyle.
- ^{6.13} Therefore, the bricks and mortar Gypsy and Traveller population in Derbyshire is a largely settled one with very few of its current travelling. This is in contrast to the on-site population where the majority of the population still continue to travel to fairs and for holidays.

Summary of Key Points

- Owing to problems identifying Gypsy and Traveller households in bricks and mortar accommodation the interviews are unlikely to be fully representative but do provide a useful context.
- Half of all respondents were Irish Travellers, which is a much higher proportion than for those on sites (17.5%).
- Over 50% of household members were aged 16 or under and of those of employment age only 4% were employed which is much lower than for those living on sites.
- Although there appears to be serious health problems, their needs are currently being met.
- There appears to be very little interest in moving back on to site accommodation among the Gypsy and Traveller population in bricks and mortar in Derbyshire.
- The majority of respondents were happy with their accommodation with only one respondent expressing dissatisfaction.
- The bricks and mortar population are generally more settled than the on-site population claiming that they desire a more settled lifestyle.

Chapter 7: Showmen

Introduction

- ^{7.1} This section focuses on the needs and aspirations of Showmen in Derbyshire. It aims to show how the lifestyles of Showmen differ from that of Gypsies and Travellers and subsequently what their specific needs are.
- ^{7.2} Many of the policies and guidance which apply to Gypsies and Travellers as apply to Showmen. However, while guidance on providing Gypsy sites is provided in Circular 1/06, guidance for Showmen sites is provided in Circular 4/07 'Planning for Travelling. Showpeople' which replaced Circular 22/91 'Travelling Showpeople' in August 2007.
- ^{7.3} Circular 4/07 is very similar in tone and structure to Circular 1/06 and includes;
- A requirement that local authorities identify suitable sites for travelling Showmen in their development plan documents;
 - Improved guidance on identifying the criteria in development plans against which applications for sites not allocated in the development plans will be judged;
 - The inclusion of advice for local authorities on how they should seek to engage with travelling Showmen and build trust;
 - The inclusion of advice to travelling Showmen and their representatives on how to engage with the planning system.

Showmen

- ^{7.4} There is currently one permanent Showman site in Derbyshire situated on the outskirts of Pinxton village in Bolsover District Council area. A focus group with 10 Showman from this site was carried out in January 2008, the outcome of which is presented in this chapter.
- ^{7.5} It was clear that Showmen do not consider themselves to be in any way associated with Gypsies and Travellers and the only similarity is the fact they both live in caravans – *“Everyone in the Showmen’s Guild wants to point out that we are not Gypsies! We live in caravans because it’s our business and we have to”*. The participants emphasised that this was not to be seen as them holding negative views about Gypsies and Travellers, but rather that they felt their needs and cultural history were very different. The Showmen noted that living in caravans is essential for the work they do; they need to travel and expensive equipment cannot be left alone in a recreation ground for security reasons. In this they differ from many Gypsies and Travellers for whom living in a caravan is a cultural, rather than practical, issue.
- ^{7.6} The Showmen noted that when they have been asked in the past if they are an ethnic minority they have said no, although they acknowledge that they may be a cultural minority. Consequently they feel that it is important to assess Showmen needs separately to other groups who travel.

The Current Site

- 7.7 The site at Pinxton/Selston was the first permanent Showman site to be built in the country (21 years ago). At the time it was built it was decided to divide the original 9 acres into plots of 100ft by 100ft (30m/30m) and then areas of two 100ft plots or multiples thereof were allocated to families. This has since become the standard layout for other sites around the country.
- 7.8 The majority of the plots on the Pinxton site are individually owned although a part is reserved for those who can't afford to buy and is rented out by the Showmen's Guild. Many families have more than one caravan within their area to accommodate grown up children and their emerging families and some families live in more permanent accommodation such as chalets or bungalows.
- 7.9 The Showmen were keen to point out that their caravans are really "*luxury mobile homes*" which include all the facilities you would expect from any home, including central heating. It was also acknowledged that although the site is not ideal, they have a good quality of life there because it is permanent and they can have things like gardens – "*It's my home and I love it*".

Education

- 7.10 One of the key issues affecting Showmen at present is the level of education that the children are receiving and is something they all felt was very important – "*The most important thing for young people is education*", and the parents try their hardest to encourage their children. The Showmen talked of their experiences of school when they were young, where there were 40 children in a class and they had to move around so much (in some cases they went to 20 different schools) that they did not get much attention. They recognise the importance of education for many things later in life and want to ensure that their children and grandchildren have better opportunities.
- 7.11 However the nature of show work makes getting a good education very difficult and it was suggested that more permanent sites would help the situation as the children would be able to go to the same school. It was stated that the children have to have 100 days and preferably 200 days in school per year but without permanent sites this is often not possible.
- 7.12 The benefit of having the permanent site at Pinxton was advocated as giving the children there the opportunity to get a better education than ever before because they are able to attend the same school regularly – "*my children were part of school life because of this site*".
- 7.13 Presently the children travel with their parents and although they take work packs with them, it is believed they are still missing out on a lot. They also try to bring them back as often as they can but the amount of extra travelling this creates makes it very difficult. Some are paying for private tutors but this has proved to be very expensive.
- 7.14 When asked whether they would prefer that the children stay on the permanent site or that there was education on the road, the best option was considered to be a bit of both. It was suggested that even just being given a timetable by the school, so they knew when to get the children back for school, would be beneficial.
- 7.15 It was also evident that the showmen felt they had a stigma attached and the children were treated differently because of who they were- "*When my son started school the teacher pointed out that he was different*". Another spoke of a situation where they were told that there was no place for their

child when they came back, but that with the help of the Traveller Education Officer they managed to find a place in another school.

Trends

- 7.16 Another major issue affecting Showmen is lack of space. The site was built twenty one years ago but since then the children have grown up and have started to have children of their own. It was stated that ninety per cent of the children also decide to follow on with the family business. Generally at the Pinxton site they try to accommodate as many as they can and do not expect the extended family to move on – *“We don’t chuck them out at 18 – they stay when they get married. That’s the way we are”*. Consequently they are expanding and running out of room.
- 7.17 It was also suggested that the nature of their work has changed over recent years. Instead of the traditional summer village fairs, the Showmen are now involved with larger scale fairs and festivals and there has also been an increase in the number of winter fairs. This not only keeps them busier for more of the year but has also required them to buy bigger and better equipment to keep the public interested. This equipment has to be stored somewhere so they need more space around their caravans to do so, not only at their current site in Pinxton but on sites around the country for when they are at fairs. Particularly at shows such as pop concerts, they can only arrive the day before whereas in the past they were there for three or four days, which means a lot of equipment has to be left behind at the depot.
- 7.18 The showmen wished to emphasise that expanding their businesses would mean that other people also benefit, as they would have to employ more staff who will then spend their money in the local area. They also keep many businesses going and it was pointed out that three firms locally deal only with showmen.

Site Needs and Aspirations

- 7.19 Essentially the showmen would like to obtain more permanent sites around the country to accommodate overflow from the current site, and to provide more bases for use when travelling to fairs. In the first instance, it would seem that one extra permanent site would make a huge difference. It was remarked that *“we need a new big site immediately”*. They were starting to get full about ten years ago but have still not secured a new site.
- 7.20 Having more permanent sites around the country was also seen as beneficial so that showmen have somewhere to stop off, as many often do at the Pinxton site. Often once a fair has finished the showmen have to leave the site and so they have to return to Derbyshire as there is nowhere else to go. It was remarked that it was particularly bad last summer (2007) when owing to the bad weather many fairs were cancelled and the site at Pinxton became overcrowded.
- 7.21 Permanent sites are also seen as more secure and therefore much more desirable to Showmen. It was stated that there has never been a break in or case of vandalism on the Pinxton site, although it does happen in the local area. The Showmen also spoke of how they could ring up anyone on the site and check up on their family, giving them the feeling of extra security.
- 7.22 Other advantages of permanent sites given were better education opportunities, a better quality of life and being able to buy things like premium bonds and borrow money which requires a permanent address. Being a land owner was seen as important for developing their businesses and therefore long-term security.

- 7.23 There were also concerns about retirement – *“Where do I retire? I can’t retire in a lay-by. We need somewhere we can call home. We need another site”*. It was stated that in the past retired showmen would rely on their children but that they do not want to become a burden. Another permanent site was seen as essential for a good quality of life in retirement.
- 7.24 When asked what size/sort of site was needed no definitive answer was given and was stated that, as in the past, the Showmen’s Guild would hold a meeting to assess needs especially in relation to numbers and site location and it was agreed that it was better to take a joint rather than individual approach. It was reported that a permanent site in Lancashire was now full and that there has been one in Bolton for many years but it is – *“not good there”*. One Showman believed there was a need for another 200 homes nationwide.
- 7.25 In general it was thought that ideally the new site would be somewhere on the edge of a community in-between residential and industrial and that the site itself was suitable for both residential use for the caravans and industrial use for the storage of their equipment. In terms of size it was remarked – *“We need a site as big as this”*, indicating there is a substantial need.
- 7.26 Somewhere like the Pinxton site was thought to be all they needed as although it was acknowledged that it was not perfect (located immediately adjacent to the M1 motorway) it was their home and adequate for their needs. However, this does not mean that the Showmen are willing to live anywhere – *“no one wants to live under pylons”* and it was remarked by one showman that they (the council) find somewhere that they wouldn’t want to live, and then offer it to the Showmen.
- 7.27 The Showmen can only get temporary permission to stay on the road between March and October and it was stated that they often get asked to move on. It was pointed out that fairground rides are generally accepted everywhere as they attract the public but the caravans are not and there is very little room. Consequently there is a demand for more sites in town centres. There is also the issue of facilities such as sewerage and energy supply; ideally they would like to tap into the local supply but often this is not possible.

Planning Permission

- 7.28 The ideal situation would be to expand the existing site but this is not possible because it is bordered by a river, a railway line and the M1 motorway. Therefore it is necessary to identify a new site but it is difficult to find somewhere that is both suitable for their needs and meets planning requirements. It was also evident that planning permission was hard to obtain- *“all we want is planning permission”* - and it was remarked that although the council had agreed that there is a need for a new site, they haven’t helped them to do so and that if they were to suggest a site, they would be told that it was not suitable.
- 7.29 One Showman remarked that people (the council and the public) don’t look at what Showmen can bring to a community, only the disadvantages and the Showmen are keen to move away from this negative image. It was also complained that despite dealing with the council year round for payment of rent and suchlike, without any problems, they were still not being helped to find a site. The fair in Tewkesbury was given as an example – *“They love the fair but they don’t want to find us a site.”*
- 7.30 When asked what key thing they wanted was, it was made very clear – *“we want three things: planning, planning, planning.....and a new site!”* Education was also mentioned as very important to them, but it is clear that finding a new site is the priority at present. The focus group members were

keen to find out about this report and how it might help their situation. They were also very pleased that somebody had come to talk to them and listened to their needs and wants, although it was recognised that any changes would take time to come into effect.

- ^{7.31} Some of the showmen were aware of only one individual showman getting planning permission for a new site, in Sheffield. This demonstrates the difficulty involved in obtaining planning permission. The showmen have looked at possible plots of land but it was remarked *“we know we won’t get it”* because of the proximity to residential areas. There is also a question of cost as it was indicated that it costs anything between £150,000 and £200,000 per acre, which is very expensive. This has changed dramatically from 21 years ago where each acre was £10,000 totalling £250,000 for the Pinxton Site.
- ^{7.32} It should be noted that the Showmen made it clear that they feel they are not a burden on the country and that although they need to gain planning permission from the council, they wish to find the sites themselves and buy them – *“We are not a burden on the government. We want to find our own sites and we want to buy”*. It was also stated – *“We want to be part of society and pay our dues. We are prepared to pay for ourselves we just want planning”*.

Summary of Key Points

- Showmen perceive themselves as a cultural minority who are distinct from Gypsies and Travellers. They live in caravans because it is part of their job.
- The site at Pinxton was the first in England dedicated to Showmen when it was built 21 years earlier.
- The residents are happy with the site, but feel that it is overcrowded and that they need a new site to expand to.
- Showmen feel that their businesses are expanding due to the growth in winter fairs and music festivals.
- The Showmen saw the education of their children as being very important, but felt it was difficult to get them into school for enough days if they did not have a permanent site.
- The Showmen would like a new permanent site in the Derbyshire area, but were unsure of exactly where this would be ideally located. They also felt that it would be difficult to get a local authority to grant planning permission for a new site.
- The Showmen recognised that a new site would be expensive, but were looking to buy the land themselves rather than seek public subsidy.

Chapter 8: Extra Site Provision

Site Provision

- 8.1 This section focuses on the extra site provision which is required in Derbyshire in at least the next 5 years. This time period allows for robust forecasts of the requirements for extra provision based upon the evidence contained within this survey and also secondary data sources. However, many of the trends which are used to derive the forecasts for the next 5 years will continue to apply beyond this timeframe and can be used to forecast requirements for longer time periods.
- 8.2 This section concentrates not only upon the total extra provision which is required in the area, but whether this provision should be in the form of public or private sites, is there a need for any transit site / emergency stopping place provision, and which local authorities should provide any identified need.
- 8.3 The DCLG published guidance in October 2007 on conducting 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments'. This contains an illustrated example on how to calculate the current and future need for residential site pitches. The key factor in this methodology is to compare the predicted amount of extra site space which will become available with a prediction of the need for extra space on sites. This section will follow the recommended approach suggested by DCLG, but will also bring to bear additional evidence, particularly in relation to the location of new sites.

Current Site Provision

- 8.4 The first stage of assessing need in the DCLG methodology is to identify the current number of authorised pitches. Figure 3 on Page 14 of this report showed that there are 93 residential pitches in Derbyshire. This comprised 55 pitches on authorised public sites and 38 pitches on authorised private sites.

Space Available on Sites

- 8.5 The second stage of the DCLG methodology is to assess how much space is or will become available on existing sites. The main ways in which space is/will be freed are:
- Current empty pitches;
 - New sites or site extensions which are likely to gain planning permission;
 - Migration away from the area;
 - Movement to bricks and mortar;
 - Dissolution of households.
- 8.6 The Woodyard Lane site in South Derbyshire District has approximately five pitches vacant. This is not due to a lack of households who wish to live on the site, but rather due to current site management issues. When these issues are resolved the pitches should be quickly filled. The Pleasley Vale site in Bolsover District will provide up to 25 extra residential pitches in the north of the County. It is also the case that 3 households currently resident on permanent sites in Derbyshire expect to move to other areas in the next 2 years. Extrapolating this result it is likely that around 8 pitches will become free

from households leaving the area over the next five years. Also, one respondent to the survey intended to move to bricks and mortar accommodation. Therefore, few pitches on the existing sites will become available.

- 8.7 The dissolution of a household occurs when all the members leave the household. Common ways for a household to dissolve are for a person living on their own to die, or to move to an existing household. The survey found very few households that were of pensionable age and therefore no households are expected to dissolve.

Figure 44

Availability of Space on Sites (Source: Site and Local Authority Records and Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population on-site 2007)

Reason for Pitch Vacancy	Number of pitches
Currently empty pitches	5
New sites or site extensions	25
Migration away from area	8
Movement to bricks and mortar	1
Dissolution of households	0
Total	39

Additional Site Provision

- 8.8 The third stage of the DCLG guidance is to assess how many households are likely to be seeking pitches in the area. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking pitches in Derbyshire will include:
- Those living on current unauthorised developments or encampments;
 - Those living on existing sites threatened with closure;
 - Those on waiting lists for public sites;
 - In-migration from other sources;
 - Those living in currently overcrowded accommodation;
 - New household formation from within households on existing sites;
 - New household formation from within bricks and mortar accommodation;
 - Transit site provision.

Current Unauthorised Developments and Encampments

- 8.9 The survey generated 12 interviews on unauthorised developments or encampments. The most significant of these was in Derby UA where one respondent spoke for a group of 26 caravans. This site would require a site of around 16 pitches to meet all of their needs. For some of the unauthorised encampments, the respondents either had a base elsewhere or were seeking a new base outside of Derbyshire. Others already had a base in Derbyshire and were temporarily away from this base. Therefore, only another 5 households on unauthorised encampments or developments were seeking permanent accommodation in Derbyshire. It should be noted that this result is based upon the interview sample and that other households who have occupied unauthorised encampments outside the interview period may also wish to have a pitch on a permanent site in Derbyshire.
- 8.10 As noted in the introduction, the survey also featured a site visit focus group with Irish Travellers who were residing on a roundabout in South Derbyshire District. The site contained 13 caravans which were all part of one extended family, but which could be split into around eight separate households.

- 8.11 The group reported that they were evicted from a site they owned in Epping Forest in Essex two years ago. The site had planning permission for stables, but not for residential occupation. The land is still owned by the group, but they feel that there is no possibility that they will be allowed to occupy it again. However, the group said that Essex was part of their traditional summer travelling route and that they would go back if they were allowed to.
- 8.12 Given that they feel that they will not be allowed to move back to Epping Forest they were seeking a site in the Midlands. The group arrived in South Derbyshire District after being evicted from an unauthorised site in Nottinghamshire. They also reported that all of their money is tied up in Epping Forest and that they could not afford their own private site and were instead seeking a public site. They had approached a number of councils, but all public sites are full. Therefore, it was anticipated a new public site will be required to accommodate the group.
- 8.13 The group were strongly opposed to moving to bricks and mortar as it is not part of their culture. Therefore, there is a clear need to find a site with around eight pitches for the group to allow them to settle in one place, and to be able to allow their children to attend schools.
- 8.14 However, they represent a difficult case for studies such as this because there is not a clear case to provide a site in South Derbyshire District, or any other part of Derbyshire. The first preference of the group is to live in Essex and this would seem to be the most natural place to provide a site. Therefore no extra site provision is recommended directly for this group in this survey, but it is noted that the needs of this group will have to be addressed somewhere and if their needs cannot be met in Essex then they may have to be met in the Midlands.

Waiting lists for Council Sites

- 8.15 The method of registering a desire to obtain a pitch on a public site is through placing your name on the waiting list. Applicants for pitches on public sites in Derbyshire are allowed to request a pitch on as many sites as they wish. Figure 45 shows the number of applications that relate to specific sites. Anyone seeking to transfer from one pitch on a public site to another or who has been included elsewhere in the calculations has been excluded.
- 8.16 The DCLG guidance on assessing the need for pitch provision recommends identifying households who are living elsewhere who are seeking permanent site accommodation and counting them all in the need for residential pitches in the area. Therefore, this would suggest that 35 pitches on public sites in Derbyshire are required to accommodate all the specific extra demand for pitches from outside the area. This number can be taken as a backlog of need in that all households would wish to move to public site in Derbyshire if a pitch were available now.

Figure 45
Number of Applicants for Specific Public Sites in Derbyshire (Source: Site and Local Authority Records)

Site	Number on waiting list
Corbriggs, North East Derbyshire	15
Woodyard Lane, South Derbyshire	11
Lullington Crossroads, South Derbyshire	9
Total	35

In-migration from Other Sources

- 8.17 The most complicated area for a survey such as this is to estimate how many households will require accommodation from outside the area in the next 5 years. The waiting list data includes all households currently outside of Derbyshire who are seeking accommodation on public sites in Derbyshire. However, new households may join this list in the future. It is also the case that people may arrive from other areas who are seeking to develop private sites in Derbyshire.
- 8.18 This is a very difficult issue to predict and is made more complicated by the Pleasley Vale development in Bolsover District. This is anticipated to provide for Irish Traveller households who do not currently reside in Derbyshire, rather than provide pitches for existing households, or for those on waiting lists for public sites. Therefore, at least 25 households are likely to move to Derbyshire from outside the area, but it is likely that other households will also seek to move to Derbyshire in the future.
- 8.19 It is also worth noting that Gypsy and Traveller studies in all areas neighbouring Derbyshire have been checked to ensure that they identified no likely requirement for Derbyshire. The studies for Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire contain few references to Derbyshire, and none identify anyone planning to move to the county. In particular the Staffordshire, South Yorkshire and Greater Manchester studies do not contain any references which imply there are requirements for sites in the Peak District National Park.

Overcrowded Households

- 8.20 The DCLG guidance recommends that households which are overcrowded and where their current pitch is too small to accommodate another caravan or trailer should be considered as needing an additional pitch.
- 8.21 This survey has identified households who would like more caravans or trailers. This is not an objective measure of overcrowding, but can be thought of as households who felt that they were overcrowded. However, this study feels that no extra net pitch provision is required for this group.
- 8.22 To understand the reasons for this it is necessary to consider how these overcrowding options can be addressed. For a household who feel that they need more caravans or trailers there are two possibilities. Either the extra caravans or trailers could be accommodated on the existing pitch, or if this is not possible, a new larger pitch is required. In Derbyshire, seven of the households who require extra caravans could accommodate them on their existing site, while three would have to move. All three households are currently resident on the Woodyard Lane site.
- 8.23 If the household moves to a new larger pitch they will leave behind an existing pitch which can be filled by another household. This household will be one who has already been identified as being in need such as one of those who are on the waiting list for a pitch while living outside Derbyshire. Therefore, only one extra pitch is required to accommodate a household from the waiting list and a household who are overcrowded. Given this is the case, counting those households who need to move to new pitches to alleviate their overcrowding as requiring a net extra pitches is likely to lead to an overestimate of the total need for new pitches.
- 8.24 However, this conclusion does not imply that no action is required to be undertaken to address overcrowding issues. The average size of a Gypsy and Traveller household in Derbyshire is 3.7 persons, but 20% of households surveyed did include 6 or more persons. For a household of this size two caravans are likely to be restrictive and therefore a small number of larger pitches are likely to be

needed in Derbyshire. Therefore, it should be recognised that when developing new sites some larger pitches should be included which could accommodate larger Gypsy and Traveller families who require more than two caravans for their household.

New Household Formation

- 8.25 The DCLG recognise that an important group for future pitch provision will be older children who form their own households. The survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Derbyshire found that 10 households contained members who were expected to form new households in the next two years. However, four of this group were expected to form households outside of Derbyshire. Therefore, six new households are hoping/expecting to form in Derbyshire in the next two years.
- 8.26 This would extrapolate to 15 households over the next 5 years. Given the age profile of the Gypsy and Traveller population of Derbyshire with much of the population aged between 12 and 24 years, this estimate represents a sensible approximation of the number of new households which are likely to form. It is also in line with a 3% growth in the population per annum which is consistent with the long-term Gypsy and Traveller population growth in England.
- 8.27 It should also be noted that this rate of population growth is likely to continue beyond the next 5 years. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that at least 15 new pitches will be required every 5 years to met the needs of newly forming households, and given the relative youth of the population this figure may have to be higher.
- 8.28 The focus group with young persons at the Corbriggs site questioned the participants about where they intended to live in the future. Most anticipated wanting to live close to the rest of their family and none saw themselves as completely leaving Derbyshire.

Bricks and Mortar

- 8.29 In the survey only one respondent reported that they wish to move to bricks and mortar accommodation. Using this as a trend it can be predicted that there will be few people leaving Gypsy and Traveller sites to move to bricks and mortar soon.

Overall Needs

8.30 The estimated extra site provision that is required for the next 5 years in Derbyshire is 58 pitches (Figure 46 below). This is beyond the expansion of the Pleasley Vale site in Bolsover District to 25 residential pitches which will accommodate Irish Travellers from outside of Derbyshire. The key groups who require extra provision are those on unauthorised developments and encampments, those who are currently on waiting lists for public sites and the emerging households in the area.

Figure 46
Extra Pitches Which are Required in Derbyshire (Source: ORS Housing Market Model)

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	21	-	21
Waiting list for public sites	35	-	35
Migration from elsewhere	25	-	25
New household formation	15	0	15
Movement from bricks and mortar	1	1	0
Currently overcrowded and require to move	3	3	0
Additional supply from immigration	-	8	(8)
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	5	(5)
Additional supply new sites	-	25	(25)
Total	100	42	58

Transit/Emergency Stopping Site Provision

8.31 The Lullington Crossroads public site in South Derbyshire District Council has two existing transit pitches and permission has been granted for 4 transit pitches on the Corbriggs site in North East Derbyshire Council. The Pleasley Vale site in Bolsover District Council was formerly a transit site with 14 pitches, but permission has recently been granted for this to have 25 permanent pitches and 11 transit pitches. Therefore, Derbyshire is relatively well served for transit site provision when compared to many other areas.

8.32 Many of the unauthorised encampments who were interviewed as part of the survey were seeking permanent pitches rather than transit site accommodation. The level of recorded unauthorised encampments in Derbyshire has also been falling which suggests that the priority for site provision should be for permanent rather than transit sites.

8.33 However, the fieldwork period for this survey covered a four month period from June to September. Records of unauthorised encampments indicate that there is a regular encampment on private land near Buxton in High Peak in the spring of every year, and that other local authorities also have frequent unauthorised encampments. These groups may benefit from the provision of transit sites or emergency stopping places. However, without interviewing the groups concerned it is difficult to confirm their requirements.

8.34 The site managers from both Lullington Crossroads and Corbriggs formed part of the DGLG focus group. At Lullington Crossroads it is reported that the maximum stay on the transit pitches is only weeks and that they are only infrequently used, while the four pitches at Corbriggs have a maximum stay of three months and are used by relatives of site members when visiting the area. Therefore, they are not being used by Gypsies and Travellers passing through the area on a temporary basis.

Public/Private Site Provision

- 8.35 The identification of the need for extra site provision still requires an assessment of the form in which it should be provided. The evidence of this study and similar ones undertaken by ORS for other local authorities is that the satisfaction levels among Gypsies and Travellers who reside on private sites is much higher than those on public sites. A key factor in this is that private sites tend to be small and for only one family. The family can control who lives on the site and also develop the site to suit their preferences. Therefore, this would make the ideal situation one where much of the provision was on private sites.
- 8.36 For this study we undertook an internet search of land prices in Derbyshire. For this we used information from many websites, but a good source of information on land prices is www.uklanddirectory.org.uk. The conclusions show that the price of land varies enormously depending upon whether it is likely to be granted planning permission. Agricultural land is available in Derbyshire for less than £10,000 per acre in areas where planning permission for housing is not likely to be granted. However, land which already has planning permission in urban areas often sells for £750,000.
- 8.37 These results imply that Gypsies and Travellers are unlikely to be able to compete for land which is likely to be granted planning permission. However, at prices of around £10,000 per acre Gypsies and Travellers may be able to afford to purchase agricultural land upon which is unlikely they will be granted planning permission. This is not a situation which is unique to Derbyshire, with many Gypsies and Travellers finding the only land they can afford is in areas where it will not normally be granted planning permission.
- 8.38 However, in this context, the guidance set out at paragraphs 47 and 48 of Circular 1/06 is particularly relevant as it allows local planning authorities in rural areas to include a 'rural exception site policy' in the relevant DPD where there is a lack of affordable land to meet local Gypsy and Traveller needs (as demonstrated by an up-to-date accommodation assessment). These policies should operate in the same way as rural exception site policies for housing, as set out in PPS3.
- 8.39 Past experience has shown that Bolsover District, North East Derbyshire District and South Derbyshire District attract applications for private sites. We anticipate that the authorities in Derbyshire will receive the occasional applications for private sites. Therefore, some of the residential pitches which have been identified in this study as being needed are likely to be on private sites. This does however still imply that pitch provision is likely to be required in the form of public provision.
- 8.40 The DGLG identified that the key issue with private sites in Derbyshire is that they are typically granted with temporary planning permission. The group felt that this was unfair because most other types of planning permission are granted on a permanent basis. While acknowledging that this policy was leading to more private sites being granted planning permission it was still felt to be very important that less use is made of temporary permissions and more long-term private sites are granted permission.
- 8.41 Another issue identified by the DGLG focus group was that planning permission is often granted in the name of the applicant only. Therefore, if the person who applied for the permission wishes to move they cannot transfer the planning authorisation to another person. This was again felt to be unfair because it does not apply to most other types of planning permission.

Location of Site Provision

- 8.42 A further issue is where the extra site provision should be. The clearest location for need is in Derby UA where one unauthorised development contains 26 caravans. This development will require a site with around 16 pitches to accommodate its needs.
- 8.43 The remaining five households on unauthorised encampments or developments have been allocated to the local authority in which the interview took place. This is because, when questioned about their ideal location, the responses were that they wanted to live in the area in which they were interviewed, or were happy to live anywhere in Derbyshire.
- 8.44 Much of the remainder of the provision is required for those on waiting lists for a site in North East Derbyshire District and South Derbyshire District areas. The apparent need in each of these districts for 15 extra pitches has by default been provisionally allocated to North East Derbyshire District and South Derbyshire District to provide for those on waiting lists (South Derbyshire has 20 households on waiting lists but 5 empty pitches).
- 8.45 However, it should be noted that this requirement is based on the waiting lists for existing public sites in the authorities, and that authorities with no authorised public sites by definition cannot have a waiting list. Therefore, potentially the waiting lists could reflect a wider requirement for pitch provision in southern and north eastern Derbyshire rather than in the specific local authorities.
- 8.46 This would imply that potentially the requirement for public sites in South Derbyshire District could be met in areas of Amber Valley Borough, Derbyshire Dales District or Erewash Borough. Similarly the requirement for North East Derbyshire District may potentially be able to be met in Bolsover District, Chesterfield Borough, Derbyshire Dales District or High Peak District. On this theme, it is noteworthy that the East of England Regional Assembly has recently decreed that all local authorities in their region should provide 15 pitches each by 2011 irrespective of any need identified in their accommodation studies. Therefore, the future pitch provision in the East of England will not be driven exclusively by identified need in particular areas.
- 8.47 The issue of future public site location was directly addressed with the DGLG focus group. There was unanimity that it is better to spread the new sites across a wider area of Derbyshire and not place them all in the immediate vicinity of the existing sites. Members of the focus group suggested that they would rather see new public sites 5-15 miles away from existing sites to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to live where they wanted. Therefore, they felt that it was better to put new sites in the south of the County in Amber Valley Borough or Derbyshire Dales District than in South Derbyshire District. This would provide greater choice to the Gypsy and Traveller community as to where they wish to live.
- 8.48 A final factor in the net requirement for new pitches is the impact of new household formation and the immigration of households to Derbyshire. To allocate this to particular local authorities it has been assumed that population growth and immigration occur pro-rata to the existing size of the populations. Therefore, the net new household formation will occur in Bolsover District, North Eastern Derbyshire District and South Derbyshire District. Again, it should be noted that this requirement is based on the growth of the existing population of these local authorities and that authorities with no current Gypsy and Traveller population will by definition have no growth in this population. Therefore, potentially the requirement for one local authority could potentially be met in a neighbouring area.

8.49 In summary, Figure 47 sets out the net requirement for new pitch provision by local authority in Derbyshire when following the DCLG recommended approach. However, please note the additional evidence presented in paragraphs 8.47 and 9.7 which indicate that the provisional allocation for South Derbyshire District and North East Derbyshire District may be met more effectively in other areas of Derbyshire.

Figure 47

Extra Site Provision in Derbyshire by Local Authority Based on DCLG Suggested Methodology (Source: ORS Housing Market Model. *Note: Only authorities with current public sites will have waiting lists. The allocation of new pitch provision based waiting lists has been provisionally allocated by default to these authorities)

Local Authority	Unauthorised encampments/developments	Waiting list for public sites less empty pitches	New household formation less immigration	Total
Amber Valley	1	0	0	1
Bolsover	0	0	1	1
Chesterfield	0	0	0	0
Derby UA	16	0	0	16
Derbyshire Dales	2	0	0	2
Erewash	0	0	0	0
High Peak	0	0	0	0
North East Derbyshire	1	15*	3	19
Peak District National Park	0	0	0	0
South Derbyshire	1	15*	3	19
Total	21	30	7	58

8.50 Figure 48 shows how the identified requirements for pitches from this accommodation assessment compare to those identified within the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) in 2006. The RSS identified much lower requirements for North East Derbyshire District and South Derbyshire District while there were higher requirements for some authorities, most notably Bolsover District and High Peak District.

8.51 The methodology for identifying the requirement for the RSS was very different from that used in this study. The primary factors driving the requirement for extra pitches in this study were the impacts of unauthorised encampments, waiting lists for public sites and indigenous household growth. However, the identified requirement from the RSS was based primarily upon unofficial records of unauthorised developments and encampments from each of the authorities.

8.52 The requirement identified in this study for South Derbyshire District and North East Derbyshire District was based primarily upon waiting lists for public sites, and therefore would not be reflected in the RSS methodology. Meanwhile the RSS used evidence of occasional encampments in many authorities as the basis of allocating pitch requirement to these authorities. However, this study found no unauthorised encampments or developments which required further pitch provision in many of these authorities.

8.53 The lack of unauthorised encampments and developments identified within this study in many authorities should not be taken as evidence that there is no pitch requirement in these authorities. The study is based upon a snapshot of encampments from June to September 2007, implying that any encampments which occurred outside of this period would not have been directly considered.

Therefore the pitch requirement identified in this study should be taken as being the minimum requirement for Derbyshire.

Figure 48

Extra Site Provision in Derbyshire by Local Authority Compared to East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (Source: ORS Housing Market Model and East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. *Note: Only authorities with current public sites will have waiting lists. The allocation of new pitch provision based upon waiting lists has been provisionally allocated to these authorities)

Local Authority	ORS Accommodation Assessment Pitch Requirement	EMRA RSS Pitch Requirement
Amber Valley	1	2
Bolsover	1	7
Chesterfield	0	2
Derby UA	16	14
Derbyshire Dales	2	2
Erewash	0	1
High Peak	0	7
North East Derbyshire	19*	4
Peak District National Park	0	0
South Derbyshire	19*	7
Total	58	46

Public Sites

- 8.54 We would also recommend that all the local authorities accept that there is likely to be an on-going need to provide further Gypsy and Travellers sites for the foreseeable future, and that much of this provision will need to be on public sites.
- 8.55 In this context, we are aware that Milton Keynes Borough Council have set aside three areas of land within their Local Development Framework which will be developed as public Gypsy and Traveller sites in the next 15 years. This type of policy is something that the local authorities in Derbyshire may wish to consider given the likelihood that sites will have to continue to be developed over this planning period.
- 8.56 It was noted by the DGLG focus group that the Lullington Crossroads and Corbriggs sites have been run relatively successfully, while there have been difficulties at the Woodyard Lane site. One of the key factors in this was felt to be that the Lullington Crossroads and Corbriggs sites both have site managers who are members of the Gypsy and Traveller community, while until recently the Woodyards Lane site did not. It was felt that many of the best public sites are managed by members of the Gypsy and Traveller community who can make better judgements as to who to allow on to the site and who can also enforce rules with more credibility.
- 8.57 It was also emphasised that if there are going to be new public sites it is better that they are smaller so they have less impact on amenities and are more approachable and manageable. It was also noted that Gypsies and Irish Travellers are two separate ethnic groups and members from each group may prefer to live alongside their extended family. Although many public sites contain 10-20 pitches, accommodating smaller family groups may be more appropriate and accommodate the needs of both Gypsy and Irish Traveller families.

Private Sites

- ^{8.58} Circular 01/06 requires an authority's Core Strategy to set out criteria for the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites which will then be used to guide the allocation of sites in the relevant Development Plan Document to meet the needs identified in accommodation assessments. These criteria will also be used to assess applications for windfall sites.
- ^{8.59} The criteria for authorising sites should include an analysis of the impact of the site on the local infrastructure. The site should also not dominate the nearest settled community. Sites should not be developed on Green Belt land unless exceptional circumstances can be shown. The land should not be contaminated, but other sites such as near a motorway or power lines are acceptable provided they would also be considered for settled housing. Sites should be located near to existing settlements to allow for access to services. Discreet use of tree screening, rather than fencing, to make the site appear less intrusive should also be considered.
- ^{8.60} Another key inclusion in Circular 01/06 is that local need or connections does not have to be proven before a private site is granted planning permission. Applications for private sites for those who are from outside the area should be treated on the same basis as those from current local households, i.e. they should be refused only where locations do not comply with planning policies, especially where local authorities have proceeded properly to ensure needs identified by the accommodation assessment are being met. At all stages the Gypsy and Traveller population should be involved and those wishing to apply for planning permission should be encouraged to engage in pre-planning discussions with the local authority.

Pitch Size

- ^{8.61} As was noted earlier 20% of households surveyed included 6 or more persons. A household of this size may require more than two caravans and therefore a small number of larger pitches are likely to be needed in Derbyshire. This level of flexibility should be relatively easy to achieve on private sites where the site will typically be occupied by only one family and where there will typically be space to accommodate extra caravans. However, when developing new public sites some larger pitches should be included which could accommodate larger Gypsy and Traveller families who require more than two caravans for their household.

Summary of Key Points

- There are 93 residential pitches in Derbyshire. This comprises 55 pitches on authorised public sites and 38 pitches on authorised private sites.
- Permission has recently been granted to extend the Pleasley Vale site in Bolsover to allow for 25 residential pitches and 11 transit pitches. These will provide for Irish Travellers who currently reside outside of Derbyshire;
- The Woodyard Lane site currently has five pitches vacant and a small number of households expect to leave Derbyshire over the next two years;
- There was an identified requirement to provide 21 pitches for household in unauthorised developments or encampments. 16 of these were associated with the Glossop Street site in Derby;
- Waiting list data indicates that 35 households are seeking permanent pitches on public sites in Derbyshire;
- At least 15 new households are predicted to form from existing households in Derbyshire in the next 5 years;
- In total, the study identifies a need for 58 extra residential pitches to be provided in Derbyshire over the next five years;
- The survey indicates that those households living on private sites are more satisfied with their home than those on public sites. However, Gypsies and Travellers are unlikely to be able to compete with other users for land which is likely to receive planning permission. Therefore, local authorities may wish to operate exceptions policies to allow the development of small private sites in areas where planning permission for development would not normally be allowed;
- The study identifies that the provision should continue to predominantly occur in Derby UA, and, provisionally based upon waiting lists for existing sites, North East Derbyshire District and South Derbyshire District.
- The provisional allocation of requirement in North East Derbyshire District and South Derbyshire District could be met in neighbouring authorities and this was favoured by the Gypsy and Traveller population;
- There is a need to provide larger pitches on future public sites to allow larger households to have more than two caravans.

Chapter 9: Recommendations

Introduction

^{9.1} This chapter brings together the evidence presented earlier in the report to provide some key policy recommendations for the local authorities of Derbyshire. It focuses upon the key issues of future site provision for Gypsies and Travellers and also Showmen, as well as local authority policies.

Gypsy and Traveller Future Site Provision

^{9.2} Based upon the evidence presented in Chapter 8, the estimated extra provision that is required for Gypsies and Travellers in the next 5 years in Derbyshire is 58 pitches. This figure should be seen as the minimum amount of provision which is necessary to meet the identifiable needs of the population.

Public/Private Site Provision

^{9.3} We would recommend that all local authorities look favourably upon applications for private sites under exceptions policies to allow as many pitches as possible to be on private sites. A high provision of private sites is likely to have the triple benefit of higher levels of satisfaction among the Gypsy and Traveller population, better maintained sites and also a lower level of expenditure on public sites.

^{9.4} Private site applications will reflect where Gypsies and Travellers want to live and all applications should be considered on their own merits regardless of existing provision in the local authority concerned.

Planning Permission

^{9.5} We would recommend that less use is made of temporary planning permissions and instead more sites are granted permanent planning permission. We would also recommend greater flexibility on planning permission to allow for the sale of a site with existing planning permission, rather than any new resident having to seek their own planning permission for their site. Both of these recommendations would bring Gypsy and Traveller sites in line with planning permission for bricks and mortar housing.

Location of Site Provision

^{9.6} There is a clear need in Derby UA to provide a permanent site with around 16 pitches to accommodate its needs.

^{9.7} For the remainder of the public sites, we would argue that it would be better to spread the new sites across a wider area of Derbyshire and not in the immediate vicinity of the existing sites. This provides greater choice to the Gypsy and Traveller community for where they wish to live. Therefore, we would recommend that Amber Valley Borough and Derbyshire Dales District be considered as the location of new public sites in the south of the county and that Chesterfield Borough and High Peak Borough be considered as locations for new sites in the north of the county.

- 9.8 Applications for private sites will occur in the locations where Gypsies and Travellers wish to reside. Therefore, new applications should be considered on their own merits across all local authorities in Derbyshire regardless of any existing provision in these authorities.

Management of Sites

- 9.9 Site management is very important in developing a successful Gypsy and Traveller site. Successful sites in Derbyshire have had strong involvement from members of the Gypsy and Traveller community in running them and we would recommend a significant Gypsy and Traveller involvement in the running of any new public sites in Derbyshire.
- 9.10 We recommend making new public sites relatively small –not more than 20 pitches and typically much smaller than this. Experience elsewhere in the country has shown that larger sites are more difficult to manage and also have a larger impact upon the amenities in the surrounding community. Therefore, smaller sites are preferable because they are likely to create a better living environment.

Irish Travellers and Gypsies

- 9.11 Irish Travellers and Gypsies are two clearly identified ethnic groups who each have their own culture and heritage. Therefore, when providing public sites ORS recommend that local authorities consider the needs of each group when looking at site provision.

Pitch Size

- 9.12 We recommend that greater flexibility is shown on pitch sizes at any new sites. When developing new public sites some larger pitches should be included which could accommodate larger Gypsy and Traveller families who require more than two caravans for their household.

Beyond 2012

- 9.13 The key results of the survey refer to the requirements for pitch provision for the next five years from a base of mid 2007. However, we would also recommend that all the local authorities accept that there is likely to be an on-going need to provide further Gypsy and Travellers sites for the foreseeable future, and that much of this provision will need to be on public sites.
- 9.14 If the population of Gypsies and Travellers in Derbyshire continues to grow at around 3% per annum then an extra 15 new pitches will be required every 5 years to met the needs of newly forming households. This figure is likely to be a conservative estimate given the relative youth of the population, but does highlight the need for the planning for extra sites and pitches to reach beyond the next 5 years.
- 9.15 In this context, we are aware that Milton Keynes Borough Council have set aside three areas of land within their Local Development Framework which will be developed as public Gypsy and Traveller sites in the next 15 years. This type of policy is something that the local authorities in Derbyshire may wish to consider given the likelihood that sites will have to continue to be developed over this planning period.

Health

- 9.16 The study indicated that many members of the Gypsy and Traveller community suffer from health problems such as stress, diabetes and depression. They currently report that their support needs are

being met, but the health of the Gypsy and Traveller population should be monitored and further work may be required to understand how it could be improved.

Monitoring and Updating the Study

- 9.17 It should be stressed that this assessment is only the start of understanding Gypsy and Traveller needs in Derbyshire. The results of the survey should be monitored regularly by all of the local authorities concerned. This can be done by looking for changes in unauthorised encampments and developments in their area and also applications for private sites.
- 9.18 Derbyshire County Council collect information on all reported unauthorised developments and encampments on County Council owned land and this information has proven to be invaluable for this survey. The reports of unauthorised developments and encampments should be reviewed regularly to assess if there are any changes in their pattern which may indicate that the levels of need identified in this study have changed. In particular, it may be the case that some unauthorised encampments in Derbyshire which occurred outside the June to September fieldwork period may require permanent or transit sites provision in the County.
- 9.19 Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group provided us with information for known private site application in the County and again this information was invaluable for this study. Again, we would recommend keeping accurate records of all applications for private sites to understand any changes in the number of applications being brought forward.
- 9.20 It should also be noted that based upon the experience of housing needs surveys for bricks and mortar it is likely that a similar exercise to this survey will have to be carried out across Derbyshire in around 5 years time to assess any changes which have occurred since this survey.

Current Local Authority Policies

- 9.21 We would recommend that local authorities consider joint working relationships to meet the needs of their Gypsy and Traveller populations. Some districts will have a higher share of sites, but it may be possible for all districts to contribute financially no matter where the sites are located.
- 9.22 We would also recommend that local authorities in Derbyshire consider holding a joint waiting list for public sites. This would allow anyone registering on the waiting list to express a preference about site location, which could be extended to include areas which do not currently have public sites.
- 9.23 This study recommends that all authorities adopt clear statements under which Gypsy and Traveller sites will, and not may, be granted planning permission in their local authorities. We also recommend that the use of planning exceptions policies are considered to allow small private sites to be developed in areas which would not normally be granted planning permission for development.
- 9.24 We would also recommend more proactive involvement from planning departments with Gypsies and Travellers. Planning issues are very complex for non-professionals to understand and therefore a greater attempt by planning departments to reach out to the community is likely to see less conflict arise and more successful planning applications.

Showmen Future Site Provision

- 9.25 Like the Gypsy and Traveller population the key issue affecting Showmen is a lack of space on their existing site, and the need for at least one new site. Our key recommendation for Showmen would be

that they receive pro-active help from Councils across Derbyshire with their desire to find another site. In particular advice from planning officers about suitable locations would currently be extremely beneficial to the Showmen as they commence their search for a new private site.

